

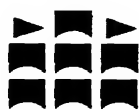
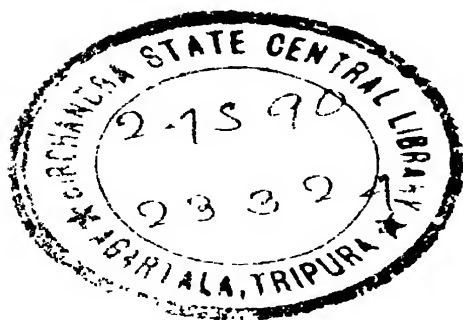
# Longman New Universal Dictionary





# Longman New Universal Dictionary

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# Foreword

For me, the publication of any new dictionary provides interest and pleasure. This should indeed be true for *anyone* who loves the English language, who takes pride in the way it is used, and who takes pride also in the world leadership in the art of dictionary-making exerted by English-speaking lexicographers.

But the present occasion is one of special pleasure and excitement. The skilled team of lexicographers at Longman (the firm which published Johnson's Dictionary in 1755) have addressed themselves to the task of producing a dictionary specially designed for that most unspecialized readership, *the family*. There are of course many excellent dictionaries which seek to cater for this public. But the Longman team have given a great deal of original thought, and have conducted a good deal of original research, to ensure that they have the best technique of presentation, the best selection of words and meanings, the best and most informative modes of definition, explanation, and illustration.

To the arduous nature of such fundamental inquiry, I can personally testify, as the chairman of the linguistic advisory group that has been privileged to discuss these issues with the Longman team and to offer help, guidance, and criticism. But many of the admirable features of this dictionary have proceeded from advances in computational technology, to the potentiality of which the Longman Group have been quite exceptionally alert. In consequence, users will find, as they move from word to word, a far higher degree of consistency in treatment than they have been accustomed to; a solid defence against circularity of definition; a guarantee that all appropriate cross-references have indeed been provided.

The general introduction explains the special features in more detail. My happy task is merely to congratulate the team on a magnificent achievement.

Randolph Quirk  
Vice-Chancellor, University of London, 1981 (formerly  
Quain Professor of English Language and Literature,  
University College London)





# Preface

In 1755, Longman published Dr Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*. In the two hundred or so years since then, English has changed considerably, and branched off down some pathways Johnson could never have anticipated, but the underlying characteristics and processes of language that he attempted to classify and describe remain much the same today as in the eighteenth century: a continuing challenge to the art and science of the lexicographer.

With the rapid expansion of science and technology, the vocabulary of English is growing more quickly and exuberantly than at any time in its history. There are simply more words about nowadays than ever there were in the past, and in order to be able to cope with the complexities of late 20th-century life, and understand the messages that are streaming towards us from all sides, we need an up-to-date, reliable, and straightforward guidebook. That is what the editors of this dictionary have attempted to provide: a reference work that gathers together over 70000 current English words and expressions, from wherever in the world the language is spoken, gives a clear and concise account of their meanings, and offers guidance on the way in which they are used and pronounced.

How have we gone about ensuring that this dictionary is as comprehensive and as useful as possible? I spoke above of the art and science of lexicography: much of the science lies in the collection of evidence about the language, and much of the art in the interpretation of that evidence and in the use of it to create lucid dictionary definitions. No single person could carry in his or her head all the myriad new terms spawned every year in all the various fields of human endeavour, let alone recall them at will, so the lexicographer must collect data. In order to compile this dictionary, we set up an extensive reading programme of current books, periodicals, and newspapers, searching for new words and new meanings of old words. The file of examples of words in context that we have accumulated, which numbers in excess of half a million, enables us to make authoritative statements about the current state of the language over a broad spectrum of subject areas, from biochemistry and computing to the cinema and cricket. As the map on p. xii indicates, we have gathered our evidence from all over the British Isles, and from wherever else in the world English is spoken as a first language.

Once the data has been gathered, it must be interpreted and put into a convenient form for you, the user of the dictionary. This is the art of the lexicographer: to condense and codify the confusing babble of words that fly about our heads every day into an understandable and easily used work of reference.

How is it all done? Well of course no dictionary-maker nowadays starts completely from scratch. In this sense all lexicographers are standing on giants' shoulders, using the basic common core of the language, which has been amply recorded in the past, as the starting-off point for their labours. And the information that has been accumulated about changes in the language is the cue to depart from that point.

For example, the lexicographer working on the word *acrobatic* for this dictionary, which in all other dictionaries is defined in very general terms simply as 'of or relating to an acrobat', found this example of its use by Tina Brown in *Punch* (February 1976):

'The hero still welds a low, mocking laugh and vertiginously acrobatic eyebrows.'

On the basis of this and other evidence, she was able to record a new meaning of *acrobatic*, 'very mobile', and illustrate it with the *Punch* quotation.

Another editor, working on the word *bottle*, had these examples available to her:

'Once I stole a jar of Brylcreem [sic] from the tuck shop. But I didn't have the bottle to carry it through. In the end I took it back again.'

Nik Cohn, *Rolling Stone* (July 1973)

'Soft, that's what they are. They pay them too much. Kids of 14 with money in their pocket instead of a steel comb. Stands to reason they ain't got no bottle. Know what I mean?'

Llew Gardner, *The Listener* (June 1974)

'In its 150-year existence, the Metropolitan Police has developed its own group loyalties, inbred customs and language. With the helmet that passes from father to son, goes a demotic inheritance. 'We were mobhanded in the nondescript and chummy's bottle went and we felt his collar' (A number of us were in the unmarked car together and the suspect lost his nerve and we arrested him).'

Michael Cockerell, *The Listener* (February 1975)

'I simply was not born with the right amount of what is known in cockney circles as bottle. Downright nerve, in other words.'

Christopher Matthew, *Punch* (October 1976)

'To their critics, their [West Ham's] failures have not been down to their refusal to kick their way to the top, but to lacking the character, the 'bottle' to make their skill count.'

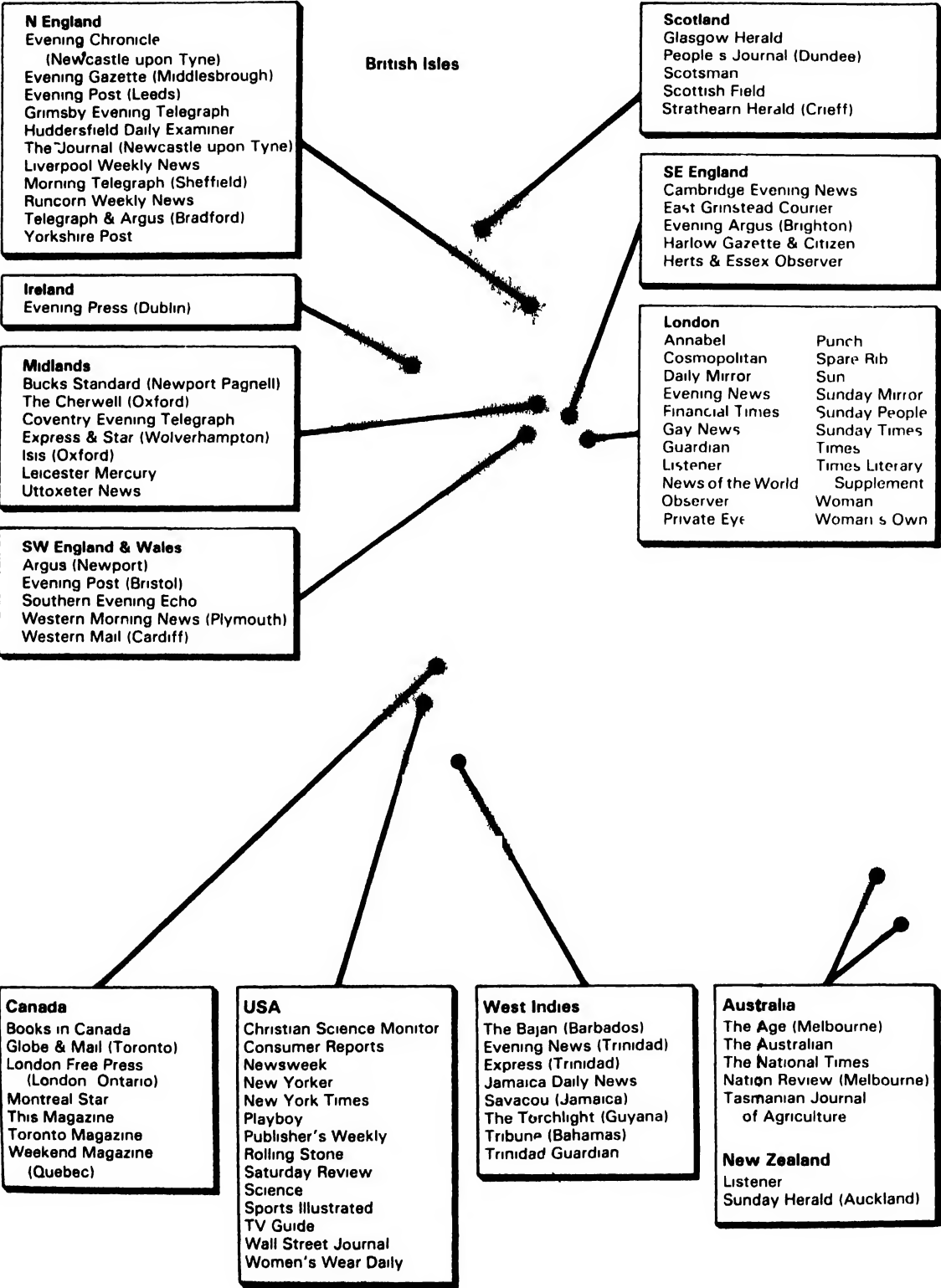
*Time Out* (May 1980)

These enabled her to enter the British slang meaning of *bottle*, 'nerve', which does not appear in any other dictionary of comparable size.

If one facet of the lexicographer's art is the identification of new meanings, another, and perhaps even more important one, is the writing of clear, understandable, and unambiguous definitions. We have striven in this dictionary to make the meanings of the 50000 words we define as accessible to the user as is possible within what is, in lexicographic terms, a fairly limited scope. We have avoided overly technical terms where we can, and where their use is unavoidable we have ensured that they are in their turn clearly defined at their own entry in the dictionary.

Of course, in such a huge undertaking few individual human beings could hope to apply such standards with absolute consistency throughout. This is where technology of the computer comes to the aid of the art of lexicography. Longman have devised a unique processing system that has enabled us to perform a number of automated operations on the dictionary that previously could only have been done manually, with much labour and less than 100 per cent accuracy, or indeed might not have been attempted at all. Among the tasks the computer has performed for us has been the monitoring of every word we have used in definitions. This has involved, in the first place, a cross check against all the entries, to make sure that every word used in a definition is itself defined in the dictionary; and in the second place, a careful examination of all vocabulary items used in definitions in over 180 different subject

Some sources used in compiling the dictionary



areas, ensuring consistency of treatment and the elimination of words that would present too great difficulty to the non-expert

For example, the following 80 specialized terms have been used in definitions of words relating to photography.

aperture	flashbulb	photographic	shadow
black-and-white	flashlight	photography	sharp
bright	f number	picture	shutter
camera	focus	plate	silver
cinematographic	ground glass	positive	slides
colour	hand-held	print	sodium
contrast	image	projector	spectrum
dark	iris	radiation	speed
darkroom	lamp	rays	spool
develop	lens	reflected	still
development	light	reflection	subject
diaphragm	lightproof	reproduce	take
emulsion	light-sensitive	reproduction	television
enlargement	mounted	safelight	tones
expose	moving	screen	transparency
exposure	negative	sensitive	transparent
fast	opaque	sensitivity	view
filter	optical	sensitized	viewfinder
film	paper	setting	wide-angle
fixing	photograph	shade	zoom

Of these, the most common are

photographic	48 occurrences	light	12
photograph	29	picture	12
film	22	plate	12
camera	20	print	11
image	16	negative	10
lens	16	photography	9

Technology in the service of art For although lexicography is fundamentally about the exercise of judgment, it should never be subjective judgment unsupported by evidence The definition-writer's skill, of teasing out meanings and encapsulating them

elegantly and concisely, must always be subject to the corrective of linguistic fact And this holds true just as much in the area of usage as in the area of meaning We do not see it as part of the job of a dictionary to propound arbitrary rules for 'correct English' based on yesterday's usage, rather it must be a dispassionate observer and recorder of current linguistic trends. This stance should not, however, be viewed as an abdication of the responsibility to inform, for opinions on the 'correctness' of certain words and meanings are part of the linguistic facts about those words and meanings, and this dictionary attempts to give an accurate record of such opinions where they are widespread For example, we note that the meaning 'uninterested' for *disinterested* (which in fact predates the meaning 'unbiased') is 'disapproved of by some speakers'. This is not a prescriptive dictionary; but it does set out to describe the prescriptions that exist in English. It is and must always remain the responsibility of the speakers and writers of the language to decide whether they will abide by them or flout them.

Recognizing the need to give clear and up-to-date guidance on English pronunciation, we have, with the help of market research, devised a system that is a significant advance over previous ones in its comprehensibility. It relies almost exclusively on the spelling system of English, thus avoiding the unfamiliar symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet and the confusing use of accents and other marks that change the value of a letter

Language is always one jump ahead of lexicography; or, as Samuel Johnson more elegantly phrased it in the Preface to his Dictionary, 'there never can be wanting some who will consider that no dictionary of a living tongue ever can be perfect, since while it is hastening to publication, some words are budding, and some falling away' But it is our belief that the lexicographic and computational expertise devoted to this book enable us to claim a unique place for it as a mirror of the current state of the English language, and that the contributions of the many expert consultants listed on pp vii–viii, and of our own specialist editors, have ensured that another of Johnson's disclaimers, 'that he, whose design includes whatever language can express, must often speak of what he does not understand', need no longer be made

John Ayto

## Explanatory chart

Numbers in brackets refer to paragraphs in the guide to the dictionary (pp xvii–xxvi)

**angle brackets** enclosing an example of an entry -- used in context (7)

usage note indicating the phrase (**collocation**) in which an entry is frequently found (8.5)

**cross-reference** recommending the user to look up the main form of an affix or combining form (9)

**example** consisting of an illustrative quotation showing the use of an entry in an actual context (7)

**eye symbol** indicating that the entry has an accompanying illustration or table (9)

usage note giving grammatical information about an entry (4.1)

**homograph number** (1.1)

**irregular plural** (4.1)

**aah** /ah, often prolonged/ *vi* to exclaim in amazement, joy, or surprise [*<ooohing and ~ing>*]

**academy** /əˈkɑdəmi/ *n* 1 [*cap*] **a** the school for advanced education founded by Plato **b** the philosophical doctrines associated with Plato's Academy

**acquiesce** /ˌakweɪˈes/ *vi* to submit or comply tacitly or passively [*~ often + in*]

**adrift** /əˈdrɪft/ *adv* or *adj* 1 afloat without motive power or mooring and at the mercy of winds and currents 2 in or into a state of being unstuck or unfastened [*~ esp in come adrift*]

**-agogue** /-əˈɡɒɡ/ *comb form* [*(-n)*] 1 substance that promotes the secretion or expulsion of *<emmenagogue>* 2 leader, guide *<pedagogue>* — sometimes derog *<demagogue>*

**agranulocyte** /əɪˈɡrɒnʊləˌsɪt/ *n* any of various white blood cells with cytoplasm that does not contain conspicuous granules [*~ compare GRANULOCYTE*]

**al-** [*see AD-*]

**alternative society** *n* [*the*] group of people who reject conventional social institutions, practices, and values in favour of a lifestyle based esp on communal ownership and self-sufficiency — compare COUNTERCULTURE

**anabatic** /ˌənəˈbætɪk/ *adj* moving upwards *<an ~ wind>* [*Gk anabaios, verbal of anabainein to go up or inland, fr ana- + bainein to go*]

**antebellum** /ˌæntɪˈbeləm/ *adj* existing before the war, esp the US Civil War [*<an ~ brick mansion>*]

**assignment** /ˌæsɪɡˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of assigning, *also* the assignment made 2 a meeting, esp a secret one with a lover [*<returned from an ~ with his mistress>* — W B Yeats]

**astronomy** /əˈstrɒnəmi/ *n* a branch of science dealing with the celestial bodies [*☾*]

**author** /ˈɔːθə/ [*fem authoress* /-res, -rɪs/ *n* 1a the writer of a literary work

**'bag pipe** /-ˈpi:p/ *n* a wind instrument consisting of a leather bag, mouth tube, chanter, and drone pipes [*~ often pl with sing meaning but [sing or pl in constr]*]

**'bail** *n* 1 either of the 2 crosspieces that lie on the stumps to form the wicket in cricket [*• sport*] 2 chiefly *Br* a device for confining or separating animals

[1] **ban** /bən/ *vt* -nn- to prohibit, esp by legal means or social pressure

**'band wagon** /-ˈwɑɡən/ *n* a party, faction, or cause that attracts adherents by its timeliness, momentum, etc [*'band + wagon*] [*~ jump/climb on the bandwagon to attach oneself to a successful cause or enterprise in the hope of personal gain*]

<sup>2</sup>**barrel** *vt* [*-il- (NAm -l-, -li-)*] to put or pack in a barrel

**blew** /bloʊh/ [*past of BLOW*]

**boletus** /bəˈleɪtəs, boh-/ *n, pl boletuses, [boleti /-ti/]* any of a genus of fleshy fungi, some of which are edible

**capitalization** (5)

usage note indicating the phrase (**collocation**) in which a verb frequently appears (8.5)

arrow indicating the part of speech formed when a **combining form** is added to a word or word part (10)

**cross-reference** recommending the user to look up a related entry (9)

italicized **definite article** indicating that an entry is always preceded by *the* (8.5)

**etymology** showing history of an entry (14)

**example** showing an entry used in a typical context (7)

**feminine form** of an entry (2)

**hand symbol** recommending the user to look up an illustration or table (9)

**idiom** (1.3)

**inflection** (4)

**inflectional cross-reference** giving an inflected form of an entry (9)

	<sup>1</sup> <b>bolshie, bolshy</b> /'bɒlʃi/ <i>n</i> a Bolshevik [— <i>infmt</i> ]	usage note indicating the style, attitude, or level of formality of an entry (8.3)
main entry (1.1)	— [ <b>bolt-hole</b> ] <i>n</i> 1 a hole into which an animal runs for safety 2 a means of rapid escape or place of refuge	
object of a verb (6.3)	<sup>2</sup> <b>bond</b> <i>vt</i> 1 to overlap [(eg bricks)] for solidity of construction 2 to put [(goods)] in bond until duties and taxes are paid	
part of speech (3)	<sup>1</sup> <b>bone</b> /boʊn/ [ <i>n</i> ] 1a (any of the hard body structures composed of) the largely calcium-containing connective tissue of which the adult skeleton of most vertebrate animals is chiefly composed <i>ANATOMY</i>	
two parts of speech shown in combination (3)	<sup>1</sup> <b>bop</b> /bɒp/ [ <i>vi or n</i> ] - <i>pp-</i> (to strike with) a blow (eg of the fist) — <i>infmt</i> <b>bottom drawer</b> <i>n</i> , [ <i>Br</i> ] (a drawer for storing) a young woman's collection of clothes and esp household articles, kept in anticipation of her marriage	regional label, in this case indicating that the entry is used only in British English (8.2)
undefined run-on entry (1.2)	<b>cacophony</b> /kə'kɒfəni/ <i>n</i> harsh or discordant sound, dissonance — [ <b>cacophonous</b> <i>adj</i> ]	
sense number (6.1)	<b>caff</b> /kaf/ <i>n</i> , <i>Br</i> <i>CAFF</i> 1, [ <i>esp</i> ] a cheap plain one	sense divider (6.1)
note indicating whether an entry takes a singular or plural verb (4.1)	<b>caisson</b> /'kays(ə)n, kə'soʊn/ <i>n</i> [ <i>1</i> ] a chest or wagon for artillery ammunition 2a a watertight chamber used for construction work under water or as a foundation [ <i>b</i> ] a float for raising a sunken vessel	sense letter (6.1)
	<b>calends, kalends</b> /'kalɪndz/ [ <i>n pl but sing or pl in constr</i> ] the first day of the ancient Roman month	
arrow indicating the part of speech formed when a suffix is added to a word or word part (10)	<sup>1</sup> <b>call</b> /kɔ:l/ <i>vt</i> 1 <i>c</i> [ <i>of an animal</i> ] to utter a characteristic note or <sup>2</sup> <b>-d suffix</b> [(- <i>svb</i> )] — used to form the past tense of regular weak verbs that end in <i>e</i> , compare <sup>2</sup> - <i>ed</i>	usual/only subject of a verb
	<sup>1</sup> <b>daring</b> /'deəriŋ/ <i>adj</i> adventurously bold in action or thought [<~ acrobats> <~ crimes>]	swung dash replacing entry in an example (7)
	<b>date line</b> /-li:n/ <i>n</i> 1 a line in a written document or publication giving the date and place of composition or issue 2 [ <i>INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE</i> ] — <i>dateline</i> <i>vt</i>	synonymous cross-reference to a compound entry (9)
	<b>day break</b> /-breɪk/ <i>n</i> [ <i>DAWN 1</i> ]	synonymous cross-reference to a particular sense (9)
temporal label showing that the use of a word or meaning is limited to special contexts (8.1)	<b>deer</b> /diə/ <i>n</i> , <i>pl</i> <b>deer</b> also <b>deers</b> 1 any of several ruminant mammals of which most of the males and some of the females bear antlers 2 [ <i>archaic</i> ] an animal, esp a small mammal	
usage note applying to more than one sense (8)	<b>dependent</b> /dɪ'pend(ə)nt/ <i>adj</i> 1 determined or conditioned by another; contingent 2 relying on another for support — [ <i>USE (1&amp;2) + on or upon</i> ]	
verb entry ending in -ize separated by a comma from -ise, indicating that the two forms are equal variants (2)	— [ <b>depersonalize, -ise</b> ] /,di:ˈpɜ:nsənl-ɪz/ <i>vt</i> to deprive of the sense of personal identity <b>dermat-</b> /duhmət-/ , <b>dermato-</b> <i>comb form</i> skin <dermatitis> <dermatology>	two entries separated by a comma indicating that they are equal variants (2)
	<b>diaeresis, chiefly NAm diareses</b> /di'eɪrɪsɪs/ <i>n</i> , <i>pl</i> <b>diaereses</b> /-sɛz/ 1 a mark placed over a vowel to indicate pronunciation as a separate syllable (eg in <i>naïve</i> )	regional variant, in this case indicating that the second form is used chiefly in the USA and Canada (2)
two entries separated by also indicating that the latter is a secondary variant (2)	— [ <b>diagnostic</b> /di:əg'nɒstɪk/ also <b>diagnosical</b> /-kl/] <i>adj</i> of or involving diagnosis	

## Explanatory chart – pronunciations

**oblique lines** enclosing a pronunciation (13.1.2)

**hiss** [hɪs/] *vt*

**hire** [hɪə-/] *n*

**Deutsche Mark** /ˈdɔɪtʃ mərk/ ((Ger dɔɪtʃə mark)/) *n*

**entente** /ɒnˈtɒnt/ ((Fr ɑ̃tɑ̃t)/) *n*

**honorary** [ˈɒn(ə)rəri/] *adj*

**leeward** /ˈleəwəd/, [ˈnaʊt ˈloʊ əd/] *adj* or *adv*

**hoodwink** /ˈhʊd/ ˌwɪŋk/ *vt*

**hoof beat** /-ˈbeɪt/ *n*

**impossible** /ɪmˈpɒsəbl/ *adj* --- **impossibly** *adv*, **impossibility** [ɪmˈpɒsəˈbɪləti, -ˈnɪti] *n*

**hors d'œuvre** /ˈɔː ˈduːv/ (Fr ɔːr dəvʁ)/ *n*, *pl* **hors d'œuvres** also **hors d'œuvre** /ˈduːv(z)/ ((Fr ˈdʁ ˈvʁ)/)

**controversy** /ˈkɒntrəˈvɜːsi, əˈlso kənˈtroʊvəsi/ *n*

**gypsophila** /ˈɪpˈsɒfɪlə, ˈɒftən ˈɪpsəˈfɪli ə/ *n*

**lieutenant** [ˈleɪˈtɛnənt, ˈRɔɪl Nəvi and NAm ˈloʊˈtənənt] *n*

pronunciation containing a **centred dot** (13.3.4)

**foreign pronunciations** (13.8.2)

pronunciation containing (ə) (13.3.2)

**stress mark** showing secondary stress (13.2.2)

another **stress pattern** that can be used without otherwise changing the pronunciation (13.2.4)

two pronunciations separated by *also*, indicating that they are **variants** but that the second is less common, or is considered less correct by some speakers (13.4.1)

pronunciation showing specialist and **regional variant** (13.4.3)

**specialist pronunciation**, in this case indicating that the word is pronounced differently by sailors (13.4.3)

**stress mark** showing primary stress (13.2.1)  
**stress pattern** shown in compound words and phrases (13.2.3)  
**swung dash** indicating that the plural is pronounced in the same way as the singular (13.3.5)

two pronunciations separated by *often*, indicating that they are **variants** but that the second is considered incorrect by many speakers (13.4.1)

# How to use this Dictionary

## 1 How to find the word you want

All the words defined in this dictionary, both single words and compounds, are entered as main entries in strict alphabetical order. Words that are not defined, because their meaning can easily be guessed from their base form plus the added ending, are entered under their base form (Sec 1.2). Idiomatic phrases are entered under the main word in the phrase (Sec 1.3).

### 1.1 Main entries

Strict alphabetical order of entry, letter by letter, applies to all main entries: whether they are single words, hyphenated words, or compounds consisting of two or more individual words. This means that, for example, **give away** comes between **giveaway** and **give in**:

**'give** *n*  
**give-and-take** *n*  
**'giveaway** *n*  
**give away** *vt*  
**give in** *vt*  
**given** *adj*  
**'given** *name n*

A compound written as a single word comes before the same compound written with a hyphen, which in turn comes before the same compound written as two or more separate words:

**rundown** *n*  
**,run-down** *adj*  
**run down** *vt*

A main entry with a number in it comes before a main entry with a letter in the same position:

**mi-**  
**M15**  
**M16**  
**miaow**

But main entries that *begin* with a number are listed as if the number were spelt out as a word:

**two-faced**  
**2,4,5-T**  
**two-handed**

Main entries beginning with **Mc-** are listed as if they were spelt **Mac-**.

Main entries beginning with **St** are shown with the abbreviation spelt out in full:

**Saint Vitus's Dance**

Many words that share the same spelling have a different pronunciation or a different history, or are different in grammar. Such words are shown separately in this dictionary, with small numbers in front to distinguish them.

**<sup>1</sup>head** *n*  
**<sup>2</sup>head** *adj*  
**<sup>3</sup>head** *vt*

These words are listed in historical order, according to when they first appeared in English.

### 1.2 Undefined words

Words whose meaning can easily be guessed, because they consist of a base form plus an added ending, are not given definitions. These words (run-ons) are shown at the end of the definition for their base form, and after the etymology, if there is one:

**charitable** *adj* — **charitableness** *n*, **charitably** *adv*

This means that the meaning of **charitableness** can be guessed from the meaning of **charitable** plus the meaning of the ending **-ness**, which can also be found at its own place in the dictionary. Sometimes the undefined entry has the same form as its base, but a different part of speech:

**'chink** *n* a short sharp sound — **chink** *vb*

This means that the verb **chink** is obviously related to the noun **chink**—'to make, or cause to make, a short sharp sound'.

Words whose meaning can be guessed because they consist of a base form plus something added at the beginning are shown at their own place in the dictionary, but with no definition:

**indecorous** *adj*

Some words formed with beginnings and endings have a specific meaning, but also a very general one that can be guessed. For these words, the general meaning is shown in the form of an etymology:

**airer** *n* a freestanding, usu collapsible, framework for airing or drying clothes, linen, etc [<sup>2</sup>air + <sup>2</sup>-er]

This means that the noun **airer** has also a very general meaning which is the sum of the meanings of the verb **air** and the ending **-er**: 'a person or thing that airs' (See 1.4.7).

### 1.3 Idiomatic phrases

An idiom is a fixed phrase whose meaning cannot be guessed from the meanings of the individual words from which it is made up. Idioms are shown at the end of an entry, after the etymology and any derived undefined words:

**<sup>1</sup>call** *vt* — **call a spade a spade** to speak frankly and usu bluntly

Compound verbs that end in a preposition are treated as idioms, although on the other hand those that end in an adverb, such as **give away**, are main entries:

**put up** *vt* — **put up with** to endure or tolerate without complaint or protest

Idioms are entered at the first meaningful word they contain. Hence **live it up** is entered at **live**, **on the ball** appears **ball**, and **in spite of** is shown at **spite**. When an idiom has more than one accepted form, it is entered at the first invariable meaningful word it contains. The alternative form is shown after an oblique (/):

**<sup>1</sup>seed** *n* . . . — **go/run to seed** /

### 1.4 Other entries

Abbreviations, and foreign phrases that are commonly used in English, are mostly listed in separate appendixes on pp1141 and 1145. However, some abbreviations that are used like ordinary words, such as the noun **IOU** and the verb **KO**, and the many

foreign words and phrases that have become thoroughly anglicized, such as **ad hoc** and **coup de grace**, are entered in their alphabetical places in the main body of the text. You should check in both places when in doubt.

## 2 Alternative versions of words

Many words come in pairs, or even trios, that are nearly identical. They may differ only in spelling (eg **judgment**, **judgement**), or in their ending (eg **excellence**, **excellency**) or even in the presence or absence of a complete word in a compound (eg **silk screen**, **silk screen printing**). In this dictionary, common variant forms of a word are shown immediately after the main entry. When the variant is preceded by a comma, it is about as common as the main entry in current standard usage:

**judgment**, **judgement** *n*

When the variant is preceded by *also*, it is rather less common.

**poky** *also* **pokey** *adj*

These alternative forms are shown separately as main entries only if they fall more than ten places away from their main form in the alphabetical list.

Variant spellings of the **-ize/-ise** type are shown in abbreviated form at the main entry.

**computer-ize**, **-ise** *vt*  
**liquid-izer**, **-iser** *n*

This means that **computerize** can also be spelt **computerise**.

Feminine forms of words are shown in the same way as other variants:

**author** *fem* **authoress** *n*

Individual meanings, as well as whole main entries, can have variant forms.

**excellence** *n* 1 2 3 **Excellency**, **Excellence**—used as a title for certain high dignitaries (eg ambassadors)

Variant forms that are entirely or partially restricted to British or American English are labelled *Br* or *NAm*.

**jail**, *Br also* **gaol** *n* ...  
**gaol** *vb or n, chiefly Br (to) jail*

This means that the spelling **jail** is used everywhere in the English-speaking world, but British English also uses **gaol** (See 8.2).

If the variable part of a pair of words is shown as a main entry in its own right, then this variation is *not* shown in the entry for the word formed from it. Hence **hemorrhage**, the American variant spelling for **haemorrhage**, is not shown because **hemo-** is already entered as the American variant of **haemo-**.

## 3 Parts of speech

These are the various word classes to which the entries in this dictionary belong:

<i>adj</i>	adjective:	<b>energetic</b> , <b>durable</b>
<i>adv</i>	adverb:	<b>very</b> , <b>happily</b>
<i>comb form</i>	combining form:	<b>Anglo-</b> , <b>mal-</b>
<i>conj</i>	conjunction:	<b>but</b> , <b>insofar as</b>
<i>interj</i>	interjection:	<b>hey</b> , <b>bravo</b>
<i>n</i>	noun:	<b>dynamite</b> , <b>bird of paradise</b>
<i>prefix</i>		<b>pre-</b> , <b>trans-</b>
<i>prep</i>	preposition:	<b>for</b> , <b>according to</b>
<i>pron</i>	pronoun:	<b>herself</b> , <b>ours</b>
<i>suffix</i>		<b>-ful</b> , <b>-ness</b>
<i>trademark</i>		<b>Hoover</b> , <b>Vallum</b>
<i>vb</i>	verb (both transitive and intransitive):	<b>agglomerate</b> , <b>americanize</b>
<i>vb impersonal</i>	impersonal verb:	<b>methinks</b>
<i>verbal auxiliary</i>		<b>can</b> , <b>must</b>
<i>vi</i>	intransitive verb:	<b>arise</b> , <b>arrive</b>
<i>vt</i>	transitive verb:	<b>indicate</b> , <b>thank</b>

Sometimes two parts of speech are combined:

**zileh** ... *adj or n, chiefly NAm* zero  
**yelp** ... *vi or n (to utter)* a sharp quick shrill cry

## 4 Inflections

The dictionary shows inflections only if they are irregular, and may therefore cause difficulty. They are written out in full, unless they involve merely the doubling of a consonant or the change of **-e** to **-ek-**:

**mouse** *n, pl mice*  
**swat** *vt -tt-*  
**picnic** *vi -ek-*

This means that the present participle and past of **swat** are **swatting** and **swatted**, and those of **picnic** are **picnicking** and **picnicked**.

### 4.1 Nouns

Regular plurals of nouns (eg **cats**, **matches**, **spies**) are not shown. All other plurals (eg **louse**, **lice**; **sheep**, **sheep**, **putto**, **putti**) are given. Sometimes alternative plurals are possible:

**salmon** *n, pl salmon, esp for different types salmon*

or a plural may have an alternative pronunciation.

**bath** /ba:th/ *n, pl baths* /ba:ths/; *sense 3 often* ba:dhz/

Some plurals are regular but might have been expected to be irregular:

**coleus** *n, pl coleuses*

Nouns that are always plurals are shown as follows:

**environs** *n pl*

Sometimes an individual sense of a noun is exclusively plural:

**victual** *n 2 pl* supplies of food, provisions

Not all plural nouns always take a plural verb. This is shown as follows:

**genetics** *n pl but sing in constr*  
**forty winks** *n pl but sing or pl in constr*

This means that one says 'Genetics is ...' but one says either 'Forty winks is ...' or 'Forty winks are ...'.

Some nouns have no recognizable plural form, but nevertheless can take a plural verb:

**police** *n 2a b pl in constr* policemen  
**silent majority** *n sing or pl in constr*

This means that one says 'Several police are ...' but one says either 'The silent majority is ...' or '... are ...'.

Some nouns are used with the same meaning in the plural. They are shown like this:

**latitude** *n* a region as marked by its latitude — often *pl* with *sing* meaning

This means that one can say 'It's very hot at this latitude' or '... at these latitudes'.

### 4.2 Verbs

Regular verb forms (eg **halted**, **cadged**, **carrying**) are not shown. All other verb inflections (eg **ring**, **rang**, **rung**) are shown. The verb may end in a vowel other than **-e**:

**visa** *vt* **visaling**; **visaed**

The verb may keep its final **-e** before the inflections:

**singe** *vt* **singeling**; **singed**

A pronunciation may be irregular:

**assemble** /ə'sembl/ *vb* **assembling** /ə'sembling/

There may be alternative inflections:

**spell** *vb* **spelt** ..., *NAm chiefly spelled*

Inflections are shown in the following order:

present: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person singular; plural; present subjunctive; present participle, past: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person singular; plural; past subjunctive; past participle

For any given verb, only the irregular inflections are shown. Certain forms (eg the entire past tense, or the past tense and the past participle) are combined if they are identical. Thus in

**run** ... *vb -nn-; ran; run*



the present participle is **running**, the entire past tense is **ran**, and the past participle is **run**.

Irregular American and archaic inflections are listed as separate entries in the dictionary, but are not shown at the main form of the verb

<sup>2</sup>**dove** /dohv/ *NAm past of DIVE*

**hath** *archaic pres 3 sing of HAVE*

#### 4.3 Adjectives and adverbs

Adjectives and adverbs whose comparative and superlative are formed with **more** and **most**, or by adding **-(e)r** and **-(e)st** (eg **nicer**, **fastest**, **happier**), are not shown. All other inflections are shown.

<sup>1</sup>**good** *adj better best*

Inflections that involve a change of pronunciation are shown

<sup>1</sup>**young** /yung/ *adj younger* /'yung-gə/, **youngest** /'yung-gist/

So are alternative inflections

<sup>1</sup>**shy** *adj shier, shyer, shiest, shyest*

#### 4.4 Pronouns

Inflections of pronouns are entered at their alphabetical place in the dictionary and cross-referred to their main form

<sup>2</sup>**her** *pron, objective case of SHE*

The definition is given at the main form

## 5 Capitalization

Some words, or meanings of words, can be used with or without a capital letter and we show this with the notes *often cap* and *often not cap*. In the case of compound words, the note specifies which parts are capitalized

**pop art** *n, often cap P&A*

## 6 How the meaning of words is shown

Sometimes, instead of giving a definition, the dictionary describes how a word is used

<sup>2</sup>**after** *prep* 3 used to indicate the goal or purpose of an action <go - gold>

Trademarked terms too are treated in this way.

**Hoover** *trademark* -- used for a vacuum cleaner

Most words, however, are given ordinary dictionary definitions, with one or more meanings

#### 6.1 The numbering of meanings

The main meanings of a word are numbered:

**tress** *n* 1 a plait of hair 2 a long lock of hair — usu pl

When a numbered main meaning of a word is divided into subsenses, they are introduced by letters:

**quite** *adv or adj* 1a wholly, completely . . . b positively, certainly . . .

Divisions of a subsense are indicated by bracketed numbers:

<sup>1</sup>**take** *vb* 1a c(1) to capture and remove from play . . . (2) to win in a card game

When a definition is followed by a colon and two or more subsenses, this indicates that the meaning of the subsenses is covered by the introductory definition. The colon may be followed by *eg* when the subsenses are a representative sample rather than a complete list of meanings:

**activate** *vt* 1 to make (more) active or reactive, esp in chemical or physical properties: eg a to make (a substance) radioactive b to aerate (sewage) . . .

Sometimes an introductory definition is simply the common element shared by the following subsenses:

**cheapen** *vb* to make or become a cheap in price or value b lower in esteem c tawdry, vulgar, or inferior

This indicates that **cheapen** means 'to make or become cheap in price and value', 'to make or become lower in esteem', and 'to make or become tawdry, vulgar, or inferior'.

When two meanings of a word are very closely related, they are not separated off with numbers or letters, but run together, with the word *esp*, *specif*, *also*, or *broadly* between them to show the way in which they are related.

**aggression** *n* . . . 2 attack, encroachment, *'esp* unprovoked violation by one country of the territory of another

#### 6.2 The order in which senses are shown

Those meanings that would be understood anywhere in the English-speaking world are shown first, in their historical order. The older senses before the newer. After these come the meanings whose usage is restricted in some way (eg because they are used in only one area, or have gone out of current use)

#### 6.3 Brackets

Round brackets are used in four main ways in definitions in this dictionary

They enclose the object of a verb

<sup>2</sup>**contract** *vi* . . . 2a to catch (an illness)

They give extra information

<sup>3</sup>**nap** *n* a hairy or downy surface (eg on a woven fabric)

They separate the parts of a combined definition that relate to different parts of speech.

**cheep** *vi or n* (to utter) a faint shrill sound characteristic of a young bird

They enclose optional wording:

**afloat** *adj or adv* 1a borne (as if) on the water or air

This indicates that **afloat** means both 'borne on the water or air' and 'borne as if on the water or air'

## 7 Examples

Definitions in this dictionary, particularly of those words with several different senses, may be followed by an example phrase or sentence illustrating a typical use of the word in context. Many of these are actual quotations from a written, or spoken, source, in such cases the author or source is given

Examples are printed in italics between angle brackets (< >). Occasionally the word being illustrated is written out in full, but usually it is represented by a swung dash (~)

**high-octane** *adj* having a high octane number and hence good antiknock properties <~ petrol>

When an inflected form of the main entry is being illustrated, it is usually shown by a swung dash followed by the inflection.

<sup>1</sup>**dare** *vt* to confront boldly; defy <~d the anger of her family>

The complete example is therefore 'dared the anger of her family'

## 8 Usage

There is more to a complete description of a word than a definition of its meaning; many words have peculiarities of usage that a dictionary must take account of. They may be restricted to a particular geographical area, they may be colloquial or slang, or felt to be 'incorrect', they may have fallen out of use; and there may be limitations on the sort of context they can be used in.

This dictionary shows such restrictions in two different ways. Words, or meanings, that are limited to a particular period or area are identified by an italic label:

**fain** *adv, archaic* 1 with pleasure . . .

**howff** *n, Scot* a haunt, resort, *esp* a pub

When an italic label comes between the main entry and the first

# How to use this Dictionary

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definition it refers to all meanings of the word; otherwise, it applies to all subsenses of the number or letter it follows.

All other information on usage is given in a note at the end of a definition:

**tootsy** ... *n* FOOT 1 — used chiefly to children

When such a note applies to all or several meanings of a word, it follows the last definition, and is introduced by the word **USE**:

<sup>3</sup>**camp** *adj* 1 homosexual 2 exaggeratedly effeminate 3 deliberately and outrageously artificial, affected, or inappropriate, esp to the point of tastelessness **USE** infml

## 8.1 Words that are no longer in current use

The label *obs* for 'obsolete' means there is no evidence of use for a word or meaning since 1755 (the date of publication of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary).

**choler** ... *n* ... 2a ... b *obs* BILE 1a

The label *obs* is a comment on the word being defined, not on the thing it designates. When a thing, as opposed to the word for it, is obsolete, this is indicated in the definition:

**peruke** ... *n* a long curly wig worn by men in the 17th and 18th c

The label *archaic* means that a word or meaning once in common use is found today only in special contexts, such as poetry or historical fiction, where it is used to introduce a flavour of the past:

**egad** ... *interj*, *archaic* — used as a mild oath

<sup>1</sup>**travail** ... *n* ... 2 *archaic* labour pains

Some of the more common archaisms that tend to linger on in poetic diction are treated more explicitly by means of a note.

**e'en** ... *adv* even — chiefly poetic

The same treatment is given to comparatively modern terms which have become old-fashioned because they belong to rapidly changing areas of vocabulary such as science and technology, or casual everyday speech:

**inatron** ... *n* ... 3 a woman in charge of the nursing in a hospital — not now used technically

**cripes** ... *interj*, *Br* — used to express surprise; no longer in vogue

## 8.2 Words that are not used throughout the English-speaking world

A word or sense limited in use to one or more of the countries of the English-speaking world is labelled accordingly:

<sup>3</sup>**crook** *adj*, *Austr* & *NZ* 1 ill, sick ...

The label *Br* indicates that a word or meaning is used in Britain and also usually in the Commonwealth countries of Australasia. The label *NAm* indicates the use of a word or meaning in both the USA and Canada.

A word or meaning whose use is limited to a particular part of Britain, or occasionally of the USA, is labelled accordingly:

<sup>2</sup>**hinny** ... *n*, *Scot* & *N Eng* DEAR 1b

**you-'all** *pron*, chiefly *S US* you

The label *dial* for 'dialect' indicates that a word or meaning belongs to the common local speech of several different places:

**critter** ... *n*, *dial* a creature

All the abbreviations used in such labels as these may be found inside the front cover.

## 8.3 Words that suggest a particular style, attitude, or level of formality

Most English words can be generally used in both speech and writing, but some would be traditionally described as 'colloquial' or 'slang', and others, perhaps, as 'formal'.

Words of this sort are identified in the dictionary by notes at the end of definitions. It is always hard to apply such descriptions consistently, since the status of these words is constantly shifting with the passage of time, and they are also frequently used in an incongruous setting for stylistic effect.

The note '— infml' is used for words or senses that are characteristic of conversational speech and casual writing (eg between friends and contemporaries) rather than of official or 'serious' speech or writing:

**snifter** ... *n* a small drink of spirits — infml

**creepy-crawly** ... *n*, *Br* a small creeping or scuttling creature (eg a spider) — infml

The note '— slang' is used for words or meanings usually found in contexts of extreme informality. Such words may be, or may have been until recently, used by a particular social group such as criminals or drug users. They often refer to topics that are thought of as risqué or 'low':

**porridge** ... *n* ... 2 *Br* time spent in prison — slang

**pissed** *adj*, *Br* drunk — slang

At the opposite end of the scale, the note '— fml', for 'formal', is used for words or meanings characteristic of written rather than spoken English, and particularly of official or academic writings:

**importunate** ... *adj* ... extremely persistent in request or demand — chiefly fml

Some notes describe the attitude or tone of the user of a word:

**egghead** ... *n* an intellectual, highbrow — derog or humor

**pass away** *vi* ... 2 to die — euph

All the abbreviations used in such notes as these may be found inside the front cover.

## 8.4 Words that are not 'correct'

It is not the role of a responsible modern dictionary to dictate usage; it can only make statements, based on reference to a large stock of spoken and written data, as to how a word is being used by the community at large. Where appropriate it can also warn the dictionary user that a use of a word is likely to arouse controversy or disapproval. Many people would disapprove of the use of some of the words we have described as 'slang' or 'informal', and there are of course many contexts in which their use would be quite inappropriate; but there is a further distinct class of words that are generally felt to be 'incorrect'.

The note '— nonstandard' is used for words or meanings that are quite commonly used in standard English but are considered incorrect by many speakers:

**flaunt** ... *vt* ... 2 to flout — nonstandard

Certain highly controversial words or meanings have the warning note '— disapproved of by some speakers':

**disinterested** *adj* 1 uninterested — disapproved of by some speakers

The note '— substandard' is used for words or meanings that are widely used but are not part of standard English.

**learn** ... *vb* ... 2 to teach — substandard

## 8.5 The context in which a word can appear

Many words or meanings can be used only in certain contexts within a sentence: some verbs are only used in the passive; some words can appear only in the negative, along with **not**, **never**, etc; others are always used with particular prepositions or adverbs, or in certain fixed phrases. Such restrictions are shown in a note following a definition:

**abide** ... *vb* 1 to bear patiently; tolerate — used negatively  
**agree** ... *vi* ... 2a to be of one mind — often + *with* <I ~ with you>

**dump** ... *n pl* a gloomy state of mind; despondency — esp in *the dumps*

Sometimes a word that is commonly used with the main entry word in a sentence is printed in italic within the definition:

**allude** ... *vi* to make indirect, casual, or implicit reference to  
<sup>2</sup>**altogether** *n* the nude <posed in the ~> — infml

This means that **allude** is almost always used in the phrase **allude to**, and that the noun **altogether** is almost always used with **the**.

## 9 Cross-references

Cross-references draw your attention to a related word in another part of the dictionary. Any word printed in SMALL CAPITAL letters is a cross-reference.

An entire definition may take the form of a cross-reference. This happens either when the word used in the definition has more than one meaning, and it is necessary to specify which meaning is referred to:

**flash** *n*     **6a**     *c* FLASHLIGHT 2

or when the word used in the definition is a compound that is a main entry in the dictionary

**rubella**     *n* GERMAN MEASLES

A cross-reference that refers you to another entry that is related to the one you have looked up, or that may give you additional useful information, is introduced by 'compare':

**white-collar** *adj*     — compare BLUE-COLLAR

Variant forms of prefixes and combining forms—that is to say, alternative spellings used when combining with different base forms (e.g. the **im-** form of **in-** in words like **impossible**)—are shown as follows in the alphabetical list.

**con-**     see COM

**oestro-**     see OESTR-

Full information about them may be found at the main entry

Entries followed by an eye symbol **•** cross-refer you to an illustration or table on the facing page

**music**     *n*     3 the score of a musical composition set down on page **USE •**

Entries followed by a hand symbol **✋** cross-refer you to an illustration or table appearing at a main entry elsewhere in the dictionary

**air marshal** *n* ✋ RANK

## 10 Prefixes, suffixes, and combining forms

Word elements that can be used to form new words in English are entered at their alphabetical place in the dictionary. These elements are prefixes (e.g. **pre-**, **un-**), suffixes (e.g. **-ous**, **-ly**), and combining forms (e.g. **Anglo-**, **-logy**)

Suffixes and combining forms added to the end of a word may alter the grammatical function as well as the meaning of the word. Where appropriate, this change of part of speech is indicated as follows

**-ful** *suffix (n→adj)* full of <evenful> <colourful>

This means that the suffix **-ful** is added to nouns to make adjectives.

## 11 Abbreviations

All abbreviations are listed in a separate appendix on p 1145. Some abbreviations that are frequently used as 'words' are entered in the main body of the text. Examples of these are **sae** and **PVC**, which are shown in the main alphabetical list as nouns.

Abbreviations and symbols used in the dictionary itself are listed inside the front cover.

## 12 Foreign words and phrases

Foreign words and phrases that have become thoroughly anglicized (e.g. in pronunciation) or have acquired a part of speech are entered at their alphabetical place in the dictionary:

**prima facie** /ˈpri:mə ˈfayʃi/ *adv* ...

**coup de theatre** /də ˈtəɪˈætrə/ *n* ...

Other foreign expressions are listed in a separate appendix on p 1141, with their source and language of origin where appropriate.

## 13 Pronunciation

Most of us have at some time or other had a disagreement about the pronunciation of a word, or perhaps we have simply come across a new word when reading and have wanted to know how it is pronounced. Unfortunately, when we look the word-up in our dictionary we are often confronted with a baffling series of symbols which we do not understand.

The pronunciation entries in this dictionary are concise and easy to understand, since they are based almost entirely on English spelling, and special characters or marks have been avoided.

### 13.1.1 Type of pronunciation represented

The dictionary attempts to give all the most common variant pronunciations of each word. It would not, however, be possible to include all the regional and social variants, and so the pronunciation represented here is what may be called a 'standard' or 'neutral British English' accent: the type of speech characteristic of those people often described as having 'no accent'. A better definition would be that it is an accent that betrays nothing of the region to which the speaker belongs.

Different age groups may also pronounce words differently. Some pronunciations that have become so old-fashioned as to be used only by the elderly have been excluded, as have certain others which have recently come into vogue amongst the young but which are not yet sufficiently established to be worthy of inclusion.

### 13.1.2 Choice of symbols

English spelling is often a poor guide to the pronunciation of a word. In **bough**, **cough**, **rough**, **thorough**, **though**, **thought**, and **through**, the sequence **ough** represents seven different sounds. There are in fact 23 vowel sounds in English (see the chart below) and only five letters (a, e, i, o, u) in the spelling to represent these sounds. Nevertheless, by choosing those combinations of letters which are regularly used in English spelling to represent a particular sound, it is possible to produce a pronunciation system that is quick and easy to learn.

#### Vowels

a	as in	bad, fat
ah	..	father, oompah
aw	..	saw, awful
ay	..	make, hay
e	..	bed, head
ee	..	sheep, key
ea	..	there, hair
i	..	ship, lick
ie	..	bite, lied
ie ə	..	fire, liar
ia	..	here, fear
o	..	pot, crop
oh	..	note, Joan
oo	..	put, cook
ooh	..	boot, lute
oeə	..	jury, cure
ow	..	now, bough
owə	..	our, power
oy	..	boy, loiter
oyo	..	lawyer, sawyer
u	..	cut, luck
uh	..	bird, absurd
ə	..	mother, about

#### Consonants

b	as in	bad
ch	..	cheer
d	..	day
dh	..	they
f	..	few
g	..	gay
h	..	hot
j	..	jump
k	..	king
kh	..	loch
l	..	led
m	..	man
n	..	sun
ng	..	sung
nh	..	restaurant
p	..	pot
r	..	red
s	..	soon
sh	..	fish
t	..	tea
th	..	thing
v	..	view
w	..	wet
y	..	yet
z	..	zero
zh	..	pleasure

All pronunciations are shown within slant lines (/ /): so for instance /e/ is pronounced as it is spelt in **led**, **spied**, **cried**, although this same sound may also be spelt in other ways (e.g. **cry**, **giant**, **right**), and /ec/ is pronounced as it is spelt in **meet**, **street**, **feet**, etc, although this same sound may also be spelt as in **stream**, **key**, **quay**, and **people**.

Below are a few examples:

<b>cheat</b>	/cheet/	<b>fountain</b>	/ˈfowntin/
<b>luck</b>	/lʌk/	<b>measure</b>	/ˈmezʒə/



1 A pronunciation preceded by *also* is not so usual as the other pronunciation(s) given, or else though widely used it is not considered correct by some speakers.

**controversy** /'kɒntrəvɜːsi/; *also* kən'trɒvəsi/

Here, the first variant /'kɒntrəvɜːsi/ is considered more correct by some

11 A pronunciation preceded by *often* is commonly used but is generally considered incorrect.

**gypsophilia** /'jɪp'sɒfɪlə/; *often* ˌjɪpsə'fɪli-ə/

### 13.4.2 Common variants that are not shown

There are many words which some speakers pronounce slightly differently from other speakers. Where such differences are very slight, as in the cases below, it has been decided not to show both variants, although each may be quite usual. The fact that the other variant does not appear does not mean that it is in any way undesirable

/ɔ/

The two sounds /ɔ/ and /ɑ/ are often variants within a word. Some people pronounce the final syllable of **bargain**, **painless**, **meanless** with an /ɔ/ and others with /ɑ/. Because such words are so very numerous, normally either /ɔ/ or /ɑ/ is shown but not both

/v/

Words like **apiary**, **anaemia** may be pronounced with either /ɪ/ or /v/.

**apiary** /'aɪpɪ-əri/ or /'aɪpɪ-əri/

For such words only the /v/ variant is usually given, except after /l/, /m/, and /n/, where both variants are shown

**anaemia** /ə'neɪmɪə-, -mi ə/

n/ŋg

When a prefix such as **un-** is followed by a /k/ or a /g/ sound, the *n* may be pronounced either as /n/ or as /ŋg/

**ungainly** /ʊn'ɡaɪnli/ or /ʊn'gʌɪnli/.

Only one variant is normally shown

### 13.4.3 Foreign and specialized pronunciations

French, German and Spanish pronunciations (*Fr.*, *Ger.*, *Sp.*) are given where appropriate in IPA (see 13.8). Pronunciations marked *naut* and *tech* are those used by experts within the field to which the word belongs.

**leeward** /'liːwəd/; *naut* 'looħ-əd/

Here, ordinary people say /'liːwəd/ but sailors would say /'looħ-əd/.

### 13.5 Main entries which are abbreviations

If the main entry consists merely of a sequence of capital letters, such as **BA**, **ESP**, or **YWCA**, the pronunciation is obvious, and so need not be given. However, abbreviations which may be pronounced as a word do receive a pronunciation:

**UFO** /'juːħ.fəh, ˌjuːħ ef 'əh/

### 13.6 Inflections

Regular inflections are not given a pronunciation unless they are a main entry, in which case the stress pattern alone is shown. Irregular inflections are given pronunciations throughout.

A pronunciation is sometimes shown for the present participle of a verb. The present participle of **travel** may be pronounced either /'trævliŋ/ or /'travf-ɪŋ/, but that of **tunnel** can be pronounced only /'tʌnl-ɪŋ/.

The Latin plurals **-ae** and **-i** are pronounced in a number of ways, but it is normally necessary to show only one pronunciation: the plural ending **-i** is shown as /-i:/ and the ending **-ae** as /-i:/ or /-e:/.

### 13.7 Strong and weak forms

Many common words have both a *strong form* and a *weak form*. The strong form is used only when the word is stressed or carries emphasis. Otherwise the weak form is used.

For instance, if I say 'I am going out', **am** is pronounced in its unstressed or weak form /əm/. But if someone denies that I am going out, I may repeat the same sentence with a different emphasis and say 'I *am* going out.' Here I have stressed the verb **am**, and the *strong form* /aɪm/ is used.

Since the weak form is the most usual form of the word, this is given first in pronunciation entries and the strong form follows the word *stroʊg*.

**am** /əm, m, *strong* aɪm/

**her** /hə, ɜ; *strong* hɜ:/

### 13.8 Foreign words and phrases

#### 13.8.1 American pronunciations

American pronunciation often differs from that of British English speakers, but a specifically American pronunciation is only shown when a word is pronounced in such a way that it might not be recognized by British speakers

**clark** /klaɪk/; *NAm* klʌh/

**lieutenant** /lef'tenənt/; *NAm* looh'tenənt/

Some American-influenced pronunciations are gaining popularity in Britain in such words as **temporary** /'tempərəri/, **temporarily** /'tempərəri/, or **mandatory** /mən'dat(ə)rɪ/ instead of the more conventionally British English /'tempərəni/, /'tempərəni/, and /'mændət(ə)rɪ/. Such pronunciations are shown only when they are considered to be sufficiently usual to have gained general acceptance

#### 13.8.2 Borrowed words and phrases

Where English has 'borrowed' a word or phrase from a foreign language it eventually acquires an anglicized pronunciation. All such words in this dictionary are given a pronunciation which may be easily used by native English speakers who know nothing of the language from which the word is borrowed. However, many of these words are normally pronounced in a manner that is closer to the original pronunciation, and in these cases the foreign pronunciation is also given within round brackets, using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). This is because many foreign sounds cannot be adequately represented using the English alphabet. The IPA symbols used are as follows

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>as in German</i>	<i>Nearest English Equivalent</i>
i	nid	Inhalt	heat
i:	—	reichen	feed
ia	—	Bier	beer
e	été	Medikament	dav
e:	--	mehr	fair
ɛ	sept	Kette	pet
ɛ:	mère	Rätsel	fair
eə	—	Wiedersehen	fair
a	patte	Album	cart
a:	tard	—	card
ai	—	Fraulein	tie
au	--	auf	cow
ɑ	bus	Ahnung	card
ɑ:	sable	—	card
ɔ	tonne	Post	hot
ɔ:	mors	—	sort
ɔi	—	Fraulein	toy
o	chaud	Tomate	coat
o:	rose	Kohle	code
u	—	unter	put
u:	coup	—	cool
u:	rouge	Uhr	cool
y	cru	Führer	crude
y:	buche	physisch	crude
ø	bleu	öffnen	early
ø:	jeune	böse	early
œ	seul	—	early
œ:	peur	—	early
ə	le	genug	ado
ɛ	vin	—	—

â	blanc	—	restaurant
5	non	—	—
ê	jeune	—	—
q	nuit	—	wheat
ç	—	ich	—
x	—	nach	loch
ñ	pagne	—	new
ñ	—	ringen	pang
3	journal	Genie	pleasure
j	chat	Strasse	show
iç	(cheque)	—	cheat
j	mieux	Jahr	you

## 14 Etymologies

**14.1** Etymologies are shown in square brackets [ ] after the definition of a word, but before any derived undefined words or idioms (unless an idiom itself has been given an etymology).

**14.2** Within the square brackets, words or word-elements in *italics* are the source from which the main entry is historically descended. An English word or phrase in ordinary type after such a source-word explains the meaning or function of that source-word:

**eulogy** ... [ ... Gk *eulogia* praise ... ]

**parturition** ... [ ... L *parturitus*, pp of *parturire* ... ]

If a source-word is an English word in use since 1501, but is not listed in this dictionary, its meaning is given in round brackets:

**frump** ... [ prob fr *frumple* (to wrinkle), fr ME *fromplen* ... ]

### 14.3 Special terminology

**14.3.1** fr = from. This indicates various kinds of relationship between one word and another: e.g borrowing, compounding, or grammatical change.

**14.3.2** deriv = derivative. This means that at least one intermediate step has been left out in tracing the history of a word:

**apricot** ... [alter. of earlier *abrecock*, deriv of Ar *al-birqûq* the apricot]

Here, the Arabic word may have reached us through Catalan, Italian, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.

**14.3.3** alter. = alteration. This means that there has been a change of form, within a single language, following no regular pattern of linguistic change, as with *apricot*.

**14.3.4** modif = modification. This means that there has been the same kind of change in a word borrowed from another language:

**boulevard** ... [F, modif of MD *bolwerck* bulwark]

**14.3.5** blend. This describes a word formed from two or more constituents which has at least one letter or sound in common with those constituents, or in which part of one constituent is inserted into the other:

**smog** ... [blend of *smoke* and *fog*]

Compounds which do not meet these special conditions are treated differently:

**brunch** ... [breakfast + lunch]

**14.4** Usually the etymology traces the origin and development of a main entry as far back as possible within the recorded history of language, describing (when applicable) the following chief features:

i **Earlier forms in English** Whenever an etymologized word is a descendant of a word recorded in either or both of the earlier periods of English, its occurrence in the earlier period(s) is noted, and its form and meaning are stated if they differ from the present form of the main entry, or from the earliest sense defined:

**'clog** ... [ME *clogge* short thick piece of wood]

**'clot** ... [ME, fr OE *clott* ... ]

ii **Loanwords** When a word has been borrowed into English at any period from another language, the source-language is identified, and the form and meaning of the source-word are stated if they differ from those shown for the English word:

**'join** ... [ME *joinen*, fr OF *joindre* ... ]

**polo** [Balti, ball]

iii **Earlier history of loanwords** In the case of most words which belong to the general vocabulary of English, the earlier history of a foreign source-word is traced as far back as possible:

**dine** ... [ME *dinen*, fr OF *diner*, fr (assumed) VL *disjejunare* to break one's fast, fr L *dis-* + LL *jejunare* to fast, fr L *jejunus* fasting]

Specialized or 'exotic' words which have entered English, such as *hummus* and *sargasso*, are often treated rather less fully, and with few exceptions a word from a language outside the Indo-European family is not traced any further back.

iv **Pre-history and use of 'akin to'** When a word has been traced back to the earliest language in which it is recorded, then—if that language belongs to the Indo-European family—a selection is given of related forms from other languages of this family. Such a list of related forms is preceded by the phrase 'akin to'

**hound** ... [ME, fr OE *hund*, akin to OHG *hunt* dog, L *canis*, Gk *kyôn*]

A somewhat different use of 'akin to' occurs when a word is known to be derived from a word in a certain group of languages (e.g Celtic or Scandinavian) but cannot be definitely traced to any recognized word in any particular language

**skulk** ... [ME *skulken*, of Scand origin, akin to Dan *skulke* to shirk, play truant]

The Danish word shown here is related to the English *skulk*, which certainly derived from a Scandinavian language; but no more definite relationship between the two words can be established

**14.5** If a source-word had the same form as the English word that comes from it, but a different meaning, that meaning is given

**nimbus** [L, rainstorm, cloud]

If a source-word had the same meaning as the English word but a different form, that form is given. (If there is no language-label before the first word in italics, it is English)

**gracile** [L *gracilis*]

If the source word had the same form and meaning as the English word, it appears like this.

**scabies** ... [L]

The same principles can be applied throughout an etymology:

**famous** ... [ME, fr MF *fameux*, fr L *famosus*, fr *fama* fame]

If the form, meaning, and language had to be stated in every case, this would be written as:

**famous** ... [ME *famous* well-known, fr MF *fameux* well-known, fr L *famosus* well-known, fr L *fama* fame]

### 14.6 Cross-references

An explicit cross-reference such as 'more at *SHILLING*' directs you to another main entry where further information about etymology is to be found.

Any mention in italics of an English word listed in the dictionary may be taken as an implicit reference to the etymology (if any) at that word:

**chortle** ... [blend of *chuckle* and *snort*]

Etymological information about both *chuckle* and *snort* may be found at their own entries.

A cross-reference is also implied when the same italicized form occurs in two or more etymologies which are not further than ten entries apart. In practice, this means that quite often you must look at adjacent entries for further information:

**chrism** [ME *crisme*, fr OE *crisma*, fr LL *chrisma*, fr Gk, ointment, fr *chriein* to anoint; akin to OE *greet* grit, sand]

**Christ** [ME *Crist*, fr OE, fr L *Christus*, fr Gk *Christos*, lit., anointed, fr *chriein*]

**christen** [ME *cristenen*, fr OE *cristanian*, fr *cristen* Christian, fr L *christianus*]

**Christendom** [ME *cristendom*, fr OE *cristendōm*, fr *cristen*]

**<sup>1</sup>Christian** [L *christianus*, adj] & n. fr Gk *christianos*, fr *Christos*]

Here, the etymology at **chrism** is the ultimate goal of a chain of implied cross-references. If you originally looked up **Christendom**, you will find further information about *cristen*, the last form shown there, in the entry for **christen**, more about *christianus*, the last form at **christen**, in the entry for **<sup>1</sup>Christian**, then the form *Christos* will take you from **<sup>1</sup>Christian** to **Christ**, and finally *chriein* will lead you to **chrism**.

**14.7** Sometimes the material in square brackets consists of a base form plus a beginning or ending, printed in SMALL CAPITAL letters

**animation** [²ANIMATE + -ION]

This does not mean that **animation** was formed in modern English from *animate* and *-ion* (in fact, the word was borrowed into English from Latin *animation-*, *animatio*), rather, it shows that the word means 'the act of animating', which is the sum of the meanings of *animate* and *-ion*.

The components shown are not necessarily in exactly the same form as the main entry

**dissolution** [DISSOLVE + -ION]

**14.8** When a main entry covers two or more parts of speech, the etymology usually shows which part of speech was the first form in English and/or was the source-word in another language.

**<sup>1</sup>conscript** *n* or *adj* [adj ME, fr L *conscriptus*, n fr adj]

This means that the English noun **conscript** came from the English adjective **conscript**, which in turn was borrowed from the Middle French adjective *conscript*.

**14.9** When one (or more than one) of the numbered meanings of a word has an origin which is not strictly identical with that of the other meaning(s), although not sufficiently different to justify listing it as a separate main entry, extra information about it is given

**attrition** [1 *attrition-*, *attritio*, fr *attritus*, pp of *atterere* to rub against, fr *ad-* + *terere* to rub — more at **THROW**, (1) ME *attricion*, fr (assumed) ML *attrition-*, *attritio*, fr L]

**walking** [(1) fr prp of *walk*, (2) fr gerund of *walk*]

**14.10** Sometimes, in place of or in addition to the history of a word, an etymology offers an explanation of *why* that word is used with a particular meaning. Such explanations are always introduced by 'h'

**candidate** [L *candidatus*, fr *candidatus* clothed in white, fr *candidus* white, fr the white toga worn by candidate- for office in ancient Rome]

**kiss of death** . [fr the kiss with which Judas betrayed Jesus (Mk 14:44–46)]

**14.11** Abbreviations used in etymologies for the names of languages are listed inside the front cover. In addition, the following points may be noted

i Many technical terms used in the sciences and other specialized studies consist of words or word-elements which are current in at least two languages, with whatever minor changes of form are needed to adapt them to the structure of each individual language. Frequently one does not know which particular language they were originally formed in. The label ISV (International Scientific Vocabulary) is therefore attached to any such term which is not positively known to have originated in English:

**carbide** [ISV]

**glyc-** [ISV, fr Gk *glyk-* sweet, fr *glykys*]

ii The labelling and representation in writing of words from the Indian subcontinent presents a problem. When they were borrowed into English, the language of most of them was generally called Hindustani; but since partition in 1947, more commonly the names Hindi and Urdu have been used to denote the two similar but divergent main forms. Hindi, written in the Sanskritic (Devanagari) alphabet, is the form adopted in India. Urdu, written in Perso-Arabic characters, is the form adopted in Pakistan. In this dictionary, the label Hindi has generally been used in the wider sense formerly conveyed by Hindustani: 'a group of Indic dialects of northern India of which literary Hindi and Urdu are considered diverse written forms'. Words thus labelled are either common to Hindi and Urdu (e.g. *lac*, *sari*) or specifically Urdu (e.g. *lascar*, *sahib*), specifically Hindi words have usually been labelled Sanskrit, whether they came into English directly from Sanskrit (e.g. *Krishna*) or via Hindustani (e.g. *maharishi*).

iii With a few special exceptions, a word borrowed from Latin or Greek is ascribed to the earliest period in which it is recorded in either of those languages with the same meaning that it has in the borrowing language regardless of the date of the borrowing. Borrowings from other languages divided into historical periods, such as 'Old' and 'Middle', are attributed to the period corresponding to the date of the word's first recorded borrowing. In the cases of 'Old Italian', 'Old Portuguese', and 'Old Spanish', however the term 'Old' does not denote a definable period, but indicates a form in Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish which was borrowed into the Old or Middle period of another language.

iv The label 'native name', followed by the name of a country or region, is used in a few instances when it has been impossible to determine which particular language of that place the word comes from.

**koala** [native name in Australia]

#### 14.12 Words from other alphabets

All forms from other alphabets (Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, Sanskrit, Chinese, Cyrillic, etc) are presented in the Roman alphabet.

In representing forms from tone languages, such as Chinese, small superscript figures are used to indicate the tone of the word or syllable which they follow. For Chinese words, the Wade-Giles system of romanization is used.

#### 14.13 Main entries without an etymology

When lack of evidence makes it impossible to supply any satisfactory etymology, the phrase [origin unknown] is used. When a word is given no etymology, this is usually not because of lack of evidence but because it is considered that an etymology is unnecessary. This applies to any word which is

i a trademark (e.g. *Vaseline*)

ii the name of a tribe or people in its own language (e.g. *Zulu*)

iii an interjection which is a natural non-linguistic sound (e.g. *bah*, *ugh*, *whee*)

iv derived from the name of a person or place fully identified in the definition (e.g. *Tokay*)

v a shortened or contracted form (e.g. *exam*, *o'er*)

vi a spelling variant of another word to which it is cross-referred (e.g. *kadi*, *kaftan*)

vii an inflected form of a verb, noun, or adjective to which it is cross-referred (but special forms, such as *better* and *went*, and forms of the verb *be*, do have etymologies)

viii a compound, derivative, or phrase created in English by the combination of forms listed in this dictionary, provided that the identity of each component is clear. Thus no etymology is given for *toothpaste* (from *tooth* + *paste*), for *dehumanize* (from *de-* + *humanize*), or for *polygyny* (from *poly-* + *-gyny*)

ix a word formed by the addition of an easily-recognizable suffix to an English word, although it may have been formed in a language other than English. Thus *impressionism* has no etymology because it is an obvious derivative of *impression*, which in turn is clearly related to *<sup>1</sup>impress*, although in strict point of fact both *impression* and *impressionism* were borrowed into English from French forms. In the same way,

## How to use this Dictionary

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undefined related words (runons) have no etymology, even though in some cases such words may have appeared in English before the base form or have been formed in a different language (as **immortality** is actually a borrowing from French and is at least as old as the base word **immortal**) created in English by change of grammatical function (as the verb **talk** led to the noun **talk**) from a word listed, with an etymology, above (or occasionally below) it.



## A

**'a** /ay/ *n*, *pl* a's, as often *cap* **1a** (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 1st letter of the English alphabet **b** a speech counterpart of orthographic *a* **2** the 6th note of a C-major scale **3** one designated *a*, esp as the 1st in order or class **4** a grade rating a student's work as superior

**'a** /ə, strong ay/ *indefinite article* **1** one – used before singular nouns when the referent is unspecified (< ~ *man overboard*) and before number collectives and some numbers (< ~ *great many*) **2** the same (< *birds of ~ feather*) (< *swords all of ~ length*) **3a(1)** any (< ~ *bicycle has 2 wheels*) **(2)** one single (< *can't see ~ thing*) **b** one particular (< *glucose is ~ simple sugar*) **c** – used before the gerund or infinitive of a verb to denote a period or occurrence of the activity concerned (< *had ~ little weep*) (< *heard ~ crashing of gears*) **4** – used before a proper name to denote (1) membership of a class (< *I was ~ Burton before my marriage – SEU S*) (2) resemblance (< ~ *Daniel come to judgment*) (3) one named but not otherwise known (< ~ *Mrs Jones*) **5** – used before a pair of items to be considered as a unit (< ~ *cap and gown*) **USE** used before words or letter sequences with an initial consonant sound; compare 'AN **1** [ME, fr OE *an* one – more at **ONE**]

**'a** /ə/ *prep* **1 PER 2** (< *twice ~ week*) **2** chiefly *dial* on, in, at **USE** used before *w-udz* or *lettr* sequences with an initial consonant sound [ME, fr OE *a-*, *an*, *on*]

**'a** /ə/ *prep* of – often attached to the preceding word (< *kinda*) (< *lotta*) [ME, by contr]

**A** /ay/ *n* or *adj* (a film that is) certified in Britain as suitable for all ages but requiring parental guidance for children under 14 [adult]

**'a-** /ə-/ *prefix* **1** on, in, at; to (< *abed*) (< *ajar*) **2** in (such) a state or condition (< *ablaze*) **3** in (such) a manner (< *aloud*) **4** in the act or process of (< *gone a-hunting*) (< *atingle*) **USE** in predicative adjectives and adverbs [ME, fr OE]

**'a-** /ay-, a-/ *an-* /an-/ *prefix* not; without (< *asexual*) (< *amoral*) – *a-* use before consonants other than *h*, *an-* before vowels and *usu* before *h* (< *anaesthetic*) (< *anhedral*) [L & Gk, L, fr Gk – more at 'UN-]

**-a-** *comb form* replacing carbon, esp in a ring (< *aza-*) [ISV]

**-a** /ə/ *suffix* (- *n*) oxide (< *thoria*) (< *alumina*) [NL, fr -*a* (as in *magnesia*)]

**A1** *adj* **1** of a ship having the highest possible classification of seaworthiness for insurance purposes **2** of the finest quality; first-rate

**A4** *n* a size of paper *usu* 297 × 210mm (about 11½ × 8¼in)

**A5** *n* a size of paper *usu* 210 × 148mm (about 8¼ × 5¾in)

**AA** *n* or *adj* (a film that is) certified in Britain as suitable for people over 14

**aah** /ah *often prolonged*/ *vi* to exclaim in amazement, joy, or surprise (< *ooing* and < *ing*) – *aah n*

**aardvark** /'ahd,vahk/ *n* a large burrowing ant- and termite-eating nocturnal African mammal [obs Afrik, fr Afrik *aard* earth + *vark* pig]


**aardwolf** /'ahd,wuolf/ *n* a striped African mammal that resembles the hyenas and eats esp carrion and insects [Afrik, fr *aard* + *wolf*]

**ab-** /ab-, əb-/ *prefix* from; away; off (< *abaxial*) (< *abduct*) [ME, fr OF & L; OF, fr L *ab-*, *abs-*, *a-*, fr *ab*, *a* – more at OF]

**aba** /ə'bah, ah'bah/ *n* a loose sleeveless outer garment worn by Arabs [Ar 'aba]

**abaca** /əbəkəh/ *n* (a fibre obtained from the leafstalk of) a banana native to the Philippines [Sp *abacá*, fr Tag *abaká*]

**aback** /ə'bək/ *adv* **1** unintentionally in a position to catch the wind on what is normally the leeward side – used with reference to a sail **2** by surprise – < *take* (< *was taken ~ by her sharp retort*) [ME *abak* back, backwards, fr OE *on bæc*, fr *on* on + *bæc* back]

**abacus** /ə'bəkəs/ *n*, *pl* *abaci* /-kie, -sie/, *abacuses* **1** a slab that forms the uppermost part of the capital of a column  **ARCHITECTURE** **2** an instrument for performing calculations by sliding counters along rods or in grooves [L, fr Gk *abak-*, *abax*, lit., slab]

**'abaft** /ə'bahft/ *adv* towards or at the stern ['a- + *bæft* (aft)]

**'abaft** *prep* towards the stern from

**abalone** /əbəl'ohni/ *n* any of several related edible rock-clinging gastropod molluscs with flattened slightly spiral shells [AmerSp *abulón*]

**'abandon** /ə'bænd(ə)n/ *vt* **1** to give up completely, esp with the intention

of never resuming or reclaiming (< ~ *ed his studies*) (< *slow to ~ their native language*) **2** to leave, often in the face of danger (< ~ *ship*) **3** to forsake or desert, esp in spite of an allegiance, duty, or responsibility (< *endure the ignominy of his ~ing her* – D H Lawrence) (< ~ *ed to a humble death*) **4** to give (oneself) over unrestrainedly to an emotion or activity [ME *abandonen*, fr MF *abandoner*, fr *abandon*, *n*, surrender, fr *a bandon* in one's power] – *abandoner n*, *abandonment n*

**'abandon** *n* freedom from constraint or inhibitions (< *danced with gay ~*)

**'abandoned** *adj* wholly free from restraint (< *an ~ party*)

**abase** /ə'beɪs/ *vt* to bring lower in rank, office, prestige, or esteem [ME *abassen*, fr MF *abaissier*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + (assumed) VL *bassiare* to lower] – *abatement n*

**abash** /ə'bash/ *vt* to destroy the self-possession or self-confidence of; disconcert – *usu* pass [ME *abaishen*, fr (assumed) MF *abaiss-*, *abair* to astonish, alter. of MF *esbair*, fr *ex-* + *baer* to yawn, fr ML *batere*] – *abashment n*

**abate** /ə'beɪt/ *vt* **1** to put an end to; abolish (< ~ *a nuisance*) **2** to reduce in amount, intensity, or degree, moderate (< ~ *a tax*) ~ *vi* to decrease in force or intensity (< *the wind has ~d*) [ME *abaten*, fr OF *abatre* to beat down, slaughter – more at 'REBATE] – *abatement n*, *abater n*

**abatis**, **abattis** /ə'botɛ-, -tis/ *n*, *pl* *abatis*, *abettises*, *abattis*, *abattises* a defensive obstacle made of felled trees with sharpened branches facing the enemy [F, fr *abattre*]

**abattoir** /ə'bɒ,twəh/ *n* a slaughterhouse [F, fr *abattre*]

**abaxial** /ə'bæks-i-əl/ *adj* situated outside or directed away from the axis of an organ, plant part, or organism – compare **ADAXIAL**

**abbacy** /ə'beɪsi-/ *n* the office, jurisdiction, or tenure of an abbot or abess [ME *abbacie*, fr LL *abbatia*]

**abbé** /ə'beɪ/ *n* a member of the French secular clergy in major or minor orders – used as a title [F, fr LL *abbat-*, *abbas*]

**abbess** /ə'bes/ *n* the female superior of a convent of nuns [ME *abbesse*, fr OF, fr LL *abbatissa*, fem of *abbat-*, *abbas*]

**Abbevillian** /ə'b(ə)'viliən/ *adj* of the earliest Palaeolithic culture in Europe [Abbeville, town in France]

**abbey** /ə'bi/ *n* **1** a religious community governed by an abbot or abess **2** the buildings, esp the church, of a (former) monastery (< *Westminster ~*) [ME, fr OF *abaye*, fr LL *abbatia* *abbey*, fr *abbat-*, *abbas*]

**abbot** /ə'bɒt/ *n* the superior of an abbey of monks [ME *abbod*, fr OE, fr LL *abbat-*, *abbas*, fr LGk *abbas*, fr Aram *abbā* father]

**abbreviate** /ə'briːviəɪt/ *vt* to make briefer, esp to reduce to a shorter form intended to stand for the whole [ME *abbreviaten*, fr LL *abbreviatus*, pp of *abbreviare* – more at **ABRIDGE**] – *abbreviator n*

**abbreviation** /ə'briːviəʃ(ə)n/ *n* a shortened form of a written word or phrase (< *amt is an ~ for amount*) [ABBREVIATE + -ION]

**ABC** *n*, *pl* *ABC's*, *ABCs* **1** the alphabet **2** the rudiments of a subject – *usu* *pl* with sing. meaning in NAM

**abdicate** /ə'bdiːkəɪt/ *vt* to relinquish (e.g. sovereign power) formally ~ *vi* to renounce a throne, dignity, etc [L *abdicator*, pp of *abdicare*, fr *ab-* + *dicare* to proclaim – more at **DICTION**] – *abdicator n*, *abdicable* /-kəbl/ *adj*, *abdication* /-ˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**abdomen** /ə'bɒdmən, ə'bɒdmən/ *n* **1** (the cavity of) the part of the body between the thorax and the pelvis that contains the liver, gut, etc **2** the rear part of the body behind the thorax in an insect or other arthropod [MF & L; MF, fr L] – *abdominal* /ə'bɒdmɪnəl, əb-/ *adj*, *abdominally* *adv*

**abducens nerve** /ə'bɒdʒənsz, -kənz/ *n* either of the 6th pair of cranial nerves which are motor nerves supplying muscles of the eye [L *abducens*, prp of *abducere*]

**abduct** /ə'bʌdʌkt/ *vt* **1** to carry off secretly or by force – compare **KIDNAP** **2** to draw away (e.g. a limb) from a position near or parallel to the main part of the body [L *abductus*, pp of *abducere*, lit., to lead away, fr *ab-* + *ducere* to lead – more at 'row] – *abductor n*, *abduction* /ə'bʌdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**abeam** /ə'biːm/ *adv* or *adj* on a line at right angles to the length of a ship or aircraft ['a- + 'beam]

**abed** /ə'bed/ *adv* or *adj* in bed

**Aberdeen Angus** /ə'bɛdɛən 'ang-gas/ *n* (any of) a breed of black hornless orig Scottish beef cattle [Aberdeen & Angus, counties in Scotland]

**aberrant** /ə'berənt/ *adj* **1** deviating from the right or normal way (< ~ *behaviour*) **2** diverging from the usual or natural type [L *aberrant-*, *aberrans*, prp of *aberrare* to go astray, fr *ab-* + *errare* to wander, err] – *aberrance n*, *aberrancy n*, *aberrantly* *adv*

**aberration** /ə'bɛrəʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** being aberrant, esp with respect to a

moral standard or normal state 2 the failure of a mirror, lens, etc to produce exact correspondence between an object and its image 3 (an instance of) unsoundness or disorder of the mind 4 a small periodic change of apparent position in celestial bodies due to the combined effect of the motion of light and the motion of the observer 5 an aberrant organ or individual; SPORT 5 [L *aberratus*, pp of *aberrare*] – **aberrational** *adj* **abet** /əbet/ *vt* -tt- to give active encouragement or approval to <aided and ~ted in the crime by his wife> [ME *abetten*, fr MF *abeter*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *beter* to bait, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bētan* to bait] – **abetment** *n*, **abettor**, **abetter** *n*

**abeyance** /ə'bayəns/ *n* temporary inactivity; suspension <a rule in ~ since 1935> [MF *abeyance* expectation, fr *abser* to desire, fr *a-* + *bære* to yawn, fr ML *batare*]

**abhor** /əb(h)aw/ *vt* -rr- to regard with extreme repugnance; loathe [ME *abhorren*, fr L *abhorrēre*, fr *ab-* + *horrēre* to shudder – more at HORROR] – **abhorrer** *n*

**abhorrent** /əb(h)orənt, əb(h)awrənt/ *adj* 1 opposed, contrary to 2 causing horror; repugnant <acts ~ to every right-minded person> [L *abhorrent-*, *abhorrens*, prp of *abhorrēre*] – **abhorrence** *n*, **abhorrently** *adv*

**abidance** /ə'bied(ə)ns/ *n* compliance (<~ by the rules>) [ABIDE + -ANCE]

**abide** /ə'bied/ *vb* **abode** /ə'bohd/, **abided** *vt* to bear patiently, tolerate – used negatively <can't ~ such bigots> ~ *vi* 1 to remain stable or fixed in a state 2 *archaic* to dwell [ME *abiden*, fr OE *abidan*, fr *ā-*, perfective prefix + *bidan* to bide] – **abider** *n* – **abide** *by* to remain true to; comply with <abide by the rules> <abide by one's word>

**abiding** /ə'bieding/ *adj* enduring <an ~ interest in nature> – **abidingly** *adv*

**ability** /ə'biliti/ *n* 1a being able; esp physical, mental, or legal power to perform <doubted her ~ to walk so far> b natural or acquired competence in doing; skill <a man of great ~> 2 a natural talent; aptitude – usu pl [ME *abilite*, fr MF *habilité*, fr L *habilitat-*, *habilitas*, fr *habilis* apt, skilful – more at ABLE]

**ability** also **ibility** /ə'biliti/ *suffix* (*vb*, *adj* → *n*) capacity, suitability, or tendency to (so act or be acted on) <readability> <excitability> [ME *-abilite*, *-ibilite*, fr MF *-abilité*, *-ibilité*, fr L *-abilitas*, *-ibilitas*, fr *-abilis*, *-ibilis*, -able + -*tas* -*ty*]

**ab initio** /ab i'nishuoh/ *adv* from the beginning [L]

**abiogenesis** /ə,bie-oh'jenəis/ *n* the supposed spontaneous origination of living organisms directly from lifeless matter [NL, fr *'a-* + *bio-* + *genesis*] – **abiogenetic** /-jə'netik/, **abiogenetical** *adj*, **abiogenetically** *adv*, **abiogenist** /ə,bie'ojnist/ *n*

**abiotic** /ə,bie'otik/ *adj* not involving or produced by living organisms [*'a-* + *biotic*] – **abiotically** *adv*

**abject** /'æbjekt/ *adj* 1 showing utter hopelessness; wretched, miserable <~ poverty> 2 despicable, degraded 3 very humble, esp to the point of servility <an ~ apology> [ME, fr L *abjectus*, fr pp of *abicere* to cast off, fr *ab-* + *jacere* to throw – more at JET] – **abjection** /əb'jeksh(ə)n/ *n*, **abjectly** /'æbjektlɪ/ *adv*, **abjectness** *n*

**abjure** /əb'juʊə/ *vt* to renounce on oath or reject formally (e.g. a claim, opinion, or allegiance) [ME *abjuren*, fr MF or L; MF *abjurer*, fr L *abjurare*, fr *ab-* + *jurare* to swear – more at JURY] – **abjurer** *n*, **abjuration** /əbjo'raysh(ə)n/ *n*

**ablate** /ə'blayt/ *vb* to remove or be removed by cutting, erosion, melting, evaporation, or vaporization [L *ablatus* (suppletive pp of *aufēre* to remove, fr *au-* away + *ferre* to carry), fr *ab-* + *latūs*, suppletive pp of *ferre* – more at UKASE, BEAR, TOLERATE] – **ablative** /ə'blaytiv/ *adj*, **ablation** /ə'blaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **ablator** *n*

**ablative** /'æblativ/ *n* (a form in) a grammatical case expressing typically separation, source, cause, or instrument [adj ME, fr MF or L; MF *ablatis*, fr L *ablatus*, fr *ablatus*; *n* fr adj] – **ablative** *adj*

**ablative** /'æbsolute/ *n* a construction in Latin in which a noun or pronoun and its adjunct, both in the ablative case, together form an adverbial phrase

**ablaut** /'apləwt, 'ab-/ *n* a systematic variation of vowels in the same root, esp in the Indo-European languages, usu accompanied by differences in use or meaning (e.g. in *sing*, *sang*, *sung*, *song*) [G, fr *ab* away from + *laut* sound]

**ablaze** /ə'blayz/ *adj* or *adv* 1 on fire 2 radiant with light or bright colour

**able** /əybl/ *adj* 1 having sufficient power, skill, resources, or qualifications to <with more money I was better ~ to help> 2 marked by intelligence, knowledge, skill, or competence <the ~st lawyer in London>

[ME, fr MF, fr L *habilis* apt, fr *habere* to have – more at GIVE] – **ably** /əybl/ *adv*

**-able** also **-ible** /-əbl/ *suffix* 1 (*vb* → *adj*) fit for, able to, liable to, or worthy to (so act or be acted on) <breakable> <reliable> <get-at-able> 2 (*n* → *adj*) marked by, providing, or possessing (a specified quality or attribute) <knowledgeable> <comfortable> [ME, fr OF, fr L *-abilis*, *-ibilis*, fr *-a-*, *-i-*, verb stem vowels + *-bilis* capable or worthy of] – **ably** *suffix* (*vb*, *n* → *adv*)

**able-bodied** *adj* physically strong and healthy; fit

**able seaman**, **able-bodied seaman** *n* RANK

**ablution** /ə'bloosh(ə)n/ *n* the washing of (a part of) one's body, esp in a ritual purification [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *ablution-*, *ablutio*, fr *ablutus*, pp of *abluerē* to wash away, fr *ab-* + *lavere* to wash – more at LYE] – **ablutionary** /-ə'ru/ *adj*

**ABM** *n* ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE

**Abnaki** /əb'nahki/ *n*, pl **Abnakis**, esp collectively **Abnaki** a member, or the Algonquin language, of an American Indian people of Maine and S Quebec

**abnegation** /əbni'gaysh(ə)n/ *n* renunciation, self-denial [LL *abnegation-*, *abnegatio*, fr L *abnegatus*, pp of *abnegare* to refute, fr *ab-* + *negare* to deny – more at NEGATE]

**abnormal** /əb'naʊml, əb-/ *adj* deviating from the normal or average; esp markedly and disturbingly irregular (<~ behaviour> [alter. of earlier *anormal*, fr F, fr ML *anormalis*, fr L *a-* + LL *normalis* normal]) – **abnormally** *adv*, **abnormality** /əbnaʊ'maləti/ *n*

**abnormal psychology** *n* the psychology of mental disorder

**abo** /əboh/ *n*, pl **abos** often *cap*, Austr an Australian aborigine – chiefly derog [by shortening] – **abo** *adj*

**aboard** /ə'bawd/ *adv* or *prep* 1 on, onto, or within (a ship, aircraft, train, or road vehicle) <climb ~> <they were ~ a plane bound for Rome> 2 alongside [ME *abord*, fr *'a-* + *bord* board – more at BOARD]

**abode** /ə'bohd/ *n* a home, residence – fml [ME *abod*, fr *abiden* to abide]

**abolish** /ə'bolish/ *vt* to do away with (e.g. a law or custom) wholly; annul [ME *abolishsen*, fr MF *aboliss-*, stem of *abolir*, fr L *abolere*, prob back-formation fr *abolescere* to disappear, fr *ab-* + *-olescere* (as in *adolescere* to grow up) – more at ADULT] – **abolishable** *adj*, **abolisher** *n*, **abolishment** *n*, **abolition** /ə'bo'lish(ə)n/ *n*, **abolitionary** *adj*

**abolitionism** /ə'bo'lishəniz(ə)m/ *n* principles or measures fostering abolition (e.g. of slavery in the USA) – **abolitionist** *n* or *adj*

**abomasum** /ə'bo'mays(ə)m/ *n*, pl **abomasas** /-sə/ the fourth or true digestive stomach of a ruminant mammal [NL, fr L *ab-* + *omasum* trape of a bullock] – **abomasal** *adj*

**A-bomb** /əy/ *n* ATOM BOMB

**abominable** /ə'bominəbl/ *adj* 1 worthy of or causing disgust or hatred, detestable 2 very disagreeable or unpleasant – esp in colloquial exaggeration (<~ weather> [ME, fr MF, fr L *abominabilis*, fr *abominari*, lit, to deprecate as an ill-omen, fr *ab-* + *omin-*, *omen* omen]) – **abominably** *adv*

**abominable snowman** *n*, often *cap* A&S a large manlike animal reported as existing high in the Himalayas

**abominate** /ə'bominayt/ *vt* to hate or loathe intensely and unremittingly; abhor [L *abominatus*, pp of *abominari*] – **abominator** *n*

**abomination** /ə'bomi'naysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 sth abominable; esp a detestable or shameful action 2 extreme disgust and hatred; loathing [ME *abominacioun*, fr MF *abomination*, fr LL *abominatio-*, *abominatio*, fr L *abominatus*]

**aboriginal** /ə'bo'rijn(ə)l/ *adj* 1 indigenous 2 of esp Australian aborigines – **aboriginally** *adv*

**aboriginal** *n* an (Australian) aborigine

**aborigine** /ə'bo'rijne/ *n* 1 an indigenous inhabitant, esp as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people; *specif*, often *cap* a member of the indigenous people of Australia 2 pl the original fauna and flora of an area [L *aborigines*, pl, prob fr *ab origine* from the beginning]

**abort** /ə'bawt/ *vi* 1 to expel a premature nonviable foetus 2 to fail to develop completely; shrink away ~ *vt* 1 to induce the abortion of (a foetus) 2a to end prematurely (<~ a project>) b to stop in the early stages (<~ a disease> [L *abortare*, fr *abortus*, pp of *aboriri* to miscarry, fr *ab-* + *oriri* to rise, be born – more at RISE]

**abort** *n* the premature termination of a mission or procedure involving a military aircraft or spacecraft

**abortifacient** /ə'bawti'fayshənt/ *n* or *adj* (a drug or other agent) inducing abortion

**abortion** /ə'bawsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the spontaneous or induced expulsion of a foetus 2 a monstrosity <monstrously carved ~s – Country Life> 3 (the

- result of) an arresting of development of a part, process, etc – **abortionist** *n*
- abortive** /ə'baʊtɪv/ *adj* 1 fruitless, unsuccessful (<an ~ attempt> 2 imperfectly formed or developed – **abortively** *adv*, **abortiveness** *n*
- aboulia**, **abulia** /aɪ'buʊliə-/ *n* pathological loss of willpower [NL, fr 'a- + Gk *boule* will]
- abound** /ə'baʊnd/ *vi* 1 to be present in large numbers or in great quantity (<wild animals ~> 2 to be amply supplied – + *in* (<the old edition ~ed in coloured pictures – TLS> 3 to be crowded or infested with (<the attics ~ with rats> [ME *abounden*, fr MF *abonder*, fr L *abundare*, fr *ab-* + *unda* wave – more at **WATER**]
- 'about** /ə'baʊt/ *adv* 1 ROUND 2, 3c 2 in succession or rotation, alternately (<turn and turn ~> 3 approximately (<cost ~ £5> 4 almost (<~ starved> (<~ as interesting as a wet Sunday> 5 in the vicinity (<there was nobody ~> [ME, fr OE *abutan*, fr 'a- + *butan* outside – more at **BUT**]
- ²about** *prep* 1 on every side of, surrounding (<the wall ~ the prison> 2a in the vicinity of *b* on or near the person of (*have you a match ~ you?*) *c* in the make-up of (<a mature wisdom ~ him> *d* at the command of (<has his wits ~ him> 3a engaged in (<knows what she's ~> *b* on the verge of - + *to* (<~ to join the army> 4a with regard to, concerning (<a story ~ rabbits> *b* intimately concerned with (<politics is ~ capturing votes> 5 over or in different parts of (<>walked ~ the streets> 6 chiefly NAm – used with the negative to express intention or determination (<is not ~ to quit>]
- ³about** *adj* 1 moving from place to place, *specific* out of bed 2 in existence, evidence, or circulation (<skateboards weren't ~ long>]
- about-face** *vi* or *n*, chiefly NAm (to) about-turn [fr the military command *about face*, fr 'about + 'face]
- about-turn** *n* 1 a 180° turn to the right, esp as a drill movement 2 chiefly Br a reversal of direction, policy, or opinion (<a massive ~ on the Stock Exchange – Daily Mirror> [fr the military command *about turn*] – **about-turn** *vi*
- 'above** /ə'bu:v/ *adv* 1a in the sky overhead *b* in or to heaven 2a in or to a higher place *b* higher on the same or an earlier page *c* upstairs (<the flat ~> 3 in or to a higher rank or number (<30 and ~> 4 upstage 5 archaic besides, in addition [ME, fr OE *abufan*, fr *a-* + *bufan* above, fr *be-* + *ufan* above, akin to OE *ofer* over]
- ²above** *prep* 1 higher than the level of (<rose ~ the clouds> (<shout ~ the noise> 2 OVER 3 (<values safety ~ excitement> (<nothing ~ £5> 3 beyond, transcending (<~ criticism> (<the lecture was ~ me> 4a superior to (e.g. in rank) *b* too proud or honourable to stoop to 5 upstream from – **above** oneself excessively self-satisfied
- ³above** *n*, pl **above** 1a sthg (written) above (<the ~ are the main facts> *b* a person whose name is written above 2a a higher authority *b* heaven
- ⁴above** *adj* written higher on the same, or on a preceding, page
- above** 'all *adv* before every other consideration, especially
- above-board** /-bawd/ *adj* free from all traces of deceit or dishonesty [fr the difficulty of cheating at cards when the hands are above the table] – **above-board** *adv*
- above-ground** /-grownd/ *adj* 1 located on or above the surface of the ground 2 not yet buried, alive – **above-ground** /-/-/ *adv*
- above-mentioned** /-mensh(ə)nd/ *adj* aforementioned
- abracadabra** /abrakə'dabrə/ *n* a magical charm or incantation – used interjectionally as an accompaniment to conjuring tricks [LL]
- abrade** /ə'brayd/ *vi* to roughen, irritate, or wear away, esp by friction [L *abrader* to scrape off, fr *ab-* + *radere* to scrape – more at **RAT**] – **abradable** *adj*, **abrad** *n*
- abrasion** /ə'brayz(ə)n/ *n* 1 a wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction 2 an abraded area of the skin or mucous membrane [ML *abrasion-*, *abrasio*, fr L *abrasus*, pp of *abrader*]
- 'abrasive** /ə'braysɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* tending to abrade; causing irritation (<an ~ personality> – **abrasively** *adv*, **abrasiveness** *n*
- ²abrasive** *n* a substance (e.g. emery) that may be used for grinding away, smoothing, or polishing
- abreaction** /əbri'ækʃ(ə)n/ *n* the release of tension due to a repressed emotion by means of reliving the situation in which it orig occurred [part trans of G *abreagierung*, fr *ab* away from + *reagierung* reaction] – **abreact** /əbri'akt/ *vi*
- abreast** /ə'brest/ *adv* or *adj* 1 side by side and facing in the same direction (<columns of men 5 ~> 2 up-to-date in attainment or information (<keeps ~ of the latest trends> [ME *abrest*, fr 'a- + *brest* breast]
- abridge** /ə'bri:dʒ/ *vt* 1 to reduce in scope; curtail (<attempts to ~ the right of free speech> 2 to shorten by omission of words without sacrifice of
- sense, condense [ME *abregen*, fr MF *abregier*, fr LL *abbreviare*, fr L *ad-* + *brevis* short – more at **BRIEF**] – **abridger** *n*
- 'abridgment**, **abridgement** /-mənt/ *n* a shortened form of a work retaining the sense and unity of the original [ABRIDGE + -MENT]
- abroad** /ə'braʊd/ *adv* or *adj* 1 over a wide area; widely 2 away from one's home; out of doors (<few people ~ at this hour> 3 beyond the boundaries of one's country 4 in wide circulation, about (<the idea has got ~> [ME *abrood*, fr 'a- + *brood* broad]
- abrogate** /ə'brəɡeɪt/ *vt* to abolish by authoritative action, annul, repeal [L *abrogatus*, pp of *abrogare*, fr *ab-* + *rogare* to ask, propose a law – more at 'RIGHT] – **abrogation** /-ˈɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- abrupt** /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* 1 ending as if sharply cut off, truncated (<~ plant filaments> 2a occurring without warning, unexpected (<~ weather changes> *b* unceremoniously curt (<an ~ manner> *c* marked by sudden changes in subject matter 3 rising or dropping sharply, steep [L *abruptus*, fr pp of *abrumper* to break off, fr *ab-* + *rumper* to break – more at **BERLAVE**] – **abruptly** *adv*, **abruptness** *n*
- abscess** /'æbses, -sɪs/ *n* a pocket of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue [L *abscessus*, lit. act of going away, fr *abscessus*, pp of *abscedere* to go away, fr *abs-*, *ab-* + *cedere* to go – more at **CLDE**] – **abscessed** *adj*
- abscise** /əb'si:z/ *vb* to separate by abscission [L *abscisus*, pp of *abscidere*, fr *abs-* + *cadere* to cut – more at **CONCISE**]
- abscisic acid** /əb'sɪsɪk, -sɪz-/ *n* a plant hormone that typically promotes leaf abscission and dormancy [*abscission* (var of *abscission*) + -ic]
- abscisin** also **abscissin** /əb'sɪsɪn, əb'sɪsɪn/ *n* abscisic acid or a similar plant hormone tending to inhibit growth or promote leaf abscission [*abscission*, *abscission* + -in]
- abscissa** /əb'sɪsə, əb-/ *n*, pl **abscissas** also **abscissae** /-sɪ/ the coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis – compare **ORDINATE** [NL, fr L, fem of *abscessus*, pp of *abscedere* to cut off, fr *ab-* + *scindere* to cut – more at 'SHED]
- abscission** /əb'sɪʃ(ə)n, əb-/ *n* the natural separation of flowers, leaves, etc from plants [L *abscission-*, *abscissio*, fr *abscessus*]
- abscond** /əb'skɒnd/ *vi* to depart secretly, esp so as to evade retribution (<~ed with the funds> [L *abscondere* to hide away, fr *abs-* + *condere* to store up, conceal – more at **CONDIMENT**] – **absconder** *n*
- absail** /əp'seɪl/ *vi* to descend a vertical surface by sliding down a rope secured from above and wound round the body [G *absailen*, fr *ab-* down + *seil* rope]
- absence** /əb'sens/ *n* 1 the state of being absent 2 the period of time that one is absent 3 a lack (<an ~ of detail>]
- absence of 'mind** *n* inattention to present surroundings or occurrences
- 'absent** /əb'sənt/ *adj* 1 not present or attending; missing 2 not existing, lacking 3 preoccupied [ME, fr MF, fr L *absent-*, *absens*, prp of *absesse* to be absent, fr *ab-* + *esse* to be – more at **IS**] – **absently** *adv*
- ²absent** /əb'sent/ *vi* to take or keep (oneself) away – usu. + *from* (<~ed himself from morning prayers>]
- absentee** /əbz(ə)n'tee/ *n* one who is absent or who absents him-/herself – **absentee** *adj*
- absentee ballot** *n* a ballot submitted (e.g. by post) before an election by a voter who is unable to attend
- absenteeism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* persistent and deliberate absence from work or duty
- absent-minded** /-ˈmiəndɪd/ *adj* lost in thought and unaware of one's surroundings or actions; forgetful, also given to absence of mind – **absentmindedly** *adv*, **absentmindedness** *n*
- absinth**, **absinth** /əbsɪnθ (Fr *absînt*)/ *n* 1 WORMWOOD 1 2 a green liqueur flavoured with wormwood or a substitute, aniseed, and other aromatics [F *absinthe*, fr L *absinthium*, fr Gk *apsinthion*]
- absolute** /əb'səloʊt, -bz-, -ps-/ *adj* 1a perfect (<~ bliss> *b* (relatively) pure or unmixed (<~ alcohol> *c* outright, unmitigated (<an ~ lie> 2 completely free from constitutional or other restraint (<an ~ monarch> 3 standing apart from a usual syntactic relation with other words or sentence elements 4 having no restriction, exception, or qualification (<~ ownership> 5 positive, unquestionable (<~ proof> 6 being self-sufficient and free of external references or relationships (<an ~ term in logic> 7 relating to a temperature scale that has absolute zero as its lower reference point (<10° ~> [ME *absolut*, fr L *absolutus*, fr pp of *absolvere* to set free, absolve] – **absolute** *n*, **absoluteness** *n*
- absolute 'discharge** *n* a nominal penalty that consists of being set free and is imposed by a court where punishment is inappropriate – compare **CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE**

- absolute** *hu'midity* *n* the concentration of a vapour (in the atmosphere)
- absolutely** /-li/ *adv* totally, completely – often used to express emphatic agreement
- absolute** *magnitudo* *n* the intrinsic luminosity of a star or other celestial body when viewed from a distance of 10 parsecs
- absolute** *ma'jority* *n* a number of votes greater than ½ the total cast, also the number by which this exceeds the total votes of other candidates
- absoluta** *'pitch* *n* 1 the pitch of a note determined by its rate of vibration 2 the ability to sing or name a note asked for or heard
- absolute** *'zero* *n* the lowest temperature theoretically possible at which there is a complete absence of heat and which is equivalent to about -273.16°C or 0°K
- absolution** /əb's'looʃh(ə)n/, -bz-, -ps-/ *n* the act of absolving; *specif* a declaration of forgiveness of sins pronounced by a priest
- absolutism** /əb's'looʃh(ə)m/, -bz-, -ps-, '-----/ *n* (the theory favouring) government by an absolute ruler or authority – *absolutist* *n* or *adj*, *absolutistic* /-'tistik/ *adj*
- absolve** /əb'zolv/ *vt* 1 to set free from an obligation or the consequences of guilt 2 to declare (a sin) of (a person) forgiven by absolution [ME *absolver*, fr L *absolvere*, fr *ab-* + *solvere* to loosen – more at *SOLVE*] – *absolver* *n*
- absorb** /əb'zɔ:b/; also -bs-/ *vt* 1 to take in and make part of an existing whole; incorporate 2a to suck up or take up (*plant roots ~ water*) *b* to assimilate; TAKE IN 3 to engage or occupy wholly (<~ed in thought>) 4 to receive and transform (sound, radiant energy, etc) without reflecting or transmitting (<the earth ~s the sun's rays>) (<a sound-absorbing surface>) [MF *absorber*, fr L *absorbere*, fr *ab-* + *sorbere* to suck up; akin to Gk *rhophēin* to suck up] – *absorbable* *adj*, *absorber* *n*, *absorbability* /-b'ɒlɪtɪ/ *n*
- absorbed** *adj* intensely engrossed or preoccupied
- absorbent** also *absorbant* /əb'zɔ:b(ə)nt/; also -bs-/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) able to absorb a liquid, gas, etc [L *absorbent*, *absorbens*, prp of *absorbere*] – *absorbency* *n*
- absorbing** /əb'zɔ:bɪŋ/; also -bs-/ *adj* engaging one's full attention; engrossing – *absorbingly* *adv*
- absorption** /əb'zɔ:pʃh(ə)n/; also əb'sɔ:pʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 absorbing or being absorbed – compare ADSORPTION 2 total involvement of the mind (<~ in his work>) [F & L; F, fr L *absorption*-, *absorptio*, fr *absorptus*, pp of *absorbere*] – *absorptive* *adj*
- abstain** /əb'steɪn/ *vi* 1 to refrain deliberately, and often with an effort of self-denial, from (<resolved to ~ from intoxicating liquor>) 2 to refrain from using one's vote [ME *abstēnen*, fr MF *abstēnir*, fr L *abstinēre*, fr *abs-*, *ab-* + *tenere* to hold – more at *THIN*] – *abstainer* *n*
- abstemious** /əb'steɪmi-əs/ *adj* sparing, esp in eating or drinking; marked by abstinence [L *abstemius*, fr *abs-* + *temetum* mead, strong drink] – *abstemiously* *adv*
- abstention** /əb'stenh(ə)n/ *n* 1 abstaining – often + *from* 2 an instance of withholding a vote [LL *abstention*-, *abstentio*, fr L *abstentus*, pp of *abstinēre*] – *abstentions* /-əns/ *adj*
- abstinence** /əb'stɪnəns/; also *abstineancy* /-sɪ/ *n* 1 voluntary forbearance, esp from indulgence of appetite or from eating some foods – often + *from* 2 habitual abstaining from intoxicating beverages – esp in *total abstinence* [ME, fr OF, fr L *abstinentia*, fr *abstinēt*-, *abstinens*, prp of *abstinēre*] – *abstinent* *adj*, *abstinently* *adv*
- abstract** /əb'strakt/ *adj* 1a detached from any specific instance or object (<~ entity>) *b* difficult to understand; *abstruse* (<~ problems>) *c* ideal (<~ justice>) 2 of a noun naming a quality, state, or action rather than a thing; not concrete (<the word poem is concrete, poetry is ~>) 3 theoretical rather than practical (<~ science>) 4 having little or no element of pictorial representation [ML *abstractus*, fr L, pp of *abstrahere* to draw away, fr *abs-*, *ab-* + *trahere* to draw – more at *DRAW*] – *abstractly* *adv*, *abstractness* *n*
- abstract** *n* 1 a summary of points (e.g. of a piece of writing) 2 an abstract concept or state 3 an abstract composition or creation [ME, fr L *abstractus*]
- abstract** /əb'strakt/ *vt* 1 to remove, separate 2 to consider in the abstract 3 to make an abstract of; summarize 4 to draw away the attention of 5 to steal, purloin – *euph* – *abstractor*, *abstracter* *n*
- abstracted** *adj* preoccupied, absentminded (<the ~ look of a professor>) – *abstractedly* *adv*, *abstractedness* *n*
- abstract expressionism** *n* art in which the artist attempts to express his/her attitudes and emotions through nonrepresentational means – *abstract expressionist* *n*
- abstraction** /əb'strakʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an abstract idea or term stripped of its concrete manifestations 2 absentmindedness 3 'ABSTRACT 3 [ABSTRACT + -ION] – *abstractionism* *n*, *abstractionist* *n*, *abstractive* *adj*
- abstruse** /əb'stroʊhs/ *adj* difficult to understand; recondite [L *abstrusus*, fr pp of *abstrudere* to conceal, fr *abs-*, *ab-* + *trudere* to push – more at *THREAT*] – *abstrusely* *adv*, *abstruseness* *n*
- absurd** /əb'su:hd, -bz-/ *adj* 1 ridiculously unreasonable or incongruous; silly 2 lacking order or value; meaningless [MF *absurde*, fr L *absurdus*, fr *ab-* + *surdus* deaf, stupid – more at *SURD*] – *absurdity* *n*, *absurdly* *adv*, *absurdness* *n*
- absurd** *n* the state or condition in which human beings exist in an irrational and meaningless universe, and in which their life has no meaning outside their own existence – *absurdism* *n*, *absurdist* *n* or *adj*
- abulia** /ə'byʊohli-ə/ *n* aboulia
- abundance** /ə'bʊnd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 an ample quantity, a profusion 2 affluence, wealth 3 the relative degree of plentifulness of a living organism, substance, etc in an area
- abundant** /ə'bʊnd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a marked by great plenty (e.g. of resources) (<a fair and ~ land>) *b* amply supplied with, abounding in 2 occurring in abundance (<~ rainfall>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *abundant*-, *abundans*, prp of *abundare* to abound] – *abundantly* *adv*
- abuse** /ə'byʊʊh/ *vt* 1 to attack in words; revile 2 to put to a wrong or improper use (<~ a privilege>) 3 to use so as to injure or damage, maltreat (<~ a dog>) [ME *abusen*, fr MF *abuser*, fr L *abusus*, pp of *abuti*, fr *ab-* + *uti* to use] – *abuser* *n*
- abuse** /ə'byʊʊhs/ *n* 1 a corrupt practice or custom 2 improper use or treatment; misuse (<drug ~>) 3 vehemently expressed condemnation or disapproval (<greeted them with a torrent of ~>) 4 physical maltreatment – *abusive* *adj*, *abusively* *adv*, *abusiveness* *n*
- abut** /ə'bʊt/ *vb* -tt- *vi* 1 of an area to touch along a boundary, border – + *on* or *upon* (<land ~s on the road>) 2 of a structure *a* to terminate at a point of contact; be adjacent – + *on* or *against* (<the town hall ~s on the church>) *b* to lean for support – + *on* or *upon* (<the neighbours' shed ~s on our wall>) ~ *vt* to border on, touch [ME *abuten*, partly fr OF *aboter* to border on, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *bout* blow, end, fr *boter* to strike, partly fr OF *abuter* to come to an end, fr *a-* + *but* end, aim – more at 'BUTT, 'BUTT] – *abutter* *n*
- abutment** /ə'bʊtmənt/ *n* 1 the place at which abutting occurs 2 the part of a structure that directly receives thrust or pressure (e.g. of an arch)
- abyssal** /ə'bɪzəl/ *adj* 1 deplorably great (<~ ignorance>) 2 immeasurably bad (<standard of writing was ~ – Punch>) [*abysm* (abyss), fr ME *abyme*, fr OF *abisme*, modif of LL *abyssus*] – *abyssally* *adv*
- abyss** /ə'bɪs/ *n* 1 the infernal regions or chaos of the old cosmogonies, thought of as a bottomless pit 2a an immeasurably deep gulf *b* moral or emotional depths (<an ~ of hopelessness>) [ME *abyssus*, fr LL *abyssus*, fr Gk *abyssos*, fr *abyssos* bottomless, fr *a-* + *byssos* depth; akin to Gk *bathys* deep – more at *BATHY-*]
- abyssal** /ə'bɪs(ə)l/ *adj* of the bottom waters of the ocean
- ac** /-ək, -ək/ *suffix* (– *n*) one affected with (<maniac>) (<haemophilic>) [NL *-acus* of or relating to, fr Gk *-akos*]
- ac** *suffix* (– *adj*) of or relating to (<cardiac>) (<iliac>)
- acacia** /ə'kayʃh(ə)/ *n* 1 any of a genus of woody leguminous plants of warm regions with white or yellow flowers 2 GUM ARABIC [NL, genus name, fr L, *acacia* tree, fr Gk *akakia*, a tree]
- academe** /ə'kadeem/ *n*, chiefly NAM a college; also the university community [irreg fr NL *academia*, fr L, *academy*]
- academic** /ə'kadeɪmɪk/; also *academic* /-ɪd/ *adj* 1a of an institution of higher learning *b* scholarly *c* very learned but inexperienced in practical matters (<~ thinkers>) 2 conventional, formal (<an ~ painting>) 3 theoretical with no practical or useful bearing (<an ~ question>) 4 chiefly NAM of liberal rather than technical or vocational studies – *academically* *adv*, *academicize* /-mɪsɪz/ *vt*
- academic** *n* a member (of the teaching staff) of an institution of higher learning
- academicals** /ə'kadeɪmɪklz/ *n* *pl* the cap and gown worn as formal academic dress → GARMENT
- academic freedom** *n* freedom to teach or learn without interference
- academician** /ə'kadeɪmɪʃh(ə)n/ *n* a member of an academy for the advancement of science, art, or literature
- academicism** /ə'kadeɪmɪz(ə)m/ *n* purely speculative thought and attitudes
- academy** /ə'kadeɪmi/ *n* 1 *cap* a the school for advanced education founded by Plato *b* the philosophical doctrines associated with Plato's

**Academy** 2a a secondary school; *esp* a private high school – now only in names b a college in which special subjects or skills are taught (<an ~ of music>) 3 a society of learned people organized to promote the arts or sciences [L *academia*, fr Gk *Akadēmeia*, fr *Akademeia*, gymnasium where Plato taught, fr *Akademos* Attic mythological hero; (2) and (3) largely fr F *académie* university, fr NL *academia*]

**Acadian** /ə'kaydi-ən/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Nova Scotia [*Acadia*, old name for F colony in N America, fr F *Acadie*] – **Acadian** *adj*

**acanthus** /ə'kənθəs/ *n*, pl *acanthuses* also *acanthi* /-θi:/ 1 any of a genus of usu large prickly plants, *esp* of the Mediterranean region 2 an ornamental device representing the leaves of the acanthus (e.g. on a Corinthian column) ➔ **ARCHITECTURE** [NL, genus name, fr Gk *akanthos*, a heliobore, fr *akantha* thorn]

**a cappella** also **a capella** /ə'h kə'pɛlə/ *adv* or *adj* without instrumental accompaniment [It *a cappella* in chapel style]

**acarasis** /ə'kə'rie-əsis/ *n* infestation with or disease caused by mites

**acarid** /ə'kərɪd/ *n* a typical mite or other related arachnid [NL *Acarida*, fr *Acarus*, genus name, fr Gk *akari*, a mite] – **acarid** *adj*

**acatalectic** /ə'kətə'lektɪk/ *adj* having the full number of syllables (<~ verse>) [LL *acatalecticus*, fr *acatalectus*, fr Gk *akatalēktos*, fr *a-* + *katalekein* to leave off – more at **CATALECTIC**] – **acatalectic** *n*

**accede** /ə'kɛd/ *vi* 1 to become a party (e.g. to a treaty) 2 to express approval or give consent, often in response to urging 3 to enter on an office or position; *esp* to become monarch (<~ to the throne>) **USE** usu + *to* [ME *acceden* to approach, fr L *accedere* to go to, be added, fr *ad-* + *cedere* to go – more at **CEDE**]

**accelerando** /ə'kɛlə'rəndoh/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj* (a musical passage that gets) gradually faster [It, lit., accelerating, fr L *accelerandum*, gerund of *accelerare*]

**accelerate** /ə'kɛlə'reɪt/ *vt* 1 to bring about at an earlier time 2 to increase the speed of 3 to hasten the progress, development, or growth of ~ *vi* 1 to move faster, gain speed 2 to increase more rapidly (<believed inflation was accelerating>) [L *acceleratus*, pp of *accelerare*, fr *ad-* + *celer* swift] – **accelerative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*

**acceleration** /ə'kɛlə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (the rate of) change, specif increase, of velocity (<this car has good ~>) [ACCELERATE + -ION]

**accelerator** /ə'kɛlə'reɪtə/ *n* 1 a pedal in a motor vehicle that controls the speed of the motor 2 a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction 3 an apparatus for giving high velocities to charged particles (e.g. electrons) [ACCELERATE + -OR]

**accelerometer** /ə'kɛlə'rɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring acceleration or vibrations [ISV *acceleration* + -o- + -meter]

**accent** /ə'ksənt/ *n* 1 a distinctive manner of expression; *specif* a distinctive pattern in inflection, tone, or choice of words, *esp* as characteristic of a regional or national area 2a prominence given to 1 syllable over others by stress or a change in pitch b greater stress given to 1 musical note c rhythmically significant stress on the syllables of a verse 3a **accent**, **accent mark** a mark added to a letter (e.g. in à, ñ, ç) to indicate how it should be pronounced – compare **DIACRITIC** b a symbol used to indicate musical stress ➔ **MUSIC** 4 a sharply contrasting detail 5 special concern or attention, emphasis (<an ~ on youth>) [MF, fr L *accentus*, fr *ad-* + *cantus* song, fr *cantus*, pp of *canere* to sing – more at **CHANT**] – **accentless** *adj*

**accent** /ə'ksənt/ *vt* 1a to pronounce (a vowel, syllable, or word) with accent; stress b to mark with a written or printed accent 2 to make more prominent; emphasize

**accentor** /ə'kɛntəw-, -tə/ *n* any of a genus of rather drab birds (e.g. the dunnoek) resembling sparrows [NL, fr ML, one who sings with another, fr L *ad-* + *cantor* singer]

**accental** /ə'kɛntyoo-əl-, -choo-əl/ *adj* of or characterized by accent, *specif*, of *metre* in poetry based on the stress patterns of syllables rather than their length – compare **QUANTITATIVE** 3 [L *accentus*] – **accentially** *adv*

**accentuate** /ə'kɛntyoo-əyt-, -choo-əyt/ *vt* to accent, emphasize [ML *accentuatus*, pp of *accentuare*, fr L *accentus*] – **accentuation** /-əytʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**accept** /ə'ksɛpt/ *vt* 1a to agree to receive (<~ a gift>) (<~ a suitor>); also to agree to (<~ an invitation>) b to be able or designed to take or hold (sth applied or inserted) (<machine ~s only pennies>) 2 to give admittance or approval to (<~ her as one of the group>) 3a to endure without protest; accommodate oneself to (<~ poor living conditions>) b to regard as proper, normal, or inevitable c to recognize as true, factual, or adequate (<refused to ~ my explanation>) 4 to undertake the responsibility of (<~ a job>) ~ *vi* to receive favourably sth offered [ME *accepten*, fr MF

*accepter*, fr L *acceptare*, fr *acceptus*, pp of *accipere* to receive, fr *ad-* + *capere* to take – more at **HEAVE**]

**acceptable** /ə'ksɛptəbl/ *adj* 1 capable or worthy of being accepted; satisfactory 2 welcome or pleasing to the receiver (<compliments are always ~>) 3 tolerable – **acceptableness** *n*, **acceptably** *adv*, **acceptability** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**acceptance** /ə'ksɛpt(ə)nəs/ *n* 1 accepting, approval 2 acceptability 3 agreement to the act or offer of another so that the parties become legally bound

**acceptation** /ə'ksɛptəʃən/ *n* a generally accepted meaning of a word or concept

**accepted** *adj* generally approved or used, customary – **acceptedly** *adv*

**acceptor** /ə'ksɛptəw-, -tə/ *n* 1 a compound, atom, elementary particle, or radical capable of combining with another – compare **DONOR** 3a 2 a horse that has been entered for a race [ACCEPT + -OR]

**access** /ə'kses-, -sɛs/ *n* 1 a fit of intense feeling; an outburst (<an ~ of rage>) 2a freedom to approach, reach, or make use of sthg (<~ to classified information>) b a means (e.g. a doorway or channel) of access c the state of being readily reached or obtained (<the building is not easy of ~>) [ME, fr MF & L; MF *acces* arrival, fr L *accessus* approach, fr *accessus*, pp of *accedere* to approach – more at **ACCEDE**]

**access** *vt* to get at, gain access to <accumulator and index registers can be ~ed by the programmer – Datamation>

**accessary** /ə'ksɛs(ə)n/ *n* or *adj* (one) involved in or privy to a crime, but not present when it is committed

**accessible** /ə'ksɛsəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being reached (<~ by rail>) 2 of a form that can be readily grasped intellectually 3 able to be influenced (<~ to persuasion>) – **accessibly** *adv*, **accessibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*

**accession** /ə'ksɛʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg added; an acquisition, *specif* a book added to a library 2 becoming joined 3 the act by which a nation becomes party to an agreement already in force 4a an increase due to sthg added b acquisition of property by addition to existing property 5 the act of entering on a high office (<his ~ to the Papacy>) 6 assent, agreement – **fml** – **accessional** *adj*

**accession** *vt* to record (e.g. books) in order of acquisition

**accessory** /ə'ksɛsəri/ *n* an inessential object or device that adds to the beauty, convenience, or effectiveness of sthg else (<car accessories>) (<clothing accessories>)

**accessory** *adj* aiding or contributing in a secondary way; supplementary, subordinate

**accessory after the fact** *n* one who knowingly aids or shelters an offender – no longer used technically

**accessory before the fact** *n* one who contributes to a crime but is not present when it is committed – no longer used technically

**access time** *n* the time lag between the request and delivery of stored information (e.g. in a computer)

**acciacatura** /ə'chakə'toʊərə/ *n* a discordant note sounded with or before a principal note or chord and immediately released ➔ **MUSIC** [It, lit., crushing, fr *acciaccare* to crush]

**accidence** /ə'ksɪd(ə)nəs/ *n* the part of grammar that deals with inflections [L *accidentia* inflections of words, nonessential qualities, pl of *accident-*, *accidens*, *n*]

**accident** /ə'ksɪd(ə)nt/ *n* 1a an event occurring by chance or arising from unknown causes b lack of intention or necessity; chance (<met by ~ rather than by design>) 2 an unexpected happening causing loss or injury 3 a nonessential property or condition of sthg 4 an irregularity of a surface (e.g. of the moon) [ME, fr MF, fr L *accident-*, *accidens* nonessential quality, chance, fr *prp* of *accidere* to happen, fr *ad-* + *cadere* to fall – more at **CHANCE**]

**accidental** /ə'ksɪdɛntl/ *adj* 1 arising incidentally; nonessential 2a occurring unexpectedly or by chance b happening without intent or through carelessness and often with unfortunate results – **accidentally** *adv*, **accidentalness** *n*

**accidental** *n* 1 **ACCIDENT** 3 2 (a sign indicating) a note altered to sharp, flat, or natural and foreign to a key indicated by a key signature ➔ **MUSIC**

**accident-prone** *adj* having personality traits that predispose to accidents

**accipiter** /ə'ksɪptɪtə/ *n* any of a genus of medium-sized short-winged long-legged hawks (e.g. the sparrow hawk) with low darting flight [NL, genus name, fr L, hawk] – **accipitrine** /-trɛn-/ *adj* or *n*

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/ *vt* 1 to applaud, praise 2 to hail or proclaim by acclamation (<ed her Queen>) [L *acclamare*, lit., to shout at, fr *ad-* + *clamare* to shout – more at **CLAIM**] – **acclaimer** *n*



**acclaim** *n* **ACCLAMATION** 1

**acclamation** /'akli'maysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a loud expression of praise, goodwill, or assent 2 an overwhelming affirmative vote by cheers or applause rather than by ballot <motion was carried by ~> [L *acclamation*, *acclamatio*, fr *acclamatus*, pp of *acclamare*]

**acclimate** /'aklimat/ *v*, *NAM* to acclimatize [F *acclimater*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *climat* climate] – **acclimation** /'akli'maysh(ə)n/ *n*

**acclimatize**, -ise /'akli'matize/ *v* to adapt to a new climate or situation – **acclimatizer** *n*, **acclimatization** /-tue'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**acclivity** /'akliveti/ *n* an ascending slope [L *acclivitas*, fr *acclivis* ascending, fr *ad-* + *clivus* slope – more at **DECLIVITY**]

**accolade** /'akalayd/ *n* 1 a ceremony marking the conferral of knighthood, in which each of the candidate's shoulders is touched with a sword 2a a mark of acknowledgment or honour; an award b an expression of strong praise [F, fr *accoler* to embrace, fr (assumed) VL *accollare*, fr L *ad-* + *collum* neck – more at **COLLAR**]

**accommodate** /'akomodayt/ *vt* 1 to make fit, suitable, or congruous 2 to bring into agreement or concord; reconcile 3a to give help to; oblige with b to provide with lodgings; house 4 to have or make adequate room for 5 to give consideration to; allow for [L *accommodatus*, pp of *accommodare*, fr *ad-* + *commodare* to make fit, fr *commodus* suitable – more at **COMMODE**] – **accommodative** /-dativ/ *adj*, **accommodativeness** /-daytvnis/, -dativnis/ *n*

**accommodating** /'akomodayingt/ *adj* helpful, obliging – **accommodatingly** *adv*

**accommodation** /'akomodaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a lodging, housing – usu pl with sing. meaning in *NAM* b space, premises (*office* ~) 2a sthg needed or desired for convenience; a facility b an adaptation, adjustment c a settlement, agreement d a bank loan e the (range of) automatic adjustment of the eye, esp by changes in the amount by which the lens bends light, for seeing at different distances [ACCOMMODATE + -ION] – **accommodational** *adj*

**accommodation address** *n* an address to which letters may be sent tk sby who does not have or wish to give a permanent address

**accommodation ladder** *n* a ladder hung over the side of a ship for ascending from or descending to small boats

**accompaniment** /'akump(ə)nimant/ *n* 1 a subordinate instrumental or vocal part supporting or complementing a principal voice or instrument 2 an addition intended to give completeness; a complement

**accompany** /'akump(ə)ni/ *vt* 1 to go with as an escort or companion 2 to perform an accompaniment to or for 3a to make an addition to; supplement with b of a thing to happen, exist, or be found with <the pictures that ~ the text> ~ *vi* to perform an accompaniment [ME *accompanien*, fr MF *acompanier*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *compa* companion, fr LL *companion*] – **accompanist** *n*

**accomplice** /'akumplis, -kom-/ *n* sby who collaborates with another, esp in wrongdoing [alter. (by incorrect division of a *complice*) of arch *complice* (associate), fr ME, fr MF, fr LL *complic-*, *complex*, fr L *com-* + *plicare* to fold – more at **PLY**]

**accomplish** /'akumplish, -kom-/ *vt* 1 to bring to a successful conclusion; achieve 2 to complete, cover (a measure of time or distance) [ME *accomplishen*, fr MF *accomplish*, stem of *acomplir*, fr (assumed) VL *accomplere*, fr L *ad-* + *complere* to fill up – more at **COMPLETE**] – **accomplishable** *adj*, **accomplisher** *n*

**accomplished** *adj* 1 fully effected; completed <an ~ fact> 2a skilled, proficient <an ~ dancer> b having many social accomplishments

**accomplishment** /-mant/ *n* 1 completion, fulfilment 2 a achievement 3 an acquired ability or esp social skill [ACCOMPLISH + -MENT]

**accord** /'akawd/ *vt* 1 to grant, concede (<ed them permission>) 2 to give, award (<ed her a warm welcome>) ~ *vi* to be consistent with [ME *accorden* to reconcile, agree, fr OF *accorder*, fr (assumed) VL *accordare*, fr L *ad-* + *cord-*, cor heart – more at **HEART**]

**accord** *n* 1a **ACCORDANCE** 1 b a formal treaty of agreement 2 balanced interrelationship (e.g. of colours or sounds); harmony [ME, fr OF *acort*, fr *accorder*] – of one's own accord of one's own volition; unbidden – with one accord with the consent or agreement of all

**accordance** /'akawd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 agreement, conformity <in ~ with a rule> 2 the act of granting

**accordant** /'akawd(ə)nt/ *adj* consonant with – **accordantly** *adv*

**according as** /'akawding/ *conj* 1 in accordance with the way in which 2 depending on how or whether

**accordingly** /'akawdingli/ *adv* 1 as suggested; appropriately 2 consequently, so

**according to** *prep* 1 in conformity with 2 as declared by 3 depending on

**accordion** /'akawd-iən/ *n* a portable keyboard wind instrument in which the wind is forced past free reeds by means of a hand-operated bellows [G *akkordion*, fr *akkord* chord, fr F *accord*, fr OF *acort*] – **accordionist** *n*

**accost** /'akost/ *vt* 1 to approach and speak to, esp boldly or challengingly 2 of a prostitute to solicit [MF *accoster*, deriv of L *ad-* + *costa* rib, side – more at **COAST**]

**accoucher** /'akoo'hshuh (Fr *aku'œtr*)/, *fem* **accoucheuse** /-'ahuhz (Fr *aku'œtʁ*)/ *n* sby who assists at a birth [F, fr *accoucher* to deliver a child]

**account** /'akownt/ *n* 1 a record of debits and credits relating to a particular item, person, or concern 2 a list of items of expenditure to be balanced against income – usu pl <doing her monthly ~s> 3a a periodically rendered calculation listing purchases and credits <a grocery ~> b business, patronage <glad to get that customer's ~> 4 a business arrangement whereby money is deposited in, and may be withdrawn from, a bank, building society, etc 5 a commission to carry out a particular business operation (e.g. an advertising campaign) given by one company to another 6 value, importance <a man of no ~> 7 profit, advantage <turned his wit to good ~> 8 careful thought; consideration <left nothing out of ~> 9a a statement explaining one's conduct <render an ~> b a statement of facts or events; a relation <a newspaper ~> 10 hearsay, report – usu pl <by all ~s a rich man> 11 a version, rendering <the pianist's sensitive ~ of it> – on account of due to, BECAUSE OF – on an account or not on any account under no circumstances – on one's own account 1 on one's own behalf 2 at one's own risk – on somebody's account for sby's sake

**account** *vt* to think of as; consider <~s himself lucky> [ME *accounten*, fr MF *acompter*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *compter* to count] – **account for** 1 to give an explanation or reason for 2 to be the sole or primary explanation for 3 to bring about the defeat, death, or destruction of <accounted for 3 of the attackers>

**accountable** /'akowntabl/ *adj* 1 responsible, answerable 2 explicable – **accountableness** *n*, **accountably** *adv*, **accountability** /-tə'biləti/ *n*

**accountancy** /'akownt(ə)nsi/ *n* the profession or practice of accounting

**accountant** /'akownt(ə)nt/ *n* one who practises and is usu qualified in accounting

**accounting** /'akownting/ *n* the recording, analysis, and verification of business and financial transactions

**accoutrement** /'akoohtremənt/, *NAM* also **accouterment** /'akoohtəmənt/ *n* equipment, trappings; specif a soldier's outfit excluding clothes and weapons – usu pl [MF, fr *accouter* to equip, fr *a-* + *costure* seam, fr (assumed) VL *consutura*, fr L *consutus*, pp of *consuere* to sew together, fr *com-* + *suere* to sew – more at **SEW**]

**accredit** /'akredit/ *vt* 1a to give official authorization to or approval of b to send (esp an envoy) with credentials c to recognize or vouch for as conforming to a standard 2 to credit with, attribute to [F *accréditer*, fr *ad-* + *crédit* credit] – **accreditable** *adj*, **accreditation** /-di'taysh(ə)n/ *n*

**accrete** /'akreet/ *vb* to (cause to) grow together or become attached by accretion [back-formation fr *accretion*]

**accretion** /'akreesh(ə)n/ *n* 1a an increase in size caused by natural growth or the external adhesion or addition of matter b sthg added or stuck extraneously 2a an increase in area of land owned, caused esp by the action of natural forces b an increase in an inheritor's share of an estate caused by a co-inheritor not claiming his/her share 3 the growth of separate particles or parts (e.g. of a plant) into one; concretion [L *accretio*-, *accretio*, fr *accretus*, pp of *acrescere* to increase] – **accretionary** *adj*, **accretive** /'akreetiv/ *adj*

**accrue** /'akrooh/ *vi* 1 to come as an increase or addition to sthg; arise as a growth or result 2 to be periodically accumulated <interest has ~d over the year> ~ *vt* to collect, accumulate [ME *accreuen*, prob fr MF *accreue* increase, fr *acresitre* to increase, fr L *acrescere*, fr *ad-* + *creescere* to grow – more at **CRESCENT**] – **accruable** *adj*, **accrue** *n*

**acculturation** /'akulchə'raysh(ə)n/ *n* the assimilation and adoption of the values of a different culture [ad- + *culture* + -ation] – **acculturate** *vt*

**accumulate** /'akyoohmyoo'layt/ *vt* to collect together gradually; amass ~ *vi* to increase in quantity or number [L *accumulus*, pp of *accumulare*, fr *ad-* + *cumulare* to heap up – more at **CUMULATE**]

**accumulation** /'akyoohmyoo'laysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 increase or growth caused by esp repeated or continuous addition; specif increase in capital from interest payments 2 sthg that has accumulated [ACCUMULATE + -ION]

**accumulative** /'akyoohmyoolativ/ *adj* 1 cumulative 2 tending or given

to accumulation, esp of money – **accumulatively** *adv.*, **accumulative-ness** *n*

**accumulator** /ə'kyoohmyoo,ləyts/ *n* 1 a part (e.g. in a computer) where numbers are added or stored 2 *Br* a rechargeable secondary electric cell, also a connected set of these 3 *Br* a bet whereby the winnings from one of a series of events are staked on the next event [ACCUMULATE + -OR]

**accurate** /ə'kyoorət/ *adj* 1 free from error, esp as the result of care (< *an estimate*) 2 conforming precisely to truth or a measurable standard, exact (< *instruments*) [L *accuratus*, fr pp of *accurare* to take care of, fr *ad-* + *cura* care – more at CURE] – **accurately** *adv.*, **accurateness** *n*, **accuracy** /-rəsi/ *n*

**accursed** /ə'kuhst, ə'kuhsɪd/, **accurst** /ə'kuhst/ *adj* 1 under a curse, ill-fated 2 damnable, detestable [ME *acursed*, fr pp of *acursen* to consign to destruction with a curse, fr *a-* (fr OE *a*, perfective prefix) + *cursen* to curse] – **accursedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv.*, **accursedness** /-sɪdnɪs/ *n*

**accusation** /ə'kyoo'zaysh(ə)n/ *n* a charge of wrongdoing; an allegation [ACCUSE + -ATION]

**accusative** /ə'kyoozhətɪv/ *adj* of or being the grammatical accusative [ME, fr MF or L; MF *accusatif*, fr L *accusativus*, fr *accusatus*, pp of *accusare*]

**accusative** *n* (a form (e.g. *me*) in) a grammatical case expressing the direct object of a verb or of some prepositions

**accusatorial** /ə'kyoozhə'tawɪ-əl/ *adj* 1 accusatory 2 of or involving (a) prosecution before a judge who is not himself the prosecutor – compare INQUISITORIAL

**accusatory** /ə'kyoozhət(ə)n/ *adj* containing or expressing (an) accusation

**accuse** /ə'kyoozh/ *vt* to charge with a fault or crime, blame (< *d him of murder*) [ME *accusen*, fr OF *acusar*, fr L *accusare* to call to account, fr *ad-* + *causa* lawsuit, cause] – **accuser** *n*, **accusingly** *adv.*

**accused** *n*, *pl* accused the defendant in a criminal case

**accustom** /ə'kust(ə)m/ *vt* to make used to through use or experience, habituate [ME *accustomen*, fr MF *acostumer*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *costume* custom] – **accustomation** /-əyʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**accustomed** *adj* 1 customary, habitual 2 in the habit of, used to (< *to making decisions*) – **accustomedness** *n*

**AC/DC** /-/-/ *adj* BISexual 1b – *infrm* [alternating current, direct current]

**ace** /ays/ *n* 1 a die face, playing card, or domino marked with 1 spot or pip; also the single spot or pip on any of these 2 (a point scored by) a shot, esp a service in tennis, that an opponent fails to touch 3 a combat pilot who has brought down at least 5 enemy aircraft 4 an expert or leading performer in a specified field (< *a soccer* ~) [ME *as*, fr OF, fr L, unit, a copper coin] – **ace in the hole** an effective argument or resource held in reserve – **within an ace** of on the point of; very near to (< *came within an ace of winning*)

**ace** *vt* to score an ace against (an opponent)

**ace** *adj* great, excellent – *infrm* [*their new album's really ~*]

**-aceous** /-əys-i-əs, -əyʃh(y)əs/ *suffix* ( + *adj*) 1a having the characteristics of (< *herbaceous*) (< *tuffaceous*) b consisting of (< *carbonaceous*) (< *setaceous*), containing (< *farnaceous*) (< *argillaceous*) 2a of a group of animals characterized by (a specified form or feature) (< *cetaceous*) b of a (specified) plant family (< *rosaceous*) [L *-aceus*]

**acephalous** /ə'sefələs, əy-/ *adj* lacking a head or having the head reduced [Gk *akephalos*, fr *a-* + *kephale* head – more at CEPHALIC]

**acerbic** /ə'suhbɪk/ *adj* 1 bitter or sour in taste 2 sharp or vitriolic in speech, temper, or manner [*acerb* (sour), fr F or L, F *acerbe*, fr L *acerbus*, fr *acer* – more at EDGE] – **acerbically** *adv.*, **acerbity** *n*

**acescent** /ə'kes(ə)nt, -'ses-/ *adj* (becoming) slightly sour [F, fr L *acescent-*, *acescens*, prp of *acescere* to turn sour, incho of *acere*] – **acescence** *n*

**acet-**, **aceto-** *comb form* acetic acid; acetic (acetyl) [F & L; F *acét-*, fr L *acet-*, fr *acetum* vinegar, fr *acēre* to be sour, fr *acer* sharp – more at EDGE]

**acetabularia** /əsɪtəbyoo'leəri-ə, əsɪtəbyoo'leəri-ə/ *n* a large single-celled green alga that grows in warm seas and is shaped like a small mushroom [NL, genus name, fr L *acetabulum* vinegar cup]

**acetabulum** /əsɪtəbyooləm/ *n*, *pl* acetabulums, acetabula /-lə/ 1a the cup-shaped socket in the hipbone into which the head of the thighbone fits b the cavity in the body of an insect into which its leg fits 2 a round sucker of a leech or other invertebrate [L, lit., vinegar cup, fr *acetum* vinegar] – **acetabular** *adj*

**acetal** /'asɪtl/ *n* any of various compounds containing the grouping C(OR), [G *azetal*, fr *azet-* *acet-* + *alkohol* alcohol]

**acetaldehyde** /əsɪ'taldhɪd/ *n* a volatile liquid aldehyde used chiefly in organic synthesis [ISV]

**acetanilide** /əsɪ'tanɪlɪd/, **acetanilid** /-lɪd/ *n* a derivative of aniline used in chemical synthesis [ISV]

**acetate** /'asɪtəɪt/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of acetic acid 2 (a textile fibre or gramophone record made from) cellulose acetate

**acetic** /ə'seetɪk, -'set-/ *adj* of or producing acetic acid or vinegar [prob fr F *acétique*, fr L *acetum* vinegar]

**acetic acid** *n* a pungent liquid acid that is the major acid in vinegar

**acetify** /ə'seetɪf, -'set-/ *vt* to turn into acetic acid or vinegar – **acetifier** *n*, **acetification** /-tɪfɪ'keɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**aceto-** – see ACET-

**acetone** /'asɪtohn/ *n* a volatile fragrant inflammable liquid ketone used esp as a solvent and in organic chemical synthesis [G *azeton*, fr L *acetum*] – **acetic** /-tɒnɪk/ *adj*

**acetous** /'asɪtəs/ *adj* acetic, also sour, vinegary

**acetyl** /'asɪtl, ə'sɪ-, ə'se-, -tɪl/ *n* the radical of acetic acid

**acetylcholine** /'asɪtl'kəliən, -lɪn/ *n* a neurotransmitter released esp at autonomic nerve endings [ISV] – **acetylcholinic** /-lɪnɪk/ *adj*

**acetyl-coA** /-kə'hay/ *n* acetyl coenzyme A

**acetyl coenzyme A** *n* a compound formed as an essential intermediate in the metabolism of most living cells

**acetylene** /ə'setɪleən, -lɪn/ *n* a colourless unsaturated hydrocarbon gas used esp as a fuel (e.g. in oxyacetylene torches) – **acetylenic** /-lɪenɪk, -lɪnɪk/ *adj*

**acetylsalicylic acid** /'asɪtl'salɪ'sɪlɪk/ *n* aspirin [ISV]

**ache** /ayk/ *vi* 1a to suffer a usu dull persistent pain b to feel anguish or distress (< *heart ~ d for her*) 2 to yearn, long (< *aching to see you*) [ME *aken*, fr OE *acan*, akin to LG *aken* to hurt] – **achingly** *adv.*

**ache** *n* a usu dull persistent pain

**achene** /ə'keən/ *n* a small dry indehiscent 1-seeded fruit (e.g. that of the dandelion) [NL *achaeum*, fr *a-* + Gk *chainein* to yawn – more at YAWN] – **acheneal** /ə'keənɪəl, -nɪ-əl/ *adj*

**Acheulian, Acheulean** /ə'shoohlɪ-ən/ *adj* of a Lower Palaeolithic culture following the Abbevillian [F *Acheuleen*, fr St *Acheul*, near Amiens in France]

**à cheval** /ə'ʃə'val/ *adv* so as to be split evenly between 2 numbers, cards, events, etc (< *betting ~*) [F, lit., on horseback]

**achieve** /ə'tʃi:v/ *vt* 1 to carry out successfully; accomplish 2 to obtain by effort, win [ME *acheven*, fr MF *achever* to finish, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *chief* end, head – more at CHIEF] – **achievable** *adj*, **achiever** *n*

**achievement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 successful completion, accomplishment 2 sth accomplished, esp by resolve, persistence, or courage; a feat 3 performance in a test or academic course 4 a coat of arms with its formal accompaniments (e.g. helm, crest, and supporters) [ACHIEVE + -MENT]

**Achilles' heel** /ə'kɪleɪz, -lɪz/ *n* a person's only vulnerable point [Achilles, legendary Gk warrior, reputedly vulnerable only in the heel]

**Achilles tendon** *n* the strong tendon joining the muscles in the calf to the heelbone

**achromatic** /ə'krəh'matɪk, -krə-/ *adj* 1 transmitting light without dispersing it into its constituent colours 2 possessing no colour, neutral [F *achromatique*, fr Gk *achromatos*, fr *a-* + *chromat-*, *chroma* colour – more at CHROMATIC] – **achromatically** *adv.*, **achromaticity** /ə'krəhmə'tɪsɪti/ *n*, **achromatism** /ə'krəhmə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **achromatize** /ə'krəhmə'tɪz/ *vt*

**achy** /ayki/ *adj* afflicted with aches – **achiness** *n*

**acid** /asɪd/ *adj* 1a sour or sharp to the taste b sharp, biting, or sour in speech, manner, or disposition, caustic (< *an ~ wit*) 2 of, like, containing, or being an acid (< *soul*); specif having a pH of less than 7 3 of, being, or made by a steelmaking process in which the furnace is lined with acidic material 4 of rock rich in silica [F or L, F *acide*, fr L *acidus*, fr *acēre* to be sour, fr *acer* sharp – more at EDGE] – **acidly** *adv.*, **acidness** *n*, **acidity** /ə'sɪdɪti/ *n*

**acid** *n* 1 a sour substance, specif any of various typically water-soluble and sour compounds having a pH of less than 7 that are capable of giving up a hydrogen ion to or accepting an unshared pair of electrons from a base to form a salt 2 LSD – *infrm*


**acid drop** *n* a hard tart sweet made with sugar and tartaric acid

**acidic** /ə'sɪdɪk/ *adj* 1 acid-forming 2 acid

**acidify** /ə'sɪdɪf/ *vt* to make or convert into (an) acid – **acidifier** *n*, **acidification** /ə'sɪdɪfɪ'keɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**acidophil** /ə'sɪdəfɪl, -doh-, *acidophile* /-fiəl/ *n* an acidophilic tissue, organism, etc; esp an eosinophilic white blood cell

**acidophilic** /ˌasidohˈfɪlɪk/, **acidophil** /ˌsɪdəfɪl, -doh-/ *adj* 1 staining readily with acid dyes 2 preferring or thriving in an acid environment  
**acidosis** /ˌasɪdohˈsɪs/ *n* a disorder in which the blood, tissues, etc are unusually acid – **acidotic** /-ˈdɒtɪk/ *adj*  
**acid rock** *n* rock music marked by long passages of electronic musical effects intended to convey the atmosphere of drug-induced hallucinations  
**acid test** *n* a severe or crucial test (e.g. of value or suitability) [fr use of nitric acid to test for gold]  
**acidulate** /ˌsɪdʒʊlət/ *vt* to make (slightly) acid [L. *acidulus*] – **acidulation** /-ˈleɪʃən/ *n*  
**acidulous** /ˌsɪdʒʊləs/ *adj* somewhat acid in taste or manner; caustic [L. *acidulus* sourish, fr. *acidus*] – **acidulosity** /ˌsɪdʒʊˈlɒsəti/ *n*  
**ack-ack** /ˈæk,æk/ *adj* anti-aircraft [signalers' terms for A.A. fr. anti-aircraft]  
**ackee** /ˈakee, ˈakee/ *n* (a tropical tree bearing) a red fruit which is edible when cooked [Kru *a-kee*]  
**acknowledge** /ˈækˌnɒli/ *vt* 1 to admit knowledge of; concede to be true or valid 2 to recognize the status or claims of 3a to express gratitude or obligation for b to show recognition of (e.g. by smiling or nodding) c to confirm receipt of [ac- (as in accord) + knowledge] – **acknowledgable** *adj*  
**acknowledged** *adj* generally recognized, accepted, or admitted – **acknowledgedly** *adv*  
**acknowledgment** also **acknowledgement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 recognition or favourable reception of an act or achievement 2 a thing done or given in recognition of sth received 3 a declaration or avowal of a fact 4 an author's list of people to whom he/she is indebted, usu appearing at the front of a book – usu pl with sing. meaning [ACKNOWLEDGE + -MENT]  
**acclinic line** /ˈsɪklɪn/ *n* an imaginary line round the earth where a magnetic needle remains horizontal [a- + -clinic]  
**acme** /ˈækmi/ *n* the highest point or stage; esp a perfect representative of a specified class or thing <was the ~ of courtesy> [Gk *akme* point, highest point – more at EDGE]  
**acne** /ˈækni/ *n* a skin disorder found esp among adolescents, characterized by inflammation of the skin glands and hair follicles and causing red pustules, esp on the face and neck [Gk *akne* eruption of the face, MS var of *akmē*, lit., point] – **acned** /ˈæknið/ *adj*  
**acoelomate** /ˌayˈseələmət, -mət/ *adj*, of an animal having no coelom – **acoelomate** *n*  
**acolyte** /ˈækəlɪt/ *n* 1 an assistant performing minor duties in a liturgical service 2 one who attends or assists, a follower [ME *acolite*, fr. OF & ML, OF, fr. ML *acolutus*, fr. MGk *akolouthos*, fr. Gk, *adj*, following, fr. a-, ha- (akin to Gk *homos* same) + *keleuthos* path]  
**aconite** /ˈækənɪt/ *n* (a drug obtained from) monkshood [MF or L; MF, fr. L *aconitum*, fr. Gk *akoniton*] – **aconitic** /-ˈnɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**acorn** /ˈay,kɔːn/ *n* the nut of the oak, usu seated in a hard woody cup [ME *akern*, fr. OE *æcern*; akin to MHG *ackeran* acorns collectively, Russ *yagoda berry*]  
**acorn barnacle** *n* any of numerous barnacles that form an incrustation on coastal rocks  
**acorn worm** *n* any of a group of burrowing wormlike marine animals usu classed with the chordates  
**acoustic** /ˈəkoʊstɪk/ also **acoustical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of sound, the sense of hearing, or acoustics 2 of or being a musical instrument whose sound is not electronically modified [Gk *akoustikos* of hearing, fr. *akouein* to hear – more at HEAR] – **acoustically** *adv*  
**acoustic n** 1 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* the science of sound 2 the properties of a room, hall, etc that govern the quality of sound heard – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning – **acoustician** /ˌəkoʊˈstɪʃən/ *n*  
**acquaint** /ˈəkwəɪnt/ *vt* to cause to know; make familiar with sth <~ oneself with the law> [ME *aquainten*, fr. OF *acointier*, fr. ML *accognitare*, fr. LL *accognitus*, pp of *accognoscere* to know perfectly, fr. L *ad- + cognoscere* to know – more at COGNITION]  
**acquaintance** /ˈəkwəɪnt(ə)ns/ *n* 1 personal knowledge; familiarity 2a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the people with whom one is acquainted b a person whom one knows but who is not a particularly close friend – **acquaintancehip** *n* – make the acquaintance of to come to know, meet  
**acquainted** *adj* having met (each other) socially; familiar with (each other) (we are not ~) <is ~ with the mayor>  
**acquiesce** /ˈækweɪs/ *vi* to submit or comply tacitly or passively – often + *in* [F *acquiescer*, fr. L *acquiescere*, fr. *ad- + quiescere* to be quiet, fr. *quies*, *n*, quiet, rest] – **acquiescence** *n*, **acquiescent** *adj*, **acquiescently** *adv*

**acquire** /ˈəkwɪə-/ *vt* 1a to gain or come into possession of, often by unspecified means, also to steal – euph b to gain as a new characteristic or ability, esp as a result of skill or hard work 2 to locate and hold (an object) in a detector <~ a target by radar> [ME *aqueren*, fr. MF *aquerre*, fr. L *acquiere*, fr. *ad- + quærere* to seek, obtain] – **acquirable** *adj*, **acquisition** *n*  
**acquisition** /ˌəkwɪˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 acquiring, gaining 2 sth by or sth acquired or gained, esp to one's advantage [ME *acquisicioun*, fr. MF or L; MF *acquisition*, fr. L *acquisition-*, *acquisitio*, fr. *acquisitus*, pp of *acquiere*] – **acquisitional** *adj*, **acquirer** /ˈəkwɪzɪtə/ *n*  
**acquisitive** /ˈəkwɪzɪtɪv/ *adj* keen or tending to acquire and possess – **acquisitively** *adv*, **acquisitiveness** *n*  
**acquit** /ˈəkwɪt/ *vt* -tt- 1 to free from responsibility or obligation; *specul* to declare not guilty <the court ~ed him of the charge> 2 to conduct (oneself) in a specified, usu favourable, manner [ME *aquiten*, fr. OF *aquiter*, fr. a- (fr. L *ad-*) + *quite* free of – more at QUIT] – **acquitter** *n*  
**acquittal** /ˈəkwɪtəl/ *n* a judicial release from a criminal charge  
**acquittance** /ˈəkwɪt(ə)ns/ *n* (a document giving proof of) a discharge from an obligation  
**acr-, acro-** *comb form* 1 beginning, end <acronym> <acrostic> 2a top; peak, summit; apex <acrodont> <acropolis> <acropetal> b height <acrophobia> <acrobat> c extremity <acromegaly> [MF or Gk; MF *acro-*, fr. Gk *akr-, akro-*, fr. *akros* topmost, extreme; akin to Gk *akme* point – more at EDGE]  
**acre** /ˈaykə/ *n* 1 *pl* lands, fields 2 a unit of area equal to 4840yd<sup>2</sup> (4046.86m<sup>2</sup>)  UNIT 3 *pl* great quantities – *infrm* [ME, fr. OE *æcer*, akin to OHG *ackar* field, L. *ager*, Gk *agros*, L. *agere* to drive – more at AGENT]  
**acreage** /ˈayk(ə)rɪ/ *n* area in acres  
**acrid** /ˈækɪd/ *adj* 1 unpleasantly pungent in taste or smell 2 violently bitter in manner or language, acrimonious [modif of L. *acr-, acer* sharp – more at EDGE] – **acridly** *adv*, **acridness** *n*, **acridity** /ˈəkrɪdɪti/ *n*  
**acridine** /ˈækɪdeen, -dien, -dɪn/ *n* a compound occurring in coal tar and important as the parent compound of dyes and antiseptics  
**acriflavine** /ˈækɪˈflaɪveɪn, -vɪn/ *n* a red or orange dye used as a skin disinfectant [acridine + flavine]  
**Acrilan** /ˈækɪlən/ *trademark* - used for an acrylic fibre  
**acrimony** /ˈækɪməni/ *n* caustic sharpness of manner or language resulting from anger or ill nature [MF or L, MF *acrimonia*, fr. L *acr-, acer*] – **acrimonious** /ˈækɪˈməniəs/ *adj*, **acrimoniously** *adv*, **acrimoniousness** *n*  
**acrobat** /ˈækɪrəbət/ *n* 1 one who performs gymnastic feats requiring skilful control of the body 2 one who nimbly and often too readily changes his position or viewpoint <a political ~> [F & Gk, F *acrobate*, fr. Gk *akrobates*, fr. *akrobatos* walking on tiptoe, fr. *akros + bainin* to go – more at COME]  
**acrobatic** /ˈækɪrəˈbætɪk/ *adj* 1 of or like an acrobat 2 very mobile <~ eyebrows – Punch> – **acrobatically** *adv*  
**acrobaties** *n pl* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the art, performance, or activity of an acrobat 2 a spectacular performance involving great agility <contralto's vocal ~>  
**acromegaly** /ˌækɪrəˈmegəli, -akra-/ *n* abnormal enlargement of the hands, feet, and face caused by excessive production of growth hormone by the pituitary gland [F *acromégalie*, fr. *acr-* + Gk *megal-, megas* large – more at MUCH] – **acromegalic** /-məˈgəliːk/ *adj* or *n*  
**acronychal, acronychal, NAM acronical** /ˌækɪrəˈnɪkəl, -akra-/ *adj*, esp of the setting or rising of a star happening at sunset [Gk *akronychos*, fr. *akr-* + *nyx* night]  
**acronym** /ˈækɪnɪm/ *n* a word (e.g. *radar*) formed from the initial letters of other words [acr- + -onym (as in *homonym*)] – **acronymic** /-ˈnɪmɪk/ *adj*, **acronymically** *adv*  
**acrophobia** /ˌækɪrəˈfəʊbiə/ *n* abnormal dread of being at a great height [NL]  
**acropolis** /ˌækɪrəˈpɒlɪs/ *n* the citadel of an ancient Greek city [Gk *akropolis*, fr. *akr-* + *polis* city – more at POLICE]  
**across** /ˈəkrɒs/ *adv* 1 from one side to the other crosswise 2 to or on the opposite side 3 so as to be understandable, acceptable, or successful – compare GET ACROSS [ME *across*, fr. AF *an crois*, fr. an in (fr. L *in*) + *crois* cross, fr. L *crux* – more at IN, RIDGE]  
**across** *prep* 1a from one side to the other of <walk ~ the lawn> b on the opposite side of <lives ~ the street> 2 so as to intersect at an angle <sawed ~ the grain of the wood> 3 into transitory contact with – compare RUN ACROSS  
**across-the-board** *adj* blanket <an ~ pay rise> – **across the board** *adv*



**acrostatic** /ə'kroʊstɪk/ *n* 1 a composition, usu in verse, in which sets of letters (e.g. the first of each line) form a word or phrase 2 a series of words of equal length arranged to read the same horizontally or vertically [MF & Gk, MF *acrostatiche*, fr Gk *akrostichos*, fr *akr-* *acr-* + *stichos* line of verse, akin to *steichon* to go – more at **STAIR**] – **acrostatic** also **acrostatical** *adj*, **acrostatically** *adv*

**acrylate** /'akrɪlət/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of acrylic acid 2 **ACRYLIC RESIN**

**acrylic** /ə'krɪlɪk/ *adj* of acrylic acid or its derivatives [ISV *acrolein* (a liquid aldehyde, fr L *acr-*, *acer* sharp + *olere* to smell) + *-yl* + *-ic*]

**acrylic** *n* 1a **ACRYLIC RESIN** b (a painting done in) a paint containing an acrylic resin 2 **ACRYLIC FIBRE**

**acrylic acid** *n* an unsaturated liquid acid that polymerizes readily to form plastics

**acrylic fibre** *n* a synthetic textile fibre made by polymerization of acrylonitrile usu with other polymers

**acrylic resin** *n* a glasslike plastic made by polymerizing (a derivative of) acrylic acid

**acrylonitrile** /'akrɪlə'nɪtriəl/ *n* a liquid nitrile used chiefly in organic synthesis and for polymerization

**act** /akt/ *n* 1 a thing done, a deed 2 **STATUTE** 1, also a decree, edict [LAW] 3 the process of doing <caught in the very ~> 4 often *cap* a formal record of sthg done or transacted 5a any of the principal divisions of a play or opera b any of the successive parts or performances in an entertainment (e.g. a circus) 6 a display of affected behaviour, a pretence [ME, partly fr L *actus* doing, act, fr *actus*, pp of *agere* to drive, do, partly fr L *actum* thing done, record, fr neut of *actus*, pp – more at **AGENT**] – *be/get in on the act* to be or deliberately become involved in a situation or undertaking, esp for one's own advantage

**act** *vt* 1 to represent by action, esp on the stage 2 to feign, simulate 3 to play the part of (as if) in a play <~ the fool> <~ Hamlet> 4 to behave in a manner suitable to <~ your age> ~ *vi* 1a to perform on the stage, engage in acting b to behave insincerely 2 to function or behave in a specified manner <~ ed generously> 3 to perform a specified function, serve as 4 to be a substitute or representative for 5 to produce an effect <wait for the medicine to ~> – **actable** *adj*, **actability** /'aktə'bɪləti/ *n* – **acter** /-aktə/ *comb form* (– *n*) sthg, esp a play, containing a specified number of acts <a one-acter>

**ACTH** *n* **ADRENOCORTICOTROPHIC HORMONE** [adrenocorticotrophic hormone]

**actin** /'aktɪn/ *n* a protein found in muscle and other cells that combines with myosin in producing muscular contraction [ISV, fr L *actus*]

**actin-**, **actini-**, **actino-** *comb form* having a radiate form (<Actinomyces> [NL, ray, fr Gk *aktin-*, *aktino-*, fr *aktin-*, *aktis*, akin to OE *uhte* morning twilight, L *noct-*, *nox* night – more at **NIGHT**])

**acting** /'aktɪŋ/ *adj* holding a temporary rank or position <~ president>

**acting** *n* the art or practice of representing a character in a dramatic production

**actinide** /'aktɪnɪd/ *n* any of a series of 15 radioactive elements from actinium (atomic number 89) to lawrencium (atomic number 103) [ISV]

**actinism** /'aktɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the property of esp visible radiant energy by which chemical changes are produced (e.g. in photography) – **actinic** /'aktɪnɪk/ *adj*

**actinium** /'aktɪni-əm/ *n* a radioactive trivalent metallic element found esp in pitchblende [PERIODIC TABLE [NL]]

**actinometer** /'aktɪnɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the intensity of esp solar radiation – **actinometry** *n*, **actinometric** /'aktɪnɒ'metrɪk/ *adj*

**actinomorphic** /'aktɪnɒh'mawfɪk/ also **actinomorphous** /-fəs/ *adj*, of an organism or part radially symmetrical [ISV] – **actinomorphy** /'aktɪnɒ'mawfɪ/ *n*

**actinomycete** /'aktɪnɒh'mieset/ *n* any of an order of filamentous or rod-shaped bacteria [deriv of Gk *aktin-*, *aktis* + *mykē-*, *mykēs* fungus, akin to Gk *myxa* mucus – more at **MUCUS**] – **actinomycetous** /-mɪe'seetəs/ *adj*

**actinozoan** /-ˈzəʊ-ən/ *n* an anthozoan [actin- + Gk *zoion* animal; akin to Gk *zoe* life – more at **QUICK**] – **actinozoan** *adj*

**action** /'akʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a civil legal proceeding 2 the process of acting or working, esp to produce alteration by force or through a natural agency 3a the mode of movement of the body b a function of (a part of) the body 4 a voluntary act; a deed <know him by his ~s> 5a the state of functioning actively <machine is out of ~> b practical, often militant, activity, often directed towards a political end <an ~ group> c energetic

activity, enterprise <a man of ~> 6a(1) an engagement between troops or ships (2) **COMBAT** 3 b (the unfolding of) the events in a play or work of fiction 7 an operating mechanism (e.g. of a gun or piano), also the manner in which it operates 8 (the most) lively or productive activity <go where the ~ is> – *infrml* [ME *accioun*, fr MF *action*, fr L *action-*, *actio*, fr *actus*, pp of *agere* to drive, do – more at **AGENT**]

**action** *vt* to take action on, implement

**actionable** /-əbl/ *adj* giving grounds for an action at law – **actionably** *adv*

**action painting** *n* abstract art in which spontaneous techniques (e.g. dribbling or smearing) are used to apply paint

**action potential** *n* a momentary change in the electrical potential across the membrane of a (nerve) cell resulting from activation by a stimulus

**action replay** *n* a videotape recording of a televised incident played back usu immediately after the event and often in slow motion

**activate** /'aktɪvaɪt/ *vt* 1 to make (more) active or reactive, esp in chemical or physical properties, e.g. a to make (a substance) radioactive b to aerate (sewage) so as to favour the growth of organisms that decompose organic matter 2 **NAM** to equip or put (troops) on active duty – **activator** *n*, **activation** /-ˈvæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**activated carbon** *n* highly adsorbent powdered carbon used esp for purifying by adsorption

**activation analysis** /'aktɪˈvæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the determination of chemical composition by bombardment with neutrons and detection of the resulting characteristic radioactive atoms

**active** /'aktɪv/ *adj* 1 characterized by practical action rather than by contemplation or speculation <take an ~ interest in> 2 quick in physical movement, lively 3a marked by or requiring vigorous activity <~ sports> b full of activity, busy <an ~ life> 4 having practical operation or results; effective <an ~ law> 5 of a volcano liable to erupt, not extinct 6 of a verb form or voice having as the subject the person or thing doing the action 7 of, in, or being full-time service, esp in the armed forces <on ~ duty> 8 capable of acting or reacting; activated <~ nitrogen> 9 of an electronic device containing and sometimes directing a power source [ME, fr MF or L, MF *actif*, fr L *activus*, fr *actus*, pp] – **actively** *adv*, **activeness** *n*

**active** *n* 1 an active verb form 2 the active voice of a language

**active transport** *n* movement of a chemical substance across a (cell) membrane in living tissue by the expenditure of energy

**activism** /'aktɪvɪz(ə)m/ *n* a doctrine or practice that emphasizes vigorous action (e.g. the use of mass demonstrations) in controversial, esp political, matters – **activist** *n* or *adj*, **activistic** /-ˈvɪstɪk/ *adj*

**activity** /'aktɪvəti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being active 2 vigorous or energetic action, liveliness 3 a pursuit in which a person is active – usu pl <social activities>

**act of faith** *n* an action demonstrating the strength of one's esp religious convictions

**act of God** *n* a sudden event, esp a catastrophe, brought about by uncontrollable natural forces

**actor** /'aktə/, *fem actress* /'aktɪs/ *n* one who represents a character in a dramatic production, esp one whose profession is acting ['ACT + -OR] – **actorish** *adj*

**act out** *vt* 1a to represent in action <children act out what they read> b to translate into action <unwilling to act out what they believe> 2 to express (repressed or unconscious impulses) unwittingly in overt behaviour

**Acts** /'akts/ *n pl but sing in constr* the fifth book of the New Testament narrating the beginnings of the Church

**Acts of the Apostles** *n pl but sing in constr* the Acts

**actual** /'aktʃuəl/, -choo(ə)l/ *adj* 1 existing in fact or reality; real <~ and imagined conditions> 2 existing or occurring at the time, current <caught in the ~ commission of a crime> [ME *actuel*, fr MF, fr LL *actualis*, fr L *actus* act] – **actualize** *vt*, **actualization** /-ˈleɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n* **actuality** /'aktʃuə'ləti/, -kchoo- *n* an existing circumstance; a real fact – often pl <possible risks which have been seized upon as actualities – T S Eliot> [ACTUAL + -ITY]

**actually** /-li/ *adv* 1 really; IN FACT <nominally but not ~ independent> 2 at the present moment <the party ~ in power> 3 strange as it may seem; even <she ~ spoke Latin>

**actuary** /'aktʃuə(ə)ri/, -'akchoo- *n* a statistician who calculates insurance risks and premiums [L *actuarius* shorthand writer, accountant, fr *actum* record – more at **ACT**] – **actuarial** /'aktʃuə'reɪ-əl/, -choo- *adj*, **actuarially** *adv*

**actuate** /'aktʃuəʊt/, -choo- *vt* 1 to put into action or motion 2 to incite


to action (< d by greed) [ML *actuatus*, pp of *actuare*, fr L *actus* act] – **actuation** /ˈaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **actuator** /-ˈaɪtə/ *n*

**act up** vi 1 to behave in an unruly manner; **PLAY UP** 2 to give pain or trouble <this typewriter is acting up again> **USE** infml


**acuity** /ˈaɪkjuːəti/ *n* keenness of mental or physical perception – fml [MF *acuité*, fr OF *aguieté*, fr *agu* sharp, fr L *acutus*]

**aculeate** /ˈaɪkjuːli-ət/ *adj* having a sting (< an ~ insect> [L *aculeatus* having stings, fr *aculeus*, dim of *acus*]

**acumen** /ˈaɪkjuːmən/ *n* keenness and depth of discernment or discrimination, esp in practical matters [L *acumin-*, *acumen*, lit., point, fr *acuerē*]

**acuminate** /ˈaɪkjuːminayt/ *adj* tapering to a slender point  **PLANT**

**acupuncture** /ˈak(y)oo.pʌŋk.tʃə/ *n* an orig Chinese practice of puncturing the body at particular points with needles to cure disease, relieve pain, produce anaesthesia, etc [L *acus* + E *puncture*] – **acupuncturist** /-ˈpʌŋk.tʃərɪst/ *n*

**acute** /ˈaɪkjuːt/ *adj* 1a of an angle measuring less than 90° 2a marked by keen discernment or intellectual perception, esp of subtle distinctions (< an ~ thinker> 2b responsive to slight impressions or stimuli (< eyesight> 3 intensely felt or perceived (< ~ pain> 4 esp of an illness having a sudden severe onset and short course – contrasted with *chronic* 5 demanding urgent attention; severe (< an ~ housing shortage> 6 marked with, having the pronunciation indicated by, or being an accent mark written ~  **SYMBOL** [L *acutus*, pp of *acuerē* to sharpen, fr *acus* needle; akin to L *acer* sharp – more at *EDGE*] – **acutely** *adv*, **acuteness** *n*

**acyl** /ˈaɪs(ə)l/ *n* a radical derived from a carboxylic acid by removal of the hydroxyl group [ISV, fr *acid*]

**ad** /ˈad/ *n* an advertisement – infml

**ad-, ac-, af-, ag-, al-, ap-, as-, at-** *prefix* 1 to; towards – usu *ac-* before *c*, *k*, or *q* (<acculturation>), *af-* before *f*, *ag-* before *g* (<aggrade>), *al-* before *l* (<alliteration>), *ap-* before *p* (<approximate>), *as-* before *s* (<assuage>), *at-* before *t* (<attune>), and *ad-* before other sounds, but sometimes *ad-* even before one of the listed consonants (<adsorb> 2 near; adjacent to – in this sense always in the form *ad-* (<adrenal> [ME, fr MF, OF, & L; MF, fr OF, fr L, fr *ad* – more at 'AT])

**-ad** /-əd, -əd/ *suffix* (– *adv*) in the direction of; towards (<cephalad> [L *ad*])

**adage** /ˈædɪj/ *n* a maxim or proverb that embodies a commonly accepted observation [MF, fr L *adagium*, fr *ad-* + *agere* (akin to *ago* I say); akin to Gk *é* he spoke]

**adagio** /ˈædʒiəh/ *adv* or *adj* in an easy slow graceful manner – used in music [It, fr *ad* at, to + *agio* ease]

**adagio** *n*, **pl adagios** 1 a musical composition or movement in adagio tempo 2 ballet dancing, esp a pas de deux, involving difficult feats of balance

**Adam** /ˈædəm/ *adj* of a decorative style of furniture and architecture that originated in the 18th c [Robert Adam †1792 & James Adam †1794 Sc architects & designers]

**adamant** /ˈædəmənt/ *n* a stone formerly believed to be of impenetrable hardness and sometimes identified with the diamond; broadly any very hard unbreakable substance [ME, fr OF, fr L *adamant-*, *adamas* hardest metal, diamond, fr Gk]

**adamant** *adj* unshakable in determination; unyielding – **adamancy** *n*, **adamantly** *adv*

**adamantine** /ˈædəˈmantiən/ *adj* 1 made of or like adamant, 2 resembling the diamond in hardness or lustre [ME, fr L *adamantinus*, fr Gk *adamantinos*, fr *adamant-*, *adamas*]

**Adamate** /ˈædəmiət/ *n* 1 a human 2 a member of a nudist sect [Adam, the first man according to the Bible; (2) fr his nakedness before his fall from grace (Gen 2 & 3)]

**Adam's apple** *n* the projection in the front of the neck formed by the largest cartilage of the larynx

**adapt** /ˈædapt/ *vb* to make or become fit, often by modification [F or L, *F adapter*, fr L *adaptare*, fr *ad-* + *aptare* to fit, fr *aptus* apt, fit] – **adaptable** *adj*, **adaptability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*, **adaptedness** *n*

**adaptation** /ˈædaptəʃən/ *n* 1 adjustment to prevailing or changing conditions: e.g. a adjustment of a sense organ to the intensity or quality of stimulation 2 modification of (the parts of) an organism fitting it better for existence and successful breeding 2 a composition rewritten in a new form or for a different medium [ADAPT + -ATION] – **adaptationally** *adv*

**adapter** also **adaptor** /ˈædaptə/ *n* 1 a writer who adapts sth 2 a device a for connecting 2 pieces of apparatus not orig intended to be joined b

for converting a tool or piece of apparatus to some new use c for connecting several pieces of electrical apparatus to a single power point, or connecting a plug of one type to a socket of a different type [ADAPT + -ER, -OR]

**adaptive** /ˈædaptɪv/ *adj*, of an organism showing or having a capacity for or tendency towards adaptation – **adaptively** *adv*, **adaptiveness** *n*, **adaptivity** /-tɪvəti/ *n*

**adaxial** /ˈædˈaksi-əl/ *adj* situated on the same side as or facing the axis of an organ, plant part, or organism – compare **ABAXIAL**

**add** /ˈad/ *vt* 1 to join so as to bring about an increase or improvement <wine ~s a creative touch to cooking> 2 to say or write further 3 to combine (numbers) into a single number – often + *up* ~ *vi* 1a to perform addition b to come together or unite by addition 2 to make or serve as an addition to [ME, *adden*, fr L *addere*, fr *ad-* + *-dere* to put – more at 'DO] – **addable**, **addible** *adj*

**addend** /ˈædənd, ˈdend/ *n* a number to be added to another [short for **addendum**]

**addendum** /ˈdendəm/ *n*, **pl addenda** /-də/ a supplement to a book – often pl with sing meaning but sing. in constr [L, neut of *addendus*, gerundive of *addere*]

**adder** /ˈædə/ *n* the common European venomous viper or other ground-living viper [ME, alter. (by incorrect division of a *nadder*) of *nadder*, fr OE *nædre*; akin to OHG *nāra* adder, L *natrix* water snake]

**adder** *n* a device (e.g. in a computer) that performs addition [ADD + -ER]

**adder's-tongue** *n* a fern whose fruiting spike resembles a snake's tongue

**addict** /ˈædɪkt/ *vt* 1 to devote or surrender (oneself) to sth habitually or obsessively – usu pass 2 to cause (an animal or human) to become physiologically dependent upon a habit-forming drug [L *addictus*, pp of *addicere* to favour, fr *ad-* + *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**] – **addictive** *adj*, **addiction** /ˈædɪkʃən/ *n*

**addict** /ˈædɪkt/ *n* 1 one who is addicted to a drug 2 DEVOTEE 2 <a detective-novel ~>

**Addison's disease** /ˈædɪs(ə)nɪz/ *n* a disease marked by deficient secretion of the steroid hormones of the cortex of the adrenal gland and characterized by extreme weakness, loss of weight, and brownish pigmentation of the skin [Thomas Addison †1860 E physician]

**addition** /ˈædɪʃən/ *n* 1 sth or sby added, esp as an improvement 2 the act or process of adding, esp adding numbers 3 direct chemical combination of substances to form a single product [ME, fr MF, fr L *addition-*, *additio*, fr *additus*, pp of *addere*] – **In addition** also, furthermore <a telephone in the kitchen in addition to the one in the hall>

**additional** /ˈædɪʃənəl/ *adj* existing by way of addition, supplementary – **additionally** /ˈædɪʃənəli/ *adv*

**additive** /ˈædɪtɪv/ *adj* of or characterized by addition – **additively** *adv*, **additivity** /ˈædɪtɪvəti/ *n*

**additive** *n* a substance added to another in relatively small amounts to impart desirable properties or suppress undesirable ones <food ~s>

**addle** /ˈædl/ *vb* **addling** /ˈædlɪŋ/, **ad-ling** /ˈædlɪŋ/ *vt* to throw into confusion ~ *vi* 1 of an egg to become rotten 2 to become confused or muddled [addle (rotten, unsound), fr ME *adel* filth, fr OE *adela*, akin to MLG *adele* liquid manure]

**address** /ˈædres/ *vt* 1 to direct the efforts or attention of (oneself) <~ himself to the problem> 2a to communicate directly <~es his thanks to his host> b to speak or write directly to; esp to deliver a formal speech to 3 to mark directions for delivery on <~ a letter> 4 to greet by a prescribed form <~ed him as 'My Lord'> 5 to take one's stance and adjust the club before hitting (a golf ball) ~ *vi* *obs* to direct one's speech or attentions [ME *adressen*, fr MF *adresser*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *dresser* to arrange – more at **DRESS**] – **addresser** *n*, **addressee** /ˈædresˈsee/ *n*

**address** /ˈædres/ *n* 1 dutiful and courteous attention, esp in courtship – usu pl <paid his ~es to her> 2 readiness and capability for dealing (e.g. with a person or problem) skilfully and smoothly; adroitness 3 a formal communication; esp a prepared speech delivered to an audience 4 a place of residence (where a person or organization may be communicated with); also a detailed description of its location (e.g. on an envelope) 5 a location (e.g. in the memory of a computer) where particular information is stored; also the digits that identify such a location

**addressable** /ˈædresəbl/ *adj* accessible by an address <~ registers in a computer>

**Addressograph** /ˈædresəˌɡraʃ/, -ˌɡraf, -ˌsoh-/ *trademark* – used for a device that prints addresses on envelopes

**adduce** /ˈædjuːs/ *vt* to offer as example, reason, or proof in discussion

or analysis - fml [L *adducere*, lit., to lead to, fr *ad-* + *ducere* to lead - more at *'tOW*] - **adducer** *n*, **adduction** /ə'dʌkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**adduct** /ə'dʌkt/ *vt* to draw (e.g. a limb) towards the main part of the body; also to bring together (similar parts) (< ~ the fingers) [L *adductus*, pp of *adducere*] - **adductive** *adj*, **adductor** *n*, **adduction** /ə'dʌk-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**add up** *vi* 1 to amount to in total or substance (<the play adds up to a lot of laughs>) 2 to come to the expected total (<the bill doesn't add up>) 3 to be internally consistent; make sense ~ *vt* SIZE UP

**-ade** /-əyd/ *suffix* (-*n*) 1a act or action of (<blockade> <escapade>) b individual or group of people involved in (a specified action) (<cavalcade> <renegade>) 2 product, esp sweet drink made from (a specified fruit) (<limeade>) [ME, fr MF, fr OProv *-ada*, fr LL *-ata*, fr L, fem of *-atus* -ate]

**aden-**, **adeno-** *comb form* gland (<adenitis>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *aden-*, *aden*, akin to L *inguen* groin, Gk *nephros* kidney - more at NEPHRITIS]

**adenine** /'ædnæn-, -nɪn/ *n* a purine base that is 1 of the 4 bases whose order in a DNA or RNA chain codes genetic information - compare CYTOSINE, GUANINE, THYMINE, URACIL [ISV, fr its presence in glandular tissue]

**adenoid** /'ædnɔɪd/ *adj* or *n* (of) an enlarged mass of lymphoid tissue at the back of the pharynx, often obstructing breathing - usu pl with sing meaning [Gk *adenoidēs* glandular, fr *aden*]

**adenoidal** /'ædnɔɪdl/ *adj* of (sby with enlarged) adenoids - **adenoidally** *adv*

**adenoma** /'ædnəhmə-/ *n*, pl **adenomas**, **adenomata** /-noh'mahtə/ a benign tumour of a glandular structure or of glandular origin [NL *adenomat-*, *adenoma*] - **adenomatous** /-nohmətəs, also -noh'mahtəs/ *adj*

**adenosine** /'ædnəseɪn-, -sɪn/ *n* a nucleoside containing adenine [ISV, blend of *adenine* and *ribose*]

**adenosine diphosphate** *n* ADP

**adenosine mono'phosphate** *n* 1 AMP 2 CYCLIC AMP

**adenosine tri'phosphate** *n* ATP

**adept** /'ædɛpt, 'ædɛpt/ *adj* or *n* (being) a highly skilled expert at [NL *adeptus* alchemist who has discovered how to change base metals into gold, fr L, pp of *adipisci* to attain, fr *ad-* + *apisci* to reach - more at APT] - **adeptly** /'ædɛptli/ *adv*, **adeptness** /'ædɛptnis/ *n*

**adequate** /'ædɪkwət/ *adj* sufficient for a specific requirement (<~ grounds for divorce>, esp barely sufficient or satisfactory [L *adaequatus*, pp of *aequare* to make equal, fr *ad-* + *aequare* to equal - more at EQUABLE] - **adequacy** /-kwəsi/ *n*, **adequately** *adv*, **adequateness** *n*

**ad eundem** /'ad ə'ɒndəm/, **ad eundem gradum** /'grahdəm/ *adv* or *adj* to or of the same degree at another university [NL *ad eundem gradum*]

**à deux** /'ah 'duh (Fr ə 'du)/ *adj* or *adv* having only 2 (people) present (< a cosy evening ~ >) [F]

**adhere** /'æd(h)ɪə/ *vi* 1 to give continued support, observance, or loyalty (<~ to the treaty>) 2 to hold or stick fast (as if) by gluing, suction, grasping, or fusing ~ *vt* to cause to stick fast [MF or L, MF *adhērere*, fr L *adhaerere*, fr *ad-* + *haerere* to stick - more at HESITATE] - **adherent** *adj*, **adherence** *n*

**adherent** /'æd(h)ɪərənt/ *n* a supporter of a leader, faction, etc [ME, fr MF or L; MF *adhērent*, *adj*, fr L *adhaerent-*, *adhaerens*, prp of *adhaerere*]

**adhesion** /'æd(h)ɪeʒ(ə)n, 'æd'hee-/ *n* 1 the action or state of adhering 2 (the tissues united by) an abnormal union of tissues that are usu separated in the body [F or L; F *adhésion*, fr L *adhaesion-*, *adhaesio*, fr *adhaesus*, pp of *adhaerere*] - **adhesional** *adj*

**adhesive** /'æd(h)ɪeɪv-, -sɪv/ *adj* causing or prepared for sticking; sticky - **adhesively** *adv*, **adhesiveness** *n*

**adhesive** *n* an adhesive substance (e.g. glue or cement)

**ad hoc** /'ad 'hɒk/ *adj* or *adv* with respect to the particular purpose at hand and without consideration of wider application (<an ~ investigation>) [L, for this]

**ad hominem** /'ad 'hɒmɪnəm/ *adj* or *adv* appealing to or attacking on personal rather than intellectual grounds [NL, lit., to the man]

**adiabatic** /'adi-ə'batɪk/ *adj* occurring without loss or gain of heat [Gk *adiabatos* impassable, fr *a-* + *diabatos* passable, fr *diabainein* to go across, fr *dia-* + *bainein* to go - more at COME] - **adiabatically** *adv*

**adieu** /'ædyəʊ, 'ædyuh (Fr adjø)/ *n*, pl **adieux**, **adieux** /'ædyəʊ(z), 'ædyuh(z) (Fr ~)/ a farewell - often used interjectionally, usu poetic [ME, fr MF, fr *a* (fr L *ad*) + *Dieu* God, fr L *Deus* - more at AT, DEITY]

**ad infinitum** /'ad ɪnfɪ'nɪtəm/ *adv* or *adj* without end or limit [L, to an infinite extent]

**adipic** /'ædɪpɪk/ *n* an organic acid used esp in manufacturing plastics, esp nylon [derv of L *adip-*, *adepe*]

**adipose** /'ædɪpəʊs-, -pəʊz/ *adj* of animal fat; fatty [NL *adiposus*, fr L *adip-*, *adepe* fat, fr Gk *alepha*, akin to Gk *lipos* fat - more at LEAVE] - **adiposity** /-ˈpɒsəti/ *n*

**adipose** /'ædɪpəʊs/ *n* connective tissue in which fat is stored

**adit** /'ædɪt/ *n* a nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine [L *aditus* approach, fr *aditus*, pp of *adire* to go to, fr *ad-* + *ire* to go - more at ISSUE]

**adjacent** /'ædʒə(ə)nt/ *adj* having a common border, broadly neighbouring, nearby [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *adjacent-*, *adjacens*, prp of *adjacere* to lie near, fr *ad-* + *jacere* to throw - more at JACET] - **adjacency** *n*, **adjacently** *adv*

**adjectival** /'ædʒɪk'tɪvəl/ *adj* relating to or characterized by the use of adjectives - **adjectivally** *adv*

**adjective** /'ædʒɪktɪv/ *n* 1 adjectival 2 of a dye requiring a mordant [ME, fr MF or LL, MF *adjectif*, fr LL *adjectivus*, fr L *adjectus*, pp of *adficere* to throw to, fr *ad-* + *jacere* to throw - more at JET]

**adjective** *n* a word that modifies a noun or pronoun by describing a particular characteristic of it

**adjoin** /'ædʒɔɪn/ *vb* to be next to or in contact with (one another) [ME *ajouner*, fr MF *ajouindre*, fr L *adjungere*, fr *ad-* + *jungere* to join - more at YOKEL] - **adjoining** *adj*

**adjourn** /'ædʒʊrn/ *vb* to suspend (a session) until a later stated time [ME *ajournen*, fr MF *ajourner*, fr L *ajungere*, fr *ad-* + *jungere* to join - more at YOKEL] - **adjoining** *adj*

**adjournment** /-mənt/ *n* the state or interval of being adjourned

**adjudge** /'ædʒʊdʒ/ *vi* 1a to adjudicate b to pronounce formally (<~ him guilty>) 2 to pronounce to be, deem (<~ the book a success>) [ME *ajugen*, fr MF *ajuger*, fr L *adjudicare*, fr *ad-* + *judicare* to judge - more at JUDGE]

**adjudicate** /'ædʒʊdɪkəɪt/ *vi* to make a judicial decision on ~ *vt* to act as judge (e.g. in a competition) [L *adjudicatus*, pp of *adjudicare*] - **adjudicative** /-kətɪv/ *adj*, **adjudicator** /-kəɪtə/ *n*

**adjudication** /'ædʒʊdɪkəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a judicial decision; specif a decree in bankruptcy [ADJUDICATE + -ION] - **adjudicatory** /'ædʒʊdɪkət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**adjunct** /'ædʒʊŋkt/ *n* 1 sth joined to another thing as an incidental accompaniment but not essentially a part of it 2 a word or phrase (e.g. an adverb or prepositional phrase) that can be left out and still leave the sentence grammatically complete 3 a person, usu in a subordinate or temporary capacity, assisting another to perform some duty or service [L *adjunctum*, fr neut of *adjunctus*, pp of *adjungere*] - **adjunct** *adj*, **adjunctly** *adv*, **adjunctive** /'ædʒʊŋktɪv/ *adj*, **adjunctively** *adv*

**ajure** /'ædʒʊə/ *vi* 1 to charge or command solemnly (as if) under oath or penalty of a curse 2 to entreat or advise earnestly USE fml [ME *ajuren*, fr MF & L, MF *ajurer*, fr L *adjurare*, fr *ad-* + *jurare* to swear - more at JURV] - **adjuration** /'ædʒʊ'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **adjuratory** /'ædʒʊərət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**adjust** /'ædʒʊst/ *vt* 1 to bring to a more satisfactory or conformable state by minor change or adaptation, regulate, correct, or modify 2 to determine the amount to be paid under an insurance policy in settlement of (a loss) ~ *vi* to adapt or conform oneself (e.g. to climate) [F *ajuster*, fr *a-* + *juste* exact, just] - **adjustable** *adj*, **adjustive** *adj*, **adjustability** /-stə'bɪləti/ *n*

**adjusted** *adj* having achieved a harmonious relationship with one's environment or with others - often used in combination

**adjuster** also **adjustor** /'ædʒʊstə/ *n* ASSESSOR 3 [ADJUST + -ER]

**adjustment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 a correction or modification to reflect actual conditions 2 a means (e.g. a mechanism) by which things are adjusted one to another 3 a settlement of a disputed claim or debt [ADJUST + -MENT] - **adjustmental** /'ædʒʊst'məntl/ *adj*

**adjutant** /'ædʒʊt(ə)nt/ *n* an officer who assists the commanding officer and is responsible for correspondence and for ensuring that his orders are carried out [L *adjutanti-*, *adjutans*, prp of *adjutare* to help - more at AID] - **adjutancy** /-t(ə)nsɪ/ *n*

**adjutant** /'ædʒʊt(ə)nt/ *n*, pl **adjutants** general the chief administrative officer of an army, responsible for all the personnel and their welfare, training, records, etc

**adjuvant** /'ædʒʊv(ə)nt/ *n* sth that helps or makes esp medical treatment more effective [F or L; F, *ad*, auxiliary, fr L *adjuvant-*, *adjuvans*, prp of *adjuvare* to aid, fr *ad-* + *juvare* to help]

**'ad-lib** /əd'lib/ *adj* spoken, composed, or performed without preparation – *infrm* [*ad lib*]

**'ad-lib** *vb* -bb- to say (e.g. lines or a speech) spontaneously and without preparation; improvise – *ad-lib* *n*

**ad lib** *adv* without restraint or limit [NL *ad libitum* in accordance with desire]

**ad libitum** /əd'libitəm/ *adv* AD LIB

**adman** /əd'mæn/ *n* a member of the advertising profession – *infrm* [*ad + man*]

**admass** /əd'mas/ *n*, chiefly Br a society in which the drive to consume material goods is promoted by mass-media advertising [*advertising + 'mass*] – *admass* *adj*

**admin** /əd'min/ *n*, chiefly Br (work involving) administration – *infrm*  
**administer** /əd'ministə/ *vt* 1 to manage, supervise 2a to mete out, dispense (< ~ punishment>) b to give or perform ritually (< ~ the last rites>) c to give remedially ~ *vi* to perform the office of administrator, manage affairs [ME *administren*, fr MF *administrier*, fr L *administrate*, fr *ad- + ministrare* to serve, fr *minister* servant] – *administrable* /-strəbl/ *adj*, *administrant* *n*

**administration** /əd'minist'reɪʃən/ *n* 1 the act or process of administering 2 performance of executive duties, management 3 the execution of public affairs as distinguished from the making of policy 4a a body of people who administer b *cap* GOVERNMENT 5 [ME *administracioun*, fr MF or L; MF *administration*, fr L *administratio*-, *administratio*, fr *administratus*, pp of *administrare*] – *administrate* /-strayt/ *vb*, *administrational* *adj*, *administrationist* *n*

**administrative** /əd'minist'reɪv/ *adj* of (an) administration – *administratively* *adv*

**administrator** /əd'minist'reɪtə/ *n* sby who administers esp business, school, or governmental affairs [L, *manager*, fr *administratus*]

**administratrix** /əd'minist'reɪtrɪks/ *n*, *pl* *administratrices* /-trɪks/ *adm* *mini*straytrɪsɪz/ a female administrator, esp of an estate [NL]

**admirable** /əd'mɜrəbl/ *adj* deserving the highest respect; excellent – *admirableness* *n*, *admirably* *adv*, *admirability* /əd'mɜrə'bɪləti/ *n*

**admiral** /əd'mɜrəl/ *n* the commander in chief of a navy ➞ RANK [ME, fr MF *amiral* *admiral* & ML *admiralis* *emir*, *admirallus* *admiral*, fr Ar *amir-al* commander of the (as in *amir-al-bahr* commander of the sea)]

**admiral of the fleet** *n* ➞ RANK

**'admiralty** /-ti/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *cap* the executive department formerly having authority over naval affairs 2 the court having jurisdiction over maritime questions ➞ LAW

**Admiralty Board** *n* the department of the Ministry of Defence that administers the British navy

**admiration** /əd'mɜrəʃən/ *n* 1 a feeling of delighted or astonished approval 2 the object of admiring respect

**admire** /əd'mɜr-ə/ *vt* to think highly of, express admiration for – sometimes sarcastically (< I ~ your cheek>) [MF *admirer* to wonder at, fr L *admirari*, fr *ad- + mirari* to wonder – more at SMILE] – *admiringly* *adv*

**admirer** /əd'mɜr-ə/ *n* a woman's suitor [ADMIRE + '-ER]

**admissible** /əd'mɪsəbl/ *adj*, esp of legal evidence capable of being allowed or conceded; permissible [F, fr ML *admissibilis*, fr L *admissus*, pp of *admittere*] – *admissibility* /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*

**admission** /əd'mɪʃən/ *n* 1 acknowledgment that a fact or allegation is true 2a allowing or being allowed to enter sthg (e.g. a secret society) b a fee paid at or for admission – *admissible* /-sɪv/ *adj*

**admit** /əd'mɪt/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1a to allow scope for; permit b to concede as true or valid 2 to allow to enter sthg (e.g. a place or fellowship) ~ *vi* 1 to give entrance or access 2a to allow, permit – often + *of* b to make acknowledgment ~ + *to* [ME *admitten*, fr L *admittere*, fr *ad- + mittere* to send – more at SMITE]

**admittance** /əd'mɪt(ə)ns/ *n* 1 permission to enter a place 2 access, entrance

**admittedly** /əd'mɪtɪdli/ *adv* as must reluctantly be admitted

**admixture** /əd'mɪksəʃə/ *n* 1 mixing or being mixed 2 an ingredient added by mixing, or the resulting mixture [L *admixtus*, pp of *admiscere* to mix with, fr *ad- + miscere* to mix – more at MIX] – *admix* /əd'mɪks/ *vt*

**admonish** /əd'monɪʃ/ *vt* 1a to indicate duties to b to warn about remissness or error, esp gently 2 to give friendly earnest advice or encouragement to [ME *admonesten*, fr MF *admonester*, fr (assumed) VL *admonestare*, alter. of L *admonere* to warn, fr *ad- + monere* to warn – more at MIND] – *admonisher* *n*, *admonishingly* *adv*, *admonishment* *n*

**admonition** /əd'monɪʃən/ *n* (a) gentle friendly reproof, counsel, or

warning [ME *amonicioun*, fr MF *amonition*, fr L *admonition*-, *admonitio*, fr *admonitus*, pp of *admonere*]

**admonitory** /əd'monɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* expressing admonition; warning – *admonitorily* /-t(ə)rɪli/ *adv*

**ad nauseam** /əd'nawzi-əm, -sɪ-əm/ *adv* in an extremely tedious manner; enough to make one sick [L, to sickness]

**ado** /ə'doʊh/ *n* fussy bustling excitement, esp over trivia; to-do [ME, fr *at do*, fr *at + don*, *do* to do]

**adobe** /ə'doʊbi/ *n* 1 a building brick of sun-dried earth and straw 2 a heavy clay used in making adobe bricks [Sp, fr Ar *at-tub* the brick, fr Copt *tobe* brick] – *adobe* *adj*

**adolescent** /əd'ɒləs(ə)nt/ *n* sby in the period of life between puberty and maturity [F, fr L *adolescent*-, *adolescens*, pp of *adolescere* to grow up – more at ADULT] – *adolescent* *adj*, *adolescence* *n*

**Adonai** /ə'də'ni-ə, ə'də'nay-ə/ *n* – used as the sacred title of the God of the Jews, only to be pronounced in solemn prayer and with the head covered [Heb *ādōnāy*]

**Adonis** /ə'doʊnɪs/ *n* a strikingly handsome young man [L, fr Gk *Adonis*, a youth loved by Aphrodite in mythology] – *adonic* *adj*

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/ *vt* 1 to take by choice into a new relationship, *specif* to bring up voluntarily (a child of other parents) as one's own child 2 to take up and practise, take to oneself 3 to vote to accept (< ~ a constitutional amendment>) 4 of a constituency to nominate as a Parliamentary candidate 5 Br, of a local authority to assume responsibility for the maintenance of (e.g. a road) [MF or L, MF *adoptare*, fr L *adoptare*, fr *ad- + optare* to choose – more at OPTION] – *adopter* *n*, *adoptable* *adj*, *adoptability* /-tɪ'bɪləti/ *n*, *adoption* /ə'dɒpʃən/ *n*, *adoptee* /ə'dɒpti-ə/ *n*

**adoptive** /ə'dɒptɪv/ *adj* made or acquired by adoption (<one's ~ country>) (<the ~ father>) – *adoptively* *adv*

**adorable** /ə'dɔwəbl/ *adj* sweetly lovable, charming [ADORE + -ABLE] – *adorableness* *n*, *adorably* *adv*, *adorability* /-rə'bɪləti/ *n*

**adore** /ə'dɔw/ *vt* 1 to worship or honour as a deity 2 to regard with reverent admiration and devotion 3 to like very much – *infrm* [MF *adorer*, fr L *adorare*, fr *ad- + orare* to speak, pray – more at ORATION] – *adorer* *n*, *adoration* /ə'dɔ'reɪʃən/ *n*

**adorn** /ə'dɔwn/ *vt* 1 to decorate, esp with ornaments 2 to add to the pleasantness or attractiveness of [ME *adornen*, fr MF *adorner*, fr L *adornare*, fr *ad- + ornare* to furnish – more at ORNATE] – *adornment* *n*

**ADP** *n* a derivative of adenine that is reversibly converted to ATP for the storing of cellular energy [adenosine diphosphate]

**ad rem** /əd'rem/ *adv* or *adj* to the point or purpose [L, to the matter]

**adren-, adreno-** *comb form* 1 adrenal (<adrenocortical>) 2 adrenalin (<adrenergic>) [*adrenal*]

**'adrenal** /ə'dri:nəl/ *adj* 1 adjacent to the kidneys 2 of or derived from adrenal glands [*ad- + renal*] – *adrenally* *adv*

**²adrenal** *n* ADRENAL GLAND

**'adrenal gland** *n* an endocrine gland near the front of each kidney with a cortex that secretes steroid hormones and a medulla that secretes adrenalin ➞ DIGESTION

**adrenalin, adrenaline** /ə'drenəlɪn/ *n* a hormone produced by the adrenal gland that occurs as a neurotransmitter in the sympathetic nervous system and that stimulates the heart and causes constriction of blood vessels and relaxation of smooth muscle

**adrenergic** /əd'ri:nɜrjɪk/ *adj* 1 liberating or activated by (a substance like) adrenalin 2 of a drug resembling adrenalin [*adren- + Gk ergon* work – more at 'WORK]

**adrenocorticotrophic** /ə'dri:nɔh,kaw'tɪkəh'trɒfɪk/, **adrenocorticotropic** /-trɒfɪk, -trɒpɪk/ *adj* acting on or stimulating the adrenal cortex

**adrenocorticotrophic hormone** *n* a hormone of the front lobe of the pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex

**adrenocorticotrophin** /-trɒfɪn/ *n* ADRENOCORTICOTROPHIC HORMONE

**adrift** /ə'drɪft/ *adv* or *adj* 1 afloat without motive power or mooring and at the mercy of winds and currents 2 in or into a state of being unstuck or unfastened; loose – esp in *come adrift* 3 astray – *infrm* (<his reasoning's gone completely ~>) [*a- + drift*]

**adroit** /ə'droɪt/ *adj* 1 dexterous, nimble 2 marked by shrewdness, readiness, or resourcefulness in coping with difficulty or danger [F, fr *à droit* properly, fr *à* to, at + *droit* right] – *adroitly* *adv*, *adroitness* *n*

**adsorb** /əd'zɔrb/ *vt* to take up and hold by adsorption ~ *vi* to become absorbed [*ad- + -sorb* (as in *absorb*)] – *adsorbable* *adj*, *adsorbent* *adj* or *n*

**adsorption** /əd'zɔ:pʃən/ *n* the adhesion in an extremely thin layer of molecules of gases, liquids, etc to the surface of solids or liquids – compare **absorption** [irreg fr **adsorb**] – **adsorptive** *adj*

**adulate** /ə'dju:leɪt/ *vi* to flatter or admire excessively or slavishly [back-formation fr **adulation**, fr ME, fr MF, fr L **adulation-**, **adulatio**, fr **adulatus**, pp of **adulari** to flatter] – **adulator** *n*, **adulation** /-'ləʃən/ *n*, **adulatory** /ə'dju:lə't(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**adult** /'ædʌlt/ *adj* 1 fully developed and mature, grown-up 2 of or befitting adults <an ~ approach to a problem> 3 suitable only for adults, broadly salacious, pornographic <~ magazines> [L **adultus**, pp of **adolescere** to grow up, fr **ad-** + **-olescere** (fr **alescere** to grow) – more at **OLD**] – **adulthood** /-'hʊd/ *n*, **adultlike** *adj*, **adulthood** *n*

**adult** *n* a grown-up person or creature, esp a human being after an age specified by law (in Britain, 18)

**adult education** *n* mainly nonvocational part-time courses for adults

**adulterate** /ə'dʌltəreɪt/ *vi* to corrupt or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance [L **adulteratus**, pp of **adulterare**, fr **ad-** + **alter** other – more at **ELSE**] – **adulterant** *n* or *adj*, **adulator** *n*, **adulteration** /-'ræʃən/ *n*

**adulterate** /ə'dʌltərəl/ *adj* being adulterated, debased, or impure

**adulterer** /ə'dʌltərə/, *fem* **adulteress** /-'rɪs/ *n* sby who commits adultery

**adultery** /ə'dʌltəri/ *n* (an act of) voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and sby other than his/her spouse [ME, **alter** of **avoutrie**, fr MF, fr L **adulterium**, fr **adulter** adulterer, back-formation fr **adulterare**] – **adulterous** *adj*, **adulterously** *adv*

**adumbrate** /ə'dʌmbreɪt/ *vi* 1 to foreshadow (a future event) vaguely 2 to outline broadly without details **USE** fml [L **adumbratus**, pp of **adumbrare**, fr **ad-** + **umbra** shadow – more at **UMBRA**GE] – **adumbration** /-'bræʃən/ *n*, **adumbrative** /ə'dʌmbreɪtɪv/ *adj*, **adumbratively** *adv*

**ad valorem** /əd'væləwɪrəm/ *adj* or *adv*, of a tax imposed at a rate proportional to the stated value – compare **SPECIFIC** 5b [L, according to the value]

**advance** /əd'vahn/ *vi* 1 to bring or move forwards in position or time <~ the date of the meeting> 2 to accelerate the growth or progress of, further 3 to raise in rank, promote 4 to supply (money or goods) ahead of time or as a loan 5 to bring (an opinion or argument) forward for notice, propose ~ *vi* 1 to go forwards, proceed 2 to make progress 3 to rise in rank, position, or importance [ME **advancen**, fr OF **avancier**, fr (assumed) VL **abantiare**, fr L **ahante** before, fr **ab-** + **ante** before – more at **ANTE-**] – **advancer** *n*

**advance** *n* 1a a moving forward b (a signal for) forward movement (of troops) 2a progress in development, an improvement <an ~ in medical technique> b **ADVANCEMENT** 1a 3 a friendly or esp an amorous approach – usu pl <her attitude discouraged all ~s> 4 (a provision of) money or goods supplied before a return is received – in **advance** beforehand

**advance** *adj* 1 made, sent, or provided ahead of time 2 going or situated ahead of others <an ~ party of soldiers>

**advanced** *adj* 1 far on in time or course <a man ~ in years> 2 beyond the elementary; more developed <~ chemistry>

**Advanced level** *n*, often **cap L** an examination that is the second of the 3 levels of the British General Certificate of Education and is a partial qualification for university entrance

**advancement** /-'mɑ:nt/ *n* 1a (a) promotion or elevation to a higher rank or position b furtherance towards perfection or completeness <the ~ of knowledge> 2 an advance of money or value [ADVANCE + -MENT]

**advantage** /əd'vɑ:ntɪj/ *n* 1 superiority of position or condition <higher ground gave the enemy the ~> – often + *of* or *over* 2 a benefit, gain; esp one resulting from some course of action <a mistake which turned out to his ~> 3 (the score of) the first point won in tennis after deuce [ME **avantage**, fr MF, fr **avant** before, fr L **abante**] – to **advantage** so as to produce a favourable impression or effect

**advantageous** /əd'vɑ:ntɪjəs/ *adj* furnishing an advantage; favourable – **advantageously** *adv*

**advection** /əd'vekʃən/ *n* the horizontal movement of a mass of air causing changes esp in its temperature [L **advection-**, **advection** act of bringing, fr **advectus**, pp of **advehere** to carry to, fr **ad-** + **vehere** to carry – more at **WAY**] – **advective** /-'vektɪv/ *adj*

**Advent** /'ædvnt-, -vənt/ *n* 1 the 4-week period before Christmas, observed by some Christians as a season of prayer and fasting <the second Sunday in ~> 2 the coming of Christ to earth as a human being 3 *not cap* a coming into being; an arrival <the ~ of spring> [ME, fr ML **adventus**, fr L, arrival, fr **adventus**, pp]

**Adventism** /'ædvntɪz(ə)m-, -vən-/ *n* the doctrine that the second coming of Christ and the end of the world are near at hand – **Adventist** *adj* or *n*

**adventitious** /əd'vɛn'tɪʃəs-, -ven-/ *adj* 1 coming accidentally or casually from another source, extraneous 2 occurring sporadically or in an unusual place <~ buds on a plant> [L **adventicius** coming from outside, fr **adventus**, pp] – **adventitiously** *adv*, **adventitiousness** *n*

**adventure** /əd'venʃə/ *n* 1 an undertaking involving danger, risks, and uncertainty of outcome, broadly (an) exciting or remarkable experience 2 an enterprise involving financial risk [ME **aventure**, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL **adventura**, fr L **adventus**, pp of **advenire** to arrive, fr **ad-** + **venire** to come – more at **COME**] – **adventuresome** /-'ʃ(ə)m/ *adj*, **adventurous** *adj*, **adventurously** *adv*, **adventurousness** *n*

**adventure** *vi* to venture, risk ~ *vi* 1 to hazard oneself, dare to go or enter 2 to take a risk

**adventure playground** *n* a children's playground equipped with large interesting often old or disused objects

**adventurer** /əd'venʃərə/, *fem* **adventuress** /-'rɪs/ *n* 1 sby who takes part in an adventure, esp **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE** 2 sby who seeks wealth or position by unscrupulous means

**adventurism** /əd'venʃə'rɪz(ə)m/ *n* risky improvisation, esp in politics – **adventurist** *n*, **adventuristic** /-'rɪstɪk/ *adj*

**adverb** /əd'vɜ:b/ *n* a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a preposition, a phrase, a clause, or a sentence, and that answers such questions as how?, when?, where?, etc [MF **adverbe**, fr L **adverbium**, fr **ad-** + **verbum** word – more at **WORD**]

**adverbial** /əd'vɜ:bɪəl/ *adj* of or functioning as an adverb – **adverbial** *n*, **adverbially** *adv*

**adversary** /əd'vɜ:s(ə)rɪ/ *n* an enemy, opponent, or opposing faction

**adversative** /əd'vɜ:sətɪv/ *adj* expressing contrast, opposition, or adverse circumstance <the ~ conjunction but> – **adversatively** *adv*

**adverse** /əd'vɜ:s-, əd'vɜ:s/ *adj* 1 acting against or in a contrary direction <hindered by ~ winds> 2 unfavourable <~ criticism> [ME, fr MF **advers**, fr L **adversus**, pp of **advertere**] – **adversely** /əd'vɜ:slɪ/ *adv*, **adverseness** *n*

**adversity** /əd'vɜ:sɪtɪ/ *n* a condition of suffering, affliction, or hardship

**advert** /əd'vɜ:t/ *vi* to make a (glancing) reference or refer casually to – fml [ME **adverten**, fr MF & L; MF **advertir**, fr L **advertere**, fr **ad-** + **vertere** to turn – more at **WORTH**]

**advert** /əd'vɜ:t/ *n*, chiefly *Br* an advertisement

**advertise** /əd'vɜ:tɪz/ *vi* 1 to make publicly and generally known <~d her presence by sneezing> 2 to announce (e.g. an article for sale or a vacancy) publicly, esp in the press 3 to encourage sales or patronage of, esp by emphasizing desirable qualities ~ *vi* 1 to encourage sales or patronage, esp by description in the mass media 2 to seek for by means of advertising [ME **advertisen**, fr MF **advertiss-**, stem of **advertir**] – **advertiser** *n*

**advertisement** /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt-, -tɪz-, əd'vɜ:tɪzmənt/ *n* a public notice; esp one published, broadcast, or displayed publicly to advertise a product, service, etc [ADVERTISE + -MENT]

**advertising** /əd'vɜ:tɪzɪŋ/ *n* 1 the action of calling sthg to the attention of the public, esp by paid announcements 2 advertisements <the magazine contains much ~> 3 the profession of preparing advertisements for publication or broadcast

**advice** /əd'vɪs/ *n* 1 recommendation regarding a decision or course of conduct <my ~ to you is: don't do it> 2 communication, esp from a distance; intelligence – usu pl 3 an official notice concerning a business transaction <a remittance ~> [ME, fr OF **avis** opinion, prob fr the phrase *ce m'est avis* that appears to me, part trans of L *mihi visum est* it seemed so to me, I decided]

**advisable** /əd'vɪzəbl/ *adj* fitting to be advised or done; prudent – **advisability** /-'zə'bɪlətɪ/ *n*, **advisably** *adv*

**advise** /əd'vɪz/ *vi* 1a to give advice to <~ her to try a drier climate> b to caution, warn <~ him against going> 2 to give information or notice to, inform <~ his friends of his intentions> ~ *vi* to give advice [MF **avisen**, fr OF **aviser**, fr **avis**] – **adviser**, **advisor** *n*

**advised** *adj* 1 thought out; considered – chiefly in *ill-advised*, *well-advised* 2 informed – in *keep someone advised* – **advisedly** /-'zɪdli/ *adv*

**advisory** /əd'vɪz(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 having or exercising power to advise 2 containing or giving advice

**advocaet** /əd'vɔ:kəh/ *n* a sweet liqueur consisting chiefly of brandy and eggs [D, short for **advocaetborrel**, fr **advocaet** lawyer + **borrel** drink, bubble, fr **borrelen** to bubble]



**advocacy** /'advəkəi/ *n* 1 active support or pleading (*her ~ of reform*)  
2 the function of an advocate [ADVOCATE + -CY]

**advocate** /'advəkət/ *n* 1 a professional pleader before a tribunal or court  
2 one who defends or supports a cause or proposal [ME *advocar*, fr MF, fr L *advocatus*, fr pp of *advocare* to summon, fr *ad-* + *vocare* to call – more at VOICE]

**advocate** /'advəkəy/ *vt* to plead in favour of – *advocator n*, *advocatory adj*

**advowson** /'advəwz(ə)n/ *n* the right of presenting a nominee to a vacant benefice in the Church of England [ME, fr OF *avoueson*, fr ML *advocation-*, *advocatio*, fr L, act of calling, fr *advocatus*, pp]

**adytum** /'aditəm/ *n*, *pl adyta* /-tə/ the innermost sanctuary in an ancient temple; the sanctum [L, fr Gk *adyton*, neut of *adytos* not to be entered, fr *a-* + *dyein* to enter; akin to Skt *upā-du* to put on]

**adze**, *NAM chiefly adz* /adz/ *n* a tool that has the blade at right angles to the handle for cutting or shaping wood [ME *adse*, fr OE *adesse*]

**ae** /ay/ *adj*, *chiefly Scot* one [ME (northern) *a*, alter of *an*]

**ae** /-i-, -ee, -ie/ *suffix* (– *n pl*) members of the family or subfamily of *<Compositae>* – in names of animal and some plant families and plant subfamilies [NL, fr L, pl of -*a*, ending of fem nouns and adjectives]

**aedile** /'ædiəl/ *n* an ancient Roman official in charge of public works, the grain supply, etc [L *aedilis*, fr *aedes* temple – more at EDIFY]

**aegis** /'eɪjɪs/ *n* auspices, sponsorship (*under the ~ of the education department*) [L, shield of Jupiter or Minerva, protection, fr Gk *aigis* goatskin, shield of Zeus, perh fr *aig-*, *aux* goat; akin to Arm *aic* goat]

**aegrotat** /'eɡrət/ *n* an unclassified degree awarded in British universities to a student prevented by illness from taking his/her examinations [L, he is ill, fr *aegrotare* to be ill, fr *aegr-*, *aeger* ill]

**aemia**, *chiefly NAM* *aemia* /'i:emɪə, -'eemi-/ *comb form* 1 condition of having (such) usu abnormal blood (*leukaemia*) 2 condition of having (sthg specified) usu abnormally in the blood (*uraemia*) [NL, fr Gk -*aimia*, fr *haima* blood]

**aeolian**, *NAM chiefly eolian* /'eəli-ən/ *adj* borne, deposited, or produced by the wind [Aeolus, god of the winds, fr L, fr Gk *Aiolos*]

**Aeolian**, *Ae'olic* /-hik/ *adj* of Aeolis or its inhabitants [Aeolis, *Aeolia*, ancient district of Asia Minor, fr L, fr Gk *Aiolis*]

**Aeolian** *n* 1 a member of a group of Greek peoples of Thessaly and Boeotia that colonized Lesbos and the adjacent coast of Asia Minor 2 Aeolic, *Aeolian* a group of ancient Greek dialects used by the Aeolians

**aeolian** 'harp *n* a stringed musical instrument on which the wind produces varying harmonics over the same fundamental tone


**aeolotropic** /'eə-ələ'trɒpɪk/ *adj* anisotropic [Gk *aiolos* variegated] – *aeolotropy* /'eə-ələ'trɒpi/ *n*

**aeon**, *eon* /'eə-ən, 'eə-ən/ *n* 1 an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time 2 a unit of geological time equal to 1000 million years [L, fr Gk *aión* – more at AYE]

**aer-** /'eə-/ *aero-* *comb form* 1 air; atmosphere (*aerate*) (*aerobiology*) 2 gas (*aerosol*) 3 aircraft (*aerodrome*) [ME *aero-*, fr MF, fr L, fr Gk *aer-*, *aero-*, fr *aēr*]

**aerate** /'eəreɪt, -'i-/ *vt* 1 to combine, supply, charge, or impregnate with a gas, esp air, oxygen, or carbon dioxide 2 to make effervescent – *aerator n*, *aeration* /'eə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**aerial** /'eəri-əl/ *adj* 1a of or occurring in the air or atmosphere b consisting of air (*~ particles*) c growing in the air rather than in the ground or water (*~ roots*) d operating overhead on elevated cables or rails (*an ~ railway*) 2 lacking substance; thin 3a of aircraft (*~ navigation*) b by or from an aircraft (*~ photo*) 4 lofty (*~ spires*) – poetic 5 ethereal (*visions of ~ joy* – P B Shelley) – poetic [L *aerius*, fr Gk *aēríos*, fr *aēr*] – *aerially adv*

**aerial** *n* a conductor (e.g. a wire) or arrangement of conductors designed to radiate or receive radio waves  TELEVISION

**aerie** /'eəri, 'iəri/ *n* an eyrie

**aero** /'eəro/ *adj* of aircraft or aeronautics (*an ~ engine*) [*aer-*, *aero-*]


**aerobatics** /'eərə'bætiks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the performance of feats (e.g. rolls) in an aircraft [blend of *aer-* and *acrobatics*] – *aerobatic adj*

**aerobe** /'eərohb/ *n* an organism (e.g. a bacterium) that lives only in the presence of oxygen [F *aérobie*, fr *aér-* *aer-* + *-bie* (fr Gk *bios* life) – more at QUICK] – *aerobic* /'eə'rɒbɪk/ *adj*

**aerodrome** /'eərə'drɒm/ *n*, *chiefly Br* an airfield

**aerodynamics** /'eərə'di-neimiks, -di-/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the dynamics of the motion of (solid bodies moving through) gases (e.g. air)

– *aerodynamic adj*, *aerodynamically adv*, *aerodynamicist* /-di-'næməsɪst, -di-/ *n*

**aerofoil** /'eərə'fɔɪl, -rɒh-/ *n*, *chiefly Br* a body (e.g. an aircraft wing) designed to provide an aerodynamic reaction  FLIGHT [*aer-* + *'foil*]


**aerogram**, *aerogramme* /'eərə'græm/ *n* AIR LETTER 2

**aerolite** /'eərə'li:t/ also *aerolith* /-lɪθ/ *n* a stony meteorite – *aerolitic* /-lɪtɪk/ *adj*

**aerology** /'eərə'lɔːjɪ/ *n* meteorology – *aerological* /'eərə'lɔːjɪkəl/ *adj*, *aerologist* /'eərə'lɔːjɪst/ *n*

**aeronaut** /'eərə'nɔːt/ *n* one who operates or travels in an airship or balloon [F *aéronaute*, fr *aér-* *aer-* + Gk *nautes* sailor – more at NAUTICAL]

**aeronautics** /'eərə'nɔːtɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* the art or science of flight – *aeronautical adj*, *aeronautically adv*

**aeroplane** /'eərə'pleɪn/ *n*, *chiefly Br* an aircraft that is heavier than air, has nonrotating wings from which it derives its lift, and is mechanically propelled (e.g. by a propeller or jet engine)  FLIGHT [prob fr LGk *aeroplanos* wandering in air, fr Gk *aer-* + *planos* wandering, fr *planasthai* to wander – more at PLANET]

**aerosol** /'eərə'sɒl/ *n* 1 a suspension of fine solid or liquid particles in gas (e.g. fog or smoke) 2 a substance dispersed from a pressurized container as an aerosol 3 AEROSOL CONTAINER [*aer-* + *'sol*]

**aerosol** *vt* -ll- to write with an aerosol (*a slogan ~ed on a wall*)

**aerosol container** *n* a metal container for substances in aerosol form

**aerosol pack** *n* AEROSOL CONTAINER

**aerospace** /'eərəʊ'spays/ *n* 1 (a branch of physical science dealing with) the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond 2 the aerospace industry

**aerospace** *adj* of or relating to aerospace, to vehicles used in aerospace or the manufacture of such vehicles, or to travel in aerospace (*~ research*) (*~ medicine*)

**Aertex** /'eə'teks/ *trademark* – used for a cellular cotton fabric

**Aesculapian** /'eskju:'ləpi-ən/ *adj* of the healing art, medical [Aesculapius, Greco-Roman god of medicine, fr L, fr Gk *Asklepios*]

**aesthesia**, *NAM* *aesthesia* /'es'thi:ziə, -z(h)ə/ *n* the capacity for sensation and feeling [NL, back-formation fr *anaesthesia*]

**aesthesio-**, *NAM chiefly esthesio-* *comb form* sensation (*aesthesiology*) [Gk *aisthēsis*]

**aesthete**, *NAM also esthete* /'es,θi:t/ *n* 1 one who has or professes a developed sensitivity to the beautiful in art or nature 2 one who affects concern for the arts and indifference to practical affairs [back-formation fr *aesthetic*]

**aesthetic** /'es'thetɪk, es-, ə-/ also *aesthetical* /-kl/, *NAM also esthetic* also *esthetical adj* 1a of or dealing with aesthetics or the appreciation of the beautiful (*~ theories*) b artistic (*a work of ~ value*) 2 having a developed sense of beauty [G *ästhetisch*, fr NL *aestheticus*, fr Gk *aisthētikos* of sense perception, fr *aisthanesthai* to perceive – more at AUDIBLE] – *aesthetically adv*

**aestheticism** /'es'thetɪsɪz(ə)m/, *NAM also estheticism* /'es-, es-/ *n* 1 the doctrine that the principles of beauty form a fundamental standard prior to other, esp moral, principles 2 devotion to or emphasis on beauty or the cultivation of the arts

**aesthetics** /'es'thetiks/, *NAM also esthetics* /'es-, es-/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of the beautiful, with judgments concerning beauty and taste, and with theories of criticism in the arts – *aesthetician* /-θə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**aestivate**, *NAM also estivate* /'eesti'veɪt/ *vi*, of animals, esp insects to pass the summer in a state of torpor – compare HIBERNATE [L *aestivatus*, pp of *aestivare* to spend the summer, fr *aestivus* of summer, fr *aestas* summer – more at EDIFY]

**aestivation** /'eesti'veɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the arrangement of floral parts in a bud – compare VERNATION [AESTIVATE + -ION]


**aether** /'eethə/ *n* ETHER 1, 2

**aetiology**, *chiefly NAM* *etiology* /'eeti'lɔːjɪ/ *n* (the study of) the causes or origin, specif of a disease or abnormal condition [ML *aetiologia* statement of causes, fr Gk *aitiologia*, fr *aitia* cause; akin to L *semulus* rivaling] – *aetiologic* /'eeti-ə'lɔːjɪk/, *aetiological adj*, *aetiologically adv*

**af-** – see AD-

**afar** /ə'fɑː/ *adv* or *n* (from, to, or at) a great distance (*saw her ~ off*) (*saw him from ~*) [ME *afēr*, fr *on fer* at a distance & of *fer* from a distance]

**affable** /'æfəbl/ *adj* 1 being pleasant and relaxed in talking to others 2 characterized by ease and friendliness; benign [MF, fr L *affabilis*, fr *affari*

- to speak to, fr *ad-* + *fari* to speak – more at 'BAN] – **affably** *adv*, **affability** /əfə'bɪləti/ *n*
- affair** /ə'feə/ *n* 1a *pl* commercial, professional, or public business or matters <world ~s> b a particular or personal concern <that's my ~, not yours> 2a a procedure, action, or occasion only vaguely specified b a social event, a party <a catered ~> 3 also *affaire*, *affaire de cœur* a romantic or passionate attachment between 2 people who are not married to each other, often of considerable but limited duration 4 a matter causing public anxiety, controversy, or scandal <the Dreyfus ~> 5 an object or collection of objects only vaguely specified – used with a descriptive or qualifying term, *informal* <the house was a 2-storey ~> [ME & MF; ME *affaire*, fr MF, fr *a faire* to do]
- effect** /ə'fekt/ *n* the conscious subjective aspect of an emotion considered apart from bodily changes [G *afekt*, fr L *affectus* disposition, fr *affectus*, pp]
- effect** /ə'fekt/ *vt* 1 to be given to <~ *flashy clothes*> 2 to put on a pretence of (being), feign <~ *indifference*> <~ *the experienced traveller*> [MF & L; MF *affecter* to aim at, fr L *affectare*, fr *affectus*, pp of *affectere* to influence, fr *ad-* + *facere* to do – more at 'DO]
- affect** *vt* to have a material effect on or produce an alteration in <paralysis ~ed his limbs> 2 to act on (e.g. a person or his/her mind or feelings) so as to effect a response <was deeply ~ed by the news>
- affection** /ə'fekʃən/ *n* 1 an insincere display (e.g. of a quality not really possessed) <the ~ of righteous indignation> 2 a deliberately assumed peculiarity of speech or conduct, an artificiality
- affected** /ə'fektɪd/ *adj* 1 inclined, disposed towards – chiefly in *well-affected*, *ill-affected* 2a given to affection b assumed artificially or falsely; pretended <an ~ interest in art> – **affectedly** *adv*, **affectedness** *n*
- affecting** /ə'fekʃɪŋ/ *adj* evoking a strong emotional response, moving – **affectingly** *adv*
- affection** /ə'fekʃən/ *n* 1 emotion as compared with reason – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning 2 tender and lasting attachment; fondness <she had a deep ~ for her parents> [ME, fr MF *affection*, fr L *affection-*, *affectio*, fr *affectus*, pp] – **affectional** *adj*, **affectionally** *adv*
- affection** *n* a disease, malady, or other bodily condition
- affectionate** /ə'fekʃənət/ *adj* 1 showing affection or warm regard, loving 2 proceeding from affection, tender <~ *care*> – **affectionately** *adv*
- effective** /ə'fektɪv/ *adj* 1 of, arising from, or influencing affect, emotional <~ *disorders*> 2 expressing emotion <~ *language*> – **effectively** *adv*, **effectivity** /ə'fektɪvəti/ *n*
- afferent** /ə'fərənt/ *adj* bearing or conducting (nervous impulses) inwards (towards the brain) – compare **fferent** [L *afferent-*, *afferens*, prp of *afferre* to bring to, fr *ad-* + *ferre* to bear – more at 'BEAR] – **afferently** *adv*
- affiance** /ə'fi:əns/ *vt* to promise (oneself or another) solemnly in marriage; betroth [MF *afiancer*, fr *afiance* trust, fr *afier* to trust, fr ML *affidare*, fr L *ad-* + (assumed) VL *fidare* to trust – more at 'FIANCE]
- affidavit** /ə'fɪdəvɪt/ *n* a sworn written statement for use as judicial proof [ML, he has made an oath, fr *affidare*]
- affiliate** /ə'fɪliət/ *vt* to attach as a member or branch – + *to* or *with* <the union is ~d to the TUC> – *vi* to connect or associate oneself with another, often in a dependent or subordinate position, combine [ML *affiliatus*, pp of *affiliare* to adopt as a son, fr L *ad-* + *filus* son – more at FEMININE] – **affiliation** /ə'fɪliəʃən/ *n*
- affiliate** /ə'fɪliət/ *vt* / *n* an affiliated person or organization
- affiliation order** /ə'fɪliəʃən/ *n* a legal order that the father of an illegitimate child must pay towards its maintenance
- affinity** /ə'fɪnəti/ *n* 1 SYMPATHY 2a <this mysterious ~ between us> 2 an attraction, esp between substances, causing them to combine chemically 3 resemblance based on relationship or causal connection [ME *affinitie*, fr MF or L; MF *affinité*, fr L *affinitas*, fr *affinis* bordering on, related by marriage, fr *ad-* + *finis* end, border]
- affirm** /ə'fɪrm/ *vt* 1a to validate, confirm b to state positively 2 to assert (e.g. a judgment of a lower court) as valid; ratify ~ *vi* 1 to testify by affirmation 2 to uphold a judgment or decree of a lower court [ME *afferren*, fr MF *affermer*, fr L *affirmare*, fr *ad-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr *firmus* firm – more at 'FIRM] – **affirmable** *adj*, **affirmance** *n*
- affirmation** /ə'fɪməʃən/ *n* 1 sth affirmed; a positive assertion 2 a solemn declaration made by sb who conscientiously declines taking an oath [AFFIRM + -ATION]
- affirmative** /ə'fɪmətɪv/ *adj* 1 asserting or answering that the fact is so <gave an ~ nod> 2 favouring or supporting a proposition or motion <an ~ vote> 3 chiefly NAm positive <an ~ responsibility> – **affirmatively** *adv*
- affirmative** *n* 1 an expression (e.g. the word *yes*) of agreement or assent 2 an affirmative proposition
- affix** /ə'fɪks/ *vt* 1 to attach (physically) <~ a stamp to a letter>; esp to add in writing <~ a signature> 2 to impress <~ed his seal> [ML *affixare*, fr L *affixus*, pp of *affigere* to fasten to, fr *ad-* + *figere* to fasten – more at DYKE] – **affixable** *adj*, **affixment**, **affixation** /ə'fɪksəʃən/ *n*, **affixture** /ə'fɪksʃə/ *n*
- affix** /ə'fɪks/ *n* 1 an addition to the beginning or end of or an inversion in a word or root to produce a derivative word or inflectional form 2 an appendage – **affixal** /ə'fɪksəl/, **affixial** /ə'fɪksɪəl/ *adj*
- afflatus** /ə'flaɪtəs/ *n* divine imparting of knowledge or mental power; inspiration [L, act of blowing or breathing on, fr *afflatus*, pp of *afflare* to blow on, fr *ad-* + *flare* to blow – more at 'BLOW]
- afflict** /ə'flɪkt/ *vt* 1 to distress so severely as to cause persistent suffering 2 to trouble <~ed with shyness> [ME *afflicten* to overthrow, fr L *afflictus*, pp of *affligere* to cast down, fr *ad-* + *ligere* to strike – more at PROFLIGATE]
- affliction** /ə'flɪkʃən/ *n* 1 great suffering 2 a cause of persistent pain or distress [AFFLICT + -ION]
- affluent** /ə'fluənt/ *adj* 1 flowing in abundance 2 having a generously sufficient supply of material possessions, wealthy <our ~ society> [ME, fr MF, fr L *affluent-*, *affluens*, prp of *affluere* to flow to, flow abundantly, fr *ad-* + *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID] – **affluence** /-əns/, **affluency** /-ənə/ *n*, **affluently** *adv*
- afford** /ə'fawd/ *vt* 1a to be able to do or to bear without serious harm – esp + *can* <you can't ~ to neglect your health> b to be able to bear the cost of <~ a new coat> 2 to provide, supply <her letters ~ no clue to her intentions> [ME *aforthen*, fr OE *geforthian* to carry out, fr *ge-*, perfective prefix + *forthian* to carry out, fr *forth* – more at CO, FORTH] – **affordable** *adj*
- afforest** /ə'fɒrɪst/ *vt* to establish or plant forest cover on [ML *afforestare*, fr L *ad-* + ML *forestis* forest – more at FOREST] – **afforestation** /ə'fɒrɪstəʃən/ *n*
- affranchise** /ə'frantʃiəz/ *vt* to set free, enfranchise [modif of MF *affranchiss-*, stem of *affranchir*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *franchir* to free – more at FRANCHISE]
- affray** /ə'freɪ/ *n* a (public) brawl [ME, fr MF, fr *affreer* to startle]
- affricate** /ə'frɪkət/ *n* a composite speech sound consisting of a stop and an immediately following fricative (e.g. the /t/ and /ʃ/ that are the constituents of the /tʃ/ in *why choose*) [prob fr G *affrikata*, fr L *affricata*, fem of *affricatus*, pp of *affricare* to rub against, fr *ad-* + *fricare* to rub – more at FRICTION] – **affrication** /ə'frɪkəʃən/ *n*, **affricative** /ə'frɪkətɪv/ *n* or *adj*
- affront** /ə'frʌnt/ *vt* to insult by openly insolent or disrespectful behaviour or language, give offence to [ME *affronten*, fr MF *afronter* to defy, fr (assumed) VL *affrontare*, fr L *ad-* + *front-*, *frons* forehead – more at BRINK] – **affront** *n*
- Afghan** /ə'fɑːn/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Afghanistan 2 Pashto 3 *not cap* a blanket or shawl of coloured wool knitted or crocheted in strips or squares 4 **Afghan**, **Afghan** *hound* a tall hunting dog with a coat of silky thick hair [Pashto *afghani*] – **Afghan** *adj*
- afghani** /ə'fɑːni/ *n*, *pl* **afghanis**  *Afghanistan* at NATIONALITY [Pashto *afghani*, lit., Afghan]
- aficionado** /ə'fɪʃiə'nəʃiədo/ *fem* **aficionada** /-nəʃiədo/ *n*, *pl* **aficionados**, *fem* **aficionadas** a devotee, fan <~s of the bullfight> [Sp, fr pp of *aficionar* to inspire affection, fr *aficion* affection, fr L *affection-*, *affectio* – more at AFFECTION]
- afield** /ə'fi:ld/ *adv* 1 to, in, or on the field 2 (far) away from home, abroad 3 out of the way, astray <irrelevant remarks that carried us far ~> [ME *afelde*, fr OE *on felda*, fr *on* + *felda*, dat of *feld* field]
- afire** /ə'fi:ə/ *adj* or *adv* on fire <~ with enthusiasm>
- afire** /ə'fi:ə/ *adj* or *adv* on fire <~ with enthusiasm>
- afire** /ə'fi:ə/ *adj* or *adv* on fire
- afatoxin** /ə'fəʊtɒksɪn/ *n* any of several poisons that are produced by moulds (e.g. in badly stored peanuts) and cause (liver) cancers [NL *Aspergillus flavus*, species of mould + E *toxin*]
- afloat** /ə'fləʊt/ *adj* or *adv* 1a borne (as if) on the water or air b at sea or on ship 2 free of debt 3 circulating about, rumoured <nasty stories were ~> 4 flooded with or submerged under water [ME *afloot*, fr OE *on flot*, fr *on* + *flot*, fr *flot* deep water, sea; akin to OE *flotan* to float – more at FLEET]
- afutter** /ə'flʌtə/ *adj* fluttering
- afoot** /ə'fʊʊt/ *adv* or *adj* 1 on foot 2 (in the process of) happening; astringent <there's trouble ~>

**afore** /ə'faw/ *adv, conj, or prep, chiefly dial* before [ME, fr OE *onforan*, fr *on* + *foran* before – more at **BEFORE**]

**aforementioned** /ə'faw.menʃənd/ *adj* mentioned previously

**aforesaid** /ə'faw.sed/ *adj* aforementioned

**aforethought** /ə'faw.thawt/ *adj* premeditated, deliberate – fml; esp in with malice *aforethought*

**a fortiori** /ə'fawti'awri/ *adv* with still greater reason or certainty – used in drawing a conclusion that is inferred to be even more certain than another <if he can afford a house, ~, he can afford a tent> [NL, lit., from the stronger (argument)]

**Afr-** – see **AFRO-**

**afraid** /ə'frayd/ *adj* 1 filled with fear or apprehension <~ of machines> <~ for his job> 2 regretfully of the opinion – in apology for an utterance <I'm ~ I won't be able to go> [ME *affraied*, fr pp of *affraien* to frighten, fr MF *affreer*]

**afreet** /ə'freet, ə'freet/, **afrit** /ə'frit/ *n* a powerful evil spirit or monster in Arabic mythology [Ar *'ifrit*]

**afresh** /ə'frefh/ *adv* anew, again [ME, fr *'a-* + *fresh*]

**African** /ə'frɪkən/ *n or adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Africa [ME, fr L *Africanus*, fr *Africa*] – **Africanness** /-nis/ *n*

**Africaner**, **Afrikaander** /ə'frɪkəndə/ *n* (any of) a breed of tall red large-horned southern African cattle [Afrik *Afrikaner*, *Afrikaander*, lit., *Afrikaner*]

**Africanism** /ə'frɪkənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a characteristic feature of African culture or language 2 allegiance to the traditions, interests, or ideals of Africa

**Africanist** /ə'frɪkənɪst/ *n* a specialist in African cultures or languages

**African-ize**, **-ise** /ə'frɪkənɪz/ *vt* to make African; esp to bring under (Black) African control – **Africanization** /-nɪzə'zeɪʃən/ *n*

**African violet** *n* any of several tropical African plants grown as houseplants for their velvety leaves and showy purple, pink, or white flowers

**Afrikaans** /ə'frɪkənz/ *n* a language of S Africa developed from 17th-c Dutch [Afrik, fr *afrikaans*, *adj*, African, fr obs Afrik *afrikanisch*, fr L *africanus*]

**Afrikaner** /ə'frɪkənə/ *n* an Afrikaans-speaking S African of European, esp Dutch, descent [Afrik, lit., African, fr L *africanus*]


**Afrikanerdom** /-dəm/ *n* the political and social supremacy of Afrikaners in S Africa


**afrit** /ə'frit/ *n* an afreet

**Afro** /ə'fro/ *n or adj, pl Afro*s (a hairstyle) shaped into a round curly bushy mass [prob fr *Afro-American*]

**Afro-** /ə'fro-, Afr- *comb form* African <Afro-American>; African and <Afro-Asiatic> [L *Afr-*, *Afer*]

**Afro-Asiatic** *adj* of or constituting a family of languages comprising Semitic, Egyptian, Berber, Cushitic, and Chad

**aft** /aht/ *adv* near, towards, or in the stern of a ship or the tail of an aircraft  SHIP [ME *aft* back, fr OE *aftan* from behind, behind; akin to OE *after*]

**aft** *adj* rearward; **AFTER** 2 <the ~ decks>  SHIP

**after** /'ahftə/ *adv* 1 **BEHIND** 1b (mourners follow ~ – SEU S) 2 afterwards [ME, fr OE *after*; akin to OHG *aftar* after]

**after** *prep* 1 behind in place or order <shut the door ~ you> – used in yielding precedence <~ you!> or in asking for the next turn <~ you with the pencil> 2a following in time; later than <~ breakfast> b continuously succeeding <saw play ~ play> c in view or in spite of (sthg preceding) <~ all our advice> 3 – used to indicate the goal or purpose of an action <go ~ gold> 4 so as to resemble: e g a in accordance with b in allusion to the name of c in the characteristic manner of d in imitation of 5 about, concerning <ask ~ his health>

**after** *conj* later than the time when

**after** *adj* 1 later, subsequent <in ~ years> 2 located towards the rear or stern of a ship, aircraft, etc

**after** *all* *adv* 1 in spite of everything 2 it must be remembered <he can't swim but, ~, he's only 2>

**afterbirth** /-bʊθ/ *n* the placenta and foetal membranes expelled after delivery of a baby, young animal, etc

**afterburner** /-bʊhna/ *n* a device in a jet engine for providing reheat

**aftercare** /-keə/ *n* the care, treatment, etc given to people discharged from a hospital or other institution

**aftereffect** /-i:ekt/ *n* an effect that follows its cause after an interval of time

**afterglow** /-gləʊ/ *n* 1 a glow remaining (e g in the sky) where a light

source has disappeared 2 a vestige of past splendour, success, or happy emotion

**after-hours** *adj or adv* (done or operating) after closing time

**afterimage** /-ɪmɪj/ *n* a usu visual sensation remaining after stimulation (e g of the retina) has ceased

**afterlife** /-li:f/ *n* 1 an existence after death 2 a later period in one's life

**aftermath** /-məθ, -math/ *n* 1 a second growth of forage after the harvest of an earlier crop 2 a consequence, result 3 the period immediately following a usu ruinous event <in the ~ of the war> [**after** + *math* (mowing, crop)]

**aftermost** /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest aft

**afternoon** /-ˈnoʊn/ *n* the time between noon and sunset – **afternoon** *adj*

**afternoons** *adv, chiefly NAm* in the afternoon repeatedly, on any afternoon <~ he usually slept>

**afters** /'ahftəz/ *n pl, Br* a dessert – *infrml*

**after-shave** *n* (a) usu scented lotion for use on the face after shaving

**aftertaste** /-ˈtaɪst/ *n* persistence of a flavour or impression <the bitter ~ of a quarrel>

**afterthought** /-ˈθɔ:t/ *n* 1 an idea occurring later 2 sthg added later

**afterwards** /-ˈwɔ:dz/ *adv* after that, subsequently, thereafter <for years ~>

**afterword** /-ˈwɜ:ld/ *n* EPILOGUE 1

**again** /ə'gaɪn, ə'gen/ *adv* 1 so as to be as before <put it back ~> 2 another time; once more 3 on the other hand <he might go, and ~ he might not> 4 further; IN ADDITION <could eat as much ~> [ME, opposite, again, fr OE *ocean* opposite, back, fr *on* + *gen*, *gean* still, again; akin to OE *gean-* against, OHG *gegin* against, towards]

**again** and **again** *adv* often, repeatedly

**against** /ə'gaɪnst, ə'genst/ *prep* 1a in opposition or hostility to <the rule ~ smoking> b unfavourable to <his appearance is ~ him> c as a defence or protection from <warned them ~ opening the box> 2 compared or contrasted with <cost only £2, as ~ £3 at home> 3a in preparation or provision for <saving ~ his retirement> b with respect to, towards <customs which had the force of law ~ both landlord and tenant> 4 (in the direction of and) in contact with <rain beat ~ the windows> <leaning ~ the wall> 5 in a direction opposite to the motion or course of, counter to <swam ~ the tide> 6 in exchange for [ME, alter of *againes*, fr *again*]

**against** *adj* 1 opposed to a motion or measure 2 unfavourable to a specified degree, esp unfavourable to a win <the odds are 2 to 1 ~>

**Agā Khan** /ˈɑ:ɡəˈkɑ:n/ *n* the leader of a Shiite sect of Muslims [Turk *āga* lord, master]

**agametic** /ə'gæmɪk, ə-/ *adj* asexual, parthenogenetic [Gk *agamos* unmarried, fr *a-* + *gamos* marriage – more at **BIGAMY**] – **agamically** *adv*

**agapanthus** /ˈæɡəˈpænθəs/ *n* any of several African plants of the lily family with umbels of showy blue or purple flowers [NL, genus name, fr Gk *agape* + *anthos* flower – more at **ANTHOLOGY**]

**agape** /ə'gæp/ *adj* 1 wide open; gaping 2 in a state of wonder <~ with expectation> [*'a-* + *'gape*]

**agape** /ə'gæpə, ˈæɡəˈpə/ *n* LOVE FEAST [LL, fr Gk *agapē*, lit., love, fr *agapan* to welcome, love] – **agapeic** /ˈæɡəˈpeɪk/ *adj*

**agar**, **agar** /ˈdʒelɪ/ *n* **agar-agar**

**agar-agar** /ˈæɡəˈr ˈæɡəˈr/ *n* a gelatinous extract from any of various red algae used esp in culture media or as a gelling agent in foods [Malay]

**agaric** /ˈæɡərɪk, ə'gærɪk/ *n* any of a family of fungi (e g the common edible mushroom) with an umbrella-shaped cap [L *agaricum*, a fungus, fr Gk *agarrhōn*]

**agate** /ˈæɡət, ˈæɡəɪt/ *n* 1 a mineral used as a gem composed of quartz of various colours, often arranged in bands 2 sthg made of or fitted with *agate* [MF, fr L *achates*, fr Gk *achates*]

**agave** /ə'ɡævi/ *n* any of a N or S American genus of plants of the daffodil family with spiny leaves [NL *Agave*, genus name, fr L, a daughter of Cadmus in mythology, fr Gk *Agauē*]

**age** /eɪ/ *n* 1a the length of time a person has lived or a thing existed <a boy 10 years of ~> b the time of life at which some particular qualification, power, or capacity arises <the voting ~ is 18> c a stage of life <the 7 ~s of man> 2 a generation <the ~s to come> 3 a period of time dominated by a central figure or prominent feature <the ~ of Pericles>: e g a period in history <the steam ~> b a cultural period marked by the prominence of a specified item <the atomic ~> c a division



of geological time, usu shorter than an epoch 4 an individual's development in terms of the years required by an average individual for similar development (< a mental ~ of 6) 5 a long time – usu pl with sing meaning, infml (< haven't seen him for ~s) [ME, fr OF *aage*, fr (assumed) VL *actaticum*, fr L *actat-*, *aetas*, fr *aevum* lifetime – more at 'AVE] – of age of legal adult status

**age** *vb* aging, ageing /'ayjɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to become old; show the effects of increasing age (< he's ~d terribly since you last saw him) 2 to become mellow or mature, ripen (< this cheese has ~d for nearly 2 years) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to seem old, esp prematurely (< illness has ~d him) 2 to bring to a state fit for use or to maturity

**-age** /-ɪ/ *suffix* (– *n*) 1 aggregate or collection of (< baggage) /'ægreɪdʒ/ 2a action or process of (< haulage) *b* cumulative result of (< breakage) /'spɪlɪdʒ/ *c* rate or amount of (< dosage) 3 house or place of (< orphanage) 4 condition or rank of (< bondage) /'piərəʒ/ 5 fee or charge for (< postage) /'wɜːrɪdʒ/ [ME, fr OF, fr L *-aticum*]

**aged** /'ayjɪd/; *sense* *lb* ayjd/ *adj* 1 grown old e.g. a of an advanced age *b* having attained a specified age (< a man ~ 40 years) 2 typical of old age (< his ~ steps) – *agedness* *n*

**ageless** /'ayjlɪs/ *adj* 1 never growing old or showing the effects of age 2 timeless, eternal (< ~ truths) – *agelessly* *adv*, *agelessness* *n*

**agency** /'æɪjənsi/ *n* 1 a power or force through which a result is achieved, instrumentality (< communicated through the ~ of his ambassador) 2 the function or place of business of an agent or representative 3 an establishment that does business for another (< an advertising ~)

**agenda** /'æjəndə/ *n* 1 a list of items to be discussed or business to be transacted (e.g. at a meeting) 2 a plan of procedure; a programme [L, pl of *agendum*, ncl of *agendus*, gerundive of *agere*] – *agendaless* *adj*

**agent** /'æɪjənt/ *n* 1a sthg or sby that produces an effect or that acts or exerts power *b* a chemically, physically, or biologically active substance 2 a person who acts for or in the place of another by authority from him/her e.g. a a business representative *b* one employed by or controlling an agency (< my literary ~) 3a a representative of a government *b* a spy [ME, fr ML *agent-*, *agens*, fr L, prp of *agere* to drive, lead, act, do, akin to ON *aka* to travel in a vehicle, Gk *agein* to drive, lead]

**agentive** /'æɪjəntɪv/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a linguistic form indicating the doer of an action (e.g. the suffix *-er* in *singer*)

**agent provocateur** /'æɪʒəntɒvə'kɔːtʃə, 'æɪjənt (fr 'ajə provokæ'tɔːr)/ *n*, pl *agents provocateurs* /-/ a person employed to incite suspected people to some open action that will make them liable to punishment [F, lit., provoking agent]

**age of consent** *n* the age at which one is legally competent to give consent, *specif* that at which a person, esp a female, may consent to sexual intercourse

**age of reason** *n* 1 often *cap* A&R a period characterized by the repudiation of religious, social, and philosophical beliefs not founded on reason; esp the 18th c in Europe – compare ENLIGHTENMENT 2 the time of life when one begins to be able to distinguish right from wrong

**age-old** *adj* having existed for ages, ancient

**agglomerate** /'æglɒmə'reɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) gather into a cluster or disorderly mass [L *agglomeratus*, pp of *agglomerare* to heap up, join, fr *ad-* + *glomer-*, *glomus* ball]

**agglomerate** /-rət/ *adj* gathered into a ball, mass, or cluster

**agglomerate** /-rət/ *n* 1 a disorderly mass or collection 2 a rock composed of irregular volcanic fragments

**agglomeration** /'æglɒmə'reɪʃən/ *n* a mass or cluster of disparate elements [AGGLOMERATE + *-ION*] – *agglomerative* /'æglɒmə'reɪtɪv/ *adj*

**agglutinate** /'ægluːtɪnə't/ *vt* 1 to cause to stick, fasten together (as if) with glue 2 to combine into a compound; attach to a base as an affix 3 to cause to undergo agglutination ~ *vi* to form words by agglutination [L *agglutinus*, pp of *agglutinare* to glue to, fr *ad-* + *glutinare* to glue, fr *glutin-*, *gluten* glue – more at GLUTEN] – *agglutinability* /'ægluːtɪnə'bɪləti/ *n*

**agglutination** /'ægluːtɪnə'shən/ *n* 1 the formation of compound words by combining (parts of) other words which already have a single definite meaning 2 the collection of red blood cells or other minute suspended particles into clumps, esp as a response to a specific antibody [AGGLUTINATE + *-ION*] – *agglutinative* /'ægluːtɪnətɪv/ *adj*

**agglutinin** /'ægluːtɪnɪn/ *n* a substance producing biological agglutination [ISV *agglutination* + *-in*]

**aggrandize**, -ise /'ægrændɪz, 'ægrən-/ *vt* 1 to give a false air of greatness to; praise highly (< ~d the one and disparaged the other) 2 to enhance the power, wealth, position, or reputation of [F *agrandiss-*, stem of *agrandir*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *grandir* to increase, fr L *grandire*, fr *grandis* great] – *aggrandizement* /'ægrændɪzmənt/ *n*

**aggravate** /'ægrəveɪt/ *vt* 1 to make worse or more severe 2 to annoy, irritate [L *aggravatus*, pp of *aggravare* to make heavier, fr *ad-* + *gravare* to burden, fr *gravis* heavy – more at 'GRIEVE] – *aggravation* /-'vayʃən/ *n*

**aggregate** /'ægrɪɡət/ *adj* formed by the collection of units or particles into a body, mass, or amount. e.g. a of a flower clustered in a dense mass or head *b* of a fruit formed from the several ovaries of a single flower *c* taking all units as a whole, total (< ~ earnings) (< ~ sales) [ME *aggregat*, fr L *aggregatus*, pp of *aggregare* to add to, fr *ad-* + *greg-*, *grex* flock – more at GREGARIOUS] – *aggregately* *adv*, *aggregateness* *n*

**aggregate** /'ægrɪɡeɪt/ *vt* 1 to bring together into a mass or whole 2 to amount to (a specified total) – *aggregative* *adj*, *aggregation* /-'gəʃən/ *n*, *aggregational* *adj*

**aggregate** /'ægrɪɡət/ *n* 1 a mass of loosely associated parts; an assemblage 2 the whole amount, the sum total 3a a rock composed of closely packed mineral crystals *b* sand, gravel, etc for mixing with cement to make concrete → BUILDING *c* a clustered mass of individual particles of various shapes and sizes that is considered to be the basic structural unit of soil

**aggression** /'ægrɪʃən/ *n* 1 a hostile attack; esp one made without just cause 2 attack, encroachment; esp unprovoked violation by one country of the territory of another 3 hostile, injurious, or destructive behaviour or outlook [L *aggression-*, *aggressio*, fr *aggressus*, pp of *aggrēdi* to attack, fr *ad-* + *gradi* to step, go – more at GRADE] – *aggressor* *n*

**aggressive** /'ægrɪsɪv/ *adj* 1a tending towards or practising aggression (< an ~ foreign policy) *b* ready to attack (< an ~ fighter) 2 forceful, dynamic (< an ~ salesman) – *aggressively* *adv*, *aggressiveness* *n*

**aggrieve** /'ægrɪv/ *vt* 1 to give pain or trouble to; distress 2 to inflict injury on USE usu pass [ME *agreven*, fr MF *agrever*, fr L *aggravare* to make heavier]

**aggrieved** *adj* showing or expressing resentment; hurt – *aggrievedly* /-vɪdli/ *adv*

**aggro** /'ægrəʊ/ *n*, chiefly Br 1 provocation, hostility 2 deliberate aggression or violence USE infml [by shortening & alter fr *aggravation* or *aggression*]

**aghest** /'æɡəst/ *adj* suddenly struck with terror or amazement; shocked (< stood by ~ as the building collapsed) [ME *agast*, fr pp of *agasten* to frighten, fr *a-* (perfective prefix) + *gasten* to frighten, fr *gast*, *gost* ghost]

**agile** /'æɪəl/ *adj* 1 quick, easy, and graceful in movement 2 mentally quick and resourceful [MF, fr L *agilis*, fr *agere* to drive, act – more at AGENT] – *agilely* *adv*, *agility* /'æɪləti/ *n*

**agin** /'æɪn/ *prep*, dial Br against

**agio** /'æɪɒ/ *n*, pl *agios* a premium or percentage paid for the exchange of one currency for another [It, alter of It dial. *laje*, fr MGk *allagion* exchange, fr Gk *allage* exchange, fr *allos* other – more at ELSE]

**agiotage** /'æɪɒtɪ/ *n* 1 the business of money exchange 2 the speculative buying or selling of stocks [F, fr *agioter* to practise stockjobbing, fr *agro* stockjobbing, fr It]

**agitate** /'æɪtəɪt/ *vt* 1 to move, shake 2 to excite and often trouble the mind or feelings of; disturb ~ *vi* to work to arouse public feeling for or against a cause (< ~d for better schools) [L *agitatus*, pp of *agitare*, freq of *agere* to drive – more at AGENT] – *agitatedly* /-təɪtɪdli/ *adv*, *agitation* /'æɪtəɪʃən/ *n*, *agitational* *adj*

**agitator** /'æɪtəɪtə/ *n* 1 sby who stirs up public feeling on controversial issues (< political ~s) 2 a device or apparatus for stirring or shaking [AGITATE + *-OR*]

**agitprop** /'æɪtɪ'prɒp, -'prɒp/ *n* (pro-communist) political propaganda, esp in the arts [Russ, office of agitation and propaganda, fr *agitatsiya* agitation + *propaganda*] – *agitprop* *adj*

**aglet** /'æɡlɪ/ *n* a (metal) tag attached to the end of a lace, cord, or ribbon [ME *aglet*, fr MF *aguillette*, *aguillette*, dim. of *aguille*, *aiguille* needle, fr LL *acicula*, *acucula* ornamental pin, dim. of L *acus* needle, pin – more at ACUTE]

**agley** /'æɡleɪ, 'æɡlee/ *adv*, chiefly Scot awry, wrong (< the best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft ~ – Robert Burns) [Sc, lit., squintingly, fr 'a- + *gley* to squint]

**aglow** /'æɡləʊ/ *adj* radiant with warmth or excitement

**AGM** *n* an annual general meeting (e.g. of a society or company)

**agnail** /'æɡnəɪl/ *n* a sore or inflammation about a fingernail or toenail; also a hangnail [ME, corn on the foot or toe, fr OE *agnægl*, fr *ang-* (akin to *enge* narrow, tight, painful) + *nægl* metal nail – more at ANGER, NAIL]

**agnosia** /'æɡnoʊz(ə)/ *n* a disturbance of perception caused esp by

- neurological dysfunction [NL, fr Gk *agnosia* ignorance, fr *a-* + *gnōsis* knowledge]
- agnostic** /ə'nostik/ *ag-* *n* sby who holds the view that any ultimate reality is unknown and prob unknowable; also one who doubts the existence of God [modif of Gk *agnōstos* unknown, unknowable, fr *a-* + *gnōstos* known, fr *gignōskein* to know – more at KNOW] – **agnosticism** /ə'gnostisiz(ə)m/, *ag-* *n*
- agnostic** *adj* of or being an agnostic or the beliefs of agnostics
- Agnus Dei** /'agnəs 'day-ee/ *n* a liturgical prayer addressed to Christ as Saviour, often set to music <the ~ from Bach's *B Minor Mass*> [ME, fr LL, lamb of God; fr its opening words]
- ago** /ə'goh/ *adj* or *adv* earlier than now <10 years ~> <how long ~ did they leave?> [ME *agon*, *ago*, fr pp of *agon* to pass away, fr OE *āgan*, fr *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *gan* to go – more at GO]
- agog** /ə'gog/ *adj* full of intense anticipation or excitement; eager <the court was ~ with gossip, scandal and intrigue – TLS> [MF *en gogues* in mirth]
- agogue** /-ə'gog/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 substance that promotes the secretion or expulsion of <*emmenagogue*> 2 leader; guide <*pedagogue*> – sometimes derog <*demagogue*> [F & NL; F, fr LL *-agogus* inducing, leading, fr Gk *-agogos*, fr *agein* to lead; NL *-agōgon*, fr Gk, neut of *-agogos* – more at AGENT]
- agonic** /ə'gonik/, *agonic* *line* *n* an imaginary line connecting points where there is no magnetic declination [Gk *agōnos* without angle, fr *a-* + *gōnia* angle – more at GON]
- agonist** /ə'gonist/ *n* 1 a muscle that is restricted by the action of an antagonistic muscle with which it is paired 2 a substance capable of combining with a receptor on the surface of a (nerve) cell and initiating a reaction *USE* compare ANTAGONIST [LL *agonista* competitor, fr Gk *agōnistēs*, fr *agonizesthai* to contend, fr *agon*; in both these senses, prob back-formation fr *antagonist*]
- agonistic** /ə'gɒnistik/, *agonistical* /-kl/ *adj* argumentative – **agonistically** *adv*
- agonize**, **-ize** /ə'gɒniz/ *vt* to cause to suffer agony ~ *vi* 1 to suffer agony or anguish 2 to make a great effort [MF *agoniser* to be in agony, fr LL *agonizare*, fr Gk *agōnizesthai*, fr *agōnia*]
- agonized**, **-ized** *adj* characterized by, suffering, or expressing agony
- agonizing**, **-izing** /ə'gɒniziŋ/ *adj* causing agony; painful <*an ~ reappraisal of his policies*> – **agonizingly** *adv*
- agony** /ə'gɒni/ *n* 1 intense and often prolonged pain or suffering of mind or body; anguish 2 the struggle that precedes death <*his last ~*> [ME *agonie*, fr LL *agonia*, fr Gk *agōnia* struggle, anguish, fr *agōn* gathering, contest for a prize, fr *agein* to lead, celebrate – more at AGENT]
- agora** /ə'gɒrə/ *n*, *pl* *agoras*, *agorae* /-rə/ *n* a gathering place for popular political assembly in ancient Greece [Gk – more at GREGARIOUS]
- agora** /ə'gɒrə/ *n*, *pl* *agorot* /-roʊt/ *n* Israel at NATIONALITY [NHeb *Agōrah*, fr Heb, a small coin]
- agoraphobia** /ə'gɒrə'fɒbiə/ *n* abnormal dread of being in open spaces [NL, fr Gk *agora* + NL *phobos*] – **agoraphobic** *n* or *adj*, **agoraphobe** /ə'gɒrə'fɒb/ *n*
- agouti** /ə'gɒuti/ *n*, *pl* *agoutis*, *esp* collectively *agouti* 1 a tropical American rodent about the size of a rabbit 2 a colour of fur resulting from the barring of each hair in alternate dark and light bands [F, fr Sp *aguti*, fr Guaraní]
- agranulocyte** /ə'grɒnyʊlə'si:t/ *n* any of various white blood cells with cytoplasm that does not contain conspicuous granules – compare GRANULOCYTE – **agranulocytic** /-siti:k/ *adj*
- agrarian** /ə'greəriən/ *adj* 1 of or relating to (the tenure of) fields 2 (characteristic) of farmers or agricultural life or interests [L *agrarius*, fr *agr-*, *ager* field – more at ACRE]
- agrarian** *n* a member of an agrarian party or movement
- agrarianism** /ə'greəriəniz(ə)m/ *n* a movement to bring about land reforms (e.g by the redistribution of land)
- agree** /ə'gre/ *vt* 1 to admit, concede – *usu* + a clause <*I ~ that you're right*> 2 to bring into harmony 3 chiefly *Br* to come to terms on, *usu* after discussion; accept by mutual consent <*the following articles were ~d* – Winston Churchill> ~ *vi* 1 to give assent; accede – often + to <~ to your proposal> 2a to be of one mind – often + with <*I ~ with you*> b to get along together c to decide together <~ on blue for the kitchen> 3a to correspond b to be consistent 4 to suit the health – + with <*onions don't ~ with me*> 5 to correspond in grammatical gender, number, case, or person [ME *agreen*, fr MF *agreer*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *gre* will, pleasure, fr L *gratum*, neut of *gratus* pleasing, agreeable – more at GRACE]
- agreeable** /ə'greəbəl/ *adj* 1 to one's liking; pleasing 2 willing to agree or consent – **agreeableness** *n*, **agreeably** *adv*

- agreed** /ə'greed/ *adj* 1 arranged by consent <the ~ plan> 2 of the joint opinion <*in this we are ~*>
- agreement** /-mənt/ *n* 1a harmony of opinion or feeling b correspondence <~ between the copy and the original> 2a an arrangement laying down terms, conditions, etc b a treaty 3 (the language or document embodying) a legally binding contract [AGREE + -MENT]
- agriculture** /ə'grɪkʌltʃə/ *n* the theory and practice of cultivating and producing crops from the soil and of raising livestock [F, fr L *agricultura*, fr *agr-*, *ager* field + *cultura* cultivation – more at ACRE, CULTURE] – **agricultural** /ə'grɪkʌltʃərəl/ *adj*, **agriculturally** *adv*, **agriculturist** /-kʌltʃərɪst/, **agriculturalist** /-kʌltʃərəlɪst/ *n*
- agrimony** /ə'grɪməni/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the rose family with spikes of yellow flowers; also a similar or related plant [ME, fr MF & L; MF *agremoine*, fr L *agrimonia*, MS var of *argemonia*, fr Gk *argemōnē*]
- agro-** *comb form* 1 fields; soil, agriculture <*agrology*> 2 agricultural and <*agro-industrial*> [F, fr Gk, fr *agros* field – more at ACRE]
- agronomy** /ə'grɒnəmi/ *n* a branch of agriculture dealing with field-crop production and soil management [prob fr F *agronomie*, fr *agro-* + *-nomie* -nomy] – **agronomic** /ə'grɒnɒmɪk/ *adj*, **agronomically** *adv*, **agronomist** /ə'grɒnəmɪst/ *n*
- aground** /ə'graʊnd/ *adv* or *adj* on or onto the shore or the bottom of a body of water <*the ship ran ~*> [ME, fr 'a- + *ground*]
- ague** /ə'gyʊʊh/ *n* a (malaria) fever with regularly recurring attacks of chills and sweating [ME, fr MF *ague*, fr ML (*febris*) *acuta*, lit, sharp fever, fr L, fem of *acutus* sharp – more at ACUTE] – **aguish** /ə'gyʊʊʃ-ɪsh/ *adj*
- ah** /əh/ *often prolonged/* *interj* – used to express delight, relief, regret, or contempt [ME]
- aha** /ə'hə/ *interj* – used to express surprise, triumph, derision, or amused discovery [ME]
- ahead** /ə'hed/ *adv* or *adj* 1a in a forward direction b in front <*the road ~*> 2 in, into, or for the future <*plan ~*> 3 in or towards a better position <*get ~ of the rest*> ['a- + *head*]
- ahead of** *prep* 1 in front or advance of <~ his time> 2 better than
- ahem** /ə'hʊəm/ *interj* – used esp to attract attention or express mild disapproval [imit]
- A-horizon** /ə/ *n* mineral material mixed with humus forming the surface layer of soil
- ahoy** /ə'hɔi/ *interj* – used chiefly by seamen as a greeting or warning <*land ~*> [a- (as in *aha*) + *hoy*, *interj*, a cry for attention]
- Ahura Mazda** /ə'hʊərə'mæzdə/ *n* the Supreme Being represented as a deity of goodness and light in Zoroastrianism [Av *Ahuramazda*, lit., wise god]
- ai** /e, ə'e/ *n* a sloth with 3 claws on each front foot [Pg *ai* or Sp *ai*, fr Tupi *ai*]
- aid** /əjd/ *vt* 1 to give assistance to, help 2 to bring about the accomplishment of; facilitate <~ his recovery> [ME *eyden*, fr MF *aider*, fr L *adiutare*, fr *adjuvus*, pp of *adiuvare*, fr *ad-* + *juvare* to help] – **aider** *n*
- aid** *n* 1 help; assistance; specif tangible means of assistance (e.g money or supplies) 2a a helper – compare AIDE b sth that helps or supports <a visual ~>; specif a hearing aid 3 a tribute paid by a vassal to his lord – *in aid* of 1 in order to aid; for the use of <*sold her jewels in aid of charity*> 2 *Br* for the purpose of <*what's this in aid of?*> – *infrml*
- aide** /əjd, ed/ *n* 1 an aide-de-camp 2 chiefly NAM an assistant [short for *aide-de-camp*]
- aide-de-camp** /də 'kæmp/ *n*, *pl* *aides-de-camp* /-~ / *n* an officer in the armed forces acting as a personal assistant to a senior officer [F *aide de camp*, lit., camp assistant]
- aide-mémoire** /mem'wɑ:/ *n*, *pl* *aides-mémoire* /-~ / 1 an aid to the memory (e.g a note or sketch) 2 a memorandum [F, fr *aider* to aid + *mémoire* memory]
- aiguille** /ə'gwi:/ *n* a sharp-pointed pinnacle of rock [F, lit., needle – more at AGLET]
- aiguillette** /ə'gwi:let/ *n* an aglet; specif a shoulder cord on certain military uniforms [F – more at AGLET]
- aikido** /ə'ki:doʊ, i:/ *n* a martial art employing locks and holds and using nonresistance to cause an opponent's own momentum to work against him/her [Jap *aikidō*, fr *ai-* together, mutual + *ki* spirit + *dō* art]
- ail** /əyl/ *vt* to give pain, discomfort, or trouble to ~ *vi* to be unwell [ME *eilen*, fr OE *eglan*; akin to MLG *egelen* to annoy]
- aileron** /əyləron, -rən/ *n* a movable control surface of an aircraft wing or a movable aerofoil external to the wing at the trailing edge for giving

a rolling motion and providing lateral control  FLIGHT [F, fr dim of *air* wing, fr L *ala*]

**ailment** /'aɪlmənt/ *n* a bodily disorder or chronic disease [AIL + MENT]

**aim** /aɪm/ *vi* 1 to direct a course; *specific* to point a weapon at an object 2 to channel one's efforts, *aspire* 3 to have the intention; mean (< *s to marry a duke*) ~ *vt* 1 to direct or point (e.g. a weapon) at a target 2 to direct at or towards a specified goal; intend (< *shows ~ed at children*) [ME *aimen*, fr MF *aesmer* & *esmer*; MF *aesmer*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *csmer* to estimate, fr L *aestimare*]

**aim** *n* 1a the pointing of a weapon at a mark b the ability to hit a target c a weapon's accuracy or effectiveness 2 a clear intention or purpose - *aimless* *adj.*, *aimlessly* *adv.*, *aimlessness* *n*

**ain** /aɪn/ *adj.* Scot own [prob fr ON *eigninn*]

**ain't** /aɪnt/ 1 are not 2 is not 3 am not 4 have not 5 has not *USE* chiefly nonstandard or humor in Br but acceptable in *ain't I* meaning 'am I not' in NAm [prob contr of *are not*]

**air** /eə/ *n* 1a the mixture of invisible odourless tasteless gases, containing esp nitrogen and oxygen, that surrounds the earth b a light breeze 2a empty unconfined space - compare OPEN AIR b nothingness (< *vanished into thin ~*) 3a(1) aircraft (< *go by ~*) (2) aviation (< *~ safety*) b the supposed medium of transmission of radio waves, also radio, television (< *went on the ~*) 4a the appearance or bearing of a person, demeanour (< *an ~ of dignity*) b pl an artificial or affected manner, haughtiness (< *to put on ~s*) c outward appearance of a thing (< *an ~ of luxury*) d a surrounding or pervading influence; an atmosphere (< *an ~ of mystery*) 5 a tune, melody [ME, fr OF, fr L *aer*, fr Gk *aer*; (4) F, fr OF, (5) prob trans of It-*aria*, modif of L *aer*] - *in the air* 1 not yet settled; uncertain 2 being generally spread round or hinted at (< *rumours in the air that he will be promoted*)

**air** *vt* 1 to expose to the air for drying, freshening, etc, ventilate 2 to expose to public view or bring to public notice 3 chiefly Br to expose to heat so as to warm or finish drying (< *the sheets round the fire*) ~ *vi* to become exposed to the open air

**air-bed** *n*, chiefly Br an inflatable mattress

**airborne** /-bɔːn/ *adj* supported or transported by air

**air-brake** *n* 1 a brake operated by compressed air 2 a movable surface projected into the air for slowing an aircraft

**air-brick** *n* a building brick or brick-sized metal box perforated to allow ventilation

**air-brush** /-brʊʃ/ *n* an atomizer for spraying paint - *airbrush* *vt*


**air-bus** /-bʊs/ *n* a subsonic jet passenger aeroplane designed for short intercity flights

**air chief marshal** *n*  RANK

**air commodore** *n*  RANK

**air-condition** *vt* to equip (e.g. a building) with an apparatus for cleaning air and controlling its humidity and temperature; also to subject (air) to these processes [back-formation fr *air conditioning*] - *air conditioner* *n*, *air conditioning* *n*

**air-cool** *vt* to cool the cylinders of (an internal-combustion engine) directly by air [back-formation fr *air-cooled* & *air cooling*]

**aircraft** /-kraɪft/ *n*, pl *aircraft* a weight-carrying structure that can travel through the air and is supported either by its own buoyancy or by the dynamic action of the air against its surfaces  FLIGHT

**aircraft-carrier** *n* a warship designed so that aircraft can be operated from it

**aircraftman** /-mən/ *n*  RANK

**air-cushion vehicle** *n*, chiefly NAm a hovercraft

**air-drop** /-drɒp/ *n* a delivery of cargo or personnel by parachute from an aircraft - *air-drop* *vt*, *air-droppable* *adj*

**Airedale** /'eɪdəle/, **Airedale** *terrier* *n* any of a breed of large terriers with a hard wiry coat that is dark on the back and sides and tan elsewhere [Airedale, district in Yorkshire, England]


**airer** /'eɪə/ *n*, chiefly Br a freestanding, usu collapsible, framework for airing or drying clothes, linen, etc [AIR + -ER]

**airfare** /-feə/ *n* a fare paid to enable one to travel on an aircraft

**airfield** /-fi:ld/ *n* an area of land maintained for the landing and takeoff of aircraft

**air-flow** /-floʊ/ *n* the motion of air round a moving or stationary object (e.g. in wind)  FLIGHT

**air-foll** /-foyl/ *n*, chiefly NAm an aerofoil

**air-force** *n* the branch of a country's armed forces for air warfare  RANK

**air-frame** /-fraɪm/ *n* the structure of an aircraft or missile, without the power plant [aircraft + frame]

**air-gun** *n* 1 a gun from which a projectile is propelled by compressed air 2 any of various hand tools that work by compressed air

**air-hole** *n* a hole to admit or discharge air

**air-hostess** *n* a stewardess on an airliner

**airily** /'eəri/ *adv* in an airy manner, jauntily, lightly

**airing-cupboard** *n* a heated cupboard in which esp household linen is aired and kept dry

**air-lane** *n* a path customarily followed by aeroplanes


**airless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 still, windless 2 lacking fresh air, stuffy - *airlessness* *n*

**air-letter** *n* 1 an airmail letter 2 a sheet of airmail stationery that can be folded and sealed with the message inside and the address outside

**airlift** /-lɪft/ *n* the transport of cargo or passengers by air, usu to an otherwise inaccessible area - *airlift* *vt*

**air-line** /-li:n/ *n* an organization that provides regular public air transport

**air-line** *n*, chiefly NAm a beeline


**airliner** /-li:nə/ *n* a passenger aircraft operated by an airline  FLIGHT


**air-lock** *n* 1 an airtight intermediate chamber (e.g. in a spacecraft or submerged caisson) which allows movement between 2 areas of different pressures or atmospheres 2 a stoppage of flow caused by air being in a part where liquid ought to circulate


**air-mail** /-meɪl/ *n* (the postal system using) mail transported by aircraft - *airmail* *vt*


**airman** /-mən/ *n*, pl *airmen* a civilian or military pilot, aircraft crew member, etc

**airman basic** *n*  RANK

**airman first class** *n*  RANK

**airman second class** *n*  RANK

**airman third class** *n*  RANK

**air marshal** *n*  RANK

**air-pistol** *n* a small air gun

**air-plane** /-pleɪn/ *n*, chiefly NAm an aeroplane

**air-pocket** *n* a region of down-flowing or rarefied air that causes an aircraft to drop suddenly

**airport** /'eəpaʊt/ *n* a fully-equipped airfield that is used as a base for the transport of passengers and cargo by air

**air-power** *n* the military strength of an air force

**air-pump** *n* a pump for exhausting air from a closed space or for compressing air or forcing it through other apparatus

**air-raid** *n* an attack by armed aircraft on a surface target

**air-rifle** *n* an air gun with a rifled bore

**air-screw** /-skroʊ/ *n* an aircraft propeller

**air-ship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* a gas-filled lighter-than-air self-propelled aircraft that has a steering system

**air-sick** /-sɪk/ *adj* suffering from the motion sickness associated with flying - *airsickness* *n*

**air-space** /-speɪs/ *n* the space lying above the earth or a certain area of land or water, esp the space lying above a nation and coming under its jurisdiction

**air-speed** /-spi:d/ *n* the speed (e.g. of an aircraft) relative to the air

**air-strip** /-stri:p/ *n* LANDING STRIP

**air-tight** /-ti:t/ *adj* 1 impermeable to air 2 unassailable - *airtightness* *n*

**air-to-air** *adj* (launched) from one aircraft in flight at another

**air vice-marshal** *n*  RANK


**air-wave** /-weɪv/ *n* the supposed medium of radio and television transmission - usu pl with sing meaning

**air-way** /-weɪ/ *n* 1 a passage for air in a mine 2 a designated route along which aircraft fly

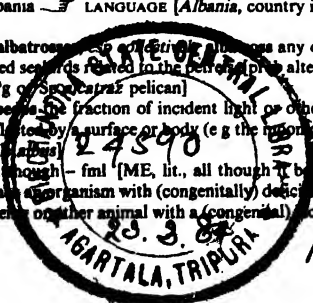
**air-worthy** /-wɜ:ðɪ/ *adj* fit for operation in the air - *airworthiness* *n*

**airy** /'eəri/ *adj* 1a not having solid foundation; illusory (< *~ promises*) b showing lack of concern; flippant 2 being light and graceful in movement or manner 3 delicately thin in texture 4 open to the free circulation of air; breezy 5 high in the air; lofty - poetic [ME, fr *'air* + -y] - *airiness* *n*

**airy-fairy** *adj*, chiefly Br whimsically unrealistic (< *too much ~ idealism*)

**aisle** /iel/ *n* 1 the side division of a church separated from the nave by columns or piers  CHURCH 2 chiefly NAm a gangway [alter. of ME *ele*, *ile*, fr MF *ele*, *isle* wing, fr L *ala*; akin to OE *caxl* shoulder, L *axilla* armpit - more at *axis*] - *aisleless* *adj*

- ait** /aɪt/, *eyot* /-/, 'ayst/ *n*, Br a little island in a river [ME *eyt*, *eit*, *alter*. of OE *igoth*, fr *ig* island – more at ISLAND]
- aitch** /aɪtʃ/ *n* the letter *h* [F *hache*, fr (assumed) VL *hacca*]
- 'aitchbone** /-bohn/ *n* (the cut of beef containing) the hipbone, esp of cattle [ME *hachbon*, *alter*. (by incorrect division of a *nachebon*) of (assumed) ME *nachebon*, fr ME *nache* buttock (fr MF, fr LL *natica*, fr L *natis*) + *bon* bone – more at NATFS]
- ajar** /ə'jah/ *adj* or *adv*, esp of a door slightly open [earlier on *char*, fr *on* + *char* turn, piece of work, fr OB *cierr*]
- Akan** /'ahkahn/ *n*, pl *Akans*, esp collectively *Akan* 1 (a member of) a group of peoples who live in African countries of the Guinea Coast, esp Ghana 2 the Kwa language of these peoples → LANGUAGE
- akimbo** /ə'kimboh/ *adj* or *adv* having the hands on the hips and the elbows turned outwards [ME in *kenebowe*, prob fr (assumed) ON *keng boginn* bent in a curve]
- akin** /ə'kin/ *adj* 1 descended from a common ancestor 2 essentially similar, related, or compatible *USE* often + to ['a + *kin*]
- Akkadian** /ə'kaydi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a member of the language) of a Semitic people inhabiting central Mesopotamia before 2000 BC [Akkad, northern region of ancient Babylonia]
- al-** – see AD-
- al-** /-ə/, -ial /-i-əl/ *suffix* (*n* – *adj*) (having the character) of <directional> <fictional> [ME, fr OF & L, OF, fr L *-alis*]
- al-** *suffix* (*vb* – *n*) action or process of <rehearsal> <withdrawal> [ME *-aille*, fr OF, fr L *-alia*, neut pl of *-alis*]
- al-** /-əl-, (-ə)/ *suffix* (*n*) 1 aldehyde <butanal> 2 acetal <butyral> [F, fr *alcool* alcohol, fr ML *alcohol*]
- à la** /ə'la/ (Fr a la) *prep* 1 in the manner of 2 prepared, flavoured, or served with <spinach ~ crème> [F à la]
- alabaster** /'alabasto-, -bah-/ *n* a fine-textured usu white and translucent chalky stone often carved into ornaments [ME *alabastre*, fr MF, fr L *alabaster* vase of alabaster, fr Gk *alabastrōs*] – *alabaster*, *alabastrine* /-bəstrɪn/ *adj*
- à la carte** /ə'la/ *adj* or *adv* according to a menu that prices each item separately – compare TABLE D'HÔTE [F à la carte by the bill of fare]
- alack** /ə'lak/ *interj*, *archaic* – used to express sorrow or regret [ME, prob fr a *ah* + *lack* fault, loss]
- alacrity** /ə'lakrɪ-/ *n* promptness or cheerful readiness – fml [L *alacritas*, fr *alacer*, *alacer* lively, eager; akin to OE & OHG *ellen* zeal]
- à la mode** /ə'la/ *adj* fashionable; stylish [F, according to the fashion]
- alanine** /'aləneɪn-, -niən/ *n* an amino acid found in most proteins [G *alanin*, irreg fr *aldehyd* aldehyde]
- alar** /ə'la/ *adj* of or like a wing [L *alaris*, fr *ala* wing – more at AISLE]
- alarm** /ə'lɑ:m/ *n* 1 a signal (e.g. a loud noise or flashing light) that warns or alerts; also an automatic device that alerts or rouses 2 the fear resulting from the sudden sensing of danger [ME *alarne*, *alarom* call to arms, fr MF *alarme*, fr OIt *all'arme*, lit., to the weapon]
- alarm** *vt* 1 to give warning to 2 to strike with fear – *alarmingly* *adv*
- alarm clock** *n* a clock that can be set to sound an alarm at a desired time
- alarmism** /ə'lɑ:mɪz(ə)m/ *n* the often unwarranted or excessive arousing of fears; scaremongering – *alarmist* *n* or *adj*
- alarum** /ə'lɑ:rəm/ *vt* or *n*, *archaic* (to) alarm
- alarums and excursions** *n* pl clamour and confusion
- alas** /ə'la:, ə'lɑ:s/ *interj* – used to express unhappiness, pity, or disappointment [ME, fr OF, fr a *ah* + *las* weary, fr L *lassus* – more at LET]
- alb** /alb/ *n* a full-length white linen vestment with long tight sleeves, held at the waist with a cincture and worn by a priest at Mass → GARMENT [ME *albe*, fr OE, fr ML *alba*, fr L, fem of *albus* white]
- Albanian** /ə'lbeɪnjən-, -ni-ən/ *n* or *adj* (the Indo-European language or a native or inhabitant) of Albania → LANGUAGE [Albania, country in the Balkan peninsula]
- albatross** /ə'lbatros/ *n*, pl *albatrosses* 1 a large white bird, esp of the genus *Diomedea* 2 a large web-footed seabird related to the booby 3 a pelican *alter*. of *alcatraz* (water bird), fr Pg of Sp *alcatraz* pelican]
- albedo** /ə'lbedoʊ/ *n*, pl *albedos* the fraction of incident light or other electromagnetic radiation reflected by a surface or body (e.g. the moon or a cloud) [LL, whiteness, fr *albus* white]
- albeit** /ə'lbeɪt/ *conj* even though – fml [ME, lit., all though]
- albino** /ə'lbeɪno/ *n*, pl *albinos* an organism with (congenitally) deficient pigmentation; esp a human being or other animal with a (congenital) lack
- of pigment resulting in a white or translucent skin, white or colourless hair, and eyes with a pink pupil [Pg, fr Sp, fr *albo* white, fr L *albus*] – *albinic* /ə'lbeɪnɪk/ *adj*, *albinism* /ə'lbeɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- Albion** /ə'lbi-ən/ *n* Britain – poetic [ME, fr OE, fr L, fr Gk *Alviōn*, of Celt origin, akin to IrGael *Alba* Scotland]
- album** /'albəm/ *n* 1 a book with blank pages used for making a collection (e.g. of stamps or photographs) 2 a recording or collection of recordings issued on 1 or more long-playing gramophone records or cassettes [L, a white tablet, fr neut of *albus*]
- albumen** /'albyoomɪn, əl'byoohmɪn/ *n* 1 the white of an egg 2 albumin [L, fr *albus*]
- albumin** /'albyoomɪn, əl'byoohmɪn/ *n* any of numerous proteins that occur in large quantities in blood plasma, milk, egg white, plant fluids, etc and are coagulated by heat [ISV *albumen* + -in]
- albuminous** /əl'byoohmɪnəs/ *adj* relating to, containing, or like albumen or albumin
- albuminuria** /əl'byoohmɪn'yooəri-ə/ *n* the (abnormal) presence of albumin in the urine, usu symptomatic of kidney disease [NL] – *albuminuric* /-yooorɪk/ *adj*
- alburnum** /ə'lbu:nəm/ *n* sapwood [L, fr *albus* white]
- alchemy** /'alkəmi/ *n* 1 a medieval chemical science and philosophical doctrine aiming to achieve the transmutation of the base metals into gold, a cure for disease, and immortality 2 the transformation of sth common into sth precious [ME *alkemie*, *alquemie*, fr MF or ML, MF *alquemie*, fr ML *alchymia*, fr Ar *al-kīmiyā*, fr *al* the + *kīmiyā* 'alchemy', fr LGk *chemēa*] – *alchemist* *n*, *alchemic* /ə'lkemɪk/, *alchemical* *adj*
- alcohol** /'alkəhəl/ *n* 1 a colourless volatile inflammable liquid that is the intoxicating agent in fermented and distilled drinks and is used also as a solvent 2 any of various organic compounds, specif derived from hydrocarbons, containing the hydroxyl group 3 intoxicating drink containing alcohol; esp spirits [NL, fr ML, powdered antimony, fr OSP, fr Ar *al-kuḥul* the powdered antimony]
- 'alcoholic** /ə'lka'hɒlɪk/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or caused by alcohol 2 affected with alcoholism – *alcoholically* *adv*
- alcoholic** *n* sby affected with alcoholism
- alcoholism** /'alkəhɒlɪz(ə)m/ *n* (a complex chronic psychological and nutritional disorder associated with) excessive and usu compulsive use of alcoholic drinks
- alcove** /'alkəhv/ *n* 1a a nook or recess off a larger room b a niche or arched opening (e.g. in a wall or hedge) 2 *archaic* a summerhouse [F *alcôve*, fr Sp *alcoba*, fr Ar *al-qubbah* the arch]
- aldehyde** /'aldɪhɪd/ *n* any of various highly reactive compounds (e.g. acetaldehyde) characterized by the group CHO [G *aldehyd*, fr NL *aldehyd*, abbr of *alcohol dehydrogenatum* dehydrogenated alcohol] – *aldehydic* /-hɪdɪk/ *adj*
- al dente** /ə'l'denti/ *adj*, esp of *pasta* and *vegetables* cooked but firm when bitten [It, lit., to the tooth]
- alder** /'awldə/ *n* any of a genus of trees or shrubs of the birch family that grow in moist ground [ME, fr OE *alor*; akin to OHG *elira* alder, L *alnus*]
- alderman** /'awldə:mən/ *n*, pl *aldermen* /-mən/ 1 a person governing a kingdom, district, or shire as viceroy for an Anglo-Saxon king 2 a senior member of a county or borough council elected by the other councillors – not used officially in Britain after 1974 [ME, fr OE *ealdorman*, fr *ealdor* parent (fr *eald* old) + *man* – more at OLD] – *aldermanic* /-mənɪk/ *adj*
- aldosterone** /əldə'stɒrɒn/ *n* a steroid hormone produced by the adrenal cortex that affects the salt and water balance of the body [*aldehyde* + -o- + *sterol* + -one]
- aldrin** /'awldrɪn/ *n* a chlorinated insecticide that is very poisonous to human beings [Kurt Alder †1958 G chemist + E -in]
- ale** /əyl/ *n* 1 beer 2 a malted and hopped alcoholic drink that is usually more bitter, stronger, and heavier than beer [ME, fr OE *calu*; akin to ON *öl* ale, L *lumen* album]
- aleatoric** /ə'lə'tɔ:nɪk/ *adj* improvisatory or random in character <~ music> [L *aleatorius* of a gambler]
- aleatory** /ə'lə'tɔ:(ə)n/ *adj* 1 depending on chance 2 relating to or based on luck, esp bad luck [L *aleatorius* of a gambler, fr *aleator* gambler, fr *alea*, a dice game]
- Alemannic** /əls'mənɪk/ *n* the group of German dialects spoken in Alsace, Switzerland, and SW Germany [LL *alemanni* (pl), name of a Germanic people (of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *alamans* totality of people)]
- alembic** /ə'lembɪk/ *n* 1 an apparatus formerly used in distillation 2 a means of refining or transmuting [ME, fr MF & ML; MF *alambic* & ML



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- alembicum**, fr Ar *al-anbiq*, fr *al* the + *anbiq* still, fr LGk *ambik-*, *ambix* alembic, fr Gk, cap of a still]
- alert** /ə'lu:t/ *adj* 1 watchful, aware 2 active, brisk [F *alerte*, fr It *all'erta*, lit., on the ascent] – **alertly** *adv*, **alertness** *n*
- alert** *n* 1 an alarm or other signal that warns of danger (e.g. from hostile aircraft) 2 the danger period during which an alert is in effect – on the alert on the lookout, esp for danger or opportunity
- alert** *vt* 1 to call to a state of readiness, warn 2 to cause to be aware (e.g. of a need or responsibility)
- ales** /-a'leez/ *suffix* (– *n pl*) plants consisting of or related to – in the names of taxonomic orders [NL, fr L, pl of *-alis* -al]
- aleurone** /a'lyooroh-n/ *n* minute granules of protein in (the endosperm of) seeds [G *aleurion*, fr Gk, flour, akin to Arm *alam* I grind] – **aleuronic** /-ronik/ *adj*
- Aleut** /ə'l(y)ooh-t, 'al(y)ooh-t/ *n* (a member of the language of) a people of the Aleutian and Shumagin islands and W Alaska [Russ]
- A level** /ay/ *n* ADVANCED LEVEL
- alevin** /'alvin/ *n* a young fish, esp a salmon [F, fr OF, fr *alever* to lift up, rear (offspring), fr L *allevare*, fr *ad-* + *levare* to raise – more at LEVER]
- alexanders** /alig'zahndəz/ *n, pl* alexanders a biennial greenish-yellow-flowered European plant of the carrot family [ME *alexandre*, fr OF & ML, OF *alexandre*, fr ML *alexandrum*, prob by folk etymology fr L *holus atrum* black vegetable]
- Alexandrian** /alig'zahndr-iən/ *adj* Hellenistic [Alexandria, city in Egypt, centre of Hellenistic culture]
- alexandrine** /alig'zahndr-in/ *n*, often *cap* a 12-syllable verse line consisting of 6 iambs with a caesura after the third [MF *alexandrin*, *adj*, fr Alexandre Alexander the Great †323 BC king of Macedonia, fr its use in a poem on Alexander] – alexandrine *adj*
- alexandrite** /alig'zahndrit/ *n* a green gemstone that appears red in artificial light [G *alexandrit*, fr Alexander I †1825 Russ emperor]
- alexia** /ə'leksi-ə/ *n* (partial) loss of the ability to read, owing to brain damage – compare APHASIA, DYSLLEXIA [NL, fr *a-* + Gk *lexis* speech, fr *legem* to speak – more at LEGEND]
- Alfa** /'alfə/ Alpha
- alfalfa** /'alfalfə/ *n*, NAM lucerne [Sp, modif of Ar dial *al-fasfash* the alfalfa]
- alfresco** also *al fresco* /al'freskoh/ *adj or adv* taking place in the open air (<an ~ lunch>) [It]
- alg-**, **algo-** *comb form* pain <algophobia> [NL, fr Gk *alg-*, fr *algos*]
- alga** /'algə/ *n, pl* algae /'algi, -gi/ also *algas* any of a group of chiefly aquatic nonvascular plants (e.g. seaweeds and pond scums), also BLUE-GREEN ALGA → PLANT [L, seaweed] – **algal** /'algol/ *adj*, **algoid** /'algoyd/ *adj*
- algebra** /'aljabrə/ *n* a branch of mathematics in which letters, symbols, etc representing various entities are combined according to special rules of operation [ML, fr Ar *al-jabr*, lit., the reduction] – **algebraist** /-brayist/ *n*
- algebraic** /alji'brayik/ *adj* 1 relating to, involving, or according to the laws of algebra 2 involving only a finite number of repetitions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, extraction of roots, and raising to a power (<~ equation>) – compare TRANSCENDENTAL 3b – **algebraically** *adv*
- algia** /-alja/ *comb form* (– *n*) pain <neuralgia> [Gk, fr *algos*]
- algin** /'aljin/ *n* alginic acid, an alginate, or other colloidal substance obtained from seaweed or other marine brown algae [*alga* + -in]
- alginate** /alji'naɪt/ *n* a salt of alginic acid used as a stabilizing, gelling, or thickening agent in the manufacture of ice cream, plastics, etc
- alginic acid** /al'jɪnik/ *n* an insoluble colloidal acid found in the cell walls of brown algae [ISV *algin* + -ic]
- Algol**, **ALGOL** /'algol/ *n* a high-level computer language designed primarily for mathematical and scientific use [algorithmic language]
- algolagnia** /al'gɒl'agnɪ-ə/ *n* the finding of sexual pleasure in inflicting or suffering pain [NL, fr *alg-* + Gk *lagnēia* lust] – **algolagnic** /-l'agnik/ *adj*, **algolagnist** /-l'agnɪst/ *n*
- Algonkian** /al'gɒŋki-ən/ *n* (án) Algonquian
- Algonkin** /al'gɒŋkɪn/ *n* (án) Algonquian
- Algonquian** /al'gɒŋkwɪ-ən/ *n* 1 a stock of American Indian languages spoken esp in the eastern parts of Canada and the USA → LANGUAGE 2 a member of any of the N American Indian peoples speaking Algonquian languages 3 ALGONQUIN 1 [CanF *Algonquin*]
- Algonquin** /al'gɒŋkwɪn/ *n* 1 a dialect of Ojibwa 2 ALGONQUIAN 1, 2
- algorithm** /'alga,ndhəm/ *n* a systematic procedure for solving a mathematical problem in a finite number of steps, broadly a step-by-step procedure for solving a problem or accomplishing some end [alter. of ME *algorisme*, fr OF & ML, OF, fr ML *algorismus*, fr Ar *al-khuwārizmī*, fr *al-Khuwārizmī* fl 825 Arab mathematician] – **algorithmic** /-ndhmik/ *adj*
- Alhambra** /al'hambɾə/ *n* the palace of the Moorish kings at Granada in Spain [Sp, fr Ar *al-hamra'* the red house]
- ali-** *comb form* wing <aliform> [L, fr *ala* – more at AISLE]
- alias** /'aɪli-əs/ *adv* otherwise called or known as (<Hancock ~ Jones>) [L, otherwise, fr *alius* other – more at ELSE]
- alias** *n* an assumed name
- alibi** /'alibi/ *n* 1 (evidence supporting) the plea of having been elsewhere when a crime was committed 2 a plausible excuse, usu intended to avert blame or punishment [L, elsewhere, fr *alius*]
- alicyclic** /,ali'sieklik, -suklik/ *adj* combining the properties of aliphatic and cyclic organic chemical compounds [ISV *aliphatic* + *cyclic*]
- alidade** /'alɪdaɪd/ *n* a rule equipped with sights used to determine direction in astronomy or surveying (e.g. as part of an astrolabe) [ME *alidatha*, fr ML *alidada*, fr Ar *al-idādah* the revolving radius of a circle]
- alien** /'aɪli-ən/ *adj* 1a of or belonging to another person, place, or thing; strange b foreign (<~ property>) 2 differing in nature or character, esp to the extent of being opposed – + to <ideas quite ~ to ours> [ME, fr OF, fr L *alienus*, fr *alius*]
- alien** *n* 1 a person from another family, race, or nation; also an extraterrestrial being 2 a foreign-born resident who has not been naturalized, broadly a foreign-born citizen – **alienage** *n*, **alienism** *n*
- alienable** /'aɪli-ənəbl, 'aɪljənəbl/ *adj* legally capable of being sold or transferred – **alienability** /-əbɪləti/ *n*
- alienate** /'aɪli-ə,naɪt, 'aɪljə-/ *vt* 1 to convey or transfer (e.g. property or a right) to another, usu by a specific act 2 to make hostile or indifferent, esp in cases where attachment formerly existed (<~d from their mothers>) 3 to cause to be withdrawn or diverted [L *alienatus*, pp of *alienare* to estrange, fr *alienus*] – **alienator** *n*
- alienation** /'aɪli-ə'naɪʃ(ə)n, 'aɪljə-/ *n* 1 a conveyance of property to another 2 (a feeling of) withdrawal from or apathy towards one's former attachments or whole social existence
- alienist** /'aɪli-ənɪst, 'aɪljə-/ *n* 1 NAM a specialist in legal aspects of psychiatry 2 archaic one who treats diseases of the mind [F *aliéniste*, fr *aliéné* insane, fr L *alienatus*, pp of *alienare*]
- alight** /ə'li:t/ *vi* alighted also *allt* /ə'lit/ 1 to come down from sthg: e.g. a to dismount b to disembark 2 to descend from the air and settle; land [ME *alighen*, fr OE *alhtian*, fr *ā-* (perfective prefix) + *htian* to alight – more at LIGHT] – **alightment** *n*
- alight** *adj* 1 animated, alive (<see the place ~ with merriment – Punch>) 2 chiefly Br on fire; ignited (<paper caught ~>) [prob fr 'a- + 'light]
- align** also **aline** /ə'li:ən/ *vt* 1 to bring into proper relative position or state of adjustment, specif to place (3 or more points) in a straight line 2 to array or position on the side of or against a party or cause (<nations ~ ed against fascism>) – *vi* 1 to join with others in a common cause 2 to be in or come into alignment [F *aligner*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *ligne* line, fr L *linea*] – **alignment** *n*
- alike** /ə'li:k/ *adj* showing close resemblance without being identical (<~ in their beliefs>) [ME *alik* (alter. of *ilich*) & *alik*, alter. of OE *onlic*, fr *on* + *lic* body – more at LIKE]
- alike** *adv* in the same manner, form, or degree; equally (<peasants and nobility ~ – SEU W>)
- aliment** /alɪ'mənt/ *n* food, nutriment; also sustenance – fml [ME, fr L *alimentum*, fr *alere* to nourish – more at OLD]
- alimentary** /alɪ'mənt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of nourishment or nutrition
- alimentary canal** *n* the tubular passage that extends from the mouth to the anus and functions in the digestion and absorption of food
- alimentation** /alɪ'mənt'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* nourishing or being nourished – fml – **alimentative** /-mentatɪv/ *adj*
- alimony** /alɪ'məni/ *n* 1 means of living; maintenance 2 chiefly NAM MAINTENANCE 3 [L *alimonia* sustenance, fr *alere*]
- aliphatic** /ali'fatɪk/ *adj* of or derived from fat; specif being an organic compound with an open-chain rather than a cyclic structure [ISV, fr Gk *aleiphat-*, *aleiphar* oil, fr *aleiphein* to smear; akin to Gk *lipos* fat – more at LEAVE]
- aliquot** /alɪkwot/ *adj* 1 contained an exact number of times in another (<5 is an ~ part of 15>) (<an ~ portion of a solution>) 2 fractional (<an ~ part of invested capital>) [ML *aliquotus*, fr L *aliquot* some, several, fr *alius* other + *quot* how many – more at ELSE, QUOTE] – **aliquot** *n*
- alive** /ə'li:v/ *adj* 1 having life 2a still in existence, force, or operation;



active **b** LIVE **3b** 3 realizing the existence of sthg; aware of sthg (< *to the danger*) **4** marked by alertness **5** showing much activity or animation; swarming (sea was ~ with large whales – Herman Melville) **6** of all those living – used as an intensive following the noun (< *the proudest mother* ~) [ME, fr OE *on life*, fr *on + lif* life] – **aliveness** *n*

**alizarin** /ə'li:zɪn/ *n* an orange or red dye formerly obtained from madder [prob fr F *alizerine*, fr *alizari* madder, fr Sp, prob fr Ar *al-ʿasarah* the juice]

**alkali** /ˈalkəli/ *n, pl* **alkalies, alkalis** any of various chemical bases, esp a hydroxide or carbonate of an alkali metal – compare **ACID** **1**, **BASE** **7** [ME, fr ML, fr Ar *al-qili* the ashes of the plant saltwort]

**alkalify** /ˈalkəliːf/, /ˈalkəliːf/ *vb* to make or become alkaline

**alkali metal** *n* any of the univalent metals lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, caesium, and francium that comprise group **1A** of the periodic table

**alkaline** /ˈalkəliːn/ *adj* (having the properties) of an alkali, *specif* having a pH of more than **7** – **alkalinity** /ˈlɪnəti/ *n*

**alkaline earth** *n* **1** an oxide of any of the bivalent metals calcium, strontium, and barium and sometimes also magnesium, radium, or beryllium of group **IIA** of the periodic table **2** any of the metals whose oxides are alkaline earths

**alkaline-earth metal** *n* **ALKALINE EARTH** **2**

**alkaloid** /ˈalkəloɪd/ *n* any of numerous nitrogen-containing organic compounds (e.g. morphine) that are used as chemical bases, occur esp in flowering plants, and are extensively used as drugs – **alkaloidal** /ˈlɔɪdl/ *adj*

**alkalosis** /ˈalkəˈləʊsɪs/ *n* a medical disorder in which the blood, tissues, etc are abnormally alkaline [NL]

**alkane** /ˈalkaɪn/ *n* any of a series of saturated open-chain hydrocarbons (e.g. methane, ethane, propane, or butane) [alkyl + *-ane*]

**alkanet** /ˈalkənɪt/ *n* a plant of the borage family that yields a strong red dye; also any of several related plants [ME, fr OSp *alcaneta*, dim. of *alcana* henna shrub, fr ML *alchanna*, fr Ar *al-ḥinnā* 'the henna']

**alkene** /ˈalken/ *n* any of a series of unsaturated hydrocarbons (e.g. ethylene or propylene) in which the carbon atoms are arranged in a straight line and there is a single double bond between **2** carbon atoms [alkyl + *-ene*]

**alkyl** /ˈalkɪl/ *n* (a compound with a metal of) a univalent radical C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+1</sub> (e.g. methyl) derived from an alkane (e.g. methane) by removal of a hydrogen atom [prob fr G, fr *alkohol* alcohol, fr ML *alcohol* – **alkylic** /ˈkɪlɪk/ *adj*]

**alkylate** /ˈalkɪlət/ *vt* to introduce **1** or more alkyl groups into (a compound) – **alkylation** /ˈlæɪʃən/ *n*

**alkyne** /ˈalkɪn/ *n* any of a series of unsaturated hydrocarbons (e.g. acetylene) in which the carbon atoms are arranged in a straight line and there is a single triple bond between **2** carbon atoms [alkyl + *-yne*, var of *-ine*]


**all** /ɔːl/ *adj* **1a** the whole amount or quantity of (< *sat up ~ night*) (< *the year round*) **b** as much as possible (< *spoke in ~ seriousness*) **2a** every one of (more than **2**) **b** – used in logic as a verbalized equivalent of the universal quantifier **3** the whole number or sum of (< *dogs love aniseed*) **4** every (< *manner of hardship*) **5** any whatever (< *beyond ~ doubt*) **6a** given to or displaying only (< *was ~ attention*) **b** having or seeming to have (some physical feature) conspicuously or excessively (< *thumbs*) (< *cars*) [ME *all, al*, fr OE *eall*; akin to OHG *al* all] – all there not mentally subnormal; esp shrewd – infml – all very well – used in rejection of advice or sympathy (< *it's all very well for you to talk*)

**all** *adv* **1** wholly, altogether (< *sat ~ alone*) (< *I'm ~ for it*) **2** to a supreme degree – usu in combination (< *all-powerful*) **3** for each side (< *the score is 2 ~*)

**all** *pron, pl* **all** **1** the whole number, quantity, or amount (< *it was ~ I could do not to cry*) **2** everything (< *sacrificed ~ for love*) – all in all **1** generally; ON THE WHOLE **1** **2** supremely important (< *she was all in all to him*) – all of fully; AT LEAST (< *lost all of £50*) – all the same JUST THE SAME

**all** *n* one's total resources (< *gave his ~ for the cause*) – in all **ALL TOLD**

**all-, allo-** *comb form* **1** other; different; atypical (< *allogamous*) (< *allopathy*) **2** being one of a (specified) group whose members together constitute a structural unit, esp of a language (< *allophone*) [Gk, fr *allos* other – more at ELSE]

**alle breve** /ˈaːləˈbrevi/ *n, adv, or adj* (a sign marking a piece to be played) in duple or quadruple time with the beat represented by a minim  **musc** [It, lit., according to the breve]

**Allah** /ˈalɑːh, ˈɑːlɑː/ *n* **GOD** **1** – used by Muslims or in reference to the Islamic religion [Ar *allah*]

**all-American** *adj* representative of the ideals of the USA (< *an ~ boy*)

**allantois** /əˈlɑːntoɪs/ *n, pl* **allantoides** /-ˈtoɪ-deɪz/ a vascular foetal membrane that in placental mammals is closely attached to the chorion in the formation of the placenta [NL, deriv of Gk *allantoidēs* sausage-shaped, fr *allant-, allas* sausage] – **allantole** /-ˈtoɪ-ik/ *adj*

**all-around** *adj, chiefly* **NAm** all-round

**alleviate** /əˈleɪv/ *vt* **1** to reduce the severity of; alleviate **2** to make quiet; pacify [ME *alayan*, fr OE *alecgan*, fr *a-* (perfective prefix) + *lecgan* to lay – more at **LAY**]

**all but** *adv* very nearly, almost

**all clear** *n* a signal that a danger has passed or that it is safe to proceed

**allegation** /ˌaliˈɡeɪʃən/ *n* a statement of what one undertakes to prove [ALLEG + *-ATION*]

**allege** /əˈleɪ/ *vt* to assert without proof or before proving [ME *alleggen*, fr OF *alleguer*, fr L *allegare* to dispatch, cite, fr *ad-* + *legare* to depute – more at **LEGATE**] – **alleged** /əˈleɪd/, *adj*

**allegedly** /əˈleɪdli/ *adv* according to allegation – used in reporting statements that have not been verified

**allegiance** /əˈleɪʃəns/ *n* **1** the obligation of a subject or citizen to his/her sovereign or government **2** dedication to or dutiful support of a person, group, or cause [ME *allegeaunce*, modif of MF *ligeance*, fr OF, fr *lige* liege]

**allegorical** /ˌaliˈɡɒrɪkəl/, *allegoric* /-ˈɡɒrɪk/ *adj* **1** (having the characteristics) of allegory **2** having hidden spiritual meaning that transcends the literal sense of a sacred text – **allegorically** *adv*, **allegoricalness** *n*

**allegorist** /ˌaliɡərɪst/ *n* one who uses or writes allegory

**allegorize**, *-ise* /ˌaliɡəˈraɪz/ *vb* to compose, explain, or interpret (sthg) as allegory – **allegorizer** *n*, **allegorization** /-neɪˈzaɪzən/ *n*

**allegory** /ˌalɡ(ə)rɪ/ *n* **1a** the expression by means of symbolic figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence **b** an instance (e.g. Spenser's *Faery Queen*) of such expression **2** a symbolic representation, an emblem [ME *allegorie*, fr L *allegoria*, fr Gk *allegoria*, fr *allegorein* to speak figuratively, fr *allos* other + *-agorein* to speak publicly, fr *agora* assembly – more at ELSE, **GREGARIOUS**]

**allegretto** /ˌaliˈɡretto/ *adv or adj* faster than *andante* but not so fast as *allegro* – used in music [It, fr *allegro*]

**allegro** /əˈlegro/ *n, adv, or adj, pl* **allegros** (a musical composition or movement to be played) in a brisk lively manner [It, merry, fr (assumed) VL *alecrus* lively, alter. of L *alacer*, *alacer* – more at **ALACRITY**]

**allele** /ˈleɪl/ *n* any of (the alternative hereditary characters determined by) **2** or more genes that occur as alternatives at a given place on a chromosome [G *allel*, short for *allelomorph*] – **allelic** /ˈleɪlɪk/ *adj*, **allelism** /ˈleɪl(ə)lɪzəm/ *n*

**allelomorph** /ˈleɪl(ə)ləˈmɔːf/ *n* an allele [Gk *alleion* of each other (fr *allos* + *allos* one + the other, fr *allos* other) + *morphē* form – more at ELSE] – **allelomorphism** /-məˈfɔːz(ə)m/ *n*, **allelomorphic** /-məˈfɔːfɪk/ *adj*

**alleluia** /ˌaliˈluːə-ya/ *interj* hallelujah [ME, fr LL, fr Gk *allelouia*, fr Heb *ḥalālūyāh* praise ye Jehovah]

**allemande** /ˈæləˌmænd/ *n, often cap* (music for) a 17th-c and 18th-c court or folk dance [F, fr fem of *allemand* German]

**all-embracing** *adj* complete, sweeping

**allergen** /ˈæləʒən, -jen/ *n* a substance that induces allergy – **allergenic** /-ˈʒenɪk/ *adj*, **allergenicity** /-ʒəˈnɪsəti/ *n*

**allergic** /ˈælɜːrɡɪk/ *adj* **1** of or inducing allergy **2** averse, antipathetic to – infml (< *to marriage*)

**allergy** /ˈæləʒi/ *n* **1** altered bodily reactivity to an antigen in response to a first exposure (< *his bee-venom ~ may make a second sting fatal*) **2** exaggerated reaction by sneezing, itching, skin rashes, etc to substances that have no such effect on the average individual **3** a feeling of antipathy or aversion – infml [G *allergie*, fr *all-* + Gk *ergon* work – more at **WORK**]

**alleviate** /əˈleɪviːə/ *vt* to relieve (a troublesome situation, state of mind, etc) [LL *alleviatus*, pp of *alleviare*, fr L *ad-* + *levi* light – more at **LIGHT**] – **alleviative** /-ətɪv/, **alleviatory** /-ətɪrɪ/ *adj*, **alleviation** /-əˈʃən/ *n*

**alley** /ˈæli/ *n* **1** a garden walk bordered by trees or a hedge **2** a bowling alley **3** a narrow back street or passageway between buildings [ME, fr MF *alee*, fr OF, fr *aler* to go, modif of L *ambulare* to walk] – **up/down** *adv* **1** **alley** chiefly **NAm** UP ONE'S STREET

**alley** *n* a playing marble (of superior quality) [by shortening & alter. fr *alabaster*]  
**alleyway** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* ALLEY 3  
**All 'Fools' Day** *n* APRIL FOOLS' DAY  
**all found adv**, chiefly *Br* with free food and lodging provided in addition to wages (£30 a week and ~)  
**all fours** *n pl* 1 all 4 legs of a quadruped 2 hands and knees < crawling on ~ >  
**all hail** *interj* – used as a formal greeting or acclamation  
**alliacious** /ˈaɪəʃəs/ *adj* resembling garlic or onion, esp in smell or taste [*L allium* garlic]  
**alliance** /ˈəliːəns/ *n* 1 a union of families by marriage 2 a confederation of nations by formal treaty 3 a tie, connection < a closer ~ between government and industry > [ALLY + -ANCE]  
**allied** /ˈaɪəd, ˈaɪed/ *adj* 1 in close association, united 2 joined in alliance by agreement or treaty 3a related by resemblance or common properties, associated < heraldry and ~ subjects > b related genetically 4 cap of the Allies  
**Allies** /ˈaɪəz/ *n pl* the nations united against the Central European powers in WW I or against the Axis powers in WW II  
**alligator** /ˈælɡətaɪ/ *n* 1 either of 2 crocodilians with broad heads that do not taper towards the snout 2 leather made from alligator hide [Sp *el lagarto* the lizard, fr *el* (fr *l* ille that) + *lagarto* lizard, fr (assumed) VL *lacertus*, fr *L lacertus*, *lacerta* – more at LIZARD]  
**alligator pear** *n* an avocado [by folk etymology fr *avocado pear*]  
**all-important** *adj* of very great or greatest importance < an ~ question >  
**all-in** *adj* 1 *chiefly Br* all-inclusive; esp including all costs < an ~ holiday in Greece > 2 *Br*, of wrestling having almost no holds barred  
**all in** *adj* tired out; exhausted – *infrm*  
**all-inclusive** *adj* including everything < a broader and more ~ view > – *all-inclusiveness* *n*  
**alliterate** /ˈaɪləraɪt/ *vt* to form an alliteration ~ *vt* to arrange or place so as to make alliteration [back-formation fr *alliteration*]  
**alliteration** /ˈaɪləraɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the repetition of usu initial consonant sounds in neighbouring words or syllables (e.g. *threatening throngs of threshers*) [*ad-* + *L littera* letter] – *alliterative* /-rətɪv/ *adj*, *alliteratively* *adv*  
**allium** /ˈaɪəm/ *n* any of a large genus of plants of the lily family including the onion, garlic, chives, leek, and shallot [NL, genus name, fr *L*, garlic]  
**allo-** – see ALL-  
**allocable** /ˈæləkəbl/ *adj* capable of being allocated  
**allocate** /ˈæləkəɪt/ *vt* 1a to apportion and distribute (e.g. money or responsibility) in shares b to assign (sthg limited in supply) to as a share < we've been ~d the top flat > 2 to earmark, designate < ~ a section of the building for research purposes > [ML *allocatus*, pp of *allocare*, fr *L ad-* + *locare* to place, fr *locus* place – more at 'STALL] – *allocatable* *adj*, *allocator* *n*, *allocation* /-ˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**allochthonous**, *allocthonous* /ˈæləktʰənəs/ *adj*, of a plant, animal, or substance entering a particular ecological region from an outside source [*all-* + *-chthonous* (as in *autochthonous*)]  
**allocution** /ˈæləˈkjuːʃ(ə)n/ *n* a (stirring) formal speech [L *allocution-*, *allocutio*, fr *allocutus*, pp of *alloqui* to speak to, fr *ad-* + *loqui* to speak]  
**allogamous** /ˈæləɡəməs/ *adj* reproducing by cross-fertilization [*all-* + *-gamous*] – *alogamy* /-mi/ *n*  
**allograft** /ˈæləɡraɪft, -graft/ *n* a graft between 2 genetically unlike members of the same species  
**allomorph** /ˈæləˌmɔːf/ *n* any of 2 or more distinct crystalline forms of the same substance [ISV] – *allomorphic* /-ˌmɔːfɪk/ *adj*, *allomorphism* /-ˌmɔːfɪz(ə)m/ *n*  
**allomorph** *n* any of 2 or more alternative forms of a morpheme (e.g. the -es of *dishes*, and the -s of *dreams*) [*all-* + *morpheme*] – *allomorphic* /-ˌmɔːfɪk/ *adj*, *allomorphism* /-ˌmɔːfɪz(ə)m/ *n*  
**allopathy** /ˈæləˌpəθi/ *n* conventional medical practice using all effective treatments, esp when producing effects different from those of the disease being treated [G *allopathie*, fr *all-* + *-pathie* -pathy] – *allopathic* /ˈæləˌpəθɪk/ *adj*, *allopathically* *adv*  
**allophone** /ˈæləˌfoʊn/ *n* any of 2 or more alternative forms of a phoneme (e.g. the aspirated /p/ of *pin* and the nonaspirated /p/ of *spin*) [*all-* + *-phone*] – *allophonic* /-ˌfəˈnɪk/ *adj*  
**allopurinol** /ˈæləˌpyʊərɪnɒl/ *n* a drug used to promote excretion of uric acid (e.g. in the treatment of gout) [*all-* + *purine* + *-ol*]  
**allosteric** /ˈæləˌstɛrɪk, -ləh-, -ˈstɛrɪk/ *adj* of or being the inhibition,

stimulation, etc of enzyme activity caused by a change (e.g. combining with a molecule) at a point on the enzyme other than its active site [*all-* + *stereic*] – *allosterically* *adv*  
**allot** /ˈsɒt/ *vt* -tt- to allocate [ME *alotten*, fr MF *aloter*, fr *a-* (fr *L ad-*) + *lot*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *hlōt* lot] – *allotter* *n*  
**allotment** /ˈsɒtmənt/ *n*, *Br* a small plot of land let out to an individual (e.g. by a town council) for cultivation [ALLOT + -MENT]  
**allotrope** /ˈæləˌtroʊp/ *n* a form showing allotropy < graphite and diamond are ~s of carbon > [ISV, back-formation fr *allotropy*] – *allotropic* /-ˌtrɒpɪk/ *adj*, *allotropically* *adv*  
**allotropy** /ˈsɒləˌtrɒpi/ *n* the existence of a substance, esp an element, in 2 or more different forms with different properties [*all-* + *-trophy*]  
**all-out** *adj* using maximum effort and resources < an ~ effort to win the contest >  
**all out** *adv* with maximum determination and effort, FLAT OUT – chiefly in *go all out*  
**all over** /-ˈoʊvə/ *adj* covering the whole extent or surface < a sweater with an ~ pattern >  
**all over** *adv* 1 over the whole extent or surface < decorated ~ with a flower pattern > 2 in every respect < that's Paul ~ >  
**allow** /ˈəˌloʊ/ *vt* 1a(1) to assign as a share or suitable amount (e.g. of time or money) < ~ an hour for lunch > (2) to grant as an allowance < ~ed him £500 a year > b to reckon as a deduction or an addition < ~ a gallon for leakage > 2a to admit as true or valid, acknowledge b to admit the possibility of < the facts ~ only one explanation > 3 to permit. e.g. a to make it possible for, enable < the gift will ~ me to buy a car > b to fail to prevent, let < ~ herself to get fat > ~ *vi* 1 to admit the possibility of < evidence that ~s of only one conclusion > 2 to make allowance for < ~ for expansion > [ME *allowen*, fr MF *alouer* to place (fr ML *allocare*) & *alouer* to approve, fr *L adlaudare* to extol, fr *ad-* + *laudare* to praise – more at ALLOCATE, LAUD]  
**allowable** /ˈəˌləʊəbl/ *adj* 1 permissible 2 assigned as an allowance < expenses ~ against tax >  
**allowance** /ˈəˌləʊəns/ *n* 1a a (limited) share or portion allotted or granted, a ration b a sum granted as a reimbursement or bounty or for expenses c a reduction from a list price or stated price 2 a handicap (e.g. in a race) 3a permission, sanction b acknowledgment < ~ of your claim > 4 the taking into account of mitigating circumstances – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning < make ~s for his youth >  
**allowance** *vt* 1 to put on a fixed allowance 2 to provide in a limited quantity  
**allowedly** /ˈəˌləʊɪdli/ *adv* as is allowed, admittedly  
**alloy** /ˈaɪɔɪ/ *n* 1 a solid substance composed of a mixture of metals or a metal and a nonmetal thoroughly intermixed 2 a metal mixed with a more valuable metal 3 an addition that impairs or debases [MF *alor*, fr *aloter* to combine, fr *L alligare* to bind – more at ALLY]  
**alloy** /ˈaɪɔɪ/ *vt* 1 to reduce the purity or value of by adding sthg. 2 to mix so as to form an alloy 3a to impair or debase by addition b to temper, moderate  
**all-powerful** *adj* having complete or sole power, omnipotent  
**all-purpose** *adj* suited for many purposes or uses  
**all right** *adv* 1 well enough < does ~ in school > 2 beyond doubt; certainly < he has pneumonia ~ > [ME *alrht* exactly, fr *al* all + *riht* right]  
**all right** *adj* 1 satisfactory, acceptable < the film is ~ for children > 2 safe, well < he was ill but he's ~ now > 3 agreeable, pleasing – used as a generalized term of approval  
**all right** *interj* 1 – used for giving assent < ~, let's go > 2 – used in indignant or menacing response < ~! Just you wait >  
**all-round** *adj* 1 competent in many fields < an ~ athlete > 2 having general utility 3 encompassing all aspects, comprehensive < an ~ reduction in price >  
**all round** *adv* 1 by, for, or to everyone present < ordered drinks ~ > 2 in every respect  
**all-rounder** *n* sby who is competent in many fields, *specif* a cricketer who bats and bowls to a relatively high standard  
**All 'Saints' Day** *n* November 1 observed in Western churches as a festival in honour of all the saints  
**all seed** /-ˌsiːd/ *n* any of several many-seeded plants (e.g. knotgrass)  
**All 'Souls' Day** *n* November 2 observed in Western churches as a day of prayer for the souls of the departed faithful  
**all spice** /-ˌspiːs/ *n* (a mildly pungent spice prepared from) the berry of a W Indian tree belonging to the myrtle family [*all* + *spice*; fr its supposed combination of the flavours of cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg]

**all-star** *adj* composed wholly or chiefly of stars of the theatre, cinema, etc (*an ~ cast*)

**all-that** *adv* to a marked or unusual extent; very – chiefly in negatives and questions (*didn't take his threats ~ seriously*)

**all the 'best** *intj* – used as an expression of goodwill and usu farewell

**all the 'same** *adv* nevertheless

**'all-time** *adj* exceeding all others yet known (*an ~ best seller*)

**all 'told** *adv* with everything taken into account

**allude** /ə'l(y)uːd/ *vi* to make indirect, casual, or implicit reference to [L *alludere*, lit., to play with, fr *ad-* + *ludere* to play – more at LUDICROUS]

**all-up** *adj* total inclusive of everything necessary for operation (*~ weight of the aircraft*)

**'allure** /ə'l(y)uːə/ *vt* to entice by charm or attraction [ME *aluren*, fr MF *alurer*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *loire* lure – more at LURE] – **allurement** *n*

**allure** *n* power of attraction or fascination, charm

**allusion** /ə'l(y)uːʒ(ə)n, -'luːʒ/ *n* 1 alluding or hinting 2 (the use of) implied or indirect reference, esp in literature [LL *allusion-*, *allusio*, fr L *allusus*, pp of *alludere*] – **allusive** /-sɪv, -zɪv/ *adj*, **allusively** *adv*, **allusiveness** *n*

**alluvion** /ə'l(y)uːvɪ-ən/ *n* 1 the wash of water against a shore 2 FLOOD 1 3 alluvium 4 new land formed esp by water action [L *alluvion-*, *alluvio*, fr *alluere* to wash against, fr *ad-* + *lavere* to wash – more at LYE]

**alluvium** /-vɪ-əm/ *n*, pl **alluvia**, *alluvia* /-vɪ-ə/ clay, silt, or similar detrital material deposited by running water [LL, neut of *alluvius* alluvial, fr L *alluere*] – **alluvial** /-vɪ-əl/ *adj*

**'ally** /'alie; also ə'lie/ *vt* 1 to join, unite with/to (*allied himself with a wealthy family by marriage*) 2 to relate to by resemblance or common properties (*its beak allies it to the finches*) ~ *vi* to form or enter into an alliance with [ME *allien*, fr OF *allier*, fr L *alligare* to bind to, fr *ad-* + *ligare* to bind – more at LIGATURE]

**ally** /'alie/ *n* 1 a sovereign or state associated with another by treaty or league 2 a helper, auxiliary

**-ally** /-(ə)li/ *suffix* (*adj* → *adv*) <sup>2</sup>LY (*terrifically*) [*'-al* + *-ly*]

**allyl** /'alɪl/ *n* an unsaturated univalent radical CH<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub> [ISV, fr L *allium* garlic] – **allylic** /ə'liːk/ *adj*

**alma mater** /'almə 'maɪtə, 'maɪtə/ *n* a school, college, or university which one has attended [L, fostering mother]

**almanac**, **almanack** /'awlmanək/ *n* 1 a usu annual publication containing statistical, tabular, and general information 2 chiefly Br a publication containing astronomical and meteorological data arranged according to the days, weeks, and months of a given year [ME *almenak*, fr ML *almanach*, perh fr Ar *al-manākh* the calendar]

**almandine** /'almandeɪn, -dien/ *n* a deep violet to red garnet used as a gemstone [ME *alabandine*, fr ML *alabandina*, fr *Alabanda*, ancient city in Asia Minor]

**'almighty** /'awlmiəti/ *adj* 1 often *cap* having absolute power over all (Almighty God) 2 having relatively unlimited power (*the ~ dollar*) 3 great in extent, seriousness, force, etc (*an ~ crash*) – *infrm* [ME, fr OE *almihtig*, fr *eall* all + *mihtig* mighty] – **almightiness** *n*, often *cap*, **almightiest** *adj*

**'almighty** *adv* to a great degree; mighty – *infrm*

**Almighty** *n* GOD 1 – + *the*

**almond** /'ahmænd; also 'awl-; NAm *al-*/ *n* (the edible oval nut of) a small tree of the rose family [ME *almande*, fr OF, fr LL *amandula*, *algr.* of L *amygdala*, fr Gk *amygdalē*]

**almond-eyed** *adj* having narrow slanting almond-shaped eyes

**almoner** /'ahmənz, 'al-/ *n* 1 one who distributes alms 2 a social worker attached to a British hospital – not now used technically [ME *almoner*, fr OF *almosnier*, fr *almosne* alms, fr LL *eleemosyna*]

**almost** /'awlmoʊst/ *adv* very nearly but not exactly or entirely [ME, fr OE *almæst*, fr *eall* + *mæst* most]

**alms** /'ahmz/ *n* *constr* or *pl* in *constr* money, food, etc given to help the poor [ME *almesse*, *alms*, fr OE *ælmesse*, *ælms*; akin to OHG *alamuosan* alms; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr LL *eleemosyna* alms, fr Gk *eleemosynē* pity, alms, fr *eleēmōn* merciful, fr *eleos* pity] – **almagiver** /-gɪvə/ *n*, **almagiving** *n*

**'alms-house** /-həʊz/ *n*, Br a privately endowed house in which a poor person can live

**alnico** /'alnɪkə/ *trademark* – used for an alloy containing iron, nickel, and aluminium, from which permanent magnets are made

**aloe** /ə'loʊ/ *n* 1 any of a large genus of succulent plants of the lily family with tall spikes of flowers 2 the dried juice of the leaves of various aloes

used esp as a purgative – usu pl but sing. in *constr* [ME, fr LL, fr L, dried juice of aloe leaves, fr Gk *aloe*]

**aloft** /ə'loʊt/ *adv* 1 at or to a great height 2 at, on, or to the masthead or the upper rigging of a ship – compare **ALOW** [ME, fr ON *alōpt*, fr *a* on, in + *lopt* air]

**alone** /ə'loʊn/ *adj* or *adv* 1 considered without reference to any other; esp unassisted (*the children ~ would eat that much*) 2 separated from others, isolated (*stands ~*) 3 exclusive of other factors (*time ~ will show*) 4 free from interference (*leave my bag ~*) [ME, fr *al* all + *one* one] – **aloneness** *n*

**'along** /ə'loŋg/ *prep* 1 in a line parallel with the length or direction of 2 in the course of (a route or journey) 3 in accordance with (*something ~ these lines*) [ME, fr OE *andlang*, fr *and-* against + *lang* long – more at ANTE.]

**'along** *adv* 1 forward, on (*move ~*) 2 as a necessary or pleasant addition; with *one* (*take your flute ~*) 3 in company and simultaneously with (*pay a penny a week ~ with all the other village boys* – SEU S) 4 also; IN ADDITION (*a bill came ~ with the parcel*) 5 on hand, there (*I'll be ~ in 5 minutes*) – **all along** all the time (*knew the truth all along*)

**'along** of *prep*, *dial* in company with [ME *ilong on*, fr OE *gelang on*, fr *ge-*, associative prefix + *lang* – more at CO-]

**'a, long'side** /-sɪd/ *adv* along or at the side

**'alongside**, **alongside** of *prep* 1 side by side with, *specif* parallel to 2 concurrently with

**'aloof** /ə'loʊf/ *adv* at a distance, out of involvement [obs *aloof* (to windward), fr *'a-* + *loof*, var of *loft*]

**'aloof** *adj* distant in interest or feeling, reserved, unsympathetic – **aloofly** *adv*, **aloofness** *n*

**alopecia** /ə'lə'peesɪə/ *n* usu abnormal baldness in humans or loss of wool, feathers, etc in animals [ME *allopica*, fr L *alopecia*, fr Gk *alopekia*, fr *alopek-*, *alopex* fox – more at VULPINE] – **alopecic** /-peesɪk/ *adj*

**aloud** /ə'loʊd/ *adv* with the speaking voice [ME, fr *'a-* + *loud*]

**alow** /ə'loʊ/ *adv* below, esp in a ship, also on or near the deck – compare **ALOFT** [ME, fr *'a-* + *low*]

**alp** /alp/ *n* a high mountain [back-formation fr *Alps*, mountain system of Europe]

**alpaca** /'alpəkə/ *n* 1 (the fine long woolly hair of) a type of domesticated llama found in Peru 2 a thin cloth made of or containing this wool [Sp, fr Aymara *allpaca*]

**alpenglow** /'alpen'gləʊ/ *n* a reddish glow seen near sunset or sunrise on the summits of mountains [prob part trans of G *Alpengluhen*, fr *Alpen* Alps + *gluhen* glow]

**'alpenhorn** /-hɔːn/ *n* a long straight wooden horn used, esp formerly, by Swiss herdsman to call sheep and cattle [G, fr *Alpen* + *horn* horn]

**'alpenstock** /-stɒk/ *n* a long iron-pointed staff, now superseded by the ice axe, for use in mountain climbing [G, fr *Alpen* + *stock* staff]

**'alpha** /'alfə/ *n* 1 the 1st letter of the Greek alphabet 2 sth that is first, a beginning – compare **OMEGA** 2 3 – used to designate the chief or brightest star of a constellation 4 'A 4 [ME, fr L, fr Gk, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *aleph*, 1st letter of the Heb alphabet]

**'alpha**, **α-** *adj* alphabetical (< *order*)

**Alpha**, **Alfa** – a communications code word for the letter *a*

**alpha** and **'omega** *n* the beginning and ending [fr the first and last letters of the Gk alphabet]

**alphabet** /'alfəbet/ *n* a set of characters, esp letters, used to represent 1 or more languages, esp when arranged in a conventional order; also a system of signs and signals that can be used in place of letters ② [ME *alphabet*, fr LL *alphabetum*, fr Gk *alphabētōs*, fr *alpha* + *beta* beta]

**alphabetical** /'alfəbetɪkəl/, **alphabetic** /-betɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of or employing an alphabet 2 in the order of the letters of the alphabet – **alphabetically** *adv*

**alphabetize**, **-ise** /'alfəbetɪz/ *vt* to arrange alphabetically – **alphabetizer** *n*, **alphabetization** /-tɪzə'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**alphanumeric** /'alfəmerkɪ/, **alphanumerical** /-kl/ *adj* alphanumeric [*alpha* + *numeric*, *numerical*]

**alphanumeric** /'alfənyoʊh'merɪk/ also **alphanumerical** *adj* 1 consisting of both letters and numbers and often symbols (e.g. punctuation marks and mathematical symbols) (*R7756 is the ~ code*); also being a character in an alphanumeric system 2 able to display alphanumeric characters [*alphabet* + *numeric*, *numerical*] – **alphanumerically** *adv*

**alpha particle** *n* a positively charged nuclear particle identical with the nucleus of a helium atom ejected at high speed by some radioactive substances

**alpha ray** *n* a stream of alpha particles



**'alpha-receptor** *n* a receptor for neurotransmitters (e.g. adrenalin) in the sympathetic nervous system whose stimulation is associated esp with the constriction of small blood vessels and an increase in blood pressure – compare BETA-RECEPTOR

**alpha wave** *n* a variation in the electroencephalographic record of the electrical activity of the brain of a frequency of about 10Hz that is often associated with states of waking relaxation

**alpine** /'alpi:n/ *n* an (ornamental) plant native to alpine or northern parts of the northern hemisphere

**Alpine** *adj* 1 often not cap of, growing in, or resembling the Alps, broadly of or resembling any mountains 2 often not cap of or growing in the elevated slopes above the tree line 3 of or being competitive ski events comprising slalom and downhill racing – compare NORDIC

**alpinism** /'alpiniz(ə)m/ *n*, often cap the climbing of high, esp Alpine, mountains – **alpinist** *n*

**already** /awl'redi/ *adv* 1 no later than now or then; even by this or that time <he had ~ left> 2 before, previously <had seen the film ~> [ME *al redy*, fr *al redy*, *adj*, wholly ready, fr *al* all + *redy* ready]

**alright** /awl'net/ *adv*, *adj*, or *interj* ALL RIGHT – nonstandard [ME, fr *al* + *right*]

**Alsation** /al'saysh(ə)n/ *n* (any of) a breed of large intelligent dogs often used as guard dogs [ML *Alsatia* Alsace, region of France (formerly of Germany)]

**'alsike clover** /'alsiek, 'awl-, -sik/ *n* a European perennial clover used as a forage plant [*Alsike*, town in Sweden]

**also** /aw'so/ *adv* as an additional circumstance, besides [ME, fr OE *callswā*, fr *call* all + *swā* so – more at *so*]

**'also-ran** *n* 1 a entrant, esp a horse, that finishes outside the first 3 places in a race 2 a person of little importance

**Altaic** /al'tayik/ *adj* of or constituting a language family comprising Turkic, Tungusic, and Mongolian [*Altai* mountains, range in central Asia]

**altar** /awltə/ *n* 1 a usu raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burnt in worship 2 a table on which the bread and wine used at communion are consecrated or which serves as a centre of worship or ritual *USE* ~ CHURCH [ME *alter*, fr OE *altar*, fr L *altare*; akin to L *adolere* to burn up]

**'alterpiece** /-pees/ *n* a work of art that decorates the space above and behind an altar

**altazimuth** /alt'azimath/ *n* an instrument, specif a telescope, mounted so that it can swivel horizontally and vertically [ISV *altitude* + *azimuth*]

**alter** /awltə/ *vt* 1 to make different without changing into sth else 2 chiefly NAM to castrate, spay – *euph* ~ *vi* to become different [ME *alteren*, fr MF *alterer*, fr ML *alterare*, fr L *alter* other (of two); akin to L *alius* other – more at *FUSE*] – **alterer** *n*, **alterable** *adj*, **alterably** *adv*, **alteration** /-raysh(ə)n/ *n*, **alterability** /-rə'biliti/ *n*

**altercation** /awltəkaysh(ə)n/ *n* a heated quarrel, also quarrelling [ME *altercacioun*, fr MF *altercation*, fr L *altercation*, *altercatio*, fr *altercatus*, pp of *altercan* to quarrel, dispute, fr (assumed) *altercus* contending, fr *alter* other]

**alter ego** /'altə/ *n* a second self, esp a trusted friend [L, lit., another I]

**'alternate** /awl'tuhnət/ *adj* 1 occurring or succeeding each other by turns <a day of ~ sunshine and rain> 2a of plant parts arranged singly first on one side and then on the other of an axis – compare OPPOSITE 1b PLANT b arranged one above or alongside the other 3 every other, every second <he works on ~ days> 4 of an angle being either of a pair on opposite sides of a transverse line at its intersection with 2 other lines 5 NAM ALTERNATIVE 2 [L *alternatus*, pp of *alternare* to alternate, fr *alternus* alternate, fr *alter*] – **alternately** *adv*

**²alternate** /awltə,nayt/ *vt* to interchange with sth else in turn <~ work with sleep> ~ *vi* 1 of 2 things to occur or succeed each other by turns <work and sleep ~> 2 to undergo or consist of repeated change from one thing to another <he ~s between work and sleep> – **alternation** /-naysh(ə)n/ *n*

**alternating current** *n* an electric current that reverses its direction at regularly recurring intervals

**alternation of generations** *n* the occurrence of 2 or more usu alternating sexual and asexual forms differently produced in the life cycle of a plant or animal

**'alternative** /awl'tuhnativ/ *adj* 1 affording a choice, esp between 2 mutually exclusive options 2 constituting an alternative 3 of or catering for the alternative society <~ technology> – **alternatively** *adv*

**²alternative** *n* 1 an opportunity or need for deciding between 2 or more

possibilities 2 either of 2 possibilities between which a choice is to be made, also any of more than 2 such possibilities

**alternative society** *n* the group of people who reject conventional social institutions, practices, and values in favour of a life-style based esp on communal ownership and self-sufficiency – compare COUNTERCULTURE

**alternator** /'awltə,naytə/ *n* an electric generator for producing alternating current CAR

**although** also **altho** /awld'hoh/ *conj* in spite of the fact or possibility that, though [ME *although*, fr *al* all + *though*]

**altimeter** /'altimēts/ *n* an instrument for measuring altitude [L *altus* + *E* -meter] – **altimetry** /'altimətri/ *n*

**altitude** /'altitju:hd/ *n* 1 the angular elevation of a celestial object above the horizon 2 the height of an object (e.g. an aircraft), esp above sea level 3 the perpendicular distance from the base of a geometrical figure to the vertex or the side parallel to the base MATHEMATICS [ME, fr L *altitudo* height, depth, fr *altus* high, deep – more at OLD] – **altitudinal** /'altitju:hdinl/ *adj*

**alto** /'altəh/ *n*, *pl* **altos** 1a a countertenor b a contralto 2 the second highest part in 4-part harmony 3 a member of a family of instruments having a range between the treble or soprano and the tenor [It, lit., high, fr L *altus*] – **alto** *adj*

**alto clef** *n* a C clef placing middle C on the 3rd line of the staff MUSIC

**altocumulus** /'altəh'kyoohmyooləs/ *n*, *pl* **altocumuli** /-he/ a cloud formation consisting of large whitish globular cloudlets at a higher level than cumulus [NL, fr L *altus* + NL -o- + *cumulus*]

**'altogether** /awltə'gedhə/ *adv* 1 wholly, thoroughly <an ~ different problem> 2 ALL TOLD 3 in the main; ON THE WHOLE 4 in every way <more complicated ~> [ME *altogedere*, fr *al* all + *togedere* together]

**²altogether** *n* the nude <posed in the ~> – *infml*

**altostratus** /'altəh'strahtəs/ *n*, *pl* **altostrati** /-tue/ a cloud formation similar to cirrostratus but darker and at a lower level WEATHER [NL, fr L *altus* + NL -o- + *stratus*]

**altricial** /al'trish(ə)l/ *adj*, of a bird (having young) needing care for some time after birth – compare PRECOCIAL [L *altrix*, *altrix*, fem of *altor* one who nourishes, fr *altus*, pp of *alere* to nourish – more at OLD]

**altruism** /'altrooh,iz(ə)m/ *n* unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others [F *altruisme*, fr *autrui* other people, fr OF, oblique case form of *autre* other, fr L *alter*] – **altruist** *n*, **altruistic** /-'istik/ *adj*, **altruistically** *adv*

**alula** /'alyoola/ *n*, *pl* **alulae** /-lu/ BASTARD WING [NL, fr L, dim. of *ala* wing – more at AISLE] – **alular** *adj*

**alum** /'aləm/ *n* (any of various double salts with a similar crystal structure to) a sulphate of aluminium with potassium or ammonium, used esp as an emetic and astringent [ME, fr MF *alum*, *alun*, fr L *alumen* – more at ALE]

**alumina** /'ɔ'l(y)oohmina/ *n* aluminium oxide that occurs naturally as corundum [NL, fr L *alumin-*, *alumen* alum]

**aluminate** /'ɔ'l(y)oohminayt/ *n* a compound of alumina with a metallic oxide

**aluminium** /'alyooh'muni-əm, -yoo-/ *n* a bluish silver-white malleable light trivalent metallic element with good electrical and thermal conductivity and resistance to oxidation PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *alumina*]

**alumin-ize, -ise** /'ɔ'lyoohm,inez/ *vt* to treat or coat with aluminium

**aluminous** /'ɔ'l(y)oohminəs/ *adj* of or containing alum or aluminium

**aluminium** /'ɔ'loohminəm/ *n*, NAM aluminium

**alumnus** /'ɔ'lumnəs/, fem **alumna** /-nə/ *n*, *pl* **alumni** /-nie/, fem **alumnae** /-ni/ chiefly NAM a former student of a particular school, college, or university; broadly a former member of any organization [L, foster son, pupil, fr *alere* to nourish – more at OLD]

**alveolar** /'alvi'ohlə, 'alve-ələ/ *adj* 1 of, resembling, made up of, or having alveoli or an alveolus 2 articulated with the tip of the tongue touching or near the ridge of flesh behind the front teeth <an ~ consonant>

**alveolus** /'alvi'ohləs, 'alve-ələs/ *n*, *pl* **alveoli** /-lie/ a small cavity or pit: e.g. a socket for a tooth b an air cell of the lungs DIGESTION c a cell or compartment of a honeycomb [NL, fr L, dim. of *alveus* cavity, hollow, fr *alvus* belly; akin to ON *hvanþjoli* stalk of angelica, Gk *aulos*, a reed instrument]

**always** /awl'way/ *adv*, *archaic* always [ME]

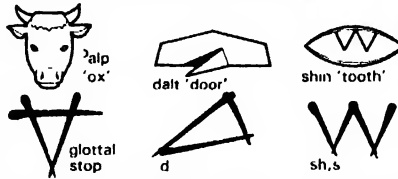
**always** /awl'wayz, -wiz/ *adv* 1a at all times <have ~ lived here> b in all cases <they ~ have long tails> 2 on every occasion; repeatedly <he's ~ complaining> 3 forever, perpetually <will ~ love you> 4 as a last

# The evolution of the alphabet

This diagram illustrates the history of the alphabet by showing how one of the original Semitic letters, *shin*, has evolved in some of the principal descendant scripts

## Proto-Semitic

The original 22-letter Semitic alphabet was invented in the Palestine/Syria area some time before 1500 BC, probably in imitation of Egyptian writing. Stylized pictures stood for the initial sounds of the things pictured, all Semitic words began with consonants, so the script had no vowels



Western or Canaanite branch

Eastern or Aramaic branch

## Mongolian

The Mongolian alphabet is one of several Central Asian scripts descended from the Semitic alphabet, it is written vertically, starting at the left



## Early Greek and Etruscan

The Greeks borrowed the Semitic alphabet from the Phoenicians about 1000 BC. They adapted letters for non-Greek sounds to represent vowels, thus Semitic 'alp' (glottal stop) became Greek *alpha* (a). Greek was written right-to-left and left-to-right in alternate lines, but later settled on left-to-right order



**Monumental Roman capitals**  
The Romans borrowed the alphabet from the Etruscans. These serifed capitals were used for inscriptions on stone, cursive forms developed for handwriting



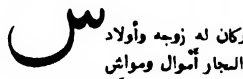
## Later Greek

By about 350 BC the form of alphabet used in Ionia was standardized throughout the Greek world



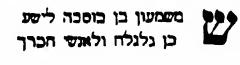
## Arabic

Arabic script is always written cursorily, there is no separate printed form. The letter-shapes are so simplified that some have become identical, and dots are added to distinguish them



## Hebrew

The 'Square Hebrew' alphabet used today was developed after 300 BC, previously the Hebrew language had been written in a script belonging to the Western Semitic branch. Like Arabic, Hebrew is written from right to left



## National cursive hands

After the Roman Empire broke up, divergent forms of script evolved in various parts of Europe

Anglo-Irish

Black-Letter or 'Gothic'

Carolingian



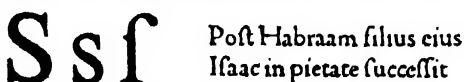
## Cyrillic

Russian uses an alphabet invented in the 9th century by St Cyril, it derives from the Greek alphabet, supplemented by Hebrew letters for non-Greek sounds



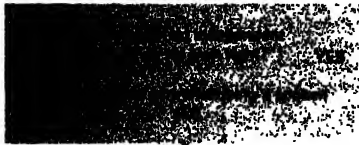
## The modern 'Roman alphabet'

15th-century Italian typographers combined Carolingian minuscules with Monumental capitals to create an alphabet with distinct upper and lower case shapes for most letters. Small s had two forms, 'short s' being used only at ends of words until it supplanted 'long s' in the 19th century.



### Types of script

The several hundred writing-systems of the world are based on many different principles. This diagram classifies and illustrates the various possibilities in terms of a sequence of choices.



Many primitive tribes have evolved subtle systems for transmitting messages graphically without reference to spoken words. This letter from a girl of the Yukaghir tribe of Siberia to her errant lover expresses a complex message through stylized pictures.



Western mathematics is another such system, a formula such as  $\sqrt{100} > 3$  is understood in the same way by people who speak different languages. This kind of 'writing' is on the increase at present, to create internationally recognizable signs in areas such as clothes care and traffic information.



do not bleach



hand wash only



level crossing



no entry

Chinese script has a separate written symbol for each word or 'morpheme' in the language. (Morphemes are the minimal meaningful elements out of which complex words are built.) Chinese words vary greatly in pronunciation in different regions, but their written form is constant.

筆 墨 相 副 曰 豐

brush ink co operate is-called rich

'For brush and ink to co operate is known as richness (in calligraphy).'

Traditionally, Chinese was written vertically downwards, beginning at the right, the left to right horizontal system is also now used.

The Linear B script was used to write Greek before the fall of the Mycenaean civilization about 1200 BC.

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resort, at any rate <they could ~ eat cake> [ME *alway*, *alwayes*, fr OE *ealne weg*, lit., all the way, fr *ealne* (acc of *eall* all) + *weg* (acc) way – more at *way*]

**alysium** /'alisəm/ *n* 1 any of a genus of Old World yellow-flowered plants of the mustard family 2 an annual or perennial European plant of the mustard family that has clusters of small fragrant usu white flowers [NL, fr Gk *alysos*, plant believed to cure rabies, fr neut of *alysos* curing rabies, fr *a-* + *lyssa* rabies]

**am** /əm, m, strong am/ *pres 1 sing of* *be* [ME, fr OE *com*, akin to ON *em* am, L *sum*, Gk *eimi*, OE *is* is]

**AM** /əy 'em/ *adj* of or being a broadcasting or receiving system using amplitude modulation [amplitude modulation]

**amah** /'amə, 'ahmə/ *n* an Oriental female servant; esp a Chinese nurse [Pg *ama* wet nurse, fr ML *amma*]

**amalgam** /ə'malgəm/ *n* 1 an alloy of mercury with another metal (e.g. used in making dental fillings) 2 a mixture of different elements [ME *amalgame*, fr MF, fr ML *amalgama*, prob. deriv. of Gk *malagma* emollient, fr *malassein* to soften]

**amalgamate** /ə'malgəməyt/ *vt* to unite (as if) in an amalgam, esp to combine into a single body

**amalgamation** /ə'malgə'məyʃən/ *n* 1 amalgamating or being amalgamated 2 a consolidation, merger (< ~ of 2 companies>)

**amanuensis** /ə'manyoo'hensiz/ *n, pl amanuenses* /-seəz/ *sby* employed to write from dictation or to copy manuscript [L, fr (*servus*) *a manu* slave with secretarial duties]

**amaranth** /ə'mærənθ/ *n* 1 any of a large genus of coarse plants some of which are cultivated for their showy (purple) flowers 2 a dark reddish purple colour 3 an imaginary flower that never fades – chiefly poetic [L *amarantus*, a flower, fr Gk *amaranton*, fr neut of *amarantos* unfading, fr *a-* + *maraincin* to waste away – more at *SMART*] – **amaranthine** /ə'mærənθin, -θien/ *adj*

**amaryllis** /ə'mærilis/ *n* any of a genus of bulbous African plants of the daffodil family with showy flowers in umbels [NL, genus name, prob. fr L, name of a shepherdess in Vergil's *Eclogues*]

**amass** /ə'mas/ *vt* 1 to collect for oneself; accumulate (< ~ a great fortune>) 2 to bring together into a mass, gather [MF *amasser*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *masser* to gather into a mass, fr *masse* mass]

**amateur** /ə'mætə, -tʃə/ *n* 1 one who engages in a pursuit as a pastime rather than as a profession; esp a sportsman who has never competed for money 2 one who practises an art or science unskilfully; a dabbler [F, fr L *amator* lover, fr *amatus*, pp of *amare* to love] – **amateur adj**, **amateurish adj**, **amateurishly adv**, **amateurishness n**, **amateurism n**

**amative** /ə'mativ/ *adj* disposed to love, amorous – fml [ML *amativus*, fr L *amatus*]

**amatory** /ə'mæt(ə)n/ *adj* of or expressing sexual love

**amaurosis** /ə'maw'roʊsɪs/ *n, pl amauroses* /-seəz/ *decay* of sight, esp due to neurological disease, without obvious change or damage to the eye [NL, fr Gk *amaurosis*, lit., dimming, fr *amauroon* to dim, fr *amauros* dim] – **amaurotic** /-rɒtɪk/ *adj*

**amaze** /ə'mayz/ *vt* to fill with wonder; astound [ME *amasen*, fr OE *āmasian*, fr *a-* (perfective prefix) + (assumed) *masian* to confuse]

**amazement** /-mənt/ *n* great astonishment [AMAZE + -MENT]

**amazing** /ə'mayzɪŋ/ *adj* – used as a generalized term of approval (<she has the most ~ vintage car>)

**amazingly** /-li/ *adv* 1 to an amazing degree 2 as is amazing (<~, she believed his story>)

**amazon** /ə'maz(ə)n/ *n, often cap* a tall strong athletic woman [ME, fr L, fr Gk *Amazon*, one of a mythological race of female warriors]

**Amazonian** /ə'mə'zəʊniən, -ni-ən/ *adj* 1 *not cap*, esp of a woman masculine, aggressive 2 of the Amazon river or its valley

**ambassador** /əm'bæsədə/ *n* 1 an official envoy: e.g. a a top-ranking diplomat accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as a resident representative b one similarly appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment 2 a representative, messenger [ME *ambassadour*, fr MF *ambassadeur*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ambaht* service] – **ambassadorship n**, **ambassadorial** /əm'bəsədə'wri-əl/ *adj*

**ambassador-at-large** *n, pl ambassadors-at-large* a diplomatic or ministerial representative of the highest rank not accredited to a particular foreign government or sovereign

**ambassadress** /əm'bəsədriːs/ *n* 1 a female representative or authorized messenger 2 the wife of an ambassador

**amber** /'æmbə/ *n* 1 a hard yellowish to brownish translucent fossil resin used chiefly for ornaments and jewellery 2 the colour of amber 3 a yellow traffic light meaning 'caution' [ME *ambre*, fr MF, fr ML *ambra*, fr Ar *'anbar* ambergris] – **amber adj**

**'ambergris** /-grees, -grɪs/ *n* a waxy substance found floating in tropical waters, believed to originate in the intestines of the sperm whale, and used in perfumery as a fixative [ME *ambregris*, fr MF *ambre gris*, fr *ambre* + *gris* grey – more at *GRIZZLED*]

**ambi-** /ambi-/ *prefix* both, two (<ambivalent> <ambiguous>) [L *ambi-*, *amb-* both, around, akin to L *ambo* both, Gk *ampho* both, *amphi* around – more at *BY*]

**ambidextrous** /ambi'dekstrəs/ *adj* 1 able to use either hand with equal ease 2 unusually skilful, versatile 3 characterized by deceitfulness and double-dealing [LL *ambidexter*, fr L *ambi-* + *dexter* on the right, skilful]

**ambidextrously adv**, **ambidexterity** /-dek'stɪrəti/ *n*

**ambience, ambiance** /'ambi-əns (Fr ɔ̃biʁs)/ *n* a surrounding or pervading atmosphere; an environment, milieu [F *ambiance*, fr *ambiant* surrounding, fr L *ambient-*, *ambiens*]

**'ambient** /ambi-ənt/ *adj* surrounding on all sides, encompassing – fml [L *ambient-*, *ambiens*, prp of *ambire* to go round, fr *ambi-* + *ire* to go – more at *ISSUE*]

**'ambient n** *ambience* – fml

**ambiguity** /ambi'gyoo-ɪti/ *n* 1 (a word or expression with) the quality of being ambiguous or imprecise in meaning 2 uncertainty of meaning or relative position (<the basic ~ of her political stance>)

**ambiguous** /ə'mbigyoo-əs/ *adj* 1 vague, indistinct, or difficult to classify 2 capable of 2 or more interpretations [L *ambiguus*, fr *ambigere* to wander about, fr *ambi-* + *agere* to drive – more at *AGENT*] – **ambiguously adv**, **ambiguously n**

**ambit** /'ambɪt/ *n* 1 a limiting circumference 2 the bounds or limits of a place; the precincts 3 a sphere of influence; a scope [ME, fr L *ambitus*, fr *ambitus*, pp of *ambire*]

**ambition** /ə'mbɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a strong desire for status, wealth, or power b a desire to achieve a particular end 2 an object of ambition [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *ambition-*, *ambitio*, lit., going round, fr *ambitus*, pp] – **ambitious adj**

**ambitious** /ə'mbɪʃəs/ *adj* 1a having or controlled by ambition b desirous of, aspiring 2 resulting from or showing ambition (<an ~ attempt>) 3 elaborate (<cooked nothing more ~ than boiled eggs>) – **ambitiously adv**, **ambitiousness n**

**ambivalence** /ə'mbɪvələns/ *n* the state of having 2 opposing and contradictory attitudes or feelings towards an object, person, etc [ISV] – **ambivalent adj**, **ambivalently adv**

**ambivert** /əmbi,vuɪt/ *n* a person with both extroverted and introverted characteristics [*ambi-* + *-vert* (as in *introvert*)] – **'ambi'version** /-vʊhʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'amble** /'æmbəl/ *vi* **ambling** /'æmbliŋ, 'æmbliŋ-/ *to move* at an amble [ME *amblen*, fr MF *ambler*, fr L *ambulare* to walk]

**'amble n** 1 an easy gait of a horse in which the legs on the same side of the body move together 2 an easy gait 3 a leisurely stroll

**amblyopia** /əmbli'ɒpi-ə/ *n* poor sight without obvious change or damage to the eye [NL, fr Gk *amblyopia*, fr *amblys* blunt, dull + *-opia* -opia] – **amblyopic** /-ɒpɪk/ *adj*

**ambo** /'æmbə/ *n, pl ambo*, *ambones* /ə'mbɒneɪz/ *a pulpit* in an early Christian church [ML *ambon-*, *ambo*, fr LGK *ambon*, fr Gk, rim]

**ambrosia** /ə'mbrəʒi-ə, -zhi(y)ə/ *n* 1 the food of the Greek and Roman gods 2 sth extremely pleasing to the taste or smell [L, fr Gk, lit., immortality, fr *ambrotos* immortal, fr *a-* + *-mbrotos* (akin to *brotos* mortal) – more at *MURDER*] – **ambrosial adj**

**ambulance** /ə'mbyooləns/ *n* a vehicle equipped to transport the injured or ill [F, field hospital, fr *ambulant* itinerant, fr L *ambulant-*, *ambulans*, prp of *ambulare*]

**ambulant** /ə'mbyoolənt/ *adj* 1 of a patient not confined to bed; able to walk 2 moving about [L *ambulant-*, *ambulans*]

**'ambulatory** /ə'mbyoolət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 of or adapted for walking; also occurring while walking 2 moving or movable from place to place; not fixed 3a *AMBULANT* 1 b of or for sby who is able to walk about (<~ treatment>) [L *ambulatorius*, fr *ambulator*, pp of *ambulare*]

**'ambulatory n** a sheltered place for walking; *specif* the apse aisle of a church

**ambuscade** /ə'mboʊ'skayd/ *n* an ambush [MF *embuscade*, modif. of Olt *imboscata*, fr *imboscare* to place in ambush, fr *in* (fr L) + *bosco* forest, perh. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *busc* forest – more at *IN*]

**'ambush** /ə'mboʊʃ/ *vt* to attack from an ambush; waylay ~ *vi* to lie in wait; lurk [ME *embushen*, fr OF *embuscher*, fr *en* in (fr L *in*) + *busche* stick of firewood] – **ambushment n**

**'ambush n** 1 the concealment of soldiers, police, etc in order to carry out a surprise attack from a hidden position 2 people stationed in ambush; also their concealed position

**ameba** /ə'meebə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* an amoeba – **amebic** also **ameban** *adj*, **amebold** *adj*

**ameer** /ə'miə/ *n* an emir

**ameliorate** /ə'meliə'reɪt/ *vb* to make or become better or more tolerable [alter of *meliorate*] – **ameliorative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **amelioration** /-rəʃən/ *n*

**amen** /ah'men, ay-, '--/ *interj* – used to express solemn ratification (e.g. of an expression of faith) or hearty approval (e.g. of an assertion) [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr Gk *amen*, fr Heb *amen*]

**amenable** /ə'meenəbl/ *adj* 1 liable to be brought to account; answerable 2a capable of submission (e.g. to judgment or test) b readily persuaded to yield or agree; tractable [prob fr (assumed) AF, fr MF *amener* to lead up, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *mener* to lead, fr L *minare* to drive, fr *minari* to threaten – more at 'MOUNT] – **amenably** *adv*, **amenability** /-nə'bɪləti/ *n*

**amend** /ə'mend/ *vt* 1 to put right, *specif* to make emendations in (e.g. a text) 2a to change or modify for the better; improve b to alter (e.g. a document) formally (< the constitution) [ME *amenden*, fr OF *amender*, modif of L *emendare*, fr *e*, ex out + *menda* fault, akin to L *mendax* lying, *mendiculus* beggar, Skt *minda* physical defect]

**amendment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 the act of amending, esp for the better 2 an alteration proposed or effected by amending (< several ~s to the Bill)

**amends** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* compensation for a loss or injury, recompense (< make ~) [ME *amendes*, fr OF, pl of *amende* reparation, fr *amender*]

**amenity** /ə'menəti, ə'mee-/ *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a public facility) conducive to material comfort – often pl (urban amenities, roads, water, sewerage, and power – *National Times* (Sydney)) 2 sthg (e.g. a conventional social gesture) conducive to ease of social intercourse – usu pl 3 pleasantness, esp of environment – fml [ME *amenite* pleasantness, fr L *amoenitas*, *amoenitas*, fr *amoenus* pleasant]

**amenorrhoea**, chiefly *NAm* **amenorrhea** /ə'menə'riə, ay-/ *n* abnormal absence of the menstrual discharge [NL, fr *a-* + Gk *men* month + NL *-o-* + *-rrhoea* – more at MOON]

**amentia** /ə'menshə/ *n* (congenital) mental deficiency [NL, fr L, madness, fr *ament-*, *amens* mad, fr *a-* (fr *ab-*) + *ment-*, *mens* mind – more at MIND]

**amerce** /ə'mu:z/ *vt* to punish, esp by a fine [ME *amercien*, fr AF *amercier*, fr OF *a merci* at (one's) mercy] – **amercement** *n*, **amerciable** /-shəbl/ *adj*

**American** /ə'menkən/ *n* 1 a N or S American Indian 2 a native or inhabitant of N or S America 3 a citizen of the USA 4 English as typically spoken and written in the USA [America, western continent, fr NL, fr *Americus* Vesputius (Amerigo Vespucci) †1512 It navigator]


**American** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of N or S America 2 (characteristic) of the USA 3 of the N and S American Indians

**American dream** *n* a vision of freedom, equality, material prosperity, and glossy modernity as being realized or attainable in the USA – usu + *the*

**American Indian** *n* a member of any of the indigenous peoples of N, S, or central America excluding the Eskimos

**Americanism** /ə'merɪkənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a characteristic feature (e.g. a custom or belief) of Americans or American culture 2a adherence or attachment to America and its culture b the promotion of American policies

**Americanize**, *-ise* /ə'merɪkəni:z/ *vb*, often *cap* to (cause to) have or acquire American customs, characteristics, etc – **Americanization** /-ni:zəʃən/ *n*, often *cap*

**americium** /ə'mə'risi-əm/ *n* a radioactive metallic element produced by bombardment of uranium with alpha particles  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *America* + NL *-ium*]

**Amerindian** /ə'mə'rɪndi-ən/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* AMERICAN INDIAN [American + Indian] – **Amerind** /ə'mə'rɪnd/ *n*, **Amerindian** *adj*, **Amerindic** /ə'mə'rɪndɪk/ *adj*

**amethyst** /ə'məθɪst/ *n* a semiprecious gemstone of clear purple or violet quartz [ME *amatiste*, fr OF & L: OF, fr L *amethystus*, fr Gk *amethystos*, lit., remedy against drunkenness, fr *a-* + *methyēin* to be drunk, fr *methy* wine – more at 'MEAD] – **amethystine** /ə'məθɪstɪn/ *adj*


**Amharic** /ə'm'hɑ:ɪk/ *n* an Ethiopian Semitic language  LANGUAGE – **Amharic** *adj*

**amiable** /ə'mi-əbl/ *adj* 1 (seeming) agreeable and well-intentioned; inoffensive 2 friendly, congenial [ME, fr MF, fr LL *amicabilis* friendly, fr L *amicus* friend; akin to L *amare* to love] – **amiableness** *n*, **amiably** *adv*, **amiability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**amianthus** /ə'mi'anthəs/ *n* a fine silky asbestos [L *amiantus*, fr Gk *amiantos*, fr *amiantos* unpolluted, fr *a-* + *miainein* to pollute]

**amiantus** /ə'mi'antəs/ *n* amianthus

**amicable** /ə'mɪkəbl/ *adj* characterized by friendly goodwill; peaceable [ME, fr LL *amicabilis*] – **amicableness** *n*, **amicably** *adv*, **amicability** /-bɪləti/ *n*


**amice** /ə'mɪs/ *n* a vestment made of an oblong piece of white cloth worn by a priest round the neck and shoulders and partly under the alb  GARMENT [ME *amis*, prob fr MF, pl of *amit*, fr ML *amictus*, fr L, cloak, fr *amictus*, pp of *amicare* to wrap round, fr *am-*, *amb-* round + *jacere* to throw – more at AMB-, 'JET]

**amid** /ə'mɪd/ *prep* in or to the middle of – poetic [ME *amidde*, fr OE *onmiddan*, fr *on* + *middan*, dat of *midde* mid]

**amid-**, **amido-** *comb form* 1 containing an amido group (<amido-sulphuric) 2 amin- (<amidopyrene) [ISV, fr *amide*]

**amide** /ə'mɪed, 'ə'mɪd/ *n* any of various compounds resulting from replacement of an atom of hydrogen in ammonia by a metal atom or a (specif organic acid) radical [ISV, fr NL *ammonia*] – **amidic** /ə'mɪdɪk/ *adj*

**amido** /ə'mɪdoh, ə'meedoh/ *adj* of, being, or containing (a derivative of) the chemical group NH<sub>2</sub>– united to a radical derived from an acid – compare AMINO [*amid-*]

**amidships** /ə'mɪdʃɪps/ *adv* in or towards the middle part (of a ship)  SHIP

**amidst** /ə'mɪdst/ *prep* amid [ME *amidde*, fr *amide* + *-es -a*]

**amin-**, **amino-** *comb form* containing an amino group (<aminomethane) [ISV, fr *amine*]

**amine** /ə'meen, ə'meen/ *n* any of various usu organic compounds that are chemical bases and contain 1 or more amino groups [ISV, fr NL *ammonia*] – **aminic** /ə'mɪnɪk/ *adj*

**amino** /ə'meenoh/ *adj* of, being, or containing (a derivative of) the chemical group NH<sub>2</sub>– united to a radical derived from a compound that is not an acid – compare AMIDO [*amin-*]

**amino acid** *n* any of various organic acids containing an amino group and occurring esp in linear chains as the chief components of proteins

**amir** /ə'mɪə/ *n* an emir

**amiss** /ə'mɪs/ *adv* or *adj* 1 astray 2 out of order; at fault 3 out of place in given circumstances – usu + a negative (< a few pertinent remarks may not come ~ here) [adv ME *amis*, fr 'a- + *mis* (n) mistake, wrong; *adj* fr *adv*]

**amitriptyline** /ə'mɪ'trɪptɪli:n/ *n* a drug widely used to treat depression [origin unknown]

**amity** /ə'mɪti/ *n* friendship [ME *amite*, fr MF *amité*, fr ML *amicitas*, fr L *amicus* friend – more at AMIABLE]

**ammeter** /ə'meetə/ *n* an instrument for measuring electric current in amperes [ampere + *-meter*]


**ammo** /ə'moh/ *n* ammunition – infml [by shortening & alter.]

**ammonia** /ə'mohnyə, -ni-ə/ *n* a pungent colourless gas that is a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen and is very soluble in water, forming an alkaline solution [NL, fr L *sal ammoniacus* sal ammoniac, lit., salt of Ammon, fr Gk *ammoniakos* of Ammon, fr *Ammon* Ammon, Amen, an Egyptian god near one of whose temples it was prepared]

**ammoniacal** /ə'mə'ni-əkl/, **ammoniac** /ə'mohni-əkl/ *adj* of, containing, or having the properties of ammonia

**ammoniate** /ə'mohni-əɪt/ *vt* 1 to combine or impregnate with ammonia or an ammonium compound 2 to subject to ammonification – **ammoniation** /-ə'ʃən/ *n*

**ammonification** /ə'mohni-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* 1 ammoniating 2 decomposition, esp of nitrogenous organic matter by bacteria, with production of ammonia or ammonium compounds – **ammonify** /-fi-/ *vb*, **ammonifier** *n*

**ammonite** /ə'məni:t/ *n* a flat spiral fossil shell of a mollusc abundant esp in the Mesozoic age  EVOLUTION [NL *ammonites*, fr L *cornu Ammonis*, lit., horn of Ammon] – **ammonitic** /-ni:tɪk/ *adj*

**ammonium** /ə'mohnyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* an ion or radical derived from ammonia by combination with a hydrogen ion or atom [NL, fr *ammonia*]

**ammonoid** /ə'mənoɪd/ *n* an ammonite

**ammunition** /ə'myoo'nɪʃən/ *n* 1 the projectiles, together with their propelling charges, used in the firing of guns; also bombs, grenades, etc containing explosives 2 material used to defend or attack a point of view (< his indiscretions provided ~ for the press) [obs F *amunition*, fr MF, alter of *munitio*]

**amnesia** /ə'm'neziə, -zh(y)ə/ *n* a (pathological) loss of memory [NL,

fr Gk *amnesia* forgetfulness, prob alter. of *amnesia*] – *amnesiac* /-zi:ak/, *amnesic* /-zik/ *adj* or *n*, *amnesic* /am'nestik/ *adj*  
**amnesty** /'amnesti/ *n* the act of pardoning a large group of individuals, esp for political offences [Gk *amnesia* forgetfulness, fr *amnestos* forgotten, fr *a-* + *mnasthai* to remember – more at *MIND*] – *amnesty* *vt*  
**amniocentesis** /'amniəhsen'te:sis/ *n* the insertion of a hollow needle into the uterus of a pregnant female, esp to obtain amniotic fluid (e.g. for the detection of chromosomal abnormality) [NL, fr *amnion* + *centesis* puncture, fr Gk *kentesis*, fr *kentein* to prick – more at *CENTRE*]  
**amnion** /'amni-ən/ *n*, *pl* *amniots*, *amnia* /'amni-ə/ a thin membrane forming a closed sac containing the watery fluid in which an embryo is immersed ➤ **REPRODUCTION** [NL, fr Gk, caul, prob fr dim. of *amnos* lamb] – *amniote* /'amniəht/ *adj* or *n*, *amniotic* /-'otik/ *adj*  
**amoeba**, chiefly *NAM* *ameba* /'ameeba/ *n*, *pl* *amoebas*, *amoebae* /-bi/ any of various protozoans with lobed pseudopodia and without permanent organelles that are widely distributed in water and wet places [NL, genus name, fr Gk *amoebe* change, fr *ameibein* to change – more at *MIGRATE*] – *amoebic* also *amoeboid* *adj*  
**amoeboid**, chiefly *NAM* *ameboid* /'mee,boyd/ *adj* (moving by means of protoplasmic flow) like an amoeba  
**amok**, **amuck** /'amuk/ *adv* 1 in a murderous frenzy, raging violently 2 out of *HAND* 2 *USE* chiefly in *run amok* [Malay *amok*]  
**among** /'among/ *prep* 1 in or through the midst of; surrounded by <living ~ artists> 2 by or through the whole group of <discontent ~ the poor> 3 in the number or class of <~ other things he was head boy> 4 between – used for more than 2 <divided ~ the heirs> <quarrel ~ themselves> 5 through the joint action of <made a fortune ~ themselves> [ME, fr OE *on gemonge*, fr *on* + *gemonge*, dat of *gemong* crowd, fr *ge-* (associative prefix) + *-mong* (akin to OE *mengan* to mix) – more at *CO-MINGLE*]  
**amongst** /'amongst/ *prep* among [alter. of ME *amonges*, fr *among* + *-es* -s]  
**amontillado** /ə,moni'tlahdoh/ *n*, *pl* *amontillados* a pale fairly dry sherry [Sp, fr *a* to + *montilla* wine from Montilla, town in Spain]  
**amoral** /ə(y)'mɔ:əl, ə-/ *adj* 1 being neither moral nor immoral, specifying outside the sphere of ethical judgments 2 having no understanding of, or unconcerned with, morals – *amoralism* *n*, *amorally* *adv*, *amorality* /ə(y)'mɔ:ələti/ *n*  
**amorist** /'amɔ:rist/ *n* 1 a devotee of sexual love; a gallant 2 one who writes about romantic love – *amoristic* /-'nistik/ *adj*  
**amorous** /'amɔ:əs/ *adj* 1 of or relating to love 2 moved by or inclined to love or desire [ME, fr MF, fr ML *amorousus*, fr L *amor* love, fr *amare* to love] – *amorously* *adv*, *amorousness* *n*  
**amorphous** /'mawfəs/ *adj* 1a having no definite form; shapeless *b* without definite character; unclassifiable 2 not crystalline [Gk *amorphos*, fr *a-* + *morphe* form] – *amorphously* *adv*, *amorphousness* *n*  
**amortize**, **-ise** /'mawtizez/ *vt* to provide for the gradual extinguishment of (e.g. a mortgage), usu by periodic contributions to a sinking fund [ME *amortisen* to deaden, alienate in mortmain, modif of MF *amortiss-*, stem of *amortir*, fr (assumed) VL *ad mortire* to deaden, fr L *ad-* + *mort-*, *mors* death – more at *MURDER*] – *amortizable* /'maw,tizeəbl/ *adj*, *amortization* /'maw,tize'zaysh(ə)n, ə'maw-/ *n*  
**Amos** /'aymos/ *n* (a prophetic book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 8th c BC [Heb 'Amos]  
**amount** /ə'maʊnt/ *vi* to be equal in number, quantity, or significance to [ME *amouten*, fr OF *amonter*, fr *amont* upwards, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *mont* mountain – more at *MOUNT*]  
**amount** *n* 1 the total quantity 2 the quantity at hand or under consideration <has an enormous ~ of energy>  
**amour** /ə'maw, ə'muə (fr *amur*)/ *n* a love affair, esp when illicit [ME, love, affection, fr OF, fr OPov *amor*, fr L]  
**amour propre** /'proprə (fr *propr*)/ *n* self-esteem [F *amour-propre*, lit., love of oneself]  
**amp** /amp/ *n* 1 an ampere 2 an amplifier *USE* *infmtl*  
**AMP** *n* a mononucleotide of adenine that is reversibly converted in cells to ADP and ATP [adenosine monophosphate]  
**amperage** /amp(ə)'ri:/ *n* the strength of a current of electricity expressed in amperes  
**ampere** /'ampe:/ *n* the basic SI unit of electric current equal to a constant current that when maintained in 2 straight parallel conductors of infinite length and negligible circular cross-section 1 metre apart in a vacuum produces between the conductors a force equal to  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  newton per metre of length ➤ **PHYSICS** [André M *Ampère* †1836 F physicist]  
**ampere-hour** *n* a unit quantity of electricity equal to the quantity

carried past any point of a circuit by a steady current of 1 ampere flowing for 1 hour  
**ampersand** /'amps,ənd/ *n* a sign, typically &, standing for the word *and* [alter. of *and* (&) *per se and*, lit., (the character) & by itself (is the word) *and*]  
**amphetamine** /am'fetəmeen, -min/ *n* (any of several derivatives of) a synthetic stimulant of the brain which is a common drug of abuse [ISV *alpha* + *methyl* + *phen-* + *ethyl* + *amine*]  
**amphi-** /amfi-/ , **amph-** *prefix* 1 on both sides; round <*amphitheatre*> 2 of both kinds; both <*amphibian*> [L *amphi-* round, on both sides, fr Gk *amphi-*, *amph-*, fr *amphi* – more at *AMBI-*]  
**amphibian** /am'fibi-ən/ *n*, *pl* *amphibians*, (I) *amphibians*, esp collectively *amphibia* /-bi-ə/ 1 an amphibious organism; esp a frog, toad, newt, or other member of a class of cold-blooded vertebrates intermediate in many characteristics between fishes and reptiles 2 an aeroplane, tank, etc adapted to operate on or from both land and water [deriv of Gk *amphibion* amphibious being, fr neut of *amphibios*] – *amphibian* *adj*  
**amphibious** /am'fibi-əs/ *adj* 1 able to live both on land and in water 2a relating to or adapted for both land and water <~ vehicles> *b* involving or trained for coordinated action of land, sea, and air forces organized for invasion 3 combining 2 positions or qualities [Gk *amphibios*, lit., living a double life, fr *amphi-* + *bios* mode of life – more at 'QUICK] – *amphibiously* *adv*, *amphibiousness* *n*  
**amphibole** /'amfi,bohl/ *n* any of a group of silicate minerals (e.g. hornblende) that are important constituents of many rocks [F, fr LL *amphibolus*, fr Gk *amphibolos* ambiguous, fr *amphiballein* to throw round, doubt, fr *amphi-* + *ballein* to throw] – *amphibolitic* /-bɔ'litik/ *adj*  
**amphimictic** /-'miktik/ *adj* capable of (producing fertile offspring by) interbreeding [ISV *amphi-* + Gk *miktos* blended, fr *mignynai*] – *amphimictically* *adv*  
**amphimixis** /-'miksiz/ *n*, *pl* *amphimixes* /-'mikseez/ (the union of germ cells in) sexual reproduction – compare *APOMIXIS* [NL, fr *amphi-* + Gk *mixis* mingling, fr *mignynai* to mix – more at *MIX*]  
**amphioxus** /amfi'ɔksəs/ *n*, *pl* *amphioxii* /-'ɔksie/, *amphioxuses* any of a genus of lancelets, broadly a lancelet [NL, fr *amphi-* + Gk *oxys* sharp]  
**amphipod** /-pod/ *n* any of various small crustaceans (e.g. the sandhopper) with a body flattened sideways [deriv of Gk *amphi-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at *FOOT*] – *amphipod* *adj*  
**amphisbaena** /amfis'beəna/ *n* a mythological serpent with a head at each end and capable of moving in either direction [L, fr Gk *amphisbaina*, fr *amphis* on both sides (fr *amphi* round) + *bainein* to walk, go – more at *BY, COME*]  
**amphitheatre** /-,thi:tə/ *n* 1 an oval or circular building with rising tiers of seats ranged about an open space 2a a semicircular gallery in a theatre *b* a flat or gently sloping area surrounded by abrupt slopes 3 a place of public games or contests [L *amphitheatrum*, fr Gk *amphitheatron*, fr *amphi-* + *theatron* theatre]  
**amphora** /'amfərə/ *n*, *pl* *amphorae* /-ri,-rie/, *amphoras* a 2-handled oval jar or vase with a narrow neck and base, orig used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for holding oil or wine [L, modif of Gk *amphoreus*, *amphiphoreus*, fr *amphi-* + *phoreus* bearer, fr *pherein* to bear – more at 'BEAR]  
**amphoteric** /amfə'terik/ *adj* partly one and partly the other; specific capable of reacting chemically as both an acid and a base [ISV, fr Gk *amphoterōs* each of two, fr *ampho* both – more at *AMBI-*]  
**ampicillin** /amp'silin/ *n* a type of penicillin used esp to treat respiratory infections [ISV *amin-* + *penicillin*]  
**ample** /'ampil/ *adj* 1 generous in size, scope, or capacity 2 abundant, plentiful <they had ~ money for the trip> 3 bixom, portly – chiefly euph [MF, fr L *amplus* large, spacious] – *ampleness* *n*, *amply* /'ampil/ *adv*  
**amplexus** /am'pleksə/ *n* the mating embrace of a frog or toad during which eggs are shed into the water and there fertilized [NL, fr L, *embrace*, fr *amplexus*, pp of *amplecti* to entwine, embrace, fr *ambi-* + *plectere* to plait]  
**amplifier** /ampli'fie-/ *n* a device usu employing valves or transistors to obtain amplification of voltage, current, or power [AMPLIFY + '-ER]  
**amplify** /ampli'fie/ *vt* 1 to expand (e.g. a statement) by the use of detail, illustration, etc 2 to make larger or greater; increase 3 to increase the magnitude of (a signal or other input of power) ~ *vi* to expand on one's remarks or ideas [ME *amplifier*, fr MF *amplifier*, fr L *amplificare*, fr *amplus*] – *amplification* /-fi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**amplitude** /ampli'tyoohd, -choohd/ *n* 1 largeness of a dimensions *b*



scope; abundance 2 the extent of a vibration or oscillation measured from the mean to a maximum [L *amplitudo*, fr *amplus* + *-tudo* -tude]

**amplitude modulation** *n* a modulation of the amplitude of a wave, esp a radio carrier wave, so as to correspond with the instantaneous value of some signal waveform – compare FREQUENCY MODULATION

**ampoule**, chiefly NAm *ampul*, *ampule* /'ampool/ *n* a hermetically sealed small bulbous glass vessel used esp to hold a sterile solution for hypodermic injection [ME *ampulle* flask, fr OE *ampulle* & OF *ampoule*, both fr L *ampulla*]

**ampulla** /'ampoolə/ *n*, pl *ampullae* /-li/ 1 a 2-handled globular flask used esp by the ancient Romans to hold ointment, perfume, or wine 2 a saclike anatomical swelling or pouch [ME, fr OE, fr L, dim of *amphora*] – *ampullar* *adj*

**amputate** /'ampyootayt/ *vt* to cut or lop off, esp to cut (e.g. a damaged or diseased limb) from the body [L *amputatus*, pp of *amputare*, fr *am-*, *amb-* round + *putare* to cut, prune – more at AMBI-, PAVE] – *amputator* *n*, *amputation* /-'taysh(ə)n/ *n*

**amputee** /'ampyootee/ *n* sby who has had a limb amputated

**amuck** /'muk/ *adv* amok

**amulet** /'amyoolit/ *n* a small object worn as a charm against evil [L *amuletum*]

**amuse** /'myoozh/ *vt* 1 to entertain or occupy in a light or pleasant manner (<~ the child with a story) 2 to appeal to the sense of humour of (<the joke doesn't ~ me) [MF *amuser*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *musar* to muse] – *amuser* *n*, *amusing* *adj*, *amusingly* *adv*, *amusingness* *n*, *amusedly* /-zidli/ *adv*

**amusement** /-'mənt/ *n* a means of entertaining or occupying; a pleasurable diversion [AMUSE + -MENT]

**amusement arcade** *n*, chiefly Br a covered area containing coin-operated games machines for recreation

**amusement park** *n* an enclosed park where various amusements (e.g. roundabouts, sideshows, etc) are permanently set up

**amygdalin** /'mɪgdəlin/ *n* a glucoside found esp in the bitter almond [NL *Amygdalus*, genus name, fr LL, almond tree, fr Gk *amygdalos*, akin to Gk *amygdalē* almond]

**amyl** /'amil, 'amiel/ *n* a univalent hydrocarbon radical C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> derived from pentane [blend of *amyl-* and *-yl*]

**amyl-, amylo-** *comb form* starch <amylase> [LL *amyl-*, fr L *amylum*, fr Gk *amylon*, fr neut of *amylon* not ground at the mill, fr *a-* + *myle* mill – more at MEAL]

**amylase** /'amilayz, -lays/ *n* an enzyme that accelerates the hydrolytic breakdown of starch and glycogen

**amyloid** /'amiloɪd/ *n* a firm waxy substance deposited in animal organs under abnormal conditions

**amyloidosis** /'amiloɪdohsɪs/ *n* a pathological condition in which amyloid is deposited [NL]

**amylolysin** /'amiloɪpsɪn/ *n* the amylase of the pancreatic juice [*amyl-* + *-pein* (as in *trypsin*)]

**amylose** /'amiloʊz, -loʊs/ *n* (a component or hydrolysis product of) starch or a similar polysaccharide

**an** /'ə/ *strong an/ indefinite article 'A – used (1) before words with an initial vowel sound (<~ oak> <~ honour>) (2) frequently, esp formerly or in the USA, before words whose initial /h/ sound is often lost before the *an* (<~ hotel>) (3) sometimes, esp formerly in British writing, before words like *union* or *European* whose initial sound is /y/ [ME, fr OE *an* one – more at ONE]*

**an, an'** *conj* 1 and – infml 2 *archaic* if [ME *an*, alter of *and*]

**an prep** 'A – used under the same conditions as 'AN

**an-** – see 'A-

**an-** /-ən/, -ian *also -ean* *suffix* (– *n*) 1 one who is of or belonging to <Mancunian> <republican> 2 one skilled in or specializing in <phonetician> [*-an* & *-ian* fr ME, fr OF & L; OF *-ien*, fr L *-ianus*, fr *-i-* + *-anus*, fr *-anus*, *adj* suffix; *-ean* fr such words as *Mediterranean*, *European*]

**an-, -ian** *also -ean* *suffix* (– *adj*) 1 of or belonging to <American> <Christian> 2 characteristic of; resembling <Mozartean> <Shavian>

**an** *suffix* (– *n*) 1 unsaturated carbon compound <furan> 2 polymeric anhydride of (a specified carbohydrate) <dextran> [ISV *-an*, *-ane*, alter. of *-ene*, *-ine*, & *-one*]

**ana-** /-ano-, -an- *prefix* 1 up; upwards <anabasis> 2 back; backwards <anatropous> 3 again <anabaptism> [L, fr Gk, up, back, again, fr *ana* up – more at ON]

**ana-** /-ahna/, -iana /-i'ahna/ *suffix* (– *n* pl) collected objects or information relating to or characteristic of (a specified topic or individual)

<Cricketana> <Johnsoniana> [NL, fr L, neut pl of *-anus* -an & *-ianus* -ian]

**anabaptism** /'ana'batɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 *cap* the (doctrine or practices of the) Anabaptist movement 2 the baptism of one previously baptized [NL *anabaptismus*, fr LGk *anabaptismos* rebaptism, fr *anabaptizein* to rebaptize, fr *ana-* again + *baptizein* to baptize]

**Anabaptist** /-'baptɪst/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a radical egalitarian Protestant movement arising orig in Zurich in 1524, whose chief distinguishing feature was its insistence on baptism or rebaptism of adult believers

**anabatic** /'ana'batɪk/ *adj* moving upwards (<an ~ wind>) [Gk *anabatos*, verbal of *anabainein* to go up or inland, fr *ana-* + *bainein* to go]

**anabiosis** /'ana'bie'ohsɪs/ *n*, pl *anabioses* /-seɪz/ a state of suspended animation induced in some organisms by desiccation [NL, fr Gk *anabiosis* return to life, fr *anabion* to return to life, fr *ana-* + *bios* life – more at 'quick] – *anabiotic* /-bie'otɪk/ *adj*

**anabolic steroid** /'ana'bɒlɪk/ *n* any of several synthetic steroid hormones that cause a rapid increase in the size and weight of skeletal muscle

**anabolism** /'ə'na'bɒlɪz(ə)m/ *n* constructive metabolism involving the use of energy by a living organism to make proteins, fats, etc from simpler materials – compare CATABOLISM [ISV *ana-* + *-bolism* (as in *metabolism*)] – *anabolic* /'ana'bɒlɪk/ *adj*

**anabranch** /'ana'braɪnʃ/ *n* a diverging branch of a river which reenters the river or sinks into the ground

**anachronism** /'ə'na'krɒnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an error in chronology; esp a chronological misplacing of people, events, objects, or customs 2 sby who or sthg that seems chronologically out of place [prob fr MGk *anachronismos*, fr *anachronizesthai* to be an anachronism, fr LGk *anachronizein* to be late, fr Gk *ana-* + *chronos* time] – *anachronistic* /-'nɪstɪk/ *also* *anachronic* /'ana'krɒnɪk/, *anachronous* /'ə'na'krɒnəs/ *adj*, *anachronistically* /'ə'na'krɒnɪstɪkəl/ *also* *anachronously* /'ə'na'krɒnəsli/ *adv*

**anacoluthon** /'ana'kə'looθ,θon/ *n*, pl *anacolutha* /-θə/, *anacoluthons* syntactic inconsistency, esp the shift from one construction to another (e.g. in 'you really ought – well, do it your own way') [LL, fr LGk *anakolouthon* inconsistency in logic, fr Gk, neut of *anakolouthos* inconsistent, fr *an-* + *akolouthos* following] – *anacoluthic* *adj*, *anacoluthically* *adv*

**anaconda** /'ana'kɒndə/ *n* a large semiaquatic S American snake of the boa family that crushes its prey in its coils [prob modif of Sinhalese *henakandaya* a slender green snake]

**anacrusis** /'ana'kroʊsɪs/ *n*, pl *anacruses* /-seɪz/ 1 an unstressed syllable at the beginning of a line of poetry 2 1 or more notes preceding the first downbeat of a musical phrase [NL, fr Gk *anacrusis* beginning of a song, fr *anakrouein* to begin a song, fr *ana-* + *krouein* to strike, beat; akin to Lith *krušti* to stamp]

**anadromous** /'ə'na'drɒməs/ *adj* ascending rivers from the sea for breeding (<salmon are ~>) [Gk *anadromos* running upwards, fr *anadramen* to run upwards, fr *ana-* + *dramein* to run – more at DROMEDARY]

**anaemia**, chiefly NAm *anemia* /'æ'neɪmə, -mi-/ *n* 1a a condition in which the blood is deficient in red blood cells, haemoglobin, or total volume b *ischaemia* 2 lack of vitality [NL, fr Gk *anaimia* bloodlessness, fr *an-* + *haima* blood] – *anaemic* *adj*, *anaemically* *adv*

**anaerobe** /'æ'neəroʊb, 'æ'na'roʊb/ *n* an organism (e.g. a bacterium) that lives only in the absence of oxygen [ISV *an-* + *aerobe*] – *anaerobic* /'æ'na'roʊbɪk/ *adj*, *anaerobically* *adv*

**anaesthesia**, chiefly NAm *anesthesia* /'ana'sθeezɪə(yə), -zyə/ *n* loss of sensation, esp loss of sensation of pain, resulting either from injury or a disorder of the nerves or from the action of drugs [NL, fr Gk *aisthesis*, fr *an-* + *aisthesis* sensation, fr *aisthanesthai* to perceive – more at AUDIENCE]

**anaesthetic**, chiefly NAm *anesthetic* /'ana'sθetɪk/ *n* a substance that produces anaesthesia, e.g. so that surgery can be carried out painlessly – *anaesthetic* *adj*, *anaesthetically* *adv*

**anaesthetize**, -ise, chiefly NAm *anesthetize* /'æ'neestha,teɪz/ *vt* to subject to anaesthesia, esp for purposes of surgery – *anaesthetist* *n*

**anaglyph** /'ana'glɪf/ *n* an embossed ornament in low relief [LL *anaglyphus* embossed, fr Gk *anaglyphos*, fr *anaglyphēin* to emboss, fr *ana-* + *glyphēin* to carve – more at 'CLEAVE] – *anaglyphic* /-'glɪfɪk/ *adj*

**anagoge**, *anagogy* /'ana'goʊgi/ *n* mystical or allegorical interpretation (e.g. of a text) [LL *anagoge*, fr LGk *anagoge*, fr Gk, reference, fr *anagein* to refer, fr *ana-* + *agein* to lead – more at AGENT] – *anagogic* /-'goʊjɪk/, *anagogical* *adj*, *anagogically* *adv*

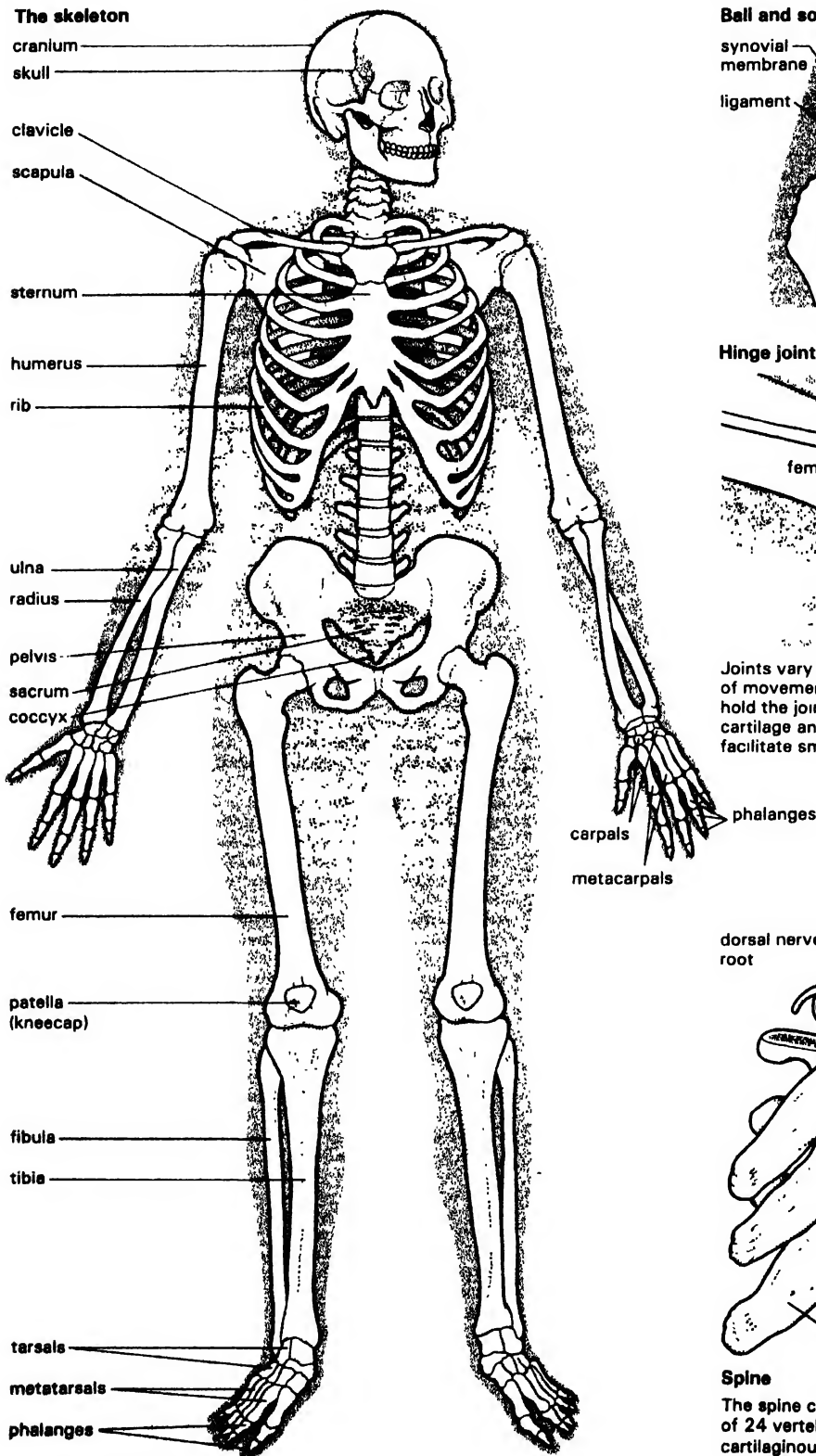
**anagram** /'ana'gram/ *n* a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters of another [prob fr MF *anagramme*, fr NL *anagrammat-*, *anagramma*, modif of Gk *anagrammatismos*, fr *anagrammatizein* to transpose letters,

- fr *ana-* + *grammat-*, *gramma* letter – more at <sup>2</sup>GRAM] – **anagrammatic** /-grə'matik/, **anagrammatical** *adj.*, **anagrammatically** *adv.*, **anagrammatize** /-ano'gramatize/, *vt*
- anal** /'aynl/ *adj* 1 of or situated near the anus 2 of or characterized by (parsimony, meticulousness, or other personality traits typical of) the stage of sexual development during which the child is concerned esp with its faces – compare ORAL, GENITAL – **anally** *adv.*, **anality** /'ay'naliti/ *n*
- analecta** /'ano'lektə/ *n pl* **analecets**  
[NL *analecta*, fr Gk *analekta*, neut pl of *analektos*, verbal of *analegein* to collect, fr *ana-* + *legein* to gather – more at <sup>2</sup>LEGEND]
- analeptic** /'ano'leptik/ *adj* stimulating the central nervous system; restorative [Gk *analeptikos*, fr *analambanein* to take up, restore] – **analeptic** *n*
- analgesia** /'anl'jeezh(yə), -zyə/ *n* insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness [NL, fr Gk *analgesia*, fr *an-* + *algesis* sense of pain, fr *algein* to suffer pain, fr *algos* pain] – **analgesic** /-'jeezhik/ *adj* or *n*, **analgetic** /-'jetik/ *adj* or *n*
- analogue** /'anələjst/ *n* one who searches for or reasons from analogies
- analog-ize**, -ise /'ə'nələjize/ *vb* to compare by or use analogy
- analogous** /'ə'nələgəs/ *adj* 1 corresponding by analogy 2 being or related to as an analogue [L *analogus*, fr Gk *analogos*, lit, proportionate, fr *ana-* + *logos* reason, ratio, fr *legein* to gather, speak – more at <sup>1</sup>LEGEND] – **analogously** *adv.*, **analogousness** *n*
- analogue**, *NAm chiefly analog* /'anələg/ *n* sth analogous or parallel to sth else [F *analogue*, fr *analogue* analogous, fr Gk *analogos*]
- analogue**, *NAm chiefly analog* *adj* of an analogue computer
- analogue computer** *n* a computer that operates with numbers represented by directly measurable quantities (e.g. voltages or mechanical rotations) – compare DIGITAL COMPUTER
- analogy** /'ə'nələji/ *n* 1 inference from a parallel case 2 resemblance in some particulars; similarity 3 the tendency for new words or linguistic forms to be created in imitation of existing patterns 4 correspondence in function between anatomical parts of different structure and origin [prob fr Gk *analogia* mathematical proportion, correspondence, fr *analogos*] – **analogic** /'ə'nə'lojɪk/, **analogical** /'ə'nə'lojɪkəl/ *adj.*, **analogically** *adv.*
- analytical** /'ə'nə'litik/ *adj* 1 of analysis 2 skilled in or using analysis, esp in reasoning <a keenly ~ man> 3 asserting of a subject a predicate that is part of the meaning of that subject; broadly logically necessary; tautologous <'all women are female' is an ~ truth> – compare SYNTHETIC 4 characterized by analysis rather than inflection <~ languages> 5 psychoanalytic [LL *analyticus*, fr Gk *analytikos*, fr *analyein*] – **analytically** *adv.*, **analyticity** /-li'tisiti/ *n*
- analytical geometry** /'ə'nə'litikl/ *n* the study of geometric properties by means of algebraic operations on coordinates in a coordinate system
- anamnesis** /'ə'nəm'neesis/ *n, pl* **anamneses** /-seez/ 1 a recalling to mind; reminiscence 2 a patient's preliminary case history [NL, fr Gk *anamnesis*, fr *anamimnēskethai* to remember, fr *ana-* + *mimnēskethai* to remember – more at <sup>2</sup>MIND] – **anamnetic** /-'nestik/ *adj*
- anamorphic** /'ə'nə'mɔ'fɪk/ *adj*, of (the image produced by) an optical instrument producing or having a different image magnification in each of 2 perpendicular directions [NL *anamorphosis* distorted optical image, fr MGk *anamorphōsis*, fr LGk *anamorphoun* to transform, fr Gk *ana-* + *morphoun* to form, fr *morphe* shape]
- ananas** /'ə'nə'nəs, -nəs/ *n* PINEAPPLE 1 [F or Sp; F, fr Sp *anánas*, fr Pg, modif of Guarani *naná*]
- anapaest**, *NAm chiefly anapest* /'ə'nə'pest, -peest/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 2 short syllables followed by 1 long [L *anapaestus*, fr Gk *anapaistos*, lit., struck back (i.e. a dactyl reversed), fr (assumed) *anapaiein* to strike back, fr *ana-* + *paien* to strike] – **anapaestic** /-'pestik/, -'peestik/ *adj* or *n*
- anaphase** /'ə'nə'fayz/ *n* the stage of mitosis and meiosis in which the chromosomes move towards the poles of the spindle [ISV] – **anaphasic** /-'fayzɪk/ *adj*
- anaphora** /'ə'nə'fɔ:rə/ *n* 1 repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, esp for effect – compare EPISTROPHE 2 use of a grammatical substitute (e.g. a pronoun) to refer to a preceding word or phrase [LL, fr LGk, fr Gk, act of carrying back, reference, fr *anapherein* to carry back, refer, fr *ana-* + *pherein* to carry – more at <sup>2</sup>BEAR] – **anaphoric** /'ə'nə'fɔ'rik/ *adj.*, **anaphorically** *adv.*
- anaphrodisiac** /'ə'nə'frɔ'diziək/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that impairs sexual desire [NL *anaphrodisia* lack of sexual desire, fr *a-* + Gk *aphrodisios* sexual – more at <sup>2</sup>APHRODISIAC]
- anaphylaxis** /'ə'nə'fɪləksɪs/ *n, pl* **anaphylaxes** /-seez/ a sometimes fatal reaction to drugs, insect venom, etc due to hypersensitivity resulting from earlier contact [NL, fr *ana-* + *phylaxis* (as in *prophylaxis*)] – **anaphylactic** *adj.*, **anaphylactoid** *adj.*
- anarchism** /'ə'nə'kɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a political theory holding all forms of governmental authority to be undesirable 2 the attacking of the established social order or laws, rebellion [*anarchy* + *-ism*]
- anarchist** /'ə'nə'kɪst/ *n* 1 one who attacks the established social order or laws, a rebel 2 a believer in (or violent) promoter of anarchism or anarchy – **anarchist**, **anarchistic** /-'kɪstɪk/ *adj.*
- anarchy** /'ə'nə'ki/ *n* 1a absence of government b lawlessness, (political) disorder c a utopian society with complete freedom and no government 2 anarchism [ML *anarchia*, fr Gk, fr *anarchos* having no ruler, fr *an-* + *archos* ruler – more at <sup>2</sup>ARCH-] – **anarchic** /'ə'nə'hɪk, ə-/ *adj.*, **anarchically** *adv.*
- anastigmat** /'ə'nə'stɪɡmət, ə'nə'stɪɡmət/ *n* a lens that is not astigmatic [G, back-formation fr *anastigmatisch* anastigmatic] – **anastigmatic** /-'matɪk/ *adj.*
- anastomose** /'ə'nə'stə'moʊz/ *vb* to interconnect or join by anastomosis [prob back-formation fr *anastomosis*]
- anastomosis** /'ə'nə'stə'moʊsɪs/ *n, pl* **anastomoses** /-seez/ 1 the interconnecting union of parts or branches of streams, leaf veins, blood vessels, etc 2 the surgical joining of 2 hollow organs (e.g. the rejoining of the gut after part has been removed) [LL, fr Gk *anastomosis*, fr *anastomoun* to provide with an outlet, fr *ana-* + *stoma* mouth, opening – more at <sup>2</sup>STOMACH] – **anastomotic** /-'mɒtɪk/ *adj.*
- anathema** /'ə'nə'thəmə/ *n* 1a (the object of) a ban or curse solemnly pronounced by ecclesiastical authority and accompanied by excommunication b a vigorous denunciation, a curse 2 sby or sthg despised <his opinions are ~ to me> [LL *anathemat-*, *anathema*, fr Gk, thing devoted to evil, curse, fr *anathēnai* to set up, dedicate, fr *ana-* + *tithēnai* to place, set – more at <sup>1</sup>DO] – **anathematize** /'ə'nə'thəmə'tize/ *vt*
- Anatolian** /'ə'nə'toʊliən/ *n* a branch of the Indo-European language family including a group of extinct languages of ancient Anatolia [*Anatolia*, Asia Minor] – **Anatolian** *adj.*
- anatomist** /'ə'nə'tɒmɪst/ *n* 1 a student of anatomy (skilled in dissection) 2 one who analyses minutely and critically <an ~ of urban society>
- anatomize**, -ise /'ə'nə'tɒmize/ *vt* 1 to dissect 2 to analyse, esp critically
- anatomy** /'ə'nə'tɒmi/ *n* 1 (a treatise on) the biology of the structure of organisms 2 dissection 3 structural make-up, esp of (a part of) an organism 4 an analysis 5 the human body **USE** (3&5) [ME, prob fr MF *anatomie*, fr LL *anatomia* dissection, fr Gk *anatome*, fr *anatemnein* to dissect, fr *ana-* + *temnein* to cut – more at <sup>2</sup>TOME] – **anatomic** /'ə'nə'tɒmɪk/, **anatomical** *adj.*, **anatomically** *adv.*
- ance-** /-ns/ *suffix* (– *n*) 1 action or process of <furtherance>; also instance of (a specified action or process) <performance> 2 quality or state of <brilliance>; also instance of (a specified quality or state) <protuberance> 3 amount or degree of <conductance> [ME, fr OF, fr L *antia*, fr *ant-*, *-ans* *ant* + *-ia* *y*]
- ancestor** /'ænsəstə, -sɔs-, fem ancestor /-tris/ *n* 1a one from whom a person is descended, usu more distant than a grandparent b FATHER 2 2 a progenitor of a more recent (species of) organism [ME *ancestre*, fr OF, fr L *antecessor* sby or sthg that goes before, fr *antecessus*, pp of *antecedere* to go before, fr *ante-* + *cedere* to go – more at <sup>2</sup>CEDE] – **ancestral** /'ænsə'strəl/ *adj.*, **ancestrally** *adv.*
- ancestry** /'ænsəstri, -sɔs-/ *n* a line of esp noble descent; a lineage
- anchor** /'æŋkə/ *n* 1 a usu metal device dropped to the bottom from a ship or boat to hold it in a particular place 2 sby or sthg providing support and security; a mainstay 3 sthg that serves to hold an object firmly [ME

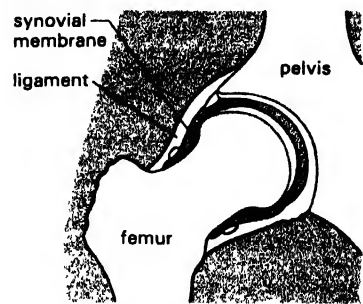


- ancle**, fr OE *ancor*, fr L *anchora*, fr Gk *ankyra*; akin to L *uncus* hook – more at **ANGLE**] – **anchorless** *adj*
- anchor** *vt* 1 to hold in place in the water by an anchor 2 to secure firmly, fix ~ *vt* 1 to cast anchor 2 to become fixed, settle
- anchorage** /'aŋkərɪʃ/ *n* 1 a place (suitable) for vessels to anchor 2 a source of reassurance 3 sth that provides a secure hold or attachment [**ANCHOR** + **-AGE**]
- anchoret** /'aŋkərət/ *n* an anchorite
- anchorite** /'aŋkə,ri:t/, *fem*  **anchoress** /'aŋk(ə)ris/, *anchress* /'aŋkris/ *n* one who lives in seclusion, usu for religious reasons [ME, fr ML *anchorita*, alter of LL *anachoreta*, fr LGk *anachoretēs*, fr Gk *anachōrein* to withdraw, fr *ana-* + *chōrein* to make room, fr *choros* place, akin to Gk *cheros* left, bereaved – more at **HEIR**] – **anchoritic** /-'nɪtɪk/ *adj*
- anchorman** /'aŋkəmən, -man/ *n* 1 the member of a team who competes last (<the ~ on a relay team>) 2 a linkman
- anchovy** /'aŋkəvi/ *n, pl*  **anchovies**, *esp* collectively  **anchovy** a common small Mediterranean fish resembling a herring and used esp in appetizers and as a garnish, also any of various small fish related to this [Sp *anchova*, prob fr It dial *ancioia*, fr (assumed) VL *apjua*, fr Gk *aphycē* small fry]
- ancien régime** /'ahnsjən ray'zheɪm (Fr ɔ̃sjɛ rɛʒim)/ *n* 1 the political and social system of France before the Revolution of 1789 2 a superseded system or arrangement [F, lit, old regime]
- ancient** /'aɪnʃ(ə)nt, -chənt/ *adj* 1 having existed for many years 2 of (those living in) a remote period, specif that from the earliest known civilizations to the fall of the western Roman Empire in AD 476 3 old-fashioned, antique [ME *ancien*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *anteanus*, fr L *ante* before – more at **ANTF**]
- ancient** *n* 1a *sb* who lived in ancient times *b pl* the members of a civilized, esp a classical, nation of antiquity 2 *archaic* an aged person
- ancient history** *n* 1 the history of the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome 2 sth which has been common knowledge for a long time
- ancient lights** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a legally enforceable right to unobstructed daylight from an opening (e.g. a window) in a building
- anciently** /-li/ *adv* in ancient times, long ago
- ancillary** /'aɪnsɪləri, NAm usu 'aɪnsə,ləri/ *adj* 1 subordinate, subsidiary 2 auxiliary, supplementary [L *ancillaris* of a maid-servant, fr *ancilla*, *fem* dim of *anculus* servant, fr *an-* round + *-culus* circulating]
- ancillary** *n, Br* one who assists, a helper
- ancess** /'aŋkris/ *n* a female anchorite [ME *ankeresse*, *ancess*, fr *anker*, *ancle* hermit]
- ancy** /-ənsɪ/ *suffix* (→ *n*) quality or state of <*piquancy*> <*expectancy*> [L *-antia* – more at **-ANCE**]
- and** /(ə)n, (ə)nd, *strong* and/ *conj* 1 – used to join coordinate sentence elements of the same class or function expressing addition or combination <*cold ~ hungry*> <*John ~ I*> 2 – used, esp in Br speech, before the numbers 1–99 after the number 100 <*three hundred ~ seventeen*>, used also orig between tens and units <*five ~ twenty blackbirds*> 3 plus <*three ~ three make six*> 4 – used to introduce a second clause expressing temporal sequence <*came to tea ~ stayed to dinner*>, consequence <*water the seeds ~ they will grow*>, contrast <*he's old ~ I'm young*>, or supplementary explanation <*she's ill ~ can't travel*> 5 – used to join repeated words expressing continuation or progression <*ran ~ ran*> <*waited hours ~ hours*> <*came nearer ~ nearer*> 6 – used to join words expressing contrast of type or quality <*there are aunts ~ aunts*> <*gynaecology of one sort ~ another* – Jan Morris> 7 – used instead of *to* to introduce an infinitive after *come*, *go*, *run*, *try* <*stop (come ~ look)*> [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *unti* and, ON *enn* and, out] – and *all* that, and *all* and *so* forth – and *how* – used to emphasize the preceding idea; *infinl* – and *so* forth, and *so* on 1 and others or more of the same kind 2 and further in the same manner 3 and the rest 4 and other things – and *that* chiefly *Br* AND *so* forth – nonstandard
- andante** /'aɪdanti/ *n, adv, or adj* (a musical composition or movement to be played) moderately slow [It, lit, going, *prp* of *andare* to go]
- andiron** /'aɪdiən/ *n* either of a pair of metal stands used on a hearth to support burning wood [ME *andieren*, modif of OF *andier*, fr (assumed) Gaulish *anderos* young bull; akin to W *anner* heifer, Ml *ander* young woman]
- and/or** *conj* – used to indicate that 2 words or expressions may be taken either together or individually
- andr-, andro-** *comb form* 1 *man* <*androgynous*> 2 *male* <*androecium*> [MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *andr-, anēr* man (male); akin to Oscan *ner* man, Skt *nr*, OIr *ner* strength]
- androecium** /'aɪndri:siəm, -sh(ə)əm/ *n, pl*  **androecia** /-siə, -sh(ə)ə/ all the stamens collectively in the flower of a seed plant [NL, fr *andr-* + Gk *oikion*, dim of *oikos* house – more at **VICINITY**]
- androgen** /'andrəʒən/ *n* a male sex hormone (e.g. testosterone) [ISV] – **androgenic** /-'jenɪk/ *adj*
- androgynous** /'andrəʒənəs/ *adj* having characteristics of both the male and female forms [L *androgynus* hermaphrodite, fr Gk *androgynos*, fr *andr-* + *gyne* woman – more at **QUEEN**] – **androgyny** /-ni/ *n*
- android** /'andrɔɪd/ *n* an automaton externally indistinguishable from a human [LGk *androeidēs* manlike, fr Gk *andr-* + *-oidēs* -oid]
- androus** /-andrəs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) stamens <*monandrous*> [NL *-andrus*, fr Gk *-andros* having (such or so many) men, fr *andr-, anēr*]
- ane** /aɪn/ *adj, n, or pron*, chiefly Scot one [ME (northern) *an*, fr OE *ān* – more at **ONE**]
- ane** /-aɪn/ *suffix* (→ *n*) saturated carbon compound; *esp* hydrocarbon of the alkane series <*methane*> <*alkane*> [ISV *-an, -ane*, alter. of *-ene, -ine, & -one*]
- anecdotal** /'aɪnɪk'doʊtl/ *adj* consisting of or depicting an anecdote (<~ *art*>) – **anecdotally** *adv*
- anecdote** /'aɪnɪk'doʊt/ *n* a usu short narrative about an interesting or amusing person or incident [F, fr Gk *anekdota* unpublished items, fr neut pl of *anekdotos* unpublished, fr *a-* + *ekdidonai* to publish, fr *ex* out + *didonai* to give – more at **EX-**, **DATE**] – **anecdotist**, **anecdotalist** *n*, **anecdotic** /-'dɒtɪk/, **anecdotal** *adj*
- anechoic** /'aɪnə'koɪk, -ana-/ *adj* free from echoes and reverberations
- anem-, anemo-** *comb form* wind <*anemometer*> [prob fr F *anémo-*, fr Gk *anem-, anemo-*, fr *anemos* – more at **ANIMATE**]
- anemia** /'sni:miə, -mi-ə/ *n*, chiefly NAm *anaemia* – **anemic** /'sni:mi:k/ *adj*, **anemically** *adv*
- anemograph** /'sni:mi:grəf, -grəf/ *n* a recording anemometer
- anemographic** /-'grəfɪk/ *adj*
- anemometer** /'aɪn'mɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the force or speed of the wind – **anemometry** *n*, **anemometric** /-mɒ'metrɪk/ *also* **anemometrical** *adj*
- anemone** /'sni:məni/ *n* 1 any of a large genus of plants of the buttercup family with lobed or divided leaves and showy flowers 2 SEA **ANEMONE** [L, fr Gk *anemone*, perh by folk etymology fr a word of Sem origin; akin to Heb *Na'āman*, epithet of Adonis]
- anemophilous** /'aɪn'mɒfɪləs/ *adj* (usually) wind-pollinated – **anemophily** /-li/ *n*
- anent** /'ə'nent/ *prep* about, concerning – chiefly archaic or humor [ME *onevent*, *anent*, fr OE *on efen* alongside, fr *on + efen* even]
- aneroïd** /'anəroɪd/ *adj* containing no liquid or operated without the use of liquid <*an ~ barometer*> [F *anéroïde*, fr Gk *a-* + LGk *nérōn* water, fr Gk, neut of *nearos*, *nérōs* fresh; akin to Gk *neos* new – more at **NEW**]
- anesthesia** /'aɪnəs'thi:ziə, -z(ə)ə/ *n*, chiefly NAm *anaesthesia* – **anesthetic** /'aɪnəs'thetɪk/ *n or adj*, **anesthetist** /'sni:sthotɪst/ *n*, **anesthetize** /-ti:z/ *vt*
- aneurysm** *also* **aneurism** /'anyoo,rɪz(ə)m/ *n* a permanent blood-filled swelling of a (large) diseased blood vessel (e.g. the aorta) [Gk *aneurysma*, fr *aneurynein* to dilate, fr *ana-* + *eurynein* to stretch, fr *eury* wide] – **aneurysmal** /'anyoo'nɪzml/ *adj*
- anew** /'ə'nyoo/ *adv* 1 again, afresh 2 in a new form or way [ME *of newe*, fr OE *of niwe*, fr *of + niwe* new]
- angary** /'aŋgəri/ *n* the right in international law of a belligerent to seize, use, or destroy property of neutrals under military necessity and subject to the payment of compensation [LL *angaria* service to a lord, fr Gk *angareia* compulsory public service, fr Per *angaros* courier]
- angel** /'aɪnʃ(ə)l/ *n* 1 a spiritual being, usu depicted as being winged, serving as God's intermediary or acting as a heavenly worshipper 2 an attendant spirit or guardian 3 a messenger, harbinger (<~ of death>) 4 a very kind or loving person, esp a woman or girl 5 a financial backer of a theatrical venture or other enterprise – chiefly *infinl* [ME, fr OF *angele*, fr LL *angelus*, fr Gk *angelos*, lit, messenger] – **angelic** /'aɪ'jɛlɪk/, **angelical** *adj*, **angelically** *adv*
- angel fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of several brightly coloured bony fishes of warm seas that have a body that is narrow from side to side and deep from top to bottom
- angelica** /'aɪ'jɛlɪkə/ *n* (the candied stalks, used esp as a decoration on cakes and desserts, of) a biennial plant of the carrot family [NL, genus name, fr ML, short for *herba angelica*, lit., angelic plant; fr its supposed medicinal properties]
- Angelus** /'aɪnʃələs/ *n* (a bell rung to mark) a devotion of the Western

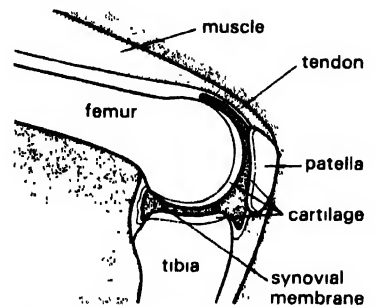
### The skeleton



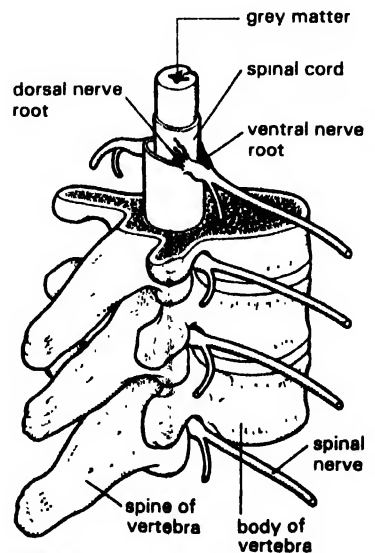
### Ball and socket joint



### Hinge joint



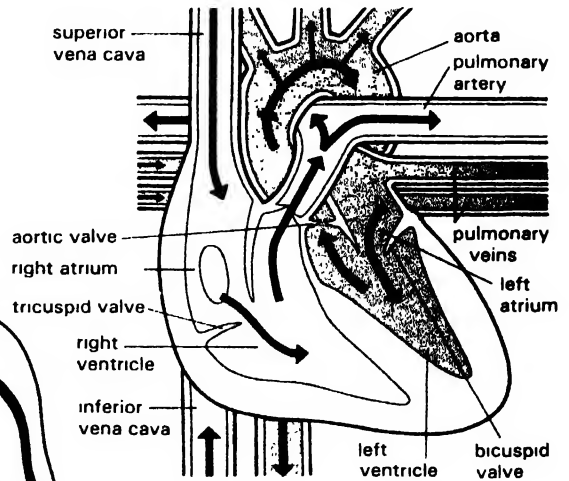
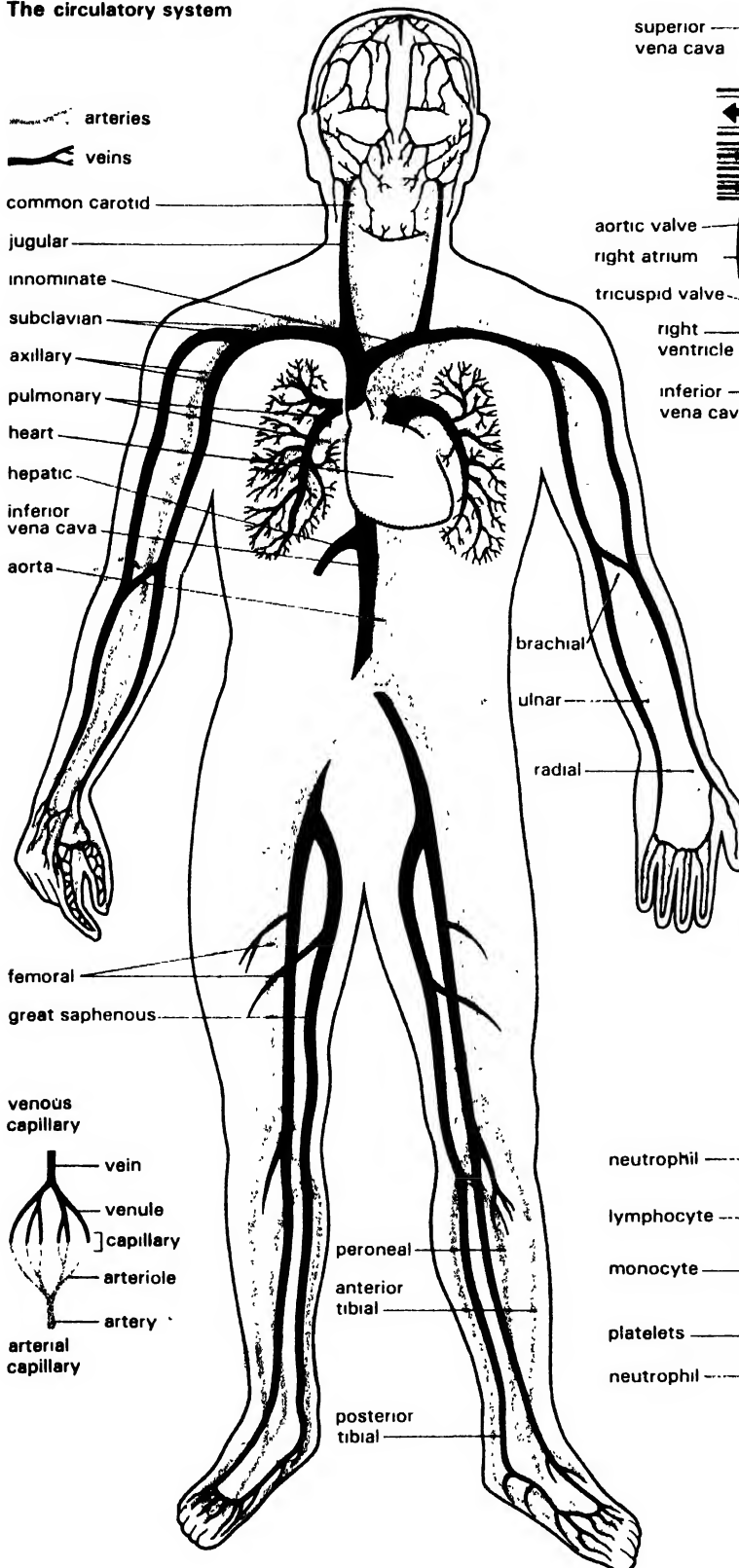
Joints vary in their strength and range of movement. Ligaments and muscles hold the joint in place, while the lining cartilage and synovial membrane facilitate smooth movement.



### Spine

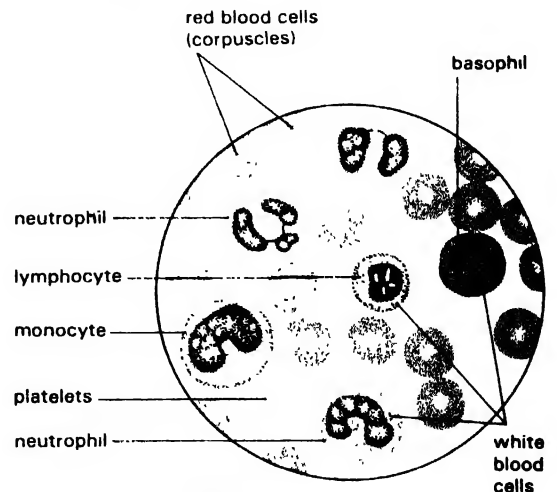
The spine consists of a curving column of 24 vertebrae, separated by cartilaginous discs.

## The circulatory system



### The heart

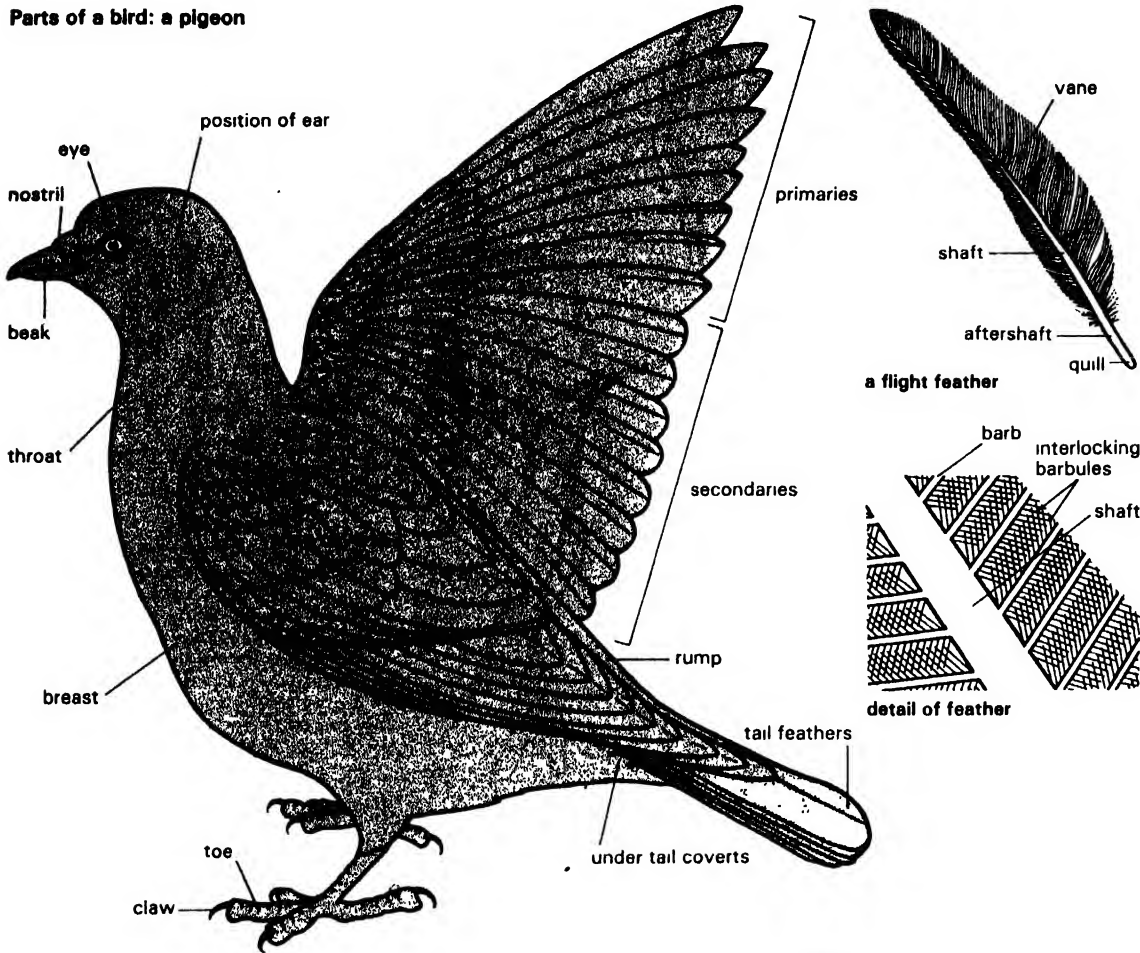
The right heart (right atrium and right ventricle) pumps deoxygenated blood through the pulmonary artery to the lungs. The left heart (left atrium and left ventricle) pumps oxygenated blood through the aorta to the body. Arteries carry blood (usually oxygenated) away from the heart, veins carry blood (usually deoxygenated) to the heart.



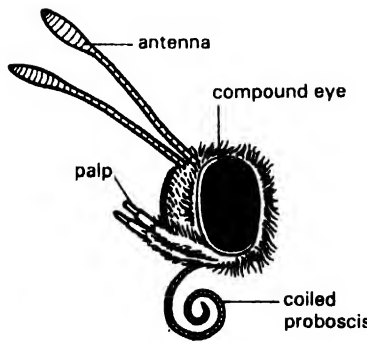
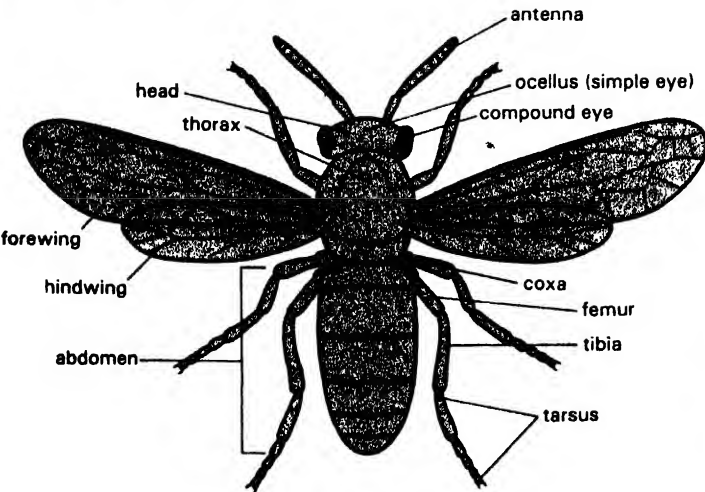
### Blood

Red blood cells (corpuscles), which contain haemoglobin, carry oxygen from the lungs to the tissues. White blood cells help to fight disease and infections. Platelets are vital to the clotting process.

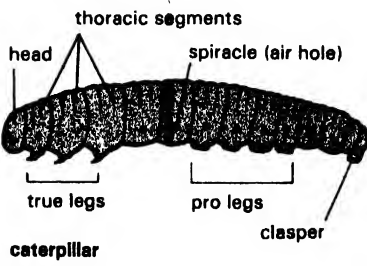
Parts of a bird: a pigeon



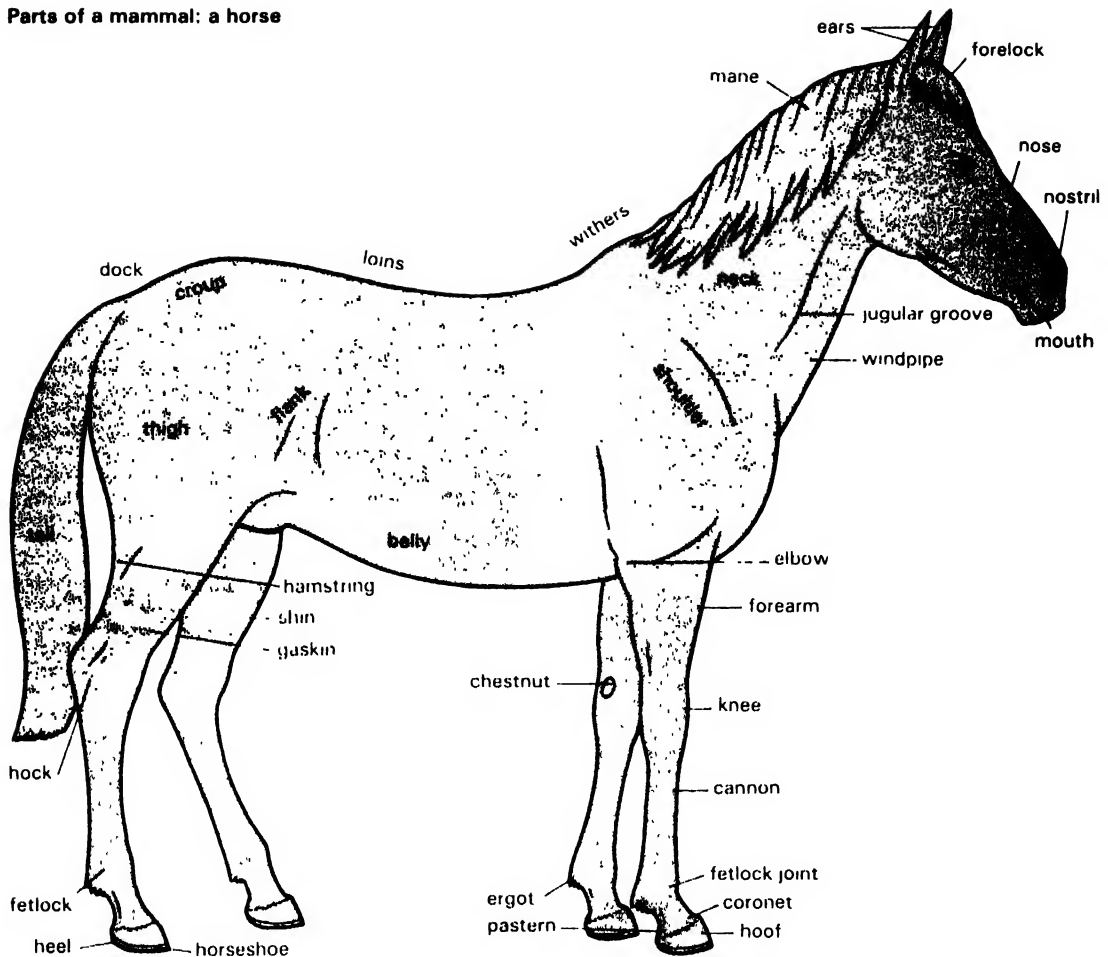
Parts of an insect: a bee



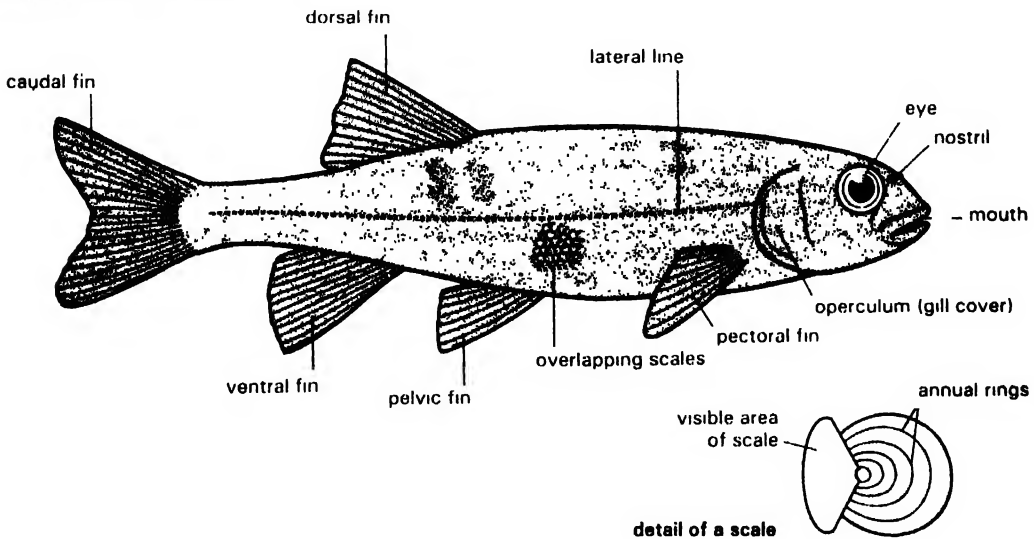
mouth parts of a butterfly



## Parts of a mammal: a horse



## Parts of a fish: a minnow



- church said at morning, noon, and evening to commemorate the Incarnation [ML, fr LL, *angel*; fr the first word of the opening versicle]
- 'anger** /'ang-ə/ *n* a strong feeling of displeasure and usu antagonism [ME, affliction, *anger*, fr ON *angr* grief, akin to OE *enge* narrow, *Langere* to strangle, Gk *anchein*] – **angerless** *adj*
- 'anger** *vb* to make or become angry
- Angewin** /'anjivɪn/ *adj* (characteristic) of Anjou or the Plantagenets [F, fr OF, fr ML *andegavinus*, fr *Andegavia* Anjou, former province of France] – **Angevina** *n*
- angi-** /'anji-/ , **angio-** *comb form* blood or lymph vessel (<*angioma*>); blood vessels and (<*angiocardiology*>) [NL, fr Gk *anger-*, *angeio-*, fr *angeion* vessel, blood vessel, dim. of *angos* vessel]
- angina** /'anjiə/ *n* a disease, specif *angina pectoris*, marked by spasmodic attacks of intense pain [L, quinsy, fr *angere* to strangle] – **anginal** *adj*, **angiose** /'anjioʊs/ *adj*
- angina pectoris** /'pektəriːs, pek'tawrɪs/ *n* brief attacks of intense chest pain, esp on exertion, precipitated by deficient oxygenation of the heart muscles [NL, lit., *angina* of the chest]
- angiosperm** /'anji-ə'spuhm/ *n* any of a class of vascular plants that includes nearly all the seed plants (e.g. buttercups, orchids, roses, oaks, or grasses) – compare **GYMNOSPERM** ➔ **PLANT** [deriv of NL *angi-* + Gk *sperma* seed – more at **SPERM**] – **angiospermous** /-'spuhmas/ *adj*
- angiotensin** /'anji-ə'tensɪn/ *n* either of 2 related hormones that influence the fluid balance of the body – compare **RENIN** [*angi-* + *hypertension* + *-in*]
- 'angle** /'angl/ *n* 1 a corner 2a the figure formed by 2 lines extending from the same point or by 2 surfaces diverging from the same line ➔ **MATHEMATICS, SYMBOL** b a measure of the amount of turning necessary to bring one line of an angle to coincide with the other at all points 3a a precise viewpoint; an aspect b a special approach or technique for accomplishing an objective 4 a divergent course or position; a slant – esp in *at an angle* [ME, fr MF, fr L *angulus*; akin to OE *ancleow* ankle] – **angled** *adj*
- 'angle** *vb* **angling** /'ang-ɡlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to place, move, or direct obliquely 2 to present (e.g. a news story) from a particular or prejudiced point of view; slant ~ *vi* to turn or proceed at an angle
- 'angle** *v* **angling** /'ang-ɡlɪŋ/ 1 to fish with a hook and line 2 to use artful means to attain an objective (<~ *d for an invitation*>) [ME *angelen*, fr *angel* fishhook, fr OE, fr *anga* hook; akin to OHG *ango* hook, L *uncus*, Gk *onkos* barbed hook, *ankos* glen] – **angler** /'ang-ɡl-ə/ *n*
- Angle** *n* a member of a Germanic people who invaded England along with the Saxons and Jutes in the 5th c AD [L *Angli*, pl, a word of Gmc origin; akin to OE *Engle* Angles] – **Anglian** /'ang-ɡli-ən/ *n* or *adj*
- 'angle** **bracket** *n* either of a pair of punctuation marks (< >) used to enclose matter
- 'angle** **iron** *n* a rolled steel structural member having an L-shaped section
- 'angler** **fish** /'ang-ɡl-ə/ *n* a fish with a large flattened head and wide mouth with a lure on the head used to attract smaller fishes as prey
- Anglican** /'ang-ɡli-kən/ *adj* of the body of churches including the established episcopal Church of England and churches of similar faith in communion with it [ML *anglicanus*, fr *anglicus* English, fr LL *Angli* English people, fr L, Angles] – **Anglican** *n*, **Anglicanism** *n*
- anglice** /'ang-ɡli-si/ *adv*, often *cap* in English (<*the city of Napoli, ~ Naples*>) [ML, adv of *anglicus*]
- anglicism** /'angli-sɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a characteristic feature of English occurring in another language 2 adherence or attachment to England, English culture, etc [ML *anglicus* English]
- Anglicist** /'ang-ɡli-sɪst/ *n* a specialist in English language, literature, or culture – not usu used for native speakers of English
- anglicize**, **-ise** /'ang-ɡli-siəz/ *vt*, often *cap* 1 to make English in tastes or characteristics 2 to adapt (a foreign word or phrase) to English usage – **anglicization** /-sɪ-zə'ziʃ(ə)n, -si-/ *n*, often *cap*
- angling** /'ang-ɡlɪŋ/ *n* (the sport of) fishing with hook and line [fr gerund of 'angle] – **angler** /'ang-ɡl-ə/ *n*
- Anglo-** /'ang-ɡloh-/ *comb form* English nation, people, or culture (<*Anglophobia*>); English and (<*Anglo-Japanese*>) [NL, fr LL *Angli*]
- Anglo-American** /'ang-ɡloh-/ *n* or *adj* (a) N American, esp of the USA, of English origin or descent
- Anglo-Catholic** *adj* of a High Church movement in Anglicanism fostering Catholic dogmatic and liturgical traditions – **Anglo-Catholic** *n*, **Anglo-Catholicism** *n*
- Anglo-French** *n* the French language used in medieval England
- Anglo-Indian** *n* 1 a British person domiciled for a long time in India
- 2 a Eurasian of mixed British and Indian birth or descent – **Anglo-Indian** *adj*
- Anglo-Irish** *n* the formerly dominant group of English Protestant settlers in Ireland – **Anglo-Irish** *adj*
- Anglo-Norman** *n* 1 a Norman living in England after the Conquest 2 the form of Anglo-French used by Anglo-Normans
- anglophile** /'ang-ɡloʃiəl, -fi/ *also* **anglophil** /-fi/ *n*, often *cap* a foreigner who is greatly interested in and admires England and things English [F, fr *anglo-* + *-phile*] – **anglophilia** /'ang-ɡloʃi-ə/ *n*, often *cap*, **anglophilic** *adj*, often *cap*, **anglophilism** /'ang-ɡloʃi,lɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap*, **anglophilly** *n*
- anglophobe** /'ang-ɡloʃohb/ *n*, often *cap* a foreigner who is averse to England and things English [prob fr F, fr *anglo-* + *-phobe*] – **anglophobia** /-foʃbi-ə/ *n*, often *cap*, **anglophobic** *adj*, often *cap*
- 'anglophone** /-fohn/ *adj*, often *cap* consisting of or belonging to an English-speaking population – **Anglophone** *n*
- Anglo-Saxon** *n* 1 a member of the Germanic peoples who conquered England in the 5th c AD and formed the ruling group until the Norman conquest 2 sby of English, esp Anglo-Saxon, descent 3 OLD ENGLISH ➔ **LANGUAGE** [NL *Anglo-Saxones*, pl, alter. of ML *Angli Saxones*, fr L *Angli* Angles + LL *Saxones* Saxons] – **Anglo-Saxon** *adj*
- angora** /'ang-gawrə/ *n* 1 the hair of the Angora rabbit or goat 2 a fabric or yarn made (in part) of Angora rabbit hair, used esp for knitting – compare **MOHAIR** 3 *cap* an Angora cat, goat, or rabbit [Angors (Ankara), capital city of Turkey]
- Angora** 'cat *n* a long-haired domestic cat
- Angora** 'goat *n* (any of) a breed of the domestic goat raised for its long silky hair which is the true mohair
- Angora** 'rabbit *n* a long-haired usu white domestic rabbit
- angostura bark** /'ang-ɡ'stoʊərə/ *n* the aromatic bitter bark of a S American tree of the rue family used as a bitter and formerly as a tonic [Angostura (now Ciudad Bolívar), town in Venezuela]
- angry** /'ang-ɡri/ *adj* 1 feeling or showing anger (<~ *with his brother*>) (<~ *at his rude remark*>) 2 seeming to show or typify anger (<*an ~ sky*>) 3 painfully inflamed (<*an ~ rash*>) – **angrily** *adv*, **angriness** *n*
- angst** /'angst/ *n* anxiety and anguish, caused esp by considering the state of the world and the human condition [Dān & G, Dan, fr G, akin to L *angustus*]
- angstrom** /'angstrəm, -strəm/ *n* a unit of length equal to 10<sup>-10</sup>m – not now recommended for technical use ➔ **PHYSICS** [Anders J Ångström †1874 Sw physicist]
- anguish** /'ang-ɡwɪʃ/ *n* extreme physical pain or mental distress [ME *angwisse*, fr OF *angoisse*, fr L *angustiae*, pl, straits, distress, fr *angustus* narrow; akin to OE *enge* narrow – more at **ANGER**]
- anguished** *adj* suffering or expressing anguish
- angular** /'ang-ɡyool-/ *adj* 1a having 1 or more angles b forming an angle; sharp-cornered 2 measured by an angle (<~ *distance*>) (<~ *separation*>) 3a stuff in character or manner; awkward b lean, bony [MF or L; MF *angulaire*, fr L *angularis*, fr *angulus* angle] – **angularly** *adv*, **angularity** /'ang-ɡyool-ə-rɪ-ti/ *n*
- angular momentum** *n* the product of the angular velocity of a rotating body or system and its moment of inertia with respect to the rotation axis
- angular velocity** *n* the rate of change of angular position with time
- Angus** /'ang-ɡəs/ *n* ABERDEEN ANGUS [Angus, county in Scotland]
- anedral** /'an-hee-drəl/ *n* the angle between a downwardly inclined wing of an aircraft and a horizontal line [*an-* + *-hedral*]
- anhydride** /'an-hied-riəd/ *n* a compound derived from another, esp an acid, by removal of the elements of water
- anhydrous** /'an-hied-rəs/ *adj* free from water (of crystallization) [Gk *anhydros*, fr *a-* + *hydōr* water – more at **WATER**]
- anillinctus** /'ayni'lingktəs/ *n* anilingus [NL, fr *anus* + *-i-* + *-inctus* (as in *cunilinctus*)]
- aniline** /'anilin, -leen/ *n* a liquid amine used chiefly in organic chemical synthesis (e.g. of dyes) [G *anilin*, fr *anil* indigo, fr F, fr Pg, fr Ar *an-nil* the indigo plant, fr Skt *nili* indigo, fr fem of *nila* dark blue]
- aniline** 'dye *n* a synthetic organic dye; specif one made from or chemically related to aniline
- anilingus** /'ayni'ling-ɡəs/ *n* erotic oral stimulation of the anus [NL, fr *anus* + *-i-* + *-lingus* (as in *cunilingus*)]
- anima** /'anima/ *n* an individual's true inner self reflecting archetypal ideals of conduct; also an inner feminine part of the male personality – used in Jungian psychology; compare **ANIMUS** 3, **PERSONA** 2 [NL, fr L, soul]



**animadversion** /ˌaniməd'vʊʃən/ *n* 1 a critical and usu censorious remark 2 hostile criticism *USE* fml [L *animadversion-*, *animadversio*, fr *animadversus*, pp of *animadvertere*]

**animadvert** /ˌaniməd'vʊt/ *vi* to comment critically or adversely on – fml [L *animadvertere* to pay attention to, censure, fr *animus* *advertere*, lit., to turn the mind to]

**animal** /ˈænɪmə/ *n* 1 any of a kingdom of living things typically differing from plants in their capacity for spontaneous movement, esp in response to stimulation 2a any of the lower animals as distinguished from human beings b a mammal – not in technical use 3 a person considered as a purely physical being; a creature [L, fr *animale*, neut of *animalis* animate, fr *anima* soul] – **animallike** *adj*, **animalness** *n*

**animal** *adj* 1 of or derived from animals 2 of the body as opposed to the mind or spirit – chiefly derog – **animally** *adv*

**animalcule** /ˌænɪ'malkyool/ *n* a minute usu microscopic organism [NL *animalculum*, dim of L *animal*] – **animalcular** /-kyoolə/ *adj*

**animalculum** /ˌænɪ'malkyooləm/ *n*, *pl* **animalcula** /-lə/ an animalcule

**animalism** /ˈænɪmə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a the state of having qualities typical of animals; lack of spiritual feeling b preoccupation with the satisfaction of physical drives, sensuality 2 a theory that human beings are nothing more than animals – **animalist** *n*, **animalistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**animality** /ˌænɪ'mæləti/ *n* 1 **ANIMALISM** 1a 2a the state of being an animal b animal nature 3 **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

**animalize**, *-ise* /ˌænɪmə,lɪz/ *vt* 1 to brutalize <men ~d by the war> 2 to sensualize <~d by passion> – **animalization** /-lɪ'zeɪʃən/, *-lɪ- /n* **animal kingdom** *n* that one of the 3 basic groups of natural objects that includes all living and extinct animals – compare **MINERAL KINGDOM**, **PLANT KINGDOM**

**animal magnetism** *n* 1 a force held to reside in some individuals by which a strong hypnotic influence can be exerted 2 physical charm

**animate** /ˈænɪmət/ *adj* 1 possessing life, alive 2 of animal life 3 lively [ME, fr L *animatus*, pp of *animare* to give life to, fr *anima* breath, soul, akin to OE *athan* to breathe, L *animus* spirit, mind, courage, Gk *anemos* wind, Skt *aniti* he breathes] – **animately** *adv*, **animateness** *n*

**animate** /ˈænɪmət/ *vt* 1 to give spirit and support to, encourage 2 to give life or vigour to 3 to produce in the form of an animated cartoon – **animately** *adv*

**animated cartoon** *n* a film that creates the illusion of movement by photographing successive positional changes (e.g. of drawings)

**animation** /ˌænɪmə'sɪʃən/ *n* 1 vigorous liveliness 2 (the preparation of) an animated cartoon [*'ANIMATE* + *-ION*]

**animato** /ˌænɪ'maɪto/ *adv* or *adj* with liveliness and vigour – used in music [It, fr L *animatus*]

**animator** /ˌænɪmə'tɔ/ *n* the artist responsible for the production of the illusion of movement in animated cartoons

**animism** /ˌænɪmɪz(ə)m/ *n* attribution of conscious life, spirits, or souls to nature or natural objects or phenomena [G *animismus*, fr L *anima* soul] – **animist** *n*, **animistic** /-mɪstɪk/ *adj*

**animosity** /ˌænɪ'mosəti/ *n* powerful often active ill will or resentment [ME *animosité*, fr MF or LL *animosité*, fr LL *animositas*, *animositas*, fr L *animosus* spirited, fr *animus*]

**animus** /ˈænɪməs/ *n* 1 a pervading attitude or spirit 2 ill will, animosity 3 an inner masculine part of the female personality – used in Jungian psychology, compare **ANIMA** [L, spirit, mind, courage, anger]


**anion** /ˈæni-ən/ *n* a negatively charged ion (that moves towards the anode in an electrolysed solution) – compare **CATION** [Gk, neut of *anion*, prp of *anienai* to go up, fr *ana-* + *ienai* to go – more at *issue*] – **anionic** /ˈæni-ənɪk/ *adj*, **anionically** *adv*

**anis-** /ˈæni-/, **aniso-** *comb form* unequal, unlike <*anisodactylous*> (<*anisometropia*>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *anisos*, fr *a-* + *isos* equal]

**anise** /ˈæni- / *n* a plant of the carrot family with aromatic seeds of a liquorice-like flavour; also aniseed [ME *anis*, fr OF, fr L *anisum*, fr Gk *anîson*, *anison*] –

**aniseed** /ˈæni'si:d/ *n* the seed of anise used esp as a flavouring (e.g. in liqueurs) [ME *anis seed*, fr *anis* + *seed*]

**anisotropic** /ˌæni'sotrɒpɪk/, *-trɒpɪk/ adj* exhibiting properties with different values when measured in different directions (<*an* ~ *crystal*> [ISV *an-* + *isotropic*] – **anisotropically** *adv*, **anisotropy** /ˌæni'sotrɒpi/, *anisotropism* /-sotrɒpɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**ankh** /æŋk/ *n* a cross having a loop for its upper vertical arm and serving, esp in ancient Egypt, as an emblem of life  **SYMBOL** [Egypt *nh*]

**ankle** /æŋkl/ *n* 1 the (region of the) joint between the foot and the leg;

the tarsus 2 the joint between the cannon bone and pastern of a horse or related animal [ME *ankel*, fr OE *ancleow*; akin to OHG *anchlao* ankle, L *angulus* angle]

**anklet** /'æŋklɪt/ *n* an ornamental band or chain worn round the ankle

**ankylose** /'æŋkɪləʊz/, *-ləʊz/ vb* to unite by, stiffen by, or undergo ankylosis [back-formation fr *ankylosis*]

**ankylosis** /'æŋkɪ'ləʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **ankyloses** /-sɛz/ 1 abnormal or surgical union of the bones in a joint resulting in a stiff or immovable joint 2 union of separate bones or hard parts to form a single bone or part [NL, fr Gk *ankylosis*, fr *ankyloun* to make crooked, fr *ankylōs* crooked; akin to L *uncus* hooked – more at *'ANGLE*] – **ankylotic** /-lətɪk/ *adj*

**anlage** /ˈæn,ləhə/ *n*, *pl* **anlagen** /-gən/ also **anlages** /-gəz/ the foundation of a subsequent development; *specif* a primordium [G]

**anna** /ˈænə/ *n* (a coin representing) a former money unit of Burma, India, and Pakistan worth 1/16 rupee [Hindi *ānā*]

**annalist** /ˈæn-lɪst/ *n* a writer of annals, a historian – **annalistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**annals** /ˈænɪz/ *n* *pl* 1 a record of events, activities, etc, arranged in yearly sequence 2 historical records, chronicles [L *annales*, fr *pl* of *annalis* yearly – more at **ANNUAL**]

**Annamese** /ˌænə'mi:z/ *n*, *pl* **Annamese** 1 a member of a Mongolian people inhabiting Vietnam 2 the language of the Annamese; Vietnamese [Annam, region of Vietnam] – **Annamese** *adj*, **Annamite** /ˌænəmɪt/ *adj*

**annatto** /ˈænətəʊ/ *n* a yellowish – red dye made from the pulp round the seeds of a tropical tree [of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *annoto* tree producing annatto]

**anneal** /ˈæni:l/ *vr* 1 to toughen or relieve internal stresses in (steel, glass, etc) by heating and usu gradually cooling 2 to temper, toughen [ME *anclen*, fr OE *onælan*, fr *on* + *ælan* to set on fire, burn, fr *al* fire; akin to OE *ad* funeral pyre – more at **EDIFY**]

**annelid** /ˈænəlɪd/ *n* any of a phylum of usu elongated segmented invertebrates (e.g. earthworms and leeches) [deriv of L *anellus* little ring, dim. of *annulus* ring] – **annelid** *adj*, **annelidan** /ˈænəlɪdən/ *adj* or *n*

**annex** /ˈæneks/ *vt* 1 to subjoin, append 2 to take possession of; esp to incorporate (a country or other territory) within the domain of a state [ME *annexen*, fr MF *annexer*, fr OF, fr *annexe* joined, fr L *annexus*, pp of *annectere* to bind to, fr *ad-* + *nectere* to bind] – **annexation** /ˌæneks'etʃən/ *n*, **annexational** *adj*, **annexationist** *n*

**annex**, chiefly Br **annexe** /ˈæneks/ *n* 1 sthg, esp an addition to a document, annexed or appended 2 a separate or attached extra structure; esp a building providing extra accommodation

**annihilate** /ˈæni-əˌleɪt/ *vt* 1 to destroy (almost) entirely 2 to defeat conclusively; rout <*his team was ~d in the quarterfinals*> [LL *annihilatus*, pp of *annihilare* to reduce to nothing, fr L *ad-* + *nihil* nothing – more at **NIL**] – **annihilator** /-ləɪtɔ/ *n*, **annihilative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*, **annihilatory** /-lətɪn/ *adj*, **annihilation** /-ləɪʃən/ *n*

**anni mirabiles** /ˌæni mɪ'rəbɪləɪz/, *-ləɪz/ pl* of **ANNUS MIRABILIS**

**anniversary** /ˌænɪ'vɜ:rs(ə)rɪ/ *n* (the celebration of) a day marking the annual recurrence of the date of a notable event [ME *anniversarie*, fr ML *anniversarium*, fr L, neut of *anniversarius* returning annually, fr *annus* year + *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at **ANNUAL**, **'WORTH**]

**anno Domini** /ˌənəʊ 'domɪni/ *adv*, often *cap A* – used to indicate that a year or century comes within the Christian era [ML, lit., in the year of the Lord]

**anno he'gīræ** /hɪ'geɪ-ər/ *adv*, often *cap A&H* – used to indicate that a year or century comes within the Muhammadan era, compare **HEGIRA** [NL, lit., in the year of the Hegira]

**annotate** /ˈænəteɪt/, *ˈənəʊ- vt* to provide (e.g. a literary work) with notes [L *annotatus*, pp of *annotare*, fr *ad-* + *notare* to mark – more at **NOTE**] – **annotative** *adj*, **annotator** *n*, **annotation** /-təɪʃən/ *n*

**announce** /ə'naʊns/ *vt* 1 to make known publicly; proclaim 2a to give notice of the arrival, presence, or readiness of b to indicate in advance; foretell 3 to give evidence of; indicate by action or appearance ~ *vi* *NAm* to serve as an announcer [ME *annoncen*, fr MF *annoncer*, fr L *annuntiare*, fr *ad-* + *nuntiare* to report, fr *nuntius* messenger] – **announcement** *n*

**announcer** /ə'naʊnsə/ *n* one who introduces television or radio programmes, makes commercial announcements, reads news summaries, or gives station identification [ANNOUNCE + *-ER*]

**annoy** /ə'noɪ/ *vt* 1 to disturb or irritate, esp by repeated acts; vex – often pass + *with* or *at* 2 to harass ~ *vi* to be a source of annoyance [ME *anen*, fr OF *enuier*, fr LL *inodiare* to make loathsome, fr L *in* + *odium* hatred]

- more at ODIUM] – **annoyance** *n*, **annoyer** *n*, **annoying** *adj*, **annoyingly** *adv*
- annual** /ˈanyoo(ə)/ *adj* 1 covering or lasting for the period of a year (< ~ *rainfall*) 2 occurring or performed once a year, yearly (< ~ *reunion*) 3 of a plant completing the life cycle in 1 growing season [ME, fr MF & LL, MF *annuel*, fr LL *annualis*, fr L *annuus* yearly & *annalis* yearly (both fr *annus* year), akin to Goth *athnam* (dat pl) years, Skt *atati* he walks, goes] – **annually** *adv*
- annual** *n* 1 a publication appearing yearly 2 sthg lasting 1 year or season, *specif* an annual plant
- annual** 'ring *n* the layer of wood produced by a single year's growth of a woody plant
- annuitant** /ˈnyoo(ə)nt(ə)/ *n* a beneficiary of an annuity
- annuity** /ˈnyoo(ə)-ti/ *n* 1 an amount payable at a regular (e.g. yearly) interval 2 (a contract embodying) the right to receive or the obligation to pay an annuity [ME *annuite*, fr MF *annuite*, fr ML *annuitat-*, *annuitas*, fr L *annuus* yearly]
- annul** /ˈnʊl/ *vt* – **II** – 1 to reduce to nothing, obliterate, cancel 2 to declare (e.g. a marriage) legally invalid [ME *annullen*, fr MF *annuller*, fr LL *annullare*, fr L *ad-* + *nullus* not any – more at NULL] – **annulment** *n*
- annular** /ˈanyool-/ *adj* of or forming a ring [MF or L, MF *annulaire*, fr L *annularis*, fr *annulus* ring] – **annularly** *adv*, **annularity** /-ˈlarəti/ *n*
- annular eclipse** *n* an eclipse of the sun in which a thin outer ring of the sun's disc remains visible
- annulate** /ˈanyoolət/, **annulated** /-ˈləɪtɪd/ *adj* having or composed of rings – **annulately** *adv*
- annulet** /ˈanyoolət/ *n* a small ring or circle [modif of MF *annelet*, dim of *anel*, fr L *anellus*, dim of *annulus*, *annulus* ring]
- annulus** /ˈanyooləs/ *n*, **pl annuli** /-lie/ *also* **annuluses** a ring-shaped part, structure, or marking [L, dim of *anus* ring, anus – more at ANUS]
- annunciate** /ˈnʊnsiːəɪt/ *vt* to announce – *fml* – **annunciator** *n*, **annunciatory** /ˈnʊnsiːə(ə)ri/ *adj*
- Annunciation** /ˌnʊnsiːˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (March 25 observed as a church festival commemorating) the announcement of the Incarnation to the Virgin Mary related in Luke 1 26–28 [ME *annunciacioun*, fr MF *annunci-ation*, fr LL *annuntiatio-*, *annuntiatio*, fr L *annuntiatus*, pp of *annuntiare* – more at ANNOUNCE]
- annus mirabilis** /ˌænəs mɪˈrəbɪlɪs/ *n*, **pl anni mirabiles** /ˌæni mɪˈrəbɪləɪz/, -leez/ a remarkably auspicious year [NL, lit., wonderful year]
- anoa** /ˈnoʊə/ *n* a small wild ox of Celebes [native name in Celebes in Indonesia]
- anode** /ˈənoʊd/ *n* 1 the electrode by which electrons leave a device and enter an external circuit, *specif* the negative terminal of a primary or secondary cell that is delivering current – compare CATHODE 2 a positive electrode used to accelerate electrons in an electron gun [Gk *anodos* way up, fr *ana-* + *hodos* way – more at CEDE] – **anodal** /ˈənoʊd/ *adj*, **anodally** *adv*, **anodic** /ˈənoʊdɪk/ *adj*, **anodically** *adv*
- anodize**, -ize /ˈənoʊdɪz/, **anodized** /-ɪz/ *vt* to subject (a metal) to electrolytic action by making it the anode of a cell in order to coat it with a protective or decorative film – **anodization** /ˌənoʊdɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- anodyne** /ˈændiən/ *adj* 1 easing pain 2 mentally or emotionally soothing [L *anodynus*, fr Gk *anodynus*, fr *a-* + *odyne* pain, akin to OE *etan* to eat – more at EAT]
- anodyne** *n* 1 an analgesic drug 2 sthg that soothes or calms **anodynic** /ˌændɪˈnɪk/ *adj*
- anestrus** /ˈæneɪstrəs/ *adj* or *n* (of) the period in which there is no sexual activity between 2 periods of sexual activity in cyclically breeding mammals (e.g. dogs) [NL, fr *a-* + *oestrus*]
- anoint** /ˈənoɪnt/ *vt* 1 to smear or rub with oil or a similar substance 2a to apply oil to as a sacred rite, esp for consecration b to designate (as if) through the rite of anointment, consecrate [ME *anointen*, fr MF *enoint*, pp of *enindre*, fr L *ungere*, fr *in-* + *ungere* to smear – more at OINTMENT] – **anointer** *n*, **anointment** *n*
- anomalous** /ˈænəmələs/ *adj* 1 deviating from a general rule or standard, irregular, abnormal 2 incongruous [LL *anomalous*, fr Gk *anomalos*, lit., uneven, fr *a-* + *homalos* even, fr *homos* same – more at SAME] – **anomalously** *adv*, **anomalousness** *n*
- anomaly** /ˈænəməli/ *n* 1 the angular distance of a planet from its last perihelion b a satellite from its last perigee 2 deviation from the common rule; an irregularity, incongruity 3 sthg anomalous [L *anomalía*, fr Gk *anomalia*, fr *anomalos*] – **anomalistic** /-ˈlɪstɪk/ *adj*
- anomie**, **anomy** /ˈænəmi/ *n* the lack, in a society or individual, of moral or social standards of conduct and belief [F *anomie*, fr Gk *anomia* lawlessness, fr *anomos* lawless, fr *a-* + *nomos* law, fr *nemein* to distribute – more at NIMBLE] – **anomic** /ˈænəˈmɪk/ *adj*

- anon** /ˈənon/ *adv*, *archaic* 1 soon, presently 2 at another time [ME, fr OE *on an*, fr *on in* + *an* one – more at ON ONF]
- anonym** /ˈænənim/ *n* 1 an anonymous person 2 a pseudonym
- anonymous** /ˈnɒnəməs/ *adj* 1 having or giving no name (< ~ *author*) 2 of unknown or unnamed origin or authorship (< ~ *gifts*) 3 nondescript [I L *anonymus*, fr Gk *anonymos*, fr *a-* + *onyma* name – more at NAME] – **anonymously** *adv*, **anonymousness** *n*, **anonymity** /ˌænəˈnɪməti/ *n*
- anopheles** /ˈənofileɪz/ *n* any of the genus of mosquitoes that includes all those which transmit malaria to human beings [NL, genus name, fr Gk *anopheles* useless, fr *a-* + *ophelos* advantage, help, akin to Skt *phalam* fruit, profit] – **anopheline** /-liən/ *adj* or *n*
- anorak** /ˈænrək/ *n*, chiefly Br a short weatherproof coat with a hood – **GARMENT** [Greenland Esk *anorak*]
- anorexia** /ˌænəˈreksɪə/ *n* (prolonged) loss of appetite, *specif* ANOREXIA NERVOSA [NL, fr Gk, fr *a-* + *orexis* appetite, fr *oregein* to stretch out, reach after – more at 'RIGHT] – **anorectic** /ˌænəˈrektɪk/ *adj* or *n*, **anorexic** /ˌænəˈreksɪˈjenɪk/ *adj*
- anorexia nervosa** /nuhˈvohzə/ *n* pathological aversion to food induced by emotional disturbance and typically accompanied by emaciation [NL, nervous anorexia]
- anosmia** /ˈənoʊzmiə/ *n* (partial) loss of the sense of smell [NL, fr *a-* + Gk *osme* smell – more at ODOUR] – **anosmic** *adj*
- another** /ˈənuðə/ *adj* 1 being a different or distinct one (< the same scene viewed from ~ angle) 2 some other (< do it ~ time) 3 being one additional (< have ~ piece of pie) 4 patterned after (< ~ Napoleon) [ME *an other*]
- another** *pron*, **pl others** 1 an additional one one more 2 a different one (< he loved ~) (< for one reason or ~)
- anovulant** /ˈənoʊvoolənt/ *n* or *adj* (a drug) that suppresses ovulation [*a-* + *ovulate* + *-ant*]
- anovulatory** /ˈənoʊvoolət(ə)n/ *adj* without or suppressing ovulation [*a-* + *ovulate* + *-ory*]
- anoxia** /ˈənoʊksɪə/ *n* hypoxia, esp so severe that it causes permanent damage [NL] – **anoxic** *adj*
- anschluss** /ˈʌnʃloos (Gr ʌnˈʃlʊs)/ *n* political union *specif*, often *cap* that between Germany and Austria in 1938 [G, lit., joining, fr *anschl* iessen to join]
- answer** /ˈɑːnsə/ *n* 1 a spoken or written reply to a question, remark, etc. 2 an esp correct solution to a problem 3 a response or reaction (< his only ~ was to walk out) 4 shy or sthg intended to be a close equivalent or rival of another (< Scotland's ~ to Andy Williams) [ME, fr OE *andswaru*, akin to ON *andswar* answer both fr a prehistoric WGmc NGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *and-* against, and whose second is akin to OE *swerian* to swear – more at ANTE]
- answer** *vi* 1 to speak, write, or act in reply 2a to be responsible or accountable for b to make amends, atone for 3 to correspond to 4 to be adequate or usable ~ *vt* 1a to speak or write in reply to b to reply to in justification or explanation (< ~ a charge) 2a to correspond to b to be adequate or usable for 3 to act in response to (a sound or other signal) (< ~ the telephone) 4 to offer a solution for, esp to solve (< ~ a riddle) – **answerer** /ˈɑːnsə(r)/ *n*
- answerable** /ˈɑːnsə(r)əbl/ *adj* 1 responsible 2 capable of being answered or refuted – **answerability** /-ˈbɪləti/ *n*
- answer back** *vb*, esp of a child to reply rudely (to)
- ant** /ˈænt/ *n* any of a family of insects that live in large social groups having a complex organization and hierarchy – **FOOD** [ME *ante*, *emete*, fr OE *æmette*; akin to OHG *ameiza* ant]
- ant-** /ˈænt-/ – see ANTI-
- ant-** /-ˈ(ə)nt/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 sb or sthg that performs (a specified action) (< claimant) (< deodorant) 2 thing that causes (a specified action or process) (< expectorant) 3 thing that is used or acted upon (in a specified manner) (< inhalant) [ME, fr OF, fr *ant-*, prp suffix, fr L *-ant-*, *-ans*, prp suffix of 1st conjugation, fr *a-* (stem vowel of 1st conjugation) + *-nt-*, *-ns*, prp suffix, akin to OE *-nde*, prp suffix, Gk *-nt-*, *-n*, participle suffix]
- ant** *suffix* (→ *adj*) 1 performing (a specified action) or being (in a specified condition) (< repentant) (< somnambulant) 2 causing (a specified action or process) (< expectorant)
- antacid** /ˈæntəˈsɪd/ *adj* that corrects excessive acidity, esp in the stomach – **antacid** /-ˈsɪd-/ *n*
- antagonism** /ˌæntəˈɡɒnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 hostility or antipathy, esp when actively expressed 2 opposition in physiological or biochemical action, esp between an agonist and an antagonist
- antagonist** /ˌæntəˈɡɒnɪst/ *n* 1 an opponent, adversary 2 a drug that



- opposes the action of another or of a substance (e.g. a neurotransmitter) that occurs naturally in the body
- antagonistic** /an,təgə'nistik/ *adj* characterized by or resulting from antagonism; opposing – **antagonistically** *adv*
- antagonize**, -ise /an,təgə'niz/ *vt* 1 to oppose or counteract 2 to provoke the hostility of [Gk *antagonizesthai*, fr *anti-* + *agonizesthai* to struggle, fr *agon* contest – more at AGONY]
- antarctic** /an,təh'ktik/ *adj*, often *cap* of the South Pole or surrounding region [ME *antartik*, fr L *antarcticus*, fr Gk *antarktikos*, fr *anti-* + *arktikos* arctic – more at ARCTIC]
- antarctic circle** *n*, often *cap* A&C the parallel of latitude approx 66½° south of the equator that circumscribes the south polar region
- 'ant**, **bear** *n* an aardvark
- 'ante** /anti/ *n* 1 a poker stake usu put up before the deal 2 an amount paid (<these improvements would raise the ~> – *infrm* [ante-]
- 'ante** *vt* **anteing** to put up (an ante) – compare ANTE UP
- ante-** *prefix* 1a prior, before (antecedent) (antedate) b prior to, earlier than (antediluvian) 2 anterior, situated before (anteroom) [ME, fr L, fr ante before, in front of; akin to OE *and-* against, Gk *anti* before, against – more at END]
- 'anteater** /-etə/ *n* any of several mammals that feed (chiefly) on ants and termites. e.g. an edentate, *specif* GIANT ANTEATER b an echidna c an aardvark
- antebellum** /anti,beləm/ *adj* existing before the war, esp the US Civil War (<an ~ brick mansion> [L *ante bellum* before the war])
- 'antecedent** /anti,si:d(ə)nt/ *n* 1 a word, phrase, or clause functioning as a noun and referred to by a pronoun 2 the premise of a conditional proposition, (e.g. if A in 'if A, then B') 3 the first term of a mathematical ratio 4 a preceding thing, event, or circumstance 5a a model or stimulus for later developments (<the boneshaker was the ~ of the modern bicycle>) b *pl* family origins, parentage [ME, fr ML & L, ML *antecedent-*, *antecedens*, fr L, logical antecedent, lit. sthg that goes before, fr neut of *antecedent-*, *antecedens*, *prp* of *antecedere* to precede]
- 'antecedent** *adj* 1 prior in time or order 2 causally or logically prior – **antecedently** *adv*
- antechamber** /anti,çaymbə/ *n* an anteroom [F *antichambre*, fr MF, fr lt *anti-* (fr L *ante-*) + MF *chambre* room – more at CHAMBER]
- 'antechapel** /-tʃəpəl/ *n* a porch or lobby at the west end of a chapel
- 'antedate** /-deɪt/ *vt* 1 to attach or assign a date earlier than the true one to (e.g. a document), esp with intent to deceive 2 to precede in time (<his death ~d his brother's>)
- 'antediluvian** /-di'lʊvi:ən/ *adj* 1 of the period before the flood described in the Bible 2 completely out-of-date, antiquated (<an ~ car> [ante- + L *diluvium* flood – more at DELUGE] – **antediluvian** *n*)
- antelope** /ant'ləp/ *n*, *pl* antelopes, *esp collectively* antelope 1 any of various Old World ruminant mammals that are lighter and more graceful than the true oxen 2 leather made from antelope hide [ME, fabulous heraldic beast, prob fr MF *antelope* savage animal with sawlike horns, fr ML *anthalopus*, fr LGk *antholop-*, *antholops*]
- ante meridiem** /anti mə'rɪdi:əm/ *adj* being before noon – *abbr* *am* [L]
- 'ante-mortem** /-mawtəm/ *adj* preceding death [L *ante mortem*]
- 'ante-natal** /-naytl/ *adj* of or concerned with an unborn child, pregnancy, or a pregnant woman; prenatal (<an ~ clinic>)
- antenna** /an'tenə/ *n*, *pl* antennae /-ni/, *antennas* 1 a movable segmented sense organ on the head of insects, myriapods, and crustaceans 2 *ANATOMY* 2 an aerial – chiefly used in Br with reference to complex aerials [ML, fr L *antenna*, *antenna* sail yard] – **antennal** *adj*
- ante-post** /anti ,pohst/ *adj* of, occurring in, or placed in the period before the day of a horse race [ante- + 'post; fr the post on which are displayed the numbers of the horses to run]
- anterior** /an'tiəri:/ *adj* 1 before in time 2 situated before or towards the front: e.g. a of an animal part near the head; cephalic b of the human body or its parts ventral 3 of a plant part (on the side) facing away from the stem or axis; also INFERIOR 4a USE compare POSTERIOR [L, compar of *ante* before – more at ANTE-] – **anteriorly** *adv*
- anteroom** /anti,roʊm, -'ru:m/ *n* an outer room that leads to another usu more important one, often used as a waiting room
- ante up** /anti/ *vb*, chiefly NAm *pay up* [ante]
- anth-** – see ANTI-
- anthellion** /ant'heɪlən, ant'hee-/ *n*, *pl* anthella /-lɪz/, anthellions a luminous spot appearing on the parhelic circle opposite the sun [Gk *anthellion*, fr neut of *anthēlios* opposite the sun, fr *anti-* + *helios* sun – more at 'SOIAR]
- anthelmintic** /ant-hel'mintik, antel-/ *adj* expelling or destroying parasitic worms (e.g. tapeworms) [*anti-* + Gk *helminth-*, *helms* worm – more at HELMINTH] – **anthelmintic** *n*
- anthem** /anθəm/ *n* 1a an antiphon b a piece of church music for voices usu set to a biblical text 2 a song or hymn of praise or gladness [ME *anem*, fr OE *anefn*, fr LL *antiphona*, fr LGk *antiphona*, *pl* of *antiphonon*, fr Gk, neut of *antiphonos* responsive, fr *anti-* + *phone* sound – more at 'BAN]
- anther** /anθə/ *n* the part of a stamen that contains and releases pollen 3 PLANT [NL *anthera*, fr L, medicine made of flowers, fr Gk *anthera*, fr fem of *antheros* flowery, fr *anthos* flower] – **antheral** *adj*
- antheridium** /anθə'rɪdi:əm/ *n*, *pl* antheridia /-di:z/ the male reproductive organ of a fern or related plant [NL, fr *anthera* + *-idium*] – **antheridial** *adj*
- 'anth,hill** /-hɪl/ *n* 1 a mound thrown up by ants or termites in digging their nest 2 a place (e.g. a city) that is overcrowded and constantly busy (<the human ~ – H G Wells>)
- anthocyanin** /anthoh'si:ənɪn/ also **anthocyan** /-si:ən/ *n* any of various blue to red plant pigments [Gk *anthos* + *kyanos* dark blue]
- anthologize**, -ise /an'thɒləʒi:z/ *vt* to compile or publish in an anthology – **anthologizer** *n*
- anthology** /an'thɒləʒi/ *n* 1 a collection of selected literary pieces or passages 2 a collection of selected non-literary works (<a fine ~ of Byzantine icons> [NL *anthologia* collection of epigrams, fr MGk, fr Gk, flower gathering, fr *anthos* flower (akin to Skt *andha* herb) + *logia* collecting, fr *legein* to gather – more at LEGEND] – **anthologist** *n*)
- anthozoan** /anθə'zəʊ-ən/ *n* any of a class of marine coelenterates that includes the corals and sea anemones [deriv of Gk *anthos* + *zoion* animal, akin to Gk *zōē* life – more at 'QUICK] – **anthozoan** *adj*
- anthracene** /anθrə'si:n/ *n* a cyclic hydrocarbon obtained from coal tar and used in the synthesis of dyestuffs
- anthracite** /anθrə'si:t/ *n* a hard slow-burning coal containing little volatile matter [Gk *anthrakitis*, fr *anthrak*, *anthrax* coal] – **anthracitic** /-si:tik/ *adj*
- anthrax** /anθraks/ *n* an often fatal infectious disease of warm-blooded animals (e.g. cattle, sheep, or human beings) caused by a spore-forming bacterium [ME *antrax* carbuncle, fr L *anthrax*, fr Gk, coal, carbuncle]
- anthrop-**, **anthropo-** *comb form* human being (<anthropology> [L *anthropo-*, fr Gk *anthropo-*, *anthropo-*, fr *anthropos*])
- anthropocentric** /anθrəpə'sentrik, -poh-/ *adj* considering human beings to be the most significant entities of the universe – **anthropocentrically** *adv*, **anthropocentricity** /-sentrisəti/ *n*
- anthropogenesis** /anθrəpə'ʒenəsɪs/ *n* the study of the origin and development of human beings [NL, fr *anthropo-* + L *genesis*] – **anthropogenetic** /-ʒə'netik/ *adj*, **anthropogeny** /anθrə'pəʒni/ *n*
- anthropography** /anθrə'pɒgrəfi/ *n* a branch of anthropology dealing with the geographical distribution of human beings
- anthropoid** /anθrə'pɔɪd/ *adj* 1 resembling human beings or the anthropoid apes (e.g. in form or behaviour), apelike 2 resembling an ape (<~ gangsters> [Gk *anthropoïdes*, fr *anthropos*])
- anthropoid ape** *n* APE 1
- anthropology** /anθrə'pɒləʒi/ *n* the scientific study of human beings, esp in relation to physical characteristics, social relations and culture, and the origin and distribution of races [NL *anthropologia*, fr *anthropo-* + *-logia* -logy] – **anthropologist** *n*, **anthropological** /anθrəpə'lɒjɪkl/ *adj*, **anthropologically** *adv*
- anthropometry** /anθrə'pɒmətri/ *n* the study of the measurement of the human body [F *anthropométrie*, fr *anthropo-* + *-mètre* -metry] – **anthropometric** /anθrəpə'metrik, -poh-/ *adj*, **anthropometrical** *adj*, **anthropometrically** *adv*
- anthropomorphic** /anθrəpə'mɔ:fɪk/, **anthropomorphous** /-fəs/ *adj* 1 having a human form or human attributes (<~ deities>) 2 ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things [LL *anthropomorphus* of human form, fr Gk *anthropomorphos*, fr *anthropo-* + *-morphos* -morphous] – **anthropomorphically** *adv*, **anthropomorphously** *adv*
- anthropomorphism** /anθrəpə'mɔ:fɪz(ə)m/ *n* the ascribing of human behaviour, form, etc to what is not human (e.g. a god or animal); humanization – **anthropomorphist** *n*, **anthropomorphize** *vt*
- anthropophagous** /anθrə'pɒfəʒəs/ *adj* feeding on human flesh – **anthropophagy** /-ʒi/ *n*
- anthropophagus** /anθrə'pɒfəʒəs/ *n*, *pl* anthropophagi /-ʒi:/ a man-eater, cannibal [L, fr Gk *anthropophagos*, fr *anthropo-* + *-phagos*]
- 'anti** /anti/ *n*, *pl* antis an opponent of a practice or policy [*anti-*]
- 'anti** *prep* opposed or antagonistic to

**anti-, ant-, anth-** *prefix* 1a of the same kind but situated opposite; in the opposite direction to <antipodes> <anticlockwise> b opposite in kind to <antichimax> <anti-hero> 2a opposing or hostile to in opinion, sympathy, or practice <anti-Semite> <antislavery> b opposing in effect or activity; preventing <antiseptic> <anti-thief device> 3 being the antimatter counterpart of <antuneutrino> 4a combatting or defending against <antiaircraft> <anti- fr ME, fr OF & L; OF, fr L, against, fr Gk, fr *anti-*; *anti-* fr ME, fr L, against, fr Gk, fr *anti*; *anth-* fr L, against, fr Gk, fr *anti* – more at ANTE-]

**antiballistic missile** /ˌæntɪbəlɪstɪk/ *n* a missile for intercepting and destroying ballistic missiles

**antibiosis** /-biəʊsɪs/ *n* antagonism between organisms, specif microorganisms, or between one organism and a metabolic product of another [NL, fr *anti-* + *biosis*]

**antibiotic** /-biəʊtɪk/ *n* a substance produced by a microorganism and able in dilute solution to inhibit the growth of or kill another microorganism – *antibiotic adj.*, *antibiotically adv*

**antibody** /-bɒdi/ *n* a protein (e.g. an immunoglobulin) that is produced by the body in response to a specific antigen and that counteracts its effects (e.g. by neutralizing toxins or grouping bacteria into clumps)

**antic** /ˈæntɪk/ *n* a ludicrous act or action, a caper – usu pl <childish ~s> [It *antico*, lit., ancient, fr L *antiquus* – more at ANTIQUE]


**Antichrist** /-ˈkriːst/ *n* an enemy of Christ, specif a great personal opponent of Christ expected to appear shortly before the end of the world – usu + *the* [ME *anticrist*, fr OF & LL, OF, fr LL *Antichristus*, fr Gk *Antichristos*, fr *anti-* + *Christos* Christ]

**anticipate** /ˈæntɪsɪpaɪt/ *vt* 1 to give advance thought, discussion, or treatment to 2 to foresee and deal with in advance; forestall 3 to use, expend, or act on before the right or natural time 4 to act before (another) often so as to thwart 5 to look forward to as certain, expect ~ *vi* to speak or write in knowledge or expectation of sth due to happen [L *anticipatus*, pp of *anticipare*, fr *ante-* + *-cipare* (fr *capere* to take) – more at HEAVE] – *anticipator n.*, *anticipatable* /-paɪtəbəl/ *adj.*, *anticipative* /-pətɪv/ *adj.*, *anticipatively adv.*, *anticipatory* /ˈæntɪsɪpətri/, -paɪtəri/ *adj.*

**anticipation** /ˈæntɪsɪpəʃən/ *n* an act of looking forward, specif pleasurable expectation [ANTICIPATE + -ION]

**anticlerical** /-ˈkliːnkl/ *adj* opposed to the influence of the clergy or church in secular affairs – *anticlerical n.*, *anticlericalism n.*, *anticlericalist n.*

**anticlimax** /-ˈkliːmæks/ *n* 1 (an instance of) the usu sudden and ludicrous descent in writing or speaking from a significant to a trivial idea 2 an event (e.g. at the end of a series) that is strikingly less important or exciting than expected – *anticlimactic* /-ˈkliːmæktɪk/, *anticlimactical adj.*, *anticlimactically adv*

**anticline** /-ˈkliːn/ *n* an arch of stratified rock in which the layers bend downwards in opposite directions from the crest – compare SYNCLINE  GEOGRAPHY [back-formation fr *anticlinal*, fr *anti-* + Gk *klinein* to lean] – *anticlinal* /-ˈkliːnl/ *adj.*

**anticlockwise** /-ˈkloʊkwɪz/ *adj* or *adv* in a direction opposite to that in which the hands of a clock rotate when viewed from the front

**anticoagulant** /-ˈkɒhəɡyʊələnt/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) that inhibits the clotting of blood

**anticodon** /-ˈkɒhdɒn/ *n* a group of 3 nucleotide bases in a transfer RNA molecule that identifies the amino acid carried and that binds to a complementary codon in messenger RNA during protein synthesis at a ribosome [*anti-* + *codon*]

**anticonvulsant** /-ˈkɒnˈvʊls(ə)nt/, *anticonvulsive* /-sɪv/ *adj* used in treating, controlling, or preventing esp epileptic convulsions – *anticonvulsant n.*

**anticyclone** /-ˈsɪkloʊn/ *n* 1 a system of winds that rotates about a centre of high atmospheric pressure 2 HIGH 1 [*anti-* + *cyclone*] – *anticyclonic* /-ˈsɪkloʊnɪk/ *adj.*

**antidepressant** /-dɪˈpres(ə)nt/, *antidepressive* /-sɪv/ *adj.* esp of a drug used to relieve mental depression – *antidepressant n.*

**antidiuretic hormone** /-dɪəyooˈreɪtɪk/ *n* vasopressin

**antidote** /ˈæntɪdoʊt/ *n* 1 a remedy that counteracts the effects of poison 2 sth that relieves or counteracts (an ~ to the mechanization of our society) [ME *antidot*, fr L *antidotum*, fr Gk *antidotos*, fr fem of *antidotos* given as an antidote, fr *antididonai* to give as an antidote, fr *anti-* + *didonai* to give – more at DATE] – *antidotal* /ˈæntɪdoʊtl/ *adj.*

**antidromic** /-ˈdromɪk/ *adj.* esp of a nerve impulse or fibre proceeding or conducting in a direction opposite to the usual one [*anti-* + *drom-* (fr Gk *dromos* racecourse, running) + *-ic* – more at DROMEDARY]

**antifreeze** /-ˈfriːz/ *n* a substance added to a liquid (e.g. the water in a car radiator) to lower its freezing point

**antigen** /ˈæntɪdʒən/ *n* a protein, carbohydrate, etc that stimulates the production of an antibody when introduced into the body [ISV *anti-* + *-gen*] – *antigenic* /-ˈdʒenɪk/ *adj.*, *antigenically adv.*, *antigenicity* /-dʒɪnɪsɪti/ *n.*

**anti-gravity** /-ˈɡrævəti/ *n* a supposed effect resulting from cancellation or reduction of the force of gravity – *anti-gravity adj.*

**anti-hero, fem anti-heroine** *n* a protagonist who lacks traditional heroic qualities (e.g. courage) – *anti-heroic* /-ˈhɪrɔː/ *adj.*

**antihistamine** /-ˈhɪstəmin/ *n* any of various compounds that oppose the actions of histamine and are used esp for treating allergies and motion sickness – *antihistaminic* /-ˈmɪnɪk/ *adj* or *n.*

**antiknock** /-ˈnɒk/ *n* a substance added to fuel to prevent knocking in an internal-combustion engine

**antilog** /-ˈlɒɡ/ *n* an antilogarithm


**antilogarithm** /-ˈlɒɡərɪðm/ *n* the number corresponding to a given logarithm

**antimacassar** /-ˈmɑːkəsər/ *n* a usu protective cover put over the backs or arms of upholstered seats [*anti-* + *Macassar* (oil) (a hairdressing), fr *Macassar*, district of Celebes in Indonesia]

**antimatter** /-ˈmætər/ *n* matter composed of antiparticles (e.g. antiprotons instead of protons, positrons instead of electrons, and antineutrons instead of neutrons)

**antimetabolite** /-ˈmɛtəbɒlɪt/ *n* a substance (e.g. a sulphur drug) that prevents a living organism from using a metabolite

**antimonite** /ˈæntɪməniːt/ *n* stibnite, an ore of antimony [G *antimonit*, fr *antimon* antimony]

**antimony** /ˈæntɪməni/, NAm /ˈæntɪməni/ *n* a trivalent and pentavalent brittle usu metallic metalloid element used esp as a constituent of alloys  PERIODIC TABLE [ME *antimome*, fr ML *antimonium*, perh modif of Ar *ithmid*, of Hamitic origin; akin to Egypt *sdm* antimony, Copt *stem*] – *antimonial* /ˈæntɪməniəl/, -niəl/ *adj.*, *antimonious adj.*

**anting** /ˈæntɪŋ/ *n* the deliberate placing by some songbirds of living ants among their feathers

**antinode** /-ˈnoʊd/ *n* a region of maximum amplitude situated between adjacent nodes in a vibrating body [ISV] – *antinodal* /-ˈnoʊdl/ *adj.*

**antinomian** /-ˈnoʊmi-ən/ *n* one who denies the universality of moral laws, specif an adherent of the (heretical) view that those whose salvation is preordained are freed from all moral restraints [ML *antinomus*, fr L *anti-* + Gk *nomos* law] – *antinomian adj.*, *antinomianism n.*

**antinomy** /ˈæntɪnəmi/ *n* a contradiction or conflict between 2 apparently valid principles [G *antinomie*, fr L *antinomia* conflict of laws, fr Gk, fr *anti-* + *nomos* law – more at NIMBLE]

**antioxidant** /-ˈɒksɪd(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) that inhibits oxidation reactions

**antiparticle** /-ˈpaʊtɪkl/ *n* an elementary particle identical to another in mass but opposite to it in electric and magnetic properties that when brought together with its counterpart produces mutual annihilation

**antipasto** /ˈæntɪˌpɑːstəʊ/ *n*, pl *antipastos* HORS D'ŒUVRE – used esp with reference to Italian food [It, fr *anti-* (fr L *ante-*) + *pasto* food, fr L *pastus*, fr *pastus*, pp of *pascere* to feed – more at FOOD]

**antipathetic** /-ˈpɑːθetɪk/ *adj.* 1 feeling or causing aversion or opposition 2 opposed in nature or character to – *antipathetically adv.*

**antipathy** /ˈæntɪpəθi/ *n* a fixed aversion or dislike, a distaste [L *antipathia*, fr Gk *antipatheia*, fr *antipathes* of opposite feelings, fr *anti-* + *pathos* experience – more at PATHOS]

**antipersonnel** /-ˈpuːsəˈnel/ *adj.* of a weapon (designed) for use against people

**antiperspirant** /-ˈpuːspɪrənt/ *n* a substance used to check excessive perspiration

**antiphon** /ˈæntɪfən-, -fən/ *n* a verse, usu from Scripture, said or sung usu before and after a canticle, psalm, or psalm verse as part of the liturgy [LL *antiphona* – more at ANTHEM] – *antiphonal* /ˈæntɪfənl/ *adj.*




**antiphonary** /ˈæntɪfən(ə)ri/ also *antiphonal* /ˈæntɪfənl/ *n* a book containing the choral parts of the Divine Office

**antiphony** /ˈæntɪfəni/ *n* responsive alternation between 2 groups, esp of singers

**antipodal** /ˈæntɪpədl/ *adj.* 1 of the antipodes; specif situated at the opposite side of the earth or moon (an ~ meridian) (an ~ continent) 2 diametrically opposite (an ~ point on a sphere)

**antipodes** /ˈæntɪˌpəːdeɪz/ *n* pl the region of the earth diametrically opposite; specif, often cap Australasia [ME *antipodes*, pl, people dwelling at opposite points on the globe, fr L, fr Gk, fr pl of *antipod-*, *antipous* with feet opposite, fr *anti-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT] – *antipodean* /ˈæntɪˌpəːde-ən/ *adj.*

**antipope** /ˈæntɪˌpəʊp/ *n* one elected or claiming to be pope in opposition

- to the pope canonically chosen [MF *antipape*, fr ML *antipapa*, fr *anti-* + *papa* pope]
- antipyretic** /ˌantiˈpiːrɪtɪk/ *n* or *adj* (sthg, esp a drug) that reduces fever
- antiquarian** /ˌantiˈkwɛəri-ən/ *n* one who collects or studies antiquities [L *antiquarius* antiquary]
- antiquarian** *adj* 1 of antiquarians or antiquities 2 of books or prints old (and rare) – **antiquarianism** *n*
- antiquary** /ˌantiˈkwɛəri/ *n* an antiquarian
- antiquated** /ˌantiˈkwɛɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 outmoded or discredited by reason of age; out-of-date 2 advanced in age
- antique** /ˌantiˈkiːk/ *adj* 1 belonging to or surviving from earlier, esp classical, times, ancient <ruins of an ~ city> 2 old-fashioned 3 made in an earlier period and therefore valuable <~ mirrors>; also suggesting the style of an earlier period [MF, fr L *antiquus*, fr *ante* before – more at ANTI-]
- antique** *n* 1 the ancient Greek or Roman style in art 2 a relic or object of ancient times 3 a work of art, piece of furniture, or decorative object made at an earlier period and sought by collectors
- antiquity** /ˌantiˈkwiːti/ *n* 1 ancient times, esp the period before the Middle Ages 2 the quality of being ancient 3 *pl* relics or monuments of ancient times [ME *antiquite*, fr MF *antiquité*, fr L *antiquitat*-, *antiquitas*, fr *antiquus*]
- antirrhinum** /ˌantiˈrɪnəm/ *n* any of a large genus of plants (e.g. the snapdragon or a related plant) of the figwort family with bright-coloured 2-lipped flowers [NL, genus name, fr L, snapdragon, fr Gk *antirrhinon*, fr *anti-* like (fr *anti* against, equivalent to) + *rhin*-, *rhis* nose – more at ANTI-]
- anti-Semitism** *n* hostility towards Jews – **anti-Semitic** *adj*, **anti-Semite** *n*
- antiseptic** /ˌantiˈsepsɪs/ *n* the inhibiting of the growth of microorganisms by antiseptic means
- antiseptic** /ˌseptɪk/ *adj* 1a opposing sepsis (in living tissue), specif by arresting the growth of microorganisms, esp bacteria b of, acting or protecting like, or using an antiseptic 2a scrupulously clean, aseptic b extremely neat or orderly, esp to the point of being bare or uninteresting 3 impersonal, detached [*anti-* + Gk *septikos* putrefying, septic] – **antiseptically** *adv*
- antiseptic** *n* an antiseptic substance; also a germicide
- antiserum** /ˌæntɪˈsɛrəm/ *n* a serum containing antibodies [ISV]
- antisocial** /ˌæntɪˈsəʊʃl(ə)/ *adj* 1 hostile or harmful to organized society 2a adverse to the society of others, unsociable b *Br* UNSOCIAL 2
- antistrophe** /ˌæntɪˈstrəfi/ *n* the second of 2 inversely corresponding metrical parts [LL, fr Gk *antistrophe*, fr *anti-* + *strophe* strophe] – **antistrophic** /ˌæntɪˈstrɒfɪk/ *adj*, **antistrophically** *adv*
- antisymmetrical** /ˌæntɪˈsɪmɪtrɪk/ *adj* 1 relating to or being a relation (e.g. 'is a subset of') that implies equality of any 2 quantities for which it holds in both directions 2 having a form which would be symmetrical if the signs of the numbers describing 1 half were reversed
- antithesis** /ˌæntɪˈθɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **antitheses** /-ˈsiːz/ 1a a contrast of ideas expressed by a parallel arrangement of words (e.g. in 'action, not words') b opposition, contrast c the direct opposite (<his ideas are the ~ of mine>) 2 the second stage of a reasoned argument, in contrast to the thesis [LL, fr Gk, lit., opposition, fr *antithenai* to oppose, fr *anti-* + *tithenai* to set – more at DO]
- antithetical** /ˌæntɪˈθetɪkəl/ *adj* 1 constituting or marked by antithesis 2 directly opposed – **antithetically** *adv*
- antitoxin** /ˌæntɪˈtɒksɪn/ *n* (a serum containing) an antibody capable of neutralizing the specific toxin that stimulated its production in the body [ISV] – **antitoxic** *adj*
- antitrades** /ˌæntɪˈtreɪd/ *n* *pl* westerly winds that move counter to the trade winds and become the prevailing westerly winds of middle latitudes
- antitrust** /ˌæntɪˈtrʌst/ *adj* of the US laws to protect trade from monopolies or unfair business practices [*anti-* + *trust*]
- antitussive** /ˌæntɪˈtʌsɪv/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that controls or prevents coughing
- antitype** /ˌæntɪˈtiːp/ *n* 1 sthg or sbg that is represented or foreshadowed by a type or symbol 2 an opposite type
- antivenin** /ˌæntɪˈvenɪn/ *n* (a serum containing) an antitoxin to a venom [ISV]
- antler** /ˌæntlə/ *n* (a branch of) the solid periodically shed (much branched) horn of an animal of the deer family [ME *aunteler*, fr MF *antollier*, fr (assumed) VL *anteocularis*, fr neut of *anteocularis* located before the eye, fr L *ante-* + *oculus* eye – more at EYE] – **antlered** *adj*
- antonomasia** /ˌæntəˈnəʊməziə/ *n* 1 the substitution of an epithet or title for a proper name (e.g. *his honour* for a judge) 2 the use of a proper name to denote a class (e.g. a *Solomon* for a wise ruler) [L, fr Gk, fr *antonomazein* to name instead, fr *anti-* instead, against + *onomazein* to name, fr *onoma* name – more at NAME]
- antonym** /ˌæntənɪm/ *n* a word having the opposite meaning [*anti* + *-onym*] – **antonymous** /ˌæntənɪməs/ *adj*, **antonymy** /-mə/ *n*
- antrum** /ˌænrəm/ *n*, *pl* **antra** /-trə/ the cavity of a hollow organ or sinus [LL, fr L, cave, fr Gk *antron*] – **antral** *adj*
- anuran** /ˌænyooərən/ *n* or *adj* (a) salientian [deriv of *a-* + Gk *oura* tail – more at SQUIRREL]
- anus** /ˈaɪnəs/ *n* the rear excretory opening of the alimentary canal  DIGESTION [L, akin to OIr *ainne* anus]
- anvil** /ˈænvɪl/ *n* 1 a heavy, usu steel-faced, iron block on which metal is shaped 2 a towering anvil-shaped cloud 3 the incus  NERVE [ME *anfil*, fr OE, akin to OHG *anafalz* anvil; both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *an* on, and whose second is akin to Sw dial *filta* to beat; akin to L *pellere* to beat – more at ON, FELT]
- anxiety** /ˌæŋˈziːəti/ *n* 1a apprehensive uneasiness of mind, usu over an impending or anticipated ill b an ardent or earnest wish (<~ to please>) c a cause of anxiety 2 an abnormal overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear, often with doubt about one's capacity to cope with the threat [L *anxietas*, fr *anxius*]
- anxious** /ˌæŋ(ɡ)kʃəs/ *adj* 1 troubled, worried 2 causing anxiety; worrying 3 ardently or earnestly wishing to [L *anxius*; akin to L *angere* to strangle, distress – more at ANGER] – **anxiously** *adv*, **anxiousness** *n*
- any** /eni/ *adj* 1 one or some indiscriminately; whichever is chosen (<~ plan is better than none>) 2 one, some, or all, whatever: e.g. a of whatever number or quantity, being even the smallest number or quantity of (<have you ~ money?> <never get ~ letters>) b no matter how great (<at ~ cost>) c no matter how ordinary or inadequate (<wear just ~ old thing>) 3 being an appreciable number, part, or amount of – not in positive statements (<not for ~ length of time>) [ME, fr OE *ænig*; akin to OHG *einag* any, OE *an* one – more at ONE]
- any** *pron*, *pl* **any** 1 any person, anybody (<~ of us>) 2a anything b any part, quantity, or number (<hardly ~ of it>)
- any** *adv* to any extent or degree, AT ALL (<not feeling ~ better>)
- anybody** /ˌeniˈbɒdi, -bɒdi/ *pron* any person (<has ~ lost their glasses?>)
- anyhow** /-ˌhoʊ/ *adv* 1 in a haphazard manner (<thrown down all ~>) 2 anyway
- any** *more* /-ˌmɔː/ *adv* at the present time, now – usu in negatives
- any** *one* /-wʌn, -wən/ *pron* anybody
- any** *place* /-ˌpleɪs/ *adv*, *NAM* anywhere
- any** *road* /-ˌroʊd/ *adv*, *Br* anyway – nonstandard
- any** *thing* /-ˌθɪŋ/ *pron* any thing whatever (<do ~ for a quiet life>) – **anything** but not at ALL, far from
- anything** *adv* in any degree; AT ALL (<isn't ~ like so cold>)
- any** *way* /-ˌweɪ/ *adv* 1 in any case, inevitably (<going to be hanged ~>) 2 – used when resuming a narrative (<well, ~, I rang the bell...>)
- any** *where* /-ˌweə/ *adv* 1 in, at, or to any place (<too late to go ~>) 2 to any extent, AT ALL (<isn't ~ near ready>) 3 – used to indicate limits of variation (<~ from 40 to 60>)
- anywhere** *n* any place
- Anzac** /ˈænzək/ *n* a soldier from Australia or New Zealand, esp in WW I [Australian and New Zealand Army Corps]
- aorist** /ˈɔːrɪst, ˈɔːrɪst/ *n* a verb inflection (e.g. in Greek) expressing simple occurrence of a past action without reference to its completeness, duration, or repetition [LL & Gk; LL *aoristos*, fr Gk, fr *aoristos* undefined, fr *a* + *horistos* definable, fr *horizein* to define – more at HORIZON] – **aorist** *adj*, **aoristic** /-rɪstɪk/ *adj*, **aoristically** *adv*
- aorta** /ˈɔːrteɪ/ *n*, *pl* **aortas**, **aortae** /-ti/ the great artery that carries blood from the left side of the heart to be distributed by branch arteries throughout the body  ANATOMY [NL, fr Gk *aortē*, fr *aerēin* to lift] – **aortal** *adj*, **aortic** *adj*
- aortic arch** /ˈɔːrteɪk/ *n* any of a series of paired arterial branches in vertebrate embryos that connect the front and back arterial systems in front of the heart and persist in a complete form only in adult fishes
- an** *outrance* /ˌah ˈoʊtrəns/ (Fr *a utrās*) *adv* to the bitter end; unsparingly [F, lit., to excess]
- ap** – see AD-
- ap** – see APO-
- apace** /əˈpeɪs/ *adv* at a quick pace; swiftly [ME, prob fr MF *a pas* on step]

**Apache** /ə'pachi/ *sense* 3 /ə'pash/ *n*, *pl* **Apaches**, *esp* collectively **Apache** 1 a member of a group of N American Indian peoples of the SW USA 2 any of the Athapaskan languages of the Apache people 3 *not cap* a member of a gang of (Parisian) criminals [Sp, prob fr Zuni *Apachu*, lit., enemy; (3) F, fr *Apache* Apache Indian]

**apanage** /ə'pəniʃ/ *n* a grant made to a dependent member of the royal family or a principal liege man [F – more at **APPANAGE**]

**apart** /ə'paɪt/ *adv* 1a at a distance (from one another in space or time) <tried to keep ~ from the family squabbles> <towns 20 miles ~> b at a distance in character or opinions <their ideas are worlds ~> 2 so as to separate one from another <can't tell the twins ~> 3 excluded from consideration <joking ~, what shall we do?> 4 in or into 2 or more parts <had to take the engine ~> [ME, fr MF *a part*, lit., to the side]

**apart from** *prep* 1 in addition to; besides <haven't time, quite ~ the cost> 2 EXCEPT FOR <excellent ~ a few blemishes>

**apartheid** /ə'paɪt-(h)aɪt/, -(h)aɪt/ *n* racial segregation, *specif* a policy of segregation and discrimination against non-Europeans in the Republic of S Africa [Afrnk, lit., separateness]

**apartment** /ə'pɑ:tmənt/ *n* 1 a single room in a building 2 a suite of rooms used for living quarters <the Royal ~s> 3 chiefly *NAM* a flat [F *appartement*, fr It *appartamento*] – **apartmental** /-'mentl/ *adj*

**apartment house** *n*, *NAM* a block of flats

**apathetic** /ə'pəθetɪk/ *adj* 1 having or showing little or no feeling, spiritless 2 lacking interest or concern, indifferent [apathy + -etic (as in *pathetic*)] – **apathetically** *adv*

**apathy** /ə'pəθi/ *n* 1 lack of feeling or emotion; impassiveness 2 lack of interest or concern, indifference [Gk *apatheia*, fr *apathēs* without feeling, fr *a-* + *pathos* emotion – more at **PATHOS**]

**apatite** /ə'pəti:t/ *n* any of a group of calcium phosphate minerals occurring in phosphate rock, bones, and teeth, *specif* calcium fluorophosphate [G *apatit*, fr Gk *apatē* deceit]

**'ape** /əyp/ *n* 1 a (large semierect tailless or short-tailed Old World) monkey: a a chimpanzee b a gorilla c any similar primate 2a a mimic b a large uncouth person [ME, fr OE *apa*, akin to OHG *affo* ape] – **apelike** *adj*

**ape** *vt* to imitate closely but often clumsily and ineptly – **aper** *n*

**apeak** /ə'peɪk/ *adj* or *adv* vertical <with oars ~> [alter. of earlier *apike*, prob fr *a-* + *pike* mountain]


**'ape-man** *n* a primate intermediate in character between human beings and the great apes

**aperçu** /əpuh'su:ʃ/ (Fr *apercu*) / *n*, *pl* **aperçus** /~/ 1 an immediate impression, *esp* an insight 2 a brief survey or conspectus; an outline [F, fr pp of *apercevoir* to perceive]

**aperient** /ə'piəriənt/ *n* or *adj* (a) laxative [adj L *aperient-*, *aperiens*, prp of *aperire* to uncover, open; *n* fr *adj*]

**aperiodic** /ə'piəriədɪk/ *adj* 1 of irregular occurrence <~ floods> 2 not having periodic vibrations, not oscillatory – **aperiodically** *adv*, **aperiodicity** /ə'piəriədɪsɪti/ *n*

**aperitif** /ə'pɛrɪ'teɪf/, -'teɪf/ *n* an alcoholic drink taken before a meal to stimulate the appetite [F *apéritif* aperient, *aperitif*, fr MF *aperitif*, *adj*, *aperient*, fr ML *aperitivus*, irreg fr L *aperire*]

**aperture** /ə'pɔ:tʃə/ *n* 1 an open space; a hole, gap 2a (the diameter of) the opening in an optical (photographic) system through which the light passes  CAMERA b the diameter of the objective lens or mirror of a telescope [ME, fr L *apertura*, fr *apertus*, pp of *aperire* to open – more at **WEIR**]

**apetalous** /ə'petələs/ *adj* having no petals – **apetaly** *n*

**apex** /ə'peɪks/ *n*, *pl* **apexes**, *apices* /ə'pɛpsə:z/ 1a the uppermost peak, the vertex <the ~ of a mountain> b the narrowed or pointed end; the tip <the ~ of the tongue> 2 the highest or culminating point <the ~ of his career> [L, summit, small rod at top of priest's cap; prob akin to L *aptus* fastened, attached – more at **APT**]

**aphaeresis** /ə'fɛərəsɪs/, ə'fɛɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **aphaeresses** /-seɪz/ the loss of 1 or more sounds or letters at the beginning of a word (e.g. in *bus* for *omnibus*) [LL, fr Gk *aphairesis*, lit., taking off, fr *aphairein* to take away, fr *apo-* + *hairein* to take] – **aphaeretic** /ə'fɛrɪtɪk/ *adj*

**aphasia** /ə'fæɪzɪ(y)ə/, -zyə/ *n* (partial) loss of the power to use or understand words, usu resulting from brain damage – compare **ALEXIA** [NL, fr Gk, fr *a-* + *-phasia*] – **aphasiac** /-ziæk/ *adj*, **aphasic** /-zɪk/ *n* or *adj*

**aphelion** /ə'fi:liən/ *n*, *pl* **aphellia** /-liə/ the point in the path of a planet, comet, etc that is farthest from the sun – compare **PERIHELION** [NL, fr *apo-* + Gk *hēlios* sun – more at **'SOLAR**]

**aphid** /ə'fɪd/ *n* a greenfly or related small sluggish insect that sucks the juices of plants

**aphis** /ə'fɪs/ *n*, *pl* **aphides** /ə'fɪdi:z/ an aphid (of a common genus) [NL *Aphid-*, *Aphis*, genus name, fr NGK *aphis*, perh alter. of *koris* bug]

**aphorism** /ə'fɔ:ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a concise pithy formulation of a truth, an adage [MF *aphorisme*, fr LL *aphorismus*, fr Gk *aphorismos* definition, aphorism, fr *aphorizein* to define, fr *apo-* + *horizein* to bound – more at **HORIZON**] – **aphorize** *vi*, **aphorist** *n*, **aphoristic** /-'rɪstɪk/ *adj*, **aphoristically** *adv*

**aphrodisiac** /ə'frɔ:di:ziæk/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) that stimulates sexual desire [adj Gk *aphrodisiakos* sexual, fr *aphrodisia* sexual pleasures, fr neut pl of *aphrodisios* of Aphrodite, fr *Aphrodite*, goddess of love; *n* fr *adj*] – **aphrodisiacal** /ə'frɔ:di:ziækəl/ *adj*

**apiary** /ə'pi:əri/ *n* a place where (hives or colonies of) bees are kept, esp for their honey [L *apiarium*, fr *apis* bee]

**apiarian** /ə'pi:əriən/ *adj* of beekeeping or bees

**apiarist** /ə'pi:əri-st/ *n* a beekeeper

**apiary** /ə'pi:əri/ *n* a place where (hives or colonies of) bees are kept, esp for their honey [L *apiarium*, fr *apis* bee]

**apical** /ə'pɪkəl, ə-/ *adj* of, situated at, or forming an apex [prob fr NL *apicalis*, fr L *apic-*, *apex*] – **apically** *adv*

**apices** /ə'pɪpsə:z/ *pl* of **APEX**

**apiculture** /ə'pɪkʊlʃə/ *n* the keeping of bees, esp on a large scale [prob fr F, fr L *apis* bee + F *culture*] – **apicultural** /ə'pɪkʊlʃərəl, -'tʃ-/ *adj*, **apiculturist** *n*

**apiece** /ə'pi:es/ *adv* for each one, individually [ME *a pece*, fr 'a + *pece* piece]

**apish** /ə'pɪʃ/ *adj* resembling an ape e.g. a slavishly imitative b extremely silly or affected – **apishly** *adv*, **apishness** *n*

**aplanatic** /ə'pɪlə'nætɪk/ *adj*, *esp* of a lens (system) free from spherical aberration [a- + Gk *planasthai* to wander – more at **PLANI**]

**aplasia** /ə'plæɪzɪ(y)ə/, -zyə/ *n* incomplete or faulty development of an organ or part [NL, fr 'a- + *-plasia*] – **aplastic** /ə'plæstɪk/ *adj*

**aplenty** /ə'plɛnti/ *adj* enough and to spare, in abundance <money ~ for all his needs>

**aplomb** /ə'plʊm, ə'plɒm/ *n* complete composure or self-assurance, poise [F, lit., perpendicularity, fr MF, fr *a plomb*, lit., according to the plummet]

**apnoea**, chiefly *NAM* **apnea** /ə'pni:ə/ *n* 1 transient cessation of respiration 2 asphyxia [NL, fr *a-* + *-pnoea*]

**apo-**, **ap-** *prefix* 1 away from; off <aphelion> <apogee> 2 detached, separate <apocarpous> [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *apo-* – more at **or**]

**apocalypse** /ə'pɒkə'lɪps/ *n* 1a any of a number of early Jewish and Christian works, written esp under an assumed name, and characterized by symbolic imagery, which describe the establishment of God's kingdom b *cap* **REVELATION** 2 – *usu* + *the* 2 sthg viewed as a prophetic revelation [ME, revelation, Revelation, fr LL *apocalypsis*, fr Gk *apokalypsis*, fr *apokalyptein* to uncover, fr *apo-* + *kalyptein* to cover – more at **HELL**]

**apocalyptic** /ə'pɒkə'lɪptɪk/ also **apocalyptical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or resembling an apocalypse 2 forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world, prophetic 3 foreboding imminent disaster, terrible [LGk *apokalyphtikos*, fr Gk *apokalyptein*] – **apocalyptically** *adv*

**apochromatic** /ə'pɒkrə'mætɪk/ *adj*, *esp* of a lens (system) free from chromatic and spherical aberration <an ~ lens> [ISV]

**apocrine** /ə'pɒkrɪn, -kreen/ *adj* (coming from a gland) producing a fluid secretion by separation of part of the cytoplasm from the secreting cells [ISV *apo-* + Gk *kraínein* to separate – more at **CERTAIN**]

**apocrypha** /ə'pɒkrɪfə/ *n* 1 (a collection of) writings or statements of dubious authenticity 2 *sing* or *pl* in *const*, *cap* books included in the Septuagint and Vulgate but excluded from the Jewish and Protestant canons of the Old Testament – *usu* + *the* [ML, fr LL, neut pl of *apocryphus* secret, not canonical, fr Gk *apokryphos* obscure, fr *apokryptein* to hide away, fr *apo-* + *kryptein* to hide – more at **CRYPT**]

**apocryphal** /ə'pɒkrɪf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 often *cap* of or resembling the Apocrypha 2 of doubtful authenticity – **apocryphally** *adv*, **apocryphalness** *n*

**apodal** /ə'pɒdəl, ə'pɒdɒs/ *adj* having no (appendages analogous to) feet <eels are ~> [Gk *apod-*, *apous*, fr *a-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at **FOOT**]

**apodeictic** /ə'pɒdi:ktɪk/ *adj* apodictic

**apodictic** /ə'pɒdi:ktɪk/ *adj* expressing, or of the nature of, necessary truth or absolute certainty [L *apodicticus*, fr Gk *apodeiktikos*, fr *apodeiknynai* to demonstrate, fr *apo-* + *deiknynai* to show – more at **DICTION**] – **apodictically** *adv*

**apodosis** /ə'pɒdəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **apodoses** /-seɪz/ the main clause of a conditional sentence – compare **PROTASIS** [NL, fr Gk, fr *apodidonai* to give back, deliver, fr *apo-* + *didonai* to give – more at **'DATE**]

**apoenzyme** /əpo'iɛnzɪm/ *n* a protein that forms an active enzyme by combination with a coenzyme [ISV]

**apogamy** /ə'pɒɡəmi/ *n* development of a sporophyte from a gametophyte without fertilization [ISV] – **apogamous** *adj.*, **apogamic** /ə'pɒɡəmi/ *adj.*

**apogee** /ə'pɒʒi/ *n* 1 the point farthest from a planet or other celestial body reached by any object orbiting it – compare **PERIGEE** 2 the farthest or highest point, the culmination (Aegean civilization reached its ~ in Crete) [F *apogée*, fr NL *apogaeum*, fr Gk *apogaion*, fr neut of *apogeios*, *apogaios* far from the earth, fr *apo-* + *gē* earth] – **apogean** /ə'pɒʒi:ən/ *adj.*

**apologetic** /ə'pɒlə'ʒetɪk/ *adj.* 1a offered in defence or vindication b offered by way of excuse or apology (an ~ smile) 2 regretfully acknowledging fault or failure, contrite [LL *apologeticus*, fr Gk *apologetikos*, fr *apologesthai* to defend, fr *apo-* + *logos* speech] – **apologetically** *adv.*

**apologetics** *n* pl but sing or pl in constr 1 systematic reasoned argument in defence (e.g. of a doctrine) 2 a branch of theology devoted to the rational defence of Christianity

**apologia** /ə'pɒlə'hi:ə/ *n* a reasoned defence in speech or writing, esp. of a faith, cause, or institution [LL]

**apologist** /ə'pɒlə'ʒɪst/ *n* the author of an apologia

**apologize**, -ise /ə'pɒlə'ʒaɪz/ *vi* to make an apology

**apologue** /ə'pɒlə'ʒ/ *n* an allegorical narrative, usu. with a moral [F, fr L *apologus*, fr Gk *apologos*, fr *apo-* + *logos* speech, narrative]

**apology** /ə'pɒlə'ʒi/ *n* 1a an apologia b EXCUSE 1 2 an admission of error or discourtesy accompanied by an expression of regret 3 a poor substitute for [MF or LL, MF *apologie*, fr LL *apologia*, fr Gk, fr *apo-* + *logos* speech – *misf. at 1+GEND*]

**apolute** /ə'pɒlə'ʒi/ *n* the point in the path of a body orbiting the moon that is farthest from the centre of the moon – compare **PLRILUNE** [*apo-* + L *luna* moon – more at **LUNAR**]

**apomict** /ə'pɒmɪkt/ *n* sthg produced by or reproducing by apomixis [prob back-formation fr ISV *apomictic*, fr *apo-* + Gk *mignynai* to mix – more at **MIX**] – **apomictic** /-mɪktɪk/ *adj.*, **apomictically** *adv.*

**apomixis** /ə'pɒmɪksɪs/ *n*, pl **apomixes** /-mɪksɪz/ reproduction involving the production of seed without fertilization [NL, fr *apo-* + Gk *mixis* act of mixing, fr *mignynai*]

**apophthegm** /ə'pɒθɪ'gɛm/ *n* a short, pithy, and instructive saying [F or NL, F *apophthegme*, perh fr NL *apophthegma*, fr Gk *apophthegmat*, *apophthegma*, fr *apophthengesthai* to speak out, fr *apo-* + *phthengesthai* to utter] – **apophthegmatic** /ə'pɒθɪ'gɛmɪk/, **apophthegmatically** *adv.*

**apoplectic** /ə'pɒplektɪk/ *adj.* 1 of, causing, affected with, or showing symptoms of apoplexy 2 violently excited (e.g. from rage) [F or LL; F *apoplectique*, fr LL *apoplecticus*, fr Gk *apoplektikos*, fr *apoplessein*] – **apoplectically** *adv.*

**apoplexy** /ə'pɒpleksɪ/ *n* 1 STROKE 5 [ME *apoplexie*, fr MF & LL, MF, fr LL *apoplexia*, fr Gk *apoplexia*, fr *apoplessein* to cripple by a stroke, fr *apo-* + *plessein* to strike – more at **PLAIN**]

**aport** /ə'pɒwt/ *adv.* on or towards the left side of a ship (steer the helm ~)

**aposematic** /ə'pɒsi'matɪk/ *adj.*, esp. of insect coloration conspicuous and serving to warn [*apo-* + Gk *sema-*, *sēma* sign] – **aposematically** *adv.*

**apostrophe** /ə'pɒstri'f/ *n*, pl **apostrophes** /-sɛz/ the leaving of a thought incomplete, usu. by a sudden breaking off of a sentence [LL, fr Gk *aposiōpēsis*, fr *aposiōpan* to be quite silent, fr *apo-* + *siōpan* to be silent, fr *siōpē* silence] – **apostrophic** /-pɛtɪk/ *adj.*

**apostasy** /ə'pɒstəsi/ *n* 1 renunciation of a religious faith 2 abandonment of a previous loyalty; defection [ME *apostasie*, fr LL *apostasias*, fr Gk, lit., revolt, fr *aphistasthai* to revolt, fr *apo-* + *histasthai* to stand – more at **STAND**]

**apostate** /ə'pɒstet/ *n* one who commits apostasy – **apostate** *adj.*

**apostatize**, -ise /ə'pɒstetəɪz/ *vi* to commit apostasy

**a posteriori** /ə'pɒstɪərɪ/ *adj.* 1 inductive 2 relating to or derived by reasoning from observed facts – compare **A PRIORI** [L, lit., from the latter] – **a posteriori** *adv.*


**apostle** /ə'pɒst(ə)l/ *n* 1 one sent on a mission; esp. any of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up esp. of Jesus's original 12 disciples and Paul 2a one who first advocates an important belief or system b an ardent supporter; an adherent (an ~ of liberal tolerance) [ME, fr OF & OE; OF *apostle* & OE *apostol*, fr LL *apostolus*, fr Gk *apostolos*, fr *apostellein* to send away, fr *apo-* + *stellein* to send – more at **STALL**] – **apostleship** *n*

**apostolic** /ə'pɒstɒlɪk/ *adj.* 1 of an apostle or the New Testament apostles 2a of the divine authority vested in the apostles held (e.g. by Roman

Catholics, Anglicans, and Eastern Orthodox) to be handed down through the successive ordinations of bishops b of the pope as the successor to the apostolic authority vested in St Peter – **apostolicity** /ə'pɒstə'lɪsɪti/ *n*

**'apostrophe** /ə'pɒstri'f/ *n* the addressing, rhetorically, of a usu. absent person or a usu. personified thing [L, fr Gk *apostrophē*, lit., act of turning away, fr *apostrophein* to turn away, fr *apo-* + *strophein* to turn – more at **STROPHE**] – **apostrophize** *vb.*, **apostrophic** /ə'pɒstri'fɪk/ *adj.*

**'apostrophe** *n* a mark ' used to indicate the omission of letters or figures, the possessive case, or the plural of letters or figures [MF & LL, MF, fr LL *apostrophus*, fr Gk *apostrophos*, fr *apostrophas* turned away, fr *apostrophein*] – **apostrophic** /ə'pɒstri'fɪk/ *adj.*

**apothecaries' weight** /ə'pɒθə'k(ə)rɪz/ *n* the series of units of weight used formerly by pharmacists and based on the ounce of 8 drachms and the drachm of 3 scruples or 60 grains  UNIT

**apothecary** /ə'pɒθə'k(ə)rɪ/ *n*, archaic or NAM 1 a pharmacist 2 PHARMACY 2 [ME *apothecare*, fr NL *apothecarius*, fr LL, shopkeeper, fr L *apotheca* storehouse, fr Gk *apothēke*, fr *apothēnai* to put away, fr *apo-* + *tithēnai* to put – more at **'DO**]

**apothegm** /ə'pɒθɪ'gɛm/ *n*, NAM an apophthegm

**apothecosis** /ə'pɒθɪ'ɒsɪs/ *n*, pl **apothecoses** /-sɛz/ 1 deification 2 the perfect example (she is the ~ of womanhood) [LL, fr Gk *apothēsis*, fr *apothēoun* to deify, fr *apo-* + *theos* god] – **apothecize** /ə'pɒθɪ'ɛsɪz/ *vt*

**appal**, NAM chiefly **appall** /ə'pawl/ *vt* -ll- to overcome with consternation, horror, or dismay [ME *appallen*, fr MF *apalir*, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *pālir* to grow pale, fr L *pallescere*, incho. of *pallere* to be pale – more at **'FALLOW**] – **appalling** *adj.*, **appallingly** *adv.*

**Appaloosa** /ə'pɒlə'ʊsə/ *n* -zə/ (any of) a N American breed of rugged saddle horses with a mottled skin and vertically striped hooves [prob fr *Palouse*, an Indian people of Washington and Idaho, USA]

**apannage** /ə'pɒnɪʃ/ *n* 1 apannage 2 a usual accompaniment [F *apannage*, fr OF, fr *apaner* to provide for a younger offspring, fr OPProv *apanar* to support, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *pan* bread, fr L *panis* – more at **FOOD**]

**apparat** /ə'pɒrət/ *n*, -rət/ N APPARATUS 2 [Russ]

**apparatchik** /ə'pɒrətʃɪk/ *n*, pl **apparatchiks**, **apparatchiki** /-rətʃɪki/ a member of a Communist apparat [Russ, fr *apparatchik*]

**apparatus** /ə'pɒrətɪs/ *n*, -rətɪs/ NAM also -rətɪs/ *n*, pl **apparatuses**, **apparatus** 1a (a piece of) equipment designed for a particular use, esp. for a scientific operation b a group of organs having a common function 2 the administrative bureaucracy of an organization, esp. a political party [L, fr *apparatus*, pp of *apparare* to prepare, fr *ad-* + *parare* to prepare – more at **PARE**]

**'apparel** /ə'pærəl/ *vt* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) 1 to put clothes on; dress – chiefly fml 2 to adorn, embellish – chiefly poetic [ME *appareillen*, fr OF *appareiller* to prepare, fr (assumed) VL *apparcularē*, irreg fr L *apparare*]


**'apparel** *n* 1 garments, clothing – chiefly fml 2 sthg that clothes or adorns (the bright ~ of spring) – chiefly poetic

**apparent** /ə'pærənt/ *adj.* 1 easily seen or understood; plain, evident 2 seemingly real but not necessarily so 3 having an absolute right to succeed to a title or estate (the heir ~) [ME, fr OF *aparent*, fr L *apparent-*, *apparens*, prp of *apparere* to appear] – **apparently** *adv.*

**apparent ho'izon** *n* HORIZON 1a

**apparent time** *n* the time of day indicated by a sundial

**apparition** /ə'pɒrɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an unusual or unexpected sight, a phenomenon b a ghostly figure 2 the act of becoming visible; appearance [ME *apparicion*, fr LL *apparition-*, *apparitio* appearance, fr L *apparitus*, pp of *apparere*] – **apparitional** *adj.*

**'appeal** /ə'pi:əl/ *n* 1 a legal proceeding by which a case is brought to a higher court for review  LAW 2a(1) an application (e.g. to a recognized authority) for corroboration, vindication, or decision (2) a call by members of the fielding side in cricket, esp. by the bowler, for the umpire to decide whether a batsman is out b an earnest plea for aid or mercy, an entreaty 3 the power of arousing a sympathetic response; attraction (the theatre has lost its ~ for him)


**'appeal** *vt* to take (a case) to a higher court ~ *vi* 1 to take a case to a higher court 2a to call on another for corroboration, vindication, or decision b to make an appeal in cricket 3 to make an earnest plea or request 4 to arouse a sympathetic response USE often + *to* [ME *appellen* to accuse, appeal, fr MF *apeler*, fr L *appellare*, fr *appellere* to drive to, fr *ad-* + *pellere* to drive – more at **FELT**] – **appealer** *n*, **appealable** *adj.*, **appealability** /-lə'bɪləti/ *n*

**appealing** /ə'pi:əlɪŋ/ *adj.* 1 having appeal, pleasing 2 marked by earnest entreaty; imploring – **appealingly** *adv.*

**appear** /ə'pi:ə/ *vi* 1a to be or become visible (the sun ~s on the horizon)



- b** to arrive (<~s promptly at 8 each day> 2 to come formally before an authoritative body 3 to give the impression of being, seem (<~s happy enough> 4 to come into public view <first ~ed on a television variety show> [ME *apperen*, fr OF *aparoir*, fr L *apparere*, fr ad- + *parere* to show oneself, akin to Gk *peparein* to display]
- appearance** /ə'piərəns/ *n* 1 the coming into court of a party in an action or his/her lawyer 2 a visit or attendance that is seen or noticed by others (<put in an ~ at the party> 3a an outward aspect, a look (<had a fierce ~> b an external show, a semblance (<although hostile, he tried to preserve an ~ of neutrality> c pl an outward or superficial indication that hides the real situation (<would do anything to keep up ~s> [APPEAR + -ANCE]
- appease** /ə'pi:z/ *vt* 1 to pacify, calm 2 to cause to subside, allay (<~ his hunger> 3 to conciliate (esp an aggressor) by concessions [ME *appesen*, fr OF *apaissier*, fr a- (fr L ad-) + *pais* peace – more at PEACE] – **appeasable** *adj*, **appeasement** *n*, **appeaser** *n*
- appellant** /ə'pelənt/ *adj* appellate
- appellant** *n* one who appeals against a judicial decision
- appellate** /ə'pelət/ *adj* of or recognizing appeals (<an ~ court> [I *appellatus*, pp of *appellare*]
- appellation** /ə'pəleɪʃən/ *n* an identifying name or title
- appellation contrôlée** /ˌkɒntroʊ'leɪ (Fr ˌapalasi ˌkɒntrole)/ *n* a government certification of a French wine guaranteeing that it originates from a specified geographical area and meets that locality's standards of production [F, lit., controlled appellation]
- appellative** /ə'pelətɪv/ *adj* of or being a common noun – **appellatively** *adv*
- append** /ə'pend/ *vt* to attach or add, esp as a supplement or appendix [F *appendre*, fr LL *appendere*, fr L, to weigh, fr ad- + *pendere* to weigh – more at PENDANT]
- appendage** /ə'pendɪj/ *n* 1 sthg appended to sthg larger or more important 2 a limb, seta, or other subordinate or derivative body part
- appendant** /ə'pend(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 associated as an accompaniment or attendant circumstance 2 attached as an appendage – **appendant** *n*
- appendectomy** /ə'pɛndɪktəmi, əpen-/ *n*, *NAm* an appendicectomy
- appendicectomy** /ə'pɛndɪ'sektəmi/ *n* surgical removal of the vermiform appendix [L *appendic-*, *appendix* + E *-ectomy*]
- appendicitis** /ə'pɛndɪ'sɪtəs/ *n* inflammation of the vermiform appendix [NL]
- appendix** /ə'pendɪks/ *n*, *pl* **appendixes**, **appendices** /-dɪ'seɪz/ 1 a supplement (e.g. containing explanatory or statistical material), usu attached at the end of a piece of writing 2 the vermiform appendix or similar bodily outgrowth → DIGESTION [L *appendic-*, *appendix* appendage, fr *appendere*]
- apperception** /ə'puh'sepʃən/ *n* 1 introspective self-consciousness 2 mental perception, esp the understanding of sthg perceived in terms of previous experience [F *apperception*, fr *apercevoir* to perceive] – **apperceive** /ə'puh'tseɪv/ *vt*, **apperceptive** /-sɛptɪv/ *adj*
- appertain** /ə'pə'teɪn/ *vt* to belong or be connected as a rightful or customary part, possession, or attribute, pertain – usu + *to* [ME *appertenen*, fr MF *apartenir*, fr LL *appertinere*, fr L ad- + *pertinere* to belong – more at PERTAIN]
- appetite** /ə'pɛtɪt/ *n* 1 a desire to satisfy an internal bodily need, esp an (eager) desire to eat 2 a strong desire demanding satisfaction, an inclination [ME *appetit*, fr MF, fr L *appetitus*, fr *appetitus*, pp of *appetere* to strive after, fr ad- + *petere* to go to – more at FEATHER] – **appetitive** /-tɪtɪv/ *adj*
- appetizer**, **-iser** /ə'pɛtɪzə/ *n* a food or drink that stimulates the appetite and is usu served before a meal
- appetizing**, **-izing** /ə'pɛtɪzɪŋ/ *adj* appealing to the appetite, esp in appearance or aroma – **appetizingly** *adv*
- applaud** /ə'plawd/ *vb* to express approval (of), esp by clapping the hands [MF or L, MF *applaudir*, fr L *applaudere*, fr ad- + *plaudere* to applaud] – **applaudable** *adj*, **applauder** *n*
- applause** /ə'plawz/ *n* 1 approval publicly expressed (e.g. by clapping the hands) 2 praise [ML *applausus*, fr L, clashing noise, fr *applausus*, pp of *applaudere*]
- apple** /apl/ *n* 1 (the fleshy, edible, usu rounded, red, yellow, or green fruit of) a tree of the rose family 2 a fruit or other plant structure resembling an apple [ME *appel*, fr OE *æppel*, akin to OHG *apful* apple, OSlav *abŭko*] – **apple of someone's eye** sby or sthg greatly cherished (<his daughter is the apple of his eye>) – **she's apples Austr** everything's fine – *infml*
- apple-pie bed** *n*, *Br* a bed made with the sheet folded back as a practical joke, so that one cannot lie out straight
- apple-pie order** *n* perfect order
- 'apple-polish** *vb*, *NAm* to attempt to ingratiate oneself (with) [fr the tradition of schoolchildren giving a shiny apple to their teacher] – **apple-polisher** *n*
- 'apples and pears** *n pl*, *Br* stairs – slang [rhyming slang]
- 'Appleton layer** /'aplɪ(ə)n/ *n* F LAYER [Sir Edward Appleton +1965 E physicist]
- appliance** /ə'pli:əns/ *n* 1 an instrument or device designed for a particular use, esp a domestic machine or device powered by gas or electricity (e.g. a food mixer, vacuum cleaner, or cooker) 2 BRACE 4e [APPLY + -ANCE]
- applicable** /ə'plɪkəbl/ *adj* appropriate **applicability** /-kə'bɪləti/ *n*
- applicant** /'aplɪkənt/ *n* one who applies
- application** /'aplɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* 1a an act of applying b a use to which sthg is put c close attention, diligence 2 a request, petition 3 a lotion 4 capacity for practical use **relevance** [ME *applicacion*, fr L *applicatio*, *applicatio* inclination, fr *applicatus*, pp of *applicare*] – **applicative** /ə'plɪkətɪv/ *adj*, **applicatory** /ə'plɪkətɪv/ *adj*
- applicator** /'aplɪkətɔ:/ *n* a device for applying a substance (e.g. medicine or polish)
- applied** /ə'plɪd/ *adj* put to practical use esp applying general principles to solve definite problems (<~ sciences>)
- 'appliqué** /ə'pleɪkə, əplee'keɪ/ *n* a cutout decoration fastened (e.g. by sewing) to a larger piece of material also the decorative work formed in this manner [F, pp of *appliquer* to put on, fr L *applicare*]
- 'appliqué** *vt* **appliquing** /-keɪŋ/ to apply (e.g. a decoration or ornament) to a larger surface
- apply** /ə'plɪ/ *vt* 1a to bring to bear put to use, esp for some practical purpose (<~ pressure> (<the brakes> b to lay or spread on (<~ varnish to a table> 2 to devote (e.g. oneself) with close attention or diligence – usu + *to* (<should ~ himself to his work> ~ vi 1 to have relevance usu + *to* (<this rule applies to new members only> 2 to make a request, esp in writing (<~ for a job> [ME *applen*, fr MF *applier* fr L *applicare*, fr ad- + *plcare* to fold – more at 'PLI] – **applier** /ə'plɪ/ *n*
- appoggiatura** /ə'pɔ:ʝə'toʊrə/ *n* an embellishing note preceding an essential melodic note, used chiefly in the 18th c → MUSIC [It, lit support, fr *appoggiare* to cause to lean fr (assumed) VL *appodiare* fr L ad- + *podium* support]
- appoint** /ə'pɔɪnt/ *vt* 1 to fix or name officially 2 to select for an office or position 3 to declare the disposition of (an estate) to sby [MF *appointen*, fr MF *apointier* to arrange, fr a- (fr L ad-) + *point*]
- 'appointed** *adj* equipped, furnished
- appointee** /ə'pɔɪnti:, ə'pɔɪnti:/ *n* one who is appointed
- appointive** /ə'pɔɪntɪv/ *adj* of or filled by appointment (<an ~ office>)
- 'appointment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 an act of appointing, a designation (<fill a vacancy by ~> 2 an office or position held by sby who has been appointed to it rather than voted into it 3 an arrangement for a meeting 4 pl equipment, furnishings
- apportion** /ə'pɔ:ʃən/ *vt* to divide and share out in just proportion or according to a plan, allot [MF *apportionner*, fr a- (fr L ad-) + *portionner* to portion] – **apportionment** *n*
- apposite** /ə'pɔ:zɪt/ *adj* highly pertinent or appropriate apt [L *appositus*, fr pp of *appondere* to place near, fr ad- + *ponere* to put – more at POSITION] – **appositely** *adv*, **appositeness** *n*
- apposition** /ə'pɔ:zɪʃən/ *n* a grammatical construction in which 2 usu adjacent nouns or noun phrases have the same referent and stand in the same syntactic relation to the rest of a sentence (e.g. *the poet and Burns* in 'a biography of the poet Burns') – **appositional** *adj*, **appositionally** *adv*
- appraisal** /ə'preɪz(ə)/ *n* an act or instance of appraising, *specif* a valuation of property by an authorized person [APPRAISE + -AL]
- appraise** /ə'preɪz/ *vt* to evaluate the worth, significance, or status of, esp to give an expert judgment of the value or merit of [ME *appresen*, fr MF *apriser*, fr OF, fr a- (fr L ad-) + *prisier* to appraise – more at 'PRICE] – **appraisement** *n*, **appraiser** *n*, **appraising** *adj*, **appraisingly** *adv*
- appreciable** /ə'pri:ʃə(ə)bl/ *adj* 1 capable of being perceived or measured 2 fairly large (<an ~ distance>) – **appreciably** *adv*
- appreciate** /ə'pri:ʃəɪt, -sɪt/ *vt* 1a to understand the nature, worth, quality, or significance of b to recognize with gratitude, value or admire highly 2 to increase the value of ~ vi to increase in value [LL *appretiatu*, pp of *appretiare*, fr L ad- + *pretium* price – more at PRICE] – **appreciative** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **appreciatively** *adv*, **appreciator** /-əɪtə/ *n*, **appreciatory** /-tɪ(ə)ri/ *adj*
- appreciation** /ə'pri:ʃəɪ'ʃəɪʃən/ *n*, *-si-/* *n* 1a sensitive awareness; esp recognition of aesthetic values b a judgment, evaluation, esp a favourable

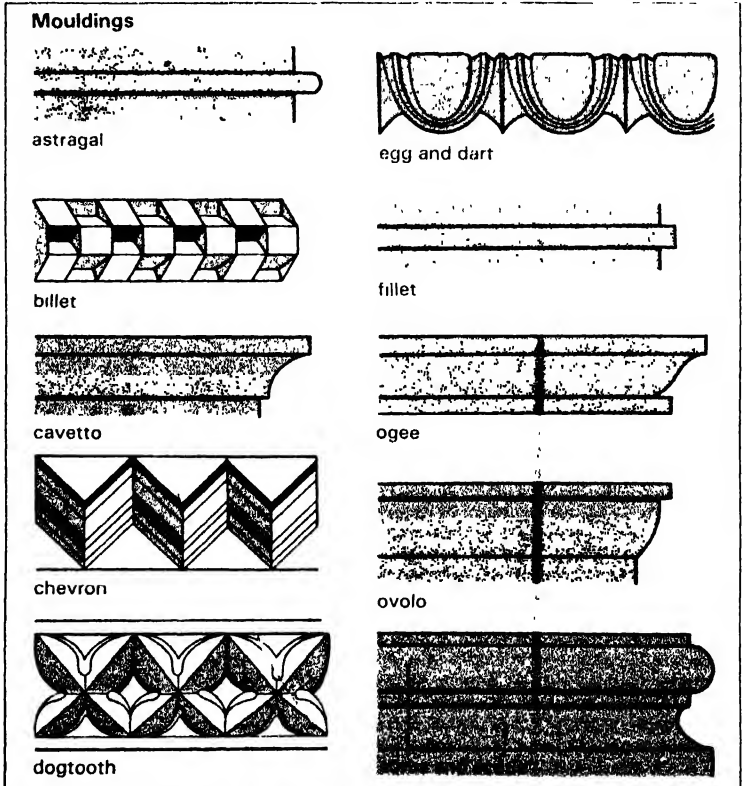
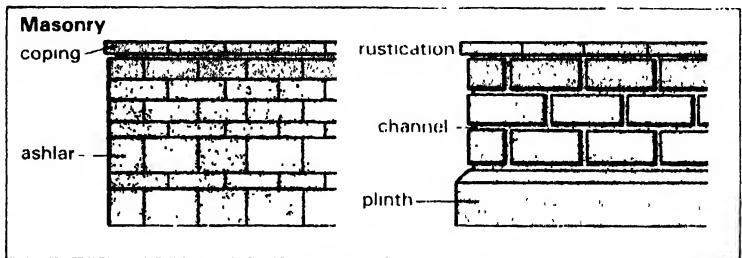
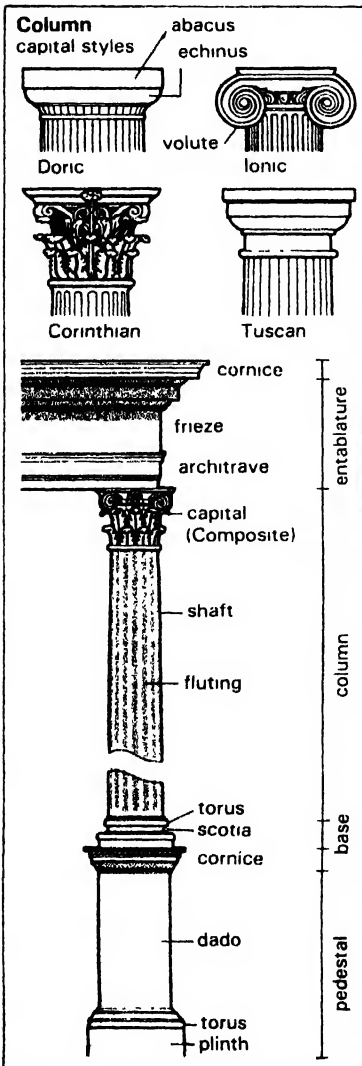
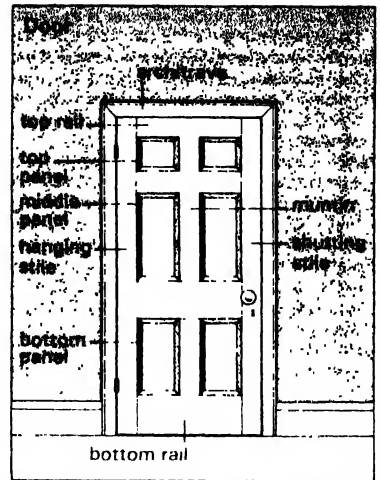
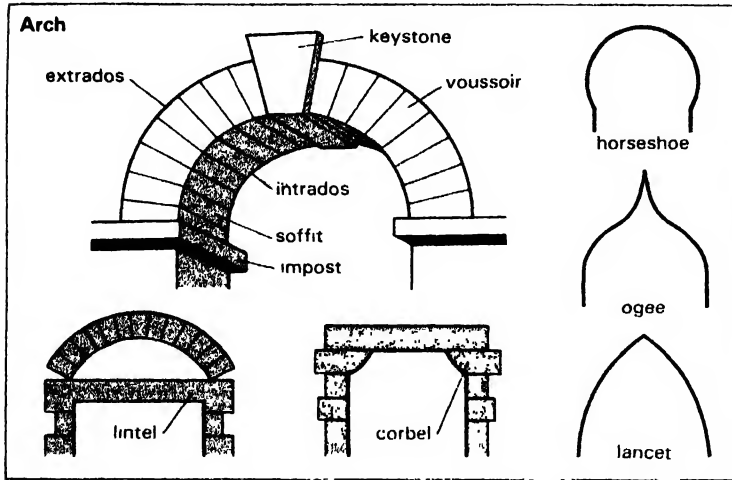
- critical estimate c an expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude 2 an increase in value
- apprehend** /ə'pri:hend/ *vt* 1 to arrest, seize <~ a thief> 2 to understand, perceive ~ *vi* to understand [ME *apprehenden*, fr L *apprehendere*, lit., to seize, fr *ad-* + *prehendere* to seize – more at **PREHENSILE**]
- apprehensible** /ə'pri:hensəbl/ *adj* capable of being apprehended – **apprehensibly** *adv*
- apprehension** /ə'pri:hens(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or power of comprehending <a man of dull ~> 2 arrest, seizure – used technically in Scottish law 3 anxiety or fear, esp of future evil; foreboding [ME, fr LL *apprehension-*, *apprehensio*, fr L *apprehensivus*, pp of *apprehendere*]
- apprehensive** /ə'pri:hensiv/ *-ziv/adj* viewing the future with anxiety, unease, or fear – often + *for* or *of* – **apprehensively** *adv*, **apprehensiveness** *n*
- 'apprentice** /ə'prentis/ *n* 1 one who is learning an art or trade a from an employer to whom he/she is bound by indenture b by practical experience under skilled workers 2 an inexperienced person, a novice [ME *aprentis*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *apprendre* to learn, fr L *apprendere*, *apprehendere*] – **apprenticeship** *n*
- 'apprentice** *vt* to set at work as an apprentice
- appressed** /ə'prest/ *adj* lying flat against sthg <leaves ~ to the stem> [L *appressus*, pp of *apprimere* to press to, fr *ad-* + *primere* to press – more at **'PRESS**]
- apprise** /ə'pri:z/ *vt* to give notice to; tell – usu + *of*; fml [F *appris*, pp of *apprendre* to learn, teach, fr OF *aprendre*]
- appro** /ə'proh/ *n*, *Br* – on **appro** ON APPROVAL – **infml**
- 'approach** /ə'prəʊh/ *vt* 1a to draw closer to b to come very near to in quality, character, etc 2a to make advances to, esp in order to create a desired result <was ~ ed by several film producers> b to begin to consider or deal with <~ the subject with an open mind> ~ *vi* to draw nearer [ME *approchen*, fr OF *aprochier*, fr LL *aprochiare*, fr L *ad-* + *prope* near, akin to l. *pro* before – more at **FOR**]
- 'approach** *n* 1a an act or instance of approaching b an approximation 2 a manner or method of doing sthg, esp for the first time <a highly individual ~ to language> 3 a means of access <the ~ es to the city> 4a a golf shot from the fairway towards the green b (the steps taken on) the part of a tennis bowling alley from which a bowler must deliver the ball 5 the final part of an aircraft flight before landing 6 an advance made to establish personal or business relations – usu pl
- approachable** /ə'prəʊhəbl/ *adj* easy to meet or deal with [APPROACH + **-ABLE**] – **approachability** /-biliti/ *n*
- approbation** /ə'prəʊb(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ *n* formal or official approval, sanction [ME, fr MF, fr L *approbation-*, *approbatio*, fr *approbatus*, pp of *approbare*] – **approbatory** /ə'prəʊbət(ə)n/ *adj*
- 'appropriate** /ə'prəʊpri:ət/ *vt* 1 to take exclusive possession of 2 to set apart (specif money) for a particular purpose or use 3 to take or make use of without authority or right [ME *appropriaten*, fr LL *appropriatus*, pp of *appropriare*, fr L *ad-* + *proprius* own] – **appropriable** /-prɪəbl/ *adj*, **appropriator** /-əya/ *n*
- 'appropriate** /ə'prəʊpri-ət/ *adj* especially suitable or compatible, fitting – **appropriately** *adv*, **appropriateness** *n*
- appropriation** /ə'prəʊpri:əʃ(ə)n/ *n* sthg appropriated; specif money set aside by formal action for a particular use [APPROPRIATE + **-ION**] – **appropriative** /-ətiv/ *adj*
- approval** /ə'prəʊhvl/ *n* 1 a favourable opinion or judgment 2 formal or official permission [APPROVE + **-AL**] – on **approval** of goods supplied commercially to be returned without payment if found unsatisfactory
- approve** /ə'prəʊhvl/ *vt* 1 to have or express a favourable opinion of 2a to accept as satisfactory b to give formal or official sanction to, ratify <Parliament ~ d the proposed policy> ~ *vi* to take a favourable view – often + *of* <doesn't ~ of fighting> [ME *approven*, fr OF *aprover*, fr L *approbare*, fr *ad-* + *probare* to prove – more at **PROVE**] – **approvingly** *adv*
- 'approximate** /ə'prɒksɪmət/ *adj* nearly correct or exact  **SYMBOL** [LL *approximatus*, pp of *approximare* to come near, fr L *ad-* + *proximare* to come near – more at **PROXIMATE**] – **approximately** *adv*
- 'approximate** /ə'prɒksɪmət/ *vt* 1 to bring near or close – often + *to* 2 to come near to; approach, esp in quality or number ~ *vi* to come close – usu + *to*
- approximation** /ə'prɒksɪ'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sthg that is approximate; esp a mathematical quantity that is close in value but not equal to a desired quantity [APPROXIMATE + **-ION**] – **approximative** /ə'prɒksɪmətɪv/ *adj*, **approximatively** *adv*
- appurtenance** /ə'pu:tɪnəns/ *n* an accessory [ME, fr AF *apurtenance*, fr OF *apurtenance*, fr *apartenir* to belong – more at **APPERTAIN**] – **appurtenant** *adj* or *n*
- après-ski** /ə'prei 'skee/ (Fr *après ski*/ *adj* or *n* (of or for) social activity after a day's skiing [F *après* after + *ski* skiing])
- apricot** /ə'prɪkɒt/ *n* 1 (the oval orange-coloured fruit of) a temperate-zone tree of the rose family closely related to the peach and plum 2 an orange pink colour [alter. of earlier *abrecock*, deriv of Ar *al-burqu* the apricot]
- April** /ə'prɪl/ *n* the 4th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME, fr OF & L; OF *avrill*, fr L *Aprilis*]
- 'April 'fool** *n* the victim of a joke or trick played on April Fools' Day
- 'April 'Fools' Day** *n* April 1 characteristically marked by the playing of practical jokes
- a priori** /ə'pri:əwri, ah, -ne/ *adj* 1a relating to or derived by reasoning from self-evident propositions, deductive – compare **A POSTERIORI** b of or relating to sthg that can be known by reason alone c true or false by definition or convention alone <~ statements> 2 without examination or analysis, presumptive [L, from the former] – **a priori** *adv*, **apriority** /-ɔrəti/ *n*
- apron** /ə'prɒn/ *n* 1 a garment usu tied round the waist and used to protect clothing 2 sthg that suggests or resembles an apron in shape, position, or use. e.g. a the part of a stage that projects in front of the curtain b the extensive paved area by an airport terminal or in front of aircraft hangars [ME, alter. (by incorrect division of a *napron*) of *napron*, fr MF *naperon*, dim of *nape* cloth, modif of L *mappa* napkin, towel]
- 'apron, strings** *n pl* dominance, esp of a man by his mother or wife (still tied to his mother's ~)
- 'apropos** /ə'prəʊp/ *adv* 1 at an opportune time 2 BY THE WAY [F *à propos*, lit., to the purpose]
- 'apropos** *adj* both relevant and opportune
- 'apropos** *prep* APROPOS OF
- 'apropos** *prep* concerning, WITH REGARD TO
- apse** /əps/ *n* 1 a projecting part of a building (e.g. a church) that is usu semicircular or polygonal and vaulted 2 **APSID** 1 [ML & L, ML *apsis*, fr L]
- apsidal** /ə'psɪdl/ *adj* of an apse
- apsis** /ə'psɪs/ *n*, *pl* **apides** /ə'psɪdeɪz/ 1 the point in an astronomical orbit at which the distance of the body from the centre of attraction is either greatest or least 2 **APSE** 1 [NL *apsid-*, *apsis*, fr L, arch, orbit, fr Gk *hapsid-*, *hapsis*, fr *haptēin* to fasten]
- apt** /əpt/ *adj* 1 ordinarily disposed, likely – usu + *to* 2 suited to a purpose, relevant 3 keenly intelligent and responsive <an ~ pupil> [ME, fr L *aptus*, lit., fastened, fr pp of *apere* to fasten; akin to L *apisci* to reach, *apud* near, Skt *āpta* fit] – **aptly** *adv*, **aptness** *n*
- apterous** /ə'ptərəs/ *adj* lacking wings <~ insects> [Gk *apteros*, fr *a-* + *pteron* wing – more at **FEATHER**]
- aptitude** /ə'ptɪtju:hd, -cho:hd/ *n* 1 a natural ability, a talent, esp for learning 2 general fitness or suitability – usu + *for* – **aptitudinal** /ə'ptɪtju:hd(ə)nəl, -'cho:hd/ *adj*, **aptitudinally** *adv*
- Aquadag** /ə'kwɑ:dæg/ *trademark* – used for a colloidal suspension of fine particles of graphite in water for use as a lubricant
- aqua fortis** /ə'kwɑ:'fawɪs/ *n* NITRIC ACID [NL, lit., strong water]
- aqualung** /ə'kwɑ:lʌŋg/ *n* cylinders of compressed air, oxygen, etc carried on the back and connected to a face mask for breathing underwater [L *aqua* water + E *lung*]
- aquamarine** /ə'kwɑ:mə'reɪn/ *n* 1 a transparent blue to green beryl used as a gemstone 2 a pale blue to light greenish – blue colour [NL *aqua 'marina*, fr L, sea water]
- 'aquaplane** /ə'kwɑ:plæn/ *n* a board towed behind a fast motorboat and ridden by sb standing on it
- 'aquaplane** *vi* 1 to ride on an aquaplane 2 of a car to go out of control by sliding on water lying on the surface of a wet road – **aquaplaner** *n*
- 'aqua 'regia** /reɪ-ə, 'ree-/ *n* a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids that dissolves gold or platinum [NL, lit., royal water]
- aquerelle** /ə'kwɑ:rel/ *n* a painting in thin usu transparent watercolours [F, fr obs It *acquarella* (now *acquerello*), fr *aqua* water, fr L *aqua*] – **aquarellist** /-reɪlɪst/ *n*
- aquarist** /ə'kwɑ:rɪst/ *n* one who keeps an aquarium
- aquarium** /ə'kwɔ:ri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **aquariums**, **aquaria** /-rɪ-ə/ 1 a glass tank, artificial pond, etc in which living aquatic animals or plants are kept 2 an establishment where collections of living aquatic organisms are exhibited [fr neut of L *aquarius* of water, fr *aqua*]
- Aquarius** /ə'kwɔ:ri-əs/ *n* (sby born under) the 11th sign of the zodiac in astrology, which is pictured as a man pouring water  **SYMBOL** [L, lit., water carrier] – **Aquarian** *adj* or *n*

**'aquatic** /ə'kwɒtɪk, -kwa-/ *adj* 1 growing, living in, or frequenting water 2 taking place in or on water (~ *sports*) - *aquatically* *adv*  
**'aquatic** *n* 1 an aquatic animal or plant 2 *pl but sing or pl in constr* water sports  
**aquatint** /ə'kwɒtɪnt/ *n* (a print made by) a method of etching a printing plate that enables tones similar to watercolour washes to be reproduced [it *acqua tinta* dyed water] - *aquatint* *vt*, *quatint* *n*, *aquatintist* *n*  
**aquavit** /ə'kwɒvɪt/ *n* a colourless Scandinavian spirit flavoured with caraway seeds [Sw, Dan, & Norw *akvavit*, fr ML *aqua vitae*]  
**'aqua vitae** /'veɪtɪə, 'vɪe-/ *n* 1 ALCOHOL 1 2 a strong spirit (e.g. brandy or whisky) [ME, fr ML, lit, water of life]  
**aqueduct** /ə'kwɒdʒʊkt/ *n* a conduit, esp an arched structure over a valley, for carrying water [L *aqueductus*, fr *aquae* (gen of *aqua*) + *ductus* act of leading - more at *DUCT*]  
**aqueous** /ə'kwɪ-əs, 'ay-/ *adj* of, resembling, or made from, with, or by water [ML *aqueus*, fr L *aqua*] - *aqueously* *adv*  
**aqueous humour** *n* a transparent liquid occupying the space between the lens and the cornea of the eye → NERVE  
**aquifer** /ə'kwɪfə/ *n* a water-bearing layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel [NL, fr L *aqua* + *-fer*] - *aquiferous* /ə'kwɪfərəs/ *adj*  
**aquilegia** /ə'kwɪliːjə/ *n* a columbine [NL]  
**aquiline** /ə'kwɪliən/ *adj* 1 of or like an eagle 2 of the human nose hooked [L *aquilinus*, fr *aquila* eagle] - *aquillinity* /ə'kwɪlɪnɪti/ *n*  
**aquiver** /ə'kwɪvə/ *adj* marked by trembling or quivering  
**'ar** /-ə/ also *-ah/* *suffix* (*n* - *adj*) of, relating to, or being <(*molecular*)> <(*spectacular*)>, resembling <(*oracular*)> [ME, fr L *-aris*, alter of *-alis* -al]  
**'ar** *suffix* (- *n*) <sup>1</sup>-ER <(*beggar*)> <(*scholar*)>  
**Arab** /'arəb/ *n* 1a a member of a Semitic people orig of the Arabian peninsula and now widespread throughout the Middle East and N Africa b a member of an Arabic-speaking people 2 *not cap* a a homeless vagabond; esp an outcast boy or girl b a mischievous or annoying child 3 a typically intelligent, graceful, and swift horse of an Arabian stock [ME, fr L *Arabus*, *Arabs*, fr Gk *Arab-*, *Araps*, fr Ar 'Arab] - *Arab* *adj*  
**'arabesque** /'arəbesk/ *adj* (in the style) of arabesque [F, fr It *arabesco* in Arabian style, fr *Arabo* Arab, fr L *Arabus*]  
**'arabesque** *n* 1 a decorative design or style that combines natural motifs (e.g. flowers or foliage) to produce an intricate pattern 2 a posture in ballet in which the dancer is supported on one leg with one arm extended forwards and the other arm and leg backwards  
**Arabian** /'arəbiən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Arabia 2 ARAB 3 [Arabia, peninsula in SW Asia] - *Arabian* *adj*  
**'Arabic** /'arəbɪk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Arabia, Arabians, or the Arabs 2 of or being Arabic  
**'Arabic** *n* a Semitic language, now the prevailing speech of Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and parts of N Africa → ALPHABET, LANGUAGE  
**arabicize** /-aɪz/ *vt*, often *cap* to adapt (a language or elements of a language) to Arabic usage  
**Arabic numeral** *n*, often *not cap* A any of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 → NUMBER  
**Arabist** /'arəbɪst/ *n* a specialist in Arabic language or culture  
**arabize** /-aɪz/ *vt*, often *cap* 1 to cause to acquire Arabic customs, manners, speech, or outlook 2 to arabicize  
**arable** /'arəbl/ *n* or *adj* (land) being or fit to be farmed for crops [adj MF or L; MF, fr L *arabilis*, fr *arare* to plough; akin to OE *erian* to plough, Gk *aroun*; *n* fr *adj*] - *arability* /'arəbɪləti/ *n*  
**arachnid** /'ærəknaɪd/ *n* any of a class (e.g. spiders, mites, ticks, and scorpions) of arthropods whose bodies have 2 segments of which the front bears 4 pairs of legs [deriv of Gk *arachnē* spider] - *arachnid* *adj*  
**arachnoid** /'ærəknaɪd/ *n* a thin membrane covering the brain and spinal cord and lying between the dura mater and the pia mater [NL *arachnoides*, fr Gk *arachnoidea* like a cobweb, fr *arachne* spider, spider's web]  
**arak** /'arək, 'ærək/ *n* 1 E Indian rum produced from molasses and a small quantity of dried red rice 2 arack [Ar 'araq sweat, juice, liquor]  
**Araldite** /'ærəldɪt/ *trademark* - used for (adhesive) epoxy resins  
**Aramaic** /'ærəmaɪk/ *n* a Semitic language of the Aramaeans, a pre-Christian people of Syria and Upper Mesopotamia, that was used in SW Asia by non-Aramaean peoples including the Jews after the Babylonian exile → ALPHABET [L *Aramaicus*, fr Gk *Aramaicos*, fr Heb 'Ārām . Aram, ancient name for Syria]  
**Aran** /'ærən/ *n* a style of knitting that produces a fabric consisting of

vertical patterned bands and that is usu in a thick cream-coloured wool [Aran Islands, Eire]  
**Araucanian** /'arəw'kaɪniən, 'arəw-, -ni-ən/ also *Araucan* /'arəw'kən/ *n* a member, or the language, of a group of American Indian peoples of Chile and adjacent parts of Argentina → LANGUAGE [Sp *araucano*, fr *Arauco*]  
**aracaria** /'arəw'keəri-ə/ *n* a monkey-puzzle or related tree of the cyprus family [NL, genus name, fr *Arauco*, province in Chile]  
**Arawak** /'arəwək, -wəhək/ *n*, *pl* *Arawaks*, esp collectively *Arawak* a member, or the language, of an American Indian people living chiefly on the coast of Guyana  
**Arawakan** /'arəw'əkən, -wəhəkən/ *n*, *pl* *Arawakans*, esp collectively *Arawakan* a member, or the language family, of a group of American Indian peoples of S America and the W Indies → LANGUAGE  
**arbalest**, **arballist** /'æbələst/ *n* a large medieval military steel crossbow [ME *arblast*, fr OE, fr OF *arbalesite*, fr LL *arcuballista*, fr L *arcus* bow + *ballista* - more at *ARROW*] - *arbalester* *n*  
**arbiter** /'æbɪtə/ *n* a person or agency with absolute power of judging and determining [ME *arbitre*, fr MF, fr L *arbitr-*, *arbitr*]  
**arbitrament** /'æbɪtrəmənt/ *n* the judgment given by an arbitrator [ME, fr MF *arbitrement*, fr *arbitr* to give judgment, fr L *arbitrari*, fr *arbitr-*, *arbitr*]  
**arbitrary** /'æbɪtrəri/ *adj* 1 depending on choice or discretion 2a arising from unrestrained exercise of the will b selected at random and without reason 3 despotic, tyrannical - *arbitrarily* /'æbɪtrəriəlɪ, 'æbɪtrəriəl/ *adv*, *arbitrariness* *n*  
**arbitrate** /'æbɪtreɪt/ *vi* to act as arbitrator ~ *vt* 1 to act as arbiter upon 2 to submit for decision to an arbitrator - *arbitrative* /-treɪtɪv/ *adj*  
**arbitration** /'æbɪtreɪʃən/ *n* the settlement of a disputed issue by an arbitrator [ARBITRATE + *-ION*] - *arbitrational* *adj*  
**arbitrator** /'æbɪtreɪtə/ *n* 1 sby chosen to settle differences between 2 parties in dispute 2 an arbiter  
**arbor** /'æbə/ *n* a spindle or axle of a wheel [L, tree, shaft]  
**arboreal** /'æbə'reɪəl/ *adj* of, resembling, inhabiting, or frequenting a tree or trees [L *arbores* of a tree, fr *arbor*] - *arborescantly* *adv*  
**arborescent** /'æbə'reɪsnt/ *adj* 1 wooded 2 arboreal  
**arborescent** /'æbə'reɪsnt/ *adj* resembling a tree in properties, growth, structure, or appearance - *arborescence* *n*, *arborescently* *adv*  
**arboretum** /'æbə'reɪtəm, 'æbə'reɪtəm/ *n*, *pl* *arboretums*, *arboreta* /-tə/ a place where trees and shrubs are cultivated for study and display [NL, fr L, place grown with trees, fr *arbor*]  
**arboriculture** /'æbə'n'kʌlʃə/ *n* the cultivation of trees and shrubs - *arboriculturist* /'æbə'n'kʌlʃərɪst, 'æbə'n-/ *n*  
**arborize** /-aɪz/ *vt* to assume a treelike appearance <(*the nerve fibres* ~d)> - *arborization* /-aɪzə'zeɪʃən/ *n*  
**arborvitae** /'æbəw'vɪteɪ, -vɪteɪ/ *n* any of various ornamental evergreen trees of the cyprus family [NL *arbor vitae*, lit, tree of life]  
**arbour**, *NAm chiefly* *arbor* /'æbə/ *n* a bower of (lattice-work covered with) shrubs, vines, or branches [ME *erber* plot of grass, *arbour*, fr OF *herbier* plot of grass, fr *herbe* herb, grass, fr L *herba*]  
**arbutus** /'æbyʊohtəs/ *n* any of a genus of white- or pink-flowered shrubs and trees of the heath family [NL, genus name, fr L, strawberry tree]  
**'arc** /əhək/ *n* 1 the apparent path described by a celestial body 2 sthg arched or curved 3 a sustained luminous discharge of electricity across a gap in a circuit or between electrodes; also *ARC LAMP* 4 a continuous portion of a curve (e.g. of a circle or ellipse) → MATHEMATICS [ME *arc*, fr MF *arc* bow, fr L *arcus* bow, arch, arc - more at *ARROW*]  
**'arc** *vi* to form an electric arc  
**'arc** *adj* INVERSE 2 - used with the trigonometric and hyperbolic functions <~ *sine*> <(*if y is the cosine of θ then θ is the ~ cosine of y*)> → SYMBOL [arc *sine* arc or angle (corresponding to the) sine (of so many degrees)]  
**arcade** /'æh'kaɪd/ *n* 1 a long arched gallery or building 2 a passageway or avenue (e.g. between shops) [F, fr It *arcata*, fr *arco* arch, fr L *arcus*] - *arcaded* *adj*  
**Arcadia** /'æh'kaɪdi-ə/ *n* a usu idealized rural region or scene of simple pleasure and quiet [L *Arcadia*, fr Gk *Arkadiā*, pastoral region of ancient Greece] - *Arcadian* *adj*  
**Arcady** /'æh'kaɪdi/ *n* Arcadia  
**arcane** /'æh'kaɪn/ *adj* known or knowable only to an initiate; secret [L *arcanus*, fr *arca* chest - more at *ARK*]  
**'arch** /əhək/ *n* 1 a typically curved structural member spanning an opening and resisting lateral or vertical pressure (e.g. of a wall) → ARCHITECTURE 2 sthg (e.g. the vaulted bony structure of the foot) resem-



- bling an arch in form or function 3 an archway [ME *arche*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *arca*, fr L *arcus* – more at **ARROW**]
- arch** *vt* 1 to span or provide with an arch 2 to form or bend into an arch – *vi* to form an arch
- arch** *adj* 1 principal, chief (<an arch-villain> (<an ~ rebel>) 2a cleverly sly and alert b playfully saucy [*arch*–; (2) as in *archroque*] – **archly** *adv*, **archness** *n*
- arch-** /*ahk-/* *prefix* 1 chief, principal (<archbishop>) 2 extreme, most fully embodying the qualities of (a specified usu undesirable human type) (<archroque> (<archenemy>)) [ME *arche*, *arch*–, fr OE *arce*- & OF *arch*–, both fr LL *arch*- & L *archi*–, fr Gk *arch*–, *archi*–, fr *archein* to begin, rule, akin to Gk *arché* beginning, rule, *archos* ruler]
- arch-** – see **ARCHI-**
- arch** /*ahk-/* *comb form* (→ *n*) ruler, leader (<matrarch> (<oligarch>)) [ME *arche*, fr OF & LL & L, OF *arche*, fr LL *archa*, fr L *arches*, *-archus*, fr Gk *archés*, *-archos*, fr *archein*]
- archae-** /*ahki-/*, **archaeo-**, chiefly **NAm** *arche-* *comb form* ancient, primitive (<archaeopteryx> (<archaeology>)) [Gk *archaio-*, fr *archaios* ancient, fr *arche* beginning]
- Archaeon**, chiefly **NAm** *Archean* /*ah'kee-ən/* *adj* or *n* (of or being) the (earlier part of the) Precambrian [Gk *archaios*]
- archaeology** /*ahki'olaj/* *n* the scientific study of material remains (e.g. artefacts and dwellings) of past human life and activities [F *archéologie*, fr LL *archaeologia* antiquarian lore, fr Gk *archaiologia*, fr *archaio-* + *-logia* -logy] – **archaeological** /*-ə'lɔjɪk/* *adj*, **archaeologically** *adv*, **archaeologist** /*ahki'olajst/* *n*
- archaeopteryx** /*ahki'optəriks/* *n* an extinct primitive bird with some reptilian characteristics [NL, genus name, fr *archae-* + Gk *pteryx* wing, akin to Gk *ptéron* wing – more at **FEATHER**]
- Archaeozoic** /*ahki-'zɔi-ɪk/* *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earliest era of geological history → **EVOLUTION**
- archaic** /*ah'kayɪk/* *adj* 1 (characteristic) of an earlier or more primitive time, antiquated 2 no longer used in ordinary speech or writing [F or Gk; F *archaïque*, fr Gk *archaios*, fr *archaios*] – **archaically** *adv*
- archaism** /*ah'kayɪz(ə)m/* *n* 1 the use of archaic diction or style 2 an instance of archaic usage, esp an archaic word or expression 3 sth outmoded or old-fashioned [NL *archaismus*, fr Gk *archaismos*, fr *archaios*] – **archaist** *n*, **archaize** *vb*, **archaistic** /*-ɪstɪk/* *adj*
- archangel** /*ahk'aynjəl*, *-, -/* *n* a chief angel [ME, fr OF or LL, OF *archangele*, fr LL *archangelus*, fr Gk *archangelos*, fr *arch*- + *angelos* angel] – **archangelic** /*-ən'jɛlɪk/* *adj*
- archbishop** /*ah'ch'biʃəp/* *n* a bishop at the head of an ecclesiastical province, or one of equivalent honorary rank [ME, fr OE *arcebisceop*, fr LL *archiepiscopus*, fr LGk *archiepiskopos*, fr *archi-* + *episkopos* bishop – more at **BISHOP**] – **archbishopric** /*-rɪk/* *n*
- archdeacon** /*-di:kən/* *n* a clergyman having the duty of assisting a diocesan bishop, esp in administrative work [ME *archedeken*, fr OE *arcediacon*, fr LL *archidiaconus*, fr LGk *archidiaconos*, fr Gk *archi-* + *diakonos* deacon] – **archdeaconate** /*-nət/* *n*
- archdiocese** /*-di:'ɔsɪs/* *n* the diocese of an archbishop – **archdiocesan** /*-di:'ɔsɪsən/* *adj*
- archduchess** /*-du:ʃɪs/* *n* 1 the wife or widow of an archduke 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of archduke [F *archiduchesse*, fem of *archiduc* archduke, fr MF *archeduc*]
- archduke** /*-dyoo:hk/* *n* a sovereign prince [MF *archeduc*, fr *arche-* + *duc* duke] – **archducal** /*dyoo:hk(ə)/* *adj*, **archduchy** /*-du:ʃi/* *n*, **archdukedom** /*-d(ə)m/* *n*
- arche-**, **archeo-** *comb form*, chiefly **NAm** *archae-*
- Archean** /*ah'kee-ən/* *adj* or *n*, chiefly **NAm** *Archean*
- archegonium** /*ahki'gohnyəm*, *-ni-əm/* *n*, pl *archegonia* /*-nyə*, *-ni-ə/* the flask-shaped female sex organ of mosses, ferns, and some conifers [NL, fr Gk *archegonos* originator, fr *archein* to begin + *gonos* procreation; akin to Gk *gignesthai* to be born – more at **ARCH**, **KIN**] – **archegonial** *adj*, **archegoniate** /*-əyt*, *-ət/* *n* or *adj*
- archer** /*ah'chə/* *n* one who practises archery [ME, fr OF, fr LL *arcarius*, alter of *arcuarius*, fr *arcuarius* of a bow, fr L *arcus* bow – more at **ARROW**]
- archerfish** /*-,fish/* *n* any of several small E Indian fishes that catch insects by stunning them with drops of water ejected from the mouth
- archery** /*ah'chəri/* *n* the art, practice, skill, or sport of shooting arrows from a bow
- archetype** /*ahki'tiep/* *n* 1 an original pattern or model; a prototype 2 **IDEA** 1a 3 an inherited idea or mode of thought derived from the collective unconscious [L *archetypum*, fr Gk *archetypon*, fr neut of *archetypos* archetypal, fr *archein* + *typos* type] – **archetypal** /*ahki'tiepl/*,
- archetypal** /*-tɪpɪk/* *adj*, **archetypally** /*-tɪpɪ(ə)li-/*, **archetypically** /*-tɪpɪkli/* *adv*
- archi-** /*ahki-/*, **arch-** *prefix* 1 chief, principal (<architrave>) 2 primitive, original, primary [F or L; F, fr L, fr Gk – more at **ARCH**–]
- archiepiscopal** /*ahki-'pɪskəpl/* *adj* of an archbishop [ML *archiepiscopalis*, fr LL *archiepiscopus* archbishop – more at **ARCHBISHOP**] – **archiepiscopally** /*-pəli/* *adv*, **archiepiscopate** /*-pət*, *-pəyt/* *n*
- archimandrite** /*ahki'mandrit/* *n* a dignitary in the Eastern church ranking below a bishop [LL *archimandrites*, fr LGk *archimandrites*, fr Gk *archi-* + LGk *mandra* monastery, fr Gk, fold, pen]
- Archimedes' screw** /*ahki'meedɪz/* *n* a device made of a tube bent spirally round an axis, or of a broad-threaded screw encased by a cylinder, and used to raise water [Archimedes †212 bc Gk mathematician & inventor]
- archipelago** /*ahki'peləgəh*, *ahchi-/* *n*, pl *archipelagoes*, *archipelagos* (an expanse of water with) a group of scattered islands [Archipelago Aegean Sea, fr It *Archipelago*, lit, chief sea, fr *archi-* (fr L *archi-*) + Gk *pelagos* sea – more at **'FLAKE**] – **archipelagic** /*-pə'lajɪk/* *adj*
- architect** /*ahkitekt/* *n* 1 sby who designs buildings and superintends their construction 2 sby who devises, plans, and achieves a difficult objective [MF *architecte*, fr L *architectus*, fr Gk *architekton* master builder, fr *archi-* + *tektion* builder, carpenter – more at **TECHNICAL**]
- architectonic** /*ahkitekt'ɒnik/* *adj* 1 of or according with the principles of architecture 2 resembling architecture in structure or organization [L *architectonicus*, fr Gk *architektonikos*, fr *architekton*] – **architectonically** *adv*
- archite'ctonics** *n* pl but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, also **architectonic** 1a the systematic arrangement of knowledge b the system of structure 2 the art or science of architecture
- architecture** /*ahki'tekʃə/* *n* 1 the art, practice, or profession of designing and erecting buildings, also a method or style of building 2 product or work of architecture (<the beautiful ~ of Prague>) – **architectural** /*-tekʃərəl/* *adj*, **architecturally** *adv*
- architrave** /*ahki'trayv/* *n* 1 the lowest part of an entablature resting immediately on the capital of the column 2 the moulded frame round a rectangular recess or opening (e.g. a door) **USE** → **ARCHITECTURE** [MF, fr OIt, fr *archi-* + *trave* beam, fr L *trabs*]
- archival** /*ah'kiev/* *adj* relating to, contained in, or constituting archives
- archive** /*ah'kiev/* *n* a place in which public records or historical documents are preserved, also the material preserved – often pl with *sing* meaning [F & L, F, fr L *archivum*, fr Gk *archeion* government house (in pl, official documents), fr *arche* rule, government]
- archive** *vt* to file or collect (e.g. records or documents) in a repository (e.g. an archive)
- archivist** /*ahkivist/* *n* sby in charge of archives
- archon** /*ahkon/* *n* a chief magistrate in ancient Athens [L, fr Gk *archon*, fr prp of *archein*]
- archway** /*ah'ch,way/* *n* (an arch over) a way or passage that runs beneath arches
- archy** /*-ahki/* *comb form* (→ *n*) rule, government (<monarchy>) [ME *-archie*, fr MF, fr L *-archia*, fr Gk, fr *archein* to rule – more at **ARCH**–]
- arc lamp** /*ahk/* *n* a type of electric lamp that produces light by an arc made when a current passes between 2 incandescent electrodes surrounded by gas
- arctic** /*ahktɪk/* *adj* 1 often *cap* of the N Pole or the surrounding region 2a extremely cold; frigid b cold in temper or mood [ME *artik*, fr L *arcticus*, fr Gk *arktikos*, fr *arktos* bear, Ursa Major, north, akin to L *ursus* bear]
- arctic circle** *n*, often *cap* A&C the parallel of latitude approx 66 ½ degrees north of the equator that circumscribes the north polar region
- arcuate** /*ahkyoo-ət*, *-əyt/* *adj* curved like a bow (<an ~ cloud>) [L *arcuatus*, pp of *arcuare* to bend like a bow, fr *arcus* bow – more at **ARROW**] – **arcuately** /*-ətli/* *adv*
- arc-weld** *vt* to weld (metal parts) by means of an electric arc struck between 2 electrodes or 1 electrode and the metal – **arc welding** *n*
- arc weld** *n* a weld made by arc welding
- ard** /*ahd/* *suffix* (→ *n*) one characterized by or associated with (a usu undesirable specified action, state, or quality) (<dullard>) [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *-hart* (in personal names such as *Gérhart* Gerard), OE *heard* hard]
- ardent** /*ahd(ə)nt/* *adj* characterized by warmth of feeling, eager, zealous [ME, fr MF, fr L *ardent*-, *ardens*, prp of *ardere*] – **ardency** /*-sɪ/* *n*, **ardently** *adv*



## Ornamentation



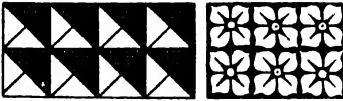
acanthus



boss



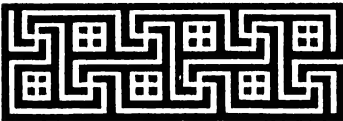
finial



diaper



festoon



fret



tracery

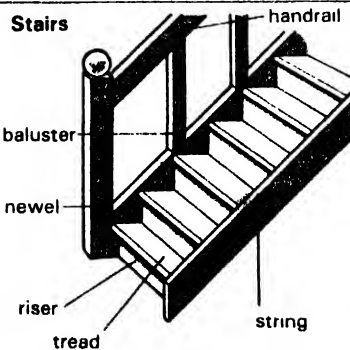


trefoil

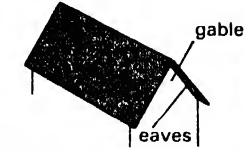


quatrefoil

## Stairs



## Roof



pitched roof



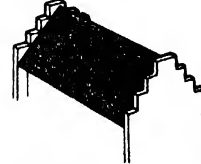
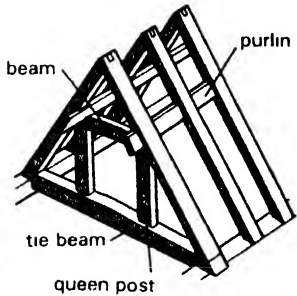
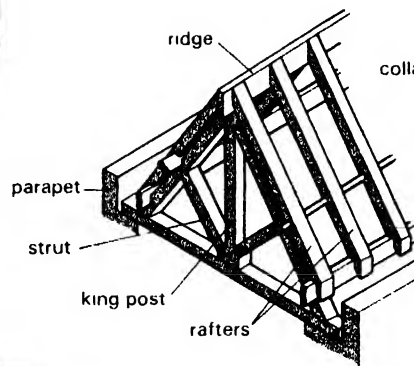
hipped roof with dormer



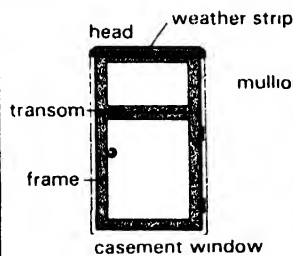
mansard roof



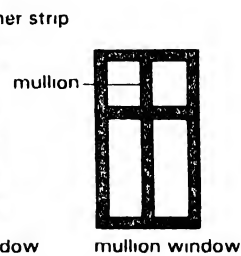
gambrel roof

pitched roof  
with bargeboardscorbie or  
crow stepped gable

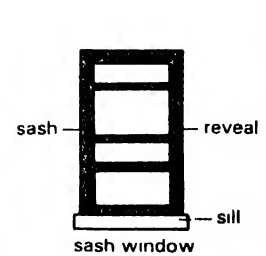
## Window



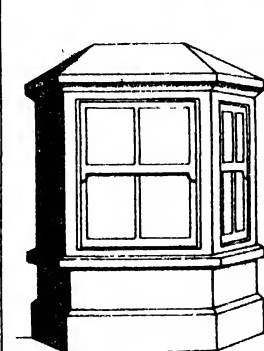
casement window



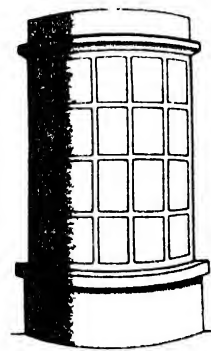
mullion window



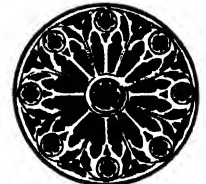
sash window



bay window



bow window



rose window



lancet




fanlight

**ardent** /ˈspɪrɪt/ *n* pl strong distilled alcoholic drinks

**ardour**, *NAm chiefly ardor* /ˈɑːdə/ *n* 1 (transitory) warmth of feeling 2 extreme vigour or intensity; zeal [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *ardor*, fr *ardere* to burn, akin to OHG *essa* forge, L *ardus* dry]

**arduous** /ˈɑːdjuːəs/ *adj* 1 hard to accomplish or achieve, difficult, strenuous 2 hard to climb; steep [L *arduus* high, steep, difficult; akin to ON *örthigr* high, steep, Gk *orthos* straight] – **arduously** *adv*, **arduousness** *n*

**are** /ə, strong ah/ *pres 2 sing or pres pl of BE* [ME, fr OE *earun*, akin to ON *eru*, *erum* are, OE *is* is]

**are** /ah/ *n* a unit of area equal to 100m<sup>2</sup>  UNIT [F, fr L *area*]

**area** /ˈeɪrɪə/ *n* 1 a level piece of ground 2 a particular extent of space or surface, or one serving a special function 3 the extent, range, or scope of a concept, operation, or activity, a field [L, piece of level ground, threshing floor, fr *arere* to be dry, akin to L *ardor*] – **areal** /ˈeɪrɪəl/ *adj*, **areally** *adv*

**arena** /ˈeɪrɪnə/ *n* 1 (a building containing) an enclosed area used for public entertainment 2 a sphere of interest or activity, a scene [L *harena*, *arena* sand, sandy place]

**arenaceous** /ˈærɪnəʃəs/ *adj* growing or living in sandy places [L *arenaceus*, fr *arena*]

**aren't** /ahnt/ 1 are not 2 am not – used in questions

**areola** /ˈeɪrɪə-lə/ *n*, pl **areolae** /-li/ a small area between or round things, esp a coloured ring (e.g. round the nipple or a vesicle) [NL, fr L, small open space, dim. of *area*] – **areolar** *adj*, **areolate** *adj*, **areolation** /ˈeɪrɪə-laysh(ə)n, -ən-/ *n*

**arête** /ˈsɪrɛt, ˈəɪrɪt/ *n* a sharp-crested mountain ridge [F, lit., fishbone, fr LL *arista*, fr L, beard of grain]

**argali** /ˈɑːɡəli/ *n* an Asiatic wild sheep with large horns, or any of several other large wild sheep [Mongolian]

**Argand diagram** /ˈɑːɡənd, -ɡænd/ *n* a conventional diagram in which the complex number  $x + iy$  is represented by the point whose rectangular Cartesian coordinates are  $x$  and  $y$  [Jean Robert Argand †1822 Swiss mathematician]

**argent** /ˈɑːɡənt/ *n* 1 a silver colour, also white – used in heraldry 2 archaic the metal or colour silver [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *argentum*, akin to L *arguere* to make clear, Gk *argyros* silver, *argos* white] – **argent** *adj*

**argentic** /ˈɑːɡjɛntɪk/ *adj* of or containing (bivalent) silver

**argentine** /ˈɑːɡjɛntiən/ *adj* silver, silvery

**argentous** /ˈɑːɡjɛntəs/ *adj* of or containing (univalent) silver

**argie-bargie** /ˈɑːɡiːˈbɑːɡi/ *n* argy-bargy


**argil** /ˈɑːɡɪl/ *n* (potter's) clay [ME, fr L *argilla*, fr Gk *argillos*; akin to Gk *argos* white]

**argillaceous** /ˈɑːɡɪlˈleɪʃəs/ *adj* of or containing clay or clay minerals

**arginine** /ˈɑːɡɪniːn/ *n* an amino acid that is a chemical base and is found in most proteins [G *arginin*]

**Argive** /ˈɑːɡɪv, -jɪv/ *adj* of Greece; esp of the Achaean city of Argos [L *Argivus*, fr Gk *Argeios*, lit., of Argos, fr *Argos*, city-state of ancient Greece] – **Argive** *n*

**argol** /ˈɑːɡɒl/ *n* crude tartar deposited in wine casks during aging [ME *argoile*, prob fr AF *argoil*]

**argon** /ˈɑːɡɒn/ *n* a noble gaseous element found in the air and volcanic gases and used esp as a filler for vacuum tubes and electric light bulbs  PERIODIC TABLE [Gk, neut of *argos* idle, lazy, fr *a-* + *ergon* work, fr its relative inertness]

**argoay** /ˈɑːɡəʊi/ *n* a large merchant sailing ship [modif of It *ragusea* Ragusan vessel, fr *Ragusa*, city & port in Dalmatia (now Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia)]

**argot** /ˈɑːɡɒt/ *n* a (more or less secret) vocabulary peculiar to a particular group [F]

**arguably** /ˈɑːɡjuːəbli/ *adv* as can be argued <~ the best black cellist around at present>

**argue** /ˈɑːɡjuː/ *vi* 1 to give reasons for or against sthg; reason 2 to contend or disagree in words ~ *vt* 1 to give evidence of; indicate 2 to consider the reasons for and against; discuss 3 to (try to) prove by giving reasons; maintain 4 to persuade by giving reasons <~ d him out of going> 5 to give reasons or arguments in favour of <his letter ~ s restraint> [ME *arguen*, fr MF *arguer* to accuse, reason & L *arguere* to make clear; MF *arguer*, fr L *argutare* to prate, fr *argutus* clear, noisy, fr pp of *arguere*] – **arguable** *adj*, **arguer** *n*

**arguffy** /ˈɑːɡjuːfoʊ/ *vt* to dispute ~ *vi* to wrangle *USE* infml – **arguffer** /-fiə/ *n*

**argument** /ˈɑːɡjuːmənt/ *n* 1 a reason given in proof or rebuttal 2a the

act or process of arguing, debate **b** a coherent series of reasons offered **c** a quarrel, disagreement **3** an abstract or summary, esp of a literary work **4a** any of the variables which determine the value of a function **b** the angle indicating the direction of a complex number from the origin of the Argand diagram <if  $a + ib$  is written as  $re^{i\theta}$  or  $r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$  then  $\theta$  is the ~> [ME, fr MF, fr L *argumentum*, fr *arguere*]

**argumentation** /ˈɑːɡjuːməntˈtʃən, -men-/ *n* 1 the act or process of forming reasons and drawing conclusions and applying them to a case in discussion 2 debate, discussion

**argumentative** /ˈɑːɡjuːmentatɪv/ *adj* given to argument; disputatious – **argumentatively** *adv*

**Argus** /ˈɑːɡəs/ *n* a watchful guardian [L, fr Gk *Argos*, a legendary 100-eyed creature]

**argy-bargy**, **argie-bargie** /ˈɑːɡiːˈbɑːɡi/ *n*, chiefly Br (a) lively discussion; (a) dispute – infml [redupl of Sc & E dial *argy*, alter of *argue*]


**aria** /ˈæɪrɪə/ *n*, pl **arias** an accompanied melody sung (e.g. in an opera) by 1 voice [It, lit., atmospheric air, modif of L *aer*]

**-arian** /ˈeɪrɪ-ən/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 believer in <Unitarian>, advocate of <vegetarian> 2 one who pursues (a specified interest or activity) <antiquarian> <librarian> 3 one who is (so many decades) old <octogenarian> [L *-arius* -ary]

**Arianism** /ˈeɪrɪ-ənɪz(ə)m/ *n* the (heretical) doctrine that the divinity of the Son is of an inferior nature to that of the Father [Arius †336 Gk theologian] – **Arian** *adj* or *n*

**arid** /ˈærɪd/ *adj* 1 excessively dry, specif having insufficient rainfall to support agriculture 2 lacking in interest and life [F or L, F *aride*, fr L *ardus* – more at *ardour*] – **aridity** /ˈærɪdɪti/ *n*, **aridness** *n*

**ariel** /ˈeɪrɪəl/ *n* an Asian and African gazelle [Ar *aryal*, var of *ayyil* stag]

**Aries** /ˈeɪrɪz, -reɪz/ *n* (sby born under) the 1st sign of the zodiac in astrology, which is pictured as a ram  SYMBOL [L, lit., ram, akin to Gk *erippos* kid, OIr *heip* doe] – **Arian** /ˈeɪrɪ-ən/ *adj* or *n*

**aright** /ˈɑːrɪt/ *adv* rightly, correctly [ME, fr OE *arht*, fr *a-* + *rht* right]

**aril** /ˈærɪl/ *n* an exterior covering of some seeds (e.g. those of yew) that develops after fertilization [prob fr NL *arillus*, fr ML, raisin, grape seed] – **ariled** /ˈærɪld/ *adj*, **arillate** /ˈærɪlət/ *adj*

**arise** /ˈɑːrɪz/ *vi* **arose** /ˈɑːrəʊz/; **arisen** /ˈɑːrɪz(ə)n/ 1a to originate from a source – often + *from* **b** to come into being or to attention 2 to get up, rise – chiefly fml [ME *arisen*, fr OE *arisan*, fr *a-*, perfective prefix + *risan* to rise]


**aristocracy** /ˈærɪstəkrəsi/ *n* 1 (a state with) a government in which power is vested in a small privileged usu hereditary noble class 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a (governing) usu hereditary nobility 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr the whole group of those believed to be superior (e.g. in wealth, rank, or intellect) [MF & LL; MF *aristocratie*, fr LL *aristocratia*, fr Gk *aristokratia*, fr *aristos* best + *-kratia* -cracy]

**aristocrat** /ˈærɪstəkrət, ˈɑːrɪ-/ *n* 1 a member of an aristocracy, esp a noble 2 one who has the bearing and viewpoint typical of the aristocracy

**aristocratic** /ˈærɪstəkrætɪk, ˈɑːrɪ-/ *adj* belonging to, having the qualities of, or favouring aristocracy [MF *aristocratique*, fr ML *aristocraticus*, fr Gk *aristokratikos*, fr *aristos* + *-kratikos* -cratic] – **aristocratically** *adv*

**Aristotelian**, **Aristotelean** /ˈærɪstətiːli-ən, -stoh-/ *adj* of Aristotle's doctrines or his principles of logic [Aristotle †322 BC Gk philosopher] – **Aristotelian** *n*, **Aristotelianism** /-li-ənɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**arithmetic** /ˈærɪθmətɪk/ *n* 1 a branch of mathematics that deals with real numbers and calculations with them 2 computation, calculation [ME *arsmetrik*, fr OF *arsmetrique*, fr L *arithmetica*, fr Gk *arithmetike*, fr fem of *arithmetikos* arithmetical, fr *arithmeîn* to count, fr *arithmos* number; akin to Gk *arithmos* to fit] – **arithmetically** /ˈærɪθmətɪkəl/, **arithmetical** *adj*, **arithmetically** *adv*, **arithmetician** /ˈærɪθməˈtɪʃ(ə)n, -ərɪθ-/ *n*

**arithmetical mean** /ˈærɪθmətɪk/ *n* a value found by dividing the sum of a set of terms by the number of terms  STATISTICS, SYMBOL

**arithmetical progression** *n* a sequence (e.g. 3, 5, 7, 9) in which the difference between any term and its predecessor is constant

**-arium** /ˈeɪrɪ-əm, -ˈæɪrɪ-əm/ *suffix* (→ *n*), pl **-ariums**, **-aria** /-rɪ-ə/ thing or place relating to or connected with <planetarium> <aquarium> [L, fr neut of *-arius* -ary]

**ark** /ɑːk/ *n* 1 a ship; esp (one like) the one built by Noah to escape the Flood 2a the sacred chest representing to the Hebrews the presence of God among them **b** a repository for the scrolls of the Torah [ME, fr OE *arc*; akin to OHG *arahha* ark; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *arca* chest; akin to L *arcere* to hold off, defend, Gk *arkein*]

**'arm** /ahm/ *n* 1 (the part between the shoulder and the wrist of) the human upper limb 2 sth like or corresponding to an arm: e.g. a the forelimb of a vertebrate animal b a limb of an invertebrate animal 3 an inlet of water (e.g. from the sea) 4 might, authority <the long ~ of the law> 5 a support (e.g. on a chair) for the elbow and forearm 6 a sleeve 7 a functional division of a group or activity [ME, fr OE *earn*, akin to L *arma* shoulder, Gk *harmos* joint, L *arma* weapons, *ars* skill, Gk *aranskein* to fit] – **armed** *adj*, **armful** *n*, **armless** *adj*, **armlike** *adj* – **at arm's length** far enough away to avoid intimacy

**'arm** *vt* 1 to supply or equip with weapons 2 to provide with sth that strengthens or protects 3 to fortify morally 4 to equip for action or operation (< ~ a bomb> ~ *vi* to prepare oneself for struggle or resistance [ME *armen*, fr OF *armer*, fr L *armare*, fr *arma* weapons, tools]

**'arm** *n* 1a a weapon, esp a firearm – *usu* pl b a combat branch (e.g. of an army) 2 *pl* the heraldic insignia of a group or body (e.g. a family or government) 3 *pl* a active hostilities b military service or profession [ME *armes* (pl) weapons, fr OF, fr L *arma*] – **up in arms** angrily rebellious and protesting strongly <the entire community are up in arms about the proposed motorway>

**armada** /ah'mahda/ *n*, *pl* **armadas** a fleet of warships; *specif*, cap that sent against England by Spain in 1588 [Sp, fr ML *armata* army, fleet, fr L, fem of *armatus*, pp of *armare*]

**armadillo** /ahma'diloh/ *n*, *pl* **armadillos** any of several burrowing chiefly nocturnal S American mammals with body and head encased in an armour of small bony plates [Sp, fr dim of *armado* armed one, fr L *armatus*]

**Armageddon** /ahma'ged(ə)n/ *n* 1 (the site or time of) a final and conclusive battle between the forces of good and evil 2 a vast decisive conflict [Gk *Armageddon*, *Harmagedon*, scene of the battle foretold in Rev 16 14–16]

**Armagnac** /ah'manyak/ *n* a dry brandy produced in the Gers district of France [F, fr *Armagnac*, region in SW France]

**armament** /ah'məmənt/ *n* 1 a military or naval force 2 the military strength, esp in arms and equipment, of a ship, fort, or combat unit, nation, etc 3 the process of preparing for war [F *armement*, fr L *armamenta* (pl) utensils, military or naval equipment, fr *armare* to arm, equip]

**armamentarium** /ah'məmənt'eari-əm/ *n*, *pl* **armamentaria** /-ri-ə/ the equipment and methods available, esp in medical treatment [L, *armoury*, fr *armamenta*]

**armature** /ah'məchə/ *n* 1 an offensive or defensive structure in a plant or animal (e.g. teeth or thorns) 2a the central rotating part of an electric motor or generator b a framework on which a modeller in clay, wax, etc builds up his/her work [L *armatura* armour, equipment, fr *armatus*]

**'armchair** /ahm'cheə/ *n* a chair with armrests

**'armchair** *adj* 1 remote from direct dealing with practical problems (< ~ strategists> 2 sharing vicariously in another's experiences (<an ~ traveller>)

**Armenian** /ah'meenyan, -ni-ən/ *n* 1 a member of a people living chiefly in Armenia 2 the Indo-European language of the Armenians [F LANGUAGE [Armenia (fr L, fr Gk), former kingdom in W Asia, now divided between USSR, Turkey, & Iran] – **Armenian** *adj*

**'armhole** /-hohl/ *n* an opening for the arm in a garment

**armiger** /ah'mijə/ *n* 1 a squire 2 a person entitled to bear heraldic arms [ML, fr L, *armour-bearer*, fr *armiger* bearing arms, fr *arma* arms + *-ger* -gerous] – **armigerous** /ah'mijəral/, **armigerous** /-ras/ *adj*

**armillary 'sphere** /ah'milən, -i-ən/ *n* an old astronomical instrument composed of rings representing the positions of important circles of the celestial sphere [F *sphère armillaire*, fr ML *armilla*, fr L, bracelet, iron ring, fr *armus* arm, shoulder; akin to OE *earn* arm]

**armistice** /ah'mistis/ *n* a temporary suspension of hostilities; a truce [F or NL, F, fr NL *armistitium*, fr L *arma* + *-stitium* (as in *solstitium* solstice)]

**'Armistice Day** *n* 1 Br REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – used before the official adoption of *Remembrance Sunday* after WW II 2 NAm VETERANS DAY – used before the official adoption of *Veterans Day* in 1954 [fr the armistice terminating WW I on November 11, 1918]

**armlet** /ah'mlit/ *n* 1 a band (e.g. of cloth or metal) worn round the upper arm 2 a small arm (e.g. of the sea)

**armorial** /ah'mawri-əl/ *adj* of or bearing heraldic arms [*armory* (heraldry)] – **armorially** *adv*

**armour**, *Nam* chiefly **armor** /ah'mə/ *n* 1a a defensive covering for the body; esp a covering (e.g. of metal) worn in combat b a usu metallic protective covering (e.g. for a ship, fort, aircraft, or car) 2 armoured forces

and vehicles (e.g. tanks) [ME *armure*, fr OF, fr L *armatura* – more at ARMATURE] – **armoured** *adj*, **armourless** *adj*

**'armour-clad** *adj* sheathed in or protected by armour

**'armoured** /ah'məd/ *adj* consisting of or equipped with vehicles protected with armour plate

**'armourer** /ah'mərə/ *n* 1 sby who makes or looks after armour or arms 2 sby who repairs, assembles, and tests firearms

**'armour 'plate** *n* a defensive covering of hard metal plates for combat vehicles and vessels

**'armoury** /ah'məri/ *n* (a collection of or place for storing) arms and military equipment

**'arm.pit** /-pit/ *n* the hollow beneath the junction of the arm and shoulder

**'arm,rest** /-rest/ *n* a support for the arm

**'arm,restling** *n* a contest in which 2 opponents grip each other's usu right hand and set the corresponding elbow on a surface, then attempt to force each other's arm down

**army** /ah'mi/ *n* 1a a large organized force for war on land b *often* cap the complete military organization of a nation for land warfare

**RANK** 2 a great multitude 3 a body of people organized to advance a cause (<the Salvation Army> [ME *armee*, fr MF, fr ML *armata* – more at ARMADA]

**arnica** /ah'nikə/ *n*, *pl* **arnicas** any of several related composite plants [NL, genus name]

**'A,road** *n* a main road of high standard

**aroma** /ə'rohma/ *n*, *pl* **aromas** 1a a distinctive, pervasive, and usu pleasant or savoury smell b the bouquet of a wine 2 a distinctive quality or atmosphere [ME *aromat* spice, fr OF, fr L *aromat*-, *aroma*, fr Gk *aromat*-, *aroma*]

**'aromatic** /ə'ro'matik/ *adj* 1 of or having an aroma: a fragrant b having a strong esp pungent or spicy smell 2 of a chemical compound having a molecular structure containing a ring, specif containing (a group like) a benzene ring – **aromatically** /ə'ro'matikli/ *adv*, **aromaticity** /ə'ro'mə'tisəti, ə'rohma-/ *n*, **aromaticness** /ə'ro'mə'tiknis/ *n*, **aromatize** /ə'rohma'tiez/ *vt*, **aromatization** /-ti'e'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'aromatic** *n* sth aromatic

**arose** /ə'rohəz/ *past* of **ARISE**

**'around** /ə'raʊnd/ *adv*, chiefly **NAM** 1 round 2 ABOUT (except 3b) [ME, fr 'a- + *round*, *n*]

**'around** *prep*, chiefly **NAM** 1 round 2 ABOUT (except 3b)

**'around** *adj*, chiefly **NAM** 1 ABOUT 1 <has been up and ~ for 2 days> 2 in existence, evidence, or circulation <the most intelligent of the artists ~ today – R M Coates>

**arouse** /ə'raʊz/ *vt* 1 to awaken from sleep 2 to rouse to action, excite, esp sexually [a- (as in *arise*) + *rouse*] – **arousal** /-zl/ *n*

**arpeggio** /ah'pejoh/ *n*, *pl* **arpeggios** (the sounding of) a chord whose notes are played in succession, not simultaneously [It, fr *arpeggiare* to play on the harp, fr *arpa* harp, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *harpha* harp]

**arquebus** /ah'kwibəs/ *n* a heavy but portable matchlock gun usu fired from a support [MF *harquebuse*, *arquebuse*, deriv of MLG *hakebusse*, fr *haken* hook + *busse* gun] – **arquebusier** /ah'kwibə'siə/ *n*


**arrack**, **arak** /'arak, 'arək/ *n* an Asian alcoholic spirit that is a distillation of the fermented mash of rice and molasses and to which has been added the fermented sap of the coconut palm [Ar 'araq sweat, juice, liquor]

**arraign** /ə'raɪn/ *vt* 1 to charge before a court 2 to accuse of wrong, inadequacy, or imperfection [ME *arreinen*, fr MF *araisner*, fr OF, fr a- (fr L *ad*-) + *raisnier* to speak, fr (assumed) VL *rationare*, fr L *ratio*-, *ratio* reason – more at REASON] – **arraignment** *n*

**arrange** /ə'raɪn/ *vt* 1 to put in order or into sequence or relationship 2 to make preparations for, plan 3 to bring about an agreement concerning; settle (< ~ an exchange of prisoners of war>) 4 to adapt (a musical composition) by scoring for different voices or instruments ~ *vi* to make plans (< ~ to go on holiday>) [ME *arangen*, fr MF *aranger*, fr OF, fr a- + *rengier* to set in a row, fr *reng* row – more at RANK] – **arranger** *n*

**'arrangement** /-mənt/ *n* 1a a preliminary measure; a preparation <travel ~s> b an adaptation of a musical composition for different voices or instruments c an informal agreement or settlement, esp on personal, social, or political matters d an agreement with a bank that allows one to draw money without notice from a branch other than that at which one has one's account <have you got an ~?> 2 sth made by arranging constituents or things together <a floral ~> [ARRANGE + -MENT]

**arrant** /'arənt/ *adj* notoriously without moderation; extreme (<an ~ fool> [alter. of *errant*] – **arrantly** *adv*)

- arras** /'arəs/ *n*, *pl* **arras** a wall hanging or screen made of tapestry [ME, fr *Arras*, city in France]
- 'array** /'sraɪ/ *vt* 1 to set or place in order; marshal 2 to dress or decorate, esp in splendid or impressive clothes; adorn [ME *arrayen*, fr OF *arayer*, fr (assumed) VL *arredare*, fr L *ad-* + a base of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *garairiths* arranged – more at **READY**] – **arrayer** *n*
- 'array** *n* 1 military order <forces in ~> 2a clothing, garments b rich or beautiful apparel; finery 3 an imposing group, a large number 4 a number of mathematical elements arranged in rows and columns 5 an arrangement of computer memory elements (e.g. magnetic cores) in a single plane
- arrear** /ə'reə/ *n* 1 an unfinished duty 2 an unpaid and overdue debt **USE** usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning [ME *arriere* behind, backwards, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *ad retro* backwards, fr L *ad* to + *retro* backwards, behind – more at **'AT, RETRO-**] – **arrears** /ə'reəz/ *n* – in **arrears** behind in the discharge of obligations
- 'arrest** /ə'rest/ *vt* 1a to bring to a stop < sickness ~ed his activities > b to make inactive 2 to seize, capture; specif to take or keep in custody by authority of law 3 to catch and fix or hold < ~ the attention > [ME *arresten*, fr MF *arrestor* to rest, arrest, fr (assumed) VL *arrestare*, fr L *ad-* + *restare* to remain, rest] – **arrester**, **arrestor** *n*, **arrestment** *n*
- 'arrest** *n* 1a the act of stopping b the condition of being stopped < cardiac ~ > 2 the taking or detaining of sb in custody by authority of law 3 a device for arresting motion – **under arrest** in legal custody
- arrestable offence** *n* a serious offence for which anyone can make an arrest without a warrant  **LAW**
- arresting** /ə'restɪŋ/ *adj* catching the attention; striking – **arrestingly** *adv*
- arrhythmia** /ə'rɪðmi-/ *n* (an abnormal) alteration in rhythm of the heartbeat [NL, fr Gk, lack of rhythm, fr *arrhythmos* unrhythmic, fr *a-* + *rhythmos* rhythm] – **arrhythmic** /-mɪk/, **arrhythmical** *adj*, **arrhythmically** *adv*
- arrière-pensée** /a'rie: 'pɒnsɛ/ *n* (Fr *arjɛ:r pɔ̃sɛ*) / *n* a mental reservation [F, fr *arrière* behind + *pensée* thought]
- arris** /'arɪs/ *n*, *pl* **arris**, **arries** the sharp ridge or prominent angle formed by the meeting of 2 surfaces, esp in mouldings [prob modif of MF *arestic*, lit., fishbone, fr LL *arista* – more at **ARÊTE**]
- arrival** /ə'nev/ *n* 1 the attainment of an end or state 2 sb or sth that has arrived [ARRIVE + **'AL**]
- arrive** /ə'nev/ *vi* 1 to reach a destination 2 to come < the moment has ~d > 3 to achieve success [ME *arven*, fr OF *ariver*, fr (assumed) VL *arripare* to come to shore, fr L *ad-* + *ripa* shore – more at **RIVE**] – **arriver** *n* – **arrive at** to reach by effort or thought < have arrived at a decision >
- arrogance** /ə'rɒɡəns/ *n* aggressive conceit [ME, fr L *arrogant-*, *arrogans*, prp of *arrogare*] – **arrogant** /-ɡənt/ *adj*, **arrogantly** *adv*
- arrogate** /ə'rɒɡeɪt/ *vt* to claim or seize without justification, on behalf of oneself or another [L *arrogatus*, prp of *arrogare*, fr *ad-* + *rogare* to ask – more at **'RIGHT**] – **arrogation** /ə'rɒɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- arrondissement** /ə'rɑ:ndes'mɑ:nt/ (Fr *arɔ̃dis'mɑ:nt*) / *n* 1 a parliamentary division of a French department 2 an administrative district of some large French cities, esp Paris [F]
- 'arrow** /ə'rɒh/ *n* 1 a projectile shot from a bow, usu having a slender shaft, a pointed head, and feathers at the end 2 sth shaped like an arrow, esp a mark to indicate direction [ME *arwe*, fr OE; akin to Goth *arhwazna* arrow, L *arcus* bow, arch, arc]
- 'arrow** *vt* to indicate with an arrow < the location is ~ed on the map >
- 'arrowhead** /-hed/ *n* 1 the pointed front part of an arrow 2 sth shaped like an arrowhead 3 any of several related (water) plants with leaves shaped like arrowheads
- 'arrowroot** /-roʊt/ *n* (a tropical American plant whose roots yield) a nutritive starch used esp as a thickening agent in cooking [fr its use by American Indians to heal wounds from poisoned arrows]
- arse** /a:rs/ *n* 1 the buttocks 2 the anus **USE** vulg [ME *ars*, *ers*, fr OE *ars*, *ears*; akin to OHG & ON *ars* buttocks, Gk *orrhos*, Arm *or*, Hitt *arraš*, OIr *err* tail]
- 'arsehole** /-hɒhl/ *n* the anus – vulg
- arsenal** /'a:rsənəl/ *n* 1 an establishment for the manufacture or storage of arms and military equipment; an armoury 2 a store, repertory [It *arsenale*, modif of Ar *dar sinā'ah* house of manufacture]
- arsenic** /'a:snɪk/ *n* 1 a trivalent and pentavalent semimetallic steel-grey poisonous element  **PERIODIC TABLE** 2 an extremely poisonous trioxide of arsenic, used esp as an insecticide [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *arsenicum*, fr Gk *arsenikon*, *arthenikon* yellow orpiment, fr Syr *zarnig*, of Iranian origin; akin to Av *zaranya* gold, Skt *hari* yellowish] – **arsenical** /'a:snɪkəl/ *adj*, **arsenical** *adj* or *n*, **arsenious** /'a:snɪəs/ *adj*
- arsis** /'a:snɪs/ *n*, *pl* **arses** /'a:snɪs/ a stressed syllable in a metrical foot [LL & Gk; LL, raising of the voice, accented part of foot, fr Gk, upbeat, unaccented part of foot, lit., act of lifting, fr *airein*, *aurein* to lift]
- arson** /'a:rsən/ *n* the criminal act of setting fire to property in order to cause destruction [obs F, fr OF, fr *ars*, pp of *ardre* to burn, fr L *ardere* – more at **ARDOUR**] – **arsonist** *n*
- 'art** /a:rt/ *archaic pres 2 sing* of **BE** [ME, fr OE *eart*, akin to ON *est*, *ert* (thou) art, OE *is* is]
- 'art** *n* 1 a skill acquired by experience, study, or observation 2 *pl* the humanities as contrasted with science 3a the conscious use of skill and creative imagination, esp in the production of aesthetic objects, *also* works so produced b (any of the) fine arts or graphic arts 4 decorative or illustrative elements in printed matter [ME, fr OF, fr L *art-*, *ars* – more at **'ARM**]
- 'art** *adj* 1 composed, designed, or created with conscious artistry < an ~ song > 2 designed for decorative purposes < ~ pottery >
- art** – see **-ARD**
- art deco** /a:rt('t) 'dekoh/ *n*, often *cap A&D* a decorative style of the 1920s and 1930s characterized esp by bold flowing lines and the use of new materials (e.g. plastic) [F *Art Déco*, fr *Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs*, an exhibition of decorative arts held in Paris in 1925]
- artefact**, **artifact** /'a:tɪfəkt/ *n* 1a a usu simple object (e.g. a tool or ornament) produced by human workmanship b a product of civilization < an ~ of the jet age > 2 sth (e.g. a structure seen in the microscope) unnaturally present through extraneous influences (e.g. from defects in the staining procedure) [L *arte*, abl of *art-*, *ars* skill + *factum*, neut of *factus*, pp of *facere* to make, do – more at **'ARM**, **'DO**] – **artefactual** /a:rtɪfəktʃuəl/, **-chooəl** /-tʃuəl/ *adj*
- artel** /a:rtel/ *n* a workers' or peasants' cooperative in the USSR [Russ *artel*], fr It *artieri*, *pl* of *artiere* artisan, fr *arte* art]
- artemisia** /a:rtɪ'mɪzi-/ *n*, *pl* **artemisia** /-mɪzi-/ *n* wormwood or a related strong-smelling composite herb or shrub [NL, genus name, fr L, *artemisia*, fr Gk]
- arteri-** /a:rtɪəri-/ *arterio-* *comb form* 1 artery < *arteritis* > 2 arterial and < *arteriovenous* > [MF, fr L, fr Gk *arteri-*, *arterio-*, fr *arteria* artery]
- arterial** /a:rtɪəriəl/ *adj* 1 of or (being) the bright red blood contained in an artery 2 of or being a main road – **arterially** *adv*
- arterialize**, **-ise** /a:rtɪəri-əlaɪz/ *vt* to transform (venous blood) into arterial blood by oxygenation – **arterialization** /-laɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- arteriole** /a:rtɪəriəhl/ *n* a very small artery connecting a larger artery with (small blood vessels like) capillaries  **ANATOMY** [F or NL, F *artériole*, prob fr NL *arteriola*, dim of L *arteria*] – **arteriolar** /-rɪəhlə/ *adj*
- arteriosclerosis** /a:rtɪəriəsklə'srɒsɪs/ *n* abnormal thickening and hardening of the arterial walls [NL] – **arteriosclerotic** /-sklə'rɒtɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- artery** /'a:rtəri/ *n* 1 any of the branching elastic-walled blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the lungs and through the body – compare **VEIN**  **ANATOMY** 2 an esp main channel (e.g. a river or road) of transport or communication [ME *arterie*, fr L *arteria*, fr Gk *arteria*, akin to Gk *aorte* aorta]
- artesian well** /a:rtɪ'ziən(ə)n/ *n* a well by which water reaches the surface with little or no pumping [F *artésien*, lit., of Artois, fr OF, fr *Artois* Artois, region of France]
- 'art film** *n* a film produced for predominantly aesthetic rather than commercial purposes
- 'art form** *n* a recognized form (e.g. a symphony) or medium (e.g. sculpture) of artistic expression
- artful** /a:rtfʊl/ *adj* adroit in attaining an end, often by deceitful or indirect means; crafty [**'ART** + **'FUL**] – **artfully** *adv*, **artfulness** *n*
- arthr-** /a:θr-/ *arthro-* *comb form* joint < *arthritis* > < *arthropod* > [L, fr Gk, fr *arthron*; akin to Gk *aransken* to fit – more at **'ARM**]
- arthritic** /a:θrɪtɪk/ *adj* of or affected with arthritis – **arthritic** *n*, **arthritically** *adv*
- arthritis** /a:θrɪtɪs/ *n*, *pl* **arthritis** /a:θrɪtɪs/ *n* usu painful inflammation of 1 or more joints [L, fr Gk, fr *arthron*]
- arthrodesis** /a:θrɒdɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **arthrodeses** /-sɛz/ the surgical immobilization of a joint so that the bones grow solidly together [NL, fr *arthr-* + Gk *desis* binding, fr *dein* to bind]
- arthropod** /a:θrɒpɒd/ *n* any of a phylum of invertebrate animals (e.g. insects, arachnids, and crustaceans) with a jointed body and limbs and usu an outer skin made of chitin and moulted at intervals [NL *Arthropoda*, group name, fr *arthr-* + Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at **FOOT**]



**artic** /ah'tik/ *n*, *Br* an articulated lorry – *infml*

**artichoke** /ah'ti:chohk/ *n* **1a** a tall composite plant like a thistle **b** the partly edible flower head of the artichoke, used as a vegetable **2** *IERU* SALEM ARTICHOKE [It dial *articoeco*, fr *Ar al-khurshuf* the artichoke]

**article** /ah'tikl/ *n* **1a(1)** a separate clause, item, provision, or point in a document **(2)** *pl* a written agreement specifying conditions of apprenticeship **b** a piece of nonfictional prose, usu forming an independent part of a magazine, newspaper, etc **2** an item of business, a matter **3** a word or affix (e.g. *a*, *an*, and *the*) used with nouns to give indefiniteness or definiteness **4a** a particular or separate object or thing, esp viewed as a member of a class of things (<several ~s of clothing> (<~s of value>) **b** a thing of a particular and distinctive kind (<the genuine ~> [ME, fr OF, fr *L* *articulus* joint, division, dim. of *artus* joint, akin to Gk *arariskein* to fit – more at 'ARM]

**article** *vt* to bind by articles (e.g. of apprenticeship)

**articular** /ah'tikyool/ *adj* of a joint (< cartilage) [ME *articuler*, fr *L* *articularis*, fr *articularis*]

**articulate** /ah'tikyoolt/ *adj* **1a** divided into syllables or words meaningfully arranged **b** having the power of speech **c** expressing oneself readily, clearly, or effectively, also expressed in this manner **2** jointed [NL *articulatus*, fr *L* *articulus*] – *articulacy* /-lasi/ *n*, *articulately* *adv*, *articulateness* *n*

**articulate** /ah'tikyoolt/ *vt* **1a** to utter distinctly **b** to give clear and effective utterance to (< one's grievances>) **2** to unite with a joint ~ *vt* **1** to utter articulate sounds **2** to become united or connected (as if) by a joint [L *articulatus*, pp of *articulare*, fr *artculus*] – *articulative* /-lativ/ *adj*, *articulator* /-laytə/ *n*, *articulatory* /-latrɪ/ *adj*

**articulated** *adj* chiefly *Br* having 2 parts flexibly connected and intended to operate as a unit (<an ~ lorry>)

**articulation** /ah'tikyool'shay(ə)n/, -'---/ *n* **1a** the action or manner of joining or interrelating **b** the state of being jointed or interrelated **2** a (movable) joint (between plant or animal parts) **3a** the (verbal) expression of thoughts and feelings **b** the act or manner of articulating sounds **4** the occlusion of teeth

**artifact** /ah'tifaikt/ *n* an artefact – *artifactual* /-'faktyool/, -chooəl/ *adj*

**artifice** /ah'tifis/ *n* **1** an artful device, expedient, or stratagem, a trick **2** clever or artful skill, ingenuity [MF, fr *L* *artificium*, fr *artific*, *artifex* artificer, fr *L* *arts*, *ars* skill + *facere* to make, do – more at 'ARM, 'do]

**artificer** /ah'tifisa, 'ah'tifisa/ *n* **1** a skilled or artistic worker or craftsman **2** a military or naval mechanic

**artificial** /ah'tifish(ə)/ *adj* **1** made by human skill and labour often to a natural model, man-made (<an ~ limb> (<~ diamonds>) **2a** lacking in natural quality, affected **b** imitation, sham [ME, fr MF or L, MF *artificial*, fr *L* *artificialis*, fr *artificium*] – *artificiality* /-'fish'aləti/ *n*, *artificially* /-'fish(ə)/ *adv*, *artificialness* *n*

**artificial insemination** *n* introduction of semen into the uterus or oviduct by other than natural means

**artificial respiration** *n* the rhythmic forcing of air into and out of the lungs of sb whose breathing has stopped

**artillery** /ah'tiləri/ *n* **1** large-calibre mounted firearms (e.g. guns, howitzers, missile launchers, etc) **2** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a branch of an army armed with artillery [ME *artilierie* military equipment, missile-throwing weapons, fr MF]

**artisan** /ah'tizən, -'---, 'ah'tiz(ə)n/ *n* **1** a skilled manual worker (e.g. a carpenter, plumber, or tailor) **2** a member of the urban proletariat [MF, fr OIt *artigiano*, fr *arte* art, fr *L* *arts*, *ars*]

**artist** /ah'tist/ *n* **1a** one who professes and practises an impt native art **b** a person skilled in a fine art **2** a skilled performer, specif an artiste **3** one who is proficient in a specified and usu dubious activity; an expert (<np-off ~>) – *infml* **4** *Austr* & *NAm* a fellow or character, esp of a specified sort – *infml*

**artiste** /ah'teest/ *n* a skilled public performer, specif a musical or theatrical entertainer [F]

**artistic** /ah'tistik/ *adj* **1** concerning or characteristic of art or artists **2** showing imaginative skill in arrangement or execution – *artistically* *adv*

**artistry** /ah'tistri/ *n* **1** artistic quality **2** artistic ability

**artless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** free from artificiality; natural (<~ grace>) **2** free from deceit, guile, or craftiness; sincerely simple – *artlessly* *adv*, *artlessness* *n*

**art nouveau** /ah(t) nooh'voh/ *n*, often *cap A&N* a decorative style of late 19th-c origin, characterized esp by curved lines and plant motifs [F, lit., new art]

**art paper** *n*, *Br* paper coated with china clay and used esp for halftone illustrations

**artey-craftay** /ahti 'krahfti/ *adj*, *NAm* arty-crafty

**artwork** /-wuhk/ *n* ART **4**

**arty** /ahti/ *adj* showily or pretentiously artistic (<~ lighting and photography>) – *artily* *adv*, *artiness* *n*

**arty-crafty** /ahti 'krahfti/ *adj* arty; esp affectedly simple or rustic in style – *infml* [fr the phrase *arts and crafts*]

**arum** /'eəəm/ *n* a cuckoo-pint or related Old World plant with flowers in a fleshy spathe (partially) surrounded by a leafy bract [NL, genus name, fr *L*, *arum*, fr Gk *aron*]

**arvo** /ahvoh/ *n*, *Austr* & *NZ* the afternoon – *infml* [alter. of *afternoon* + -o]

**ary** /-(ə)ri/ *suffix* (<~ *n*) **1** thing belonging to or connected with (<ovary>, esp place or repository of or for (<library> (<aviary>) **2** one belonging to, connected with, or engaged in (<functionary> (<missionary>) [ME -*arie*, fr OF & L, OF -*aire*, -*arie*, fr *L* -*arius*, -*aria*, -*arium*, fr -*arius*, *adj* suffix]

**ary** *suffix* (<~ *adj*) of or connected with (<budgetary> (<military>) [ME -*arie*, fr MF & L, MF -*aire*, fr *L* -*arius*]

**Aryan** /'eəri-ən, 'ahri-ən/ *adj* **1** of language Indo-European **2** of speakers of Indo-European or Indo-Iranian languages **3a** of a supposed ethnic type represented by early speakers of Indo-European languages **b** Nordic [Skt *arya* noble, belonging to the people speaking an Indo-European dialect who migrated into N India]

**Aryan** *n* **1** a member of a people speaking an Indo-European language **2** a Nordic **3** a gentile

**aryl** /'aril/ *n* a radical (e.g. phenyl) derived from an aromatic hydrocarbon by the removal of 1 hydrogen atom [ISV aromatic + -yl]

**as** /əz, strong əz/ *adv* **1** to the same degree or amount, equally (<~ deaf as a post>) **2** when considered in a specified form or relation – usu used before a preposition or participle (<my opinion ~ distinguished from his> [ME, fr OE *callswa* likewise, just as – more at ALSO]

**as** *conj* **1a** to the same degree that (<deaf ~ a post>) – usu used as a correlative after *as* or *so* to introduce a comparison (<as long ago ~ 1930>) or as a result (<so clearly guilty ~ to leave no doubt>) **b** – used after *same* or *such* to introduce an example or comparison (<in the same building ~ my brother> (<such trees ~ oak or pine>) **c** – used after *so* to introduce the idea of purpose (<he hid so ~ not to get caught>) **2** in the way that (<do ~ I say, not ~ I do>) – used before *so* to introduce a parallel (<the French like their wine, so the British like their beer>) **3** in accordance with what (<quite good ~ boys go> (<late, ~ usual>) **4** while, when (<split the milk ~ she got up>) **5** regardless of the fact that, though (<naked ~ I was, I rushed out>) **6** for the reason that, seeing (<it's raining, let's make coffee>) – *as* is in the present condition without modification (<bought the clock at an auction as is>) – *infml* – *as* it is in reality – *as* it were *so* TO SPEAK – *as* often as not at least half the time

**as** *pron* **1** a fact that, and this (<is ill, ~ you can see> (<unaccustomed ~ I am to public speaking>) **2** which also, and so (<plays football, ~ do his brothers>)

**as** *prep* **1** LIKE **1a**, **2** **2** in the capacity, character, role, or state of (<works ~ an editor> (<they regard her ~ clever>)

**as** /as/ *n*, *pl* *asses* /'asez, 'asiz/ (a unit of value represented by) a bronze coin of ancient Rome [L]

**as** – see AD-

**asafoetida**, *NAm* chiefly *assafoetida* /as'fəti'da/ *n* the fetid gum resin of various oriental plants of the carrot family used in cookery [ME *assafoetida*, fr ML *asafoetida*, fr Per *azā* mastic + L *foetida*, fem of *foetidus* fetid]

**asbestos** /ə'spestos, -zb-, -sb-/ *n* either of 2 minerals composed of thin flexible fibres, used to make noncombustible, nonconducting, or chemically resistant materials [ME *albestron* mineral supposed to be inextinguishable when set on fire, prob fr MF, fr ML *asbeston*, alter. of L *asbestos*, fr Gk, unslaked lime, fr *asbestos* inextinguishable, fr *a-* + *sbennynai* to quench; akin to Lith *gesti* to be extinguished]

**asbestosis** /aspe'stohsis, -zb-, -sb-/ *n*, *pl* *asbestoses* /-'seez/ a disease of the lungs due to the inhalation of asbestos particles [NL]

**asc**-, *asco*- *comb form* ascomycete (<ascocarp>) [NL, fr *ascus*]

**ascaris** /'askərid/ *n* the common roundworm, parasitic in the human intestine, or a related nematode [deriv of LL *ascaris*, *ascaris* intestinal worm, fr Gk *askarid*-, *askaris*; akin to Gk *skarein* to gambol – more at CARDINAL]

**ascaris** /'askəris/ *n*, *pl* *ascarides* /as'karideez/ an ascarid [LL]

**ascend** /'sənd/ *vt* **1** to move or slope gradually upwards; rise **2a** to rise from a lower level or degree (<~ to power>) **b** to go back in time or in order of genealogical succession ~ *vt* **1** to go or move up **2** to succeed to; begin to occupy – esp in *ascend the throne* [ME *ascenden*, fr L *ascendere*, fr

- ad- + scandere** to climb – more at **SCAN** – **ascendable, ascendible** *adj.*, **ascending** *adj.*  
**ascendence** also **ascendancy** /ə'send(ə)ns/ *n* ascendancy  
**ascendancy** also **ascendency** /ə'send(ə)nsi/ *n* controlling influence; domination  
**'ascendant** also **ascendent** /ə'send(ə)nt/ *n* 1 the degree of the zodiac that rises above the eastern horizon at any moment (e.g. at one's birth) 2 a state or position of dominant power or importance – esp. in *the ascendant* 3 an ancestor [ME *ascendent*, fr. ML *ascendent-*, *ascendens*, fr. L, *prp* of *ascendere*]  
**'ascendant** also **ascendent** *adj.* 1 rising 2 superior, dominant – **ascendantly** *adv.*  
**ascension** /ə'senʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of ascending [ME, fr. L *ascension-*, *ascensio*, fr. *ascensus*, *pp* of *ascendere*]  
**Ascension Day** *n* the Thursday 40 days after Easter observed in commemoration of Christ's ascension into Heaven  
**ascent** /ə'sent/ *n* 1a the act of going, climbing, or travelling up b a way up, an upward slope or path 2 an advance in social status or reputation, progress [fr. *ascend*, by analogy with *descend* + *descent*]  
**ascertain** /ə's'tayn/ *vt* to find out or learn with certainty [ME *ascertainen* to make certain, fr. MF *ascertainer*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *certain*] – **ascertainable** *adj.*  
**ascetic** /ə'setɪk/ also **ascetical** /-kl/ *adj.* 1 practising strict self-denial as a spiritual discipline 2 austere in appearance, manner, or attitude [Gk *askētikos*, lit., laborious, fr. *askētes* one that exercises, hermit, fr. *askēin* to work, exercise] – **asceticism** *n.*, **ascetically** *adv.*, **asceticism** /-sɪz(ə)m/ *n.*  
**ascidian** /ə'sɪdi-ən/ *n* any of an order of tunicates (e.g. the sea squirt), broadly a tunicate [NL *Ascidia*, genus name, fr. Gk *askidion*, dim. of *askos* wineskin, bladder]  
**ascites** /ə'sɪteɪz/ *n.*, *pl.* **ascites** accumulation of usu. blood-derived watery fluid in the abdomen [ME *aschytes*, fr. LL *ascites*, fr. Gk *askites*, fr. *askos* wineskin, bladder] – **ascitic** /ə'sɪtɪk/ *adj.*  
**asco-** – see **ASC-**  
**ascomycete** /ə'skə'mi:seɪt/ *n* any of a class of higher fungi (e.g. yeast) in which the spores are formed in *asci* [deriv. of Gk *askos* + *myket-*, *mykēs* fungus; akin to L *mucus*] – **ascomycetous** /-mi:seɪtəs/ *adj.*  
**ascorbate** /ə'skəʊbeɪt/ *n* a salt of ascorbic acid  
**ascorbic acid** /ə'skəʊbɪk/ *n* VITAMIN C [a- + NL *scorbutus* scurvy – more at **SCORBUTIC**]  
**ascribe** /ə'skri:b/ *vt* to refer or attribute (sthg) to a supposed cause or source [ME *ascriben*, fr. MF *ascribre*, fr. L *ascribere*, fr. *ad-* + *scribere* to write – more at **'SCRIBE**] – **ascribable** *adj.*  
**ascription** /ə'skri:ptʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act of ascribing, attribution [LL *ascription-*, *ascriptio*, fr. L, written addition, fr. *ascriptus*, *pp* of *ascribere*]  
**ascus** /'askʊz/ *n.*, *pl.* **asci** /'aski/ the membranous oval or tubular spore sac of an ascomycete [NL, fr. Gk *askos* wineskin, bladder]  
**asdic** /'æzɪk/ *n* sonar [Anti-Submarine Detection Investigation Committee]  
**-ase** /-əz/, -ays, -əz/ *suffix* (→ *n*) enzyme <protease> [F, fr. *diastase*]  
**asepsis** /ə'seɪsɪs, ə-, ə-/ *n* 1 the condition of being aseptic 2 the methods of making or keeping sth aseptic [NL]  
**aseptic** /ə'seɪptɪk, ə-, ə-/ *adj.* 1 preventing infection (<techniques>) 2 free or freed from disease-causing microorganisms (<an ~ operating theatre>) [ISV] – **aseptically** *adv.*  
**asexual** /ə'seksjuəl, -'sekʃ(ə)l, ə-/ *adj.* 1 lacking sex (organs) 2 produced without sexual action or differentiation 3 without expression of or reference to sexual interest – **asexually** *adv.*  
**asexual** /ə'seksjuəl, -'sekʃ(ə)l, ə-/ *adj.* 1 lacking sex (offgans) 2 produced without sexual action or differentiation 3 without expression of or reference to sexual interest – **asexually** *adv.*  
**'as** for *prep* concerning; IN REGARD TO – used esp. in making a contrast (<~ the others, they'll arrive later>)  
**'as** for *prep* not earlier or later than <takes effect ~ July 1st>  
**'ash** /aʃ/ *n* 1 (the tough elastic wood of) any of a genus of tall pinnate-leaved trees of the olive family 2 the ligature *æ* used in Old English to represent a low front vowel [ME *ashe*, fr. OE *æsc*; akin to OHG *ask* ash, L *ornus* wild mountain ash; (2) OE *æsc*, name of the corresponding runic letter]  
**'ash** *n* 1a the solid residue left when material is thoroughly burned or oxidized b fine particles of mineral matter from a volcano  GEOGRAPHY 2 *pl* the remains of sthg destroyed by fire (<a new city built on the ~s of the old>) 3 *pl* the remains of a dead body after cremation or disintegration [ME *ashe*, fr. OE *asce*; akin to OHG *asca* ash, L *aridus* dry – more at **ARDOUR**] – **ashless** *adj.*  
**ashamed** /ə'shaɪmd/ *adj.* 1 feeling shame, guilt, or disgrace 2 restrained by fear of shame (<was ~ to beg>) [ME, fr. OE *āscamod*, *pp* of *āscamian* to shame, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *scamian* to shame] – **ashamedly** /-mɪdli/ *adv.*  
**Ashanti** /ə'shɑnti/ *n.*, *pl.* **Ashantis**, *esp.* collectively **Ashanti** 1 a member of a W African people of Ghana 2 the dialect of Akan spoken by the Ashanti [Ashanti A' san' te']  
**'ash, can** *n.*, *NAM* a dustbin  
**'ashen** /ə'sh(ə)n/ *adj.* of or made from the wood of the ash tree  
**'ashen** *adj.* 1 consisting of or resembling ashes 2 deadly pale; blanched (<his face was ~ with fear>)  
**Ashes** /ə'shɪz/ *n.* *pl.* a trophy played for in a series of cricket test matches between England and Australia – *the* [fr. a jesting reference to the ashes of the dead body of English cricket after an Australian victory in 1882]  
**Ashkenazi** /ə'shke'nɑ:zi/ *n.*, *pl.* **Ashkenazim** /-nɑ:zɪm/ a member of the central European Yiddish-speaking branch of Jewry – compare **SEPHARDI** [Heb *Ashkenāzi*] – **Ashkenazic** /-nɑ:zɪk/ *adj.*  
**ashlar** /ə'shlɑ:/ *n* 1 (masonry of) hewn or squared stone  ARCHITECTURE 2 a thin squared and dressed stone for facing a wall of rubble or brick [ME *ashele*, fr. MF *aissele* a transverse beam, fr. OF, fr. *ais* board, fr. L *axis*, alter. of *assis*]  
**ashore** /ə'shɔ:/ *adv.* on or to the shore  
**'ashpan** /-pɑ:n/ *n* a tray fitted under the grate in a fire and into which ashes fall  
**ashram** /ə'shrɑ:m, -rɑ:m/ *n* the hermitage of a Hindu sage, broadly any Hindu religious retreat [Skt *āśrama*, fr. *a* towards + *śrama* religious exercise]  
**'ash, tray** /-trɔɪ/ *n* a (small) receptacle for tobacco ash and cigar and cigarette ends  
**'Ash Wednesday** *n* the first day of Lent [fr. the custom of sprinkling ashes on penitents' heads]  
**ashy** /ə'shi/ *adj.* 1 of ashes 2 'ASHEN 2  
**Asian** /ə'si:ən, 'əɪz(ə)n/ *adj.* (characteristic) of the continent of Asia or its people [L *Asianus*, fr. Gk *asianos*, fr. *Asia*] – **Asian** *n.*  
**Asiatic** /ə'si:ətɪk, 'əɪzɪ-/ *adj.* Asian – **Asiatic** *n.*  
**'aside** /ə'saɪd/ *adv.* or *adj.* 1 to or towards the side (<stepped ~>) 2 out of the way (<put his work ~>) 3 apart, IN RESERVE 4 APART 3 [ME, fr. *'a-* + *side*]  
**'aside** *n* 1 an utterance meant to be inaudible, esp. an actor's speech supposedly not heard by other characters on stage 2 a digression  
**'aside from** *prep.*, chiefly *NAM* APART FROM  
**as** 'If *conj.* 1 as it would be if (<it was ~ he had lost his best friend>) 2 as one would do if (<shook his head ~ to say no>) 3 that (<it's not ~ she's poor>) 4 – used in emphatic repudiation of a notion (<~ I cared!>)  
**asinine** /ə'sɪni:ən/ *adj.* stupid [L *asininus* of or like an ass, fr. *asinus* ass] – **asininely** *adv.*, **asininity** /-nɪnɪti/ *n.*  
**ask** /ə'sk/ *vt* 1a to call on for an answer (<I ~ed him about his trip>) b to put a question about (<I ~ed his whereabouts>) c to put or frame (a question) (<~ a question of him>) 2a to make a request of (<she ~ed her teacher for help>) b to make a request for (<she ~ed help from her teacher>) 3 to behave in such a way as to provoke (an unpleasant response) (<just ~ing to be given a good hiding>) 4 to set as a price (<~ed £1500 for the car>) 5 to invite (<~ him to dinner>) ~ *vi* to seek information (<he ~ed after the old man's health>) [ME *asken*, fr. OE *ascian*; akin to OHG *eiscon* to ask, L *aerescare* to beg] – **asker** *n.*  
**askance** /ə'skɑ:ns/ *adv.* with disapproval or distrust – esp. in *look askance* [perh. fr. It *a scancio* obliquely]  
**askew** /ə'ski:ʊə/ *adv.* or *adj.* awry [prob. fr. *'a-* + *skew*] – **askew-ness** *n.*  
**'asking price** /ə'skɪŋk/ *n* the price set by the seller  
**aslant** /ə'slɑ:nt/ *prep.*, *adv.*, or *adj.* (over or across) in a slanting direction  
**asleep** /ə'sli:p/ *adj.* 1 in a state of sleep 2 dead – euph. 3 lacking sensation; numb  
**as long as** *conj.* 1 providing, while; SO LONG AS 2 chiefly *NAM* since; INASMUCH AS (<~ you're going, I'll go too>)  
**aslope** /ə'sləʊp/ *adj.* or *adv.* in a sloping or slanting position or direction  
**'as much as** *adv.* even; SO MUCH AS  
**asocial** /ə'səʊʃ(ə)l/ *adj.* 1 lacking the capacity for social interaction 2 antisocial  
**'as of** *prep.*, chiefly *NAM* AS FROM  
**asp** /əsp/ *n* a small venomous snake of Egypt, variously identified as a cobra or cerastes [ME *aspis*, fr. L, fr. Gk]



**asparagine** /ə'spærjeɪn, -jɪn/ *n* an amino acid that is an amide of aspartic acid found in most proteins [F, fr L. *asparagus*]

**asparagus** /ə'spærəgəs/ *n* (any of a genus of Old World perennial plants of the lily family including) a tall plant widely cultivated for its edible young shoots [NL, genus name, fr L. *asparagus* plant, fr Gk *asparagos*; akin to Gk *spargan* to swell – more at 'SPARK]

**aspartic acid** /ə'spæhtɪk/ *n* an amino acid found in most proteins [ISV, irreg fr L. *asparagus*]

**aspect** /'æspekt/ *n* **1a** the position of planets or stars with respect to one another, held by astrologers to influence human affairs; **also** the apparent position (e.g. conjunction) of a body in the solar system with respect to the sun **b** a position facing a particular direction <the house has a southern ~> **c** the manner of presentation of an aerofoil, hydrofoil, etc to a gas or liquid through which it is moving **2a** appearance to the eye or mind **b** a particular feature of a situation, plan, or point of view **3** (a set of inflected verb forms that indicate) the nature of an action as to its beginning, duration, completion, or repetition (e.g. in *I swim* and *I am swimming*) [ME, fr L. *aspectus*, fr *aspectus*, pp of *aspicere* to look at, fr *ad-* + *specere* to look – more at SPV] – **aspectual** /'æspekʃənoʊl/ *adj*

**'aspect, ratio** *n* a ratio of one dimension to another: e.g. **a** the ratio of an aerofoil's span to its mean chord **b** the ratio of the width to the height of a screen or image (e.g. in television or the cinema)

**aspen** /'æspən/ *n* any of several poplars with leaves that flutter in the lightest wind [alter of ME *asp*, fr OE *æspe*; akin to OHG *aspa* aspen, Latvian *apsa*]

**aspergillus** /'æspə'jɪləs/ *n*, *pl* *aspergilli* /-li-/ any of a genus of fungi including many common moulds [NL, genus name, fr *aspergillum* brush for sprinkling water, fr L. *aspergere*]

**asperity** /'æspə'ɪtɪ/ *n* **1** rigour, hardship **2** roughness of surface, unevenness **3** roughness of manner or temper, harshness [ME *asprete*, fr OF *asprete*, fr *aspre* rough, fr L. *asper*]

**asperse** /ə'spɜːs/ *vt* to sprinkle, esp with holy water [L. *aspersus*, pp of *aspergere*, fr *ad-* + *spargere* to scatter – more at 'SPARK]

**aspersion** /ə'spɜːʃən/ *n* **1** a sprinkling with water, esp in religious ceremonies **2** a calumnious or unwarranted doubt <he cast ~s on her integrity>

**asphalt** /'æsfalt, -felt, ash-, *NAM* 'æsfawlt/ *n* **1** a brown to black bituminous substance found in natural beds and also obtained as a residue in petroleum or coal tar refining **2** an asphaltic composition used for surfacing roads and footpaths [ME *asfalt*, fr LL *asphaltus*, fr Gk *asphaltos*] – **asphaltic** /-tɪk/ *adj*

**'asphaltum** /-təm/ *n* asphalt [alter of ME *asphaltoun*, *asfalt*]

**asphodel** /'æsfədel/ *n* any of various Old World plants of the lily family with long spikes of flowers [L. *asphodelus*, fr Gk *asphodelos*]

**asphyxia** /ə'sfɪksɪə/ *n* a lack of oxygen in the body, usually caused by interruption of breathing, and resulting in unconsciousness or death [NL, fr Gk, stopping of the pulse, fr *a-* + *spheizein* to throb] – **asphyxiate** /-sɪə'tɪ/ *vb*, **asphyxiation** /-sɪə'tɪʃən/ *n*, **asphyxiator** /-sɪə'taɪə/ *n*

**aspic** /'æspɪk/ *n* a clear savoury jelly (e.g. of fish or meat stock) used as a garnish or to make a meat, fish, etc mould [F, lit., *asp*]

**aspidistra** /'æspɪ'dɪstrə/ *n* any of various Asiatic plants of the lily family with large leaves, often grown as house plants [NL, irreg fr Gk *aspid-*, *aspos* shield]

**'aspirate** /'æspɪrət/, **aspirated** /'æspɪraɪtɪd/ *adj* pronounced with aspiration [L. *aspiratus*, pp of *aspirare*]

**2aspirate** /'æspɪraɪt/ *vt* **1** to pronounce (a vowel, consonant, or word) with an *h*-sound **2** to draw or remove (e.g. blood) by suction

**3aspirate** /'æspɪrət/ *n* **1** a character, esp *h*, representing an independent /*h*/ sound **2** an aspirated consonant (e.g. the *p* of *pit*) **3** material removed by aspiration

**aspiration** /'æspɪ'reɪʃən/ *n* **1** the pronunciation or addition of an aspirate **2** a drawing of sth in, out, up, or through (as if) by suction. e.g. **a** the act of breathing (sth in) **b** the withdrawal of fluid from the body **3a** a strong desire to achieve sth high or great **b** an object of such desire

**aspirator** /'æspɪraɪtə/ *n* an apparatus for aspirating (fluid, tissue, etc from the body)

**aspire** /'æspɪə-/ *vi* to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal – *usu* to <~d to a career in medicine> [ME *aspiere*, fr MF or L; MF *aspiere*, fr L. *aspiere*, lit., to breathe upon, fr *ad-* + *spirare* to breathe – more at SPIRE] – **aspirant** /'æspɪrənt/ *n* or *adj*, **aspirer** /'æspɪə(r)/ *n*

**aspirin** /'æspɪrɪn/ *n*, *pl* *aspirins*, *aspirins* (a tablet containing) a derivative of salicylic acid used for relief of pain and fever [ISV, fr *acetyl* + *spiraeic* acid (former name of salicylic acid), fr NL *Spiraea*, genus of shrubs – more at SPIRAEA]

**as regards** /rɪ'gɑːdɪz/ *prep* with respect to; IN REGARD TO

**as respects** /n'spekts/ *prep* with respect to; IN REGARD TO

**'ass** /as/ *n* **1** the donkey or a similar long-eared hardy gregarious mammal related to and smaller than the horse **2** a stupid, obstinate, or perverse person or thing <saying that the law is an ~> [ME, fr OE. *assa*, perh fr Olf *asan*, fr L. *asinus*]

**2ass** *n*, chiefly *NAM* the arse [by alter.]

**assail** /ə'sayl/ *vt* **1** to attack violently with blows or words **2** to prey on <~ed by doubts> [ME *assailen*, fr OF *assaillir*, fr (assumed) VL *assalire*, alter of L. *assilire* to leap upon, fr *ad-* + *salire* to leap – more at SALLY] – **assailable** *adj*, **assailant** *n*

**assassin** /ə'sasɪn/ *n* **1** *cap* any of a secret order of Muslims who at the time of the Crusades committed secret murders **2** a murderer; *esp* one who murders a politically important person, for money or from fanatical motives [ML. *assassinus*, fr Ar *hashshashin*, *pl* of *hashshash* one who smokes or chews hashish]

**assassinate** /ə'sasɪnaɪt/ *vt* to murder suddenly or secretly, usu for political reasons – **assassination** /-naɪʃən/ *n*, **assassinator** /-naɪtə/ *n*

**'assault** /ə'sawlt/ *n* **1** a violent physical or verbal attack **2a** an attempt to do or immediate threat of doing unlawful personal violence **b** rape **3** an attempt to attack a fortification by a sudden rush [ME *assaut*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *assaltus*, fr *assaltus*, pp of *assalire*]

**2assault** *vt* **1** to make an (indecent) assault on **2** to rape – **assaulter** *n*, **assaultive** *adj*

**'assay** /ə'say/ *n* analysis of an ore, drug, etc to determine the presence, absence, or quantity of 1 or more components [ME, fr OF *essai*, *assai* test, effort – more at ESSAY]

**2assay** *vt* **1a** to analyse (e.g. an ore) for 1 or more valuable components **b** to judge the worth or quality of **2** to try, attempt – *fml* – **assayer** *n*

**assegai**, **assagai** /'æsgɪ/ *n* a slender iron-tipped hardwood spear used in southern Africa [deriv of Ar *az-zaghaya* the assegai, fr *al-* the + *zaghaya* assegai]

**assemblage** /ə'sembliʒ/ *n* **1** a collection of people or things; a gathering **2** a three-dimensional collage made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (e.g. of cloth, wood, stone etc) [ASSEMBLE + -AGE]

**assemble** /ə'sembəl/ *vb* **assembling** /ə'sembliŋ/ *vt* **1** to bring together (e.g. in a particular place or for a particular purpose) **2** to fit together the parts of ~ *vi* to gather together, convene [ME *assembler*, fr OF *assemble*, fr (assumed) VL *assimulare*, fr L. *ad-* + *simul* together – more at SAME] – **assembler** *n*

**assembly** /ə'sembli/ *n* **1** a company of people gathered for deliberation and legislation, entertainment, or worship; *specif* a morning gathering of a school for prayers and/or for the giving out of notices **2** *cap* a legislative body **3a** an assemblage **b** assembling or being assembled **4** a bugle, drum, etc signal for troops to assemble or fall in **5** (a collection of parts assembled by) the fitting together of manufactured parts into a complete machine, structure, etc [ME *assemblee*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *assembler*]

**as'sembly, line** *n* **1** an arrangement of machines, equipment, and usu workers in which work passes through successive operations until the product is assembled **2** a process for turning out a finished product in a mechanically efficient but often cursory manner

**'assent** /ə'sent/ *vi* to agree to sth [ME *assenten*, fr OF *assenter*, fr L. *assentari*, fr *assentire*, fr *ad-* + *sentire* to feel – more at SENSE] – **assentor**, **assenter** *n*

**2assent** *n* acquiescence, agreement

**assert** /ə'suːt/ *vt* **1** to state or declare positively and often forcefully **2** to demonstrate the existence of [L. *asserere*, pp of *asserere*, fr *ad-* + *serere* to join – more at SERIES] – **assertor** *n* – **assert oneself** to compel recognition of esp one's rights

**assertion** /ə'suːʃən/ *n* a declaration, affirmation [ASSERT + -ION]

**assertive** /ə'suːtɪv/ *adj* characterized by bold assertion, dogmatic – **assertively** *adv*, **assertiveness** *n*

**asses** /'æsɪz/ *pl* of AS or OF ASS

**assess** /ə'ses/ *vt* **1a** to determine the rate or amount of (e.g. a tax) **b** to impose (e.g. a tax) according to an established rate **2** to make an official valuation of (property) for the purposes of taxation **3** to determine the importance, size, or value of [ME *assessen*, prob fr ML *assessus*, pp of *assidere*, fr L. to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge – more at ASSIZE] – **assessable** *adj*, **assessment** *n*

**assessor** /ə'sesa/ *n* **1** a specialist who advises a court **2** an official who assesses property for taxation **3** chiefly *Br* sby who investigates and values insurance claims

**asset** /'æset/ *n* **1a** *pl* the total property of a person, company, or institution; *esp* that part which can be used to pay debts **b** a single item

of property 2 an advantage, resource 3 *pl* the items on a balance sheet showing the book value of property owned [back-formation fr *assets*, sing., sufficient property to pay debts and legacies, fr AF *asetz*, fr OF *assez* enough, fr (assumed) VL *ad satis*, fr L *ad* to + *satis* enough – more at AT. SAD]

**'asset-stripping** *n* selling the assets of a profitable enterprise in order to maximize short-term profits

**asseverate** /ə'sevəreɪt/ *vt* to affirm solemnly – fml [L *asseveratus*, pp of *asseverare*, fr *ad-* + *severus* 'severe'] – **asseveration** /-ˈreɪʃən/ *n*, **asseverative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*

**assiduity** /ə'sɪdjuːəti/ *n* 1 diligence 2 solicitous or obsequious attention to a person

**assiduous** /ə'sɪdjuːəs/ *adj* marked by careful unremitting attention or persistent application; sedulous [L *assiduus*, fr *assidere*] – **assiduously** *adv*, **assiduousness** *n*

**'assign** /ə'siːn/ *vt* 1 to transfer (property) to another, esp in trust or for the benefit of creditors 2 to appoint to a post or duty 3 to fix authoritatively; specify, designate [ME *assignen*, fr OF *assigner*, fr L *assignare*, fr *ad-* + *signare* to mark, fr *signum* mark, sign] – **assignability** /-nə'bɪləti/ *n*, **assignable** *adj*, **assigner**, **assignor** *n*

**'assign** *n* 1 ASSIGNEE 1, 2 2 sby to whom property or a right is legally transferred

**assignment** /ə'sɪɡnənt/ *n* 1 the act of assigning, *also* the assignment made 2 a meeting, esp a secret one with a lover (<returned from an ~ with his mistress – W B Yeats>) – **assignmental** *adj*

**assignee** /ə'siːneɪ/ *n* 1 a person to whom an assignment is made 2 a person appointed to act for another 3 ASSIGN 2

**assignment** /ə'sɪnment/ *n* 1a a position, post, or job to which one is assigned **b** a specified task or amount of work assigned by authority 2 (a document effecting) the legal transfer of property ['ASSIGN + -MENT]

**assimilate** /ə'sɪmɪlət/ *vt* 1a to take in or absorb into the system (as nourishment) **b** to absorb; *esp* to take into the mind and fully comprehend 2a to make similar – *usu* + *to* or *with* **b** to absorb into a cultural tradition 3 to compare, liken – *usu* + *to* or *with* ~ *vi* to become assimilated [ML *assimilatus*, pp of *assimilare*, fr L *assimulare* to make similar, fr *ad-* + *simulare* to make similar, simulate] – **assimilable** /-əbəl/ *adj*, **assimilative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*, **assimilator** /-lətə/ *n*, **assimilatory** /ə'sɪmɪlətəri/ *adj*

**assimilation** /ə'sɪmɪlə'seɪʃən/ *n* adaptation of a sound to an adjacent sound (e.g. the *p* in *cupboard*) [ASSIMILATE + -ION]

**'assist** /ə'sɪst/ *vi* 1 to give support or aid 2 to be present as a spectator ~ *vt* to give support or aid to [MF or L, MF *assistere* to help, stand by, fr L *assistere*, fr *ad-* + *sistere* to cause to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand – more at STAND] – **assistance** *n*, **assistant** *n*

**'assist** *n* the officially recorded action of a player who by throwing a ball in baseball or by passing a ball or puck in basketball, lacrosse, or ice hockey enables a teammate to put an opponent out or score a goal

**assize** /ə'sɪz/ *n*, *often cap* the periodical sessions of the superior courts formerly held in every English county for trial of civil and criminal cases – *usu* *pl* with sing. meaning [ME *assise*, fr OF, session, settlement, fr *asseoir* to seat, fr (assumed) VL *assedere*, fr L *assidere* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge, fr *ad-* + *sedere* to sit – more at SIT]

**associable** /ə'səʊə-ʃəbəl, -sɪəbəl/ *adj* capable of being associated, joined, or connected in thought – **associability** /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*

**'associate** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪəti/ *vt* 1 to join as a friend, companion, or partner in business (< ~ ourselves with a larger firm>) 2 to bring together in any of various ways (e.g. in memory, thought, or imagination) ~ *vi* 1 to come together as partners, friends, or companions 2 to combine or join with other parts; unite *USE* often + *with* [ME *associat* associated, fr L *associatus*, pp of *associare* to unite, fr *ad-* + *sociare* to join, fr *socius* companion – more at SOCIAL] – **associatory** /-s(h)ɪəri/ *adj*

**'associate** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪəri/ *adj* 1 closely connected (e.g. in function or office) with another 2 having secondary or subordinate status (< ~ membership in a society>)

**'associate** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪəri, -əti/ *n* 1 a fellow worker; partner, colleague 2 a companion, comrade 3 sthg closely connected with or *usu* accompanying another 4 one admitted to a subordinate degree of membership (<an ~ of the Royal Academy>) – **associatehip** /-s(h)ɪəri/ *n*

**association** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪə'shən/ *n* 1 an organization of people having a common interest; a society, league 2 sthg linked in memory, thought, or imagination with a thing or person; a connotation 3 the formation of mental connections between sensations, ideas, memories, etc 4 the formation of polymers by loose chemical linkage (e.g. through hydrogen bonds) 5 an ecological community with *usu* 2 or more dominant species uni-

formly distributed ['ASSOCIATE + -ION] – **associational** /-s(h)ɪə'sh(ə)nl/ *adj*

**as, association** 'football *n* soccer ➡ SPORT

**associationism** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪə'shənɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory that explains mental life in terms of the association of ideas

**associative** /ə'səʊs(h)ɪəti/ *adj* 1 dependent on or acquired by association or learning 2 operating on elements such that when the order of the elements is preserved the result is independent of the grouping (<addition is ~ since  $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ >) – **associatively** *adv*, **associativity** /-s(h)ɪə'tɪvəti/ *n*

**assonance** /ə'sənəns/ *n* 1 resemblance of sound in words or syllables 2 repetition of esp only the vowel sounds (e.g. in *stony* and *holy*) or only the consonant sounds, as an alternative to rhyme [F, fr L *assonare* to answer with the same sound, fr *ad-* + *sonare* to sound – more at 'SOUND] – **assonant** *adj* or *n*

**as 'soon as** *conj* immediately at or just after the time that

**assort** /ə'sɔːt/ *vt* to distribute into groups of a like kind, classify ~ *vi* to suit or match well or ill with sthg [MF *assortir*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *sorte* sort] – **assortative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*, **assorter** *n*

**'assorted** *adj* 1 consisting of various kinds 2 suited by nature, character, or design, matched (<an ill-assorted pair>)

**assortment** /-mənt/ *n* a collection of assorted things or people [ASSORT + -MENT]

**assuage** /ə'sweɪdʒ/ *vt* to lessen the intensity of (pain, suffering, desire, etc.), ease [ME *aswagen*, fr OF *assouagier*, fr (assumed) VL *assuaviare*, fr L *ad-* + *suavis* sweet – more at SWEET] – **assuagement** *n*

**assume** /ə'sjuːm/ *vt* 1a to take to or upon oneself, undertake **b** to invest oneself formally with (an office or its symbols) 2 to seize, usurp 3 to pretend to have or be, feign 4 to take as granted or true, suppose ~ often + *that* [ME *assumen*, fr L *assumere*, fr *ad-* + *sumere* to take – more at CONSUME] – **assumability** /-mə'bɪləti/ *n*, **assumable** *adj*, **assumably** *adv*

**assumption** /ə'sʌmp(ə)ʃən/ *n* 1a the taking up of a person into heaven **b** *cap* August 15 observed in commemoration of the assumption of the Virgin Mary 2 the act of laying claim to or taking possession of sthg 3a the supposition that sthg is true **b** a fact or statement (e.g. a proposition, axiom, or postulate) taken for granted [ME, fr LL *assumptio*-, *assumptio*, fr L, taking up, fr *assumpere*, pp of *assumere*]

**assumptive** /ə'sʌmp(ə)tɪv/ *adj* taken for granted

**assurance** /ə'shɔːrəns, -'ʃʊə-/ *n* 1a a pledge, guarantee **b** chiefly Br (life) insurance 2a the quality or state of being sure or certain, freedom from doubt **b** confidence of mind or manner, *also* excessive self-confidence; brashness 3 sthg that inspires or tends to inspire confidence [ASSURE + -ANCE]

**assure** /ə'shɔː, -'ʃʊə/ *vt* 1 to make safe, insure (esp life or safety) 2 to give confidence to, reassure 3 to inform positively 4 to guarantee the happening or attainment of; ensure [ME *assuren*, fr MF *assurer*, fr ML *assecurare*, fr L *ad-* + *securus* secure]

**'assured** *adj* 1 characterized by self-confidence (<an ~ dancer>) 2 satisfied as to the certainty or truth of a matter; convinced – **assuredly** /-ndli/ *adv*, **assuredness** /-ndnis/ *n*

**'assured** *n*, *pl* **assured**, **assureds** an insured person

**assurer**, **assuror** /ə'shɔːrə, ə'shʊərə/ *n* a person or firm that assures, an insurer

**Assyrian** /ə'sɪri-ən/ *n* 1 a member of an ancient Semitic race forming the Assyrian nation 2 the Semitic language of the Assyrians – **Assyrian** *adj*

**Assyriology** /ə'sɪrɪ'ɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of the history, language, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Babylonia – **Assyriologist** *n*, **Assyriological** /-nə'lɒjɪkl/ *adj*

**-ast** /-ast/ *suffix* (~ *n*) one practising or given to (<iconoclast> <enthusiast>) [ME, fr L *-astēs*, fr Gk *-astēs*, fr verbs in *-azein*]

**astarboard** /ə'stəhbəd, -bawd/ *adv* on or towards the right side of a ship (<steer the helm ~>)


**astatic** /ə'stætɪk, -aɪ-/ *adj* 1 not stable or steady 2 not tending to take a fixed or definite position or direction ['a- + *static*] – **astatically** *adv*, **astaticism** /-tɪ'stɪs(ə)m/ *n*

**astatine** /ə'steɪtɪn, -tɪn/ *n* a radioactive halogen element similar to iodine and formed by radioactive decay or made artificially ➡ PERIODIC TABLE [Gk *astatos* unsteady, fr *a-* + *statos* standing, fr *histanai* to cause to stand – more at STAND]

**aster** /ə'stə/ *n* 1 any of various chiefly autumn-blooming leafy-stemmed composite plants with often showy heads 2 a system of cytoplasmic rays typically arranged radially about a centrosome at either end of the mitotic

spindle [(1) NL, genus name, fr L, aster, fr Gk *aster-*, *aster* star, aster, (2) NL, fr Gk *aster-*, *aster* – more at STAR]


**-aster** /-a(h)sta/, -asta/ suffix (*n* → *n*) one who is an inferior, worthless, or false kind of <criticaster> [poetaster] [ME, fr L, suffix denoting partial resemblance]

**\*asterisk** /'astərɪsk/ *n* a sign \* used as a reference mark, esp to denote the omission of letters or words or to show that sthg is doubtful or absent  SYMBOL [LL *asteriscus*, fr Gk *astēriskos*, lit., little star, dim of *aster-*, *aster*]

**\*asterisk** *vt* to mark with an asterisk; star

**asterism** /'astərɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1a** a constellation **b** a small group of stars **2** a star-shaped figure visible in some crystals under reflected or transmitted light [Gk *asterismos*, fr *asterizein* to arrange in constellations, fr *aster-*, *aster*]

**astern** /ə'stɜːn/ *adv* or *adj* **1** behind the stern; to the rear **2a** or towards the stern of a ship **3** backwards (*the captain signalled full ~*)

**\*asteroid** /'astərɔɪd/ *n* any of thousands of small planets mostly between Mars and Jupiter  ASTRONOMY [Gk *asteroeides* starlike, fr *aster-*, *aster*] – **asteroidal** /-'rɔɪdl/ *adj*

**\*asteroid** *adj* **1** starlike **2** of or like a starfish

**asthenia** /ə'stiːniə/, -ni-ə/ *n* lack or loss of strength, debility [NL, fr Gk *astheneia*, fr *asthenes* weak, fr *a-* + *sthenos* strength]

**asthenic** /ə'stiːnik/ *adj* of or exhibiting asthenia, weak

**asthma** /ə's(θ)mə/ *n* (an allergic condition marked by attacks of) laboured breathing with wheezing and usu coughing, gasping, and a sense of constriction in the chest [ME *asma*, fr ML, modif of Gk *asthma*] – **asthmatic** /ə's(θ)'matɪk/ *adj* or *n*, **asthmatically** *adv*

**as though** *conj* AS IF

**astigmatic** /'æstɪɡ'matɪk/ *adj* affected with, relating to, or correcting astigmatism [*a-* + Gk *stigmat-*, *stigma* mark – more at STIGMA] – **astigmatically** *adv*

**astigmatism** /'æstɪɡ'matɪz(ə)m, -ə-/ *n* a defect of an optical system (e.g. a lens or the eye) in which rays from a single point fail to meet in a focal point, resulting in a blurred image

**astir** /ə'stɪr/ *adj* **1** in a state of bustle or excitement **2** out of bed, up [Sc *aster*, fr *a-* + *steer*, var of *stir*]

**Asti spumante** /'æsti spu'manti, spjuːh-/ *n* an Italian sparkling white wine [It, lit., sparkling Asti, fr *Asti*, town in Italy]


**as to prep** **1a** with regard or reference to, about – used esp with questions and speculations **b** AS FOR **2** by, ACCORDING TO (*graded ~ size and colour*)

**astonish** /ə'stɒnɪʃ/ *vt* to strike with sudden wonder or surprise [prob fr earlier *astony* (fr ME *astonen*, *astonen*, fr OF *estoner*, fr *-assumed* – VL *extonare*, fr L *ex-* + *tonare* to thunder) + *-ish* (as in *abolish*) – more at THUNDER] – **astoning** *adj*, **astonishingly** *adv*, **astonishment** *n*

**astound** /ə'staʊnd/ *vt* to fill with bewilderment and wonder [prob fr *astound* (adj), fr ME *astoned*, fr pp of *astonen*] – **astounding** *adj*, **astoundingly** *adv*

**astr-, astro-** *comb form* star, heavens, outer space <astrophysics> [ME *astro-*, fr OF, fr L *astr-*, *astro-*, fr Gk, fr *astron* – more at STAR]

**astraddle** /ə'strɒdl/ *adv* or *prep* astride

**astragal** /'astrəɡl/ *n* a narrow half-round moulding  ARCHITECTURE [L *astragalus*, fr Gk *astragalos* anklebone, moulding]

**astragalus** /'astrəɡələs, -ə-/ *n, pl* **astragali** /-li/ a bone nearest the body in the tarsus of the foot cf a bird, mammal, etc [NL, fr Gk *astragalos*]

**astrakhan, astrachan** /'astrəkahn, -'kan, -'kan/ *n, often cap* **1** karakul of Russian origin **2** a woollen fabric with curled and looped pile [Astrakhan, city in USSR]

**astral** /'astrəl/ *adj* **1** (consisting) of stars **2** (consisting) of a spiritual substance held in theosophy to be the material of which sby's supposed second body is made up, that can be seen by specially gifted people [LL *astralis*, fr L *astrum* star, fr Gk *astron* – more at STAR] – **astrally** *adv*

**astray** /ə'streɪ/ *adv* or *adj* **1** off the right path or route **2** in error; away from a proper or desirable course or development [ME, fr MF *estraié* wandering, fr *estraiier* to stray – more at STRAY]

**\*astride** /ə'striːd/ *adv* with the legs wide apart

**\*astride** *prep* **1** on or above and with 1 leg on each side of **2** extending over or across; spanning

**\*astringent** /ə'striŋ(ə)nt/ *adj* **1** capable of making firm the soft tissues of the body; styptic **2** rigidly severe; austere [prob fr MF, fr L *astringent-*, *astringens*, prp of *astringere* to bind fast, fr *ad-* + *stringere* to bind tight – more at STRAIN] – **astringency** *n*, **astringently** *adv*

**\*astringent** *n* an astringent substance

**astro-** – see ASTR-

**astrolabe** /'astroːləb/ *n* an instrument used, before the invention of the sextant, to observe the position of celestial bodies [ME, fr MF & ML; MF, fr ML *astrolabium*, fr LGk *astrolabion*, dim of Gk *astrolabos*, fr *astr-* + *labanein* to take – more at LATCH]


**astrology** /ə'strɒlədʒi/ *n* the art or practice of determining the supposed influences of the planets on human affairs [ME *astrologie*, fr MF, fr L *astrologia*, fr Gk, fr *astr-* + *-logia* -logy] – **astrologer** /ə'strɒlədʒə/ *n*, **astrological** /'astroːlədʒɪk/ *adj*, **astrologically** *adv*


**astronaut** /'astroːnawt/ *n* sby who travels beyond the earth's atmosphere [*astr-* + *-naut* (as in *aeronaut*)]

**astronautics** /'astroːnawtuks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the science of the construction and operation of vehicles for travel in space – **astronautic**, **astronautical** *adj*, **astronautically** *adv*

**astronomer** /ə'strɒnəmə/ *n* sby who is skilled in or practises astronomy

**astronomical** /'astroːnomɪkl/, **astronomic** /-'nɒmɪk/ *adj* enormously or inconceivably large – *infrm* [ASTRONOMY + *-ICAL*] – **astronomically** *adv*

**astronomical 'unit** *n* a unit of length used in astronomy, equal to the mean distance of the earth from the sun or about 149,600,000km (about 93 million mi)  PHYSICS, UNIT

**astronomy** /ə'strɒnəmi/ *n* a branch of science dealing with the celestial bodies  [ME *astronomie*, fr OF, fr L *astronomia*, fr Gk, fr *astr-* + *-nomia* -nomy]

**astrophysics** /'astroh'fizɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a branch of astronomy dealing with the chemical and physical constitution of the celestial bodies [ISV] – **astrophysical** *adj*, **astrophysicist** *n*

**Astroturf** /'astroːtuːr/ *trademark* – used for an artificial grasslike surface that is used for lawns and sports fields

**astute** /ə'styuːt, ə'schoʊt/ *adj* shrewdly perspicacious [L *astutus*, fr *astus* craft] – **astutely** *adv*, **astuteness** *n*

**asunder** /ə'sʊndə/ *adv* or *adj* **1** into parts (*torn ~*) **2** apart from each other in position (*wide ~*)


**as 'yet** *adv* up to this or that time

**asylum** /ə'sɪləzm/ *n* **1** a place of refuge for criminals, debtors, etc; a sanctuary **2** a place of retreat and security, a shelter **3a** the protection from the law or refuge afforded by an asylum **b** protection from arrest and extradition given by a nation to political refugees **4** an institution for the care of the destitute or afflicted, esp the insane [ME, fr L, fr Gk *asylon*, neut of *asylōs* inviolable, fr *a-* + *sylon* right of seizure]

**asymmetric** /ə'sɪmɪtrɪk/, **asymmetrical** /-kl/ *adj* **1** not symmetrical **2** of an atom or group bonded to several different atoms or groups [Gk *asymmetria* lack of proportion, fr *asymmetros* ill-proportioned, fr *'a-* + *symmetros* symmetrical – more at SYMMETRY] – **asymmetrically** *adv*, **asymmetry** /ə'sɪmətri/ *n*


**asym, metric 'bars** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (a women's gymnastics event using) a pair of wooden bars supported horizontally one 1.5m (about 5ft) and the other 2.3m (about 7ft 6in) above the floor, usu with a common base

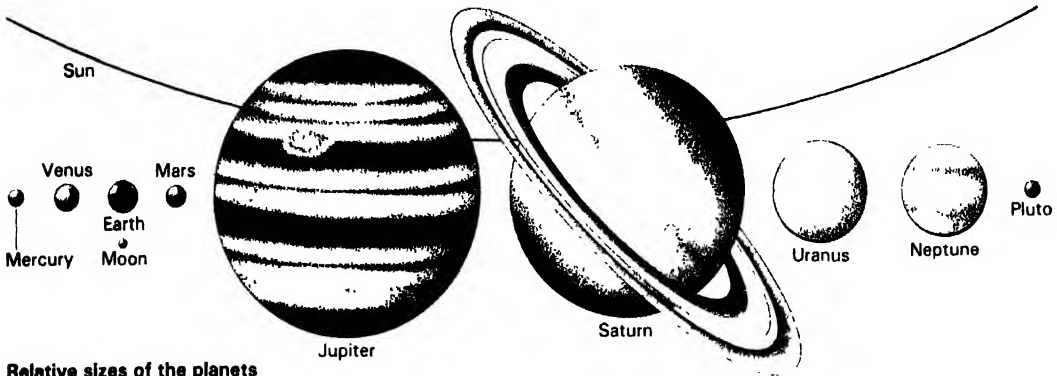
**asymptomatic** /ə'sɪmptə'matɪk/ *adj* presenting no symptoms of disease – **asymptomatically** *adv*

**asymptote** /ə'sɪmptəɪt/ *n* a straight line that is approached more and more closely by a curve but not met by it  MATHEMATICS [prob fr (assumed) NL *asymptotus*, fr Gk *asymptōtos*, fr *asymptotos* not meeting, fr *'a-* + *sympiptein* to meet – more at SYMPTOM] – **asymptotic** /-'tɒtɪk/ *adj*, **asymptotically** *adv*

**asynchrony** /ə'sɪŋkrəni/, **asynchronism** /-,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* an absence or lack of concurrence in time [*'a-* + *synchrony*] – **asynchronous** /-krənə/ *adj*, **asynchronously** *adv*

**'at** /ət, strong at/ *prep* **1** – used to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or near a place imagined as a point (< ~ a hotel> [*sick ~ heart*]; compare in 1a(3)) **2** – used to indicate the goal or direction of an action or motion (<aim ~ the target>), compare to 1 **3a** – used to indicate occupation or employment (< ~ the controls>) (< tea> **b** when it comes to (an occupation or employment) (<an expert ~ chess>) **4** – used to indicate situation or condition (< ~ liberty>) (< ~ risk>) **5** in response to (<laugh ~ his jokes>) **6** – used to indicate position on a scale (e.g. of cost, speed, or age) (< ~ 90 mph>) **7** – used to indicate position in time (< ~ 3 o'clock>) (< ~ weekends>) **8** from a distance of (<shot him ~ 30 paces>) [ME, fr OE *æt*; akin to OHG *az* at, L *ad*] – **at** as a result of only 1; by or during only 1 (<drank it at a gulp>) (<reduce prices at a stroke>) (<2 at a time>) – **at** it doing it; esp busy (<been hard at it all day>) – **at that** **1** at that point and no further (<let it go at that>) **2** which makes it more surprising; IN ADDITION (<she says sack him, and maybe I will at that>)

**'at** /aht/ *n, pl* at  Laos at NATIONALITY [Siamese]



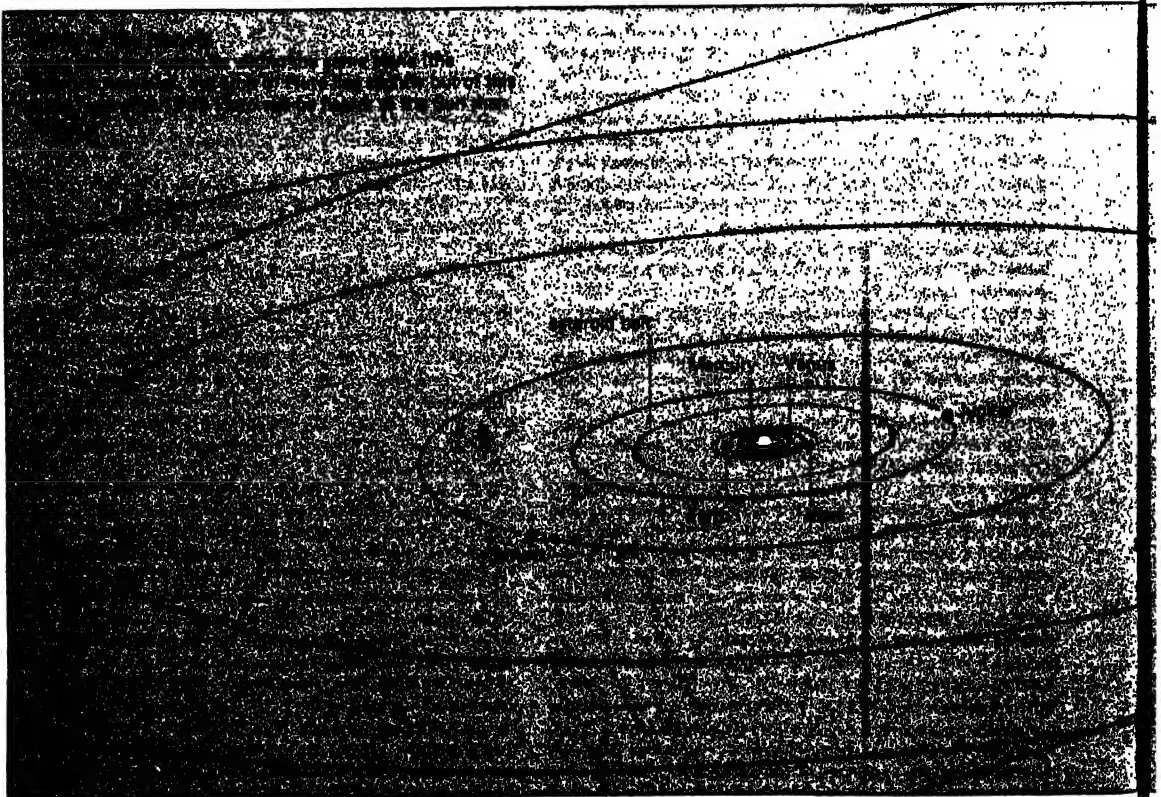
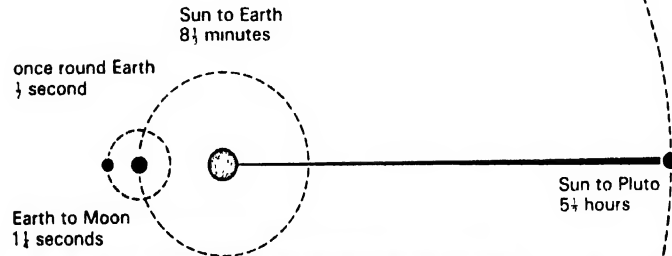
Relative sizes of the planets

### Scale of space

Outside the solar system, the kilometre is too small a unit for distance measurement – even the nearest star is 40 million million km away. Astronomers instead use units based on the time it takes light to travel the distance. Earth–Moon is thus a distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  light-seconds; Sun–Earth  $8\frac{1}{2}$  light-minutes. Star and galaxy distances are measured in *light-years*: one light-year is 9.5 million million km.

\* light from this galaxy was setting out when the Earth and solar system were being born

Light travels at 300,000 km/sec



### Planets

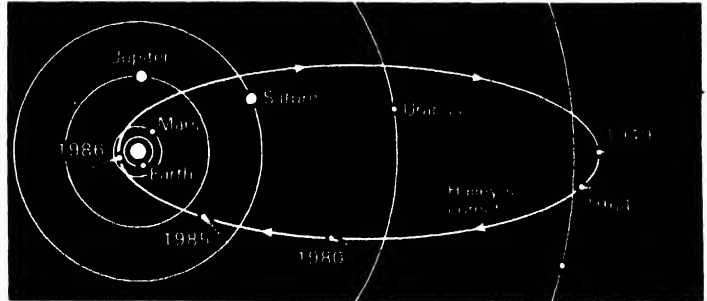
The Earth is one of nine planets orbiting the Sun. The four planets nearest the Sun are relatively small and rocky, like the Earth. The outer planets are huge globes of compressed gases – chiefly hydrogen, helium, methane, and ammonia. The outermost planet, Pluto, is a small solid icy world. Saturn's rings consist of billions of small ice blocks only a metre across, independently orbiting the planet; Jupiter and Uranus have rings too faint to be seen from Earth.

planet	diameter relative to earth	mean distance from Sun (million km)	number of satellites (moons)	period of revolution	period of rotation
Mercury	0.4	58		88 days	59 days
Venus	0.96	108		225 days	243 days
Earth	1	149	1	365 days	24 hrs
Mars	0.5	228	2	687 days	24½ hrs
Jupiter	11.2	778	15	11.9 yrs	10 hrs
Saturn	9.5	1430	21	29.5 yrs	10½ hrs
Uranus	3.9	2870	5	84 yrs	16 hrs
Neptune	3.5	4500	2	164.8 yrs	18 hrs
Pluto	0.3	5910	1	247.7 yrs	6½ days

### Comets

A comet is a block of ice and dust about 10 km in diameter, following a very elongated orbit. As it approaches the Sun, the ice evaporates and can grow into a spectacular tail.

name	period of revolution about Sun (years)	closest approach to Sun (millions of kilometres)	farthest point from Sun (millions of kilometres)
Encke	3.3	51	610
Halley	76	88	5,300
Ikeya-Seki	75,000	1	25,000
Kohoutek	75,000	21	500,000



Proxima Centauri  
4½ years

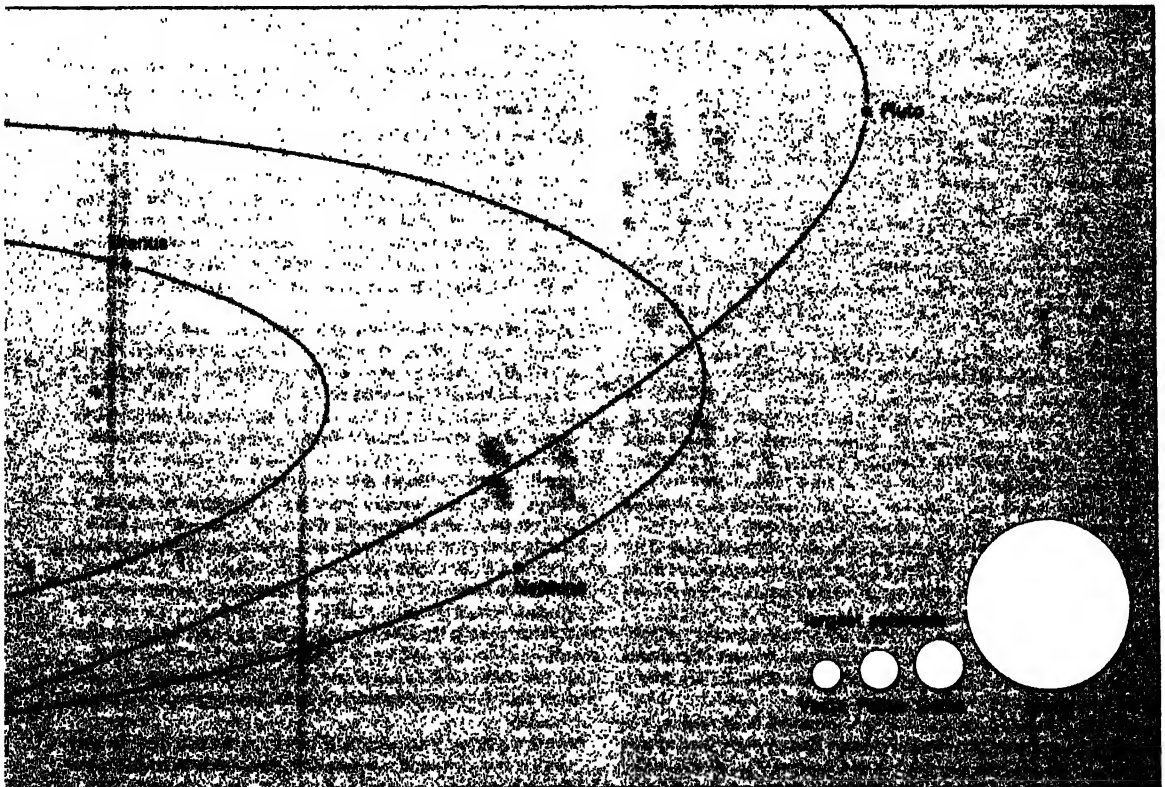
Betelgeuse  
650 years

Andromeda galaxy  
2,200,000 years

nearest quasar  
3C 273  
200,000,000 years

most distant galaxy  
5,000,000,000  
years\*

most distant quasar  
00 172  
10,000,000,000  
years







**atomic theory** *n* the theory that all material substances are composed of atoms of a relatively small number of types and all the atoms of the same type are identical

**atomic weight** *n* the ratio of the average mass of an atom of an element to the mass of an atom of the most abundantly occurring isotope of carbon

**atomism** /'atəmɪz(ə)m/ *n* a doctrine that the universe is composed of simple indivisible minute particles – **atomist** *n*

**atomistic** /atə'mɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 of atoms or atomism 2 composed of many simple elements; also divided into unconnected or antagonistic fragments (<an ~ society>) – **atomistically** *adv*

**atomize**, -ise /'atəmɪz/ *vt* to reduce to minute particles or to a fine spray – **atomization** /-ˈzayz(ə)n/ *n*

**atomizer** /'atəmɪzə/ *n* an instrument for atomizing usu a perfume or disinfectant

**atonal** /'atəʊnl, ay-/ *adj* organized without reference to a musical key and using the notes of the chromatic scale impartially ['a- + tonal] – **atonalism** *n*, **atonalist** *n*, **atonally** *adv*, **atonalistic** /'atəʊnəlɪstɪk, ay-/ *adj*, **atonality** *n* /'atəʊnəlɪti, ay-/

**atone** /'atəʊn/ *vi* to supply satisfaction for, make amends for (<the atoning death of Christ>) [ME *atonen* to become reconciled, fr *at on* in harmony, fr *at* + *on* one]

**atonement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 often *cap* the expiation of mankind's original sin through the death of Christ 2 reparation for an offence or injury, satisfaction [ATONE + -MENT]

**atonic** /'atəʊnɪk, a-/ *adj* 1 characterized by atony 2 not accented – **atonicity** /'atəʊnɪsəti, ay-/ *n*


**atony** /'atəni/ *n* lack, esp by a contractile organ, of physiological tone [LL *atonia*, fr Gk, fr *atonia* without tone, fr *a-* + *tonos* tone]

**atopy** /'atəpi/ *n* a prob hereditary tendency to asthma, hay fever, urticaria, and other allergies [Gk *atopia* uncommonness, fr *atopos* out of the way, uncommon, fr *a-* + *topos* place] – **atopic** /'aytəpɪk/ *adj*

**-ator** /-aya/ *suffix* (- *n*) 'atōr <commentator> [ME *-atour*, fr OF & L, OF, fr L *-ator*, fr *-atus* -ate + -or]

**ATP** *n* a derivative of adenine that is reversibly converted, esp to ADP, with the release of the cellular energy required for many metabolic reactions [adenosine triphosphate]

**atresia** /'treeziə, -zh(yə)/ *n* absence or closure of a natural body passage (e.g. the anus) [NL, fr 'a- + Gk *tresis* perforation, fr *tetrasin* to pierce – more at THROW]

**atrium** /'atrɪ-əm, 'ay-/ *n*, *pl* **atria** /'atrɪ-ə, 'ay-/ also **atriums** 1 an inner courtyard open to the sky (e.g. in a Roman house) 2 an anatomical cavity or passage, specif a chamber of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into a ventricle or ventricles  ANATOMY [(1) L, (2) NL, fr L] – **atrial** *adj*

**atrocious** /'atrəʊʃəs/ *adj* 1 extremely wicked, brutal, or cruel, barbaric 2 of very poor quality (< ~ handwriting>) [L *atrox*, *atrox* gloomy, atrocious, fr *atr-*, *ater* black + -*ox*, -*ox* (akin to Gk *ops* eye) – more at EYE] – **atrociously** *adv*, **atrociousness** *n*

**atrocly** /'atrəʊsəli/ *n* 1 being atrocious 2 an atrocious act, object, or situation

**atrophy** /'atrəfi/ *n* 1 (sometimes natural) decrease in size or wasting away of a body part or tissue 2 a wasting away or progressive decline, degeneration [LL *atrophia*, fr Gk, fr *atrophos* ill fed, fr *a-* + *trephain* to nourish; akin to Gk *thrombos* clot, curd] – **atrophic** /'atrəfɪk/ *adj*

**atrophy** *vb* to (cause to) undergo atrophy

**atropine** /'atrəpien, -pi:n/ *n* an alkaloid found in deadly nightshade and used in medicine to inhibit the parasympathetic nervous system [G *atropin*, fr NL *Atropa*, genus name of belladonna, fr Gk *Atropa*, one of the 3 mythical Fates]

**attaboy** /'ata,boɪ/ *interj*, chiefly *NAm* – used to encourage, or express admiration [alter. of *that's the boy*]

**attach** /'ətʌtʃ/ *vt* 1 to seize by legal authority 2 to bring (oneself) into an association 3 to appoint to serve with an organization for special duties or for a temporary period 4 to fasten 5 to ascribe, attribute ~ *vi* to become attached; stick *USE* often + *to* [ME *attachen*, fr MF *attacher*, fr OF *estachier*, fr *estache* stake, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *staca* stake] – **attachable** *adj*

**attaché** /'ətʌʃeɪ/ *n* a technical expert on a diplomatic staff [F, pp of *attacher*]

**attaché case** *n* a small thin case used esp for carrying papers

**attached** *adj* feeling affection or liking

**attachment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 a seizure by legal process 2a fidelity – often + *to* (< ~ to a cause>) b an affectionate regard 3 a device attached to a

machine or implement 4 the physical connection by which one thing is attached to another [ATTACH + -MENT]

**attack** /'ətæk/ *vi* 1 to set upon forcefully in order to damage, injure, or destroy 2 to take the initiative against in a game or contest 3 to assail with unfriendly or bitter words 4 to begin to affect or to act on injuriously 5 to set to work on, esp vigorously ~ *vi* to make an attack [MF *attaquer*, fr (assumed) Olt *estaccare* to attach, fr *stacca* stake, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *staca*] – **attacker** *n*

**attack** *n* 1 the act of attacking, an assault 2 a belligerent or antagonistic action or verbal assault – often + *on* 3 the beginning of destructive action (e.g. by a chemical agent) 4 the setting to work on some undertaking 5 a fit of sickness or (recurrent) disease 6a an attempt to score or to gain ground in a game b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the attacking players in a team or the positions occupied by them, specif the bowlers in a cricket team (<the Yorkshire ~ gave nothing away>) 7 the act or manner of beginning a musical tone or phrase (<a sharp ~>)

**attain** /'əteɪn/ *vt* to reach as an end, achieve ~ *vi* to come or arrive by motion, growth, or effort – + *to* [ME *atteynen*, fr OF *ataindre*, fr (assumed) VL *attangere*, fr L *attingere*, fr *ad-* + *tangere* to touch – more at TANGENT] – **attainable** *adj*, **attainableness**, **attainability** /'əteɪnə'bɪləti/ *n*

**attainder** /'əteɪnda/ *n* a penalty enforced until 1870 by which sby sentenced to death or outlawry forfeited his/her property and civil rights [ME *attaynder*, fr MF *ataindre* to accuse, attain]

**attainment** /'əteɪnmənt/ *n* sthg attained, an accomplishment [ATTAIN + -MENT]

**attar** /'atə/ *n* a fragrant essential oil (e.g. from rose petals), also a fragrance [Per *'atir* perfumed, fr Ar, fr *'itr* perfume]

**attempt** /'ətempt/ *vt* to make an effort to do, accomplish, solve, or effect, esp without success [L *attemptare*, fr *ad-* + *temptare* to touch, try – more at TEMPT] – **attemptable** *adj*

**attempt** *n* 1 the act or an instance of attempting, esp an unsuccessful effort 2 an attack, assault – often + *on*

**attend** /'ətend/ *vi* 1 to take charge of; LOOK AFTER 2 to go or stay with as a companion, nurse, or servant 3 to be present with, accompany, escort 4 to be present at ~ *vi* 1a to apply oneself (< ~ to your work>) b to deal with 2 to apply the mind or pay attention, heed *USE* – often + *to* [ME *attenden*, fr OF *atendre*, fr L *attendere*, lit , to stretch to, fr *ad-* + *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **attender** *n*

**attendance** /'ətend(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the number of people attending 2 the number of times a person attends, usu out of a possible maximum [ATTEND + -ANCE]

**attendance centre** *n* a centre at which a young offender is obliged to attend regularly instead of going to prison

**attendant** /'ətend(ə)nt/ *adj* accompanying or following as a consequence

**attendant** *n* one who attends another to perform a service, esp an employee who waits on customers (<a car park ~>)

**attention** /'ətens(ə)n/ *n* 1 attending, esp through application of the mind to an object of sense or thought 2 consideration with a view to action 3a an act of civility or courtesy, esp in courtship – usu *pl* b sympathetic consideration of the needs and wants of others 4 a formal position of readiness assumed by a soldier – usu as a command [ME *attencioun*, fr L *attention-*, *attentio*, fr *attentus*, pp of *attendere*] – **attentional** *adj*

**attention span** *n* the length of time during which an individual is able to concentrate

**attentive** /'ətentɪv/ *adj* 1 mindful, observant 2 solicitous 3 paying attentions (as if) in the role of a suitor – **attentively** *adv*, **attentiveness** *n*

**attenuate** /'ətenyoʊəɪt/ *vt* 1 to make thin 2 to lessen the amount, force, or value of, weaken 3 to reduce the severity, virulence, or vitality of ~ *vi* to become thin or fine, diminish [L *attenuatus*, pp of *attenuare* to make thin, fr *ad-* + *tenuis* thin – more at THIN] – **attenuation** /'ətenyoʊəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**attenuate** *adj* tapering gradually (<an ~ leaf>)  PLANT

**attenuator** /'ətenyoʊəɪtə/ *n* a device for attenuating, esp one for reducing the amplitude of an electrical signal

**attest** /'ətest/ *vt* 1a to affirm to be true b to authenticate esp officially 2 to be proof of; bear witness to 3 to put on oath ~ *vi* to bear witness, testify – often + *to* [MF *attester*, fr L *attestari*, fr *ad-* + *testis* witness – more at TESTAMENT] – **attester** *n*, **attestation** /'ate'stəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**attic** /'atɪk/ *n* a room or space immediately below the roof of a building [F *attique* low storey or wall above an entablature, fr *attaque* of Attica,



fr L *Atticus*; fr the use of this feature in the Attic order of architecture]

**Attic** *adj* (characteristic) of Attica or Athens [L *Atticus*, fr Gk *Attikos*, fr *Attikē* Attica, state of ancient Greece]

**Attic** *n* a Greek dialect of ancient Attica which became the literary language of the Greek-speaking world

**attire** /ə'tiə-/ *vt* to put garments on; dress, array; *esp* to clothe in fancy or rich garments [ME *attiren*, fr OF *attirer*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *tire* order, rank, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *tir* glory, akin to L *deus* god – more at DEITY]

**attire** *n* dress, clothes; *esp* splendid or decorative clothing

**attitude** /ˈætiʊhʊd/ *n* 1 the arrangement of the parts of a body or figure; a posture 2 a feeling, emotion, or mental position with regard to a fact or state 3 a manner assumed for a specific purpose 4 a ballet position in which one leg is raised at the back and bent at the knee 5 the position of an aircraft or spacecraft relative to a particular point of reference (e.g. the horizon) [F, fr It *attitudine*, fr *attitudine* aptitude, fr LL *aptitudin-*, *aptitudo* fitness, fr L *aptus* fit – more at API] – **attitudinal** /ˈtiʊhʊdnəl/ *adj*

**attitudin-ize**, -ise /ˈætiʊhʊdɪnɪz-/ *vi* to assume an affected mental attitude; pose

**atto-** *comb form* one million million millionth (10<sup>-18</sup>) part of [attogram] → PHYSICS [ISV, fr Dan or Norw *atten* eighteen, fr ON *atján*; akin to OE *cahtatiene* eighteen]

**attorney** /ə'tuːni/ *n* 1 sby with legal authority to act for another 2 *NAM* a lawyer [ME *attorney*, fr MF *atorné*, pp of *atorner* to agree to become tenant to a new owner of the same property, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *torner* to turn] – **attorneyship** /-ˌʃɪp/ *n*

**attorney general** *n*, *pl attorneys general*, *attorney generals* *often cap* A&G the chief legal officer of a nation or state

**attract** /ə'trækt/ *vt* to cause to approach or adhere. e.g. a to pull to or towards oneself or itself <a magnet ~s iron> b to draw by appeal to interest, emotion, or aesthetic sense <~ attention> ~*vi* to possess or exercise the power of attracting sthg or sby <opposites ~> [ME *attrahen*, fr L *attractus*, pp of *attrahere*, fr *ad-* + *trahere* to draw – more at DRAW] – **attractable** *adj*, **attractor** *n*, **attractive** *adj*, **attractively** *adv*, **attractiveness** *n*

**attractant** /ə'trækt(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (a pheromone or other substance) that attracts sthg, *esp* insects

**attraction** /ə'trækʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a characteristic that elicits interest or admiration – *usu* *pl* 2 the action or power of drawing forth a response (e.g. interest or affection); an attractive quality 3 a force between unlike electric charges, unlike magnetic poles, etc, resisting separation 4 sthg that attracts or is intended to attract people by appealing to their desires and tastes [ATTRACT + -ION]

**attribute** /ə'tribjuːt/ *n* 1 an inherent characteristic 2 an object closely associated with a usu specified person, thing, or office 3 a subordinate word or phrase that grammatically limits the meaning of another; *esp* an adjective [ME, fr L *attributus*, pp of *attribuere* to attribute, fr *ad-* + *tribuere* to bestow – more at TRIBUTE]

**attribute** /ə'tribjuːt/ *vt* to reckon as originating in an indicated fashion – *usu* + *to* – **attributable** *adj*, **attributer** *n*, **attribution** /ə'tribjuːʃ(ə)n/ *n* – **attribute** to 1 to explain by indicating as a cause 2 to regard as a characteristic of (a person or thing)

**attributive** /ə'tribjuːtɪv/ *adj* 1 relating to or of the nature of an attribute 2 directly preceding a modified noun (e.g. *city* in *city streets*) – compare PREDICATIVE – **attributive** *n*, **attributively** *adv*

**attrition** /ə'trɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sorrow for one's sins arising from fear of punishment – compare CONTRITION 2 the act of rubbing together; friction; also the act of wearing or grinding down by friction 3 the act of weakening or exhausting by constant harassment or abuse <war of ~> [L *attritio-*, *attritio*, fr *attritus*, pp of *atterere* to rub against, fr *ad-* + *terere* to rub – more at THROW; (1) ME *attricioun*, fr (assumed) ML *attrition-*, *attritio*, fr L] – **attritional** *adj*

**attune** /ə'tjuːn/ *vt* to bring into harmony; tune – **attunement** *n*

**atypical** /ə'tɪpɪkəl/ *adj* not typical, irregular – **atypically** *adv*, **atypicality** /ə'tɪpɪkəlɪti/ *n*

**aubade** /əʊbəʊd/ *n* a love song or poem associated with morning [F, fr (assumed) OProv *aubada*, fr OProv *alba*, *auba* dawn, fr (assumed) VL *alba*, fr L, fem of *albus* white]

**aubergine** /əʊbəʊʒiːn, -ʒen/ 1 (the edible usu smooth dark purple ovoid fruit of) the eggplant 2 a deep reddish purple colour [F, fr Catal *alberginia*, fr Ar *al-bādhinjān* the eggplant, fr *al* the + *bādhinjān* eggplant, fr Per *bādingan*]

**aubrietia** /əʊˈbrɪeɪʃə/ *n* any of various trailing spring-flowering rock

plants of the mustard family [NL, genus name, fr Claude Aubriet †1742 F painter of flowers & animals]

**auburn** /ˈaʊbən/ *adj* or *n* (of) a reddish brown colour [adj ME *auborne* blond, fr MF, fr ML *alburnus* whitish, fr L *albus*; *n* fr adj]

**au courant** /əʊ kooʃə'ronh (Fr o kurə)/ *adj* 1 fully informed, up-to-date 2 fully familiar; conversant [F, lit., in the current]

**auction** /ˈɔːkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a public sale of property to the highest bidder – compare PRIVATE TREATY 2 the act or process of bidding in some card games [L *auktion-*, *auctio*, lit., increase, fr *auctus*, pp of *augere* to increase – more at EKE OUT]

**auction** *vt* to sell at an auction – often + *off* <~ed off the silver>

**auction bridge** *n* a form of bridge differing from contract bridge in that tricks made in excess of the contract are scored towards game

**auctioneer** /ˈɔːkʃ(ə)nɪə/ *n* an agent who sells goods at an auction – **auctioneer** *vt*

**audacious** /əʊˈdæʃ(ə)s/ *adj* 1a intrepidly daring; adventurous b recklessly bold; rash 2 insolent [MF *audaceux*, fr *audace* boldness, fr L *audacia*, fr *audac-*, *audax* bold, fr *audere* to dare, fr *avidus* eager – more at AVID] – **audaciously** *adv*, **audaciousness** *n*, **audacity** /əʊˈdæsɪti/ *n*

**audible** /ˈɔːdəbl/ *adj* heard or capable of being heard [LL *audibilis*, fr L *audire* to hear; akin to Gk *aisthanesthai* to perceive, Skt *avis* evidently] – **audibly** *adv*, **audibility** /ˈɔːdəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**audience** /ˈɔːdiəns/ *n* 1a a formal hearing or interview <an ~ with the pope> b an opportunity of being heard <the court refused him ~> 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a group of listeners or spectators [ME, fr MF, fr L *audientia*, fr *audient-*, *audiens*, prp of *audire*]

**audio** /ˈɔːdiəʊ/ *adj* 1 of or being acoustic, mechanical, or electrical frequencies corresponding to those of audible sound waves, approx 20 to 20,000Hz 2a of sound or its reproduction, *esp* high-fidelity reproduction b relating to or used in the transmission or reception of sound – compare VIDEO [audio-]

**audio** *n* the transmission, reception, or reproduction of sound

**audio-** *comb form* 1 hearing <audiometer> 2 sound <audiophile> 3 auditory and <audiovisual> [L *audire* to hear]

**audiology** /ˈɔːdiˌɒləʒi/ *n* the biology of hearing – **audiologist** *n*, **audiological** /ˈɔːdiˌɒləˌdʒɪkəl/ *adj*

**audiometer** /ˈɔːdiˌɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the sharpness of hearing – **audiometry** /-trɪ/ *n*, **audiometric** /ˈɔːdiˌɒmɪtrɪk/ *adj*

**audiophile** /ˈɔːdiˌɒfiəl/ *n* sby with a keen interest in the reproduction of sounds, *esp* music from high-fidelity broadcasts or recordings

**audiovisual** /ˈɔːdiˌɒvɪʒ(h)yoʊəl/ *adj* of (teaching methods using) both hearing and sight

**audit** /ˈɔːdɪt/ *n* (the final report on) a formal or official examination and verification of an account book [ME, fr L *auditus* act of hearing, fr *auditus*, pp]

**audit** *vt* to perform an audit on – **auditable** *adj*

**audition** /ˈɔːdɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the power or sense of hearing 2 the act of hearing, *esp* a critical hearing 3 a trial performance to appraise an entertainer's abilities [MF or L; MF, fr L *audition-*, *audito*, fr *auditus*, pp of *audire* to hear]

**audition** *vt* to test (e.g. for a part) in an audition ~*vi* to give a trial performance – *usu* + *for*

**auditive** /ˈɔːdɪtɪv/ *adj* auditory

**auditor** /ˈɔːdɪtə/ *n* 1 one who hears or listens, *esp* a member of an audience 2 one authorized to perform an audit

**auditorium** /ˈɔːdiˌtɔːri-əm/ *n*, *pl auditoria* /-ri-ə/, **auditoriums** the part of a public building where an audience sits [L, fr *auditus*, pp]

**auditory** /ˈɔːdɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of or experienced through hearing [LL *auditorius*, fr L *auditus*, pp]

**au fait** /əʊ ˈfay/ *adj* 1 fully competent; capable 2 fully informed; familiar with [F, lit., to the point]

**auf Wiedersehen** /ˈɔːf ˈveedəzən (Ger ˈɔːf ˈviːdɔːzən)/ *interj* – used to express farewell [G, lit., till seeing again]

**Augean stable** /əʊˈʒiːən/ *n* a very filthy or corrupt condition or place – *usu* *pl* with sing meaning [Augean fr L *Aegaeus*, legendary King of Elis in Greece, fr Gk *Aegaeus*; fr the legend that his stable was uncleared for 30 years until Hercules cleaned it]

**auger** /ˈɔːɡə/ *n* 1 a tool for boring holes in wood consisting of a shank with a central tapered screw and a pair of cutting lips with projecting spurs that cut the edge of the hole – compare GIMLET 2 any of various instruments or devices shaped like an auger [ME, alter (by incorrect division of a *nauger*) of *nauger*, fr OE *nafoġar*; akin to OHG *nabugēr* auger; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *nafe* nave & *ġar* spear]

- 'aught** /awt/ *pron* 1 all (<for ~ I care>) 2 archaic anything [ME, fr OE *awiht*, fr *a* ever + *wiht* creature, thing – more at **'AYE**]
- 'aught** *n* a zero, cipher [alter. (by incorrect division of *a naught*) of *naught*]
- 'augment** /awg'ment/ *vi* to become greater, increase ~ *vt* 1 to make greater, more numerous, larger, or more intense 2 to add an augment to [ME *augmenten*, fr MF *augmenter*, fr LL *augmentare*, fr *augmentum* increase, fr *augere* to increase – more at **EKE OUT**] – **augmentable** *adj.*, **augmenter**, **augmentor** *n.*, **augmentation** /awgmen'taysh(ə)n/ *n*
- 'augment** /awg'ment/ *n* a prefixed or lengthened initial vowel marking past tense, esp in Greek and Sanskrit verbs
- augmentative** /awg'mentativ/ *adj* 1 able to augment 2 of a word or affix indicating large size and sometimes awkwardness – **augmentative** *n*
- augmented** *adj.* of a musical interval made a semitone greater than major or perfect
- au gratin** /,əh'gratɪn (Fr o grātē)/ *adj* covered with breadcrumbs or grated cheese and browned under a grill [F, lit., with the burnt scrapings from the pan]
- 'augur** /awgə/ *n* one held to foretell events by omens; a soothsayer, *specif* an official diviner of Ancient Rome [L, prob akin to L *augere* to increase]
- 'augur** *vt* 1 to foretell, esp from omens 2 to give promise of, presage ~ *vi* to predict the future, esp from omens
- augury** /awgyuən/ *n* 1 predicting the future from omens or portents 2 an omen, portent
- august** /aw'gʌst/ *adj* marked by majestic dignity or grandeur [L *augustus*; akin to L *augere* to increase] – **augustly** *adv.*, **augustness** *n*
- August** /aw'gʌst/ *n* the 8th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME, fr OE, fr L *Augustus*, fr *Augustus* Caesar † AD 14 1st Roman emperor]
- Augustan** /aw'gʌst(ə)n/ *adj* (characteristic) of a the age of Augustus Caesar b the neoclassical period in English literature – **Augustan** *n*
- 'Augustinian** /aw'gʌstɪniən/ *adj* of St Augustine of Hippo, his doctrines, or any of the monastic orders claiming descent from his precepts [St Augustine †430 Numidian church father & Bishop of Hippo] – **Augustinianism** *n*
- 'Augustinian** *n* a member of an Augustinian order; *specif* a friar of the Hermits of St Augustine founded in 1256 and devoted to educational, missionary, and parish work
- auk** /awk/ *n* a puffin, guillemot, razorbill, or related short-necked diving seabird of the northern hemisphere [Norw & Icel *alk*, *alka*, fr ON *alka*, akin to L *olor* swan]
- auld** /awld/ *adj*, chiefly Scot old [ME (northern), var of ME *ald*, fr OE *cald* old – more at **OLD**]
- auld lang 'syne** /lang 'sɪən, often zɪən/ *n* the good old times [Sc, lit., old long ago]
- au naturel** /,əh natyoo'rel/ *adj* 1 in natural style or condition 2 uncooked or cooked plainly 3 naked – euph [F]
- auht** /ahnt/ *n* 1a the sister of one's father or mother b the wife of one's uncle 2 – often used as a term of affection for a woman who is a close friend of a young child or its parents [ME, fr OF *ante*, fr L *amita*; akin to OHG *amma* mother, nurse, Gk *amma* nurse]
- auntie**, **aunt** /'ahntɪ/ *n* an aunt – *informal*
- Aunt Sally** /'sali/ *n* 1 an effigy of a woman at which objects are thrown at a fair 2 Br an easy target of criticism or attack
- 'au pair** /,əh 'peə/ *n* a foreign girl who does domestic work for a family in return for room and board and the opportunity to learn the language of the family [F, on even terms]
- 'au pair** *vi* to work as an au pair
- aur-** /awr-, *auri-* *comb form* 1 ear <aural> <auriscope> 2 aural and <auronasal> [L, fr *auris* – more at **'EAR**]
- aura** /awrə/ *n* 1 a distinctive atmosphere surrounding a given source 2 a luminous radiation, a nimbus 3 a sensation experienced before an attack of a brain disorder, esp epilepsy [ME, fr L, air, breeze, fr Gk, akin to Gk *aēr* air]
- aural** /awrəl/ *adj* of the ear or the sense of hearing – **aurally** *adv*
- aurar** /owrah/ *pl* of **EYRIR**  Iceland at **NATIONALITY**
- aureole** /aw'riəhl/, **aureola** /aw'ree-ə-lə, -ə-/ *n* 1 a radiant light surrounding the head or body of a representation of a holy figure – compare **NIMBUS** 2 the halo surrounding the sun, moon etc when seen through thin cloud [ME *aureole* heavenly crown worn by saints, fr ML *aureola*, fr L, fem of *aureolus* golden – more at **ORIOLE**] – **aureole** *vt*
- au revoir** /,əh rə'vwəh (Fr o rəvwə:r)/ *n* goodbye – often used interjectionally [F, lit., till seeing again]
- auric** /aw'rik/ *adj* of or derived from (trivalent) gold [L *aurum* gold – more at **ORIOLE**]
- auricle** /aw'rikəl/ *n* 1a PINNA 2 b an atrium of the heart – not now in technical use 2 an ear-shaped lobe [L *auricula*, fr dim of *auris* ear]
- auricular** /aw'rikyoolə/ *adj* 1 of or using the ear or the sense of hearing 2 told privately <an ~ confession> 3 understood or recognized by the sense of hearing 4 of an auricle
- auriferous** /aw'rifərəs/ *adj* gold-bearing [L *aurifer*, fr *aurum* + *-fer* -ferous]
- Aurignacian** /aw'rig'naysh(ə)n/ *adj* of an Upper Palaeolithic culture characterized by finely made artefacts of stone and bone, cave paintings, and engravings [F *aurignacien*, fr *Aurignac*, village in France]
- urochs** /aw'rɔks/ *n, pl* **urochs** an extinct European ox held to be a wild ancestor of domestic cattle [G, fr OHG *urohso*, fr *ūro* urochs + *ohso* ox, akin to OE *ūr* urochs – more at **OX**]
- aurora** /aw'rawrə/ *n, pl* **auroras**, **aurorae** /-n/ dawn [L – more at **EAST**] – **auroral** *adj.*, **aurorean** /-ri-ən/ *adj*
- aurora australis** /aw'strahlɪs/ *n* a phenomenon in the S hemisphere corresponding to the aurora borealis [NL, lit., southern dawn]
- aurora borealis** /baw'nahlɪs/ *n* a luminous electrical phenomenon in the N hemisphere, esp at high latitudes, that consists of streamers or arches of light in the sky [NL, lit., northern dawn]
- aurous** /aw'rɔs/ *adj* of or containing (univalent) gold [ISV, fr L *aurum* gold – more at **ORIOLE**]
- auscultation** /aw'skʌltə'taysh(ə)n/ *n* the act of listening to the heart, lungs, etc as a medical diagnostic aid [L *auscultation*-, *auscultatio* act of listening, fr *auscultatus*, pp of *auscultare* to listen, akin to L *auris* ear – more at **'EAR**] – **auscultate** /aw'skʌlt, tayt/ *vt*
- auspice** /aw'spɪs/ *n* 1 a (favourable) prophetic sign 2 pl kindly patronage and guidance [L *auspiciūm*, fr *auspic*-, *auspex* diviner by birds, fr *avis* bird + *specere* to look, look at – more at **AVIARY**, **SPY**]
- auspicious** /aw'spɪʃ(ə)s/ *adj* 1 affording a favourable auspice, propitious 2 attended by good auspices, prosperous – **auspiciously** *adv.*, **auspiciousness** *n*
- Aussie** /'ɔ:zi/ *n* an Australian – *informal* [Australian + *-ie*]
- austere** /aw'stiə, 'ɔ:stiə/ *adj* 1 stern and forbidding in appearance and manner 2 rigidly abstemious; self-denying 3 unadorned, simple [ME, fr MF, fr L *austerus*, fr Gk *austeros* harsh, severe; akin to Gk *hauros* dry] – **austerely** *adv.*, **austereness** *n*
- austerly** /aw'steriəli, -i/ *n* 1 an austere act, manner, or attitude 2 enforced or extreme economy
- Austin** /'ostɪn/ *adj* or *n* Augustinian [ME *Austyn*, modif of LL *Augustinus* Augustine]
- 'Austr-, Austro-** *comb form* south, southern (<Austroasiatic>) [ME *austr-*, fr L, fr *Austr-*, *Auster* south wind, akin to L *aurora* dawn – more at **EAST**]
- 'Austr-, Austro-** *comb form* Austrian and (<Austro-Hungarian>) [prob fr NL, fr *Austria*]
- austral** /aw'strəl/ *adj* southern
- Australasian** /'ɔ:strelayz(ə)n, also aw-/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Australasia [Australasia, islands of the S & central Pacific, fr F *Australasie*]
- Australia Day** /'ɔ:strelayz/; also aw-/ *n* the first Monday after January 25 observed as a national holiday in Australia in commemoration of the landing of the British at Sydney Cove in 1788
- 'Australian** /'ɔ:strelayzən, also aw-/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Australia 2 the speech of the aboriginal inhabitants of Australia  **LANGUAGE** 3 English as spoken and written in Australia [Australia, continent of the southern hemisphere]
- 'Austrelian** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Australia 2 of or being a biogeographic region that comprises Australia and the islands north of it from the Celebes eastwards, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Polynesia
- Australoid** /'ɔ:strelɔɪd/ *adj* of an ethnic group including the Australian aborigines and other peoples of southern Asia and Pacific islands [Australia + *E-oid*] – **Australoid** *n*
- australopithecine** /'ɔ:streləh'pɪθəsiən/ *adj* of extinct southern African manlike creatures with near-human teeth and a relatively small brain [deriv of L *australis* southern (fr *Austr-*, *Auster*) + Gk *pithekos* ape] – **australopithecine** *n*
- Austroasiatic** also **Austro-Asiatic** /'ɔ:strolayzi'atɪk, -ayzi-/ *adj* of or constituting a family of languages once widespread over NE India and SE Asia
- Austronesian** /'ɔ:strolneezh(ə)n/ *adj* of or constituting a family of Pacific languages including Indonesian, Melanesian, Micronesian, and Polynesian [Austronesia, islands of the southern Pacific]

- aut-, auto-** *comb form* 1 self, same one; of or by oneself <autobiography> (autodidact) 2 automatic, self-acting; self-regulating <autodyne> [Gk, fr *autos* same, -self, self]
- autarchic** /aw'tahhik/ , **autarchial** /-kl/ *adj* of or marked by autarchy
- autarchy** /aw'tahki/ *n* absolute sovereignty [Gk *autarchia*, fr *aut-* + *-archia* -archy]
- autarky** also **autarchy** /aw'tahki/ *n* national (economic) self-sufficiency and independence [G *autarkie*, fr Gk *autarkia*, fr *autarkes* self-sufficient, fr *aut-* + *arkein* to defend, suffice – more at **ARK**] – **autarkic** /aw'tahhik/, **autarkical** *adj*
- authentic** /aw'thentik/ *adj* 1 worthy of belief as conforming to fact or reality; trustworthy 2 not imaginary, false, or imitation, genuine [ME *autentik*, fr MF *autentique*, fr LL *authenticus*, fr Gk *authentikos*, fr *authentēs* perpetrator, master, fr *aut-* + *-hentes* (akin to Gk *anyen* to accomplish, Skt *sanoti* he gains)] – **authentically** *adv*, **authenticity** /aw'thentisoti/ *n*
- authenticate** /aw'thentikayt/ *vt* to (serve to) prove the authenticity of – **authenticator** *n*, **authentication** /aw'thentikaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- author** /aw'thə/, *fem* **authoress** /-res, -ris/ *n* 1a the writer of a literary work **b** (the books written by) sby whose profession is writing **2** sby or sthg that originates or gives existence; a source [ME *auctor*, fr ONF, fr L *auctor* promoter, originator, author, fr *auctus*, pp of *augere* to increase – more at **EKE OUT**] – **authorial** /aw'thawri-əl/ *adj*
- authoritarian** /aw'thornteari-ən/ *adj* of or favouring submission to authority rather than personal freedom – **authoritarian** *n*, **authoritarianism** *n*
- authoritative** /aw'thorntativ/ *adj* 1a having or proceeding from authority; official **b** entitled to credit or acceptance, conclusive **2** dictatorial, peremptory – **authoritatively** *adv*, **authoritativeness** *n*
- authority** /aw'thoriti/ *n* 1a a book, quotation, etc referred to for justification of one's opinions or actions **b** a conclusive statement or set of statements **c** an individual cited or appealed to as an expert **2a** power to require and receive submission; the right to expect obedience **b** power to influence or command **c** a right granted by sby in authority, authorization **3a** *pl* the people in command **b** persons in command; *specif* government *c* often *cap* a governmental administrative body **4a** grounds, warrant <had excellent ~ for his strange actions> **b** convincing force, weight <his strong tenor lent ~ to the performance> [ME *auctorite*, fr OF *auctorité*, fr L *auctoritas*, *auctoritas* opinion, decision, power, fr *auctor*]
- author-ize, -ise** /aw'thariez/ *vt* 1 to invest with authority or legal power, empower – often + *infin* **2** to establish (as if) by authority; sanction – **authorizer** *n*, **authorization** /-zayzh(ə)n/ *n*
- Authorized Version** *n* an English version of the Bible prepared under James I, published in 1611, and widely used by Protestants
- 'authorship** /-ship/ *n* 1 the profession or activity of writing **2** the identity of the author of a literary work <the ~ of Hamlet is not seriously disputed>
- autism** /aw'tiz(ə)m/ *n* a disorder of childhood development marked esp by inability to form relationships with other people [NL *autismus*, fr L *aut-* + *-ismus* -ism] – **autistic** /aw'tistik/ *adj*
- auto** /aw'toh/ *n, pl autos* chiefly NAM **MOTOR CAR** [short for *automobile*]
- 'auto-** – *see* **AUT**
- 'auto-** *comb form* self-propelling; automotive <autocycle> [*automobile*, *auto* (self-propelling)]
- autoantibody** /aw'toh'antibodi/ *n* an antibody that combines with a constituent of an individual's own tissues rather than with foreign matter (e.g. bacteria)
- autobahn** /aw'toh,bahn/ *n* a German motorway [G, fr *auto* car + *bahn* track, way]
- autobiography** /aw'tbie'ogrfi/ *n* the biography of a person written by him-/herself; also such writing considered as a genre – **autobiographer** *n*, **autobiographic** /aw'tbie'ə'grafik/, **autobiographical** *adj*
- autocephalous** /aw'toh'sefələs/ *adj*, esp of Eastern national churches independent of external, esp patriarchal, authority [LGk *autokephalos*, fr Gk *aut-* + *kephalē* head – more at **CEPHALIC**]
- autochthon** /aw'tokthən/ *n, pl autochthons, autochthones* /-,neez/ **1** an aborigine, native **2** an autochthonous plant, animal, etc [Gk *autochthōn*, fr *aut-* + *chthōn* earth – more at **HUMBLE**] – **autochthonism** *n*
- autochthonous** /aw'tokthənəs/ *adj* indigenous, native – compare **ALLOCHTHONOUS** – **autochthonously** *adv*, **autochthony** *n*
- 'autoclave** /aw'toklayv/ *n* an apparatus (e.g. for sterilizing) using super-
- heated steam under pressure [F, fr *aut-* + L *clavis* key – more at **CLAVICLE**]
- 'autoclave** *vt* to subject to the action of an autoclave
- autocracy** /aw'tokrəsi/ *n* government by an autocrat
- autocrat** /aw'takrat/ *n* 1 one who rules with unlimited power **2** a dictatorial person [F *autocrate*, fr Gk *autokrates* ruling by oneself, absolute, fr *aut-* + *kratos* strength, power – more at **HARD**] – **autocratic** /aw't'kratik/ *adj*, **autocratically** *adv*
- autocross** /aw'toh,kros/ *n* the sport of racing motor cars on usu grass tracks against the clock [*auto* + *cross* (country)]
- autocue** /aw'toh,kyooh/ *n* a device that enables a person (e.g. a newsreader) being televised to read a script without averting his/her eyes from the camera
- auto-da-fé** /aw'toh dah 'fay/ *n, pl autos-da-fé* /~/ the burning of a heretic, esp the ceremonial execution of sby condemned by the Spanish Inquisition [Pg *auto da fé*, lit, act of the faith]
- autodidact** /-diedakt/ *n* a person who is self-taught [Gk *autodidaktos* self-taught, fr *aut-* + *didaktos* taught, fr *didaskēin* to teach] – **autodidactic** /-dak'tik/ *adj*
- autoeroticism** /-i'rotisiz(ə)m/ *n* autoerotism
- autoerotism** /-i'erotiz(ə)m/ *n* sexual gratification obtained by oneself without the participation of another person – **autoerotic** /i'rotik/ *adj*, **autoerotically** *adv*
- autogamy** /aw'togəmi/ *n* self-fertilization [ISV] – **autogamous** *adj*
- autogenous** /aw'tojənas/, **autogenic** /aw'tə'jenik/ *adj* originating or derived from sources 'within the same individual <an ~ graft> [Gk *autogenēs*, fr *aut-* + *-genes* born, produced – more at **-GEN**] – **autogenously** /aw'tojənəsh/ *adv*
- autogiro** also **autogyro** /aw'tə'jə'roh/ *n, pl autogiros* also **autogyros** *n* an aircraft that resembles a helicopter and has a propeller for forward motion and a freely rotating horizontal rotor for lift [fr *Autogiro*, a trademark]
- autograft** /aw'tə'grahft, -graft/ *n* a transplant from one part to another part of the same body – **autograft** *vt*
- 'autograph** /aw'tə'grahf, -graf/ *n* an identifying mark, specif a person's signature, made by the individual him-/herself [LI. *autographum*, fr L, neut of *autographus* written with one's own hand, fr Gk *autographos*, fr *aut-* + *-graphos* written – more at **-GRAPH**] – **autography** /aw'tə'grafi/ *n*
- 'autograph** *vt* to write one's signature in or on
- Autoharp** /aw'toh,hərp/ *trademark* – used for a zither with button-controlled dampers for selected strings
- autoimmune** /aw'toh'i'myoohn/ *adj* of or caused by autoantibodies, *specif*, of a disease caused by the production of large numbers of autoantibodies – **autoimmunity** *n*, **autoimmunization** /-i'myooh-ni'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- autointoxication** /aw'toh-in,toksi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* a state of being poisoned by toxic substances produced within the body [ISV]
- autologous** /aw'toləgəs/ *adj* derived from the same individual [*aut-* + *-ologous* (as in *homologous*)]
- autolysis** /aw'toləsis/ *n* breakdown of all or part of a cell or tissue by self-produced enzymes [NL] – **autolyse** /aw'tə'liez/ *vb*, **autolytic** /aw'tə'litik/ *adj*
- automate** /aw'tə'mayt/ *vt* 1 to operate by automation **2** to convert to largely automatic operation ~ *vi* to undergo automation [back-formation fr *automation*] – **automatable** *adj*
- 'automatic** /aw'tə'matik/ *adj* 1a acting or done spontaneously or unconsciously **b** resembling an automaton; mechanical **2** having a self-acting or self-regulating mechanism <an ~ car with ~ transmission> **3** of a firearm repeatedly ejecting the empty cartridge shell, introducing a new cartridge, and firing it [Gk *automatos* self-acting, fr *aut-* + *-matos* (akin to L *ment-*, *mens* mind) – more at **MIND**] – **automatically** *adv*, **automaticity** /aw'tə'mə'tisoti/ *n*
- 'automatic** *n* an automatic machine or apparatus, esp an automatic firearm or vehicle
- auto,matic** *'pilot* *n* a device for automatically steering a ship, aircraft, or spacecraft
- automation** /aw'tə'maysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the technique of making an apparatus, process, or system operate automatically **2** automatic operation of an apparatus, process, or system by mechanical or electronic devices that take the place of human operators [*'automatic*]
- automatism** /aw'təmatiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an automatic action **2** a theory that conceives of the body as a machine, with consciousness being merely an accessory [F *automatisme*, fr *automate* automaton, fr L *automaton*] – **automatist** *n*



- to see coming and ward off; avoid, prevent [ME *averten*, fr MF *avertir*, fr L *avertere*, fr *ab-* + *vertere* to turn – more at *'WORTH*]
- Avesta** /ə'vestə/ *n* the book of the sacred writings of Zoroastrianism [MPer *Avastāk*, lit., original text]
- Avestan** /ə'vest(ə)n/ *n* an ancient sacred language of old Iranian – *Avestan adj*
- avian** /'ayviən/ *adj* of or derived from birds [L *avis*]
- aviary** /'ayviəri/ *n* a place for keeping birds [L *avianum*, fr *avis* bird, akin to Gk *aktos* eagle]
- aviation** /'ayvi'æʃn/ *n* 1 the operation of heavier-than-air aircraft 2 aircraft manufacture, development, and design [F, fr L *avis*]
- aviator** /'ayviətiə/, *fem* *aviatrix* /-triks/ *n* the pilot of an aircraft [F *aviateur*, fr *avi-* (fr L *avis*) + *-ateur* (as in *amateur*)]
- avid** /'avid/ *adj* urgently or greedily eager; keen [F or L; F *avide*, fr L *avidus*, fr *avere* to covet; akin to Goth *awiliht* thanks, Gk *eneos* gentle] – *avidly adv*, *avidness n*, *avidity* /'aviditi/ *n*
- avidin** /'avidin, ə'vidin/ *n* a protein found in white of egg that combines with biotin and makes it inactive [fr its avidity for biotin]
- avifauna** /'ayvi'fawnz/ *n* the (kinds of) birds of a region, period, or environment [NL, fr L *avis* + NL *fauna*] – *avifaunal adj*, *avifaunally adv*, *avifaunistic* /-faw'nistik/ *adj*
- avionics** /'ayvi'ɒniks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the development and production of electronic equipment for aircraft and space vehicles, *also, pl* in *constr* the devices and systems so developed [aviation electronics] – *avionic adj*
- avitaminosis** /ay.vi'tæmi'nəʊsɪs, ə-/ *n, pl* *avitaminoses* /-seɪz/ disease resulting from a deficiency of 1 or more vitamins [NL] – *avitaminotic* /-notik/ *adj*
- avo** /'avoʊh/ *n, pl* *avos* ➞ *Macao* at *NATIONALITY* [Pg, fr *avo* fractional part, fr *-avo* ordinal suffix (as in *oitavo* eighth, fr L *octavus*)]
- avocado** /əvə'kɑːdəʊ/ *n, pl* *avocados* *also* *avocadoes* (a tropical American tree of the laurel family bearing) a pulpy green or purple pear-shaped edible fruit [Sp, alter of *aguacate*, fr Nahuatl *ahuacatl*, short for *ahu-acacuahuatl*, lit., testicle tree]
- avocation** /əvə'keɪʃn/ *n* a subordinate occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation, esp for enjoyment; a hobby [L *avocation-*, *avocatio*, fr *avocatus*, pp of *avocare* to call away, fr *ab-* + *vocare* to call, fr *voc*, *vox* voice – more at *VOICE*] – *avocational adj*, *avocationally adv*
- avocet** /'avaset/ *n* a black and white wading bird with webbed feet and a slender upward-curving bill [F & It, F *avocette*, fr It *avocetta*]
- Avogadro's constant** /əvə'ɡɑːdrəʊz/ *n* the number of molecules that occurs in 1 mole of substance;  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$  ➞ *PHYSICS* [Count Amedeo Avogadro †1856 It chemist & physicist]
- Avogadro's number** *n* *AVOGADRO'S CONSTANT*
- avoid** /ə'vɔɪd/ *vt* 1a to keep away from; shun b to prevent the occurrence or effectiveness of c to refrain from 2 to make legally void [ME *avoiden*, fr OF *esvuidier*, fr *es-* (fr L *ex-*) + *vuider* to empty – more at *'VOID*] – *avoidable adj*, *avoidably adv*, *avoidance n*, *avoider n*
- avoirdupois** /əvə'ɪdʊpɔɪz/ *n* *avoirdupois weight* *n* the series of units of weight based on the pound of 16 ounces and the ounce of 16 drams ➞ *UNIT* [ME *avoir de pois* goods sold by weight, fr OF, lit., goods of weight]
- avouch** /ə'vəʊtʃ/ *vt* 1 to declare as a matter of fact; affirm 2 to vouch for; corroborate 3a to acknowledge (e.g. an act) as one's own b to confess, *avow* *USE* fml or archaic [ME *avouchen* to cite as authority, fr MF *avochier* to summon, fr L *advocare* – more at *ADVOCATE*] – *avouchment n*
- avow** /ə'vəʊ/ *vt* 1 to declare assuredly 2 to acknowledge openly, bluntly, and without shame [ME *avowen*, fr OF *avouer*, fr L *advocare*] – *avower n*, *avowal n*, *avowedly* /-ɪdli/ *adv*
- avulsion** /ə'vʊlʃn/ *n* a forcible separation or detachment: e.g. a a tearing away of a body part accidentally or surgically b a sudden cutting off of land from a property by flood, currents, etc [L *avulsion-*, *avulsio*, fr *avulsus*, pp of *avellere* to tear off, fr *ab-* + *vellere* to pluck, pull]
- avuncular** /ə'vʊŋkʏlə/ *adj* 1 of an uncle 2 kindly, genial [L *avunculus* maternal uncle – more at *UNCLE*]
- await** /ə'weɪt/ *vt* 1 to wait for 2 to be in store for [ME *awaiten*, fr ONF *awaitier*, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *waitier* to watch – more at *'WAIT*]
- awake** /ə'weɪk/ *vb* *awoke* /ə'wəʊk/ *also* *awaked*; *awoken* /ə'wəʊkən/ *vi* 1 to emerge from sleep or a sleeplike state 2 to become conscious or aware of sthg – *usu* + *to* *<awoke to their danger>* ~ *vt* 1 to arouse from sleep or a sleeplike state 2 to make active; stir up (*awoke old memories*) [ME *awaken* (fr OE *awacian*, fr *a-* + *wacian* to awake, arise, be born) & *awakien*, fr OE *awacian*, fr *a-* + *wacian* to be awake, watch – more at *'WAKE*]
- awake** *adj* 1 roused (as if) from sleep 2 fully conscious, aware – *usu* + *to*
- awaken** /ə'weɪkən/ *vb* to awake [ME *awakenen*, fr OE *awæcnian*, fr *a-* + *wæcnian* to waken] – *awakener n*
- award** /ə'wɔːd/ *vt* 1 to give by judicial decree 2 to confer or bestow as being deserved or needed [ME *awarden* to decide, fr ONF *eswarder*, fr *es-* (fr L *ex-*) + *warder* to guard, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *warten* to watch] – *awardable adj*, *awarder n*
- award** *n* 1 a final decision; esp the decision of arbitrators in a case submitted to them 2 sthg that is conferred or bestowed, esp on the basis of merit or need
- aware** /ə'weə/ *adj* having or showing realization, perception, or knowledge, conscious – often + *of* [ME *iwar*, fr OE *gewær*, fr *ge-* (associative prefix) + *wær* wary – more at *CO-*, *WARY*] – *awareness n*
- awash** /ə'wɒʃ/ *adj* 1 covered with water, flooded 2 marked by an abundance
- away** /ə'weɪ/ *adv* 1 on the way, along *<get ~ early>* 2 from here or there; hence, thence *<go ~ and leave me alone>* 3a in a secure place or manner *<locked ~>* *<tucked ~>* b in another direction, aside *<looked ~>* 4 out of existence, to an end *<echoes dying ~>* *<laze ~ the afternoon>* 5 from one's possession *<gave ~ a fortune>* 6a on, uninterruptedly *<clocks ticking ~>* b without hesitation or delay *<do it right ~>* 7 by a long distance or interval, far *<~ back in 1910>* [ME *away*, on way, fr OE *aweg*, on *weg*, fr *a*, on + *weg* way – more at *WAY*]
- away** *adj* 1 absent from a place, gone *<~ for the weekend>* 2 distant *<a lake 10 miles ~>* 3 played on an opponent's grounds *<an ~ game>*
- awe** /əʊ/ *vt* or *n* (to inspire with) an emotion compounded of dread, veneration, and wonder [n ME, fr ON *agi*, akin to OE *ege* awe, Gk *achos* pain; vb fr n]
- awed** /əʊd/ *adj* showing awe *<~ respect>*
- aweigh** /ə'weɪ/ *adj*, of an anchor raised just clear of the bottom of a body of water [*'a-* + *'weigh* 4]
- awesome** /ə'wəʊs(ə)m/ *adj* inspiring or expressing awe – *awesomely adv*, *awesomeness n*
- awestruck** /-strʊk/ *also* *awestricken* /-stri:kən/ *adj* filled with awe
- awful** /'ɔːf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 extremely disagreeable or objectionable 2 exceedingly great *<an ~ lot to do>* – used as an intensive, chiefly infml [AwF + *'-FUL*] – *awfully adv*, *awfulness n*
- awful** *adv* very, extremely – nonstandard
- awkward** /'ɔːkwəd/ *adj* 1 lacking dexterity or skill, esp in the use of hands; clumsy 2 lacking ease or grace (e.g. of movement or expression) 3a lacking social grace and assurance b causing embarrassment *<an ~ moment>* 4 poorly adapted for use or handling 5 requiring caution *<an ~ diplomatic situation>* 6 deliberately obstructive [ME *awkward* in the wrong direction, fr *awk* turned the wrong way, fr ON *ofugr*; akin to OHG *abuh* turned the wrong way, L *opacus* obscure] – *awkwardly adv*, *awkwardness n*
- awl** /əʊl/ *n* a pointed instrument for marking surfaces or making small holes (e.g. in leather) [ME *al*, fr ON *alr*; akin to OHG *ala* awl, Skt *arā*]
- awn** /əʊn/ *n* any of the slender bristles at the end of the flower spikelet in some grasses (e.g. barley) [ME, fr OE *agen*, fr ON *agn*, akin to OHG *agana* awn, OE *ecg* edge – more at *EDGE*] – *awned adj*, *awnless adj*
- awning** /'ɔːnɪŋ/ *n* 1 an often canvas rooflike cover, used to protect sthg (e.g. a shop window or a ship's deck) from sun or rain 2 a shelter resembling an awning [origin unknown] – *awninged* /'ɔːnɪŋd/ *adj*
- awoken** /ə'wəʊkən/ *past part* of *AWAKE*
- AWOL** /ə'wɒl/ *adj*, often not *cap* absent without leave [absent without leave]
- awry** /ə'wɪ/ *adv* or *adj* 1 in a turned or twisted position or direction; askew 2 out of the right or hoped-for course; amiss [ME *on wry*, fr *on* + *wry*]
- axe**, *NAm chiefly ax* /æks/ *n* 1 a tool that has a cutting edge parallel to the handle and is used esp for felling trees and chopping and splitting wood 2 drastic reduction or removal (e.g. of personnel) [ME, fr OE *æx*; akin to OHG *ackus* axe, L *ascia*, Gk *axine*] – *axe* to *grind* an ulterior often selfish purpose to further
- axe**, *NAm chiefly ax* *vt* 1a to hew, shape, dress, or trim with an axe b to chop, split, or sever with an axe 2 to remove abruptly (e.g. from employment or from a budget)
- axel** /æksəl/ *n* a jump in ice-skating from one skate with 1½ turns in the air and a return to the other skate [Axel Paulsen †1890 Norw figure skater]



**'axe,man** /-man/ *n* one who wields an axe, *specif* a usu psychopathic criminal

**axial** /'aksɪəl/, **axal** /'aksl/ *adj* 1 of or functioning as an axis 2 situated round, in the direction of, on, or along an axis – *axially adv*, *axiality* /'aksɪəlɪti/ *n*

**axil** /'aksl/ *n* the angle between a branch or leaf and the axis from which it arises [NL *axilla*, fr L]

**axilla** /'ak'sɪlə/ *n*, *pl* **axillae**, **axillae** /-li/ the armpit [L]

**axillary** /'ak'sɪləri/ *adj* 1 of or located near the armpit 2 situated in or growing from an axil

**axiology** /'aksɪ'ɒlədʒi/ *n* inquiry into values, esp in ethics [Gk *axios* + ISV -logy] – **axiological** /-sɪ'ɒlədʒɪkl/ *adj*

**axiom** /'aksɪ-əm/ *n* 1 a principle, rule, or maxim widely accepted on its intrinsic merit, a generally recognized truth 2a a proposition regarded as a self-evident truth b a postulate [L *axioma*, fr Gk *axioma*, lit, honour, fr *axioun* to think worthy, fr *axios* worth, worthy, akin to Gk *agein* to drive – more at AGENT]

**axiomatic** /'aksɪ-ə'tɪmɪk/ *adj* of or having the nature of an axiom, *esp* self-evident [MGk *axiomaticos*, fr Gk, honourable, fr *axioma*, *axioma*] – **axiomatically adv**

**axis** /'aksɪs/ *n*, *pl* **axes** /-seɪz/ 1a a straight line about which a body or a geometric figure rotates or may be supposed to rotate b a straight line with respect to which a body or figure is symmetrical c any of the reference lines of a coordinate system 2a the second vertebra of the neck on which the head and first vertebra pivot b any of various parts that are central, fundamental, or that lie on or constitute an axis 3 a plant stem 4 any of several imaginary reference lines used in describing a crystal structure 5 a partnership or alliance (e.g. the one between Germany and Italy in WW II) **USE (1)** ➔ **MATHEMATICS** [L, *axis*, *axle*, akin to OE *eax* axis, *axle*, Gk *axōn*, L *axilla* armpit, *agere* to drive – more at AGLN1]

**'axis,deer** *n* a white-spotted deer of India and other parts of S Asia [NL *axis*, fr L, a wild animal of India]

**axle** /'aksl/ *n* 1 a shaft on or with which a wheel revolves 2 a rod connecting a pair of wheels of a vehicle, *also* an axletree ➔ **CAR** [ME *axel*– (as in *axeltre*)]

**'axle,tree** /-tree/ *n* a fixed bar or beam with bearings at each end on which wheels (e.g. of a cart) revolve [ME *axeltre*, fr ON *oxultre*, fr *oxull* axle + *tre* tree]

**Axminster** /'aks,mɪnstə/ *n* (a carpet woven in) a weave in which pile tufts are inserted into a backing during its weaving according to a predetermined arrangement of colours and patterns – compare **WILTON** [Axminster, town in England]

**axolotl** /'aksɒlət/, 'aksɒ'tɒtl/ *n* any of several salamanders of mountain lakes of Mexico [Nahuatl, lit, water doll]

**axon** /'akson/ *n* a usu long projecting part of a nerve cell that usu conducts impulses away from the cell body [NL, fr Gk *axon*] – **axonal** *adj*, **axonic** /'ak'sonɪk/ *adj*

**ayah** /'ie-ə/ *n* a native nurse or maid in India [Hindi *aya*, fr Pg *aya*, fr L *avia* grandmother]

**ayatollah** /'ie-ə'tɒlə/ *n* a leader of Iranian Shiite Islam [Per *ayatollah*, fr Ar *ayatullah* manifestation of God]

**'aye** *also* **ay** /ay/ *adv* ever, always, continually [ME *aye*, *ai*, fr ON *ei*, akin to OE *a* always, L *aevum* age, lifetime, Gk *aion* age]

**'aye** *also* **ay** /ie/ *adv* yes – used as the correct formal response to a naval order (<~,~, sir> [perh fr ME *ye*, *yie* – more at YEA])

**'aye** *also* **ay** /ie/ *n* an affirmative vote or voter  
**aye-aye** /'ie,ie/ *n* a nocturnal lemur of Madagascar ➔ **ENDANGERED** [F, fr Malagasy *aiay*]

**Aylesbury** /'aɪlzb(ə)rɪ/ *n* any of a breed of large white domestic ducks [Aylesbury, town in England]

**Aymara** /'iema,rah/ *n*, *pl* **Aymaras**, *esp* collectively **Aymara** a member, or the language, of an American Indian people of Bolivia and Peru ➔ **LANGUAGE** [Sp *Aymara*]

**Ayrshire** /'eə,ʃɪə/ *n* any of a breed of hardy dairy cattle that are usu spotted red, brown, or white in colour [Ayrshire (Ayr), county of Scotland]

**A-Z** /ay tə 'zed/ *n*, *Br* an indexed street atlas of a town

**az-** /əz-, az-/ *comb form* containing nitrogen, *esp* as the bivalent group N=N (azobenzene) [ISV, fr *azote* nitrogen]

**aza-**, **az-** *comb form* containing nitrogen in place of carbon and usu the bivalent group NH for the group CH, or a single trivalent nitrogen atom for the group CH (azaguanine) [ISV az- + -a-]

**azalea** /'zəɪliə/ *n* any of a group of rhododendrons with funnel-shaped

flowers and usu deciduous leaves [NL, genus name, fr Gk, fem of *azaleos* dry, akin to L *aridus* dry]

**azeotrope** /'zeə-trohp/ *n* a mixture of liquids whose boiling point does not change during distillation [ISV 'a- + *zeo-* (fr Gk *zein* to boil) + *-trope*, fr Gk *tropos* turn, way – more at YEAST, TROPE] – **azeotropic** /'əzi-ˈtɒpɪk/ *adj*

**azide** /'əzɪd/, 'a-/ *n* a compound containing the group N, combined with an element or radical – **azido** /-doh/ *adj*

**azimuth** /'əzɪməθ/ *n* 1 an arc of the horizon expressed as the clockwise angle measured between a fixed point (e.g. true N or true S) and the vertical circle passing through the centre of an object 2 horizontal direction [ME, fr (assumed) ML, fr Ar *as-sumut* the azimuth, *pl* of *as-samt* the way] – **azimuthal** /'əzi'moʊθl/ *adj*, **azimuthally adv**

**azimuthal projection** *n* a projection of the earth's surface onto a tangential plane

**azo** /'əzoh/, 'a-/ *adj* relating to or containing the bivalent group N=N united at both ends to carbon [az-]

**azo dye** *n* any of numerous versatile dyes containing azo groups

**azoic** /'əzoh-ɪk, -ə/ *adj* having no life; *specif* of the geological time that antedates life ➔ **EVOLUTION** ('a- + Gk *zoe* life – more at QUICK)

**azotobacter** /'əzohɪb,aktə, ay-/ *n* any of a genus of large rod-shaped or spherical bacteria that occur in soil and sewage and fix atmospheric nitrogen [NL, genus name, fr ISV *azote* nitrogen (irreg fr a- + Gk *zoe* + NL *bacterium*)]

**Aztec** /'æztek/ *n* 1 a member of the Nahuatl people that founded the Mexican empire conquered by Cortes in 1519 2 the language of the Aztecs [Sp *Azteca*, fr Nahuatl, *pl* of *aztecatl*] – **Aztecian** *adj*

**azure** /'əzyooə, 'ay-, -zho/ *n* 1a sky blue b blue – used in heraldry 2 *archaic* LAPIS LAZULI [ME *asur*, fr OF *azur*, prob fr OSp, modif of Ar *lāzaward*, fr Per *lazhuward*] – **azure** *adj*

**azurite** /'əzyoorɪt, 'ay-, -zho/ *n* (a semiprecious stone derived from) a blue mineral that is a carbonate of copper [F, fr *azur* azure]

**azygos, azygos** /'əzɪgəs/ *adj* not being one of a pair (<an ~ vein> [NL *azygos*, fr Gk, unyoked, fr 'a- + *zygon* yoke – more at YOKE])

## B

**b** /bee/ *n*, *pl* **b's**, **bs** *often cap* 1a (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 2nd letter of the English alphabet b a speech counterpart of orthographic b 2 the 7th note of a C-major scale 3 one designated b, esp as the 2nd in order or class 4 a grade rating a student's work as good but short of excellent 5 sthg that is the supporting item of 2 things (<a ~ movie> 6 – used euphemistically for any offensive word beginning with the letter b

**baa, ba** /bah/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the bleat of a sheep [imit]

**baal** /bahl, 'bay-əl/ *n*, *pl* **baals**, **baalim** /-lɪm/ *often cap* any of numerous Canaanite and Phoenician local deities [Heb *ba'al* lord] – **baalism** *n*, *often cap*

**baas** /bahs/ *n*, *S Afr* a master, boss [Afrik, fr MD *baes*]

**'baas,skap** /-skap/ *n*, *S Afr* WHITE SUPREMACY [Afrik, lit, mastership, fr *baas*]

**babbitt** /'bæbɪt/ *n* a babbitt-metal lining for a bearing

**babbitt metal** *n* an alloy, esp of tin, copper, antimony, and lead, used for lining bearings [Isaac Babbitt †1862 US inventor]

**babble** /'bæbl/ *vb* **babbling** /'bæblɪŋ, 'bæb-ɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to utter meaningless or unintelligible sounds b to talk foolishly; chatter 2 to make a continuous murmuring sound ~vt 1 to utter in an incoherently or meaninglessly repetitious manner 2 to reveal by talk that is too free [ME *babelen*, prob of imit origin] – **babble** *n*, **babblement** *n*, **babblers** /'bæblə/ *n*

**babe** /bayb/ *n* 1 a naive inexperienced person 2a an infant, baby – chiefly poetic b a girl, woman – slang; usu as a noun of address [ME, *baby*, prob of imit origin]

**Babel** /'bæbl/ *n*, *often not cap* 1 a confusion of sounds or voices 2 a scene of noise or confusion [the Tower of Babel (fr Heb *Bābel*, fr Assy-Bab *bāb-ilu* gate of god), biblical structure (Gen 11:4-9) intended to reach heaven which incurred the wrath of God, who punished the builders by making their speech mutually unintelligible]

**babirusa, babirusa, babiroussa** /'bæb-ə'roʊsə/ *n* a large pig of the E Indies, the male of which has large backward-curving tusks [Malay *bābirusa*, fr *babi* hog + *rusa* deer]

**baboon** /bə'bu:hn/ *n* any of several large African and Asiatic primates having doglike muzzles and usu short tails [ME *babewin*, fr MF *babouin*, fr *baboue* grimace] – **baboonish** *adj*

**babu** /bə'h:booh/ *n* 1 a Hindu gentleman – a form of address corresponding to *Mr* 2 an Indian with some education in English – chiefly derog [Hindi *bābū*, lit., father]

**babul** /bə'h:booh/, '–/ *n* an acacia tree widespread in N Africa and across Asia that yields gum arabic and tannins as well as fodder and timber [Per *babul*]

**'baby** /'baybi/ *n* 1a(1) an extremely young child, esp an infant (2) an unborn child <my ~ started kicking before I was 4 months pregnant> (3) an extremely young animal **b** the youngest of a group 2 an infantile person 3 a person or thing for which one feels special responsibility or pride 4 a person; esp a girl, woman – slang, usu as a noun of address [ME, fr *babe*] – **babyish** *adj*, **babyhood** /-hood/ *n*

**'baby** *adj* very small <use ~ mushrooms>

**'baby** *vt* to tend or indulge with often excessive or inappropriate care

**'baby, buggy** *n* 1 a lightweight foldable pushchair 2 *NAm* a pram

**'baby, grand** *n* a small grand piano

**Babylonian** /bə'bɒljən-, -n-, -n-/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant of the Akkadian language) of ancient Babylonia or Babylon [*Babylon*, ancient city of Babylonia, ancient country of SW Asia]

**'baby, minder** *n* chiefly *Br* a childminder for babies or preschool children – **baby-minding** *n*

**'baby, sit** *vt* -ti-; **baby-sat** to care for a child, usu for a short period while the parents are out [back-formation fr *baby-sitter*] – **baby-sitter** *n*

**'baby, talk** *n* the imperfect speech used by or to small children

**baccalaureate** /bə'kæləwri-ət/ *n* the academic degree of bachelor [ML *baccalaureatus*, fr *baccalaureus* bachelor, alter of *baccalarus*]

**baccarat** /bə'kərah, --/ *n* a card game in which 3 hands are dealt and players may bet on either or both hands against the dealer's [F *baccara*]

**bacchanal** /'bəkən/ *n* 1a a devotee of Bacchus; esp one who celebrates the Bacchanalia **b** a reveller 2 drunken revelry or carousal, bacchanalia [1. *bacchanalis* of Bacchus, fr *Bacchus*, god of wine, fr Gk *Bakchos*] – **bacchanal** *adj*

**bacchanalia** /bə'kænəliə/ *n*, *pl* **bacchanalia** 1 *pl*, *cap* a Roman festival of Bacchus celebrated with dancing, song, and revelry 2 a drunken feast, an orgy [L, *pl*, fr neut *pl* of *bacchanalis*] – **bacchanalian** *adj* or *n*

**bacchante** /bə'kanti/ *n* a priestess or female follower of Bacchus, a maenad [F, fr L *bacchant-*, *bacchans*, *prp* of, *bacchari* to celebrate the festival of Bacchus]

**baccy** /'baki/ *n*, chiefly *Br* tobacco – *infml* [by shortening & alter]

**'bach** /bakh/ *n*, *NZ* a simple dwelling; esp a shack or chalet [prob short for *bachelor*]

**'bach** /bakh/ *n*, *Welsh* – used as a term of endearment, usu after a person's name <how are you Dai ~?> [W, lit., little (one)]

**bachelor** /'bachel/, 'bachel/ *n* 1 a recipient of what is usu the lowest degree conferred by a college or university <~ of arts> 2a an unmarried man **b** a man past the usual age for marrying or one who seems unlikely to marry 3 a male animal (e.g. a fur seal) without a mate during breeding time [ME *bachelar*, fr OF, prob fr ML *baccalarus* tenant farmer, squire, advanced student, of Celtic origin; akin to IrGael *bachlach* shepherd, peasant, fr OIr *bachall* staff, fr L *baculum*] – **bachelorhood** *n*, **bachelorism** *n*

**'bachelor, girl** *n* an unmarried girl or woman who lives independently

**bacillary** /bə'sɪləri/ *adj* of or caused by bacilli [ML & NL *bacillus*]

**bacillus** /bə'sɪləs/ *n*, *pl* **bacilli** /-lie/ a usu rod-shaped bacterium; esp one that causes disease [NL, fr ML, small staff, rod, dim. of L *baculus* staff, alter. of *baculum*]

**'back** /bak/ *n* 1a the rear part of the human body, esp from the neck to the end of the spine **b** the corresponding part of a quadruped or other lower animal 2a the side or surface behind the front or face; the rear part; also the farther or reverse side **b** sth at or on the back for support <the ~ of a chair> 3 (the position of) a primarily defensive player in some games (e.g. soccer) [ME, fr OE *bec*; akin to OHG *bah* back] – **backless** *adj* – with one's back to the wall in a situation from which one cannot retreat and must either fight or be defeated

**'back** *adv* 1a(1) to, towards, or at the rear <tie one's hair ~> (2) away (e.g. from the speaker) <stand ~ and give him air> **b** in or into the past or nearer the beginning; ago <3 years ~> **c** in or into a reclining position <lie ~> **d** in or into a delayed or retarded condition <set them ~ on the schedule> 2a to, towards, or in a place from which sby or sth came <put it ~ on the shelf> **b** to or towards a former state <thought ~ to his

childhood> **c** in return or reply <ring me ~> – **back and forth** backwards and forwards repeatedly

**'back** *adj* 1a at or in the back <~ door> **b** distant from a central or main area; remote <~ roads> **c** articulated at or towards the back of the oral passage 2 being in arrears <~ pay> 3 not current <~ number of a magazine>

**'back** *vt* 1a to support by material or moral assistance – often + *up* **b** to substantiate – often + *up* <~ up an argument with forceful illustrations> **c** (1) to countersign, endorse (2) to assume financial responsibility for <~ an enterprise> 2 to cause to go back or in reverse 3a to provide with a back **b** to be at the back of 4 to place a bet on (e.g. a horse) ~ *vi* 1 to move backwards 2 of the wind to shift anticlockwise – compare *VEER* 3 to have the back in the direction of sth <my house ~s onto the golf course>

**'back, ache** /-,ayk/ *n* a (dull persistent) pain in the back

**back away** *vi* to move back (e.g. from a theoretical position); withdraw

**'back, bench** *n* any of the benches in Parliament on which rank and file members sit – usu *pl* – **back-bencher** *n*

**'back, bite** /-,bi:t/ *vb* **backbit** /-,bit/ *n* to say mean or spiteful things about (sby) – **backbiter** *n*

**'back, board** /-,bawd/ *n* a rounded or rectangular board behind the basket on a basketball court

**'back, boiler** *n*, chiefly *Br* a domestic boiler fitted at the back of and heated by an esp coal or gas fire

**'back, bone** /-,bohn/ *n* 1 *SPINAL COLUMN* 2a a chief mountain ridge, range, or system **b** the foundation or most substantial part of sth 3 a firm and resolute character

**'back, breaking** /-,braykɪŋ/ *adj* physically taxing or exhausting

**'back, chat** /-,chat/ *n*, chiefly *Br* impudent or argumentative talk made in reply, esp by a subordinate – *infml*

**'back, cloth** /-,kloth/ *n*, *Br* 1 a painted cloth hung across the rear of a stage 2 *BACKGROUND* 1a, 3

**'back, comb** /-,kohm/ *vt* to comb (the hair) against the direction of growth starting with the short underlying hairs in order to produce a bouffant effect

**'back, date** /-,dayt/ *vt* to apply (e.g. a pay rise) retrospectively – compare *POSTDATE*

**back down** *vi* to retreat from a commitment or position

**'back, drop** /-,drop/ *n* a backcloth

**'backer** /'baka/ *n* 1 one who supports, esp financially 2 *Br* one who has placed a bet [BACK + -ER]

**'back, fire** /-,fi:ə/ *n* a premature explosion in the cylinder or an explosion in the exhaust system of an internal-combustion engine

**'back, fire** *vi* 1 to make or undergo a backfire 2 to have the reverse of the desired or expected effect

**'back, formation** *n* the formation of a word by subtraction from an existing word; also a word so formed (e.g. *burgle* from *burglar*)

**'back, gammon** /-,gamən/ *n* a board game played with dice and counters in which each player tries to move his/her counters along the board and at the same time to block or capture his/her opponent's counters [perh fr 'back + ME *gamen*, game game]

**'back, ground** /-,grownd/ *n* 1a the scenery or ground behind sth **b** the part of a painting or photograph that depicts what lies behind objects in the foreground 2 an inconspicuous position <in the ~> 3a the conditions that form the setting within which sth is experienced **b** information essential to the understanding of a problem or situation **c** the total of a person's experience, knowledge, and education

**'background, noise** *n* intrusive sound that interferes with received or recorded electronic signals

**'back, hand** /-,hand/ *n* 1 a stroke in tennis, squash, etc. made with the back of the hand turned in the direction of movement; also the side of the body on which this is made 2 handwriting whose strokes slant downwards from left to right

**'backhand, backhanded** /-,hænd/ *adv* with a backhand

**'backhand** *vt* to do, hit, or catch backhand

**'back, handed** /-,handɪd/ *adj* 1 using or made with a backhand 2 of writing being backhand 3 indirect, devious; esp sarcastic <a ~ compliment> – **backhandedly** *adv*

**'back, hander** /-,handa/ *n* 1 a backhanded blow or stroke 2 *Br* a backhanded remark 3 a bribe – *infml*

**backing** /'bakiŋ/ *n* 1 sth forming a back 2a support, aid **b** endorsement

**'back, lash** /-,lash/ *n* 1 a sudden violent backward movement or reaction 2 a strong adverse reaction – **backlasher** *n*



- 'back,lift** /-lɪft/ *n* a backswing
- 'back,log** /-lɒg/ *n* 1 a reserve 2 an accumulation of tasks not performed, orders unfulfilled, or materials not processed [*'back + log*; orig sense, large log of wood at back of fire]
- 'back,most** /-məʊst/ *adj* farthest back
- 'back,number** *n* sby or sth that is out of date, esp an old issue of a periodical or newspaper
- 'back of beyond** *n* a remote inaccessible place (*<an old house in the ~>*)
- 'back off** *vi* BACK DOWN
- 'back out** *vi* to withdraw, esp from a commitment or contest
- 'back,pack** /-pæk/ *n* 1 a piece of equipment designed to be carried on the back while in use (*<an oxygen ~ for lunar exploration>*) 2 chiefly *NAM* a rucksack
- 'backpack** *vb*, chiefly *NAM* to hike carrying (food, equipment, etc in) a backpack – **backpacker** *n*
- 'back,passage** *n*, chiefly *Br* the rectum – euph
- 'back,pedal** /-pedl/ *vi* 1 to move backwards (e.g. in boxing) 2 to back down from or reverse a previous opinion or stand
- 'back,room** /-ru:m/ *adj* of or being a directing group that exercises its authority in an inconspicuous and indirect way
- 'back,scattering** /-skɑ:tərɪŋ/ *n* the scattering of radiation backwards due to reflection from particles of the medium traversed
- back seat** *n* an inferior position (*<won't take a ~ to anyone>*)
- 'back-seat 'driver** *n* a passenger in a motor car who offers unwanted advice to the driver
- 'back,side** /-sɪd/ *n* the buttocks
- 'back,sight** /-sɪt/ *n* the sight nearest the eye on a firearm
- 'back,slap** /-slap/ *vi* -pp- to display excessive cordiality or good fellowship – **backslapper** *n*
- 'back,slide** /-slɪd/ *vi* -slid /-slɪd/, -slid, -slidden /-slɪd(ə)n/ to lapse morally or in the practice of religion – **backslider** *n*
- 'back,space** /-speɪs/ *vi* to press a key on a typewriter which causes the carriage to move back 1 space
- 'back,spin** /-spɪn/ *n* spin of a ball with the part furthest from the ground turning in a direction opposite to that of the ball's forward motion – compare *TOP SPIN*
- 'back,stage** /-ˈstæɪj/ *adv* 1 in or to a backstage area 2 in private, secretly
- 'back,stage** *adj* 1 of or occurring in the parts of a theatre that cannot be seen by the audience 2 of the inner working or operation (e.g. of an organization)
- 'back,stairs** /-steəz/ *adj* 1 secret, furtive (*<~ political deals>*) 2 sordid, scandalous (*<~ gossip>*)
- 'back,stay** /-stæɪ/ *n* a stay extending aft from a masthead to the stern or side of a ship – *SHIP*
- 'back,stretch** /-stɪtʃ/ *n* a method of hand sewing in which each new stitch is formed by inserting the needle a stitch length behind and bringing it out a stitch length in front of the end of the previous stitch – **backstitch** *vb*
- 'back,stop** /-stɒp/ *n* 1 sth at the back serving as a stop 2 the catcher in baseball
- 'back,street** /-street/ *adj* made, done, or acting illegally or surreptitiously (*<~ abortion>*)
- 'back,stroke** /-stroʊk/ *n* a swimming stroke executed on the back – **backstroker** *n*
- 'back,swing** /-swɪŋ/ *n* the movement of a bat, arm, etc backwards to a position from which the forward or downward swing is made
- 'back,sword** /-sɔ:rd/ *n* a single-edged sword
- 'back-to-'back** *n* a 2-storey terraced house built with its back against the back of a parallel terrace
- 'back to 'front** *adv* 1 in such a way that the back and the front are reversed in position 2 thoroughly; INSIDE OUT (*<learnt the Highway Code ~>*)
- 'back,track** /-træk/ *vi* 1 to retrace a path or course 2 to reverse a position or stand
- 'back,up** /-ʌp/ *n* 1 sby or sth that serves as a substitute, auxiliary, or alternative 2 sby or sth that gives support
- back up** *vi* to support (sby), esp in argument or in playing a team game ~ *vi* to back up a teammate
- 'backveld, backveldt** /-velt, -felt/ *n*, *SAfr* a remote or culturally backward area – compare *BUNDU* [*'back + Afrk veld field*]
- 'backward** /-wɔ:rd/ *adj* 1a directed or turned backwards b done or executed backwards (*<a ~ somersault>*) 2 retarded in development 3 of or occupying a fielding position in cricket behind the batsman's wicket
- ˈbæd* *SPORT* 4 chiefly *NAM* diffident, shy – **backwardly** *adv*, **backwardness** *n*
- backwardation** /ˌbækwɔ:daɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *Br* a premium paid by a seller to a buyer of shares to postpone delivery until a future day of settlement – compare *CONTANGO* [*backward + -ation*]
- 'backwards**, chiefly *NAM* **backward** *adv* 1 towards the back 2 with the back foremost 3 in a reverse direction, towards the beginning (*<say the alphabet ~>*) 4 perfectly, BY HEART (*<knows it all ~>*) 5 towards the past 6 towards a worse state – **bend/fall/lean over backwards** to make extreme efforts, esp in order to please or conciliate
- 'back,wash** /-wɒʃ/ *n* 1a a backward movement in air, water, etc produced by a propelling force (e.g. the motion of oars) b the backward movement of a receding wave 2 a usu unwelcome consequence or by-product of an event, an aftermath
- 'back,water** /-ˌwɔ:tə/ *n* 1 a stagnant pool or inlet kept filled by the opposing current of a river, broadly a body of water turned back in its course 2 a place or condition that is isolated or backward, esp intellectually
- 'backwoods** /-wɔ:dz/ *n*, *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a remote or culturally backward area – *usu + the* – **backwoodsman** *n*
- bacon** /ˈbeɪkən/ *n* (the meat cut from) the cured and often smoked side of a pig – *MEAT* [*ME*, fr *MF*, of *Gmc* origin, akin to *OHG* *bahho* side of bacon, *bah* back]
- 'bacon,pig** *n* a pig reared to produce a certain proportion of lean meat to fat and suitable for use as bacon, gammon, and ham
- bacteraemia** /ˌbæktəˈreɪmiə/ *n* the usu transient presence of microorganisms, esp bacteria, in the blood [*NL*, alter of *bacteraemia*, fr *bacteri-* + *-aemia* (fr *Gk* *aíma*, fr *háima* blood)]
- bacteri-** /ˌbæktəri-/ *bacterio-* *comb form* bacteria (*bacteria*) [*bacteri* + *-aemia*] [*NL*, *bacterium*]
- bacteria** /ˌbæktəri-ə/ *pl* of *BACTERIUM*
- bactericide** /ˌbæktəriˈsɪd/ *sthg* that kills bacteria – **bactericidal** /ˌbæktəriˈsɪdl/ *adj*, **bactericidally** *adv*
- bacteriology** /ˌbæktəriˈɒlədʒi/ *n* 1 a science that deals with bacteria 2 bacterial life and phenomena (*<the ~ of a water supply>*) [*ISV*] – **bacteriologist** *n*, **bacteriologic** /-ˌɒlədʒɪk/, **bacteriological** *adj*, **bacteriologically** *adv*
- bacteriolysis** /-ˌɒləsɪs/ *n* destruction or dissolution of bacterial cells [*NL*] – **bacteriolytic** /-ˌɒlətɪk/ *adj*
- bacteriophage** /-ˌɒfəːdʒ/ *n* any of various specific viruses that attack bacteria [*ISV*] – **bacteriophagic** /-ˌɒfəːˈdʒɪk/ *adj*, **bacteriophagous** /-ˌɒfəːˈdʒəs/ *adj*, **bacteriophagy** /-ˌɒfəˈdʒɪ/ *n*
- bacteriostasis** /-ˌɒstəˈsɪsɪs/ *n* inhibition of the growth of bacteria without their destruction [*NL*]
- bacterium** /ˌbæktəri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **bacteria** /-rɪ-ə/ any of a group of microscopic organisms that live in soil, water, organic matter, or the bodies of plants and animals and are important to human beings because of their chemical effects and because many of them cause diseases – *PIANT* [*NL*, fr *Gk* *bakteron* staff, akin to *L* *baculum* staff] – **bacterial** *adj*, **bacterially** *adv*
- 'Bactrian 'camel** /ˌbæktɪrɪən/ *n* *CAMEL* 1b [fr its habitat in *Bactria*, ancient country of SW Asia]
- 'bad** /bəd/ *adj* worse /wʊhs/, worst /wʊhst/ 1a failing to reach an acceptable standard, poor, inadequate b unfavourable c no longer acceptable, because of decay or disrepair (*<~ fish>*) (*<the house was in ~ condition>*) 2a morally objectionable b mischievous, disobedient 3 unskilful, incompetent – often + *at* (*<at crosswords>*) 4 disagreeable, unpleasant (*<~ news>*) 5a injurious, harmful (*<smoking is ~ for your health>*) b worse than usual; severe (*<a ~ cold>*) 6 incorrect, faulty (*<~ grammar>*) 7a suffering pain or distress, unwell (*<he felt ~ because of his cold>*) b unhealthy, diseased (*<~ teeth>*) 8 sorry, unhappy (*<felt ~ after slighting a friend>*) 9 invalid, worthless (*<a ~ cheque>*) (*<a ~ coin>*) 10 of a debt not collectible [*ME*, perh fr *OE* *bæddel* hermaphrodite] – **bad** *adv*, **badly** *adv*, **badness** *n* – in someone's bad books out of favour with sby
- 'bad** *n* an evil or unhappy state
- 'bad 'blood** *n* ill feeling; bitterness
- 'baddie, baddy** /ˈbædi/ *n* sby or sth bad; esp an opponent of the hero (e.g. in fiction or the cinema) – *infmt*
- bade** /bed, bəd/ *past* of *BID*
- badge** /bædʒ/ *n* 1 a device or token, esp of membership in a society or group 2 a characteristic mark 3 an emblem awarded for a particular accomplishment [*ME* *bage*, *bagge*] – **badge** *vi*
- 'badger** /ˈbædʒə/ *n* (the pelt or fur of) any of several sturdy burrowing nocturnal mammals widely distributed in the northern hemisphere [prob fr *badge*; fr the white mark on its forehead]

- \*badger** *vt* to harass or annoy persistently [fr the sport of basting badgers]
- badinage** /'badi,nahz/, -ni/ *n* playful repartee; banter [F, fr *badiner* to joke]
- \*badlands** /-landz/ *n pl*, chiefly *NAM* a barren region marked by extensive rock erosion and fantastic hill formations
- bad lot** *n* a disreputable or dishonest person
- badly off** *adj* in an unsatisfactory condition; *esp* not having enough money
- badminton** /'badmɪnt(ə)n/ *n* a court game played with light long-handled rackets and a shuttle volleyed over a net [*Badminton*, estate in Gloucestershire, where it was first played]
- \*baffle** /'baf/ *vt* baffling /'bafɪŋ/, 'baf-ɪŋ/ to throw into puzzled confusion; perplex [prob alter of ME (Sc) *bawchillen* to denounce, discredit publicly] – **bafflement** *n*, **baffer** /'bafə/ *n*, **bafflingly** /'bafɪŋli/ *adv*
- \*baffle** *n* 1 a device (e.g. a plate, wall, or screen) to deflect, check, or regulate flow (e.g. of a fluid or light) 2 a structure that reduces the exchange of sound waves between the front and back of a loudspeaker
- \*baffling wind** *n* a light wind that frequently shifts from one point to another
- \*bag** /'bæg/ *n* 1a a usu flexible container for holding, storing, or carrying sthg **b** a handbag or shoulder bag 2 sthg resembling a bag; *esp* a sagging in cloth 3a a quantity of game (permitted to be) taken **b** spoils, loot 4 *pl* chiefly *Br* lots, masses – *infrm* [*has ~s of money*] 5 a slovenly unattractive woman [*silly old ~*] – *slang* 6 a way of life – *slang* [ME *bagge*, fr ON *baggi*] – **bagful** *n* – **bag and baggage** 1 with all one's belongings 2 entirely, wholesale – in the **bag** as good as achieved; already certain before the test – *infrm*
- \*bag** *vb* -gg- *vi* 1 to swell out, bulge 2 to hang loosely ~ *vt* 1 to cause to swell 2 to put into a bag 3a to take (animals) as game **b** to get possession of, seize; also to steal
- bagasse** /'bɑːɡəs/ *n* the residue of sugarcane, grapes, etc left after a product (e.g. juice) has been extracted [F]
- bagatelle** /'bægə'tel/ *n* 1 TRIFLE 2 a game in which balls must be put into or through cups or arches at one end of an oblong table [F, fr *It bagatella*]
- bagel** /'bægl/ *n* a hard glazed ring-shaped bread roll [Yiddish *beygel*, deriv of OHG *boug* ring, akin to OE *beag* ring]
- baggage** /'bægɪ/ *n* 1 portable equipment, esp of a military force 2 superfluous or useless things, ideas, or practices 3 *NAM* luggage, esp for travel by sea or air 4 a good-for-nothing woman; a pert girl – *infrm* [ME *bagage*, fr MF, fr *bague* bundle; (4) prob modif of MF *bagasse*, fr OProv *bagassa*]
- baggy** /'bægi/ *adj* loose, puffed out, or hanging like a bag (~ *trousers*) – **baggily** *adv*, **bagginess** *n*
- bag of waters** *n* the double-walled fluid-filled sac that encloses and protects the foetus in the womb and that breaks, releasing its fluid, during the birth process
- \*bagpipe** /-pi:p/ *n* a wind instrument consisting of a leather bag, mouth tube, chanter, and drone pipes – often *pl* with sing. meaning but sing. or *pl* in constr – **bagpiper** *n*
- bags** /'bæg/ *n pl* in constr, *pl* **bags** OXFORD BAGS
- baguette** /'bæ'get/ *n* 1 a small moulding like, but smaller than, the astragal 2 (a gem having) the shape of a long narrow rectangle 3 a long thin French loaf [F, lit., rod]
- bah** /'bæh/ *interj* – used to express disdain
- Bahā'i** /'bə'hah-i/ *n, pl* **Bahā'is** an adherent of a religious movement originating among Shia Muslims in Iran in the 19th c and emphasizing the spiritual unity of mankind [Per *bahā'ī*, lit., of glory, fr *bahā* glory] – **Bahā'i** *adj*, **Bahāism** *n*, **Bahāist** *n*
- Bahasa Indonesia** /'bah'hahsə/ *n* a branch of the Austronesian language family of the E Indies that is the official language of Indonesia [Indonesian *bahasa indonésia*, lit., Indonesian language]
- baht** /'bæht/ *n, pl* **bahta**, **baht** → Thailand at NATIONALITY [Thai *baht*]
- \*bail** /'beɪl/ *n* 1 security deposited as a guarantee that sby temporarily freed from custody will return to stand trial 2 temporary release on bail 3 one who provides bail [ME, custody, security for appearance, fr MF, custody, fr *baillier* to have in charge, deliver, fr ML *bajulare* to control, fr L, to carry a load, fr *bajulus* porter]
- \*bail** *vt* 1 to deliver (property) in trust to another for a special purpose and for a limited period 2 to release on bail 3 to procure the release of (a person in custody) by giving bail – often + *out* [(1) AF *baillier*, fr F, to deliver; (2, 3) *'bail*] – **bailable** *adj*, **bailee** /'beɪlee/ *n*, **bailment** *n*, **bailor** /'beɪlə/ *n*
- \*ball** *n* 1 either of the 2 crosspieces that lie on the stumps to form the wicket in cricket → SPORT 2 chiefly *Br* a device for confining or separating animals [ME *baile* bailey, fr OF]
- \*bail**, *Br* also **bale** *n* a container used to remove water from a boat [ME *baulle*, fr MF, bucket, fr ML *bajula* water vessel, fr fem of L *bajulus*]
- \*bail**, *Br* also **bale** *vt* to clear (water) from a boat by collecting in a bail, bucket etc and throwing over the side ~ *vi* to parachute from an aircraft *USE* (*vi* & *vi*) *usu* + *out* – **bailer** /'beɪlə/ *n*
- bailey** /'beɪli/ *n* (the space enclosed by) the outer wall of a castle or any of several walls surrounding the keep – compare *WARD* 1 → CHURCH [ME *bailli*, fr OF *baille*, *baile* palisade, bailey]
- \*Bailey bridge** *n* a prefabricated bridge built from interchangeable latticed steel panels [Sir Donald Bailey b1901 E engineer]
- baillie** /'beɪli/ *n* a Scottish municipal magistrate [ME]
- bailliff** /'beɪlɪf/ *n* 1 an official employed by a sheriff to serve writs, make arrests, etc 2 chiefly *Br* one who manages an estate or farm [ME *baillif*, *baillie*, fr OF *baillif*, fr *bail* custody, jurisdiction – more at 'RAIL] – **bailliffship** *n*
- bailliwick** /'beɪliwɪk/ *n* the area of jurisdiction of a baillie or bailliff [ME *baillfwik*, fr *baillif* + *wik* dwelling place, village, fr OE *wic*; akin to OHG *wich* dwelling place, town, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *vicus* village – more at VICINITY]
- bail out**, *Br* also **bale out** *vt* to help from a predicament, release from difficulty
- baln-marie** /'bænh mɑ'ree (Fr bɛ̃ mɑ̃)/ *n* a vessel of hot or boiling water into which another vessel, containing food, is placed, in order to cook or heat the food gently – compare *DOUBLE SAUCEPAN* [F, fr MF, lit., bath (of) Mary]
- balrn** /'bɛərn/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* & *N Eng* a child [ME *bern*, *barn*, fr OE *bearn* & ON *barn*; akin to OHG *barn* child]
- \*bait** /'beɪt/ *vt* 1 to provoke, tease, or exasperate with unjust, nagging, or persistent remarks 2 to harass (e.g. a chained animal) with dogs, *usu* for sport 3 to provide with bait (~ *a hook*) [ME *baiten*, fr ON *beita*, akin to OE *betan* to bait, *bitan* to bite] – **baiter** *n*
- \*bait** *n* 1a sthg used in luring, esp to a hook or trap **b** a poisonous material placed where it will be eaten by pests 2 a lure, temptation [ON *beit* pasturage & *beita* food, akin to OE *bitan* to bite]
- baiza** /'biezəh/ *n* → Oman at NATIONALITY [colloq *Ar*, fr Hindi *paisa*]
- baize** /'beɪz/ *n* a woollen cloth, resembling felt, used chiefly for covering and lining sthg (e.g. table tops or drawers) [MF *baires*, *pl* of *bate* baize, fr fem of *bai* bay-coloured]
- \*bake** /'beɪk/ *vt* 1 to cook (e.g. food) by dry heat, esp in an oven 2 to dry or harden by subjecting to heat ~ *vi* 1 to cook food (e.g. bread and cakes) by baking 2 to become baked 3 to become extremely hot (*I'll have to stop sunbathing, I'm baking*) [ME *baken*, fr OE *bacan*, akin to OHG *bahhan* to bake, Gk *phōgen* to roast] – **baker** *n*
- \*bake** *n*, *NAM* a social gathering at which (baked) food is served
- \*bakehouse** /-həʊz/ *n* a place for baking food, esp bread [ME *bakhus*, fr *baken* to bake + *house* house]
- Bakelite** /'bæklɪet/ *trademark* – used for any of various synthetic resins and plastics
- \*baker's dozen** /'bækəz/ *n* thirteen [prob fr a former practice of selling 13 loaves for 12 to guard against accusations of giving short weight]
- bakery** /'beɪk(ə)rɪ/ *n* a place for baking or selling baked goods, esp bread and cakes
- \*baking powder** /'beɪkɪŋ/ *n* a powder that consists of a bicarbonate and an acid substance used in place of yeast as a raising agent in making scones, cakes, etc
- \*baking soda** *n* SODIUM BICARBONATE
- bakehouse** /'bæksheɪsh, -'həʊz/ *n, pl* **bakehouses** money given as a tip [Per *bakhshish*, fr *bakhshidan* to give, akin to Gk *phagen* to eat, Skt *bhājati* he allots]
- balacclava** /'balə'kləvə/, **balacclava** *helmet* *n*, often *cap* *B* a knitted pull-on hood that covers the ears, neck, and throat → GARMENT [Balacclava (now usu Balaklava), village in the Crimea, USSR, where a battle of the Crimean War was fought on 25 Oct 1854]
- balalaika** /'balə'leɪkə/ *n* a musical instrument of Russian origin, usu having 3 strings and a triangular body which is played by plucking [Russ]
- \*balance** /'bæləns/ *n* 1 an instrument for weighing; e.g. a centrally-supported beam that has 2 scalepans of equal weight suspended from its ends **b** any device that measures weight and force 2 a counterbalancing

weight, force, or influence 3 stability produced by even distribution of weight on each side of a vertical axis 4a equilibrium between contrasting, opposing, or interacting elements b equality between the totals of the 2 sides of an account 5 an aesthetically pleasing integration of elements 6 the ability to retain one's physical equilibrium 7 the weight or force of one side in excess of another <the ~ of the evidence lay on the side of the defendant> 8a (a statement of) the difference between credits and debits in an account b sthg left over; a remainder c an amount in excess, esp on the credit side of an account 9 mental and emotional steadiness 10 the point on the trigger side of a rifle at which the weight of the ends balance each other [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *bilancia*, fr LL *bilanc-*, *bilanx* having two scales, fr L *bi-* + *lanc-*, *lanx* plate, akin to OE *eln* ell] – **balanced** *adj* – in the balance in an uncertain critical position, with the fate or outcome about to be determined – on balance all things considered

**balance** *vt* 1a(1) to compute the difference between the debits and credits of (an account) (2) to pay the amount due on b to arrange so that one set of elements exactly equals another <~ a mathematical equation> 2a to counterbalance, offset b to equal or equalize in weight, number, or proportion 3 to compare the relative importance, value, force, or weight of; ponder 4 to bring to a state or position of balance ~ *vi* 1 to become balanced or established in balance <sat balancing on the fence> 2 to be an equal counterpoise – often + *with* 3 to waver, hesitate <a mind that ~s and deliberates> – **balancer** *n*

**balance beam** *n* (a gymnastic event using) a narrow horizontal wooden beam supported 1.2m (about 4ft) above the floor and used for balancing exercises

**balance of payments** *n* the difference over a period of time between a country's payments to and receipts from abroad

**balance of power** *n* an equilibrium of power sufficient to prevent one nation from imposing its will upon another

**balance of trade** *n* the difference in value between a country's imports and exports


**balance sheet** *n* a statement of financial condition at a given date

**balance wheel** *n* a wheel that regulates or stabilizes the motion of a mechanism (e.g. a watch or clock)

**Balante** /bə'laht/ *n, pl* **Balantes**, esp collectively **Balante** a member, or the language, of a Negro people of Senegal and Angola [F, fr *Balante Bulanda*]

**balas** /bə'las/ *n* a gemstone consisting of a mixture of oxides of aluminum, iron and manganese and having a pale rose-red or orange colour [ME, fr MF *balais*, fr Ar *balakhsh*, fr *Balakhshan*, ancient region of Afghanistan]

**balata** /bə'lahtə/ *n* the dried juice of tropical American trees of the sapodilla family that is used as an alternative to gutta-percha, esp in belting and golf balls, also a tree yielding this [Sp, of Cariban origin, akin to Galibi *balata*]

**balboa** /bəl'boh ə/ *n*  *Panama* at NATIONALITY [Sp, fr Vasco Núñez de Balboa †1517 Sp explorer]

**balcony** /'balkəni/ *n* 1 a platform built out from the wall of a building and enclosed by a railing or low wall 2 a gallery inside a building (e.g. a theatre) [It *balcone*, fr OIt, scaffold, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *balko* beam – more at **BALK**] – **balconied** *adj*

**bald** /bawld/ *adj* 1a lacking a natural or usual covering (e.g. of hair, vegetation, or nap) b having little or no tread <~ tyres> 2 unadorned, undisguised <the ~ truth> 3 of an animal marked with white, esp on the head or face [ME *balled*, akin to OE *bæl* fire, pyre, Dan *bældet* bald, L *fulica* coot, Gk *phalios* having a white spot] – **baldish** *adj*, **baldly** *adv*, **baldness** *n*

**bald eagle** *n* an eagle of N America that has a white head and neck when mature and eats fish and carrion

**baldersdash** /'bawldədash/ *n* nonsense – often as a generalized expression of disagreement [origin unknown]

**bald-faced** *adj*, **NAM** barefaced

**baldie** /'bawldi/ *n* a bald person – usu as a noun of address; infml

**balding** /'bawldɪŋ/ *adj* becoming bald

**baldric** /'bawldrɪk/ *n* an often ornamented belt worn over one shoulder and across the body to support a sword, bugle, etc [ME *baudry*, *baudrik*]

**bale** /bayl/ *n* a large bundle of goods; specif a large closely pressed package of merchandise bound and usu wrapped for storage or transportation [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *balla* ball] – **bale** *vt*

**bale** *n or vb*, **Br** + **'BAIL**

**balæen** /bə'leən/ *n* whalebone [ME *baleine* whale, *balæen*, fr L *balæna* whale, fr Gk *phallaina*; akin to Gk *phallos* penis – more at **'BLOW**]

**balæen** 'whale *n* WHALEBONE WHALL

**baileful** /'baylf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 deadly or pernicious in influence 2 gloomily threatening [arch *bale* (evil, sorrow), fr ME, fr OE *bealu*] – **bailefully** *adv*, **bailefulness** *n*

**bale out** *vt*, **Br** **BAIL OUT**

**'balk**, chiefly **Br** **bauk** /'bawlk, bawk/ *n* 1 a ridge of land left unploughed 2 a roughly squared beam of timber 3 the area behind the balk lines on a billiard table [ME *balke*, fr OE *balca*, akin to OHG *balco* beam, L *fulcire* to prop, Gk *phalanx* log, *phalanx*]

**'balk**, chiefly **Br** **bauk** *vt* to check or stop (as if) by an obstacle, hinder, thwart ~ *vi* 1 to stop short and refuse to proceed 2 to refuse abruptly – often + *at* <~ed at the suggestion> – **balker** *n*

**balkan-ize**, -ise /'bawlkənɪz/ *vt*, often *cap* to divide (e.g. a region) into smaller and often mutually hostile units [*Balkan* peninsula, SE Europe, fr the way in which this territory has been divided into many small states] – **balkanization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, often *cap*

**'balk line** *n* any of 4 lines parallel to the cushions of a billiard table, specif the line at one end behind which the cue balls are placed at the start of many games


**'ball** /bawl/ *n* 1 a round or roundish body or mass a a solid or hollow spherical or egg-shaped body used in a game or sport b a spherical or conical projectile, also projectiles used in firearms <powder and ~> c the rounded slightly raised fleshy area at the base of a thumb or big toe 2 a delivery or play of the ball in cricket, baseball, etc <bowled by a good ~> 3 a game in which a ball is thrown, kicked, or struck, specif, **NAM** baseball 4a a testis – usu pl, vulg b pl nonsense – often used interjectionally, vulg [ME *bal*, fr ON *bolli*; akin to OE *bealluc* testis, OHG *balla* ball, OE *bula* bull] – on the ball marked by being knowledgeable and competent, alert – infml – start/set/keep the ball rolling to begin/continue sthg

**'ball vb** 1 to form or gather into a ball 2 to have sexual intercourse (with) – vulg

**'ball n** 1 a large formal gathering for social dancing 2 a very pleasant experience, a good time – infml [F *bal*, fr OF, fr *baller* to dance, fr LL *ballare*, fr Gk *ballizein*, akin to Skt *balabati* he whirls]

**ballad** /'baləd/ *n* 1 a narrative composition in rhythmic verse suitable for singing 2 a (slow, romantic or sentimental) popular, esp narrative, song [ME *halade* song sung while dancing, song, fr MF, fr OProv *balada* dance, song sung while dancing, fr *balar* to dance, fr LL *ballare*] – **balladic** /,bə'ladɪk/ *adj*

**ballade** /bə'laɪd, ba-/ *n* a fixed verse form of usu 3 stanzas with recurrent rhymes, a short concluding verse, and an identical refrain for each part [ME *ballade*, fr MF, ballad, ballade]

**ball-and-socket joint** *n* a joint (e.g. in the hip) in which a rounded part moves within a cuplike socket so as to allow free movement in many directions  ANATOMY

**ballast** /'bɒləst/ *n* 1a heavy material carried in a ship to improve stability b heavy material that is carried on a balloon or airship to steady it and can be jettisoned to control the rate of descent 2 sthg that gives stability, esp in character or conduct 3 gravel or broken stone laid in a bed for railway lines or the lower layer of roads [prob fr LG, of Scand origin, akin to Dan & Sw *ballast* ballast, akin to OE *bær* bare & to OE *blæst* load]

**'ballast vt** 1 to steady or equip (as if) with ballast 2 to fill in (e.g. a railway bed) with ballast

**'ball bearing** *n* a bearing having minimal friction in which hardened steel balls roll easily in a groove between a shaft and a support; also any of the balls in such a bearing

**'ball boy**, **fem** **'ball girl** *n* a tennis-court attendant who retrieves balls for the players

**'ball cock** *n* an automatic valve (e.g. in a cistern) controlled by the rise and fall of a float at the end of a lever

**ballerina** /,bə'lærɪnə/ *n* a female, esp principal, ballet dancer [It, fr *ballare* to dance, fr LL]

**ballet** /'balay; **NAM** also *bə'lay*/ *n* 1 (a group that performs) artistic dancing in which the graceful flowing movements are based on conventional positions and steps 2 a theatrical art form using ballet dancing, music, and scenery to convey a story, theme, or atmosphere [F, fr It *ballo*, dim of *ballo* dance, fr *ballare*] – **balletic** /bə'letɪk/ *adj*

**balletomane** /'bəlɪtəməɪn, bə'letəməɪn/ *n* a devotee of ballet [*ballet* + -o- + -mane (fr *mania*)] – **balletomania** /,bəlɪtə'maɪniə/ *n*

**ballista** /bə'listə/ *n, pl* **ballistae** an ancient military device often in the form of a crossbow for hurling large missiles [L, fr (assumed) Gk *ballistēs*, fr *ballain* to throw – more at **DEVI**]

**ballistic** /bə'listɪk/ *adj* 1 of ballistics 2 activated by a sudden impulse (e.g. one due to an electric discharge) [L *ballista*] – **ballistically** *adv*

**ballistic** 'missile *n* a missile propelled and guided in ascent but falling freely in descent

**ballistics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the science dealing with the motion of projectiles in flight 2 (the study of) the individual characteristics of and firing processes in a firearm or cartridge

**ball joint** *n* BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT

**ball lightning** *n* a rare form of lightning consisting of luminous balls that may move along solid objects or float in the air

**ballock** /'bɒlək, 'bɔːlək/ *n* a bollock

**balloon** /bə'luːn/ *n* 1 an envelope filled with hot air or a gas lighter than air so as to rise and float in the atmosphere 2 an inflatable usu brightly coloured rubber bag used as a toy 3 a line enclosing words spoken or thought by a character, esp in a cartoon [F *ballon* large football, *balloon*, fr It dial *ballone* large football, aug of *balla* ball, of Gmc origin]

**balloon** *vt* to inflate, distend ~ *vi* 1 to ascend or travel in a balloon 2 to swell or puff out; expand – often + *out* 3 to increase rapidly 4 to travel in a high curving arc

**balloon** *adj* relating to, resembling, or suggesting a balloon (< a ~ sleeve>)

**balloon glass** *n*, chiefly *Br* a short-stemmed drinking glass with a pear-shaped bowl, used esp for brandy

**ballooning** /bə'luːniŋ/ *n* the act or sport of riding in a balloon – *balloonist* *n*

**balloon tyre** *n* a large tyre that is inflated to low pressure to provide cushioning over rough surfaces

**ballot** /'bælət/ *n* 1 (a sheet of paper, or orig a small ball, used in) secret voting 2 the right to vote 3 the number of votes cast [It *ballotta*, fr It dial., dim. of *balla* ball]

**ballot** *vi* to vote by ballot ~ *vt* to ask for a vote from (< the union ~ ed the members>) – *balloter* *n*

**ballotment** /bə'lɒtmənt/ *n* a sharp upward pushing with a finger to detect a floating object, esp as a test for pregnancy or a floating kidney [F, lit., act of tossing, shaking, fr *ballotter* to toss, fr MF *baloter*, fr *balotte* little ball, fr It dial *ballotta*]

**ball park** *n*, *NAm* a park in which ball games, esp baseball, are played – in the ball park approximately correct – *slang*

**ballpoint** /-pɔɪnt/, *ballpoint* 'pen *n* a pen having as the writing point a small rotating metal ball that inks itself by contact with an inner magazine

**ballroom** 'dancing /'bɔːlruːm, -room/ *n* a usu formal type of dancing done esp by couples for recreation, exhibition, or competition

**balls-up**, *NAm* **ball-up** *n* a state of muddled confusion caused by a mistake – *slang*

**balls up**, *NAm* **ball up** *vb* to make or become badly muddled or confused – *slang*

**balmy** /'bæli/ *adj* or *adv*, *Br* 'BLOODY 4, 'BLOODY – *euph* [euphemism]

**ballyhoo** /'bæli'huː/ *n*, *pl* **ballyhoos** 1 a noisy demonstration or talk 2 flamboyant, exaggerated, or sensational advertising or propaganda [origin unknown] – *ballyhoo* *vt*

**balm** /'bælm/ *n* 1 an aromatic and medicinal resin 2 an aromatic preparation (e.g. a healing ointment) 3 any of various aromatic plants of the mint family 4 sth that soothes, relieves, or heals physically or emotionally [ME *basme*, *baume*, fr OF, fr L *balsamum* balsam, fr Gk *balsamon*]

**balm of Gilead** /'ɡɪləd/ 1 (a small evergreen African and Asian tree yielding) a fragrant oleoresin used esp in perfumery 2 either of 2 poplars. a a hybrid northern tree with broad heart-shaped leaves b BALSAM POPLAR [Gilead, region of ancient Palestine known for its balm (Jer 8:22)]

**balmly** /'bæmli/ *adj* 1a having the qualities of balm; soothing b mild 2 barmy [(2) by alter.] – *balmily* *adv*, *balminess* *n*

**baloney** /bə'luːni/ *n* nonsense – often as a generalized expression of disagreement [perh alter. of *bologna* (sausage)]

**balsa** /'bawlsə, 'bɔːlsə/ *n* (the strong very light wood of) a tropical American tree [Sp]

**balsam** /'bæls(ə)m, 'bɒl-/ *n* 1 (a preparation containing) an oily and resinous substance flowing from various plants 2a any of several trees yielding balsam b any of a widely distributed genus of watery-juiced annual plants (e.g. touch-me-not) 3 BALM 4 [L *balsamum*] – *balsamic* /-'sæmik/ *adj*


**balsam fir** *n* a coniferous American tree from which Canada balsam is prepared

**balsam poplar** *n* a N American poplar that is often cultivated as a shade tree and yields balsam


**Balti** /'bælti, 'bawlti/ *n* a Tibeto-Burman language of N Kashmir

**Baltic** /'bawltik, 'bɒl-/ *adj* 1 of the Baltic sea or Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia 2 of a branch of the Indo-European languages containing Latvian, Lithuanian, and Old Prussian [ML (*mare*) *balticum* Baltic sea]

**Balto-Slavonic** /'bawltɒh, 'bɒl-/ *n* a subfamily of Indo-European languages consisting of the Baltic and the Slavonic branches

**baluster** /'bælɪstə/ *n* an upright rounded, square, or vase-shaped support (e.g. for the rail of a staircase balustrade)  ARCHITECTURE [F *balustre*, fr It *balaustrò*, fr *balaustra* wild pomegranate flower, fr L *balaustrum*, fr Gk *balaustron*, fr its shape]

**balustrade** /'bælə'streɪd, 'bɒlə'streɪd/ *n* a row of balusters topped by a rail, also a usu low parapet or barrier [F, fr It *balaustrata*, fr *balaustrò*]

**Bambara** /bæm'bæhrə/ *n*, *pl* **Bambaras**, *esp* collectively **Bambara** a member, or the Mande language, of a Negroid people of the upper Niger  LANGUAGE

**bambino** /bæm'beɪnoh/ *n*, *pl* **bambinos**, **bambini** /-ni/ a representation of the infant Christ [It, dim of *bambo* child]

**bamboo** /bæm'buː/ *n*, *pl* **bamboos** any of various chiefly tropical giant grasses including some with strong hollow stems used for building, furniture, or utensils [Malay *bambu*] – *bamboo* *adj*

**bamboo curtain** *n*, often *cap* **B&C** a political, military, and ideological barrier between China and the capitalist world

**bamboozle** /bæm'buːzəl/ *vt* to deceive by trickery [origin unknown] – *bamboozlement* *n*

**ban** /bæn/ *vt* -nn- to prohibit, esp by legal means or social pressure [ME *bannen* to summon, curse, fr OE *bannan* to summon, akin to OHG *bannan* to command, L *fari* to speak, Gk *phanai* to say, *phoné* sound, voice]

**ban** *n* 1 an ecclesiastical curse, excommunication 2 a legal or social prohibition [ME (orig sense, summoning of vassals for military service), partly fr *bannen* & partly fr OF *ban*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *bannan* to command]

**ban** *n*, *pl* **bani**  Romania at NATIONALITY [Romanian]

**banal** /bə'naɪl/ *adj* lacking originality, freshness, or novelty, trite, hackneyed [F, fr MF, of compulsory feudal service, possessed in common, commonplace, fr *ban*] – *banally* *adv*, *banality* /bə'nalɪti/ *n*

**banana** /bə'naɪnə/ *n* (a tropical tree that bears) an elongated usu tapering fruit with soft pulpy flesh enclosed in a soft usu yellow rind that grows in bunches reminiscent of the fingers of a hand [Sp or Pg, Sp, fr Pg, of African origin, akin to Wolof *banana* banana]

**banana republic** *n* a small tropical country that is politically unstable and usu economically underdeveloped – *derog* [fr the dependence of some small tropical countries on their fruit-exporting trade]

**bananas** *adj* mad – *informal* [< call him that and he goes ~>] [prob fr *banana* oil (nonsense, insincere or mad talk)]

**band** /bænd/ *n* 1 a strip or belt serving to join or hold things together 2 a ring of elastic 3 a more or less well-defined range of wavelengths, frequencies, or energies of light waves, radio waves, sound waves, etc 4 an elongated surface or section with parallel or roughly parallel sides 5 a narrow strip serving chiefly as decoration: e.g. a a narrow strip of material applied as trimming to an article of dress b *pl* 2 cloth strips sometimes worn at the front of the neck as part of clerical, legal, or academic dress 6 a strip distinguishable in some way (e.g. by colour, texture, or composition) 7 *Br* a group of pupils assessed as being of broadly similar ability – *compare* STREAM [ME *bande* strip, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *binda*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *binta* fillet; akin to OE *bindan* to bind]

**band** *vt* 1 to fasten a band to or tie up with a band 2 to gather together for a purpose; unite 3 *Br* to divide (pupils) into bands ~ *vi* 1 to unite for a common purpose; confederate – often + *together* (< they all ~ ed together to fight the enemy>) 2 to divide pupils into bands – *bander* *n*

**band** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people, animals, or things; esp a group of musicians organized for ensemble playing and using chiefly woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments – *compare* ORCHESTRA [MF *bande* troop]

**bandage** /'bændɪdʒ/ *n* a strip of fabric used esp to dress and bind up wounds [MF, fr *bande* strip]

**bandage** *vt* to bind, dress, or cover with a bandage – *bandager* *n*

**Band-Aid trademark** – used for a small adhesive plaster with a gauze pad

**bandanna**, **bandana** /bæn'dænə/ *n* a large colourful patterned handker-

chief [Hindi *bādhū* tie-dyeing, tie-dyed cloth, fr *bādhna* to tie, fr Skt *badhnai* he ties, akin to OE *bindan*]

**'band,box** /-bɒks/ *n* a usu cylindrical box of cardboard or thin wood used esp for holding hats

**bandeau** /'bɑndəʊ; NAm -/ *n*, *pl* **bandeaux** /'bɑndəʊz/; NAm *han'doh(z)* / a band of material worn round the head to keep the hair in place [F, dim of *bande* strip]

**banded** /'bændɪd/ *adj* marked with bands

**banderilla** /,bɑndə'ree(l)jə/ *n* a decorated barbed dart thrust into the neck or shoulders of the bull in a bullfight [Sp, dim of *bandera* banner]

**banderillero** /,bɑndə'ree(l)'jɛəroʊ/ *n*, *pl* **banderilleros** one who thrusts in banderillas in a bullfight [Sp, fr *banderilla*]

**banderole**, **banderol** /,bɑndə'roʊl/ *n* a long narrow forked flag or streamer [F *banderole*, fr It *banderuola*, dim of *bandiera* banner, of Gmc origin, akin to Goth *bandwo* sign – more at **BANNER**]

**bandicoot** /'bændikooht/ *n* 1 any of several very large distinctive rats of India and Ceylon 2 any of various small insect and plant-eating marsupial mammals of Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea [Telugu *paṇḍikokku*]

**bandit** /'bændɪt/ *n*, *pl* **bandits** also **banditti** /'bændi'ti/ 1 an outlaw, esp a member of a band of marauders 2 a political terrorist [It *bandito*, fr pp of *bandire* to banish, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *bannan* to command – more at 'BAN] – **banditry** *n*

**'band,leader** /-,leɪdə/ *n* the director of a dance band

**'band,master** /-,mɑstə/ *n* a conductor of an esp military band

**bandolier**, **bandoleer** /,bɑndə'liə/ *n* a belt worn over the shoulder and across the chest with pockets or loops for cartridges [MF *bandouliere*, deriv of USp *bandu* band, of Gmc origin, akin to Goth *bandwo* sign]

**'band,saw** *n* a power saw having an endless steel blade running over pulleys

**'bandsman** /-mən/ *n* a member of a musical band

**'band,stand** /-,stænd/ *n* a usu roofed stand or platform for a band to perform on outdoors

**'band,wagon** /-,wəɡən/ *n* a party, faction, or cause that attracts adherents by its timeliness, momentum, etc [‘band + wagon] – **jump/climb on the bandwagon** to attach oneself to a successful cause or enterprise in the hope of personal gain

**'band,width** /-,wɪðθ/ *n* the range of frequencies within which an electrical device (e.g. an amplifier) operates acceptably

**'bandy** /'bændi/ *vt* 1 to exchange (words) in an argumentative, careless, or lighthearted manner 2 to use in a glib or offhand manner – often + *about* [prob fr MF *bander* to be tight, to hit to and fro, fr *bande* strip – more at 'BAND]

**'bandy** *n* a game similar to ice hockey played esp in the Baltic countries [perh fr MF *bande*, pp of *bander*]

**'bandy** *adj* 1 of legs bowed 2 bowlegged [prob fr *bandy* (hockey stick)] – **bandy-legged** /'legɪd/ *adj*

**'bane** /baɪn/ *n* 1 poison – esp in combination <ratsbane> 2 a cause of death, ruin, or trouble [ME, fr OE *hana*, akin to OHG *hano* death, Av *banta* ill] – **baneful** *adj*

**'bang** /bɑŋg/ *vt* 1 to strike sharply, bump <fell and ~ed his knee> 2 to knock, beat, or strike hard, often with a sharp noise 3 to have sexual intercourse with – *vulg* – *vi* 1 to strike with a sharp noise or thump <the falling chair ~ed against the wall> 2 to produce a sharp often explosive noise or noises [prob of Scand origin; akin to Icel *banga* to hammer]

**'bang** *n* 1 a resounding blow, a thump 2 a sudden loud noise – often used interjectionally 3 a quick burst of energy <start off with a ~> 4 an act of sexual intercourse – *vulg*

**'bang** *adv* 1 right, directly 2 exactly <arrived ~ on 6 o'clock> **USE** infml

**'bang** *n* a short squarely-cut fringe of hair – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning [prob short for *bangtail* (short tail)]

**banger** /'bɑŋgə/ *n*, *Br* 1 a firework that explodes with a loud bang 2 a sausage 3 an old usu dilapidated car **USE** (2&3) infml ['BANG + 'ER]

**Bangladeshi** /,bɑŋg-ˌlə'deshi/ *adj* (characteristic) of Bangladesh [Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan), country of S Asia]

**bangle** /'bɑŋg-əl/ *n* a rigid usu ornamental bracelet or anklet slipped or clasped on [Hindi *baṅgīl*]

**'bang-on** *adj* or *adv*, *Br* just what is needed; first-rate – infml

**'bang up** *vt*, chiefly *Br* to raise <to bang up an executive's salary> – infml ['bang]

**'banian** /'bɑniən/ *n* a banyan

**'banish** /'bɑnɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to require by authority to leave a place, esp a

country 2 to dispel [ME *banishen*, fr MF *baniss-*, stem of *banir*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *bannan* to command – more at 'BAN] – **banisher** *n*, **banishment** *n*

**'banister** also **bannister** /'bɑnɪstə/ *n* a handrail with its upright supports guarding the edge of a staircase – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning [alter of *baluster*]

**'banjo** /'bɑnjoh, -/ *n*, *pl* **banjos** also **banjoes** a stringed instrument with a drumlike body that is strummed with the fingers [prob of African origin, akin to Kimbundu *mbanza*, a similar instrument] – **banjoist** *n*

**'bank** /bɑŋk/ *n* 1a a mound, pile, or ridge (e.g. of earth or snow) *b* a piled up mass of cloud or fog *c* an undersea elevation rising esp from the continental shelf 2 the rising ground bordering a lake or river or forming the edge of a cut or hollow 3 the lateral inward tilt of a surface along a curve or of a vehicle when following a curved path [ME, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *bakk* bank; akin to OE *benc* bench – more at **BENCH**]

**'bank** *vi* 1 to surround with a bank 2 to keep up to ensure slow burning 3 to build (a road or railway) with the outer edge of a curve higher than the inner ~ *vi* 1 to rise in or form a bank – often + *up* 2a to incline an aircraft laterally when turning *b*(1) of an aircraft to incline laterally (2) to follow a curve or incline, specif in racing

**'bank** *n* 1 a bench for the rowers of a galley 2 a row of keys on an alphabetic keyboard (e.g. of a typewriter) [ME, fr OF *banc* bench, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *benc*]

**'bank** *n* 1 an establishment for the custody, loan, exchange, or issue of money and for the transmission of funds 2 a person conducting a gambling house or game, *specif* the banker in a game of cards 3 a supply of sthg held in reserve e.g. *a* the money, chips, etc held by the bank or banker for use in a gambling game *b* the pool of pieces belonging to a game (e.g. dominoes) from which the players draw 4 a place where data, human organs, etc are held available for use when needed [ME, fr MF or OIt, MF *banque*, fr OIt *banca*, lit., bench, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *benc*]

**'bank** *vi* to deposit money or have an account in a bank <where do you ~?> ~ *vt* to deposit in a bank – **bank on** to depend or rely on; **COUNT ON**

**bankable** /'bɑŋkəbl/ *adj* acceptable to or at a bank

**'bank,book** /-,book/ *n* the depositor's book in which a bank enters a record of his/her account

**'banker** /'bɑŋkə/ *n* 1 one who engages in the business of banking 2 the player who keeps the bank in various games

**'banker** *n* a man or boat employed in the cod fishery on the Newfoundland banks

**'banker's card** *n*, *Br* **CHQUE CARD**

**'bank holiday** *n* 1 often *cap B&H* a public holiday in the British Isles on which banks and most businesses are closed by law 2 *NAm* a period when banks are closed often by government fiat

**'banking** /'bɑŋkɪŋ/ *n* the business of a bank or a banker

**'bank note** *n* a promissory note issued by a bank, payable to the bearer on demand without interest, and acceptable as money

**'bankrupt** /'bɑŋkrʌpt/ *n* 1a an insolvent person whose estate is administered under the bankruptcy laws for the benefit of his/her creditors *b* one who becomes insolvent 2 one who is destitute of a usu specified quality or thing <a moral ~> [modif of MF & OIt; MF *banqueroute* bankruptcy, fr OIt *bancarotta*, fr *banca* bank + *rotta* broken, fr L *rupta*, fem of *ruptus*, pp of *rumpere* to break – more at 'BANK, **BEREAVE**]

**'bankrupt** *vi* 1 to reduce to bankruptcy 2 to impoverish

**'bankrupt** *adj* 1 reduced to a state of financial ruin, *specif* legally declared a bankrupt 2a broken, ruined <a ~ professional career> *b* destitute – + *of* or *in*

**'bankruptcy** /'bɑŋkrʌpsɪ/ *n* 1 being bankrupt 2 utter failure, impoverishment, or destitution

**'banner** /'bɑnə/ *n* 1a a usu square flag bearing heraldic arms; *broadly* 'FLAG *b* an ensign displaying a distinctive or symbolic device or legend; *esp* one presented as an award of honour or distinction 2 a headline in large type running across a newspaper page 3 a strip of cloth on which a sign is painted 4 a name, slogan, or goal associated with a particular group or ideology [ME *banere*, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *bandwo* sign, akin to ON *benda* to give a sign]

**'banneret** also **bannerette** /,bɑnə'ret/ *n* a small banner [ME *baneret*, fr OF, fr *banere*]

**'bannetrol** /,bɑnə'roʊl/ *n* a banderole [MF, var of *banderole*]

**'bannister** /'bɑnɪstə/ *n* a banister

**'bannock** /'bɑnək/ *n* a usu unleavened flat bread or biscuit made with oatmeal or barley meal [ME *bannok*, prob fr ScGael *bannach*]



**banns** /banz/ *n pl* the public announcement, esp in church, of a proposed marriage – chiefly in *publish/read the banns* [*pl of bann*, fr ME *bane*, *ban* proclamation, *ban*]

**'banquet** /'bæŋkwɪt/ *n* an elaborate ceremonial meal for numerous people often in honour of a person, a feast [MF, fr OIt *banchetto*, fr dim. of *banca* bench, *bank*]

**'banquet** *vb* to provide with or partake of a banquet – *banqueter* *n*  
**'banquette** /'bæŋkɪt (Fr bōkɛt)/ *n* 1 a raised step along the inside of a parapet or trench for soldiers or guns 2 a built-in upholstered bench along a wall [F, fr Prov *banqueta*, dim. of *banc* bench, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *benc* bench]

**banšhee** /'bæŋʃi/ *also* -/-/ *n* a female spirit in Gaelic folklore whose wailing warns of approaching death in a household [ScGael *bean-siùth*, fr or akin to OIr *ben* side woman of fairyland]

**'bantam** /'bænt(ə)m/ *n* any of numerous small domestic fowl [*Bantam*, former residency in Java]

**'bantam** *adj* small, diminutive

**'bantam,weight** /-,weɪt/ *n* a boxer who weighs not more than 8st 6lb (about 53.5kg) if professional or more than 51kg (about 8st) but not more than 54kg (about 8st 7lb) if amateur

**'banter** /'bæntə/ *vi* to speak or act playfully or wittily [origin unknown] – *banterer* *n*, *banteringly* *adv*

**'banter** *n* good-natured repartee; badinage

**banting** /'bæntɪŋ/ *n*, *archaic* a method of reducing a person's weight based on a low carbohydrate and fat intake [William Banting †1878 E undertaker & writer on dieting]

**Bantu** /'bæntu/, *also* -/-/ *n, pl* Bantus, *esp collectively* Bantu 1 a member of a group of Negroid peoples inhabiting equatorial and southern Africa 2 a group of African languages spoken generally at and south of the Equator → LANGUAGE

**bantustan** /'bæntuʊ'stæn, -'stæn/ *n*, *often cap* an all-black partially self-governing enclave in the Republic of S Africa [*Bantu* + *-stan* land (as in *Hindustan*)]

**banyan** /'bænjən/ *n* an Indian tree of the fig family with branches that send out shoots which grow down to the soil and root to form secondary trunks [earlier *banyan* (Hindu merchant), fr Hindi *baniya*, fr a banyan pagoda erected under a tree of the species in Iran]

**banzai** /'bænzɪ/ *n* – used as a Japanese cheer or battle cry [Jap, lit., 10,000 years]

**baobab** /'bəʊbæb, 'bəʊz-, 'bəʊbæb/ *n* a broad-trunked Old World tropical tree with an edible acid fruit resembling a gourd and bark used in making paper, cloth, and rope [prob native name in Africa]

**bap** /bæp/ *n* a soft thin-crustured usu flour-dusted bread roll that may be of various shapes and sizes according to regional custom [origin unknown]

**baptism** /'bæptɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the ritual use of water for purification, esp in the Christian sacrament of admission to the church 2 an act, experience, or ordeal by which one is purified, sanctified, initiated, or named – *baptismal* /-'tɪz(ə)məl/ *adj*, *baptismally* *adv*

**baptismal name** /'bæptɪz(ə)məl/ *n* CHRISTIAN NAME 1

**baptism of fire** *n* an initial experience (e.g. a soldier's first battle) that is a severe ordeal [orig sense fr trans of LGk *baptisma pyros*, a spiritual baptism by gift of the Holy Spirit; now usu taken to refer to artillery fire]

**baptist** /'bæptɪst/ *n* 1 one who baptizes 2 *cap* a member of a Protestant denomination which reserves baptism to full believers – *Baptist* *adj*

**baptistery, baptistry** /'bæptɪstri/ *n* a part of a church or formerly a separate building used for baptism

**baptize, -ise** /'bæptɪz-, -/-/ *vt* 1 to administer baptism to 2a to purify or cleanse spiritually, esp by a purging experience or ordeal b to initiate, launch 3 to give a name to (as if) at baptism; christen ~ *vi* to administer baptism [ME *baptizen*, fr OF *baptiser*, fr LL *baptizare*, fr Gk *baptizein* to dip, baptize, fr *baptos* dipped, fr *baptein* to dip; akin to ON *kafa* to dive] – *baptizer* *n*

**'bar** /bɑː/ *n* 1a a straight piece (e.g. of wood or metal), that is longer than it is wide and has any of various uses (e.g. as a lever, support, barrier, or fastening) b a solid piece or block of material that is usu rectangular and considerably longer than it is wide c a usu rigid piece (e.g. of wood or metal) longer than it is wide that is used as a handle or support; *specif* a barre 2 sthg that obstructs or prevents passage, progress, or action: e.g. a the extinction of a claim in law b an intangible or nonphysical impediment c a submerged or partly submerged bank (e.g. of sand) along a shore or in a river, often obstructing navigation 3a 'dock; *also* the railing that encloses the dock b *often cap* (1) *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the whole body of barristers (2) the profession of barrister c a barrier beyond

which nonmembers of Parliament may not pass 4 a straight stripe, band, or line much longer than it is wide. e.g. a any of 2 or more horizontal stripes on a heraldic shield b STRIPE 2 c a strip of metal attached to a military medal to indicate an additional award of the medal 5a(1) a counter at which food or esp alcoholic drinks are served (2) a room or establishment whose main feature is a bar for the serving of alcoholic drinks b a place where goods, esp a specified commodity, are sold or served across a counter (<a shoe ~> 6 (a group of musical notes and rests that add up to a prescribed time value, bounded on each side on the staff by) a bar line → MUSIC 7 a small loop or crosspiece of oversewn threads used, esp on garments, as a fastening (e.g. for a hook), for joining, or for strengthening sthg [ME *barre*, fr OF]

**'bar** *vt* -rr- 1a to fasten with a bar b to place bars across to prevent movement in, out, or through 2 to mark with stripes 3a to shut in or out (as if) by bars b to set aside the possibility of; RULE OUT 4a to interpose legal objection to b to prevent, forbid (<no holds ~red>)

**'bar** *prep* except

**'bar** *adv*, of odds in betting being offered for all the unnamed competitors (<20 to 1 ~>)

**'bar** *n* a unit of pressure equal to 100,000N/m<sup>2</sup> (about 14.5lb/in<sup>2</sup>) → UNIT [G, fr Gk *baros*]

**bar-, baro-** *comb form* weight, pressure (<barometer>) [Gk *baros*; akin to Gk *barys* heavy – more at GRIEVE]

**'barb** /bɑːb/ *n* 1a a sharp projection extending backwards from the point of an arrow, fishhook, etc, and preventing easy extraction b a biting or pointedly critical remark or comment 2 any of the side branches of the shaft of a feather → ANATOMY 3 a plant hair or bristle ending in a hook [ME *barbe* barb, beard, fr MF, fr L *barba* – more at BEARD]

**'barb** *vt* to provide (e.g. an arrow) with a barb

**'barb** *n* any of a northern African breed of horses that are noted for speed and endurance and are related to Arabs [F *barbe*, fr It *barbero*, fr *barbero* of Barbary, fr *Barberia* Barbary, coastal region in Africa]

**barbarian** /'bæbəriən/ *adj* 1 of a land, culture, or people alien and usu believed to be inferior to and more savage than one's own 2 lacking refinement, learning, or artistic or literary culture [L *barbarus*] – *barbarian* *n*, *barbarianism* *n*

**barbaric** /'bæbərɪk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of barbarians, *esp* uncivilized 2 savage, barbarous – *barbarically* *adv*

**barbarism** /'bæbərɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 (use of) a word or action unacceptable by contemporary standards; *also* the practice or display of barbarian ideas, acts, or attitudes 2 a barbarian or barbarous social or intellectual condition; backwardness

**barbarity** /'bæbərətɪ/ *n* 1 barbarism 2 (an act or instance of) barbarous cruelty; inhumanity

**barbarize, -ise** /'bæbərɪz-/ *vb* to make or become barbarous – *barbarization* /-'zæɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**barbarous** /'bæb(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 uncivilized 2 lacking culture or refinement 3 mercilessly harsh or cruel [L *barbarus*, fr Gk *barbaros* foreign, ignorant] – *barbarously* *adv*, *barbarousness* *n*

**'Barbary ape** /'bæbəri/ *n* a tailless monkey of N Africa and Gibraltar [Barbary, region of Africa]

**'barbecue** /'bæbbɪ,kyoʊh/ *n* 1 a (portable) fireplace over which meat and fish are roasted 2 meat roasted over an open fire or barbecue pit 3 a social gathering, esp in the open air, at which barbecued food is served [AmerSp *barbacoa*, prob fr Taino]

**'barbecue** *vt* to roast or grill on a rack over hot coals or on a revolving spit in front of or over a source of cooking heat, esp an open fire – *barbecue* *n*

**barbed** /bæbd/ *adj* 1 having barbs 2 characterized by pointed and biting criticism – *barbedness* *n*

**'barbed wire** *n* twisted wires armed at intervals with sharp points

**'barbel** /'bæbl/ *n* a European freshwater fish with 4 barbels on its upper jaw [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *barbellus*, dim. of L *barbus* barbel, fr *barbe* beard – more at BEARD]

**'barbel** *n* a slender tactile projecting organ on the lips of certain fishes (e.g. catfish) used in locating food [obs F, fr MF, dim. of *barbe* barb, beard]

**barbell** /'bæbəl/ *n* a bar with adjustable weighted discs attached to each end that is used for exercise and in weight lifting

**barber** /'bæbə/ *n* sby, esp a man, whose occupation is cutting and dressing men's hair and shaving [ME, fr MF *barbeor*, fr *barbe* beard, fr L *barba*] – *barber* *vb*

**barberry** /'bæbb(ə)rɪ-, -beri/ *n* any of a genus of shrubs having spines, yellow flowers, and oval red berries [by folk etymology fr ME *barbere*, fr MF *barbarin*, fr Ar *barbāris*]

- 'barber,shop** /-shop/ *n* unaccompanied vocal harmonizing of popular songs, esp by a male quartet [fr former custom of men in barbershops forming quartets for impromptu singing]
- barber's pole** *n* a red and white striped pole fixed to the front of a barber's shop
- barbette** /bah'bet/ *n* 1 a mound of earth or a protected platform from which guns fire over a parapet 2 the armour protection of a turret on a warship [F, dim of *barbe* headdress]
- barbican** /bah'bikən/ *n* an outer defensive work, esp a tower at a gate or bridge [ME, fr OF *barbacane*, fr ML *barbacana*]
- barbital** /bah'bitəl/ *n*, *NAm* barbitone [barbituric + -al (as in *Veronal*)]
- barbitone** /bah'bitəʊn/ *n*, *Br* a barbiturate that is a hypnotic formerly much used in sleeping pills [barbituric + -one]
- barbiturate** /bah'bityoʊrət/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of barbituric acid 2 any of several derivatives of barbituric acid (e.g. thiopentone and phenobarbitone) that are used esp in the treatment of epilepsy and were formerly much used in sleeping pills
- barbituric acid** /bah'bityoʊərɪk/ *n* an acid used in the manufacture of barbiturate drugs and plastics [part trans of *G barbitursäure*, irreg fr the name *Barbara* + ISV *uric* + *G saure* acid]
- barbule** /bah'byoʊl/ *n* any of the small outgrowths that fringe the barbs of a feather ~ ANATOMY [L *barbula* little beard]
- barcarole, barcarolle** /bah'kə'rəʊl/ *n* (music imitating) a Venetian boat song with a beat suggesting a rowing rhythm [F *barcarolle*, fr It *barcarola*, fr *barcarolo* gondolier, fr *barca* barque, fr LL]
- 'bard** /bahd/ *n* 1 shy, specif a Celtic poet-singer, who composed, sang, or recited verses on heroes and their deeds 2 a poet, specif one recognized or honoured at an esteddfod 3 *cap* – used as an epithet for Shakespeare. + *the* [ME, fr ScGael & Mlr, akin to W *bardd* poet] – **bardic** *adj*
- ²bard, barde** *n* a strip of pork fat, bacon, etc for covering lean meat before roasting [MF *barde* armour or ornamental covering for a horse, fr OSP *barða*, fr *Ar barða'ah*] – **bard** *vi*
- bardolatry** /bah'dolətri/ *n* idolatry of Shakespeare [*Bard* (of *Avon*), epithet of William Shakespeare +1616 E poet & dramatist + *idolatry*] – **bardolater** *n*
- 'bare** /beə/ *adj* 1 lacking a natural, usual, or appropriate covering, esp clothing 2 open to view, exposed – often in *lay bare* 3a unfurnished, empty (*the cupboard was ~*) b destitute of 4a having nothing left over or added, scant, mere (*the ~ necessities*) b undisguised, unadorned (*the ~ facts*) [ME, fr OE *bær*; akin to OHG *bar* naked, Lith *basas* barefoot] – **bareness** *n*
- ²bare** *vi* to make or lay bare, uncover, reveal
- 'bare,back** /-bak/, **'bare,backed** *adv* or *adj* on the bare back of a horse without a saddle
- bare bones** *n pl* the barest essentials, facts, or elements
- 'barefaced** /-feyst/ *adj* lacking scruples, shameless ['BAREF + -FACED] – **barefacedly** /-feystli/, **'faysidli** *adv*, **barefacedness** *n*
- 'bare,foot** /-foʊt/, **barefooted** /-foʊtɪd/ *adv* or *adj* without shoes, socks, stockings, etc, with the feet bare
- barefoot doctor** *n* a villager, esp in Asia, who has been given some medical training and who is the first person consulted by sick people in his/her community
- 'bare-handed** *adv* or *adj* 1 without gloves 2 without tools or weapons (*fight an animal ~*)
- 'bareheaded** /-hedɪd/ *adv* or *adj* without a covering for the head – **bareheadedness** *n*
- barely** /'beəli/ *adv* 1 scarcely, hardly 2 in a meagre manner; scantily (*a ~ furnished room*)
- 'bargain** /'bɑ:gən/ *n* 1 an agreement between parties concerning the terms of a transaction between them or the course of action each pursues in respect to the other 2 an advantageous purchase 3 a transaction, situation, or event regarded in the light of its good or bad results (*make the best of a bad ~*) – **into the bargain** *also*
- ²bargain** *vi* 1 to negotiate over the terms of a purchase, agreement, or contract 2 to come to terms; agree [ME *bargannen*, fr MF *bargaignier*, of Gmc origin; akin to OF *borgian* to borrow] – **bargainer** *n* – **bargain** *for* to be at all prepared for; EXPECT 2a
- 'bargain, basement** *n* a section of a shop where merchandise is sold at reduced prices
- 'barge** /bahj/ *n* 1a a flat-bottomed boat used chiefly for the transport of goods on inland waterways or between ships and the shore; *also* **NARROW BOAT** b a flat-bottomed coastal sailing vessel with leeboards instead of a keel 2a a large naval motorboat used by flag officers b an ornate carved vessel used on ceremonial occasions [ME, fr OF, fr LL *barca*]
- ²barge** *vi* 1 to move in a headlong or clumsy fashion 2 to intrude *in* or *into* [fr the slow heavy motion of a barge]
- 'barge,board** /-bawd/ *n* an often ornamented board attached to the sloping edge of a gabled roof ~ ARCHITECTURE [origin unknown]
- bargee** /bah'jee/ *n*, *Br* *sby* who works on a barge
- barilla** /bə'ri:lə/ *n* either of 2 European saltworts or a related Algerian plant [Sp *barrilla*]
- baritone** /'bɑ:ti:n/ *n* 1 (a person with) a male singing voice between bass and tenor 2 a member of a family of instruments having a range next below that of the tenor [F *baryton* or It *baritono*, fr Gk *barytonos* deep sounding, fr *barys* heavy + *tonos* tone – more at *GRIEVE*] – **baritone** *adj*, **baritonal** /-tə'ni:l/ *adj*
- barium** /'beəriəm/ *n* a soft bivalent metallic element of the alkaline-earth group ~ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *bar-*] – **baric** /'bɑ:ik/ *adj*
- barium meal** *n* a solution of barium sulphate swallowed by a patient to make the stomach or intestines visible in X-ray pictures
- 'bark** /bahk/ *vi* 1 to make (a sound similar to) the short loud cry characteristic of a dog 2 to speak in a curt, loud, and usu angry tone, snap ~ *vi* to utter in a curt, loud, and usu angry tone [ME *berken*, fr OE *beorcan*; akin to ON *berkja* to bark, Lith *burgeti* to growl] – **barker** *n* – **bark up the wrong tree** to proceed under a misapprehension
- ²bark** *n* 1 (a sound similar to) the sound made by a barking dog 2 a short sharp peremptory utterance – **barkless** *adj*
- ²bark** *n* the tough exterior covering of a woody root or stem [ME, fr ON *bark-*, *borkr*; akin to MD & MLG *borke* bark] – **barkless** *adj*
- 'bark** *vi* to abrade the skin of
- ²bark** *n* 1 *NAm* a barque 2 a boat – poetic [ME, fr MF *barque*, fr OProv *barca*, fr LL]
- 'bark, beetle** *n* any of several beetles that bore under the bark of trees, both as larva and adult
- 'bar,keeper** /-keepeə/, **barkeep** /-keep/ *n*, *NAm* a barman
- barley** /'bɑ:li/ *n* a widely cultivated cereal grass whose seed is used to make malt and in foods (e.g. breakfast cereals and soups) and stock feeds [ME *barly*, fr OE *beorlic* of barley, akin to OE *bere* barley, L *far* spelt]
- 'barley 'wine** *n* a strong ale
- 'bar, line** *n* a vertical line across a musical staff before the first beat of a bar ~ MUSIC
- barm** /bahm/ *n* yeast formed during the fermenting of beer [ME *berme*, fr OE *beorma*, akin to L *fermentum* yeast, *fervere* to boil – more at *BURN*]
- 'barman** /-mən/, *fem* **'bar,maid** /-mayd/ *n* one who serves drinks in a bar
- 'bar mitzvah** /bah 'mitsvə/ *n*, *often cap B&M* (the initiatory ceremony of) a Jewish youth of 13 who assumes adult religious duties and responsibilities [Heb *bar miswah*, lit. son of the (divine) law]
- 'barmy** /'bɑ:mi/ *adj* 1 frothy with barm 2 slightly mad, foolish – *infrm*
- barn** /bahm/ *n* 1 a usu large farm building for storage, esp of feed, cereal products, etc 2 an unusually large and usu bare building (*a great ~ of a house*) [ME *bern*, fr OE *bercenn*, fr *bere* barley + *ærn* place] – **barney** *adj*
- barnacle** /'bɑ:nkl/ *n* any of numerous marine crustaceans that are free-swimming as larvae but fixed to rocks or floating objects as adults [fr former belief that the barnacle (goose) was generated from this crustacean] – **barnacled** *adj*
- 'barnacle, goose** *n* a European goose that breeds in the arctic [ME *barnakille*, alter of *bernake*, fr ML *bernaca*]
- 'barn, dance** *n* a type of country dance, esp a round dance or a square dance with called instructions; *also* a social gathering for such dances
- 'barn 'door** *n* a movable flap on a (theatre) light used to control the shape of the beam
- barney** /'bɑ:ni/ *vi* or *n*, *Br* (to engage in) a quarrel or row – *infrm* [perh fr the name *Barney*]
- 'barn, owl** *n* a widely distributed owl that nests esp in barns and other buildings
- 'barn, storm** /-stawm/ *vb*, *chiefly NAm* *vi* 1 to tour in theatrical performances 2 to pilot an aeroplane on sightseeing flights or in exhibition stunts, esp in rural districts ~ *vi* to travel across while barnstorming [*barn* + *'storm*; fr itinerant actors performing in barns] – **barn-stormer** *n*
- 'barn, yard** /-yahd/ *n* a farmyard
- baro-** – see **BAR-**
- barograph** /'bɑ:rəgrəf/, *-grəf* *n* a recording barometer [ISV] – **barographic** /-grəfik/ *adj*



**barometer** /bə'romitə/ *n* 1 an instrument for determining the pressure of the atmosphere and hence for assisting in predicting the weather or measuring the height of an ascent 2 sth that serves to register fluctuations (e.g. in public opinion) - **barometry** *n*, **barometric** /bə'ret'ri:k/, **barometrical** *adj*, **barometrically** *adv*

**baron** /bə'rən/ *n* 1a a feudal tenant holding his rights and title by military or other honourable service directly from a sovereign ruler b a lord of the realm 2a a member of the lowest rank of the peerage in Britain b a European nobleman 3 a man of great power or influence in a specified field of activity 4 a joint of meat consisting of 2 loins or sirloins joined by the backbone (< *a ~ of beef*) [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *baro* freeman; (4) prob fr punning *sirloin* as 'Sir Loin']

**baronage** /bə'rənij/ *n* NOBILITY 2

**baroness** /bə'res/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of a baron 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of a baron

**baronet** /bə'renet, 'bærənit/ *n* the holder of a rank of honour below a baron and above a knight

**baronetage** /bə'renetij/ *n* the whole body of baronets

**baronetcy** /bə'renətsi/ *n* the rank of a baronet

**baronial** /bə'roʊniəl/ *adj* 1 of or befitting a baron or the baronage 2 stately, ample

**barony** /bə'rəni/ *n* the domain or rank of a baron

**baroque** /bə'rok/ *adj* (typical) of a style of artistic expression prevalent esp in the 17th c that is marked by extravagant forms and elaborate and sometimes grotesque ornamentation [F, lit., irregular, fr Pg *barroco* or Sp *barroco* irregular pearl] - **baroque** *adv*

**barouche** /bə'roʊsh/ *n* a 4-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with a high driver's seat at the front and a folding top over the rear seats [G *barutsche*, fr It *biroccio*, deriv of LL *birotus* two-wheeled, fr L *bi-* + *rota* wheel - more at ROLL]

**barque** *NAM* chiefly *bark* /bɑ:k/ *n* a sailing vessel with the rearmost of usu 3 masts fore-and-aft rigged and the others square-rigged [ME *bark*, fr MF *barque*, fr OProv *barca*, fr LL]

**barquentine** /bə'kæn'ti:n/ *n* a 3-masted sailing vessel with the foremost square-rigged and the other masts fore-and-aft rigged [*barque* + *-entine*, alter. of *-antine* (as in *brigantine*)]

**barrack** /bə'ræk/ *n* 1 (a set or area of) buildings for lodging soldiers in garrison - often pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr 2 a large building characterized by extreme plainness or dreary uniformity with others - usu pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr [F *baraque*, hut, fr Catal *barraca*]

**barrack** *vt* to lodge in barracks

**barrack** *vi* 1 chiefly *Br* to jeer, scoff 2 chiefly *Austr & NZ* to root, cheer - usu + *for* ~ *vt* 1 chiefly *Br* to shout at derisively, jeer 2 chiefly *Austr & NZ* to support (e.g. a sports team), esp by shouting encouragement [prob fr *borak* nonsense, banter (in a native language of Australia)] - **barracker** *n*

**barrack square** *n* an area for drill practice near a barracks

**barracouta** /bə'rək'ootə/ *n* a large food fish of Pacific seas [modif of AmerSp *barracuda*]

**barracuda** /bə'rək'yoʊdə/ *n*, pl *barracuda*, esp for different types *barracudas* any of several predatory fishes of warm seas that include excellent food fishes as well as forms regarded as poisonous [AmerSp]

**barrage** /bə'ræʒh/ *n* an artificial dam placed in a watercourse or estuary [F, fr *barrer* to bar, fr *barre* bar]

**barrage** *n* 1 a barrier, esp of intensive artillery fire, to hinder enemy action 2 a rapid series (e.g. of questions) [F (*tir de*) *barrage* barrier fire] - **barrage** *vt*

**barrage balloon** *n* a large captive balloon used to support wires or nets to prevent the approach of low-flying enemy aircraft

**barramunda** /bə'rə'moʊndə/ *n* any of several Australian freshwater fishes used for food [native name in Australia]

**barramundi** /bə'rə'moʊndi/ *n* a barramunda

**barrator** also **barater** /bə'retə/ *n* one who engages in barratry

**barratry** /bə'retri/ *n* 1 a fraudulent breach of duty by the master or crew of a ship 2 persistent litigation [ME *barratrie*, fr MF *baraterie* deception, fr *barater* to deceive, exchange]

**barre** /bə'h/ *n* a horizontal handrail used by ballet dancers while exercising [F, *bar*]

**barrel** /bə'rəl/ *n* 1 an approximately cylindrical vessel with bulging sides and flat ends constructed from wooden staves bound together with hoops; also any similar vessel 2 a drum or cylindrical part: e.g. a the discharging tube of a gun b the part of a fountain pen or pencil containing the ink or lead c a cylindrical or tapering housing containing the lenses, iris diaphragm, etc. of a camera or other piece of optical equipment 3 the

trunk, esp of a quadruped [ME *barrel*, fr MF *baril*] - **barrelled**, *NAM* **barreled** *adj* - over a barrel at a disadvantage; in an awkward situation so that one is helpless <he had me over a barrel so I had to give in> - *informal*

**barrel** *vt* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-) to put or pack in a barrel

**barrelhouse** /bə'rel'həʊs/ *n* a style of jazz characterized by a heavy beat and simultaneous improvisation by players [*barrelhouse* (a cheap drinking and dancing establishment)]

**barrel organ** *n* a musical instrument consisting of a revolving cylinder studded with pegs that open a series of valves to admit air from a bellows to a set of pipes

**barren** /bə'rən/ *adj* 1 not reproducing: e.g. a of a female or mating incapable of producing offspring b habitually failing to fruit 2 not productive; esp producing inferior or scanty vegetation 3 lacking, devoid of 4 lacking interest, information, or charm [ME *barene*, fr OF *baraine*] - **barrenly** *adv*, **barrenness** *n*

**barricade** /bə'rɪkəɪd/, -i-/ *vt* 1 to block off, stop up, or defend with a barricade 2 to prevent access to by means of a barricade

**barricade** *n* 1 an obstruction or rampart thrown up across a way or passage to check the advance of the enemy 2 a barrier, obstacle [F, fr MF, fr *barriquer* to barricade, fr *barrique* barrel]

**barrier** /bə'rɪə/ *n* 1 a material object (e.g. a stockade, fortress, or railing) or set of objects that separates, demarcates, or serves as a barricade 2 sth immaterial that impedes or separates (< ~s of reserve>) 3 a factor that tends to restrict the free movement, mingling, or interbreeding of individuals or populations [ME *barrere*, fr MF *barriere*, fr *barre*]

**barrier reef** *n* a coral reef roughly parallel to a shore and separated from it by a lagoon

**barring** /bə'hɪŋg/ *prep* excepting

**barrio** /bə'rɪəʊ, 'bɑ-/ *n*, pl *barrios* a Spanish-speaking neighbourhood in a city or town in the USA, esp in the Southwest [Sp, fr Ar *barri* of the open country, fr *barr* outside, open country]

**barrister** /bə'rɪstə/, **barrister-at-law** *n* a lawyer who has the right to plead as an advocate in an English or Welsh superior court - compare SOLICITOR ['bɑr + -i- + -ster]

**barroom** /-rəʊm, -rʊm/ *n* BAR 5a(2)

**barrow** /bə'rəʊ/ *n* a large mound of earth or stones over the remains of the dead, a tumulus [ME *bergh*, fr OE *beorg*; akin to OHG *berg* mountain, Skt *brhāt* high]

**barrow** *n* a male pig castrated before sexual maturity [ME *barow*, fr OE *bearg*; akin to OHG *barug* barrow, OE *borian* to bore]

**barrow** *n* a cart with a shallow box body, 2 wheels, and shafts for pushing it [ME *barew*, fr OE *bearewe*; akin to OE *beran* to carry - more at *BEAR*]

**barrow boy** *n* a man or boy who sells goods (e.g. fruit or vegetables) from a barrow

**bar sinister** *n* 1 an imaginary heraldic shape or representation indicating bastardy 2 the condition of being of illegitimate birth

**bar tender** /-tendə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a barman

**barter** /bə'tɜ:/ *vi* to trade by exchanging one commodity for another without the use of money ~ *vt* 1 to exchange (as if) by bartering 2 to part with unwisely or for an unworthy return - + *away* [ME *bartren*, fr MF *barater*] - **barterer** *n*

**barter** *n* the carrying on of trade by bartering

**bartizan** /bə'tɪz(ə)n, bɑ'tɪz(ə)n/ *n* a corner turret, parapet, etc projecting from a building [ME *bretasinge*, fr *bretasce* parapet - more at *BRATTICE*]

**baryon** /bə'rɪən/ *n* any of a group of elementary particles (e.g. a hyperon) that are fermions and have a mass equal to or greater than that of the proton [ISV *bary-* (fr Gk *barys* heavy) + *-on* - more at *ORIEVE*] - **baryonic** /-ɒnɪk/ *adj*

**barytes** /bə'rɪetɜ:/ *n* naturally occurring barium sulphate [Gk *barytēs* weight, fr *barys* heavy]



**basal** /bə's(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of, situated at, or forming the base 2 of the foundation, base, or essence; fundamental - **basally** *adv*

**basal metabolic rate** *n* the rate at which heat is given off by an organism at complete rest

**basal metabolism** *n* the rate at which energy is used in a fasting and resting organism using energy solely to maintain vital cellular activity, respiration, and circulation

**basalt** /bə's(ə)l, bə'sɔ:l/ *n* a dense to fine-grained dark igneous rock consisting essentially of a feldspar and usu pyroxene [L *basaltēs*, MS var of *basanites* touchstone, fr Gk *basanites* (*lithos*), fr *basanos* touchstone, fr Egypt *bhnw*] - **basaltic** /-sɔ:lɪk/ *adj*

**basecule** /'baskyool, 'baskyoohl/ *n* (a bridge raised or lowered by a counterbalancing apparatus [F, seesaw])

**base** /bays/ *n* **1a** the bottom of sthg, a foundation **b** the lower part of a wall, pier, or column considered as a separate architectural feature  **ARCHITECTURE** **c** a side or face of a geometrical figure on which it is regarded as standing  **MATHEMATICS** **d** that part of an organ by which it is attached to another structure nearer the centre of a living organism **2a** a main ingredient **b** a supporting or carrying ingredient **3** the fundamental part of sthg, a basis **4a** a centre from which a start is made in an activity or from which operations proceed **b** a line in a survey which serves as the origin for computations **c** the locality or installations on which a military force relies for supplies or from which it starts operations **d(1)** the number with reference to which a number system is constructed **(2)** a number with reference to which logarithms are computed **e** **ROOT** **6** **5a** the starting place or goal in various games **b** any of the stations at each of the 4 corners of the inner part of a baseball field to which a batter must run in turn in order to score a run **6** the middle region of a transistor that controls the current flow **7** any of various typically water-soluble and acid or brackish tasting chemical compounds that are capable of taking up a hydrogen ion from or donating an unshared pair of electrons to an acid to form a salt **8** *also* **base component** that part of a transformational grammar that consists of rules and a lexicon and that generates the deep structures of a language [ME, fr MF, fr L *basis*, fr Gk, *step, base, fr bainem* to go – more at COME] – **based** *adj*, **baseless** *adj*

**base** *vt* **1** to make, form, or serve as a base for **2** to use as a base or basis for, establish, found – *usu* + *on* or *upon*


**base** *adj* constituting or serving as a base

**base** *adj* **1a** *ôr* *metal* of comparatively low value and having relatively inferior properties (e.g. resistance to corrosion) – compare **NOBLE** **3** **b** containing a larger than usual proportion of base metals **2** lacking higher values, degrading (*a drab ~ way of life*) **3** of relatively little value [ME *bas* short, low, *hass*, fr MF, fr ML *bassus* short, low] – **basely** *adv*, **baseness** *n*

**baseball** /-bawl/ *n* (the ball used in) a game played with a bat and ball between 2 teams of 9 players each on a large field centring on 4 bases arranged in a square that mark the course a batter must run to score

**baseboard** /-bawd/ *n*, *NAm* SKIRTING BOARD

**baseborn** /-bawn/ *adj* **1** of humble or illegitimate birth **2** *archaic* mean, ignoble [*'base*]

**baseline** /-lien/ *n* the back line at each end of a court in tennis, badminton, etc  **SPORT**

**basement** /-mənt/ *n* the part of a building that is wholly or partly below ground level [prob fr *'base* + *-ment*] – **basementless** *adj*

**basenji** /'bɑːsenj/ *n* any of an African breed of small compact curly-tailed dogs that seldom bark [of Bantu origin, akin to Lingala *basenji*, pl of *mosenji* native]

**bash** /bash/ *vt* **1** to strike violently, *also* to injure or damage by striking, smash – often + *in* or *up* **2** to make a violent attack on *USE* *infrm* [prob *imit*] – **basher** *n*

**bash** *n* **1** a forceful blow **2** *chiefly Br* a try, attempt (*have a ~ at it*) **3** *NAm* a festive social gathering, a party *USE* *infrm*

**bashful** /'bashf(ə)/ *adj* **1** socially shy or timid **2** characterized by, showing, or resulting from extreme sensitiveness or self-consciousness [*obs bash* (to be abashed), fr ME *basshen*, short for *abasshen*, *abaishen* – more at **ABASH**] – **bashfully** *adv*, **bashfulness** *n*

**basic** /'baɪsɪk, -zɪk/ *adj* **1** of or forming the base or essence, fundamental **2** constituting or serving as the minimum basis or starting point **3a** of, containing, or having the character of a chemical *ba-* **b** having an alkaline reaction; being an alkali **4** of *rock* containing relatively little silica **5** of, being, or made by a steelmaking process in which the furnace is lined with material containing relatively little silica – **basically** *adv*, **basicity** /'baɪsɪtɪ/ *n*

**basic** *n* sthg basic; a fundamental

**BASIC** /'baɪsɪk/ *n* a high-level computer language for programming and interacting with a computer in a wide variety of applications [Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code]

**Basic English** *n* a simplified version of English with a vocabulary of 850 words designed for teaching and international communication

**basic slag** *n* a slag used in the basic process of steelmaking and useful as a fertilizer

**basidiomycete** /bəˌsɪdɪə'miːseet, -'-----/ *n* any of a large class of higher fungi bearing spores on a basidium and including rusts, mushrooms, and puffballs [derives of NL *basidium* + Gk *myket-*, *mykes* fungus – more at **MYC-**] – **basidiomycetous** /-miːseetəs/ *adj*

**basidio,spore** /-spaw/ *n* a spore produced by a basidium [NL *basidium* + E *-o-* + *spore*] – **basidiosporous** /bəˌsɪdɪə'spawrəs, bəˌsɪdɪ'ospərəs/ *adj*

**basidium** /bəˌsɪdɪ-əm/ *n*, pl *basidia* /-dɪ-ə/ a specialized cell on a basidiomycete bearing usu 4 basidiospores [NL, fr L *basis*] – **basidial** *adj*

**basil** /'bɑːz(ə)/ *n* any of several plants of the mint family; *esp* **SWEET BASIL** [MF *basile*, fr LL *basilicum*, fr Gk *basilikon*, fr neut of *basilikos*]

**basilar** /'basila, 'bɑːzɪlə/ *adj* of or situated at the base [irreg fr *basis*]

**basilar membrane** *n* a membrane in the cochlea of the inner ear that vibrates in response to sound waves

**basilica** /bəˌzɪlɪkə, bəˌsɪ-/ *n* **1** an oblong building used in ancient Rome as a place of assembly or as a lawcourt and usu ending in an apse **2** an early Christian church similar to a Roman basilica **3** a Roman Catholic church given certain ceremonial privileges [L, fr Gk *basilikē*, fr fem of *basilikos* royal, fr *basileus* king] – **basilican** *adj*

**basilisk** /'basɪlɪsk, 'bɑːzɪ-/ *n* **1** a mythical reptile whose breath and glance were fatal **2** any of several crested tropical American lizards related to the iguanas [ME, fr L *basiliscus*, fr Gk *basiliskos*, fr dim of *basileus*] – **basilisk** *adj*

**basin** /'beɪs(ə)n/ *n* **1a** a round open usu metal or ceramic vessel with a greater width than depth and sides that slope or curve inwards to the base, used typically for holding water for washing **b** a bowl with a greater depth than width *esp* for holding, mixing, or cooking food (*a pudding ~*) **c** the contents of a basin **2a** a dock built in a tidal river or harbour **b** a (partly) enclosed water area, esp for ships **3a** a depression in the surface of the land or ocean floor **b** the region drained by a river and its tributaries **4** an area of the earth in which the strata dip from the sides towards the centre [ME, fr OF *bacm*, fr LL *bacchinon*] – **basinal** *adj*, **basined** *adj*

**basis** /'beɪsɪs/ *n*, pl *bases* /'beɪseɪz/ **1** a foundation **2** the principal component of sthg **3** a basic principle or way of proceeding [L – more at *'BASE*]

**bask** /'bɑːsk/ *vi* **1** to lie in, or expose oneself to, a pleasant warmth or atmosphere **2** to enjoy sb's favour or approval – *usu* + *in* [ME *basken*, fr ON *bathask*, refl of *batha* to bathe, akin to OE *baeth* bath]

**basket** /'bɑːskɪt/ *n* **1a** a rigid or semirigid receptacle made of interwoven material (e.g. osiers, cane, wood, or metal) **b** any of various lightweight usu wood containers **c** the contents of a basket **2** sthg that resembles a basket, esp in shape or use **3** a net open at the bottom and suspended from a metal ring that constitutes the goal in basketball **4** a collection, group (*the ~ of major world currencies*) **5 Br** a person of a specified type (*she's a nice old ~*) – *infrm* [ME, prob fr (assumed) ONF *baskot*, akin to OF *bas*: *houe* wooden vessel, both fr L *bascauda* dishpan, of Celt origin; akin to Mlr *basc* necklace – more at **FASCIA**, (5) euphemism for *bastard*] – **basketful** *n*, **basketlike** *adj*

**basketball** /-bawl/ *n* (the ball used in) an indoor court game between 2 teams of 5 players each who score by tossing a large ball through a raised basket

**basket chair** *n* a wickerwork armchair

**basketry** /'bɑːskɪtri/ *n* (the art or craft of making) baskets or objects woven like baskets

**basket weave** *n* a textile weave resembling the chequered pattern of a plaited basket


**basketwork** /-wuhk/ *n* basketry

**basking shark** /'bɑːskɪŋk/ *n* a large species of shark that often lies near the water surface

**bas mitzvah** /'bas 'mɪtʒvə/ *n*, often *cap B&M* a Jewish girl who at about 13 years of age assumes religious responsibilities [Heb *bath mišwah*, lit, daughter of the (divine) law]

**basophil** /'baɪsəˌfɪl, 'baɪzə-/ *n*, *basophile* /-fɪl/ *n* a white blood cell with basophilic granules – compare **EOSINOPHIL**  **ANATOMY**

**basophilic** /-'fɪlɪk/ *adj* staining readily with dyes that are chemical bases (*some blood cells contain ~ granules*) [ISV *base* + *-o-* + *-philic*]

**Basque** /bask, bɑːsk/ *n* a member of a people inhabiting the W Pyrenees or their language  **LANGUAGE** [F, fr L *Vasco*] – **Basque** *adj*

**bas-relief** /'bas rɪˈleɪf, 'bah, 'bɑː-/ *n* sculptural relief in which the design projects very slightly from the surrounding surface – compare **HIGH RELIEF** [F, fr *bas* low + *relief* raised work]


**base** /bas/ *n*, pl *bases*, *esp* for different types *bases* any of numerous edible spiny-finned fishes [ME *base*, alter of OE *bærs*, akin to OE *byrst* bristle – more at **BRISTLE**]

**base** /bays/ *adj* **1** deep or grave in tone **2a** of low pitch **b** of or having the range or part of a bass [ME *bas* base]

**base** /bays/ *n* **1** the lowest part in 4-part harmony **2a** (a person with)

the lowest adult male singing voice **b** a member of a family of instruments having the lowest range; *esp* a double bass or bass guitar

**\*bass** /bas/ *n* a coarse tough fibre from palm trees [alter. of *bast*]

**bass clef** /bəys/ *n* a clef placing the F below middle C on the fourth line of the staff  **MUSIC**

**bass drum** /bəys/ *n* a large drum with 2 heads that gives a booming sound of low indefinite pitch

**basset** /basit/, **basset hound** *n* (any of) a breed of short-legged hunting dogs with very long ears [F *basset*, fr MF, fr *basset* short, fr *bas* low – more at **\*BASE**]

**bassist** /bəysist/ *n* a double bass player

**basso** /bəsoh/ *n, pl bassos, bassal* /-sɪ/ *an* (operatic) bass singer [It, fr ML *bassus*, fr *bassus* short, low]

**bassoon** /bə'soʊn/ *n* a double-reed woodwind instrument with a usual range 2 octaves lower than the oboe [F *basson*, fr It *bassone*, fr *basso*] – **bassoonist** *n*

**basso profundo** /prə'foʊndoh/ *n, pl basso profundos* (a person with) an exceptionally low bass singing voice [It, lit., deep bass]

**bass viol** /bəys/ *n* VIOLA DA GAMBA

**bast** /bast/ *n* 1 phloem 2 a strong woody fibre obtained chiefly from the phloem of certain plants [ME, fr OE *bast*; akin to OHG & ON *bast*]

**\*bastard** /bəstəd, 'ba-/ *n* 1 an illegitimate child 2 sth spurious, irregular, inferior, or of questionable origin 3a an offensive or disagreeable person – often + *you* as a generalized term of abuse **b** a fellow of a usu specified type (*poor old ~*) – *infrm* [ME, fr OF *bastard*, *bastard*, perh fr *filz de bast*, lit., son of the barn] – **bastardly** *adj*

**\*bastard** *adj* 1 illegitimate 2 of an inferior or less typical type, stock, or form 3 lacking genuineness or authority; false

**bastardize**, **-ize** /bəstədizeɪ, 'ba-/ *vt* 1 to declare illegitimate 2 to debase – **bastardization** /-diz'eɪzən/ *n*

**bastard wing** *n* the projecting part of a bird's wing corresponding to a mammal's thumb and bearing a few short feathers

**bastardy** /bəstədi, 'ba-/ *n* the quality or state of being a bastard, illegitimacy

**\*baste** /bəyst/ *vt* TACK 1b [ME *basten*, fr MF *bastir*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *besten* to patch; akin to OE *best* *best*] – **baster** *n*

**\*baste** *vt* to moisten (e.g. meat) at intervals with melted butter, dripping, etc during cooking, *esp* roasting [origin unknown] – **baster** *n*

**\*baste** *vt* to beat severely or soundly; thrash [prob fr ON *beysta*; akin to OE *bēatan* to beat]

**Bastille Day** /bə'steɪl/ *n* July 14 observed in France as a national holiday in commemoration of the fall of the Bastille in 1789

**bastinado** /bəsti'nəhd/ *n* a bastinado

**bastinado** /bəsti'nəhdoh/ *n, pl bastinados* 1 (a blow or beating with) a stick or cudgel 2 the punishment of beating the soles of the feet with a stick [Sp *bastonada*, fr *bastón* stick, fr LL *bastum*] – **bastinado** *vt*

**basting** /bəystɪŋ/ *n* a severe beating [fr gerund of *\*baste*]

**bastion** /bəsti-ən/ *n* 1 a projecting part of a fortification 2 a fortified area or position 3 sth considered a stronghold; a bulwark [MF, fr *bastille* fortress, modif of OProv *bastida*, fr *bastir* to build, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *besten* to patch] – **bastioned** *adj*

**\*bat** /bat/ *n* 1 a stout solid stick; a club 2 a sharp blow; a stroke 3 a (wooden) implement used for hitting the ball in cricket, baseball, table tennis, etc 4a a batsman **b** a turn at batting in cricket, baseball, etc 5 a hand-held implement shaped like a table-tennis bat for guiding aircraft when landing or taxiing [ME, fr OE *batt*, prob of Celt origin; akin to Gaulish *andabata*, a gladiator – more at **BATTLE**] – *off one's own bat* through one's own efforts, *esp* without being prompted

**\*bat** *vb* -tt- *vt* to strike or hit (as if) with a bat ~ *vi* 1 to strike a ball with a bat 2 to take one's turn at batting, *esp* in cricket

**\*bat** *n* any of an order of nocturnal flying mammals with forelimbs modified to form wings [alter. of ME *bakke*, *bat* of Scand origin; akin to OSw *nattbakka* bat]

**\*bat** *vt* -tt- to blink, *esp* in surprise or emotion (*never ~ ted an eyelid*) [prob alter. of *bate* (to beat wings), fr ME *baten*, fr MF *batre* to beat – more at **DEBATE**]

**batch** /bach/ *n* 1 the quantity baked at 1 time 2a the quantity of material produced at 1 operation or for use at 1 time **b** a group of jobs to be run on a computer at 1 time with the same program (~ *processing*) 3 a group of people or things; a lot [ME *batche*; akin to OE *bacan* to bake]

**\*bate** /bəyt/ *vt, archaic* to restrain [ME *baten*, sh.-fr *\*baten* to abate] – *with bated breath* anxiously, worriedly

**\*bate** *n* a rage, temper – slang [var of *bait*, perh. back. *n* nation fr *baited* harassed, tormented]

**Batesian mimicry** /bəytə-ən/ *n* *resemblance* of a harmless species to

another that is protected from predators by repellent qualities (e.g. unpleasant taste) [Henry Walter Bates †1892 E naturalist]

**\*bath** /bəth/ *n, pl baths* /bəthz; *sense* 3 often *bəhdz*/ 1 a washing or soaking (e.g. in water or steam) of all or part of the body 2a water used for bathing (*run a ~*) **b** a vessel for bathing in; *esp* one that is permanently fixed in a bathroom **c** (a vat, tank, etc holding) a specified type of liquid used for a special purpose (e.g. to keep samples at a constant temperature) 3a a building containing an apartment or a series of rooms designed for bathing **b** SWIMMING POOL – *usu* *pl* with *sing.* meaning but *sing.* or *pl* in constr. **c** a spa **d** *NAm* a bathroom **USE** (3a&3c) *usu* *pl* with *sing.* meaning [ME, fr OE *bæth*; akin to OHG *bad* bath, OE *bacan* to bake]

**\*bath** *vb, Br vt* to give a bath to ~ *vi* to take a bath

**bath-, batho-** *comb form* depth <*bathometer*> [ISV, fr Gk *bathos*, fr *bathys* deep – more at **BATHY-**]

**Bath bun** *n* a sweet yeast-leavened bun containing dried fruit (e.g. raisins and sultanas) and topped with sugar crystals [Bath, town in England]

**\*bath chair** *n, often cap B* a usu hooded wheelchair [Bath, town in England]

**\*Bath chap** *n* 'CHAP 1, *esp* the flesh of a jaw or lower cheek of a pig used as food [Bath, town in England]

**\*bathe** /bəyd/ *vt* 1 to wash or soak in a liquid (e.g. water) 2 to moisten 3 to apply water or a liquid medicament to 4 to suffuse, *esp* with light ~ *vi* 1 to take a bath 2 to swim (e.g. in the sea or a river) for pleasure 3 to become immersed or absorbed [ME *bathe*, fr OE *bathian*, akin to OE *bæth* bath] – **bather** *n*

**\*bathe** *n, Br* an act of bathing, *esp* in the sea

**bathetic** /bə'thetik/ *adj* characterized by bathos [*bathos* + *-etic* (as in *pathetic*)] – **bathetically** *adv*

**bathroom** /bə'θu:ms/ *n* a building equipped for people to take baths

**\*bathing beauty** /bəydɪŋ/ *n* a woman in a swimming costume who is a contestant in a beauty contest

**\*bathing hut** *n* a hut for bathers to undress in

**\*bathing suit** *n* SWIMMING COSTUME

**\*bath mat** *n* 1 a usu washable mat, often of absorbent material, placed beside a bath 2 a mat of nonslip material, -*asp* rubber, placed in a bath to prevent the bather from slipping

**batholith** /bə'thəlɪθ/ *n* a deep-seated dome-shaped mass of intrusive igneous rock [ISV] – **batholithic** /-lɪθɪk/ *adj*

**bathometer** /bə'thɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring depths in water

**bathos** /bə'thos/ *n* 1 a sudden descent from the sublime to the commonplace or absurd; an anticlimax 2 exceptional commonplaceness, triteness [Gk, lit., depth]

**\*bathrobe** /-rəhb/ *n* a loose usu absorbent robe worn before and after having a bath

**\*bathroom** /-rəʊm, -ru:m/ *n* 1 a room containing a bath or shower and usu a washbasin and toilet 2 a toilet – chiefly *euph*

**\*bath salts** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr. a usu coloured compound for perfuming or softening bathwater

**bathy-** *comb form* 1 deep, depth <*bathymetry*> <*bathypelagic*> 2 deep-sea <*bathysphere*> [ISV, fr Gk, fr *bathys* deep; akin to Skt *gahate* he dives into]

**bathyscaphe** /bə'thɪskəf/, -skaf/ *n* a navigable submersible ship for deep-sea exploration [ISV *bathy-* + Gk *skaphe* light boat]

**bathysphere** /bə'tɪsfɪə/ *n* a strongly built diving sphere for deep-sea observation

**batik** /batik/ *n* (a fabric or design printed by) an Indonesian method of hand-printing by coating with wax the parts to be left undyed [Malay, fr Jav, painted]

**batiste** /bə'teɪst/ *n* a fine soft sheer fabric of plain weave made of various fibres [F]

**batman** /batmən/ *n* a British officer's servant [*bat* (pack-saddle, luggage), fr MF *bat*, deriv of Gk *bastazein* to carry]

**baton** /bat(ə)n, 'bɑ:tn, bə'tɒn (Fr bɑ'tɔ̃)/ *n* 1 a cudgel, truncheon 2 a staff borne as a symbol of office 3 a wand with which a conductor directs a band or orchestra 4 a stick or hollow cylinder passed by each member of a relay team to the succeeding runner [F *bâton*, fr OF *baston*, fr LL *bastum* stick]

**\*baton charge** /bat(ə)n/ *n* a charge by police or troops wielding batons

**batrachian** /bə'trækɪ-ən/ *n* a frog, toad, or other vertebrate amphibian animal [deriv of Gk *batrachos* frog] – **batrachian** *adj*

**bats** /bats/ *adj*, chiefly Br batty <he's gone ~> - infml [prob fr the phrase, *to have bats in the belfry* to be crazy]

**batsman** /-mən/ *n* sby who bats or is batting, esp in cricket ➡ SPORT - batsmanship *n*

**battalion** /bə'talyən/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 a large body of organized troops 2 a military unit composed of a headquarters, and 2 or more companies 3 a large group [MF *bataillon*, fr Olt *battaglione*, aug of *battaglia* company of soldiers, battle, fr LL *battalia* combat - more at BATTLE]

**batten** /bat(ə)n/ *vi* [orig sense, to improve, grow fat, thrive, prob fr ON *batna* to improve] - **batten on** 1 to make oneself selfishly dependent on (sby) <battened on his rich relatives> 2 to seize on (an excuse, argument, etc)

**batten** *n* 1 a thin narrow strip of squared timber 2a a thin strip of wood, plastic, etc inserted into a sail to keep it flat and taut b a slat used to secure the tarpaulins and hatch covers of a ship 3 a strip holding a row of floodlights [F *baïon*]

**batten** *vt* to provide or fasten (e.g. hatches) with battens - often + *down*

**batter** /batə/ *vt* 1 to beat persistently or hard so as to bruise, shatter, or demolish 2 to wear or damage by hard usage or blows <a ~ed old hat> ~ *vi* to strike heavily and repeatedly, beat [ME *bateren*, prob freq of *batten* to bat, fr *bat*]

**batter** *n* a mixture that consists essentially of flour, egg, and milk or water and is thin enough to pour or drop from a spoon, also batter mixture (e.g. that used for coating fish) when cooked - compare DOUGH [ME *bater*, prob fr *bateren*]

**batter** *vi* to slope upwards and backwards *vt* to cause (e.g. a wall) to slope upwards and backwards [origin unknown]

**batter** *n* an upwards and backwards slope of the outer face of a structure

**batter** *n* the player who is batting in baseball ['BAT + -ER]

**battering ram** /batə'riŋ/ *n* an ancient military siege engine consisting of a large wooden beam with a head of iron used for beating down walls

**battery** /bat(ə)r/ *n* 1a the act of battering b the unlawful application of any degree of force to a person without his/her consent 2 a grouping of similar artillery guns (e.g. for tactical purposes) 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr a tactical and administrative army artillery unit equivalent to an infantry company 4 one or more cells connected together to provide an electric current e.g. a STORAGE CELL b DRY CELL, also a connected group of dry cells 5a a number of similar articles, items, or devices arranged, connected, or used together, a set, series b(1) a large number of small cages in which egg-laying hens are kept (2) a series of cages or compartments for raising or fattening animals, esp poultry c an impressive or imposing group, an array 6 the position of readiness of a gun for firing [MF *batterie*, fr OF, fr *battre* to beat, fr L *batuere* - more at BATTLE]

**batting** /bat(ə)ŋ/ *n* layers or sheets of raw cotton or wool used esp for lining quilts [fr gerund of *bat*]

**battle** /batl/ *n* 1 a general hostile encounter between armies, warships, aircraft, etc 2 a combat between 2 people 3 an extended contest, struggle, or controversy [ME *bateil*, fr OF *bataille* battle, fortifying tower, battalion, fr LL *battalia* combat, alter of *battualia* fencing exercises, fr I. *battuere* to beat, of Celt origin, akin to Gaulish *andabata*, a gladiator, akin to L *fatuus* foolish, Russ *bat* cudgel]

**battle** *vb* **battling** /bat(ə)l(ə)ŋ/ *vi* 1 to engage in battle; fight 2 to contend with full strength, craft, or resources; struggle ~ *vt* 1 to fight against 2 to force (e.g. one's way) by battling - **battler** *n*

**battle-axe** *n* a quarrelsome domineering woman

**battle cruiser** *n* a large heavily-armed warship faster than a battleship

**battle dress** /-dres/ *n* the uniform worn by soldiers in battle

**battlement** /batl'mənt/ *n* a parapet with indentations that surmounts a wall and is used for defence or decoration - compare CRENELLATION ➡ CHURCH [ME *batelment*, fr MF *bataille* fortifying tower] - **battlemented** /-mentid/ *adj*

**battle royal**, **battle royals** 1 a fight or contest between more than 2 opponents, esp until only the winner remains on his/her feet or in the ring 2 a violent struggle or heated dispute

**battle ship** /-ship/ *n* the largest and most heavily armed and armoured type of warship [short for *line-of-battle ship*]

**battue** /bæ't(y)oo/ *n* (a hunt using) the beating of woods and bushes to flush game [F, fr *battre* to beat]

**batty** /bat(ə)l/ *adj* mentally unstable; crazy - infml ['bat + -y - more at BATS] - battiness *n*

**bauble** /'bawbl/ *n* 1 a trinket or trifle 2 a jester's staff [ME *babel*, fr MF]

**baud** /bawd, bohd/ *n*, *pl* **bauds** any of several units of data transmission speed, *specif* one equal to 1 bit of data per second [*baud* (telegraphic transmission speed unit), fr J M E Baudot †1903 F inventor]

**Bauhaus** /'bow,həʊs/ *adj* (characteristic) of a German school of design established in 1919 and noted esp for a programme that synthesized technology, craftsmanship, and design aesthetics [G *Bauhaus*, lit, architecture house, academy founded in Weimar, Germany]

**baulk** /baw(l)k/ *vb* or *n*, chiefly Br (to) balk

**bauxite** /'bawksiet/ *n* a mineral that is an impure mixture of earthy hydrous aluminium oxides and hydroxides and is the principal ore of aluminium [F, fr Les Baux, place near Arles, France] - **bauxitic** /'bawk'sitik/ *adj*

**Bavarian** /bə'veəriən/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Bavaria or the High German dialect spoken there [Bavaria, region of Germany] - **Bavarian** *adj*

**bawbee**, **baubee** /baw'bee/ *n*, Scot 1 a trifle 2 archaic an English halfpenny [prob fr Alexander Orrok, laird of Sillebawby †1541 Sc master of the mint; original sense, a 16th-c Sc coin]

**bawd** /bawd/ *n* a woman who keeps a house of prostitution, a madam [ME *bawde*, perh fr MF *baud* bold, merry]

**bawdry** /'bawdr/ *n* bawdy [ME *bawderie*, fr *bawde*]

**bawdy** /'bawdi/ *adj* hoisterously or humorously indecent [*bawd* + -y] - **bawdily** *adv*, **bawdiness** *n*

**bawdy** *n* suggestive, coarse, or obscene language [prob fr *bawdy*]

**bawl** /bawl/ *vb* 1 to yell, bellow 2 to cry, wail [ME *baulen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Icel *baula* to low] - **bawler** *n*

**bawl** *n* a loud prolonged cry

**bawl out** *vt*, chiefly NAm to reprimand loudly or severely - *infml*

**bay** /bay/ *adj*, esp of a horse of the colour bay [ME, fr MF *bai*, fr L *badus*, akin to OIr *buid* yellow]

**bay** *n* 1 a horse with a bay-coloured body and black mane, tail, and points 2 a reddish brown colour

**bay** *n* 1 any of several shrubs or trees resembling the laurel 2 an honorary garland or crown, esp of laurel, given for victory or excellence [ME, berry, fr MF *baie*, fr L *bacca*]

**bay** *n* 1 a division of a part of a building (e.g. the walls or roof) or of the whole building 2 a main division of a structure, esp a compartment in the fuselage of an aircraft <the forward instrument ~> [ME, fr MF *baee* opening, fr OF, fr fem of *bae*, pp of *baer* to gape, yawn, fr ML *baiare*]

**bay** *vi* to bark with prolonged tones [ME *baïen*, *abaïen*, fr OF *abaier*, of imit origin]

**bay** *n* 1 the position of one unable to retreat and forced to face a foe or danger <brought his quarry to ~> 2 the position of one kept off or repelled with difficulty <police kept the rioters at ~> [ME *bay*, *abay*, fr OF *baui*, fr *abaier*]

**bay** *n* (a land formation resembling) an inlet of a sea, lake, etc, usu smaller than a gulf ➡ GEOGRAPHY [ME *baie*, fr MF *baie*]

**bay leaf** *n* the leaf of the European laurel used dried in cooking

**bayonet** /'baɪə'net, -'nɛt/ *n* a blade attached to the muzzle of a firearm and used in hand-to-hand combat [F *baïonnette*, fr *Bayonne*, city in France]

**bayonet** *vt* to stab or drive (as if) with a bayonet ~ *vi* to use a bayonet

**bay rum** *n* a fragrant cosmetic and medicinal liquid from the (oil of the) leaves of a W Indian tree of the myrtle family

**bay salt** *n* common salt obtained by evaporating sea water - compare ROCK SALT ['bay]

**bay window** *n* a window or series of windows projecting outwards from the wall ➡ ARCHITECTURE ['bay]

**bazaar** /bə'zɑː/ *n* 1 an (Oriental) market consisting of rows of shops or stalls selling miscellaneous goods 2 a fair for the sale of miscellaneous articles, esp for charitable purposes [Per *bazar*]

**bazooka** /bə'zookə/ *n* an individual infantry antitank rocket launcher [*bazooka* (a crude musical instrument made of pipes and a funnel)]

**BCG vaccine** *n* a vaccine used to protect people against tuberculosis [bacillus Calmette-Guérin, fr Albert Calmette †1933 and Camille Guérin †1961 F bacteriologists]

**bdellium** /deli-əm/ *n* a gum resin similar to myrrh obtained from various trees of the E Indies and Africa [ME, fr L, fr Gk *bdellion*]

**be** /bi, bee, strong bee/ *vb*, pres *1 sing* am /əm, m; strong am/; 2 *sing* are /ə; strong ah/; 3 *sing* is /z; strong iz/, *pl* are; pres subjunctive be; pres

part being; past 1&3 sing was /wɒz; strong wɒz/; 2 sing were /wə; strong wɜː/; pl were; past subjunctive were; past part been /biːn, beɪn; strong biːn/ vi 1a to equal in meaning; have the same connotation as <January is the first month> (let x ~ 10) b to represent, symbolize <(G-d is love)> (Oliver was hamlet) <Valentino was romance> c to have identity with <(it's me)> <(the first person I met was my brother)> <(the difficulty is finding them)> d to belong to the class of <(the fish is a trout)> e to occupy a specified position in space <(the book is on the table)> <(where are the Grampians?)> f to take place at a specified time; occur <(the concert was last night)> g to have a specified qualification <(the leaves are green)> (~ quick), destination <(~ off)> origin <(she is from India)>, occupation <(what's he up to?)>, function or purpose <(it's for you)> <(it's to cut with)>, cost or value <(the book is £5)>, or standpoint <(~ against terrorism)> 2 to have reality or actuality; exist <(I think, therefore I am)> <(once upon a time there was a castle)> ~ va 1 - used with the past participle of transitive verbs as a passive-voice auxiliary <(the money was found)> <(the house is ~ing built)> 2 - used as the auxiliary of the present participle in progressive tenses expressing continuous action <(he is reading)> <(I have been sleeping)> or arrangement in advance <(we are leaving tomorrow)> 3 - used with the past participle of some intransitive verbs as an auxiliary forming archaic perfect tenses <(my father is come - Jane Austen)> 4 - used with to and an infinitive to express destiny <(he was to become famous)> <(they were to have been married)>, arrangement in advance <(I am to interview him today)>, obligation or necessity <(you are not to smoke)>, or possibility <(it was nowhere to be found)> <(you weren't to know)> USE vi (1) used regularly as the linking verb of simple predication, used in the past subjunctive or often in the indicative to express unreal conditions <(if I were you)> <(if I wasn't a Catholic - Daily Mirror)>, often in British English used of groups in the plural form <(Somerset were 28 for 2 - The Observer)> [ME been, fr OE beon; akin to OHG bim am, L fui I have been, futurum about to be, fieri to become, be done, Gk phynai to be born, be by nature, phyein to bring forth - more at AM, ARE, IS, WAS, WERE]

**be-** /bi-/ prefix 1 (vb → vb) on; round; all over <(bedaub)> <(besmear)> 2 (vb → vb) to a great or greater degree, thoroughly <(befuddle)> <(berate)> <(belabour)> 3 (adj → adj) wearing (a specified article of dress) <(bewigged)> <(beribboned)> <(bespectacled)> 4 (vb → vb) about; to, at; upon; against; across <(bestride)> <(bespeak)> 5 (adj, n → vb) make, cause to be, treat as <(belittle)> <(befoo)> <(befriend)> 6 (n → vb) affect, afflict, provide, or cover with, esp excessively <(becalm)> <(bedevil)> [ME, fr OE bi-, be-, akin to OE bi by, near - more at BY]

**beach** /beɪtʃ/ n a (gently sloping) seashore or lakeshore usu covered by sand or pebbles; esp the part of this between the high and low water marks [origin unknown]


**beach** vt to run or drive ashore

**beachcomber** /-kɒmbə/ n one who searches along a shore for useful or salable flotsam and jetsam; esp a white man on the islands of the S Pacific who earns a living by doing this - beachcomb vb

**beachhead** /-hed/ n an area on a hostile shore occupied to secure further landing of troops and supplies

**beach-la-mar** /beɪtʃ la 'mah/ n BÉCHÉ-DE-MER 2 [by folk etymology]

**beacon** /'biːkən/ n 1 a signal fire commonly on a hill, tower, or pole, also, Br a high conspicuous hill suitable for or used in the past for such a fire 2a a signal mark used to guide shipping b a radio transmitter emitting signals for the guidance of aircraft 3 a source of light or inspiration [ME beken, fr OE beacen sign; akin to OHG bēihhan sign]

**bead** /biːd/ n 1 a small ball (e.g. of wood or glass) pierced for threading on a string or wire 2 pl (a series of prayers and meditations made with) a rosary 3 a small ball-shaped body e.g. a drop of liquid b a small metal knob on a firearm used as a front sight 4 a projecting rim, band, or moulding  CAR [ME bede prayer, prayer bead, fr OE bed, gebed prayer; akin to OE biddan entreat, pray - more at BID]

**bead** vt 1 to adorn or cover with beads or beading 2 to string together like beads ~ vi to form into a bead

**beading** /'biːdɪŋ/ n 1 material adorned with or consisting of beads 2a a narrow moulding of rounded often semicircular cross section b a moulding that resembles a string of beads 3 a narrow openwork insertion or trimming (e.g. on lingerie)


**beadle** /'biːdl/ n a minor parish official whose duties include ushering and preserving order at services [ME bedel, fr OE bydel; akin to OHG butil bailiff, OE beodan to command - more at BID]

**beadroll** /'biːd.rɒl/ n a list of names; a catalogue [fr the reading in church of a list of names of people for whom prayers are to be said]

**beady** /'biːdi/ adj, esp of eyes small, round, and shiny with interest or greed ['BEAD + -y]

**beagle** /'biːgl/ n (any of) a breed of small short-legged smooth-coated hounds [ME begle]

**beagling** /'biːglɪŋ/ n hunting on foot with beagles - beagler n

**beak** /beɪk/ n 1a the bill of a bird, esp the bill of a bird of prey adapted for striking and tearing  ANATOMY b any of various rigid projecting mouth structures (e.g. of a turtle); also the long sucking mouth of some insects 2 a pointed structure or formation. a a metal-tipped beam projecting from the bow of an ancient galley for ramming an enemy ship b the pouring spout of a vessel c a projection suggesting the beak of a bird 3 the human nose - infml 4 chiefly Br a magistrate - slang b a schoolmaster - slang [ME bec, fr OF, fr L beccus, of Gaulish origin] - beaked adj

**beaker** /'biːkə/ n 1 a large drinking cup with a wide mouth; a mug 2 a cylindrical flat-bottomed vessel usu with a pouring lip that is used esp by chemists and pharmacists [ME biker, fr ON bikarr, prob fr OS bikerr; akin to OHG behhar beaker; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr ML bicarius beaker, fr Gk bikos earthen jug]

**Beaker Folk** /'biːkə/ n pl a prehistoric people living in Europe in the early Bronze Age whose culture was characterized by finely decorated beakers buried with their dead

**be-all and end-all** n the chief factor, the essential element - often derog

**beam** /biːm/ n 1a a long piece of heavy often squared timber suitable for use in construction b the part of a plough to which the handles, standard, and coupler are attached c the bar of a balance from which scales hang d any of the principal horizontal supporting members of a building or across a ship e the width of a ship at its widest part f an oscillating lever joining an engine piston rod to a crank, esp in one type of stationary steam engine (a ~ engine) 2a a ray or shaft of radiation, esp light b a collection of nearly parallel rays (e.g. X rays) or of particles (e.g. electrons) moving in nearly parallel paths c (the course indicated by) a radio signal transmitted continuously in one direction as an aircraft navigation aid 3 the main stem of a deer's antler 4 the width of the buttocks <(broad in the ~)> - infml [ME beam, fr OE beam tree, beam, akin to OHG boum tree] - off (the) beam wrong, irrelevant - on the beam proceeding or operating correctly

**beam** vt 1 to emit in beams or as a beam, esp of light 2 to aim (a broadcast) by directional aernals ~ vi to smile with joy

**beam-ends** n pl, Br buttocks - infml - on her beam-ends of a ship about to capsize

**beamer** /'biːmə/ n a usu intimidatory delivery of the ball in cricket that passes or hits the batsman at above waist height before it bounces ['BEAM + -ER]

**beamy** /'biːmi/ adj, of a ship broad in the beam

**bean** /biːn/ n 1a (the often edible seed of) any of various erect or climbing leguminous plants b a bean pod used when immature as a vegetable c (a plant producing) any of various seeds or fruits that resemble beans or bean pods 2a a valueless item <(not worth a ~)> b the smallest possible amount of money <(gave up my job and haven't a ~)> USE (2) infml [ME bene, fr OE bean, akin to OHG bona bean]

**bean,bag** /-bag/ n a small fabric bag that is filled with beans and used in games or as a toy

**bean,feast** /-fɛst/ n, Br a festivity, celebration - infml

**beano** /'biːnoh/ n, pl beanos a beanfeast - infml [by shortening & alter.]

**bean,pole** /-pohl/ n a very tall thin person - infml

**bean,shoots** n pl BEAN SPROUTS

**bean,sprouts** n pl the sprouts of bean seeds, esp of the mung bean, used as a vegetable

**bear** /beə/ n, pl bears, (1) bears or esp collectively bear 1 any of a family of large heavy mammals that have long shaggy hair and a short tail and feed largely on fruit and insects as well as on flesh 2 a surly, uncouth, or shambling person 3 one who sells securities or commodities in expectation of a fall in price - compare BULL 2 [ME bere, fr OE bera; akin to OE brūn brown; (3) prob fr proverbial phrase selling the bearskin before catching the bear]

**bear** vb bore /baʊ/; borne also born /baʊn/ vt 1a to carry, transport <(~ gifts)> - often in combination <(airborne troops)> b to carry or own as equipment <(~ arms)> c to entertain mentally <(~ malice)> d to behave, conduct a to have or show as a feature <(~ scars)> <(~ no relationship)> f to give as testimony <(~ false witness)> g to have as an identification <(bore the name of John)> 2a to give birth to - compare BORN b to produce as yield <(~ apples)> c to contain - often in combination <(oil-bearing



- shale*) 3a to support the weight of **b** to accept the presence of, tolerate (< ~ pain) <couldn't ~ his wife's family> **c** to sustain, incur (< ~ the cost) <~ the responsibility> **d** to admit of; allow (<it won't ~ repeating> ~ *vi* 1a to become directed (<bring guns to ~ on a target> - compare BRING TO BEAR **b** to go or extend in a usu specified direction (<the road ~s to the right> 2 to apply, have relevance (<facts ~ing on the situation> 3 to support weight or strain 4 to produce fruit, yield [ME *beren*, fr OE *beran*, akin to OHG *beran* to carry, L *ferre*, Gk *pherein*] - bear fruit to come to satisfying fruition or production - bear in mind to think of, esp as a warning, remember - bear with to show patience or indulgence towards (<bear with the old bore for a while longer>)
- 'bear, baiting** /-baɪtɪŋ/ *n* the practice of setting dogs on a captive bear that was formerly a popular entertainment
- 'beard** /biəd/ *n* 1 the hair that grows on the lower part of a man's face, usu excluding the moustache 2 a hairy or bristly appendage or tuft (e.g. on a goat's chin) [ME *berd*, fr OE *beard*, akin to OHG *bart* beard, L *barba*] - **bearded adj.**, **beardedness *n***, **beardless adj.**
- 'beard** *vt* to confront and oppose with boldness, resolution, and often effrontery, defy ['beard; fr idea of facing an opponent]
- beard down** *vt* to overcome, overwhelm ~ *vi* 1 to exert full strength and concentrated attention 2 of a woman in childbirth to exert concentrated downward pressure in an effort to expel the child from the womb **beard down on** 1 to weigh heavily on 2 to come towards purposefully or threateningly
- bearer** /'beərə/ *n* 1 a porter 2 a plant yielding fruit 3 a pallbearer 4 one who bearing an order for payment, esp a bank note or cheque ['BEAR + -ER]
- 'bear, garden** *n* a scene of great noise or tumult [fr the rowdiness of bearbaiting]
- 'bear, hug** *n* a rough tight embrace
- bearing** /'beərɪŋ/ *n* 1 the manner in which one bears or conducts oneself 2 the act, power, or time of bringing forth offspring or fruit 3a an object, surface, or point that supports **b** a machine part in which another part turns or slides - often pl with sing meaning 4 an emblem or figure on a heraldic shield 5a the compass direction of one point (with respect to another) **b** a determination of position *c pl* comprehension of one's position, environment, or situation (<lost his ~s> **d** a relation, connection, significance - usu - on (<has no ~ on the matter>)
- 'bearing, rein** *n* a checkrein
- bearish** /'beərɪʃ/ *adj* marked by, tending to cause, or fearful of falling prices (e.g. in a stock market) ['BEAR + -ISH] - **bearishly adv.**, **bearishness *n***
- béarnaise** /'səʊs/ *n*, often *cap B* a rich sauce made with butter and egg yolks, and flavoured with wine, onion and tarragon [F *béarnaise*, fem of *béarnais* of Béarn, fr *Béarn*, region & former province of France]
- bear out** *vt* to confirm, substantiate (<research bore out his theory>)
- 'bear, skin** /-/skɪn/ *n* an article made of the skin of a bear, esp a tall black military hat worn by the Brigade of Guards [? GARMET]
- bear up** *vt* to support, encourage ~ *vi* to summon up courage, resolution, or strength (<bearing up under the strain>)
- beast** /beɪst/ *n* 1a an animal as distinguished from a plant **b** a 4-legged mammal as distinguished from human beings, lower vertebrates, and invertebrates *c* an animal under human control 2 a contemptible person [ME *beste*, fr OF, fr L *bestia*]
- beastings** /'bi:stɪŋz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.* NAm *beestings*
- 'beastly** /'beɪstli/ *adj* 1 bestial 2 abominable, disagreeable (< ~ weather> - **beastliness *n***)
- 'beastly adv** very (<a ~ cold day> - *infrm*)
- 'beast of burden** *n* an animal employed to carry heavy material or perform other heavy work (e.g. pulling a plough)
- 'beat** /bi:t/ *vb* **beat**; **beaten** /'bi:t(ə)n/, **beat** *vt* 1 to strike repeatedly - **a** to hit repeatedly so as to inflict pain - often + *up* **b** to strike directly against (sthg) forcefully and repeatedly (<shores ~en by heavy waves> **c** to flap or thrash at vigorously (<a trapped bird ~ing the air> **d** to strike at or range over (as if) in order to rouse game **e** to mix (esp food) by stirring; whip **f** to strike repeatedly in order to produce music or a signal 2a to drive or force by blows (<to ~ off the savage dogs> **b** to pound into a powder, paste, or pulp **c** to make by repeated treading or driving over (<~ a path>) **d(1)** to dislodge by repeated hitting (<~ the dust from the carpet>) **(2)** to lodge securely by repeated striking (<~ a stake into the ground> **e** to shape by beating; esp to flatten thin by blows (<gold ~en into foil>) **f** to sound or express, esp by drumbeat (<~ a tattoo> 3 to cause to strike or tap repeatedly (<~ his foot nervously on the ground> 4a to overcome, defeat; also to surpass **b** to prevail despite (<~ the odds> **c** to
- leave dispirited, irresolute, or hopeless (<a failure at 50, a ~en man> **d** to be or to bowl a ball that is too good for (a batsman) to hit 5 to act ahead of, usu so as to forestall - chiefly in *beat someone to it* 6 to indicate by beating 7 to bewilder, baffle - *infrm* ~ *vi* 1a to dash, strike (<the rain was ~ing on the roof> **b** to glare or strike with oppressive intensity (<the sun was ~ing down> 2a to pulsate, throb **b** to sound on being struck (<the drums were ~ing> 3a to strike the air, flap (<the birds wings ~ frantically> **b** to strike cover or range (as if) in order to find or rouse game 4 to progress with much difficulty, *specif.* of a sailing vessel to make way at sea against the wind by a series of alternate tacks across the wind [ME *beten*, fr OE *beatan*, akin to OHG *bozan* to beat, L -*batere* to beat, *fustis* club] - **beat about the bush** to fail to come to the point in conversation by talking indirectly or evasively - **beat it** to hurry away, scam - *infrm* - **beat one's brains out** to try intently to resolve sthg difficult by thinking
- 'beat** *n* 1a a single stroke or blow, esp in a series, also a pulsation, throb **b** a sound produced (as if) by beating 2 each of the pulsations of amplitude produced by the mixing of sine waves (e.g. sound or radio waves) having different frequencies 3a (the rhythmic effect of) a metrical or rhythmic stress in poetry or music **b** the tempo indicated to a musical performer 4 an area or route regularly patrolled, esp by a policeman 5 TACK 3b 6 a deadbeat - *infrm* - **beatless adj.**
- 'beat** *adj* 1 of or being beatniks (< ~ poets> 2 exhausted - *infrm* [short for *beaten*, pp of *beat*]
- 'beat** *n* a beatnik
- beaten** /'bi:t(ə)n/ *adj* 1 hammered into a desired shape (< ~ gold> 2 defeated
- beater** /'bi:tə/ *n* 1a any of various hand-held implements for whisking or beating (<a carpet ~> (<an egg ~> **b** a rotary blade attached to an electric mixer **c** a stick for beating a gong 2 one who strikes bushes or other cover to rouse game ['BEAT + -ER]
- beatific** /'bi:ə'tɪfɪk/ *adj* 1 of, possessing, or imparting beatitude 2 having a blissful or benign appearance, saintly, angelic (<a ~ smile>) [L *beatificus* making happy, fr *beatus* happy, fr pp of *beare* to bless, akin to L *bonus* good - more at BOUNTY] - **beatifically adv.**
- beatify** /'bi:ə'tɪfi/ *vt* 1 to make supremely happy 2 to authorize the veneration of (a dead person) by Catholics by giving the title 'Blessed' [MF *beatifier*, fr LL *beatificare*, fr L *beatus*] - **beatification** /-fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- beating** /'bi:tɪŋ/ *n* 1 injury or damage inflicted by striking with repeated blows 2 a throbbing 3 a defeat
- beatitude** /'bi:tɪtju:hd, -cho:hd/ *n* 1a a state of utmost bliss **b** - used as a title for a primate, esp of an Eastern church 2 any of a series of sayings of Jesus beginning in the Authorized version of the Bible 'Blessed are' [L *beatitudo*, fr *beatus*]
- beatnik** /'bi:tɪnɪk/ *n* a person, esp in the 1950s and 1960s, who rejected the moral attitudes of established society (e.g. by unconventional behaviour and dress) ['beat + -nik]
- beau** /boh/ *n*, *pl* **beaux**, **beaus** /bohz/ 1 a lover 2 *archaic* a dandy [F, fr *beau* beautiful, fr L *bellus* pretty]
- 'Beaufort, scale** /'boʊfawt/ *n* a scale in which the force of the wind is indicated by numbers from 0 to 12 [Sir Francis Beaufort †1857 E admiral]
- beau idéal** *n*, *pl* **beau ideals** the perfect type or model - often + *of* [F *beau idéal* ideal beauty]
- Beaujolais** /'boʊzəleɪ/ *n* a chiefly red table wine made in southern Burgundy in France [F, fr *Beaujolais*, region of central France]
- 'beaut** /'byoʊt/ *n*, chiefly *Austr* & *NZ* **BEAUTY** 3 - *infrm*
- 'beaut** *adj*, *Austr* & *NZ* fine, marvellous - *infrm*
- beauteous** /'byoʊti:əs, -tɪz/ *adj*, *archaic* beautiful [ME, fr *beaute*] - **beauteously adv.**, **beauteousness *n***
- beautician** /'byoʊtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sby who gives beauty treatments [*beauty* + -ician]
- beautiful** /'byoʊtɪf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 having qualities of beauty; exciting aesthetic pleasure or keenly delighting the senses 2 generally pleasing; excellent - **beautifully adv.**, **beautifulness *n***
- beautiful people** *n pl*, often *cap B&P* members of the jet set
- beautify** /'byoʊtɪfi/ *vt* to make beautiful; embellish - **beautifier** /-fɪ:ə/ *n*, *pl* **beautifiers** /-fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- beauty** /'byoʊti/ *n* 1 the qualities in a person or thing that give pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalt the mind or spirit; loveliness 2 a beautiful person or thing; esp a beautiful woman 3 a brilliant, extreme, or conspicuous example or instance (<that mistake was a ~> 4 a particularly advantageous or excellent quality (<the ~ of my idea is that

- it costs so little* > [ME *beaute*, fr OF *biauté*, fr *bel*, *biau* beautiful, fr L *bellus* pretty; akin to L *bonus* good – more at BOUNTY]
- 'beauty** *sleep* *n* sleep considered as being beneficial to a person's beauty
- 'beauty** *spot* *n* a beautiful scenic area
- beaux esprits** /bohz e'spree/ (Fr boz e'spri) / *pl* of BEL ESPRIT
- 'beaver** /'beeva/ *n, pl* beavers, (*la*) beavers or *esp* collectively beaver **1a** a large semiaquatic rodent mammal that has webbed hind feet, a broad flat tail, and builds dams and underwater lodges **b** the fur or pelt of the beaver **2** a hat made of beaver fur or a fabric imitation **3** a heavy fabric of felted wool napped on both sides **4** an energetic hard-working person [ME *bever*, fr OE *beofor*; akin to OHG *bībar* beaver, OE *brūn* brown]
- 'beaver** *vi* to work energetically <~ing away at the problem>
- 'beaver** *n* **1** a piece of armour protecting the lower part of the face **2** a helmet visor [ME *baviere*, fr MF]
- 'beaver** *board* /-bawd/ *n* a fibreboard used esp for partitions and ceilings [fr *Beaver Board*, a trademark]
- bebop** /'bee,bop/ *n* bop [imit] – bebopper *n*
- becalm** /bi'kalm/ *vt* to keep motionless by lack of wind – usu pass [be- + 'calm]
- 'because** /bi'koz, bə-, -kəz/ *conj* **1** for the reason that; since <he rested ~ he was tired> **2** and the proof is that <they must be in, ~ the light's on> [ME *because* that, *because*, fr *by cause* that]
- 'because** *adv* because of sthg forgotten or unmentionable – infml <I did it, well, just ~>
- 'because** of *prep* **1** as a result of **2** for the sake of
- beccafico** /'bekə'feko/ *n, pl* beccaficos, beccaficos any of various European songbirds that are sometimes eaten [It, fr *beccare* to peck + *fico* fig, fr L *ficus*]
- béchamel** /'bayshəmel/ (Fr beʃamɛ:l) / *n* a white sauce made with roux and milk in which vegetables and herbs have been infused – compare VELOUTÉ [F *sauce béchamelle*, fr Louis de Béchamel †1703 F courtier]
- bêche-de-mer** /'besh də 'meə/ *n* **1** a trepang **2** cap B&M a pidgin English used esp in the W Pacific [F, lit., sea grub]
- 'beck** /'bek/ *n, NEng* a brook, *esp* a pebbly mountain stream [ME *bek*, fr ON *bekkr*; akin to OE *bæc* brook, OHG *bah*, Mlr *būal* flowing water]
- 'beck** *n* [ME, nod, bow, gesture of command, fr *becken*, *beknen*] – at someone's *beck and call* in continual readiness to obey any command from sb
- becket** /'bekit/ *n* a bracket, loop of rope, hook, etc for securing tackle or spars [origin unknown]
- beckon** /'bekən/ *vi* **1** to summon or signal, typically with a wave or nod **2** to appear inviting ~ *vt* to beckon to [ME *beknen*, fr OE *biecnan*, fr *beācen* sign – more at BEACON] – *beckon* *n*
- become** /bi'kum/ *vb* *became* /bi'kəym/; *become* *vi* **1** to come into existence **2** to come to be <~ sick> <became party leader> ~ *vt* to suit or be suitable to <her clothes ~ her> [ME *becomen* to come to, become, fr OE *becuman*, fr *be- + cuman* to come] – become of to happen to <what became of that girl who always came top?>
- becoming** /bi'kuming/ *adj* suitable, fitting; *esp* attractively suitable – *becomingly* *adv*
- 'bed** /'bed/ *n* **1a** a piece of furniture on or in which one may lie and sleep and which usu includes bedstead, mattress, and bedding **b** a place of sexual relations; also LOVEMAKING **2** *c* a place for sleeping or resting *d* sleep; also a time for sleeping <took a walk before ~> *e* the use of a bed for the night **2** a flat or level surface: *e* *g* a (plants grown in) a plot of ground, *esp* in a garden, prepared for plants *b* the bottom of a body of water; also an area of sea or lake bottom supporting a heavy growth of a specified organism <an oyster ~> **3** a supporting surface or structure; *esp* the foundation that supports a road or railway **4** STRATUM **1a** **5** a mass or heap resembling a bed (<~ of ashes>); *esp* a heap on which sthg else is laid <coleslaw on a ~ of lettuce> [ME, fr OE *bedd*; akin to OHG *beti* bed, L *foedere* to dig] – *in* bed in the act of sexual intercourse <found him in bed with another woman>
- 'bed** *vb* -*de* -*vt* **1a** to provide with a bed or bedding; settle in sleeping quarters *b* to go to bed with, usu for sexual intercourse **2a** to embed *b* to plant or arrange (garden plants, vegetable plants, etc) in beds – often + *out* *c* to base, establish **3** to lay flat or in a layer ~ *vi* **1a** to find or make sleeping accommodation *b* to go to bed **2** to form a layer **3** to lie flat or flush *USE* (vt *1a*; vi *1, 2*) often + *down*
- 'bed** and 'breakfast *n, Br* a night's lodging and breakfast the following morning
- 'bed** *bug* /-bug/ *n* a wingless bloodsucking bug that sometimes infests beds
- 'bed** *clothes* /-klohðz/ *n pl* the covers (*e* *g* sheets and blankets) used on a bed
- bedder** /'bedə/ *n* **1** a woman servant, employed esp to make beds, at a Cambridge college – compare GYP, SCOUT **2** a bedding plant
- 'bedding** /'beding/ *n* **1** bedclothes **2** a bottom layer, a foundation **3** material to provide a bed for livestock **4** a stratified rock formation [ME, fr OE, fr *bedd*]
- 'bedding** *adj*, of a plant appropriate or adapted for culture in open-air beds [fr gerund of 'bed]
- beddy-byes** /'bedi, biez/ *n pl* but sing or pl in constr bed – used by or to children [blend of *bed* and *bye-byes*]
- bedeck** /bi'dek/ *vt* to clothe with finery, deck out
- bedevil** /bi'devl/ *vt* **1** to possess (as if) with a devil, bewitch **2** to change for the worse; spoil, frustrate **3** to torment maliciously; harass – *bedevilment* *n*
- 'bed** *fellow* /-feloh/ *n* **1** one who shares a bed **2** a close associate, an ally <political ~s>
- bedlam** /'bedlām/ *n* a place, scene, or state of uproar and confusion [*Bedlam*, popular name for the Hospital of St Mary of Bethlehem, London, a lunatic asylum, fr ME *Bedlem* Bethlehem] – *bedlam* *adj*
- 'bed** *linen* *n* the sheets and pillowcases used on a bed
- 'bed** *maker* /-mayka/ *n* BEDDER **1**
- 'bed** *mate* /-mayt/ *n* one who shares one's bed; *esp* a sexual partner
- 'bed** of roses *n* a place or situation of agreeable ease
- bedouin**, *beduin* /'bedwin, 'bedoo-in/ *n, pl* bedouins, *esp* collectively *bedouin* often *cap* a nomadic Arab of the Arabian, Syrian, or N African deserts [F *bédouin*, fr Ar *badawī*, *bidwan*, pl of *badawī* desert dweller]
- 'bed** *pan* /-pan/ *n* a shallow vessel used by a person in bed for urination or defecation
- 'bed** *post* /-pohst/ *n* a usu turned or carved post of a bedstead
- bedraggle** /'bɪdrægl/ *vt* to wet thoroughly [be- + *dragg* (to make wet by dragging), freq of *drag*]
- 'bedraggled** *adj* **1** left wet and limp (as if) by rain **2** soiled and stained (as if) by trailing in mud
- 'bed** *ridden* /-rɪd(ə)n/ *adj* confined (*e* *g* by illness) to bed [alter of ME *bedrede*, *bedreden*, fr OE *bedreda*, fr *bedreda* one confined to bed, fr *bedd* bed + *-nda*, *-reda* rider, fr *ridan* to ride]
- 'bed** *rock* /-rok/ *n* **1** the solid rock underlying unconsolidated surface materials (*e* *g* soil) **2** the basis of sthg – *bedrock* *adj*
- 'bedroom** /-rooɪm, -room/ *n* a room furnished with a bed and intended primarily for sleeping
- 'bedroom** *adj* dealing with, suggestive of, or inviting sexual relations <a ~ farce>
- 'bed** *settee* /-se'tee/ *n, Br* an upholstered sofa that can be converted into a single or double bed usu by lowering its hinged back – compare STUDIO COUCH
- 'bed** *side* /-sɪd/ *adj* **1** of or conducted at the bedside **2** suitable for a person in bed <~ reading>
- 'bedside** *manner* *n* the manner with which a medical doctor deals with his/her patients
- 'bed** *sit* *n, Br* a bed-sitter – infml
- 'bed** *sitter* *n, Br* a single room serving as both bedroom and sitting room [bedroom + sitting room + -er]
- 'bed** *sitting* *room* *n, Br* a bed-sitter
- 'bed** *sore* /-saw/ *n* a sore caused by prolonged pressure on the tissue of a bedridden invalid
- 'bed** *spread* /-sɪd/ *n* a usu ornamental cloth cover for a bed
- 'bed** *spring* /-sprɪŋ/ *n* a spring supporting a mattress
- 'bed** *stead* /-sted/ *n* the framework of a bed [ME *bedstede*, fr *bed* + *stede* place – more at STEAD]
- 'bed** *straw* /-straw/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the madder family having angled stems, opposite or whorled leaves, and small flowers [fr its use for mattresses]
- 'bed** *table* *n* a small table placed at the bedside, also a table that fits over a bed and has an adjustable height
- beduin** /'bedwin, 'bedoo-in/ *n, pl* beduins, *esp* collectively *beduin* a bedouin
- 'bed** *wetting* *n* involuntary discharge of urine occurring in bed during sleep – *bed wetter* *n*
- bee** /'bee/ *n* **1** a social 4-winged insect often kept in hives for the honey that it produces; broadly any of numerous insects that differ from the related wasps, esp in the heavier hairier body and legs and in sometimes



having a pollen basket <sup>~</sup> *ANATOMY* 2 *NAM* a gathering of people for a usu specified purpose (< a sewing ~ >) [ME, fr OE *beo*, akin to OHG *bia* bee, Lith *bitis*] – *beelike adj* – *bee in one's bonnet* an obsession about a specified subject or idea

**Beeb** /beeb/ *n*, *Br* – used for the BBC, humor [by shortening & alter]

**bee bread** /-bred/ *n* bitter yellowish brown pollen (mixed with honey by bees as food)

**beech** /beech/ *n*, *pl* *beeches*, *beech* (the wood of) any of a genus of hardwood deciduous trees with smooth grey bark and small edible triangular nuts [ME *beche*, fr OE *bēce*, akin to OE *boc* beech, OHG *buhha*, L *fagus*, Gk *phēgos* oak] – *beechen adj*

**beech mast** *n* the nuts of the beech (when lying on the ground)

**bee eater** *n* (any of) a family of brightly coloured slender-billed insect-eating chiefly tropical Old World birds

**beef** /beef/ *n*, *pl* *beefs*, (2a) *beeves* /beevz/, *beef*, *NAM* chiefly *beefs* 1 the flesh of a bullock, cow, or other adult domestic bovine animal <sup>~</sup> *MFAT* 2a an ox, cow, or bull in a (nearly) full-grown state, esp a bullock or cow fattened for food (< a herd of good ~ >) b a dressed carcass of a beef animal 3 muscular flesh, brawn 4 a complaint – *infrm* [ME, fr OF *beuf* ox, beef, fr L *bov-*, *bos* head of cattle – more at 'cow]

**beef** *vt* to add weight, strength, or power to – usu + *up* ~ *vt* to complain – *infrm*

**beefcake** /-kayk/ *n* a photographic display of muscular male physiques – *infrm*, compare *CHEFFECAKE*

**beefeater** /-etə/ *n* *YOMAN OF THE GUARD* – not used technically [beef + eater, orig sense, a well-fed servant]

**beefsteak fungus** /beefstayk/ *n* a bright red edible pore fungus that grows on dead trees

**beefwood** /-wood/ *n* (a tree yielding) any of several hard heavy reddish Australian or W Indian woods

**beefy** /beefi/ *adj* 1 full of beef 2 brawny, powerful

**beehive** /bec,heiv/ *n* 1 *HIVE* 1 2 a scene of crowded activity – *beehive adj*

**bee line** /-lien/ *n* a straight direct course [fr the belief that nectar-laden bees return to their hives in a direct line]

**been** /bin, becn, strong been/ *past part* of *BE*, *specif* paid a visit (< has the postman ~ >?)

**bee orchid** *n* any of several European plants of the orchid family with velvety flowers resembling bees

**beep** /beep/ *n* a sound (e.g. from a horn or electronic device) that serves as a signal or warning [imit]

**beep** *vt* 1 to sound a horn 2 to make a beep ~ *vt* to cause (e.g. a horn) to sound – *beeper n*

**beer** /bia/ *n* 1 an alcoholic drink brewed from fermented malt flavoured with hops 2 a carbonated nonalcoholic or fermented slightly alcoholic drink flavoured with roots or other plant parts (< ginger ~ >) [ME *ber*, fr OE *beor*, akin to OHG *bior* beer]

**beer and skittles** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a situation of agreeable ease

**beery** /'biəri/ *adj* 1 affected or caused by beer (< ~ voices >) 2 smelling or tasting of beer (< a ~ tavern >)

**bee's knees** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* one who or that which is outstandingly good – *infrm*; + *the*

**beestings**, *NAM* *beastings* /'beestinz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the colostrum, esp of a cow [ME *bestynge*, fr OE *bysting*, fr *beost*]

**beeswax** /'beez,waks/ *n* a yellowish plastic substance secreted by bees that is used by them for constructing honeycombs and is used as a wood polish

**beet** /beet/ *n* 1 any of various plants of the goosefoot family with a swollen root used as a vegetable, as a source of sugar, or for forage 2 *NAM* beetroot [ME *bete*, fr OE *bete*, fr L *beta*]

**beetle** /'beetl/ *n* 1 any of an order of insects that have 4 wings of which the front pair are modified into stiff coverings that protect the back pair at rest 2 a game in which the players attempt to be the first to complete a stylized drawing of a beetle in accordance with the throwing of a dice [ME *betille*, fr OE *bitula*, fr *bitan* to bite]

**beetle** *vi* *beetling* /'beetling/ *Br* to move swiftly (< ~ d off down the road >) – *infrm*

**beetle** *n* a heavy wooden tool for hammering or ramming [ME *betel*, fr OE *bietel*; akin to OE *bētan* to beat]

**beetling** /'beetling/ *adj* prominent and overhanging (< ~ brows >) [ME *bitel-browed* with overhanging brows, prob fr *betille*, *bitel* beetle]

**beetroot** /'beetroot/ *n*, *pl* *beetroot*, *beetroots* chiefly *Br* a cultivated beet with a red edible root that is a common salad vegetable

**befall** /bi'fawl/ *vb* *befell* /bi'fel/, *befallen* /bi'fawlan/ to happen (to), esp as if by fate [ME *befallen*, fr OE *befeallan*, fr *be-* + *feallan* to fall]

**benefit** /bi'fit/ *vi* -*tt*- to be proper or becoming to

**befitting** /bi'fiting/ *adj* suitable, appropriate – *befittingly adv*

**befog** /bi'fog/ *vi* -*gg-* 1 to make foggy; obscure 2 to confuse

**before** /bi'faw/ *adv* 1 so as to be in advance of others, ahead 2 earlier in time; previously (< haven't we met ~ >) (< had left a week ~ >) [ME, *adv* & *prep*, fr OE *beforan*, fr *be-* + *foran* before, fr *fore*]

**before** *prep* 1a IN FRONT OF b under the jurisdiction or consideration of (< the case ~ the court >) 2 preceding in time; earlier than 3 in a higher or more important position than (< put quantity ~ quality >) 4 under the onslaught of

**before** *conj* 1 earlier than the time when 2 rather than

**beforehand** /bi'faw,hand/ *adv* or *adj* 1 in anticipation 2 ahead of time – *beforehandedness n*

**befriend** /bi'frend/ *vt* to become a friend of purposely, show kindness and understanding to

**befuddle** /bi'fudl/ *vb* *befuddling* /bi'fudling/ 1 to muddle or stupefy (as if) with drink 2 to confuse, perplex – *befuddlement n*

**beg** /beg/ *vb* -*gg-* *vi* 1 to ask for as a charity (< ~ ged alms >) 2 to ask earnestly (for), entreat (< ~ a favour >) (< ~ ged her to stay >) 3a to evade, sidestep (< ~ ged the real problems >) b to assume as established or proved without justification (< ~ the question >) ~ *vi* 1 to ask for alms or charity 2a to ask earnestly (< ~ ged for mercy >) b to ask permission – usu + an infinitive (< I ~ to differ >) 3 of a dog to sit up and hold out the forepaws [ME *beggen*, prob alter of OE *bedecan*]

**beget** /bi'get/ *vt* -*tt-*; *begot* /bi'got/, *archaic* *begat* /bi'gat/, *begotten* /bi'gotn/, *begot* 1 to procreate as the father, sire 2 to produce as an effect, cause [ME *begeten*, alter of *beyeten*, fr OE *bigetan* – more at *GET*] – *begetter n*

**beggar** /bega/ *n* 1 one who lives by asking for gifts 2 a pauper 3 a person, esp a fellow – *infrm* (< lucky ~ >) [ME *beggere*, *beggare*, fr *beggen* to beg + *-ere*, *-are* -*er*, (3) partly euphemism for *begger*]

**beggar** *vi* 1 to reduce to beggary 2 to exceed the resources or abilities of (< it ~ s description >)

**beggarly** /-li/ *adj* 1 marked by extreme poverty 2 contemptibly mean, petty, or paltry – *beggarliness n*

**beggary** /'begaɹi/ *n* poverty, penury ['BEGGAR + *-y*]

**begin** /bi'gin/ *vb* -*nn-*; *began* /bi'gan/, *begun* /bi'gun/ *vi* 1a to do the first part of an action, start (< if you're all ready, we'll ~ >) b to undergo initial steps (< work on the project began in May >) 2a to come into existence, arise (< the war began in 1939 >) b to have a starting point (< the alphabet ~ s with A ~ vt 1 to set about the activity of (< the children began laughing >) 2 to call into being, found (< ~ a dynasty >) 3 to come first in (< A ~ s the alphabet >) 4 to do or succeed in, in the least degree (< can't ~ to describe her beauty >) [ME *beginnen*, fr OE *beginnan*, akin to OHG *biginnan* to begin, OE *onginnan*] – *beginner n*

**beginning** /bi'gining/ *n* 1 the point at which sthg begins, the start 2 the first part 3 the origin, source 4 a rudimentary stage or early period – usu *pl*

**beg off** *vi* to ask to be released from sthg

**begone** /bi'gon/ *vi* to go away, depart – usu in the *infin* or esp the imperative [ME, fr *be gone* (imper)]

**begonia** /bi'goɦni-ə/ *n* any of a large genus of tropical plants that have asymmetrical leaves and are widely cultivated as ornamental garden and house plants [NL, genus name, fr Michel Bégon †1710 F governor of Santo Domingo]

**begorra** /bi'gora/ *interj*, *Irish* – used as a mild oath [euphemism for *by God*]

**begrudge** /bi'gru/ *vt* 1 to give or concede reluctantly (< he ~ d every minute taken from his work >) 2 to envy the pleasure or enjoyment of (< they ~ him his wealth >) – *begrudger n*, *begrudgingly adv*

**beguile** /bi'giel/ *vt* 1 to deceive, hoodwink 2 to while away, esp by some agreeable occupation 3 to please or persuade by the use of wiles, charm (< her ways ~ d him >) ~ *vi* to deceive by wiles – *beguilement n*, *beguiler n*, *beguilingly adv*

**beguine** /bi'geen/ *n* a vigorous popular W Indian dance [AmerF *beguine*, fr F *beguine* flirtation]

**behalf** /bi'hahf/ *n* [ME, benefit, support, fr *by* + *half* half, side] – on behalf of, *NAM* in behalf of in the interest of, as a representative of **behave** /bi'hayv/ *vb* 1 to conduct (oneself) in a specified way (< she has been behaving badly >) 2 to conduct (oneself) properly (< you must learn to ~ yourself in company >) [ME *behaven*, fr *be-* + *haven* to have, hold – more at *HAVE*] – *behave n*

**behaviour**, *NAM* chiefly *behavior* /bi'hayvya/ *n* 1a anything that an

organism does involving action and response to stimulation **b** the response of an individual, group, or species to its environment **2** the way in which sthg (e.g. a machine) functions [alter of ME *behaviour*, fr *behaven*] – **behavioural** *adj*, **behaviourally** *adv*

**behaviourism** /bi'hayvɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory holding that the proper concern of psychology is the objective study of behaviour and that information derived from introspection is not admissible psychological evidence

**behaviour therapy** *n* therapy intended to change an abnormal behaviour (e.g. a phobia) by conditioning the patient to respond normally

**behead** /bi'hed/ *vt* to cut off the head of, decapitate

**behest** /bi'hest/ *n* an urgent prompting or insistent request (<returned home at the ~ of his friends> [ME, promise, command, fr OE *behes* promise, fr *behtan* to promise, fr *be-* + *htan* to command, promise])

**'behind** /bi'hind/ *adv* **1a** in the place, situation, or time that is being or has been departed from (<I've left the keys ~ SEUS>) **b** in, to, or towards the back (<look ~> **2a** in a secondary or inferior position **b** IN ARREARS (<~ in his payments>) **c** slow [ME *behinde*, fr OE *behindan*, fr *be-* + *hindan* from behind; akin to OE *hinder* behind – more at 'HIND]

**'behind** *prep* **1a(1)** at or to the back or rear of (<look ~ you>) (**2**) remaining after (sby who has departed) (<left a great name ~ him>) **b** obscured by (<malice ~ the mask of friendship>) **2** – used to indicate backwardness (<~ his classmates in performance>), delay (<~ schedule>), or deficiency (<lagged ~ last year's sales>) **3a** in the background of (<the conditions ~ the strike>) **b** in a supporting position at the back of (<solidly ~ their candidate>) – **behind** the times old-fashioned, out-of-date

**'behind** *n* the buttocks – slang ['behind]

**behindhand** /bi'hind,hand/ *adj* **1** behind schedule, IN ARREARS (<he was ~ with the rent>) **2** lagging behind the times, backward

**behind-the-scenes** *adj* kept, made, or held in secret

**'behold** /bi'hohld/ *vb* **beheld** /bi'held/ *vt* to see, observe – *vi* archaic – used in the imper to call attention [ME *beholden* to keep, behold, fr OE *behealdan*, fr *be-* + *healdan* to hold] – **beholder** *n*

**beholden** /bi'hohldn/ *adj* under obligation for a favour or gift, indebted to [ME, fr pp of *beholden*]

**behoof** /bi'hooft, bi'hooft/ *n* advantage, profit [ME *behof*, fr OE *behof*; akin to OE *hebban* to raise – more at HEAVE]

**behoove** /bi'hoohv/ *vb*, *NAM* to behave

**behave** /bi'hohv/ *vb* to be incumbent (on), or necessary, proper, or advantageous (for) (<it ~s us to fight>) [ME *behoven*, fr OE *behofian*, fr *behōf*]

**beige** /bayzh, bay/ *n* a yellowish grey colour [F] – **beige** *adj*, **beigy** *adj*

**'being** /bee-ing/ *n* **1a** the quality or state of having existence **b** conscious existence, life (<the mother who gave him his ~>) **2** the qualities that constitute an existent thing; the essence; esp personality **3** a living thing, esp a person [ME, fr gerund of *been*, *beon* to be – more at BE]

**'being** *adj* [pp of *be*] – for the time being for the moment

**bel** /bel/ *n* 10 decibels [Alexander Graham Bell †1922 US inventor]

**belabour** /bi'laybo/ *vt* **1** to work on or at to absurd lengths (<~ the obvious>) **2a** to beat soundly **b** to assail, attack

**belated** /bi'laytid/ *adj* delayed beyond the usual time [pp of arch *belate* (to make late)] – **belatedly** *adv*, **belatedness** *n*

**'belay** /bi'lay/ *vt* **1** to secure or make fast (e.g. a rope) by turns round a support or bitt **2** to stop **3a** to secure (a person) at the end of a rope **b** to secure (a rope) to a person or object – *vi* **1** to be belayed **2** to stop, LEAVE OFF – in the imper (<~ there>) **3** to make a rope fast [ME *beleggen* to beset, fr OE *beleggan*, fr *be-* + *leggan* to lay]

**'belay** *n* **1** a method or act of belaying a rope or person in mountain climbing **2** (sth) to which is attached) a mountain climber's belayed rope

**bel canto** /bel 'kantoh/ *n* operatic singing stressing ease, purity, evenness of tone production, and an agile and precise vocal technique [It, lit., beautiful singing]

**belch** /belch/ *vi* **1** to expel gas suddenly from the stomach through the mouth **2** to erupt, explode, or detonate violently **3** to issue forth spasmodically; gush – *vt* **1** to eject or emit violently **2** to expel (gas) suddenly from the stomach through the mouth [ME *belchen*, fr OE *bealcian*] – **belch** *n*


**beldam**, **beldame** /'beldam, -dam/ *n* an old woman; esp a hag [ME *beldam* grandmother, fr MF *bel* beautiful + ME *dam*]

**belleguer** /bi'leega/ *vt* **1** to surround with an army so as to prevent escape; besiege **2** to beset, harass [D *belegeren*, fr *be-* (akin to OE *be-*) + *leger* camp; akin to OHG *legar* bed – more at 'LAIR]

**belemnite** /'belemniet/ *n* a conical pointed fossil shell of any of an order

of extinct cephalopod molluscs [F *bélemnite*, fr Gk *belemnion* dart; akin to Gk *ballein* to throw – more at DEVL] – **belemnitic** /-'nitik/ *adj*

**bel esprit** /,bel e'spree (Fr bel e'spri)/ *n*, *pl* beaux esprits /,bohz e'spree (Fr boz e'spri)/ a person with a fine and gifted mind [F, lit., fine mind]

**belfry** /'belfri/ *n* (a room in which a bell is hung in) a bell tower, esp when associated with a church  CHURCH [ME *belfrey*, alter. of *berfrey*, fr MF *berfrei*, deriv of Gk *pyrgos phoretos* movable war tower]

**Belgian** /'belj(ə)n/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Belgium [*Belgium*, country in NW Europe]

**Belgian hare** *n* (any of) a breed of slender dark-red domestic rabbits

**Belgo-** /'belgoh-/ *comb form* Belgian and (<Belgo-English>) [*Belgian*]

**Belial** /'beel-əl/ *n* worthlessness, wickedness – often personified in the Bible (<children of ~>) [Gk, fr Heb *bēliya'al*]

**belie** /br'lie/ *vt* **belying** **1** to give a false impression of **2** to show (sth) to be false [ME *belien*, fr OE *beleogan*, fr *be-* + *lēogan* to lie – more at 'LIE] – **belier** *n*

**belief** /bi'leef/ *n* **1** trust or confidence in sby or sthg **2** sthg believed; specif a tenet or body of tenets held by a group **3** conviction of the truth of some statement or the reality of some being, thing, or phenomenon, esp when based on examination of evidence [ME *beleave*, prob alter of OE *geleafa*, fr *ge-*, associative prefix + *leafa*, akin to OE *lyfan*]

**believe** /bi'leev/ *vi* **1a** to have a firm religious faith **b** to accept sthg trustfully and on faith (<people who ~ in the natural goodness of man>) **2** to have a firm conviction as to the reality or goodness of sthg (<~ in exercise>) – *vt* **1** to consider to be true or honest (<~ the reports>) **2** to hold as an opinion, think (<I ~ it will rain soon>) **USE** (*vi*) often + *in* [ME *beleven*, fr OE *beleafan*, fr *be-* + *lyfan*, *leafan* to allow, believe, akin to OHG *gilouben* to believe, OE *leaf* dear – more at LOVE] – **believable** *adj*, **believer** *n*

**Belisha 'beacon** /bə'leesha/ *n* a flashing light in an amber globe mounted on a usu black and white striped pole that marks a zebra crossing [Leslie Hore-Belisha †1957 E politician]

**belittle** /bi'lɪtl/ *vt* **belittling** /bi'lɪtlɪŋ, -'lɪtlɪŋ/ to undermine the value of (<~s her efforts>) – **belittlement** *n*, **belittler** *n*


**'bell** /bel/ *n* **1** a hollow metallic device, usu cup-shaped with a flaring mouth if operated manually, and saucer-shaped if part of an electrical or clockwork device, that vibrates and gives forth a ringing sound when struck **2** the sound of a bell as a signal, specif one to mark the start of the last lap in a running or cycling race or the start or end of a round in boxing, wrestling, etc **3a** a bell rung to tell the hour **b** a half-hour subdivision of a watch on shipboard indicated by the strokes of a bell **4** sthg bell-shaped e.g. **a** the corolla of any of many flowers **b** the flared end of a wind instrument [ME *belle*, fr OE, akin to OE *bellan* to roar – more at BELLOW]

**'bell** *vi* **1** to provide with a bell **2** to make bell-mouthed – *vi* to take the form of a bell, flare

**'bell** *vi*, of a stag or hound to make a resonant bellowing or baying sound [ME *bellan*, fr OE *bellan*]

**belladonna** /,bels'dona/ *n* (an atropine-containing extract of) deadly nightshade [It, lit., beautiful lady; fr its use as a cosmetic]

**belladonna lily** *n* a plant of the daffodil family noted for its fragrant usu white or pink flowers

**'bell-bottoms** *n* *pl* trousers with wide flaring bottoms  GARMENT – **bell-bottom** *adj*

**'bellboy** /-,boy/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* 'PAGE

**'bell, buoy** *n* a buoy fitted with a warning bell which is rung by the action of the waves

**belle** /bel/ *n* a popular and attractive girl or woman (<bathing ~s>) (<the ~ of the ball>) [F, fr fem of *beau* beautiful] – more at BEAU]

**belles lettres** /,bel 'letra, 'leta (Fr bel letr)/ *n* *pl* but sing in constr (light, entertaining, usu sophisticated) literature that has no practical or informative function [F, lit., fine letters] – **belletrist** /-'letrɪst/ *n*

**'bell, flower** /-,flowa/ *n* any of a genus of plants (e.g. the harebell) having usu showy bell-shaped flowers

**'bell, heather** *n* a western European heather

**bellhop** /-,hop/ *n*, *NAM* 'PAGE **2** [short for *bell-hopper*]

**bellicose** /'belikohs/ *adj* disposed to or fond of quarrels or wars [ME, fr L *bellicosus*, fr *bellicus* of war, fr *bellum* war] – **bellicosely** *adv*, **bellicoseness** *n*, **bellicosity** /-'kosi/ *n*

**-belled** /-belid/ *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) having (such) a belly <a big-bellied man>

**belligerence** /bə'lij(ə)rəns/, **belligerency** /-si/ *n* **1** an aggressive or

truculent attitude, atmosphere, or disposition 2 the state of being at war or in conflict, *specif* the status of a legally recognized belligerent

**belligerent** /-rənt/ *adj* 1 engaged in legally recognized war 2 inclined to or exhibiting assertiveness, hostility, or combativeness [*modif* of *L. belligerant-, belligerans*, *pp* of *belligerare* to wage war, *fr* *belliger* waging war, *fr* *bellum* + *gerere* to wage – more at *CAST*] – *belligerent n*, *belligerently adv*

**'bell jar** *n* a bell-shaped usu glass vessel that is designed to cover objects or to contain gases or a vacuum

**'bell metal** *n* bronze with a high tin content, used for bells

**bellow** /-bəloh/ *vi* 1 to make the loud deep hollow sound characteristic of a bull 2 to shout in a deep voice ~ *vt* to bawl (<~s the orders> [*ME* *belwen*, *fr* OE *bylgian*, akin to OE & OHG *bellan* to roar, *Skt* *bhasate* he talks]) – *bellow n*

**bellows** /-bəloh/ *n*, *pl* **bellows** 1 a device that by alternate expansion and contraction supplies a current of air – often *pl* with *sing* meaning 2 a pleated expandable part in a camera [*ME* *bely*, *below*, *belwes* – more at *BELLIV*]

**'bell pull** /-pool/ *n* (a handle or knob attached to) a cord by which one rings a bell

**'bell push** *n* a button that is pushed to ring a bell

**'bellwether** /-wethə/ *n* a male sheep that leads the flock, *broadly* a leader who is followed blindly [*ME*, *fr* *belle* bell + *wether*; *fr* the practice of bellring the leader of a flock]

**'belly** /-beli/ *n* 1a **ABDOMEN** 1 *b*(1) the undersurface of an animal's body (2) a cut of pork consisting of this part of the body ~ *MEAT* *c* the womb, uterus *d* the stomach and associated organs 2 an internal cavity, the interior 3 a surface or object curved or rounded like a human belly [*ME* *bely* bellows, belly, *fr* OE *belg* bag, skin, akin to OHG *balg* bag, skin, OE *blawan* to blow]

**'belly** *vb* to swell, fill (<the sails bellied>)

**'bellyache** /-ayk/ *n* colic

**'bellyache** *vi* to complain whiningly or peevishly, find fault – *infrm* – *bellyacher n*

**'belly button** *n* **NAVEL** 1 – *infrm*

**'belly dance** *n* a usu solo dance emphasizing movements of the belly – *belly dance vi*, *belly dancer n*

**'belly flop** *n* a dive into water in which the front of the body strikes flat against the surface – *belly flop vi*

**'bellyful** /-(ə)/ *n* an excessive amount (<a ~ of advice>) – *infrm*

**'belly land** *vi* to land an aircraft on its undersurface without the use of landing gear – *belly landing n*

**'belly laugh** *n* a deep hearty laugh

**belong** /bi'long/ *vi* 1 to be in a proper situation (e.g. according to ability or social qualification), position, or place 2 to be attached or bound to by birth, allegiance, dependency, or membership 3 to be an attribute, part, or function of a person or thing (<nuts and bolts ~ to a car>) 4 to be properly classified (<whales ~ among the mammals>) [*ME* *belongen*, *fr* *be-* + *longen* to be suitable, *fr* *along* (on) because (of)] – *belong* to be the property of

**belonging** /bi'long-ɪŋ/ *n* 1 a possession – usu *pl* 2 close or intimate relationship (<a sense of ~>)

**Belo-russian** /-bəloh-/ *n* or *adj* (a) Belyorussian

**beloved** /bi'lʊvd/, bi'lʊvd/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* **beloved** (sby) dearly loved – usu *in* *fm* or religious contexts

**'below** /bi'loh/ *adv* 1 in, on, or to a lower place, floor, or deck, *specif* on earth or in or to Hades or hell 2 **UNDER** 2 3 under the surface of the water or earth [*be-* + *low*, *adj*]

**'below prep** 1 in or to a lower place than; under 2 inferior to (e.g. in rank) 3 not suitable to the rank of; **BENEATH** 2 4 covered by, underneath 5 downstream from 6 **UNDER** 4 (<~ the age of 18>)

**'below n, *pl* **below** the thing or matter written or discussed lower on the same page or on a following page**

**'below interj** – used by a climber to warn others below to beware of falling stones or rocks

**bel paese** /bel pah'ayzay/ *n*, often *cap* **B&P** a mild soft creamy Italian cheese with a thin dark yellow rind [*It*, *lit.*, beautiful country]

**'belt** /belt/ *n* 1 a strip of material worn round the waist or hips or over the shoulder for decoration or to hold sthg (e.g. clothing or a weapon) 2 an endless band of tough flexible material for transmitting motion and power or conveying materials 3 an area characterized by some distinctive feature (e.g. of culture, geology, or life forms); esp one suited to a specified crop [*ME*, *fr* OE; akin to OHG *balz* belt; both *fr* a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed *fr* *L. balteus* belt] – *belted adj*, *beltless adj* – *below the belt* in an unfair way (<alluding to his past misdeeds in that

way was really hitting below the belt>) – *under one's belt* as part of one's experience, having been attained

**'belt vt** 1a to encircle or fasten with a belt *b* to strap on 2a to beat (as if) with a belt, thrash *b* to strike, hit – *infrm* 3 to sing in a forceful manner or style – usu + *out*, *infrm* ~ *vi* to move or act in a vigorous or violent manner – *infrm*

**'belt n** a jarring blow; a whack – *infrm*

**'belting** /-belɪŋ/ *n* 1 belts collectively 2 material for belts

**'belt up** *vi*, *Br* **SHUT UP** – *infrm*

**'beltway** /-,weɪ/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* **RING ROAD**

**beluga** /bi'looŋə/ *n* 1 a white sturgeon of the Black sea, Caspian sea, and their tributaries 2 a whale that is white when adult [*Russ*, *fr* *belyi* white, akin to *Gk* *phainein* to show – more at *FANCY*]

**belvedere** /-belvɪdiə/ *n* a turret, cupola, etc placed esp on the roof of a house to command an extensive view [*It*, *lit.*, beautiful view]

**bemoan** /bi'mohn/ *vi* to express regret, displeasure, or deep grief over; lament

**bemuse** /bi'myooz/ *vt* to make confused, bewilder – *bemusedly* /-ɪdli/ *adv*, *bemusement n*

**Bence-Jones protein** /-bɛns 'joʊnz/ *n* a protein that occurs abnormally in the blood serum and urine in some cancers of the bone marrow, esp multiple myeloma, and occurs in other bone diseases [*Henry Bence-Jones* †1873 *E* physician & chemist]

**'bench** /-bɛnʃ/ *n* 1a a long usu backless seat (e.g. of wood or stone) for 2 or more people *b* a thwart in a boat 2a often *cap* (1) a judge's seat in court (2) the office of judge or magistrate (<appointed to the ~>) *b sing* or *pl* in *constr* the judges or magistrates (1) hearing a particular case (2) collectively 3a(1) a seat for an official (e.g. a judge or magistrate) (2) the office or dignity of such an official *b* any of the long seats on which members sit in Parliament 4 a long worktable [*ME*, *fr* OE *benc*; akin to OHG *bank* bench]

**'bench vt** 1 to exhibit (a dog) at a show 2 *NAM* to remove from or keep out of a game

**'bencher** /-bɛnʃə/ *n*, *Br* any of the chief or governing members of any of the Inns of Court [*'BENCH* + *-ER*]

**'bench mark** /-,mahk/ *n* 1 a point of reference (e.g. a mark on a permanent object indicating height above sea level) from which measurements may be made, esp in surveying 2 sthg that serves as a standard by which others may be measured

**'bend** /-bɛnd/ *n* any of various knots for fastening one rope to another or to an object – compare *HITCH* [*ME*, *band*, *fr* OE, *fetter*]

**'bend vb** *bent* /-bɛnt/ *vt* 1 to force into or out of a curve or angle 2 to fasten ~ a sail to its yard> 3 to make submissive; subdue 4a to cause to turn from a course, deflect *b* to guide or turn towards sthg: direct (<he bent his steps homewards>) 5 to direct strenuously or with interest; apply (<ent themselves to the task>) 6 to alter or modify to make more acceptable, esp to oneself (<~ the rules>) ~ *vi* 1 to move or curve out of a straight line or position 2 to incline the body, esp in submission; bow 3 to yield, compromise [*ME* *bendan*, *fr* OE *bendan*; akin to OE *bend* *fetter*] – *bend over backwards* to make extreme efforts

**'bend n** 1 bending or being bent 2 a curved part, esp of a road or stream 3 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* **CAISSON DISEASE** (<a case of the ~s>) – *round the bend* mad, crazy – *infrm* (<thought his friends must have gone round the bend>)

**'bender** /-bɛndə/ *n* a drinking spree – *infrm* [*'BEND* + *-ER*]

**'bendy** /-bɛndi/ *adj* 1 **PIABLE** 1a 2 having many bends

**'beneath** /-bi'neeth/ *adv* 1 in or to a lower position; below 2 directly under; underneath [*ME* *benethe*, *fr* OE *beneoþan*, *fr* *be-* + *neothan* below, akin to OE *nithra* neither]

**'beneath prep** 1a in or to a lower position than, below *b* directly under, esp so as to be close or touching 2 not suitable to; unworthy of (<~ contempt>) 3 under the control, pressure, or influence of

**Benedicite** /-bɛni'dɪsɪtə-, -teɪ/ *n* a hymn of praise to God beginning 'All the works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord' [*ME*, *fr* *LL*, bless ye, imper *p* of *benedicere* to bless, *fr* the first word of the hymn]

**Benedictine** /-bɛni'dɪktən-, -tɪn/ *n* 1 a monk or a nun of any of the congregations following the rule of St Benedict and devoted esp to scholarship 2 often *not cap* : brandy-based liqueur made orig by French Benedictine monks – *Benedictine adj*

**benediction** /-bɛni'dɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the invocation of a blessing; esp the short blessing with which public worship is concluded 2 often *cap* : a Roman Catholic or Anglo-Catholic devotion including the exposition of the Host and the blessing of the people with it [*ME* *benedic-tiōn*, *fr* *benedicere* to bless, *fr* *L.*, *benedicere*, *fr* *benedictus*, *pp* of *benedicere* to bless *fr* *L.*, *benedicere* to bless

speak well of, fr *bene* well + *dicere* to say - more at BOUNTY DICION]

**Benedictus** /beni'diktəs/ *n* 1 a liturgical text from Mt 21 9 beginning 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord' 2 a canticle from Lk 1 68 beginning 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel' [LI, blessed, fr pp of *benedicere*; fr its first word]

**benefaction** /beni'fakʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of doing good, esp by generous donation 2 a benefit conferred, esp a charitable donation [LI *benefaction*, *benefactio*, fr L *bene factus*, pp of *bene facere* to do good to, fr *bene* + *facere* to do - more at DO]

**benefactor** /beni'faktə/, *fem* **benefactress** /-trɪs/ *n* one who gives aid, esp one who makes a gift or bequest to a person, institution, etc

**benefice** /beni'fis/ *n* an ecclesiastical office to which an income is attached [ME, fr MF, fr ML *beneficium*, fr L, favour, promotion, fr *beneficus* beneficent, fr *bene* + *facere*] - **benefice** *vt*

**beneficent** /bɪ'nefɪs(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj* doing or producing good, esp performing acts of kindness and charity [back-formation fr *beneficence*, fr L *beneficentia*, fr *beneficulus*] - **beneficently** *adv*, **beneficence** /-s(ə)n(ə)s/ *n*

**beneficial** /beni'fɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 conferring benefits, conducive to personal or social well-being 2 receiving or entitling one to receive advantage or profit, esp from property (<the ~ owner of an estate> [L *beneficium* favour, benefit]) - **beneficially** *adv*, **beneficialness** *n*

**beneficiary** /beni'fɪʃ(ə)ri/ *n* 1 one who benefits from sthg 2 one who receives the income or proceeds of a trust, will, or insurance policy - **beneficiary** *adj*

**beneficite** /beni'fɪʃ(ə)ri/ *vt* to treat (a raw material) so as to improve properties - **beneficitation** /-ə'ʃ(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'benefit** /beni'fit/ *n* 1a sthg that promotes well being, an advantage b good, welfare <did it for his ~> 2a financial help in time of need (e.g. sickness, old age, or unemployment) b a payment or service provided for under an annuity, pension scheme or insurance policy 3 an entertainment, game, or social event to raise funds for a person or cause [ME, fr AF *benefet*, fr L *bene factum*, fr neut of *bene factus*]

**benefit** *vb* -t- (NAM -t-, -tt-) *vt* to be useful or profitable to ~ *vt* to receive benefit

**benefit of 'clergy** *n* 1 the former clerical privilege of being tried in an ecclesiastical court 2 the ministrations or sanction of the church - chiefly humor (<a couple living together without ~>)

**benefit of the 'doubt** *n* the assumption of innocence in the absence of complete proof of guilt

**Benelux** /beni'lʊks/ *n* (the customs union formed in 1947 between) Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg (<the ~ countries> [Belgium + Netherlands + Luxembourg])

**benevolent** /bi'nevələnt/ *adj* 1 marked by or disposed to doing good charitable 2 indicative of or characterized by goodwill (< ~ smiles> [ME, fr L *benevolens*, *benevolens*, fr *bene* + *volens*, *volens*, prp of *velle* to wish - more at WILL]) - **benevolence** *n*, **benevolently** *adv*, **benevolence** *n*

**Bengali** /ben'gawli, ben'gawli/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Bengal 2 a native or inhabitant of Bangladesh 3 the modern Indic language of Bengal 𑒧𑒻𑒟𑒱𑒪𑒲 LANGUAGE [Hindi *Bangali*, fr *Bangal* Bengal] - **Bengali** *adj*

**benighted** /bi'ni:tɪd/ *adj* intellectually, morally, or socially unenlightened [fr pp of *benight* (to overtaken by darkness or night), fr *be-* + 'night'] - **benightedly** *adv*, **benightedness** *n*

**benign** /bi'ni:n/ *adj* 1 gentle, gracious 2 favourable, mild (<a ~ climate>) 3 of a tumour not malignant [ME *benigne*, fr MF, fr L *benignus*, fr *bene* well + *gigni* to be born, passive of *gignere* to beget - more at BOUNTY, KIN] - **benignly** *adv*, **benignity** /bi'ni:gnəti/ *n*

**benignant** /bi'ni:gnənt/ *adj* BENIGN 1, 2 [benign + -ant (as in malignant)] - **benignantly** *adv*, **benignancy** /-nənsi/ *n*

**'bent** /bent/ *n* 1a a reedy grass b a stalk of stiff coarse grass 2 any of a genus of grasses including important pasture and lawn grasses [ME, grassy place, bent grass, fr OE *beonot*, akin to OHG *binuz* rush]

**bent** *adj* 1 changed from an original straight or even condition by bending, curved 2 set on (<was ~ on winning>) 3 Br homosexual - slang 4 Br corrupt, CROOKED 2 - slang [ME, fr pp of *benden* to bend]

**\*bent** *n* 1 a strong inclination or interest, a bias 2 a special ability or talent (<a ~ for art>) [irreg fr 'bend]

**Benthamism** /ben'θə,mɪz(ə)m/ *n* the utilitarian philosophy of Jeremy Bentham [Jeremy Bentham †1832 E philosopher] - **Benthamite** /-mɪt/ *n*

**benthos** /ben'thos/ *n* organisms that live on or at the bottom of bodies of water [NL, fr Gk, depth, deep sea, akin to Gk *bathys* deep - more at BATHY] - **benthic** /'benthi/ *adj*

**bentonite** /'bentənɪt/ *n* an absorbent clay used esp to give bulk to paper, drugs, etc [Fort Benton, Montana, USA] - **bentonitic** /-hɪtɪk/ *adj*

**'bentwood** /-/wood/ *adj* made of wood that is steamed and bent into shape for use in furniture

**benumb** /bɪ'nʊm/ *vt* to make inactive or numb deaden [ME *benomen*, fr *benomen*, *benome*, pp of *benimen* to deprive, fr OE *beniman*, fr *be-* + *niman* to take - more at NIMBLE]

**benz-** /benz/, **benzo-** *comb form* related to benzene or benzoic acid (<benzophenone> /benzɒ'fɛnɔn/ [ISV, fr *benzoin*])

**benzaldehyde** /ben'zaldɪhɪd/ *n* a liquid chemical compound found in essential oils (e.g. in peach kernels) and used in flavouring and perfumes, as a solvent, and in the synthesis of dyes [G *benzaldehyd*, fr *benz-* + *aldehyd* aldehyde]

**Benzedrine** /benzədɪn, -dreen/ *trademark* - used for a type of amphetamine

**benzene** /'benzi:n/ *n* an inflammable poisonous liquid hydrocarbon used in the synthesis of organic chemical compounds and as a solvent [ISV *benz-* + *ene*] - **benzenoid** /ben'zənoɪd/ *adj*

**'benzene ring** *n* the structural arrangement of 6 carbon atoms that exists in the molecules of benzene and many other organic chemical compounds

**benzine** /benzi:n/ *n* any of various volatile inflammable petroleum distillates used esp as solvents or motor fuels [G *benzin*, fr *benz-*]

**benzodiazepine** /benzə'di:əzɪpɪn/ *n* any of several chemically related synthetic drugs (e.g. diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, and nitrazepam) widely used as tranquilizers, sedatives, and hypnotics [*benz* + *di* + *az* + *epoxide* + *-ine*]

**benzoic 'acid** /ben'zəʊɪk/ *n* an organic acid used esp as a food preservative, in medicine, and in organic synthesis [ISV, fr *benzoin*]

**benzoin** /benzə'ɪn/ *n* benzoyl *n* (any of various trees found in SE Asia yielding) a hard fragrant yellowish balsamic resin used esp in medicines [MF *benjoin*, fr OCatal *benjui* fr A1 *luhan jawi* lit, frankincense of Java]

**benzol** /benzəl/ *n* (unrefined) benzene [G, fr *benz* + *ol*]

**bequeath** /bɪ'kwɛθ, bɪ'kwɛð/ *vt* 1 to give or leave (sthg, esp personal property) by will - compare DEVE 2 2 to transmit HAND DOWN (<ideas ~ed to us by the 19th c>) [MF *bequethen*, fr OE *becwethan*, fr *be-* + *cwethan* to say - more at QUOTH] - **bequeathal** /bɪ'kwɛðhəl/ *n*

**bequest** /bɪ'kwɛst/ *n* 1 the act of bequeathing 2 a legacy [ME, irreg fr *bequethen*]

**berate** /bɪ'reɪt/ *vt* to scold or condemn vehemently [*be* + *rate* (to chide), fr ME *raten*]

**Berber** /bɪ'hɜ:bə/ *n* 1 a member of a Caucasian people of N Africa 2 (any of various N African languages comprising) a Hamitic branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family [Ar *Barbar*]

**berberine** /bɪ'hɜ:bəri:n/ *n* a bitter alkaloid obtained from the roots of various plants (e.g. barberry) and used esp as a tonic [G *berberin*, fr NL *berbers* barberry root, fr ML *barbers*, fr Ar *barbars*]

**berceuse** /be'su:z/ *n*, *pl* berceuses /~/ (a musical composition in the style of) a lullaby [F, fr *bercer* to rock]

**bereave** /bɪ'reɪv/ *vt* bereaved, bereft /bɪ'reft/ to rob or deprive of sthg held dear esp through death [ME *bereven*, fr OE *berēafian*, fr *be-* + *reafian* to rob, akin to OHG *roubon* to rob, L *rumpere* to break, *ruere* to rush, dig up] - **bereavement** *n*

**be'reaved** *n* or *adj*, *pl* bereaved (the person) suffering the death of a loved one

**bereft** /bɪ'reft/ *adj* 1 deprived or robbed of, completely without sthg (<~ of all hope>) 2 bereaved

**beret** /'beray/ *n* a cap with a tight headband, a soft full flat top, and no peak [F *berret*, fr Prov - more at BIRETTA]

**'berg** /bu:rg/ *n* an iceberg

**\*berg** *n*, *S Afr* a mountain - often in place-names [Afrk, fr MD *bergh*, *berch*, akin to OHG *berg* mountain]


**bergamot** /bu:rgə'mɔ:t/ *n* a pear-shaped orange whose rind yields an essential oil used in perfumery [prob fr *Bergamo*, town in Italy]

**bergschund** /be:rgʃʊnd/ *n* a crevasse at the top of a mountain glacier [G, fr *berg* mountain + *schrund* crack]

**beriberi** /beri'beri, -'ri:/ *n* a deficiency disease marked by degeneration of the nerves and caused by a lack of or inability to assimilate vitamin B<sub>1</sub> [Sinhalese *beriberi*]


**berk** /bu:hk/ *n*, *Br* a burk - slang

**Berkeleyan**, **Berkeleyan** /bah'kleɪən, 'bahlkɪ-ən/ *adj* (characteristic of) Bishop Berkeley or his theory that only what is immediately perceived is real [George Berkeley †1753 Ir bishop & philosopher] - **Berkeleyan** *n*, **Berkeleyanism** *n*

**berkelium** /bə'keɪl-əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *Berkeley*, city in California, USA]

**berm, berme** /buhm/ *n* 1 a narrow shelf between a ditch and the base of a parapet in a fortification 2 a narrow path beside a road, canal, etc [F *berme*, fr D *berm* strip of ground along a dyke, akin to ME *brimme* brim]

**Bermuda rig** /bə'myooohd-/ *n* a fore-and-aft rig with a tall mainmast and triangular mainsail [Bermuda Islands in the W Atlantic ocean]

**Bermuda shorts** *n pl* knee-length shorts  GARMENT

**berry** /beri/ *n* 1a a small, pulpy, and usu edible fruit (e.g. a strawberry or raspberry) b a simple fruit (e.g. a currant, grape, tomato, or banana) with a pulpy or fleshy pericarp – used technically in botany 2 an egg of a fish or lobster [ME *berye*, fr OE *berne*, akin to OHG *beri* berry] – **berried** *adj*, **berrylike** *adj*

**berry** *vi* 1 to bear or produce berries 2 to gather or seek berries

**berserk** /bə'zɜ:hk, buh-/ *n* any of a type of ancient Scandinavian warrior who fought in a wild frenzy [ON *berserkr*, fr *bjorn* bear + *serkr* shirt]

**berserk** *adj* frenzied, esp with anger, crazed – usu in *go berserk* – **berserk** *adv*


**berserker** /bə'zɜ:hk-/ *n* a berserk

**berth** /bu:th/ *n* 1 a safe distance for manoeuvring maintained between a ship and another object 2 an allotted place for a ship when at anchor or at a wharf 3 a place for sleeping (e.g. a bunk), esp on a ship or train 4a a place, position [*earned the number 2*] b a job, post – infml [prob fr *'bear* + *-th*] – **give a wide berth** to remain at a safe distance from, avoid

**berth** *vt* 1 to bring into a berth, dock 2 to allot a berth to ~ *vi* to come into a berth

**berther** /-buhth-/ *comb form* (→ *n*) sthg having berths of a specified kind or number

**beryl** /beri/ *n* a mineral that is a silicate of beryllium and aluminium, occurs as green, yellow, pink, or white crystals, and is used as a gemstone – compare AQUAMARINE, EMERALD [ME, fr OF *beril*, fr L *beryllus*, fr Gk *beryllos*, of Indic origin, akin to Skt *vaidūrya* cat's-eye gem]

**beryllium** /bə'ri:li-əm/ *n* a light strong bivalent metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Gk *beryllion*, dim of *beryllos*]

**beseech** /bi'seech/ *vt* besought /-sawt/, **beseech** 1 to beg for urgently or anxiously [*besought a favour of her*] 2 to request earnestly, implore [*do not go, I ~ you*] [ME *besechen*, fr *be-* + *sechen* to seek] – **beseechingly** *adv*

**beset** /bi'set/ *vt* 1 to trouble or assail constantly (~ *by fears*) 2 to surround and (prepare to) attack (~ *by the enemy*) [ME *besetten* to set round, encompass, fr OE *besettan*, fr *be-* + *settan* to set] – **besetment** *n*

**besetting** /bi'setɪŋ/ *adj* constantly causing temptation or difficulty; continuously present (~ *sin*)

**beside** /bi'sid/ *prep* 1a by the side of (*walk ~ me*) b in comparison with c on a par with d unconnected with, wide of (~ *the point*) 2 besides [ME, *adv* & *prep*, fr OE *besidan* at or to the side, fr *be* at (fr *bi*) + *sidan*, dat & acc of side side – more at BY] – **beside oneself** in a state of extreme agitation or excitement

**besides** *adv* 1 as an additional factor or circumstance [*has a wife and 6 children ~*] 2 moreover, furthermore

**besides** *prep* 1 other than, unless we are to mention (*who ~ John would say that?*) 2 as an additional circumstance to (~ *being old, she is losing her sight*)

**besiege** /bi'seej/ *vt* 1 to surround with armed forces 2a to crowd round; surround closely b to press with questions, requests, etc; importune – **besieger** *n*

**besmirch** /bi'smuhch/ *vt* to sully, soil

**besom** /beez(a)m/ *n* BROOM 2; esp one made of twigs [ME *beseme*, fr OE *besma*; akin to OHG *besmo* broom]

**besotted** /bi'sotɪd/ *adj* 1 made dull or foolish, esp by infatuation 2 drunk, intoxicated [fr pp of *besot* (to make dull or foolish), fr *be-* + *sot* (to befool)]

**bespatter** /bi'spat-/ *vt* to spatter

**bespeak** /bi'speek/ *vt* bespoke /-spohk/; bespoken /-spohkən/ 1 to hire, engage, or claim beforehand 2 to indicate, signify (*her performance ~s considerable practice*) USE fml

**bespectacled** /bi'spektakld/ *adj* wearing glasses

**bespoke** /bi'spohk/ *adj*, *Br* 1 made-to-measure; broadly made or arranged according to particular requirements 2 dealing in or producing articles that are made to measure (~ *a tailor*) [pp of *bespeak*]

**besprinkle** /bi'sprɪŋkl/ *vt* to sprinkle [ME *besprengeln*, freq of *besprengen*, fr OE *besprengan*]

**Bessemer converter** /besima/ *n* the furnace used in the Bessemer process


**Bessemer process** *n* a steelmaking process in which air is blasted through molten pig iron to remove impurities [Sir Henry Bessemer †1898 E engineer & inventor]

**best** /best/ *adj*, superlative of GOOD 1 excelling all others (e.g. in ability, quality, integrity, or usefulness) (*the ~ student*) 2 most productive of good (*what is the ~ thing to do*) 3 most, largest (*for the ~ part of a week*) 4 reserved for special occasions (*got out the ~ sherry glasses*) [ME, fr OE *beist*, akin to OE *bōt* remedy – more at BETTER]

**best** *adv*, superlative of WELL 1 in the best manner; to the best extent or degree (*a Wednesday would suit me ~* – SEU S) 2 BETTER 2 (*is ~ avoided*) (*we'd ~ go*) – **as best** in the best way (*climbed over as best he could*)

**best** *n*, *pl best* 1 the best state or part (*never at my ~ before breakfast*) (*the ~ of life is over at 20*) 2 sby or sthg that is best (*can ride with the ~ of them*) 3 the greatest degree of good or excellence (*always demand the ~ of my pupils*) 4 one's maximum effort (*did my ~*) 5 best clothes (*Sunday ~*) 6 a winning majority (*the ~ of 3 games*) – **at best** even under the most favourable circumstances, seen in the best light – **make the best of** to cope with an unfavourable situation in the best and most optimistic manner possible

**best** *vt* to get the better of; outdo

**best, end of neck** *n* a cut of lamb, veal, etc from between the lower end of the neck and the loin  MEAT

**bestial** /besti-əl/ *adj* 1 of beasts 2 marked by brutal or inhuman instincts or desires, specif sexually depraved [ME, fr MF, fr L *bestialis*, fr *bestia* beast] – **bestialize** *vt*, **bestially** *adv*

**bestiality** /besti-əli-/ *n* bestial behaviour, specif sexual relations between a human being and an animal [BESTIAL + -ITY]

**bestiary** /besti-əri/ *n* a medieval allegorical or moralizing work about real or imaginary animals [ML *bestiarium*, fr L, neut of *bestiarius* of beasts, fr *bestia*]

**bestir** /bi'stuh/ *vt* to stir up, rouse to action

**best man** *n* the principal attendant of a bridegroom at a wedding

**bestow** /bi'stoʊ/ *vt* to present as a gift – usu + *on* or *upon* [ME *bestowen*, fr *be-* + *stowe* place – more at STOW] – **bestowal** *n*

**bestrew** /bi'stroʊ/ *vt* bestrewed; bestrewed, bestrewn /-stroʊn/ 1 to strew 2 to lie scattered over

**bestride** /bi'strɪd/ *vt* bestrode /-stroʊd/; bestrode /-strɪd-/ 1 to ride, sit, or stand astride; straddle 2 to tower over; dominate

**best-seller** *n* 1 sthg, esp a book, which has sold in very large numbers, usu over a given period 2 an author or performer whose works sell in very large numbers – **best-selling** *adj*

**bet** /bet/ *n* 1a the act of risking a sum of money or other stake on the forecast outcome of a future event (e.g. a race or contest), esp in competition with a second party b a stake so risked c an outcome or result on which a stake is gambled 2 an opinion, belief (*my ~ is it will pour with rain*) 3 a plan of action; course (*your best ~ is to call a plumber*) – infml [origin unknown]

**bet** *vb* **bet also betted**; -tt- *vt* 1 to stake as a bet – usu + *on* or *against* 2 to make a bet with (sby) 3 to be convinced that (*I ~ they don't turn up*) – infml ~ *vi* to lay a bet – **bet one's bottom dollar** to be virtually certain – infml – **you bet** you may be sure; certainly – slang

**beta** /beɪtə; NAm usu 'baytə/ *n* 1a the 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet b a 2 – used to designate the second brightest star of a constellation [Gk *beta*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *beth*, 2nd letter of the Heb alphabet]

**beta-adrenergic** /adrɪ'nuhɹjɪk/ *adj* of or being a beta-receptor (~ *blocking action*)

**beta-blocker** *n* a drug (e.g. propranolol) that inhibits the action of adrenalin and similar compounds and is used esp to treat high blood pressure

**betake** /bi'tayk/ *vt* betook /-took/, betaken /-taykən/ to cause (oneself) to go – fml

**beta-oxidation** *n* gradual breakdown of fatty acids, esp in mitochondria

**beta particle** *n* an electron or positron ejected from the nucleus of an atom during radioactive decay

**beta ray** *n* a stream of beta particles

**beta-receptor** *n* a receptor for neurotransmitters (e.g. adrenalin) in the sympathetic nervous system whose stimulation is associated esp with dilation of small blood vessels and increased heart rate and output – compare ALPHA-RECEPTOR



**betatron** /'beɪtatrən/ *n* an accelerator in which electrons are propelled by the inductive action of a rapidly varying magnetic field [ISV]

**betel** /'beɪtəl/ *n* a climbing pepper whose leaves are chewed together with betel nut and lime, esp by SE Asians, to stimulate the flow of saliva [Pg, fr Tamil *veṇṇai*]

**'betel nut** *n* the astringent seed of the betel palm [fr its being chewed with betel leaves]

**'betel palm** *n* an Asiatic palm that has an orange-coloured fruit [betel nut]

**bête noire** /'bet'nwah/ *n, pl bêtes noires* /~/ a person or thing strongly detested [F, lit, black beast]

**bethel** /'beth(ə)l/ *n* 1 a Nonconformist chapel 2 a place of worship for seamen [Heb *beth* 'el house of God]

**bethink** /'biθɪŋk/ *vi* **bethought** /-'θawt/ *archaic* to cause (oneself) to be reminded or to consider – usu + of

**betide** /'biːtɪd/ *vi* to happen to, befall <woe ~ them if they're late> ~ *vi* to happen, esp as if by fate <we shall remain friends, whatever may ~> *USE* fml or poetic; used only in the 3rd pers sing pres subj and infin [ME *betiden*, fr *be-* + *tiden* to happen, fr OE *tīdan*, akin to MD *tiden* to go, come, OE *tīd* time]

**bêtise** /'beːteɪz/ *n, pl bêtises* /~/ (an act of) stupidity [F, fr *bête* foolish, fr *bête* fool, beast]

**betoken** /'biːtəʊkən/ *vt* 1 to give evidence of, show 2 to presage, portend

**betony** /'betəni/ *n* any of several plants of the mint family [ME *betone*, fr OF *betoine*, fr L *vettonica*, *betonica*, fr *Vettones*, an ancient Spanish people]

**betray** /'beɪtray/ *vt* 1 to deceive, lead astray 2a to deliver to an enemy by treachery **b** to be a traitor to <~ed his people> 3a to fail or desert, esp in time of need **b** to disappoint the hopes, expectation, or confidence of 4a to be a sign of (sthg one would like to hide) **b** to disclose, deliberately or unintentionally, in violation of confidence [ME *betrayen*, fr *be-* + *trayen* to betray, fr OF *trair*, fr L *tradere* – more at **TRAITOR**] – *betrayal n*, *betrayee n*

**betroth** /'biːtrəʊθ, -'trəʊθ/ *vt* **betrothed** /-dhd/, **betrothing** /-dɪŋ/ to promise to marry or give in marriage [ME *betrouthen*, fr *be-* + *trouthe* – truth, *trouh* – more at **TRUTH**]

**betrothal** /'biːtrəʊðəl/ *n* a mutual promise or contract for a future marriage [BETROTH + -'AI]

**betrothed** *n* the person to whom one is betrothed

**'better** /'beta/ *adj, comparative of GOOD or of WELL* 1 more than half <for the ~ part of a month> 2 improved in health; recovered 3 of greater quality, ability, integrity, usefulness, etc [ME *bettere*, fr OE *betera*, akin to OE *bōt* remedy, Skt *bhadra* fortunate]

**'better** *adv, comparative of WELL* 1 in a better manner; to a better extent or degree 2a to a higher or greater degree <he knows the story ~ than you do> **b** more wisely or usefully (<is ~ avoided>) <I'd ~ not go round at lunchtime – SEU S>

**'better** *n, pl better*, (lb) *bettors* 1a sthg better **b** one's superior, esp in merit or rank – usu pl 2 the advantage, victory <get the ~ of him> – *for better or for worse* whatever the outcome

**'better** *vt* 1 to make better. e.g. a to make more tolerable or acceptable <trying to ~ the lot of slum dwellers> **b** to make more complete or perfect 2 to surpass in excellence, excel ~ *vi* to become better

**'better half** *n* a spouse; esp a wife – humor

**'betterment** /-mənt/ *n* an improvement ['BETTER + -MENT]

**'betting shop** /'betɪŋ/ *n, Br* a bookmaker's shop

**bettor**, **better** /'beta/ *n* one who bets

**'between** /'biːtween/ *prep* 1a through the common action of; jointly engaging <~ them, they managed to lay the carpet> **b** in shares to each of <divided ~ his 4 children> 2a in or into the time, space, or interval that separates <in ~ the rafters> **b** in intermediate relation to <a colour ~ blue and grey> 3a from one to the other of <travelling ~ London and Paris> **b** serving to connect or separate <dividing line ~ fact and fancy> 4 in point of comparison of <not much to choose ~ them> 5 taking together the total effect of, WHAT WITH <kept very busy ~ cooking, writing, and gardening> [ME *between*, prep & adv, fr OE *betwēonum*, fr *be-* + *twēonum* (dat pl) (akin to Goth *tweihnai* two each); akin to OE *twa* two] – *between you and me* in confidence

**'between** *adv* in or into an intermediate space or interval

**betweentimes** /-tɪmz/ *adv* at or during intervals

**betweenwhiles** /-wɪlz/ *adv* betweentimes

**betwixt** /'biːtwɪkst/ *adv or prep, archaic* between [ME, fr OE *betwux*, fr *be-* + *-twux* (akin to Goth *tweihnai*)]

**betwixt and between** *adv or adj* in a midway position; neither one thing nor the other

**'bevel** /'beɪvl/ *n* 1 the angle or slant that one surface or line makes with another when they are not at right angles 2 an instrument consisting of 2 rules or arms jointed together and opening to any angle for drawing angles or adjusting surfaces to be given a bevel [(assumed) MF, fr OF *baif* with open mouth, fr *haer* to yawn, fr ML *batare*]

**'bevel** *vb* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /'beɪvlɪŋ/ *vt* to cut or shape to a bevel ~ *vi* to incline, slant

**'bevel gear** *n* (a system of gears having) a pair of toothed wheels that work shafts inclined to each other

**beverage** /'bev(ə)rɪdʒ/ *n* a liquid for drinking, esp one that is not water [ME, fr MF *bevrage*, fr *beivre* to drink, fr L *hibere* – more at **POT-ABLE**]

**bevvy** /'beɪvi/ *n, dial Br* any alcoholic drink, esp beer – slang [by shortening & alter fr *beverage*]

**bevy** /'beɪvi/ *n* a group or collection, esp of girls [ME *bevey*]

**bewail** /'biːweɪl/ *vi* to express deep sorrow for; lament

**beware** /'biːweə/ *vb* to be wary (of) <~ the Ides of March!> <~ of the dog!> – usu in imper and infin [ME *been war*, fr *been* to be + *war* careful – more at **RE, WARY**]

**bewilder** /'biːwɪldə/ *vi* to perplex or confuse, esp by a complexity, variety, or multitude of objects or considerations [*be-* + *arch wilder* (to lead astray, perplex), prob irreg fr *wilderness*] – *bewilderedly adv*, *bewilderingly adv*, *bewilderment n*

**bewitch** /'biːwɪtʃ/ *vt* 1a to influence or affect, esp injuriously, by witchcraft **b** to cast a spell over 2 to attract as if by the power of witchcraft, enchant <~ed by her beauty> – *bewitchingly adv*, *bewitchment n*

**'beyond** /'beɪənd/ *adv* 1 on or to the farther side, farther 2 as an additional amount, besides [ME, prep & adv, fr OE *begeondan*, fr *be-* + *geondan* beyond, fr *geond* yonder]

**'beyond** *prep* 1 on or to the farther side of, at a greater distance than 2a out of the reach or sphere of <~ repair> **b** in a degree or amount surpassing <~ my wildest dreams> **c** out of the comprehension of 3 **BESIDES** 2 4 later than, past

**'beyond** *n* 1 sthg that lies beyond 2 sthg that lies outside the scope of ordinary experience, *specific HEREAFTER*

**bezant** /'beɪzənt, bə'zənt/ *n* SOLIDUS 1 [ME *besant*, fr MF, fr ML *Byzantius* Byzantine, fr *Byzantium*, ancient name of Istanbul, city in Turkey]

**bezel** /'beɪz(ə)l/ *n* 1 a sloping edge, esp on a cutting tool 2 the (upper) faceted portion of a gem 3 a rim or groove that holds a transparent covering of a watch, clock, headlight, etc [prob F dial, alter of F *biseau*]

**bezique** /bə'ziːk/ *n* (the combination of the queen of spades and jack of diamonds held in) a card game for 2 people that is played with a double pack of 64 cards [F *besique*]

**Bhagavad Gita** /'bɑːɡəvəhɪd'ɡectəh/ *n* a Hindu devotional scripture consisting chiefly of discourses of Krishna in poetic form [Skt *Bhagavadgita*, lit., song of the blessed one (Krishna)]

**bhakti** /'bʌhkti/ *n* devotion to a deity constituting a way to salvation in Hinduism [Skt, lit., portion]

**bhang** /bʌŋg/ *n* a mild form of cannabis used esp in India [Hindi *bhāṅg*]

**B-horizon** /be-/ *n* the subsurface layer of soil that is frequently enriched by substances from the surface layer

**'bi-** /bi-/ *prefix* 1a two (<biparous>) (<bilingual>) **b** appearing or occurring every 2 (<bimonthly>) (<biweekly>) **c** into two parts (<bisect>) 2a twice; doubly; on both sides (<biconvex>) (<biserrate>) **b** appearing or occurring twice in (<biweekly>) – often disapproved of in this sense because of the likelihood of confusion with sense 1b; compare **SEMI-** 3 located between, involving, or affecting 2 (specified symmetrical parts) (<biacral>) 4 DI- 2 (<biphenyl>) 5 acid salt (<bicarbonate>) [ME, fr L; akin to OE *twi-*]

**'bi-, bio-** *comb form* life (<biography>); living organisms or tissue (<biology>) [Gk, fr *bios* mode of life – more at **QUICK**]

**biannual** /-ˈanyooəl/ *adj* occurring twice a year – *biannually adv*

**'bias** /'biːəs/ *n* 1 a line diagonal to the grain of a fabric, often used in the cutting of garments for smoother fit – usu + *the* <cut on the ~> 2a an inclination of temperament or outlook; esp a personal prejudice **b** a bent, tendency **c** a tendency of an estimate to deviate in one direction from a true value (e.g. because of non-random sampling) 3 (the property of shape or weight causing) the tendency of a bowl used in the game of bowls to take a curved path when rolled 4 a voltage applied to a device



(e.g. the grid of a thermionic valve) to enable it to function normally [MF *bias*, fr OProv] – on the *bias* askew, obliquely

**bias** *adj*, *esp of fabrics and their cut* diagonal, slanting – *bias* *adv*

**bias** *vi* -s-, -ss- 1a to give a prejudiced outlook to *b* to influence unfairly 2 to apply an electrical bias to

**biased** /'bi:əst/ *adj* exhibiting or characterized by bias

**biathlon** /'bi:əθlən/ *n* an athletic contest consisting of combined cross-country skiing and rifle shooting [/'bi- + Gk *athlon* contest]

**bib** /bɪb/ *n* 1 a covering (e.g. of cloth or plastic) placed over a child's front to protect his/her clothes 2 a small rectangular section of a garment (e.g. an apron or dungarees) extending above the waist [prob fr arch *bib* (to drink), fr ME *bibben*, perh fr L *bibere*]

**bib and tucker** /'tʊkə/ *n* an outfit of clothing – usu in *best bib and tucker*; *infrm*

**bibber** /'bɪbə/ *n* sby given to drinking alcohol; a tippler [arch *bib* (to drink) + -er – more at *bib*]

**bibcock** also **bibb cock** /'bɪbkɒk/ *n* a tap with a bent-down nozzle [prob fr *bib* + *cock*]

**ibelot** /'bɪb(ə)ləh/ *n pl* *ibelots* /-ləh(z)/ a small ornament or decorative object; a trinket, curio [F]

**bible** /'bi:bl/ *n* 1a *cap* the sacred book of Christians comprising the Old Testament and the New Testament *b* any book containing the sacred writings of a religion 2 *cap* a copy or an edition of the Bible 3 an authoritative book <the fisherman's ~> [ME, fr OF, fr ML *biblia*, fr Gk, *pl of biblion* book, dim of *byblos* papyrus, book, fr *Byblos*, ancient Phoenician city from which papyrus was exported]

**'Bible Belt** *n* an area characterized by ardent religious fundamentalism, esp such an area in the southern USA

**biblical** /'bɪblɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of or in accord with the Bible 2 suggestive of the Bible or Bible times [ML *biblicus*, fr *biblia*] – *biblically* *adv*

**biblicism** /'bɪblɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* narrow or exclusive use of the Bible – *biblicist* *n*, often *cap*

**biblio-** *comb form* book <[*bibliography*] [MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *biblion*]

**bibliography** /'bɪbli'ɒɡrəfi/ *n* 1 the history, identification, or description of writings and publications 2 a list of writings relating to a particular topic, written by a particular author, issued by a particular publisher, etc 3 a list of the works referred to in a text or consulted by the author in its production [prob fr NL *bibliographia*, fr Gk, the copying of books, fr *biblio-* + *-graphia* -graphy] – *bibliographer* *n*, *bibliographic* /-ə'ɡræfɪk/, *bibliographical* *adj*, *bibliographically* *adv*

**bibliophile** /'bɪbli'ɒfiəl/ *n* a lover or collector of books [F, fr *biblio-* + *-philie*] – *bibliophilic* /-'fɪlk/ *adj*, *bibliophilism* /'bɪbli'ɒfɪlɪz(ə)m/ *n*, *bibliophilist* /-'ɒfɪlɪst/ *n*, *bibliophily* /-'ɒfɪli/ *n*

**bibliotheca** /'bɪbli'ɒ'theekə/ *n*, *pl* *bibliothecas*, *bibliothecae* /-kee-, -see/ a collection of books [L, fr Gk *bibliothēke*, fr *biblio-* + *theke* case, akin to Gk *tithenai* to put, place – more at *DO*] – *bibliothecal* /-'theekəl/ *adj*

**bibulous** /'bɪbyʊləs/ *adj* prone to over-indulgence in alcoholic drinks [L *bibulus*, fr *bibere* to drink – more at *POTABLE*] – *bibulously* *adv*, *bibulousness* *n*

**bicameral** /'bi:kəmə(r)əl/ *adj* having 2 legislative chambers [/'bi- + *cameral* (of or relating to a chamber), fr LL *camera* room – more at *CHAMBER*] – *bicameralism* *n*

**bicarb** /'bi:kəb/ *n* SODIUM BICARBONATE – *infrm*

**bicarbonate** /'bi:kəbənət/ *n* an acid carbonate; esp SODIUM BICARBONATE [ISV]

**biccy**, **bicky**, **bikky** /'bɪki/ *n*, *Br* a biscuit – *infrm* [by shortening & alter.]

**bice** /'bi:s/ *n* a dull blue or green pigment [ME *bis*, fr *bis* (adj) dark grey, fr MF]

**bicentenary** /'bi:sen'tenəri-, '-te-/ *n* or *adj* (the celebration) of a 200th anniversary

**bicentennial** /'bi:sen'teniəl/ *n* or *adj* (a) bicentenary

**biceps** /'bi:seps/ *n* the large muscle at the front of the upper arm that bends the arm at the elbow when it contracts, *broadly* any muscle attached in 2 places at one end [NL *bicipit-*, *biceps*, fr L, two-headed, fr *bi-* + *capit-*, *caput* head – more at *HEAD*]

**bicker** /'bɪkə/ *vi* to engage in petulant or petty argument [ME *bikeren*] – *bicker* *n*, *bickerer* *n*

**biconcave** /'bi:kɒŋkəv/ *adj* concave on both sides [ISV] – *biconcavity* /-kɒŋ'kəvəti-, -kɒŋ-/ *n*

**biconvex** /'bi:kɒŋveks, 'bi:kɒŋ'veks/ *adj* convex on both sides [ISV] – *biconvexity* /'bi:kɒŋ'veksəti/ *n*

**biculturalism** /'bi:kʌlchərəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* the existence of 2 distinct cultures in 1 nation <Canada's ~> – *bicultural* *adj*

**bicuspid** /'bi:kʊspɪd/ *n* or *adj* (a tooth) having or ending in 2 points [adj NL *bicuspid-*, *bicuspis*, fr *bi-* + L *cuspid-*, *cuspis* point; *n* fr *adj*]

**bicuspid valve** *n* the heart valve consisting of 2 flaps that stops blood flowing back from the left ventricle to the left atrium

**bicycle** /'bi:skl/ *vi* or *n* *bicycling* /'bi:skɪŋ/ (to ride) a 2 wheeled pedal-driven vehicle with handlebars and a saddle [n F, fr *bi-* + *-cycle* (as in *tricycle*); vb fr n] – *bicycler* /-klə/ *n*, *bicyclist* /-klɪst/ *n*

**bicyclic** /'bi:saɪklɪk, '-sɪe-/ *adj* consisting of or arranged in 2 cycles or circles [ISV]

**'bid** /bɪd/ *vb* *bade* /bad, bed/, *bid*, (3) *bid*; *bidden* /'bɪdn/, *bid* also *bade*; -dd- *vi* 1a to issue an order to; tell <he did as he was ~> *b* to invite to come 2 to give expression to <bade him a tearful farewell> 3a to offer (a price) for payment or acceptance (e.g. at an auction) *b* to make a bid of or in (a suit at cards) ~ *vi* to make a bid [partly fr ME *bidden* to request, entreat, fr OE *biddan*, akin to OHG *bitten* to entreat, Skt *bādhati* he harasses, partly fr ME *beden* to offer, command, fr OE *beddan*; akin to OHG *bītan* to offer, Gk *pythānesthai* to learn by inquiry] – *bidder* *n* – *bid* *fair* to seem likely, show promise <she bids fair to become extremely attractive>

**'bid** *n* 1a the act of one who bids *b* a statement of what one will give or take for sthg; esp an offer of a price *c* sthg offered as a bid 2 an opportunity to bid 3 (an announcement of) the amount of tricks to be won, suit to be played in, etc in a card game 4 an attempt to win or achieve sthg <a ~ for power>

**biddable** /'bɪdəbl/ *adj* 1 easily led or controlled, docile 2 capable of being reasonably bid – *biddably* /-blɪ/ *adv*, *biddability* /-bɪləti/ *n*

**bidding** /'bɪdɪŋ/ *n* order, command <came at my ~>

**'biddy** /'bɪdi/ *n*, chiefly NAm HEN 1a, also a young chicken – *infrm* [perh imit]

**'biddy** *n* a woman <an eccentric old ~> – usu derog [dim. of the name *Bridget*]

**'biddy, bid** *n* (the burr of) a grassland plant of New Zealand of the rose family [modif of Maori *piripiri*]

**'biddy, biddy** *n* the biddy-bid

**bide** /'bi:d/ *vi* *bode* /'boʊd/, *bided* /'bi:ded/, *bided* *archaic* or *dial* to remain awhile, stay [ME *biden*, fr OE *bidan*; akin to OHG *bītan* to wait, L *fidere* to trust, Gk *peithesthai* to believe] – *bider* *n* – *bide one's time* to wait until the appropriate time comes to initiate action or to proceed

**bidet** /'bi:deɪ/ *n* a low fixture used esp for bathing the external genitals and the anus [F, small horse, *bidet*, fr MF, fr *bider* to trot]

**bid up** *vi* to raise the price of (e.g. property in an auction) by a succession of increasing offers

**Biedermeier**, **Biedermäler** /'bi:deɪ,mi:ə/ *adj* 1 of or suggesting a conventional and unimaginative style of furniture and interior decoration popular among the middle classes in Germany in the 19th c 2 conventional or philistine in attitude [Gottlieb *Biedermeyer*, fictitious simple German bourgeois, ostensible author of poems by Adolf Kussmaul †1902 & others]

**biennial** /'bi:eniəl/ *adj* 1 occurring every 2 years 2 of a plant growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second – *biennially* *adv*

**biennium** /'bi:eni-əm/ *n*, *pl* *bienniums*, *biennia* /-mɪə/ a period of 2 years [L, fr *bi-* + *annus* year – more at *ANNUAL*]

**bier** /'biə/ *n* a stand on which a corpse or coffin is placed; also a coffin together with its stand [ME *bere*, fr OE *bær*; akin to OE *beran* to carry – more at *BEAR*]

**bifacial** /'bi:fayʃəl/ *adj* 1 having opposite surfaces alike (< ~ leaves> 2 having 2 fronts or faces

**biff** /bɪf/ *n* a whack, blow – *infrm* [prob imit] – *biff* *vi*

**bifid** /'bi:fɪd/ *adj* divided into 2 equal lobes or parts by a central cleft <a ~ petal> [L *bifidus*, fr *bi-* + *-fidus* -fid] – *bifidly* *adv*, *bifidity* /-'fɪdɪti/ *n*

**bifilar** /'bi:fɪlə/ *adj* involving 2 threads or wires <~ suspension of a pendulum> [ISV *bi-* + L *filum* thread] – *bifilarly* *adv*

**bifocal** /'bi:fəh(ə)l/ *adj* 1 having 2 focal lengths 2 having 1 part that corrects for near vision and 1 for distant vision <a ~ lens> [ISV]

**bifocals** *n pl* glasses with bifocal lenses

**biform** /'bi:fɔ:m/ *adj* combining the qualities or forms of 2 distinct kinds of individuals [L *biformis*, fr *bi-* + *forma* form]

**bifurcate** /'bi:fʊkəti-, 'bi-, -fə-/ *vi* to divide into 2 branches or parts [ML *bifurcatus*, pp of *bifurcare*, fr L *bifurcus* two-pronged, fr *bi-* + *furca* fork] – *bifurcate* /-kət-, -kayt-/ *adj*, *bifurcation* /-'kayʃən/ *n*

**'big** /bɪg/ *adj* -gg- 1 of great force <a ~ storm> 2a large in bulk or extent; also large in number or amount <a ~ house> <a ~ fleet> *b* conducted on a large scale <~ business> *c* important in influence, standing, or

wealth <(the ~ 4 banks) 3a advanced in pregnancy <~ with child> b full to bursting; swelling <~ with rage> 4 of the voice loud and resonant 3a elder <my ~ sister> b older, grown-up <when I'm a ~ girl, I'm going to be a nurse> 6a chief, outstanding <(the ~ issue of the campaign) <his ~ moment> b of great importance or significance <a ~ decision> 7a pretentious, boastful <~ talk> b magnanimous, generous <that's very ~ of you> 8 popular <Frank Sinatra is very ~ in Las Vegas> - infml [ME, prob of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *bugge* important man; akin to OE *bȳ* boil, Skt *bhūri* abundant] - **biggish** *adj.* **bigness** *n*

\***big adv** 1a outstandingly <made it ~ in New York> b on a grand scale <(think ~) 2 pretentiously <he talks ~> **USE** infml

**bigamy** /'bigəmi/ *n* the crime of going through a marriage ceremony with one person while legally married to another [ME *bigamie*, fr ML *bigamia*, fr L *bi-* + LL *-gamia* -gamy, fr Gk, fr *gamos* marriage; akin to L *gener* son-in-law] - **bigamist** *n*, **bigamous** *adj.*, **bigamously** *adv*

**big bang theory** *n* a theory in cosmology: the universe originated from the explosion of a single mass of material so that the components are still flying apart - compare **STEADY STATE THEORY**

**Big Brother** *n* (the leader of) a ruthless all-powerful government [*Big Brother*, omnipotent head of state in the novel 1984 by George Orwell †1950 E writer]

**big bud** *n* any of several plant diseases caused by a gall mite

**big dipper** /'dipa/ *n* 1 often cap B&D, Br **ROLLER COASTER** 2 cap B&D, NAm **URSA MAJOR**

**big end** *n* the end of an engine's connecting rod nearest the crankpin

**big game** *n* 1 large animals hunted or fished for sport 2 an important objective; esp one involving risk

**big gun** *n* sby or sthg important or powerful - infml

**big head** /-hed/ *n* a conceited person - infml

**big head** *n* an exaggerated opinion of one's importance - infml - **bigheaded** *adj*

**bighearted** /-'ha:tid/ *adj* generous and kindly - **bigheartedly** *adv*, **bigheartedness** *n*

**bight** /bi:t/ *n* 1a the middle part of a slack rope b a loop in a rope 2 (a hollow formed by) a bend of a river, coast, mountain chain, etc [ME, bend, angle, fr OE *byht*; akin to OE *būgan* to bend - more at 'bow']

**bigmouthed** /-,mowdh/, -,mowth/ *adj* loudmouthed

**big name** *n* a very famous or important performer or personage - **big-name** *adj*

**big noise** *n* **BIG SHOT** - infml

**bigot** /'bigat/ *n* one who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his/her own religion, opinion, etc [MF, hypocrite, bigot] - **bigoted** *adj*, **bigotedly** *adv*, **bigotry** /-tri/ *n*

**big shot** *n* an important person - infml

**big stick** *n* (the threat of using) force - infml

**big time** *n* the highest rank, esp among entertainers - infml - **big-time** *adj*, **big-timer** *n*

**big top** *n* the main tent of a circus

**big tree** *n* a very large Californian evergreen tree of the pine family

**big wheel** *n* 1 an amusement device consisting of a large upright power-driven wheel carrying seats that remain horizontal round its rim 2 **BIG SHOT**

**big wig** /-,wig/ *n* an important person - infml

**bijou** /'be:zho:/ *n*, pl *bijoux*, *bijoux* /-zho:z/ a small dainty usu ornamental piece of delicate workmanship; a jewel [F, fr Bret *bizou* ring, fr *biz* finger; akin to W *bys* finger]

\***bijou** *adj*, esp of a house desirably elegant and usu small

**bijouterie** /bi'zho:tri/ *n* a collection of trinkets or ornaments, jewellery [F, fr *bijou*]

**bike** /bi:k/ *vi* or *n* (to ride) 1 a bicycle 2 a motorcycle [by shortening & alter.]

**bikini** /bi'keeni/ *n* a woman's brief 2-piece garment resembling bra and pants worn for swimming or sunbathing [F, fr *Bikini*, atoll of the Marshall islands]

**bikky** /'biki/ *n* a bicyc - infml

**bilabial** /bi'eɪləbiəl/ *n* or *adj* (a consonant) produced with both lips (e.g. /b, p, m/) [ISV]


**bilateral** /bi'eɪlə(r)əl/ *adj* 1 having 2 sides 2 **BIPARTITE** 2 - **bilateralism** *n*, **bilaterally** *adv*, **bilateralness** *n*


**bilateral symmetry** *n* a pattern of symmetry in which the organism is divisible into essentially identical halves by 1 plane only

**bilberry** /'bilbəri/ *n* (the bluish edible fruit of) a dwarf bushy European shrub of the heath family that grows on moorland [*bil-* (prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *bille* whortleberry) + *berry*]

**bilbo** /'bilbɒ/ *n* an iron bar with sliding shackles formerly used to confine

the feet of prisoners - usu pl with sing. meaning [perh fr *Bilbao*, *Bilboa*, town in Spain]

**bile** /bi:l/ *n* 1 a yellow or greenish fluid secreted by the liver into the intestines to aid the digestion of fats  **DIGESTION** 2 inclination to anger [F, fr L *bilis*, akin to W *bustl* bile]

**bilge** /bɪl/ *n* 1 the (space inside the) lowest usu rounded part of a ship's hull between the keel and the vertical sides  **SHIP** 2 stale or worthless remarks or ideas - infml [prob modif of MF *boulge*, *bouge* leather bag, curved part - more at **BUDGET**]

\***bilge** *vt* to damage (a ship) in the bilge ~ *vi* to suffer damage in the bilge

**bilge keel** *n* a longitudinal projection attached to a ship's hull or the bilge on either side to reduce rolling and support the weight of the vessel when grounded

**bilge water** *n* foul water that collects in the bilge of a ship

**bilharzia** /bi'hɑ:ziə/ *n* 1 a schistosome 2 schistosomiasis [NL, fr Theodor *Bilharz* †1862 G zoologist] - **bilharzial** *adj*

**bilharziasis** /bi'hɑ:zi'eɪsɪs/ *n*, pl *bilharziasis* /-seɪz/ schistosomiasis [NL, fr *bilharzia* + *-iasis*]

**billary** /'bɪlɪəri/ *adj* of or conveying bile or bile-conveying structures <~ disorders> [F *biliaire*, fr L *bilis*]

**bilingual** /bi'eɪŋɡwəl/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or expressed in 2 languages 2 using or able to use 2 languages with the fluency of a native speaker [L *bilinguis*, fr *bi-* + *lingua* tongue - more at **FOUGU**] - **bilingual** *n*, **bilingualism** *n*, **bilingually** *adv*

**bilious** /'bɪliəs/ *adj* 1 marked by or suffering from disordered liver function, esp excessive secretion of bile 2 peevish, ill-natured 3 of colours extremely distasteful, sickly <a ~ green> - infml [MF *bilieux*, fr L *biliosus*, fr *bilis*] - **biliously** *adv*, **biliousness** *n*


**bilirubin** /bi'lɪroʊbɪn/ *n* a reddish yellow pigment occurring in bile, blood, urine, and gallstones [L *bilis* + *ruber* red - more at **RED**]

**bilk** /bɪlk/ *vt* to cheat out of what is due [perh alter of 'balk] - **bilker** *n*

**bill** /bɪl/ *n* 1 (a mouthpart resembling) the jaws of a bird together with variously shaped and coloured horny coverings and often specialized for a particular diet 2 a projection of land like a beak [ME *bile*, fr OE, akin to OE *bill* (weapon)]

\***bill** *vi* to caress affectionately - chiefly in *bill and coo*

**bill** *n* 1 a long staff with a hook-shaped blade used as a weapon up to the 18th c 2 a billhook [ME *bil*, fr OE *bill*, akin to OHG *bill* pickaxe, Gk *phitos* log]

\***bill** *n* 1 a draft of a law presented to a legislature  **LAW** 2 a paper carrying a statement of particulars 3a (an itemized account of) charges due for goods or services b a statement of a creditor's claim 4a a written or printed notice advertising an event of interest to the public (e.g. a theatrical entertainment) b an item (e.g. a film or play) in a programme entertainment 5 chiefly NAm **NOTE** 3c [ME, fr ML *billā*, alter of *bulā*, fr L, bubble, boss]

\***bill** *vt* 1 to submit a bill of charges to 2a to advertise, esp by posters or placards b to arrange for the presentation of as part of a programme


**billabong** /'bɪləbɒŋ/ *n*, Austr 1a a blind channel leading out from a river b a usu dry stream bed that is filled seasonally 2 a backwater forming a stagnant pool [native name in Australia]

**billboard** /-'bawd/ *n*, chiefly NAm **HOARDING** 2 [*'bill* + *board*]

**billed** /-bɪld/ *comb form* (- *adj*) having (such) a bill <hard-billed>

**billet** /'bɪlɪt/ *n* 1a an official order directing that a member of a military force be provided with board and lodging (e.g. in a private home) b quarters assigned (as if) by a billet 2 a position, job <a lucrative ~> [ME *bylet* short document, fr MF *billette*, dim. of *bulle* document, fr ML *bulā*]

\***billet** *vt* to provide (e.g. soldiers) with a *billet*

\***billet** *n* 1 a small thick piece of wood (e.g. for firewood) 2 a usu small bar of iron, steel, etc 3 a Romanesque architectural moulding or ornamentation consisting of raised short cylinders or square pieces placed at regular intervals  **ARCHITECTURE** [ME *bylet*, fr MF *billete*, dim. of *bilie* log, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *bile* sacred tree]

**billet-doux** /bɪli'du:ʃ/ *n*, pl *billets-doux* /-du:ʃ/ a love letter [F *billet doux*, lit., sweet letter]

**billfold** /-'fo:ld/ *n*, NAm **WALLET** 1 [short for earlier *billfolder*, fr 'bill 5]

**billhead** /-,hed/ *n* (the heading of) a printed form used for bills

**billhook** /-,hook/ *n* a cutting tool, used esp for pruning, that has a blade with a hooked point [*'bill* + *hook*]

**billiards** /'bɪljədz/ *n* pl but *sing* in *constr* any of several games played on an oblong table by driving small balls against one another or into

- pockets with a cue; *specif* one with 3 balls in which scores are made by causing a cue ball to hit 2 object balls in succession – compare **POOL** [MF *billard* billiard cue, billiards, fr *bille*] – **billiard** *adj*
- billing** /'bɪlɪŋ/ *n* 1 **ADVERTISING** 2 <advance ~> 2 the relative prominence given to a name (e.g. of an actor) in advertising programmes (<top ~> ['*bill*])
- billion** /'bɪljən/ *n* 1 a thousand millions (10<sup>9</sup>) 2 an indefinitely large number – often pl with sing. meaning 3 *Br* a million millions (10<sup>12</sup>) **USE** (1&3) ➡ **NUMBER** [F, fr *bi-* + *-illion* (as in *million*)] – **billion** *adj*, **billooth** *adj* or *n*
- billionaire** /'bɪljə'neə/ *n* one whose wealth is estimated at a billion or more money units (e.g. pounds or dollars) [*billion* + *-aire* (as in *millionaire*)]
- bill of exchange** *n* an unconditional written order from one person to another to pay a specified sum of money to a designated person
- bill of fare** *n* a menu
- bill of lading** *n* a receipt signed usu by the agent or owner of a ship listing goods (to be) shipped
- bill of quantities** *n*, *Br* a statement of work and materials involved in a construction job
- bill of rights** *n*, often *cap* *B&R* a summary in law (e.g. the English Statute of 1689) of fundamental rights and privileges guaranteed by the state
- bill of sale** *n* a formal document for the conveyance or transfer of title to goods and personal property
- billon** /'bɪlən/ *n* gold or silver heavily alloyed with a less valuable metal [F, fr MF, fr *bille* log – more at *'billet*]
- billow** /'bɪləʊ/ *n* 1 a great wave, esp in the open sea 2 a rolling swirling mass (e.g. of flame or smoke) [prob fr ON *bylga*, akin to OHG *balg* bag – more at *BELLY*] – **billowy** *adj*
- billow** *vb* to (cause to) rise, roll, bulge, or swell out (as if) in billows
- billposter** /-pohstə/ *n* one who pastes up advertisements and public notices on hoardings – **billposting** *n*
- billsticker** /-stɪkə/ *n* a billposter – **billsticking** *n*
- 'billy** /'bɪli/, **'billy** *club* *n*, *NAM* **TRUNCHEON** 2 [prob fr *Billy*, nickname for *William*]
- 'billy**, chiefly *Austr* **'billy**, *can* *n* a can of metal or enamelware with an arched handle and a lid, used for outdoor cooking or carrying food or liquid [prob fr the name *Billy*]
- 'billy**, *goat* *n* a male goat – *infrml* [fr the name *Billy*]
- billy-o** /'bɪliəʊ/ *n* [prob fr the name *Billy*] – like *billy-o*/billy-oh very much; vigorously <was raining like billy-o>
- bilobed** /'bi,ləʊbd/ *adj* divided into 2 lobes
- biltong** /'bɪltɒŋ/ *n*, chiefly *S Afr* strips of lean meat dried in the sun [Afrik, fr *bil* buttock + *tong* tongue]
- bimetallic** /'bi,mi'talɪk/ *adj* (of or being a device with a part) composed of 2 different metals, esp ones that expand by different amounts when heated – **bimetal** *adj* or *n*
- bimillenary** /'bi,mi'lɪnəri/, **bimillennial** /-nɪ-əl/ *n* or *adj* (the celebration) of a 2000th anniversary
- bimolecular** /'bi,mi'lekjuələ/ *adj* 1 of or formed from 2 molecules 2 being 2 molecules thick [ISV] – **bimolecularly** *adv*
- bimonthly** /'bi,mʌnθli/ *adj* or *adv* (occurring) every 2 months or twice a month
- 'bin** /'bɪn/ *n* 1 a container used for storage (e.g. of flour, grain, bread, or coal) 2 a partitioned case or stand for storing and aging bottles of wine 3 *Br* a wastepaper basket, dustbin, or similar container for rubbish [ME *binn*, fr OE, *manger*, basket, prob. of Celt origin; akin to Gaulish *benna* wicker-bodied cart, Gk *phatnē* manger]
- 'bin** *vt* -nn- to put or store (esp bottled wine) in a bin
- bin-** *comb form* 'bi- (<binaural>) [ME, fr LL, fr L *bini* two by two; akin to OE *twīn* twine]
- binary** /'biənəri/ *adj* 1 consisting of or marked by 2 things or parts 2a of, being, or belonging to a system of numbers having 2 as its base <the ~ digits 0 and 1>, b involving a choice or condition of 2 alternatives (e.g. on or off) <~ logic> 3 having 2 musical subjects or 2 complementary sections <~ form> [LL *binarius*, fr L *binī*] – **binary** *n*
- binary fission** *n* asexual reproduction of a cell by division into 2 parts
- binary star** *n* a system of 2 stars that revolve round each other
- binaural** /'bi:nəʊrəl/ *adj* 1 of or used with both ears 2 stereophonically (recorded and) played to the hearer via headphones [ISV] – **binaurally** *adv*
- 'bind** /'bɪnd/ *vb* **bound** /'baʊnd/ *vt* 1a to make secure by tying (e.g. with cord) or tying together b to confine or restrict (as if) with bonds <he was
- bound and thrown into prison> c to put under a (legal) obligation <we are all bound to keep the law> 2 to wrap round with sthg (e.g. cloth) so as to enclose or cover 3 to encircle, gird 4a to cause to stick together <add an egg to ~ the mixture> b to take up and hold (e.g. by chemical forces); combine with <enzymes ~ their substrates> 5 to constipate 6 to make binding; settle <a deposit ~ s the sale> 7 to protect, strengthen, cover, or decorate with (a) binding 8 to cause to be attached (e.g. by gratitude or affection) ~ *vi* 1 to form a cohesive mass 2 to become hindered from free operation, jam 3 to complain – *infrml* [ME *binden*, fr OE *bindan*; akin to OHG *bintan* to bind, Gk *peisma* cable]
- 'bind** *n* a nuisance, bore – *infrml* – in a *bind* chiefly *NAM* in trouble or difficulty – *infrml*
- binder** /'bɪndə/ *n* 1 a person who binds books 2 a usu detachable cover (e.g. for holding sheets of paper) 3 sthg (e.g. tar or cement) that produces or promotes cohesion in loosely assembled substances ➡ **BUILDING** ['*BIND* + *-ER*]
- 'binding** /'bɪndɪŋ/ *n* a material or device used to bind: e.g. a covering that fastens the leaves of a book b a narrow strip of fabric used to finish raw edges ['*BIND* + *-ING*]
- 'binding** *adj* imposing an obligation <a ~ promise>
- 'binding energy** *n* the energy required to break up a molecule, atom, or atomic nucleus completely into its constituent particles
- bind over** *vt* to impose a specific legal obligation on <he was bound over to keep the peace>
- 'bindweed** /-,weəd/ *n* any of various twining plants with usu large showy trumpet-shaped flowers
- bine** /'bi:n/ *n* a twining stem or flexible shoot (e.g. of the hop) [alter. of *'bind* (sthg that binds)]
- .Binet-Simon scale** /,bi:neɪ sɪ'mohn/ *n* an intelligence test consisting of graded tasks for children of successive ages [Alfred *Binet* †1911 & Théodore *Simon* †1961 F psychologists]
- binge** /'bɪŋ/ *n* an unrestrained indulgence in sthg, esp a drunken revel – *infrml* [E dial. *binge* (to drink heavily)]
- 'bingo** /'bɪŋ goh/ *interj* 1 – used to express the suddenness or unexpectedness of an event 2 – used as an exclamation to show that one has won a game of bingo [alter. of *bing* (interj suggesting a sharp ringing sound), of *im*it origin]
- 'bingo** *n* a game of chance played with cards having numbered squares corresponding to numbers drawn at random and won by covering or marking off all or a predetermined number of such squares
- binman** /'bɪn,mæn,-mən/ *n*, *pl* **binmen** /-,mən,-mən/ *Br* a dustman
- binocular** /'bɪnəkəl/ *n* a case, stand, etc containing a ship's compass [alter. of ME *brakle*, fr OPg or OSp; OPg *brācola* & OSp *brācula*, fr L *habituaculum* dwelling place, fr *habitare* to inhabit – more at *HABITATION*]
- binocular** /'bɪnɒkjʊlə/ *adj* of, using, or adapted to the use of both eyes <good ~ vision> – **binocularly** *adv*
- bi'oculars** *n* *pl*, *pl* **binoculars** a binocular optical instrument; esp field glasses or opera glasses
- binomial** /'bi:nɒmɪəl/ *n* or *adj* (a mathematical expression) consisting of 2 terms connected by a plus sign or minus sign [n NL *binomium*, fr ML, neut. of *binomius* having two names, alter. of L *binominus*, fr *bi-* + *nomin-*, *nomen* name – more at *NAME*, *adj* fr n] – **binomially** *adv*
- bi'nomial theorem** *n* a theorem by means of which a binomial may be raised to any power by a formula
- binominal** /'bi:nɒmɪnəl/ *adj*, of *taxonomic nomenclature* consisting of or using 2 Latin names
- blnt** /'bɪnt/ *n*, *Br* a girl or woman – chiefly *derog* [Ar, *girl*, daughter]
- blinturong** /'bɪntʊərəŋ/ *n* an Asiatic civet with a prehensile tail [Malay]
- blo-** – see *'bi-*
- bioassay** /'bi:ə'hə'seɪ,-'sə'seɪ/ *n* the determination of the relative strength of a substance (e.g. a drug) by comparing its effect on a test organism with that of a standard preparation [biological assay] – **bioassay** /-'sə'seɪ/ *vt*
- biochemistry** /'bi:ə'h'kɛməstri/ *n* chemistry that deals with the chemical compounds and processes occurring in organisms [ISV] – **biochemist** *n*, **biochemical** *adj*, **biochemically** *adv*
- biodegradable** /'bi:ə'hdeɪ'grædəbl/ *adj* capable of being broken down, esp into simpler harmless products, by the action of living beings (e.g. microorganisms) ['*bi-* + *degrade* + *-able*] – **biodegradability** /-də'bɪləti/ *n*, **biodegrade** /-,deɪ'græd/ *vb*, **biodegradation** /-,deɪ'græd(ə)ʃn,-de-/ *n*
- bioenergetics** /-,enə'jetiks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* the biology of energy

transformations and exchanges within and between living things and their environments – **bioenergetic** *adj*

**bioengineering** /-enʃiˈnɪərɪŋ/ *n* the application to biological or medical science of engineering principles or equipment

**biofeedback** /-ˈfiːd.bæk/ *n* the technique of making unconscious or involuntary bodily processes perceptible to the senses in order to affect them by conscious mental control

**biogenesis** /-ˈjɛnəsɪs/ *n* 1 the development of living things from preexisting living things 2 biosynthesis [NL] – **biogenetic** /-ˈjɔːnɛtɪk/ *adj*

**biogenic** /ˈbi-ohˈjɛnɪk/ *adj* produced by living organisms – **biogenicity** /ˈbi-ohˈjɛnɪsəti/ *n*

**biogeographical** /-ˈjɛə-əˈɡræfɪkəl/ *adj* of or being a geographical region viewed in terms of its plants and animals

**biography** /ˈbi-ɒɡrəˈfi/ *n* 1 a usu written account of a person's life 2 biographical writing as a literary genre [LGk *biographia*, fr Gk *bi-* + *-graphia* -graphy] – **biographer** *n*, **biographical** /ˈbi-ɒˈɡræfɪkəl/ *adj*, **biographically** *adv*

**biological 'clock** /ˈbi-ɒˈlɔɪkl/ *n* the inherent timing mechanism responsible for various cyclic responses (e.g. changes in hormone levels) of living beings

**biological control** *n* control of pests by interference with their ecological environment


**biological oxygen demand** *n* the amount of oxygen required by microorganisms in water, that can be used as an indicator of pollution

**biological 'warfare** *n* warfare involving the use of (disease-causing) living organisms, or chemicals harmful to plants

**biology** /ˈbi-ɒləʒi/ *n* 1 a science that deals with the structure, function, development, distribution, and life processes of living organisms 2a the plant and animal life of a region or environment *b* the biology of an organism or group [G *biologie*, fr *bi-* + *-logie* -logy] – **biologist** *n*, **biological** /ˈbi-ɒˈlɔɪkl/ *adj*, **biologically** *adv*

**bioluminescence** /ˈbi-ɒˌlooˈmɪˈnɛs(ə)ns/ *n* (the emission of) light from living organisms [ISV] – **bioluminescent** *adj*

**biomass** /ˈbi-ohˌmas/ *n* the amount of living matter present in a region (e.g. in a unit area or volume of habitat)

**biome** /ˈbi-ohm/ *n* a major type of ecological community <the grassland ~>  PLANT [ˈbi- + -ome]

**biometrics** /ˈbi-ɒˈmɛtrɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* biometry

**biometry** /ˈbi-ɒˈmɛtri/ *n* the statistical analysis of biological observations and phenomena [ISV] – **biometric** /ˈbi-ɒˈmɛtrɪk/ *adj*, **biometrical** *adj*

**bionic** /ˈbi-ɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 involving bionics, also having or being a bionically designed part (e.g. a limb) 2 having exceptional abilities or powers – not used technically – **bionically** *adv*

**bionics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a science concerned with the application of biological systems to engineering problems 2 the use of mechanical parts to replace or simulate damaged parts of a living thing [ˈbi- + -onics (as in *electronics*)]

**bionomics** /ˈbi-ɒˈnɒmɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* ecology [bionomic, *adj*, prob fr F *bionomique*, fr *bionomie* ecology, fr *bi-* + *-nomie* -nomy] – **bionomic**, **bionomical** *adj*, **bionomically** *adv*

**-biont** /ˈbi-ont/ *comb form* (– *n*) one having a (specified) mode of life <haplobiont> [prob fr G, modif of Gk *biount-*, *biōn*, prp of *bioun* to live, fr *bios* life]

**biophysics** /ˈbi-ɒˈhɪzɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* biology concerned with the application of physics to biological problems – **biophysical** *adj*, **biophysicist** /-ˈfɪzɪsɪst/ *n*

**biopsy** /ˈbi-ɒpsi/ *n* the removal and examination of tissue, cells, or fluids from the living body [ISV ˈbi- + Gk *opsis* appearance – more at *optic*]

**biorythm** /ˈbi-ɒˌrɪðm/ *n* a supposed periodic fluctuation in the activity of the biological processes of a living thing that is held to affect and determine mood, behaviour, and performance – usu *pl* – **biorythmic** /ˈbi-ɒˌrɪðmɪk/ *adj*, **biorythmically** *adv*

**biroscope** /ˈbi-ɒˌskəʊp/ *n*, chiefly S Afr CINEMA 2 – *infml* [ˈbi- + -scope]

**-biosis** /ˈbi-ɒˈsɪs/ *comb form* (– *n*), *pl* -*bioses* /-ˈsiːz/ mode of life <ymbiosis> [NL, fr Gk *biosis*, fr *bioun* to live, fr *bios*] – **biotic** *comb form* (– *adj*)

**biosphere** /ˈbi-ɒˈsfɪə/ *n* the part of the world in which life exists

**biosynthesis** /ˈbi-ɒˈsɪnθəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **biosyntheses** /-ˈsiːz/ the production of a chemical compound by a living organism [NL] – **biosynthetic** /-ˈθetɪk/ *adj*, **biosynthetically** *adv*

**biota** /ˈbi-ɒˈtɑː/ *n* the flora and fauna of a region [NL, fr Gk *biotē* life; akin to Gk *bios*]

**biotic** /ˈbi-ɒˈtɪk/ *adj* of life; esp caused or produced by living organisms [Gk *biōtikos*, fr *bioun*]

**biotin** /ˈbi-ɒˈtɪn/ *n* a growth-controlling vitamin of the vitamin B complex found esp in yeast, liver, and egg yolk [ISV, fr Gk *biotōs* life, sustenance; akin to Gk *bios*]

**bipartisan** /ˈbi-ɒˈpɑːtɪzən/ *adj* of or involving 2 parties

**bipartite** /ˈbi-ɒˈpɑːtɪt/ *adj* 1 being in 2 parts 2 of a treaty, contract, etc between 2 parties *a* having 2 correspondent parts, one for each party *b* affecting both parties in the same way 3 cleft (almost) into 2 parts <a ~ leaf> [L *bipartitus*, pp of *bipartire* to divide in two, fr *bi-* + *partire* to divide, fr *part-*, *pars* part] – **bipartitely** *adv*, **bipartition** /ˈbi-ɒˈpɑːtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**biped** /ˈbi-ɒpɛd/ *n* a 2-footed animal [L *biped-*, *bipes*, fr ˈbi- + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at *foot*] – **biped**, **bipedal** /-ˈpiːdl/ *adj*

**biplane** /ˈbi-ɒˌpleɪn/ *n* an aeroplane with 2 pairs of wings placed one above and usu slightly forward of the other

**bipolar** /ˈbi-ɒˈpɒlə/ *adj* having or involving 2 (oppositely charged) poles – **bipolarity** /ˈbi-ɒˈpɒləˌrɪti/ *n*

**'birch** /ˈbɜːtʃ/ *n* 1 (the hard pale close-grained wood of) any of a genus of deciduous usu short-lived trees or shrubs typically having a layered outer bark that peels readily 2 a birch rod or bundle of twigs for flogging [ME, fr OE *beorc*; akin to OHG *birka* birch, L *fraxinus* ash tree, OE *beorht* bright – more at *BRIGHT*] – **birch**, **birchen** /ˈbɜːtʃən/ *adj*

**'birch** *vt* to whip (as if) with a birch

**bird** /bɜːd/ *n* 1 any of a class of warm-blooded vertebrates with the body more or less completely covered with feathers and the forelimbs modified as wings  ANATOMY 2a (a peculiar) fellow – chiefly *infml* *b* chiefly Br a girl – *infml* 3 a hissing or jeering expressive of disapproval or derision – chiefly in *give somebody the bird/get the bird*, *infml* 4 Br RIMM 5b – slang [ME, fr OE *bridd*; (4) short for rhyming slang *birdlime* time] – **birdlike** *adj* – for the birds trivial, worthless – *infml*

**birdbath** /-ˈbɑːθ/ *n* a usu ornamental basin for birds to bathe in

**'bird,brain** /-ˈbraɪn/ *n* a silly or stupid person – *infml* – **birdbrained** *adj*

**'bird,call** /-ˈkɔːl/ *n* a device for imitating the call of a bird

**'bird,dog** *n*, NAM a gundog trained to hunt or retrieve birds

**'birdie** /ˈbɜːdi/ *n* 1 a (little) bird – used esp by or to children 2 a golf score of 1 stroke less than par on a hole

**'birdie** *vt* **birdieing** /ˈbɜːdi-ɪŋ/ to play (a hole in golf) in 1 stroke under par

**'bird,lim** /-ˈliːm/ *n* 1 a sticky substance that is smeared on twigs to snare small birds 2 the droppings of birds

**bird of 'paradise** *n* any of numerous brilliantly coloured plumed birds of the New Guinea area

**bird of 'passage** *n* 1 a migratory bird 2 a person who leads a wandering or unsettled life

**bird of 'prey** *n* a hawk, vulture, or other bird that feeds on carrion or on meat taken by hunting

**'bird,seed** /-ˈsiːd/ *n* a mixture of hemp, millet, and other seeds used for feeding caged and wild birds

**'bird's,eye** *n* any of numerous plants with small bright-coloured flowers – often in combination

**'bird's-eye 'view** *n* 1 a view from above; an aerial view 2 a brief and general summary; an overview

**bird's-foot 'trefoil** *n* any of a genus of leguminous plants with claw-shaped pods and yellow flowers

**'bird's,needing** *n* the practice of searching for birds' nests, esp in order to steal the eggs


**'bird's nest 'soup** *n* a soup made from the gelatinous nest of any of several S Asiatic swifts

**'bird,strike** /-ˈstriːk/ *n* a collision between a bird and an aircraft

**'bird,watching** *n* the observation or identification of birds in their natural environment – **bird-watcher** *n*

**bi'refringence** /ˈbi-ɒˈfrɪŋ(ə)ns/ *n* the refraction of light in 2 slightly different directions to form 2 rays [ISV] – **bi'refringent** *adj*

**bi'reme** /ˈbi-ɛrɛm/ *n* a galley with 2 banks of oars [L *biremis*, fr ˈbi- + *remus* oar – more at *row*]

**bi'retta** /ˈbi-ɛrɛtə/ *n* a square cap with 3 ridges on top worn by (Roman Catholic) clergy  GARMENT [It *berretta*, fr OProv *berret* cap, irreg fr LL *birrus* cloak with a hood, of Celt origin; akin to Mlr *berr* short]

**bir** /bɜːk/ *n*, Br a burk – slang

**Biro** /ˈbi-ɒrə/ *trademark* – used for a ballpoint pen

**birth** /bɜːθ/ *n* 1a the emergence of a new individual from the body of its parent *b* the act or process of bringing forth young from within the body 2 the fact of being born, esp at a particular time or place <a

*Frenchman* by ~ > 3 (noble) lineage or extraction (*marriage between equals in ~*) 4 a beginning, start (*the ~ of an idea*) 5 natural or inherited tendency (*an artist by ~*) [ME, fr ON *byrth*, akin to OE *beran* – more at *BEAR*]

**'birth certificate** *n* an official record of sb's parentage and date and place of birth

**'birth control** *n* control of the number of children born, esp by preventing or lessening the frequency of conception; *broadly* contraception

**birthday** /'buhthday, -di/ *n* **1a** the day of a person's birth **b** a day of origin **2** an anniversary of a birth (*her 21st ~*)

**'birthday suit** *n* nothing but bare skin; nakedness (*a photograph of her at 6 months in her ~*) – humor

**'birthmark** /-mahk/ *n* a usu red or brown blemish on the skin at birth

**'birthrate** /-rayt/ *n* the number of (live) births per unit of population (e.g. 1000 people) in a period of time (e.g. 1 year)

**'birthright** /-net/ *n* sthg (e.g. a privilege or possession) to which a person is entitled by birth

**bis-** /bis-/ *comb form* twice, doubled – esp in complex chemical expressions (*bis(methylphenyl) mercury*) [L *bis*, fr OL *dvīs*; akin to OHG *zwīro* twice, L *duo* two – more at *two*]

**biscuit** /'biskit/ *n* 1 earthenware or porcelain after the first firing and before glazing **2** a light yellowish brown colour **3** *Br* any of several variously-shaped small usu unleavened thin dry crisp bakery products that may be sweet or savoury **4** *NAm* a soft cake or bread (e.g. a scone) made without yeast [ME *bisquite* dry crisp bread, fr MF *bescuit*, fr (*pain*) *bescuit* twice-cooked bread]

**bise** /beɪ/ *n* a cold dry northerly or northeasterly wind of S France, Switzerland, and Italy [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin]


**bisect** /bi'sekt/ *vt* to divide into 2 (equal) parts ~ *vi* to cross, intersect – *bisection* /bi'sekʃən/ *n*

**bisector** /bi'sektə/ *n* a straight line that bisects an angle or a line [BISECT + <sup>1</sup>-OR]

**bisexual** /bi'seksyoʊ(ə)l, -ʃ(ə)l/ *adj* **1a** possessing characteristics of both sexes **b** sexually attracted to both sexes **2** of or involving both sexes – *bisexual n*, *bisexually adv*, *bisexuality* /bi'seksyoʊ'æləti, -sek-ʃhoʊ-/ *n*

**bishop** /'bɪʃəp/ *n* **1** a clergyman ranking above a priest, having authority to ordain and confirm, and typically governing a diocese **2** either of 2 chess pieces of each colour allowed to move diagonally across any number of consecutive unoccupied squares [ME *briʃshop*, fr OE *biscop*, fr LL *episcopos*, fr Gk *episkopos*, lit. overseer, fr *epi-* + *skeptesthai* to look – more at *spy*] – *bishophood n*

**bishopric** /'bɪʃəprɪk/ *n* **1** a diocese **2** the office of bishop [ME *bisshopriche*, fr OE *biscoprice*, fr *biscop* + *rice* kingdom – more at *rich*]

**bismuth** /'bɪzməθ/ *n* a heavy chiefly trivalent metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [obs G *bismut* (now *wismut*), modif of *wismut*, fr *wise meadow* + *mut* claim to a mine] – *bismuthic* /bɪz'mudhɪk, -'myoʊdhɪk/ *adj*

**bison** /'biɪsn/ *n*, *pl* *bison* **1** a large shaggy-maned European bovine mammal that is now nearly extinct **2** BUFFALO **2** [L *bisont-*, *bison*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wisant* aurochs, akin to OPruss *wissambrs* aurochs]

**'bisque** /bɪsk/ *n* an advantage (e.g. an extra turn in croquet) allowed to an inferior player [F]

**'bisque** *n* a thick cream soup (e.g. of shellfish or game) [F]

**'bisque** *n* BISCUIT **1**; esp a type of white unglazed ceramic ware [by shortening & alter]

**bi-stort** /bɪ'staʊt/ *n* a European plant with twisted roots and a spike of usu pink flowers [MF *bistorte*, fr (assumed) ML *bistorta*, fr L *bis-* + *torta*, fem of *tortus*, pp of *torquere* to twist – more at *TORTURE*]

**bi-stre** /'beɪstrə, -strə/ *n* (the yellowish to dark colour of) a pigment used in art [F]

**bistro** /'beɪstɹəʊ/ *n*, *pl* *bistros* a small bar, restaurant, or tavern [F]

**'bit** /bɪt/ *n* **1** a bar of metal or occas rubber attached to the bridle and inserted in the mouth of a horse **2** the biting or cutting edge or part of a tool; also a replaceable drilling, boring, etc part of a compound tool **3** sthg that curbs or restrains **4** the part of a key that enters the lock and acts on the bolt and tumblers [ME *bitt*, fr OE *bite* act of biting; akin to OE *bitan* to bite]

**'bit** *vt* -tt- to put a bit in the mouth of (a horse)

**'bit** *n* **1a** a small piece or quantity of anything (e.g. food) (*a ~ of cake*) (*a ~ of string*) (*a little ~ more*) **b(1)** a usu specified small coin (*a*

*fivepenny ~*) (**2**) a money unit worth 1/4 of a US dollar *c* a part, section (*couldn't hear the next ~*) **2** sthg small or unimportant of its kind: e.g. *a* a brief period, a while *b(1)* an indefinite usu small degree, extent, or amount (*is a ~ of a rascal*) (*every ~ as powerful*) (**2**) an indefinite small fraction (*3 inches and a ~*) – *infm* **3** all the items, situations, or activities appropriate to a given style, role, etc (*rejected the whole love and marriage ~*) **4** a small but necessary piece of work (*doing their ~ for Britain by refusing a pay rise*) **5** a young woman – slang [ME, piece bitten off, morsel of food, fr OE *bita*; akin to OE *bitan*] – *a bit* **1** somewhat, rather (*a bit difficult*) – *infm* **2** the smallest or an insignificant amount or degree (*not a bit sorry*) – *infm* – *a bit much* a little more than one wants to endure – *a bit of all right* *Br* sb or sthg very pleasing; esp a sexually attractive person – *infm* – *bit by bit* little by little – *bit on the side* (a person with whom one has) occasional sexual intercourse usu outside marriage – *to bits* *TO PIECES*

**'bit** *n* (the physical representation in a computer or electronic memory of) a unit of computer information equivalent to the result of a choice between 2 alternatives (e.g. *on or off*) [binary digit]

**'bitch** /bɪtʃ/ *n* **1** the female of the dog or similar flesh-eating animals **2** a malicious, spiteful, and domineering woman **3** a complaint – *infm* [ME *bicche*, fr OE *bicec*; akin to OE *bæc* back]

**'bitchy** *vi* to complain – *infm*

**'bitchy** /bɪtʃi/ *adj* characterized by malicious, spiteful, or arrogant behaviour – *bitchily adv*, *bitchiness n*

**'bite** /bɪt/ *vb* *bit* /bɪt/, *bitten* /'bɪt(ə)n/ *also* *bit vt* **1a** to seize with teeth or jaws, so that they enter, grip, or wound **b** to sting with a fang or other specialized part of the body (*the midges are biting me*) *c* to remove or sever with the teeth **2** to cut or pierce (as if) with an edged weapon **3** to cause sharp pain or stinging discomfort **4** to take strong hold of; grip ~ *vi* **1** to bite or have the habit of biting sthg (*does that dog ~?*) **2** of a weapon or tool to cut, pierce **3** to have a sharp penetrating effect (*the sauce really ~s*) **4** of fish to take a bait **5** to take or maintain a firm hold [ME *biten*, fr OE *bitan*, akin to OHG *bizan* to bite, L *findere* to split] – *biter n* – *bite off more than one can chew* to undertake more than one can perform – *bite the dust* **1** to fall dead, esp in battle **2** to be finished or defeated (*another of his schemes has bitten the dust*)

**'bite** *n* **1a** the amount of food taken with 1 bite, a morsel **b** a small amount of food; a snack **2** a wound made by biting **3** the hold or grip by which friction is created or purchase is obtained **4** a sharp incisive quality or effect

**biting** /'bi:tɪŋ/ *adj* having the power to bite (*a ~ wind*); esp sharp, cutting (~ *irony*) – *bitingly adv*

**'bit of work** *n*, *pl* *bits of work* a person – derog (*a nasty ~*)

**'bit, part** *n* a small acting part, usu with spoken lines

**'bit, player** *n* a player of bit parts

**'bits and 'bobs** /bɒbz/ *n pl* ODDS AND ENDS

**'bits and 'pieces** *n pl* ODDS AND ENDS

**'bitt** /bɪt/ *n* either of a pair of posts on a ship's deck for securing ropes [perh fr ON *bitt* beam, akin to OE *bōr* boat]

**'bitter** /'bɪtə/ *adj* **1a** being or inducing an acrid, astringent, or disagreeable taste similar to that of quinine, that is one of the 4 basic taste sensations – compare SALT, SOUR, SWEET **b** distressing, galling (*a ~ sense of shame*) **2a** intense, severe (~ *enemies*) **b** very cold (*a ~ winter*) *c* cynical, rancorous (~ *contempt*) **3** expressive of severe grief or regret (~ *tears*) [ME, fr OE *biter*; akin to OHG *bittar* bitter, OE *bitan*] – *bitterish adj*, *bitterly adv*, *bitterness n*

**'bitter** *adv*, *NAm* *bitterly*

**'bitter** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a usu alcoholic solution of bitter and often aromatic plant products used esp in preparing mixed drinks or as a mild tonic **2** *Br* a very dry beer heavily flavoured with hops

**'bitter end** *n* the last extremity, however painful or calamitous [prob orig fr *bitter end* (the end of a ship's anchoring cable), fr *bitter* (a turn of cable round the bitts), fr *bitt*]

**'bit-terling** /'bɪtəlɪŋ/ *n* a small central European freshwater fish resembling the carp [G, fr *bitter* bitter (fr OHG *bittar*) + *-ling* -ling]

**'bit-tern** /'bɪtən/ *n* any of various small or medium-sized herons with a characteristic booming cry [ME *bitoure*, fr MF *butor*, deriv of L *butio*]

**'bitter, principle** *n* any of various strongly bitter-tasting substances (e.g. *aloin*) extracted from plants

**'bitter, sweet** /-sweet/ *n* a rambling poisonous nightshade with purple-and-yellow flowers

**'bittersweet** *adj* bitter and sweet at the same time; esp pleasant but with elements of suffering or regret (*a ~ ballad*) – *bittersweetly adv*, *bittersweetness n*



- bitty** /'bɪti/ *adj* scrappy, disjointed ['bɪt + -y] – **bittily** *adv*
- bitumen** /'biːtʊmɪn/ *n* any of various mixtures of hydrocarbons (e.g. tar) that occur naturally or as residues after heating petroleum, coal, etc [ME *bithumen* mineral pitch, fr L *bitumin-, bitumen*] – **bituminoid** /'biːtʊhmiːnoɪd/ *adj*, **bituminize** /'biːtʊhmiːniez/ *vt*, **bituminization** /'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- bituminous** /'biːtʊhmiːnəs/ *adj* resembling, containing, or impregnated with bitumen
- bivalent** /'bieːvələnt/ *adj* 1 having a valency of 2 2 of *chromosomes* that become associated in pairs during meiotic cell division – **bivalent** *n*
- bivalve** /'bieːvəl/ *n* or *adj* (a mollusc) having a shell composed of 2 valves
- bivouac** /'bivoo-ək/ *n* a usu temporary encampment under little or no shelter [F, fr LG *biwache*, fr *bi* at + *wache* guard]
- bivouac** *vi* -ck- to make a bivouac; camp
- biweekly** /'bieːwekli/ *n, adj, or adv* (a publication) issued or occurring a every 2 weeks b twice a week
- biyearly** /'bieːjɪəli/ *adj* 1 biennial 2 biannual
- bizarre** /'biːzə/ *adj* 1 odd, extravagant, eccentric 2 involving sensational contrasts or incongruities [F, fr It *bizzarro*] – **bizarrely** *adv*, **bizarreness** *n*
- blab** /blab/ *vb* -bb- *vt* to reveal (a secret) ~ *vi* to talk indiscreetly or thoughtlessly [ME *blabbe* one who blabs; akin to ME *blaberen* to blabber] – **blab** *n*
- blabber** /'blabə/ *vi* to babble ~ *vt* to say indiscreetly [ME *blaberen*, prob of imit origin] – **blabber** *n*
- 'blabber,mouth** /-,mowθ/ *n* one who talks too much
- 'black** /blak/ *adj* 1a of the colour black b very dark in colour (<his face was ~ with rage) 2 often *cap* a having dark pigmentation, esp of the Negro race (< ~ Americans) b of black people or culture (< ~ literature) 3 dressed in black (<the ~ Prince) 4 dirty, soiled (<hands ~ with dirt) 5a having or reflecting little or no light (< ~ water) (<a ~ night) b of coffee served without milk or cream 6a thoroughly sinister or evil (<a ~ deed) b indicative of hostility, disapproval, or discredit (<met only with ~ looks) 7a very dismal or calamitous (< ~ despair) b marked by the occurrence of disaster (< ~ Friday) 8 showing a profit (<a ~ financial statement) – compare RED 4 9 characterized by grm, distorted, or grotesque humour 10 bought, sold, or operating illegally and esp in contravention of official economic regulations (<the ~ economy) (< ~ food) 11 chiefly Br subject to boycott by trade-union members [ME *blak*, fr OE *blac*, akin to OHG *blah* black, L *flagrare* to burn, Gk *phlegain*, OE *bæl* fire – more at BALD] – **blackish** *adj*, **blackly** *adv*, **blackness** *n*
- 'black** *n* 1 a black pigment or dye 2 the colour of least lightness that belongs to objects that neither reflect nor transmit light 3 sth black; esp black clothing (<looks good in ~) 4 one who belongs wholly or partly to a dark-skinned race; esp a Negro 5 (the player playing) the dark-coloured pieces in a board game (e.g. chess) for 2 players 6 (nearly) total absence of light (<the ~ of night) 7 the condition of being financially in credit or solvent or of making a profit – *usu* + *in* the, compare RED 3
- 'black** *vt* 1 to make black 2 chiefly Br to declare (e.g. a business or industry) subject to boycott by trade-union members
- blackamoor** /'blak,maw-, -moo-/ *n*, archaic BLACK 4 [irreg fr *black* + *Moor*]
- black-and-blue** *adj* darkly discoloured from blood that has leaked under the skin by bruising
- Black and Tan** *n* a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary resisting the armed movement for Irish independence in 1921 [fr the colour of the uniform]
- black-and-white** *adj* 1 reproducing visual images in tones of grey rather than in colours (< ~ television) 2a sharply divided into 2 groups or sides b evaluating things as either all good or all bad (< ~ morality)
- black and white** *n* 1 writing, print 2 a drawing or print done in black and white or in monochrome 3 black-and-white reproduction of visual images, esp by photography or television
- 'black,ball** /-,baw/ *vt* 1 to vote against (esp a candidate for membership of a club) 2 to ostracize [fr the black ball sometimes used to register an adverse vote in a ballot] – **blackball** *n*
- black ban** *n*, Austr a blacking, boycott
- black bear** *n* the common American bear
- 'black,belt** *n* (one who has) a rating of expert in judo, karate, etc
- 'blackberry** /-(b)əri/ *n* (the usu black seedy edible fruit of) any of various prickly shrubs of the rose family
- black bile** *n* the one of the 4 humours in medieval physiology that was believed to be secreted by the kidneys or spleen and to cause melancholy
- 'black,bird** /-,buɪd/ *n* 1 a common Old World thrush the male of which is black with an orange beak and eye rim 2 any of several American birds
- 'black,board** /-,bawd/ *n* a hard smooth usu dark surface for writing or drawing on with chalk
- black body** *n* an ideal body or surface that completely absorbs all radiant energy falling upon it with no reflection
- black book** *n* a book containing a blacklist
- black box** *n* 1 a usu electronic device, esp one that can be plugged in or removed as a unit, whose internal mechanism is hidden from or mysterious to the user 2 FLIGHT RECORDER
- 'black,bryony** *n* a herbaceous Old World climbing plant that bears red poisonous berries
- 'black,buck** /-,buk/ *n* a common medium-sized Indian antelope
- black bun** *n*, Scot a rich dark fruit cake or bread often encased in pastry
- 'black,cap** /-,kap/ *n* a small Old World warbler with a black crown
- black cap** *n* a black head-covering formerly worn by a judge in Britain when passing the death sentence
- 'black,cock** /-,kok/ *n* the (male) black grouse
- blackcurrant** /'blak,kʊrənt, -'-/ *n* (the small black edible fruit of) a widely cultivated European currant
- 'black,damp** /-,damp/ *n* a mixture containing carbon dioxide that occurs as a mine gas and is incapable of supporting life or flame
- black death** *n*, often *cap* B&D a form of plague epidemic in Europe and Asia in the 14th c [fr the black patches formed on the skin of its victims]
- black diamond** *n* 1 *pl* COAL 2 2 carbonado
- blacken** /'blakən/ *vi* to become dark or black (<the sky ~s) ~ *vt* 1 to make dark or black 2 to defame, sully – **blackener** *n*
- black eye** *n* a discoloration of the skin round the eye from bruising
- black-eyed pea** *n* (the edible seed of) a leguminous plant widely cultivated in warm areas for food and green manure
- 'black,fellow** /-,feloh/ *n* an Australian aborigine – derog
- 'black,fish** /-,fish/ *n* 1 any of numerous dark-coloured fishes, esp a tautog 2 the female salmon just after spawning
- 'black,fly** /-,fli/ *n, pl* blackflies, esp collectively blackfly (an infestation by) any of several small dark-coloured insects
- 'black,friar** *n* a Dominican friar [fr the black mantle worn by Dominicans]
- black gold** *n* crude oil
- black grouse** *n* a large Eurasian grouse of which the male is black and the female mottled
- blackguard** /'blagəd, -gahd/ *n* a coarse or unscrupulous person, a scoundrel – now often humor [black + guard, orig sense, the kitchen servants of a large household] – **blackguardism** /'blagədɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **blackguardly** /'blagədli/ *adj* or *adv*
- 'black,head** /-,hed/ *n* a small usu dark-coloured oily plug blocking the duct of a sebaceous gland, esp on the face
- black hole** *n* a celestial body, prob formed from a collapsed star, with a very high density and an intense gravitational field, from which no radiation can escape
- black ice** *n*, Br transparent slippery ice (e.g. on a road)
- blacking** /'blakɪŋ/ *n* 1 a paste, polish, etc applied to an object to make it black 2 a boycotting of business, industry, etc by trade-union members
- 'black,jack** /-,jak/ *n* 1 2PONTON 2 NAM a cosh ([1] *black* + *'jack* 5, (2) *black* + *'jack* 2]
- 'black,jack** *vt*, NAM to strike with a blackjack
- black lead** /led/ *n* graphite
- 'black,leg** /-,leg/ *n*, chiefly Br a worker hostile to trade unionism or acting in opposition to union policies
- black letter** *n* a heavier angular style of type or lettering used esp by early European printers  ALPHABET
- black light** *n* invisible ultraviolet or infrared light
- 'black,list** /-,list/ *n* a list of people or organizations who are disapproved of or are to be punished or boycotted – **blacklist** *vt*
- black magic** *n* magic performed with the aim of harming or killing sb or sth
- 'black,mall** /-,mayl/ *n* 1 (money obtained by) extortion by threats, esp of exposure of secrets that would lead to loss of reputation, prosecution, etc 2 political, industrial, or moral pressure to do sth that is considered



undesirable [*'black + mail* (tribute, payment), fr ME *male*, *maille*, fr OE *mal* agreement, pay, fr ON *mál* speech, agreement] – **blackmail** *vt*

**Black Maria** /ˈblæk məˈrɪə/ *n* an enclosed motor vehicle used by police to carry prisoners [prob fr the name *Maria*]

**black 'market** *n* illicit trade in commodities or currencies in violation of official regulations (e.g. rationing)

**black marketeer** /ˈmæktɪˈtɪə/ *n* one who trades on a black market

**Black 'Mass** *n* a travesty of the Christian mass ascribed to worshippers of Satan

**Black 'Muslim** *n* a member of an exclusively black chiefly US Muslim sect that advocates a strictly separate black community

**'black,out** /-oʊt/ *n* 1 a period of darkness enforced as a precaution against air raids, or caused by a failure of electrical power 2 a temporary loss or dulling of vision, consciousness, or memory 3 a holding back or suppression of sth (< a ~ of news about the invasion) 4 a usu temporary loss of radio signal (e.g. during the reentry of a spacecraft)

**black out** *vi* 1 to become enveloped in darkness 2 to undergo a temporary loss of vision, consciousness, or memory 3 to extinguish or screen all lights for protection, esp against air attack ~ *vt* 1 to cause to black out 2 to suppress, esp by censorship [black out the news]

**Black 'Panther** *n* a member of a militant organization of US blacks

**black 'pepper** *n* a pungent condiment prepared from the dried black-husked berries of an E Indian plant used either whole or ground – compare WHITE PEPPER

**black 'power** *n* the mobilization of the political and economic power of US blacks, esp to further racial equality

**black 'pudding** *n*, chiefly Br a very dark sausage made from suet and a large proportion of pigs blood – compare WHITE PUDDING

**Black 'Rod** *n* the principal usher of the House of Lords [fr his staff of office]

**black 'sheep** *n* a disreputable member of a respectable group, family, etc

**'Black,shirt** /-shuɪt/ *n* a member of a fascist organization having a black shirt as part of its uniform

**'black,smith** /-smɪθ/ *n* one who works iron, esp at a forge [fr his working with iron, known as black metal] – **blacksmithing** *n*

**'black,spot** *n*, Br a stretch of road on which accidents occur frequently

**black 'tea** *n* tea that is dark in colour from complete fermentation of the leaf before drying

**'black,thorn** /-θɔːn/ *n* a European spiny shrub of the rose family with hard wood and small white flowers

**black-'tie** *adj* characterized by or requiring the wearing of semiformal evening dress by men including a dinner jacket and a black bow tie (< a ~ dinner) – compare WHITE-TIE

**'black,top** /-tɒp/ *n*, NAm a bituminous material used esp for surfacing roads – **blacktop** *vt*

**black up** *vi* to put on black make-up, esp in order to play a Negro role

**black 'velvet** *n* a drink that is a mixture of stout and champagne or cider

**blackwater 'fever** /ˈblæk,wɔːtə/ *n* a severe form of malaria in which the urine becomes dark-coloured

**black 'widow** *n* a venomous New World spider of which the female is black with an hourglass-shaped red mark on the underside of the abdomen

**bladder** /ˈblædər/ *n* 1a a membranous sac in animals that serves as the receptacle of a liquid or contains gas, esp the urinary bladder → DIGESTION b VESICLE 1a 2 a bag filled with a liquid or gas (e.g. the air-filled rubber one inside a football) [ME, fr OE *blædre*; akin to OHG *blatara* bladder, OE *blāwan* to blow]

**bladder campion** *n* a white-flowered plant of the pink family with a large membranous globular calyx

**'bladder,wort** /-wɔːrt/ *n* any of a genus of the butterwort family of chiefly aquatic plants with vesicular floats or insect traps

**'bladder,wreck** /ræk/ *n* a common brown seaweed used in making kelp and as a manure

**blade** /ˈbleɪd/ *n* 1 (the flat expanded part, as distinguished from the stalk, of) a leaf, esp of a grass, cereal, etc 2a the broad flattened part of an oar, paddle, bat, etc b an arm of a screw propeller, electric fan, steam turbine, etc c the broad flat or concave part of a machine (e.g. a bulldozer) that comes into contact with material to be moved d a broad flat body part, specif the scapula – used chiefly in naming cuts of meat → MEAT 3a the cutting part of a knife, razor, etc b a sword c the runner of an ice skate 4 archaic a dashing lively man – now usu humor [ME, fr OE *blæd*;

akin to OHG *blat* leaf, L *folium*, Gk *phyllon*, OE *blōwan* to blossom – more at 'BLOW]

**bladed** /ˈbleɪdɪd/ *adj* having blades – often in combination (< broad-bladed leaves)

**blaeberry** /ˈbleɪb(ə)rɪ/ *n*, Scot the bilberry [ME (northern) *blaberie*, fr *bla* dark blue (fr ON *blár*) + *berry*]

**blah** /ˈblɑːh/ *n* silly or pretentious chatter or nonsense – infml [imit]

**blain** /ˈblaɪn/ *n* an inflammatory swelling or sore [ME, fr OE *blegen*; akin to MLG *bleine* blain, OE *blāwan* to blow]

**'blame** /ˈblæm/ *vt* 1 to find fault with; censure 2a to hold responsible for sth reprehensible (< ~ him for everything) b to place responsibility for (sth reprehensible) – < on (< s it on me) [ME *blamen*, fr OF *blamer*, fr LL *blasphemare* to blaspheme, fr Gk *blasphēmein*] – **blamable** *adj*, **blamably** *adv*, **blamer** *n*

**'blame** *n* 1 an expression of disapproval or reproach 2 responsibility for sth reprehensible (< they must share the ~ for the crime) – **blamable** *adj*, **blamefully** *adv*, **blameless** *adj*, **blamelessly** *adv*, **blamelessness** *n*

**'blame,worthy** /-wʊθɪ/ *adj* deserving blame – **blameworthiness** *n*

**blanch** /ˈblæŋtʃ/ *vt* 1 to take the colour out of: a to bleach (a growing plant) by excluding light b to scald or parboil (e.g. almonds or food for freezing) in water or steam in order to remove the skin from, whiten, or stop enzymatic action 2 to make ashen or pale (< fear ~s the cheek) ~ *vi* to become white or pale (< ed when he heard the news) [ME *blanchen*, fr MF *blanchir*, fr OF *blanche*, fem of *blanc*, *adj*, white] – **blancher** *n*

**blancmange** /ˈblæmɒŋ, -ˈmɒnz/ *n* a usu sweetened and flavoured dessert made from gelatinous or starchy substances (e.g. cornflour) and milk [ME *blancmanger*, fr MF *blanc manger*, lit, white food]

**blanco** /ˈblæŋkoʊ/ *vt* **blancoes**; **blancoing**; **blancoed** to treat with Blanco

**Blanco trademark** – used for a substance used esp in the armed forces to whiten or colour belts and webbing

**bland** /ˈblænd/ *adj* 1a smooth, soothing (< a ~ smile) b unperturbed (< a ~ confession of guilt) 2a not irritating or stimulating; mild (< a ~ diet) b dull, insipid (< stories with little plot or action) [L *blandus*] – **blandly** *adv*, **blandness** *n*

**blandishment** /ˈblændɪʃmənt/ *n* a coaxing or flattering act or utterance – often pl [blandish (to coax, flatter), fr ME *blandishen*, fr MF *bländiss*, stem of *bländir*, fr L *blandiri*, fr *blandus*] – **blandish** *vb*

**'blank** /ˈblæŋk/ *adj* 1a dazed, nonplussed (< stared in ~ dismay) b expressionless (< a ~ stare) 2a lacking interest, variety, or change (< a ~ prospect) b devoid of covering or content, esp free from writing (< paper) c not filled in (< a ~ cheque) 3 absolute, unqualified (< a ~ refusal) 4 having a plain or unbroken surface where an opening is usual (< a ~ arch) [ME, white, fr MF *blanc*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *blanch* white; akin to L *flagrare* to burn – more at BLACK] – **blankly** *adv*, **blankness** *n*

**'blank** *n* 1 an empty space 2a a void (< my mind was a ~ during the test) b a vacant or uneventful period (< a long ~ in history) 3 a dash substituted for an omitted word 4a a piece of material prepared to be made into sth (e.g. a key or coin) by a further operation b a cartridge loaded with powder but no bullet

**'blank** *vt* 1a to make blank – usu + *out* b to block – usu + *off* (< ed off the tunnel) 2 NAm to keep (an opposing team) from scoring

**blank 'cheque** *n* 1 a signed cheque with the amount unspecified 2 complete freedom of action or control; CARTE BLANCHE

**'blanket** /ˈblæŋkɪt/ *n* 1 a large thick usu rectangular piece of fabric (e.g. woven from wool or acrylic yarn) used esp as a bed covering or a similar piece of fabric used as a body covering (e.g. for a horse) 2 a thick covering or layer (< a ~ of snow) [ME, fr OF *blankete*, fr *blanc*]

**'blanket** *vt* to cover (as if) with a blanket (< new grass ~s the slope)

**'blanket** *adj* applicable in all instances or to all members of a group or class

**'blanket,bath** *n* a wash given to a bedridden person

**'blanket, stitch** *n* a widely spaced loop stitch used esp round the edges of thick fabrics (e.g. blankets) instead of hemming in order to prevent fraying – compare BUTTONHOLE STITCH – **blanket-stitch** *vt*

**blank 'verse** *n* unrhymed verse, esp in iambic pentameters

**blanquette** /ˈblæŋkɪt/ *n* a stew of white meat (e.g. veal) in a white sauce [F]

**blare** /ˈbleɪ/ *vt* to emit loud and harsh sound ~ *vi* 1 to sound loudly and usu harshly 2 to proclaim loudly or sensationally (< headlines ~d his defeat) [ME *bleren*; akin to OE *blætan* to bleat] – **blare** *n*

**blarney** /ˈblærni/ *n* 1 smooth wheedling talk; flattery 2 nonsense [Blarney stone, a stone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Eire, held to give skill in flattery to those who kiss it] – **blarney** *vb*

**blasé** /'blahzay, -/ *adj* indifferent to pleasure or excitement as a result of excessive indulgence or enjoyment; also sophisticated [F, fr pp of *blaser* to exhaust by indulgence]

**blaspheme** /'blasfeem/ *vb* to speak of or address (God or sth sacred) with impiety [ME *blasfemen*, fr LL *blasphemare* – more at *blame*] – **blasphemer** *n*

**blasphemy** /'blasfəmi/ *n* (the act of showing) contempt or lack of reverence for God or sth (considered) sacred – **blasphemous** *adj*, **blasphemously** *adv*, **blasphemousness** *n*

**blast** /'blahst/ *n* 1 a violent gust of wind 2 the sound produced by air blown through a wind instrument or whistle 3a a stream of air or gas forced through a hole b a violent outburst c the continuous draught forced through a blast furnace 4 a sudden pernicious influence or effect <the ~ of a huge epidemic> 5 (a violent wave of increased atmospheric pressure followed by a wave of decreased atmospheric pressure produced in the vicinity of) an explosion or violent detonation 6 speed, capacity <going full ~ down the road> 7 the utterance of the word *blast* as a curse [ME, fr OE *blāst*; akin to OHG *blast* *blast*, OE *blāwan* to blow]

**blast** *vi* 1 to produce loud harsh sounds 2a to use an explosive b to shoot 3 to shivel, wither ~ *vt* 1 to injure (as if) by the action of wind, blight 2 to shatter, remove, or open (as if) with an explosive <~ a new course for the stream> 3 to apply a forced draught to 4 to cause to blast off <will ~ themselves from the moon's surface> 5a to denounce vigorously <judge ~s police methods> b to curse, damn c to hit vigorously and effectively 6 to defeat decisively <they ~ed the home team> – **blaster** *n*, **blasting** *n* or *adj*

**blast** *interj*, *Br* – used to express annoyance; slang

**blast-, blasto-** *comb form* bud, embryo; germ <blastocyst> <blastula> [G, fr Gk, fr *blastos*]

**-blast** /-blast/ *comb form* (→ *n*) formative cell, cell layer <erythroblast>, also formative unit, esp of living matter [NL *-blastus*, fr Gk *blastos* bud, shoot; akin to OE *molda* top of the head, Skt *mūrdhan* head]

**blasted** /'blahstɪd/ *adj* 1a withered b damaged (as if) by an explosive, lightning, or the wind 2 confounded, detestable <this ~ weather> – *informal*

**blast** *furnace* *n* a furnace, esp for converting iron ore into iron, in which combustion is forced by a current of air under pressure

**blastic** /-'blastɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) buds, cells, or cell layers <megaloblastic> [ISV, fr *-blast*]

**blastocoel**, **blastocoele** /'blastəseɪl/ *n* the cavity of a blastula [ISV] – **blastocoelic** /-'seɪlɪk/ *adj*

**blastocyst** /'blastəsɪst/ *n* the modified blastula of a placental mammal

**blast off** *vi*, esp of rocket-propelled missiles and vehicles TAKE OFF 3 – **blast off** /-/ *n*

**blastomere** /'blastəmiə/ *n* a cell produced during cleavage of an egg [ISV] – **blastomeric** /'blastəmerɪk/ *adj*

**blastula** /'blastjuələ/ *n*, *pl* **blastulas**, **blastulae** /-li/ the embryo of a metazoan animal at the stage in its development succeeding the morula, typically having the form of a hollow fluid-filled cavity bounded by a single layer of cells – compare *GASTRULA*, *MORULA* [NL, fr Gk *blastos*] – **blastular** *adj*, **blastulation** /-'ləʃə(ə)n/ *n*

**blatant** /'blayt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 noisy, esp in a vulgar or offensive manner 2 completely obvious, conspicuous, or obtrusive, esp in a crass or offensive manner [perh fr L *blatire* to chatter] – **blatantly** *adv*, **blatancy** /-'si/ *n* **blather** /'bladha/ *n* foolish voluble talk [ON *blathr* nonsense, fr *blathra* to talk nonsense] – **blather** *vi*, **blatherer** /-'rə/ *n*

**blaze** /'blayz/ *n* 1a an intensely burning flame or sudden fire b intense direct light, often accompanied by heat <the ~ of noon> 2a a dazzling display <a ~ of flowers> b a sudden outburst <a ~ of fury> c brilliance <the ~ of the jewels> 3 *pl* **HELL** 2a – usu as an interjection or as a generalized term of abuse <go to ~s> [ME *blase*, fr OE *blæse* torch; akin to OE *bæl* fire – more at *BAID*]

**blaze** *vi* 1a to burn intensely <the sun ~d overhead> b to flare up <he suddenly ~d with anger> 2 to be conspicuously brilliant or resplendent 3 to shoot rapidly and repeatedly <~d away at the target> – **blazingly** *adv*

**blaze** *vt* to make public or conspicuous – chiefly in *blaze abroad* [ME *blasen*, fr MD *blasen* to blow; akin to OHG *blast* *blast*]

**blaze** *n* 1 a broad white mark on the face of an animal, esp a horse 2 a trail marker; esp a mark made on a tree by cutting off a piece of the bark [G *blas*, fr OHG *blas*; akin to OE *blæse*]

**blaze** *vt* 1 to mark (e.g. a trail) with blazes 2 to lead or pioneer in (some direction or activity) – chiefly in *blaze the trail*

**blazer** /'blayzə/ *n* a jacket, esp with patch pockets, that is for casual wear or is part of a school uniform ['BLAZE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**'blazon** /'blayz(ə)n/ *n* 1 COAT OF ARMS 2 the proper formal description of heraldic arms or charges [ME *blason*, fr MF]

**'blazon** *vt* 1 to proclaim widely – often + *forth* 2 to describe (heraldic arms or charges) in technical terms – **blazoner** *n*, **blazoning** *n*

**'blazonry** /-'rɪ/ *n* 1 blazon 2 dazzling display

**'bleach** /bleech/ *vt* 1 to remove colour or stains from 2 to make whiter or lighter, esp by physical or chemical removal of colour ~ *vi* to grow white or lose colour [ME *blechen*, fr OE *blæcan*, akin to OE *blac* pale, *bæl* fire – more at *BAID*] – **bleachable** *adj*

**'bleach** *n* 1 a preparation used in bleaching 2 the degree of whiteness obtained by bleaching

**'bleaching powder** /'bleechɪŋ/ *n* a white powder consisting chiefly of calcium hydroxide, calcium chloride, and calcium hypochlorite used as a bleach, disinfectant, or deodorant

**'bleak** /bleek/ *adj* 1 exposed, barren, and often windswept 2 cold, raw 3a lacking in warmth or kindness b not hopeful or encouraging <a ~ outlook> c severely simple or austere [ME *bleke* pale; prob akin to OE *blac*] – **bleakish** *adj*, **bleakly** *adv*, **bleakness** *n*

**'bleak** *n* a small European river fish [ME *bleke*, prob fr ON *bleikja*]

**blear** /'blɪə/ *vt* 1 to make (the eyes) bleary 2 to blur [ME *bleren*]

**bleary** /'bliəri/ *adj* 1 of the eyes or vision dull or dimmed, esp from fatigue or sleep 2 poorly outlined or defined – **blearily** *adv*, **bleariness** *n*

**'bleat** /bleet/ *vi* 1 to make (a sound like) the cry characteristic of a sheep or goat 2a to talk complainingly or with a whine b to blather ~ *vt* to utter in a bleating manner [ME *bleten*, fr OE *blætan*, akin to L *flere* to weep, OE *bellan* to roar – more at *BELLOW*] – **bleater** *n*

**'bleat** *n* (a sound like) the characteristic cry of a sheep or goat

**bleb** /bleb/ *n* a small blister [perh alter of *blob*]

**'bleed** /bleed/ *vb* **bled** /bled/ *vi* 1a to emit or lose blood b to die or be wounded, esp in battle <men who bled for their country> 2 to feel anguish, pain, or sympathy 3 to lose some constituent (e.g. sap or dye) by exuding it or by diffusion 4 to be printed so as to run off an edge of a page after trimming ~ *vt* 1 to remove or draw blood from 2 to extort money from 3 to draw sap from (a tree) 4 to extract or let out some of (a contained substance) from (a container) 5 to cause (e.g. a printed illustration) to bleed, also to trim (e.g. a page) so that some of the printing bleeds 6 to extract or drain the vitality or lifeblood from <high taxes ~ing private enterprise> [ME *bleden*, fr OE *bledan*, fr *blod* blood]

**'bleed** *n* an act or instance of bleeding, esp by a haemophilic **bleeder** /'bleədə/ *n* 1 a haemophilic 2 a worthless person – slang ['BLEED + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**bleeding** /'bleedɪŋ/ *adj* or *adv* 'BLOODY 4, 'BLOODY – slang

**bleeding heart** *n* any of various plants of the fumitory family with usu red or pink heart-shaped flowers

**'bleep** /bleep/ *n* 1 a short high-pitched sound (e.g. from electronic equipment) 2 a bleeper [imit]

**'bleep** *vt* 1 to call (sb) by means of a bleeper 2 to replace (recorded words) with a bleep or other sound – usu + *out* <all the obscenities were ~ed out> ~ *vi* to emit a bleep

**bleeper** /'bleepə/ *n* a portable radio receiver that emits a bleep as a signal that the wearer is required

**blemish** /'blemɪʃ/ *vt* or *n* (to spoil the perfection of by) a noticeable imperfection [vb ME *blesmisshen*, fr MF *blesmis*-, stem of *blesmir* to make pale, wound, of Gmc origin; akin to G *blas* pale; akin to OE *blæse* torch – more at 'BLAZE, *n* fr vb]

**blench** /'blench/ *vi* to draw back or flinch from lack of courage [ME *blenchen* to deceive, blench, fr OE *blencan* to deceive; akin to ON *blekkja* to impose on]

**'blend** /blend/ *vb* **blended** also **blent** /blent/ *vt* 1 to mix; esp to combine or associate so that the separate constituents cannot be distinguished 2 to prepare by thoroughly intermingling different varieties or grades ~ *vi* 1a to mix or intermingle thoroughly b to combine into an integrated whole 2 to produce a harmonious effect [ME *blenden*, modif of ON *blanda*; akin to OE *blandan* to mix, Lith *blándus* thick (of soup)]

**'blend** *n* 1 an act or product of blending <our own ~ of tea> 2 a word (e.g. *brunch*) produced by combining other words or parts of words **blende** /blend/ *n* sphalerite [G, fr *blenden* to blind, fr OHG *blenten*; akin to OE *blind*]

**blender** /'blendə/ *n* an electric appliance for grinding or mixing; specif a liquidizer ['BLEND + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**blenny** /'bleni/ *n* any of numerous usu small and elongated and often scaleless sea fishes [L *blennius*, a sea fish, fr Gk *blennos*]

**blephar-** /blɛfə-/ , **blepharo-** comb form eyelid (<blepharitis> [NL, fr Gk, fr *blepharon*])

**blesbok** /bles,bok/ *n* a S African antelope that has a large white spot on the face [Afrik, fr *bles* blaze + *bok* male antelope]

**bless** /bles/ *vt* **blessed** also **blest** /blest/ 1 to hallow or consecrate by religious rite, esp by making the sign of the cross 2 to invoke divine care for 3a to praise, glorify (< *His holy name*) b to speak gratefully of (< *ed him for his kindness*) 4 to confer prosperity or happiness on 5 – used in exclamations chiefly to express mild or good-humoured surprise (< *my soul, what's happened now?*) 6 archaic to protect, preserve [ME *blesen*, fr OE *bletsian*, fr *blod* blood; fr the use of blood in consecration]

**blessed** /'blesid/ *adj* 1a often *cap* holy, venerated (<the Blessed Sacrament>) b *cap* – used as a title for a beatified person (<Blessed Oliver Plunket>) 2 – used as an intensive (<no one gave us a ~ penny>) – **blessedly** *adv*, **blessedness** *n*

**blissing** /'blesing/ *n* 1a the invocation of God's favour upon a person (<the congregation stood for the ~>) b approval 2 sth conducive to happiness or welfare 3 grace said at a meal

**blether** /'bledhə/ *vi* or *n* (to) blather [Sc, var of *blather*]

**blew** /blooh/ *past* of *blow*

**blewits** /blooh-its/ *n* an edible mushroom that is lilac when young [prob irreg fr *blue*]

**'blight** /bliet/ *n* 1 (an organism that causes) a disease or injury of plants resulting in withering, cessation of growth, and death of parts without rotting 2 sth that impairs, frustrates, or destroys 3 a condition of disorder or decay (<urban ~>) [origin unknown]

**'blight** *vt* 1 to affect (e.g. a plant) with blight 2 to impair, frustrate ~ *vi* to suffer from or become affected with blight

**blighter** /'blietə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a fellow, esp one held in low esteem – *infml* ['BLIGHT + '-ER]

**blightly** /'blieti/ *n*, often *cap*, *Br* 1 (a wound forcing a return home to) Britain 2 leave *USE* slang, used esp by British soldiers [by folk etymology fr Hindi *blayati*, *wilayati* foreign country, England, fr *Ar* *wilayat* province, country]

**blimey** /'blemi/ *interj*, chiefly *Br* – used for expressing surprise, slang [short for *gorblimey*, alter. of *God blind me*]

**blimp** /blimp/ *n* 1 a nonrigid airship 2 *cap* COLONEL BLIMP [prob based on 'blimp] – **blimpish** *adj*, **blimpishly** *adv*, **blimpishness** *n*

**'blind** /blend/ *adj* 1a unable to see; sightless b of or designed for sightless people 2a unable or unwilling to discern or judge (< *to all arguments*) b not based on reason, evidence, or knowledge (< *faith*) 3 completely insensible (<in a ~ stupor>) 4 without sight or knowledge of anything that could serve for guidance beforehand 5 performed solely by the use of instruments within an aircraft (<a ~ landing>) 6 hidden from sight, concealed (<a ~ corner>) (< ~ stitch>) 7 having only 1 opening or outlet (<a ~ alley>) 8 having no opening for light or passage (<a ~ wall>) [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *blint* blind, OE *blandan* to mix – more at BLEND] – **blindly** *adv*, **blindness** *n*

**'blind** *vt* 1 to make blind 2 to rob of judgment or discernment 3 to dazzle ~ *vi* *Br* to swear (< *cursing and ~ ing*) – *infml* – **blindly** *adv* – **blind with science** to impress or overwhelm with a display of usu technical knowledge

**'blind** *n* 1 sth to hinder sight or keep out light. e.g. a a window shutter b chiefly *Br* an awning c a flexible screen (e.g. a strip of cloth) usu mounted on a roller for covering a window d a curtain e VENETIAN BLIND 2 a cover, subterfuge 3 *NAm* 'HIDE

**'blind** *adv* 1 to the point of insensibility (< ~ drunk>) 2 without seeing outside an aircraft (<to fly ~>) 3 – used as an intensive (< *swore ~ he wouldn't escape*)

**blind alley** *n* a fruitless or mistaken course or direction

**blind date** *n* a date between people who have not previously met

**blinder** /'blienda/ *n* 1 *Br* sth outstanding; esp an outstanding piece of play in cricket or football – *infml* 2 *NAm* BLINKER 3 ['BLIND + '-ER]

**'blindfold** /-fohld/ *vt* or *n* 1 (to cover the eyes of with) a piece of material (e.g. a bandage) for covering the eyes to prevent sight 2 (to hinder from seeing or esp understanding with) sth that obscures vision or mental awareness [vb ME *blindfellen*, *blindfelden* to strike blind, blind-fold, fr *blind* + *fellen* to fell; *n* fr vb]

**blinding** /'bliending/ *n* material (e.g. sand or gravel) used to fill crevices, esp in a new road [fr gerund of *blind* (to fill gaps in, clog), fr 'blind]

**blindman's buff** /'bliend,mənz 'bʊf/ *n* a group game in which a blindfolded player tries to catch and identify another player [*buff* (blow, buffet), fr ME *bufe*, fr MF, of imit origin]

**'blind side** *n* the side away from which one is looking

**'blind spot** *n* 1a the point in the retina where the optic nerve enters that is not sensitive to light b a part of a visual field that cannot be seen or inspected (<the car has a bad ~>) 2 an area in which one lacks knowledge, understanding, or discrimination

**'blind worm** /-wuhm/ *n* a slowworm

**'blink** /blɪŋk/ *vi* 1 to close and open the eyes involuntarily 2 to shine intermittently 3a to wink at b to look with surprise or dismay at ~ *vt* 1 to cause (one's eyes) to blink 2 to evade, shirk [ME *blinken* to open one's eyes]

**'blink** *n* 1 a glimmer, sparkle 2 a usu involuntary shutting and opening of the eye 3 iceblink – on the blink not working properly (<the light switch is on the blink>) – *infml*

**blinker** /'blɪŋka/ *n* 1 a warning or signalling light that flashes on and off 2 *pl* an obstruction to sight or discernment 3 chiefly *Br* either of 2 flaps, one on each side of a horse's bridle, allowing only frontal vision ['BLINK + '-ER] – **blinker** *vt*, **blinkered** *adj*

**blinking** /'blɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* or *adv*, *Br* 'BLOODY 4, 'BLOODY – euph

**blintze** /'blɪntsa/, **blintz** /blɪnts/ *n* a thin folded filled pancake [Yiddish *blintse*, fr Russ *blinets*, dim of *blin* pancake]

**blip** /blɪp/ *n* 1 a beep 2 an image on a radar screen [imit]

**bliss** /blɪs/ *n* 1 complete happiness 2 paradise, heaven [ME *blisse*, fr OE *bliss*, akin to OE *blithe* blithe] – **blissful** *adj*, **blissfully** *adv*, **blissfulness** *n*

**'blister** /'blɪstə/ *n* 1 a raised part of the outer skin containing watery liquid 2 an enclosed raised spot (e.g. in paint) resembling a blister 3 a disease of plants marked by large swollen patches on the leaves 4 any of various structures that bulge out (<an aircraft's radar ~>) [ME, modif of OF or MD, OF *blastre* boil, fr MD *bluyster* blister, akin to OE *blæst* blast] – **blistery** *adj*

**'blister** *vi* to become affected with a blister ~ *vt* 1 to raise a blister on 2 to attack harshly

**'blister copper** *n* copper that has a black blistered surface, is almost pure, and occurs as an intermediate product in copper refining

**blistering** /'blɪstərɪŋ/ *adj* 1 extremely intense or severe 2 of speed extremely high – **blisteringly** *adv*

**blithe** /'bliðh/ *adj* 1 lighthearted, merry, cheerful (< *hail to thee, ~ spirit* – P B Shelley) 2 casual, heedless (< *unconcern*) [ME, fr OE *blithe*; akin to OHG *blidi* joyous, OE *bæl* fire – more at BALD] – **blithely** *adv*

**blithering** /'blɪðərɪŋ/ *adj* talking nonsense, babbling; broadly utterly stupid (<you ~ idiot>) – *infml* [fr *prp* of *blither*, alter. of *blather*]

**blitz** /blɪts/ *n* 1a a blitzkrieg b an intensive aerial bombardment; *specif*, often *cap* the bombardment of British cities by the German air force in 1940 and 1941 2 an intensive nonmilitary campaign (<a ~ against the unions>) – chiefly *jourm* – **blitz** *vb*

**'blitzkrieg** /-kreɪg/ *n* a violent swift surprise campaign conducted by coordinated air and ground forces [G, fr *blitz* lightning + *krieg* war]

**blizzard** /'blɪzəd/ *n* 1 a long severe snowstorm 2 an intensely strong cold wind filled with fine snow 3 an overwhelming rush or deluge (<the ~ of mail at Christmas>) [origin unknown] – **blizzardy** *adj*

**bloated** /'bloʊtɪd/ *adj* 1 unpleasantly swollen 2 much larger than is warranted (<a ~ estimate>) [fr *pp* of *bloat* (to swell), fr *bloat* swollen, alter. of ME *blout*, perh fr ON *blautr* soft, soaked]

**bloater** /'bloʊtə/ *n* a large herring or mackerel lightly salted and briefly smoked [obs *bloat* (to cure)]

**blob** /bloʊ/ *n* 1a a small drop of liquid (<a ~ of ink>) b a small drop or lump of sth viscous or thick 2 sth ill-defined or amorphous [ME]

**bloc** /bloʊk/ *n* a (temporary) combination of individuals, parties, or nations for a common purpose [F, lit., block]

**'block** /bloʊk/ *n* 1 a compact usu solid piece of substantial material (e.g. wood or stone): e.g. a a mould or form on which articles are shaped or displayed b a rectangular building unit that is larger than a brick c a usu cubical and solid wooden or plastic building toy that is usu provided in sets d the metal casting that contains the cylinders of an internal-combustion engine 2 *HEAD* 1 – slang 3a an obstacle b an obstruction of an opponent's play in sports, esp in football, hockey, etc c interruption of the normal physiological function (e.g. transmission of nerve impulses) of a tissue or organ 4 a wooden or metal case enclosing 1 or more pulleys 5 (a ballet shoe with) a solid toe on which a dancer can stand on points 6a a quantity or number of things dealt with as a unit b a part of a building or set of buildings devoted to a particular use c chiefly *NAm* (the distance along 1 side of) a usu rectangular space (e.g. in a town) enclosed by streets and usu occupied by buildings d *BLOCK* SECTION 7 a piece of engraved or etched material (e.g. wood or metal) from which impressions are printed

- [ME *blok*, fr MF *bloc*, fr MD *blok*; akin to OHG *bloh* block, Mlr *blog* fragment]
- block** *vt* 1a to make unsuitable for passage or progress by obstruction b to hinder the passage, progress, or accomplishment of (as if) by interposing an obstruction c to shut off from view (*trees ~ing the sun*) d to obstruct or interfere usu legitimately with (e.g. an opponent) in various games or sports e to prevent normal functioning of 2 to make (2 or more lines of writing or type) flush at the left or at both margins 3 to arrange (e.g. a school timetable) in long continuous periods ~ *vi* to block an opponent in sports – **blockage** *n*, **blocker** *n*
- blockade** /bla'kayd, blo-/ *n* 1 the surrounding or blocking of a particular enemy area to prevent passage of people or supplies 2 an obstruction
- blockade** *vt* to subject to a blockade – **blockader** *n*
- block and tackle** *n* an arrangement of pulley blocks with associated rope or cable for hoisting or hauling
- block, board** /-bawd/ *n* material made of parallel wooden strips glued edge to edge and finished on top and underneath with thin wooden sheets
- block, booking** *n* a booking of a number of places (e.g. theatre seats) at 1 time
- block, buster** /-busta/ *n* 1 a huge high-explosive demolition bomb 2 sby or sthg particularly outstanding or effective *USE* *infrm*
- block diagram** *n* a diagram (e.g. of a system or process) in which labelled figures (e.g. rectangles) and interconnecting lines represent the relationship of parts
- block, head** /-hed/ *n* an extremely dull or stupid person
- block, house** /-hows/ *n* 1 a building made of heavy timbers with loopholes for firing through, observation, etc, formerly used as a fort 2 an observation post built to withstand heat, blast, radiation, etc
- block in** *vt* to sketch the outlines of, in a design
- block 'letter** *n* a simple capital letter (*<write in block letters, please>*)
- block mountain** *n* a horst  *GEOGRAPHY*
- block out** *vt* **BLOCK IN**
- block, plane** *n* a small plane made with the blade set at a low pitch and used chiefly on end grains of wood
- block release** *n* a short course of full-time study for which a worker is released by his/her employer – compare *DAY RELEASE*
- block section** *n* a length of railway track of defined limits, the use of which is governed by block signals
- block signal** *n* a signal at the entrance of a block section to control trains entering and using that block section
- block system** *n* a system by which a railway track is divided into short sections and trains are controlled by signals
- bloke** /'blohk/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a man – *infrm* [perh fr Shelta]
- blond** /blond/ *adj* 1a of hair of a flaxen, golden, light auburn, or pale yellowish brown colour b of a pale white or rosy white colour (~ *skin*) c being a blond (<a handsome ~ youth>) 2a of a light colour b of the colour blond [F] – **blondish** *adj*
- blond** *n* 1 sby with blond hair and often a light complexion and blue or grey eyes 2 a light yellowish brown to dark greyish yellow colour
- blonde** /blond/ *n* or *adj* (a) blond – used esp for or in relation to women (<a smiling ~> [F, fem of *blond*])
- 'blood** /blud/ *n* 1a the usu red fluid that circulates in the heart, arteries, capillaries, and veins of a vertebrate animal, carrying nourishment and oxygen to, and bringing away waste products from, all parts of the body  *ANATOMY* b a comparable fluid of an invertebrate animal 2a life-blood; broadly life b human lineage; esp the royal lineage c kinship d descent from parents 3a temper, passion b the one of the 4 humours in medieval physiology that was believed to cause sanguinity 4 people or ideas of the specified, esp innovative, kind (<need some fresh ~ in the organization>) 5 *archaic* a dashing lively esp young man; a rake – now usu humor [ME, fr OE *blod*; akin to OHG *bluot* blood]
- 'blood** *vt* 1 to stain or wet with blood; esp to mark the face of (an inexperienced fox hunter) with the blood of the fox 2 to give an initiating experience to (sby new to a particular field of activity)
- 'blood, bath** /-bahth/ *n* a great slaughter; a massacre
- 'blood, brother** *n* either of 2 men pledged to mutual loyalty, esp by a ceremonial mingling of each other's blood – **blood brotherhood** *n*
- 'blood, count** *n* (the determination of) the number of blood cells in a definite volume of blood
- 'blood, curdling** /-kudling/ *adj* arousing horror (~ *screams*) – **blood-curdlingly** *adv*
- blooded** /-bludid/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) having (such) blood or (such) a temperament (<cold-blooded>) (<warm-blooded>)
- 'blood, feud** *n* a murderous feud between clans or families
- 'blood, group** *n* any of the classes into which human beings can be separated on the basis of the presence or absence of specific antigens in their blood
- 'blood, guilt** /-gilt/ *n* guilt resulting from bloodshed
- 'blood, heat** *n* a temperature approximating to that of the human body, about 37°C or 98°F
- 'blood, hound** /-hownd/ *n* 1 a large powerful hound of European origin remarkable for its acuteness of smell and poor sight 2 a person (e.g. a detective) who is keen in pursuing or tracking sby or sthg down
- 'bloodless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 deficient in or free from blood 2 not accompanied by the shedding of blood (<a ~ victory>) 3 lacking in spirit or vitality 4 lacking in human feeling (~ *statistics*) – **bloodlessly** *adv*, **bloodlessness** *n*
- 'blood, letting** /-leting/ *n* 1 phlebotomy 2 bloodshed
- 'blood, line** /-lien/ *n* a group of related individuals, esp with distinctive characteristics
- 'blood, money** *n* 1 money obtained at the cost of another's life 2 money paid to the next of kin of a slain person
- 'blood, platelet** /'playlit/ *n* any of the minute cytoplasmic discs in the blood of vertebrates that assist in blood clotting and are non-nucleated in humans
- 'blood, poisoning** *n* septicemia
- 'blood, pressure** *n* pressure that is exerted by the blood on the walls of the blood vessels, esp arteries, and that varies with the age and health of the individual
- 'blood, red** *adj* having the colour of blood
- 'blood, relation** *n* a person related by consanguinity
- 'blood, serum** *n* the watery portion of the blood excluding the blood cells; also blood plasma from which the fibrin has been removed
- 'blood, shed** /-shed/ *n* 1 the shedding of blood 2 the taking of life
- 'blood, shot** /-shot/ *adj*, of an eye having the white part tinged with red
- 'blood, sport** *n* a field sport (e.g. fox hunting or beagling) in which animals are killed – derog, not used technically
- 'blood, stain** /-stayn/ *n* a discoloration caused by blood – **bloodstained** *adj*
- 'blood, stock** /-stok/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* horses of Thoroughbred breeding, esp when used for racing
- 'blood, stone** /-stohn/ *n* a translucent green quartz gemstone sprinkled with red spots
- 'blood, stream** /-stream/ *n* the flowing blood in a circulatory system
- 'blood, sucker** /-suka/ *n* 1 a leech 2 a person who extorts money from another – **bloodsucking** *adj*
- 'blood, sugar** *n* (the concentration of) the glucose in the blood
- 'blood, test** *n* a test of the blood (e.g. to ascertain the nature of an infection or to detect leukaemia)
- 'blood, thirsty** /-thuhsti/ *adj* eager for bloodshed – **bloodthirstily** *adj*, **bloodthirstiness** *n*
- 'blood, type** *n* **BLOOD GROUP**
- 'blood, vessel** *n* any of the vessels through which blood circulates in an animal  *ANATOMY*
- 'blood, worm** /-wuhm/ *n* any of various reddish annelid worms often used as bait for fish
- 'bloody** /'bludi/ *adj* 1 smeared, stained with, or containing blood 2 accompanied by or involving bloodshed 3a murderous, bloodthirsty b merciless, cruel 4 – used as an intensive; slang [ME, fr OE *blodig*, fr *blod* blood] – **bloodily** *adv*, **bloodiness** *n*
- 'bloody** *vt* to make bloody
- 'bloody** *adv* – used as an intensive, slang (<not ~ likely>)
- 'Bloody Mary** /'meəri/ *n*, *pl* **Bloody Marys** a cocktail consisting chiefly of vodka and tomato juice [prob fr *Bloody Mary*, nickname of Mary I of England †1558; fr its red colour]
- 'bloody-minded** *adj* deliberately obstructive or unhelpful – **bloody-mindedness** *n*
- 'bloom** /bloohm/ *n* a thick bar of hammered or rolled iron or steel [ME *blome* lump of metal, fr OE *bloma*]
- 'bloom** *n* 1a a flower b the flowering state (<the roses in ~>) c an excessive growth of phytoplankton 2 a time of beauty, freshness, and vigour (<the ~ of youth>) 3a a delicate powdery coating on some fruits and leaves b cloudiness on a film of varnish or lacquer c a mottled surface that appears on chocolate, often due to incorrect temperatures in manufacture or storage 4 a rosy or healthy appearance [ME *blome*, fr ON *blom*; akin to OE *blōwan* to blossom – more at 'blow] – **bloomy** *adj*
- 'bloom** *vi* 1a to produce or yield flowers b to support abundant plant life

- <make the desert ~> 2a to flourish <~ing with health> b to reach maturity, blossom <their friendship ~ed over the weeks> 3 of a body of water to become densely populated with microorganisms, esp plankton
- bloomer** /'blooma/ *n* a stupid blunder – infml [*BLOOM* + *-ER*]
- bloomers** /'blohmaz/ *n pl* a woman's undergarment with full loose legs gathered at the knee [Amelia Bloomer †1894 US feminist]
- blooming** /'blooming, 'blooh-/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* – used as a generalized intensive; euph <that ~ idiot> [prob euphemism for *bloody*]
- blooper** /'bloopa/ *n*, *NAm* an embarrassing public blunder – infml [*bloop* (a grating or howling sound), of imit origin]
- blossom** /'blɒsəm/ *n* 1a the flower of a plant; esp the flower that produces edible fruits b the mass of bloom on a single plant 2 a high point or stage of development [ME *blōsme*, fr OE *blōstm*; akin to OE *blowan*] – *blossomy adj*
- blossom** *vi* 1 to bloom 2 to come into one's own, develop <a ~ing talent>
- blot** /blɒt/ *n* 1 a soiling or disfiguring mark; a spot 2 a mark of reproach, a blemish [ME]
- blot** *vb* -tt- *vt* 1 to spot, stain, or spatter with a discolouring substance 2 to dry or remove with an absorbing agent (e.g blotting paper) ~ *vi* 1 to make a blot 2 to become marked with a blot – blot one's copybook to mar one's previously good record or standing
- blot** *n* a backgammon counter exposed to capture [perh fr Dan *blot* naked, exposed]
- blotch** /blɒtʃ/ *n* 1 an imperfection, blemish 2 an irregular spot or mark (e.g of colour or ink) [prob partly alter. (influenced by 'blot) of *botch* (swelling), & partly fr OF *bloche* clod of earth] – blotch *vt*, blotchily *adv*, blotchy *adj*
- blot out** /blɒt/ *vt* 1 to obscure, eclipse 2 to destroy, WIPE OUT
- blotter** /'blɒtə/ *n* a piece of blotting paper
- blotting paper** /'blɒtɪŋ/ *n* a spongy unsized paper used to absorb ink
- blotto** /'blɒtə/ *adj*, *Br* extremely drunk – slang [prob irreg fr 'blot]
- blouse** /'bləʊz/ *n* a usu loose-fitting woman's upper garment that resembles a shirt or smock and is waist-length or longer [F]
- blouson** /'bləʊzən, 'bləʊzən/ *n* a short loose jacket or blouse usu closely fitted at the waist [F, fr *blouse*]
- blow** /bləʊ/ *vb* blew /'bləʊ/, blown /'bləʊn/ *vi* 1 of air to move with speed or force <it's ~ing hard tonight> 2 to send forth a current of gas, esp air <blew on his cold hands> 3 to make a sound by blowing <the whistle blew> 4 to boast 5a to pant b of a whale to eject moisture-laden air from the lungs through the blowhole 6 of an electric fuse to melt when overloaded 7 of a tyre to lose the contained air through a spontaneous puncture – usu + *out* ~ *vi* 1a to set (gas or vapour) in motion b to act on with a current of gas or vapour 2 to damn, disregard – infml <~ the expense> 3 to produce or shape by the action of blown or injected air <~ing bubbles> <~ing glass> 4 to deposit eggs or larvae on or in – used with reference to an insect 5 to shatter, burst, or destroy by explosion – compare BLOW UP 6 to cause (a fuse) to blow 7 to rupture by too much pressure <blew a gasket> 8 to squander (money or an advantage) <blew £50 on a dress> <blew his chance> – slang 9 to leave hurriedly <blew town> – slang [ME *blowen*, fr OE *blawan*; akin to OHG *blāen* to blow, L *flare*, Gk *phallos* penis] – blow hot and cold to act changeably by alternately favouring and rebuffing – blow off steam to release pent-up emotions – blow one's own trumpet to praise oneself, boast – blow one's top to become furious; explode with anger – infml – blow the gaff *Br* to let out a usu discreditable secret – blow someone's mind 1 to cause sby to hallucinate – slang 2 to amaze sby – infml – blow the whistle on 1 to bring (sthg secret) into the open – slang 2 to inform against – slang
- blow** *n* 1 a strong wind or windy storm 2 an act or instance of blowing 3 a walk or other outing in the fresh air – infml
- blow** *vt* blew /'bləʊ/; blown /'bləʊn/ to cause (e.g flowers or blossom) to open out, usu just before dropping <these roses are ~n> [ME *blowen*, fr OE *blowan*; akin to OHG *blāuen* to bloom, L *florēre* to bloom, *flor*, *flōs* flower]
- blow** *n* 'BLOOM 1b <blacs in full ~> – poetic
- blow** *n* 1 a hard stroke delivered with a part of the body or with an instrument 2 *pl* a hostile or aggressive state – esp in *come to blows* 3 a forcible or sudden act or effort <a ~ for freedom> 4 a shock or misfortune [ME (northern) *blaw*]
- blowback** /-bæk/ *n* a recoil-operated action of a firearm in which no locking or inertia mechanism hinders the rearward motion of the bolt or breechblock; also an automatic firearm using such an action
- blow-by-blow** *adj* minutely detailed <a ~ account>
- blow-dry** *vt* to blow warm air over, through, or onto (e.g the hair) until dry – blow-dry /-/, *n*, blow-drier *n*
- blower** /'bloʊə/ *n* 1 sby or sthg that blows or is blown 2 a device for producing a current of air or gas 3 *Br* the telephone – infml
- blowfly** /-flaɪ/ *n* any of various 2-winged flies that deposit their eggs or maggots esp on meat or in wounds; esp a bluebottle
- blowgun** /-ɡʌn/ *n* BLOWPIPE 2
- blowhard** /-hahd/ *n* a braggart
- blowhole** /-hohl/ *n* 1 a nostril in the top of the head of a whale, porpoise, or dolphin 2 a hole in the ice to which aquatic mammals (e.g seals) come to breathe
- blow in** *vi* to arrive casually or unexpectedly – infml
- blowlamp** /-læmp/ *n* a small portable burner that produces an intense flame and has a pressurized fuel tank
- blown** /'bləʊn/ *adj* 1 swollen 2 flyblown [ME *blowen*, fr pp of *blowen* to blow]
- blowout** /-əʊt/ *n* 1 a large meal – infml 2 a bursting of a container (e.g a tyre) by pressure of the contents on a weak spot 3 an uncontrolled eruption of an oil or gas well
- blow out** *vi* 1 to become extinguished by a gust 2 of an oil or gas well to erupt out of control ~ *vt* to extinguish by a gust
- blow over** *vi* to pass away without effect
- blowpipe** /-pi:p/ *n* 1 a small tube for blowing air, oxygen, etc into a flame to direct and increase the heat 2 a tube for propelling a projectile (e.g a dart) by blowing 3 a long metal tube used by a glassblower
- blowzy** also **blowzy** /'bləʊzi/ *adj* 1 having a coarse ruddy complexion 2 esp of a woman slovenly in appearance and usu fat [E dial. *blowse*, *blowze* (wench, slattern)]
- blowtorch** /-təʊtʃ/ *n* a blowlamp
- blowup** /-ʊp/ *n* 1 an explosion 2 an outburst of temper 3 a photographic enlargement
- blow up** *vt* 1 to shatter or destroy by explosion 2 to build up or exaggerate to an unreasonable extent 3 to fill up with a gas, esp air <blow up a balloon> 4 to make a photographic enlargement of ~ *vi* 1a to explode b to be disrupted or destroyed (e.g by explosion) c to become violently angry 2a to become filled with a gas, esp air b to become expanded to unreasonable proportions 3 to come into being; arise
- blowy** /'bləʊi/ *adj* windy <a ~ March day>
- blubber** /'blʌb/ *n* the fat of large marine mammals, esp whales [ME *blubber* bubble, foam, prob of imit origin] – blubbery *adj*
- blubber** *vi* to weep noisily ~ *vt* to utter while weeping USE infml [ME *biubren* to make a bubbling sound, fr *bluber*]
- blubber** *adj* puffed out, thick <~ lips>
- blubbery** /'blʌbəri/ *adj* 'BLUBBER
- bludgeon** /'blʌdʒən/ *n* a short club used as a weapon [perh modif of OF *bougeon*, dim of *bouge*, *bolge* club]
- bludgeon** *vt* 1 to hit or beat with a bludgeon 2 to overcome by aggressive argument
- blue** /'bləʊ/ *adj* 1 of the colour blue 2 discoloured through cold, anger, bruising, or fear 3 bluish grey <a ~ cat> 4a low in spirits b depressing, dismal 5 CONSERVATIVE 1 6a obscene, pornographic <a ~ film> b off colour, risqué <~ jokes> [ME, fr OF *blou*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *blāo* blue, akin to L *flavus* yellow, OE *blā* fire – more at *BALD*] – bluely *adv*, blueness *n* – once in a blue moon very rarely – until one is blue in the face unsuccessfully for ever <you can complain until you're blue in the face but no one will listen>
- blue** *n* 1 a colour whose hue is that of the clear sky and lies between green and violet in the spectrum 2a a blue pigment or dye b a blue preparation used to whiten clothes in laundering 3 blue clothing <dressed in ~> 4a(1) the sky (2) the far distance b the sea 5 any of numerous small chiefly blue butterflies 6 often *cap*, *Br* a usu notional award given to sby who has played in a sporting contest between Oxford and Cambridge universities, also sby who has been given such an award 7 *Austr* a quarrel, row – infml – out of the blue without warning; unexpectedly <she just turned up out of the blue expecting a meal>
- blue** *vb* blueing, bluing /'bləʊɪŋ/ to (cause to) turn blue
- blue** *vi* blueing, bluing *Br* to spend lavishly and wastefully – infml [prob fr *blew*, pp of 'blow (see sense 8)]
- blue baby** *n* a baby with a bluish tint, usu from a congenital heart defect
- bluebeard** /-biəd/ *n* a man who marries and kills one wife after another [*Bluebeard*, a folklore character]
- bluebell** /-bel/ *n* 1 any of various plants of the lily family bearing blue bell-shaped flowers; esp the wild hyacinth 2 chiefly *Scot* the harebell



- 'blueberry** /-b(ə)ri/ *NAm* /-beri/ *n* (the edible blue or blackish berry of) any of several shrubs of the heath family
- 'bluebird** /-bu:hd/ *n* any of several small N American songbirds
- 'blue-black** *adj* dark blue
- 'blue blood** *n* high or noble birth – **blue-blooded** *adj*
- blue book** *n* an official parliamentary report or document [fr colour of cover]
- 'bluebottle** /-botl/ *n* 1 CORNFLOWER 2 2 any of several blowflies of which the abdomen or the whole body is iridescent blue, that make a loud buzzing noise in flight 3 *Austr & SAfr* a small blue jellyfish with 1 tentacle
- 'blue cheese** *n* cheese marked with veins of greenish blue mould
- blue chip** *n* a stock issue of high investment quality that usu pertains to a substantial well-established company and enjoys public confidence in its worth and stability – **blue-chip** *adj*
- 'blue-collar** *adj* of or being the class of manual wage-earning employees whose duties call for the wearing of work clothes or protective clothing – compare **WHITE-COLLAR**
- 'blue-eyed boy** *n* a favourite – often derog <teacher's ~>
- 'bluefish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* an active voracious fish that is found in all warm seas
- 'bluegrass** /-grahs/ *n* 1 *NAm* MEADOW GRASS 2 a type of country music played on unamplified stringed instruments [(2) fr *Bluegrass* State, nickname of Kentucky, USA, where such music prob originated]
- blue-green alga** *n* any of a class of algae that have their chlorophyll masked by bluish green pigments  **PLANT**
- blue gum** *n* any of several Australian eucalyptuses grown for their wood
- 'blue john** /jon/ *n* a blue form of fluore used esp for jewellery and ornaments [fr the name *John*]
- 'blue-pencil** *vt* to edit by correcting or deleting – **blue penciller** *n*
- 'blue peter** /-petə/ *n* a blue signal flag with a white square in the centre, used to indicate that a merchant vessel is ready to sail [fr the name *Peter*]
- 'blueprint** /-prɪnt/ *n* 1 a photographic print in white on a bright blue ground, used esp for copying maps and plans 2 a detailed programme of action (< a ~ for victory >) – **blueprint** *vt*
- blue ribbon** *n* a ribbon of blue fabric worn as an honour or award, esp by members of the Order of the Garter
- blues** /bloohz/ *n, pl blues* 1 *sing or pl in constr* low spirits, melancholy – + *the* 2 (a song in) a melancholy style of music characterized by flattened thirds or sevenths where a major interval would be expected in the melody and harmony (< singing the ~ >) – **bluesy** /'bloohzi/ *adj*
- 'blue,stocking** /-stokɪŋ/ *n* a woman with intellectual or literary interests – derog (< *Bluestocking* Society, 18th-c literary club >)
- 'blue tit** *n* a widely distributed European tit that has a bright blue crown and a mostly yellow underside
- 'blue vitriol** *n* a hydrated copper sulphate
- blue whale** *n* a rorqual that is the largest living animal and is found esp in northern European waters  **ENDANGERED**
- bluey** /'blooh-i/ *n, Austr* a bundle carried by a bushman, swag [fr the blue blanket commonly used to wrap the bundle]
- 'bluff** /blʌf/ *adj* 1 rising steeply with a broad, flat, or rounded front 2 good-naturedly frank and outspoken [obs D *blaf* flat, akin to MLG *blaff* smooth] – **bluffly** *adv*, **bluffness** *n*
- 'bluff** *n* a high steep bank; a cliff
- 'bluff** *vt* 1 to deceive (an opponent) in cards by a bold bet on an inferior hand with the result that the opponent withdraws a winning hand 2 to deceive by pretence or an outward appearance of strength, confidence, etc ~ *vi* to bluff sby [prob fr D *bluffen* to boast, play a kind of card game] – **bluffer** *n*
- 'bluff** *n* an act or instance of bluffing
- bluish** /'bloob-ɪʃ/ *adj* having a tinge of blue; rather blue – **bluishness** *n*
- 'blunder** /'blʌndə/ *vi* 1 to move unsteadily or confusedly 2 to make a blunder [ME *blundren*] – **blunderer** *n*, **blunderingly** *adv*
- 'blunder** *n* a gross error or mistake resulting from stupidity, ignorance, or carelessness
- blunderbuss** /'blʌndə,bʌs/ *n* an obsolete short firearm with a large bore and usu a flaring muzzle [by folk etymology fr obs D *donderbus*, fr D *donder* thunder + obs D *bus* gun]
- 'blunt** /blʌnt/ *adj* 1 insensitive, dull 2 having an edge or point that is not sharp 3a aggressively outspoken b direct, straightforward [ME] – **bluntly** *adv*, **bluntness** *n*
- 'blunt** *vt* to make less sharp or definite
- 'blur** /blʌh/ *n* 1 a smear or stain 2 sthg vague or indistinct [perh akin to ME *bleren* to blear] – **blurry** *adj*, **blurriness** *n*
- 'blur** *vb -rr- vi* 1 to obscure or blemish by smearing 2 to make indistinct or confused ~ *vi* to become vague, indistinct, or confused – **blurringly** *adv*
- blurb** /blʌh/ *n* a short publicity notice, esp on a book cover [coined by Gelett Burgess †1951 US humorist]
- blurt out** /blʌt/ *vi* to utter abruptly and impulsively [prob imit]
- 'blush** /blʌʃ/ *vi* 1 to become red in the face, esp from shame, modesty, or embarrassment 2 to feel shame or embarrassment [ME *blusshen*, fr OE *blýscan* to redden, fr *blýsa* flame; akin to OHG *bluhhen* to burn brightly] – **blushingly** *adv*
- 'blush** *n* 1 a reddening of the face, esp from shame, confusion, or embarrassment 2 a red or rosy tint – **blushful** *adj*
- blusher** /'blʌʃə/ *n* a cream or powder for adding colour to the cheeks [BLUSH + -'ER]
- 'bluster** /'blʌstə/ *vi* 1 to blow in stormy gusts 2 to talk or act in a noisily self-assertive or boastful manner [ME *blustren*, prob fr MLG *blusteren*] – **blusterer** *n*, **blusteringly** *adv*
- 'bluster** *n* 1 a violent blowing 2 loudly boastful or threatening talk – **blustery** *adj*, **blustery** *adj*
- bo** /boh/ *n, chiefly NAm* a fellow – used chiefly in infml address [perh short for E dial *bor* (friend, neighbour)]
- BO** /'beɪ 'oh/ *n* a disagreeable smell, esp of stale perspiration, given off by a person's body [Body Odour]
- boa** /'boh-ə/ *n* 1 a large snake (e.g. the boa constrictor, anaconda, or python) that crushes its prey 2 a long fluffy scarf of fur, feathers, or delicate fabric [L, a water snake]
- boa constrictor** *n* a tropical American boa that reaches a length of 3m (about 10ft) or more
- boar** /baw/ *n* 1a an uncastrated male pig b the male of any of several mammals (e.g. a guinea pig or badger) 2 the Old World wild pig from which most domestic pigs derive [ME *bor*, fr OE *bar*; akin to OHG & OS *ber* boar] – **boarish** *adj*
- 'board** /bawd/ *n* 1 the distance that a sailing vessel makes on 1 tack 2a a usu long thin narrow piece of sawn timber b *pl* STAGE 2a(2), (3) 3a a table spread with a meal b daily meals, esp when provided in return for payment 4 *sing or pl in constr* a group of people having managerial, supervisory, or investigatory powers (< of directors >) (< of examiners >) b an official body (< the gas ~ >) 5 a flat usu rectangular piece of material designed or marked for a special purpose (e.g. for playing chess, ludo, backgammon, etc or for use as a blackboard or surfboard) 6a any of various wood pulps or composition materials formed into stiff flat rectangular sheets b cardboard 7 *archaic* TABLE 1 [ME *bord* piece of sawed lumber, border, ship's side, fr OE, akin to OHG *bort* ship's side, Skt *bardhaka* carpenter] – **boardlike** *adj* – **on board** *aboard*
- 'board** *vi* 1 to come up against or alongside (a ship), usu to attack 2 to go aboard (e.g. a ship, train, aircraft, or bus) 3 to cover with boards – + *over* or *up* (< ~ up a window >) 4 to provide with regular meals and usu lodging for a fixed price ~ *vi* to take one's meals, usu as a paying customer
- boarder** /'bawdə/ *n* 1 a lodger 2 a resident pupil at a boarding school [BOARD + -'ER]
- boardinghouse** /'bawdɪŋ,haʊs/ *n* a lodging house that supplies meals
- 'boarding school** *n* a school at which meals and lodging are provided
- Board of Trade** *n* a British government department concerned with commerce and industry that in 1970 was absorbed into the Department of Trade and Industry
- board out** *vb* to (cause to) receive regular board and usu lodging away from home (< boarded the cat out while they were on holiday >)
- 'boardroom** /-roʊm, -room/ *n* a room in which board meetings are held
- 'boardwalk** /-wawk/ *n, NAm* a walk often constructed of planking, usu beside the sea
- boart** /'boh-ət, bawt/ *n* *boort*
- 'boast** /boɦst/ *n* 1 an act of boasting 2 a cause for pride [ME *boost*] – **boastful** *adj*, **boastfully** *adv*, **boastfulness** *n*
- 'boast** *vi* to praise oneself ~ *vt* 1 to speak of or assert with excessive pride 2 to have or display as notable or a source of pride – **boaster** *n*
- 'boast** *n* a usu defensive shot in squash made from a rear corner of the court and hitting a side wall before the front wall [prob fr F *bosse* protuberance, place where the ball hits the wall]
- 'boat** /boɦt/ *n* 1 a small open vessel or craft for travelling across water



- 2** a usu small ship <left England on the Calais ~> **3** a boat-shaped utensil or dish <a gravy ~> [ME *boot*, fr OE *bāt*; akin to ON *beit* boat] – **1a** the same boat in the same situation or predicament
- boat** *vi* to use a boat, esp for recreation
- boatel, botel** /boh'tel/ *n* a waterside hotel with berths to accommodate people travelling by boat [blend of *boat* and *hotel*]
- boater** /bohta/ *n* a stiff straw hat with a shallow flat crown and a brim [‘BOAT + -ER]
- boathook** /-hook/ *n* a pole with a hook at one end, used esp for fending off or holding boats alongside
- boathouse** /-hows/ *n* a shed for boats
- boatman** /-man/ *n* one who works with or hires out esp pleasure boats – **boatmanship, boatmanship** *n*
- boatswain** /boh(z)ən, boh(s)ən/ *n* a petty officer on a merchant vessel or warrant officer in the navy who supervises all work done on deck and is responsible esp for routine maintenance of the ship's structure [ME *bootswain*, fr *boot* boat + *swain* boy, servant]
- boatswain's chair** *n* a support suspended by ropes and pulleys and used for work high on the side of a ship, tall building, etc
- boat train** *n* an express train that takes people to or from a ship
- bob** /bob/ *vb* -bb- *vt* **1** to move up and down in a short quick movement <~ one's head> **2** to perform (a respectful gesture, esp a curtsy) briefly ~ *vi* **1** to move down and up briefly or repeatedly <a cork ~bed in the water> **2** to curtsy briefly **3** to try to seize a suspended or floating object with the teeth <~ for apples at a Halloween party> [ME *bobben* to strike, move with a jerk, prob of imit origin] – **bobber** *n*
- bob** *n* **1** a short quick down-and-up motion **2** (a method of bell ringing using) a modification of the order in change ringing
- bob** *n* **1a** Scot a nosegay **b** a knot or twist (e.g. of ribbons or hair) **c** a haircut for a woman or girl in which the hair hangs loose just above the shoulders **2** FLOAT **1a** **3** a hanging ball or weight on a plumb line or kite's tail **4** *pl* a small insignificant item <*bits and ~s*> [ME *bobbe* bunch, cluster]
- bob** *vi* -bb- **1** to cut shorter, crop <~ a horse's tail> **2** to cut (hair) in a bob
- bob** *n, pl bob* *Br* a shilling, also the sum of 5 new pence – *infml* [perh fr *Bob*, nickname for *Robert*]
- bobbin** /bobin/ *n* **1** a cylinder or spindle on which yarn or thread is wound (e.g. for use in spinning, sewing, or lacemaking) **2** a coil of insulated wire or the reel it is wound on [F *bobine*]
- bobble** /bobl/ *vi* *bobbling* /bobling, -ing/ to move jerkily down and up briefly or repeatedly [freq of 'bob]
- bobble** *n* **1** a bobbling movement **2** a small often fluffy ball (e.g. of wool) used for ornament or trimming <*curtains with plush ~s* – H E Bates> <a ~ hat>
- bobby** /'bobi/ *n, Br* a policeman – *infml* [*Bobby*, nickname for *Robert*, after Sir *Robert Peel* †1850 E statesman, who organized the London police force]
- bobby, socks, bobby sox** /soks/ *n pl, chiefly NAm* socks reaching above the ankle, esp for girls [fr the name *Bobby*]
- bobby-soxer** /soksə/ *n, NAm* an adolescent girl – chiefly derog
- bobcat** /-kat/ *n* a common N American lynx [‘bob; fr its stubby tail]
- bob-sleigh** /-slay/ *n* **1** either of a pair of short sledges joined by a coupling **2** a large usu metal sledge for 2 or 4 people used in racing [perh fr 'bob]
- bobtail** /-tayl/ *n* a horse or dog with a bobbed tail [‘bob] – **bobtail, bobtailed** *adj*
- bob up** *vi* to emerge, arise, or appear suddenly or unexpectedly <*the question bobbed up again*>
- Boche** /boh/ *n, pl Boches, esp collectively* *Boche* a German (soldier) – derog [F (slang), rascal, German, prob short for *alboche*, alter. of *allemand* German]
- bod** /bod/ *n* a person – *infml* <*an odd ~*> [short for *body*]
- bode** /boh(d)/ *vt* to augur, presage <*this ~s ill for the future*> [ME *boden*, fr OE *bodian*; akin to OE *bēodan* to proclaim – more at *bud*] – **bodement** /bohdmənt/ *n*
- bodega** /boh'deega, -'dayga/ *n* **1** a storehouse for wine **2** a shop that sells wine [Sp, fr L *apotheca* storehouse – more at *APOTHECARY*]
- bodge** /boj/ *vt* to botch – *infml* [by alter.]
- bodhisattva, bodhisattva** /bohdi'satva/ *n* a being that according to Buddhism has attained perfect enlightenment but compassionately refrains from entering nirvana in order to save others [Skt *bodhisattva* one whose essence is enlightenment, fr *bodhi* enlightenment + *sattva* being]
- bodice** /'bodi/ *n* the part of a dress that is above the waist [alter. of *bodies*, pl of 'body (see sense 3A)]
- bodied** /-bodi(d)/ *comb form (adj, n → adj)* having (such) a body <*full-bodied*> <*glass-bodied*>
- 'bodily** /'bodi/ *adj* of the body <~ comfort> <~ organs>
- 'bodily** *adv* **1** IN THE FLESH, IN PERSON **2** as a whole; altogether
- bodkin** /'bodkin/ *n* **1a** a small sharp slender instrument for making holes in cloth **b** a long ornamental hairpin **2** a blunt thick needle with a large eye used to draw tape or ribbon through a loop or hem **3** archaic a dagger, stiletto [ME]
- body** /'bodi/ *n* **1a(1)** the organized physical substance of a living animal or plant – ANATOMY **(2)** a corpse **b** a human being; a person **2a** the main part of a plant or animal body, esp as distinguished from limbs and head **b** the main, central, or principal part: e.g. (1) the nave of a church (2) the part of a vehicle on or in which the load is placed **3a** the part of a garment covering the body or trunk **b** the central part of printed or written matter **c** the sound box or pipe of a musical instrument **4a** a mass of matter distinct from other masses <(a ~ of water)> **b** any of the 7 planets in old astronomy **c** sthg that embodies or gives concrete reality to a thing; *specif* a material object in physical space **5** *sing or pl in constr* a group of people or things: e.g. **a** a fighting unit **b** a group of individuals organized for some purpose <a legislative ~> **6a** compactness or firmness of texture **b** comparative richness of flavour in wine [ME, fr OE *bodig*; akin to OHG *botah* body]
- 'body, blow** *n* a serious setback
- body 'corporate** *n* CORPORATION **2**
- body forth** *vt* to represent, symbolize
- 'bodyguard** /-gahd/ *n* an escort whose duty it is to protect a person from bodily harm
- 'bodyline 'bowling** /'bodilin/ *n* intimidatory fast bowling in cricket aimed persistently at the batsman's body and directed esp towards the leg side
- 'body louse** *n* a sucking louse that feeds on the body and lives in people's clothing
- 'body politic** *n* a group of people under a single government
- 'body snatcher** *n* one who formerly dug up corpses illegally for dissection
- 'body, surf** /-suhf/ *vi* to surf without a surfboard by planing on the chest and stomach – **body surfer** *n*
- 'bodywork** /-wuhk/ *n* the structure or form of a vehicle body
- Boer** /'baw-ə, 'boh-ə/ *n* a S African of Dutch descent [D, lit, farmer – more at *BOOR*]
- boffin** /'bofin/ *n, chiefly Br* a scientific expert; esp one involved in technological research – *infml* [origin unknown]
- Bofors gun** /'bohfoz/ *n* a light automatic antiaircraft gun [*Bofors*, munition works in Sweden]
- bog** /bog/ *n* **1** (an area of) wet spongy poorly-drained ground **2** *Br* TOILET **2** – slang [of Celt origin; akin to OIr *boc* soft; akin to OE *būgan* to bend – more at 'bow, (2) short for *bog-house*] – **boggy** *adj*
- 'bog 'asphodel** /'asfədel/ *n* either of 2 bog plants of the lily family
- 'bog, bean** /-been/ *n* a bog plant with pinkish white flowers
- bog down** *vb* -gg- *vi* to cause to sink (as if) into a bog; impede ~ *vi* to become impeded
- bogey** also *bogy, bogie* /'bohgi/ *n, pl bogeys* also *bogies* **1** a spectre, ghost **2** a source of fear, perplexity, or harassment **3** a golf score of 1 stroke over par on a hole [prob alter. of *bogle*]
- 'bogeyman** /-man/ *n* a bugbear; esp a monstrous imaginary figure used to threaten children
- 'boggle** /'bogl/ *vi* *boggling* /'bogling/ **1** to be startled or amazed <*the mind ~s*> **2** to hesitate because of doubt, fear, or scruples [perh fr *bogle*] – **boggle** *n*
- 'boggle** *n* a bogle
- bogle** also *bogey, bogy* /'bohgi/ *n, pl bogies* also *bogeys* chiefly *Br* a swivelling framework with 1 or more pairs of wheels and springs to carry and guide 1 end of a railway vehicle [origin unknown]
- bogle** /'bohgi/ *n, dial Br* a goblin, spectre; also an object of fear or loathing [E dial. (Sc & northern), terrifying apparition; akin to ME *bugge* scarecrow, spectre – more at *BUG*]
- 'bog, myrtle** /'muhtl/ *n* a densely branched shrub that grows in boggy land and has aromatic leaves
- bogus** /'bohgas/ *adj* spurious, sham [bogus (a machine for making counterfeit money)] – **bogusness** *n*
- bohea** /boh'hee/ *n, often cap* a black tea [Chin (Pek) *wu'-p*, hills in China where it was grown]
- Bohemian** /boh'heemyan, -mi-ən/ *n* **1a** a native or inhabitant of

**Bohemia** *b* the group of Czech dialects used in Bohemia 2 a person (e.g. a writer or artist) living an unconventional life [*Bohemia*, region (former kingdom) of Czechoslovakia] – **bohemian** *adj.*, often *cap*

**Bohr, theory** /'boh-/ *n* a theory in physical chemistry: an atom consists of a positively charged nucleus about which revolves 1 or more electrons [Niels Bohr †1962 Dan physicist]

**boil** /boyl/ *n* a localized pus-filled swelling of the skin resulting from infection in a skin gland [alter. of ME *bile*, fr OE *byl* – more at *big*]

**boil** *vi* 1a of a fluid to change into (bubbles of) a vapour when heated *b* to come to the boiling point (of the contents) <the kettle's ~ing> 2 to bubble or foam violently; churn 3 to be excited or stirred <made his blood ~> 4 to undergo the action of a boiling liquid (e.g. in cooking) ~ *vt* 1 to subject to the action of a boiling liquid (e.g. in cooking) <~ eggs> 2 to heat to the boiling point (of the contents) [ME *boilen*, fr OF *boillir*, fr L *bullire* to bubble, fr *bulia* bubble]

**boil** *n* the act or state of boiling; **BOILING POINT** <keep it on the ~>

**boil down** *vt* 1 to reduce in bulk by boiling 2 to condense or summarize ~ *vi* to amount to <her speech boiled down to a plea for more money>

**boiled** /'sweɪt/ *n* a sweet of boiled sugar

**boiler** /'boylə/ *n* 1 a vessel used for boiling 2 the part of a steam generator in which water is converted into steam under pressure 3 a tank in which water is heated or hot water is stored ['BOIL + -ER]

**boiler, suit** *n*, chiefly *Br* a one-piece outer garment combining shirt and trousers, worn chiefly to protect clothing

**boiling** /'boylɪŋ/ *adj* suitable for boiling <a ~ fowl>

**boiling** *adv* to an extreme degree; very <~ mad> <~ hot>

**boiling point** *n* 1 the temperature at which a liquid boils 2 the point at which a person loses his/her self-control

**boil over** *vi* 1 to overflow while boiling 2 to lose one's temper

**boil up** *vi* to rise towards a dangerous level (e.g. of unrest)

**bolsterous** /'boɪstə(r)s/ *adj* 1 noisily and cheerfully rough 2 stormy, wild [ME *boistous* rough] – **bolsterously** *adv*, **bolsterousness** *n*

**Bokmål** /'boʊkmoʊl/ *n* a literary form of Norwegian adapted from written Danish – compare *NYNORSK* [Norw., lit., book language]

**bola** /'boʊlə/ *n* a S American weapon consisting of 2 or more heavy balls attached to the ends of a cord for hurling at and entangling an animal [AmerSp *bolás*, fr pl of Sp *bola* ball]

**boles** /'boʊləs/ *n* a bola

**bold** /boʊld/ *adj* 1 showing or requiring a fearless adventurous spirit 2 impudent, presumptuous 3 departing from convention or tradition 4 standing out prominently; conspicuous 5 (set) in boldface [ME, fr OE *beald*; akin to OHG *balđ* bold] – **boldly** *adv*, **boldness** *n*

**bold** *n* boldface

**boldface** /-fays/ *n* (printing in) the thickened form of a typeface used to give prominence or emphasis


**bole** /boʊl/ *n* the trunk of a tree [ME, fr ON *bolr*]

**bolelection** /boʊ'lekʃən/ *n* a moulding that projects (e.g. from between panels on a wall) [origin unknown]

**bolero** /boʊ'leɪrə/; *sense* 2 *boʊ'leɪrə/ n*, pl *boleros* 1 (music for) a type of Spanish dance 2 a loose waist-length jacket open at the front [Sp, perh fr *bola* ball]

**boletus** /boʊ'leɪtəs, boh-/ *n*, pl *boletuses*, *boleti* /-ti/ any of a genus of fleshy fungi, some of which are edible [NL, genus name, fr L, a fungus, fr Gk *bolites*]

**bolide** /boʊ'liɪd, -liɪd/ *n* a large (exploding) meteor [F, fr L *bolŭd*, *bolis* arrow-shaped meteor, fr Gk, lit., missile, javelin, fr *ballein* to throw – more at *DEVIL*]

**bolívar** /boʊ'leɪvə/ *n*, pl *bolivars*, *bolivares* /boʊ'li:vəɪrəs/  *Venezuela* at NATIONALITY [AmerSp *bolívar*, fr Simón Bolívar †1830 Venezuelan soldier & statesman]

**boll** /boʊl/ *n* the seed pod of cotton or similar plants [ME]

**bollard** /boʊ'laɪd, -ləɪd/ *n* 1 a post on a wharf round which to fasten mooring lines 2 a butt 3 *Br* a short post (e.g. on a kerb or traffic island) to guide vehicles or forbid access [perh irreg fr *bole*]

**bollock** /'bɒlək/ *n*, *Br* 1 a testicle – usu pl 2 pl nonsense, rubbish – often used interjectionally *USE* vulg [ME *ballock*, fr OE *bealluc* – more at *BALL*]

**bollocking** /'bɒləkɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* a severe reprimand – vulg

**bol** /weɪvəl/ *n* a weevil that infests the cotton plant

**bologna sausage** /boʊ'lɒnyə/ *n* a large smoked sausage made of beef, veal, and pork [*Bologna*, town in Italy]

**bolometer** /boʊ'lɒmɪtə, boh-/ *n* a very sensitive electrical instrument used in the detection and measurement of heat radiation [Gk *bolē* beam of

light + E -ō- + -meter] – **bolometric** /boʊ'lə'metrɪk, boh-/ *adj*, **bolometrically** *adv*


**boloney** /boʊ'lɒni/ *n* baloney

**Bolshevik** /'bɒlʃəvɪk/ *n*, pl *Bolsheviks* *a/s*o *Bolsheviks* /'bɒlʃə'veɪki/ 1 a member of the more radical wing of the Russian Social Democratic party that seized power in Russia in 1917 2 COMMUNIST 1 – derog [Russ *bol'shevik*, fr *bol'she* larger; fr their forming the majority group of the party] – **Bolshevik** *adj*, **bolshevism** /-vɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap*, **bolshevize** /-vɪz/ *vt*, **Bolshevization** /-vɪzə'zayʃən/ *n*

**Bolshevist** /'bɒlʃəvɪst/ *n* or *adj* (a) Bolshevik

**bolshie**, *bolshy* /'bɒlʃi/ *n* a Bolshevik – *infrm* [by shortening & alter.]

**bolshie**, *bolshy* *adj*, *Br* obstinate and argumentative; stubbornly uncooperative – *infrm* – **bolshiness** *n*

**bolster** /'bɒlstə/ *n* 1 a long pillow or cushion placed across the head of a bed, usu under other pillows 2 a structural part (e.g. in machinery) that eliminates friction or provides support ~  *BUILDING* [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *belg* bag – more at *BELLY*]

**bolster** *vt* to give support to; reinforce <~ed up his pride> – **bolsterer** *n*

**bolt** /bɒlt, boʊlt/ *n* 1a a short stout usu blunt-headed arrow shot from a crossbow *b* a lightning stroke, a thunderbolt 2a a sliding bar or rod used to fasten a door *b* the part of a lock that is shot or withdrawn by the key 3 a roll of cloth or wallpaper of a standard length 4a a metal rod or pin for fastening objects together *b* a screw-bolt with a head suitable for turning with a spanner 5 a rod or bar that closes the breech of a breech-loading firearm [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *bolz* crossbow bolt, Lith *beldeti* to beat]

**bolt** *vi* 1 to move rapidly, dash <she ~ed for the door> 2a to dart off or away; flee *b* to break away from control 3 to produce seed prematurely 4 *NAm* to break away from or oppose one's political party ~ *vt* 1 to flush, start <~ rabbits> 2 to secure with a bolt 3 to attach or fasten with bolts 4 to swallow (e.g. food) hastily or without chewing – **bolter** *n*

**bolt** *adv* in a rigidly erect position <sat ~ upright>

**bolt** *n* a dash, run ['bolt]

**bolt** *vt* to sift (e.g. flour) [ME *bulten*, fr OF *buleter*, of Gmc origin, akin to MHG *buteln* to sift, fr *butel* bag, fr *OTIG* *butli*] – **bolter** *n*

**bolt from the blue** *n* a completely unexpected occurrence

**bolt-hole** *n* 1 a hole into which an animal runs for safety 2 a means of rapid escape or place of refuge

**boltrope** /'bɒlt,rəʊp, 'boʊlt-/ *n* a strong rope stitched to the edges of a sail to prevent it tearing or fraying

**bolus** /'boʊləs/ *n* 1 a large pill 2 a soft mass of food that has been chewed but not swallowed [LL, fr Gk *bolos* lump]

**bomb** /bɒm/ *n* 1a any of several explosive or incendiary devices typically detonated by impact or a timing mechanism and usu dropped from aircraft, thrown or placed by hand, or fired from a mortar *b* ATOM BOMB, broadly nuclear weapons – + *the* 2 a rounded mass of lava exploded from a volcano 3 *Br* a large sum of money <she's made a ~> – *infrm* 4 *NAm* a failure, flop – *infrm* [F *bombe*, fr It *bomba*, prob fr L *bombus* deep hollow sound, fr Gk *bombos*, of imit origin] – a **bomb** *Br* very successfully – *infrm* <our act goes down a bomb in Britain – *News of the World*>

**bomb** *vt* to attack with bombs; bombard ~ *vi* to fail; **FALL FLAT** – *infrm*

**bombard** /bɒm'baɪd, '--/ *vt* 1 to attack with heavy artillery or with bombers 2 to attack vigorously or persistently (e.g. with questions) 3 to subject to the impact of electrons, alpha rays, or other rapidly moving particles [MF *bombarder*, fr *bombarde*, kind of cannon, prob fr L *bombus*] – **bombardment** *n*

**bombardier** /bɒm'bɑ:diə/ *n* 1 a noncommissioned officer in the British artillery 2 a US bomber-crew member who aims and releases the bombs

**bombast** /'bɒmbəst/ *n* pretentious inflated speech or writing [MF *bombace*, fr ML *bombac*, *bombax* cotton, alter. of L *bombyx*, *bombyx* silkworm, silk, fr Gk *bombyk*-, *bombyx*] – **bombastic** /bɒm'bæstɪk/ *adj*, **bombastically** *adv*

**Bombay** /'dʌk/ *n* a small fish found off S Asiatic coasts and eaten dried and salted with curry [*Bombay*, city in India]

**bombazine** /'bɒmbəzi:n, -zi:/ *n* a silk fabric woven in twill weave and dyed black [MF *bombasin*, fr ML *bombacinum*, *bombycinum* silken texture, fr L, neut. of *bombycinus* of silk, fr *bombyc*-, *bombyx*]

**bomb bay** *n* a bomb-carrying compartment in the underside of a combat aircraft

**bomb disposal** *n* the making safe of unexploded bombs

- bombe** /bɒmb/ *n* a frozen dessert made in a round or cone-shaped mould [F, lit., bomb]
- bomber** /bɒmə/ *n* 1 an aircraft designed for bombing 2 sby who throws or places bombs
- bomber jacket** *n* a short jacket with elasticated waistband and cuffs
- 'bombshell** /-ʃel/ *n* 1 BOMB 1a 2 sby or sthg that has a stunning or devastating effect <the book was a political ~>
- 'bombsight** /-sɪt/ *n* a sighting device for aiming bombs
- 'bombsite** /-sɪt/ *n* an area of ground on which buildings have been destroyed by bombing, esp from the air
- bona fide** /boʊnə 'fɛdi/ *adj* genuine, sincere [L, in good faith]
- 'bona fides** /'fɛdiʒ/ *n* sing or pl in constr honest intentions, sincerity [L, good faith]
- bonanza** /bə'nanzə/ *n* 1 an exceptionally large and rich mass of ore in a mine 2 sthg (unexpectedly) considered valuable, profitable, or rewarding <the oil ~> [Sp, lit., calm, fair weather, fr ML *bonacia*, alter of L *malacia* calm at sea, fr Gk *malakia*, lit., softness, fr *malakos* soft]
- Bonapartism** /boʊnə,pah,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* support of the French emperors Napoleon I or Napoleon III or their dynasty [*Bonaparte*, *Buonaparte*, family name of the dynasty] - **Bonapartist** /-pə,tɪst/ *n* or *adj*
- bonbon** /bɒn,bɒn/ *n* SWEET 2b, *specif* one with a chocolate or fondant coating and fondant centre that sometimes contains fruits and nuts [F (baby talk), redupl of *bon* good, fr L *bonus* - more at BOUNTY]
- bonce** /bɒns/ *n*, *Br* the head - *infrm* [E dial *bonce* (large marble)]
- 'bond** /bɒnd/ *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a fetter) that binds or restrains 2 a binding agreement 3a a mechanism by means of which atoms, ions, or groups of atoms are held together in a molecule or crystal b an adhesive or cementing material 4 sthg that unites or binds <the ~s of friendship> 5a a legally enforceable agreement to pay b a certificate of intention to pay the holder a specified sum, with or without other interest, on a specified date 6 the system of overlapping bricks in a wall  BUILDING 7 the state of imported goods retained by customs authorities until duties are paid 8 a strong durable paper, now used esp for writing and typing [ME *band*, *bond*, fr ON *band*; akin to OE *bindan* to bind - more at 'BAND]
- 'bond vt** 1 to overlap (e.g. bricks) for solidity of construction 2 to put (goods) in bond until duties and taxes are paid 3a to cause to stick firmly b to hold together in a molecule or crystal by chemical bonds ~ *vi* to cohere (as f) by means of a bond - **bondable** *adj*, **bonder** *n*
- bondage** /bɒndɪj/ *n* 1 the tenure or service of a vassal, serf, or slave 2a slavery, serfdom b subjugation to a controlling person or force c a form of sexual gratification involving the physical restraint of one partner <~ fantasies> [ME, fr *bonde* peasant, serf, fr OE *bōnda* householder, fr ON *bōndi*]
- bonded** /bɒndɪd/ *adj* 1 used for or being goods in bond <a ~ ware-house> 2 composed of 2 or more layers of fabric held together by an adhesive <~ fabrics>
- 'bondholder** /-hɒldə/ *n* one who holds a government or company bond
- 'bondman** /-mən/, *fem* 'bond,woman *n* a slave, serf [ME *bondeman*, fr *bonde*]
- bondsman** /bɒndz-mən/ *n* a slave, serf
- 'bondstone** /-stəʊn/ *n* a stone long enough to extend through the full thickness of a wall
- 'bone** /boʊn/ *n* 1a (any of the hard body structures composed of) the largely calcium-containing connective tissue of which the adult skeleton of most vertebrate animals is chiefly composed  ANATOMY b (a structure made of) baleen, ivory, or another hard substance resembling bone 2 the essential or basic part or level; the core <cut expenses to the ~> 3 pl the core of one's being <I felt in my ~s that she was lying> 4 a subject or matter of dispute <a ~ of contention> 5a pl thin bars of bone, ivory, or wood held in pairs between the fingers and used to produce musical rhythms b a strip of whalebone or steel used to stiffen a corset or dress c pl dice d a domino [ME *bon*, fr OE *bān*; akin to OHG & ON *bein* bone] - **boned** /bɒnd/ *adj*, **boneless** *adj* - bone to pick a matter to argue or complain about
- 'bone vt** 1 to remove the bones from 2 to stiffen (a garment) with bones - **boner** *n*
- 'bone adv** absolutely, utterly - chiefly in *bone dry*, *bone idle*
- 'bone ash** *n* the white porous residue, chiefly of calcium phosphate, produced from bones heated to a high temperature in air
- 'bone china** *n* a type of translucent and durable white hard-paste porcelain made from a mixture of bone ash and kaolin
- 'bonehead** /-hed/ *n* a stupid person - *infrm* - **boneheaded** /-hedɪd/ *adj*
- 'bone meal** *n* fertilizer or feed made of crushed or ground bone
- 'bone,setter** /-setə/ *n* a person, esp one who is not a licensed physician, who sets broken or dislocated bones
- 'bone shaker** *n* an early bicycle with solid tyres
- bone up** *vi* to try to master necessary information in a short time, esp for a special purpose <better bone up on those theories before the exam> - *infrm* [prob fr 'bone]
- bonfire** /'bɒnfɪə/ *n* a large fire built in the open air [ME *bonfire* a fire of bones, fr *bon* bone + *fire*]
- 'Bonfire, Night** *n* GUY FAWKES NIGHT
- bong** /bɒŋ/ *n* a deep resonant sound, esp of a large bell [imit] - **bong** *vi*
- 'bongo** /bɒŋ-goh/ *n*, pl **bongos**, *esp* collectively **bongo** any of 3 large striped antelopes of tropical Africa [of African origin]
- 'bongo** *n*, pl **bongos** also **bongoes** either of a pair of small tuned drums played with the hands [AmerSp *bongó*] - **bongoist** /-ɪst/ *n*
- bonhomie** /bɒnə'meɪ, bɒ'nɒmi/ *n* good-natured friendliness [F, fr *bonhomme* good-natured man, fr *bon* good + *homme* man]
- bonito** /bɒ'neɪto/ *n*, pl **bonitos**, *esp* collectively **bonito** any of various medium-sized tunas [Sp, fr *bonito* pretty, fr L *bonus* good]
- bonkers** /'bɒŋkəz/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* mad, crazy - *infrm* [origin unknown]
- bon mot** /bɒn 'moh (Fr bɔ̃ mo)/ *n*, pl **bons mots**, **bon mots** /bɒn 'moh(z) (Fr ~)/ a witticism [F, lit., good word]
- bonnet** /'bɒnɪt/ *n* 1 a cloth or straw hat tied under the chin, now worn chiefly by children 2 *Br* the hinged metal covering over the engine of a motor vehicle [ME *bonet*, fr MF, fr ML *bonnis*]
- bonny** /'bɒni/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* attractive, comely [ME *bonie*, fr OF *bon* good, fr L *bonus* - more at BOUNTY] - **bonnily** *adv*
- bonsai** /bɒn'si:/ *n*, pl **bonsai** (the art of growing) a potted plant dwarfed by special methods of culture [Jap]
- bonspiel** /bɒn'speɪl, -spəl/ *n* a match or tournament between curling clubs [perh fr D *bond* league + *spel* game]
- bontebok** /bɒntə,bɒk/ *n* a S African antelope that is now almost extinct [Afrik, fr *bont* spotted + *bok* male antelope]
- bon ton** /bɒn 'tɒn (Fr bɔ̃ tɔ̃)/ *n* the fashionable style or thing [F, lit., good tone]
- bonus** /boʊnəs/ *n* 1 sthg given in addition to what is usual or strictly due 2 money or an equivalent given in addition to an employee's usual remuneration [L, good - more at BOUNTY]
- bon vivant** /bɒn vɪvənt/ *n*, pl **bons vivants**, **bon vivants** /~ / a person with cultivated and refined tastes, esp in regard to food and drink [F, lit., good liver]
- bon viveur** /bɒn vɪvɔːr/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **BON VIVANT**
- bon voyage** /bɒn vɒwə'jɑːh, -yɑːh (Fr bɔ̃ vwaʒaːs)/ *n* a farewell - often used interjectionally [F, lit., good journey]
- bony**, **boney** /boʊni/ *adj* 1 consisting of or resembling bone 2a full of bones b having large or prominent bones 3 skinny, scrawny
- 'bony fish** *n* any of a major group of fishes comprising all those with a bony rather than a cartilaginous skeleton and including the salmon, carp, herring, etc; a teleost
- bonzo** /bɒnz/ *n* a Chinese or Japanese Buddhist monk [F, fr Pg *bonzo*, fr Jap *bonzō*]
- 'boo** /boʊh/ *interj* - used to express contempt or disapproval or to startle or frighten [ME *bo*]
- 'boo** *n*, pl **boos** a shout of disapproval or contempt
- 'boo vb** to show scorn or disapproval (of) by uttering 'boo'
- 'boob** /boʊb/ *n* 1 a stupid mistake; a blunder - *infrm* 2 BREAST 1 - *slang* [short for *booby*]
- 'boob** *vi* to make a stupid mistake - *infrm*
- 'booby** /boʊbi/ *n* 1 an awkward foolish person 2 any of several small gannets of tropical seas 3 the poorest performer in a group [modif of Sp *bobo*, fr L *balbus* stammering, prob of imit origin]
- 'booby** *n* BREAST 1 - *vulg* [alter. of *bubby*, perh imit of the noise made by a sucking infant]
- 'booby hatch** *n*, *NAm* MADHOUSE 1
- 'booby prize** *n* an award for the poorest performance in a contest
- 'booby trap** *n* 1 a trap for the unwary or unsuspecting 2 a harmless-looking object concealing an explosive device that is set to explode by remote control or if touched - **booby-trap** *vt*
- boodle** /'boʊdl/ *n* money, esp when stolen or used for bribery - *slang* [D *boedel* estate, lot, fr MD; akin to ON *búth* booth]
- boogie** /boʊgi/ *n* boogie-woogie
- 'boogie-woogie** /'woʊgi/ *n* a style of playing blues on the piano

characterized by a steady rhythmic bass and a simple, often improvised, melody [origin unknown]

**'book** /'bʊk/ *n* 1a a set of written, printed, or blank sheets bound together into a volume b a long written or printed literary composition c a major division of a treatise or literary work d a record of business transactions – usu pl (*their ~s show a profit*) 2 *cap* the Bible 3 sth regarded as a source of enlightenment or instruction 4 a packet of (paper, cardboard, etc) commodities (e.g. tickets, stamps, or matches) bound together 5 the bets registered by a bookmaker 6 the number of tricks that must be won at cards before any trick can have scoring value – compare ODD TRICK [ME, fr OE *bōc*; akin to OHG *buoh* book, OE *boc* beech, prob fr the early Germanic practice of carving runes on beechwood tablets – more at BEECH] – **bookful** *n*, **booklet** *n* – by/according to the book by following previously laid down instructions and not using personal initiative (*it's safer to go by the book than risk making a mistake*) – in one's book in one's own opinion (*in my book this is the way to handle it*) – one for the book an act or occurrence worth noting

**'book** *vt* 1 to reserve or make arrangements for in advance (< 2 seats at the theatre) 2a to take the name of with a view to prosecution b to enter the name of (a player) in a book for a violation of the rules usu involving foul play – used with reference to a rugby or soccer player ~ *vi* 1 to reserve sth in advance (< up through your travel agent) 2 chiefly Br to register in a hotel – **booker** *n*

**'book** *adj* 1 derived from books; theoretical 2 shown by books of account

**bookable** /'bʊkəbəl/ *adj*, chiefly Br 1 that may be reserved in advance 2 that makes a player liable to be booked by a referee

**'bookbinding** /-bi:ndiŋ/ *n* the craft or trade of binding books – **bookbinder** *n*, **bookbindery** /-d(ə)ri/ *n*

**'bookcase** /-keɪs/ *n* a piece of furniture consisting of a set of shelves to hold books

**'bookend** /-end/ *n* a support placed at the end of a row of books

**bookie** /'bʊki/ *n* a bookmaker [by shortening & alter.]

**booking** /'bʊkiŋ/ *n* 1 an engagement or scheduled performance 2 a reservation 3 an instance of being booked by a referee [*'book* + -ING]

**'booking office** *n*, chiefly Br an office where tickets are sold and bookings made, esp at a railway station

**bookish** /'bʊkiʃ/ *adj* 1 relying on theoretical knowledge rather than practical experience 2 literary as opposed to colloquial [*'book* + -ISH] – **bookishly** *adv*, **bookishness** *n*

**'bookkeeper** /-keɪpə/ *n* one who records the accounts or transactions of a business – **bookkeeping** *n*

**'book, lung** *n* a saclike breathing organ in many arachnids containing numerous thin folds of membrane arranged like the leaves of a book

**'bookmaker** /-meɪkə/ *n* sby who determines odds and receives and pays off bets [*'BOOK* + *MAKER*] – **bookmaking** *n*

**'bookman** /-mæn/ *n* 1 a litterateur 2 a bookseller

**'bookmark** /-mɑ:k/ *n*, **'bookmarker** /-mə:kə/ *n* sth used to mark a place in a book

**Book of Common Prayer** *n* the service book of the Anglican Church

**'bookplate** /-pleɪt/ *n* a label that is usu placed inside the cover of a book to identify the owner

**'bookrest** /-rest/ *n* an (adjustable) support for an open book

**'bookseller** /-seɪlə/ *n* sby who sells books; *specif* the owner or manager of a bookshop

**'bookshop** /-ʃɒp/ *n* a shop where books are the main items offered for sale


**'bookstall** /-stɔ:l/ *n* a stall where books, magazines, and newspapers are sold

**'book token** *n* a gift token exchangeable for books

**book up** *vt* to reserve all the accommodation in or services of – usu pass

**'bookworm** /-wɜ:m/ *n* 1 any of various insect larvae that feed on the binding and paste of books 2 a person unusually fond of reading and study

**Boolean** /'bʊli-ən/ *adj* of or being a system in logic that symbolically represents certain relationships between entities (e.g. sets, propositions, or states of computer logic circuits) (< ~ algebra) (< ~ expression) [George Boole †1864 E mathematician]

**'boom** /'bʊm/ *n* 1 a spar at the foot of the mainsail in fore-and-aft rig that is attached at its fore end to the mast  SHIP 2 a long movable arm used to manipulate a microphone 3 a barrier across a river or enclosing an area of water to keep logs together; also the enclosed logs 4

a cable or line of spars extended across a river or the mouth of a harbour as a barrier to navigation [D, tree, beam; akin to OHG *boum* tree – more at BEAM]

**'boom** /'bʊm, 'bʊhm/ *vi* 1 to make a deep hollow sound or cry 2 to experience a rapid increase in activity or importance (*business was ~ing*) ~ *vt* to cause to resound [imit]

**'boom** /'bʊm, 'bʊhm/ *n* 1 a booming sound or cry 2a rapid settlement and development (e.g. of a town) b a rapid growth or increase in a specified area (*the baby ~*) c a rapid widespread expansion of economic activity

**boomer** /'bʊhmə/ *n*, Austr a large male kangaroo [*'BOOM* + -ER]

**boomerang** /'bʊhmə, rɑŋ/ *n* 1 a bent piece of wood shaped so that it returns to its thrower and used by Australian aborigines as a hunting weapon 2 an act or utterance that backfires on its originator [native name in Australia] – **boomerang** *vi*

**boomslang** /'bʊhm, slɑŋ/ *n* a large venomous tree snake of southern Africa [Afrik, fr *boom* tree + *slang* snake]


**'boon** /'bʊn/ *n* 1 a benefit or favour, esp when given in answer to a request 2 a timely benefit; a blessing [ME, fr ON *bōn* petition; akin to OE *bēn* prayer, *bannan* to summon – more at 'BAN]

**'boon** *adj* close, intimate, and convivial – esp in *boon companion* [ME *bōn*, fr MF, good – more at BONNY]

**boor** /'bʊə, bɔ:/ *n* a coarse, ill-mannered, or insensitive person [D *boer* peasant, farmer; akin to OE *būan* to dwell – more at 'BOWER] – **boorish** *adj*

**'boost** /'bʊst/ *vt* 1 to push or shove up from below 2 to increase, raise (*plans to ~ production*) 3 to encourage, promote (*extra pay to ~ morale*) 4 to increase the force, pressure, or amount of, esp to raise the voltage of or across (an electric circuit) [origin unknown]

**'boost** *n* 1 a push upwards 2 an increase in amount 3 an act that promotes or encourages

**booster** /'bʊstə/ *n* 1 an auxiliary engine which assists (e.g. at take-off) by providing a large thrust for a short time  SPACE 2 a supplementary dose increasing or renewing the effectiveness of a medicament [*'BOOST* + -ER]

**'boot** /'bʊt/ *n* [arch *boot* (profit, avail), fr ME, fr OE *bōt* remedy, akin to OE *betera* better] – to *boot* besides

**'boot** *n* 1a an outer covering for the human foot that extends above the ankle and has a stiff or thick sole and heel b a stout shoe, esp for sports (*football ~s*) 2 an instrument of torture that crushes the leg and foot 3 a blow or kick delivered (as if) by a booted foot 4 Br the major luggage compartment of a motor car 5 summary discharge or dismissal – *slang*: chiefly in *give/get the boot* [ME, fr MF *bote*] – **booted** *adj* – *put/stick the boot in* 1 chiefly Br to cause added distress to one who is already defeated – *infml* 2 to act with brutal decisiveness – *infml*

**'boot** *vt* to kick

**'bootblack** /-blæk/ *n* sby who cleans and shines shoes

**bootee**, **bootie** /'bʊt, tee, -i:/ *n* 1 a short boot 2 an infant's sock worn in place of a shoe

**booth** /'bʊθ/ *n*, pl **booths** /'bʊθs, 'bʊðz/ 1 a stall or stand for the sale or exhibition of goods 2 a small enclosure affording privacy (e.g. for telephoning, dining, etc) [ME *bothe*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *búth* booth; akin to OE *būan* to dwell – more at 'BOWER]

**'bootjack** /-jak/ *n* a device (e.g. of metal or wood) shaped like the letter V and used in pulling off boots

**'bootlace** /-leɪs/ *n*, Br a long stout shoelace

**'bootleg** /-leg/ *adj* or *n*, chiefly NAm (being) smuggled or illegally produced alcoholic drink [fr former practice of carrying a concealed bottle of liquor in the top of a boot]

**'bootleg** *vb*, chiefly NAm to manufacture, sell, or transport for sale (esp alcoholic drink) contrary to law

**'bootless** /-lis/ *adj* useless, unprofitable – *fml* [*'boot* + -less] – **bootlessly** *adv*, **bootlessness** *n*

**'bootlick** /-lik/ *vi* to attempt to gain favour by a cringing or flattering manner – *infml* – **bootlicker** *n*

**boot out** *vt* to eject or discharge summarily (*was booted out of office*) – *infml*

**boots** *n*, pl **boots** Br a servant who polishes shoes and carries luggage, esp in a hotel [fr pl of 'boot]

**'bootstraps** /'strɒps/ *n* – *haul/pull oneself up by one's own bootstraps* to improve oneself or one's situation by one's own unaided efforts

**booty** /'bʊti/ *n* 1 plunder taken (e.g. in war) 2 a rich gain or prize [modif of MF *butin*, fr MLG *būte* exchange]

**'booze** /'bʊz/ *vi* to drink intoxicating liquor to excess – *slang* [ME

- bousen*, fr MD or MFlem *busen*; akin to MHG *bus* swelling] – *boozily* adv, *boozly* adj
- booze** *n* 1 intoxicating drink; esp spirits 2 a drinking spree *USE* slang
- boozier** /'boʊzə/ *n* a public house – slang ['BOOZE + <sup>2</sup>-ER]
- boozie-up** *n* 1 BOOZE 2 a drunken party *USE* slang
- bop** /bɒp/ *vi* or *n* -pp- (to strike with) a blow (e.g. of the fist) – infml [imit]
- bop** *n* jazz characterized by unusual chord structures, syncopated rhythm, and harmonic complexity and innovation [short for *bebop*] – *bopper* *n*
- bop** *vi* -pp- to dance (e.g. in a disco) in a casual and unrestricted manner, esp to popular music – infml
- bora** /'bɒrə/ *n* a violent cold northerly wind of the Adriatic [It dial, fr L *boreas* – more at BOREAL]
- boracic acid** /bɔːrəsɪk/ *n* BORIC ACID [ML *borac*, *borax* borax]
- borage** /'bɒrɪ, 'bʊrɪ/ *n* a coarse hairy blue-flowered European herb [ME, fr MF *bourage*]
- borate** /'bɒrəɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of a boric acid
- borax** /'bɒrɪks/ *n* natural or synthetic hydrated sodium borate used esp as a flux, cleansing agent, and water softener [ME *boras*, fr MF, fr ML *borac*, *borax*, fr Ar *burāq*, fr Per *burah*]
- borazon** /'bɒrəzən/ *n* a substance that consists of a boron nitride and is as hard as diamond but more resistant to high temperature [boron + az- + -on]
- Bordeaux** /'bɒdoh/ *n*, pl **Bordeaux** /'bɒdoh(z)/ a red or white wine of the Bordeaux region of France
- bordello** /'bɒdloh/ *n*, pl **bordellos** a brothel [It, fr OF *bordel*, fr *borde* hut, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bord* board]
- border** /'bɒdər/ *n* 1 an outer part or edge 2 a boundary, frontier <crossed the ~ into Italy> 3 a narrow bed of planted ground (e.g. beside a path) 4 an ornamental design at the edge of sthg (e.g. printed matter, fabric, or a rug) [ME *bordure*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *border* to border, fr *bort* border, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bord*] – *bordered* adj
- border** *vi* 1 to put a border on 2 to adjoin at the edge or boundary *borderer* *n* – *border* on 1 BORDER 2 <the USA borders on Canada> to resemble closely <his devotion borders on the ridiculous>
- Border collie** *n* (any of) a breed of rough-haired, often black-and-white, stocky dogs that are the dogs most commonly used in Britain for herding sheep [fr its origin in the borderlands between England and Scotland]
- borderEAU** /'bɒdər'əʊ/ *n*, pl **borderEaus** /-rəʊ(z)/ a detailed memorandum, esp one containing a list of documents [F]
- borderline** /-hən/ *adj* 1 verging on one or other place or state without being definitely assignable to either 2 not quite meeting accepted standards (e.g. of morality or good taste) <a ~ joke>
- borderline** *n* a line of demarcation
- Border terrier** *n* a small terrier of British origin with a harsh dense coat and close undercoat
- bore** /'bɔː/ *vi* 1 to pierce (as if) with a rotary tool 2 to form or construct by boring ~ *vi* 1a to make a hole by boring b to drill a mine or well 2 to make one's way steadily or laboriously [ME *boren*, fr OE *borian*, akin to OHG *borōn* to bore, L *forare* to bore, *ferre* to strike]
- bore** *n* 1 a hole made (as if) by boring 2a an interior cylindrical cavity <the ~ of a thermometer> b 'BARREL 2a 3a the size of a hole b the interior diameter of a tube c the diameter of an engine cylinder
- bore** *past* of BEAR
- bore** *n* a tidal flood that moves swiftly as a steep-fronted wave in a channel, estuary, etc [assumed] ME *bore* wave, fr ON *bára*]
- bore** *n* a tedious person or thing [perh fr 'bore]
- bore** *vi* to weary by being dull or monotonous – *boring* *adj*, *boringly* *adv*
- boreal** /'bɔːrəl/ *adj*, often *cap* of or growing in northern and mountainous parts of the northern hemisphere  PLANT [ME *borall*, fr LL *borealis*, fr L *boreas* north wind, north, fr Gk, fr *Boreas*, god of the north wind]
- boredom** /'bɔːdə(ɪ)m/ *n* the state of being bored
- borehole** /-hohl/ *n* a hole drilled in the earth to obtain water, oil, etc
- borer** /'bɒrə/ *n* a tool used for boring ['BORE + <sup>2</sup>-ER]
- boric** /'bɒrɪk/ *adj* of or containing boron
- boric acid** *n* a white solid acid used esp as a weak antiseptic
- boride** /'bɒrɪd/ *n* a binary compound of boron, usu with a more electropositive element or radical
- born** /'bɔːn/ *adj* 1a brought into existence (as if) by birth b by birth; native <British-born> 2 having a specified character or situation from birth <a ~ leader> <nobly ~> [ME, fr OE *boren*, pp of *beran* to carry – more at 'BEAR]
- born-again** *adj* having undergone a conversion, esp to evangelical Christianity
- borne** /'bɔːn/ *past part* of BEAR
- boron** /'bɒrən/ *n* a trivalent metalloid element found in nature only in combination  PERIODIC TABLE [borax + -on (as in carbon)] – *boronic* /'bɒrɒnɪk/ *adj*
- borough** /'bʊrə/ *n* 1 a British urban constituency 2a a municipal corporation in certain states of the USA b any of the 5 political divisions of New York City [ME *burgh*, fr OE *burg* fortified town, akin to OHG *burg* fortified place, OE *beorg* mountain – more at 'BARROW]
- borrow** /'bɒrəʊ/ *vi* 1 to take or receive with the intention of returning <~ a book> 2a to appropriate for one's own use b to copy or imitate 3 to take (1) from a figure of the minuend in subtraction and add it as 10 to the next lowest figure ~ *vi* to borrow sthg <English ~s from other languages> [ME *borwen*, fr OE *borgian*; akin to OE *beorgan* to preserve – more at BURY] – *borrower* *n*
- borsch** /'bɒʃh/ *n* borscht
- borscht** /'bɒʃht/ *n* a soup made primarily from beetroots and served hot or cold, often with sour cream [Russ *borshtch*]
- borstal** /'bɒʊstl/ *n*, often *cap*, Br a penal institution for young offenders [Borstal, village in Kent, England, site of first such institution]
- bort**, **boart** /'bɒwt/ *n* imperfectly crystallized diamond (fragments) used as an abrasive [prob fr D *boort*]
- bortsch** /'bɒʃh, 'bɒʃh/ *n* borscht
- borzoi** /'bɒrzoɪ/ *n* any of a breed of large long-haired dogs developed in Russia, esp for pursuing wolves [Russ *borzoi*, fr *borzoi* swift; akin to L *festinare* to hasten]
- bosage** also **boskage** /'bɒʃki/ *n* a growth of trees or shrubs [ME • *boskage*, fr MF *boscage*, fr OF, fr *bois*, *bosc* forest, perh of Gmc origin; akin to ME *bush*]
- bosh** /'bɒʃh/ *n* nonsense – infml [Turk *boş* empty, useless]
- bosky** /'bɒski/ *adj*, archaic full of trees; wooded [E dial *bosk* (bush), fr ME *bush*, *bosk*]
- bosom** /'bɒʊzəm/ *n* 1 the front of the human chest, esp the female breasts 2a the breast considered as the centre of secret thoughts and emotions b close relationship <in the ~ of her family> 3 the part of a garment covering the breast [ME, fr OE *bōsm*, akin to OHG *buosam* bosom, Skt *bhūri* abundant – more at BIG]
- bosom** *adj* close, intimate (~ friends)
- bosomed** *comb form* (*adj* – *adj*) having (such) a bosom <big bosomed>
- bosomy** /'bɒʊzmi/ *adj* having large breasts
- boson** /'bɒʊsən/ *n* a particle (e.g. a photon, meson, or alpha particle) that obeys relations stated by Bose and Einstein and whose spin is either zero or an integral number [Satyendranath Bose †1974 Indian physicist + E <sup>2</sup>-on] – *bosonic* /'bɒʊsɒnɪk/ *adj*
- boss** /'bɒs/ *n* 1a a protuberant part or body <a ~ of granite> <a ~ on an animal's horn> b a raised ornamentation c a carved ornament concealing the intersection of the ribs of a vault or panelled ceiling  ARCHITECTURE, CHURCH 2 the enlarged part of a shaft, esp on which a wheel is mounted [ME *boce*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *bottia*]
- boss** *n* 1 one who exercises control or authority; *specif* one who directs or supervises workers 2 a politician who controls a party organization (e.g. in the USA) [D *baas* master, akin to Fris *baes* master]
- boss** *vi* 1 to act as director or supervisor of 2 ORDER 2a – often + *about* or *around* *USE* infml
- bossa nova** /'bɒsə 'noʊvə/ *n* (music for) a Brazilian dance similar to the samba [Pg, lit., new trend]
- boss-eyed** *adj*, Br having a squint, cross-eyed – infml [perh fr 'boss]
- bossy** /'bɒsi/ *adj* domineering, dictatorial – infml – *bossiness* *n*
- bosun** /'bɒʊz(ə)n, 'bɒʊs(ə)n/ *n* a boatswain
- botanic garden** /'bɒ'tanɪk/ *n* a place in which plant collections are grown for display and scientific study – often pl with *sing.* meaning
- botan-ize**, **-ise** /'bɒtənɪz/ *vi* to collect plants for botanical investigation; also to study plants, esp on a field trip
- botany** /'bɒtəni/ *n* 1 a branch of biology dealing with plant life 2a the plant life (of a region) b the properties and life phenomena exhibited by a plant, plant type, or plant group [back-formation fr *botanic*, fr F *botanique*, fr Gk *botanikos* of herbs, fr *botane* pasture, herb, fr *boskein* to feed; akin to Lith *gauja* herd] – *botanist* *n*, *botanic* *adj* /'bɒ'tanɪk/, *botanical* *adj*, *botanically* *adv*
- botany wool** *n* a fine grade of (Australian) merino wool [Botany Bay, region of New South Wales in Australia]



- 'botch** /boch/ *vt* 1 to repair, patch, or assemble in a makeshift or inept way 2 to foul up hopelessly, bungle *USE* infml [ME *bocchen*] - **botcher** *n*
- 'botch** *n* 1 sthg botched; a mess 2 a clumsy patchwork *USE* infml - **botchy** *adj*
- botel** /boh'tel/ *n* a boatel
- botfly** /bot'flie/ *n* any of various heavy-bodied 2-winged flies with larvae parasitic in the alimentary canals of human beings and other large mammals [bot (larva of the botfly), perh modif of ScGael *boiteag* maggot]
- 'both** /both/ *adj* being the 2, affecting or involving the one as well as the other (< ~ his feet) [ME *bothe*, fr ON *bāthir*; akin to OHG *beide* both]
- 'both** *pron pl* in constr the one as well as the other (< ~ of the books) (< we're ~ well)
- 'both** *conj* - used to indicate and stress the inclusion of each of 2 or more things specified by coordinated words or word groups (< she ~ speaks and writes Swahili)
- 'bother** /'boda/ *vt* 1 to cause to be troubled or perplexed 2a to annoy or inconvenience b - used as a mild interjection of annoyance ~ *vi* 1 to feel mild concern or anxiety 2 to take pains; take the trouble [perh fr IrGael *bodhar* deaf, bothered]
- 'bother** *n* 1 (a cause of) mild discomfort, annoyance, or worry 2 unnecessary fussing 3 a minor disturbance (< there was a spot of ~ here today)
- botheration** /'boda'reysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 bothering or being bothered 2 - used as a mild interjection of annoyance
- 'bothersome** /-'s(ə)m/ *adj* causing bother; annoying
- bothy** /'bothi/ *n*, *Scot* 1 a small outbuilding on a farm which formerly provided accommodation for farmworkers 2 a small hut in the mountains which provides shelter for mountaineers and hill walkers [Sc, prob fr obs *Sc* both *bothy*, fr ME *bothe* - more at BOOTH]
- 'bo, tree** /boh/ *n* the pipal tree [Sinhalese *bo*, fr Skt *bodhi*]
- 'bottle** /'botl/ *n* 1a a rigid or semirigid container, esp for liquids, usu of glass or plastic, with a comparatively narrow neck or mouth b the contents of a bottle 2a intoxicating drink - slang (< hit the ~ >) b bottled milk used to feed infants 3 *Br* NERVE 3b - slang [ME *botel*, fr MF *bouteille*, fr ML *butticula*, dim. of LL *buttus* cask] - **bottleful** *n*
- 'bottle** *vt* **bottling** /'botling/ 1 to put into a bottle 2 *Br* to preserve (e.g. fruit) by storage in glass jars - **bottler** /'botla/ *n*
- 'bottle-feed** *vt* **bottle-fed** /fed/ to feed (e.g. an infant) by means of a bottle
- bottle green** *adj* or *n* very dark green
- 'bottle-neck** /-'nek/ *n* 1a a narrow stretch of road b a point or situation where free movement or progress is held up 2 a style of guitar playing using an object (e.g. a metal bar or the neck of a bottle) pressed against the strings to produce the effect of one note sliding into another
- 'bottle-nosed** 'dolphin *n* any of various moderately large stout-bodied toothed whales with a prominent beak and long curved dorsal fin
- bottle up** *vt* to confine as if in a bottle; restrain (< bottling up their anger)
- 'bottom** /'botəm/ *n* 1a the underside of sthg b a surface on which sthg rests c the buttocks, rump 2 the ground below a body of water 3 the part of a ship's hull lying below the water 4a the lowest, deepest, or farthest part or place b the lowest or last place in order of precedence (< started work at the ~ >) c the transmission gear of a motor vehicle giving lowest speed of travel d the lower part of a two-piece garment - often pl with sing. meaning (< pyjama ~s >) 5 low-lying land along a watercourse 6 a basis, source 7 archaic a ship; esp a merchant ship [ME *botme*, fr OE *botm*; akin to OHG *bodam* bottom, L *fundus*, Gk *pythmen*] - **bottomed** *adj* - at bottom really, basically
- 'bottom** *vt* to provide with a bottom or foundation ~ *vi* to reach the bottom - usu + *out* - **bottomer** *n*
- 'bottom** *adj* 1 of or situated at the bottom 2 frequenting the bottom (< ~ fishes >) - **bottommost** /-'mohst, -məst/
- 'bottom** 'drawer *n*, *Br* (a drawer for storing) a young woman's collection of clothes and esp household articles, kept in anticipation of her marriage
- 'bottomless** /-'li:/ *adj* 1 extremely deep 2 boundless, unlimited ['BOT-TOM + -LESS] - **bottomlessly** *adv*, **bottomlessness** *n*
- bottomry** /'botəmri/ *n* a contract by which a ship is pledged as security for a loan to be repaid at the end of a successful voyage [modif of D *bodemerij*, fr *bodem* bottom, ship; akin to OHG *bodam*]
- botulin** /'botyoolin, 'bochəlin/ *n* a toxin that is the direct cause of
- botulism [prob fr NL *botulinus*, a spore-forming bacterium, fr L *botulus* sausage]
- botulism** /'botyoo,liz(ə)m, -chə-/ *n* acute often fatal food poisoning caused by botulin in (preserved) food
- bouclé**, *boucle* /'boochlay/ *n* (a fabric made from) an uneven yarn of 3 plies, one of which forms loops at intervals [F *bouclé* curly, fr pp of *boucler* to curl, fr *boucle* buckle, curl]
- boudoir** /'boohdwah/ *n* a woman's dressing room, bedroom, or private sitting room [F, fr *bouder* to pout]
- bouffant** /'boohfong/ *adj* puffed out (< ~ hairstyle >) (< ~ sleeves >) [F, fr MF, fr prp of *bouffer* to puff]
- bougainvilleae** /'boohgən'vilyə/ *n* any of a genus of ornamental tropical American woody climbing plants with brilliant purple or red floral bracts [NL, fr Louis Antoine de Bougainville †1811 F navigator]
- bough** /bow/ *n* a (main) branch of a tree [ME, shoulder, bough, fr OE *bōg*; akin to OHG *buog* shoulder, Gk *pēchys* forearm] - **boughed** /bowd/ *adj*
- bought** /bawt/ *past* of *BUY*
- bougie** /'boozhi/ *n* a tapering cylindrical instrument for introduction into a tubular passage of the body [F, lit., wax candle, fr *Bougie*, seaport in Algeria]
- bouillabaisse** /'booh-yə'bes (Fr bujabɛs)/ *n* a highly seasoned fish stew made with at least 2 kinds of fish [F]
- bouillon** /'booh-yong (Fr bujɔ̃)/ *n* a thin clear soup made usu from lean beef [F, fr OF *boillon*, fr *boillir* to boil]
- boulder** /'bohlɔ/ *n* a large stone or mass of rock [short for *boulder stone*, fr ME *bulder ston*, part trans of a word of Scand origin, akin to Sw dial *bulsteren* large stone in a stream, fr *buller* noise + *sten* stone]
- 'boulder**, *clay* *n* a glacial deposit of pebbles, rock, etc in clay
- 'boule** /'boohl/ *n* 1 an orig French game similar to bowls in which usu metal balls are thrown or rolled in an attempt to place them nearer to a jack than the opponent's balls 2 a synthetically-formed pear-shaped mass of sapphire, spinel, etc with the atomic structure of a single crystal [F, ball, fr MF, fr L *bulla* bubble]
- 'boule**, *bouille* /'boohl, byoohl/ *n* *buhl*
- 'boulevard** /'boohlə,vahd, -vah/ *n* a broad avenue, usu lined by trees [F, modif of MD *bolwerc* bulwark]
- 'bounce** /'bouns/ *vt* 1 to cause to rebound (< ~ a ball >) 2 to return (a cheque) as not good because of lack of funds in the payer's account - infml ~ *vi* 1 to rebound after striking 2 to move violently, noisily, or with a springing step (< ~ d into the room >) 3 to be returned by a bank as not good - infml [ME *bouns* to beat, thump, prob of imit origin]
- 'bounce** *n* 1a a sudden leap or bound b a rebound 2 *verve*, liveliness
- bounce back** *vi* to recover quickly from a blow or defeat
- bouncer** /'bounsə/ *n* 1 a man employed in a public place to restrain or remove disorderly people 2 a fast intimidatory short-pitched delivery of a cricket ball that passes or hits the batsman at above chest height after bouncing ['BOUNCE + -ER]
- bouncing** /'bounsɪŋ/ *adj* enjoying good health, robust
- bouncing bet** *n*, often *cap* 2nd *Br* soapwort [*Bet*, nickname for *Elizabet*]
- bouncy** /'bounsɪ/ *adj* 1 buoyant, exuberant 2 that bounces readily - **bouncily** *adv*
- 'bound** /'bounɔ/ *adj* going or intending to go (< ~ for home >) (< college-bound >) [ME *boun* ready, prepared to go, fr ON *buinn*, pp of *bua* to dwell, prepare, akin to OHG *buan* to dwell - more at BOWER]
- 'bound** *n* 1 a limiting line; a boundary 2 sthg that limits or restrains (< beyond the ~s of decency >) *USE* usu pl with sing. meaning [ME, fr OF *bodne*, fr ML *bodina*]
- 'bound** *vt* 1 to set limits to 2 to form the boundary of *USE* usu pass
- 'bound** *adj* 1a confined (< desk-bound >) b certain, sure to (< ~ to rain soon >) 2 placed under legal or moral obligation (< I'm ~ to say >) (< duty-bound >) 3 held in chemical or physical combination (< ~ water in a molecule >) 4 always occurring in combination with another linguistic form (e.g. *un-* in *unknown* and *-er* in *speaker*) [ME *bouden*, fr pp of *binden* to bind]
- 'bound** *n* 1 a leap, jump 2 a bounce [MF *bond*, fr *bondir* to leap, fr (assumed) VL *bombitire* to hum, fr L *bombus* deep hollow sound - more at BOMB]
- 'bound** *vi* 1 to move by leaping 2 to rebound, bounce
- boundary** /'bounɔ(ɹ)i/ *n* 1 sthg, esp a dividing line, that indicates or fixes a limit or extent 2a the marked limits of a cricket field b (the score of 4 or 6 made by) a stroke in cricket that sends the ball over the boundary
- bounden** /'bounɔn/ *adj* made obligatory; binding - esp in *bounden duty* [ME]



**bounder** /'bəʊndə/ *n* a cad – not now in vogue [<sup>1</sup> 'BOUND + <sup>2</sup>-ER]  
**'boundless** /-lis/ *adj* limitless [<sup>1</sup>BOUND + <sup>2</sup>-LESS] – **boundlessly** *adv*,  
**boundlessness** *n*

**'bound 'up** *adj* closely involved or associated with

**bounteous** /'bəʊntiəs, -ti-əs/ *adj* giving or given freely [ME *bountevous*, fr MF *bontif* kind, fr OF, fr *bonté*] – **bounteously** *adv*, **bounteousness** *n*

**bountiful** /'bəʊntɪf(ə)/ *adj* 1 generous, liberal 2 abundant, plentiful (< ~ harvest) – **bountifully** *adv*, **bountifulness** *n*

**bounty** /'bəʊnti/ *n* 1 generosity 2 sth given generously 3a a financial inducement or reward, esp when offered by a government for some act or service b a payment to encourage the killing of vermin or dangerous animals [ME *bounte* goodness, fr OF *bonté*, fr L *bonitas*, *bonitas*, fr *bonus* good, fr OL *duenos*, akin to MHG *zwidn* to grant, L *bene* well]

**bouquet** /'bʊə'hkay/ *n* 1 a bunch of flowers fastened together 2 a distinctive and characteristic fragrance (e.g. of wine) [F, fr MF, thicket, fr ONF *bosquet*, fr OF *bosc* forest – more at *BOSCAVE*]

**'bouquet 'garni** /'gahni/ *n* a small bunch of herbs (e.g. thyme, parsley, and a bay leaf) for use in flavouring stews and soups [F, lit., garnished bouquet]

**bourbon** /'bʊəbən, 'boʊbən (Fr *burbō*)/ *n* 1 *cap* a member of a royal dynasty who ruled in France, Spain, etc 2 a whisky distilled from a mash made up of not less than 51 per cent maize plus malt and rye 3 *often cap*, chiefly *NAm* an extreme political reactionary [*Bourbon*, seignior in France, (2) *Bourbon* County, Kentucky, USA] – **bourbonism** /-niz(ə)m/ *n*, *often cap*

**'bourgeois** /'bʊəʒwəh, 'baw-/ *n, pl bourgeois* 1 a middle-class person 2 one whose behaviour and views are influenced by bourgeois values or interests 3 *pl* the bourgeoisie [MF, burgher, fr OF *borjois*, fr *borc* town, fr L *burgus* fortified place, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *burg* fortified place – more at *BOROUGH*]

**'bourgeois** *adj* 1 middle-class 2 marked by a narrow-minded concern for material interests and respectability 3 capitalist

**bourgeoisie** /'bʊəʒwəh'ze/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* MIDDLE CLASS [F, fr *bourgeois*]

**'bourn, bourne** /'baʊn/ *n* a small stream [ME *burn*, *bourne*, fr OE, akin to OHG *brunno* spring of water, L *fervere* to boil]

**'bourn, bourne** *n*, *archaic* a boundary, limit [MF *bourne*, fr OF *bodne* – more at 'BOUND]

**bourrée** /'bʊəri/ *n* (a musical composition suitable for) a 17th-c French dance usu in duple time [F]

**bourse** /'bʊəs, 'baʊs/ *n* EXCHANGE 4a, *specif* a European stock exchange [F, lit., purse, fr ML *bursa* – more at *PURSE*]

**bout** /'bəʊt/ *n* 1 a spell of activity (< a ~ of work) 2 an athletic match (e.g. of boxing) 3 an outbreak or attack of illness, fever, etc [E dial. (a trip going and returning in ploughing), fr ME *bought* bend]

**boutique** /'bʊə'teik/ *n* a small fashionable shop selling specialized goods, also a small shop within a large department store [F, shop]

**bouzouki** also *bousouki* /'bʊə'zʊʊki/ *n* a long-necked Greek stringed instrument that resembles a mandolin [NGK *mpouzouki*, prob fr Turk *büyük* large]

**bovine** /'bʊviən/ *adj* 1 of oxen or cows 2 like an ox or cow (e.g. in being slow, stolid, or dull) [LL *bovinus*, fr L *bov*, *bos* ox, cow – more at *cow*]

**Bovril** /'bʊvri/ *trademark* – used for a concentrated beef extract

**bovver** /'bʊvə/ *n*, *Br* rowdy or violent disturbance, *aggr* (< ~ boys) [alter. of *bother*]


**'bow** /'bəʊ/ *vi* 1 to submit, yield 2 to bend the head, body, or knee in respect, submission, or greeting ~ *vt* 1 to incline (e.g. the head), esp in respect, submission, or shame 2 to express by bowing [ME *bowen*, fr OE *būgan*; akin to OHG *biogan* to bend, Skt *bhujati* he bends] – **bow** and **scape** to act in an obsequious manner

**'bow** /'bəʊ/ *n* a bending of the head or body in respect, submission, or greeting

**'bow** /'bəʊ/ *n* 1 a bend, arch 2 a strip of wood, fibreglass, or other flexible material held bent by a strong cord connecting the 2 ends and used to shoot an arrow 3 an often ornamental slipknot (e.g. for tying a shoelace) 4 (a stroke made with) a resilient wooden rod with horsehairs stretched from end to end, used in playing an instrument of the viol or violin family [ME *bowe*, fr OE *boga*; akin to OE *būgan*]

**'bow** /'bəʊ/ *vb* 1 to (cause to) bend into a curve 2 to play (a stringed instrument) with a bow

**'bow** /'bəʊ/ *n* 1 the forward part of a ship – *often pl* with *sing.* meaning

 **SHIP** 2 **'BOWMAN**; *specif* one who rows in the front end of a boat [prob fr Dan *bov* shoulder, bow, fr ON *bōgr*; akin to OE *bog* bough]

**bowdlerize, -ise** /'bəʊdləraɪz/ *vt* to expurgate (e.g. a book) by omitting or modifying parts considered vulgar [Thomas Bowdler †1825 E editor] – **bowdlerizer** *n*, **bowdlerization** /-rɪ'zeɪʒən/ *n*

**bowel** /'bəʊəl/ *n* 1 (a specified division of) the intestine or gut – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning 2 *pl* the innermost parts (< ~s of the earth) [ME, fr OF *boel*, fr MF *botellus*, fr L, dim. of *botulus* sausage] – **bowelless** *adj*

**'bower** /'bəʊə/ *n* 1 an attractive dwelling or retreat 2 a (garden) shelter made with tree boughs or vines twisted together 3 a boudoir – poetic [ME *bour* dwelling, fr OE *būr*; akin to OE & OHG *būan* to dwell, OE *béon* to be] – **bowery** /-ri/ *adj*

**'bow** *n* a ship's principal anchor carried in the bows ['bow + 'er]

**'bowhead** /'bəʊ'hed/ *n* an Arctic right whale


**'bowie, knife** /'bəʊ-i/ *n* a stout hunting knife with a sharpened part on the back edge curved concavely to the point [James Bowie †1836 US soldier]

**'bowl** /'bəʊl/ *n* 1 any of various round hollow vessels used esp for holding liquids or food or for mixing food 2 the contents of a bowl 3a the hollow of a spoon or tobacco pipe b the receptacle of a toilet 4a a bowl-shaped geographical region or formation b *NAm* a bowl-shaped structure; esp a sports stadium [ME *bolle*, fr OE *bolla*; akin to OHG *bolla* blister, OE *blāwan* to blow] – **bowled** /'bəʊld/ *adj*, **bowifal** *n*


**'bowl** *n* 1 a ball used in bowls that is weighted or shaped to give it a bias 2 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a game played typically outdoors on a green, in which bowls are rolled at a target jack in an attempt to bring them nearer to it than the opponent's bowls [ME *boule*, fr MF, fr L *bulla* bubble]

**'bowl** *vi* 1a to participate in a game of bowling b to play or roll a ball in bowls or bowling c to play as a bowler in cricket 2 to travel in a vehicle smoothly and rapidly – *often* + *along* ~ *vt* 1a to roll (a ball) in bowling b to score by bowling (< ~s 150) 2a to deliver (a ball) to a batsman in cricket b to dismiss (a batsman in cricket) by breaking the wicket – used with reference to a bowled ball or a bowler

**'bowlegged** /-'leg(i)d/ *adj* having legs that are bowed outwards at the knees – **bowlegs** /'bəʊ'legz/ *n pl*


**'bowler** /'bəʊlə/ *n* the person who bowls in a team sport, *specif* a member of the fielding side who bowls (as a specialist) the ball in cricket  **SPORT** ['BOWL + 'ER]

**'bowler, bowler** 'hat *n* a stiff felt hat with a rounded crown and a narrow brim [*Bowler*, 19th-c family of E hatters]

**bowline** /'bəʊ'liən/ *n* 1 a rope attached to a square sail that is used to keep the windward edge of the sail taut and at a steady angle to the wind  **SHIP** 2 a knot used to form a non-slipping loop at the end of a rope [ME *bouline*, perh fr *bowe* bow + *line*]

**bowling** /'bəʊlɪŋ/ *n* any of several games in which balls are rolled at 1 or more objects

**'bowling alley** *n* (a building or room containing) a long narrow enclosure or lane with a smooth usu wooden floor for bowling or playing skittles

**'bowling crease** *n* either of the lines drawn perpendicularly across a cricket pitch in line with each wicket – compare **POPPING CREESE**  **SPORT**

**'bowling green** *n* a smooth close-cut area of turf for playing bowls

**bowl out** *vt* to dismiss all the members of (the batting side) in cricket

**bow over** *vt* 1 to strike with a swiftly moving object 2 to overwhelm with surprise


**'bowman** /'bəʊmən/ *n* an archer ['bow]

**'bowman** *n* a boatman, oarsman, etc in the front of a boat ['bow]


**Bowman's capsule** /'bəʊmən-z/ *n* the thin membranous capsule surrounding each glomerulus in the kidneys of vertebrates [Sir William Bowman †1892 E surgeon]

**bow out** /'bəʊ/ *vi* to retire, withdraw

**'bow saw** /'bəʊ/ *n* a saw having a narrow blade held under tension, esp by a light bow-shaped frame

**bowsprit** /'bəʊ'sprɪt/ *n* a spar projecting forwards from the bow of a ship  **SHIP** [ME *bouspret*, prob fr MLG *böchspret*, fr *böch* bow + *spret* pole]

**'bow 'tie** /'bəʊ/ *n* a short tie fastened in a bow

**'bow window** /'bəʊ/ *n* a curved bay window  **ARCHITECTURE**

**bowwow** /'bəʊ,wəʊ/ *n* 1 the bark of a dog – *often* used imitatively 2 a dog – used esp by or to children [imit]

**bowyer** /'bəʊyə/ *n* sby who makes or sells bows for archery

**'box** /bɒks/ *n*, *pl* **boxes** any of several evergreen shrubs or small trees used esp for hedges [ME, fr OE, fr L *buxus*, fr Gk *pyxos*]

**\*box** *n* 1a a rigid container having 4 sides, a bottom, and a cover b the contents of a box 2a a small compartment (e.g. for a group of spectators in a theatre) b (1) PENALTY AREA (2) PENALTY BOX 3a a boxlike protective case (e.g. for machinery) b a shield to protect the genitals, worn esp by batsmen and wicketkeepers in cricket c a structure that contains a telephone for use by members of a specified organization (<police ~> <AA or RAC ~>) 4 a small simple sheltering or enclosing structure 5 *Br* a gift given to tradesmen at Christmas 6 *Br* television; specif a television set - + *the*; infml [ME, fr OE, fr LL *buxis*, fr Gk *pyxis*, fr *pyxos*] - boxful *n*, boxy /bɒksi/ *adj*, boxiness *n*

**\*box** *vt* 1 to provide with a box 2 to enclose (as if) in a box - + *in* or *up* 3 to hem in (e.g. an opponent in soccer) - usu + *in* - box the compass 1 to name the 32 points of the compass in their order 2 to make a complete reversal

**'box** *n* a punch or slap, esp on the ear [ME]

**'box** *vt* 1 to slap (e.g. the ears) with the hand 2 to engage in boxing with ~ *vi* to engage in boxing

**Box and Cox** /kɒks/ *adv* or *adj*, *Br* alternating, IN TURN [eponymous characters, who share a room but never meet, in play by J M Morton †1891 E dramatist]

**'boxcar** /-kɑh/ *n*, *NAm* 'VAN 2

**'boxer** /bɒksə/ *n* one who engages in the sport of boxing

**\*boxer** *n* a compact medium-sized short-haired dog of a breed originating in Germany [G, fr E 'boxer]

**Boxer** *n* a member of a Chinese secret society which was opposed to foreign influence in China and whose rebellion was suppressed in 1900 [approx trans of Chin (Pek) *phēch'üan'*, lit., righteous harmonious fist]

**'boxer, shorts** *n pl* men's loose-fitting underpants  GARMENT

**'box-girder** *n* a hollow rectangular girder

**boxing** /bɒksɪŋ/ *n* the art of attack and defence with the fists practised as a sport

**'Boxing Day** *n* December 26, observed as a public holiday in Britain (apart from Scotland) and elsewhere in the Commonwealth, on which service workers (e.g. postmen) were traditionally given Christmas boxes

**'boxing glove** *n* a heavily padded leather mitten worn in boxing

**'box junction** *n* a road junction at which a pattern of crosshatched yellow lines on the road warns the road-user not to enter until his/her exit is clear

**'box, kite** *n* a tailless kite consisting of 2 or more open-ended connected boxes

**'box, number** *n* the number of a box or pigeon hole at a newspaper or post office where arrangements are made for replies to advertisements or other mail to be sent

**'box office** *n* 1 an office (e.g. in a theatre) where tickets of admission are sold 2 sth that enhances ticket sales (<the publicity is all good ~>)

**'box pleat** *n* a pleat made by forming 2 folded edges, one facing right and the other left - compare INVERTED PLEAT

**'boxroom** /-rʊm/, -room/ *n*, *Br* a small storage room (e.g. for trunks) in a private house

**'box, spanner** *n* a spanner that is shaped to enclose a nut, bolt head, etc

**'box, wood** /-wʊd/ *n* the very close-grained heavy tough hard wood of the box tree

**'boy** /bɔɪ/ *n* 1a a male child from birth to puberty b a son c an immature male; a youth d a boyfriend 2 a fellow, person (<the ~s at the office>) 3 a male servant - sometimes taken to be offensive [ME; akin to Fris *boi* boy] - boyhood /-hʊd/ *n*, boyish *adj*, boyishly *adv*, boyishness *n*

**\*boy interj**, chiefly *NAm* - used to express esp excitement or surprise  
**boycott** /'bɔɪkɒt/ *vi* to engage in a concerted refusal to have dealings with (e.g. a person, shop, or organization), usu to express disapproval or to force acceptance of certain conditions [C C Boycott †1897 E land agent in Ireland who was ostracized for refusing to reduce rents] - boycott *n*, boycottter *n*

**'boy, friend** /-frend/ *n* 1 a frequent or regular male companion of a girl or woman 2 a male lover

**boy** /'bɔɪh/ *n*, *pl* **boyes** /-oɪz/ *Irish & Welsh* a boy, lad [boy + -oɪ]

**'boy scout** *n* scout 4 - no longer used technically


**boysenberry** /'bɔɪzənb(ə)ri/ *n* (the fruit of) a spring shrub developed by crossing several varieties of blackberry and raspberry [Rudolph Boyesen †1923 US horticulturist + E berry]

**bra** /brah/ *n*, *pl* **bras** a woman's closely fitting undergarment with cups for supporting the breasts [short for *brassiere*, fr obs F *brassière* bodice, fr OF *braciere* arm protector, fr *braz* arm, fr L *bracchium* - more at BRACE]

**'braai** /brie/ *n*, *SAfr* BARBECUE 1, 3; also an area (e.g. a patio) intended for a braai [short for *braaivleis*]

**'braai** *vt*, *SAfr* to barbecue

**braaivleis** /'brie,flays/ *n*, *SAfr* BARBECUE 1, 3 [Afrk, lit., grilled meat, fr *braai* to grill + *vleis* meat]

**'brace** /brays/ *n*, *pl* **braces**, (*I*) **braces**, after a determiner **brace** 1 two of a kind; a pair (<several ~ of quality>) 2 sth (e.g. a clasp) that connects or fastens 3 a crank-shaped instrument for turning a drilling bit 4a a diagonal piece of structural material that serves to strengthen b a rope attached to a yard on a ship that swings the yard horizontally to trim the sail  SHIP c *pl* straps worn over the shoulders to hold up trousers d an appliance for supporting a weak leg or other body part e a dental fitting worn to correct irregular teeth 5a a mark { or } used to connect words or items to be considered together b (this mark connecting) 2 or more musical staves the parts of which are to be performed simultaneously [ME, pair, clasp, fr MF, two arms, fr L *brachia*, *pl* of *bracchium* arm, fr Gk *brachion*, fr compar of *brachys* short - more at BRIEF]

**\*brace** *vt* 1a to prepare for use by making taut b to prepare, steel (<~ yourself for the shock>) 2 to turn (a sail yard) by means of a brace 3 to provide or support with a brace (<heavily ~d because of polo>)

**bracelet** /'brayslɪt/ *n* 1 an ornamental band or chain worn round the wrist 2 sth (e.g. handcuffs) resembling a bracelet [ME, fr MF, dim of *bras* arm, fr L *bracchium*]

**'bracer** /'braysə/ *n* an arm or wrist protector, esp for use by an archer [ME, fr MF *braciere*, fr OF, fr *braz* arm, fr L *bracchium*]


**\*bracer** *n* a drink (e.g. of an alcoholic beverage) taken as a stimulant [<sup>1</sup>BRACE + <sup>1</sup>ER]

**brace up** *vb* to (cause to) have more courage, spirit, and cheerfulness

**brachi-** /bra(y)ki-/ **brachio-** *comb form* arm (<brachiate>) (<brachiopod>) [L *bracchium*, *brachium* - more at BRACE]

**brachial** /bra(y)kiəl/ *adj* of or located in (a part like) an arm (<a ~ artery>)

**brachiate** /bra(y)kiət, -ayt/ *vi* to progress by swinging from one hold to another by the arms - used technically - brachiation  
• /-aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**brachiopod** /bra(y)kiə.pəd/ *n* any of a phylum of mostly extinct marine invertebrate animals with shells composed of 2 halves hinged together  EVOLUTION [derv of L *bracchium* + Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot - more at FOOT] - brachiopod *adj*

**brachy-** *comb form* short (<brachydactylous>) [Gk, fr *brachys* - more at BRIEF]

**brachycephalic** /brakisi'falk/ *adj* having a short or broad head [NL *brachycephalus*, fr Gk *brachy-* + *kephalē* head - more at CEPHALIC] - brachycephaly /-sefəli/ *n*

**bracing** /'braysɪŋ/ *adj* refreshing, invigorating (<a ~ breeze>)

**bracken** /'brækən/ *n* (a dense growth of) a common large coarse fern of esp moorland, that is poisonous to grazing animals [ME *braken*, prob of Scand origin; akin to OSw *bræknē* fern]

**'bracket** /brakit/ *n* 1 an overhanging projecting fixture or member that is designed to support a vertical load or strengthen an angle 2a PAR-ENTHESIS 1b b either of a pair of marks [ ] used in writing and printing to enclose matter or in mathematics and logic to show that a complex expression should be treated as a single unit c ANGLE BRACKET d BRACE 5b 3 (the distance between) a pair of shots fired usu in front of and beyond a target to aid in range-finding 4 any of a graded series of income groups (<the £20,000 income ~>) [MF *braguette* codpiece, fr dim. of *brague* breeches, fr OProv *braga*, fr L *braca*, fr Gaulish *brāca*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *bruoh* breeches - more at BREECH]

**\*bracket** *vt* 1 to place (as if) within brackets 2 to provide or fasten with brackets 3 to put in the same category; associate - usu + *together* 4a to get a range by firing in front of and behind (a target) b to establish a margin on either side of (e.g. an estimation)

**brackish** /'brakɪʃ/ *adj* slightly salty (<~ water>) [D *brac* salty; akin to MLG *brac* salty] - brackishness *n*

**bract** /brakt/ *n* 1 a usu small leaf near a flower or floral axis 2 a leaf borne on a floral axis [NL *bractea*, fr L, thin metal plate] - bracteal *adj*, bracteate /-ət, -ayt/ *adj*, bracted *adj*

**bracteole** /'braktiəʊl/ *n* a small or secondary bract, esp on a floral axis [NL *bracteola*, fr L, dim. of *bractea*] - bracteolate /brak'tee-ə-lət, -ləyt, 'brakti-ləyt/ *adj*

- brad** /brad/ *n* a thin wedged-shaped nail having a slight projection at the top of one side instead of a head [ME, fr ON *broddr* spike, akin to OE *byrst* bristle – more at **BRISTLE**]
- bradawl** /bradawl/ *n* an awl; *esp* one used by a woodworker
- bradycardia** /bradi'ka:di-ə/ *n* relatively slow heart action, whether physiological or pathological – compare **TACHYCARDIA** [NL, fr Gk *bradys* slow + NL *-cardia*]
- bradykinin** /bradi'ki:ni:n/ *n* a local polypeptide hormone that is a kinin, is formed in injured tissue, and prob plays a part in inflammatory processes [Gk *bradys* slow]
- brae** /bray/ *n*, chiefly Scot a hillside, esp along a river [ME *bra*, fr ON *brā* eyelash; akin to OE *bregdan* to move quickly – more at **BRAD**]
- brag** /brag/ *n* a card game resembling poker [*brag* (boast); fr the boast or challenge made by one player to another]
- brag** *vb* -gg- to talk or assert boastfully – *bragger* *n*
- braggadocio** /braga'do:ʃiə/ *n* empty boasting [*Braggadocio*, personification of boasting in the poem *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser †1599 E poet]
- braggart** /bragət/ *n* a loud arrogant boaster – *braggart* *adj*
- Brahma** /brahma/ *n* 1 **BRAHMAN** 1B 2 the creator deity of the Hindu sacred triad – compare *SIVA*, *VISHNU* [Skt *brahman*]
- Brahman** /brahman/ *n* 1a a Hindu of the highest caste traditionally assigned to the priesthood **b** the impersonal ground of all being in Hinduism 2 any of an Indian breed of humped cattle, also a large vigorous heat-resistant and tick-resistant animal developed in the USA by interbreeding Indian cattle [Skt *brahmana*, lit., having to do with prayer, fr *brahman*, neut, prayer] – *Brahmanic* /-manik/ *adj*
- Brahmanism** /'brahma:niz(ə)m/ *n* orthodox Hinduism adhering to the pantheism of the Vedas and to the ancient sacrifices and family ceremonies
- Brahmin** /brahmin/ *n* 1 (a) Brahman 2 *NAM* an intellectually and socially cultivated but aloof person – *Brahminism* *n*, *Brahminical* /-minikl/ *adj*
- braid** /brayd/ *vt* 1 chiefly *NAM* **PLAIT** 2 2 to ornament, esp with ribbon or braid [ME *breyden*, lit., to move suddenly, fr OE *bregdan*, akin to OHG *brettan* to draw (a sword), Gk *phorkon* something white or wrinkled] – *braider* *n*
- braiding** *n* 1 a narrow piece of fabric, esp plaited cord or ribbon, used for trimming 2 chiefly *NAM* a length of plaited hair
- brail** /brayl/ *n* a rope fastened to the edge or end of a sail and used for hauling the sail up or in [ME *brayle*, fr AF *brail*, fr OF, strap]
- brail** *vt* to take in (e.g. a sail) by the brails
- braille** /brayl/ *n*, often *cap* a system of writing or printing for the blind that uses characters made up of raised dots [Louis Braille †1852 F teacher of the blind]
- brain** /brayn/ *n* 1a the portion of the vertebrate central nervous system that constitutes the organ of thought and neural coordination, is made up of neurons and supporting and nutritive structures, is enclosed within the skull, and is continuous with the spinal cord  *NERVE* **b** a nervous centre in invertebrates comparable in position and function to the vertebrate brain 2a(1) an intellect, mind (*has a good ~*) (2) intellectual endowment; intelligence – often pl with sing meaning (*plenty of ~s in that family*) **b**(1) a very intelligent or intellectual person (2) the chief planner of an organization or enterprise – *usu* pl with sing. meaning but sing. in constr 3 an automatic device (e.g. a computer) that performs 1 or more of the functions of the human brain for control or computation [ME, fr OE *brægen*; akin to MLG *bregen* brain, Gk *brechmos* front part of the head] – *on the brain* as an obsession; continually in mind (*I've got that tune on the brain again*)
- brain** *vt* 1 to kill by smashing the skull 2 to hit hard on the head – *infrml*
- brainchild** /-chi:ld/ *n* a product of one's creative imagination
- brain death** *n* the death of a human being determined by the assessment that his/her brain has irreversibly ceased to function
- brain drain** *n* the loss of highly qualified workers and professionals through emigration
- brained** *comb form* (*adj*, *n* → *adj*) having (such) a brain (*feather-brained*)
- brainless** /-lis/ *adj* stupid, foolish – *brainlessly* *adv*, *brainlessness* *n*
- brain power** /-pəwə/ *n* intellectual ability; intelligence
- brain stem** *n* the part of the brain connecting the spinal cord with the forebrain and cerebrum
- brain storm** /-stəwm/ *n* 1 a fit of insanity 2 chiefly *NAM* **BRAIN WAVE** 2
- brain storming** /-stəwmiŋ/ *n*, *NAM* a problem-solving technique that involves the spontaneous contribution of ideas from all members of a group
- brains**, *trust* *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr, chiefly *Br* a group of expert advisers, esp assembled to answer questions of immediate or current interest
- brain teaser** /-teezə/ *n* a logical or mathematical puzzle
- brain washing** /-wəʃiŋ/ *n* a systematic attempt to instil beliefs into sb, often in place of beliefs already held [trans of Chin (Pek) *hsi' nao'*]  
– *brainwash* *vt*, *brainwash* *n*, *brainwasher* *n*
- brain wave** *n* 1 a rhythmic fluctuation of voltage between parts of the brain 2 a sudden bright idea
- brainless** /brayni/ *adj* intelligent, clever – *infrml* – *braininess* *n*
- braise** /brayz/ *vt* to cook (e.g. meat) slowly by first sautéing in hot fat and then simmering gently in very little liquid in a closed container [F *braiser*, fr *braise* live coals, fr OF *bresc*]
- brake** /brayk/ *n* 1 a device for arresting *usu* rotary motion, esp by friction 2 sth that slows down or stops movement or activity [ME, *bride*, *curb*] – *brakeless* *adj*
- brake** *vt* to slow or stop by a brake ~ *vt* 1 to operate, manage, or apply a brake, esp on a vehicle 2 to become slowed by a brake
- brake** *n* an area of overgrown rough or marshy land [ME *-brake*] – *braky* /brayki/ *adj*
- brake** *n* **ESTATE CAR** [*break* (carnage frame used for breaking horses), fr *break*]
- brake horsepower** *n* the useful power of an engine as calculated from the resistance to a brake or dynamometer applied to the shaft or fly-wheel
- brake van**, *Br* *GUARD*'S VAN
- bramble** /brambl/ *n* a rough prickly shrub, esp a blackberry [ME *brembel*, fr OE *bremel*, akin to OE *brom* broom] – *brambly* *adj*
- brambling** /bramblɪŋ/ *n* a brightly coloured Old World finch [prob • fr *bramble* + *-ing*]
- Bramley** /bramli/ *n* a large green variety of cooking apple [Matthew Bramley †1850 E butcher & reputed first grower of the fruit]
- bran** /bran/ *n* the broken husk of cereal grain separated from the flour or meal by sifting [ME, fr OF]
- branch** /bra:nh/ *n* 1 a secondary shoot or stem (e.g. a bough) arising from a main axis (e.g. of a tree) 2a **TRIBUTARY** 2 **b** a side road or way c a slender projection (e.g. the tine of an antler) 3 a distinct part of a complex whole e.g. a division of a family descending from a particular ancestor **b** a distinct area of knowledge (*pathology is a ~ of medicine*) c a division or separate part of an organization [ME, fr OF *branche*, fr LL *branca* paw] – *branched* *adj*, *branchless* *adj*, *branchlet* /bra:nhli:t/ *n*, *branchy* /-chi/ *adj*
- branch** *vi* 1 to put forth branches 2 to spring out (e.g. from a main stem)
- branchia** /'brangki-ə/ *n*, *pl* *branchiae* /-ki:ee/ *GILL* 1 [L, sing., fr Gk, *pl* of *branchion* gill; akin to Gk *branchos* windpipe – more at **CRAW**] – *branchial* /-ki-əl/, *branchiate* /-ki-ət-, -ki-əyt/ *adj*
- branchiopod** /'brangki-ə-pod/ *n* any of a group of aquatic crustaceans (e.g. a brine shrimp) typically having a long body, a carapace, and many pairs of leaflike appendages [deriv of Gk *branchia* gills + *-pod-*, *pous* foot – more at **FOOT**] – *branchiopod*, *branchiopodan* /brangki'opodən/ *also*, *brangki-ə'pohdən/adj*, *branchiopodous* /brangki'opodəs/ *also*, *brangki-ə'pohdəs/adj*
- branch out** *vi* to extend activities (*the business is branching out all over the state*)
- brand** /brand/ *n* 1 a charred piece of wood 2a a mark made by burning with a hot iron, or with a stamp or stencil, to identify manufacture or quality or to designate ownership (e.g. of cattle) **b**(1) a mark formerly put on criminals with a hot iron (2) a mark of disgrace (*the ~ of poverty*) 3a a class of goods identified by name as the product of a single firm or manufacturer **b** a characteristic or distinctive kind (*a lively ~ of humour*) 4 a tool used to produce a brand 5 a sword – poetic [ME, torch, sword, fr OE; akin to OE *bræman* to burn]
- brand** *vt* 1 to mark with a brand 2 to stigmatize 3 to impress indelibly – *brander* *n*
- brandish** /brandish/ *vt* to shake or wave (e.g. a weapon) menacingly or ostentatiously [ME *braundissen*, fr MF *brandiss-*, stem of *brandir*, fr OF, fr *brand* sword, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brand*]
- brand-new** *adj* conspicuously new and unused
- brandy** /brændu/ *n* a spirit distilled from wine or fermented fruit juice (*plum ~*) [short for *brandywine*, fr D *brandewijn*, fr MD *brantwijn*, fr *brant* burnt, distilled + *wijn* wine]
- brandy snap** *n* a very thin cylindrical ginger biscuit sometimes flavoured with brandy

**brant** /brant/ *n*, *pl* brants, *esp* collectively **brant** chiefly *NAM* BRENT GOOSE

**'brash** /brash/ *n* a mass of fragments (e.g. of ice) [obs *brash* (to breach a wall), prob fr MF *breche* breach]

**'brash** *adj* 1 impetuous, rash 2 uninhibitedly energetic or demonstrative 3 aggressively self-assertive; impudent [origin unknown] – **brashly** *adv*, **brashness** *n*

**brass** /brahs/ *n* 1 an alloy of copper and zinc 2a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the brass instruments of an orchestra or band b a usu brass memorial tablet c bright metal fittings or utensils 3 brazen self-assurance 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* BRASS HATS 5 chiefly *N Eng* money *USE* (3, 4, & 5) *infrm* [ME *bras*, fr OE *bræs*; akin to MLG *bras* metal] – **brass** *adj*

**brass** *'band* *n* a band consisting (chiefly) of brass and percussion instruments

**brasserie** /'bras(ə)ri/ *n* a restaurant that serves beer [F, fr MF *brasser* to brew, fr OF *bracier*, fr L *braces*, a kind of wheat]

**brass** *'farthing* *n* a trivial amount

**brass** *'hat* *n* a high-ranking military officer – *infrm*

**brassica** /'brasika/ *n* any of a large genus of Old World temperate-zone plants of the mustard family that includes many important vegetables and crop plants (e.g. cabbage, turnip, mustard, and rape) [NL, genus name, fr L, cabbage]

**brassiere** /'brazi:ə/ *n* a bra – *fml*

**brass instrument** *n* any of a group of wind instruments with a long usu curved cylindrical or conical metal tube, a mouthpiece against which the player's lips vibrate, and usu valves or a slide for producing all the notes within the instrument's range

**brass** *'tacks* *n pl* details of immediate practical importance – *esp* in *get down to brass tacks*

**brassy** /'braisi/ *adj* 1 shamelessly bold; brazen 2 resembling brass, *esp* in colour – **brassily** *adv*, **brassiness** *n*

**brat** /brat/ *n* an (ill-mannered) child [perh fr E dial *brat* (ragamuffin)]

**brattice** /'bratis/ *n* an esp temporary wooden or cloth partition for directing air in a mine [ME *bretais*, *bretasce* parapet, fr OF *bretesche*, fr ML *breteschia*] – **brattice** *vt*

**bravado** /br'vədhə/ *n*, *pl* bravadoes, *bravados* (a display of) blustering swaggering conduct [MF *bravade* & OSP *bravata*, fr OIt *bravata*, fr *bravare* to challenge, show off, fr *bravo*]

**'brave** /brayv/ *adj* 1 courageous, fearless 2 excellent, splendid (< a ~ new world) [MF, fr OIt & OSP *bravo* courageous, wild, fr L *barbarus* barbarous] – **bravely** *adv*

**'brave** *vt* to face or endure with courage

**'brave** *n* a N American Indian warrior

**bravery** /brayv(ə)ri/ *n* courage, valour

**'bravo** /brə'voh/ *n*, *pl* bravos, *bravoes* a villain, desperado; *esp* a hired assassin [It, fr *bravo*, *brave*]

**'bravo** /brə'voh/ *n*, *pl* bravos a shout of approval – often used interjectionally in applauding a performance

**Bravo** /brə'voh/ *n* – a communications code word for the letter *b*

**bravura** /brə'v(y)ooərə/ *n* 1 a flamboyant brilliant style 2 a musical passage requiring exceptional agility and technical skill in execution 3 a show of daring or brilliance [It, lit., bravery, fr *bravare*]

**brave** /brayv/ *adj*, chiefly *Scot* good or fine, *esp* in appearance or dress [modif of MF *brave*]

**'brawl** /brawl/ *vi* 1 to quarrel or fight noisily 2 of water to make a loud confused bubbling sound [ME *brawlen*] – **brawler** *n*

**'brawl** *n* 1 a noisy quarrel or fight 2 a brawling noise

**brawn** /brawn/ *n* 1a strong muscles b muscular strength 2 pork trimmings, *esp* the meat from a pig's head, boiled, chopped, and pressed into a mould [ME, fr MF *brawn* muscle, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bræd* flesh]

**brawny** /brawni/ *adj* muscular, strong – **brawnlly** *adv*, **brawniness** *n*

**'bray** /bray/ *vi* to utter the loud harsh cry characteristic of a donkey ~ *vt* to utter or say loudly, harshly, or discordantly [ME *brayen*, fr OF *braire* to cry, fr (assumed) VL *bragere*, of Celt origin; akin to MLr *brigid* he breaks wind; akin to L *frangere* to break – more at *BREAK*] – **bray** *n*

**'bray** *vt* to crush or grind finely [ME *brayen*, fr MF *broier*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brehhan* to break – more at *BREAK*]

**braze** /brayz/ *vt* to solder with an alloy (e.g. of brass and silver) that melts on contact with the heated metals being joined [prob fr F *braser*, fr OF, to burn, fr *brase* live coals] – **brazer** *n*

**'brazen** /brayz(ə)n/ *adj* 1 resembling or made of brass 2 sounding harsh and loud like struck brass 3 contemptuously bold [ME *brāsen*, fr OE *brāsen*, fr *brās* brass] – **brazenly** *adv*, **brazenness** *n*

**'brazen** *vt* to face with defiance or impudence – *esp* in *brazen it out* **brazen-faced** *adj* BRAZEN 3

**'brazier** /brayzi-, 'brayzə/ *n* one who works in brass [ME *brasier*, fr *bras* brass]

**'brazier** *n* a receptacle or stand for holding burning coals [F *brasier*, fr OF, fire of hot coals, fr *brase*]

**'Brazil** *n* /brə'zil/ *n* (a tall S American tree that bears) a roughly triangular only edible nut [Brazil, country in S America]

**brā'zil,wood** /-,wood/ *n* (the red or purple dye obtained from) the heavy wood of any of various tropical leguminous trees [Sp *brasil*, fr *brasa* live coals; fr its colour]

**'breach** /brech/ *n* 1 infraction or violation (e.g. of a law, obligation, or standard) (< ~ of contract) 2 a gap (e.g. in a wall) made by battering 3 a break in customarily friendly relations 4 a leap, *esp* of a whale out of water [ME *breche*, fr OE *bryce*; akin to OE *brecan* to break]

**'breach** *vt* 1 to make a breach in (< ~ the city walls) 2 to break, violate (< ~ an agreement)

**'breach** of *'promise* *n* violation of a promise, *esp* to marry

**'breach** of the *'peace* *n* an instance of disorderly conduct

**'bread** /bred/ *n* 1 a food consisting essentially of flour or meal which is baked and usu leavened, *esp* with yeast 2 food, sustenance (< our daily ~) 3a livelihood (< earns his daily ~ as a labourer) b money – slang [ME *breed*, fr OE *bræd*; akin to OHG *brot* bread, OE *breowan* to brew] – **bread upon the waters** resources chanced or charitable deeds performed without expectation of return

**'bread** *vt* to cover with breadcrumbs (< a ~ ed pork chop)

**'bread-and-butter** *adj* 1a basic, fundamental (< wages, housing, and other ~ issues) b dependable, routine (< the ~ repertoire of an orchestra) 2 sent or given as thanks for hospitality (< a ~ letter)

**'bread and 'butter** *n* a means of sustenance or livelihood

**'bread and 'circuses** *n pl* entertainment provided at public expense, also a palliative offered to avert potential discontent [trans of L *panis et circenses*]

**'bread,basket** /-,bəhskɪt/ *n* the stomach – slang

**'bread,crumb** /-,krʌm/ *n* a small fragment of bread

**'breadcrumb** *vt* 'BREAD

**'bread,fruit** /-,froot/ *n* the large starchy fruit of a tropical tree that has white flesh with a breadlike texture

**'bread,line** /-,li:n/ *n* 1 Br the level of income required for subsistence 2 chiefly *NAM* a queue of people waiting to receive food given in charity

**breadth** /bret-th, bredth/ *n* 1 distance from side to side 2a sth of full width (< a ~ of cloth) b a wide expanse (< ~s of grass) 3a catholicity, scope b liberality of views or taste [obs *brede* breadth (fr ME, fr OE *brædu*, fr *brād* broad) + -th (as in length)]

**'breadthways** /-,weɪz-, -wɪz/, **'breadth,wise** /-,wɪz/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction of the breadth (< a course of bricks laid ~)

**'bread,winner** /-,wɪnə/ *n* one whose wages are a family's livelihood – **breadwinning** *n*

**'break** /brayk/ *vb* broke /brohk/, broken /brohkn/ *vt* 1a to separate into parts with suddenness or violence b to fracture (< ~ an arm) c to rupture (< ~ the skin) 2 to violate, transgress (< ~ the law) 3a to force a way through or into (< the silence was broken by a dog barking) b to escape by force from (< he broke jail) 4 to make or effect by cutting or forcing through (< a trail through the woods) 5 to disrupt the order or compactness of (< ~ ranks) 6a to defeat utterly; destroy b to crush the spirit of c(1) to train (an animal, *esp* a horse) for the service of human beings (2) to inure, accustom (< a horse broken to the saddle) d to exhaust in health, strength, or capacity 7a to ruin financially b to reduce in rank 8a to reduce the force or intensity of (< the bushes will ~ his fall) b to cause failure and discontinuance of (a strike) by measures outside bargaining processes 9 to exceed, surpass (< a record) (< ~ the speed limit) 10 to ruin the prospects of (< could make or ~ her career) 11a to stop or interrupt b to open and bring about suspension of operation (< ~ an electric circuit) c to destroy the unity or completeness of (< they must be kept together; I don't want to ~ the collection) d to destroy the uniformity of (< the straight line of the horizon was broken by a rocky outcrop) 12 to cause to discontinue a habit (< tried to ~ him of smoking) 13 to make known; tell (< ~ the bad news gently) 14a to solve (a code or cipher system); CRACK 3a b to demonstrate the falsity of (an alibi) 15 to split into smaller units, parts, or processes; divide (< ~ a £10 note) – often + up or down 16 to open the operating mechanism of (a gun) ~ *vi* 1 to escape with sudden forceful effort – often + out or away (< ~ out of jail) (< broke away from the main bunch) 2a to come into being, *esp* suddenly (< day was ~ing) (< the storm broke) b to come to pass; occur

<report news stories as they ~> 3 to effect a penetration (<~ through enemy lines>) 4 to take a different course; depart (<~ from tradition>) 5 to make a sudden dash (<~ for cover>) 6 to separate after a clinch in boxing 7 to come apart or split into pieces; burst, shatter 8 of a wave to curl over and disintegrate in surf or foam 9 of weather to change suddenly, esp after a fine spell 10 to give way in disorderly retreat 11a to fail in health, strength, or control (<may ~ under questioning>) b to become inoperative because of damage, wear, or strain 12 to end a relationship, agreement, etc with 13 esp of a ball bowled in cricket to change direction of forward travel on bouncing 14 of a voice to alter sharply in tone, pitch, or intensity, esp to shift abruptly from one register to another (<her voice ~ing with emotion>) (<boys' voices ~ at puberty>) 15 of a horse to fail to keep a prescribed gait 16 to interrupt one's activity for a brief period (<~ for lunch>) 17 to make the opening shot of a game of snooker, billiards, or pool 18a to fold, lift, or come apart at a seam, groove, or joint b of cream to separate during churning into liquid and fat 19 chiefly NAm to happen, develop (<for the team to succeed, everything has to ~ right>) [ME *breken*, fr OE *brecan*; akin to OHG *brehhan* to break, L *frangere*] – **breakable** *adj* or *n* – **break** a leg to be successful in a performance – used in the theatre to wish another luck – **break cover** to emerge abruptly from a hiding place (<the hunted fox broke cover>) – **break even** to achieve a balance between expenditure and income, esp to recover precisely what one spends (<the church fete only broke even this year>) – **break into** 1a to begin abruptly (<the horse breaks into a gallop>) b to give voice or expression to abruptly (<she broke into song>) (<broke into a laugh>) 2 to enter by force (<thieves broke into the house>) 3 to make entry or entrance into (<trying to break into show business>) 4 to interrupt (<kept breaking into the conversation>) – **break new ground** to make or show new discoveries, pioneer (<breaking new ground in genetic engineering>) – **break service/break someone's service** to win a game against the server (e.g. in tennis) – **break someone's heart** to cause sb heartbreak – **break the back** to do or overcome the largest or hardest part – **break the ice** to overcome initial reserve – **break wind** to expel gas from the intestine through the anus

**break** *n* 1 an act or action of breaking 2a a condition produced (as if) by breaking, a gap (<a ~ in the clouds>) b a rupture in previously good relations c a gap in an otherwise continuous electric circuit 3 the action or act of breaking in, out, or forth (<a jail ~>) 4 a dash, rush (<make a ~ for it>) 5 the act of separating after a clinch in boxing 6a a change or interruption in a continuous process or trend (<it makes a ~>) b a change from the status quo (<a sharp ~ with tradition>) c a respite from work or duty, specif a daily pause for play and refreshment at school d a planned interruption in a radio or television programme (<a ~ for the commercial>) 7a the opening shot in a game of snooker, billiards, or pool b change in direction of forward travel, esp of a cricket ball on bouncing because of spin imparted by the bowler c a slow ball bowled in cricket that deviates in a specified direction on bouncing (<an off ~>) d the act or an instance of breaking an opponent's service in tennis e failure of a horse to maintain a prescribed gait f (a score made by) a sequence of successful shots or strokes (e.g. in snooker) 8 a notable variation in pitch, intensity, or tone in the voice 9 a place, situation, or time at which a break occurs. e.g. a the point where one musical register changes to another b a short ornamental passage inserted between phrases in jazz 10a a stroke of esp good luck b an opportunity, chance (<give me a ~>)

**breakage** /brayki/ *n* 1 sth broken – usu pl 2 allowance for things broken (e.g. in transit) ['BREAK + -AGE]

**breakaway** /brayka,weɪ/ *n* 1 sb or sth that breaks away 2 a breaking away (e.g. from a group or tradition), a withdrawing

**breakaway** *adj* 1 favouring independence from an affiliation; withdrawing (<a ~ faction formed a new party>) 2 chiefly NAm made to break or bend easily (<~ road signs for highway safety>)

**breakdown** /-daʊn/ *n* 1 a failure to function 2 a physical, mental, or nervous collapse 3 failure to progress or have effect (<a ~ of negotiations>) 4 the process of decomposing (<~ of food during digestion>) 5 a division into categories; a classification 6 a whole analysed into parts; specif an account in which the transactions are recorded under various categories

**break down** *vt* 1a to cause to fall or collapse by breaking or shattering b to make ineffective (<break down legal barriers>) c to put an end to; suppress (<he tried to break down their opposition>) 2a to divide into parts or categories b to separate into simpler substances c to take apart, esp for storage or shipment ~ *vi* 1a to become inoperative through breakage or wear b to become inapplicable or ineffective; deteriorate (<relations began to break down>) 2a to be susceptible to analysis or subdivision (<the

outline breaks down into 3 parts>) b to undergo decomposition 3 to lose one's composure completely (<he broke down and wept>)

**'break,down,lorry** *n* a lorry fitted with equipment suitable for repairing or towing disabled or immobilized motor vehicles

**'breaker** /brayka/ *n* 1 a wave breaking into foam 2 a user of Citizens' Band radio – slang ['BREAK + -ER]

**'breaker** *n* a small water cask [by folk etymology fr Sp *barrica*]

**break-even** *adj* or *n* (of or being) the point at which profit equals loss

**breakfast** /brekfəst/ *n* (food prepared for) the first meal of the day, esp when taken in the morning [ME *breakfast*, fr *breken* to break + 'fast'] – **breakfast** *vb*, **breakfaster** *n*

**break** *in* *vi* 1 to enter a house or building by force 2a to interrupt a conversation b to intrude ~ *vt* 1 to accustom to a certain activity (<break in a new reporter>) 2 to use or wear until comfortable or working properly

**'breaking,point** /brayking/ *n* the point at which a person gives way under stress

**'break,neck** /-nek/ *adj* extremely dangerous (<~ speed>)

**break off** *vi* 1 to become detached; separate 2 to stop abruptly (<break off in the middle of a sentence>) ~ *vt* to discontinue (<break off diplomatic relations>)

**'break,out** /-owt/ *n* a violent or forceful breaching of a restraint (e.g. imprisonment or siege)

**break out** *vi* 1 to become affected with a skin eruption (<broke out in a rash>) 2 to develop or emerge with suddenness and force (<a riot broke out>) 3 to escape ~ *vt* 1 to take from shipboard stowage ready for use 2 to unfurl (a flag) at the mast

**'break,through** /-throʊh/ *n* 1 an act or point of breaking through an obstruction 2 an attack that penetrates enemy lines 3 a sudden advance, esp in knowledge or technique (<a medical ~>)

**'break,up** /-ʌp/ *n* 1 a dissolution, disruption (<the ~ of a marriage>) 2 a division into smaller units 3 chiefly Can the spring thaw

**break up** *vt* 1 to disrupt the continuity of (<too many footnotes can break up a text>) 2 to decompose (<break up a chemical>) 3 to bring to an end (<it broke up their marriage>) 4a to break into pieces (e.g. for salvage); scrap b to crumble 5a to distress (<his wife's death really broke him up>) – *in* *fm* b chiefly NAm to cause to laugh heartily – *in* *fm* ~ *vi* 1a to come to an end (<their partnership broke up>) b to separate, split up (<Simon and Mary have broken up>) 2 to lose morale or composure (<he is likely to break up under attack>), also to give way to laughter 3 *Br*, of a school to disband for the holidays

**'break,water** /-wawtə/ *n* an offshore structure (e.g. a wall) used to protect a harbour or beach from the force of waves

**'bream** /breem/ *n*, *pl* *bream*, esp for different types **breams** 1 any of various European freshwater fishes related to the carps and minnows 2 any of various freshwater sunfishes [ME *breme*, fr MF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *brahsima* bream, *brettan* to draw (a sword) – more at BRAID]

**'bream** *vt* 'GRAVE [prob fr D *brem* furze]

**'breast** /brest/ *n* 1 either of 2 protuberant milk-producing glandular organs situated on the front of the chest in the human female and some other mammals; broadly a discrete mammary gland 2 the fore part of the body between the neck and the abdomen – MEAT 3 sth (e.g. a swelling or curve) resembling a breast 4 the seat of emotion and thought; the bosom – *fm* [ME *brēst*, fr OE *brēost*, akin to OHG *brust* breast, Russ *bryukho* belly]

**'breast** *vi* 1 to contend with resolutely, confront (<~ the rush-hour traffic>) 2a to meet or lean against with the breast or front (<the swimmer ~ed the waves>) b to thrust the chest against (<the sprinter ~ed the tape>) 3 chiefly *Br* to climb, ascend

**'breast,bone** /-bohn/ *n* the sternum – ANATOMY

**'breast,feed** *vt* to feed (a baby) with the milk from the breast rather than a bottle

**'breast,plate** /-playt/ *n* 1 a metal plate worn as defensive armour for the chest 2 PLASTON 2

**'breast,stroke** /-strohk/ *n* a swimming stroke executed on the front by thrusting the arms forwards while kicking outwards and backwards with the legs, then sweeping the arms backwards – **breaststroker** *n*

**breastsummer** /brest(ɪ)səmə/ *n* a bressumer ['breast + 'summer]

**'breast,work** /-wuhk/ *n* a temporary fortification, usu consisting of a low parapet

**breath** /breθ/ *n* 1a a slight fragrance or smell b a slight indication; a suggestion (<the faintest ~ of scandal>) 2a the faculty of breathing b an act of breathing c opportunity or time to breathe; respite 3 a slight



- movement of air 4 air inhaled and exhaled in breathing 5 spint, animation [ME *breth*, fr OE *bræth*; akin to OHG *brādam* breath, OE *beorma* yeast – more at *BARM*] – out of breath breathing very rapidly (e.g. from strenuous exercise) – under one's breath in a whisper
- breathalyse** also **breathalyze** /ˈbreθə,liːz/ *vt* to test (e.g. a driver) for the level of alcohol in exhaled breath [back-formation fr *breathalyzer*]
- 'breathalyzer** also **breathalyzer** /-liːzə/ *n* a device used to test the alcohol content in the blood of a motorist, using consisting of a plastic bag into which the subject blows through crystals which turn green if the alcohol level is too high [breath + analyze + -er]
- breathe** /ˈbreðh/ *vi* 1 to draw air into and expel it from the lungs 2 to live 3 to pause and rest before continuing 4 of wind to blow softly 5 of wine to be exposed to the beneficial effects of air after being kept in an airtight container (e.g. a bottle) ~ *vt* 1a to send out by exhaling (< ~ d garlic over him) b to instil (as if) by breathing (< ~ new life into the movement) 2a to utter, express (< don't ~ a word of it to anyone) b to make manifest; display (< the novel ~s despair) 3 to allow (e.g. a horse) to rest after exertion 4 to inhale [ME *brethen*, fr *breth*] – breathe down someone's neck to keep sb under constant or too close surveillance (< parents always breathing down his neck) – breathe easily/freely to enjoy relief (e.g. from pressure or danger)
- breather** /ˈbreðə/ *n* 1 a small vent in an otherwise airtight enclosure (e.g. a crankcase) 2 a break in activity for rest or relief – *infrml* [BREATHE + -ER]
- breathing** /ˈbreðɪŋ/ *n* either of the marks ' and ' used in writing Greek to indicate aspiration or its absence
- 'breathing space** *n* a pause in a period of activity, esp for rest and recuperation
- breathless** /ˈbreθlɪs/ *adj* 1 not breathing; esp holding one's breath due to excitement or suspense 2a gasping; OUT OF BREATH b gripping, intense (< ~ tension) 3 without any breeze; stuffy (< a ~ summer's afternoon) – breathlessly *adv*, breathlessness *n*
- 'breath-taking** /-,tʌɪkɪŋ/ *adj* 1 making one breathless 2 exciting, thrilling (< a ~ stock car race) – breath-takingly *adv*
- 'breath test** *n*, *Br* a test made with a breathalyzer
- 'breathy** /ˈbreθi/ *adj* characterized or accompanied by the audible passage of breath – breathily *adv*, breathiness *n*
- breccia** /ˈbreki-ə, -breʃi-ə/ *n* a rock consisting of angular fragments embedded in sand, clay, etc [It]
- Brechtian** /ˈbrekhtɪ-ən/ *adj* combining left-wing political orientation with irony and avant-garde dramatic technique [Bertolt Brecht †1956 G dramatist]
- breech** /ˈbreɪtʃ/ *n* 1 the buttocks 2 the part of a firearm at the rear of the barrel [ME, breeches, fr OE *brec*, pl of *broc* leg covering; akin to OHG *bruoh* breeches, OE *brecan* to break]
- breech birth** *n* a birth in which the rear end of the baby appears first
- 'breech,block** /-,blɒk/ *n* the block that closes the rear of the barrel against the force of the charge in breech-loading firearms
- breech delivery** *n* BREECH BIRTH
- breeches** /ˈbrɪtʃɪz, -breʃɪz/ *n pl* 1 knee-length trousers, usu closely fastened at the lower edges 2 jodhpurs that are baggy at the thigh and close fitting and fastened with buttons from the knee to the ankle [ME – more at BREECH]
- breeches buoy** *n* a seat in the form of a pair of canvas breeches hung from a life buoy running on a rope leading to a place of safety for use in rescue at sea
- 'breech,loader** /-,ləʊdə/ *n* a firearm that is loaded at the breech – breech-loading *adj*
- 'breed** /ˈbreɪd/ *vb* bred /ˈbred/ *vt* 1a to produce (offspring) by hatching or gestation b to rear; BRING UP 1 (< born and bred in Somerset) 2 to produce, engender (< despair often ~s violence) 3 to propagate (plants or animals) sexually and usu under controlled conditions 4 to inculcate by training (< ~ good behaviour) 5 to produce (a fissile element) in a nuclear chain reaction ~ *vi* 1 to produce offspring by sexual union 2 to propagate animals or plants [ME *bredean*, fr OE *brēdan*; akin to OE *brōd* brood] – breeder *n*
- 'breed** *n* 1 a group of animals or plants, often specially selected, visibly similar in most characteristics 2 race, lineage 3 class, kind (< a new ~ of radicals)
- breeder reactor** /ˈbreɪdə/ *n* a nuclear reactor in which more radioactive fuel is produced than is consumed ➡ ENERGY
- breeding** /ˈbreɪdɪŋ/ *n* 1 ancestry 2 behaviour; esp that showing good manners 3 the sexual propagation of plants or animals
- 'breeding ground** *n* a place or set of circumstances favourable to the propagation of certain ideas, movements, etc
- breaks** /ˈbreɪks/ *n pl*, chiefly Scot breeches [ME (northern) *breke*, fr OE *brec*]
- 'breeze** /ˈbreɪz/ *n* 1 a light gentle wind; also a wind of between 4 and 31 mph 2 a slight disturbance or quarrel – *infrml* 3 chiefly NAm sth easily done; a cinch – *infrml* [MF *brise* NE wind, perh. alter. of *bise* cold N wind] – breezeless *adj*
- 'breeze** *vi* 1 to come in or into, or move along, swiftly and airily (< she ~ d in as if nothing had happened) 2 to make progress quickly and easily (< ~ through the books) – *infrml*
- 'breeze** *n* ashy residue from the making of coke or charcoal [prob modif of F *braise* cinders]
- 'breeze,block** *n* a rectangular building block made of breeze mixed with sand and cement
- breezy** /ˈbreɪzi/ *adj* 1 windy, fresh 2 brisk, lively 3 insouciant, airy – breezily *adv*, breeziness *n*
- bremsstrahlung** /ˈbrem.s(h)trahlʊŋ/ *n* the electromagnetic radiation produced by the sudden slowing down of a charged particle in an intense electric field [G, lit., decelerated radiation]
- 'Bren gun** /ˈbren/ *n* a gas-operated magazine-fed light machine gun [Brno, city in Czechoslovakia + Enfield, town in England]
- 'brent 'goose** /ˈbrent/ also *brant* /ˈbrant/ *n* any of several small dark geese that breed in the Arctic and migrate southwards [origin unknown]
- brassummer** /ˈbreɪsəmə/ *n* a large supporting beam set across an opening (e.g. a fireplace) [alter. of *breastsummer*]
- brethren** /ˈbredrɪn/ *pl* of BROTHER – chiefly in *fml* address or in referring to the members of a profession, society, or sect
- Breton** /ˈbret(ə)n/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Brittany 2 the Celtic language of the Bretons ➡ LANGUAGE [F, fr ML *Briton-*, *Brito*, fr L, *Briton*] – Breton *adj*
- breve** /ˈbreɪv/ *n* 1 a curved mark ~ used to indicate a short vowel or a short or unstressed syllable ➡ SYMBOL 2 a note equal in time value to 2 semibreves or 4 minims ➡ MUSIC [L, neut. of *brevis* brief – more at 'BRIEF]
- 'brevet** /ˈbreɪvɪt/ *n* a commission giving a military officer higher nominal rank than that for which he receives pay [ME, an official message, fr MF, fr OF, dim. of *bref*, *brief* letter – more at 'BRIEF]
- 'brevet** *vt* -tt-, -t- to confer a usu specified rank on by brevet
- 'breviary** /ˈbreɪvɪ-əri, -breɪ-, -yəri/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a book containing the prayers, hymns, psalms, and readings for the canonical hours 2 DIVINE OFFICE [L *breuiarium*, fr *brevis* – more at 'BRIEF]
- brevery** /ˈbreɪvɪ/ *n* 1 shortness of duration; the quality of being brief 2 expression in few words; conciseness [L *brevisitas*, fr *brevis*]
- 'brew** /ˈbruːh/ *vi* 1 to prepare (e.g. beer or ale) by steeping, boiling, and fermentation or by infusion and fermentation 2 to contrive, plot – often + *up* (< ~ up a plan) 3 to prepare (e.g. tea) by infusion in hot water ~ *vt* 1 to brew beer or ale 2 to be in the process of formation (< a storm is ~ing in the east) – often + *up* 3 chiefly Br to undergo infusion (< left the tea to ~) [ME *brewen*, fr OE *brēowan*, akin to L *fervere* to boil – more at 'BURN] – brewer *n*
- 'brew** *n* 1a a brewed beverage b(1) an amount brewed at once (2) the quality of what is brewed (< likes a nice strong ~) c a product of brewing 2 the process of brewing
- 'brewer's 'droop** /ˈbruːh-ɔː/ *n*, *Br* an inability to achieve penile erection after drinking too much alcohol – slang
- brewer's yeast** *n* a yeast used in brewing and as a source of vitamins of the B complex
- brewery** /ˈbruːh-əri/ *n* an establishment in which beer or ale is brewed
- 'Brewster sessions** /ˈbruːhstə/ *n pl* the annual sittings of magistrates at which licences to sell alcoholic drink are issued or renewed [arch *brewster* (brewer)]
- brew up** *vi*, *Br* to make tea
- 'briar** /ˈbrɪə/ *n* 'BRIER
- 'briar** *n* 1 'BRIER 2 a tobacco pipe made from the root of a briar
- 'bribe** /ˈbrɪb/ *vt* to induce or influence (as if) by bribery ~ *vi* to practise bribery ~ bribeable *adj*, briber *n*
- 'bribe** *n* sthg, esp money, given or promised to influence the judgment or conduct of a person [ME, something stolen, fr MF, bread given to a beggar]
- bribery** /ˈbrɪb(ə)ri/ *n* the act or practice of giving or taking a bribe
- bric-a-brac** /ˈbrɪk.ə.brak/ *n* miscellaneous small articles, usu of ornamental or sentimental value; curios [F *bric-à-brac*]



- 'brick** /brɪk/ *n* 1 a usu rectangular unit for building or paving purposes, typically not exceeding 215mm x 102mm x 65mm (about 8in x 3¾in x 2¼in) and made of moist clay hardened by heat  BUILDING 2 a rectangular compressed mass (e.g. of ice cream) 3 a reliable stout hearted person; a stalwart (*Angela, you're a real ~*) – infml [ME *bryke*, fr MF *bricke*, fr MD *bricke*; akin to OE *brecan* to break]
- 'brick** *vt* to close, face, or pave with bricks – usu + *up* (<ed up a disused entrance)
- 'brickbat** /-bat/ *n* 1 a fragment of a hard material (e.g. a brick), esp one used as a missile 2 a critical remark
- 'brickfield** /-feild/ *n*, *Br* a place where bricks are made
- brickie** /'briki/ *n* a bricklayer – infml
- 'bricklayer** /-layə/ *n* a person who is employed to lay bricks – bricklaying *n*
- 'brick** 'red *adj* or *n* reddish brown
- 'brickwork** /-wuhk/ *n* (the part of) a structure made from bricks and mortar  BUILDING
- 'brickyard** /-yahd/ *n* a brickfield
- bridal** /'bri:dl/ *adj* of or for a bride or wedding; nuptial
- 'bride** /bri:əd/ *n* a woman at the time of her wedding [ME, fr OE *bryd*; akin to OHG *brūt* bride]
- 'bridegroom** /-groomh, -groom/ *n* a man at the time of his wedding [ME *bridegome*, fr OE *brīdguma*, akin to OHG *brutigomo* bridegroom, both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *bryd* & by OE *guma* man – more at HOMAGE]
- 'bridesmaid** /-mayd/ *n* an unmarried girl or woman who attends a bride
- 'bridge** /bri:/ *n* 1a a structure spanning a depression or obstacle and supporting a roadway, railway, canal, or path b a time, place, or means of connection or transition 2a the upper bony part of the nose b an arch serving to raise the strings of a musical instrument c a raised platform on a ship from which it is directed d the support for a billiards or snooker cue formed esp by the hand 3a sthg (e.g. a partial denture permanently attached to adjacent natural teeth) that fills a gap b a connection (e.g. an atom or bond) that joins 2 different parts of a molecule (e.g. opposite sides of a ring) [ME *brgge*, fr OE *brycg*; akin to OHG *brucka* bridge, OSlav *brivŭno* beam]
- 'bridge** *vt* to make a bridge over or across; also to cross (e.g. a river) by a bridge – *bridgeable* *adj*
- 'bridge** *n* any of various card games for usu 4 players in 2 partnerships in which players bid for the right to name a trump suit, and in which the hand of the declarer's partner is exposed and played by the declarer, *specif* CONTRACT BRIDGE [alter. of earlier *biritch*, of unknown origin]
- 'bridgehead** /-hed/ *n* 1a a fortification protecting the end of a bridge nearest an enemy b the area round the end of a bridge 2 an advanced position, usu beyond a bridge, (to be) seized in hostile territory as a foothold for further advance
- 'bridge** 'roll *n* a small finger-shaped soft roll [prob fr 'bridge]
- 'bridge,work** /-wuhk/ *n* a dental bridge
- 'bridging** 'loan /'bri:ŋ/ *n* a short-term loan made to sby awaiting finalization of a long-term loan or mortgage
- 'bridle** /'bri:dl/ *n* 1 a framework of leather straps buckled together round the head of a draught or riding animal, including the bit and reins, used to direct and control it 2 a length of secured cable, esp on a boat, to which a second cable can be attached (e.g. for mooring) 3 a curb, restraint (*set a ~ on his power*) [ME *bridel*, fr OE *bridel*; akin to OE *bregdan* to move quickly – more at BRAID]
- 'bridle** *vb* *bridling* /'bri:dlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to put a bridle on 2 to restrain or control (as if) with a bridle (*you must learn to ~ your tongue*) – *vi* to show hostility or resentment (e.g. because of an affront), esp by drawing back the head and chin
- 'bridle** 'path *n* a track or right of way suitable for horseback riding
- 'bridleway** /-way/ BRIDLE PATH
- bridoon** /'bri:doʊn/ *n* a light snaffle bit used esp with a curb in a double bridle [F *bridon*, fr *bride* bridle]
- Brie** /bre:/ *n* a large round cream-coloured soft cheese ripened through bacterial action [F, fr *Brie*, district in France]
- 'brief** /bref/ *adj* 1 short in duration or extent 2 in few words; concise [ME *bref*, *breve*, fr MF *brief*, fr L *brevis*; akin to OHG *murg* short, Gk *brachys*] – *briefly* *adv*, *briefness* *n*
- 'brief** *n* 1 a papal directive, less binding than a bull 2a a synopsis, summary b(1) a statement of a client's case drawn up for the instruction of counsel (2) a case, or piece of employment, given to a barrister c a set of instructions outlining what is required, and usu setting limits to one's powers (e.g. in negotiating) (*her ~ was to reduce British payments*) 3 *pl* short close-fitting pants  GARMENT [ME *bref*, fr MF, fr ML *brevis*, fr LL, summary, fr L *brevis*, *adj*] – *in brief* in a few words; *briefly*
- 'brief** *vt* 1 to provide with final instructions or necessary information (< ~ *journalists about the situation*) 2 *Br* to retain (a barrister) as legal counsel
- 'briefcase** /-kays/ *n* a flat rectangular case for carrying papers or books
- 'briefing** /'bri:fiŋ/ *n* (a meeting to give out) final instructions or necessary information
- 'brier**, *briar* /'bri:ə/ *n* a plant with a woody, thorny, or prickly stem [ME *brere*, fr OE *brer*] – *briery* *adj*
- 'brier**, *briar* *n* a heath of S Europe with a root used for making pipes [F *bruyère* heath, fr (assumed) VL *brucaria*, fr LL *brucus* heather, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *froech* heather, akin to Gk *ereike* heather]
- 'brig** /brɪg/ *n* a 2-masted square-rigged sailing vessel [short for *brigantine*]
- 'brig** *n* a prison in the US Navy [prob fr 'brig]
- 'brigade** /'bri:ɡayd/ *n* 1 a large section of an army usu composed of a headquarters, several fighting units (e.g. infantry battalions or armoured regiments), and supporting units 2 an organized or uniformed group of people (e.g. firemen) [F, fr It *brigata*, fr *brigare*]
- 'brigade** *vt* to form or unite into a brigade
- 'brigadier** /'bri:ɡə'diə/ *n*  RANK [F, fr *brigade*]
- 'brigadier** 'general *n*  RANK
- 'brigalow** /'bri:ɡəloh/ *n*, *Austr* any of several species of acacia forming thick scrub [native name in Australia]
- 'brigand** /'bri:ɡənd/ *n* one who lives by plunder, usu as a member of a group, a bandit [ME *brigant*, fr MF *brigand*, fr OIt *brigante*, fr *brigare* to fight, fr *briga* strife, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *brig* strength] – *brigandage* *n*, *brigandism* *n*
- 'brigandine** /'bri:ɡəndi:n, -din/ *n* medieval body armour of mail or plate [ME, fr MF, fr *brigand*]
- 'brigantine** /'bri:ɡənti:n, -teen/ *n* a 2-masted square-rigged sailing vessel differing from a brig in not carrying a square mainsail [MF *brigantina*, fr OIt *brigantino*, fr *brigante*]
- 'bright** /bri:t/ *adj* 1a radiating or reflecting light; shining b radiant with happiness (< ~ *faces*) 2 of a colour of high saturation or brilliance 3a intelligent, clever b lively, charming (<be ~ and jovial among your guests – Shak) c promising, talented [ME, fr OE *beorht*; akin to OHG *beraht* bright, Skt *bhrajate* it shines] – *bright* *adv*, *brightly* *adv*, *brightness* *n*
- 'bright** and 'early *adv* very early in the morning – infml
- 'brighten** /'bri:tn/ *vb* to make or become bright or brighter – often + *up* – *brightener* *n*
- 'bright lights** *n pl* (the false gaiety and allure of) an urban area offering a variety of entertainments
- 'Bright's disease** /'bri:t/s/ *n* any of several kidney diseases marked by albumin in the urine [Richard Bright †1858 E physician]
- 'bright,work** /-wuhk/ *n* polished or plated metalwork
- 'brill** /brɪl/ *n*, *pl* *brill* (a European flatfish related to) the turbot [perh fr Corn *brithel* mackerel]
- 'brilliant** /'bri:ljənt, -li-ənt/ *adj* 1 very bright; glittering 2a striking, distinctive (< ~ *example*) b having great intellectual ability 3 of high quality, good – infml [F *brillant*, *prp* of *briller* to shine, fr It *brillare*, prob fr *brillo* beryl, fr L *beryllus*] – *brilliance* *n*, *brilliancey* *n*, *brilliantly* *adv*
- 'brilliant** *n* a gem, esp a diamond, cut with numerous facets for maximum brilliance
- 'brilliantine** /'bri:ljən, -teen/ *n* a preparation for making hair glossy and smooth
- 'brim** /brɪm/ *n* 1 the edge or rim of a hollow vessel, a natural depression, or a cavity 2 the projecting rim of a hat [ME *brimme*, akin to MHG *brem* edge] – *brimless* *adj*
- 'brim** *vi* -mm- to be full to the brim
- 'brimful** /'bri:m'fʊl/ *adj* full to the brim; ready to overflow
- 'brimmed** /-brɪmd/ *comb form* (– *adj*) having (such) a brim (< ~ *wide-brimmed hat*)
- 'brim over** *vi* to overflow a brim
- 'brimstone** /'bri:mstəʊn/ *n* SULPHUR 1 [ME *brinston*, prob fr *birnen* to burn + *ston* stone]
- 'brindle** /'brɪndl/ *n* a brindled colour [*brindled*, *brindle*, *adj*]
- 'brindled** /'brɪnd(ə)ld/ *adj* having obscure dark streaks or flecks on a grey or tawny ground [alter. of arch *brinded*, fr ME *brende*, *brended*; prob akin to OE *brand* brand, fire – more at BRAND]
- 'brine** /bri:n/ *n* water (almost) saturated with common salt [ME, fr OE *brȳne*; akin to MD *brine* brine, L *fricare* to rub – more at FRICTION] – *briny* *adj*, *brininess* *n*

**brine** *vt* to treat with brine (e.g. by soaking)

**Brinell number** /'brinəl/ *n* a number expressing the hardness of a metal or alloy [Johann Brinell †1925 Sw engineer]

**bring** /brɪŋ/ *vt* brought /braʊt/ 1a to convey (sthg) to a place or person; come with or cause to come b(1) to attract (*his screams brought the neighbours*) (2) to force, compel (*cannot ~ myself to do it*) (3) to cause to achieve a particular condition (< ~ water to the boil> 2a to cause to occur, lead to (*winter will ~ snow and ice*) b to initiate (< ~ legal action> c to offer, present (< ~ an argument> 3 PREFER 3 (< ~ a charge> 4 to sell for (a price) (*the car should ~ £800*) [ME *bringen*, fr OE *bringan*; akin to OHG *bringan* to bring, W *hebrwng* to accompany] – **bringer** *n* – **bring home** to make unmistakably clear to – **bring to bear** 1 to put to use (*bring knowledge to bear on the problem*) 2 to apply, exert (*bring pressure to bear on the management*) – **bring to book** 1 to put in a position in which one must answer for one's acts 2 to cause to be reproved – **bring to light** to disclose, reveal – **bring to mind** to cause to be recalled – **bring up** the rear to come last

**bring about** *vt* to cause to take place, effect

**bring down** *vt* 1 to cause to fall or come down 2 to kill by shooting (*brought the bear down with one shot*) 3 to reduce 4 to cause to be depressed – *usu pass* – **bring the house down** to win the enthusiastic approval of the audience

**bring forth** *vt* 1 to bear (*brought forth fruit*) 2 to give birth to; produce 3 to offer, present (*brought forth arguments to justify her conduct*)

**bring forward** *vt* 1 to produce to view; introduce 2 to carry (a total) forward (e.g. to the top of the next page)

**bring in** *vt* 1 to produce as profit or return (*this will bring in the money*) 2 to introduce 3 to pronounce (a verdict) in court 4 to earn (*she brings in a good salary*)

**bring off** *vt* to carry to a successful conclusion; achieve, accomplish

**bring on** *vt* 1 to cause to appear or occur 2 to improve, help

**bring out** *vt* 1 to make clear 2a to present to the public; *specif* to publish b to introduce (a young woman) formally to society 3 to utter 4 to cause (shy) to be afflicted with a rash, spots, etc – *usu + in* 5 to encourage to be less reticent – *esp in* *bring somebody out of him-/herself* 6 *chiefly Br* to instruct or cause (workers) to go on strike

**bring round** *vt* 1 to cause to adopt a particular opinion or course of action; persuade 2 to restore to consciousness; revive

**bring to** *vt* 1 to cause (a boat) to lie to or come to a standstill 2 **BRING ROUND** 2

**bring up** *vt* 1 to educate, rear 2 to cause to stop suddenly 3 to bring to attention; introduce 4 to vomit

**brinjal** /brɪnjəl/ *n* an aubergine [Pg *bringella*, *beringela*, fr Ar *bādhinjān*, fr Per *bādingān*]

**brink** /brɪŋk/ *n* 1 an edge; *esp* the edge at the top of a steep place 2 the verge, onset (< on the ~ of war> [ME, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *brekka* slope; akin to L *frons*, forehead]

**brinkmanship** /brɪŋkmənʃɪp/ *n* the art of going to the very brink of conflict, danger, etc before drawing back [*brink* + *-manship* (as in *horsemanship*)]


**briny** /brɪni/ *n* (the water of) the sea [*briny*, adj, fr *brine* + *-y*]

**brio** /bree-oh/ *n* enthusiastic vigour; vivacity, verve [It]

**brioche** /bree-oh/ *n* a light slightly sweet bread roll made with a rich yeast dough [F, fr MF dial, fr *brier* to knead, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brehhan* to break – more at **BREAK**]

**briquette** /brɪkɪt/ *n* a compacted block, usu of coal-dust [F *brique*, dim. of *brique* brick]

**brisk** /brɪsk/ *adj* 1 keenly alert; lively 2 fresh, invigorating (< ~ weather> 3 energetic, quick (< a ~ pace>) 4 sharp in tone or manner – *chiefly euph* [prob modif of MF *brusque* – more at **BRUSQUE**] – **briskly** *adv*, **briskness** *n*

**brisket** /brɪki:t/ *n* a joint of beef cut from the breast; *broadly* the breast or lower chest of a 4-legged animal  **MEAT** [ME *brusket*; akin to OE *breost* breast]

**bristling**, **bristling** /'brɪzlɪŋ, 'brɪs-/ *n* a small herring that resembles a sardine [Norw *brisling*, fr LG *bretiling*, fr *bret* broad; akin to OE *brād* broad]

**bristle** /brɪsl/ *n* a short stiff coarse hair or filament [ME *bristil*, fr *brust* bristle, fr OE *byrst*; akin to OHG *burst* bristle, L *fastigium* top]

**bristle** *vb* **bristling** /'brɪslɪŋ, 'brɪsl-/ *vi* 1a to rise and stand stiffly erect (*quills bristling in all directions*) b to raise the bristles (e.g. in anger) 2 to take on an aggressive attitude or appearance (e.g. in response to a slight) 3 to be filled or thickly covered (*with sthg suggestive of bristles*) ~ *vt* 1 to provide with bristles 2 to make bristly; ruffle?

**bristle, tail** /-ˌtaɪl/ *n* any of various wingless insects with 2 or 3 slender bristles at the hind end of the body

**bristly** /'brɪsl/ *adj* 1a consisting of or resembling bristles b thickly covered with bristles 2 tending to bristle easily, belligerent

**Bristol, fashion** /'brɪsl/ *adj* in good order; spick-and-span – *usu in all shipshape and Bristol fashion* [Bristol, England, important seaport]

**bristols** *n pl*, **Br breasts** – *vulg* [rhyming slang *Bristol (City)* titty, breast]

**Brit** /brɪt/ *n* a British person – *infmt*



**Britannia, metal** /brɪˈtɒniə/ *n* a silver-white alloy of tin, antimony, and copper [Britannia, poetic name for Great Britain, fr L]

**Britannia silver** *n* silver of at least 95.84 per cent purity

**Britannic** /brɪˈtɒnik/ *adj* British – *infmt* (*Her ~ Majesty*)


**britches** /'brɪtʃɪz/ *n pl* breeches

**British** /'brɪtɪʃ/ *n* 1 the Celtic language of the ancient Britons 2 *pl in constr* the people of Britain 3 *chiefly NAM* English as typically spoken and written in Britain [ME *Bruttische* of Britain, fr OE *Brettisc*, of Celt origin; akin to W *Brython* Briton]

**British** *adj* of Britain, its people, or their language   **HISTORY** – **Britishness** *n*

**Britisher** /'brɪtɪʃə/ *n*, *chiefly NAM* **BRITON** 2

**British 'Summer Time** *n* time 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time that is used in Britain during the summer and is the same as Central European Time – compare **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

**British 'thermal unit** *n* the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 lb of water by 1°F under standard conditions  **UNIT**

**Briton** /brɪt(ə)n/ *n* 1 a member of any of the peoples inhabiting Britain before the Anglo-Saxon invasions 2 a native, inhabitant, or subject of Britain [ME *Breton*, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *Briton*-, *Brito*, of Celt origin, akin to W *Brython*]

**brittle** /brɪtl/ *adj* 1a easily broken or cracked b insecure, frail (< a ~ friendship> 2 easily hurt or offended, sensitive (< a ~ personality> 3 sharp, tense (< a ~ sound> 4 lacking warmth or depth of feeling (< ~ gaiety> [ME *brutl*; akin to OE *breotan* to break, Skt *bhrūna* embryo] – **brittly** /brɪtl-/ *adv*, **brittleness** *n*

**brittle star** *n* any of a subclass or class of starfish that have slender flexible arms

**'broach** /broʊch/ *n* 1 any of various pointed or tapered tools e.g. a a bit for boring holes b a tool for tapping casks 2 a spit for roasting meat [ME *broche*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *brocca*, fr L, fem of *broccus* projecting]

**'broach** *vt* 1a to pierce (a container, esp a cask or bottle) prior to using the contents; tap b to open up or break into (e.g. a store or stock of sthg) and start to use 2 to open up (a subject) for discussion

**'broach** *vi*, *of a boat* to change direction dangerously, esp so as to lie broadside to the waves – *usu + to ~ vt* to cause (a boat) to broach [perh fr 'broach]

**'broad** /braʊd/ *adj* 1a having ample extent from side to side or between limits (< ~ shoulders> b in width; across (*made the path 10 feet ~*) 2 extending far and wide; spacious (< the ~ plains> 3a open, full – *esp in* *broad daylight* b plain, obvious (< a ~ hint> 4 marked by lack of restraint or delicacy; coarse 5a liberal, tolerant b widely applicable or applied; general 6 relating to the main points (< ~ outlines> 7 dialectal, esp in pronunciation 8 of a vowel open – used *specif* of a pronounced as /ah/ [ME *brood*, fr OE *brād*, akin to OHG *brat* broad] – **broadly** *adv*

**'broad** *adv* in a broad manner; fully


**'broad** *n* 1 the broad part (< ~ of his back> 2 *often cap*, *Br* a large area of fresh water formed by the broadening of a river – *usu pl*; used *chiefly* with reference to such formations found in S Anglia 3 a prostitute – *slang* 4 *chiefly NAM* a woman – *slang*

**'broad arrow** *n* 1 an arrow with a flat barbed head 2 *Br* a mark like a broad arrow that identifies government property, including clothing formerly worn by convicts

**'broad bean** *n* (the large flat edible seed of) a widely cultivated Old World leguminous plant

**'broadcast** /'braʊd,kɑst/ *adj* cast or scattered in all directions [*'broadcast* + *cast*, fr pp of 'cast]

**'broadcast** *n* 1 the act of transmitting by radio or television 2 a single radio or television programme **USE**  **TELEVISION**

**'broadcast** *vb* **broadcast** also **broadcasted** *vt* 1 to scatter or sow (seed) broadcast 2 to make widely known 3 to transmit as a broadcast, esp for widespread reception  **TELEVISION** ~ *vi* 1 to transmit a broadcast 2 to speak or perform on a broadcast programme – **broadcaster** *n*

**'broadcast** *adv* to or over a broad area

**Broad 'Church** *adj* of 19th-c liberal Anglicanism

**'broad, cloth** /-kloth/ *n* a twilled napped woollen or worsted fabric with a smooth lustrous finish and dense texture

**broaden** /'braʊdn/ *vb* to make or become broad

**'broad jump** *n*, *NAm* LONG JUMP

**'broad, leaf** /-leef/ *adj* broad-leaved

**'broad-leaved** *adj* having broad leaves; *specif.* of a tree not coniferous

**'broad, loom** /-loohm/ *n* or *adj* (a carpet) woven on a wide loom

**broad-minded** *adj* tolerant of varied views, unconventional behaviour, etc; liberal – **broad-mindedly** *adv*, **broad-mindedness** *n*

**'broad, sheet** /-sheet/ *n* 1 a large sheet of paper printed on 1 side only; also sthg (e.g. an advertisement) printed on a broadsheet 2 a newspaper whose page depth is the full size of a rotary press plate – compare **TABLOID**

**'broad, side** /-sied/ *n* 1 the side of a ship above the waterline 2 a broadsheet 3a (the simultaneous firing of) all the guns on 1 side of a ship b a forceful verbal or written attack

**'broadside** *adv* with the broadside or broader side towards a given object or point

**broad-spectrum** *adj* effective against various insects or microorganisms (< ~ antibiotic)

**'broad, sword** /-sawd/ *n* a sword with a broad blade for cutting rather than thrusting

**Broadway** /'braʊdweɪ/ *n* the New York commercial theatre and amusement world [Broadway, street in New York on or near which were once located most of the city's legitimate theatres] – **Broadway** *adj*

**Broddingnagian** /'broddɪŋnəʒi-ən/ *adj* gigantic, towering [Broddingnag, imaginary country inhabited by giants in Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift †1745 Ir satirist]

**brocade** /brə'keɪd/ *n* a rich (silk) fabric woven with raised patterns [Sp *brocado*, fr Catal *brocat*, fr It *broccato*, fr *broccare* to spur, brocade, fr *brocco* small nail, fr L *broccus* projecting] – **brocade** *vi*, **brocaded** *adj*

**brocatelle** /brə'kætəl/ *n* a stiff fabric with patterns in high relief [F, fr It *broccatello*, dim of *broccato*]

**broccoli** /brə'kɒli/ *n* 1 a large hardy cauliflower 2 broccoli, sprouting broccoli a branching form of cauliflower whose young shoots are used for food [It, pl of *broccolo* flowering top of a cabbage, dim of *brocco* small nail, sprout]

**broch** /brɒk/, brɔːk/ *n* any of several ancient fortified circular towers found in the N and W of Scotland and adjacent islands [Sc *broch*, *bruch*, lit., borough, fr ME (Sc) *burgh*, alter of ME *burgh* – more at **BOROUGH**]

**brochette** /brə'shet, brɒh-/ *n* (food) grilled on a skewer [F, fr OF *brochette*, fr *broche* pointed tool – more at **BROACH**]

**brochure** /brəʊʃə, brɒh'shoʊ-/ *n* a small pamphlet [F, fr *brocher* to sew, fr MF, to prick, fr OF *brochier*, fr *broche*]

**brock** /brɒk/ *n*, *archaic* a badger – now used chiefly in stones as a name for the badger [ME, fr OE *broc*, of Celt origin; akin to W *broch* badger]

**brocket** /brɒkɪt/ *n* 1 a male red deer 2 years old – compare **PRICKET** 2 any of several small S American deer with unbranched horns [ME *broket*, prob modif of ONF *brocard*, *brockart* fallow deer 1 year old]

**broderie anglaise** /brəʊdəri 'ɒŋg-ɡleɪz, -'-/ 1 openwork embroidery, usu in white thread, on white fine cloth 2 cloth embroidered with broderie anglaise [F, lit., English embroidery]

**'brogue** /brɒg/ *n* a stout walking shoe characterized by decorative perforations on the uppers ⇨ **GARMENT** [IrGael & ScGael *bróg*, fr MÍr *broc*, fr ON *brók* leg covering; akin to OE *bróc* leg covering – more at **BREECH**]

**'brogue** *n* a dialect or regional pronunciation; esp an Irish accent [perh fr IrGael *bróg* wrestling hold, bond (as in *bróg teangan* lisp, lit., hold of the tongue)]

**broil** /brɔɪl/ *vt* to cook by direct exposure to radiant heat (e.g. over a fire); *specif.* *NAm* to grill ~ *vi* to become extremely hot [ME *broilen*, fr MF *bruier* to burn, modif of L *stulari* to singe, fr *ustus*, pp of *urere* to burn]

**broiler** /brɔɪlə/ *n* a bird suitable for grilling; esp a young chicken [BROIL + -ER]

**'broke** /brɒk/ *past* of **BREAK**

**'broke** *adj* penniless – infml; compare **STONY-BROKE** [ME, alter. of *broken*]

**broken** /brɒkən/ *adj* 1 violently separated into parts; shattered 2a having undergone or been subjected to fracture (< a ~ leg) b of a land surface irregular, interrupted, or full of obstacles (< ~ ground) c not

fulfilled, violated (< a ~ promise) d discontinuous, interrupted 3a made weak or infirm b subdued completely; crushed (< a ~ spirit) c not working; defective 4a cut off; disconnected b adversely affected or disrupted by marital separation or divorce (< ~ marriage) (< a ~ home) c imperfect (< ~ English) [ME, fr OE *brocen*, fr pp of *brecan* to break] – **brokenly** *adv*, **brokenness** *n*

**'broken-down** *adj* 1 in a state of disrepair; wrecked, dilapidated 2 spiritually or physically ill or exhausted

**'broken-hearted** /-haɪtɪd/ *adj* overcome by grief or despair

**'broken wind** /wind/ *n* a chronic respiratory disease of horses marked by a persistent cough and heaving of the flanks – **broken-winded** *adj*

**broker** /brɒkə/ *n* 1 one who acts as an intermediary (e.g. in a business deal) 2 an agent who negotiates contracts of purchase and sale (e.g. of commodities or securities) [ME, negotiator, fr (assumed) AF *broccour*; akin to OF *broche* pointed tool, tap of a cask – more at **BROACH**]

**brokerage** /brɒk(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 the business of a broker 2 the fee or commission for transacting business as a broker

**broking** /brɒkɪŋ/ *n* **BROKERAGE** 1 [fr prp of obs *broke* (to negotiate), prob back-formation fr *broker*]

**broilga** /brɔɪgə/ *n* an Australian bird that is a large crane with grey plumage [native name in Australia]

**broily** /brɔɪli/ *n*, chiefly *Br* an umbrella – infml [by shortening & alter]

**brom-** /brɒhm-/ , **bromo-** *comb form* bromine (< bromobenzene) [prob fr F *brome*, fr Gk *bromos* bad smell]

**bromate** /brɒhmaɪt/ *n* a salt of bromic acid

**bromeliad** /brɒh'meɪliəd/ *n* any of a family of chiefly tropical American plants including the pineapple and various ornamental plants [NI *Bromelia*, genus of tropical American plants, fr Olaf *Bromelius* †1705 Sv botanist]

**bromic** /brɒhmɪk/ *adj* of or containing (pentavalent) bromine

**'bromic acid** *n* an unstable strongly oxidizing acid

**bromide** /brɒhmɪd/ *n* 1 a compound of bromine with another element or radical, esp any of various bromides formerly used as sedatives 2 a commonplace or hackneyed statement or notion

**bromine** /brɒhmeɪn, -mɪn/ *n* a nonmetallic element, usu occurring as a deep red corrosive toxic liquid ⇨ **PERIODIC TABLE** [F *brome* bromine + E *-ine*]

**bronch-** /brɒŋk-/ , **broncho-** *comb form* bronchial tube; bronchial (< bronchitis) [prob fr F, throat, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *bronchos* – more at **CRAW**]

**bronchi-** /brɒŋkɪ-/ , **bronchio-** *comb form* bronchial tubes (< bronchiectasis) [NL, fr *bronchia*, pl, branches of the bronchi, fr Gk, dim of *bronchos* bronchus]

**bronchial** /brɒŋkɪ-əl/ *adj* of the bronchi or their ramifications in the lungs – **bronchially** *adv*

**bronchiectasis** /brɒŋkɪ'ektəsɪs/ *n* abnormal dilation of the bronchial tubes, often as a result of infection [NL]

**bronchiole** /brɒŋkɪəʊl/ *n* a minute thin-walled branch of a bronchus ⇨ **DIGESTION** [NL *bronchiolum*, dim. of *bronchia*] – **bronchiolar** /brɒŋkɪ'ɒlɪ-/ *adj*

**bronchitis** /brɒŋkɪ'tɪs/ *n* (a disease marked by) acute or chronic inflammation of the bronchial tubes accompanied by a cough and catarrh [NL] – **bronchitic** /brɒŋkɪ'tɪk/ *adj*

**bronchopneumonia** /brɒŋkɒhnoʊ'mɒhniə, -ni-ə/ *n* pneumonia involving many widely scattered but small patches of lung tissue [NL]

**bronchus** /brɒŋkəs/ *n*, pl **bronchi** /brɒŋkɪ-, -ki-/ either of the 2 main branches of the windpipe ⇨ **DIGESTION** [NL, fr Gk *bronchos*]

**bronco** /brɒŋkɒh/ *n*, pl **broncos** an unbroken or imperfectly broken horse of western N America [MexSp, fr Sp, rough, wild]

**brontosaurus** /brɒntə'sɔːrəs/ *n* any of various large 4-legged and prob plant-eating dinosaurs [deriv of Gk *bronte* thunder (akin to Gk *bremien* to roar) + *sauros* lizard – more at **SAURIAN**]

**'bronze** /brɒnz/ *vt* 1 to give the appearance of bronze to 2 to make brown or tanned

**'bronze** *n* 1 any of various copper-base alloys, esp one containing tin 2 a sculpture or artefact made of bronze 3 a yellowish-brown colour 4 **BRONZE MEDAL** (< won a ~ in the 100 metres) [F, fr It *bronz*, perh fr Per *birinj*, *pirinj* copper] – **bronze** *adj*, **bronz *adj***

**'Bronze Age** *n* the period of human culture characterized by the use of bronze or copper tools and weapons

**'bronze medal** *n* a medal of bronze awarded to sby who comes third in a competition – **bronze medalist** *n*

**brooch** /brɒtʃ/ *n* an ornament worn on clothing and fastened by means of a pin [ME *broche* pointed tool, brooch – more at **BROACH**]

## A TABLE OF MAJOR EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

PRE-ROMAN TIMES	<b>10,000 BC</b>	Ice cap recedes. Land bridge between Britain and Continent covered with water. <i>Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic) culture – reindeer hunting</i>
	<b>9000–8000</b>	<i>Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) culture – deer hunting, shaped flints, oxen</i>
	<b>4500 (ca)</b>	<i>Malpas (Mesolithic) culture</i>
	<b>2700</b>	<i>Windmill Hill culture (Neolithic). Slash &amp; burn farming. Indo Europeans enter S.E. Britain.</i> <i>Megaliths – Stonehenge. Ancestors of Picts in Scotland. Dead buried in barrows.</i>
	<b>1800</b>	<i>Bronze Age men arrive. Round burial mounds. Iberian type.</i> <i>Beaker People, distinctive pottery.</i>
	<b>1000</b>	
	<b>800</b>	<i>Some immigration in S.E. England by early Celtic tribes.</i> <i>Cremation of dead. Aryan languages.</i> <i>Ploughs.</i>
	<b>500</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts (early Iron Age) enter S.E. England.</i> <i>Two language types: Goidels (ancestors of Irish, Scottish Highlanders, Manx), Brythons (ancestors of Welsh and Cornish).</i>
	<b>375</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts occupy all southern England. Trade in tin with Continent.</i>
	<b>323</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts in all England. Iberians still dominate Scotland, Ireland.</i>
	<b>301</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts move into Scotland.</i>
	<b>250</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts move further into Scotland.</i>
	<b>220</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts reach Highlands. La Tene Celts (same as Gauls) enter S.E. England.</i>
	<b>190</b>	<i>La Tene Celts dominate south of England. Hallstatt Celts dominate all but east Highlands &amp; Ireland.</i>
	<b>150</b>	<i>Hallstatt Celts squeezed by Ligurian resurgence from Highlands. La Tene occupation of Lowlands.</i>
	<b>75</b>	<i>La Tene Celts in England. Iberians in Scotland and Ireland.</i>
	<b>55</b>	<i>Julius Caesar crosses to Britain from Gaul to reconnoitre for future invasion.</i>
	<b>54</b>	<i>Caesar's second visit.</i>
	<b>44</b>	<i>Belgae (a strong confederation of Gauls) occupy S.E. England. heavy plough.</i> <i>Much trade with province of Gaul. Ford at site of London develops into a trading post after Claudian conquest.</i>
ROMAN OCCUPATION BEGINS	<b>AD 1</b>	
	<b>43</b>	<i>Emperor Claudius conquers east and south. Defeats Caractacus and captures Camulodunum (Colchester).</i>
	<b>47</b>	<i>Governor of Britain establishes frontier from Severn to Trent.</i>
	<b>51</b>	<i>Caractacus defeated in Wales.</i>
	<b>61</b>	<i>Boudicca (Boadicea) leads Iceni tribe in rebellion.</i>
	<b>62</b>	<i>Boudicca defeated.</i>
	<b>68</b>	<i>Tribe of Brigantes defects.</i>
	<b>74</b>	<i>Brigantes defeated.</i>
	<b>78</b>	<i>Wales finally subjugated.</i>
	<b>81–84</b>	<i>Agricola builds fortresses between Forth and Clyde to contain Picts.</i>
100	<b>99–110</b>	<i>Isca (Exeter), Deva (Chester) and Eboracum (York) fortresses rebuilt in stone.</i>
		<i>Romans established five self governing cities (St Albans, Colchester, Lincoln, Gloucester and York) and divided the rest of the country into tribal districts ruled by loyal Celtic chiefs, where possible.</i>
	<b>117</b>	<i>Revolt in northern Britain.</i>
	<b>120</b>	<i>Hadrian visits Britain, starts Hadrian's Wall from Solway to Tyne.</i>
	<b>139–42</b>	<i>Romans advance north, build Antonine Wall from Forth to Clyde.</i>
	<b>155–58</b>	<i>Revolt in Scotland put down.</i>
	<b>180</b>	<i>Revolt in Scotland. Antonine Wall broken.</i>
	<b>197</b>	<i>Maeatae overrun Hadrian's Wall. Destroy Eboracum. Romans regain control, rebuild forts.</i>
200		
	<b>205–08</b>	<i>Hadrian's Wall rebuilt. Emperor Severus leads campaign against Caledonians.</i>
	<b>211</b>	<i>Severus dies at Eboracum.</i>
	<b>212</b>	<i>Caracalla divides Britain into two provinces, grants Roman citizenship to all free provincials.</i>
	<b>259–74</b>	<i>Britain forms part of Gallic Empire under Postumus and his successors.</i> <i>Religion of Mithras popular with soldiers and merchants.</i>
	<b>287</b>	<i>Carausius, commander of the British fleet, usurps Britain and northern Gaul.</i>
	<b>293</b>	<i>Carausius killed and replaced by Allectus.</i>
	<b>296</b>	<i>Constantius Caesar recaptures Britain, builds up Deva and Eboracum – reorganizes Britain into four provinces.</i>
300		
	<b>306</b>	<i>Emperor Constantius dies at Eboracum.</i>
	<b>313–14</b>	<i>After Edict of Toleration recognized Christian Church, three British bishops attended Council of Arles.</i>
	<b>343–60</b>	<i>Attempts to pacify Picts and Scots.</i>
	<b>364</b>	<i>Raids by Picts, Scots, Attacotti, Saxons.</i>
	<b>387</b>	<i>Invasion by Picts, Scots, Attacotti. Saxon pirates. Count of Saxon Shore killed. Duke of Britain defeated.</i>
	<b>388</b>	<i>Count Theodosius restores Roman control.</i>
	<b>383–89</b>	<i>Revolt by Magnus Maximus. Defeated by Theodosius. Hadrian's Wall overrun and never rebuilt.</i>

400	406–10	All Roman legions removed from Britain. British cities must defend themselves.
	432–617	<i>St Patrick brings Christianity to Ireland</i>
	446	British make final appeal to Rome for protection.
	449	Vortigern invites Hengest and Horsa and other Saxons to help defend Britain against the Picts. Instead, they establish a Jutish kingdom in Kent and many more Saxons enter Britain.
	460–80	Ambrosius Aurelianus, Romano-British leader, keeps Saxons in S.E. England.
500	490 (ca)	Arthur, Romano-British leader, defeats Saxons at Mount Badon and delays their westward expansion.
	511	Arthur killed at Battle of Camlann.
	550–90	West Saxons defeat Welsh at Deorham, Gloucestershire but are then checked. <i>Christianity survives in Wales throughout this period</i>
	563	<i>St Columba brings Irish Christianity to Scotland. Founders monastery at Iona.</i>
	591	Augustine, a Roman monk, brings Roman Christianity to Kent under King Ethelbert.
600	600	First Archbishop of Canterbury.
	616	Northumbrian Saxons separate Britons in Wales from those in the North by winning battle at Chester.
	627	Edwin, King of Northumbria, is converted to Roman Christianity by Ethelberga and Paulinus from Kent. Founding of Edinburgh. Saxons occupy lowlands.
	633	Penda of Mercia, champion of paganism, kills Edwin, but <i>Irish Christianity takes root in Northumbria under the leadership of Aidan from Iona. He founded Lindisfarne monastery.</i>
	655	Oswy reunites Northumbria, kills Penda. Mercia accepts Christianity.
700	664	Synod of Whitby. Oswy decides that the North will accept the authority of Roman Christianity. <i>Cultural flowering of Anglo-Saxon literature. Caedmon the poet. Learning fostered by Theodore of Tarsus, next Archbishop of Canterbury. Latin and Greek scholarship. Schools.</i>
	690	Laws of Ine of Wessex written down.
	673–735	Venerable Bede writes <i>History of the English Church and People</i> at Jarrow. Heptarchy of the seven Saxon kingdoms takes shape: Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent, Sussex, East Anglia, Essex. First three are dominant.
	757–96	Offa II rules Mercia. Dyke built as defence from Welsh. Mercia, strongest kingdom.
	787	First appearance of Danes at Weymouth. <i>Alcuin of York takes English learning to court of Charlemagne.</i>
800	800	Century of Viking raids.
	825	Egbert breaks Mercia's power. Wessex now strongest kingdom. Saxons have moots to decide on actions. Annual Witanmoots.
	851	Danes attempt major invasion by sea.
	866–71	Danes settle on land and raid on horseback.
	871–900	Alfred the Great.
900	877	Danes fail at second invasion attempt at Swanage. Alfred drives them from Exeter.
	878	Alfred defeats Danes under Guthrum at Ethandune. Guthrum accepts Christianity and agrees to live in Danelaw by peace of Wedmore. There are further Danish raids by sea, however. <i>Alfred revives schooling, learning. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle started.</i>
	900–40	Edward the Elder and Athelstan conquer Danelaw and become first kings of all England, though York not finally defeated until 954.
	937	Athelstan defeats league of Scots, British, and Danes at Brunanburh.
	959–75	Edgar, next strong king, supports Dunstan's reforms of monasteries, inspired by Clunian reforms in France. Dunstan becomes Archbishop of Canterbury. Unites crown and church interests.
1000	975–79	Edward the Martyr's short reign ends in murder.
	979–1016	Ethelred the Redeless (Unready) fails to resist new Danish invasions.
	1001	Danish land tax, Danegeld, is paid.
	1002	Ethelred massacres Danes.
	1003–13	Sweyn Fork-beard raids England in revenge.
	1016	Edmund Ironside, elected king after Ethelred dies, but he is defeated by Danes and murdered.
	1016	Canute, King of Denmark, Norway, and Hebrides, becomes King of England – reconciles English and Danes, church and state.
	1031	Malcolm II of Scotland swears allegiance to Canute.
	1036	Canute dies. Succeeded by short reigns of Harthacnut and Harold.
	1042–66	Edward the Confessor. Norman influence increases in England. Robert of Jumièges becomes Archbishop of Canterbury and leads Norman party against Godwin, Earl of Wessex.
	1053	Godwin dies. Harold becomes Earl of Wessex.
	1066	Edward dies. Harold elected king by Witan.
		Harold defeats Tostig and Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.
		William, Duke of Normandy, defeats English at Battle of Hastings.

BRITISH ISLES		EUROPE	
WILLIAM I	<b>1066</b> <b>1068</b> William completes conquest of southern England <b>1069</b> Edgar and Edwin of Northumbria and Morcar of Mercia rebel William defeats them and lays waste the North <b>1070–71</b> Hereward the Wake stands at Ely but is defeated <b>1070</b> The Norman Lanfranc becomes Archbishop of Canterbury <b>1075</b> William suppresses Norman barons and consolidates his rule by building castles granting land to barons who owe duty directly to him <b>1086</b> Salisbury Decree regulates feudal system in England <b>1086</b> Domesday Survey made for taxation		
	<b>1087</b> <b>1089–93</b> No Archbishop of Canterbury until Anselm <b>1100</b> William mysteriously killed	<b>1087</b> William killed in Normandy <b>1096</b> Robert Duke of Normandy joins First Crusade	
	<b>1100</b> HENRY I		
	<b>1106</b> Henry and Anselm compromise on powers of church and state Curia Regis and Exchequer become separate <b>1120</b> Henry's legitimate male heir dies at sea <b>1120</b> Council swears allegiance to Matilda Henry's daughter wife of Geoffrey Plantagenet <b>1135–54</b> War of Succession between Stephen and Matilda <i>Cistercian monasteries founded especially in North on wasteland Develop sheep farming later to become basis of England's wool trade</i> <b>1153</b> Peace of Wallingford settles inheritance on Matilda's son <b>1154</b> First Plantagenet king of England <b>1154</b> Thomas a Becket becomes Chancellor Nicholas Breakspear becomes Adrian IV only English Pope <b>1162</b> Chancellor Thomas a Becket becomes Archbishop of Canterbury Becket and Henry quarrel about church authority <b>1170</b> Thomas a Becket murdered	<b>1106</b> Henry defeats Robert in Normandy and imprisons him <b>1113–21</b> Wars in France Henry rules England Normandy Brittany Anjou Maine Touraine Aquitaine (from his wife Eleanor) and Toulouse	
	STEPHEN	<b>WALES</b> <b>By 1100</b> Normans establish Marcher Lords on border <b>1194–1240</b> Llewelyn the Great reconquers Powys <b>1263–65</b> Llewelyn ap Griffith supports Simon de Montfort <b>1277–84</b> Conquest of Wales by Edward I Castles built to keep power <b>1300–1425</b> <i>Traditional tales now called Mabinogion and Book of Taliesin written down</i>	
HENRY II	<b>1189</b> <b>1190–93</b> Richard joins Third Crusade <b>1194–98</b> Hubert Walter rules while Richard is in Normandy <b>1199–1200</b> Justices of the Peace begin	<b>1189</b> Henry II dies after sons rebellion <b>1199</b> Richard killed in France	
RICHARD I			
<b>1200</b> JOHN	<b>1206–13</b> John struggles with Pope Innocent III about election of Stephen Langdon as Archbishop of Canterbury After papal interdict of 5 years John agrees <b>1216</b> Magna Carta establishes basic rights of free man <i>Founding of colleges at Oxford and Cambridge during this reign</i> <b>1244</b> Barons demand power to supervise Treasury <b>1263</b> Simon de Montfort reforms Parliament invites two knights from each shire two burghers from each town <b>1265</b> Simon de Montfort killed rebellion crushed <b>1272</b> Wars against French Scots Welsh <b>1290</b> Edward I expels Jews <b>1295</b> Model Parliament with representatives from towns and shires grants money for wars against Scots and French		
HENRY III	<b>1307</b> Edward I dies marching against Robert Bruce <b>1312</b> Edward II's favourite Piers Gaveston killed by barons who take power <b>1322</b> Edward recovers powers of crown from barons <b>1326–27</b> Queen Isabella and Roger Mortimer with barons depose Edward who is killed <b>1327</b> <b>1330</b> Edward III takes full power from Isabella and Mortimer Black Death ravages Europe kills a third of the English <b>1351–65</b> Series of statutes makes England more independent of continental and papal laws Statute of Labourers fixes wages and prices <b>1377</b> John of Gaunt dominant in Parliament John Wycliffe preaches Lollardy translates Bible into English <b>1381</b> Peasants Revolt against taxes restrictions Peasants defeated <b>1386</b> Geoffrey Chaucer writes <i>Canterbury Tales</i> <b>1398–99</b> Henry Bolingbroke and Richard II struggle for Crown Richard II captured Dies in 1400 <b>1399</b> First Lancastrian king of England	<b>SCOTLAND</b> <b>1100</b> Scottish kingship was Anglo Norman <b>1124–53</b> David I invades England during Stephen's wars <b>1138</b> Scots clansmen lose Battle of the Standard <b>1290</b> Succession crisis Edward I chooses John Balliol <b>1297</b> William Wallace defeats English at Stirling <b>1298</b> English defeat Wallace at Falkirk <b>1314</b> Robert Bruce defeats English at Bannockburn Becomes king till 1327 <b>1346</b> Scots invade England but lose battle at Neville's Cross Scots retain independence and ally with French henceforth	<b>1202–04</b> John loses all French possess one except Aquitaine to Philip II of France <b>1226</b> Great Council refuses payment to Pope Early example of English independence Edward makes many attempts to regain French lands France supports barons against Edward II
EDWARD I			
<b>1300</b>			
EDWARD II			
EDWARD III		<b>1337–1453</b> Hundred Years War between France and England caused by French support for Scotland French attacks in Gascony and interference with English wool trade Key events to 1399 1) English victory at Crécy 1346 2) English capture French King at Poitiers 1356 3) Treaty of Bretigny 1360 England gains S.W. France 4) War renewed 1369 Black Prince sacks Limoges 1370 French win back some territories <b>1350–72</b> Sea battles with Spain	
RICHARD II			
HENRY IV			
	<b>IRELAND</b> <b>1014</b> Brian Boru fails to unite Celts but stops Normans at Clontarf <b>1169–71</b> Richard de Clare leads adventurers in conquering Ireland with support of Pope Adrian IV <b>1394</b> Richard II visits Ireland reforms administration <b>1399</b> Richard II returns to Ireland to crush rebellion		



## BRITISH ISLES

1400

**1400–15** Welsh rebel under Owen Glendower Gradually worn down**1406** Parliament gains control of all public grants of money**1408** Last of three revolts of Percys put down

HENRY V

**1413** Henry has support of Parliament

Lollards persecuted during this reign

HENRY VI

**1422** Henry V dies, leaving infant son

Duke of Gloucester becomes Regent

**1445** Henry VI marries Margaret of Anjou as move towards peace with France – she later supports him during Wars of the Roses**1450** Rivalry between House of Lancaster and York begins**1453** First attack of mental illness in Henry VI Duke of York becomes Protector**1455–85** Wars of the Roses**1455** First battle in St Albans

EDWARD IV

**1461****1461** Edward IV defeats Henry at Towton**1469** *Sir Thomas Malory writes 'Morte d'Arthur'***1470** Earl of Warwick restores Henry VI**1471** Edward defeats Henry at Tewkesbury Henry killed in the Tower**1477** *Caxton sets up first printing press in England at Westminster***1480** War with Scotland

EDWARD V

RICHARD III

**1483****1483** Edward V and his brother Richard, Princes in the Tower, put to death**1485** Richard III killed at Bosworth

HENRY VII

**1485** First Tudor king of England**1486** Henry marries Elizabeth of York**1487** Henry defeats pretender Lambert Simnel, Star Chamber begins Henry consolidates power, strengthens courts, raises revenue**1492–99** Perkin Warbeck tries to gain Crown, supported by Scotland**1499** *Erasmus visits England*

1500

**1503** James IV of Scotland marries Henry's daughter, Margaret Attempt at alliance, not successful

HENRY VIII

**1509****1509** Henry marries Catherine of Aragon, to ally with Spain**1516** *Sir Thomas More writes 'Utopia'***1521–33** Henry attempts to divorce Catherine**1521** Henry starts divorce proceedings against Catherine – protracted negotiations lead to separation from Rome**1533** Henry marries Anne Boleyn Thomas Cranmer becomes Archbishop of Canterbury**1534** Act of Supremacy Henry becomes head of English Church**1535** *Sir Thomas More and Cardinal Fisher executed***1536** Dissolution of monasteries begins Tyndale dies**1538** *Great Bible issued, in English*

Henry has four other wives, only one of whom, Jane Seymour, gives him a male heir

EDWARD VI

**1547****1549** *Cranmer publishes 'Book of Common Prayer' – its use is enforced by law***1553** Lady Jane Grey, Queen for nine days

MARY

**1553****1554** Wyatt's rebellion in favour of Protestantism suppressed Mary marries Philip of Spain**1555** Persecution of Protestants Cranmer executed

ELIZABETH I

**1558****1559** English Church restored to its former position under Henry VIII**1568** Mary Queens of Scots imprisoned**1577–80** *Drake's voyage around the world***1581** Jesuit missions to England**1587** Mary Queen of Scots executed**1588** English prevent invasion by Spanish Armada**1590** *Edmund Spenser's 'Faerie Queen' published**Cultural flowering at Elizabeth's court***1590** Earl of Essex fails to put down Irish Rebellion under Earl of Tyrone**1600** Essex executed

## EUROPE

**1415–53** Second half of Hundred Years War

Key events –

1) English victories at Harfleur and Agincourt, 1415

2) Treaty of Troyes gives Henry the French throne 1420

3) Joan of Arc revives French spirit 1429

4) French conquer all English-held lands except Calais 1453

**1475** Louis XI grants pension to Edward to obtain peace, but supports Scots in their war

## IRELAND

**1487** Yorkist intrigues against Henry VII**1494** Poyning's Law placed Irish Parliament under English rule**1493** Pope Alexander VI divides New World between Spain and Portugal with Line of Demarcation

## SCOTLAND

**1513** James IV and many nobles killed at Flodden**1542–67** Reign of Mary Stuart**1542–59** Regency of Mary of Guise**1559** Rise of John Knox, Calvinist reformer**1561–68** Mary Stuart in Scotland Scots disapprove of her religion and marriages to Darnley and Bothwell**1567** Mary's son James becomes James VI of Scotland**1568** Mary flees to England, leaving James in Scotland**1603** James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England**1512–13** Henry and Wolsey wage war against France**1517** Luther begins his protest against Rome**1521** Field of the Cloth of Gold Henry negotiates with Francis I of France and – separately – with Emperor Charles**1525** Charles defeats Francis at Pavia Wolsey's continental adventures unpopular at home**1547** Peace with France**1558** Loss of Calais, last French possession**1572** St Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Protestants in France forces Elizabeth to head the Protestant cause**1585** Elizabeth briefly assists Dutch rebellion against Hapsburgs Leicester's expedition defeated East India Company founded

## BRITISH ISLES

1600

JAMES I

- 1601 Poor Law
- 1603 First Stuart king of England and Ireland
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot foiled
- 1611 *Authorized version of the Bible*
- 1614–21 Parliament suspended Beginnings of struggle with King
- 1616 *William Shakespeare dies*
- Arts *Donne, Suckling, Jonson, Marvell, Herbert, Campion, Inigo Jones*
- 1625
- 1628 Petition of Right limits King's power Buckingham assassinated
- 1629–41 Charles governs without Parliament, by advice of Archbishop Laud and Sir Thomas Wentworth Charles observes no limits to his power
- 1640–41 Charles recalls Parliament, which refuses money to fight Scots
- 1642–46 First Civil War

CHARLES I

CROMWELL  
COMMON  
WEALTH

- 1645 Cromwell's new model army wins at Naseby
- 1648–49 Second Civil War, Parliament against army
- 1649 Charles I executed
- 1651 *Hobbes' 'Leviathan'*
- 1653 Cromwell becomes Lord Protector
- Society of Friends (Quakers) develop during this period

CHARLES I

- 1660 Restoration of monarchy
- 1661–65 Clarendon Code enforces religious conformity
- 1662 *Royal Society chartered*
- 1663 *Milton's 'Paradise Lost'*
- 1665 Great Plague in London
- 1666 Great Fire in London

*Christopher Wren designs new buildings, churches*

Arts *Pepys, Evelyn, Dryden, Purcell*

1678 *Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'*

JAMES I

- 1685
- 1687 James II suspends many laws
- Newton's 'Principia' published*
- 1688–89 'Glorious revolution' Rulers limited by law and Parliament Bill of Rights

WILLIAM III  
and MARY

1700 —

ANNE  
GEORGE I

- 1694 Mary dies
- 1693–94 National Debt and Bank of England begin

1701 Acts of Settlement, concerning the Succession

Arts *Pope, Defoe, Swift Vanbrugh designs Blenheim*

1702

1714 First Hanoverian king of Great Britain

1720 Speculative scheme, South Sea Bubble, collapses

1721–42 Robert Walpole, first Prime Minister

Cabinet-style government begins Whigs dominant

1722 Workhouses for poor begin

1727

1729 John and Charles Wesley start Methodist movement

1756 William Pitt the Elder came to power

1756–63 Seven Years War (against France)

Results England gains decisive power in Canada (Wolfe captures Quebec) and India (Clive captures Plassey) Attempts to raise taxes and

quarter soldiers antagonize the American colonies

1760

1760–90's Beginnings of 'Agricultural Revolution' (crop rotation, animal breeding, fertilization) and 'Industrial Revolution' (advances in spinning, weaving, iron manufacture) lead to growth of large cities eg Birmingham and Manchester and change in working pattern of most people Population expands

1776–81 American War of Independence, colonists supported by French

1776 Publication of Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations'

Arts *Reynolds, Gainsborough, Fielding, Burns, Scott, Johnson, Gibbon, Hogarth, Heppelwhite, Chippendale*

1787 Society for Abolition of Slave Trade founded.

1796 Jenner inoculates against smallpox

## EUROPE

1618–48 Thirty Years War in Germany

1623–30 Alternate periods of peace and war with Spain and France

Charles I marries Henrietta Maria of France

Wars led to conflict between King and Parliament

### IRELAND

1641 Catholic Rising in Ireland

1649 Cromwell begins subjugation of Ireland Harsh rule

1690 William III defeats Irish and James II at the Boyne

1651 Navigation Act passed against Dutch shipping

1652–54 First Dutch War

1665–67 Second Dutch War

1672–74 Third Dutch War

### SCOTLAND

1638 Scots reject Anglican Liturgy their invasion of England sparks civil war

1650–51 Cromwell defeats Scots

1689 Jacobite Scots defeat English at Killiecrankie but lose at Dunkeld

1692 Glencoe Massacre of Jacobite Highlanders

1707 Union of Scotland and England

1745 'The Forty-Five' rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie fails

1746 Final defeat of Jacobite Highlanders at Culloden

1702–14 England enters war of Spanish succession against Louis XIV Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, wins at Blenheim and Ramillies

1714 Treaty of Utrecht

English gain Gibraltar French support Jacobites in this period

English try to hold balance of power in Europe during this century.

1739 War of Jenkins' Ear against Spain

1744–48 War of the Austrian succession England supports Prussia and Austria. Against France

1759 English support Frederick the Great of Prussia

1789 French Revolution influences English thought.

1793 Louis XVI executed

1799 England joins Russia and Austria against France

## WIDER WORLD

1607 First successful settlement in Virginia

1620 Pilgrims settle in Plymouth, Massachusetts

1630's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland settled

1639 Fort St George established in Madras, India

1660's Carolina, New Jersey settled

England kept New York after Second Dutch War

1665 Quakers in New Jersey

1668 Bombay granted to East India Company

1682 Settlement of Pennsylvania and Delaware

1732 Georgia founded

1740's and 1750's French and Spanish forces fight English in America and India French try to wear down East India

Company's power in Madras, Bombay, and Fort William

1768 *Captain Cook's first voyage to Australia and New Zealand*

1784 Cabinet gains control of East India Company

1786 First Australian penal colony

1791 Upper and Lower Canada granted representative governments

1793 French and English fight in West Indies

1795 England takes Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, Java, and Malaccas from Dutch

	BRITISH ISLES	EUROPE	WIDER WORLD
<b>1800</b>	<p><b>1800</b> Pitt's Combination Acts suppress trade unions -- repealed in 1824  <b>Arts</b> <i>Austen, Keats, Wordsworth, Blake, Turner, Constable, Colendge</i>  <b>1815</b> Corn Laws passed to protect agriculture  <b>1819</b> Peterloo Massacre followed by Six Acts  <b>1820</b>  <b>1825</b> <i>Stockton and Darlington Railway</i>  <b>1826-29</b> Peel reforms penal code, establishes police force  <b>1830</b>  <b>1832</b> Reform Bill corrects Parliamentary representation  <b>1833</b> First Factory Act provides for inspection  <b>1834</b> Grand National Consolidated Trades Union formed  <b>Poor Law Amendment Act</b> increases workhouses  <b>1837</b>  <b>1838-48</b> Chartist movement for greater democracy  <b>1846</b> Repeal of Corn Laws by Peel to help Ireland  <b>1847</b> Ten Hour Factory Act <i>Marx publishes 'Communist Manifesto'</i>  <b>1848</b> Public Health Act  <b>Arts</b> <i>Dickens, Thackeray, Tennyson, Hopkins, George Eliot, Wilde</i>  <b>1859</b> Darwin's '<i>Origin of Species</i>' - basis of evolutionary theory  <b>1867</b> Second Reform Bill extended vote to working classes  <b>1870</b> Liberal reforms under Gladstone begin elementary education by schools boards, secrecy in voting Local government boards, civil service reformed  <b>1874</b> Third Reform Bill extends vote to rural workers  <b>1888-89</b> Unskilled workers form unions after Dock Strike  <b>1898</b> Wireless communication by Marconi</p>	<p><b>1800-15</b> (1800 English take Malta)  <b>Napoleonic wars</b>  <b>1805</b> Nelson wins at Trafalgar  <b>1808 and 1815</b> Wellington's victories in Spain and at Waterloo  <b>1815</b> Treaty of Vienna settled Europe according to Metternich's plan  <b>1829</b> Independence of Greece supported by Britain  <b>1848</b> European revolutions influence thought in England  <b>Greatest Chartist demonstration</b>  <b>1854-56</b> Crimean War in Russia <i>Florence Nightingale begins reform of nursing techniques</i> Palmerston Prime Minister  <b>1867</b> '<i>Das Kapital</i>' published  <b>Deeply affects political thought</b>  <b>1878</b> Treaty of Berlin settles Anglo-Russian conflict over Turkey</p>	<p><b>1807</b> Slave trade abolished  <b>1812</b> United States enters war against England  <b>West Indies</b>  <b>Britain controls Jamaica, Bahamas, British Honduras, Barbados</b>  <b>1833</b> Slavery abolished throughout Empire  <b>India and China</b>  <b>1818</b> British control all India  <b>1839-41</b> British try to conquer Afghanistan  <b>1840-42</b> Opium War with China England gets Hong Kong  <b>1857</b> Indian Mutiny  <b>1858</b> Secretary of State supersedes East India Company  <b>1885</b> British take upper Burma  <b>Africa</b>  <b>1819</b> English settlers in Cape Town  <b>1836</b> Boers' Great Trek  <b>1879</b> Zulu War <i>Livingstone explores</i>  <b>1889</b> Rhodesia founded  <b>1899-1902</b> Boer War  <b>1906</b> South Africa becomes self-governing  <b>Near East</b>  <b>Britain ready to take power when Ottoman Empire falters</b>  <b>1885</b> General Gordon shot at Khartoum  <b>1898</b> Kitchener conquers Sudan  <b>League of Nations</b>  <b>1931</b> Japanese invade Manchuria  <b>1935</b> Mussolini invades Abyssinia  <b>1945</b> First atomic bombs end war  <b>United Nations founded</b>  <b>1947</b> India independent  <b>1948</b> Palestine and Burma independent  <b>1950-3</b> Korean War  <b>1956</b> Egypt seizes control of Suez Canal Anthony Eden tries to take it by force  <b>1948-58</b> Rebellions in Malaya  <b>1956</b> Pakistan independent  <b>1960</b> Ghana, Cyprus independent  <b>1962</b> Uganda, Tanganyika independent - also Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria  <b>1963</b> Greeks and Turks fight in Cyprus Kenya self-governing  <b>1969</b> Malawi, Gambia, Malta independent.  <b>1965</b> Rhodesia declares independence (UDI)  <b>1967</b> Britain withdraws from Aden  <b>1980</b> Rhodesia gains independence as Zimbabwe.  <b>1981</b> Barbados independent.</p>
GEORGE IV			
WILLIAM IV			
VICTORIA			
<b>1900</b>	<p><b>1900</b> Foundation of Labour Party  <b>1901</b>  <b>1902</b> Balfour's Education Act improves system  <b>1905</b> The Pankhursts' Women's Suffrage agitation  <b>1906-11</b> Lloyd-George's liberal reforms, provision of school meals, medical care, old age pensions Probation system, Labour Exchange, Council housing, Unemployment and Health Insurance Restriction of House of Lords' power, regulations of industries  <b>1910</b>  <b>1914</b> Home Rule for Ireland passed, but deferred  <b>1914-18</b> First World War  <b>1918</b> Votes granted to women over 30  <b>1919</b> <i>Atom split by Rutherford</i>  <b>1924</b> First Labour Government - Ramsay MacDonald  <b>1926</b> General Strike <i>Baird demonstrates television</i>  <b>1928</b> Conditions of women's vote same as men's  <b>1929</b> <i>Fleming discovers penicillin</i>  <b>World-wide economic depression</b>  <b>1931</b> Ramsay MacDonald's national government adopts severe economy measures Statute of Westminster  <b>1936</b> Abdication crisis <i>Keynes 'Theory of Employment'</i>  <b>1936</b>  <b>1939-45</b> Second World War  <b>1940</b> Churchill becomes Prime Minister  <b>1944</b> Butler's Education Act  <b>1945</b> Labour Government establishes Welfare State, under Attlee Based on ideas put forward during the war  <b>National Health Service, nationalization of railways and mines, town and country planning Post-war housing crisis</b>  <b>1952</b>  <b>1956</b> <i>First nuclear power station in the world at Calder Hall</i>  <b>First CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) march from Aldermaston</b>  <b>1971</b> Decimal currency  <b>1970's</b> Deepening economic difficulties, made worse by increases in oil prices Some relief from North Sea oil Efforts to control prices and incomes  <b>1979</b> Prime Minister Thatcher introduces 'monetarism' in attempt to stabilize economy  <b>Arts</b> <i>Hardy, Joyce, Shaw, D.H. Lawrence, Masefield, Huxley, Dylan Thomas, Yeats, Wells, Woolf, Britten, Walton</i></p>	<p><b>1907</b> Anglo-Russian Treaty  <b>1911</b> Agadir crisis  <b>1912-13</b> Balkan Wars  <b>1917</b> Russian Revolution  <b>1919</b> Attempt at fair adjustment of boundaries  <b>Treaty of Versailles</b>  <b>1922</b> Mussolini takes power in Italy</p>	
EDWARD VII			
GEORGE V			
EDWARD VIII			
GEORGE VI			
ELIZABETH II			

## IRELAND

**1801** Union with Great Britain  
**1823** O'Connell founds Catholic Association  
**1845-46** Great potato famine - many people emigrated  
**1916** Easter Rising starts active rebellion  
**1922** Partition into Ulster and Irish Free State (a Dominion)  
**1937** Republic of Eire formed  
**1939-45** Eire neutral in war  
**1969-present** Troubles in Ulster

**1928** Kellogg-Briand Pact  
**1933** Hitler takes power in Germany  
**1938** Hitler takes Austria, Czechoslovakia  
**1948** Russian control of Eastern Europe  
**1948-49** Berlin airlift  
**1949** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).  
**1960** 'Cold War' intensifies, 'U-2' spy plane caught over Russia  
**1970's** 'Detente' with Russia  
**1973** Britain enters Common Market under Heath  
**1980's** Revival of disarmament movements.

- 'brood** /broʊd/ *n* 1a young birds, insects, etc hatched or cared for at one time **b** the children in one family – humor 2 a group having a common nature or origin [ME, fr OE *brōd*; akin to OE *beorma* yeast – more at BARM]
- 'brood** *vi* 1 of a bird to sit on eggs in order to hatch them 2a to dwell gloomily on; worry over or about **b** to be in a state of depression – *broodingly* *adv*
- 'brooder** /'broʊdər/ *n* a heated structure used for raising young fowl [‘BROOD + ‘ER]
- 'broody** /'broʊdi/ *adj* 1 of fowl being in a state of readiness to brood eggs 2 given or conducive to introspection, contemplative, moody 3 of a woman feeling a strong desire or urge to be a mother – *infml* – *broodiness* *n*
- 'brook** /brook/ *vt* to tolerate; STAND FOR <she would ~ no interference with her plans> [ME *broucken* to use, enjoy, fr OE *brūcan*; akin to OHG *brūhan* to use, L *frui* to enjoy]
- 'brook** *n* a usu small freshwater stream [ME, fr OE *brōc*; akin to OHG *brūoh* marshy ground]
- broom** /broʊm, broom/ *n* 1 any of various leguminous shrubs with long slender branches, small leaves, and usu showy yellow flowers 2 a brush for sweeping composed of a bundle of firm stiff twigs, bristles, or fibres (e.g. of nylon) bound to or set on a long handle [ME, fr OE *brom*; akin to OHG *brāmo* bramble, MF *brimme* brim]
- 'broom,rape** /-ˌraɪp/ *n* any of various leafless plants that grow as parasites on the roots of other plants [trans of ML *rapum genistae*; fr the parasitic growth of one species on the roots of broom]
- 'broomstick** /-ˌstɪk/ *n* the long thin handle of a broom
- brose** /broʊz/ *n*, chiefly Scot a porridge made with boiling milk, water, or other liquid and oatmeal [perh alter. of Sc *bruise* broth, fr ME *brewes*, fr OF *broez*, nom sing. & acc pl of *broet*, dim. of *breu*, of Gmc origin]
- broth** /broʊθ/ *n* 1a the stock in which meat, fish, cereal grains, or vegetables have been cooked **b** a thin soup made from stock 2 a liquid medium for culturing esp bacteria [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *brod* broth, L *fervere* to boil – more at ‘BURN]
- brothel** /'broʊθ(ə), 'brodθ(ə)/ *n* a premises (e.g. a house) in which the services of prostitutes can be bought [ME, worthless fellow, prostitute, fr *brothen*, pp of *brethen* to waste away, go to ruin, fr OE *broethan* to waste away; akin to OE *brēotan* to break – more at BRITTLE]
- brother** /'brʊðə/ *n*, pl *brothers*, (3, 4, & 5) *brothers* also *brethren* /'brɛðrɪn/ 1 a male having the same parents as another person; also a half brother or stepbrother 2a a kinsman **b** one, esp a male, who shares with another a common national or racial origin 3 a fellow member – used as a title in some evangelical denominations 4 one, esp a male, who is related to another by a common tie or interest 5 a member of a men's religious order who is not in holy orders <a lay ~> [ME, fr OE *broðor*; akin to OHG *brudor* brother, L *frater*, Gk *phrater* member of the same clan]
- 'brotherhood** /-ˌhʊd/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being brothers 2a an association (e.g. a religious body) for a particular purpose **b** (an idea of) fellowship between all human beings <universal ~> [ME *brotherhede*, *brotherhod*, alter. of *brotherrede*, fr OE *broðrhoræden*, fr *brothor* + *ræden* condition – more at KINDRED]
- 'brother-in-law** *n*, pl *brothers-in-law* 1 the brother of one's spouse 2 the husband of one's sister
- 'brotherly** /-ˌli/ *adj* 1 of, resembling, or appropriate to brothers, esp in feeling or showing platonic affection 2 filled with fellow feeling, sympathy, or compassion <she was overwhelmed with ~ love for the homeless> – *brotherliness* *n*, *brotherly* *adv*
- brougham** /'broʊh(ə)m/ *n* a light closed 4-wheeled horse-drawn carriage [Henry Peter Brougham, Baron Brougham and Vaux †1868 Sc jurist]
- brought** /braʊt/ *past* of BRING
- brouhaha** /'broʊh-hah,hah/ *n* a hubbub, uproar [F]
- brow** /braʊ/ *n* 1a an eyebrow **b** the forehead 2 the top or edge of a hill, cliff, etc [ME, fr OE *brū*; akin to ON *brūn* eyebrow, Gk *ophrys*]
- 'browband** /-ˌbænd/ *n* the part of a bridle crossing the horse's forehead and preventing the headpiece from slipping back
- 'browbeat** /-ˌbi:t/ *vt* browbeat; browbeaten to intimidate, coerce, or bully by a persistently threatening or dominating manner <union members ~n into accepting a cut in salary>
- browed** /-ˌbraʊd/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) having (such) a brow or brows <beetle-browed>
- 'brown** /braʊn/ *adj* 1 of the colour brown; esp of dark or tanned complexion 2 (made with ingredients that are) partially or wholly unrefined or unpolished (<~ sugar>) [ME *broun*, fr OE *brūn*; akin to OHG *brūn* brown, Gk *phryné* toad]
- 'brown** *n* any of a range of dark colours between red and yellow in hue – *brownish* *adj*, *browny* *adj*
- 'brown** *vb* to make or become brown (e.g. by sautéing)
- brown ale** *n* a sweet, dark, heavily malted beer
- brown alga** *n* any of many algae, with a predominantly brown colour, that are mostly seaweeds
- brown bear** *n* any of several bears predominantly brown in colour; esp a European bear
- brown coal** *n* lignite
- 'browned-off** *adj*, chiefly Br annoyed, FED UP – *infml* [browned fr pp of 'brown]
- brown fat** *n* a heat-producing tissue that is present in significant amounts in hibernating mammals, human infants, and adults acclimatized to cold
- brownie** /'braʊni/ *n* 1 a good-natured goblin believed to perform household chores at night 2 *brownie guide*, *brownie* a member of the most junior section of the (British) Guide movement for girls aged from 7 to 10 3 chiefly NAm a small square or rectangle of rich chocolate cake containing nuts [‘brown]
- browning** /'braʊnɪŋ/ *n* a substance (e.g. caramelized sugar) used to give a brown colour (e.g. to gravy)
- 'brown sauce** *n* a sauce usu made from a roux combined with meat stock – compare WHITE SAUCE
- 'brown shirt** /-ˌʃu:rt/ *n*, often *cap* a Nazi; esp STORM TROOPER 1 [trans of G *braunhemd*, fr the uniform worn by Nazis]
- 'brown study** *n* a state of serious absorption or abstraction, a reverie
- 'brown trout** *n* a speckled European trout used for food
- 'browse** /braʊz/ *n* 1 tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs that provide food for animals (e.g. deer) 2 a period of time spent browsing <had a good ~ in the library> [prob modif of MF *broust*, pl of *broust* sprout, fr OF *brost*, of Gmc origin; akin to OS *brustian* to sprout, akin to OE *breost* breast]
- 'browse** *vt* to feed on (browse) ~ *vi* 1 of animals to nibble at leaves, grass, or other vegetation 2 to read or search idly through a book or a mass of things (e.g. in a shop), in the hope of finding sth interesting – *browser* *n*
- brucellosis** /,brʊkloʊsɪs, -sɪz/ *n* a serious long-lasting disease, esp of human beings and cattle, caused by a bacterium [NL *brucella*, a genus of bacteria, fr Sir David Bruce †1931 Br bacteriologist]
- bruin** /'brʊɪn/ *n* – used chiefly in stories as a name for the bear [D, name of the bear in the medieval poem *Reynard the Fox*]
- 'bruise** /'brʊɪz/ *vt* 1 to inflict a bruise on 2 to crush (e.g. leaves or berries) by pounding 3 to wound, injure; esp to inflict psychological hurt on ~ *vi* to be damaged by a bruise <tomatoes ~ easily> [ME *brusen*, *brisen*, fr MF & OE; MF *bruissier* to break (of Celt origin; akin to OIr *bru* 1 shatter) & OE *brysan* to bruise (akin to OIr *brū*, L *frustum* piece)]
- 'bruise** *n* 1a an injury involving rupture of small blood vessels and discoloration without a break in the skin **b** an injury to plant tissue involving underlying damage and discoloration without a break in the skin 2 an injury, esp to the feelings
- bruiser** /'brʊɪzər/ *n* a large burly man; specif a prizefighter
- bruit** /'brʊɪt/ *n* any of several usu abnormal sounds (e.g. a heart murmur) that can be detected in a medical examination [ME, fr MF, fr OF, noise]
- Brumaire** /'brʊmeɪr/ *n* the 2nd month of the French revolutionary calendar corresponding to 23 October–21 November [F, fr *brume* fog, winter, fr L *bruma* winter solstice, winter, fr *brevis* brief]
- brumby** /'brʊmbi/ *n*, Austr & NZ a wild or unbroken horse [prob native name in Queensland, Australia]
- brummagem** /'brʊmɪdʒəm/ *n* or *adj* (sth) cheap, inferior, or showy [Brummagem, alter. of Birmingham, city in England, formerly famed for cheap manufactured goods]
- Brummy** /'brʊmi/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant or the dialect) of Birmingham – *infml* [by shortening & alter. fr Brummagem]
- brunch** /'brʊntʃ/ *n* a meal, usu taken in the middle of the morning, that combines a late breakfast and an early lunch [breakfast + lunch]
- brunette**, NAm also *brunet* /'brʊnɪt/ *n* or *adj* (sby, esp a young adult woman), having dark hair and usu a relatively dark complexion [F *brunet* (masc) & *brunette* (fem), fr OF, fr *brun* brown, fr ML *brunus*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *brūn* brown – more at BROWN]

- brunt** /brunt/ *n* the principal force or stress (e.g. of an attack) – esp in *bear the brunt of* [ME]
- 'brush** /brʊʃ/ *n* 1 (land covered with) scrub vegetation 2 chiefly *NAM & Austr* brushwood [ME *brusch*, fr MF *broce*, fr OF]
- 'brush** *n* 1 an implement composed of filaments (e.g. of hair, bristle, nylon, or wire) set into a firm piece of material and used esp for grooming hair, painting, sweeping, or scrubbing 2 a bushy tail, esp of a fox 3 a conductor (e.g. a piece of carbon or braided copper wire) that makes electrical contact between a stationary and a moving part 4 an act of brushing 5 a quick light touch or momentary contact in passing [*felt the ~ of her coat*] [ME *brusse*, fr MF *brousse*, fr OF *broce*]
- 'brush** *vt* 1a to apply a brush to b to apply with a brush 2 to remove with sweeping strokes (e.g. of a brush) – usu + *away* or *off* (<ed the dirt off her coat>) 3 to pass lightly over or across, touch gently against in passing
- 'brush** *vi* to move lightly, heedlessly, or rudely – usu + *by* or *past* [ME *bruschen* to rush, fr MF *brosser* to dash through underbrush, fr *broce*]
- 'brush** *n* a brief antagonistic encounter or skirmish (<had a ~ with authority>) [ME *brusche* rush, hostile collision, fr *bruschen*]
- brushed** *adj*, of a fabric finished with a nap (<~ cotton>)
- 'brush, fire** /-fiə/ *adj* involving military mobilization only on a small and local scale (<~ border wars>) [*brush fire* (a fire involving brush but not full-sized trees)]
- 'brush-off** *n* a quietly curt or disdainful dismissal, a rebuff – *infrml*
- brush off** *vt* to dispose of in an offhand way, dismiss
- brush up** *vt* to tidy one's clothes, hair, etc (<wanted to wash and brush up when they arrived>); ~ *vi* to renew one's skill in; refresh one's memory of (<she'll have to brush up her French>) – *brushup* /- / *n* – *brush up* on BRUSH UP *vt*
- 'brush, wood** /-/wood/ *n* 1 twigs or small branches, esp when cut or broken 2 a thicket of shrubs and small trees
- 'brush, work** /-/wʊk/ *n* (a particular artist's) technique of applying paint with a brush
- brusque** /brʊsk, broʊsk, broʊsk/ *adj* blunt or abrupt in manner or speech, often to the point of rudeness [F *brusque*, fr It *brusco*, fr ML *bruscus* butcher's-broom] – *brusquely* *adv*, *brusqueness* *n*
- brusquerie** /brʊskə'ree, -broo-, -brooh-, '-/ *n* abruptness of manner [F, fr *brusque*]
- Brussels 'carpet** /'brʊslz/ *n* a carpet with a looped woollen pile fixed onto a strong linen base [Brussels, city in Belgium]
- Brussels 'lace** *n* any of various fine laces, esp with (appliqué) floral designs
- brussels 'sprout** *n*, often *cap B* (any of the many edible small green buds that grow on the stem of) a plant of the mustard family
- brut** /broʊt (Fr *bryt*)/ *adj*, of champagne very dry; specif containing less than 1.5 per cent sugar by volume [F, lit, rough]
- brutal** /broʊtl/ *adj* 1 grossly ruthless or unfeeling (<a ~ slander>) 2 cruel, cold-blooded (<a ~ attack>) 3 harsh, severe (<~ weather>) 4 unpleasantly accurate and incisive (<~ truth>) [BRUTE + -AL] – *brutally* *adv*, *brutality* /broʊtə'liti/ *n*
- brutal-ize**, -ise /broʊt(ə)laɪz/ *vt* 1 to make brutal, unfeeling, or inhuman (<people ~d by poverty and disease>) 2 to beat brutally – *brutalization* /-tə'zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'brute** /broʊt/ *adj* 1 characteristic of an animal in quality, action, or instinct e.g. a cruel, savage b not working by reason; mindless (<~ instincts>) 2 purely physical (<~ strength>) [ME, fr MF *brut* rough, fr L *brutus* stupid, lit, heavy; akin to L *gravis* heavy – more at 'GRIEVE]
- 'brute** *n* 1 a beast 2 a brutal person – *brutish* *adj*, *brutishly* *adv*
- bruxism** /brʊksɪz(ə)m/ *n* the habit of unconsciously gritting or grinding the teeth, esp in situations of stress or during sleep [irreg fr Gk *brychein* to gnash the teeth + E -ism]
- bryology** /brɪ'ɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of botany that deals with mosses and liverworts [Gk *bryon* moss + ISV -logy]
- bryony** /brɪ'ɒni/ *n* any of a genus of climbing plants of the cucumber family [L *bryonia*, fr Gk *bryonia*; akin to Gk *bryon*]
- bryophyte** /brɪ'ɒfɪt/ *n* any of a division of nonflowering plants comprising the mosses and liverworts → PLANT [deriv of Gk *bryon* + *phyton* plant; akin to Gk *phyein* to bring forth – more at BE] – *bryophytic* /-'fɪtɪk/ *adj*
- bryozoan** /brɪ'zəʊ-ən/ *n* (any of) a phylum or class of aquatic animals that reproduce by budding and usu form colonies [NL *Bryozoa*, class name, fr Gk *bryon* + NL -zoa] – *bryozoan* *adj*
- Brython** /brɪθ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a member of the British branch of Celts 2 a speaker of a Brythonic language [W] – *Brythonic* /brɪ'thɒnɪk/ *adj*
- Brythonic** /brɪ'thɒnɪk/ *n* the group of the Celtic languages comprising Welsh, Cornish, and Breton – *Brythonic* *adj*
- 'B 'Special** *n* a member of a former part-time volunteer police force in N Ireland
- bub** /bʊb/ *n* BREAST 1 – usu *pl*; slang [perh imit of noise made by a sucking infant]
- bubal** /'byoʊhbl/ *n* a large hartebeest of northern Africa that is now almost extinct [NL *bubalis*, fr Gk *boubalis*, an African antelope]
- 'bubble** /'bʊbl/ *vi* bubbling /'bʊblɪŋ, 'bʊbl-ɪŋ/ 1 to form or produce bubbles 2 to make a sound like the bubbles rising in liquid (<a brook bubbling over rocks>) 3 to be highly excited or overflowing (with a feeling) (<bubbling over with happiness>) [ME *bublen*, prob of imit origin]
- 'bubble** *n* 1a a usu small body of gas within a liquid or solid b a thin spherical usu transparent film of liquid inflated with air or vapour c a transparent dome 2 sthg that lacks firmness or reality, specif an unreliable or speculative scheme 3 a sound like that of bubbling
- 'bubble and 'squeak** *n*, chiefly *Br* a dish consisting of usu leftover potato, cabbage, and sometimes meat, fried together [fr the noise of frying]
- 'bubble, bath** *n* (a bath to which has been added) a perfumed, usu liquid or granular, preparation that produces foam when added to water
- 'bubble, chamber** *n* a chamber in which the path of an ionizing particle is made visible by a string of bubbles, usu in liquid hydrogen
- 'bubble, gum** *n* a chewing gum that can be blown into large bubbles
- 'bubble, memory** *n* a large capacity computer memory that stores information, usu magnetically → COMPUTER
- 'bubbly** /'bʊbli/ *adj* 1 full of bubbles 2 overflowing with good spirits or liveliness, vivacious (<a ~ personality>)
- 'bubbly** *n* champagne, broadly any sparkling wine – *infrml*
- Bube** /'boʊh, bay/ *n*, *pl* Bubes, esp collectively Bube a member, or the Bantu language, of the people of Fernando Po
- bubo** /'byoʊhboʊ/ *n*, *pl* buboes an inflamed swelling of a lymph gland, esp in the groin or armpit [ML *bubon*-, *bubo*, fr Gk *boubon* groin, gland, *bubo*] – *bubonic* *adj*
- bubonic 'plague** /byoo'bonɪk, byooʊ-/ *n* plague characterized by the formation of buboes
- buccal** /bʊkəl/ *adj* of or involving the cheeks or the cavity of the mouth [L *bucca* cheek – more at ROCK]
- buccaneer** /'bʊkə'niə/ *n* 1 a freebooter preying on Spanish ships and settlements, esp in the W Indies in the 17th c, broadly a pirate 2 an unscrupulous adventurer, esp in politics or business [F *boucanier*, fr *boucaner* to smoke meat on a grid over a fire] – *buccaneer* *vi*
- 'buck** /bʊk/ *n*, *pl* bucks, (I) bucks, esp collectively buck 1a a male animal, esp a male deer, antelope, rabbit, rat, etc b an antelope 2 a dashing fellow; a dandy 3 VAULTING HORSE 4 *NAM* DOLLAR 2 – slang [ME, fr OE *bucca* stag, he-goat, akin to OHG *boc* he-goat, Mlr *bocc*; (4) perh short for *buckskin*, regarded as a unit of exchange in early *NAM* commerce]
- 'buck** *vi* 1 of a horse or mule to spring into the air with the back curved and come down with the forelegs stiff and the head lowered 2 to refuse assent; balk 3 chiefly *NAM* to move or react jerkily ~ *vt* 1 to throw (e.g. a rider) by bucking 2 to fail to comply with; run counter to (<~ the system>)
- 'buck** *n* 1 an object formerly used in poker to mark the next player to deal; broadly sthg used as a reminder 2 the responsibility – esp in *pass the buck* [short for earlier *buckhorn knife*]
- 'buck, bean** /-beən/ *n* the bogbean
- 'buck, board** /-/bɔːrd/ *n*, *NAM* a 4-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle with a sprung platform [obs *buck* (body of a wagon) + E *board*]
- 'bucked** /bʊkt/ *adj* pleased, encouraged (<felt very ~ to hear the news>)
- 'bucket** /'bʊkɪt/ *n* 1 a large open container, usu round, with tapering sides and a semicircular handle on top, used esp for holding or carrying liquids 2 sthg resembling a bucket, esp in shape or function: e.g. a the scoop of an excavating machine b any of the receptacles on the rim of a waterwheel c any of the vanes of a turbine rotor 3 *pl* large quantities (<~s of blood>) – *infrml* [ME, fr AF *buket*, fr OE *buc* pitcher, belly; akin to OHG *büh* belly, Skt *bhūri* abundant – more at BIG]
- 'bucket** *vi* to draw or lift in buckets ~ *vt* 1 to move about jerkily or recklessly 2 chiefly *Br* BUCKET DOWN
- 'bucket down** *vi*, chiefly *Br* 1 of rain to fall heavily 2 to rain very hard (<it's been bucketing down all day>)
- 'bucketful** /-(ə)l/ *n*, *pl* bucketfuls, bucketful as much as a bucket will hold

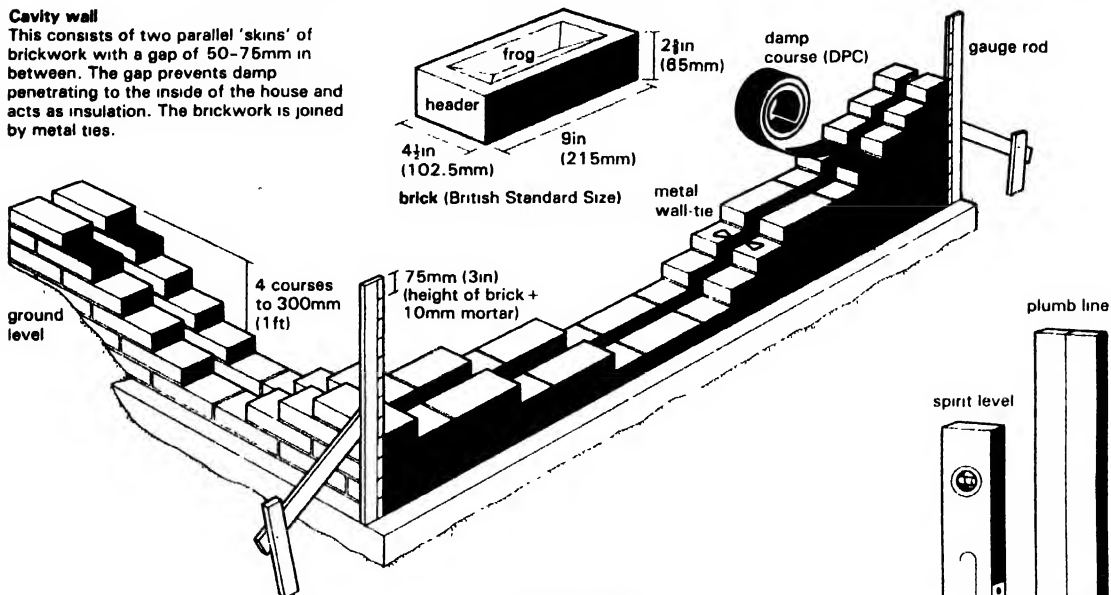
- 'bucket seat** *n* a round-backed separate seat for 1 person in a motor car, aircraft, etc
- 'buckle** /bʊkl/ *n* a fastening consisting of a rigid rim, usu with a hinged pin, used to join together 2 loose ends (e.g. of a belt or strap) or for ornament [ME *bocle*, fr MF, boss of a shield, buckle, fr L *buccula*, dim of *bucca* cheek – more at **POCK**]
- 'buckle** *vb* **buckling** /bʊkɪŋ/, **bukl-ɪŋ/** *vt* 1 to fasten with a buckle 2 to cause to bend, give way, or crumple ~ *vi* 1 to bend, warp <the pavement ~d in the heat> 2 to yield; GIVE WAY <one who does not ~ under pressure>
- 'buckle** *n* a distorted formation due to buckling
- buckle down** *vi* to apply oneself vigorously <about time she buckled down to her work>
- buckler** /bʊklə/ *n* a small round shield held by a handle at arm's length [ME *bocler*, fr OF, shield with a boss, fr *bocle*]
- buckle** *to* *vi* to brace oneself or gather up one's strength to put effort into work <we must buckle to and start writing the dictionary>
- buckling** /bʊkɪŋ/ *n* a herring smoked until lightly cooked – compare **KIPPER** [G *buckling*]
- bucko** /bʊkə/ *n*, *pl* **buckoes** 1 one who is domineering and bullying; a swaggerer 2 chiefly *Irish* a young fellow; a lad ['buck + -o]
- buckram** /bʊkrəm/ *n* a fabric of cotton or linen, with a stiff finish, used for interlinings in garments, for stiffening in hats, and in bookbinding [ME *buckeram*, fr OF *boquerant*, fr OProv *bocaran*, fr *Bokhara*, city in central Asia]
- buckshee** /bʊkshee/, -/ *adj* or *adv*, *Br* without charge; free – slang [Hindi *bakshīś* gratuity, gift, fr *Per* *bakshish* – more at **BAKSHISH**]
- buckshot** /bʊk,ʃot/ *n* a coarse lead shot used esp for shooting large animals
- 'buckskin** /-skɪn/ *n* a soft pliable usu suede-finished leather – **buckskin** *adj*
- 'buckthorn** /-,θɔːn/ *n* any of a genus of often thorny trees or shrubs
- 'bucktooth** /-ˈtooth/ *n* a large projecting front tooth – **buck-toothed** *adj*
- buck up** *vi* 1 to become encouraged 2 to hurry up ~ *vt* 1 to improve, smarten 2 to raise the morale or spirits of <the news bucked her up no end> ['buck]
- 'buckwheat** /-,weɪt/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the dock family, that have pinkish white flowers and triangular seeds 2 the seed of a buckwheat, used as a cereal grain [D *bockweit*, fr MD *boecweit*, fr *boec* (akin to OHG *buhha* beech tree) + *weit* wheat – more at **BEECH**]
- bucolic** /byoo'h'kɒlɪk/ *adj* 1 of shepherds or herdsmen; pastoral 2 (typical) of rural life [L *bucolicus*, fr Gk *bukolikos*, fr *boukolos* cowherd, fr *bous* head of cattle + *-kolos* (akin to L *colere* to cultivate) – more at 'cow, **WHEEL**] – **bucolically** *adv*
- 'bud** /bud/ *n* 1 a small protuberance on the stem of a plant that may develop into a flower, leaf, or shoot 2 sth not yet mature or fully developed: e.g. a an incompletely opened flower b an outgrowth of an organism that becomes a new individual [ME *budde*; akin to OE *budda* beetle, Skt *bhūri* abundant – more at **BIG**]
- 'bud** *vb* -dd- *vi* 1 of a plant to put forth buds 2 to develop by way of outgrowth 3 to reproduce asexually by forming and developing buds ~ *vt* 1 to produce or develop from buds 2 to graft a bud into (a plant of another kind), usu in order to propagate a desired variety
- Buddha** /'booda/ *n* 1 sby who has attained the perfect enlightenment sought in Buddhism 2 a representation of Gautama Buddha [Skt, enlightened]
- Buddhism** /'boodɪz(ə)m/ *n* an eastern religion growing out of the teaching of Gautama Buddha that one can be liberated from the suffering inherent in life by mental and moral self-purification – **Buddhist** *n* or *adj*
- budding** /'bʊdɪŋ/ *adj* being in an early and usu promising stage of development <~ novelists>
- buddleia** /'bʊdli-ə/ *n* any of a genus of shrubs or trees with showy clusters of usu yellow or violet flowers [NL, genus name, fr Adam *Buddle* †1715 E botanist]
- buddy** /'bʊdi/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* 1 a companion, partner 2 **MATE** 1c *USE* infml [prob baby talk alter. of *brother*]
- budge** /bʊj/ *vb* 1 to (cause to) move or shift <the mule wouldn't ~> 2 to (force or cause to) change an opinion or yield <couldn't ~ her on the issue> [MF *bouger*, fr (assumed) VL *bulicare*, fr L *bullire* to bubble, boil – more at 'boil]
- budgetiger** /bʊj(ə)ɹɪgə/ *n* a small Australian bird that belongs to the same family as the parrots and is often kept in captivity [native name in Australia]
- 'budget** /'bʊdʒɪt/ *n* 1 a statement of a financial position for a definite period of time (e.g. for the following year), that is based on estimates of expenditures and proposals for financing them 2 a plan of how money will be spent or allocated <a weekly ~> 3 the amount of money available for, required for, or assigned to a particular purpose [ME *bowgette* pouch, wallet, fr MF *bougette*, dim. of *bouge* leather bag, fr L *bulga*, of Gaulish origin; akin to Mlr *bolg* bag; akin to OE *belg*, *baelg* bag – more at **BELLY**] – **budgetary** /-t(ə)ri/ *adj*
- 'budget** *vt* to plan or provide for the use of (e.g. money, time, or manpower) in detail ~ *vi* to arrange or plan a budget
- budgie** /'bʊdʒi/ *n* a budgerigar – infml [by shortening & alter.]
- 'buff** /bʊf/ *n* 1 a strong supple oil-tanned leather produced chiefly from cattle hides 2 the bare skin – chiefly in *in the buff* 3 (a) pale yellowish brown 4 a device (e.g. a stick or pad) with a soft absorbent surface used for polishing sth 5 one who has a keen interest in and wide knowledge of a specified subject; an enthusiast <a film ~> [MF *buffle* wild ox, fr OIt *bufalo*; (5) earlier *buff* (an enthusiast about going to fires), fr the buff overcoats worn by volunteer firemen in New York City ab 1820] – **buff** *adj*
- 'buff** *vt* 1 to polish, shine 2 to give a velvety surface like that of buff to (leather) – **buffer** *n*
- buffalo** /'bʊfələh/ *n*, *pl* **buffaloes** also **buffalos**, esp collectively **buffalo** 1 **WATER BUFFALO** 2 a large N American wild ox with short horns, heavy forequarters, and a large muscular hump, also any similar wild ox [It *bufalo* & Sp *bufalo*, fr LL *bufalus*, alter. of L *bubalus*, fr Gk *boubalos* African gazelle, irreg fr *bous* head of cattle – more at 'cow]
- 'buffer** /'bʊfə/ *n* an (ineffectual) fellow – chiefly in *old buffer*; infml [origin unknown]
- 'buffer** *n* 1 any of various devices for reducing the effect of an impact; esp, *Br* a spring-loaded metal disc on a railway vehicle or at the end of a railway track 2 a device that serves to protect sth, or to cushion against shock 3 a person who shields another, esp from annoying routine matters 4 (a solution containing) a substance capable in solution of neutralizing both acids and bases and thereby maintaining the original acidity or basicity of the solution 5 a temporary storage unit (e.g. in a computer), esp one that accepts information at one rate and delivers it at another [*buff* (to react like a soft body when struck)]
- 'buffer** *vt* 1 to lessen the shock of, cushion 2 to add a buffer to (e.g. a solution), also to buffer a solution of (a substance)
- buffer state** *n* a small neutral state lying between 2 larger potentially rival powers
- 'buffet** /'bʊfɪt/ *n* 1 a blow, esp with the hand 2 sth that strikes with telling force [ME, fr MF, fr OF, dim. of *buffe*]
- 'buffet** /'bʊfɪt/ *vt* 1 to strike sharply, esp with the hand; cuff 2 to strike repeatedly, batter <the waves ~ed the shore> 3 to use roughly, treat unpleasantly <~ed by life>
- 'buffet** /'bʊfoʊf/ *n* 1 a sideboard or cupboard often used for the display of tableware 2 a counter for refreshments 3 a meal set out on tables or a sideboard for diners to help themselves 4 chiefly *Br* a self-service restaurant or snack bar [F]
- bufflehead** /'bʊflɪhed/ *n* a small N American diving duck [arch *buffle* (buffalo) + *head*]
- buffo** /'bʊfoh/ *n*, *pl* **buffi** /'bʊfi/, **buffos** a clown, buffoon; *specif* a male singer of comic roles in opera [It, fr *buffone*]
- buffoon** /'bʊfoʊn/ *n* 1 a ludicrous figure; a clown 2 a rough and noisy fool [MF *bouffon*, fr OIt *buffone*, fr ML *bufon-*, *bufo*, fr L, toad] – **buffoonery** *n*
- 'bug** /bʊg/ *n* 1 any of several insects commonly considered obnoxious; esp a bedbug 2 an unexpected defect or imperfection <we'll need to iron the ~s out> 3 a disease-producing germ; also a disease caused by it – not used technically 4 a concealed listening device 5 a temporary enthusiasm; a craze – infml [ME *bugge* spectre, goblin; akin to Norw dial *bugge* important man – more at **BIG**]
- 'bug** *vt* -gg- 1a to plant a concealed listening device in b to eavesdrop on by means of a mechanical bug 2 to bother, annoy – infml <don't ~ me with petty details>
- bugaboo** /'bʊgəboʊh/ *n*, *pl* **bugaboos** chiefly *NAm* a bugbear [prob of Celt origin, akin to W *bwcibo* the Devil (fr *bwei* hobgoblin + *bo* scarecrow), Corn *buccaboo*]
- bugbear** /'bʊg,beə/ *n* an object or (persistent) source of fear, concern, or difficulty <this national ~ of inflation> [prob fr 'bug + 'bear]
- 'bugger** /'bʊgə/ *n* 1 a sodomite 2a a worthless or contemptible person, esp male b a creature; esp a man <poor ~> 3 chiefly *Br* a cause of



- annoyance or difficulty *USE* (except 1) vulg [MF *bougre* heretic, sodomite, fr ML *Bulgarus*, lit., Bulgarian]
- \*bugger** *vt* 1 to practise sodomy on 2a – used interjectionally to express contempt or annoyance (< *Tom! We'll go without him*) b to damage or ruin, usu because of incompetence – often + *up* 3 to exhaust, WEAR OUT 4 *Br* to be evasive with or misleading to – + *around* or *about* (< *don't ~ me about*) ~ *vi* *Br* to fool around or about, esp by dithering or being indecisive *USE* (except 1) vulg
- bugger** 'all *n*, *Br* nothing (< *there's ~ else to do*) – vulg
- bugger** 'off *vi*, *Br* to go away – vulg
- buggery** /'bʊɡəri/ *n* sodomy
- \*buggy** /'bʊɡi/ *adj* infested with bugs
- \*buggy** *n* a light one-horse carriage [origin unknown]
- \*bugle** /'byʊəgl/ *n* a European annual plant of the mint family that has spikes of blue flowers [ME, fr OF, fr LL *bugula*]
- \*bugle** *n* a valveless brass instrument that is used esp for military calls [ME, buffalo, instrument made of buffalo horn, bugle, fr OF, fr L *buculus*, dim. of *bos* head of cattle – more at 'cow]
- \*bugle** *vi* to sound a bugle – **bugler** /'byʊəglə/ *n*
- bugloss** /'byʊəglɒs/ *n* any of several coarse hairy plants of the borage family [MF *buglosse*, fr L *buglossa*, irreg fr Gk *bouglossos*, fr *bous* head of cattle + *glossa* tongue – more at 'cow, 'gloss]
- buhl**, *boule* /'boʊhl/ *n* inlaid decoration of tortoiseshell or ornamental metalwork (e.g. brass) used in cabinetwork [André Charles *Boulle* †1732 F cabinet-maker]
- buhr**, *burr* /buh/ *n* buhrstone
- 'buhr,stone** /-stəʊn/ *n* (a millstone cut from) a silica rock used for millstones [prob fr 'burr + stone]
- 'build** /bɪld/ *vb* **built** /bɪlt/ *vt* 1 to construct by putting together materials gradually into a composite whole 2 to cause to be constructed 3 to develop according to a systematic plan, by a definite process, or on a particular base 4 to increase or enlarge ~ *vi* 1 to engage in building 2a to increase in intensity (< *to a climax*) b to develop in extent (< *outside the arena a queue was already ~ing*) [ME *bilden*, fr OE *byldan*, akin to OE *buan* to dwell – more at 'bower]
- \*build** *n* the physical proportions of a person or animal, esp a person's figure of a usu specified type (< *an athletic ~*)
- builder** /'bɪldə/ *n* sby who contracts to build and supervises building operations ['BUILD + '-ER]
- build in** *vt* to construct or develop as an integral part
- building** /'bɪldɪŋ/ *n* 1 a permanent structure (e.g. a school or house) usu having walls and a roof 2 the art, business, or act of assembling materials into a structure
- 'building, line** *n* a line fixed with respect to the frontage of a plot of land beyond which the owner may not build
- 'building society** *n* any of various British organizations in which the public can invest money, and which advance money for house purchase
- 'build,up** /-ʊp/ *n* 1 sthg produced by building up (< *deal with the ~ of traffic*) 2 praise or publicity, esp given in advance (< *sales were slow in spite of the ~ the product received*)
- build up** *vt* 1 to develop gradually by increments (< *built up a library*) 2 to promote the esteem of; praise ~ *vi* to accumulate or develop appreciably (< *clouds building up on the horizon*)
- built** /bɪlt/ *adj* proportioned or formed in a specified way (< *a slightly ~ girl*)
- 'built-in** *adj* 1 forming an integral part of a structure (< *cupboards*) 2 inherent
- 'built-up** *adj* 1 made of several sections or layers fastened together 2 well-filled or fully covered with buildings (< *a ~ area*)
- bulb** /bʊlb/ *n* 1a a short stem base of a plant (e.g. the lily, onion, or hyacinth), with 1 or more buds enclosed in overlapping membranous or fleshy leaves, that is formed underground as a resting stage in the plant's development – compare CORM, TUBER b a tuber, corm, or other fleshy structure resembling a bulb in appearance c a plant having or developing from a bulb 2 INCANDESCENT LAMP 3 a rounded or swollen anatomical structure [L *bulbus*, fr Gk *bolbos* bulbous plant; akin to Arm *bol* radish]
- bulbous** /'bʊlbəs/ *adj* 1 growing from or bearing bulbs 2 resembling a bulb, esp in roundness (< *a ~ nose*) – **bulbously** *adv*
- bulbul** /'bʊlbʊl/ *n* any of various songbirds of Asia and Africa that live in groups [Per, fr Ar]
- Bulgarian** /'bʊlɡeəri-ən, -boʊl-/ *n* 1 Bulgarian also *Bulgar* a native or inhabitant of Bulgaria 2 the Slavonic language of the Bulgarians 3 LANGUAGE [Bulgaria, country in SE Europe] – **Bulgarian** *adj*
- 'bulge** /bʊlɡi/ *n* 1 BULGE 1 2a a swelling or convex curve on a surface, usu caused by pressure from within or below 3 a sudden and usu temporary expansion (e.g. in population) [MF *boulge*, *bouge* leather bag, curved part – more at BUDGET] – **bulgy** *adj*
- \*bulge** *vi* to jut out, swell (< *eaten so much I'm bulging*)
- bulimia** /'byʊəlimi-/ *n* an abnormal and constant craving for food [NL, fr Gk *boulimia* great hunger, fr *bous* head of cattle + *limos* hunger – more at 'cow, LESS]
- 'bulk** /bʊlk/ *n* 1a spatial dimension, esp volume b roughage 2a voluminous or ponderous mass – often used with reference to the shape or size of a corpulent person b a structure, esp when viewed as a mass of material (< *the shrouded ~s of snow-covered cars*) 3 the main or greater part of [ME, heap, bulk, fr ON *bulki* cargo] – *in bulk* in large amounts or quantities, esp. of goods bought and sold in amounts or quantities much larger than as usu packaged or purchased
- \*bulk** *vt* 1 to cause to swell or to be thicker or fuller; pad – often + *out* (< *had to ~ the text out to 20,000 words*) 2 to gather into a mass ~ *vi* to appear as a factor; loom (< *a consideration that ~s large in everyone's thinking*)
- 'bulk** *adj* (of materials) in bulk (< *cement*)
- 'bulk,head** /-hed/ *n* a partition or wall separating compartments (e.g. in an aircraft or ship) [*bulk* (structure projecting from a building) + *head*]
- bulky** /'bʊlki/ *adj* 1 having too much bulk, esp unwieldy 2 corpulent – chiefly euph – **bulkily** *adv*, **bulkiness** *n*
- 'bull** /bʊl/ *n* 1a an adult male bovine animal b an adult male elephant, whale, or other large animal 2 one who buys securities or commodities in expectation of a price rise or who acts to effect such a rise – compare BEAR 3 BULL'S-EYE 3a [ME *bule*, fr OE *bula*, akin to OE *blāwan* to blow, (2) prob developed as a companion to *hear*]
- \*bull** *adj* BULLISH 1
- 'bull** *vt* to try to increase the price of (e.g. stocks) or in (a market)
- \*bull** *n* 1 a papal edict on a subject of major importance 2 an edict, decree [ME *bulle*, fr ML *bulia* seal, sealed document, fr L, bubble, amulet]
- 'bull** *n* 1 empty boastful talk; nonsense 2 *Br* unnecessary or irksome fatigues or discipline, esp in the armed forces *USE* slang [short for *bullshit*]
- bulle** /'bʊlə, 'bʊlə/ *n*, *pl* *bullae* /-li/ 1 a hollow thin-walled rounded body prominence 2 a large blister or vesicle [NL, fr L] – **bullous** *adj*
- bullace** /'bʊləs/ *n* a European plum tree that bears small oval fruit in clusters [ME *bolace*, fr MF *beloce*, fr ML *bulluca*]
- 'bull,ant** *n* BULLDOG ANT
- 'bull,dog** /-dɒɡ/ *n* 1 a thickset muscular short-haired dog of an English breed that has widely separated forelegs and a short neck 2 a proctor's attendant at Oxford or Cambridge
- 'bulldog,ant** *n*, chiefly *Austr* a large ant with a painful sting
- 'bulldog,clip** *n* a large clip made from 2 flat metal bars and a spring, used to clamp sheets of paper together
- bulldoze** /'bʊldɒz/ *vt* 1 to bully 2 to move, clear, gouge out, or level off with a bulldozer 3 to force insensitively or ruthlessly [perh fr 'bull + alter of *dose*]
- 'bulldozer** /-dɒzə/ *n* a tractor-driven machine with a broad blunt horizontal blade that is used for clearing land, building roads, etc [BULLDOZE + '-ER]
- bullet** /'bʊlɪt/ *n* 1 a small round or elongated missile designed to be fired from a firearm; broadly CARTRIDGE 1a 2 sthg resembling a bullet [MF *boulette* small ball & *boulet* missile, dims. of *boule* ball – more at 'bowl] – **bulletproof** *adj*
- 'bullet,headed** /-hedɪd/ *adj* 1 having a rounded solid-looking head 2 *bulldozer*
- bulletin** /'bʊlətɪn/ *n* 1 a brief public notice; specif a brief news item intended for immediate publication 2 a short programme of news items on radio or television [F, fr It *bulletino*, dim. of *bulia* papal edict, fr ML – more at 'BULL]
- 'bulletin,board** *n*, *NAm* a notice-board
- 'bull,fight** /-fɪt/ *n* a spectacle (in an arena) in which bulls are ceremonially excited, fought with, and in Hispanic tradition killed, for public entertainment – **bullfighter** *n*
- 'bull,finch** /-fɪnʃ/ *n* a European finch, the male of which has a rosy red breast and throat
- 'bull,frog** /-frɒɡ/ *n* a heavy-bodied deep-voiced frog
- 'bull,head** /-hed/ *n* any of various small river fishes with a big head; esp a miller's thumb
- 'bull,headed** /-hedɪd/ *adj* stupidly stubborn; headstrong – **bullheadedly** *adv*, **bullheadedness** *n*

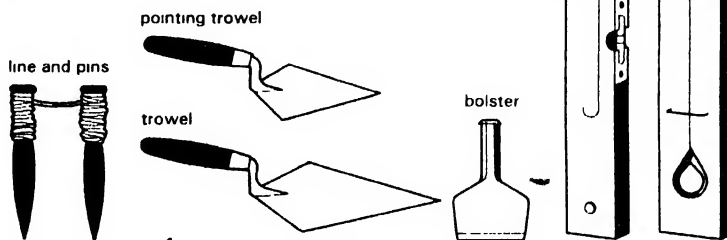
### Cavity wall

This consists of two parallel 'skins' of brickwork with a gap of 50–75mm in between. The gap prevents damp penetrating to the inside of the house and acts as insulation. The brickwork is joined by metal ties.

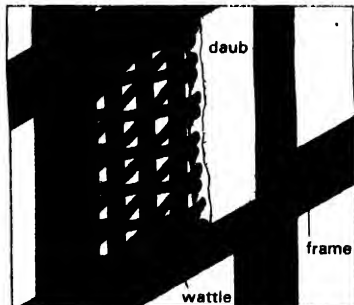
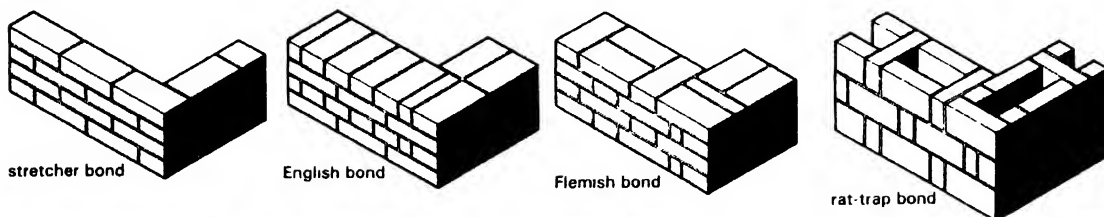


### Mortar

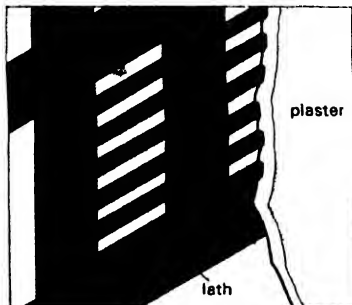
Mortars are composed of a binder (cement, lime, or a mixture of the two), and aggregate (usually sand) and water. The usual proportions are 1 part binder to 3 of aggregate, but this varies according to the material to be bonded and the strength and weather resistance required of the building. Mortar should be neither much stronger nor much weaker than the materials with which it is used.



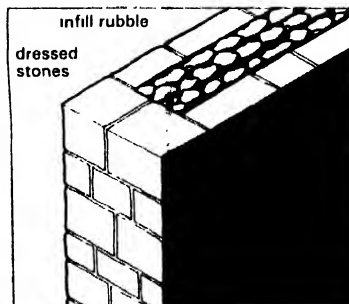
### Bonds



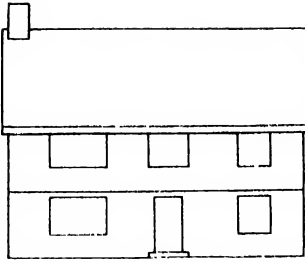
Wattle and daub was used to fill in the basic timber frame of a house. Poles were slotted into the framework, and twigs or reeds were then woven around them into a hurdle pattern. A layer of clay (daub) was then applied and sometimes coated with plaster.



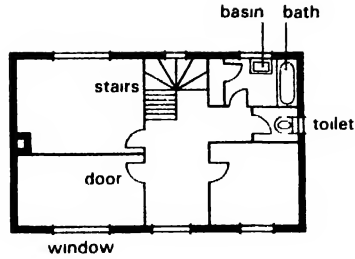
Lath and plaster consisted of laths nailed to a timber frame and covered with plaster.



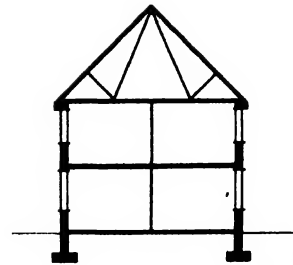
Stone walling is divided into two types — rubble and ashlar. Ashlar is a term used only of finely squared and jointed masonry.



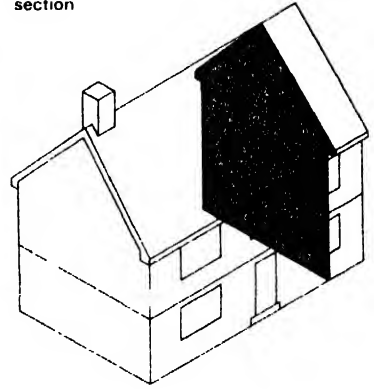
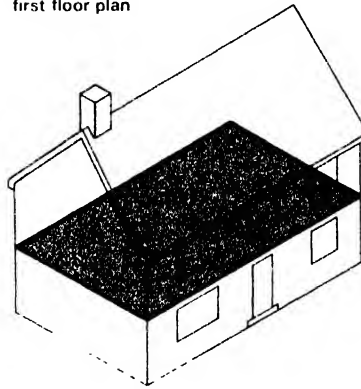
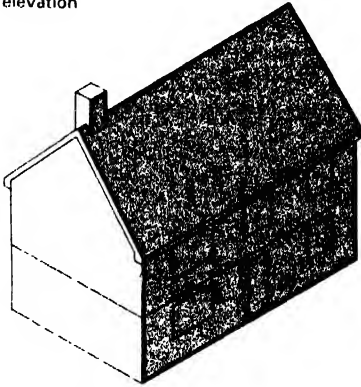
elevation



first floor plan



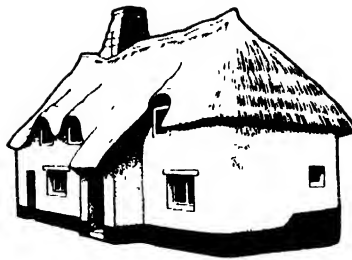
section



### Traditional building styles



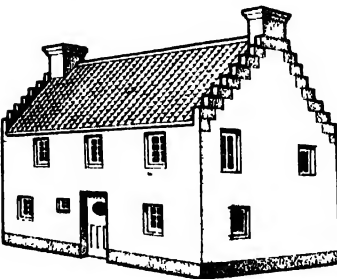
**Timber frame house.** The wattle and daub infilling of boxframed timber houses was, from the 17th century, often replaced with brickwork, sometimes using a herringbone pattern



**Cob and thatch.** Cob is clay or pressed earth reinforced with straw or hair. It is durable if protected from damp at top and bottom



**Flint walling** is found in S and E England. The corners, doors, and windows are reinforced with brick or stone



**Pantiles** are S-shaped tiles made of clay, which is fired and sometimes glazed. They are now used by architects to give a 'Mediterranean' look to a house.



**Pargetting** or raised and cut plasterwork on timber frame houses, fashionable in E Anglia in the 16th and 17th centuries.



**Weatherboarding** was used for houses from the 18th century, when imports of soft wood reached areas where timber-built houses were common.

- 'bullhorn** /-hawn/ *n* a megaphone
- bullion** /'boolyən/ *n* gold or silver (in bars) that has not been minted [ME, fr AF, mint]
- bullish** /'boolish/ *adj* 1 suggestive of a bull (e.g. in brawniness) 2 marked by, tending to cause, or hopeful of rising prices (e.g. in a stock market)
- 'bull neck** *n* a thick short powerful neck – **bulnecked** *adj*
- bullock** /'boolək/ *n* 1 a young bull 2 a castrated bull [ME *bullok*, fr OE *bulluc*, dim. of *bull*]
- 'bullring** /-ring/ *n* an arena for bullfights
- 'bull-roarer** *n* a wooden slat tied to the end of a thong and whirled to make a roaring sound, used esp. by Australian aborigines in religious rites
- 'bull session** *n*, *NAM* an informal group discussion ['*bull*]
- 'bull's-eye** *n* 1 a small thick disc of glass inserted (e.g. in a ship's deck) to let in light 2 a very hard round usu. peppermint sweet 3a (a shot that hits) the centre of a target b sth. that precisely attains a desired end 4 (a lantern having) a simple lens of short focal distance
- 'bullshit** /-/shit/ *n* nonsense – vulg. ['*bull* + *shit*]
- 'bullewool** /-/wool/ *n*, *Austr.* & *NZ* nonsense – infml. ['*bull* + *wool*]
- 'bull terrier** *n* a short-haired terrier of a breed originated in England by crossing the bulldog with a breed of terrier
- 'bully** /'booli/ *n* 1 a browbeating person, esp. one habitually cruel to others weaker than him-/herself 2 a hired ruffian [orig. senses, sweetheart, fine fellow, bravo; prob. modif. of *D* boel lover, fr. MHG *buole*]
- 'bully** *adj* [bully (fine, first-rate), prob. fr. 'bully] – bully for – used to congratulate a specified person, sometimes ironically <well bully for you!>
- 'bully** *vt* to treat abusively, intimidate
- 'bully, 'bully-off** *n* a procedure for starting play in a hockey match in which 2 opposing players face each other and alternately strike the ground and the opponent's stick 3 times before attempting to gain possession of the ball [origin unknown]
- 'bully** *vt* to put (a hockey ball) in play with a bully ~ *vt* to start or restart a hockey match with a bully – usu. + *off*
- bully beef**, **bully** *n* beef that has been preserved with salt and tinned [prob. modif. of *F* (*boeuf*) *bouilli* boiled beef]
- 'bullyboy** /-/boy/ *n* a rough man, esp. a hired thug
- bulrush** /'bool,rush/ *n* 1 any of a genus of annual or perennial sedges 2 the papyrus – used in the Bible 3 *Br* either of 2 reed-maces [ME *bulrysche*]
- bulwark** /'boolək/ *n* 1a a solid wall-like structure raised for defence; a rampart b a breakwater, seawall 2a a strong support or protection <education as a ~ of democracy> b a defence <a pay rise of 30 per cent would be a ~ against inflation> 3 the side of a ship above the upper deck – usu. pl. with sing. meaning [ME *bulwerke*, fr. MD *bolwerck*, fr. MHG, fr. *bole* plank + *werc* work]
- 'bum** /'bʌm/ *n*, chiefly *Br* the buttocks – slang [ME *bom*]
- 'bum** *vt* -*mm*- *Br* to have anal intercourse with – vulg.
- 'bum** *vb* -*mm*- *vi* to spend time idly and often travelling casually <~med around for 3 years before she got a job> – usu. + *around*; slang ~ *vt* to obtain by begging; cadge <can I ~ a fag off you?> – slang [prob. back-formation fr. 'bummer]
- 'bum** *n* 1 *NAM* an idler, loafer; specif. a vagrant, tramp 2 chiefly *NAM* an incompetent worthless person 3 *NAM* one who devotes his/her time to a specified recreational activity <a ski ~> <a beach ~> *USE* slang [prob. short for *bummer*]
- 'bum** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* 1 inferior, worthless <~ advice> 2 disabled <a ~ knee> *USE* slang
- 'bumble** /'bʌmbl/ *vi* **bumbling**, 'bumbling/ *DRONE* 1 [ME *bomblen* to boom, of imit. origin]
- 'bumble** *vi* **bumbling** /'bumbling/ 1 to speak in a faltering manner 2 to proceed unsteadily; stumble – often + *along* [prob. alt. of *bungle*] – **bumbler** /'bʌmbəl/ *n*, **bumbly** /'bʌmblɪ/ *adv*
- 'bumblebee** /-/bee/ *n* any of numerous large robust hairy bees
- 'bumboat** /-/boht/ *n* a boat that brings commodities for sale to larger ships [prob. fr. LG *bumbboot*, fr. *bum* tree + *boot* boat]
- bumf**, **bumph** /'bʌmf/ *n*, *Br* (undesirable or superfluous) paperwork – infml. [*bumf* (toilet paper), short for *bumfodder*, fr. 'bum + *fodder*]
- 'bummer** /'bʌmə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* 'bum 1 [prob. modif. of *G* *bummier* loafer, fr. *bummeln* to dangle, loaf]
- 'bummer** *n* an unpleasant experience (e.g. a bad reaction to a hallucinogenic drug) – infml. ['*bum* + -*er*]
- 'bump** /'bʌmp/ *vt* 1 to strike or knock with force 2 to collide with 3 to dislodge with a jolt ~ *vi* 1 to knock against sth. with a forceful jolt – often + *into* 2 to proceed in a series of bumps [imit.] – **bump into** to encounter, esp. by chance
- 'bump** *n* 1 a sudden forceful blow or jolt 2 a rounded projection from a surface e.g. a swelling of tissue b a natural protuberance of the skull 3 a thrusting of the hips forwards in an erotic manner – compare 'GRIND 3a 4 *pl* the act of holding a child by his/her arms and legs and swinging him/her into the air and back to the ground <gave her the ~s on her birthday>
- 'bumper** /'bʌmpə/ *n* 1 a brimming cup or glass 2 sth. unusually large [prob. fr. *bump* (to bulge)]
- 'bumper** *adj* unusually large <a ~ crop>
- 'bumper** *n* 1 a metal or rubber bar, usu. at either end of a motor vehicle, for absorbing shock or minimizing damage in collision 2 a bouncer ['*BUMP* + -*ER*]
- bumpkin** /'bʌm(p)kɪn/ *n* an awkward and unsophisticated rustic <a country ~> [perh. fr. Flem. *bommekeyn* small cask, fr. MD, fr. *bomme* cask]
- bump off** *vt* to murder – slang
- bumptious** /'bʌm(p)ʃəs/ *adj* self-assertive in a presumptuous, obtuse, and often noisy manner, obtrusive ['*bump* + -*tious* (as in *fractious*)] – **bumptiously** *adv*, **bumptiousness** *n*
- bumpy** /'bʌmpi/ *adj* 1 having or covered with bumps, uneven <a ~ road> 2 marked by jolts <a ~ ride> – **bumpily** *adv*, **bumpiness** *n*
- bun** /'bʌn/ *n* 1 any of various usu. sweet and round small bread rolls that may contain added ingredients (e.g. currants or spice) 2 a usu. tight knot of hair worn esp. on the back of the head 3a chiefly *N* Eng a small round sweet cake often made from a sponge-cake mixture b *Scot* BLACK BUN [ME *bunne*] – **bun in the oven** a child in the womb <she's got a bun in the oven>
- Buna** /'b(y)ooənə/ *trademark* – used for any of several artificial rubbers
- 'bunch** /'bʌntʃ/ *n* 1 a compact group formed by a number of things of the same kind, esp. when growing or held together; a cluster 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the main group (e.g. of cyclists) in a race 3 *pl*, *Br* a style in which the hair is divided into 2 lengths and tied, usu. one on each side of the head 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people – infml. [ME *bunche*] – **bunchy** *adj*
- 'bunch** *vb* to form (into) a group or cluster – often + *up*
- bund** /'bʌnd/ *n* an embankment or causeway used to control or retain water or oil [Hindi *band*, fr. Per; akin to OE *binden* to bind]
- 'bundle** /'bʌndl/ *n* 1a a collection of things held loosely together b a package c a collection, conglomerate 2 a small band of mostly parallel nerve or other fibres 3 a great deal; mass <that will be a ~ of fun> <he's a ~ of nerves> 4 a sizable sum of money – slang [ME *bundel*, fr. MD; akin to OE *byndel* bundle, *bindan* to bind]
- 'bundle** *vt* **bundling** /'bʌndlɪŋ/, 'bundling/ 1 to make into a bundle or package 2 to hustle or hurry unceremoniously <~d the children off to school> 3 to hastily deposit or stuff into a suitcase, box, drawer, etc
- bundle up** *vb* to dress warmly
- bundling** /'bʌndlɪŋ/, 'bundling/ *n* a former custom whereby a courting couple occupied the same bed without undressing [fr. gerund of 'bundle]
- bundu** /'boondoo/ *n*, *SAfr* the bush, veld [Bantu]
- 'bun, fight** *n*, *Br* 1 an informal gathering of a group, tea-party <are you going to the post-graduates' ~?> 2 a confused disturbance in which people are jostling and shoving, esp. in a confined space *USE* infml
- 'bung** /'bʌŋ/ *n* the stopper in the bung-hole of a cask; broadly sth. used to plug an opening [ME, fr. MD *bonne*, *bonghe*, prob. fr. LL *puncta* puncture, fr. L, fem. of *punctus*, pp. of *pungere* to prick – more at *PUNGENT*]
- 'bung** *vt* 1 to plug, block, or close (as if) with a bung – often + *up* 2 chiefly *Br* to throw, toss 3 *Br* to put <~ that record on> *USE* (except 1) infml
- bungalow** /'bʌŋ-gəloʊ/ *n* a usu. detached or semidetached 1-storied house [Hindi *baṅglā*, lit., (house) in the Bengal style]
- 'bung, hole** /-/hohl/ *n* a hole for emptying or filling a cask
- bungle** /'bʌŋ-gl/ *vt* **bungling** /'bʌŋ-gliŋ/, 'bung-gliŋ/ to perform clumsily; mishandle, botch [perh. of Scand. origin; akin to Icel. *banga* to hammer] – **bungler** /'bʌŋ-glə/ *n*, **bungling** /'bʌŋ-gliŋ/ *adj*
- bunion** /'bʌnyən/ *n* an inflamed swelling at the side of the foot on the first joint of the big toe [prob. irreg. fr. *bunny* (swelling), fr. ME *bony*, prob. fr. MF *bugne* bump on the head]
- 'bunk** /'bʌŋk/ *n* 1 a built-in bed (e.g. on a ship) that is often one of a tier of berths 2 a sleeping place – infml. [prob. short for *bunker*]
- 'bunk** *vi* to sleep or bed down, esp. in a makeshift bed

- \*bunk** *n* [origin unknown] – do a **bunk** chiefly *Br* to make a hurried departure, esp in order to escape – slang
- \*bunk** *n* nonsense, humbug <history is ~ – Henry Ford> [short for *bunkum*]
- bunk bed** *n* either of 2 single beds usu placed one above the other
- \*bunker** /'bʌŋkə/ *n* 1 a bin or compartment for storage; esp one on a ship for storing fuel 2a a protective embankment or dugout; esp a fortified chamber mostly below ground b a golf course hazard that is an area of sand-covered bare ground with 1 or more embankments [Sc *bonker* chest, box]
- \*bunker** *vt* to place or store (esp fuel) in a bunker
- bunkum** /'bʌŋkəm/ *n* insincere or foolish talk, nonsense [*Buncombe* county, North Carolina, USA; fr the defence of a seemingly irrelevant speech made by its congressional representative, that he was speaking to Buncombe]
- bunny** /'bʌni/ *n* RABBIT 1 – usu used by or to children [E dial *bun* (rabbit)]
- Bunsen burner** /'bʌns(ə)n/ *n* a gas burner in which air is mixed with the gas to produce an intensely hot blue flame [Robert Bunsen †1899 G chemist]
- \*bunt** /bʌnt/ *n* 1a the middle part of a square sail  SHIP b the bunched part of a furled sail 2 the baggy part of a fishing net [perh fr LG, bundle, fr MLG, akin to OE *byndel* bundle]
- \*bunt** *n* a disease of wheat caused by either of 2 parasitic fungi [origin unknown]
- \*bunt** *vt* to strike or push (as if) with the head, butt [alter of *butt*] – **bunter** *n*
- \*bunting** /'bʌntɪŋ/ *n* any of various birds that have short strong beaks and are related to the finches [ME]
- \*bunting** *n* (flags or decorations made of) a lightweight loosely woven fabric [perh fr E dial *bunt* (to sift)]
- buntline** /'bʌntlin/, -liən/ *n* any of the ropes attached to a square sail for hauling it up to the yard for furling  SHIP
- \*buoy** /boy/ *n* a distinctively shaped and marked float moored to the bottom a as a navigational aid to mark a channel or hazard b for mooring a ship [ME *boye*, fr (assumed) MF *boie*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *beacen* sign – more at *BLACON*]
- \*buoy** *vt* 1 to mark (as if) by a buoy 2a to keep afloat b to support, sustain 3 to raise the spirits of <hope ~s him up> USE (2 & 3) usu + up [(1) 'buoy; (2, 3) prob fr Sp *boyar* to float, fr *boya* buoy, fr (assumed) MF *boie*]
- buoyancy** /'boyənsi/ *n* 1a the tendency of a body to float or to rise when submerged in a fluid b the power of a fluid to exert an upward force on a body placed in it 2 resilience, vivacity
- buoyant** /'boyənt/ *adj* 1 capable of floating 2 cheerful, resilient – **buoyantly** *adv*
- bur** /bʌr/ *n* BURR
- buran** /'boʊrən/ *n* a violent winter storm of the steppes of the USSR [Russ]
- burble** /'bʌbəl/ *vi* **burbling** /'bʌbəlɪŋ/ 1 to make a bubbling sound; gurgle 2 to babble, prattle 3 of airflow to become turbulent [ME *burblen*, prob of imit origin] – **burble** *n*
- burbot** /'bʌrbət/ *n*, pl **burbot** also **burbots** a freshwater fish of the cod family that has barbels on the mouth [ME *borbot*, fr MF *bourbotte*, fr *bourbeter* to burrow in the mud, fr OF, fr *bourbe* mud]
- \*burden** /'bʌrd(ə)n/ *n* 1a sth that is carried; a load b a duty, responsibility 2 sth oppressive or wearisome; an encumbrance 3 capacity for carrying cargo (a ship of a hundred tons ~) [ME, fr OE *byrthen*; akin to OE *beran* to carry – more at *\*BEAR*]
- \*burden** *vt* to load, oppress
- \*burden** *n* 1 a chorus, refrain 2 a central topic, a theme [alter. of *bourdon* drone bass (e.g. in a bagpipe), fr ME *burdown*, fr MF *bourdon* bass pipe, of imit origin]
- burden of proof** *n* the duty of proving an assertion
- \*burdensome** /-'səm/ *adj* imposing or constituting a burden; oppressive
- burdock** /'bʌrdɒk/ *n* any of a genus of coarse composite plants bearing prickly spherical flower heads ['*bur*, *bur* + 'dock]
- bureau** /'byʊəroʊ/ *n*, pl **bureaus** also **bureaux** /-roʊz/ 1a a specialized administrative unit; esp a government department b an establishment for exchanging information, making contacts, or coordinating activities 2 *Br* a writing desk; esp one with drawers and a sloping top [F, desk, cloth covering for desks, fr OF *burel* woollen cloth, fr (assumed) OF *bure*, fr LL *burra* shaggy cloth]
- bureaucracy** /'byʊə'roʊkəsi/ *n* 1 government characterized by specialization of functions, adherence to fixed rules, and a hierarchy of authority; also the body of appointed government officials 2 a system of public administration marked by excessive officialism [F *bureaucratie*, fr *bureau* + -*cratie* -*cracy*] – **bureaucratize** /-'tɪz/ *vt*, **bureaucratization** *n*, **bureaucratic** /'byʊə'kratik/ *adj*, **bureaucratically** *adv*
- bureaucrat** /'byʊə'krat/ *n* a member of a bureaucracy; esp a government official who follows a rigid routine
- urette**, *NAm* also **buret** /'byʊə'ret/ *n* a graduated glass tube with a small aperture and stopcock for measuring usu small quantities of liquid [F *urette*, fr MF, cruet, fr *buire* pitcher, alter. of OF *buie*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *būc* pitcher – more at *BUCKET*]
- burgage** /'bʌgɪ/ *n* a tenure by which land in an English or Scottish town was held for a yearly rent [ME, property held by burgage tenure, fr MF *bourgage*, lit., burgage, fr OF, fr *bourg*, *borg* town, fr L *burgus* fortified place, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *burg* fortified place – more at *BOROUGH*]
- burgee** /'bʌjɛ/ *n* a swallow-tailed or triangular flag flown, esp by racing yachts, for identification [perh fr F dial *bourgeois* shipowner]
- surgeon** /'bʌh(ə)n/ *vi* 1 to send forth new growth (e.g. buds or branches) 2 to grow and expand rapidly [ME *burjonen*, fr *burjon* bud, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *burnon-*, *burnio*, fr LL *burra* shaggy cloth]
- burger** /'bʌgə/ 1 a savoury flat cake, usu of minced meat, that is eaten grilled or fried, esp a hamburger 2 a sandwich made with a burger, usu in a bread roll (topped with a usu specified food such as cheese) USE usu in combination <beefburger> <cheeseburger> [hamburger]
- burgess** /'bʌjɪs/ *n*, archaic a citizen of a British borough [ME *burgess*, fr OF *borgois*, fr *borg*]
- burgh** /'bʌrə/ *n* a borough; specif a town in Scotland that has a charter [ME – more at *BOROUGH*]
- burgher** /'bʌgə/ *n* an inhabitant of an esp medieval borough or a town
- burglar** /'bʌglə/ *n* sby who commits burglary [AF *burglar*, fr ML *burglato*, prob alter. of *burgator*, fr *burgatus*, pp of *burgare* to commit burglary, fr L *burgus* fortified place] – **burglarize** *vt*, chiefly *NAm*
- burglary** /'bʌgləri/ *n* the offence of unlawfully entering a building with criminal intent, esp to steal
- burgle** /'bʌgl/ *vt* **burgling** /'bʌglɪŋ/ to commit an act of burglary against [back-formation fr *burglar*]
- burgomaster** /'bʌgə'mɑːstə/ *n* the mayor of a town in certain European countries [part modif, part trans of D *burgemeester*, fr *burg* town + *meester* master]
- burgoo** /'bʌgʊʊ/ *n*, -' / *n* porridge, esp as formerly served to sailors [perh fr *Ar* *burghul*]
- Burgundy** /'bʌgʌndi/ *n* a red or white table wine from the Burgundy region of France
- burial** /'beriəl/ *n* the act, process, or ceremony of burying esp a dead body [ME *beriel*, *berial*, back-formation fr *beriels* (taken as a plural), fr OE *byrgels*; akin to OS *burgslī* tomb, OE *byrgan* to bury – more at *BURY*]
- burin** /'byʊərɪn/ *n* 1 an engraver's steel cutting tool 2 a prehistoric flint tool with a bevelled point [F]
- burk**, *berk* also **birk** /'bʌrk/ *n*, *Br* a stupid person, a fool [short for rhyming slang *Berkshire* (or perh *Berkeley*) *Hunt* cunt]
- burke** /'bʌrk/ *vt* 1 to suffocate or strangle in order to obtain a body to be sold for dissection 2a to suppress quietly or indirectly <~ an inquiry> b to bypass, avoid – derog <~ an issue> [William Burke †1829 Ir criminal executed for this crime]
- \*burl** /'bʌrəl/ *vt* to finish (cloth), esp by repairing loose threads and knots [ME, fr *burle* knot or lump in thread or cloth, deriv of LL *burra* shaggy cloth] – **urler** *n*
- \*burl** *n*, *Austr* a try, attempt – esp in *give it a burl* [prob alter. of *whirl* (as in *give it a whirl*)]
- burlep** /'bʌrləp/ *n* a coarse heavy plain-woven fabric, usu of jute or hemp, used for sacking and in furniture and linoleum manufacture [alter. of earlier *borelapp*]
- \*burlesque** /'bʌrlesk/ *n* 1 a literary or dramatic work that uses exaggeration or imitation to ridicule 2 mockery, usu by caricature 3 a US stage show usu consisting of short turns, comic sketches, and striptease acts [*burlesque*, *adj* (comic, droll), fr F, fr It *burlesco*, fr *burla* joke, fr Sp] – **burlesque** *adj*
- \*burlesque** *vt* to imitate in a humorous or derisive manner; mock
- burly** /'bʌrli/ *adj* strongly and heavily built [ME, comely, noble, well-built; prob akin to OE *borlice* extremely, excellently, OHG *burlīh* lofty, excellent] – **burliness** *n*
- Burmese** /'bʌr'meːz/ *n*, pl **Burmese** (the Tibeto-Burman language of) a

native or inhabitant of Burma  LANGUAGE [Burma, country in SE Asia] – **Burmese** *adj*

**'burn** /bʊh/ *n*, chiefly Scot a small stream [ME – more at 'BOURN]

**'burn** *vb* **burnt** /bʊhnt/, **burned** /bʊhnd, bʊhnt/ *vi* 1a to consume fuel and give off heat, light, and gases *b* to undergo combustion *c* to undergo nuclear fission or nuclear fusion *d* to give off light <a light ~ing in the window> 2a of the ears or face to become very red and feel uncomfortably hot *b* to produce or undergo a painfully stinging or smarting sensation <fingers ~ing from the cold> *c* to receive sunburn <kind of skin that ~s easily> *d*(1) to long passionately; 'DIE 3 <~ing to tell the story> (2) to be filled with; experience sthg strongly <~ing with fury> 3 to become charred, scorched, or destroyed by fire or the action of heat <the potatoes are ~ing> ~ *vt* 1a to cause to undergo combustion; esp to destroy by fire <~ed the rubbish> *b* to use as fuel 2a to transform by exposure to heat or fire <~ clay to bricks> *b* to produce by burning <~ a hole in the sleeve> 3a to injure or damage by exposure to fire, heat, radiation, caustic chemicals, or electricity *b* to execute by burning <~ heretics at the stake> *c* to char or scorch by exposing to fire or heat 4 to harm, exploit – often pass [ME *birnan*, fr OE *byrnan*, *vi*, *bernan*, *vt*, akin to OHG *brinnan* to burn, L *fervere* to boil] – **burnable** *adj* – **burn one's bridges/boats** to cut off all means of retreat – **burn the candle at both ends** to use one's resources or energies to excess; esp to be active at night as well as by day – **burn the midnight oil** to work or study far into the night

**'burn** *n* 1a injury or damage resulting (as if) from burning *b* a burned area <a ~ on the table top> *c* a burning sensation <the ~ of iodine on a cut> 2 a firing of a spacecraft rocket engine in flight

**burner** /bʊhna/ *n* the part of a fuel-burning device (e.g. a stove or furnace) where the flame is produced ['BURN + 'FR]

**burnet** /bʊhni/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the rose family with flowers arranged in spikes [ME, fr OF *burnete*, fr *brun* brown – more at BRUNETTE]

**'burnet**, **moth** *n* any of various day-flying moths with bright metallic wings

**burning** /bʊhning/ *adj* 1a on fire *b* ardent, intense <~ enthusiasm> 2a affecting (as if) with heat <a ~ fever> *b* resembling that produced by a burn <a ~ sensation on the tongue> 3 of fundamental importance; urgent <one of the ~ issues of our time> – **burningly** *adv*

**burning** **'bush** *n* any of several plants with red fruit or foliage

**burnish** /bʊhniʃ/ *vt* to make shiny or lustrous, esp by rubbing; polish [ME *burnischen*, fr MF *bruniss-*, stem of *brunir*; lit., to make brown, fr *brun*] – **burnishing** *adj* or *n*

**burnous** /bʊh'noʊs/ *n* a hooded cloak traditionally worn by Arabs and Moors [F, fr Ar *burnus*, fr Gk *birros*]

**burn out** *vt* 1 to cause to be no longer active, having completed a course of development <the disease had burnt itself out> 2 to exhaust by excessive physical or mental activity <she was a burnt-out case at 30> 3 to cause to burn out ~ *vi* to cease to conduct electricity when the enclosed filament or conducting wire has melted

**burnt** **'umber** *n* (the dark reddish brown colour of) umber calcined to give it a reddish hue – compare RAW UMBER

**burn up** *vt* to drive along extremely fast <burn up the motorway> – **infrm** – **burn-up** *n*

**'burp** /bʊhp/ *n* a belch – **infrm** [imit]

**'burp** *vb* to (cause to) belch – **infrm**

**'burr**, **ber** /bʊh/ *n* 1 a rough or prickly covering of a fruit or seed 2 sthg that sticks or clings 3 a thin rough edge left after cutting or shaping metal, plastic, etc 4 the pronunciation of /r/ in a W country or Northumberland accent 5 a small drill, also a bit used in a dentist's or surgeon's burr 6 a rough whirling sound [ME *burre*; akin to OE *byrst* bristle – more at BRISTLE] – **barred** *adj*, **barry** *adj*

**'burr** *vi* to make a whirling sound ~ *vt* to pronounce with a burr

**'burr** *n* **buhr**

**burro** /'booroh/ *n*, *pl* **burros** chiefly NAm a small donkey (used as a pack animal) [Sp, irreg fr *borrico*, fr LL *burricus* small horse]

**'burrow** /'bʊroh/ *n* a hole or excavation in the ground made by a rabbit, fox, etc for shelter and habitation [ME *borow*]

**'burrow** *vt* 1 to construct or excavate by tunnelling <~ed its way beneath the hill> 2 to make a motion suggestive of burrowing with; nestle <she ~ed her grubby hand into mine> ~ *vi* 1 to conceal oneself (as if) in a burrow 2a to make a burrow *b* to progress (as if) by digging 3 to make a motion suggestive of burrowing; snuggle, nestle <~ed against her back for warmth> 4 to make a search as if by digging <~ed into her pocket for a 10p piece> – **burrower** *n*

**burse** /'bʊhs/ *n*, *pl* **buras**, **burse** /'bʊhsi/ a small sac or pouch

(between a tendon and a bone) [NL, fr ML, bag, purse – more at PURSE] – **burial** *adj*

**burser** /'bʊhs/ *n* 1 an officer (e.g. of a monastery or college) in charge of funds 2 chiefly Scot the holder of a bursary [ML *bursarius*, fr *bursa*]

**bursary** /'bʊhs(a)r/ *n* 1 a bursar's office 2 a grant of money to a needy student [ML *bursaria*, fr *bursa*]

**bursitis** /'bʊh'si:ti/ *n* inflammation of a bursa of the knee, shoulder, elbow, or other joint [NL, fr *bursa*]

**'burst** /bʊhst/ *vb* **burst** *vi* 1 to break open, apart, or into pieces, usu from impact or because of pressure from within 2a to give way from an excess of emotion <his heart will ~ with grief> *b* to give vent suddenly to a repressed emotion <~ into tears> 3a to emerge or spring suddenly <~ out of a house> *b* to launch, plunge <~ into song> 4 to be filled to breaking point or to the point of overflowing ~ *vt* 1 to cause to break open or into pieces, usu by means of pressure from within 2 to produce (as if) by bursting [ME *bersten*, fr OE *berstan*, akin to OHG *brestan* to burst, Mlr *brosc* noise] – **burst at the seams** to be large or full to the point of discomfort


**'burst** *n* 1 a sudden usu temporary outbreak 2 an explosion, eruption 3 a sharp temporary increase (of speed, energy, etc) 4 a volley of shots **burst out** *vi* to begin suddenly <he burst out laughing> ~ *vi* to exclaim suddenly

**bury** /'beri/ *vt* 1 to dispose of by depositing (as if) in the earth, esp to inter 2 to conceal, hide <the report was buried under miscellaneous papers> 3 to put completely out of mind, HAVE DONE WITH <~ing their differences> 4 to submerge, engross – *usu* + *in* <buried herself in her books> [ME *burien*, fr OE *byrgan*; akin to OE *beorgan* to preserve, OHG *bergan* to shelter, Russ *berech'* to save] – **bury the hatchet** to settle a disagreement; become reconciled

**'bus** /'bʊs/ *n*, *pl* **-s**, chiefly NAm **-as** 1 a large motor-driven passenger vehicle operating usu according to a timetable along a fixed route 2 a busbar [short for *omnibus*]

**'bus** *vb* **-s**, **-as** *vi* to travel by bus ~ *vt* to transport by bus; *specif*, chiefly NAm to transport (children) by bus to a school in another district where the pupils are of a different race, in order to create integrated classes

**busbar** /'bʊsbah/ *n* a conductor or an assembly of conductors connected to several similar circuits in an electrical or electronic system ['omnibus + *bar*]

**busby** /'bʊzbi/ *n* 1 a military full-dress fur hat worn esp by hussars 2 the bearskin worn by the Brigade of Guards – not used technically *USE*  GARMENT [prob fr the name *Busby*]

**'bush** /'boʊsh/ *n* 1a a (low densely branched) shrub *b* a close thicket of shrubs 2 a large uncleared or sparsely settled area (e.g. in Africa or Australia), usu scrub-covered or forested 3a a bushy tuft or mass <a ~ of black hair> *b* 'BRUSH 2 [ME; akin to OHG *busc* forest]

**'bush** *vt* to support, protect, etc with bushes ~ *vi* to extend like or resemble a bush

**'bush**, **bushing** *n* a usu removable cylindrical lining for an opening used to limit the size of the opening, resist abrasion, or serve as a guide [D *bus* bushing, box, fr MD *busse* box, fr LL *buxis* – more at 'BOX]


**'bush** *vt* to provide (a bearing, shaft, etc) with a bush

**'bush**, **baby** *n* a member of either of 2 genera of small active nocturnal tree-dwelling African primates

**'bush**, **buck** /-'bʊk/ *n*, *pl* **bushbucks**, esp collectively **bushbuck** a small tropical African striped forest antelope [trans of Afrik *bosbok*]

**'bush**, **craft** /-'kraɪft/ *n* skill and experience in living in the bush

**bushed** *adj* 1 perplexed, confused 2 chiefly Austr lost, esp in the bush 3 tired, exhausted – **infrm** ['BUSH + 'ED]

**bushel** /'boʊʃl/ *n* 1 any of various units of dry capacity  UNIT 2 a container holding a bushel [ME *bussel*, fr OF *boussel*, fr (assumed) OF *boisse* one sixth of a bushel, of Celt origin; akin to Mlr *boss* palm of the hand]

**'bushland** /-'lənd, -'land/ *n* 'BUSH 2

**'bushman** /-'mæn/ *n* 1 *cap* a member, or the language, of a race of nomadic hunters of southern Africa 2 chiefly Austr *aby* who lives in the bush and is experienced in bushcraft [(1) modif of obs Afrik *boeschjesman*, fr *boeschje* (dim. of *bosch* forest) + Afrik *man*]

**'bush**, **master** /-'mahstə/ *n* a tropical American pit viper that is the largest New World venomous snake

**'bush**, **ranger** /-'raɪnjə/ *n* 1 a frontiersman, woodsman 2 Austr an outlaw living in the bush

**bush telegraph** *n* the rapid unofficial communication of news, rumours, etc by word of mouth

**bushwhack** /'boʊsh,wak/ *vi* 1 to clear a path through thick woods 2



to live or hide out in the woods 3 to fight in or attack from the bush ~ *vt* to ambush [back-formation fr *bushwhacker*] – *bushwhacker* *n*, *bushwhacking* *n*

**bushy** /'boʊʃi/ *adj* 1 full of or overgrown with bushes 2 growing thickly or densely – *bushily* *adv*, *bushiness* *n*

**business** /'biznis/ *n* 1a a role, function *b* an immediate task or objective; a mission *c* a particular field of endeavour (*the best in the ~*) 2a a usu commercial or mercantile activity engaged in as a means of livelihood *b* one's regular employment, profession, or trade *c* a commercial or industrial enterprise (*sold her ~ and retired*), also such enterprises (< ~ *seldom acts as a unit*) *d* economic transactions or dealings (*ready to take his ~ elsewhere unless service improved*) 3 an affair, matter (< a *strange ~*) 4 movement or action performed by an actor 5a personal concern (< *none of your ~*) *b* proper motive; justifying right (< *you have no ~ asking me that*) 6 serious activity (< *immediately got down to ~*) [ME *businessse*, fr *bisy* busy + *-nesse* -ness] – like *nobody's business* extraordinarily well

**'businesslike** /-li:k/ *adj* 1 (briskly) efficient 2 serious, purposeful

**'businessman** /-mən, -man/, *fem* 'businesswoman *n* 1 sby professionally engaged in commercial transactions, esp a business executive 2 sby with financial flair (< *I'm not much of a ~*)

**busk** /bʊsk/ *vi*, chiefly *Br* to sing or play an instrument in the street (*e g* outside a theatre) in order to earn money [origin unknown] – *busker* *n*

**buskin** /'buskin/ *n* a laced boot reaching halfway up the calf or to the knee [perh modif of Sp *borcegui*]

**'bus lane** *n*, *Br* a traffic lane for buses only

**busman** /'bʊsmən/ *n*, chiefly *Br* sby who works on a bus

**busman's 'holiday** *n* a holiday spent doing one's usual work

**'bus-shelter** *n* a structure giving protection against bad weather at a bus-stop

**'bus-stop** *n* a place, usu marked by a standardized sign, where people may board and alight from buses

**'bust** /bʊst/ *n* 1 a sculpture of the upper part of the human figure including the head, neck, and usu shoulders 2 the upper part of the human torso between neck and waist, esp the (size of the) breasts of a woman [F *buste*, fr It *busto*, fr L *bustum* tomb]

**'bust** *vb* *busted* also *bust* *vt* 1a to break, smash, also to make inoperative (< ~ my watch this morning) *b* to bring to an end, BREAK UP 3 – often + *up* 2a to arrest *b* to raid (*police ~ ed the flat below looking for heroin*) ~ *vi* 1a to burst (< *laughing fit to ~*) *b* BREAK DOWN 1a 2 to lose a game or turn by exceeding a limit (*e g* the count of 21 in pontoon) *USE* (*vt*, *vi* 1) *infrm* [alter of *burst*] – *bust* a gut to exert oneself, make a great effort – *infrm*

**'bust** *n* a police raid or arrest – *infrm*

**'bust** *adj* 1 broken – chiefly *infrm* 2 bankrupt – chiefly in *go bust*, *infrm*

**bustard** /'bʊstəd/ *n* any of a family of usu large Old World and Australian game birds [ME, modif of MF *bistarde*, fr OIt *bistarda*, fr L *avis tarda*, lit, slow bird]

**buster** /'bʊstə/ *n* 1 sby or sthg that breaks or breaks up (< *crime ~s*) 2 chiefly *NAM* PAL 2a – usu as a form of address (< *thanks a million*, ~)

**'bustle** /'bʊsl/ *vi* *bustling* /'bʊslɪŋ/, 'bustling/ to move briskly and often ostentatiously [prob alter of obs *buskle* (to prepare), freq of *busk*] – *bustling* /'bʊslɪŋ/ *adj*, *bustlingly* *adv*

**'bustle** *n* noisy and energetic activity (< *the hustle and ~ of the big city*)

**'bustle** *n* a pad or framework worn to expand and support fullness at the back of a woman's skirt [origin unknown]

**'bust-up** *n* 1 a breaking up or apart (< *the ~ of their marriage*) 2 a quarrel *USE* *infrm*

**busty** /'bʊsti/ *adj* having large breasts

**'busy** /'bi:zi/ *adj* 1 engaged in action; occupied 2 full of activity; bustling (< ~ *seaport*) 3 foolishly or intrusively active; meddlesome 4 full of detail (< ~ *design*) 5 *NAM*, esp of a telephone in use [ME *bisy*, fr OE *bisig*; akin to MD & MLG *besu* busy] – *bustily* /'bʊzli/ *adv*, *busyness* /'bʊzɪnɪs/ *n*

**'busy** *vt* to make (esp oneself) busy; occupy (< *he busied himself with the ironing*)

**'busybody** /-bɒdi/ *n* an officious or inquisitive person

**'busy 'lizzie** /'lɪzi/ *n* a common house plant that bears usu pink, scarlet, or crimson flowers almost continuously [*'busy* + *Lizzie*, nickname for *Elizabeth*]

**'but** /bʌt/; *strong but* /bʊt/ *conj* 1a were it not (< *would collapse ~ for your help*)

*b* without the necessary accompaniment that – used after a negative (< *it never rains ~ it pours*) *c* otherwise than; that ... not (< *I don't know ~ what I'll go*) 2a on the contrary, on the other hand – used to join coordinate sentence elements of the same class or function expressing contrast (< *I meant to tell you ~ you weren't here*) *b* and nevertheless; and yet (< *poor ~ proud*) *c* – introducing an expression of protest or enthusiasm (< *that's ridiculous*) or embarking on a new topic (< ~ *to continue* ...) [ME, fr OE *butan*, prep & conj, outside, without, except, except that; akin to OHG *buzan* without, except, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *be* by & OE *utan* outside; akin to OE *ūt* out – more at *BY*, *OUT*]

**'but** *prep* 1a with the exception of; barring (< *we're all here ~ Mary*) *b* other than (< *this letter is nothing ~ an insult*) *c* not counting (< *the next house ~ 2*) 2 *Scot* without, lacking

**'but** *adv* 1 only, merely (< *he is ~ a child*) 2 to the contrary (< *who knows ~ that he may succeed*) 3 – used for emphasis (< *get there ~ fast*) 4 *NE Eng & Austr* however, though (< *it's pouring with rain, warm ~*)

**'but** /bʊt/ *n* a doubt, objection (< *there are no ~s about it*)

**butadiene** /byoohtə'di:en, -tɪ-/ *n* an inflammable gaseous hydrocarbon used in making synthetic rubbers [ISV *butane* + *di-* + *-ene*]

**butane** /byoohtayn/ *n* an inflammable gaseous hydrocarbon of the alkane series used esp as a fuel (*e g* in cigarette lighters) [ISV *butyric* + *-ane*]

**'butch** /'boʊtʃ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a male or female homosexual who plays the masculine role in a relationship [*Butch*, a nickname for boys, prob short for *butcher*]

**'butch** *adj*, chiefly *Br* aggressively masculine in appearance – used, often disparagingly, of both women and (esp homosexual) men

**'butcher** /'boʊtʃə/ *n* 1a sby who slaughters animals or dresses their flesh *b* sby who deals in meat 2 sby who kills ruthlessly or brutally [ME *bocher*, fr OF *bouchier*, fr *bouc* he-goat, prob of Celt origin; akin to Mlr *boce* he-goat – more at 'BUCK]

**'butcher** *vt* 1 to slaughter and prepare for market 2 to kill in a barbarous manner 3 to spoil, ruin – *butcherer* *n*

**'butcher-bird** *n* any of various shrikes

**'butchers** *n*, *pl* *butchers* *Br* LOOK 1 – slang [rhyming slang *butcher's* (hook)]

**'butcher's-broom** *n* a European plant with stiff-pointed leaflike twigs used for brooms

**butchery** /'boʊtʃ(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 the preparation of meat for sale 2 cruel and ruthless slaughter of human beings 3 the action of spoiling or ruining 4 chiefly *Br* a slaughterhouse

**butler** /'bʊtl/ *n* 1 a manservant in charge of the wines and spirits 2 the chief male servant of a household [ME *buteler*, fr OF *bouteillier* bottle bearer, fr *bouteille* bottle – more at BOTTLE]

**'butt** /bʊt/ *vb* to strike or shove (sth) with the head or horns [ME *butten*, fr OF *boter*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *bozan* to beat – more at 'BEAT]

**'butt** *n* a blow or thrust, usu with the head or horns

**'butt** *n* 1a a backstop for catching missiles shot at a target *b* a target *c* *pl* a range, specif for archery or rifle practice *d* a low mound, wall, etc from behind which sportsmen shoot at game birds 2 an object of abuse or ridicule; a victim [ME; partly fr MF *but* target, end, of Gmc origin; akin to ON *bútr* log, LG *butt* blunt; partly fr MF *bute* backstop, fr *but* target]

**'butt** *vi* to abut – usu + *against* or *onto* ~ *vt* 1 to place end to end or side to side without overlapping 2 to join by means of a butt joint [partly fr 'butt, partly fr 'butt]

**'butt** *n* 1 the end of a plant or tree nearest the roots 2 the thicker or handle end of a tool or weapon 3 an unused remainder; esp the unsmoked remnant of a cigar or cigarette [ME; prob akin to ME *buttok* buttock, LG *butt* blunt, OHG *bozan* to beat]


**'butt** *n* a large cask, esp for wine, beer, or water [ME, fr MF *botte*, fr OProv *bota*, fr LL *buttus*]


**butte** /byooht/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* an isolated hill with steep sides [F, knoll, fr MF *bute* mound of earth serving as a backstop]

**'butter** /'bʊtə/ *n* 1 a pale yellow solid emulsion of fat globules, air, and water made by churning milk or cream and used as food 2a any of various vegetable oils remaining solid or semisolid at ordinary temperatures (< *cocoa ~*) *b* any of various food spreads made with or having the consistency of butter (< *peanut ~*) [ME, fr OE *butere*; akin to OHG *butera* butter; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *butyrum* butter, fr Gk *boutyron*, fr *bous* cow + *tyros* cheese] – *butterless* *adj*

**'butter** *vt* to spread or cook with butter

**'butterball** /-baw/ *n* a chubby person – *infrm*

**'butter, bean** *n* 1 a (large dried) lima bean 2 SIEVA BEAN  
**'butter, bur** /-buh/ *n* a large Eurasian plant with very large leaves and reddish-purple flowers  
**'butter, cup** /-kup/ *n* any of many plants with usu bright yellow flowers that commonly grow in fields and as weeds  
**'butter, fat** /-fat/ *n* the natural fat of milk and chief constituent of butter  
**'butter, fingered** /-fing-gəd/ *adj* apt to let things fall or slip through the fingers; careless – infml  
**'butter, fingers** /-fing-gəz/ *n, pl* **butterfingers** a butterfingered person – infml  
**'butter, fish** /-fish/ *n* any of numerous fishes with a slippery coating of mucus  
**'butter, fly** /-flie/ *n* 1 any of numerous slender-bodied day-flying insects with large broad often brightly coloured wings  ANATOMY 2 a person chiefly occupied with the pursuit of pleasure 3 a swimming stroke executed on the front by moving both arms together forwards out of the water and then sweeping them back through the water 4 *pl* queasiness caused esp by nervous tension – infml [ME *butterflie*, fr OE *buterflēoge*, fr *būtere* butter + *flēoge* fly; perh fr former belief that butterflies steal milk and butter]  
**'butterfly, fish** *n* a fish having either variegated colours, broad expanded fins, or both; esp a European blenny  
**'butterfly, nut** *n* WING NUT  
**'butterfly, valve** *n* a damper or valve consisting of a disc turning round an axis on the diameter of the disc  
**'butter, milk** /-milk/ *n* 1 the liquid left after butter has been churned from milk or cream 2 cultured milk made by the addition of suitable bacteria to milk  
**'butter, nut** /-nut/ *n* (the edible only nut of) an American tree of the walnut family  
**'butter, scotch** /-skoch/ *n* (the flavour of) a brittle toffee made from brown sugar, syrup, butter, and water  
**butter up** *vt* to charm with lavish flattery; cajole – infml  
**'butter, wort** /-wuht/ *n* any of a genus of insect-eating plants of damp places  
**'buttery** /'but(ə)n/ *n* a room (e.g. in a college) in which food and drink are served or sold [ME *boterie*, fr MF, fr *botte* cask, butt – more at 'BUTT]  
**'buttery** *adj* similar to or containing butter  
**butt in** *vi* 1 to meddle, intrude 2 to interrupt  
**'butt joint** *n* a joint made by placing the ends or sides of the parts together without overlap and often with reinforcement  
**buttock** /'butək/ *n* the back of a hip that forms one of the 2 fleshy parts on which a person sits [ME *buttok* – more at 'BUTT]  
**'button** /'but(ə)n/ *n* 1 a small knob or disc secured to an article (e.g. of clothing) and used as a fastener by passing it through a buttonhole or loop 2 an immature whole mushroom 3 a guard on the tip of a fencing foil 4 PUSH BUTTON 5 sthg of little value (<not worth a ~>) [ME *boton*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *boter* to thrust – more at 'BUTT] – **buttonless** *adj*  
**'button** *vt* to close or fasten (as if) with buttons – often + *up* (<~ up your overcoat>) ~ *vi* to have buttons for fastening (<this dress ~s at the back>)  
**'button-down** *adj*, of a collar having the ends fastened to the garment with buttons  
**'button, hole** /-hohl/ *n* 1 a slit or loop through which a button is passed 2 chiefly *Br* a flower worn in a buttonhole or pinned to the lapel  
**'buttonhole** *vt* 1 to provide with buttonholes 2 to sew with buttonhole stitch – **buttonholer** *n*  
**'buttonhole** *vt* to detain in conversation [alter. of *buttonhold* (to detain sb by holding the buttons on his clothes)]  
**'buttonhole, stitch** *n* a closely worked loop stitch used to make a firm or neat edge (e.g. on a buttonhole) – compare BLANKET STITCH  
**'button, hook** /-hook/ *n* a hook for drawing small buttons through buttonholes  
**'buttons** *n, pl* **buttons** *Br* a bellboy – infml [fr rows of buttons on his jacket]  
**'button-through** *adj*, of a garment fastened from the top to the bottom with buttons (<a ~ skirt>)  
**butress** /'butris/ *n* 1 a structure built against a wall or building to provide support or reinforcement 2 a projecting part of a mountain 3 sthg that supports or strengthens (<a ~ of the cause of peace>) [ME *butres*, fr MF *bouteres*, fr OF *boterez*, fr *boter*] – **butress** *vt*, **butressed** *adj*  
**'butt, weld** *n* a butt joint made by welding – **butt-weld** *vt*, **butt welding** *n*

**butty** /'buti/ *n*, *dial Br* a sandwich – infml ['butter + '-y]  
**butut** /'booh'toht/ *n*  *The Gambia* at NATIONALITY [native name in the Gambia]  
**butyl** /'byoohl-, -tiel/ *n* a univalent radical C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, derived from butane [ISV *butync* + -yl]  
**butyr-** /'byooti-, butyro- *comb form* 1 butyric (<butyral>) 2 butyric acid (<butyrate>) [ISV, fr *butync*]  
**butyraceous** /'byooh'trayshəs/ *adj* buttery – used technically [L *butyrum* butter – more at BUTTER]  
**butyric** /'byooh'tink/ *adj* relating to or producing butyric acid [F *butyrique*, fr L *butyrum*]  
**butyric 'acid** *n* an unpleasant-smelling fatty acid found esp in rancid butter  
**buxom** /'buks(ə)m/ *adj* attractively or healthily plump; *specif* full-bosomed [ME *buxum* compliant, gracious, fr (assumed) OE *buhsum*, fr OE *būgan* to bend – more at 'bow] – **buxomness** *n*  
**'buy** /'bie/ *vb* **bought** /'bawt/ *vt* 1 to acquire possession or rights to the use of by payment, esp of money; purchase 2 to obtain, often by some sacrifice (<bought peace with their lives>) 3 to bribe, hire 4 to be the purchasing equivalent of (<the pound ~s less today than it used to>) 5 to believe, accept (<OK, I'll ~ that>) – *slang* ~ *vi* to make a purchase [ME *byen*, fr OE *bycan*, akin to Goth *būgan* to buy] – **buy time** to delay an imminent action or decision, stall  
**'buy** *n* an act of buying, a purchase  
**buyer** /'bieə/ *n* one who selects and buys stock to be sold in an esp large shop ['BUY + -ER]  
**'buyer's, market** *n* a market in which supply exceeds demand, buyers have a wide range of choice, and prices tend to be low – compare SELLER'S MARKET  
**buy in** *vt* to obtain (a stock or supply of sthg) by purchase, esp in anticipation of need, also to complete an outstanding securities transaction by purchase against the account of (a delaying or defaulting speculator or dealer) – **buy-in** /- / *n*  
**buy off** *vt* to make a payment to in order to avoid some undesired course of action (e.g. prosecution)  
**buy out** *vt* 1 to purchase the share or interest of (<bought out his partner>) 2 to free (e.g. from military service) by payment – usu + *of* (<bought himself out of the army>)  
**buy up** *vt* 1 to purchase a controlling interest in (e.g. a company), esp by acquiring shares 2 to buy the entire available supply of  
**'buzz** /'buz/ *vi* 1 to make a low continuous vibratory sound like that of a bee 2 to be filled with a confused murmur (<the room ~ed with excitement>) 3 to make a signal with a buzzer ~ *vt* 1 to cause to buzz 2 to fly over or close to in order to threaten or warn (<the airliner was ~ed by fighters during its approach>) 3 to summon or signal with a buzzer [ME *bussen*, of imit origin]  
**'buzz** *n* 1 a persistent vibratory sound 2a a confused murmur or flurry of activity b rumour, gossip 3 a signal conveyed by a buzzer or bell; *specif* a telephone call – infml 4 chiefly *NAM* a pleasant stimulation; a kick – infml  
**buzzard** /'buzəd/ *n* 1 a contemptible, greedy, or grasping person 2 chiefly *Br* a common large European hawk with soaring flight, or a similar related bird 3 chiefly *NAM* a (large) bird of prey (e.g. the turkey buzzard) [ME *busard*, fr OF, alter. of *buson*, fr L *buteon-*, *buteo*]  
**buzzer** /'buzə/ *n* an electric signalling device that makes a buzzing sound ['BUZZ + -ER]  
**buzz off** *vi* to go away quickly – *slang*  
**'buzz, saw** *n*, chiefly *NAM* CIRCULAR SAW  
**'buzz, word** /-wuht/ *n* a usu technical word or phrase unintelligible to laymen  
**bwana** /'bwahnə/ *n*, chiefly *E Africa* a master, boss – often as a term of address [Swahili, fr Ar *abūna* our father]  
**'by** /'bie/ *prep* 1a in proximity to; near (<standing ~ the window>) b on the person or in the possession of (<keep a spare set ~ me>) 2a through (the medium of); via (<enter ~ the door>) (<delivered ~ hand>) b 11'15' in the direction of (another compass point up to 90° away) (<north ~ east>) c up to and then beyond; past (<went right ~ him>) 3a in the circumstances of; during (<studied ~ night>) b not later than (<in bed ~ 2 am>) 4a(1) through the instrumentality or use of (<~ bus>) (<what did he mean ~ that?>) (2) through the action or creation of (<a trio ~ Mozart>) b(1) sired by – compare OUT OF 2c (2) with the participation of (the other parent) (<his daughter ~ his first wife>) 5 with the witness or sanction of (<swear ~ Heaven>) 6a in conformity with (<acted ~ the rules>) (<opened it ~ mistake>) b in terms of (<paid ~ the hour>) (<called her ~ name>) c from the evidence of (<judge ~ appearances>) d with the action of (<began

~ scolding her) <alarmed him ~ driving too fast> 7 with respect to <French ~ birth> 8 to the amount or extent of <better ~ far> 9 in successive units or increments of <~ inches> <day ~ day> <succeeded 70 ~ little> 10 – used in division as the inverse of into <divide 70 ~ 35>, in multiplication <multiply 10 ~ 4>, and in measurements <a room 15ft ~ 20ft> 11 chiefly Scot in comparison with; beside [ME, prep & adv, fr OE, prep, be, bi; akin to OHG *bi* by, near, L *ambi-* on both sides, around, Gk *amphi*] – by oneself 1 alone, unaccompanied <standing by himself watching the others playing> 2 unaided <did her shoes up all by herself>

**by** *adv* 1a close at hand, near <when nobody was ~> b at or to another's home <stop ~ for a chat> 2 past <saw him go ~> 3 aside, away, esp in or into reserve <keep a few bottles ~>

**by** and **by** *adv* soon

**by** and **large** *adv* ON THE WHOLE, IN GENERAL

**by-blow** *n* an indirect blow

**bye**, *by* /bi/ *n* 1 sth of secondary importance 2 the passage to the next round of a tournament allowed to a competitor without an opponent 3 a run scored in cricket off a ball that passes the batsman without striking the bat or body – compare LEG BYE, EXTRA [alter. of 'by] – by the bye BY THE WAY

**bye**, *by* *interj* – used to express farewell [short for *goodbye*]

**bye-bye**, *by-by* /-i- / *interj* – used to express farewell [baby-talk redupl of *goodbye*]

**bye-bye**, *by-by* *n* bed, sleep – usu pl with sing. meaning <go to ~s>, usu used by or to children

**by-election** also **bye-election** *n* a special election to fill a vacancy

**bye-line** *n* 1 a line – infml

**Byelorussian**, **Belorussian** /b(y)eloh'rushən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Byelorussia in the USSR 2 the Slavonic language of the Byelorussians [fr LANGUAGE – *Byelorussian* *adj*]

**bygone** /'bi:gon/ *adj* earlier, past, esp outmoded

**bygone** *n* an esp domestic artefact of an early and disused type – let bygones be bygones to forgive and forget past quarrels

**bylaw**, **byelaw** /'bi:law/ *n* a local or secondary law or regulation [fr LAW [ME *blawe*, prob fr (assumed) ON *bylog*, fr ON *byr* town + *log* law]

**by-line** *n* 1 a secondary line, a sideline 2 the author's name printed with a newspaper or magazine article

**bypass** /-pa:z/ *n* 1 a passage to one side; esp a road built so that through traffic can avoid a town centre 2 a channel carrying a fluid round a part and back to the main stream

**bypass** *vt* 1 to avoid by means of a bypass 2 to neglect or ignore, usu intentionally, circumvent

**by-path** /-pa:th/ *n* a byway

**by-play** /-play/ *n* action engaged in on the side while the main action proceeds (e.g. during a dramatic production)

**by-product** *n* sth produced (e.g. in manufacturing) in addition to a principal product

**byre** /'bi:ə/ *n*, chiefly Br a cow shed [ME, fr OE *byre*; akin to OE *bur* dwelling – more at 'BOWER]

**Byronic** /'bi:ronik/ *adj* displaying a self-conscious romanticism [fr the characteristics of the life and writings of George Gordon, Lord Byron (†1824 E poet)] – *Byronically* *adv*

**byssinosis** /'bis:ino:sis/ *n*, pl *byssinoses* /-se:z/ a chronic lung disorder associated with the prolonged inhalation of cotton dust [NL, fr L *byssinus* of fine linen, fr Gk *byssinos*, fr *byssos* byssus]

**byssus** /'bis:əs/ *n*, pl *byssuses*, *byssal* /-sɪ-/ a tuft of filaments by which some bivalve molluscs (e.g. mussels) attach themselves to a surface [NL, fr L, linen cloth, fr Gk *byssos* flax, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *bus* linen cloth]

**bystander** /'bi:stəndə/ *n* one present but not involved in a situation or event

**byte** /bi:t/ *n* a string of adjacent binary digits that is often shorter than a word and is processed by a computer as a unit; esp one that is 8 bits long [perh alter. of 'bite]

**by-way** /-way/ *n* 1 a little-used road 2 a secondary or little known aspect (the author takes us down the ~s of medieval literature)

**by-word** /-wʊd/ *n* 1 a proverb 2 (the name of) sb or sth taken as representing some usu bad quality (<a ~ for cruelty>)

**by-your-leave** *n* a request for permission – esp in *without so much as a by-your-leave*

**Byzantine** /'bizəntiən, bi-, -teen/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of the ancient city of Byzantium or its empire 2 of or in a style of architecture developed in the Byzantine Empire in the 5th and 6th c, featuring a central dome

carried over a square space and much use of mosaics 3 intricately tortuous; labyrinthine [LL *Byzantinus*, fr *Byzantium*, ancient name of Istanbul, city in Turkey] – *Byzantine* *n*

# C

**c** /see/ *n*, pl *c's*, *cs* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 3rd letter of the English alphabet 2 a speech counterpart of orthographic *c* 3 the keynote of a C-major scale 4 one designated *c*, esp as the 3rd in order or class 5 a grade rating a student's work as fair or mediocre in quality 6a one hundred NUMBER b chiefly NAM a sum of \$100 – slang

**ca'** /kah, kaw/ *vb* or *n*, Scot (to) call

**cab** /kab/ *n* 1 a taxi 2 the part of a locomotive, lorry, crane, etc that houses the driver and operating controls [short for *cabriolet*]

**cabal** /kə'bal/ *vi* or *n* -ll- (to unite in or form) a clandestine or unofficial faction, esp in political intrigue [F *cabale* cabala, intrigue, cabal, fr ML *cabbala* cabala, fr LHeb *qabbalah*, lit., received (lore)] – *cabalist* /'kabl-ist, kə'balist/ *n*

**cabala**, **cabbala**, **cabbalah** also **kabala**, **kabbala**, **kabbalah** /kə'bahlə, 'kabalə/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a system of esoteric Jewish mysticism 2a a traditional, esoteric, occult, or secret matter b esoteric doctrine or mysterious art [ML *cabbala*] – *cabalism* /'kabo:liz(ə)m/ *n*, *cabalist* *n*, *cabalistic* /'kabo:'listik/ *adj*

**caballero** /kabo'lyəroh, kabo'yeəroh/ *n*, pl *caballeros* a Spanish gentleman or knight [Sp, fr LL *caballarius* horseman – more at CAVALIER]

**cabaret** /'kabaray/ *n* a stage show or series of acts provided at a nightclub, restaurant, etc [F, lit., tavern, fr ONF, prob irreg fr LL *camera* chamber]

**cabbage** /'kabi/ *n* 1 a cultivated plant that has a short stem and a dense globular head of usu green leaves used as a vegetable 2a one who has lost control of his/her esp mental and physical faculties as the result of illness or accident b an inactive and apathetic person *USE* (2) infml [ME *caboche*, fr ONF, head]

**'cabbage.palm** *n* a palm with edible cabbage-like buds at the end of the stem

**'cabbage.white** *n* any of several related largely white butterflies whose caterpillars feed on cabbage

**cabby**, **cabbie** /'kabi/ *n* a taxi driver – infml [*cab* + -y]

**caber** /'kaybo/ *n* a roughly trimmed tree trunk that is tossed for distance in a Scottish sport [ScGael *cabar*]

**'cabin** /'kabin/ *n* 1a a room or compartment on a ship or boat for passengers or crew b a compartment in an aircraft for cargo, crew, or passengers 2 a small usu single-storied dwelling of simple construction 3 chiefly Br CAB 2 [ME *cabane*, fr MF, fr OProv *cabana* hut, fr ML *capanna*]

**'cabin** *vt* to confine – chiefly poetic

**'cabin.boy** *n* a boy employed as a servant on board a ship

**'cabin.class** *n* a class of accommodation on a passenger ship superior to tourist class and inferior to first class

**'cabin.cruiser** *n* a private motorboat with living accommodation

**'cabinet** /'kab(i)nit/ *n* 1a a case for storing or displaying articles b an upright case housing a radio or television set 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, often *cap* a body of advisers of a head of state, who formulate government policy [MF, small room, dim. of ONF *cabine* gambling house]


**'cabinet** *adj* of a governmental cabinet




**'cabinetmaker** /-maykə/ *n* a craftsman who makes fine furniture in wood – *cabinetmaking* *n*

**'cabinetwork** /-wuhk/ *n* high quality woodworking produced by a cabinetmaker

**'cable** /'kaybl/ *n* 1a a strong thick rope b a wire rope or metal chain of great tensile strength 2 an assembly of electrical conductors insulated from each other and surrounded by a sheath TELEVISION 3 a cablegram 4 cable, cable length a nautical unit of length equal to about a Br 185m (202yd) b NAM 219m (240yd) [ME, fr ONF, fr ML *capulum* lasso, fr L *capere* to take – more at HEAVE]

**'cable** *vb* *cabling* /'kaybl-ing, 'kaybling/ *vt* 1 to fasten or provide with a cable or cables 2a to transmit (a message) by submarine cable b to communicate with or inform (a person) by cablegram 3 to make into (a form resembling) a cable ~ *vi* to communicate by means of a cablegram

**'cable, car** *n* a carriage made to be moved on a cable railway or along an overhead cable  
**'cablegram** /-gram, -gram/ *n* a message sent by a submarine cable  
**'cable-laid** *adj*, of a rope composed of 3 ropes twisted together each containing 3 strands  
**cable railway** *n* a railway along which the carriages are pulled by an endless cable operated by a stationary motor; **FUNICULAR**  
**'cable, stitch** *n* a knitting stitch that produces a twisted rope-like pattern  
**cable television** *n* cablevision  
**'cable, vision** /-vɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* a system in which television signals reach the television by cable rather than by a separate aerial  **TELEVISION**  
**'cable, way** /-way/ *n* a suspended cable along which carriers (e.g. cable cars) can be pulled  
**cabman** /'kæbmən/ *n* a taxi driver  
**cabochon** /'kəbəʃən/ *n* (the form of) a convex highly polished gem, cut without facets [MF, aug of ONF *caboche* head] – **cabochon** *adv*  
**caboodle** /kə'boʊdl/ *n* a collection, lot (sell the whole ~) – **infm** [prob fr *ca-* (intensive prefix, prob of imit origin) + *boodle* (lot, large amount)]  
**caboose** /kə'boʊhs/ *n* 1 a ship's galley 2 **NAm** a wagon attached to a goods train, usu at the rear, mainly for the use of the train crew [prob fr *D kabuis*, fr *MLG kabuse*]  
**cabotage** /'kəbə,təʒh/ *n* trade or transport in coastal waters or between 2 points within a country [F, fr *caboter* to sail along the coast]  
**cabriole** /'kæbrɪəʊl/ *n* a curved furniture leg, often ending in an ornamental foot [F, caper]  
**cabriolet** /'kæbrɪəʊlə/ *n* a light 2-wheeled 1-horse carriage with upward-curving shafts [F, fr *dim.* of *cabriole* caper, alter. of MF *capriole*]  
**cac-** /kæk-/ *comb form* bad, unpleasant <*cacogenics*> <*cacophony*> [NL, fr Gk *kak-*, *kako-*, fr *kakos* bad]  
**ca' canny** /kə'h kəni, kəw/ *n*, *dial Br* a go-slow [E dial & Sc *ca' canny* to proceed cautiously, fr *ca'* to call, drive + *canny* cautious(ly)] – **ca' canny** *vi*, *dial Br*  
**cacao** /kə'kəʊh-, 'kəyoh/ *n*, *pl cacao* (a S American tree bearing) the fatty seeds which are used, partly fermented and dried, in making cocoa, chocolate, and cocoa butter [Sp, fr Nahuatl *cacahuatl* cacao beans]  
**cachalot** /'kəʃəlɒt/ *n* SPERM WHALE [F]  
**cache** /kæʃ/ *n* 1 a hiding place, esp for provisions or weapons 2 sthg hidden or stored in a cache [F, fr *cacher* to press, hide, fr (assumed) VL *coacticare* to press together, fr L *coactare* to compel, fr *coactus*, pp of *cogere* to compel – more at **COGENIT**] – **cache** *vi*  
**cachet** /kəʃəʃ/ *n*, *pl cachets* 1 'SEAL 1; esp one used as a mark of official approval 2 (a characteristic feature or quality conferring) prestige 3 sthg other than the postmark that is stamped by hand on a postal item [MF, fr *cacher* to press, hide]  
**cachexia** /kə'keksɪə/ *also* *cachexy* /kə'keksɪ, 'kəkeksɪ/ *n* general physical wasting, usu associated with chronic disease [LL *cachexia*, fr Gk *kachexia* bad condition, fr *kak-* *cac-* + *hexis* condition, fr *echein* to have, be disposed – more at **SCHEME**] – **cachetic** /kə'ketɪk/ *adj*  
**cachinnate** /kə'kɪnəteɪ/ *vi* to laugh loudly or immoderately – **fml** [L *cachinnatus*, pp of *cachinnare*, of imit origin] – **cachinnation** /-ˈnæʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**cachou** /kəʃuːh, kə'shuːh/ *n* 1 catechu 2 a pill or lozenge used to sweeten the breath [F, fr Pg *cachu*, fr Malayalam *kaccu*]  
**cachucha** /kə'choʊtʃə/ *n* a lively Andalusian solo dance in triple time done with castanets [Sp, small boat, *cachucha*]  
**cack-handed** /kæk-/ *adj*, *Br* 1 awkward, clumsy – **infm** 2 left-handed – **derog** [origin unknown]  
**cackle** /kækl/ *vi* **cackling** /'kæklɪŋ, 'kæklɪŋ/ 1 to make the sharp broken noise or cry characteristic of a hen, esp after laying 2 to laugh in a way suggestive of a hen's cackle 3 'CHATTER 2 [ME *cakelen*, of imit origin] – **cackle** *n*, **cackler** /'kæklə, 'kæklə/ *n*  
**caco-** *comb form* – **see** **CAC-**  
**cademon** /kə'keɪmən/ *n* an evil spirit; a demon [Gk *kakodaimōn*, fr *kak-* *cac-* + *daimōn* spirit] – **cademone** /-di'monɪk/ *adj*  
**cacography** /kə'kɒɡrəfi, kə-/ *n* bad handwriting or spelling – **compare** **CALLIGRAPHY** – **cacographical** /kə'kɒɡrəfɪkəl/ *adj*  
**cacomistle** /kə'kəmiəl/ *n* a flesh-eating mammal related to and resembling the raccoon [MexSp, fr Nahuatl *tlacomiztli*, fr *tlaco* half + *miztli* mountain lion]  
**cacophony** /kə'kɒfəni/ *n* harsh or discordant sound; dissonance [F *cacophonie*, fr NL *cacaphonia*, fr Gk *kakophōnia*, fr *kak-* *cac-* + *phōnē* sound] – **cacophonous** *adj*

**cactus** /'kæktəs/ *n*, *pl cacti* /-tɪ-/ *cactuses* any of a family of plants that have fleshy stems and scaly or spiny branches instead of leaves and are found esp in dry areas (e.g. deserts) [NL, genus name, fr L, a thistle-like plant, fr Gk *kaktos*]  
**cad** /kæd/ *n* an unscrupulous or dishonourable man – **derog**; not now in vogue [E dial., unskilled assistant, short for Sc *caddie*] – **caddish** *adj*  
**cadaver** /kə'dævə-, 'dɑhvə-, 'dɑvə/ *n* a corpse, usu intended for dissection [L, fr *cadere* to fall]  
**cadaverous** /kə'dæv(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 (suggestive) of a corpse 2a unhealthily pale; pallid, livid b gaunt, emaciated – **cadaverously** *adv*  
**caddie, caddy** /'kædi/ *n* one who assists a golfer, esp by carrying clubs [F *cadet* military cadet] – **caddie, caddy** *vi*  
**'caddis, fly** /'kædɪs/ *n* any of an order of 4-winged insects with aquatic larvae  
**'caddis, worm** *n* the larva of a caddis fly [prob alter. of obs *codworm*, fr *cod* (bag) + *worm*; fr the case or tube in which it lives]  
**caddy** /'kædi/ *n* a small box or tin used esp for holding tea [Malay *kati*, a unit of weight]  
**-cade** /-kæd/ *comb form* (*n* → *n*) procession <*motorcade*> <*cavalcade*>  
**cadence** /'kæd(ə)ns/, 'cadency /-sɪ/ *n* 1a the rhythm and intonations in language b a falling inflection of the voice 2 a concluding strain; *specific* a musical chord sequence moving to a harmonic close or point of rest and giving the sense of harmonic completion 3 the modulated and rhythmic recurrence of a sound [ME, fr OIt *cadenza*, fr *cadere* to fall, fr L – more at **CHANCE**] – **cadenced** *adj*, **cadential** /kæ'densh(ə)l/ *adj*  
**cadent** /'kæd(ə)nt/ *adj* having a rhythmic fall in pitch or tone [L *cadent-*, *cadens*, prp of *cadere*]  
**cadenza** /kə'denza/ *n* a technically showy sometimes improvised solo passage in a concerto [It, cadence, *cadenza*]  
**cadet** /kə'det/ *n* 1a a younger brother or son b (a member of) a younger branch of a family 2 sby training to be an officer in the armed forces or a policeman 3 a young person receiving basic military training, esp at school [F, fr F dial. *cadet* chief, fr LL *capitellum*, *dim.* of L *capit-*, *caput* head – more at **HEAD**] – **cadetship** *n*  
**cadge** /kæj/ *vb* to get (sthg) by asking and usu imposing on sby's hospitality or good nature – **infm** [back-formation fr Sc *cadger* carrier, huckster, fr ME *cadgear*, fr *caggen* to tie] – **cadger** *n*  
**cadi** /'kædi, 'kay-/ *n* a judge in a Muslim community [Ar *qadi*, fr *qadā* to judge]  
**cadmium** /'kædmɪəm/ *n* a bluish-white soft toxic bivalent metallic element used esp in platings and bearing metals  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr L *cadmia* calamine – more at **CALAMINE**, fr the occurrence of its ores together with calamine]  
**cadre** /'kædrə/ *n* 1 a permanent nucleus of an esp military organization, capable of rapid expansion if necessary 2 (a member of) a group of activists working for the Communist party cause [F, fr It *quadro*, fr L *quadrum* square – more at **QUARREL**]  
**caduceus** /kə'dyʊoʊsɪs-/ *n*, *pl caducei* /-sɪ, -e/ the symbolic staff of an ancient Greek or Roman herald [L, modif of Gk *karykeion*, fr *karyx*, *kéryx* herald; akin to OE *hrēth* glory] – **caducean** /-sɪən-, -shən/ *adj*  
**caducity** /kə'dyʊoʊsɪti/ *n* 1 the quality of being transitory or perishable 2 senility **USE** **fml** [F *caducité*, fr *caduc* transitory, fr L *caducus*]  
**caducous** /kə'dyʊoʊks-/ *adj*, esp of floral organs of plants falling off early [L *caducus* tending to fall, transitory, fr *cadere* to fall – more at **CHANCE**]  
**caecum**, **NAm chiefly cecum** /'seɪkəm/ *n* a cavity open at 1 end; esp the pouch in which the large intestine begins and into which the ileum opens  **DIGESTION** [NL, fr L *intestinum caecum*, lit., blind intestine] – **caecal** *adj*, **caecally** *adv*  
**caen-** /seɪn-/ *comb form* – **caeno-** *comb form*  
**Caerphilly** /kə'fɪli, kə-/ *n* a mild white moist cheese [Caerphilly, urban district in Wales]  
**Caesar** /'seɪzə/ *n* 1 any of the Roman emperors who succeeded Augustus Caesar – used as a title 2 often not cap a powerful ruler [Gaius Julius Caesar 100–44 BC Roman statesman] – **Caesarean**, **Caesarian** /'si:zəriən/ *adj*  
**caesarean**, **Caesarean** 'section, **Caesarian**, **NAm caesarean** /'si:zəriən/ *n* a surgical incision of the abdominal and uterine walls for the delivery of offspring [fr the belief that Julius Caesar was so born]  
**caesious** /'seɪziəs/ *adj* bluish or greyish green [L *caesius* bluish grey]  
**caesium**, **NAm chiefly cesium** /'seɪziəm/ *n* a silver-white soft element of the alkali metal group  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr L *caesius*]  
**caesura** /'si:zʊərə-, 'zhoʊərə/ *n*, *pl caesurae*, **caesurae** /-ri/ a break or

pause in usu the middle of a line of verse [LL, fr L, act of cutting, fr *caedere* to cut – more at **CONCISE**] – **caesural adj**


**café** /'kafay/ *n* 1 chiefly *Br* a small restaurant or coffeehouse serving light meals and nonalcoholic drinks 2 *NAM BAR* 5a(2) [F, coffee, *café*, fr Turk *kahve* – more at **COFFEE**]

**café au lait** /'oh 'lay (Fr *kafé o le*)/ *n* 1 coffee with usu hot milk in about equal parts 2 the colour of coffee with milk [F, coffee with milk]

**cafeteria** /'kafə'tiəri-ə/ *n* a restaurant in which the customers serve themselves or are served at a counter and take the food to tables to eat [AmerSp *cafeteria* retail coffee store, fr Sp *café* coffee]

**caff** /kaf/ *n, Br* **CAFÉ** 1; *esp* a cheap plain one – *infrml* [by shortening & alter.]

**caffeine** /'kæfeɪn/ *n* an alkaloid found esp in tea and coffee that acts as a stimulant and diuretic [G *kaffein*, fr *kaffee* coffee, fr F *café*] – **caffeinic** /'kæfeɪnɪk/, **caffee** /'kæfeɪnɪk/ *adj*

**caftan**, **kaftan** /'kɑftən/ *n* a loose ankle-length garment with long sleeves, traditionally worn by Arabs  **GARMENT** [Russ *kaftan*, fr Turk, fr Per *qafṭān*]

**'cage** /kayj/ *n* 1 a box or enclosure of open construction for animals 2 a barred cell or fenced area for prisoners 3 a framework serving as a support (*the steel ~ of a skyscraper*) 4 an enclosure resembling a cage in form or purpose [ME, fr OF, fr L *cavea* cavity, cage, fr *cavus* hollow – more at **'CAVE**]

**'cage** *vt* to put or keep (as if) in a cage

**'cage**, **bird** *n* a bird (suitable for keeping) in a cage

**cagey** *also* **eggy** /'kayji/ *adj* 1 hesitant about committing oneself 2 wary of being trapped or deceived, shrewd *USE* *infrml* [origin unknown] – **cagily** *adv*, **caginess** *also* **cageyness** *n*


**cagoule** /'kagoʊl/ *n* a long waterproof anorak [F, hood, cowl, fr LL *cuculla* monk's cowl]

**cahoot** /kə'hoʊt/ *n* a partnership, league – usu pl with sing meaning, *infrml*; usu in *in cahoots* [perh fr F *cahute* cabin, hut]

**caiman** /'kaymən/ *n, pl* **caimans**, *esp* collectively **caiman** a cayman

**cain-**, **caino-**, **caen-**, **caeno-**, chiefly *NAM* **cen-**, **ceno-** *comb form* new, recent [**Cainozoic**] [Gk *kain-*, *kaino-*, fr *kainos* – more at **RECENT**]

**-caine** /-kayn/ *comb form* (– *n*) synthetic anaesthetic resembling cocaine [*lignocaine*] [G *-kain*, fr *kokain* cocaine]

**Cainozoic** /'kayno'zoh-ik/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an era of geological history that extends from the beginning of the Tertiary period to the present  **EVOLUTION**

**cairn** /keən/ *n* a pile of stones built as a memorial or landmark [ME *carne*, fr ScGael *carn*, akin to OIr & W *carn* cairn] – **cairned** *adj*

**cairngorm** /'keən,gawm/ *n* a yellow or smoky-brown quartz [*Cairngorm*, mountain in Scotland]

**cairn** **terrier** *n* a small compactly built terrier of Scottish origin [fr its use in hunting among cairns]

**caisson** /'kays(ə)n, kə'soʊn/ *n* 1 a chest or wagon for artillery ammunition 2a a watertight chamber used for construction work under water or as a foundation b a float for raising a sunken vessel c a hollow floating box or a boat used as a floodgate for a dock or basin 3 **COFFER** 4 [F, *aus* of *caisse* box, fr OProv *caisa*, fr L *capsa* chest, case – more at **'CASE**]

**calisson disease** *n* pain, paralysis, and often collapse caused by the release of gas bubbles in tissue on too rapid reduction of pressure (e.g. in deep-sea diving)

**cajole** /'kə'johl/ *vt* to persuade or deceive with deliberate flattery, esp in the face of reluctance [F *cajoler* to chatter like a jay in a cage: *cajole*, alter. of MF *gaioler*, fr ONF *gaiole* birdcage, fr LL *caveola*, dim. of L *cavea* cage – more at **CAGE**] – **cajolement** *n*, **cajoler** *n*, **cajology** /'kə'johl(a)ri/ *n*

**'cake** /kayk/ *n* 1a a usu fried or baked often unleavened breadlike food – usu in combination (*oatcake*) b (a shaped mass of) any of various sweet baked foods made from a basic mixture of flour and sugar, usu with fat, eggs, and a raising agent c a flattened usu round mass of (baked or fried) food (*a fish ~*) 2 a block of compressed or congealed matter (*a ~ of ice*) [ME, fr ON *kaka*; akin to OHG *kuocho* cake]

**'cake** *vt* to encrust ~ *vi* to form or harden into a mass

**'cake**, **walk** /-,wawk/ *n* 1 (the music for) a stage dance characterized by strutting movements 2 an easy task – *infrml* [fr former practice of giving a cake as a prize to the most accomplished dancer] – **cakewalk** *vi*, **cakewalker** *n*

**'Calabar**, **bean** /'kalə,bəh/ *n* the dark brown poisonous seed of a tropical African climbing plant [*Calabar*, city in Nigeria]

**calabash** /'kalə,bəsh/ *n* (a) container or utensil made from the hard shell

of) a gourd [F & Sp, F *calebasse* gourd, fr Sp *calabaza*, prob fr Ar *qar'ah yabisah* dry gourd]

**calaboose** /'kalə,bu:hs, -'bree-/ *n, dial* *NAM* a (local) jail [Sp *calabozo* dungeon]

**calabrese** /'kalə'brayzi, -'bree-/ *n* a type of sprouting broccoli [It, Calabrian, fr *Calabria*, region of Italy]

**calamander** /'kalə'manda/ *n* the black-striped wood of an E Indian tree, used for furniture [prob fr D *kalamanderhout* calamander wood]

**calamine** /'kalmien/ *n* a pink powder of zinc oxide or carbonate with a small amount of ferric oxide, used in soothing or cooling lotions [F, ore of zinc, fr ML *calamina*, alter. of L *cadmia*, fr Gk *kadmia*, lit., Theban (earth), fr fem of *kadmeios* Theban, fr *Kadmos* Cadmus, legendary founder of Thebes, ancient city of Greece]

**calamint** /'kalamint/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the mint family [ME *calament*, fr OF, fr ML *calamentum*, fr Gk *kalaminthe*]

**calamity** /'kə'ləməti/ *n* 1 a state of deep distress caused by misfortune or loss 2 an extremely grave event, a disaster [MF *calamité*, fr L *calamitat-*, *calamitas*, akin to L *clades* destruction – more at **'HALT**] – **calamitous** *adj*, **calamitously** *adv*, **calamitousness** *n*

**calandria** /'kə'landri-ə/ *n* a vessel through which a set of pipes pass, used as a heat-exchanger [Sp, lit., lark]

**calc-**, **calci-** *comb form* calcium; calcium salt (<*calcify*> (<*calcareous*> [L *calc-*, *calx* lime – more at **CHALK**])

**calcanium** /'kal'kayni-əm/ *n, pl* **calcanes** /-ni-ə/ the calcaneus [L, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel, akin to Gk *kolon* limb, *skelos* leg]

**calcaneus** /'kal'kayni-əs/ *n, pl* **calcanei** /-ni-ə/ a tarsal bone that in human beings is the great bone of the heel [LL, heel, alter. of L *calcanium*]

**calcareous** /'kal'keəri-əs/ *adj* 1 resembling, containing, or consisting of calcium compounds, esp calcium carbonate 2 growing on limestone or in soil impregnated with lime [L *calcarus* of lime, fr *calc-*, *calx* lime] – **calcareously** *adv*, **calcareousness** *n*

**calceolaria** /'kalsi-ə'leəri-ə/ *n* any of a genus of tropical American plants of the figwort family with showy pouch-shaped flowers [NL, genus name, fr L *calceolus* small shoe, dim. of *calceus* shoe, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel]

**calces** /'kal,seɪz/ *pl* of **CALX**

**calciferol** /'kal'sifə,rəl/ *n* **VITAMIN D**, [blend of *calciferous* and *ergosterol*]


**calciferous** /'kal'sif(ə)rəs/ *adj* producing or containing calcium carbonate

**calcify** /'kalsifi-/ *vb* 1 to make or become hardened by deposition of calcium salts, esp calcium carbonate 2 to make or become inflexible or unchangeable – **calcific** /'kal'sifik/ *adj*, **calcification** /'kalsifi-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**calcine** /'kalsin, -sien/ *vt* to heat (e.g. inorganic materials) without melting usu in order to drive off volatile matter or to bring about oxidation or powdering of the material ~ *vi* to be calcined [ME *calcenen*, fr MF *calciner*, fr L *calc-*, *calx* lime – more at **CHALK**] – **calcination** /'kalsi'neɪsh(ə)n/ *n*

**calcite** /'kalsit/ *n* calcium carbonate in the form of limestone, chalk, marble, etc – **calcitic** /-'siti:k/ *adj*

**calcitonin** /'kalsi'tohɪn/ *n* a polypeptide hormone produced by the thyroid gland, that tends to lower the level of calcium in the blood plasma [*calci-* + *'tomic* + *-in*]

**calcium** /'kalsi-əm/ *n* a silver-white bivalent metallic element of the alkaline-earth group occurring only in combination  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr L *calc-*, *calx* lime]

**calcium** **'carbide** *n* a usu dark grey compound that produces acetylene when mixed with water

**calcium** **'carbonate** *n* a compound found in nature as calcite, limestone, etc, and in bones and shells

**calcium** **'phosphate** *n* any of several phosphates that occur naturally in phosphate rock, teeth, and bones and are used in fertilizers and animal feeds

**calculable** /'kalkyooləbəl/ *adj* subject to or ascertainable by calculation – **calculably** *adv*, **calculability** /-'lə'biliti/ *n*

**calculate** /'kalkyoolayt/ *vt* 1 to determine by mathematical processes 2 to reckon by exercise of practical judgment; estimate ~ *vi* 1 to make a calculation 2 to forecast consequences 3 to count, rely – + *on* or *upon* [L *calculatus*, pp of *calcularē*, fr *calculus* pebble (used in reckoning), dim. of *calc-*, *calx* stone used in gambling, lime – more at **CHALK**]

**calculated** /'kalkyoolaytəd/ *adj* 1a worked out by mathematical calculation b engaged in, undertaken, or displayed after reckoning or estimating the probability of success (*a ~ risk*) 2 shrewdly planned to accomplish a purpose 3 apt, likely to – **calculatedly** *adv*, **calculatedness** *n*



- calculating** /ˈkalkyoolaytɪŋ/ *adj* 1 used for making calculations (< a ~ machine>) 2 marked by shrewd consideration of self-interest; scheming – **calculatingly** *adv*
- calculation** /ˈkalkyoolayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (the result of) the process or an act of calculating 2 studied care in planning, esp to promote self-interest – **calculative** /ˈkalkyoolatɪv/ *adj*
- calculator** /ˈkalkyoolaytə/ *n* 1 an electronic or mechanical machine for performing mathematical operations 2 a set or book of tables used in calculating [CALCULATE + -OR]
- calculus** /ˈkalkyooləs/ *adj* caused or characterized by a pathological calculus or calculi
- calculus** /ˈkalkyooləs/ *n, pl calculi* /-lie/ *also calculuses* 1a an abnormal hard stony mass (e.g. of cholesterol) in the kidney, gall bladder, or other hollow organ b TARTAR 2a a method of computation or calculation in a special symbolic notation b the mathematical methods comprising differential and integral calculus [L. pebble, stone in the bladder or kidney, stone used in reckoning]
- calders** /ˈkalˈdeərə/ *n* a wide volcanic crater formed by violent explosion or subsidence of the volcano [Sp. lit., cauldron, fr LL *caldaria*]
- caldron** /ˈkawldrən/ *n* a cauldron
- Caledonian** /ˈkaləˈdoʊniən, -ni-ən/ *adj* (of ancient) Scotland, esp the Highlands [NL *Caledonia* Scotland, fr L, part of N Britain] – **Caledonian** *n*
- calefactory** /ˈkəlɪˈfakt(ə)rɪ/ *n* a heated monastery room used as a sitting room [ML *calefactorium*, fr L *calefactus*, pp of *calefacere* to warm – more at CHAFE]
- calendar** /ˈkaləndə/ *n* 1 a system for fixing the beginning, length, and divisions of the civil year and arranging days and longer divisions of time (e.g. weeks and months) in a definite order 2 a tabular display of the days of 1 year 3 a chronological list of events or activities [ME *calender*, fr AF or ML; AF *calender*, fr LL *calendarium*, fr L, moneylender's account book, fr *kalendae* calends]
- calendar** *vt* to enter in a calendar
- calender** /ˈkaləndə/ *n* a machine for pressing cloth, rubber, paper, etc between rollers or plates (e.g. for smoothing and glazing) [MF *calandre*, modif of Gk *kyindros* cylinder – more at CYLINDER] – **calender** *vt*
- calenda, calends** /ˈkalɪndz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr the first day of the ancient Roman month [ME *kalendes*, fr L *kalendae, calendae*]
- calf** /kɑːf/ *n, pl calves* /kəlvz/ *also calfs*, (2) **calfs** 1a the young of the domestic cow or a closely related mammal (e.g. a bison) b the young of some large animals (e.g. the elephant and whale) 2 calfskin <the book was bound in fine ~> 3 a small mass of ice broken off from a coastal glacier, iceberg, etc [ME, fr OE *caelf*; akin to OHG *kalb* calf, ON *kálfi* calf of the leg, L *galla gallinut* – *calflike* *adj* – In calf of a cow pregnant]
- calf** *n, pl calves* the fleshy back part of the leg below the knee [ME, fr ON *kalfi*]
- calf love** *n* PUPPY LOVE
- calfs-foot** /ˈkɑːfz fʊt/ *jelly* *n* jelly made from gelatin obtained by boiling calves' feet
- calfskin** /-ˈskɪn/ *n* a high-quality leather made from the skin of a calf
- Calgon** /ˈkælɡən/ *trademark* – used for a water softener that is a complex phosphate of sodium
- calibrate** /ˈkælɪbrayt/ *vt* 1 to determine the calibre of (e.g. a thermometer tube) 2 to determine, adjust, or mark the graduations of (e.g. a thermometer) 3 to determine the correct reading of (an arbitrary or inaccurate scale or instrument) by comparison with a standard – **calibrator** *n*
- calibration** /ˈkælɪbrayʃ(ə)n/ *n* a set of graduations that indicate values or positions –usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning [CALIBRATE + -ION]
- calibre**, *NAM* chiefly **caliber** /ˈkælɪbə/ *n* 1 the internal or external diameter of a round body (e.g. a bullet or other projectile) or a hollow cylinder (e.g. a gun barrel) 2a degree of mental capacity or moral quality b degree of excellence or importance [MF, fr Olt *calibro*, fr Ar *qālīb* shoemaker's last]
- caliche** /ˈkəˈloʊtʃ/ *n* the nitrate-bearing gravel or rock of the sodium nitrate deposits of Chile and Peru [AmerSp, fr Sp, flake of lime, fr *cal* lime, fr L *calx* – more at CHALK]
- calico** /ˈkælɪkəʊ/ *n, pl calicoes, calicos* 1 white unprinted cotton cloth of medium weight, orig imported from India 2 *NAM* brightly printed cotton fabric [Calicut, city in India] – **calico** *adj*
- calico printing** *n* a process of making coloured designs on cotton fabrics (e.g. calico)
- californium** /ˈkælɪˈfawniəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a radioactive element made by
- bombarding curium 242 with alpha particles  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *California*, state of USA]
- Calinago** /ˈkælɪˈnagoh/ *n* an Arawakan language of the Lesser Antilles and Central America
- calipash** /ˈkælɪˈpash/ *n* a fatty gelatinous dull greenish edible substance next to the upper shell of a turtle [per native name in W Indies]
- calipee** /ˈkælɪˈpee/ *n* a fatty gelatinous light yellow edible substance next to the lower shell of a turtle [per native name in W Indies]
- caliper** /ˈkælɪpə/ *vt* or *n*, chiefly *NAM* (to) calliper
- caliph**, **calif** /ˈkælɪf, ˈkay-/ *n* a secular and spiritual head of Islam claiming descent from Muhammad [ME *caliphe*, fr MF *calife*, fr Ar *khalīfah* successor] – **caliphal** *adj*, **caliphate** /-ət, -aɪt/ *n*
- calisthenics** /ˈkælɪsˈθenɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr, chiefly *NAM* calisthenics – **calisthenic** *adj*
- calix** /ˈkælɪks, ˈkay-/ *n, pl calices* /-liːseɪz/ *CALYX* 2 [L *calic-*, *calix* – more at CHALICE]
- calk** /kawk/ *vt* to caulk – **calker** *n*
- call** /kawl/ *vi* 1a to speak loudly or distinctly so as to be heard at a distance, shout b to make a request or demand (< ~ for an investigation>) c of an animal to utter a characteristic note or cry 2 to make a demand in card games (e.g. for a particular card or for a show of hands) 3 of a batsman to indicate vocally to one's batting partner whether one intends to take a run or not 4 to make a brief visit – often + *in* or by (< ~ ed in at the pub>) 5 chiefly *NAM* to (try to) get into communication by telephone – often + *up* ~ *vt* 1a to utter or announce in a loud distinct voice – often + *out* b to read aloud (e.g. a list of names) <the teacher ~ ed the register every morning> 2a to command or request to come or be present (< ~ ed to testify>) b to cause to come, bring (< ~ s to mind an old saying>) c to summon to a particular activity, employment, or office (< was ~ ed to active duty>) d to invite or command to meet, convoke (< ~ a meeting>) 3 to rouse from sleep 4 to give the order for, bring into action (< ~ a strike against the company>) 5a to make a demand in bridge for (a card or suit) b to require (a player) to show the hand in poker by making an equal bet 6 to attract (e.g. game) by imitating a characteristic cry 7a to rule on the status of (e.g. a tennis serve) <the serve was ~ ed out by the umpire> b of a cricket umpire to pronounce the bowling delivery to be illegal <Griffin was ~ ed for throwing> 8 to give the calls for (a square dance) 9 to suspend <time was ~ ed> 10 to speak of or address by a specified name, give a name to (< ~ her Kitty>) 11a to regard or characterize as a certain kind; consider <can hardly be ~ ed generous> b to consider for purposes of an estimate or for convenience (< ~ it an even quid>) 12 to predict, guess (< ~ the toss of a coin>) 13 chiefly *NAM* to (try to) get into communication with by telephone – often + *up* [ME *callen*, prob fr ON *kalla*, akin to OE *hildrecalla* battle herald, OHG *kallon* to talk loudly, OSlav *glasŭ* voice] – **callable** *adj*, **caller** *n* – **call a spade a spade** to speak frankly and usu bluntly – **called to the bar** admitted as a barrister – **call for** 1 to call to get; collect 2 to require as necessary or appropriate <it called for all her strength> 3 to demand, order <legislation calling for the establishment of new schools> – **call in** /into question to cast doubt upon <called in question the validity of his statement> – **call it a day** to stop whatever one has been doing at least for the present – **call it quits** 1 CALL IT A DAY 2 to acknowledge that the advantage is now even – **call on/upon** 1 to require, oblige <may be called on to do several jobs> 2 to appeal to; invoke <universities are called upon to meet the needs of a technological world> – **call someone's bluff** to challenge and expose an empty pretence or threat – **call the shots/the tune** to be in charge or control; determine the policy or procedure – **call to account** to hold responsible; reprimand <called to account for violation of the rules> – **call to order** to order (a meeting) to observe the customary rules
- call** *n* 1a an act of calling with the voice b the cry of an animal (e.g. a bird) c (an instrument used to produce) an imitation of an animal's cry made to attract the animal 2a a request or command to come or assemble b a summons or signal on a drum, bugle, or pipe c a summoning of actors to the stage (e.g. for rehearsal) 3a admission to the bar as a barrister b a divine vocation c a strong inner prompting to a course of action d the attraction or appeal of a particular activity or place <the ~ of the wild> 4a a demand, request b need, justification <there was no ~ for such rudeness> 5 a short usu formal visit <a courtesy ~> 6 the name (e.g. of a suit in a card game) or thing called 7 the act of calling in a card game 8 the act of telephoning  TELECOMMUNICATION 9 a direction or a succession of directions for a square dance rhythmically called to the dancers 10 a usu vocal ruling made by an official of a sports contest – **on call** 1 available for use <the company car is always on call for you> 2 ready to respond to a summons or command <a doctor on call> – **within call** within hearing or reach of a call or summons




**calla** /'kə'lə/, 'calla, lily *n* any of several plants of the arum family; *esp* a European plant that grows in wet places [NL, genus name, modif of Gk *kallia* cock's wattles]

**'call, box** *n*, *Br* a public telephone box

**'call, boy** /-boy/ *n* 1 a person who tells actors when it is time to go on stage 2 chiefly *NAM* a hotel page

**call down** *vt* to invoke, request (call down a blessing on the crops)

**'call, girl** *n* a prostitute who accepts appointments by telephone

**calligraphy** /kə'lɪgrəfi/ *n* (beautiful or elegant) handwriting – compare **CACOGRAPHY**  **ALPHABET** [F or Gk; F *calligraphie*, fr Gk *kalligraphia*, fr *kalli-* beautiful (fr *kallos* beauty) + *-graphia* -graphy; akin to Gk *kalos* beautiful, Skt *kalya* healthy] – **calligrapher**, **calligraphist** *n*, **calligraphic** /kə'lɪgrəfɪk/ *adj*, **calligraphically** *adv*

**call in** *vt* 1a to withdraw from an advanced position (call in the outposts) *b* to withdraw from circulation (call in bank notes and issue new ones) 2 to summon to one's aid or for consultation (call in an arbitrator to settle the dispute)

**calling** /'kɔːlɪŋ/ *n* 1 a strong inner impulse towards a particular course of action, *esp* when accompanied by conviction of divine influence 2 a vocation, profession

**'calling, card** *n*, *NAM* VISITING CARD

**'calliper**, chiefly *NAM* **caliper** /'kælɪpə/ *n* 1 a measuring instrument with 2 arms that can be adjusted to determine thickness, diameter, or distance between surfaces – *usu* pl with sing. meaning (a pair of ~s) 2 a support for the human leg extending from the knee or thigh to the foot [alter. of *calibre*]

**²calliper**, chiefly *NAM* **caliper** *vt* to measure (as if) with callipers

**callisthenics**, chiefly *NAM* **calisthenics** /kə'lɪs'thiːnɪks/ *n* *pl* but sing or *pl* in constr (the art or practice of) systematic rhythmic bodily exercises performed *usu* without apparatus [Gk *kallistos* beauty + *sthenos* strength – more at **CALLIGRAPHY**] – **callisthenic** *adj*

**call off** *vt* 1 to draw away, divert (call the dogs off) 2 to cancel (call the trip off)

**call of 'nature** *n* the urge to urinate or defecate – *euph*

**callose** /'kəloʊs/ *n* a carbohydrate component of plant cell walls [L *callosus* callous]

**callosity** /kə'losəti/ *n* (an area of) marked or abnormal hardness and thickness

**callous** /'kəloʊs/ *adj* 1 hardened and thickened 2 unfeeling; *esp* unsympathetic [MF *callex*, fr L *callosus*, fr *callum*, *callus* callous skin, akin to Skt *kina* callosity] – **callously** *adv*, **callousness** *n*

**call out** *vt* 1 to summon into action (call out the guard) 2 to challenge to a duel 3 to order a strike of (call out the steelworkers)

**callow** /'kəloʊ/ *adj* 1 of a bird not yet fully fledged 2 lacking adult attitudes, immature (< ~ youth) [ME *calu* bald, fr OE, akin to OHG *kalo* bald] – **callowness** *n*

**'call, sign** *n* the combination of letters or letters and numbers assigned to an operator, activity, or station for identification of a radio broadcast

**'call-up** *n* an order to report for military service

**call up** *vt* 1 to bring to mind; evoke 2 to summon before an authority 3 to summon together or collect (e.g. for a united effort) (call up all his forces for the attack) 4 to summon for active military duty

**callus** /'kæləs/ *n* 1 a hard thickened area on skin or bark 2 a mass of connective tissue formed round a break in a bone and changed into bone during healing 3 soft tissue that forms over a cut plant surface 4 a tumour of plant tissue [L]

**'calm** /kəlm/; *NAM* kah(l)m/ *n* 1a the absence of winds or rough water, stillness *b* a state in which the wind has a speed of less than 1 km/h (about ¾ mph) 2 a state of repose free from agitation [ME *calme*, fr MF, fr OIt *calma*, fr LL *cauma* heat, fr Gk *kauma*, fr *kainein* to burn – more at **CAUSTIC**]

**²calm** *adj* 1 marked by calm; still (a ~ sea) 2 free from agitation or excitement (a ~ manner) – **calmly** *adv*, **calmness** *n*

**²calm** *vb* to make or become calm

**calmative** /'kəlmətɪv/; *NAM* 'kah(l)mətɪv/ *n* or *adj* (a) sedative ['calm + -ative (as in *sedative*)]


**calomel** /'kələmel, -mə/ *n* MERCUROUS CHLORIDE [prob fr (assumed) NL *calomelas*, fr Gk *kalos* beautiful + *melas* black – more at **CALLIGRAPHY**, **MULLET**]

**Calor gas** /'kəlo/ *trademark* – used for butane gas in liquid form that is contained in portable cylinders and used as a fuel (e.g. for domestic heating)

**'caloric** /kə'lorɪk/ *n* a hypothetical weightless fluid formerly held to be

responsible for the phenomena of heat and combustion [F *calorique*, fr L *calor*]

**²caloric** *adj* of heat or calories – **calorically** *adv*

**calorie** also **calory** /'kæləri/ *n* 1a the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1g of water by 1°C under standard conditions  *UNIT* *b* a kilocalorie, also an equivalent unit expressing the energy-producing value of food when oxidized 2 an amount of food having an energy-producing value of 1 kilocalorie [F *calorie*, fr L *calor* heat, fr *calere* to be warm – more at **LEE**]

**calorific** /kə'lɔːrɪfɪk/ *adj* of heat production [F or L; F *calorifique*, fr L *calorificus*, fr *calor*]

**calorimeter** /kə'lɔːrɪmɪtə/ *n* any of several devices for measuring heat taken up or given out [ISV, fr L *calor*] – **calorimetry** *n*, **calorimetric** /kə'lɔːrɪmɪtrɪk/ *adj*, **calorimetrically** *adv*

**calque** /kalk/ *n* LOAN TRANSLATION [F, lit., copy, fr *calquer* to trace, fr It *calcare* to trample, trace, fr L, to trample, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel]

**calthrop** /'kæltʁɒp/ *n* a caltrop

**caltrop** also **caltrap** /'kæltʁɒp/ *n* 1 WATER CHESTNUT 2 a device with 4 metal points arranged so that 1 always projects upwards, used to hinder enemy horses, vehicles, etc [ME *calketrappe* star thistle, fr OE *calcatrippe*, fr ML *calcatripa*]

**calumet** /'kæljuːmɪt/ *n* a long highly ornamented pipe of the N American Indians smoked *esp* on ceremonial occasions in token of peace [AmerF, fr F dial, straw, fr LL *calamellus*, dim. of L *calamus* reed, fr Gk *kalamos*]

**calumniate** /kə'lʌmniəɪt/ *vt* to slander – *fml* – **calumniator** *n*, **calumniation** /-n'æɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**calumny** /'kæləmni/ *n* (the act of) uttering a false charge or misrepresentation maliciously calculated to damage another's reputation [MF & L, MF *calomnie*, fr L *calumnia*, fr *calvi* to deceive, akin to OE *hol* calumny, Gk *kelein* to beguile] – **calumnious** /kə'lʌmniəs/ *adj*, **calumniously** *adv*

**calvados** /'kælvədɒs/ *n*, often *cap* apple brandy [F, fr *Calvados*, department of Normandy, France]

**calvary** /'kælvəri/ *n* 1 an open-air representation of the crucifixion of Christ 2 an experience of intense mental suffering [Calvary, the hill near Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified]

**calve** /kəlv/ *vb* 1 to give birth to (a calf) 2 of an ice mass to release (a calf) [ME *calven*, fr OE *cealfian*, fr *cealf* calf]

**calves** *pl* of **CALF**

**Calvinism** /'kælvɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the theological system of Calvin and his followers, marked by emphasis on the sovereignty of God and *esp* by the doctrine of predestination [John Calvin †1564 F theologian] – **Calvinist** *n* or *adj*, **Calvinistic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*, **Calvinistically** *adv*

**calx** /kæks/ *n*, *pl* **calxes**, **calces** /-seɪz/ the crumbly residue left when a metal or mineral has been subjected to intense heat [ME *calx*, fr L *calx* lime – more at **CHALK**]

**calypso** /kə'lɪpsə/ *n*, *pl* **calypsos** also **calypsoes** an improvised ballad, *usu* satirizing current events, in a style originating in the W Indies [perh fr *Calypso*, island nymph in Homer's *Odyssey*] – **calypsonian** /kə'lɪp'soʊniən, -kəlɪp-/ *n* or *adj*

**calyx** /'kælkɪs, 'kæy-/ *n*, *pl* **calyxes**, **calyces** /-lɪ'seɪz/ 1 the outer *usu* green or leafy part of a flower or floret, consisting of sepals 2 **calyx**, **calix** a cuplike animal structure [L *calyc-*, *calyx*, fr Gk *kalux* – more at **CHALICE**] – **calyceal** /kə'lɪ'seɪəl, 'kæy-/ *adj*

**cam** /kam/ *n* a mechanical device (e.g. a wheel attached to an axis at a point other than its centre) that transforms circular motion into intermittent or back-and-forth motion [perh fr F *came*, fr G *kamm*, lit., comb, fr OHG *kamb*]

**camaraderie** /kə'mærə'dəri, -rədəri/ *n* friendly good humour amongst comrades [F, fr *camarade* comrade]


**'camber** /'kæmbə/ *vb* to (cause to) curve upwards in the middle [F *cambrer*, fr MF *cambrer* curved, fr L *camur* – more at **CHAMBER**]

**²camber** *n* 1 a slight convexity or arching (e.g. of a beam or road) 2 an arrangement of the wheels of a motor vehicle so as to be closer together at the bottom than at the top

**camberwell 'beauty** /'kæmbəwel/ *n*, often *cap* **C&B**, *Br* a dark brown butterfly with yellow-bordered wings [Camberwell, district of London]

**cambium** /'kæmbi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **cambiums**, **cambia** /-bi-ə/ a thin layer of cells between the xylem and phloem of most plants that divides to form more xylem and phloem [NL, fr ML, exchange, fr L *ambiare* to exchange – more at **CHANGE**] – **cambial** *adj*

**Cambodian** /kə'mbɒdi-ən/ *n* 1 a Kampuchean 2 **KHMER** 2 [Cambodia, former name of Kampuchea, country in SE Asia] – **Cambodian** *adj*

**Cambrian** /kambri-ən/ *adj* 1 Welsh 2 of or being the earliest geological period of the Palaeozoic era  EVOLUTION [ML *Cambria* Wales, fr W Cymry Welshmen] – **Cambrian** *n*

**cambric** /kambrik/ *n* a fine thin white linen or cotton fabric [obs *Flem Kameryk* Cambrai, city in France]

**'came** /kaym/ *past* of COME

**'came** /kaym/ *n* a slender grooved lead rod used to hold together panes of glass, esp in a lattice or stained-glass window [origin unknown]

**camel** /kaməl/ *n* 1 either of 2 large ruminant mammals used as draught and saddle animals in (African and Asian) desert regions: a the 1-humped Arabian camel b the 2-humped Bactrian camel 2 a float used to lift submerged ships 3 a light yellowish brown colour [ME, fr OE & ONF, fr L *camelus*, fr Gk *kamelos*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb & Phoenician *gāmal* camel]

**'camelback** /-,bak/ *n* an uncured rubber compound used for retreading pneumatic tyres



**'camel hair** *n* cloth, usu of a light tan colour with a soft silky texture, made from the hair of a camel or a mixture of this and wool

**camellia** also **camelia** /kə'meelyə/ *n* an ornamental greenhouse shrub with glossy evergreen leaves and roseline flowers, or a related shrub or tree of the tea family [NL *Camellia*, genus name, fr *Camellus* (Georg Josef Kamel) †1706 Moravian Jesuit missionary]

**camelopard** /kə'melə,pəhd/ *n*, archaic a giraffe [LL *camelopardus*, alter. of L *camelopardalis*, fr Gk *kamelopardalis*, fr *kamelos* + *pardalis* leopard]

**Camembert** /kaməmbeɪ/ (*Fr* kamēbɛʁ/) *n* a round thin-rinded soft rich cheese [F, fr *Camembert*, town in Normandy, France]

**cameo** /kə'miə/ *n*, pl **cameos** 1a a gem carved in relief; esp a small piece of sculpture cut in relief in one layer with another contrasting layer serving as background b a small medallion with a profiled head in relief 2 a usu brief part in literature or film that reveals or highlights character, plot, or scene 3 a small dramatic role often played by a well-known actor [It] – **cameo** *adj* or *vt*

**camera** /kamrə/ *n* 1 often *cap* the treasury department of the papal curia 2 a lightproof box having an aperture, and esp a lens, for recording the image of an object on a light-sensitive material: e.g. a one containing photographic film for producing a permanent record  b one containing a device which converts the image into an electrical signal (e.g. for television transmission) *USE* (2)  TELEVISION, VIDEO [LL, room – more at CHAMBER]

**'cameraman** /-,man, -mən/ *n* one who operates a (television) camera


**camera obscura** /əb'skyoʊərə/ *n* a darkened enclosure having an aperture through which light from outside enters to form an image of the exterior view on a flat surface (e.g. a ground glass screen) [NL, lit., dark chamber]

**camerlengo** /kə'mɛlɛŋgo/ *n*, pl **camerlengos** a cardinal who heads the papal treasury [It *camerlingo*]

**camiknickers** /kə'mɪk,nɪkəz/ *n* pl in *constr*, pl **camiknickers** *Br* a one-piece close-fitting undergarment worn by women, that combines a camisole and knickers – **camiknicker** *adj*

**camisole** /kə'mɪsəl/ *n* a short bodice worn as an undergarment by women [F, prob fr OProv *camisola*, dim. of *camisa* shirt, fr LL *camisia*]

**camomile**, **chamomile** /kə'mɪəl/ *n* any of several strong-scented composite plants whose flower heads are used in herbal remedies [ME *camemille*, fr ML *camomilla*, modif of L *chamaemelon*, fr Gk *chamai-melon*, fr *chamai* on the ground + *melon* apple]

**'camouflage** /kə'mə,fleɪʒh, -fləʒh/ *n* 1 the disguising of esp military equipment or installations with nets, paint, etc 2a concealment by means of disguise  DEFENCE b sthg (e.g. a disguise) designed to deceive or conceal [F, fr *camoufler* to disguise, fr It *camufflare*]

**'camouflage** *vt* to conceal or disguise by camouflage – **camouflageable** /-,fləʒhəbəl, -jəbəl/ *adj*

**'camp** /kəmp/ *n* 1a a ground on which temporary shelters (e.g. tents) are erected b a temporary shelter or group of shelters erected on such ground c a new settlement (e.g. in a lumbering or mining region) 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people engaged in promoting or defending a theory or position (*Liberal and Conservative* ~s) 3a military service or life b a place where troops are housed or trained [MF, prob fr ONF or OProv, fr L *campus* plain, field; akin to OHG *hamf* crippled, Gk *kampē* bend]

**'camp** *vi* 1 to pitch or occupy a camp 2 to live temporarily in a camp or outdoors

**'camp** *adj* 1 homosexual 2 exaggeratedly effeminate 3 deliberately and outrageously artificial, affected, or inappropriate, esp to the point of

tastelessness *USE* *infrm* [origin unknown] – **campily** *adv*, **campness** *n*, **campy** *adj*

**'camp** *vi* or *n* (to engage in) a camp style, manner, etc – *infrm* – **camp** *it* up to act or behave in an affected or esp exaggeratedly effeminate manner – *infrm*

**'campaign** /kə'mpeɪn/ *n* 1 a connected series of military operations forming a distinct phase of a war 2 active military life; 'CAMP 3a a connected series of operations designed to bring about a particular result [F *campagne*, prob fr It *campagna* level country, campaign, fr LL *campania* level country, fr L, the level country round Naples]

**'campaign** *vi* to go on, engage in, or conduct a campaign – **campaigner** *n*

**campanile** /kəmpə'neɪl/ *n*, pl **campaniles**, **campanilli** /~/ a usu freestanding bell tower [It, fr *campana* bell, fr LL]

**campanology** /kəmpə'nɒləʒi/ *n* the art of bell ringing [NL *campanologia*, fr LL *campana* + NL -o- + -logia -logy] – **campanologist** *n*

**campanula** /kəmpə'nyoʊlə/ *n* a bellflower [NL, dim of LL *campana*]

**campanulate** /kəmpə'nyoʊlət, -lət/ *adj* bell-shaped [NL *campanula* bell-shaped part, dim. of LL *campana*]

**'camp bed** *n* a small collapsible bed, usu of fabric stretched over a frame

**camper** /kəmpə/ *n* 1 a person who temporarily stays in a tent, caravan, etc 2 a motor vehicle equipped for use as temporary accommodation (e.g. while holidaying) ['CAMP + -ER]

**camp follower** *n* 1 a civilian, esp a prostitute, who follows a military unit to attend or exploit military personnel 2 a follower who is not of the main body of adherents

**camphor** /kə'mfə/ *n* a tough gummy volatile fragrant compound obtained esp from the wood and bark of an evergreen tree and used as a liniment, plasticizer, and insect repellent [ME *caumfre*, fr AF, fr ML *camphora*, fr Ar *kāfur*, fr Malay *kāpur*] – **camphoraceous** /-ˈraɪʃəs/ *adj*, **camphoric** /kə'mfɔːk/ *adj*

**camphorate** /kə'mfəraɪt/ *vt* to impregnate or treat with camphor

**campion** /kəmpɪ-ən/ *n* 1 RED CAMPION 2 WHITE CAMPION 3 BLADDER CAMPION [prob fr obs *campion* (champion)]

**campong** /kəmpɒŋ/ *n* a kampong

**campus** /kəmpəs/ *n* the grounds and buildings of a geographically self-contained university [L, plain – more at 'CAMP]

**camshaft** /kə'mʃaʃt/ *n* a shaft to which a cam is fastened

**'can** /kən, strong kan/ *verbal auxiliary*, *pres sing* & *pl can*; *past could* /kəd, strong kood/ 1a know how to <he ~ read> b be physically or mentally able to <I ~t think why> c may perhaps – chiefly in questions <what ~ they want?> d be logically inferred or supposed to – chiefly in negatives <he ~ hardly have meant that>, compare 'MUST 4 e be permitted by conscience or feeling to <~ hardly blame him> f be inherently able or designed to <everything that money ~ buy> g be logically able to <2 + 2 ~ also be written 3 + 1> h be enabled by law, agreement, or custom to 2 have permission to – used interchangeably with MAY 3 will – used in questions with the force of a request <~ you hold on a minute, please?> 4 will have to <if you don't like it you ~ lump it> [ME (1 & 3 *sing*, *pres indic*), fr OE; akin to OHG *kan* (1 & 3 *sing*, *pres indic*) know, am able, OE *cāwan* to know – more at KNOW] – **can** *keep* *it* – used in rejection of sthg distasteful <if that's their famous temple they can keep it>

**'can** /kən/ *n* 1 a usu cylindrical receptacle: a a vessel for holding liquids b TIN 2a; esp a tin containing a beverage (e.g. beer) 2 NAM TOILET 2 – *infrm* 3 chiefly NAM jail – slang [ME *canne*, fr OE; akin to OHG *channa* can] – **canful** *adj* – in the can of a film or videotape completed and ready for release

**'can** *vt* -nn- 1 to pack or preserve in a tin 2 chiefly NAM to put a stop or end to – slang – **canner** *n*

**Canada balsam** /kənədə/ *n* a sticky yellow to green resin from the balsam fir that is used as a transparent cement, esp in microscopy [*Canada*, country in N America]

**Canada goose** *n* a chiefly grey wild goose characterized by a black head and neck and a white patch under the throat

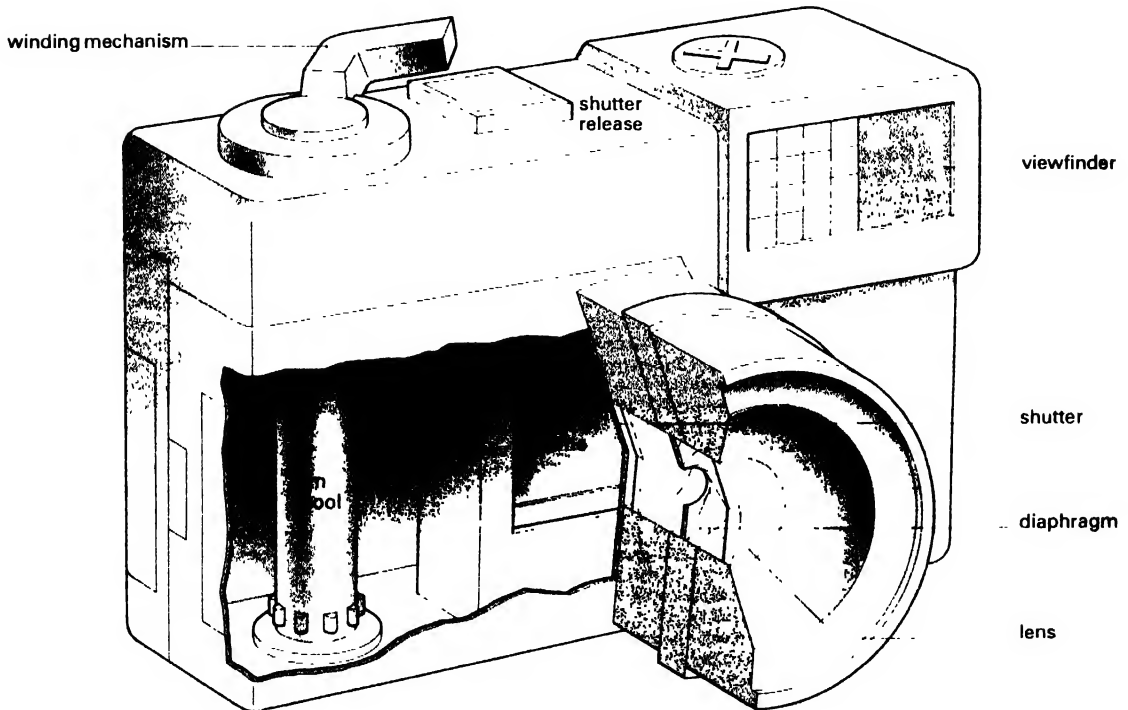
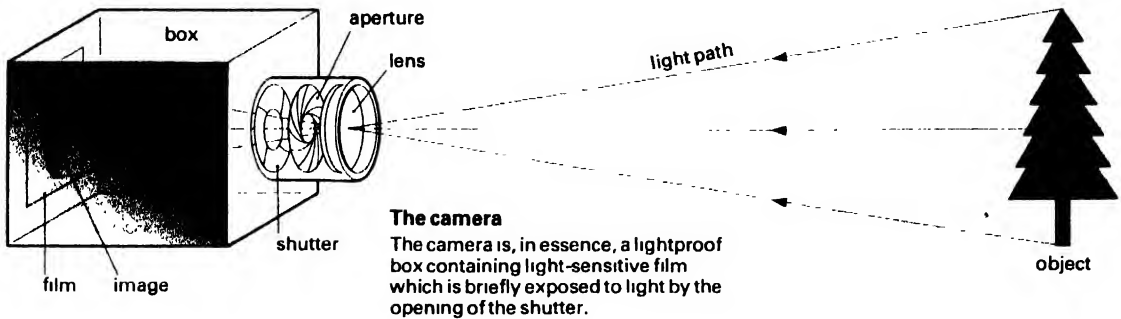
**Canadian** /kə'naydi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Canada

**Canadian pondweed** *n* a submerged plant of slow-moving water put in garden ponds to increase the oxygen content of the water

**canaille** /kə'nayl, kə'nie/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* rabble, riffraff [F, fr It *canaglia*, fr *cane* dog, fr L *canis* – more at HOUND]

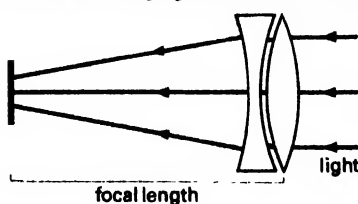
**canal** /kə'nəl/ *n* 1 a channel, watercourse 2 a tubular anatomical channel 3 an artificial waterway for navigation, drainage, or irrigation [ME, fr L *canalis* pipe, channel, fr *canna* reed – more at CANE]

**canalize**, -ise /kə'nəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to provide with or make into a canal or



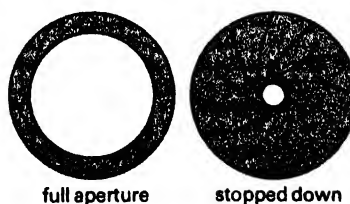
### Lens

The image is brought into focus on the film by adjusting the distance (focal length) between a compound lens and the film. This lens consists of a combination of converging and diverging elements which work together to produce an image that is free from aberration. The simplest compound lens, shown below, comprises a converging element with a weaker diverging element made in a different type of glass to correct the errors caused by using a converging element on its own.



### Aperture/diaphragm

This consists of a ring of thin metal blades, between the elements of the lens, which can be opened or closed to increase or decrease the diameter of the aperture at the centre, thus controlling the amount of light entering the camera. The aperture is calibrated in 'F'-stops, each successive stop either halving or doubling the amount of light admitted.



### Shutter

This controls the length of time for which light is allowed to enter the camera. The shutter shown here consists of a set of thin metal blades, located behind the compound lens, which are normally completely closed and which open briefly for the required exposure when the shutter is released.

### Film

Film can be obtained in either cartridge or spool form, and in a range of speeds. The winding mechanism moves the film through the camera, frame by frame, by means of sprockets which fit into the holes at the sides of the film. The film speed refers to its sensitivity to light. Fast film is used for dark conditions and short exposures, eg action photography. Slow film is used for portraits and high definition photographs.

- channel 2 to direct into preferred channels - **canalization** /ˈzaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- canapé** /ˈkanəpeɪ, -pi/ *n* an appetizer consisting of a piece of bread, biscuit, etc, topped with a savoury spread [F, lit., sofa, fr ML *canopeum*, *canapeum* mosquito net - more at **CANOPY**]
- canard** /kəˈnɑːd, ˈkɑːnɑːd/ *n* 1 a false or unfounded report or story; a hoax 2 (an aeroplane with) a small surface providing stability or control mounted in front of the main supporting surface on an aeroplane or hydrofoil [F, lit., duck; (1) fr MF *vendre des canards à moitié* to cheat, lit., to half-sell ducks]
- canary** /kəˈneəri/ *n* a small usu green to yellow finch of the Canary islands, widely kept as a cage bird [MF *canarie*, fr OSp *canario*, fr *Islas Canarias* Canary Islands]
- canary yellow** *adj* or *n* vivid yellow
- canasta** /kəˈnastə/ *n* 1 a form of rummy usu for 4 players using 2 full packs plus jokers 2 a combination of 7 cards of the same rank in canasta [Sp, lit., basket]
- cancan** /ˈkan,kən/ *n* a dance performed by women, characterized by high kicking usu while holding up the front of a full ruffled skirt [F]
- cancel** /ˈkænsəl/ *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /ˈkænsəl-ɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to mark or strike out for deletion b to omit, delete 2a to make void, countermand, annul (< ~ a magazine subscription) b to bring to nothingness, destroy c to match in force or effect; offset - often + *out* (< his irritability ~ led out his natural kindness - Osbert Sitwell) 3 to call off, usu without intending to reschedule to a later time 4a to remove (a common divisor) from a numerator and denominator b to remove (equivalents) on opposite sides of an equation or account 5 to deface (a stamp), usu with a set of parallel lines, so as to invalidate reuse ~ *vt* to neutralize each other's strength or effect; counterbalance - usu + *out* [ME *cancellen*, fr MF *canceller*, fr LL *cancellare*, fr L, to make like a lattice, fr *cancelli* (pl), dim. of *cancer* lattice, alter. of *cancer* prison] - **cancellable** *adj*, **canceller** /ˈkænsəl-ə/ *n*
- cancel** *n* a cancellation
- cancellation**, *NAm* also **cancelation** /ˈkænsəˈleɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg cancelled, esp a seat in an aircraft, theatre performance, etc 2 a mark made to cancel sthg (e.g. a postage stamp) [**CANCEL** + **-ATION**]
- cancellous** /ˈkænsələs, kənˈseləs/ *adj*, of bone porous [NL *cancelli* intersecting bony plates and bars in cancellous bone, fr L, lattice]
- cancer** /ˈkænsə/ *n* 1 *cap* (sby born under) the 4th zodiacal constellation, pictured as a crab  **SYMBOL** 2 (a condition marked by) a malignant tumour of potentially unlimited growth 3 a source of evil or anguish (< the ~ of hidden resentment - Irish Digest) [ME, fr L, lit., crab; akin to Gk *karkinos* crab, cancer] - **cancerous** *adj*, **cancerously** *adv*
- Cancerian** /ˈkænsiəri-ən, -ˈseɪ- / *n* sby born under the 4th sign of the zodiac - **Cancerian** *adj*
- canceroid** /ˈkæŋkroɪd/ *adj* 1 crablike 2 cancer-like [L *cancer*, cancer crab, cancer]
- candela** /ˈkændəˈleɪ, -ˈdeɪlə/ *n* the SI unit of luminous intensity  **PHYSICS** [L, candle]
- candelabra** /ˈkændlˈəbrə/ *n* a candelabrum
- candelabrum** /ˈkændlˈəbrəm/ *n*, *pl* **candelabra** /-brə/ also **candelabrum** a branched candlestick or lamp with several lights [L, fr *candela*]
- candescent** /ˈkændes(ə)nt/ *adj* glowing or dazzling, esp from great heat - *fml* [L *candescent*, *candescens*, *prp* of *candescere*, incho of *candere*] - **candescence** /-s(ə)ns/ *n*
- candid** /ˈkændɪd/ *adj* 1 indicating or suggesting complete sincerity 2 disposed to criticize severely; blunt [F & L; F *candide*, fr L *candidus* bright, white, fr *candere* to shine, glow; akin to LGk *kandaras* ember] - **candidly** *adv*, **candidness** *n*
- candida** /ˈkændɪdə/ *n* any of a genus of parasitic yeastlike fungi that includes the causative agent of thrush [NL, genus name, fr L, fem. of *candidus* white]
- candidate** /ˈkændɪdeɪt, -dət/ *n* 1 one who is nominated or qualified for, or aspires to an office, membership, or award 2 one who is taking an examination 3 sthg suitable for a specified action or process [L *candidatus*, fr *candidatus* clothed in white, fr *candidus* white; fr the white toga worn by candidates for office in ancient Rome] - **candidacy** /-dəsɪ/ *n*
- candidature** /ˈkændɪdətʃə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* being a candidate; esp standing for election
- candidiasis** /ˈkændɪˈdiːə-sɪs/ *n* a disease (e.g. of the vagina) resulting from an infection by a candida [NL]
- candle** /ˈkændl/ *n* 1 a usu long slender cylindrical mass of tallow or wax enclosing a wick that is burnt to give light 2 sthg resembling a candle in shape or use (< a sulphur ~ for fumigation) 3 a *candela* [ME *candel*, fr
- OE, fr L *candela*, fr *candere*] - **not worth the candle** chiefly *Br* not worth the effort; not justified by the result
- candle** *vt* to examine (eggs) for staleness, blood clots, or fertility by holding between the eye and a light - **candler** /ˈkændlə/ *n*
- Candlemas** /-mas/ *n* February 2 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the presentation of Christ in the temple and the purification of the Virgin Mary [ME *candelmasse*, fr OE *candelmæsse*, fr *candel* + *mæsse* mass, feast, fr the candles blessed and carried in celebration of the feast]
- candlepower** /-ˌpəʊə/ *n* luminous intensity expressed in *candelas*
- candlestick** /-ˌstɪk/ *n* a holder with a socket for a candle
- candlewick** /-ˌwɪk/ *n* a very thick soft cotton yarn; also fabric made with this yarn usu with a raised tufted pattern, used esp for bedspreads
- candlewood** /-ˌwʊd/ *n* slivers of resinous wood burned for light
- candour**, *NAm* chiefly **candor** /ˈkændə/ *n* unreserved and candid expression, forthrightness [F & L, F *candeur*, fr L *candor*, fr *candere* - more at **CANDID**]
- candy** /ˈkændɪ/ *n* 1 crystallized sugar formed by boiling down sugar syrup 2 chiefly *NAm* **SWEET** 2b [ME *sugre candy*, part trans of MF *sucre candi*, part trans of OIt *zucchero candi*, fr *zucchero* sugar + *Ar qandi* candied, fr *qand* cane sugar] - **candy** *adj*
- candy** *vt* to encrust or glaze (e.g. fruit or fruit peel) with sugar
- candy floss** /ˈflos/ *n* a light fluffy mass of spun sugar, usu wound round a stick as a sweet
- candytuft** /-ˌtuft/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the mustard family cultivated for their white, pink, or purple flowers [*Candy* (now *Candia*) Crete, Greek island + *E tuft*]
- cane** /ˈkeɪn/ *n* 1a a hollow or pithy usu flexible jointed stem (e.g. of bamboo) b an elongated flowering or fruiting stem (e.g. of a raspberry) c any of various tall woody grasses or reeds, esp sugarcane 2a a walking stick, *specif* one made of cane b (the use of) a cane or rod for flogging c a length of split rattan for use in basketry [ME, fr MF, fr OProv *cana*, fr L *canna*, fr Gk *kanna*, of Sem origin, akin to *Ar qanah* hollow stick, reed]
- cane** *vt* 1 to beat with a cane, *broadly* to punish 2 to weave or furnish with cane (< ~ the seat of a chair)
- cane sugar** *n* sugar obtained from sugarcane
- canine** /ˈkeɪniən/ *adj* of or resembling a dog or (members of) the family of flesh-eating mammals that includes the dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes [L *caninus*, fr *canis* dog - more at **HOUND**]
- canine** *n* 1 any of the 4 conical pointed teeth each of which lies between an incisor and the first premolar on each side of both the top and bottom jaws  **DIGESTION** 2 **DOG** 1
- canister** also **cannister** /ˈkænɪstə/ *n* 1 a small usu metal box or tin for holding a dry product (e.g. tea or shot) 2 encased shot for close-range antipersonnel artillery fire [L *canistrum* basket, fr Gk *kanaston*, fr *kanna* reed]
- canker** /ˈkæŋkə/ *n* 1a(1) an erosive or spreading sore (2) an area of local tissue death in a plant b any of various inflammatory animal diseases 2 a source of corruption or debasement [ME, fr ONF *cancere*, fr L *cancer* crab, cancer] - **cankorous** *adj*
- canker** *vt* to corrupt with a malignancy of mind or spirit ~ *vi* 1 to become infested with canker 2 to undergo corruption
- cannabin** /ˈkænbɪn/ *n* a dark cannabis-containing resin [L *cannabis*]
- cannabis** /ˈkænbɪs/ *n* the dried flowering spikes of the female hemp plant, sometimes smoked in cigarettes for their intoxicating effect - compare **HASHISH**, **MARIJUANA** [L, hemp, fr Gk *kannabis*, fr the source of OE *hænep* hemp]
- canned** /ˈkænd/ *adj* 1 recorded for mechanical or electronic reproduction; esp prerecorded for addition to a sound track or a videotape (< ~ laughter) (< ~ music) 2 drunk - slang [**CAN** + **-ED**]
- cannel coal** /ˈkænl/ *n* a bituminous coal that burns brightly [prob fr *E dial cancell* (candle), fr ME *candel*]
- cannelloni** /ˈkænləˈloʊni/ *n* large tubular rolls of pasta (filled with meat, cheese, etc) [It, pl of *cannellone* tubular noodle, aug of *cannello* segment of a stalk of cane, small tube, fr *canna* cane, reed, fr L - more at **CANE**]
- cannery** /ˈkænəri/ *n* a factory for canning foods
- canibal** /ˈkænbəl/ *n* 1 a human being who eats human flesh 2 an animal that eats its own kind [NL *Canibalis* Carib, fr Sp *Canibal*, fr Arawakan *Caniba*, Carib, of Cariban origin; akin to Carib *Galibi* Caribs, lit., strong men] - **canibal** *adj*, **canibalism** *n*, **canibalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- canibalize**, -ize /ˈkænbəˈlaɪz/ *vt* to dismantle (e.g. a machine) in order to provide spare parts for others - **canibalization** /-ɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**cannister** /'kanista/ *n* a canister

**'cannon** /'kanən/ *n*, *pl* **cannons**, **cannon** 1 a usu large gun mounted on a carriage 2 an automatic shell-firing gun mounted esp in an aircraft [MF *canon*, fr It *cannone*, lit., large tube, aug of *canna* reed, tube, fr L, cane, reed – more at *CANE*]

**2cannon** *n*, *Br* a shot in billiards in which the cue ball strikes each of 2 object balls [alter. of *carom*]

**3cannon** *vi* 1a to collide – usu + *into* b to collide with and be deflected off sth 2 *Br* to make a cannon in billiards

**cannonade** /'kano'naɪd/ *vb* or *n* (to attack with) heavy continuous artillery fire

**'cannonball** /-bawl/ *n* a round solid missile made for firing from an old type of cannon

**'cannon, bone** *n* the leg bone between the hock joint and the fetlock in hoofed mammals – *ANATOMY* [F *canon*, lit., cannon]

**'cannon, fodder** *n* people regarded merely as material to be used in armed conflict

**'cannonry** /-rɪ/ *n* 1 a cannonade 2 artillery

**cannot** /'kanot, -nat, kə'not/ *can* not – cannot but/cannot help but to be bound to; must <could not but smile at the answer>

**cannula** /'kanyoola/ *n*, *pl* **cannulas**, **cannulae** /-li/ a small tube for insertion into a body cavity or duct [NL, fr L, dim. of *canna* reed – more at *CANE*]

**cannulation** /'kanyoo'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the insertion of a cannula – **cannulate** /-layt/ *vt*

**canny** /'kani/ *adj* 1 cautious and shrewd; *specif* thrifty 2 *Scot* & *NE Eng* careful, steady 3 *NE Eng* agreeable, comely ['can + 'y] – **cannily** *adv*, **canniness** *n*

**'canoe** /kə'nooh/ *n* 1 a long light narrow boat with sharp ends and curved sides usu propelled by paddling 2 *chiefly Br* a kayak [F, fr NL *canoa*, fr Sp, fr Arawakan, of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *canaoua*]

**2canoe** *vi* to travel in or paddle a canoe, esp as a recreation or sport ~ *vt* to transport in a canoe – **canoelist** *n*

**'canon** /'kanən/ *n* 1a a regulation or dogma decreed by a church council b a provision of canon law 2 the series of prayers forming the unvarying part of the Mass 3a an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture b the authentic works of a writer 4a an accepted principle, rule, or criterion b a body of principles, rules, or standards 5 a musical composition for 2 or more voice parts in which the melody is repeated by the successively entering voices [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr L, ruler, rule, model, standard, fr Gk *kanon* (akin to Gk *kanna* reed – more at *CANE*), (2) ME, prob fr OF, fr LL, fr L, (3) ME, fr LL, fr L; (5) LGk *kanon*, fr Gk]

**2canon** *n* 1 a clergyman belonging to the chapter of a cathedral or collegiate church 2 **CANON REGULAR** [ME *canoun*, fr AF *canunie*, fr LL *canonicus* one living under a rule, fr L, according to rule, fr Gk *kanonikos*, fr *kanon*]

**cañon** /'kanyən/ *n* a canyon

**canoness** /'kanəns, -nes/ *n* a woman living in a community under a religious rule but not under a perpetual vow

**canonical** /kə'nonikl/, **canonic** /kə'nonik/ *adj* 1 of an esp ecclesiastical or musical canon 2 conforming to a general rule; orthodox 3 accepted as forming the canon of scripture 4 reduced to the simplest or clearest equivalent form <a ~ *matrix*> – **canonically** *adv*, **canonicity** /kə'nisəti/ *n*

**canonical hour** *n* any of the daily offices of devotion that compose the Divine Office – compare **MATINS**, **LAUD**, **PRIME**, **TERCE**, **SEXT**, **NONE**, **VESPERS**, **COMPLINE**

**ca'nonicals** *n pl* the vestments prescribed by canon for an officiating clergyman

**canonist** /'kanənɪst/ *n* a specialist in canon law

**canon-ize, -ise** /'kanəniez/ *vt* 1 to recognize officially as a saint 2 to attribute authoritative sanction or approval to [ME *canonizen*, fr ML *canonizare*, fr LL *canon* catalogue of saints, fr L, standard] – **canonization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**canon 'law** *n* the usu codified law governing a church

**canon 'regular** *n, pl* **canons regular** a member of any of several Roman Catholic open religious communities

**canoodle** /kə'noohdl/ *vi* **canoodling** /kə'noohdliŋ/ to caress or cuddle (with sb) – *infrml* [perh fr E dial. *canoodle* (donkey, fool, silly lover)]

**canopic jar** /kə'nohpik/ *n*, *often* *cap C* a jar in which the ancient Egyptians preserved the viscera of an embalmed body [*Canopus*, city of ancient Egypt]

**'canopy** /'kanəpi/ *n* 1a a cloth covering suspended over a bed b a cover (e.g. of cloth) fixed or carried above a person of high rank or a sacred

object c an awning, marquee d anything which seems like a cover <the ~ of the heavens> <a ~ of branches> 2 an ornamental rooflike structure 3a the transparent enclosure over an aircraft cockpit b the lifting or supporting surface of a parachute [ME *canope*, fr ML *canopeum* mosquito net, fr L *canopeum*, fr Gk *konōpion*, fr *kōnōps* mosquito]

**2canopy** *vt* to cover (as if) with a canopy

**canst** /'kənst; strong kanst/ *archaic* pres 2 *sing* of 'CAN

**'cant** /kənt/ *n* 1a a sudden thrust that produces some displacement b the displacement so caused 2 an oblique or slanting surface; a slope [ME, prob fr MD or ONF, MD, edge, corner, fr ONF, fr L *cantus*, *cantus* iron tyre, perh of Celt origin, akin to W *cant* rim; akin to Gk *kanthos* corner of the eye]

**2cant** *vt* 1 to give a cant or oblique edge to; bevel 2 to set at an angle; tip or tilt up or over ~ *vi* 1 to pitch to one side; lean 2 to slope

**3cant** *vi* to speak in cant or jargon [prob fr ONF *cantier* to tell, lit., to sing, fr L *cantare* – more at *CHANT*]

**4cant** *n* 1 jargon; *specif* the argot of the underworld 2 a set or stock phrase 3 the insincere expression of platitudes or sentiments, esp those suggesting piety

**can't** /'kaht/ *can* not

**cantabile** /kəntə'bɪlə, -ləɪ/ *adv* in a singing manner – used in music [It, fr LL *cantabilis* worthy to be sung, fr L *cantare*]

**Cantabrigian** /,kəntə'briːjən/ *n* a student or graduate of Cambridge University [ML *Cantabrigia* Cambridge]

**cantaloupe, cantaloup** /'kəntə,looʊp/ *n* a muskmelon with a hard ridged rind and reddish orange flesh [*Cantalupo*, former papal villa near Rome, Italy]

**cantankerous** /kəntəŋ'kərəs/ *adj* ill-natured, quarrelsome [perh irreg fr obs *contact* (contention)] – **cantankerously** *adv*, **cantankerousness** *n*

**cantata** /kəntə'taɪtə/ *n* a usu religious choral composition comprising choruses, solos, recitatives, and interludes [It, fr L, sung mass, ecclesiastical chant, fr fem of *cantatus*, pp of *cantare*]

**'cant, dog** *n* **CANT HOOK** ['cənt]

**canteen** /kən'teɪn/ *n* 1 a shop providing supplies in a camp 2 a dining hall 3 a partitioned chest or box for holding cutlery 4 a usu cloth-covered flask carried by a soldier, traveller, etc and containing a liquid, esp drinking water [F *cantine* bottle case, sutler's shop, fr It *cantina* wine cellar, fr *canto* corner, fr L *cantus* iron tyre – more at 'CANT]

**'cater** /'kəntə/ *vi* to progress or ride at a canter ~ *vt* to cause to canter [short for obs *canterbury*, fr *canterbury*, *n* (canter), fr *Canterbury*, England; fr the supposed gait of pilgrims to Canterbury]

**2cater** *n* 1 a 3-beat gait of a quadruped, *specif* a horse, resembling but smoother and slower than the gallop 2 a ride at a canter

**'Canterbury 'bell** /'kəntəb(ə)ri/ *n* any of several tall plants cultivated for their large showy bell-shaped flowers [*Canterbury*, city in England]

**cantharis** /kənthə'ris/ *n, pl* **cantharides** /kəntə'raɪdeɪz/ **SPANISH FLY** [ME & L, ME *cantharide*, fr L *cantharid-*, *cantharis*, fr Gk *kantharid-*, *kantharis*]

**'cant, hook** *n* a stout wooden lever with a metal-clad end used esp in handling logs ['cənt]

**canticle** /'kəntɪkl/ *n* a song; *specif* any of several liturgical songs (e.g. the Magnificat) taken from the Bible [ME, fr L *canticulum*, dim. of *canticum* song, fr *cantus*, pp of *canere* to sing]

**Canticles** /'kəntɪkleɪz/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* **SONG OF SOLOMON**

**cantilever** /'kəntɪ,leevə/ *n* a projecting beam or member supported at only 1 end: e.g. a bracket-shaped member supporting a balcony or a cornice b either of the 2 beams or trusses that when joined directly or by a suspended connecting member form a span of a cantilever bridge [perh fr 'cant + -er + lever]

**cantile** /'kəntɪ/ *n* the upward-curving rear part of a saddle [ME *cantel*, fr ONF, dim of *cant* edge, corner – more at 'CANT]

**canto** /'kəntə/ *n, pl* **cantos** a major division of a long poem [It, fr L *cantus* song, fr *cantus*, pp of *canere* to sing – more at *CHANT*]

**'canton** /'kəntən, --/ *n* 1 a small territorial division of a country (e.g. Switzerland or France) 2 a rectangle in the right chief corner of a heraldic shield [MF, fr It *cantone*, fr *canto* corner, fr L *cantus* iron tyre; (2) MF, fr OProv, fr *cant* edge, corner, fr L *cantus*] – **cantonal** /'kənt(ə)nəl, kəntənəl/ *adj*

**2canton** /'kəntən; *sense* 2 kəntə'noh/ *vt* 1 to divide into cantons 2 **BILLIET**

**Cantonese** /,kəntə'neɪz/ *n, pl* **Cantonese** 1 a native or inhabitant of Canton 2 the dialect of Chinese spoken in and near Canton [*Canton*, city in China] – **Cantonese** *adj*



**cantonment** /kən'toʊnmənt/ *n* (a group of usu temporary structures for) the housing of troops [F *cantonnement*, fr *cantonner* to billet troops]

**cantor** /kəntaw/ *n* a singer who leads liturgical music (e.g. in a synagogue) [L. *singer*, fr *cantus*, pp of *cantare* to sing]

**Canuck** /kə'nuk/ *n* 1 the language of the French Canadians – derog 2 *chiefly* Can *FR* FRENCH CANADIAN – slang [prob alter of *Canadian*]

**canvas** also **canvass** /'kənvəs/ *n* 1 a firm closely woven cloth usu of linen, hemp, or cotton used for clothing, sails, tents etc 2 a set of sails; sail 3 a cloth surface suitable for painting on in oils; also the painting on such a surface 4 a coarse cloth so woven as to form regular meshes as a basis for embroidery or tapestry 5 the floor of a boxing or wrestling ring [ME *canvass*, fr ONF, fr (assumed) VL *cannabaceus* hempen, fr L *cannabis* hemp – more at CANNABIS] – **canvaslike** *adj* – **under canvas** living in a tent

**'canvass, back** /-bək/ *n* a N American wild duck closely related to the European pochard [fr its colour]

**canvass** also **canvas** /'kənvəs/ *vt* 1 to examine in detail; *specif*, *NAM* to examine (votes) officially for authenticity 2 to discuss, debate 3 to visit (e.g. a voter) in order to solicit political support or to ascertain opinions ~ *vi* to seek orders or votes; solicit [obs *canvas* (to toss in a canvas sheet, trounce, castigate)] – **canvasser**, *n* **canvasser** also **canvasser** *n*

**canyon**, **cañon** /'kanyən/ *n* a deep valley or gorge [AmerSp *cañón*, prob alter. of obs Sp *callón*, aug of *calle* street, fr L *callis* footpath]

**caoutchouc** /'kəʊtʃuːk/ *n* 'RUBBER 2 [F, fr obs Sp *cauchuc* (now *caucho*), fr Quechua]

**'cap** /kəp/ *n* 1a a soft usu flat head covering with a peak and no brim *b* (one who has gained) a head covering awarded to a player selected for a special, *specif* national, sports team or who is a regular member of esp a cricket team 2 a natural cover or top: e.g. a usu unyielding overlying rock or soil layer *b* the pileus *c* (a patch of distinctively coloured feathers on) the top of a bird's head 3 sthg that serves as a cover or protection, esp for the end or top of an object 4 a mortarboard (*students dressed in ~ and gown*) → **GARMENT** 5 the uppermost part, the top 6 a small container holding an explosive charge (e.g. for a toy pistol or for priming the charge in a firearm) 7 the symbol ∩ indicating the intersection of 2 sets – compare CUP 8 *Br* DUTCH CAP [ME *cappe*, fr OE *cæppe*, fr LL *cappa* head-covering, cloak] – **capful** *n*

**'cap vt -pp** 1a to provide or protect with a cap *b* to give a cap to as a symbol of honour or rank 2 to form a cap over; crown (*the mountains were ~ped with mist* – John Buchan) 3 to follow with sthg more noticeable or significant, outdo

**capability** /'kæpəbɪləti/ *n* 1 being capable 2 a feature or faculty capable of development; potential 3 the capacity for an indicated use or development

**capable** /'kæpəbl/ *adj* 1 susceptible (*a remark ~ of being misunderstood*) 2 having the attributes or traits required to perform a specified deed or action (*he is ~ of murder*) 3 able (*her ~ fingers*) **USE** (except 3) + *of* [MF or LL; MF *capable*, fr LL *capabilis*, irreg fr L *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – **capableness** *n*, **capably** /'kæpəbli/ *adv*

**'capacious** /kə'peɪʃəs/ *adj* able to hold a great deal [L *capax*, *capax*, fr *capere*] – **capaciously** *adv*, **capaciousness** *n*

**capacitance** /kə'pæsɪt(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the ability of a conductor or system of conductors and insulators to store electric charge → **PHYSICS** 2 the measure of capacitance equal to the ratio of the charge induced to the potential difference **USE** → **VIDEO** [capacity] – **capacitive** /kə'pæsətɪv/ *adj*, **capacitively** *adv*

**capacitor** /kə'pæsətə/ *n* a component in an electrical circuit that provides capacitance and usu consists of an insulator sandwiched between 2 oppositely charged conductors

**capacity** /kə'pæsəti/ *n* 1a the ability to receive, accommodate, or deal with sthg *b* an ability to contain (*a jug with a ~ of 2pt*) → **UNIT** *c* the maximum amount that can be contained or produced (*working at ~*) (*a ~ crowd*) 2 legal competence or power 3a ability, calibre *b* **POTENTIAL** 1 4 a position or role assigned or assumed (*in his ~ as judge*) [ME *capacite*, fr MF *capacité*, fr L *capacitat*, *capacitas*, fr *capax*, *capax*] **cap** and **'bells** *n*, *pl* **caps** and **bells** the traditional dress of a court jester

**cap and 'gown** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* academicals

**caparison** /kə'pærɪs(ə)n/ *n* 1 an ornamental covering for a horse, esp a warhorse in former times 2 rich clothing; adornment [MF *caparaçon*, fr OSP *caparazón*] – **caparison** *vt*

**'cape** /kæp/ *n* a peninsula or similar land projection jutting out into water [ME *cap*, fr MF, fr OProv, fr L *caput* head – more at HEAD]

**'cape** *n* a sleeveless outer (part of a) garment that fits closely at the neck

and hangs loosely from the shoulders – compare 'CLOAK 1 [prob fr Sp *capa* cloak, fr LL *capa* head covering, cloak]

**'Cape** 'Coloured *n* a person of mixed black and white ancestry in S Africa [Cape of Good Hope, province of S Africa] – **Cape Coloured** *adj*

**'Cape** 'Dutch *n*, *archaic* Afrikaans [Cape of Good Hope]

**'Cape** 'hunting, **'dog** *n* any of a species of wild African predatory dogs that live in grasslands south and east of the Sahara and hunt in packs → **FOOD** [Cape of Good Hope]

**capelin** /kəp(ə)lɪn/ *n* a small fish of northern seas related to the smelts [CanF *capelan*, fr F, codfish, fr OProv, chaplain, codfish, fr ML *cappellanus* chaplain – more at CHAPLAIN]

**'caper** /'kæpə/ *n* 1 any of a genus of low prickly shrubs of the Mediterranean region 2 a greenish flower bud or young berry of the caper, pickled and used as a seasoning, garnish, etc [back-formation fr earlier *capers* (taken as a plural), fr ME *caperns*, fr L *capparis*, fr Gk *kapparis*]

**'caper** *vi* to leap about in a carefree way, prance [prob by shortening & alter fr *capriole*]

**'caper** *n* 1 a joyful leap 2 a high-spirited escapade, a prank 3 *chiefly* *NAM* an illegal enterprise; a crime – *infrm*

**capercaille** /kəpə'kæɪl/, **capercaillie** /-'kæɪlzi/ *n* the largest Old World grouse [ScGael *capalcoille*, lit, horse of the woods]

**capillarity** /kəpɪ'lərɪti/ *n* the elevation or depression of the surface of a liquid in contact with a solid (e.g. in a fine-bore tube) that depends on the relative attraction of the molecules of the liquid for each other and for those of the solid ['CAPILLARY + -ITY]

**'capillary** /kə'pɪlərɪ/ *adj* 1a resembling a hair, esp in slender elongated form *b* of a tube, passage, etc having a very fine bore 2 involving, held by, or resulting from surface tension 3 of capillaries or capillarity [F or L; F *capillaire*, fr L *capillaris*, fr *capillus* hair]

**'capillary** *n* a capillary tube, esp any of the smallest blood vessels connecting arteries with veins and forming networks throughout the body → **ANATOMY**

**..cap in 'hand** *adv* in a deferential manner

**'capital** /'kæpɪtl/ *adj* 1a punishable by death (*g ~ crime*) *b* involving execution (*~ punishment*) 2 of a letter of or conforming to the series (e.g. A, B, C rather than a, b, c) used to begin sentences or proper names 3a of the greatest importance or influence (*the ~ importance of criticism in the work of creation itself* – T S Eliot) *b* being the seat of government 4 excellent (*a ~ book*) – not now in vogue [ME, fr L *capitalis*, fr *capit*, *caput* head – more at HEAD]

**'capital** *n* 1a (the value of) a stock of accumulated goods, esp at a particular time and in contrast to income received during a particular period *b* accumulated possessions calculated to bring in income *c* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* people holding capital *d* a sum of money saved 2 an esp initial capital letter → **ALPHABET** 3 a city serving as a seat of government → **MAP** [F or It, F, fr It *capitale*, fr *capitale*, *adj*, chief, principal, fr L *capitalis*; (2,3) fr *'capital*] – **make capital of/out of** to turn (a situation) to one's advantage

**'capital** *n* the top part or piece of an architectural column → **ARCHITECTURE** [ME *capitale*, modif of ONF *capitel*, fr LL *capitellum* small head, top of column, dim. of L *capit*, *caput*]

**'capital** 'assets *n* *pl* tangible or intangible long-term assets

**'capital** 'gain *n* the profit from the sale of a capital asset (e.g. a house) – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning <capital-gains tax>

**capital** goods *n* *pl* goods used in producing other commodities rather than for sale to consumers

**'capital-in-tensive** *adj* using or requiring a capital investment that is large in relation to other inputs or needs – compare **LABOUR-INTENSIVE** 1

**capitalism** /kəpɪtəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* an economic system characterized by private ownership and control of the means of production, distribution, and exchange and by the profit motive ['*capital* + -ism]

**'capitalist** /kəpɪtəlɪst/ *n* 1 a person with (invested) capital; broadly a very wealthy person 2 one who favours capitalism

**'capitalist**, **capitalistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 owning capital (*the ~ class*) 2 practising, advocating, or marked by capitalism (*~ nations*) – **capitalistically** *adv*

**capital-ize, -ise** /kəpɪtəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to write or print in capitals or with an initial capital 2 to convert into capital (*~ the company's reserve fund*) 3 to convert (a periodic payment) into an equivalent capital sum (*~d annuities*) 4 to supply capital for ~ *vi* to gain by turning sthg to advantage – usu + *on* – **capitalization** /-ɪ'zeɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*



**capital ship** *n* a warship (e.g. a battleship) of the first rank in size and importance


**capitation** /kə'pɪtəʃən/ *n* a uniform payment or charge made per person [LL *capitation*-, *capitatio* poll tax, fr L *capit*-, *caput*]

**capitol** /kə'pɪtəl/ *n* 1 a building in which a US legislative body meets 2 *cap* the building in which Congress meets at Washington [L *Capitolium*, temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline hill in Rome]

**capitular** /kə'pɪtʊlə-, -choʊlə/ *adj* of an ecclesiastical chapter [ML *capitularis*, fr *capitulum* chapter]

**capitulate** /kə'pɪtʊləɪt-, -choʊ-/ *vi* 1 to surrender, often after negotiation of terms 2 to cease resisting; acquiesce [ML *capitulatus*, pp of *capitulare* to distinguish by heads or chapters, fr LL *capitulum*]

**capitulation** /kə'pɪtʊlə'leɪʃən/ *n* 1 an agreement between governments 2 the act or agreement of sb who surrenders 3 a surrender, acquiescence

**capitulum** /kə'pɪtʊləm-, -choʊləm/ *n*, *pl* *capitula* /-lə/ a rounded or flattened cluster of stalkless flowers, often simulating 1 larger flower  PLANT [NL, fr L, small head – more at CHAPTER]


**capo** /kə'pɒ-, -kay-/ *n*, *pl* *capos* a movable bar attached to the fingerboard esp of a guitar to raise the pitch of the strings [short for *capotasto*, fr It, lit., head of fingerboard]

**capon** /kə'pɒn-, -pon/ *n* a castrated male chicken [ME, fr OE *capūn*, prob fr ONF *capon*, fr L *capon*-, *capo*; akin to Gk *koptein* to cut] – *caponize* *vi*

**cappuccino** /kə'pʊtʃi'ni-/ *n* coffee made with espresso and hot milk [It, lit., Capuchin, fr the likeness of its colour to that of a Capuchin's habit]

**caprice** /kə'prɛs-/ *n* 1a a sudden and seemingly unmotivated change of mind b a sudden and unpredictable change or series of changes (*the ~s of the weather*) 2 a disposition to change one's mind impulsively [F, fr It *capriccio*, lit., head with hair standing on end, shudder, fr *capo* head (fr L *caput*) + *recio* hedgehog, fr L *ericius* – more at HEAD, URCHIN]

**capricious** /kə'prɪʃəs/ *adj* governed or characterized by caprice, apt to change suddenly or unpredictably – *capriciously* *adv*, *capriciousness* *n*

**Capricorn** /kə'prɪkɔːn/ *n* (sby born under) the 10th zodiacal constellation, pictured as a creature resembling a goat with the tail of a fish  SYMBOL [ME *Capricorne*, fr L *Capricornus*, fr *caper* goat + *cornu* horn – more at HORN] – *Capricornian* /-kə'wɪn-iən/ *adj* or *n*

**capriole** /kə'prɪəʊl/ *n* a vertical leap made by a trained horse with a backward kick of the hind legs at the height of the leap [MF or OIt, MF *capriole*, fr OIt *capriola*, fr *capriolo* roebuck, fr L *capreolus* goat, roebuck, fr *capr*-, *caper* he-goat, akin to OE *hæfer* goat, Gk *kapros* wild boar] – *capriole* *vi*

**caproic acid** /kə'prɒɪk-/ *n* a liquid fatty acid used in flavourings and medicine [ISV, fr L *capr*-, *caper*]

**Capsian** /kə'psɪ-ən/ *adj* of a Palaeolithic culture of N Africa and S Europe [F *capsien*, fr L *Capsa* Gafsa, oasis in Tunisia]

**capsicum** /kə'psɪkəm/ *n* (the many-seeded usu fleshy-walled fruit of) any of a genus of tropical herbaceous plants and shrubs of the nightshade family – compare HOT PEPPER, SWEET PEPPER [NL, genus name, perh fr L *capsa* case]


**capsid** /kə'psɪd/ *n* the outer protein shell of a virus particle [L *capsa* case + E *-id* – more at 'CASE] – *capsidal* *adj*

**capsize** /kə'psɪz/ *vb* to (cause to) overturn (~ *a canoe*) [origin unknown]


**capstan** /kə'pstæn/ *n* 1 a mechanical device consisting of an upright drum round which a rope, hawser, etc is fastened, used for moving or raising heavy weights 2 a rotating shaft that drives tape at a constant speed in a tape recorder [ME]

**capstone** /kə'pstəʊn/ *n* a copingstone ['cap]

**capsulate** /kə'psjʊlət-, -ləɪt/ *adj* enclosed in a capsule

**capsule** /kə'psjʊəl-, -yool/ *n* 1 a membrane or sac enclosing a body part b surrounding a microorganism 2 a closed plant receptacle containing spores or seeds 3 a usu gelatin shell enclosing a drug for swallowing 4 a compact usu rounded container 5 a detachable pressurized compartment, esp in a spacecraft or aircraft, containing crew and controls, also a spacecraft  SPACE 6 a usu metal, wax, or plastic covering that encloses the top of a bottle, esp of wine, and protects the cork [F, fr L *capsula*, dim. of *capsa* box – more at 'CASE] – *capsular* /kə'psjʊlə/ *adj*

**capsulize**, -*ise* /kə'psjʊləɪz-/ *vi* to formulate or state in a brief or compact way

**'captain** /kə'ptɪn/ *n* 1a  RANK b an officer in charge of a ship c a pilot of a civil aircraft 2 a distinguished military leader 3 a leader of

a team, esp a sports team 4 a dominant figure (<~s of industry> 5 *Br* the head boy or girl at a school 6 *NAM* a fire or police officer [ME *captane*, fr MF *captain*, fr LL *capitaneus*, *adj* & *n*, chief, fr L *capit*-, *caput* head – more at HEAD] – *captaincy* /-sɪ/ *n*, *captainship* *n*

**\*captain** *vi* to be captain of

**caption** /kə'pʃən/ *n* 1 a heading or title, esp of an article or document 2 a comment or description accompanying a pictorial illustration 3 a film subtitle [ME *capcion*, fr L *caption*-, *captio* act of taking, fr *captus*, pp of *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – *caption* *vi*, *captionless* *adj*

**captious** /kə'pʃəs/ *adj* marked by an often ill-natured inclination to stress faults and raise objections [ME *capciosus*, fr MF or L, MF *captieux*, fr L *captiosus*, fr *captio* act of taking, deception] – *captiously* *adv*, *captiousness* *n*

**captive** /kə'ptɪv-/ *vi* to fascinate or charm irresistibly – *captivatingly* *adv*, *captivation* /-vəɪʃən/ *n*

**captive** /kə'ptɪv/ *adj* 1a taken and held as prisoner, esp by an enemy in war b kept within bounds, confined c held under control 2 in a situation that makes departure or inattention difficult (<a ~ audience>) [ME, fr L *captivus*, fr *captus*, pp of *capere*] – *captive* *n*, *captivity* /kə'ptɪvəti/ *n*


**captor** /kə'ptɔː/ *n* one who or that which holds another captive [LL, fr L *captus*]

**'capture** /kə'ptʃə/ *n* 1 the act of gaining control or possession 2 one who or that which has been captured 3 the acquisition by an atom, molecule, ion, or nucleus of an additional elementary particle, often with associated emission of radiation [MF, fr L *captura*, fr *captus*]

**capture** *vi* 1 to take captive; win, gain (<~ a city>) 2 to preserve in a relatively permanent form (<how well the scene was ~d on film>) 3 to remove (e.g. a chess piece) from the playing board according to the rules of a game 4 to bring about the capture of (an elementary particle)

**capuchin** /kə'pyʊʊhɪn-, -shɪn/ *n* 1 *cap* a member of an austere branch of the Franciscan Order founded in 1528 2 a hooded cloak worn by women in former times 3 a S American monkey with hair on its crown shaped like a monk's cowl [MF, fr OIt *cappuccino*, fr *cappuccio* hood, fr *cappa* cloak, fr LL, fr his cowl]

**capybara** /kə'pɪbə'rə/ *n* a large tailless mainly aquatic S American rodent [Pg *capibara*, fr Tupi]

**car** /kɑː/ *n* 1 a vehicle moving on wheels. a a chariot of war or of triumph – chiefly poetic b a railway carriage, esp one used for a specific purpose (*buffet* ~) (<sleeping ~> c MOTOR CAR  2 the passenger compartment of an airship or balloon 3 *NAM* the cage of a lift [ME *carre*, fr AF, fr L *carra*, pl of *currum*, alter of *carrus*, of Celt origin, akin to OIr & MW *carr* vehicle, akin to L *currere* to run]

**carabineer**, *carbinier* /kə'rə'bɪ'nɪə/ *n* a soldier armed with a carbine [F *carabinier*, fr *carabine* carbine]

**carabiner** also *karabiner* /kə'rə'bɪnə/ *n* an oblong ring with an openable side that is used in mountaineering to hold freely running rope [G *karabiner*]

**carabinieri** /kə'rə'bɪnɪ'eəri-/ *n* *pl* the Italian national police force [It, pl of *carabiniere*, fr F *carabinier* carabineer]

**caracal** /kə'rəkəl-, -rəl/ *n* a long-legged medium-sized cat of Africa and Asia [F, fr Sp, fr Turk *karakulak*, lit., black-ear, fr *kara* black + *kulak* ear]

**caracul** /kə'rəkəl/ *n* (a) karakul

**carafe** /kə'raʃ-, -raf, kə'rəf/ *n* a (glass) bottle used to hold water or wine, esp at table [F, fr It *caraffa*, fr Ar *gharrāfah*]

**caramel** /kə'rəmə-, -mel/ *n* 1 a brittle brown somewhat bitter substance obtained by heating sugar and used as a colouring and flavouring agent 2 a chewy usu quite soft caramel-flavoured toffee [F, fr Sp *caramelo*, fr Pg, icicle, caramel, fr LL *calamellus* small reed – more at SHAWM] – *caramelize* *vb*

**carapace** /kə'rə'pays/ *n* a hard case (e.g. of chitin) covering (part of) the back of a turtle, crab, etc [F, fr Sp *carapacho*]

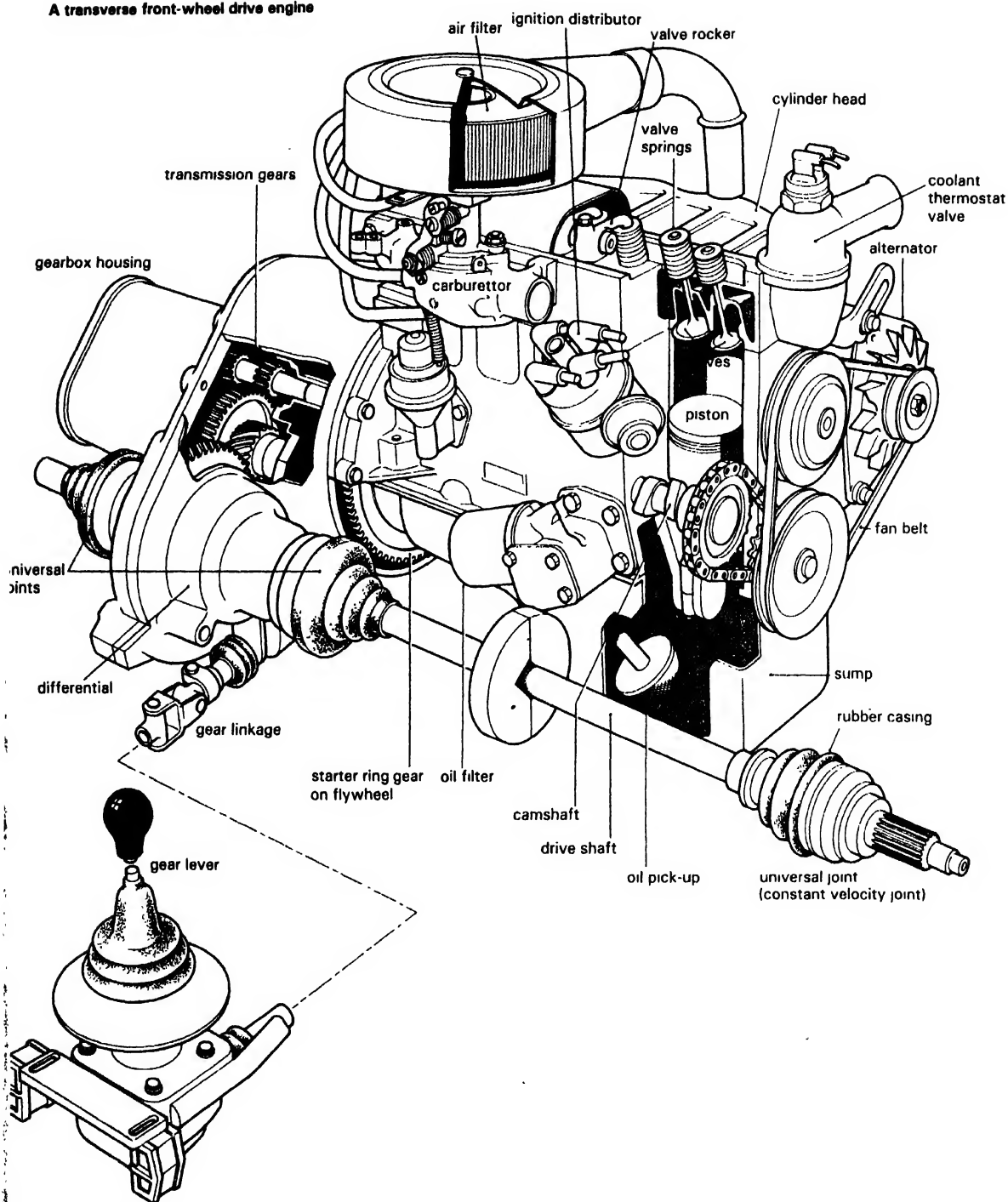
**carat** /kə'rət/ *n* 1 a unit of weight for precious stones equal to 200mg 2 *NAM* chiefly *karat* a unit of fineness for gold equal to 1/100 part of pure gold in an alloy [MF, prob fr ML *carratus*, fr Ar *qirat* bean pod, a small weight, fr Gk *keration* carob bean, a small weight, fr dim. of *kerat*-, *keras* horn – more at HORN]

**'caravan** /kə'rə'væn/ *n* 1a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a company of travellers on a journey through desert or hostile regions; also a train of pack animals b a group of vehicles travelling together 2 *Br* a covered vehicle designed to be towed by a motor car or horse and to serve as a dwelling when parked [It *caravana*, fr Per *kárwán*]

**\*caravan** *vi* -*an*- (*NAM* -*n*-, -*an*-) to have a holiday in a caravan

**caravanner** /kə'rə'vænə/ *n*, *Br* one who goes camping with a caravan

A transverse front-wheel drive engine



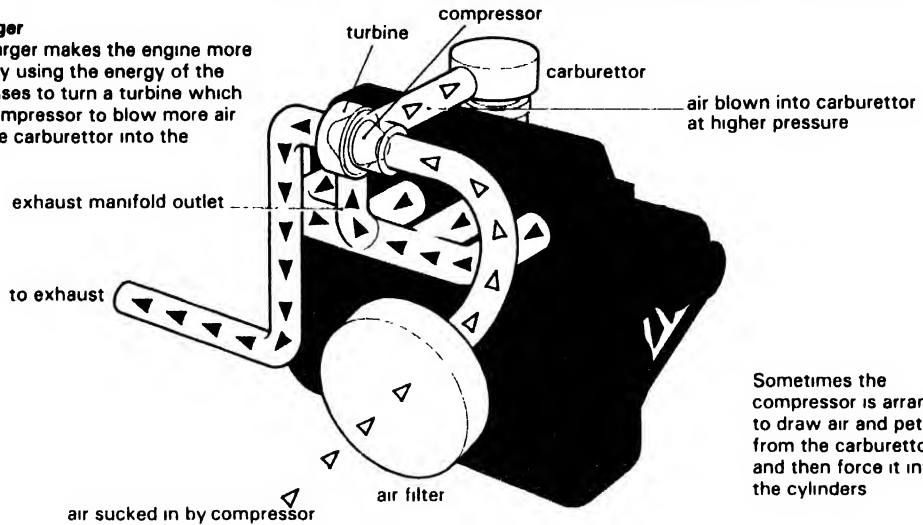
The gearbox is the means by which torque is multiplied and transmitted from the engine to the drive shafts. The different gears allow the engine to operate near its optimum rpm, whatever the speed at which the car is moving.

The camshaft opens the inlet valves and the exhaust valves in the right sequence and at the right time. If (as here) it is not mounted above them, it reaches them through pushrods and rockers.

The universal joints transmit torque from the differential to each front wheel hub through a drive-shaft, which they allow to move as the wheel rises or falls over bumps. Because the wheels have also to be steered, yet must be driven smoothly, a special kind of universal joint is used, known as a constant-velocity joint.

### Turbocharger

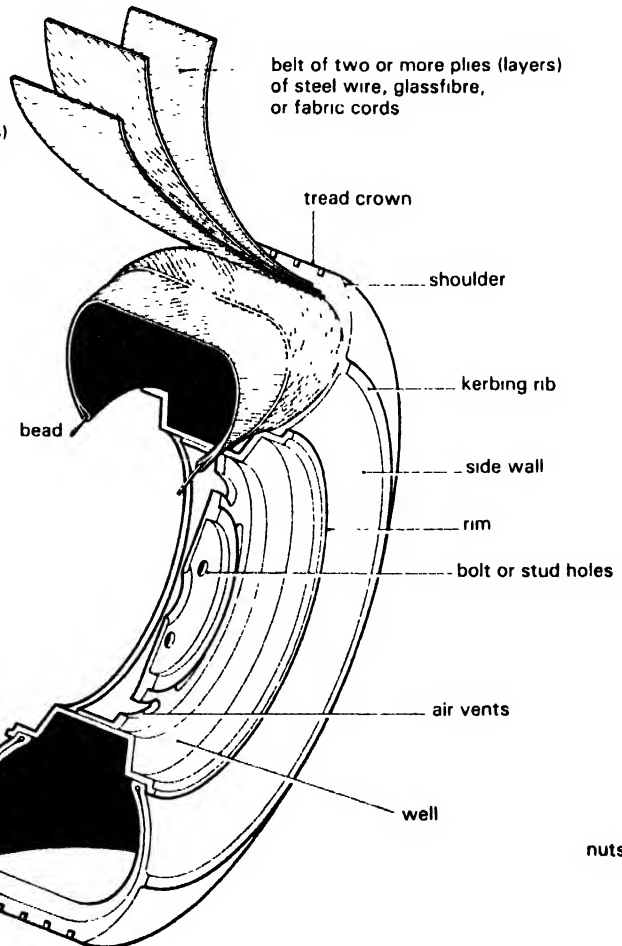
A turbocharger makes the engine more powerful by using the energy of the exhaust gases to turn a turbine which drives a compressor to blow more air through the carburettor into the cylinders.



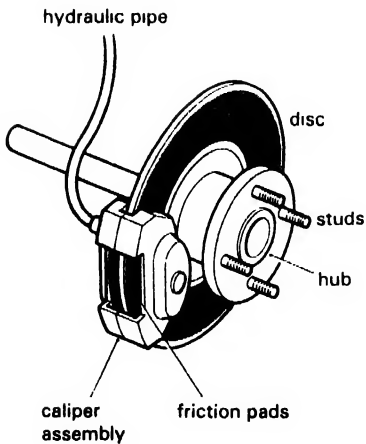
Sometimes the compressor is arranged to draw air and petrol from the carburettor and then force it into the cylinders

### A radial tyre

carcass of one or more plies (layers) of fabric cords laid radially (directly from bead to bead)



### Disc brake



**Disc brakes.** When the brake pedal is pressed, resulting pressure in the hydraulic system makes the caliper assembly push the two friction pads together so that they grip the brake disc and slow the wheel.

nuts

**caravansera** /kə'rəvənsəri/, *NAm chiefly caravansary* /-səri/ *n*, *pl caravanseras*, *caravansera* a usu large inn in Eastern countries that is built round a courtyard and used as a resting place for caravans [Per *kārwānsarai*, fr *karwān* caravan + *sarai* palace, inn]

**caravel** /kə'rə,vəl/ *n* a small 15th- and 16th-c ship with broad bows, high narrow poop, and triangular sails [MF *caravelle*, fr OPg *caravela*]

**caraway** /kə'rəwəy/ *n* a usu white-flowered aromatic plant with pungent seeds used as a flavouring [ME, prob fr ML *carvi*, fr Ar *karawayā*, fr Gk *karon*]

**carb-**, **carbo-** *comb form* carbon; carbonic; carbonyl; carboxyl <carbide> <carbohydrate> [F, fr *carbone*]

**carbamate** /kə'hbə,məyt/ *n* a salt or ester of carbamic acid

**carbamic acid** /kə'hbə,mik/ *n* an acid known in the form of salts and esters in the blood and urine of mammals [ISV *carb-* + *amide* + *-ic*]

**carbamide** /kə'hbə,mied/ *n* urea [ISV *carb-* + *amide*]

**carbanion** /kə'hbə,n,i-ən/ *n* an organic ion carrying a negative charge on a carbon atom – compare **CARBONIUM**

**carbide** /kə'hbiəd/ *n* a compound of carbon with a more electropositive element; esp **CALCIUM CARBIDE** [ISV]

**carbine** /kə'hbi:n/ *n* 1 a short light rifle or musket orig carried by cavalry 2 a short light gas-operated magazine-fed automatic rifle [F *carabine*, fr MF *carabin* carabineer]

**carbinol** /kə'hbi:nəl/ *n* (an alcohol derived from) methanol – not now used technically [ISV, fr obs G *karbin* methyl, fr G *karb-* carb-]

**carbohydrate** /kə'hbə'hiedrəyt/, -bōh-/ *n* any of various compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen (e.g. sugars, starches, and celluloses) formed by green plants and constituting a major class of energy-providing animal foods

**carbolic acid** /kə'hbəlɪk/ *n* phenol [ISV *carb-* + L *oleum* oil – more at oil]

**carbon** /kə'hb(ə)n/ *n* 1 a nonmetallic chiefly tetravalent element occurring as diamond, graphite, charcoal, coke, etc and as a constituent of coal, petroleum, carbonates (e.g. limestone), and organic compounds ➔ PERIODIC TABLE 2a a sheet of carbon paper b **CARBON COPY** 1 3 a piece of carbon used as an element in a voltaic cell [F *carbone*, fr L *carbon-*, *carbo* ember, charcoal] – **carbonless** *adj*

**carbon 14** *n* a heavy radioactive carbon isotope (of mass number 14) used in carbon dating

**carbonaceous** /kə'hbə'nayshəs/ *adj* relating to, resembling, containing, or composed of carbon

**carbonado** /kə'hbə'naydoh/ *n*, *pl carbonados* opaque dark-coloured diamond used as an abrasive [Pg, lit., carbonated, fr *carbone* carbon, fr F]

**carbonate** /kə'hbənət-, -nayt/ *n* a salt or ester of carbonic acid

**carbonate** /kə'hbənəyt/ *vt* 1 to convert into a carbonate 2 to impregnate with carbon dioxide, aerate <a ~d beverage> – **carbonation** /-nəyʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**carbon black** *n* carbon as a colloidal black substance (e.g. soot)

**carbon copy** *n* 1 a copy made with carbon paper 2 a duplicate or exact replica

**carbon cycle** *n* 1 the fusion reaction thought to be the energy source of most stars, in which 4 hydrogen atoms fuse to form a helium atom 2 the cycle of carbon in living things in which carbon dioxide from the air is caused to react by photosynthesis to form organic nutrients and is ultimately restored to the inorganic state by respiration and rotting

**carbon dating** *n* the dating of ancient material (e.g. an archaeological specimen) by recording the amount of carbon 14 remaining

**carbon dioxide** *n* a heavy colourless gas that does not support combustion, is formed esp by the combustion and decomposition of organic substances, and is absorbed from the air by plants in photosynthesis

**carbon disulphide** *n* a colourless inflammable poisonous liquid used esp as a solvent for rubber

**carbolic acid** /kə'hbəlɪk/ *n* a weak acid that is a solution of carbon dioxide in water and whose salts are carbonates

**carbonic acid gas** *n* **CARBON DIOXIDE**

**carboniferous** /kə'hbə'nɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 producing or containing carbon or coal 2 *cap of* or being the period of the Palaeozoic era between the Devonian and the Permian in which coal deposits formed ➔ EVOLUTION – **Carboniferous** *n*

**carbonium** /kə'hbə'nɪəm/ *n* an organic ion carrying a positive charge on a carbon atom – compare **CARBANION** [*carb-* + *-onium*]

**carbonize**, -ise /kə'hb(ə)n,i:z/ *vt* to convert into carbon or a carbon-containing residue ~ *vi* to become carbonized; char – **carbonization** /-i:zəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**carbon monoxide** *n* a colourless odourless very toxic gas formed as a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon

**carbennade** /kə'hbə'nayd/ *n* a rich beef stew made with beer [F]

**carbon paper** *n* (a sheet of) thin paper coated on 1 side with dark pigment, used to make copies by placing between 2 sheets of paper, so that the pigment is transferred to the lower sheet by the pressure of writing or typing on the upper

**carbon tetrachloride** /-tetrə'klawriəd/ *n* a colourless noninflammable toxic liquid used as an industrial solvent and a starting material in organic synthesis

**carbonyl** /kə'hbənɪl/ *n* 1 a bivalent radical CO occurring in aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters, acid halides, and amides 2 a compound of the carbonyl radical with a metal – **carbonylic** /-nɪlɪk/ *adj*

**Carborundum** /kə'hbə'rəundəm/ *trademark* – used for various abrasives

**carboxy**, **carbox-** *comb form* carboxyl

**carboxyl** /kə'hbɒksɪl/ *n* a univalent radical COOH contained in organic acids [ISV] – **carboxylic** /-sɪlɪk/ *adj*

**carboxylase** /kə'hbɒksɪləz-, -ləys/ *n* an enzyme that catalyses a chemical reaction in which a carboxyl group is added or removed [ISV]

**carboxylate** /kə'hbɒksɪləyt/ *n* a salt or ester of a carboxylic acid

**carboxylate** *vt* to introduce 1 or more carboxyl groups into (a compound) – **carboxylation** /-ləyʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**carboxylic acid** /kə'hbɒk'sɪlɪk/ *n* an organic acid (e.g. acetic acid) containing 1 or more carboxyl groups

**carboy** /kə'hboɪ/ *n* a large usu roughly spherical glass or plastic container for liquids [Per *qaraba*, fr Ar *qarrabah* demijohn]

**carbuncle** /kə'h,bʌŋkl/ *n* 1 a red gemstone, usu a garnet, cut in a domed shape without facets 2 a painful local inflammation of the skin and deeper tissues with multiple openings for the discharge of pus [ME, fr MF, fr L *carbunculus* small coal, carbuncle, dim of *carbon-*, *carbo* charcoal, ember] – **carbuncled** *adj*, **carbuncular** /kə'h,bʌŋkyʊlə/ *adj*

**carburation** /kə'hbyoo'reyʃ(ə)n/ *n* the process of mixing air with fuel in a carburettor to produce an explosive mixture for an internal combustion engine

**carburet** /kə'hbyoo'ret/ *vt* -tt- (*NAm* -t-, -tt-) to combine or enrich with carbon (compounds) [obs *carburet* (carbide)] – **carburetion** /-rəy'shən/ *n*

**carburettor**, *NAm carburetor* /kə'hbyoo'retə-, kə'hbə'retə/ *n* an apparatus for supplying an internal-combustion engine with vaporized fuel mixed with air in an explosive mixture ➔ CAR

**carcajou** /kə'hkə'joʊh-, -zhoʊh/ *n* a wolverine [CanF, of AmerInd origin]

**carcase**, *Br also carcass* /kə'hkəs/ *n* 1 a dead body, esp the dressed body of a meat animal 2 the decaying or worthless remains of a structure <the half-submerged ~ of a wrecked vessel> 3 a framework, esp the framework of a tyre as distinct from the tread ➔ CAR [MF *carcasse*, fr OF *carcois*]

**carcin-** /kə'hɪsɪn-, *carcino-* *comb form* tumour; cancer <carcinogenic> [Gk *karkīn-*, *karkīno-*, fr *karkīnos* – more at **CANCER**]

**carcinogen** /kə'hɪsɪnəʒn/ *n* sthg (e.g. a chemical compound) that causes cancer – **carcinogenesis** /-jənɪsɪs/ *n*, **carcinogenic** /-jənɪk/ *adj*, **carcinogenically** *adv*, **carcinogenicity** /kə'hɪsɪnəʒ'nɪsɪtɪ/ *n*

**carcinoma** /kə'hɪs'nɒhmə/ *n*, *pl carcinomas*, **carcinomata** /-mətə/ a malignant tumour of epithelial origin [L, fr Gk *karkīnōma* cancer, fr *karkīnos*] – **carcinomatous** *adj*

**car coat** *n* a ¾-length coat

**card** /kə'hd/ *vt* to cleanse and disentangle (fibres) by the use of a carding machine preparatory to spinning – **carder** *n*

**card** *n* an implement or machine for carding fibres or raising a nap on cloth [ME *carde*, fr MF, fr LL *cardus* thisle, fr L *carduus* – more at **CHARD**]

**card** *n* 1 **PLAYING CARD** 2 *pl but sing or pl in constr* a game played with cards 3 a valuable asset or right for use in negotiations 4 a flat stiff usu small and rectangular piece of paper or thin cardboard: e.g. a postcard b **VISITING CARD** c **PROGRAMME** 1a; esp one for a sporting event d **GREETINGS CARD** 5 *pl*, *Br* the National Insurance and other papers of an employee, held by his/her employer 6 a comical or amusing fellow 7 *Br* a person of a specified type <a knowing ~> **USE** (6&7) *infrm* [ME *carde*, modif of MF *carte*, prob fr OIt *carta*, lit., leaf of paper, fr L *charta* leaf of papyrus, fr Gk *chartēs*] – on the cards quite possible; likely to occur – **get/ask for one's cards** to be dismissed/resign from employment

**cardamom** /kə'hdə'məm/ *n* (an E Indian plant that bears) an aromatic capsular fruit containing seeds used as a spice or condiment [L *car-*

- damomum*, fr Gk *kardamomon*, blend of *kardamon* peppergrass and *amomum*, an Indian spice plant]
- cardboard** /-bawd/ *n* material of similar composition to paper but thicker and stiffer [*card* + *board*]
- cardboard** *adj* 1 made (as if) of cardboard 2 unreal, insubstantial (*the story has too many ~ characters*)
- card-carrying** *adj* being a fully paid-up member, esp of the Communist party [fr the assumption that such a person carries a membership card]
- cardi-** /kəhdi-/ *comb form* heart, cardiac <cardiogram> <cardiograph> <cardiology>, cardiac and <cardiovascular> [Gk *kardi-*, *kardio-*, fr *kardia* – more at **HEART**]
- cardia** /-kəhdi-ə/ *comb form* (– *n*) heart action or location (of a specified type) <tachycardia> [NL, fr Gk *kardia*]
- cardiac** /'kəhdiək/ *adj* 1 of, situated near, or acting on the heart 2 of the oesophageal end of the stomach [L *cardiacus*, fr Gk *kardiakos*, fr *kardia*]
- cardiac** *n* sbv suffering from heart disease
- cardie** /kəhdi/ *n* a cardigan – *infml* [by shortening & alter]
- cardigan** /'kəhdiɡən/ *n* a knitted garment for the upper body that opens down the front and is usu fastened with buttons [James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan †1868 E soldier]
- cardinal** /'kəhdi:nl/ *adj* of primary importance; fundamental [ME, fr OF, fr LL *cardinalis*, fr L, of a hinge, fr *cardin-*, *cardo* hinge; akin to OE *hratan* to rush, Gk *skairein* to gambol] – **cardinally** /'kəhdi:nl/ *adv*
- cardinal** *n* a member of a body of high officials of the Roman Catholic church whose p<sup>er</sup>sons include the election of a new pope – **cardinalate** /-lət-, -ləjt/ *n*, **cardinalship** *n*
- cardinal number** *n* a number (e.g. 1, 2, 3) that is used in simple counting and that indicates how many elements there are in a collection – compare **ORDINAL NUMBER**  **NUMBER**
- cardinal point** *n* any of the 4 principal compass points north, south, east, and west
- cardinal virtue** *n* any of the 4 natural virtues identified in classical literature, namely prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude, *broadly* any major virtue
- card index** *n*. *Br* a filing system in which each item is entered on a separate card – **card-index** *vt*
- carding machine** /'kəhdiŋ/ *n* an instrument or machine for carding fibres that consists usu of bent wire teeth set closely in rows in a thick piece of leather fastened to a board or roller
- cardioid** /'kəhdiɔɪd/ *n* a heart-shaped curve traced by a point on the circumference of a circle rolling completely round an equal-sized circle
- cardiovascular** /'kəhdiəvəskyoʊlə/ *adj* of or involving the heart and blood vessels [ISV]
- cardium** /-kəhdi-əm/ *comb form* (– *n*), *pl* **-cardia** /-di-ə/ heart <epicardium> [NL, fr Gk *kardia*]
- cardsharp** /-ʃəhəp/, **cardsharper** /-ʃəhəpə/ *n* one who habitually cheats at cards
- care** /keə/ *n* 1 a cause for anxiety <the ~s of the world> 2 close attention; effort <look ~ over the drawing> 3 change, supervision <under the doctor's ~>; *specif*, *Br* guardianship and supervision of children by a local authority 4 sbv or sthg that is an object of attention, anxiety, or solicitude <the flower garden was her special ~> [ME, fr OE *caru*, akin to OHG *kara* lament, L *garrire* to chatter]
- care** *vi* 1a to feel trouble or anxiety b to feel interest or concern – often + *about* 2 to give care <~ for the sick> 3 to have a liking or taste for ~ *vt* 1 to be concerned about <nobody ~s what I do> 2 to wish (if you ~ to go)
- careen** /kə'reen/ *vt* 1 to cause (a boat) to lean over on one side 2 to clean, caulk, or repair (a boat) in this position ~ *vi* 1a to careen a boat b to undergo this process 2 to heel over 3 chiefly *NAm* to career [MF *carène* keel, fr OIt *carena*, fr L *carina*, lit, a nutshell, akin to Gk *karyon* nut]
- career** /kə'riə/ *n* 1 the course (of a particular sphere of) a person's life <Churchill's ~ as a politician> 2 a field of employment in which one expects to remain; esp such a field which requires special qualifications and training [MF *carrière*, fr OProv *carriera* street, fr ML *carraria* road for vehicles, fr L *carrus* car]
- career** *vi* to move swiftly in an uncontrolled fashion <the car ~ed off the road>
- career** *adj* of or engaged in an occupation which offers a long-term series of opportunities for advancement, usu within some specified organization or business <a ~ diplomat>
- care'er, girl** *adj* a woman who puts advancement in her career or profession before marriage or motherhood
- careerist** /kə'riənist/ *n* one who is intent on advancing his/her career, often at the expense of personal integrity – **careerism** *n*
- carefree** /'keə,free/ *adj* free from anxiety or responsibility <~ holidays>
- careful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 exercising or taking care 2a marked by attentive concern b cautious, prudent <be ~ of the horses> – often + *to* and an infinitive <be ~ to switch off the machine> – **carefully** *adv*, **carefulness** *n*
- careless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 not taking care 2a negligent, slovenly <writing that is ~ and full of errors> b unstudied, spontaneous <~ grace> 3a free from care, untroubled <~ days> b indifferent, unconcerned <~ of the consequences> – **carelessly** *adv*, **carelessness** *n*
- caress** /kə'res/ *n* 1 a kiss 2 a caressing touch or stroke [F *caresse*, fr It *carezza*, fr *caro* dear, fr L *carus* – more at **CHARITY**]
- caress** *vt* 1 to touch or stroke lightly and lovingly 2 to touch or affect gently or soothingly <music that ~es the ear> – **caresser** *n*, **caressingly** *adv*
- caret** /'kærət/ *n* a mark ^ or A or > used on written or printed matter to indicate an insertion to be made [L, it is lacking, fr *carere* to lack, be without – more at **CASTLE**]
- care,taker** /-teɪkə/ *n* 1 one who takes care of the house or land of an owner, esp during his/her absence 2 one who keeps clean a large and/or public building (e.g. a school or office), looks after the heating system, and carries out minor repairs 3 sbv or sthg temporarily installed in office <a ~ government>
- care,worn** /-wəwn/ *adj* showing the effects of grief or anxiety <a ~ face>
- carful** /'kəhfoʊl/ *n* as much or as many as a car will hold
- cargo** /'kəhgoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **cargoes**, **cargos** the goods conveyed in a ship, aircraft, or vehicle, freight [Sp, load, charge, fr *cargar* to load, fr LL *carricare* – more at **CHARGE**]
- cargo cult** *n* a millenarian movement of the SW Pacific characterized by a belief in the imminent return of the gods or tribal ancestors in ships or aircraft bearing an abundance of (western) goods with them
- Carib** /'kənb/ *n* 1 a member of an American Indian people of northern S America and the Lesser Antilles 2 the language of the Caribs [NL *Caribes* (pl), fr Sp *Caribe*, fr Arawakan *Carib* – more at **CANNIBAL**]
- Cariban** /'kəreɪbən, kə'reebən/ *n* a member, or the language family, of a group of American Indian peoples of northern S America, the lesser Antilles, and nearby coasts  **LANGUAGE**
- Caribbean** /kə'nbi:ən/ *adj* of the Caribs, the eastern and southern W Indies, or the Caribbean sea [NL *Caribbaeus*, fr *Caribes*]
- caribou** /'kəri,boʊ/ *n*, *pl* **caribous**, *esp* collectively **caribou** any of several large N American antlered deer [CanF, of Algonquian origin]
- caricature** /'kærɪkətʃə-, -tʃooə-, -tyooə/ *n* 1 exaggeration of features or characteristics, often to a ludicrous or grotesque degree 2 a comic or satirical representation, esp in literature or art, that has the qualities of caricature 3 a distortion so gross or inferior as to seem like a caricature [It *caricatura*, lit, act of loading, fr *carricare* to load, fr LL *carricare*] – **caricatural** /'kærɪkətʃooərəl-, -tyooərəl/ *adj*, **caricaturist** /'kærɪkətʃooərist-, -tyooərist/ *n*
- caricature** /'kærɪkətʃooə-, -tyooə/ *vt* to make or draw a caricature of; represent in caricature
- caries** /'keəri:, -nɪz/ *n*, *pl* **caries** progressive decay of a tooth or sometimes a bone, caused by microorganisms [L, decay, akin to Gk *kér* death]
- carillon** /kə'nɪljən/ *n* a set of bells sounded by hammers controlled from a keyboard [F, alter of OF *quarregnon*, fr LL *quaternion-*, *quaternio* set of four – more at **QUATERNION**]
- carina** /kə'reena-, -ri:neə/ *n*, *pl* **carinas**, **carinae** /-ni/ a keel-shaped anatomical part [NL, fr L, keel – more at **CAREEN**]
- carinate** /'kærɪneɪt/ *also* **carinated** *adj* keeled, ridged <a ~ sepal>
- carioca** /kə'ri:əhə/ *n* 1 *cap* a native or inhabitant of Rio de Janeiro 2 (the music for) a dance resembling the samba [Pg, fr Tupi]
- carious** /'keəriəs/ *adj* affected with caries [L *carosus*, fr *caries*]
- carl** /kəh/ *vb*, *archaic* to (cause to) be anxious [ME *carken*, lit, to load, burden, fr ONF *carquier*, fr LL *carricare*]
- carl, carle** /kəh/ *n*, *archaic* a man of the common people [ME, fr OE *-carl*, fr ON *karl* man, carl; akin to OE *ceorl* churl – more at **CHURL**]
- carline, carla** /'kəhlin/ *n*, chiefly Scot an old woman or witch [ME *kerling*, fr ON, fr *karl* man]
- car,load** /-ləhd/ *n* a load that fills a car
- Carmelite** /'kəhmə,li:t/ *n* a member of the Roman Catholic mendicant

Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel founded in the 12th c [ME, fr ML *carmelita*, fr *Carmel* Mount Carmel, Palestine, where the order was founded] – *Carmelite* *adj*

**carminative** /kə'minativ/ *adj* causing expulsion of gas from the alimentary canal to relieve colic or gripes [F *carminatif*, fr L *carminatus*, pp of *carminare* to card, fr *carmin-*, *carmen* card, fr *carriere* to card – more at *CHARD*] – *carminative* *n*

**carmine** /kə'min/ *n* 1 a rich crimson or scarlet pigment 2 a vivid red [F *carmin*, fr ML *carminium*, irreg fr Ar *qirmiz* kermes + L *minium* – more at *MINIUM*]

**carnage** /kə'naij/ *n* great slaughter (e.g. in battle) [MF, flesh of slain animals or men, fr ML *carnaticum* tribute consisting of animals or meat, fr L *carn-*, *caro*]

**carnal** /kə'nəl/ *adj* 1 given to or marked by physical and esp sexual pleasures and appetites 2 temporal, worldly [ME, fr ONF or LL; ONF, fr LL *carialis*, fr L *carn-*, *caro* flesh; akin to Gk *keirein* to cut – more at *SHEAR*] – *carnality* /kə'nəliti/ *n*, *carnally* /kə'nəli/ *adv*

**carnassial** /kə'nassi:əl/ *adj* of or being the large long cutting teeth of a carnivore [F *carassier* carnivorous, deriv of L *carn-*, *caro*] – *carnassial* *n*


**carnation** /kə'nayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 light red or pink 2 any of numerous cultivated usu double-flowered pinks [MF, fr Olt *caragnone*, fr *carne* flesh, fr L *carn-*, *caro*]

**carnauba** /kə'nowbə/ *n* a fan-leaved Brazilian palm with an edible root, whose leaves yield a wax used in polishes [Pg]

**cornelian** /kə'neiliən/ *n* (a) cornelian [by alter.]

**carnet** /kə'nay, -' (Fr *karne*)/ *n* a customs document permitting free movement of a vehicle across a frontier or temporary duty free import (e.g. of goods en route to another country) [F, lit., notebook, fr MF *quermet*, fr L *quaterni* set of four – more at *QUATERNION*]

**carnival** /kə'nivl/ *n* 1 a period of merrymaking before Lent, esp in Roman Catholic countries 2 an instance of merrymaking or feasting 3a an exhibition or organized programme of entertainment, a festival b chiefly *NAM* a travelling circus or funfair [It *carnevale*, alter. of earlier *carn levare*, lit., removal of meat, fr *carne* flesh (fr L *carn-*, *caro*) + *levare* to remove, fr L, to raise]

**carnivore** /kə'ni:vəw/ *n* a flesh-eating animal, esp any of an order of flesh-eating mammals  *FOOD* [deriv of L *carnivorus*]

**carnivorous** /kə'ni:v(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 of or being a carnivore; *specif* flesh-eating 2 of a plant feeding on nutrients obtained from animal tissue, esp insects [L *carnivorus*, fr *carn-*, *caro* flesh + *-vorus* -vorous] – *carnivorously* *adv*, *carnivorousness* *n*

**carob** /kə'rəb/ *n* (the edible pod of) a Mediterranean evergreen leguminous tree with red flowers [MF *carobe*, fr ML *carrubium*, fr Ar *khar-rūbah*]

**carol** /kə'rəl/ *n* a popular seasonal usu religious song or ballad; esp a Christmas song or hymn [ME *carole*, fr OF, modif of LL *choraula* choral song, fr L, choral accompanist, fr Gk *choraulēs*, fr *choros* chorus + *aulein* to play a reed instrument, fr *aulos*, a reed instrument]

**carol** *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-) to sing (joyfully)

**Caroline** /kə'ri:liən/, *Carolean* /kə'ri:leən/ *adj* of or relating to Charles – used esp with reference to Charles I and Charles II of England [NL *carolinus*, fr ML *Carolus* Charles]

**Carolingian** /kə'rɒliŋjən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a medieval Frankish dynasty who ruled in France, Germany, and Italy [adj F *carolingien*, fr ML *karolingi* French people, prob fr (assumed) OHG *karling* Frenchman, fr *Karl* Charles; *n* fr *adj*]

**carom** /kə'rəm/ *n* or *vi*, *NAM* <sup>1,3</sup>CANNON [n by shortening & alter. fr obs *carambole*, fr Sp *carambola*; *vb* fr n]

**carotene** /kə'ro:ten/ *n* any of several orange or red hydrocarbon plant pigments convertible to vitamin A [ISV, fr LL *carota* carrot]

**carotenoid** also *carotinoid* /kə'rotənoyd/ *n* a carotene or similar animal or plant pigment – *carotenoid* *adj*

**carotid** /kə'rotid/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the chief artery or pair of arteries that supply the head with blood [adj F or Gk; F *carotide*, fr Gk *karōtides* carotid arteries, fr *karoun* to stupefy; akin to Gk *kara* head – more at *CEREBRAL*; *n* fr *adj*]

**carotid body** *n* a small body of tissue at the point in the neck where the carotid artery forks that is sensitive to change in the oxygen content of blood

**carousel** /kə'rowzl/ *n* a carousel

**carouse** /kə'rowz/ *n* a drunken revel [MF *carrousse*, fr *carous*, *adv*, completely, all out (in *boire carous* to empty the cup), fr G *garus*]

**carouse** *vi* 1 to drink alcoholic beverages heavily or freely 2 to take part in a drinking bout

**carousel**, *NAM* also *carrousel* /kə'rə:sel, -'zel/ *n* 1 a rotating stand or delivery system <a luggage ~ at the airport> 2 chiefly *NAM* a merry-go-round [F *carrousel* tournament for horsemen, fr It *carosello*]


**carp** /kəhp/ *vi* to find fault or complain querulously and often unnecessarily – *infrm*, usu + *at* [ME *carpen*, of Scand origin, akin to Icel *karpa* to dispute]

**carp** *n*, *pl carps*, esp collectively *carp* (a fish resembling or related to) a large Old World soft-finned freshwater fish often farmed for food [ME *carpe*, fr MF, fr LL *carpa*, prob of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *karpfo* *carp*]

**carp** /kəhp-/ *carpo-* *comb form* fruit <carpology> [F & NL, fr Gk *karp-*, *karpo-*, fr *karpos* – more at *HARVEST*]

**carp** /kəhp/ *comb form* (→ *n*) part of a fruit <mesocarp>, fruit <schizocarp> [NL *-carpium*, fr Gk *-karpion*, fr *karpos*]

**car, park** *n*, chiefly *Br* an area or building set aside for parking motor vehicles

**carpel** /kəhp/ *n* any of the structures of a flowering plant that constitute the female (innermost) part of a flower and usu consist of an ovary, style, and stigma  *PLANT* [NL *carpellum*, fr Gk *karpos* fruit] – *carpellary* /kəhpləri/ *adj*, *carpellate* /-ət, -əyt/ *adj*

**carpenter** /kəhpintə/ *n* a woodworker, esp one who builds or repairs large-scale structural woodwork [ME, fr ONF *carpentier*, fr L *carpentarius* carriage-maker, fr *carpentum* carriage, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *carr* vehicle – more at *CAR*]

**carpenter** *vi* to follow the trade of a carpenter <~ed when he was young> ~ *vt* to put together, often in a mechanical manner

**carpentry** /kəhpintn/ *n* 1 the art or trade of a carpenter, *specif* the art of shaping and assembling structural woodwork 2 timberwork constructed by a carpenter

**carpet** /kəhpit/ *n* 1 a heavy woven or felted material used as a floor covering, also a floor covering made of this fabric 2 a surface resembling or suggesting a carpet <a ~ of leaves> [ME, fr MF *carpite*, fr Olt *carpita*, fr *carpire* to pluck, modif of L *carpere* to pluck – more at *HARVEST*] – on the carpet before an authority for censure or reprimand

**carpet** *vt* 1 to cover (as if) with a carpet <snowdrops ~ the lawn> 2 to reprimand – *infrm*

**carpetbag** /-bag/ *n* a bag made of carpet fabric, common in the 19th c

**carpetbagger** /-baga/ *n* 1 a Northerner who went to the American South after the Civil War in search of personal gain 2 a nonresident who meddles in the politics of a locality [fr their carrying all their belongings in carpetbags]

**carpeting** /kəhpitiŋ/ *n* (material for) carpets


**carpic** /kəhpik/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) -carpous <polycarpic> [prob fr NL *-carpicus*, fr Gk *karpos* fruit]

**carpo-** – see *CARP-*

**car, port** /-paw/ *n* a usu open-sided shelter for cars

**carpospore** /kəhpa:spaw/ *n* a diploid spore of a red alga – *carposporic* /-spɒrik/ *adj*

**carpous** /kəhpos/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) fruit or (so many) fruits <polycarpous> [NL *-carpus*, fr Gk *-karpos*, fr *karpos* fruit – more at *HARVEST*] – *carpy* /-kəpi/ *comb form* (→ *n*)

**carpus** /kəhpos/ *n*, *pl carpi* /-pie/ (the bones of) the wrist  *ANATOMY* [NL, fr Gk *karpos* – more at *WHARF*] – *carpal* *adj*

**carrack** /kə'kak/ *n* a large square-rigged trading vessel of the 14th to 17th c that was sometimes equipped for warfare [ME *carrake*, fr MF *caraque*, fr OSp *carraca*, fr Ar *qaraqir*, pl of *qurqur* merchant ship]

**carrageen** also *carrageen* /kə'reeən/ *n* a dark purple branching edible seaweed [Carrageen, town near Waterford, Eire]

**carrageenan** /kə'reeənən/, *carrageenan* /-n/, *carrageenan* /-nin/ *n* a colloid extracted esp from carrageen and used esp as a suspending, thickening, and clarifying agent (e.g. in foods) [carrageen + *-an* or *-in*]

**carrefour** /kə'rə'fo:ə, -'faw/ *n* a place where 4 ways meet; a crossroads [MF, fr LL *quadrifurcum*, neut of *quadrifurcus* having 4 forks, fr L *quadri-* + *furca* fork]

**carrel** /kə'rəl/ *n* a partitioned area or cubicle used for individual study, esp in a library [alter. of ME *carole* round dance, ring – more at *CAROL*]

**carriage** /kə'ri:j/ *n* 1 the act of carrying 2 the manner of bearing the body; posture 3 the price or cost of carrying <~ paid> 4 a wheeled vehicle; esp a horse-drawn passenger-carrying vehicle designed for private use 5 a movable part of a machine that supports some other part <a



*typewriter* ~> 6 *Br* a railway passenger vehicle; a coach [ME *carnage*, fr ONF, fr *carrier* to transport in a vehicle – more at *CARRY*]

**'carriage, trade** *n* trade from rich people

**'carriage, way** /-way/ *n, Br* the part of a road used by vehicular traffic, *specif* 1 *ANE* 2b

**carriack bend** /'kank/ *n* a knot used to join the ends of 2 large ropes [prob fr obs *carrick* (carrack), fr ME *carrake*, *carryk*]

**carrier** /'kari-/ *n* 1 a bearer, messenger 2 an individual or organization that contracts to transport goods, messages, etc 3a a container for carrying b a device, platform, machine, etc that carries (a *luggage* ~ on a *bicycle*) 4 a bearer and transmitter of a causative agent of disease; esp one who is immune to the disease 5a a usu inactive accessory substance, *VEHICLE* 1 b a substance (e.g. a catalyst) by whose agency some element or group is transferred from one compound to another 6 a radio or electrical wave of relatively high frequency that can be modulated by a signal (e.g. representing sound or vision information), esp in order to transmit that signal 7 a mobile hole or electron capable of carrying an electric charge in a semiconductor 8 *AIRCRAFT CARRIER* [*CARRY* + *-ER*]

**carrier bag** /'kari-/ *n, Br* a bag of plastic or thick paper used for carrying goods, esp shopping

**'carrier, pigeon** *n* a homing pigeon (used to carry messages)

**carrión** /'kari-/ *n* 1 dead and putrefying flesh 2 sthg corrupt or rotten [ME *caroine*, fr AF, fr (assumed) VL *caronia*, irreg fr L *caro*, *caro* flesh – more at *CARNAL*]

**carrión crow** *n* the common European black crow

**carronade** /'kara'neid/ *n* a short-barrelled muzzle-loaded large-calibre gun formerly used esp on ships [Carron, town in Scotland, where it was first made]

**carrot** /'karat/ *n* 1 (a biennial plant with) a usu orange spindle-shaped root eaten as a vegetable 2 a promised and often illusory reward or advantage (offered them the ~ of promotion) [MF *carotte*, fr LL *carota*, fr Gk *karoton*]

**carrotty** /'karoti/ *adj* bright orange-red in colour

**carrousel** /'kara'sel, -zel/ *n, NAM* a carousel

**'carry** /'kari/ *vi* 1 to support and move (a load), transport 2a to convey, conduct b to support (this beam carries the weight of the upper storeys) 3 to lead or influence by appeal to the emotions 4 to transfer from one place to another, esp to transfer (a digit corresponding to a multiple of 10) to the next higher power of 10 in addition 5a to wear or have on one's person (I never ~ money on me) b to bear on or within oneself (is ~ing an unborn child) c to have as a mark, attribute, or property (~ a scar) 6 to have as a consequence, esp in law, involve (the crime carried a heavy penalty) 7 to hold (e.g. one's person) in a specified manner (carries himself well) 8 to sing with reasonable correctness of pitch (~ a tune) 9a to keep in stock for sale b to provide sustenance for, support (land ~ing 100 head of cattle) 10 to maintain through financial support or personal effort (he carried the magazine single-handedly) 11 to extend or prolong in space, time, or degree (~ a principle too far) 12 to gain victory for 13a to broadcast b to publish (newspapers ~ weather reports) 14 to perform with sufficient ability to make up for the poor performance of (e.g. a partner or teammate) 15 to hoist and maintain (a sail) in use ~ *vi* 1 to act as a bearer 2a to reach or penetrate to a distance (voices ~ well) b to convey itself to a reader or audience 3 to undergo or allow carriage in a specified way [ME *carren*, fr ONF *carner* to transport in a vehicle, fr *car* vehicle, fr L *carrus* – more at *CAR*] – **carry a torch** to be in love, esp without reciprocation; cherish a longing or devotion (she still carries a torch for him even though their engagement is broken) – **carry the can** to bear the responsibility; accept the blame – *infrml* – **carry the day** to win, prevail

**²carry** *n* 1 the range of a gun or projectile or of a struck or thrown ball 2 *portage*

**carry away** *vi* to arouse to a high and often excessive degree of emotion or enthusiasm – *usu* *passive*

**'carry, cot** /-kot/ *n, chiefly Br* a small lightweight boxlike bed, usu with 2 handles, in which a baby can be carried

**carry forward** *vi* to transfer (e.g. a total) to the succeeding column, page, or book relating to the same account

**,carrying-on** *n, pl* **carryings-on** rowdy, excited, or improper behaviour – *infrml*

**carry off** *vi* 1 to cause the death of (the plague carried off thousands) 2 to perform easily or successfully (the leading lady carried off her part brilliantly) 3 to gain possession or control of; capture (carried off the prize)

**'carry, on** /-,on/ *n, NAM* a piece of luggage suitable for a passenger to carry on board an aircraft

**'carry-on** *n* an instance of rowdy, excited, or improper behaviour, a to-do – *infrml*

**carry on** *vi* to conduct, manage (carry on a business) *vi* 1 to behave in a rowdy, excited, or improper manner (embarrassed by the way he carries on) 2 to continue one's course or activity, esp in spite of obstacles or discouragement 3 *Br* to flirt, also to have a love affair – *usu* + *with*

**'carry, out** /-,out/ *n* 1 *chiefly Scot* food or esp alcoholic drink bought to be consumed off the premises 2 *chiefly NAM & Scot* a takeaway

**carry out** *vi* 1 to put into execution (carry out a plan) 2 to bring to a successful conclusion, complete, accomplish

**carry over** *vi* *CARRY FORWARD* ~ *vi* to persist from one stage or sphere of activity to another

**carry through** *vi* *CARRY OUT* ~ *vi* to survive, persist (feelings that carry through to the present)

**carse** /kahr/ *n, Scot* low fertile land beside a river [ME *cars*, *kerss*]

**carsick** /'kahr,sik/ *adj* suffering from the motion sickness associated with travelling by car – *carsickness* *n*

**'cart** /kaht/ *n* 1 a heavy 2-wheeled or 4-wheeled vehicle used for transporting bulky or heavy loads (e.g. goods or animal feed) 2 a lightweight 2-wheeled vehicle drawn by a horse, pony, or dog 3 a small wheeled vehicle [ME, prob fr ON *kartr*, akin to OE *craet* cart, OE *cradol* cradle]

**²cart** *vi* 1 to carry or convey (as if) in a cart 2 to take or drag away without ceremony or by force – *infrml*, *usu* + *off* (they ~ed him off to jail) 3 to carry by hand – *infrml* – **carter** *n*

**cartage** /'kahti/ *n* the act of carting, also the charge for this

**carte blanche** /kaht'blonh-sh (Fr *kart blā̃*)/ *n* full discretionary power (was given ~ to furnish the house) [F, lit., blank document]

**,carte du jour** /dooh'zhooh/ *n, pl* **cartes du jour** /~/ a menu, esp that of a particular day [F, lit., card of the day]


**cartel** /kaht'el/ *n* a combination of independent commercial enterprises designed to limit competition [MF, letter of defiance, fr OIt *cartello*, lit., placard, fr *carta* leaf of paper – more at *'CARD*]

**Cartesian** /kaht'eezh(y)ən, -zyən/ *adj* of or used in the philosophy of René Descartes [NL *cartesianus*, fr Renatus *Cartesius* (René Descartes) 1650 F philosopher] – **Cartesian** *n*, **Cartesianism** *n*

**Cartesian coordinate** *n* a coordinate measured from 1 of 2 or 3 straight-line axes perpendicular to one another

**'cart, horse** *n* any large powerful draught horse (e.g. a Clydesdale)

**Carthusian** /kaht'yoozh(y)ən, -zyən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of an austere contemplative religious order founded by St Bruno in 1084 [n ML *cartusensis*, irreg fr OF *Chartrouse*, mother house of the Carthusian order, near Grenoble, town in France, *adj* fr n]

**cartilage** /'kahtily/ *n* (a structure composed of) a translucent elastic tissue that makes up most of the skeleton of very young vertebrates and becomes mostly converted into bone in adult higher vertebrates  *ANATOMY* [L *cartilagin-*, *cartilago*, akin to L *cratis* wickerwork – more at *HURDLE*] – **cartilaginous** /kaht'ilajinas/ *adj*

**cartilaginous fish** /kaht'ilajinas/ *n* 1 any of a major group of fishes comprising all those with a cartilaginous rather than a bony skeleton and including the sharks, dogfishes, and rays, an elasmobranch 2 a cyclostome

**'cartload** /-,lohd/ *n* as much as a cart will hold

**cartogram** /'kahta,gram/ *n* a map showing statistical information presented in diagrammatic form [F *cartogramme*, fr *carte* + *-gramme* -gram]

**cartography** /kaht'ografi/ *n* map making [F *cartographie*, fr *carte* card, map + *-graphie* -graphy – more at *'CARD*] – **cartographer** *n*, **cartographic** /kaht'ografik/, **cartographical** *adj*

**cartomancy** /'kahta,mansi/ *n* the telling of fortunes by means of playing cards [F *cartomancie*, fr *carte* card + *-o-* + *mancie* -nancy]

**carton** /'kahr(t)ən/ *n* a box or container made of plastic, cardboard, etc [F, fr It *cartone* pasteboard]

**cartoon** /kaht'toon/ *n* 1 a preparatory design, drawing, or painting (e.g. for a fresco) 2a a satirical drawing commenting on public and usu political matters b *STRIP CARTOON* 3 *ANIMATED CARTOON* [It *cartone* pasteboard, cartoon, aug of *carta* leaf of paper – more at *'CARD*] – **cartoon** *vb*, **cartoonist** *n*

**cartouche** also **cartouch** /kaht'toohsh/ *n* 1 an ornate or ornamental frame 2 an oval or oblong figure (e.g. on ancient Egyptian monuments) enclosing a ruler's name [F *cartouche* cartridge with paper case, fr It *cartoccio*, fr *carta*]

**cartridge** /'kahtrij/ *n* 1a a tube of metal, paper, etc containing a

complete charge, a primer, and often the bullet or shot for a firearm **b** a case containing an explosive charge for blasting **2** the part of the arm of a record player holding the stylus and the mechanism that converts movements of the stylus into electrical signals **3** a case containing a reel of magnetic tape designed for insertion into a tape recorder [alter. of earlier *cartage*, modif of MF *cartouche*]

**'cartridge belt** *n* a belt with a series of loops for holding cartridges  
**'cartridge paper** *n* a stiff rough-surfaced close-grained paper (e.g. for drawing)

**cartulary** /'kahtyoolari/ *n* a collection of records or charters [ML *chartularium*, fr *chartula* charter – more at CHARTER]

**'cartwheel** /-weel/ *n* a sideways handspring with arms and legs extended

**'cartwheel** *vi* to perform cartwheels

**'cartwright** /-riet/ *n* sby who makes and repairs carts

**caruncle** /'kærŋkl/ *n* a naked fleshy outgrowth (e.g. a domestic fowl's wattle) [obs F *caruncle*, fr L *caruncula* little piece of flesh, dim. of *caro* flesh – more at CARNAL] – **caruncular** /'kærŋkyool/ *adj*, **carunculate** /-lət/, **carunculated** /-lətid/ *adj*

**carve** /kəv/ *vt* **1a** to cut so as to shape **b** to produce by cutting (~d his initials in the soft sandstone) **2** to make or acquire (a career, reputation, etc) through one's own efforts – often + *out* (~d out a place for himself in the firm) **3** to cut (food, esp meat) into pieces or slices ~ *vi* **1** to cut up and serve meat **2** to work as a sculptor or engraver [ME *kerven*, fr OE *ceorfan*; akin to MHG *kerben* to notch, Gk *graphein* to scratch, write]

**carvel** /'kəvəl/ *n* a caravel [ME *carville*, fr MF *caravelle*, *carvelle*]

**'carvel-built** *adj*, of a boat built with the planks meeting flush at the seams [prob fr D *karveel*, fr *karveel* caravel, fr MF *carvelle*]

**carven** /'kəvən/ *adj* wrought or ornamented by carving; carved – poetic

**carver** /'kəvə/ **1** a long sharp knife used for carving meat **2 pl** a knife and tork used for carving and serving meat [CARVE + -ER]

**'carve-up** *n* **1** a competitive event in which the result has been irregularly decided beforehand – infml **2** a division into parts; esp the sharing out of loot – slang

**carve up** *vt* **1** to divide into parts or shares (<carved up the inheritance between them>) **2** to wound with a knife – slang

**carving** /'kəvɪŋ/ *n* **1** the act or art of one who carves **2** a carved object, or design

**'car wash** *n* (an area containing) an automatic machine for washing cars, usu consisting of 1 large horizontal and 2 large upright revolving brushes through which water and soap are sprayed

**caryatid** /'kari-ətid, 'kari-ətid, 'kəri-ətid/ *n*, pl **caryatides**, **caryatides** /'kari-ətidiez, 'kəri-ə-ˈteediz/ a draped female figure used as a column to support an entablature [L *caryatides*, pl, fr Gk *karyatides* priestesses of Artemis at Caryae, *caryatids*, fr *Karyai* Caryae, town in Greece]

**caryopsis** /'kari-ˈopsis/ *n*, pl **caryopses** /-seɪz/, **caryopsides** /-sɪdeɪz/ a small 1-seeded dry fruit (e.g. of grasses) in which the fruit and seed are fused together in a single grain [NL, fr Gk *karyon* nut + *opsis* appearance]

**Casanova** /'kasa-ˈnohva/ *n* a (promiscuous and unscrupulous) male lover [Giacomo Girolamo *Casanova* †1798 It adventurer]

**casbah** also **kasbah** /'kəz,bəh/ *n* (a market in) the older Arab section of a N African city [F, fr Ar dial. *qasbah*]

**'cascade** /'kas'keɪd/ *n* **1** a steep usu small fall of water; esp one of a series of such falls **2a** sthg arranged in a series or in a succession of stages so that each stage derives from or acts on the product of the preceding stage (<a ~ amplifier>) **b** an arrangement of fabric (e.g. lace) that falls in a wavy line **3** sthg falling or rushing forth in profusion (<a ~ of flowers>) [F, fr It *cascata*, fr *cascare* to fall, fr (assumed) VL *casicare*, fr L *casus*, pp of *cadere* to fall]

**'cascade** *vi* to fall (as if) in a cascade ~ *vt* to connect in a cascade arrangement

**cascara** /'ka'skəhə/ *n* **1** *cascara*, *cascara* buckthorn a buckthorn of the Pacific coast of the USA **2** *cascara*, *cascara sagrada* the dried bark of *cascara* buckthorn, used as a mild laxative [Sp *cáscara* bark, fr *cascar* to crack, break, fr (assumed) VL *quassicare* to shake, break, fr L *quassare* – more at QUASH; **2** *cascara sagrada* AmerSp, lit., sacred bark]

**'case** /kays/ *n* **1a** a set of circumstances or conditions; a situation **b** a situation or object requiring investigation or action **2** an (inflectional) form of a noun, pronoun, or adjective indicating its grammatical relation to other words **3a** a suit or action that reaches a court of law **b(1)** the evidence supporting a conclusion (<the ~ for bringing back hanging>) **(2)** an argument; esp one that is convincing **4a** an instance of disease or

injury; also a patient suffering from a specific illness **b** an instance that directs attention to a situation or exhibits it in action; an example **5** a peculiar person, a character – infml [ME *cas*, fr OF, fr L *casus* fall, chance, fr *casus*, pp of *cadere* to fall – more at CHANCE] – **in any case** without regard to or in spite of other considerations; whatever else is done or is the case (<war is inevitable in any case>) – **in case** **1** as a precaution; as a precaution against the event that (<take a towel anyway just in case you want to swim>) **2** chiefly NAM if – **in case of** **1** in the event of (<in case of trouble, yell>) **2** for fear of; as a precaution against (<posted sentries in case of attack>)

**'case** *n* **1** a box or receptacle for holding sthg; e.g. **a** a glass-panelled box for the display of specimens (e.g. in a museum) **b** chiefly Br a suitcase **c** a box together with its contents **2** a pair – chiefly with reference to pistols **3a** an outer covering (<a pastry ~>) **b** a stiff book cover that is made apart from the book and glued onto it **4** a shallow divided tray for holding printing type [ME *cas*, fr ONF *casse*, fr L *capsa* chest, case, fr *capere* to take – more at HEAVE]

**'case** *vt* **1** to enclose in or cover with a case; **encase** **2** to inspect or study (e.g. a house), esp with intent to rob – slang

**'casebook** /-book/ *n* a book containing records of illustrative cases for reference (e.g. in law or medicine)


**cased** /kays/ *adj*, of a book being a hardback

**'case, harden** *vt* **1** to harden the surface of (iron or steel) **2** to make callous – **case-hardened** *adj*

**case history** *n* a record of history, environment, and relevant details (e.g. of individual behaviour or condition), esp for use in analysis, illustration, or diagnosis


**casein** /'kaysi-n, -seen/ *n* a protein in milk that is precipitated by (lactic) acid or rennet, is the chief constituent of cheese, and is used in making plastics [prob fr F *caséine*, fr L *caseus* cheese]

**'case in 'point** *n* a relevant example

**'case, law** *n* law established by previous judicial decisions  LAW

**'case, load** *n* the number of cases handled in a particular period (e.g. by a court or clinic)

**casemate** /'kays,maɪt/ *n* a fortified position or chamber or an armoured enclosure on a warship from which guns are fired [MF, fr OIt *casamatta*]

**casement** /'kaysmənt/ *n* (a window with) a sash that opens on hinges at the side  ARCHITECTURE [ME, hollow moulding, prob fr ONF *encasement* frame, fr *encasser* to enshrine, frame, fr *en-* + *casse*]

**caseous** /'kaysi-əs/ *adj* of or like cheese [L *caseus* cheese]

**'case, shot** *n* an artillery projectile consisting of a number of balls or metal fragments enclosed in a case

**case study** *n* an analysis of a person, institution, or community based on details concerning development, environment, etc

**cassette** /'kaset/ *n* a cassette

**'case, work** /-wuhk/ *n* social work involving direct consideration of the problems of individual people or families – **caseworker** *n*

**'cash** /kəʃ/ *n* **1** ready money **2** money or its equivalent paid promptly at the time of purchase [MF or OIt, MF *casse* money box, fr OIt *cassa*, fr L *capsa* chest – more at 'CASE]

**'cash** *vt* **1** to pay or obtain cash for (<a cheque>) **2** to lead and win a bridge trick with (the highest remaining card of a suit)

**'cash** *n*, pl **cash** (a money unit equivalent to) a small Chinese or Indian coin [Pg *caixa*, fr Tamil *kācu*, a small copper coin, fr Skt *karsa*, a weight of gold or silver; akin to OPer *karsha-*, a weight]

**'cash-and-carry** *adj* sold for cash and collected by the purchaser

**'cash card** *n* a card that is issued by a bank and allows the holder to operate a cash-dispensing machine

**'cash crop** *n* a crop (e.g. cotton or sugar beet) produced for sale rather than for use by the grower

**'cash desk** *n* a desk (e.g. in a shop) where payment for purchases is taken

**cashew** /'kashoo, 'kə'shooh, 'ka'shooh/ *n* (the edible kidney-shaped nut of) a tropical American tree of the sumach family [Pg *acajú*, *cajú*, fr Tupi *acajú*]

**'cashier** /'ka'shiə/ *vt* to dismiss, usu dishonourably, esp from service in the armed forces [D *casseren*, fr MF *casser* to discharge, annul – more at QUASH]

**'cashier** *n* **1** one employed to receive cash from customers, esp in a shop **2** one who collects and records payments (e.g. in a bank) [D or MF; D *kassier*, fr MF *cassier*, fr *casse* money box]

**cash in** *vt* to convert into cash (<cash in all his bonds>) ~ *vi* to exploit a financial or other advantage – usu + *on* (<cash in on the success of recent peace initiatives>)

**cashmere** /ˈkæʃmɪə, -/ *n* (yarn or fabric made from) fine wool from the undercoat of the Kashmir goat [*Cashmere*, var of *Kashmir*, region of the Indian subcontinent]

**'cash register** *n* a machine that has a drawer for cash and is used to record and display the amount of each purchase and the money received

**casing** /ˈkeɪsɪŋ/ *n* sth that encases; material for encasing

**casino** /kəˈseɪnoh/ *n*, *pl* **casinos** a building or room used for social amusements, specif gambling [It, fr *casa* house, fr L, cabin]

**cask** /kæsk/ *n* 1 a barrel-shaped container, usu for holding liquids 2 a cask and its contents; also the quantity contained in a cask [MF *casque* helmet, fr Sp *casco* potsherd, skull, helmet, fr *cascar* to break – more at *CASCARA*]

**casket** /ˈkæʃkɪt/ *n* 1 a small usu ornamental chest or box (e.g. for jewels) 2 *NAm* a coffin [ME, modif of MF *cassette*]

**casque** /kask/ *n* a helmet [MF – more at *CASK*]

**Cassandra** /kəˈsændrə, -ˈsæn-/ *n* one who predicts misfortune or disaster [L, fr Gk *Kassandra*, daughter of King Priam of Troy in Gk legend]

**cassava** /kəˈsəvə/ *n* (the fleshy edible starch-yielding rootstock of) any of several tropical plants of the spurge family [Sp *cazabe* cassava bread, fr Taino *caçábi*]

**'casserole** /ˈkæsəroʊl/ *n* 1 a heatproof dish with a cover in which food may be baked and served 2 the savoury food cooked and served in a casserole [F, *saucepan*, fr MF, irreg fr *casse* ladle, dripping pan, deriv of Gk *kyathos* ladle]

**²casserole** *vt* to cook (food) slowly in a casserole

**cassette**, **cassette** /kəˈset/ *n* 1 a lightproof container for holding film or plates that can be inserted into a camera 2 a small case containing magnetic tape that can be inserted into a tape recorder [F *cassette* casket, fr MF, dim. of ONF *cas* case]

**cassia** /ˈkasi-/ *n* 1 a coarse cinnamon bark 2 senna [ME, fr OE, fr L, fr Gk *kassia*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *qēsiʾah* cassia]

**cassia** /ˈkæsi-/ *n* a liqueur made from blackcurrants and used esp as a flavouring (e.g. in white wine) [F, blackcurrant, fr L *cassia*]

**caassiterite** /kəˈsɪtəriet/ *n* tin dioxide occurring as a brown or black mineral [F *caassiterite*, fr Gk *kassiteros* tin]

**cassock** /ˈkæsk/ *n* an ankle-length garment worn by the Roman Catholic and Anglican clergy or by laymen assisting in services [MF *casaque*, fr Per *kazhāghand* padded jacket, fr *kazh* raw silk + *āghand* stuffed]

**caassoulet** /kəˈsəʊlə/ *n* a stew of haricot beans and mixed meats [F, fr F dial, lit., stone dish, dim. of *cassolo* bowl, dim. of *casso* ladle, deriv of Gk *kyathos* ladle]

**caassowary** /kəˈsəʊwəri/ *n* any of several large flightless Australasian birds closely related to the emu [Malay *kəsuari*]

**'cast** /kæst/ *vb* **cast** *vt* 1a to cause to move by throwing (< ~ a fishing line) b to direct (< ~ a shadow) (< ~ doubt on the enterprise) c(1) to send forth; emit (< the fire ~ s a warm glow) (2) to place as if by throwing (< ~ a spell) (< was ~ into prison) d to deposit (a vote) formally e(1) to throw off or away (< the horse ~ a shoe) (2) to shed, moult (3) of an animal to give birth to (prematurely) 2 to calculate (a horoscope) by means of astrology 3a to arrange into a suitable form or order b to assign a part for (e.g. a play) or to (e.g. an actor) 4a to shape (e.g. metal or plastic) by pouring into a mould when molten b to form by casting ~ *vi* 1 to throw out a line and lure with a fishing rod 2 to look round; seek – + *about* or *around* (< she ~ around uncertainly for somewhere to sit) 3 to veer 4 to take form in a mould [ME *casten*, fr ON *kasta*; akin to ON *kā-* heap, & perh to L *gerere* to carry, wage] – **cast anchor** to lower the anchor; to anchor – **cast lots** DRAW LOTS

**²cast** *n* 1a an act of casting b a throw of a (fishing) line or net 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the set of performers in a dramatic production 3 the distance to which sthg can be thrown 4a a turning of the eye in a particular direction b a slight squint in the eye 5a a reproduction (e.g. of a statue) formed by casting b an impression taken from an object with a molten or plastic substance c 'PLASTER 3 6a a modification of a colour by a trace of some added colour (< grey with a greenish ~) b a tinge, suggestion 7 a shape, appearance (< the delicate ~ of her features) 8 the excrement of an earthworm

**castanet** /ˈkæstənɪt/ *n* either of a pair of small usu wooden or plastic shells clicked together in the hand and used esp by dancers – usu *pl* [Sp *castañeta*, fr *castaña* chestnut, fr L *castanea* – more at *CHESTNUT*]

**castaway** /ˈkæstəweɪ/ *n* a person who is cast adrift or ashore as a result of a shipwreck or as a punishment – **castaway** *adj*

**cast away** *vt* to cause (a person or vessel) to be shipwrecked – usu *passive*

**caste** /kæst/ *n* 1 any of the hereditary social groups in Hinduism that restrict the occupations of their members and their association with members of other castes 2a a social class b the prestige conferred by caste 3 the system of social division by castes 4 a specialized form of a social insect (e.g. a soldier or worker ant) adapted to carry out a particular function in the colony [Pg *casta*, lit., race, lineage, fr fem of *casto* pure, chaste, fr L *castus*; akin to L *carere* to be without, Gk *keazein* to split, Skt *śasati* he cuts to pieces]

**castellan** /ˈkæstələn/ *n* a governor or warden of a castle or fort [ME *castelleyn*, fr ONF *castelain*, fr L *castellanus* occupant of a castle, fr *castellanus* of a castle, fr *castellum* castle]

**castellated** /ˈkæstɪleɪtɪd/ *adj* having battlements like a castle [ML *castellatus*, pp of *castellare* to fortify, fr L *castellum*]

**caster** /ˈkæstə/ *n* 1 a machine that casts type 2 'CASTOR 1, 2 ['CAST + 'ER]

**caster sugar** *n* finely granulated white sugar

**castigate** /ˈkæstɪɡeɪt/ *vt* to punish or reprimand severely – *fml* [L *castigatus*, pp of *castigare* – more at *CHASTEN*] – **castigator** /-ˈɡeɪtə/ *n*, **castigation** /-ˈɡeɪʃən/ *n*

**castile soap** /kəˈsteɪl/ *n*, often *cap C* a fine hard bland soap made from olive oil and sodium hydroxide [*Castile*, region of Spain]


**Castilian** /kəˈstɪliən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Castile 2 (the official and literary language of Spain based on) the dialect of Castile – **Castilian** *adj*

**casting** /ˈkæstɪŋ/ *n* 1 sthg cast in a mould 2 sthg cast out or off

**casting vote** *n* a deciding vote cast in the event of a tie

**cast-iron** *adj* 1 capable of withstanding great strain, strong, unyielding (< ~ stomach) 2 impossible to disprove or falsify (< ~ alibi)

**cast-iron** *n* a hard brittle alloy of iron, carbon, and silicon cast in a mould

**'castle** /ˈkæsl/ *n* 1 a large fortified building or set of buildings  2 a stronghold 3 'ROOK [ME *castel*, fr OE, fr ONF, fr L *castellum* fortress, castle, dim. of *castrum* fortified place]

**²castle** *vb* **castling** /ˈkæslɪŋ/ to move (a chess king) 2 squares towards a rook and then place the rook on the square on the other side of the king

**castle in the air** *n* an impractical scheme, a daydream

**'cast-off** /-ˈɒf/ *n* 1 a cast-off article (e.g. of clothing) – usu *pl* 2 an estimate of the space that will be required for a given amount of text when printed

**cast-off** *adj* thrown away or discarded, esp because outgrown or no longer wanted (< ~ clothes) (< ~ lover)

**cast off** *vt* 1 to unfasten or untie (a boat or line) 2 to remove (a stitch or stitches) from a knitting needle in such a way as to prevent unravelling 3 to get rid of, discard (< cast off all restraint) 4 to measure (an amount of text) to determine the space it will take up when printed ~ *vi* 1 to unfasten or untie a boat or a line 2 to finish a knitted article by casting off all the stitches

**cast on** *vb* to place (a stitch or stitches) on a knitting needle for beginning or enlarging a knitted article

**'castor** /ˈkæstə/ *n* a strong-smelling substance consisting of dried glands taken from near the anus of the beaver, used esp in making perfume [ME, beaver, fr L, fr Gk *kastor*, fr *Kastor* Castor, hero or demigod of Greek mythology]

**²castor, caster** /ˈkæstə/ *n* 1 a small wheel set in a swivel mounting on the base of a piece of furniture, machinery, etc 2 a container with a perforated top for sprinkling powdered or granulated foods, esp sugar – compare *SHAKER* ['CAST + 'OR, 'ER]

**castor oil** *n* a pale viscous oil from the beans of a tropical Old World plant, used esp as a purgative [prob fr its former use as a substitute for castor in medicine]

**cast out** *vt* to drive out; expel

**castrate** /kəˈstreɪt/ *vt* 1 to deprive of sexual organs: a to remove the testes of, geld b to remove the ovaries of; spay 2 to deprive of vitality or vigour; emasculate [L *castratus*, pp of *castrare*; akin to Skt *śasati* he cuts to pieces – more at *CASTE*] – **castrate** /-/ *n*, **castration** /kəˈstreɪʃən/ *n*

**castrato** /kəˈstrətoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **castrati** /-ti/ a singer castrated in boyhood to preserve the high range of his voice [It, fr pp of *castrare* to castrate, fr L]

**Castroism** /ˈkæstroʊz(ə)m/ *n* the political principles and policies of Fidel Castro [Fidel Castro b1927 Cuban premier] – **Castroite** /-ˈjet/ *n*

**'casual** /ˈkæʒ(y)ooəl, kəzyooəl/ *adj* 1 subject to, resulting from, or

occurring by chance 2a occurring without regularity; occasional b employed for irregular periods (< a ~ labourer) 3a feeling or showing little concern; nonchalant b informal, natural; also designed for informal wear [ME, fr MF & LL; MF *casuel*, fr LL *casualis*, fr L *casus* fall, chance – more at 'CASE] – *casually* *adv*, *casualness* *n*

**casual** *n* a casual or migratory worker

**casualty** /'kæʒ(y)ooʊlɪ, -zyooʊl-/ *n* 1 a member of a military force killed or wounded in action 2 a person or thing injured, lost, or destroyed <small firms will be the first casualties of these policies> [ME *casuelle* chance, mischance, loss, fr ML *casualitas*, fr LL *casualis*]

**casualty** /'kæʒ(y)ooʊstri, -kazyooʊstri/ *n* 1 a method or doctrine dealing with particular ethical problems 2 the false application of general principles to particular instances, esp with regard to morals or law [casuist (one who studies cases of conscience), prob fr Sp *casuista*, fr L *casus* fall, chance, case – more at 'CASE] – *casualist* *n*, *casualistic* /-'istɪk/, *casuistical* *adj*

**casus belli** /'kæsoʊs 'beli/ *n*, *pl casus belli* /'beli/ an event or action that brings about a war [NL, occasion of war]

**cat** /kæt/ *n* 1a a small domesticated flesh-eating mammal kept as a pet or for catching rats and mice b any of a family of carnivores that includes the domestic cat, lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, cougar, lynx, and cheetah 2 a malicious woman 3 a cat-o'-nine-tails 4 a player or devotee of jazz – slang 5 a (male) person – slang [ME, fr OE *catt*; akin to OHG *kazza* cat, both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc word prob borrowed fr LL *cattus*, *catta* cat]

**cat** *n* CATAMARAN 2 – *infrm*

**cata-**, **cat-**, **cath-** *prefix* down <catapult> <catarrh> [Gk *kata-*, *kat-*, *kath-*, fr *kata* down, in accordance with, by; akin to L *com-* with – more at CO-]

**catabolism** /kə'tæbəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* destructive metabolism involving the release of energy and resulting in the breakdown of complex materials (e.g. glucose) – compare ANABOLISM [Gk *katabolē* throwing down, fr *kataballein* to throw down, fr *kata-* + *ballein* to throw – more at DEVI] – *catabolize* *vb*, *catabolic* /kə'tæbəlɪk/ *adj*

**catabolite** /kə'tæbəlɪt/ *n* a (waste) product of catabolism

**catachresis** /kə'tækresɪs/ *n*, *pl catachreses* /-seɪz/ use of the wrong word for the context [L, fr Gk *katachrēsis* misuse, fr *katachrēsthai* to use up, misuse, fr *kata-* + *chrēsthai* to use] – *catachrestic* /-'krestɪk/, *catachrestical* *adj*

**cataclysm** /kə'tæklɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a flood, deluge 2 a violent geological change of the earth's surface 3 a momentous event marked by violent upheaval and destruction [F *cataclysm*, fr L *cataclysmos*, fr Gk *kataklysmos*, fr *kataklyzein* to flood, fr *kata-* + *klizein* to wash] – *cataclysmal* /kə'tæklɪz(ə)məl/, *cataclysmic* /-'klɪz(ə)mɪk/ *adj*

**catacomb** /kə'tækoʊbm/ *n* 1 a galleried subterranean cemetery with recesses for tombs 2 an underground passageway or group of passageways; a labyrinth *USE* often pl with sing meaning [MF *catacombe*, prob fr OIt *catacomba*, fr LL *catacumbae*, pl]

**catachromous** /kə'tædrəməs/ *adj* living in fresh water and going to the sea to spawn <~ eels> [prob fr NL *catadromus*, fr *cata-* + *-dromus* -dromous]

**catafalque** /kə'tæfalk/ *n* an ornamental structure supporting or bearing a coffin (e.g. during a lying in state) [It *catafalco*, fr (assumed) VL *catafalicus* scaffold, fr *cata-* + L *fala* siege tower]

**Catalan** /kə'tælən, -lən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Catalonia 2 the Romance language of Catalonia, Valencia, and the Balearic islands – *LANGUAGE* [Sp *Catalán*] – *Catalan* *adj*

**catalectic** /kə'tælektɪk/ *adj* lacking a syllable at the end of a line of verse [LL *catalecticus*, fr Gk *katalektikos*, fr *katalēgein* to leave off, fr *kata-* + *lēgein* to stop – more at SLACK]

**catalepsy** /kə'tælepsi/ *n* a trance-like state associated with schizophrenia in which the body remains rigid and immobile for prolonged periods [ME *catalepsi*, fr ML *catalepsia*, fr LL *catalepsis*, fr Gk *katalēpsis*, lit., act of seizing, fr *katalambainein* to seize, fr *kata-* + *lambainein* to take – more at LATCH] – *cataleptic* /-'leptɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**catalo** /kə'tæləh/ *n*, *pl cataloes*, *cataloe* a cattalo

**catalogue**, *NAm chiefly catalog* /'kætəlɒg/ 1 (a pamphlet or book containing) a complete list of items arranged systematically with descriptive details 2 a list, series (a ~ of disasters) [ME *cateloge*, fr MF *catalogue*, fr LL *catalogus*, fr Gk *katalogos*, fr *katalēgein* to list, enumerate, fr *kata-* + *lēgein* to gather, speak – more at LEGEND]

**catalogue**, *NAm chiefly catalog* *vt* 1 to enter in a catalogue; esp to classify (books or information) descriptively 2 to make a catalogue of **catalyze**, *NAm catalyze* /'kætəlaɪz/ *vt* to bring about the catalysis of (a chemical reaction)

**catalysis** /kə'tælɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl catalyses* /-seɪz/ a change, esp an increase, in the rate of a chemical reaction induced by a catalyst [Gk *katalysis* dissolution, fr *katalyein* to dissolve, fr *kata-* + *lyein* to dissolve, release – more at LOSF]

**catalyst** /'kætəlaɪst/ *n* 1 a chemical agent that causes catalysis 2 a substance (e.g. an enzyme) that changes, esp increases, the rate of a chemical reaction but itself remains chemically unchanged 3 sb or sth whose action inspires further and thus more important events [fr *catalysis*, by analogy to *analysis* : *analyst*]

**catalytic** /kə'tælɪtɪk/ *adj* causing or involving catalysis

**catamaran** /'kætəməˌræn, -ræn, -rən-/ *n* 1 a raft made of logs or pieces of wood lashed together 2 a boat with twin hulls side by side [Tamil *katumaram*, fr *katu* to tie + *maram* tree]

**catamite** /kə'tæmɪt/ *n* a boy kept by a pederast [L *catamitus*, fr *Catamitus* Ganymede, cupbearer of the gods, fr Etruscan *Catmite*, fr Gk *Ganymedes*]

**catamount** /kə'taˌmaʊnt/ *n* a cat-a-mountain

**cat-a-mountain** *n* a leopard, puma, or similar wild cat [ME *cat of the mountaine*]

**cat-and-mouse** *adj* consisting of continuous chasing and near captures and escapes

**cataplexy** /kə'tæpleksɪ/ *n* sudden temporary paralysis following a strong emotional stimulus (e.g. shock) [G *kataplexie*, fr Gk *kataplexis*, fr *kataplessein* to strike down, terrify, fr *kata-* + *plessein* to strike – more at PLAINT]

**catapult** /'kætəpʊlɪt, -pʊlt/ *n* 1 an ancient military device for hurling missiles 2 a device for launching an aeroplane at flying speed (e.g. from an aircraft carrier) 3 *Br* a Y-shaped stick with a piece of elastic material fixed between the 2 prongs, used for shooting small objects (e.g. stones) [MF or L, MF *catapulte*, fr L *catapulta*, fr Gk *katapaltes*, fr *kata-* + *pallein* to hurl, brandish – more at POLEMIC]

**catapult** *vb* 1 to throw or launch (a missile) by means of a catapult 2 (to cause to) move suddenly or abruptly <was ~ed from rags to riches overnight>

**cataract** /'kætərækt/ *n* 1 clouding of (the enclosing membrane of) the lens of the eye; also the clouded area 2a (a large steeply-descending) waterfall b steep rapids in a river c a downpour, deluge [L *cataracta* waterfall, portcullis, fr Gk *kataraktēs*, fr *katarassein* to dash down, fr *kata-* + *arassein* to strike, dash, (1) MF or ML, MF *cataracte*, fr ML *cataracta*, fr L, portcullis]

**catarrh** /kə'tæh/ *n* (the mucus resulting from) inflammation of a mucous membrane, esp in the human nose and air passages [MF or LL; MF *catarrhe*, fr LL *catarrhus*, fr Gk *katarrhos*, fr *katarrhein* to flow down, fr *kata-* + *rhein* to flow – more at STREAM] – *catarrhal* /-'rəl/ *adj*

**catastrophe** /kə'tæstrəfi/ *n* 1 a momentous, tragic, and unexpected event of extreme gravity 2 CATACLYSM 2 [Gk *katastrophē*, fr *katastrophein* to overturn, fr *kata-* + *strophein* to turn – more at STROPH] – *catastrophic* /kə'tæstrəfɪk/ *adj*, *catastrophically* *adv*

**catatonia** /kə'tæ'toʊniə, -ni-ə/ *n* (a psychological disorder, esp schizophrenia, marked by) cataplexy [NL, fr G *katatonie*, fr *kata-* + NL *tonus*] – *catatonic* /-'tonɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**catboat** /-'boht/ *n* a sailing boat with a mast positioned close to the bows and a single sail [perh fr *cat*, a former type of cargo ship]

**cat burglar** *n*, *Br* a burglar who enters buildings by climbing up walls, drainpipes, etc

**catcall** /-'kawl/ *n* a loud or raucous cry expressing disapproval – *catcall* *vb*

**catch** /kæʃ/ *vb* caught /kæwt/ *vt* 1a to capture or seize, esp after pursuit b to take or entangle (as if) in a snare <caught in a web of deceit> c to discover unexpectedly; surprise <caught in the act> d to check suddenly or momentarily e to cause to become entangled, fastened, or stuck <~ a sleeve on a nail> 2a to seize; esp to intercept and keep hold of (a moving object), esp in the hands <~ the ball> b to dismiss (a batsman in cricket) by catching the ball after it has been hit and before it has touched the ground 3a to contract; become infected with <~ a cold> b to hit, strike <~ the mood of the occasion> c to receive the force or impact of 4 to attract, arrest <tried to ~ his attention> 5 to take or get momentarily or quickly <~ a glimpse of her friend> 6 to be in time for <~ the bus> <~ the last post> 7 to grasp with the senses or the mind ~ *vi* 1 to become caught 2 of a fire to start to burn 3 BURN 3 <the sugar caught on the bottom of the pan> [ME *cacchen*, fr ONF *cachier* to hunt, fr (assumed) VL *captiare*, alter. of L *captare* to chase, fr *captus*, pp of *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – *catchable* *adj* – *catch a crab* to make a faulty stroke in rowing – *catch it* to incur blame, reprimand, or punishment – *infrm* – *catch one's breath* 1 to rest long enough to restore normal breathing

- 2 to stop breathing briefly, usu under the influence of strong emotion – **catch someone on the hop** to find sb by unprepared – *infrml*
- catch** *n* 1 sthg caught, esp the total quantity caught at one time <a large ~ of fish> 2 a game in which a ball is thrown and caught 3 sthg that retains or fastens <the safety ~ of her brooch was broken> 4 an often humorous or coarse round for 3 or more voices 5 a concealed difficulty, a snag <there must be a ~ in it somewhere> 6 an eligible marriage partner – *infrml*
- catch** 22 *n*, often *cap C* a predicament from which a victim is unable to extricate him-/herself because the means of escape is precluded by prior conditions [*Catch-22*, novel by Joseph Heller b1923 US writer]
- catchall** /-awl/ *n* sthg intended to include or cover miscellaneous cases, items, circumstances, etc <a ~ category>
- catch-as-catch-can** *n* a style of wrestling in which all holds are allowed and in which a fall is gained by pinning an opponent's shoulders to the ground
- catch crop** *n* a crop planted between the rows of the main crop or grown between the harvesting of a main crop and the planting of another
- catchcry** /-krie/ *n*, Austr a slogan; TAG 4a, 4b <resort to 1950s catchcries about red perils – *The Australian*>
- catcher** /'kacha/ *n* a baseball player who stands behind the batter to catch balls that the batter fails to hit [*'CATCH* + -FR]
- catchfly** /-fie/ *n* any of various plants with sticky stems on which small insects are caught
- catching** /'kaching/ *adj* 1 infectious, contagious 2 alluring, attractive
- catchment** /'katchmant/ *n* the action of collecting a substance or material (e.g. water); also the amount collected
- catchment area** *n* 1 the area from which a lake, reservoir, etc gets its rainwater 2 a geographical area from which people are drawn to attend a particular school, hospital, etc
- catch on** *vi* 1 to become popular <the new fashion quickly caught on in Britain> 2 to understand, learn – often + *to*, *infrml*
- catch out** *vi* to expose or detect in wrongdoing or error – usu *passive*
- catchpenny** /'katchpeni/ *adj* also 'catchpani/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) worthless but designed to appear attractive, esp by being showy – *derog*
- catchphrase** /-frayz/ *n* an arresting phrase that enjoys short-lived popularity
- catchup** /'kachap/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* ketchup
- catch up** *vi* 1a to pick up, often abruptly <caught the child up in her arms> b to ensnare, entangle – usu + *up*, *usu passive c* to engross, absorb – usu + *in*, *usu passive* 2 to act or move fast enough to draw level with <we'll catch you up later> ~ *vi* 1 to act or move fast enough to draw level <we'll catch up with you later> 2 to acquaint oneself or deal with sthg belatedly – + *on* or *with* <I must catch up on the bookkeeping>
- catchword** /-wuhd/ *n* 1 a word placed so as to assist a reader when turning a page 2 a word or expression associated with some school of thought or political movement, a slogan
- catchy** /'kachi/ *adj* 1 tending to attract the interest or attention <a ~ title> 2 easy to remember and reproduce <a ~ tune>
- cate** /kayt/ *n*, *archaic* a dainty or choice morsel – usu *pl* [ME, article of purchased food, short for *acate*, fr ONF *acat* purchase, fr *acater* to buy, fr (assumed) VL *accaptare*, fr L *acceptare* to accept]
- catechism** /'kata,kiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 instruction by question and answer 2 a manual for catechizing; specif a summary of religious doctrine, often in the form of questions and answers 3 a set of formal questions put as a test – *catechismal* /-'kizmə/ *adj*
- catechize**, -ise /'kata,kiez/ *vt* 1 to teach systematically, esp by using question and answer; specif to teach the articles of faith of a religion in such a manner 2 to question systematically or searchingly [LL *catechizare*, fr Gk *katechein* to teach, lit., to din into, fr *kata-cata-* + *echēin* to resound, fr *echē* sound – more at *echo*] – **catechist** *n*, **catechizer** /-kiezə/ *n*, **catechization** /-kie'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- catechol** /'kata,kohl/, -chohl/ *n* pyrocatechol
- catecholamine** /'kata'kohləmeen/, -chohl-/ *n* any of various amines (e.g. adrenalin and dopamine) that function as hormones, neurotransmitters, or both, and are related to pyrocatechol
- catechu** /'kata,chooh/ *n* any of several dry astringent substances obtained from tropical Asiatic plants [prob fr Malay *kachu*, of Dravidian origin; akin to Tamil & Kannada *kācu* catechu]
- catechumen** /'kata'kyoohmin/ *n* a person receiving instruction in Christian doctrine and discipline before admission to membership of a church [ME *catechumyn*, fr MF *catechumine*, fr LL *catechumenus*, fr Gk *katechoumenos*, *prp* passive of *katechein* to teach]
- categorical** /'kata'gorkl/ also 'cate'goric /-'gorik/ *adj* absolute, unqualified <a ~ denial> [LL *categoricus*, fr Gk *kategorikos*, fr *kategoria* affirmation, category] – **categorically** *adv*
- categorical imperative** *n* a moral obligation that is unconditionally and universally binding
- categorize**, -ise /'kata,gri:z/ *vt* to put into a category; classify – **categorization** /-rie'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- category** /'katag(ə)ri/ *n* 1 a general or fundamental form or class of terms, things, or ideas (e.g. in philosophy) 2 a division within a system of classification [LL *categoria*, fr Gk *kategoria* predication, category, fr *kategorēin* to accuse, affirm, predicate, fr *kata-cata-* + *agora* public assembly – more at GREGARIOUS]
- catena** /ka'teena/ *n*, *pl catenae* /-ni/, **catenas** a connected series of related things, esp of comments on the Scriptures by early Christian theologians [ML, fr L, chain – more at CHAIN]
- catenary** /'katən(ə)ri/ *n* the curve formed by a perfectly flexible cord of uniform density and cross section hanging freely from 2 fixed points [NL *catenaria*, fr L, fem of *catenarius* of a chain, fr *catena*] – **catenary** *adj*
- catenate** /'katənayt/ *vt* to connect in a series, link – *frml* [L *catenatus*, *pp* of *catenare*, fr *catena*] – **catenation** /-'nays(ə)n/ *n*
- cater** /'kayta/ *vi* 1 to provide and serve a supply of usu prepared food 2 to supply what is required or desired – usu + *for* or *to* <~ed to her whims all day long> [obs *cater* (buyer of provisions), fr ME *catour*, short for *acatur*, fr AF, fr ONF *acater* to buy – more at CATE] – **caterer** *n*
- catercorner** /'kayta'kawna/, 'cater-'cornered *adv* or *adj*, *NAm* (situated) in a diagonal or oblique position <the house stood ~ across the square> [obs *cater* (a four on cards or dice, deriv of L *quattuor* four) + *E corner*]
- caterpillar** /'kata,pila/ *n* a wormlike larva, specif of a butterfly or moth ㄟ ANATOMY [ME *catyrpel*, fr ONF *catepelose*, lit., hairy cat]
- Caterpillar trademark** – used for a tractor designed to travel over rough or soft ground and propelled by 2 endless metal belts
- caterwaul** /'kata,waw/ *vi* to cry noisily [ME *caterwawen*] – **caterwaul** *n*
- catfish** /-fish/ *n* any of numerous large-headed fishes with long barbels
- cat flu** *n* an often fatal viral disease of the respiratory system of domestic cats
- catgut** /-gut/ *n* a tough cord usu made from sheep intestines and used esp for the strings of musical instruments and tennis rackets and for surgical sutures
- cat** – see CATA-
- Cathar** /'ka,thah/ *n*, *pl Cathari* /'katha,rie/, **Cathars** a member of any of several medieval self-denying Manichaean Christian sects [LL *cathari* (pl), fr LGk *katharoi*, fr Gk, *pl* of *katharos*, *adj*] – **Catharism** /'katha,riz(ə)m/ *n*
- catharsis** /ka'thahsis/ *n*, *pl catharses* /-seez/ 1 purgation 2 purification or purgation of the emotions through drama 3 the process of bringing repressed ideas and feelings to consciousness and expressing them, esp during psychoanalysis [NL, fr Gk *katharsis*, fr *kathairein* to cleanse, purge, fr *katharos* pure] – **cathartic** *adj*
- Cathay** /ka'thay/, ka-/ *n*, *archaic* China [ML *Cataya*, *Kitai*, of Turkic origin]
- cathead** /-hed/ *n* a projecting part near the bow of a ship to which the anchor is hoisted and secured
- cathedra** /ka'theedra/ *n* a bishop's throne [L, chair – more at CHAIR]
- cathedral** /ka'theedrəl/ *n* a church that is the official seat of a diocesan bishop [LL *cathedrālis*, prob short for (assumed) *ecclesia cathedralis* church containing a cathedra]
- cathepsin** /ka'thepsin/ *n* any of several intracellular enzymes that occur esp in lysosomes and break down proteins [Gk *kathēpsēin* to digest (fr *kata-cata-* + *hepsēin* to boil) + *E -in*]
- catherine wheel** /'kath(ə)rin/ *n*, often *cap C* a firework in the form of a wheel that spins as it burns [St Catherine of Alexandria †ab307 Christian martyr tortured on a spiked wheel]
- catheter** /'kathəta/ *n* a tubular device for insertion into a hollow body part (e.g. a blood vessel), usu to inject or draw off fluids or to keep a passage open [LL, fr Gk *kathētēr*, fr *kathienai* to send down, fr *kata-cata-* + *hienai* to send – more at JET] – **catheterize** /-riez/ *vt*
- cathexis** /ka'theksis/ *n*, *pl cathexes* /-seez/ investment of mental or emotional energy in a person, object, or idea [NL (intended as trans of *G besetzung*), fr Gk *kathexis* holding, fr *katechein* to hold fast, occupy,



fr *kata-cata-* + *echein* to have, hold – more at SCHEME] – **cathect** /kə'thekt/ *vt*, **cathectic** *adj*

**cathode** /kə'thəʊd/ *n* the electrode by which electrons leave an external circuit and enter a device; *specif* the positive terminal of a primary cell or of a storage battery that is delivering current – compare ANODE [Gk *kathodos* way down, fr *kata-* + *hodos* way] – **cathodal** /kə'thəʊdl/ *adj*, **cathodic** /kə'thɒdɪk/ *adj*

**cathode ray** *n* a beam of high-speed electrons projected from the heated cathode of a vacuum tube

**cathode-ray tube** *n* a vacuum tube in which a beam of electrons is projected onto a fluorescent screen to provide a visual display (e.g. a television picture) → TELEVISION

**catholic** /kə'th(ə)lɪk/ *adj* 1 comprehensive, universal; *esp* broad in sympathies or tastes 2 *cap* a of or forming the entire body of worshippers that constitutes the Christian church *b* of or forming the ancient undivided Christian church or a church claiming historical continuity from it; *specif* ROMAN CATHOLIC [MF & LL; MF *catholique*, fr LL *catholicus*, fr Gk *katholikos* universal, general, fr *katholou* in general, fr *kata* by + *holos* whole – more at CATA-, SAFE] – **catholicism** /kə'thɒləsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **catholicize** *vb*

**Catholic** *n* a member of a Catholic church, *specif* ROMAN CATHOLIC

**catholicity** /kə'thɒlɪsɪti/ *n* 1 liberality of sentiments or views 2 universality

**catholicon** /kə'thɒlɪkən, -kən/ *n* a cure-all, panacea [F or ML; F, fr ML, fr Gk *katholikon*, neut of *katholikos*]

**cation** /kə'tiːən/ *n* a positively charged ion (that moves towards the cathode in an electrolysed solution) – compare ANION [Gk *kation*, neut of *kation*, prp of *katinai* to go down, fr *kata-* + *ienai* to go – more at ISSUE] – **cationic** /-iːənɪk/ *adj*

**catkin** /kætˈkɪn/ *n* a hanging spike-shaped densely crowded group of flowers without petals (e.g. in a willow) [obs D *katteken*, lit., kitten; fr its resemblance to a cat's tail]

**'catmint** /-ˈmɪnt/ *n* a blue-flowered plant of the mint family whose strong scent is attractive to cats

**'catnap** /-ˈnæp/ *n* a brief period of sleep, *esp* during the day – **catnap** *vi*

**'catnip** /-ˈnɪp/ *n* catmint [*'cat* + obs *nep* (catnip), fr ME, fr OE *nepte*, fr L *nepeta*]

**cat-o'-nine-tails** *n*, *pl* **cat-o'-nine-tails** a whip made of usu 9 knotted cords fastened to a handle [fr the resemblance of its scars to the scratches of a cat]

**catoptric** /kə'tɒptɪk/ *adj* of a mirror or reflected light; *also* produced by reflection [Gk *katoptrikos*, fr *katoptron* mirror, fr *katopsesthai* to be going to observe, fr *kata-* + *opsesthai* to be going to see – more at OPTIC]

**cat's cradle** *n* a game in which a string looped in a pattern on the fingers of one person's hands is transferred to the hands of another so as to form a different figure

**'cats,ear** /-ˈjæ/ *n* any of various yellow European composite plants

**'cat's-eye** *n*, *pl* **cat's-eyes** 1 any of various gems (e.g. a chrysoberyl or a chalcidony) that reflect a narrow band of light from within 2 a small reflector set in a road, usu in a line with others, to reflect vehicle headlights

**'cat's-paw** *n*, *pl* **cat's-paws** 1 a light breeze that ruffles the surface of water in irregular patches 2 sby used by another as a tool or dupe 3 a hitch in a rope onto which a tackle may be hooked [(2) fr the fable of a monkey that used a cat's paw to draw chestnuts from a fire] →

**'cat's-tail** *n* 1 timothy 2 reedmace

**'catsuit** /-s(ɪ)ʊənt/ *n* a tightly fitting 1-piece garment combining top and trousers

**catsup** /ˈkætsʊp/ *n*, chiefly NAm **ketchup**

**cattalo, catalo** /ˈkætələʊ/ *n*, *pl* **cataloes, cattalos** a cross between the American buffalo and domestic cattle [*cattle* + *buffalo*]

**cattery** /ˈkætəri/ *n* a place for the breeding or care of cats

**cattle** /ˈkætl/ *n*, *pl* **bovine** animals kept on a farm, ranch, etc [ME *catel*, fr ONF, personal property, fr ML *capitale*, fr L, neut of *capitalis* of the head – more at 'CAPITAL]

**'cattle grid** *n*, *Br* a shallow ditch in a road covered by parallel bars spaced far enough apart to prevent livestock from crossing

**'cattelman** /-ˈmæn, -ˈmæn/ *n* one who tends or raises cattle

**'cattlestop** /-ˈstɒp/ *n*, NZ **CATTLE GRID**

**catty** /ˈkæti/ *adj* slyly spiteful; malicious [CAT + 'Y] – **cattily** *adv*, **cattiness** *n*

**'catwalk** /-ˈpawk/ *n* 1 a narrow walkway (e.g. round a machine) 2 a narrow stage in the centre of a room on which fashion shows are held

**Caucasian** /kəʊˈkæʒh(ə)n/ *adj* 1 of Caucasus or its inhabitants 2 of the white race of mankind as classified according to physical features [*Caucasus*, *Caucasia*, region of USSR] – **Caucasian** *n*, **Caucasoid** /ˈkawkəsoɪd/ *adj* or *n*

**caucus** /ˈkawkəs/ *n* a closed political meeting to decide on policy, select candidates, etc [prob of Algonquian origin]

**caudal** /ˈkɑːdl/ *adj* 1 of or being a tail 2 situated at or directed towards the hind part of the body [NL *caudalis*, fr L *cauda* tail]

**caudate** /ˈkɑːdeɪt/ *also* **caudated** /-ˈdeɪtɪd/ *adj* having a tail or tail-like appendage

**caudillo** /kəʊˈdeɪljəʊ, kow-, -ˈdheɪljəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **caudillos** a Spanish or Latin American military dictator [Sp, fr LL *capitellum* small head – more at CADET]

**caught** /kɔːt/ *past* of CATCH

**caul** /kɔːl/ *n* 1 the large fatty fold of membrane covering the intestines 2 the inner foetal membrane of higher vertebrates, *esp* when covering the head at birth [ME *calles*, fr MF *cale*]

**cauldron, caldron** /ˈkɔːldrən/ *n* 1 a large open metal pot used for cooking over an open fire 2 sthg that resembles a boiling cauldron (<*a* ~ of intense emotions) [ME, alter of *cauderon*, fr ONF, dim of *caudiere*, fr LL *caldaria*, fr L, warm bath, fr fem of *caldarius* suitable for warming, fr *calidus* warm, fr *calere* to be warm]

**caulescent** /kəʊˈles(ə)nt/ *adj*, of a plant having a stem that shows above the ground [ISV, fr L *caulis*]

**cauliflower** /ˈkɔːliːfləʊ/ *n* (a plant closely related to the cabbage with) a compact head of usu white undeveloped flowers eaten as a vegetable [It *cavolfiore*, fr *cavolo* cabbage (fr LL *caulis*, fr L *caulis* stem, cabbage) + *fiore* flower, fr L *flor-*, *flos* – more at HOLL]

**'cauliflower ear** *n* an ear thickened and deformed through injury (e.g. from repeated blows in boxing)

**cauline** /ˈkɔːlɪn-, -liən/ *adj* of or growing on (the upper part of) a stem – compare 'RADICAL 1a [prob fr NL *caulinus*, fr L *caulis*]

**caulk, calk** /kɔːk/ *vt* to stop up and make watertight (e.g. the seams of a boat, cracks in wood, etc) by filling with a waterproof material [ME *caulken*, fr ONF *cauquer* to trample, fr L *calcare*, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel] – **caulker** *n*

**cauri** /ˈkɔːri/ *n*, *pl* **cauris** → Guinea at NATIONALITY [prob native name in Guinea]

**causal** /ˈkɔːzl/ *adj* 1 expressing or indicating cause, causative (<*a* ~ clause introduced by since or because) 2 of or being a cause (<*the* ~ agent of a disease) – **causally** *adv*

**causality** /kəʊˈzæləti/ *n* 1 a causal quality or agency 2 the relation between a cause and its effect

**causation** /kəʊˈzæʃən/ *n* 1 the act or process of causing 2 the act or agency by which an effect is produced

**causative** /ˈkɔːzətɪv/ *adj* 1 effective or operating as a cause or agent 2 expressing causation – **causative** *n*, **causatively** *adv*

**'cause** /kɔːz/ *n* 1a sby or sthg that brings about an effect *b* an agent that brings sthg about *c* a reason for an action or condition; a motive 2 a ground for legal action 3 a principle or movement worth defending or supporting [ME, fr OF, fr L *causa*] – **causeless** *adj*

**'cause** *vt* to serve as the cause or occasion of – **causer** *n*

**'cause** /kɔːz; strong kɔːz/ *conj* because – nonstandard

**cause célèbre** /ˈkɔːz seɪˈleɪbr(ə)/ *n*, *pl* **causes célèbres** /~ ~/ 1 a legal case that excites widespread interest 2 a notorious incident or episode [F, lit., celebrated case]

**causerie** /ˈkɔːz(ə)ri/ *n* 1 an informal conversation; a chat 2 a short informal written composition, *esp* on a literary subject [F, fr *causer* to chat, fr L *causari* to plead, discuss, fr *causa*]

**causeway** /ˈkɔːzweɪ/ *n* a raised road or path, *esp* across wet ground or water [ME *cauciwey*, fr *cauci* raised path + *wey* way]

**'caustic** /ˈkɔːstɪk, 'kɔː- / *adj* 1 capable of destroying or eating away by chemical action; corrosive 2 incisive, biting (< ~ wit) 3 of or being the envelope of rays reflected or refracted by a curved surface [L *causticus*, fr Gk *kauistikos*, fr *kaiain* to burn; akin to Lith *kulė* smut of plants] – **caustically** *adv*, **causticity** /-ˈstɪsəti/ *n*

**'caustic** *n* a curve or surface formed by (the intersection of) the envelope of rays reflected or refracted by a curved surface

**caustic lime** *n* 'LIME 2a

**caustic soda** *n* SODIUM HYDROXIDE

**cauterize, -ise** /ˈkɔːtəˌraɪz/ *vt* to sear or destroy (e.g. a wound or body tissue) with a cautery, *esp* in order to rid of infection – **cauterization** /-ˈreɪzəʃən/ *n*

**cautery** /ˈkɔːtəri/ *n* 1 cauterization 2 an instrument (e.g. a hot iron) or



- caustic chemical used to cauterize tissue [L *cauterium*, fr Gk *kauterion* branding iron, fr *kaiēn*]
- caution** /'kawʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a warning, admonishment; *specif* an official warning given to sby who has committed a minor offence 2 prudent forethought intended to minimize risk; care 3 sby or sth that causes astonishment or amusement – *infrm* <she's a proper ~> [L *caution*, *cautio* precaution, fr *cautus*, pp of *cavere* to be on guard – more at *HEAR*] – *cautionary adj*
- caution** *vt* 1a to advise caution to, warn; *specif* to warn (sby under arrest) that his/her words will be recorded and may be used in evidence b to admonish, reprove, *specif* to give an official warning to <~ed for disorderly conduct> 2 of a soccer referee 'book 2b ~ *vi* to urge, warn <~ed against an excess of alcohol>
- cautious** /'kawʃəs/ *adj* careful, prudent – *cautiously adv*, *cautiousness n*
- cavalcade** /'kavli:kayd, -'-/ *n* 1 PROCESSION 1; *esp* one of riders or carriages 2 a dramatic sequence or procession; a series [MF, ride on horseback, fr OIt *cavalcata*, fr *cavalcare* to go on horseback, fr LL *caballicare*, fr L *caballus* horse; akin to Gk dial *kaballeion* horse-drawn vehicle]
- cavalier** /kə'veɪliə/ *n* 1 a gentleman of former times trained in arms and horsemanship, *specif* a mounted soldier 2 a gallant gentleman of former times; *esp* one in attendance on a lady 3 *cap* an adherent of Charles I of England, *esp* during the Civil War [MF, fr OIt *cavaliere*, fr OProv *cavaliar*, fr LL *caballarius* horseman, fr L *caballus*]
- cavalier** *adj* 1 debonair 2 given to or characterized by offhand dismissal of important matters 3 *cap* of the party of Charles I of England – *cavalierly adv*
- cavalletto** /kə'veɪləto/ *n* pl *cavalletti* /-ti/ a low training rail for horses to jump [It, lit., little horse, dim. of *cavallo* horse, fr L *caballus*]
- cavalry** /'kavɪrli/ *n*, *sing or pl in constr* 1 a branch of an army consisting of mounted troops 2 a branch of a modern army consisting of armoured vehicles [It *cavalleria* cavalry, chivalry, fr *cavaliere*]
- cavalry twill** *n* a strong fabric woven in a double twill and used orig for riding breeches
- cavatina** /kə'veɪtiːnə/ *n* 1 a short simple operatic solo 2 an instrumental composition in a similar style, usu having a slow tempo [It, fr *cavata* production of sound from an instrument, fr *cavare* to dig out, fr L, to make hollow, fr *cavus*]
- cave** /kayv/ *n* 1 a natural chamber (e.g. underground or in the side of a hill or cliff) having a usu horizontal opening on the surface 2 *Br* a formal withdrawing or group of people withdrawing from a political party [ME, fr OF, fr L *cava*, fr *cavus* hollow; akin to ON *hunn* cub, Gk *kyein* to be pregnant, *kóilos* hollow, Skt *śvayati* he swells; (2) fr *cave* of *Adullam*, where David was joined by malcontents (1 Sam 22:1, 2)]
- cave** *vt* to form a cave in or under; hollow out ~ *vi* to explore cave or pothole systems – *caver n*
- cave** /kay'vee/ *interj*, *Br* – used as a warning call among schoolchildren, *esp* at public school; compare *KEEP CAVE* [L, beware, fr *cavere* to beware, be on guard]
- caveat** /kə'veɪt, 'kay-/ *n* 1 a cautionary remark or statement; a warning – *fml* 2 an official notice to a court to suspend a proceeding until the opposition has been heard [L, let him beware, fr *cavere*]
- caveat emptor** /'emtpaw/ *n* the principle in commerce which states that without a guarantee the buyer takes the risk of quality upon him-/herself [NL, let the buyer beware]
- cave dweller** *n* one who dwells in a cave
- cave in** *vt* to cause to fall in or collapse ~ *vi* 1 to fall in or collapse 2 to cease to resist; submit – *infrm*
- cave man** /-man/ *n* 1 a cave dweller, *esp* of the Stone Age 2 a man who acts in a rough primitive manner, *esp* towards women
- cavendish** /'kavəndɪʃ/ *n*, *often cap* tobacco that is softened by moisture, usu sweetened, and pressed into flat cakes [prob fr the name *Cavendish*]
- cavern** /kə'veɪn/ *n* a large usu underground chamber or cave [ME *caverne*, fr MF, fr L *caverna*, fr *cavus*] – *cavernous adj*, *cavernously adv*
- cavesson** /'kavəsən/ *n* a stiff padded noseband used for breaking in horses [modif of It *cavezzone* halter with noseband, aug of *cavezza* halter, irreg fr L *capitulum* opening in tunic for head, fr *capit-*, *caput* head]
- cavetto** /kə'veto/ *n*, pl *cavetti* /-ti/ a concave moulding having a curve that in cross section approximates to a quarter circle – *ARCHITECTURE* [It, fr *cavo* hollow, fr L *cavus*]
- caviar**, *caviare* /kə'veɪə/ *n* 1 the salted roe of large fish (e.g. sturgeon) eaten as a delicacy 2 sth considered too delicate or lofty for mass appreciation <will be ~ to the multitude> [earlier *cavery*, *caviarie*, fr obs It *cavian*, pl of *caviaro*, fr Turk *havyar*]
- cavill** /'kavɪl, -vɪ/ *vi* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /'kavɪl-ɪŋ/ to raise trivial and frivolous objections [L *cavillari* to jest, *cavil*, fr *cavilla* rallery] – *cavil n*, *caviller n*
- cavitate** /'kavɪtaɪt/ *vb* to form cavities or bubbles (in)
- cavitation** /kə'veɪtəʃən/ *n* (the pitting and wearing away of a solid surface due to) the formation of partial vacuums in a liquid by the swift movement of a solid body (e.g. a propeller) or by high-frequency sound waves [cavity + -ation]
- cavity** /'kavɪti/ *n* an empty or hollowed-out space within a mass, *specif* a decaying hollow in a tooth [MF *cavitē*, fr LL *cavitas*, fr L *cavus* hollow]
- cavity wall** *n* a wall built in 2 thicknesses, the air space between providing insulation – *BUILDING*
- cavort** /kə'vawt/ *vi* 1 to prance 2 to engage in extravagant behaviour [perh alter of *curvet*]
- cavy** /'kayvi/ *n* a guinea pig or related short-tailed S American rodent [NL *Cavia*, genus name, fr obs Pg *cavia* (now *savia*), fr Tupi *sawrya* rat]
- caw** /kaw/ *vi* to utter (a sound like) the harsh raucous cry of the crow [imit] – *caw n*
- cay** /kee, kay/ *n* a low island or reef of sand or coral [Sp *cayo* – more at 'KEY]
- cayenne pepper** /kay'en/ *n* 1 a pungent red condiment consisting of the ground dried pods and seeds of hot peppers – compare *CHILLI*, *PAPRIKA* 2 a hot pepper, *esp* a cultivated capsicum [alter. (influenced by *Cayenne*, town in French Guiana) of earlier *cayan*, modif of Tupi *kyinha*]
- cayman**, *calman* /'kaymən, 'kɪe-/ *n*, pl *caymans*, *esp* collectively *cayman* any of several Central and S American crocodilians related to the alligators [Sp *caimán*, prob fr Carib *caymán*]
- cayuse** /'kɪe,yoʊs, -'-/ *n*, dial W US a N American Indian pony [Cayuse, native name for a N American Indian people]
- C clef** *n* a movable clef indicating middle C by its placement on 1 of the lines of the staff – *MUSIC*
- cease** /sees/ *vt* to bring to an end; terminate <~ this noise!> ~ *vi* 1 to come to an end <when will this quarrelling ~?> 2 to bring an activity or action to an end, discontinue <cried for hours without ceasing> [ME *cesen*, fr OF *cesser*, fr L *cessare* to delay, fr *cessus*, pp of *cedere*]
- cease** *n* stopping, cessation <without ~>
- cease-fire** *n* (a military order for) a cessation of firing or of active hostilities
- ceaseless** /-lis/ *adj* continuing endlessly; constant – *ceaselessly adv*, *ceaselessness n*
- cecum** /'seəkəm/ *n*, pl *ceca* /-kə/ NAM the caecum – *cecal adj*
- cedar** /'seɪdə/ *n* (the fragrant wood of) any of a genus of usu tall evergreen coniferous trees of the pine family [ME *cedre*, fr OF, fr L *cedrus*, fr Gk *kedros*; akin to Lith *kadagys* juniper]
- cede** /sed/ *vt* to yield or surrender (e.g. territory), usu by treaty [F or L; F *céder*, fr L *cedere* to go, withdraw, yield, prob akin to L *cis* on this side and to Gk *hodos* road, way, L *sedere* to sit] – *ceder n*
- cedil** /'sɛɪdɪ/ *n*, pl *cedil* /-/ – *Ghana* at NATIONALITY [Fante *sedɪ* small shell]
- cedilla** /sə'dɪlə/ *n* a mark placed under a letter (e.g. ç in French) to indicate an alteration or modification of its usual phonetic value (e.g. in the French  *façade*) – *SYMBOL* [Sp, the obs letter ç (actually a medieval form of the letter z), *cedilla*, fr dum. of *ceda*, *zeda* the letter z, fr LL *zeta*, fr Gk *zeta*]
- Ceefax** /'see,faks/ *trademark* – used for a service provided by the BBC which transmits information (e.g. the weather or sports results) on usu special channels – *TELEVISION*
- ceilidh** /'kayli/ *n* an informal party for *esp* Scottish or Irish dancing and music [IrGael *céilidhe* & ScGael *ceilidh*, fr Mlr *celide*, fr OIr *céle*, *céile* companion, husband; akin to L *civis* citizen]
- ceiling** /'seɪlɪŋ/ *n* 1 the overhead inside surface of a room 2 the height above the ground of the base of the lowest layer of clouds 3 a prescribed or actual maximum height at which an aircraft can fly 4 an upper usu prescribed limit <a ~ on rents and wages> [ME *celing*, fr *celen* to furnish with a ceiling, prob fr (assumed) MF *celar*, fr L *caelare* to carve, fr *caelum* chisel, fr *caedere* to cut]
- celadon** /sə'lədən, -dn/ *n* 1 a greyish green colour 2 (a type of pottery having) a greyish green ceramic glaze [F *céladon*, fr *Céladon*, languid lover in the romance *L'Astrée* by Honoré d'Urfé †1625 F writer]
- celandine** /sə'lændiːn/ *n* 1 also greater *celandine* a yellow-flowered

- biennial plant of the poppy family 2 *also* lesser celandine a common yellow-flowered European perennial plant of the buttercup family [ME *celidone*, fr MF, fr L *chelidonia*, fr fem of *chelidonium* of the swallow, fr Gk *chelidonia*, fr *chelidon*-, *chelidon* swallow]
- cele** /-seel/ *comb form* (-n) hernia (<meningocele>) [MF, fr L, fr Gk *kēlē*, akin to OE *heala* hernia, Oslav *kyla*]
- celebrant** /sɛlɪbrənt/ *n* the priest officiating at the Eucharist [CEL EBRATE + -ANT]
- celebrate** /sɛlɪbrayt/ *vt* 1 to perform (a sacrament or solemn ceremony) publicly and with appropriate rites (<~ the mass>) 2a to mark (a holy day or feast day) ceremonially b to mark (a special occasion) with festivities or suspension of routine activities 3 to hold up for public acclaim; extol (<his poetry ~s the glory of nature>) ~ *vi* 1 to officiate at a religious ceremony 2 to observe a special occasion, usu with festivities [L *celebratus*, pp of *celebrare* to frequent, celebrate, fr *celebr*-, *celeber* much frequented, famous; akin to L *celer*] - **celebration** /-braysh(ə)n/ *n*, **celebrator** /-braytə/ *n*, **celebratory** /sɛlɪbrat(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- 'celebrated** *adj* widely known and often referred to - **celebratedness** *n*
- celebrity** /sɛ'lɛbrətɪ/ *n* 1 the state of being famous 2 a well-known and widely acclaimed person
- celeriac** /sɛ'lɛ(ə)rɪæk/ *n* a type of celery grown for its thickened edible root [irreg fr *celery*]
- celerity** /sɛ'lɛrətɪ/ *n* rapidity of motion or action - *fml* [ME *celerite*, fr MF *célérité*, fr L *celentat*-, *celeritas*, fr *celer* swift]
- celery** /sɛ'ləri/ *n* a European plant of the carrot family with leafstalks eaten cold or hot as a vegetable [prob fr It dial *seleri*, pl of *selerio*, modif of LL *selinon*, fr Gk]
- celesta** /sɛ'lɛstə/ *n* a keyboard instrument with hammers that strike steel plates producing a tone like that of a glockenspiel [F *célésta*, alter of *céléste*, lit., heavenly, fr L *caelestis*]
- celeste** /sɛ'lɛst/ *n* a celesta
- celestial** /sɛ'lɛstɪəl/ *adj* 1 of or suggesting heaven or divinity, divine 2 of or in the sky or visible heavens (<a ~ body>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *caelestis*, fr *caelum* sky; akin to Skt *citra* bright] - **celestially** *adv*
- celestial sphere** *n* an imaginary sphere of infinite radius against which the celestial bodies appear to be projected
- celiac** /sɛ'liæk/ *adj*, *NAm* *coeliac*
- celibate** /sɛ'lɪbət/ *n* one who is unmarried and does not have sexual intercourse, esp because of a religious vow [L *caelibatus*, fr *caelib*-, *caelebs* unmarried; akin to Skt *kevala* alone & to OE *libban* to live] - **celibacy** /-bəsi/ *n*, **celibate** /-bət/ *adj*
- cell** /sɛl/ *n* 1 a 1-room dwelling occupied esp by a hermit or recluse 2a a barely furnished room for 1 person (e.g. in a convent or monastery) b a small room in a prison for 1 or more inmates 3 a small compartment (e.g. in a honeycomb), receptacle, cavity (e.g. one containing seeds in a plant ovary), or bounded space 4 the smallest structural unit of living matter consisting of nuclear and cytoplasmic material bounded by a semipermeable membrane and capable of functioning either alone or with others in all fundamental life processes 5a a vessel (e.g. a cup or jar) containing electrodes and an electrolyte either for generating electricity by chemical action or for use in electrolysis b a single unit in a device for producing an electrical effect as a result of exposure to radiant energy 6 the primary unit of a political, esp Communist, organization 7 a basic subdivision of a computer memory that is addressable and can hold 1 unit (e.g. a word) of a computer's basic operating data [ME, fr OE, religious house, & OF *celle* hermit's cell, fr L *cella* small room; akin to L *celare* to conceal - more at **HELL**]
- 'cellar** /sɛlə/ *n* 1 an underground room; esp one used for storage 2 an individual's stock of wine [ME *celer*, fr AF, fr L *cellarium* storeroom, fr *cella*]
- 'cellar** *vt* to store or place (e.g. wine) in a cellar
- cellarage** /sɛlərɪdʒ/ *n* 1 cellar space, esp for storage 2 the charge made for storage in a cellar
- cellarier** /sɛlərɪ/ *n* an official (e.g. in a monastery) in charge of provisions [ME *celerier*, fr OF, fr LL *cellarius*, fr L *cellarium*]
- cell division** *n* the process by which 2 daughter cells are formed from a parent cell - compare **MEIOSIS**, **MITOSIS**
- celled** /-sɛld/ *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) having (such or so many) cells (<single-celled organisms>)
- cello** /tʃeləloʊ/ *n*, *pl* **cellos** a large stringed instrument of the violin family tuned an octave below the viola [short for *violoncello*] - **cellist** /tʃelɪst/ *n*
- cellobiose** /sɛl'siə'biəʊs, -oʊz/ *n* a faintly sweet disaccharide obtained from cellulose [ISV *cellulose* + -o- + *biose* (disaccharide), fr 'bi- + -ose]
- cellophane** /sɛlə'faɪn/ *n* regenerated cellulose in the form of thin transparent sheets, used esp for wrapping goods [F, fr *cellulose* + -*phane* (as in *diaphane* diaphanous, fr ML *diaphanus*)]
- 'cell sap** *n* cytoplasm
- cellular** /sɛlyoo'lə/ *adj* 1 of, relating to, or consisting of cells 2 containing cavities; porous 3 having a very open weave (<a ~ blanket>) [NL *cellularis*, fr *cellula* living cell, fr L, dim of *cella* small room] - **cellularly** *adv*, **cellularity** /sɛlyoo'lərətɪ/ *n*
- cellule** /sɛlyoo'li/ *n* a small cell [L *cellula*]
- cellulite** /sɛlyoo'liet/ *n* a type of body fat held to be caused by water retention, and producing a dimpled effect on the skin (e.g. of the thigh)
- cellulitis** /sɛlyoo'lietəs/ *n* diffuse, esp subcutaneous, inflammation of body tissue [NL, fr *cellula*]
- celluloid** /sɛlyoo'loid/ *n* film for the cinema, *also* **FILM 3** [fr *Celluloid*, a trademark] - **celluloid** *adj*
- Celluloid trademark** - used for a tough inflammable thermoplastic composed essentially of cellulose nitrate and camphor
- cellulose** /sɛlyoo'loʊs/ *n* 1 a polysaccharide of glucose units that constitutes the chief part of plant cell walls, occurs naturally in cotton, kapok, etc, and is the raw material of many manufactured goods (e.g. paper, rayon, and cellophane) 2 paint or lacquer of which the main constituent is cellulose nitrate or acetate [F, fr *cellule* living cell, fr NL *cellula*]
- cellulose 'acetate** *n* any of several compounds formed esp by the action of acetic acid on cellulose and used for making textile fibres, packaging sheets, photographic films, and varnishes
- cellulose 'nitrate** *n* any of several compounds formed by the action of nitric acid on cellulose and used for making explosives, plastics, rayon, and varnishes
- 'cell wall** *n* the firm nonliving wall, formed usu from cellulose, that encloses and supports most plant cells
- Celsius** /sɛlsi-'s/ *adj* relating to, conforming to, or being a scale of temperature on which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions → **PHYSICS**, **UNIT** [Anders Celsius †1744 Sw astronomer]
- celt** /sɛlt/ *n* a prehistoric stone or metal implement shaped like a chisel or axe head [LL *celtus* chisel]
- Celt**, **Kelt** /kɛlt/ *n* 1 a member of a division of the early Indo-European peoples extending at various times from the British Isles and Spain to Asia Minor 2 a modern Gael, Highland Scot, Irishman, Welshman, Cornishman, Manxman, or Breton [F *Celte*, sing of *Celtes*, fr L *Celtae*]
- 'Celtic**, **Keltic** /'keltɪk/ *adj* (characteristic) of the Celts or their languages
- 'Celtic**, **Keltic** *n* a branch of Indo-European languages comprising Welsh, Cornish, Breton, Irish, Scots Gaelic, and Manx, which is now confined to Brittany and parts of the British Isles → **LANGUAGE** - **Celticist** /'keltɪsɪst/ *n*
- 'Celtic 'cross** *n* a Latin cross with a ring centred on the intersection of the 2 shafts → **SYMBOL**
- 'Celtic 'fringe** *n*, *often cap F* Cornwall, Wales, Ireland, and Highland Scotland considered as a cultural and political grouping
- cembalo** /tʃembo'loʊ/ *n*, *pl* **cembali** /-li/, **cembalos** a harpsichord [It]
- 'cement** /sɪ'ment/ *n* 1 a powder consisting of alumina, silica, lime, iron oxide, and magnesia pulverized together and burnt in a kiln, that is used as the binding agent in mortar and concrete → **BUILDING** 2 a substance (e.g. a glue or adhesive) used for sticking objects together 3 sth serving to unite firmly (<a common tradition is the ~ which holds the community together>) 4 cementum 5 an adhesive preparation used for filling teeth, attaching dental crowns, etc 6 concrete - not used technically [ME *sement*, fr OF *ciment*, fr L *caementum* stone chips used in making mortar, fr *caedere* to cut - more at **CONCISE**] - **cementitious** /sɪ'men'tɪʃəs, -see-/ *adj*
- 'cement** *vt* 1 to unite or make firm (as if) by the application of cement 2 to overlay with concrete
- cementation** /sɪ'men'taɪʃ(ə)n, -see-/ *n* the process of heating a solid surrounded by a powder so that the solid is changed by chemical combination with the powder; esp the heating of iron surrounded by charcoal to make steel [CEMENT + -ATION]
- cementite** /sɪ'men'tɪt/ *n* the compound of iron and carbon in steel, cast iron, and iron-carbon alloys [*'cement*]
- cementum** /sɪ'mentəm/ *n* the thin bony layer enclosing the base of a tooth [NL, fr L *caementum*]

**cemetery** /ˈseɪtri/ *n* a burial ground; esp one not in a churchyard [ME *cimitery*, fr MF *cimiterie*, fr LL *coemeterium*, fr Gk *kōimeterion* sleeping chamber, burial place, fr *kōman* to put to sleep; akin to L *cunae* cradle]

**cen-, ceno-** *comb form*, chiefly NAM *cain-*, *caino-*

**-cene** /-seɪn/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) recent – in names of geological periods [Eocene] [Gk *kainos*]

**cenobite** /ˈseɪnoʊbiət/ *n*, chiefly NAM a cenobite – **cenobitic** /ˈseɪnoʊbɪtɪk/, **cenobitical** *adj*

**cenospecies** /ˈseɪnoʊspeɪs(h)ɪz/ *n* a species which, owing to its closely related genotype, is capable of interbreeding with another [coen- + species]

**cenotaph** /ˈseɪnoʊtəf/ *n* a tomb or monument erected in honour of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere, *specif*, cap that standing in Whitehall in London in memory of the dead of WWs I and II [F *cénotaphe*, fr L *cenotaphium*, fr Gk *kenotaphion*, fr *kenos* empty + *taphos* tomb, akin to Arm *sin* empty – more at EPIGRAPH]

**cense** /sens/ *vi* to perfume, or burn incense at [ME *censen*, prob short for *encensen* to incense, fr MF *encenser*, fr LL *incensare*, fr *incensum* incense]

**censer** /ˈsenzə/ *n* a covered incense burner swung on chains during certain religious rituals

**²censor** /ˈsenzə/ *n* 1 either of 2 magistrates of early Rome who acted as census takers, inspectors of morals, etc 2 an official who examines publications, films, letters, etc and has the power to suppress objectionable (e.g. obscene or libellous) matter 3 a supposed mental agency that represses certain unacceptable ideas and desires before they reach consciousness [L, fr *censere* to assess, tax, akin to Skt *samsati* he recites] – **censorial** /ˈsenˈsɔːriəl/ *adj*

**³censor** *vi* to subject to censorship

**censorious** /ˈsenˈsɔːriəs/ *adj* severely critical, given to censure [L *censorius* of a censor, fr *censor*] – **censoriously** *adv*, **censoriousness** *n*

**censorship** /ˈsenzəʃɪp/ *n* 1 the act, practice, or duties of a censor, esp censorial control 2 the office, power, or term of a Roman censor 3 the repression in the mind of unacceptable ideas and desires

**¹censure** /ˈsenʃə/ *n* 1 a judgment involving condemnation 2 the act of blaming or condemning sternly 3 an official reprimand [L *cenſura*, fr *cenſere*]

**²censure** *vi* to find fault with and criticize as blameworthy – **censurable** *adj*, **censurer** *n*

**census** /ˈsensəs/ *n* 1 a periodic counting of the population and gathering of related statistics (e.g. age, sex, or social class) carried out by government 2 a usu official count or tally [L, fr *censere*]

**cent** /sent/ *n* (a coin or note representing) a unit worth 1/100 of the basic money unit of certain countries (e.g. the American dollar) → **NATION** ALITY [MF, hundred, fr L *centum* – more at HUNDRED]

**centaur** /ˈsentɔː/ *n* any of a race of mythological creatures having the head, arms, and upper body of a man, and the lower body and back legs of a horse [ME, fr L *Centaurus*, fr Gk *Kentauros*]

**centaury** /ˈsentɔːri/ *n* any of a genus of low-growing plants of the gentian family [ME *centaure*, fr MF *centaurée*, fr ML *centaurea*, fr L *centaureum*, fr Gk *kentaureion*, fr *Kentauros*]

**centavo** /ˈsentəvoh/ *n*, pl *centavos* (a coin or note representing) a unit worth 1/100 of the basic money unit of certain Spanish or Portuguese-speaking countries (e.g. Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Portugal) → **NATIONALITY** [Sp, lit, hundredth, fr L *centum* hundred]

**centenarian** /ˈsentəˈneəriən/ *n* sby who is (more than) 100 years old – **centenarian** *adj*

**centenary** /ˈsenteniəri/, ˈtenəri/ *n* (the celebration of) a 100th anniversary [LL *centenarius*, fr L *centenarius* of a hundred, fr *centeni* one hundred each, fr *centum* hundred – more at HUNDRED] – **centenary** *adj*

**centennial** /ˈsenteniəl/ *n*, chiefly NAM a centenary [L *centum* + E *-ennial* (as in *biennial*)] – **centennial** *adj*, **centennially** *adv*

**center** /ˈsentə/ *vb* or *n*, NAM (to) centre

**centesimal** /ˈsentesiɪməl/ *adj* marked by or relating to division into hundredths [L *centesimus* hundredth, fr *centum*]

**centesimo** /ˈsentesiɪmoh/ *n*, pl *centesimos* → **Uruguay** at **NATIONALITY** [Sp *centésimo*]

**centi-** /-sentɪ-/ *comb form* 1 hundred (centipede) 2 one hundredth (10<sup>-2</sup>) part of (a specified unit) (centimetre) → **PHYSICS**, **UNIT** [F & L, F, hundredth, fr L, hundred, fr *centum*]

**centigrade** /ˈsentɪɡreɪd/ *adj* Celsius → **UNIT** [F, fr L *centi-* hundred + F *grade*]

**centigram** /ˈsentɪɡrəm/ *n* one hundredth of a gram → **UNIT** [F *centigramme*, fr *centi-* + *gramme* gram]

**centilitre** /ˈsentɪˌleɪtə/ *n* one hundredth of a litre (about 0.35 fl oz) → **UNIT**

**centime** /ˈsontem/ *n* (a note or coin representing) a unit worth 1/100 of the basic money unit of certain French-speaking countries (e.g. Algeria, Belgium, France) → **NATIONALITY** [F, fr *cent* hundred, fr L *centum*]

**centimetre** /ˈsentimeɪtə/ *n* one hundredth of a metre (about 0.4 in) → **UNIT**

**centimetre-gram-second** *adj* of or being a system of units based on the centimetre, the gram, and the second

**centimo** /ˈsentimoh/ *n*, pl *centimos* (a coin or note representing) a unit worth 1/100 of the basic money unit of Spain and certain South American countries → **NATIONALITY** [Sp *céntimo*]

**centipede** /ˈsentɪˌpiːd/ *n* any of a class of many-segmented arthropods with each segment bearing 1 pair of legs [L *centipeda*, fr *centi-* + *ped-*, pes foot – more at FOOT]

**cento** /ˈsentoh/ *n*, pl *centones* /ˈsentohneɪz/, *centos* a literary work made up of quotations from other works [LL, fr L, patchwork garment, akin to OHG *hadara* rag, Skt *kantha* patched garment]

**centr-, centri-, centro-** *comb form* centre (centrifugal) (centroid) [Gk *kentro-*, *kentron*, fr *kentron* centre – more at CENTRE]

**central** /ˈsentʃəl/ *adj* 1 containing or constituting a centre 2 of primary importance, principal (the ~ character of the novel) 3a at, in, or near the centre (the plains of ~ N America) b easily accessible; convenient (our house is very ~ for the shops) 4 having overall power or control (decided by the ~ committee) 5 of, originating in, or comprising the central nervous system [L *centralis*, fr *centrum* centre – more at CENTRE] – **centrally** *adv*, **centrality** /ˈsentʃəlɪti/ *n*

**central bank** *n* the main banking institution of a country, usu dealing with government or inter-bank transactions rather than those of private individuals

**Central European Time** *n* the standard time, 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, which is used by most countries of Western and Central Europe in the first time zone east of Greenwich

**central heating** *n* a system of heating whereby heat is produced at a central source (e.g. a boiler) and carried by pipes to radiators or air vents throughout a building (e.g. a house or office block)

**centralism** /ˈsentʃəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* the practice or principle of concentrating power and control in a central authority – **centralist** *n* or *adj*, **centralistic** /ˈsentʃəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

**centralize, -ise** /ˈsentʃəlaɪz/ *vi* to come to or gather round a centre; *specif* to gather under central control (e.g. of government) ~ *vt* to bring to a centre, consolidate, *specif* to bring (power, authority, etc) under central control – **centralizer** *n*, **centralization** /-laɪˈzeɪʒ(ə)n/ *n*

**central nervous system** *n* the part of the nervous system which in vertebrates consists of the brain and spinal cord and which coordinates the activity of the entire nervous system

**central processing unit** *n* **PROCESSOR** 1b

**¹centre, NAM chiefly center** /ˈsentə/ *n* 1 the point round which a circle or sphere is described; broadly the centre of symmetry 2a a place, esp a collection of buildings, round which a usu specified activity is concentrated (a shopping ~) b sby or sth round which interest is concentrated (the ~ of the controversy) c a source from which sth originates (a propaganda ~) d a region of concentrated population (an urban ~) 3 a group of nerve cells having a common function (respiratory ~) 4 the middle part (e.g. of a stage) 5 often cap a group, party, etc holding moderate political views (the possible formation of a new ~ party) 6a a player occupying a middle position in the forward line of a team (e.g. in football or hockey) b an instance of passing the ball from a wing to the centre of a pitch or court (e.g. in football) 7 (a recess containing) a rod with a conical end which supports a workpiece in a lathe or grinding machine and about or with which the workpiece revolves 8 a temporary wooden framework on which an arch is supported during construction [ME *centre*, fr MF, fr L *centrum*, fr Gk *kentron* sharp point, centre of a circle, fr *kentein* to prick; akin to OHG *hantag* pointed, Latvian *sits* hunting spear]

**²centre, NAM chiefly center** *vi* 1 to have a centre; focus – usu + *round* or *on* 2 to come to or towards a centre or central area 3 to centre a ball, puck, etc ~ *vt* 1 to place or fix in or at a centre or central area (~ the picture on the wall) 2 to gather to a centre; concentrate (~s her hopes on her son) 3 to adjust (e.g. lenses) so that the axes coincide 4 to pass (e.g. a ball or puck) from either side towards the middle of the playing area

**'centreboard** /-bawd/ *n* a retractable keel used esp in small yachts

**centre circle** *n* a circle of 9.15m (10yd) radius in the middle of a soccer pitch → **SPORT**

**centre /sentəd/** *adj* having a centre - often in combination (< *dark-centred flower*)

**'centrefold** /-fohld/ *n* (a pictorial display covering) the 2 facing pages in the centre of a newspaper or magazine (< *pinup*)

**centre-forward** *n* (the position of) a player in hockey, soccer, etc positioned in the middle of the forward line → **SPORT**

**centre-half** *n* (the position of) a player in hockey, soccer, etc positioned in the middle of the halfback line → **SPORT**

**centre of gravity** *n* 1 CENTRE OF MASS 2 the point at which the entire weight of a body may be considered as concentrated so that if supported at this point the body would remain in equilibrium in any position

**centre of mass** *n* the point at which the entire mass of a body or system of bodies may be considered as concentrated

**'centrepiece** /-pees/ *n* 1 an ornament (e.g. of flowers) placed in the centre of a table 2 the most important or outstanding item

**centre spread** *n* a centrefold

**centre-three-quarter** *n* (the position of) either of the 2 players in rugby positioned in the middle of the three-quarter-back line

**centri-** /sentr-/ - see **CENTR-**

**centric** /sentrɪk/ *adj* central [Gk *kentrikos* of the centre, fr *kentron*] - **centrically** *adv*, **centricity** /sentrɪsɪti/ *n*

**-centric** /sentrɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) a centre (< *concentric*) or (such or so many) centres (< *polycentric*); having (sthg specified) as a centre (< *heliocentric*) [ML *-centricus*, fr L *centrum* centre]

**centrifugal** /sentrɪ'fyoʊg(ə), sentrɪ'fyoʊg(ə)/ *adj* 1 proceeding or acting in a direction away from a centre or axis 2 using or acting by centrifugal force (< *a ~ pump*) 3 tending away from centralization, separatist (< *tendencies in modern society*) [NL *centrifugus*, fr *centr-* + L *fugere* to flee - more at **FUGITIVE**]

**centrifugal force** *n* the force that appears to act outwardly from the centre of rotation of an object moving along a circular path

**centrifuge** /sentrɪ'fyoʊhɪ, -fyoʊhɪz/ *vt* or *n* (to subject to centrifugal action, esp in) a machine using centrifugal force, esp for separating substances of different densities [in F, fr *centrifuge* centrifugal, fr NL *centrifugus*; vb fr n] - **centrifugation** /-fyoʊhɪ'gaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**centriole** /sentrɪ'ohl/ *n* either of a pair of organelles consisting of 9 microtubules arranged cylindrically, which are found in many animal cells and function in the formation of the mitotic apparatus [G *zentriol*, fr *zentrum* centre]

**centripetal** /sentrɪ'petl, sentrɪ'petl/ *adj* 1 proceeding or acting in a direction towards a centre or axis 2 tending towards centralization, unifying [NL *centripetus*, fr *centr-* + L *petere* to go to, seek - more at **FEATHER**] - **centripetally** /sentrɪ'pet(ə)li/ *adv*

**centrist** /sentrɪst/ *n*, often *cap* a member of a moderate party; broadly one holding moderate political views - **centrism** *n*

**centro-** - see **CENTR-**

**centroid** /sentroyd/ *n* CENTRE OF MASS - **centroidal** /sentroydl/ *adj*

**centromere** /sentra'miə/ *n* the point on a chromosome by which it appears to attach to the spindle in mitosis [ISV] - **centromeric** /-merɪk, -mɪrɪk/ *adj*

**centrosome** /sentra'sohm/ *n* (the region of clear cytoplasm that contains) a centriole [G *zentrosom*, fr *zentr-* *centr-* + *-som* -some] - **centrosomic** /-sohmɪk/ *adj*

**centrosphere** /sentra'sfiə/ *n* the central part of the earth composed of very dense material [ISV]

**centrum** /sentram/ *n*, *pl* **centrums**, *centra* /-tra/ the body of a vertebra [L - more at **CENTRE**]

**centurion** /sent'yoʊoəri-ən/ *n* an officer commanding a Roman century [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *centurion*, *centurio*, fr *centuria*]

**century** /senchəri/ *n* 1 a subdivision of the ancient Roman legion orig consisting of 100 men 2 a group, sequence, or series of 100 like things; *specif* 100 runs made by a cricketer in 1 innings 3 a period of 100 years; *esp* any of the 100-year periods reckoned forwards or backwards from the conventional date of the birth of Christ [L *centuria*, irreg fr *centum* hundred]

**century plant** *n* a Mexican agave that matures and flowers once after many years of growth and then dies

**cep** /sep/ *n* any of several edible fungi having a sponge-like underside; *esp* one with a shiny brown cap and white underside considered a delicacy *esp* in France and Germany [F *cépe*, fr F dial. *cep* tree trunk, mushroom, fr L *cippus* stake, post]

**cephal-, cephalo-** *comb form* head (< *cephalic*); head and (< *cephalothorax*) [L, fr Gk *kephal-*, *kephalo-*, fr *kephale*]

**cephalic** /sɪ'falɪk/ *adj* 1 of or relating to the head 2 directed towards or situated on, in, or near the head [MF *céphalique*, fr L *cephalicus*, fr Gk *kephalikos*, fr *kephalē* head; akin to OHG *gebal* skull, ON *gall* gable] - **cephalically** *adv*

**-cephalic, -cephalic** *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) a head or (so many) heads (< *brachycephalic*)

**cephalic index** *n* the ratio of the maximum breadth of the head to its maximum length multiplied by 100 - compare **CRANIAL INDEX**

**cephalochordate** /sefə'loh'kawdayt/ *n* a lancelet

**cephalopod** /sef(ə)'lə'pod/ *n* any of a class of tentacled molluscs that includes the squids, cuttlefishes, and octopuses [deriv of *cephal-* + Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot - more at **FOOT**] - **cephalopod** *adj*, **cephalopodan** /sefə'lopədn/; also /sef(ə)'lə'pədn/ *adj* or *n*

**cephalosporin** /sef(ə)'lə'spawrn/ *n* any of several antibiotics with actions similar to those of penicillin [NL *Cephalosporium*, genus of fungi + *-in*]

**cephalothorax** /sef(ə)'lə'thawraks/ *n* the united head and thorax of an arachnid or higher crustacean [ISV]

**Cepheid** /sefɪd/ *n* any of a class of pulsating stars with regularly varying light intensities [L *Cepheus*, a northern constellation, fr *Cepheus*, mythical king of Ethiopia and father of Andromeda, fr Gk *Kēpheus*]

**'ceramic** /sə'ramɪk/ *adj* of or being (the manufacture of) a product (e.g. porcelain or brick) made from a nonmetallic mineral (e.g. clay) by firing at high temperatures [Gk *keramikos*, fr *keramos* potter's clay, pottery]

**ceramic** *n* 1 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* the art or process of making ceramic articles 2 a product of ceramic manufacture - **ceramist** /sə'ramɪst/, **ceramist** /sə'ramɪst/ *n*

**cerastes** /sɪ'rasteɪz/ *n* a venomous viper of the Near East that has a horny projection over each eye [ME, fr L, fr Gk *kerastes*, lit., horned, fr *keras*]

**cerat-, cerato-, kerat-, kerato-** *comb form* 1 horn; horny (< *ceratodus*) (< *keratun*) 2 - see **KERA1** 1 [NL, fr Gk *kerat-*, *kerato-*, fr *keras* horn - more at **HORN**]

**cercaria** /suh'keən-ə/ *n*, *pl* **cercariae** /-rɪe/ a usu tadpole-shaped larval trematode worm produced in a mollusc host by a redia [NL, fr Gk *kerkos* tail] - **cercarial** *adj*

**cere** /sɪə/ *n* a usu waxy swelling at the base of a bird's beak [ME *sere*, fr MF *cere*, fr ML *cera*, fr L, wax]

**'cereal** /sɪəriəl/ *adj* of or relating to (the plants that produce) grain [F or L; F *céréale*, fr L *cerealis* of Ceres, of grain, fr *Ceres*, goddess of agriculture]

**2cereal** *n* 1 (a grass or other plant yielding) grain suitable for food 2 a food made from grain and usu eaten with milk and sugar at breakfast

**cerebellum** /sə'reləbm/ *n*, *pl* **cerebellums**, **cerebella** /-lə/ a large part of the back of the brain which projects outwards and is concerned esp with coordinating muscles and maintaining equilibrium → **NERVE** [ML, fr L, dim. of *cerebrum*] - **cerebellar** *adj*

**cerebr-, cerebro-** *comb form* 1 brain; cerebrum (< *cerebration*) 2 cerebral and (< *cerebrospinal*) [*cerebrum*]

**cerebral** /sə'rebrəl/ *adj* 1a of the brain or the intellect 1b of or being the cerebrum 2a appealing to the intellect (< *drama*) 2b primarily intellectual in nature (< *a ~ society*) [F *cérébral*, fr L *cerebrum* brain, akin to Gk *kara* head, *keras* horn - more at **HORN**] - **cerebrally** *adv*

**cerebral cortex** *n* the outer layer of grey matter in the brain whose chief function is the coordination of higher nervous activity

**cerebral hemisphere** *n* either of the 2 hollow convoluted lateral halves of the cerebrum of the brain

**cerebral palsy** *n* a disability resulting from damage to the brain before or during birth and characterized by speech disturbance and lack of muscular coordination - compare **SPASTIC PARALYSIS**

**cerebrate** /sə'rebrayt/ *vi* to use the mind; think - *fml* [back-formation fr *cerebration*, fr *cerebrum*] - **cerebration** /-braysh(ə)n/ *n*

**cerebrospinal** /sə'rebrə'spiənl/ *adj* of the brain and spinal cord

**cerebrospinal fluid** *n* a liquid like blood serum that is secreted from the blood into the ventricles of the brain

**cerebrovascular** /-vaskyoolə/ *adj* of or involving the brain and the blood vessels supplying it

**cerebrum** /sɪ'rebrəm/ *n*, *pl* **cerebrums**, **cerebra** /-brə/ 1 **BRAIN** 1a 2 the expanded front portion of the brain that in higher mammals overlies the rest of the brain and consists of the 2 cerebral hemispheres → **NERVE** [L]





- chafer** /ˈtʃaɪfə/ *n* a cockchafer or related large beetle [ME *cheaffer*, fr OE *ceafor*; akin to OE *ceaff* *jowl* – more at *jowl*]
- chaff** /ˈtʃaf, ˈtʃaɪf/ *n* 1 the seed coverings and other debris separated from the seed in threshing grain 2 worthless matter – esp in *separate the wheat from the chaff* 3 chopped straw, hay, etc used for animal feed 4 material (e.g. strips of foil) ejected into the air to reflect enemy radar waves and so prevent detection [ME *chaf*, fr OE *ceaf*; akin to OHG *cheva* *husk*] – **chaffy** *adj*
- chaff** *n* light jesting talk; banter {prob fr *chafe*}
- chaff** *vt* to tease good-naturedly ~ *vi* to jest, banter
- chaffinch** /ˈtʃaɪfɪnʃ/ *n* a European finch with a reddish breast, a bluish head, and white wing bars [ME, fr OE *ceaffinc*, fr *ceaf* + *finc* *finch*]
- chafing dish** /ˈtʃaɪfɪŋ/ *n* a dish for cooking or keeping food warm, esp over a spirit burner at the table [ME *chafing*, prp of *chaufen*, *chaufen* to warm]
- Chagas' disease** /ˈʃahɡəs(ɪz)/ *n* an often fatal tropical American disease caused by a trypanosome and characterized esp by high fever [Carlos Chagas †1934 Brazilian physician]
- chagrin** /ˈʃagrɪn/ *vt* or *n* (to subject to) mental distress caused by humiliation, disappointment, or failure [n F, fr *chagriner* *sad*; vb fr n]
- chai** /tʃiː/ *n*, *pl* **chais** a building for the fermentation and storage of wine [F, alter. of *quai* quay, platform]
- Chaima** /ˈtʃiema/ *n* a member, or the language, of a Cariban people of Venezuela
- chain** /tʃeɪn/ *n* 1a a series of usu metal links or rings connected to or fitted into one another and used for various purposes (e.g. support or restraint) b an ornament or badge of office consisting of such a series of links c(1) a measuring instrument of 100 links used in surveying (2) a unit of length equal to 66ft (about 20.12m)  UNIT 2 sthg that confines, restrains, or secures – usu pl <the ~s of ignorance> 3a a series of linked or connected things <a ~ of events> <a mountain ~> b a group of associated establishments (e.g. shops or hotels) under the same ownership <a ~ of supermarkets> c a number of atoms or chemical groups united like links in a chain [ME *cheyne*, fr OF *chacine*, fr L *catena*; akin to L *cassus* *net*]
- chain** *vt* to fasten, restrict, or confine (as if) with a chain – often + *up* or *down*
- chain gang** *n*, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a gang of convicts chained together, usu while doing hard labour outside prison
- chain letter** *n* a letter containing a request that copies of it, sometimes together with money or goods, be sent to a specified number of other people who should then repeat the process
- chain mail** *n* flexible armour of interlinked metal rings
- chain printer** *n* a line printer in which the type is carried on a continuous band past a line of hammers
- chain reaction** *n* 1 a series of events so related to each other that each one initiates the next 2 a self-sustaining chemical or nuclear reaction yielding energy or products that cause further reactions of the same kind
- chain saw** *n* a portable power saw that has teeth linked together to form a continuous revolving chain
- chain-smoke** *vb* to smoke (esp cigarettes) continually, usu by lighting one cigarette from the previous one smoked
- chain stitch** *n* an ornamental embroidered or crochet stitch that resembles a linked chain
- chain store** *n* any of several usu retail shops under the same ownership and selling the same lines of goods
- chain wheel** /ˈtʃeɪn/ *n* a sprocket wheel (e.g. on a bicycle) that transmits power
- chair** /tʃeə/ *n* 1 a seat for 1 person, usu having 4 legs and a back and sometimes arms 2a an office or position of authority or dignity; *specif* a professorship <holds a university ~> b a chairman 3 SEDAN CHAIR 4 a deep-grooved metal block fastened to a sleeper to hold a rail in place [ME *chchiere*, fr OF, fr L *cathedra*, fr Gk *kathedra*, fr *kata-* *cata-* + *hedra* *seat* – more at *str*]
- chair** *vt* 1 to install in office 2 to preside as chairman of 3 chiefly Br to carry shoulder-high in acclaim <the time you won your town the race we ~ed you through the market place> – A. E. Housman
- chair lift** *n* a ski lift with seats for passengers
- chairman** /ˈmɒn/, fem *chairlady*, *chairwoman* *n* 1 one who presides over or heads a meeting, committee, organization, or board of directors 2 a radio or television presenter; esp one who coordinates unscripted or diverse material 3 a carrier of a sedan chair – **chairmanship** *n*
- chairperson** /ˈtʃaɪə(pə)n/ *n*, *pl* **chairpersons** a chairman or chairwoman
- chaise** /ʃeɪz, ʃayz/ *n* a light carriage, usu having 2 wheels and a folding top [F, *chair*, *chaise*, alter. of OF *chchiere*]
- chaise longue** /ˈlɒŋɡː/ *n*, *pl* **chaises longues** also **chaises longues** /ˈlɒŋɡː(z)/ a low sofa with only 1 armrest, on which one may recline [F, lit. long chair]
- chalaza** /kəˈlɑːzə, -ˈlɑː-/ *n*, *pl* **chalazae** /-zɪ/, **chalazas** either of a pair of spiral bands in the white of a bird's egg that extend from the yolk and are attached to opposite ends of the lining membrane [NL, fr Gk, hailstone; akin to Per *zhala* hail] – **chalazal** *adj*
- chalcedony** /kəlˈsɪdəni, -ˈsedəni/ *n* a translucent quartz that is often pale blue or grey and is used as a gemstone [ME *calcedonie*, a precious stone, fr LL *chalcedonius*, fr Gk *Chalkedon* Chalcedon, former city in Turkey] – **chalcedonic** /kəlˈsɪdənik/ *adj*
- chalcid** /ˈkɑːlsɪd/ *n* any of various related and typically minute insects parasitic in the larval state on the larvae or pupae of other insects [deriv of Gk *chalkos* copper] – **chalcid** *adj*
- chalcopyrite** /ˈkɑːlkəˈpiəriet/ *n* a brassy-yellow mineral consisting of copper-iron sulphide [NL *chalcopyrites*, fr Gk *chalkos* + L *pyrites*]
- Chaldean** /kəlˈdiːən/ *n* 1 a member of an ancient Semitic people once dominant in Babylonia 2 the Semitic language of the Chaldeans [L *Chaldaeus* Chaldean, astrologer, fr Gk *Chaldaios*, fr *Chaldaia* Chaldaea, region of ancient Babylonia] – **Chaldean** *adj*
- Chaldee** /ˈkɑːldeɪ, -ˈ-/ *n* 1 the Aramaic vernacular that was the original language of some parts of the Old Testament 2 (a) Chaldean [ME *Caldey*, prob fr MF *chaldee*, fr L *Chaldaeus*]
- chalet** /ˈʃaləɪ/ *n* 1 a hut used by herdsmen in the Alps 2a a usu wooden house with a steeply sloping roof and widely overhanging eaves, common esp in Switzerland b a small house or hut used esp for temporary accommodation (e.g. at a holiday camp) [F]
- chalice** /ˈtʃalɪs/ *n* 1 a drinking cup, a goblet 2 an esp gold or silver cup used to hold the wine at communion [ME, fr AF, fr L *calic-*, *calix*, akin to Gk *kalyx* calyx] – **chalyx** *adj*
- chalk** /tʃawk/ *n* 1 a soft white, grey, or buff limestone composed chiefly of the shells of small marine organisms 2 a short stick of chalk or chalky material used esp for writing and drawing [ME, fr OE *cealc*, akin to OHG & MLG *kalk* lime, all fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *calc-*, *calx* lime, fr Gk *chalix* pebble, akin to Gk *skallein* to hoe – more at *shell*] – **chalky** *adj*
- chalk** *vt* 1 to rub or mark with chalk 2 to write or draw with chalk 3 to set down or add up (as if) with chalk – usu + *up* <~ up the score> ~ *vi*, Br to act as scorer for a darts match
- chalk out** *vt* to delineate roughly, sketch <chalk out a plan of action>
- chalk up** *vt* 1 to ascribe, credit, *specif* to charge to sb's account <chalk it up to me> 2 to attain, achieve <chalked up a record score for the season>
- challenge** /ˈtʃalɪn/ *vt* 1 to order to halt and prove identity <the sentry ~d the stranger at the gates> 2 to dispute, esp as being unjust, invalid, or outmoded; impugn <uncovered new data that ~s old assumptions> 3 to question formally the legality or legal qualifications of (e.g. a juror) 4a to defy boldly; dare b to call out to duel, combat, or competition 5 to stimulate by testing the skill of (sby or sthg) <maths ~s him> 6 to administer infective (antigenic) material to (an organism) in order to ascertain whether experimental immunization has been effective [ME *chalengen* to accuse, fr OF *chalengier*, fr L *calumniari* to accuse falsely, fr *calumnia* calumny] – **challenger** *n*, **challenging** *adj*, **challengingly** *adv*
- challenge** *n* 1a a calling to account or into question; a protest b a command given by a sentry, watchman, etc to halt and prove identity c a questioning of right or validity 2a a summons that is threatening or provocative; *specif* a call to a duel b an invitation to compete 3 (sthg having) the quality of being demanding or stimulating <the job presented a real ~> 4 a test of immunity by reexposure to infective (antigenic) material after specific immunization with it
- chalone** /ˈkɑːləʊn/ *n* a local hormone that controls, esp by inhibition, the growth and differentiation of tissue cells [Gk *chalōn*, prp of *chalan* to slacken]
- chamber** /ˈtʃeɪmbə/ *n* 1 a natural or artificial enclosed space or cavity 2a(1) a room where a judge hears private cases – usu pl with *sing.* meaning (2) pl a set of rooms used by a group of barristers b a reception room in an official or state building 3 (a hall used by) a legislative or judicial body; esp either of 2 houses of a legislature 4 the part of a gun that holds the charge or cartridge 5 *archaic* a room; esp a bedroom [ME *chambre*, fr OF, fr LL *camera*, fr L, arched roof, fr Gk *kamara* vault; akin to L *camur* curved]



**\*chamber** *vt* to accommodate (e.g. a charge) in the chamber of a firearm

**chamberlain** /ˈtʃaɪmbəlɪn/ *n* 1 a chief officer of a royal or noble household 2 a treasurer (e.g. of a corporation) [ME, fr OF *chamberlain*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *chamarling* chamberlain, fr *chamara* chamber, fr LL *camera*]

**\*chambermaid** /-ˈmeɪd/ *n* a maid who cleans bedrooms and makes beds (e.g. in a hotel)

**\*chamber music** *n* music written for a small group of instruments

**Chamber of Commerce** *n* an association of businessmen to promote commercial and industrial interests in the community

**chamber of horrors** *n* a hall in which objects of macabre interest (e.g. instruments of torture) are exhibited, *broadly* any horrifying or frightening place, situation, etc

**\*chamber orchestra** *n* a small orchestra, usu with 1 player for each instrumental part

**\*chamber pot** *n* a bowl-shaped receptacle for urine and faeces, used chiefly in the bedroom

**\*chambré** /ˈʃɒmbrɪ/ (Fr *ʃü:brɛ*) *adj*, of wine at room temperature [F, fr pp of *chamber* to put in a room, fr *chambre* room]

**\*chambré** *vt* **\*chambré** /-ˈbreɪŋ/ *to bring* (wine) to room temperature

**chameleon** /ˈʃæˈmiːliən, kə-/ *n* 1 any of a group of Old World lizards with a long tongue, a prehensile tail, and the ability to change the colour of the skin 2 sby or sthg changeable, *specif* a fickle person [ME *camelion*, fr MF, fr L *chamaeleon*, fr Gk *chamaeleon*, fr *chamai* on the ground + *leon* lion - more at HUMBER] - **chameleonic** /-liˈɒnɪk/ *adj*

**\*chamfer** /ˈtʃæmfə/ *n* a bevelled edge [MF *chanfreint*, fr pp of *chanfrandre* to bevel, fr *chant* edge (fr L *canthus* iron tyre) + *frandre* to break, fr L *frangere* - more at \*CANT, BREAK]

**\*chamfer** *vt* to cut a chamfer on

**chammy, shammy** /ˈʃæmi/ *n* CHAMOIS 2 [by shortening & alter]

**chamois** /ˈʃæmwah/ *n*, *pl* **chamois** also **chamoix** /ˈʃæmwah(z)/ 1 a small goatlike antelope of Europe and the Caucasus 2 a soft pliant leather prepared from the skin of the chamois or sheep, used esp as a cloth for polishing [MF, fr LL *camox*]

**chamomile** /ˈkæməˌmiːl/ *n* chamomile

**\*champ** /ˈtʃæmp/ *vt* 1 to munch (food) noisily 2 to gnaw, bite ~ *vi* 1 to make biting or gnashing movements 2 to eat noisily 3 to show impatience or eagerness - usu in *champ at the bit* <the children were ~ing at the bit to get on board> [perh imit]

**\*champ** *n* a champion - *infrm*

**champagne** /ˈʃæmpəˌneɪn/ *n* a white sparkling wine made in the old province of Champagne in France [F, fr *Champagne*, region of France]

**champagne** /ˈʃæmpəˌneɪn/ *n* an expanse of level open country, a plain [ME *champaine*, fr MF *champagne*, fr LL *campania* - more at CAMPAIGN] - **champagne** *adj*

**champers** /ˈʃæmpəz/ *n*, *Br* champagne - *infrm* [by shortening & alter.]

**champerty** /ˈtʃæmpərti/ *n* an illegal action whereby an outsider aids sby involved in a law suit (e.g. by paying for his/her defence) in the hope of receiving a share of the property, money, etc at stake [ME *champartie*, fr MF *champart* field rent, fr *champ* field (fr L *campus*) + *part* portion - more at \*CAMP, \*PART] - **champertous** *adj*

**champignon** /ˈʃɒmpɪˌnjɒn (Fr *ʃɑ̃pijɔ̃*)/ *n* any of various edible mushrooms, esp the common meadow mushroom [MF, fr *champagne*]

**\*champion** /ˈtʃæmpi-ən/ *n* 1 a militant supporter of, or fighter for, a cause or person (<an outspoken ~ of civil rights>) 2 one who shows marked superiority; *specif* the winner of a competitive event [ME, fr OF, fr ML *campion*-, *campio*, of WGmc origin]

**\*champion** *vt* to protect or fight for as a champion

**\*champion** *adj*, chiefly *N* Eng superb, splendid - *infrm*

**\*champion, ship** /-ˈʃɪp/ *n* 1 the act of championing, defence (<his ~ of freedom of speech>) 2 a contest held to determine a champion

**champlevé** /ˈʃɒmləˌveɪ, -ˌveɪ (Fr *ʃɑ̃lɛvɛ*)/ *adj* or *n* (in) a style of enamel decoration in which the enamel colours are fired in shallow depressions pressed or cut into a metal surface - compare CLOISONNÉ [F]

**\*chance** /ˈtʃɑːns/ *n* 1a an event without discernible human intention or observable cause (<this is a strange ~ that throws you and me together - Charles Dickens>) b the incalculable (assumed) element in existence; that which determines unaccountable happenings (<we met by ~>) 2 a situation favouring some purpose; an opportunity 3 an opportunity of

dismissing a batsman in cricket 4a the possibility of a specified or favourable outcome in an uncertain situation (<we have almost no ~ of winning>) b pl the more likely indications (<~s are he's already heard the news>) 5 a risk (<took a ~ on it>) [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *cadentia* fall, fr L *cadent*-, *cadens*, prp of *cadere* to fall, akin to Skt *śad* to fall] - **chance** *adj*, **chanceless** *adj*

**\*chance** *vi* 1 to take place or come about by chance, happen (<it ~d that the street was empty>) 2 to come or light on or upon by chance (<~d on the idea>) ~ *vt* to accept the hazard of, risk

**chancel** /ˈtʃɑːnsl/ *n* the part of a church containing the altar and seats for the clergy and choir ~ *CHURCH* [ME, fr MF, fr LL *cancellus* lattice, fr L *cancelli*, fr the latticework enclosing it]

**chancellery, chancellory** /ˈtʃɑːnsl(ə)ri/ *n* 1 the position or department of a chancellor 2 the office or staff of an embassy or consulate

**chancellor** /ˈtʃɑːnsl(ə)l/ *n* 1a the secretary of a nobleman, prince, or king b LORD CHANCELLOR c a Roman Catholic priest heading a diocesan chancery 2 the titular head of a British university 3 a usu lay legal officer of an Anglican diocese 4 the chief minister of state in some European countries [ME *chanceler*, fr OF *chancelier*, fr LL *cancellarius* door-keeper, secretary, fr *cellulus*] - **chancellorship** *n*

**Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster** *n* a British government minister who has no direct responsibility for a government department but is usu a member of the cabinet

**chancellor of the exchequer** *n*, often *cap* C&E a member of the British cabinet in charge of public finances

**chancery** /ˈtʃɑːnsəri/ *n* 1a **Chancery Division, Chancery** a division of the High Court having jurisdiction over causes in equity ~ *LAW* b a US court of equity 2 a record office for public archives or those of ecclesiastical, legal, or diplomatic proceedings 3a a chancellor's court or office b the office in which the business of a Roman Catholic diocese is transacted and recorded c CHANCELLERY 2 [ME *chancerie*, alter. of *chancellerie* chancellery, fr OF, fr *chancelier*]

**chancro** /ˈʃæŋkrə/ *n* the initial lesion of some diseases, *specif* syphilis [F, fr L *cancer*] - **chancrous** /-krəs/ *adj*

**chancroid** /ˈʃæŋkroɪd/ *n* a bacterial venereal disease - **chancroidal** /ˈʃæŋkroɪdl/, -ˌ-/ *adj*

**chancy** /ˈtʃɑːnsi/ *adj* uncertain in outcome or prospect, risky ['CHANCE + -i-] - **chancily** *adj*, **chanciness** *n*

**chandelier** /ˈʃændlɪə/ *n* a branched often ornate lighting fixture suspended from a ceiling [F, lit., candlestick, modif of L *candelabrum*]

**chandler** /ˈtʃahndlə/ *n* a retail dealer in supplies and equipment of a specified kind (<a ship's ~>) (<a corn ~>) [ME *chandeler* maker or seller of candles, fr MF *chandelier*, fr OF, fr *chandelle* candle, fr L *candela*]

**chandlery** /ˈtʃahndlɪri/ *n* 1 a place where candles are kept 2 the business or merchandise of a chandler

**\*change** /ˈtʃeɪnʃ/ *vt* 1a to make different b to give a different position, direction, status, or aspect to (<we ~d our thinking on the matter>) <stop changing your mind> c to exchange, reverse - often + *over* or *round* (<just ~ the speaker leads over>) 2a to replace with another (<let's ~ the subject>) b to move from one to another (<~ sides>) c to exchange for an equivalent sum or comparable item d to undergo a loss or modification of (<foliage changing colour>) e to put fresh clothes or covering on (<~ a bed>) ~ *vi* 1 to become different (<her mood ~s every hour>) 2 of the moon to pass from one phase to another 3 to go from one vehicle of a public transport system to another 4 of the (male) voice to shift to a lower register; BREAK 9a 5 to undergo transformation, transition, or conversion (<winter ~d to spring>) <most industries have ~d to the metric system> 6 to put on different clothes 7 to engage in giving sthg and receiving sthg in return - usu + *with* [ME *change*, fr OF *changer*, fr L *cambiare* to exchange, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *camm* crooked, akin to Gk *skambos* crooked] - **changer** *n* - **change hands** to pass from the possession of one person to that of another

**\*change** *n* 1a a (marked) alteration (<has undergone a ~ since he was married>) b a substitution (<a ~ of players>) c the passage of the moon from one phase to another; *specif* the coming of the new moon 2 an alternative set, esp of clothes 3a money of lower denominations received in exchange for an equivalent sum of higher denominations (<have you got ~ for a pound?>) b money returned when a payment exceeds the amount due c coins of low denominations (<a pocketful of ~>) 4 an order in which a set of bells is struck in change ringing - **changeable** *adj*, **changeably** *adv*, **changefulness** *n*, **changeless** *adj*, **changelessly** *adv*, **changelessness** *n* **changeable** /ˈtʃeɪnʃəbəl/ *adj* 1 able or apt to vary 2 capable of being altered or exchanged 3 fickle - **changeableness** *n*, **changeably** *adv*, **changeability** /-bəlɪti/ *n*

**change down** *vi* to engage a lower gear in a motor vehicle  
**changeling** /ˈtʃeɪŋlɪŋ/ *n* a child secretly exchanged for another in infancy; *specif* a half-witted or ugly elf-child left in place of a human child by fairies

**change of heart** *n* a complete reversal in attitude

**change of life** *n* the menopause

**change-over** *n* a conversion to a different system or function

**change, ringing** *n* the art or practice of ringing a set of tuned (church) bells in continually varying order

**change up** *vi* to engage a higher gear in a motor vehicle

**changing room** /ˈtʃeɪŋɪŋ/ *n* a room in which one changes one's clothes (e.g. for sport)

**channel** /ˈtʃænəl/ *n* 1a the bed where a stream of water runs b the deeper part of a river, harbour, or strait c a narrow region of sea between 2 land masses d a path along which information passes or can be stored (e.g. on a recording tape) <there is no sound coming from the left ~ of the stereo> e a course or direction of thought, action, or communication – often pl with sing meaning <used official ~s to air his grievance> f(1) a band of frequencies of sufficient width for a transmission (e.g. from a radio or television station) (2) a television station <switch over to another ~> TELEVISION 2a usu tubular passage, esp for liquids 3 a long gutter, groove, or furrow ARCHITECTURE [ME *chanel*, fr OF, fr L *canalis* pipe, channel – more at CANAL]

**channel vt -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), channelling** /ˈtʃænəl-ɪŋ/ 1 to form or wear a channel in 2 to convey into or through a channel; direct <~ his energy into constructive activities>

**channel-ize, -ise** /ˈtʃænəl-ɪz/ *vt* to channel – **channelization** /-ɪˈzeɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**chanson** /ˈʃɑːns(ə)n (Fr [sɑ̃s] / *n*, pl *chansons* /ˈʃɑːns(ə)nz (Fr ~)/ a (French cabaret) song [F, fr L *cantio*-, *cantio*, fr *cantus*, pp]

**chant** /ˈtʃaɪnt/ *vi* 1 to sing a chant 2 to recite in a monotonous tone ~ *vt* to utter as in chanting [ME *chaunte*, fr MF *chanter*, fr L *cantare*, fr *cantus*, pp of *canere*; akin to OE *hana* cock, Gk *kanache* ringing sound]

**chant n** 1 (the music or performance of) a repetitive melody used for liturgical singing in which as many syllables are assigned to each note as required 2 a rhythmic monotonous utterance or song

**chanter** /ˈtʃaɪntə/ *n* the reed pipe of a bagpipe with finger holes on which the melody is played [ˈCHANT + 1-ER]

**chanterelle** /ˈʃɑːntəˈrel, -ʃon-/ *n* a rich-yellow edible mushroom [E, fr NL *cantharella*, dim. of L *cantharus* drinking-vessel]

**chanteuse** /ˈʃɑːntɪˈtʃuːz, -ʃon-/ *n*, pl *chanteuses* /~/ a female (night-club or cabaret) singer [F, fem of *chanteur* singer, fr *chanter*]

**chanticler** /ˈtʃɑːntɪˈkliːə/ *n* – used as a poetic name of the domestic cock [ME *Chantecler*, cock in verse narratives, fr OF *Chantecler*, cock in the poem *Roman de Renart*]

**Chantilly, Chantilly lace** /ˈʃɑːntɪˈliː, -ʃan-/ *n* a delicate lace with a 6-sided mesh ground and a floral or scrolled design [Chantilly, town in France]

**chantry** /ˈtʃɑːntri/ *n* (a chapel or altar founded under) an endowment for the chanting of masses for the founder's soul CHURCH [ME *chanterie*, fr MF, singing, fr *chanter*]

**Chanukah** /ˈhɑːnuːkəh/ *n* Hanukkah

**chaos** /ˈkeɪɔs/ *n* 1 often cap the confused unorganized state of primordial matter before the creation of distinct forms – compare COSMOS 1 2a a state of utter confusion b a confused mass [L, fr Gk – more at 'GUM] – **chaotic** /ˈkeɪɔtɪk/ *adj*, **chaotically** *adv*

**chap** /tʃap/ *n* a man, fellow – infml [short for *chapman* (merchant, pedlar), fr ME, fr OE *ceapman*, fr *ceap* trade + *man*]

**chap vb -pp-** to (cause to) open in slits or cracks <~ped lips> [ME *chappen*; akin to MD *cappen* to cut down]

**chap n** a crack in the skin caused by exposure to wind or cold

**chap n** 1 (the fleshy covering of) a jaw 2 the lower front part of the face USE usu pl with sing. meaning [prob fr 'chap]

**chaparral** /ˈʃɑːpəˈræl/ *n* a dense (N American) area of shrubs or dwarf trees, esp evergreen oaks PLANT [Sp, fr *chaparro* dwarf evergreen oak, fr Basque *tzapar*]

**chapati, chapatti** /tʃəˈpɑːti, -ˈpɑːti/ *n*, pl *chapati, chapatis, chapatis, chapatti, chapatties, chapattis* a thin unleavened usu round bread [Hindi *capati*, fr Skt *carpati* thin cake, fr *carpa* flat]

**cape** /tʃeɪp/ *n* the metal mounting or trimming of (the point of) a scabbard [ME, scabbard, fr MF, cape, fr LL *cappa*]

**chapel** /ˈtʃæpl/ *n* 1a a place of worship serving a residence or institution b a room or bay in a church for prayer or minor religious services 2 a choir of singers belonging to a chapel 3 a chapel service or assembly 4

sing or pl in constr the members of a trade union, esp in a printing office 5 a place of worship used by a Christian group other than an established church <a nonconformist ~> [ME, fr OF *chapele*, fr ML *cappella*, fr dim of LL *cappa* cloak; fr the cloak of St Martin of Tours preserved in a chapel built for that purpose]

**chapel adj**, chiefly Br belonging to a Nonconformist church

**chapel of ease** *n* a dependent church built to accommodate parishioners living in remote areas

**chaperon, chaperone** /ˈʃəpəˌroʊn/ *n* one delegated to ensure propriety; esp a married or older woman who accompanies a younger woman on social occasions [F *chaperon*, lit., hood, fr MF, head covering, fr *chape*]

**chaperon, chaperone vt** to act as chaperon to; escort – **chaperonage** *n*

**chapfallen** /ˈtʃapˌfɔːlən/ *adj* depressed, dejected [ˈchap + *fallen*]

**chaplain** /ˈtʃæplɪn/ *n* 1 a clergyman in charge of a chapel 2 a clergyman officially attached to a branch of the armed forces, an institution, or a family or court [ME *chaplain*, fr OF, fr ML *cappellanus*, fr *cappella*] – **chaplaincy** /-sɪ/ *n*, **chaplainship** *n*

**chaplet** /ˈtʃæplɪt/ *n* 1 a wreath to be worn on the head 2a a string of beads b a part of a rosary comprising 5 decades [ME *chapelet*, fr MF, fr OF, dim. of *chapel* hat, garland, fr ML *cappellus* head covering, fr LL *cappa*] – **chapleted** /ˈtʃæplɪtɪd/ *adj*

**chaps** /tʃæps/ *n pl* leather leggings worn over the trousers, esp by N American ranch hands [modif of MexSp *chaparreras*]

**chapter** /ˈtʃæptə/ *n* 1a a major division of a book b sth resembling a chapter in being a significant specified unit <breaking his leg was the final event in a ~ of accidents> 2 (a regular meeting of) the canons of a cathedral or collegiate church, or the members of a religious house 3 a local branch of a society or fraternity [ME *chapitre* division of a book, meeting of canons, fr OF, fr LL *capitulum* division of a book & ML, meeting place of canons, fr L, dim of *capit*-, *caput* head – more at HEAD]

**chapter and verse** *n* (a full specification of the source of) a piece of information [fr custom of citing passages in the Bible by chapter and verse number]

**chapter house** *n* the building or rooms where a chapter meets

**char, charr** /tʃah/ *n*, pl *chars*, *charrs* *col*lectively *char* any of a genus of small-scaled trouts [origin unknown]

**char vb -rr- vt** 1 to convert to charcoal or carbon, usu by heat, burn 2 to burn slightly; scorch ~ *vi* to become charred [back-formation fr *charcoal*]

**char vi -rr-** to work as a cleaning woman [back-formation fr *charwoman*]

**char n**, Br a charwoman – infml

**char, cha n**, Br TEA 2 – infml [Hindi *ca*, fr Chin (Pek) *ch'a*]

**charabanc** /ˈʃɑːrəˌbɑːŋ/ *n*, Br an (old-fashioned) motor coach used for sightseeing [F *char à bancs*, lit, wagon with benches]

**character** /ˈkærəktə/ *n* 1a a distinctive mark, usu in the form of a stylized graphic device b a graphic symbol (e.g. a hieroglyph or alphabet letter) used in writing or printing c(1) style of writing or printing (2) CIPHER 2 2a (any of) the mental or ethical qualities that make up and distinguish the individual b(1) (a group or kind distinguished by) a feature used to categorize things (e.g. organisms) (2) an inherited characteristic (3) the sum of the distinctive qualities characteristic of a breed, type, etc; the (distinctive) main or essential nature of sthg <a wine of great ~> <the unique ~ of the town> 3a a person, esp one marked by notable or conspicuous traits <one of the real ~s in Westminster today> b any of the people portrayed in a novel, film, play, etc <he plays the main ~ in the film> 4 (good) reputation <~ assassination> 5 moral strength; integrity <a man of ~> [ME *caracter*, fr MF *caractère*, fr L *character* mark, distinctive quality, fr Gk *charaktēr*, fr *charassein* to scratch, engrave; akin to Lith *žerti* to scratch] – **characterless** *adj* – **in/out of character** in/not in accord with a person's usual qualities, traits, or behaviour

**character actor** *n* an actor capable of portraying personalities often markedly different from his/her own

**characteristic** /ˈkærəktəˈrɪstɪk/ *adj* serving to reveal and distinguish the individual character; typical – **characteristically** *adv*

**characteristic n** 1 a distinguishing trait, quality, or property 2 the integral part of a common logarithm

**characterize, -ise** /ˈkærəktəˈrɪz/ *vt* 1 to describe the character or quality of; delineate <~d him as soft-spoken yet ambitious> 2 to be a characteristic of; distinguish <a cool light fragrance ~s the cologne> – **characterization** /-ɪˈzeɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**charade** /ʃa'raɪd/, *NAm* -'raɪd/ *n* 1 *pl but sing or pl in constr* a game in which one team acts out each syllable of a word or phrase while the other tries to guess what is being represented 2 a ridiculous pretence [F, fr Prov *charrado* conversation]

**charcoal** /'chah,kohl/ *n* 1 a dark or black porous carbon prepared by partly burning vegetable or animal substances (e.g. wood or bone) 2 fine charcoal used in pencil form for drawing [ME *charcole*]

**chard** /'chahd/ *n* a beet with large edible dark green leaves and succulent stalks [F *carde*, fr OProv *cardo* thistle-like vegetable, fr L *carduus* thistle, artichoke; akin to MLG *harst* rake, L *carre* to card]

**Charentais** /'ʃarɒn'tay (Fr *ʃarɔ̃t*)/ *n* a small round melon with a yellowish green rind and faintly scented orange flesh [F *charentais* of Charente, fr *Charente*, department of France]

**charge** /'chah/ *vt* 1a(1) to place a usu powder charge in (a firearm) (2) to load or fill to capacity (< ~ the blast furnace with ore>) b(1) to restore the active materials in (a storage battery) by the passage of a direct current in the opposite direction to that of discharge (2) to give an electric charge to c to place a heraldic charge on d to fill with (passionate) emotion, feeling, etc (< the music is ~d with excitement> < a highly ~d issue>) 2 to command or exhort with right or authority (< I ~ you not to leave>) 3a to blame (< ~s him as the instigator>) b to make an assertion against, accuse (< ~s him with armed robbery>) c to place the blame for (< ~ her failure to negligence>) d to assert as an accusation (< ~s that he distorted the data>) 4 to rush violently at, attack, also to rush into (an opponent), usu illegally, in soccer, basketball, etc 5a(1) to impose a financial obligation on (< ~ his estate with debts incurred>) (2) to impose as financial obligation (< ~ debts to an estate>) b(1) to fix or ask as fee or payment (2) to ask payment of (a person) (< ~ a client for expenses>) c to record (an item) as an expense, debt, obligation, or liability (< ~ it to my account>) ~ *vi* 1 to rush forwards (as if) in assault 2 to ask or set a price [ME *chargen*, fr OF *charger*, fr LL *caricare*, fr L *carrus* wheeled vehicle - more at *CAR*] - **chargeable** *adj* - **charge with** to impose (a task or responsibility) on

**charge** *n* 1 a shape, representation, or design depicted on a heraldic achievement - compare *DEVICE* 3 2a the quantity that an apparatus is intended to receive and fitted to hold, esp the quantity of explosive for a gun or cannon b power, force (< the emotional ~ of the drama>) c(1) a basic property of matter that occurs in discrete natural units and is considered as negative (e.g. when belonging to an electron) or positive (e.g. when belonging to a proton) (2) a definite quantity of electricity; esp the charge that a storage battery is capable of yielding 3a an obligation, requirement b control, supervision (< has ~ of the home office>) (< I leave you in ~>) c sby or sth committed to the care of another 4a an instruction, command b instructions given by a judge to a jury 5 the price demanded or paid for sth (< no admission ~>) 6 an accusation, indictment, or statement of complaint 7 a violent rush forwards (e.g. in attack)

**charge d'affaires** /'ʃahzɪzay də'feɪ/ *n*, *pl* *chargés d'affaires* /~ də'feɪ(z)/ 1 a diplomat who substitutes for an ambassador 2 a diplomatic representative inferior in rank to an ambassador [F, lit., one charged with affairs]

**chargehand** /'chahj,hand/ *n*, *Br* a workman in charge of a group of workers or a job

**charge nurse** *n* a usu male nurse in charge of a hospital ward - compare *SISTER* 4

**charger** /'chahjə/ *n* a large flat meat dish [ME *chargeour*; akin to ME *chargen* to charge]

**charger** *n* a horse for battle or parade ['CHARGE + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**charge sheet** *n* a police record of charges made and people involved tried in a magistrate's court

**chariot** /'chari-ət/ *n* 1 a light 4-wheeled pleasure or state carriage 2 a 2-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle of ancient times used in warfare and racing [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *char* wheeled vehicle, fr L *carrus*]

**charioteer** /'chari-ə'tiə/ *n* the driver of a chariot

**charisma** /'kə'rizmə/ *n* the special magnetic appeal, charm, or power of an individual (e.g. a political leader) that inspires popular loyalty and enthusiasm [Gk, favour, gift, fr *charizesthai* to favour, fr *charis* grace; akin to Gk *chairein* to rejoice - more at *YEAR*] - **charismatic** /'kə'riz'matɪk/ *adj*

**charitable** /'charɪtəbl/ *adj* 1a liberal in giving to the poor; generous b of or giving charity (< ~ institutions>) 2 merciful or kind in judging others; lenient - **charitableness** *n*, **charitably** *adv*

**charity** /'charəti/ *n* 1 benevolent goodwill towards or love of humanity 2a kindly generosity and helpfulness, esp towards the needy or suffering; also aid given to those in need b an institution engaged in relief of the

poor, sick, etc c public provision for the relief of the needy 3a a gift for public benevolent purposes b an institution (e.g. a hospital) funded by such a gift 4 lenient judgment of others [ME *charite*, fr OF *charité*, fr LL *caritas*, *caritas* Christian love, fr L, dearness, fr *carus* dear; akin to Skt *kama* love]

**charivari** /'shahrɪ'vahrɪ/ *n* a noisy and raucous medley of sounds, a din [F, fr LL *caribaria* headache, fr Gk *karēbaria*, fr *kara*, *karē* head + *barys* heavy - more at *CEREBRAL*, 'GRIEVE]

**chariady** /'chah,ləɪdɪ/ *n*, *Br* a charwoman

**charlatan** /'ʃahlət(ə)n/ *n* 1 QUACK 1 2 one who pretends, usu ostentatiously, to have special knowledge or ability; a fraud [It *ciarlatano*, alter. of *cerretano*, lit., inhabitant of Cerreto, fr *Cerreto*, village in Italy] - **charlatanism**, **charlatanism** *n*

**Charles's Wain** /'chahli:z 'weɪn/ *n* URSA MAJOR [ME *Charlewayn*, fr OE *Charles Wægn* the waggon of Charles (Charlemagne, 'Charles the Great' †814 Frankish king)]

**Charleston** /'chahlstən/ *vi* or *n* (to dance) a lively ballroom dance in which the heels are swung sharply outwards on each step [Charleston, city in South Carolina, USA]

**charlie** /'chahli/ *n*, *Br* one who is or appears to be absurd or silly; a fool [rhyming slang *Charlie (Hunt) cunt*]

**Charlie** - a communications code word for the letter *c* [fr the name *Charlie*, dim of *Charles*]

**charlock** /'chah,lɒk/ *n* a wild mustard that is a weed of cultivated ground [ME *cherlok*, fr OE *cerlic*]

**charm** /'chahm/ *n* 1 an incantation 2 sth worn to ward off evil or to ensure good fortune 3a a quality that fascinates, allures, or delights b *pl* physical graces or attractions, esp of a woman 4 a small ornament worn on a bracelet or chain 5 a quantum property postulated to account for unexpectedly long lifetimes of particles that have quantum numbers identical to other elementary particles [ME *charme*, fr OF, fr L *carmen* song, fr *canere* to sing - more at *CHANT*] - **charmless** *adj*

**charm** *vt* 1a to affect (as if) by magic; bewitch b to soothe or delight by compelling attraction (< ~s the women with his suave manner>) 2 to control (an animal) by the use of rituals (e.g. the playing of music) held to have magical powers (< ~ a snake>) ~ *vi* to have the effect of a charm; fascinate

**charmer** /'chahmə/ *n* an attractive or captivating person - chiefly infml ['CHARM + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**charming** /'chahmɪŋ/ *adj* extremely pleasing or delightful; entrancing - **charmingly** *adv*

**charnel house** /'chah(n)əʊ/ *n* a building or chamber in which bodies or bones are deposited [ME *charnel*, fr MF, fr ML *carneal*, fr LL, neut of *carialis* of the flesh - more at *CARNAL*]

**Charolais** /'ʃarə,ləɪ/ *n* any of a French breed of large white cattle used primarily for beef and crossbreeding [Charolais, district in E France]

**charpoy** /'chah,pɔɪ/ *n* a lightweight Indian bedstead [Hindi *chārpai*]

**charr** /'chah/ *n*, *pl* *charrs*, esp collectively *charr* 'CHAR

**chart** /'chah:t/ *n* 1a an outline map showing the geographical distribution of sth (e.g. climatic or magnetic variations) b a navigator's map 2a a sheet giving information in tabular form; esp, *pl* the list of best-selling popular gramophone records (produced weekly) b 'GRAPH c a schematic, usu large, diagram d a sheet of paper ruled and graduated for use in a recording instrument (e.g. an electrocardiograph) [MF *charte*, fr L *charta* piece of papyrus, document - more at 'CARD]

**chart** *vt* 1 to make a chart of 2 to lay out a plan for 3 to display or mark (as if) on a chart

**charter** /'chaɪtə/ *n* 1 a formal written instrument or contract 2a a document that creates and defines the rights of a city, educational institution, or company b CONSTITUTION 4 3 a special privilege, immunity, or exemption 4 a total or partial lease of a ship, aeroplane, etc for a particular use or group of people (< low-cost travel on ~ flights to Greece and Spain>) [ME *chartre*, fr OF, fr ML *chartula*, fr L, dim. of *charta*]


**charter** *vt* 1a to establish or grant by charter b to certify as qualified (< ~ ed accountant>) (< ~ ed surveyor>) 2 to hire or lease for use exclusive and temporary use (< ~ ed a boat>) - **charterer** *n*

**chartered accountant** /'chaɪtəd/ *n*, *Br* a professionally qualified accountant

**charterhouse** /-həʊz/ *n* a Carthusian monastery [by folk etymology fr MF *chartrouse*, irreg fr *Chartosse* (now *Chartreuse*), site in France of the first Carthusian monastery]

**charter member** *n* an original member of a society or corporation

**charter party** /-paɪti/ *n* a contract for the hire of (part of) a ship for

- the conveyance of cargo or passengers [F *charte partie*, fr ML *charta partita*, lit., divided charter]
- Chartism** /'chah,tiz(ə)m/ *n* the principles and practices of a body of 19th-c English political reformers [ML *charta* charter, fr L, document] – **Chartist** *n*
- Chartreuse** /'shah'truhz/ *trademark* – used for an aromatic usu green or yellow liqueur
- charwoman** /'chah,wooman/ *n* a cleaning woman; esp, *Br* one employed in a private house [*chare* (chore) + *woman*]
- chary** /'cheəri/ *adj* 1 cautious; esp wary of taking risks 2 slow to grant or accept (a man very ~ of compliments) [ME, sorrowful, dear, fr OE *cearig* sorrowful, fr *caru* sorrow – more at *CARE*] – **charily** *adv*, **chariness** *n*
- 'chase** /'chays/ *vt* 1a to follow rapidly or persistently; pursue (<he's too old to ~ women) b to hunt 2 to cause to depart or flee; drive (<~ the dog out of the pantry) 3 chiefly *Br* to investigate (a matter) or contact (a person, company, etc) in order to obtain information or (hasten) results – usu + *up* ~ *vi* 1 to chase an animal, person, or thing usu + *after* 2 to rush, hasten (<d all over town looking for a place to stay) [ME *chasen*, fr MF *chasser*, fr (assumed) VL *captiare* – more at *CATCH*]
- chase** *n* 1a the act of chasing; pursuit b the hunting of wild animals 2 shag pursued; a quarry 3 a tract of unenclosed land set aside for the breeding of animals for hunting and fishing 4 a steeplechase
- 'chase** *vt* 1 to ornament (metal) by indenting with a hammer and tools that have no cutting edge 2 to make by such ornamentation (<~ a monogram) [ME *chassen*, modif of MF *enchasser* to set (a jewel)]
- 'chase** *n* 1 a groove cut in a surface for a pipe, wire, etc 2 the part of a cannon enclosing the barrel between the trunnions and the mouth of the muzzle [F *chas* eye of a needle, fr LL *capsus* enclosed space, fr L, cage, alter. of *capsa* box – more at *'CASE*]
- 'chase** *n* a rectangular steel or iron frame into which printing type or blocks are locked for printing or platemaking [prob fr F *chasse* frame, fr L *capsa*]
- chaser** /'chaysə/ *n* 1 a glass or swallow of a mild drink (e.g. beer) taken after spirits; also a drink of spirits taken after a mild drink (e.g. beer) 2 a horse that is a steeplechaser ['CHASE + *-ER*]
- chasm** /'kəz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a deep cleft in the earth 2 an apparently unbridgeable gap (a political ~ between the 2 countries) [L *chasma*, fr Gk; akin to L *hiare* to yawn – more at *YAWN*]
- chasse** /'shasə/ *vi* or *n* **chassé** /'sha,say(ə)/ (to make) a sliding dance step resembling a glissade [In F, fr pp of *chasser* to chase; vb fr *n*]
- chassepot** /'shas,poh, 'shasa,poh/ *n* a breech-loading rifle closed with a sliding bolt and firing paper cartridges [F, fr Antoine Chassepot †1905 F inventor]
- chassis** /'shasi/ *n*, pl **chassis** /'shasiz/ 1 a supporting framework for the body of a vehicle (e.g. a car) 2 the frame on which the electrical parts of a radio, television, etc are mounted [F *châssis*, fr (assumed) VL *capsicum*, fr L *capsa* box – more at *'CASE*]
- chaste** /'chayst/ *adj* 1 abstinent from (unlawful or immoral) sexual intercourse; celibate 2 pure in thought and act; modest 3 severely simple in design or execution; austere (<he wrote in a pure ~ style) [ME, fr OF, fr L *castus* pure – more at *CASTE*] – **chastely** *adv*, **chasteness** *n*, **chastity** /'chastiti/ *n*
- chasten** /'chays(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to correct by punishment or suffering; discipline 2 to subdue, restrain [alter. of obs *chaste* (to chasten), fr ME *chasten*, fr OF *chastier*, fr L *castigare*, fr *castus* + *-igare* (fr *agere* to drive) – more at *AGENT*] – **chastener** *n*
- chastise** /'chas'tiez/ *vt* 1 to inflict punishment on, esp by whipping 2 to subject to severe reproof or criticism [ME *chastisen*, alter. of *chasten*] – **chastisement** *n*, **chastiser** *n*
- 'chastity belt** /'chastiti/ *n* a device consisting of a belt with an attachment passing between the legs, designed to prevent sexual intercourse on the part of the woman wearing it
- chasuble** /'chazyuubl/ *n* a sleeveless outer vestment worn by the officiating priest at mass  **GARMENT** [F, fr LL *casubla* hooded garment]
- 'chat** /'chat/ *vi* -tt- to talk in an informal or familiar manner [ME *chatten*, short for *chatteren*]
- 'chat** *n* 1 (an instance of) light familiar talk; esp (a) conversation 2 a stonechat, whinchat, or related bird [(2) prob imit.]
- château** /'shato:/ *n*, pl **châteaux**, **châteaux** /'shato:z/ 1 a feudal castle or large country house in France 2 a French vineyard estate [F, fr OF *chastel*, fr L *castellum* castle]
- châtelain** /'shata,layn/ *n* a castellan [MF *châtelain*, fr L *castellanus* occupant of a castle]
- châtelaine** /'shata,layn/ *n* 1 the mistress of a castle or large house 2 a clasp with a short chain formerly used to attach small articles (e.g. keys) to a woman's belt [F *châtelaine*, fem of *châtelain*]
- chatoyant** /'sha'toyant/ *n* or *adj* (a gem) having a changeable lustre or colour [adj F, fr prp of *chatoyer* to shine like a cat's eyes; *n* fr adj] – **chatoyancy** *n*
- 'chat, show** /'chat/ *n* a radio or television programme in which people, esp celebrities, engage in discussion or are interviewed
- chattel** /'chatl/ *n* an item of personal property – usu in *goods and chattels* [ME *chattel* property, fr OF, fr ML *capitale* – more at *CATTLE*]
- 'chatter** /'chata/ *vi* 1 to produce rapid successive inarticulate sounds suggestive of language (<squirrels ~ed angrily) 2 to talk idly, incessantly, or fast; jabber 3a esp of teeth to click repeatedly or uncontrollably (e.g. from cold) b of a cutting tool (e.g. a drill) to vibrate rapidly whilst cutting [ME *chatteren*, of imit origin] – **chatterer** *n*
- 'chatter** *n* 1 the sound or (vibrating) action of chattering 2 idle talk; prattle
- 'chatterbox** /-boks/ *n* one who engages in much idle talk – *informal*
- chatty** /'chati/ *adj* 1 fond of chatting, talkative 2 having the style and manner of light familiar conversation (<a ~ letter) *USE* *informal* – **chattily** *adv*, **chattiness** *n*
- chat up** *vt*, *Br* to engage (sby) in friendly conversation for an ulterior motive, esp with amorous intent – *informal*
- chaudfroid** /'shoh'fwa/ *n* (a dish of cold meat, fish, etc cooked with) a creamy sauce containing aspic that sets to a jelly [F, lit., hot-cold, fr *chaud* hot (fr L *calidus*) + *froid* cold (fr L *frigidus*)]
- 'chauffeur** /'shoh'fuh, 'shoh'fa/ *n* a person employed to drive a private passenger-carrying motor vehicle, esp a car [F, lit., stoker, fr *chauffer* to heat, fr MF *chaufier* – more at *CHAFE*]
- 'chauffeur** *vi* to work as a chauffeur ~ *vt* to transport (a person) or drive (e.g. a car) as (if) a chauffeur
- chaumoogra** /'chaw'moohgɾə/ *n* any of several E Indian trees that yield an acrid oil formerly used in treating leprosy and skin diseases [Beng *caulmugra*]
- chauvinism** /'shoh'vɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 excessive or blind patriotism 2 undue attachment to one's group, cause, or place (<male ~) [F *chauvinisme*, fr Nicolas Chauvin fl 1815 F soldier of excessive patriotism and devotion to Napoleon] – **chauvinist** *n*, **chauvinistic** /-'nistɪk/ *adj*, **chauvinistically** *adv*
- chaw** /'chaw/ *vt* or *n*, *dial* (to) chew (esp a quid of tobacco) [by alter.]
- 'cheap** /'cheep/ *n* [ME *chep* bargain, fr OE *ceap* trade, akin to OHG *kouf* trade; both fr a prehistoric Gmc stem borrowed fr L *caupo* tradesman] – on the cheap at minimum expense; cheaply (<schools that are run on the cheap)
- 'cheap** *adj* 1a (relatively) low in price; esp purchasable below the market price or the real value b charging a low price (<a ~ supermarket) c depreciated in value (e.g. by currency inflation) (<~ dollars) 2 gained with little effort (<a ~ victory); esp gained by contemptible means (<~ laughs) (<~ thrill) 3a of inferior quality or worth, tawdry, sleazy b contemptible because of lack of any fine or redeeming qualities (<~ election gimmickry) 4 of money obtainable at a low rate of interest 5 *NAm* stingy – **cheap**, **cheaply** *adv*, **cheapish** *adj*, **cheapness** *n*
- cheapen** /'cheep(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become a cheap in price or value b lower in esteem c tawdry, vulgar, or inferior
- 'cheap-jack** /'jak/ *n* sby, esp a pedlar, who sells cheap wares [*cheap* + the name *Jack*]
- 'cheap-jack** *adj* 1 inferior, cheap, or worthless (<~ film companies) 2 characterized by unscrupulous opportunism (<~ speculators)
- cheapskate** /'cheepskayt/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a miserly or stingy person [*cheap* + *skate* (fellow, miser)]
- 'cheat** /'cheet/ *n* 1 a fraudulent deception; a fraud 2 one who cheats; a pretender, deceiver [earlier *cheat* forfeited property, fr ME *chet* escheat, short for *eschete* – more at *ESCHIEAT*]
- 'cheat** *vt* 1 to deprive of sth valuable by deceit or fraud 2 to influence or lead by deceit or fraud 3 to defeat the purpose or blunt the effects of (<~ winter of its dreariness – Washington Irving) ~ *vi* 1a to practise fraud or deception b to violate rules dishonestly (e.g. at cards or in an exam) 2 to be sexually unfaithful – usu + *on* – **cheater** *n*
- 'check** /'cek/ *n* 1 exposure of a chess king to an attack from which it must be protected or moved to safety – often used interjectionally 2 a sudden stoppage of a forward course or progress; an arrest 3 a sudden pause or break in a progression 4 one who or that which arrests, limits, or restrains; a restraint 5a a standard for testing and evaluation; a

- criterion **b** an inspection, examination, test, or verification **6a** (a square in) a pattern of squares (of alternating colours) **b** a fabric woven or printed with such a design **7** a crack or break, esp in a piece of timber **8** *NAM* a cheque **9a** chiefly *NAM* a ticket or token showing ownership or identity or indicating payment made (<a luggage ~>) **b** *NAM* a counter in various games **c** *NAM* a bill, esp for food and drink in a restaurant **10** *NAM* 'TICK 2 [ME *chek*, fr OF *eschec*, fr Ar *shah*, fr Per, lit, king; (6) ME *chek*, short for *cheker* *chequer*] – in *check* under restraint or control (<held the enemy in check>)
- 1** *check* *vt* **1** to put (a chess opponent's king) in check **2a** to slow or bring to a stop; brake **b** to block the progress of (e.g. an ice-hockey player) **3a** to restrain or diminish the action or force of, control **b** to ease off and then secure again (e.g. a rope) **4a** to compare with a source, original, or authority, verify **b** to inspect for satisfactory condition, accuracy, safety, or performance – sometimes + *out* or *over* **5** to mark into squares; *chequer* – usu in past part **6** chiefly *NAM* to note or mark with a tick – often + *off* **7a** *NAM* *check* in **2** **b** chiefly *NAM* to leave or accept for safekeeping in a cloakroom or left-luggage office – often + *in* **8** chiefly *dial* to rebuke, reprimand ~ *vi* **1a** of a dog to stop in a chase, esp when scent is lost **b** to halt through caution, uncertainty, or fear **2a** to investigate and make sure (<ed on the passengers' safety>) **b** chiefly *NAM* to correspond point for point, tally (<the description ~s with the photograph>) – often + *out* (<his story ~ed out>) – *checkable* *adj*, *checker* *n* – *check into* to check in at (<check into a hotel>) – *check up on* **1** to examine for accuracy or truth, esp in order to corroborate information (<check up on the facts>) **2** to make thorough inquiries about (<police checked up on her>)
- 1** *checker* /'tʃekə/ *n* **1** chiefly *NAM* a chequer **2** *NAM* a draughtsman [(2) back-formation fr *checkers*]
- 2** *checker* *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to *chequer*
- checkers* /'tʃekəz/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr*, *NAM* the game of draughts [*pl* of *checker* (chessboard), fr ME *cheker*, fr OF *eschecquier*, fr *eschec*]
- check in* *vi* to report one's presence or arrival, esp to arrive and register at a hotel or airport ~ *vt* **1** to return or accept the return of (<check in the equipment after use>) **2** to deposit (luggage) for transport, esp by air
- checklist* /'tʃek,lɪst/ *n* an inventory, catalogue; esp a complete list of checks to be made
- 1** *checkmate* /'tʃek,mayt/ *vt* **1** to thwart or counter completely **2** to check (a chess opponent's king) so that escape is impossible [ME *chekmaten*, fr *chekmate*, interj used to announce checkmate, fr MF *eschec mat*, fr Ar *shah māt*, fr Per, lit, the king is left helpless]
- 2** *checkmate* *n* **1a** the act of checkmating **b** the situation of a checkmated king **2** complete defeat *USE* (1) often used interjectionally
- checkout* /'tʃek,əwt/ *n* a cash desk equipped with a cash register in a self-service shop
- check out* *vi* to complete the formalities for leaving, esp at a hotel ~ *vt* to have the removal of (sthg) recorded (<check out a library book>)
- checkpoint* /'tʃek,pɔɪnt/ *n* a location where inspection (e.g. of travellers) may take place
- checkrein* /'tʃek,raɪn/ *n* a short rein attached from the bit to the saddle to prevent a horse from lowering its head
- checkroom* /'tʃek,ru:m, -room/ *n*, *NAM* a room in which luggage, parcels, or coats may be left for safekeeping
- checkup* /'tʃek,ʌp/ *n* a (general physical) examination
- checkweighman* /'tʃek,weɪmən, -man/ *n* a colliery worker employed on behalf of the miners to check the weighing of coal against company estimates
- Cheddar** /'tʃeda/ *n* a hard smooth-textured cheese with a flavour that ranges from mild to strong as the cheese matures [*Cheddar*, village in Somerset, England]
- 1** *cheek* /tʃi:k/ *n* **1** the fleshy side of the face below the eye and above and to the side of the mouth **2** either of 2 paired facing parts (e.g. the jaws of a vice) **3** insolent boldness; impudence **4** a buttock – *infml* [ME *cheke*, fr OE *céace*; akin to MLG *kake* jawbone]
- 2** *cheek* *vi* to speak rudely or impudently to – *infml*
- 1** *cheekbone* /-,boʊn/ *n* (the bone forming) the prominence below the eye
- cheek by 'jowl* *adv* very close together
- cheeked* *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) cheeks (<rosy-cheeked>)
- cheek pouch* *n* a pouch in the cheek of a monkey, hamster, etc for holding food
- cheeky** /tʃi:ki/ *adj* impudent, insolent ['tʃi:k + 'i-y] – *cheekily* *adv*, *cheekiness* *n*
- cheep** /tʃi:p/ *vi* or *n* (to utter) a faint shrill sound characteristic of a young bird [*imit*]
- 1** *cheer* /tʃiə/ *n* **1** state of mind or heart, spirit (<be of good ~ – Matthew 9 2(AV)>) **2** happiness, gaiety **3** sthg that gladdens **4** a shout of applause or encouragement [ME *chere* face, cheer, fr OF, face] – *cheerless* *adj*, *cheerlessly* *adv*, *cheerlessness* *n*
- 2** *cheer* *vt* **1a** to instil with hope or courage; comfort **b** to make glad or happy **2** to urge on or encourage, esp by shouts (<ed the team on>) **3** to applaud with shouts ~ *vi* **1** to grow or be cheerful; rejoice **2** to utter a shout of applause or triumph *USE* (vt 1; vi 1) usu + *up* – *cheerer* *n*
- 1** *cheerful* /-f(ə)l/ *adj* **1a** full of good spirits, merry **b** ungrudging (<~ obedience>) **2** conducive to good cheer; likely to dispel gloom (<a ~ sunny room>) – *cheerfully* *adv*, *cheerfulness* *n*
- cheerio* /,tʃiəri'oh/ *interj*, chiefly *Br* – used to express farewell [*cheery* + -o]
- 1** *cheerleader* /-,li:da/ *n* one, esp a female, who leads organized cheering (e.g. at a N American football game)
- cheers* /tʃiəz/ *interj* – used as a toast and sometimes as an informal farewell or expression of thanks
- cheery** /'tʃiəri/ *adj* marked by or causing good spirits; cheerful – *cheerily* *adv*, *cheeriness* *n*
- 1** *cheese* /tʃi:z/ *n* **1** (an often cylindrical cake of) a food consisting of coagulated, compressed, and usu ripened milk curds **2** sthg resembling cheese in consistency or a cylindrical cake of cheese **3** a fruit preserve with the consistency of cream cheese [ME *chese*, fr OE *cese*; akin to OHG *käsi* cheese; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *caseus* cheese; akin to OE *hwathernan* to foam, Skt *kvathati* he boils] – *cheesy* *adj*, *cheesiness* *n*
- 2** *cheese* *n* an important person, a boss – slang; chiefly in *big cheese* [prob fr Hindi *chiz* thing, fr Per]
- 1** *cheese cake* /-,kayk/ *n* **1** a baked or refrigerated dessert consisting of a soft filling, usu containing cheese, in a biscuit or pastry case **2** a photographic display of shapely and scantily clothed female figures – *infml*, compare BEEFCAKE
- 1** *cheese cloth* /-,kloth/ *n* a very fine unsized cotton gauze [fr its use in cheesemaking]
- cheesed 'off* *adj*, chiefly *Br* browned-off – slang [prob fr *cheese* (to stop, run away)]
- cheesehead** /'tʃi:z,hed/ *adj*, of a screw or bolt having a squat cylindrical head
- cheeseparing** /'tʃi:z,pə:ɪŋ/ *n* miserly or petty economizing; stinginess – *cheeseparing* *adj*
- cheetah** /'tʃi:ta/ *n* a long-legged spotted swift-moving African and formerly Asiatic cat with nonretractile claws [Hindi *cita*, fr Skt *citrakāya* tiger, fr *citra* bright + *kaya* body]
- chef** /ʃef/ *n* a skilled cook; esp the chief cook in a restaurant or hotel [F, short for *chef de cuisine* head of the kitchen]
- chef d'oeuvre** /,ʃay 'du:və/ (Fr *ʃe dœvʁ*) / *n*, *pl* *chefs d'oeuvre* / ~ / an (artistic or literary) masterpiece [F *chef-d'oeuvre*, lit., leading work]
- Chelalis** /tʃə'həɪlɪs/ *n*, *pl* *Chelalises*, esp collectively *Chelalis* a member, or the language, of an American Indian people of Washington in the NW USA [*Chelalis*, village in the state of Washington, USA]
- cheka** /'tʃeka/ *n*, often *cap* the Soviet secret police between 1917 and 1922 [Russ, fr *che* + *ka*, names of initial letters of *Chrezvychainaya Kommissiya* extraordinary commission]
- chela** /'keɪlə/ *n*, *pl* *chela* /-li/ a pincerlike claw of a crustacean (e.g. a crab) or arachnid (e.g. a scorpion) [NL, fr Gk *chelē* claw]
- 1** *chelate /'keɪlət/ *adj* **1** resembling or having *chela* **2** of or having a molecular structure in which a metal ion is held by 1 or more coordinate bonds – *chelate* /-ləɪt, -lət/ *n**
- 2** *chelate* *vb* to react (with) so as to form a chelate structure – *chelation* /'ki'ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 1** *Chelsea 'bun* /'tʃelsi/ *n* a sweet yeast-leavened bun containing currants, raisins, etc and shaped in a flat coil [*Chelsea*, district of London]
- 1** *Chelsea 'pensioner* *n* a veteran or disabled soldier living at the Chelsea Royal Hospital
- chem-** /-kem-/ *chemo-* also *chemi-* *comb form* **1** chemical; chemistry (<chemotherapy>) (<chemotaxis>) **2** chemically (<chemisorb>) [NL, fr LGk *khēmeia* alchemy, prob fr *chyma* fluid, fr *chein* to pour]
- 1** *chemical* /'kemɪkl/ *adj* **1** of, used in, or produced by chemistry **2** acting, operated, or produced by chemicals – *chemically* /'kemɪkli/ *adv*



**chemical** *n* a substance (e.g. an element or chemical compound) obtained by a chemical process or used for producing a chemical effect  
**chemical engineering** *n* engineering dealing with the industrial application of chemistry  
**chemical warfare** *n* warfare using poisonous or harmful chemicals  
**chemico-** *comb form* CHEM-1 <chemicophysical>  
**chemiluminescence** /ˌkemiˌlooˈmiːn(ə)s/ *n* light (e.g. bioluminescence) produced by chemical reaction [ISV] – **chemiluminescent** *adj*  
**chemin de fer** /ʃəˈmɑːn də ˈfeː/ (Fr ʃəˈmɑːn də ˈfeː) *n, pl chemins de fer* /~/ a card game resembling baccarat in which only 2 hands are dealt and any number of players may bet against the dealer [F, lit., railway]  
**chemise** /ʃəˈmeɪz/ *n* 1 a woman's one-piece undergarment 2 a usu loose straight-hanging dress [ME, fr OF, shirt, fr LL *camisia*]  
**chemisorb** /ˌkemiˈsɔːb/, **chemosorb** /ˌkema-/ *vt* to take up and hold, usu irreversibly, by chemical forces [chem- + -sorb (as in adsorb)] – **chemisorption** /ˌˈsɔːpʃ(ə)n/, -ˈzaw-/ *n*  
**chemist** /ˈkemɪst/ *n* 1 one who is trained in chemistry 2 Br (a pharmacist, esp in) a retail shop where medicines and miscellaneous articles (e.g. cosmetics and films) are sold [NL *chimista*, short for ML *alchimista* alchemist]  
**chemistry** /ˈkemɪstri/ *n* 1 a science that deals with the composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the transformations they undergo 2a the composition and chemical properties of a substance b chemical processes and phenomena (e.g. of an organism) <blood ~>  
**chemmy** /ˈʃemi/ *n* CHEMIN DE FER [by shortening & alter]  
**chemo-** – see CHEM-  
**chemoreceptor** /ˌkeɪmohˌseptə, ke-/ *n* a sense organ (e.g. a taste bud) that responds to chemical stimuli [ISV] – **chemoreception** /-ˌnˌseptʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**chemosphere** /ˌkemaˈsfɪə/ *n* the mesosphere  
**chemotaxis** /ˌkeɪmohˈtaksɪs, ke-/ *n* orientation or movement of an organism in relation to chemical agents [NL] – **chemotactic** /-ˌtaktɪk/ *adj*  
**chemotherapy** /ˌkeɪmohˈtherəpi, ke-/ *n* the use of chemical agents in the treatment or control of disease [ISV] – **chemotherapeutic** /-ˌtherəˈpyoʊtɪk/ *adj*, **chemotherapist** /-ˌtherəpɪst/ *n*  
**chemotropism** /ˌkeɪˈmotrəˌpɪz(ə)m, keɪˈmotrəˌpɪz(ə)m/ *n* orientation of cells or organisms (e.g. bacteria) in relation to chemical stimuli [ISV] – **chemotropic** /ˌkeɪmohˈtrɒpɪk, ke-/ *adj*  
**chenille** /ʃəˈneɪl/ *n* a (wool, cotton, silk, or rayon) yarn with protruding pile; also a fabric with a pile face and a chenille yarn weft [F, lit., caterpillar, fr L *canicula*, dim. of *canis* dog; fr its hairy appearance – more at HOUND]  
**cheongsam** /ˈtʃɒŋɡˌsɑːm/ *n* a dress with a slit skirt and a mandarin collar worn esp by oriental women [Chin (Cant) *ch'ung shaam*, lit., long gown]  
**cheque** /ˈtʃek/ *n*, chiefly Br a written order for a bank to pay money as instructed; also a printed form on which such an order is usually written [alter. of *check*]  
**chequebook** /-ˌbʊk/ *n* a book containing unwritten cheques  
**cheque card** *n* a card issued to guarantee that the holder's cheques up to a specific amount will be honoured by the issuing bank  
**chequer**, chiefly NAm checker /ˈtʃekə/ *n* CHECK 6a [ME *cheker*, fr OF *eschequier*, fr *eschec* check]  
**chequer**, chiefly NAm checker *vt* 1 to variegate with different colours or shades; esp to mark with squares of (2) alternating colours 2 to vary with contrasting elements or situations (a ~ ed career) USE usu in past part  
**cherish** /ˈtʃerɪʃ/ *vt* 1a to hold dear; feel or show affection for b to keep or cultivate with care and affection; nurture 2 to keep in the mind deeply and with affection <still ~ es that memory> [ME *cherissen*, fr MF *cheriss-*, stem of *cherir* to cherish, fr OF, fr *chier* dear, fr L *carus* – more at CHARITY] – **cherishable** *adj*  
**chernozem** /ˌtʃuːhnoˈzem, -ˈzɒm/ *n* a dark-coloured humus-rich soil found in temperate to cool climates [Russ, lit., black earth]  
**Cherokee** /ˌtʃerəˈkeɪ/ *n, pl* *Cherokees*, esp collectively *Cherokee* (a member or the Iroquoian language of) a N American Indian people orig of Tennessee and N Carolina → LANGUAGE [prob fr Creek *tsiloki* people of a different speech]  
**cheroot** /ʃəˈroʊt/ *n* a cigar cut square at both ends [Tamil *curuttu*, lit., roll]  
**cherry** /ˈtʃeri/ *n* 1 (the wood or small pale yellow to deep red or blackish fruit of) any of numerous trees and shrubs of the rose family, often cultivated for their fruit or ornamental flowers 2 light red [ME *chery*,

fr ONF *cherise* (taken as a plural), fr LL *ceresia*, fr L *cerasus* cherry tree, fr Gk *kerasos* – more at CORNEL] – **cherry** *adj*, **cherrylike** *adj*  
**chersonese** /ˈkuːhsəˌneɪz, -ˌneɪs/ *n* a peninsula – chiefly poetic [L *chersonesus*, fr Gk *chersonesos*, fr *chersos* dry land + *nesos* island]  
**chert** /tʃuːt/ *n* a flintlike silica [origin unknown] – **cherty** *adj*  
**cherub** /ˈtʃerəb/ *n, pl* *cherubs*, (1) *cherubim* /ˈtʃerəbɪm/ 1 a biblical attendant of God or of a holy place, often represented as a being with large wings, a human head, and an animal body 2a a beautiful usu winged child in painting and sculpture b an innocent-looking usu chubby and pretty person [L, fr Gk *cheroub*, fr Heb *kérubb*] – **cherubic** *adj*  
**chervil** /ˈtʃuhvɪl/ *n* an aromatic plant of the carrot family whose leaves are used as a herb [ME *cherville*, fr OE *cerfille*, akin to OHG *kervila* chervil]  
**chess** /tʃes/ *n* a game for 2 players each of whom moves his/her 16 chessmen according to fixed rules across a chessboard and tries to checkmate his/her opponent's king [ME *ches*, fr OF *eschec*, acc pl of *eschec* check at chess – more at CHECK]  
**chessboard** /-ˌbɔːd/ *n* a board used in chess, draughts, etc that is divided into usu 64 equal squares of 2 alternating colours  
**chessman** /-ˌmæn/ *n, pl* *chessmen* /-ˌmæn, -ˌmen/ any of the pieces (1 king, 1 queen, 2 rooks, 2 bishops, 2 knights, and 8 pawns) used by each side in playing chess  
**chest** /tʃest/ *n* 1a a box with a lid used esp for the safekeeping of belongings b a usu small cupboard used esp for storing medicines or first-aid supplies c a case in which a commodity (e.g. tea) is shipped 2 the part of the body enclosed by the ribs and breastbone [ME, fr OE *cest*, akin to OHG & ON *kista* chest] – **chestful** *n*  
**cheated** /-ˌtʃeɪtɪd/ *comb form* ( + *adj*) having (such) a chest <flat-cheated> <deep-cheated>  
**chesterfield** /ˈtʃestəˌfiːld/ *n* a heavily padded usu leather sofa [prob fr a 19th-c Earl of *Chesterfield*]  
**chestnut** /ˈtʃes(t)ˌnʊt/ *n* 1 (the nut or wood of) a tree or shrub of the beech family, esp SPANISH CHESTNUT 2 reddish brown 3 HORSE CHESTNUT 4 a chestnut-coloured animal, specif a horse 5 the small callus on the inner side of a horse's leg → ANATOMY 6 an often repeated joke or story, broadly anything repeated excessively [ME *chasteine*, *chesten* chestnut tree, fr MF *chastaigne*, fr L *castanea* fr Gk *kastanea*]  
**chestnut** *adj* of the colour chestnut  
**chest of drawers** /ˌdɹɔːz/ *n* a piece of furniture containing a set of drawers (e.g. for holding clothes)  
**cheaty** /ˈtʃeɪti/ *adj* 1 of, inclined to, symptomatic of, or suffering from disease of the chest (a ~ cough) – not used technically 2 having prominent breasts – slang  
**cheval glass** /ʃəˈvɑːl/ *n* a full-length mirror in a frame by which it may be tilted [F *cheval* horse, support]  
**chevalier** /ˌʃeɪvəˈliːə/ *n* a member of certain orders of merit (e.g. the French Legion of Honour) [F, knight, horseman, fr MF, fr LL *caballarius* – more at CAVALLIER]  
**cheviot** /ˈtʃeɪviət, -ˌtʃe-/ *n* 1 often *cap* any of a breed of hardy hornless sheep 2 a fabric made from the wool of cheviot sheep [Cheviot hills, England and Scotland]  
**chevron** /ˈʃeɪvrən/ *n* a figure, pattern, or object having the shape of an (inverted) V, esp a sleeve badge that usu consists of 1 or more chevron-shaped stripes and indicates the wearer's rank → ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr MF, rafter, chevron, fr (assumed) VL *capron-*, *caprio* rafter; akin to L *caper* goat]  
**chevrotain** /ˌʃeɪvrəˈtɪn, -ˌtɪn/ *n* any of several very small hornless ruminant mammals of tropical Asia and W Africa [F, dim of *chevrot* kid, fawn, fr MF, dim. of *chèvre* goat, fr L *capra* she-goat, fem of *capr-*, *caper* he-goat]  
**chew** /tʃuː/ *vb* to crush, grind, or gnaw (esp food) (as if) with the teeth [ME *chewen*, fr OE *cēowan*; akin to OHG *kiuwan* to chew, OSlav *živati*] – **chewable** *adj*, **chewer** *n*, **chewy** *adj*  
**chew** *n* 1 the act of chewing 2 sth for chewing (a ~ of tobacco)  
**chewing gum** /ˌtʃuːhɪŋ-ɪŋ/ *n* a flavoured usu sweetened insoluble material (e.g. chicle) for chewing  
**chew over** *vt* to meditate on; think about reflectively – *infrml*  
**Cheyenne** /ˌʃiːˈæn, -ˈen/ *n, pl* *Cheyennes*, /~/ esp collectively *Cheyenne* (a member or the language of) a N American Indian people of the W plains of the USA [CanF, fr Dakota *Shaiyena*, fr *shaiya* to speak strangely]  
**chez** /ʃeɪ/ *prep* at or to the home of [F]  
**chi** /kiː/ *n* the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *chei*]  
**chick** /ˈtʃiːk/ *vb*, chiefly Austr to make derisive remarks (about) [alter. of *chi-hike*, *chi-ike* (a shout of greeting or derision)] – **chick** *n*



**Chianti** /ki'anti/ *n* a dry (red) Italian table wine [It, fr *Chianti*, district of Tuscany, Italy]

**chiao** /chow/ *n*, *pl* **chiao** /~ / a jiao [Chin (Pek) *chiao*]

**chiaroscuro** /kɪ.ə'ro'skoʊrə/ *n*, *pl* **chiaroscuros** 1 pictorial representation in terms of light and shade 2 the arrangement or treatment of light and shade in a painting [It, fr *chiaro* clear, light + *oscuro* obscure, dark]

**chiasma** /ki'azmə/ *n*, *pl* **chiasmata** /-mə/ an anatomical cross-shaped configuration, esp that between paired chromatids considered to be the point where genetic material is exchanged [NL, X-shaped form, fr Gk, crosspiece, fr *chiazem* to mark with a chi, fr *chi* (x)] - **chiasmie**, **chiasmatic** /kee-ə'matik/ *adj*

**chibouk**, **chibouque** /chi'boʊk/ *n* a long-stemmed Turkish tobacco pipe [F *chibouque*, fr Turk *çibuk*]

**chic** /sheek, shik/ *adj* or *n* (having or showing) elegance and sophistication, esp of dress or manner [F] - **chicly** *adv*, **chicness** *n*

**chicane** /shi'kayn/ *n* 1 a series of tight turns in opposite directions in an otherwise straight stretch of a road-racing course 2 a hand of cards containing no trumps [F, deception, obstacle, fr MF, fr *chicaner* to quibble, obstruct justice]

**chicanery** /shi'kayn(ə)r/ *n* 1 deception by the use of fallacious or irrelevant arguments 2 a piece of sharp practice or legal trickery - **chicane** *vb*

**chichi** /shee,shē/ *adj* or *n* 1 showy, frilly, or elaborate (ornamentation) 2 unnecessarily elaborate or affected (behaviour, style, etc) [F]

**chick** /chik/ *n* 1 a young bird; esp a (newly hatched) chicken 11FF CYC1F 2 a young woman - slang [short for *chicken*]

**chicken** /'tʃɪkɪn/ *n* 1 the common domestic fowl, esp when young, also its flesh used as food 2 a young person - chiefly in *he/she is no chicken* 3a a contest in which the participants put themselves in danger to see who is most brave b a coward - slang **USE** (2&3a) *infrm* [ME *chiken*, fr OE *cicēn* young chicken, akin to OE *cocc* cock]

**chicken** *adj* scared - *infrm*

**chicken feed** *n* a small and insignificant amount, esp of money - *infrm*

**chickenhearted** /-hahtɪd/ *adj* timid, cowardly

**chicken-livered** *adj* timid, cowardly

**chicken out** *vi* to lose one's nerve - *infrm*

**chicken pox** /pɒks/ *n* an infectious virus disease, esp of children, that is marked by mild fever and a rash of small blisters

**chicken wire** *n* a light galvanized wire netting with a hexagonal mesh [fr its use for making enclosures for chickens]

**chick-pea** /chik.pee/ *n* (the hard edible seed of) an Asiatic leguminous plant [by folk etymology fr ME *chiche*, fr MF, fr L *cicer*]

**chickweed** /chik.weəd/ *n* any of various low-growing small-leaved plants of the pink family that occur commonly as weeds

**chicle** /'tʃɪkl/ *n* a gum from the latex of the sapodilla used as the chief ingredient of chewing gum [Sp, fr Nahuatl *chicatl*]

**chicory** /'tʃɪk(ə)rɪ/ *n* a usu blue-flowered European perennial composite plant widely grown for its edible thick roots and as a salad plant, also the ground roasted root used as a coffee additive [ME *cicoree*, fr MF *cichorée*, *chicorée*, fr L *cichoreum*, fr Gk *kichoreia*]

**chide** /'tʃɪd/ *vb* **chid** /'tʃɪd/, **chided**; **chid**, **chidden** /'tʃɪd(ə)n/, **chided** to rebuke (sby) angrily, scold [ME *chiden*, fr OE *cidan* to quarrel, *chide*, fr *cid* strife] - **chidingly** *adv*

**chief** /cheef/ *n* 1 (a broad band across) the upper part of a heraldic field 2 the head of a body of people or an organization; a leader (< ~ of police> [ME, fr OF, head, chief, fr L *caput* head - more at **HEAD**] - **chiefdom** /-d(ə)m/, **chiefship** *n*

**chief** *adj* 1 accorded highest rank or office (< ~ librarian> 2 of greatest importance or influence (< the ~ reasons>)

**chief justice** *n* the presiding judge of a supreme court of justice (e.g. the US Supreme Court)

**chiefly** /'tʃi:fli/ *adv* 1 most importantly; principally, especially 2 for the most part; mostly, mainly

**chief master sergeant** *n* 11FF RANK

**chief of staff** *n* the senior officer of an armed forces staff that serves a commander

**chief petty officer** *n* 11FF RANK

**chieftain** /'tʃi:ftən/, *fem* **chieftainess** /-nes/ *n* a chief, esp of a band, tribe, or clan [ME *chieftaine*, fr MF *chevetain*, fr LL *capitaneus* chief - more at **CAPTAIN**] - **chieftainship** *n*

**chieftaincy** /'tʃi:ftənsɪ/ *n* 1 the rank, dignity, office, or rule of a chieftain 2 a region or a people ruled by a chief

**chief technician** *n* 11FF RANK

**chief warrant officer** *n* 11FF RANK

**chiffchaff** /'tʃɪf,tʃaf/ *n* a small greyish European warbler [imit]

**chiffon** /'ʃɪfən, -/-/ *n* a sheer (silk) fabric [F, lit, rag, fr *chiffe* old rag, alter. of MF *chipe*, fr ME *chip* chip]

**chiffonier** /'ʃɪfə'niə/ *n* a high narrow chest of drawers [F *chiffonnier*, fr *chiffon*]

**chigger** /'tʃɪgə/ *n* a chigoe [by alter]

**chignon** /'ʃɪ'njən, 'shee-/ *n* a usu large smooth knot of hair worn esp at the nape of the neck [F, fr MF *chaignon* chain, collar, nape]

**chigoe** /'ʃi:go/ *n* 1 a tropical flea, the female of which burrows under the skin 2 HARVEST MITE [of Cariban origin; akin to Galibi *chico* chigoe]

**Chihuahua** /chi'wah-wə/ *n* a very small round-headed large-eared dog of Mexican origin [MexSp, fr *Chihuahua*, state & city in Mexico]

**chilblain** /'tʃɪl,blayn/ *n* an inflammatory sore, esp on the feet or hands, caused by exposure to cold ['*chill* + *blain*]

**child** /'tʃɪld/ *n*, *pl* **children** /'tʃɪldrən/ 1 an unborn or recently born person 2a a young person, esp between infancy and youth b a childlike or childish person c(1) a person not yet of (a legally specified) age (2) sby under the age of 14 - used in English law, compare YOUNG PERSON 3a a son or daughter (<left the estate to her ~ ren>) b a descendant (<the Children of David>) 4 one strongly influenced by another or by a place or state of affairs (<a ~ of the depression>) 5 a product, result (<dreams, which are the ~ ren of an idle brain - Shak>) [ME, fr OE *cild*, akin to Goth *kilthei* womb, Skt *jāthara* belly] - **childless** *adj*, **childlessness** *n* - with child of a woman PREGNANT 3

**child benefit** *n* a (weekly) allowance paid through the post office for each child in a family

**childbirth** /-bʊhθ/ *n* parturition

**childe** /'tʃɪld/ *n*, often *cap*, *archaic* a young man of noble birth [var of *child*]

**childhood** /'tʃɪld,hʊd/ *n* 1 the state or period of being a child 2 an early period in the development of sthg (<there was a ~ of religion as there was a ~ of science - TLS>)

**childish** /'tʃɪldɪʃ/ *adj* 1 of or befitting a child or childhood 2 marked by or suggestive of immaturity (<a ~ spiteful remark>) - **childishly** *adv*, **childishness** *n*

**childlike** /'tʃɪld,lɪk/ *adj* marked by innocence and trust [CHILD + -LIKE]

**childly** /'tʃɪldli/ *adj* childlike - poetic

**childminder** /'tʃɪld,mɪndə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* one who looks after other people's children, esp when both parents are at work - **childminding** *n*

**childproof** /'tʃɪld,pru:ft/ *n* not liable to damage or misuse by children, specif designed to be impossible for children to open (<a ~ lock>)

**Children of Israel** *n pl* the Jewish people

**child's play** *n* an extremely simple task or act

**Chile pine** /'tʃɪli/ *n* a monkey puzzle [Chile, country in S America]

**Chile salt petre** /sawlt'petə/ *n* (naturally occurring) sodium nitrate

**chilled** /'tʃɪlɪd/ *n* 1 a group of 1000 2 a period of 1000 years [LL *chiliad*-, *chilas*, fr Gk, fr *chiloi* thousand - more at **MILE**]

**chiliasm** /'tʃɪlɪ.az(ə)m/ *n* MILLENARIANISM 1 [NL *chiliasmus*, fr LL *chilastes* one who believes in chiliasm, fr *chilas*] - **chiliast** /-ast/ *n*, **chilastic** /-astɪk/ *adj*

**chill** /'tʃɪl/ *vi* 1 to become cold 2 to catch a chill 3 of a metal to become surface-hardened by sudden cooling ~ *vt* 1a to make cold or chilly b to make (esp food or drink) cool, esp without freezing 2 to affect as if with cold; dispirit 3 to harden the surface of (metal) by sudden cooling [ME *chillen*, fr *chile* cold, frost, fr OE *cele*; akin to OE *ceald* cold] - **chillingly** *adv*

**chill** *adj* CHILLY 1, 2 - **chillness** *n*

**chill** *n* 1a a (disagreeable) sensation of coldness b COMMON COLD 2 a moderate but disagreeable degree of cold 3 coldness of manner (<felt the ~ of his opponent's stare>)

**chilli**, **chili** /'tʃɪli/ *n*, *pl* **chillies**, **chilies** the pod of a hot pepper used either whole or ground as a pungent condiment - compare CAYENNE PEPPER [Sp *chile*, fr Nahuatl *chilli*]

**chilly** /'tʃɪli/ *adj* 1 noticeably (unpleasantly) cold 2 lacking warmth of feeling; distant, unfriendly 3 tending to arouse fear or apprehension (<~ details>) - **chilliness** *n*

**Chiltern Hundreds** /'tʃɪltən/ *n pl* a nominal office for which an MP applies in order to resign his/her seat [Chiltern Hundreds, district of Buckinghamshire, England, whose stewardship is a nominal office]

- chimaera** /ki'miə, kie-/ *n* 1 any of a family of marine cartilaginous fishes with a tapering tail 2 a chimera [(1) NL, genus name, fr L, chimera]
- 'chime** /chiem/ *n* 1a a musically tuned set of bells b a set of objects (e.g. hanging metal bars or tubes) that sound like bells when struck 2a the sound of a set of bells - usu pl with sing. meaning b a musical sound like that of bells [ME, cymbal, fr OF *chime*, fr L *cymbalum*]
- 'chime** *vi* 1 to make the sounds of a chime 2 to be or act in accord <the music and the mood ~d well together> ~ *vt* 1 to cause to chime 2 to signal or indicate by chiming <the clock ~d midnight> - **chimer** *n*
- 'chime** /chiem/, **chimb** /chim/ *n* the projecting rim of a barrel [ME *chimb*, fr OE *cimb*; akin to OE *camb* comb]
- chime in** *vi* 1 to break into a conversation or discussion, esp in order to express an opinion 2 to combine harmoniously - often + *with*
- chimera** /ki'miə, kie-/ *n* 1a *cap* a fire-breathing female mythological monster that had a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail b an imaginary monster made up of incongruous parts 2a an illusion or fabrication of the mind; esp an unrealizable dream b a terror that exists only in the mind 3 an individual, organ, or part consisting of tissues of diverse genetic constitution and occurring esp in plants and most frequently at a graft union [L *chimaera*, fr Gk *chimaira* she-goat, chimera; akin to Gk *cheimōn* winter - more at HIBERNATE] - **chimeric**, /ki'merik, kie-/ **chimera** *adj*, **chimera** *adv*
- chimney** /chimni/ *n* 1 a vertical structure incorporated into a building and enclosing a flue or flues for carrying off smoke; esp the part of such a structure extending above a roof 2 a structure through which smoke and gases (e.g. from a furnace or steam engine) are discharged 3 a tube, usu of glass, placed round a flame (e.g. of an oil lamp) to serve as a shield 4 a narrow cleft, vent, etc (e.g. in rock) ➔ GEOGRAPHY [ME, fr MF *cheminée*, fr LL *caminata*, fr L *caminus* furnace, fireplace, fr Gk *kaminos*, akin to Gk *kamara* vault]
- 'chimney breast** *n* the wall that encloses a chimney and projects into a room
- 'chimney corner** *n* a seat by or within a large open fireplace
- 'chimney piece** /-pees/ *n* a mantelpiece
- 'chimney pot** *n* a usu earthenware pipe at the top of a chimney
- 'chimney stack** *n* 1 a masonry, brickwork, etc chimney rising above a roof and usu containing several flues 2 a tall chimney, typically of circular section, serving a factory, power station, etc
- 'chimney sweep** *n* one whose occupation is cleaning soot from chimney flues
- chimp** /chimp/ *n* a chimpanzee - *in*fm
- chimpanzee** /chimpan'zee/ *n* a tree-dwelling anthropoid ape of equatorial Africa that is smaller and less fierce than the gorilla [Kongo dial *chimpanzi*]
- chin** /chin/ *n* the lower portion of the face lying below the lower lip and including the prominence of the lower jaw [ME, fr OE *cinn*; akin to OHG *kinni* chin, L *gena* cheek, Gk *genys* jaw, cheek]
- china** /chiə/ *n* 1 porcelain; also vitreous porcelain ware (e.g. dishes and vases) for domestic use 2 chinaware; broadly crockery <set the table with the good ~> 3 chiefly Br BONE CHINA [Per *chini* Chinese porcelain]
- 'china clay** *n* kaolin
- chinagraph** /chiə'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* a pencil that will write on china or glass
- chinaman** /'chiəmə'n/ *n* 1 a ball bowled by a slow left-hander in cricket that breaks from the off to the leg side on bouncing as viewed by a right-handed batsman 2 *cap* a native of China - derog [(1) perh from bowling of this type by Ellis Achong b1904 Chinese-born West Indian cricketer]
- 'China town** /-town/ *n* the Chinese quarter of a city
- 'china ware** /-weə/ *n* tableware made of china
- chinchilla** /'chin'chilə/ *n* 1 (the soft pearly-grey fur of) a S American rodent the size of a large squirrel ➔ ENDANGERED 2 (any of) a breed of domestic rabbit with long white or greyish fur; also (any of) a breed of cat with similar fur [Sp]
- chin-chin** /'chin'chin/ *interj*, Br - used as an informal greeting, farewell, or toast [Chin (Pek) *ch'ing* 'ch'ing 'ch'ing 'ch'ing', phrase of salutation]
- Chindit** /'chindit/ *n* a member of an Allied force fighting behind Japanese lines in Burma during WWII [Burmese *chinthé* fabulous lionlike animal]
- 'chine** /chiem/ *n*, Br a steep-sided ravine, esp in Dorset or the Isle of Wight [ME, crack, chasm, fr OE *cine*, *cinu*; akin to OE *cinan* to gape, crack]
- 'chine** *n* 1 (a cut of meat including the whole or part of) the backbone 2 a (mountain) ridge 3 the intersection of the bottom and sides of a boat [ME, fr MF *eschine*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *scina* shinbone, needle - more at SHIN]
- 'chine** *vt* to separate the backbone from the ribs of (a joint of meat), also to cut through the backbone of (a carcass)
- Chinese** /'chi:neez/ *n*, pl **Chinese** 1 a native or inhabitant of China 2 a group of related Sino-Tibetan tone languages used by the people of China, specif Mandarin ➔ ALPHABET, LANGUAGE [China, country in Asia] - **Chinese** *adj*
- Chinese copy** *n* an exact imitation or duplicate that includes defects as well as desired qualities
- Chinese leaf** *n* either of 2 Asiatic types of cabbage widely used in oriental cookery
- Chinese puzzle** *n* an intricate or ingenious puzzle
- 'Chinese wall** *n* an apparently insurmountable barrier, esp a serious obstacle to understanding [Chinese Wall, a defensive wall built in the 3rd c bc between China and Mongolia]
- chinese water deer** *n* a small deer with no antlers that has become established in parts of Britain and France
- Chinese white** *n* a white zinc oxide pigment
- 'chink** /'chingk/ *n* 1 a small slit or fissure <a ~ in the curtain> 2 a means of evasion or escape; a loophole <a ~ in the law> [prob alter. of ME *chin*, *chine* crack, fissure - more at 'CHINE]
- 'chink** *n* a short sharp sound [imit] - **chink** *vb*
- Chink** *n* a native of China - derog [alter. of *Chinese*]
- chinless** /'chinlis/ *adj*, Br lacking firmness of purpose, ineffectual - *in*fm [CHIN + -LESS]
- Chino-** *comb form* Chinese and <Chino-Japanese> - compare SINO-
- chinoiserie** /shee'nwə'zəri, -'zi-/ *n* (an object or decoration in) a style in art and interior design that copies Chinese features or motifs [F, fr *chinois* Chinese, fr *Chine* China]
- chinook** /shə'nook, also chi'noohk, -'nook/ *n* 1 a warm moist southwesterly wind of the NW coast of the USA 2 a warm dry westerly wind of the E slopes of the Rocky mountains [Chehalis *Tsinúk* a member of an American Indian people of Oregon]
- Chinook Jargon** *n* a mixture of American Indian languages, French, and English, formerly used as a lingua franca in the NW USA and in W Canada and Alaska
- chintz** /'chints/ *n* a (glazed) printed plain-weave fabric, usu of cotton [earlier *chints*, pl of *chint*, fr Hindi *chir*]
- chintzy** /'chintzi/ *adj* 1 made or decorated (as if) with chintz 2 gaudy, cheap
- 'chin-wag** *n* a conversation, chat - *in*fm
- 'chip** /chip/ *n* 1a a small usu thin and flat piece (e.g. of wood or stone) cut, struck, or flaked off b a small thin slice or piece of fruit, chocolate, etc 2 a counter used as a token for money in gambling games 3 a flaw left after a chip is removed 4 (the small piece of semiconductor, esp silicon, on which is constructed) an integrated circuit ➔ COMPUTER 5 CHIP SHOT 6a chiefly Br a strip of potato fried in deep fat b NAM & Austr 'CRISP [ME] - **chip off the old block** a child that resembles either of his/her parents - **chip on one's shoulder** a challenging, belligerent, or embittered attitude - **when the chips are down** when the crucial or critical point has been reached <when the chips are down you have only yourself to depend on>
- 'chip** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1a to cut or hew with an edged tool b(1) to cut or break (a small piece) from sthg (2) to cut or break a fragment from 2 to kick or hit (a ball, pass, etc) in a short high arc ➔ vi 1 to break off in small pieces 2 to play a chip shot
- 'chip board** /-bawd/ *n* an artificial board made from compressed wood chips and glue
- 'chip in** *vi* 1 to contribute <everyone chipped in for the gift> 2 to interrupt or add a comment to a conversation between other people ~ *vt* to contribute <chipped in £1 for the gift> USE *in*fm
- chipmunk** /'chip,mungk/ *n* any of numerous small striped American squirrels [alter. of earlier *chitmunk*, of Algonquian origin; akin to Ojibwa *atchimānō* squirrel]
- chipolata** /'chipə'ləhtə/ *n* a small thin sausage [F, fr It *cioppolata*, fr fem of *cioppato* with onions, fr *cipolla* onion, fr LL *cepus*, dim. of L *cepa* onion]
- Chippendale** /'chipəndəyl/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an 18th-c English furniture style characterized by graceful outline and fine ornamentation [Thomas Chippendale 1717-98 cabinet-maker & designer]
- chipper** /'chipə/ *adj* cheerful, bright [prob fr E dial. *kipper* (lively)]
- chippy** /'chipi/ *n* 1 a carpenter 2 Br a shop selling fish and chips USE *in*fm ['chip + -y]

**'chip, shot** *n* a short shot in golf that lofts the ball to the green and allows it to roll

**chir-** /kɪr-/ , **chiro-** *comb form* hand <chiropractic> [L, fr Gk *cheir-, chero-*, fr *cheir*, akin to Hitt *kesar* hand]

**chiral** /kɪərəl/ *adj*, *esp of a crystal or molecule* not able to be superimposed on its mirror image [*chir-* + *-al*; lit. handed, i.e. asymmetric] – **chirality** /ˈtʃɪrəlɪti/ *n*

**Chi-Rho** /kɪˈrɒh/ *n*, *pl* **Chi-Rhos** a Christian monogram and symbol formed from the first 2 letters (X and P) of the Greek word for *Christ* [*chi* + *rho*]

**chirography** /kɪˈrɒɡrəfi/ *n* handwriting, penmanship – **chirographer** *n*, **chirographic** /kɪˈrɒɡrəfɪk/, **chirographical** *adj*

**chiromancy** /kɪˈrɒmɑːnsi/ *n* palmistry [prob fr MF *chiromancie*, fr ML *chiromantia*, fr Gk *cheir- chir-* + *-manteia* -mancy – more at *-MANCY*] – **chiromancer** *n*

**chironomid** /kɪˈrɒnəmɪd/ *n* any of a family of nonbiting midges [deriv of Gk *chironomos* one who gestures with his hands]

**chiroprody** /kɪˈrɒpədi, shi-/ *n* the care and treatment of the human foot in health and disease [*chir-* + *pod-*, fr its original concern with both hands and feet] – **chiroprodist** *n*

**chiropractic** /kɪˈrɒpræktɪk/ *n* a system of healing disease that employs manipulation and adjustment of body structures (e.g. the spinal column) [*chir-* + Gk *praktikos* practical, operative – more at *PRACTICAL*] – **chiropractor** *n*

**chiropter** /kɪˈrɒptə/, **chiropteran** /-rən/ *n* 'BAT [deriv of Gk *cheir* hand + *pteron* wing – more at *PTEROPHYTES*] – **chiropteran** *adj*

**chirp** /tʃuɪp/ *vi* or *n* (to make or speak in a tone resembling) the characteristic short shrill sound of a small bird or insect [imit]

**chirpy** /tʃuɪpi/ *adj* lively, cheerful – infml [*CHIRP* + *-y*] – **chirpily** *adv*, **chirpiness** *n*

**chirr** /tʃuɪp/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the trilled sound characteristic of certain insects (e.g. a grasshopper) [imit]


**chirrup** /tʃɪrʌp/ *vi* or *n* (to) chirp [imit]

**chirurgieon** /kɪˈruːʒi(ə)n/ *n*, *archaic* a surgeon [ME *cirurgian*, fr OF *cirurgien*, fr *chirurgie* surgery]

**'chisel** /tʃɪzl/ *n* a metal tool with a cutting edge at the end of a blade used in dressing, shaping, or working wood, stone, metal, etc. [ME, fr ONF, prob alter of *chisor* goldsmith's chisel, fr (assumed) VL *caesorium* cutting instrument, fr L *caesus*, pp of *caedere* to cut – more at *CONCISE*]

**'chisel** *vb* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /tʃɪzl-/ *1* to cut or work (as if) with a chisel *2* to trick, cheat, or obtain (sthg) by cheating (<he's ~led me out of my prize> – slang – **chiseller** *n*

**'chiselled**, *NAM chiefly* **chiseled** sharply defined, clear-cut (<~ features>)

**'chi-square** /kɪ-/ , **chi-squared** *n* a statistic that indicates the agreement between a set of observed values and a set of values derived from a theoretical model  **SYMBOL**

**'chit** /tʃɪt/ *n* an immature often disrespectful young woman, usu of slight build (<a mere ~ of a girl> [ME *chitte* kitten, cub]

**'chit** *n* a small slip of paper with writing on it, *esp* an order for goods [Hindi *citthi*]

**chital** /tʃetl/ *n* **AXIS DEER** [Hindi *citāl*, fr Skt *citrala* variegated, fr *citra* spotted, bright]

**chitarra** /tʃetəˈrɒhni/ *n* a bass or contrabass of the lute family [It, aug of *chitarra* guitar, fr Gk *kithara* lyre]

**chitchat** /tʃɪtʃæt/ *vi* or *n* -tt- (to make) small talk; gossip – infml [redupl of *chat*]

**chitin** /ˈkiːtɪn/ *n* a horny polysaccharide that forms part of the hard outer covering of *esp* insects and crustaceans [F *chitine*, fr Gk *chiton* chiton, tunic] – **chitinous** *adj*

**chiton** /ˈkiːtɒn, -tɪn/ *n* any of an order of marine molluscs with a shell of many plates [NL, *genus name*, fr Gk *chiton* tunic, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *kuttoneth* tunic]

**chitterling** /tʃɪtəlɪŋ/ *n* a section of the smaller intestines of pigs, *esp* when prepared as food – usu pl [ME *chiterling*]

**chivalrous** /ʃɪv(ə)lɹəs/ *adj* *1* having the characteristics (e.g. valour or gallantry) of a knight *2* (characteristic) of knight-errantry *3a* honourable, generous *b* graciously courteous and considerate, *esp* to women [ME, fr MF *chevalereus*, fr *chevalier* horseman] – **chivalrously** *adv*, **chivalrousness** *n*

**chivalry** /ʃɪv(ə)lɹi/ *n* *1* the system, spirit, or customs of medieval knighthood *2* the qualities (e.g. courage, integrity, and consideration) of an ideal knight; chivalrous conduct *3* *archaic*, *sing* or *pl* in *constr*

mounted men-at-arms [ME *chivalrie*, fr OF *chevalerie*, fr *chevalier*] – **chivalric** /-rɪk/ *adj*

**chive** /tʃiːv/ *n* a perennial plant related to the onion and used *esp* to flavour and garnish food – usu pl with *sing.* meaning [ME, fr ONF, fr L *cepa* onion]

**chivvy, chivy** /tʃɪvi/ *vt* *1* to tease or annoy with persistent petty attacks; harass *2* to rouse to activity – often + *up* or *along* **USE** infml [prob fr E dial. *Chevy Chase* (chase, confusion), fr title of a ballad celebrating a battle in the Cheviot hills in 1388]

**chlamydomonas** /klamɪdɒˈmɒnəs/ *n* any of a genus of single-celled green algae that have 2 flagella and are common in fresh water [NL, *genus name*, fr L *chlamyd-*, *chlamys* mantle + NL *monas* monad]

**chlor-, chloro-** *comb form* *1* green <chlorophyll> <chlorosis> *2* (containing) chlorine <chloric> <chlorpromazine> [NL, fr Gk, fr *chlōros* greenish yellow – more at *YELLOW*]

**chloral 'hydrate**, **chloral** /ˈklɔːrəl/ *n* a synthetic drug used as a sedative and hypnotic

**chloramphenicol** /ˈklɔːrəmˈfɛnɪkəl/ *n* a broad-spectrum antibiotic used *esp* to treat typhoid fever [*chlor-* + *amid-* + *phen-* + *nitr-* + *glycol*]


**chlorate** /ˈklɔːrɪt/ *n* a salt containing the radical ClO<sub>2</sub>

**chlordane** /ˈklɔːrdaɪn/ *n* a chlorinated insecticide [*chlor-* + *indane* (an oily cyclic hydrocarbon)]

**chlordiazepoxide** /ˈklɔːrdɪəˌzɪˈpɒksɪd/ *n* a synthetic drug similar to diazepam and used *esp* as a tranquillizer and to treat the withdrawal symptoms of alcoholism – compare *LIBRIUM* [*chlor-* + *di-* + *az-* + *epoxide*]

**chlorella** /kloˈrelə/ *n* any of a genus of single-celled green algae [NL, *genus name*, fr Gk *chlōros*]

**chloride** /ˈklɔːrɪd/ *n* a compound of chlorine with another element or radical, *esp* a salt or ester of hydrochloric acid [G *chlōrd*, fr *chlor-* + *-id* -ide]

**chlorinate** /ˈklɔːrɪnaɪt/ *vt* to treat or cause to combine with (a compound of) chlorine – **chlorinator** *n*, **chlorination** *n* /ˈnɔːsh(ə)n/ **chlorine** /ˈklɔːrɪn/ *n* a halogen element that is isolated as a pungent heavy greenish yellow gas  **PERIODIC TABLE**

**chlorite** /ˈklɔːrɪt/ *n* a salt containing the radical ClO<sub>2</sub> [prob fr F, fr *chlor-*]

**chloro-** – see **CHLOR-**

**chloroform** /ˈklɔːrɒfɔːm/ *vi* or *n* (to anaesthetize with) a colourless volatile liquid used *esp* as a solvent and formerly as a general anaesthetic [n F *chloroforme*, fr *chlor-* + *formyle* formyl; fr its having been regarded as a trichloride of this radical; vb fr n]

**chlorohydrin** /ˈklɔːrɒhɪˈdrɪn/ *n* a chlorinated glycol or polyhydroxy alcohol [ISV, fr *chlor-* + *hydr-*]

**Chloromycetin** /ˈklɔːrɒmɪˈsetɪn/ *trademark* – used for chloramphenicol

**chlorophyll** /ˈklɔːrɒfɪl/ *n* *1* the green photosynthetic colouring matter of plants found in the chloroplasts *2* a waxy green chlorophyll-containing substance extracted from green plants and used as a colouring agent or deodorant [F *chlorophylle*, fr *chlor-* + Gk *phyllon* leaf – more at *BLADE*]

**chloroplast** /ˈklɔːrɒhpləst/ *n* a chlorophyll-containing organelle that is the site of photosynthesis and starch formation in plant cells [ISV]

**chloroquine** /ˈklɔːrɒhˌkweɪn/ *n* an antimalarial drug [*chlor-* + *quinoline*]

**chlorosis** /ˈklɔːrɒsɪs/ *n* *1* an iron-deficiency anaemia of young girls characterized by a greenish colour of the skin *2* a diseased condition in green plants marked by yellowing or blanching [NL] – **chlorotic** /ˈklɔːrɒtɪk/ *adj*

**chlorothiazide** /ˈklɔːrɒhˌθiːəˌzɪd/ *n* a thiazide diuretic drug used *esp* in the treatment of high blood pressure and oedema

**chlorous** /ˈklɔːrəs/ *adj* or obtained from (trivalent) chlorine

**chlorpromazine** /ˈklɔːrɒpˌrɒməˌzeɪn/ *n* a derivative of phenothiazine used widely as a tranquillizer, *esp* to suppress disturbed behaviour (e.g. in the treatment of schizophrenia) – compare *LARGACTIL* [*chlor-* + *propyl* + *methyl* + *phenothiazine*]

**chlorpropamide** /ˈklɔːrɒpˌrɒpəˌmɪd/ *n* a sulphonylurea drug taken orally to reduce blood sugar in the treatment of mild diabetes mellitus [*chlor-* + *propene* + *amide*]

**choc-ice** /tʃɒk ɪs/ *n*, *Br* a bar of ice cream covered in chocolate [short for *chocolate ice*]

**'chock** /tʃɒk/ *n* a wedge or block placed under a door, barrel, wheel, etc. to prevent movement [origin unknown]

- \*chock** *vt* 1 to provide, stop, or make fast (as if) with chocks 2 to raise or support on blocks
- \*chock** *adv* as closely or as completely as possible [*\*chock*]
- chock-a-block** /ˈtʃɒk ə ˈblɒk/ *adj* or *adv* tightly packed; in a very crowded condition [*chock* + 'a-on + *block*, orig the position of a tackle when both blocks are together]
- chocolate** /ˈtʃɒkəlɪt/ *n* 1 a paste, powder, or solid block of food prepared from (sweetened or flavoured) ground roasted cacao seeds 2 a beverage made by mixing chocolate with usu hot water or milk 3 a sweet made or coated with chocolate 4 dark brown [Sp, fr Nahuatl *xocolatl*] – *chocolate* *adj*
- \*chocolate-box** *adj* superficially pretty or sentimental (a ~ *painting of a farmhouse*) [fr the pictures commonly seen on boxes of chocolates]
- choctaw** /ˈtʃɒk.təw/ *n* a half turn in ice-skating from an edge of one foot to the opposite edge of the other foot – compare *MOHAWK* 2 [*Choctaw*, a N American Indian people]
- \*choice** /ˈtʃɔɪs/ *n* 1 the act of choosing, selection 2 the power of choosing; an option 3a sby or sthg chosen b the best part; the elite 4 a sufficient number and variety to choose among [ME *chois*, fr OF, fr *choisir* to choose, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *kiosan* to choose – more at *CHOOSE*]
- \*choice** *adj* 1 worthy of being chosen 2 selected with care, well chosen 3 of high quality – *choicely* *adv*, *choiceness* *n*
- choir** /ˈkwaɪə/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an organized company of singers 2 the part of a church occupied by the singers or the clergy, *specif* the part of the chancel between the sanctuary and the nave ➔ *CHURCH* [ME *quer*, fr OF *cuor*, fr ML *chorus*, fr L, *chorus*]
- \*choir-boy** /-ˈbɔɪ/ *n* a boy singer in a (church) choir
- \*choir-organ** *n* a division of an organ having mostly soft stops
- \*choir-school** *n* a school primarily intended for the boys of a cathedral or college choir
- \*choke** /ˈtʃɒk/ *vt* 1 to check the normal breathing of by compressing or obstructing the windpipe, or by poisoning available air 2 to stop or suppress expression of or by; silence (a *ban designed to ~ discussion*) – often + *back* or *down* 3a to restrain the growth or activity of (the *flowers were ~d by the weeds*) b to obstruct by filling up or clogging (leaves ~d the drain) c to fill completely; jam ~ *vi* 1 to become choked in breathing 2a to become obstructed or checked b to become speechless or incapacitated, esp from strong emotion – usu + *up* 3 to lose one's composure and fail to perform effectively in a critical situation [ME *choken*, alter. of *achoken*, fr OE *aceccian*]
- \*choke** *n* sthg that obstructs passage or flow. e.g. a a valve in the carburettor of a petrol engine for controlling the amount of air in a fuel air mixture b an inductor c a narrowing towards the muzzle in the bore of a gun d a device allowing variation of the choke of a shotgun
- \*choke** *n* the fibrous (inedible) central part of a globe artichoke [back-formation fr *artichoke*, prob by confusion with *\*choke*]
- chokeberry** /ˈtʃɒk.b(ə)rɪ/ *n* (the small astringent berry of) a shrub of the rose family that has brilliant autumn foliage
- choked** /ˈtʃɒkɪt/ *adj*, *Br* 1 angry, resentful 2 emotionally moved; touched *USE* *infrm*
- chokedamp** /ˈtʃɒk.damp/ *n* blackdamp
- choker** /ˈtʃɒkə/ *n* 1 a high stiff (clerical) collar 2 a short necklace or decorative band that fits closely round the throat [*\*CHOKE* + 'ER]
- chokey, choky** /ˈtʃɒki/ *n*, *Br* PRISON 2 – slang [Hindi *chaunki* shed, lock-up]
- choko** /ˈtʃɒkə/ *n*, *pl* *chokos* *Austr & NZ* a succulent cucumber-like vegetable [AmerSp *chocho*, fr Nahuatl *chayotli*]
- chol-, chole-, cholo-** *comb form* bile; gall [*cholate*] <cholesterol> [Gk *chol-*, *chole-*, *cholo-*, fr *chole*, *cholos* – more at *GALL*]
- cholangiography** /ˌkɒl.ən.jiˈɒɡrəfi/ *n* X-ray photography of the bile ducts [*chol-* + *angi-* + *-graphy*] – *cholangiographic* /ˌkɒl.ən.jiˈɒɡrəfɪk/ *adj*
- cholate** /ˈkɒl.əɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of cholic acid
- cholecystectomy** /ˌkɒl.əs.tɪˈstektəmi/ *n* surgical removal of the gall bladder [NL *cholecystis* gallbladder (fr *chol-* + Gk *kystis* bladder) + ISV *-ectomy*]
- cholecystitis** /ˌkɒl.əs.tɪˈtaɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the gall bladder [NL, fr *cholecystis*]
- cholecystokinin** /ˌkɒl.əs.tɪˈkiːniːn/ *n* a hormone secreted by the lining of the duodenum that regulates the emptying of the gall bladder and secretion of enzymes by the pancreas [NL *cholecystis* + E *-o-* + *kinin*]
- choler** /ˈkɒl.ə/ *n* 1 anger, irascibility – *infrm* 2a *archaic* YELLOW
- BILE** b *obs* **BILE** 1a 3 *obs* the state of being bilious [ME *coler*, fr MF *colere*, fr L *cholera* bilious disease, fr Gk, fr *chole*]
- cholera** /ˈkɒlə.rə/ *n* (any of several diseases of human beings and domestic animals similar to) an often fatal infectious epidemic disease caused by a bacterium and marked by severe gastrointestinal disorders [ME *colera* bile, fr L *cholera*] – *choleraic* /-ˈraɪɪk/ *adj*
- choleric** /ˈkɒlə.rɪk/ *adj* 1 easily moved to (excessive) anger; irascible 2 angry, irate *USE* *infrm*
- cholesterol** /ˌkɒl.əˈstɜːrɒl/ *n* a hydroxy steroid that is present in animal and plant cells and is a possible factor in hardening of the arteries [F *cholestérine*, fr *chol-* + Gk *stereos* solid]
- choli** /ˈtʃɒli/ *n* a (short-sleeved) close-fitting bodice worn under a sari ➔ *GARMENT* [Hindi *coli*, fr Skt *cola*, *coḍa*]
- \*cholic 'acid** /ˈkɒlɪk/ *n* a bile acid important in fat digestion [Gk *cholikos* bilious, fr *chole*]
- choline** /ˈkɒliːn/ *n* a naturally occurring substance that is a vitamin of the vitamin B complex essential to liver function [ISV]
- cholinergic** /ˌkɒlɪˈnɜːrɡɪk/ *adj* 1 of autonomic nerve fibres releasing or activated by the neurotransmitter acetylcholine 2 resembling acetylcholine, esp in physiological action [ISV *acetylcholine* + Gk *ergon* work – more at *WORK*]
- chomp** /tʃɒmp/ *vb* to champ [by alter]
- chondr-, chondri-, chondro-** *comb form* cartilage <chondroblast> [NL, fr Gk *chondr-*, *chondro-*, fr *chondros* grain, cartilage]
- chondrite** /ˈkɒndraɪt/ *n* a granular meteorite [ISV, fr Gk *chondros* grain] – *chondritic* /ˌkɒnˈdɪtrɪk/ *adj*
- chondrule** /ˈkɒndroʊl/ *n* any of the rounded stony granules often found embedded in meteorites [Gk *chondros* grain]
- choose** /tʃuːz/ *vb* *chose* /tʃoʊz/; *chosen* /tʃoʊz(ə)n/ *vt* 1a to select freely and after consideration b to decide on, esp to elect (chose her as leader) 2a to decide (chose to go by train) b to wish (I ~ not to do it) ~ *vi* to make a selection [ME *chōsen*, fr OE *ceosan*, akin to OHG *kiosan* to choose, L *gustare* to taste] – *chooser* *n*
- choosy, choosey** /ˈtʃuːzi/ *adj* fastidiously selective; particular
- \*chop** /tʃɒp/ *vb* *-pp* *-vt* 1a to cut into or sever, usu by a blow or repeated blows of a sharp instrument (< ~ down a tree> b to cut into pieces – often + *up* 2 to strike (a ball) so as to impart backspin 3 to subject to the action of a chopper (< ~ a beam of light> ~ *vi* to make a quick stroke or repeated strokes (as if) with a sharp instrument [ME *chappen*, *choppen* – more at *\*CHAP*]
- \*chop** *n* 1 a forceful usu slanting blow or stroke (as if) with an axe or cleaver 2 a small cut of meat often including part of a rib ➔ *MEAT* 3 an uneven motion of the sea, esp when wind and tide are opposed 4 abrupt removal, esp 'SACK 4 – + *the*, *infrm*
- \*chop** *vi* *-pp* *esp* of the wind to change direction [ME *chappen*, *choppen* to barter, fr OE *cēpan*] – *chop and change* to keep changing one's mind, plans, etc – *chop logic* to argue with minute oversubtle distinctions
- \*chop** *n* (a licence validated by) a seal or official stamp such as was formerly used in China or India [Hindi *chap* stamp]
- \*chop-chop** *adv* or *interj* without delay, quickly – *infrm* [Pidgin E, redupl of *chop* fast – more at *CHOPSTICK*]
- \*chop-house** /-ˈhəʊz/ *n* a restaurant specializing in meat dishes, esp chops or steaks
- chopper** /ˈtʃɒpə/ *n* 1 a short-handled axe or cleaver 2 a device that interrupts an electric current or a beam of radiation (e.g. light) at short regular intervals 3 a helicopter – *infrm* [*\*CHOP* + 'ER]
- choppy** /ˈtʃɒpi/ *adj*, of the sea or other expanse of water rough with small waves [*\*chop*]
- chops** /ˈtʃɒps/ *n* *pl* (the fleshy covering of) the jaw (the hungry dog licked his ~) [alter. of *\*chap*]
- \*chopstick** /-ˈstɪk/ *n* either of 2 slender sticks held between thumb and fingers, used chiefly in oriental countries to lift food to the mouth [Pidgin E, fr *chop* fast (of Chinese origin; akin to Cant *kap*) + E *stick*]
- chopsuey** /ˈtʃɒpˈsuːi/ *n* a Chinese dish of shredded meat or chicken with bean sprouts and other vegetables, usu served with rice and soy sauce [Chin (Cant) *shap sui* odds and ends, fr *shap* various + *sui* bits]
- choral** /ˈkɒrəl/ *adj* accompanied with or designed for singing (by a choir) [F or ML; F *choral*, fr ML *choralis*, fr L *chorus*] – *chorally* *adv*
- chorale** *also* *choral* /ˈkɒrəl/ *n* 1 (music composed for) a usu German traditional hymn or psalm for singing in church 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a chorus, choir [G *choral*, short for *choralgesang* choral song]
- \*chord** /kɔːd/ *n* a combination of notes sounded together [alter. of ME *cord*, short for *accord*]
- \*chord** *n* 1 CORD 3a 2 a straight line joining 2 points on a curve ➔

**MATHEMATICS** 3 an individual emotion or disposition <touch the right ~> 4 the straight line joining the leading and trailing edges of an aerofoil [alter. of *'cord*]

**chordal** /'kawdl/ *adj* 1 of or suggesting a chord 2 relating to music characterized more by harmony than counterpoint

**chordate** /'kaw,dayt/, -dot/ *n* or *adj* (any) of a phylum or subkingdom of animals including the vertebrates that have at some stage of development a notochord, a central nervous system along the back, and gill clefts [deriv. of *L chorda* cord]

**'chord organ** *n* an electronic or reed organ with buttons to produce simple chords

**chore** /'chaw/ *n* 1 a routine task or job 2 a difficult or disagreeable task [alter. of *chare*, fr ME *char* turn, piece of work, fr OE *cierr*]

**chorea** /'ko'ree-ə/ *n* a nervous disorder marked by spasmodic movements of limbs and facial muscles and by lack of coordination [NL, fr *L*, dance, fr Gk *chorea*, fr *choros* chorus] – **choreic** /'ko'ree-ik/ *adj* or *n*


**choreography** /'koni'ografi/ *n* 1 the art of representing dance steps and sequences in symbols 2 stage dancing as distinguished from social or ballroom dancing 3 the composition and arrangement of a ballet or other dance for the stage [F *chorégraphie*, fr Gk *choreia* + F *-graphic* -graphy] – **choreographer** *n*, **choreograph** /'koni-ə,grəft/, -grəf/ *vb*, **choreographic** /'grəfik/ *adj*, **choreographically** *adv*

**choric** /'konik/ *adj* of or being in the style of a (Greek) chorus

**chorion** /'kawn-ən/ *n* the outer embryonic membrane of higher vertebrates that is associated with the allantois in the formation of the placenta [NL, fr Gk] – **chorionic** /'oni:k/ *adj*

**chorister** /'konistə/ *n* a singer in a choir, *specif* a choirboy [ME *querister*, fr AF *cueistre*, fr ML *chorista*, fr *L choros*]

**'Chorizon** *n* the layer of soil lying beneath the B-horizon and consisting of weathered rock

**choroid** /'kaw,royd/, **choroid coat** *n* a membrane containing large pigment cells that lies between the retina and the sclera of the vertebrate eye  **NERVE** [NL *choroides* resembling the chorion, fr Gk *choroideos*, fr *chorion*] – **choroid** *adj*

**chortle** /'chawtl/ *vi* **chortling** /'chawtlɪŋ/, 'chawtlɪŋ/ to laugh or chuckle, esp in satisfaction or exultation [blend of *chuckle* and *snort*] – **chortle** *n*, **chortlier** /'chawtlə/ *n*

**'chorus** /'kawrəs/ *n* 1 (the part of a drama sung or spoken by) a character (e.g. in Elizabethan drama) or group of singers and dancers (e.g. in Greek drama) who comment on the action 2 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* a an organized company of singers who sing in concert, *specif* a body of singers who sing the choral parts of a work (e.g. in opera) b a group of dancers and singers supporting the featured players in a musical or revue (<a ~ girl>) 3a a part of a song or hymn recurring at intervals b a composition sung by a chorus 4 sthg performed, sung, or uttered simultaneously by a number of people or animals [L, ring dance, chorus, fr Gk *choros*] – *in chorus* in unison

**²chorus** *vb* to sing or utter in chorus

**chose** /'chohz/ *past* of **CHOOSE**

**'chosen** /'chohz(ə)n/ *adj* selected or marked for favour or special privilege <granted to a ~ few> [ME, fr pp of *chosen* to choose]

**²chosen** *n pl* *in constr* the people who are the object of divine favour

**chough** /'chuf/ *n* an Old World bird of the crow family that has red legs, a red beak, and glossy black plumage [ME]

**choux** 'pastry /'shoo:h/ *n* a light pastry made with an egg-enriched dough and used for profiteroles, eclairs, etc [F *choux*, pl of *chou*, lit., cabbage, fr *L caulis* stalk – more at **HOIE**]

**'chow** /'chow/ *n* food – *infrm* [perh fr Chin (Pek) *chia*, meat dumpling]

**²chow** also **'chow**, **chow** *n* a heavy-coated broad-headed dog with a blue-black tongue [fr a Chin dial word akin to Cant *kaú dog*]

**'chow-chow** *n* a Chinese preserve of ginger, fruits, and peel in heavy syrup [Pidgin E, mixture]

**chowder** /'chowdə/ *n* a thick (clam or other seafood) soup or stew [F *chaudière* kettle, contents of a kettle, fr LL *caldaria* – more at **CAULDRON**]

**chow mein** /'chow 'mayn/ *n* a Chinese dish of fried noodles usu mixed with shredded meat or poultry and vegetables [Chin (Pek) *ch'ao' mien'*, fr *ch'ao'* to fry + *mien'* dough]

**chrism** /'kri:(ə)m/ *n* consecrated oil used in Greek and Roman Catholic churches, esp in baptism, confirmation, and ordination [ME *crisme*, fr OE *crisma*, fr LL *chrisma*, fr Gk, ointment, fr *chrein* to anoint; akin to OE *groot* grit, sand]

**chrism** also **chrysom** /'kri:(ə)m/ *n* a white cloth or robe put on a child at baptism as a symbol of innocence and formerly also used as a shroud

for infants [ME *crisom*, short for *crisom cloth*, fr *crisom* chrism + *cloth*]

**'chrism**, **child** *n* a child that dies in its first month

**Christ** /'kri:st/ *n* 1 the Messiah 2 Jesus [ME *Crist*, fr OE, fr *L Christus*, fr Gk *Christos*, lit., anointed, fr *chrein*] – **Christlike** *adj*

**christen** /'kris(ə)n/ *vi* 1a **BAPTIZE** 1, 3 b to name at baptism 2 to name or dedicate (e.g. a ship or bell) by a ceremony suggestive of baptism 3 to name 4 to use for the first time – *infrm* [ME *cristen*, fr OE *cristinian*, fr *cristen* Christian, fr *L christianus*]

**Christendom** /'kris(ə)ndəm, 'krist-/ *n* the community of people or nations professing Christianity [ME *crisendom*, fr OE *crisendōm*, fr *cristen*]

**christening** /'kris(ə)ning/ *n* the ceremony of baptizing and naming a child

**'Christian** /'kristi-ən/ *n* 1a an adherent of Christianity b a member of a Christian denomination, esp by baptism 2 a good or kind person regardless of religion [L *christianus*, *adj* & *n*, fr Gk *christianos*, fr *Christos*]

**²Christian** *adj* 1 of or consistent with Christianity or Christians 2 commendably decent or generous <has a very ~ concern for others> – **Christianize** /-niez/ *vt*, **Christianization** /-nie'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **Christianly** *adv*

**'Christian era** *n* the period dating from the birth of Christ

**christiania** /'kristi'ahnyə, -ni-ə/ *n* **SIEM CHRISTIE** [*Christiania*, former name of Oslo, city in Norway]

**Christianity** /'kristi'ænəti/ *n* 1 the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible 2 conformity to (a branch of) the Christian religion

**'Christian name** *n* 1 a name given at christening (or confirmation) 2 a forename

**Christian Science** *n* a religion founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1866 that includes a practice of spiritual healing – **Christian Scientist** *n*

**Christmas** /'krisməs/ *n* 1 a festival of the western Christian churches on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Christ and is usu observed as a public holiday 2 **Christmas**, **Christmastide** /-,ti:əd/ the festival season from Christmas Eve till the Epiphany (January 6) [ME *Christemasse*, fr OE *Cristes mæsse*, lit., Christ's mass] – **Christmassy** /'krisməsi/ *adj*

**Christmas cactus** *n* a branching winter-flowering S American cactus with showy red flowers

**Christmas Eve** *n* the (evening of the) day before Christmas day

**Christmas rose** *n* a European winter-flowering plant of the buttercup fam.: that has white or purplish flowers

**Christmas tree** *n* an evergreen or artificial tree decorated with lights, tinsel, etc at Christmas

**Christo-** *comb form* Christ <Christocentric> <Christology>

**Christogram** /'kristə,gram, 'kris-/ *n* a graphic symbol of Christ; esp the Chi-Rho [Gk *Christos* Christ + E *-gram*]

**chrom-** /'krohm-/ *chromo-* *comb form* 1 chromium <chromize> 2a colour; coloured <chromoplast> b pigment <chromophore> [F, fr Gk *chroma* colour]

**chromia** /'krohmə/ *n* a quality of colour combining hue and saturation [Gk *chroma*]

**chromat-**, **chromato-** *comb form* colour <chromaticity> [Gk *chrōmat-*, *chroma*]

**chromate** /'kroh,məyt/ *n* a salt or ester of chromic acid [F, fr Gk *chrōma*]

**chromatic** /'kroh'matik/ *adj* 1a of colour sensation or (intensity of) colour b highly coloured 2a of or giving all the notes of the chromatic scale b characterized by frequent use of intervals or notes outside the diatonic scale [Gk *chromatikos*, fr *chrōmat-*, *chroma* skin, colour, modified tone; akin to OE *groot* sand – more at **GRIT**] – **chromatically** *adv*, **chromaticism** /-ti:siz(ə)m/ *n*

**chromatic aberration** /,əbə'reysh(ə)n/ *n* optical aberration caused by the differences in refraction of the different colours of the spectrum and characterized by coloured outlines round an image

**chromaticity** /'kroh'mə'tisəti/ *n* a quality of a colour in terms of its purity and dominant or complementary wavelength [CHROMATIC + -ITY]

**chromatic scale** *n* a musical scale consisting entirely of semitones

**chromatid** /'krohmatid/ *n* either of the paired strands of a chromosome

**chromatin** /'kroh'məti:n/ *n* a complex of DNA with proteins that forms the chromosomes in the cell nucleus and is readily stained – **chromatinic** /-'ti:nik/ *adj*



**chromatogram** /kroh'matogram/ *n* the visual record (e.g. the pattern remaining in the absorbent medium) of the components separated by chromatography

**chromatography** /kroh'matografi/ *n* the separation of chemicals from a mixture by passing the mixture as a solution or vapour over or through a substance (e.g. paper) which adsorbs the chemicals to differing extents – **chromatograph** /kroh'matagrahf, -graf/ *vt*, **chromatographic** /kroh'matagrafik/ *adj*, **chromatographically** *adv*

**chromatophore** /kroh'matafaw/ *n* a pigment-bearing cell or organelle, esp. any of the cells found in the surface layer of an animal capable of causing skin-colour changes by expanding or contracting [ISV]

**chrome** /kroh'm/ *n* 1 (a pigment formed from) chromium 2 (sthg with) a plating of chromium [F, fr Gk *chrōma*]

**-chrome** /-kroh'm/ *comb form* (→ *n*, *adj*) 1 coloured thing (<heliochrome>), coloured (<polychrome>) 2 colouring matter (<urochrome>) [ML -*chromat*-, -*chroma* coloured thing, fr Gk *chrōmat*-, *chrōma*]

**chrome yellow** *n* a yellow pigment consisting essentially of lead chromate

**chromic** /kroh'mik/ *adj* of or derived from (trivalent) chromium

**chromic acid** *n* a corrosive acid whose salts are chromates

**chrominance** /kroh'minans/ *n* the colour information in a colour television signal [*chrom*- + *luminance*]

**chromite** /kroh'miet/ *n* a mineral that consists of a magnetic oxide of iron and chromium [G *chromit*, fr *chrom*-]

**chromium** /kroh'myam, -mi-am/ *n* a blue-white metallic element found naturally only in combination and used esp. in alloys and in electroplating → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr F *chrome*]

**chromo-** – see **CHROM-**

**chromolithograph** /kroh'moh'lithagrahf, -graf/ *n* a picture printed in colours from a series of stones prepared by the lithographic process – **chromolithographic** /-lithagrafik/ *adj*, **chromolithography** /-lithografi/ *n*

**chromomere** /kroh'ma,mia/ *n* any of the small bead-shaped concentrations of chromatin that are arranged in a line along the chromosome [ISV] – **chromomeric** /-'merk/ *adj*

**chromophore** /kroh'ma,faw/ *n* a chemical group that gives rise to colour in a compound [ISV] – **chromophoric** /-'foni/ *adj*

**chromoplast** /kroh'ma,plast/ *n* a coloured body in a plant cell that contains no chlorophyll but usu. contains red or yellow pigment (e.g. carotene) [ISV]

**chromoprotein** /kroh'moh'prohtein/ *n* a compound (e.g. haemoglobin) of a protein with a metal-containing pigment (e.g. haem)

**chromosome** /kroh'ma,sohm, -zohtm/ *n* any of the gene-carrying bodies that contain DNA and protein and are found in the cell nucleus [ISV] – **chromosomal** /-'sohml, -'zohtm/ *adj*, **chromosomally** *adv*

**chromosome number** *n* the usual constant number of chromosomes characteristic of a particular species of animal or plant

**chromosphere** /kroh'ma,sfia/ *n* the lower layer of the sun's atmosphere that is immediately above the photosphere and consists chiefly of hydrogen; also a similar part of the atmosphere of any star – **chromospheric** /-'sferik/ *adj*

**chromous** /kroh'mas/ *adj* of or derived from (bivalent) chromium

**chron-**, **chromo-** *comb form* time (<chronology>) [Gk, fr *chronos*]

**chronic** /kronik/ *adj* 1a esp. of an illness marked by long duration or frequent recurrence – usu. contrasted with **ACUTE** 4b suffering from a chronic disease 2a always present or encountered; esp. constantly troubling (<financial difficulties>) b habitual, persistent (<a ~ grumbler>) 3 *Br* bad, terrible – *infml* [F *chronique*, fr Gk *chronikos* of time, fr *chronos*] – **chronically** *adv*, **chronicity** /kro'nisiti/ *n*

**'chronicle** /kronikl/ *n* 1 a usu. continuous and detailed historical account of events arranged chronologically without analysis or interpretation 2 a narrative [ME *cronicle*, fr AF, alter. of OF *chronique*, fr L *chronica*, fr Gk *chronika*, fr neut. pl of *chronikos*]

**'chronicle vt** *chronicling* /kronikl-ing/ 1 to record (as if) in a chronicle 2 to list, describe – **chronicler** /-kla/ *n*

**'chronicle play** *n* a play with a historical theme consisting usu. of rather loosely connected episodes chronologically arranged

**Chronicles** /kroniklz/ *n pl* *but sing in constr* either of 2 historical books of canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture

**chronogram** /kroh'na,gram/ *n* a phrase in which some letters are Roman numerals that make a date when added together – **chronogrammatic** /-gr'matik/, **chronogrammatical** *adj*

**chronograph** /kroh'na,grahf, -graf/ *n* an instrument for accurately measuring and recording time intervals – **chronographic** /-'grahfik/ *adj*, **chronography** /kro'nografi/ *n*

**chronological** /krona'lojikal, -kroh-/ *also* **chronologic** /-'lojik/ *adj* of or arranged in or according to the order of time (<tables of British history>) – **chronologically** *adv*

**chronology** /kra'nolaji/ *n* 1 (the scientific study or use of) a method for setting past events in order of occurrence 2 an arrangement in order of occurrence; *specif* such an arrangement presented in tabular or list form [NL *chronologia*, fr *chron*- + *-logia* -logy] – **chronologer**, **chronologist** *n*, **chronologize** *vt*

**chronometer** /kra'nomitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring time, esp. one designed to keep time with great accuracy

**chronometry** /kra'nometri/ *n* (the science of) accurate time measurement – **chronometric** /krona'metrik, -kroh-/ *adj*, **chronometrical** *adj*, **chronometrically** *adv*

**chrys-** /kris-/ *comb form* gold; yellow (<chrysolite>) [Gk, fr *chrysos*]

**chrysalid** /'krisolid/ *n* a chrysalis

**chrysalis** /'krisalis/ *n pl* **chrysalides** /kri'sala,deez/ *chrysalises* 1 (the case enclosing) a pupa, esp. of a butterfly or moth 2 a sheltered state or stage of being or growth (<ready to emerge from the ~ of adolescence>) [L *chrysalid*-, *chrysalis* gold-coloured pupa of butterflies, fr Gk, fr *chrysos* gold, of Sem origin]

**chrysanthemum** /kri'zanthəməm/ *n* any of various (cultivated) composite plants with brightly coloured often double flower heads [L, fr Gk *chrysanthemon*, fr *chrys*- + *anthemon* flower, akin to Gk *anthos* flower]

**chrysoberyl** /'krisə,berəl/ *n* a usu. yellow or pale green mineral consisting of beryllium aluminium oxide and used as a gem [L *chrysoberyllus*, fr Gk *chrysoberyllus*, fr *chrys*- + *beryllus* beryl]

**chrysolite** /'krisə,liet/ *n* olivine [ME *crsolite*, fr OF, fr L *chrysolithos*, fr Gk, fr *chrys*- + *-lithos* -lite]

**chrysom** /'kri:(ə)m/ *n* a chrysom

**chrysotile** /'krisə,tiel/ *n* a type of fibrous silky asbestos [G *chrysotil*, fr *chrys*- + *-til* fibre, fr Gk *tillein* to pluck]

**chthonic** /'thonik/, *clthonian* /'thohnyan, -ni-an/ *adj* of the underworld, infernal (<~ *deities*>) [Gk *chthon*-, *chthon* earth – more at **HUMBLE**]

**chub** /chub/ *n pl* **chub**, esp. for different types **chubs** (a marine or freshwater fish similar to) a European freshwater fish of the carp family [ME *chubbe*]

**Chubb** /chub/ *trademark* – used for a type of lock with a device for jamming the bolt if an attempt is made to pick it

**chubby** /chubi/ *adj* of large proportions, plump (<a ~ boy>) [*chub* + *-y*] – **chubbiness** *n*

**'chuck** /chuk/ *n* – used as a term of endearment [ME *chuk*, fr *chucken* to make a clucking noise, of imit origin]

**'chuck vt** 1 to pat, tap (<~ ed her under the chin>) 2a to toss, throw b to discard – often + *out* or *away* 3 to leave; GIVE UP 2 (<~ ed his job>) – often + *in* or *up* *USE* (except I) *infml* [perh fr MF *chuquer*, *choquer* to knock]

**'chuck n** 1 a pat or nudge under the chin 2 a throw – *infml*

**'chuck n** 1 a cut of beef that includes most of the neck and the area about the shoulder blade → MEAT 2 a device for holding a workpiece (e.g. for turning on a lathe) or tool (e.g. in a drill) [E dial *chuck* (lump, log), prob var of *chock*]

**chuckle** /chukl/ *vi* **chuckling** /'chukling/ to laugh inwardly or quietly [prob freq of *chuck* (to make a clucking noise)] – **chuckle** *n*, **chucklesome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj*, **chucklingly** /'chuklingli/ *adv*

**chucklehead** /'chukl,hed/ *n* a blockhead – *infml* [*chuckle* (lumpish) + *head*] – **chuckleheaded** /-'hedid/ *adj*

**chuck out vt** to eject (a person) from a place or an office, dismiss – *infml* – **chucker-out** *n*

**'chuck wagon** *n*, *NAM* a wagon carrying a stove and provisions for cooking (e.g. on a ranch) [E dial (NAM) *chuck* (food)]

**chuff** /chu:/ *vi* or *n* (to produce or move with) a sound made (as if) by a steam engine releasing steam regularly [imit]

**chuffed** /chu:/ *adj*, *Br* pleased – *infml* [E dial *chuff* (fat, proud, happy)]



**chug** /çug/ *vi* or *n* -**gg-** (to move or go with) a usu. repetitive dull explosive sound made (as if) by a labouring engine [imit]


**chukar** /chu'kab/ *n pl* **chukar**, **chukars** a largely grey and black Indian partridge [Hindi *cakor*]

**chukka** /'chuka/ *n* 1 a chukker 2 **chukka**, **chukka** boot a usu. ankle-length leather boot (worn for playing polo)

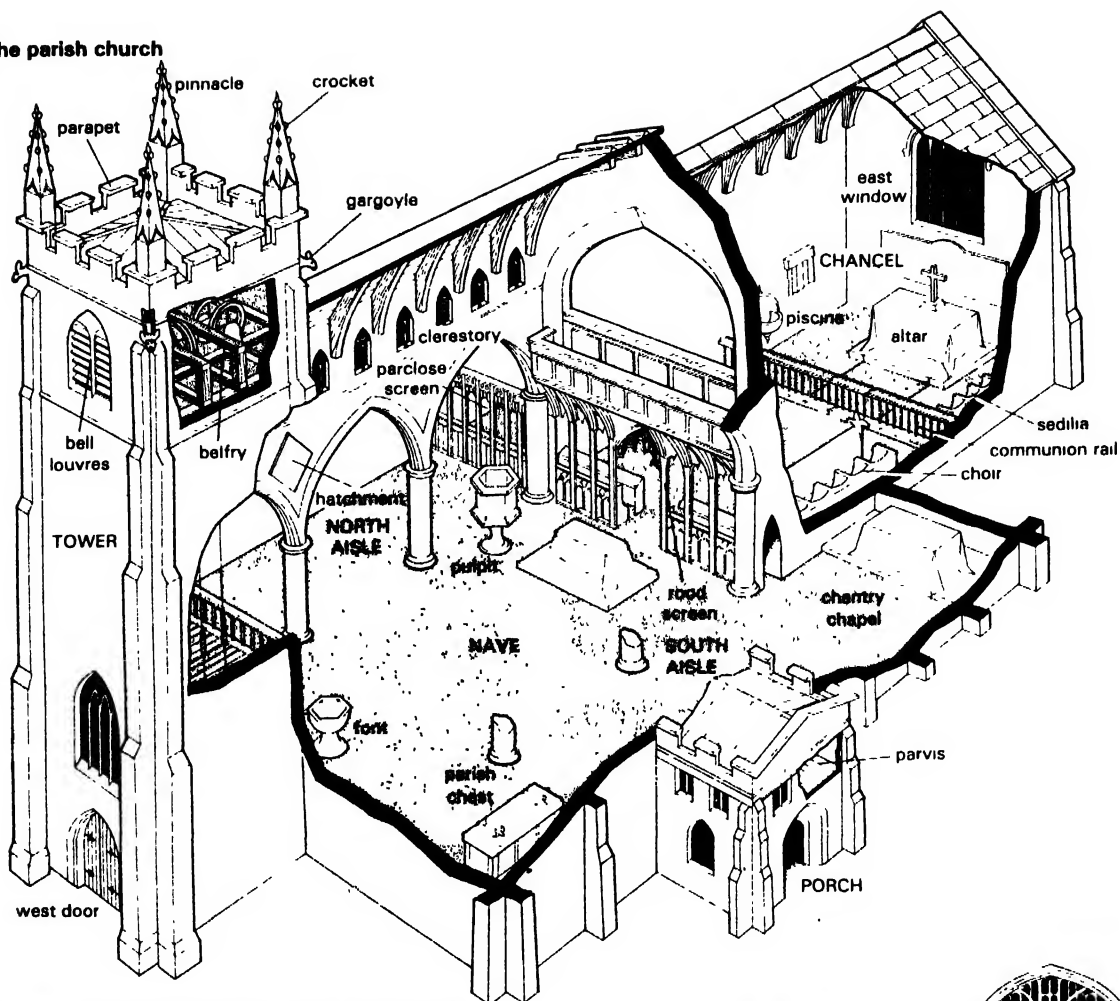
**chukker** /'chuka/ *n* any of the periods of play in a polo game [Hindi *cakkar* circular course, fr Skt *cakra* wheel, circle – more at **WHEEL**]



**'chum** /chum/ *n* a close friend, a mate – infml; no longer in vogue [perh by shortening & alter fr *chamber fellow* (roommate)]  
**'chum** *vi* -mm- to form a friendship, esp a close one - usu + (up) with; no longer in vogue  
**chummy** /'chumi/ *adj* friendly, intimate – infml – *chummily* *adv*, *chumminess* *n*  
**chump** /chump/ *n* 1 a cut of meat taken from between the loin and hindleg, esp of a lamb, mutton, or pork carcass  MFAT 2 a fool, duffer – infml [perh blend of *chunk* and *lump*] – off one's **chump** OFF ONE'S HEAD  
**chunder** /'chunda/ *vb*, chiefly *Austr*, to vomit – slang [origin unknown]  
**chunk** /'chungk/ *n* 1 LUMP 1, esp one of a firm or hard material (e.g. wood) 2 a (large) quantity [put a sizable ~ of money on the race] – infml [perh alter of E dial. *chuck* (lump, log)]  
**chunky** /'chungki/ *adj* 1 stocky 2 filled with chunks <~ marmalade> 3 of materials, clothes, etc thick and heavy – *chunkily* *adv*, *chunkiness* *n*  
**chunnel** /'chunl/ *n*, often *cap* a proposed tunnel under the English channel [blend of *channel* and *tunnel*]  
**chunter** /'chunta/ *vi*, *Br* to talk or mutter incessantly and usu irrelevantly – often + on, infml [prob imit]  
**'church** /'chuhch/ *n* 1 a building for public (Christian) worship, esp a place of worship used by an established church – compare CHAPEL 5  2 often *cap* institutionalized religion, esp the established Christian religion of a country 3 *cap* a body or organization of religious believers e.g. a the whole body of Christians b DENOMINATION 2 c CONGREGATION 2 4 an occasion for public worship <goes to ~ every Sunday> 5 the clerical profession <considered the ~ as a possible career> [ME *chirche*, fr OE *cince*; akin to OHG *kirihha* church, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word derived fr LGk *kyrakon*, fr Gk, neut of *kyrakos* of the lord, fr *kyrios* lord, master, fr *kyros* power] – *churchly* *adj*, *churchman* /-man/, *fem* *churchwoman* *n*  
**'church** *adj* 1 of a church 2 chiefly *Br* being a member of the established state church – compare CHAPEL  
**Church 'Army** *n* an Anglican organization for social work founded on the model of the Salvation Army  
**churching** /'chuhching/ *n* a ceremony in which a woman after childbirth is received and blessed in church – *church* *vi*  
**church mode** *n* any of several modes prevalent in medieval music  
**Church of 'England** *n* the established episcopal church of England  
**Church of 'Scotland** *n* the established presbyterian church of Scotland  
**church school** *n* a (primary) school controlled in part by a church  
**churchwarden** /-wawd(ə)n/ *n* 1 either of 2 lay parish officers in Anglican churches with responsibility esp for parish property and alms 2 a long-stemmed (clay) tobacco pipe  
**churchy** /'chuhchi/ *adj* marked by strict conformity or zealous adherence to the forms or beliefs of a church  
**'churchyard** /-yahd/ *n* an enclosed piece of ground surrounding a church; esp one used as a burial ground  
**churl** /'chuhl/ *n* 1a a rude ill-bred person b a mean morose person 2 *archaic* a rustic, countryman [ME, fr OE *ceorl* man, *ceorl*, akin to Gk *geras* old age – more at CORN]  
**churlish** /'chuhlish/ *adj* 1 lacking refinement or sensitivity 2 rudely uncooperative, surly – *churlishly* *adv*, *churlishness* *n*  
**'churn** /'chuhn/ *n* 1 a vessel used in making butter in which milk or cream is agitated to separate the oily globules from the watery medium... 2 *Br* a large metal container for transporting milk [ME *chyrne*, fr OE *cyrn*; akin to OE *corn* grain; fr the granular appearance of cream as it is churned – more at CORN]  
**'churn** *vi* 1 to agitate (milk or cream) in a churn in order to make butter 2 to stir or agitate violently ~ *vi* 1 to work a churn 2 to produce or be in violent motion  
**churn out** *vi* to produce prolifically and mechanically, usu without great concern for quality – chiefly infml  
**churr** /'chuh/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a vibrant or whirring noise characteristic of certain insects and birds (e.g. the partridge) [imit]  
**chute** /'shooht/ *n* 1 a waterfall, rapid, etc 2 an inclined plane, channel, or passage down which things may pass 3 a parachute – infml [F, fr OF, fr *cheoir* to fall, fr L *cadere* – more at CHANCE]  
**chutney** /'chutni/ *n* a thick condiment or relish of Indian origin that contains fruits, sugar, vinegar, and spices [Hindi *catni*]  
**chutspah** *also* *chutpa* /'khootspah/ *n* brazen audacity – infml [Yiddish, fr LHeb *hupshah*]

**chyle** /kiel/ *n* lymph that is milky from emulsified fats and is produced during intestinal absorption of fats [LL *chylus*, fr Gk *chylos* juice, *chyle*, fr *chein* to pour – more at 'ROUND] – *chylous* /'kielas/ *adj*  
**chylomicron** /'kieloh'miekron/ *n* a microscopic drop of fat occurring in the blood during fat digestion and assimilation [Gk *chylos* + *mikron*, neut of *mikros* small]  
**chyme** /kiem/ *n* the semifluid mass of partly digested food expelled by the stomach into the duodenum [NL *chymus*, fr LL, *chyle*, fr Gk *chymos* juice, fr *chein*] – *chymous* *adj*  
**chymotrypsin** /'kiemoh'tripsin/ *n* an enzyme that breaks down proteins and is released into the intestines from the pancreas during digestion [*chyme* + -o- + *trypsin*]  
**clao** /'chow/ *interj* – used to express greeting or farewell [It, fr It dial, alter of *schiauo* (I am your) slave, fr ML *sclavus*]  
**ciborium** /'si'bawri-əm/ *n*, pl *ciboria* /-ri-ə/ 1 a goblet-shaped vessel for holding the consecrated bread used at Communion 2 a freestanding vaulted canopy supported by 4 columns over a high altar [ML, fr L, cup, fr Gk *kibōron*]  
**cicada** /'si'kahda, -'kayda/ *n* any of a family of insects that have large transparent wings and whose males produce a shrill singing noise [NL, genus name, fr L, *cicada*]  
**cicala** /'si'kahla/ *n* a cicada [It, fr ML, alter of L *cicada*]  
**cicatrice** /'sikatrees/ *n* a cicatrix  
**cicatricx** /'sika,tri:ks/ *n*, pl *cicatrices* /'sika'trie:sez, si'kaytri:sez/ 1 a scar resulting after a flesh wound has healed 2 a mark resembling a scar, e.g. a mark left on a stem after the fall of a leaf or bract b HILUM 1a [L *cicatricx*, *cicatricx*] – *cicatricial* /'sika'tri:sh(ə)l/ *adj*  
**cicatricize**, -ise /'sika'trie:z/ *vt* 'SCAR ~ *vi* to heal by forming a scar – *cicatricization* /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**cicerone** /'si:sə'rohni, -'chichə-/ *n*, pl *ciceroni* /~/ one who acts as a guide to antiquities, broadly a guide, mentor [It, fr *Cicerone* Cicero †43 bc Roman orator & statesman]  
**cichlid** /'siklid/ *n* any of a family of mostly tropical spiny-finned freshwater fishes [deriv of Gk *ichthē* thrush, a kind of wrasse, akin to Gk *chelidon* swallow – more at ELANDINE]  
**cicisbeo** /'chichiz'bayoh/ *n*, pl *cicisbeis* /-'bay,ee/ a lover or gallant [It]  
**-cide** /-sied/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 killer (<insecticide>) 2 killing (<suicide>) [MF, fr L *-cida* (1) & *-cidium* (2), fr *cadere* to cut, kill – more at CONCISE] – *-cidal* *comb form* (→ *adj*)  
**cider**, *Br* also *cyder* /'siedə/ *n* fermented often sparkling apple juice [ME *sidre*, fr L *sicera* strong drink, fr Gk *sikera*, fr Heb *shekhar*]  
**cig** /sig/ → a cigarette – infml  
**cigar** /'si'gah/ *n* a small roll of tobacco leaf for smoking [Sp *cigarro*]  
**cigarette**, *NAM* also *cigaret* /'sigə'ret/ *n* a narrow cylinder of cut tobacco enclosed in paper for smoking; also a similar roll of a herbal or narcotic substance [F *cigarette*, dim of *cigare* cigar, fr Sp *cigarro*]  
**cigarillo** /'sigə'ri:loh, -'reeliyoh/ *n*, pl *cigarillos* a very small cigar [Sp *cigarrillo*, dim of *cigarro*]  
**ciliary** /'silyəri/ *adj* 1 of cilia 2 of or being the ciliary body  
**ciliary body** *n* the ringlike muscular body supporting the lens of the eye  NERVE  
**cillum** /'sil-əm/ *n*, pl *cilia* /-li-ə/ 1 an eyelash 2 a minute hairlike part, esp one capable of a lashing movement that produces locomotion in a single-celled organism [NL, fr L, eyelid] – *ciliate* /-ət, -ayt/, *ciliated* /-aytid/ *adj*, *ciliation* /-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**'cinch** /'sintʃ/ *n* 1 *NAM* GIRTH 1 2a a task performed with ease b sth certain to happen *USE* (2) infml [Sp *cincha*, fr L *cingula* girdle, girth, fr *cingere*]  
**\*cinch** *vt* 1 *NAM* to fasten or tighten a girth round (a horse) – often + up 2 to make certain of; assure – infml  
**cinchona** /'sing'kohna/ *n* (the dried quinine-containing bark of) any of a genus of S American trees and shrubs of the madder family [NL, genus name, fr Countess of *Chinchón* †1641 vicereine of Peru]  
**cinchonine** /'singkaneen/ *n* an alkaloid found esp in cinchona bark and used like quinine  
**cincture** /'singkcha/ *n* a girdle, belt; esp a cloth cord or sash worn round an ecclesiastical vestment or the habit of a religious order [L *cinctura* girdle, fr *cinctus*, pp of *cingere* to gird; akin to Skt *kañci* girdle]  
**cinder** /'sinda/ *n* 1 a fragment of slag (e.g. from a blast furnace or volcano) 2 a fragment of ash 3 a piece of partly burned material (e.g. coal) that will burn further but will not flame [ME *sinder*, fr OE; akin to OHG *sintar* dross, slag, OSlav *spdra* stalactite] – *cladery* *adj*  
**Cinderella** /'sinda'rela/ *n* 1 sby or sth that suffers undeserved neglect

### The parish church



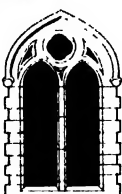
### The development of English church architecture

rounded  
arched  
window

Norman  
11th and 12th  
centuries



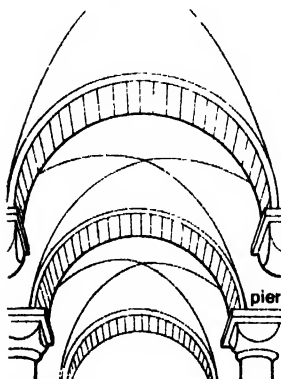
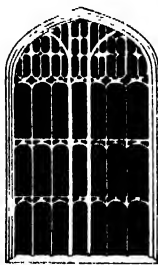
Early English  
13th century



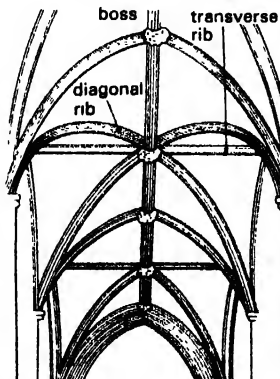
Decorated  
late 13th-14th  
centuries



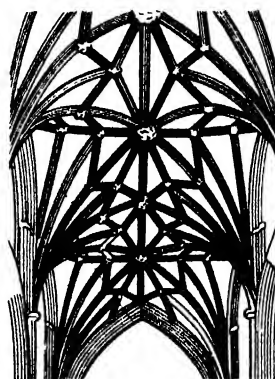
Perpendicular  
late 14th to  
early 16th  
century



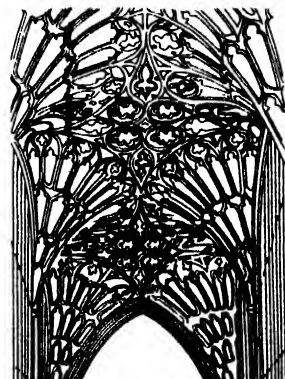
groined vault



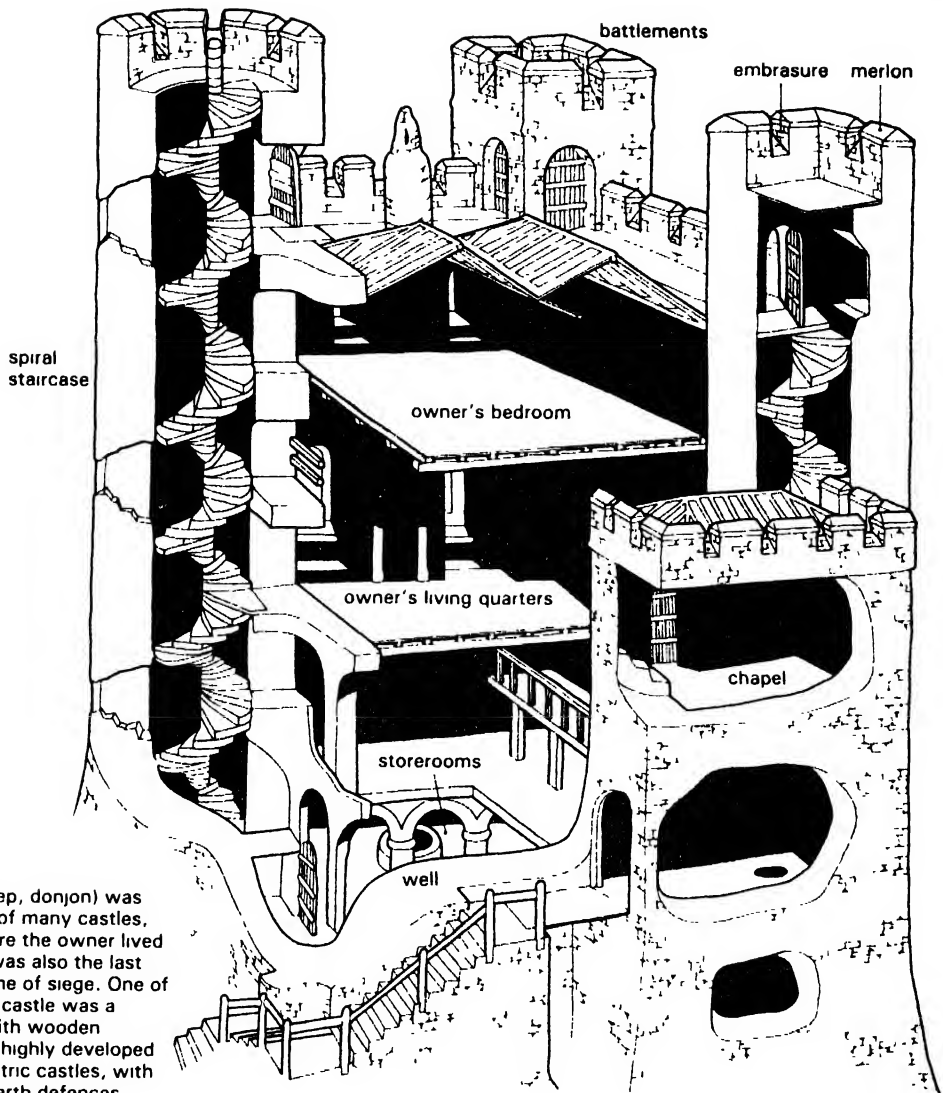
ribbed vault



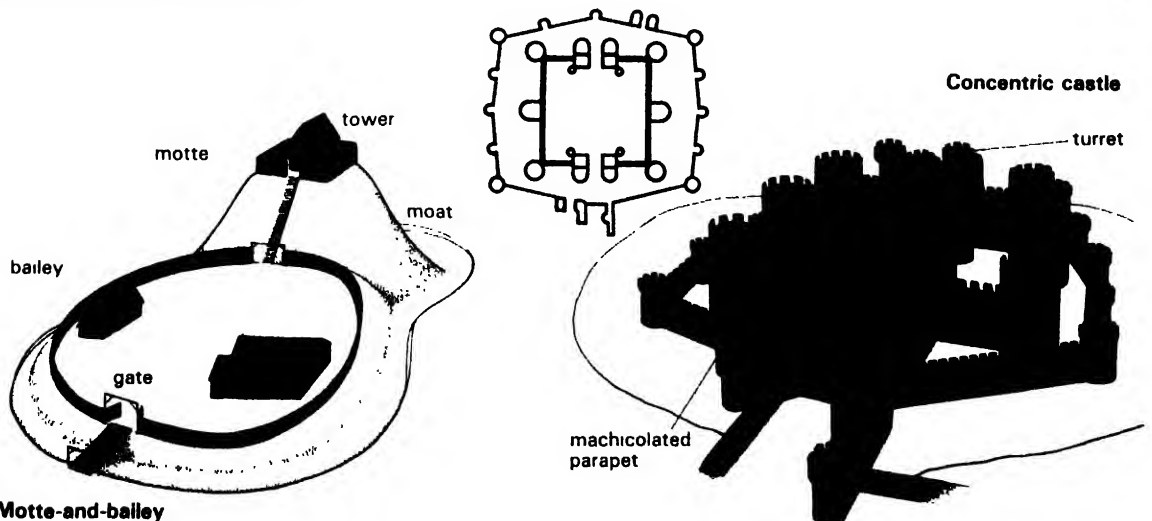
lierne vault



fan vault

**Great tower**

The great tower (keep, donjon) was the central element of many castles, being the place where the owner lived and entertained. It was also the last line of defence in time of siege. One of the earliest types of castle was a motte-and-bailey, with wooden defences. The most highly developed castles were concentric castles, with rings of stone and earth defences

**Motte-and-bailey**

2 sby or sthg that is suddenly raised from obscurity to honour or importance [*Cinderella*, heroine of a fairy-tale]

**ciné** /sini-/ *comb form* relating to the cinema <cinécamera> <cinéfilm> [cinema]

**cinéaste** /siniast/ *n* a devotee of films [F *cinéaste*]

**cinécamera** /sini,kamra/ *n* a simple hand-held camera for making usu amateur films

**cinéma** /sini'ma/ *n* 1a films considered esp as an art form, entertainment, or industry – usu + *the* b the art or technique of making films; also the effects appropriate to film 2 chiefly Br a theatre where films are shown [short for *cinématograph*]

**cinemagoer** /sini'ma,goh-ə/ *n* one who frequently attends films – *cinemagoing n* or *adj*

**Cinemascope** /sini'ma,skohp/ *trademark* – used for a method of film projection employing a cylindrical lens, an extra-wide screen, and usu stereophonic sound

**cinematic** /sini'matik/ *adj* 1 made and presented as a film <~ *fantasies*> 2 of or suitable for (the making of) films – *cinematically adv*

**cinematograph** /sini'mata,grahf, -graf/ *n*, chiefly Br a film camera or projector [F *cinématographe*, fr Gk *kinemat-*, *kinēma* movement (fr *kinēin* to move) + *-o-* + *-graphie* -graph]

**cinematography** /sini'mat'ograft/ *n* the art or science of cinema photography – *cinematographer n*, *cinematographic* /sini'mata'grafik/ *adj*, *cinematographically adv*

**cinéma vérité** /'veritay/ *n* the art or technique of film-making so as to convey documentary-style realism [F *cinéma-vérité*, lit., truth cinema]

**cinéole** /sini'oh/ *n* a liquid with a camphor smell contained in many essential oils, esp that of eucalyptus [ISV, by transposition fr NL *oleum cinæ* wormseed oil]

**Cinerama** /sina'rahma/ *trademark* – used for a method of film projection employing 3 projectors, an extra-wide concave screen, and stereophonic sound

**cineraria** /sina'reəri-/ *n* any of several composite pot plants with heart-shaped leaves and clusters of bright flower heads [NL, fr L, fem of *cinerarius* of ashes, fr *ciner-*, *cinis* ashes]

**cinerarium** /sina'reəri-əm/ *n*, pl *cineraria* /-ri-/ a place where the ashes of the cremated dead are kept [L, fr *ciner-*, *cinis*] – *cinerary* /sina'reəri/ *adj*

**Cingalese** /sing'gəleɪz/ *n*, pl *Cingalese* (a) Sinhalese

**cinnabar** /sina'bah/ *n* 1 naturally occurring red mercuric sulphide 2 a European moth with greyish black fore wings marked with red and clear reddish pink hind wings [ME *cynabare*, fr MF & L; MF *cenobre*, fr L *cinnabaris*, fr Gk *kinnabari*, of non-IE origin; akin to Ar *zīnāfir* cinnabar]

**cin, namic** /'sənamik/ *n* an odourless acid found esp in cinnamon oil and storax

**cinnamon** /sina'mən/ *n* 1 (any of several trees of the laurel family with) an aromatic bark used as a spice 2 light yellowish brown [ME *cynamone*, fr L *cinnamomum*, *cinnamon*, fr Gk *kinnamōmon*, *kinnamon*, of non-IE origin; akin to Heb *qinnamon* cinnamon] – *cinnaemic* /sə'namik/ *adj*

**cinquecento** /'chingkw'i'chentoh/ *n* the 16th century, esp in Italian art [It, lit., five hundred, fr *cinque* five (fr L *quinque*) + *cento* hundred, fr L *centum* – more at HUNDRED] – *cinquecentist n*

**cinquefoil** /'singk'foyl/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the rose family with 5-lobed leaves 2 a design enclosed by 5 joined arcs arranged in a circle [ME *sink foil*, fr MF *cincofolle*, fr L *quinquefolium*, fr *quinque* five + *folium* leaf – more at BLADE]

**'Cinque, Port** /'singk/ *n* any of orig 5 and now 7 towns on the SE coast of England with ancient privileges because of their importance in naval defence [back-formation fr *Cinque Ports*, pl, fr OF *cinq ports* five ports, fr L *quinque portus*]

**'cipher also cypher** /sifa/ *n* 1a ZERO 1 b sby who or sthg that has no worth or influence; a nonentity 2a a method of transforming a text in order to conceal its meaning – compare CODE 3b a message in code 3 any of the Arabic numerals 4 a combination of symbolic letters; esp a monogram [ME, fr MF *cifre*, fr ML *cifra*, fr Ar *ṣifr* empty, cipher, zero]

**'cipher also cypher** *vt* 1 to encipher 2 to compute arithmetically

**circa** /suhka/ *prep* at, in, or of approximately – used esp with dates <born ~ 1600> [L, fr *circum* round – more at CIRCUM-]

**circadian** /suh'kaydi-ən/ *adj* being, having, characterized by, or occurring in approximately day-long periods or cycles (e.g. of biological activity or function) <~ *rhythms*> <~ *leaf movements*> [L *ci-* – *circum* + *dies* day + *-an* – more at DERRY]

**Circassian** /suh'kasi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a member of the language) of a group of peoples of the Caucasus not of Indo-European speech [*Circassia*, region of Russia]

**circinate** /suh'si,nayt/ *adj* rolled or coiled (with the top as a centre) <~ *fern fronds unfolding*> [L *circinatus*, pp of *circinare* to round, fr *circinus* pair of compasses, fr *circus*] – *circinately adv*

**'circle** /suhkl/ *n* 1a a closed plane curve every point of which is equidistant from a fixed point within the curve b the plane surface bounded by such a curve 2 sthg in the form of (an arc of) a circle. e.g. a balcony or tier of seats in a theatre b a circle formed on the surface of a sphere (e.g. the earth) by the intersection of a plane 3 cycle, round <the wheel has come full ~> 4 *sing* or *pl* in constr a group of people sharing a common interest, activity, or leader <the gossip of court ~s> **USE (1)** ➔ MATHEMATICS [ME *cercle*, fr OF, fr L *circulus*, dim of *circus* ring, circus, fr or akin to Gk *krkos*, *kirkos* ring]

**'circle** *vb* *circling* /suh'kling, 'suhkl-ing/ *vt* 1 to enclose (as if) in a circle 2 to move or revolve round ~ *vi* to move (as if) in a circle – *circler* /suhklo, 'suhkl-ə/ *n*

**circlet** /suh'klit/ *n* a little circle, esp a circular ornament

**circclip** /suh'kli:p/ *trademark* – used for a clip that encircles a tubular fitting and is held in place by its natural tension

**circuit** /suh'kit/ *n* 1 a closed loop encompassing an area 2a a course round a periphery b a racetrack 3a a regular tour (e.g. by a judge) round an assigned area or territory b the route travelled c a group of church congregations with 1 pastor (e.g. in the Methodist church) 4a the complete path of an electric current, usu including the source of energy b an array of electrical components connected so as to allow the passage of current c a 2-way communication path between points (e.g. in a computer) 5a an association or league of similar groups b a chain of theatres at which productions are presented successively [ME, fr MF *circuite*, fr L *circuitus*, fr pp of *circumire*, *circuire* to go round, fr *circum-* + *ire* to go – more at ISSUE] – *circuitual adj*

**'circuit breaker** *n* a switch that automatically interrupts an electric circuit under an infrequent abnormal condition

**circuitous** /suh'kyoo'h-itəs/ *adj* indirect in route or method, roundabout – *circuitously adv*, *circuitousness, circuitry* /suh'kyoo'oti/ *n*

**circuitry** /suh'kitri/ *n* (a system of) electrical circuits

**'circular** /suh'kyoola/ *adj* 1 having the form of a circle 2 moving in or describing a circle or spiral 3 marked by the fallacy of assuming sthg which is to be demonstrated <~ *arguments*> 4 marked by or moving in a cycle 5 intended for circulation [ME *circuler*, fr MF, fr L *circularis*, fr L *circulus* circle] – *circularity* /-'larəti/ *n*, *circularly* /-'ləli/ *adv*, *circularness* /-'lənis/ *n*

**'circular** *n* a paper (e.g. a leaflet or advertisement) intended for wide distribution

**circular-ize, -ise** /suh'kyoola,riz/ *vt* 1 to send circulars to 2 to publicize, esp by means of circulars – *circularization* /-'rie-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'circular letter** *n* a letter of which many copies are made for distribution to a number of people

**circular measure** *n* the measure of an angle in radians

**'circular saw** *n* a power-driven saw that has its teeth set on the edge of a revolving metal disc

**circulate** /suh'kyoo,ləyt/ *vi* 1 to move in a circle, circuit, or orbit; esp to follow a course that returns to the starting point <blood ~s through the body> 2 to pass from person to person or place to place. e.g. a to flow without obstruction b to become well known or widespread <rumours ~d through the town> c to go from group to group at a social gathering d to come into the hands of readers; *specif* to become sold or distributed ~ *vt* to cause to circulate [L *circulatus*, pp of *circulare*, fr *circulus* circle] – *circulatable* /-'ləytəbl/ *adj*, *circulative* /-'lədv/ *adj*, *circulator* /-'ləytə/ *n*, *circulatory* /-'lətri/ *adj*

**circulation** /suh'kyoo'ləysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a flow 2 orderly movement through a circuit; esp the movement of blood through the vessels of the body induced by the pumping action of the heart 3a passage or transmission from person to person or place to place; esp the interchange of currency <coins in ~> b the extent of dissemination; esp the average number of copies of a publication sold over a given period

**'circulatory system** /suh'kyoolətri, 'suh'kyoo'ləyt(ə)ri/ *n* the system of blood, blood and lymphatic vessels, and heart concerned with the circulation of the blood and lymph ➔ ANATOMY

**circum-** /suhkəm-/ *prefix* round; about <circumnavigate> [OF or L; OF, fr L, fr *circum*, fr *circus* circle – more at CIRCLE]


**'circumambulate** /-'ambyoolləyt/ *vt* to walk round, esp in a ritual

- fashion - fml [LL *circumambulatus*, pp of *circumambulare*, fr L *circum-* + *ambulare* to walk]
- circumcise** /'suhkəm,siəz/ *vt* to cut off the foreskin of (a male) or the clitoris of (a female) [ME *circumcisen*, fr L *circumcisus*, pp of *circumcidere*, fr *circum-* + *caedere* to cut - more at **CONCISE**] - **circumciser** *n*
- circumcision** /-'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a Jewish rite of circumcising performed on male infants as a sign of inclusion in the Jewish religious community 2 *cap* January 1 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the circumcision of Jesus [CIRCUMCISE + -ION]
- circumference** /suh'kʊmfərəns/ *n* 1 the perimeter of a circle  MATHEMATICS 2 the external boundary or surface of a figure or object [ME, fr MF, fr L *circumferentia*, fr *circumferre* to carry round, fr *circum-* + *ferre* to carry - more at **BEAR**] - **circumferential** /-,kʊmfə'renʃ(ə)/ *adj*
- 'circumflex** /suh'kʊmfleks/ *adj* marked with or having the sound indicated by a circumflex [L *circumflexus*, pp of *circumflectere* to bend round, mark with a circumflex, fr *circum-* + *flectere* to bend]
- ²circumflex** *n* an accent mark ' ^, or ~ used in various languages to mark length, contraction, or a particular vowel quality  SYMBOL
- circumlocution** /-lə'kyoʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the use of an unnecessarily large number of words to express an idea 2 evasive speech [L *circumlocution-*, *circumlocutio*, fr *circum-* + *locutio* speech, fr *locutus*, pp of *loqui* to speak] - **circumlocutious** /-'kyoʊʃhəs/ *adj*, **circumlocutory** /-'ləkyoot(ə)r/ *adj*
- circumlunar** /-'looʊnə/ *adj* revolving round or surrounding the moon
- circumnavigate** /-'nævɪɡayt/ *vt* to go round, esp to travel completely round (the earth), esp by sea [L *circumnavigatus*, pp of *circumnavigare* to sail round, fr *circum-* + *navigare* to navigate] - **circumnavigator** *n*, **circumnavigation** /-'ɡayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- circumpolar** /-'pəʊlə/ *adj* 1 of a celestial body continually visible above the horizon 2 surrounding or found near a pole of the earth
- 'circumspect** /-'spekt/ *adj* careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences, prudent [ME, fr MF or L, MF *circospect*, fr L *circumspectus*, fr pp of *circumspicere* to look around, be cautious, fr *circum-* + *specere* to look - more at **SPY**] - **circumspection** /-'spekʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **circumspectly** /-'spekʃli/ *adv*
- circumscription** /-'skrɪpʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a) circumscribing or being circumscribed; esp (the act of imposing) a restriction [L *circumscription-*, *circumscripſio*, fr *circumscripſus*, pp of *circumscribere*]
- 'circumspect** /-'spekt/ *adj* careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences; prudent [ME, fr MF or L, MF *circospect*, fr L *circumspectus*, fr pp of *circumspicere* to look around, be cautious, fr *circum-* + *specere* to look - more at **SPY**] - **circumspection** /-'spekʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **circumspectly** /-'spekʃli/ *adv*
- circumstance** /suh'kʊmstɑns, -stans, -stəns/ *n* 1 a condition or event that accompanies, causes, or determines another; also the sum of such conditions or events (<economic ~>) 2a a state of affairs, an occurrence (<open rebellion was a rare ~>) - often pl with sing. meaning (<a victim of ~s>) b pl situation with regard to material or financial welfare (<he was in easy ~s>) 3 attendant formalities and ceremony (<pomp and ~>) 4 an incident viewed as part of a narrative or course of events; a fact [ME, fr MF, fr L *circumstantia*, fr *circumstant-*, *circumstans*, prp of *circumstare* to stand round, fr *circum-* + *stare* to stand - more at **STAND**] - **in/under the circumstances** *adv* because of the conditions, considering the situation
- 'circumstanced** *adj* placed in specified circumstances, esp in regard to property or income
- circumstantial** /suh'kʊm'stɑnʃ(ə)l, -'stɑnʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 belonging to, consisting in, or dependent on circumstances 2 pertinent but not essential; incidental - **circumstantiality** /-ʃi'altɪ/ *n*, **circumstantially** /-ʃ(ə)lɪ/ *adv*
- circumstantial evidence** *n* evidence that tends to prove a fact indirectly by proving other events or circumstances which afford a basis for drawing conclusions
- circumstantiate** /suh'kʊm'stɑnʃi,ayt/ *vt* to supply with circumstantial evidence or support
- circumvallate** /-'vəlayt/ *adj* surrounded (as if) by a rampart [L *circumvallatus*, pp of *circumvallare* to surround with a wall, fr *circum-* + *vallare* to fortify with a wall, fr *vallum* rampart - more at **WALL**] - **circumvallation** /-və'layʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- circumvent** /-'vent/ *vt* to check or evade, esp by ingenuity or stratagem [L *circumventus*, pp of *circumvenire*, fr *circum-* + *venire* to come - more at **COME**] - **circumvention** /-'venʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- circus** /suh'kʊs/ *n* 1a a large circular or oval stadium used esp for sports contests or spectacles b a public spectacle 2a (the usu covered arena housing) an entertainment in which a variety of performers (e.g. acrobats and clowns) and performing animals are involved in a series of unrelated acts b an activity suggestive of a circus (e.g. in being a busy scene of noisy or frivolous action) 3 *Br* a road junction in a town partly surrounded by a circle of buildings - usu in proper names (<Piccadilly Circus>) [L, ring, circus - more at **CIRCLE**] - **circusy** *adj*
- ciré** /'sɪrə (Fr sɪrə)/ *n* (a fabric with) a highly glazed finish, usu achieved by waxing and heating [F, fr pp of *cirer* to wax, fr *cire* wax, fr L *cera* - more at **CERUMEN**]
- cire perdue** /,sɪə pe'doʊ (Fr sɪr pɛr'dy)/ *n* a process used in metal casting in which a clay impression of an object (e.g. a statue) is formed from a wax model which is then melted away leaving a mould into which molten metal can be poured [F (*moulage à cire perdue*, lit, lost wax casting)]
- 'cirl, bunting** /suhl/ *n* a small yellow olive and black European bunting [NL *cirlus*, specific epithet, fr It *cirlo*, of imit origin]
- cirque** /suhk/ *n* 1 a deep steep-walled basin on a mountain  GEOGRAPHY 2 *archaic* CIRCUS 1a [F, fr L *circus*]
- cirr-, cirri-, cirro-** *comb form* cirrus (<cirriped>) (<cirrose>) (<cirrostratus>) [NL *cirrus*]
- cirrrosis** /sɪ'roʊsɪs/ *n*, pl **cirrhoses** /-,seəz/ hardening (of the liver) caused by excessive formation of connective tissue [NL, fr Gk *kurrhos* orange-coloured] - **cirrhotic** /-'rɒtɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- cirriped** /sɪrɪ'ped/, **cirripede** /-,ped/ *n* a barnacle or related marine crustacean permanently attached (e.g. to a rock) as an adult [deriv of NL *cirr-* + L *ped-*, *pes* foot - more at **FOOT**] - **cirriped** *adj*
- cirrocumulus** /sɪrə'h'kyoʊh'myooləs/ *n* a cloud formation consisting of small white rounded masses at a high altitude, usu in regular groupings forming a mackerel sky [NL]
- cirrostratus** /sɪrə'h'straɪtəs/ *n* a uniform layer of high stratus clouds that are darker than cirrus  WEATHER [NL]
- cirrus** /sɪrəs/ *n*, pl **cirri** /-rɪ-/ 1 *TENDRIL* 2 a slender usu flexible (invertebrate) animal appendage 3 a wispy white cloud formation usu of minute ice crystals formed at high altitudes  WEATHER [NL, fr L, curl]
- cis** /sɪs/ *adj* characterized by having identical atoms or groups on the same side of the molecule - usu ital, often in combination (<1,2-dichloroethylene>), compare **TRANS** [L, on this side]
- cis-** /sɪs-/ *prefix* on this side of (<cisplatin>) (<cisatlantic>) [L, fr *cis* - more at **HE**]
- cisalpine** /sɪs'alpiən/ *adj* south of the Alps
- cislunar** /sɪs'looʊnə/ *adj* between the earth and the moon (<~ space>)
- cissy, sissy** /sɪsi/ *n*, *Br* 1 an effeminate boy or man 2 a cowardly person **CISSE** infml [cissy, alter. of sissy, fr *sis* (short for *sister*) + '-y'] - **cissy** *adj*
- cist** /sɪst/ *n* a neolithic or Bronze Age stone burial chamber [W, chest, fr L *cista*]
- Cistercian** /sɪ'stuʃ(ə)n/ *n* a member of an austere Benedictine order founded by St Robert of Molesme in 1098 at Cîteaux in France [ML *Cistercium* Cîteaux] - **Cistercian** *adj*
- cistern** /sɪst(ə)n/ *n* an artificial reservoir for storing liquids, esp water: e.g. a tank at the top of a house or building b a water reservoir for a toilet c chiefly *NAm* a usu underground tank for storing rainwater [ME, fr OF *cisterne*, fr L *cisterna*, fr *cista* box, chest]
- cistron** /sɪstrən/ *n* a gene consisting of a segment of DNA which codes for a particular enzyme, RNA molecule, etc [cis- + trans- + -on] - **cistronic** /-'strɒnɪk/ *adj*
- citadel** /sɪtədl, -del/ *n* 1 a fortress; esp one that commands a city 2 a stronghold [MF *citadelle*, fr OIt *ciudadella*, dim. of *ciittade* city, fr ML *civitat-*, *civitas* - more at **CITY**]
- citation** /sɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an act of citing or quoting b a quotation 2a mention; specif specific reference in a military dispatch to meritorious conduct - **citational** *adj*
- cite** /sɪt/ *vt* 1 to call upon to appear before a court 2 to quote by way of example, authority, precedent, or proof (<~ Biblical passages>) 3 to refer to or name; esp to mention formally in commendation or praise [MF *citer* to cite, summon, fr L *citare* to put in motion, rouse, summon, fr *citus*, pp of *cirere* to stir, move] - **citable** *adj*
- cithara** /sɪθərə, 'ki-/ *n* an ancient Greek stringed instrument of the lyre family with a wooden sounding board [L, fr Gk *kithara*]
- cithern** /sɪðhɜn/ *n* a cittern
- citizen** /sɪtɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 an inhabitant of a city or town; esp a freeman 2 a (native or naturalized) member of a state [ME *citizein*, fr AF *citzein*, alter. of OF *citeien*, fr *citē* city] - **citizenly** *adj*, **citizenship** *n*

- 'citizenry** /-ri/ *n* *sing or pl in constr* the whole body of citizens  
**'Citizens' Band** *n* a system of radio communication by which private individuals, esp drivers, can transmit messages to one another  
**citr-, citri-, citro-** *comb form* 1 citrus [citriculture] 2 citric acid [citrate] [NL, fr *Citrus*, genus name]  
**citrate** /sɪ'traɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of citric acid [ISV]  
**'citric acid** /sɪ'trɪk/ *n* an acid occurring in lemons, limes, etc, formed as an intermediate in cell metabolism, and used as a flavouring [ISV]  
**'citric acid cycle** *n* KREBS CYCLE  
**'citrine** /sɪ'trɪn/ *adj* resembling a lemon, esp in colour [ME, fr MF *citrin*, fr ML *citrinus*, fr L *citrus* citron tree]  
**\*citrine** *n* semiprecious yellow quartz  
**citron** /sɪ'trɒn/ *n* 1 a (tree that bears) fruit like the lemon but larger and with a thicker rind 2 the preserved rind of the citron, used esp in cakes and puddings [ME, fr MF, fr OProv, modif of L *citrus* citron tree]  
**citronella** /sɪ'trɒnələ/ *n* a fragrant S Asian grass that yields an oil used in perfumery and as an insect repellent [NL, fr F *citronnelle* lemon balm, fr *citron*]  
**citrous** /sɪ'traʊs/ *adj* of or being citrus trees or their fruit  
**citrus** /sɪ'trʌs/ *n, pl* *citrus*, *citruses* any of several often thorny trees and shrubs of the rue family grown in warm regions for their edible thick-rinded juicy fruit (e.g. the orange or lemon) [NL, genus name, fr L, *citron* tree] – *citrus* *adj*  
**cittrun** /sɪ'trʌn/ *n* a plucked stringed instrument popular esp in Renaissance England [blend of *cither* and *gittern*]  
**city** /sɪ'ti/ *n* 1a a large town b an incorporated British town that has a cathedral or has had civic status conferred on it c *COUNTY* e a usu large chartered municipality in the USA 2 a city-state 3a the financial and commercial area of London b *cap, sing or pl in constr* the influential financial interests of the British economy [ME *citte* large or small town, fr OF *citē* capital city, fr ML *civitat-*, *civitas*, fr L, citizenship, state, city of Rome, fr *civis* citizen – more at HOME]  
**city father** *n* an important official or prominent citizen of a city  
**city hall** *n* the chief administrative building of a city  
**city slicker** *n, NAm* a slicker – *infmt*  
**city-state** *n* an autonomous state consisting of a city and surrounding territory  
**civet** /sɪ'vɪt/ *n* a thick yellowish musky-smelling substance extracted from a pouch near the sexual organs of the civet cat and used in perfumery [MF *civette*, fr OIt *zibetto*, fr Ar *zabad* civet perfume]  
**'civet, cat** *n* a long-bodied short-legged flesh-eating African mammal from which civet is obtained  
**civic** /sɪ'vɪk/ *adj* of a citizen, a city, or citizenship [L *civicus*, fr *civis* citizen] – *civically* /-kli/ *adv*  
**'civic centre** *n, Br* an area where a planned group of the chief public buildings of a town are situated  
**'civics** *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr* a social science dealing with the rights and duties of citizens  
**civies** /sɪ'vɪz/ *n pl* *civies*  
**civil** /sɪ'vɪl/ *adj* 1 of citizens <~ liberties> 2 adequately courteous and polite; not rude 3 relating to private rights as distinct from criminal proceedings 4 of time based on the sun and legally recognized for use in ordinary affairs 5 of or involving the general public as distinguished from special (e.g. military or religious) affairs [ME, fr MF, fr L *civilis*, fr *civis*] – *civilly* /sɪ'vɪl(ə)-/ *adv*  
**civil defence** *n, often cap C&D* protective measures organized by and for civilians against hostile attack, esp from the air, or natural disaster  
**civil disobedience** *n* refusal to obey governmental demands (e.g. payment of tax) as a means of forcing concessions  
**civil engineer** *n* an engineer whose training or occupation is in the designing and construction of large-scale public works (e.g. roads or bridges) – *civil engineering* *n*  
**civilian** /sɪ'vɪliən/ *n* one who is not in the army, navy, air force, or other uniformed public body – *civilian* *adj*, *civilianize* /-niez/ *vt*, *civilianization* /-niezə'zayʃən/ *n*  
**civility** /sɪ'vɪlɪti/ *n* 1 courtesy, politeness 2 a polite act or expression – *usu pl*  
**civilization, -lation** /sɪ'vɪlɪzə'zayʃən/, -li-/ *n* 1a a relatively high level of cultural and technological development b the culture characteristic of a particular time or place 2 the process of becoming civilized 3 life in a place that offers the comforts of the modern world; *specif* life in a city – often *humor*  
**civilize, -ise** /sɪ'vɪ(ə)lɪz-/ *vt* 1 to cause to develop out of a primitive state; *specif* to bring to a technically advanced and rationally ordered stage of cultural development 2 to educate, refine – *civilizable* *adj*, *civilizer* *n*  
**'civilized, -ised** *adj* of or being peoples or nations in a state of civilization  
**civil law** *n, often cap C&L* 1 ROMAN LAW 2 the body of private law developed from Roman law as distinct from common law 3 the law established by a nation or state for its own jurisdiction (e.g. as distinct from international law) 4 the law of private rights <~ LAW>  
**civil liberty** *n* a right or freedom of the individual citizen in relation to the state (e.g. freedom of speech); also such rights or freedoms considered collectively – *civil libertarian* *n*  
**'civil list** *n* an annual allowance by Parliament for the expenses of the monarch and royal family  
**civil marriage** *n* a marriage involving a civil contract but no religious rite  
**civil rights** *n pl* CIVIL LIBERTIES, esp those of status equality between races or groups – *civil righter*, *civil rightist* *n*  
**civil servant** *n* a member of a civil service  
**civil service** *n* *sing or pl in constr* the administrative service of a government or international agency, exclusive of the armed forces  
**civil war** *n* a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country  
**civvies, civies** /sɪ'vɪz/ *n pl* civilian as distinguished from military clothes – *slang* [by shortening & alter.]  
**'civvy, street** /sɪ'vɪ/ *n, often cap C&S, Br* civilian life as opposed to life in the services – *slang*  
**clachan** /'klak(h)ən, 'klah-/ *n, Scot & Irish* a small village, a hamlet [ME, fr ScGael]  
**'clack** /klak/ *vi* 1 CHATTER 2 – *infmt* 2 to make an abrupt striking sound or sounds ~ *vt* to cause to make a clatter [ME *clacken*, of imit origin] – *clacker* *n*  
**\*clack** *n* 1 rapid continuous talk, chatter – *infmt* 2 a sound of clacking  
**'clad** /klad/ *adj* being covered or clothed <ivy-clad buildings> <~ in tweeds> [pp of *clothe*]  
**\*clad** *vt -dd-; clad* to cover with cladding  
**'clad** *n* cladding  
**cladding** /'kladɪŋ/ *n* a thin covering or overlay (e.g. of stone on a building or metal on a metal core)  
**cladistics** /kla'dɪstɪks/ *n pl* but *sing in constr* a theory that describes the relationship between types of organism on the assumption that their sharing of a unique characteristic (e.g. the hair of mammals) possessed by no other organism indicates their descent from a single common ancestor [clade (group of organisms evolved from a common ancestor, fr Gk *klados* branch) + *-istics* (as in *statistics*)]  
**cladode** /'kladəhd/ *n* a branch that closely resembles a leaf and often bears leaves or flowers [NL *cladodium*, fr Gk *klados* branch] – *cladodial* /-dohdi-əl/ *adj*  
**'claim** /kleɪm/ *vt* 1a to ask for, esp as a right <~ed *Supplementary Benefit*> b to require, demand c to take, ACCOUNT FOR 3 <plague ~ed thousands of lives> 2 to take as the rightful owner 3 to assert in the face of possible contradiction, maintain <~ed that he'd been cheated> [ME *clamen*, fr OF *clamare*, fr L *clamare* to cry out, shout, akin to L *calare* to call – more at 'low] – *claimable* *adj*, *claimer* *n*  
**\*claim** *n* 1 a demand for sthg (believed to be) due <insurance ~> 2a a right or title to sthg b an assertion open to challenge <a ~ to fame> 3 sthg claimed; esp a tract of land staked out  
**claimant** /'kleɪmənt/ *n* one who asserts a right or entitlement  
**clairvoyance** /kleɪ'vɔɪəns/ *n* 1 the power or faculty of discerning objects not apparent to the physical senses 2 the ability to perceive matters beyond the range of ordinary perception [F, fr *clairvoyant* clear-sighted, fr *clair* clear (fr L *clarus*) + *voyant*, prp of *voir* to see, fr L *videre*] – *clairvoyant* *adj* or *n*  
**clam** /klam/ *n* 1 any of numerous edible marine molluscs (e.g. a scallop) living in sand or mud 2 a freshwater mussel: [clam, n (clump), fr OE *clamm* bond, fetter; fr the clamping action of the shells]  
**'clam, bake** /-bayk/ *n, NAm* 1 an outdoor party; esp a seashore outing where food is cooked on heated rocks covered by seaweed 2 a gathering characterized by noisy sociability; esp a political rally [clam + bake]  
**clambek** /'klamba/ *vi* to climb awkwardly or with difficulty [ME *clambren*; akin to OE *climban* to climb] – *clamberer* *n*  
**clammy** /'klami/ *adj* being damp, clinging, and usu cool [ME, prob fr *clammen* to smear, stick, fr OE *clēman*; akin to OE *clæg* clay] – *clammi* *adv*, *clamminess* *n*  
**clamour, NAm chiefly clamor** /'klamaʊ/ *vi* or *n* 1 (to engage in) noisy shouting 2 (to make) a loud continuous noise 3 (to make) insistent public expression (e.g. of support or protest) <the ~ for representation> [n ME



- clamor*, fr MF *clamour*, fr L *clamor*, fr *clamare* to cry out, vb fr n] – **clamorous** *adj*, **clamorously** *adv*, **clamorousness** *n*
- clamp** /klamp/ *n* 1 a device that holds or compresses 2 or more parts firmly together 2 a heap of wooden sticks or bricks for burning, firing, etc [ME, prob fr (assumed) MD *klampe*; akin to OE *clamm* bond, fetter]
- clamp** *vt* 1 to fasten (as if) with a clamp (< an artery>) 2 to hold tightly
- clamp** *n*, *Br* a heap of potatoes, turnips, etc covered over with straw or earth [prob fr D *klamp* heap]
- clamp down** *vi* to impose restrictions, *also* to make restrictions more stringent – **clamp-down** *n*
- clamp up** *vi* to become silent – *infmtl*
- clan** /klan/ *n* 1a a (Highland Scots) Celtic group of households descended from a common ancestor **b** a group of people related by family (<the Kennedy ~>) 2a usu close-knit group united by a common interest or common characteristics [ME, fr ScGael *clann* offspring, *clan*, fr OIr *cland* plant, offspring, fr L *planta* plant] – **clansman** /'klanzəmən/ *n*
- clandestine** /k'lændəstɪn/ *adj* held in or conducted with secrecy, surreptitious [MF or L, MF *clandestin*, fr L *clandestinus*, irreg fr *clam* secretly, akin to L *celare* to hide – more at HEI L] – **clandestinely** *adv*
- clang** /k'laŋg/ *vi* 1 to make a loud metallic ringing sound (<anvils ~ ed>) 2 *esp* of a crane or goose to utter a harsh cry ~ *vt* to cause to clang (< a bell>) [L *clangere*, akin to Gk *klazein* to scream, bark, OE *hlōwan* to low] – **clang** *n*
- clanger** /'klaŋgə/ *n*, *Br* a blunder – *infmtl* [*clang* + <sup>1</sup>-er]
- clangour**, *NAm chiefly* **clangor** /'k'laŋg(ə)/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a resounding clang or medley of clangs (<the ~ of hammers>) [*n* L *clangor*, fr *clangere*, vb fr n] – **clangorous** *adj*, **clangorously** *adv*
- clank** /k'l'laŋk/ *vb* to (cause to) make a clank or series of clanks [prob *imit*] – **clankingly** *adv*
- clank** *n* a sharp brief metallic sound
- clannish** /'k'l'laɪnɪʃ/ *adj* tending to associate only with a select group of similar background, status, or interests [CLAN + -ISH] – **clannishly** *adv*, **clannishness** *n*
- clap** /k'l'ap/ *vb-pp- vt* 1 to strike (e.g. 2 flat hard surfaces) together so as to produce a loud sharp percussive noise 2a to strike (the hands) together repeatedly, usu in applause **b** to applaud 3 to strike with the flat of the hand in a friendly way 4 to place, put, or set, esp energetically – *infmtl* (< him in irons>) (< finest vessel I ever ~ ped eyes on>) ~ *vi* 1 to produce a sharp percussive noise 2 to applaud [ME *clappen*, fr OE *clæppan*, akin to OHG *klaphon* to beat, L *gleba* clod – more at <sup>1</sup>CLIP]
- clap** *n* 1 a loud sharp percussive noise, specif of thunder 2 a friendly slap (< a ~ on the shoulder>) 3 the sound of clapping hands, *esp* applause
- clap** *n* VENEREAL DISEASE; *esp* gonorrhoea – *slang* [MF *clapour* bubo]
- clapboard** /'k'l'apbɔ:d/ *n*, *NAm* weatherboard [part trans of D *klaphout* stave wood] – **clapboard** *vt*
- clapped out** *adj*, *chiefly Br*, *esp* of machinery (old and) worn-out, liable to break down irreparably – *infmtl*
- clapper** /'k'l'apə/ *n* the tongue of a bell [<sup>1</sup>CLAP + <sup>2</sup>-ER] – like the **clappers** *Br* as fast as possible – *infmtl*; + *run* or *go*
- clapperboard** *n* a hinged board containing identifying details of the scene to be filmed that is held before the camera and banged together to mark the beginning and end of each take
- claptrap** /'k'l'ap,trap/ *n* pretentious nonsense, rubbish – *infmtl* [<sup>1</sup>CLAP + <sup>1</sup>trap; fr its attempt to win applause]
- claque** /'k'l'ak/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a group hired to applaud at a performance 2 a group of self-interested obsequious flatterers [F, fr *claquer* to clap, of *imit* origin]
- clarence** /'k'l'ærəns/ *n* a closed 4-wheeled 4-passenger carriage [Duke of Clarence, later William IV of England †1837]
- claret** /'k'l'ærɪt/ *n* 1 a dry red Bordeaux 2 a dark purplish red colour [ME, fr MF (vin) *claret* clear wine, fr *claret* clear, fr *cler* clear] – **claret** *adj*
- clarify** /'k'l'ærɪ,fi/ *vt* 1 to make (e.g. a liquid) clear or pure, usu by freeing from suspended matter 2 to make free from confusion 3 to make understandable ~ *vi* to become clear [ME *clarifien*, fr MF *clarifier*, fr LL *clarificare*, fr L *clarus* clear – more at CLEAR] – **clarification** /'k'l'ærɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*, **clarifier** /'k'l'ærɪ,fi/ *n*
- clarinet** /'k'l'ærɪ'net/ *n* a single-reed woodwind instrument with a usual range from D below middle C upwards for 3½ octaves [F *clarinette*, prob deriv of ML *clarion-*, *clarior*] – **clarinetist**, *NAm chiefly* **clarinetist** /'netɪst/ *n*
- clarion** /'k'l'ærɪən/ *n* (the sound of) a medieval trumpet [ME, fr MF & ML, MF *clairon*, fr ML *clarion-*, *clarior*, fr L *clarus* clear]
- clarion** *adj* brilliantly clear (< a ~ call to action>)
- clarity** /'k'l'ærɪti/ *n* the quality or state of being clear [ME *clarite*, fr L *claritatis*, *claritas*, fr *clarus*]
- clarkia** /'k'l'ahki:ə/ *n* a showy annual N American garden plant of the evening-primrose family [NL, fr William Clark †1838 US explorer]
- clary** /'kleəri/ *n* any of several plants of the mint family, closely related to sage [ME *clarre*, fr MF *sclearce*, fr ML *scclareia*]
- clash** /k'l'ash/ *vi* 1 to make a clash (<cymbals ~ ed>) 2a to come into conflict **b** to form a displeasing combination; not match (<these colours ~>) ~ *vt* to cause to clash [*imit*] – **clasher** *n*
- clash** *n* 1 a noisy usu metallic sound of collision 2a a hostile encounter **b** a sharp conflict (< a ~ of opinions>)
- clasp** /k'l'ahsp/ *n* 1 a device for holding objects or parts of sthg together (<the ~ of a necklace>) 2 a holding or enveloping (as if) with the hands or arms [ME *claspe*]
- clasp** *vt* 1 to fasten (as if) with a clasp 2 to enclose and hold with the arms, *specif* to embrace 3 to seize (as if) with the hand, grasp
- clasper** /'k'l'ahspə/ *n* a male copulatory structure of some insects and fishes [<sup>1</sup>CLASP + <sup>2</sup>-FR]
- clasp knife** *n* a large single-bladed folding knife having a catch to hold the blade open
- class** /k'l'ahs/ *n* 1a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group sharing the same economic or social status in a society consisting of several groups with differing statuses – often *pl* with *sing* meaning (<the labouring ~es>) **b**(1) social rank (2) the system of differentiating society by classes *c* high quality; elegance 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of students meeting regularly to study the same subject 3 a group, set, or kind sharing common attributes e.g. a category in biological classification ranking above the order and below the phylum or division **b** a grammatical category 4a a division or rating based on grade or quality **b** *Br* a level of university honours degree awarded to a student according to merit (<what ~ did she get?>) [F *classe*, fr L *classis* group called to arms, class of citizens, akin to L *calare* to call – more at <sup>1</sup>LOW]
- class** *vt* to classify
- class-conscious** *adj* 1 actively aware of one's common status with others in a particular class 2 taking part in class war – **class-consciousness** *n*
- classic** /'k'l'asɪk/ *adj* 1a of recognized value or merit, serving as a standard of excellence **b** both traditional and enduring (< a ~ heritage>) *c* characterized by simple tailored and elegant lines that remain in fashion year after year (< a ~ suit>) 2 CLASSICAL 2 3a authoritative, definitive **b** being an example that shows clearly the characteristics of some group of things or occurrences, archetypal [F or L, F *classique*, fr L *classicus* of the highest class of Roman citizens, of the first rank, fr *classis*]
- classic** *n* 1a a literary work of ancient Greece or Rome **b** *pl* Greek and Latin literature, history, and philosophy considered as an academic subject 2a (the author of) a work of lasting excellence **b** an authoritative source 3 a classic example, archetype 4 an important long-established sporting event, *specif*, *Br* any of 5 flat races for horses (e.g. the Epsom Derby)
- classical** /'k'l'asɪkl/ *adj* 1 standard, classic 2 of the (literature, art, architecture, or ideals of the) ancient Greek and Roman world 3a of or being (a composer of) music of the late 18th c and early 19th c characterized by an emphasis on simplicity, objectivity, and proportion **b** of or being music in the educated European tradition that includes such forms as chamber music, opera, and symphony as distinguished from folk, popular music, or jazz 4a both authoritative and traditional **b**(1) of or being systems or methods that constitute an accepted although not necessarily modern approach to a subject (< Mendelian genetics>) (2) not involving relativity, wave mechanics, or quantum theory (< ~ physics>) 5 concerned with instruction in the classics [L *classicus*]
- classicality** /'k'l'asɪkəlɪti/ *n* the quality or state of being classic or classical
- classically** /'k'l'asɪklɪ/ *adv* in a classic or classical manner
- classicism** /'k'l'asɪsɪz(ə)m/, **classicalism** /'k'l'asɪklɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a the principles or style embodied in classical literature, art, or architecture **b** a classical idiom or expression 2 adherence to traditional standards (e.g. of simplicity, restraint, and proportion) that are considered to have universal and lasting worth – **classicalist** /-(ə)lɪst/, **classicalist** /-sɪst/ *n*, **classicalistic** /-sɪstɪk/ *adj*
- classicize**, *-ise* /'k'l'asɪsɪz/ *vt* to make classic or classical
- classification** /'k'l'asɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* 1 classifying 2a systematic arrangement in groups according to established criteria; *specif* taxonomy

- b** a class, category – **classificatorily** /-ˈkayt(ə)rəli/ *adv*, **classificatory** /ˈklasɪfɪkəɪ(ə)rɪ, kləˈsɪfɪkəɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj*  
**classified** /ˈklasɪfɪd/ *adj* withheld from general circulation for reasons of national security < ~ information>  
**classify** /ˈklasɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to arrange in classes 2 to assign to a category – **classifiable** /-fɪ-əbl/ *adj*, **classifier** /-fɪ-ə/ *n*  
**classless** /ˈklaɪslɪs/ *adj* 1 free from class distinction <~ society> 2 belonging to no particular social class – **classlessness** *n*  
**classmate** /-ˈmayt/ *n* a member of the same class in a school or college  
**classroom** /-ˈru:m, -ˈru:hm/ *n* a room where classes meet  
**class war** *n* the struggle for power between workers and property owners assumed by Marxist theory to develop in a capitalist society  
**classy** /ˈklaɪsi/ *adj* elegant, stylish – *informal* – **classiness** *n*  
**clastic** /ˈklastɪk/ *adj* made up of fragments of preexisting rocks [ISV, fr Gk *klastos* broken, fr *klan* to break – more at **HALT**] – **elastic** *n*  
**clathrate** /ˈklaθˌreɪt/ *adj* of or being a compound formed by the inclusion of molecules of one kind in the crystal lattice of another [L *clathratus*, fr *clathri* (pl) lattice, fr Gk *kleithron* bar, fr *klein* to close – more at **CLOSE**] – **clathrate** *n*  
**clatter** /ˈklaɪt/ *vi* 1 to make a clatter <the dishes ~ ed on the shelf> 2 to move or go with a clatter <~ ed down the stairs> 3 to prattle ~ *vt* to cause to clatter [ME *clatten*, fr (assumed) OE *clattran*, of imit origin] – **clatterer** *n*, **clatteringly** *adv*  
**clatter** *n* 1 a rattling sound (e.g. of hard bodies striking together) <the ~ of pots and pans> 2 a commotion <the midday ~ of the business district> – **clattery** *adj*  
**claudication** /ˈklaʊdɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* lameness, limping [L *claudication*, *claudicatio*, fr *claudicatus*, pp of *claudicare* to limp, fr *claudus* lame; akin to L *claudere* to close – more at **CLOSE**]  
**clause** /ˈklaʊz/ *n* 1 a distinct article or condition in a formal document 2 a phrase containing a subject and predicate and functioning either in isolation or as a member of a complex or compound sentence [ME, fr OF, *clause*, fr ML *clausa* close of a rhetorical period, fr L, fem of *clausus*, pp of *claudere* to close] – **clausal** *adj*  
**claustral** /ˈklaʊstrəl/ *adj* cloistral [ME, fr ML *claustralis*, fr *claustrum* cloister – more at **CLOISTER**]  
**claustrophobia** /ˈkloʊstrəˈfoʊbi-ə, -ˈklaʊ-/ *n* abnormal dread of being in closed or confined spaces [NL, fr L *claustrum* bar, bolt + NL *phobia* – more at **CLOISTER**] – **claustrophobic** /-ˈfoʊbɪk/ *adj*  
**clavate** /ˈklayˌvayt, -ˌvət/ *adj* club-shaped [NL *clavatus*, fr L *clava* club, fr *clavus* nail, knot in wood] – **clavately** *adv*, **clavation** /-ˌvayʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**clavichord** /ˈklavɪˌkɔːrd/ *n* an early usu rectangular keyboard instrument [ML *clavichordium*, fr L *clavis* key + *chorda* string – more at **CORD**] – **clavichordist** *n*  
**clavicle** /ˈklavɪkl/ *n* a bone of the vertebrate shoulder typically linking the shoulder blade and breastbone; the collarbone  **ANATOMY** [F *clavicule*, fr NL *clavicula*, fr L, dim. of L *clavis* key; akin to Gk *kleid-*, *kleis* key, L *claudere* to close – more at **CLOSE**] – **clavicular** /ˈklaʊvɪkjʊlə/ *adj*  
**clavier** /ˈklavɪ-ə/ *n* a usu unspecified keyboard instrument [G *klavier*, fr F *clavier*, fr OF, key-bearer, fr L *clavis* key] – **clavierist** /ˈklavɪərɪst/ *n*  
**claviform** /ˈklavɪˌfɔːm/ *adj* club-shaped [L *clava* club]  
**claw** /ˈklaʊ/ *n* 1 (a part resembling or limb having) a sharp usu slender curved nail on an animal's toe 2 any of the pincerlike organs on the end of some limbs of a lobster, scorpion, or similar arthropod 3 sth (e.g. the forked end of a claw hammer) resembling a claw [ME *clawe*, fr OE *clawu* hoof, claw; akin to ON *kló* claw, OE *cliewen* ball – more at **CLEW**] – **clawed** *adj*  
**claw** *vt* to rake, seize, dig, or make (as if) with claws ~ *vi* to scrape, scratch, dig, or pull (as if) with claws  
**claw back** *vt* to take back, esp by taxation – **claw-back** /-ˌˈ-/ *n*  
**claw hammer** *n* a hammer with one end of the head forked for pulling out nails  
**clay** /ˈklay/ *n* 1a (soil composed chiefly of) an earthy material that is soft when moist but hard when fired, is composed mainly of fine particles of aluminium silicates, and is used for making brick, tile, and pottery b thick and clinging earth or mud 2a a substance that resembles clay and is used for modelling b the human body as distinguished from the spirit [ME, fr OE *clæg*; akin to OHG *kliwa* bran, LL *glut-*, *glus* glue, MGk *glia*] – **clayey** /ˈklay-i/ *adj*, **clayish** *adj*  
**claymore** /ˈklayˌmɔː/ *n* a large single-edged broadsword formerly used by Scottish Highlanders [ScGael *claidheamh mór*, lit., great sword]
- clay pigeon** *n* a saucer-shaped object usu made of baked clay and hurled into the air as a target for shooting at with a shotgun  
**clean** /ˈkleɪn/ *adj* 1a (relatively) free from dirt or pollution <changed into ~ clothes> b free from contamination or disease c relatively free from radioactive fallout <~ atomic explosion> 2 unadulterated, pure 3a free from illegal, immoral, or disreputable activities <~ record> b free from the use of obscenity <I just don't know any ~ jokes> c observing the rules, fair <~ fight> 4 thorough, complete <~ break with the past> 5 relatively free from error or blemish, clear; specif legible <~ copy> 6a characterized by clarity, precision, or deftness <architecture with ~ almost austere lines> b not jagged, smooth <~ edge> c of a ship or aircraft well streamlined [ME *clene*, fr OE *clæne*; akin to OHG *kleini* delicate, dainty, Gk *glamor* ornaments] – **cleanly** *adv*, **cleanness** *n*  
**clean** *adv* 1a so as to leave clean <~ new broom sweeps ~> b in a clean manner <fight ~> 2 all the way, completely <the bullet went ~ through his arm>  
**clean** *vt* 1 to make clean – often + *up* 2a to strip, empty b to deprive of money or possessions – often + *out* <they ~ ed him out completely>, *informal* ~ *vi* to undergo cleaning – **cleanable** *adj*  
**clean** *n* an act of cleaning away dirt  
**clean-cut** *adj* 1 cut so that the surface or edge is smooth and even 2 sharply defined 3 of wholesome appearance  
**cleaner** /ˈkleɪnə/ *n* 1 sb whose occupation is cleaning rooms or clothes 2 a substance, implement, or machine for cleaning – to the cleaners to or through the experience of being deprived of all one's money – *informal*  
**cleanliness** /ˈkleɪnlɪnis/ *n* fastidiousness in keeping things or one's person clean – **cleanly** /ˈkleɪnli/ *adj*  
**cleanse** /ˈklenz/ *vb* to clean [ME *clensen*, fr OE *clænsian* to purify, fr *clæne* clean]  
**cleanser** /ˈklenzə/ *n* a preparation (e.g. a scouring powder or skin cream) used for cleaning [CLEANSE + <sup>2</sup>-ER]  
**clean-shaven** *adj* with the hair, specif of the beard and moustache, shaved off  
**clean sweep** *n* 1 a capture of all the prizes at stake in a contest or competition 2 a wholesale removal (e.g. of staff or out-of-date material)  
**clean up** *vi* to make a large esp sweeping gain (e.g. in business or gambling) ~ *vt* to remove by cleaning – **cleanup** /-ˌˈ-/ *n*  
**clear** /ˈkliːə/ *adj* 1a bright, luminous b free from cloud, mist, haze, or dust <~ day> c untroubled, serene <~ gaze> 2 clean, pure e.g. a free from blemishes b easily seen through, transparent 3a easily heard b easily visible; plain c free from obscurity or ambiguity; easily understood 4a capable of sharp discernment, keen <this problem needs a ~ mind> b free from doubt; sure <we are not ~ what to do> 5 free from guilt <~ conscience> 6a net <~ profit> b unqualified, absolute <~ victory> c free from obstruction or entanglement d full <~ 6 ~ days> [ME *clere*, fr OF *cler*, fr L *clarus* clear, bright, akin to L *calare* to call – more at **LOW**] – **clearly** *adv*, **clearness** *n*  
**clear** *adv* 1 clearly <to cry loud and ~> 2 chiefly NAm all the way <can see ~ to the mountains today>  
**clear** *vt* 1a to make transparent or translucent b to free from unwanted material – often + *out* <~ out that cupboard> 2a to free from accusation or blame; vindicate b to certify as trustworthy <~ a man for top secret military work> 3a to rid (the throat) of phlegm; also to make a rasping noise in (the throat) b to erase accumulated totals or stored data from (e.g. a calculator or computer memory) 4 to authorize or cause to be authorized 5a to free from financial obligation b(1) to settle, discharge <~ an account> (2) to deal with until finished or settled <~ the backlog of work> c to gain without deduction <~ a profit> d to put through a clearinghouse 6a to get rid of; remove <~ the plates from the table> – often + *off*, *up*, or *away* <~ away the rubbish> b to kick or pass (the ball) away from the goal as a defensive measure in soccer 7 to go over without touching <the horse ~ ed the jump> ~ *vi* 1a to become clear – often + *up* <it ~ ed up quickly after the rain> b to go away; vanish <the symptoms ~ ed gradually> – sometimes + *off*, *out* <~ told him to ~ out>, or *away* <after the mist ~ ed away> c to sell 2 to pass through a clearinghouse – **clearable** *adj*, **clearer** *n* – **clear** the air to remove elements of hostility, tension, confusion, or uncertainty from the mood or temper of the time – **clear** the decks to get things ready for action  
**clear** *n* a high long arcing shot in badminton – **in the clear** 1 free from guilt or suspicion 2 in plaintext; not in code or cipher  
**clearance** /ˈkliːərəns/ *n* 1a an authorization b a sale to clear out stock c the removal of buildings, people, etc from the space they previously occupied <the Highland ~s> <slum ~> d a clearing of the ball in soccer

2 the distance by which one object clears another, or the clear space between them [<sup>1</sup>CLĪAR + -ANCE]

**'clear,cole** /-kohl/ *n* a priming of size mixed with ground chalk or white lead and used esp in house painting [part trans of *F claire colle*, fr *claire* clear + *colle* glue]

**'clear-cut** *adj* 1 sharply outlined, distinct 2 free from ambiguity or uncertainty

**'clear-headed** /-hedid/ *adj* 1 not confused, sensible, rational 2 having no illusions about a state of affairs; realistic - **clearheadedly** *adv*, **clearheadedness** *n*

**'clearing** /'kliəŋg/ *n* an area of land cleared of wood and brush [<sup>1</sup>CLĪAR + -ING]

**'clearing,bank** *n* a bank that is a member of a clearinghouse

**'clearing,house** /-həʊz/ *n* an establishment maintained by banks for settling mutual claims and accounts

**'clear-sighted** *adj* CLEARHEADED 2, *esp* having perceptive insight - **clear-sightedly** *adv*, **clear-sightedness** *n*

**clear up** *vt* 1 to tidy up 2 to explain (clear up the mystery)

**'clear,way** /-weɪ/ *n*, *Br* a road on which vehicles may stop only in an emergency

**'cleat** /kleet/ *n* 1a a wedge-shaped piece fastened to sth and serving as a support or check b a wooden or metal fitting, usu with 2 projecting horns, round which a rope may be made fast 2a a projecting piece (e.g. on the bottom of a shoe) that provides a grip b *pl* shoes equipped with cleats [ME *clete* wedge, fr (assumed) OE *cleat*, akin to MHG *kloz* lump - more at *CLOUT*]

**'cleavage** /'kleɪv/ *n* 1 the property of a crystal or rock (e.g. slate) of splitting along definite planes 2 (a) division 3 CELL DIVISION 4 the splitting of a molecule into simpler molecules 5 (the space between) a woman's breasts, esp when exposed by a low-cut garment [<sup>1</sup>CLEAVE + -AGE]

**'cleave** /kleev/ *vi* cleaved, clove /klohv/ to stick firmly and closely or loyally and steadfastly - usu + *to* [ME *cleven*, fr OE *clifian*, akin to ON *klifa* to cling to, OE *clæg* clay]

**'cleave** *vb* cleaved also cleft /kleft/, clove /klohv/, cleaved also cleft, cloven /'klohv(ə)n/ *vt* to divide or pass through (as if) by a cutting blow, split - *vi* to split, esp along the grain [ME *cleven*, fr OE *cleofan*, akin to ON *kljufa* to split, L *glubere* to peel, Gk *glyphein* to carve] - **cleavable** *adj*

**'cleaver** /'kleɪvə/ *n* a butcher's implement for cutting animal carcasses into joints or pieces [<sup>1</sup>CLEAVE + -ER]

**'cleavers** /'kleɪvəz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an annual plant of the madder family that bears small white flowers and stiff prickles that make it stick to surfaces [ME *clivre*, alter. of OE *clife* burdock, cleavers, akin to OE *clifian* to adhere]

**'clef** /klef/ *n* a sign placed on a musical staff to indicate the pitch represented by the notes following it - *cf.* MUSIC [F, lit., key, fr L *clavis* - more at *CLAVICLE*]

**'cleft** /kleft/ *n* 1 a space or opening made by splitting; a fissure 2 a usu V-shaped indented formation, a hollow between ridges or protuberances [ME *clift*, fr OE *geclift*; akin to OE *cleofan* to cleave]

**'cleft 'lip** *n* a harelip

**'cleft 'palate** *n* a congenital fissure of the roof of the mouth

**'cleft 'stick** *n*, chiefly *Br* DUELLING 2

**'cleg** /kleg/ *n*, *Br* a dull-grey biting fly, a horsefly [ME, fr ON *kleggi*]

**'clematis** /kle'maɪtəs, 'klematɪs/ *n* a usu climbing or scrambling plant of the buttercup family with 3 leaflets on each leaf and usu white, pink, or purple flowers [NL, genus name, fr L, fr Gk *klematis* brushwood, clematis, fr *klémat*, *klema* twig, fr *klan* to break - more at 'HALT]

**'clemency** /'klemənsɪ/ *n* disposition to be merciful, esp to moderate the severity of punishment due

**'clement** /'klemənt/ *adj* 1 inclined to be merciful; lenient (a ~ judge) 2 of weather pleasantly mild [ME, fr L *clement*-, *clemens*] - **clemently** *adv*

**'clementine** /'klemənteɪn/ *n* a small practically seedless citrus fruit that is a cross between an orange and a tangerine and has slightly acid pink-tinged flesh [F *clémentine*]

**'clench** /klenʃ/ *vt* 1 CLINCH 1, 2 2 to hold fast; clutch 3 to set or close tightly (<~ed his teeth>) (<~ed his fists>) [ME *clenchen*, fr OE *-clencan*, akin to OE *clingan* to cling]

**'clepsydra** /'klepsɪdrə/ *n*, *pl* **clepsydras**, **clepsydrae** /-dri/ WATER CLOCK [L, fr Gk *klepsydra*, fr *kleptein* to steal + *hydor* water - more at *KLEPHT*, WATER]

**'clestory, clearstory** /'kliə,staʊri/ *n* 1 the part of an outside wall of a room or building that rises above an adjoining roof (<~ windows>)

CHURCH 2 chiefly *NAM* a raised ventilating section of a railway carriage roof [ME, fr *clere* clear + *story* storey]

**'clergy** /'kluɹgi/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group ordained to perform pastoral or sacerdotal functions in an organized religion, esp a Christian church [ME *clergie*, fr OF, knowledge, learning, fr *clerc* clergyman]

**'clergyman** /-mən/ *n* an ordained minister

**'cleric** /'klenk/ *n* a member of the clergy; *specif* one in orders below the grade of priest [LL *clericus*]

**'clerical** /'klenkl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of the clergy, a clergyman, or a cleric 2 of a clerk or office worker - **clerically** *adv*

**'clerical** *n* 1 a clergyman 2 an adherent of clericalism 3 *pl* clerical clothes

**'clerical 'collar** *n* a narrow stiff upright white collar fastening at the back and worn by clergymen

**'clericalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a policy promoting ecclesiastical influence in secular matters - **clericalist** *n*

**'clerihew** /'klen,hyoʊh/ *n* a witty pseudo-biographical 4-line verse [Edmund Clerihew Bentley †1956 E writer]

**'clerisy** /'klerəsi/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* members of the learned professions considered as a group [G *kleriker* clergy, fr ML *clericus*, fr LL *clericus* cleric]

**'clerk** /klaɹk, *NAM* kluɹk/ *n* 1 a cleric 2a sby whose occupation is keeping records or accounts or doing general office work (a filing ~) b *NAM* SHOP ASSISTANT [ME, fr OF *clerc* & OE *cleric*, *clerc*, both fr LL *clericus*, fr LGk *klerikos*, fr Gk *klēros* lot, inheritance (in allusion to Deut 18 2), akin to Gk *klan* to break - more at 'HALT] - **clerkly** *adj*, **clerkship** *n*

**'clerk** *vi* to act or work as a clerk

**'clerk of the 'course** *n* an official who has direct charge of the running of a horse-race or motor-race meeting

**'clerk of the 'works** *n* the person in charge of building works in a particular place


**'clerk 'regular** *n*, *pl* clerks regular a member of an open Roman Catholic order with pastoral duties

**'Cleveland 'bay** /'kleevlənd/ *n* (any of) a breed of powerful bay riding horses [Cleveland, district (and now county) of England]

**'clever** /'kleɪvə/ *adj* 1a skilful or adroit with the hands or body, nimble b mentally quick and resourceful; intelligent 2 marked by wit or ingenuity, also thus marked but lacking depth or soundness [ME *cliver*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *kljufa* to split - more at 'CLEAVE] - **cleverish** *adj*, **cleverly** *adv*, **cleverness** *n*

**'clever 'dick** /dik/ *n*, *Br* SMART ALIC - *infml*

**'clevis** /'kli:vɪs/ *n* a usu U-shaped metal shackle with the ends drilled to receive a pin or bolt used for attaching or suspending parts [earlier *clevi*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *kljufa* to split]

**'clew** /kloʊh/ *n* 1 CLUE 1 2 also clue (a metal loop attached to) the lower or after corner of a sail  SHIP [ME *clewe* ball of thread, fr OE *clewen*, akin to OHG *kluwa* ball, Skt *glau* lump]

**'clew** *vt* 1 CLUE 2 2 also clue to haul (a sail) by ropes through the clews

**'cliché** /'kleɪʃeɪ/ *n* 1 a hackneyed phrase or expression, also the idea expressed by it 2 a hackneyed theme or situation [F, lit., stereotype, fr pp of *clicher* to stereotype, of imit origin] - **cliché** *adj*, **clichéd** *adj*

**'click** /klik/ *n* 1 a slight sharp sound 2 a sharp speech sound in some languages made by the sudden inrush of air at the release of an occlusion in the mouth [prob imit]

**'click** *vt* to strike, move, or produce with a click (<~ed his heels together>) - *vi* 1 to operate with or make a click 2a to strike up an immediately warm friendship, esp with sby of the opposite sex b to succeed (a film that ~s) c *Br* to cause sudden insight or recognition (the name ~ed) - sometimes in *click* into place *USE* (2) *infml*

**'click,beetle** *n* any of a family of beetles able to right themselves with a click when turned over

**'click,stop** *n* a setting of a control device (e.g. for the length of exposure given by the shutter of a camera) that is distinguished by positive engagement and usu by a click

**'client** /'kleɪ-ənt/ *n* 1 a vassal, state, etc under the protection of another (<~ states>) 2a sby who engages or receives the advice or services of a professional person or organization b a customer [ME, fr MF & L, MF *client*, fr L *client*-, *clens*; akin to L *clinare* to lean - more at 'LEAN] - **clientage** /-tɪj/ *n*, **cliental** /'kleɪ-əntl, 'kleɪ-əntl/ *adj*

**'clientele** /'kleɪ-əntel/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of clients (a shop that caters to an exclusive ~) [F *clientèle*, fr L *clientela*, fr *client*-, *clens*]

**'cliff** /klɪf/ *n* a very steep high face of rock, earth, ice, etc [ME *clif*, fr OE; akin to OE *clifian* to adhere to] - **cliffy** *adj*

- 'cliff-hanger** *n* 1 an adventure serial or melodrama, usu presented in instalments each ending in suspense 2 a contest or situation whose outcome is in doubt to the very end
- 'climacteric** /kli'maktik/, kli'makt'erk/ *adj* of or being a critical period (e.g. of life) [L *climactericus*, fr Gk *klimakterikos*, fr *klimaktēr* critical point, lit., rung of a ladder, fr *klimak-*, *klimax* ladder]
- 'climacteric** *n* 1 a major turning point or critical stage; specif one supposed to occur at intervals of 7 years 2 the menopause; also a corresponding period in the male during which sexual activity and competence are reduced
- climactic** /kli'maktik/ *adj* of or being a climax – **climactically** *adv*
- climate** /klimat/ *n* 1 (a region of the earth having a specified) average course or condition of the weather over a period of years as shown by temperature, wind, rain, etc 2 the prevailing state of affairs or feelings of a group or period; a milieu (a ~ of fear) [ME *climat*, fr MF, fr LL *climat-*, *clima*, fr Gk *klimat-*, *klima* inclination, latitude, climate, fr *klinein* to lean – more at 'LEAN] – **climatic** /-matik/ *adj*, **climatically** *adv*
- climatology** /kli'matolaji/ *n* a branch of meteorology dealing with climates – **climatological** /-tə'lojɪkl/ *adj*, **climatologically** *adv*, **climatologist** /-tə'lojɪst/ *n*
- 'climax** /klic,maks/ *n* 1a the highest point; a culmination b the point of highest dramatic tension or a major turning point in some action (e.g. of a play) c an orgasm 2 a relatively stable final stage reached by a (plant) community in its ecological development [L, fr Gk *klimax* ladder, fr *klinein* to lean]
- 'climax** *vt* to come to a climax
- climb** /kliem/ *vi* 1a to go gradually upwards; rise (watching the smoke ~) b to slope upwards (the road ~s steadily) 2a to go up, down, etc on a more or less vertical surface using the hands to grasp or give support b of a plant to ascend in growth (e.g. by twining) 3 to get into or out of clothing, usu with some haste or effort ~ *vt* 1 to go upwards on or along, to the top of, or over (~ a hill) 2 to draw or pull oneself up, over, or to the top of, by using hands and feet (~ a tree) 3 to grow up or over [AE *climben*, fr OE *climban*; akin to OE *clamm* bond, fetter] – **climb** *n*, **climbable** /klieməbl/ *adj*, **climber** /'kliema/ *n*
- climb down** *vi* BACK DOWN – **climb-down** *n*
- 'climbing-frame** /'kliemɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* a framework for children to climb on
- 'climbing iron** *n* a crampon
- clime** /kliem/ *n* CLIMATE 1 – usu pl with sing. meaning; chiefly poetic [LL *clima*]
- clin-**, **cline-** *comb form* incline; slant (<clinometer) [NL, fr Gk *klinein* to lean – more at 'LEAN]
- 'clinch** /klineh/ *vi* 1 to turn over or flatten the protruding pointed end of (e.g. a driven nail) 2 to fasten in this way ~ *vi* to hold an opponent (e.g. in boxing) at close quarters [prob alter. of *clench*] – **clinchingly** *adv*
- 'clinch** *n* 1 a fastening by means of a clinched nail, rivet, or bolt 2 an act or instance of clinching in boxing
- 'clincher** /'klinchə/ *n* a decisive fact, argument, act, or remark ['CLINCH + -ER]
- cline** /klien/ *n* a graded series of differences in shape or physiology shown by a group of related organisms, usu along a line of environmental or geographical transition; broadly a continuum [Gk *klinein* to lean] – **clinal** /'kliəl/ *adj*, **clinally** *adv*
- cline** /-klien/ *comb form* (~ *n*) slope (<monocline) [back-formation fr *clinal* (sloping), fr Gk *klinein*] – **-clinal** *comb form* (~ *adj*), **-clinie** *comb form* (~ *adj*)
- cling** /kling/ *vi* *clung* /klung/ 1a to stick as if glued firmly b to hold (on) tightly or tenaciously 2a to have a strong emotional attachment or dependence b esp of a smell to linger [ME *clingen*, fr OE *clingan*; akin to OHG *klunga* tangled ball of thread, Mfr *glacc* hand] – **clingly** *adj*
- 'clingstone** /-stohn/ *n* a fruit (e.g. a peach) whose flesh sticks strongly to the stone
- clinic** /'klinik/ *n* 1 a class of medical instruction in which patients are examined and discussed 2 a meeting held by an expert or person in authority, to which people bring problems for discussion and resolution (an MP's weekly ~ for her constituents) 3a a facility (e.g. of a hospital) for the diagnosis and treatment of outpatients b a usu private hospital [F *clinique*, fr Gk *klinikē* medical practice at the sickbed, fr fem of *klinikos* of a bed, fr *klinē* bed, fr *klinein* to lean, recline – more at 'LEAN]
- clinical** /'klinikl/ *adj* 1 involving, based on, or noticeable from direct observation of the patient (~ psychology) 2 analytic, detached [CLINIC + -AL] – **clinically** *adv*
- clinician** /kli'nish(ə)n/ *n* sby qualified in clinical medicine, psychiatry, etc as distinguished from one specializing in laboratory or research techniques
- 'clink** /klingk/ *vb* to (cause to) give out a slight sharp short metallic sound [ME *clinken*, of imit origin] – **clink** *n*
- 'clink** *n* PRISON 2 – slang [Clink, a former prison in Southwark, London]
- clinker** /'klingka/ *n* stony matter fused by fire; slag [alter of earlier *klincard* (a hard yellowish Dutch brick), fr obs D *klinkaard*]
- 'clinker-built** *adj* having the lower edge of each external plank or plate overlapping the upper edge of the one below it (a ~ boat) [clinker, *n* (clinch)]
- clino-** – see CLIN-
- clinometer** /kli'nomitə/, 'klic-/ *n* any of various instruments for measuring angles of slope – **clinometric** /kline'metrik/, 'klic-/ *adj*, **clinometry** /-nometri/ *n*
- clint** /klint/ *n* a limestone block in a horizontal limestone surface broken up by clefts [ME, perh fr MLG *klint* cliff, crag]
- 'clip** /klip/ *vt* -pp- to clasp or fasten with a clip [ME *clippen* to embrace, encompass, clutch, fr OE *clýppan*, akin to OHG *klāftra* fathom, L *gleba* clod, *globus* globe]
- 'clip** *n* 1 any of various devices that grip, clasp, or hold 2 (a device to hold cartridges for charging) a magazine from which ammunition is fed into the chamber of a firearm 3 a piece of jewellery held in position by a spring clip
- 'clip** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1a to cut (off) (as if) with shears b to cut off the end or outer part of c 'EXCISE 2 to abbreviate in speech or writing 3 to hit with a glancing blow, also to hit smartly (~ ped him round the ear) – *infrm* ~ *vi* to clip sthg [ME *clippen*, fr ON *klippa*]
- 'clip** *n* 1a the product of (a single) shearing (e.g. of sheep) b a section of filmed material 2a an act of clipping b the manner in which sthg is clipped 3 a sharp blow 4 a rapid rate of motion USE (3&4) *infrm*
- 'clipboard** /-bawd/ *n* a small writing board with a spring clip for holding papers
- 'clip-clop** /klop/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a rhythmic repeated sound characteristically produced by horses' hooves – *infrm* [imit]
- 'clip joint** *n* 1 a place of public entertainment (e.g. a nightclub) that defrauds, overcharges, etc 2 a business establishment that makes a practice of overcharging USE slang ['clip (to overcharge, swindle) + 'joint]
- 'clip-on** *adj* of or being sthg that clips on (~ earrings)
- clip on** *vi* to be capable of being fastened by an attached clip
- 'clip-ons** *n pl* sunglasses that clip onto spectacles
- clipper** /'kli:pə/ *n* 1 an implement for cutting or trimming hair or nails – usu pl with sing. meaning 2 a fast sailing ship, esp with long slender lines, a sharply raked bow, and a large sail area ['CLIP + -ER]
- clippie** /'kli:pi/ *n*, *Br* a female bus conductor – *infrm* ['clip (to punch a hole, i.e. in a bus ticket)]
- clipping** /'kli:pɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly NAM CUTTING 2
- clique** /kleek/ *n* sing or pl in constr a highly exclusive and often aloof group of people held together by common interests, views, etc [F] – **cliquey**, **cliquy** *adj*, **cliquish** *adj*, **cliquishly** *adv*, **cliquishness** *n*
- clitoris** /'kltɔ:ris/, 'klic-/ *n* a small erectile organ at the front or top part of the vulva that is a centre of sexual sensation in females ~ REPRODUCTION [NL, fr Gk *kletoris*] – **clitoral** /-t(ə)rəl/, **clitoric** /-tɒnk/ *adj*
- cloaca** /kloh'ayka/ *n*, pl *cloacae* /-kee, -see/ 1 a conduit for sewage 2 the chamber into which the intestinal, urinary, and generative canals discharge, esp in birds, reptiles, amphibians, and many fishes [L; akin to Gk *klyzein* to wash] – **cloacal** *adj*
- 'cloak** /klohk/ *n* 1 a sleeveless outer garment that usu fastens at the neck and hangs loosely from the shoulders – compare 'CAPE 2 sthg that conceals; a pretence, disguise [ME *cloke*, fr ONF *cloque* bell, cloak, fr ML *clocca* bell; fr its shape]
- 'cloak** *vt* to cover or hide (as if) with a cloak
- 'cloak-and-dagger** *adj* dealing in or suggestive of melodramatic intrigue and action usu involving espionage
- 'cloakroom** /-room, -roohm/ *n* 1 a room in which outdoor clothing or luggage may be left during one's stay 2 chiefly *Br* a room with a toilet – euph
- 'clobber** /'klobə/ *n*, *Br* gear, paraphernalia; esp clothes worn for a usu specified purpose or function – *infrm* [prob alter. of *clothes*]
- 'clobber** *vt* 1 to hit with force 2 to defeat overwhelmingly USE *infrm* [origin unknown]
- cloche** /kloh/ *n* 1 a translucent cover used for protecting outdoor plants

- 2 a woman's usu soft close-fitting hat with a deeply rounded crown and narrow brim  GARMENT [F, lit., bell, fr ML *clocca*]
- clock** /klok/ *n* 1 a device other than a watch for indicating or measuring time 2 a recording or metering device with a dial and indicator attached to a mechanism: e.g. a speedometer *b* Bra milometer 3 *Br* a face – slang [ME *clok*, fr MD *clocke* bell, clock, fr ONF or ML; ONF *cloque* bell, fr ML *clocca*, of Celt origin; akin to Mlr *clocc* bell] – *clocklike adj* – round the clock 1 continuously for 24 hours; day and night without cessation 2 without relaxation and heedless of time
- clock** *vt* 1 to time with a stopwatch or electric timing device – used chiefly in sports 2a to register on a mechanical recording device *b* *Br* to attain a time, speed, etc. of – often + *up*; infml 3 to hit (<ed him on the jaw> – infml – *clocker n*)
- clock** *n* an ornamental pattern on the outside ankle or side of a stocking or sock [prob fr *clock* (bell); fr its original bell-like shape]
- clock in** *vi* to record the time of one's arrival or commencement of work by punching a card in a time clock
- clock off** *vi* CLOCK OUT
- clock on** *vi* CLOCK IN
- clock out** *vi* to record the time of one's departure or stopping of work by punching a card in a time clock
- clock-watcher** /,woʃə/ *n* a person (e.g. a worker) who keeps close watch on the passage of time in order not to work a single moment longer than he/she has to – *clock-watching n*
- clockwise** /-,wiez/ *adv* in the direction in which the hands of a clock rotate as viewed from in front – *clockwise adj*
- clockwork** /-,wuhk/ *n* machinery that operates in a manner similar to that of a mechanical clock; *specif* machinery powered by a coiled spring (<a ~ toy> – like *clockwork* smoothly and with no hitches)
- clod** /kloɪd/ *n* 1 a lump or mass, esp of earth or clay 2 an oaf, dolt 3 a gristly cut of beef taken from the neck  MEAT [ME, alter. of *clot*] – *cloddish adj*, *cloddishness n*, *cloddy adj*
- clodhopper** /'kloɪd.hopə/ *n* 1 a clodhopping person – infml 2 a large heavy shoe – chiefly humor
- clodhopping** /-,hopɪŋ/ *adj* 1 boorish 2 *Br* awkward, clumsy *USE* infml
- clog** /klog/ *n* 1 a weight attached, esp to an animal, to hinder motion 2 a shoe, sandal, or overshoe with a thick typically wooden sole [ME *clogge* short thick piece of wood]
- clog** *vb* -gɒ- *vt* 1 to halt or retard the progress, operation, or growth of 2a to obstruct so as to hinder motion in or through *b* to block (<the drain is ~ged up>) ~ *vi* to become blocked up
- cloisonné** /,klwəzə'neɪ, ',--/ *adj* or *n* (in) a style of enamel decoration in which the enamel is fired in raised sections separated by fine wire or thin metal strips – compare CHAMPLEVÉ [F, fr pp of *cloisonner* to partition]
- cloister** /'kloɪstə/ *n* 1a a monastic establishment *b* the monastic life 2 a covered passage on the side of an open court, usu having one side walled and the other an open arcade or colonnade [ME *cloistre*, fr OF, fr ML *claustrum*, fr L, bar, bolt, fr *clausus*, pp of *claudere* to close – more at 'CLOSE]
- cloistered** /'kloɪstəd/ *adj* 1 suggestive of the seclusion of a monastic cloister (< ~ calm>) 2 surrounded with a cloister (< ~ gardens>)
- cloistral** /'kloɪstrəl/ *adj* (suggestive) of a cloister
- clone** /klohn/ *n* 1 an individual that is asexually produced and is therefore identical to its parent 2 all such progeny of a single parent – used technically [Gk *klon* twig, slip; akin to Gk *klaín* to break] – *clonal* /'kloʊnl/ *adj*, *clonally adv*
- clone** *vt* to cause to grow (as if) as a clone
- clonk** /klongk/ *vb* to make a thumping sound (on), as if from the impact of a hard object on a hard but hollow surface [imit] – *clonk n*
- clonus** /'kloʊnəs/ *n* a rapid succession of alternating contractions and partial relaxations of a muscle that occurs in some nervous diseases [NL, fr Gk *klonos* turmoil; akin to L *celer* swift] – *clonic* /-nik/ *adj*, *clonicity* /-'nisəti/ *n*
- clop** /klop/ *n* a sound made (as if) by a hoof or shoe against a hard surface [imit] – *clop vi*
- close** /kloʊz/ *vt* 1a to move so as to bar passage (< ~ the gate>) *b* to deny access to (< ~ the park>) *c* to suspend or stop the operations of; also to discontinue or dispose of (a business) permanently – often + *down* 2a to bring to an end (< ~ an account>) *b* to conclude discussion or negotiation about (<the question is ~d>); also to bring to agreement or settlement (< ~ a deal>) 3 to bring or bind together the parts or edges of (<a ~d fist>) ~ *vi* 1a to contract, swing, or slide so as to leave no opening (<the door ~d quietly>) *b* to cease operation (<the factory ~d down>) (<the shops ~ at 9 pm>); *specif*, *Br* to stop broadcasting – usu + *down* 2 to draw near, esp in order to fight – usu + *with* 3 to come to an end [ME *clösen*, fr OF *clos*, stem of *clore*, fr L *claudere*] – *closeable*, *closeable* /'kloʊzəbl/ *adj*, *closer* /'kloʊzə/ *n* – *close one's doors* 1 to refuse admission (<the nation closed its doors to immigrants>) 2 to go out of business (<after nearly 40 years he had to close his doors for lack of trade>) – *close one's eyes* to ignore deliberately – *close ranks* to unite in a concerted stand, esp to meet a challenge – *close the door* to be uncompromisingly obstructive (<his attitude closed the door to further negotiation>)
- close** /kloʊz/ *n* a conclusion or end in time or existence (<the decade drew to a ~>)
- close** /kloʊs, sense 2 also kloʊz/ *n* 1 a road closed at one end 2 *Br* the precinct of a cathedral [ME *clos*, lit., enclosure, fr OF *clos*, fr L *clausum*, fr neut of *clausus*, pp]
- close** /kloʊs/ *adj* 1 having no openings, closed 2a confined, cramped (< ~ quarters>) *b* articulated with some part of the tongue close to the palate (<a ~ vowel>) 3 restricted, closed (<the ~ season>) 4 secretive, reticent (<she was very ~ about her past>) 5 strict, rigorous (<keep ~ watch>) (<under ~ arrest>) 6 hot and stuffy 7 having little space between items or units, compact, dense (< ~ texture>) 8 very short or near to the surface (<the barber gave him a ~ shave>) 9 near, esp adjacent (<he and I are ~ relations>) 10 intimate, familiar (< ~ collaboration>) 11a searching, minute (<a ~ study>) *b* faithful to an original (<a ~ copy>) 12 evenly contested or having a (nearly) even score (<a ~ game>) [ME *clos*, fr MF, fr L *clausus*, pp of *claudere* to shut, close, akin to Gk *klaín* to close, OHG *shozan*] – *closely adv*, *closeness n* – *close to home* within one's personal interests so that one is strongly affected (<the audience felt that the speaker's remarks hit pretty close to home>)
- close** /kloʊs/ *adv* in or into a close position or manner, near (<come ~ to running us>) – *close on almost* (<close on 500 people>)
- close call** /kloʊs/ *n* a narrow escape
- close-cropped** /kloʊs/ *adj* clipped short (< ~ hair>)
- closed** /kloʊzd/ *adj* 1a not open *b* enclosed (<a ~ porch>) 2a forming a self-contained unit allowing no additions (< ~ system>) *b* (1) traced by a moving point that returns to its starting point without retracing its path (<a ~ curve>), also so formed that every plane section is a closed curve (<a ~ surface>) (2) characterized by mathematical elements that when subjected to an operation produce only elements of the same set (<the set of whole numbers is ~ under addition and multiplication>) (3) containing all the limit points of every subset (<a ~ set>) 3a confined to a few (< ~ membership>) *b* rigidly excluding outside influence (<a ~ mind>)
- closed circuit** *n* 1 a television installation in which the signal is transmitted by wire to a limited number of receivers, usu in 1 location 2 a connected array of electrical components that will allow the passage of current – *closed-circuit adj*
- closedown** /'kloʊz.daʊn/ *n* the act or result of closing down; esp the end of a period of broadcasting
- closed shop** *n* an establishment which employs only union members – compare OPEN SHOP
- closefisted** /'kloʊs.fɪstɪd/ *adj* tightfisted
- close-hauled** /kloʊs/ *adj* or *adv* with the sails set for sailing as near directly into the wind as possible
- close in** /kloʊz/ *vi* 1 to gather in close all round with an oppressing effect (<despair closed in on her>) 2 to approach from various directions to close quarters, esp for an attack or arrest (<at dawn the police closed in>) 3 to grow dark (<the short November day was already closing in – Ellen Glasgow>)
- close-knit** /kloʊs/ *adj* bound together by close ties
- close out** /kloʊz/ *vb*, *NAm* to (attempt to) dispose of (goods), esp by selling at reduced prices
- close quarters** /kloʊs/ *n pl* immediate contact or close range (<fought at ~>)
- close season** /kloʊs/ *n*, *Br* a period during which it is illegal to kill or catch certain game or fish
- close shave** /kloʊs/ *n* a narrow escape – infml
- closet** /'kloʊzɪt/ *n* 1 a small or private room 2 WATER CLOSET 3 chiefly *NAm* a cupboard [ME, fr MF, dim of *clos* enclosure]
- closet** *vt* 1 to shut (oneself) up (as if) in a closet 2 to take into a closet for a secret interview
- close-up** /kloʊs/ *n* 1 a photograph or film shot taken at close range 2 a view or examination of sth from a small distance away
- clostridium** /'kloʊstrɪdɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* *clostridia* /-dɪ-ə/ any of various spore-forming soil or intestinal bacteria that cause gas gangrene, tetanus, and other diseases [NL, genus name, fr Gk *klōstēr* spindle, fr *klōthein* to spin] – *clostridial adj*





- 'closure** /'kloʊʒə/ *n* 1 closing or being closed 2 the ending of a side's innings in cricket by declaration 3 the closing of debate in a legislative body, esp by calling for a vote – compare GUILLOTINE [ME, fr MF, fr L *clausura*, fr *clausura*, pp of *claudere* to close – more at \*CLOSE, (3) trans of F *clôture*, alter of MF *closure*]
- 'closure** *vt* to close (a debate) by closure
- 'clot** /klot/ *n* 1a a roundish viscous lump formed by coagulation of a portion of liquid (e.g. cream) b a coagulated mass produced by clotting of blood 2 *Br* a stupid person – infml [ME, fr OE *clott*; akin to MHG *klôz* lump, ball – more at CLOUT]
- 'clot** *vb* -tt- *vi* 1 to become a clot, form clots 2 of blood to undergo a sequence of complex chemical and physical reactions that results in conversion from liquid form into a coagulated mass ~ *vt* to cause to clot
- cloth** /kloth/ *n*, *pl* cloths /klothz, kloths/ 1 a pliable material made usu by weaving, felting, or knitting natural or synthetic fibres and filaments 2 a piece of cloth adapted for a particular purpose: e.g. a a tablecloth b a dishcloth c a duster 3 (the distinctive dress of) a profession or calling distinguished by its dress, *specif* the clergy [ME, fr OE *clāth*, akin to OE *clithan* to adhere to, LL *glut-*, *glus* glue]
- cloth-cap** *adj*, *Br* working-class – infml [fr the cloth caps commonly worn, esp formerly, by working-class men]
- clothe** /klohð/ *vt* clothed, clad /klad/ 1a to cover (as if) with clothing; dress b to provide with clothes 2 to express or enhance by suitably significant language [ME *clothen*, fr OE *clathian*, fr *clāth* cloth, garment]
- cloth-eared** /ɪəd/ *adj*, *Br* (irritatingly) deficient in hearing – infml, chiefly humor
- clothes** /klohðz/ *n* *pl* 1 articles of material (e.g. cloth) worn to cover the body, for warmth, protection, or decoration  GARMENT 2 bedclothes [ME, fr OE *clathas*, pl of *clāth* cloth, garment]
- 'clothes basket** *n* a basket used for storing clothes that are to be washed
- 'clothes brush** *n* a small stiff brush for removing dirt from clothes
- 'clothes horse** /-haws/ *n* 1 a frame on which to hang clothes, esp for drying or airing indoors 2 chiefly *NAm* a conspicuously dressy person – derog
- 'clothes line** /-lien/ *n* a line (e.g. of cord or nylon) on which clothes may be hung to dry, esp outdoors
- 'clothes moth** *n* any of several small yellowish-moths whose larvae eat wool, fur, hair, etc
- 'clothes peg** *n* a wooden or plastic clip or forked device used for holding clothes or washing on a line
- 'clothes pin** /-pin/ *n*, *NAm* CLOTHES PEG
- clothier** /'klohðia/ *n* sby who makes or sells cloth or clothing [ME, alter. of *clother*, fr *cloth*]
- clothing** /'klohðing/ *n* clothes
- cloture** /'klohʒə/ *n*, *NAm* CLOSURE 3 – cloture *vt*
- 'cloud** /kloʊd/ *n* 1a a visible mass of particles of water or ice at a usual great height in the air  WEATHER b a light filmy, puffy, or billowy mass seeming to float in the air 2 any of many masses of opaque matter in interstellar space 3 a great crowd or multitude; a swarm, esp of insects (<~s of mosquitoes>) 4 sthg that obscures or blemishes (<their reputation is under a ~>) [ME, rock, cloud, fr OE *clud*, akin to Gk *gloutos* buttock] – cloudless *adj*, cloudlet *n*
- 'cloud** *vi* 1 to grow cloudy – usu + over or up 2a of facial features to become troubled, apprehensive, etc b to become blurred, dubious, or ominous ~ *vt* 1a to envelop or obscure (as if) with a cloud b to make opaque or murky by condensation, smoke, etc 2 to make unclear or confused 3 to taint, sully (<a ~ed reputation>) 4 to cast gloom over
- 'cloudberry** /-b(ə)ri-, -beri/ *n* (the pale amber edible fruit of) a creeping plant closely related to the raspberry [*'cloud* + *berry*; perh fr its shape]
- 'cloud burst** /-buɦst/ *n* a sudden very heavy fall of rain
- 'cloud chamber** *n* a vessel containing saturated water vapour whose sudden expansion reveals the passage of an ionizing particle (e.g. an alpha particle) by a trail of visible droplets
- 'cloud nine** *n* a feeling of extreme well-being or elation – usu + on; infml [nine prob an arbitrary number, seven being sometimes used instead]
- cloudy** /'kloʊdi/ *adj* 1 (having a sky) overcast with clouds 2 not clear or transparent (<~ beer>) (<a ~ mirror>) – cloudily *adv*, cloudiness *n*
- 'clout** /kloʊt/ *n* 1 dial chiefly *N Eng* & *Scot* CLOTH 2; *specif* a piece of cloth or rag used for household tasks (e.g. polishing or cleaning) – often in combination [*dis*clout] 2 a blow or lusty hit with the hand, cricket bat, etc 3 influence; esp effective political power *USE* (2&3) infml [ME, fr OE *clūt*; akin to MHG *kloz* lump, Russ *gluda*]
- 'clout** *vt* to hit forcefully – infml
- 'clout nail** *n* a nail with a large flat head [*clout* (iron plate used to keep wood from wearing)]
- 'clove** /'klohv/ *n* any of the small bulbs (e.g. in garlic) developed as parts of a larger bulb [ME, fr OE *clufu*; akin to OE *cleofan* to cleave]
- 'clove** *past* of CLEAVE
- 'clove** *n* (a tree of the myrtle family that bears) a flower bud that is used dried as a spice [alter. of ME *clowe*, fr OF *clou* (*de grosse*), lit., nail of clove, fr L *clavus* nail]
- 'clove hitch** *n* a knot used to secure a rope temporarily to a spar or another rope [ME *cloven*, *clove* divided, fr pp of *clevien* to cleave]
- cloven** /'klohv(ə)n/ *past* part of \*CLEAVE
- 'cloven foot** *n* a foot (e.g. of a sheep) divided into 2 parts at the end farthest from the body – cloven-footed *adj*
- 'cloven hoof** *n* CLOVEN FOOT – cloven-hoofed *adj*
- 'clover** /'klohvə/ *n* any of a genus of leguminous plants having leaves with 3 leaflets and flowers in dense heads [ME, fr OE *clāfre*; akin to OHG *kleo* clover] – in clover in prosperity or in pleasant circumstances
- 'clover leaf** /-leef/ *n*, *pl* cloverleaves, cloverleaves /-leevz/ a road junction whose plan resembles the arrangement of leaves in a 4-leaved clover and that connects 2 major roads at different levels
- clown** /kloʊn/ *n* 1 a jester in an entertainment (e.g. a play); *specif* a grotesquely dressed comedy performer in a circus 2 one who habitually plays the buffoon, a joker [perh fr MF *coloun* settler, fr L *colonus* colonist, farmer – more at COLONY] – clown *vi*, clownery /'kloʊnəri/ *n*, clownish *adj*, clownishly *adv*, clownishness *n*
- clow** /kloy/ *vt* to surfet with an excess, usu of sthg orig pleasing ~ *vi* to cause surfet [ME *acloien* to lame, fr MF *enclouer* to drive in a nail, fr ML *inclavare*, fr L *in* + *clavus* nail] – cloyingly /'kloyɪŋli/ *adv*
- 'club** /klʌb/ *n* 1a a heavy stick thicker at one end than the other and used as a hand weapon b a stick or bat used to hit a ball in golf and other games c a light spar 2a a playing card marked with 1 or more black figures in the shape of a cloverleaf b *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr the suit comprising cards identified by this figure 3a *sing* or *pl* in constr (1) an association of people for a specified object, usu jointly supported and meeting periodically (<judo ~>) (2) an often exclusive association of people that has premises available as a congenial place of retreat or temporary residence or for dining at b the meeting place or premises of a club c a group of people who agree to make regular payments or purchases in order to secure some advantage (<book ~>) d a nightclub [ME *clubbe*, fr ON *klubba*; akin to OHG *klubo* club, OE *clamm* bond] – in the club of a woman pregnant – infml
- 'club** *vb* -bb- *vt* to beat or strike (as if) with a club ~ *vi* to combine to share a common expense or object – usu + together
- clubbable**, clubable /'klʌbbəl/ *adj* sociable
- clubbed** *adj* club-shaped
- 'club chair** *n* a deep low thickly upholstered armchair, often with a rather low back and heavy sides and arms
- 'club foot** /-foot/ *n* a misshapen foot twisted out of position from birth – clubfooted /-/-/ *adj*
- 'club moss** *n* any of an order of primitive vascular plants  PLANT [trans of NL *muscus clavatus*; fr the club-shaped spore-producing vessels in some species]
- 'club root** /-roʊt/ *n* a disease of cabbages and related plants characterized by swellings or distortions of the root
- 'club sandwich** *n* a sandwich of 3 slices of bread with 2 layers of filling
- 'cluck** /klʌk/ *vi* 1 to make a cluck 2 to express fussy interest or concern – usu + over; infml ~ *vt* to call with a cluck [imit]
- 'cluck** *n* the characteristic guttural sound made by a hen
- 'clew** /kloʊh/ *n* 1 also clew sthg that guides via intricate procedure to the solution of a problem 2 CLEW 2 [ME *clewe* ball of thread – more at CLEW]
- 'clew** *vt* cluing, cluing 1 CLEW 2 2 also clew to inform – usu + in or up; infml (<~ me in on how it happened>)
- 'clueless** /-lis/ *adj*, *Br* hopelessly ignorant or lacking in sense – infml ['CLUE + -LESS]
- 'clump** /klʌmp/ *n* 1 a compact group of things of the same kind, esp trees or bushes; a cluster 2 a compact mass 3 a heavy tramping sound [prob fr LG *klump*; akin to OE *clamm* bond] – clumpy *adj*
- 'clump** *vi* 1 to tread clumsily and noisily 2 to form clumps ~ *vt* to arrange in or cause to form clumps
- clumsy** /'klʌmzi/ *adj* 1a awkward and ungraceful in movement or action



- b** lacking tact or subtlety (< a ~ *joke*) 2 awkwardly or poorly made, unwieldy [prob fr obs *clumse* (benumbed with cold), of Scand origin] – **clumsily** *adv*, **clumsiness** *n*
- clung** /klʌŋ/ *past of CLING*
- cluster** /'klu:stə/ *n* a compact group formed by a number of similar things or people; a bunch. e.g. a group of faint stars or galaxies that appear close together and have common properties (e.g. distance and motion) **b** the group of 4 cups that connect the teats of a cow to a milking machine [ME, fr OE *clyster*; akin to OE *clott* clot] – **clustery** *adj*
- cluster** *vt* to collect into a cluster ~ *vi* to grow or assemble in a cluster
- cluster bomb** *n* a bomb that explodes to release many smaller usu incendiary or fragmentation missiles
- clutch** /klʌtʃ/ *vt* to grasp or hold (as if) with the hand or claws, esp tightly or suddenly ~ *vi* 1 to seek to grasp and hold – often + *at* 2 to operate the clutch on a motor vehicle [ME *clucchen*, fr OE *clycan*, akin to Mlir *glacc* hand – more at **CLING**]
- clutch** *n* 1 (the claws or a hand in) the act of grasping or seizing firmly 2 (a lever or pedal operating) a coupling used to connect and disconnect a driving and a driven part of a mechanism
- clutch** *n* a nest of eggs or a brood of chicks, broadly a group, bunch [alter of E dial *clutch* (hatching, brood)]
- clutch bag** *n* a small handbag with no handle
- clutter** /'klʌtə/ *vt* to fill or cover with scattered or disordered things – often + *up* [ME *clotteren* to clot, fr *clot*]
- clutter** *n* 1a a crowded or confused mass or collection **b** scattered or disordered material 2 interfering echoes visible on a radar screen caused by reflection from objects other than the target
- Clydesdale** /'klydɜ:deɪl/ *n* a heavy draught horse with heavily feathered legs [*Clydesdale*, region of Scotland, where it originated]
- clypeus** /'klipi:əs/ *n*, *pl* *clypei* /-pi:ə/ a plate on the front of an insect's head [NL, fr L, round shield]
- co-** /kə-/ *prefix* 1 with, together, joint (<*coexist*) (<*coher*) (<*coeducation*) 2 in or to the same degree (<*coextensive*) 3a associate, fellow (<*coauthor*) (<*co-star*) **b** deputy, assistant (<*copilot*) [ME, fr L, fr *com-*, akin to OE *ge-*, perfective and collective prefix, Gk *koinos* common]
- coacervate** /kə'æsəvəɪt/ *n* a mass of colloidal droplets held together by electrostatic attractive forces [L *coacervatus*, pp of *coacervare* to heap up, fr *co-* + *acervus* heap] – **coacervate** /kə'æsəvət/ *adj*, **coacervation** /kə'æsəvəʃən/ *n*
- coach** /kəʊtʃ/ *n* 1a a large usu closed four-wheeled carriage – compare **STAGL** 4c **b** a railway carriage **c** a usu single-deck bus used esp for long-distance or charter work 2a a private tutor **b** sby who instructs or trains a performer, sportsman, etc [ME *coche*, fr MF, fr G *kutsche*, prob fr Hung *kocsi* (szekér) wagon from Kocs, fr Kocs, village in Hungary]
- coach** *vt* 1 to train intensively by instruction, demonstration, and practice 2 to act as coach to ~ *vi* 1 to go in a coach 2 to instruct, direct, or prompt as a coach – **coacher** *n*
- coachbuilt** /-bɪlt/ *adj*, of a vehicle body built to individual requirements by craftsmen – **coachbuilder** *n*
- coachman** /-mən/ *n* a man who drives or whose business is to drive a coach or carriage
- coachwork** /-wʊk/ *n* the bodywork of a road or rail vehicle
- coadjutor** /kə'ædjʊtə/ *n* an assistant; specif a bishop assisting a diocesan bishop and often having the right of succession [ME *coadjutor*, fr MF *coadjuteur*, fr L *coadjutor*, fr *co-* + *adjutor* aid, fr *adjutus*, pp of *adjuvare* to help – more at **AID**] – **coadjutor** *adj*
- coagulant** /kə'ægyələnt/ *n* sthg that produces coagulation
- coagulate** /kə'ægyələɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) become viscous or thickened into a coherent mass; curdle, clot [L *coagulus*, pp of *coagulare* to curdle, fr *coagulum* curdling agent, fr *cogere* to drive together – more at **COGENT**] – **coagulable** /-ləbl/ *adj*, **coagulability** /-lə'bɪləti/ *n*, **coagulation** /-ləjʃən/ *n*
- coagulum** /kə'ægyələm/ *n*, *pl* *coagula* /-lə/, **coagulums** a coagulated mass [L, coagulant]
- coal** /kəʊl/ *n* 1 a piece of glowing, burning, or burnt carbonized material (e.g. partly burnt wood) 2 a (small piece or broken up quantity of) black or blackish solid combustible mineral consisting chiefly of carbonized vegetable matter and widely used as a natural fuel  **ENERGY** [ME *col*, fr OE; akin to OHG & ON *kol* burning ember, IrGael *gual* coal]
- coal** *black* *adj* absolutely black; very black
- coalesce** /kə'æles/ *vi* to unite into a whole; fuse [L *coalescere*, fr *co-* + *alescere* to grow – more at **OLD**] – **coalescence** *n*, **coalescent** *adj*
- coalfield** /-fi:ld/ *n* a region in which deposits of coal occur
- coalfish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of several blackish or dark-backed fishes, esp a coley
- coal gas** *n* gas made from burning coal; esp gas made by carbonizing bituminous coal and used for heating and lighting
- coalhole** /-həʊl/ *n* 1 a hole or chute for receiving coal 2 *Br* a compartment for storing coal
- coalition** /kə'əʃiʃən/ *n* 1a an act of coalescing, a union **b** a body formed by the union of orig distinct elements 2 *sing or pl in constr* a temporary alliance (e.g. of political parties) for joint action (e.g. to form a government) [MF, fr L *coalitus*, pp of *coalescere*] – **coalitionist** *n*
- coal measures** *n pl* beds of coal with the associated rocks
- coal tar** *n* tar obtained by the distilling of bituminous coal and used esp in making dyes and drugs
- coal tit** *n* a small black-crowned European tit with a white patch on the neck
- coaming** /'kəʊmɪŋ/ *n* a raised frame (e.g. round a hatchway in the deck of a ship) to keep out water [perh irreg fr *comb*]
- coarctate** /kə'æktəɪt/ *adj* constricted – used technically [L *coarctatus*, pp of *coartare* to press together, fr *co-* + *artus* narrow, confined; akin to L *artus* joint – more at **ARTICLE**] – **coarctation** /-təɪʃən/ *n*
- coarse** /kɑ:rs/ *adj* 1 of ordinary or inferior quality or value, common 2a(1) composed of relatively large particles (< ~ *sand*) (2) rough in texture or tone (< ~ *cloth*) (< a ~ *bell*) **b** adjusted or designed for heavy, fast, or less delicate work (< a ~ *saw with large teeth*) **c** not precise or detailed with respect to adjustment or discrimination 3 crude or unrefined in taste, manners, or language [ME *cors*, prob fr *course*, *n* (the common run of things)] – **coarsely** *adv*, **coarseness** *n*
- coarse fish** *n*, chiefly *Br* any freshwater fish not belonging to the salmon family – **coarse fishing** *n*
- coarsen** /'kɑ:rsən/ *vb* to make or become coarse
- coast** /kəʊst/ *n* the land near a shore, the seashore [ME *cost*, fr MF *coste*, fr L *costa* rib, side, akin to OSlav *kostī* bone] – **coastal** *adj*, **coastally** *adv*, **coastwards** /-wəʊdz/ *adv*
- coast** *vi* to sail along the shore of ~ *vi* 1 to sail along the shore 2a to slide, glide, etc downhill by the force of gravity **b** to move along (as if) without further application of propulsive power **c** to proceed easily without special application of effort or concern
- coaster** /'kəʊstə/ *n* 1 a small vessel trading from port to port along a coast 2a a tray or stand, esp of silver, for a decanter **b** a small mat used, esp under a drinks glass, to protect a surface [**COAST** + **-ER**]
- coastguard** /-gɑ:rd/ *n* (a member of) a force responsible for maintaining lookout posts round the coast of the UK for mounting rescues at sea, preventing smuggling, etc
- coastline** /-li:n/ *n* the outline or shape of a coast  **GEOGRAPHY**
- coat** /kəʊt/ *n* 1 an outer garment that has sleeves and usu opens the full length of the centre front 2 the external covering of an animal 3 a protective layer, a coating [ME *cote*, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *kozza* coarse mantle] – **coated** *adj*
- coat** *vt* to cover or spread with a protective or enclosing layer – **coater** *n*
- coat hanger** *n* **HANGER**
- coati** /kə'əti/ *n* a tropical American mammal related to the raccoon but with a longer body and tail and a long flexible snout [Pg *coati*, fr Tupi]
- coati mundi** /-moʊndi/ *n* a coati [Tupi]
- coating** /'kəʊtɪŋ/ *n* a layer of one substance covering another
- coat of arms** *n*, *pl* *coats of arms* (a tabard or surcoat embroidered with) a set of distinctive heraldic shapes or representations, usu depicted on a shield, that is the central part of a heraldic achievement [trans of F *cotte d'armes*]
- coat tails** *n pl* two long tapering skirts at the back of a man's coat
- coax** /kəʊks/ *vt* 1 to influence or gently urge by caresses or flattery, wheedle 2 to draw or gain by means of gentle urging or flattery (< ed *an answer out of her*) 3 to manipulate with great perseverance and skill towards a desired condition [earlier *cokes*, fr *cokes*, *n* (simpleton)]
- coaxial** /kə'æksɪəl/ *adj* mounted on concentric shafts – **coaxially** *adv*
- coaxial cable** *n* a conductor for high-frequency electrical signals (e.g. telephone or television signals) consisting of a tube of electrically conducting material containing, and separated by a layer of insulation from, a central conducting wire
- cob** /kɒb/ *n* 1 a male swan 2 **CORNCOB** 1 3 (any of) a breed of short-legged stocky horses 4 *Br* a small rounded usu crusty loaf [ME *cobbe* leader; akin to OE *cot* cottage – more at **COT**] – **cobby** *adj*

- \*cob** *n* a building material used chiefly in SW England and consisting of natural clay or chalk mixed with straw or hair as a binder; also a house built of cob ➔ **BUILDING** [perh fr 'cob (rounded mass, lump)]
- cobalt** /'kɒlbawlt/ *n* a tough divalent or trivalent silver-white magnetic metallic element ➔ **PERIODIC TABLE** [G *kobalt*, alter. of *kobold*, lit., goblin, fr MHG *kobolt*; fr its occurrence in silver ore, believed to be due to goblins] – **cobaltic** /kɒlbawltɪk/ *adj*, **cobaltous** /kɒlbawltəs/ *adj*
- cobalt 'blue** *n* a greenish blue pigment consisting essentially of cobalt oxide and alumina
- cobber** /'kɒbə/ *n*, *Austr* a man's male friend, a mate – infml [prob fr Yiddish *chaber* comrade, fr Heb]
- \*cobble** /'kɒbl/ *vt* **cobbling** /'kɒblɪŋ, 'kɒbl-ɪŋ/ 1 to repair (esp shoes); also to make (esp shoes) 2 to make or assemble roughly or hastily – usu + *together* [ME *coblen*, perh back-formation fr *cobelere* cobbler]
- \*cobble** *n* a naturally rounded stone of a size suitable for paving a street [back-formation fr *cobblestone*]
- \*cobble** *vt* to pave with cobblestones
- cobbler** /'kɒblə/ *n* 1 a mender or maker of leather goods, esp shoes 2 *pl*, *Br* nonsense, rubbish – often used interjectionally; infml [ME *cobelere*; (2) rhyming slang *cobbler's (awls) balls, testicles*]
- 'cobblestone** /-stəʊn/ *n* a cobble [ME, fr *cobble*– (prob fr *cob* lump, round object) + *stone*] – **cobblestoned** *adj*
- coble** /'kɒbl/, 'kɒbl/ *n* a flat-bottomed fishing boat with a lugsail [ME]
- cobnut** /'kɒb,nʊt/ *n* (the nut of) a European hazel [cob (lump, round object)]
- Cobol, COBOL** /'kɒbɒl/ *n* a high-level computer language designed for business applications [common business oriented language]
- cobra** /'kɒbrə, 'kɒhbɪrə/ *n* any of several venomous Asiatic and African snakes that have grooved fangs and when excited expand the skin of the neck into a hood [Pg *cobra* (*de capello*), lit., hooded snake, fr L *colubra* snake]
- cobweb** /'kɒb,web/ *n* 1 (a) spider's web 2 a single thread spun by a spider [ME *coppeweb*, fr *copppe* spider (fr OE *ātorcopppe*) + *web*, akin to MD *copppe* spider] – **cobwebbed** *adj*, **cobwebby** *adj*
- coca** /'kɒkə/ *n* (the dried cocaine-containing leaves of) a S American shrub [Sp, fr Quechua *kúka*]
- cocaine** /'kɒk'keɪn, kə-/ *n* an alkaloid that is obtained from coca leaves, has been used as a local anaesthetic, and is a common drug of abuse that can result in psychological dependence – **cocainism** /-nɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- coccidiosis** /'kɒk,sɪd'i'ɒhsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **coccidiosis** /-seɪz/ a disease of birds (e.g. poultry) and mammals (e.g. sheep) caused by coccidia [NL]
- coccidium** /'kɒk,sɪd'i-əm/ *n*, *pl* **coccidia** /-dɪ-ə/ any of an order of protozoans usu parasitic in the lining of the digestive tract of vertebrates [NL, dim. of *coccus*]
- coccus** /'kɒkəs/ *n*, *pl* **cocci** /'kɒk(s)he/ a spherical bacterium [NL, fr Gk *kokkos*] – **coccal** /-kəl/ *adj*, **coccolid** /-kɔɪd/ *adj*
- coccyx** /'kɒksɪks/ *n*, *pl* **coccyges** /-sɪjeɪz/ also **coccyxes** the end of the spinal column below the sacrum in human beings and the tailless apes [NL, fr Gk *kokkyx* cuckoo, *coccyx*; fr its resemblance to a cuckoo's beak] – **coccygeal** /'kɒk'sɪj-i-əl/ *adj*
- Cochin China** /'kɒchi'n 'chiənə, 'kɒchi'n/ *n* any of an Asian breed of large domestic fowl with thick plumage and densely feathered legs and feet [Cochin China, region of Vietnam]
- cochineal** /'kɒchi'neɪl/ *n* a red dyestuff consisting of the dried bodies of female cochineal insects, used esp as a colouring agent for food [MF & Sp; MF *cochenille*, fr OSP *cochinilla* wood louse, cochineal]
- cochineal insect** *n* a small bright red insect that feeds on cactus
- cochlea** /'kɒkli-ə/ *n*, *pl* **cochleas**, **cochleae** /-li-ee/ a coiled part of the inner ear of higher vertebrates that is filled with liquid through which sound waves are transmitted to the auditory nerve ➔ **NERVE** [NL, fr L, snail, snail shell, fr Gk *kochlias*, fr *kochlos* land snail; akin to Gk *konche* mussel] – **cochlear** *adj*
- \*cock** /kɒk/ *n* 1a the (adult) male of various birds, specif the domestic fowl b the male of fish, crabs, lobsters, and other aquatic animals 2 a device (e.g. a tap or valve) for regulating the flow of a liquid 3 the hammer of a firearm or its position when cocked ready for firing 4 *Br* – used as a term of infml address to a man 5 the penis – vulg 6 *Br* nonsense, rubbish – slang [ME *kok*, fr OE *cocc*, of imit origin]
- \*cock** *vi* to set the hammer of a firearm ready for firing ~ *vt* 1a to draw back and set the hammer of (a firearm) for firing b to draw or bend back in preparation for throwing or hitting 2a to set erect (*the dog ~ed its ears*) b to turn, tip, or tilt, usu to one side (~ *ed his head inquiringly*) 3 to turn up (e.g. the brim of a hat) [cock (to swagger, stick up), fr ME *cocken* to quarrel, fight, fr *kok* cock] – **cock a snook** to react with disdain or defiance (*cock a snook at authority*)
- \*cock** *n* a small pile (e.g. of hay) [ME *kok*, of Scand origin]
- \*cock** *vt* to put (e.g. hay) into cocks
- cockade** /'kɒkədeɪd/ *n* an ornament (e.g. a rosette or knot of ribbon) worn on the hat as a badge [modif of F *cocarde*, fr fem of *cocard* vain, fr *coq* cock, fr OF *coc*, of imit origin] – **cockaded** *adj*
- cock-a-hoop** /'kɒk ə 'hoʊp/ *adj* triumphantly boastful, exulting – infml [fr the phrase to set cock a hoop to be festive]
- cock-a-leekie** /ə 'leeki/ *n* a chicken and leek soup [alter of *cockie* (dim of 'cock) + *leekie*, dim of leek]
- cock-and-bull** *adj* of or being an incredible and apparently concocted story – infml
- cockatiel** /'kɒkə'ti:əl/ *n* a small grey Australian parrot with a crested yellow head [D *kaketielje*, deriv of Malay *kakatus*]
- cockatoo** /'kɒkə'tu:ə/ *n*, *pl* **cockatoos** any of numerous large noisy usu showy and crested chiefly Australasian parrots [D *kaketoe*, fr Malay *kakatus*, fr *kakak* elder sibling + *tua* old]
- cockatrice** /'kɒkə'trɪs, -trɪs/ *n* a mythical serpent that was hatched from a cock's egg and had a deadly glance [ME *cocatrice*, fr MF *cocatrix* mongoose, cockatrice, fr ML *cocatrix*-, *cocatrix* mongoose]
- cockchafer** /'kɒk,ʃaɪfə/ *n* a large European beetle destructive to vegetation ['cock + *chafer*]
- 'cock,crow** /-kroʊ/ *n* dawn
- cocked hat** *n* a hat with brim turned up at 3 places to give a 3-cornered shape ➔ **CLOTHING**
- cockereel** /'kɒk(ə)rɪl/ *n* a young male domestic fowl [ME *cokerelle*, fr OF dial *kokerel*, dim of OF *coc*]
- cocker spaniel** /'kɒkə/ *n* a small spaniel with long ears and silky coat [cocking (woodcock hunting)]
- cockeyed** /-'i:ed/ *adj* 1 having a squint 2a askew, awry b somewhat foolish or mad (a ~ scheme) USE infml – **cockeyedly** /-'i:et(ɪ)dli/ *adv*, **cockeyedness** /-'i:et(ɪ)dnis/ *n*
- cockfighting** /-'fi:tiŋ/ *n* the setting of specially bred cocks, usu fitted with metal spurs, to fight each other for public entertainment – **cockfight** *n*
- 'cockle** /'kɒkl/ *n* CORN COCKLE [ME, fr OE, *coccel*]
- \*cockle** *n* (the ribbed shell of) a (common edible) bivalve mollusc [ME *cockille*, fr MF *coquille* shell, modif of L *conchyliā*, pl of *conchylium*, fr Gk *konchylion*, fr *konche* conch]
- \*cockle** *n* a pucker or wrinkle [MF *coquille*] – **cockle** *vb*
- \*cockle,shell** /-'ʃel/ *n* 1 the shell of a cockle, scallop, or similar mollusc 2 a light flimsy boat
- cockney** /'kɒkni/ *n* 1 a native of London and now esp of the E End of London 2 the dialect of (the E End of) London [ME *cokeney* pampered child, (effeminate) townsman, lit., cocks' egg, fr *coken* (gen pl of *cock* cock) + *ey* egg, fr OE *æg*] – **cockney** *adj*, **cockneyfy** /-ni:fi-/ *vt*, **cockneyish** *adj*, **cockneyism** /-ni:z(ə)m/ *n*
- cock of the walk** *n* one who dominates or is self-assertive, esp overbearingly
- 'cock,pit** /-'pi:t/ *n* 1a a pit or enclosure for cockfights b a place noted for bloody, violent, or prolonged conflict 2a the rear part of the lowest deck of a sailing warship used as officers' quarters and for treating the wounded b a recess below deck level from which a small vessel (e.g. a yacht) is steered c a space in the fuselage of an aeroplane for the pilot (and crew) ➔ **FLIGHT** d the driver's compartment in a racing or sports car
- 'cock,roach** /-'rohχ/ *n* any of numerous omnivorous usu dark brown chiefly nocturnal insects that include some that are domestic pests [by folk etymology fr Sp *cucaracha*, irreg fr *caca* caterpillar]
- cocksure** /-'ʃu:əs, 'ʃəw/ *adj* cocky – infml [prob fr 'cock + *sure*] – **cocksurely** *adv*, **cocksureness** *n*
- 'cocktail** /'kɒk,tayl/ *n* 1a a drink of mixed spirits or of spirits mixed with flavourings b sth resembling or suggesting such a drink; esp a mixture of diverse elements 2a an appetizer of tomato juice, shellfish, etc b a dish of finely chopped mixed fruits [prob fr 'cock + *tail*]
- \*cocktail** *adj* of, appropriate to accompany, or set aside for cocktails or a cocktail party (*the ~ hour*) (< a ~ dress)
- cock up** *vt*, chiefly *Br* to spoil or render a failure by bungling or incompetence – slang – **cock-up** /-/-/ *n*
- 'cocky** /'kɒki/ *adj* marked by overconfidence or presumptuousness – infml ['cock + -y] – **cockily** *adv*, **cockiness** *n*
- \*cocky** *n*, *Austr* & *NZ* one who owns a small farm [by shortening & alter. fr *cockatoo*; fr orig contemptuous comparison of such farmers to voracious transient birds]

**coco** /'kɒh,kɒh/ *n*, *pl* **cocos** COCONUT PALM [Sp & Pg; Sp, fr Pg *côco*, lit., bogeyman]  
**cocoa** /'kɒh,kɒh/ *n* 1 the cacao tree 2a powdered ground roasted cacao seeds from which some fat has been removed – compare CHOCOLATE 1 b a beverage made by mixing cocoa with usu hot milk [modif of Sp *cacao*]  
**cocoa butter** *n* a pale vegetable fat with a low melting point obtained from cacao seeds  
**coconut** also **cocoanut** /'kɒh,kɒh/ *n* the large oval fruit of the coconut palm whose outer fibrous husk yields coir and whose nut contains thick edible meat and a thick sweet milk; also COCONUT PALM  
**coconut palm** *n* a tall (American) tropical palm  
**coconut shy** *n* a stall at a funfair where one throws balls at coconuts on stands  
**cocoon** /kə'kooʊn/ *n* 1 (an animal's protective covering similar to) a (silk) envelope which an insect larva forms about itself and in which it passes the pupa stage 2 a (protective) covering like a cocoon (e.g. for an aeroplane in storage) 3 a sheltered or insulated state of existence [F *cocoon*, fr Prov *coucoun*, fr *coco* shell, fr L *coccum* outgrowth on a tree, fr Gk *kokkos* grain, seed, kermes berry]  
**cocoon** *vt* to wrap or envelop, esp tightly, (as if) in a cocoon  
**cocotte** /kə'kɒt, kə-/ *n* a courtesan [F]  
**cod** /kɒd/, 'cod, fish *n*, *pl* **cod** (the flesh of) a soft-finned N Atlantic food fish or related Pacific fish [ME]  
**cod** /kɒd/ *n* 1 a concluding musical section that is formally distinct from the main structure  MUSIC 2 sth that serves to round out or conclude sthg, esp a literary or dramatic work, and that has an interest of its own [It, lit., tail, fr L *cauda*]  
**coddle** /'kɒdl/ *vt* **coddling** /'kɒdlɪŋ, 'kɒdl-ɪŋ/ 1 to cook (esp eggs) slowly in a liquid just below the boiling point 2 to treat with extreme care, pamper [perh fr *caudle*] – **coddler** /'kɒdlə, 'kɒdl ə/ *n*  
**code** /kɒd/ *n* 1 a systematic body of laws, esp with statutory force 2 a system of principles or maxims < moral ~ > 3a a system of signals for communication b a system of symbols used to represent assigned and often secret meanings – compare CIPHER 2a 4 GENETIC CODE [ME, fr MF, fr L *caudex*, *codex* trunk of a tree, tablet of wood covered with wax for writing on, book, akin to L *cadere* to beat – more at HFW] – **codeless** *adj*  
**code** *vt* 1 to put into the form or symbols of a code 2 to specify (an amino acid, protein, etc) in terms of the genetic code ~ *vi* to be or contain the genetic code for an amino acid, protein, etc – **codable** /'kɒdəbl/ *adj*, **coder** /'kɒdər/ *n*  
**codeine** /'kɒh,deɪn/ *n* a derivative of morphine that is weaker in action than morphine and is given orally to relieve pain and coughing [F *codeine*, fr Gk *kodera* poppyhead, fr *koos* cavity, akin to Gk *koulos* hollow]  
**code name** *n* a name that for secrecy or convenience is used in place of an ordinary name  
**codex** /'kɒh,deks/ *n*, *pl* **codices** /-dɪ,seɪz/ a manuscript book, esp of biblical or classical texts [L]  
**codfish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* a cod  
**codger** /'kɒjə/ *n* an old and mildly eccentric man – esp in *old codger*; infml [prob alter of *cadger*]  
**codicil** /'kɒhdɪsɪl/ *n* 1 a modifying clause added to a will 2 an appendix, supplement [MF *codicille*, fr L *codicillus*, dim. of *codice*, *codex* book] – **codicillary** /'kɒhdɪsɪləri/ *adj*  
**codify** /'kɒhdɪ,fi-/ *vt* 1 to reduce to a code 2 to express in a systematic form – **codifiable** /-fi-əbl/ *adj*, **codifiability** /-fi-ə'bɪləti/ *n*, **codification** /-fi'keɪʃən/ *n*  
**codlin** /'kɒdlɪn/ *n* CODLING  
**codling** /'kɒdlɪŋ/ *n* a young cod [ME, fr 'cod + -ling]  
**codling** *n* any of several elongated greenish cooking apples [alter of ME *querdlyng*]  
**codling moth** *n* a small moth whose larva lives in apples, pears, etc  
**codlin moth** *n* CODLING MOTH  
**cod-liver oil** *n* an oil obtained from the liver of the cod and closely related fishes and used as a source of vitamins A and D  
**codon** /'kɒhdɒn/ *n* a group of 3 adjacent nucleotides in RNA or DNA that codes for a particular amino acid or starts or stops protein synthesis ['code + -on]  
**cod piece** /-pees/ *n* a flap or bag concealing an opening in the front of men's breeches, esp in the 15th and 16th c  GARMENT [ME *codpese*, fr *cod* bag, scrotum (fr OE *codð*) + *pese* piece]  
**code** /kɒdz/ *n*, *Br* nonsense – slang [short for *codswallop*]

**codswallop** /'kɒdz,wɒləp/ *n*, chiefly *Br* nonsense – slang [origin unknown]  
**coed** /'kɒh'ed/ 1 a coeducational school 2 *NAM* a female student in a coeducational institution *USE* infml [short for *coeducational*] – **coed** *adj*  
**coeducation** /'kɒh-edjoo'kayʃən, -ejoo-/ *n* the education of students of both sexes at the same institution – **coeducational** *adj*, **coeducationally** *adv*  
**coefficient** /'kɒh-i'fɪʃ(ə)nt/ *n* 1 any of the factors, esp variable quantities, that are multiplied together in a mathematical product considered in relation to a usu specified factor < in the expression *5xy* the ~ of *xy* is 5 > 2 a number that serves as a measure of some property or characteristic (e.g. of a device or process) < ~ of expansion of a metal > [NL *coefficient*, *coefficient*, fr L *co-* + *efficient*, *efficiens* efficient]  
**coelacanth** /'seeləkənθ/ *n* any of a family of mostly extinct fishes [deriv of Gk *koulos* hollow + *akantha* thorn, spine – more at 'CAVE] – **coelacanthine** /-'kənθen/, **coelacanthous** /-'kənθəs/ *adj*  
**coele**, **coel** /-seel/ *comb form* (→ *n*) cavity; chamber < *blastocoele* > (*enterocoele*) [prob fr NL *-coela*, fr neut pl of *-coelus* hollow, concave, fr Gk *-koulos*, fr *koulos*]  
**coelenterate** /'seelɪntərət, -rət/ *n* any of a phylum of invertebrate animals including the corals, sea anemones, and jellyfishes [deriv of Gk *koulos* + *enteron* intestine – more at INTER] – **coelenterate** *adj*  
**coeliac**, *NAM* chiefly **celiac** /'seelɪk/ *adj* of the abdominal cavity [L *coeliacus*, fr Gk *koliakos*, fr *kolia* cavity, fr *koulos*]  
**coeliac disease** *n* defective digestion of fats in the intestines, esp in young children  
**coelom** /'seeləm/ *n*, *pl* **coeloms**, **coelomata** /'seeləhmətə/ the usu epithelium-lined space between the body wall and the digestive tract in animals more advanced than the lower worms [G, fr Gk *kōlōma* cavity, fr *koulos*] – **coelomic** /'seeləhmɪk/ *adj*  
**coelomate** /-məɪt/ *n* or *adj* (an animal) having a coelom  
**coen-** /-seɪn-, *coeno-* *comb form* common; general < *coenocyte* > (*coenobite*) [NL, fr Gk *koin-*, *koino-*, fr *koinos* – more at CO-]  
**coenobite**, *NAM* chiefly **cenobite** /'seɪnəbiət/ *n* a member of a monastic community [LL *coenobita*, fr *coenobium* monastery, fr LGk *koinobion*, deriv of Gk *koin-* *coen-* + *bios* life] – **coenobitic** /-'bɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**coenocyte** /'seɪnəsiət/ *n* a syncytium [ISV] – **coenocytic** /-'sɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**coenzyme** /'kɒh'enzɪəm/ *n* a nonprotein compound that combines with a protein to form an active enzyme and whose activity cannot be destroyed by heat – **coenzymatic** /'kɒh,enzɪ'eɪtɪk, -zi-/ *adj*, **coenzymatically** *adv*  
**coenzyme A** *n* a coenzyme that occurs in all living cells and is essential to the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and some amino acids  
**coerce** /'kɒh'uɪs/ *vt* 1 to restrain or dominate by authority or force 2 to compel to an act or choice – often + *into* 3 to enforce or bring about by force or threat [L *coercere*, fr *co-* + *arcere* to shut up, hold off – more at ARK] – **coercible** *adj*, **coercive** /-sɪv/ *adj*, **coercion** /'kɒh'uɪʃən/ *n*  
**coeval** /'kɒh'eɪvl/ *adj* of the same or equal age, antiquity, or duration [L *coaeuus*, fr *co-* + *aevum* age, lifetime – more at AGE] – **coeval** *n*, **coevality** /'kɒh-i'vælɪti/ *n*  
**coexist** /'kɒh-ɪg'zɪst/ *vi* 1 to exist together or at the same time 2 to live in peace with each other – **coexistence** *n*, **coexistent** *adj*  
**coextensive** /'kɒh-ɪk'stensɪv/ *adj* having the same scope or boundaries in space or time – **coextensively** *adv*  
**cofactor** /'kɒh'faktə, '--/ *n* a substance that acts with another substance to bring about certain effects, esp a coenzyme  
**coffee** /'kɒfi/ *n* 1a a beverage made by percolation, infusion, or decoction from the roasted seeds of a coffee tree; also these seeds either green or roasted b COFFEE TREE 2 a cup of coffee 3 a time when coffee is drunk [It & Turk, It *caffè*, fr Turk *kahve*, fr Ar *qahwa*]  
**coffee house** /-həʊz/ *n* an establishment that sells refreshments and commonly serves as an informal club  
**coffee-table** *adj*, of a publication being outside and lavishly produced (e.g. with extensive use of full-colour illustrations) as if for display on a coffee table < a pompous ~ tome – TLS >  
**coffee table** *n* a low table usu placed in a living room  
**coffee tree** *n* a large African evergreen shrub or small tree of the madder family, widely cultivated in warm regions for its seeds  
**coffer** /'kɒfə/ *n* 1 a chest, box; esp a strongbox 2 a treasury, exchequer; broadly a store of wealth – usu pl with sing meaning 3a a caisson b a cofferdam 4 a recessed decorative panel in a vault, ceiling, etc [ME *coffre*, fr OF, fr L *cuphinus* basket, fr Gk *kophinos*]

**cofferdam** /ˈkɒfə,dam/ *n* a watertight enclosure from which water is pumped to allow construction or repair (e.g. of a pier or ship's hull)

**coffin** /ˈkɒfɪn/ *n* 1 a box or chest for the burial of a corpse 2 the horny body forming the hoof of a horse's foot [ME, basket, receptacle, fr MF *cofin*, fr L *cofinus*] – **coffin** *vt*

**coffin, bone** *n* the bone enclosed within the hoof of the horse

**cog** /kɒg/ *n* 1 a tooth on the rim of a wheel or gear 2 a subordinate person or part [ME *cogge*, of Scand origin, akin to Norw *kug* cog; akin to OE *cycgel* cudgel] – **cogged** *adj*

**cog** *vt* – **cg-** to direct the fall of (dice) fraudulently [cog (a trick)]

**cogent** /kɒj(ə)nt/ *adj* appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing (< ~ evidence) [L *cogent-*, *cogens*, prp of *cogere* to drive together, collect, fr *co-* + *agere* to drive – more at AGENT] – **cogency** /-j(ə)nsi/ *n*, **cogently** *adv*

**cogitate** /ˈkɒjtaɪt/ *vi* to ponder, usu intently and objectively, meditate – *vt* to cogitate on USE fml [L *cogitatus*, pp of *cogitare* to think, think about, fr *co-* + *agitare* to drive, agitate – more at AGITATE] – **cogitation** /-taɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **cogitative** /-təɪv/ *adj*

**cogito** /kɒjɪtə/ *n* the principle that one's existence can be conclusively established by the fact that one thinks [NL *cogito, ergo sum* I think, therefore I am (theorem stated by René Descartes †1650 F philosopher)]

**cognac** /ˈkɒnyak/ *n* a French brandy, specif one from the departments of Charente and Charente-Maritime distilled from white wine [F, fr *Cognac*, town in France]

**cognate** /ˈkɒɡnaɪt/ *adj* 1 related by blood, esp on the mother's side 2a related by derivation or borrowing or by descent from the same ancestral language (German *vater* is ~ with father) b of a noun related in form and meaning to the verb of which it is the object 3 of the same or similar nature [L *cognatus*, fr *co-* + *gnatus*, *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born, akin to L *gignere* to beget – more at KIN] – **cognately** *adv*, **cognateness**, **cognition** /ˈkɒɡnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**cognate** *n* sthg (e.g. a word) cognate with another

**cognition** /ˈkɒɡnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a product of) the act or process of knowing ths involves the processing of sensory information and includes perception, awareness, and judgment [ME *cognicioun*, fr L *cognition-*, *cognitio*, fr *cognitus*, pp of *cognoscere* to become acquainted with, know, fr *co-* + *gnoscer* to come to know – more at KNOW] – **cognitional** /-nɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj*, **cognitive** /ˈkɒɡnətɪv/ *adj*

**cognizable**, **-isable** /ˈkɒɡnɪzəbl/, *adj* capable of being judicially heard and determined – fml or technical – **cognizably** *adv*

**cognizance**, **-isance** /ˈkɒɡnɪz(ə)ns/ *n* 1 jurisdiction, control 2 the ability to perceive or understand 3 notice, heed (<take ~ of a fault) USE fml or technical [ME *conisaunce*, fr OF *connaissance*, fr *conoistre* to know, fr L *cognoscere*]

**cognizant**, **-isant** /ˈkɒɡnɪz(ə)nt/ *adj* having special or certain knowledge, often from firsthand sources – fml or technical [back-formation fr *cognizance*]

**cognomen** /ˈkɒɡnoʊmɪn/ *n*, *pl* **cognomina**, **cognomina** /-ˈnɒmɪna, -ˈnoʊ-/ 1 a surname; esp the family (and usu 3rd) name of sb named in the ancient Roman fashion 2 a name, esp a descriptive nickname – fml or humor [L, irreg fr *co-* + *nomen* name – more at NAME] – **cognominal** /-ˈnɒmɪn(ə)l/ *adj*

**cognoscente** /ˈkɒnyɒʃhenti/, *pl* **cognoscenti** /~/ a person having or claiming expert knowledge; a connoisseur [obs It (now *conoscente*), fr *cognoscente*, *adj*, wise, fr L *cognoscent-*, *cognoscens*, prp of *cognoscere*]

**cogwheel** /-weəl/ *n* a wheel with cogs or teeth

**cohabit** /kəhˈbɪt/ *vi* to live or exist together, specif as husband and wife [LL *cohabitare*, fr L *co-* + *habitare* to inhabit, fr *habitus*, pp of *habere* to have] – **cohabitant** *n*, **cohabitation** *n*

**cohere** /kəhˈhɪə/ *vi* 1 to hold together firmly as parts of the same mass; broadly to stick, adhere 2a to become united in ideas or interests b to be logically or aesthetically consistent [L *cohaerere*, fr *co-* + *haerere* to stick – more at HESITATE]

**coherent** /kəhˈhɪəriənt/ *adj* 1 having the quality of cohering 2a logically consistent (<a ~ argument) b showing a unity of thought or purpose 3 relating to, composed of, or producing (electromagnetic) waves in phase with each other (<~ light) [MF or L; MF *cohérent*, fr L *cohaerent-*, *cohaerens*, prp of *cohaerere*] – **coherence** /-rɛns/, **coherency** *n*, **coherently** *adv*

**cohesion** /kəhˈhiːʒ(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of cohering [L *cohaesus*, pp of *cohaerere*] – **cohesionless** *adj*, **cohesive** /-ˈhiːsɪv-, -zɪv/ *adj*, **cohesively** *adv*, **cohesiveness** *n*

**cohort** /kəhˈhɔːt/ *n* 1a a group of soldiers; esp, *sing* or *pl* in constr a

division of a Roman legion b a band, group c a group of individuals having age, class membership, or other statistical factors in common in a study of the population 2 chiefly NAM a companion, accomplice [MF & L; MF *cohorte*, fr L *cohors*, *cohors* – more at COURT]

**coif** /kɒɪf/ *n* a close-fitting cap e.g. a hoodlike bonnet worn by nuns under a veil b a protective usu metal skullcap formerly worn under a hood of mail [ME *coife*, fr MF, fr LL *cofea*]

**coif** *vt* – **ff-** 1 to cover or dress (as if) with a coif 2 to arrange (hair) by brushing, combing, or curling

**coiffe** /kwaɪf/ *n* a hairstyle [ME *coife*, *coiffe* coif]

**coiffeur** /kwaɪˈfuː (Fr kwafœʁ)/ *n* a hairdresser [F, fr *coiffer*]

**coiffeuse** /kwaɪˈfuːz (Fr kwafœʁiz)/ *n* a female hairdresser [F, fem of *coiffeur*]

**coiffure** /kwaɪˈf(y)ʊə (Fr kwafyːr)/ *n* a hairstyle [F, fr *coiffer* to cover with a coif, arrange (hair), fr *coife*] – **coiffured** *adj*

**coil** /kɒɪl/ *vt* to wind into rings or spirals ~ *vi* 1 to move in a circular, spiral, or winding course 2 to form or lie in a coil [MF *coillir*, *cuillir* to gather – more at CULL] – **coilability** /-ləˈbɪləti/ *n*

**coil** *n* 1a (a length of) rope, cable, etc gathered into a series of loops; a spiral b a single loop of a coil 2 a number of turns of wire, esp in spiral form, usu for electromagnetic effect or for providing electrical resistance 3 a series of connected pipes in rows, layers, or windings 4 (a stamp from) a roll of postage stamps

**coin** /kɒɪn/ *n* 1 a usu thin round piece of metal issued as money 2 metal money [ME, fr MF, wedge, corner, fr L *cuneus* wedge]

**coin** *vt* 1a to make (a coin), esp by stamping, mint b to convert (metal) into coins 2 to create, invent (<~ a phrase) 3 to make or earn (money) rapidly and in large quantity – often in *coin* *it*

**coinage** /ˈkɒɪnɪ/ *n* 1 coining or (a large number of) coins 2 sthg (e.g. a word) made up or invented

**coin-box** *n* a telephone whose operation is paid for by the insertion of coins, also the box attached to such a telephone that receives the coins

**coincide** /kəhˈɪnsɪd/ *vi* 1 to occupy the same place in space or time 2 to correspond in nature, character, function, or position 3 to be in accord or agreement; concur [ML *coincidere*, fr L *co-* + *incidere* to fall on, fr *in-* + *cadere* to fall – more at CHANCE]

**coincidence** /kəhˈɪnsɪd(ə)ns, sense 1 also kəhˈɪnsɪd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the act or condition of coinciding; a correspondence 2 (an example of) the chance occurrence at the same time or place of 2 or more events that appear to be related or similar – **coincidental** /kəhˈɪnsɪd(ə)nt(ə)l/ *adj*, **coincidentally** *adv*

**coincident** /kəhˈɪnsɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 occupying the same space or time (<~ points) 2 of similar nature; harmonious [F, fr ML *coincident-*, *coincidens*, prp of *coincidere*] – **coincidentally** *adv*

**coiner** /ˈkɒɪnə/ *n*, chiefly Br sb who makes counterfeit coins [ˈCOIN + -ER]

**coin-op** /ɒp/ *n* a self-service laundry where the machines are operated by coins

**coir** /ˈkɒɪə/ *n* a stiff coarse fibre from the husk of a coconut [Tamil *kayiru* rope]

**coition** /kəhˈɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* coitus [LL, fr L *cottion-*, *cottio* a coming together, fr *coitus*, pp of *coire* to come together, fr *co-* + *ire* to go – more at ISSUE] – **coitional** *adj*

**coitus** /ˈkɒɪtəs, ˈkəhˈɪtəs/ *n* the natural conveying of semen to the female reproductive tract; broadly SEXUAL INTERCOURSE [L, fr *coitus*, pp] – **coital** *adj*, **coitally** *adv*

**coitus interruptus** /ɪntəˈrʌptəs/ *n* coitus which is purposely interrupted in order to prevent ejaculation of sperm into the vagina [NL, interrupted coitus]

**coitus reservatus** /rezuˈhʌvətəs/ *n* COITUS INTERRUPTUS [NL, coitus held back]

**coke** /kəh/ *n* a solid porous fuel that remains after gases have been driven from coal by heating [ME; akin to Sw *kalk* pith, Gk *gelgis* bulb of garlic]

**coke** *vt* to convert (coal) into coke

**coke** *n* cocaine – slang [by shortening & alter.]

**col** /kɒl/ *n* a depression or pass in a mountain ridge or range [F, fr MF, neck, fr L *collum*]

**col-** – see COM-

**col**, **coli**, **colo-** *comb form* 1 colon (<colitis) (<colostomy) 2 colon bacillus (<coliform) (<coliphage) [NL, fr L *colon*]

**cola** /ˈkɒlə/ *pl* of ˈˌˌˌCOLON

**cola** also *kola* /ˈkɒlə/ *n* a carbonated soft drink flavoured with extract from coca leaves, kola nut, sugar, caramel, and acid and aromatic substances [fr *Coca-Cola*, a trademark]

**colander** /'koləndə; also 'ku-/; **cullender** /'kʊləndə/ *n* a perforated bowl-shaped utensil for washing or draining food [ME *colyndorg*, prob. modif. of OProv *colador*, fr ML *colatorium*, fr L *colatus*, pp of *colare* to sieve, fr *colum* sieve]

**cola nut** *n* KOLA NUT

**col arco** /kol 'aɦkɒh/ *adv* with the bow – used in music; compare PIZZICATO [It]

**colatitude** /kɒl'latitjuːh/ *n* the difference between a degree of latitude and 90°

**colchicine** /'kɒlchɪːsən, 'kɒlki-/ *n* an alkaloid extracted from the corms or seeds of the meadow saffron or a related plant [NL, genus name, fr L, a kind of plant with a poisonous root, fr Gk *kolchikon*, lit., product of Colchis, fr *Colchis*, ancient country in Asia]

**colchicum** /'kɒlchɪkəm, 'kɒlki-/ *n* (the colchicine-containing dried corm or seed of) the meadow saffron or a related plant [NL, genus name, fr L, a kind of plant with a poisonous root, fr Gk *kolchikon*, lit., product of Colchis, fr *Colchis*, ancient country in Asia]

**cold** /kəʊld/ *adj* 1 having a low temperature, often below some normal temperature or below that compatible with human comfort 2 *a* marked by lack of warm feeling, unemotional; also unfriendly <a ~ stare> *b* marked by deliberation or calculation <a ~ act of aggression> 3 *a* previously cooked but served cold <~ meats> *b* not (sufficiently) hot or heated *c* made cold <~ drinks> *d* of a process performed on an unheated material <~ conditioning of steel prior to rolling> 4 *a* depressing, cheerless *b* producing a sensation of cold; chilling <~ blank walls> *c* cool 5 5 *a* dead *b* unconscious <knocked out ~> 6 *a* retaining only faint scents, traces, or clues <a ~ trail> *b* far from a goal, object, or solution sought *c* stale, uninteresting <~ news> 7 presented or regarded in a straightforward way, impersonal <the ~ facts> 8 unprepared 9 intense yet without the usual outward effects <a ~ fury> [ME, fr OE *ceald*, *cald*, akin to OHG *kalt* cold, L *gelu* frost, *gelare* to freeze] – *coldish adj*, *coldly adv*, *coldness n* – in *cold blood* with premeditation, deliberately

**cold** *n* 1 *a* a condition of low temperature *b* cold weather 2 bodily sensation produced by relative lack of heat, chill 3 *a* bodily disorder popularly associated with chilling, specif COMMON COLD 4 *a* state of neglect or deprivation – esp in *come/bring in out of the cold*

**cold** *adv* with utter finality, absolutely <was turned down ~>

**cold-blooded** *adj* 1 *a* done or acting without consideration or compunction, ruthless <~ murder> *b* concerned only with the facts, emotionless 2 having a body temperature not internally regulated but approximating to that of the environment – compare WARM-BLOODED – *cold-bloodedly adv*, *cold-bloodedness n*

**cold chisel** *n* a chisel made of steel of a strength and temper suitable for chipping or cutting cold metal

**cold comfort** *n* scant consolation

**cold cream** *n* a thick only often perfumed cream for cleansing and soothing the skin of the neck, face, etc

**cold feet** *n pl* apprehension or doubt strong enough to prevent a planned course of action

**cold frame** *n* a usu glass-covered frame without artificial heat used to protect plants and seedlings

**cold front** *n* an advancing edge of a cold air mass

**cold shoulder** *n* intentionally cold or unsympathetic treatment – usu + *the* – *cold-shoulder vt*

**cold sore** *n* (herpes simplex when occurring as) 1 or more blisters appearing round or inside the mouth

**cold storage** *n* a condition of being held or continued without being acted on; abeyance

**cold sweat** *n* concurrent perspiration and chill, usu associated with fear, pain, or shock

**cold turkey** *n* 1 *NAm* blunt language or procedure 2 (the shivering, nausea, feelings of fear, etc resulting from) the abrupt complete cessation of the use of an addictive narcotic drug by an addict – *infrml*

**cold type** *n* composition or typesetting done without the casting of metal, esp produced directly by a typewriter mechanism

**cold war** *n* 1 a conflict carried on by methods short of military action 2 a hostile but nonviolent relationship – *cold warrior n*

**cold wave** *n* a period of unusually cold weather

**cole** /kɒl-/ *n* cabbage, broccoli, kohlrabi, or a related (edible) plant of the cabbage family [ME, fr OE *cal*, fr L *caulis* stem, cabbage – more at HOLE]

**coleoptera** /kɒl'ɒptərə/ *n pl* the insects that are beetles [NL, deriv of Gk *koleon* sheath + *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER] – *coleopterist n*, *coleopterous adj*

**coleopteran** /kɒl'ɒptərən/ *n* BEETLE 1 – *coleopteran adj*

**coleoptile** /kɒl'ɒptɪl/ *n* the first leaf produced by a germinating seed

of grasses and some related plants, that forms a protective sheath round the bud that develops into the shoot [NL *coleoptilum*, fr Gk *koleon* + *ptilon* down, akin to Gk *pteron*]

**coleslaw** /'kɒlsləw/ *n* a salad of raw sliced or chopped white cabbage – compare SAUERKRAUT [D *koolsla*, fr *kool* cabbage + *sla* salad]

**coleus** /'kɒliːəs/ *n, pl coleuses* any of a large genus of plants of the mint family including many grown for their showy foliage [NL, genus name, fr Gk *koleos*, *koleon* sheath]

**coley** /'kɒli/ *n, pl coley*, esp for different types coleys *Br* an important N Atlantic food fish closely related to the cod [prob by shortening & alter fr *coalfish*]

**coli-** – see <sup>2</sup>COL-

**colic** /'kɒlɪk/ *n* a paroxysm of abdominal pain localized in the intestines or other hollow organ and caused by spasm, obstruction, or twisting [ME, fr MF *colique*, fr L *colicus* colicky, fr Gk *kolikos*, fr *kolon*, alter. of *kolon* colon] – *colicky adj*

**coliseum** /kɒl'siːəm/ *n* 1 *cap* COLOSSEUM 2 *coliseum, colosseum* a large building (e.g. a stadium or theatre) used for public entertainments [ML *Coliseum, Colosseum*]

**colitis** /kə'liːtɪs, kɒh-/ *n* inflammation of the colon [NL]

**coli-, collo-** *comb form* 1 glue <collagen> <collodion> 2 colloid <collo-type> [NL, fr Gk *koll-, kollo-*, fr *kolla* – more at PROTOCOL]

**collaborate** /kə'ləbəreɪt/ *vi* 1 to work together or with another (e.g. in an intellectual endeavour) 2 to cooperate with an enemy of one's country [LL *collaboratus*, pp of *collaborare* to labour together, fr L *com-* + *laborare* to labour] – *collaborator n*, *collaborative /-rətɪv/ adj*, *collaboration /-rəʃən/ n*


**collaborationism** /kə'ləbə'reɪʃənɪz(ə)m/ *n* collaboration with an enemy – *collaborationist adj* or *n*

**collage** /kə'ləʒh/ *n* 1 an (abstract) composition made of pieces of paper, wood, cloth, etc fixed to a surface 2 an assembly of diverse fragments <a ~ of ideas> [F, gluing, fr *coller* to glue, fr *colle* glue, fr (assumed) VL *colla*, fr Gk *kolla*] – *collagist n*


**collagen** /kə'ləʒən/ *n* an insoluble protein that occurs as fibres in connective tissue (e.g. tendons) and in bones and yields gelatin and glue on prolonged heating with water [Gk *kolla* + ISV *-gen*] – *collagenic /kə'ləʒənɪk/ adj*, *collagenous /kə'ləʒɪnəs/ adj*

**collapse** /kə'læps/ *vi* 1 to break down completely, disintegrate 2 to fall in or give way abruptly and completely (e.g. through compression) 3 to lose force, value, or effect suddenly 4 to break down in energy, stamina, or self-control through exhaustion or disease; esp to fall helpless or unconscious 5 to fold down into a more compact shape <a telescope that ~s> ~ *vi* to cause to collapse [L *collapsus*, pp of *collabi*, fr *com-* + *labi* to fall, slide – more at SLEEP] – *collapsible adj*, *collapsibility /-sə'bɪlɪti/ n*


**collapse** *n* 1 *a* an (extreme) breakdown in energy, strength, or self-control *b* an airless state of (part of) a lung 2 the act or an instance of collapsing

**collar** /'kɒlə/ *n* 1 a band, strip, or chain worn round the neck e.g. a band that serves to finish or decorate the neckline of a garment, esp one that is turned over *b* a band fitted about the neck of an animal *c* a part of the harness of draught animals that fits over the shoulders and takes the strain when a load is drawn *d* a protective or supportive device worn round the neck 2 sth resembling a collar (e.g. a ring or round flange to restrain motion or hold sth in place) 3 any of various animal structures or markings similar to a collar in appearance or form 4 a cut of bacon from the neck of a pig  MEAT [ME *coler*, fr OF, fr L *collare*, fr *collum* neck, akin to ON & OHG *hals* neck, OE *hwēol* wheel – more at WHEEL] – *collared adj*, *collarless adj*

**collar** *vt* 1 *a* to seize by the collar or neck, broadly to apprehend *b* to get control of 2 to buttonhole *USE* *infrml*

**collar beam** *n* a horizontal beam in a roof, that connects 2 opposite rafters at a place higher than their base – compare TIE-BEAM 

ARCHITECTURE

**collar bone** /-boʊn/ *n* the clavicle  ANATOMY

**collate** /kə'ləɪt/ *vi* 1 to collect and compare carefully in order to verify and often to integrate or arrange in order 2 to appoint (a priest) to a Church of England benefice of which the bishop is the patron 3 to assemble in proper order <~ printed sheets> [back-formation fr *collation*] – *collator n*

**collateral** /kə'læt(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 accompanying as secondary or subordinate 2 belonging to the same ancestral stock but not in a direct line of descent – usu contrasted with *lineal* 3 parallel or corresponding in position, time, or significance 4 of or being collateral [ME, prob fr MF,



- fr ML *collateralis*, fr L *com-* + *lateralis* lateral] – **collaterally** *adv*, **collaterality** /ˈtələti/ *n*
- collateral** *n* 1 a collateral relative 2 property pledged by a borrower to protect the interests of the lender
- collation** /kəˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a light meal; esp one allowed on fast days in place of lunch or supper 2 the act, process, or result of collating [(1) ME, fr ML *collation-*, *collatio*, fr LL, conference, fr L, bringing together, comparison, fr *collatus* (pp of *conferre* to bring together, bestow upon), fr *com-* + *latus*, pp of *ferre* to carry; (2) ME, fr L *collation-*, *collatio*]
- colleague** /ˈkoleɪdʒ/ *n* a fellow worker, esp in a profession [MF *colleage*, fr L *collega*, fr *com-* + *legare* to appoint, depute – more at *LEGATE*]
- collect** /ˈkɒlɪkt/ *n* a short prayer comprising an invocation, petition, and conclusion; *specif*, often *cap* one preceding the Epistle read at Communion [ME *collecte*, fr OF, fr ML *collecta*, short for *oratio ad collectam* prayer upon assembly]
- collect** /kəˈlekt/ *vt* 1a to bring together into 1 body or place, *specif* to assemble a collection of b to gather or exact from a number of sources < ~ taxes > 2 to accumulate, gather < books ~ dust > 3 to gain or regain control of < ~ his thoughts > 4 to claim as due and receive possession or payment of < ~ social security > 5 to provide transport or escort for < ~ the children from school > 6 chiefly Br to gain, obtain ~ *vi* 1 to come together in a band, group, or mass; gather < the troops ~ ed > 2a to assemble a collection b to receive payment < ~ ing on his insurance > [L *collectus*, pp of *colligere* to collect, fr *com-* + *legere* to gather] – **collectible**, **collectable** *adj*
- collect** /kəˈlekt/ *adv* or *adj*, *NAM* to be paid for by the receiver < send the package ~ > < a ~ telephone call >
- collected** /kəˈlektɪd/ *adj* 1 exhibiting calmness and composure 2 of a *gait* or *horse* (performed) in a state of collection – compare *EXTENDED* – **collectedly** *adv*, **collectedness** *n*
- collection** /kəˈlektʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg collected; esp an accumulation of objects gathered for study, comparison, or exhibition 2 a standard pose of a well-schooled and responsive riding horse with its head arched and its hocks well under the body [ˈCOLLECT + -ION]
- collective** /kəˈlektɪv/ *adj* 1 denoting a number of individuals considered as 1 group < flock is a ~ word > 2 of a *fruit* MULTIPLE 4 3 of, made, or held in common by a group of individuals < ~ responsibility > 4 collectivized < a ~ farm > – **collectively** *adv*
- collective** *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a collective body; a group 2 a cooperative organization; *specif* a collective farm
- collective bargaining** *n* negotiation between an employer and union representatives *usu* on wages, hours, and working conditions
- collective security** *n* the maintenance by common action of the security of all members of an association of nations
- collective unconscious** *n* that part of a person's unconscious which is inherited and shared with all other people
- collectivism** /kəˈlektɪvɪz(ə)m/ *n* a political or economic theory advocating collective control, esp over production and distribution – **collectivist** *adj* or *n*, **collectivistic** /-ˈvɪstɪk/ *adj*, **collectivistically** *adv*
- collectivize**, **-ize** /kəˈlektɪvɪz/ *vt* to organize under collective control – **collectivization** /-ˈzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- collector** /kəˈlektə/ *n* 1a an official who collects funds, esp money b one who makes a collection < a stamp ~ > 2 a conductor maintaining contact between moving and stationary parts of an electric circuit 3 a region in a transistor that collects charge carriers – **collectorship** *n*
- colleen** /kəˈleɪn/ *n* 1 an Irish girl 2 Irish a girl [IrGael *caillin*]
- college** /ˈkɒliʃ/ *n* 1 a building used for an educational or religious purpose 2a a self-governing endowed constituent body of a university offering instruction and often living quarters but not granting degrees b an institution offering vocational or technical instruction < business ~ > < art ~ > 3 an organized body of people engaged in a common pursuit 4 chiefly Br a public school or private secondary school; also a state school for older pupils < a Sixth-form ~ > *USE* (except 1) *sing*, or *pl* in *constr* [ME, fr MF, fr L *collegium* society, fr *collega* colleague – more at *COLLEAGUE*] – **college** *adj*
- collegial** /kəˈleɪʃi-əl/ *adj* 1 COLLEGIATE 1, 2 2 characterized by equal sharing of authority, esp by Roman Catholic bishops – **collegially** *adv*, **collegiality** /-ˈæləti/ *n*
- collegian** /kəˈleɪʃjən/ *n* a member of a college
- collegiate** /kəˈleɪʃi-ət/ *adj* 1 of a collegiate church 2 of or comprising a college 3 COLLEGIATE 2 [ML *collegiatus*, fr L *collegium*] – **collegiately** *adv*
- collegiate church** *n* a church other than a cathedral that has a chapter of canons
- collenchyma** /kəˈleŋkɪmə/ *n* a plant tissue of growing stems, leaf
- midribs, etc that consists of living (elongated) cells with irregularly thickened walls – compare *PARENCHYMA*, *SCLERENCHYMA* [NL] – **collenchymatous** /ˌkɒlənˈkiəmətəs, -ˈki-/ *adj*
- collar** /ˈkɒlɪt/ *n* a metal band, collar, ferrule, or flange; esp a circle or flange in which a gem is set [MF, dim. of *col* collar, fr L *collum* neck – more at *COLLAR*]
- collide** /kəˈliəd/ *vi* 1 to come together forcibly 2 to come into conflict [L *collidere*, fr *com-* + *laedere* to injure by striking]
- collie** /ˈkɒli/ *n* a large dog of any of several varieties of a breed developed in Scotland, esp for use in herding sheep and cattle [prob fr E dial *colly* (black)]
- collier** /ˈkɒliə/ *n* 1 a coal miner 2 a ship for transporting coal [ME *colier* charcoal-burner, fr *col* coal]
- colliery** /ˈkɒliəri/ *n* a coal mine and its associated buildings
- colligative** /kəˈlɪɡətɪv/ *adj* depending on the number rather than the nature of particles (e.g. molecules) < pressure is a ~ property > [L *colligatus*, pp of *colligare* to bind together, fr *com-* + *ligare* to tie]
- collimate** /ˈkɒlɪmət/ *vt* 1 to make (e.g. rays of light) parallel 2 to adjust the line of sight of (a telescope, theodolite, etc) [L *collimatus*, pp of *collimare*, MS var of *collineare* to make straight, fr *com-* + *linea* line] – **collimation** /-ˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- collimator** /ˈkɒlɪməta/ *n* a device (e.g. in a telescope or spectroscope) for producing a beam of parallel rays of radiation (e.g. light)
- collinear** /ˌkɒhˈliːn-əl/ *adj* lying on or passing through the same straight line [ISV] – **collinearity** /-ˈliːn-ər-ə-ti/ *n*
- collision** /kəˈlɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or instance of colliding; a clash 2 an encounter between particles (e.g. atoms or molecules) resulting in exchange or transformation of energy [ME, fr L *collision-*, *collisio*, fr *collisus*, pp of *collidere*] – **collisional** *adj*
- collision course** *n* a course or approach that would result in collision or conflict if continued unaltered
- collo-** – see *COLI-*
- collocate** /ˈkɒləkəɪt/ *vt* to set or arrange in a place or position; esp to set side by side – *fml* ~ *vi*, of a linguistic element to form part of a collocation [L *collocatus*, pp of *collocare*, fr *com-* + *locare* to place, fr *locus* place – more at *STALL*]
- collocation** /kəˈləkəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or result of placing or arranging together, *specif* a noticeable arrangement or joining together of linguistic elements (e.g. words) – **collocational** *adj*
- colloidion** /kəˈləɪdɪ-ən/ *n* a viscous solution of pyroxylin, used esp as a coating for wounds or for photographic films [modif of NL *colloidum*, fr Gk *kollōdēs* glutinous, fr *kolla* glue]
- colloid** /ˈkɒləɪd/ *n* 1a a substance composed of particles that are too small to be seen with a light microscope but too large to form a true solution and that will typically diffract a beam of light – compare *CRYSTALLOID* b a system consisting of a colloid together with the gaseous, liquid, or solid medium in which it is dispersed 2 a gelatinous substance found in tissues, esp in disease [ISV *coll-* + *-oid*] – **colloidal** /ˈkɒləɪdl/ *adj*, **colloidally** *adv*
- collop** /ˈkɒləp/ *n* a small (meat) slice, an escalope [ME]
- colloquial** /kəˈləhkwɪ-əl/ *adj* used in, characteristic of, or using the style of familiar and informal conversation, conversational – **colloquial** *n*, **colloquially** *adv*, **colloquiality** /-ˈæləti/ *n*
- colloquialism** /kəˈləhkwɪ-əlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a colloquial expression 2 colloquial style
- colloquium** /kəˈləhkwɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* colloquiums, colloquia /-kwi-ə/ a conference, seminar – compare *SYMPOSIUM* 2a [L, colloquy]
- colloquy** /ˈkɒləkwɪ/ *n* a formal conversation or dialogue [L *colloquium*, fr *colloqui* to converse, fr *com-* + *loqui* to speak]
- collude** /kəˈləʊd/ *vi* to conspire, plot [L *colludere*, fr *com-* + *ludere* to play, fr *ludus* game – more at *LUDICROUS*]
- collusion** /kəˈləʊʒ(ə)n/ *n* secret agreement or cooperation for an illegal or deceitful purpose [ME, fr MF, fr L *collusion-*, *collusio*, fr *collus*, pp of *colludere*] – **collusive** /-sɪv, -zɪv/ *adj*, **collusively** *adv*
- collyrium** /kəˈlɪri-əm/ *n*, *pl* collyriums, collyria /-ri-ə/ an eye lotion [L, fr Gk *kollyrion* pessary, eye salve, fr dim. of *kollyra* roll of bread]
- collywobblers** /ˈkɒli,wɒblz/ *n* *pl* 1 stomachache 2 qualms, butterflies *USE* + *the*; *infml* [prob alter. of *colic* + *wobbles*]
- colo-** – see *COL-*
- colobus monkey** /ˈkɒləbəs/ *n* any of various long-tailed African monkeys [NL *colobus*, genus name, fr Gk *kolobos* docked, mutilated; fr the rudimentary thumb]
- cologne** /kəˈləʊn/ *n* TOILET WATER [Cologne, city in Germany] – **cologned** *adj*
- colon** /ˈkɒlən/ *n*, *pl* colons, cola /-lə/ the part of the large intestine that



- extends from the caecum to the rectum  **DIGESTION** [L, fr Gk *kolon*] – **colonic** /kə'lonik/ *adj*
- colon** /n, pl **colons**, **cola** /-lə/ 1 a punctuation mark used chiefly to direct attention to matter that follows, to introduce the words of a speaker (e.g. in a play), in various references (e.g. in John 4:10), and, esp. in NAM, between the parts of an expression of time in hours and minutes 2 the sign . used in a ratio where it is usu. read as 'to' (e.g. in 4:1), or in phonetic transcription (e.g. in i.) where it signals a change in length and in vowel quality [l., part of a poem, fr Gk *kolon* limb, part of a strophe]
- colon** /kə'hlon/ *n*, pl **colones** /-neys/  *Costa Rica, El Salvador* at NATIONALITY [Sp *colón*]
- colon bacillus** /'kəhlon/ *n* any of various bacilli that normally live in intestines of vertebrate animals
- colonel** /'kuhn/ *n*  **RANK** [alter. of *coronel*, fr MF, modif. of OIt *colonnello* column of soldiers, colonel, dim. of *colonna* column, fr L *columna*] – **coloneley** *n*
- Colonel Blimp** /blimp/ *n* a pompous person with out-of-date or ultraconservative views, broadly a reactionary [*Colonel Blimp*, cartoon character created by David Low †1963 Br cartoonist] – **Colonel Blimpism** *n*
- colonial** /kə'lohnyəl, -ni-əl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a colony 2 often *cap* made or prevailing in America before 1776 <~ architecture> 3 possessing or composed of colonies <Britain's ~ empire> – **colonialize** *vt*, **colonially** *adv*, **colonialness** *n*
- colonial** *n* a member or inhabitant of a (British Crown) colony
- colonialism** /kə'lohni-əliz(ə)m/ *n* (a policy based on) control by a state over a dependent area or people – **colonialist** *n* or *adj*, **colonialistic** /-'listik/ *adj*
- colonist** /'kolənist/ *n* 1 a member or inhabitant of a colony 2 one who colonizes or settles in a new country
- colonize**, **-ise** /'koləniez/ *vt* to establish a colony in, on, or of ~ *vi* to make or establish a colony, settle **colonizer** *n*, **colonization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- colonnade** /kə'lonayd/ *n* a row of columns, usu. supporting an entablature [F, fr It *colonnato*, fr *colonna* column] – **colonnaded** *adj*
- colony** /'koləni/ *n* 1 a body of settlers living in a new territory but subject to control by the parent state; also their territory 2 a distinguishable localized population within a species <a ~ of termites> 3a a mass of microorganisms, usu. growing in or on a solid medium b all the units of a compound animal (e.g. a coral) 4 (the area occupied by) a group of individuals with common interests living close together <an artists' ~> 5 a group of people segregated from the general public <a leper ~> <a penal ~> [ME *colonie*, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *colonia*, fr *colonus* farmer, colonist, fr *colere* to cultivate – more at **WHEEL**]
- colophon** /'kəhlofən/ *n* 1 a statement at the end of a book or manuscript, giving facts about its production 2 an identifying device used by a printer or publisher [L, fr Gk *kolophon* summit, finishing touch]
- colophony** /kə'lofəni/ *n* rosin [ME *colophonie*, deriv. of Gk *Kolophōn* Colophon, an Ionian city]
- color** /'kula/ *vb* or *n*, chiefly **NAM** (to) colour
- Colorado beetle** /kə'lə'rahdo/ *n* a black-and-yellow striped beetle that feeds on the leaves of the potato [*Colorado*, state of USA]
- coloration**, **Br** also **colouration** /kə'lə'reysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 COLOURING 1c(1), COMPLEXION 1 <the dark ~ of his skin> 2 use or choice of colours (e.g. by an artist) 3 an arrangement or range of colours <the brilliant ~ of a butterfly's wing>
- coloratura** /kə'lə're'tyooərə/ *n* (a singer who uses) elaborate embellishment in vocal music [obs. It. lit., colouring, fr LL, fr L *coloratus*, pp. of *colorare* to colour, fr *color*]
- colorimeter** /kə'lə'nmitə/ *n* an instrument used for chemical analysis by comparison of a liquid's colour with standard colours [ISV] – **colorimetry** /-'tri/ *n*, **colorimetric** /-'metrik/ *adj*
- colossal** /kə'los(ə)l/ *adj* of or like a colossus; esp. of very great size or degree <a ~ building> <a ~ blunder> – **colossally** *adv*
- colosseum** /kə'lə'se-əm/ *n* 1 Colosseum, Coliseum an amphitheatre built in Rome in the first c AD 2 COLISEUM 2 [ML, fr L, neut. of *colosseus* colossal, fr *colossus*]
- Colossians** /kə'ləsh(ə)nz/ *n* pl but sing in constr a book of the New Testament attributed to St Paul and addressed to the Christians of Colossae
- colossus** /kə'lə'səs/ *n*, pl **colossuses**, **colossi** /-sie/ 1 a statue of gigantic size 2 sb or sth remarkably preeminent [L, fr Gk *kolossos*]
- colostomy** /kə'lə'stəmi/ *n* surgical formation of an artificial anus [ISV 'col- + -stomy]
- colostrum** /kə'lə'stərm/ *n* the milk that is secreted for a few days after giving birth and is characterized by high protein and antibody content [L, beastings] – **colostral** *adj*
- colour**, **NAM** chiefly **color** /'kula/ *n* 1a the visual sensation (e.g. red or grey) caused by the wavelength of perceived light that enables one to differentiate otherwise identical objects b the aspect of objects and light sources that may be described in terms of hue, lightness, and saturation for objects and hue, brightness, and saturation for light sources c a hue, esp. as opposed to black, white, or grey 2 an outward often deceptive show; an appearance (of authenticity) <his wounds gave ~ to his story> 3 the tint characteristic of good health 4a an identifying badge, pennant, or flag (e.g. of a ship or regiment) b coloured clothing distinguishing one as a member of a usu. specified group or as a representative of a usu. specified person or thing c any of the 5 principal heraldic tinctures azure, vert, sable, gules, and purpure 5 character, nature <showed himself in his true ~s> 6 the use or combination of colours (e.g. by painters) 7 vitality, interest <the play had a good deal of ~ to it> 8 a pigment 9 tonal quality in music 10 skin pigmentation other than white, characteristic of race 11 Br the award made to a regular member of a team <got my cricket ~s> **USE** (4a, 4b, 5, & 11) usu. pl with sing. meaning [ME *colour*, fr OF, fr L *color*; akin to L *celare* to conceal – more at **HELL**]
- colour**, **NAM** chiefly **color** *vt* 1a to give colour to b to change the colour of 2 to change as if by dyeing or painting. e.g. a to misrepresent, distort b to influence, affect <~ his judgment> ~ *vi* to take on or impart colour; *specif* to blush – **colourant** *n*
- colourable** /'kul(ə)rəbl/ *adj* seemingly valid or genuine; plausible – **colourably** *adv*
- colouration** /kə'lə'reysh(ə)n/ *n*, **Br** **coloration**
- colour bar** *n* a social or legal barrier that prevents coloured people from participating with whites in various activities or restricts their opportunities
- colour-blind** *adj* (partially) unable to distinguish 1 or more colours – **colour blindness** *n*
- coloured** *adj* 1 having colour 2 marked by exaggeration or bias 3a of a race other than the white, esp. BLACK 2 b often *cap* of mixed race – esp. of S Africans of mixed descent
- coloured** *n*, pl **coloureds**, coloured often *cap* a coloured person
- colourfast** /'kula,fəst/ *adj* having colour that will not fade or run – **colourfastness** *n*
- colour filter** *n* FILTER 3b
- colourful** /-(f(ə))l/ *adj* 1 having striking colours 2 full of variety or interest – **colourfully** *adv*, **colourfulness** *n*
- colouring** /'kulərɪŋ/ 1a (the effect produced by combining or) applying colours b sth that produces colour c(1) natural colour (2) COMPLEXION 1 <her dark ~> 2 an influence, bias 3 a tincture, quality
- colourist** /'kulərɪst/ *n* one, esp. a painter, who colours or deals with colour
- colourless** /'kuləlis/ *adj* lacking colour: e.g. a pallid b dull, uninteresting – **colourlessly** *adv*, **colourlessness** *n*
- colour scheme** *n* a systematic combination of colours <the ~ of a room>
- colour sergeant** *n*  **RANK**
- colour supplement** *n*, **Br** an illustrated colour magazine published as a supplement to a usu. Sunday newspaper
- colourway** /'kula,weɪ/ *n* COLOUR SCHEME
- colous** /-kə'las/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) living or growing in or on <arenicolous> [L -cola inhabitant; akin to L *colere* to inhabit – more at **WHEEL**]
- colporteur** /kə'lə'pawtə/ *n* a seller of religious books [F, alter. of MF *comporteur*, fr *comporter* to bear, peddle]
- colt** /kəhlt, kolt/ *n* 1 a young male horse that is either sexually immature or has not attained an arbitrarily designated age 2 a novice; esp. a cricketer or rugby player in a junior team [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *cild* child]
- coltish** /'kəhltɪʃ, 'kɒl-/ *adj* 1 frisky, playful 2 of or resembling a colt – **coltishly** *adv*, **coltishness** *n*
- coltsfoot** /'kəhltɪʃ, 'kɒltɪʃ/ *n*, pl **coltsfoots** a composite plant whose yellow flower heads appear early in spring before the leaves [fr the shape of the leaves]
- colubrine** /kə'lə'brɪn, -briən/ *adj* of or resembling a snake [L *colubrinus*, fr *coluber*, *colubra* snake]
- columbarium** /kə'lə'm'beəri-əm/ *n*, pl **columbaria** /-ri-ə/ a structure (e.g. in a crematorium) lined with recesses for urns containing ashes of those who have been cremated [L, lit., dove-cote, fr *columba* dove]
- columbine** /kə'ləmbiən/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the buttercup family with showy spurred flowers [ME, fr ML *columbina*, fr L, fem. of

**columbinus** /kə'lumbɪn/ *n* a *Columba* dove; akin to OHG *holuntar* elder tree, Gk *kolymbos* a bird, *kelamos* black

**columbium** /kə'lumbi-əm/ *n*, *NAM* niobium [NL, fr *Columbia* the USA, fr Christopher Columbus †1506 It navigator]

**column** /kə'lʊm/ *n* 1a a vertical arrangement of items or a vertical section of printing on a page (a ~ of figures) b a special and usu regular feature in a newspaper or periodical 2 a pillar that usu consists of a round shaft, a capital, and a base ARCHITECTURE 3 sthg resembling a column in form, position, or function (a ~ of water) 4 a long narrow formation of soldiers, vehicles, etc in rows [ME *colunne*, fr MF *colonne*, fr L *columna*, fr *column* top; akin to L *collis* hill – more at HILL] – **columned** /kə'lʊmd/ *adj*

**columnar** /kə'lʊmnə/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by columns 2 of, being, or composed of tall narrow (somewhat) cylindrical epithelial cells

**columnist** /kə'lʊmnɪst/ *n* one who writes a newspaper or magazine column

**colza** /kə'lzə/ *n* 1 rape or another cole whose seed is used as a source of oil 2 rapeseed [F, fr D *koolzaad*, fr MD *coolsaet*, fr *cole* cabbage + *saet* seed]

**com-**, **col-**, **con-** prefix with; together; jointly – usu *com-* before *b*, *p*, or *m* (*commingle*), *col-* before *l* (*collinear*), and *con-* before other sounds (<concentrate>) [ME, fr OF, fr L, with, together, thoroughly – more at *co-*]

**coma** /kə'hɒmə/ *n* a state of deep unconsciousness caused by disease, injury, etc [NL, fr Gk *kōma* deep sleep]

**comae** *n*, *pl* **comae** /kə'hɒmi/ 1 the head of a comet, usu containing a nucleus 2 an optical aberration in which the image of a point source becomes a comet-shaped blur [L, hair, fr Gk *kōmē*] – **comatic** /kə'hɒmatɪk/ *adj*

**Comanche** /kə'maɪnʃi/ *n*, *pl* **Comanches**, *esp* collectively Comanche a member of a N American Indian people ranging from Wyoming and Nebraska into New Mexico and NW Texas LANGUAGE [Sp, of Shoshonean origin; perh akin to Hopi *komānci* scalp lock]

**comatose** /kə'hɒmə,təʊs, -təʊz/ *adj* 1 of or suffering from coma 2 characterized by lethargy and sluggishness, torpid (a ~ economy) [F *comateux*, fr Gk *kōmat-*, *kōma*]

**comb** /kə'hɒm/ *n* 1a a toothed instrument used esp for adjusting, cleaning, or confining hair b a structure resembling such a comb, esp any of several toothed devices used in handling or ordering textile fibres c a currycomb 2 a fleshy crest on the head of a domestic fowl or a related bird 3 a honeycomb [ME, fr OE *cambe*; akin to OHG *kam̃b* comb, Gk *gomphos* tooth] – **combed** /kə'hɒmd/ *adj*, **comblike** *adj*

**comb** *vt* 1 to draw a comb through for the purpose of arranging or cleaning 2 to pass across with a scraping or raking action 3a to eliminate (e.g. with a comb) by a thorough going over – usu + *out* b to search or examine systematically 4 to use with a combing action ~ *vi*, of a wave to roll over or break into foam

**combat** /kə'mbæt, kə'm'bæt/ *vb* -tt- (*NAM* -t-, -tt-) *vi* to engage in combat, fight ~ *vt* 1 to fight with; battle 2 to struggle against, esp to strive to reduce or eliminate (~ *inflation*) [MF *combattre*, fr (assumed) VL *combattere*, fr L *com-* + *battuere* to beat – more at *BATTLE*]

**combat** /kə'mbæt/ *n* 1 a fight or contest between individuals or groups 2 a conflict, controversy 3 active fighting in a war – **combat** *adj*

**combātant** /kə'mbætənt, kə'm'bæt(ə)nt/ *n* a person, nation, etc that is (ready to be) an active participant in combat – **combātant** *adj*

**combat fatigue** *n* SELL SHOCK

**combative** /kə'mbətɪv/ *adj* marked by eagerness to fight or contend – **combatively** *adv*, **combateness** *n*

**comb** /kə'hɒm/ *n*, *Br* a comb

**comber** /kə'hɒmə/ *n* ROLLER 2 [COMB + -ER]

**combination** /kə'mbi'nayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a result or product of combining b a group of people working as a team 2 any of the different sets of a usu specified number of individuals that can be chosen from a group and are considered without regard to order within the set 3 *pl* any of various 1-piece undergarments for the upper and lower parts of the body and legs 4 a (process of) combining, esp to form a chemical compound – **combinational** *adj*

**combination lock** *n* a lock with a mechanism operated by the selection of a specific combination of letters or numbers

**combinative** /kə'mbɪnətɪv, -nəɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 tending or able to combine 2 resulting from combination

**combinatorial** /kə'mbi'nəwɪəl/ *adj* 1 of or involving combinations 2 of or relating to the manipulation of mathematical elements within finite sets (~ *mathematics*)

**combine** /kə'mbiən/ *vt* 1a to bring into such close relationship as to

obscure individual characters; merge b to cause to unite into a chemical compound 2 to cause to mix together 3 to possess in combination ~ *vi* 1a to become one b to unite to form a chemical compound 2 to act together [ME *combinen*, fr MF *combiner*, fr LL *combinare*, fr L *com-* + *bin-* two by two – more at *BIN-*] – **combiner** *n*, **combinable** *adj*, **combinability** /-nə'bɪləti/ *n*

**combine** /kə'mbiən/ *n* 1 a combination of people or organizations, esp in industry or commerce, to further their interests 2 **combine**, **combine harvester** a harvesting machine that cuts, threshes, and cleans grain while moving over a field

**combing wool** /kə'hɒmɪŋ/ *n* long-staple strong-fibred wool suitable for combing, used esp in the manufacture of worsteds

**combining form** /kə'mbiənɪŋ/ *n* a linguistic form (e.g. *Franco-*) that cannot stand alone but forms compounds with other free or bound forms

**combo** /kə'mboʊ/ *n*, *pl* **combos** a usu small jazz or dance band [*combination* + -o]

**combust** /kə'mbʊst/ *vb* to burn [L *combustus*, pp of *comburere* to burn up, irreg fr *com-* + *urere* to burn]

**combustible** /kə'mbʊstəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of (easily) being set on fire 2 easily excited – **combustible** *n*, **combustibly** *adv*, **combustibility** /-stə'bɪləti/ *n*

**combustion** /kə'mbʊʃən/ *n* 1 a chemical reaction, esp an oxidation, in which light and heat are evolved LIGHT 2 a slower chemical oxidation – **combustive** *adj*

**come** /kʊm/ *vb* *came* /kəɪm/, *come* *vi* 1a to move towards sthg nearer, esp towards the speaker, approach (~ *here*) (<came running to her mother>) b to move or journey nearer, esp towards or with the speaker, with a specified purpose (<he came to see us>) (~ *and see what's going on*) c(1) to reach a specified position in a progression (<now we ~ to the section on health>) (<came short of his goal>) (2) to arrive, appear, occur (<the time has ~>) (<they came by train>) – used in the subjunctive mood before an expression of future time (<a year ago ~ March>) d(1) to approach, reach, or fulfil a specified condition (<this ~s near perfection>) – often + to (<came to his senses>) (~ *to the throne*) (<what are things coming to?>) (2) – used with a following infinitive to express arrival at a condition (<came to regard him as a friend>) *cf* chance occurrence (<how did you ~ to be invited?>) 2a to happen, esp by chance (<no harm will ~ to you>) (~ *what may*) (<how ~s it that you're at home?>) b(1) to extend, reach (<her dress came to her ankles>) (2) to amount (<that ~s to 75p exactly>) c to originate, arise, or be the result of (<wine ~s from grapes>) (~ *s of sturdy stock*) (<this ~s of not changing your socks>) d to fall within the specified limits, scope, or jurisdiction (<rabbis ~ under rodents>) (<this ~s within the terms of the treaty>) e to issue from (<a sob came from her throat>) f to be available or turn out, usu as specified (<this model ~s in several sizes>) (<good clothes ~ expensive>) g to be or belong in a specified place or relation (<the address ~s above the date>); also TAKE PLACE (<Monday ~s after Sunday>) h to take form (<the story won't ~>) 3 to become (<it came untied>) (<the handle came off>), esp to reach a culminating state (<it all came right in the end>) – compare GO 13c 4 to experience orgasm – *infm* ~ *vi* 1a to move nearer by traversing (<has ~ several miles>) b to reach some state after traversing (<has ~ a long way from humble beginnings>) 2 to take on the aspect of, play the role of – *infm* (<don't ~ the old soldier with me>) [ME *comen*, fr OE *cuman*, akin to OHG *queman* to come, L *venire*, Gk *bainein* to walk, go] – as it comes without stipulated additions; *specif* NEAT 1a – **come a cropper** 1 chiefly *Br* to have a fall or an accident – *infm* 2 to fail completely – slang – **come across** to meet with or find by chance (<came across an interesting problem>) – **come by** to get possession of, acquire (<good jobs are hard to come by>) – **come clean** to tell the whole story; confess – *infm* – **come home** to roost to rebound upon the perpetrator – **come into** to acquire as a possession or inheritance (<came into a fortune>) – **come it chiefly** *Br* to act with bold disrespect (<don't come it over me>) – slang – **come off** it to cease foolish or pretentious talk or behaviour – usu used imperatively; *infm* – **come one's way** to fall to one's lot – **come over** to seize suddenly and strangely (<what's come over you?>) – **come through** to survive (e.g. an illness) – **come to** to be a question of (<hopeless when it comes to arithmetic>) – **come to a head** to arrive at a culminating point or crisis – **come to grief** to end badly; fail – **come to oneself** 1 **COME TO** 2 to regain self-control – **come to pass** HAPPEN 2 – *fml* – **come unstuck** **COME TO GRIEF** (<the government came unstuck over food prices>) – *infm* – **come upon** to meet with or find by chance – ~ *in* the future; **coming** (<in years to come>) – **whether one is coming or going** – used to suggest frenetic disorder and bewilderment (<don't know whether I'm coming or going>)

**'come** *interj* – used to express encouragement or to urge reconsideration <~, ~, it's not as bad as that>

**come about** *vi* 1 to occur; TAKE PLACE 2 to change direction <the wind has come about into the north> 3 of a ship to turn onto a new tack

**come across** *vi* 1 to provide sthg demanded or expected, esp sex or money 2 to produce an impression <he comes across as a persuasive speaker>

**come again** *interj* – used as a request for a remark to be repeated; *infml*

**come along** *vi* 1 to appear <wouldn't just marry the first man that came along> 2 to hurry – usu imperative

**'come,back** /-bak/ *n* 1a a means of redress b a retrospective criticism of a decision 2 a return to a former state or condition 3 a sharp or witty reply; a retort – *infml*

**come back** *vi* 1 to return to memory <it's all coming back to me now> 2 to reply, retort 3 to regain a former condition or position

**Comecon** /'komikən/ *n* an economic organization formed in 1949 by the countries of the Soviet bloc to coordinate their economies, and promote mutual aid [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance]

**comedian** /kə'mi:di-ən/, *fem* comedienne /kə'mi:di'en/ *n* 1 an actor who plays comic roles 2 one, esp a professional entertainer, who aims to be amusing [comédienne fr F *comédienne*, *fem* of *comédien* comedian]

**comedic** /kə'mi:dik/ *adj* of comedy

**comedo** /'komidoh/ *n, pl* comedones /kə'mi:dohneez/ a blackhead [NL, fr L, *glutton*, fr *comedere* to eat – more at COMESTIBLE]

**'come,down** /-down/ *n* a striking descent in rank or dignity – *infml*

**come down** *vi* 1 to formulate and express one's opinion or decision <came down in favour of abortion on demand> 2 of an aircraft, missile, etc to land, esp to crash 3 to become ill <they came down with measles> 4 Br to return from a university

**comedy** /'komədi/ *n* 1a a drama of light and amusing character, typically with a happy ending b (a work in) the genre of (dramatic) literature dealing with comic or serious subjects in a light or satirical manner – compare TRAGEDY 1 2 a ludicrous or farcical event or series of events 3 the comic aspect of sthg [ME, fr MF *comédie*, fr L *comœdia*, fr Gk *komodia*, fr *komos* revel + *aeidein* to sing – more at ODE]

**come-hither** *adj* sexually inviting <that ~ look in his eyes>

**come in** *vi* 1 to arrive <I was there when the train came in> 2 to finish as specified, esp in a competition <came in third> 3a to function in a specified manner, be of use <to come in handy> b to make reply to a signal <came in loud and clear> 4 to assume a role or function <that's where you come in> – **come in for** to become subject to <coming in for increasing criticism>

**comely** /'kumli/ *adj* of pleasing appearance, not plain [ME *comly*, alter of OE *cymlic* glorious, fr *cyme* lovely, fine, akin to OHG *kumig* weak, Gk *goan* to lament] – *comeliness* *n*

**come off** *vi* 1 to finish or emerge from sthg in a specified condition <came off well in the contest> 2 to succeed <that didn't quite come off> 3 to happen, occur 4 to become detached

**'come-on** *n* 1 chiefly NAM an attraction or enticement (e.g. in sales promotion) to induce an action 2 an instance of sexually provocative enticement – *infml*

**come on** *vi* 1 to advance or begin by degrees <as darkness came on, it got harder to see> 2 – used in cajoling, pleading, defiance, or encouraging <come on, you can do it> 3 COME ALONG 2 4 to appear on the radio, television, or stage 5 chiefly NAM to project a specified appearance <comes on as a Liberal in his speeches>

**come out** *vi* 1a to come to public notice; be published b to become evident <this will come out in the final analysis> 2a to declare oneself, esp in public utterance <came out in favour of the popular candidate> b to present oneself openly as homosexual 3 to end up, TURN OUT <everything will come out right> 4 to make a debut, *specif* to make one's first appearance in society as a debutante – **come out in the wash** 1 to become known in the course of time 2 to reach a satisfactory conclusion – **come out with** to utter or say, usu unexpectedly


**come over** *vi* 1a to change from one side (e.g. of a controversy) to the other b to drop in casually <come over any time, we're always in> 2 COME ACROSS 2 <she comes over as a very sincere person> 3 Br to become <she came over all queer>

**corner** /'kuma/ *n* 1 sby who comes or arrives <all ~s> 2 chiefly NAM sby making rapid progress or showing promise

**come round** *vi* 1 COME TO 2 to accede to a particular opinion or course of action 3 COME ABOUT 2

**comestible** /kə'mestəbl/ *n* food – usu pl with sing. meaning; *fml* [MF,

edible, fr ML *comestibilis*, fr L *comestus*, pp of *comedere* to eat, fr *com-* + *edere* to eat]

**comet** /'komit/ *n* a celestial body that follows a usu highly elliptical orbit round the sun and consists of an indistinct head usu surrounding a bright nucleus, often with a long tail which points away from the sun  ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL. [ME *comete*, fr OE *cometa*, fr L, fr Gk *komētes*, lit., long-haired, fr *koman* to wear long hair, fr *kome* hair] – **cometary** /-t(ə)ri/ *adj*

**come through** *vi* 1 to do what is needed or expected 2 to become communicated

**'come 'to** *vi* to recover consciousness

**come up** *vi* 1 to rise in rank or status <an officer who came up from the ranks> 2 to arise inevitably or by chance <any problems that come up> 3 to appear before a magistrate <he came up for speeding> 4 to become, esp after cleaning <the table came up like new> – **come up with** to provide, esp in dealing with a problem or challenge <came up with a better solution>

**'come-uppance** /'up(ə)ns/ *n* a deserved rebuke or penalty [come up + -ance]

**comfit** /'kumfit/ *n* a sweetmeat consisting of a nut, seed, piece of fruit, etc coated and preserved with sugar [ME *confit*, fr MF, fr pp of *confire* to prepare, fr L *conficere*, fr *com-* + *facere* to make – more at 'DO]

**'comfort** /'kʌmfət/ *n* 1 (sby or sthg that provides) consolation or encouragement in time of trouble or worry 2 contented well-being – **comfortless** *adj*

**'comfort** *vt* 1 to cheer up 2 to ease the grief or trouble of, console [ME *comforten*, fr OF *conforter*, fr LL *confortare* to strengthen greatly, fr L *com-* + *fortis* strong] – **comfortably** *adv*

**comfortable** /'kʌmfəbl/ *adj* 1a providing or enjoying contentment and security <a ~ income> b providing or enjoying physical comfort <a ~ armchair> 2a causing no worry or doubt <~ assumptions that require no thought> b free from stress or tension <a ~ routine> – **comfortably** /-bli/ *adv*

**comforter** /'kʌmfətə/ *n* 1 cap HOLY SPIRIT 2a a knitted scarf b chiefly NAM a quilt, eiderdown ['COMFORT + '-ER]

**'comfort,station** *n*, *NAm* a public toilet (e.g. at a petrol station) – *euph*

**comfrey** /'kʌmfri/ *n* any of a genus of (tall) plants of the borage family whose coarse hairy leaves are much used in herbal medicine [ME *cumfrie*, fr OF, fr L *conferva*, a water plant, fr *confervere* to boil together, heal, fr *com-* + *fervere* to boil]

**comfy** /'kʌmfi/ *adj* comfortable – *infml* [by shortening & alter.]

**'comic** /'komik/ *adj* 1 of or marked by comedy 2 causing laughter or amusement; funny [L *comicus*, fr Gk *komikos*, fr *kómos* revel]

**'comic** *n* 1 a comedian 2 a magazine consisting mainly of strip-cartoon stories 3 *pl*, *NAm* the part of a newspaper devoted to strip cartoons **comical** /'komikl/ *adj* being of a kind to excite laughter, esp because of a startlingly or unexpectedly humorous impact <he thought her hat was ~> – **comically** *adv*

**'comic 'opera** *n* opera with humorous episodes and usu some spoken dialogue and a sentimental plot

**'comic,strip** *n* STRIP CARTOON

**Cominform** /'komin,fawm/ *n* an organization operating from 1947 to 1956 to coordinate the activities of 9 European Communist parties [Communist Information Bureau]

**'coming** /'kʌmɪŋ/ *n* an act or instance of arriving <~s and goings>

**'coming** *adj* 1 immediately due in sequence or development; next <the ~ year> 2 gaining in importance, up-and-coming

**Comintern** /'komin,tu:hn/ *n* an international of Socialist organizations operating from 1919 to 1943 [Russ *Komintern*, fr *Kommunistisches*ii Internationaler]

**comity** /'komiti/ *n* harmony, fellowship; *specif* the recognition by courts of one jurisdiction of the laws and decisions of another [L *comitat-*, *comitas* courtesy, fr *comis* courteous, fr OL *cosmis*, fr *com-* + *-smis* (akin to Skt *smayate* he smiles) – more at SMILE]

**'comity of 'nations** *n* the courtesy and friendship of nations, marked esp by recognition of each other's laws

**comma** /'koma/ *n* 1 a punctuation mark, used esp as a mark of separation within the sentence 2 a butterfly with a silvery comma-shaped mark on the underside of the hind wing [LL, fr L, part of a sentence, fr Gk *komma* segment, clause, fr *koptein* to cut – more at CAPON]

**'comma bacillus** *n* a bacterium that causes cholera

**'command** /kə'ma:nd/ *vt* 1 to direct authoritatively; order 2a to have at one's immediate disposal b to be able to ask for and receive <~s a high fee> c to overlook or dominate (as if) from a strategic position d to have

- military command of as senior officer ~ *vi* to be commander; be supreme [ME *comanden*, fr OF *comander*, fr (assumed) VL *commandare*, alter of L *commendare* to commit to one's charge – more at COMMEND] – **commandable** *adj*
- command** *n* 1 an order given 2 (the activation of a device by) an electrical signal 3a the ability or power to control, the mastery b the authority or right to command (*the officer in ~*) c facility in use (*a good ~ of French*) 4 *sing or pl in constr* the unit, personnel, etc under a commander
- command** *adj* done on command or request (*a ~ performance*)
- commandant** /kə'məndənt/ *n* a commanding officer
- commandeer** /kə'məndiə/ *vt* 1 to seize for military purposes 2 to take arbitrary or forcible possession of [Afrik *kommandeer*, fr F *commander* to command, fr OF *comander*]
- commander** /kə'mahndə/ *n* → RANK [COMMAND + <sup>1</sup>-ER] – **commandership** *n*
- commander-in-chief** *n* one who is in supreme command of an armed force
- commanding** /kə'mahndiŋ/ *adj* 1 having command, being in charge (*a ~ officer*) 2 dominating or having priority (*a ~ position of a castle*) (*a ~ lead*) 3 deserving or expecting respect and obedience (*a ~ voice*) – **commandingly** *adv*
- commandment** /-mənt/ *n* sth commanded; *specif* any of the biblical Ten Commandments
- commando** /kə'mahndoh/ *n*, *pl* *commandos*, *commandoes* (a member of) a usu small military unit for surprise raids [Afrik *kommando*, fr D *commando* command, fr Sp *comando*, fr *comandar* to command, fr F *commander*]
- command paper** *n* a government report laid before Parliament at the command of the crown
- command post** *n* the headquarters of a military unit in the field
- commedia dell'arte** /kə'maydiə del 'ahti/ *n* Italian comedy of the 16th–18th c, improvised from standardized situations and stock characters [It, lit., comedy of art]
- comme il faut** /kə'mel 'foh/ *adj* conforming to accepted standards, proper [F, lit., as it should be]
- commemorate** /kə'meməreɪt/ *vt* 1 to call to formal remembrance 2 to mark by some ceremony or observation; observe 3 to serve as a memorial of [L *commemoratus*, pp of *commemorare*, fr *com-* + *memorare* to remind of, fr *memor* mindful – more at MEMORY] – **commemorative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **commemoration** /-rəʃən/ *n*
- commence** /kə'mens/ *vb* to start, begin – *fm* [ME *comencen*, fr MF *comencer*, fr (assumed) VL *cominitare*, fr L *com-* + LL *initiare* to begin, fr L, to initiate] – **commencement** *n*
- commend** /kə'mend/ *vt* 1 to entrust for care or preservation 2 to recommend as worthy of confidence or notice [ME *commendēn*, fr L *commendare*, fr *com-* + *mandare* to entrust – more at MANDATE] – **commendable** *adj*, **commendably** *adv*
- commendation** /kə'məndəʃən/ *n* sth (e.g. a formal citation) that commends – **commendatory** /kə'məndə(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- commensal** /kə'mensəl/ *adj* living in a state of commensalism [ME, fr ML *commensalis*, fr L *com-* + LL *mensalis* of the table, fr L *mensa* table] – **commensal** *n*, **commensally** *adv*
- commensalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the association of 2 species whereby one or both species obtain benefits (e.g. food or protection) without either species being harmed → DEFENCE
- commensurable** /kə'mensh(ə)rəbl/ *adj* having a common measure; *esp* divisible by a common unit an integral number of times – **commensurably** *adv*, **commensurability** /-rə'bləti/ *n*
- commensurate** /kə'menshəreɪt/ *adj* 1 (approximately) equal in measure or extent; coextensive 2 corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree; proportionate (*was given a job ~ with his abilities*) [LL *commensuratus*, fr L *com-* + LL *mensuratus*, pp of *mensurare* to measure, fr L *mensura* measure – more at MEASURE] – **commensurately** *adv*, **commensuration** /-rəʃən/ *n*
- comment** /kə'ment/ *n* 1 a note explaining or criticizing the meaning of a piece of writing (*~s printed in the margin*) 2a an observation or remark expressing an opinion or attitude b a judgment expressed indirectly (*this film is a ~ on current moral standards*) [ME, fr LL *commentum*, fr L, invention, fr neut of *commentus*, pp of *commisisci* to invent, fr *com-* + *-misisci* (akin to *ment-*, *mens* mind) – more at MIND]
- comment** *vi* to explain or interpret sth by comment; *broadly* to make a comment (*~ed on the match*)
- commentary** /kə'mənt(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a systematic series of explanations or interpretations (e.g. of a piece of writing) 2 a series of spoken remarks and comments used as a broadcast description of some event (*a running ~ on the match*)
- commentate** /kə'məntəɪt/ *vi* to act as a commentator; *esp* to give a broadcast commentary [back-formation fr *commentator*]
- commentator** /kə'məntəɪtə/ *n* a person who provides a commentary; *specif* one who reports and discusses news or sports events on radio or television
- commerce** /kə'mu:sh/ *n* the exchange or buying and selling of commodities, *esp* on a large scale [MF, fr L *commercium*, fr *com-* + *merc-*, *merx* merchandise]
- commercial** /kə'muhsh(ə)/ *adj* 1a(1) engaged in work designed for the market (2) (characteristic) of commerce (3) having or being a good financial prospect (*found oil in ~ quantities*) b(1) *esp* of a chemical average or inferior in quality (2) producing work to a standard determined only by market criteria 2a viewed with regard to profit (*a ~ success*) b designed for a large market 3 supported by advertisers (*~ TV*) – **commercially** *adv*
- commercial** *n* an advertisement broadcast on radio or television
- commercial art** *n* graphic art put to commercial use, *esp* in advertising – **commercial artist** *n*
- commercialism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 commercial spirit, institutions, or methods 2 excessive emphasis on profit – **commercialist** *n*, **commercialistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- commercialize**, **-ise** /-ɪz/ *vt* 1a to manage on a business basis for profit b to make commercial 2 to exploit for profit – **commercialization** /-rəʃən/ *n*
- commercial traveller** *n*, *Br* SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- commie** /kə'mi/ *n* a communist – chiefly derog [by shortening & alter]
- commingle** /kə'mɪŋ-gl/ *vb* to combine into a common fund or stock
- comminute** /kə'mɪnyu:ɪt/ *vt* to reduce to minute particles, pulverize [L *comminutus*, pp of *comminuere*, fr *com-* + *minuere* to lessen] – **comminution** /kə'mɪnyu:ɪʃən/ *n*
- commis** /kə'mee/ *n*, *pl* *commis* /-/ a junior or assistant in a hotel, catering establishment, etc (*a ~ chef*) [F, fr *commis*, pp of *commettre* to commit, entrust, fr L *committēre* to connect, entrust]
- commiserate** /kə'mɪzəreɪt/ *vi* to feel or express sympathy with sby, condole (*~ over their hard luck*) [L *commiseratus*, pp of *commiserari*, fr *com-* + *miserari* to pity, fr *miser* wretched] – **commiserative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **commiseration** /-rəʃən/ *n*
- commissar** /kə'mɪ'sahr/ *n* 1 a Communist party official assigned to a military unit to teach party principles and ideals 2 the head of a government department in the USSR until 1946 [Russ *komissar*, fr G *kommissar*, fr ML *commissarius*]
- commissariat** /kə'mɪ'seəriət/ *n* 1 the department of an army that organizes food supplies 2 a government department in the USSR until 1946 [NL *commissariat*, fr ML *commissarius*, (2) Russ *komissariat*, fr G *komissariat*, fr NL *commissariat*]
- commissary** /kə'mɪ's(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 an officer in charge of military supplies 2 *NAm* (a store for) equipment, food supplies, etc, *esp* of a military force [ME *commissarie*, fr ML *commissarius*, fr L *commissus*, pp]
- commission** /kə'mɪʃən/ *n* 1a a formal warrant granting various powers b (a certificate conferring) military rank above a certain level 2 an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner or to perform prescribed acts; a charge 3 authority to act as agent for another; *also* sth to be done by an agent 4a *sing or pl in constr* a group of people directed to perform some duty b *often cap* a government agency 5 an act of committing sth 6 a fee, *esp* a percentage, paid to an agent or employee for transacting a piece of business or performing a service [ME, fr MF, fr L *commissio*-, *commissio* act of bringing together, fr *commissus*, pp of *committere*] – **in/into commission** 1 of a ship ready for active service 2 in use or in condition for use – **on commission** with commission serving as partial or full pay for work done – **out of commission** 1 out of active service or use 2 out of working order
- commission** *vt* 1a to confer a formal commission on b to order, appoint, or assign to perform a task or function (*the writer who was ~ed to do the biography*) 2 to put (a ship) in commission
- commissionaire** /kə'mɪʃə'neə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a uniformed attendant at a cinema, theatre, office, etc [F *commissaire*, fr *commission*]
- commissioner** /kə'mɪʃənə/ *n* 1 a member or the head of a commission 2 the government representative in a district, province, etc – **commissionership** *n*

**Commissioner for Oaths** *n*, *Br* sby authorized to administer oaths or affirmations or to take affidavits

**commisure** /'komisjoo-, -sya/ *n* 1 the place where 2 parts are joined, a closure 2 a connecting band of nerve tissue in the brain or spinal cord [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *commisura* a joining, fr *commissus*, pp] – **commisural** /kə'misiyoərəl/, /kə'misiyoərəl/ *adj*

**commit** /kə'mit/ *vt* -tt- 1a to entrust b to place in a prison or mental institution c to transfer, consign (< something to paper>) 2 to carry out (a crime, sin, etc) 3a to obligate, bind b to assign to some particular course or use <all available troops were ~ted to the attack> [ME *committen*, fr L *committre* to connect, entrust, fr *com-* + *mittere* to send] – **committable** *adj*

**commitment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 an act of committing to a charge or trust, esp a consignment to an institution 2a an agreement or pledge to do sthg in the future b sthg pledged c loyalty to a system of thought or action

**commitment** /kə'mitl/ *n* commitment or consignment (e.g. to prison or the grave)

**committee** /kə'miti/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of people delegated a to report on, investigate, etc some matter <a parliamentary ~> b to organize or administrate a society, event, etc <the fête ~> [ME, one to whom a charge is committed, fr *committen*] – **committeeman** /-mən, -man/ *n*, **committeewoman** *n*

**committee of the whole house** *n*, *often cap C, W, & H* the whole membership of a legislative house operating as a committee under informal rules

**committee stage** *n* the stage in parliamentary procedure between the second reading and the third reading when a bill is discussed in detail in committee → **LAW**

**commode** /kə'mohd-/ *n* 1 a low chest of drawers 2 a boxlike structure or chair with a removable seat covering a chamber pot [F, fr *commode*, *adj*, suitable, convenient, fr L *commodus*, fr *com-* + *modus* measure – more at **MEIL**]

**commodious** /kə'mohdi:əs/ *adj* comfortably or conveniently spacious, roomy – *fml* [ME, useful, fr MF *commodieux*, fr ML *commodiosus*, irreg fr L *commodum* convenience, fr neut of *commodus*] – **commodiously** *adv*, **commodiousness** *n*

**commodity** /kə'mɒdɪ-/ *n* 1 sthg useful or valuable 2a a product possessing utility, sthg that can be bought and sold b an article of trade or commerce, esp when delivered for shipment [ME *commoditee*, fr MF *commodité*, fr L *commoditat-*, *commoditas*, fr *commodus*]

**commodore** /'komədaw/ *n* 1 → **RANK** 2 the senior captain of a merchant shipping line 3 the chief officer of a yacht club [prob modif of D *commandeur* commander, fr F, fr OF *comandeur*, fr *comander* to command]

**'common** /'kɒmən/ *adj* 1 of the community at large; public <work for the ~ good> 2a belonging to or shared by 2 or more individuals or by all members of a group b belonging equally to 2 or more quantities <a ~ denominator> <a ~ factor> 3a occurring or appearing frequently; familiar <a ~ sight> b of the familiar kind 4a widespread, general <being ~ knowledge> b characterized by a lack of privilege or special status <the ~ people> c simply satisfying accustomed criteria (and no more), elementary <~ decency> 5a falling below ordinary standards; second-rate b lacking refinement 6 either masculine or feminine in gender [ME *commun*, fr OF, fr L *communis* – more at **'MEAN**] – **commonly** *adv*, **commonness** *n*

**'common** *n* 1 *pl* the common people – used chiefly in a historical context 2 *pl* food or provisions (shared jointly by all members of an institution) – esp in short commons 3 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *often cap* a the political group or estate made up of commoners b **HOUSE OF COMMONS** → **LAW** 4 a right which sby may have on another's land 5 a piece of land open to use by all: e.g. a undivided land used esp for pasture b a more or less treeless expanse of undeveloped land available for recreation 6a a religious service suitable for any of various festivals b the ordinary of the Mass 7 *Br* **COMMON SENSE** – slang – in common shared together – used esp of shared interests, attitudes, or experience <we had a lot in common>

**commonality** /kə'mə'næləti/ *n* 1 possession of common features or attributes or of some degree of standardization; commonness 2 a common feature or attribute [ME *communalitie*, alter. of *communalte*]

**commonalty** /'kɒmənləti/ *n* (the political estate formed by) the common people [ME *communalte*, fr OF *communalité*, fr *comunal* communal]

**'common chord** *n* **TRIAD** 2

**'common cold** *n* inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nose, throat, mouth, etc caused by a virus and lasting for a short time

**'common core** *n* the compulsory subjects in a British school curriculum

**Common Entrance examination** *n*, *often cap 2nd E* an examination taken, esp by boys between the ages of 12 and 14, for admission to a British public school

**commoner** /'kɒməna/ *n* 1 a member of the common people; sby not of noble rank 2 a student (e.g. at Oxford) who is not supported by the college endowments

**'common fraction** *n* a fraction in which both the numerator and denominator are expressed as numbers and are separated by a horizontal or slanted line – compare **DECIMAL**

**'common-law** *adj* 1 of the common law 2 recognized in law without solemnization of marriage <his ~ wife>

**'common law** *n* the body of uncoded English law that forms the basis of the English legal system – compare **EQUITY** 2 → **LAW**

**'common logarithm** *n* a logarithm whose base is 10

**'common market** *n* an economic unit formed to remove trade barriers among its members; *specif*, *often cap C&M* the European economic community

**'common multiple** *n* a multiple of each of 2 or more numbers or expressions

**'common noun** *n* a noun that may occur with limiting modifiers (e.g. a or an, some, every, and my) and that designates any one of a class of beings or things

**'common or garden** *adj* ordinary, everyday – *infrm*

**'commonplace** /-ˈpleɪs/ *n* 1 an obvious or trite observation 2 sthg taken for granted [trans of L *locus communis* widely applicable argument, trans of Gk *koinos topos*]

**'commonplace** *adj* routinely found; ordinary, unremarkable – **commonplaceness** *n*

**'common room** *n* a room or set of rooms in a school, college, etc for the recreational use of the staff or students

**'common salt** *n* **SALT** 1a

**'common sense** *n* sound and prudent (but often unsophisticated) judgment – **commonsense** *adj*, **commonsensical** /-ˈsensɪkl/ *adj*

**'common time** *n* the musical metre marked by 4 crotchets per bar

**'commonwealth** /-ˈwelθ/ *n* 1 a political unit: e.g. a one founded on law and united by agreement of the people for the common good b one in which supreme authority is vested in the people 2 *cap* the English state from 1649 to 1660 3 a state of the USA 4 *cap* a federal union of states – used officially of Australia 5 *often cap* a loose association of autonomous states under a common allegiance; *specif* an association consisting of Britain and states that were formerly British colonies [ME *commen wealthe*, fr *commen*, *commun* common + *wealthe*, *welthe* the welfare, wealth]

**'common year** *n* a calendar year containing no additional day to make it coincide with the solar year

**commotion** /kə'mohsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a state of civil unrest or insurrection 2 a disturbance, tumult 3 noisy confusion and bustle [ME, fr MF, fr L *commotio-*, *commotio*, fr *commotus*, pp of *commovere* to agitate, fr *com-* + *movēre* to move]

**communal** /'kɒmyoʊnəl/ *adj* 1 of a commune or communes 2 of a community 3 shared (< activity>) [F, fr LL *communalis*, fr L *communis*] – **communalize** *vt*, **communally** *adv*, **communality** /-ˈnæləti/ *n*

**'communalism** /-ˈiz(ə)m/ *n* social organization on a communal basis – **communalist** *n* or *adj*

**communard** /'kɒmyoo,nahd/ *n* 1 *cap* one who participated in the Commune of Paris in 1871 2 one who lives in a commune [F]

**'commune** /kə'myoohn/ *vi* 1 to receive Communion 2 to communicate intimately [ME *communem* to converse, administer Communion, fr MF *communier* to converse, administer or receive Communion, fr LL *communicare*, fr L]

**'commune** /'kɒmyoohn/ *n* 1 the smallest administrative district of many (European) countries 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an often rural community of unrelated individuals or families organized on a communal basis [F, alter. of MF *comugne*, fr ML *communia*, fr L, neut pl of *communis*]

**communicable** /kə'myoohnikəbl/ *adj*, *esp of a disease* transmittable – **communicableness** *n*, **communicably** *adv*, **communicability** /-kə-ˈbɪləti/ *n*

**communicant** /kə'myoohnikənt/ *n* 1 a church member who receives or is entitled to receive Communion 2 an informant [**COMMUNICATE** + **'ANT**] – **communicant** *adj*



**communicate** /kə'myoohni,kayt/ *vt* 1 to convey knowledge or information about; make known 2 to cause to pass from one to another ~ *vi* 1 to receive 2 to transmit information, thought, or feeling so that it is satisfactorily received or understood 3 to give access to each other; connect (*the rooms ~*) [L *communicatus*, pp of *communicare* to impart, participate, fr *communis* common - more at 'MEAN] - **communicator** *n*, **communicatory** /-kat(ə)ri/ *adj*

**communication** /kə'myoohni'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a verbal or written message 2 (the use of a common system of symbols, signs, behaviour, etc for the) exchange of information 3 *pl* a system (e.g. of telephones) for communicating 4 a system of routes for moving troops, supplies, etc 4 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* techniques for the effective transmission of information, ideas, etc [COMMUNICATE + -ION] - **communicational** *adj*  
**communication cord** *n*, *Br* a device (e.g. a chain or handle) in a railway carriage that may be pulled in an emergency to sound an alarm

**communicative** /kə'myoohnikətiʃ/ *adj* 1 tending to communicate; talkative 2 of communication - **communicatively** *adv*, **communicativeness** *n*

**communion** /kə'myoohnyən, -ni-ən/ *n* 1a *often cap* the religious service celebrating the Eucharist in Protestant churches 1b the act of receiving the Eucharist 2 intimate fellowship or rapport 3 a body of Christians having a common faith and discipline [ME, fr L *communio*-, *communio* mutual participation, fr *communis*]

**communiqué** /kə'myoohni,kay/ *n* BULLETIN 1 [F, fr pp of *communiquer* to communicate, fr L *communicare*]

**communism** /'komyooniz(ə)m/ *n* 1a a theory advocating elimination of private property 1b a system in which goods are held in common and are available to all as needed 2 *cap* a doctrine based on revolutionary Marxian socialism and Marxism-Leninism that is the official ideology of the USSR 3 a totalitarian system of government in which a single party controls state-owned means of production [F *communisme*, fr *commun* common]

**communist** /'komyoonist/ *n*, *often cap* 1 an adherent or advocate of Communism 2 a left-wing revolutionary - **communist** *adj*, *often cap*, **communistic** /-nistik/ *adj*, *often cap*

**communitarian** /kə'myoohni'teəri-ən/ *adj* of or based on social organization in small communes - **communitarian** *n*, **communitarianism** *n*

**community** /kə'myoohni'ti/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a group of people living in a particular area 1b all the interacting populations of various living organisms in a particular area 2 a group of individuals with some common characteristic (e.g. profession, religion, or status) 3 a body of people or nations having a common history or common interests (*the international ~*) 2 society in general 3a joint ownership or participation 1b common character; likeness (*bound by ~ of interests*) 2 social ties; fellowship 3 the state or condition of living in a society [ME *comune*, fr MF *comune*, fr L *communitas*-, *communitas*, fr *communis*]

**community centre** *n* a building or group of buildings for the educational and recreational activities of a community

**community chest** *n*, *NAm* a general fund accumulated from subscriptions to pay for social-welfare requirements in a community

**community home** *n*, *Br* a local-authority centre for housing juvenile offenders and deprived children

**community service order** *n* a judicial order requiring a convicted person to do unpaid work on behalf of the community

**communize, -ise** /'komyooniez/ *vt* to make communal or Communist [back-formation fr *communization*] - **communization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**commutation** /'komyoo'taysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a replacement; specif. a substitution of one form of payment or charge for another 2 an act or process of commuting 3 the process of converting an alternating current to a direct current [ME, fr MF, fr L *commutation*-, *commutatio*, fr *commutatus*, pp of *commutare*]

**commutation ticket** *n*, *NAm* a ticket sold, usu. at a reduced rate, for a fixed number of trips over the same route during a limited period - **compare** SEASON TICKET

**commutative** /kə'myoohətətiʃ/ *adj* 1 of or showing commutation 2 combining elements to produce a result that is independent of the order in which the elements are taken (*a ~ group*) (*addition of the positive integers is ~*)

**commutator** /'komyoo'tayta/ *n* a device for reversing the direction of an electric current; esp. a device on a motor or generator that converts alternating current to direct current

**commute** /kə'myooh/ *vt* 1 to convert (e.g. a payment) into another form 2 to exchange (a penalty) for another less severe ~ *vi* 1 to travel back and forth regularly (e.g. between home and work) 2 of 2 *mathemat-*

*ical operators* to give a commutative result [L *commutare* to change, exchange, fr *com-* + *mutare* to change] - **commutable** *adj*, **commuter** *n*

**compact** /kəm'pakt/ *adj* 1 having parts or units closely packed or joined 2 succinct, terse (*a ~ statement*) 3 occupying a small volume because of efficient use of space (*a ~ camera*) [ME, firmly put together, fr L *compactus*, fr pp of *compingere* to put together, fr *com-* + *pingere* to fasten - more at PACT] - **compactly** *adv*, **compactness** *n*

**compact** *vt* 1a to knit or draw together; combine, consolidate 1b to press together; compress 2 to make up by connecting or combining, compose - **compactible** *adj*, **compaction** /kəm'paksh(ə)n/ *n*, **compactor** *n*

**compact** /'kəm.pakt/ *n* sth compact or compacted: e.g. a small slim case for face powder 1b a medium-sized US motor car

**compact** /'kəm.pakt/ *n* an agreement, contract [L *compactum*, fr neut of *compactus*, pp of *compascisci* to make an agreement, fr *com-* + *pacisci* to contract]

**companion** /kəm'panyən/ *n* one who accompanies another; a comrade [ME *compainoun*, fr OF *compagnon*, fr LL *companion*-, *companion*, fr L *com-* + *panis* bread, food] - **companionate** /-nət/ *adj*, **companionship** *n*

**companion** *n* (a covering at the top of) a companionway [by folk etymology fr D *kampanje* poop deck]

**companionable** /kəm'panyənəbl/ *adj* marked by, conducive to, or suggestive of companionship, sociable - **companionableness** *n*, **companionably** *adv*

**companionway** /-,way/ *n* a ship's stairway from one deck to another [*'companion*]

**company** /'kump(ə)ni/ *n* 1a friendly association with another, fellowship (*I enjoy her ~*) 1b companions, associates (*know a person by the ~ he keeps*) 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* visitors, guests (*having ~ for dinner*) 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a group of people or things (*a ~ of horsemen*) 1b a unit of soldiers composed usu. of a headquarters and 2 or more platoons 2c an organization of musical or dramatic performers 3 the officers and men of a ship 3a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an association of people for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise 1b those members of a partnership firm whose names do not appear in the firm name (*John Smith and Company*) [ME *compaignie*, fr OF *compagnie*, fr *compain* companion, fr LL *companion*]

**company officer** *n* an army officer of the rank of second lieutenant, lieutenant, or captain

**company secretary** *n* a senior officer of a company who typically supervises its financial and legal aspects

**comparable** /'kəmp(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of or suitable for comparison 2 approximately equivalent, similar (*fabrics of ~ quality*) - **comparableness** *n*, **comparably** *adv*, **comparability** /-rə'bləti/ *n*

**comparative** /kəm'parətiʃ/ *adj* 1 of or constituting the degree of grammatical comparison expressing increase in quality, quantity, or relation 2 considered as if in comparison to sth else as a standard, relative (*a ~ stranger*) 3 characterized by the systematic comparison of phenomena (*~ anatomy*) - **comparatively** *adv*, **comparativeness** *n*

**comparative** *n* the comparative degree or form in a language  
**comparator** /kəm'parəta/ *n* a device for comparing sth with a similar thing or with a standard measure

**compare** /kəm'peə/ *vt* 1 to represent as similar; liken 2 to examine the character or qualities of, esp. in order to discover resemblances or differences 3 to inflect or modify (an adjective or adverb) according to the degrees of comparison ~ *vi* 1 to bear being compared (*if just doesn't ~*) 2 to be equal or alike ~ *with* [ME *comparen*, fr MF *comparer*, fr L *comparare* to couple, compare, fr *compar* like, fr *com-* + *par* equal]

**compare** *n* COMPARISON 1b (*beauty beyond ~*)

**comparison** /kəm'paris(ə)n/ *n* 1a the representing of one thing or person as similar to or like another 1b an examination of 2 or more items to establish similarities and dissimilarities 2 identity or similarity of features (*several points of ~ between the 2 authors*) 3 the modification of an adjective or adverb to denote different levels of quality, quantity, or relation [ME, fr MF *comparaison*, fr L *comparatio*-, *comparatio*, fr *comparatus*, pp of *comparare*]

**compartment** /kəm'pəhmtənt/ *n* 1 any of the parts into which an enclosed space is divided 2 a separate division or section [MF *compartment*, fr It *compartimento*, fr *compartire* to mark out into parts, fr LL *compartiri* to share out, fr L *com-* + *partiri* to share, fr *part-*, *pars* part, share] - **compartment** *vt*, **compartmental** /kəm'pəh'mentl/ *adj*

**compartmentalize, -ise** /kəm'pəh'ment(ə)li:z/ *vt* to separate into isolated compartments; also to keep in isolated categories (*~ knowledge*) - **compartmentalization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*



**'compass** /'kʌmpəs/ *vt* 1 to devise or contrive often with craft or skill, plot 2a to encompass *b* to travel entirely round (< ~ the earth>) 3 to achieve, BRING ABOUT 4 to comprehend *USE* fml [ME *compassen*, fr OF *compasser* to measure, fr (assumed) VL *compassare* to pace off, fr L *com- + passus* pace] – **compassable** *adj*

**²compass** *n* 1a a boundary, circumference (<within the ~ of the city walls>) *b* range, scope (<the ~ of a voice>) 2a an instrument that indicates directions, typically by means of a freely-turning needle pointing to magnetic north *b* an instrument for drawing circles or transferring measurements that consists of 2 legs joined at 1 end by a pivot – *usu* pl with sing. meaning

**'compass, card** *n* the circular card attached to the needles of a mariner's compass showing the 32 points of the compass

**compassion** /kəm'pʌʃ(ə)n/ *n* sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it [ME, fr MF or LL; MF, fr LL *compassio*-, *compassio*, fr *compassus*, pp of *compati* to sympathize, fr L *com- + pati* to bear, suffer – more at PATIENT] – **compassionless** *adj*

**compassionate** /kəm'pʌʃ(ə)nət/ *adj* 1 having or showing compassion; sympathetic 2 granted because of unusual, distressing circumstances affecting an individual – used of special privileges (e.g. extra leave of absence) – **compassionately** *adv*, **compassionateness** *n*

**compatible** /kəm'pətibəl/ *adj* 1 capable of existing together in harmony 2a being or relating to a television system in which colour transmissions may be received on unmodified black-and-white sets *b* being or relating to an audio system allowing stereo signals to be treated as mono by unmodified mono equipment [MF, fr ML *compatibilis*, lit., sympathetic, fr LL *compati*] – **compatibility** *n*, **compatibly** *adv*, **compatibility** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**compatriot** /kəm'patriət/ *n* a fellow countryman [F *compatriote*, fr LL *compatriota*, fr L *com- + LL patriota* fellow countryman – more at PATRIOT] – **compatriotic** /-tri'ɒtɪk/ *adj*

**compeer** /kəm'piə/ *n* an equal, peer [modif of L *compar*, fr *compar*, *adj*, like – more at COMPARE]

**compel** /kəm'pel/ *vt* -ll- 1 to drive or force irresistibly to do sthg (<poverty ~led him to work>) 2 to cause to occur by overwhelming pressure (<exhaustion of ammunition ~led their surrender>) [ME *compellen*, fr MF *compellir*, fr L *compellere*, fr *com- + pellere* to drive – more at FELT] – **compellable** *adj*

**compelling** /kəm'peling/ *adj* having an irresistible power of attraction – **compellingly** *adv*

**compendious** /kəm'pendi:əs/ *adj* comprehensive but relatively brief – **compendiously** *adv*, **compendiousness** *n*

**compendium** /kəm'pendi:əm/ *n*, *pl* **compendiums**, **compendia** /-di:ə/ 1 a brief summary of a larger work or of a field of knowledge, an abstract 2 a collection of indoor games and puzzles [ML, fr L, saving, shortcut, fr *compendere* to weigh together, fr *com- + pendere* to weigh – more at PENDANT]

**compensate** /kəm'pensəy/ *vt* 1 to have an equal and opposite effect to, counterbalance 2 to make amends to, esp by appropriate payment (<~ a neighbour for damage to his property>) ~ *vi* to supply an equivalent for [L *compensatus*, pp of *compensare*, fr *compensus*, pp of *compendere*] – **compensative** /-sə'tɪv/ *adj*, **compensator** *n*, **compensatory** /kəm'pensət(ə)ri/ *adj*

**compensation** /kəm'pensə'sh(ə)n, -pən-/ *n* 1a increased functioning or development of one organ to compensate for a defect in another *b* the alleviation of feelings of inferiority, frustration, failure, etc in one field by increased endeavour in another 2 a recompense, *specif* payment t. damage or loss – **compensational** *adj*

**'compe** /'kompeə/ *n*, *Br* the presenter of a radio or television programme, esp a light entertainment programme [F *compère*, lit., god-father, fr ML *compater*, fr L *com- + pater* father]

**²compe** *vb*, *Br* to act as compe (for)

**compete** /kəm'pet/ *vi* to strive consciously or unconsciously for an objective; *also* to be in a state of rivalry [LL *competere* to seek together, fr L, to come together, agree, be suitable, fr *com- + petere* to go to, seek – more at FEATHER]

**competence** /kəm'pɪt(ə)ns/ *also* **competency** /-si/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being competent 2 the innate human capacity to acquire, use, and understand language – compare PERFORMANCE 6, LANGUAGE 3 a sufficiency of means for the necessities and conveniences of life – fml

**competent** /kəm'pɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a having requisite or adequate ability (<a ~ workman>) *b* showing clear signs of production by a competent agent (e.g. a workman or writer) (<a ~ novel>) 2 legally qualified [ME,

suitable, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *competent*-, *competens*, fr prp of *competere* to be suitable] – **competently** *adv*

**competition** /kəm'pɪtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of competing; rivalry 2 a usu organized test of comparative skill, performance, etc; *also*, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the others competing with one (<keep ahead of the ~>) 3 the competing of 2 or more parties to do business with a third party 4 competing demand by 2 or more (kinds of) organisms for some environmental resource in short supply [LL *competitio*-, *competitio*, fr L *competitus*, pp of *competere*]

**competitive** /kəm'petətɪv/ *adj* 1 relating to, characterized by, or based on competition; *specif*, of wages and prices at least as good as those offered by competitors 2 inclined or desiring to compete – **competitively** *adv*, **competitiveness** *n*

**competitor** /kəm'petɪtə/ *n* sby who or sthg that competes; a rival

**compilation** /kəm'pɪlə'sh(ə)n/ *n* sthg compiled [COMPILE + -ATION]

**compile** /kəm'piəl/ *vt* 1 to collect into 1 work 2 to compose out of materials from other documents [ME *compilen*, fr MF *compiler*, fr L *compilare* to plunder]

**compiler** /kəm'piələ/ *n* a computer program that translates instructions written in a high-level symbolic language (e.g. Cobol) into machine code [COMPILE + -ER]

**complacency** /kəm'pleɪs(ə)nsi/ *also* **complacence** *n* self-satisfaction accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies

**complacent** /kəm'pleɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* self-satisfied (<a ~ smile>) [L *complacent*-, *complacens*, prp of *complacere* to please greatly, fr *com- + placere* to please – more at PLEASE] – **complacently** *adv*

**complain** /kəm'pleɪn/ *vi* 1 to express feelings of discontent (<~ed about the heat>) (<~ed it was too hot>) 2 to make a formal accusation or charge [ME *compleynen*, fr MF *complandre*, fr (assumed) VL *complangere*, fr L *com- + plangere* to lament – more at PLAINT] – **complainer** *n*, **complainingly** *adv*

**complainant** /kəm'pleɪnənt/ *n* one who makes a complaint, *specif* the party in a legal action or proceeding who makes a complaint

**complaint** /kəm'pleɪnt/ *n* 1 an expression of discontent 2a sthg that is the cause or subject of protest or outcry *b* a bodily ailment or disease [ME *compleynte*, fr MF *complainte*, fr OF, fr *complandre*]

**complaisant** /kəm'pleɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 marked by an inclination to please or comply 2 tending to consent to others' wishes [F, fr MF, fr prp of *complaire* to gratify, acquiesce, fr L *complacere* to please greatly] – **complaisance** *n*, **complaisantly** *adv*

**¹complement** /'kɒmplɪmənt/ *n* 1a sthg that fills up or completes *b* the quantity required to make sthg complete; *specif* COMPANY 2d *c* either of 2 mutually completing parts, a counterpart 2a an angle or arc that when added to a given angle or arc equals 90° *b* a number that when added to another number of the same sign yields zero if the significant digit farthest to the left is discarded 3 an added word or expression by which a predication is made complete (e.g. *president* in 'they elected him president') 4 the protein in blood serum that in combination with antibodies causes the destruction of antigens (e.g. bacteria) [ME, fr L *complementum*, fr *comple*] – **complemental** /-mentl/ *adj*

**²complement** *vt* to be complementary to

**complementary** /kəm'plɪ'ment(ə)ri/ *adj* 1 serving to fill out or complete 2 mutually supplying each other's lack 3 of or constituting either of a pair of contrasting colours that produce a neutral colour when combined 4 of the precise pairing of bases between 2 strands of DNA or RNA such that the sequence of bases on one strand determines that on the other 5 of a pair of angles having the sum of 90° – **complementary** *n*, **complementariness** *n*, **complementarily** /-mentrəli/ *adv*, **complementarity** /-tərəti/ *n*

**¹complete** /kəm'pleet/ *adj* 1 having all necessary parts, elements, or steps 2 whole or concluded (<after 2 ~ revolutions about the sun>) 3 thoroughly competent; highly proficient 4a fully carried out; thorough (<a ~ renovation>) *b* total, absolute (<~ silence>) [ME *complet*, fr MF, fr L *completus*, fr pp of *comple* to fill up, complete, fr *com- + plere* to fill – more at FULL] – **completely** *adv*, **completeness** *n*, **completive** *adj*

**²complete** *vt* 1 to bring to an end; esp to bring to a perfected state (<~ a painting>) 2a to make whole or perfect (<the church ~s the charm of this village>) *b* to mark the end of (<a rousing chorus ~s the show>) *c* to execute, fulfil (<~ a contract>) – **completion** /kəm'pleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**'complex** /'kɒmpleks/ *adj* 1a composed of 2 or (many) more parts *b*(1) of a word having a bound form as 1 or both of its immediate constituents (e.g. *unmanly*) (2) of a sentence consisting of a main clause and 1 or more subordinate clauses 2 hard to separate, analyse, or solve 3 of or being a complex number [L *complexus*, pp of *complecti* to embrace, comprise (a

multitude of objects), fr *com-* + *plectere* to braid – more at 'PLY' – **complexly** *adv*, **complexity** /kəm'pleksəti/ *n*

**\*complex** *n* 1 a whole made up of complicated or interrelated parts (a shopping ~) 2a a group of repressed related desires and memories that usu adversely affects personality and behaviour b an exaggerated reaction to sthg (has a ~ about flying) – compare THINK 10a

**complex fraction** *n* a fraction having fractions for the numerator, or the denominator, or both – compare SIMPLE FRACTION

**complexion** /kəm'plekʃən/ *n* 1 the appearance of the skin, esp of the face 2 overall aspect or character (that puts a different ~ on things) [ME, fr MF, fr ML *complexion-*, *complexio*, fr L, combination, fr *complexus*, pp] – **complexional** *adj*, **complexioned** *adj*

**complex number** *n* a number containing both real and imaginary parts  **NUMBER**

**compliance** /kəm'plai-əns/ *n* 1 the act or process of complying (readily) with the wishes of others 2 a disposition to yield to others 3 (a measure of) the ease of overcoming a restoring force (e.g. a spring) – **compliant** *adj*, **compliantly** *adv*

**complicate** /'komplikaɪt/ *vt* 1 to combine, esp in an involved or inextricable manner 2 to make complex or difficult [L *complicatus*, pp of *complicare* to fold together, fr *com-* + *plicare* to fold – more at 'PLY']

**complicated** /'komplikaɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 consisting of parts intricately combined 2 difficult to analyse, understand, or explain – **complicatedly** *adv*, **complicatedness** *n*

**complication** /'komplikaɪʃən/ *n* 1a intricacy, complexity b an instance of making difficult, involved, or intricate c a complex or intricate feature or element d a factor or issue that occurs unexpectedly and changes existing plans, methods, or attitudes – often pl 2 a secondary disease or condition developing in the course of a primary disease

**complicity** /kəm'plisəti/ *n* (an instance of) association or participation (as if) in a wrongful act [F *complicité*, fr *complice* accomplice, fr LL *complic-*, *complex* partner]

**\*compliment** /'kɒmplɪmənt/ *n* 1 an expression of esteem, affection, or admiration; esp a flattering remark 2 pl best wishes; regards [F, fr It *complimento*, fr Sp *complimiento*, fr *cumplir* to be courteous]

**\*compliment** /'kɒmplɪmənt/ *vt* 1 to pay a compliment to 2 to present with a token of esteem

**complimentary** /'kɒmplɪmənt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 expressing or containing a compliment 2 given free as a courtesy or favour (~ tickets) – **complimentarily** *adv*

**compline** /'kɒmplɪn/ *n*, often *cap* the last of the canonical hours, said before retiring at night [ME *comple*, *compline*, fr OF *comple*, modif of LL *completa*, fr L, fem of *completus* complete]

**comply** /kəm'plai/ *vi* to conform or adapt one's actions to another's wishes or to a rule [It *complire*, fr Sp *cumplir* to complete, perform what is due, be courteous, fr L *complere* to complete] – **complier** *n*

**\*component** /kəm'pəʊnənt/ *n* 1 a constituent part; an ingredient 2 any of the vector terms added to form a vector sum or resultant [L *component-*, *componens*, prp of *componere* to put together – more at COM-FOUND] – **componential** /'kɒmpəʊnɪəl(ə)/ *adj*

**\*component** *adj* serving or helping to constitute; constituent


**comport** /kəm'pɔ:t/ *vi* to be fitting, accord (acts that ~ with ideals) ~ *vt* to behave (oneself) in a manner conformable to what is right, proper, or expected **USE** fml [MF *comporter* to bear, conduct, fr L *comportare* to bring together, fr *com-* + *portare* to carry – more at 'FARE']

**compose** /kəm'pəʊz/ *vt* 1a to form by putting together (~ a collage with those pictures) b to form the substance of; MAKE UP – chiefly passive (~d of many ingredients) c SET 11c 2a to create by mental or artistic labour; produce (~ a sonnet) b to formulate and write (a piece of music) 3 to settle (a point of disagreement) 4 to free from agitation; calm, settle (~ oneself) ~ *vi* to practise composition [MF *composer*, fr L *componere* (perf indic *composui*) – more at COM-FOUND]

**composed** /kəm'pəʊzd/ *adj* free from agitation; COLLECTED 1 – **composedly** /-zɪdli/ *adv*, **composedness** /-zɪdnɪs/ *n*

**composer** /kəm'pəʊzə/ *n* a person who writes music [COMPOSE + 'ER]

**composing stick** /kəm'pəʊzɪŋ/ *n* a tray with an adjustable slide into which type is set

**\*composite** /'kɒmpəzɪt/ *adj* 1 made up of distinct parts: e.g. a cap of a Roman order of architecture that combines Ionic with Corinthian  **ARCHITECTURE** b of or belonging to a very large family of plants, including the dandelion, daisy, and sunflower, typically having florets arranged in dense heads that resemble single flowers 2 combining the typical or essential characteristics of individuals making up a group (a ~

portrait of mystics known to the painter) [L *compositus*, pp of *componere*] – **compositely** *adv*

**\*composite** *n* sthg composite, a compound

**composition** /'kɒmpəzɪʃən/ *n* 1a the act or process of composing; specif arrangement into proper proportion or relation and esp into artistic form b (the production of) an arrangement of type for printing 2 the factors or parts which go to make sthg; also the way in which the factors or parts make up the whole 3 an agreement by which a creditor accepts partial payment 4 a product of mixing or combining various elements or ingredients 5 an intellectual creation: e.g. a piece of writing; esp a school essay b a written piece of music, esp of considerable size and complexity [ME *composicioun*, fr MF *composition*, fr L *compositio-*, *compositio*, fr *compositus*] – **compositional** *adj*, **compositionally** *adv*

**composer** /kəm'pəzɪtə/ *n* sby who sets type

**compos mentis** /'kɒmpəs 'mentɪs/ *adj* of sound mind, memory, and understanding [L, lit., having mastery of one's mind]

**\*compost** /'kɒmpəst/ *n* a mixture of decayed organic matter used for fertilizing and conditioning land [MF, fr ML *compostum*, fr L, neut of *compositus*, *compositus*, pp of *componere* to put together]

**\*compost** *vt* to convert (e.g. plant debris) to compost – **composter** *n*

**composure** /kəm'pəʊzə/ *n* calmness or repose, esp of mind, bearing, or appearance


**compte** /'kɒmpot/ *n* a dessert of fruit cooked in syrup and usu served cold [F, fr OF *composte*, fr L *composita*, fem of *compositus*, pp]

**\*compound** /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *vt* 1 to put together (parts) so as to form a whole; combine (~ ingredients) 2 to form by combining parts (~ a medicine) 3a to pay (interest) on both the accumulated interest and the principal b to add to; augment (to ~ an error) 4 to agree for a consideration not to prosecute (an offence) (~ a felony) ~ *vi* to become joined in a compound [ME *compounen*, fr MF *compondre*, fr L *componere*, fr *com-* + *ponere* to put – more at POSITION] – **compoundable** *adj*, **compounder** *n*

**\*compound** /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *adj* 1 composed of or resulting from union of (many similar) separate elements, ingredients, or parts 2 involving or used in a combination 3 of a sentence having 2 or more main clauses [ME *compounded*, pp of *compounen*]


**\*compound** /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *n* 1 a word consisting of components that are words, combining forms, or affixes (e.g. *houseboat*, *anthropology*) 2 sthg formed by a union of elements or parts, specif a distinct substance formed by combination of chemical elements in fixed proportion by weight

**\*compound** /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *n* a fenced or walled-in area containing a group of buildings, esp residences [by folk etymology fr Malay *kampung* group of buildings, village]

**compound eye** *n* an arthropod eye consisting of a number of separate visual units  **ANATOMY**

**compound fracture** *n* a bone fracture produced in such a way as to form an open wound

**compound interest** *n* interest computed on the original principal plus accumulated interest

**compound lens** *n* **LENS** 1b  **CAMERA**

**comprehend** /'kɒmpri'hend/ *vt* 1 to grasp the nature, significance, or meaning of; understand 2 to include (the park ~s all of the land beyond the river) – fml [ME *comprehenden*, fr L *comprehendere*, fr *com-* + *prehendere* to grasp – more at PREHENSILE] – **comprehensible** *adj*

**comprehensible** /'kɒmpri'hensəbl/ *adj* capable of being comprehended; intelligible – **comprehensibleness** *n*, **comprehensibly** *adv*, **comprehensibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*

**comprehension** /'kɒmpri'hensən/ *n* 1a grasping with the intellect; understanding b knowledge gained by comprehending c the capacity for understanding fully 2 a school exercise testing understanding of a passage [MF & L, MF, fr L *comprehension-*, *comprehensio*, fr *comprehensus*, pp of *comprehendere* to understand, comprise]

**\*comprehensive** /'kɒmpri'hensɪv/ *adj* 1 covering completely or broadly; inclusive (~ insurance) 2 having or exhibiting wide mental grasp (~ knowledge) 3 chiefly Br of or being the principle of educating in 1 unified school nearly all children above the age of 11 from a given area regardless of ability (~ education) – **comprehensively** *adv*, **comprehensiveness** *n*

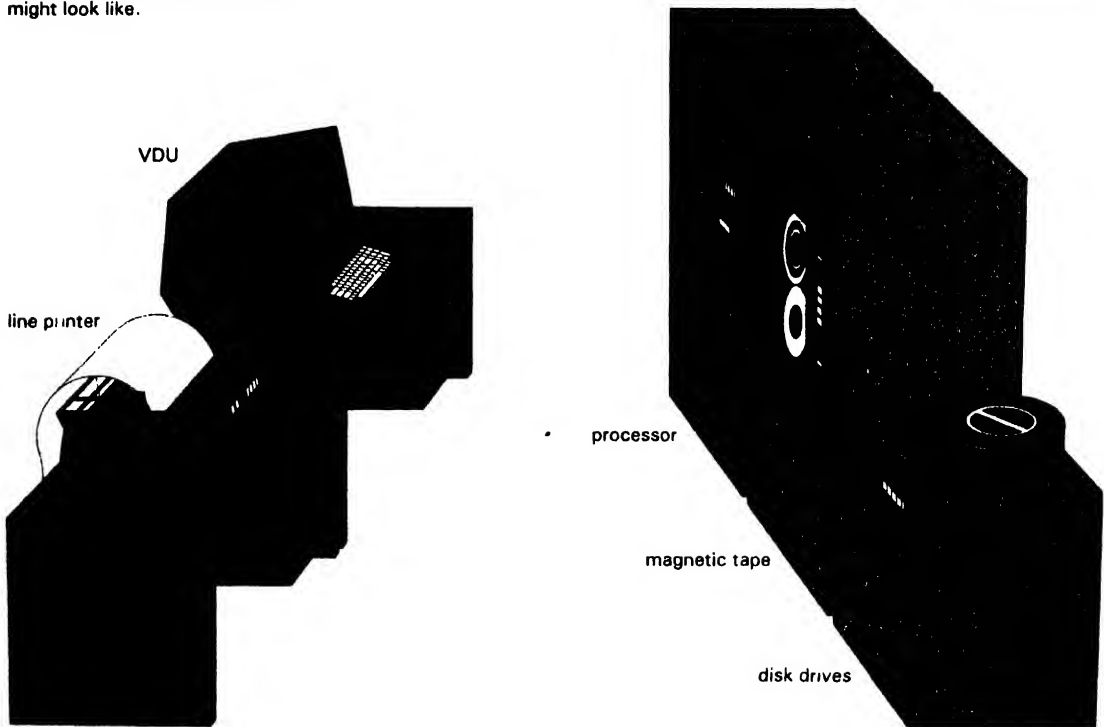
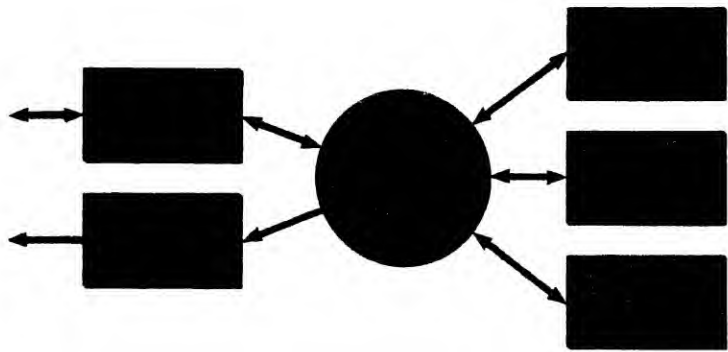
**\*comprehensive** *n*, Br a comprehensive school

**\*compress** /kəm'pres/ *vt* 1 to press or squeeze together 2 to reduce in size or volume as if by squeezing ~ *vi* to be compressed [ME *compressen*, fr LL *compressare* to press hard, fr L *compressus*, pp of *comprimere* to compress, fr *com-* + *primere* to press] – **compressible** *adj*, **compressibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*

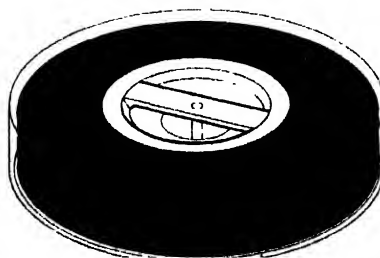
**\*compress** /'kɒmpres/ *n* a pad pressed on a body part (e.g. to ease the pain

- and swelling of a bruise) [MF *compresse*, fr *compresser* to compress, fr LL *compressare*]
- compressed** /kəm'prest/ *adj* 1 pressed together; reduced in size or volume (e.g. by pressure) 2 flattened as though subjected to compressing – **compressedly** /-'presɪdli, -'prestli/ *adv*
- compression** /kəm'preʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a compressing or being compressed 2 (the quality of) the process of compressing the fuel mixture in a cylinder of an internal-combustion engine – **compressional** *adj*
- compressor** /kəm'presə/ *n* sth that compresses, esp a machine for compressing gases – <sup>FLIGHT</sup>
- comprise** /kəm'prɪz/ *vt* 1 to include, contain 2 to be made up of 3 to make up, constitute [ME *comprisen*, fr MF *compris*, pp of *comprendre*, fr L *comprehendere*]
- 'compromise** /'kɒmpromɪz/ *n* 1a the settling of differences through arbitration or through consent reached by mutual concessions b a settlement reached by compromise c sth blending qualities of 2 different things <a ~ solution> 2 a concession to sth disreputable or prejudicial <a ~ of principles> [ME, mutual promise to abide by an arbiter's decision, fr MF *compromis*, fr L *compromissum*, fr neut of *compromissus*, pp of *compromittere* to promise mutually, fr *com-* + *promittere* to promise – more at PROMISE]
- 'compromise** *vt* 1 to adjust or settle by mutual concessions 2 to expose to discredit or scandal ~ *vi* to come to agreement by mutual concession – **compromiser** *n*
- Comptometer** /kɒmp'tɒmɪtə/ *trademark* – used for a calculating machine
- comptroller** /kən'trɒlə, also .kɒm(p)'trɒlə/ *n* CONTROLLER 1 [ME, alter. of *controllor* controller] – **comptrollership** *n*
- compulsion** /kəm'pulʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a compelling or being compelled b a force or agency that compels 2 a strong impulse to perform an irrational act [ME, fr MF or LL, MF, fr LL *compulsio*-, *compulsio*, fr L *compulsus*, pp of *compellere* to compel]
- compulsive** /kəm'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* of, caused by, like, or suffering from a psychological compulsion or obsession – **compulsively** *adv*, **compulsiveness** *n*
- compulsory** /kəm'pʌls(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 mandatory, enforced <~ arbitration> 2 involving compulsion or obligation, coercive <~ legislation> – **compulsorily** /-(s)ɔrɪli/ *adv*
- compunction** /kəm'pʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 anxiety arising from awareness of guilt, remorse 2 a twinge of misgiving; a scruple <cheated without ~> [ME *compunctioun*, fr MF *componction*, fr LL *compunctio*-, *compunctio*, fr L *compunctus*, pp of *compungere* to prick hard, sting, fr *com-* + *pungere* to prick – more at PUNGENT] – **compunctious** /-'pʌŋkʃəs/ *adj*
- compurgation** /kɒmpu'gəʃ(ə)n/ *n* a method of trial abolished in 1833 by which a person could be acquitted if witnesses swore to his/her innocence and veracity [LL *compurgatio*-, *compurgatio*, fr L *compurgatus*, pp of *compurgare* to clear completely, fr *com-* + *purgare* to purge]
- compurgator** /'kɒmpu'gəʃ(ə)tə/ *n* one who testifies to the innocence or veracity of another
- computation** /kəm'pyʊtəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the use or operation of a computer 2 (a system of) calculating, also the amount calculated [COMPUTE + -ATION] – **computational** *adj*
- compute** /kəm'pyʊt/ *vt* to determine, esp by mathematical means; also to determine or calculate by means of a computer ~ *vi* 1 to make calculation; reckon 2 to use a computer [L *computare* – more at COUNT] – **computable** *adj*, **computability** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*
- computer** /kəm'pyʊtə/ *n* a programmable electronic device that can store, retrieve, and process data [COMPUTE + -ER]
- computerize** /-ɪz/ *vt* /kəm'pyʊtə'raɪz/ *vt* 1 to carry out, control, or conduct by means of a computer 2 to equip with computers – **computerization** /-'zəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- comrade** /kɒmrd, -raɪd/ *n* 1a an intimate friend or associate, a companion b a fellow soldier 2 a communist [MF *comarade* group sleeping in one room, roommate, companion, fr OSp *comarada*, fr *cámara* room, fr LL *camera*, *camara*; (2) fr its use as a form of address by communists] – **comradely** *adj*, **comradeliness** *n*, **comradeship** *n*
- comsat** /kɒm'sat/ *n* an artificial satellite used for relaying radio waves (e.g. for intercontinental communication) [communications satellite]
- 'con, NAm chiefly con** /kɒn/ *vi* -*am*- to conduct or direct the steering of (e.g. a ship) [alter. of ME *condien* to conduct, fr MF *conduire*, fr L *conducere*]
- 'con, NAm chiefly con** *n* the control exercised by one who cons a ship
- \*con** *adv* on the negative side, in opposition <so much has been written pro and ~> [ME, short for *contra*]
- \*con** *n* (sby holding) the opposing or negative position
- 'con** *vi* -*am*- 1 to swindle, trick 2 to persuade, cajole *USE* slang [confidence (trick)] – **con** *n*
- \*con** *n* a convict – slang
- 'con** *prep* with – used in music <~ sordini> [It]
- con-** – see COM-
- conation** /kɒ'nayʃ(ə)n/ *n* an instinct, drive, wish, craving, etc to act purposefully [L *conation*-, *conatio* act of attempting, fr *conatus*, pp of *conari* to attempt – more at DEACON] – **conational** *adj*, **conative** /'kɒnətɪv, 'kɒh-/ *adj*
- conatus** /kɒ'nayʃ(ə)s/ *n*, *pl* *conatus* a natural tendency or striving (e.g. towards self-preservation) [NL, fr L, attempt, effort, fr *conatus*, pp]
- concatenate** /kɒn'kætənəɪt/ *vt* to link together in a series or chain – *fml* [LL *concatenatus*, pp of *concatenare* to link together, fr L *com-* + *catenare* to chain, fr *catena* chain] – **concatenation** /-'nəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- concave** /kɒn'kæv, -/ *adj* hollowed or rounded inwards like the inside of a bowl [MF, fr L *concavus*, fr *com-* + *cavus* hollow – more at CAVE] – **concavely** *adv*
- concavity** /kɒn'kævəti, kən-/ *n* 1 a concave line or surface or the space included in it 2 the quality or state of being concave
- concavo-concave** /kɒn.kəvɒh kɒn'kæv/ *adj* biconcave
- concavo-convex** /kɒn.kəvɒh kɒn'veks/ *adj* concave on one side and convex on the other
- conceal** /kən'siːl/ *vt* 1 to prevent disclosure or recognition of 2 to place out of sight [ME *concelen*, fr MF *conceler*, fr L *concelare*, fr *com-* + *celare* to hide – more at HELL] – **concealable** *adj*, **concealer** *n*, **concealingly** *adv*, **concealment** *n*
- concede** /kən'siːd/ *vt* 1 to grant as a right or privilege 2a to accept as true, valid, or accurate b to acknowledge grudgingly or hesitantly 3 to allow involuntarily <~d 2 more goals> – chiefly *journ* ~ *vi* to make concession, yield [F or L; F *conceder*, fr L *concedere*, fr *com-* + *cedere* to yield – more at CEDE] – **conceder** *n*
- conceit** /kən'siːt/ *n* 1 excessively high opinion of oneself 2a a fanciful idea b an elaborate, unusual, and cleverly expressed figure of speech [ME, thought, opinion, fr *conceiven*]
- con'ceited** *adj* having an excessively high opinion of oneself – **con'ceitedly** *adv*, **conceitedness** *n*
- conceivable** /kən'siːvəbl/ *adj* capable of being conceived; imaginable – **conceivableness** *n*, **conceivably** *adv*, **conceivability** /-'və'bɪləti/ *n*
- conceive** /kən'siːv/ *vt* 1 to become pregnant with (young) 2a to cause to originate in one's mind <~ a prejudice against him> b to form a conception of, evolve mentally; visualize 3 to be of the opinion – *fml* ~ *vi* 1 to become pregnant 2 to have a conception of [ME *conceiven*, fr OF *conceivre*, fr L *concipere* to take in, conceive, fr *com-* + *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – **conceiver** *n*
- 'concentrate** /'kɒns(ə)'træt/ *vt* 1a to bring or direct towards a common centre or objective, focus b to gather into 1 body, mass, or force <power was ~d in a few able hands> 2a to make less dilute b to express or exhibit in condensed form <the author ~s his message in the last paragraph> ~ *vi* 1 to draw towards or meet in a common centre 2 to gather, collect 3 to concentrate one's powers, efforts, or attention <~ on a problem> [com- + L *centrum* centre] – **concentrative** /-'trætɪv/ *adj*, **concentrator** *n*
- \*concentrate** *n* sth concentrated, esp a feed for animals rich in digestible nutrients
- concentration** /kɒnsən'treɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 direction of attention to a single object 2 a concentrated mass or thing 3 the relative content of a (chemical) component; strength [CONCENTRATE + -ION]
- concentration camp** *n* a camp where political prisoners, refugees, etc are confined, esp any of the Nazi camps for the internment or mass execution of (Jewish) prisoners during WW II
- concentric** /kɒn'sentrik, kən-/ *adj* having a common centre <~ circles> [ML *concentricus*, fr L *com-* + *centrum* centre] – **concentrically** *adv*, **concentricity** /-'tɪsɪti/ *n*
- concept** /'kɒnsɛpt/ *n* 1 sth conceived in the mind; a thought, notion 2 a generic idea abstracted from particular instances [L *conceptum*, neut of *conceptus*, pp] – **conceptual** /kən'septʃuəl/ *adj*, **conceptually** *adv*
- conception** /kən'sepʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a conceiving or being conceived b an embryo, foetus 2 a general idea; a concept 3 the originating of sth in the mind [ME *concepcioun*, fr OF *conception*, fr L *conception*-, *conceptio*, fr *conceptus*, pp of *concipere* to take in, conceive] – **conceptional** *adj*, **conceptive** *adj*

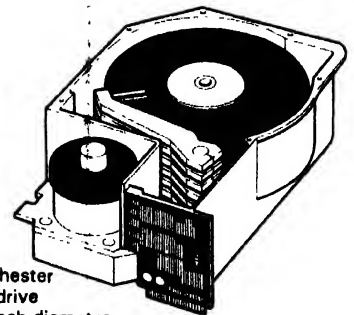
The diagram on the right shows the flow of information (data) within a computer system. Information or instructions can be displayed on the screen of the VDU and put into the computer (input) by typing on the keyboard. The processor takes information from the VDU and either stores it on disk or processes it as directed by a set of instructions in the computer called the program. The processor can also retrieve stored information and show it on the VDU screen, or print it on paper through the line printer (printout), or copy it to magnetic tape for library storage or despatch to another computer. The illustration below shows what the elements of a business computer might look like.



There are several ways of storing data in a form which is accessible to a computer. Magnetic tape, in the form of reel-to-reel, cassette, or cartridge, can store a comparatively large amount of information but the computer may take a long time to find the data it requires. Disks, whether rigid or floppy, have a shorter access time, and solid-state devices are quickest of all, though at present they have a limited storage capacity.

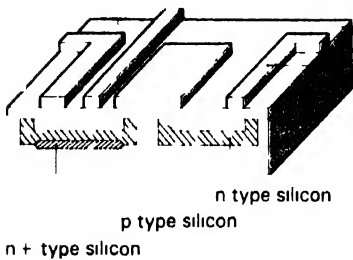


disk pack  
15 inch diameter  
stores 11 million words



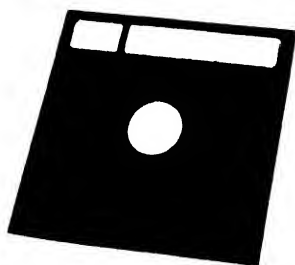
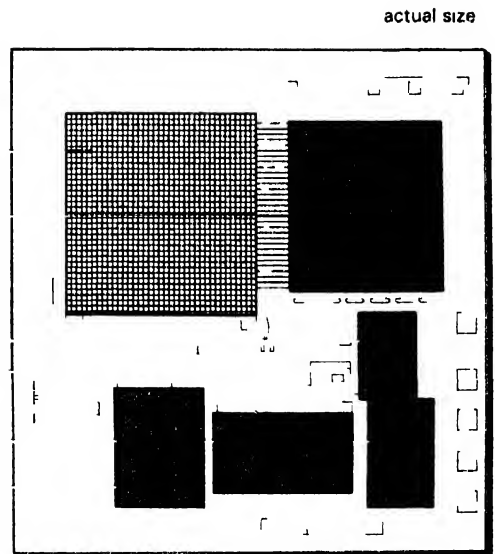
Winchester  
disk drive  
5 1/4 inch diameter  
stores at least 3 million words

The microcomputer shown on the right is of the kind that might be used by a small business or home enthusiast. Floppy disks are used to store the data and a small printer provides hard copy. The most elementary of home computers consist of a microprocessor, a TV set to act as a screen, and a cassette recorder for storage.



Silicon chips are made from wafers of pure silicon crystal treated so that complete electrical circuits are formed within the solid material (solid state). The wafer is first etched then doped with phosphorus and boron to produce n and p type silicon. Finally aluminium interconnections are laid down with more silicon dioxide. Chips may be made into data storage units (memories), processors (microprocessors) or a combination of both (the microcomputer shown here is the kind of chip used in a programmable pocket computer).

silicon dioxide  
aluminium interconnections  
read only memory ROM  
random access memory RAM  
clock  
input/output decode  
arithmetic logic unit  
control decode



floppy disk stores 150,000 words

bubble memory stores 17 000 words



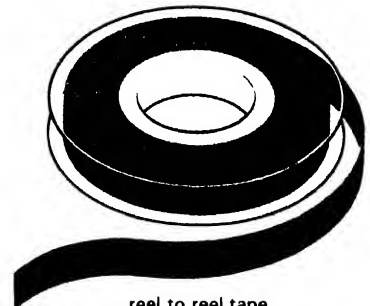
RAM (random access memory) stores up to 40,000 words



cassette C60 stores 10 000 words



cassette C15 stores 7 000 words



reel to reel tape stores 3 million words

- conceptual art** /kən'septyoʊəl/ *n* art in which the artist's intent is to convey a concept rather than create an art object
- conceptualize**, -ise /kən'septyoʊəlaɪz-, -choo-/ *vt* to form a concept of – **conceptualization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- conceptus** /kən'septəs/ *n* a foetus [L, one conceived, fr pp of *concipere* to conceive]
- concern** /kən'suhn/ *vt* 1 to relate to; be about (<the novel ~s 3 soldiers> 2 to have an influence on; involve; also to be the business or affair of (<the problem ~s us all> 3 to be a care, trouble, or distress to (<his ill health ~s me> 4 to engage, occupy (<~s himself with trivia> [ME *concernen*, fr MF & ML; MF *concerner*, fr ML *concernere*, fr LL, to sift together, mingle, fr L *com-* + *cernere* to sift – more at **CERTAIN**]
- concern** *n* 1 sth that relates or belongs to one (<it's not my ~> 2 matter for consideration 3 marked interest or regard, usu arising through a personal tie or relationship 4 a business or manufacturing organization or establishment
- concerned** *adj* 1 anxious (<~ for his safety> (<~ to discover the truth> 2a interestedly engaged (<~ with books and music> b (culpably) involved (<arrested all ~>)
- concerning** /kən'suhning/ *prep* relating to; with reference to
- concert** /kən'suht-, -sət; *sense* 2 usu 'kɒnsət/ *n* 1 an instance of working together; an agreement – esp in *in concert* (with) 2 a public performance of music or dancing, esp a performance, usu by a group of musicians, that is made up of several individual compositions [F, fr It *concerto*, fr *concertare* to negotiate, fr LL, fr L, to contend, fr *com-* + *certare* to strive, fr *certus* decided – more at **CERTAIN**]
- concerted** /kən'suhtɪd/ *adj* 1a planned or done together, combined (<a ~ effort> b performed in unison (<~ artillery fire> 2 arranged in parts for several voices or instruments – **concertedly** *adv*, **concertedness** *n*
- concert** 'grand /kɒnsət/ *n* a grand piano of the largest size for concerts
- concertina** /kɒnsə'teɪnə/ *n* a small hexagonal musical instrument of the accordion family [*concert* + *-ina*]
- concertina** *vi* **concertinaed** /-nəd/; **concertinaing** /-nə-ɪng/ *Br* to become compressed in the manner of a concertina being closed, esp as a result of a crash
- concertino** /kɒnchə'teenoh/ *n*, *pl* **concertinos** a short concerto [It, dim. of *concerto*]
- concertmaster** /kɒnsət,mahstə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* **LEADER** 5a [G *konzertmeister*, fr *konzert* concert + *meister* master]
- concerto** /kən'cheɪtoh-, 'chuh-/ *n*, *pl* **concerti** /-ti/, **concertos** a piece for 1 or more soloists and orchestra, usu with 3 contrasting movements [It, fr *concerto* concert]
- concerto grosso** /'grosɒh/ *n*, *pl* **concerti grossi** /'grosi/ a piece for a small group of solo instruments and full orchestra [It, lit., big concerto]
- concert pitch** /kɒnsət/ *n* 1 a tuning standard of usu 440 Hz for A above middle C 2 a high state of fitness, tension, or readiness
- concession** /kən'sesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of conceding 2 a grant of land, property, or a right made, esp by a government, in return for services or for a particular use 3 a reduction of demands or standards made esp to accommodate shortcomings [F or L, F, fr L *concession-*, *concessio*, fr *concessus*, pp of *concedere* to concede] – **concessional** *adj*, **concessionally** *adv*, **concessionary** *adj*
- concessionaire** /kən'seshə'neɪ/ *n* the owner or beneficiary of a concession [F *concessionnaire*, fr *concession*]
- concessive** /kən'sesɪv/ *adj* denoting the yielding or admitting of a point (<a ~ clause beginning with 'although'> – **concessively** *adv*
- conch** /konch-, kongk-/ *n*, *pl* **conches** /'konchɪz/, **conchs** 1 (the spiral shell of) any of various large marine gastropod molluscs 2 (the plain semidome of) an apse [L *concha* mussel, mussel shell, fr Gk *konchē*; (2) It *conca* semidome, apse, fr LL *concha*, fr L]
- conch-**, **concho-** *comb form* shell (<conchology> [Gk *konch-*, *koncho-*, fr *konchē*]
- concha** /'kɒŋka-/ *n*, *pl* **conchae** /-ki/ sth shell-shaped; esp the largest and deepest concavity of the external ear [L, shell] – **conchal** *adj*
- conchoidal** /kɒŋ'kɔɪd/ *adj*, *esp* of a crystal fracture shaped like the smooth curved inner surface of a mussel or oyster shell [Gk *konchoeidēs* like a mussel, fr *konchē*] – **conchoidally** *adv*
- conchology** /kɒŋ'kolɔɪ/ *n* the branch of zoology that deals with shells – **conchologist** *n*
- conchy**, **conchle** /'kɒnchi/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR** – *derog* [by shortening & alter.]
- concierge** /kɒnsi'eɪʒ/ *n* sby who is employed as doorkeeper, caretaker, etc, esp in France [F, modif of L *conservus* fellow slave, fr *com-* + *servus* slave]
- conciliar** /kən'sɪli-ə/ *adj* of or issued by a council [L *concilium* council] – **conciliarly** *adv*
- conciliate** /kən'sɪli-əyt/ *vt* 1 to reconcile 2 to appease [L *conciliatus*, pp of *conciliare* to assemble, unite, win over, fr *concilium* assembly, council – more at **COUNCIL**] – **conciliator** *n*, **conciliative** /-ətɪv/ *adj*, **conciliatory** /-ət(ə)ri/ *adj*, **conciliation** /-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*
- concinuity** /kən'sɪnəti/ *n* neatness and elegance, esp of literary style – fml [L *concinuitas*, fr *concinuus* skilfully put together]
- conclae** /kən'sies/ *adj* marked by brevity of expression or statement; free from all elaboration and superfluous detail [L *conclusus*, fr pp of *concludere* to cut up, fr *com-* + *caedere* to cut, strike, akin to MHG *heie* mallet, Arm *xait* 'to prick] – **conclae** *adv*, **conclae** *n*
- conclusion** /kən'sɪz(ə)n/ *n* conciseness [ME, fr L *conclusion-*, *conclusio*, fr *conclusus*, pp]
- conclave** /'kɒŋklayv-, 'kɒn-/ *n* a private meeting or secret assembly, esp the assembly of Roman Catholic cardinals secluded continuously while electing a pope [ME, fr MF or ML; MF, fr ML, fr L, room that can be locked up, fr *com-* + *clavis* key – more at **CLAVICLE**]
- conclude** /kən'klooɪd/ *vt* 1 to bring to an end, esp in a particular way or with a particular action (<~ a meeting with a prayer> 2a to arrive at as a logically necessary inference (<~d that her argument was sound> b to decide (<~d he would wait a little longer> c to come to an agreement on; effect (<~ a sale> – *vi* **END** 1 [ME *concluden*, fr L *concludere* to shut up, end, infer, fr *com-* + *claudere* to shut – more at **CLOSE**]
- conclusion** /kən'klooɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 a reasoned judgment, an inference, specif the inferred proposition of a syllogism 2a a result, outcome b a final summing up (e g of an essay) 3 an act or instance of concluding [ME, fr MF, fr L *conclusion-*, *conclusio*, fr *conclusus*, pp of *concludere*]
- conclusive** /kən'klooɪsɪv-, -zɪv/ *adj* putting an end to debate or question, esp by reason of irrefutability – **conclusively** *adv*, **conclusiveness** *n*
- concoct** /kən'kɒkt/ *vt* to prepare (e g a meal, story, etc) by combining diverse ingredients [L *concoctus*, pp of *concoquere* to cook together, fr *com-* + *coquere* to cook] – **concocter** *n*, **concoctive** *adj*, **concoction** /-'kɒksh(ə)n/ *n*
- concomitant** /kɒn'kɒmɪ(ə)nt, kən-/ *adj* accompanying, esp in a subordinate or incidental way [L *concomitans*, *concomitans*, prp of *comitari* to accompany, fr *com-* + *comitari* to accompany, fr *comit-*, comes companion – more at **COUNT**] – **concomitance** *n*, **concomitantly** *adv*
- concomitant** *n* sth that accompanies or is collaterally connected with sth else, an accompaniment
- concord** /'kɒŋkawd-, 'kɒn-/ *n* 1a a state of agreement, harmony b a harmonious combination of simultaneously heard notes 2 a treaty, covenant 3 grammatical agreement [ME, fr OF *concorde*, fr L *concordia*, fr *concord-*, *concor* agreeing, fr *com-* + *cord-*, *cor* heart – more at **HEART**]
- concordance** /kɒŋ'kawd(ə)ns, kən-/ *n* 1 an alphabetical index of the principal words in a book or an author's works, with their immediate contexts 2 agreement [ME, fr MF, fr ML *concordantia*, fr L *concordant-*, *concordans*]
- concordant** /kɒŋ'kawd(ə)nt, kən-/ *adj* consonant, harmonious [ME, fr MF, fr L *concordant-*, *concordans*, prp of *concordare* to agree, fr *concord-*, *concor* agreeing] – **concordantly** *adv*
- concordat** /kən'kawdət, kən-/ *n* a compact, covenant; specif one between a pope and a sovereign or government [F, fr ML *concordatum*, fr L, neut of *concordatus*, pp of *concordare*]
- concourse** /'kɒŋkaws-, 'kɒn-/ *n* 1 a coming, gathering, or happening together (<a large ~ of people> 2a an open space where roads or paths meet b an open space or main hall (e g in a station) [ME, fr MF & L; MF *concoars*, fr L *concurus*, fr *concurus*, pp of *concurrere* to run together – more at **CONCUR**]
- concrecence** /kɒŋ'kres(ə)ns, kən-/ *n* a growing together; a coalescence [L *concrecentia*, fr *concrecent-*, *concrecent-*, prp of *concrecere*] – **concrecent** *adj*
- concrete** /'kɒŋkreet-, 'kɒn-/ *adj* 1 of a noun naming a thing rather than a quality, state, or action 2a characterized by or belonging to immediate experience of actual things or events b specific, particular (<~ proposals> c real, tangible (<~ evidence> 3 relating to or made of concrete [ME, coalesced, fr L *concretus*, fr pp of *concrecere* to grow together, fr *com-* + *crecere* to grow – more at **CRESCENT**] – **concretely** *adv*, **concreteness** *n*
- concrete** *n* a hard strong building material made by mixing a cementing



material (e.g. portland cement) and a mineral aggregate (e.g. sand and gravel) with sufficient water to cause the cement to set and bind the entire mass

**concrete** /kəŋ'kreet, kən-/ *sense* 2 *usu* 'kɒŋkreet, 'kɒn-/ *vt* 1 to form into a solid mass, solidify 2 to cover with, form of, or set in concrete ~ *vi* to become concreted

**concrete music** /kəŋ'kreet, 'kɒn-/ *n* MUSIQUE CONCRÈTE

**concrete poetry** *n* poetry whose effect depends partly on its typographical arrangement

**concretion** /kəŋ'kreesh(ə)n, kən-/ *n* 1 a hard usu inorganic mass formed (abnormally) in a living body 2 a mass of deposited mineral matter in rock ['CONCRETE + -ION] - **concretionary** *adj*

**concretize**, -ise /kəŋ'kreet, tiz, 'kɒn-/ *vt* to make concrete, specific, or definite <tried to ~ his ideas>

**concubinage** /kəŋ'kyoobinj, kən'kyooh-/ *n* being or having a concubine

**concubine** /kəŋ'kyoobin, 'kɒn-/ *n* a woman who lives with a man as his wife; MISTRESS 5, esp a woman who lives with a man in addition to his lawful wife or wives [ME, fr OF, fr L *concubina*, fr *com-* + *cubare* to lie - more at 'HIP]

**concupiscence** /kəŋ'kyoohpɪs(ə)ns, kən-/ *n* strong desire, esp lust [ME, fr MF, fr LL *concupiscentia*, fr L *concupiscens*, *concupiscens*, prp of *concupiscere* to desire ardently, fr *com-* + *cupere* to desire] - **concupiscent** *adj*

**concur** /kən'kuh/ *vi-rr-* 1 to happen together, coincide 2 to act together to a common end or single effect 3 to express agreement <~ with an opinion> [ME *concurrere*, fr L *concurrere*, fr *com-* + *currere* to run]

**concurrence** /kən'kʊrəns/ *n* 1a agreement or union in action b(1) agreement in opinion or design (2) consent 2 a coming together, a conjunction

**concurrent** /kən'kʊrənt/ *adj* 1a meeting or intersecting in a point b running parallel 2 operating or occurring at the same time [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *concurrent-*, *concurrere*, prp of *concurrere*] - **concurrent** *n*, **concurrently** *adv*

**concuss** /kən'kus/ *vt* to affect with concussion [L *concussus*, pp]

**concussion** /kən'kʊsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a hard blow or collision 2 (a jarring injury to the brain often resulting in unconsciousness caused by) a stunning or shattering effect from a hard blow [MF or L, MF, fr L *concussio-*, *concussio*, fr *concussus*, pp of *concute* to shake violently, fr *com-* + *quater* to shake] - **concussive** /-siv/ *adj*, **concussively** *adv*

**condemn** /kən'dem/ *vt* 1 to declare to be utterly reprehensible, wrong, or evil, usu after considering evidence 2a to prescribe punishment for, specif to sentence to death b to sentence, doom 3 to declare unfit for use or consumption 4 to declare (e.g. contraband) convertible to public use [ME *condemnen*, fr OF *condemner*, fr L *condemnare*, fr *com-* + *damnare* to condemn - more at DAMN] - **condemnable** /kən'deməbl, 'deməbl/ *adj*, **condemnatory** *adj*

**condemnation** /kəndəm'naysh(ə)n, -dem-/ *n* 1 censure, blame 2 the act of judicially convicting 3 the state of being condemned

**condemned cell** *n* a prison cell for people condemned to death

**condensate** /kən'densayt/ *n* a (liquid) product of condensation

**condensation** /kəndən'saysh(ə)n, -den-/ *n* 1a chemical combination between molecules with elimination of a simple molecule (e.g. water) to form a new, more complex compound b a change to a denser form (e.g. from vapour to liquid) 2 a product of condensing; specif an abridgment of a literary work [CONDENSE + -ATION] - **condensational** *adj*

**condense** /kən'dens/ *vt* to make denser or more compact; esp to subject to condensation ~ *vi* to undergo condensation [ME *condensen*, fr MF *condenser*, fr L *condensare*, fr *com-* + *densare* to make dense, fr *densus* dense] - **condensable** *adj*

**condenser** /kən'densa/ *n* 1a a lens or mirror used to concentrate light on an object b an apparatus for condensing gas or vapour 2 a capacitor - now used chiefly in the motor trade [CONDENSE + -ER]

**condescend** /kəndi'send/ *vi* to waive the privileges of rank <~ ed to eat with subordinates>; broadly to descend to less formal or dignified action or speech [ME *condescenden*, fr MF *condescendre*, fr LL *condescendere*, fr L *com-* + *descendere* to descend]

**condescending** /kəndi'sending/ *adj* showing or characterized by condescension; patronizing - **condescendingly** *adv*

**condescension** /kəndi'sensh(ə)n/ *n* 1 voluntary descent from one's rank or dignity in relations with an inferior 2 a patronizing attitude [LL *condescension-*, *condescensio*, fr *condescensus*, pp of *condescendere*]

**condign** /kən'diən/ *adj* deserved, appropriate <~ punishment> - *fml* [ME *condigne*, fr MF, fr L *condignus* very worthy, fr *com-* + *dignus* worthy - more at DECENT] - **condignly** *adv*

**condiment** /kəndimənt/ *n* sth used to enhance the flavour of food; esp seasoning [ME, fr MF, fr L *condimentum*, fr *condire* to pickle, fr *condere* to build, store up, fr *com-* + *-dere* to put - more at 'DO]

**condition** /kən'dish(ə)n/ *n* 1 sth essential to the appearance or occurrence of sth else, a prerequisite <one of the necessary ~s for producing a pure chemical acid is clean apparatus> 2 a protasis 3 a favourable or unfavourable state of sth <delayed by the ~ of the road> 4a a state of being b social status, rank c a usu defective state of health or appearance <a heart ~> d a state of physical fitness or readiness for use <the car was in good ~> <exercising to get into ~> e pl attendant circumstances <under present ~s> [ME *condicion*, fr MF, fr L *condicio-*, *condicio* terms of agreement, condition, fr *condicere* to agree, fr *com-* + *dicere* to say, determine - more at DICTION]

**condition** *vt* 1 to put into a proper or desired state for work or use 2 to give a certain condition to 3a to adapt to a surrounding culture b to modify so that an act or response previously associated with one stimulus becomes associated with another - **conditionable** *adj*, **conditioner** *n*

**conditional** /kən'dish(ə)n/ *adj* 1 subject to, implying, or dependent on a condition <a ~ promise> 2 expressing, containing, or implying a supposition <the ~ clause if he speaks> 3 **CONDITIONED** 3 - **conditional** *n*, **conditionally** *adv*, **conditionality** /-ələti/ *n*

**conditional discharge** *n* a penalty involving merely compliance with some condition, imposed by a court for a minor or technical offence - compare ABSOLUTE DISCHARGE

**conditioned** /kən'dish(ə)nd/ *adj* 1 **CONDITIONAL** 1 2 brought or put into a specified state 3 esp of a reflex determined or established by conditioning

**condole** /kən'dohl/ *vi* to express sympathetic sorrow <we ~ with you in your misfortune> [LL *condolere*, fr L *com-* + *dolere* to feel pain; akin to Gk *daidalos* ingeniously formed] - **condolatory** *adj*

**condolence** /kən'dohləns/ *n* (an expression of) sympathy with another in sorrow

**condom** /kəndəm/ *n* a sheath, usu of rubber, worn over the penis (e.g. to prevent conception or venereal infection during sexual intercourse) [perh fr name of its inventor, but his identity is unknown]

**condominium** /kəndə'mɪnɪəm, -ni-əm/ *n* 1 (a territory under) joint sovereignty by 2 or more nations 2 *NAm* (individual ownership of) a unit in a multi-unit structure (e.g. a block of flats) [NL, fr L *com-* + *dominium* domain]

**condone** /kən'dohn/ *vt* to pardon or overlook voluntarily; tacitly accept; esp to treat as if harmless or of no importance <~ corruption in politics> [L *condonare* to forgive, fr *com-* + *donare* to give - more at DONATION] - **condoner** *n*, **condonable** *adj*, **condonation** /kəndə'naysh(ə)n, -doh-/ *n*

**condor** /kəndaw/ *n* a very large vulture of the high Andes with bare head and neck [Sp *cóndor*, fr Quechua *kúntur*]

**condottiere** /kəndə'tyeəri/ *n*, pl **condottieri** /~/ *a* (leading) member of a band of mercenaries in Europe between the 14th and 16th c [It]

**conduce** /kən'dyoohs/ *vi* to lead or tend to a particular and usu desirable result, contribute [ME *conducen* to conduct, fr L *conducere* to conduct, conduce, fr *com-* + *ducere* to lead - more at 'TOW] - **conductive** *adj*

**conduct** /kəndukt/ *n* 1 the act, manner, or process of carrying on; management 2 a mode or standard of personal behaviour, esp as based on moral principles [alter. of ME *conduct*, fr OF, act of leading, escort, fr ML *conductus*, fr L *conductus*, pp of *conducere*]

**conduct** /kən'dukt/ *vt* 1 to bring (as if) by leading; guide <~ tourists through a museum> 2 to carry on or out, usu from a position of command or control <~ a siege> <~ an experiment> 3a to convey in a channel, pipe, etc b to act as a medium for transmitting (e.g. heat or light) 4 to behave in a specified manner <~ ed himself appallingly> 5 to direct the performance or execution of (e.g. a musical work or group of musicians) ~ *vi* 1 to act as leader or director, esp of an orchestra 2 to have the property of transmitting heat, sound, electricity, etc - **conductible** *adj*, **conductive** *adj*, **conductibility** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**conductance** /kən'dukt(ə)ns/ *n* 1 conducting power 2 the readiness with which a conductor transmits an electric current

**conduction** /kən'duksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of conducting or conveying 2 transmission through or by means of a conductor 3 the transmission of an electrical impulse through (nerve) tissue

**conductivity** /kənduk'tɪvəti/ *n* the quality or power of conducting or transmitting

**conductor** /kən'dukto/ *n* 1 a collector of fares on a public conveyance, esp a bus 2 one who directs the performance of musicians 3 a substance or body capable of transmitting electricity, heat, sound, etc 4 chiefly

**NAm** GUARD 6 [**CONDUCT** + **-OR**] – **conductorial** /kɒndʊk'tɔːrɪəl/ *adj*


**conductor** /kən'dʊktər/ *n* a rail for conducting current to an electric locomotive or train

**conductress** /kən'dʊktrɪs/ *n* a female bus conductor

**conduit** /kɒndɪt/, /kɒndwɪt/, /kɒndyoo-ɪt/ *n* 1 a channel through which sth (e.g. a fluid) is conveyed 2 a pipe, tube, or tile for protecting electric wires or cables [ME, fr MF, lit., act of leading]

**condyle** /kɒndɪl/ *n* a prominence of a bone forming part of a joint [F & L; F, fr L *condylus* knuckle, fr Gk *kondylos*] – **condylar** /-lə/ *adj*, **condyloid** /-ləɪd/ *adj*

**condyloma** /kɒndɪ'lɒhmə/ *n* a warty growth on the skin or mucous membrane, usu near the anus and genitals [NL, fr Gk *kondyloma*, fr *kondylos*] – **condylomatous** /-lɒmətəs/, /-ləh-/ *adj*

**cone** /kəʊn/ *n* 1 a mass of overlapping woody scales that, esp in trees of the pine family, are arranged on an axis and bear seeds between them; broadly any of several similar flower or fruit clusters 2a a solid generated by rotating a right-angled triangle about a side other than its hypotenuse b a solid figure tapering evenly to a point from a circular base 3a any of the relatively short light receptors in the retina of vertebrates that are sensitive to bright light and function in colour vision – compare **rod** 3 b any of many somewhat conical tropical gastropod molluscs c the apex of a volcano  **GEOGRAPHY** d a crisp cone-shaped wafer for holding a portion of ice cream [MF or L; MF, fr L *conus*, fr Gk *konos* – more at **HONE**]

**cone** *vt* 1 to bevel like the slanting surface of a cone 2 to mark off (e.g. a road) with cones

**coney** /kəʊni/ *n* 1 a cony 2 rabbit fur [ME *cones*, pl – more at **CONY**]

**confab** /kɒnfab/ *vi* or *n* – **bb-** (to have) a chat or discussion – **infrm** [short for *confabulate*, *confabulation*]

**confabulate** /kən'fabyoʊləɪt/ *vi* 1 to chat 2 to hold a discussion **USE** humor [L *confabulatus*, pp of *confabulari*, fr *com-* + *fabulari* to talk, fr *fabula* story – more at **FABLE**] – **confabulatory** /-lət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, **confabulation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**confection** /kən'fekʃ(ə)n/ *n* a fancy or rich dish (e.g. a cream cake or preserve) or sweetmeat [ME *confeccioun*, fr MF *confection*, fr LL *confection-*, *confectio*, fr L, preparation, fr *confectus*, pp of *conficere* to prepare – more at **COMFIT**] – **confectionary** *adj*

**confectioner** /kən'fekʃənə/ *n* a manufacturer of or dealer in confectionery

**confectionery** /kən'fekʃənəri/ *n* 1 confections, sweets 2 the confectioner's art or business 3 a confectioner's shop

**confederacy** /kən'fed(ə)rəsi/ *n* 1 a league or compact for mutual support or common action; an alliance 2 an unlawful association, a conspiracy 3 a league or alliance for common action; esp, *cap* the 11 states withdrawing from the USA in 1860 and 1861 – **confederal** *adj*, **confederalist** *n*

**confederate** /kən'fed(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 united in a league; allied 2 *cap* of or relating to the Confederacy [ME *confederat*, fr LL *confederatus*, pp of *confederare* to unite by a league, fr L *com-* + *foeder-*, *foedus* compact – more at **FEDERAL**]

**confederate** *n* 1 an ally, accomplice 2 *cap* an adherent of the Confederacy

**confederate** /kən'fedə'reɪt/ *vt* to unite in a confederacy ~ *vi* to band together – **confederative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*

**confederation** /kən'fedə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a league [**CONFEDERATE** + **-ION**]

**confer** /kən'fʊh/ *vb* – **rr-** *vt* to bestow (as if) from a position of superiority ~ *vi* to come together to compare views or take counsel; consult [L *conferre* to bring together, fr *com-* + *ferre* to carry – more at **BEAR**] – **conferrable** *adj*, **conferral** *n*, **conferrer** *n*, **conferee** /kən'fɔːree/ *n*

**conference** /kən'fɛns/ *n* 1a a usu formal interchange of views; a consultation b a meeting of 2 or more people for the discussion of matters of common concern 2 a representative assembly or administrative organization of a denomination, organization, association, etc – **conferential** /kən'fɛnʃ(ə)l/ *adj*

**confess** /kən'fes/ *vt* 1 to make known (e.g. sth wrong or damaging to oneself); admit 2a to acknowledge (sin) to God or a priest b to receive the confession of (a penitent) 3 to declare faith in or adherence to ~ *vi* 1a to acknowledge one's sins or the state of one's conscience to God or a priest b to hear a confession 2 to admit [ME *confessen*, fr MF *confesser*, fr OF, fr *confes* having confessed, fr L *confessus*, pp of *confiteri* to confess, fr *com-* + *fatēri* to confess; akin to L *fari* to speak – more at **'BAN**] – **confessable** *adj*, **confessor** *n*

**confessedly** /kən'fesɪdli/ *adv* by confession; admittedly

**confession** /kən'fesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a disclosure of one's sins 2 a statement of what is confessed: e.g. a written acknowledgment of guilt by a party accused of an offence b a formal statement of religious beliefs 3 an organized religious body having a common creed – **confessional** *adj*, **confessionalism** *n*, **confessionalist** *n*, **confessionally** *adv*

**confessional** /kən'fesh(ə)nəl/ *n* 1 a place where a priest hears confessions 2 the practice of confessing to a priest

**confetti** /kən'feti/ *n* small bits of brightly coloured paper meant to be thrown (e.g. at weddings) [It, pl of *confetto* sweetmeat, fr ML *confectum*, fr L, neut of *confectus*, pp of *conficere* to prepare]

**confidant**, **fem** **confidante** /kən'fɪd(ə)nt, -t-/ *n* one to whom secrets are entrusted; esp an intimate [F *confident* (fem *confidente*), fr It *confidente*, fr *confidente* confident, trustworthy, fr L *confident-*, *confidens*]

**confide** /kən'fɪd/ *vi* to show confidence *in* by imparting secrets ~ *vt* to tell confidentially [ME *confiden*, fr MF or L, MF *confider*, fr L *confidere*, fr *com-* + *fidere* to trust – more at **BIDE**]

**confidence** /kən'fɪd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 faith, trust (<their ~ in God's mercy>) 2 a feeling or consciousness of one's powers being sufficient, or of reliance on one's circumstances 3 the quality or state of being certain (<they had every ~ of success>) 4a a relationship of trust or intimacy (<took his friend into his ~>) b reliance on another's discretion (<their story was told in strictest ~>) c legislative support (<vote of ~>) 5 sth said in confidence, a secret

**'confidence** *man* *n* a conman

**'confidence** *trick* *n* a swindle performed by a person who pretends to be sth that he/she is not

**confident** /kən'fɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 characterized by assurance, esp self-reliant 2 full of conviction; certain [L *confident-*, *confidens*, fr prp of *confidere*] – **confidently** *adv*

**confidential** /kən'fɪd(ə)ns(ə)l/ *adj* 1 private, secret 2 marked by intimacy or willingness to confide (<a ~ tone>) – **confidentially** *adv*, **confidentialness** *n*, **confidentiality** /-ʃɪ'ələtɪ/ *n*

**configuration** /kən'fɪgʊ'reɪʃ(ə)n, -fɪgʊoo-/ *n* 1a (relative) arrangement of parts b sth (e.g. a figure, contour, pattern, or apparatus) produced by such arrangement c the relative positions in space of the atoms in a chemical compound 2 a gestalt (<personality ~>) [LL *configuratio*-, *configuratio* similar formation, fr L *configuratus*, pp of *configurare* to form from or after, fr *com-* + *figurare* to form, fr *figura* figure] – **configurational** *adj*, **configurationally** *adv*, **configurative** /-fɪg(y)ʊ'reɪtɪv/ *adj*

**'confine** /kən'fɪn/ *vt* 1 to keep within limits; restrict 2a to shut up, imprison b to keep indoors or in bed, esp just before childbirth (<she was ~d 2 days before the baby was due>) – usu passive – **confiner** *n*

**'confine** /kən'fɪn/ *n* 1 bounds, borders 2 outlying parts, limits **USE** usu pl with sing. meaning [MF or L; MF *confines*, pl, fr L *confine* border, fr neut of *confinis* adjacent, fr *com-* + *finis* end]

**confined** /kən'fɪnd/ *adj* 1 kept within confines 2 restricted to quarters, esp undergoing childbirth

**confinement** /-mənt/ *n* confining or being confined, esp in childbirth

**confirm** /kən'fʊhm/ *vt* 1 to make firm or firmer; strengthen 2 to give approval to; ratify (< a treaty>) 3 to administer the rite of confirmation to 4 to make certain of, remove doubt about by authoritative act or indisputable fact (<I ~ our offer of the job>) (<served to ~ me in my suspicions>) [ME *confirmen*, fr OF *confirmer*, fr L *confirmare*, fr *com-* + *firmare* to make firm, fr *firmus* firm] – **confirmable** *adj*, **confirmability** /-mə'bɪlətɪ/ *n*

**confirmation** /kən'fɪməʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a rite, admitting a person to full membership of a church 2 confirming proof; corroboration [CONFIRM + **-ATION**] – **confirmational** *adj*, **confirmatory** /kən'fʊhmət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**confirmed** /kən'fʊhmd/ *adj* 1a made firm; strengthened b being so fixed in habit as to be unlikely to change (<a ~ bachelor>) 2 having so received the rite of confirmation – **confirmedly** /-mɪdli/ *adv*, **confirmedness** /-ən(i)dnis/ *n*





**confiscable** /kən'fɪskəbəl, kən-/ *adj* liable to confiscation

**confiscate** /kən'fɪskəɪt/ *vt* to seize (as if) by authority [L *confiscatus*, pp of *confiscare* to confiscate, fr *com-* + *fiscus* treasury – more at **FISCAL**] – **confiscator** *n*, **confiscation** /kən'fɪskəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **confiscatory** /kən'fɪskət(ə)rɪ, kən-/ *adj*

**confiteor** /kən'fɪtɪ-əw/ *n* a liturgical form of confession of sins used esp in the Roman Catholic church [ME, fr L, I *confess*, fr *confitēri* to confess – more at **CONFESS**]

**conflagration** /kən'flə'græʃ(ə)n/ *n* a (large disastrous) fire [L *confla-*

- gration-*, *conflagratio*, fr *conflagratus*, pp of *conflagrare* to burn, fr *com-* + *flagrare* to burn – more at BLACK]
- conflate** /kən'flaɪt/ *vt* to bring together, fuse (< 2 texts into 1) [L. *conflatus*, pp of *conflare* to blow together, fuse, fr *com-* + *flare* to blow – more at BLOW] – **conflation** /kən'flaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- conflict** /kən'flikt/ *n* 1 a sharp disagreement or clash (e.g. between divergent ideas, interests, or people) 2 (distress caused by) mental struggle resulting from incompatible impulses 3 a hostile encounter (e.g. a fight, battle, or war) [ME, fr L. *conflictus* act of striking together, fr *conflictus*, pp of *confligere* to strike together, fr *com-* + *figere* to strike – more at PROFLIGATE]
- conflict** /kən'flikt/ *vi* to be in opposition (to another or each other), disagree – **confliction** *n*
- conflicting** /kən'fliktɪŋ/ *adj* being in conflict or opposition; incompatible (< reports) – **conflictionally** *adv*
- confluence** /kən'fluːəns/, **confluency** /-sɪ/ *n* 1 a coming or flowing together, a meeting or gathering at 1 point 2 the (place of) union of 2 or more streams
- confluent** /kən'fluːənt/ *adj* flowing or coming together; also run together [L. *confluent-*, *confluens*, prp of *confluere* to flow together, fr *com-* + *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID]
- confluent** *n* a confluent stream
- confocal** /kən'fokl/ *adj* having the same foci (< ellipses) (< lenses) – **confocally** *adv*
- conform** /kən'fawm/ *vt* to give the same shape, outline, or contour to, bring into harmony or accord ~ *vi* 1 to be similar or identical 2 to be obedient or compliant, esp. to adapt oneself to prevailing standards or customs [ME *conformen*, fr MF *conformer*, fr L. *conformare*, fr *com-* + *formare* to form, fr *forma* form] – **conformer** *n*, **conformism** *n*, **conformist** *n*
- conformable** /kən'fawmbl/ *adj* 1 corresponding in form or character; similar – usu. + *to* 2 of geological strata following in unbroken sequence – **conformably** *adv*
- conformal** /kən'fawml, kon-/ *adj* leaving the size of the angle between corresponding curves unchanged, esp. of a map representing small areas in their true shape [LL *conformalis* having the same shape, fr L. *com-* + *formalis* formal, fr *forma*]
- conformation** /kən'fəməʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 adaptation 2a CONFORMITY 1 b the way in which sthg is formed, shape, structure [CONFORM + -ATION] – **conformational** *adj*
- conformity** /kən'fawməti/ *n* 1 correspondence in form, manner, or character, agreement (< behaved in ~ with his beliefs) 2 an act or instance of conforming 3 action in accordance with a specified standard or authority, obedience (< to social custom)
- confound** /kən'fəʊnd/ *vt* 1 to put to shame; discomfit (< a performance that ~ ed his critics) 2 to refute (< sought to ~ his arguments) 3 to damn – used as a mild interjection of annoyance (< hum!) 4 to throw into confusion or perplexity 5 to increase the confusion of (< confusion worse ~ ed – John Milton) [ME *confunden*, fr OF *confondre*, fr L. *confundere* to pour together, confuse, fr *com-* + *fundere* to pour – more at FOUND] – **confounder** *n*
- confounded** *adj* damned (< that ~ cat!) – **confoundedly** *adv*
- confraternity** /kən'fratrənəti/ *n* a society devoted to a religious or charitable cause [ME *confraternite*, fr MF *confraternité*, fr ML *confraternitas*, *confraternitas*, fr *confrater* fellow, brother, fr L. *com-* + *frater* brother – more at BROTHER]
- confront** /kən'frʌnt/ *vt* 1 to face, esp. in challenge; oppose 2a to cause to meet, bring face to face with (< a reader with statistics) b to be faced with (< the problems that one ~ s are enormous) [MF *confronter* to border on, confront, fr ML *confrontare* to bound, fr L. *com-* + *front-*, *frons* forehead, front – more at BRINK] – **confronter** *n*
- confrontation** /kən'frʌntə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a face-to-face meeting 2 (an instance of) the clashing of forces or ideas; a conflict (< sit-ins, ~ s and riot – Power & Authority in British Universities) [CONFRONT + -ATION] – **confrontational** *adj*, **confrontationism** *n*, **confrontationist** *n*
- Confucian** /kən'fyoʊʃ(ə)n/ *adj* of the Chinese philosopher Confucius †479 bc or his teachings or followers – **Confucian** *n*, **Confucianism** *n*
- confuse** /kən'fyoʊz/ *vt* 1a to make embarrassed; abash b to disturb or muddle in mind or purpose (< his question ~ d me) 2a to make indistinct; blur (< stop confusing the issue) b to mix indiscriminately; jumble c to fail to differentiate from another often similar or related thing (< Socialism with Communism) 3 archaic to bring to ruin [back-formation fr ME *confused* perplexed, fr MF *confus*, fr L. *confusus*, pp of *confundere*] – **confused** *adj*, **confusedly** /-zɪdli/ *adv*, **confusing** *adj*, **confusingly** *adv*
- confusion** /kən'fyoʊʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an instance of confusing or being confused 2 (a) disorder, muddle
- confute** /kən'fyoʊt/ *vt* to overwhelm in argument, refute conclusively [L. *confutare*, fr *com-* + *future* to beat – more at BEAT] – **confutation** /kən'fyoʊtə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- conga** /kɒŋ'gə/ *n* 1 a dance involving 3 steps followed by a kick and performed by a group, usu. in single file 2 a tall narrow bass drum beaten with the hands [AmerSp, fr Sp, fem of *congo* of the Congo, fr *Congo*, region in Africa]
- congeal** /kən'ʃeɪl/ *vt* 1 to bring from a fluid to a solid state (as if) by cold, to coagulate 2 to make rigid, inflexible, or immobile ~ *vi* to become congealed [ME *congelen*, fr MF *congeler*, fr L. *congelare*, fr *com-* + *gelare* to freeze – more at COLD] – **congealable** *adj*, **congealment** *n*
- congelation** /kən'ʃeɪlə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the process or result of congealing
- congener** /kən'ʃeɪnə/ *n* 1 a member of the same taxonomic genus as another plant or animal 2 sby or sthg resembling another in nature or action 3 a secondary product (e.g. an aldehyde or ester) retained in an alcoholic beverage and important in determining its flavour and in causing hangovers [L. of the same kind, fr *com-* + *gener-*, *genus* kind – more at KIN] – **congenerie** /kən'ʃeɪnəri/ *adj*, **congenereous** /kən'ʃeɪnərəs/ *adj*
- congenial** /kən'ʃeɪniəl, -niəl/ *adj* 1 existing or associated together harmoniously – often + *with* 2 pleasant, esp. agreeably suited to one's nature, tastes, or outlook [*com-* + *genius*] – **congenially** *adv*, **congeniality** /-niələti/ *n*
- congenital** /kən'ʃeɪnɪtl/ *adj* 1a existing at or dating from birth (< idiocy) b constituting an essential characteristic, inherent (< fear of snakes) 2 being such by nature (< a ~ liar) [L. *congenitus*, fr *com-* + *genitus*, pp of *gignere* to beget – more at KIN] – **congenitally** *adv*
- conger** /kɒŋ'gə/, **conger** 'eel *n* any of various related (large) edible sea eels [ME *congre*, fr OF, fr L. *congr-*, *conger*, fr Gk *gongros*; akin to ON *kokkr* ball, L. *gingiva* gum]
- congest** /kən'ʃest/ *vt* 1 to cause an excessive fullness of the blood vessels of (e.g. an organ) 2 to clog (< traffic ~ ed the highways) [L. *congestus*, pp of *congerere* to bring together, fr *com-* + *gerere* to bear – more at CAST] – **congestion** *n*, **congestive** *adj*
- conglomerate** /kən'glɒməraɪt/ *adj* made up of parts from various sources or of various kinds [L. *conglomeratus*, pp of *conglomerare* to roll together, fr *com-* + *glomerare* to wind into a ball, fr *glomer-*, *glomus* ball]
- conglomerate** /kən'glɒməraɪt/ *vt* to accumulate ~ *vi* to gather into a mass or coherent whole (< numbers of dull people ~ d round her – Virginia Woolf) – **conglomerator** *n*, **conglomerative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*
- conglomerate** /kən'glɒməraɪt/ *n* 1 a composite mixture; specif. (a) rock composed of variously-sized rounded fragments in a cement 2 a widely diversified business company – **conglomeratic** /-rətɪk/ *adj*
- conglomeration** /kən'glɒmə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a mixed coherent mass [CONGLOMERATE + -ION]
- congrats** /kən'græts/ *n* pl congratulations – *informal*
- congratulate** /kən'grætʃuəlaɪt, -chʊ-/ *vt* to express pleasure to (a person) on account of success or good fortune [L. *congratulus*, pp of *congratulari* to wish joy, fr *com-* + *gratulari* to wish joy, fr *gratus* pleasing – more at GRACE] – **congratulator** *n*, **congratulatory** /-lət(ə)ri/ *adj*
- congratulation** /kən'grætʃuə'leɪʃ(ə)n, -chʊ-/ *n* a congratulatory expression – usu. pl with sing. meaning [CONGRATULATE + -ION]
- congregate** /kɒŋ'grɛɡeɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) gather together [ME *congregaten*, fr L. *congregatus*, pp of *congregare*, fr *com-* + *greg-*, *grex* flock – more at GREGARIOUS]
- congregation** /kɒŋ'grɛɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an assembly of people; esp. such an assembly for religious worship 2 a religious community; esp. an organized body of believers in a particular locality [CONGREGATE + -ION]
- congregational** /kɒŋ'grɛɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *adj* 1 of a congregation 2 often *cap* of (a body of) Protestant churches governed by the assembly of the local congregation – **congregationalism** *n*, often *cap*, **congregationalist** *n* or *adj*, often *cap*
- congress** /kɒŋ'ɡres-, -grɪs/ *n* 1 a formal meeting of delegates for discussion and usu. action on some question 2 the supreme legislative body of a nation; esp. *cap* that of the USA 3 an association, usu. made up of delegates from constituent organizations 4 the act or action of coming together and meeting – *informal* [L. *congressus*, fr *congressus*, pp of *congrēdi* to come together, fr *com-* + *gradi* to go – more at GRADE] – **congressional** /kən'ɡresh(ə)n/ *adj*, **congressionally** *adv*
- congressman** /kɒŋ'ɡresməŋ, -grɪs-/ *n* a member of a congress

- congruence** /'kɒŋ-ɡruːəns/, **congruency** /-si/ *n* the quality or state of agreeing or coinciding
- congruent** /'kɒŋ-ɡruːənt/ *adj* 1 congruous 2 being exactly the same in size and shape (< ~ triangles) – compare **SIMILAR** 3  **SYMBOL** [L *congruent*, *congruens*, *prp* of *congruere*] – **congruently** *adv*
- congruity** /kən'gruːə-ti/ *n* being congruent or congruous
- congruous** /'kɒŋ-ɡruːəs/ *adj* 1 in agreement, harmony, or correspondence 2 conforming to the circumstances or requirements of a situation; appropriate – fml (< ~ room to work in – G B Shaw) [L *congruus*, fr *congruere* to come together, agree, fr *com-* + *-gruere* (akin to Gk *zachees* attacking violently)] – **congruously** *adv*, **congruousness** *n*
- conic** /'kɒnik, 'kɒnik/, **conic** *section* *n* 1 a plane curve, line, or point that is the intersection of a plane and a cone 2 a curve generated by a point which moves so that the ratio of its distance from a fixed point to its distance from a fixed line is constant **USE**  **MATHEMATICS**
- conical** /'kɒnik/, **conic** /'kɒnik, 'kɒnik/ *adj* 1 resembling a cone in shape 2 of a cone – **conically** *adv*, **conicity** /kɒ'nisi-ti/ *n*
- conidiophore** /kɒ'nidi-ə'fɔː/ *n* a structure (on a fungal hypha) that bears conidia [NL *conidium* + ISV *-phore*] – **conidiophorous** /-mɪ'di'ɒf(ə)rəs/ *adj*
- conidium** /kɒ'nidi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **conidia** /-di-ə/ an asexual spore (e.g. of a fungus or bacterium) [NL, fr Gk *konis* dust – more at **INCINERATE**] – **conidial** *adj*
- conifer** /'kɒnɪfə, 'kɒh-/ *n* any of an order of mostly evergreen trees and shrubs including pines, cypresses, and yews, that bear ovules naked on the surface of scales rather than enclosed in an ovary  **PLANT** [deriv of L *conifer* cone-bearing, fr *conus* cone + *-fer*] – **coniferous** /-nɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj*
- coniline** /'kɒniːn, -in, 'kɒh,neɪn/ *n* an alkaloid that is the principal poison in hemlock [G *koniiin*, fr LL *conium*]
- conjectural** /kən'jekʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj* of the nature of or involving or based on conjecture – **conjecturally** *adv*
- conjecture** /kən'jekʃə/ *n* 1 the drawing of conclusions from inadequate evidence 2 a conclusion reached by surmise or guesswork [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *conjectura*, fr *conjectus*, pp of *conicere*, lit. to throw together, fr *com-* + *jacere* to throw – more at **JET**]
- conjecture** *vt* 1 to arrive at by conjecture 2 to make conjectures as to ~ *vi* to form conjectures – **conjecturer** *n*
- conjoin** /kən'joɪn/ *vi* to join together, esp for a common purpose [ME *conjoinen*, fr MF *conjoindre*, fr L *conjungere*, fr *com-* + *jungere* to join – more at **YOKE**]
- conjoint** /kən'joɪnt/ *adj* related to, made up of, or carried on by 2 or more in combination; joint, united [ME, fr MF, pp of *conjoindre*] – **conjointly** *adv*
- conjugal** /'kɒnjʊɡl/ *adj* of the married state or married people and their relationship [MF or L; MF, fr L *conjugalis*, fr *conjux*, *conjux* husband, wife, fr *conjungere* to join, unite in marriage] – **conjugal** *adv*, **conjugal** /-ˈɡæləti/ *n*
- conjugal rights** *n pl* the right of sexual intercourse between husband and wife
- conjugant** /'kɒnjʊɡənt/ *n* either of a pair of conjugating gametes or organisms
- conjugate** /'kɒnjʊɡət, -ɡəɪt/ *adj* 1 having features in common but opposite or inverse in some particular 2 derived from the same root (< ~ words) [ME *conjugat*, fr L *conjugatus*, pp of *conjugare* to unite, fr *com-* + *jugare* to join, fr *jugum* yoke – more at **YOKE**] – **conjugately** /-ˈɡəti/ *adv*, **conjugateness** /-ˈɡætɪnəs/ *n*
- conjugate** /'kɒnjʊɡəɪt/ *vt* to give in prescribed order the various inflectional forms of (a verb) ~ *vi* 1 to become joined together 2 to pair and fuse in genetic conjugation
- conjugate** /'kɒnjʊɡət, -ɡəɪt/ *n* sth conjugate; a product of conjugating
- conjugated** /'kɒnjʊɡəɪtɪd/ *adj* formed by the combination of 2 compounds or combined with another compound (< ~ protein)
- conjugation** /'kɒnjʊɡəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a (a diagrammatic arrangement of) the inflectional forms of a verb b a class of verbs having the same type of inflectional forms 2a fusion of (similar) gametes with union of their nuclei that in algae, fungi, etc. replaces the typical fertilization of higher forms b the one-way transfer of DNA between bacteria in cellular contact [CONJUGATE + *-ion*] – **conjugational** *adj*, **conjugationally** *adv*, **conjugative** /'kɒnjʊɡəɪtɪv/ *adj*
- conjunct** /kən'jʊŋkt/ *adj* joint, united [ME, fr L *conjunctus*, pp of *conjungere*]
- conjunction** /kən'jʊŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 joining together; being joined together 2 occurrence together in time or space; concurrence 3 the apparent meeting or passing of 2 or more celestial bodies – compare **OPPOSITION** 1  **SYMBOL** 4 a word (e.g. *and* or *when*) that joins together sentences, clauses, phrases, or words – **conjunctive** *adj*, **conjunctively** *adv*
- conjunctiva** /kən'jʊŋktɪvə/ *n*, *pl* **conjunctivae**, **conjunctivae** /-vi/ the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and is continued over part of the eyeball [NL, fr LL, fem of *conjunctivus* conjoining, fr L *conjunctus*] – **conjunctival** /kən'jʊŋk'tɪvəl, kən'jʊŋk-tɪvəl/ *adj*, **conjunctivitis** /-tɪ'vɪtɪs/ *n*
- conjunctive** /kən'jʊŋk(t)ɪv/ *adj* 1 connective 2 being or functioning like a conjunction – **conjunctive** *n*, **conjunctively** *adv*
- conjuncture** /kən'jʊŋk(k)ʃə/ *n* a combination of circumstances or events usu. producing a crisis; a juncture
- conjunction** /kən'jʊŋrəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of conjuring 2 a magic spell 3 a solemn appeal
- conjure** /'kɒnjə, 'kʊn-, *vt* *sense* 2 kən'jʊə/ *vt* 1a to summon by invocation or by uttering a spell, charm, etc. b(1) to affect or effect (as if) by magical powers (2) to imagine, contrive – often + *up* (<to ~ up imaginary dangers>) 2 *archaic* to charge or entreat earnestly or solemnly ~ *vi* 1 to make use of magical powers 2 to use a conjurer's tricks [ME *conjuren*, fr OF *conjur*, fr L *conjurare* to swear together, fr *com-* + *jurare* to swear – more at **JURY**]
- conjurer**, **conjurer** /'kɒnjʊərə, 'kʊn-/ *n* one who performs tricks by sleight of hand or illusion
- conk** /kɒŋk/ *n* (a punch on) the nose – *in*fm [prob. alter. of *conch*]
- conk** *vt* to hit (someone) on the head, esp the nose – *in*fm
- conk** *vi* 1 to break down; esp to stall (<the motor suddenly ~ ed out>) 2 to faint **USE** *usu* + *out*; *in*fm [prob. *imit*]
- conker** /'kɒŋkə/ *n* 1 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a British game in which each player in turn swings a conker on a string to try to break one held on its string by his/her opponent 2 the large seed of the horse chestnut, esp as used in playing conkers [conch + *-er*; fr the original use of a snail shell on a string in the game]
- conman** /'kɒn,mən/ *n* one who engages in confidence tricks, a swindler
- conn** /kɒn/ *vt* or *n*, *NAM* *CON*
- connate** /'kɒnət/ *adj*, of plant or animal parts congenitally or firmly united [LL *connatus*, pp of *connasci* to be born together, fr L *com-* + *nasci* to be born – more at **NATION**] – **connately** *adv*
- connect** /kə'nekt/ *vt* 1 to join or fasten together, usu. by some intervening thing 2 to place or establish in relationship ~ *vi* 1 to be or become joined (<the 2 rooms ~ through a hallway>) 2 to make a successful hit or shot [L *conectere*, *connectere*, fr *com-* + *nectere* to bind] – **connectable** *adj*, **connector** *also* **connector** *n*
- connected** /kə'nektɪd/ *adj* 1 joined or linked together 2 having a social, professional, or commercial relationship – **connectedly** *adv*, **connectedness** *n*
- connecting rod** /kə'nektɪŋ/ *n* a rod that transmits power from a part of a machine in reciprocating motion (e.g. a piston) to another that is rotating (e.g. a crankshaft)
- connection**, chiefly *Br* **connexion** /kə'nekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a causal or logical relationship (<the ~ between 2 ideas>) b contextual relations or associations (<in this ~ the word has a different meaning>) 2a sth that connects; a link (<a loose ~ in the wiring>) b an arrangement that assists communication or transport; *specif* a train, aeroplane, etc. that one should transfer to at a particular station, airport, etc. (<missed their ~ at Crewe>) 3 a person connected with others, esp by marriage, kinship, or common interest (<has powerful ~s in high places>) 4 a social, professional, or commercial relationship: e.g. a an arrangement to execute orders or advance interests of another (<a firm's foreign ~s>) b a source of contraband (e.g. illegal drugs) 5 a religious domination [L *connexion*, *connexio*, fr *conexus*, pp of *conectere*] – **connectional** *adj* – *in* *connection* with with reference to; concerning
- connective** /kə'nektɪv/ *adj* tending to connect – **connectively** *adv*, **connectivity** /kə'nektɪvə-ti/ *n*
- connective** *n* sth that connects; esp a conjunction
- connective tissue** *n* any of various tissues (e.g. bone or cartilage) that pervade, support, and bind together other tissues and organs
- conning tower** /'kɒnɪŋ/ *n* a raised observation tower and usu. entrance on the deck of a submarine
- connoption** /kə'nɪpʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *NAM* a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm [origin unknown]
- connivance** /kə'nɪv(ə)ns/ *n* knowledge of and active or passive consent to wrongdoing [CONNIVE + *-ANCE*]

**connive** /kə'ni:v/ *vi* 1 to pretend ignorance of or fail to take action against sthg one ought to oppose 2a to be indulgent or in secret sympathy b to cooperate secretly or have a secret understanding; conspire *USE* often + *at* [F or L, *F conniver*, fr L *connivere*, *connivere* to close the eyes, *connive*, fr *com-* + *-nivere* (akin to *nictare* to wink), akin to OE & OHG *hnigan* to bow, L *nicere* to beckon] – **conniver** *n*

**connoisseur** /kə'nəʊsə/, -'soʊz/ *n* 1 an expert judge in matters of taste or appreciation (e.g. of art) 2 one who enjoys with discrimination and appreciation of subtleties (<a ~ of fine wines>) [obs F (now *connaissanceur*), fr OF *connoisseur*, fr *connoistre* to know, fr L *cognoscere* – more at *COGNITION*] – **connoisseurship** *n*

**connote** /kə'noʊt/ *vt* 1 to convey in addition to exact explicit meaning (<all the misery that poverty ~s>) 2 to be associated with or inseparable from as a consequence or accompaniment (<the remorse so often ~d by guilt>) 3 to imply or indicate as a logically essential attribute of sthg denoted [ML *connotare*, fr L *com-* + *notare* to note] – **connotation** /kə'nəʊtə'shən/ *n*, **connotational**, **connotative** /kə'nəʊtə'tiv/ *adj*

**connubial** /kə'nyooʒiəl/ *adj* conjugal [L *conubialis*, fr *conubium*, *conubium* marriage, fr *com-* + *nubere* to marry – more at *NUPTIAL*] – **connubially** *adv*, **connubiality** /-bi'æləti/ *n*

**conoid** /kə'hənoɪd/, **conoidal** /kə'hənoɪd/ *adj* shaped (nearly) like a cone – **conoid** *n*

**conquer** /'kɒŋkə/ *vt* 1 to gain or acquire by force of arms, subjugate (<~ed England>) 2 to overcome by force of arms, vanquish (<~ed Harold>) 3 to gain mastery over (<~ed the mountain>) (<~ed his fear>) ~ *vi* to be victorious (<we will ~ or die>) [ME *conqueren* to acquire, conquer, fr OF *conquerre*, fr (assumed) VL *conquerere*, fr L *conquirere* to search for, collect, fr *com-* + *quaerere* to ask, search] – **conqueror** *n*

**conquest** /'kɒŋ(g)kwɛst/ *n* 1 conquering 2a sthg conquered, esp territory appropriated in war – often pl b a person who has been won over, esp by love or sexual attraction [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *conquasitus*, alter. of L *conquisitus*, pp of *conquirere*] – **conquistador** /kən'k(w)ɪstədɔw/ *n*, pl **conquistadores** /-'dɔwreɪs, -reɪz/, **conquistadors** one who conquers, *specif* any of the Spanish conquerors of America [Sp, deriv of L *conquirere*]

**consanguineous** /kənsəŋ'ɡwɪni-əs/ *adj* of the same blood or origin, *specif* descended from the same ancestor [L *consanguineus*, fr *com-* + *sanguin-*, *sanguis* blood – more at *SANGUINE*] – **consanguineously** *adv*, **consanguinity** /-ɡwɪnəti/ *n*

**conscience** /'kɒnʃəns/ *n* 1 the consciousness of the moral quality of one's own conduct or intentions, together with a feeling of obligation to refrain from doing wrong 2 conformity to the dictates of conscience, conscientiousness (<~ argues against it>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *scientia*, fr *scient-*, *sciens*, prp of *scire* to be conscious, be conscious of guilt, fr *com-* + *scire* to know – more at *SCIENCE*] – **conscienceless** *adj* – **in all conscience** by any standard of fairness

**conscience clause** *n* a clause in a law exempting those who object on moral or religious grounds

**conscience money** *n* money paid usu anonymously to relieve the conscience

**conscientious** /kənʃi'enshəs/ *adj* 1 governed by or conforming to the dictates of conscience, scrupulous 2 meticulous or careful, esp in one's work; also hard-working [F *conscientieux*, fr ML *conscientiosus*, fr L *scientia* conscience] – **conscientiously** *adv*, **conscientiousness** *n*

**conscientious objector** *n* one who refuses to serve in the armed forces or bear arms, esp on moral or religious grounds – **conscientious objection** *n*

**conscious** /'kɒnʃəs/ *adj* 1 perceiving with a degree of controlled thought or observation 2 personally felt 3 capable of or marked by thought, will, intention, or perception 4 having mental faculties undulled by sleep, faintness, or stupor; awake 5 done or acting with critical awareness (<made a ~ effort to avoid the same mistakes>) 6 marked by awareness of or concern for sthg specified (<a fashion-conscious shopper>) [L *conscious*, fr *com-* + *scire* to know] – **consciously** *adv*

**conscious** *n* CONSCIOUSNESS 3 *fr* used in Freudian psychology **consciousness** /'kɒnʃənsɪs/ *n* 1 concern, awareness (<class ~>) 2 the totality of conscious states of an individual 3 the upper level of mental life of which sb is aware, as contrasted with unconscious processes

**conscript** /'kɒnskript/ *n* or *adj* (sb) conscripted [adj MF, fr L *conscriptus*, pp of *conscribere* to enrol, fr *com-* + *scribere* to write – more at *SCRIBE*; *n* fr *adj*]

**conscript** /kən'skript/ *vt* to enlist compulsorily, esp for military service – **conscript** /kən'skriptʃən/ *n*

**consecrate** /'kɒnsəkreɪt/ *vt* 1 to ordain to a religious office, esp that

of bishop 2a to make or declare sacred by a solemn ceremony b to prepare (bread and wine used at communion) to be received as Christ's body and blood c to devote to a purpose with deep solemnity or dedication 3 to make inviolable or venerable (<principles ~d by the weight of history>) [ME *consecraten*, fr L *consecratus*, pp of *consecrare*, fr *com-* + *sacrare* to consecrate – more at *SACRED*] – **consecrator** *n*, **consecration** /-kə'reɪʃən/ *n*, **consecratory** /-kə'reɪtəri/ *adj*

**consecutive** /kən'sekyootiv/ *adj* following one after the other in order without gaps [F *consecutif*, fr L *consecutus*, pp of *consequi* to follow – more at *CONSEQUENT*] – **consecutively** *adv*, **consecutiveness** *n*

**consensual** /kən'sensyoo-əl/ *adj* involving or made by mutual consent [L *consensus* + *E-af*] – **consensually** *adv*

**consensus** /kən'sensəs/ *n* 1 general agreement, unanimity 2 the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned [L, fr *consensus*, pp of *consentire*]

**consent** /kən'sent/ *vi* to give assent or approval; agree to [ME *consenten*, fr L *consentire*, fr *com-* + *sentire* to feel – more at *SENSE*] – **consenter** *n*, **consentingly** *adv*

**consent** *n* compliance in or approval of what is done or proposed by another, acquiescence

**consenting adult** /kən'sentɪŋ/ *n* an adult who consents to sexual, esp homosexual, acts

**consequence** /'kɒnsɪkwəns/ *n* 1 sthg produced by a cause or necessarily following from a set of conditions 2 a conclusion arrived at by reasoning 3a importance in terms of power to produce an effect; moment b social importance – **in consequence** as a result; consequently

**consequent** /'kɒnsɪkwənt/ *adj* following as a result or effect [MF, fr L *consequent-*, *consequens*, prp of *consequi* to follow along, fr *com-* + *sequi* to follow – more at *SUE*]

**consequential** /kən'sɪkwəns(ə)l/ *adj* 1 consequent 2 of the nature of a secondary result, indirect 3 having significant consequences, important (<a grave and ~ event>) – **consequentially** *adv*, **consequentialness**, **consequentiality** /-ʃi'æləti/ *n*

**consequently** /'kɒnsɪkwəntli/ *adv* as a result; in view of the foregoing

**conservancy** /kən'suhv(ə)nsi/ *n* 1a conservation b (an area protected by) an organization designated to conserve and protect the environment 2 Br a board regulating a river or port [alter. of obs *conservacy* (conservation), fr AF *conservacie*, fr ML *conservatia*, fr L *conservatus*, pp]

**conservation** /kənsə'veɪʃən/ *n* careful preservation and protection, esp of a natural resource, the quality of the environment, or plant or animal species, to prevent exploitation, destruction, etc → ENERGY [ME, fr MF, fr L *conservation-*, *conservatio*, fr *conservatus*, pp of *conservare*] – **conservational** *adj*, **conservationist** *n*

**conservatism** /kən'suhvətɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 (a political philosophy based on) the disposition to preserve what is established 2 *cap* the principles and policies of a Conservative party 3 the tendency to prefer an existing situation to change

**conservative** /kən'suhvətɪv/ *adj* 1a of or being a philosophy of conservatism, traditional b *cap* advocating conservatism, *specif* of or constituting a British political party associated with support of established institutions and opposed to radical change 2a moderate, cautious (<a ~ estimate>) b marked by or relating to traditional norms of taste, elegance, style, or manners (<a ~ suit>) – **conservatively** *adv*, **conservativeness** *n*

**conservative** *n* 1 *cap* a supporter of a Conservative party 2 one who keeps to traditional methods or views

**conservatoire** /kən'suhvətəw/ *n* a school specializing in any one of the fine arts (<a ~ of music>) [F, fr It *conservatorio* home for foundlings, music school, fr L *conservatus*, pp]

**conservator** /kən'suhvətə, 'kɒnsəvətə/ *n* 1 a museum official responsible for the care, restoration, etc of exhibits 2 an official charged with the protection of sthg affecting public welfare and interests – **conservatorial** /kən'suhvətəwəri-əl/ *adj*

**conservatory** /kən'suhvət(ə)ri/ *n* 1 a greenhouse, usu forming a room of a house, for growing or displaying ornamental plants 2 chiefly NAM a conservatoire

**conserve** /kən'suhv/ *vt* 1a to keep in a state of safety or wholeness (<~ wild life>) b to avoid wasteful or destructive use of (<~ natural resources>) 2 to preserve, esp with sugar 3 to maintain (mass, energy, momentum, etc) constant during a process of chemical or physical change [ME *conservern*, fr MF *conserver*, fr L *conservare*, fr *com-* + *servare* to keep, guard, observe; akin to OE *searu* armour, Av *haurvaiti* he guards] – **conserver** *n*



**conserve** /kən'suhv, 'kɒnsuhv/ *n* a preserve of fruit boiled with sugar that is used like jam

**consider** /kən'sɪda/ *vt* 1 to think about with care or caution 2 to gaze on steadily or reflectively 3 to think of as specified; regard as being <~ *thrill essential*> <their works are well ~ed abroad> 4 to have as an opinion <~ed that he was wrong> ~ *vi* to reflect, deliberate <paused a moment to ~> [ME *consideren*, fr MF *considerer*, fr L *considerare*, lit., to observe the stars, fr *com-* + *sider-*, *sidus* star – more at *SIDEREAL*]

**considerable** /kən'sɪd(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 worth consideration; significant 2 large in extent or degree <a ~ number> – **considerably** *adv*

**considerate** /kən'sɪd(ə)rət/ *adj* marked by or given to consideration of the rights and feelings of others – **considerately** *adv*, **considerateness** *n*

**consideration** /kən'sɪd(ə)rəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 continuous and careful thought <after long ~> 2a sthg considered as a basis for thought or action; a reason b a taking into account 3 thoughtful and sympathetic or solicitous regard 4a a recompense, payment <for a small ~> b an element of inducement that distinguishes a legally binding contract from a mere promise – **in consideration** of 1 in recompense or payment for 2 ON ACCOUNT OF, BECAUSE OF

**considered** *adj* matured by extended thought <his ~ opinion>

**considering** /kən'sɪd(ə)rɪŋ/ *prep* taking into account <he did well ~ his limitations>

**considering** *conj* in view of the fact that <~ he was new at the job, he did quite well>

**consign** /kən'siən/ *vt* 1 to give over to another's care 2 to give, transfer, or deliver into the hands or control of another; also to assign to sthg as a destination or end [MF *consigner*, fr L *consignare*, fr *com-* + *signum* sign, mark, seal] – **consignable** *adj*, **consignor** *n*

**consignee** /kən'siːnee/ *n* one to whom sthg is consigned

**consignment** /kən'siːnmənt/ *n* sthg consigned, esp in a single shipment [CONSIGN + -MENT]

**consist** /kən'sɪst/ *vi* 1 to lie, reside in <liberty ~s in the absence of obstructions> – A E Housman 2 to be made up or composed of <breakfast ~ed of cereal, milk, and fruit> [MF & L; MF *consistere*, fr L *consistere*, lit., to stand together, fr *com-* + *sistere* to take a stand; akin to L *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*]

**consistency** /kən'sɪst(ə)nəsi/ *also* **consistence** *n* 1 internal constancy of constitution or character; persistency 2 degree of resistance of a a liquid to movement <the ~ of thick syrup> b a soft solid to deformation <the ~ of clay> 3a agreement or harmony of parts or features to one another or a whole; specif ability to be asserted together without contradiction b harmony of conduct or practice with past performance or stated intent <followed his own advice with ~>

**consistent** /kən'sɪst(ə)n(ə)t/ *adj* 1 marked by harmonious regularity or steady continuity; free from irregularity, variation, or contradiction <a ~ style in painting> 2 converging to the true value of a statistical parameter estimated as the sample becomes large <a ~ estimator> [L *consistent-*, *consistens*, prp of *consistere*] – **consistently** *adv*

**consistory** /kən'sɪst(ə)rɪ/ *n* a church tribunal or governing body; esp one made up of the pope and cardinals [ME *consistorie*, fr MF, fr ML & LL; ML *consistorium* church tribunal, fr LL, imperial council, fr L *consistere*] – **consistorial** /kən'sɪstəʊrɪ-əl, kən'sɪ-/ *adj*

**consistory court** *n* a diocesan court in the Church of England

**consociation** /kən'səʃiːəʃ(ə)n, -sɪˈəʃ(ə)n/ *n* an ecological community with a single dominant organism [L *consociation-*, *consociatio* alliance, fr *consociatus*, pp of *consociare* to associate, fr *com-* + *socius* companion – more at *SOCIAL*] – **consociational** *adj*

**consol** /kən'sol, 'kɒn'sol/ *n* an interest-bearing government bond having no maturity date but redeemable on call – usu pl [short for *Consolidated Annuities*, British government securities]

**consolation prize** /kən'səʊləʃ(ə)n/ *n* a prize given to one who just fails to gain a major prize in a contest

**console** /kən'səʊl/ *vt* to alleviate the grief or sense of loss of [F *consoler*, fr L *consolari*, fr *com-* + *solari* to console – more at *SILLY*] – **consolingly** *adv*, **consoleable** *adj*, **consolation** /kən'səʊləʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **consolatory** /kən'səʊlət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**console** /kən'səʊl, 'kɒn'sol/ *n* 1 a carved bracket projecting from a wall to support a shelf or cornice 2 the desk containing the keyboards, stops, etc of an organ 3a a control panel; also a cabinet in which a control panel is mounted b the part of a computer used for communication between the operator and the computer 4 a cabinet (e.g. for a radio or television set) designed to rest directly on the floor [F, fr MF, short for *consolateur* bracket in human shape, lit., consoler, fr L *consolator*, fr *consolatus*, pp of *consolari*]

**console, table** /'kɒnsəʊl, 'kɒn'sol/ *n* a table fixed to a wall and supported by brackets

**consolidate** /kən'solɪdaɪt/ *vt* 1 to join together into 1 whole; unite <~ several small school districts> 2 to make firm or secure, strengthen <~ their hold on first place> 3 to form into a compact mass ~ *vi* to become consolidated; specif to merge <the 2 companies ~d> [L *consolidatus*, pp of *consolidare* to make solid, fr *com-* + *solidus* solid] – **consolidator** *n*

**consolidation** /kən'solɪdaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* uniting or being united, esp the unification of 2 or more companies by dissolution of existing ones and creation of a single new company – compare *MERGER* 2 [CONSOLIDATE + -ION]

**consommé** /kən'somay, 'kɒnsə'may/ *n* a thin clear meat soup made from meat broth [F, fr pp of *consommer* to complete, boil down, fr L *consummare* to complete, fr *com-* + *summa* sum]

**consonance** /'kɒns(ə)nəns/ *n* 1a correspondence or recurrence of sounds, esp in words; assonance b an agreeable combination of musical notes in harmony 2 harmony or agreement among components – fml [ME, fr MF, fr L *consonantia*, fr *consonant-*, *consonans*]

**consonant** /'kɒns(ə)nənt/ *n* (a letter or other symbol representing) any of a class of speech sounds (e.g. /p/, /g/, /n/, /l/, /s/, /t/) characterized by constriction or closure at 1 or more points in the breath channel ~ ALPHABET [ME, fr L *consonant-*, *consonans*, fr prp of *consonare*] – **consonantal** /kɒnsə'nəntl/ *adj*

**consonant** *adj* 1 marked by musical consonances 2 having similar sounds <~ words> 3 in agreement or harmony, free from elements making for discord – fml [MF, fr L *consonant-*, *consonans*, prp of *consonare* to sound together, agree, fr *com-* + *sonare* to sound] – **consonantly** *adv*

**consort** /'kɒnsawt/ *n* 1 an associate 2 a spouse – compare *PRINCE* CONSORT [ME, fr MF, fr L *consort-*, *consors*, lit., one who shares a common lot, fr *com-* + *sort-*, *sors* lot, share]

**consort** *n* 1 a conjunction, association <he ruled in ~ with his father> 2a a group of musicians performing esp early music b a set of musical instruments (e.g. viols or recorders) of the same family played together [MF *consorte*, fr *consort*]

**consort** /kən'sawt/ *vi* 1 to keep company with <~ing with criminals> 2 to accord, harmonize with <the illustrations ~ admirably with the text – TLS> **USE** fml

**consortium** /kən'sawtɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **consortia** /-tɪ-ə/ *also* **consortiums** a business or banking agreement or combination [L, fellowship, fr *consort-*, *consors*]

**conspectus** /kən'spektəs/ *n*, *pl* **conspectuses** a survey, summary, esp a brief one providing an overall view [L, fr *conspectus*, pp of *conspicere*]

**conspicuous** /kən'spɪkju-əs/ *adj* 1 obvious to the eye or mind 2 attracting attention; striking [L *conspicius*, fr *conspicere* to get sight of, fr *com-* + *specere* to look – more at *SPY*] – **conspicuously** *adv*, **conspicuousness** *n*

**conspiracy** /kən'spɪrəsi/ *n* 1 (the offence of) conspiring together <~ to murder> 2a an agreement among conspirators b *sing* or *pl* in constr a group of conspirators [ME *conspiracie*, fr L *conspiratus*, pp of *conspirare*]

**conspiracy of silence** *n* an agreement to keep silent, esp in order to promote or protect selfish interests

**conspirator** /kən'spɪrət/ *n* one who conspires; a plotter

**conspiratorial** /kən'spɪrə'tɔːrɪəl, kən-/ *adj* (suggestive) of a conspiracy or conspirator – **conspiratorially** *adv*

**conspire** /kən'spɪə/ *vi* 1a to join in a plot b to scheme 2 to act together <circumstances ~d to defeat his efforts> [ME *conspiren*, fr MF *conspirer*, fr L *conspirare* to breathe together, agree, conspire, fr *com-* + *spirare* to breathe – more at *SPIRIT*]

**constable** /'kɒnstəbl, 'kʊn-/ *n* 1 a high officer of a medieval royal or noble household 2 the warden or governor of a royal castle or a fortified town 3 Br a policeman; specif one ranking below sergeant [ME *conestable*, fr OF, fr LL *comes stabuli*, lit., officer of the stable]

**constabulary** /kən'stəbʊləri/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 the police force of a district or country 2 an armed police force organized on military lines <the Royal Ulster Constabulary>

**constabulary** *adj* of a constable or constabulary

**constancy** /'kɒnstənsɪ/ *n* 1 fidelity, loyalty 2 freedom from change

**constant** /'kɒnstənt/ *adj* 1 marked by steadfast resolution or faithfulness; exhibiting constancy of mind or attachment <his ~ friend for years> 2 invariable, uniform 3 continually occurring or recurring; regular [ME, fr MF, fr L *constant-*, *constans*, fr prp of *constare* to stand firm, be



- consistent, fr *com-* + *stare* to stand – more at **STAND**] – **constantly** *adv*
- constant** *n* sthg invariable or unchanging. e.g. **a** a number that has a fixed value in a given situation or universally or that is characteristic of some substance or instrument **PHYSICS** **b** a number that is assumed not to change value in a given mathematical discussion **c** a term in logic with a fixed designation
- constantan** /ˈkɒnstəntən/ *n* an alloy of copper and nickel used for electrical resistors and in thermocouples [fr the constancy of its resistance under change of temperature]
- constellation** /ˌkɒnstəˈleɪʃən/ *n* **1** any of many arbitrary configurations of stars supposed to fill the outlines of usu mythical figures **2** a cluster, group, or configuration; *esp* a large or impressive one [ME *constellacioun*, fr MF *constellation*, fr LL *constellation-*, *constellatio*, fr *constellatus* studded with stars, fr L *com-* + *stella* star – more at **STAR**] – **constellatory** /ˌkɒnstəˈleɪ(ə)n/ *adj*
- consternation** /ˌkɒnstəˈneɪʃən/ *n* amazed dismay that hinders or throws into confusion [F or L, F, fr L *consternation-*, *consternatio*, fr *consternatus*, pp of *consternare* to bewilder, alarm, fr *com-* + *-sternare* (akin to OE *starnan* to stare)]
- constipate** /ˈkɒnstɪpaɪt/ *vt* to cause constipation in [ML *constipatus*, pp of *constipare*, fr L, to crowd together, fr *com-* + *stipare* to press together – more at **STIFF**]
- constipation** /ˌkɒnstɪˈpeɪʃən/ *n* **1** abnormally delayed or infrequent passage of faeces **2** impairment or blockage of proper functioning
- constituency** /ˌkɒnstɪtjuːənsi-, -stɪtʃoo-/ *n* (the residents in) an electoral district
- constituent** /ˌkɒnstɪtjuːənt-, -choo-/ *n* **1** an essential part, a component **2** a resident in a constituency [F *constituant*, fr MF, fr prp of *constituer* to constitute, fr L *constituere*]
- constituent** *adj* **1** serving to form, compose, or make up a unit or whole, component **2** having the power to frame or amend a constitution (< *a ~ assembly*) [L *constituent-*, *constituens*, prp of *constituere*] – **constitutely** *adv*
- constitute** /ˈkɒnstɪtjuːt-, -choot/ *vt* **1** to appoint to an often specified office, function, or dignity (< *~d authorities*) (< *~d himself their representative*) **2** to establish, SET UP e.g. **a** to establish formally **b** to give legal form to **3** to form, make, be (< *12 months ~ a year*) (< *unemployment ~s a major problem*) [L *constitutus*, pp of *constituere* to set up, constitute, fr *com-* + *statuere* to set – more at **STATUTE**]
- constitution** /ˌkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃən/ *n* **1** the act of establishing, making, or setting up **2a** the physical and mental structure of an individual **b** the factors or parts which go to make sthg, composition, *also* the way in which these parts or factors make up the whole **3** the way in which a state or society is organized **4** (a document embodying) the fundamental principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group
- constitutional** /ˌkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃənəl/ *adj* **1** relating to, inherent in, or affecting the constitution of body or mind **2** being in accordance with or authorized by the constitution of a state or society (< *a ~ government*) **3** regulated according to a constitution (< *a ~ monarchy*) **4** of a constitution – **constitutionalize** *vt*, **constitutionality** /-ʃən(ə)ˈləti/ *n*
- constitutional** *n* a walk taken for one's health
- constitutionalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* adherence to constitutional principles, *also* a constitutional system of government – **constitutionalist** *n*
- constitutional law** *n* law dealing with the powers, organization, and responsibilities of government **1.A.W**
- constitutionally** /ˌkɒnstɪˈtjuːʃən(ə)l-/ *adv* **1a** in accordance with one's mental or bodily constitution (< *~ unable to grasp subtleties*) **b** in structure, composition, or physical constitution **2** in accordance with a constitution (< *was not ~ eligible to fill the office*)
- constitutive** /ˌkɒnstɪtjuːtɪv/ *adj* having the power to enact or establish – **constitutively** *adv*
- constrain** /ˌkɒnˈstreɪn/ *vt* **1** to force by imposed stricture or limitation (< *necessity ~s me to work*) (< *the evidence, ~s belief*) **2** to force or produce in an unnatural or strained manner (< *a ~ed smile*) **3** to hold within narrow confines; *also* to clasp tightly [ME *constrainen*, fr MF *constrindre*, fr L *constringere* to constrict, constrain, fr *com-* + *stringere* to draw tight – more at **'STRAIN**] – **constrainedly** /-nɪdli/ *adv*
- constraint** /ˌkɒnˈstreɪnt/ *n* **1a** constraining or being constrained **b** a constraining agency or force; a check (< *put legal ~s on the board's activities*) **2a** repression of one's own feelings, behaviour, or actions **b** a sense of being constrained; embarrassment [ME, fr MF *contrainte*, fr *constraindre*]
- constrict** /ˌkɒnˈstrikt/ *vt* **1a** to make narrow **b** to compress, squeeze (< *a nerve*) **2** to set or keep within limits [L *constrictus*, pp of *constringere*] – **constrictive** *adj*, **constriction** /ˌkɒnˈstriktʃən/ *n*
- constrictor** /ˌkɒnˈstriktə/ *n* **1** a muscle that contracts a cavity or orifice or compresses an organ **2** a snake (e.g. a boa constrictor) that kills prey by compressing it in its coils [CONSTRUCT + **-OR**]
- construct** /ˌkɒnˈstrʊkt/ *vt* **1** to make or form by combining parts, build **2** to set in logical order **3** to draw (a geometrical figure) with suitable instruments and under given conditions [L *constructus*, pp of *construere*, fr *com-* + *struere* to build – more at **STRUCTURE**] – **constructible** *adj*, **constructor** *n*
- construct** /ˌkɒnˈstrʊkt/ *n* sthg constructed, *esp* mentally
- construction** /ˌkɒnˈstrʊktʃən/ *n* **1** the arrangement and connection of morphemes, words, or groups of words into some higher unit (e.g. a phrase or clause) **2** the process, art, or manner of constructing; *also* sthg constructed **BUILDING** **3** the act or result of constructing, interpreting, or explaining – **constructional** *adj*, **constructionally** *adv*
- constructive** /ˌkɒnˈstrʊktɪv/ *adj* **1** (judicially) implied rather than explicit (< *~ permission*) **2** of or involved in construction **3** suggesting improvement or development (< *~ criticism*) – **constructively** *adv*, **constructiveness** *n*
- constructivism** /ˌkɒnˈstrʊktɪvɪz(ə)m/ *n* a nonfigurative art movement originating in Russia about 1914 and concerned with the aesthetic effects of the juxtaposition of (geometric) forms and various kinds of surface quality (e.g. colour, tone, texture, etc) and the use of modern industrial materials (e.g. glass and plastic) – **constructivist** *adj* or *n*
- construe** /ˌkɒnˈstroʊ/ *vt* **1** to analyse the syntax of (e.g. a sentence or sentence part) **2** to understand or explain the sense or intention of (< *~d my actions as hostile*) **3** to translate closely ~ *vi* to construe a sentence or sentence part, *esp* in connection with translating [ME *construen*, fr LL *construere*, fr L, to construct] – **construable** *adj*
- consubstantial** /ˌkɒnsəbˈstʌnʃ(ə)l/ *adj*, *esp* of the 3 persons of the Trinity of the same substance [LL *consubstantialis*, fr L *com-* + *substantia* substance]
- consubstantiation** /ˌkɒnsəbˈstʌnʃaɪʃən/ *n*, *-sɪˈaɪʃən/ n* (the Anglican doctrine of) the actual presence and combination of the body and blood of Christ with the bread and wine used at Communion – compare **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**
- consul** /ˈkɒns(ə)l/ *n* **1a** either of 2 elected chief magistrates of the Roman republic **b** any of 3 chief magistrates of France from 1799 to 1804 **2** an official appointed by a government to reside in a foreign country to look after the (commercial) interests of citizens of the appointing country [ME, fr L, fr *consulere* to consult] – **consulship** *n*, **consular** /ˈkɒnsjoolə/ *adj*
- consulate** /ˈkɒnsjoolət/ *n* **1** a government by consuls **2** the residence, office, or jurisdiction of a consul
- consul general** *n*, *pl* **consuls general** a senior diplomatic consul stationed in an important place or having jurisdiction in several places or over several consuls
- consult** /ˌkɒnˈsʌlt/ *vt* **1** to ask the advice or opinion of (< *~ a doctor*) **2** to refer to (< *~ a dictionary*) ~ *vi* **1** to deliberate together; confer **2** to serve as a consultant [MF or L; MF *consuler*, fr L *consultare*, fr *consultus*, pp of *consulere* to deliberate, consult] – **consultant** *n*
- consultancy** /ˌkɒnˈsʌlt(ə)nsi/ *n* **1** an agency that provides consulting services **2** consultation
- consultant** /ˌkɒnˈsʌlt(ə)nt/ *n* **1** one who consults sb or sthg **2** an expert who gives professional advice or services **3** the most senior grade of British hospital doctor, usu having direct clinical responsibility for hospital patients – **consultantship** *n*
- consultation** /ˌkɒns(ə)lˈtʃeɪʃən/ *n* **1** a council, conference **2** the act of consulting or conferring
- consultative** /ˌkɒnˈsʌltatɪv/ *adj* of or intended for consultation, advisory (< *a ~ committee*)
- consulting** /ˌkɒnˈsʌltɪŋ/ *adj* **1** providing professional or expert advice (< *a ~ architect*) **2** of a (medical) consultation or consultant
- consumables** /ˌkɒnˈsjuəməblz/ *n* *pl* food, provisions
- consume** /ˌkɒnˈsjuə/ *vt* **1** to do away with completely; destroy (< *fire ~d several buildings*) **2a** to spend wastefully; squander **b** to use or use up (< *work ~s time*) (< *furnaces ~ fuel*) **3** to eat or drink, *esp* in great quantity or eagerly **4** to engage fully; engross (< *she was ~d with curiosity*) ~ *vi* to waste or burn away; perish [ME *consumen*, fr MF or L, MF *consumere*, fr L *consumere*, fr *com-* + *sumere* to take up, take, fr *sub-* up + *emere* to take – more at **SUB-**, **REDEEM**] – **consumable** *adj*, **consumingly** *adv*
- consumer** /ˌkɒnˈsjuəhmə/ *n* **1** a customer for goods or services **2** an organism requiring complex organic compounds for food, which it obtains

by preying on other organisms or by eating particles of organic matter  
 ➔ **FOOD** [CONSUME + -ER] - **consumerism** *n*  
**consumer goods** *n pl* goods (e.g. food, clothing, and domestic appliances) that are not used in further manufacturing processes  
**consumerism** /kən'syoohməˌrɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the promotion and protection of the consumer's interests 2 the theory that an increasing consumption of goods is economically desirable - **consumerist** *n*  
**'consummate** /kən'sumət, 'kɒnsyooˌmæt, -sə-, -su-/ *adj* 1 extremely skilled and accomplished (< a ~ liar>) 2 of the highest degree (< ~ skill>) (< ~ cruelty>) [ME, fr L *consummatus*, pp of *consummare* to sum up, finish, fr *com-* + *summa* sum] - **consummately** *adv*  
**²consummate** /'kɒnsyooˌmæt, -sə-, -su-/ *vt* to make (a marriage) complete by sexual intercourse - **consummative** /-ˌmætɪv/ *adj*, **consummator** *n*  
**consummation** /kɒnsə'mayʃ(ə)n, -su-, -syoo-/ *n* 1 the consummating of a marriage 2 the ultimate end; a goal ['CONSUMMATE + -ION]  
**consumption** /kən'sumʃ(ə)n, -'sʌmpʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of consuming 2 the utilization of economic goods in the satisfaction of wants or in the process of production, resulting chiefly in their destruction, deterioration, or transformation 3 (a progressive wasting of the body, esp from) lung tuberculosis [ME *consumptioun*, fr L *consumption-*, *consumptio*, fr *consumptus*, pp of *consumere*]  
**consumptive** /kən'sʌmp(ɪ)tɪv/ *adj* of or affected with consumption (of the lungs) - **consumptive** *n*, **consumptively** *adv*  
**'contact** /'kɒntəkt/ *n* 1a (an instance of) touching **b** (a part made to form) the junction of 2 electrical conductors through which a current passes **2a** association, relationship (< she needs human ~>) **b** connection, communication (< keep in ~>) **c** the act of establishing communication with sb or observing or receiving a significant signal from a person or object (< radar ~ with Mars>) **3** one serving as a carrier or source (< our ~ in Berlin>) [F or L; F, fr L *contactus*, fr *contactus*, pp of *contingere* to have contact with - more at **CONTINGENT**]  
**²contact** /'kɒntəkt, kɒn'təkt, kən-/ *vt* 1 to bring into contact **2a** to enter or ~ in contact with; join **b** to get in communication with (< ~ your local agent>) ~ *vi* to make contact  
**³contact** /'kɒntəkt/ *adj* maintaining, involving, or activated or caused by contact (< ~ explosives>)  
**contact, inhibition** *n* the cessation of movement and growth of one cell when in contact with another, observed esp in tissue cultures  
**'contact lens** *n* a thin lens designed to fit over the cornea of the eye, esp for the correction of a visual defect  
**contact print** *n* a photographic print made with a negative in contact with a photographic paper, plate, or film  
**contagion** /kən'tayj(ə)n, -jyən/ *n* 1a the transmission of a disease by (indirect) contact **b** (a virus, bacterium, etc that causes) a contagious disease 2 corrupting influence or contact [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *contagion-*, *contagio*, fr *contingere* to have contact with, pollute]  
**contagious** /kən'tayjəs, -jyəs/ *adj* 1 communicable by contact; catching 2 bearing contagion 3 exciting similar emotions or conduct in others (< ~ enthusiasm>) - **contagiously** *adv*, **contagiousness** *n*  
**contagious abortion** *n* brucellosis or other disease of domestic animals causing abortion  
**contain** /kən'tayn/ *vt* 1 to keep within limits; hold back or hold down: e.g. a to restrain, control (< ~ yourself!>) **b** to check, halt (< ~ the enemy's attack>) **c** to follow successfully a policy of containment towards **d** to prevent (an enemy, opponent, etc) from advancing or attacking **2a** to have within; hold **b** to comprise, include (< the bill ~ several new clauses>) **3** to be divisible by, usu without a remainder [ME *contenir*, fr OF *contenir*, fr L *continere* to hold together, hold in, contain, fr *com-* + *tenere* to hold - more at **THIN**] - **containable** *adj*  
**container** /kən'taynə/ *n* a receptacle for the shipment of goods; *specif* a metal packing case, standardized for mechanical handling, usu forming a single lorry or rail-wagon load [CONTAIN + -ER]  
**containerization, -ization** /kən'taynəˌrɪz(ə)z(ə)n/ *n* a shipping method in which a large amount of material is packaged together in 1 large container  
**containerize, -ize** /kən'taynəˌrɪz/ *vt* 1 to ship by containerization 2 to convert to the use of containers (< plans to ~ the ports>)  
**container ship** *n* a ship for carrying cargo in containers  
**containment** /kən'taynmənt/ *n* preventing the expansion of a hostile power or ideology [CONTAIN + -MENT]  
**contaminant** /kən'tamɪnənt/ *n* sth that contaminates  
**contaminate** /kən'tamɪnəɪt/ *vt* 1a to soil, stain, or infect by contact or association **b** to make inferior or impure by adding sth (< iron ~ d with phosphorus>) **2** to make unfit for use by the introduction of unwholesome

or undesirable elements [L *contaminatus*, pp of *contaminare*; akin to L *contagio* contagion] - **contaminator** *n*, **contamination** /-ˌnəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **contaminative** /kən'tamɪnətɪv/ *adj*  
**contango** /kən'tang-goh/ *n, pl contangoes* *Br* a premium paid by a buyer to a seller of shares to postpone delivery until a future day of settlement - compare **BACKWARDATION** [perh alter. of *continue*]  
**conte** /kɒnt, kəwnt (Fr kɔ̃t)/ *n* a tale or short story, esp of adventure [F]  
**contemn** /kən'tem/ *vt* to view or treat with contempt; scorn - *fml* [ME *contempnen*, fr MF *contempner*, fr L *contemnere*, fr *com-* + *temnere* to despise - more at **STAMP**] - **contemner** *also contemnor* /-nə/ *n*  
**contemplate** /'kɒntəmpleɪt/ *vt* 1 to view or consider with continued attention; meditate on **2** to have in view as contingent or probable or as an end or intention (< what do you ~ doing?>) ~ *vi* to ponder, meditate [L *contemplatus*, pp of *contemplari*, fr *com-* + *templum* space marked out for observation of auguries - more at **'TEMPLE**] - **contemplator** *n*  
**contemplation** /kɒntəm'pleɪʃ(ə)n, -tem-/ *n* 1 meditation on spiritual things as a private devotion **2** an act of considering with attention; a study **3** the act of regarding steadily  
**contemplative** /'kɒntəmpleɪtɪv, -tem-, kən'templetɪv/ *adj* 1 of or involving contemplation **2** of a religious order devoted to prayer and penance - **contemplative** *n*, **contemplatively** /-ˌpleɪtɪvli/ *adv*, **contemplativeness** *n*  
**contemporaneous** /kən'tempo'reɪnyəs, kən-, -nɪ-/ *adj* **CONTEMPORARY** 1 [L *contemporaneus*, fr *com-* + *tempor-*, *tempus* time - more at **TEMPORAL**] - **contemporaneously** *adv*, **contemporaneousness, contemporaneity** /kən'temp(ə)rəˌnəɪti, -ˌneɪ-əti/ *n*  
**'contemporary** /kən'temp(ə)rəri, -prɪ/ *adj* 1 happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time **2** marked by characteristics of the present period, modern [com- + L *tempor-*, *tempus*] - **contemporarily** *adv*  
**²contemporary** *n* sb or sth contemporary with another, *specif* one of about the same age as another  
**contempt** /kən'tem(p)t/ *n* 1a the act of despising; the state of mind of one who despises **b** lack of respect or reverence for sth **2** the state of being despised (< he is held in ~>) **3** obstruction of the administration of justice in court, esp wilful disobedience to or open disrespect of a court [ME, fr L *contemptus*, fr *contemptus*, pp of *contemnere*]  
**contemptible** /kən'tem(p)təbl/ *adj* worthy of contempt - **contemptibility** *n*, **contemptibly** *adv*  
**contemptuous** /kən'tem(p)choo-əs, -tyoo-əs/ *adj* manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt [L *contemptus* contempt] - **contemptuously** *adv*, **contemptuousness** *n*  
**contend** /kən'tend/ *vi* 1 to strive or vie in contest or rivalry or against difficulties **2** to strive in debate; argue ~ *vt* to maintain, assert (< ~ ed that he was right>) [MF or L; MF *contendere*, fr L *contendere*, fr *com-* + *tendere* to stretch - more at **THIN**] - **contender** *n*  
**'content** /kən'tent/ *adj* happy, satisfied (< ~ to wait quietly>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *contentus*, fr pp of *continere* to hold in, contain] - **contentment** *n*  
**²content** /kən'tent/ *vt* 1 to appease the desires of; satisfy **2** to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions - usu + *with*  
**³content** /kən'tent/ *n* freedom from care or discomfort; satisfaction  
**'content** /'kɒntent/ *n* 1a that which is contained - usu pl with sing. meaning (< the jar's ~s>) (< the drawer's ~s>) **b pl** the topics or matter treated in a written work (< table of ~s>) **2a** the substance, gist (< ~ as opposed to form>) **b** the events, physical detail, and information in a work of art - compare **FORM** **9b** **3** the matter dealt with in a field of study **4** the amount of specified material contained; proportion (< the lead ~ of paint>) [ME, fr L *contentus*, pp of *continere* to contain]  
**contented** /kən'tentɪd/ *adj* marked by satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation; happy - **contentedly** *adv*, **contentedness** *n*  
**contention** /kən'tenʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an act or instance of) contending **2** a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument [ME *contencioun*, fr MF, fr L *contention-*, *contentio*, fr *contentus*, pp of *contendere* to contend]  
**contentious** /kən'tenʃəs/ *adj* 1 exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes **2** likely to cause contention (< a ~ argument>) - **contentiously** *adv*, **contentiousness** *n*  
**'contest** /kən'test/ *vt* to make the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation ~ *vi* to strive, vie [MF *contester*, fr L *contestari* (litem) to bring an action at law, fr *contestari* to call to witness, fr *com-* + *testis* witness - more at **TESTAMENT**] - **contestable** *adj*, **contester** *n*  
**²contest** /'kɒntest/ *n* 1 a struggle for superiority or victory **2** a competi-

- tive event; **COMPETITION** 2; *esp* one adjudicated by a panel of specially chosen judges
- contestant** /kən'test(ə)nt/ *n* 1 one who participates in a contest 2 one who contests an award or decision
- context** /'kɒntekst/ *n* 1 the parts surrounding a written or spoken word or passage that can throw light on its meaning 2 the interrelated conditions in which sthg exists or occurs [ME, weaving together of words, fr L *contextus* connection of words, coherence, fr *contextus*, pp of *contexere* to weave together, fr *com-* + *texere* to weave – more at **TECHNICAL**] – **contextual** /kən'tekstʃoo-əl, -tyoo-əl/ *adj*, **contextually** *adv*
- contiguous** /kən'tɪgyoo-əs/ *adj* 1 in actual contact, touching along a boundary or at a point 2 next or near in time or sequence [L *contiguus*, fr *contingere* to have contact with – more at **CONTINGENT**] – **contiguously** *adv*, **contiguouslyness** *n*, **contiguity** /kən'tɪgyoo-əti/ *n*
- continent** /kəntɪnəns/ *n* 1 self-restraint from yielding to impulse or desire 2 ability to refrain from a bodily activity; the state of being continent [ME, fr MF, fr L *continentia*, fr *continent-*, *continens*] **'continent** /kəntɪnənt/ *adj* 1 exercising continence 2 not suffering from incontinence of the urine or faeces [ME, fr MF, fr L *continent-*, *continens*, fr prp of *continere* to hold in – more at **CONTAIN**] – **continently** *adv*
- 'continent** *n* 1 any of the (7) great divisions of land on the globe 2 *cap* the continent of Europe as distinguished from the British Isles [L *continent-*, *continens* continuous mass of land, mainland, fr *continent-*, *continens*, prp of *continere*]
- 'continental** /kəntɪ'nentl/ *adj* (characteristic) of a continent, *esp* Europe – **continentally** *adv*
- 'continental** *n* an inhabitant of a continent, *esp* Europe
- continental breakfast** *n* a light breakfast, typically of bread rolls with preserves and coffee
- continental 'drift** *n* the (supposed) drifting apart of the continents from being a solid land mass  **GEOGRAPHY**
- continental 'quilt** *n* a duvet
- continental 'shelf** *n* the gently sloping part of the ocean floor that borders a continent and ends in a steeper slope to the ocean depths
- Continental System** *n* the attempt to blockade Britain begun by Napoleon in 1806
- contingency** /kən'tɪnj(ə)ns/ *n* 1 an event that may occur, *esp* an undesirable one 2 an event that is liable to accompany another event [MF or ML, MF *contingence*, fr ML *contingentia*, fr LL, possibility, fr L *contingent-*, *contingens*, prp of *contingere* to touch on all sides, to happen]
- contingency table** *n* a table that shows the correlation between 2 variables
- 'contingent** /kən'tɪnj(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 happening by chance or unforeseen causes 2 dependent on or conditioned by sthg else 3 not logically necessary; *esp* empirical [ME, fr MF, fr L *contingent-*, *contingens*, prp of *contingere* to have contact with, befall, fr *com-* + *tangere* to touch – more at **TANGENT**] – **contingently** *adv*
- 'contingent** *n* a quota or share, *esp* of people supplied from or representative of an area, group, or military force
- continual** /kən'tɪnyoo-əl, -yool/ *adj* 1 continuing indefinitely without interruption (< ~ *fear*) 2 recurring in steady rapid succession [ME, fr MF, fr L *continuus* continuous] – **continually** *adv*
- continuance** /kən'tɪnyoo-əns/ *n* 1 the act or process of continuing in a state, condition, or course of action 2 **NAM** adjournment of court proceedings
- continuant** /kən'tɪnyoo-ənt/ *n* a consonant (e.g. /l/ or /f/) that may be prolonged – compare **STOP** 7 [CONTINUE + '-ANT'] – **continuant** *adj*
- continuation** /kən'tɪnyoo-əyʃn/ *n* 1 the act or process of continuing in a state or activity 2 resumption after an interruption 3 sthg that continues, increases, or adds
- continue** /kən'tɪnyoo-ə/ *vi* 1 to maintain a condition, course, or action without interruption 2 to remain in existence; endure 3 to remain in a place or condition, stay 4 to resume an activity after interruption ~ **vt** 1a to maintain (a condition, course, or action) without interruption; **CARRY ON** (< ~ *s walking*) b to prolong; *specif* to resume after interruption 2 to cause to continue 3 to say further (< 'We must fight for freedom', ~ *d the speaker*) 4 **NAM** to postpone (a legal proceeding) [ME *continuen*, fr MF *continuer*, fr L *continuare*, fr *continuu*] – **continuer** *n*
- continuity** /kən'tɪnyoo-əti/ *n* 1a uninterrupted connection, succession, or union b persistence without essential change c uninterrupted duration in time 2 sthg that has, displays, or provides continuity: e.g. a a script or scenario in the performing arts; *esp* one giving the details of the sequence of individual shots b speech or music used to link parts of an entertainment, *esp* a radio or television programme 3 an example of the property characteristic of a continuous mathematical function
- cont'nuity girl** *n* sby responsible for ensuring consistency between individual shots after a break in filming
- continuo** /kən'tɪnyoo-oh/ *n, pl* **continuos** a bass part for a keyboard or stringed instrument written as a succession of bass notes with figures that indicate the required chords, *also* (the instruments playing) a continuo accompaniment [It, fr *continuo* continuous, fr L *continuu*]
- continuous** /kən'tɪnyoo-əs/ *adj* 1 marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence 2 of a function having an arbitrarily small numerical difference between the value at any one point and the value at any other point sufficiently near the first point [L *continuus*, fr *continere* to hold together – more at **CONTAIN**] – **continuously** *adv*, **continuousness** *n*
- continuous assessment** *n* appraisal of the value of a student's work throughout a course as a means of awarding his/her final mark or degree
- continuum** /kən'tɪnyoo-əm/ *n, pl* **continua** /-nyoo-ə/, **continuu** 1 sthg (e.g. duration or extension) absolutely continuous and homogeneous that can be described only by reference to sthg else (e.g. numbers) 2a sthg in which a fundamental common character is discernible amid a series of imperceptible or indefinite variations (< the ~ of experience) b an uninterrupted ordered sequence [L, neut of *continuu*]
- contort** /kən'tawt/ *vb* to twist in a violent manner; deform (< his features ~ *ed with fury*) (< ~ *spelling and grammar*) [L *contortus*, pp of *contorquere*, fr *com-* + *torquere* to twist – more at **TORTURE**] – **contortive** *adj*, **contortion** /kən'tawsh(ə)n/ *n*
- contortionist** /kən'tawsh(ə)nɪst/ *n* 1 an acrobat who specializes in unnatural body postures 2 one who extricates him-/herself from a dilemma by complicated but doubtful arguments – **contortionistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- 'contour** /kən'too-ə/ *n* 1 (a line representing) an outline, *esp* of a curving or irregular figure 2 **contour**, **contour line** a line (e.g. on a map) connecting points of equal elevation or height [F, fr It *contorno*, fr *contornare* to round off, sketch in outline, fr L *com-* + *tornare* to turn in a lathe, fr *tornus* lathe]
- 'contour** *vt* 1a to shape the contour of b to shape so as to fit contours 2 to construct (e.g. a road) in conformity to a contour
- contra-** /kɒntrə-/ *prefix* 1 against, contrary; contrasting (< *contradistinction*) (< *conception*) 2 pitched below normal (< *contrabass*) [ME, fr L, fr *contra* against, opposite – more at **COUNTER**]
- contraband** /kɒntrə'bænd/ *n* goods or merchandise whose import, export, or possession is forbidden, *also* smuggled goods [It *contrabbando*, fr ML *contrabannum*, fr *contra-* + *bannus*, *bannum* decree, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *ban* command] – **contraband** *adj*
- contrabass** /-bə's-/ *n* **DOUBLE BASS**
- contrabassoon** /-bə'sooən/ *n* a double-reed woodwind instrument having a range an octave lower than that of the bassoon
- conception** /kɒntrə'sepʃ(ə)n/ *n* prevention of conception or impregnation [*contra-* + *conception*] – **conceptive** /-septɪv/ *adj*
- contraceptive** /kɒntrə'septɪv/ *n* a method or device used in preventing conception, *esp* a condom
- 'contract** /'kɒntrakt/ *n* 1a (a document containing) a legally binding agreement between 2 or more people or parties b a betrothal 2 an undertaking to win a specified number of tricks in bridge [ME, fr L *contractus*, fr *contractus*, pp of *contrahere* to draw together, make a contract, reduce in size, fr *com-* + *trahere* to draw – more at **DRAW**]
- 'contract** /kən'trakt/ *vt* *sense 1* and *vi* *sense 1 usu* 'kɒntrakt/ *vt* 1 to undertake by contract 2a to catch (an illness) b to incur as an obligation (< ~ *a debt*) 3 to knit, wrinkle (< a frown ~ *d his brow*) 4 to reduce to a smaller size (as if) by squeezing or forcing together 5 to shorten (e.g. a word) ~ *vi* 1 to make a contract 2 to draw together so as to become smaller or shorter (< metal ~ *s on cooling*) (< muscles ~ *involuntarily in tetanus*) [partly fr MF *contracter* to agree upon, fr L *contractus*, *n*; partly fr L *contractus*, pp of *contrahere* to draw together] – **contractible** /kən'traktɪbl/ *adj*, **contractibility** /-tɪbɪləti/ *n*
- contract 'bridge** /'kɒntrakt/ *n* a form of bridge in which overtricks do not count towards game bonuses – compare **AUCTION BRIDGE**
- contractile** /kən'traktɪl/ *adj* having the power or property of contracting (< a ~ *protein*) – **contractility** /kən'traktɪləti/ *n*
- contractile 'vacuole** *n* a vacuole in a protozoan organism that contracts to discharge fluid from the body
- contract** *in vb* to agree to inclusion (of) in a particular scheme
- contraction** /kən'trakʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the shortening and thickening of a

- muscle (fibre) 2 (a form produced by) a shortening of a word, syllable, or word group [<sup>C</sup>CONTRACT + -ION] – **contractual** *adj*, **contractive** *adj*
- contractor** /kən'trəktə, 'kontrəktə/ *n* one who contracts to perform work, esp building work, or to provide supplies, usu on a large scale
- contract out** *vb* to agree to exclusion (of) from a particular scheme
- contractual** /kən'trəktjuəl, -choo-əl/ *adj* of or constituting a contract [L *contractus* contract] – **contractually** *adv*
- contracture** /kən'trəktʃə/ *n* a permanent shortening of muscle, tendon, scar tissue, etc producing deformity [<sup>C</sup>CONTRACT + -URE]
- contradict** /kən'trə'dikt/ *vt* 1 to state the contrary of (a statement or speaker) 2 to deny the truthfulness of (a statement or speaker) [L *contradictus*, pp of *contradicere*, fr *contra-* + *dicere* to say, speak – more at *DICTION*] – **contradictable** *adj*, **contradictor** *n*
- contradiction** /kən'trə'dikʃən/ *n* 1 a logical inconsistency (< *a ~ in terms*) 2 an opposition or conflict inherent in a system or situation [CONTRADICT + -ION]
- 'contradictory** /kən'trə'dikt(ə)ri/ *n* a proposition so related to another that if one is true the other must be false and if one is false the other must be true [CONTRADICT + -ORY]
- 'contradictory** *adj* 1 given to or marked by contradiction 2 serving to contradict – **contradictorily** *adv*, **contradictoriness** *n*
- contradistinction** /-di'stingkʃən/ *n* distinction by contrast – **contradistinctive** *adj*, **contradistinctively** *adv*
- contradistinction** /-di'sting-gwɪʃ-/ *vt* to distinguish by contrast of qualities
- contrail** /kən'treɪl/ *n* a streak of condensed water vapour created in the air by the passage of an aircraft or rocket at high altitudes [condensation *trail*]
- contraindicate** /-ɪndɪkəɪt/ *vt* to make (a treatment or procedure) inadvisable (< *a drug that is ~ in pregnancy*) – **contraindication** /-ɪndɪkəɪʃən/ *n*, **contraindicative** /-ɪndɪkəɪv/ *adj*
- contralateral** /-lət(ə)l(ə)l/ *adj* situated or appearing on or affecting the opposite side of the body – compare *IPSILATERAL* [ISV]
- contralto** /kən'traltəʊ, kən'traltəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **contraltos** 1 (a person with) the lowest female singing voice 2 the part sung by a contralto [It, fr *contra-* + *alto*]
- contraption** /kən'trəpʃən/ *n* a newfangled or complicated device, a gadget [perh blend of *contrivance*, *trap*, and *invention*]
- contrapuntal** /kən'trə'pʌntl/ *adj* of counterpoint [It *contrappunto* counterpoint, fr ML *contrapunctus*] – **contrapuntally** *adv*
- contrariety** /kən'trə'ri:əti/ *n* opposition, disagreement – fml [ME *contrariete*, fr MF *contrarieté*, fr LL *contrarietas*, *contrarietas*, fr L *contrarius* contrary]
- contrariwise** /kən'trə'ri:weɪz, kən'treɪ-/ *adv* conversely, VICE VERSA [<sup>C</sup>CONTRARY + -WISE]
- 'contrary** /kən'trəri/ *n* 1 a fact or condition incompatible with another 2 either of a pair of opposites 3 either of 2 terms (e.g. true and false) that cannot both simultaneously be said to be true of the same subject – on the contrary just the opposite; no – to the contrary 1 to the opposite effect (< *if I hear nothing to the contrary I'll accept that explanation*) 2 notwithstanding
- 'contrary** /kən'trəri; *sense* 4 often kən'treəri/ *adj* 1 completely different or opposed 2 opposite in position, direction, or nature 3 of wind or weather unfavourable 4 obstinately self-willed; inclined to oppose the wishes of others [ME *contrarie*, fr MF *contraire*, fr L *contrarius*, fr *contra* opposite] – **contrarily** /kən'trə'ri:li/ *adv*, **contrariness** /kən'trəri:nɪs, *sense* 4 often kən'treəri:nɪs/ *n*
- 'contrary to** /kən'trəri/ *prep* in opposition to
- 'contrast** /kən'trəst/ *n* 1a juxtaposition of dissimilar elements (e.g. colour, tone, or emotion) in a work of art b degree of difference between the lightest and darkest parts of a painting, photograph, television picture, etc 2 comparison of similar objects to set off their dissimilar qualities 3 a person or thing against which another may be contrasted – **contrastive** /kən'trəstɪv/ *adj*, **contrastively** *adv*
- 'contrast** /kən'trəst/ *vt* to exhibit contrast ~ *vt* 1 to put in contrast 2 to compare in respect to differences [F *contraster*, fr MF, to oppose, resist, alter. of *contraster*, fr (assumed) VL *contrastare*, fr L *contra-* + *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*] – **contrastable** *adj*
- contravene** /kən'trə'veɪn/ *vt* to go or act contrary to (< *a law*) [MF or LL; MF *contravenir*, fr LL *contravenire*, fr L *contra-* + *venire* to come – more at *COME*] – **contravener** *n*
- contravention** /kən'trə'venʃən/ *n* a violation or infringement [MF, fr LL *contraventus*, pp of *contravenire*]
- contretemps** /kən'trə'tɒŋ, 'kəwtrə-, -tɒŋ/ (Fr *kōtɒ̃p*) *n*, *pl*
- contretemps** /-(z) (Fr ~)/ a minor setback, disagreement, or confrontation [F, fr *contre-* counter- + *temps* time, fr L *tempus* – more at *TEMPORAL*]
- contribute** /kən'trɪbyu:t, 'kontri-/ *vt* 1 to give in common with others 2 to supply (e.g. an article) for a publication ~ *vt* 1 to help bring about an end or result 2 to supply articles to a publication [L *contributus*, pp of *contribuere*, fr *com-* + *tribuere* to grant – more at *TRIBUTE*] – **contributive** /kən'trɪbyu:tɪv/ *adj*, **contributively** *adv*, **contributor** /kən'trɪbyu:tə/ *n*
- contribution** /kən'trɪbyu:tʃən/ *n* the act of contributing; also sth contributed
- 'contributory** /kən'trɪbyu:t(ə)ri/ *adj* 1 contributing to a common fund or enterprise 2 of or forming a contribution 3 financed by contributions; *specif.* of an insurance or pension plan contributed to by both employers and employees
- 'contributory** *n* sby liable in British law to contribute towards meeting the debts of a bankrupt company
- contrite** /kən'trɪt/ *adj* 1 grieving and penitent for sin or shortcoming 2 showing contrition [ME *contrit*, fr MF, fr ML *contritus*, fr L, bruised, fr pp of *conterere* to grind, bruise, fr *com-* + *terere* to rub – more at *THROW*] – **contritely** *adv*, **contriteness** *n*
- contrition** /kən'trɪʃən/ *n* sorrow for one's sins, arising esp from the love of God rather than fear of punishment – compare *ATTRITION* [CONTRITE + -ION]
- contrivance** /kən'trɪ'veɪns/ *n* 1 contriving or being contrived 2 sth contrived; esp a mechanical device
- contrive** /kən'trɪv/ *vt* 1a to devise, plan b to create in an inventive or resourceful manner 2 to bring about, manage [ME *controven*, *controven*, fr MF *controver*, fr LL *contropare* to compare] – **contriver** *n*
- contrived** *adj* unnatural and forced
- 'control** /kən'trəʊl/ *vt* -ll- 1 to check, test, or verify 2a to exercise restraining or directing influence over b to have power over, rule [ME *controllen*, fr MF *contreroller*, fr *contrerolle* copy of an account, audit, fr *contre-* counter- + *rolle* roll, account] – **controllable** *adj*, **controllability** /-lə'bɪləti/ *n*
- 'control** *n* 1 power to control, direct, or command 2a (an organism, culture, etc used in) an experiment in which the procedure or agent under test in a parallel experiment is omitted and which is used as a standard of comparison in judging experimental effects b a mechanism used to regulate or guide the operation of a machine, apparatus, or system – often pl c an organization that directs a space flight (< *mission ~*) d a personality or spirit believed to be responsible for the actions of a spiritualistic medium at a séance
- controller** /kən'trəʊlə/ *n* 1a a public-finance official b a chief financial officer, esp of a business enterprise 2 one who controls or has power to control [ME *controller*, fr MF *contrerolleur*, fr *contrerolle*] – **controllership** *n*
- controlling interest** /kən'trəʊlɪŋ/ *n* sufficient share ownership in a company to have control over policy
- control panel** *n* a panel on which are mounted devices (e.g. dials and switches) used in the remote control and monitoring of electrified or mechanical apparatus  FLIGHT
- control surface** *n* a movable aerofoil or fin of an aircraft or ship that allows the position of the vehicle relative to the ground or water to be changed
- control unit** *n* (a prison installation providing) a special punitive regime of total isolation for especially violent prisoners
- controversial** /kən'trə'vʊʃəl/ *adj* of, given to, or arousing controversy – **controversialism** *n*, **controversialist** *n*, **controversially** *adv*
- controversy** /kən'trə'vʊ:si; also kən'trə'vəsi/ *n* (a) debate or dispute, esp in public or in the media [ME *controverſie*, fr L *controversia*, fr *controversus* disputable, lit., turned opposite, fr *contro-* (akin to *contra-*) + *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn]
- controvert** /kən'trə'vʊ:t, -/-/ *vt* to deny or dispute – fml [back-formation fr *controversy*] – **controverter** /kən'trə'vʊ:tə/ *n*, **controvertible** /-vʊ:təbl/ *adj*
- contumacious** /kən'tyoo'məʃəs/ *adj* stubbornly disobedient; rebellious – fml [ME *contumacie* insubordinacy, fr L *contumacia*, fr *contumac-*, *contumax* insubordinate, fr *com-* + *tumere* to swell, be proud – more at *THUMB*] – **contumaciously** *adv*, **contumacy** /kən'tyooməsi/ *n*
- contumely** /kən'tyoo'mɪli, 'kəntyoomɪli/ *n* abusive and contemptuous language or treatment – fml [ME *contumelie*, fr MF, fr L *contumelia*; perh akin to L *contumacia*] – **contumellous** /kən'tyoo'meliəs/ *adj*, **contumellously** *adv*
- contuse** /kən'tyoo:h/ *vt* to bruise (tissue) [MF *contuser*, fr L *contusus*,

pp of *contundere* to crush, bruise, fr *com-* + *tundere* to beat - more at 'STINT] - **contusion** /kɒn'tʃʊən/ *n*

**conundrum** /kə'nʌndrəm/ *n* 1 a riddle; esp one whose answer is or involves a pun 2 an intricate and difficult problem [origin unknown]

**conurbation** /kənu'həʃə(ə)n/ *n* a grouping of several previously separate towns to form 1 large community [com- + *L* urb-, urbs city]

**convalesce** /kən'veɪs/ *vi* to recover gradually after sickness or weakness [L *convalescere*, fr *com-* + *valere* to grow strong, fr *valere* to be strong, be well - more at WIELD] - **convalescence** *n*, **convalescent** *adj* or *n*

**convection** /kən'vekʃ(ə)n/ *n* (the transfer of heat by) the circulatory motion that occurs in a gas or liquid at a nonuniform temperature owing to the variation of density with temperature [LL *convection-*, *convectio*, fr *L* *convectus*, pp of *convectere* to bring together, fr *com-* + *vehere* to carry - more at WAY] - **convect** *vb*, **convictional** *adj*, **convective** *adj*

**convector** /kən'vektɔ:/ *n* a heating unit from which heated air circulates by convection [CONVECT + -OR]

**convene** /kən'veen/ *vi* to come together in a body ~ *vt* 1 to summon before a tribunal 2 to cause to assemble [ME *convenen*, fr MF *convenir* to come together]

**convenience** /kən'veenyəns, -ni-ən/ *n* 1 fitness or suitability 2 an appliance, device, or service conducive to comfort 3 a suitable time, an opportunity (<at your earliest ~>) 4 personal comfort or advantage 5 *Br* PUBLIC CONVENIENCE [ME, fr MF, fr *L* *convenientia*, fr *convenient-*, *conveniens*]

**convenience food** *n* commercially prepared food (e.g. cake mixes or tinned meat) requiring little or no further preparation before eating

**convenient** /kən'veenyənt, -ni-ənt/ *adj* 1 suited to personal comfort or to easy use 2 suited to a particular situation 3 near at hand, easily accessible [ME, fr *L* *convenient-*, *conveniens*, fr *prp* of *convenire* to come together, be suitable] - **conveniently** *adv*

**convenor**, **convenor** /kən'veena/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 1 a member of a group or esp committee responsible for calling meetings, broadly a chairperson 2 an elected union official responsible for coordinating the work of shop stewards in an establishment [CONVENE + -OR]

**convent** /kɒn'vent/ *n*, chiefly *n* a local community or house of a religious order or congregation, esp an establishment of nuns [ME *covent*, fr OF, fr *ML* *conventus*, fr *L*, assembly, fr *conventus*, pp of *convenire*]

**conventicle** /kən'ventɪkl/ *n* 1 an (irregular or unlawful) assembly or meeting 2 a (clandestine) assembly for religious worship 3 a meeting-house [ME, fr *L* *conventiculum*, dim. of *conventus* assembly] - **conventicler** *n*

**convention** /kən'venʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an agreement or contract, esp between states or parties b an agreement between enemies (e.g. concerning the exchange of prisoners) 2 a generally agreed principle or practice 3 an assembly 4a (an) accepted social custom or practice b an established artistic technique or practice (<the ~s of the stream-of-consciousness novel>) c an agreed system of bidding or playing that conveys information between partners in bridge or another card game [ME, fr MF or *L*, MF, fr *L* *convention-*, *conventio*, fr *conventus*, pp of *convenire* to come together, be suitable, fr *com-* + *venire* to come - more at COME]

- **conventional** /kən'venʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1a conforming to or sanctioned by convention b lacking originality or individuality 2 not using atom or hydrogen bombs - **conventionalism** *n*, **conventionalist** *n*, **conventionalize** *vt*, **conventionally** *adv*, **conventionality** /-ləti/ *n*

**conventual** /kən'ventiyoʊ(ə)l, -choʊ(ə)l/ *adj* of or befitting a convent or monastic life [ME, fr MF or *ML*; MF, fr *ML* *conventualis*, fr *conventus* convent] - **conventually** *adv*

**converge** /kən'veɪdʒ/ *vi* 1 to move together towards a common point; meet 2 to come together in a common interest or focus 3 of (<the value of a term in>) a mathematical series to approach a limit as the number of terms increases without limit ~ *vt* to cause to converge [ML *convergere*, fr *L* *com-* + *vergere* to bend, incline - more at WRENCH]

**convergence** /kən'veɪdʒ(ə)ns/, **convergence** /-sɪ/ *n* 1 a converging, esp towards union or uniformity; esp coordinated movement of the eyes resulting in reception of an image on corresponding retinal areas 2 independent development in unrelated organisms of similar characters, often associated with similar environments or behaviour

**convergent** /kən'veɪdʒ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 tending to move towards 1 point or to approach each other 2 exhibiting convergence 3 mathematically converging to a limit (<a ~ series>)

**conversant** /kən'veʊs(ə)nt/ *adj* having knowledge or experience; familiar with [ME *conversant*, fr MF *conversant*, fr *L* *conversant-*, *conversans*, *prp* of *conversari* to associate with] - **conversantly** *adv*

**conversation** /kən've'səʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an instance of) informal verbal

exchange of feelings, opinions, or ideas 2 an exchange similar to conversation, esp real-time interaction with a computer, esp through a keyboard [ME *conversacioun*, fr MF *conversation*, fr *L* *conversation-*, *conversatio*, fr *conversatus*, pp of *conversari* to live, keep company with] - **conversational** *adj*, **conversationally** *adv*

**conversationalist** /kən've'səʃ(ə)nl-ɪst/ *n* one who converses a great deal or who excels in conversation

**conversazione** /kən'vesə'tʃ(ə)ni/ *n*, pl **conversazioni** /-neɪz/, **conversazioni** /-ni/ a meeting for informal discussion of intellectual or cultural matters [It, lit, conversation, fr *L* *conversation-*, *conversatio*]

**converse** /kən'veʊs/ *vi* 1 to exchange thoughts and opinions in speech; talk 2 to carry on an exchange similar to a conversation; esp to interact with a computer [ME *conversen*, fr MF *converser*, fr *L* *conversari* to live, keep company with, fr *conversus*, pp of *convertere* to turn round]

**converse** /kən'veʊs/ *n* conversation - *fml*

**converse** /kən'veʊs/ *adj* reversed in order, relation, or action; opposite [L *conversus*, pp of *convertere*] - **conversely** *adv*

**converse** /kən'veʊs/ *n* sth converse to another; esp a proposition in logic in which the subject and predicate terms have been interchanged (<'no P is S' is the ~ of 'no S is P'>)

**conversion** /kən'veʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 converting or being converted 2 (an experience associated with) a definite and decisive adoption of a religious faith 3 sth converted from one use to another 4 the unlawful exercising of rights to personal property belonging to another 5 the alteration of a building to a different purpose, also a building so altered 6 (the score resulting from) an opportunity to kick a goal awarded to the scoring team after a try in rugby 7 **conversion**, **conversion hysteria** bodily symptoms (e.g. paralysis) appearing as a result of mental conflict without a physical cause [ME, fr MF, fr *L* *conversion-*, *conversio*, fr *conversus*, pp of *convertere*] - **conversional** *adj*

**convert** /kən'veʊt/ *vt* 1a to win over from one persuasion or party to another b to bring about a religious conversion in 2a to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of, esp in manufacturing b to change from one form or function to another, esp to make (structural) alterations to (a building or part of a building) c to exchange for an equivalent 3 to complete (a try) in rugby by successfully kicking a conversion ~ *vi* to undergo conversion [ME *converten*, fr OF *convertir*, fr *L* *convertere*, to turn round, transform, convert, fr *com-* + *vertere* to turn] - **converter** *n*

**convert** /kən'veʊt/ *n* a person who has experienced an esp religious conversion

**convertible** /kən'veʊtəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being converted 2 of a motor vehicle having a top that may be lowered or removed (<a ~ sports car>) 3 capable of being exchanged for a specified equivalent (e.g. another currency) - **convertibility** *n*, **convertibly** *adv*

**convertible** *n* a convertible motor car

**convex** /kən'veks/; not attrib **convex** /kən'veks/ *adj* curved or rounded outwards like the outside of a bowl [MF or *L*, MF *convexa*, fr *L* *convexus* vaulted, concave, convex, fr *com-* + *-vexus*; akin to OE *wōh* crooked, bent - more at PREVARICATE] - **convexly** *adv*

**convexity** /kən'veksɪti/ *n* a convex line, surface, or part [CONVEX + -ITY]

**convexo-concave** /kən'veksoʊ kən'kayv/ *adj* concavo-convex

**convey** /kən'veɪ/ *vt* 1 to take or carry from one place to another 2 to impart or communicate (e.g. feelings or ideas) 3 to transmit, transfer; specif to transfer (property or the rights to property) to another [ME *conveyen*, fr OF *conveyer* to accompany, escort, fr (assumed) VL *conviare*, fr *L* *com-* + *via* way - more at VIA]

**conveyance** /kən'veɪəns/ *n* 1 a document by which rights to property are transferred 2 a means of transport; a vehicle [CONVEY + -ANCE]

**conveyancing** /kən'veɪənsɪŋ/ *n* the act or business of transferring rights to property - **conveyancer** *n*

**conveyor**, **conveyor** /kən'veɪə/ *n* a mechanical apparatus for carrying articles or bulk material (e.g. by an endless moving belt) [CONVEY + -ER]

**convict** /kən'vɪkt/ *vt* 1 to find or prove to be guilty 2 to convince of error or sinfulness [ME *convicten*, fr *L* *convictus*, pp of *convincere* to refute, convict]

**convict** /kən'vɪkt/ *n* a person serving a (long-term) prison sentence

**conviction** /kən'vɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 convicting or being convicted, esp in judicial proceedings 2a a strong persuasion or belief b the state of being convinced

**convince** /kən'vɪns/ *vt* to cause to believe; persuade [L *convincere* to refute, convict, prove, fr *com-* + *vincere* to conquer - more at VICTOR]



**convincing** /kən'vɪnsɪŋ/ *adj* having the power to overcome doubt or disbelief; plausible – **convincingly** *adv*, **convincingness** *n*

**convivial** /kən'vɪvɪəl/ *adj* relating to or fond of eating, drinking, and good company [LL *convivialis*, fr L *convivium* banquet, fr *com-* + *vivere* to live – more at QUICK] – **convivially** *adv*, **conviviality** /-əleɪti/ *n*

**convocation** /kən'və'keɪʃ(ə)n/, -voh-/ *n* 1 an assembly of people called together: e.g. a either of the 2 provincial assemblies of bishops and representative clergy of the Church of England (<the ~ of York>) b a ceremonial assembly of graduates of a college or university 2 the act of calling together [ME, fr MF, fr L *convocatio*-, *convocatio*, fr *convocatus*, pp of *convocare*] – **convocational** *adj*

**convoke** /kən'vohk/ *vt* to call together to a formal meeting [MF *convocuer*, fr L *convocare*, fr *com-* + *vocare* to call – more at VOICE]

**convolute** /kən'vuloʊt/, -'v-/ *vb* to twist or coil [L *convolutus*, pp of *convolvere*, fr *com-* + *volvere* to roll – more at VOUBLE]

**convoluted** *adj* 1 having convolutions 2 involved, intricate (<a ~ argument>)

**convolution** /kən'və'looʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 any of the irregular ridges on the surface of the brain, esp of the cerebrum of higher mammals 2 sth intricate or complicated [CONVOLUTE + -ION] – **convolutional** *adj*

**convolvulus** /kən'vɒlvjuːləs/ *n*, pl **convolvulus**, **convolvuli** /-li-/ any of a genus of usu twining plants (e.g. bindweed) [NL, fr L *convolvere* to roll together]

**convoy** /kən'voy/ *vt* to accompany or escort, esp for protection [ME *convoyen*, fr MF *conveier*, *convoyer* – more at CONVEY]

**convoy** *n* 1 conveying or being conveyed 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of ships, military vehicles, etc moving together, esp with a protective escort; also such an escort

**convulsant** /kən'vʊls(ə)nt/ *adj* causing convulsions – **convulsant** *n*

**convulse** /kən'vʊls/ *vt* 1 to shake or agitate violently, esp (as if) with irregular spasms 2 to cause to laugh helplessly [L *convulsus*, pp of *convellere* to pluck up, convulse, fr *com-* + *vellere* to pluck – more at VULNERABLE]

**convulsion** /kən'vʊlʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an abnormal violent and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles 2a a violent disturbance b an uncontrolled fit; a paroxysm – **convulsional** *adj*

**convulsive** /kən'vʊlsɪv/ *adj* constituting, producing, or affected with a convulsion – **convulsively** *adv*, **convulsiveness** *n*

**cony**, **coney** /kə'ni/ *n* 1 a rabbit 2 a pika 3 a hyrax [ME *conies*, pl., fr OF *conis*, pl of *conil*, fr L *cuniculus*]

**coo** /koʊh/ *vi* **cooed**, **coo'd** 1 to make (a sound similar to) the low soft cry characteristic of a dove or pigeon 2 to talk lovingly or appreciatively [imit] – **coo** *n*

**coo** *interj*, **Br** – used to express surprise, *imfl* [origin unknown]

**cooee** /koʊ'ee-/ *interj*, **Br** – used to make one's presence known or to attract sb's attention at a distance [origin unknown] – **cooee** *vi*

**cook** /kʊk/ *n* sby who prepares food for eating [ME, fr OE *cōc*; akin to OHG *koch*; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *coquus*, fr *coquere* to cook; akin to OE *āfigen* fried, Gk *peissein* to cook]

**cook** *vi* 1 to prepare food for eating, esp by subjection to heat 2 to undergo the process of being cooked (<the rice is ~ing now>) 3 to occur, happen – *imfl* (<what's ~ing?>) ~ *vt* 1 to prepare (e.g. food) for eating by a heating process 2 to subject to the action of heat or fire – **cook someone's goose** to ruin sby irretrievably – **cook the books** to falsify financial accounts in order to deceive

**cookbook** /-bʊk/ *n* COOKERY BOOK; broadly a book of detailed instructions (e.g. as used in statistics)

**cooker** /kʊkə/ *n* 1 an apparatus, appliance, etc for cooking, esp one typically consisting of an oven, hot plates or rings, and a grill fixed in position 2 a variety, esp of fruit, not usu eaten raw [COOK + -ER]

**cookery** /kʊk(ə)rɪ/ *n* the art or practice of cooking

**cookery book** *n* a book of recipes and instructions for preparing and cooking food

**cookhouse** /-həʊs/ *n* a kitchen set up outdoors, at a campsite, or on board ship

**cookie**, **cooky** /kʊki/ *n* 1a *Scot* a plain bun b *NAM* a sweet flat or slightly leavened biscuit 2 *chiefly NAM* a person, esp of a specified type – *imfl* (<a tough ~>) [D *koekje*, dim. of *koek* cake]

**cooking** /kʊkɪŋ/ *adj* suitable for or used in cooking (<~ apples>) (<~ utensils>)

**cookout** /-oʊt/ *n*, *chiefly NAM* (the meal eaten at) an outing at which food is cooked and served in the open

**cook up** *vt* to concoct, improvise – *imfl*

**cool** /kʊl/ *adj* 1 moderately cold; lacking in warmth 2a dispassionately calm and self-controlled b lacking friendliness or enthusiasm c of or

being an understated, restrained, and melodic style of jazz – compare HOT 2d 3 disrespectful, impudent (<a ~ reply>) 4 bringing or suggesting relief from heat (<a ~ dress>) 5 of a colour producing an impression of being cool; *specif* in the range blue to green 6 showing sophistication by a restrained or detached manner 7 – used as an intensive; *imfl* (<paid a ~ million for it>) 8 very good; excellent – slang [ME *col*, fr OE *col*; akin to OHG *kuoh* cool, OE *ceald* cold] – **coolish** *adj*, **coolly** also **cooly** *adv*, **coolness** *n*

**cool** *vi* 1 to become cool; lose heat or warmth 2 to lose enthusiasm or passion ~ *vt* 1 to make cool; impart a feeling of coolness to – often + *off* or *down* 2 to moderate the excitement, force, or activity of – **cool it** to become calm or quiet; relax – *imfl* (<just cool it, will you, so I can think>) – **cool one's heels** to wait or be kept waiting for a long time, esp (as if) from disdain or discourtesy

**cool** *n* 1 a cool atmosphere or place 2 poise, composure – *imfl* (<don't lose your ~>)

**cool** *adv* in a casual and nonchalant manner – *imfl* (<play it ~>)

**coolabah**, **coolibah** /kʊhla,bah/ *n*, *Austr* any of several eucalyptuses or gum trees [native name in Australia]

**coolant** /kʊələnt/ *n* a liquid or gas used in cooling, esp in an engine

ENERGY

**cool down** *vi* to allow a violent emotion (e.g. rage) to pass

**cooler** /kʊhla/ *n* 1a a container for cooling liquids b *NAM* a refrigerator 2 a prison cell – slang [COOL + -ER]

**coolheaded** /-hedɪd/ *adj* not easily excited

**coolie** /kʊhli/ *n* an unskilled labourer or porter, usu in or from the Far East, hired for low or subsistence wages [Hindi *kuli*]

**coolie hat** *n* a shallow conical hat, usu of straw, worn esp to protect the head from the heat of the sun

**cooling-off** *adj* designed to allow passions to cool or to permit negotiation between parties (<a ~ period>)

**coomb**, **coombe**, **combe** /kʊhm/ *n*, *Br* a valley or basin, esp on a hillside or running up from the coast [of Celt origin, akin to W cwm valley]

**coon** /kʊhn/ *n* 1 *chiefly NAM* a raccoon 2 a Negro – derog [short for *raccoon*]

**coon skin** /-skɪn/ *n* the skin or pelt of the raccoon

**coop** /kʊhp/ *n* 1 a cage or small enclosure or building, esp for housing poultry 2 a confined space [ME *cupe*; akin to OE *cype* basket, cot cot]

**coop** *vt* 1 to confine in a restricted space – usu + *up* 2 to place or keep in a coop – often + *up*

**coop** /-kʊh, -op/ *n* a cooperative

**cooper** /kʊhpa/ *n* a maker or repairer of barrels, casks, etc [ME *couper*, *cowper*, fr MD *cuper* (fr *cupe* cask) or MLG *kuper*, fr *kupe* cask, MD *cupe* & MLG *kupe*, fr L *cupa*; akin to Gk *kypellon* cup – more at HIVE] – **cooper** *vb*, **cooperate** *n*

**cooperate** /kʊh'opəreɪt/ *vi* to act or work with another or others for a common purpose [LL *cooperatus*, pp of *cooperari*, fr L *co-* + *operari* to work – more at OPERATE] – **cooperator** *n*

**cooperation** /kʊh'opə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a common effort 2 association for common benefit [COOPERATE + -ION]

**cooperative** /kʊh'op(ə)'reɪv/ *adj* 1 showing cooperation or a willingness to work with others 2 of, or organized as, a cooperative – **cooperatively** *adv*, **cooperativeness** *n*

**cooperative** *n* an enterprise (e.g. a shop) or organization (e.g. a society) owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services (<a housing ~>)

**co-opt** /kʊh'opt/ *vt* 1 to choose or elect as a member; *specif*, of a committee to draft onto itself as an additional member 2 to gain the participation or services of, assimilate [L *cooptare*, fr *co-* + *optare* to choose] – **co-optation** /kʊh'optəʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **co-optative** /'optətɪv/ *adj*, **co-optation** /'opsh(ə)n/ *n*, **co-optive** *adj*

**coordinate** /kʊh'awd(ə)neɪt, -di-/ *adj* 1 equal in rank, quality, or significance 2 relating to or marked by coordination [L *co-* + *ordinatus*, pp of *ordinare* to arrange, fr *ordin-*, *ordo* order] – **coordinately** *adv*, **coordinateness** *n*

**coordinate** *n* 1 any of a set of numbers used in specifying the location of a point on a line, on a surface, or in space 2 *pl* outer garments, usu separates, in harmonizing colours, materials, and pattern

**coordinate** /kʊh'awd(ə)neɪt, -di-/ *vt* to combine in a common action; harmonize ~ *vi* to be or become coordinate, esp so as to act together harmoniously [LL or L; LL *coordinatus*, pp of *coordinare*, fr L *co-* + *ordinare*] – **coordination** /-aɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **coordinative** *adj*, **coordinator** /-aɪtə/ *n*



**coordinate bond** /kə'awd(ə)nət, -di-/ *n* a covalent chemical bond for which the electrons are supplied by only 1 of the 2 atoms it joins

**coordinated** /kə'awd(ə)n,aytid, -di-/ *adj* able to move one's body efficiently and usu gracefully in sports, gymnastics, etc

**coordinate geometry** /kə'awd(ə)nət, -di-/ *n* ANALYTICAL GEOMETRY

**coot** /kooht/ *n* 1 any of various slaty-black water birds of the rail family that somewhat resemble ducks 2 a foolish person – *infml* [ME *coote*; akin to D *koet* coot]

**cootie** /'koohti/ *n*, *NAm* BODY LOUSE – *infml* [perh modif of Malay *kutu*]

**cop** /kɒp/ *vt* -pp- to get hold of, catch, *specif*, *Br* to arrest – *slang* [perh fr D *käpen* to steal, fr Fris *käpia* to take away, akin to OHG *kouf* trade – more at *CHEAP*] – **cop it** *Br* to be in serious trouble – *slang*

**cop n**, *Br* a capture, arrest – *esp* in a *fair cop*, *slang* – **not much cop** *chiefly Br* fairly bad; worthless – *slang*

**cop n** a policeman – *infml* [short for 'copper]

**copaiba** /kə'piəbə, -pay-, kə'pə'eəbə/ *n* (a S American tree yielding) an oleoresin used esp in varnishes [Sp & Pg, Sp, fr Pg *copaiba*, of Tupian origin; akin to Guaraní *cupaiba* *copaiba*]

**copal** /'kəhp(ə)/ *n* a resin from various tropical trees used esp in varnishes [Sp, fr Nahuatl *copalli* resin]

**coparcener** /kə'pəns(ə)nə/ *n* joint heir [co- + *parcener* (partner, joint heir), fr AF, fr OF *parçonier*, fr *parçon* portion, fr L *partitio*-, *partitio* partition]

**copartner** /kə'pəntnə/ *n* a partner – *copartnership n*

**cope** /kəhp/ *n* a long ecclesiastical vestment resembling a cape, worn on special occasions (e.g. processions) [ME, fr OE *-cāp*, fr LL *cappa* head covering]

**cope** *vt* to supply or cover with a cope or coping

**cope** *vt* to deal with a problem or task effectively – *usu* + *with* [ME *copen*, fr MF *couper* to strike, cut, fr OF, fr *coup* blow, fr LL *colpus*, alter of L *colaphus*, fr Gk *kolaphos* buffet]

**copeck** /'kəhp(ə)/ *n* a kopeck


**copepod** /'kəhpəpɒd/ *n* any of a large subclass of usu minute freshwater and marine crustaceans [deriv of Gk *kōpē* oar + *pod-*, *pous* foot] – *copepod adj*

**Copernican** /kə'pəhnikən, kə'puh-/ *adj* of Copernicus or the belief that the earth rotates daily on its axis and the planets revolve in orbits round the sun [Nicolaus Copernicus †1543 Pol astronomer] – *Copernican n*, *Copernicanism n*

**copestone** /-stəh/ *n* a copingstone

**copier** /'kəpiə/ *n* a machine for making copies, esp by photocopying or xeroxing ['COPY + -ER]

**co-pilot** /kəh-/ *n* a qualified aircraft pilot who assists or relieves the pilot but is not in command

**coping** /'kəhp(ə)/ *n* the final, usu sloping, course of brick, stone, etc on the top of a wall  ARCHITECTURE

**coping saw** *n* a narrow-bladed saw used in cutting curved outlines in thin wood [fr prp of *cope* (to cut, notch)]

**coping stone** /-stəh/ *n*, *chiefly Br* a stone forming (part of) a coping

**copious** /'kəpiəs, 'kəhpys/ *adj* 1 plentiful, lavish (a ~ harvest) 2 profuse in words or expression [ME, fr L *copiosus*, fr *copia* abundance, fr co- + *ops* wealth – more at *OPULENT*] – *copiously adv*, *copiousness n*


**copita** /kə'hipeetə/ *n* a tulip-shaped glass used esp for sherry [Sp, dim. of *copa* cup]

**coplanar** /kə'hpleinə/ *adj* lying or acting in the same plane – *coplanarity* /kə'hpleinəri/ *n*

**copolymerize**, -ize /kə'həpəliməneiz/ *vb* to polymerize (e.g. 2 different monomers) together – *copolymer n*, *copolymerization* /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**cop-out** *n* an act of coping out – *infml*

**cop out** *vt* to avoid an unwanted responsibility or commitment – *infml*

**copper** /'kɒpə/ *n* 1 a common reddish metallic element that is ductile and malleable and one of the best conductors of heat and electricity  PERIODIC TABLE 2 a coin or token made of copper or bronze and used of low value 3 any of various small butterflies with usu copper-coloured wings 4 *chiefly Br* a large metal vessel used, esp formerly, for boiling clothes [ME *coper*, fr OE; akin to OHG *kupfar* copper; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr LL *cuprum* copper, fr L (*aes*) *Cyprum*, lit., Cyprian metal] – *copperly adj*

**copper n** a policeman – *infml* ['cop]

**copperas** /'kɒpəz/ *n* a green hydrated (ferrous) iron sulphate [alter.

of ME *coperose*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *cuprrosa*, fr LL *cuprum* + L *rosa* rose]

**copper beech** *n* a variety of beech with copper-coloured leaves

**copper-bottomed** *adj*, *chiefly Br* completely safe, reliable (a ~ currency) (a ~ promise) – *infml*

**copper plate** /-'pleɪt/ *n* handwriting modelled on engravings in copper and marked by lines of sharply contrasting thickness, *broadly* formal and ornate handwriting

**copper pyrites** *n* chalcopyrite

**copper smith** /-'smith/ *n* sby who works in, or produces articles of, copper

**coppice** /'kɒpɪs/ *n* a thicket, grove, etc of small trees (originating mainly from shoots or root suckers rather than seed) [MF *copeiz*, fr *couper* to cut – more at 'COPE] – *coppice vb*

**copr-**, **copro-** *comb form* dung; faeces <coprolite> [NL, fr Gk *kopr-*, *kopro-*, fr *kopros*, akin to Skt *śakṛt* dung]

**copra** /'kɒprə/ *n* dried coconut meat yielding coconut oil [Pg, fr Malayalam *koppāra*]

**coprolite** /'kɒprəlɪt/ *n* fossil excrement – *coprolitic* /-'lɪtɪk/ *adj*

**coprothagous** /kə'prɒfəgəs/ *adj* feeding on dung (a ~ beetle) [Gk *koprophagos*, fr *kopr-* + *-phagos* -phagous] – *coprophagy* /-'jɪ/ *n*

**coprophilia** /kə'prɒfɪliə/ *n* a marked, esp sexual, interest in excrement [NL] – *coprophiliac* /-'lɪək/ *n*

**copse** /kɒps/ *n* a coppice [by alter]

**Copt** /kɒpt/ *n* a member of a people descended from the ancient Egyptians [Ar *qubl* Copts, fr Coptic *gyptios* Egyptian, fr Gk *gyptios*]

**Coptic** /'kɒptɪk/ *adj* of the Copts, their Afro-Asiatic liturgical language, or their church – *Coptic n*

**copula** /'kɒpyoolə/ *n* a verb (e.g. a form of *be* or *seem*) that links a subject and a complement [L, bond]

**copulate** /'kɒpyooləɪt/ *vi* to engage in sexual intercourse [L *copulatus*, pp of *copulare* to join, fr *copula*] – *copulation* /-'ləɪsh(ə)n/ *n*, *copulatory* /-'ləɪn/ *adj*

**copulative** /'kɒpyoolətɪv/ *adj* 1a joining together coordinate words or word groups and expressing addition of their meanings b functioning as a copula 2 of copulation – *copulatively adv*

**copulative n** a copulative word

**copy** /'kɒpi/ *n* 1 an imitation, transcript, or reproduction of an original work 2 any of a series of esp mechanical reproductions of an original impression 3 (newsworthy) material ready to be printed or photoengraved [ME *copie*, fr MF, fr ML *copia*, fr L, abundance – more at *COPIOUS*]

**copy vt** 1 to make a copy of 2 to model oneself on ~ *vi* 1 to make a copy 2 to undergo copying (<the document did not ~ well>)

**copy book** /-'bʊk/ *n* a book formerly used in teaching penmanship and containing models for imitation

**copy book** *adj*, *Br* completely correct, proper


**copy cat** /-'kæt/ *n* one who slavishly imitates the behaviour or practices of another – *used chiefly by children*

**copy edit** *vb* to prepare (manuscript copy) for printing, esp by correcting errors and specifying style – *copy editor n*

**copy hold** /-'həʊld/ *n* (land held by) a former type of land tenure in England established by a transcript of the manorial records – *copyholder n*

**copyist** /'kɒpiɪst/ *n* one who makes copies

**copy reader** /-'riːdə/ *n* COPY EDITOR, also one who edits newspaper copy and adds in headlines

**copy right** /-'net/ *n* the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, and sell a literary, musical, or artistic work  SYMBOL – *copyright adj*

**copyright vt** to secure a copyright on

**copy taster** /-'təstə/ *n*, *Br* a journalist who selects potential copy

**copy writer** /-'riːtə/ *n* a writer of advertising or publicity copy

**coquetry** /'kəʊktri, 'kəh-/ *n* flirtatious behaviour or attitude

**coquette** /kə'ket, kə-, kəh-/ *n* a woman who tries to gain the attention and admiration of men without sincere affection [F, fem of *coquet* wanton, fr dim. of *coq* cock] – *coquettish adj*



**coquina** /kə'keɪnə/ *n* a soft whitish limestone formed of broken shells and corals [Sp, prob irreg dim. of *concha* shell]

**cor** /kəw/ *interj*, *Br* – *used* to express surprise or incredulity; *slang* [euphemism for *God*]

**coracle** /'kɒrəkl/ *n* a small (nearly) circular boat of a traditional Welsh or Irish design made by covering a wicker frame with waterproof material [W *corwll*]

**coracoid** /'kɒrəkɔɪd/ *adj* of or being a (cartilage) bone that extends from

- the shoulder blade to or towards the breast bone of many vertebrates [NL *coracoides*, fr Gk *korakoides*, lit. 'like a raven, fr *korak-*, *korax* raven – more at **'RAVEN**] – **coracoid** *n*
- coral** /koral/ *n* 1 (the hard esp red deposit produced as a skeleton chiefly by) a colony of anthozoan polyps 2 a piece of (red) coral 3a a bright reddish mass of ovaries (e.g. of a lobster or scallop) b deep orange-pink [ME, fr MF, fr L *corallum*, fr Gk *korallion*] – **coral** *adj*, **coralloid** /-loyd/, **coralloidal** /-loyd/ *adj*
- 'coralline** /'koraliən/ *adj* of or like coral or a coralline [F *corallin*, fr LL *corallinus*, fr L *corallum*]
- 'coralline** *n* 1 any of a family of hardened calcium-containing red seaweeds 2 any of various aquatic invertebrate animals, specif a bryozoan or hydroid, that live in colonies and resemble coral
- 'coral snake** *n* (a harmless snake resembling) any of several brilliantly coloured venomous chiefly tropical New World snakes
- cor anglais** /kaw'r 'ong-glə/ *n* (Fr *kər aŋɡl*) *n* a double-reed woodwind instrument similar to, and with a range a fifth lower than, the oboe [F, English horn]
- 'corbel** /'kawbl/ *n* a projection from a wall which supports a weight; esp one stepped upwards and outwards from a vertical surface [ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr MF, fr dim. of *corp* raven, fr L *corvus* – more at **'RAVEN**]
- 'corbel** *vt* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) to supply with or make into a corbel
- corbie** /'kawbi/ *n*, chiefly Scot CARRION CROW; also a raven [ME, modif of OF *corbin*, fr L *corvinus* of a raven, fr *corvus* raven]
- corbie gable** *n* a gable with stepped sides [ARCHITECTURE]
- corbie step** *n* any of the series of steps on the sloping sides of a corbie gable [ARCHITECTURE – **corbie stepped** *adj*]
- 'cord** /kawd/ *n* 1 (a length of) long thin flexible material consisting of several strands (e.g. of thread or yarn) woven or twisted together 2 a moral, spiritual, or emotional bond 3a an anatomical structure (e.g. a nerve) resembling a cord b an electric flex 4 a unit of cut wood usu equal to 128ft<sup>3</sup> (about 3.63m<sup>3</sup>); also a stack containing this amount of wood 5a a rib like a cord on a textile b(1) a fabric made with such ribs (2) *pl* trousers made of corduroy [ME, fr OF *corde*, fr L *chorda* string, fr Gk *chordē* – more at **YARN**]
- 'cord** *vt* 1 to provide, bind, or connect with a cord 2 to pile up (wood) in cords – **corde** *n*
- cordage** /'kawdʒ/ *n* ropes, esp in a ship's rigging ['CORD + -AGE]
- cordate** /'kawdeɪt/ *adj* heart-shaped [PLANT [NL *cordatus*, fr L *cord-*, *cor-* – **cordately** *adv*]
- corded** /'kawdɪd/ *adj* 1 bound or fastened with cords 2 striped or ribbed (as if) with cord; twilled
- 'cordial** /'kawdiəl/ *adj* 1 warmly and genially affable (<a most ~ welcome>) 2 sincerely or deeply felt [ME, fr ML *cordialis*, fr L *cord-*, *cor* heart – more at **HEART**] – **cordially** *adv*, **cordialness**, **cordiality** /-əlɪti/ *n*
- 'cordial** *n* 1 a stimulating medicine 2 a nonalcoholic sweetened fruit drink; a fruit syrup
- cordillera** /'kawdi'ljɛərə/ *n* (any of the ranges in) a parallel series of mountain ranges [Sp, fr *cordilla*, dim. of *cuerda* cord, chain, fr L *chorda*] – **cordillera** *adj*
- cordite** /'kawdiət/ *n* a smokeless explosive for propelling bullets, shells, etc made from nitroglycerine, guncotton, and petroleum jelly ['cord + -ite]
- cordless** /'kawdlɪs/ *adj*, of an electrical device containing the source of electrical power within itself; esp battery powered ['CORD + -LESS]
- cordoba** /'kawdəbə/ *n* [Nicaragua at NATIONALITY [Sp *córdoba*, fr Francisco Fernández de Córdoba †1526 Sp explorer]
- 'cordon** /'kawd(ə)n/ *n* 1a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a line of troops, police, etc enclosing an area b a line or ring of people or objects 2 a plant, esp a fruit-tree, trained to a single stem by pruning off all side shoots [F, lit., ornamental cord, ribbon, dim. of *corde* cord]
- 'cordon** *vt* to form a protective or restrictive cordon round – often + **off**
- cordons bleu** /'kawdonh 'blu/ (Fr *kordɔ̃ blø*) *adj* or *n* (typical of or being) shy with great skill or distinction in (classical French) cookery (<~ cooking>) [F, lit., blue cordon]
- cordons sanitaire** /'sani'teə/ (Fr ~ *saniteɪr*) *n* 1 a barrier round an infected region, policed to prevent the spread of infection 2 a buffer zone [F, lit., sanitary cordon]
- cordovan** /'kawdəv(ə)n/ *n* a soft fine-grained leather, often of horsehide, orig made in Cordoba [OSp *cordován*, fr *Córdova* (now *Córdoba*), city in Spain]
- corduroy** /'kawd(ə)roj/ *n* 1 a durable usu cotton pile fabric with lengthways ribs or wales 2 chiefly NAM a road built of logs laid side by side [perh fr 'cord + obs *duroy* (coarse woollen fabric)]
- cordwainer** /'kawd,weɪnə/ *n*, archaic a shoemaker [arch *cordwain* (cordovan), fr ME *cordwane*, fr MF *cordoan*, fr OSp *cordován*] – **cordwainery** *n*
- 'cordwood** /-,wood/ *n* wood piled or sold in cords; also standing timber suitable for use as fuel
- 'core** /kaw/ *n* 1 a central or interior part, usu distinct from an enveloping part: e.g. a the usu inedible central part of an apple, pineapple, etc b the portion of a foundry mould that shapes the interior of a hollow casting c a cylindrical portion removed from a mass for inspection, *specif* such a portion of rock got by boring d(1) a piece of ferromagnetic material (e.g. iron) serving to concentrate and intensify the magnetic field resulting from a current in a surrounding coil (2) a tiny ring-shaped piece of magnetic material (e.g. ferrite) used in computer memories (3) **core**, **core memory**, **core storage** a computer memory consisting of an array of cores strung on fine wires e the central part of a planet, esp the earth f a piece of stone (e.g. flint) from which flakes have been struck for making primitive weapons or tools g a conducting wire with its insulation in an electric cable h a subject which is central in a course of studies 2 the essential, basic, or central part (e.g. of an individual, class, or entity) [ME]
- 'core** *vt* to remove a core from – **corer** *n*
- corepressor** /'kəʊrɪ'presə/ *n* a substance that activates a particular genetic repressor (e.g. by combining with it)
- co-respondent** /'kəʊ n'spɒnd(ə)nt/ *n* a person claimed to have committed adultery with the respondent in a divorce case
- corgi** /'kawgi/ *n*, *pl* **corgis** (any of) either of 2 varieties of short-legged long-backed dogs with fox-like heads, orig developed in Wales [W, fr *cor* dwarf + *ci* dog, akin to OIr *cu* dog, OE *hund* – more at **hound**]
- coriander** /'kɒrɪ'ændə/ *n* (the aromatic ripened dried fruits used for flavouring of) an Old World plant of the carrot family [ME *corandre*, fr OF, fr L *corandrum*, fr Gk *korandron*]
- Corinthian** /'kɒrɪnθi-ən/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of (inhabitants of) Corinth 2 of the lightest and most ornate of the 3 Greek orders of architecture characterized esp by a bell-shaped capital decorated with acanthus leaves [ARCHITECTURE [L *Corinthensis*, fr *Corinthus* Corinth, city in ancient Greece, fr Gk *Korinthos*] – **Corinthian** *n*
- Corinthians** *n* *pl* *but* *sing* in *constr* either of 2 books of the New Testament attributed to St Paul and addressed to the Christians of Corinth
- Coriolis force** /'kɒrɪ'ohɪs/ *n* a force arising as a result of the earth's rotation that deflects moving objects to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere [Gaspard G *Coriolis* †1843 F civil engineer]
- 'cork** /kawk/ *n* 1a the elastic tough outer tissue of the cork oak used esp for stoppers and insulation b the pith of a plant 2 a usu cork stopper, esp for a bottle 3 an angling float [ME, cork, bark, prob fr Ar *qurq*, fr L *cortic-*, *cortex*] – **corky** *adj*
- 'cork** *vt* to fit or close with a cork
- corkage** /'kawki/ *n* a charge made for serving alcoholic drink, esp wine, in a restaurant, esp one made for serving drink bought elsewhere ['CORK + -AGE]
- corked** /'kawkt/ *adj*, of wine having an unpleasant smell and taste as a result of being kept in a bottle sealed with a leaky cork
- corker** /'kawka/ *n* sthg or sby astonishing or superlative – *infml*; no longer in vogue ['CORK + -ER] – **corking** *adj* or *adv*
- 'cork oak** *n* a S European and N African oak from whose bark cork is obtained
- 'corkscrew** /-,skroʊ/ *n* an implement for removing corks from bottles, typically consisting of a pointed spiral piece of metal attached to a handle
- 'corkscrew** *vt* to twist into a spiral ~ *vt* to move in a winding course
- 'corkscrew** *adj* spiral (<a ~ staircase>)
- 'corkwood** /-,wood/ *n* the balsa or other tree with light or corky wood
- corm** /'kawm/ *n* a rounded thick underground plant stem base with buds and scaly leaves – compare **BULB**, **TUBER** [NL *cormus*, fr Gk *kormos* tree trunk, fr *kairein* to cut – more at **SHEAR**]
- cormorant** /'kawməɪrənt/ *n* a common dark-coloured web-footed European seabird with a long neck, hooked bill, and white throat and cheeks; also any of several related seabirds [ME *cormeraunt*, fr MF *cormorant*, fr OF *cormareng*, fr *corp* raven + *marenc* of the sea, fr L *marinus*]
- 'corn** /kaw/ *n* 1 a small hard seed 2 (the seeds of) the important cereal crop of a particular region (e.g. wheat and barley in Britain) 3 sweet

- CORN** 4 sthg corny – infml [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG & ON *korn* grain, L *granum*, Gk *geras* old age]
- corn** *vi* to preserve or season with salt or brine (<~ed beef)
- corn** *n* a local hardening and thickening of skin (e.g. on the top of a toe) [ME *corne*, fr MF, horn, corner, fr L *cornu* horn, point]
- corn, cob** /-kɒb/ *n* 1 the axis on which the edible kernels of sweet corn are arranged 2 an ear of sweet corn
- corn, cockle** *n* a poisonous annual purple-flowered plant of the pink family that is a now rare weed of cornfields
- corn, crane** /-kreyk/ *n* a common Eurasian short-billed rail
- corn, dolly** *n* an article of woven straw that orig had ritual significance but is now used for decoration
- cornea** /kəw'neeə, 'kawniə/ *n* the hard transparent part of the coat of the eyeball that covers the iris and pupil  NERVE [ML, fr L, fem of *corneus* horny, fr cornu] – **corneal** *adj*
- cornel** /kawnl/ *n* dogwood or a related plant [deriv of L *cornus* cornel cherry tree, akin to Gk *kerasos* cherry tree]
- cornelian** /kəw'neeliən/ *n* a hard reddish chalcedony used in jewellery [ME *corneline*, fr MF, perh fr *cornelle* corn]
- corneous** /kawniəs/ *adj* HORNY 1 [L *corneus*]
- corner** /kawnə/ *n* 1a the point where converging lines, edges, or sides meet; an angle b the place of intersection of 2 streets or roads c a piece designed to form, mark, or protect a corner (e.g. of a book) 2 the angular space between meeting lines, edges, or borders: e.g. a the area of a playing field or court near the intersection of the sideline and the goal line or baseline b any of the 4 angles of a boxing ring, esp that in which a boxer rests between rounds 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr a contestant's group of supporters, adherents, etc. 4 CORNER KICK; also CORNER HIT 5a a private, secret, or remote place (< a quiet ~ of a small Welsh town > < a hole and ~ business >) b a difficult or embarrassing situation, a position from which escape or retreat is difficult (< talked himself into a tight ~ >) 6 control or ownership of enough of the available supply of a commodity or security to permit manipulation of esp the price 7 a point at which significant change occurs – often in *turn a corner* [ME, fr OF *cornere*, fr *corne* horn, corner] – **cornered** *adj* – round the corner imminent, AT HAND (< promised that good times were just round the corner >)
- corner** *vi* 1a to drive into a corner b to catch and hold the attention of, esp so as to force into conversation 2 to get a corner on (< the wheat market >) ~ *vi* to turn a corner (< this car ~s well >)
- cornered** /-kawnəd/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) 1 having such or so many corners 2 having so many participants or contestants
- corner, hit** *n* a free hit, esp in hockey or shinty, awarded to the attacking side when a member of the defending side has sent the ball over his/her own goal line
- corner, kick** *n* a free kick in soccer that is taken from the corner of the field and is awarded to the attacking team when a member of the defending team has sent the ball behind his/her own goal line
- corner, stone** /-stohn/ *n* 1 a block of stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall, specif FOUNDATION STONE 2 the most basic element, a foundation
- corner, wise** /-wize/ also **corner, ways** /-wayz/ *adv* diagonally
- cornet** /kawnit/ *n* 1 a valved brass instrument resembling a trumpet but with a shorter tube and less brilliant tone 2 sthg shaped like a cone: e.g. a a piece of paper twisted for use as a container b an ice cream cone [ME, fr MF, fr dim. of *corn* horn, fr L *cornu*] – **cornetist**, **cornettist** /kawnitist, kaw'netist/ *n*
- cornet** *n* the former fifth commissioned officer of a British cavalry troop who carried the standard [MF *cornette* type of headdress, standard, standard-bearer, fr *corne* horn, fr L *cornu*]
- corn, flakes** /-flayks/ *n pl* toasted flakes of maize eaten as a breakfast cereal
- corn, flour** /-flowə/ *n* a finely ground flour made from maize, rice, etc and used esp as a thickening agent in cooking
- corn, flower** /-flowə/ *n* 1 CORN COCKLE 2 a usu bright-blue-flowered European composite (garden) plant
- cornice** /kawnis/ *n* 1a the ornamental projecting piece that forms the top edge of a building, pillar, etc; esp the top projecting part of an entablature  ARCHITECTURE b an ornamental plaster moulding between wall and ceiling 2 a decorative band of metal or wood used to conceal curtain fixtures 3 an overhanging mass of snow, ice, etc on a mountain [MF, fr It] – **corniced** *adj*
- corniche** /kaw'neesh/ *n* a road built along a coast, esp along the face of a cliff [F *cornice*, *corniche*, lit., cornice]
- Cornish** /kawnish/ *adj* (characteristic) of Cornwall [Cornwall, county of England + E -ish]
- Cornish** *n* the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall  LANGUAGE
- Corn, Laws** *n pl* a series of laws in force in Britain before 1846 restricting the import of foreign grain
- corn, mari, gold** *n* a European composite golden-yellow-flowered plant that is a weed of cornfields
- corn, pone** /pohn/ *n*, S & Mid US a bread made with maize and baked or fried [*corn* + *pone* bread, of Algonquian origin; akin to Delaware *apân* baked]
- corn, silk** *n* the silky styles on an ear of maize
- corn, starch** /-stahch/ *n* cornflour
- cornucopia** /kawnyoo'kohpiə/ *n* 1 a goat's horn overflowing with fruit and corn used to symbolize abundance 2 an inexhaustible store; an abundance 3 a vessel shaped like a horn or cone [LL, fr L *cornu copiae* horn of plenty] – **cornucopian** *adj*
- corny** /kawni/ *adj* 1 tiresomely simple and sentimental; trite 2 hackneyed – infml [*corn* + -y] – **cornily** *adv*, **corniness** *n*
- corolla** /kə'rolə/ *n* the petals of a flower constituting the inner floral envelope [NL, fr L, dim of *corona*] – **corollate** /kə'rolət, 'koralayt/ *adj*
- corollary** /kə'roləri/ *n* 1 a direct conclusion from a proved proposition 2 sthg that naturally follows or accompanies [ME *corolarie*, fr LL *corollarium*, fr L, money paid for a garland, gratuitously, fr *corolla*] – **corollary** *adj*
- corona** /kə'rohna/ *n* 1 the concave moulding on the upper part of a classical cornice 2a a usu coloured circle of usu diffracted light seen round and close to a luminous celestial body (e.g. the sun or moon) b the tenuous outermost part of the atmosphere of the sun and other stars appearing as a halo round the moon's black disc during a total eclipse of the sun c the upper portion of a bodily part (e.g. a tooth or the skull) d a circular appendage on the inner side of the corolla in the daffodil, jonquil, etc 3 a long straight-sided cigar with a roundly blunt sealed mouth end [L, garland, crown, cornice – more at 'CROWN; (3) fr La *Corona*, a trademark]
- coronach** /'korənəkh, -nək/ *n* a Scottish or Irish funeral dirge [ScGael *corranach* & IrGael *coránach*, fr Mlr *com-* together + (assumed) Mlr *ránach* outcry, weeping]
- coronal** /'korənl/ *adj* 1 of a corona or crown 2 lying in the direction of the coronal suture – **coronally** *adv*
- coronal suture** *n* the join between the parietal and frontal bones extending across the top of the skull
- coronary** /'korən(ə)n/ *adj* (of or being the arteries or veins) of the heart [CORONA + -ARY]
- coronary** *n* CORONARY THROMBOSIS
- coronary thrombosis** /'trɒmbəʊsɪs/ *n* the blocking of a coronary artery of the heart by a blood clot, usu causing death of heart muscle tissue
- coronation** /kɔrə'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or ceremony of investing a sovereign or his/her consort with the royal crown [ME *coronacion*, fr MF *coronation*, fr *coroner* to crown]
- coroner** /'kɔrənə/ *n* a public officer whose principal duty is to inquire into the cause of any death which there is reason to suppose might not be due to natural causes [ME, an officer of the crown, fr AF, fr OF *corone* crown, fr L *corona*]
- coronet** /'kɔrənɪt/ *n* 1 a small crown 2 an ornamental wreath or band for the head 3 the lower part of a horse's pastern where the horn ends in skin  ANATOMY [MF *coronette*, fr OF *coronete*, fr *corone*]
- corpora** /kəw'pɔrə/ *pl* of CORPUS
- corporal** /kəw'pɔrəl/ *adj* of or affecting the body (< ~ punishment >) [ME, fr MF, fr L *corporalis*, fr *corpor-*, *corpus* body] – **corporality** /-ləti/ *n*, **corporally** *adv*
- corporal** *n*  RANK [MF, lowest noncommissioned officer, alter. of *caporal*, fr Olt *caporale*, fr *capo* head, fr L *caput* – more at HEAD]
- corporate** /kəw'pɔr(ə)t/ *adj* 1a INCORPORATED 2 b of a company 2 of or formed into a unified body of individuals 3 **corporate**, **corporative** (formed according to the principles) of corporatism (< a ~ state >) [L *corporatus*, pp of *corporare* to make into a body, fr *corpor-*, *corpus*] – **corporately** *adv*
- corporation** /kəw'pɔr(ə)t(ə)n/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in constr the municipal authorities of a town or city 2 a body made up of more than 1 person which is formed and authorized by law to act as a single person with its own legal identity, rights, and duties 3 an association of employers and employees or of members of a profession in a corporate state 4 a potbelly – humor
- corporation, tax** *n* tax levied on the profits of limited companies
- corporatism** /kəw'pɔr(ə)t(ə)z(ə)m/ *n* the organization of a society into

- corporations serving as organs of political representation (e.g. in Fascist Italy) – **corporatist** *adj*
- corporeal** /kə'pɔːrəl/ *adj* having, consisting of, or relating to a physical material body e.g. a not spiritual b not immaterial or intangible, substantial [L *corporeus* of the body, fr *corpor-*, *corpus*] – **corporeality** *n*, **corporeally** *adv*, **corporeality** /-rɪ'æləti/ *n*
- corpseant** /kə'pɔːz(ə)nt/ *n* SAINT ELMO'S FIRE [Pg *corpo-santo*, lit. holy body]
- corps** /kə'pɔː/ *n*, **pl** **corps** /kə'pɔːz/ 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an army unit usu consisting of 2 or more divisions (organized for a particular purpose) 2 any of various associations of German university students [F, fr L *corpus* body]
- corps de ballet** /kə'pɔː də 'baleɪ, NAm ba'lay/ *n*, **pl** **corps de ballet** /~/ the ensemble of a ballet company [F]
- corpse** /kə'pɔː/ *n* a dead (human) body [ME *corps*, fr MF, fr L *corpus*]
- corpulence** /kə'pɔːpʊləns/, **corpulency** /-sɪ/ *n* the state of being excessively fat, obesity [MF *corpulence*, fr L *corpulentia*, it *corpulentus* large-bodied, fr *corpus*] – **corpulent** *adj*
- corpus** /kə'pɔːs/ *n*, **pl** **corpora** /kə'pɔːrə/ 1 the body or corpse of a human or animal 2 the main body or corporeal substance of a thing, esp the main part of a bodily structure or organ (<the ~ of the uterus>) 3a a collection or body of writings or works (e.g. of 1 author or artist), esp of a particular kind or on a particular subject b a body of spoken and/or written language for linguistic study [ME, fr L]
- corpus allatum** /sə'laɪtəm/ *n*, **pl** **corpora allata** /kə'pɔːrə ə'laɪtə/ either of a pair of organs that lie behind the brain of many insects and secrete esp juvenile hormones [NL, lit. applied body]
- corpus callosum** /kə'loʊs(ə)m/ *n*, **pl** **corpora callosa** /kə'pɔːrə kə'loʊsə/ a wide band of nerve fibres joining the cerebral hemispheres in the brains of humans and other higher mammals [NL, lit. callous body]
- Corpus Christi** /kə'krɪsti/ *n* the Thursday after Trinity Sunday observed, esp by Roman Catholics, in honour of the Eucharist [ME, fr ML, lit. body of Christ]
- corpuscle** /kə'pɔːsəl, -pu-, kə'pɔːsəl/ *n* 1 a minute particle 2a a living (blood) cell ANATOMY b any of various very small multicellular parts of an organism [L *corpusculum*, dim of *corpus*] – **corpuscular** /kə'pɔːsəkʊlə/ *adj*
- corpus delicti** /dɪ'likti/ *n*, **pl** **corpora delicti** /kə'pɔːrə ~/ the body of facts showing that a breach of the law has taken place, esp the body of the victim in a case of murder [NL, lit. body of the crime]
- corpus luteum** /'loohtɪ əm/ *n*, **pl** **corpora lutea** /kə'pɔːrə 'loohtɪ ə/ a reddish-yellow mass of hormone-secreting tissue that forms in the mammalian ovary after ovulation and quickly returns to its original state if the ovum is not fertilized [NL, lit. yellowish body]
- corrade** /kə'reɪd/ *vb* to erode by abrasion (<~d rocks>) [L *corrader* to scrape together, fr *com-* + *radere* to scrape – more at RAT] – **corrasion** /kə'reɪz(ə)n/ *n*, **corrasive** /kə'reɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj*
- corral** /kə'reɪl, kə-, kəw-, -rəl/ *n* 1 a pen or enclosure for confining livestock 2 an enclosure made with wagons for defence of an encampment [Sp, fr (assumed) VL *currale* enclosure for vehicles, fr L *currus* cart, fr *currere* to run – more at CAR]
- corral** *vt* -ll- 1 to enclose in a corral 2 to arrange (wagons) so as to form a corral
- correct** /kə'rekt/ *vt* 1 to alter or adjust so as to counteract some imperfection or failing 2a to punish (e.g. a child) with a view to reforming or improving b to point out the faults of (<ing essays>) [ME *corrēten*, fr L *correctus*, pp of *correre*, fr *com-* + *regere* to lead straight – more at 'RIGHT] – **correctable** *adj*, **corrective** *adj* or *n*, **correctively** *adv*, **corrector** *n*
- correct** *adj* 1 conforming to an approved or conventional standard 2 true, right [ME, corrected, fr L *correctus*, fr pp of *correre*] – **correctness** *n*
- correction** /kə'rekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an amendment b a rebuke, punishment 2a sthg substituted, esp written, in place of what is wrong b a quantity applied by way of correcting (e.g. in adjusting an instrument) ['CORRECT + -ION] – **correctional** *adj*
- correlate** /kə'reɪlət, -lət/ *n* either of 2 things so related that one directly implies the other (e.g. husband and wife) [back-formation fr *correlation*] – **correlate** *adj*
- correlate** /kə'reɪlət/ *vi* to have reciprocal or mutual relationship ~ *vt* 1 to establish a mutual or reciprocal relation of 2 to relate so that to each member of one set or series a corresponding member of another is assigned – **correlatable** *adj*
- correlation** /kə'reɪlɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a relation of phenomena as invariable accompaniments of each other 2 an interdependence between mathematical variables, esp in statistics STATISTICS [ML *correlation-*, *correlatio*, fr L *com-* + *relatio-*, *relatio* relation] – **correlational** *adj*
- correlative** /kə'relɪv, kə-/ *adj* naturally related, corresponding – **correlative** *n*, **correlatively** *adv*
- correspond** /kə'respɒnd/ *vi* 1a to be in conformity or agreement, suit, match usu + *to* or *with* b to be equivalent or parallel 2 to communicate with a person by exchange of letters [MF or ML, MF *correspondere*, fr ML *correspondere*, fr L *com-* + *respondere* to respond]
- correspondence** /kə'respɒnd(ə)ns/ *n* 1a the agreement of things with one another b a particular similarity c an association of 1 or more members of one set with each member of another set 2a (communication by) letters b the news, information, or opinion contributed by a correspondent to a newspaper or periodical
- correspondence college** *n* a college that teaches nonresident students by post
- correspondent** /kə'respɒnd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 corresponding 2 fitting, conforming USE + *with* or *to* [ME, fr MF or ML MF, fr ML *correspondent*, *correspondens*, prp of *correspondere*]
- correspondent** *n* 1 one who communicates with another by letter 2 one who has regular commercial relations with another 3 one who contributes news or comment to a publication or radio or television network (<a war ~>)
- corresponding** /kə'respɒndɪŋ/ *adj* 1a agreeing in some respect (e.g. kind, degree, position, or function) b related, accompanying 2 participating at a distance and by post (<a ~ member of the society>) – **correspondingly** *adv*
- corrida** /kə'reedhə, -də/ *n* a bullfight [Sp, lit. act of running]
- corridor** /kə'reɪdɔː, -də/ *n*, 1 a passage (e.g. in a hotel or railway carriage) onto which compartments or rooms open 2 a usu narrow passageway or route e.g. a narrow strip of land through foreign-held territory b a restricted path for air traffic 3 a strip of land that by geographical characteristics is distinct from its surroundings [MF, fr OIt *corridore*, fr *correre* to run, fr L *currere* – more at CAR]
- corrie** /kə'reɪ/ *n*, chiefly Scot a steep sided bowl like valley in the side of a mountain, a cwm, cirque [ScGael *corrie*, lit. kettle]
- corrigendum** /kə'reɪjəndəm/ *n*, **pl** **corrigenda** /-də/ an error in a printed work, shown with its correction on a separate sheet [L, neut of *corrigen* *du*, gerundive of *correre* to correct]
- corroborant** /kə'reɪbərənt/ *adj*, archaic, of a medicine having an invigorating effect [L *corroborant-*, *corroborans*, prp of *corroborare*]
- corroborate** /kə'reɪbərəɪt/ *vt* to support with evidence or authority, make more certain [L *corroboratus*, pp of *corroborare*, fr *com-* + *robor*, *robor* strength] – **corroborative** /-b(ə)rətɪv/, **corroboratory** /-b(ə)rətɪv/ *adj*, **corroborator** /-bə'reɪtɔː/ *n*, **corroboration** /-rə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- corroboree** /kə'reɪbəri/ *n* 1 a nocturnal Australian aboriginal festivity with songs and symbolic dances to celebrate important events 2 Austr a a noisy festivity b a tumult [native name in New South Wales, Australia]
- corrode** /kə'reɪd/ *vi* 1 to eat or wear (esp metal) away gradually, esp by chemical action 2 to weaken or destroy (as if) by corrosion ~ *vi* to undergo corroding [ME *corroden*, fr L *corrodere* to gnaw to pieces, fr *com-* + *rodere* to gnaw – more at RAT] – **corrodible** *adj*
- corrosion** /kə'reɪz(ə)n/ *n* the action or process of corroding, also the product of such a process [ME, fr LL *corrosio*, *corrosio* act of gnawing, fr L *corrosus*, pp of *corrodere*]
- corrosive** /kə'reɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 corroding (<~ acids>) (<~ action>) SYMBOL 2 bitingly sarcastic – **corrosive** *n*, **corrosively** *adv*, **corrosiveness** *n*
- corrosive** 'sublimite *n* mercuric chloride
- corrugate** /kə'reɪgət, -rɔː/ *vb* to shape or become shaped into alternating ridges and grooves, furrow (<~d cardboard>) (<~d iron>) [L *corrugatus*, pp of *corrugare*, fr *com-* + *ruga* wrinkle – more at ROUGH] – **corrugation** /-gə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- corrupt** /kə'rʌpt/ *vt* 1a to change from good to bad in morals, manners, or actions, also to influence by bribery b to degrade with unsound principles or moral values 2 to alter from the original or correct form or version ~ *vi* to become corrupt [ME *corrupten*, fr L *corruptus*, pp of *corrumpere*, fr *com-* + *rumpere* to break – more at BEREAVE] – **corrupter**, **corruptor** *n*, **corruptible** *adj*, **corruptibly** *adv*, **corruptibility** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*, **corruptive** *adj*
- corrupt** *adj* 1a morally degenerate and perverted b characterized by bribery 2 having been vitiated by mistakes or changes (<a ~ text>) [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *corruptus*, fr pp of *corrumpere*] – **corruptly** *adv*, **corruptness** *n*

**corruption** /kə'rupʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle 2 decay, decomposition 3 inducement by bribery to do wrong 4 a departure from what is pure or correct [CORRUPT + -ION]

**corsage** /kəw'sahz/ *n* an arrangement of flowers to be worn by a woman, esp on the bodice [F, bust, bodice, fr OF, bust, fr *cors* body, fr L *corpus*]

**corsair** /kəw'seɪ/ *n* a pirate; esp a privateer of the Barbary coast [MF & OIt; MF *corsaire* pirate, fr OProv *corsari*, fr OIt *corsaro*, fr ML *cursorius*, fr L *cursor* course – more at **COURSE**]

**corselette** /kəw'seɪlət/ *n*, **corselet** /kəw'slɪt/ *n*, a one-piece undergarment combining girdle and bra [fr *Corselette*, a trademark]

**corset** /kəw'sɪt/ *n* a boned supporting undergarment for women, extending from beneath the bust to below the hips, and designed to give shape to the figure; also a similar garment worn by men and women, esp in cases of injury [ME, fr OF, dim. of *cors*]


**corset** *vt* to restrict closely

**corsetiere** /kəw'seɪtɪə, kəw'se-/ *n* sby who makes, fits, or sells corsets, girdles, or bras [F *corsetière*, fem. of *corsetier*, fr *corset*]

**corsetry** /kəw'sɪtri/ *n* (women's) undergarments that give support or shape

**corselet**, **corselet** /kəw'slɪt/ *n* a piece of armour for the trunk but usu not the arms or legs [MF *corselet*, dim. of *cors* body, bodice]

**cortege** /kəw'teɪʒ, -'teɪʒ/ also **cortège** /kəw'teɪʒ/ *n* 1 a train of attendants; a retinue 2 a procession, esp a funeral procession [F *cortège*, fr It *corteggio*, fr *corteggiare* to court, fr *corte* court, fr L *cohors*, *cohors* throng – more at **COURT**]

**cortex** /kəw'teks/ *n* *pl* **cortices** /kəw'tɪsɪz/, **cortexes** 1 a plant bark (e.g. cinchona) used medicinally 2 the outer part of the kidney, adrenal gland, a hair, etc; esp the outer layer of grey matter of the brain  **NERVE** 3 the layer of (parenchymatous) tissue between the inner vascular tissue and the outer epidermal tissue of a green plant [L *cortic-*, *cortex* bark – more at **CUIRASS**]

**cortical** /kəw'tɪkl/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of a cortex 2 involving or resulting from the action or condition of the cerebral cortex – **cortically** *adv*

**corticate** /kəw'tɪkət, -kayt/ *adj* having a cortex

**cortico-** /kəw'tɪkəh-/ *comb form* 1 cortex (corticosteroid) 2 cortical and (corticospinal)

**corticoid** /kəw'tɪkɔɪd/ *n* a corticosteroid

**corticosteroid** /kəw'tɪkə'stɔɪrɔɪd/ *n* (a synthetic drug with actions similar to those of) any of several steroids (e.g. cortisone) produced by the cortex of the adrenal gland [ISV]

**corticotrophin** /kəw'tɪkə'trɒfɪn/ *n* ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE [cortico- + *trophic* + -in]

**corticotropin** /kəw'tɪkə'trɒpɪn/ *n* corticotrophin [cortico- + *tropic* + -in]

**cortisol** /kəw'tɪsəl, -ɒl, -sohl, -zohl/ *n* hydrocortisone [cortisone + -ol]

**cortisone** /kəw'tɪsəh, -zəh/ *n* a glucocorticoid steroid hormone that is produced by the cortex of the adrenal gland [alter. of *corticosterone* (steroid hormone of the adrenal cortex)]


**corundum** /kə'rʌndəm/ *n* a very hard natural or synthetic mineral that consists of aluminium oxide, exists in various colours, and is used as an abrasive and a gemstone – compare RUBY, SAPPHIRE [Tamil *kuruntam*, fr Skt *kuruvinda* ruby]

**coruscate** /kə'rʌskayt/ *vi* to sparkle, flash (her coruscating wit) [L *coruscatus*, pp of *coruscare*] – **coruscation** *n*

**corvée** /kəw'veɪ, -v-/ *n* labour exacted in lieu of taxes by public authorities [ME *corvee*, fr MF, fr ML *corrogata*, fr L, fem. of *corrogatus*, pp of *corrogare* to collect, requisition, fr *com-* + *rogare* to ask – more at **RIGHT**]

**corvette** /kəw'vet/ *n* 1 a small sailing warship with a flush deck 2 a small highly manoeuvrable armed escort ship [F]

**corvine** /kəw'veɪn/ *adj* of or related to the crows; resembling a crow [L *corvinus*, fr *corvus* raven – more at **RAVEN**]

**corymb** /kə'ɹɪm(b)/ *n* a flat-topped inflorescence; specif one in which the flower stalks are attached at different levels on the main axis  **PLANT** [F *corymbe*, fr L *corymbus* cluster of fruit or flowers, fr Gk *korymbos*] – **corymbed** *adj*, **corymbose** /-bəh-/ *adj*, **corymbously** *adv*

**coryphaeus** /kə'ɹi-feɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **coryphaei** /-feɪ-/ the leader of a Greek chorus [L, leader, fr Gk *koryphaos*, fr *koryphē* summit; akin to L *cornu*]

**coryphée** /kəw'ɹi-fay/ *n* a ballet dancer who dances in a small group instead of in the corps de ballet or as a soloist [F, fr L *coryphaeus*]

**coryza** /kə'ɹi-zə/ *n* short-lasting infectious inflammation of the upper

respiratory tract; esp COMMON COLD [LL, fr Gk *koryza* nasal mucus; akin to OHG *hroz* nasal mucus, Skt *kardama* mud] – **coryzal** *adj*


**'cos** /kəz/ *strong* koz/ *conj* because – used in writing to represent a casual or childish pronunciation [by shortening & alter.]

**'cos** /kəz/, 'cos *lettuce* *n* a long-leaved variety of lettuce [Kos, Cos, Gk island]

**cosecant** /kə'h'seɪkənt, -'se-/ *n* the trigonometric function that is the reciprocal of the sine [NL *cosecant-*, *cosecant*, 't co- + *secant-*, *secans* secant]

**cosesmal** /kə'h'siezml/ *n* or *adj* (a line joining points) simultaneously affected by the same phase of seismic shock [co- + *seism-* + -al]

**cosh** /kɒʃ/ *vt* or *n*, chiefly Br (to strike with) a short heavy rod often enclosed in a softer material and used as a hand weapon [perh fr Romany *kosh* stick]

**cosine** /kə'h'siən/ *n* the trigonometric function that for an acute angle in a right-angled triangle is the ratio between the side adjacent to the angle and the hypotenuse  **MATHEMATICS** [NL *cosinus*, fr co- + ML *sinus* sine]

**'cosmetic** /kəz'metɪk/ *n* a cosmetic preparation for external use


**'cosmetic** *adj* of or intended to improve beauty (e.g. of the hair or complexion) (< ~ surgery); broadly intended to improve the outward appearance [Gk *kosmetikos* skilled in adornment, fr *kosmein* to arrange, adorn, fr *kosmos* order] – **cosmetically** *adv*, **cosmetology** /kəz'mɪ'tɒləʒi/ *n*, **cosmetologist** *n*

**cosmetician** /kəz'mɪ'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sby who is professionally trained in the use of cosmetics

**cosmic** /kəz'mɪk/ also **cosmical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of the universe in contrast to the earth alone 2 great in extent, intensity, or comprehensiveness [Gk *kosmikos*, fr *kosmos* order, universe] – **cosmically** *adv*

**cosmic dust** *n* very fine particles of solid matter in any part of the universe


**cosmic ray** *n* a stream of highly energetic radiation reaching the earth's atmosphere from space – usu pl with sing. meaning

**cosmodrome** /kəz'mɒ'drɒm/ *n* an establishment for launching  **rocket** Soviet space vehicles [Russ *kosmodrom*, fr *kosmonavt* cosmonaut – *-drom* -drome]

**cosmogony** /kəz'mɒɡəni/ *n* (a theory of) the creation or origin of the universe [NL *cosmogonia*, fr Gk *kosmogonia*, fr *kosmos* + *gonos* offspring] – **cosmogonist** *n*, **cosmogonie** /-ɡɒnik/, **cosmogonical** *adj*

**cosmography** /kəz'mɒɡrəfi/ *n* 1 a general description of the world or the universe 2 a branch of science dealing with the constitution of the universe [ME *cosmographie*, fr LL *cosmographia*, fr Gk *kosmographia*, fr *kosmos* + *-graphia* -graphy] – **cosmographer** *n*, **cosmographic** /kəz'mə'ɡræfɪk/, **cosmographical** *adj*, **cosmographically** *adv*

**cosmology** /kəz'mɒləʒi/ *n* 1 a theoretical account of the nature of the universe 2 astronomy dealing with the origin, structure, and space-time relationships of the universe [NL *cosmologia*, fr Gk *kosmos* + NL *-logia* -logy] – **cosmologic** /kəz'mə'lɒjɪk/, **cosmological** *adj*, **cosmologically** *adv*, **cosmologist** /kəz'mɒləʒɪst/ *n*

**cosmonaut** /kəz'mə'naʊt/ *n* a usu Soviet astronaut  **SPACE** [part trans of Russ *kosmonavt*, fr Gk *kosmos* + Russ *-navt* (as in *aeronavt* astronaut)]

**'cosmopolitan** /kəz'mə'pɒlɪt(ə)n/ *adj* 1 having worldwide rather than provincial scope or bearing 2 marked by a sophistication that comes from wide and often international experience 3 composed of people, constituents, or elements from many parts of the world 4 of a plant, animal, etc found in most parts of the world and under varied ecological conditions – **cosmopolitanism** *n*

**'cosmopolitan** *n* a cosmopolite

**cosmopolite** /kəz'mə'pɒlɪt/ *n* a cosmopolitan person or organism [NL *cosmopolites*, fr Gk *kosmopolitēs*, fr *kosmos* + *politēs* citizen] – **cosmopolitism** /kəz'mə'pɒlɪtɪz(ə)m, -lə'tɪz(ə)m, kəz'mə'pɒlɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**cosmos** /kəz'mɒs/ *n* 1 an orderly universe – compare **CHAOS** 2 a complex and orderly system that is complete in itself 3 any of a genus of tropical American composite plants grown for their yellow or red flower heads [G *kosmos*, fr Gk]

**cosack** /'kɒsək/ *n* a member of a people of the SE USSR famous for their skill as horsemen [Russ *kazak* & Ukrainian *kozak*, fr Turk *kazak* free person]

**cosset** /kɒsɪt/ *vi* to treat as a pet; pamper [cosset (pet lamb), perh deriv of OE *cotsæta* cottager]

**'cost** /kɒst/ *n* 1a the price paid or charged for sth 1b the expenditure (e.g. of effort or sacrifice) made to achieve an object 2 the loss or penalty incurred in gaining sth 3 *pl* expenses incurred in litigation – **costless** *adj*



- at all costs regardless of the price or difficulties - to one's cost to one's disadvantage or loss
- cost** *vb* **cost**, (*vt* 2) **costed** *vt* 1 to require a specified expenditure (*the best goods ~ more*) 2 to require the specified effort, suffering, or loss ~ *vt* 1 to cause to pay, suffer, or lose (*frequent absences ~ him his job*) (*your suggestion would ~ us too much time*) 2 to estimate or set the cost of [ME *costen*, fr MF *coster*, fr L *constare* to stand firm, to cost - more at **CONSTANT**]
- costa** /'kɒstə/ *n*, *pl* **costae** /'kɒsti/ (the front vein of an insect wing or other part that resembles) a rib [L - more at **COAST**] - **costal** *adj*, **costate** /'kɒstəɪt/ *adj*
- cost accounting** *n* the systematic recording and analysis of the costs of material, labour, and overheads that are incurred during production - **cost accountant** *n*
- co-star** /kəʊ'stɑː/ *n* a star who has equal billing with another leading performer in a film or play - **co-star** *vb*
- cost-effective** *adj* economically worthwhile - **cost-effectiveness** *n*
- costermonger** /'kɒstə,mʌŋgə/ *n*, *Br* a seller of articles, esp fruit or vegetables, from a street barrow or stall [alter. of obs *costardmonger*, fr *costard* (large apple) + *monger*]
- costive** /'kɒstɪv/ *adj* affected with or causing constipation [ME, fr MF *costivē*, pp of *costiver* to constipate, fr L *constipare*] - **costively** *adv*, **costiveness** *n*
- costly** /'kɒstli/ *adj* 1 valuable, expensive 2 made at great expense or with considerable sacrifice - **costliness** *n*
- costmary** /'kɒst,meəri/ *n* a composite plant that resembles tansy and is used as a herb and in flavouring [ME *costmarie*, fr *coste* costmary (fr OE *cost*, fr L *costum*, fr Gk *kostos*, a fragrant root) + *Marie* the Virgin Mary]
- cost of living** *n* the cost of purchasing those goods and services which are included in an accepted standard level of consumption
- cost-of-living index** *n* RETAIL PRICE INDEX
- cost-plus** *adj* calculated on the basis of a fixed fee or a percentage added to actual cost (< ~ *pricing*)
- cost-push** *n* an increase or upward trend in production costs, sometimes considered to result in increased consumer prices irrespective of the level of demand - compare **DEMAND-PULL** - **cost-push** *adj*
- costume** /'kɒstyooɦm, 'kɒstyoom/ *n* 1 a distinctive fashion in coiffure, jewellery, and apparel of a period, country, class, or group 2 a set of garments suitable for a specified occasion, activity, or season 3 a set of garments belonging to a specific time, place or, character, worn in order to assume a particular role (e.g. in a play or at a fancy-dress party) *USE*  **GARMENT** [F, fr It. *costum*, dress, fr L *consuetudo*-, *consuetudo* custom - more at **CUSTOM**] - **costumey** *adj*
- costume** *vt* 1 to provide with a costume 2 to design costumes for (< ~ *a play*)
- costume** *adj* characterized by the use of costumes (< *a ~ ball*) (< *a ~ drama*)
- costume jewellery** *n* inexpensive jewellery typically worn attached to clothing rather than on the body
- costumier** /kə'styooɦmi-ə/, **costumer** /'kɒstyooɦmə, -yoo-, kə'styooɦmə/ *n* sby who deals in or makes costumes (e.g. for theatrical productions) [F]
- cosy**, *NAM* chiefly **cozy** /'kɒzhi/ *adj* 1 enjoying or affording warmth and ease; snug 2a marked by the intimacy of the family or a close group b self-satisfied, complacent [prob of Scand origin; akin to Norw *koselig* snug, cosy] - **cosily** *adv*
- cosy**, *NAM* chiefly **cozy** *n* a covering, esp for a teapot, designed to keep the contents hot
- cot** /kɒt/ *n* a small house; a cottage - poetic [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *kot* small hut, L *guttur* throat]
- cot** *n* 1 a lightweight bedstead 2 a small bed with high enclosing sides, esp for a child 3 chiefly *NAM* **CAMP BED** [Hindi *khaṭ* bedstead, fr Skt *khaṭvā*, of Dravidian origin; akin to Tamil *kaṭṭil* bedstead]
- cotangent** /kəʊ'tæn(ə)nt, 't-/-/ *n* the trigonometric function that is the reciprocal of the tangent [NL *cotangent*-, *cotangens*, fr *co-* + *tangent*-, *tangens* tangent]
- cot-death** *n* the death of a young baby from no apparent disease
- cote** /kəʊt/ *n* a shed or coop for small domestic animals, esp pigeons [ME, fr OE]
- coterie** /'kəʊtəri/ *n* a close group of people with a unifying common interest or purpose [F, fr MF, tenants, fr (assumed) MF *cotier* peasant occupying a cottage, fr ML *cotarius*]
- coterminous** /kəʊ'tɜːmɪnəs/ *adj* 1 having the same boundaries (< ~ *states*) 2 coextensive in scope or duration (< ~ *interests*) [alter. of
- coterminous*, fr L *coterminus*, fr *com-* + *terminus* boundary - more at **TERM**] - **coterminously** *adv*
- cotidal** /kəʊ'tiːdl/ *adj* indicating equality in the tides or a coincidence in the time of high or low tide
- cotillion** also **cotillon** /kə'tɪljən/ *n* 1 an elaborate French dance with frequent changing of partners 2 *NAM* a formal ball [F *cotillon*, lit., petticoat, fr OF, fr *cote* coat]
- cotoneaster** /kə,təʊn'astə/ *n* any of a genus of Old World flowering shrubs of the rose family [NL, genus name, fr L *cydonia*, *cotoneum* quince + NL *-aster*]
- Cotswold** /'kɒts,wəʊld, -wəld/ *n* a sheep of a large long-woolled English breed [Cotswold hills, England]
- cotta** /'kɒtə/ *n* a waist-length surplice [ML, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kozza* coarse mantle - more at **COAT**]
- cottage** /'kɒtɪj/ *n* a small house, esp in the country [ME *cotage*, fr (assumed) AF, fr ME *cot*] - **cottager** *n*, **cottagey** *adj*
- cottage cheese** *n* a soft white bland cheese made from the curds of skimmed milk
- cottage hospital** *n*, *Br* a small hospital without resident doctors
- cottage industry** *n* an industry whose work force consists of family units working at home with their own equipment
- cottage pie** *n* a shepherd's pie esp made with minced beef
- cotter** /'kɒtə/ *n* a wedge-shaped or tapered piece used to fasten parts of a structure together [origin unknown]
- cotter pin** *n* (a pin for securing) a cotter, also **SPLIT PIN**
- cotton** /'kɒt(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a plant producing or grown for) a soft usu white fibrous substance composed of the hairs surrounding the seeds of various tropical plants of the mallow family 2a fabric made of cotton b yarn spun from cotton [ME *coton*, fr MF, fr Ar *qutn*]
- cotton** *vi* to come to understand, **CATCH ON** 2 - *usu* + *on* or *onto*, *infinl*
- cotton gin** *n* a machine for separating the seeds, seed cases, and foreign material from cotton
- cotton grass** *n* any of a genus of sedges with tufted spikes
- cottonseed cake** /'kɒt(ə)n,siːd/ *n* a compressed mass of cotton seeds used for feeding cattle
- cottonwood** /-wəʊd/ *n* a poplar of the USA with a tuft of cottony hairs on the seed
- cotton wool** *n* 1 raw cotton, esp cotton pressed into sheets used esp for lining, cleaning, or as a surgical dressing 2 an overprotected comfortable environment
- cottony** /'kɒt(ə)ni/ *adj* covered with (soft long) hairs ['COTTON + *-y*]
- cotyl-** /kɒtɪl-, cotyli-, cotylo- *comb form* (organ or part like a) cup (< *cotylod*) [Gk *kotyl*-, *kotylō*-, fr *kotyle*]
- cotyl** /-kɒtɪl/ *comb form* (→ *n*) cotyledon (< *dicotyl*) [*cotyledon*]
- cotyledon** /kɒtɪ'leɪd(ə)n/ *n* 1 a lobe of the placenta of a mammal 2 the first leaf or either of the first pair or whorl of leaves developed by the embryo of a seed plant [NL, fr Gk *kotyledon* cup-shaped hollow, fr *kotyle* cup] - **cotyledonal** *adj*, **cotyledonary**, **cotyledonous** *adj*
- couch** /kəʊtʃ/ *vt* 1 to lower to and hold in an attacking position (< ~ *ed his lance*) 2 to treat (a cataract) by displacing the lens of the eye 3 to phrase in a specified manner (< ~ *ed in hostile terms*) - *fml* ~ *vi*, of *an animal* to lie down to sleep; also to lie in ambush [ME *couchen*, fr MF *coucher*, fr L *collocare* to set in place - more at **COLLOCATE**]
- couch** *n* 1 a piece of furniture for sitting or lying on a with a back and usu armrests b with a low back and raised head-end 2 a long upholstered seat with a headrest for patients to lie on during medical examination or psychoanalysis 3 the den of an animal (e.g. an otter)
- couchette** /kəʊtʃ'et/ *n* a seat in a railway-carriage compartment that converts into a bunk [F, dim. of *couche* couch]
- couch grass** /'kəʊtʃ, 'kəʊtʃh/ *n* any of several grasses that spread rapidly by long creeping underground stems and are difficult to eradicate [alter. of *quitch* grass]
- coudé** /'kəʊdeɪ, 't-/ *adj* (of or relating to a telescope) constructed so that light is reflected to a focus at a fixed place where the holder for a photographic plate, spectrograph, etc may be mounted [F *coudé* bent like an elbow, fr *coude* elbow, fr L *cubitus* - more at **HIP**]
- cougar** /'kəʊgə/ *n*, *pl* **cougars**, esp collectively **cougar** chiefly *NAM* a puma [F *cotguar*, fr NL *cuguacuarana*, modif of Tupi *suasuarana*, lit., false deer, fr *suasú* deer + *rana* false]
- cough** /kəʊ/ *vi* 1 to expel air from the lungs suddenly with an explosive noise 2 to make a noise like that of coughing ~ *vt* to expel by coughing (< ~ *up mucus*) [ME *coughen*, fr (assumed) OE *cohhan*; akin to MHG *küchen* to breathe heavily]



**'cough** *n* 1 a condition marked by repeated or frequent coughing 2 an act or sound of coughing

**'cough, drop** *n* a medicated sweet for relieving coughing and soothing a sore throat


**cough up** *vb* to produce or hand over (esp money or information) unwillingly – *infrml*

**could** /kəd, strong kood/ *verbal auxiliary* 1 *past of CAN* – used in the past <he found he ~ go>, in the past conditional <he said he would go if he ~>, as an alternative to *can* suggesting less force or certainty <you ~ be right>, as a polite form in the present <~ you do this for me>, as an alternative to *might* expressing purpose in the past <wrote it down so that I ~ remember it>, and as an alternative to *ought* or *should* <you ~ at least apologize> 2 feel impelled to <I ~ wring her neck> [ME *couthē*, *coude*, fr OE *cuthre*; akin to OHG *konda* could]

**couldn't** /'kudnt/ could not

**coulee** /'kooli/ also *coulée* /'koolay/ *n* 1 a thick stream of lava 2 *NAm* a (deep) ravine [CanF *coulee*, fr F, flowing, flow of lava, fr *coulre* to flow, fr L *colare* to strain, fr *colum* sieve]

**couloir** /'koolihwə/ *n* a gorge in a mountainside [F, lit., strainer, fr LL *colatorium*, fr L *colatus*, pp of *colare*]

**coulomb** /'koolɒm, -lohɒm, -/ *n* the SI unit of electric charge  PHYSICS [Charles A de Coulomb †1806 F physicist]

**coult** /'kohlɪ/ *n* a blade or sharp disc attached to the beam of a plough that makes a vertical cut in the ground in front of the ploughshare [ME *colter*, fr OE *culter* & OF *coltre*, both fr L *culter* ploughshare]

**coumarin** /'kooməɪn/ *n* a compound with the smell of new-mown hay obtained from plants or made synthetically and used esp in perfumery [F *coumarine*, fr *coumarou* tonka bean tree, fr Sp or Pg, Sp *coumarú*, fr Pg, fr Tupi]

**coumarone** /'koomə,rohn/ *n* a compound obtained from coal tar and used to make resins that are used in varnishes, printing inks, etc [ISV *coumarin* + -one]

**'council** /'kownsl, -sɪl/ *n* 1 an assembly, meeting 2a *sing or pl in constr* an elected or appointed body with administrative, legislative, or advisory powers b a locally-elected body having power over a parish, district, county, etc [ME *council*, fr OF *concile*, fr L *concilium*, fr *com-* + *calare* to call – more at 'tow]

**'council** *adj* 1 used by a council <a ~ chamber> 2 *Br* provided, maintained, or operated by local government <~ flats>

**councillor** /'kownslə, -sɪlə/ *NAm* also *councilor* *n* a member of a council

**'council of 'ministers** *n* *sing or pl in constr, often cap C&M* CABINET 2

**'counsel** /'kownsl/ *n, pl counsels, (4) counsel* 1 advice 2 deliberation, consultation 3 thoughts or intentions – chiefly in *keep one's own counsel* 4a a barrister engaged in the trial of a case in court b a lawyer appointed to advise a client [ME *conseil*, fr OF, fr L *consilium*, fr *consulere* to consult]

**'counsel** *vt* -ll- (*NAm* -l-, -ll-), /'kownsl-ɪŋ/ to advise

**counselling** /'kownsl-ɪŋ/ *n*, *NAm* chiefly *counseling* *n* professional guidance in personal and social matters

**counsellor**, *NAm* chiefly *counselor* /'kownsl-ə/ *n* 1 an adviser 2 *NAm* a lawyer, *specif* a counsel

**'counsel of perfection** *n* a piece of excellent but impracticable advice

**'count** /kownt/ *vt* 1a to reckon or name by units or groups so as to find the total number of units involved – often + *up* b to name the numbers in order up to and including c to include in a tallying and ~-koning <about 100 copies if you ~ the damaged ones> 2 to consider <~ yourself lucky> 3 to include or exclude (as if) by counting <~ me in> – *vi* 1a to name the numbers in order by units or groups <~ in tens> b to count the units in a group 2 to rely on or upon sb or sth 3 to have value or significance <these are the men who really ~> [ME *counten*, fr MF *compter*, fr L *computare*, fr *com-* + *putare* to consider – more at *PAVE*] – *countable* *adj* – *count on* to look forward to as certain; anticipate <counted on winning>

**'count** *n* 1a the action or process of counting b a total obtained by counting 2a an allegation in an indictment <guilty on all ~s> b a specific point under consideration; an issue <disagreed on several ~s> 3 the total number of individual things in a given unit or sample <blood ~> 4 the calling out of the seconds from 1 to 10 when a boxer has been knocked down during which he must rise or be defeated 5 any of various measures of the fineness of a textile yarn – compare *TEX*, *DENIER*, 'PICK 2 6 chiefly *NAm* the score

**'count** *n* a European nobleman corresponding in rank to a British earl

[MF *comte*, fr LL *comit-*, *comes*, fr L, companion, one of the imperial court, fr *com-* + *ire* to go – more at *ISSUE*]

**'count,down** /-daʊn/ *n* a continuous counting backwards to zero of the time remaining before an event, esp the launching of a space vehicle – *count down* *vi*

**'counenance** /'kownt(ə)nəns/ *n* 1 composure <keep one's ~> 2 a face; esp the face as an indication of mood, emotion, or character 3 moral support; sanction *USE* *fml* [ME *contenance*, fr MF, fr ML *continentia*, fr L, restraint, fr *continent-*, *continens*, prp of *continere* to hold together – more at *CONTAIN*]

**'counenance** *vt* to extend approval or support to – *fml*

**'counter** /'kowntə/ *n* 1 a small disc of metal, plastic, etc used in counting or in games 2 sth of value in bargaining, an asset 3 a level surface (e.g. a table) over which transactions are conducted or food is served or on which goods are displayed [ME *countour*, fr MF *comptouer*, fr ML *computatorium* computing place, fr L *computatus*, pp of *computare*] – over the counter without a prescription <cough mixture available over the counter> – under the counter by surreptitious means, in an illicit and private manner

**'counter** *n* a device for indicating a number or amount [ME, fr MF *conteor*, fr *compter* to count]

**'counter** *vt* 1 to act in opposition to, oppose 2 to nullify the effects of; offset <tried to ~ the trend towards bureaucratization> – *vi* to meet attacks or arguments with defensive or retaliatory steps [ME *countren*, fr MF *contre*]

**'counter** *adv* in an opposite, contrary, or wrong direction [ME *contre*, fr MF, fr L *contra* against, opposite, akin to L *com-* with, together – more at *CO*]

**'counter** *n* 1 the contrary, opposite 2 an overhanging stern of a vessel 3a the (blow resulting from the) making of an attack while parrying (e.g. in boxing or fencing) b an agency or force that offsets, a check

**'counter** *adj* 1 marked by or tending towards an opposite direction or effect 2 showing opposition, hostility, or antipathy

**counter-** *prefix* 1a contrary; in the opposite direction <countermarch> b opposing; retaliatory <counteroffensive> 2 complementary; corresponding <counterpart> 3 duplicate, substitute <counterfoil> [ME *contre-*, fr MF, fr *contre*]

**counteract** /'kowntə'rakt/ *vt* to lessen or neutralize the usu ill effects of by an opposing action – *counteraction* /-'rəks(ə)n/ *n*, *counteractive* *adj*

**'counterattack** /-'ɔ'tak/ *vb* to make an attack (against) in reply to an enemy's attack – *counterattack* /-'ɔ'tak/ *n*

**'counterattraction** /-'ɔ'trəks(ə)n/ *n* an attraction that competes with another

**'counter,balance** /-'bələns/ *n* 1 a weight that balances another 2 a force or influence that offsets or checks an opposing force

**'counterbalance** *vt* to oppose or balance with an equal weight or force

**'counter,blast** /-'bləst/ *n* an energetic and often vociferous reaction or response

**'counter,change** /-'tʃeɪn/ *vt* 1 to interchange, transpose 2 *CHEQUER* 1a ~ *vi* to change places or parts

**'counter,charge** /-'tʃaɪ/ *n* a charge made to counter another charge or to oppose an accuser

**'counter,claim** /-'klaɪm/ *n* an opposing claim, esp in law – *counter-claim* /-'tʃeɪm/ *vi*

**'counter,clockwise** /-'klokwiːz/ *adj or adv, chiefly NAm* anticlockwise

**'counter,culture** /-'kʌlʃə/ *n* a culture with values that run counter to established social norms

**'counter,current** /-'kʌrənt/ *adj* (involving interaction between materials) flowing in opposite directions

**'counterespionage** /-'espi-ənaɪz/ *n* espionage directed towards detecting and thwarting enemy espionage

**'counterexample** /-'ɪɡ.zəmpl/ *n* an example that disproves a theorem, proposition, etc

**'counterfeit** /'kowntəfɪt, -feɪt/ *vb* to imitate or copy (sth) closely, esp with intent to deceive or defraud – *counterfeiter* *n*

**'counterfeit** *adj* 1 made in imitation of sth else with intent to deceive or defraud 2 insincere, feigned <~ sympathy> [ME *countrefet*, fr MF *contrefait*, fr pp of *contrefaire* to imitate, fr *contre-* + *faire* to make, fr L *facere* – more at 'DO]

**'counterfeit** *n* 1 a forgery 2 sth likely to be mistaken for sth of higher value

- 'counterfoil** /-foyl/ *n* a detachable part of a cheque, ticket, etc usu kept as a record or receipt
- 'counterintelligence** /-in'telɪ(ə)n(s)/ *n* organized activity of an intelligence service designed to block an enemy's sources of information
- 'counterirritant** /-iri:t(ə)n(t)/ *n* sthg applied locally to produce surface inflammation with the object of reducing inflammation in tissue underneath – *counterirritant adj*
- 'countermend** /,kowntə'mahnd/, '--/ *vt* 1 to revoke (a command) by a contrary order 2 to order back (e.g. troops) by a superseding contrary order [ME *countermaunden*, fr MF *contremander*, fr *contre-* counter- + *mander* to command, fr L *mandare*]
- ²countermend** *n* (the giving of) a contrary order revoking an earlier one
- 'countermerch** /-,mahch/ *n* a movement in marching by which a unit of troops reverses direction while keeping the same order – *countermarch* /-,'--/ *vi*
- 'countermeasure** /-,mezʒə/ *n* a measure designed to counter another action or state of affairs
- 'countermine** /-,mien/ *n* a tunnel for intercepting an enemy mine
- ²countermine** *vt* to intercept with a countermine ~ *vi* to lay down countermines
- 'countermove** /-,moohv/ *n* a move designed to counter another move
- 'counteroffensive** /-,ə'fensiv/ *n* a military offensive undertaken from a previously defensive position
- 'counterpane** /-,payn/ *n* a bedspread [alter. of ME *countrepointe*, modif of MF *couste pointe*, lit., embroidered quilt]
- 'counterpart** /-,paht/ *n* 1 a duplicate 2 sthg that completes, a complement 3 one having the same function or characteristics as another; an equivalent
- 'counterpoint** /-,poynt/ *n* 1a one or more independent melodies added above or below a given melody *b* the combination of 2 or more independent melodies into a single harmonic texture 2a a complementing or contrasting item *b* use of contrast or interplay of elements in a work of art [MF *contrepoin*, fr ML *contrapunctus*, fr L *contra-* counter- + ML *punctus* musical note, melody, fr L, act of pricking, fr *punctus*, pp of *pungere* to prick – more at PUNGENT]
- ²counterpoint** *vt* 1 to compose or arrange in counterpoint 2 to set off or emphasize by contrast or juxtaposition
- 'counterpoise** /-,poyz/ *n* 1 a counterbalance 2 a state of balance, equilibrium [ME *countrepeis*, fr MF *contrepeis*, *contrepois*, fr *contre-* + *pois*, *pois* weight – more at POISE] – *counterpoise* *vt*
- 'counterproductive** /-,prɔ'duktɪv/ *adj* tending to hinder the attainment of a desired end
- 'counterrevolution** /-,revə'looʃh(ə)n/ *n* a revolution directed towards overthrowing the system established by a previous revolution – *counterrevolutionary* *adj* or *n*, *counterrevolutionist* *n*
- 'counterscarp** /-,skahp/ *n* the outer wall of a ditch in a fortification [MF *countrescarpe*, fr *contre-* counter- + *escarpe* scarp]
- 'countershaft** /-,shaht/ *n* a shaft that is driven by a main shaft and transmits motion to a working part
- 'countersign** /-,sien/ *n* a password or secret signal given by one wishing to pass a guard
- ²countersign** *vt* to add one's signature to (a document) as a witness of another signature – *countersignature* /-,sɪgnatʃə/ *n*
- 'countersink** /-,sɪŋk/ *vt* *countersunk* /-,sɪŋk/ 1 to enlarge (a hole), esp by bevelling, so that the head of a bolt, screw, etc will fit below or level with the surface 2 to set the head of (e.g. a screw) below or level with the surface
- 'countertenor** /-,tenə/ *n* (a person with) an adult male singing voice higher than tenor [ME *countretenour*, fr MF *contreteneur*, fr *contre-* + *teneur* tenor]
- 'countervail** /-,vayl/ *vt* to counterbalance, offset [ME *countrevailen*, fr MF *contrevaloir*, fr *contre-* counter- + *valoir* to be worth, fr L *valere* – more at WIELD]
- 'counterweight** /-,wayt/ *n* a counterbalance – *counterweight* *vt*
- 'countess** /,kowntɪs/, -tes/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of an earl or count 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of an earl or count
- 'countinghouse** /,kowntɪŋ'haʊs/ *n* a building, room, or office used for keeping account books and transacting business
- 'countless** /-,lis/ *adj* too numerous to be counted; innumerable
- 'count palatine** *n* 1 a high judicial official in the Holy Roman Empire 2 a count of the Holy Roman Empire having imperial powers in his own domain
- 'countrified** also **'countryfied** /'kuntrɪfɪd/ *adj* 1 rural, rustic 2 unsophisticated [*country* + *-fied* (as in *glorified*)]
- 'country** /'kʌntri/ *n* 1 an indefinite usu extended expanse of land; a region 2a the land of a person's birth, residence, or citizenship *b* a political state or nation or its territory ↗ MAP 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr *a* the populace *b* the electorate <the government was forced to go to the ~> 4 rural as opposed to urban areas 5 COUNTRY MUSIC [ME *contree*, fr OF *contrée*, fr ML *contrata*, fr L *contra* against, on the opposite side]
- 'country and 'western** *n* COUNTRY MUSIC
- 'country club** *n* a sporting or social club set in a rural area
- 'country cousin** *n* one who is unaccustomed to or confused by the bustle and sophistication of city life
- 'country dance** *n* any of various native or folk dances for several pairs of dancers typically arranged in square or circular figures or in 2 long rows facing a partner
- 'country house** *n* a house, mansion, or estate in the country
- 'countryman** /-'mən/, *fem* 'countrywoman *n* 1 an inhabitant or native of a specified country 2 a compatriot 3 one living in the country or having country ways
- 'country music** *n* music derived from or imitating the folk style of the southern USA or the Western cowboy
- 'country seat** *n* a mansion or estate in the country that is the hereditary property of 1 family
- 'countryside** /-,sɪd/ *n* a rural area
- 'country** /'kownti/ *n* 1a any of the territorial divisions of Britain and Ireland constituting the chief units for administrative, judicial, and political purposes ↻ *b sing* or *pl* in constr the people of a country 2 the largest local government unit in various countries (e.g. the USA) [ME *counte*, fr OF *conté*, fr ML *comitatus*, fr LL, office of a count, fr *comit-*, comes count – more at COUNTRY]
- ²country** *adj* 1 of a county 2 *Br* characteristic of or belonging to the English landed gentry <a ~ accent>
- 'country borough** *n* a borough which until 1974 had the local-government powers of a county
- 'country court** *n*, often cap *1st C* a local civil court in England which is presided over by a judge and deals with relatively minor claims ↗ LAW
- 'country palatine** *n* the territory of a count palatine or earl palatine
- 'country seat** *n*, *NAm* COUNTY TOWN
- 'country town** *n*, chiefly *Br* a town that is the seat of the government of a county ↗ COUNTRY
- 'coup** /koʊp/ *vb*, chiefly *Scot* to overturn, upset [ME *coupen* to strike, fr MF *couper* – more at COPE]
- ²coup** /koʊh/ *n*, *pl* coups /koʊhz/ 1 a brilliant, sudden, and usu highly successful stroke or act 2 COUP D'ÉTAT [F, blow, stroke – more at COPE]
- coup de grâce** /,koʊh də 'grahs/, 'gras (Fr ku də gras)/ *n*, *pl* coups de grâce / ~ ~ ~ / 1 a fatal blow or shot administered to end the suffering of a mortally wounded person or animal 2 a decisive finishing stroke [F, lit., stroke of mercy]
- coup de 'main** /də 'manh (Fr də mɛ)/ *n*, *pl* coups de main / ~ ~ ~ / a sudden forceful attack [F, lit., stroke of the hand]
- coup d'état** /day'tah (Fr deta)/ *n*, *pl* coups d'état / ~ ~ ~ / the violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group [F, lit., stroke of state]
- coup de théâtre** /də tay'ahr(ə)/ *n*, *pl* coups de théâtre / ~ ~ ~ / a sudden sensational turn of events, esp in a play; also a spectacular piece of staging or stagecraft [F *coup de théâtre*, lit., stroke of theatre]
- 'coup d'œil** /duh-i (Fr dœj)/ *n*, *pl* coups d'œil / ~ ~ ~ / a brief survey; a glance [F, lit., stroke of the eye]
- coupe** /koʊp/ *n* (a cold dessert of fruit and ice cream served in) a small goblet-shaped dish [F, cup, fr LL *cuppa* – more at CUP]
- coupé** /'koʊpay; sense 2 also koʊhp/ *n*, *pl* coupes /koʊhp/ *n* 1 a 4-wheeled horse-drawn carriage for 2 passengers with an outside seat for the driver 2 a closed 2-door motor car for usu 2 people [F *coupé*, fr pp of *couper* to cut]
- 'couple** /'kupl/ *vb* *coupling* /'kuplɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to unite or link <~d his praise with a request> 2a to fasten together; connect *b* to bring (2 electric circuits) into such close proximity as to permit mutual influence 3 to join in marriage ~ *vi* 1 to copulate 2 to join
- ²couple** *n*, *pl* couples, couple 1 *sing* or *pl* in constr 2 people paired together; esp a married or engaged couple 2a 2 things considered together; a pair *b* an indefinite small number; a few <a ~ of days ago> – *infrml* 3 2 equal and opposite forces that act along parallel lines and



- cause rotation [ME, pair, bond, fr OF *cople*, fr L *copula* bond, fr *co-* + *apere* to fasten – more at APT]
- couple** *adj* two – + a < a ~ more drinks >
- coupler** /'kʊplə/ *n* a device on a keyboard instrument by which keyboards or keys are connected to play together [COUPLE + -ER]
- couplet** /'kʊplɪt/ *n* a unit of 2 successive, usu rhyming, lines of verse [MF, dim. of *cople*]
- coupling** /'kʊplɪŋ/ *n* a device that serves to connect the ends of adjacent parts or objects [COUPLE + -ING]
- coupon** /'kʊpɒn/ *n* a form handed over in order to obtain an article, service, or accommodation: e.g. a detachable ticket or certificate that entitles the holder to sth; b a voucher given with a purchase that can be exchanged for goods; c a part of a printed advertisement to be cut off for use as an order form or enquiry form; d a printed entry form for a competition, esp the football pools [F, fr OF, piece, fr *couper* to cut – more at COPE]
- courage** /'kʊrɪdʒ/ *n* mental or moral strength to confront and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty; bravery [ME *corage*, fr OF, fr *cuer* heart, fr L *cor* – more at HEART] – **courageous** /'kʊrɪdʒəs/ *adj*, **courageously** *adv*
- courante** /'kʊərɪnt/ *n* a musical composition or movement (e.g. in a suite) in quick triple time [MF, fr *courir* to run, fr L *currere*]
- courgette** /'kʊrɪt/ *n* (the plant that bears) a variety of small vegetable marrow cooked and eaten as a vegetable [F dial, dim. of *courge* gourd, fr L *cucurbita*]
- courier** /'kʊrɪə/ *n* 1a a member of a diplomatic service who carries state or embassy papers; b one who carries secret information, contraband, etc. 2 a tourist guide employed by a travel agency [MF *courrier*, fr OIt *corriere*, fr *correre* to run, fr L *currere*]
- course** /'kɔːs/ *n* 1 the act or action of moving in a path from point to point 2 the path over which sth moves: e.g. a racecourse; b the direction of travel, usu measured as a clockwise angle from north; c WATERCOURSE; d GOLF COURSE 3a usual procedure or normal action <the law must take its ~>; b a chosen manner of conducting oneself; a plan of action <our wisest ~ is to retreat>; c progression through a series of acts or events or a development or period <in the ~ of the year> 4a a series of educational activities relating to a subject, esp when constituting a curriculum <a management ~>; b a particular medical treatment administered over a designated period 5a a part of a meal served at one time; b a row; esp a continuous horizontal layer of brick or masonry throughout a wall BUILDING [ME, fr OF, fr L *cursus*, fr *cursus*, pp of *currere* to run – more at CAR] – **of course** 1 as might be expected; naturally 2 admittedly; TO BE SURE
- course** *vt* 1 to hunt or pursue (e.g. hares) with dogs that follow by sight 2 to follow close upon; pursue ~ *vi* of a liquid to run or pass rapidly (as if) along an indicated path <blood coursing through his veins>
- course** *adv* OF COURSE – **infirm**
- course** /'kɔːs/ *n* any of various African and Asian birds noted for their swift running [COURSE + -ER]
- court** /'kɔːt/ *n* 1a the residence or establishment of a dignitary, esp a sovereign; b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (1) the sovereign and his officers and advisers who are the governing power (2) the family and retinue of a sovereign; c a reception held by a sovereign 2a a manor house or large building (e.g. a block of flats) surrounded by usu enclosed grounds – archaic except in proper names <Hampton Court> <Withdean Court>; b a space enclosed wholly or partly by a building; c a division of a rectangular space walled or marked off for playing lawn tennis, squash, basketball, etc; d a yard surrounded by houses, with only 1 opening onto a street 3a (a session of) an official assembly for the transaction of judicial business; b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* judicial officers in session 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an assembly with legislative or administrative powers 5 conduct or attention intended to win favour <pay ~ to the king> [ME, fr OF, fr L *cohors*-, *cohors* enclosure, throng, cohort, fr *co-* + *hort-*, -*hors* (akin to *hortus* garden)]
- court** *vt* 1 to act so as to invite or provoke (<~s disaster>) 2a to seek the affections of; woo; b of an animal to perform actions to attract (a mate) 3 to seek to win the favour of ~ *vi* of a man and woman to be involved in a relationship that may lead to marriage
- court bouillon** /'kɔːt buːjɒn/ *n* a stock made with vegetables, herbs, and often wine in which fish is or has been cooked [F *court-bouillon*, fr *court* short + *bouillon* bouillon]
- court card** *n* a king, queen, or jack in a pack of cards [alter. of *coat card*; fr the coats worn by the figures depicted]
- Courtelle** /'kɔːtəl/ *trademark* – used for an acrylic fibre.
- courteous** /'kʊtɪəs, -tiəs; also 'kaw-/ *adj* showing respect and consideration for others [ME *cortais*, fr OF, fr *court* court] – **courteously** *adv*, **courteousness** *n*
- courtesan** /'kɔːtɪzən, '--/ *n* a prostitute with a courtly, wealthy, or upper-class clientele [MF *courtisane*, fr OIt *cortigiana* woman courtier, fem of *cortigiano* courtier, fr *corte* court, fr L *cohors*-, *cohors*]
- courtesy** /'kʊrtəsi/ *n* 1 courteous behaviour 2 a courteous act or expression [ME *cortaisie*, fr OF, fr *cortais*] – **by courtesy** of through the kindness, generosity, or permission granted by (a person or organization)
- courtesy** *adj* granted, provided, or performed by way of courtesy <made a ~ call on the ambassador>
- courtesy of prep** BY COURTESY OF
- courtesy title** *n* a title commonly accepted though without legal validity
- courthouse** /'kɔːthəʊs/ *n*, chiefly NAm a building in which courts of law are regularly held
- courtier** /'kɔːtɪə/ *n* one in attendance at a royal court
- courtly** /'kɔːtli/ *adj* of a quality befitting the court, elegant, refined – **courtliness** *n*
- courtly love** *n* a medieval conventionalized code prescribing the conduct and emotions of ladies and their lovers
- court-martial** *n*, *pl* courts-martial also court-martials (a trial by) a court of commissioned officers that tries members of the armed forces
- court-martial** *vt* -ll- (NAm -l-, -ll-) to try by court-martial
- court of appeal** *n*, often cap C&A a court hearing appeals from the decisions of lower courts LAW
- Court of Criminal Appeal** *n* the supreme court of appeal in Scotland for criminal cases LAW
- court of inquiry** *n* a board of people appointed to ascertain the causes of an incident, disaster, etc
- court of record** *n* a court whose recorded proceedings are valid as evidence of fact
- Court of Session** *n* the highest civil court in Scotland LAW
- Court of St James's** *n* the court of the British sovereign [St James's Palace, London, former seat of the British court]
- court plaster** *n* an adhesive plaster, esp of silk coated with isinglass and glycerol [fr its use for beauty spots by ladies at royal courts]
- courtship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* the act, process, or period of courting
- court shoe** *n* a plain high-heeled women's shoe with no fastenings GARMENT [fr its use as part of dress at court]
- courtyard** /-jɑːd/ *n* an open court or enclosure adjacent to a building
- couscous** /'kʊʊs, kʊʊs/ *n* a N African dish of crushed or coarsely ground wheat steamed and served with meat, vegetables, and spices [F, fr Ar *kuskus*, fr *kuskasa* to pound, pulverize]
- cousin** /'kʊzn/ *n* 1a a child of one's uncle or aunt; b a relative descended from one's grandparent or more remote ancestor in a different line 2 – formerly used as a title by a sovereign in addressing a nobleman [ME *cosin*, fr OF, fr L *consobrinus*, fr *com-* + *sobrinus* cousin on the mother's side, fr *soror* sister – more at SISTER] – **cousinhood** /-hʊd/ *n*, **cousinship** *n*
- couture** /'kʊʊtʏə/ *n* 1 the business of designing and making fashionable custom-made women's clothing; also the designers and establishments engaged in this business 2 HAUTE COUTURE [F, fr OF *couture* sewing, fr (assumed) VL *consutura*, fr L *consutus*, pp of *consuere* to sew together, fr *com-* + *suere* to sew – more at SEW]
- couturier** /'kʊʊtʏəri-, -ri-ay/ *n*, fem *couturière* /'kʊʊtʏəri-ə/ *n* (the proprietor of or designer for) an establishment engaged in couture [F, dressmaker, fr OF *couturier* tailor's assistant, fr *couture*]
- couvade** /'kʊʊvɑːd/ *n* a custom among some peoples by which a father retires to bed at the birth of his child as if bearing it himself [F, fr MF, cowardly inactivity, fr *couver* to sit on, brood over – more at COVEY]
- covalency** /'kʊʊvælɪnsi/ *n* valency characterized by the sharing of (pairs of) electrons between combining atoms; also the number of such pairs an atom can share when forming covalent bonds – **covalent** *adj*, **covalently** *adv*
- covalent bond** /'kʊʊvælɪnt/ *n* a nonionic chemical bond formed by shared (pairs of) electrons between combining atoms
- covariance** /'kʊʊvəri-əns/ *n* the expected value of the product of the deviations of 2 random variables from their respective means
- cove** /'kʊv/ *n* 1 a small sheltered area; esp an inlet or bay 2 a (deep) recess in (the side of) a mountain 3 a concave moulding, esp at the point where a wall meets a ceiling or floor [ME, den, fr OE *cōf*; akin to OE *cōf*]

**²cove** *vt* to make in a hollow concave form

**³cove** *n*, *Br* a man, fellow – slang; no longer in vogue [prob fr Romany *kova* thing, person]

**coven** /'kʊvən, 'kɒvən/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an assembly or band of witches [ME *covin* band, fr MF, fr ML *convenium* agreement, fr L *convenire* to agree – more at CONVENTION]



**¹covenant** /'kʊv(ə)nənt, 'kɒ-/ *n* 1 a solemn agreement 2 a written promise [ME, fr OF, fr *pp* of *covenir* to agree, fr L *convenire*]

**²covenant** *vb* to promise by or enter into a covenant

**covenanter, covenantor** /'kʊv(ə)nəntə, 'kɒ-/ *n* 1 sby who makes a covenant 2 *cap* an adherent of the Scottish National Covenant of 1638

**Coventry** /'kɒv(ə)ntri; also 'ku-/ *n* a state of ostracism or exclusion – chiefly in *send to Coventry* [Coventry, city in England]

**¹cover** /'kʊvə/ *vt* 1a to guard from attack b(1) to have within the range of one's guns (2) to hold within range of an aimed firearm c(1) to insure (2) to afford protection against or compensation for d to mark (an opponent) in order to obstruct play e to make sufficient provision for (a demand or charge) by means of a reserve or deposit (*his balance was insufficient to ~ his cheque*) 2a to hide from sight or knowledge; conceal – *usu* + *up* (< *up a scandal*) b to lie or spread over; envelop (< *snow ~ ed the ground*) 3 to lay or spread sthg over 4 to extend thickly or conspicuously over the surface of (< *ed in spots*) 5 to place or set a cover or covering over 6a of a male animal to copulate with (a female animal) b to sit on and incubate (eggs) 7 to invest with a large or excessive amount of sthg (< *s himself with glory*) 8 to play a higher-ranking card on (a previously played card) 9 to include, consider, or take in (< *this book ~ s the whole Renaissance*) 10a to have as one's territory or field of activity (< *one salesman ~ s the whole county*) b to report news about 11 to pass over, traverse (< *ed 5 miles at great speed*) ~ *vi* 1 to conceal sthg illicit, blameworthy, or embarrassing from notice – *usu* + *up* 2 to act as a substitute or replacement during an absence – chiefly in *cover for someone* [ME *coveren*, fr OF *covrir*, fr L *cooperrē*, fr *co-* + *operire* to close, cover] – *cover one's tracks* to conceal evidence of one's past actions in order to elude pursuit or investigation – *cover the ground* 1 to cover a distance with adequate speed 2 to deal with an assignment or examine a subject thoroughly

**²cover** *n* 1 sthg that protects, shelters, or guards: e.g. a natural shelter for an animal b(1) a position affording shelter from attack (2) (the protection offered by) a force supporting a military operation (3) COVERAGE 3a 2 sthg that is placed over or about another thing: a a lid, top b (the front or back part of) a binding or jacket of a book c an overlay or outer layer (e.g. for protection) (< *a chair ~*) d a roof e a cloth (e.g. a blanket) used on a bed (< *throw back the ~*) f sthg (e.g. vegetation or snow) that covers the ground g the extent to which clouds obscure the sky 3a sthg that conceals or obscures (< *under ~ of darkness*) b a masking device, a pretext 4 an envelope or wrapper for postal use (< *under separate ~*) 5a cover-point, extra cover, or a cricket fielding position between them  SPORT b *pl* the fielding positions in cricket that lie between point and mid-off  SPORT

**coverage** /'kʊv(ə)ri/ *n* 1 the act or fact of covering 2 inclusion within the scope of discussion or reporting (< *news ~*) 3a the total range of risks covered by the terms of an insurance contract b the number or percentage of people reached by a communications medium

**¹cover-all** *adj* comprehensive

**cover-charge** *n* a charge (e.g. for service) made by a restaurant or nightclub in addition to the charge for food and drink

**cover-girl** *n* an attractive girl whose picture appears on a magazine cover


**cover-glass** *n* a piece of very thin glass used to cover material on a glass microscope slide

**¹covering** /'kʊv(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* sthg that covers or conceals


**²covering** *adj* containing an explanation of an accompanying item (< a ~ letter)

**coverlet** /-li/ *n* a bedspread [ME, alter. of *coverlite*, fr AF *coverelyth*, fr OF *covrir* to cover + *lit* bed, fr L *lectus* – more at 'LIE]

**cover-note** *n*, *Br* a provisional insurance document providing cover between acceptance of a risk and issue of a full policy

**cover-point** *n* a fielding position in cricket further from the batsman than point and situated between mid-off and point  SPORT

**cover** /'kʊvət, -vʊt, 'kɒ-/ *adj* not openly shown; secret [ME, fr OF, *pp* of *covrir* to cover] – *covertly* *adv*, *covertness* *n*

**²cover** *n* 1a a hiding place; a shelter b a thicket affording cover for game 2 a feather covering the bases of the wing or tail feathers of a bird  ANATOMY

**cover-up** *n* a device or course of action that conceals sthg (e.g. sthg illegal)

**covet** /'kɒvɪt, 'ku-/ *vt* to desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably [ME *coveiten*, fr OF *covettier*, fr *covetié* desire, modif. of L *cupiditat-*, *cupiditas*, fr *cupidus* desirous, fr *cupere* to desire]

**covetous** /'kɒvɪtəs, 'ku-/ *adj* showing an inordinate desire for esp another's wealth or possessions – *covetously* *adv*, *covetousness* *n*

**covey** /'kʊvi/ *n* 1 a mature bird or pair of birds with a brood of young; also a small flock 2 a company, group [ME, fr MF *covee*, fr OF, fr *cover* to sit on, brood over, fr L *cubare* to lie – more at 'HIP]

**¹cow** /kɒw/ *n* 1 the mature female of cattle or of any animal the male of which is called *bull* 2 a domestic bovine animal regardless of sex or age 3 a woman; esp one who is unpleasant 4 chiefly *Austr* a cause of annoyance or difficulty *USE* (3&4) *vulg* [ME *cou*, fr OE *cu*; akin to OHG *kuo* cow, L *bos* head of cattle, Gk *bous*, Skt *go*] – *till the cows come home* FOREVER 1

**²cow** *vt* to intimidate with threats or a show of strength [prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *kue* to subdue]

**cowage, cowhage** /'kɒwi/ *n* a tropical leguminous climbing plant whose pods are covered with barbed hairs that cause severe itching [Hindi *kuvāc*]

**coward** /'kɒwəd/ *n* one who lacks courage or resolve [ME, fr OF *coart*, fr *coe* tail, fr L *cauda*]

**cowardice** /'kɒwədɪs/ *n* lack of courage or resolve [ME *cowardise*, fr OF *coardise*, fr *coart*]


**¹cowardly** /-li/ *adv* in a cowardly manner

**²cowardly** *adj* resembling or befitting a coward (< a ~ retreat) – *cowardliness* *n*

**cowbane** /-,baɪn/ *n* a tall perennial Eurasian plant or similar poisonous plant of the carrot family

**cowbell** /-,bel/ *n* a bell hung round the neck of a cow to make a sound by which it can be located

**cowboy** /-,boɪ/, *fem* 'cowgirl *n* 1 one who tends or drives cattle; esp a usu mounted cattle ranch hand in N America 2a one who employs irregular or unscrupulous methods, esp in business b a person who uses underhand or dubious means to get his own way *USE* (2) *informal*

**cowboy boot** *n* a boot with a high arch and heel and usu fancy stitching  GARMENT

**cowboy hat** *n* a wide-brimmed hat with a large soft crown

**cowcatcher** /-,kæʃə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* an apparatus on the front of a locomotive or tram for removing obstacles from the track

**cower** /'kɒwə/ *vi* to crouch down or shrink away (e.g. in fear) from sthg menacing [ME *couren*, of Scand origin; akin to Norw *kura* to cower; akin to Gk *gyros* circle, OE *cor*]

**cowfish** /-,fɪʃ/ *n* 1 a sirenian 2 any of various small brightly coloured fishes with projections resembling horns over the eyes

**cowhage** /'kɒwi/ *n* cowage

**cowhand** /-,hand/ *n* a cowherd or cowboy

**cowherd** /-,huəd/ *n* one who tends cows

**cowhide** /-,hɪd/ *n* 1 leather made from the hide of a cow 2 *NAM* a coarse leather whip

**cowl** /'kɒwl/ *n* 1a a hood or long hooded cloak, esp of a monk b a draped neckline on a garment resembling a folded-down hood 2a a chimney covering designed to improve ventilation b a cowl [ME *cowle*, fr OE *cugele*, fr LL *cuculla* monk's hood, fr L *cucullus* hood] – *cowled* *adj*

**cowlick** /-,lɪk/ *n* a tuft of hair that sticks up, esp over the forehead [fr its appearance of having been licked by a cow]

**cowling** /'kɒwɪŋ/ *n* a removable metal covering over an engine, esp in an aircraft

**cowman** /-,mən/ *n* a cowherd or cowboy

**cow-worker** /-,kɒh/ *n* a fellow worker

**cowpat** /-,pat/ *n* a small heap of cow dung


**cowpea** /-,peə/ *n* BLACK-EYED PEA

**cowpox** /-,pɒks/ *n* a mild disease of the cow that when communicated to humans gives protection against smallpox

**cowrie**, *cowry* /'kɒwri/ *n* any of numerous marine gastropod molluscs with glossy and often brightly coloured shells, formerly used as money in parts of Africa and Asia [Hindi *kauri*]

**cowslip** /-,slɪp/ *n* a common European plant of the primrose family with fragrant yellow or purplish flowers [ME *cowslippe*, fr OE *cūslippe*, lit., cow dung, fr *cū* cow + *slýpa*, *slýppe* paste – more at 'SLIP]

**cox** /kɒks/ *vb* or *n* (to) coxswain – *coxless* *adj*

**coxae** /'kɒksə/ *n*, *pl* *coxae* /-si/ the basal segment of a limb of an insect, spider, etc  ANATOMY [L, *hip*; akin to OHG *hahsina* hock, Skt *kakṣa* armpit] – *coxal* *adj*

**coxcomb** /'koks,kohm/ *n* a conceited foolish person; a fop [ME *cokkes comb*, lit., cock's comb]

**coxswain** /'koksɪn, -swayn/ *n* 1 a sailor who commands and usu steers a ship's boat 2 the steersman of a racing rowing boat who usu directs the crew [ME *cockswayne*, fr *cok* small boat + *swain* servant] – **coxswainless** *adj*

**coxswain** *vb* to command or steer as coxswain

**coy** /koy/ *adj* 1a (affectedly) shy b provocatively playful or coquettish 2 showing reluctance to make a definite commitment or face unpalatable facts [ME, quiet, shy, fr MF *coi* calm, fr L *quietus* quiet] – **coily** *adv*, **coyness** *n*

**coyote** /'koyot, -, 'ohti, kie'ohti/ *n, pl coyotes*, esp collectively *coyote* a small N American wolf [MexSp, fr Nahuatl *coyotl*]

**coypu** /'koypy)oo/ *n, pl coypus*, esp collectively *coypu* a S American aquatic rodent with webbed feet now commonly found in E Anglia [AmcrSp *coipú*, fr Araucan *coypu*]

**cozy** /'kɒzi/ *adj, NAm cosy*

**cozy** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a cosy

**crab** /krab/ *n* 1 any of numerous chiefly marine crustaceans usu with the front pair of limbs modified as grasping pincers and a short broad flattened carapace; also the flesh of this cooked and eaten as food 2 *pl* infestation with crab lice [ME *crabbe*, fr OE *crabba*, akin to OHG *krabiz* crab, OE *ceorfan* to carve]

**crab** *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to cause to move sideways or in an indirect or diagonal manner 2 to head (an aircraft) by means of the rudder into a crosswind to counteract drift ~ *vi* to move sideways indirectly or diagonally

**crab** *n* CRAB APPLE [ME *crabbe*, perh fr *crabbe* 'crab]

**crab** *vb* -bb- *vt* to make sullen, sour (old age has ~ bed his nature) ~ *vi* to carp, grouse (always ~s about the weather) – *infrml* [ME *crabben*, prob back-formation fr *crabbed*]

**crab** *n* an ill-tempered person – *infrml*

**crab, apple** *n* (a tree that bears) a small usu wild sour apple ['crab] **crabbed** /'krabɪd/ *adj* 1 morose, peevish 2 difficult to read or understand (~ handwriting) [ME, partly fr *crabbe* 'crab, partly fr *crabbe* 'crab] – **crabbedly** *adv*, **crabbedness** *n*

**crabby** /'krabi/ *adj* cross, ill-tempered – *infrml* ['crab]

**crabgrass** /-'grahs/ *n* a grass with freely rooting creeping stems that grows as a weed in lawns

**crab, louse** *n* a sucking louse that infests the pubic region of the human body

**crabwise** /-'wiez/ *adv* 1 sideways 2 in a sidling or cautiously indirect manner

**crack** /krak/ *vi* 1 to make a sudden sharp explosive noise (the whip ~s) 2a to break or split apart b to develop fissures 3a to lose control or effectiveness under pressure – often + *up* b to fail in tone, volume, etc (his voice ~ed) 4 esp of hydrocarbons to break up into simpler chemical compounds when heated, usu with a catalyst ~ *vt* 1a to break so that fissures appear on the surface (~ a mirror) b to break with a crack (~ nuts) 2 to tell (a joke) 3a to puzzle out and expose, solve, or reveal the mystery of (~ a code) b to break into (~ a safe) c to break through (e.g. a barrier) so as to gain acceptance or recognition 4 to cause to make a sudden sharp noise (~ one's knuckles) 5a to subject (esp heavy hydrocarbons) to cracking, esp to produce petrol b to produce (e.g. petrol) by cracking 6 to open (e.g. a can or bottle) for drinking – *infrml* [ME *crakken*, fr OE *cracian*; akin to Skt *jarate* it crackles – more at CRANE]

**crack** *n* 1 a sudden sharp loud noise (the ~ of rifle fire) 2a a line or narrow opening that marks a break; a fissure (a ~ in the ice) b a narrow opening; a chink (leave the door open a ~) 3 a broken tone of the voice 4 a sharp resounding blow (gave him a ~ on the head) 5 a witty remark; a quip – *infrml* 6 an attempt, try at – *infrml*

**crack** *adj* of superior quality or ability (a ~ shot) – *infrml*

**crack, down** /-'daʊn/ *n* an act or instance of cracking down

**crack down** *vi* to take regulatory or disciplinary action – usu + *on*

**cracked** *adj* 1 marked by harshness, dissonance, or failure to sustain a tone (a ~ voice) 2 mentally disordered; crazy – *infrml*

**cracker** /'krakə/ *n* 1a a (folded) usu paper cylinder containing an explosive that is discharged to make a noise b a brightly coloured paper and cardboard tube that makes a cracking noise when pulled sharply apart and usu contains a toy, paper hat, or other party item 2 *pl* a nutcracker 3 a thin often savoury biscuit 4 the equipment in which cracking, esp of petroleum, is carried out 5 *Br* sth or sb exceptional; esp an outstandingly attractive girl or woman – *infrml* ['crack + <sup>1</sup>-er]

**crackerjack** *adj* **crackerjack** /'krakjak/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* sb or sth of marked excellence – *infrml* ['crack + <sup>1</sup>-er + jack] – **crackerjack** *adj*

**crackers** *adj*, chiefly *Br* mad, crazy – *infrml* [prob alter. of *cracked*] **cracking** /'krakɪŋ/ *adv* very, extremely (a ~ good book) – *infrml*; no longer in vogue

**crackle** /'krakl/ *vb* **crackling** /'kraklɪŋ, 'krakl-ɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to make a crackle (the fire ~s on the hearth) 2 **CRAZE** ~ *vt* 1 to crush or crack with a snapping sound 2 **CRAZE** 1 [freq of 'crack]

**crackle** *n* 1 the noise of repeated small cracks or reports 2 a network of fine cracks on an otherwise smooth surface – **crackly** /'krakli/ *adj* **crackling** /'kraklɪŋ/ *n* 1 the crisp skin of roast meat, esp pork 2 the crisp residue left after the rendering of animal fat, esp lard – usu *pl* with sing. meaning

**cracknel** /'krakn(ə)/ *n* a hard brittle biscuit [ME *krakenelle*, prob modif of MF *craquelin*, fr MD *crakelne*, fr *craken* to crack]

**crack of dawn** *n* the first light of dawn

**crack of doom** *n* the thunderclap heralding the Day of Judgment

**crackpot** /-'pɒt/ *n* sb with eccentric ideas; a crank – *infrml* ['crack + *pot* (head)] – **crackpot** *adj*

**crackman** /-'mən/ *n* a burglar – *infrml*

**crack-up** *n* 1 a mental collapse, NERVOUS BREAKDOWN 2 a collapse, breakdown

**crack up** *vt* to present in (excessively) favourable terms (wasn't all that it was cracked up to be) – *infrml* ~ *vi* to undergo a physical or mental collapse

**cracy** /-'krasi/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 rule, government (democracy) 2 powerful or dominant social or political class (aristocracy) 3 state having a (specified) government or ruling class (meritocracy) [MF & LL, MF -cratie, fr LL -cratia, fr Gk -kratia, fr *kratos* strength, power – more at HARD]

**cradle** /'kraidl/ *n* 1a a baby's bed or cot, usu on rockers b a framework of wood or metal used as a support, scaffold, etc 2a the earliest period of life, infancy (from the ~ to the grave) b a place of origin (~ of civilization) [ME *cradel*, fr OE *cradol*, akin to OHG *kratto* basket, Skt *grantha* knot]

**cradle** *vt* **cradling** /'kraidlɪŋ/ 1 to place or keep (as if) in a cradle 2 to shelter or hold protectively

**craft** /kraɪft/ *n, pl crafts*, (5) **craft** also **crafts** 1 skill in planning, making, or executing; dexterity – often in combination (stagecraft) 2 an activity or trade requiring manual dexterity or artistic skill, broadly a trade, profession 3 skill in deceiving to gain an end 4 *sing* or *pl* in constr the members of a trade or trade association 5a a (small) boat b an aircraft c a spacecraft [ME, strength, skill, fr OE *creft*, akin to OHG *kraft* strength]

**craft** *vt* to make (as if) using skill and dexterity (a beautifully ~ed novel)

**craftsman** /-'mən/, *fem* 'crafts, woman *n* 1 a workman who practises a skilled trade or handicraft 2 one who displays a high degree of manual dexterity or artistic skill – **craftsmanlike** *adj*, **craftsmanship** *n*

**crafty** /'kraɪfti/ *adj* showing subtlety and guile – **craftily** *adv*, **craftiness** *n*

**crag** /krag/ *n* a steep rugged rock or cliff [ME, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *crec* crag]

**craggy** /'kragi/ *adj* rough, rugged (a ~ face) – **cragginess** *n*

**cragsman** /-'mən/ *n* sb skilled in climbing crags

**crake** /kraɪk/ *n* a (short-billed) rail (e.g. the cornerake) [ME, prob fr ON *kraka* crow or *krakr* raven; akin to OE *crāwan* to crow]

**cram** /kram/ *vb* -mm- *vt* 1 to pack tight; jam (~ a suitcase with clothes) 2 to thrust forcefully 3 to prepare hastily for an examination 4 to eat voraciously; bolt – *infrml* ~ *vi* 1 to study hastily and intensively for an examination 2 to eat greedily or until uncomfortably full – *infrml* [ME *crammen*, fr OE *crammian*; akin to Gk *agein* to collect]

**crambo** /'krambo/ *n, pl cramboes* a game in which a player gives a word or line of verse to be matched in rhyme by other players [alter. of earlier *crambe*, fr L, cabbage, fr Gk *krambe*]

**cram-full** /kram/ *adj* as full as can be

**crammer** /'kramə/ *n, Br* a school or teacher that prepares students intensively for an examination – *infrml* [CRAM + <sup>1</sup>-er]

**cramp** /kramp/ *n* 1 a painful involuntary spasmodic contraction of a muscle 2 *pl* severe abdominal pain [ME *crampe*, fr MF, of Gmc origin; akin to LG *krampe* hook]


**cramp** *n* 1 a usu metal device bent at the ends and used to hold timbers or blocks of stone together 2 a clamp [LG or obs D *krampe* hook; akin to OE *cradol* cradle]

**cramp** *vt* 1 to affect with cramp 2a to confine, restrain b to restrain from free expression – esp in *cramp someone's style* 3 to fasten or hold with a clamp



**crampon** /'krampon/ *n* 1 a hooked mechanical device for lifting heavy objects – usu pl with sing. meaning 2 a metal frame with downward- and forward-pointing spikes that is fixed to the sole of a boot for climbing slopes of ice or hard snow [MF *crampon*, of Gmc origin; akin to LG *krampe*]

**cranberry** /'kran(bə)n/ *n* any of various plants of the heath family; also the red acid berry of such plants used in making sauces and jellies [part trans of LG *kraanbere*, fr *kraan* crane + *bere* berry]

**crane** /'krayn/ *n* 1 any of a family of tall wading birds  ENDANGERED 2 a machine for moving heavy weights by means of a projecting swinging arm or a hoisting apparatus supported on an overhead track [ME *cran*, fr OE; akin to OHG *krano* crane, Gk *geranos*, L *grus*, Skt *jarate* it crackles]

**crane** *vt* 1 to raise or lift (as if) by a crane 2 to stretch (e.g. the neck), esp in order to see better ~ *vi* to stretch one's neck, esp in order to see better (<I ~d out of the window>)

**crane fly** *n* any of numerous long-legged slender two-winged flies that resemble large mosquitoes but do not bite

**cranesbill** /'kraynzbi/ *n* GERANIUM 1


**crani-**, **cranio-** /'krayni-/ *comb form* 1 cranium (<*craniate*>) 2 cranial and (<*cranosacral*>) [ML *cranium*]

**cranial index** /'krayniəl, -ni-əl/ *n* the ratio of the maximum breadth of the skull to its maximum height multiplied by 100 – compare CEPHALIC INDEX

**cranial nerve** *n* any of the (12 pairs of) nerves that leave the lower surface of the brain to connect with the body, esp the head and face

**craniate** /'krayni-ət, -əyt/ *n* or *adj* (one) having a skull

**craniology** /'krai-ɒlədʒi/ *n* a science dealing with variations in size, shape, and proportions of the skull among the different races of human beings [prob fr G *kranilogie*, fr *kranio-* crani- + *-logie* -logy]

**cranium** /'krayniəm, -ni-əm/ *n*, pl **crania** /-ni-ə/, -ni-ə/ the skull, specif. the part that encloses the brain  ANATOMY [ML, fr Gk *kranon*, akin to Gk *kara* head – more at CEREBRAL] – **cranial** *adj*


**crank** /'krangk/ *n* 1 a part of an axle or shaft bent at right angles by which reciprocating motion is changed into circular motion or vice versa 2 an eccentric person, also one who is excessively enthusiastic or fastidious about sthg [ME *cranke*, fr OE *cranc-* (as in *crancstæf*, a weaving instrument), akin to OE *cradol* cradle]

**crank** *vi* to turn a crank (e.g. in starting an engine) ~ *vt* 1 to bend into the shape of a crank 2 to provide or fasten with a crank 3a to move or operate (as if) by a crank b to start by use of a crank – often + *up*

**crank** *adj*, of a boat easily capsized [short for *crank-sided* (easily tipped)]

**crankcase** /-keɪs/ *n* the housing of a crankshaft

**crankpin** /-pin/ *n* the pin which forms the handle of a crank or to which the connecting rod is attached

**crankshaft** /-shaɪft/ *n* a shaft driven by or driving a crank  CAR

**cranky** /'krangkɪ/ *adj* 1 of machinery working erratically, unpredictable 2 ECCENTRIC 3 *NAM* bad-tempered [*'crank* & *'crank*] – **crankily** *adv*, **crankiness** *n*

**cranny** /'krani/ *n* a small crack or slit; a chink [ME *crany*, fr MF *cren*, *cran* notch] – **crannied** /'kranid/ *adj*

**crap** /'krap/ *n* 1a excrement b an act of defecation 2 nonsense, rubbish – slang; sometimes used as an interjection *USE (I)* vulg [ME *crappe* chaff, residue from rendered fat, fr MD, piece torn off, fr *crappen* to break off]

**crap** *vi* -pp- to defecate – vulg

**crappy** /'krapi/ *adj* of very poor quality – slang [*'crap*]

**craps** /'kraps/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr a gambling game played with 2 dice [LaF, fr F *crabs*, *craps*, fr E *crabs* lowest throw at hazard, fr pl of *'crab*] – **crap** *adj*

**crapulent** /'krapyoolənt/ *adj* crapulous [LL *crapulentus*, fr L *crapula* drunkenness, fr Gk *kraipalē*]

**crapulous** /'krapyooləs/ *adj* 1 marked by excessive indulgence, esp in alcohol 2 suffering the effects of excessive drinking of alcohol *USE* fml [LL *crapulosus*, fr L *crapula*]

**crackle** /'krakəl(y)oʊ/ *n* fine cracks on the surface of old paintings caused by decay of pigment and varnish [F, fr *craqueler* to crack, crackle, fr *craker*, of imit origin]

**crash** /'krash/ *vi* 1a to break violently and noisily; smash b to damage (an aircraft) in landing c to damage (a vehicle) by collision 2a to cause to make a crashing sound (<the cymbals together>) b to force (e.g. one's way) with loud crashing noises 3 to enter without invitation or payment (<the party>) – infml 4 to cause (e.g. a computer system or program) to

crash ~ *vi* 1a to break or go to pieces (as if) with violence and noise b to crash an aircraft or vehicle c to be involved in a crash 2 to make a crashing noise 3 to move or go (as if) with a crash 4 to spend the night in a (makeshift) place; go to sleep (<can I ~ on your floor tonight?>) – sometimes + *out*; slang 5 esp of a computer system or program to become (suddenly) completely inoperative [ME *crasschen*]

**crash** *n* 1 a loud noise (e.g. of things smashing) (<a ~ of thunder>) 2 a breaking to pieces (as if) by collision; also an instance of crashing (<a plane ~>) 3 a sudden decline or failure (e.g. of a business) (<the Wall Street ~>)

**crash** *adj* designed to achieve an intended result in the shortest possible time (<a ~ diet>)

**crash** *n* a coarse fabric made orig. of linen, used for draperies, clothing, etc. [prob fr Russ *krashennina* coloured linen]

**crash barrier** *n* a barrier to prevent vehicles accidentally colliding or leaving the road

**crash-dive** *vb* (to cause) to descend or dive steeply and quickly – used esp with reference to an aircraft or submarine – **crashdive** *n*

**crash helmet** *n* a helmet that is worn (e.g. by motorcyclists) to protect the head in the event of an accident

**crashing** /'krashɪŋ/ *adj* utter, absolute (<a ~ bore>)

**crash-land** *vb* to land (an aircraft) under emergency conditions, usu with some damage to the craft – **crash landing** *n*

**crash pad** *n* a place where free temporary accommodation is available – infml

**crass** /'kras/ *adj* 1 insensitive, coarse (<~ behaviour>) 2 deplorably great, complete (<~ stupidity>) [L *crassus* thick, gross] – **crassitude** /'krasitiyoʊd/ *n*, **crassly** *adv*, **crassness** *n*


**-crat** /-krat/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 advocate or partisan of (a specified form of government) (<democrat>) 2 member of (a specified ruling class) (<plutocrat>) (<technocrat>) [F *-crate*, back-formation fr *-cratie* -cracy] – **-cratic** /-kratik/ *comb form* (→ *adj*)

**crate** /'krai/ *n* 1 a usu wooden framework or box for holding goods (e.g. fruit, bottles, etc), esp during transit 2 the contents of a crate [L *cratis* wickerwork – more at HURDI]

**crate** *vt* to pack in a crate

**crater** /'kraɪtə/ *n* 1 a (bowl-shaped) depression e.g. a round the mouth of a volcano b formed by the impact of a meteorite 2 a hole in the ground made by an explosion 3 a jar or vase with a wide mouth used in classical antiquity for mixing wine and water [L, mixing bowl, crater, fr Gk *krater*, fr *kerannynai* to mix, akin to Skt *asīra* mixed]

**crater** *vt* to form craters in

**cravat** /'krəvət/ *n* a decorative band or scarf worn round the neck, esp by men  GARMENT [F *cravate*, fr *Cravate* Croatian]

**crave** /'kreyv/ *vt* 1 to have a strong or urgent desire for 2 to ask for earnestly; beg (<I ~ the court's indulgence>) – fml ~ *vi* to have a strong desire; yearn (<~s after affection>) [ME *craven*, fr OE *cræfian*, akin to OHG *krāpfō* hook, OE *cradol* cradle]

**craven** /'kreyv(ə)n/ *adj* completely lacking in courage, cowardly [ME *cravant*, perh fr OF *crevant*, prt of *crever* to burst, break, fr L *crepare*] – **craven** *n*, **cravenly** *adv*, **cravenness** *n*

**craving** /'kreyvɪŋ/ *n* a great desire or longing (<a ~ for tobacco>)

**craw** /'kraw/ *n* 1 the crop of a bird or insect 2 the stomach, esp of an animal [ME *crawe*, fr (assumed) OE *crawa*; akin to Gk *bronchos* windpipe, throat, L *volare* to devour – more at VORACIOUS]

**crawfish** /'krawfɪʃ/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a crayfish

**crawl** /'krawl/ *vi* 1 to move slowly in a prone position (as if) without the use of limbs 2 to move or progress slowly or laboriously 3 CREEP 3b 4a to be alive or swarming (as if) with creeping things b to have the sensation of insects creeping over one (<the story made her flesh ~>) 5 to behave in a servile manner – infml ~ *vi* to move upon (as if) in a creeping manner (<the meanest man who ever ~ed the earth>) [ME *crawlen*, fr ON *kralla*, akin to OE *crabba* crab]

**crawl** *n* 1a crawling b slow or laborious motion (<traffic moving at a ~>) 2 the fastest swimming stroke, executed lying on the front and consisting of alternating overarm strokes combined with kicks with the legs

**crawler** /'krawlə/ *n* 1 a vehicle (e.g. a crane) that travels on endless metal belts 2 a servile person – infml [*'CRAWL* + *~ER*]

**crawly** /'krawli/ *adj* creepy

**crayfish** /'kreyfɪʃ/ *n* 1 any of numerous freshwater crustaceans resembling the lobster but usu much smaller 2 SPINY LOBSTER [by folk etymology fr ME *crevis*, fr MF *crevice*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *krebiz* crab – more at CRAB]

**crayon** /'kreyɒn, -ən/ *vt* or *n* (to draw or colour with) a stick of coloured

- chalk or wax used for writing or drawing [F, crayon, pencil, fr dim. of *craie* chalk, fr L *creta*]
- 'craze** /kraz/ *vt* 1 to produce minute cracks on the surface or glaze of 2 to make (as if) insane (<~d by pain and fear>) ~ *vi* to develop a mesh of fine cracks [ME *crasen* to crush, craze, of Scand origin; akin to OSw *krasa* to crush]
- 'craze** *n* 1 an exaggerated and often short-lived enthusiasm; a fad 2 fine cracks in a surface or coating of glaze, enamel, etc
- crazy** /'krazɪ/ *adj* 1 mad, insane 2a impractical (<a ~ idea>) b unusual, eccentric 3 extremely enthusiastic about; very fond - **crazily** *adv*, **craziness** *n* - like crazy to an extreme degree (<everyone dancing like crazy>) - **infml**
- 'crazy paving** *n*, *Br* a paved surface made up of irregularly shaped paving stones
- 'creek** /kreek/ *vi* to make a prolonged grating or squeaking noise [ME *creken* to creak, of imit origin]
- 'creek** *n* a prolonged rasping, grating, or squeaking noise (e.g. of an unoiled hinge) - **creaky** *adj*, **creakily** *adv*
- 'cream** /krem/ *n* 1 the yellowish part of milk containing butterfat, that forms a surface layer when milk is allowed to stand 2a a food (e.g. a sauce or cake filling) prepared with or resembling cream in consistency, richness, etc b a biscuit, chocolate, etc filled with (a soft preparation resembling) whipped cream c sth with the consistency of thick cream, esp a usu emulsified medicinal or cosmetic preparation (<skin ~>) 3 the choicest part 4 a pale yellowish white colour [ME *creime*, *creme*, fr MF *craine*, *creme*, fr LL *cramum*, of Celt origin, akin to W *cramen* scab] - **creami** *adv*, **creaminess** *n*, **creamy** *adj*
- 'cream** *vi* 1 to form cream or a surface layer like the cream on milk 2 to break into a creamy froth ~ *vt* 1a skim 1c b to take away (the choicest part) - usu + *off* (<~ off the brightest students>) 2 to provide, prepare, or treat with cream or a cream sauce 3 to work or blend to the consistency of cream (<~ butter and sugar>) 4 to cause to form a surface layer of or like cream 5 *NAm* to defeat completely - **infml**
- 'cream cheese** *n* a mild white soft unripened cheese made from whole milk enriched with cream
- 'cream** /'krema/ *n* 1 a device for separating cream from milk 2 a small vessel (e.g. a jug) for serving cream
- 'creamery** /'kremaɪ/ *n* an establishment where butter and cheese are made or where milk and milk products are prepared or sold - compare DAIRY 3
- 'cream of tartar** /'taɪtə/ *n* potassium hydrogen tartrate occurring as a white powder and used esp in baking powder
- 'crease** /krees/ *n* 1 a line or mark made (as if) by folding a pliable substance 2a an area surrounding the goal in lacrosse, hockey, etc into which an attacking player may not precede the ball or puck b the bowling crease, popping crease, or return crease of a cricket pitch [prob alter. of earlier *crease*, fr ME *creste* crest] - **creaseless** *adj*
- 'crease** *vt* 1 to make a crease in or on; wrinkle 2 chiefly *Br* a to cause much amusement to - often + *up* b to tire out ~ *vi* to become creased **USE** (2) **infml**
- 'create** /kri'əɪt/ *vt* 1 to bring into existence (<God ~d the heaven and the earth - Gen 1:1 (AV)>) 2a to invest with a new form, office, or rank (<was ~d a peer of the realm>) b to produce, cause (<~d a disturbance>) 3 to design, invent ~ *vi* *Br* to make a loud fuss about sth - **infml** [ME *createn*, fr L *creatus*, pp of *creare*]
- 'creatine** /'kree-ə,teen/ *n* a substance that occurs esp in the muscles of vertebrates either free or as creatine phosphate [ISV, fr Gk *kreat-*, *kreas* flesh - more at *raw*]
- 'creative phosphate** *n* a derivative of creatine that is an energy source for the contraction of the muscles of vertebrates
- 'creatinine** /'kree-ə'tiːn/ *n* a compound formed from the breakdown of creatine and found in muscle, blood, urine, etc [G *kreatinin*, fr *kreatin* creatine]
- 'creation** /kri'əɪʃən/ *n* 1 often *cap* the act of bringing the world into ordered existence 2 sth created: e.g. a the world b creatures singly or collectively c an original work of art d a product of some minor art or craft (e.g. dreammaking or cookery) showing unusual flair or imagination - often derog (<a hideous ~ in mauve and magenta tulle>) [CREATE + -ION]
- 'creationist** /kri'əɪʃənɪst/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of a theory that all forms of life were created simultaneously by God, and did not evolve from earlier forms
- 'creative** /kri'əɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 marked by or requiring the ability or power to create; given to creating 2 having the quality of sth imaginatively created (<the ~ arts>) - **creatively** *adv*, **creativity** *n*
- 'creator** /kri'əɪtə/ *n* a person who creates, usu by bringing sth new or original into being; esp, *cap* GOD 1
- 'creature** /'kreechə/ *n* 1a sth created (<~s of fantasy>) b a lower animal (<the ~s of the woods>) 2a an animate being, esp a non-human one b a human being; a person 3 one who is the servile dependant or tool of another [ME, fr OF, fr LL *creatura*, fr L *creatus*] - **creatural** *adj*, **creatureliness** *n*, **creaturely** *adj*
- 'creature comforts** *n* pl material things that give bodily comfort
- 'crèche** /kresh/ *n* 1 a representation of the Nativity scene 2 chiefly *Br* a centre where children under school age are looked after while their parents are at work [F, fr OF *creche* manger, crib, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *krappa* manger - more at *cria*]
- 'credence** /'kreedəns/ *n* acceptance of sth as true or real (<give ~ to gossip>) [ME, fr MF or ML; MF, fr ML *credentia*, fr L *credent-*, *credens*, pp of *credere* to believe, trust - more at *CREED*]
- 'credence table** *n* a Renaissance side table or sideboard used chiefly for valuable plate [MF, fr OIt *credenza*]
- 'credential** /kri'dendʃəl/ *n* sth, esp a letter, that gives proof of identity, status, or authority - usu pl with sing. meaning
- 'credenza** /kri'denza/ *n* CREEDENCE TABLE [It, lit., belief, confidence, fr ML *credentia*]
- 'credibility gap** /kredə'bɪləti/ *n* (a lack of credibility arising from) a discrepancy between what is claimed and what is perceived to be true
- 'credible** /'kredəbl/ *adj* offering reasonable grounds for belief [ME, fr L *credibilis*, fr *credere*] - **credibly** *adv*, **credibility** /kredə'bɪləti/ *n*
- 'credit** /'kredit/ *n* 1a the balance in a person's favour in an account b an amount or sum placed at a person's disposal by a bank and usu to be repaid with interest c time given for payment for goods or services provided but not immediately paid for (<long-term ~>) d an entry on the right-hand side of an account constituting an addition to a revenue, net worth, or liability account 2 credence 3 influence derived from enjoying the confidence of others, standing 4 a source of honour or repute (<a ~ to her parents>) 5 acknowledgment, approval (<~ where ~ is due>) 6a a line, note, or name that acknowledges the source of an item b an acknowledgment of a contributor by name that appears at the beginning or end of a film or television programme 7a recognition that a student has fulfilled a course requirement b the passing of an examination at a level well above the minimum though not with distinction [MF, fr OIt *credito*, fr L *creditus* something entrusted to another, loan, fr neut. of *creditus*, pp of *credere*] - **on credit** with the cost charged to one's account and paid later (<bought his new tape recorder on credit>)
- 'credit** *vt* 1 to believe 2a to enter on the credit side of an account b to place to the credit of (<an account>) - compare DEBIT 3a to ascribe some usu favourable characteristic to - + *with* (<~ me with some intelligence>) b to attribute to some person (<they ~ the invention to him>) [partly fr 'credit, partly fr L *creditus*, pp]
- 'creditable** /'kredɪtəbl/ *adj* 1 worthy of esteem or praise 2 *NAm* capable of being attributed to - **creditably** *adv*
- 'credit card** *n* a card provided by a bank, agency, or business allowing the holder to obtain goods and services on credit
- 'creditor** /'kredɪtə/ *n* one to whom a debt is owed
- 'creditworthy** *adj* qualifying for commercial credit - **credit-worthiness** *n*
- 'credo** /'kreedoh, 'kray-/ *n*, *pl credos* 1 a creed 2 *cap* a musical setting of the creed in a sung mass [ME, fr L, I believe]
- 'credulity** /kri'dyooʊləti/ *n* undue willingness to believe; gullibility
- 'credulous** /'kredyooləs/ *adj* ready to believe, esp on slight evidence [L *credulus*, fr *credere*] - **credulously** *adv*, **credulousness** *n*
- 'Cree** /kree/ *n*, *pl Crees*, *esp* collectively Cree a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan [short for earlier *Christens*, fr CanF *Christino*, prob modif of Ojibwa *Kenistenoag*]
- 'creed** /kreed/ *n* 1 a brief conventionalized statement of religious belief; esp such a statement said or sung as part of Christian worship 2 a set of fundamental beliefs [ME *crede*, fr OE *cræda*, fr L *credo* (first word of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds), fr *credere* to believe, trust, entrust; akin to OIr *cretim* I believe, Skt *śrad-dadhāti* he believes] - **creedal** *adj*, **credal** *adj*
- 'creek** /kreek/ *n* 1 chiefly *Br* a small narrow inlet of a lake, sea, etc 2 chiefly *NAm* & *Austr* a brook [ME *crīke*, *creke*, fr ON *-kriki* bend; akin to ON *krōkr* hook - more at 'CROOK] - **up the creek** 1 in trouble - **infml** 2 wrong, mistaken - **infml**
- 'Creek** *n* a member, or the Muskogean language, of a confederacy of American Indian peoples of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida
- 'creeper** /kree/ *n* a wickerwork container (e.g. for newly caught fish) [ME

- creille*, *crele*, prob fr (assumed) MF *creille* grill, fr L *craticula*, dim. of *cratis* wickerwork – more at HURDLE]
- creep** /krep/ *vi* crept /krept/ 1 to move along with the body prone and close to the ground 2a to go very slowly (<the hours crept by>) b to go timidly or cautiously so as to escape notice c to enter, advance, or develop gradually or slowly (<a note of irritation crept into her voice>) 3a CRAWL 4b *b of a plant* to spread or grow over a surface by clinging with tendrils, roots, etc or rooting at intervals 4 to change shape permanently due to prolonged stress or exposure to high temperatures [ME *crepen*, fr OE *creopan*, akin to Gk *grypos* curved, bent]
- creep** *n* 1 a movement of or like creeping 2 the slow change of dimensions of an object due to prolonged exposure to high temperature or stress 3 a distressing sensation, esp of apprehension or disgust, like that caused by insects creeping over one's flesh – usu pl with sing. meaning (<gives me the ~s>); infml 4 *Br* an obnoxious or ingratiatingly servile person – infml
- creeper** /kreepə/ *n* 1a a creeping plant b a bird (e.g. a tree creeper) that creeps about on trees or bushes c a creeping insect or reptile 2 a grapnel [ˈCREEP + -ER]
- creeping jenny** /ˈkreepɪŋ ˈdʒeni/ *n* a yellow-flowered trailing perennial plant of the primrose family [*Jenny*, nickname for *Jane*]
- creepy** /ˈkreepi/ *adj* producing a sensation of shivery apprehension (<a ~ horror story>)
- creepy-crawly** /ˈkrawli/ *n*, *Br* a small creeping or scuttling creature (e.g. a spider) – infml
- cremate** /kriˈmeɪt/ *vt* to reduce (a dead body) to ashes by burning [L *crematus*, pp of *cremare* to burn up, *cremare*] – *cremation* /ˈmaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- crematorium** /kriˈmeɪtɔːriəm/ *n*, pl *crematoria*, *crematoria* /-ɔː-/ a place where cremation is carried out
- crème** /krem/ (Fr *krem*) / *n*, pl *crèmes* /krem(z)/ (Fr ~) / CREAM 2a, b [F, fr OF *creme* – more at CREAM]
- crème de la crème** /krem də lah ˈkrem/ *n* the very best [F, lit., cream of the cream]
- crème de menthe** /də ˈmont/ (Fr *də mɑ̃t*) / *n* a sweet green or white mint-flavoured liqueur [F, lit., cream of mint]
- crenate** /ˈkrenayt/ *adj* having the margin cut into rounded scallops (<a ~ leaf>)  PLANT [NL *crenatus*, fr ML *crena* notch] – *crenation* /ˈnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- crenel** /ˈkrenl/, *crenelle* /krəˈnel/ *n* a crenellation [MF *crenel*, fr OF, dim of *cren* notch, fr *crener* to notch; akin to ML *crena* notch]
- crenellated** /ˈkrenəˌleɪtɪd/ *adj* having battlements
- crenellation** /ˈkrenəˌleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* an indentation in a battlement  CHURCH
- creole** /ˈkree,ohl/ *adj*, often *cap* of Creoles or their language
- Creole** *n* 1 a person of European descent in the W Indies or Spanish America 2 a white descendant of early French or Spanish settlers of the Gulf States of the USA 3 a person of mixed French or Spanish and Negro descent 4 *not cap* a language based on 2 or more languages that serves as the native language of its speakers [F *créole*, fr Sp *criollo*, fr Pg *crnolu* white person born in the colonies]
- creosote** /ˈkree-səʊt/ *n* 1 a clear or yellowish oily liquid obtained from wood tar and used as an antiseptic 2 a brownish oily liquid obtained from coal tar and used esp as a wood preservative [G *kreosot*, fr Gk *kreas* flesh + *sôtēr* preserver, fr *sôzein* to preserve, fr *sos* safe – more at RAW, THUMB; fr its antiseptic properties]
- creosote** *vt* to treat with creosote
- crêpe**, **crêpe** /kraɪp/ *n* 1 a light crinkled fabric woven from any of various fibres 2 a small very thin pancake [F *crêpe*, fr MF *crêpe*, fr *crêpe* curled, fr L *crispus*] – *crêpey*, *crêpy* *adj*
- crêpe de Chine** /də ˈʃheɪn/ *n*, often *cap* 2nd C a soft fine crepe, orig of silk [F *crêpe de Chine*, lit., crepe from China]
- crêpe paper** *n* thin paper with a crinkled or puckered texture
- crêpe rubber** *n* crude or synthetic rubber in the form of crinkled sheets, used esp for shoe soles
- crêpe sole** *n* (a shoe with) a crepe rubber sole
- crepitate** /ˈkrepɪtəɪt/ *vi* to crackle [L *crepitatus*, pp of *crepitare* to crackle, fr *crepitus*, pp of *crepare* to rattle, crack – more at RAVEN]
- crepitation** /ˈkrepɪtəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a crackling sound heard from the lungs that is characteristic of pneumonia 2 a grating sound produced by the fractured ends of a bone moving against each other [CREPITATE + -ION]
- crepitus** /ˈkrepɪtəs/ *n* crepitation [L, fr pp of *crepare*]
- crept** /krept/ *past* of CREEP
- crepuscular** /kriˈpuskylə/ *adj* 1 active in the twilight (<~ insects>) 2 of or resembling twilight; dim – fml [L *crepusculum* twilight, fr *creper* dusky]
- crescendo** /krəˈʃendoh/ *n*, pl *crescendos*, *crescendoes* 1 a gradual increase; esp a gradual increase in volume in a musical passage 2 a crescendo musical passage  MUSIC [It, lit., growing, fr L *crescendum*, gerund of *crescere* to grow] – *crescendo* *vi*
- crescendo** *adv* or *adj* with an increase in volume – used in music  MUSIC
- crescent** /ˈkrezənt/ *n* 1 the figure of the moon at any stage between new moon and first quarter or last quarter and the succeeding new moon 2 sth shaped like a crescent and consisting of a concave and a convex curve [ME *cressant*, fr MF *creissant*, fr prp of *creistre* to grow, increase, fr L *crescere*, akin to OHG *hursi* millet, L *creare* to create, Gk *koros* boy]
- crezol** /ˈkreɪsəl, -sohl/ *n* a phenol used esp as a disinfectant [ISV, irreg fr *creosote*]
- cross** /kres/ *n* any of numerous plants of the mustard family that have mildly pungent leaves and are used in salads and as a garnish [ME *cresse*, fr OE *cæsse*, *cressa*, akin to OHG *kressa* *cress*]
- crest** /krest/ *n* 1a a showy tuft or projection on the head of an animal, esp a bird b the plume, emblem, etc worn on a knight's helmet c(1) a symbol of a family, office, etc that appears as a figure on top of the helmet in a heraldic achievement (2) COAT OF ARMS – not used technically in heraldry d the upper muscular ridge of a horse's neck from which the mane grows 2 the ridge or top, esp of a wave, roof, or mountain 3 the climax, culmination (<at the ~ of his fame>) [ME *creste*, fr MF, fr L *crista*, akin to OE *hriansian* to shake, L *curvus* curved – more at CROWN] – *crestless* *adj*
- crest** *vt* 1 to provide with a crest; crown 2 to reach the crest of ~ *vi*, of waves to rise to a crest
- crested** /ˈkrestɪd/ *adj* 1 having a crest 2 marked or decorated with a crest (<~ crockery>)
- crestfallen** /ˈkrestˌfəʊlən/ *adj* disheartened, dejected
- cretaceous** /kriˈteɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 resembling or containing chalk 2 *cap* of or being the last period of the Mesozoic era  EVOLUTION [L *cretaceus*, fr *creta* chalk] – *cretaceous* *n*, *cretaceously* *adv*
- cretin** /ˈkretɪn/ *n* sby afflicted with cretinism; *broadly* an imbecile, idiot [F *crétin*, fr F dial. *cretin* Christian, human being, kind of idiot found in the Alps, fr L *christianus* Christian] – *cretinous* *adj*
- cretinism** /ˈkretɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* (congenital) physical stunting and mental retardation caused by severe deficiency of the thyroid gland in infancy
- cretonne** /ˈkreetən, knˈtən/ *n* a strong unglazed cotton or linen cloth used esp for curtains and upholstery [F, fr *Creton*, town in Normandy, France]
- crevasse** /krəˈvas/ *n* a deep fissure, esp in a glacier  GEOGRAPHY [F, fr OF *crevasse*]
- crevice** /ˈkreɪsɪv/ *n* a narrow opening resulting from a split or crack [ME, fr MF *crevice*, fr OF, fr *crever* to break, fr L *crepare* to crack – more at RAVEN]
- crew** /krooh/ *chiefly Br past* of CROW
- crew** *n* sing or pl in constr 1 a company of men working on 1 job or under 1 foreman 2a the personnel of a ship or boat (excluding the captain and officers) b members of a crew (<the captain and 50 ~>) c the people who man an aircraft in flight 3 a number of people temporarily associated – infml [ME *crue*, lit., reinforcement, fr MF *creue* increase, fr *creistre* to grow – more at CRESCENT] – *crewless* *adj*, *crewman* /-mən/ *n*
- crew** *vb* to serve as a member of a crew (on)
- crew**, **cut** *n* a very short bristly haircut, esp for a man
- crewel** /krooh-əl/ *n* loosely twisted worsted yarn used in embroidery and tapestry [ME *crule*]
- crewelwork** /-wuhk/ *n* embroidery design worked with crewel
- crib** /krib/ *n* 1 a manger for feeding animals 2 an enclosure, esp with barred or slatted sides: e.g. a stall for a stabled animal b CRADLE 1a c a bin for storage 3a a set of cards contributed to equally by each player in cribbage for the dealer to use in scoring b cribbage 4 a literal translation; esp one used surreptitiously by students 5 *Br* a building considered with a view to unlawful entry 6 *chiefly NAM* cot 2 [ME, fr OE *cnabb*; akin to OHG *krippa* manger, Gk *griphos* reed basket, OE *cradol* cradle]
- crib** *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to confine, cramp 2 to provide with or put into a crib 3 to pilfer, steal; esp to plagiarize ~ *vi* 1 to steal, plagiarize 2 to use a crib; cheat – *cribbier* *n*
- cribbage** /ˈkribɪdʒ/ *n* a card game for 2 to 4 players each attempting to form various counting combinations of cards [ˈcrib]
- crib**, **biting** *n* a bad habit of horses in which they gnaw (e.g. at the manger) while slobbering, salivating, and sucking in air

- cribriform** /'kribrɪfɔrm/ *adj* pierced with small holes [L *cribrum* sieve; akin to L *cernere* to sift – more at CERTAIN]
- 'crick** /'krik/ *n* a painful spasmodic condition of the muscles of the neck, back, etc [ME *cryk*]
- <sup>2</sup>crick** *vt* to cause a crick in (the neck, back, etc)
- 'cricket** /'krikt/ *n* a leaping insect noted for the chirping sounds produced by the male [ME *criket*, fr MF *criquet*, of imit origin]
- <sup>2</sup>cricket** *n* a game played with a bat and ball on a large field with 2 wickets near its centre by 2 sides of 11 players each ➔ SPORT [MF *criquet* stake used as goal in a bowling game] – **cricketer** *n* – not cricket against the dictates of fair play; not honourable
- cricoid** /'kriekɔɪd/ *adj* of or being a ring-shaped cartilage of the larynx [NL *cricoides*, fr Gk *krikoies* ring-shaped, fr *krikos* ring – more at CIRCLE]
- crier** /'krie-ə/ *n* an officer who makes announcements in a court ['CRY + -ER]
- crikey** /'krieki/ *interj*, chiefly Br – used to express surprise; no longer in vogue [euphemism for *Christ*]
- crime** /'kriem/ *n* 1 (a) violation of law 2 a grave offence, esp against morality 3 criminal activity 4 sthg deplorable, foolish, or disgraceful (<it's a ~ to waste good food>) – *infrml* [ME, fr L *crimen* accusation, fault, crime]
- 'criminal** /'krɪmɪnəl/ *adj* 1 involving or being a crime 2 relating to crime or its punishment (<~ law> <a ~ court>) ➔ LAW 3 guilty of crime 4 disgraceful, deplorable – *infrml* [ME, fr MF or LL; MF *criminel*, fr LL *criminalis*, fr L *crimin-*, *crimen* crime, accusation] – **criminally** *adv*, **criminality** /'krɪmɪ'næləti/ *n*
- <sup>2</sup>criminal** *n* one who has committed or been convicted of a crime
- criminate** /'krɪmɪnəɪt/ *vt* 1 to accuse of a crime 2 to incriminate [L *crimatus*, pp of *criminari*, fr *crimin-*, *crimen*] – **crimination** /-nəɪʃən/ *n*
- criminology** /'krɪmɪ'nɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of crime, criminals, and penal treatment [It *criminologia*, fr L *crimin-*, *crimen* + It -o- + -logia -logy] – **criminologist** *n*, **criminological** /'krɪmɪ'nɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj*
- 'crimp** /'krɪmp/ *vt* 1 to make wavy, or curly (<~ her hair>) 2 to roll or curl the edge of (e.g. a steel panel) 3 to pinch or press together in order to seal or join [D or LG *krimpen* to shrivel; akin to LG *krampe* hook – more at CRAMP] – **crimp** *n*, **crimper** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>crimp** *n* or *vt* (one employed) to entrap or force (men) into joining the army or navy [perh fr 'crimp]
- Crimplene** /'krɪmpleɪn/ *trademark* – used for a textured continuous-filament polyester yarn
- 'crimson** /'krɪmz(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (a) deep purplish red [n ME *crimsin*, fr OSp *cremesin*, fr Ar *qirmizi*, fr *qirmiz* kermes; *adj* fr n]
- <sup>2</sup>crimson** *vt* to make or become crimson
- cringe** /'krɪnʒ/ *vi* 1 to shrink or wince, esp in fear or servility 2 to behave with fawning self-abasement [ME *crengen*; akin to OE *cringan* to yield, *cradol* cradle]
- cringle** /'krɪŋɡl/ *n* an eyelet or loop worked into the edge of a sail for attaching a rope [LG *kringel*, dim. of *kring* ring; akin to OE *cradol* cradle]
- 'crinkle** /'krɪŋɡl/ *vb* **crinkling** /'krɪŋɡlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to wrinkle 2 to rustle ~ *vt* to cause to crinkle [ME *crynkelen*; akin to OE *cringan* to yield]
- <sup>2</sup>crinkle** *n* a wrinkle – **crinkly** /'krɪŋɡli/ *adj*
- crinoid** /'krienoɪd/ *n* any of a large class of echinoderms having a cup-shaped body with 5 or more feathery arms [deriv of Gk *krinon* lily] – **crinoid** *adj*
- crinoline** /'krɪnəlɪn/ *n* (a padded or hooped petticoat supporting) a full skirt as worn by women in the 19th c ➔ GARMENT [F, fr It *crinolino*, fr *crino* horsehair (fr L *crinis* hair; akin to L *crista* crest) + *lino* flax, linen, fr L *linum*]
- criollo** /'kri'ɒh(ɪ)joh/ *n*, *pl* **criollos** a person born and usu raised in Latin America; esp one of Spanish descent [Sp – more at CREOLE]
- cripea** /'kriepə/ *interj*, Br – used to express surprise; no longer in vogue [euphemism for *Christ*]
- 'cripple** /'kripl/ *n* a lame or partly disabled person or animal [ME *cripel*, fr OE *crypel*; akin to OE *creopan* to creep – more at CREEP]
- <sup>2</sup>cripple** *vt* **crippling** /'kriplɪŋ/ 1 to make a cripple; lame 2 to deprive of strength, efficiency, wholeness, or capability for service
- crisis** /'kriːsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **crises** /-seɪz/ 1a the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease (e.g. pneumonia) b a sudden attack of pain, distress, etc 2 an unstable or crucial time or situation; esp TURNING POINT [L, fr Gk *krisis*, lit., decision, fr *krinein* to decide – more at CERTAIN]
- 'crisp** /'krisp/ *adj* 1a easily crumbled; brittle b desirably firm and fresh (<a ~ apple>) c newly made or prepared (<a ~ pound note>) 2 sharp, clean-cut, and clear (<a ~ illustration>) 3 decisive, sharp (<a ~ manner>) 4 of weather briskly cold; fresh; esp frosty [ME, curled, fr OE, fr L *crispus*; akin to L *curvus* curved – more at 'crown] – **crisply** *adv*, **crispness** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>crisp** *vt* 1 to curl, crimp 2 to make or keep crisp (<~ the bread in the oven>) ~ *vi* to become crisp – **crisper** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>crisp** *n*, chiefly Br a thin slice of (flavoured or salted) fried potato, usu eaten cold
- 'crispbread** /-bred/ *n* a plain dry unsweetened biscuit made from crushed grain (e.g. rye)
- crispen** /'krispən/ *vb* to make or become crisp
- crispy** /'krispi/ *adj* crisp – **crispiness** *n*
- 'crisscross** /'kris,kros/ *adj* or *n* (marked or characterized by) crisscrossing or a crisscrossed pattern [obs *chriscross*, *crisscross* (mark of a
- <sup>2</sup>crisscross** *vt* 1 to mark with intersecting lines 2 to pass back and forth through or over ~ *vi* to go or pass back and forth
- crista** /'kristə/ *n*, *pl* **cristae** /-ti/ any of the inwardly projecting folds of the inner membrane of a mitochondrion [NL, fr L, crest]
- criterion** /'kriːtəri-ən/ *n*, *pl* **criteria** /-ri-ə/ also **criteria** a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based [Gk *kritērion*, fr *kritēs* judge, fr *krinein* to judge, decide – more at CERTAIN] – **critical** *adj*
- critic** /'kritɪk/ *n* one who criticizes: e.g. a one who evaluates works of art, literature, or music, esp as a profession b one who tends to judge harshly or to be over-critical of minor faults [L *criticus*, fr Gk *kritikos*, fr *kritikos* able to discern or judge, fr *krinein* to judge]
- critical** /'kritɪkəl/ *adj* 1a inclined to criticize severely and unfavourably b consisting of or involving criticism (<~ writings>) c exercising or involving careful judgment or judicious evaluation 2a relating to or being a measurement, point, etc at which some quality, property, or phenomenon undergoes a marked change (<~ temperature>) b crucial, decisive (<~ test>) c being in or approaching a state of crisis 3 of a nuclear reactor sustaining an energy-producing chain reaction – **critically** *adv*, **criticality** /-kələti/ *n*
- 'critical angle** *n* the smallest angle of incident light reflected onto an interior surface at which total internal reflection takes place 2 the angle of attack at which the flow about an aerofol changes abruptly, with corresponding abrupt changes in the lift and drag ➔ FLIGHT
- 'critical mass** *n* the minimum mass of fissile material that can sustain a nuclear chain reaction
- criticism** /'kritɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a the act of criticizing, usu unfavourably b a critical observation or remark c a critique 2 the art or act of analysing and evaluating esp the fine arts, literature, or literary documents
- criticize**, **-ise** /'kritɪsɪz/ *vt* 1 to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly; evaluate 2 to stress the faults of ~ *vi* to criticize sthg or sb
- critique** /'kriːteɪk/ *n* an act of criticizing, esp a critical estimate or discussion (e.g. an article or essay) [alter. of arch *critic* (criticism), fr Gk *kritikē*]
- critter** /'kritə/ *n*, *dial* a creature [by alter.]
- 'croak** /'kroʊk/ *vi* 1a to make a croak b to speak in a hoarse throaty voice 2 to die – *slang* ~ *vt* 1 to utter (gloomily) in a hoarse raucous voice (<the raven... that ~s the fatal entrance of Duncan – Shak>) 2 to kill – *slang* [ME *croken*, of imit origin]
- <sup>2</sup>croak** *n* a deep hoarse cry characteristic of a frog or toad; also a similar sound – **croaky** *adj*
- Croatian** /'kroʊʃaɪ(ə)n/, *Croat* /'kroʊhət/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Croatia 2 a south Slavonic language spoken by the Croats and written in the Latin alphabet – compare SERB ➔ LANGUAGE [Croatia, region of SE Europe now part of Yugoslavia] – **Croatian** *adj*
- 'crochet** /'kroʊʃay/ *n* crocheted work [F, hook, crochet, fr MF, dim. of *croche* hook, of Scand origin; akin to ON *krōkr* hook – more at 'CROOK]
- <sup>2</sup>crochet** *vt* to form (e.g. a garment or design) by drawing a single continuous yarn or thread into a pattern of interlocked loops using a hooked needle ~ *vi* to do or make crochet work – **crocheter** /-ʃaɪə/ *n*
- crocidolite** /'kroʊsɪdəlɪt/ *n* a blue or green asbestos mineral that is a fibrous silicate of sodium and iron [G *crokydolith*, fr Gk *crokyd-*, *crokys* nap on cloth + G -lith -lite]
- 'crock** /'krok/ *n* 1 a thick earthenware pot or jar 2 a piece of broken earthenware used esp to cover the bottom of a flowerpot [ME, fr OE *crocc*; akin to MHG *kruche* crock]
- <sup>2</sup>crock** *n* 1 an old (broken-down) vehicle 2 an (elderly) disabled person

**USE** infml [ME *crok* old disabled animal, prob of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *krokje* broken-down horse or person]

**\*crok** *vt* to cause to become disabled ~ *vi* BREAK DOWN 1a **USE** (*vt* & *vi*) sometimes + *up*; infml

**crockery** /'krokəri/ *n* earthenware or china tableware, esp for everyday domestic use

**crocket** /'krokɪt/ *n* an architectural ornament in the form of curved and bent foliage placed at regular intervals on the edge of a gable, spire, or canopy ➤ CHURCH [ME *croket*, fr ONF *croquet* hook, dim. of *croc* hook, of Scand origin; akin to ON *krokr* hook]

**'crook** *pot* *n* a deep round vessel with a removable inner bowl and a heating element that is used to cook food slowly at a low temperature

**crocodile** /'krokədiəl/ *n* 1 any of several tropical or subtropical large voracious thick-skinned long-bodied aquatic reptiles; broadly a crocodilian ➤ LIFE CYCLE 2 the skin of a crocodile; also leather prepared from this 3 *Br* a line of people (e.g. schoolchildren) walking in pairs [ME & L, ME *cocodrille*, fr OF, fr ML *cocodrillus*, alter. of L *crocodilus*, fr Gk *krokodilos* lizard, crocodile, fr *kroke* pebble + *dilos* worm]

**'crocodile** *tears* *n* *pl* false or affected tears; hypocritical sorrow [fr ancient belief that crocodiles shed tears over their prey]

**crocodilian** /'krokə'di:ən/ *n* a crocodile, alligator, or related (extinct) reptile - crocodilian *adj*

**crocus** /'krokəs/ *n*, *pl* *crocuses* any of a large genus of usu early-flowering plants of the iris family bearing a single usu brightly-coloured long-tubed flower [NL, genus name, fr L. saffron, fr Gk *krokos*, of Sem origin]

**croft** /kroft/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 1 a small enclosed field usu adjoining a house 2 a small farm on often poor land, esp in Scotland, worked by a tenant [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *creopan* to creep - more at CREEP] - *crofter* *n*

**crofting** /'kroftɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* the system of working the land as crofts

**croissant** /'kwahsɒŋ (Fr krwāsɔ̃)/ *n* a usu flaky rich crescent-shaped roll of bread or yeast-leavened pastry [F, lit., crescent, fr MF *creissant*]

**Cro-Magnon** /'kroh 'mɒnjən, 'magnən/ *n* a tall erect race of human beings known from skeletal remains found chiefly in S France and classified as the same species as recent human beings [Cro-Magnon, a cave near Les Eyzies, France]

**cromlech** /'kromlək/ *n* a dolmen [W, lit., bent stone]

**crone** /'krohn/ *n* a withered old woman [ME, fr ONF *carogne*, lit., carrion, fr (assumed) VL *caronia* - more at CARRION]

**crony** /'krohn/ *n* a close friend, esp of long standing, a chum - infml, often derog [*old cronies down at the pub*] [alter of obs *chrony*, prob fr Gk *chronos* long-lasting, fr *chronos* time]

**'crook** /krook/ *n* 1 an implement or part of sth having a bent or hooked shape 2 a shepherd's staff 3 a bend, curve [*she carried the parcel in the ~ of her arm*] 4 a person given to criminal practices; a thief, swindler - infml [ME *crok*, fr ON *krokr* hook, akin to OE *cradol* cradle]

**\*crook** *vt* BEND 1 (< *ed my neck so I could see*) ~ *vi* to curve, wind

**\*crook** *adj*, Austr & NZ 1 ill, sick 2 not in correct working order 3 bad, unpleasant **USE** infml [perh alter. of *crok* (ill), fr Yiddish or G *krank*, fr MHG *kranc* weak]

**crooked** /'krookɪd/ *adj* 1 having a crook or curve, bent 2 not morally straightforward; dishonest 3 Austr bad-tempered, angry - *crookedly* *adv*, *crookedness* *n*

**croon** /kroohn/ *vi* to sing usu sentimental popular songs in a low or soft voice ~ *vt* to sing in a crooning manner [ME *croynen* to bellow, fr MD *cronen*; akin to OE *cran* crane] - *croon* *n*, *crooner* *n*

**'crop** /krop/ *n* 1 (the stock or handle of) a riding whip, esp with a short stock and a loop on the end 2 a pouched enlargement of the gullet of many birds in which food is stored and prepared for digestion 3 a short haircut 4a (the total production of) a plant or animal product that can be grown and harvested extensively (< *a large apple ~*) b a group or quantity appearing at any one time (< *a new ~ of students*) [ME, *craw*, head of a plant, yield of a field, fr OE *cropp*; akin to OHG *kropf* goutre, *craw*, OE *creopan* to creep - more at CREEP]

**\*crop** *vb* - *pp* - *vt* 1a to remove the upper or outer parts of (< *a hedge*) b to harvest (< *trout*) c to cut short, trim 2 to grow as or to cause (land) to bear a crop (< *more wheat next year*) ~ *vi* 1 to feed by cropping sth 2 to yield or bear a crop

**'cropper** /'krope/ *n* a plant that yields a crop of a usu specified quality or amount [<sup>2</sup>CROP + <sup>1</sup>ER]

**\*cropper** *n* 1 a severe fall 2 a sudden or complete disaster **USE** chiefly in *come a cropper*; infml [prob fr E dial. *crop* (neck), fr 'crop]

**crop up** *vi* to happen or appear unexpectedly or casually - infml

**croquet** /'krohkeɪ/ *n* 1 a game in which wooden balls are driven by mallets through a series of hoops set out on a lawn 2 the driving away of an opponent's croquet ball by striking one's own ball placed against it [F dial., hockey stick, fr ONF, *crook*, dim. of *croc* hook, of Scand origin] - *croquet* *vt*

**croquette** /'kroh'ket/ *n* a small (rounded) piece of minced meat, vegetable, etc coated with egg and breadcrumbs and fried in deep fat [F, fr *croquer* to crunch, of imit origin]

**crore** /kraw/ *n*, *pl* *crores* /krawz/ also *crore* a money unit worth 10 million rupees or 100 lakhs [Hindi *karor*]

**crossier**, **crozier** /'krohzhə/ *n* a staff resembling a shepherd's crook carried by bishops as a symbol of office [ME *croser* crosser bearer, fr MF *crossier*, fr *crose* crosser, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *crycc* crutch - more at CRUTCH]

**'cross** /kros/ *n* 1a an upright stake with a transverse beam used, esp by the ancient Romans, for execution b often *cap* the cross on which Jesus was crucified 2a the Crucifixion b an affliction, trial 3 a figure or design consisting of an upright bar intersected by a horizontal one; specif one used as a Christian emblem 4 a monument shaped like or surmounted by a cross (< *the market ~*) 5 a mark formed by 2 intersecting lines crossing at their midpoints that is used as a signature, to mark a position, to indicate that sth is incorrect, or to indicate a kiss in a letter - compare <sup>1</sup>TRICK 2 6 a badge, emblem, or decoration shaped like a cross 7a the crossing of dissimilar individuals, also the resulting hybrid b *why* who or sth that combines characteristics of 2 different types or individuals 8 a hook delivered over the opponent's lead in boxing 9 the act of crossing the ball in soccer [ME, fr OE, fr ON or OIr; ON *kross*, fr (assumed) OIr *cross*, fr L *cruc-*, *crux* - more at RIDGE] - *on the cross* on the bias; diagonally

**\*cross** *vt* 1a to lie or be situated across b to intersect 2 to make the sign of the cross on or over 3 to cancel by marking a cross on or drawing a line through 4 to place or fold crosswise (< *the arms*) 5 to run counter to, oppose 6 to go across 7a to draw a line across (< *one's t's*) b to draw 2 parallel lines across (a cheque) so that it can only be paid directly into a bank account 8 to cause (an animal or plant) to interbreed with one of a different kind; hybridize 9 to kick or pass (the ball) across the field in soccer, specif from the wing into the goal area ~ *vi* 1 to move, pass, or extend across sthg - *usu* + *over* 2 of letters, travellers, etc to meet and pass 3 to interbreed, hybridize 4 to cross the ball in soccer - *cross* the floor of a member of parliament to transfer allegiance to the opposing party - *cross* swords to come into conflict - *cross* one's mind to occur to one

**\*cross** *adj* 1 lying or moving across 2 mutually opposed (< *purposes*) 3 involving mutual interchange; reciprocal 4a irritable, grumpy b angry, annoyed 5 crossbred, hybrid - *crossly* *adv*, *crossness* *n*

**\*cross** *adv* not parallel; crosswise

**'crossbar** /-bɑh/ *n* a transverse bar (e.g. between goalposts)

**'cross** *bench* *n* any of the benches in the House of Lords for members who belong to neither government nor opposition parties - *usu* *pl* [<sup>2</sup>CROSS] - *crossbencher* *n*

**crossbill** /'kros,bɪl/ *n* any of a genus of finches with strongly curved crossed mandibles that feed esp on the seeds of conifers

**crossbones** /'kros,bəʊnz/ *n* *pl* 2 leg or arm bones placed or depicted crosswise - compare SKULL AND CROSSBONES

**crossbow** /'kros,bəʊ/ *n* a short bow mounted crosswise near the end of a wooden stock and used to fire bolts and stones - *crossbowman* /-mən/ *n*

**'crossbred** /-bred/ *adj* hybrid; specif produced by interbreeding 2 pure but different breeds, strains, or varieties - *crossbred* *n*

**'crossbreed** *vb* 'crossbred *vt* to hybridize or cross (esp 2 varieties or breeds of the same species) ~ *vi* to undergo crossbreeding

**\*crossbreed** *n* a hybrid

**'cross** *buttock* *n* a throw in which a wrestler pulls his opponent forwards over his hip

**'cross** *check* *vb* to check (information) for validity or accuracy by reference to more than 1 source - *cross-check* *n*





**'cross** *country* *adj* 1 proceeding over countryside and not by roads 2 racing or travelling over the countryside instead of over a track or run - *cross-country* *adv*

**\*cross** *country* *n* cross-country running, horse riding, etc

**'cross** *court* /-kɔwt/ *adv* or *adj* towards the diagonally opposite side of a tennis, basketball, etc court


**'cross** *cultural* *adj* dealing with or drawing a comparison between different cultures



- 'cross,current** /-kʁənt/ *n* a conflicting tendency – usu pl <political ~s>
- 'cross,cut** /-kʁʊt/ *vt* to intersperse with contrasting images – **cross-cut** *n*
- 'cross,cut,saw** *n* a saw designed to cut across the grain of wood – compare RIPSAW
- 'cross,dresser** *n* a transvestite
- crosse** /kros/ *n* the long-handled netted stick used in lacrosse [F, lit, crosier – more at CROSIER]
- crossed** /krost/ *adj.* of a telephone line connected in error to 2 or more telephones
- cross-examine** *vt* to question closely (esp a witness in a law court) in order to check answers or elicit new information – **cross-examination** *n*, **cross-examiner** *n*
- cross-eye** *n* 1 a squint in which the eye turns towards the nose 2 *pl* eyes affected with cross-eye – **cross-eyed** *adj*
- cross,fertilization,isation** *n* 1a fertilization by the joining of ova with pollen or sperm from a different individual – compare SELF-FERTILIZATION b cross-pollination 2 interaction, esp of a broadening or productive nature – **cross-fertilize** /-fɜː/ *vb*
- 'cross,fire** /-fiə/ *n* 1 firing from 2 or more points in crossing directions 2 rapid or heated interchange
- cross-grained** *adj* 1 having the grain or fibres running diagonally, transversely, or irregularly 2 difficult to deal with; intractable
- 'cross,hair** *n* a fine wire or thread seen through the eyepiece of an optical instrument and used as a reference mark
- cross'hatch** /-hach/ *vt* to shade with a series of intersecting parallel lines – **cross-hatching** *n*
- 'cross,head** /-hed/ *n* 1 a sliding metal block between a piston rod and a connecting rod, esp in a steam engine 2 a centred headline, esp between paragraphs in a newspaper column
- crossing** /krosɪŋ/ *n* 1 a traversing or travelling across 2a a place or structure (e.g. on a street or over a river) where pedestrians or vehicles may cross b LEVEL CROSSING c a place where railway lines, roads, etc cross each other
- crossing-over** *n* the interchange of (segments of) genes between homologous chromosomes during meiotic cell division
- cross-legged** /'legɪd/ *adv* or *adj* 1 with legs crossed and knees spread wide apart <sat ~ on the floor> 2 with one leg placed over and across the other
- 'cross,link** *n* an atom, group, etc connecting parallel chains in a polymer or other complex chemical molecule – **cross-link** *vb*, **cross-linkable** *adj*, **cross-linkage** *n*
- cross,multiply** *vi* to find the 2 products obtained by multiplying the numerator of each of 2 fractions by the denominator of the other – **cross multiplication** /-mʌltɪplɪkəʃən/
- cross of Lorraine** /lə'reɪn, lə'ren (Fr lɔ'ren)/ *n* a cross having 2 horizontal crossbars intersecting the upright, one above and one below the middle of the upright, the upper crossbar being shorter than the lower  SYMBOL [Lorraine, region in NE France]
- crosspatch** /'kros,pach/ *n* a bad-tempered person – infml [**cross** + **patch** (fool)]
- 'cross,piece** /-pees/ *n* a horizontal member (e.g. of a structure)
- crossply** /'kros,plɪ-/ *n* or *adj* (a tyre) with the cords arranged crosswise to strengthen the tread
- cross,pollination** *n* the transfer of pollen from one flower to the stigma of another – compare SELF-POLLINATION – **cross-pollinate** *vt*
- cross,product** *n* VECTOR PRODUCT
- cross,purposes** *n pl* – at **cross purposes** having a mutual misunderstanding or deliberately conflicting approach
- cross-refer** *vb* **tr** *vt* 1 to direct (a reader) from one page or entry (e.g. in a book) to another 2 to refer from (a secondary entry) to a main entry ~ *vi* to make a cross-reference
- 'cross-reference** *n* an indication at one place (e.g. in a book or filing system) of the existence of relevant information at another place
- 'cross-reference** *vb* to cross-refer
- cross-resistance** *n* tolerance (e.g. of bacteria) to a normally poisonous substance (e.g. an antibiotic) acquired by exposure to a chemically related substance
- 'cross,road** /-roʊd/ *n* 1 the place where 2 or more roads intersect 2a a central meeting place <the ~s of the world> b a crucial point, esp where a decision must be made <at a ~s in her career> **USE** usu *pl* with sing. meaning but sing. or *pl* in constr
- 'cross,section** *n* 1 (a drawing of) a surface made by cutting across sth, esp at right angles to its length 2 the probability of an encounter between particles (resulting in a specified effect) <the ionization ~> 3 a representative sample <a ~ of society> – **cross-sectional** /-ʃənəl/ *adj*
- 'cross,stick** *n* (needlework using) a stitch in the shape of an X formed by crossing one stitch over another – **cross-stitch** *vb*
- 'cross,talk** *n* 1 unwanted signals in a communication channel that come from another channel 2 *Br* rapid exchange of repartee (e.g. between comedians)
- 'cross,trees** /-treez/ *n pl* a pair of horizontal crosspieces on a mast to which supporting ropes are attached  SHIP
- 'cross,ways** /-weɪz/ *adv* crosswise, diagonally
- 'cross,wind** /-wɪnd/ *n* a wind blowing in a direction not parallel to the course of a vehicle, aircraft, etc
- cross wire** *n* CROSS HAIR
- 'cross,wise** /-wɪz/ *adv* so as to cross sth; across <logs laid ~>
- 'cross,word,puzzle** /'kros,wʊd/ *n* a puzzle in which words are entered in a pattern of numbered squares in answer to correspondingly numbered clues in such a way that the words read across and down  WORD
- crotch** /kroʃ/ *n* 1 an angle formed where 2 branches separate off from a tree trunk 2 the angle between the inner thighs where they meet the human body [prob alter of *crutch*] – **crotched** *adj*
- crotchet** /'kroʃɪt/ *n* a musical note with the time value of half a minim or 2 quavers  MUSIC [ME *crochet*, lit, hook, fr MF – more at CROCHET]
- crotchety** /'kroʃɪti/ *adj* bad-tempered <a ~ old man> – infml [**crotchet** (idiosyncrasy)] – **crotchety** *n*
- croton** /'kroʊt(ə)n/ *n* an E Indian plant yielding an oil formerly used as a drastic purgative, also a related plant of the spurge family [NL, genus name, fr Gk *kroton* castor-oil plant]
- crouch** /krowʃ/ *vi* to lower the body by bending the legs [ME *crouchen*, perh fr MF *crochir* to become hook-shaped, fr *croche* hook] – **crouch** *n*
- 'croup** /kroʊp/ *n* the rump of a quadruped  ANATOMY [ME *croupe*, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *kropf* *craw* – more at CROP]
- 'croup** *n* a spasmodic laryngitis, esp of infants, marked by periods of difficult breathing and a hoarse cough [E dial *croup* (to cry hoarsely, cough), prob of imit origin] – **croupous** *adj*, **croupy** *adj*
- croupier** /'kroʊpiə-, -aɪ/ *n* an employee of a gambling casino who collects and pays out bets at the gaming tables [F, lit, rider on the croup of a horse, fr *croupe* croup]
- crouton** /'kroʊt(ə)n/ *n* a small cube of crisp toasted or fried bread served with soup or used as a garnish [F *croûton*, dim of *croûte* crust, fr MF *crouste*]
- 'crow** /kroh/ *n* 1 the carrion or hooded crow or a related large usu entirely glossy black bird 2 a crowbar [ME *crowe*, fr OE *crawe*; akin to OHG *krawa* crow, OE *crawan* to crow] – as the crow flies in a straight line
- 'crow** *vi* **crowed**, (*I*) **crowed** also **crew** /kroʊ/ 1 to make the loud shrill cry characteristic of a cock 2 esp of an infant to utter sounds of happiness or pleasure 3a to exult gloatingly, esp over another's misfortune b to brag exultantly or blatantly [ME *crowen*, fr OE *crawan*]
- 'crow** *n* 1 the characteristic cry of the cock 2 a triumphant cry
- crowbar** /'kroʊ,bɑː/ *n* an iron or steel bar for use as a lever that is wedge-shaped at the working end [**crow** + **bar**; prob fr the forked end, like a crow's foot, it sometimes has]
- crowberry** /'kroʊb(ə)n/ *n* (the tasteless black berry of) any of several low shrubby evergreen plants, esp of arctic or mountainous regions
- 'crowd** /krowd/ *vi* 1 to press close <people ~ing through the narrow gates> 2 to collect in numbers; throng ~ *vt*, 1a to fill by pressing or thronging together <people ~ed the hall> b to force or thrust into a small space <~ed books onto the shelves> 2 to push, force <~ed us off the pavement> 3 to hoist more (sail) than usual for greater speed – usu + *on* 4 to press close to; jostle 5 to put pressure on – infml [ME *crowden*, fr OE *crūdan*; akin to MHG *kroten* to crowd, OE *crūd* multitude, Ml *gruth* curds]
- 'crowd** *n* sing or *pl* in constr 1 a large number of people gathered together without order; a throng 2 people in general ~ + the 3 a large number of things close together and in disorder 4 a specified social group <the in ~>
- crowded** /'krowdɪd/ 1 filled with numerous people, things, or events 2 pressed or forced into a small space <~ spectators>
- crowd out** *vt* 1 to exclude by depriving of space or time 2 to fill to capacity by coming or collecting together
- 'crowd,puller** /-puːlə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* sby or sth that attracts large crowds – infml




**crowfoot** /'kroh,foot/ *n*, *pl* **crowfoots** any of numerous plants, esp of the buttercup family, with lobed leaves shaped like a crow's foot

**'crown** /krown/ *n* 1 a reward of victory or mark of honour, esp the title representing the championship in a sport 2 a (gold and jewel-encrusted) headdress worn as a symbol of sovereignty 3a the topmost part of the skull or head b the summit of a slope, mountain, etc c the upper part of the foliage of a tree or shrub d the part of a hat or cap that covers the crown of the head e (an artificial substitute for) the part of a tooth visible outside the gum  4 a wreath, band, or circular ornament for the head, esp worn as a symbol of victory 5 often *cap* a the sovereign as head of state, also sovereignty b the government under a constitutional monarchy 6 the high point or culmination 7a a British coin worth 25 pence (formerly 5 shillings) b a size of paper usu 20 x 15in (508 x 381mm) 8a a koruna b a krona c a krone 9 the part of a flowering plant at which stem and root merge [ME *coroune*, *crowne*, fr OF *corone*, fr L *corona* wreath, crown, fr Gk *korónē*, akin to Gk *korónos* curved, L *curvus*, MLr *crund* round] – **crowned** *adj*

**'crown** *vt* 1a to place a crown on the head of, esp as a symbol of investiture (< ed *her queen*) b to recognize, usu officially, as (the leader in a particular field) 2 to bestow sthg on as a mark of honour or reward 3 to surmount, top, esp to put a draughtsman on top of (another draughtsman) to make a king 4 to bring to a successful conclusion 5 to put an artificial crown on (a tooth) 6 to hit on the head – *infrml* [ME *corounen*, fr OF *coroner*, fr L *coronare*, fr *corona*]

**'crown** **'canopy** *n* the cover formed by the topmost branches of trees in a forest

**'crown** **'colony** *n*, often *cap* C&C a colony of the Commonwealth over which the Briti<sup>sh</sup> government retains some control

**'crown** **'Court** *n* a local criminal court in England and Wales having jurisdiction over serious offences  **LAW**

**'crown** **'glass** *n* a glass of relatively low refractive index and dispersion, used esp in lenses

**'crown** **'green** *n* a bowling green which slopes downwards slightly from its centre to its outer edge

**'crown** **'jewels** *n pl* the jewels (e.g. crown and sceptre) belonging to a sovereign's regalia

**'crown of thorns** *n* a starfish of the Pacific region that is covered with long spines and feeds on the coral of reefs

**'crown** **'prince** *n* an heir apparent to a crown or throne

**'crown** **princess** *n* 1 the wife of a crown prince 2 a female heir apparent or heir presumptive to a crown or throne

**'crown** **'saw** *n* a saw with teeth at the edge of a hollow cylinder that is used to cut circular holes

**'crow's-foot** *n*, *pl* **'crow's-feet** 1 any of the wrinkles round the outer corners of the eyes – *usu pl* 2 crowfoot

**'crow's nest** *n* a partly enclosed high lookout platform (e.g. on a ship's mast)

**'crow** **step** *n* CORBIE STEP  **ARCHITECTURE** – **crow stepped** *adj*

**crozier** /'krohzhə/ *n* a crosier

**crucēs** /'kroohseɪz/ *pl* of **CRUX**

**crucial** /'kroohshəl/ *adj* 1 important or essential to the resolving of a crisis, decisive 2 of the greatest importance or significance [F, fr L *cruc-*, *crux* cross – more at **RIDGE**] – **crucially** *adv*

**crucian** /'kroohsh(ə)n/, **crucian** **'carp** *n* a European carp [modif of LG *karuse*, fr MHG *karusse*, fr Lith *karusis*]

**crucible** /'kroohsibl/ *n* 1 a vessel for melting and calcining a substance at a very high temperature 2 a severe test [ME *corusible*, fr ML *crucibulum*, modif of OF *croiseul*]

**crucifer** /'kroohsifa/ *n* 1 a person who carries a cross, esp at the head of an ecclesiastical procession 2 any plant of the mustard family, including the cabbage, stock, cress, etc [deriv of L *cruc-*, *crux* + *-fer*] – **cruciferous** /'kroohsif(ə)rəs/ *adj*

**crucifix** /'kroohsifiks/ *n* a representation of Christ on the cross [ME, fr LL *crucifixus* the crucified Christ, fr *crucifixus*, pp of *crucifigere* to crucify, fr L *cruc-*, *crux* + *figere* to fasten]

**crucifixion** /'kroohsifiksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of crucifying 2 *cap* the crucifying of Christ

**cruciform** /'kroohsi,fawm/ *adj* forming or arranged in a cross [L *cruc-*, *crux* + *E -form*] – **cruciformly** *adv*

**crucify** /'kroohsi,fiə/ *vt* 1 to execute by nailing or binding the hands and feet to a cross and leaving to die 2 to treat cruelly; torture, persecute [ME *crucifien*, fr OF *crucifier*, fr LL *crucifigere*]

**cruck** /kruk/ *n*, *Br* either of a pair of curved timbers forming a main roof support and extending to the ground [ME *crokke*, prob var of *crok* crook]

**crud** /krud/ *n* 1 a deposit or incrustation of filth, grease, etc – *infrml* 2 a disagreeable or contemptible substance or person – *slang* [ME *curd*, *crudd*] – **cruddy** *adj*

**'crude** /kroohd/ *adj* 1 existing in a natural state and unaltered by processing 2 vulgar, gross 3 rough or inexperienced in plan or execution 4 tabulated without being broken down into classes (< *death rate*) [ME, fr L *crudus* raw – more at **RAW**] – **crudely** *adv*, **crudeness** *n*

**'crude** *n* a substance, esp petroleum, in its natural unprocessed state

**crudity** /'kroohdati/ *n* 1 being crude 2 sthg crude

**cruel** /'krooh-əl/ *adj* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) 1 liking to inflict pain or suffering, pitiless 2 causing suffering; painful [ME, fr OF, fr L *crudelis*, irreg fr *crudus*] – **cruelly** *adv*, **cruelness** *n*

**'cruelty** /-ti/ *n* 1 being cruel 2 (an instance of) cruel behaviour [ME *cruelte*, fr OF *cruelté*, fr L *crudelitas*, *crudelitas*, fr *crudelis*]

**cruet** /'krooh-ɪt/ *n* 1 a vessel to hold wine or water for the Eucharist 2 a small usu glass bottle or jug that holds oil or vinegar for use at table 3 a small container (e.g. a pot or shaker) for holding a condiment, esp salt, pepper, or mustard, at table 4 a set of cruets, usu on a stand [ME, fr AF, dim of OF *crue*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *crocc* crock]

**'cruise** /kroohz/ *vi* 1 to travel by sea for pleasure 2 to go about or patrol the streets without any definite destination (< a cruising taxi>) 3a of an aircraft to fly at the most efficient operating speed b of a vehicle to travel at an economical speed that can be maintained for a long distance 4 to make progress easily 5 to search (e.g. in public places) for an esp homosexual partner – *slang* [D *kruisen* to make a cross, cruise, fr MD *crucen*, fr *cruce* cross, fr L *cruc-*, *crux* – more at **RIDGE**]

**'cruise** *n* an act or instance of cruising, esp a sea voyage for pleasure

**'cruise** **'missile** *n* a long-distance low-flying missile that is supported in flight by aeroflats, is guided by an inbuilt computerized navigation system, and typically carries a nuclear warhead

**cruiser** /'kroohzə/ *n* 1 CABIN CRUISER 2 a large fast lightly armoured warship [CRUISE + *-ER*]

**'cruiser** **'weight** /-weɪt/ *n* a professional boxer who weighs between 12st 7lb (about 79.4kg) and 13st 8lb (almost 86.2kg)

**'crumb** /krum/ *n* 1 a small fragment, esp of bread 2 a small amount (< a ~ of comfort>) 3a (loose crumbly soil or other material resembling) the soft part of bread inside the crust b a small lump consisting of soil particles 4 a worthless person – *slang* [ME *crumme*, fr OE *cruma*; akin to MHG *krume* crumb]

**'crumb** *vt* 1 to break up into crumbs 2 to cover or thicken with crumbs

**'crumble** /'krumb/ *vb* **crumbling** /'krumblɪŋ/ to break or fall into small pieces, disintegrate – often + away [alter of ME *kremelen*, freq of OE *gecrymian* to crumble, fr *cruma*] – **crumbly** /'krumbli/ *adj*

**'crumble** *n* a dessert of stewed fruit topped with a crumbly mixture of fat, flour, and sugar

**crumbs** /krumz/ *interj*, chiefly *Br* – used to express surprise or consternation; *infrml* [euphemism for *Christ*]

**crumhorn**, **krummhorn** /'krum,hawm/ *n* a Renaissance woodwind instrument with a double reed and a hooked tube [G *krummhorn*, fr *krumm* crooked + *horn* horn]

**crummy**, **crumby** /'krumi/ *adj* 1 miserable, filthy 2 of poor quality, worthless *USE* *slang* [ME *crumme* crumb]

**'crump** /krump/ *vi* 1 to crunch 2 to explode heavily [imit]

**'crump** *n* 1 a crunching sound 2 a shell, bomb – *infrml*

**'crumpet** /'krumpt/ *n* 1 a small round cake made from an unsweetened leavened batter that is cooked on a griddle and usu toasted before serving 2 *Br* women collectively as sexual objects – *slang* (< a piece of ~>) [perh fr ME *crompid* (cake) wafer, lit., curled-up cake, fr *crumped*, pp of *crumpen* to curl up, fr *crump*, *crumb* crooked]

**'crumple** /'krumpl/ *vb* **crumpling** /'krumplɪŋ/ *vt* to press, bend, or crush out of shape, rumple ~ *vi* 1 to become crumpled 2 to collapse (< her face ~d at the news>) – often + up [(assumed) ME *crumplen*, freq of ME *crumpen*]

**'crumple** *n* a wrinkle or crease made by crumpling

**'crunch** /krunch/ *vb* 1 to chew or bite (sthg) with a noisy crushing sound 2 to (cause to) make a crushing sound 3 to make (one's way) with a crushing sound [alter. of *crunch*, prob of imit origin]

**'crunch** *n* 1 an act or sound of crunching 2 the critical or decisive situation or moment – *infrml*

**crunchy** /'krunchi/ *adj* crisp, brittle – **crunchiness** *n*

**crupper** /'krupa/ *n* a leather loop passing under a horse's tail and buckled to the saddle to prevent the saddle from slipping forwards [ME *cruper*, fr OF *crupiere*, fr *croupe* hindquarters]

**crural** /'kroʊərəl/ *adj* of the thigh or leg; *specif* femoral [L *crur-*, *crus* leg]

**crusade** /kroʊh'sayd/ *n* 1 *cap* any of the medieval Christian military expeditions to win the Holy Land from the Muslims 2 a reforming enterprise undertaken with zeal and enthusiasm [blend of MF *croisade* and Sp *crusada*; both derivs of L *cruc-*, *crux* cross] – *crusade vi*

**cruse** /kroʊh, kroʊhs/ *n* a small earthenware jar or pot for holding oil, water, etc [ME; akin to OE *cruse* pitcher]

**'crush** /krʊʃ/ *vt* 1 to alter or destroy the structure of by pressure or compression 2 to reduce to particles by pounding or grinding 3 to subdue, overwhelm (<ed the revolt> <a ~ing remark>) 4 to crowd, push ~ *vi* to become crushed <eggshells ~ easily> [ME *crusshen*, fr MF *crusis*, of Gmc origin; akin to MLG *krossen* to crush] – *crushable adj*, *crusher n*

**'crush** *n* 1 a crowding together, esp of many people 2 (the object of) an intense usu brief infatuation – *infrml*

**'crush barrier** *n* a barrier erected to control crowds

**crust** /krʊst/ *n* 1a the hardened exterior of bread b a piece of this or of bread grown dry or hard 2 the pastry cover of a pie 3a a hard or brittle surface layer (e.g. of soil or snow) b the outer rocky layer of the earth c a deposit built up on the inside of a wine bottle during long aging d a hard deposit (on the skin); *esp* a scab 4 a superficial hardness of behaviour <break through her ~ of reserve> [ME, fr L *crusta*; akin to OE *hrūsc* earth, Gk *kryos* icy cold] – *crust vb*, *crustal adj*

**crustacean** /krʊ'stʃaɪn/ *n*, *pl* *crustaceans*, *crustacea* /-ʃə/ any of a large class of mostly aquatic arthropods with a carapace, a pair of appendages on each segment, and 2 pairs of antennae, including the lobsters, crabs, woodlice, etc [NL *Crustacea*, group name, fr neut pl of *crustaceus*] – *crustacean adj*

**crustaceous** /krʊ'stʃaɪs/ *adj* of, having, or forming a crust or shell, or of being a crustacean [NL *crustaceus*, fr L *crusta* crust, shell]


**crusted** /krʊstɪd/ *adj* covered with or having formed a crust

**crusty** /krʊsti/ *adj* 1 having a hard well-baked crust 2 surly, uncivil – *crustily adv*, *crustiness n*

**crutch** /krʊtʃ/ *n* 1a a staff of wood or metal typically fitting under the armpit to support a disabled person in walking b a prop, stay 2 the crotch of an animal or human 3 the part of a garment that covers the human crotch [ME *crucche*, fr OE *crycc*; akin to OHG *krucka* crutch, OE *cradol* cradle]

**crux** /krʊks, kroʊks/ *n*, *pl* *cruxes* also *cruces* /'kroʊh,seɪz/ 1 a puzzling, or difficult problem 2 an essential or decisive point <the ~ of the matter> [L *cruc-*, *crux* cross, torture – more at RIDGE]

**crux an'ata** /ən'saɪtə/ *n*, *pl* *cruces anatae* /-ti/ an ank (NL, lit, cross with a handle)

**cruzeiro** /kroʊh'zeəroʊ/ *n*, *pl* *cruzeiros*  Brazil at NATIONALITY [Pg]

**'cry** /krie-/ *vi* 1 to call loudly; shout (e.g. in fear or pain) 2 to weep, sob 3 of a bird or animal to utter a characteristic sound or call 4 to require or suggest strongly a remedy – *usu + out for*; *infrml* ~ *vt* 1 to utter loudly; shout 2 to proclaim publicly; advertise <~ their wares> [ME *crien*, fr OF *crier*, fr L *quiritare* to cry out for help (from a citizen), to scream, fr *Quirit-*, *Quiris* Roman citizen] – *cry over spilt milk* to express vain regrets for what cannot be recovered or undone – *cry wolf* to raise a false alarm and risk the possibility that a future real need will not be taken seriously – *for crying out loud* used to express exasperation and annoyance; *infrml*

**'cry** *n* 1 an inarticulate utterance of distress, rage, pain, etc 2 a loud shout 3 a watchword, slogan <'death to the invader' was the ~> 4 a general public demand or complaint 5 a spell of weeping <have a good ~> 6 the characteristic sound or call of an animal or bird 7 pursuit – *in in full cry*

**cry** /krie-/ , *cryo-* *comb form* cold; low temperature; freezing <cryogen> [G *kryo-*, fr Gk, fr *kryos* – more at CRUST]

**'crybaby** /-baɪbi/ *n* one who cries or complains too easily or frequently – *infrml*

**cry down** *vt* to disparage, depreciate

**criying** /'krie-ɪŋ/ *adj* calling for notice <a ~ shame>

**cry off** *vt* to call off (e.g. an agreement) ~ *vi* , *chiefly Br* to withdraw, BACK OUT

**cryogen** /'krie-əʒən/ *n* a substance used in producing low temperatures; a refrigerant

**cryogenic** /'krie-əʒənɪk/ *adj* of, involving, or being (the production of) very low temperatures – *cryogenically adv*

**'cryogenics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the physics of the production and effects of very low temperatures

**cryolite** /'krie-əliet/ *n* a mineral consisting of sodium-aluminium fluoride, found in Greenland and used in making soda and aluminium [ISV]

**cryostat** /'krie-əstat/ *n* an apparatus for maintaining a constant low temperature [ISV]

**cryosurgery** /'krie-ə'suhj(ə)n/ *n* surgery in which extreme chilling is used to destroy or cut tissue – *cryosurgical adj*, *cryosurgeon* /-ˈsɜːrʒən/ *n*

**crypt** /kript/ *n* a chamber (e.g. a vault) wholly or partly underground; *esp* a vault under the main floor of a church [L *crypta*, fr Gk *krypte*, fr fem of *kryptos* hidden, fr *kryptein* to hide; akin to ON *hreyrar* heap of stones, Lith *krauti* to pile up] – *cryptal adj*

**crypt-** /kript-/ , *crypto-* *comb form* 1 hidden, obscure <cryptogenic> 2 secret; unavowed <crypto-fascist> [NL, fr Gk *kryptos*]

**cryptic** /'kriptɪk/ *adj* 1 secret, occult 2 intended to be obscure or mysterious 3 serving to conceal <~ coloration in animals> 4 making use of cipher or code [LL *crypticus*, fr Gk *kryptikos*, fr *kryptos*] – *cryptically adv*

**crypto** /'kriptə/ *n*, *pl* *cryptos* one who supports or belongs secretly to a party, sect, or other group [crypt-]

**cryptocrystalline** /'kriptə'kristliən/ *adj* having minute crystals distinguishable only under the microscope [ISV]

**cryptogam** /'kriptə'gam/ *n* a plant (e.g. a fern, moss, or fungus) reproducing by means of spores and not producing flowers or seed [deriv of Gk *kryptos* + *-gamia* -gamy] – *cryptogamic* /'kriptə'gamɪk/ *adj*, *cryptogamous* /'kriptə'gaməs/ *adj*

**cryptogenic** /'kriptə'jenɪk/ *adj* of obscure or unknown origin <a ~ disease>

**cryptogram** /'kriptə'gram/ *n* a communication in cipher or code [F *cryptogramme*, fr *crypt-* + *-gramme* -gram] – *cryptogrammic* /-ˈgramɪk/ *adj*

**cryptography** /'kriptə'græfi/ *n* 1 secret writing, cryptic symbolization 2 the preparation of cryptograms, ciphers, or codes [NL *cryptographia*, fr *crypt-* + *-graphia* -graphy] – *cryptographer n*, *cryptographic* /'kriptə'græfɪk/ *adj*

**'crystal** /'kristl/ *n* 1 (almost) transparent and colourless quartz 2 sth resembling crystal in transparency and colourlessness 3 a chemical substance in a form that has a regularly repeating internal arrangement of atoms and often regularly arranged external plane faces 4 (an object made of) a clear colourless glass of superior quality 5 the transparent cover over a watch or clock dial 6 an electronic component containing crystalline material used as a frequency-determining element [ME *crystal*, fr OF, fr L *crystallum*, fr Gk *krystallos* ice, crystal]

**'crystal** *adj* 1 consisting of or resembling crystal; clear, lucid 2 relating to or using a crystal <a ~ microphone>

**'crystal ball** *n* 1 a usu crystal sphere traditionally used by fortune-tellers 2 a means or method of predicting future events

**'crystal clear** *adj* perfectly clear

**'crystal gazing** *n* 1 the art or practice of concentrating on a crystal ball to aid divination 2 the attempt to predict future events or make difficult judgments, esp without adequate data – *crystal gazer n*

**crystal-**, *crystallo-* *comb form* crystal <crystalliferous> [Gk *krystallos*]

**crystalline** /'kristliən/ *adj* composed of crystal or crystals [ME *crystal-lin*, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *crystallinus*, fr Gk *krystallinos*, fr *krystallos*] – *crystallinity* /-ɪˈnɪti/ *n*

**crystalline lens** *n* the lens of the eye in vertebrates

**crystalite** /'kristliet/ *n* a minute unspecified mineral form, esp in glassy volcanic rocks, that marks the first step in crystallization [G *kristallit*, fr Gk *krystallos*] – *crystallitic* /-ɪˈtɪk/ *adj*

**crystallize**, *-ise* also *crystalize*, *-ise* /'kristlɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause to form crystals or assume crystalline form 2 to cause to take a definite form <tried to ~ his thoughts> 3 to coat (e.g. fruit) with (sugar) crystals ~ *vi* to become crystallized – *crystallizable adj*, *crystallized adj*, *crystallizer n*, *crystallization* /-ɪˈzeɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**crystallography** /'kristlɒ'græfi/ *n* the science dealing with the forms and structures of crystals – *crystallographer n*, *crystallographic* /-ə'græfɪk/, *crystallographical adj*, *crystallographically adv*

**crystalloid** /'kristlɔɪd/ *n* a substance that forms a true solution and is capable of being crystallized – compare COLLOID 1a – *crystalloid*, *crystalloidal* /-ɔɪdl/ *adj*

**cry up** *vt* to praise highly; extol

**ctenoid** /te(ə)nɔɪd/ *adj* (having or consisting of scales) with a toothed margin <a ~ fish> [ISV, fr Gk *ktenoideús*, fr *kten-*, *kteis* comb – more at PECTINATE]

**ctenophore** /ˈtɛnəfaw/ *n* any of a phylum of sea animals superficially resembling jellyfishes but swimming by means of 8 bands of thin flat cilia-bearing plates [deriv of Gk *kten-*, *kteis* + *pherein* to carry – more at *BEAR*] – **ctenophoran** /ˈtɛnəfɔːrən/ *adj*

**cuadrilla** /ˈkwahˈdree(j)ya/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the team helping the matador in a bullfight [Sp, dim. of *cuadra* square, fr L *quadra*]

**cub** /kub/ *n* 1 the young of a flesh-eating mammal (e.g. a bear or lion) 2 an inexperienced newspaper reporter 3 CUB SCOUT [origin unknown]

**cuban heel** /ˈkyoohbən/ *n* a broad medium-high heel on a shoe or boot [Cuba, island in the W Indies]

**cubbing** /ˈkubɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* the hunting of young foxes [cub + -ing]

**cubby** /ˈkubi/, **cubbyhole** /-ˈhoʊl/ *n* a snug or cramped space [obs *cub* (cattle-pen), fr D *kub* thatched roof; akin to OE *cofa* den – more at *COVE*]

**cube** /kyoohb/ *n* 1a the regular solid of 6 equal square sides b a block of anything so shaped <a *bouillon* ~> 2 the product got by multiplying together 3 equal numbers [ME, fr L *cubus*, fr Gk *kybos* cube, vertebra – more at *HIP*]

**cube** *vt* 1 to raise to the third power 2 to cut into cubes – **cuber** *n*

**cubeb** /ˈkyoohbeb/ *n* the dried unripe berry of a tropical shrub of the pepper family formerly used in medicine, esp as a urinary antiseptic [MF *cubebe*, fr OF, fr ML *cubeba*, fr Ar *kubabah*]

**cube root** *n* a number whose cube is a given number


**cubic** /ˈkyoohbɪk/ *adj* 1 cube-shaped 2 of or being a crystal system characterized by 3 equal axes at right angles 3a three-dimensional b being the volume of a cube whose edge is a specified unit <~ *metre*> 4 of or involving (various of) the third power or order – **cubically** *adv*, **cubic *n***, **cubically** *adv*

**cubical** /ˈkyoohbɪk/ *adj* cubic; esp shaped like a cube – **cubically** *adv*

**cubicle** /ˈkyoohbɪkl/ *n* 1 a sleeping compartment partitioned off from a large room 2 a small partitioned space or compartment [L *cubiculum*, fr *cubare* to lie, recline – more at *HIP*]

**cubiform** /ˈkyoohbɪfawm/ *adj* cube-shaped [L *cubus* + E *-form*]

**cubism** /ˈkyoohˌbɪz(ə)m/ *n* a 20th-c art movement that stresses abstract form, esp by displaying several aspects of the same object simultaneously [F *cubisme*, fr *cube* + *-isme* -ism] – **cubist** *n*, **cubist**, **cubistic** /ˈkyoohˌbɪstɪk/ *adj*

**cubit** /ˈkyoohbɪt/ *n* any of various ancient units of length based on the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger  **UNIT** [ME, fr L *cubitum* elbow, *cubit* – more at *HIP*]

**cuboid** /ˈkyoohboɪd/ *adj* (being one of the tarsal bones of many higher animals that is) approx cube-shaped – **cuboid** *n*, **cuboidal** /ˈkyoohˌboɪdl/, **---**

**cub scout** *n* a member of the most junior section of the (British) Scout movement

**cucking stool** /ˈkukɪŋ/ *n* a seat to which culprits were formerly tied to be pelted, jeered at, or plunged into water [ME *cucking stol*, lit., defecating chair]

**cuckold** /ˈkukohld/, **kookohld** /ˈkookohld/ *n* a man whose wife is adulterous [ME *cokewold*, prob deriv of OF *cuculus*, fr *cucu* cuckoo]

**cuckold** *vt* to make a cuckold of (a husband) – **cuckolder** *n*, **cuckoldry** *n*

**cuckoo** /ˈkookooʃ/ *n*, *pl* **cuckoos** 1 (any of a large family of birds including) a greyish brown European bird that lays its eggs in the nests of other birds which hatch them and rear the offspring 2 the characteristic call of the cuckoo [ME *cuccu*, of imit origin]

**cuckoo** *adj* deficient in sense or intelligence, silly – *infrm*

**cuckoo clock** *n* a clock that announces the hours by sounds resembling a cuckoo's call

**cuckoo flower** /-ˈflowa/ *n* a European and American usu lilac-flowered plant of the mustard family, that grows in wet places

**cuckoo pint** /-ˈpɪnt/ *n* a European arum that has a large pale green leaflike bract surrounding a spike of dense tiny purple flowers, and bears a cluster of red berries as fruit [ME *cuccupintel*, fr *cuccu* + *pintel* pintle]

**cuckoo spit** *n* (a frothy secretion exuded on plants by the larva of) a froghopper

**cucumber** /ˈkyoohkumba/ *n* (a climbing plant with) a long green edible fruit cultivated as a garden vegetable and eaten esp in salads [ME, fr MF *cocombre*, fr L *cucumer*-, *cucumis*]

**cucumber tree** *n* any of several American magnolias whose fruit resembles a small cucumber

**cucurbit** /ˈkyoohˌkubɪt/ *n* a plant of the cucumber family [ME *cucurbite*, fr MF, fr L *cucurbita* gourd]

**cud** /kud/ *n* food brought up into the mouth by a ruminating animal from its first stomach to be chewed again [ME *cuðde*, fr OE *cwudu*; akin to OHG *kuti* glue, Skt *jatu* gum]

**cudbear** /ˈkudˌbeə/ *n* a reddish dye obtained from lichens [irreg fr *Cuthbert* Gordon, 18th-c Sc chemist]

**cuddle** /ˈkudl/ *vb* **cuddling** /ˈkudlɪŋ/, **kudl-ɪŋ** /ˈkudl-ɪŋ/ *vt* to hold close for warmth or comfort or in affection ~ *vt* to lie close; nestle, snuggle [origin unknown]

**cuddle** *n* an act of cuddling

**cuddlesome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* cuddly

**cuddly** /ˈkudli/, **kudl-i** /ˈkudl-i/ *adj* suitable for cuddling; lovable

**cuddy** /ˈkudi/ *n* a small cabin or shelter under a boat's foredeck [origin unknown]

**cuddie**, **cuddie** *n*, *dial Br* 1 a donkey 2 a blockhead [perh fr *Cuddy*, nickname for *Cuthbert*]

**cudgel** /ˈkuj(ə)l/ *n* a short heavy club [ME *kugel*, fr OE *cygcel*; akin to MHG *kugele* ball, OE *cot hut* – more at *COT*]

**cudgel** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈkuj-ɪŋ/ to beat (as if) with a cudgel

**cudweed** /ˈkudˌweəd/ *n* any of several composite plants with silky or woolly foliage

**cue** /kyooh/ *n* 1a a signal to a performer to begin a specific speech or action b sth serving a comparable purpose, a hint 2 a feature of sth that determines the way in which it is perceived [prob fr *qu*, abbr (used as a direction in actors' copies of plays) of L *quando* when]

**cue** *vt* **cuing**, **cuing** to give a cue to; prompt

**cue** *n* a leather-tipped tapering rod for striking the ball in billiards, snooker, etc [F *queue*, lit., tail, fr L *cauda*]

**cue** *vb* **cuing**, **cuing** *vt* to strike with a cue ~ *vt* to use a cue

**cue ball** *n* the ball in billiards, snooker, etc that is struck by a cue

**cuesta** /ˈkwesta/ *n* a hill or ridge with a steep face on one side and a gentle slope on the other [Sp, fr L *costa* side, rib – more at *COAST*]

**cuff** /kuf/ *n* 1 a fold or band at the end of a sleeve which encircles the wrist 2 a turned-up hem of a trouser leg 3 a handcuff – *usu* pl, *infrm* [ME, glove, mitten] – **cuffless** *adj* – off the cuff without preparation

**cuff** *vt* to strike, esp (as if) with the palm of the hand [perh fr obs *cuff* (glove), fr ME]

**cuff** *n* a blow with the hand, esp when open; a slap

**cuff link** *n* a usu ornamental device consisting of 2 linked parts used to fasten a shirt cuff

**cuffuffle** /ˈkʊfʊl/ *n*, *Br* a fuss, rumpus – *infrm* [E *dial.* (Sc) *cuffuffle* disorder, agitation]

**cui bono** /ˈkwɛɪˈboʊno/ *n* a principle that probable responsibility for an act or event lies with sby having sth to gain [L, to whose advantage?]

**cuirass** /ˈkwɪˈras/ *n* a piece of armour consisting of a (joined backplate and) breastplate [ME *curas*, fr MF *curasse*, fr LL *coreacea*, fem of *coreaceus* leathern, fr L *corium* skin, leather; akin to OE *heorþa* deerskin, L *cortex* bark, Gk *kerreîn* to cut – more at *SHEAR*]

**cuirassier** /ˈkwɪˈrɑːsɪə/ *n* a cavalry soldier wearing a cuirass

**culish** /ˈkwɪʃ/ *n* a cuisse

**cuisine** /ˈkwɪˈzeɪn/ *n* a manner of preparing or cooking food; also the food prepared [F, lit., kitchen, fr LL *coquina* – more at *KITCHEN*]

**cuisse** /ˈkwɪs/, **kwees** /ˈkwɛs/ *n* a piece of armour for the front of the thigh [ME *cusseis*, pl, fr MF *cuissaux*, pl of *cuissel*, fr *cuisse* thigh, fr L *coxa* hip – more at *COXA*]

**cul-de-sac** /ˈkul dɪ ˈsɑːk/, *n*, *pl* **culs-de-sac** /-~/ also **cul-de-sacs** /ˈsɑːks/ 1 an (anatomical) pouch or tube with only 1 opening 2 a street, usu residential, closed at 1 end [F, lit., bottom of the bag]

**culinary** /ˈkulin(ə)ri/ *adj* of the kitchen or cookery [L *culinarius*, fr *culina* kitchen – more at *KILN*]

**cull** /kul/ *vt* 1 to select from a group; choose 2 to identify and remove the rejects from (a flock, herd, etc) 3 to control the size of a population of (animals) by killing a limited number [ME *cullen*, fr MF *cuillir*, fr L *colligere* to bind together – more at *COLLECT*] – **culler** *n*

**cull** *n* 1 culling 2 a culled animal

**cullender** /ˈkuləndə/ *n* a colander


**culm** /kʊlm/ *n* **SLACK** [ME]

**culm** *n* the stem of a grass or other monocotyledonous plant [L *culmus* stalk – more at *HAULM*]

**culminant** /ˈkʊlmɪnənt/ *adj*, of a celestial body on the meridian

**culminate** /ˈkʊlmɪnaɪt/ *vi* 1 of a celestial body to be at the meridian; be directly overhead 2 to reach the highest or a climactic or decisive point – *often* + *in* [ML *culminatus*, pp of *culminare*, fr LL, to crown, fr L *culmin-*, *culmen* top – more at *HILL*] – **culmination** /-ˈnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**culottes** /ˈkooˈlɒts/ *n* *pl* short trousers having the appearance of a skirt

and worn by women  **GARMENT** [F *culotte* breeches, fr dim. of *cul* backside, fr L *culus*] – *culotte* *adj*

**culpable** /'kulpəbl/ *adj* meriting condemnation or blame (< ~ *negligence*) [ME *coupable*, fr MF, fr L *culpabilis*, fr *culpare* to blame, fr *culpa* guilt] – *culpableness* *n*, *culpably* *adv*, *culpability* /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**culprit** /'kulpɪt/ *n* one guilty of a crime or a fault [AF *cul* (abbr of *culpable* guilty) + *prest*, *pɪt* ready (i e to prove it), fr L *praestus* – more at **PRESTO**]

**cult** /kult/ *n* 1 (the body of adherents of) a a system of religious beliefs and ritual (<the ~ of the Virgin Mary>) b a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious 2 (a group marked by) great devotion, often regarded as a fad, to a person, idea, or thing [F & L; F *culte*, fr L *cultus* care, adoration, fr *cultus*, pp of *colere* to cultivate – more at **WHEEL**] – *cultic* *adj*, *cultism* *n*, *cultist* *n*

**cultivar** /'kultɪvəh, -veə/ *n* an organism of a kind originating and kept under cultivation [cultivated + variety]

**cultivate** /'kultɪvayt/ *vt* 1 to prepare or use (land, soil, etc) for the growing of crops; also to break up the soil about (growing plants) 2a to foster the growth of (a plant or crop) b **CULTURE** 2a c to improve by labour, care, or study; refine (< ~ the mind>) 3 to further, encourage (< ~ a friendship>) [ML *cultivatus*, pp of *cultivare*, fr *cultivus* cultivable, fr L *cultus*, pp] – *cultivable* *adj*, *cultivation* /-'vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'cultivated** *adj* refined, educated

**cultivator** /'kultɪvəɪtə/ *n* an implement to break up the soil (while crops are growing) [CULTIVATE + **OR**]

**'culture** /'kʌlʃə/ *n* 1 cultivation, tillage 2 the development of the mind, esp by education 3a enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training b intellectual and artistic enlightenment as distinguished from vocational and technical skills 4a the socially transmitted pattern of human behaviour that includes thought, speech, action, institutions, and artefacts b the customary beliefs, social forms, etc of a racial, religious, or social group 5 (a product of) the cultivation of living cells, tissue, viruses, etc in prepared nutrient media [ME, fr MF, fr L *cultura*, fr *cultus*, pp] – *cultural* *adj*, *culturally* *adv*

**'culture** *vt* 1 to cultivate 2a to grow (bacteria, viruses, etc) in a culture b to start a culture from (< ~ a specimen of urine>)

**cultured** /'kʌlʃəd/ *adj* cultivated

**cultured pearl** *n* a natural pearl grown under controlled conditions and usu induced by inserting a foreign body into the mouth of the oyster

**'culture shock** *n* psychological and social disorientation caused by confrontation with a new or alien culture

**'culture-vulture** *n* one who has an avid though uncritical interest in culture – *humor*

**cultus** /'kʌltəs/ *n* a cult [L, adoration]

**culverin** /'kʌlvərɪn/ *n* 1 an early musket 2 a long cannon of relatively light construction used in the 16th and 17th c [ME, fr MF *couleuvrine*, fr *couleuvre* snake, fr L *colubra*]

**culvert** /'kʌlvət/ *n* a construction that allows water to pass over or under an obstacle (e.g. a road or canal) [origin unknown]

**cum** /kʌm/ *prep* with; combined with; along with (<lounge ~ dining room>) [L; akin to L *com-* – more at **CO-**]

**cumber** /'kʌmbə/ *vt* 1 to clutter up; hamper 2 to burden *USE* fml [ME *cumbren*]

**'cumbersome** /-(ə)m/ *adj* unwieldy because of heaviness and bulk – *cumberously* *adv*, *cumbersomeness* *n*

**cumbrous** /'kʌmbɹəs/ *adj* cumbersome – *cumbrously* *adv*, *cumbroussness* *n*

**cumin** /'kʌmɪn, 'kyoohmɪn/ *n* a plant of the carrot family cultivated for its aromatic seeds used as a flavouring [ME, fr OE *cymen*; akin to OHG *kumin* cumin; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *cuminum*, fr Gk *kyminon*, of Sem origin]

**cummerbund** /'kʌməbʌnd/ *n* a broad waistband worn esp with men's formal evening wear [Hindi *kamarband*, fr Per, fr *kamar* waist + *band*]


**cumquat** /'kʌmkwɒt/ *n* a kumquat

**cumul-** /kyoohmyool-/ *comb* *form* cumulus and <cumlocirrus> [NL, fr L *cumulus*]


**cumulate** /kyoohmyoolayt/ *vi* to accumulate [L *cumulatus*, pp of *cumulare*, fr *cumulus* mass] – *cumulate* *adj*, *cumulation* /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*


**cumulative** /kyoohmyoolaytɪv/ *adj* 1a made up of accumulated parts b increasing by successive additions 2 formed by adding new material of the same kind (<a ~ book index>) – *cumulatively* *adv*, *cumulative-ness* *n*

**cumulonimbus** /kyoohmyooloh'nɪmbəs/ *n* a cumulus cloud formation

often in the shape of an anvil, extending to great heights and characteristic of thunderstorm conditions  **WEATHER** [NL]

**cumulostratus** /-'straɪtəs/ *n* a cumulus cloud formation with a horizontal base [NL]

**cumulus** /kyoohmyooləs/ *n*, *pl* *cumuli* /-li-, -li-/ a massive cloud formation with a flat base and rounded outlines often piled up like a mountain  **WEATHER** [NL, fr L]

**cuneate** /kyoohni-ət, -əyt/ *adj* having a narrow triangular shape with the smallest angle towards the base (<a ~ leaf>)  **PLANT** [L *cuneatus*, fr *cuneus* wedge; akin to Skt *śula* spear] – *cuneately* *adv*

**'cuneiform** /kyoohni,fawm/ *adj* 1 wedge-shaped 2 composed of or written in the wedge-shaped characters used in ancient Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian inscriptions (< ~ alphabet>) [prob fr F *cunéiforme*, fr MF, fr L *cuneus* + MF *-iforme* -iform]

**'cuneiform** *n* 1 cuneiform writing 2 a cuneiform part

**cunnilinctus** /kʌn'lɪŋktəs/ *n* cunnilingus [NL, fr L *cunnius* vulva + *linctus* act of licking, fr pp of *lingere* to lick – more at **LICK**]

**'cunnilingus** /-'lɪŋ-gas/ *n* oral stimulation of the vulva or clitoris [NL, fr L, one who licks the vulva, fr *cunnius* + *lingere*]

**'cunning** /'kʌnɪŋ/ *adj* 1 dexterous, ingenious 2 devious, crafty 3 *NAM* prettily appealing; cute [ME, fr prp of *can* know] – *cunningly* *adv*, *cunningness* *n*

**'cunning** *n* craft, slyness

**cunt** /kʌnt/ *n* 1 the female genitals 2 sexual intercourse – used by men 3 *Br* an unpleasant person *USE* vulg [ME *cunte*, akin to MLG *kunte* female pudenda, MHG *kotze* prostitute]


**'cup** /kʌp/ *n* 1 a small open drinking vessel that is usu bowl-shaped and has a handle on 1 side 2 the consecrated wine of the Communion 3 that which comes to one in life (as if) by fate (< ~ of happiness>) 4 (a competition or championship with) an ornamental usu metal cup offered as a prize 5a sthg resembling a cup b either of 2 parts of a garment, esp a bra, that are shaped to fit over the breasts 6 any of various usu alcoholic and cold drinks made from mixed ingredients (< cider ~>) – compare **'PUNCH** 7 the capacity of a cup, *specif*, chiefly *NAM* CUPFUL 2 8 the symbol ∪ indicating the union of 2 sets – compare **CAP** 7 [ME *cuppe*, fr OE; akin to OHG *kopf* cup; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr LL *cuppa* cup, alter of L *cupa* tub, akin to OE *hyf* hive] – *cuplike* *adj* – *in one's cups* **'DRUNK** 1

**'cup** *vt* -pp- 1 to treat or draw blood from by cupping 2 to form into the shape of a cup (< ~ped his hands>)

**cupboard** /'kʌbd/ *n* a shelved recess or freestanding piece of furniture with doors, for storage of utensils, food, clothes, etc [ME *cupbord*, fr *cuppe* cup + *bord* board, table]

**'cupboard love** *n* insincere love professed for the sake of gain

**cupel** /kyoohpl, kyoo'pel/ *vt* or *n* -ll-, -l-, /kyoohpl-ɪŋ, kyoo'pel-ɪŋ/ (to refine or test for purity in) a small shallow porous usu bone-ash cup used to separate precious metals from lead [F *coupelle*, dim of *coupe* cup, fr LL *cuppa*] – *cupeller* *n*, *cupellation* /kyoohpə'laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**cupful** /kʌpf(ə)l/ *n*, *pl* *cupfuls* also *cupful* 1 as much as a cup will hold 2 chiefly *NAM* a unit of measure equal to 8 fl oz (about 0.23 l)  **UNIT**

**Cupid** /kyoohpɪd/ *n* 1 the Roman god of erotic love 2 *not cap* a representation of Cupid as a winged naked boy often holding a bow and arrow [L *Cupido*, fr *cupido* desire, fr *cupere* to desire]

**cupidity** /kyooh'pɪdəti/ *n* inordinate desire for wealth, avarice, greed [ME *cupidite*, fr MF *cupidité*, fr L *cupīditat-*, *cupīditas* – more at **COVET**]

**Cupid's bow** *n* (the shape, used esp to describe the upper lip, of) a bow formed from 2 convexly curved pieces of metal, wood, etc

**cup of tea** *n* sthg one likes or is suited to; ~ *infml*

**cupola** /kyoohpələ/ *n* 1 a small domed structure built on top of a roof 2 a vertical cylindrical furnace for melting pig iron [It, fr L *cupula*, dim of *cupa* tub]

**cuppa** /'kʌpə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a cup of tea – *infml* [short for *cuppa tea*, pronunciation spelling of *cup of tea*]

**cupping** /'kʌpɪŋ/ *n* the application to the skin of a previously heated glass vessel, in which a partial vacuum develops, in order to draw blood to the surface (e.g. for bleeding)

**cupr-, cupri-, cupro-** *comb form* copper <cupriferous>; copper and <cupronickel> [LL *cuprum* – more at **'COPPER**]

**cuprammonium rayon** /kyoohpɹə'moɪnyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a rayon made from cellulose dissolved in an ammonia-containing copper solution

**cupreous** /'kyoohpri-əs/ *adj* containing or resembling copper; coppery [LL *cupreus*, fr *cuprum*]  
**cupric** /'kyoohprnk/ *adj* of or containing (bivalent) copper  
**cuprite** /'kyoohprnt/ *n* red copper oxide occurring as a mineral [G *kuprit*, fr LL *cuprum*]  
**cupro-nickel** /'kyoohproh/ *n* an alloy of usu 7 parts of copper and 3 parts of nickel used esp in British silver coins  
**cuprous** /'kyoohprəs/ *adj* of or containing (univalent) copper  
**'cup-tie** *n* a match in a knockout competition for a cup  
**cupule** /'kyoohpyooh/ *n* a cup-shaped anatomical structure [NL *cupula*, fr LL, dim. of L *cupa* tub – more at **CUP**]  
**cur** /kuh/ *n* 1 a mongrel or inferior dog 2 a surly or cowardly fellow [ME, short for *curdogge*, fr (assumed) ME *curren* to growl + ME *dogge* dog; akin to OE *cran* crane]  
**curação** also **curaçoa** /kyooəə'sow, -'soh, -'sow/ *n* a liqueur flavoured with the peel of bitter oranges [D *curaçao*, fr *Curaçao*, island in the Netherlands Antilles]  
**curacy** /'kyooəras/ *n* the (term of) office of a curate  
**curare**, **curari** /kyoo'rahn/ *n* a dried extract of a climbing plant that contains the drug tubocurarine, used in arrow poisons by S American Indians and in medicine to produce muscular relaxation [Pg & Sp *curare*, fr Carib *kurari*]  
**curarine** /kyoo'rahn, -reen/ *n* any of several alkaloids found in curare  
**curar-ize**, **-ise** /kyoo'rahnz/ *vt* to treat (as if) with curare, esp so as to produce muscular relaxation (e.g. in surgery) – **curarization** /kyoo'rahn'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**curate** /'kyooəras/ *n* a clergyman serving as assistant (e.g. to a rector) in a parish [ME, clergyman, fr ML *curatus*, fr *cura* cure of souls, fr L, care]  
**curate's egg** *n*, *Br* sth with both good and bad parts [fr the story of a curate who, given a stale egg by his bishop, declared that parts of it were excellent]  
**curative** /'kyooərativ/ *adj* relating to or used in the cure of diseases – **curative** *n*, **curatively** *adv*  
**curator** /kyoo'raytə/ *n* sby in charge of a place of exhibition (e.g. a museum or zoo) [L, fr *curatus*, pp of *curare* to care, fr *cura* care] – **curatorship** *n*, **curatorial** /kyooəə'tawn-əl/ *adj*  
**'curb** /kuhb/ *n* 1a a chain or strap that is used to restrain a horse and is attached to the sides of the bit and passes below the lower jaw b a bit used esp with a curb chain or strap, usu in a double bridle 2 a sprain in a ligament just below a horse's hock 3 a check, restraint 4 an edge or margin that strengthens or confines 5 chiefly NAm a kerb [MF *courbe* curve, curved piece of wood or iron, fr *courbe* curved, fr L *curvus*]  
**'curb** *vt* 1 to put a curb on 2 to check, control  
**curd** /kuhd/ *n* 1 the thick casein-rich part of coagulated milk used as a food or made into cheese 2 a rich thick fruit preserve made with eggs, sugar, and butter 3 the edible head of a cauliflower or a similar related plant [ME] – **curdy** *adj*  
**curdle** /'kuhd/ *vb* **curdling** /'kuhdling/ 1 to form curds (in), *specif* to separate into solid curds and liquid (<overheating ~d the milk>) 2 to spoil, sour [freq of *curd* (to thicken, congeal)]  
**'cure** /kyooə/ *n* 1 spiritual or pastoral charge 2 (a drug, treatment, etc that gives) relief or esp recovery from a disease 3 sth that corrects a harmful or troublesome situation; a remedy 4 a process or method of curing [ME, fr OF, fr ML & L; ML *cura* cure of souls, fr L, care] – **cureless** *adj*  
**'cure** *vt* 1a to restore to health, soundness, or normality b to bring about recovery from 2a to rectify b to free (sby) from sth objectionable or harmful 3 to prepare by chemical or physical processing; esp to preserve (meat, fish, etc) by salting, drying, smoking, etc ~ *vi* 1 to undergo a curing process 2 to effect a cure – **curable** *adj*, **curableness** *n*, **curably** *adv*, **curer** *n*, **curability** /kyooəə'biliti/ *n*  
**curé** /kyooəray/ *n* a French parish priest [OF, fr ML *curatus* – more at **CURATE**]  
**'cure-all** *n* a remedy for all ills; a panacea  
**curettage** /kyoo'retij/ *n* a surgical scraping or cleaning (e.g. of the womb) by means of a curette  
**curette**, **curet** /kyoo'ret/ *n* a scoop, loop, or ring used in curettage [F *curette*, fr *curer* to cure, fr L *curare*, fr *cura*] – **curette** *vt*  
**curfew** /'kuhfyooh/ *n* 1 a regulation imposed on all or particular people, esp during times of civil disturbance, requiring their withdrawal from the streets by a stated time 2 a signal (e.g. the sounding of a bell) announcing the beginning of a time of curfew 3a the hour at which a curfew becomes effective b the period during which a curfew is in effect [ME, fr MF

*covefeue*, signal given to bank the hearth fire, curfew, fr *covrir* to cover + *feu* fire, fr L *focus* hearth]

**curia** /'kyooə-ə/ *n*, *pl* **curiae** /-ri-ee/ 1 a division of an ancient Roman tribe 2 often *cap* the administration and governmental apparatus of the Roman Catholic church [L, fr *co-* + *vir* man – more at **VIRILE**] – **curial** *adj*


**curie** /'kyooə/ *n* a unit of radioactivity equal to  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  disintegrations per second [Marie Curie †1934 Pol-F chemist]

**curio** /'kyooərioh/ *n*, *pl* **curios** sth considered novel, rare, or bizarre [short for *curiosity*]

**curiosa** /kyooəri'ohza, -sə/ *n* *pl* unusual or pornographic books [NL, fr L, neut *pl* of *curiosus*]

**curiosity** /kyooəri'osati/ *n* 1 desire to know 2 inquisitiveness, nosiness 3 a strange, interesting, or rare object, custom, etc

**curious** /'kyooəri-əs/ *adj* 1 eager to investigate and learn 2 inquisitive, nosy 3 strange, novel, or odd [ME, fr MF *curios*, fr L *curiosus* careful, inquisitive, fr *cura* cure] – **curiously** *adv*, **curiousness** *n*

**curium** /'kyooəri-əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive trivalent metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Marie Curie & Pierre Curie †1906 F chemists]

**'curl** /kuhl/ *vt* 1 to form into waves or coils 2 to form into a curved shape; twist 3 to provide with curls ~ *vi* 1a to grow in coils or spirals b to form curls or twists 2 to move or progress in curves or spirals 3 to play the game of curling [ME *curien*, fr *crul* curly, prob fr MD, akin to OHG *krol* curly, OE *cradol* cradle]

**'curl** *n* 1 a curled lock of hair 2 sth with a spiral or winding form; a coil 3 curling or being curled (<a ~ of the lip>) 4 a (plant disease marked by the) rolling or curling of leaves

**curler** /'kuhlə/ *n* a small cylinder on which hair is wound for curling ['**CURL** + **-ER**]

**curlew** /'kuhlyooh/ *n*, *pl* **curlews**, esp collectively curlew any of various largely brownish (migratory) wading birds with long legs and a long slender down-curved bill [ME, fr MF *corlieu*, of imit origin]

**curlcue** also **curlycue** /'kuhli,kyooh/ *n* a decorative curve or flourish (e.g. in handwriting) [*curly* + *cue* (a braid of hair)]

**curling** /'kuhling/ *n* a game in which 2 teams, of 4 players each, slide heavy round flat-bottomed stones over ice towards a target circle marked on the ice [prob fr gerund of *'curl*] – **curler** *n*

**'curl,paper** /-paypə/ *n* a piece of paper round which a lock of hair to be curled is wound


**curly** /'kuhli/ *adj* tending to curl; having curls – **curliness** *n*

**'curly** 'kale /kayl/ *n* KALE 1


**curmudgeon** /kə'mudʒən/ *n* a crusty ill-tempered (old) man [orig. unknown] – **curmudgeonly** *adj*

**currach**, **currach** /'kura, 'kursk/ *n*, *Irish* 1 marshy wasteland 2 a coracle [ScGael *curach* & IrGael *currach*; akin to Mir *curach* coracle]

**currant** /'kurənt/ *n* 1 a small seedless type of dried grape used in cookery 2 (a shrub of the gooseberry family bearing) a redcurrant, blackcurrant, or similar acid edible fruit [ME *raison* of *Coraunte*, lit., raisin of Corinth, fr *Corinth*, region & city of Greece]

**currency** /'kʌrəns/ *n* 1a circulation as a medium of exchange (<six-pences are no longer in ~>) b (the state of being in) general use, acceptance, or prevalence 2 sth (e.g. coins and bank notes) that is in circulation as a medium of exchange  NATIONALITY

**'current** /'kurənt/ *adj* 1a elapsing now (<during the ~ week>) b occurring in or belonging to the present time 2 used as a medium of exchange 3 generally accepted, used, or practised at the moment [ME *curraunt*, fr OF *curant*, prp of *courre* to run, fr L *currere* – more at **CAR**] – **currently** *adv*, **currentness** *n*

**'current** *n* 1a the part of a body of gas or liquid that moves continuously in a certain direction b the swiftest part of a stream c a (tidal) movement of lake, sea, or ocean water 2 a tendency to follow a certain or specified course 3 a flow of electric charge; also the rate of such flow  PHYSICS

**current account** *n*, chiefly *Br* a bank account against which cheques may be drawn and on which interest is usu not payable – compare **DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

**curriculum** /kə'nikyooləm/ *n*, *pl* **curricula** /-lə/ also **curriculum** the courses offered by an educational institution or followed by an individual or group [NL, fr L, running, fr *currere*] – **curricular** *adj*

**cur,riculum** 'vitae /'veeti-ə/ *n*, *pl* **curricula** 'vitae /-lə/ a summary of sby's career and qualifications, esp as relevant to a job application [L, course of (one's) life]

**currish** /'kuhrish/ *adj* ignoble [CUR + -ISH] – **currishly** *adv*



- 'curry** /'kuri/ *vt* 1 to dress the coat of (e.g. a horse) with a currycomb 2 to dress (tanned leather) [ME *currayen*, fr OF *correr* to prepare, curry, fr (assumed) VL *conredare*, fr L *com-* + a base of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *garaiþs* arrayed – more at READY] – **currier** *n* – **curry** *favoured* to seek to gain favour by flattery or attention [*favour* by folk-etymology fr ME *favel* chestnut horse (symbolizing hypocrisy), fr OF *fauvel*]
- 'curry** also **currie** /'kuri/ *n* a food or dish seasoned with a mixture of spices or curry powder [Tamil-Malayalam *kaṛi*]
- 'curry** *vt* to flavour or cook with curry powder or sauce
- 'currycomb** /'kuri,kohm/ *n* a metal comb with rows of teeth or serrated ridges, used esp to clean grooming brushes or to curry horses – **currycomb** *vt*
- 'curry powder** *n* a condiment consisting of several pungent ground spices (e.g. cayenne pepper, fenugreek, and turmeric)
- 'curse** /kuhs/ *n* 1 an utterance (of a deity) or a request (to a deity) that invokes harm or injury; an imprecation 2 an evil or misfortune that comes (as if) in response to imprecation or as retribution 3 a cause of misfortune 4 menstruation – *~ the*, infml [ME *curs*, fr OE]
- 'curse** *vt* 1 to call upon divine or supernatural power to cause harm or injury to; also to doom, damn 2 to use profanely insolent language against 3 to bring great evil upon, afflict – *~ vt* to utter curses; swear
- 'cursed** /kuhsid, kuhst/ also **'curst** /kuhs/ *adj* under or deserving a curse – **'cursedly** /'kuhsidli/ *adv*, **'cursedness** /'kuhsidnis/ *n*
- 'cursive** /'kuhsiv/ *adj* running, coursing: esp written in flowing, usu slanted, strokes with the characters joined in each word  ALPHABET [F or ML; F *curisif*, fr ML *curisvus*, lit., running, fr L *curvus*, pp of *currere* to run] – **'cursively** *adv*, **'cursiveness** *n*
- 'cursive** *n* cursive writing
- 'cursor** /kuhs/ *n* a transparent slide with a reference hairline for precisely locating marks on a scientific instrument (e.g. a slide rule) [obs *cursor* (runner), fr ME, fr L, fr *curvus*, pp]
- 'cursorial** /kuhs'awri-əl/ *adj*, of (a part of) an animal adapted to running
- 'cursory** /kuhs'ori/ *adj* rapid and often superficial; hasty [LL *cursorius* of running, fr L *curvus* running, fr *curvus*, pp] – **'cursorially** /kuhs(ə)'ori-əl/ *adv*, **'cursiveness** *n*
- 'curt** /kuht/ *adj* marked by rude or peremptory shortness; brusque [L *curtus* shortened – more at SHEAR] – **'curtly** *adv*, **'curtness** *n*
- 'curtail** /kuhtayl/ *vt* to cut short, limit [alter. of obs *curtal* (to dock an animal's tail), fr *curtal* (animal with a docked tail), fr MF *courtault*, fr *court* short, fr L *curtus*] – **'curtaller** *n*, **'curtailment** *n*
- 'curtain** /kuht(ə)n/ *n* 1 a hanging fabric screen that can be drawn back or up; esp one used at a window 2 a device or agency that conceals or acts as a barrier – compare IRON CURTAIN 3a a castle wall between 2 neighbouring bastions b an exterior wall that carries no load 4a the movable screen separating the stage from the auditorium of a theatre b the ascent or opening (e.g. at the beginning of a play) of a stage curtain; also its descent or closing c CURTAIN CALL d pl the end; esp death – infml [ME *curtine*, fr OF, fr LL *cortina*, fr L *cohort-*, *cohors* enclosure, court – more at COURT]
- 'curtain** *vt* 1 to furnish (as if) with curtains 2 to veil or shut off (as if) with a curtain
- 'curtain call** *n* an appearance by a performer after the final curtain of a play in response to the applause of the audience
- 'curtain raiser** *n* 1 a short play presented before the main full-length drama 2 a usu short preliminary to a main event
- 'curtana** /kuht'ahna, 'tayna/ *n* a sword without a point, carried at the coronation of English monarchs as a symbol of mercy [ME, deriv of AF *curtain*, fr OF *cortain*, name of the broken sword of the legendary hero Roland, fr *cort* short]
- 'curtilage** /kuht'ali/ *n* a piece of ground within the fence surrounding a house [ME, fr OF *cortillage*, fr *cortil* courtyard, fr *cort* court]
- 'curtsy**, **'curtsey** /kuhtsi/ *n* an act of respect on the part of a woman, made by bending the knees and lowering the head and shoulders [alter. of *courtesy*]
- 'curtsy**, **'curtsey** *vi* to make a curtsy
- 'curule** /kyoo'roohi/ *adj* of a folding seat that is like a stool, reserved in ancient Rome for the use of the highest dignitaries [L *curulis*, alter. of *currulis* of a chariot, fr *curvus* chariot, fr *currere* to run]
- 'curvaceous** also **'curvaceous** /kuh'vayshə/ *adj*, of a woman having a pleasingly well-developed figure with attractive curves – infml
- 'curvature** /kuh'vachə/ *n* 1 (a measure or amount of) curving or being curved 2a an abnormal curving (e.g. of the spine) b a curved surface of an organ (e.g. the stomach) [L *curvatura*, fr *curvus*, pp of *curvare*]
- 'curve** /kuhv/ *vi* to have or make a turn, change, or deviation from a straight line without sharp breaks or angularity – *~ vt* to cause to curve [L *curvare*, fr *curvus* curved]
- 'curve** *n* 1 a curving line or surface 2 sth curved (e.g. a curving line of the human body) 3 a representation on a graph of a varying quantity (e.g. speed, force, or weight) 4 a distribution indicating the relative performance of individuals measured against one another – **'curvy** *adj*
- 'curvilinear** /kuhvi'linya, -ni-ə/ *adj* consisting of or bounded by curved lines [L *curvus* + *linea* line] – **'curvilinearly** *adv*, **'curvilinearity** /-lini'arəti/ *n*
- 'cuscus** /kuskas/ *n* any of several tree-dwelling (New Guinea) phalangers [NL, fr a native name in New Guinea]
- 'cushat** /kushat/ *n*, chiefly Scot a woodpigeon [ME *cowshote*, fr OE *cūscote*]
- 'Cushing's disease** /'kooshinz/ *n* CUSHING'S SYNDROME
- 'Cushing's syndrome** *n* obesity, esp of the face, and muscular weakness caused by an excess of glucocorticoid hormones (e.g. cortisone) often resulting from prolonged therapeutic administration [Harvey Cushing †1939 US surgeon]
- 'cushion** /kooshən/ *n* 1 a soft pillow or padded bag; esp one used for sitting, reclining, or kneeling on 2 a bodily part resembling a pad 3 a pad of springy rubber along the inside of the rim of a billiard table off which balls bounce 4 sth serving to mitigate the effects of disturbances or disorders [ME *cushin*, fr MF *coissin*, fr (assumed) VL *coxinus*, fr L *coxa* hip – more at COXA] – **'cushionless** *adj*, **'cushiony** *adj*
- 'cushion** *vt* 1 to furnish with a cushion 2a to mitigate the effects of b to protect against force or shock 3 to slow gradually so as to minimize the shock or damage to moving parts
- 'Cushitic** /'koo'shitik/ *n* a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family comprising various languages of E Africa [Cush (Kush), ancient country of NE Africa] – **'Cushitic** *adj*
- 'cushy** /'kooshi/ *adj* entailing little hardship or effort, easy <a ~ job> – infml [Hindi *khush* pleasant, fr Per *khush*] – **'cushily** *adv*, **'cushiness** *n*
- 'cusp** /kusp/ *n* a point, apex: e.g. a either horn of a crescent moon b a pointed projection formed by or arising from the intersection of 2 arcs or foils c(1) a point on the grinding surface of a tooth (2) a fold or flap of a heart valve [L *cusps* point] – **'cusped** /'kuspit, 'kuspait/ *adj*
- 'cuspidor** /'kuspida/ *n* a spittoon [Pg *cuspido* place for spitting, fr *cuspi* to spit, fr L *conspuere*, fr *com-* + *spuere* to spit – more at SPEW]
- 'cuss** /kus/ *n* 1 a curse 2 a fellow <a harmless old ~> **USE** infml [alter. of *curse*]
- 'cuss** *vb* to curse – infml – **'cusser** *n*
- 'cussed** /'kused/ *adj* 1 cursed 2 obstinate, cantankerous **USE** infml – **'cussedly** *adv*, **'cussedness** *n*
- 'custard** /'kustəd/ *n* 1 a semisolid usu sweetened and often baked mixture made with milk and eggs 2 a sweet sauce made with milk and eggs or a commercial preparation of coloured cornflour [ME *custarde*, *crustade*, a kind of pie, prob deriv of OF *crouste* crust]
- 'custard apple** *n* (any of a genus of chiefly tropical American trees or shrubs bearing) a soft-fleshed edible fruit
- 'custodial** /ku'stohd-i-əl/ *adj* 1 of guardianship or custody 2 of or involving legal detention <a ~ sentence>
- 'custodian** /ku'stohd-i-ən/ *n* one who guards and protects or maintains, esp the curator of a public building – **'custodianship** *n*
- 'custody** /'kustədi/ *n* 1a the state of being cared for or guarded b imprisonment, detention 2 the act or right of caring for a minor, esp when granted by a court of law; guardianship [ME *custodie*, fr L *custodia* guarding, fr *custod-*, *custos* guardian]
- 'custom** /'kustəm/ *n* 1a an established socially accepted practice b long-established practice having the force of law c the usual practice of an individual d the usages that regulate social life 2a pl duties or tolls imposed on imports or exports b pl but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the agency, establishment, or procedure for collecting 'such customs 3 chiefly Br business patronage [ME *custume*, fr OF, fr L *consuetudin-*, *consuetudo*, fr *consuetus*, pp of *consuere* to accustom, fr *com-* + *suescere* to accustom; akin to *suus* one's own – more at SUICIDE]
- 'custom** *adj*, *Nam* made or performed according to personal order <~ clothes>
- 'customary** /'kustəm(ə)'ri/ *adj* established by or according to custom; usual – **'customarily** /'kustəm(ə)'ri-əl, 'kustə'merəli/ *adv*, **'customariness** /'kustəm(ə)'rinis/ *n*
- 'custom-built** *adj* built to individual specifications
- 'customer** /'kustəmə/ *n* 1 one who purchases a commodity or service 2 an individual, usu having some specified distinctive trait <a tough ~> [ME *custumer*, fr *custume*]



**custom-ize**, -ise /'kustəmaɪz/ *vt* to build, fit, or alter according to individual specifications

**custom-made** *adj* made to individual specifications (< a ~ suit >)

**'customs-house** /-həʊz/ *n* a building where customs are collected and where vessels are entered and cleared

**'cut** /kʌt/ *vb* -tt-; *cut vt* 1a(1) to penetrate (as if) with an edged instrument (2) to castrate (a usu male animal) b to hurt the feelings of <his cruel remark ~ me deeply> c 'CHOP 2 d to experience the emergence of (a tooth) through the gum 2a to trim, pare b to shorten by omissions c to dilute, adulterate <~ the whisky with water> d to reduce in amount <~ costs> e EDIT 1b 3a to mow or reap <~ hay> b(1) to divide into parts with an edged instrument <~ bread> (2) to fell, hew <~ timber> c to play a cut in cricket at (a ball) or at the bowling of (a bowler) 4a to divide into segments b to intersect, cross c to break, interrupt <~ our supply lines> d(1) to divide (a pack of cards) into 2 portions (2) to draw (a card) from the pack 5a to refuse to recognize (an acquaintance) b to stop (a motor) by opening a switch c to terminate the filming of (a scene in a film) 6a to make or give shape to (as if) with an edged tool <~ stone> <~ a diamond> b to record sounds on (a gramophone record) 7a to perform, make <~ a caper> <~ a dash> b to give the appearance or impression of <~ a fine figure> 8a to stop, cease <~ the nonsense> - *infrml* b to absent oneself from (e.g. a class) - *infrml* ~ *vi* 1a to function (as if) as an edged tool b to be able to be separated, divided, or marked with a sharp instrument <cheese ~s easily> c to perform the operation of dividing, severing, incising, or intersecting d(1) to make a stroke with a whip, sword, etc (2) to play a cut in cricket e to wound feelings or sensibilities f to cause constriction or chafing g to be of effect, influence, or significance <an analysis ~s ~s deep> 2a to cut a pack of cards, esp in order to decide who deals b to draw a card from the pack 3a to move swiftly <a yacht ~ting through the water> b to describe an oblique or diagonal line c to change sharply in direction, swerve d to make an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in film, radio, or television 4 to stop filming or recording [ME *cutten*] - *cut corners* to perform some action in the quickest, easiest, or cheapest way - *cut no ice* to fail to impress, have no importance or influence - *infrml* - *cut short* 1 to abbreviate 2 INTERRUPT 1

**'cut** *n* 1 sth cut (off) e.g. a a length of cloth varying from 40 to 100yd (44 to 109m) in length b the yield of products cut, esp during 1 harvest c (a slice cut from a) cut in cricket e to wound feelings or sensibilities d a share <took his ~ of the profits> 2a a canal, channel, or inlet made by excavation or worn by natural action b(1) an opening made with an edged instrument (2) a gash, wound c a surface or outline left by cutting d a passage cut as a roadway 3a a gesture or expression that hurts the feelings b a stroke or blow with the edge of sth sharp c a lash (as if) with a whip d the act of reducing or removing a part <a ~ in pay> e (the result of) a cutting of playing cards 4a a sharp downward blow or stroke, also backspin b an attacking stroke in cricket played with the bat held horizontally and sending the ball on the off side 5 an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in film, radio, or television 6a the shape and style in which a thing is cut, formed, or made <clothes of a good ~> b a pattern, type c a haircut - a cut above superior (to); of higher quality or rank (than)

**cut along** *vi* to leave, go away - *infrml*

**cut-and-dried** *adj* completely decided, not open to further discussion

**cutaneous** /kyoo'h'taynyəs, -nɪ-əs/ *adj* of or affecting the skin [NL *cutaneus*, fr L *cutis* skin - more at 'HIDE] - *cutaneously* *adv*

**cutaway** /'kʌtəweɪ/ *adj* having or showing parts cut away or absent

**'cutback** /-bæk/ *n* 1 sth cut back 2 a reduction

**cut back** *vt* 1 to shorten by cutting; prune <cut back a rose tree> 2 to reduce, decrease <cut back expenditure> ~ *vi* 1 to interrupt the sequence of a plot (e.g. of a film) by returning to events occurring previously 2 CUT DOWN; esp to economize

**cut down** *vi* 1 to strike down and kill or incapacitate 2 to reduce, curtail <cut down expenses> ~ *vi* to reduce or curtail volume or activity <cut down on his smoking> - *cut down to size* to reduce from an exaggerated importance to true or suitable stature

**cute** /kyooht/ *adj* attractive or pretty, esp in a dainty or delicate way - *infrml* [short for *acute*] - *cutely* *adv*, *cuteness* *n*

**'cut-glass** *n* glass ornamented with patterns cut into its surface by an abrasive wheel and then polished

**cuticle** /'kyoohtɪkl/ *n* a skin or outer covering: e.g. a the (dead or horny) epidermis of an animal b a thin fatty film on the external surface of many higher plants [L *cuticula*, dim. of *cutis* skin] - *cuticular* /kyooht'ɪkyoolə/ *adj*

**cutie**, **cutey** /'kyooht/ *n* an attractive person, esp a pretty girl - *infrml* [cute + -ie]

**'cutie-pie** *adj* odiously sweet - *infrml*

**cut** *in vi* 1 to thrust oneself into a position between others or belonging to another 2 to join in sth suddenly <cut in on the conversation> 3 to take 1 of a dancing couple as one's partner 4 to become automatically connected or started in operation ~ *vt* 1 to introduce into a number, group, or sequence 2 to include, esp among those benefiting or favoured <cut them in on the profits>

**cutis** /'kyoohts/ *n*, *pl* *cutes* /-teez/, *cutises* the dermis [L - more at 'HIDE]

**cutlass** also **cutlas** /'kʌtləs/ *n* a short curved sword, esp as used formerly by sailors [MF *couteles*, aug. of *coute* knife, fr L *cutellus*, dim. of *culter* knife, ploughshare]

**cutler** /'kʌtlə/ *n* one who deals in, makes, or repairs cutlery [ME, fr MF *cutelher*, fr LL *cutellarius*, fr L *cutellus*]

**cutlery** /'kʌtləri/ *n* 1 edged or cutting tools, esp implements (e.g. knives, forks, and spoons) for cutting and eating food 2 the business of a cutler

**cutlet** /'kʌtlɪt/ *n* 1 (a flat mass of minced food in the shape of) a small slice of meat from the neck of lamb, mutton, or veal MEAT 2 a cross-sectional slice from between the head and centre of a large fish - compare STEAK [F *côtelette*, fr OF *costelette*, dim. of *coste* rib, side, fr L *costa* - more at COAST]

**cutline** /'kʌtliən/ *n* 1 a caption, legend 2 a horizontal line about 1.8m (6ft) high on the front wall of a squash court, above which the ball must be hit when serving SPORT

**'cut-off** /-ɒf/ *n* 1 (a device for) cutting off 2 the point, date, or period for a cutoff - *cutoff* *adj*

**cut off** *vt* 1 to strike off; sever 2 to bring to an untimely end 3 to stop the passage of <cut off supplies> 4 to shut off, bar <the fence cut off his view> 5 to separate, isolate <cut himself off from his family> 6 to disinherit 7a to stop the operation of; turn off b to stop or interrupt while in communication <the operator cut me off>

**'cutout** /-əwt/ *n* 1 sth cut out or off from sth else 2 a device that cuts out, esp one that is operated automatically by an excessive electric current - *cutout* *adj*

**'cut out** *vt* 1 to form or shape by cutting, erosion, etc 2 to take the place of, supplant 3 to put an end to, desist from <cut out smoking> 4a to remove or exclude (as if) by cutting b to make inoperative ~ *vi* to cease operating

**'cut 'out** *adj* naturally fitted or suited <not ~ to be an actor>

**'cut-price** *adj* selling or sold at a discount

**'cutler** /'kʌtlə/ *n* 1a one whose work is cutting or involves cutting (e.g. of cloth or film) b an instrument, machine, machine part, or tool that cuts 2a a ship's boat for carrying stores or passengers b a fore-and-aft rigged sailing boat with a single mast and 2 foresails c a small armed boat in the US coastguard ['CUT + -ER]

**'cutthroat** /-throʊt/ *n* a murderous thug

**'cutthroat** *adj* 1 murderous, cruel 2 ruthless, unprincipled <~ competition>

**cutthroat razor** *n* a razor with a rigid steel cutting blade hinged to a case that forms a handle when the razor is open for use

**'cutting** /'kʌtɪŋ/ *n* 1 sth cut (off or out): e.g. a a part of a plant stem, leaf, root, etc capable of developing into a new plant b a harvest c chiefly Br an excavation or cut, esp through high ground, for a canal, road, etc d chiefly Br an item cut out of a publication 2 sth made by cutting

**'cutting** *adj* 1 designed for cutting; sharp, edged 2 of wind marked by sharp piercing cold 3 likely to wound the feelings of another; esp sarcastic - *cuttingly* *adv*

**cuttlebone** /'kʌtl,boʊn/ *n* the internal shell of the cuttlefish used in the form of a powder for polishing or as a mineral supplement to the diet of cage birds [ME *cotul* cuttlefish (fr OE *cudele* + E *bone*)]

**cuttlefish** /'kʌtl,fɪʃ/ *n* a 10-armed marine cephalopod mollusc differing from the related squids in having a hard internal shell [ME *cotul* + E *fish*]

**cutty** /'kʌti/ *adj*, chiefly Scot (cut) short ['cut + -y]

**'cut up** *vt* 1 to cut into parts or pieces 2 to subject to hostile criticism; censure ~ *vi* NAm to behave in a comic, boisterous, or unruly manner - *cut up* *rough* to express often obstreperous resentment

**'cut 'up** *adj* deeply distressed; grieved - *infrml*

**'cutwater** /-wawə/ *n* the foremost part of a ship's bow

**'cutworm** /-wuhm/ *n* any of various chiefly nocturnal caterpillars (that feed on plant stems near ground level)

**cuvette** /kyoo'hvet/ *n* a small often transparent laboratory vessel, specifi

for holding samples in a spectrophotometer [F, dim of *cuve* tub, fr L *cupa* – more at CUP]

**cwm** /koohm/ *n* CIRQUE 1 [W, valley]

**-cy** /-si/ suffix (*n, adj* → *n*) 1 action or practice of <medicancy> <piracy> 2 rank or office of <baronetcy> <papacy> 3 body or class of <magistracy> 4 quality or state of <accuracy> <bankruptcy> USE often replacing a final -t or -te of the base word [ME -cie, fr OF, fr L -tia; partly fr -t- (final stem consonant) + -ia -y, partly fr Gk -tia, -teia, fr -t- (final stem consonant) + -ia, -eia -y]

**cyan** /s'iean, -an/ *n* a greenish blue colour [Gk *kyanos*]

**cyan-, cyano-** comb form 1 dark blue; blue <cyanosis> 2 cyanide <cyanogenic>; also containing a cyanide group <cyanobenzene> [G, fr Gk *kyan-, kyano-*, fr *kyanos* dark blue enamel]

**cyanamide** /s'ie'anamid/ *n* (a caustic organic acid whose calcium salt is) calcium cyanamide [ISV]

**cyanic** /s'ie'ani/ *adj* 1 relating to or containing cyanogen 2 of a blue or bluish colour [ISV]

**cyanide** /s'ie-anid/ *n* (a usu extremely poisonous salt of hydrocyanic acid or a nitrile, containing) the univalent chemical radical -CN [ISV]

**cyanocrylate** /s'ie-on'h'akriyat, s'ie-anoh-/ *n* any of several liquid acrylate monomers that are used as very rapidly setting strong adhesives in industry and medicine

**cyanocobalamin** /s'ie-on'hok'h'ala'min, s'ie-anoh-/ also **cyanocobalamin** /-meen/ *n* VITAMIN B<sub>12</sub> [cyan- + *cobaht* + vitamin] – **cyanocobalaminic** /-bo'lamik/ *n*

**cyanogen** /s'ie'anajin/ *n* a colourless inflammable extremely poisonous gas [F *cyanogène*, fr *cyan-* + *gène* -gen]

**cyanophyte** /s'ie-an'ofiet/ *n* BLUE-GREEN ALGA


**cyanozed** /s'ie-anoh'zid, -nohst/ *adj* affected with cyanosis

**cyanoze** /s'ie-on'hohsis/ *n* bluish or purplish discoloration (of the skin) due to deficient oxygenation of the blood [NL, fr Gk *kyanosis* dark blue colour, fr *kyan-* cyan-] – **cyanoze** /-notik/ *adj*

**cybernated** /s'ieba,naytid/ *adj* involving cybernation <~ bakery>

**cybernation** /s'ieba'naysh(a)n/ *n* the automatic control of a process or operation (e.g. in manufacturing) by means of computers [cybernetics + -ation]

**cybernetics** /s'ieba'netiks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr the comparative study of the automatic control systems formed by the nervous system and brain and by mechanical-electrical communication systems [Gk *kybernetēs* pilot, governor (fr *kybernan* to steer, govern) + *E* -ics] – **cybernetic** *adj*

**cycad** /s'iekad/ *n* any of an order of tropical gymnospermous trees resembling palms  EVOLUTION, PLANT [NL *Cycad-, Cycas*]

**cycl-, cyclo-** comb form 1 circle (cyclometer) 2 having a cyclic molecular structure (cyclohexane) [NL, fr Gk *kykl-, kyklo-, fr kyklos*]

**cyclamate** /s'ieklamayt, -mat, 'sikla-/ *n* a synthetic compound used, esp formerly, as an artificial sweetener [cyclohexyl (fr *cyclohexane* + -yl) + sulphamate (fr *sulphamic* + -ate)]

**cyclamen** /s'iklaman/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the primrose family with showy drooping flowers [NL, genus name, fr Gk *kyklamnos*]

**'cycle** /s'ikl/ *n* 1a (the time needed to complete) a series of related events happening in a regularly repeated order b one complete performance of a periodic process (e.g. a vibration or electrical oscillation) 2 a group of poems, plays, novels, or songs on a central theme 3 a bicycle, motorcycle, tricycle, etc [F or LL; F, fr LL *cyclus*, fr Gk *kyklos* circle, wheel, cycle – more at WHEEL]

**'cycle** *vi* cycling /s'iekling/ 1a to pass through a cycle b to recur in cycles 2 to ride a cycle; *specif* to bicycle – **cycler** *n*

**'cycle** *track* *n* a path reserved for esp pedal cycles

**'cycle, way** /-way/ *n* CYCLE TRACK

**cyclic** /s'iklik, 'sieklik/, 'eylical /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or belonging to a cycle 2 of or containing a ring of atoms <benzene is a ~ compound> – **cyclically**, **cyclicly** *adv*

**cyclic AMP** *n* a nucleotide in each molecule of which a phosphate group is joined at 2 places to an adenine group, and which functions as a regulator of processes occurring inside cells (e.g. those caused by hormones)

**cyclist** /s'ieklist/ *n* one who rides a cycle

**cyclize, -ise** /s'iek(a)liez, 'ai-/ *vt* to make (a chemical compound) form 1 or more rings in the molecular structure – **cyclization** /-ie'zaysh(a)n/ *n*

**cyclo-** – see CYCL-


**'cyclo-cross** /s'iekloh/ *n* the sport of racing bicycles on cross-country courses that usu require the contestant to carry his/her bicycle at some stage

**cyclohexane** /s'iekloh'heksayn/ *n* a cyclic hydrocarbon found in petroleum and used esp as a solvent and in organic synthesis [ISV]

**'cycloid** /s'iekloyd, 'si-/ *n* a curve traced by a point on the circumference of a circle that rolls along a straight line [F *cycloïde*, fr Gk *kykloïdes* circular, fr *kyklos*] – **cycloidal** /s'iekloydil, si-, 'i-/ *adj*

**'cycloid** *adj* circular; esp arranged or progressing in circles

**cyclometer** /s'ieklomita/ *n* a device designed to record the revolutions of a wheel and often the distance traversed by a wheeled vehicle, esp a bicycle

**cyclone** /s'ieklohn/ *n* 1a a storm or system of winds that rotates about a centre of low atmospheric pressure, advances at high speeds, and often brings abundant rain  WEATHER b a tornado c 'low lb 2 any of various centrifugal devices for separating materials (e.g. solid particles from gases or liquids) [modif of Gk *kyklōma* wheel, coil, fr *kykloun* to go round, fr *kyklos* circle] – **cyclonic** /s'iek'lonik/ *adj*, **cyclonically** *adv*

**cyclopaedia, cyclopaedia** /s'iekla'pedi-a/ *n* an encyclopedia – **cyclopedic** /-'pedik/ *adj*

**cyclosis** /s'ieklohsis/ *n* the slow, usu circular, movement of cytoplasm within a living cell [NL, fr Gk *kyklosis* encirclement, fr *kykloun* to go round]

**cyclostome** /s'ieklastohm, 'si-/ *n* or *adj* (any) of a class of primitive fishlike vertebrates comprising the hagfishes and lampreys [deriv of Gk *kykl-* + *stoma* mouth – more at STOMACH]

**'cyclostyle** /s'ieklastiel/ *n* a machine for making multiple copies that uses a stencil cut by a pen whose tip is a small rowel [fr *Cyclostyle*, a trademark]


**'cyclostyle** *vt* to make multiple copies of by using a cyclostyle

**cyclothymia** /s'iekloh'thiemi-a, 'si-/ *n* a condition marked by abnormal swings between elated and depressed moods [NL, fr G *zyklothymie*, fr *zykl-* cycl- + *-thymie* -thymia] – **cyclothymic** /-'thiemik/ *adj*

**cyclotron** /s'iekla'tron/ *n* a particle accelerator in which protons, ions, etc are propelled by an alternating electric field in a constant magnetic field [cycl- + -tron, fr the circular movement of the particles]

**cyder** /s'ieda/ *n*, *Br* *cider*


**cygnet** /signit/ *n* a young swan [ME *sygnett*, fr MF *cygne* swan, fr L *cycnus, cygnus*, fr Gk *kyknos*]

**cylinder** /s'ilinda/ *n* 1a a surface traced by a straight line moving in a circle or other closed curve round and parallel to a fixed straight line b the space bounded by a cylinder and 2 parallel planes that cross it c a hollow or solid object with the shape of a cylinder and a circular cross-section 2a the piston chamber in an engine  CAR b any of various rotating parts (e.g. in printing presses) c a cylindrical clay object inscribed with cuneiform characters [MF or L, MF *cylindre*, fr L *cylindrus*, fr Gk *kyklyndros*, fr *kyklyndein* to roll, akin to OE *seol* squinting, L *scelus* crime, Gk *skelos* leg, *skolōn* crooked] – **cylindrical** *adj*

**cylindrical** /s'ilindrik/, **cylindric** /-drik/ *adj* (having the form) of a cylinder – **cylindrically** *adv*

**cymbal** /simbl/ *n* a concave brass plate that produces a clashing tone when struck with a drumstick or against another cymbal [ME, fr OE *cymbal* & MF *cymbale*, fr L *cymbalum*, fr Gk *kymbalon*, fr *kymbe* bowl – more at HUMP] – **cymbalist** *n*

**cymbidium** /sim'bidi-əm/ *n* any of a genus of tropical Old World orchids with showy boat-shaped flowers [NL, genus name, fr L *cymba* boat, fr Gk *kymbe* bowl, boat]

**cyme** /siem/ *n* an inflorescence in which all floral axes end in a single flower (and the main axis bears the central and first-opening flower with subsequent flowers developing from side shoots)  PLANT [NL *cyma*, fr L, cabbage sprout, fr Gk *kyma* swell, wave, cabbage sprout, fr *kyein* to be pregnant] – **cymose** /-mohs, -mohz/ *adj*, **cymosely** *adv*

**Cymric** /kumrik, 'kumrik/ *adj* (characteristic) of the Brythonic Celts or their language; *specif* Welsh [W *Cymry* Brythonic Celts, Welshmen, pl of *Cymro* Welshman]

**cynic** /s'ini/ *n* 1 *cap* an adherent of an ancient Greek school of philosophers who held that virtue is the highest good and that its essence lies in mastery over one's desires and wants 2a one who is habitually pessimistic or sardonic b one who sarcastically doubts the existence of human sincerity or of any motive other than self-interest [MF or L; MF *cynique*, fr L *cynicus*, fr Gk *kynikos*, lit., like a dog, fr *kyn-*, *kyōn* dog – more at HOUND] – **cynic**, **cynical** *adj*, **cynically** *adv*, **cynicism** /s'ini,siz(a)m/ *n*

**cynosure** /s'ina,zyoo, 'sie-, -shoo-/ *n* a centre of attraction or attention [MF & L; MF, *Ursa Minor*, guide, fr L *cynosura* *Ursa Minor*, fr Gk *kynosoura*, fr *kynos oura* dog's tail]

**Cynthia** /sinthi-a/ *n* the moon personified – poetic [L, goddess of the

moon, fr fem of *Cynthus* of Cynthus, fr *Cynthus*, mountain on Delos, Greek island, where she was born]

**cypher** /ˈsɪəfə/ *vb* or *n*, chiefly *Br* (to) cipher

**cyress** /ˈsɪepɾəs/ *n* (the wood of) any of a genus of evergreen gymnospermous trees with aromatic overlapping leaves resembling scales [ME, fr OF *cypres*, fr L *cyparissus*, fr Gk *kyparissos*]

**Cypriote** /ˈsɪprɪ-ət/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Cyprus [F *cypriote*, fr *Cyprus*, island in the Mediterranean]

**cypripedium** /ˌsɪprɪˈpiːdi-əm/ *n* the lady's slipper or a related orchid usu with large showy drooping flowers [NL, genus name, fr LL *Cypripis*, a name for Venus, goddess of love & beauty + Gk *pedilon* sandal]

**cyproterone** /ˈsɪprɒˌtəroʊn/ *n* CYPROTERONE ACETATE [prob fr *cycl-* + *progesterone*]

**cyproterone acetate** *n* a synthetic steroid that inhibits the secretion of androgenic steroids (e.g. testosterone) and is used esp to treat some male sexual disorders

**Cyrillic** /ˈsɪrɪlɪk/ *adj* of or constituting an alphabet used for writing various Slavic languages (e.g. Old Church Slavonic and Russian)

ALPHABET [St Cyril †869 apostle of the Slavs, reputed inventor of the Cyrillic alphabet]

**cyst** /sɪst/ *n* 1 a closed sac (e.g. of watery liquid or gas) with a distinct membrane, developing (abnormally) in a plant or animal 2 a body resembling a cyst: e.g. a (a capsule formed about) a microorganism in a resting or spore stage b a resistant cover about a parasite when inside the host [NL *cystis*, fr Gk *kystis* bladder, pouch] – *cystoid adj* or *n*

**cyst-** /sɪst-, cysti-, cysto- *comb form* bladder [cystitis]; sac [cystocarp] [F, fr Gk *kyst-*, *kysto-*, fr *kystis*]

**-cyst** /-sɪst-, -sɪst- *comb form* bladder; sac [blastocyst] [NL -*cystis*, fr Gk *kystis*]

**cysteine** /ˈsɪstiːn, ˈsɪstəɪn/ *n* a sulphur-containing amino acid found in many proteins and readily convertible to cystine [ISV, fr *cystine* + -*en*]

**cystic** /ˈsɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 (composed) of or containing a cyst or cysts 2 of the urinary or gall bladder

**cystic fibrosis** /ˈfɪəbrəʊsɪs/ *n* a common often fatal hereditary disease appearing in early childhood and marked esp by faulty digestion and difficulty in breathing

**cystine** /ˈsɪstiːn, -ɪn/ *n* a sulphur-containing amino acid found in many proteins [fr its discovery in bladder stones]

**cystitis** /ˈsɪstɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the urinary bladder [NL]

**cyt-** /sɪt-, zyt-, cyto- *comb form* 1 cell [cytology] 2 cytoplasm [cytokinesis] [G *zyt-*, *zyto-*, fr Gk *kytos* hollow vessel – more at 'hide]

**-cyte** /-sɪt/ *comb form* (– *n*) cell [leucocyte] [NL -*cyta*, fr Gk *kytos* hollow vessel]

**cytidine** /ˈsɪtɪdiːn, ˈsɪ-/ *n* a nucleoside containing cytosine [cytosine + -*idine*]

**cytochrome** /ˈsɪtəˌkroʊm/ *n* any of several enzymes that function in intracellular energy generation as transporters of electrons, esp to oxygen, by undergoing successive oxidation and reduction

**cytokinesis** /ˌsɪtəʊkɪˈneɪsɪs, -ki-/ *n* the cleavage of the cytoplasm of a cell into daughter cells following division of the nucleus [NL, fr *cyt-* + Gk *kinesis* motion] – *cytokinetic* /-kɪˈnetɪk, -ki-/ *adj*

**cytology** /ˈsɪtəˌlɒjɪ/ *n* the biology of (the structure, function, multiplication, pathology, etc of) cells [ISV] – *cytologist n*, *cytological* /ˌsɪtəˌlɒjɪkəl/, *cytologic adj*, *cytologically adv*

**cytoplasm** /ˈsɪtəˌplɑːz(ə)m/ *n* the substance of a plant or animal cell outside the organelles (e.g. the nucleus and mitochondria) [ISV] – *cytoplasmic* /-ˈplɑːzɪmɪk/ *adj*, *cytoplasmically adv*

**cytosine** /ˈsɪtəˌsiːn/ *n* a pyrimidine base that is one of the 4 bases whose order in a DNA or RNA chain codes genetic information – compare ADENINE, GUANINE, THYMINE, URACIL [ISV *cyt-* + -*ose* + -*ine*]

**cytosol** /ˈsɪtəʊˌsɒl/ *n* the cytoplasm

**cytotoxin** /ˈsɪtəˌtɒksɪn/ *n* a substance with a toxic effect on cells – *cytotoxic adj*, *cytotoxicity* /-tɒkˈsɪsɪti/ *n*

**czar** /zɑː/ *n* a tsar

**czardas** /ˈʃahdɑːʃ/ *n*, *pl* *czardas* /~/ a Hungarian dance in which the dancers start slowly and finish rapidly [Hung *csárdás*]

**Czech** /ˈtʃek/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Czechoslovakia; specif a Slav of W Czechoslovakia 2 the Slavonic language of the Czechs

LANGUAGE [Czech *Čech*] – *Czech adj*

# D

**d** /dee/ *n*, *pl* *d*'s, *ds* often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 4th letter of the English alphabet 2 five hundred NUMBER 3 the 2nd note of a C-major scale 4 one designated *d*, esp as the 4th in order or class, or as a mark of lesser quality than *a*, *b*, or *c* 5 shbg shaped like the letter *D*: e.g. *a* a semicircle on a billiard table used chiefly when returning a potted cue ball to the table *b* the metal loop on the cheek piece of the bit of a bridle

**d-** *prefix* dextrorotatory (<*d-tartaric acid*) [ISV, fr *dextr-*]

**1-d** *suffix* 1 – used to form the past participle of regular weak verbs that end in *e* (<*loved*) (<*faded*); compare <sup>1</sup>-ED 1 2 – used to form adjectives of identical meaning from Latin-derived adjectives ending in -*ate* (<*crenulated*) 3 <sup>1</sup>-ED 2 – used to form adjectives from nouns ending in *c* (<*brogued*) (<*bow-tied*)

**2-d** *suffix* (→ *vb*) – used to form the past tense of regular weak verbs that end in *e*; compare <sup>2</sup>-ED

**3-d** *suffix* (→ *adj*), *NAm* – used after the figure 2 or 3 to indicate the ordinal number second or third (<*2d*) (<*3rd*)

**d'** *vb* do (<*d'you know*)

**d' vb** 1 had 2 would 3 did (<*when'd she go?*) – used in questions, infml

**da** /dah/ *n*, *dial Br* a father, daddy [baby talk]

**1-dab** /ˈdab/ *n* 1 a sudden feeble blow or thrust, a poke 2 a gentle touch or stroke (e.g. with a sponge), a pat [ME *daube*, prob of imit origin]

**2-dab** *vb* -*bb* -*vt* 1 to touch lightly, and usu repeatedly; pat 2 to apply lightly or irregularly; daub ~ *vi* to make a dab

**3-dab** *n* 1 a daub, patch 2 *pl*, *Br* fingerprints – infml [alter. of *daub*]

**4-dab** *n* a flatfish; esp any of several flounders [AF *dabbe*]

**5-dab** *n* DAB HAND – infml

**dabble** /ˈdabl/ *vb* dabbling /ˈdabblɪŋ/ *vt* to wet slightly or intermittently by dipping in a liquid (<*she ~d her fingers in the river*) ~ *vi* 1 to paddle, splash, or play (as if) in water 2 to work or concern oneself superficially (<~ *s in art*) [perh freq of *daub*]

**dabbler** /ˈdablə/ *n* sby not deeply engaged in or concerned with sthg [DABBLE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**dabbling** /ˈdabblɪŋ/ *n* a superficial or intermittent interest or study

**dabchick** /ˈdabˌtʃɪk/ *n* any of several small grebes [prob irreg fr *obs dop* (to dive) + *chick*]

**1-dab hand** /ˈdab/ *n*, chiefly *Br* sby skilful at; an expert – infml [*dab* perh alter. of *adept*]

**dace** /ˈdaɪs/ *n*, *pl* *dace* a small freshwater European fish [ME, fr MF *dars*, fr ML *darsus*]

**dacha** /ˈdɑːtʃə/ *n* a Russian country cottage used esp in the summer [Russ, lit = gift, fr its frequently being the gift of a ruler]

**dachshund** /ˈdɑːksʊnd/ *n* (any of) a breed of dogs of German origin with a long body, short legs, and long drooping ears [G, fr *dachs* badger + *hund* dog]

**Dacron** /ˈdɑːkrɒn/ *trademark* – used for a synthetic polyester textile fibre

**dactyl** /ˈdɑːktɪl/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 1 long and 2 short, or 1 stressed and 2 unstressed, syllables (e.g. in *tenderly*) [ME *dactile*, fr L *dactylus*, fr Gk *daktylos*, lit., finger; fr the three syllables having the first one longest, like the joints of the finger] – *dactylic* /ˈdɑːktɪlɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**dactylology** /ˈdɑːktɪˌlɒləjɪ/ *n* the art of communicating ideas by sign language [Gk *daktyl-* of a finger + *E -logy*]

**1-dactylous** /-ˈdɑːktɪləs/ *comb form* (– *adj*) having (such or so many) fingers or toes (<*didactylous*) [Gk -*daktylos*, fr *daktylos*]

**dad** /ˈdɑːd/ *n* a father – infml [prob baby talk]

**1-dada** /ˈdɑːdə/ *n*, often *cap* a movement in art and literature based on deliberate irrationality and negation of traditional artistic values [F, fr (baby talk) *dada* hobby-horse] – *dadaism n*, often *cap*, *dadaist n*, often *cap*, *dadaistic* /-ˈɪstɪk/ *adj*, often *cap*

**2-daddy** /ˈdɑːdi/ *n* a father – infml [*dad* + <sup>1</sup>-y]

**1-daddy longlegs** /ˈlɒŋˌleɡz/ *n*, *pl* *daddy longlegs* 1 CRANE FLY 2 *NAm* a harvestman

**1-dado** /ˈdaɪdoh/ *n*, *pl* *dadoes* 1 the part of a pedestal or plinth between the base and the cornice ARCHITECTURE 2 the lower part of an interior wall when specially decorated or faced; also the decoration adorning this part of a wall [It, die, plinth]

**1-daemon** /ˈdiːmən/ *n* 1 an attendant power or spirit; a genius 2 a

supernatural being of Greek mythology 3 **DEMON** 1 [LL, evil spirit – more at **DEMON**]

**daffodil** /ˈdʌfədɪl/ *n* any of various plants with flowers that have a typically yellow corona elongated into a trumpet shape; also a related bulb-forming plant [prob fr D *de affodil* the asphodel, fr *de the* (fr MD) + *affodil* asphodel, fr MF *afrodille*, fr L *asphodelus*, fr Gk *asphodelos*]

**daft** /dɑft/ *adj* 1 silly, foolish 2 chiefly Br fanatically enthusiastic (<~ about football>) **USE** infml [ME *dafte* gentle, stupid; akin to OE *gedæfte* mild, gentle, ME *defte* gentle, *daft*, L *faber smith*] – **daft** *adv*, **daftly** *adv*, **daftness** *n*

**'dag** /dag/ *n* a piece of matted or manure-coated wool – **usu** pl [ME *dagge*]

**'dag** *vt* – **ag-** to remove dags from (sheep)

**dagga** /ˈdɑɡɡə, 'dɑh-khə/ *n*, SAfr cannabis [Afrik, fr Hottentot *daga-b*]

**dagger** /ˈdʌɡə/ *n* 1 a short sharp pointed weapon for stabbing 2 a sign † used as a reference mark or to indicate a death date – **SYMBOL** [ME] – at **daggers** drawn in bitter conflict

**daggo** /ˈdaɪɡəʊ/ *n*, pl **daggoes** sby of Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese birth or descent – **derog** [alter. of earlier *diego*, fr *Diego*, a common Sp forename]

**daguerreotype** /ˈdʌɡ(ə)ri(ə)ti:p/ *n* an early photograph produced on a silver or a silver-covered copper plate [F *daguerrotype*, fr L J M *Daguerre* †1851 F painter & inventor + F *-o-* + *type*] – **daguerreotype** *vt*

**dah** /dɑh/ *n* **DASH** 6 – used when articulating Morse code [imit]

**dahlia** /ˈdaɪli-ə, 'dɑh-/ *n* any of an American genus of composite (garden) plants with showy flower heads and roots that form tubers [NL, genus name, fr Anders *Dahl* †1789 Sw botanist]

**Dáil** /doɪl, diel/, **Dáil Éireann** /~ 'eərən/ *n* the lower house of parliament in Eire [IrGael, assembly]

**'daily** /ˈdaɪli/ *adj* 1a occurring, made, or acted on every day *b* of a newspaper issued every weekday *c* of or providing for every day 2 covering the period of or based on a day (<~ statistics>) [ME *dayly*, fr OE *dæglic*, fr *dæg* day + *-lic* -ly – more at **DAY**] – **dailyness** *n*

**'daily** *adv* every day; every weekday

**'daily** *n* 1 a newspaper published daily from Monday to Saturday 2 Br a charwoman who works on a daily basis

**'daily** /ˈdoʊzi/ *n* a series of physical exercises to be performed daily

**daimon** /ˈdiəmoʊn/ *n*, pl **daimones** /ˈdiəməneɪz/, **daimones** **DAEMON** 1, 2 [Gk *daimōn*] – **daimonic** /-ˈmonik/ *adj*

**'dainty** /ˈdaɪnti/ *n* sthg particularly nice to eat; a delicacy [ME *deinte*, fr OF *deintie*, fr L *dignitas*, *dignitas* dignity, worth]

**'dainty** *adj* 1 attractively prepared and served 2 delicately beautiful 3a fastidious *b* showing avoidance of anything rough – **daintily** *adv*, **daintiness** *n*

**daiquiri** /ˈdiekiəri, dɑ-, 'dɑkiəri/ *n* a cocktail made of rum, lime juice, and sugar [Daiquiri, town in Cuba]

**'dairy** /ˈdeəri/ *n* 1 a room, building, etc where milk is processed and butter or cheese is made 2 farming concerned with the production of milk, butter, and cheese 3 an establishment for the sale or distribution of milk and milk products – compare **CREAMERY** [ME *deyerie*, fr *deye* dairymaid, fr OE *dæge* kneader of bread; akin to OE *dag* dough – more at **DOUGH**]

**'dairy** *adj* of or concerned with (the production of) milk (products)

**'dairying** /-ɪŋ/ *n* the business of operating a dairy or producing milk products

**dairymen** /-mən/, *fem* **'dairy,maid** /-ˈmaɪd/ *n* one who operates or works for a dairy (farm)

**dais** /ˈdaɪ-ɪs/ *n* a raised platform; esp one at the end of a hall [ME *deis*, fr OF, fr L *discus* dish, quoit – more at **DISH**]

**daisy** /ˈdaɪzi/ *n* a composite plant with well-developed ray flowers in its flower head: e g a common short European plant with a yellow disc and white or pink ray flowers *b* OXEYE **DAISY** [ME *dayeseye*, fr OE *dagesse-ge*, fr *dæg* day + *eye* eye]

**'daisy chain** *n* a string of linked daisies threaded through each other's stalks

**Dakota** /ˈdəkoʊtə/ *n*, pl **Dakotas**, esp collectively **Dakota** a member, or the language, of an American Indian people of the N Mississippi valley

**'Dalai Lama** /ˈdalie/ *n* the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism [Mongolian *dalai* ocean]

**dalese** /ˈdahləsi/ *n* – **The Gambia** at **NATIONALITY** [native name in the Gambia]

**dale** /daɪl/ *n* a vale, valley [ME, fr OE *dæl*; akin to OHG *tal* valley, Gk *tholos* rotunda]

**Dalek** /ˈdahlɪk/ *n* any of a race of ruthlessly aggressive fictional creatures protected by distinctive metallic shells containing their life-support systems [name of creatures in television science-fiction series 'Dr Who']

**dalliance** /ˈdali-əns/ *n* a dallying: e g a amorous or erotically stimulating activity *b* a frivolous action

**dally** /ˈdali/ *vi* 1a to act playfully; esp to flirt *b* to deal lightly; toy 2 to waste time; dawdle [ME *dalyen*, fr AF *daher*] – **dallier** *n*

**dalmation** /ˈdalˈmaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, often *cap* (any of) a breed of medium-sized dogs with a white short-haired coat with black or brown spots [fr the supposed origin of the breed in *Dalmatia*, region of Yugoslavia]

**dalmatic** /ˈdalˈmatɪk/ *n* a wide-sleeved outer garment with slit sides worn by a deacon or prelate; also a similar robe worn by sovereigns or emperors at coronations or other ceremonies – **GARMENT** [LL *dalmatica*, fr L, fem of *dalmaticus* Dalmatian, fr *Dalmatia*]

**'Dalton plan** /ˈdɔltn/ *n* a method of progressive education whereby pupils assume responsibility for their own pace of work [Dalton, town in Massachusetts, USA, site of first school to use the plan]

**'dam** /dɑm/ *n* a female parent – used esp with reference to domestic animals [ME *dam*, *dame* lady, *dam* – more at **DAME**]

**'dam** *n* 1 a barrier preventing the flow of a fluid, esp a barrier across a watercourse 2 a body of water confined by a dam [ME]

**'dam** *vt* – **mm-** 1 to provide or restrain with a dam 2 to stop up, block

**'damage** /ˈdæmɪ/ *n* 1 loss or harm resulting from injury to person, property, or reputation 2 pl compensation in money imposed by law for loss or injury 3 expense, cost – infml (<what's the ~?>) [ME, fr OF, fr *dam* damage, fr L *damnum*]

**'damage** *vt* to cause damage to ~ *vi* to become damaged – **damager** *n*

**'damar** /ˈdɑmə/ *n* dammar

**'damascene** /ˈdɑməseɪn/ *n* the characteristic markings of Damascus steel [L *Damascenus* of Damascus, fr *Damascus*, city in Syria]

**'damascene** *vt* to ornament (e g iron or steel) with wavy patterns like those of watered silk or with inlaid work of precious metals [MF *damasquiner*, fr *damasquin* of Damascus]

**Damascus steel** /ˈdɑːməskəz/ *n* damascened steel used esp for sword blades

**'damask** /ˈdɑməsk/ *n* 1 a reversible lustrous fabric (e g of linen, cotton, or silk) having a plain background woven with patterns 2 greyish red [ME *damaske*, fr ML *damascus*, fr *Damascus*]

**'damask** *adj* 1 made of or resembling damask 2 of the colour damask

**'damask rose** *n* a large fragrant pink rose cultivated esp as a source of attar of roses [obs *Damask* (of Damascus), fr obs *Damask* (Damascus)]

**dame** /daɪm/ *n* 1 a woman of rank, station, or authority: e g a the wife or daughter of a lord *b* a female member of an order of knighthood – used as a title preceding the Christian name 2a an elderly woman, *specif* a comic one in pantomime played *usu* by a male actor *b* chiefly NAM a woman – infml [ME, fr OF, fr L *domina*, fem of *dominus* master; akin to L *domus* house – more at **TIMBER**]

**'dame school** *n* a school in which reading and writing were taught by a woman in her home

**dame's violet** *n* a Eurasian plant of the mustard family widely cultivated for its spikes of fragrant white or purple flowers

**damfool** /ˈdɑmfuːl/ *adj* extremely foolish or stupid – infml [alter. of 'dam + fool]

**dammar, damar** also **dammer** /ˈdɑmə/ *n* any of various resins derived from trees and used esp in inks and varnishes [Malay *damar*]

**dammit** /ˈdɑmɪt/ *interj* – used to express annoyance; slang [by alter. of 'dam + it] – as near as **dammit** almost exactly

**'damn** /dɑm/ *vt* 1 to condemn to a punishment or fate; esp to condemn to hell 2 to condemn as a failure by public criticism 3 to bring ruin on 4 to curse – often used as an interjection to express annoyance (<~ it all!>) ~ *vi* to curse, swear [ME *dampnen*, fr OF *dampner*, fr L *damnare*, fr *damnum* damage, loss, fine] – I'll be **damned** – used to express astonishment – I'll be **damned** if I emphatically do not or will not (<I'll be damned if I'll go>)

**'damn** *n* 1 the utterance of the word *damn* as a curse 2 the slightest bit (<I couldn't care a ~>) – chiefly in negative phrases

**'damn** *adj* or *adv* – used as an intensive – damn well beyond doubt or question; certainly (<better damn well marry that boy – Spare Rib>)

**damnable** /ˈdɑmnəbl/ *adj* 1 liable to or deserving condemnation 2 very bad; detestable (<~ weather>) – **damnableness** *n*, **damnablely** *adv*

**dæm** 'all *n*, *Br & Can* nothing at all – slang

**damnation** /dæm'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* damning or being damned

**damnatory** /dæm'nə(ɹ)ʃ/ *adj* expressing, imposing, or causing condemnation

**damned** /dæmd/ *adj* or *adv* **damned** /-dɔ/; **damnedest**, **damndest** /-dɪst/ 'DAMN

**damnedest**, **damndest** /dæmdɪst/ *n* utmost, best – chiefly in *do one's damnedest* (doing her ~ to succeed); infml

**damnify** /dæmnɪfə/ *vt* to cause loss or damage to [MF *damnifier*, fr OF, fr LL *damnificare*, fr L *damnificus* injurious, fr *damnum* damage]


**damning** /dæmɪŋ/ *adj* causing or leading to condemnation or ruin <presented some ~ testimony> – **damningly** *adv*

**damosel**, **damozel** /dæməzəl/ *n* a damsel

**damp** /dæmp/ *n* 1 a noxious gas, esp in a coal mine 2 moisture, humidity 3 DAMPER 2 (the bad news cast a ~ on his spirits) 4 archaic fog, mist [MD or MLG, vapour; akin to OHG *damp* vapour, OE *dim* dim] – **damp-proof** /-/-/ *adj*

**damp** *vt* 1a to diminish the activity or intensity of <~ the fire in the furnace> – often + **down** b to reduce progressively the vibration or oscillation of (e.g. sound waves) 2 to dampen ~ *vi* to diminish progressively in vibration or oscillation

**damp** *adj* slightly or moderately wet – **damply** *adv*, **dampness** *n*, **dampish** *adj*

**damp course** *n* a horizontal damp-resistant layer near the ground in a masonry wall  BUILDING

**dampen** /dæmpən/ *vt* 1 to check or diminish the activity or vigour of (esp feelings) <nothing could ~ his spirits> 2 to make damp 3 DAMP 1b – **dampener** *n*

**dampener** /dæmpə/ *n* 1 a device that damps e.g. a valve or plate (e.g. in the flue of a furnace) for regulating the draught b a small felted block which prevents or stops the vibration of a piano string c a device (e.g. a shock absorber) designed to bring a mechanism to rest with minimum oscillation 2 a dulling or deadening influence <put a ~ on the celebration> 3 Austr & NZ unleavened bread made with flour and water and baked in the ashes of a fire

**damp squib** *n*, *Br* sthg that ends feebly, esp after a promising start – infml

**damsel** /dæmzəl/ *n*, archaic a young woman, a girl [ME *damesel*, fr OF *dameiselle*, fr (assumed) VL *domnicella* young noblewoman, dim of L *domina* lady]

**damsel fly** /-fla/ *n* any of numerous insects distinguished from the related dragonflies esp by projecting stalked wings that are folded above the body when the insect is at rest


**damson** /dæmzən/ *n* (the small acid purple fruit of) an Asiatic plum that is a cultivated bullace [ME, fr L *prunum damascenum*, lit, plum of Damascus]

**dan** /dan/ *n* a level of expertise in an Oriental martial art (e.g. judo) [Jap]

**dance** /dahns/ *vi* 1 to engage in or perform a dance 2 to move quickly up and down or about ~ *vt* 1 to perform or take part in as a dancer 2 to bring or accompany into a specified condition by dancing <~d her way to fame> [ME *dauncen*, fr OF *dancier*] – **danceable** /-səbl/ *adj*, **dancer** *n*

**dance** *n* 1 (an act or instance or the art of) a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usu performed to music 2 a social gathering for dancing 3 a piece of music for dancing to

**dance of death** *n* DANSE MACABRE

**dandelion** /dændi'li:ən/ *n* any of a genus of yellow-flowered composite plants including one that occurs virtually worldwide as a weed  PLANT [MF *dent de lion*, lit., lion's tooth]

**dander** /danda/ *n* anger, temper – chiefly in *have/get one's dander up*; infml [perh fr *dander*, *dunder* (ferment)]

**Dandie Dinmont terrier** /dændi:'dɪnmənt/ *n* (a dog of) a breed of terriers with short legs, a long body, and a rough coat [Dandie Dinmont, character owning 2 such dogs in the novel *Guy Mannering* by Sir Walter Scott †1832 Sc writer]

**dandify** /dændɪfə/ *vt* to cause to resemble a dandy – **dandification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*

**dandle** /dændl/ *vt* **dandling** /'dændlɪŋ/ to move (e.g. a baby) up and down in one's arms or on one's knee in affectionate play [origin unknown]

**dandruff** /dændrʌf, -drɒf/ *n* a scurf that comes off the scalp in small white or greyish scales [prob fr *dand-* (origin unknown) + *-ruff*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *hrúfa* scab; akin to OHG *hruf* scurf, Lith *kraupus* rough] – **dandruffy** *adj*

**dandy** /dændi/ *n* a man who gives exaggerated attention to dress and demeanour [perh fr *Dandy*, nickname for Andrew] – **dandyish** *adj*, **dandyishly** *adv*, **dandyism** *n*

**dandy** *adj*, *NAM* very good; first-rate – infml, not now in vogue

**dandy brush** *n* a coarse brush used in grooming horses

**Dane** /daɪn/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Denmark [ME *Dan*, fr ON *Danr*]

**danegeld** /daɪn,geld/ *n*, often *cap* an annual tax levied in the 10th, 11th, and 12th cs, prob imposed orig to buy off Danish invaders in England or to maintain forces to oppose them [ME, fr *Dane* (gen pl of *Dan Dane*) + *geld* tribute, payment, fr OE *geld*; akin to OE *gieldan* to pay (for), reward – more at **YIELD**]

**Danelaw** /daɪn,law/ *n* (the law in force in) the part of England held by the Danes before the Norman Conquest in 1066

**danger** /daɪnjə/ *n* 1 exposure to the possibility of injury, pain, or loss 2 a case or cause of danger <the ~s of mining> [ME *daunger*, fr OF *danger*, alter of *donger*, fr (assumed) VL *dominiarium*, fr L *dominium* ownership]

**danger** *list* *n* a list of those (e.g. hospital patients) in danger (e.g. of dying)


**danger money** *n* extra pay for dangerous work

**dangerous** /daɪnj(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 exposing to or involving danger 2 able or likely to inflict injury – **dangerously** *adv*, **dangerousness** *n*

**dangle** /dæŋɡl/ *vb* **dangling** /dæŋɡlɪŋ/ *vi* to hang or swing loosely ~ *vt* 1 to cause to dangle, swing 2 to display enticingly <~d the possibility before them> [prob of Scand origin, akin to Dan *dangle* to dangle] – **dangler** *n*, **danglingly** *adv*

**Daniel** /danyəl/ *n* (an Old Testament book of narratives, visions and prophecies which tells of) a Jewish hero, who, as an exile in Babylon, interpreted dreams, gave accounts of apocalyptic visions, and was divinely delivered from a den of lions

**Danish** /daɪnɪʃ/ *adj* (characteristic) of Denmark

**Danish** *n* the Germanic language of the Danes  LANGUAGE

**Danish 'blue** *n* a soft strongly flavoured Danish cheese with blue veins

**Danish 'pastry** *n* (a piece of) confectionery made from a rich yeast dough with a sweet filling

**dank** /dæŋk/ *adj* unpleasantly moist or wet [ME *danke*, prob of Scand origin] – **dankly** *adv*, **dankness** *n*

**danse macabre** /dɒns mə'kæbrə, mə'kæb (Fr dɔːs makabr)/ *n* (a dance symbolizing) a medieval artistic theme in which death leads people to the grave [F, lit., macabre dance]

**danseur** /dɒn'h'suː (Fr dɑːsœr)/ *n* a male ballet dancer [F, fr *danser* to dance]

**danseuse** /dɒn'h'suːz (Fr dɑːsœz)/ *n* a female ballet dancer [F, fem of *danseur*]

**dap** /dap/ *vi* -pp- to fish by allowing the bait to touch the surface of the water lightly [perh alter of 'dab]

**daphne** /dæfni/ *n* any of a genus of Eurasian shrubs [NL, genus name, fr L, laurel, fr Gk *daphnē*]

**daphnia** /dæfni-/ *n* any of a genus of minute freshwater crustaceans used as food for aquarium fish [NL, genus name]

**dapper** /dæpə/ *adj*, esp of a small man neat and spruce as regards clothing and demeanour [ME *dapyr*, fr MD *dapper* quick, strong; akin to OHG *tapfar* heavy, OSlav *debelŭ* thick] – **dapperly** *adv*, **dapperness** *n*

**dapple** /dæpl/ *vb* **dappling** /dæplɪŋ/ to mark or become marked with rounded patches of varying shade [ME *dappel*-grey, *adj*, grey variegated with spots of different colour] – **dapple** *n*

**dapsone** /dæpsəʊn/ *n* a synthetic antibacterial drug used esp as the major treatment for leprosy [daminodiphenyl-sulphone]

**Darby and Joan** /dæbɪ ənd 'joʊn/ *n* a happily married elderly couple [prob fr *Darby & Joan*, couple in an 18th-c song]

**dare** /deə/ *vb* **dared**, archaic **durst** /duːst/ *vi* to have sufficient courage or impudence (to) <no one ~d say a word> <try it if you ~> ~ *vt* 1a to challenge to perform an action, esp as a proof of courage <~d him to jump> b to confront boldly; defy <~d the anger of her family> 2 to have the courage to contend against, venture, or try [ME *dar* (1 & 3 sing. pres indic), fr OE *dear*; akin to OHG *gitar* (1 & 3 sing. pres indic) dare, L *infestus* hostile] – **darer** *n*

**dare** *n* a challenge to a bold act <foolishly took a ~>

**daredevil** /deədevl/ *n* or *adj* (sby) recklessly bold – **daredevilry** /-rɪ/ *n*

**daren't** /deənt/ *dar* not



- dare** /deɪsəy/ *vb pres 1 sing* venture to say (so); think (it) probable; suppose (so) [ME (1) *dar* *sayen* I venture to say]
- daring** /ˈdeərɪŋ/ *adj* adventurously bold in action or thought (~ *acrobats*) (~ *crimes*) – *daringly adv*, *daringness n*
- daring** *n* venturesome boldness
- dariole** /ˈdarioʊl/ *n* (a dish cooked or set in) a small cup-shaped mould for cakes, jellies, creams, etc [F, fr MF, pastry filled with cream]
- Darjeeling** /dɑːˈdʒiːlɪŋ/ *n* a high-quality tea grown esp in the mountainous districts of N India [Darjeeling, city in India]
- dark** /dɑːk/ *adj* 1 (partially) devoid of light 2a (partially) black b of a colour of (very) low lightness 3a arising from or showing evil traits or desires; evil b dismal, sad (<look a ~ view of the future>) c lacking knowledge or culture 4 not fair, swarthy (<her ~ good looks>) 5 secret (<kept his plans ~>) 6 of a theatre temporarily not presenting any production [ME *derk*, fr OE *deorc*; akin to OHG *tarchannen* to hide, Gk *thrassein* to trouble] – *darkish adj*, *darkly adv*, *darkness n*
- dark** *n* 1a the absence of light; darkness b a place or time of little or no light; night, nightfall (<after ~>) 2 a dark or deep colour – 1a the dark in ignorance (<kept the public in the dark about the agreement>)
- Dark Ages** *n pl* the period from about AD 476 to about 1000
- darken** /dɑːkən/ *vb* to make or become dark or darker – *darkener n*
- dark horse** *n* sby or sth (e.g. a contestant) little known, but with a potential much greater than the evidence would suggest
- dark lantern** *n* a lantern that can be closed to conceal the light
- darkling** /dɑːklɪŋ/ *adj* 1 dark 2 done or taking place in the dark *USE* chiefly poetic [ME *derkelyng*, fr *derk* dark + *-lyng* -ling]
- darkroom** /-ˈruːm, -ˈruːm/ *n* a room with no light or with a safelight for handling and processing light-sensitive photographic materials
- darksome** /-ˈsʌm/ *adj* dark – poetic
- darky, darkey** /dɑːki/ *n* a Negro – derog [ˈdark + -y]
- darling** /ˈdɑːlɪŋ/ *n* 1a a dearly loved person b DEAR lb 2 a favourite (<the critics ~>) [ME *derling*, fr OE *deorling*, fr *deore* dear]
- darling** *adj* 1 dearly loved, favourite 2 charming (<a ~ little house>) – used esp by women
- darn** /dɑːn/ *vt* to mend (sth) with interlacing stitches woven across a hole or worn part (~ a sock) [prob fr F dial. *darnier*] – *darn n*
- darn** *n* a place that has been darned (<a sweater full of ~s>)
- darn** *vb* to darn [euphemism] – *darned adj* or *adv*
- darn** *adj* or *adv* damned
- darnel** /ˈdɑːnl/ *n* any of several grasses that are common weeds [ME]
- dart** /dɑːt/ *n* 1a a small projectile with a pointed shaft at one end and flights of feather, plastic, etc at the other b *pl but sing in constr* a game in which darts are thrown at a dartboard 2 sth with a slender pointed shaft or outline; *specif* a stitched tapering fold put in a garment to shape it to the figure 3 a quick movement; a dash [ME, fr MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *tart dart*]
- dart** *vt* 1 to throw with a sudden movement 2 to thrust or move with sudden speed 3 to put a dart or darts in (a garment or part of a garment) ~ *vi* to move suddenly or rapidly (<ed across the road>)
- dartboard** /-ˈbɔːd/ *n* a circular target used in darts that is divided, usu by wire, into different scoring areas
- darter** /ˈdɑːtə/ *n* any of several fish-eating birds related to the cormorants but having a long slender neck [ˈDART + -ER]
- Dartmoor pony** /ˈdɑːtməʊ, -ˈmoʊ/ *n* (any of) an old breed of small shaggy English ponies [Dartmoor, region of SW England]
- Darwinian** /dɑːˈwɪniən, -ˈniən/ *adj* of (the theories or followers of) Charles Darwin, or Darwinism [Charles Darwin †1882 E naturalist] – *Darwinian n*
- Darwinism** /dɑːˈwɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory of evolution asserting that all the groups of plants and animals have arisen by natural selection – *Darwinist n*, *darwinist, darwinistic* /-ˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*, *often cap*
- dash** /dæʃ/ *vt* 1 to strike or knock violently 2 to break by striking or knocking 3 to destroy, ruin (<the news ~ed her hopes>) 4 *Br* DAMN 4 – eup (<~ it all>) ~ *vi* 1 to move with sudden speed (<ed through the rain>) 2 to smash [ME *dasshen*, prob of imit origin; (4) euphemism]
- dash** *n* 1 (the sound produced by) a sudden burst or splash 2a a stroke of a pen b a punctuation mark – used esp to indicate a break in the thought or structure of a sentence 3 a small but significant addition (<a ~ of salt>) 4 liveliness of style and action; panache 5a sudden onset, rush, or attempt 6 a signal (e.g. a flash or audible tone) of relatively long duration that is one of the 2 fundamental units of Morse code – compare DOT 4 7 *Br* PRIME 5
- dashboard** /ˈdæʃbɔːd/ *n* a panel extending across, a motor car, aeroplane, or motorboat below the windscreen and usu containing dials and controls
- dashiki** /dɑːˈʃeeki/ *n* a usu brightly coloured loose-fitting pull-on shirt traditionally worn in W Africa [alter of Yoruba *danshiki*]
- dashing** /ˈdæʃɪŋ/ *adj* 1 marked by vigorous action; spirited 2 marked by smartness, esp in dress and manners – *dashingly adv*
- dash off** *vt* to complete or execute (e.g. writing or drawing) hastily (<dash off a letter>)
- dashpot** /ˈdæʃpɒt/ *n* a device for cushioning or damping a movement (e.g. of a mechanical part) to avoid shock
- dassie** /ˈdɑːsi/ *n* a hyrax of southern Africa [Afnk]
- dastard** /ˈdɑːstɑːd/ *n*, *archaic* a coward; esp one who commits malicious acts [ME, perh fr ON *dæstr* exhausted]
- dastardly** /-li/ *adj*, *archaic* despicably malicious or cowardly – *dastardliness n*
- data** /ˈdɑːtə, ˈdaɪtə/ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* factual information (e.g. measurements or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation (<all the essential ~ are here – TLS>) (<any ~ he could glean was valuable – TLS>) [pl of *datum*]
- data bank** *n* a collection of data organized esp for rapid search and retrieval (e.g. by computer) – *COMPUTER*
- data base** *n* the data that is accessible to a data-processing system (e.g. a computer) – *COMPUTER*
- data processing** *n* the conversion (e.g. by computer) of crude information into usable or storable form – *COMPUTER* – *data processor n*
- date** /daɪt/ *n* (the oblong edible fruit of) a tall palm [ME, fr OF, deriv of L *dactylus*, fr Gk *daktylos*, lit., finger]
- date** *n* 1a the time reckoned in days or larger units at which an event occurs (<the ~ of her birth>) b a statement of such a time (<the ~ on the letter>) 2 the period of time to which sth belongs 3a an appointment for a specified time; esp a social engagement between 2 people of opposite sex – infml b *NAm* a person of the opposite sex with whom one has a date – infml [ME, fr MF, fr LL *data*, fr *data* (as in *data Romae* given at Rome), fem of L *datus*, pp of *dare* to give, akin to Gk *didonai* to give] – to date up to the present moment
- date** *vt* 1 to determine the date of (<an antique>) 2 to record the date of 3a to mark with characteristics typical of a particular period b to show up plainly the age of (<his knickerbockers ~ him>) 4 chiefly *NAm* to make or have a date with (a person of the opposite sex) – infml ~ *vi* 1 to have been in existence – usu + *from* 2 to become old-fashioned (<clothes that never ~>) – *datable, dateable* /ˈdaɪtəbl/ *adj*, *dater n*
- dated** *adj* 1 provided with a date (<a ~ document>) 2 out-of-date, old-fashioned – *datedly adv*, *datedness n*
- dateless** /ˈdaɪtləs/ *adj* 1 having no date 2 timeless
- date line** /-ˈliːn/ *n* 1 a line in a written document or publication giving the date and place of composition or issue 2 INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE – *dateline vt*
- date stamp** /-ˈstæmp/ *n* (the mark made by) a device for stamping a date
- dativ** /ˈdaɪtɪv/ *n* (a form in) a grammatical case expressing typically the indirect object of a verb, the object of some prepositions, or a possessor [ME *datif*, fr L *dativus*, lit., relating to giving, fr *datus*] – *dativ adj*
- dativ bond** *n* COORDINATE BOND [fr the donation of electrons by one of the atoms]
- datum** /ˈdɑːtəm; *NAm* ˈdaɪtəm/ *n pl* (1) *data* /-tə/, (2) *datums* 1 sth given or admitted, esp as a basis for reasoning or drawing conclusions 2 sth used as a basis for measuring or calculating [L, fr neut of *datus*]
- datūra** /ˈdɑːtʃuərə/ *n* the thorn apple or a related, usu very poisonous, plant of the nightshade family [NL, genus name, fr Hindi *dhatūra* jimsonweed]
- daub** /dɔːb/ *vt* 1 to cover or coat with soft adhesive matter; plaster 2 to coat with a dirty substance 3 to apply (e.g. colouring material) crudely (to) ~ *vi* to paint without much skill [ME *dauben*, fr OF *dauber*, deriv of L *dealbare* to whiten, whitewash, plaster, fr *de-* + *albus* white] – *dauber n*
- daub** *n* 1 material used to daub walls (<wattle and ~>) 2 a daubing 3 sth daubed on: a smear 4 a crude picture
- daube** /dohb/ *n* a stew of meat, esp beef, braised in red wine [F]
- daughter** /ˈdɔːtə/ *n* 1a a human female having the relation of child to parent b a female descendant – often pl 2a a human female having a specified origin or affiliation (<a ~ of the Church>) b sth considered as a daughter (<French is a ~ (language) of Latin>) 3 an isotope formed as the immediate product of the radioactive decay of an element [ME *doughter*, fr OE *dohtor*; akin to OHG *tohter* daughter, Gk *thygatēr*] – *daughterless adj*, *daughtery adj*



**daughter** *adj* 1 having the characteristics or relationship of a daughter 2 of the first generation of offspring, molecules, etc produced by reproduction, division, or replication (*the ~ cells*)

**daughter-in-law** *n, pl daughters-in-law* the wife of one's son

**daunt** /daunt/ *vt* to lessen the courage of, inspire awe in [ME *daunten*, fr OF *danter*, alter. of *donter*, fr L *domitare* to tame, fr *domitus*, pp of *domare* – more at TAMF]

**daunting** /daunting/ *adj* discouraging, disheartening (< a ~ task) – **dauntingly** *adv*

**dauntless** /-lis/ *adj* fearless (< a ~ hero) – **dauntlessly** *adv*, **dauntlessness** *n*

**dauphin** /'dohfanh (Fr *dofin*)/ *n*, often *cap* the eldest son of a king of France [MF *dalfin*, fr OF, title of lords of the Dauphiné, fr *Dalfin*, a surname]

**dauphine** /'dohfeen (Fr *dofin*)/ *n*, often *cap* the wife of the dauphin [F]

**davenport** /'davn.pawt/ *n* 1 a small compact writing desk 2 chiefly *NAM* a large upholstered sofa, esp one that converts into a bed [prob fr the name Davenport]

**davit** /'davit/ *n* any of 2 or more projecting arms on a vessel which are used as cranes, esp for lowering boats [prob fr the name David]

**Davy Jones's locker** /'davi/ 'johnziz/ *n* the bottom of the sea [Davy Jones, legendary spirit of the sea]

**Davy lamp** /'davi/ *n* an early safety lamp used in mines [Sir Humphry Davy †1829 E chemist & inventor]

**daw** /daw/ *n* a jackdaw [ME *dawe*; akin to OHG *taha* jackdaw]

**dawdle** /'dawdl/ *vi* **dawdling** /'dawdling/ *vi* 1 to spend time idly (< ~ over one's coffee) 2 to move lackadaisically [origin unknown] – **dawdle** *n*, **dawdler** /'dawdlr/ *n*

**dawn** /dawn/ *vi* 1 to begin to grow light as the sun rises 2 to begin to appear or develop 3 to begin to be perceived or understood (*the truth finally ~ ed on him*) [ME *dawnen*, prob back-formation fr *dawning* daybreak, alter. of *dawing*, fr OE *dagung*, fr *dagian* to dawn]

**dawn** *n* 1 the first appearance of light in the morning 2 a first appearance, a beginning (*the ~ of the space age*)

**day** /day/ *n* 1 the time of light when the sun is above the horizon between one night and the next 2 the time required by a celestial body, specifi the earth, to turn once on its axis 3 the solar day of 24 hours beginning at midnight 4 a specified day or date (< wash ~) 5 a specified time or period (< in grandfather's ~) 6 the conflict or contention of the day (< played hard and won the ~) 7 the time established by usage or law for work, school, or business (< an 8-hour ~) 8 an era [ME, fr OE *dag*; akin to OHG *tag* tag day] – **day in, day out** DAY AFTER DAY – **from day to day** 'DAILY

**day after 'day** *adv* for an indefinite or seemingly endless number of successive days

**Dayak** /'die.ək/ *n* (a) Dyak

**daybed** /'day.bed/ *n* a narrow bed or couch for rest or sleep during the day

**daybreak** /-brayk/ *n* DAWN 1

**daydream** /-drem/ *n* a visionary, usu wish-fulfilling, creation of the waking imagination – **daydream** *vi*

**Dayglo** /'day.glow/ *trademark* – used for a type of paint which glows in natural daylight

**daylight** /-liet/ *n* 1 DAWN 1 2 knowledge or understanding of sth that has been obscure (< began to see ~ on the problem) 3 *pl* mental soundness or stability, wits (< scared the ~s out of her) – *infml*

**daylight robbery** *n, Br* an instance of exorbitant pricing or charging – *infml*

**daylight saving time** *n*, chiefly *NAM* time usu 1 hour ahead of standard time and used esp during the summer – compare BRITISH SUMMER TIME

**'day, lily** *n* any of various Eurasian plants of the lily family cultivated for their short-lived flowers

**day nursery** *n* a public centre for the care of young children

**Day of Atonement** *n* YOM KIPPUR

**day of 'reckoning** *n* a time when the results of mistakes or misdeeds are felt, or when offences are punished

**day release** *n* a system in Britain whereby workers are allowed days off work to attend educational courses

**day-re'turn** *n, Br* a ticket sold for a return journey on the same day and usu at a reduced rate if used outside rush hours

**days** /days/ *adv*, chiefly *NAM* by day repeatedly; on any day

**'day,spring** /-spring/ *n* DAWN 1 – poetic

**'day,ster** /-stah/ *n* 1 MORNING STAR 2 SUN 1a

**day-to-day** *adj* 1 taking place, made, or done in the course of successive

days (< ~ problems) 2 providing for a day at a time with little thought for the future (< lived an aimless ~ existence)

**daze** /dayz/ *vt* to stupefy, esp by a blow; stun [ME *dasen*, fr ON *dasa* (in *dasask* to become exhausted)] – **daze** *n*, **dazedly** /'dayzdl/ *adv*, **dazedness** /'dayz(i)dnis/ *n*

**dazzle** /'dazl/ *vb* **dazzling** /'dazling/ *vi* 1 to lose clear vision, esp from looking at bright light 2a to shine brilliantly b to arouse admiration by an impressive display ~ *vt* 1 to overpower or temporarily blind (the sight) with light 2 to impress deeply, overpower, or confound with brilliance (< ~d the crowd with her oratory) [freq of *daze*] – **dazzle** *n*, **dazzler** *n*, **dazzlingly** *adv*

**'D, day** /dec/ *n* a day set for launching an operation; specifi June 6, 1944, on which the Allies began the invasion of France in WW II [D, abbr for day]

**DDT** *n* a synthetic chlorinated water-insoluble insecticide that tends to accumulate in food chains and is poisonous to many vertebrates [*dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane*]

**de-** /dee-/ *prefix* 1a do the opposite of (a specified action) (< depopulate) (< decompose) b reverse of (< de-emphasize) (< deindustrialization) 2a remove (sthg specified) from (< delouse) (< decapitate) b remove from (sthg specified) (< dethrone) 3 reduce (< devalue) 4 alight from (a specified thing) (< detain) [ME, fr OF *de-*, *des-*, partly fr L *de-* from, down, away (fr *de*) and partly fr L *dis-*; L *de* akin to OIr *di* from, OE *to* to – more at *ro*, *dis-*]

**deacon** /'deekan/ *n* a subordinate officer in a Christian church e.g. a clergyman ranking below a priest and, in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, usu a candidate for ordination as priest b an assistant minister in a Lutheran parish c any of a group of laymen with administrative and sometimes spiritual duties in various Protestant churches [ME *dekene*, fr OE *deacon*, fr LL *diaconus*, fr Gk *diakonos*, lit, servant, fr *dia-* + *-konos* (akin to *enkonein* to be active), akin to L *conari* to attempt]


**deaconess** /'deeks'nes, '---/ *n* a woman assisting in the ministry of a Protestant church

**deactivate** /dee'aktayv/ *vt* to make inactive or ineffective – **deactivator** *n*, **deactivation** /-'vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'dead** /ded/ *adj* 1 deprived of life; having died 2a(1) having the appearance of death, deathly (< in a ~ faint) (2) lacking power to move, feel, or respond, numb b very tired c grown cold; extinguished (< coals) 3a inanimate, inert (< matter) b barren, infertile (< soil) 4a(1) no longer having power or effect (< a ~ law) (< a ~ battery) (2) no longer having interest, relevance, or significance (< a ~ issue) b no longer used, obsolete (< a ~ language) c no longer existing (< charity is ~) d lacking in activity e lacking elasticity or springiness f out of action or use; specifi free from any connection to a source of voltage and free from electric charges g temporarily out of play (< a ~ ball) 5 not imparting motion or power although otherwise functioning (< a ~ rear axle) 6 lacking warmth, odour, vigour, or taste 7a absolutely uniform (< level) b exact (< centre of the target) c abrupt (< brought to a ~ stop) d complete, absolute (< a ~ silence) (< a ~ loss) (< a ~ giveaway) 8 lacking in gaiety or animation – chiefly *infml* [ME *dead*, fr OE *dead*; akin to ON *dauðr* dead, *deyja* to die – more at 'DIE] – **deadness** *n*

**'dead** *n* 1 *pl in constr* dead people or animals 2 the state of being dead (< raised him from the ~ – Col 2 12(RSV)) 3 the time of greatest quiet or inactivity (< the ~ of night)

**'dead** *adv* 1 absolutely, utterly (< ~ certain) 2 suddenly and completely (< stopped ~) 3 directly, exactly (< ~ ahead) (< ~ on time) 4 *Br* very, extremely (< ~ lucky) – *infml*

**dead-ball, line** *n* 1 a line at each end of a rugby pitch, not more than 23m (about 25yd) behind the goal line, beyond which the ball is out of play –  SPORT 2 a soccer goal line

**dead bat** *n* a cricket bat held loosely so that a ball striking it will not travel far through the air

**deadbeat** /'ded.beet/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a loafer

**'dead, duck** *n* sby or sth (e.g. a scheme) unlikely to succeed; a nonstarter – *infml*

**deaden** /'dedən/ *vt* 1 to deprive of liveliness, brilliance, sensation, or force 2 to make (e.g. a wall) impervious to sound [DEAD + 'EN] – **deadener** *n*, **deadeningly** *adv*

**'dead-end** *adj* 1a lacking opportunities for advancement (< a ~ job) b lacking an exit (< a ~ street) 2 made aggressively antisocial by a dead-end existence (< ~ kids)

**'dead 'end** *n* 1 an end (e.g. of a street) without an exit 2 a position, situation, or course of action that leads no further

**deadening** /'dedənɪŋ/ *n* material used to soundproof walls or floors

- 'dead hand** *n* 1 mortmain 2 the oppressive influence of the past
- 'dead head** /ˈhed/ *vt*, *Br* to remove dead flower heads from (a plant)
- 'dead heat** *n* an inconclusive finish to a race or other contest, in which the fastest time, highest total, etc is achieved by more than one competitor – **dead-heat** *vi*
- 'dead letter** *n* 1 a law that has lost its force without being formally abolished 2 an undeliverable and unreturnable letter
- 'dead light** /ˈli:t/ *n* a metal cover or shutter fitted inside a porthole to keep out light and water
- deadline** /ˈdedliən/ *n* 1 a boundary beyond which it is not possible or permitted to pass 2 a date or time before which sthg (e.g. the presentation of copy for publication) must be done
- deadlock** /ˈdedlok/ *n* 1 a lock that can be opened and shut only by a key 2 inaction or neutralization resulting from the opposition of equally powerful and uncompromising people or factions; a standstill 3 a tied score – **deadlock** *vt*
- 'deadly** /ˈdedli/ *adj* 1 likely to cause or capable of producing death (< *a ~ disease*) (< *a ~ instrument*) 2a aiming to kill or destroy; implacable (< *a ~ enemy*) b unerring (< *~ accuracy*) c marked by determination or extreme seriousness (< *she was in ~ earnest*) 3 lacking animation, dull (< *~ bores*) (< *a ~ conversation*) 4 intense, extreme (< *~ fear*) – **deadliness** *n*
- 'deadly adv** 1 suggesting death (< *~ pale*) 2 extremely (< *~ serious*)
- 'deadly 'nightshade** /ˈni:t,ʃayd/ *n* a European poisonous nightshade that has dull purple flowers and black berries
- 'deadly 'sin** *n* any of the 7 sins of pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth held to lead to damnation
- 'dead man's 'handle** *n*, *Br* a handle that requires constant pressure to allow operation (e.g. of a train or tram)
- 'dead men's 'fingers** *n* a fleshy soft coral of European coastal waters
- 'deadpan** /ˈdedˈpæn/ *adj* impassive, expressionless [*dead* + *pan*, *n* (face)]
- 'deadpan adv** in a deadpan manner
- 'dead 'reckoning** *n* the calculation without celestial observations of the position of a ship or aircraft, from the record of the courses followed, the distance travelled, etc – **dead reckon** *vb*, **dead reckoner** *n*
- 'dead weight** /ˈdeɪt/ *n* 1 the unrelieved weight of an inert mass 2 a ship's total weight including cargo, fuel, stores, crew, and passengers
- 'dead wood** /ˈdeɪd wu:d/ *n* useless personnel or material
- deaf** /def/ *adj* 1 (partially) lacking the sense of hearing 2 unwilling to hear or listen to; not to be persuaded (< *~ to reason*) [ME *deef*, fr OE *deaf*; akin to Gk *typhlos* blind, *typhlein* to smoke, L *fumus* smoke – more at FUME] – **deafish** *adj*, **deafly** *adv*, **deafness** *n*
- 'deaf-aid** *n*, *Br* HEARING AID
- deafen** /ˈdefən/ *vt* to make deaf ~ *vi* to cause deafness or stun sb with noise – **deafeningly** *adv*
- 'deaf-mute** *n* or *adj* (one who is) deaf and dumb
- 'deal** /di:l/ *n* 1 a usu large or indefinite quantity or degree; a lot (< *a great ~ of support*) (< *a good ~ faster*) 2a the act or right of distributing cards to players in a card game b HAND 9b [ME *deel*, fr OE *dæl*; akin to OE *dæl* division, portion, OHG *teil* part]
- 'deal** *vb* **dealt** /delt/ *vt* 1a to give as sb's portion; apportion b to distribute (playing cards) to players in a game 2 to administer, bestow (< *~t him a blow*) ~ *vi* 1 to distribute the cards in a card game 2 to concern oneself or itself (< *the book ~s with education*) 3a to trade b to sell or distribute sthg as a business (< *in insurance*) 4 to take action with regard to sb or sthg (< *with an offender*)
- 'deal** *n* 1 a transaction 2 treatment received (< *a raw ~*) 3 an arrangement for mutual advantage
- 'deal** *n* (a sawn piece of) fir or pine timber [MD or MLG *dele* plank; akin to OHG *dili* plank] – **deal** *adj*
- dealer** /ˈdi:lə/ *n* 1 sb who deals in goods or services 2 sb or sthg that deals playing cards [DEAL + -ER]
- 'dealing** /ˈdi:liŋ/ *n* 1 pl friendly or business interactions 2 a method of business; a manner of conduct [ME *deliŋ*, fr gerund of *delen* to deal]
- 'deen, dese** /ˈde:n/ *n*, *Br* a narrow wooded valley containing a stream [ME *dene*, fr OE *denu*]
- 'deen** *n* 1a the head of the chapter of a collegiate or cathedral church – often used as a title b RURAL DEAN 2 the head of a university division, faculty, or school 3 a doyen [ME *deen*, fr MF *deien*, fr LL *decanus*, lit., chief of ten, fr L *decem* ten – more at TEN] – **deanship** *n*
- 'deanery** /ˈdi:ənəri/ *n* the office, jurisdiction, or official residence of a clerical dean
- 'dear** /diə/ *adj* 1 highly valued; much loved – often used in address (< *Sir*) 2 expensive 3 heartfelt (< *her ~ est wish*) [ME *dere*, fr OE *dēore*] – **dear** *adv*, **dearly** *adv*, **dearness** *n*
- 'dear** *n* 1a a loved one; a sweetheart b – used as a familiar or affectionate form of address 2 a lovable person
- 'dear** *interj* – used typically to express annoyance or dismay (< *oh ~*) [prob short for *dear God* or *dear Lord*]
- 'dearth** /ˈdu:θ/ *n* an inadequate supply, a scarcity [ME *derthe*, fr *dere* dear, costly]
- 'deary** /ˈdiəri/ *n* a dear person – used chiefly in address
- death** /deθ/ *n* 1 a permanent cessation of all vital functions, the end of life 2 the cause or occasion of loss of life (< *drinking was the ~ of him*) 3 cap death personified, usu represented as a skeleton with a scythe 4 the state of being dead 5 extinction, disappearance [ME *deeth*, fr OE *dēath*; akin to ON *dauði* death, *deyta* to die – more at DISEASE] – **at death's door** seriously ill – **to death** beyond all acceptable limits, excessively (< *bored to death*)
- 'death bed** /ˈdeθ bed/ *n* – on one's deathbed near the point of death
- 'death blow** /ˈdeθ bləʊ/ *n* a destructive or killing stroke or event
- 'death cap** *n* a very poisonous toadstool
- 'death cell** *n* CONDEMNED CELL
- 'death duty** *n*, chiefly *Br* tax levied on the estate of a dead person – often pl with sing meaning
- 'deathless** /ˈli:s/ *adj* immortal, imperishable (< *~ fame*) – **deathlessly** *adv*, **deathlessness** *n*
- 'deathly** /ˈli:/ *adj* (suggestive) of death (< *a ~ pallor*) – **deathly** *adv*
- 'death mask** *n* a cast taken from the face of a dead person
- 'death rate** *n* the number of deaths per 1000 people in a population over a given period
- 'death rattle** *n* a gurgling sound produced by air passing through mucus in the lungs and throat of a dying person
- 'death's head** *n* a human skull symbolic of death
- 'death's-head moth** *n* a very large European hawkmoth with skull-shaped markings on its back
- 'death trap** *n* a potentially lethal structure or place
- 'death warrant** *n* a warrant for the execution of a death sentence
- 'death watch** /ˈdeθ wɒtʃ/ *n* a vigil kept with the dead or dying [*death* + *watch* (vigil)]
- deathwatch beetle** *n* any of various small wood-boring beetles common in old buildings
- 'death wish** *n* a usu unconscious desire for the death of another or oneself
- deb** /deb/ *n* a debutante – *infml* – **debby** *adj*
- debacle** /ˈdi:bəkl/ *n* 1 a tumultuous breakup of ice in a river 2 a violent disruption (e.g. of an army); a rout 3 a complete failure, a fiasco [F *débâcle*, fr *débâcler* to unbar, fr MF *desbacler*, fr *des-de-* + *bacler* to bar, fr OProv *baclar*, fr (assumed) VL *bacculare*, fr L *baculum* staff – more at BACTERIUM]
- debag** /ˈdeɪbæg/ *vt* -*gg* -*Br* to remove the trousers of as a joke or punishment – *infml* [*de-* + *bags* (trousers)]
- debar** /ˈdeɪbɑː/ *vt* -*rr-* to bar from having, doing, or undergoing sthg; preclude [ME *debarren*, fr MF *desbarrier* to unbar, fr *des-de-* + *barrier* to bar] – **debarment** *n*
- debark** /ˈdeɪbɑːk/ *vt* to remove the bark from (a tree)
- debase** /ˈdi:bəz/ *vt* 1 to lower in status, esteem, quality, or character 2a to reduce the intrinsic value of (a coin) by increasing the content of low-value metal b to reduce the exchange value of (a monetary unit) [*de-* + *base*] – **debasement** *n*, **debaser** *n*
- debatable** /ˈdi:bətaɪbl/ *adj* 1 claimed by more than 1 country (< *~ territory*) 2 open to debate; questionable
- 'debate** /ˈdi:bəɪt/ *n* a contention by words or arguments; esp the formal discussion of a motion a in parliament b between 2 opposing sides
- 'debate** *vi* 1a to contend in words b to discuss a question by considering opposed arguments 2 to participate in a debate ~ *vt* 1 to argue about 2 to consider [ME *debaten*, fr MF *debatre*, fr OF, fr *de-* + *batre* to beat, fr L *battuere* – more at BATTLE] – **debater** *n*
- 'debauch** /ˈdi:bəʊtʃ/ *vt* 1 to lead away from virtue or excellence 2 to make excessively intemperate or sensual [MF *debaucher*, fr OF *desbauchier* to scatter, rough-hew (timber), fr *des-de-* + *bauch* beam, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *balgo* beam] – **debaucher** *n*
- 'debauch** *n* 1 an act or occasion of debauchery 2 an orgy
- 'debauchee** /ˈdi:bəʊtʃi/ *n* one given to debauchery [F *débauché*, fr pp of *débaucher*]
- 'debauchery** /ˈdi:bəʊtʃəri/ *n* excessive indulgence in the pleasures of the flesh

**debenture** /di'benʃə/ *n*, *Br* a loan secured on the assets of a company in respect of which the company must pay a fixed interest before any dividends are paid to its own shareholders [ME *debentur*, fr L, they are due, fr *debere* to owe]

**debilitate** /di'bilitayt/ *vt* to impair the strength of; enfeeble [L *debilitatus*, pp of *debilitare* to weaken, fr *debilis*] – **debilitation** /-tə'zha(ə)n/ *n*

**debility** /di'biliti/ *n* a weakness or infirmity [MF *debilité*, fr L *debilitas*, fr *debilis* weak]

**'debit** /'deɪt/ *n* 1a (an entry in an account that is) a record of money owed **b** the sum of the items so entered 2 a charge against a bank account [L *debitum* debt]

**²debit** *vt* 1 to enter as a debit 2 to charge to the debit of (<~ an account> – compare CREDIT 2b)

**debonair** /,deɒ'neɪ/ *adj* 1 suave, urbane 2 lighthearted, nonchalant [ME *debonere*, fr OF *debonaire*, fr *de bonne aie* of good family or nature] – **debonairly** *adv*, **debonairness** *n*

**debouch** /di'bɒʃ/ *vi* to emerge or issue, esp from a narrow place into a wider place [F *déboucher*, fr *dé-de-* + *bouche* mouth, fr L *bucca* cheek – more at POKK]

**debouchment** /-mənt/ *n* a mouth or outlet, esp of a river [DEBOUCH + -MENT]

**debridement** /di'briəd'mənt/ *n* the surgical removal, esp from a wound, of dead, lacerated, or contaminated tissue [F *débridement*, fr *débrider* to remove unhealthy tissue, lit., to unbridle, fr MF *desbrider*, fr *des-de-* + *bride* bridle, fr MHG *bride*]

**debrief** /,dee'briːf/ *vt* to interrogate (a person) on return from a mission in order to obtain useful information

**debris** /deɪbrɪ/ *n* 1 the remains of sth broken down or destroyed 2a an accumulation of fragments of rock **b** accumulated rubbish or waste [F *débris*, fr MF, fr *debriser* to break to pieces, fr OF *debrisier*, fr *de-* + *brisier* to break, of Celt origin]

**debt** /det/ *n* 1 a state of owing (<heavily in ~> 2 sth owed; an obligation <couldn't pay her ~s>) [ME *dette*, *debte*, fr OF *dette* something owed, fr (assumed) VL *debita*, fr L, pl of *debitum* debt, fr neut of *debitus*, pp of *debere* to owe, fr *de-* + *habere* to have – more at HABIT] – **debtless** *adj* – in someone's debt owing sby gratitude; indebted to sby

**debtor** /deɪtə/ *n* one who owes a debt

**debug** /,dee'bug/ *vt* -gg- 1 to eliminate errors in or malfunctions of (<~ a computer program>) 2 to remove a concealed microphone or wiretapping device from


**debunk** /,dee'bʌŋk/ *vt* to expose the falseness of [*de-* + 'bunk'] – **debunker** *n*

**debus** /,dee'bus/ *vb* -ss- *vi* to unload (e.g. military stores) from a vehicle ~ *vi* to get out of a motor vehicle [*de-* + *bus*]

**debut** /'deɪb(y)uː/ *n* 1 a first public appearance 2 a formal entrance into society [F *début*, fr *débüter* to begin, fr MF *debuter* to play first, fr *des-de-* + *but* starting point, goal – more at 'BUTT] – **debut** *vi*

**debutant** /'debyuːtənt/ *n* sby making a debut [F *débutant*, fr prp of *débüter*]

**debutante** /'debyuːtənt/ *n* a woman making a debut; esp a young woman making her formal entrance into society [F *débutante*, fem of *débutant*]

**deca-** /deka-/ *dec-*, **deka-**, **dek-** *comb form* ten (10') <decamorous> [decaθlon]  PHYSICS [ME, fr L, fr Gk *deka-*, *dek-*, fr *deka* – more at TEN]

**decade** /'dekaɪd/; also di'kaɪd/ *n* 1 a group, set, or sequence of 10 2 a period of 10 years 3 a division of the rosary containing 10 Hail Marys [ME, fr MF *décade*, fr LL *decad-*, *decas*, fr Gk *dekad-*, *dekas*, fr *deka*]

**decadence** /'dekədəns/ *n* 1 being decadent 2 a period of decline [MF, fr ML *decadentia*, fr LL *decadent-*, *decadens*, prp of *decadere* to fall, sink – more at DECAY]

**decadent** /'dekədənt/ *adj* 1 marked by decay or decline, esp in moral or cultural standards 2 tending to gratify one's desires, appetites, or whims in an excessive or unrestrained manner [back-formation fr *decadence*] – **decadently** *adv*

**decaffeinated** /,dee'kafinaɪtɪd/ *adj*, of coffee having had most of the caffeine removed

**decagon** /'dekəɡɒn/ *n* a polygon of 10 angles and 10 sides [NL *decagonum*, fr Gk *dekagōnōn*, fr *deka-* *deca-* + *-gōnōn* -gon]

**decāl** /'dekəl, di'kəl, 'dekəl/ *n*, chiefly NAm a design or picture, esp on specially prepared paper, for transfer to another surface; a transfer [short for *decalomania*, fr F *décalomanie*, fr *décalquer* to copy by tracing + *manie* mania]

**decalcify** /,dee'kalsɪfɪ/ *vt* to remove calcium or calcium compounds from (bones, teeth, soil, etc) [ISV] – **decalcification** /-fɪ'kaɪʃən/ *n*

**decalitre** /'deka,lɪtə/ *n* ten litres (about 2.2gall) [F *décalitre*, fr *déca-deca* + *litre* litre]

**Decalogue** /'dekələɡ/ *n* TEN COMMANDMENTS [ME *decaloge*, fr LL *decalogus*, fr Gk *dekalogos*, fr *deka-* + *logos* word – more at LEGEND]

**decamp** /,dee'kamp/ *vi* 1 to break up a camp 2 to depart suddenly; abscond [F *décamper*, fr MF *descamper*, fr *des-de-* + *camper* to camp] – **decampment** *n*

**decant** /di'kant/ *vt* 1 to pour from one vessel into another, esp a decanter 2 to draw off without disturbing the sediment [NL *decantare*, fr L *de-* + ML *cantus* side, fr L, iron tyre – more at 'CANT] – **decantation** /,deekan'taɪʃən/ *n*

**decanter** /di'kanta/ *n* an ornamental glass bottle used for serving an alcoholic drink, esp wine [DECANT + 'ER]

**decapitate** /di'kapaɪtəɪt/ *vt* to cut off the head of [LL *decapitatus*, pp of *decapitare*, fr L *de-* + *capit-*, *caput* head – more at HEAD] – **decapitator** /-təɪtə/ *n*, **decapitation** /-təɪʃən/ *n*

**decapod** /'deka,pɒd/ *n* any of an order of crustaceans including the shrimps, lobsters, and crabs that have stalked eyes, 5 pairs of appendages, and the head and thorax fused and covered by a carapace [NL *Decapoda*, order name] – **decapod** *adj*, **decapodal** /di'kapɒd/ *adj*, **decapodan** /di'kapɒd(ə)n/; also ,deka'pɒd(ə)n/ *adj* or *n*, **decapodous** /-dəs/ *adj*

**decarbonize**, -ise /,dee'kɑːbənɪz/ *vt* to remove carbon from [ISV] – **decarbonizer** *n*

**decasyllabic** /,deksi'sləbɪk/ *adj* consisting of 10 syllables [prob fr F *decasyllabique*, fr Gk *dekasyllabos*, fr *deka-* *deca-* + *syllabē* syllable] – **decasyllable** *n*, **decasyllable** /,deksi'sləbəl/ *n*

**decathlete** /di'kathliːt/ *n* sby who competes in the decathlon

**decathlon** /di'kathlɒn/ *n* a men's athletic contest in which each competitor competes in 10 running, jumping, and throwing events [F *décathlon*, fr *déca-* *deca-* + Gk *athlon* contest]

**'decay** /di'kay/ *vi* 1 to decline from a sound or prosperous condition 2 to decrease gradually in quantity, activity, or force; *specif* to undergo radioactive decay 3 to fall into ruin 4 to decline in health, strength, or vigour 5 to undergo decomposition ~ *vt* to destroy by decomposition [ME *decayen*, fr ONF *decair*, fr LL *decadere* to fall, sink, fr L *de-* + *cadere* to fall – more at CHANCE] – **decayer** *n*

**²decay** *n* 1 a gradual decline in strength, soundness, prosperity, or quality 2 a wasting or wearing away; ruin 3 (a product of) rot; *specif* decomposition of organic matter (e.g. proteins), chiefly by bacteria in the presence of oxygen 4 a decline in health or vigour 5 decrease in quantity, activity, or force, esp spontaneous disintegration of an atom or particle (e.g. a meson) usu with the emission of radiation

**Decca** /'deka/ *trademark* – used for a navigational aid that makes use of chains of long-wave radio transmitters to define position in terms of the phase relationships of the radio waves

**decease** /di'siːs/ *n* death – fml [ME *deces*, fr MF, fr L *decessus* departure, death, fr *decessus*, pp of *decedere* to depart, die, fr *de-* + *cedere* to go – more at CEDE] – **decease** *vi*

**deceased** *n* or *adj*, pl **deceased** (sby) no longer living, esp (sby) recently dead

**decadent** /di'siːd(ə)nt/ *n*, NAm a deceased person – used chiefly in law [L *decadent-*, *decadens*, prp of *decedere*]

**deceit** /di'siːt/ *n* 1 the act or practice of deceiving; deception 2 the quality of being deceitful [ME *deceite*, fr OF, fr L *decepta*, fem of *deceptus*, pp of *decipere*]

**deceitful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* having a tendency or disposition to deceive: a not honest **b** deceptive, misleading – **deceitfully** *adv*, **deceitfulness** *n*

**deceive** /di'siːv/ *vt* to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid, delude ~ *vi* to practise deceit [ME *deceiven*, fr OF *deceivre*, fr L *decipere*, fr *de-* + *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – **deceivable** *adj*, **deceiver** *n*, **deceivingly** *adv*

**decelerate** /,dee'seləreɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) move at decreasing speed [*de-* + *accelerate*] – **decelerator** *n*, **deceleration** /-reɪʃən/ *n*

**December** /di'sembə/ *n* the 12th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Decembre*, fr OF, fr L *December* (tenth month), fr *decem* ten – more at TEN]

**Decembrist** /di'sembɪst/ *n* a participant in the unsuccessful uprising against the Tzar Nicholas I in December 1825

**decemvir** /di'semvɪ/ *n* any of a ruling body of 10, *specif* of 10 magistrates in ancient Rome [L, back-formation fr *decemviri*, pl, fr *decem* + *vir*, pl of *vir* man – more at VIRILE] – **decemviral** /-vərəl/ *adj*, **decemvirate** /-vərət/ *n*

**decency** /ˈdeɪsənsi/ *n* 1 propriety, decorum 2 a standard of propriety – usu pl [DECENT + -CY]

**decennial** /ˈdiːniəl/, -ni-əl/ *adj* consisting of, lasting for, or occurring every 10 years – *decennial n*, *decennially adv*

**decennium** /ˈdiːsenjəm/, -ni-əm/ *n*, pl *decenniums*, *decennia* /-nyə-, ni-ə/ a period of 10 years [L, fr *decem* + *annus* year – more at ANNUAL]

**decent** /ˈdeɪsənt/ *adj* 1 conforming to standards of propriety, good taste, or morality; *specif* clothed according to standards of propriety 2 free from obscenity 3 adequate, tolerable (< wages> < housing> < grow a ~ beard>) 4 chiefly Br obliging, considerate <jolly ~ of you> – *informal* [MF or L; MF, fr L *decent-*, *decens*, prp of *decere* to be fitting; akin to L *decus* honour, *dignus* worthy, Gk *dokein* to seem, seem good] – *decently adv*

**decentralization**, -isation /ˌdeɪsentrəlaɪzəʃən/ *n* 1 the distribution of functions and powers from a central authority to regional authorities, departments, etc 2 the redistribution of population and industry from urban centres to outlying areas – *decentralization n*

**decentralize**, -ise /ˌdeɪsentrəlaɪz/ *vt* to bring about the decentralization of ~ *vt* to undergo decentralization

**deception** /ˈdiːsepʃən/ *n* 1a the act of deceiving b the fact or condition of being deceived 2 sth that deceives; a trick [ME *decepcioun*, fr MF *deception*, fr LL *deception-*, *deceptio*, fr L *deceptus*, pp of *decipere* to deceive] – *deceptional adj*

**deceptive** /ˈdiːseptɪv/ *adj* tending or having power to deceive; misleading – *deceptively adv*, *deceptiveness n*

**decebrate** /ˈdeɪsəbreɪt/ *vt* to remove or inactivate the brain of – *decebrate adj*, *decebration* /-breɪʃən/ *n*

**deci-** /ˈdesi-, -desə/ *comb form* one tenth part of (a specified unit) <decilitre> ➞ PHYSICS [F *déci-*, fr L *decimus* tenth, fr *decem* ten – more at TEN]

**decibel** /ˈdesɪbel/ *n* 1 a unit for expressing the ratio of 2 amounts of electric or acoustic signal power equal to 10 times the common logarithm of this ratio 2 a unit for expressing the intensity of sounds on a scale from zero for the average least perceptible sound to about 130 for the average pain level [ISV *deci-* + *bel*]

**decide** /ˈdiːsɪd/ *vt* 1 to arrive at a solution that ends uncertainty or dispute about (< the borderline issues>) 2 to bring to a definitive end 3 to induce to come to a choice ~ *vi* to make a choice or judgment [ME *deciden*, fr MF *decider*, fr L *decidere*, lit, to cut off, fr *de-* + *cadere* to cut – more at CONCISE] – *decider n*, *decidable adj*, *decidability* /-dəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**decided** *adj* 1 unquestionable (< a ~ advantage>) 2 free from doubt or hesitation (< a woman of ~ opinions>) – *decidedly adv*, *decidedness n*

**deciding** /ˈdiːsɪdɪŋ/ *adj* DECISIVE 1

**decidua** /ˈdiːsɪdʒi-ə/, *n*, pl *deciduae* /-i/ a part of the lining of the womb that in women and other higher mammals undergoes special changes in preparation for pregnancy and is cast off during menstruation or while giving birth [NL, fr L, fem of *deciduus*] – *decidual adj*

**deciduous** /ˈdiːsɪdʒi-əs/ *adj* 1 (having parts) that fall off or are shed seasonally or at a particular stage in development (< teeth> (< a ~ tree>) 2 ephemeral, transitory – *fml* [L *deciduus*, fr *decidere* to fall off, fr *de-* + *cadere* to fall – more at CHANCE] – *deciduously adv*, *deciduousness n*

**decigram** /ˈdesɪˌɡrəm/ *n* one tenth of a gram (0.035oz) ➞ UNIT [F *décigramme*, fr *déci-* + *gramme* gram]

**decilitre** /ˈdesɪˌleɪtə/ *n* one tenth of a litre (about 0.18pt) ➞ UNIT

**decimal** /ˈdesɪməl/ *adj* 1 numbered or proceeding by tens: a based on the number 10 b subdivided into units which are tenths, hundredths, etc of another unit c expressed in a decimal fraction 2 using a decimal system (e.g. of coinage) (< when Britain went ~ >) [(assumed) NL *decimalis*, fr ML, of a tithe, fr L *decima* tithe – more at DIME] – *decimally adv*

**decimal**, *decimal* *fraction* *n* a fraction that is expressed as a sum of integral multiples of powers of  $\frac{1}{10}$  by writing a dot followed by 1 digit for the number of tenths, 1 digit for the number of hundredths, and so on (e.g.  $0.25 = \frac{25}{100}$ ) – compare COMMON FRACTION

**decimalize**, -ise /ˈdesɪmalaɪz/ *vt* to convert to a decimal system (< currency>) – *decimalization* /-laɪzəʃən/ *n*

**decimal point** *n* the dot at the left of a decimal fraction

**decimate** /ˈdesɪmaɪt/ *vt* 1 to kill every tenth man of (e.g. mutinous soldiers) 2 to destroy a large part of [L *decimatus*, pp of *decimare*, fr *decimus* tenth, fr *decem* ten] – *decimation* /-məˈʃən/ *n*

**decimetre** /ˈdesɪˌmi:tə/ *n* one tenth of a metre (about 3.9in)

**decipher** /ˈdiːʃɪə/ *vt* 1a to convert into intelligible form b to decode 2, to make out the meaning of despite obscurity (< de- + cipher>) – *decipherable adj*, *decipherer n*, *decipherment n*

**decision** /ˈdiːsɪʒən/ *n* 1a deciding b a conclusion arrived at after consideration 2 a report of a conclusion (< the ~ appeared in all the newspapers>) 3 promptness and firmness in deciding (< a man of courage and ~ >) [MF, fr L *decisio-*, *decisio*, fr *decisus*, pp of *decidere* to decide] – *decisional adj*

**decisive** /ˈdiːsɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 having the power or quality of deciding; conclusive 2 marked by or indicative of determination or firmness, resolute 3 unmistakable, unquestionable (< a ~ victory>) – *decisively adv*, *decisiveness n*

**deck** /dek/ *n* 1 a platform in a ship serving usu as a structural element and forming the floor for its compartments 2 sth resembling the deck of a ship: e.g. a level or floor of a bus with more than 1 floor b the roadway of a bridge c TAPE DECK d RECORD DECK 3 NAM a pack of playing cards 4 the ground – *informal*; chiefly in *hit the deck* [prob modif. of (assumed) LG *verdeck* (whence G *verdeck*), fr (assumed) MLG *vordeck*, fr MLG *vordecken* to cover, fr *vor-* (akin to OHG *fur-* for-) + *decken* to cover] – *decked adj*

**deck** *vt* to array, decorate – often + *out* [D *dekken* to cover; akin to OHG *decken* to cover]

**deck chair** *n* an adjustable folding chair made of canvas stretched over a wooden frame

**decker** /ˈdeɪkə/ *n* sth with a deck or a specified number of levels, floors, or layers – often in combination (< double-decker bus>)

**deckhand** /-ˈhænd/ *n* a seaman who performs manual duties

**deckhouse** /-ˈhoʊz/ *n* a cabin built on a ship's upper deck

**decking** /ˈdeɪkɪŋ/ *n* a deck; also material for a deck

**deckle** /ˈdeɪkl/ *n* a part of a paper-making machine that determines the width of the web [G *deckel*, lit, cover, fr *decken* to cover, fr OHG]

**deckle edge** *n* a rough untrimmed edge of paper – *deckle-edged* /ˈdeɪkl ˈeɪdʒ/ *adj*

**deck tennis** *n* a game in which players toss a quoit back and forth over a net stretched across a small court [fr its being played chiefly on the decks of ocean liners]

**declaim** /ˈdiːklaɪm/ *vi* 1 to speak rhetorically 2 to speak pompously or bombastically ~ *vt* to deliver rhetorically, *specif* to recite in elocution [ME *declamen*, fr L *declamare*, fr *de-* + *clamare* to cry out; akin to L *calare* to call – more at LOW] – *declaimer n*, *declamation* /ˈdeɪkləˈmeɪʃən/ *n*

**declamatory** /ˈdiːkləmə(ə)n/ *adj* of or marked by declamation [L *declamatorius*, fr *declamatus*, pp of *declamare*]

**declarant** /ˈdiːkleərənt/ *n* sby who makes a legal declaration [DECLARE + -ANT]

**declaration** /ˈdeɪkləˈreɪʃən/ *n* 1 sth declared 2 a document containing such a declaration [DECLARE + -ATION]

**declarative** /ˈdiːklərətɪv/ *adj* 1 constituting a statement rather than a command or a question (< sentence>) 2 declaratory – *declaratively adv*

**declaratory** /ˈdiːklərətɪv/ *adj* serving to declare, set forth, or explain

**declare** /ˈdiːkleə/ *vt* 1 to make known formally or explicitly 2 to make evident; show 3 to state emphatically; affirm (< ~ his innocence>) 4 to make a full statement of (one's taxable or dutiable income or property) 5a to announce (e.g. a trump suit) in a card game b to meld (a combination of playing cards) in canasta, rummy, etc ~ *vi* 1 to make a declaration 2 to avow one's support 3 of a captain or team to announce one's decision to end one's side's innings in cricket before all the batsmen are out [ME *declaren*, fr MF *declarer*, fr L *declarare*, fr *de-* + *clarare* to make clear, fr *clarus* clear – more at CLEAR] – *declarable adj* – *declare war* to commence hostilities; *specif* to make a formal declaration of intention to go to war

**declarer** /ˈdiːkleərə/ *n* the player in bridge who was the first on his/her side to bid the trump suit and plays both his/her own hand and that of the dummy [DECLARE + -ER]

**déclassé** /ˈdeɪˌklɑːseɪ/ *adj* fallen or lowered in class, rank, etc [F, fr pp of *déclasser* to remove from a class]

**declassify** /ˈdeɪˌklaɪsɪf/ *vt* to declare (e.g. information) no longer secret

**declension** /ˈdiːklensən/ *n* 1 a schematic arrangement of noun, adjective, or pronoun inflections 2 a class of nouns or adjectives having the same type of inflectional forms [prob alter. of earlier *declension*, modif. of MF *declinaison*, fr LL *declination-*, *declinatio*, fr L, grammatical inflection, turning aside, fr *declinatus*, pp of *declinare* to inflect, turn aside] – *declensional adj*

**declination** /ˈdeɪklɪˈneɪʃən/ *n* 1 angular distance (e.g. of a star) N or S from the celestial equator 2 a formal refusal 3 the angle between a

compass needle and the geographical meridian, equal to the difference between magnetic and true north [ME *declinacioun*, fr MF *declination*, fr L *declination-*, *declinatio* turning aside, altitude of the pole] – *declinational adj*

**decline** /di'kli:n/ *vt* **1a** to slope downwards; descend **b** to bend down; droop **2a** of a celestial body to sink towards setting **b** to draw towards a close, wane **3** to refuse ~ *vt* **1** to give in prescribed order the grammatical forms of (a noun, pronoun, or adjective) **2a** to refuse to undertake, engage in, or comply with (< battle) **b** to refuse courteously (< an invitation) [ME *declinē*, fr MF *decliner*, fr L *declinare* to turn aside, inflect, fr *de-* + *clinare* to incline – more at *'LEAN*] – *declinable adj*

**decline** *n* **1** the process of declining **a** a gradual physical or mental decay **b** a change to a lower state or level **2** the period during which sthg is approaching its end **3** a downward slope

**declinometer** /dekli'nomitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring astronomical or magnetic declination [ISV *declino-* (fr *declination*) + *-meter*]

**declivity** /di'klivəti/ *n* **1** downward inclination **2** a descending slope *USE* fml [L *declivitat-*, *declivitas*, fr *declivis* sloping down, fr *de-* + *clivus* slope, hill; akin to L *clinare*] – *declivitous adj*

**decoct** /di'kɒkt/ *vt* **1** to extract the essence of by boiling **2** to boil down, concentrate [L *decoctus*, pp of *decoquere*, fr *de-* + *coquere* to cook – more at *'COOK*] – *decoction* /di'kɒkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**decode** /dee'kəʊd/ *vt* to convert (a coded message) into intelligible language – *decoder n*

**decoke** /dee'kəʊk/ *vt, Br* to remove carbon deposits from (e.g. an internal-combustion engine) – *decoke n*

**décolletage** /daykə'lə'tʒ/ (Fr *dekɔltaʒ*) *n* the low-cut neckline of a dress [F, action of cutting or wearing a low neckline, fr *décolleter*]

**décolleté** /daykə'lə'teɪ, -' (Fr *dekɔlte*) *adj* **1** wearing a strapless or low-necked dress **2** low-necked [F, fr pp of *décolleter* to give a low neckline to, fr *dé-* + *collet* collar, fr OF *colet*, fr *col* collar, neck, fr L *collum* neck]

**decolonize**, -ise /dee'kɒləni:z/ *vt* to free from colonial status – *decolonization n*

**decolorize**, -ise, chiefly Br *decolourize*, -ise /dee'kʊləri:z/ *vt* to remove colour from – *decolorizer n*, *decolorization* /-ri:'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**decommission** /dee'kə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *vt* to remove (a ship) from service

**decompose** /dekə'm'pəʊz/ *vt* **1** to separate into constituent parts, elements, atoms, etc **2** to rot ~ *vi* to undergo chemical breakdown, decay, rot ~ *FOOD* [F *décomposer*, fr *dé-* + *composer* to compose] – *decomposer n*, *decomposable adj*, *decomposability* /-zə'biləti/ *n*, *decomposition* /dekə'm'pəʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *decompositional adj*

**decompress** /dekə'm'pres/ *vt* to release from pressure or compression – *decompression* /-preʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**decompression sickness** *n* CAISSON DISEASE

**decongestant** /dekən'jest(ə)nt/ *n* sthg (e.g. a drug) that relieves congestion

**decontaminate** /dekən'təminayt/ *vt* to rid of contamination (e.g. radioactivity) – *decontamination* /-nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**décor**, *décor* /dekəw/ *n* **1** the style and layout of interior decoration and furnishings **2** a stage setting [F *décor*, fr *décorer* to decorate, fr L *decorare*]

**decorate** /dekə'reɪt/ *vt* **1a** to add sthg ornamental to **b** to apply new coverings of paint, wallpaper, etc to the interior or exterior surfaces of **2** to award a mark of honour to [L *decoratus*, pp of *decorare*, fr *decor-*, *decus* ornament, honour – more at *DECENT*]

**Decorated** *adj* of a Gothic style of architecture prevalent in Britain from the late 13th to the mid 14th c characterized by ogee arches and elaborate ornamentation ~ CHURCH

**decoration** /dekə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** an ornament (<Christmas ~s) **2** a badge of honour (e.g. a medal) [DECORATE + *-ION*]

**decorative** /dek(ə)'rəti:v/ *adj* serving to decorate, esp purely ornamental rather than functional – *decoratively adv*, *decorativeness n*

**decorator** /dekə'reɪtə/ *n* one who designs or executes interior decoration and furnishings [DECORATE + *-OR*]

**decorous** /dekə'reɪs/ *adj* marked by propriety and good taste; correct [L *decorus*, fr *decor* beauty, grace; akin to L *decere* to be fitting – more at *DECENT*] – *decorously adv*, *decorousness n*

**decorticate** /dee'kɔ:tikaɪt/ *vt* **1** to peel the husk, bark or other outer covering from **2** to remove (part of) the cortex from (e.g. the brain) [L *decorticiatus*, pp of *decorticare* to remove the bark from, fr *de-* + *cortex*, cortex bark – more at *CUIRASS*] – *decorticator n*, *decortication* /-kəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**decorum** /di'kawrəm/ *n* propriety and good taste in conduct or appearance [L, fr neut of *decorus*]

**decoupage**, *découpage* /daykə'pəʒh/ (Fr *dekupaʒ*) *n* the art of applying decorative cutouts (e.g. of paper) which are then coated with varnish, lacquer, etc [F *découpage*, lit., act of cutting out, fr MF, fr *decouper* to cut out, fr *de-* + *couper* to cut – more at *'COPE*]

**decouple** /dee'kʊpl/ *vt*, chiefly Br to isolate (e.g. systems, esp oscillating electrical systems) one from another so that they behave independently

**decoy** /deekoy, di'koy/ *n* **1** a pond into which wild fowl are lured for capture **2** sthg used to lure or lead another into a trap **3** sby or sthg used to distract or divert the attention (e.g. of an enemy) [prob fr *D de kooi*, lit., the cage, fr *de* the + *kooi* cage, fr L *cavea* – more at *CAGE*]

**decoy** *vt* to lure or entice (as if) by a decoy

**decrease** /di'krees/ *vb* to (cause to) grow progressively less (e.g. in size, amount, number, or intensity) [ME *decreessen*, fr (assumed) AF *decreistre*, fr L *decrescere*, fr *de-* + *creescere* to grow – more at *CRESCENT*] – *decreasingly adv*

**decrease** /di'krees, di'krees/ *n* **1** the process of decreasing **2** the amount by which sthg decreases

**decree** /di'kree/ *n* **1** an order usu having legal force **2a** a religious rule made by a council or titular head **b** a foreordaining will **3** a judicial decision, esp in an equity, probate, or divorce court [ME, fr MF *decree*, fr L *decretum*, fr neut of *decretus*, pp of *decernere* to decide, fr *de-* + *cernere* to sift, decide – more at *CERTAIN*]

**decree** *vt* to command or impose by decree (< an amnesty) – *decree* /di'kree-ə/ *n*

**decree nisi** /di'kree 'neezi, -zie, 'niesie/ *n* a provisional decree of divorce that is made absolute after a fixed period unless cause to the contrary is shown [L *nisi* unless, fr *ne-* not + *si* if]

**decrepit** /di'krept/ *adj* **1** wasted and weakened (as if) by the infirmities of old age **2a** worn-out **b** fallen into ruin or disrepair [ME, fr MF, fr L *decrepitus*, fr *de-* + *crepitus*, pp of *crepare* to crack, creak] – *decrepittly adv*, *decrepitude* /-tyoohd/ *n*

**decrepitate** /di'kreptayt/ *vt* to roast or calcine (e.g. a salt) so as to cause cracking or until cracking stops ~ *vi* to become decrepitated [prob fr (assumed) NL *decrepitatus*, pp of *decrepitare*, fr L *de-* + *crepitare* to crackle – more at *CREPITATE*] – *decrepitation* /-təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**decrecendo** /dekə're'shendə/ *n, adv, or adj*, pl *decrescendos* (a) diminuendo [It, lit., decreasing, fr L *decrescendum*, gerund of *decre-scere*]

**decreescent** /di'kres(ə)nt/ *adj* decreasing, waning [alter of earlier *deccessant*, prob fr AF, prp of (assumed) AF *decreistre* to decrease]

**decretal** /di'kreɪtəl/ *n* an authoritative papal decision on a point of canon law [ME *decretale*, fr MF, fr LL *decretalis* of a decree, fr L *decretum* decree]

**decretory** /di'kreɪt(ə)n/ *adj* relating to or fixed by a decree or decision [L *decretorius*, fr *decretus*]

**decry** /di'kri:/ *vt* **1** to depreciate (e.g. a coin) officially or publicly **2** to express strong disapproval of [F *décrier*, fr OF *descrier*, fr *des-* + *crier* to cry] – *decrier n*

**decumbent** /di'kʌmb(ə)nt/ *adj*, of a plant lying on the ground except for a raised apex or extremity [L *decumbent-*, *decumbens*, prp of *decumbere* to lie down, fr *de-* + *-cumbere* to lie down – more at *SUCCUMB*]

**decuple** /dekyoopl/ *adj* **1** tenfold **2** taken in groups of 10 [F *décuple*, fr MF, fr LL *decuplus*, fr L *decem* ten + *-plus* multiplied by – more at *TEN, DOUBLE*]

**decussate** /di'kusayt, -sət/ *adj*, of leaves arranged in pairs each at right angles to the next pair above or below ~ PLANT [L *decussatus*, pp of *decussare* to intersect, fr *decussis* Roman numeral X, intersection, irreg fr *decem* ten + *ass-*, as unit, copper coin – more at *ACE*] – *decussately adv*

**decussation** /dekə'sayʃ(ə)n/ *n* a crossed tract of nerve fibres passing between parts of the body on opposite sides of the brain or spinal cord; a commissure [DECUSSATE + *-ION*]

**dedicate** /dedikayt/ *vt* **1** CONSECRATE **2A** **2a** to set apart to a definite use **b** to assign permanently to a goal or way of life **3** to inscribe or address (a book, song, etc) to somebody or something as a mark of esteem or affection (< a book to a friend) [ME, fr L *dedicatus*, pp of *dedicare* to affirm, dedicate, fr *de-* + *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate] – *dedicator n*, *dedicatee* /dedika'tee/ *n*

**dedicated** *adj* **1** devoted to a cause, ideal, or purpose; zealous (< a ~ scholar) **2** given over to a particular purpose (< a ~ process control computer) – *dedicatedly adv*



- dedication** /ˈdedɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a devoting or setting aside for a particular, specif religious, purpose 2 a phrase or sentence that dedicates 3 self-sacrificing devotion [DEDICATE + -ION] – **dedicative** /ˈdedɪkətɪv/ *adj*, **dedicatory** /ˈdedɪkət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- deduce** /dɪˈduːks/ *vt* to establish by deduction; *specif* to infer from a general principle – compare **INDUCE** 3 [L *deducere*, lit., to lead away, fr *de-* + *ducere* to lead – more at **TOW**] – **deducible** /-səbl/ *adj*
- deduct** /dɪˈdukt/ *vt* to subtract (an amount) from a total [L *deductus*, pp of *deducere*] – **deductible** *adj*, **deductibility** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*
- deduction** /dɪˈduktʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an act of taking away b sth that is or may be subtracted 2 (the deriving of) a necessary conclusion reached by reasoning; *specif* an inference in which a particular conclusion is drawn from general premises
- deductive** /dɪˈduktɪv/ *adj* 1 of or employing mathematical or logical deduction 2 capable of being deduced from premises; inferential – **deductively** *adv*
- deed** /diːd/ *n* 1 sth that is done (evil ~s) 2 an illustrious act or action, a feat, exploit 3 the act of performing (*never mistake the word for the ~*) 4 a signed (and sealed) written document containing some legal transfer, bargain, or contract [ME *dede*, fr OE *dæd*; akin to OE *dōn* to do] – **deedless** *adj*
- deed** *vt*, *NAm* to convey or transfer by deed
- deed**, **poll** *n*, *pl* **deeds** *poll* a deed made and executed by 1 party only [ˈdiːd + *poll*, *adj* (having the edges cut even rather than indented), fr ˈpoll]
- deejay** /ˈdeɪˌdʒeɪ/ *n* **DISC JOCKEY** [ˈdɪsk ˈdʒɒki] *disc jockey*
- deem** /diːm/ *vt* to judge, consider – *fml* (*would ~ it an honour*) [ME *demen*, fr OE *dēman*; akin to OHG *tuomen* to judge, OE *dōm* judgment]
- deep** /diːp/ *adj* 1 extending far from some surface or area e.g. a extending far downwards (a ~ well) b (extending) far from the surface of the body c extending well back from a front surface (a ~ cupboard) d(1) near the outer limits of the playing area or far from an attacking movement (2) of or occupying a fielding position in cricket far from the batsman  **SPORT** 2 having a specified extension in an implied direction (*shelf 20 inches ~*) (*cars parked 3-deep*) 3a difficult to understand (*may be true, but it's too ~ for me*) b capable of profound thought (a ~ thinker) c engrossed, involved (a man ~ in debt) d intense, extreme (~ sleep) (~ sin) 4a of a colour high in saturation and low in lightness b having a low musical pitch of pitch range 5 remote in time or space [ME, fr OE *deop*; akin to OHG *tiuf* deep, OE *dyppan* to dip – more at **DIP**] – **deeply** *adv*, **deepness** *n* – in deep water in difficulty or distress; unable to manage
- deep** *adv* 1a(1) to a great depth (*still waters run ~*) (2) deep to a specified degree – *usu* in combination (*ankle-deep in mud*) b well within the boundaries (a house ~ in the woods) 2 far on; late (*danced ~ into the night*) 3 in a deep position (*the wingers were playing ~*) 4 far back in space or time (*had its roots ~ in the Dark Ages*)
- deep** *n* 1 a vast or immeasurable extent; an abyss 2a the sea b any of the very deep portions of a body of water, esp the sea
- deepen** /ˈdiːp(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become deeper or more profound
- deep-freeze** *vt* -froze /ˈfroʒz/; -frozen /ˈfroʒz(ə)n/ to freeze or store (e.g. food) in a freezer
- deep freeze** *n* a freezer
- deep-fry** *vt* to fry (food) by complete immersion in hot fat or oil – **deep-fryer** *n*
- deep** /diː/ *n*, *pl* **deers** also **deers** 1 any of several ruminant mammals of which most of the males and some of the females bear antlers 2 *archaic* an animal; esp a small mammal [ME, deer, animal, fr OE *dēor* beast; akin to OHG *tior* wild animal, Skt *dhr̥vaśati* he perishes]
- deerhound** /-ˈhoʊnd/ *n* (any of) a breed of tall dogs like but larger than the greyhound
- deerstalker** /-ˈstawk/ *n* a close-fitting hat with peaks at the front and the back and flaps that may be folded down as coverings for ears  **GARMENT** [fr its suitability to be worn by a person stalking deer]
- deface** /dɪˈfeɪs/ *vt* to mar the external appearance of [ME *defacen*, fr MF *defacier*, fr OF, fr *des-* de- + *face*] – **defacement** *n*, **defacer** *n*
- de facto** /di ˈfaktə/ *adv* in reality; actually [NL]
- de facto** *adj* existing in fact; effective (a ~ state of war) – compare **DE JURE**
- defecate** /ˈdefəkəɪt/ *vb*, chiefly *Br* to defecate – **defaecation** /-ˈkayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- defalcate** /ˈdefəlˌkayt/ *vi* to embezzle – *fml* [ML *defalcatus*, pp of *defalcare*, fr L *de-* + *falc-*, *falx* sickle] – **defalcator** *n*, **defalcation** /-ˈfalkəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- defame** /dɪˈfaɪm/ *vt* to injure the reputation of by libel or slander [ME *diffamen*, *defamen*, fr MF & L, ME *diffamen*, fr MF *diffamer*, fr L *diffamare*, fr *dis-* + *fama* fame; ME *defamen*, fr MF *defamer*, fr ML *defamare*, fr L *de-* + *fama*] – **defamation** /ˈdefəˈmayʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **defamatory** /dɪˈfəmətri/ *adj*, **defamer** *n*
- defat** /ˈdeɪˌfæt/ *vt* to remove fat from
- default** /dɪˈfɔːlt/ *n* failure to act, pay, appear, or compete [ME *defaute*, *defaute*, fr OF *defaute*, fr (assumed) VL *defallita*, fr fem of *defallitus*, pp of *defallere* to be lacking, fail, fr L *de-* + *fallere* to deceive] – in default of in the absence of
- default** *vi* to fail to meet an esp financial obligation ~ *vt* 1 to fail to perform, pay, or make good 2 to declare to be in default – **defaulter** *n*
- defessance** /dɪˈfeɪz(ə)ns/ *n* a rendering null or void [ME *defessance*, fr AF, fr OF *defessant*, prp of *deffaïre*]
- defessible** /dɪˈfeɪzəbl/ *adj* capable of being annulled – **defessibility** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*
- defeat** /dɪˈfiːt/ *vt* 1a to nullify (~ an estate) b to frustrate (~ a hope) 2 to win victory over (~ the opposing team) [ME *deffeten*, fr MF *deffaut*, pp of *deffaïre* to destroy, fr ML *disfacere*, fr L *dis-* + *facere* to do – more at ˈdo]
- defeat** *n* 1 an overthrow, esp of an army in battle 2 the loss of a contest
- defeatism** /dɪˈfiːtɪz(ə)m/ *n* acceptance of or resignation to defeat – **defeatist** *n* or *adj*
- defecate**, *Br* also **defaecate** /ˈdefəkəɪt/ *vb* to discharge (esp faeces) from the bowels [L *defaccatus*, pp of *defaccare*, fr *de-* + *faec-*, *faex* dregs] – **defecation** /-ˈkayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- defect** /ˈdiːfekt/ *n* 1 an imperfection that impairs worth or usefulness (a hearing ~) 2 an irregularity (e.g. a foreign atom) in the lattice of a crystal [ME *defaict*, fr MF *defect*, fr L *defectus* lack, fr *defectus*, pp of *deficere* to desert, fail, fr *de-* + *facere*]
- defect** /dɪˈfekt/ *vi* to desert a cause or party, often in order to espouse another [L *defectus*, pp] – **defector** *n*, **defection** /dɪˈfekʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- defective** /dɪˈfektɪv/ *adj* 1 lacking sth essential: faulty (a ~ pane of glass) (~ eyesight) 2 lacking 1 or more of the usual grammatical inflections – **defectively** *adv*, **defectiveness** *n*
- defective** *n* one who is subnormal physically or mentally
- defence**, *NAm* chiefly **defense** /dɪˈfens/ *n* 1 the act or action of defending  2a a means or method of defending; also, *pl* a defensive structure b an argument in support or justification c a defendant's denial, answer, or strategy 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr a a defending party or group (e.g. in a court of law) b defensive players, acts, or moves in a game or sport 4 the military resources of a country (~ budget) [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *defensa*, fr L, fem of *defensus*, pp of *defendere*] – **defenceless** *adj*, **defencelessly** *adv*, **defencelessness** *n*
- defence mechanism** *n* an (unconscious) mental process (e.g. projection or repression) that prevents the entry of unacceptable or painful thoughts into consciousness
- defend** /dɪˈfend/ *vt* 1a to protect from attack b to maintain by argument in the face of opposition or criticism c to attempt to prevent an opponent from scoring in (e.g. a goal) 2 to act as legal representative in court for ~ *vi* 1 to take action against attack or challenge 2 to play or be in defence [ME *defenden*, fr OF *defendre*, fr L *defendere*, fr *de-* + *fendere* to strike; akin to OE *gūth* battle, war, Gk *thenein* to strike] – **defendable** *adj*
- defendant** /dɪˈfend(ə)nt/ *n* a person, company, etc against whom a criminal charge or civil claim is made – compare **PLAINTIFF** [DEFEND + -ANT]
- defender** /dɪˈfendə/ *n* sby who plays in a defensive position in a sport  **SPORT** [DEFEND + -ER]
- defensible** /dɪˈfensəbl/ *adj* capable of being defended [ME, fr LL *defensibilis*, fr *defensus*] – **defensibly** *adv*, **defensibility** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*
- defensive** /dɪˈfensɪv/ *adj* 1 serving to defend 2a devoted to resisting or preventing aggression or attack; also disposed (as if) to ward off expected criticism or critical inquiry b of or relating to the attempt to keep an opponent from scoring – **defensively** *adv*, **defensiveness** *n*
- defensive** *n* – on the defensive being prepared for expected aggression, attack, or criticism



**'defer** /di'fuh/ *vt -rr-* to delay; PUT OFF 2a [ME *deferren*, *differren*, fr MF *differre*, fr L *differre* to postpone, be different – more at DIFFER] – **deferment** *n*, **defferrable** *adj*, **deferral** *n*, **deferrer** *n*

**'defer** *vi -rr-* *vi* to submit to another's opinion, usu through deference or respect [ME *deferren*, *differren*, fr MF *deferer*, *defferer*, fr LL *differre*, fr L, to bring down, bring, fr *de-* + *ferre* to carry – more at 'BEAR]

**deference** /def(ə)'rens/ *n* respect and esteem due a superior or an elder ['DEFER + -ENCE] – *in deference* to because of respect for

**deferential** /defə'rensh(ə)l/ *adj* showing or expressing deference (< ~ *attention*) [L *deferent-*, *deferens*, prp of *deferre*] – **deferentially** *adv*

**deferred** /di'fuhd/ *adj* withheld for or until a stated time (< a ~ *payment*)

**deferred share** *n*, chiefly Br a fixed-dividend share that ranks after an ordinary share in the claim on dividends – compare PREFERENCE SHARE, ORDINARY SHARE

**defiance** /di'fie:əns/ *n* a disposition to resist, contempt of opposition [DEFY + -ANCE] – **defiant** *adj*, **defiantly** *adv* – *in defiance* of despite; CONTRARY TO

**defibrillate** /dec'fibrilayt/ *vt* to restore the normal regular beating and rhythm of (a heart) – **defibrillator** /-laytə/ *n*, **defibrillatory** /-latrɪ/ *adj*, **defibrillative** /-lativ/ *adj*, **defibrillation** /-laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**deficiency** /di'fish(ə)nɪs/ *n* 1 being deficient 2 a shortage of substances necessary to health

**deficiency disease** *n* a disease (e.g. scurvy) caused by a lack of essential vitamins, minerals, etc in the diet

**deficiency payment** *n* a payment made to farmers by the British government until Britain joined the EEC in 1973 to make up the difference between the market price for agricultural products and the guaranteed minimum price

**deficient** /di'fish(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 lacking in some necessary quality or element 2 not up to a normal standard or complement [L *deficient-*, *deficiens*, prp of *deficere* to be wanting – more at 'DEFECT] – **deficiently** *adv*

**deficit** /'defəsɪt/ *n* 1 a deficiency in amount or quality 2 an excess of expenditure over revenue [F *déficit*, fr L *deficit* it is wanting, fr *deficere*]

**de fide** /di 'fiedɪ/ *adj* or *adv* (held) as an obligatory article of faith [NL, from faith]

**'defilade** /def'ilayd/ *vt* to arrange (fortifications) so as to protect from enemy fire [prob fr *de-* + *-filade* (as in *enfilade*)]

**'defilade** *n* the act or process of defilading

**'defile** /di'fiel/ *vt* 1 to make unclean or impure 2 to deprive of virginity [ME *defilen*, alter. of *defoulen* to trample, defile, fr OF *defouler* to trample, fr *de-* + *fouler* to trample, lit., to full – more at 'FUL-] – **defilement** *n*, **defiler** *n*

**'defile** *vi* to march off in a file [F *défiler*, fr *dé-* *de-* + *filer* to move in a column – more at 'HIE]

**'defile** *n* a narrow passage or gorge [F *défilé*, fr pp of *défiler*]

**define** /di'fiən/ *vt* 1a to fix or mark the limits of, demarcate b to make clear or precise in outline (< *the issues aren't too well ~d*) 2a to be the essential quality or qualities of, identify (< *whatever ~s us as human*) b to set forth the meaning of (< a word) ~ *vi* to make a definition [ME *definēn*, fr MF & L, MF *definēr*, fr L *definire*, fr *de-* + *finire* to limit, end, fr *finis* boundary, end] – **definable** *adj*, **definer** *n*

**defining** /di'fiəniŋ/ *adj* RESTRICTIVE 2

**definite** /'defɪnət/ *adj* 1 having distinct or certain limits 2a free of all ambiguity, uncertainty, or obscurity b unquestionable, decided (< a ~ *advantage*) 3 designating an identified or immediately identifiable person or thing (< *the ~ article* the) [L *definitus*, pp of *definire*] – **definitely** *adv*, **definiteness** *n*

**definite integral** *n* a number that is the difference between the values of the indefinite integral of a given function at the limits of a given interval ∫ SYMBOL

**definition** /defɪ'nɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1a a word or phrase expressing the essential nature of a person, word, or thing; a meaning b the action or process of stating such a meaning 2a the action or power of making definite and clear b(1) distinctness of outline or detail (e.g. in a photograph) (2) clarity, esp of musical sound in reproduction [DEFINITE + -ION] – **definitional** *adj*

**definitive** /di'fɪnətɪv/ *adj* 1 serving to provide a final solution (< a ~ *victory*) 2 authoritative and apparently exhaustive (< a ~ *biography*) 3 of a postage stamp issued as one of the normal stamps of the country or territory of use – **definitively** *adv*, **definitiveness** *n*

**deflagrate** /deflag'reɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) burn rapidly with sparks and intense heat – compare DETONATE [L *deflagratus*, pp of *deflagrare* to

burn down, fr *de-* + *flagrare* to burn – more at BLACK] – **deflagration** /-græʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**deflate** /di'flayt, dec-/ *vt* 1 to release air or gas from 2a to reduce in size or importance b to reduce in self-confidence or self-importance, esp suddenly 3 to reduce (a price level) or cause (the availability of credit or the economy) to contract ~ *vi* to lose firmness (as if) through the escape of contained gas [*de-* + *-flate* (as in *inflate*)] – **deflator** *n*

**deflation** /di'flaysh(ə)n, dec-/ *n* 1a a contraction in the volume of available money and credit, and thus in the economy, esp as a result of government policy b a decline in the general level of prices, 2 the erosion of soil by the wind [DEFLATE + -ION] – **deflationary** *adj*

**deflect** /di'flekt/ *vb* to turn from a straight course or fixed direction [L *deflectere* to bend down, turn aside, fr *de-* + *flectere* to bend] – **deflective** *adj*, **deflector** *n*

**deflection**, Br also **deflexion** /di'fleksh(ə)n/ *n* (the amount or degree of) deflecting

**defloration** /deflaw'reɪsh(ə)n, dec-/ *n* deflowering or being deflowered [ME *defloracioun*, fr LL *defloration-*, *defloratio*, fr *defloratus*, pp of *deflorare*]

**deflower** /dec'fləʊə/ *vt* to deprive of virginity; ravish [ME *deflouren*, fr MF or LL, MF *deflorer*, fr LL *deflorare*, fr L *de-* + *flor-*, *flos* flower] – **deflowerer** *n*

**defocus** /dec'fəʊkəs/ *vb -ss-, -s-* *vb* to put or go out of focus

**defog** /dec'fɒg/ *vt -gg-* NAm to demist – **defogger** *n*

**defoliant** /dec'fəʊli-ənt/ *n* a chemical applied to plants to cause the leaves to drop off prematurely [*defoliate* (fr LL *defoliatus*, pp of *defoliare* to strip of leaves, fr *de-* + *folium* leaf) + -ant] – **defoliate** *vt* or *adj*, **defoliation** *n*, **defoliator** *n*

**deforest** /di'fɒrɪst/ *vt* to clear of forests – **deforestation** /-'stəɪ-ʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**deform** /di'fawm/ *vt* 1 to spoil the form or appearance of 2 to make hideous or monstrous 3 to alter the shape of by stress ~ *vi* to become misshapen or changed in shape [ME *deformen*, fr MF or L, MF *deformer*, fr L *deformare*, fr *de-* + *formare* to form, fr *forma* form] – **deformation** /defə'maysh(ə)n/ *n*, **deformational** *adj*

**deformed** /di'fawmd/ *adj* distorted or unshapely in form

**deformity** /di'fawmɪti/ *n* 1 the state of being deformed 2 a physical blemish or distortion, a disfigurement [ME *deformite*, fr MF *deformité*, fr L *deformati-*, *deformatas*, fr *deformis* deformed, fr *de-* + *forma*]

**defraud** /di'fraʊd/ *vt* to cheat of sthg [ME *defrauden*, fr MF *defrauder*, fr L *defraudare*, fr *de-* + *fraudare* to cheat, fr *fraud-*, *fraus* fraud] – **defrauder** *n*, **defraudation** /-'dʒaʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**defray** /di'fray/ *vt* to provide for the payment of [MF *deffrayer*, fr *des-* *de-* + *frayer* to expend, fr OF, fr (assumed) OF *fray* expenditure, lit., damage by breaking, fr L *fractum*, neut of *fractus*, pp of *frangere* to break – more at BREAK] – **defrayable** *adj*, **defrayal** *n*

**defrock** /dec'frok/ *vt* to unrock

**defrost** /dec'frost/ *vt* 1 to thaw out from a frozen state (< ~ *meat*) 2 to free from ice (< ~ *the refrigerator*) 3 NAm to demist ~ *vi* to thaw out, esp from a deep-frozen state – **defroster** *n*

**deft** /deft/ *adj* marked by facility and skill [ME *deste* – more at DAFT] – **deftly** *n*, **deftness** *n*

**defunct** /di'fʌŋkt/ *adj* no longer existing or in use; esp dead [L *defunctus*, fr pp of *defungi* to finish, die, fr *de-* + *fungi* to perform – more at FUNCTION]

**defuse** /dec'fyoʊh/ *vt* 1 to remove the fuse from (a mine, bomb, etc) 2 to make less harmful, potent, or tense (< ~ *the crisis*)

**defy** /di'fi/ *vt* 1 to challenge to do sthg considered impossible; dare 2 to face with assured power of resistance; show no fear of nor respect for (< ~ *public opinion*) 3 to resist attempts at (< *the paintings ~ classification*) [ME *defyen* to renounce faith in, challenge, fr OF *defer*, fr *de-* + *fier* to entrust, fr (assumed) VL *fidare*, alter. of L *fidere* to trust – more at BIDE] – **defier** *n*

**dégage** /dayga'zhay/ *adj* FREE AND EASY 1 (< *clothes with a ~ look*) [F, fr pp of *dégager* to redeem a pledge, free, fr OF *desagier*, fr *des-* *de-* + *gage* pledge – more at GAGE]

**degas** /dec'gas/ *vt -ss-* to remove gas from

**degause** /dec'gəʊs, -gəʊs/ *vt* to demagnetize; esp to demagnetize (a steel ship), esp as a protection against magnetic mines – **degasser** *n*

**'degenerate** /di'jen(ə)rət/ *adj* 1a having declined in nature, character, structure, function, etc from an ancestral or former state b having sunk to a condition below that which is normal to a type; esp having sunk to a lower and usu peculiarly corrupt state 2 characterized by or made of atoms stripped of their electrons and packed very densely (< a ~ *star*) [ME *degenerat*, fr L *degeneratus*, pp of *degenerare* to degenerate, fr *de-*

### Defence against predators

Animals are equipped with a variety of protective adaptations designed to prevent them from being eaten by other animals. Camouflage, disguise, noxiousness, and mimicry are primary defence mechanisms that operate regardless of whether a predator is present. Bluffs, threats, and group cooperation are secondary defence mechanisms, being brought into effect when a predator is encountered. However, the most common secondary defence mechanism is flight; most animals will choose to flee rather than stand and fight.



flounder

### Camouflage

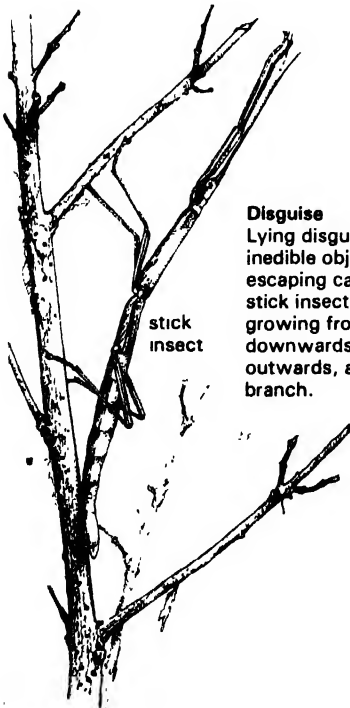
The most elaborate camouflage is disruptive coloration: the stripes running across the zebra's body break up its outline, thus enabling it to merge into its surroundings. Many species change their coloration to conform to the character of their environment. Moulting enables the rock ptarmigan to change its white winter plumage for patchy brown plumage that blends with the partially exposed ground when the snow melts in the spring. The flounder has sensitive colour vision with which it registers the subtlest colour gradations, and is thus able to reproduce the colour and texture of the sea bottom.



zebra



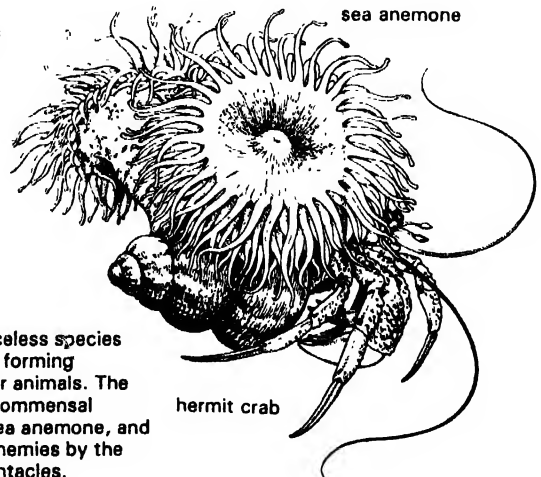
rock ptarmigan in spring and winter plumage



stick insect

### Disguise

Lying disguised as an inanimate, inedible object is an effective means of escaping capture by a predator. The stick insect can resemble a twig growing from a branch, by lying head downwards and extending its body outwards, at an angle, from the branch.



sea anemone

hermit crab

### Commensalism

Some relatively defenceless species protect themselves by forming associations with other animals. The hermit crab lives in a commensal association with the sea anemone, and is protected from its enemies by the anemone's stinging tentacles.

### Noxiousness

Many animals are vividly coloured with red, yellow, orange, black, or white to warn predators that they are poisonous or have a disagreeable means of retaliation. The European salamander's black and yellow coloration advertises the poisons secreted from skin glands on the surface of its body. The orange and black Monarch butterfly contains poisons from milkweed plants on which the caterpillar feeds. The skunk's black and white stripes warn attackers of the putrid-smelling spray that it ejects from its anal glands when threatened.



Monarch butterfly



European salamander



skunk



honeybee



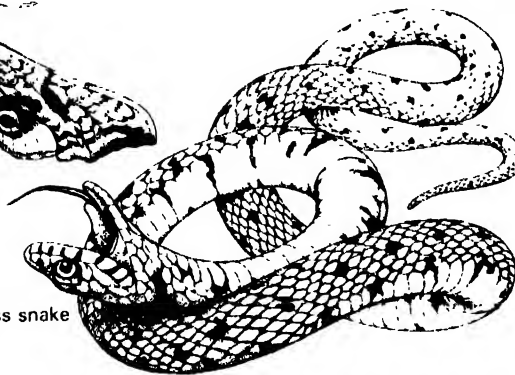
hoverfly



wasp



eyed hawkmoth



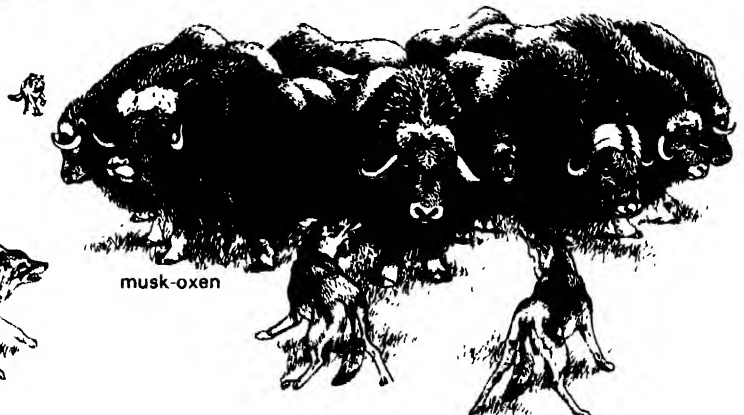
grass snake

### Bluffs and threats


Animals under attack often try to frighten the predator away by bluffs or threats. Birds ruffle their feathers in order to appear larger and more formidable. The eyed hawkmoth reveals huge false eyes on its underwings to scare attackers. Many predators will not eat carrion, so the grass snake, when threatened, feigns death by rolling on its back with mouth open and tongue lolling

### Group cooperation

Some herds of animals, instead of scattering when danger threatens, work together to fend off attackers. Musk-oxen bulls form a defensive ring, with their horns pointing outwards, round the cows and calves of the herd, presenting a united front against preying wolf packs.



musk-oxen

- + *gener-*, *genus* race, kind – more at *KIN* – *degenerately* *adv*, *degenerate-ness* *n*, *degeneracy* /-rəsi/ *n*
- degenerate** /di'jənəreɪt/ *n* sthg or esp bdy degenerate; *esp* one showing signs of reversion to an earlier cultural or evolutionary stage
- degenerate** /di'jənəreɪt/ *vi* 1 to pass from a higher to a lower type or condition; deteriorate 2 to sink into a low intellectual or moral state 3 to decline from a former thriving or healthy condition 4 to evolve or develop into a less autonomous or complex form (< *d into parasites*) – *degenerative* /-rətɪv/ *adj*, *degeneration* /-rəʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- deglutition** /di'gluʊtʃən(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of swallowing [F *déglutition*, fr L *deglutitus*, pp of *deglutire* to swallow down, fr *de-* + *glutire*, *glutire* to swallow – more at *GLUTTON*]
- degrade** /di'græd/ *vt* 1a to lower in grade, rank, or status, demote b to reduce the quality of; *specif* to impair with respect to some physical property 2 to bring to low esteem or into disrepute (< *degrading vices*) 3 *ERODE* 1c 4 to decompose (a chemical compound) ~ *vt* 1 to degenerate 2 of a chemical compound to decompose [ME *degraden*, fr MF *degrader*, fr LL *degradare*, fr L *de-* + *gradus* step, grade] – *degradable* *adj*, *degrader* *n*, *degradingly* *adv*, *degradation* /di'grædʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- degree** /di'grɛ/ *n* 1 a step or stage in a process, course, or order of classification (< *advanced by -s*) 2a the extent or measure of an action, condition, or relation b any of the (sets of) forms used in the comparison of an adjective or adverb c a legal measure of guilt or negligence (< *guilty of murder in the first -*) d a positive and esp considerable amount (< *eccentric to a -*) 3 the civil condition or status of a person (< *people of high -*) 4 an academic title conferred a on students in recognition of proficiency b honorarily 5 a division or interval of a scale of measurement; *specif* any of various units for measuring temperature 6 a 360th part of the circumference of a circle  *SYMBOL* 7a the rank of algebraic expression that for a monomial term is the sum of the exponents of the variable factors and for a polynomial is the sum of the exponents of the variable factors of the highest degree (< *x<sup>2</sup>y<sup>2</sup>z* and *x<sup>4</sup> + y<sup>3</sup> + 2z* are both of the 6th degree) b the greatest power of the derivative of highest order n a differential equation [ME, fr OF *degré*, fr (assumed) VL *degradus*, fr L *de-* + *gradus*] – *degreed* *adj* – to a degree 1 to a remarkable extent 2 in a small way
- de'gree-day** *n* a unit that represents 1 degree of declination from a given point (e.g. 65°) in the mean daily outdoor temperature and that is used to measure heat requirements
- de'gree of freedom** *n* any of a limited characteristic number of ways in which a body or system may move
- de haut en bas** /də'əʊn(h) 'bɑ: (fr dɑ'ə ō bɑ:)/ *adj* or *adv* having a superior or condescending manner [F, lit., from top to bottom]
- dehiscence** /di'his/ *vi* to split (open); also to discharge contents by so splitting (< *anthers dehiscing at maturity*) [L *dehiscere* to split open, fr *de-* + *hiscere* to gape; akin to L *hiare* to yawn – more at *YAWN*] – *dehiscence* *n*, *dehiscent* *adj*
- dehuman-ize**, -ise /di'hiyooɦməni:z/ *vt* to divest of human qualities or personality – *dehumanization* /-zayʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- dehumidify** /di'hiyooɦmɪdɪfɪ/ *vt* to remove moisture from (e.g. air) – *dehumidification* /-fɪ'kayʃən(ə)n/ *n*, *dehumidifier* *n*
- dehydr-** /di'hiədri-, *dehydro-* *comb* form with hydrogen removed (< *dehydrocortisone*)
- dehydrate** /di'hiədri:t/ *vt* 1 to remove (bound) water from (a chemical compound, foods, etc) 2 to make dry and uninteresting in style or character ~ *vi* to lose water or body fluids (abnormally) – *dehydrator* *n*, *dehydration* /-fɪ'drayʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- dehydrogenase** /di'hiədri:dʒənaɪz, di'hiədri:dʒənəɪz, -nəɪz/ *n* an enzyme that accelerates the oxidation of or removal of hydrogen from a compound [ISV]
- deictic** /di'ektɪk/ *adj* DEMONSTRATIVE 2 (< *this, that, and those have a ~ function*) [Gk *deiktikos*, fr *deiktos*, verbal of *deiknynai* to show]
- deify** /di'ɪfɪ, 'daɪ-/ *vt* 1a to make a god of b to take as an object of worship 2 to glorify as of supreme worth (< *money*) [ME *deifyen*, fr MF *deifier*, fr LL *deificare*, fr L *deus* god] – *deification* /-fɪ'kayʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- deign** /daɪn/ *vi* to condescend (< *she barely ~ed to acknowledge their greeting*) ~ *vt* to condescend to give or offer [ME *deignen*, fr OF *deignier*, fr L *dignare*, *dignari*, fr *dignus* worthy – more at *DECENT*]
- deion-ize**, -ise /di'ɪeɪnɪz/ *vt* to remove ions from (esp. water) – *deionization* /-zayʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- deism** /di'ɪz(ə)m, 'daɪ-/ *n*, often *cap* a movement or system of thought advocating natural religion based on human reason rather than revelation; *specif* a chiefly 18th-c doctrine asserting that although God created the universe he does not intervene in its functioning [F *déisme*, fr L *deus* god
- + F *-isme* -ism] – *deist* *n*, often *cap*, *deistic* /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*, *deistically* *adv*
- deity** /di'eɪtɪ, 'daɪ-/ *n* 1a the rank or essential nature of a god b *cap* the Supreme Being; GOD 1 2 a god or goddess (< *the deities of ancient Greece*) 3 one exalted or revered as supremely good or powerful [ME *deitee*, fr MF *deité*, fr LL *deitāt*, *deitas*, fr L *deus* god; akin to OE *Tiw*, god of war, L *divus* god, *dies* day, Gk *dios* heavenly]
- déjà vu** /day'zəh 'voo: (fr dɛʒə vy)/ *n* 1 the illusion of remembering scenes and events when they are experienced for the first time 2 sthg excessively or unpleasantly familiar [F, *adj*, already seen]
- dejected** /di'jektɪd/ *adj* cast down in spirits; depressed [deject (to depress), fr ME *dejecten* to throw down, fr L *dejectus*, pp of *deicere*, fr *de-* + *jacere* to throw] – *dejectedly* *adv*, *dejectedness* *n*
- dejection** /di'jekʃən(ə)n/ *n* lowness of spirits
- de jure** /di'joo:ən/ *adv* or *adj* by (full legal) right (< *recognition extended ~ to the new government*) – compare *DE FACTO* [NL]
- deka-** /deka-/ *dek-* – see *DPCA-*
- dekko** /'dekoh/ *n*, *Br* a look, glance – slang [Hindi *dekho* look!, imper pl of *dekhnā* to see, fr Skt *dr̥ś* to see, akin to Skt *dr̥śti* seeing, sight, eye]
- de laine** /də'leɪn/ *n* a lightweight, often print, woollen dress fabric [F (*mousseline*) *de laine* (muslin) of wool]
- Delaware** /dɪ'ləwə/ *n*, pl *Delawares*, *esp* collectively Delaware a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people orig of the Delaware valley
- delay** /di'leɪ/ *n* 1 delaying or (an instance of) being delayed 2 the time during which sthg is delayed
- delay** *vt* 1 to postpone 2 to stop, detain, or hinder for a time ~ *vi* 1 to move or act slowly 2 to pause momentarily [ME *delayen*, fr OF *delaiier*, fr *de-* + *laiser* to leave, alter of *laisser*, fr L *laxare* to slacken – more at *RELAX*] – *delayer* *n*, *delaying* *adj*
- del credere** /del 'kredərɪ/ *n* a guarantee of a buyer's solvency given by a commission agent, usu in return for an additional commission [It, of belief, of trust] – *del credere* *adj* or *adv*
- delectable** /di'lektəbl/ *adj* 1 highly pleasing, delightful 2 delicious [ME, fr MF, fr L *delectabilis*, fr *delectare* to delight – more at *DELIGHT*] – *delectableness* *n*, *delectably* *adv*, *delectability* /-tə'blətɪ/ *n*
- delection** /di'lekʃən(ə)n, -deɪ-/ *n* 1 DELIGHT 1 2 enjoyment [ME *delectacioun*, fr MF or L, MF *delection*, fr L *delection*-, *delectatus*, fr *delectatus*]
- delegable** /di'leɪgəbl/ *adj* capable of being delegated
- delegacy** /di'leɪgəsi/ *n* 1a the act of delegating b an appointment as delegate 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of delegates; a board
- delegate** /di'leɪgət/ *n* a person delegated to act for another, *esp* a representative to a conference [ME *delegat*, fr ML *delegatus*, fr L, pp of *delegare* to delegate, fr *de-* + *legare* to send – more at *LEGATE*]
- delegate** /di'leɪgət/ *vt* 1 to entrust (e.g. a duty or responsibility) to another 2 to appoint as one's representative ~ *vi* to assign responsibility or authority
- delegation** /di'leɪgəʃən(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of empowering to act for another 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people chosen to represent others [DELEGATE + -ION]
- delete** /di'li:t/ *vt* to eliminate, esp by blotting out, cutting out, or erasing [L *deletus*, pp of *delere* to wipe out, destroy, fr *de-* + *lere* (akin to L *linere* to smear) – more at *LIME*]
- deleterious** /di'li:təri:əs/ *adj* harmful, detrimental – fml [Gk *deleterios*, fr *deleisthai* to hurt] – *deleteriously* *adv*, *deleteriousness* *n*
- deletion** /di'li:tʃən(ə)n/ *n* sthg deleted [L *deletion*-, *deletio* destruction, fr *deletus*]
- delph** /delf/ *n* tin-glazed Dutch earthenware with blue and white or polychrome decoration [Delft, town in the Netherlands]
- dell** /dɛli/ *n*, pl *dells* DELICATESSEN 2
- deliberate** /di'lib(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 characterized by or resulting from careful and thorough consideration 2 characterized by awareness of the consequences; wilful 3 slow, unhurried (< *walked with a ~ step*) [L *deliberatus*, pp of *deliberare* to weigh in mind, ponder, irreg fr *de-* + *libra* scale, pound] – *deliberately* *adv*, *deliberateness* *n*
- deliberate** /di'libərəɪt/ *vt* to think about deliberately and often with formal discussion before reaching a decision ~ *vi* to ponder issues and decisions carefully
- deliberation** /di'lib(ə)rəʃən(ə)n/ *n* 1 deliberating or being deliberate 2 a discussion and consideration of pros and cons – *deliberative* /di'lib(ə)rətɪv/ *adj*, *deliberatively* *adv*, *deliberativeness* *n*
- delicacy** /di'lekəsi/ *n* 1 sthg pleasing to eat that is considered rare or luxurious 2 the quality or state of being dainty (< *lace of great ~*) 3 frailty,

fragility 4 precise and refined perception or discrimination 5a refined sensibility in feeling or conduct b avoidance of anything offensive or disturbing

**delicate** /dɛlɪkət/ *adj* 1a pleasing to the senses in a mild or subtle way b marked by daintiness or charm of colour, line, or proportion 2a marked by keen sensitivity or subtle discrimination (<~ perception>) b fastidious, squeamish 3a marked by extreme precision b having or showing extreme sensitivity (<a ~ instrument>) 4 calling for or involving meticulously careful treatment (<the ~ balance of power>) 5a very finely made b(1) fragile (2) weak, sickly c marked by or requiring tact (<touches on a ~ subject>) [ME *delicat*, fr L *delicatus* delicate, addicted to pleasure; akin to L *delicere* to allure] – *delicately adv*, *delicateness n*

**delicatessen** /dɛlɪkə'tɛs(ə)n/ *n* 1 *pl in constr* (delicacies and foreign) foods ready for eating (e.g. cooked meats) 2 a shop where delicatessens are sold [obs G (now *delikatessen*), *pl* of *delicatesse* delicacy, fr F *délicatesse*, prob fr OIt *delicatezza*, fr *delicato* delicate, fr L *delicatus*]

**delicious** /dɪ'lɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 affording great pleasure; delightful 2 highly pleasing to one of the bodily senses, esp of taste or smell [ME, fr OF, fr LL *deliciosus*, fr L *deliciae* delight, fr *delicere* to allure] – *deliciously adv*, *deliciousness n*

**'delight** /dɪ'li:t/ *n* 1 great pleasure or satisfaction; joy 2 sth that gives great pleasure (<a ~ to behold>)

**2delight** *vi* to take great pleasure in doing sth ~ *vt* to give enjoyment or satisfaction to (<~ed the audience with his performance>) [ME *deliten*, fr OF *delitter*, fr L *delectare*, fr *delectus*, pp of *dehcerere* to allure, fr *de-* + *lacere* to allure, akin to OE *hæ* switch, L *laqueus* snare] – *delighter n*

**delighted** *adj* highly pleased – *delightedly adv*, *delightedness n*

**delightful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* highly pleasing – *delightfully adv*, *delightfulness n*

**delimit** /dɪ'li:mɪt/ *vt* to fix the limits of (<~ a boundary>) [F *délimiter*, fr L *delimitare*, fr *de-* + *limitare* to limit, fr *limit-*, *limes* boundary, limit – more at LIMB]

**delimitate** /dɪ'li:mɪtəɪt/ *vt* to delimit – *delimitative* /dɪ'li:mɪtəɪv/ *adj*, *delimitation* /-təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**delineate** /dɪ'li:niəɪt/ *vt* 1 to show by drawing lines in the shape of 2 to describe in usu sharp or vivid detail [L *delineatus*, pp of *delineare*, fr *de-* + *linea* line] – *delineator n*, *delineative* /-əɪv/ *adj*, *delineation* /-təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**delinquency** /dɪ'liŋkwənsi/ *n* (the practice of engaging in) antisocial or illegal conduct – used esp when emphasis is placed on maladjustment rather than criminal intent [DELIQUENT + -CY]

**'delinquent** /dɪ'liŋkwənt/ *n* a delinquent person

**2delinquent** *adj* 1 guilty of wrongdoing or of neglect of duty 2 marked by delinquency (<~ behaviour>) [L *delinquent-*, *delinquens*, prp of *delinquere* to fail, offend, fr *de-* + *linquere* to leave – more at LOAN] – *delinquently adv*

**deliquesce** /dɛlɪ'kwɛs/ *vi* to melt away; *specif*, of a compound to dissolve gradually in water attracted and absorbed from the air [L *deliquesce*, fr *de-* + *liquescere*, incho of *liquere* to be fluid – more at LIQUID] – *deliquescence n*, *deliquescent adj*

**delirious** /dɪ'lɪəri-əs/ *adj* (characteristic) of or affected by delirium – *deliriously adv*, *deliriousness n*

**delirium** /dɪ'lɪəri-əm/ *n* 1 confusion, frenzy, disordered speech, hallucinations, etc occurring as a (temporary) mental disturbance 2 frenzied excitement [L, fr *delirare* to deviate, be crazy, fr *de-* + *lira* furrow – more at LEARN]

**delirium tremens** /tremenz/ *n* a violent delirium with tremors induced by chronic alcoholism [NL, lit., trembling delirium]

**deliver** /dɪ'lɪvə/ *vt* 1 to set free 2 to hand over; convey (<~ the milk>) 3a to assist in giving birth (<she was ~ed of a fine boy>) b to aid in the birth of c to give birth to 4 to utter (<~ed her speech effectively>) 5 to aim or guide (e.g. a blow) to an intended target or destination ~ *vi* to produce the promised, desired, or expected results – *infrm* [ME *deliveren*, fr OF *delivrer*, fr LL *deliverare*, fr L *de-* + *liberare* to liberate] – *deliverable adj*, *deliverer n*

**deliverance** /dɪ'lɪv(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 liberation, rescue 2 an opinion or verdict expressed publicly [DELIVER + -ANCE]

**delivery** /dɪ'lɪv(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 DELIVERANCE 1 2a the act of handing over b a physical or legal transfer c sth delivered at 1 time or in 1 unit (<milk deliveries>) 3 the act of giving birth 4 the uttering of a speech; *also* the manner or style of uttering in speech or song 5 the act or manner or an instance of sending forth, throwing, or bowling [ME *deliverie*, fr *deliv-eren*]

**deliveryman** /-mən, -man/ *n*, *pl* *deliverymen* /-mən, -men/ a van


driver who delivers wholesale or retail goods to customers, usu over a regular local route

**dell** /dɛl/ *n* a small secluded hollow or valley, esp in a forest [ME *delle*, akin to MHG *telle* ravine, OE *dæl* valley – more at DALE]

**delouse** /dɛ'ləʊs/ *vt* to remove lice from

**Delphic** /dɛlfɪk/, **Delphian** /dɛlfɪ-ən/ *adj* 1 of ancient Delphi or its oracle 2a ambiguous b obscure, enigmatic [*Delphi*, town in ancient Greece] – *delphically adv*

**delphinium** /dɛl'fɪni-əm/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the buttercup family with deeply cut leaves and flowers in showy spikes [NL, genus name, fr Gk *delphinion* larkspur, dim of *delphin-*, *delphis* dolphin – more at DOLPHIN]

**delta** /dɛltə/ *n* 1a the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet b 'D 4 2 a triangular alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river  GEOGRAPHY 3 an increment of a variable [ME *deltha*, fr Gk *delta*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *daleth*, 4th letter of the Heb alphabet] – *deltaic* /dɛl'taɪk/ *adj*

**Delta** – a communications code word for the letter d

**'delta wing** *n* an approximately triangular aircraft wing with a (nearly) straight rearmost edge – *delta-winged adj*

**deltoid** /dɛl'tɔɪd/ *n* a large triangular muscle covering the shoulder joint and acting to raise the arm to the side [NL *deltoides*, fr Gk *deltoeidēs* shaped like a delta, fr *delta*]

**delude** /dɪ'luːd/ *vt* to mislead the mind or judgment of, deceive, trick [ME *deluden*, fr L *deludere*, fr *de-* + *ludere* to play – more at LUDICROUS] – *deluder n*, *deludingly adv*

**'deluge** /dɛlyuːg/, -'yooʒh/ *n* 1a a great flood; *specif*, cap the Flood recorded in the Old Testament (Gen 6.8) b a drenching fall of rain 2 an overwhelming amount or number (<a ~ of criticism>) (<a ~ of letters>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *diluvium*, fr *diluvē* to wash away, fr *dis-* + *lavere* to wash]

**2deluge** *vt* 1 to overflow with water, inundate 2 to overwhelm, swamp

**delusion** /dɪ'luːʒh(ə)n/ *n* 1 deluding or being deluded 2a sth delusively believed b (a mental state characterized by) a false belief (about the self or others) that persists despite the facts and occurs esp in psychotic states [ME, fr L *delusio-*, *delusio*, fr *delusus*, pp of *deludere*] – *delusional adj*, *delusory* /-n(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**delusive** /dɪ'luːshɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 likely to delude 2 constituting a delusion – *delusively adv*, *delusiveness n*

**delusory** /dɪ'luːʒh(ə)rɪ, -s(ə)rɪ/ *adj* deceptive, delusive

**delustre** /dɛ'lʊstə/ *vt* to reduce the sheen of (e.g. yarn or fabric)

**de luxe** /dɪ 'luːks/ *adj* notably luxurious or elegant [F, lit., of luxury]

**delve** /dɛlv/ *vi* 1 to dig or work (as if) with a spade 2 to make a careful or detailed search for information (<~d into the past>) [ME *delven*, fr OE *delfan*; akin to OHG *telban* to dig] – *delver n*

**demagnetize**, -ise /dɛe'magnɪtɪz/ *vt* to cause not to have magnetic properties or a magnetic field – *demagnetizer n*, *demagnetization* /-təɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**demagogue**, *NAm also* **demagog** /dɛmə'gɒg/ *n* 1 a leader of the common people in ancient times 2 an agitator who makes use of popular prejudices in order to gain power [Gk *dēmagōgos*, fr *dēmos* people (akin to Gk *daisthai* to divide) + *agōgos* leading, fr *agēn* to lead – more at TIDE AGENT] – *demagoguery* /-gɒg(ə)rɪ/ *n*, *demagoguery* /-gɒgɪ/ *n*, *demagogic* /-gɒgɪk, -'gɒjɪk/, *demagogical adj*, *demagogically adv*

**'demand** /dɪ'maɪnd/ *n* 1 an act of demanding or asking, esp with authority; a claim 2a an expressed desire for ownership or use b willingness and ability to purchase a commodity or service c the quantity of a commodity or service wanted at a specified price and time 3 a desire or need for; the state of being sought after (<gold is in great ~>) (<a great ~ for teachers>) – on demand whenever the demand is made (<feed the baby on demand>)

**2demand** *vi* to make a demand; ask ~ *vt* 1 to ask or call for with authority; claim as due or just (<~ payment of a debt>) 2 to call for urgently, peremptorily, or insistently 3 to ask authoritatively or earnestly to be informed of (<~ the reason for her visit>) 4 to require [ME *demaunden*, fr MF *demandr*, fr ML *demandare*, fr L *de-* + *mandare* to enjoin – more at MANDATE] – *demandable adj*, *demandar n*

**demandant** /dɪ'maɪndənt/ *n* one who makes a demand or claim

**demanding** /dɪ'maɪndɪŋ/ *adj* exacting – *demandingly adv*

**demand-pull** *n* an increase or upward trend in spendable money, sometimes considered to result in increased competition for available goods and services and a corresponding increase in consumer prices – compare COST-PUSH – *demand-pull adj*

**demantoid** /dɪ'mantɔɪd/ *n* a green garnet [G, fr obs G *demant* diamond, fr MHG *diemant*, fr OF *diamant*]



**demarcate** /'deemah,kayt/ *vt* 1 to mark the limits of 2 to set apart; separate [back-formation fr *demarcation*]

**demarcation** also **demarkation** /'deemah'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* the marking of limits or boundaries, esp between areas of work to be carried out by members of particular trade unions (< a dispute) [Sp *demarcación* & Pg *demarcação*, fr *demarcar* to delimit, fr *de-* + *marcar* to mark, fr It *marcare*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *marha* boundary – more at 'MARCH]

**demarche** /'day,mahsh/ *n* 1 a course of action; a manoeuvre 2 a diplomatic manoeuvre [F *démarche*, lit., gait, fr MF, fr *demarcher* to march, fr OF *demarchier*, fr *de-* + *marchier* to march]

**dematerialize**, -ise /'deemo'tiəri-əleɪz/ *vb* to deprive of or lose material form or qualities

**deme** /deem/ *n* a unit of local government in ancient Attica or modern Greece [Gk *dēmos*, lit., people]

**demean** /di'meen/ *vt* to degrade, debase [*de-* + *mean*]

**demeanour**, *NAm chiefly demeanor* /di'meenə/ *n* behaviour towards others; outward manner [earlier *demeanure*, fr *demean* (to behave) + *-ure*; *demean* fr ME *demenen*, fr OF *demenen* to conduct, guide, fr *de-* + *menen* to lead, drive, fr L *minare*, fr *minari* to threaten]

**demented** /di'mented/ *adj* insane; also crazy [arch *dement* (to drive mad), fr LL *dementare*, fr L *dement-*, *demens*] – **dementedly** *adv*, **dementedness** *n*

**dementia** /di'mensh(yə)/ *n* 1 deteriorated mentality due to damage to or (natural) deterioration of the brain (<senile ~> 2 madness, insanity [L, fr *dement-*, *demens* mad, fr *de-* + *ment-*, *mens* mind – more at MIND] – **demential** *adj*

**dementia praecox** /'preekoks/ *n* schizophrenia [NL, lit., premature dementia]

**demerara sugar** /dems'reərə/ *n* brown crystallized unrefined cane sugar from the W Indies [*Demerara*, region of Guyana]

**demerit** /'deemərit/ *n* 1 a quality that deserves blame or lacks merit, a fault, defect 2 *NAm* a bad mark given to an offender [ME, fr MF *demerite*, fr *de-* + *merite* merit]

**demersal** /di'muhsəl/ *adj* of or living near the bottom of the sea – compare PELAGIC [L *demersus*, pp of *demergere* to sink, fr *de-* + *mergere* to dip, sink, plunge]

**demesne** /di'mayn, -meen/ *n* 1 legal possession of land as one's own 2 land actually occupied by the owner and not held by tenants 3a the land attached to a mansion b landed property, an estate c a region, realm [ME, alter. of *demeyne*, fr OF *demaïne* – more at DOMAIN]

**demo-** /demi-/ *prefix* 1 half (<demisemiquaver>) 2 partly belonging to (a specified type or class) (<demigod>) [ME, fr *demi*, fr MF, fr L *dimidius*, prob back-formation fr *dimidiare* to halve, fr *dis-* + *medius* mid – more at MID]

**demigod** /demi'god/, *fem* 'demi.goddess *n* 1a a mythological superhuman being with less power than a god b an offspring of a union between a mortal and a god 2 a person so outstanding that he/she seems to approach the divine

**demijohn** /demi'jon/ *n* a narrow-necked large bottle of glass or stone-ware [by folk etymology fr F *dame-jeanne*, lit., Lady Jane]

**demilitarize**, -ise /'deemilitəreɪz/ *vt* to strip of military forces, weapons, etc – **demilitarization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**demimondaine** /demi'mon'dayn/ *n* a woman of the demimonde [F *demi-mondaine*, fr *fem* of *demi-mondain*, fr *demi-monde*]

**demi-monde** /-'mond/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a class of women on the fringes of respectable society who were supported by wealthy lovers 2 a demimondaine 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group engaged in activity of doubtful legality or propriety [F *demi-monde*, fr *demi-* + *monde* world, fr L *mundus*]

**deminalize**, -ise /'deem'in(ə)rəleɪz/ *vt* to remove the mineral matter from (e.g. water) – **deminalizer** *n*, **deminalization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**demise** /di'mi:z/ *vt* 1 to convey (e.g. an estate) by will or lease 2 to transmit by succession or inheritance ~ *vi* to pass by descent or bequest (<the property ~d to the king>)

**demise** *n* 1 the conveyance of an estate or transfer of sovereignty by demising 2a death – technical, euph, or humor b a cessation of existence or activity – fml or humor [MF, *fem* of *demis*, pp of *demettre* to dismiss, fr L *demittere* to send down, fr *de-* + *mittere* to send – more at SMITE]

**demisemiquaver** /demi'semi'kwavə/ *n* a musical note with the time value of ½ of a semiquaver  MUSIC

**demission** /di'mi:sh(ə)n/ *n* a resignation, abdication – fml [MF, fr L *demission-*, *demissio* lowering, fr *demissus*, pp of *demittere*]

**demist** /'dee'mist/ *vt*, *Br* to remove mist from (e.g. a car windscreen) – **demister** *n*

**demit** /di'mit/ *vb* -tt- to resign – fml [MF *demettre*]

**demitasse** /'demi,tas/ *n* a small cup of, or for, black coffee [F *demi-tasse*, fr *demi-* + *tasse* cup, fr MF, fr Ar *tass*, fr Per *tast*]

**demiurge** /-'uhj/ *n* 1 a Gnostic subordinate deity who is the creator of the material world 2 sthg that is an autonomous creative force or decisive power [LL *demiurgus*, fr Gk *demiourgos*, lit., one who works for the people, fr *dēmos* of the people (fr *demos* people) + *-ourgos* worker (fr *ergon* work) – more at DEMAGOGUE, WORK] – **demiurgeous** /-'uhjəz/ *adj*, **demiurgic** /-'uhjik/, **demiurgical** *adj*, **demiurgically** *adv*

**demi-vierge** /vi'eəzh, 'vyəəzh/ *n* a woman who engages in sexual activity while retaining her physiological virginity [F, lit., half virgin, fr *demi-* + *vierge* virgin, fr L *virgin-*, *virgo*]

**demo** /'demoh/ *n*, *pl* **demos** 1 DEMONSTRATION 4 2 *cap* *NAm* DEMOCRAT 2

**demob** /'dee'mob/ *vt*, *chiefly Br* to demobilize

**demob** *n*, *chiefly Br* a demobilization

**demobilize**, -ise /'deemohbilizeɪz/ *vt* 1 to disband 2 to discharge from military service – **demobilization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**democracy** /di'mokrəsi/ *n* 1a government by the people b (a political unit with) a government in which the supreme power is exercised by the people directly or indirectly through a system of representation usu involving free elections 2 the absence of class distinctions or privileges [MF *democratie*, fr LL *democratia*, fr Gk *demokratia*, fr *demos* + *-kratia* -cracy]

**democrat** /'deməkrət/ *n* 1a an adherent of democracy b one who practises social equality 2 *cap* a member of the Democratic party of the USA

**democratic** /'demə'kratik/ *adj* 1 of or favouring democracy or social equality 2 *often cap* of or constituting a political party of the USA associated with policies of social reform and internationalism – **democratically** *adv*, **democratize** /di'mokrə'tizeɪz/ *vt*, **democratization** /-ti'e'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **democratizer** /di'mokrə'tizeɪəz/ *n*

**démodé** /'daymoh'day/ *adj* no longer fashionable; out-of-date [F, fr *dé-* + *mode* fashion]

**demodulate** /'deemodyoolayt/ *vt* to extract the information (e.g. a video signal) from (a modulated carrier wave) **demodulator** *n*, **demodulation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**demography** /di'mogə'grafi/ *n* the statistical study of human populations, esp with reference to size and density, distribution, and vital statistics [F *démographie*, fr Gk *dēmos* people + F *-graphie* -graphy] – **demographer** *n*, **demographic** /'demə'græfik/ *adj*, **demographically** *adv*

**demoiselle** /dəmwah'zel/ *n* a damselfy [F, fr OF *dameisele* – more at DAMSELF]

**demolish** /di'molish/ *vt* 1 to destroy, smash, or tear down 2 to eat up – *infrml* [MF *demoliss-*, stem of *demolir*, fr L *demoliri*, fr *de-* + *moliri* to construct, fr *moles* mass – more at 'MOLE] – **demolisher** *n*

**demolition** /'demə'lish(ə)n/ *n* the act or an instance of demolishing [MF & L, MF, fr L *demolition-*, *demolitio*, fr *demolitus*, pp of *demoliri*] – **demolitionist** *n*

**demon** /'deemon/ *n* 1a an evil spirit b an evil or undesirable emotion, trait, or state 2 *DAEMON* 1, 2 3 one who has unusual drive or effectiveness (<a ~ for work>) [ME, fr LL & L; LL *daemon* evil spirit, fr L, divinity, spirit, fr Gk *daimōn*] – **demonism** *n*, **demonize** *vt*, **demonization** /'deeməne'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **demonology** /'deemə'nɒləʒi/ *n*

**demonetize**, -ise /'deemuniteɪz/ *vt* to stop using (a metal) as a money standard [F *démonétiser*, fr *dé-* + *L monēta* coin – more at 'MINT] – **demonetization** /di'munite'zaysh(ə)n/

**demoniac** /di'mohniak/ also **demoniacal** /'dɛməh'ni'e-əkl/ *adj* 1 possessed or influenced by a demon 2 demoniac [ME *demoniac*, fr LL *daemoniacus*, fr Gk *daimoniakos*, fr *daemon-*, *daimōn*] – **demoniacally** *adv*

**demoniac** *n* one regarded as possessed by a demon

**demonic** /di'monik/ also **demonical** /-kl/ *adj* (suggestive) of a demon; fiendish (< ~ cruelty>) – **demonically** *adv*

**demonstrable** /di'monstrəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being demonstrated 2 apparent, evident – **demonstrableness** *n*, **demonstrably** *adv*, **demonstrability** /di'monstrə'biliti/ *n*

**demonstrate** /'demonstrayt/ *vt* 1 to show clearly 2a to prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence b to illustrate and explain, esp with many examples 3 to show or prove the application, value, or efficiency of to a prospective buyer ~ *vi* 1 to make or give a demonstration 2 to take part in a demonstration (<demonstrating against the abortion bill>) [L *demon-*



*stratus*, pp of *demonstrare*, fr *de-* + *monstrare* to show – more at MUSTPR]

**demonstration** /dɛmən'straɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an outward expression or display 2a(1) conclusive evidence; proof (2) a proof in which the conclusion is the immediate sequence of reasoning from premises b a showing and explanation of the merits of a product to a prospective buyer c a display of an action or process <cooking ~> 3 a show of armed force 4 a mass meeting, procession, etc to display group feelings (e.g. about grievances or political issues) [DEMONSTRATE + -ION] – **demonstrational** *adj*

**demonstrative** /dɪ'mɒnstrə'tɪv/ *adj* 1 demonstrating sthg to be real or true 2 pointing out the one referred to and distinguishing it from others of the same class <~ pronouns> 3 given to or marked by display of feeling – **demonstratively** *adv*, **demonstrativeness** *n*

**demonstrative** *n* a demonstrative word or morpheme

**demonstrator** /dɛmən'straɪtə/ *n* one who demonstrates e.g. a junior staff member who demonstrates experiments in a university science department b sby who participates in a demonstration <the ~s were given a police escort>

**demoralize**, -ise /dɪ'mɒrə'leɪz/ *vt* to weaken the morale or self-respect of, discourage, dispirit – **demoralizingly** *adv*, **demoralization** /dɪ'mɒrə'leɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**demos** /dɛmɒs/ *n*, often *cap* the populace personified [Gk *dēmos* – more at DEMAGOGUE]

**demote** /dɪ'moʊt/ *vt* to reduce to a lower grade or rank [*de-* + *-mote* (as in *promote*)] – **demotion** /dɪ'moʊʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**demotic** /dɪ'mɒtɪk/ *adj* 1 of the people 2 of or written in a simplified form of the ancient Egyptian hieratic writing 3 of the Modern Greek vernacular [Gk *dēmōtikos*, fr *demotes* commoner, fr *dēmos*] – **demotic** *n*

**démont** /dɛe'mɒnt/ *vt* 1 to remove from a mounted position 2 to disassemble, dismantle **démontable** *adj*

**demulcent** /dɪ'mʌls(ə)nt/ *adj*, of a medicine soothing [L *demulcent-*, *demulcens*, prp of *demulcere* to soothe, fr *de-* + *mulcere* to soothe] – **demulcent** *n*

**demur** /dɪ'mʊh/ *vi* -rr- 1 to put in a demurrer 2 to take exception, (mildly) object [ME *demoeren* to linger, fr OF *demorer*, fr L *demorari*, fr *de-* + *morari* to linger, fr *mora* delay – more at MEMORY] – **demurral** *n*, **demurrable** *adj*

**demur** *n* 1 a hesitation <men who follow fashion without ~> 2 objection, protest

**demure** /dɪ'myʊə/ *adj* 1 reserved, modest 2 affectedly modest, reserved, or serious, coy [ME, perh fr MF *demorer*, *demourer* to linger] – **demurely** *adv*, **demureness** *n*

**demurrer** /dɪ'mʊrə/ *n* 1 a legal objection that assumes the truth of the matter alleged by the opponent, but asserts that it is insufficient in law to sustain his/her claim, and that he/she should not be allowed to proceed – no longer used in English law 2 an objection [MF *demorer*, vb]

**denry** /dɪ'mi:/ *n* a size of paper usu 22½ × 17½ in (572 × 444mm) [ME *deni* half – more at DENI-]

**demyelinate** /dɛe'mi:li'neɪt/ *vt* to remove or destroy the myelin of (a nerve fibre) – **demyelination** /-neɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**demytify** /dɛe'mɪstɪfɪ/ *vt* to eliminate the mystery from, clarify <~ the law> – **demytification** /dɪ'mɪstɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**demythologize**, -ise /dɛe'mɪ'thɒlədʒɪz/ *vt* to eliminate the mythical elements or associations of – **demythologization** /dɛe'mɪ'thɒlədʒɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**den** /den/ *n* 1 the lair of a wild, usu predatory, animal 2 a centre of secret, esp unlawful, activity <an opium ~> 3 a comfortable usu secluded room [ME, fr OE *denn*, akin to OE *denū* valley, OHG *tenni* threshing floor, Gk *thenar* palm of the hand]

**denarius** /dɪ'neəri-əs/ *n*, pl **denarii** /dɪ'neəri:je/ a small silver coin of ancient Rome [ME, fr L – more at DENIER]

**denationalize**, -ise /dɛe'nəʃən(ə)'leɪz/ *vt* 1 to divest of national status, character, or rights 2 to remove from ownership or control by the state – **denationalization** /dɛe'nəʃən(ə)'leɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**denature** /dɛe'nayʃə/ *vt* 1 to make (alcohol) unfit for drinking 2 to modify (e.g. a protein) by heat, acid, etc so that some of the original structure of the molecule is lost and its properties are changed – **denaturant** /dɛe'nayʃərənt/, -'nacha-/ *n*, **denaturation** /dɛe'nayʃə'reɪʃ(ə)n/, -'nacha-/ *n*

**denazify** /dɛe'nayzɪfɪ, dɛe'nahtsɪfɪ/ *vt* to rid of Nazism and its influence – **denazification** /dɛe'nayzɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/, dɛe'nahtsɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**dendr-, dendro-** *comb form* tree <(dendroid); branching like a tree <(dendrite)> [Gk, fr *dendron*; akin to Gk *drys* tree – more at TREE]

**dendrite** /dendri:t/ *n* 1 (a mineral marked with) a branching crystal form 2 any of the (branching) extensions from a nerve cell that conduct impulses towards the body of the cell – **dendritic** /den'drɪtɪk/ *also dendritical* *adj*, **dendritically** *adv*

**dendrochronology** /dendrokrə'nɒlədʒi/ *n* the dating of events and variations in climate by comparative study of the annual growth rings in wood

**dene** /deen/ *n* 'DEAN

**dengue** /dengɡi/ *n* an infectious short-lasting virus disease characterized esp by pain in the joints [Sp]

**deniable** /dɪ'ni:əbl/ *adj* capable of being denied

**denial** /dɪ'ni:əl/ *n* 1 a refusal to satisfy a request or desire 2a a refusal to admit the truth or reality (e.g. of a statement or charge) b an assertion that an allegation is false 3 a refusal to acknowledge sby or sthg; a disavowal

**denier** /'deɪni-, 'deɪni-/ *n* a unit of fineness for silk, rayon, or nylon yarn equal to the fineness of a yarn weighing 1g for each 9000m – compare TEX [ME *denere*, fr MF *denier*, fr L *denarius*, coin worth ten asses, fr *denarius* containing ten, fr *deni* ten each, fr *decem* ten – more at TEN]

**denigrate** /denɪ'grɪt/ *vt* 1 to cast aspersions on; defame 2 to belittle [L *denigratus*, pp of *denigrare*, fr *de-* + *nigrare* to blacken, fr *nigr-*, *niger* black] – **denigrator** *n*, **denigratory** /-t(ə)'rɪ/ *adj*, **denigration** /denɪ'grɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**denim** /denəm/ *n* 1 a firm durable twilled usu blue cotton fabric used esp for jeans 2 pl denim trousers, esp blue jeans [F (serge) de Nîmes serge of Nîmes, town in France]

**denitrify** /dɛe'ni:tri'fɪ/ *vt* to remove (a compound of) nitrogen from; to convert the nitrogen in (a nitrate or nitrite) to gaseous nitrogen released into the atmosphere – **denitrification** /dɛe'ni:tri'fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**denizen** /denɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 an inhabitant 2 a naturalized plant or animal [ME *denysen*, fr MF *denzein*, fr OF, inner, fr *denz* within, fr LL *deintus*, fr L *de-* + *intus* within – more at ENT]

**denominate** /dɪ'nɒmɪnəɪt/ *vt* to give a name to – fml [L *denominatus*, pp of *denominare*, fr *de-* + *nominare* to name – more at NOMINATE]

**denomination** /dɪ'nɒmɪ'nayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a name, designation, esp a general name for a category 2 a religious organization or sect 3 a grade or degree in a series of values or sizes (e.g. of money) [DENOMINATE + -ION]

**denominational** /dɪ'nɒmɪ'nayʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* of a particular religious denomination <a ~ school> – **denominationally** *adv*

**denominationalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the narrowly exclusive emphasizing of denominational differences – **denominationalist** *n*

**denominative** /dɪ'nɒmɪnətɪv/ *adj* conferring or constituting a name [L *de* from + *nomin-*, *nomen* name] – **denominative** *n*

**denominator** /dɪ'nɒmɪ'nəɪtə/ *n* the part of a vulgar fraction that is below the line and that in fractions with 1 as the numerator indicates into how many parts the unit is divided; a divisor

**denotation** /deenə'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a direct specific meaning as distinct from a connotation 2 a denoting term; a name 3 the totality of subjects of which a term may be predicated, esp in logic [DENOTE + -ATION]

**denote** /dɪ'noʊt/ *vt* 1 to indicate <the swollen bellies that ~ starvation> 2 to be a sign or mark for <red ~s danger> 3 to have the meaning of; mean [MF *denoter*, fr L *denotare*, fr *de-* + *notare* to note] – **denotative** /-tətɪv/ *adj*

**dénouement** /day'noʊhmonh/ *n* 1 the resolution of the main complication in a literary work 2 the outcome of a complex sequence of events [F *dénouement*, lit., untying, fr MF *desnouement*, fr *desnouer* to untie, fr OF *desnoer*, fr *des-* + *noer* to tie, fr L *nodare*, fr *nodus* knot]

**denounce** /dɪ'naʊns/ *vt* 1 to condemn, esp publicly, as deserving censure or punishment 2 to inform against; accuse 3 to announce formally the termination of (e.g. a treaty) [ME *denoucen*, fr OF *denoncier* to proclaim, fr L *denuntiare*, fr *de-* + *nuntiare* to report – more at ANNOUNCE] – **denouncement** *n*, **denouncer** *n*

**de novo** /dɪ'noʊvoh/ *adv* over again, anew [L]

**dense** /dens/ *adj* 1 marked by high density, compactness, or crowding together of parts <~ undergrowth> <a ~ fog> 2 sluggish of mind; stupid 3 demanding concentration to follow or comprehend <~ prose> [L *densus*; akin to Gk *dasy* thick with hair or leaves] – **densely** *adv*, **denseness** *n*

**density** /densɪ/ *n* 1 the quantity per unit volume, unit area, or unit length: e.g. a the mass of a substance or distribution of a quantity per unit of volume or space b the average number of individuals or units per unit

- of space <a population ~> 2 the degree of opaqueness of sthg translucent [DENSE + -ITY]
- 'dent** /dent/ *n* 1 a depression or hollow made by a blow or by pressure 2 an adverse effect <made a ~ in the weekly budget> [ME, blow, alter of *dint*]
- 'dent** *vt* to make a dent in or on
- dent-** /dent-/ *dent-, dent- comb form* tooth, teeth <dentiform> <dentifrice> [ME *dent-*, fr L, fr *dent-*, *dens* tooth – more at TOOTH]
- 'dental** /denti/ *adj* 1 of the teeth or dentistry 2 articulated with the tip or blade of the tongue against or near the upper front teeth [L *dentalis*, fr *dent-*, *dens*] – **dentalize** *vt*, **dentially** *adv*
- 'dental** *n* a dental consonant
- 'dental floss** *n* a waxed thread used to clean between the teeth
- dentallium** /den'tayli-əm/ *n*, pl *dentalla* /-li-ə/ a tooth shell or related shellfish [NL, genus name, fr L *dentalis*]
- dentate** /dentayt/, **'dentated** *adj* having teeth or pointed conical projections <a ~ leaf>  PLANT [L *dentatus*, fr *dent-*, *dens*] – **dentately** *adv*, **dentation** /den'taysh(ə)n/ *n*
- 'dentifrice** /denti'frɪs/ *n* a powder, paste, or liquid for cleaning the teeth [MF, fr L *dentifricium*, fr *denti-* + *fricare* to rub – more at FRICTION]
- dentin** /denti'n/ *n*, *NAm* *dentine*
- dentine** /denti'n/ *n* a calcium-containing material, similar to but harder and denser than bone, of which the principal mass of a tooth is composed  DIGESTION – **dential** *adj*
- 'dentist** /denti'st/ *n* one who treats diseases, malformations, and injuries to the teeth, mouth, etc and who makes and inserts false teeth [F *dentiste*, fr *dent*] – **dentistry** *n*
- 'dention** /denti'ʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the emergence of teeth from the gums 2 the number, kind, and arrangement of a human being's or other animal's teeth [L *dention-*, *dentiō*, fr *dentitus*, pp of *dentire* to cut teeth, fr *dent-*, *dens*]
- dento-** /dento-/ – see DENT-
- 'denture** /den'ʃ(ə)-, -choo-/ *n* an artificial replacement for 1 or more teeth; *esp*, pl a set of false teeth [F, fr MF, fr *dent*]
- denuclearize**, -ize /dee'nyooohklee-ə-riəz/ *vt* to remove nuclear arms from – **denuclearization** /dee'nyooohklee-ə-riə'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- denude** /di'nyooohd/ *vt* 1a to strip of all covering b to lay bare by erosion 2 to remove an important possession or quality from; strip <~d of his dignity> [L *denudare*, fr *de-* + *nudus* bare – more at NAKED] – **denudation** /dee'nyoooh'daysh(ə)n/ *n*
- denumerable** /di'nyooohm(ə)rəbl/ *adj*, of a mathematical set having elements that can be numbered successively; countable – **denumerably** *adv*, **denumerability** /-rə'biliti/ *n*
- denunciation** /di'nunsi'aysh(ə)n/ *n* a (public) condemnation [L *denuntiatio*, *denuntiatio*, fr *denuntiatus*, pp of *denuntiare* to denounce]
- deny** /di'ni-/ *vt* 1 to declare to be untrue or invalid; refuse to accept 2 to disown, repudiate 3a to give a negative answer to b to refuse to grant <~ a request> c to restrain (oneself) from self-indulgence [ME *denyen*, fr OF *denier*, fr L *denegare*, fr *de-* + *negare* to deny – more at NEGATE]
- deodar** /dee'ohdah, 'dee-ə-/ *n* an East Indian cedar [Hindi *deodar*, fr Skt *devadāru*, lit., timber of the gods, fr *deva* god + *dāru* wood]
- 'deodara** /-dah-rə/ *n* a deodar
- deodorant** /dee'ohdərənt/ *n* a preparation that destroys or masks unpleasant smells – **deodorant** *adj*
- deodorize**, -ize /dee'ohdərənz/ *vt* to destroy or prevent the unpleasant smell of – **deodorizer** *n*, **deodorization** /dee'ohdərə'zaysh(ə)n/
- deontology** /dee-ontə'ləji/ *n* a theory or examination of the nature of moral obligation [Gk *deont-*, *deon* that which is obligatory, fr neut of prp of *dein* to lack, be needful] – **deontologist** *n*, **deontological** /dee-ontə'ləjɪkl/ *adj*
- Deo volente** /day-oh volenti/ *adv* God being willing [L]
- deoxy-** /dee-oksi-/ *comb form* containing fewer hydroxide groups in the molecule <deoxyribonucleic acid> [ISV]
- deoxygenate** /dee'oksijinayt/ *vt* to remove oxygen from – **deoxygenation** /dee'oksijinaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- deoxyribonucleic acid** /di,oksi,riebohnyoooh'klayik/ *n* DNA [deoxy- + *nucleic acid*]
- deoxyribonucleotide** /di,oksi,riebohnyooohklee-ə-tied/ *n* any of several nucleotides that contain deoxyribose and some of which are constituents of DNA
- deoxyribose** /dee'oksi'riebohz/ *n* a pentose sugar occurring esp in deoxyribonucleotides [ISV *deoxy-* + *ribose*]
- depart** /di'pɑ:t/ *vi* 1 to go away; leave 2 to turn aside; deviate from ~ *vt* to go away from; leave [ME *departen* to divide, go away, fr OF *departir*, fr *de-* + *partir* to divide, fr L *partire*, fr *part-*, *pars* part]
- departed** *adj* 1 bygone 2 having died, esp recently – *euph*
- department** /di'pɑ:tmənt/ *n* 1a a major division of a government b a division of an institution or business that provides a specified service or deals with a specified subject <sales ~> c a major administrative subdivision (e.g. in France) d a section of a department store 2 a distinct sphere (e.g. of activity or thought) – *infrm* <that's not my ~> [F *département*, fr MF, fr *departir*] – **departmental** /,dee'pɑ:t'mentl/ *adj*, **departmentally** *adv*, **departmentalize** /,dee'pɑ:t'mentl-iez/ *vt*, **departmentalization** /-l-izaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- department store** *n* a large shop, selling a wide variety of goods, arranged in several departments
- departure** /di'pɑ:hʃə/ *n* 1a the act of going away b a setting out (e.g. on a new course of action) 2 the distance due east or west travelled by a ship in its course 3 deviation, divergence
- depend** /di'pend/ *vi* 1 to be determined by or based on some condition or action 2a to place reliance or trust b to be dependent, esp for financial support 3 to hang down *USE (1&2)* + *on* or *upon* [ME *dependen*, fr MF *dependre*, modif of L *dependere*, fr *de-* + *pendere* to hang – more at PENDANT]
- dependable** /di'pendəbl/ *adj* reliable [DEPEND + -ABLE] – **dependable-ness** *n*, **dependably** *adv*, **dependability** /di,pendə'biliti/ *n*
- dependant**, *NAm* chiefly *dependent* /di'pendənt/ *n* a person who relies on another for esp financial support
- dependence** also *dependance* /di'pendəns/ *n* 1 being influenced by or subject to another 2 reliance, trust 3 a need for or reliance on a drug a compulsive physiological need for a habit-forming drug (e.g. heroin), addiction b psychological need for a drug after a period of use, habituation [DEPEND + -ENCE]
- dependency** /di'pend(ə)n(ə)s/ *n* sthg that is dependent on sthg else, *specif* a territorial unit under the jurisdiction of a nation but not formally annexed to it
- dependent** /di'pend(ə)n(t)/ *adj* 1 determined or conditioned by another, contingent 2 relying on another for support 3 subject to another's jurisdiction 4 SUBORDINATE 3 *USE (1&2)* + *on* or *upon* [ME *dependant*, fr MF, prp of *dependre*] – **dependently** *adv*
- depersonalize**, -ize /dee'pəhsənl-iez/ *vt* 1 to deprive of the sense of personal identity 2 to make impersonal – **depersonalization** /-l-izaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- depict** /di'pɪkt/ *vt* 1 to represent by a picture 2 to describe [L *depictus*, pp of *depingere*, fr *de-* + *pingere* to paint – more at PAINT] – **depicter** *n*, **depiction** /di'pɪksh(ə)n/ *n*
- depilate** /di'pilayt/ *vt* to remove hair from [L *depilatus*, pp of *depilare*, fr *de-* + *pilus* hair – more at 'PIL] – **depilation** /di'pilaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **depilatory** /di'pilət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* or *n*
- deplete** /di'pleet/ *vt* to reduce in amount by using up, exhaust, esp of strength or resources [L *depletus*, pp of *deplere*, fr *de-* + *plere* to fill – more at 'FULL] – **depletion** /di'pleesh(ə)n/ *n*
- deplorable** /di'plawrəbl/ *adj* 1 lamentable <a ~ accident> 2 extremely bad – **deplorableness** *n*, **deplorably** *adv*
- deplore** /di'plaw/ *vt* 1 to feel or express grief for 2 to regret or disapprove of strongly [MF or L; MF *deplorere*, fr L *deplorare*, fr *de-* + *plorare* to wail] – **deplorably** *adv*
- deploy** /di'plɔɪ/ *vt* 1 to spread out (e.g. troops or ships), esp in battle formation 2 to utilize or arrange as if deploying troops ~ *vi* to move in being deployed [F *déploier*, fr L *displicare* to scatter – more at DISPLAY] – **deployable** *adj*, **deployment** *n*
- deplume** /,dee'ploohm/ *vt* to pluck the feathers of [ME *deplumen*, fr MF *deplumer*, fr ML *deplumare*, fr L *de-* + *pluma* feather – more at 'FLEECE]
- depolarize**, -ize /dee'pohlariez/ *vt* to prevent or remove polarization of (e.g. a dry battery or a cell membrane) – **depolarizer** *n*, **depolarization** /di,pohlarie'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- depoliticize**, -ize /dee'pohlitisiez/ *vt* to make nonpolitical <~ foreign aid>
- 'deponent** /di'pohnənt/ *adj*, of a verb occurring with passive or middle voice forms but with active voice meaning [LL *deponent-*, *deponens*, fr L, prp of *deponere*]
- 'deponent** *n* 1 a deponent verb 2 one who gives (written) evidence
- depopulate** /dee'popyoalayt/ *vt* to reduce greatly the population of ~ *vi* to decrease in population [L *depopulatus*, pp of *depopulari*, fr *de-* + *populari* to ravage] – **depopulator** *n*, **depopulation** /-l-izaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- deport** /di'pawt/ *vt* 1a to expel (e.g. an alien) legally from a country b to transport (e.g. a convicted criminal) to a penal colony or place of exile

2 to behave or conduct (oneself) in a specified manner – fml [L *deportare* to carry away, fr *de-* + *portare* to carry; (2) MF *deporter*, fr L *deportare*] – **deportation** /ˈdeɪpəʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **deportee** /ˈdeɪpəʊˈteɪ/ *n*

**deportment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 *Br* the manner in which one stands, sits, or walks, posture 2 *NAm* behaviour, conduct

**depose** /diˈpəʊz/ *vt* 1 to remove from a position of authority (e.g. a throne) 2 to testify under oath or by affidavit ~ *vi* to bear witness [ME *deposen*, fr OF *deposer*, fr LL *deponere* (perf indic *deposui*), fr L, to put down; (2) ME *deposen*, fr ML *deponere*, fr LL]

**deposit** /diˈpəʊzɪt/ *vt* 1 to place, esp for safekeeping or as a pledge; esp to put in a bank 2a to lay down; place b to let fall (e.g. sediment) [L *depositus*, pp of *deponere*] – **depositor** *n*

**deposit** *n* 1 depositing or being deposited 2a money deposited in a bank b money given as a pledge or down payment 3 a depository 4 sthg laid down; esp (an accumulation of) matter deposited by a natural process → **GEOGRAPHY**

**deposit account** *n*, chiefly *Br* an account (e.g. in a bank) on which interest is usu payable and from which withdrawals can be made usu only by prior arrangement – compare **CURRENT ACCOUNT**

**depository** /diˈpəʊzɪt(ə)n/ *n* a person to whom sthg is entrusted

**deposition** /ˌdeɪpəˈzɪʃ(ə)n, -ˌdeɪ-/ *n* 1 removal from a position of authority 2 a (written and sworn) statement presented as evidence 3 an act or process of depositing – **depositional** *adj*

**depository** /diˈpəʊzɪt(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a depository 2 a place where sthg is deposited, esp for safekeeping

**depot** /ˈdeɪpəʊ/ *n* 1a a place for the storage of military supplies b a place for the reception and training of military recruits; a regimental headquarters 2a a place for storing goods b a store, depository 3a *Br* an area (e.g. a garage) in which buses or trains are stored, esp for maintenance b *NAm* a railway station [F *dépôt*, fr ML *depositum*, fr L, neut of *deponere*]

**depot** *adj*, of a (dose of a) drug designed to act over a long period

**deprave** /diˈpreɪv/ *vt* to corrupt morally, pervert [ME *depraven* fr MF *depraver*, fr L *depravare* to pervert, fr *de-* + *pravus* crooked, bad] – **depravedly** /-vɪdli/ *adv*, **depraver** *n*, **depravation** /ˌdeɪprəˈvaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**depravity** /diˈprævɪtɪ/ *n* (an instance of) moral corruption [DEPRAVE + -ɪtɪv]

**deprecate** /ˈdeɪpreɪkəɪt/ *vt* to express disapproval of, esp mildly or regretfully [L *deprecatus*, pp of *deprecari* to avert by prayer, fr *de-* + *precari* to pray – more at **PRAY**] – **deprecatingly** *adv*, **deprecation** /ˌdeɪpreɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**deprecatory** /ˌdeɪpreɪkəɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 apologetic 2 disapproving **deprecatoryly** *adv*

**depreciate** /diˈpreɪsɪəʃ(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to lower the price or estimated value of 2 to belittle, disparage ~ *vi* to lessen in value, fall [LL *depretiatus*, pp of *depretiare*, fr L *de-* + *pretium* price – more at **PRICE**] – **depreciable** /diˈpreɪsɪəʃ(ə)bl/ *adj*, **deprecator** *n*, **depreciative** /-ʃ(ə)tɪv/, **depreciatory** /-sɪəˈt(ə)rɪ, -ʃi-/ *adj*, **depreciation** /ˌdeɪpreɪˈʃeɪʃ(ə)n, -ʃi-/ *n*

**depredate** /ˈdeɪpreɪdət/ *vb* to plunder, ravage [LL *depraedatus*, pp of *depraedari*, fr L *de-* + *praedari* to plunder – more at **PREY**] – **depredator** *n*, **depredatory** /-t(ə)n/ *adj*, **depredation** /ˌdeɪpreɪˈdeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**depress** /diˈpres/ *vt* 1 to push or press down (< ~ a typewriter key>) 2 to lessen the activity or strength of 3 to sadden, dispirit 4 to decrease the market value or marketability of [ME *depressen*, fr MF *depresser*, fr L *depressus*, pp of *deprimere* to press down, fr *de-* + *primere* to press – more at **PRESS**] – **depressingly** *adv*

**depressant** /diˈpres(ə)nt/ *n* sthg (e.g. a drug) that depresses function or activity (<alcohol acts as a ~ of the brain>) – **depressant** *adj*

**depressed** *adj* 1 low in spirits; sad 2 lowered or sunken, esp in the centre 3 suffering from economic depression (<a ~ area>)

**depressing** /diˈpresɪŋ/ *adj* causing emotional depression (<a ~ story>) – **depressingly** *adv*

**depression** /diˈpres(ə)n/ *n* 1 the angular distance of a celestial body below the horizon 2a a pressing down; a lowering b (a mental disorder marked by inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, and esp by) sadness or dejection c a lowering of activity, vitality, amount, force, etc 3 a depressed place or part; a hollow 4 ‘low lb’ → **WEATHER** 5 a period of low general economic activity marked esp by rising levels of unemployment [DEPRESS + -ION]

**depressive** /diˈpresɪv/ *adj* 1 tending to depress 2 of, characterized by, or liable to psychological depression – **depressively** *adv*

**depressive** *n* one who suffers from periods of psychological depression

**depressor** /diˈpresə/ *n* 1 a muscle that draws down a part – compare

LEVATOR 2 a device for pressing a part down or aside [LL, fr L *depressus*]

**deprivation** /ˌdeɪprɪˈvaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of depriving; a loss 2 being deprived; privation

**deprive** /diˈpri:v/ *vt* 1 to take sthg away from 2 to remove (e.g. a clergyman) from office 3 to withhold sthg from (<he threatened to ~ them of their rights>) **USE (I&J)** + of [ME *depriven*, fr ML *depricare*, fr L *de-* + *privare* to deprive – more at **PRIVATE**]

**deprived** *adj* lacking the necessities of life or a good environment (<culturally ~ children>)

**depth** /ˈdeɪpθ/ *n* 1a(1) a deep place in a body of water (<found in the ~s of the ocean>) (2) a part that is far from the outside or surface (<the ~s of the woods>) b(1) a profound or intense state (e.g. of thought or feeling) (<the ~s of despair>) (2) the worst, most intensive, or severest part (<the ~s of winter>) 2a the perpendicular measurement downwards from a surface b the distance from front to back 3 the quality of being deep 4 the degree of intensity (< ~ of a colour>) **USE (I)** often pl with sing. meaning [ME, prob fr *dep* deep] – **in depth** with great thoroughness (<haven’t studied it in depth>) – **out of one’s depth** 1 in water that is deeper than one’s height 2 beyond one’s ability to understand

**depth bomb** *n* **DEPTH CHARGE**

**depth charge** *n* an explosive projectile for use underwater, esp against submarines

**depth psychology** *n* the investigation of the unconscious, psychoanalysis

**deputation** /ˌdeɪpjuːˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sing or pl in constr a group of people appointed to represent others [DEPUTE + -ATION]

**depute** /diˈpyu:t/ *vt* to delegate [ME *deputen* to appoint, fr MF *deputer*, fr LL *deputare* to assign, fr L, to consider (as), fr *de-* + *putare* to consider – more at **PAVE**]

**depute** *n*, Scot a deputy [ME, fr MF *depute*, *depute*, pp of *deputer*]

**deputize** /-laɪ/ *vt* to act as a deputy for

**deputy** /ˈdeɪpyu:t/ *n* 1 a person (e.g. a second-in-command) appointed as a substitute with power to act for another 2 a member of the lower house of some legislative assemblies [ME, fr MF *deputé*, pp of *deputer*]

**derail** /ˈdeɪreɪl/ *vt* to cause (e.g. a train) to leave the rails ~ *vi* to be derailed [F *dérailer*, fr *dé-* *de-* + *rail*, fr E] – **derailment** *n*

**derange** /diˈraɪn/ *vt* to disturb the operation or functions of [F *déranger*, fr OF *desrengier*, fr *de-* + *reng* place – more at **RANK**] – **derangement** *n*

**deranged** *adj* mad, insane

**derby** /ˈdɜ:bi/ *n* 1 *cap* a flat race for 3-year-old horses over 1½ mi (about 2.9 km) held annually at Epsom in England 2 a usu informal race or contest for a specified category of contestant (<a donkey ~>) 3 a sporting match against a major local rival 4 chiefly *NAm* ‘BOWLER’ [Edward Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby †1834]

**derelict** /ˈderəlɪkt/ *adj* 1 left to decay 2 chiefly *NAm* lacking a sense of duty; negligent [L *derelictus*, pp of *derelinquere* to abandon, fr *de-* + *relinquere* to leave – more at **RELINQUISH**]

**derelict** *n* 1 sthg voluntarily abandoned; specif a ship abandoned on the high seas 2 a down-and-out

**dereliction** /ˌderəˈlɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (intentional) abandonment or being abandoned 2 a recession of water leaving permanently dry land 3a conscious neglect (< ~ of duty>) b a fault, shortcoming

**derepress** /ˌdeɪnˈpres/ *vt* to activate (a gene) by releasing from a blocked state – **derepression** /ˌdeɪnˈpres(ə)n/ *n*

**derestrict** /ˌdeɪnˈstrikt/ *vt* to cancel or remove a restriction, esp a speed limit, from – **derestriction** /ˌdeɪnˈstriktʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**deride** /diˈri:d/ *vt* to mock, scorn [L *deridere*, fr *de-* + *ridere* to laugh – more at **RIDICULOUS**]

**de rigueur** /də riˈɡu: (Fr da riɡœr)/ *adj* required by fashion, etiquette, or custom [F, compulsory, lit., of strictness]

**derision** /diˈrɪz(ə)n/ *n* deriding or being derided [ME, fr MF, fr LL *derision*, *derisio*, fr L *derisus*, pp of *deridere*]

**derisive** /diˈrɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* showing derision; mocking, scornful – **derisively** *adv*

**derisory** /diˈrɪz(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 derisive 2 worthy of derision; ridiculous; specif contemptibly small (<a ~ pay offer>)

**derivation** /ˌdeɪrɪˈveɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the formation of a word from another word or root, esp with an affix b an act of tracing or stating the derivation of a word c **ETYMOLOGY** 1 2a the source, origin b descent (<a family of Scottish ~>) 3 **DERIVATIVE** 2 4 an act of deriving – **derivational** *adj*

**derivative** /diˈrɪvətɪv/ *adj* 1 formed by derivation 2 made up of derived elements; not original – **derivatively** *adv*

**derivative** *n* 1 a word formed by derivation 2 sth derived 3 the limit of the ratio of the change in a function to the corresponding change in its independent variable as the latter change approaches zero 4 a chemical related structurally to and (theoretically) derivable from another

**derive** /di'ri:v/ *vt* 1a to obtain or receive, esp from a specified source **b** to obtain (a chemical) from a parent substance 2 to infer, deduce 3a to trace the derivation of **b** to form by derivation ~ *vt* to come as a derivative from [ME *deriven*, fr MF *deriver*, fr L *derivare*, fr *de-* + *rivus* stream – more at *RISE*] – *derivable* *adj*

**derm** /duhm/ *n* 1 the dermis 2 SKIN 2a [NL *derma* & *dermis*]

**derma-, derma-, dermo-** *comb form* *dermat-* <derma/ [NL, fr Gk *derma-, dermo-*, fr *derma*, fr *derein* to skin – more at *'TEAR*]

**-derm** /-duhm/ *comb form* (– *n*) skin; layer <ectoderm> <pachyderm> [prob fr F *-derme*, fr Gk *derma*]

**derma** /'duhma/ *n* the dermis [NL, fr Gk]

**-derma** /-duhma/ *comb form* (– *n*), *pl* -dermas, -dermata /-duhma:ta/ skin; skin ailment <scleroderma> [NL, fr Gk *dermat-*, *derma* skin] – *dermatous* *comb form* (– *adj*)

**dermat-** /duhmat-/ , **dermato-** *comb form* skin <dermatitis> <dermatology> [Gk, fr *dermat-*, *derma*]

**dermatitis** /duhma'tetis/ *n* a disease or inflammation of the skin [NL]

**dermatology** /duhma'tolaji/ *n* a branch of medicine dealing with (diseases of) the skin – *dermatologist* /-tolajist/ *n*, *dermatologic* /-tolojik/, *dermatological* *adj*

**dermis** /duhmis/ *n* (the sensitive vascular inner layer of) the skin ⇨ NERVE [NL, fr LL *-dermis*] – *dermal* *adj*

**-dermis** /-duhmis/ *comb form* (– *n*) layer of skin or tissue <epidermis> [LL, fr Gk, fr *derma*]

**dernier** cri /deɪnyay 'kree (Fr *dernie* kri)/ *n* the newest fashion [F, lit, last cry]

**derogate** /derəgayt/ *vb* [LL *derogatus*, pp of *derogare*, fr L, to annul (a law), detract, fr *de-* + *rogare* to ask, propose (a law) – more at *'RIGHT*]

**derogation** /derə'gaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **derogative** /di'rogativ/ *adj* – *derogate* from to impair by taking away a part, detract from – *fml*

**derogatory** /di'rogat(ə)ri/ *adj* expressing a low opinion, disparaging – *derogatorily* /di'rogat(ə)rəli/ *adv*

**derrick** /derik/ *n* 1 a hoisting apparatus employing a tackle rigged at the end of a beam 2 a framework over an oil well or similar hole, for supporting drilling tackle ⇨ ENERGY [qbs *derrick* (hangman, gallows), fr *Derrick*, surname of 17th-c E hangman]

**derrière**, *derrière* /deri-eə/ *n* the buttocks – *euph* or *humor* [F *derrière*, fr *derrière*, *adj*, hinder, fr OF *deriere*, *adj*, behind, fr L *de retro*, fr *de* from + *retro* back – more at *DE-, RETRO-*]

**derring-do** /derɪŋ 'dooh/ *n* daring action <deeds of ~> [alter of ME *dorring* *don* daring to do, fr *dorring* (gerund of *dorren* to dare) + *don* to do]

**derringer** /derɪŋjə/ *n* a short-barrelled pistol of large calibre [Henry Derringer †1868 US inventor]

**deris** /deris/ *n* (an insecticidal extract of) any of a genus of tropical leguminous shrubs and climbing plants [NL, genus name, fr Gk, skin, fr *derein* to skin – more at *'TEAR*]

**derv** /duhv/ *n* fuel oil for diesel engines [diesel-engined road vehicle]

**dervish** /duhvɪʃ/ *n* a member of a Muslim religious order noted for devotional exercises (e.g. bodily movements leading to a trance) [Turk *dervîş*, lit., beggar, fr Per *darvesh*]

**desalinate** /desə'laɪnaɪt/ *vt* to remove salt from (esp sea water) – *desalinator* *n*, *desalination* /desə'laɪnaɪʃən/ *n*

**desalt** /desə'sawlt/ *vt* to desalinate – *desalter* *n*

**'descant** /des'kant/ *n* a counterpoint superimposed on a simple melody and usu sung by some or all of the sopranos [ME *dyscant*, fr ONF & ML, ONF *descant*, fr ML *discantus*, fr L *dis-* + *cantus* song – more at *'CHANT*]

**'descant** /des'kant, dis-/ *vi* 1 to sing or play a descant 2 to talk or write at considerable length on or upon

**descant recorder** *n*, chiefly Br the member of the recorder family with the highest range

**descend** /di'send/ *vi* 1 to pass from a higher to a lower level 2 to pass from the general to the particular 3 to pass by inheritance 4 to incline, lead, or extend downwards <the road ~s to the river> 5a to come down or make a sudden attack – *usu* + *on* or *upon* **b** to make a sudden disconcerting visit or appearance – *usu* + *on* or *upon*; chiefly *humor* 6 to proceed from higher to lower in a sequence or gradation 7 to sink in status or dignity; stoop ~ *vt* to pass, move, or extend down or down along

<he ~ed the steps> [ME *descenden*, fr OF *descendre*, fr L *descendere*, fr *de-* + *scandere* to climb – more at *SCAN*]

**descendant**, *NAm* also **descendent** /di'send(ə)nt/ *n* sby or sth descended or deriving from another [MF & L, MF *descendant*, fr L *descendent-*, *descendens*, prp of *descendere*]

**de'scended** *adj* having as an ancestor, sprung from

**descendeur** /deson'duh/ *n* any of several devices allowing a controlled descent of a rope in abseiling [F, fr *descendre*]

**descent** /di'sent/ *n* 1 the act or process of descending 2 a downward step (e.g. in status or value) 3a derivation from an ancestor; birth, lineage **b** transmission of an estate by inheritance **c** a transmission from a usu earlier source; a derivation 4a a downward inclination, a slope **b** a descending way (e.g. a staircase) 5 a sudden hostile raid or attack [ME, fr MF *descente*, fr *descendre*]

**describe** /di'skrie/ *vt* 1 to give an account of in words 2 to trace the outline of [L *describere*, fr *de-* + *scribere* to write – more at *'SCRIBE*] – *describable* *adj*

**description** /di'skripʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an account intended to convey a mental image of sth experienced 2 kind, sort <people of every ~> [ME *descripcioun*, fr MF & L, MF *descriptio*, fr L *descriptio-*, *descriptio*, fr *descriptus*, pp of *describere*]

**descriptive** /di'skriptiv/ *adj* 1 serving to describe, esp vividly 2 of a modifier expressing the quality, kind, or condition of what is denoted by the modified term, not limiting or demonstrative (e.g. *hot* in 'hot water') – *descriptively* *adv*

**descry** /di'skrie/ *vt* to notice or see, esp at a distance – *fml* [ME *descrien*, fr OF *descrier* to proclaim, decry]

**desecrate** /desikrayt/ *vt* to violate the sanctity of; profane [*de-* + *-secrate* (as in *consecrate*)] – *desecrator* *n*, *desecration* /desi-'kraiʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**desegregate** /dee'segregayt/ *vt* to eliminate (racial) segregation in – *desegregation* /-gaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**desensitize**, -ise /dee'sensətaɪz/ *vt* 1 to make (sby previously sensitive) insensitive or nonreactive to a sensitizing agent 2 to make (a photographic material) less sensitive or completely insensitive to radiation – *desensitizer* *n*, *desensitization* /-zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'desert** /dezət/ *n* 1 (a desolate region like) a dry barren region incapable of supporting much life ⇨ PLANT 2 an area or place that is deprived of or devoid of sth important <a cultural ~> [ME, fr OF, fr LL *desertum*, fr L, neut of *desertus*, pp of *deserere* to desert, fr *de-* + *serere* to join together – more at *SLURP*] – *desertic* /-tik/ *adj*

**'desert** /di'zuht/ *n* deserved reward or punishment – *usu* *pl* with *sing* meaning <got her just ~s> [ME *deserte*, fr OF, fr fem of *desert*, pp of *deservir* to deserve]

**'desert** /di'zuht/ *vt* 1 to leave, usu without intending to return 2a to abandon or forsake, esp in time of need **b** to abandon (military service) without leave ~ *vt* to quit one's post, (military) service, etc without leave or justification [F *désérer*, fr LL *desertare*, fr *desertus*] – *deserter* *n*

**Desert** /dezət/ *trademark* – used for an ankle-high laced suede boot with a rubber sole

**desertion** /di'zushh(ə)n/ *n* the abandonment of a post or relationship and the moral and legal obligations attached to it <sued for divorce on grounds of ~> ['DESERT + -ION]

**deserve** /di'zuvh/ *vb* to be worthy of or suitable for (some recompense or treatment) [ME *deserven*, fr OF *deservir*, fr L *deservire* to serve zealously, fr *de-* + *servire* to serve] – *deservedly* /-vidli/ *adv*

**deserving** /di'zuvhɪŋ/ *adj* meriting (financial) aid

**desex** /des'eks/ *vt* 1 to castrate, spay 2 to desexualize

**desexualize**, -ise /des'eksyoʊ(ə)laɪz, -ʃəlaɪz/ *vt* to deprive of sexuality, sexual power, or the qualities appropriate to one or other sex – *desexualization* /-zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**deshabille** /dayza'beel, di-, /, *deshabille* /dayza'beeay/ *n* the state of being only partially or carelessly dressed [F *déshabillé*, fr pp of *déshabiller* to undress, fr *dés* *dis-* + *habiller* to dress, fr *bille* log – more at *'BILLET*]

**desiccate** /desikayt/ *vt* 1 to dry up 2 to preserve (a food) by drying to dehydrate [L *desiccatus*, pp of *desiccare* to dry up, fr *de-* + *siccare* to dry, fr *siccus* dry] – *desiccant* *n*, *desiccator* *n*, *desiccative* /-kaytiv/ *adj*, *desiccation* /desi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**desideratum** /di,zidə'raytəm, -'rah-/ *n*, *pl* *desiderata* /-ta/ sth desired as necessary – *fml* [L, neut of *desideratus*, pp of *desiderare* to desire]

**'design** /di'zien/ *vt* 1a to conceive and plan out in the mind **b** to devise for a specific function or end 2a to draw the plans for **b** to create or execute according to a plan; devise ~ *vi* 1 to conceive or execute a plan 2 to draw, lay out, or prepare a design [MF *designer*, fr L *designare*, fr

- de-** + *signare* to mark, mark out – more at *'SIGN* – *designer* *n*, *designedly* /-nɪdli/ *adv*
- design** *n* 1 a mental plan or scheme 2a a particular purpose held in view b deliberate purposeful planning <more by accident than by ~> 3 *pl* dishonest, hostile, or acquisitive intent – + *on* 4 (the act of producing) a drawing, plan, or pattern showing the details of how sthg is to be constructed 5 the arrangement of the elements of a work of art or artefact 6 a decorative pattern
- designate** /'deɪznət, -nayt/ *adj* chosen for an office but not yet installed <ambassador ~> [L *designatus*, pp of *designare*]
- designate** /'deɪznayt/ *vt* 1 to indicate; POINT OUT 2 to call by a distinctive name or title 3 to nominate for a specified purpose, office, or duty – *designator* *n*, *designatory* /,deɪznayt(ə)ri/ *adj*
- designation** /,deɪznaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of indicating or identifying 2 a distinguishing name or title 3 appointment to an office, post, or service
- designing** /dɪ'ziɪnɪŋ/ *adj* crafty, scheming
- desirable** /dɪ'ziə-rəbl/ *adj* 1 causing (sexual) desire; attractive 2 worth seeking or doing as advantageous, beneficial, or wise – *desirableness* *n*, *desirably* *adv*, *desirability* /dɪ,ziə-rə'bɪləti/ *n*
- desire** /dɪ'ziə-/ *vt* 1 to long or hope for 2 to express a wish for; request 3 to wish to have sexual relations with [ME *desiren*, fr OF *desirer*, fr L *desiderare*, fr *de-* + *sider-*, *siderus* star]
- desire** *n* 1 a conscious impulse towards an object or experience promising enjoyment or satisfaction 2 a (sexual) longing or craving 3 a formal request or petition 4 sthg desired
- desirous** /dɪ'ziə-rəs/ *adj* eagerly wanting, desiring – *fml*
- desist** /dɪ'zɪst/ *v*, to cease to proceed or act – *fml* [MF *desister*, fr L *desistere*, fr *de-* + *sistere* to stand, stop; akin to L *stare* to stand] – *desistance* *n*
- desk** /desk/ *n* 1a a table with a sloping or horizontal surface and often drawers and compartments, that is designed esp for writing and reading b a church lectern c a table, counter, or booth at which cashiers, clerks, etc work d a music stand 2 a division of an organization specializing in a usu specified phase of activity [ME *deske*, fr ML *desca*, modif of OIt *desco* table, fr L *discus* dish, disc – more at DISH]
- desk research** *n* research conducted by examining existing data (e.g. published statistics)
- desm-** /desm-/ , **desmo-** *comb form* bond; ligament [NL, fr Gk, fr *desmos*, fr *dein* to bind – more at DIADEM]
- desman** /'desmən/ *n*, *pl* *desmans* any of several aquatic insect-eating mammals resembling moles ➔ ENDANGERED [short for Sw *desmans-råtta*, fr *desman* musk + *råtta* rat]
- desolate** /'dezələt/ *adj* 1 deserted, uninhabited 2 forsaken, forlorn 3 barren, lifeless <a ~ landscape> [ME *desolat*, fr L *desolatus*, pp of *desolare* to abandon, fr *de-* + *solus* alone] – *desolately* *adv*, *desolateness* *n*
- desolate** /'dezələyt/ *vt* 1 to deprive of inhabitants 2 to lay waste – *desolator* /-ləytə/ *n*
- desolation** /,deɪzə'leɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 devastation, ruin 2 a barren wasteland 3 misery, wretchedness [DESOLATE + -ION]
- desorb** /,desə'wɔb/ *vt* to free from an absorbed or adsorbed state – *desorption* /-sə'wɔpsh(ə)n/
- desoxy-** /desoks-/ *comb form* deoxy-
- despair** /dɪ'speɪ/ *vi* to lose all hope or confidence <~ of winning> [ME *despeiren*, fr MF *desperer*, fr L *desperare*, fr *de-* + *sperare* to hope; akin to L *spes* hope – more at SPEED] – *despairingly* *adv*
- despair** *n* 1 utter loss of hope 2 a cause of hopelessness <that child is the ~ of his parents>
- despatch** /dɪ'spætʃ/ *vb* or *n* (to) dispatch
- desperado** /,despə'reɪdoh/ *n*, *pl* *desperados*, *desperados* a bold, reckless, or violent person, esp a criminal [prob alter. of obs *desperate* (*desperado*), fr *desperate*, *adj*]
- desperate** /'desp(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 being (almost) beyond hope 2a reckless because of despair b undertaken as a last resort <a ~ remedy> 3 suffering extreme need or anxiety <~ for money> 4 fraught with extreme danger or impending disaster [L *desperatus*, pp of *desperare*] – *desperately* *adv*, *desperateness* *n*
- desperation** /,despə'reɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 loss of hope and surrender to despair 2 extreme recklessness caused by hopelessness
- despicable** /dɪ'spɪkəbl/ *adj* morally contemptible [LL *despicabilis*, fr L *despicari* to despise] – *despicableness* *n*, *despicably* *adv*
- despise** /dɪ'spiəz/ *vt* 1 to regard with contempt or distaste 2 to regard as negligible or worthless [ME *despisen*, fr OF *despis-*, stem of *despire*, fr L *despicere*, fr *de-* + *specere* to look – more at SPY] – *despiser* *n*
- despite** /dɪ'spiet/ *prep* notwithstanding; IN SPITE OF <ran ~ her injury> [short for *in despite of*; *despite*, *n* (contempt, defiance), fr ME, fr OF *despit*, fr L *despectus*, fr *despectus*, pp of *despicere*]
- despoil** /dɪ'spɔɪl/ *vt* to plunder, pillage [ME *despoynen*, fr OF *despoillier*, fr L *despoliare*, fr *de-* + *spoliare* to strip, rob – more at 'SPOL] – *despoiler* *n*, *despoliment* *n*
- despoliation** /dɪ'spɔɪli'əɪsh(ə)n/ *n* plundering or being plundered [LL *despoliation-*, *despoliatio*, fr *despoliatus*, pp of *despoliare*]
- despond** /dɪ'spɒnd/ *n* despondency [despond (to become discouraged), fr L *despondere*, fr *de-* + *spondere* to promise solemnly – more at SPOUSE]
- despondency** /dɪ'spɒndənsi/ *n* dejection, depression [DESPENDENT + -CY]
- despondent** /dɪ'spɒnd(ə)nt/ *adj* feeling extreme discouragement or dejection [L *despondent-*, *despondens*, prp of *despondere*] – *despondently* *adv*
- despot** /'despɒt/ *n* 1 a ruler with absolute power 2 a person exercising power abusively or tyrannically [MF *despote*, fr Gk *despotēs*; akin to Skt *dampati* lord of the house; both fr a prehistoric IE compound whose constituents are akin to L *domus* house and to L *potis* able – more at TIMBER, POTENT] – *despotic* /dɪ'spɒtɪk/ *adj*, *despotically* *adv*
- despotism** /'despə,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 rule by a despot; absolutism 2 despotism exercise of power
- desquamate** /'deskwa,mayt/ *vi* to peel off in scales [L *desquamatus*, pp of *desquamare*, fr *de-* + *squama* scale] – *desquamation* /,deskwa'maysh(ə)n/ *n*
- dessert** /dɪ'zɜ:t/ *n* a usu sweet course or dish served at the end of a meal [MF, fr *desservir* to clear the table, fr *des-* *de-* + *servir* to serve, fr L *servire*]
- des'sert,spoon** /-spu:hn/ *n* 1 a spoon intermediate in size between a teaspoon and a tablespoon and used for eating dessert 2 a deserts- spoonful
- des'sert,spoonful** /-f(ə)l/ *n* 1 as much as a deserts- spoon can hold 2 a unit of measure equal to about 8.9cm<sup>3</sup> (about 2½ fluid drachms) ➔ UNIT
- dessert wine** *n* a usu sweet wine often served with dessert
- destalin-ize**, *-ise* /,des'təɪlɪnɪz, -stəl-/ *vi* to dismantle the system associated with Stalin and his rule [Joseph Stalin †1953 Russ political leader] – *destalinization* /-tə'zəɪsh(ə)n/ *n*
- destination** /,destɪ'neɪsh(ə)n/ *n* a place which is set for the end of a journey or to which sthg is sent [DESTINE + -ATION]
- destine** /'destɪn/ *vt* 1 to designate or dedicate in advance 2 to direct or set apart for a specified purpose or goal <freight ~d for English ports> USE usu pass [ME *destinen*, fr OF *destiner*, fr L *destinare*, fr *de-* + *stinare* (akin to L *stare* to stand) – more at STAND]
- destiny** /'destɪni/ *n* 1 the power or agency held to determine the course of events 2 sthg to which a person or thing is destined; fortune 3 a predetermined course of events [ME *destinee*, fr MF, fr fem of *destiné*, pp of *destiner*]
- destitute** /'destɪtju:hl/ *adj* 1 lacking sthg necessary or desirable – + *of* <a heart ~ of feeling> 2 lacking the basic necessities of life; extremely poor [ME, fr L *destitutus*, pp of *destituere* to abandon, deprive, fr *de-* + *statuere* to set up – more at STATUTE] – *destitution* /-tɪ'ju:ʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- destrier** /'destri-ə/ *n*, *archaic* a war-horse, charger [ME, fr OF, fr *destrer* right hand, fr L *dextra*, fr fem of *dexter*]
- destroy** /dɪ'stroɪ/ *vt* 1 to demolish, ruin 2a to put an end to; kill b to make ineffective; neutralize [ME *destroyen*, fr OF *destruire*, fr (assumed) VL *destrugere*, alter. of L *destruere*, fr *de-* + *struere* to build – more at STRUCTURE]
- destroyer** /dɪ'stroɪə/ *n* a fast multi-purpose warship smaller than a cruiser [DESTROY + -ER]
- destruct** /dɪ'stru:kt/ *vt*, *NAM* to destroy [back-formation fr – *destructible* *adj*, *destructibility* /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*]
- destruct** *n* the deliberate destruction of a device (e.g. a rocket)
- destruction** /dɪ'stru:ktʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 destroying or being destroyed 2 a cause of ruin or downfall [ME *destruction*, fr MF *destruction*, fr L *destruction-*, *destructio*, fr *destructus*, pp of *destruere*]
- destructive** /dɪ'stru:ktɪv/ *adj* 1 causing destruction 2 designed or tending to destroy; negative <~ criticism> – *destructively* *adv*, *destructiveness* *n*, *destructivity* /,des'tru:ktɪvəti/ *n*
- destructor** /dɪ'stru:ktə/ *n* an incinerator for refuse [DESTRUCT + -OR]
- desuetude** /deswɪ'tju:hd, dɪ'sju:hd-ɪ'tju:hd/ *n* discontinuance from use; disuse – *fml* [F or L; F *désuétude*, fr L *desuetudo*, fr *desuerus*, pp



- of *desuere* to become unaccustomed, fr *de-* + *suescere* to become accustomed; akin to L *sui* of oneself – more at SUICIDE]
- desultory** /ˈdɛsʌlt(ə)ri, ˈdɛz-/ *adj* passing aimlessly from one subject or activity to another [L *desultorius*, fr *desultus*, pp of *desilire* to leap down, fr *de-* + *salire* to leap – more at SALLY] – *desultorily adv*, *desultoriness n*
- detach** /diˈtʌtʃ/ *vt* 1 to separate, esp from a larger mass and usu without causing damage 2 to separate from a parent organization for a special purpose (< ~ a ship from the fleet) [F *détacher*, fr OF *destachier*, fr *des-* + *-tacher* (as in *attacher* to attach)] – *detachable adj*, *detachably adv*, *detachability* /diˈtʌtʃəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- detached** *adj* 1 standing by itself; *specif* not sharing any wall with another building 2 free from prejudice or emotional involvement, aloof – *detachedly adv*
- detachment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 a detaching, separation 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of troops, ships, etc separated from the main body for a special mission 3 freedom from bias
- detail** /ˈdeɪtəl/ *n* 1 extended treatment of or attention to particular items 2a a small and subordinate part; *specif* part of a work of art considered or reproduced in isolation b a part considered separately from the whole c an individual relevant part or fact – *usu pl* (< can you let me have the ~s by tonight) 3a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a small military detachment selected for a particular task b the task to be performed by a military detail [F *détail*, fr OF *detail* slice, piece, fr *detaillier* to cut in pieces, fr *de-* + *tailier* to cut – more at TAILOR] – in *detail* item by item, thoroughly
- detail vt** 1 to report in detail 2 to assign to a particular task or place
- detailed** *adj* marked by abundant detail or thorough treatment
- detain** /diˈteɪn/ *vt* 1 to hold or retain (as if) in custody (< ~ed in hospital overnight) 2 to delay; HOLD BACK 1 [ME *deteynen*, fr MF *detenir*, fr L *detinēre*, fr *de-* + *tenēre* to hold – more at THIN]
- detainee** /ˈdeɪteɪnee/ *n* a person held in custody, esp for political reasons
- detainer** /diˈteɪna/ *n* 1 the withholding from the rightful owner of sth which has lawfully come into the possession of the holder 2 (a writ authorizing) detention in custody [AF *detener*, fr *detener* to detain, fr L *detinēre*]
- detect** /diˈtɛkt/ *vt* to discover the existence or presence of [ME *detecten*, fr L *detectus*, pp of *delegere* to uncover, detect, fr *de-* + *legere* to cover – more at THATCH] – *detectable adj*, *detection* /diˈtɛkʃən/ *n*, *detectability* /diˈtɛktəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- detective** /diˈtɛktɪv/ *adj* 1 used in detecting sth 2 of detectives or their work (< a ~ novel)
- detective n** a policeman or other person engaged in investigating crimes, detecting lawbreakers, or getting information that is not readily accessible
- detector** /diˈtɛktə/ *n* an electrical circuit for separating an (audio) signal from a (radio) carrier [DETECT + -OR]
- detent** /diˈtɛnt/ *n* a device that locks or unlocks one mechanical part in relation to another, esp in a clock [F *détente*, fr MF *destente*, fr *destendre* to slacken, fr OF, fr *des-* + *tendre* to stretch, fr L *tendere* – more at THIN]
- détente, detente** /ˈdeɪˈtɒnt/ *n* a relaxation of strained relations (e.g. between ideologically opposed nations) [F]
- detention** /diˈtɛnʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 detaining or being detained, esp in custody 2 chiefly Br the keeping in of a pupil after school hours as a punishment [MF or LL; MF, fr LL *detentio*-, *detentio*, fr L *detentus*, pp of *detinere* to detain]
- detention centre n, Br** an institution for the detention of young offenders for short periods
- deter** /diˈtʊh/ *vt* -rr- to discourage or prevent from acting [L *deterre*, fr *de-* + *terrere* to frighten – more at TERROR] – *determent n*, *deterable adj*
- detergent** /diˈtʊh(ə)nt/ *n* a cleansing agent; *specif* any of various synthetic (water-soluble) compounds that are chemically different from soaps and are able to keep oils, dirt, etc in suspension and act as wetting agents [F or L; F *détergent*, fr L *detergent-*, *detergens*, prp of *detergere* to wipe off, cleanse, fr *de* from, away + *tergere* to wipe off – more at TERSE]
- deteriorate** /diˈtɪəriəˌreɪt/ *vb* to grow or make or worse [LL *deterioratus*, pp of *deteriorare*, fr L *deterior* worse, fr *de-* + *-ior* (suffix as in L *uter* which of two) + *-ior* (compar suffix) – more at WHETHER, -ER] – *deteriorative* /-ri-əˈtɪv/ *adj*, *deterioration* /diˈtɪəri-əˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- determinable** /diˈtʊhminəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being determined, definitely ascertained, or decided upon 2 liable to be terminated – *determinably adv*
- determinant** /diˈtʊhminənt/ *n* 1 sth that determines, fixes, or conditions 2 an array of symbols or numbers written in the form of a square matrix bordered on either side by a vertical line; also a value assigned to a determinant obtained by manipulating its elements according to a certain rule 3 a gene
- determinate** /diˈtʊhminət/ *adj* 1 fixed, established 2 conclusively determined; definitive [ME, fr L *determinatus*, pp of *determinare*] – *determinately adv*, *determinateness n*, *determinacy* /-nəsi/ *n*
- determination** /diˈtʊhmiˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a judicial decision settling a controversy 2a firm intention b the ability to make and act on firm decisions; resoluteness
- determinative** /diˈtʊhminətɪv/ *n* or *adj* (sth) serving to determine – *determinatively adv*
- determine** /diˈtʊhmin/ *vt* 1a to fix conclusively or authoritatively b to settle, decide (< ~ the rights and wrongs of a case) 2a to fix beforehand b to regulate (< demand ~s the price) 3a to ascertain the intent, nature, or scope of b to set an end to (< ~ an estate) ~ *vi* 1 to come to a decision 2 to come to an end or become void [ME *determinen*, fr MF *determiner*, fr L *determinare*, fr *de-* + *terminare* to limit, fr *terminus* boundary, limit – more at TERM]
- determined** *adj* 1 decided, resolved (< was ~ to learn to drive) 2 firm, resolute (< a very ~ woman) – *determinedly adv*, *determinedness n*
- determiner** /diˈtʊhmina/ *n* a word that limits the meaning of a noun and comes before a descriptive adjective modifying the same noun (e.g. *his* in ‘his new car’) [DETERMINE + -ER]
- determinism** /diˈtʊhmiˌnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a doctrine that all phenomena are determined by preceding occurrences; esp the doctrine that all human acts, choices, etc are causally determined and that free will is illusory 2 a belief in predestination – *determinist n* or *adj*, *deterministic* /diˈtʊhmiˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*, *deterministically adv*
- deterrent** /diˈtɛrənt/ *adj* serving to deter [L *deterrent-*, *deterrens*, prp of *detertere* to deter] – *deterrence n*, *deterrently adv*
- deterrent n** sth that deters, esp a (nuclear) weapon that is held in readiness by one nation or alliance in order to deter another from attacking
- detest** /diˈtɛst/ *vt* to feel intense dislike for, loathe [ME *detesten*, fr L *detestari*, lit, to curse while calling a deity to witness, fr *de-* + *testari* to call to witness – more at TESTAMENT] – *detestable adj*, *detestably adv*
- detestation** /ˈdeɪtəˈsteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* extreme dislike; abhorrence
- dethrone** /ˈdeɪˌθroʊn/ *vt* DEPOSE 1 – *dethronement n*
- detinue** /ˈdeɪniyoo/ *n* (a common-law action against) the unlawful detention of a piece of personal property [ME *detenewe*, fr MF *detenue* detention, fr fem of *detenu*, pp of *detenir* to detain]
- detonate** /ˈdɛtənaɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) explode with sudden violence (< ~ an atom bomb) – compare DEFLAGRATE [L *detonatus*, pp of *detonare* to thunder down, fr *de-* + *tonare* to thunder – more at THUNDER] – *detonatable adj*, *detonative* /-ˌnaɪtɪv, -ˌnəɪv/ *adj*
- detonation** /ˈdɛtəˈnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the action or process of detonating 2 premature combustion in an internal-combustion engine that results in knocking
- detonator** /ˈdɛtənaɪtə/ *n* 1 a device used for detonating a high explosive 2 a device, clipped on to a railway line, that detonates as a train passes to warn of esp fog or emergency
- detour** /ˈdeɪˌtoʊə/ *n* a deviation from a course or procedure; *specif* a way that is an alternative to a shorter or planned route [F *détour*, fr OF *destor*, fr *destorner* to divert, fr *des-* + *torner* to turn – more at TURN]
- detour vi** to make a detour ~ *vt* to send by a roundabout route
- detoxicate** /ˈdeɪˌtɒksɪkəɪt/ *vt* to detoxify [*de-* + L *toxicum* poison – more at TOXIC] – *detoxicant n*, *detoxication* /diˈtɒksɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- detoxify** /ˈdeɪˌtɒksɪfaɪ/ *vt* to remove a poison or toxin from – *detoxification* /diˈtɒksɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- detract** /diˈtrakt/ *vt* to take away sth desirable – *usu* + *from* [ME *detracten*, fr L *detractus*, pp of *detrahere* to withdraw, disparage, fr *de-* + *trahere* to draw – more at DRAW]
- detractation** /diˈtraktʃ(ə)n/ *n* belittling, disparagement – *detractive adj*
- detractor** /diˈtraktə/ *n* one who denigrates sb or his/her ideas or beliefs (< her ~s were more vociferous than her followers)
- detrain** /ˈdeɪˌtreɪn/ *vb* to alight or remove from a railway train – *detrainment n*
- detriment** /ˈdɛtrɪmənt/ *n* (a cause of) injury or damage [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *detrimentum*, fr *deterere* to wear away, impair, fr *de-* + *terere* to rub – more at THROW]



**detrimental** /ˈdetrɪmentl/ *adj* harmful, damaging – **detrimentally** *adv*

**detrition** /diˈtrɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a wearing away, esp by rubbing [ML *detritio*-, *detritio*, fr L *detritus*]

**detritus** /diˈtrɪtəs/ *n, pl detritus* /~/ 1 loose material (e.g. rock fragments or organic particles) produced by disintegration 2 debris caused by disintegration [F *détritus*, fr L *detritus*, pp of *deterere*] – **détrital** /diˈtrɪtəl/ *adj*

**de trop** /dəˈtroʊ (Fr də tro)/ *adj* not wanted or needed, superfluous [F]

**Dettol** /detl/ *trademark* – used for a disinfectant containing chlorinated phenols

**detumescence** /ˌdeetyooʃˈmes(ə)ns/ *n* subsidence or diminution of swelling – **detumescent** *adj*

**deuce** /dyooʃs/ *n* 1 a playing card or the face of a dice representing the number 2 2 a tie in a game (e.g. tennis) after which a side must score 2 consecutive clear points to win 3a the devil, the dickens – formerly used as an interjection or intensive b sth very bad or remarkable of its kind <a ~ of a mess> [MF *deus* two, fr L *duos*, acc masc of *duo* two, (3) prob fr LG *duus* deuce (the worst throw at dice; hence, exclamation of dismay) – more at TWO]

**deuced** /dyooʃst, ˈdyooʃsɪd/ *adj* damned, confounded – **deucedly** /dyooʃst, ˈdyooʃsɪdli/ *adv*

**deus ex machina** /ˈdeɪs eks ˈmækiːnə/ *n* sby or sth (e.g. in fiction or drama) that appears or is introduced suddenly and unexpectedly and provides a contrived solution to an apparently insoluble difficulty [NL, a god from a machine, trans of Gk *theos ek mechanēs*]

**deuter-** /ˈdyooʊə /, **deutero-** *comb form* deuterium; containing deuterium <deuterated> <deuteroalkanes> [ISV]

**deuterate** /ˈdyoohtəˌraɪt/ *vt* to introduce deuterium into (a compound) – **deuteration** /ˈraɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**deuterium** /ˈdyoohtɪʊm/ *n* the hydrogen isotope that is twice the mass of ordinary hydrogen [NL, fr Gk *deuteros* second]

**Deuteronomy** /ˈdyoohtəˈrɒnəmi/ *n* the fifth book of the Old Testament containing Mosaic laws and narrative [ME *Deuteronomie*, fr LL *Deuteronomium*, fr Gk *Deuteronomion*, fr *deuteros* + *nomos* law – more at NIMBLE]

**deutoplasm** /ˈdyoohtəˌplaz(ə)m/ *n* the nonliving nutritive material in the substance of a cell; esp the yolk or food reserves of an egg [ISV, fr *deuto-* secondary (deriv of Gk *deuteros*) + *plasm*] – **deutoplasmic** /ˈdyoohtəˌplazmɪk/ *adj*

**Deutsche Mark** /ˈdoɪtʃ ˈmɑːk (Ger ˈdɔɪtʃ mark)/ *n* ➡ *Germany* (Federal Republic) at NATIONALITY [G, German mark]

**deutzia** /ˈdyoohtsiːə, ˈdɔɪtsiːə/ *n* any of a genus of the saxifrage family of ornamental shrubs with white or pink flowers [NL, fr Jean Deutz †1784? D patron of botanical research]

**devaluation** /ˌdeˌvæljuːˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a reduction in the exchange value of a currency 2 a lessening, esp of status or stature

**devalue** /ˌdeˌvæljuː/, **devalue** /ˌdeˌvæljuːəɪt/ *vt* 1 to reduce the exchange value of (money) 2 to lessen the value or reputation of ~ *vi* to institute devaluation

**Devanagari** /ˈdeɪvəˈnɑːɡəri/ *n* an alphabet used for writing Sanskrit and various modern languages of India ➡ ALPHABET [Skt *devanagari*, fr *deva* divine + *naḡari* script of the city; akin to L *divus* divine – more at DEITY]

**devastate** /ˈdevəsteɪt/ *vt* 1 to reduce to ruin; lay waste 2 to have a shattering effect on; overwhelm <a devastating attack on his work> [L *devastatus*, pp of *devastare*, fr *de-* + *vastare* to lay waste – more at WASTE] – **devastatingly** *adv*, **devastator** *n*, **devastation** /ˈsteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**develop** /dɪˈveləp/ *vt* 1a to unfold gradually or in detail; expound b to show signs of <~ an illness> c to subject (exposed photograph material) esp to chemicals, in order to produce a visible image; also to make visible by such a method d to elaborate by the unfolding of a musical idea and by the working out of rhythmic and harmonic changes in the theme 2 to bring out the possibilities of 3a to promote the growth of <~ed her muscles> b to make more available or usable <~ its resources> c to build on or change the use of (a tract of land) d to move (a chess piece) to a position providing more opportunity for effective use 4 to cause to grow, mature, or increase 5 to acquire gradually <~ a taste for good wine> ~ *vi* 1a to go through a process of natural growth, differentiation, or evolution by successive changes b to evolve; broadly to grow 2 to become gradually visible or apparent 3 to develop one's pieces in chess [F *développer*, fr OF *desvoloper*, fr *des-* + *voloper* to wrap] – **developable** *adj*

**developed** *adj* having achieved a high economic level of industrial production and a high standard of living <~ nation>

**developer** /dɪˈveləpə/ *n* 1 a chemical used to develop exposed photographic materials 2 a person who develops real estate, esp sby who improves and subdivides land and builds and sells houses on it [DEVELOP + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**developing** /dɪˈveləpɪŋ/ *adj* UNDERDEVELOPED 2

**development** /ˈment/ *n* 1 the act, process, or result of developing 2 being developed – **developmental** /ˌdɪˌvəlpˈmentl/ *adj*, **developmentally** *adv*

**development area** *n*, *Br* an area of high unemployment where government encouragement is given to new industries

**deviant** /ˈdeɪvi-ənt/ *adj* 1 deviating, esp from a norm 2 characterized by deviation – **deviance**, **deviancy** *n*

**deviant** *n* a person whose behaviour differs markedly from the norm

**deviate** /ˈdeɪvi-əɪt/ *vi* to stray, esp from a topic, principle, or accepted norm or from a straight course [LL *deviatus*, pp of *deviare*, fr L *de-* + *via* way – more at VIA] – **deviator** *n*, **deviatory** /ˈdeɪvi-əɪt(ə)ri/ *adj*

**deviate** /ˈdeɪvi-ət, -əɪt/ *n*, chiefly NAM a deviant

**deviation** /ˌdeɪvi-əʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 deflection of a compass needle caused by local magnetic influences 2 the difference between a value in a frequency distribution and a fixed number ➡ STATISTICS 3 departure from an established party line 4 departure from accepted norms of behaviour <sexual ~> [ˈDEVIATE + <sup>1</sup>-ION] – **deviationism** *n*, **deviationist** *n*

**device** /dɪˈviːs/ *n* 1a a scheme to trick or deceive b sth elaborate or intricate in design c sth (e.g. a figure of speech or a dramatic convention) designed to achieve a particular artistic effect d a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed for a special purpose or function 2 *pl* desire, will <left to her own ~s> 3a an emblematic design used in a heraldic achievement – compare CHARGE 1 b a motto [ME *devis*, *devise*, fr OF, division, intention, fr *deviser* to divide, regulate, tell – more at DEVISE]

**devil** /devl/ *n* 1 often *cap* the supreme spirit of evil in Jewish and Christian belief, the tempter of mankind, the leader of all apostate angels, and the ruler of hell 2 a malignant spirit; a demon 3 an extremely cruel or wicked person, a fiend 4 a high-spirited, reckless, or energetic person 5 a junior legal counsel working without payment to gain experience 6a a person of the specified type <poor ~> < lucky ~> b sth provoking, difficult, or trying <this type of bottle is the very ~ to open> c – used as an interjection or intensive <what the ~ is that?> USE (6) infml [ME *devel*, fr OE *deofol*, fr LL *diabolus*, fr Gk *diabolos*, lit., slanderer, fr *diaballein* to throw across, slander, fr *dia-* + *ballein* to throw; akin to OHG *quellan* to well, gush]

**devil** *vb* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈdevl-ɪŋ/ *vt* to season (food) highly, esp with peppery condiments <~ed kidneys> ~ *vi* to serve or function as a legal devil

**devilfish** /-ˌfɪʃ/ *n*, *Br* ANGLER FISH

**devilish** /ˈdevl-ɪʃ/ *adj* (characteristic of) a devil <~ tricks> – **devilishly** *adv*

**devil-may-care** *adj* heedless of authority or convention

**devilment** /ˈdevlmənt/ *n* wild mischief

**devilry** /ˈdevlri/ *n* 1 action performed with the help of the devil; witchcraft 2 (an act of) mischief

**devil's advocate** *n* 1 the Roman Catholic official who presents the possible objections to claims to canonization or to the title 'Blessed' 2 a person who champions the less accepted or approved cause, esp for the sake of argument [trans of NL *advocatus diaboli*]

**devil's coach horse** *n* a large flesh-eating rove beetle

**deviltry** /ˈdevltrɪ/ *n* devilry

**devious** /ˈdeɪvi-əs, -vɪəs/ *adj* 1 deviating from a fixed or straight course 2 deviating from a right, accepted, or common course 3 not straightforward or wholly sincere [L *devius*, fr *de* from + *via* way – more at DE-, VIA] – **deviously** *adv*, **deviousness** *n*

**devise** /dɪˈviːz/ *vt* 1a to formulate in the mind; invent b to plan, 2 to give or leave (real property) by will – compare BEQUEATH 1 *devisen*, fr OF *deviser* to divide, regulate, tell, modif of (assumed) VL *divisare*, fr L *divisus*, pp of *dividere* to divide] – **devisable** *adj*, **deviseal** *n*, **diviser** *n*

**devisee** *n* 1 a devising act or clause 2 property devised by will **devisee** /dɪˈviːzeɪ, ˈdeɪˈviːzeɪ/ *n* sby to whom a devise of property is made

**devisor** /dɪˈviːzə/ *n* sby who devises property in a will **devital-ize**, -ize /ˌdeɪˈviːtəl-ɪz/ *vt* to deprive of life, vigour, or effectiveness


**devoice** /ˌdeɪˈvoɪs/ *vt* to pronounce (a sometimes or formerly voiced sound) without vibration of the vocal cords

**devoid** /dɪˈvoɪd/ *adj* not having or using; lacking – < of [ME, prob short

for *devoided*, pp of *devoiden* to vacate, fr MF *desvuidier* to empty, fr OF, fr *des-* *dis-* + *vuidier* to empty – more at **VOID**

**devolution** /ˈdevəˌlooʃən/ *n* 1 the passage of rights, property, etc to a successor 2 delegation or conferral to a subordinate 3 the surrender of functions and powers to regional or local authorities by a central government; *specif* such a surrender of powers to Scottish and Welsh authorities by the UK government [ML *devolutio*, *devolutio*, fr L *devolutus*, pp of *devolvere*] – *devolutionary* /-n(ə)n/ *adj*, *devolutionist* *n*

**devolve** /diˈvɒlv/ *vt* 1 to transfer from one person to another; HAND DOWN 1, 2 2 to surrender by devolution ~ *vi* 1 to pass by transmission or succession 2 to fall or be passed, usu as an obligation or responsibility **USE** (v) usu + *on* or *upon* [ME *devolveren*, fr L *devolvere*, fr *de-* + *volvere* to roll – more at **VOLUBLE**]

**Devonian** /deˈvɒniən, -ni-ən/ *adj* 1 of Devon 2 of or being the period of the Palaeozoic era between the Silurian and the Carboniferous  **EVOLUTION** [Devon, county in England] – **Devonian** *n*

**devote** /diˈvɔɪt/ *vt* 1 to set apart for a special purpose; dedicate to 2 to give (oneself) over wholly to [L *devotus*, pp of *devovere*, fr *de-* + *vovere* to vow]

**devoted** *adj* loyally attached (< a ~ friend) – **devotedly** *adv*

**devotee** /ˈdevəˌtee/ *n* 1 a deeply religious person 2 a keen follower or supporter; an enthusiast (< a ~ of opera)

**devotion** /diˈvɒʃən/ *n* 1a piety b a special act of prayer or supplication – usu pl 2a devoting or being devoted b ardent love, affection, or dedication – **devotional** *adj*, **devotionally** *adv*

**devour** /diˈvɒvə/ *vt* 1 to eat up greedily or ravenously 2 to swallow up; consume (< ed by fire) 3 to preoccupy, absorb (< ed by guilt) 4 to take in eagerly through the mind or senses (< s books) [ME *devouren*, fr MF *devourer*, fr L *devorare*, fr *de-* + *vorare* to devour – more at **VORACIOUS**] – **devourer** *n*

**devout** /diˈvɒwt/ *adj* 1 devoted to religion; pious 2 sincere, genuine (< a ~ hope) [ME *devot*, fr OF, fr LL *devotus*, fr L, pp of *devovere*] – **devoutly** *adv*, **devoutness** *n*

**dew** /dyoo/ *n* moisture that condenses on the surfaces of cool bodies, esp at night [ME, fr OE *deaw*; akin to OHG *tou* dew, Gk *thēn* to run]

**Dewar flask** /ˈdyooə-ə/ *n* a glass or metal vacuum flask that is used esp in laboratories for storing liquefied gases [Sir James Dewar †1923 Sc. chemist & physicist]

**dewberry** /ˈdyoo(ə)b(ə)ri/ *n* (the berry of) any of several shrubs resembling the blackberry

**dew.claw** /-ˌklaʊ/ *n* (a claw or hoof at the end of) a vestigial digit not reaching to the ground on the foot of a mammal – **dewclawed** *adj*

**Dewey decimal classification** /ˈdyoo(ə)-/ *n* a book classification whereby main classes are shown by a 3-digit number and subdivisions by numbers after a decimal point [Melvil Dewey †1931 US librarian]

**dew.fall** /-ˌfɔːl/ *n* (the time of) deposition of dew

**dewlap** /ˈdyoo(ə)lɒp/ *n* a hanging fold of skin under the neck of an animal (e.g. a cow) – **dewlapped** *adj*

**dew.point** *n* the temperature of the air at which dew begins to be deposited

**dew.pond** *n* a shallow usu artificial pond thought to be filled by the condensation of dew

**dewy** /ˈdyoo(ə)-i/ *adj* moist (as if) with dew – **dewily** *adv*, **dewiness** *n*

**dewy-eyed** *adj* naively credulous or trusting

**dexamethasone** /ˈdeksəˈmethəzɒn, -sohn/ *n* a synthetic steroid that is a widely used glucocorticoid [perh fr *Dexamyl*, a trademark + *methyl* + *-sone* (as in *cortisone*)]

**Dexedrine** /ˈdeksəˌdrɪn/ *trademark* – used for a preparation of dextroamphetamine sulphate

**dexie** /ˈdeksi/ *n* a Dexedrine tablet [Dexedrine + *-ie*]

**dexter** /ˈdeks(ə)-/ *adj* of or being the side of a heraldic shield at the right of a person wearing it [L, of or on the right; akin to Gk *dexios* situated on the right, L *dexter* to be fitting – more at **DECENT**] – **dexter** *adv*

**dexterity** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtɛrɪti/ *n* 1 skill and ease in using the hands 2 mental quickness [MF or L; MF *dexteritē*, fr L *dexteritas*, *dexteritas*, fr *dexter*]

**dexterous, dextrous** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrʊs/ *adj* 1 skilful with the hands 2 mentally adroit [L *dextr*, *dexter* dextral, skilful] – **dexterously** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrʊsi/ *adv*

**dextr-** *comb form* 1 *dextr-*, *dextro-* on or towards the right; right (< *dextra*) 2 *dextro-* 2 [LL, fr L *dextr*, *dexter*]

**dextral** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrəl/ *adj* of or inclined to the right: e.g. a right-handed b of the shell of a gastropod mollusc having whorls that turn in an

anticlockwise direction from the top to the bottom as viewed with the top towards the observer – compare **SINISTRAL** – **dextrally** *adv*, **dextrality** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrəli/ *n*

**dextran** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrən/ *n* 1 any of numerous polysaccharides that yield only glucose on hydrolysis 2 a compound obtained from dextran and used as a plasma substitute [*dextrose* + *-an*]

**dextrin** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrɪn/ *n* any of various soluble gummy polysaccharides used as adhesives and as sizes for paper and textiles [F *dextrine*, fr *dextr-*]

**dextro-** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtroh-/ *comb form* 1 *DEXTRO-* 1 (< *dextrocardia*) 2 *dextro-*, *dextr-* dextrorotatory (< *dextro-tartaric acid*)

**dextroamphetamine** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrohˌamˈfetəmin/ *n* an amphetamine now used esp to treat abnormal sudden lapses into deep sleep – compare **DEXEDRINE**

**dextrorotary** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrohˌroʊ(ə)ri/ *adj* dextrorotatory

**dextrorotatory** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrohˌroʊ(ə)tri, -roʊˈtətri/ *adj* turning clockwise or towards the right; esp rotating the plane of polarization of light towards the right (< ~ *crystals*) – compare **LAEVOROTATORY** – **dextrorotation** /-roʊˈtətri/ *n*

**dextrorse** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtroʊs, -/-/ *adj* 1 of a plant twining spirally upwards round an axis from left to right – compare **SINISTRORSE** 2 *DEXTRAL* b [NL *dextrorsus*, fr L, towards the right, fr *dextr-* + *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at **WORTH**] – **dextrorsely** *adv*

**dextrose** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtroʊz/ *n* dextrorotatory glucose

**dextrous** /ˈdeks(ə)ˌtrʊs/ *adj* dexterous

**dhal** /dahl/ *n* a pulse having split cotyledons that is cultivated in India [Hindi *dāl*]

**dharma** /ˈdahmə/ *n* the fundamental concept of law, both natural and moral, in Hinduism and Buddhism, based on the principle of everything in the universe acting according to its essential nature or proper station [Skt, fr *dhārayati* he holds, akin to L *firmus* firm] – **dharmaic** /-mɪk/ *adj*

**dhobi** /ˈdohbi/ *n* an Indian washerman or washerwoman [Hindi *dhobi*]

**dhoti** /ˈdohti/ *n*, pl *dhotis* a loincloth worn by Hindu men [Hindi *dhoti*]

**dhow** /dow/ *n* an Arab lateen-rigged boat, usu having a long overhanging bow and a high poop [Ar *dāwa*]

**di-** /di-/ *comb form* 1 twice; twofold, double (< *dichromatic*) 2 containing 2 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure (< *dichloride*) [ME, fr MF, fr L, fr Gk; akin to OE *twi-*]

**dia-** /diə-/ *also* *di-* *prefix* through (< *diaprositive*), across (< *diameter*) [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, through, apart, fr *dia*; akin to L *dis-*]

**diabetes** /ˈdie-əˌbiːtɪs, -teez/ *n* any of various abnormal conditions characterized by the secretion and excretion of excessive amounts of urine, *specif* **DIABETES MELLITUS** [L, fr Gk *diabētes*, fr *diabainein* to cross over, fr *dia-* + *bainein* to go – more at **COME**]

**diabetes insipidus** /ˈmɪˌsɪpɪdəs/ *n* a disorder of the pituitary gland characterized by intense thirst and by the excretion of large amounts of urine [NL, lit., insipid diabetes]

**diabetes mellitus** /ˈmelɪtəs/ *n* a disorder of the process by which the body uses sugars and other carbohydrates in which not enough insulin is produced or the cells become resistant to its action and which is characterized typically by abnormally great amounts of sugar in the blood and urine [NL, lit., honey-sweet diabetes]

**diabetic** /ˈdie-əˌbetɪk/ *adj* 1 of diabetes or diabetics 2 affected with diabetes

**diabetic** *n* a person affected with diabetes

**diablerie** /ˈdeɪˌəbləri/ *n* sorcery; BLACK MAGIC [F, fr OF, fr *diabole* devil, fr LL *diabolus* – more at **DEVIL**]

**diabol-**, **diabolo-** *comb form* devil (< *diabolism*) [ME *deabol-*, fr MF *diabol-*, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *diabolos* – more at **DEVIL**]

**diabolic** /ˈdie-əˌbɒlɪk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of the devil; fiendish 2 **DIABOLICAL** 2 [ME *deabolik*, fr MF *diabolique*, fr LL *diabolus*, fr *diabolus*] – **diabolically** *adv*, **diabolicalness** *n*

**diabolical** /ˈdie-əˌbɒlɪkəl/ *adj* 1 **DIABOLIC** 1 2 chiefly Br dreadful, appalling (< it's ~ the way he treats his wife) (< that meal was ~) – *infml*

**diabolism** /ˈdie-əˌbɒlɪz(ə)m/ *n* dealings with, possession by, or worship of the devil – **diabolist** *n*

**diabolize, -ise** /ˈdie-əˌbɒlɪz/ *vt* to represent as or make diabolic

**diachronic** /ˈdie-əˌkrɒnɪk/ *adj* of or dealing with the historical development of phenomena, esp language – compare **SYNCHRONIC** – **diachronically** *adv*

**diaconal** /ˈdie-əˌkɒnəl/ *adj* of a deacon or deaconess [LL *diaconalis*, fr *diaconus* deacon – more at **DEACON**]


**diaconate** /die'akənt, -nayt/ *n* the (period of) office of a deacon or deaconess

**diacritic** /die'ə'kritik/ *n* a mark near or through an orthographic or phonetic character or combination of characters indicating a changed phonetic value – compare **ACCENT** 3a

**diacritical** /die'ə'kritikl/ *also* **diacritic** *adj* 1 serving as a diacritic 2 serving to distinguish; distinctive [Gk *diakritikos* separative, fr *diakrinein* to distinguish, fr *dia-* + *krinein* to separate – more at **CERTAIN**]

**diadelphous** /die'ə'delfəs/ *adj* united so as to form 2 sets (<the stamens of leguminous plants are ~> [di- + *adelphous* – more at **MONADELPHOUS**])

**diadem** /die'ə,dem/ *n* 1 a crown; specif a headband worn as a badge of royalty 2 regal power or dignity [ME *diademe*, fr OF, fr L *diadema*, fr Gk *diadema*, fr *diadein* to bind round, fr *dia-* + *dein* to bind, akin to Alb *duar* sheaf, Skt *daman* rope]

**diæresis**, chiefly *NAM* **diæresis** /die'ɔ'risis/ *n*, pl **diæreses** /-seɪz/ 1 a mark placed over a vowel to indicate pronunciation as a separate syllable (e.g. in *naïve*)  **SYMBOL** 2 the break in a verse caused by the coincidence of the end of a foot with the end of a word [LL *diæresis*, fr Gk *diæresis*, fr *diarrein* to divide, fr *dia-* + *hairein* to take] – **diæretic** /die'ə'retik/ *adj*


**diagnose** /die'ə'gnəʊz/ *vt* to recognize (e.g. a disease) by signs and symptoms [back-formation fr *diagnosis*] – **diagnosable**, **diagnoseable** /die'ə'gnəʊzəbl/ *adj*

**diagnosis** /die'ə'gnəʊsis/ *n*, pl **diagnoses** /-seɪz/ 1 the art or act of identifying a disease from its signs and symptoms 2 (a statement resulting from) the investigation of the cause or nature of a problem or phenomenon [NL, fr Gk *diagnosis*, fr *diagnōskōn* to distinguish, fr *dia-* + *gignōskōn* to know – more at **KNOW**]

**diagnostic** /die'ə'gnəstik/ *also* **diagnostical** /-kl/ *adj* of or involving diagnosis – **diagnostically** *adv*

**diagnostic** *n* the art or practice of diagnosis – often pl with sing. meaning – **diagnostician** /-nə'stɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**diagonal** /die'ə'gənl/ *adj* 1 joining 2 nonadjacent angles of a polygon or polyhedron 2 running in an oblique direction from a reference line (e.g. the vertical) [L *diagonalis*, fr Gk *diagonios* from angle to angle, fr *dia-* + *gōnia* angle; akin to Gk *gony* knee – more at **KNEE**] – **diagonalize** *vt*, **diagonally** *adv*

**diagonal** *n* 1 a diagonal straight line or plane  **MATHEMATICS** 2 a diagonal direction 3 **SOLIDUS** 2

**diagram** /die'ə'grəm/ *n* 1 a line drawing made for mathematical or scientific purposes 2 a drawing or design that shows the arrangement and relations (e.g. of parts) [Gk *diagramma*, fr *diagraphēin* to mark out by lines, fr *dia-* + *graphein* to write – more at **CARVE**] – **diagrammatic** /die'ə'grə'matik/ *also* **diagrammatical** *adj*, **diagrammatically** *adv*

**diagram** *vt* -mm- (*NAM* -m-, -mm-) to represent in the form of a diagram

**diagrammatize**, -ise /die'ə'grəmə'taɪz/ *vt* to diagram

**dial** /die'əl/ *n* 1 a sundial 2 the graduated face of a timepiece 3a a face on which some measurement is registered, usu. by means of numbers and a pointer b a disc-shaped control on an electrical or mechanical device (<a telephone ~>) 4 *Br* a person's face – slang [ME, fr L *dies* day – more at **DEITY**]

**dial** *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-) *vt* to operate a dial so as to select (<led the number>) ~ *vi* 1 to manipulate a dial 2 to make a call on a dial telephone

**dialect** /die'ə'lekt/ *n* a regional, social, or subordinate variety of a language, usu. differing distinctively from the standard or original language [MF *dialecte*, fr L *dialectus*, fr Gk *dialekto* conversation, dialect, fr *dialegesthai* to converse – more at **IALOGUE**] – **dialectal** /-'lektl/ *adj*, **dialectally** *adv*

**dialectic** /die'ə'lektik/ *n* 1a development through the stages of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis in accordance with (systems derived from) Hegel's logic b the theoretical application of dialectical materialism, esp. in Marxist investigation of economics and the social sciences 2 a systematic reasoning, exposition, or argument that juxtaposes opposed or contradictory ideas and usu. seeks to resolve their conflict 3 the dialectical tension or opposition between 2 interacting forces or elements **USE** (Ia&2) *usu* pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr [ME *dialetik* intellectual investigation by means of dialogue, fr MF *dialetique*, fr L *dialectica*, fr Gk *dialektikē*, fr fem of *dialektikos* of conversation, fr *dialekto*]

**dialectical** /die'ə'lektikl/ *also* **dialectic** *adj* 1 of or in accordance with dialectic 2 (characteristic of) a dialect – **dialectically** *adv*

**dialectical materialism** *n* the Marxist theory that the material basis

of a reality constantly changes in a dialectical process that is independent of thought

**dialectician** /die'ə'lekt'ɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 one who is skilled in or practises dialectic 2 a student of dialects

**dialectology** /die'ə'lekt'ɒləʒi/ *n* the study of dialect [ISV] – **dialectologist** *n*, **dialectological** /-'lekt'ɒləʒɪkl/ *adj*, **dialectologically** *adv*

**dialogic** /die'ə'lɒjɪk/ *also* **dialogical** /-kl/ *adj* of or characterized by dialogue (<~ writing>) – **dialogically** *adv*

**dialogist** /die'ə'ləʒɪst/ *n* 1 one who participates in a dialogue 2 a writer of dialogues – **dialogistic** /die'ə'ləʒ'ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**dialogue**, *NAM* *also* **dialog** /die'ə'lɒg/ *n* 1 a literary work in conversational form 2a a conversation between 2 or more people or between a person and sth else (e.g. a computer) b an exchange of ideas and opinions 3 the conversational element of literary or dramatic composition 4 discussion or negotiation between 2 nations, factions, groups, etc. with conflicting interests (<the continuing governmental policy of ~ between East and West>) [MF, fr OF, fr L *dialogus*, fr Gk *dialogos*, fr *dialegesthai* to converse, fr *dia-* + *legen* to speak]

**dialysate** /die'ə'lɪsaɪt/, **dialyze** /-zaɪt/ *n* the material that passes through the membrane in dialysis, also the liquid into which this material passes [dialysis or dialyze + -ate]

**dialyze**, *NAM* **dialyze** /die'ə'lɪz/ *vt* to subject to dialysis ~ *vi* to undergo dialysis – **dialysable** *adj*, **dialyser** *n*


**dialysis** /die'ə'lɪsɪs/ *n*, pl **dialyses** /-seɪz/ the separation of substances in solution by means of their unequal diffusion through semipermeable membranes, esp. the purification of blood by such means [NL, fr Gk, separation, fr *dialyein* to dissolve, fr *dia-* + *lyein* to loosen – more at **LOSE**] – **dialytic** /die'ə'lɪtɪk/ *adj*

**diamagnet** /die'ə'magnɪt/, **diamagnetic** /-mag'netɪk/ *n* a diamagnetic substance [diamagnet back-formation fr *diamagnetic*, *adj*]

**diamagnetic** /die'ə'mag'netɪk/ *adj* of or being a substance that in a magnetic field is (slightly) attracted towards points of lower field intensity – **diamagnetism** /-'magnɪ,tɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**diamanté** /dee'ə'manti, dia-/ *n* (cloth or other material decorated with) sparkling particles, esp. powdered crystal [F, fr pp of *diamanter* to set with diamonds, fr *diamant* diamond]

**diamantiferous** /dee'ə'man'tɪfərəs/ *adj* yielding diamonds

**diameter** /die'ə'mɪtə/ *n* 1 a line passing through the centre of a geometrical figure or body 2 the length of a straight line through the centre of an object (e.g. a circle) **USE**  **MATHEMATICS** [ME *diametre*, fr MF, fr L *diametros*, fr Gk, fr *dia-* + *metron* measure – more at **MEASURE**] – **diametral** /die'ə'mɪtrəl/ *adj*

**diametric** /die'ə'metrɪk/, **diametrical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or constituting a diameter 2 completely opposed or opposite – **diametrically** *adv*

**diamond** /die'ə'mənd/ *n* 1 (a piece of) very hard crystalline carbon that is highly valued as a precious stone, esp. when flawless and transparent, and is used industrially as an abrasive and in rock drills 2 a square or rhombus orientated so that the diagonals are horizontal and vertical 3a a playing card marked with 1 or more red diamond-shaped figures b *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr the suit comprising cards identified by this figure 4 the entire playing field or the area enclosed by the bases in baseball [ME *diamaunde*, fr MF *diamant*, fr LL *diamant*-, *diamas*, alter of L *adamant*-, *adamas*, hardest metal, diamond, fr Gk] – **diamondiferous** /die'ə'mən'dɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj*

**diamond** *adj* of, marking, or being a 60th or 75th anniversary (<~ wedding>)


**diamondback** /-bak/ *n* a large and deadly rattlesnake of the southern USA [fr the diamond-shaped markings on its back]

**dianthrous** /die'ændrəs/ *adj* having 2 stamens

**dianthus** /die'ænθəs/ *n* 'PINK [NL, genus name, fr Gk *dios* heavenly + *anthos* flower – more at **DEITY**, **ANTHOLOGY**]

**diapason** /die'ə'payz(ə)n, -s(ə)n/ *n* 1a a full deep burst of harmonious sound b a principal organ stop extending through the range of an instrument 2 the entire range of musical tones 3 the range, scope [ME, fr L, fr Gk (*hē*) *dia pasōn* (chordōn) *sympḥōnía*] the concord through all the notes, fr *dia* through + *pasōn*, gen. fem. pl. of *pas* all – more at **DIA-**, **PAN-**]

**diapause** /die'ə'pawz/ *n* a period (e.g. in an insect) of arrested development between periods of activity [Gk *diapausis* pause, fr *diapauō* to pause, fr *dia-* + *pauō* to stop – more at **PAUSE**]

**diaper** /'diəpə, 'die-əpə/ *n* 1 a soft usu. white linen or cotton fabric used for tablecloths or towels 2 an ornamental pattern consisting of one or more small repeated units of design (e.g. geometric figures)  **ARCHITECTURE** 3 chiefly *NAM* a nappy [ME *diapre*, fr MF, fr ML *diasprum*]

**diaper** *vi* to ornament with diaper designs

**diaphanous** /die'afəns/ *adj* so fine as to be almost transparent [ML *diaphanus*, fr Gk *diaphanes*, fr *diaphainin* to show through, fr *dia-* + *phainin* to show – more at *FANCY*] – *diaphanously adv*, *diaphanousness n*

**diaphoretic** /die'əfə'retik/ *adj*, esp of a drug causing sweating [LL *diaphoreticus*, fr Gk *diaphoretikos*, fr *diaphorētōs*, verbal of *diaphorein* to perspire, fr *dia-* + *pherein* to carry – more at *BEAR*]

**diaphragm** /die'əfrəm/ *n* 1 the partition separating the chest and abdominal cavities in mammals ➔ **DIGESTION** 2 a dividing membrane or thin partition, esp in a tube 3 a partition in a plant or the body or shell of an invertebrate animal 4 a device that limits the aperture of a lens or optical system ➔ **CAMERA** 5 a thin flexible disc that is free to vibrate (e.g. in an earphone) 6 DUTCH CAP [ME *diaphragma*, fr LL *diaphragma*, fr Gk, fr *diaphrassein* to barricade, fr *dia-* + *phrassein* to enclose] – *diaphragmatic /die'əfrəg'matik/ adj*, *diaphragmatically adv*

**diapositive** /die'əpəzitiv/ *n* a transparent photographic positive, specif <sup>2</sup>SLIDE 3b

**diarchy** /die'ahki/ *n* dyarchy

**diarist** /die'arist/ *n* one who keeps a diary

**diarrhoea**, *NAm chiefly diarrhoea* /die'ə'riə/ *n* abnormally frequent intestinal evacuations with more or less fluid faeces [ME *diana*, fr LL *diarrhoea*, fr Gk *diarrhoia*, fr *diarrhein* to flow through, fr *dia-* + *rhein* to flow – more at *STREAM*] – *diarrhoeal*, *diarrhoeic* /-'riə-ik, -'ree-ik/ also *diarrhoetic* /-'rɒtɪk, -'reetɪk/ *adj*

**diary** /die'əri/ *n* 1 (a book containing) a daily record of personal experiences or observations 2 chiefly *Br* a book with dates marked in which memoranda can be noted [L *diarium*, fr *dies* day – more at *DEITY*]

**Diaspore** /die'əspərə/ *n* 1 the settling, or area of settlement, of Jews outside Palestine after the Babylonian exile 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr the Jews living outside Palestine or modern Israel [Gk, dispersion, fr *diaspeirein* to scatter, fr *dia-* + *speirein* to sow – more at *SPROUT*]

**diastase** /die'əstəz, -stəz/ *n* amylase; esp a mixture of amylases from malt [F, fr Gk *diastasis* separation, interval, fr *diastanaī* to separate, fr *dia-* + *histanaī* to cause to stand – more at *STAND*] – *diastatic* /die'əstatik/ *adj*

**diastole** /die'əstəli/ *n* a rhythmically recurrent expansion, esp the dilation of the cavities of the heart during which they fill with blood ➔ compare **SYSTOLE** [Gk *diastolē* dilatation, fr *diastellein* to expand, fr *dia-* + *stellein* to send – more at *'STALL*] – *diastolic* /die'əstəlik/ *adj*

**diastrophism** /die'əstrəfɪz(ə)m/ *n* major deformation of the earth's crust that produces continents, ocean basins, mountains, etc [Gk *diastrophē* twisting, fr *diastrechein* to distort, fr *dia-* + *strechein* to twist – more at *STROPHE*] – *diastrophic* /die'əstəfɪk/ *adj*, *diastrophically adv*

**diathermanous** /die'ə'thuhmanəs/ *adj* **DIATHERMIC** 1 [Gk *diatherman-*, stem of *diathermainein* to heat through]

**diathermic** /die'ə'thuhmik/ *adj* 1 transmitting infrared radiation 2 of or using diathermy (< treatment)

**diathermy** /die'ə'thuhmi/ *n* the generation of heat in tissue by electric currents for medical or surgical purposes [ISV]

**diathesis** /die'əθəsis/ *n*, *pl* *diatheses* /-sɛzɪz/ a constitutional predisposition towards an abnormality or disease [NL, fr Gk, lit, arrangement, fr *diatithenai* to arrange, fr *dia-* + *tithenai* to set – more at *DO*] – *diathetic* /die'əθetik/ *adj*

**diatom** /die'ətəm, -təm/ *n* any of a class of minute single-celled algae with hard shell-like skeletons that are composed of silica and form kieselguhr [deriv of Gk *diatomos* cut in half, fr *diatemein* to cut through, fr *dia-* + *temnein* to cut – more at *TOME*] – *diatomaceous* /die'ətə'mayʃəs/ *adj*

**diatomic** /die'ətəmik/ *adj* 1 consisting of 2 atoms 2 having 2 replaceable atoms or radicals [ISV]

**diatomite** /die'ətəmiət/ *n* kieselguhr

**diatonic** /die'ətənik/ *adj* relating to a major or minor musical scale of 8 notes to the octave without chromatic deviation [LL *diatonicus*, fr Gk *diatonikos*, fr *dianōnos* stretching, fr *diatenein* to stretch out, fr *dia-* + *teinein* to stretch – more at *THIN*] – *diatonically adv*

**diatribe** /die'ətri:b/ *n* a (lengthy) piece of bitter and abusive criticism [L *diatriba*, fr Gk *diatribē* pastime, discourse, fr *diatribein* to spend (time), wear away, fr *dia-* + *tribein* to rub]

**diazepam** /die'əzəpəm/ *n* a synthetic tranquillizer that is also used as a sedative and muscle relaxant, esp before surgical operations – compare **VALIUM** [*di-* + *az-* + *epoxide* + *-am* (compound related to ammonia)]

**diazonium** /die'əzəniəm/ *n* 1 of or containing a radical composed of 2 nitrogen

atoms united to a single carbon atom 2 of or containing a diazonium ion [ISV *diaz-*, *diaz-*, fr *di-* + *az-*]

**diazonium** /die'əzəniəm/ *n* an ion that is composed of 2 nitrogen atoms united to 1 carbon atom and usu exists in salts that are used in the manufacture of azo dyes [ISV *di-* + *az-* + *-onium*]

**dibasic** /die'baysɪk/ *adj* 1 of an acid having 2 replaceable hydrogen atoms 2 containing 2 atoms of a univalent metal 3 of a base or a basic salt having 2 hydroxyl groups

**dibber** /dɪbə/ *n* a dibble [by alter]

**'dibble** /dɪbl/ *n* a small pointed hand implement used to make holes in the ground for plants, seeds, or bulbs [ME *debylle*]

**'dibble** *vt* 1 to plant with a dibble 2 to make holes in (soil) (as if) with a dibble

**dibs** /dɪbz/ *n pl* money, esp in small amounts – slang [prob short for *dibstones* (jacks), fr obs *dib* (to dab)]

**'dice** /di:s/ *n*, *pl* *dice* /~/ 1a a small cube that is marked on each face with from 1 to 6 spots so that spots on opposite faces total 7 and that is used to determine arbitrary values in various games b a gambling game played with dice 2 a small cubical piece (e.g. of food) [ME *dyce*, fr *dees*, *dyce*, *pl* of *dee* die, fr MF *dē*] – no dice of no avail, no use – *infml*

**'dice** *vt* 1a to cut (e.g. food) into small cubes b to ornament with square markings 2 to gamble using dice (< his money away) ~ *vi* 1 to play games with dice 2 to take a chance (< with death) [ME *dycen*, fr *dyce*] – *dicer* /'di:sə/ *n*

**dicey** /'di:si/ *adj* risky, unpredictable – *infml* ['dice + *-y*]

**dich-** /di:k-/ , **dicho-** *comb form* in two, apart (< *dichogamous*) (< *dichotomy*) [LL, fr Gk, fr *dicha*, akin to Gk *di-*]

**dichlor-** /di:klaʊ-/ , **dichloro-** *comb form* containing 2 atoms of chlorine in the molecular structure (< *dichloroethylene*)

**dichloride** /di:klaʊrɪd/ *n* a compound containing 2 atoms of chlorine combined with an element or radical

**dichlorvos** /di:klaʊvɒs, -vɒs/ *n* an insecticide used esp against insects in houses, shops, etc [*dichlor-* + *vinyl* + *phosphate*]

**dichotomous** /di:kə'təməs/ *adj* 1 dividing into 2 parts 2 of, involving, or arising from dichotomy [LL *dichotomos*, fr Gk, fr *dich-* + *temnein* to cut – more at *TOME*] – *dichotomously adv*, *dichotomousness n*

**dichotomy** /di:kə'təmi/ *n* 1 a division into 2 esp mutually exclusive or contradictory groups 2 a (repeated) branching (into 2 branches) [Gk *dichotomia*, fr *dichotomos*]

**dichroism** /di:kroɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the property of certain crystals of differing in colour when viewed in the direction of 2 different axes 2 the property of a surface of reflecting light of one colour and transmitting light of other colours – *dichroic* /di:kroɪk/ *adj*

**dichromate** /di:krohməɪt, -mət/ *n* a usu orange to red chromium salt containing 2 atoms of chromium in the molecule [ISV]

**dichromatic** /di:krohmə'tɪk/ *adj* 1 having or using 2 colours 2 having 2 colour varieties or colour phases independent of age or sex (< a ~ bird) [*di-* + *chromatic*] – *dichromatism* /di:krohmə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**dic/dik/** *n* 1 chiefly *Br* a person (< clever ~) 2 a detective 3 the penis – *vulg USE (1&2) infml* [*Dick*, nickname for *Richard*; (2) prob by shortening & alter.]

**Dickens** /dɪkɪnz/ *n* devil, deuce – used as an interjection or intensive [euphemism]

**Dickensian** /dɪ'kenzi:ən/ *adj* (suggestive) of aspects of Victorian England, esp urban squalor or conviviality [Charles Dickens †1870 E novelist]

**dicker** /dɪkə/ *vi* 1 to bargain, haggle 2 to hesitate, dither [origin unknown]

**dickey**, *dicky* also *dickey* /dɪki/ *n* 1 a false front of a shirt 2 chiefly *Br* a the driver's seat in a carriage b a folding seat at the back of a carriage or motor car [*Dicky*, nickname for *Richard*]

**'dickeybird** /-,bu:hd/ *n* 1 a small bird – used by or to children 2 so much as a single word (< never said a ~) – *infml* [*Dicky*, nickname for *Richard*, (2) rhyming slang *dickeybird* word]

**dicky** /dɪki/ *adj*, *Br* in a weak or unsound condition – *infml* (< a ~ heart) [origia unknown]

**dicot** /di:kəʊ/ *n* a dicotyledon

**dicotyledon** /di:kə'tɪlədn, -tɪ-/ *n* a plant with 2 seed leaves ➔ **PLANT** [deriv of NL *di-* + *cotyledon*] – *dicotyledonous* /di:kə't-/

**dicoumarol** /di:kə'ku:mərol/ *n* a drug that is taken by mouth to delay the clotting of blood, esp in the treatment of thrombosis [fr *Dicumarol*, a trademark]

**dicrotic** /di:krotɪk/ *adj*, of the pulse having a double beat (e.g. in certain feverish states) [Gk *dikrotos* having a double beat] – *dicrotism* /di:kə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**Dictaphone** /'dikta,fəhn/ trademark – used for a dictating machine  
**'dictate** /dik'tayt/ *vi* 1 to give dictation 2 to speak or act with authority; prescribe ~ *vt* 1 to speak or read for a person to transcribe or for a machine to record 2 to impose, pronounce, or specify with authority [L *dictatus*, pp of *dicere* to assert, dictate, fr *dictus*, pp of *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**]

**'dictate** /dik'tayt/ *n* 1 an authoritative rule, prescription, or command 2 a ruling principle – usu pl (<according to the ~s of his conscience>)

**dic'tating ma.chine** /dik'taytɪŋ/ *n* a machine designed for the recording of dictated matter

**dictation** /dik'taysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 PRESCRIPTION 2 **2a** the act or manner of uttering words to be transcribed **b** material that is dictated or transcribed

**dictator** /dik'taytə/ *n* 1 a person granted absolute emergency power, esp in ancient Rome 2 an absolute ruler; esp one who has seized power unconstitutionally and uses it oppressively [L, fr *dictatus*]

**dictatorial** /dik'tawri-əl/ *adj* 1 of a dictator 2 arrogantly domineering – **dictatorially** *adv*, **dictatorialness** *n*

**dictatorship** /-ship/ *n* 1 the office of dictator 2 total or absolute control; leadership, rule 3 a state or form of government where absolute power is concentrated in one person or a small clique

**diction** /diksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 choice of words, esp with regard to correctness or clearness 2 pronunciation and enunciation of words in speaking or singing [L *dictio*-, *dictio* speaking, style, fr *dictus*, pp of *dicere* to say, akin to OE *tēon* to accuse, L *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate, Gk *deiknynai* to show, *dikē* judgment, right] – **dictionary** *adj*, **dictionary** *adv*

**dictionary** /dikshən(ə)n/ *n* 1 a reference book containing words, terms, or names, usu alphabetically arranged, together with information about them, esp their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, syntactic and idiomatic uses, and applications 2 a reference book giving for words of one language equivalents in another 3 a list (e.g. of synonyms or hyphenation instructions) stored in machine-readable form (e.g. on a computer disk) for reference by an automatic system (e.g. for computerized typesetting) [ML *dictionarium*, fr LL *dictio*-, *dictio* word, fr L, speaking]

**dictum** /diktəm/ *n*, pl **dicta** /-tə/ also **dictums** 1 an authoritative statement on some topic, a pronouncement 2 **OBITER DICTUM** 1 [L, fr neut of *dictus*]

**dicty-** /dikti-/ *dictyo-* *comb form* net; network <*dictyostele*> <*dictyosome*> [NL, fr Gk *dikty-*, *diktyo-*, fr *diktyon*, fr *dikēn* to throw]

**dictyosome** /dikti-ə,sohm/ *n* GOLGI BODY

**did** /did/ *past of do*

**didactic** /die'daktik/ *adj* 1 intended to teach sth, esp a moral lesson 2 having a tendency to teach in an authoritarian manner [Gk *didaktikos*, fr *didaskēn* to teach] – **didactically** *adv*, **didacticism** /-tɪ,sɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**diddle** /dɪdl/ *vt* **diddling** /dɪdlɪŋ/, **'diddling** /-ɪŋ/ to cheat, swindle – *informal* [prob fr Jeremy Diddler, character in the play *Raising the Wind* by James Kenny †1849 E dramatist] – **diddler** *n*

**diddums** /dɪdəmz/ *interj* – used to express commiseration to a child [baby-talk alter. of *did you/he/she*]


**didgeridoo** /dɪdʒərɪ'doo/ *n* an Australian wind instrument with a long wooden tube [imit]

**didicoy**, **didicoy** /'dɪdi,kɔɪ/ *n*, pl **didicolas**, **didicoys** *Br* an itinerant tinker, traveller, etc (who is not a true Romany) [Romany]

**didn't** /dɪdn't/ *did not*

**didst** /dɪdst/ *archaic past 2 sing of do*

**didymium** /die'dɪmɪ-əm, di-/ *n* a mixture of rare-earth elements made up chiefly of neodymium and praseodymium [NL, fr Gk *didymos* double, twin, testicle, fr *dyo* two – more at **TWO**]

**'die** /die/ *vi* **dying** 1 to stop living; suffer the end of physical life  **SYMBOL** 2 to pass out of existence, cease <his anger ~d at these words> 3 to long keenly or desperately <dying to go> 4 to stop <the motor ~d> [ME *dien*, fr or akin to ON *deyja* to die; akin to OHG *touwen* to die, OIr *duine* human being]

**'die** *n*, pl (**1**) **dice** /dɪs/, (**2&3**) **dies** /diez/ 1 a dice 2 **DADO** 1 3 any of various tools or devices for giving a desired shape, form, or finish to a material or for impressing an object or material [ME *dee*, fr MF *dē*] – **the dice are loaded** all the elements of a situation are combined to work – usu + *against* or *in favour of* <I will never get the job, the dice are loaded in favour of him> – **the die is cast** the irrevocable decision or step has been taken

**'die-cast** *vt* **die-cast** to make by forcing molten plastic, metal, etc into a die – **die-cast** *adj*

**diecious** /die'ceəshəs/ *adj*, *NAm* dioecious

**die down** *vi* 1 of a plant to undergo death of the parts lying above ground 2 to diminish, subside

**'die-hard** *n* or *adj* (one) strongly resisting change – **die-hardism** *n*

**dieldrin** /dee-əl,drɪn/ *n* a persistent chlorine-containing insecticide [Dielis-Alder reaction, fr Otto Diels †1954 & Kurt Alder †1958 G chemists]

**dielectric** /die-ɪ'lektrɪk/ *n* a substance that can transmit an electrical effect by electrostatic induction but not by conduction; an insulator [*dia-* + *electric*] – **dielectric** *adj*

**diene** /die,een/ *n* a compound containing 2 double bonds [*di-* + *-ene*]

**die out** *vi* to become extinct

**diæresis** /die-ə'reesɪs/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a diaeresis

**diesel** /deɪzl/ *n* 1 (a vehicle driven by) a diesel engine 2 **diesel**, **diesel** oil a heavy mineral oil used as fuel in diesel engines [Rudolph Diesel †1913 G mechanical engineer]

**diesel-electric** *adj* of or using the combination of a diesel engine driving an electric generator (<a ~ locomotive>) – **diesel-electric** *n*  
**'diesel engine** *n* an internal-combustion engine in which fuel is ignited by air compressed to a sufficiently high temperature

**Dies Irae** /dee-ayz 'ɪəri/ *n* a medieval Latin hymn sung in requiem masses [ML, day of wrath; fr the first words of the hymn]

**'diet** /die-ət/ *n* 1 the food and drink habitually taken by a group, animal, or individual 2 the kind and amount of food prescribed for a person or animal for a special purpose (e.g. losing weight) [ME *diēte*, fr OF, fr L *dieta* prescribed diet, fr Gk *diata*, lit, manner of living, fr *dia-* + *-aita* (akin to Gk *aisa* share)]

**'diet** *vb* (to cause to) eat and drink sparingly or according to prescribed rules – **dieter** *n*

**'diet** *n* any of various national or provincial legislatures [ML *dieta* day's journey, assembly, fr L *dies* day – more at **DEITY**]

**'dietary** /die-ət(ə)n/ *n* the kinds and amounts of food available to or eaten by an individual, group, or population

**'dietary** *adj* of (the rules of) a diet – **dietary** /die-ət(ə)rəli/ *adv*

**dietetic** /die-ətetɪk/ *adj* 1 of diet 2 adapted for use in special diets – **dietetically** *adv*

**'dietetics** *n* pl but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the application of the principles of nutrition to feeding

**diethyl ether** /die'ethl, -'eethl, -thiel/ *n* **ETHER** 3a

**diethylstilboestrol** /die,ethɪl'stɪbɛstrɒl, die,ethl-, -thiel-/ *n* **stilboestrol** [ISV]

**dietitian**, **dietician** /die-ə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a specialist in dietetics [*dietitian* irreg fr *'diet*]

**differ** /dɪfə/ *vi* 1a to be unlike, be distinct from **b** to change from time to time; vary 2 to disagree <people who ~ on religious matters> [ME *differen*, fr MF or L; MF *differre* to postpone, be different, fr L *differre*, fr *dis-* + *ferre* to carry – more at **'BEAR**]

**difference** /dɪfrəns/ *n* 1a unlikeness between 2 or more people or things **b** the degree or amount by which things differ 2 a disagreement, dispute; dissension <unable to settle their ~s> 3 the degree or amount by which things differ in quantity or measure, *specif* **REMAINDER** 2b(1) 4 a significant change in or effect on a situation

**different** /dɪfrənt/ *adj* 1 partly or totally unlike; dissimilar – + *from*, chiefly *Br* *to*, or chiefly *NAm* *than* 2a distinct **b** various **c** another 3 unusual, special [MF, fr L *different-*, *differens*, prp of *differre*] – **differently** *adv*, **differentness** *n*

**differentia** /dɪfə'renshyə/ *n*, pl **differentiae** /-ʃi,ee/ the mark or feature that distinguishes one member of a general class from another; esp a trait distinguishing species from other species of the same genus [L, difference, fr *different-*, *differens*]

**'differential** /dɪfə'renshəl/ *adj* 1a of or constituting a difference **b** on or resulting from a differential (<~ freight charges>) **c** functioning or proceeding differently or at a different rate 2 of or involving a differential or differentiation 3 of quantitative differences – **differentially** *adv*

**'differential** *n* 1 the product of the derivative of a function of one variable with the increment of the independent variable <for a function *f(x)* the ~ is *f(x)dx*> 2 the amount of a difference between comparable individuals or classes; *specif* the amount by which the remuneration of distinct types of worker differs 3 (a case covering) a differential gear

**differentia** 'calculus *n* a branch of mathematics dealing chiefly with the rate of change of functions with respect to their variables

**differentia** 'equation *n* an equation containing differentials or derivatives of functions

**differential gear** *n* an arrangement of gears in a vehicle that allows one



of the wheels imparting motion to turn (e.g. in going round a corner) faster than the other

**differentiate** /difə'renʃiə'tayt/ *vt* 1 to obtain the mathematical derivative of 2 to mark or show a difference in 3 to cause differentiation of in the course of development 4 to express the specific difference of ~ *vt* 1 to recognize a difference between 2 to become distinct or different in character 3 to undergo differentiation – **differentiability** /-ʃi-ə'biliti/ *n*, **differentiable** /-ʃi-ə'bəl/ *adj*

**differentiation** /difə'renʃi-ə'ʃaɪ(ə)n/ *n* 1 development into more complex, numerous, or varied forms 2a modification of body parts for performance of particular functions b all the processes whereby apparently similar cells, tissues, and structures attain their adult forms and functions [DIFFERENTIATE + -ION]

**difficult** /dɪfɪk(ə)lɪ/ *adj* 1 hard to do, make, carry out, or understand <a ~ climb> <a ~ text> 2a hard to deal with, manage, or please <a ~ child> b puzzling [back-formation fr **difficulty**] – **difficultly** *adv*  
**difficulty** /dɪfɪk(ə)lɪtɪ/ *n* 1 being difficult 2 an obstacle or impediment 3 a cause of (financial) trouble or embarrassment – usu pl with sing meaning [ME **difficilte**, fr L **difficultas**, irreg fr **difficilis**, fr **dis-** + **facilis** easy – more at **FACILE**]

**diffident** /dɪfɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 lacking in self-confidence 2 reserved, unassertive [L **diffident-**, **diffidens**, prp of **diffidere** to distrust, fr **dis-** + **fidere** to trust – more at **BIDE**] – **diffidently** *adv*, **diffidence** /-d(ə)ns/ *n*

**diffract** /dɪ'frækt/ *vt* to cause (a beam of light) to become a set of light and dark or coloured bands in passing by the edge of an opaque body, through narrow slits, etc [back-formation fr **diffraction**, fr NL **diffraction-**, **diffraction**, fr L **diffractus**, pp of **diffringere** to break apart, fr **dis-** + **frangere** to break – more at **BREAK**] – **diffraction** /dɪ'frækʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**diffraction grating** *n* GRATING 3

**diffuse** /dɪ'fjuːs/ *adj* 1 not concentrated or localized; scattered 2 lacking conciseness, verbose [L **diffusus**, pp of **diffundere** to spread out, fr **dis-** + **fundere** to pour – more at **FOUND**] – **diffusely** *adv*, **diffuseness** *n*

**diffuse** /dɪ'fjuːz/ *vt* 1 to spread out freely in all directions 2 to break up and distribute (incident light) by reflection ~ *vi* 1 to spread out or become transmitted 2 to undergo diffusion [MF or L; MF **diffuser**, fr L **diffusus**, pp] – **diffuser** *n*, **diffusible** *adj*, **diffusive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**diffusion** /dɪ'fjuːʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 diffusing or being diffused 2 being, long-winded 3a the process whereby particles of liquids, gases, or solids intermingle as the result of their spontaneous movement b reflection of light by a rough reflecting surface – **diffusional** *adj*

**dig** /dɪg/ *vb* -gg-; **dig** /dʌg/ *vi* 1 to turn up, loosen, or remove earth 2 to understand ~ *vt* 1 to break up, turn, or loosen (earth) with an implement 2 to bring to the surface (as if) by digging; unearth 3 to hollow out by removing earth; excavate <~ a hole> 4 to drive down into; thrust 5 to poke, prod <~ him in the ribs> 6a to pay attention to; notice b to understand, appreciate **USE** (vi 2; vt 6) slang [ME **diggen**]

**dig** *n* 1a a thrust, poke b a cutting or snide remark 2 an archaeological excavation (site) 3 *pl*, chiefly Br LODGING 2b (3) short for **diggings**  
**digamy** /dɪ'gəmi/ *n* a second marriage after the termination of the first [LL **digamia**, fr LGk, fr Gk **digamos** married to two people, fr **di-** + **-gamos** -gamous]

**digestric** /dɪ'eɪstrɪk/ *adj*, of a muscle having 2 enlarged parts separated by a tendon [NL **digestricus**, fr **di-** + **gastricus** gastric]

**digeneis** /dɪ'eɪnəɪsɪs/ *n* successive reproduction by sexual and asexual methods [NL] – **digenic** /dɪ'eɪnɪ'tetɪk/ *adj*

**digest** /dɪ'eɪst/ *n* 1 a systematic compilation of laws 2 a literary abridgment [ME **Digest** compilation of Roman laws ordered by Jus- fr LL **Digesta**, *pl*, fr L, collection of writings arranged under fr neut pl of **digestus**, pp of **digerere** to arrange, distribute, fr **dis-** + **gerere** to carry – more at **CAST**]

/dɪ'eɪst/ *die-/ vt* 1 to distribute or arrange systematically 2 to (food) into a form the body can use 3 to assimilate mentally 4 soften or decompose or extract soluble ingredients from by heat and moisture or chemicals 5 to compress into a short summary ~ *vi* to become digested [ME **digesten**, fr L **digestus**] – **digester** *n*, **digestible** /dɪ'eɪstəbəl/ *adj*, **digestibility** /-jəstə'bɪləti/ *n*

**digestion** /dɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* the process or power of digesting sth, esp

**digestive** /dɪ'eɪstɪv/ *n* sth that aids digestion

**digestive** *adj* of, causing, or promoting digestion – **digestively** *adv*, **digestiveness** *n*

**digger** /dɪgə/ *n* 1 a tool or machine for digging 2 a private soldier from Australia or New Zealand, esp in WW I – infml [Dɪg + -ER]

**digger**, **wasp** *n* a burrowing wasp

**diggings** /dɪgɪŋz/ *n pl* 1 material dug out 2 a place of excavating, esp for ore, metals, or precious stones

**dig** *in vt* to incorporate by burying in the soil ~ *vi* 1 to dig defensive positions 2 to hold stubbornly to a position; defend doggedly (e.g. when batting in cricket) 3 to begin eating – infml – **dig one's heels in** to refuse to move or change one's mind; be stubborn

**digit** /dɪjɪt/ *n* 1a any of the Arabic numerals from 1 to 9, usu also including 0 b any of the elements that combine to form numbers in a system other than the decimal system 2 a finger or toe 3 a unit of measurement equal to ¼ in (about 1.9cm) → UNIT [ME, fr L **digitus** finger, toe – more at **TOE**]

**digital** /dɪjɪtl/ *adj* 1 of or with the fingers or toes 2 of calculation by numerical methods which use discrete units 3 of data in the form of numerical digits → TELECOMMUNICATION, VIDEO 4 of an automatic device presenting information in the form of numerical digits – **digitally** *adv*

**digital computer** *n* a computer that operates with numbers expressed as discrete pulses representing digits – compare **ANALOGUE COMPUTER**  
**digitalis** /dɪj'taɪlɪs/ *n* (the dried leaf of) the common foxglove (containing several compounds which are important as drugs used esp as powerful heart stimulants) [NL, genus name, fr L, of a finger, fr **digitus**; fr its finger-shaped corolla]

**digitalize**, **-ise** /dɪjɪtɪz/ *vt* to digitize

**digitate** /dɪj'taɪt/ *adj* 1 having fingers or toes 2 having divisions arranged like the fingers of a hand <a ~ leaf> → PLANT – **digitately** *adv*, **digitation** /dɪj'taɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**digit-** /dɪjɪt-/ *comb form* digit, finger; toe <(digit)form> [F, fr L **digitus**]

**digitigrade** /dɪjɪtɪ'græd/ *adj* (designed for) walking on the toes with the back of the foot more or less raised – compare **PLANTIGRADE** [F, fr **digit-** + **grade**]

**digit-ize**, **-ise** /dɪjɪtɪz/ *vt* to put (e.g. data) into digital notation – **digitizer** *n*, **digitization** /-zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**digitoxin** /dɪjɪ'tɒksɪn/ *n* a compound that is the most active constituent of digitalis [ISV, blend of NL **Digitalis** and ISV **toxin**]

**dignified** /dɪ'gnɪfɪd/ *adj* showing or having dignity

**dignify** /dɪ'gnɪfɪ/ *vt* to confer dignity or distinction on [MF **dignifier**, fr LL **dignificare**, fr L **dignus** worthy – more at **DECENT**]

**dignitary** /dɪ'gnɪt(ə)rɪ/ *n* a person of high rank or holding a position of dignity or honour – **dignitary** *adj*

**dignity** /dɪ'gnɪtɪ/ *n* 1 being worthy, honoured, or esteemed 2 high rank, office, or position 3 stillness of manner; gravity [ME **dignete**, fr OF **digneté**, fr L **dignitas**, **dignitas**, fr **dignus**]

**dig out** *vt* to find, unearth

**digoxin** /dɪ'jɒksɪn, dɪg-/ *n* a poisonous compound obtained from some foxgloves and used similarly to digitalis [ISV **dig-** (fr NL **Digitalis**) + **toxin**]

**digraph** /dɪ'eɪgrəf, -grəf/ *n* a group of 2 successive letters, esp whose phonetic value is a single sound – **digraphic** /dɪ'eɪgrəfɪk/ *adj*, **digraphically** *adv*

**digress** /dɪ'ɡres, dɪe-/ *vi* to turn aside, esp from the main subject in writing or speaking [L **digressus**, pp of **digredi**, fr **dis-** + **gradi** to step – more at **GRADE**] – **digressive** /-sɪv/ *adj*, **digressively** *adv*, **digressiveness** *n*

**digression** /dɪ'ɡresh(ə)n, dɪe-/ *n* (an instance of) digressing – **digressional** *adj*, **digressory** /-n(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**dihal-**, **dihalo-** *comb form* containing 2 atoms of a halogen in the molecular structure

**dihedral** /dɪ'eɪdɪrəl/ *adj* having or contained by 2 flat surfaces

**dihedral** *n* the angle between an esp upwardly inclined wing of an aircraft and a horizontal line

**dihybrid** /dɪ'eɪhɪbrɪd/ *n* or *adj* (an organism, cell, etc) having 2 different versions of each of 2 genes [ISV]

**dihydr-** /dɪ'eɪhɪdr-, **dihydro-** *comb form* containing 2 atoms of hydrogen in the molecular structure

**dihydroxy-** /dɪ'eɪhɪdrɒksɪ-/ *comb form* containing 2 hydroxyl groups in the molecular structure

**dik-dik** /dɪk dɪk/ *n* any of several small E African antelopes [native name in E Africa]

**dike** /dɪk/ *vb* or *n* (to) dyke

**dike** *n* a lesbian – derog [origin unknown]

**diktat** /dɪk'tat/ *n* a harsh settlement or ruling imposed by a victor or authority [G, lit., something dictated, fr NL **dictatum**, fr L, neut of **dictatus**, pp of **dictare** to dictate]



**dilapidated** /di'ləpɪdətɪd/ *adj* decayed or fallen into partial ruin, esp through neglect or misuse [fr pp of *dilapidate* (to bring to decay or partial ruin), fr L *dilapidatus*, pp of *dilapidare* to squander, destroy, fr *dis-* + *lapidare* to throw stones, fr *lapid-*, *lapis* stone] – **dilapidation** /di,ləpɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**dilatation** /di,lə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the condition of being stretched beyond normal dimensions (< of the stomach) b DILATION 2 2 expanding or being expanded 3 a dilated part or formation – **dilatational** *adj*

**dilate** /di'ləɪt, die-/ *vt* to distend ~ *vi* 1 to comment at length on or upon 2 to become wide [ME *dilaten*, fr MF *dilater*, fr L *dilatare*, lit, to spread wide, fr *dis-* + *latus* wide – more at LATITUDE] – **dilatable** *adj*, **dilator** /die'ləɪtə/ *n*, **dilative** *adj*, **dilatability** /die,ləɪtə'bɪləti/ *n*

**dilated** *adj* expanded, widened – **dilatedly** *adv*, **dilatedness** *n*

**dilation** /di'ləɪʃ(ə)n, die-/ *n* 1 dilating or being dilated 2 the stretching or enlarging of an organ or other part of the body

**dilatory** /di'ləɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 tending or intended to cause delay 2 slow, tardy [LL *dilatatorius*, fr L *dilatatus* (pp of *differre* to postpone, differ), fr *dis-* + *latus*, pp of *ferre* to carry – more at DIFFER, TOLERATE] – **dilatorily** *adv*, **dilatoriness** *n*

**dildo** /dɪldoh/ *n*, pl **dildos** an object serving as an artificial penis for inserting into the vagina [perh modif of It *diletto* delight]

**dilemma** /di'lema, die-/ *n* 1 an argument in which an opponent's position is refuted by being shown to lead to 2 or more unacceptable alternatives 2 a situation involving choice between 2 equally unsatisfactory alternatives [LL, fr LGk *dilemmat-*, *dilemma*, prob back-formation fr Gk *dilemmatos* involving two assumptions, fr *dis-* + *lemmat-*, *lemma* assumption – more at LEMMA] – **dilemmatic** /di'lɛm'atɪk, die-/ *adj*

**dilettante** /di'lɪtənti/ *n*, pl **dilettanti** /di'lɪtənti/ **dilettantes** /-tɪz/ a person with a superficial interest in an art or a branch of knowledge [It, fr prp of *dilettare* to delight, fr L *delectare* – more at DELIGHT] – **dilettante** *adj*, **dilettantish** *adj*, **dilettantism** *n*

**diligence** /di'lɪj(ə)ns/ *n* steady application and effort [MF, fr L *diligentia*, fr *diligent-*, *diligens*]

**diligent** /di'lɪj(ə)nt/ *adj* showing steady application and effort [ME, fr MF, fr L *diligent-*, *diligens*, fr prp of *diligere* to esteem, love, fr *di-* + *legere* to select – more at LEGEND] – **diligently** *adv*

**dill** /dɪl/ *n* a European plant with aromatic foliage and seeds, both of which are used in flavouring foods (e.g. pickles) [ME *dile*, fr OE, akin to OHG *tili* dill]

**dilly** /dɪli/ *n*, *NAm* a remarkable or outstanding person or thing – *informal* [obs *dilly*, *adj* (delightful), alter. of *delightful*]

**dillydally** /dɪli,dali/ *vi* to waste time by loitering; dawdle – *informal* [redupl of *dally*]

**diluent** /di'ljuənt/ *n* or *adj* (an agent for) diluting [L *diluent-*, *diluens*, prp of *diluere*]

**dilute** /die'luot, -'lyooht/ *vt* 1 to make thinner or more liquid by adding another liquid 2 to diminish the strength or brilliance of by adding more liquid, light, etc 3 to attenuate [L *dilutus*, pp of *diluere* to wash away, dilute, fr *di-* + *lavare* to wash – more at LYE] – **diluter**, **dilutor** *n*, **dilutive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **dilution** /die'luoʃh(ə)n, -'lyooht-/ *n*

**dilute** *adj* weak, diluted – **diluteness** *n*

**diluvial** /di'luʊvɪəl, -vɪəl/, **diluvian** /-vɪən, -vɪən/ *adj* of or brought about by a flood [LL *diluvialis*, fr L *diluvium* deluge – more at DELUGE]

**dim** /dɪm/ *adj* -*mm-* 1 giving out a weak or insufficient light 2a seen indistinctly (< a ~ shape loomed out of the fog) b characterized by an unfavourable or pessimistic attitude – esp in *take a dim view* of 3 not seeing clearly (< the old man's eyes were ~) 4 lacking intelligence; stupid – *informal* [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *timbar* dark, Skt *dhamat* he blows] – **dimly** *adv*, **dimness** *n*

**dim** *vb* -*mm-* *vt* 1 to make dim 2 *NAm* DIP 4 ~ *vi* to become dim  
**dim** /diem/ *n* a coin worth 1/10 of a US dollar [ME, tenth part, tithe, fr MF, fr L *decima*, fr fem of *decimus* tenth, fr *decem* ten – more at TEN]

**dimension** /di'menʃ(ə)n, die-/ *n* 1a(1) extension in 1 direction (2) any of a group of parameters necessary and sufficient to determine uniquely each element of a system of usual mathematical entities (< the surface of a sphere has 2 ~s) b the size of extension in 1 or all directions c the range over which sth extends; the scope – usu pl with sing. meaning d an aspect (< gave a whole new ~ to the problem) 2 any of the fundamental quantities, specif mass, length, and time, which combine to make a derived unit – usu pl (< velocity has the ~s of length divided by time) [ME, fr MF, fr L *dimension-*, *dimensio*, fr *dimensu*, pp of *dimetiri* to measure out, fr *dis-* + *metiri* to measure – more at MEASURE] – **dimen-**

**sional** *adj*, **dimensionally** *adv*, **dimensionless** *adj*, **dimensionality** /-menʃ(ə)'næləti/ *n*

**dimension** *vt* to indicate the dimensions on (a drawing)

**dimer** /diemə/ *n* a compound formed by the union of 2 radicals or 2 molecules of a simpler compound [ISV *di-* + *-mer* (as in *polymer*)] – **dimerize** *vt*, **dimeric** /die'merɪk/ *adj*, **dimerization** /die-mə'rie'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**dimerous** /di'mərəs/ *adj*, of an insect or plant part consisting of 2 parts [NL *dimerus*, fr L *di-* + NL *-merus* -merous] – **dimerism** *n*

**dimethyl-** /diemethɪl-, -mee-, -thiel/ *comb form* containing 2 methyl groups in the molecular structure


**dimethyltryptamine** /diemethɪl'trɪptəmeen,-mee-, -thiel-/ an easily synthesized hallucinogenic drug [*dimethyl-* + *tryptophan* + *amine*]

**diminish** /di'mɪnɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to make or cause to appear less 2 to lessen the reputation of, belittle ~ *vi* to become gradually less; dwindle [ME *diminishen*, alter. of *diminuen*, fr MF *diminuer*, fr LL *diminuere*, alter. of L *deminuere*, fr *de* + *minuere* to lessen – more at MINOR] – **diminishable** *adj*, **diminishment** *n*

**diminished** *adj*, of a musical interval made a semitone less than perfect or minor (< a ~ fifth)

**diminished responsibility** *n* limitation of a person's criminal responsibility due to mental abnormality or instability

**diminishing returns** /di'mɪnɪʃɪŋ/ *n* pl a rate of yield that beyond a certain point fails to increase in proportion to additional investments of labour or capital

**diminuendo** /di,minyoo'endoh/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, pl **diminuendos** (a musical passage played) with a decrease in volume  MUSIC [It, lit., diminishing, fr LL *diminuendum*, gerund of *diminuere*]

**diminution** /di'mɪnyooʃh(ə)n/ *n* a diminishing or decrease [ME *diminucioun*, fr MF *diminution*, fr ML *diminutio-*, *diminutio*, alter. of L *deminutio-*, *deminutio*, fr *deminutus*, pp of *deminuere*] – **diminutional** *adj*

**diminutive** /di'mɪnyootɪv/ *n* a diminutive word, affix, or name [ME *diminutif*, fr ML *diminutivum*, alter. of LL *deminutivum*, fr neut of *deminutivus*]

**diminutive** *adj* 1 indicating small size and sometimes loveliness or triviality – used in connection with affixes and words formed with them (e.g. *duckling*), with clipped forms (e.g. *Jim*), and with altered forms (e.g. *Peggy*) 2 exceptionally small; tiny – **diminutively** *adv*, **diminutiveness** *n*

**dimissory** /di'mɪsəri/ *adj* 1 giving permission to be ordained in another bishop's diocese (< a ~ letter) 2 granting leave to depart – *fml* [ML *dimissorius*, fr LL, submitting a matter to a higher court, fr L *dimissus*, pp of *mittere* to dismiss]

**dimity** /dɪmiti/ *n* a corded cotton fabric woven with checks or stripes [alter. of ME *demyt*, prob fr MGk *dimitos* of double thread, fr Gk *di-* + *mitos* warp thread]

**dimmer** /di'mə/ *n* a device for regulating the brightness of electric lighting [<sup>2</sup>DIM + -ER]

**dimorphism** /di'e'mɔ:fɪz(ə)m/ *n* the occurrence, combination, or existence of 2 distinct forms: e.g. a the existence of 2 different forms of a species, distinguished by size, colour, etc b the existence of an organ (e.g. the leaves of a plant) in 2 different forms c crystallization of a chemical compound in 2 different forms [ISV] – **dimorphic** /-fɪk/, **dimorphous** *adj*


**dimple** /dɪmpl/ *n* 1 a slight natural indentation in the cheek or another part of the human body 2 a depression or indentation on a surface [ME *dympl*, akin to OHG *tumphilo* whirlpool, OE *dyppan* to dip – more at DIP] – **dimply** /'dɪmplɪ/ *adj*

**dimple** *vb* to mark with or form dimples

**dimwit** /di'mwɪt/ *n* a stupid or mentally slow person – *informal* – **dim-witted** /-wɪt-/ *adj*, **dim-wittedly** /wɪtɪdli/ *adv*, **dim-wittedness** *n*

**din** /dɪn/ *n* a loud continued discordant noise [ME, fr OE *dync*, akin to ON *dynr* din, Skt *dhanat* it roars]

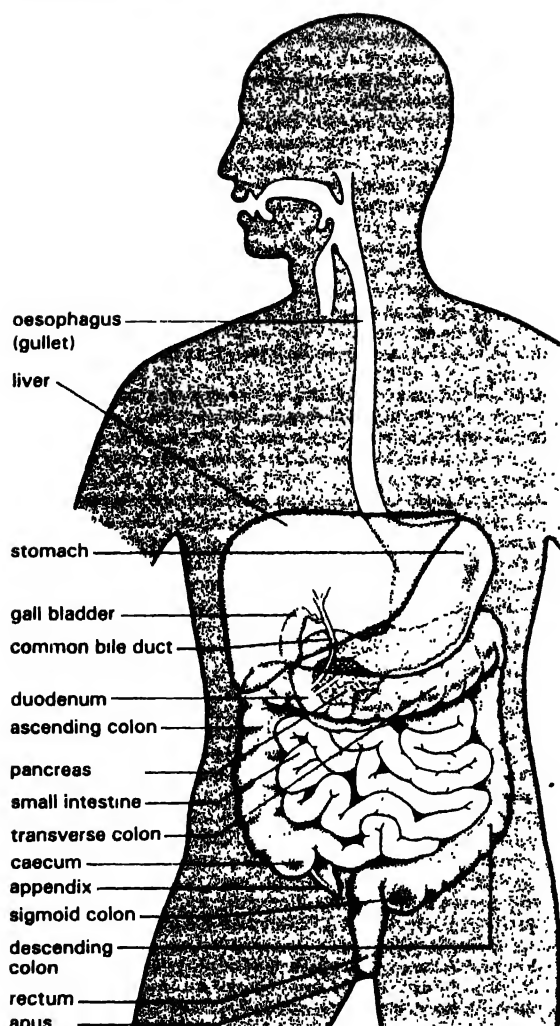
**din** *vi* -*aa-* to make a din (< the music ~ ned in their ears) – **din into** to instil into by perpetual repetition

**dinar** /di'e,nah/ *n* (a coin or note representing) a money unit of certain Arab countries and Yugoslavia  NATIONALITY [Ar *dīnār*, fr Gk *denarius* denarius, fr L *denarius*]

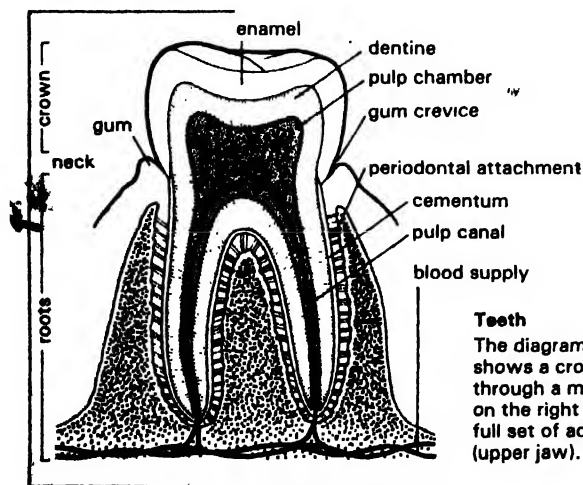
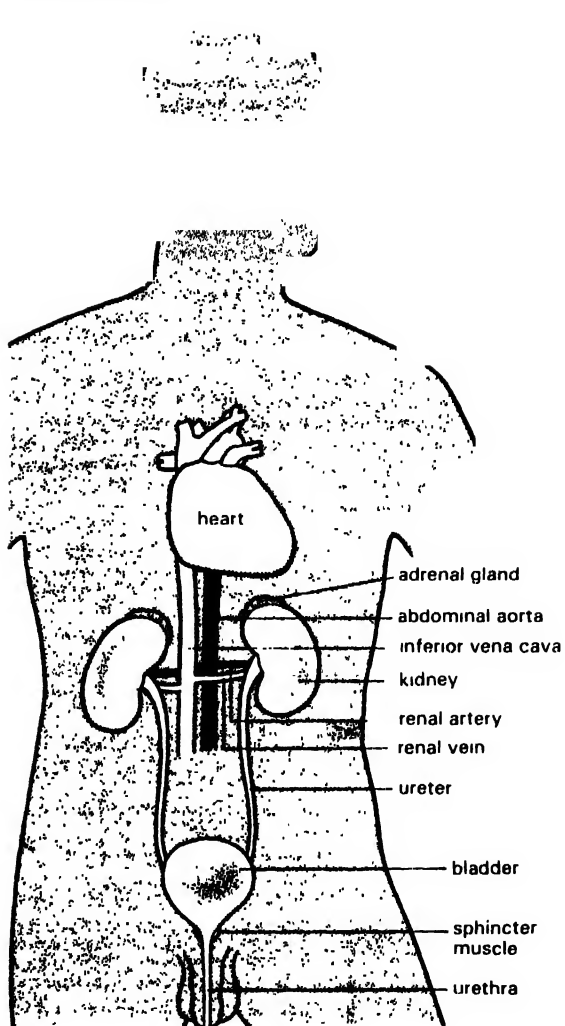
**dine** /di'en/ *vi* to eat dinner ~ *vt* to entertain to dinner (< wined and ~d us splendidly) [ME *dinen*, fr OF *diner*, fr (assumed) VL *disjejunare* to break one's fast, fr L *dis-* + LL *jejunare* to fast, fr L *jejunus* fasting] – **dine off/on/upon** to eat (sth) as one's meal, esp one's dinner

**diner** /di'enə/ *n* 1 sby who is dining 2a *NAm* a small restaurant, often beside the road b chiefly *NAm* DINING CAR

## The digestive system

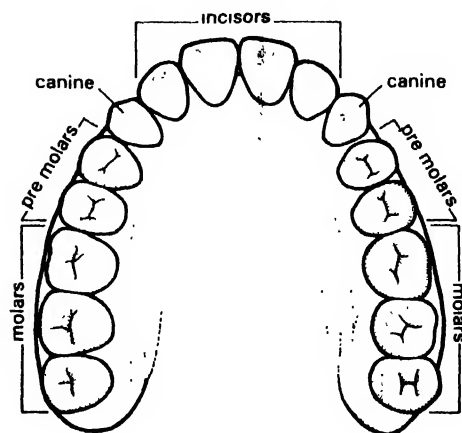


## The urinary tract

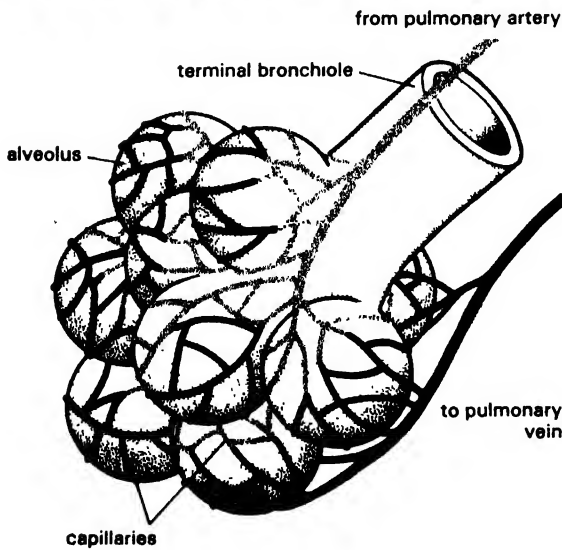
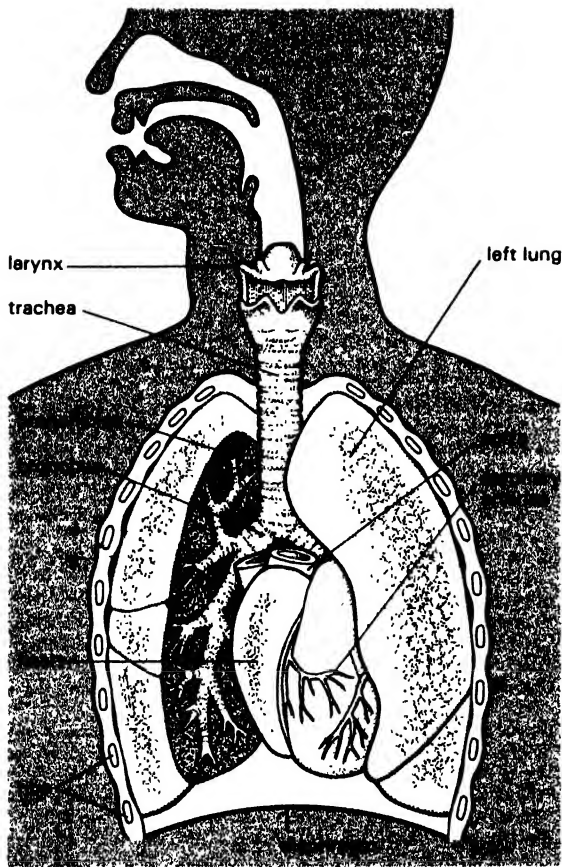


### Teeth

The diagram on the left shows a cross section through a molar. That on the right shows a full set of adult teeth (upper jaw).

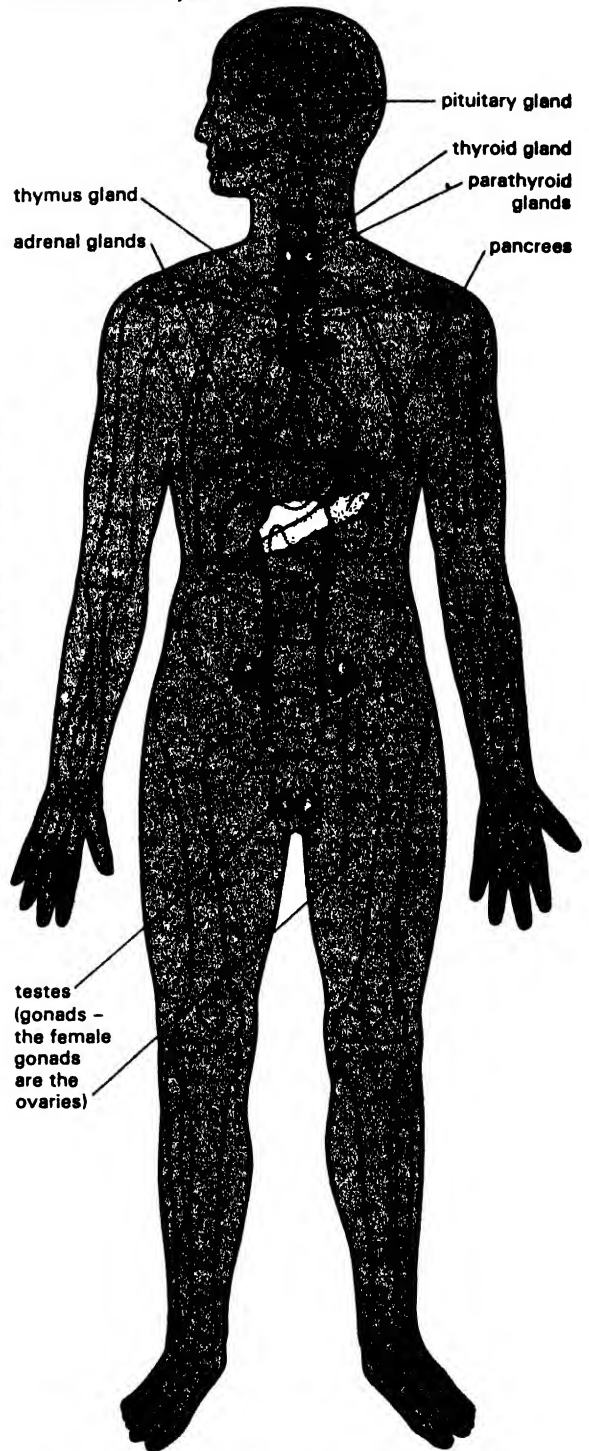


### The Respiratory system



The exchange of gases in the lungs takes place in the terminal bronchioles, where blood in the capillaries passes close to the lining membrane allowing oxygen to be absorbed and carbon dioxide to be given up.

### The Endocrine system



The endocrine glands produce hormones which are the chemical messengers that keep the body healthy, controlling such functions as growth and sexual development. The pituitary gland, in conjunction with the hypothalamus, controls the activity and secretions of the other endocrine glands.

- dinette** /di'net/ *n* a small (part of a) room set aside for eating meals in [*dine* + *-ette*]
- dingbats** /ding'batz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.* *Austr* & *NZ* an attack of nervous anxiety – + *the*; *slang* [origin unknown]
- 'dingdong** /ding'dong/ *n* 1 the ringing sound produced by repeated strokes, esp on a bell 2 a rapid heated exchange of words or blows – *infrm* [*imit*]
- 'dingdong** *adj* 1 of or resembling the sound of a bell 2 with the advantage (e.g. in an argument or race) passing continually back and forth from one participant, side, etc to the other – *infrm*
- dinghy** /ding'gi/ *n* 1 a small boat often carried on a ship and used esp as a lifeboat or to transport passengers to and from shore 2 a small open sailing boat 3 a rubber life raft [*Bengali dingi* & *Hindi dingri*]
- dinglo** /ding'gl/ *n* a small narrow wooded valley [*ME, abyss*]
- dingo** /ding'goh/ *n*, *pl dingoes* a wild dog of Australia [native name in Australia]
- dingy** /dɪn'gi/ *adj* 1 dirty, discoloured 2 shabby, squalid [origin unknown] – *dingly* *adv*, *dinginess* *n*
- 'dining** *car* /di'ning/ *n* a railway carriage where meals are served
- dining room** /di'niŋ- / *n* a room set aside for eating meals in
- dinitro-** /di'ni:troh-/ *comb form* containing 2 nitro groups in the molecular structure
- dinkum** /diŋ'kam/ *adj*, *Austr* real, genuine – *infrm* [prob fr *E* dial. *dinkum*, *n* (work)]
- dinky** /diŋ'ki/ *adj* 1 chiefly *Br* neat and dainty 2 chiefly *NAm* small, insignificant *USE* *infrm* [*Sc dink* neat]
- dinner** /di'na/ *n* 1 (the food eaten for) the principal meal of the day taken either in the evening or at midday 2 a formal evening meal or banquet [*ME diner*, fr *OF*, fr *diner* to dine]
- 'dinner jacket** *n* a usu black jacket for men's semiformal evening wear
- 'dinner lady** *n*, *Br* a woman who supervises children during mealtimes at school
- dinosaur** /di'nə:saw/ *n* 1 any of a group of extinct, typically very large flesh- or plant-eating reptiles, most of which lived on the land; broadly any large extinct reptile 2 an organization or institution that is unwieldy and outdated (*Britain's industrial ~s*) [deriv of *Gk deinos* terrible + *sauros* lizard – more at *DIRE*, *SAURIAN*] – *dinosaurian* /di'nə:ri-ən/ *adj* or *n*, *dinosauric* /di'nə:rik/ *adj*
- dinothere** /di'nə:θiə/ *n* any of a genus of extinct mammals similar to elephants but with a pair of downward-directed tusks [*NL Deinotherium*, genus name, fr *Gk deinos* + *NL -therium* beast, animal, fr *Gk thērion*, dim. of *thēr*]
- dint** /diŋt/ *n* [*ME*, stroke, blow, fr *OE dynt*] – by dint of by means or application of
- dinucleotide** /di'nyoohkli-ətid/ *n* a nucleotide consisting of 2 units each composed of ribose or deoxyribose combined with a phosphate group and a nitrogen-containing base
- diocesan** /di'ə:siən/ *n* a bishop having jurisdiction over a diocese
- diocese** /di'ə:siə/ *n* the area under the jurisdiction of a bishop [*ME diocese*, fr *MF*, fr *LL dioecesis*, alter. of *diocesis*, fr *L*, administrative division, fr *Gk dioikēsis* administration, administrative division, fr *diōikein* to keep house, govern, fr *di-* + *oikein* to dwell, manage, fr *oikos* house – more at *VICINITY*] – *diocesan* /di'ə:siən/ *adj*
- diode** /di'ə:hd/ *n* 1 a thermionic valve having only an anode and a cathode 2 a semiconductor device having only 2 terminals [*ISV*]
- dioecious**, *NAm* also **diecious** /di'ə:ʃəs/ *adj* having male and female reproductive organs in different individuals or plants – compare *MONOECIOUS* [deriv of *Gk di-* + *oikos* house] – *dioeciously* *adv*, *dioecism* /di'ə:ziəm/ *n*
- Dionysiac** /di'ə:niz(h)jak, -'nis(h)-/ *adj* Dionysian [*L dionysiacus*, fr *Gk dionysiakos*, fr *Dionysos* Dionysus] – *Dionysiac* *n*
- Dionysian** /di'ə:niz(h)jan, -'nis(h)-/ *adj* of or relating to (the worship of) Dionysus, the Greek god of wine
- diopetre**, *NAm* chiefly **dioptr** /di'ə:ptə/ *n* a unit of measurement of the refractive power of lenses equal to the reciprocal of the focal length in metres [*dioptr* (an optical instrument), fr *MF dioptr*, fr *L dioptra*, fr *Gk*, fr *di-* + *opsesthai* to be going to see]
- dioptric** /di'ə:ptrik/ *adj* 1 refractive 2 produced by means of refraction [*Gk dioptrikos* of a dioptr (instrument), fr *dioptra*]
- diorama** /di'ə:rahma/ *n* 1 a scenic representation in which an artificially lit translucent painting is viewed through an opening 2a a three-dimensional representation in which miniature modelled figures, buildings, etc are displayed against a painted background b a life-size museum exhibit of an animal or bird in realistic natural surroundings
- against a painted background 3 a small-scale set used in films and television [*F*, fr *di-* + *-orama* (as in *panorama*, fr *E*)] – *dioramic* /di'ramik/ *adj*
- diorite** /di'ə:riet/ *n* a granular igneous rock commonly of acid feldspar and hornblende [*F*, irreg fr *Gk diorizein* to distinguish, fr *di-* + *horizein* to define – more at *HORIZON*] – *dioritic* /di'rtik/ *adj*
- dioxide** /di'ə:ksid/ *n* an oxide containing 2 atoms of oxygen [*ISV*]
- 'dip** /di:p/ *vb* -*pp*- *vt* 1a to plunge or immerse in a liquid (e.g. in order to moisten or dye) b to immerse (e.g. a sheep) in an antiseptic or parasite-killing solution 2 to lift up (water, grain etc) by scooping or ladling 3 to lower and then raise again (< ~ a flag in salute) 4 to lower (the beam of a vehicle's headlights) so as to reduce glare ~ *vi* 1a to plunge into a liquid and quickly emerge b to immerse sth in a processing liquid or finishing material 2 to drop down or decrease suddenly 3 to reach inside or below sth, esp so as to take out part of the contents – *usu* + *in* or *into* 4 to incline downwards from the plane of the horizon [*ME dippen*, fr *OE dyppan*, akin to *OHG tūpfen* to wash, *Lith dubus* deep] – *dip* *into* 1 to make inroads into for funds (< dipped into the family's savings) 2 to read superficially or in a random manner (< dipped into a book while he was waiting)
- 'dip** *n* 1 a brief bathe for sport or exercise 2a a sharp downward course, a drop b the angle that a stratum or similar geological feature makes with a horizontal plane 3 the angle formed with the horizon by a magnetic needle rotating in the vertical plane 4 a hollow, depression 5a a sauce or soft mixture into which food is dipped before being eaten b a liquid preparation into which an object or animal may be dipped (e.g. for cleaning or disinfecting) 6 a pickpocket – *slang*
- dipeptide** /di'peptid/ *n* a peptide having 2 molecules of amino acid in its molecular structure
- diphase** /di'fayz/, **diphasic** /di'fayzik/ *adj* having 2 phases
- diphenoxylate hydrochloride** /di'fe:noksilaɪt, -feen-/ *n* a drug used to treat the symptoms of diarrhoea – compare *Lomotil* [*diphenoxylate* fr *di-* + *phen-* + *ox-* + *-yl* + *-ate*]
- diphosgene** /di'fə:ʃeɪn/ *n* a liquid compound used as a poison gas in WW I [*ISV*]
- diphtheria** /di'fθiəri-ə, di:p-/ *n* an acute infectious disease caused by a bacterium and marked by fever and the formation of a false membrane, esp in the throat, causing difficulty in breathing [*NL*, fr *F diphthérie*, fr *Gk diphthera* leather; fr the toughness of the false membrane] – *diphtherial*, *diphtherian* *adj*, *diphtheritic* /di'fθi:ritik/ *adj*, *diphtheroid* *adj*
- diphthong** /di'fθɒŋ, di:p-/ *n* 1 a gliding monosyllabic vowel sound (e.g. /oy/ in *toy*) that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or towards the position of another 2 a digraph 3 either of the ligatures æ or œ [*ME diptonge*, fr *MF diptongue*, fr *LL diphthongus*, fr *Gk diphthongos*, fr *di-* + *phthongos* voice, sound] – *diphthongal* /di'fθɒŋ(g)l/ *adj*
- diphthong-ize**, **-ise** /di'fθɒŋ(g)iez, di:p-/ *vb* to change into or pronounce as a diphthong – *diphthongization* /di'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- diphy-** /di'fi-/ *comb form* double; bipartite (< *diphyodont*) [*NL*, fr *Gk diphy-*, fr *diphyes*, fr *di-* + *phyein* to bring forth – more at *BE*]
- dipl-**, **dipl-** *comb form* double; twofold (< *diploia*) [*Gk*, fr *diploos* – more at *DOUBLE*]
- diplococcus** /di'pləh'kokəs/ *n*, *pl diplococci* /-kok(s)ite/ any of a genus of bacteria that includes some serious pathogens [*NL*, genus name] – *diplococcal*, *diplococcic* /-sɪk/ *adj*
- diplodocus** /di'plədokəs/ *n* any of a genus of very large plant-eating dinosaurs [*NL*, genus name, fr *di-* + *Gk dokos* beam, fr *dekesthai*, *dechesthai* to receive; akin to *L decere* to be fitting – more at *DECENT*]
- diploid** /di'plɔɪd/ *n* or *adj* (a cell or organism) having double the basic number of chromosomes arranged in homologous pairs – compare *HAPLOID*, *POLYPLOID*
- diploma** /di'pləhma/ *n* 1 an official or state document 2 a document conferring some honour or privilege 3 (a certificate of) a qualification, usu in a more specialized subject or at a lower level than a degree [*L*, passport, diploma, fr *Gk diploma* folded paper, passport, fr *diploun* to double, fr *diploos*]
- diplomacy** /di'pləməsi/ *n* 1 the art and practice of conducting international relations 2 skill and tact in handling affairs
- diplomat** /di'pləmat/ *n* 1 one (e.g. an ambassador) employed in diplomacy 2 one skilled in dealing with people tactfully and adroitly [*F diplomate*, back-formation fr *diplomatique*]
- diplomate** /di'pləmayt/ *n* one who holds a diploma [*diploma* + *-ate*]
- 'diplomatic** /di'pləmatik/ *adj* 1 exactly reproducing the original (< a ~ edition) 2 of diplomats or international relations 3 employing tact and

conciliation [(1) NL *diplomaticus*, fr L *diplomati-*, *diploma*; (2, 3) F *diplomatique* connected with documents regulating international relations, fr NL *diplomaticus*] – **diplomatically** *adv*  
**diplomatic immunity** *n* the exemption from local laws and taxes accorded to diplomatic staff abroad  
**diplomatist** /di'plɒmætɪst/ *n* a person skilled or employed in diplomacy  
**diplopia** /di'plɒpiə, -piə/ *n* a disorder of vision in which 2 images of a single object are seen because of unequal action of the eye muscles [NL] – **diplopic** /-pɪk/ *adj*  
**diplopod** /di'plɒpɒd/ *n* a millipede [deriv of Gk *diplo-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT] – **diplopodous** /di'plɒpədəs/ *adj*  
**diplotene** /di'plɒt, teen/ *n* a stage of meiotic cell division during which the paired chromosomes begin to separate [ISV] – **diplotene** *adj*  
**dipole** /di'e,pɒl/ *n* 1a a pair of equal and opposite electric charges, or magnetic poles of opposite sign, separated by a small distance b a molecule having such charges 2 a radio aerial consisting of 2 horizontal rods in line, with their ends slightly separated [ISV] – **dipole**, **dipolar** /-'pɒlə/ *adj*  
**dipper** /di'pə/ *n* 1 sth (e.g. a long-handled cup) used for dipping 2 any of several diving birds 3 *cap*, chiefly NAm a Dipper, Big Dipper URSA MAJOR b URSA MINOR ['dɪp + 'ɪər]  
**dippy** /'dɪpi/ *crazy*, *eccentric* – slang [perh alter of *dipso*, short for *dipsomaniac*]  
**dipsomania** /di'psɒ'maɪniə, -ni-ə, 'dɪpsə-/ *n* an uncontrollable craving for alcoholic drinks [NL, fr Gk *dipsa* thirst + LL *mania*] – **dipsomaniac** *n*, **dipsomaniacal** /-'mɒ'ni-əkəl/ *adj*  
**dipstick** /'dɪpstɪk/ *n* a graduated rod for measuring the depth of a liquid (e.g. the oil in a car's engine)  
**dipteran** /di'ptɒrən/ *n* TWO-WINGED FLY [deriv of Gk *dipteros*] – **dipteran** *adj*  
**dipterous** /di'ptərəs/ *adj* 1 having 2 wings or winglike appendages 2 of the two-winged flies [NL *dipterus*, fr Gk *dipteros*, fr *di-* + *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER]  
**diptych** /di'ptɪk/ *n* 1 a 2-leaved hinged writing tablet 2 a painting or carving done on 2 hinged panels and used esp as an altarpiece [LL *diptycha*, pl, fr Gk, fr neut pl of *diptychos* folded in two, fr *di-* + *ptyche* fold]  
**dire** /di'e-/ *adj* 1 dreadful, awful 2 warning of disaster, ominous (a ~ forecast) 3 desperately urgent (a ~ need) [L *dirus*, akin to Gk *deinos* terrible, Skt *dvesti* he hates] – **direly** *adv*, **direness** *n*  
**direct** /di'rekt, die-/ *vt* 1a to mark (e.g. a letter or parcel) with a name and address b to address or aim (e.g. a remark) 2 to cause to turn, move, point, or follow a straight course (a ~ ed her eyes heavenward) 3 to show or point out the way for 4a to control and regulate the activities or course of b to control the organization and performance of; supervise (a ~ ed the latest science fiction film) c to order or instruct with authority (police ~ ed the crowd to move back) d to train and usu lead performances of, *specif*, chiefly NAm to conduct (a ~ ed the orchestra in a new work) ~ *vi* to act as director [ME *directen*, fr L *directus*, pp of *dirigere* to set straight, direct – more at DRESS]  
**direct adj** 1a going from one point to another in time or space without deviation or interruption; straight b going by the shortest way (the ~ route) 2a stemming immediately from a source, cause, or reason (a ~ result) b passing in a straight line of descent from parent to offspring (a ~ ancestor) 3 frank, straightforward 4a operating without an intervening agency b effected by the action of the people or the electorate and not by representatives 5 consisting of or reproducing the exact words of a speaker or writer (a ~ speech) – compare INDIRECT 4 6 diametric, exact (was a ~ contradiction of all he'd said before) 7 of a celestial body moving in the general planetary direction from W to E; not retrograde [ME, fr L *directus*, fr pp of *dirigere*] – **directness** *n*  
**direct adv** 1 from point to point without deviation; by the shortest way (write to him ~) 2 without an intervening agency or stage  
**direct action** *n* action that seeks to achieve an end by the most immediately effective means (e.g. boycott or strike)  
**direct current** *n* an electric current flowing in 1 direction only; esp such a current that is substantially constant in value  
**direct grant** *n*, often *cap* D&G a grant of money given direct by the Department of Education and Science to certain British schools, which are obliged to admit a number of non-fee-paying pupils (a ~ school)  
**direction** /di'reksh(ə)n, die-/ *n* 1 guidance or supervision of action 2a the act, art, or technique of directing an orchestra, film, or theatrical production b a word, phrase, or sign indicating the appropriate tempo, mood, or intensity of a passage or movement in music 3 *pl* explicit

instructions on how to do sth or get to a place (read the ~s on the packet) (asked for ~s to King's Cross) 4a the line or course along which sth or sth moves or is aimed (drove off in the ~ of London) b the point towards which sth or sth faces (which ~ does this house face?) 5a a tendency, trend b a guiding or motivating purpose (had a new sense of ~)

**directional** /di'reksh(ə)nəl, die-/ *adj* 1 of or indicating direction in space, e.g. a suitable for detecting the direction from which radio signals come, or for sending out signals in 1 direction only (a ~ aerial) b of or being a device that operates more efficiently in one direction than in others 2 relating to direction or guidance, esp of thought or effort – **directionality** /-'æləti/ *n*

**direction, finder** *n* an aerial used to determine the direction of incoming radio waves

**directive** /di'rektiv, die-/ *adj* 1 serving to direct, guide, or influence 2 serving to provide a direction

**directive** *n* an authoritative instruction issued by a high-level body or official

**directly** /-li/ *adv* 1 in a direct manner 2a without delay, immediately b soon, shortly

**directly** *conj*, chiefly Br immediately after, as soon as – *infml*


**direct method** *n* a method of foreign-language teaching, placing the emphasis on oral work and minimal use of the student's own language  
**direct object** *n* a grammatical object representing the primary goal or the result of the action of its verb (e.g. *me* in 'he hit me' and *house* in 'we built a house')

**director** /di'rekto, die-/ *n* 1 the head of an organized group or administrative unit 2 a member of a governing board entrusted with the overall direction of a company 3 sb who has responsibility for supervising the artistic and technical aspects of a film or play – compare PRODUCER 3a ['di'rekt + 'ɔr] – **directorship** *n*, **directorial** /di'rek'tawri-əl, di'rek-/ *adj*

**directorate** /di'rektərət, die-/ *n* 1 the office of director 2 a board of directors (e.g. of a company)

**directory** /di'rekt(ə)n, die-/ *n* 1 a book or collection of directions or rules, esp concerning forms of worship 2 an alphabetical or classified list (e.g. of names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc) [ML *directorium*, fr neut of LL *directorius* directional, fr L *directus*, pp]

**direct proportion** *n* a proportion of 2 variables whose ratio is constant

**directrix** /di'rektrɪks, die-/ *n*, *pl* **directrices** /-trɪksɪz/ *also* **directrices** /-trɪsɛz/ a fixed curve by relation to which a conic section is described  MATHEMATICS [ML, fem of LL *director*, fr L *directus*, pp]

**direct tax** *n* a tax (e.g. income tax) exacted directly from the person, organization, etc on whom it is levied – compare INDIRECT TAX

**dirge** /duh/ *n* 1 a song or hymn of grief or lamentation, esp intended to accompany funeral or memorial rites 2 a slow mournful piece of music [ME *dirge*, the Office of the Dead, fr the first word of a LL antiphon, fr L, imper of *dirigere*]


**dirham** /di'hɑm, dɑ'ram/ *n*  *Libya, Morocco, Qatar, United Arab Emirates* at NATIONALITY [Ar, fr L *drachma* drachma]

**dirigible** /'dɪrɪjəbl, -ɪ-/ *adj* capable of being steered [L *dirigere*]

**dirigible** *n* an airship [*dirigible* (balloon)]

**dirigisme** /di'ree'zheezm(ə) (Fr *dirigisme*)/ *n* state control of the economy and social institutions – chiefly derog [F, fr *diriger* to direct, fr L *dirigere*] – **dirigiste** /-'zheest, (Fr -zist)/ *adj*

**dirk** /duhk/ *n* a long straight-bladed dagger, used esp by Scottish Highlanders [Sc *durk*]

**dirndl** /'duhndl/ *n* a full skirt with a tight waistband  GARMENT [short for G *dirndkleid*, fr G dial. *dirndl* girl + G *kleid* dress]

**dirt** /duht/ *n* 1a excrement b a filthy or soiling substance (e.g. mud or grime) c sb or sth worthless or contemptible 2 'soil. 2a 3a obscene or; pornographic speech or writing b scandalous or malicious gossip [ME *dirt*, fr ON; akin to OE *drītan* to defecate, L *fora* diarrhoea]  
**dirt 'cheap** *adj* or *adv* (sold) at a very low price – *infml*

**'dirty** /'duhti/ *adj* 1a not clean or pure; marked or contaminated with dirt b causing sb or sth to become soiled or covered with dirt (a ~ job) 2a base, sordid (war is a ~ business) b unsportsmanlike, unfair (a ~ player) c low, despicable (a ~ trick) 3a indecent, obscene (a ~ language) b sexually illicit (a ~ weekend) 4 of weather rough, stormy 5 of colour not clear and bright; dull (drab dirty-pink walls) 6 conveying resentment or disgust (gave him a ~ look) 7 producing considerable fallout (a ~ bomb) – **dirtyly** *adv*, **dirtyness** *n*

**'dirty** *vb* to make or become dirty

**dis-** /dis-/ *prefix* 1a do the opposite of (a specified action)



<disestablish> <disappear> **b** deprive of, remove (sthg specified) from <disarm> <dismember> **c** exclude or expel from <disbar> **2** opposite or absence of <disarray> <disbelief> **3** not <disagreeable> <dishonest> **4** completely <disannul> <disgruntled> **5** dys- <disfunction> [ME *dis-*, *des-*, fr OF & L, OF *des-*, *dis-*, fr L *dis-*, lit., apart; akin to OE *te-* apart, L *duo* two – more at **two**, (5) by folk etymology]

**disability** /di'səbɪləti/ *n* **1a** the condition of being disabled, specif inability to do sthg (e.g. pursue an occupation) because of physical or mental impairment **b** sthg that disables, a handicap **2** a legal disqualification

**disable** /dis'əybl/ *vt* **1** to deprive of legal right, qualification, or capacity **2** to make incapable or ineffective, esp to deprive of physical soundness; cripple – **disablement** *n*

**disabuse** /disə'byooz/ *vt* to free from a mistaken impression or judgment [F *désabuser*, fr *dés-* *dis-* + *abuser* to abuse]

**disaccharide** /di'sakəriəd/ *n* any of a class of sugars (e.g. sucrose) that, on hydrolysis, yield 2 monosaccharide molecules

**disadvantage** /disəd'vɑntɪdʒ/ *n* **1** loss or damage, esp to reputation or finances **2a** an unfavourable, inferior, or prejudicial situation <we were at a ~> **b** sby or sthg which causes one to be in an unfavourable condition or position; a handicap <her poor health is a great ~ to her> [ME *disavantage*, fr MF *desavantage*, fr OF, fr *des-* + *avantage* advantage]

**disadvantage** *vt* to place at a disadvantage

**disadvantaged** *adj* underprivileged, esp socially

**disadvantageous** /disədvan'tayʒəs/ *adj* **1** prejudicial, unfavourable **2** derogatory, disparaging – **disadvantageously** *adv*, **disadvantageousness** *n*

**disaffect** /disə'fekt/ *vt* to alienate the affection or loyalty of – **disaffection** /-fektʃən/ *n*

**disaffected** *adj* discontented and resentful, esp towards authority

**disaffiliate** /disə'filiayt/ *vb* to end, or separate from, an affiliation or connection – **disaffiliation** /-filiayʃən/ *n*

**disaffirm** /disə'fuhm/ *vt* to annul or repudiate (e.g. a legal settlement) – **disaffirmance** *n*, **disaffirmation** /disəfə'mayʃən/ *n*, -fə'mayʃən/ *n*

**disagree** /disə'gree/ *vi* **1** to be unlike or at variance **2** to differ in opinion – *usu* + *with* **3** to have a bad effect – *usu* + *with* <fried foods ~ with me> [ME *disagreeen*, fr MF *desagreer*, fr *des-* + *agreer* to agree]

**disagreeable** /disə'greeəbl/ *adj* **1** unpleasant, objectionable **2** peevish, ill-tempered – **disagreeableness** *n*, **disagreeably** *adv*, **disagreeability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**disagreement** /-mənt/ *n* **1** a lack of correspondence; a disparity **2** a difference of opinion; an argument [DISAGREE + -MENT]

**disallow** /disə'low/ *vt* to refuse to admit or recognize – **disallowance** *n*

**disambiguate** /disəm'bigyooəyt/ *vt* to remove (possible) ambiguity from (e.g. a phrase or sentence) – **disambiguation** /-ayʃən/ *n*

**disannul** /disə'nul/ *vt* to annul, cancel

**disappear** /disə'piə/ *vi* **1** to pass from view suddenly or gradually **2** to cease to be or to be known **3** to leave or depart, esp secretly – *infrml* – **disappearance** *n*

**disappoint** /disə'pɔɪnt/ *vt* to fail to meet the expectation or hope of; *also* to sadden by so doing [MF *desappointer*, fr *des-* *dis-* + *apointer* to arrange – more at **APPOINT**] – **disappointing** *adj*, **disappointingly** *adv*

**disappointed** *adj* defeated in expectation or hope; thwarted, – **disappointedly** *adv*

**disappointment** /-mənt/ *n* **1** disappointing or being disappointed **2** sby or sthg that disappoints

**disapprobation** /disəprə'bayʃən/ *n* disapproval – *infrml*

**disapproval** /disə'pruʊv(ə)l/ *n* unfavourable opinion; censure

**disapprove** /disə'pruʊv/ *vt* to refuse approval to; reject ~ *vi* to have ~ or express an unfavourable opinion of – **disapprover** *n*, **disapprovingly** *adv*

**disarm** /dis'ɑrm/ *vt* **1a** to deprive of a weapon or weapons **b** to deprive of a means of attack or defence **c** to make (e.g. a bomb) harmless, esp by removing a fuse or warhead **2** to dispel the hostility or suspicion of ~ *vi* **1** to lay aside arms **2** to reduce or abolish weapons and armed forces [ME *desarmen*, fr MF *desarmer*, fr OF, fr *des-* + *armer* to arm] – **disarmament** /-məmənt/ *n*

**disarming** /dis'ɑrming/ *adj* allaying criticism or hostility – **disarmingly** *adv*

**disarrange** /disə'reynj/ *vt* to disturb the arrangement or order of – **disarrangement** *n*

**disarray** /disə'rey/ *n* a lack of order or sequence; disorder

**disarray** *vt* to throw or place into disorder [ME *disarayen*, fr MF *desarroyer*, fr OF *desareer*, fr *des-* + *areer* to array]

**disarticulate** /disə'tɪkyoolayt/ *vb* to (cause to) become disjointed – **disarticulation** /-ləyʃən/ *n*

**disassemble** /disə'sembəl/ *vt* to take (e.g. a machine) apart – **disassembly** *n*

**disassociate** /disə'sohs(h)hayt/ *vt* to dissociate – **disassociation** /-əyʃən/ *n*

**disaster** /di'zəstə/ *n* **1** a sudden event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction; broadly an unfortunate occurrence **2** a failure <was a complete ~ as a teacher> – *infrml* [MF & OIt; MF *desastre*, fr OIt *disastro*, lit., unfavourable aspect of a star, fr *dis-* (fr L) + *astro* star, fr L *astrum* – more at **ASIRAL**] – **disastrous** /-trəs/ *adj*, **disastrously** *adv*

**disaster area** *n* an area officially declared to be the scene of a disaster and therefore qualified to receive emergency loans and supplies

**disavow** /disə'vow/ *vt* to deny knowledge of or responsibility for, repudiate – *infrml* [ME *desavowen*, fr MF *desavouer*, fr OF, fr *des-* *dis-* + *avouer* to avow] – **disavowal** *n*

**disband** /dis'band/ *vb* to (cause to) break up and separate, disperse [MF *desbänder*, fr *des-* + *bande* band] – **disbandment** *n*

**disbar** /dis'bah/ *vt* to deprive (a barrister) of the right to practise, expel from the bar – **disbarment** *n*


**disbelief** /disbi'leef/ *n* mental rejection of sthg as untrue

**disbelieve** /disbi'leev/ *vb* to reject or withhold belief (in) – **disbeliever** *n*

**disbud** /dis'bud/ *vt* -dd- to remove (superfluous) buds from (e.g. a plant), esp in order to improve the quality of bloom

**disburden** /dis'buhdən/ *vt* to unburden – **disburdenment** *n*

**disburse** /dis'buhs/ *vt* **1** to pay out, esp from a fund **2** to make a payment in settlement of, defray – *infrml* [MF *desbourser*, fr OF *desborser*, fr *des-* + *borser* to get money, fr *borse* purse, fr ML *bursa* – more at **PURSE**] – **disbursement** *n*, **disburser** *n*

**disc**, *NAm chiefly* disk /disk/ *n* **1a** a thin flat circular object **b** an apparently flat figure or surface (e.g. of a planet) <the solar ~> **2** any of various round flat anatomical structures, esp any of the cartilaginous discs between the spinal vertebrae <suffering from a slipped ~>  **ANATOMY** **3** a gramophone record **4** DISK **5a** any of the sharp-edged concave circular cutting blades of a harrow [L *discus* – more at **DISH**]

**discalced** /dis'kælsd/ *adj*, of a friar or nun barefoot or wearing only sandals [part trans of L *discalceatus*, fr *dis-* + *calceatus*, pp of *calceare* to put on shoes, fr *calceus* shoe, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel]

**discard** /dis'kaɪd/ *vt* **1a** to throw out (a playing card) from one's hand **b** to play (any card from a suit different from the one led except a trump) when unable to follow suit **2** to get rid of as useless or superfluous ~ *vi* to discard a playing card

**discard** *n* **1** the act of discarding in a card game **2** sby or sthg discarded, esp a discarded card

**disc brake** *n* a brake that operates by the friction of a calliper pressing against the sides of a rotating disc  **CAR**

**discern** /di'suhn/ *vt* **1** to detect with one of the senses, esp vision **2** to perceive or recognize mentally [ME *discernen*, fr MF *discerner*, fr L *discernere* to separate, distinguish between, fr *dis-* apart + *cernere* to sift – more at **DIS-**, **CERTAIN**] – **discerner** *n*, **discernible** *also* **discernable** *adj*, **discernibly** *adv*

**discerning** /di'suhning/ *adj* showing insight and understanding; discriminating – **discerningly** *adv*

**discernment** /-mənt/ *n* skill in discerning; keen insight [DISCERN + -MENT]

**discharge** /dis'chah/ *vt* **1a** to unload **b** to release from an obligation **2a** to shoot <~ a gun> **b** to release from custody or care **c** to send or pour out; emit **3a** to dismiss from employment or service **b** to fulfil (e.g. a debt or obligation) by performing an appropriate action **c** to annul legally **4** to remove an electric charge from or reduce the electric charge of ~ *vi* **1** to throw off or deliver a load, charge, or burden **2a** of a gun to be fired **b** to pour out (fluid) contents **3** to lose or reduce an electric charge [ME *dischargen*, fr MF *descharger*, fr LL *discurricare*, fr L *dis-* + LL *curricare* to load – more at **CHARGE**] – **dischargeable** *adj*, **dischargee** /-jee/ *n*, **discharger** *n*

**discharge** /dis'chahj, -/ *n* **1a** the relieving of an obligation, accusation, or penalty **b** a certificate of release or payment **2** the act of discharging or unloading **3a** legal release from confinement **b** an acquittal **4** the act or an instance of firing a missile or missiles <an artillery ~> **5a** a flowing or pouring out **b** sthg that is discharged or emitted <a purulent ~> **6** release or dismissal, esp from an office or employment **7a** a *usu* brief flow of an electric charge through a gas, *usu* with associated light emission **b**



the conversion of the chemical energy of a battery into electrical energy

**'discharge lamp** *n* a lamp which contains gas or vapour at very low pressure and through which conduction causing luminosity takes place when a high potential difference is applied

**disciple** /di'si:pl/ *n* 1 one who accepts and assists in spreading another's doctrines, a follower 2 any of the followers of Christ during his life on earth, esp any of Christ's 12 appointed followers [ME, fr OE *discipul* & OF *disciple*, fr LL and L; LL *discipulus* follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime, fr L, pupil] – **discipleship** *n*, **discipular** /di'sipjoolə/ *adj*

**disciplinarian** /di'sipli'neəriən/ *n* one who enforces or advocates (strict) discipline or order – **disciplinarian** *adj*

**disciplinary** /di'siplinəri/ *adj* 1 of or involving discipline; corrective (< ~ action) 2 of a particular field of study

**'discipline** /di'siplin/ *n* 1 a field of study 2 training of the mind and character designed to produce obedience and self-control 3 punishment, chastisement 4a order obtained by enforcing obedience (e.g. in a school or army) b self-control 5 a system of rules governing conduct [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *disciplina* teaching, learning, fr *discipulus* pupil] – **disciplinal** /-plnəl/ *adj*

**discipline** *vt* 1 to punish or penalize for the sake of discipline 2 to train by instruction and exercise, esp in obedience and self-control 3 to bring (a group) under control (< ~ troops) – **disciplinable** *adj*, **discipliner** *n* **'disc jockey** *n* one who introduces records of popular usu contemporary music (e.g. on a radio programme or at a discotheque)

**disclaim** /di'sklaym/ *vt* to make a disclaimer ~ *vt* 1 to renounce a legal claim to 2 to deny, disavow [AF *disclaimer*, fr *dis-* + *claimer* to claim, fr OF *clamer*]

**disclaimer** /di'sklaymə/ *n* 1 a denial of legal responsibility 2 a denial, repudiation [AF, fr *disclaimer*, vb]

**disclose** /di'skloʒ/ *vt* 1 to expose to view 2 to make known, reveal to public knowledge [ME *disclosen*, fr MF *desclos-*, stem of *desclore* to disclose, fr ML *disclaudere* to open, fr L *dis-* + *claudere* to close – more at *'CLOSE*] – **discloser** *n*

**disclosure** /di'sklohʒə/ *n* 1 (an instance of) disclosing, an exposure 2 sthg disclosed, a revelation

**disco** /di'skɒh/ *n*, *pl* **discos** 1 a collection of popular records together with the equipment for playing them 2 a discotheque – *infml* [short for *discotheque*]

**discography** /di'skɒgrəfi/ *n* 1 a descriptive list of gramophone records 2 the study of recorded music [F *discographie*, fr *disc-* + *-graphic* -graphy] – **discographer** *n*, **discographical** /di'skɒ'grəfi:kəl/ *also* **discographic** *adj*, **discographically** *adv*

**discoid** /di'skɔɪd/ *adj* resembling a disc or discus [LL *discoides* quoit-shaped, fr Gk *diskoideís*, fr *diskos* disc]

**discolour** /di'skula/ *vb* (to cause to) change colour for the worse; stain [ME *discolouren*, fr MF *descolouren*, fr LL *discolorari*, fr L *discolor* of another colour, fr *dis-* + *color* colour] – **discoloration** *n*

**discombobulate** /di'skɒm'bɒbyoo,layt/ *vt*, *NAm* to upset, confuse [prob alter. of *discompose*]

**discomfit** /di'skʌmfɪt/ *vt* 1 to frustrate the plans of; thwart 2 to cause perplexity and embarrassment to; disconcert [ME *discomfitten*, fr OF *desconfit*, pp of *desconfire*, fr *des-* + *confire* to prepare – more at *COMFIT*] – **discomfiture** /-fɪʃə/ *n*

**'discomfort** /di'skʌmfɜ:t/ *vt* to make uncomfortable or uneasy [ME *discomforten*, fr MF *desconforter*, fr OF, fr *des-* + *conforter* to comfort]

**discomfort** *n* (sthg causing) mental or physical unease

**discompose** /di'skɒm'pəʊz/ *vt* to destroy the composure of – *fml* – **discomposed** /-pəʊzə/ *n*

**disconcert** /di'skɒnsəʊt/ *vt* to disturb the composure of; fluster [obs F *disconcerter*, alter. of MF *desconcerter*, fr *des-* + *concerter* to concert] – **disconcerting** *adj*, **disconcertingly** *adv*

**disconnect** /di'skɒnɛkt/ *vt* to sever the connection of or between; *specif* CUT OFF 7B – **disconnection** /-nɛkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'disconnected** *adj* disjointed, incoherent – **disconnectedly** *adv*, **disconnectedness** *n*

**disconsolate** /di'skɒnsəlat/ *adj* dejected, downcast [ME, fr ML *disconsolatus*, fr L *dis-* + *consolatus*, pp of *consolari* to console] – **disconsolately** *adv*, **disconsolateness** *n*, **disconsolation** /di'skɒnsə'layʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'discontent** /di'skɒntent/ *n* 1 lack of contentment; dissatisfaction 2 one who is discontented; a malcontent

**'discontent** *vt* to make discontented

**discontented** *also* **discontent** *adj* restlessly unhappy; dissatisfied **discontentment** /-mənt/ *n* DISCONTENT 1

**discontinue** /di'skɒn'tinyoʊh/ *vt* to cease, stop; *specif* to cease production of (<this line has been ~d>) ~ *vi* to come to an end [ME *discontinuen*, fr MF *discontinuer*, fr ML *discontinuare*, fr L *dis-* + *continuare* to continue] – **discontinuance** *n*

**discontinuous** /di'skɒn'tinyoo-əs/ *adj* lacking sequence, coherence, or continuity – **discontinuously** *adv*, **discontinuity** /di'skɒn'tinyoo-əti/ *n*

**discord** /di'skɒrd/ *n* 1 lack of agreement or harmony; conflict 2a dissonance b a harsh unpleasant combination of sounds [ME *discorde*, deriv of L *discord-*, *discors* discordant, fr *dis-* + *cord-*, *cor* heart – more at *HEART*]

**discordant** /di'skɒrd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 disagreeing; AT VARIANCE 2 relating to a discord; dissonant (< ~ tones) – **discordance**, **discordancy** *n*, **discordantly** *adv*

**discotheque** /di'skɒ:tek/ *n* a nightclub for dancing to usu recorded music [F *discothèque*, fr *disque* disc, record + *-o-* + *-thèque* (as in *bibliothèque* library)]

**'discount** /di'skəʊnt/ *n* a reduction made from the gross amount or value of sthg: e.g. a a reduction in the price of goods, accorded esp to special or trade customers b a reduction in the amount due on a bill of exchange, debt, etc when paid promptly or before the specified date – at a discount below the usual price

**discount** /di'skəʊnt/ *sense* 2 *di'skəʊnt/ vt* 1a to make a deduction from, usu for cash or prompt payment b to sell or offer for sale at a discount c to buy or sell (a bill of exchange) before maturity at below the stated price 2a to leave out of account as unimportant, unreliable, or irrelevant; disregard b to underestimate the importance of; minimize 3 to take (e.g. a future event) into account in present arrangements or calculations [modif of F *décompter*, fr OF *desconter*, fr ML *discomputare*, fr L *dis-* + *computare* to count – more at *'COUNT*] – **discountable** /-əbəl/ *adj*

**discouragement** /di'skəʊnt(ə)mənts/ *vt* 1 to abash, disconcert 2 to discourage by showing disapproval – *fml*

**discourage** /di'skʌrɪʒ/ *vt* 1 to deprive of confidence; dishearten 2a to hinder, deter from b to attempt to prevent, esp by showing disapproval [MF *descorager*, fr OF *descoragier*, fr *des-* + *corage* courage] – **discouragement** *n*

**'discourse** /di'skɒws/ *n* 1 a talk, conversation 2 (orderly expression of ideas in) a formal speech or piece of writing [ME *discours*, fr ML & LL *discursus*; ML, argument, fr LL, conversation, fr L, act of running about, fr *discursus*, pp of *discurrere* to run about, fr *dis-* + *currere* to run – more at *CAR*]

**discourse** /-/, /-:/ *vi* 1 to express one's ideas in speech or writing 2 to talk, converse *USE* usu + *on* or *upon* – **discourser** *n*

**discourteous** /di'skʌtɪəs/ *adj* rude, impolite – **discourteously** *adv*, **discourteousness** *n*

**discourtesy** /di'skʌtəsi/, *also* /-kə-/ *n* (an instance of) rudeness; (an) incivility

**discover** /di'skʌvə/ *vt* 1 to obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time 2 to make known or visible – *fml* [ME *discoveren*, fr OF *descovrir*, fr LL *discooperire*, fr L *dis-* + *cooperire* to cover – more at *COVER*] – **discoverable** *adj*, **discoverer** *n*

**discovery** /di'skʌv(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1a the act or an instance of discovering or revealing b an obligatory disclosure of documents or facts by a party to a legal action 2 sb or sthg discovered

**'discredit** /di'skredit/ *vt* 1 to refuse to accept as true or accurate 2 to cast doubt on the accuracy, authority, or reputation of

**'discredit** *n* 1 (sb or sthg causing) loss of credit or reputation 2 loss of belief or confidence; doubt

**discreditable** /di'skreditəbəl/ *adj* bringing discredit or disgrace – **discreditably** *adv*

**discreet** /di'skri:t/ *adj* 1 judicious in speech or conduct; esp capable of maintaining a prudent silence 2 unpretentious, modest (<the house was furnished with ~ elegance>) [ME, fr MF *discret*, fr ML *discretus*, fr L; pp of *discernere* to separate, distinguish between – more at *DISCERN*] – **discreetly** *adv*, **discreteness** *n*

**discrepant** /di'skrep(ə)nt/ *adj* disagreeing; AT VARIANCE [L *discrepant-*, *discrepans*, pp of *discrepare* to sound discordantly, fr *dis-* + *crepare* to rattle, creak – more at *'RAVEN*] – **discrepancy** *n*, **discrepantly** *adv*

**discrete** /di'skri:t/ *adj* 1 individually distinct 2 consisting of distinct or unconnected elements [ME, fr L *discretus*] – **discretely** *adv*, **discreteness** *n*

**discretion** /di'skresh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the quality of being discreet 2 the ability to make responsible decisions 3a individual choice or judgment (<left the decision to his ~>) b power of free decision within legal bounds (<reached the age of ~>)

- discretionary** /di'kresh(ə)nri/ *adj* 1 left to or exercised at one's own discretion < ~ powers > 2 subject to the discretion of another
- discriminant** /di'kriminant/ *n* a mathematical expression providing a criterion for the behaviour of another more complicated expression, relation, or set of relations
- discriminate** /di'krimi,nayt/ *vt* to distinguish (e.g. objects or ideas) by noting differences < ~ good from bad > ~ *vi* 1a to make a distinction < ~ between fact and fancy > b to show good judgment or discernment 2 to treat sb differently and esp unfavourably on the grounds of race, sex, religion, etc [L *discriminatus*, pp of *discriminare*, fr *discrimin-*, *discrimen* distinction, fr *discernere* to distinguish between - more at **DISCERN**] - **discriminator** *n*
- discriminating** /di'krimi,naytɪŋ/ *adj* 1 discerning, judicious 2 discriminatory - **discriminatingly** *adv*
- discrimination** /di'krimi'naysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of responding to different sensory stimuli in different ways 2 discernment and good judgment, esp in matters of taste 3 prejudicial treatment (e.g. on the grounds of race or sex) [**DISCRIMINATE** + -ION] - **discriminational** *adj*
- discriminative** /di'kriminativ/ *adj* discriminatory
- discriminatory** /di'kriminat(ə)ri/ *adj* showing esp unfavourable discrimination (a ~ law) - **discriminatorily** *adv*
- discursive** /di'sku:svi-, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 passing usu unmethodically from one topic to another; digressive 2 proceeding by logical argument or reason [ML *discursivus*, fr L *discursus*, pp of *discurrere* to run about - more at **DISCOURSE**] - **discursively** *adv*, **discursiveness** *n*
- discus** /dɪskəs/ *n*, *pl* **discuses** (the athletic field event involving the throwing of) a solid disc, between 180mm and 219mm (about 7 to 9in) in diameter, that is thicker in the centre than at the edge [L - more at **DISH**]
- discuss** /di'skʌs/ *vt* to consider or examine (a topic) in speech or writing [ME *discussen*, fr L *discussus*, pp of *discutere*, fr *dis-* apart + *quater* to shake] - **discussable**, **discussible** *adj*
- discussion** /di'skʌʃ(ə)n/ *n* (an instance of) consideration of a question in open debate or conversation
- disdain** /di'deɪn/ *n* contempt for sth regarded as worthless or insignificant; scorn [ME *desdeyne*, fr OF *desdeign*, fr *desdeignier*]
- disdain** *vt* 1 to regard with disdain 2 to refuse or abstain from because of disdain < she ~ ed to answer him > [ME *desdeynen*, fr MF *desdeigner*, fr (assumed) VL *disignare*, fr L *dis-* + *signare* to deign - more at **DEIGN**]
- disdainful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* feeling or showing disdain - **disdainfully** *adv*, **disdainfulness** *n*
- disease** /di'zi:z/ *n* 1 a condition of (a part of) a living animal or plant body that impairs the performance of a vital function; (a) sickness, malady 2 a harmful or corrupt development, situation, condition, etc < the ~ of prejudice > [ME *dise* uneasiness, sickness, fr MF *desaise*, fr *des-* dis- + *aise* ease] - **diseased** *adj*
- diseconomy** /di'si'kɒnəmi/ *n* 1 a lack of economy 2 (a factor responsible for) an increase in costs
- disembark** /di'sɪm'bɑ:k/ *vb* (to cause to) alight from a ship, plane, etc [MF *desembarquer*, fr *des-* + *embarquer* to embark] - **disembarkation** /di'sɪm'bɑ:kə'ʃ(ə)n/, -em-/ *n*
- disembody** /di'sɪm'bɒdi/ *vt* to divest of a body or material existence
- disembogue** /di'sɪm'bɒg/ *vb*, of a stream, river, etc to pour (itself) forth (as if) from a channel - *fm*l [modif of Sp *desembocar*, fr *des-* (fr L *dis-*) + *embocar* to put into the mouth, fr *en* in (fr L *in*) + *boca* mouth, fr L *bucca* - more at **POCK**]
- disembowel** /di'sɪm'bɒwəl/ *vt* to remove the bowels or entrails of; eviscerate - **disembowelment** *n*
- disembroll** /di'sɪm'bɒrɒl/ *vt* to free from a confused or entangled state or situation
- disenchant** /di'sɪn'chahnt/ *vt* to rid of an illusion [MF *desenchanter*, fr *des-* + *enchanter* to enchant] - **disenchanter** *n*, **disenchanting** *adj*, **disenchantingly** *adv*, **disenchantment** *n*
- disencumber** /di'sɪn'kʌmbə/ *vt* to free from an encumbrance [MF *desencombrer*, fr *des-* + *encombrer* to encumber]
- disendow** /di'sɪn'dəʊ/ *vt* to strip of an endowment - **disendowment** *n*
- disenfranchise** /di'sɪn'frɑ:ntʃi:z/, -'frɑ:n-/ *vt* to deprive of a franchise or right; esp to deprive (sby) of the right to vote, or (a place) of the right to send representatives to an elected body - **disenfranchisement** /-frɑ:ntʃizmənt/, -'frɑ:n-, -'tʃi:zmənt/ *n*
- disengage** /di'sɪŋ'geɪ/ *vt* 1 to release or detach from sth that engages or entangles 2 to remove (e.g. troops) from combat areas ~ *vi* 1 to detach or release oneself; specif, esp of troops to withdraw 2 to move one's fencing sword to the other side of an opponent's sword in order to attack [F *désengager*, fr MF, fr *des-* + *engager* to engage] - **disengagement** *n*
- disentail** /di'sɪn'tayl/ *vt* to free (an estate) from entail
- disentangle** /di'sɪn'taŋ-gl/ *vb* (to cause to) become free from entanglements: unravel - **disentanglement** *n*
- disequilibrium** /di'si:kəw'li:bri-əm, -ekw-/ *n* loss or lack of equilibrium
- disestablish** /di'sɪ'stəblɪʃ/ *vt* to deprive (esp a national church) of established status - **disestablishment** *n*
- disfavour** /di's'fayvə/ *n* 1 disapproval, dislike 2 the state of being disapproved of < fell into ~ > [prob fr MF *desfaveur*, fr *des-* dis- + *faveur* favour, fr OF *favor*]
- disfavour** *vt* to regard or treat with disfavour
- disfigure** /di's'figə/ *vt* to spoil the appearance or quality of; mar [ME *disfigurer*, fr MF *desfigurer*, fr *des-* + *figure*] - **disfigurement** *n*
- disfranchise** /di's'frɑ:ntʃi:z/, -'frɑ:n-/ *vt* to disenfranchise - **disfranchisement** /di's'frɑ:ntʃizmənt/, -'frɑ:n-, -'tʃi:zmənt/ *n*
- disfrock** /di's'frɒk/ *vt* to unfrock
- disfunction** /di's'fʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* dysfunction
- disgorge** /di's'gɔ:ʃ/ *vt* 1a to discharge with force; specif to vomit b to give up on request or under pressure 2 to discharge the contents of (e.g. one's stomach) ~ *vi* to discharge contents < where the river ~ s into the sea > [MF *desgorger*, fr *des-* + *gorge* throat]
- disgrace** /di's'græs/ *vt* 1 to bring reproach or shame to 2 to cause to lose favour or standing
- disgrace** *n* 1a loss of favour, honour, or respect; shame b the state of being out of favour < she's in ~ > 2 sby or sth shameful < his manners are a ~ > [MF, fr OIt *disgrazia*, fr *dis-* (fr L) + *grazia* grace, fr L *gratia* - more at **GRACE**]
- disgraceful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* shameful, shocking - **disgracefully** *adv*, **disgracefulness** *n*
- disgruntled** /di's'grʌntlɪd/ *adj* aggrieved and dissatisfied [fr pp of *gruntle* (to aggrive), fr *dis-* + *gruntle* (to grumble), fr ME *gruntlen*, freq of *grunt*]
- disguise** /di's'giz/ *vt* 1 to change the appearance or nature of in order to conceal identity < ~ d himself as a tramp > 2 to hide the true state or character of [ME *disguisen*, fr MF *desguiser*, fr OF, fr *des-* + *guise*] - **disguisedly** /-zɪdli/ *adv*, **disguisement** *n*
- disguise** *n* 1 (the use of) sth (e.g. clothing) to conceal one's identity 2 an outward appearance that misrepresents the true nature of sth < a blessing in ~ >
- disgust** /di's'gʌst/ *n* strong aversion aroused by sby or sth physically or morally distasteful
- disgust** *vt* to arouse repugnance or aversion in [MF *desgouster*, fr *des-* dis- + *goust* taste, fr L *gustus*; akin to L *gustare* to taste - more at **CHOOSE**] - **disgusted** *adj*, **disgustedly** *adv*
- dish** /dɪʃ/ *n* 1a a shallow open often circular or oval vessel used esp for holding or serving food; broadly any vessel from which food is eaten or served b a dishful *c pl* the utensils and tableware used in preparing, serving, and eating a meal < wash the ~ es > 2 a type of food prepared in a particular way < a delicious meat ~ > 3 sth resembling a dish in shape. e.g. a directional aerial, esp for receiving radio or television transmissions or microwaves, having a concave usu parabolic reflector TELEVISION b a hollow or depression 4 an attractive person - *fm*l [ME, fr OE *disc* plate; akin to OHG *tisc* plate, table; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *discus* quoit, *dise*, *dish*, fr Gk *diskos*, fr *dikēin* to throw]
- dish** *vt* 1 to make concave like a dish 2 chiefly Br to ruin or spoil (e.g. a person or his/her hopes) - *fm*l
- dishabille** /di'sə'beɪl/ *n* deshabille
- disharmony** /di'shə'mɒni/ *n* lack of harmony; discord - **disharmonious** /di'shə'mɒniəs/, -ni-əs/ *adj*
- dishcloth** /-klɒθ/ *n* a cloth for washing or drying dishes
- dishhearten** /di'shə'teɪn/ *vt* to cause to lose enthusiasm or morale; discourage - **dishheartening** *adj*, **dishhearteningly** *adv*, **dishheartenment** *n*
- dished** /dɪʃt/ *adj* 1 concave 2 of a pair of vehicle wheels fixed so as to be nearer together at the bottom than the top
- dishevel** /di'sheɪvəl/ *vt* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /di'sheɪvəl-ɪŋ/ to make untidy or disordered [back-formation fr *dishevelled*]
- dishevelled**, NAM chiefly **disheveled** *adj*, esp of a person's hair or appearance unkempt, untidy [ME *dischevelé*, part trans of MF *deschevelé*, fr pp of *descheveler* to disarrange the hair, fr *des-* + *chevel* hair, fr L *capillus*]
- dishful** /-f(ə)/ *n* the amount a dish contains or will hold

**dishonest** /di'sɒnɪst/ *adj* not honest, truthful, or sincere [ME, fr MF *deshoneste*, fr *des-* + *honeste* honest] – **dishonestly** *adv*

**dishonesty** /di'sɒnɪsti/ *n* (an instance of) lack of honesty or integrity

**'dishonour** /di'sɒnə/ *n* 1 (sby or sth causing) loss of honour or reputation 2 a state of shame or disgrace [ME, fr OF *deshonor*, fr *des-* + *honor* honour]

**'dishonour** *vt* 1 to treat in a degrading or disrespectful manner 2 to bring shame on 3 to refuse to accept or pay (e.g. a cheque)

**dishonourable** /di'sɒn(ə)rəbl/ *adj* base, shameful – **dishonourably** *adv*

**dish out** *vt* to give or distribute freely (<always dishing out advice>) – *informal*

**dish up** *vt* 1 to put (a meal, food, etc) onto dishes, serve 2 to produce or present (e.g. facts) (<has been dishing up the same lessons for years>) – *informal* ~ *vt* to put food onto dishes ready to be eaten (<I'm dishing up now>)

**'dishwasher** /-wɒʃə/ *n* a person or electrical machine that washes dishes

**'dishwater** /-wɒtə/ *n* water in which dishes have been washed  
**'dishy** /'dɪʃi/ *adj*, chiefly *Br*, of a person attractive – *informal* ['dɪʃ 4 + -y]

**'disillusion** /di'si'looʒh(ə)n, -'lyoʊh/ *n* the state of being disillusioned

**'disillusion** *vt* to reveal the usu unpleasant truth (e.g. about sby or sth admired) to, disenchant – **disillusionment** *n*

**'disillusioned** *adj* bitter or depressed as a result of having been disillusioned (<feeling very ~ with government policies>)

**disincentive** /di'sɪn'sentɪv/ *n* sth that discourages action or effort, a deterrent

**disinclination** /di'sɪŋkli'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (an) unwillingness to do sthg; mild dislike

**disinclined** /di'sɪn'kliend/ *adj* unwilling

**disinfect** /di'sɪn'fekt/ *vt* to cleanse of infection, esp by destroying harmful microorganisms [MF *desinfecter*, fr *des-* + *infecter* to infect] – **disinfection** /-fɛkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**disinfectant** /di'sɪn'fekt(ə)nt/ *n* a chemical that destroys harmful microorganisms

**disinfest** /di'sɪn'fest/ *vt* to rid of insects, rodents, or other pests – **disinfestation** /di'sɪn'fɛstəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**disinflation** /di'sɪn'flaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a reduction of inflation without the general reduction in economic activity associated with deflation – **disinflationary** *adj*

**disingenuous** /di'sɪn'jenyoʊ-s/ *adj* insincere, also falsely frank or naive in manner – **disingenuously** *adv*, **disingenuousness** *n*

**disinherit** /di'sɪn'herɪt/ *vt* to deprive (an heir) of the right to inherit; broadly to deprive of a special right or privilege – **disinheritance** *n*

**disintegrate** /di'sɪntɪgrɪt/ *vt* 1 to break up into fragments or constituent elements 2 to destroy the unity or cohesion of ~ *vt* 1 to break into fragments or constituent elements 2 to lose unity or cohesion 3 esp of a nucleus to undergo a change in composition (e.g. by emitting radioactive particles or dividing into smaller units) – **disintegrator** *n*, **disintegrative** /-grɪtɪv/ *adj*, **disintegration** /-grɪtʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**disinter** /di'sɪn'tuː/ *vt* 1 to remove from a grave or tomb 2 to bring to light; unearth – **disinterment** *n*

**disinterested** /di'sɪntrest, -trɪst/ *n* 1 lack of interest; apathy – disapproved of by some speakers 2 lack of self-interest; disinterestedness

**disinterested** *adj* 1 uninterested – disapproved of by some speakers 2 free from selfish motive or interest; impartial – **disinterestedly** *adv*, **disinterestedness** *n*

**disinvestment** /di'sɪn'vestmənt/ *n* reduction or termination of investment, esp by realizing assets or not replacing capital equipment

**disjoin** /di'sjoɪn/ *vb* to (cause to) become detached [MF *desjoindre*, fr L *disjungere*, fr *dis-* + *jungere* to join – more at yoke]

**disjoint** /di'sjoɪnt/ *vt* 1 to disturb the orderly arrangement of 2 to take apart at the joints



**disjointed** *adj* lacking orderly sequence; incoherent – **disjointedly** *adv*, **disjointedness** *n*

**disjunct** /'dɪʃʊŋkt/ *n* an adverbial linguistic form (e.g. *frankly* in 'frankly, I'm annoyed') that expresses an evaluation of what is said [*disjunct*, *adj* (separate, discontinuous), fr L *disjunctus*, pp of *disjungere*]

**disjunction** /di'sʃʊŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a) cleavage, separation 2a INCLUSIVE DISJUNCTION b EXCLUSIVE DISJUNCTION

**'disjunctive** /di'sʃʊŋktɪv/ *n* a disjunctive conjunction – see **'DISJUNCTIVE** 1b

**'disjunctive** *adj* 1a being, belonging to, or characterizing a logical disjunction b expressing an alternative or opposition between the meanings of the words connected (e.g. in the question 'Is he old or young?', or is a disjunctive conjunction) 2 marked by breaks or separation – *formal* – **disjunctively** *adv*

**disk** /dɪsk/ *n* 1a *Br* also *disc* a round flat plate coated with a magnetic substance on which data for a computer is stored  **COMPUTER** b **disk**, **disk pack** a computer storage device consisting of a stack of disks rotating at high speed, each disk having its own head to read and write data  **COMPUTER** 2 chiefly *NAM* a disc

**'dislike** /di'sliːk/ *vt* to regard with dislike

**'dislike** *n* (an object of) a feeling of aversion or disapproval

**dislocate** /di'sləˌkeɪt/ *vt* 1 to put out of place, esp to displace (e.g. a bone or joint) from normal connection 2 to put (plans, machinery, etc) out of order; disrupt [ML *dislocatus*, pp of *dislocare*, fr L *dis-* + *locare* to locate]

**dislocation** /di'sləˌkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 displacement of 1 or more bones at a joint 2 a discontinuity in the lattice structure of a crystal 3 disruption of an established order or course [DISLOCATE + -ION]

**dislodge** /di'sləʊ/ *vt* to force out of or remove from a fixed or entrenched position [ME *disloggen*, fr MF *desloger*, fr *des-* + *loger* to lodge, fr *loge* lodge]

**disloyal** /di'sləʊəl/ *adj* untrue to obligations or ties, unfaithful [MF *desloial*, fr OF, fr *des-* + *loial* loyal] – **disloyally** *adv*, **disloyalty** *n*

**dismal** /'dɪzm(ə)l/ *adj* causing or expressing gloom or sadness [ME, fr *dismal*, *n*, days marked as unlucky in medieval calendars, fr AF, fr ML *dies mali*, lit, evil days] – **dismally** *adv*, **dismalness** *n*

**dismantle** /di'smɑːntl/ *vt* 1 to strip of furniture, equipment, etc 2 to take to pieces [MF *desmanteler*, fr *des-* + *mantel* mantle] – **dismantlement** *n*

**dismast** /di'smahst/ *vt* to remove or break off the mast of (a ship)

**'dismay** /di'smaɪ, diː-/ *vt* to fill with dismay [ME *dismayen*, fr (assumed) OF *desmauer*, fr OF *des-* + *-mauer* (as in *esmauer* to dismay), fr (assumed) VL *-magare*, of Gmc origin] – **dismayingly** *adv*

**'dismay** *n* sudden consternation or apprehension

**'dismember** *vt* 1 to cut or tear off the limbs or members of 2 to divide up (e.g. a territory) into parts [ME *dismembren*, fr OF *desmembrer*, fr *des-* + *membre* member] – **dismemberment** *n*

**dismiss** /di'smɪs/ *vt* 1 to allow to leave; send away 2 to remove or send away from employment or service 3a to put out of one's mind, reject as unworthy of serious consideration b to put out of judicial consideration, refuse a further hearing to (e.g. a court case) 4 to bowl out (a batsman or side) in cricket [modif of L *dimissus*, pp of *mittere*, fr *dis-* apart + *mittere* to send – more at DIS-, SMITE] – **dismissal** *n*, **dismissible** *adj*

**dismissive** /di'smɪsɪv/ *adj* disdainful

**dismount** /di'sməʊnt/ *vt* to alight from a horse, bicycle, etc ~ *vt* 1 to throw down or remove from horseback 2 to remove from a mounting [prob modif of MF *desmonter*, fr *des-* + *monter* to mount]

**disobedient** /di'sə'biːdi-ənt/ *adj* refusing or failing to obey [ME, fr MF *desobedient*, fr *des-* + *obediens*] – **disobedience** *n*, **disobediently** *adv*

**disobey** /di'sə'beɪ/ *vb* to fail to obey [ME *disobeyen*, fr MF *desobeyr*, fr *des-* + *obeyr* to obey]

**disoblige** /di'sə'blɪː/ *vt* 1 to go counter to the wishes of 2 to inconvenience [F *désobliger*, fr MF, fr *des-* + *obliger* to oblige]

**'disorder** /di'sɔːdə/ *vt* 1 to throw into confusion or disorder 2 to disturb the good health of; upset

**'disorder** *n* 1 lack of order; confusion 2 breach of the peace or public order (<troubled times marked by social ~s>) 3 an abnormal physical or mental condition; an ailment

**disorderly** /-li/ *adj* 1a untidy, disarranged b unruly, violent 2 offensive to public order (<charged with being drunk and ~>) – **disorderliness** *n*

**disorderly house** *n* a brothel

**disorgan-ize, -ise** /di'sɔːgənaɪz/ *vt* to throw into disorder or confusion [F *désorganiser*, fr *dés-* + *organiser* to organize] – **disorganization** /-zə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**disorganized, -ised** *adj* lacking coherence or system

**disorient** /di'sɔːrɪənt, -ənt/ *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to disorientate [F *désorienter*, fr *dés-* + *orienter* to orient, fr MF, fr *orient*, *n*]

**disorientate** /di'sɔːrɪ-əntaɪt/ *vt* 1 to deprive of the normal sense of position, relationship, or identity 2 to confuse – **disorientation** /-tə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**disown** /di'səʊn/ *vt* 1 to refuse to acknowledge as one's own 2 to repudiate any connection with

**disparage** /di'spəriː/ *vt* to speak slightly of; belittle [ME *disparagen* to degrade by marriage below one's class, discredit, fr MF *desparager* to

marry below one's class, fr OF, fr *des-dis-* + *parage* extraction, lineage, fr *per peer* – **disparagement** *n*, **disparaging** *adj*, **disparagingly** *adv*

**disparate** /di'spɑ:tət/ *adj* markedly distinct in quality or character [L *disparatus*, pp of *disparare* to separate, fr *dis-* + *parare* to prepare – more at *PAR*] – **disparately** *adv*, **disparateness** *n*

**disparity** /di'spɑ:ti/ *n* (a) difference or inequality [MF *desparité*, fr LL *disparitas*, *disparitas*, fr L *dis-* + LL *paritas*, *paritas* parity]

**dispassionate** /di'spəʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* not influenced by strong feeling; *esp* calm, impartial – **dispassionately** *adv*, **dispassionateness** *n*

**dispatch** /di'spætʃ/ *vt* 1 to send off or away promptly, *esp* to a particular place or to carry out a particular, usu official, task 2a to carry out or complete (e.g. a task) rapidly or efficiently b to get through, consume quickly – *infrm* <soon ~ ed that chocolate cake> 3 to kill, esp with quick efficiency – *euph* [Sp *despachar* or It *dispiacciare*, fr Prov *despachar* to get rid of, fr MF *despechier* to set free, fr OF, fr *des-* + *pechier* (as in *empeschier* to hinder) – more at *IMPEACH*] – **dispatcher** *n*

**dispatch** *n* 1a a sending off (e.g. of a communication or messenger) 2a a message; *esp* an important official diplomatic or military message b a news item sent in by a correspondent to a newspaper 3 promptness and efficiency 4 an act of killing; *specif* a murder – *euph*

**dispel** /di'spel/ *vt* -ll- to drive away; disperse [L *dispellere*, fr *dis-* + *pellere* to drive, beat – more at *FELT*]

**dispensable** /di'spensəbl/ *adj* that can be dispensed with, inessential – **dispensability** /-bi'liti/ *n*

**dispensary** /di'spens(ə)r/ *n* a part of a hospital or chemist's shop where drugs, medical supplies, etc. are dispensed

**dispensation** /di'spensə'sayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an *esp* divine ordering of human affairs b a particular arrangement or provision made by God, providence, or nature c a usu specified religious system, *esp* considered as controlling human affairs during a particular period 2a an exemption from a law, vow, etc; *specif* permission to disregard or break a rule of Roman Catholic church law b a formal authorization [DISPENSE + -ATION] – **dispensational** *adj*

**dispense** /di'spens/ *vt* 1a to deal out, distribute b to administer (e.g. law or justice) 2 to give a dispensation to; exempt from 3 to prepare and give out (drugs, medicine, etc on prescription) [ME *dispensen*, fr ML & L; ML *dispensare* to grant dispensation, fr L, to distribute, fr *dispensus*, pp of *dispendere* to weigh out, fr *dis-* + *pendere* to weigh – more at *SPAN*] – **dispense** with 1 DISCARD 2 2 to do without

**dispenser** /di'spensə/ *n* 1 a container or machine that dispenses items (e.g. of food) or usu fixed quantities (e.g. of drink) 2 a person who dispenses medicines [DISPENSE + -ER]

**dispersant** /di'spuh(s)ənt/ *n* a dispersing agent; *esp* a substance used to disperse and stabilize fine particles of one substance in another – **dispersant** *adj*

**disperse** /di'spuhə/ *vt* 1a to cause to break up or scatter <they ~ d the meeting> b to spread over a wide area c to cause to evaporate or vanish 2a to subject (e.g. light) to dispersion b to distribute (e.g. fine particles) more or less evenly throughout a liquid ~ *vi* 1 to break up in random fashion; scatter 2 to become dispersed; dissipate [ME *dyspersen*, fr MF *disperser*, fr L *dispersus*, pp of *dispergere* to scatter, fr *dis-* + *spargere* to scatter – more at *'SPARK*] – **dispersal** *n*, **dispersedly** /-sidli/ *adv*, **disperser** *n*, **dispersible** *adj*, **dispersive** *adj*, **dispersively** *adv*, **dispersiveness** *n*

**dispersion** /di'spuh(s)ə/ *n* 1 *cap* the Diaspora 2 the extent to which the values of a frequency distribution are scattered around an average 3 the separation of light into colours by refraction or diffraction with formation of a spectrum; *also* the separation of nonhomogeneous radiation into components in accordance with some characteristic (e.g. energy, wavelength, or mass) 4a a dispersed substance b a system consisting of a dispersed substance and the medium in which it is dispersed; COLLOID 1b [DISPERSE + -ION]

**dispirit** /di'spirit/ *vt* to dishearten, discourage [*dis-* + *spirit*] – **dispirited** *adj*, **dispiritingly** *adv*, **dispiritiveness** *n*

**displace** /di'spleɪs/ *vt* 1a to remove from or force out of the usual or proper place b to remove from office 2 to take the place of; replace; *specif* to take the place of (e.g. an atom) in a chemical reaction [prob fr MF *desplacer*, fr *des-* + *place*] – **displaceable** *adj*

**displaced person** *n* *sb*y who has been forced to leave his/her country because of war, revolution, etc.; a refugee

**displacement** /-mənt/ *n* 1a the volume or weight of a fluid (e.g. water) displaced by a body (e.g. a ship) of equal weight floating in it b the difference between the initial position of a body and any later position 2 the transfer of emotions from the object that orig. evoked them to a substitute (e.g. in dreams) [DISPLACE + -MENT]

**display** /di'spleɪ/ *vt* 1 to expose to view; show 2 to exhibit, *esp* ostentatiously ~ *vi* to make a breeding display [ME *displayen*, fr AF *despleier*, fr L *displicare* to scatter, fr *dis-* + *plicare* to fold – more at *'PLY*]

**display** *n* 1a(1) a presentation or exhibition of sthg in open view <a fireworks ~> (2) an *esp* ostentatious show or demonstration b an arrangement of type or printing designed to catch the eye (e.g. in headlines and title pages) c an eye-catching arrangement exhibiting sthg (e.g. goods for sale) d a device (e.g. a cathode-ray tube screen) that presents information in visual form <a visual ~ unit> 2 a pattern of behaviour exhibited *esp* by male birds in the breeding season

**displease** /di'spleez/ *vb* to cause annoyance or displeasure (to) [ME *displezen*, fr MF *desplaisir*, fr (assumed) VL *displacere*, fr L *dis-* + *placere* to please]

**displeasure** /di'splezə/ *n* disapproval, annoyance

**disport** /di'spɔ:t/ *vt* to divert or amuse (oneself) actively ~ *vi* to frolic, gambol [ME *disporten*, fr MF *desporter*, fr *des-* + *porter* to carry]

**disposable** /di'spɒzəbl/ *adj* 1 available for use, *specif* remaining after deduction of taxes <~ income> 2 designed to be used once and then thrown away [DISPOSE + -ABLE] – **disposability** /-bi'liti/ *n*

**disposable** *n* a disposable article

**disposal** /di'spɒzl/ *n* 1a orderly arrangement or distribution b management, administration c bestowal d the act or action of getting rid of sthg; *specif* the destruction or conversion of waste matter 2 the power or right to use freely <the car was at my ~> [DISPOSE + -AL]

**dispose** /di'spɒz/ *vt* 1 to incline to <~ d to ill-health> 2 to put in place; arrange 3 to cause to have a specified attitude towards <unfavourably ~ d towards her in-laws> ~ *vi* to settle a matter finally [ME *disposen*, fr MF *disposer*, fr L *disponere* to arrange (perf. indic. *disposui*), fr *dis-* + *ponere* to put – more at POSITION] – **dispose** of 1 to get rid of (e.g. by finishing, selling, eating, or killing) 2 to deal with conclusively <disposed of the matter efficiently>

**disposition** /di'spə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a final arrangement, settlement b transfer of property, *esp* by will or deed c orderly arrangement 2a natural temperament b a tendency, inclination [ME, fr MF, fr L *dispositio*, *dispositio*, fr *dispositus*, pp of *disponere*]

**dispossess** /di'spɒz(ə)s/ *vt* to deprive of possession or occupancy [MF *despossesser*, fr *des-* + *possessor* to possess] – **dispossessor** *n*, **dispossession** /-zesh(ə)n/ *n*

**dispraise** /di'spraɪz/ *vt* or *n* (to comment on with) disapproval or censure [vb ME *dispraizen*, fr OF *despreisier*, fr *des-* + *preisier* to praise; *n* fr vb] – **dispraisingly** *adv*

**disproof** /di'spruʊf/ *n* 1 the act or action of disproving 2 evidence that disproves

**disproportion** /di'sprɒ'pawh(s)ə/ *n* (a) lack of proportion, symmetry, or proper relation – **disproportional** *adj*

**disproportionate** /di'sprɒ'pawh(s)ət/ *adj* out of proportion – **disproportionately** *adv*

**disprove** /di'spruʊv/ *vt* to prove to be false; refute [ME *disproven*, fr MF *desprover*, fr *des-* + *prover* to prove] – **disprovable** *adj*

**disputant** /di'spyuʊh(s)ənt, 'dispyuʊh(s)ənt/ *n* one engaged in a dispute

**disputation** /di'spyuʊh'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a debate, argument 2 the oral defence of a thesis by formal logic ['DISPUTE + -ATION]

**disputatious** /di'spyuʊ'tayʃəs/ *adj* inclined to dispute; argumentative – **disputatiously** *adv*, **disputatiousness** *n*

**dispute** /di'spyuʊh/ *vt* to argue, *esp* angrily and persistently – often + *about* ~ *vi* 1a to make the subject of disputation; discuss angrily b to call into question 2a to struggle against, resist b to struggle over; contest [ME *disputen*, fr OF *desputer*, fr L *disputare* to discuss, fr *dis-* + *putare* to think] – **disputable** /di'spyuʊhəbl, 'dispyuʊ-/ *adj*, **disputably** *adv*, **disputer** *n*

**dispute** *n* 1 controversy, debate <his honesty is beyond ~> 2 a quarrel, disagreement

**disqualification** /di'skwɒlɪf'keɪʃ(ə)n, -'tʃ-/ *n* 1 disqualifying or being disqualified 2 sthg that disqualifies

**disqualify** /di'skwɒlɪf/ *vt* 1 to make or declare unfit or unsuitable to do sthg 2 to declare ineligible (e.g. for a prize) because of violation of the rules

**disquiet** /di'skwie-ət/ *vt* or *n* (to cause) anxiety or worry – **disquieting** *adj*, **disquietingly** *adv*

**disquietude** /di'skwie-ətyuʊhd, -'tʃuʊhd/ *n* disquiet – *fml*

**disquisition** /di'skwɪ'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a long or elaborate discussion or essay on a subject [L *disquisitio*, *disquisitio*, fr *disquisitus*, pp of *disquirere* to inquire diligently, fr *dis-* + *querere* to seek]

**disrate** /dis'rayt/ *vt* to reduce (e.g. a sailor) in rank

**'disregard** /disri'gahd/ *vt* 1 to pay no attention to 2 to treat as not worthy of regard or notice

**'disregard** *n* lack of attention or regard; neglect – **disregardful** *adj*

**'disremember** /disri'memba/ *vt*, chiefly *NAm* to forget

**disrepair** /disri'pea/ *n* the state of being in need of repair

**disreputable** /dis'repyootabl/ *adj* 1 having a bad reputation, not respectable 2 dirty or untidy in appearance – **disreputableness** *n*, **disreputably** *adv*, **disreputability** /-'bilati/ *n*

**disrepute** /disri'pyooh/ *n* lack of good reputation or respectability

**disrespect** /disri'spekt/ *n* lack of respect or politeness – **disrespectful** *adj*, **disrespectfully** *adv*, **disrespectfulness** *n*

**disrobe** /dis'roh/ *vt* to take off (esp. ceremonial outer) clothing – *fml* or *humor* [MF *desrober*, fr *des-* + *robe* garment – more at *ROBE*]

**disrupt** /dis'rupt/ *vt* 1 to break apart forcibly; rupture 2a to throw into disorder b to interrupt the continuity of [L *disruptus*, pp of *disrumpere*, fr *dis-* + *rumpere* to break – more at *BEREAVE*] – **disruption** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, **disruptive** /-tiv/ *adj*, **disruptively** *adv*, **disruptiveness** *n*

**dissatisfaction** /dis,satis'faksh(ə)n/, ---/ *n* lack of satisfaction, discontent – **dissatisfactory** /-'fakt(ə)r/ *adj*

**dissatisfy** /dis'satisfi, dis'sa-/ *vt* to make displeased, discontented, or disappointed

**dissect** /di'sekt, die-/ *vt* 1 to cut (e.g. an animal or plant) into pieces, esp. for scientific examination 2 to analyse and interpret in detail [L *dissectus*, pp of *dissecare* to cut apart, fr *dis-* + *secare* to cut – more at *'SAW*] – **dissection** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, **dissector** *n*

**disseise**, **disseize** /dis'seez/ *vt* to deprive, esp. wrongfully, of (a freehold estate in) land [ME *disseisen*, fr ML *disseisare* & AF *disseisir*, fr OF *dessaisir*, fr *des-* + *saisir* to put in possession of – more at *SEIZE*]

**disseisin**, **disseizin** /dis'seezin/ *n* dispossessing or being dispossessed [ME *dyssseysne*, fr AF *disseisine*, fr OF *dessaisine*, fr *des-* + *saisine* seisin]

**dissemble** /di'sembl/ *vt* to disguise, conceal ~ *vi* to conceal facts, intentions, or feelings under some pretence [alter. of obs *dissimule*, fr ME *dissimulen*, fr MF *dissimuler*, fr L *dissimulare* – more at *DISSIMULATE*] – **dissembler** *n*

**disseminate** /di'seminayt/ *vt* to spread about freely or widely (<~ *ideas*) [L *disseminatus*, pp of *disseminare*, fr *dis-* + *seminare* to sow, fr *semin-*, *semen* seed – more at *SEMEN*] – **disseminator**, **dissemination** /-'haysh(ə)n/ *n*

**dissension** /di'sensh(ə)n/ *n* disagreement in opinion; discord [ME, fr MF, fr L *dissension-*, *dissensio*, fr *dissensus*, pp of *dissentire*]

**'dissent** /di'sent/ *vi* 1 to withhold assent 2 to differ in opinion; *specif* to reject the doctrines of an established church [ME *dissenten*, fr L *dissentire*, fr *dis-* + *sentire* to feel – more at *SENSE*] – **dissenter** *n*

**'dissent** *n* difference of opinion, esp. religious or political nonconformity

**Dissenter** /di'sentə/ *n* an English Nonconformist [*'DISSSENT* + *-ER*]

**dissentient** /di'senshy(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (sby) disagreeing or dissenting, esp. from a majority view [L *dissentient-*, *dissentiens*, prp of *dissentire*]

**dissenting** /di'senting/ *adj*, often *cap* Nonconformist

**dissertation** /dis'taysh(ə)n/ *n* a long, detailed, usu. written treatment of a subject, *specif* one submitted for a (higher) degree [L *dissertation-*, *dissertatio*, fr *dissertatus*, pp of *dissertare* to discourse, freq of *disserere*, fr *dis-* + *serere* to join, arrange – more at *SERIES*]

**disservice** /di'suhvis, dis'suh-/ *n* an action or deed which works to sby's disadvantage

**dissever** /di'seva, dis'seva/ *vb* to (cause to) separate or come apart – *fml* [ME *disseveren*, fr OF *dessevrer*, fr LL *disseparare*, fr L *dis-* + *separare* to separate] – **disseverance** *n*, **disseverment** *n*

**dissident** /dis'id(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (sby) disagreeing strongly or rebelliously with an established opinion, group, government, etc. [*political* ~s] [*adj* L *dissident-*, *dissidens*, prp of *dissidere* to sit apart, disagree, fr *dis-* + *sedere* to sit; *n* fr *adj*] – **dissidence** *n*

**dissimilar** /di'simila, dis'si-/ *adj* not similar; unlike – **dissimilarly** *adv*, **dissimilarity** /-'larəti/ *n*

**dissimilitude** /dis'imilityoohd, dis'si-, -choohd/ *n* lack of resemblance; dissimilarity – *fml* [L *dissimilitudo*, fr *dissimilis* unlike, fr *dis-* + *similis* like]

**dissimulate** /dis'simyoalayt, dis'si-/ *vb* to dissemble [L *dissimulatus*, pp of *dissimulare*, fr *dis-* + *simulare* to simulate] – **dissimulator** *n*, **dissimulation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**dissipate** /dis'payt/ *vt* 1a to cause to disappear or scatter; dispel b to lose (e.g. heat or electricity) irrecoverably 2 to spend or use up (money, energy, etc.) aimlessly or foolishly ~ *vi* to separate and scatter or vanish

[L *dissipatus*, pp of *dissipare*, fr *dis-* + *supare* to throw, akin to ON *sváfr* spear, Skt *svapu* broom] – **dissipater** *n*, **dissipative** /-pətiv/ *adj*

**'dissipated** *adj* given to dissipation, dissolute – **dissipately** *adv*, **dissipatedness** *n*

**dissipation** /dis'paysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 dispersion, diffusion 2 wasteful expenditure 3 dissolute living; debauchery; *specif* excessive indulgence in alcohol [DISSIPATE + *-ION*]

**dissociate** /di'sohs(h),ayt/ *vt* 1 to separate from association or union with sby or sth else; disconnect 2 to subject to chemical dissociation ~ *vi* to undergo dissociation [L *dissociatus*, pp of *dissociare*, fr *dis-* + *sociare* to join, fr *socius* companion – more at *SOCIAL*]

**dissociation** /di'sohs'aysh(ə)n, -shi-/ *n* 1 the process by which a chemical combination breaks up into simpler constituents, esp. as a result of the action of heat or a solvent 2 the separation of a more or less autonomous group of ideas or activities from the mainstream of consciousness, esp. in cases of mental disorder [DISSOCIATE + *-ION*] – **dissociative** /-'sohs(h)-ətiv/ *adj*

**dissoluble** /dis'solyoobl, dis'so-/ *adj* capable of being dissolved or disintegrated [L *dissolubilis*, fr *dissolvere* to dissolve] – **dissolubility** /-'biləti/ *n*

**dissolute** /dis'looht, -lyooh/ *adj* loose in morals, debauched [L *dissolutus*, fr pp of *dissolvere* to loosen, dissolve] – **dissolutely** *adv*, **dissoluteness** *n*

**dissolution** /dis'looohsh(ə)n, 'lyooh, dis-sə-/ *n* 1 separation into component parts 2 disintegration, decay 3 the termination of an association, union, etc. 4 the breaking up or dispersal of a group, assembly, etc. [DISSOLVE + *-ION*]

**'dissolve** /di'zolv/ *vt* 1a to terminate officially (<the marriage was ~d>) b to cause to break up, dismiss (<Parliament was ~d before the election>) 2a to cause to pass into solution (<~ sugar in water>) b to melt, liquefy 3 to fade out (one film or television scene) whilst fading in another ~ *vi* 1a to pass into solution b to become fluid, melt 2 to fade away; disperse (<the vision ~d before his eyes>) 3 to be emotionally overcome [ME *dissolven*, fr L *dissolvere*, fr *dis-* + *solvere* to loosen – more at *SOLVE*] – **dissolvable** *adj*, **dissolver** *n*

**'dissolve** *n* an effect used in films and television in which one scene is dissolved into the next

**dissonance** /di'sənsəns/ *n* 1 a combination of discordant sounds 2 lack of agreement 3 (the sound produced by) playing an unresolved musical note or chord; *specif* an interval not included in a major or minor triad or its inversions

**dissonant** /di'sənant/ *adj* 1 marked by dissonance 2 incongruous [MF or L; MF, fr L *dissonant-*, *dissonans*, prp of *dissonare* to be discordant, fr *dis-* + *sonare* to sound – more at *'SOUND*] – **dissonantly** *adv*

**dissuade** /di'swayd/ *vt* to deter or discourage from a course of action by persuasion [MF or L; MF *dissuader*, fr L *dissuadere*, fr *dis-* + *suadere* to urge]

**dissuasion** /di'swayzh(ə)n/ *n* the act of dissuading [MF or L; MF, fr L *dissuasion-*, *dissuasio*, fr *dissuasus*, pp of *dissuadere*] – **dissuasive** /-siv, -ziv/ *adj*, **dissuasively** *adv*, **dissuasiveness** *n*

**dissymmetry** /di'simətri/ *n* lack of symmetry – **dissymmetric** /di'si'metrik/ *adj*

**distaff** /di'staf/ *n* 1 a staff for holding the flax, tow, wool, etc. in spinning 2 woman's work or domain [ME *distaf*, fr OE *distæf*, fr *dis-* (akin to MLG *dise* bunch of flax) + *stæf* staff]

**'distaff** *side* *n* the female side of a family

**distal** /di'stəl/ *adj*, esp. of an anatomical part far from the centre or point of attachment or origin, terminal – compare *PROXIMAL* [*distal* + *-al*] – **distally** *adv*

**'distance** /di'st(ə)ns/ *n* 1a (the amount of) separation in space or time between 2 points or things b an extent of space or an advance along a route measured linearly; *specif* a usu. particular length covered in a race <a world class runner over all ~s> c a distant point or place 2a remoteness in space b reserve, coldness c difference, disparity

**'distance** *vt* 1 to place or keep physically or mentally at a distance 2 to outstrip

**distant** /di'st(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a separated in space or time by a specified distance <a few miles ~> b far-off or remote in space or time (<the ~ hills>) 2 not closely related <a ~ cousin> 3 different in kind 4 reserved, aloof 5 coming from or going to a remote place (<~ voyages>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *distant-*, *distans*, prp of *distare* to stand apart, be distant, fr *dis-* + *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*] – **distantly** *adv*, **distantness** *n*

**distaste** /dis'tayst/ *n* (a) dislike, aversion

**distasteful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* showing or causing distaste; offensive – **distastefully** *adv*, **distastefulness** *n*




**'distemper** /di'stempə/ *n* any of various animal diseases; esp a highly infectious virus disease occurring esp in dogs and marked by fever and disorder of the respiratory and sometimes the nervous systems [*distemper*, *vb* (to upset the physical condition of, derange), fr ME *distempren*, fr LL *distemperare* to temper badly, fr L *dis-* + *temperare* to temper, mangle]

**'distemper** *vi* to paint in or with distemper [ME *distemperen* to mix with liquid, soak, fr MF *destemper*, fr L *dis-* + *temperare*]

**'distemper** *n* 1 a method of painting in which pigments are mixed with white or yolk of egg or size, esp for mural decoration 2 the paint used in the distemper process; broadly any of numerous water-based paints for general, esp household, use

**distend** /di'stend/ *vb* to (cause to) swell from internal pressure [ME *distenden*, fr L *distendere*, fr *dis-* + *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – *distensible* /-səbl/ *adj*, *distensibility* /-sə'biliti/ *n*, *distension* /-sh(ə)n/ *n*

**distich** /di'stik/ *n* a couplet [L *distichon*, fr Gk, fr neut of *distichos* having 2 rows, fr *di-* + *stichos* row, verse; akin to Gk *steichon* to go – more at STAIR]

**distichous** /disti'kəs/ *adj* 1 arranged in 2 vertical rows (<~ leaves>)  PLANT 2 divided into 2 segments (<~ antennae> [LL *distichus*, fr Gk *distichos*] – *distichously* *adv*

**distill** *NAm chiefly* distill /di'stil/ *vb* 1 to cause to fall or exude in drops or a fine mist 2a to subject to or transform by distillation b to obtain or separate out or off (as if) by distillation c to extract the essence of (e.g. an idea or subject) ~ *vi* 1 to undergo distillation 2 to condense or drop from a still after distillation 3 to appear slowly or in small quantities at a time [ME *distillen*, fr MF *distiller*, fr LL *distillare*, alter of L *destillare*, fr *de-* + *stillare* to drip, fr *stilla* drop; akin to OE *stan* stone – more at STONE]

**distillate** /di'stilət, -ləyt/ *n* 1 a product of distillation 2 a concentrated form

**distillation** /di'stilə'ʃən/ *n* a process that consists of condensing the gas or vapour obtained from heated liquids or solids and that is used esp for purification, fractionation, or the formation of new substances

**distiller** /di'stilə/ *n* a person or company that makes alcohol, esp spirits, by distilling [DISTIL + <sup>2</sup>-ER] – *distillery* *n*

**distinct** /di'stingkt/ *adj* 1 different, separate from 2 readily perceptible to the senses or mind; clear 3 definite, decided (<a ~ possibility of rain>), [ME, fr MF, fr L *distinctus*, fr pp of *distinguere*] – *distinctly* *adv*, *distinctness* *n*

**distinction** /di'stingkʃən/ *n* 1a discrimination, differentiation b a difference made or marked; a contrast 2 a distinguishing quality or mark 3a outstanding merit, quality, or worth (<a writer of some ~>) b special honour or recognition (<passed her exam with ~>)

**distinctive** /di'stingktiv/ *adj* clearly marking sby or sth as different from others; characteristic – *distinctively* *adv*, *distinctiveness* *n*

**distingue** /di'stəŋ-gey/ (Fr *distige*) *adj* distinguished in appearance or manner [F, fr pp of *distinguer*]

**distinguish** /di'sting-gwɪʃ/ *vt* 1a to mark or recognize as separate or different – often + *from* b to separate into kinds, classes, or categories c to make (oneself) outstanding or noteworthy d to mark as different; characterize 2 to discern; MAKE OUT 3, 5 ~ *vi* to recognize the difference between [MF *distinguer*, fr L *distinguere*, lit., to separate by pricking, fr *dis-* + *-stingere* (akin to L *instigare* to urge on) – more at STICK] – *distinguishable* *adj*, *distinguishably* *adv*, *distinguishability* /-əhə-'biliti/ *n*

**distinguished** *adj* 1 marked by eminence, distinction, or excellence 2 dignified in manner, bearing, or appearance

**distort** /di'stɔ:t/ *vt* 1 to alter the true meaning of; misrepresent 2 to cause to take on an unnatural or abnormal shape 3 to reproduce or broadcast (radio sound, a television picture, etc) poorly or inaccurately owing to a change in the wave form of the original signal [L *distortus*, pp of *distorquere*, fr *dis-* + *torquere* to twist – more at TORTURE] – *distortion* /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, *distortional* *adj*

**distract** /di'strakt/ *vt* 1 to turn aside; divert 2 to draw (e.g. one's attention) to a different object [ME *distracten*, fr L *distractus*, pp of *distrahere*, lit., to draw apart, fr *dis-* + *trahere* to draw – more at DRAW] – *distractingly* *adv*, *distractible* *adj*, *distractibility* /-tə'biliti/ *n*

**distracted** *adj* 1 confused, perplexed 2 agitated – *distractedly* *adv*

**distractio** /di'straktʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 extreme agitation or mental confusion (<drove him to ~ with her taunts>) 2 sth that distracts; esp an amusement [DISTRACT + <sup>2</sup>-ION] – *distractive* /-tiv/ *adj*

**distrain** /di'streɪn/ *vb* to impose a distress (upon); also to seize (goods, property, etc) by way of distress [ME *distreynen*, fr OF *distreindre*, fr

ML *distringere*, fr L, to draw apart, detain, fr *dis-* + *stringere* to bind tight – more at STRAIN] – *distrainable* *adj*, *distrainer* *n*, *distrainment* *n*, *distrainee* /di'streɪn'nee/ *n*

**distrain** /di'streɪnt/ *n* distraining, DISTRESS 1a [*distrain* + *-t* (as in *constraint*)]

**distract** /di'stray/ (Fr *distre*) *adj* absentminded [F, fr L *distractus*]

**distraught** /di'straʊt/ *adj* mentally agitated; frantic [ME, fr L *distractus*] – *distraughtly* *adv*


**'distress** /di'stres/ *n* 1a (a) seizure of goods, property, etc as a pledge or to obtain satisfaction of a claim b sth distressed 2a mental or physical anguish b hardship or suffering caused esp by lack of money or the necessities of life 3 a state of danger or desperate need (<a ship in ~> [ME *destresse*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *districia*, fr L *districus*, pp of *distingere*] – *distressful* *adj*

**'distress** *vi* to cause distress to – *distressingly* *adv*

**'distressed** *adj* suffering distress; specif impoverished (<~ gentlefolk>)

**distributary** /di'stribyoot(ə)rɪ/ *n* a river branch flowing from and never returning to the main stream

**distribute** /di'stribyoot/ *vt* 1 to divide among several or many 2a to disperse or scatter over an area b to give out, deliver 3 to return (e.g. used type) to the proper storage places [ME *distributen*, fr L *distributus*, pp of *distribuere*, fr *dis-* + *tribuere* to allot – more at TRIBUTE]

**distribution** /di'stribyootʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a distributing, apportioning b sth distributed 2a the position, arrangement, or frequency of occurrence (e.g. of the members of a group) over a usu specified area or length of time b the natural geographical range of an organism 3 an arrangement of statistical data that shows the frequency of occurrence of the values of a variable  STATISTICS 4 the transport and marketing of goods between manufacturer or wholesaler and retailer – *distributional* *adj*

**'distributive** /di'stribyootiv/ *adj* 1 of distribution 2 denoting a word (e.g. *each*, *either*, or *none*) referring singly to all the members of a group – *distributively* *adv*, *distributiveness* *n*

**'distributive** *n* a distributive word

**distributor** /di'stribyootə/ *n* 1 sby employed to manage the distribution of goods 2 an apparatus for directing current to the various sparking plugs of an internal-combustion engine [DISTRIBUTE + <sup>2</sup>-OR]

**district** /di'strikt/ *n* 1 a territorial division made esp for administrative purposes 2 an area or region with a specified character or feature (<a residential ~>) [F, fr ML *districtus* jurisdiction, district, fr *districtus*, pp of *distringere* to distract – more at DISTRAIN]

**'district** /nurse/ *n*, *Br* a qualified nurse, employed by a local authority, who visits and treats patients in their own homes

**distrust** /di'strʌst/ *vt* or *n* (to view with) suspicion or lack of trust – *distrustful* *adj*, *distrustfully* *adv*, *distrustfulness* *n*

**disturb** /di'stʌrb/ *vt* 1a to break in upon, interrupt b to alter the position or arrangement of 2a to destroy the peace of mind or composure of b to throw into disorder *vt* c to put to inconvenience [ME *disturban*, *destourben*, fr OF & L, OF *destourber*, fr L *disturbare*, fr *dis-* + *turbare* to throw into disorder – more at TURBID] – *disturbingly* *adv*

**disturbance** /di'stʌrb(ə)ns/ *n* 1 disturbing or being disturbed 2 sth that disturbs

**'disturbed** *adj* having or showing symptoms of emotional or mental instability

**disubstituted** /di'sʊbstityootid-, -chooh-/ *adj* having 2 substituted atoms or groups in a molecule

**disulfiram** /di'sʊl'fiərəm/ *n* a compound used in the treatment of alcoholism which acts by causing severe nausea when alcohol is drunk [*disulfide* (NAm for *disulphide*) + *thiourea* + *amyl*]

**disulphide** /di'sʊl'fɪd/ *n* a compound containing 2 atoms of sulphur combined with an element or radical

**disunion** /di'syooŋjən-, -nɪ-ən/ *n* 1 the termination of union; separation 2 disunity

**disunite** /di'syoo'ni:t/ *vt* to divide, separate

**disunity** /di'syooŋnəti/ *n* lack of unity; esp dissension

**disuse** /di'syooz/ *n* the state of no longer being used (<that word has fallen into ~>)

**disused** /di'syoozɪd/ *adj* no longer used; abandoned

**dit** /di:t/ *n* 'DOT 4 – used when articulating Morse code [imit]

**'ditch** /dɪtʃ/ *n* a long narrow excavation dug in the earth for defence, drainage, irrigation, etc [ME *dich*, fr OE *dic* dyke, ditch]

**'ditch** *vt* 1a to enclose with a ditch b to dig a ditch in 2 to make a forced landing of (an aircraft) on water 3 to get rid of; abandon USE (2&3) infml – *ditch* *n*

**'dither** /diðə/ *vi* to act nervously or indecisively; vacillate [ME *didderen*] – *ditherer* *n*



**dither** *n* a state of indecision or nervous excitement (<all of a ~> – dithery *adj*)

**dithi-**, **dithio-** *comb form* containing 2 atoms of sulphur, usu in place of 2 oxygen atoms, in the molecular structure [ISV *di-* + *thi-*]

**dithyramb** /di'thɪə, rəm(b)/ *n* 1 a rapturous Greek hymn in honour of Bacchus 2 a short poem or other piece of writing in a rapturous or exalted style [Gk *dithyrambos*] – **dithyramble** /-rəmbɪk/ *adj*, **dithyrambically** *adv*

**ditany** /di'tæni/ *n* a pink-flowered plant that is native to Crete [ME *ditoyne*, fr MF *ditayne*, fr L *dictamnus*, fr Gk *diktamnōn*]

**ditto** /di'toʊ/ *n* 1 a thing mentioned previously or above, the same – used to avoid repeating a word 2 **also ditto mark** a mark „, or “ used as a sign indicating repetition usu of a word directly above in a previous line [It dial., pp of It *dire* to say, fr L *dicere* – more at **DICTION**]

**ditto** *vt* to repeat the action or statement of

**dittography** /di'tɒɡrəfi/ *n* the unintentional repetition of letters or words in copying or printing [Gk *dittographia*, *dissographia*, fr *ditto*, *dissos* two-fold + *-graphia* *-graphy*] – **dittographic** /di'tɒ'ɡrafɪk/ *adj*

**ditto** /di'ti/ *n* a short simple song [ME *ditte*, fr OF *ditie* poem, fr pp of *ditier* to compose, fr L *dicere* to dictate, compose]

**diuresis** /die yoo'ree'si/ *n* an increased excretion of urine [NI]

**diuretic** /dieyoo'retɪk/ *n* or *adj* (a drug) acting to increase the flow of urine [adj ME, fr MF or LL, MF *diureticus*, fr LL *diureticus*, fr Gk *diouretikos*, fr *diourein* to urinate, fr *dia-* + *ourein* to urinate – more at **URINE**, *n* fr *adj*] – **diuretically** *adv*

**diurnal** /die'nu:nl/ *adj* 1 having a daily cycle 2a occurring during the day or daily *b* openmg during the day and closing at night (< ~ flowers> *c* active during the day [ME, fr L *diurnalis* more at **JOURNAL**] – **diurnally** *adv*

**diva** /deeva/ *n*, *pl* **divas**, **diva** /-vi/ **PRIMA DONNA** 1 [It, lit., goddess, fr L, fem of *divus* divine, god more at **DEITY**]

**divagate** /dieva'gæɪt/ *vi* to wander from one place or subject to another stray – fml [I L *divagatus*, pp of *divagari*, fr L *dis* + *vagari* to wander – more at **VAGARY**] – **divagation** /-gæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**bivalent** /die'veɪlənt/ *adj* **bivalent**

**divan** /di'væn, 'dievæn, sense 3/ *divan* / *n* 1 the privy council of the Ottoman Empire 2 a council chamber in some Muslim countries, esp Turkey 3a a long low couch, usu without arms or back, placed against a wall *b* a bed of a similar style without a head or foot board [Turk, fr Per *diwan* account book]

**divaricate** /die'væn,kæɪt/ *vi* to branch off, diverge [L *divaricatus*, pp of *divaricare*, fr *dis-* + *varicare* to straddle – more at **PREVARICATE**] – **divaricate** /kæt, -kæɪt/ *adj*, **divarication** /-kæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**div** /di:v/ *vb* **dived**, **NAm also dove** /dohv/ *vi* 1a to plunge into water headfirst *b* to engage in the sport of prescribed dives into water *c* to submerge (<the submarine ~d>) 2a to descend or fall steeply *b* to plunge one's hand quickly into *c* of an aircraft to descend in a dive 3 to lunge or dash headlong (<~d for cover>) ~ *vi* 1 to cause to descend (<~d his plane through the sound barrier>) 2 to dip or plunge (one's hand) into [ME *diven*, *duven*, fr OE *dyfan* to dip & *dufan* to dive, akin to OE *dyppan* to dip – more at **DIP**]

**div** *n* 1a(1) a headlong plunge into water, esp one executed in a prescribed manner (2) an act or instance of submerging (e.g. by a submarine) (3) a steep descent of an aeroplane at greater than the maximum horizontal speed *b* a sharp decline 2 a disreputable bar, club, etc 3 a faked knockout – chiefly in *take a dive* 4 a ploy in soccer in which a player makes it appear that he has been fouled by falling over deliberately after a tackle **USE (except 1a) infml**

**'dive-bomb** *vt* to bomb from an aeroplane while making a steep dive towards the target – **dive-bomber** *n*

**div** *in vi* to begin or become involved in an action or activity with haste

**diver** /dievə/ *n* 1 sby who dives, esp a person who works or explores underwater for long periods, either carrying a supply of air or having it sent from the surface 2 any of various diving birds, *specif* a loon

**diverge** /die'vʊh/ *vi* 1a to move in different directions from a common point *b* to differ in character, form, or opinion – often + *from* 2 to turn aside from a path or course – often + *from* 3 to be mathematically divergent [ML *divergere*, fr L *dis-* + *vergere* to incline – more at **WRENCH**]

**divergence** /die'vʊh(ə)ns, di-/ *also* **divergency** /-ɪ/ *n* 1a (an instance of) diverging or being divergent *b* the amount by which sthg diverges, **DIFFERENCE** 3 2 the acquisition of dissimilar characteristics by related organisms living in different environments

**divergent** /die'vʊh(ə)nt, di-/ *adj* 1 diverging or differing from each

other 2 of a mathematical series having a sum that continues to increase or decrease as the number of terms increases without limit 3 causing divergence of rays (< ~ lens> [L *divergent-*, *divergens*, prp of *divergere*] – **divergently** *adv*

**divers** /dievəz/ *adj*, *archaic* various [ME *divers*, *diverse*]

**diverse** /die'vʊh, -/ *adj* 1 different, unlike 2 varied, assorted [ME *divers*, *diverse*, fr OF & L, OF *divers*, fr L *diversus*, fr pp of *divertere*] – **diversely** *adv*, **diverseness** *n*

**diversify** /die'vʊhɪ, fɪ/ *vt* 1 to make diverse, vary 2 to divide (e.g. investment of funds) among different securities to reduce risk ~ *vi* to engage in varied business operations in order to reduce risk – **diversifier** *n*, **diversification** /-fɪ'kæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**diversion** /di'vʊhʃ(ə)n, di-/ *n* 1 a turning aside from a course, activity, or use, *specif* a detour used by traffic when the usual route is closed 2 an amusement, pastime 3 sthg that draws the attention away from the main scene of activity or operations [**DIVERT** + *-ion*] – **diversionary** /-n(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**diversity** /di'vʊhɪsɪ, di-/ *n* 1 the condition of being different or having differences 2 a variety, assortment

**divert** /die'vʊh/ *vt* 1a to turn aside from one course or use to another *b* to distract 2 to entertain, amuse [ME *diverten*, fr MF & L, MF *divertir*, fr L *divertere* to turn in opposite directions, fr *dis-* + *vertere* to turn – more at **WORTH**]

**diverticulum** /dievə'tɪkʊləm/ *n*, *pl* **diverticula** /-lə/ a pocket or closed branch opening off a main passage, esp an abnormal pouch opening off the intestine [NL, fr L, bypath, prob alter of *devericulum*, fr *devertere* to turn aside, fr *de-* + *vertere*] – **diverticulitis** /-lietɪs/ *n*

**divertimento** /di'vʊhɪ'mentʊ/ *n*, *pl* **divertimenti** /-ti/, **divertimentos** an instrumental chamber work in several movements and usu light in character [It, lit., diversion, fr *divertire* to divert, amuse, fr F *divertir*] **divertissement** /di'vʊhɪsmɑ̃/ (Fr *divertismo*) / *n*, *pl* **divertissements** /-mɑ̃(s)/ (Fr ~) 1 a ballet suite serving as an interlude 2 a divertimento 3 a diversion, entertainment [F, lit., diversion, fr *divertiss-* (stem of *divertir*)]

**divest** /die'vest/ *vt* 1a to deprive or dispossess of property, authority, title, etc *b* to rid or free (oneself) of *c* to strip of clothing, equipment, etc 2 to take away (e.g. property or vested rights) **USE** (1c&2) fml [alter of earlier *devest*, fr MF *desvestir*, fr ML *disvestire*, fr L *dis-* + *vestire* to clothe – more at **VEST**] – **divestiture** /-tʃɪə/ *n*, **divestment** *n*

**'divide** /di'ved/ *vi* 1 to separate into 2 or more parts, categories, divisions, etc 2a to give out in shares, distribute *b* to set aside for different purposes (<~d his time between work and play>) 3a to cause to be separate, serve as a boundary between *b* to separate into opposing sides or parties *c* to cause (a parliamentary body) to vote by division 4a to mark divisions on (< ~ a sextant>) *b* to determine how many times (a number or quantity) contains another number or quantity by means of a mathematical operation (< ~ 42 by 14>) **SYMBOL** ~ *vi* 1 to perform mathematical division **SYMBOL** 2a(1) to become separated into parts (2) to diverge *b* to vote by division [ME *dividen*, fr L *dividere*, fr *dis-* + *videre* to separate – more at **WIDOW**] – **dividable** *adj* – **divide into** to use as a divisor of (<divide 14 into 42>)

**'divide** *n* 1 **WATERSHED** 2 a point or line of division

**dividend** /di'vend, -dænd/ *n* 1 (a pro rata share in) the part of a company's profits payable to shareholders 2 a reward, benefit (<her action will pay great ~s>) 3a a number to be divided by another *b* a sum or fund to be divided and distributed [ME *divident*, fr L *dividendus*, gerundive of *dividere*]

**divider** /di'vedə/ *n* 1 *pl* a compasslike instrument with 2 pointed ends used for measuring or marking off lines, angles, etc 2 a partition or screen used to separate parts of a room, hall, etc [**'DIVIDE** + *-ER*]

**divination** /di'vɪnəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the art or practice that seeks to foresee the future or discover hidden knowledge (e.g. by using supernatural powers) 2 (an instance of) unusual insight or perception [ME *divinacioun*, fr L *divination-*, *divinatio*, fr *divinatus*, pp of *divinare*] – **divinatory** /di'vɪnət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**'divine** /di'viən/ *adj* 1a of, being, or proceeding directly from God or a god *b* devoted to the worship of God or a god, sacred 2 delightful, superb – infml [ME *divin*, fr MF, fr L *divinus*, fr *divus* god – more at **PERRY**] – **divinely** *adv*, **divineness** *n*

**'divine** *n* a clergyman, esp one skilled in theology [ME, fr ML *divinus*, fr L, soothsayer, fr *divinus*, *adj*]

**'divine** *vt* 1 to discover, perceive, or foresee intuitively or by supernatural means 2 to discover or locate (e.g. water or minerals) by means of a divining rod ~ *vi* to practise divination [ME *divinen*, fr MF & L; MF *diviner*, fr L *divinare*, fr *divinus*, *n*] – **divinable** *adj*, **diviner** *n*

**Divine 'Liturgy** *n* the form of service used in the Eastern Orthodox celebration of Communion

**Divine 'Office** *n* the prescribed forms of prayer and ritual for daily worship used by Roman Catholic priests

**divine 'right** *n* the right of a sovereign to rule, held to derive directly from God (< *of kings*), broadly a right which cannot be transferred

**divine 'service** *n* an esp nonsacramental service of Christian worship

**'diving bell** /'dievɪŋ/ *n* a bell-shaped metal container open only at the bottom and supplied with compressed air through a tube, in which a person can be let down under water

**'diving suit** *n* a waterproof diver's suit with a helmet that is supplied with air pumped through a tube

**divining rod** /di'vi:niŋ/ *n* a forked rod (e.g. a twig) believed to dip downwards when held over ground concealing water or minerals

**divinity** /di'vɪnəti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being divine 2a often cap ood 1 b a male or female deity 3 theology

**divisible** /di'vɪzəbl/ *adj* capable of being divided, esp without a remainder - *divisibility* /-bɪləti/ *n*

**division** /di'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1a dividing or being divided b (a) distribution 2 any of the parts or sections into which a whole is divided 3 *sing or pl in constr* a a major army formation having the necessary tactical and administrative services to act independently b a naval unit of men under a single command 4a an administrative territorial unit b an administrative or operating unit of an organization 5 a group of organisms forming part of a larger group; *specif* a primary category of the plant kingdom equivalent to a phylum of the animal kingdom 6 a competitive class or category (e.g. of a soccer league) 7 sth that divides, separates, or marks off 8 disagreement, disunity 9 the physical separation into different lobbies of the members of a parliamentary body voting for and against a question 10 the mathematical operation of dividing one number by another [ME, fr MF, fr L *division-*, *divisio*, fr *divisus*, pp of *dividere* to divide] - *divisional adj*

**division of 'labour** *n* the distribution of various parts of the process of production among different people, groups, or machines, each specializing in a particular job, to increase efficiency

**divisive** /di'vɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* tending to cause disunity or dissension - *divisively adv*, *divisiveness n*

**divisor** /di'vɪzə/ *n* the number by which another number or quantity is divided

**'divorce** /di'vɔ:ws/ *n* 1 (a decree declaring) a legal dissolution of a marriage 2 a separation, severance [ME *divorce*, fr MF, fr L *divortium*, fr *divertere*, *divortere* to divert, to leave one's husband]

**\*divorce vt** 1a to end marriage with (one's spouse) by divorce b to dissolve the marriage between 2 to end the relationship or union of; separate - *usu + from ~ vi* to obtain a divorce

**divorcé** /di'vɔ:weɪ, -see/, *fem divorcée* /-see/ *n* a divorced person [F, fr pp of *divorcer* to divorce, fr MF *divorcer*]

**divot** /di'vɒt/ *n* 1 a piece of turf dug out in making a golf shot 2 *Scot* a piece of turf [origin unknown]

**divulge** /di'vʊlj, di-/ *vt* to make known (e.g. a confidence or secret); reveal [ME *divulgen*, fr L *divulgare*, fr *dis-* + *vulgare* to make known] - *divulgence n*

**divvy** /di'vi/ *n*, *Br* *DIVIDEND* 1; *esp* one paid by a Cooperative Wholesale Society - *infml* [by shortening & alter.]

**dixie** /di'ksi/ *n*, *Br* a large metal pot in which food and drink is made or carried, *esp* by soldiers [Hindi *deggi*, dim. of *deggi* kettle, pot]

**Dixie** *n* the Southern states of the USA [name for the Southern states in the song *Dixie* (1859) by Daniel D Emmett †1904 US musician]

**'dixie land** /-land/ *n* jazz music in duple time characterized by collective improvisation [*Dixie + land*; fr its origin in the Southern states of the USA]

**DIY** *n* (the materials and equipment needed for) amateur repair, maintenance, and building work, *esp* around the home [do it yourself]

**dizygotic** /di'ziegə'tɒk/ *also* *dizygous* /di'ziegəs/ *adj*, of twins fraternal [di- + *zygotic*, -*zygous*]

**'dizzy** /'dɪzi/ *adj* 1a experiencing a whirling sensation in the head with a tendency to lose balance b mentally confused 2 causing or feeling giddiness or mental confusion (< *a ~ height*) 3 foolish, silly - *infml* [ME *dizy*, fr OE *dysig* stupid; akin to OHG *tusig* stupid, L *furere* to rage - more at *dust*] - *dizzily adv*, *dizziness n*

**'dizzy vt** to make dizzy; bewilder - *dizzily adv*

**DJ** /deɪj/ *n* 1 *DISC JOCKEY* 2 *DINNER JACKET*

**djellaba** *also* *djellabah*, *jellaba* /'ʃə'ləbə, 'jeləbə/ *n* a long loose outer

garment with full sleeves and a hood, traditionally worn by Arabs [F *djellaba*, fr Ar *jallabah*]

**djinn, djinn** /'jin/ *n*, *pl* *djinn, djinn* a jinn

**di-** *also* *d*, *l-* *prefix* consisting of equal amounts of the *d* and *l* forms <di-tartaric acid>

**DNA** *n* any of various nucleic acids that are found esp in cell nuclei, are constructed of a double helix held together by hydrogen bonds between purine and pyrimidine bases which project inwards from 2 chains containing alternate links of deoxyribose and phosphate, and are responsible for transmitting genetic information [deoxyribonucleic acid]

**'D, notice** *n* an official request (e.g. to a newspaper) that certain information be withheld from publication for security reasons [Defence-notice]

**'do** /doo/ *vb* *does* /dɔ:z; strong duz/, *did* /dɪd/, *done* /dʌn/ *vt* 1 to carry out the task of; effect, perform (< *some washing*) (< *overtime*) 2 to put into a specified condition (< *him to death*) 3 to have as a function

<what's that book ~ing on the floor?> 4 to cause, impart <sleep will ~ you good> 5 to bring to an esp unwanted conclusion, finish - *used esp in the past participle* <that's done it>, compare *DONE* 2 6 to expend, exert

<did their damndest to hog the game> 7a to provide <they ~ a mail-order service> b to have available for purchase; sell <they ~ teas here> 8 to bring into existence; produce (< *a biography of the general*)

9a to put on, perform <are ~ing 'The Merchant of Venice' tomorrow night> b to play the part of; act <can ~ Harold Wilson very well> c to behave like <did a Houdini and escaped from his chains> 10a to put in order; arrange (< *the garden*) <had his hair done> b to clean, wash (< *the dishes*) c to cook <likes her steak well done> d to decorate, furnish

<did the living room in blue> 11a to execute an artistic representation of <did her in oils> b to perform the appropriate professional service or services for <the barber will ~ you now> (< *you very well at that hotel*)

12a to work at, esp as a course of study or occupation (< *classics*) <what are you ~ing nowadays?> b to solve, WORK OUT (< *a sum*) 13a to pass over; cover (< *30 miles to the gallon*) b to travel at a (maximum) speed of (< *70 on the motorway*) <this car ~es 80> 14 to see the sights of, tour (< *12 countries in 12 days*) 15 to serve out, esp as a prison sentence

<did 3 years> 16 to suffice, suit <worms will ~ us for bait> 17 - *used as a substitute verb to avoid repetition* <if you must make such a racket, ~ it somewhere else> 18a chiefly *Br* to arrest, convict - *slang* <get done for theft> b chiefly *Br* to attack, hurt - *slang* c to treat unfairly, esp to cheat, deprive <did him out of his inheritance> - *infml* d to rob - *slang*

<~ a shop> 19 to have sexual intercourse with (a woman or passive partner) - *slang ~ vi* 1 to act, behave (< *as I say*) 2a to fare, GET ALONG (< *well at school*) <how do you ~?> b to carry on business or affairs, manage <we can ~ without your help> 3 to be in progress, happen

<there's nothing ~ing> 4 to come to or make an end; finish - *used in the past participle* <have you done with the newspaper?> compare *DONE* 2 5 to be active or busy <let us then be up and ~ing - H W Longfellow> 6 to suffice, serve <half of that will ~> 7 to be fitting; conform to custom or propriety <won't ~ to be late> 8a - *used as a substitute verb to avoid repetition* <you sing, ~ you?> and, esp in British English, after a modal auxiliary <haven't heard of her yet but you will ~> b - *used as a substitute for verb and object* <he likes it and so ~> 9 - *used in the imperative after another imperative to add emphasis* <be quiet, ~> ~ *va*



- *used with the infinitive without to* a to form present and past tenses in legal and parliamentary language (< *herely bequeath*) and in poetry <give what she did crave - Shak> b to form present and past tenses in declarative sentences with inverted word order <fervently ~ we pray - Abraham Lincoln> or in questions or negative sentences <did you hear that?> <we don't know> <don't go> c to form present and past tenses expressing emphasis <it ~es hurt> (< *be careful*) [ME *don*, fr OE *dōn*;

akin to OHG *tuon* to do, L *-dere* to put, *facere* to make, do, Gk *tithenai* to place, set] - *double adj* - *do away with* 1 to put an end to; abolish 2 to put to death, kill - *do by* to deal with; treat <afraid you've been rather hard done by> - *do duty for* to act as a substitute for; serve as - *do for* 1 chiefly *Br* to keep house for 2a to wear out, exhaust b to bring about the death or ruin of - *do justice* (to) 1a to treat fairly or adequately b to show due appreciation for 2 to show in the best light

<I hope he did himself justice in the examinations> - *do one's bit* *Br* to make one's personal contribution, esp to a cause - *do one's block* *Austr* *DO ONE'S NUT* - *infml* - *do one's nut* to become frantic or angry - *infml* - *do proud* to treat or entertain splendidly - *do the dirty on* to play a sly trick on - *do something for* to improve the appearance of <that dress really does something for you> - *do the trick* to achieve the desired result; - *infml* <castor oil should do the trick> - *to do with* concerned with; of concern to <a job to do with plastics> <nothing to do with you>

- do** *n*, *pl* *dos*, *do's* /doʊz/ 1 sth one ought to do – usu *pl* (<gave her a list of ~s and don'ts>) 2 chiefly *Br* a festive party or occasion – *infrml*
- do**, *doh* /doh/ *n* the 1st note of the diatonic scale in solmization [It]
- dobbin** /dobin/ *n* – used chiefly as a familiar name for a farm horse [Dobbin, nickname for Robert]
- Doberman pinscher** /dohbaman 'pinsha/ *n* a short-haired medium-sized dog of German origin, frequently used as a guard dog [G Dobermann pinscher, fr Ludwig Dobermann, 19th-c G dog breeder + G pinscher, a breed of hunting dog]
- dobra** /dohbra/ *n* São Tomé at NATIONALITY [Pg, fr fem of obs dobro double, fr L *duplus*]
- doc** /dok/ *n* a doctor – often used as an informal term of address
- docent** /doh'sent/ *n* a lecturer in some US colleges and universities [obs G (now *dozent*), fr L *docent-*, *docens*, *prp* of *docere*]
- Docetism** /doh'sitiz(a)m, doh'setiz(a)m/ *n* an early Christian heretical belief that Christ only seemed to have a human body and to suffer and die on the cross [Gk *Doketai* Docetists, fr *dokēin* to seem – more at DECENT] – **Docetic** /'setik/ *adj*, **Docetist** /doh'sitist/ *n*
- doch an dorris** /d(y)okh an 'dohras/ *n*, *Scot & Irish* a parting drink [ScGael & IrGael *deoch an doruis*, lit., drink of the door]
- docile** /doh'siel/ *adj* easily led or managed; tractable [L *docilis*, fr *docere* to teach, akin to L *decere* to be fitting – more at DECENT] – **docilely** *adv*, **docility** /'silati/ *n*
- dock** /dok/ *n* any of a genus of coarse weeds whose leaves are used to alleviate nettle stings [ME, fr OE *docece*; akin to MD *docke* dock, ScGael *dogha* burdock]
- dock** *n* the solid bony part of an animal's tail as distinguished from the hair – ANATOMY [ME *dok*, fr OE *-doeca* (as in *fingerdoeca* finger muscle); akin to OHG *tocka* doll, ON *dokka* bundle]
- dock** *vt* 1a to remove part of the tail of *b* to cut (e.g. a tail) short 2 to make a deduction from (e.g. wages) 3 to take away (a specified amount) from
- dock** *n* 1a a usu artificially enclosed body of water in a port or harbour, where a ship can moor (e.g. for repair work to be carried out) *b pl* the total number of such enclosures in a harbour, together with wharves, sheds, etc 2 chiefly *NAM* a wharf [prob fr MD *docke* dock, ditch, fr L *ductio*-, *ductio* act of leading – more at DOUCHE] – in dock in a garage or repair shop (<my car's in dock at the moment>)
- dock** *vt* 1 to haul or guide into a dock 2 to join (e.g. 2 spacecraft) together while in space ~ *vi* 1 to come or go into dock 2 of spacecraft to join together while in space
- dock** *n* the prisoner's enclosure in a criminal court [Flem *docke* cage] – in the dock on trial (<always found himself in the dock for his opinions>)
- docker** /doka/ *n* sby employed in loading and unloading ships, barges, etc ['dock]
- docket** /dokit/ *n* 1 a brief written summary of a document 2a a document recording the contents of a shipment or the payment of customs duties *b* a label attached to goods bearing identification or instructions *c* (a copy of) a receipt 3a *NAM* (1) a formal record of legal proceedings (2) a list of legal causes to be tried *b* chiefly *NAM* a list of business matters to be acted on [ME *doggette*]
- docket** *vt* 1 to put an identifying statement or label on 2 to make an abstract of (e.g. legal proceedings) 3 *NAM* to place on the docket for legal action
- dockland** /-land, -land/ *n*, *Br* the district around the docks in a large port
- dockyard** /-yahd/ *n* a place or enclosure in which ships are built or repaired
- doctor** /doka/ *n* 1a also **Doctor of the Church**, often *cap* a theologian whose doctrines the Roman Catholic church holds to be authoritative *b* a holder of the highest level of academic degree conferred by a university 2a one qualified to practise medicine; a physician or surgeon *b NAM* a licensed dentist or veterinary surgeon 3 sby skilled in repairing or treating a usu specified type of machine, vehicle, etc 4 *archaic* a learned or authoritative teacher [ME *doctour* teacher, doctor, fr MF & ML; MF, fr ML *doctor*, fr L, teacher, fr *doctus*, *pp* of *docere* to teach – more at DOCTILE] – **doctoral** *adj*, **doctorate** /-rat/ *n*, **doctorship** *n*
- doctor** *vt* 1a to give medical treatment to *b* to repair, mend 2a to adapt or modify for a desired end (<ed the play to suit the audience>) *b* to alter in a dishonest way 3 to castrate or spay – *euph* ~ *vi* to practise medicine – *infrml*
- doctrinaire** /doktri'neə/ *n* or *adj* (one) concerned with abstract theory to the exclusion of practical considerations – chiefly *derog* [*adj* F, fr *doctrine*; *n* fr *adj*] – **doctrinarian** *n*
- doctrinal** /dok'trenl/ *adj* of or concerned with doctrine – **doctrinally** *adv*
- doctrine** /doktrin/ *n* 1 sth that is taught 2 a principle or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *doctrina*, fr *doctor*]
- document** /dokyoomant/ *n* an original or official paper that gives information about or proof of sth [ME, fr MF, fr LL & L; LL *documentum* official paper, fr L, lesson, proof, fr *docere* to teach – more at DOCTILE]
- document** /dokyoo,ment/ *vt* 1 to provide documentary evidence of 2a to support with factual evidence, references, etc *b* to be or provide a documentary account of 3 to provide (a ship) with papers required by law recording ownership, cargo, etc
- documentary** /dokyoo'ment(a)n/ *adj* 1 being or consisting of documents; contained or certified in writing (< evidence>) 2 presenting or based on factual material – **documentarily** /-ment'eriali/ *adv*
- documentary** *n* a broadcast or film that presents a factual account of a person or topic using a variety of techniques (e.g. narrative and interview) – compare **FEATURE** 3a, *c* – **documentarist** /-ment(a)rist/ *n*
- documentation** /dokyoo'mentaysh(a)n/ *n* (the provision or use of) documents or documentary evidence – **documentational** *adj*
- dodder** /doda/ *n* any of a genus of leafless plants of the bindweed family that are wholly parasitic on other plants [ME *doder*; akin to OE *dydring* yolk, Norw *dudra* to tremble, L *fumus* smoke – more at FUME]
- dodder** *vi* 1 to tremble or shake from weakness or age 2 to walk feebly and unsteadily [ME *dadren* – **dodderer** *n*]
- doddered** /'dodad/ *adj* deprived of branches through age or decay (<a ~ oak>) [prob alter. of *dodded*, fr *pp* of E dial *dod* (to lop), fr ME *dodden*]
- doddering** /'dodərnŋ/, **doddery** /'dod(a)rɪ/ *adj* weak, shaky, and slow, esp because of old age
- doddle** /'dodl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a very easy task – *infrml* [prob fr 'dodder]
- dodeca-** /dohdeka-/ **dodec-** *comb form* twelve <dodecaphonic> [L, fr Gk *dōdeka-*, *dōdek-*, fr *dōdeka*, *dyōdeka*, fr *dyo*, *dyo* two + *deka* ten]
- dodecagon** /doh'dekəgən/ *n* a polygon of 12 angles and 12 sides – MATHEMATICS [Gk *dōdekagōnon*, fr *dōdeka-* + *gōnon* -gon] – **dodecagonal** /doh'de'kəgən/ *adj*
- dodecahedron** /doh'deka'hedron/ *n*, *pl* **dodecahedrons**, **dodecahedra** /-dra/ a polyhedron of 12 faces – MATHEMATICS [Gk *dōdekahedron*, fr *dōdeka-* + *-edron* -hedron] – **dodecahedral** /-hedrəl/ *adj*
- dodecaphonic** /'fōnik/ *adj* twelve-tone [*dodeca-* + *phōn-* + *-ic*] – **dodecaphonically** *adv*, **dodecaphonist** /doh'deka'fōnist, -fōh-, doh'de'-kafōnist/ *n*, **dodecaphony** /-ni/ *n*
- dodge** /doj/ *vi* to shift position suddenly and usu repeatedly (e.g. to avoid a blow or a pursuer) ~ *vt* 1 to evade (e.g. a duty) usu by trickery 2a to avoid by a sudden or repeated shift of position *b* to avoid an encounter with [origin unknown]
- dodge** *n* 1 a sudden movement to avoid sth 2 a clever device to evade or trick (<a tax ~>)
- dodgem** /dojəm/, **dodgem** *car n*, *Br* any of a number of small electric cars designed to be steered around and bumped into one another as a fun-fair amusement ['dodge + 'em]
- dodger** /doja/ *n* one who uses clever and often dishonest methods, esp to avoid payment (e.g. of taxes) or responsibility ['DODGE + 'ER]
- dodgy** /doj/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* 1 shady, dishonest (<a ~ person>) 2 risky, dangerous (<a ~ plan>) 3 liable to collapse, fail, or break down (<that chair's a bit ~>) *USE* *infrml*
- dodo** /doh,doh/ *n*, *pl* **dodos**, **dodos** an extinct heavy flightless bird that formerly lived on the island of Mauritius [Pg *doudo*, fr *doudo* silly, stupid]
- do down** *vi*, chiefly *Br* 1 to cheat 2 to speak badly of; belittle
- doe** /doh/ *n*, *pl* **does**, esp collectively **doe** the adult female fallow deer; broadly the adult female of any of various mammals (e.g. the rabbit) or birds (e.g. the guinea fowl) of which the male is called a buck [ME *do*, fr OE *dā*; akin to G dial. *tē* doe]
- doer** /doh-ə/ *n* one who takes action or participates actively in sth, rather than theorizing
- does** /daz; strong duz/ *pres 3rd sing of DO*
- doeskin** /doh'skin/ *n* 1 (leather made from) the skin of a doe 2 a smooth closely woven woollen fabric
- doesn't** /duz(ə)nt/ *does not*
- doest** /doh-ist/ *archaic pres 2nd sing of DO*
- doeth** /doh-ith/ *archaic pres 3rd sing of DO*

**doff** /dɒf/ *vt* to take off (one's hat) in greeting or as a sign of respect [ME *doffen*, fr *don* to do + *of* off]  
**'dog** /dɒg/ *n* 1a a 4-legged flesh-eating domesticated mammal occurring in a great variety of breeds and prob descended from the common wolf b any of a family of carnivores to which the dog belongs c a male dog 2a any of various usu simple mechanical devices for holding, fastening, etc that consist of a spike, rod, or bar b an andiron 3a SUN DOG b a fogbow 4 chiefly NAm sthg inferior of its kind 5 an esp worthless man or fellow <a lazy ~> 6 pl feet 7 pl ruin <go to the ~s> USE (5, 6, & 7) infml [ME, fr OE *docga*] – *doglike* *adj*  
**'dog** *vt* – *ss* to pursue closely like a dog; hound  
**'dog** *adj* male <a ~ fox>  
**'dog** *biscuit* *n* a hard dry biscuit for dogs  
**'dog** *clutch* *n* a clutch in which recesses in one plate are engaged by projections in the other  
**'dog** *collar* *n* CLERICAL COLLAR – infml  
**'dog** *days* *n* pl the hottest days in the year [fr their being reckoned from the heliacal rising of the Dog Star (Sirius)]  
**doge** /dohj/ *n* the chief magistrate of the former republics of Venice and Genoa [It dial., fr L *dux*, *dux* leader – more at DUKE]  
**'dog** *ear* *n* the turned-down corner of a page – *dog-ear* *vt*  
**'dog-eared** *adj* having dog-ears; broadly worn, shabby  
**'dog-eat-dog** *adj* marked by ruthless self-interest, cutthroat  
**'dog-end** *n* a cigarette end – slang  
**'dog** *fennel* *n* STINKING MAYWEED  
**'dog** *fight* /-fi:t/ *n* 1 a viciously fought contest 2 a fight between aircraft, usu at close quarters – *dogfight* *vi*  
**'dog** *fish* /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of various small sharks  
**dogged** /dɒgɪd/ *adj* stubbornly determined [ME, *doglike*, cruel, spiteful, fr *dog*, *dogge* dog + *-ed*] – *doggedly* *adv*, *doggedness* *n*  
**'doggerel** /dɒg(ə)rəl/ *n* (an example of) verse that is loosely styled and irregular in measure, esp for comic effect [ME *dogere*]  
**doggo** /dɒgoh/ *adv*, *Br* in hiding and without moving – infml; chiefly in *he doggo* [prob fr 'dog]  
**doggoned** /dɒgond/, *doggone* /dɒgon/ *adj* or *adv*, chiefly NAm damned – euph [euphemism for *God-damned*]  
**'doggy** /dɒgi/ *adj* 1 resembling or suggestive of a dog <a ~ odour> 2 concerned with or fond of dogs <a ~ person> USE infml  
**'doggy**, **doggie** /dɒgi/ *n* a dog – used esp by or to children  
**'doggy**, **bag**, **'doggie** *bag* *n* a bag for carrying home leftover food from a meal eaten in a restaurant ['doggy; fr the giving of such food to a pet dog]  
**'dog** *house* /-həʊz/ *n*, chiefly NAm a dog kennel – in the doghouse in a state of disfavour – infml  
**'dog** in the *'manger* *n* a person who selfishly deprives others of sthg of no use to him-/herself [fr the fable of the dog who prevented an ox from eating hay which he himself did not want]  
**'dog** *Latin* *n* spurious or incorrect Latin  
**'dogleg** /-ləg/ *n* 1 a sharp bend (e.g. in a road) 2 an angled fairway on a golf course  
**'dogleg** *adj* bent like a dog's hind leg  
**dogma** /dɒgmə/ *n* 1 an authoritative tenet or principle 2 a doctrine or body of doctrines formally and authoritatively stated by a church 3 a point of view or tenet put forth as authoritative without adequate grounds – chiefly derog [L *dogmat*, *dogma*, fr Gk, fr *dokein* to seem – more at DBCENT]  
**dogmatic** /dɒgmatik/ *also* *dogmatical* /-kl/ *adj* 1 of dogma or dogmatics 2 characterized by or given to the use of dogmatism – chiefly derog – *dogmatically* *adv*, *dogmaticalness* *n*  
**'dogmatics** *n* pl but sing or pl in constr a branch of theology that seeks to interpret the dogmas of a religious faith  
**dogmatism** /dɒgmə,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* (unwarranted or arrogant) assertion of opinion – *dogmatist* *n*  
**dogmat-ize**, **-ise** /dɒgmə,tɪz/ *vi* to speak or write dogmatically ~ *vt* to state as a dogma or in a dogmatic manner [F *dogmatiser*, fr LL *dogmatizare*, fr Gk *dogmatizein*, fr *dogmat*, *dogma*] – *dogmatization* /-tə'zəʃn(ə)n/ *n*, *dogmatizer* *n*  
**do-gooder** /-doo'gʊdə/ *n* an earnest often naive and ineffectual humanitarian or reformer  
**'dog** *paddle* *n* an elementary form of swimming (e.g. for learners) in which the arms paddle and the legs kick – *dog-paddle* *vi*  
**'dog** *rose* *n* a common European wild rose [trans of NL *rosa canina*]  
**'dog** *body* /-bɒdi/ *n*, chiefly Br a person who carries out routine or

menial work – infml [Br naval slang *dogsboddy* (pudding made of peas junior officer)]  
**'dog's** *chance* *n* any chance at all <didn't have a ~> – infml  
**'dog's** *life* *n* a miserable drab existence – infml  
**'dog's** *'mercury* *n* a perennial woodland plant of the spurge family  
**'dogstooth** *'check* /dɒgz,tu:θ/ *n* HOUNDSTOOTH CHECK  
**'dog** *tag* *n*, NAm an identification disc for military personnel – infml  
**'dog-tired** *n* extremely tired – infml  
**'dog** *tooth* /-tu:θ/ *n* an Early English moulding or architectural ornamentation consisting of a series of 4 leaves radiating from a raised centre  ARCHITECTURE  
**dog** *violet* *n* either of 2 European wild violets [trans of NL *viola canina*]  
**'dog** *watch* /-wɒtʃ/ *n* either of 2 watches (4 to 6 and 6 to 8 pm) on a ship  
**'dog** *wood* /-wʊd/ *n* any of several trees and shrubs with heads of small flowers  
**doh** /doh/ *n* 'do  
**dolly**, **doyley**, **doily** /'dɔɪli/ *n* a small decorative mat, esp of paper, cloth, or plastic openwork, often placed under food, esp cakes, on a plate or stand [*Dolly* or *Doyley* fl 1712 London draper]  
**do** *in* *vt* 1 to kill <tried to do him in with a club> 2 to wear out, exhaust <walking all day nearly did us in> USE infml  
**doing** /'dɔ:ɪŋ/ *n* 1 the act or result of performing, action <this must be your ~> 2 effort, exertion <that will take a great deal of ~> 3 pl things that are done or that occur, activities [ME, fr gerund of *don* to do]  
**doings** /'dɔ:ɪŋz/ *n*, pl *doings* *also* *doingses* /-zɪz/, chiefly Br a small object, esp one whose name is forgotten or not known <screw up that little ~ on the top> – infml  
**do-it-yourself** *adj* of or designed for use by an amateur, esp an amateur handyman – *do-it-yourselfer* *n*  
**dojo** /'dɔ:joʊ/ *n*, pl *dojos* a school for training in various martial arts [Jap *dōjō*, fr *dō* way, art + *jō* ground]  
**dolce far niente** /dɒlʃi fah 'nyenti/ *n* carefree idleness [It, lit, sweet doing nothing]  
**'dolce** *'vita* /'veetah/ *n* a life of indolence and self-indulgence [It, lit, sweet life]  
**doldrums** /'dɒldrəmz/ *n* pl 1 a depressed state of mind; the blues 2 an equatorial ocean region where calms, squalls, and light shifting winds prevail 3 a state of stagnation or slump [prob akin to OE *dol* foolish]  
**dole** /doh/ *n* 1 a distribution of food, money, or clothing to the needy 2 the government unemployment benefit [ME, fr OE *dāl* portion; akin to OE *dæl* part, lot]  
**doleful** /'dɒhl(f)əl/ *adj* sad, mournful [ME *dolful*, *doelful*, fr *dol*, *doel* grief, sorrow (fr OF, fr LL *dolus* pain, grief, alter of L *dolor*) + *-ful*] – *dolefully* *adv*, *dolefulness* *n*  
**dole** *out* *vt* to give, distribute, or deliver, esp in small portions  
**dolerite** /'dɒləri:t/ *n* any of various dark igneous rocks, esp coarse basalts [F *doléríte*, fr Gk *doleros* deceitful, fr *dolos* deceit – more at TALE; fr its being easily mistaken for diorite] – *doleritic* /-'rɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**dolich-** /dɒlɪk-/, **dolicho-** *comb* form long <dolichocranic> [Gk, fr *dolichos* – more at 'LONG]  
**dolichocephalic** /dɒlɪkoʊs'fælɪk/ *adj* having a relatively long head [NL *dolichocephalus* dolichocephalic person, fr *dolich-* + *-cephalus* (fr Gk *kephalē* head) – more at CEPHALIC] – *dolichocephalism* /-'sefə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n*, *dolichocephaly* /-'sefə,lɪ/ *n*  
**doll** /dɒl/ *n* 1 a small-scale figure of a human being used esp as a child's toy 2a a (pretty but often silly) young woman – infml b an attractive person – slang [prob fr *Doll*, nickname for *Dorothy*] – *dollish* *adj*, *dollishly* *adv*  
**dollar** /'dɒlə/ *n* 1 a taler 2 (a coin or note representing) the basic money unit of the USA, Canada, Australia, etc  NATIONALITY 3 Br 5 shillings (25p) – slang; no longer in vogue [D or LG *daler*, fr G *taler*, short for *jochimstaler*, fr Sankt *Jochimsthal*, town in Bohemia where talers were first minted]  
**dollar** *diplomacy* *n* diplomacy used by a country to promote its financial or commercial interests abroad and hence to strengthen its power  
**'dollop** /'dɒləp/ *n* a soft shapeless blob; esp a serving of mushy or semiliquid food <a ~ of mashed potato> [perh of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *dølp* lump]  
**'dollop** *vt* to serve out carelessly or clumsily  
**'doll's** *house* *n* a child's small-scale toy house  
**doll** *up* *vt* to dress prettily or showily – infml

- <sup>1</sup>dolly** /doli/ *n* 1 DOLL 1 – used chiefly by or to children 2 a wooden-pronged instrument for beating and stirring clothes while washing them in a tub 3a a platform on a roller or on wheels or castors for moving heavy objects b a wheeled platform for a film or television camera
- <sup>2</sup>dolly** *vi* to move a film or television camera on a dolly towards or away from a subject – usu + *in* or *out*
- 'dolly bird** *n*, chiefly *Br* a pretty young woman, esp one who is a slavish follower of fashion and not regarded as intelligent
- dolma** /dohlmə, -mah/ *n*, *pl* **dolmas**, **dolmades** /dohlmə'dɪz/ a vine leaf or cabbage leaf stuffed with a savoury filling [dolma fr Turk, lit., something stuffed, fr *dolma* stuffed; *dolmades* fr NGk, pl of *dolmas*, fr Turk *dolma*]
- dolman sleeve** /dolmən/ *n* a sleeve very wide at the armhole and usu tight at the wrist often cut in one piece with the bodice [dolman (woman's coat with wide sleeves), fr F *dolman*, fr Turk *dolama* long robe with sleeves]
- dolmen** /dolmən/ *n* a prehistoric monument consisting of 2 or more upright stones supporting a horizontal slab [F, fr Bret *tolmen*, fr *tol* table (fr L *tabula* board, plank) + *men* stone]
- dolomite** /doləmiət/ *n* calcium magnesium carbonate occurring as a mineral and a limestone rock [F, fr Déodat de Dolomieu †1801 F geologist] – **dolomitic** /-mɪtɪk/ *adj*
- dolorous** /dɒləɪəs/ *adj* causing or expressing misery or grief – **dolorously** *adv*, **dolorousness** *n*
- dolour**, *NAm* chiefly *dolor* /dohlə/ *n* mental suffering or anguish [ME *dolour*, fr MF, fr L *dolor* pain, grief, fr *dolere* to feel pain, grieve – more at CONDOLE]
- dolphin** /dɒlfɪn/ *n* 1 any of various small toothed whales with the snout elongated into a beak to varying extents 2 a spar or buoy for mooring boats [ME, fr MF *dophin*, *daufin*, fr OF *dalfin*, fr OProv, fr ML *dalfinus*, alter of L *delphinus*, fr Gk *delphin-*, *delphis*, akin to Gk *delphys* womb, Skt *garbha*]
- dolt** /dohlt/ *n* an extremely dull or stupid person [prob akin to OF *dol* foolish] – **doltish** *adj*, **doltishly** *adv*, **doltishness** *n*
- Dom** /dom/ *n* 1 – used as a title for Benedictine, Carthusian, and Cistercian monks and some canons regular 2 – used formerly as a title preceding the Christian name of a Portuguese or Brazilian man of rank [L *dominus* master]
- dom** /-d(ə)m/ *suffix* (– *n*) 1a rank or office of <dukedom> b realm or jurisdiction of <kingdom> <Christendom> 2 state or fact of being <freedom> < boredom> 3 group or class of people having (a specified office, occupation, interest, or character) <officialdom> <filmdom> [ME, fr OE *-dōm*, akin to OHG *-tuom* -dom, OE *dōm* judgment – more at DOOM]
- domain** /də'meɪn/ *n* 1 a territory over which control is exercised 2 a sphere of influence or activity 3 the set of values to which a variable is limited; esp the set of values that the independent variable of a function may take on 4 any of the small randomly oriented regions of uniform magnetization in a ferromagnetic substance [MF *domaine*, *demaïne*, fr L *dominium*, fr *dominus* master, owner]
- <sup>1</sup>dome** /dohm/ *n* 1 a (nearly) hemispherical roof or vault 2 a dome-shaped (geological) structure 3 *archaic* a stately building, a mansion [F, It, & L; F *dôme* dome, cathedral, fr It *duomo* cathedral, fr ML *domus* church, fr L, house – more at TIMBER] – **domal** /dohm(ə)l/ *adj*
- <sup>2</sup>dome** *vt* to cover with or form into a dome
- Domesday Book** /dohmzdeɪ, -di/ *n* a record of a survey of English lands made by order of William I about 1086 [ME, fr *domesday* doomsday]
- 'domestic** /də'mestɪk/ *adj* 1 of or devoted to the home or the family 2 of one's own or some particular country, not foreign (< ~ politics>) 3a living near or about the habitations of human beings b tame; also bred by human beings for some specific purpose (e.g. food, hunting, etc.) [MF *domestique*, fr L *domesticus*, fr *domus*] – **domestically** *adv*
- <sup>1</sup>domestic** *n* a household servant
- domesticate** /də'mestɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to bring (an animal or species) under human control for some specific purpose (e.g. for carrying loads, hunting, food, etc.) 2 to cause to be fond of or adapted to household duties or pleasures – **domestication** /-kəɪʃən/
- domestic fowl** *n* a chicken, turkey, or other bird developed from the jungle fowl, esp for meat or egg production
- domesticity** /də'mestɪsɪti/ *n* (devotion to) home or family life
- domestic science** *n* instruction in the household arts
- 'domicile** /domɪsəl/ *also* **domicil** /-s(i)l/ *n* a home; esp a person's permanent and principal home for legal purposes [MF, fr L *domicilium*, fr *domus*]
- <sup>2</sup>domicile** *vt* to establish in or provide with a domicile
- domiciliary** /domɪ'sɪljəri/ *adj* 1 of or being a domicile 2 taking place or attending in the home (< ~ visit>)
- 'dominant** /domɪnənt/ *adj* 1 commanding, controlling, or prevailing over all others 2 overlooking and commanding from a superior height 3 being the one of a pair of bodily structures that is the more effective or predominant in action (<the ~ eye>) 4 being the one of a pair of (genes determining) contrasting inherited characteristics that predominates – compare RECESSIVE 2 [MF or L; MF, fr L *dominant-*, *dominans*, prp of *dominari* to rule, govern] – **dominance** /-nəns/ *n*, **dominantly** *adv*
- <sup>2</sup>dominant** *n* 1 a socially dominant individual 2 the fifth note of a diatonic scale
- dominate** /domɪnəɪt/ *vt* 1 to exert controlling influence or power over 2 to overlook from a superior height 3 to occupy a commanding or preminent position in ~ *vi* 1 to have or exert mastery or control 2 to occupy a higher or superior position [L *dominatus*, pp of *dominari*, fr *dominus* master – more at DAME] **dominator** *n*, **dominative** /domɪnə'tɪv/ *adj*, **domination** /-nəɪʃən/ *n*
- domineer** /domɪ'niə/ *vi* to exercise arbitrary or overbearing control (<a ~ing husband>) [D *domneren*, fr F *dominer*, fr L *dominari*] – **domineeringly** *adv*
- dominical** /də'mɪnɪkl/ *adj* 1 of Jesus Christ 2 of the Lord's day [LL *dominicalis*, fr *dominicus* (dies) the Lord's day, fr L *dominus* of a lord, fr *dominus* lord, master]
- Dominican** /də'mɪnɪkən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a preaching order of mendicant friars founded by St Dominic in 1215 [St Dominic (Domingo de Guzman) †1221 Sp priest]
- dominie** /domɪni/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* a teacher, schoolmaster [L *domine*, voc of *dominus*]
- dominion** /də'mɪnjən, -nɪ-ən/ *n* 1 the power or right to rule, sovereignty 2 absolute ownership 3 often *cap* a self-governing nation of the Commonwealth other than the United Kingdom [ME *dominioun*, fr MF *dominion*, modif of L *dominium*, fr *dominus*]
- Dominion Day** *n* July 1 observed as a public holiday in Canada marking the grant of dominion status in 1867
- domino** /domɪnoh/ *n*, *pl* **dominoes**, **dominos** 1a(1) a long loose hooded cloak worn with a mask as a masquerade costume (2) a half mask worn with a masquerade costume b sby wearing a domino 2a a flat rectangular block whose face is divided into 2 equal parts that are blank or bear from 1 to usu 6 dots arranged as on dice faces b *pl* but *usu sing* in *constr* any of several games played with a set of usu 28 dominoes [F, prob fr L *domino* (in the ritual formula *benedicamus Domino* let us bless the Lord), dat of *dominus*]
- 'domino theory** *n* a theory that if one nation in an area, specif SE Asia, becomes Communist-controlled the same thing will happen to the neighbouring nations [fr the fact that if several dominoes are stood on end one behind the other with slight spaces between, a push on the first will make all the others topple]
- dompas** /dom'pəh/ *n* an identity document that must be carried by nonwhites in S Africa – compare PASS LAW [Afrk *dompas*, fr *dom* stupid + *pas* pass]
- 'don** /don/ *n* 1 a Spanish nobleman or gentleman – used as a title preceding the Christian name 2 a head, tutor, or fellow in a college of Oxford or Cambridge university, *broadly* a university teacher [Sp, fr L *dominus* master – more at DAME]
- <sup>2</sup>don** *vi* -*am* PUT ON 1a, b [contr of *do* + *on*]
- dona** /dona/ *n* a Portuguese or Brazilian woman of rank – formerly used as a title preceding the Christian name [Pg, fr L *domina*]
- dofia** /dɒniə/ *n* a Spanish woman, esp of rank – used as a title preceding the Christian name [Sp, fr L *domina* lady]
- donate** /doh'neɪt/ *vb* 1 to make a gift or donation (of), esp to a public or charitable cause 2 to give off or transfer (e.g. electrons) [back-formation fr *donation*] – **donator** *n*
- donation** /doh'neɪʃən/ *n* 1 the act of donating 2 sthg donated [ME *donatyowne*, fr L *donation-*, *donatio*, fr *donatus*, pp of *donare* to present, fr *donum* gift; akin to L *dare* to give – more at DAME]
- 'donative** /doh'nə'tɪv/ *n* a special gift or donation
- <sup>1</sup>donative** *adj* subject to donation (<a ~ trust>) [L *donativus*, fr *donatus*]
- 'done** /dun/ 1 *past part* of DO 2 chiefly *dial* & *NAm past* of DO
- <sup>2</sup>done** *adj* 1 conformable to social convention (<it's not ~ to eat peas off your knife>) 2 arrived at or brought to an end; completed 3 physically exhausted; spent 4 no longer involved; through (<I'm ~ with the Army>)



- 5 doomed to failure, defeat, or death 6 cooked sufficiently 7 arrested, imprisoned – slang (<robbed a bank and got ~ for 10 years>)
- done** /dɒn/ *interj* – used in acceptance of a bet or transaction
- done** /dɒn/ *for adj* 1 dead or close to death 2 ruined, finished *USE* infml
- Donegal** /ˈdɒnɪɡəl/, **Donegal tweed** *n* a heavy woollen fabric characterized by colourful flecks in the weft yarn [Donegal county, Eire]
- done** /dɒn/ *in adj* physically exhausted – infml
- dong** /dɒŋ/ *n* a penis – slang [dong (to sound like a bell, strike), of imit origin]
- dong** /dɒŋ/ *n*  *Vietnam* at NATIONALITY [Annamese]
- donga** /ˈdɒŋɡə/ *n*, *SAfr* a narrow steep-sided ravine [Afnk, fr Zulu]
- donjon** /ˈdʌnj(ə)n, ˈdɒn-/ *n* a massive inner tower in a medieval castle  *CHURCH* [ME – more at DUNGEON]
- Don Juan** /ˈdɒn ˈjoʊən, (Sp) don Xwan/ *n* a promiscuous man, broadly a lady-killer [Don Juan, legendary Spanish nobleman featured in many works of literature]
- donkey** /ˈdɒŋki/ *n* 1 the domestic ass 2 a stupid or obstinate person [perh fr *dun* + *-key* (as in *monkey*)]
- donkey engine** *n* a small, usu portable, auxiliary engine
- donkey jacket** *n* a thick hip-length hard-wearing jacket, usu blue and with a strip of (imitation) leather across the shoulders  *GARMENT*
- donkey's years** *n pl*, chiefly *Br* a very long time – infml
- donkey work** /ˌwʊk/ *n* hard, monotonous, and routine work – infml
- donna** /ˈdɒnə/ *n*, *pl* **donne** /ˈdɒnə/ *n* an Italian woman, esp of rank – used as a title preceding the Christian name [It, fr L *domina*]
- donnée** /ˈdɒnə/ *n*, *pl* **données** /ˈdɒnəz/ *n* a basic fact or assumption on which a work of fiction or drama proceeds [F, fr fem of *donné*, pp of *donner* to give, fr L *donare* to donate]
- donnish** /ˈdɒnɪʃ/ *adj* pedantic [ˈDON + -ISH] – **donnishly** *adv*, **donnishness** *n*
- donor** /ˈdɒnə/ *n* 1 a person who gives, donates, or presents 2 sb used as a source of biological material (<a blood ~>) 3a a compound capable of giving up a part (e.g. an atom, radical, or elementary particle) for combination with an acceptor b an impurity that is added to a semiconductor to increase the number of mobile electrons [MF *doneur*, fr L *donator*, fr *donatus*, pp of *donare*]
- don't** /ˈdɒnt/ 1 do not 2 does not – nonstandard, though sometimes used by educated speakers (<there are simply certain things he ~ know – Ezra Pound>)
- don't** *n* a prohibition – usu *pl* (<a list of dos and ~s>)
- doodad** /ˈdʊdɪd/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a small, trivial, or decorative article – infml [origin unknown]
- doodah** /ˈdʊdɪh/ *n*, *Br* a small article whose name is unknown or forgotten – infml [origin unknown]
- doodle** /ˈdʊdli/ *vi* or *n* **doodling** /ˈdʊdliŋ/, **doodling** /ˈdʊdliŋ/ (to make) an aimless scribble or sketch [perh fr *doodle* (simpleton), fr LG *dudeltopf* – **doodler** /ˈdʊdli/ *n*]
- doodlebug** /ˈdʊdli bʊg/ *n* FLYING BOMB – infml [prob fr *doodle* (fool) + *bug*]
- doolan** /ˈdʊlən/ *n*, often *cap*, *NZ* ROMAN CATHOLIC [prob fr *Doolan*, a common Irish surname]
- doom** /dʊm/ *n* 1 a law in Anglo-Saxon England 2a JUDGMENT 2a; also, *archaic* a judicial condemnation b JUDGMENT DAY 3a an (unhappy) destiny b unavoidable death or destruction; also environmental catastrophe – often in combination (<The road forward does not lie through the despair of doomwatching... – New Scientist>) [ME, fr OE *dōm*; akin to OHG *tuom* condition, state, OE *dōn* to do]
- doom** *vt* 1 to destine, esp to failure or destruction 2 *archaic* to give judgment against; condemn
- doomsday** /ˈdʊmzdeɪ, -di/ *n*, often *cap* JUDGMENT DAY; broadly some remote point in the future (<if you expect people to work harder for less money, you'll have to wait from now till ~>)
- door** /dɔː/ *n* 1 a usu swinging or sliding barrier by which an entry is closed and opened; also a similar part of a piece of furniture  *ARCHITECTURE* 2 a doorway 3 a means of access [ME *dure*, *dor*, fr OE *duru* door & *dor* gate; akin to OHG *turi* door, L *fores*, Gk *thyrā*]
- doorless** *adj* – at someone's door as a charge against sb as being responsible (<laid the blame at our door>)
- door frame** /ˌfraɪm/ *n* 1 a frame round the opening in which a door is fitted 2 the framework in which the panels of a door are fitted
- doorkeeper** /-kiːpə/ *n* a person who guards the main door to a building and lets people in and out
- door knob** /-nɒb/ *n* a knob that when turned releases a door latch
- doorman** /-mən/ *n* a (uniformed) person who tends the entrance to a hotel, theatre, etc and assists people (e.g. in calling taxis)
- door mat** /-mat/ *n* 1 a mat (e.g. of bristles) placed before or inside a door for wiping dirt from the shoes 2 a person who submits to bullying and indignities – infml
- door nail** /-nəɪl/ *n* a large-headed nail formerly used for the strengthening or decoration of doors – chiefly in *dead as a doornail*
- door post** /-pəʊst/ *n* an upright piece forming the side of a door opening
- door step** /-step/ *n* 1 a step in front of an outer door 2 *Br* a very thick slice of bread – infml
- door stop** /-stɒp/ *n* a device for holding a door open or preventing it opening too far
- door-to-door** *adj* 1 making a usu unsolicited call (e.g. for selling, canvassing, etc) at every residence in an area 2 providing delivery to a specified address
- door-to-door** *adv* from the precise point of departure to the final point of arrival (<a journey of 2 hours ~>)
- doorway** /-weɪ/ *n* an entrance into a building or room that is closed by means of a door
- do over** *vi*, *Br* to attack and injure – slang
- dopa** /ˈdɒpə/ *n* a derivative of phenylalanine, esp *L-dopa* [dihydroxy-phenylalanine]
- dopamine** /ˈdɒpəˌmiːn/ *n* a derivative of *dopa* that occurs esp as a neurotransmitter in the brain [*dopa* + *amine*]
- dopant** /ˈdɒp(ə)nt/ *n* an impurity added, usu in minute amounts, to a pure substance to alter its properties [ˈdope]
- dope** /dɒp/ *n* 1a a thick liquid or pasty preparation b a preparation for giving a desired quality to a substance or surface c a coating (e.g. a cellulose varnish) applied to a surface or fabric (e.g. of an aeroplane or balloon) to improve strength, impermeability, or tautness 2 absorbent or adsorbent material used in various manufacturing processes (e.g. the making of dynamite) 3a marijuana, opium, or another drug b a preparation given illegally to a racing horse, greyhound, etc to make it run faster or slower 4 a stupid person – infml 5 information, esp from a reliable source – infml [D *doop* sauce, fr *dopen* to dip, akin to OE *dyppan* to dip – more at *DIP*]
- dope** *vt* 1 to treat or affect with *dope*, esp to give a narcotic to 2 to add an impurity to (a semiconductor) so as to give the required electrical properties ~ *vi* to take *dope* – **doper** *n*
- dopey**, **dopy** /dɒpi/ *adj* 1a dulled by alcohol or a narcotic b stupefied (e.g. by a drug or sleep) 3a dull, stupid – infml – **dopiness** *n*
- doppelgänger** /ˈdɒplˌgæŋɡə/, **doppelganger** /-gæŋɡə/ *n* a ghostly counterpart of a living person [G *doppelganger*, fr *doppel-* double + *-ganger* goer]
- Doppler** /ˈdɒplə/ *adj* of or using a shift in frequency in accordance with the Doppler effect
- Doppler effect** *n* a change in the apparent frequency of sound, light, or other waves when there is relative motion between the source and the observer [Christian Doppler †1853 Austrian scientist & mathematician]
- Dorian** /ˈdɔːriən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of an ancient Hellenic race settled chiefly in the Peloponnese and Crete [L *dorius* of Doris, fr Gk *dōrios*, fr *Dōris*, region of ancient Greece]
- Doric** /ˈdɒrk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of the Dorians or their language 2 of the oldest and simplest of the 3 Greek orders of architecture  *ARCHITECTURE*
- Doric** *n* 1 a dialect of ancient Greek 2 a broad rustic dialect of English, esp a Scots one
- dorm** /dɔːm/ *n* DORMITORY 1 – infml
- dormant** /ˈdɔːmənt/ *adj* 1 marked by a suspension of activity: e.g. a temporarily devoid of external activity (<a ~ volcano>) b temporarily in abeyance (<the report lay ~ for several years until its suggestions were taken up by a new administration>) 2 (appearing to be) asleep or inactive, esp throughout winter [ME *dormaunt* fixed, stationary, fr MF *dormant*, fr prp of *dormir* to sleep, fr L *dormire*; akin to Skt *drāti* he sleeps] – **dormancy** /-mənsi/ *n*
- dormer** /ˈdɔːmə/ *n* a window set vertically in a structure projecting through a sloping roof  *ARCHITECTURE* [MF *dormeor* dormitory, fr L *dormitorium*]
- dormie**, **dormy** /ˈdɔːmi/ *adj* being ahead by as many holes in golf as remain to be played [origin unknown]
- dormitory** /ˈdɔːmətri/ *n* 1 a large room containing a number of beds 2 a residential community from which the inhabitants commute to their



places of employment (<a ~ town> [L *dormitorium*, fr *dormitus*, pp of *dormire* to sleep]

**Dormobile** /ˈdɔːmbaːbeɪl/ trademark – used for a small motorized caravan

**dormouse** /ˈdɔːmɔʊz/ *n* any of numerous small Old World rodents having a long bushy tail [ME *dormouse*, perh fr MF *dormir* + ME *mous* mouse]

**dorp** /dɔːwp/ *n*, SAfr a village [D, fr MD; akin to OHG *dorf* village]

**dors-** /ˈdɔːz-/; **dorsi-**, **dorso-** comb form 1 back (<dorsad> 2 dorsal and (<dorsolateral> [LL *dors-*, fr L *dorsum*])

**dorsal** /ˈdɔːzəl/ *adj* relating to or situated near or on the back or top surface esp of an animal or aircraft or of any of its parts – compare VENTRAL 1b [LL *dorsalis*, fr L *dorsum* back] – **dorsally** *adv*

**dorsal fin** *n* a medium longitudinal vertical fin on the back of a fish or other aquatic vertebrate

**dory** /ˈdɔːri/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat with high sides [Miskito *dōri* dugout]

**dory** *n* JOHN DORY

**dos-a-dos** /ˈdɔːzə ˈdɔːh/ *n* a seat (e.g. in a carriage) designed for sitting back to back – compare TETE-A-TETE 2 [F, fr *dos-a-dos* back to back]

**dosage** /ˈdɔːsɪz/ *n* 1a the amount of a dose of medicine 1b the giving of such a dose 2 the presence and relative representation or strength of a factor or agent

**dose** /dɔːz/ *n* 1a the measured quantity of medicine to be taken at one time 1b the quantity of radiation administered or absorbed 2a part of an experience to which one is exposed (<a ~ of hard work> 3 an infection with a venereal disease – slang – **dose** *vt* [F, fr LL *dosis*, fr Gk, lit, act of giving, fr *didonai* to give – more at DATE]

**doss** /dɔːs/ *u*, chiefly Br 1 a crude or makeshift bed, esp one in a dosshouse 2 a short sleep **USE** slang [perh fr obs *dorse*, *doss* (back), fr L *dorsum*]

**doss down** *vi*, chiefly Br to sleep or bed down in a makeshift bed – **infml**

**dossier** /ˈdɔːsi-/ *n*, chiefly Br a down-and-out, esp one who is forced to sleep in dosshouses

**doss-house** /-ˈhəʊz/ *n*, chiefly Br a hostel for derelicts

**dossier** /ˈdɔːsi-/ *n* a file of papers containing a detailed report or information [F, bundle of documents labelled on the back, dossier, fr *dos* back, fr L *dorsum*]

**dost** /dɔːst/ *archaic* pres 2 *sing* of DO

**dot** /dɔːt/ *n* 1 a small spot, a speck 2a(1) a small point made with a pointed instrument (2) a small round mark used in spelling or punctuation 1b(1) a point after a note or rest in music indicating augmentation of the time value by one half (2) a point over or under a note indicating that it is to be played staccato 3 a precise point, esp in time (<arrived at 6 on the ~> 4 a signal (e.g. a flash or audible tone) of relatively short duration that is one of the 2 fundamental units of Morse code – compare DASH 6 **USE** (2b) **MUSIC** (assumed) MF, fr OE *dot* head of a boil, akin to OHG *tutta* nipple, D *dot* knot, tuft]

**dot** *vb* *tt* *vt* 1 to mark with a dot 2 to intersperse with dots or objects scattered at random (<boats ~ting the lake> ~ *vi* to make a dot

**dotage** /ˈdɔːtiʃ/ *n* a state or period of senile mental decay resulting in feeble-mindedness [ME, fr *doten* to dote]

**dotard** /ˈdɔːtəd/ *n* a person in his/her dotage

**dote** /dɔːt/ *vi* 1 to exhibit mental decline of or like that of old age 2 to show excessive or foolish fondness – *usu* + *on* [ME *doten*, akin to MLG *dotten* to be foolish, MD *dutten* to be enraged, Icel *dotta* to nod from fatigue] – **doter** *n*, **dotingly** *adv*

**doth** /dɔːθ/ *archaic* pres 3 *sing* of DO

**dot product** *n* SCALAR PRODUCT [ˈdɔːt; fr its being commonly written A.B]

**dotterel** /ˈdɔːtrəl/ *n* a Eurasian plover formerly common in Britain [ME *dotrelle*, irreg fr *doten* to dote]

**dottle** /ˈdɔːtl/ *n* (partially) unburnt tobacco left in the bowl of a pipe [ME *dottel* plug, fr (assumed) ME *dot*]

**dotty** /ˈdɔːti/ *adj* 1 crazy, mad 2 amiably eccentric or absurd **USE** **infml** [alter. of Sc *dottle* fool, fr ME *dotel*, fr *doten*] – **dottily** *adv*, **dottiness** *n*

**Douay Version** /ˈdʊəˌaɪ/ *n* an English 17th-c translation of the Vulgate used by Roman Catholics [Douay, Douai, city in France]

**double** /ˈdʊbl/ *adj* 1 twofold, dual 2 consisting of 2, *usu* combined, similar members or parts (<an egg with a ~ yolk> 3 being twice as great or as many (<~ the number of expected applicants> 4 marked by duplicity; deceitful 5 folded in 2 6 of twofold or extra size, strength, or value (<a ~ Scotch> (<a ~ room> 7 of a plant or flower having more than the normal number of petals or ray flowers – compare SINGLE [ME, fr

OF, fr L *duplus*, fr *duo* two + *-plus* multiplied by; akin to Gk *diplous* double, OE *fealdan* to fold – more at TWO, FOLD] – **doubleness** *n*

**double** *n* 1 a double amount; **esp** a double measure of spirits 2a a living person who closely resembles another living person 1b a wraith; a doppelgänger c(1) an understudy (2) one who resembles an actor and takes his/her place in scenes calling for special skills 3 a sharp turn or twist 4a a bet in which the winnings and stake from a first race are bet on a second race 1b two wins in or on horse races, **esp** in a single day's racing 5 an act of doubling in a card game 6 the outermost narrow ring on a dartboard counting double the stated score, *also* a throw in darts that lands there – at the double at a fast rate between running and walking, *specif*, of a military order to move in double time

**double** *adv* 1 to twice the extent or amount 2 two together

**double** *vb* **doubled**; **doubling** /ˈdʊblɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to increase by adding an equal amount 1b to amount to twice the number of c to make a call in bridge that increases the value of tricks won or lost on (an opponent's bid) 2a to make into 2 thicknesses, fold 1b to clench (<~d his fist> c to cause to stoop or bend over – *usu* + *up* or *over* 3 to cause (troops) to move in double time 4 to cause (a billiard ball) to rebound ~ *vi* 1a to become twice as much or as many 1b to double a bid (e.g. in bridge) 2 to turn back on one's course – *usu* + *back* 3 to become bent or folded, *usu* in the middle – *usu* + *up* or *over* 4 to serve an additional purpose – *usu* + *as* 5 to hurry along, *esp*, of troops to move in double time 6 of a billiard ball to rebound

**double-acting** *adj* acting or effective in 2 directions or ways, *esp*, of an engine being a reciprocating engine in which the working fluid (e.g. steam) acts on both sides of the piston

**double agent** *n* a spy pretending to serve one government while actually serving another

**double bar** *n* two adjacent vertical lines or a heavy single line marking the end of a principal section of a musical composition **MUSIC**

**double-barrelled** *adj* 1 of a firearm having 2 barrels 2 having a double purpose (<asked a ~ question> 3 of a surname having 2 parts

**double bass** *n* the largest instrument in the violin family tuned a fifth below the cello – **double bassist** *n*

**double bed** *n* a bed for 2 people

**double bind** *n* (a psychological dilemma provoked by) a situation in which a person receives conflicting cues as to his/her desired behaviour towards another, *usu* a parent or other family member, so that anything he/she does will be condemned, *broadly* a situation where any choice a person makes will have unpleasant consequences

**double-blind** *adj* of or being an experimental procedure which is designed to eliminate false results, in which neither the subjects nor the experimenters know the make-up of the test groups and control groups during the actual course of the experiments – compare SINGLE-BLIND

**double boiler** *n*, chiefly NAM **DOUBLE SAUCEPAN**

**double bond** *n* a chemical bond consisting of 2 covalent bonds between 2 atoms in a molecule

**double-breasted** *adj* having a front fastening with one half of the front overlapping the other and *usu* a double row of buttons and a single row of buttonholes (<a ~ coat> – compare SINGLE-BREADED **GARMENT**

**double bridle** *n* a bridle consisting of 2 bits that work independently and used **esp** for show horses

**double check** *vb* or *n* (to make or subject to) a careful check, **esp** for a second time

**double chin** *n* a chin with a fleshy fold under it

**double cream** *n* thick heavy cream that contains 48 per cent butterfat and is suitable for whipping – compare SINGLE CREAM

**double-cross** *vt* or *n* (to deceive by) an act of betraying or cheating – **double-crosser** *n*

**double dagger** *n* a sign † used as the third in the series of reference marks **SYMBOL**

**double-dealing** *adj* or *n* underhand or deceitful (action) – **double-dealer** *n*

**double-decker** /ˈdɔːkə/ *n* sth that has 2 decks, levels, or layers; **esp** a bus with seats on 2 floors

**double de/clutch** /ˈdeːklʊʃ/ *vi*, Br to change gear in a motor vehicle by disengaging the gear twice, first to pass to neutral, then to pass to the desired gear

**double decomposition** *n* a chemical reaction in which different kinds of molecules exchange parts to form other kinds of molecules

**double dutch** *n*, often cap 2nd D unintelligible or nonsensical speech or writing, gibberish – **infml**

**double-edged** *adj* having 2 purposes or possible interpretations; *specif*,

of a remark seeming innocent, but capable of a malicious interpretation

**double-ended** *adj* similar at both ends (< *a ~ bolt*)


**double entendre** /duːbəl ɒn'tɒn(h)dr (Fr dubl ɔ̃tɑ̃dr)/ *n*, *pl* **double entendres** /~/ an ambiguous word or expression one of whose meanings is *usu* risqué [obs F, lit., double meaning]

**double-faced** *adj* two-faced, hypocritical

**double fault** *n* two consecutive service faults in tennis, squash, etc, resulting in the loss of a point or of the service – **double-fault** *vi*

**double 'first** *n*, *Br* first-class honours gained in 2 university examinations or subjects

**double flat** *n* a character on the musical staff indicating a drop in pitch of 2 semitones  **MUSIC**

**double 'glazing** *n* a system of glazing in which 2 panes of glass are separated by an air space providing heat and sound insulation; also the 2 panes of glass so used  **ENERGY** – **double-glaze** *vt*

**double-header** /-heda/ *n*, *NAm* two games, contests, or events held consecutively on the same programme

**double 'helix** *n* two parallel helices arranged round the same axis; *specif* this arrangement of 2 complementary DNA strands with the bases of each strand pointing inwards and hydrogen-bonding with those of the other, that is regarded as the basic structure of the DNA of most living things

**double-'jointed** *adj* having or being a joint that permits an exceptional degree of flexibility of the parts joined

**double knit** *n* a knitted fabric (e.g. wool) made with a double set of needles to produce a double thickness of fabric with each thickness joined by interlocking stitches

**double 'negative** *n* a syntactic construction containing 2 negatives and having a negative meaning (< *I didn't hear nothing* is a ~)

**double-'park** *vi* to park beside a row of vehicles already parked parallel to the kerb

**double-'quick** *adj* very quick – **double-quick** *adv*


**double reed** *n* two cane reeds bound and vibrating against each other and used as the mouthpiece of woodwind instruments of the oboe family

**double refraction** *n* birefringence

**doubles** /'dublz/ *n*, *pl* **doubles** a game between 2 pairs of players

**double salt** *n* a salt regarded as a molecular combination of 2 simple salts

**double saucepan** *n*, *Br* two interlocking saucepans, the contents of the upper being cooked or heated by boiling water in the lower


**double sharp** *n* a character on the musical staff indicating a rise in pitch of 2 semitones  **MUSIC**

**'double,speak** /-spek/ *n* double-talk

**double standard** *n* a principle or code that applies more rigorously to one group than to another

**double star** *n* (2 stars that appear to be) a binary star

**double stopping** *n* the simultaneous playing of 2 strings of a bowed instrument (e.g. a violin)

**doublet** /'dublɪt/ *n* 1 a man's close-fitting jacket, with or without sleeves, worn in Europe, esp in the 15th to 17th c  **CLOTHING** 2 two thrown dice showing the same number on the upper face 3 either of a pair; *specif* either of 2 words (e.g. *guard* and *ward*) in a language having the same derivation but a different meaning [ME, fr MF, fr *double*]

**'double,take** *n* a delayed reaction to a surprising or significant situation – esp in *do a double take*

**'double,talk** *n* involved and often deliberately ambiguous language – **double-talk** *vi*, **double-talker** *n*

**'double,think** /-θɪŋk/ *n* a simultaneous belief in 2 contradictory ideas

**double 'time** *n* 1 a rate of marching of twice the number of steps per minute as the normal slow rate 2 payment of a worker at twice his/her regular wage rate

**double-'tongue** *vi* to use tongue movements to produce a fast succession of detached notes on a wind instrument

**double twill** *n* a will weave with intersecting diagonal lines going in opposite directions

**double up** *vi* to share accommodation designed for one

**'double 'vision** *n* diplopia

**doubleon** /'dublɒn/ *n* a former gold coin of Spain and Spanish America [Sp *doblón*, aug. of *dobla*, an old Spanish coin, fr L *dupla*, fem. of *duplus* double – more at **DOUBLE**]

**'doublely** /'dublɪ/ *adv* 1 to twice the degree (< *~ pleased*) 2 in 2 ways

**'doubt** /daʊt/ *vt* 1 to be in doubt about (< *he ~s everyone's word*) 2a to

lack confidence in; distrust **b** to consider unlikely ~ *vi* to be uncertain [ME *douten* to fear, be uncertain, fr OF *douter* to doubt, fr L *dubitare*; akin to L *dubus* dubious – more at **DOUBIOUS**] – **doubtable** *adj*, **doubter** *n*, **doubtfully** *adv*

**'doubt** *n* 1 (a state of) uncertainty of belief or opinion 2 a lack of confidence; distrust 3 an inclination not to believe or accept; a reservation – *In doubt* uncertain – *no doubt* doubtless

**'doubtful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 causing doubt, open to question 2a lacking a definite opinion; hesitant **b** uncertain in outcome, not settled 3 of questionable worth, honesty, or validity – **doubtfully** *adv*, **doubtfulness** *n*

**'doubting 'Thomas** /'tɒməs/ *n* a habitually doubtful person [Thomas, apostle of Jesus who doubted Jesus' resurrection until he had proof of it (Jn 20:24-29)]

**'doubtless** /-ls/ *adv* 1 without doubt 2 probably

**douce** /'duːs/ *adj*, chiefly Scot sober, sedate [ME, sweet, pleasant, fr MF, fr fem of *douz*, fr L *dulcis*] – **doucely** *adv*

**douche** /'duːʃ/ *n* (a device for giving) a jet or current of fluid, directed against a part or into a cavity of the body, esp the vagina [F, fr It *doccia*, fr *docchiare* to douche, fr *doccia* water pipe, prob back-formation fr *doccione* conduit, fr L *duction-*, *ductio* action of leading, fr *ductus*, pp of *ducere* to lead – more at **'row**] – **douche** *vb*

**dough** /doh/ *n* 1 a mixture that consists essentially of flour or meal and milk, water, or another liquid and is stiff enough to knead or roll – compare **BATTER** 2 money – slang [ME *dogh*, fr OE *dāg*; akin to OHG *teic* dough, L *ingere* to shape, Gk *teichos* wall] – **doughlike** *adj*

**doughboy** /'doh,boy/ *n* a US infantryman, esp in WW I [*doughboy* (a dumpling or piece of fried bread dough); prob fr the large round buttons on the US infantry uniform in the Civil War]

**doughnut** /'doh,nut/ *n* 1 a small round or ring-shaped cake that is often made with a yeast dough, filled with jam, and deep-fried 2 sthg ring-shaped; *specif* **TORUS** 3

**doughty** /'daʊti/ *adj* valiant, bold – poetic [ME, fr OE *dohtig*; akin to OHG *toug* is useful, Gk *teuchēin* to make] – **doughtily** /'daʊtɪli/ *adv*, **doughtiness** *n*

**'doughy** /'doh-/ *adj* unhealthily pale; pasty [DOUGH + -Y]

**'Douglas 'fir** /'dʊɡləs/ *n* a tall evergreen tree of the western USA that is extensively grown for its wood [David Douglas †1834 Sc botanist]

**'Douglas 'spruce** *n* DOUGLAS FIR

**do up** *vt* 1 to repair, restore (< *do up old furniture*) 2 to wrap up (< *do up a parcel*) 3 to fasten (clothing or its fastenings) together (< *she did her blouse up*) 4 to make more beautiful or attractive (< *she's done herself up for the party*) – *infm*

**dour** /'daʊə/ *adj* 1 stern, harsh 2 gloomy, sullen [ME, prob fr Gael *dur* dull, obstinate, perh fr L *durus* hard] – **dourly** *adv*, **dourness** *n*

**douroucoul** /'duːroʊkoʊl/ *n* any of several nocturnal S American monkeys [native name in S America]

**'douse, dowse** /daʊs/ *vt* to take (a sail) in or down [*douse* (blow, stroke), of unknown origin]

**'douse, dowse** *vt* 1 to plunge into or drench with water 2 to extinguish (< *~ the lights*) [prob fr obs *douse* (to smite), fr *'douse*; akin to LG *dossen* to strike] – **douser** *n*

**'dove** /dʊv/ *n* 1 any of various (smaller and slenderer) types of pigeon 2 an advocate of negotiation and compromise; esp an opponent of war – *usu* contrasted with *hawk* [ME, fr (assumed) OE *dufe*; akin to OHG *tuba* dove, & prob to OE *deaf* deaf] – **dovish** *adj*, **dovishness** *n*

**'dove** /dohv/ *NAm past of* DIVE

**'dove-colour** /dʊv/ *n* slightly pink warm grey – **dove-coloured** *adj*

**dovecot, doveote** /'dʊv,kot/ *n* a small compartmented raised house or box for domestic pigeons

**dovekie** /'dʊvki/ *n* a small auk that breeds on arctic coasts [dim. of *dove*]

**'Dover 'sole** /'dohvə/ *n* a European flatfish highly valued for food [prob fr *Dover*, town in England]

**'Dover's 'powder** *n* a powder of ipecacuanha and opium used, esp formerly, as medicine [Thomas Dover †1742 E physician]

**'dovetail** /'dʊv,tayl/ *n* a tenon like a dove's tail and the mortise into which it fits to form a joint

**'dovetail** *vb* 1 to join (as if) by means of dovetails 2 to fit skilfully together to form a whole

**dowager** /'dɔwəʒə/ *n* 1 a widow holding property or a title received from her deceased husband 2 a dignified elderly woman [MF *dougiere*, fr *douage* dower, fr *douer* to endow, fr L *dotare*, fr *dot-*, *dos* gift, *dower* – more at **DOWRY**]

**dowdy** /'daʊdi/ *adj* 1 not neat or smart in appearance 2 old-fashioned,

- frumpy [dowd (ugly woman), fr ME *doude*] – **dowdily** *adv*, **dowdiness** *n*, **dowdylah** *adj*
- dowel** /dowəl/ *n* a usu metal or wooden pin fitting into holes in adjacent pieces to preserve their relative positions; also rods of wood or metal for sawing into such pins [ME *dowle*; akin to OHG *tubili* plug, LGk *typhos* wedge]
- dowel** *vt* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) to fasten by dowels
- dower** /dowa/ *n* a widow's legal share during her life of her deceased husband's property – no longer used technically [ME *dowere*, fr MF *douaire*, modif of ML *dotarium* – more at *dowry*]
- Dow-Jones index** /,dow 'joɦnz/ *n* an index of the prices of securities in the USA based on the daily average price of selected lists of shares [Charles H Dow †1902 & Edward D Jones †1920 US financial statisticians]
- dowlas** /dowlas/ *n* 1 a rough linen fabric used for clothing in former times 2 a strong cotton fabric of coarse yarn used esp for household cloths and towels [Daoulas, town in Brittany, France]
- down** /daʊn/ *n* (a region of) undulating treeless usu chalk uplands, esp in S England – usu pl with sing. meaning [ME *doun* hill, fr OE *dun*, akin to ON *dunn* down of feathers]
- down** *adv* 1a at or towards a relatively low level (< into the cellar > (the river is ~) b downwards from the surface of the earth or water c below the horizon d downstream e in or into a lying or sitting position (he ~) f to or on the ground, surface, or bottom (house burnt ~) (telephone wires are ~) g so as to conceal a particular surface (turned it face ~) h downstairs 2 ON THE SPOT 2, esp as an initial payment (paid £10 ~) 3a(1) in or into a relatively low condition or status (family has come ~ in the world) – sometimes used interjectionally to express opposition (< with the oppressors >) (2) to prison – often + go or send b(1) in or into a state of relatively low intensity or activity (calm ~) (turn the radio ~) (2) into silence (shouted him ~) (3) into a slower pace or lower gear (changed ~ into second) c lower in amount, price, figure, or rank (prices are coming ~) d behind an opponent (we're 3 points ~) 4a so as to be known, recognized, or recorded, esp on paper (scribbled it ~) (you're ~ to speak next) – compare **SET DOWN**, **PUT DOWN** b so as to be firmly held in position (stick ~ the flap of the envelope) (don't like to feel tied ~) c to the moment of catching or discovering (track the criminal ~) 5 in a direction conventionally the opposite of up e g a to leeward b in or towards the south c chiefly Br away from the capital of a country or from a university city (~ in Wiltshire) d to or at the front of a theatrical stage 6 DOWNWARDS 3, 4 (jewels handed ~ in the family) 7a to a concentrated state (got his report ~ to 3 pages) – compare **BOIL DOWN** b so as to be flattened, reduced, eroded, or diluted (water ~ the gin) (heels worn ~) c completely from top to bottom (hose the car ~) [ME *doun*, fr OE *dūne*, short for *adūne*, of *dune*, fr *a-* (fr of), of off, from *dune*, dat of *dun* hill]
- down** *adj* 1 directed or going downwards (the ~ escalator) 2a depressed, dejected b ill (< with flu >) 3 having been finished or dealt with (eight ~ and two to go) 4 with the rudder to windward – used with reference to a ship's helm 5 chiefly Br bound in a direction regarded as down; esp travelling away from a large town, esp London – compare **UP** 9
- down** *prep* 1a down along, round, through, towards, in, into, or on b at the bottom of (the bathroom is ~ those stairs) 2 Br down to; to (going ~ the shops) – nonstandard
- down** *n* a grudge, prejudice – often in *have a down on*
- down** *vt* 1 to cause to go or come down 2 to drink down, swallow quickly – infml 3 to defeat – infml – **down** tools chiefly Br to stop work etc; esp **STRIKE** 7
- down** *n* a covering of soft fluffy feathers [ME *doun*, fr ON *dunn*, akin to ON *daunn* odour, *dýja* to shake]
- down-and-out** *n* or *adj* (sby) destitute or impoverished
- downbeat** /-beet/ *n* the principally accented (e g the first) note of a bar of music
- downbeat** *adj* 1 pessimistic, gloomy 2 relaxed, informal
- down-bow** /boh/ *n* a stroke in playing a bowed instrument (e g a violin) in which the bow is drawn across the strings from the heel to the tip
- downcast** /-kəst/ *adj* 1 dejected, depressed 2 directed downwards (with ~ eyes)
- down-draught** /-draɦt/ *n* a downward movement of gas, esp air (e g in a chimney)
- downer** /downa/ *n* a depressing experience or situation – infml [**DOWN** + **-ER**]
- downfall** /-faw/ *n* 1 (a cause of) a sudden fall (e g from high rank or power) 2 an often heavy fall of rain or esp snow – **downfallen** *adj*
- downfield** /-feeld/ *adv* or *adj* in or into the part of the field towards which the attacking team is playing
- down for** *prep* being on the list to enter (e g a race or school)
- downgrade** /-grayd/ *vt* 1 to lower in rank, value, or importance 2 to alter the status of (a job) so as to lower the rate of pay
- downhearted** /-haɦtɪd/ *adj* downcast, dejected – **downheartedly** *adv*, **downheartedness** *n*
- downhill** /-,ɦɪl/ *n* a skiing race downhill against time – compare **STATION**
- downhill** *adv* 1 towards the bottom of a hill 2 towards a lower or inferior state or level – in *go downhill*
- downhill** *adj* sloping downhill
- Downing Street** /'daɦnɦŋ/ *n* the British government; also (a spokesman for) the British prime minister (talks between Dublin and ~) (< ~ is expected to announce cabinet changes soon >) [Downing Street, London, location of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office and of the prime minister's official residence]
- downland** /-,lænd/ *n* (countryside resembling) the downs
- down-market** *n* being, producing, using, or characteristic of goods designed to appeal to the lower social end of a market – **down-market** *adv*
- down on** *prep* having a low opinion of or grudge against (always ~ him)
- down payment** *n* a deposit paid at the time of purchase or delivery
- down pipe** /-,pɦp/ *n* a pipe for carrying rainwater from the roof to the ground or drain
- downpour** /-,paʊ/ *n* a heavy fall of rain
- downrange** /-,raɦŋ/ *adv* away from a launching site and along the course of a test range (a missile landing 8000 km ~) – **downrange** *adj*
- downright** /-,rɦt/ *adv* thoroughly, outright (< ~ mean >)
- downright** *adj* 1 absolute, thorough (a ~ lie) 2 plain, blunt (a ~ man) – **downrightly** *adv*, **downrightness** *n*
- Down's syndrome** /daɦnz/ *n* a form of congenital mental deficiency in which a child is born with slanting eyes, a broad short skull, and broad hands with short fingers, mongolism [J L H Down †1896 E physician]
- downstage** /-,staj/ *adv* or *adj* at the front of a theatrical stage, also towards the audience or camera
- downstairs** /-,stesz/ *adv* down the stairs; on or to a lower floor
- downstairs** *adj* situated on the main, lower, or ground floor of a building
- downstairs** *n*, *pl* downstairs the lower floor of a building
- downstream** /-,striɦm/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction of the flow of a stream
- downstroke** /-,stroɦk/ *n* a stroke made in a downward direction
- down time** /-,tɦɦm/ *n*, chiefly NAM time during which a machine, factory, or department is inoperative during normal working hours
- down to** *prep* 1 – used to indicate a downward limit or boundary (from the manager ~ the office boy) 2a to be attributed to (the murders are ~ the Kray gang) b being the responsibility of, up to 5
- down-to-earth** *adj* practical, realistic
- down town** /-,taɦn/ *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, chiefly NAM (to, towards, or in) the lower part or main business district of a town or city
- down-trodden** /-,trɒd(a)n/ *adj* oppressed by those in power
- down turn** /-,tɦɦn/ *n* a downward turn, esp towards diminished business activity
- down under** *adv* in or into Australia or New Zealand
- downward** /'daɦnwəd/ *adj* 1 moving or extending downwards (the ~ path) 2 descending to a lower pitch 3 descending from a head, origin, or source – **downwardly** *adv*, **downwardness** *n*
- downwards** /-wɒdz/ *adv* 1a from a higher to a lower place or level; in the opposite direction from up (sun sank ~) b downstream c so as to conceal a particular surface (turned it face ~) 2a from a higher to a lower condition b going down in amount, price, figure, or rank (from the fourth form ~) 3 from an earlier time 4 from an ancestor or predecessor
- downwind** /-,wɦnd/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction that the wind is blowing
- downy** /'daɦni/ *adj* 1 resembling or covered in down 2 made of down
- dowry** /'daɦri/ *n* the money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage [ME *dowarie*, fr AF, irreg fr ML *dotarium*, fr L

- dot-, dos* gift, marriage portion, akin to L *dare* to give – more at <sup>1</sup>DATE]
- <sup>1</sup>**douse** /dows/ *vt* to douse
- <sup>2</sup>**douse** /dowz/ *vi* to search for hidden water or minerals with a divining rod [origin unknown]
- dowser** /dowzə/ *n* (a person using) a divining rod
- dowsing** /dowzɪŋ/ *n* a divining rod
- doxology** /dok'soləʒi/ *n* a liturgical expression of praise to God [ML *doxologia*, fr LGk, fr Gk *doxa* opinion, glory (fr *dokein* to seem, seem good) + *-logia* -logy – more at <sup>1</sup>DECENT]
- doxy** /doksɪ/ *n*, archaic 1 a prostitute 2 MISTRESS 4 [perh modif of obs D *docke* doll, fr MD]
- doyen** /doyən (Fr *doyajɛ̃*)/, *fem* **doyenne** /doy'en (Fr *dwayɛ̃n*)/ *n* the senior or most experienced member of a body or group (*Dan Maskell, ~ of tennis commentators*) [F, fr LL *decanus* dean – more at <sup>1</sup>DEAN]
- doyley**, **doily** /doyli/ *n* a doily
- doze** /dohz/ *vi* 1 to sleep lightly 2 to fall into a light sleep – usu + *off* [prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *dusa* to doze; akin to MHG *dosen* to be quiet, doze] – *doze* *n*, *dozer* *n*
- doze away** *vt* to pass (time) drowsily
- dozen** /'duzən/ *n*, *pl* **dozens**, **dozen** 1 a group of 12 2 an indefinitely large number – usu *pl* with sing. meaning <I've ~s of things to do> [ME *dozaine*, fr OF *dozaine*, fr *doze* twelve, fr L *duodecim*, fr *duo* two + *decem* ten – more at TWO, TEN] – **dozen** *adj*, **dozenth** /'duzənth/ *adj*
- dozy** /'dohzi/ *adj* 1 drowsy, sleepy 2 chiefly Br stupid and slow-witted – *infm*! – *doziness* *n*
- DPN** /dee pee 'en/ *n* – used, esp formerly, for NAD [diphosphopyridine nucleotide]
- <sup>1</sup>**drab** /drab/ *adj* -bb- 1 of a dull brown colour 2 dull, cheerless [*drab* (kind of cloth), alter. of earlier *drap* (cloth), fr MF, fr LL *drappus*] – *drab* *adv*, *drabness* *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**drab** *n* – see <sup>1</sup>DRIBS AND DRABS [prob alter. of *drab*]
- drabble** /drabl/ *vb* **drabbling** /'drabliŋ/ to make or become wet and muddy [ME *drablen*]
- drachm** /drəm/ *n* 1 a drachma 2 a unit of weight equal to 1/16 oz apothecary (about 3.89g)  UNIT [alter of ME *dragme* – more at <sup>1</sup>DRAM]
- drachma** /drakmə/ *n*, *pl* **drachmas**, **drachmae** /-mi/, **drachmai** /-mie/ 1 any of various ancient Greek units of weight 2a an ancient Greek silver coin equivalent to 6 obols *b*  Greece at NATIONALITY [L, fr Gk *drachmé* – more at <sup>1</sup>DRAM]
- draconian** /drai'kohniən-, ni-ən, drə-/ *adj*, **draconic** /drai'konik, drə-/ *adj*, often *cap*, esp of a law extremely severe; drastic [L *Dracon-*, *Draco*, fr Gk *Drakōn* fl 621bc Athenian lawgiver]
- <sup>1</sup>**draft** /draɪt/ *n* 1 the act, result, or plan of drawing out or sketching: e.g. a construction plan *b* a preliminary sketch, outline, or version <a rough ~ of a book> 2a a group of individuals selected for a particular job *b* (the group of individuals resulting from) the selecting of certain animals from a herd or flock 3a an order for the payment of money drawn by one person or bank on another *b* (an instance of) drawing from or making demands on sthg 4 chiefly NAM conscription – usu + *the* 5 NAM a draught [var of *draught*]
- <sup>2</sup>**draft** *adj* 1 esp of livestock chosen from a group 2 NAM draught
- <sup>3</sup>**draft** *vt* 1 to draw the preliminary sketch, version, or plan of 2 NAM to conscript for military service – *draftable* *adj*, *draftee* /draɪt'fi:/ *n*, *drafter* *n*
- draftsman** /draɪtsmən/ *n* sby who draws up legal documents or other writings
- <sup>1</sup>**drag** /drag/ *n* 1 a device for dragging under water to search for objects 2a sthg that retards motion, action, or progress *b* the retarding force acting on a body (e.g. an aircraft) moving through a fluid (e.g. air), parallel and opposite to the direction of motion *c* a burden, encumbrance 3 an object drawn over the ground to leave a scented trail (e.g. for dogs to follow) 4a a drawing along or over a surface with effort or pressure *b* motion effected with slowness or difficulty *c* a drawing into the mouth of pipe, cigarette, or cigar smoke – *infm*! 5a woman's clothing worn by a man – slang; often in *in drag* *b* clothing – slang 6 a dull or boring person or experience – slang
- <sup>2</sup>**drag** *vb* -gg- *vt* 1a to draw slowly or heavily; haul *b* to cause to move with painful or undue slowness or difficulty 2a to search (a body of water) with a drag *b* to catch with a dragnet or trawl 3 to bring by force or compulsion – *infm*! (<had to ~ her husband to the opera>) ~ *vi* 1 to hang or lag behind 2 to trail along on the ground 3 to move or proceed laboriously or tediously – *infm*! (<the book ~s>) 4 to draw tobacco smoke into the mouth – usu + *on* (<on a cigarette>); *infm*! [ME *dragen*, fr
- ON *draga* or OE *dragan* – more at <sup>1</sup>DRAW] – *draggingly* *adv* – *drag one's feet/heels* to act in a deliberately slow, dilatory, or ineffective manner
- <sup>3</sup>**drag** *adj* of drag racing
- <sup>4</sup>**drag** *anchor* *n* SEA ANCHOR
- dragée** /draʒhay (Fr *draʒe*)/ *n* 1 a sugar-coated nut or fruit 2 a small silver-coloured sugar ball for decorating cakes [F, fr MF *dragie* – more at <sup>1</sup>DREDGE]
- dragg** /dragl/ *vb* **dragging** /'dragliŋ/ *drag* *ing* *vt* to make wet and dirty ~ *vi* 1 to trail on the ground 2 to straggle [freq of *drag*]
- draggy** /draʒi/ *adj* dull or boring <spent a really ~ evening with relations>
- dragline** /-li:n/ *n* an excavating machine in which the bucket is drawn in by cables
- dragonet** /-net/ *n* 1 a net drawn along the bottom of a body of water or the ground to catch fish or small game 2 a network of measures for apprehension (e.g. of criminals)
- dragoman** /'dragohmən/ *n*, *pl* **dragomans**, **dragomen** /-mən/ an interpreter, chiefly of Arabic, Turkish, or Persian, employed esp in the Near East [ME *drogman*, fr MF, fr OIt *dragomanno*, fr MGk *dragomanos*, fr Ar *tarjuman*, fr Aram *turgēmanā*]
- dragon** /'dræɡən/ *n* 1 a mythical winged and clawed monster, often breathing fire 2 a fierce, combative, or very strict person [ME, fr OF, fr L *dracon-*, *draco* serpent, dragon, fr Gk *drakon* serpent, akin to OE *torht* bright, Gk *derkesthai* to see, look at, Skt *darsayati* he causes to see] – *dragonish* *adj*
- dragonet** /'draɡənɪt/ *n* any of various small often brightly coloured scaleless marine fishes constituting a family [*dragon* + *-et*]
- dragonfly** /-fli:/ *n* any of a suborder of long slender-bodied often brightly coloured insects that have a fine network of veins in their wings and often live near water – compare DAMSELFLY
- dragonnade** /draʒ'naɪd/ *n* persecution using troops, specif any of a series of persecutions of French Protestants under Louis XIV by soldiers who were quartered on them [F, fr *dragon* dragon]
- dragon's blood** *n* a darkened resin from the fruit of a palm used for colouring varnish and in photoengraving
- <sup>1</sup>**dragoon** /dra'ɡooɦn/ *n* a member of a European military unit formerly composed of mounted infantrymen armed with carbines [F *dragon* dragon, musket, dragoon, fr MF]
- <sup>2</sup>**dragoon** *vt* 1 to reduce to subjection by harsh use of troops 2 to (attempt to) force into submission by persecution
- drag race** *n* an acceleration contest between cars, motorcycles, etc usu over 1/4 mile (about 402m) – *drag racing* *n*
- dragster** /'draɡstə/ *n* (the driver of) a vehicle, esp a motor car, built or modified for use in a drag race
- drag strip** *n* a track for drag racing
- drail** /draɪl/ *n* a heavy fishhook used in trolling [obs *drail* (to drag, trail), perh alter. of *trail*]
- <sup>1</sup>**drain** /draɪn/ *vt* 1a to draw off (liquid) gradually or completely *b* to exhaust physically or emotionally 2a to make gradually dry (<~ a swamp>) *b* to carry away the surface water of *c* to deplete or empty (as if) by drawing off gradually (<war that ~s a nation of youth and wealth>) *d* to empty by drinking the contents of (<ed his glass>) ~ *vi* 1 to flow off gradually 2 to become gradually dry [ME *draynen*, fr OE *draehnian*] – *drainer* *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**drain** *n* 1 a means (e.g. a pipe) by which usu liquid matter is drained away 2 a gradual outflow or withdrawal 3 sthg that causes depletion, a burden – down the drain being used wastefully or brought to nothing <years of work went down the drain in the fire at his studio>
- drainage** /draɪniʒ/ *n* 1a draining *b* sthg drained off 2 a system of drains
- draining board** /'draɪniŋ/ *n*, Br a usu grooved and often slightly sloping surface at the side of a sink unit on which washed dishes are placed to drain
- drainpipe** /-pi:p/ *n* a pipe that carries waste, liquid sewage, excess water, etc away from a building
- drainpipe trousers**, **drainpipes** *n* *pl* tight trousers with narrow legs  CLOTHING
- drake** /draɪk/ *n* a mayfly; esp an artificial one used as bait in angling [ME, *drakon*, fr OE *draca*; akin to ON *dreki* dragon; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr L *draco* dragon – more at <sup>1</sup>DRAOON]
- <sup>2</sup>**drake** *n* a male duck [ME; akin to OHG *antrahho* drake]
- Dralon** /draɪlən/ *trademark* – used for an acrylic fibre used chiefly in upholstery
- drum** /drəm/ *n* 1 a unit of mass equal to 1/16 oz avoirdupois (about 1.77g)  UNIT 2 chiefly Scot a tot of spirits, usu whisky [ME *dragme*, fr MF

& LL; MF, dram, drachma, fr LL *dragma*, fr L *drachma*, fr Gk *drachmē*, lit., handful, fr *drassesthai* to grasp]

**drama** /ˈdrɑːmɑ/ *n* 1 a composition in verse or prose intended to portray life or character or to tell a story through action and dialogue, *specif* a play 2 dramatic art, literature, or affairs 3 a situation or set of events having the qualities of a drama [LL *dramat-*, *drama*, fr Gk, deed, drama, fr *dran* to do, act; prob akin to Lith *daryti* to do]

**dramatic** /drəˈmætɪk/ *adj* 1 of drama 2a suitable to or characteristic of drama; vivid b striking in appearance or effect [MF & LL; MF *dramaticus*, fr LL *dramaticus*, fr Gk *dramatikos*, fr *dramat-*, *drama*] – **dramatically** *adv*

**dramatic irony** *n* incongruity between a situation developed in a play and the accompanying words or actions that is understood by the audience but not by the characters

**dramatics** *n pl* 1 *sing or pl in constr* the study or practice of theatrical arts (e.g. acting and stagecraft) 2 dramatic behaviour, esp an exaggerated display of emotion

**dramatis personae** /ˌdrɑːmætɪs puːˈsɒniː/ *n pl* (a list of) the characters or actors in a play [NL]

**dramatist** /ˈdrɑːmætɪst, ˈdra-/ *n* a playwright

**dramatize**, **-ise** /ˈdrɑːmætɪz, ˈdra-/ *vt* 1 to adapt (e.g. a novel) for theatrical presentation 2 to present in a dramatic manner ~ *vi* 1 to be suitable for dramatization 2 to behave dramatically – **dramatizable** /-ˈtɪzəbəl/ *adj*; **dramatization** /-ˈtɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**dramaturgy** /ˈdrɑːmɑːtʃuː/ *n* the art or technique of dramatic composition and theatrical representation [G *dramaturgie*, fr Gk *dramaturgia* dramatic composition, fr *dramatourgos* dramatist, fr *dramat-*, *drama* + *-ourgos* worker, fr *ergon* work – more at **WORK**] – **dramaturgic** /ˈdrɑːmɑːtʃuːjɪk/, **dramaturgical** *adj*, **dramaturgically** *adv*

**drank** /ˈdræŋk/ *past* of **DRINK**

**drape** /ˈdræp/ *vt* 1 to cover or decorate (as if) with folds of cloth 2 to hang or stretch loosely or carelessly (< *d his legs over the chair*) 3 to arrange in flowing lines or folds [ME *drapen* to weave, fr MF *draper*, fr *drap* cloth – more at **DRAW**] – **drapable** *also* **drapeable** *adj*, **drapability** *also* **drapeability** /ˈdræpəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**drape** *n* a piece of drapery, esp, chiefly *NAM* a curtain

**draper** /ˈdræpə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a dealer in cloth and sometimes also in clothing, haberdashery, and soft furnishings [ME, maker of cloth, fr MF *drapier*, fr OF, fr *drap*]

**drapery** /ˈdræp(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1a (a piece of) cloth or clothing arranged or hung gracefully, esp in loose folds b cloth or textile fabrics used esp for clothing or soft furnishings; *also*, *NAM* hangings of heavy fabric used as a curtain 2 the draping or arranging of materials 3a *Br* the trade of a draper b the goods sold by a draper

**drastic** /ˈdræstɪk/ *adj* 1 acting rapidly or violently (< *a ~ purgative*) 2 radical in effect or action; severe [Gk *drastikos*, fr *dran* to do] – **drastically** *adv*

**drat** /ˈdræt/ *vt* -tt- to damn – euph; used as a mild oath [prob euphemism for *God rot*]

**draught**, *NAM* chiefly **draft** /ˈdraʊt/ *n* 1 (the quantity of fish taken by) the act of drawing a net 2 a team of animals together with what they draw 3 the act or an instance of drinking; *also*, *NAM* the portion drunk in such an act 4 the act of drawing (e.g. from a cask); *also* a quantity of liquid so drawn 5 the depth of water a ship requires to float in, esp when loaded 6 a current of air in a closed-in space [ME *draght*; akin to OE *dragan* to draw – more at **DRAW**] – on **draught** of beer or cider ready to be served from the cask or barrel with or without the use of added gas in serving

**draught**, *NAM* chiefly **draft** *adj* 1 used for drawing loads (< *oxen*) 2 served from the barrel or cask (< *beer*)

**draughtboard** /-ˈbɔːrd/ *n* a chessboard

**draughts** /ˈdraʊts/ *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr*, *Br* a game for 2 players each of whom moves his/her usu 12 draughtsmen according to fixed rules across a chessboard usu using only the black squares [ME *draghtes*, fr pl of *draht* draught, move in chess]

**draughtsman** /ˈdraʊtsmən/ *n* 1a an artist skilled in drawing b *ferm* 'draughtswoman' sby who draws plans and sketches (e.g. of machinery or structures) 2 *Br* a disc-shaped piece used in draughts

**draughty** /ˈdraʊti/ *adj* having a cold draught blowing through

**Dravidian** /ˈdrævɪdi-ən, -dɔːn/ *n* 1 a member of any of the peoples of S India and Sri Lanka who speak Dravidian 2 any of several languages of India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan (e.g. Tamil and Malayalam) [Skt *Dravida*] – **Dravidian** *adj*

**draw** /draʊ/ *vb* *drew* /ˈdruː/; *drawn* /ˈdraʊn/ *vt* 1 to pull, haul 2 to cause to go in a certain direction (< *drew him aside*) 3a to attract (< *honey ~s flies*) b to bring in, gather, or derive from a specified source (< *a college*

*that ~s its students from many towns*) < *drew inspiration from his teacher*) c to bring on oneself, provoke (< *drew enemy fire*) d to bring out by way of response; elicit (< *drew cheers from the audience*) 4 to inhale (< *drew a deep breath*) 5a to bring or pull out, esp with effort (< *a tooth*) (< *a sword*) b to extract the essence from (< *tea*) c to disembowel (< *pluck and ~ a goose*) d to cause (blood) to flow 6 to require (a specified depth) to float in 7a to accumulate, gain (< *ing interest*) b to take (money) from a place of deposit – often + *out* c to use in making a cash demand (< *ing a cheque on his account*) d to receive regularly, esp from a particular source (< *a salary*) 8a to take (cards) from a dealer or pack b to receive or take at random (< *drew a winning number*) 9 to bend (a bow) by pulling back the string 10 to strike (a ball) so as to impart a curved motion or backspin 11 to leave undecided or have equal scores in (a contest) 12 to produce a likeness of (e.g. by making lines on a surface), portray, delineate 13 to formulate or arrive at by reasoning (< *a conclusion*) (< *comparisons*) 14 to pull together and close (e.g. curtains) 15 to stretch or shape (esp metal) by pulling through dies; *also* to produce (e.g. a wire) thus 16 to drive game out of ~ *vi* 1 to come or go steadily or gradually (< *night ~s near*) 2 to advance as far as a specified position (< *drew level*) (< *drew up to the front door*) 3a to pull back a bowstring b to bring out a weapon 4a to produce or allow a draught (< *the chimney ~s well*) b of a sail to swell out in a wind 5 to steep, infuse (< *give the tea time to ~*) 6 to sketch 7 to finish a competition or contest without either side winning 8a to make a written demand for payment of money on deposit b to obtain resources (e.g. of information) (< *ing from a common fund of knowledge*) 9 chiefly *NAM* to suck in sth, esp tobacco smoke – *usu* + *on* [ME *drawen*, *dragen*, fr OE *dragan*; akin to ON *draga* to draw, drag, & perh to L *trahere* to pull, draw] – **draw** a blank to fail to gain the desired object (e.g. information sought) – **draw lots** to decide an issue by lottery in which objects of unequal length or with different markings are used – **draw on/upon** to use as source of supply (< *drawing on the whole community for support*) – **draw rein** to bring a horse to a stop while riding – **draw stumps** to end play in a cricket match – **draw the/a line** 1 to fix an arbitrary boundary between things that tend to merge (< *the difficulty of drawing a line between art and pornography*) 2 to fix a boundary excluding what one will not tolerate or engage in – *usu* + *at*


**draw** *n* 1a a sucking pull on sth held between the lips (< *took a ~ on his pipe*) b the removing of a handgun from its holster in order to shoot 2 a drawing of lots, a raffle 3 a contest left undecided; a tie 4 sth that draws public attention or patronage 5 the usu random assignment of starting positions in a competition, esp a competitive sport 6 *NAM* the movable part of a drawbridge

**draw away** *vi* to move ahead (e.g. of an opponent in a race) gradually

**drawback** /-ˈbæk/ *n* an objectionable feature; a disadvantage

**draw back** *vi* to avoid an issue or commitment, retreat

**drawbar** /-ˈbɑː/ *n* 1 a railway vehicle coupling 2 a beam across the rear of a tractor to which implements are hitched

**drawbridge** /-ˈbrɪdʒ/ *n* a bridge made to be raised up, let down, or drawn aside so as to permit or hinder passage  **CHURCH**

**drawee** /ˈdraʊi/ *n* the person on whom an order or bill of exchange is drawn

**drawer** /ˈsense 1/ˈdraʊ-ə, senses 2, 3/ˈdraʊ/ *n* 1 one who draws a bill of exchange or order for payment or makes a promissory note 2 an open-topped box in a piece of furniture which to open and close slides back and forth in its frame 3 *pl* an undergarment for the lower body – *now* *usu* *humor* [ˈdraʊ + -ER]

**draw in** *vi* 1 to cause or entice to enter or participate 2 to sketch roughly (< *drawing in the first outlines*) ~ *vi* 1 of a train to come into a station 2 of successive days to grow shorter (e.g. in winter)

**drawing** /ˈdraʊ-ɪŋ/ *n* 1 the art or technique of representing an object, figure, or plan by means of lines 2 sth drawn or subject to drawing: e.g. a amount drawn from a fund b a representation formed by drawing

**drawing board** *n* 1 a board to which paper is attached for drawing on 2 a planning stage (< *a project still on the ~*) (< *back to the ~*)

**drawing pin**, *Br* a pin with a broad flat head for fastening esp sheets of paper to boards

**drawing room** *n* 1 a formal reception room 2 **LIVING ROOM** – *fm* [short for *withdrawing room*]

**drawl** /ˈdraʊl/ *vb* to speak or utter slowly and often affectedly, with vowels greatly prolonged [prob freq. of *draw*] – **drawler** *n*, **drawlingly** *adv*

**drawl** *n* a drawing manner of speaking – **drawly** *adj*



- drawnwork** /ˈdrɔːnwɜːk/ *n* decoration on cloth made by drawing out threads according to a pattern
- draw off** *vt* to remove (liquid) ~ *vi* of troops to move apart (and form new groups)
- draw on** *vi* to approach (<night draws on>) ~ *vt* 1 to cause; BRING ON 1 2 to put on (<she drew on her gloves>)
- draw out** *vt* 1 to remove, extract 2 to extend beyond a minimum in time, prolong 3 to cause to speak freely
- draw, plate** /ˈdɹɔːplæt/ *n* a die with holes through which wires are drawn
- draw, string** /ˈdɹɔːstrɪŋ/ *n* a string or tape threaded through fabric, which when pulled closes an opening (e.g. of a bag) or gathers material (e.g. of curtains or clothes)
- draw up** *vt* 1 to bring (e.g. troops) into array 2 DRAFT 1 3 to straighten (oneself) to an erect posture, esp. as an assertion of dignity or resentment 4 to bring to a halt ~ *vi* to come to a halt
- dray** /dɹeɪ/ *n* a strong low cart or wagon without sides, used esp. by brewers [ME *draye*, a wheelless vehicle, fr OE *dræge* dragnet; akin to OE *dragan* to pull – more at DRAW]
- dray** a drey
- dray, horse** /ˈdɹɔːhɔːs/ *n* a large and powerful horse used esp. to pull drays
- drayman** /ˈdɹɔːmən/ *n* sby who drives a vehicle (e.g. a dray or lorry) for a brewery
- dread** /dred/ *vt* 1 to fear greatly 2 to be extremely apprehensive about [ME *dreden*, fr OE *driēdan*; akin to OS *antradan* to fear, dread, OHG *intrātan*]
- dread** *n* (the object of) great fear, uneasiness, or apprehension
- dread** *adj* causing or inspiring dread [ME *dred*, fr pp of *dreden*]
- dreadful** /ˈfɹɪ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 inspiring dread; causing great and oppressive fear 2a extremely unpleasant or shocking b very disagreeable (e.g. through dullness or poor quality) 3 extreme (<~ disorder>) – *dreadfully* *adv*, *dreadfulness* *n*
- dreadlocks** /ˈdredlɒks/ *n pl* the long matted often hennaed locks of hair worn by male Rastafarians
- dreadnought** /ˈdrednaʊt/ *n* a battleship whose main armament consists of big guns of the same calibre [Dreadnought, Br battleship, the first of this type, launched in 1906]
- dream** /drem/ *n* 1 a series of thoughts, images, or emotions occurring during sleep 2 a daydream, reverie (<walked round in a ~ all day>) 3 sth notable for its beauty, excellence, or enjoyable quality (<the new car goes like a ~>) 4 a strongly desired goal; an ambition (<his ~ of becoming president>); also a realization of an ambition – often used attributively (<a ~ house>) [ME *dreem*, fr OE *dream* noise, joy, akin to OHG *troum* dream, ON *draumr*, Gk *thrylos* noise, din] – *dreamful* *adj*, *dreamfully* *adv*, *dreamfulness* *n*, *dreamless* *adj*, *dreamlessly* *adv*, *dreamlessness* *n*, *dreamlike* *adj*
- dream** *vb* dreamed /dremd/, dreamt /dremt/ *vi* 1 to have a dream 2 to indulge in daydreams or fantasies (<~ing of a better future>) ~ *vt* 1 to have a dream of 2 to consider as a possibility; imagine 3 to pass (time) in reverie or inaction – usu + away – *dreamer* *n* – *dream* of to consider even the possibility of – in neg constructions (<wouldn't dream of disturbing you>)
- dream, boat** /ˈdrembɔːt/ *n* a highly attractive person of the opposite sex – infml; no longer in vogue
- dream, land** /ˈdremlənd/ *n* an unreal delightful region existing only in imagination or in fantasy, NEVER-NEVER LAND
- dream, time** /ˈdremtiːm/ *n* a Golden Age following the Creation in the mythology of some Australian Aborigines
- dream up** *vt* to devise, invent – infml
- dreamy** /ˈdremi/ *adj* 1 pleasantly abstracted from immediate reality 2 given to dreaming or fantasy (<a ~ child>) 3a suggestive of a dream in vague or visionary quality b delightful, pleasing; esp. of a man sexually attractive – infml – *dreamily* *adv*, *dreaminess* *n*
- dreary** /ˈdriː/ *adj* dreary – poetic [short for *dreary*]
- dreary** /ˈdriː/ *adj* causing feelings of cheerlessness or gloom; dull [ME *drery*, fr OE *dreorig* sad, bloody, fr *drōor* gore; akin to OHG *truren* to be sad, Goth *drisun* to fall, Gk *thrauein* to shatter] – *drearily* *adv*, *dreariness* *n*
- dredge** /dredʒ/ *n* 1 an oblong frame with an attached net for gathering fish, shellfish, etc. from the bottom of the sea, a river, etc. 2 a machine for removing earth, mud, etc. usu by buckets on an endless chain or a suction tube [prob fr *ſc dredg* (in *dredg* dredge boat)]
- dredge** *vi* 1a to dig, gather, or pull out with a dredge – often + up or out b to deepen (e.g. a waterway) with a dredging machine 2 to bring to light by thorough searching – usu + up (<dredging up memories>); infml ~ *vi* to use a dredge
- dredge** *vt* to coat (e.g. food) by sprinkling (e.g. with flour) [obs *dredge*, *n* (sweetmeat), fr ME *drage*, *drege*, fr MF *dragie*, modif of L *tragemata* sweetmeats, fr Gk *tragēmata*, pl of *tragēma* sweetmeat, fr *trōgein* to gnaw – more at TERSE] – *dredger* *n*
- dredger** /ˈdredʒə/ *n* a barge with an apparatus for dredging harbours, waterways, etc. [ˈDREDGE + ˈER]
- dreg** /dreg/ *n* 1 sediment; lees 2 the most undesirable part (<the ~s of society>) USE usu pl with sing. meaning [ME, fr ON *dregg*; akin to L *frases* dregs of oil, Gk *thrassein* to trouble]
- D, region** *n* the lowest part of the ionosphere occurring between about 40 and 65 km (25 and 40 mi) above the surface of the earth
- dreich** /dreekh/ *adj*, Scot. bleak, dismal (<a ~ view over barren moors>) (<a ~ January morning>) [ME *dreg*, *dreich*, of Scand. origin; akin to ON *drjúgr* substantial, lasting]
- drench** /drench/ *n* a poisonous or medicinal drink, esp. put down the throat of an animal
- drench** *vt* 1 to administer a drench to (an animal) 2 to make thoroughly wet (e.g. with falling water or by immersion); saturate [ME *drenchen*, fr OE *drēncan*; akin to OE *drincan* to drink, OHG *trenken* to cause to drink, ON *drekkja* to drown]
- Dresden** /ˈdredz(ə)n/ *n* a type of ornate and delicately coloured porcelain made at Meissen near Dresden; Meissen [Dresden, city in Saxony, Germany] – *Dresden* *adj*
- dress** /dres/ *vi* 1 to arrange (e.g. troops) in the proper alignment 2a to put clothes on b to provide with clothing 3 to add decorative details or accessories to; embellish (<~ a Christmas tree>) 4 to prepare for use or service; to prepare (e.g. a chicken) for cooking or eating 5a to apply dressings or medicaments to (e.g. a wound) b(1) to arrange (the hair) (2) to groom and curry (an animal) c to kill and prepare for market d to cultivate, esp. by applying manure or fertilizer e to finish the surface of (e.g. timber, stone, or textiles) BUILDING f to arrange goods on a display in (e.g. a shop window) ~ *vi* 1a to put on clothing b to put on or wear formal, elaborate, or fancy clothes (<guests were expected to ~ for dinner>) 2 to align oneself properly in a line 3 of a man to have one's genitals lying on a specified side of the trouser crutch (<do you ~ to the right or left, sir?>) [ME *dressen*, fr MF *dresser*, fr OF *dreier*, fr (assumed) VL *directare*, fr L *directus* direct, pp of *dirigere* to direct, fr *dis-* + *regere* to lead straight – more at RIGHT]
- dress** *n* 1 utilitarian or ornamental covering for the human body; esp. clothing suitable for a particular purpose or occasion 2 a 1-piece outer garment including both top and skirt usu for a woman or girl 3 covering, adornment, or appearance appropriate or peculiar to a specified time (<18th-century ~>) USE GARMENT
- dress** *adj* of, being, or suitable for an occasion requiring or permitting formal dress (<a ~ affair>)
- dressage** /ˈdresahz/ *n* the execution by a trained horse of precise movements in response to its rider [F, preparation, straightening, training, fr *dresser* to prepare, make straight, train]
- dress, circle** *n* the first or lowest curved tier of seats in a theatre
- dress down** *vt* to reprove severely – *dressing down* *n*
- dresser** /ˈdresə/ *n* 1 a piece of kitchen furniture resembling a sideboard with a high back and having compartments and shelves for holding dishes and cooking utensils 2 chiefly NAm a chest of drawers or bureau with a mirror [ME *dressore*, *dresser*, fr MF *dresser*, fr OF *drepor*, fr *dreier* to arrange]
- dresser** *n* a person who looks after stage costumes and helps actors to dress [ˈDRESS + ˈER]
- dressing** /ˈdresɪŋ/ *n* 1 a seasoning, sauce, or stuffing 2 material applied to cover a wound, sore, etc. 3 manure or compost to improve the growth of plants [ˈDRESS + ˈING]
- dressing gown** *n* a loose robe worn esp. over nightclothes or when not fully dressed
- dressing room** *n* a room used chiefly for dressing; esp. a room in a theatre for changing costumes and make-up
- dressing station** *n* a station for giving first aid to the wounded
- dressing table** *n* a table usu fitted with drawers and a mirror for use while dressing and grooming oneself
- dress, maker** /ˈdreɪmə/ *n* sby who makes dresses – *dressmaking* *n*
- dress rehearsal** *n* 1 a full rehearsal of a play in costume and with stage props shortly before the first performance 2 a full-scale practice; DRY RUN 2
- dress, shield** *n* SHIELD 3
- dress up** *vi* 1a(1) to clothe in best or formal clothes (2) to make suitable



for a formal occasion (e.g. by adding accessories) < dressing up a *smock with a gill belt and scarves* > **b** to dress in clothes suited to a particular assumed role **2** to present or cause to appear in a certain light (e.g. by distortion or exaggeration) ~ *vi* to get dressed up

**dressy** /dres/ *adj* **1** of a person showy in dress **2** of clothes stylish, smart **3** overly elaborate in appearance - *dressiness* *n*

**drew** /drooh/ *past of DRAW*

**drey**, **dray** /dray/ *n* a squirrel's nest [origin unknown]

**drib** /drɪb/ *n* - see **DRIBS** AND **DRABS** [prob back-formation fr *dribble* & *driblet* (drop of liquid, trifle)]

**dribble** /drɪbl/ *vb* **dribbled**; **dribbling** /drɪblɪŋ/ *vi* **1** to fall or flow in drops or in a thin intermittent stream, trickle **2** to let saliva trickle from the mouth, drool **3** to come or issue in piecemeal or disconnected fashion **4a** to dribble a ball or puck **b** to proceed by dribbling *c* of a ball to move with short bounces ~ *vi* to propel (a ball or puck) by successive slight taps or bounces with hand, foot, or stick [freq of *drb* (to dribble), prob alter of *drp*] - *dribbler* *n*

**dribble** *n* **1** a small trickling stream or flow **2** a tiny or insignificant bit or quantity **3** an act or instance of dribbling

**drips and drabs** /drɪbz ɔn 'dræbz/ *n pl* small usu scattered amounts - *infml*

**dried-up** *adj* wizened, shrivelled

**drier** *also dryer* /drie-/ *n* **1** a substance that accelerates drying (e.g. of oils and printing inks) **2** any of various machines for drying sth (e.g. the hair or clothes)

**drift** /drɪft/ *n* sth driven, propelled, or urged along or drawn (as if) by a natural agency e.g. **1a** a mass of sand, snow, etc deposited (as if) by wind or water **b** rock debris deposited by natural wind, water, etc, *specif* a deposit of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders transported by (running water from) a glacier **2** a general underlying tendency or meaning, esp of what is spoken or written **3** a tool for ramming down or driving sth, usu into or out of a hole **4** the motion or action of drifting e.g. **a** a ship's deviation from its course caused by currents **b** a slow-moving ocean current *c* the lateral motion of an aircraft due to air currents **d** an easy, moderate, more or less steady flow along a spatial course *e* a gradual shift in attitude, opinion, or emotion *f* an aimless course, with no attempt at direction or control *g* a deviation from a true reproduction, representation, or reading **5** a nearly horizontal mine passage on or parallel to a vein or rock stratum **6** a gradual change in a supposedly constant characteristic of a device, esp an electrical one [ME; akin to OE *drifan* to drive - more at **DRIVE**] - *drifty* *adj*

**drift** *vi* **1a** to become driven or carried along by a current of water or air **b** to move or float smoothly and effortlessly **2a** to move in a random or casual way **b** to become carried along aimlessly < the conversation ~ ed from one topic to another > **3** to pile up under the force of wind or water **4** to deviate from a set adjustment ~ *vi* to pile up in a drift

**drifter** /drɪftə/ *n* **1** sby or sth that travels or moves about aimlessly **2** a coastal fishing boat equipped with drift nets [<sup>2</sup> *DRIFT* + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**drift, net** *n* a large fishing net that hangs vertically and is arranged to drift with the tide, currents, etc

**driftwood** /-,wud/ *n* wood cast up on a shore or beach

**drill** /drɪl/ *vt* **1a** to bore or drive a hole in (as if) by the piercing action of a drill **b** to make (e.g. a hole) by piercing action **2a** to instruct and exercise by repeating **b** to train or exercise in military drill ~ *vi* **1** to make a hole with a drill **2** to engage in esp military drill [D *drillen*, akin to OHG *drīen* to turn - more at **THROW**] - *drillable* *adj*

**drill** *n* **1** (a device or machine for rotating) a tool with an edged or pointed end for making a hole in a solid substance by revolving or by a succession of blows **2** training in marching and the manual of arms **3** a physical or mental exercise aimed at improving facility and skill by regular practice **4** a marine snail that bores through oyster shells and eats the flesh **5** chiefly Br the approved or correct procedure for accomplishing sth efficiently - *infml*

**drill** *n* **1a** a shallow furrow into which seed is sown **b** a row of seed sown in such a furrow **2a** a planting implement that makes holes or furrows, drops in the seed and sometimes fertilizer, and covers them with earth [perh fr arch. *drill* (rill)]

**drill** *vt* **1** to sow (seeds) by dropping along a shallow furrow **2** to sow with seed or set with seedlings inserted in drills

**drill** *n* a durable cotton fabric in twill weave [short for *drilling*, modif of G *drillich*, fr MHG *drilich* fabric woven with a threefold thread, fr OHG *drilih* made up of three threads, fr L *trīlic*, *trīlix*, fr *tri-* + *licum* (thread)]

**drily** /drɪli/ *adv* dryly

**drink** /drɪŋk/ *vb* **drank** /dræŋk/; **drunk** /drʌŋk/, **drank** *vt* **1a** to

swallow (a liquid), *also* to swallow the liquid contents of (e.g. a cup) **b** to take in or suck up, absorb < ~ing air into his lungs > *c* to take in or receive avidly - usu + *in* < drank in every word of the lecture > **2** to join in (a toast) **3** to bring to a specified state by taking drink < drank himself into oblivion > ~ *vi* **1** to take liquid into the mouth for swallowing **2** to drink alcoholic beverages, esp habitually or to excess [ME *drinken*, fr OE *drincan*, akin to OHG *trinkan* to drink] - *drink like a fish* to habitually drink alcohol to excess - *drink to* to drink a toast to

**drink** *n* **1a** liquid suitable for swallowing **b** alcoholic drink < a ~ s cupboard > **2** a draught or portion of liquid for drinking **3** excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages < drove him to ~ > **4** OCEAN **1**; broadly any sizable body of water - *the, infml*

**drinkable** /drɪŋkəbl/ *adj* suitable or safe for drinking

**drinker** /drɪŋkə/ *n* one who drinks alcoholic beverages to excess [<sup>1</sup> *DRINK* + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**drip** /drɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vi* to let fall in drops ~ *vi* **1a** to let fall drops of moisture or liquid **b** to overflow (as if) with moisture < a novel that ~s with sentimentality > **2** to fall (as if) in drops [ME *druppen*, fr OE *dryppan*, akin to OE *dropa* drop] - *dripper* *n*

**drip** *n* **1a** the action or sound of falling in drops **b** liquid that falls, overflows, or is forced out in drops **2** a projection for throwing off rainwater **3a** a device for the administration of a liquid at a slow rate, esp into a vein **b** a substance administered by means of a drip < a saline ~ > **4** a dull or inconsequential person - *infml* - *dripless* *adj*, *drippy* *adj*

**drip-dry** *vb* to dry with few or no wrinkles when hung dripping wet

**drip-dry** *adj* made of a washable fabric that drip-dries -  *SYMBOL*

**drip-feed** *n* **DRIP** **3A**

**dripping** /drɪpɪŋ/ *n* the fat that runs out from meat during roasting

**dripstone** /-,stəʊn/ *n* **1** a drip made of stone (e.g. over a window) **2** calcium carbonate in the form of stalactites or stalagmites

**drip, tray** *n* a tray for catching drips (e.g. of water from the freezing compartment of a refrigerator during defrosting)

**drive** /driev/ *vb* **drove** /droh-v/, **driven** /drɪv(ə)n/ *vt* **1a** to set in motion by physical force **b** to force into position by blows < ~ a nail into the wall > *c* to repulse or cause to go by force, authority, or influence < ~ the enemy back > < drove the thought from my mind > *d* to set or keep in motion or operation < ~ machinery by electricity > **2a** to control and direct the course of (a vehicle or draught animal) **b** to convey or transport in a vehicle **3** to carry on or through energetically < driving a hard bargain >

**4a** to exert inescapable or persuasive pressure on; force **b** to compel to undergo or suffer a change (e.g. in situation, awareness, or emotional state) < drove him crazy > *c* to urge relentlessly to continuous exertion **5** to cause (e.g. game or cattle) to move in a desired direction **6** to bore (e.g. a tunnel or passage) **7a** to propel (an object of play) swiftly **b** to play a drive in cricket at (a ball) or at the bowling of (a bowler) ~ *vi* **1** to rush or dash rapidly or with force against an obstruction < rain driving against the windscreen > **2** to operate a vehicle **3** to drive an object of play (e.g. a golf ball) [ME *driven*, fr OE *drifan*, akin to OHG *trīban* to drive] - *drive at* to imply as an ultimate meaning or conclusion < couldn't work out what she was driving at > - *drive up the wall* to infuriate or madden (sby)

**drive** *n* **1** an act of driving: e.g. **a** a trip in a carriage or motor vehicle **b** a shoot in which the game is driven within the range of the guns **2** a private road giving access from a public way to a building on private land **3** a (military) offensive, aggressive, or expansionist move **4** a strong systematic group effort, a campaign **5a** a motivating instinctual need or acquired desire < a sexual ~ > < a ~ for perfection > **b** great zeal in pursuing one's ends **6a** the means for giving motion to a machine (part) < a chain ~ > **b** the means by or position from which the movement of a motor vehicle is controlled or directed **7** a device including a transport and heads for reading information from or writing information onto a tape, esp magnetic tape, or disc **8** the act or an instance of driving an object of play; esp an attacking cricket stroke played conventionally with a straight bat and designed to send the ball in front of the batsman's wicket

**drive-in** *adj* or *n* (being) a place (e.g. a bank, cinema, or restaurant) that people can use while remaining in their cars

**drivel** /drɪvl/ *vi* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /drɪvl-ɪŋ/ **1** to let saliva dribble from the mouth or mucus run from the nose **2** to talk stupidly and childishly or carelessly [ME *drivelen*, fr OE *dreflian*, akin to ON *draf* malt dregs, OE *deorc* dark] - *drieller* *n*

**drivel** *n* foolish or childish nonsense

**driver** /drievə/ *n* **1** a coachman **2** the operator of a motor vehicle **3** an implement (e.g. a hammer) for driving **4** a mechanical piece for imparting motion to another piece **5** a golf club with a wooden head used in hitting the ball long distances, esp off the tee [<sup>1</sup> *DRIVE* + <sup>1</sup>-ER] - *driverless* *adj*

- 'driver** *ant* *n* any of various African and Asian ants that move in vast armies
- 'drive** *shaft* *n* PROPELLER SHAFT  CAR
- 'drive** *way* */.way/* *n* DRIVE 2
- driving** */dri:vɪŋ/* *adj* 1 that communicates force (< a ~ wheel> 2a having great force (< ~ rain> b acting with vigour, energetic
- 'driving** *seat* *n* the position of top authority or control
- 'drizzle** */dri:z(ə)l/* *vb* drizzling */dri:z-ɪŋ/* *vi* to rain in very small drops or very lightly ~ *vt* to shed or let fall in minute drops [perh. alter. of ME *drysnen* to fall, fr OE *-drysnian* to disappear, akin to Goth *drusan* to fall]
- 'drizzle** *n* a fine misty rain  WEATHER - **drizzly** */dri:zli/* *adj*
- drogue** */dro:h/* *n* 1 SEA ANCHOR 2 a small parachute for stabilizing or decelerating sthg or for pulling a larger parachute out of stowage [prob. alter. of *'drag*]
- droit** */dro:ɪt/* *n* a legal right or due (< ~s of admiralty> [MF, fr ML *directum*, fr LL, neut. of *directus* just, fr L, direct]
- droll** */dro:hl/* *adj* humorous, whimsical, or odd [F *drôle*, fr *drôle* scamp, fr MF *drolle*, fr MD, imp] - **drollness** *n*, **drolly** */dro:hl(i)/* *adv*
- drollery** */dro:hləri/* *n* 1 the act or an instance of jesting or droll behaviour 2 droll humour
- drome** */.dro:hm/* *comb form* (- *n*) 1 sthg that runs in (such) a direction (<palindrome> <loxodrome> 2 racecourse (<motor-drome> <hippodrome> 3 large place specially prepared for (<aerodrome> [Gk *-dromos*, fr *dromos* course, racecourse, act of running; akin to Gk *dramein* to run; (2, 3) MF, fr L *-dromos*, fr Gk *dromos*] - **-dromous** */.dro:məs/* *comb form* (- *adj*)
- dromedary** */dromə'dəri/* *n* a (1-humped) camel bred esp for riding [ME *dromedane*, fr MF *dromedare*, fr LL *dromedarius*, fr L *dromad-*, *dromas*, fr Gk, running; akin to Gk *dramein* to run, *dromos* racecourse, OE *treppan* to tread]
- 'drone** */dro:hn/* *n* 1 the male of a bee (e.g. the honeybee) that has no sting and gathers no honey 2 sby who lives off others 3 a remotely-controlled piloted aircraft, missile, or ship [ME, fr OE *drān*, akin to OHG *treno* drone]
- 'drone** *vi* 1 to make a sustained deep murmuring or buzzing sound 2 to talk in a persistently monotonous tone - **droner** *n*, **drongingly** *adv*
- 'drone** *n* 1 any of the usu 3 pipes on a bagpipe that sound fixed continuous notes 2 a droning sound 3 an unvarying sustained bass note
- drongo** */drɒŋ-goh/* *n*, *pl* **drongos**, **drongoes** chiefly Austr a worthless person; a fool - *infml* [perh. fr *Drongo*, name of an unsuccessful Austr rachchore]
- drool** */dro:hl/* *vi* 1a to secrete saliva in anticipation of food b DRIVEL 1 2 to make a foolishly effusive show of pleasure ~ *vt* to express sentimentally or effusively [perh. alter. of *drivel*]
- 'droop** */dro:hp/* *vi* 1 to hang or incline downwards 2 to become depressed or weakened; languish ~ *vt* to let drop [ME *drupen*, fr ON *drupa*; akin to OE *dropa* drop - more at DROP] - **droopingly** *adv*
- 'droop** *n* the condition or appearance of drooping - **droopy** *adj*
- 'drop** */dro:p/* *n* 1a(1) the quantity of fluid that falls in 1 spherical mass (2) *pl* a dose of medicine measured by drops b a minute quantity (*not* a ~ of pity in him) 2 sthg that resembles a liquid drop: e.g. a an ornament that hangs from a piece of jewellery (e.g. an earring) b a small globular often medicated sweet or lozenge (<pear ~> <cough ~> 3a the act or an instance of dropping; a fall b a decline in quantity or quality c (the men or equipment dropped by) a parachute descent 4a the distance from a higher to a lower level or through which sthg drops b a decrease of electric potential 5 sthg that drops, hangs, or falls: e.g. a an unframed piece of cloth stage scenery b a hinged platform on a gallows 6 NAM a central point or depository to which sthg (e.g. mail) is brought for distribution 7 a small quantity of drink, esp. alcohol; broadly an alcoholic drink - *infml* 8 (a secret place used for the deposit and collection of) letters or stolen or illegal goods - *slang* [ME, fr OE *drops*; akin to Goth *drusan* to fall - more at DREARY] - **droplet** */.lɪt/* *n* - at the drop of a hat without hesitation; promptly - **have/get the drop on** NAM to have or get at a disadvantage - *slang*
- 'drop** *vb* *-pp-* *vi* 1 to fall in drops 2a(1) to fall, esp. unexpectedly or suddenly (2) to descend from one level to another (<his voice ~ped> b to fall in a state of collapse or death (<he'll work until he ~s> c of a card to become played by reason of the obligation to follow suit 3a to cease to be of concern; lapse (<let the matter ~> b to become less (<production ~ped>) ~ *vt* 1a to let fall; cause to fall b to drop a catch offered by (a batsman) 2a to lower from one level or position to another b to cause to lessen or decrease; reduce (<~ped his speed>) 3 to set down from a ship or vehicle; unload; also to airdrop 4a to bring down with a shot or blow b to cause (a high card) to drop c to score (a goal) with a dropkick 5a to give up (e.g. an idea) b to leave incomplete, cease (<~ped what he was doing>) c to break off an association or connection with (<~ped his old friends>); also to leave out of a team or group 6 to leave (a letter representing a speech sound) unsounded (<~ the h in have>) 7a to utter or mention in a casual way (<~ a hint>) b to send through the post (<~ us a line soon>) 8 to lose (<~ped £500 on the stock market>) - *infml* - **drop a brick/clanger** to make an embarrassing error or mistaken remark - *infml*
- drop behind** *vb* to fail to keep up (with)
- drop by** *vi* DROP IN
- 'drop** *forge* *vi* to forge between 2 dies using a drop hammer or punch press - **drop forger** *n*
- 'drop** *goal* *n* a score in rugby made with a dropkick that passes over the goal's crossbar
- 'drop** *hammer* *n* a power hammer raised and then released to drop on metal resting on an anvil or die
- 'drop** *handlebars* *n* *pl* lowered curving handlebars, esp. on a racing bicycle
- drop in** *vi* to pay a usu brief, casual, or unexpected visit
- 'drop** *kick* */.kɪk/* *n* a kick made (e.g. in rugby) by dropping a football to the ground and kicking it at the moment it starts to rebound - **drop-kick** *vb*, **drop kicker** *n*
- 'drop** *leaf* *n* a hinged leaf on the side or end of a table that can be folded down - compare 'LEAF 2b(1) - **drop-leaf** *adj*
- 'drop** *off* *n* a marked dwindling or decline (<a ~ in attendance>)
- drop off** *vi* 1 to fall asleep 2 to decline, slump
- 'drop** *out* */.oʊt/* *n* 1 one who rejects or withdraws from participation in conventional society 2 a student who fails to complete or withdraws from a course, usu. of higher education 3 a spot on a magnetic tape from which data has disappeared 4 a dropkick awarded to the defending team in rugby (e.g. after an unconverted try)
- drop out** *vi* 1 to withdraw from participation 2 to make a dropout in rugby
- 'dropper** */dro:pə/* *n* a short usu. glass tube fitted with a rubber bulb and used to measure or administer liquids by drops [<sup>1</sup>DROP + <sup>2</sup>-ER] - **dropperful** *n*
- 'droppings** */dro:pɪŋz/* *n* *pl* animal dung
- 'drop** *shot* *n* a delicate shot in tennis, badminton, squash, etc. that drops quickly after crossing the net or dies after hitting a wall
- 'dropsy** */dro:psɪ/* *n* oedema [ME *dropesie*, short for *ydropsie*, fr OF, fr L *hydrosis*, modif. of Gk *hydrops*, fr *hydor* water - more at WATER] - **dropical** *adj*
- droshky** */dro:shki/* also **drotsky** */dro:ski/* *n* any of various esp. Russian 2-wheeled or 4-wheeled open carriages [Russ *drozhki*, fr *droga* pole of a waggon, akin to OE *dragan* to draw]
- 'drosophila** */dro:'so:fɪlə/* *n* any of a genus of small 2-winged fruit flies extensively used in genetic research [NL, genus name, fr Gk *drosos* dew + NL *-phila*, fem. of *-philus* -phil]
- dross** */dros/* *n* 1 the scum on the surface of molten metal 2 waste, rubbish, or foreign matter, impurities [ME *dros*, fr OE *drōs* dregs] - **drossy** *adj*
- drought** */draʊt/* *n* 1 a prolonged period of dryness 2 a prolonged shortage of sthg [ME, fr OE *drūgath*, fr *drūgan* to dry up; akin to OE *drȳge* dry - more at DRY] - **droughty** *adj*
- drouth** */draʊt(h)/* *n*, *Scot*, *Irish*, or *NAM* a drought - used poetically in other varieties of English
- 'drove** */dro:v/* *n* 1 a group of animals driven or moving in a body 2 a crowd of people moving or acting together [ME, fr OE *draf*, fr *drifan* to drive - more at DRIVE]
- 'drove** *past* of DRIVE
- drover** */dro:və/* *n* one who drives cattle or sheep
- drown** */draʊn/* *vi* to become drowned ~ *vt* 1a to suffocate by submergence, esp. in water b to submerge, esp. by a rise in the water level c to wet thoroughly; drench (<~ed the chips with ketchup>) 2 to engage (oneself) deeply and strenuously (<~ed himself in work>) 3 to blot out (a sound) by making a loud noise (<his speech was ~ed out by boos - New Yorker>) 4 to destroy (e.g. a sensation or an idea) as if by drowning (<~ed his sorrows in drink>) [ME *drounen*]
- 'drowse** */draʊz/* *vi* to doze ~ *vt* to pass (time) drowsily or in dozing - *usu.* + *away* [prob. akin to Goth *drusan* to fall - more at DREARY]
- 'drowse** *n* the act or an instance of dozing
- 'droway** */draʊzi/* *adj* 1a sleepy b tending to induce sleepiness (<a ~ summer afternoon>) c indolent, lethargic 2 giving the appearance of peaceful inactivity - **drowally** *adv*, **drowsiness** *n*

**drub** /drub/ *vt* -bb- 1 to beat severely 2 to defeat decisively [perh fr Ar *daraba*]

**drudge** /druj/ *vi* to do hard, menial, routine, or monotonous work [ME *druggen*, prob akin to OE *dreogan* to work, endure, L *firmus* firm] - **drudger** *n*, **drudgery** /'dru:dʒəri/ *n*

**drudge** *n* one who drudges

**drug** /drug/ *n* 1 a substance used as (or in the preparation of) a medication 2 a substance that causes addiction or habituation [ME *drogges*, *drouges*, fr OF *drogue*]

**drug** *vi* -gg- 1 to affect or adulterate with a drug 2 to administer a drug to 3 to lull or stupefy (as if) with a drug

**drugget** /'druɡɪt/ *n* a coarse durable cloth used chiefly as a floor covering [MF *droguet*, dim of *drogue* trash, drug]

**druggist** /'druɡɪst/ *n* 1 one who deals in or dispenses drugs and medicines, a pharmacist 2 *NAM* the owner or manager of a drugstore

**drugstore** /-stɔw/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a chemist's shop; esp one that also sells sweets, magazines, and refreshments

**druid** /'druɪd-/ *fem* **druidess** /-dis/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a member of a pre-Christian Celtic order of priests associated with a mistletoe cult 2 an officer of the Welsh Gorsedd 3 *MANDARIN* 1b [L *druides*, *druidae*, pl, fr Gaulish *druides*, akin to OIr *drui* wizard, W *derwen* oak tree, OE *treow* tree] - **druidic** /'druɪdɪk/, **druidical** *adj*, often *cap*

**drum** /drum/ *n* 1 a percussion instrument usu consisting of a hollow cylinder with a drumhead stretched over each end, that is beaten with a stick or a pair of sticks in playing 2 the tympanic membrane of the ear 3 the sound made by striking a drum, also any similar sound 4 sth resembling a drum in shape e.g. a cylindrical machine or mechanical device 5a part, esp a metal cylinder coated with magnetic material on which data (e.g. for a computer) may be recorded b a cylindrical container, specif a large usu metal container for liquids 5a dwelling PAD 6 -vlang [prob fr D *trom*, akin to MHG *trumme* drum] - **drumlike** *adj*

**drum** *vb* -mm- *vi* 1 to beat a drum 2 to make a succession of strokes, taps, or vibrations that produce drumlike sounds 3 to throb or sound rhythmically <blood ~ med in his ear> ~ *vt* 1 to summon or enlist (as if) by beating a drum <~ med them into service> 2 to instil (an idea or lesson) by constant repetition -usu + into or out of <~ med the idea into them> 3a to strike or tap repeatedly b to produce (rhythmic sounds) by such action

**drum** *n* 1 a drumlin 2 chiefly *Scot* a long narrow hill or ridge [ScGael *drum* back, ridge, fr OIr *drummin*]

**drumbeat** /-bi:t/ *n* a stroke on a drum or its sound

**drum brake** *n* a brake that operates by the friction of pads pressing against a rotating drum

**drumfire** /-fi:ə/ *n* artillery fire so continuous as to sound like a roll on a drum

**drumhead** /-hed/ *n* the material stretched over the end of a drum

**drumhead court-martial** *n* a summary court-martial [fr the use of a drumhead as a table]

**drumlin** /'drumlin/ *n* an elongated or oval hill formed from glacial debris - *see* GEOGRAPHY [IrGael *drum* back, ridge (fr OIr *drummin*) + E -lin (alter. of -ling)]

**drum major** *n* the marching leader of a band

**drummer** /'drʌmə/ *n* 1 one who plays a drum 2 chiefly *NAM* SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**drum out** *vt* to dismiss ignominiously, expel <drummed him out of the army>

**drumstick** /-stɪk/ *n* 1 a stick for beating a drum 2 the part of a fowl's leg between the thigh and tarsus when cooked as food

**drum up** *vt* 1 to bring about by persistent effort <drum up some business> 2 to invent, originate <drum up a new time-saving method>

**drunk** /drʌŋk/ *past part* of DRINK

**drunk** *adj* 1 under the influence of alcohol 2 dominated by an intense feeling <~ with power> 3 DRUNKEN 2b [ME *drunke*, alter. of *drunken*]

**drunk** *n* a person who is (habitually) drunk

**drunkard** /'drʌŋkəd/ *n* a person who is habitually drunk

**drunken** /'drʌŋkən/ *adj* 1 DRUNK 1 2a given to habitual excessive use of alcohol b of, characterized by, or resulting from alcoholic intoxication <a ~ brawl> 3 unsteady or lurching as if from alcoholic intoxication [ME, fr OE *druncen*, fr pp of *drincan* to drink] - **drunkenly** *adv*, **drunkenness** *n* - **drunk** in charge driving while intoxicated

**drupe** /'dru:p/ *n* a fruit (e.g. a cherry or almond) that has a stone enclosed by a fleshy layer and is covered by a flexible or stiff outermost

layer [NL *drupa*, fr L, overripe olive, fr Gk *dryppa* olive] - **drupaceous** /'dru:pə'sha:s/ *adj*

**drupelet** /'dru:pəli:t/ *n* a small drupe, specif any of the individual parts of an aggregate fruit (e.g. the raspberry)

**Druze**, **Druse** /'dru:z/ *n* a member of a religious sect originating among Muslims and centred in the mountains of Lebanon and Syria [Ar *Duruz*, pl, fr Muhammed ibn-Isma'il al-Daraziyy t1019 Muslim religious leader]

**dry** /dne/ *adj* 1a (relatively) free from a liquid, esp water b not in or under water <~ land> c lacking precipitation or humidity <a ~ climate> 2a characterized by exhaustion of a supply of water or liquid <a ~ well> <the barrel ran ~> b devoid of natural moisture <~ mouth>, also thirsty c no longer sticky or damp <the paint is ~> d of a mammal not giving milk <a ~ cow> e lacking freshness, stale f anhydrous 3a marked by the absence or scantiness of secretions <a ~ cough> b not shedding or accompanied by tears <no ~ eyes> 4 prohibiting the manufacture or distribution of alcoholic beverages <a ~ county> - compare WET 7 5 lacking sweetness, sec 6 solid as opposed to liquid <~ groceries> 7 functioning without lubrication <a ~ clutch> 8 built or constructed without a process which requires water a using no mortar <~ masonry> b using prefabricated materials (e.g. plasterboard) rather than a construction involving plaster or mortar <~ wall construction> 9a not showing or communicating warmth, enthusiasm, or feeling, impassive b uninteresting <~ passages of description> c lacking embellishment, bias, or emotional concern, plain <the ~ facts> 10 not yielding what is expected or desired, unproductive <a ~ oil field> 11 marked by a matter-of-fact, ironic, or terse manner of expression <~ wit> [ME, fr OE *dryge*, akin to OHG *truckan* dry, MLG *dræge*, *drege*, MD *droge*] - **dryish** *adj*, **dryishly** *adv*, **dryly** *adv*, **dryness** *n*

**dry** *vb* to make or become dry - often + out - **dryable** *adj*

**dry** *n*, *pl* *drys* sth g dry e.g. a a dry place b chiefly *Austr* the dry season

**dryad** /'dne:əd, -əd/ *n* a nymph of the woods in Greek mythology [L *dryad*-, *dryas*, fr Gk, fr *drys* tree - more at TRFF]

**dryasdust** /'dne:əd'ast/ *adj* boring, pedantic [Dr Jonas *Dryasdust*, fictitious person to whom Sir Walter Scott t1832 Sc author dedicated some of his novels] - **dryasdust** /-/'-/ *n*

**dry cell** *n* a primary cell whose electrolyte is not a liquid

**dry-clean** *vb* to subject to or undergo dry cleaning - *see* SYMBOL - **dry-cleanable** *adj*, **dry cleaner** *n*

**dry cleaning** *n* 1 the cleaning of fabrics or garments with organic solvents, esp chlorinated hydrocarbons, and without water 2 that which is dry-cleaned *USE* - *see* SYMBOL

**dry dock** *n* a dock from which the water can be pumped to allow ships to be repaired

**dryer** /'dne:ə/ *n* a drier

**dry fly** *n* an artificial angling fly designed to float on the surface of the water

**dry goods** *n pl*, *NAM* drapery as distinguished esp from hardware and groceries

**dry ice** *n* solidified carbon dioxide

**dry nurse** *n* a nurse who takes care of but does not breast-feed another woman's baby

**dry out** *vi* to undergo treatment for alcoholism or drug addiction

**drypoint** /-pɔɪnt/ *n* an engraving made with a pointed tool (e.g. a needle) directly into the metal plate without the use of acid

**dry rot** *n* 1 (a fungus causing) a decay of seasoned timber in which the cellulose of wood is consumed leaving a soft skeleton which is readily reduced to powder 2 decay from within, caused esp by resistance to new forces <art... infected by the ~ of formalism> - D G Mandelbaum

**dry run** *n* 1 a firing practice without ammunition 2 a practice exercise; a rehearsal, trial

**dry-shod** *adj* having or keeping dry shoes or feet

**dry stone** /-stəʊn/ *adj* constructed of stone without the use of mortar

**dry up** *vi* 1 to disappear or cease to yield (as if) by evaporation, draining, or the cutting off of a source of supply 2 to wither or die through gradual loss of vitality 3 to wipe dry dishes, cutlery, etc by hand after they have been washed 4 to stop talking; SHUT UP - *infrm* ~ *vi* to cause to dry up

**dt's** /,dee 'teez/ *n pl*, often *cap* D&T DELIRIUM TREMENS

**dual** /'dyu:əl/ *adj* 1 of grammatical number denoting reference to 2 2a consisting of 2 (like) parts or elements b having a double character or nature [L *dualis*, fr *duo* two - more at TWO] - **dual** *n*, **duality** /'dyu:ələti/ *n*, **dualize** /'dyu:ələ'ize/ *vi*, **duality** *adv*

**dual** /ˈdʒuəl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a road that has traffic travelling in opposite directions separated by a central reservation

**dualism** /ˈdʒuəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a theory that considers reality to consist of 2 independent and irreducible substances or elements 2 the quality or state of being dual 3 a doctrine that the universe is ruled by the 2 opposing principles of good and evil – *dualist* *n*, *dualistic* /ˈdʒuəl-əˈlɪstɪk/ *adj*, *dualistically* /-lɪstɪkli/ *adj*

**dual-purpose** *adj* intended for or serving 2 purposes

**dub** /dʌb/ *vt* -bb- 1a to confer knighthood on *b* to call by a descriptive name or epithet; nickname 2 *Br* to dress (a fishing fly) [ME *dubben*, fr OE *dubbian*, akin to ON *dubba* to dub, OHG *tubli* plug] – *dubber* *n*

**dub** *vt* -bb- 1 to make alterations to the original sound track of (a film): e.g. a to provide with a sound track in which the voices are not those of the actors on the screen *b* to provide with a sound track in a new language <in Europe, American films are usually ~ bed into the local language> 2 to transpose (a previous recording) to a new record 3 chiefly *Br* mix lb(2) [by shortening & alter. fr *double*] – *dubber* *n*

**dubbin** /ˈdʌbɪn/ *also* **dubbing** /ˈdʌbɪŋ/ *n* a dressing of oil and tallow for leather [dubbing, gerund of *dub* (to dress leather)] – *dubbin* *vt*

**dublety** /ˈdʒuəlɪti/ *n* 1 the state of being doubtful 2 a doubtful matter *USE* fml [LL *dubietas*, fr L *dubius*]

**dubious** /ˈdʒuəbiəs/ *adj* 1 giving rise to doubt; uncertain <they considered our scheme a little ~> 2 unsettled in opinion; undecided <they were a little ~ about our plan> 3 of uncertain outcome <a rather ~ experiment> 4 of questionable value, quality, or origin <won by ~ means> [L *dubius*, fr *dubare* to vacillate; akin to L *duo* two – more at two] – *dubiously* *adv*, *dubiousness* *n*

**ducal** /ˈdʒuəl/ *adj* of or relating to a duke or duchy [MF, fr LL *ducalis* of a leader, fr L *dux*, *dux* leader – more at *DUKE*] – *dually* *adv*

**ducat** /ˈdʒʊkət/ *n* a usu gold coin formerly used in many European countries [ME, fr MF, fr OIt *ducato* coin with the doge's portrait on it, fr *duca* doge, fr LGk *dox*, *doux* leader, fr L *dux*, *dux*]

**duce** /ˈdʒuːtʃ/ *n* LEADER 2c(3) [It (fl) *Duce*, lit., the leader, title of Benito Mussolini †1945 It dictator, fr L *dux*, *dux*]

**duchess** /ˈdʒʊtʃɪs/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of a duke 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of a duke [ME *duchesse*, fr MF, fr *duc* duke]

**duchy** /ˈdʒʊtʃi/ *n* a dukedom [ME *duche*, fr MF *duché*, fr *duc*]

**duck** /dʌk/ *n*, *pl* ducks, (la) ducks, *esp* collectively duck 1a any of various swimming birds in which the neck and legs are short, the bill is often broad and flat, and the sexes are almost always different from each other in plumage *b* the flesh of any of these birds used as food 2 a female duck – compare *DRAKE* 3 chiefly *Br* DEAR lb – often *pl* with sing. meaning but sing. in constr; infml [ME *dōke*, fr OE *duce*]

**duck** *vt* 1 to thrust momentarily under water 2 to lower (e.g. the head), esp quickly as a bow or to avoid being hit 3 to avoid, evade (<the issue>) ~ *vi* 1 to plunge at least one's head under the surface of water 2a to move the head or body suddenly; dodge *b* to bow, bob 3 to evade a duty, question, or responsibility [ME *duken*; akin to OHG *tuhhan* to dive, OE *duce* duck] – *duck* *n*

**duck** *n* a durable closely woven usu cotton fabric [D *doek* cloth, akin to OHG *tuoh* cloth, & perh to Skt *dhvaja* flag].

**duck** *n* a score of nought, esp in cricket [short for *duck's egg*; fr the egg-shaped number 0]

**duckbill** /-bɪl/ *n* the platypus

**duckbilled** /ˈdʒʊkbɪld/ *platypus* *n* the platypus

**duckboard** /-bɔːrd/ *n* a usu wooden board or slat used to make a path over wet or muddy ground – usu *pl*

**ducking stool** /ˈdʒʊkɪŋ/ *n* a seat attached to a plank and formerly used to plunge culprits into water

**duckling** /ˈdʒʊkɪŋ/ *n* a young duck

**ducks and 'drakes** *n* *pl* but sing in constr the pastime of skimming flat stones or shells along the surface of calm water

**duck's ass** *n* a (style of) haircut in which the hair at the back is cut in the shape of a duck's tail – infml

**duckweed** /-wiːd/ *n* any of several small free-floating stemless plants that often cover large areas of the surface of still water

**ducky** /ˈdʒʊki/ *adj* darling, sweet – infml

**ducky, duckle** *n* DEAR lb – infml

**duct** /dʌkt/ *n* 1 a bodily tube or vessel, esp when carrying the secretion of a gland 2a a pipe, tube, or channel that conveys a substance *b* a pipe or tubular runway for carrying an electric power line, telephone cables, or other conductors 3 a continuous tube in plant tissue [NL *ductus*, fr ML, aqueduct, fr L, act of leading, fr *ductus*, pp of *ducere* to lead – more at tow] – *ducting* *n*

**duct** *vt* to convey (e.g. a gas) through a duct

**ducted** /ˈdʌktɪd/ *adj* situated or operating in a duct

**ductile** /ˈdʌktɪl/ *adj* 1 capable of being easily fashioned into a new form 2 of metals capable of being drawn out or hammered thin 3 easily led or influenced; tractable <the ~ masses> – infml [MF & L; MF, fr L *ductilis*, fr *ductus*, pp] – *ductility* /ˈdʌktɪləti/ *n*

**ductless gland** /-lɪs/ *n* ENDOCRINE 2

**ductus arteriosus** /ˈdʌktəs ɑːtəriˈoʊss/ *n* a short broad blood vessel that bypasses the lungs and is found normally only in the foetus [NL, lit., arterial duct]

**dud** /dʌd/ *n* 1 a bomb, missile, etc that fails to explode 2 *pl* personal belongings; esp clothes 3 a failure 4 a counterfeit, fake *USE* (2, 3, & 4) infml [(2) ME *dudd* coarse cloak; (1, 3, 4) E dial *dud* (weak or spiritless person), perh fr *duds* clothes, rags]

**dud** *adj* valueless <~ cheques> – infml

**dude** /d(y)uːd/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* 1 a dandy 2 a city-dweller; esp a man from the eastern USA holidaying (on a ranch) in the western USA *USE* infml [perh fr G dial., fool] – *dudish* *adj*, *dudishly* *adv*

**dude, ranch** *n* an American cattle ranch converted into a holiday centre, offering typical ranch activities such as camping and riding

**dudgeon** /ˈdʒʊdʒən/ *n* indignation, resentment – esp in *in high dudgeon* [origin unknown]

**due** /dʒuː/ *adj* 1 owed or owing as a debt 2a owed or owing as a natural or moral right <got his ~ reward> *b* appropriate <after ~ consideration> 3a (capable of) satisfying a need, obligation, or duty – compare IN *DUE* COURSE *b* regular, lawful <~ proof of loss> 4 ascribable – + to <this advance is partly ~ to a few men of genius – A N Whitehead> 5 payable 6 required or expected in the prearranged or normal course of events <~ to arrive at any time> [ME, fr MF *deu*, pp of *devoir* to owe, fr L *debere* – more at *DEBT*] – *in due course* after a normal passage of time, in the expected or allocated time

**due** *n* sthg due or owed. e.g. a sthg esp nonmaterial that rightfully belongs to one <I don't like him, but to give him his ~ he's a good singer> *b* *pl* fees, charges

**due** *adv* directly, exactly – used before points of the compass <~ north>

**duel** /dʒuːəl/ *n* 1 a formal combat with weapons fought between 2 people in the presence of witnesses in order to settle a quarrel 2 a conflict between usu evenly matched antagonistic people, ideas, or forces [ML *duellum*, fr OL, war]

**duel** *vi* -ll- (*NAM* -ll-, -ll-) to fight a duel – *dueller* *n*, *duellist* *n*

**duenna** /ˈdʒuːənə/ *n* 1 an older woman serving as governess and companion to the younger ladies in a Spanish or Portuguese family 2 a chaperon [Sp *dueña*, fr L *domina* mistress] – *duennaship* *n*

**duet** /dʒuːet/ *n* a (musical) composition for 2 performers [It *duetto*, dim. of *duo*]

**due to prep** BECAUSE OF 1 – though disapproved by many, now used by numerous educated speakers and writers, compare *'DUE* 4

**duff** /dʌf/ *n* a boiled or steamed pudding, often containing dried fruit [E dial., alter. of *dough*]

**duff** *adj*, *Br* not working; worthless, useless – slang [perh back-formation fr *duffer*]

**duffel, duffle** /ˈdʌf(ə)/ *n* a coarse heavy woollen material with a thick nap [D *duffel*, fr *Duffel*, town in Belgium]

**duffel, bag** *n* a cylindrical fabric bag, closed by a drawstring, used for carrying personal belongings [duffer, duffle (kit, equipment), fr *duffel*]

**duffel, coat** *n* a coat made of duffel that is usu thigh- or knee-length, hooded, and fastened with toggles

**duffer** /ˈdʌfə/ *n* an incompetent, ineffectual, or clumsy person [perh fr Sc *doofart* stupid person]

**duff up** *vi*, *Br* BEAT 1a – slang [duff (to fake, cheat, bungle), perh back-formation fr *duffer*]

**dug** /dʌg/ *past* of *DIG*

**dug** /dʌg/ *n* an udder; also a teat – usu used with reference to animals but derog when used of a woman [perh of Scand origin; akin to OSw *dægga* to suckle; akin to OE *delu* nipple]

**dugong** /ˈdʒuːŋɡ/ *n* an aquatic plant-eating mammal related to the manatee [NL, genus name, fr Malay & Tag *dugong* sea cow]

**dugout** /ˈdʒuːɡaʊt/ *n* 1 a boat made by hollowing out a large log 2 a shelter dug in the ground or in a hillside, esp for troops

**duiker** /ˈdʒuːkə/ *n* any of several small African antelopes [Afrnk, lit., diver, fr *duik* to dive, fr MD *duken*; akin to OHG *tuhhan* to dive – more at *'DUCK*]

**duke** /dʒuːk/ *n* 1 a sovereign ruler of a European duchy 2 a nobleman of the highest hereditary rank; esp a member of the highest rank of the

- British peerage 3 a fist – usu pl; slang [ME, fr OF *duc*, fr L *duc*, *dux*, fr *ducere* to lead – more at *row*; (3) rhyming slang *Duke (of Yorks)* forks, fingers, hands] – **dukedom** *n*
- dulcet** /ˈdulɪst/ *adj*, *esp* of sounds sweetly pleasant or soothing (< ~ tones> [ME *doucet*, fr MF, fr *douz* sweet, fr L *dulcis*] – **dulcetly** *adv*
- dulcimer** /ˈdulɪsɪmə/ *n* a stringed instrument having strings of graduated length stretched over a sounding board and played with light hammers [ME *dowcemere*, fr MF *doulcemer*, fr OIt *dolcimelo*, fr *dolce* sweet, fr L *dulcis*]
- dull** /dʌl/ *adj* 1 mentally slow, stupid 2a slow in perception or sensibility, insensible **b** lacking zest or vivacity; listless 3 lacking sharpness of cutting edge or point; blunt 4 not resonant or ringing (< a ~ booming sound>) 5 of a colour low in saturation and lightness 6 cloudy, overcast 7 boring, uninteresting [ME *dul*, akin to OE *dol* foolish, & prob to L *fumus* smoke – more at *FUME*] – **dullness**, **dulness** *n*, **dully** *adv*
- dull** *vb* to make or become dull (<eyes and ears ~ed by age>)
- dullard** /ˈdʌləd/ *n* a stupid or insensitive person
- dulse** /ˈdʊls/ *n* any of several coarse edible red seaweeds [ScGael & IrGael *duileas*; akin to W *delys* dulse]
- duly** /ˈdyoʊhli/ *adv* in a due manner, time, or degree; properly (<your suggestion has been ~ noted>)
- duma** /ˈdoʊmah/ *n* a representative council in tsarist Russia [Russ, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *dōm* judgment – more at *DOOM*]
- dumb** /dʌm/ *adj* 1 devoid of the power of speech 2 naturally incapable of speech (< ~ animals>) 3 not expressed in uttered words (< ~ insolence>) 4a not willing to speak **b** temporarily unable to speak (e.g. from astonishment) (*struck* →) 5 lacking some usual attribute or accompaniment 6 stupid [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *tumb* mute, ON *tumbr*, OE *dēaf* deaf – more at *DEAF*] – **dumbly** /ˈdʌmli/ *adv*, **dumbness** *n*
- dumbbell** /ˈdʌmbel/ *n* 1 a short bar with adjustable weights at each end used usu in pairs for weight training 2 *NAm* DUMMY 6
- dumbfound**, **dumfound** /ˈdʌmfəʊnd/ *vt* to strike dumb with astonishment, amaze [*dumb* + *-found* (as in *confound*)]
- dumb show** *n* (a play or part of a play presented by) movement, signs, and gestures without words
- dumbstruck** /-ˈstrʊk/ *adj* dumbfounded
- dumb waiter** *n* 1 a movable table or stand often with revolving shelves for holding food or dishes 2 a small lift for conveying food and dishes (e.g. from the kitchen to the dining area of a restaurant)
- dumdum** /ˈdʌm,dʌm/ *n* a bullet that expands on impact and inflicts a severe wound [*Dum-Dum*, arsenal near Calcutta, India]
- dummy** /ˈdʌmi/ *n* 1 the exposed hand in bridge played by the declarer in addition to his/her own hand; *also* the player whose hand is a dummy 2 an imitation or copy of sth used to reproduce some of the attributes of the original; e.g. a *chieffy Br* a rubber teat given to babies to suck in order to soothe them **b** a large puppet in usu human form, used by a ventriloquist **c** a model of the human body, esp the torso, used for fitting or displaying clothes 3 a person or corporation that seems to act independently but is in reality acting for or at the direction of another 4 a pattern for a printing job showing the position of typographic elements (e.g. text and illustrations) 5 an instance of dummifying an opponent in sports 6 a dull or stupid person – *infrml* [*dumb* + *-y*; orig sense, dumb person]
- dummy** *adj* resembling or being a dummy: e.g. a sham, artificial **b** existing in name only; fictitious (<*bank accounts held in ~ names*>)
- dummy** *vi* 1 to deceive an opponent (e.g. in rugby or soccer) by pretending to pass or release the ball while still retaining possession of it 2 *NAm* to refuse to talk – *usu* + *up*; slang ~ *vt* to deceive (an opponent) by dummifying
- dummy run** *n* a rehearsal; TRIAL RUN
- dump** /dʌmp/ *vt* 1a to unload or let fall in a heap or mass **b** to get rid of unceremoniously or irresponsibly; abandon 2 to sell in quantity at a very low price; *specific* to sell abroad at less than the market price at home 3 to copy (data in a computer's internal storage) onto an external storage medium [perh fr D *dompen* to immerse, topple; akin to OE *dyppan* to dip – more at *DIP*] – **dumper** *n*
- dump** *n* 1a an accumulation of discarded materials (e.g. refuse) **b** a place where such materials are dumped 2 a quantity of esp military reserve materials accumulated in 1 place (<*arms* ~>) 3 an instance of dumping data stored in a computer 4 a disorderly, slovenly, or dilapidated place – *infrml*
- dumper truck** /ˈdʌmpə/, **dump truck** *n* a lorry whose body may be tilted to empty the contents
- dumpling** /ˈdʌmplɪŋ/ *n* 1 a small usu rounded mass of leavened dough cooked by boiling or steaming often in stew 2 a short round person – humor [perh alter. of *lump*]
- dumps** /ˈdʌmps/ *n pl* a gloomy state of mind, despondency – *esp* in *the dumps*; *infrml* [prob fr D *domp* haze, fr MD *damp*]
- dummy** /ˈdʌmpi/ *adj* short and thick in build; squat [E dial *dump* (*lump*)] – **dumply** *adv*, **dumpline** *n*
- dun** /dʌn/ *adj* 1 of the colour dun 2 of a horse having a greyish or light brownish colour [ME, fr OE *dunn* – more at *DUSK*]
- dun** *n* 1 a dun horse 2 a slightly brownish dark grey 3 (an artificial fly tied to imitate) a mayfly that has not acquired all the typical adult characteristics
- dun** *vt* -*nn*- to make persistent demands upon for payment [perh short for obs *dunkirk* (privateer), fr *Dunkirk*, *Dunkerque* port in France]
- dun** *n* 1 one who duns 2 an urgent request, *esp* a demand for payment
- dun** *n* an Irish or Scottish stronghold protected by usu 2 encircling mounds or a mound and a palisade [ScGael & IrGael *dún*]
- dunce** /dʌns/ *n* a dull or stupid person [John *Duns* Scotus †1308 Sc theologian whose once accepted writings were ridiculed in the 16th c]
- dunce's cap** *n* a conical cap formerly used to humiliate slow learners at school
- Dundee cake** /ˈdʌnˈdiː/ *n* a fruit cake, usu decorated on top with skinned almonds [*Dundee*, city in Scotland]
- dunderhead** /ˈdʌndəˌhed/ *n* a dunce, blockhead [perh fr D *donder* thunder + E *head*, akin to OHG *thonar* thunder – more at *THUNDER*] – **dunderheaded** /ˈdʌndəˌhedd/ *adj*
- dundrearies** /ˈdʌnˈdriːz/ *n pl*, *often cap* long flowing side-whiskers worn without a beard [Lord *Dundreary*, character in the play *Our American Cousin* by Tom Taylor †1880 E dramatist]
- dune** /ˈdyoʊhn/ *n* a hill or ridge of sand piled up by the wind  GEOGRAPHY [F, fr OF, fr MD, akin to OE *dūn* down – more at *DOWN*]
- dung** /dʌŋ/ *n* the excrement of an animal [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *dyngja* manure pile, Lith *dengti* to cover] – **dungy** /ˈdʌŋ-i/ *adj*
- dung** *vt* to fertilize or dress with manure ~ *vi*, of an animal to defecate
- dungaree** /ˈdʌŋˌɡəˈriː/ *n* a heavy coarse durable cotton twill woven from coloured yarns, *specific* blue denim [Hindi *dūgn*]
- dungarees** /-ˈriːz/ *n pl* a 1-piece outer garment consisting of trousers and a bib with shoulder straps fastened at the back – **dungaree** *adj*
- dung beetle** *n* a beetle that rolls balls of dung in which to lay its eggs
- dungeon** /ˈdʌnjən/ *n* a dark usu underground prison or vault, *esp* in a castle  CHURCH [ME *donyon* inner tower in a castle, strong prison, fr MF, fr (assumed) ML *dominion*-, *dominio*, fr L *dominus* lord – more at *DAME*]
- dung hill** /-ˌhɪl/ *n* a heap of dung (e.g. in a farmyard)
- dunk** /dʌŋk/ *vt* to dip (e.g. a piece of bread) into liquid (e.g. soup) before eating [PaG *dunke*, fr MHG *dunken*, fr OHG *dunkōn*]
- dunlin** /ˈdʌnlɪn/ *n*, *pl* *dunlins*, *esp* collectively *dunlins* a small widely distributed brown-backed sandpiper [*ˈdʌn* + *-lin* (alter. of *-ling*)]
- Dunlop** /ˈdʌnlɒp/ *n* a moist Scottish cheese similar to Cheddar [*Dunlop*, town in Ayr, Scotland]
- dunnage** /ˈdʌnɪj/ *n* 1 loose materials or padding used to prevent damage 2 (personal) baggage [origin unknown]
- dunno** /ˈdʌnoʊ/ *don't* know – used in writing to represent nonstandard speech [by alter.]
- duncock** /ˈdʌnək/ *n* a small dull-coloured European bird common in gardens and scrub [ME *dunoke*, fr *ˈdʌn* + *-oc*, *-oke* *-ock*]
- dunny** /ˈdʌni/ *n*, *chiefly Austr & NZ* a toilet – *infrml* [by shortening & alter. fr *dunnaken*, *dannaken* (toilet), fr *danna* (human excrement)]
- duo** /ˈdyoʊoh/ *n*, *pl* *duos* a pair (of performers); *also* a piece (e.g. of music) written for 2 players [It, fr L, two – more at *TWO*]
- duo** *comb* form two [L *duo*]
- duodecimal** /ˈdyoʊoh-ohˈdesɪm(ə)/ *adj* proceeding by or based on the number of 12 [L *duodecim* – more at *DOZEN*] – **duodecimal** *n*
- duodecimo** /-ˈdesɪmoʊ/ *n*, *pl* *duodecimos* a book format in which a folded sheet forms 12 leaves; *also* a book in this format [L, abl of *duodecim* twelfth, fr *duodecim*]
- duoden-**, **duodeno-** *comb* form duodenum (<*duodenitis*>) (<*duodenogram*>) [NL, fr ML *duodenum*]
- duodenum** /ˈdyoʊoh-ˈdiːnəm/ *n*, *pl* *duodena* /-ˌnə/, *duodenums* the first part of the small intestine extending from the stomach to the jejunum  DIGESTION [ME, fr ML, fr L *duodeni* twelve each, fr *duodecim* twelve; fr its length, about 12 fingers' breadth] – **duodenal** *adj*



- duologue** /ˈdyoʊh-əˌlog/ *n* a (theatrical) dialogue between 2 people
- duomo** /ˈdoʊh-oh-moh/ *n*, *pl* **duomos** a cathedral [It – more at **DOME**]
- duotone** /ˈdyoʊh-oh-tohn/ *adj* of or in 2 colours
- dupé** /dyoʊhp/ *n* one who is easily deceived or cheated [F, fr MF *duppe*, prob alter. of *huppe* hoopoe]
- dupé** *vt* to make a dupe of; deceive – **dupér** *n*, **dupéry** /dyoʊhpəri/ *n*
- dupion** /ˈdooʃpion(h)/ *n* a rough silk fabric [F *doupiou*, fr It *doppione* double cocoon made by two silkworms, aug of *doppio* double, fr L *duplos*]
- duplé** /dyoʊhpl/ *adj* 1 having 2 elements; twofold 2 marked by 2 or a multiple of 2 beats per bar of music [L *duplus* double – more at **DOUBLE**]
- duplex** /dyoʊh,pleks/ *adj* 1 double, twofold 2 allowing telecommunication in opposite directions simultaneously [L, fr *duo* two + *-plex* -fold – more at **TWO**, **SIMPLE**]
- duplex** *n* sth duplex: e.g. a **NAM** a 2-family house **b NAM** a flat on 2 floors
- duplicate** /d(y)ooʃplikat/ *adj* 1a consisting of or existing in 2 corresponding or identical parts or examples (< ~ invoices> **b** being the same as another (< a ~ key> 2 being a card game, specif bridge, in which different players play identical hands in order to compare scores [ME, fr L *duplicatus*, pp of *duplicare* to double, fr *duplic-*, *duplex*])
- duplicate** *n* 1 either of 2 things that exactly resemble each other, specif an equally valid copy of a legal document 2 a copy – **in duplicate** with an original and 1 copy (<typed ~>); also with 2 identical copies
- duplicate** /d(y)ooʃpl,kayt/ *vt* 1 to make double or twofold 2 to make an exact copy of (< ~ the document>) ~ *vi* to replicate (<DNA in chromosomes ~>) – **duplication** /ˈkaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **duplicative** /-kətiv/ *adj*
- duplicator** /d(y)ooʃpl,kayta/ *n* a machine for making copies, esp by means other than photocopying or xeroxing [DUPLICATE + *-OR*]
- duplicity** /dyoʊhplisiti/ *n* malicious deception in thought, speech, or action – **duplicitous** /-sitis/ *adj*, **duplicitously** *adv*
- duppy** /ˈdupi/ *n* a usu malevolent ghost or spirit in W Indian folklore [Bube *dupe* ghost]
- durable** /dyooarəbl/, also *j-/* *adj* able to exist or be used for a long time without significant deterioration [ME, fr MF, fr L *durabilis*, fr *durare* to last, endure – more at **DURING**] – **durableness** *n*, **durably** *adv*, **durability** /-biliti/ *n*
- durables** *n pl* consumer goods (e.g. vehicles and household appliances) expected to have a long lifetime
- Duralumin** /dyooˈralyoomin/; also *joo-/* *trademark* – used for an alloy of aluminium, copper, manganese, and magnesium comparable in strength and hardness to soft steel
- dura mater** /dyooəˈmahta/ *n* the tough fibrous membrane that envelops the brain and spinal cord [ME, fr ML, lit., hard mother]
- duramen** /dyoo(ə)ˈrahmin/, -ˈray/, also *j-/* *n* heartwood [NL, fr L, hardness, fr *durare* to harden, last – more at **DURING**]
- durance** /dyooəˈrəns/; also *j-/* *n*, *archaic* imprisonment – often in *durance vile* (<a convict suffered ~ vile> – *Irish Digest*) [MF, fr *durer* to endure]
- duration** /dyoo(ə)ˈraysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 continuance in time 2 the time during which sth exists or lasts
- durative** /dyooəˈrativ/ *adj* of or being a verbal aspect expressing continuing action – **durative** *n*
- durbar** /ˈduh,bah/ *n* a reception held in former times by an Indian prince or a British governor or viceroy in India [Hindi *darbār*, fr Per, fr *dar* door + *bār* admission, audience]
- duress** /dyoo(ə)ˈres/; also *j-/* *n* 1 forcible restraint or restriction 2 compulsion by threat, violence, or imprisonment [ME *duresse*, fr MF *duresse* hardness, severity, fr L *duritia*, fr *durus*]
- Durex** /dyooəˈreks/ *trademark* – used for a condom
- durlan** /dyooəˈriːn/ *n* (an E Indian tree bearing) a large oval pleasant-tasting but foul-smelling tropical fruit with a prickly rind [Malay]
- during** /dyooəˈrɪŋ/; also *j-/* *prep* 1 throughout the whole duration of (<swims every day ~ the summer> 2 at some point in the course of (<takes his holiday ~ July> [ME, fr prp of *duren* to last, fr OF *durer*, fr L *durare* to harden, endure, fr *durus* hard; perh akin to Skt *dāru* wood – more at **TREE**])
- durmast** /ˈduh,mahst/ *n* a European oak valued esp for its dark heavy tough elastic wood [perh alter. of *dun mast*, fr *'dun* + *mast*]
- durum** /dyooəˈrəm/; also *j-/* *n* a hard wheat that yields a glutinous flour used esp to make pasta [NL, fr L, neut of *durus* hard]
- dusk** /ˈdusk/ *n* (the darker part of) twilight (<lights go on at ~> [ME *dosk*, *duſke* *duſky*, alter. of OE *dor*; akin to L *fuscus* dark brown, OE *dunn* dun, *dūst* dust])
- dusky** /ˈduski/ *adj* 1 somewhat dark in colour; esp dark-skinned 2 shadowy, gloomy –  **dusklily** *adv*,  **duskliness** *n*
- dust** /ˈdust/ *n* 1 fine dry particles of any solid matter, esp earth; specif the fine particles of waste that settle esp on household surfaces 2 the particles into which sth, esp the human body, disintegrates or decays 3 sth worthless (<worldly success was ~ to him>) 4 the surface of the ground – compare **BITE THE DUST** 5a a cloud of dust (<the cars raised quite a ~> **b** confusion, disturbance – esp in *kick up/raise a dust* [ME, fr OE *dust*, akin to L *furere* to rage, Gk *thyein*] –  **dustless** *adj*,  **dustlike** *adj*
- dust** *vt* 1 to make free of dust (e.g. by wiping or beating) 2 to prepare to use again – usu + *down* or *off* 3a to sprinkle with fine particles (< ~ a cake with icing sugar> **b** to sprinkle in the form of dust (< ~ sugar over a cake>) ~ *vi* 1 of a bird to work dust into the feathers 2 to remove dust (e.g. from household articles), esp by wiping or brushing
- dustbin** /-ˌbin/ *n*, *Br* a container for holding household refuse until collection
- dust bowl** *n* a region that suffers from prolonged droughts and dust storms
- dustcart** /-ˌkaht/ *n*, *Br* a vehicle for collecting household waste
- dustcoat** /-ˌkoht/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a loose lightweight coat worn to protect clothing
- dustcover** /-ˌkuvə/ *n* 1 a dustsheet 2 **DUST JACKET**
- dust devil** *n* a small whirlwind containing sand or dust
- duster** /ˈdusta/ *n* sth that removes dust, specif a cloth for removing dust from household articles
- dust jacket** *n* a removable outer paper cover for a book
- dustman** /-ˌmən/ *n*, *Br* one employed to remove household refuse
- dustpan** /-ˌpan/ *n* a shovel-like utensil with a handle into which household dust and litter is swept
- dustsheet** /-ˌsheet/ *n* a large sheet (e.g. of cloth) used as a cover to protect sth, esp furniture, from dust
- dust shot** *n* the smallest size of shot
- dust storm** *n* a dust-laden wind or whirlwind, esp a whirlwind moving across a dry region
- dust up** *n* a quarrel, row – *informal*
- dust wrapper** *n* **DUST JACKET**
- dusty** /ˈdusti/ *adj* 1 covered with or full of dust 2 consisting of dust, powdery 3 resembling dust, esp in consistency or colour 4 lacking vitality, dry (< ~ scholarship>) –  **dustily** *adv*,  **dustiness** *n* – not so dusty fairly good
- dusty miller** *n* any of several plants having leaves covered in dense white hairs
- dutch** /ˈdʌʃ/ *adv*, often *cap* with each person paying for him-/herself (<we always go ~>) [*Dutch*]
- dutch** *n*, *Br* one's wife – slang [by shortening & alter. fr *duchess*]
- Dutch** *n* 1 the Germanic language of the Netherlands 2 *LANGUAGE* 2 *pl* in *constr* the people of the Netherlands [ME *Duche* German, fr *Dutch*, *Duche*, *adj*, fr MD *duitsch*, akin to OHG *diutisc* German, Goth *thiudisko* as a gentile, *thiuda* people, Oscan *touto* city] –  **Dutch** *adj*,  **Dutchman** *n*
- Dutch auction** *n* an auction in which the auctioneer gradually reduces the bidding price until a bid is received
- Dutch barn** *n* a large barn with open sides used esp for storage of hay
- Dutch cap** *n* a moulded cap, usu of thin rubber, that fits over the uterine cervix to act as a mechanical contraceptive barrier
- Dutch courage** *n* courage produced by intoxication rather than inherent resolution
- Dutch elm disease** *n* a fatal disease of elms caused by a fungus, spread from tree to tree by a beetle, and characterized by yellowing of the foliage and defoliation
- Dutch hoe** *n* a garden hoe that has both edges sharpened
- Dutch oven** *n* 1 a 3-walled metal shield used for roasting before an open fire 2 a brick oven in which food is cooked by heat radiating from the prewarmed walls
- Dutch Reformed Church** *n* a branch of the Calvinist Church to which the majority of Afrikaans-speaking South Africans belong
- Dutch treat** *n* a meal or entertainment for which each person pays for him-/herself
- Dutch uncle** *n* one who admonishes sternly and bluntly
- duteous** /dyoohti-əs-, -tyəs/ *adj* dutiful, obedient – *formal* [irreg fr *duty*]
- dutiable** /dyoohti-əbl-, -tyəbl/ *adj* subject to a duty (< ~ imports>)
- dutiful** /dyoohtifti(ə)/ *adj* 1 filled with or motivated by a sense of duty



- <a ~ son> 2 proceeding from or expressive of a sense of duty <~ affection> – dutifully adv, dutifulness *n*
- duty** /ˈdyoʊti/ *n* 1 conduct due to parents and superiors, respect 2a tasks, conduct, service, or functions that arise from one's position, job, or moral obligations b assigned (military) service or business 3a a moral or legal obligation b the force of moral obligation 4 a tax, esp on imports 5 a measure of efficiency expressed in terms of the amount of work done in relation to the energy consumed [ME *duete*, fr AF *dueté*, fr OF *deu due*]
- duty-free** *adj* exempted from duty
- duumvir** /ˈdyoʊhˈumvə/, ˈdyoʊhˈamvə/ *n* either of 2 officers or magistrates of ancient Rome constituting a board or court [L, fr *duum* (gen of *duo* two) + *vir* man]
- duvet** /ˈduʊvə/ *n* a large quilt filled with insulating material (e.g. down, feathers, or acrylic fibre), usu placed inside a removable fabric cover and used in place of bedclothes [F, lit., down]
- dwarf** /dwaʊf/ *n*, *pl* **dwarfs**, **dwarves** /dwaʊvz/ 1 a person of unusually small stature, esp one whose bodily proportions are abnormal 2 an animal or plant much below normal size 3 a small manlike creature in esp Norse and Germanic mythology who was skilled as a craftsman [ME *dwerȝ*, *dwerf*, fr OE *dweorȝ*, *dweorh*, akin to OHG *twerȝ* dwarf] – **dwarfish** *adj*, **dwarfishness** *n*, **dwarflike** *adj*, **dwarfness** *n*
- dwarf** *vt* 1 to stunt the growth of 2 to cause to appear smaller <the other buildings are ~ed by the skyscraper>
- dwarfism** /ˈdwaʊˌfɪz(ə)m/ *n* the condition of stunted growth
- dwarf star** *n* a relatively small star (e.g. the sun) of ordinary luminosity
- dwell** /dwel/ *v*: **dwelt** /dwelt/, **dwelled** /dweld/, **dwelt** / 1 to remain for a time 2 to keep the attention directed, esp in speech or writing, linger – + on or upon <dwelt on the weaknesses in his opponent's arguments> 3 to live as a resident, reside – **fml** [ME *dwellen*, fr OE *dwellan* to go astray, hinder, akin to OHG *twellen* to tarry] – **dweller** *n*
- dwelling** /ˈdwelɪŋ/ *n* a place (e.g. a house or flat) in which people live – **fml** or **humor**
- dwindle** /ˈdwɪndl/ *v*: **dwindling** /ˈdwɪndlɪŋ/ to become steadily less in quantity, shrink, diminish [prob freq of E dial *dwine* (to waste away), fr ME *dwinen*, fr OE *dwīnan*]
- DX**, **Dx** *n* long-range radio transmissions <when some of the best ~ may be heard – Radio & Electronics World> <~ listeners>
- DXer**, **Dxer** *n* someone whose hobby is listening to DX
- DXing**, **Dxing** *n* the hobby of listening to DX
- dy-** /di-/ , **dyo-** *comb form* two <dyarchy> [LL, fr Gk, fr *dyo* – more at two]
- dyad** /ˈdiːəd/ *n* a pair, **specific COUPLE** 1 – **fml** [LL *dyad-*, *dyas*, fr Gk, fr *dyo*] – **dyadic** /diˈeɪdɪk/ *adj*, **dyadically** *adv*
- Dyak**, **Dayak** /ˈdiːək/ *n* 1 (a member of) any of several Indonesian peoples of the interior of Borneo 2 the language of the Dyaks → LANGUAGE [Malay *dayak* up-country]
- dyarchy**, **diarchy** /ˈdiːərki/ *n* a government in which power is vested in 2 rulers
- dybbuk** /ˈdɪbək/ *n*, *pl* **dybbukim** /-kɪm/ *also* **dybbuks** an evil spirit that inhabits the body of a living person in Jewish folklore [LHeb *dibbuq*]
- dye** /di-/ *n* 1 a colour or tint produced by dyeing 2 a soluble or insoluble colouring matter [ME *dehe*, fr OE *deah*, *deag*; akin to L *fumus* smoke – more at FUME]
- dye** *vt* **dyeing** to impart a new and often permanent colour to, esp by impregnation with a dye – **dyer** *n*, **dyeable** /diˈeɪbl/ *adj*, **dyeability** /diˈeɪbəlɪti/ *n*
- dyed-in-the-wool** *adj* thoroughgoing, uncompromising <a ~ conservative>
- dye-stuff** /-stʌf/ *n* **DYE** 2
- dye-wood** /-ˈwʊd/ *n* a wood (e.g. fustic) yielding a dye
- dying** /ˈdiːɪŋ/ *pres part* of **DIE**
- dyke**, **dike** /diːk/ *n* 1 an artificial watercourse; a ditch 2 a bank, usu of earth, constructed to control or confine water 3 a barrier preventing passage, esp of sth undesirable 4 a raised causeway 5 a body of intrusive igneous rock running across the strata → GEOGRAPHY 6 chiefly Br a natural watercourse 7 dial Br a wall or fence of turf or stone [ME, fr OE *dic* ditch, *dyke*; akin to MHG *tich* pond, *dyke*, L *figere* to fasten, pierce]
- dyke**, **dike** *vt* to surround or protect with a dyke
- dynamism** /diˈnæmɪk, di-/ *adj* 1a of physical force or energy in motion b of dynamics 2a marked by continuous activity or change <a ~ population> b energetic, forceful <a ~ personality> [F *dynamique*, fr Gk
- dynamikos** powerful, fr *dynamis* power, fr *dynasthai* to be able] – **dynamical** *adj*, **dynamically** *adv*
- dynamism** *n* a dynamic force
- dynamics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl in constr* 1 a branch of mechanics that deals with forces and their relation to the motion of bodies 2 a pattern of change or growth <population ~> 3 variation and contrast in force or intensity (e.g. in music)
- dynamism** /ˈdiːnəˌmɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a a philosophical system that describes the universe in terms of the interplay of forces b **DYNAMICS** 2 2 dynamic quality – **dynamist** *n*, **dynamistic** /-ˈmɪstɪk/ *adj*
- dynamite** /ˈdiːnəˌmɪt/ *n* 1 a blasting explosive that is made of nitroglycerine absorbed in a porous material 2 sb or sth that has explosive force or effect – **infml**
- dynamite** *vt* to destroy with dynamite – **dynamiter** *n*
- dynamo** /ˈdiːnəˌmoh/ *n*, *pl* **dynamos** 1 a machine by which mechanical energy is converted into electrical energy; **specific** such a device that produces direct current (e.g. in a motor car) → ENERGY 2 a forceful energetic person [short for *dynamo-electric machine*]
- dynamometer** /ˈdiːnəˌmɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring power exerted (e.g. by an engine) [F *dynamomètre*, fr Gk *dynamis* power + F *-mètre* -meter] – **dynamometric** /-ˌmohˈmɛtrɪk/ *adj*, **dynamometry** /-ˌmɒmɪtri/ *n*
- dynast** /ˈdɪnəst, -nəst/ *n* a usu hereditary ruler [L *dynastes*, fr Gk *dynastes*, fr *dynasthai* to be able, have power]
- dynasty** /ˈdɪnəsti/ *n* a succession of hereditary rulers, *also* the time during which such a dynasty rules – **dynastic** /diˈnəstɪk/ *adj*, **dynastically** *adv*
- dynatron** /ˈdiːnəˌtrɒn/ *n* a thermionic valve having 4 electrodes and used esp to generate oscillations [Gk *dynamis* power]
- dyne** /diːn/ *n* the cgs unit of force, 10<sup>-7</sup>N → UNIT [F, fr Gk *dynamis*]
- dyo-** – see **DY-**
- dys-** /dis-/ *prefix* 1 abnormal, impaired <dysfunction> <dysplasia> 2 difficult, painful <dysuria> <dysmenorrhoea> – compare **FU-** 1 [ME *dis-* bad, difficult, fr MF & L; MF *dis-*, fr L *dys-*, fr Gk; akin to OE *tō-*, *te-* apart, Skt *dis-* bad, difficult]
- dyscrasia** /ˈdɪskreɪziːə, -z(ə)jə/ *n* an abnormal condition of the body or of one of its parts <a blood ~> [NL, fr ML, bad mixture of humours, fr Gk *dyskrasia*, fr *dys-* + *krasis* mixture, fr *kerannynai* to mix]
- dysentery** /ˈdɪs(ə)ntri/ *n* any of several infectious diseases characterized by severe diarrhoea, usu with passing of mucus and blood [ME *dissent-erie*, fr L *dysenteria*, fr Gk, fr *dys-* + *enteron* intestine – more at **INTER-**] – **dysenteric** /-ˈtɛrɪk/ *adj*
- dysfunction**, **disfunction** /ˈdɪsfʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* impaired or abnormal functioning – **dysfunctional** *adj*
- dys-genic** /-ˈjɛnɪk/ *adj* detrimental to the hereditary qualities of a stock
- dys-genics** /-ˈjɛnɪks/ *n pl* but *sing in constr* the study of racial degeneration
- dyslexia** /-ˈlɛksiːə/ *n* a maldevelopment of reading ability in otherwise normal children due to a neurological disorder [NL, fr *dys-* + Gk *lexis* word, speech] – **dyslexic** /-ˈsɪk/ *adj*
- dysmenorrhoea** /-ˌmɛnəˈrɪə/ *n* painful menstruation [NL]
- dyspepsia** /-ˈpepsɪə/ *n* indigestion [L, fr Gk, fr *dys-* + *pepsis* digestion, fr *pepten*, *pepsen* to cook, digest – more at **COOK**]
- dyspeptic** /-ˈpeptɪk/ *adj* 1 relating to or having dyspepsia 2 showing a sour disposition, ill-tempered – **dyspeptic** *n*, **dyspeptically** *adv*
- dysphasia** /-ˈfayziə, -z(ə)jə/ *n* loss of or deficiency in the power to use or understand language as a result of injury to or disease of the brain [NL] – **dysphasic** /-ˈzɪk/ *n* or *adj*
- dysphoria** /-ˈfawriːə/ *n* a state of feeling unwell or unhappy – compare **EUPHORIA** [NL, fr Gk, fr *dysphoros* hard to bear, fr *dys-* + *pherein* to bear – more at **BFAR**] – **dysphoric** /-ˈfɒrɪk/ *adj*
- dysplasia** /-ˈplæziːə, -z(ə)jə/ *n* abnormal growth or development of organs, cells, etc [NL] – **dysplastic** /-ˈplæstɪk/ *adj*
- dyspnoea**, chiefly **NAM dyspnea** /ˈdɪspˈneə-/ *n* difficult or laboured breathing [L *dyspnoea*, fr Gk *dyspnoia*, fr *dyspnoos* short of breath, fr *dys-* + *pnein* to breathe – more at **SNEEZE**] – **dyspnoeic** /-ˈneɪk/ *adj*
- dysprosium** /-ˈprɒziːəm, -si-/ *n* an element of the rare-earth group that forms highly magnetic compounds → **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Gk *dysprositos* hard to get at, fr *dys-* + *prositos* approachable, fr *prosinai* to approach, fr *pros-* + *ienai* to go – more at **ISSUE**]
- dystopia** /-ˈtoʊpiːə/ *n* an imaginary place which is depressingly wretched – compare **UTOPIA** [NL, fr *dys-* + *-topia* (as in *utopia*)] – **dystopian** *adj*

**dysuria** /-yoʊəri-ə/ *n* difficult or painful urination [NL, fr Gk *dysouria*, fr *dys-* + *-ouria* -uria]

# E

**e** /e:/ *n*, *pl* *e*'s, *es* often *cap* **1a** (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 5th letter of the English alphabet **b** a speech counterpart of orthographic *e* **2** the 3rd note of a C-major scale **3** one designated *e* e.g. **a** the 5th in order or class **b** the base of the system of natural logarithms having the approximate numerical value 2.71828 **4** a mark rating a student's work as poor or failing

**e-** *prefix* **1a** deprive of; remove (a specified quality or thing) <*emasculate*> <*eviscerate*> **b** lacking; without <*edentate*> <*ecaudate*> **2** out; on the outside <*evert*> **3** forth <*emanate*> <*ejaculate*> [ME, fr OF & L; OF, out, forth, away, fr L, fr *ex-*]

**each** /eəʃ/ *adj* being one of 2 or more distinct individuals considered separately and often forming a group <~ *foot in turn*> <*they ~ want something different*> [ME *ech*, fr OE *ælc*; akin to OHG *iogilih* each, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first and second constituents respectively are represented by OE *ā* always & *gelic* alike]

**each** *pron* each one <~ *of us*> <~ *is equally attractive*>

**each** *adv* to or for each; apiece <*tickets at £1 ~*>

**each** *'other* *pron* each of 2 or more in reciprocal action or relation – not used as subject of a clause <*wore each other's shirts*> <*looked at ~ in surprise*>

**each** *'way* *adj* or *adv*, *Br*, of a bet backing a horse, dog, etc to finish in the first two, three, or four in a race as well as to win

**eager** /'eɪgə/ *adj* marked by keen, enthusiastic, or impatient desire or interest <*always ~ to help*> [ME *egre* sharp, fierce, fr OF *aigre*, fr L *acer* – more at *EDGE*] – *eagerly* *adv*, *eagerness* *n*

**eager** *'beaver* *n* one who is unduly zealous in performing his/her assigned duties and in volunteering for more – *infrm*

**eagle** /'eɪgl/ *n* **1** any of various large birds of prey noted for their strength, size, gracefulness, keenness of vision, and powers of flight **2** any of various emblematic or symbolic representations of an eagle: e.g. **a** the standard of the ancient Romans **b** the seal or standard of a nation (e.g. the USA) having an eagle as emblem **3** a 10-dollar gold coin of the USA **4** a golf score for 1 hole of 2 strokes less than par [ME *eagle*, fr OF *aigle*, fr L *aquila*]

**eagle** *'eye* *n* close vigilance; careful attention <*the teacher kept an ~ on the unruly pupil*>

**eagle-eyed** *adj* **1** having very good eyesight **2** looking very keenly at sthg <*watched ~ while the cashier counted out the money*> **3** good at noticing details; observant <*an ~ employer who spots the smallest mistake*>


**eagle owl** *n* an owl with prominent ear tufts that is the largest European owl

**eaglet** /'eɪglɪt/ *n* a young eagle

**egre** /'aɪgə/ *n* **'BORE** [origin unknown]

**ealdorman** /'aɪldərmən/ *n* the chief officer in a district in Anglo-Saxon England [OE – more at *ALDERMAN*]

**-ean** – see *1,2,AN*

**ear** /iə/ *n* **1a** (the external part of) the characteristic vertebrate organ of hearing and equilibrium  **NERVE** **b** any of various organs capable of detecting vibratory motion **2** the sense or act of hearing **3** sensitivity to musical tone and pitch **4** sthg resembling an ear in shape or position; esp a projecting part (e.g. a lug or handle) **5a** sympathetic attention <*gained the ~ of the managing director*> **b** *pl* notice, awareness <*it has come to my ~s that you are discontented*> [ME *ere*, fr OE *ēare*; akin to OHG *ōra* ear, L *auris*, Gk *ous*] – *by ear* from memory of the sound without having seen the written music – *in one ear and out the other* through one's mind without making an impression <*everything you say to him goes in one ear and out the other*> – *up to one's ears* deeply involved; heavily implicated

**ear** *n* the fruiting spike of a cereal, including both the seeds and protective structures [ME *er*, fr OE *ear*; akin to OHG *ahir* ear, OE *ecg* edge – more at *EDGE*]

**earache** /iə'reɪk/ *n* an ache or pain in the ear

**ear, drum** /-drʌm/ *n* TYMPANIC MEMBRANE  **NERVE**

**earred** /iəd/ *adj* having ears, esp of a specified kind or number <*long-eared owl*>

**earful** /-f(ə)l/ *n* **1** an outpouring of news or gossip **2** a sharp verbal reprimand *USE* *infrm*

**earl** /uːhl/ *n* a member of the British peerage ranking below a marquess and above a viscount [ME *erl*, fr OE *eorl* warrior, nobleman, akin to ON *jarl* warrior, nobleman] – *earldom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**earl** *'marshal* *n* an officer of state in England serving chiefly as a royal attendant on ceremonial occasions, as marshal of state processions, and as head of the College of Arms

**earlobe** /-lɒb/ *n* the pendent part of the ear of humans or of some fowls


**earl** *'palatine* *n* an English earl having in former times royal powers within his county

**early** /'uːhli/ *adv* **1** at or near the beginning of a period of time, a development, or a series <*earlier on in the experiment*> **2** before the usual or proper time <*got up ~*> [ME *erly*, fr OE *ærlīce*, fr *ær* early, soon – more at *ERE*]

**early** *adj* **1a** of or occurring near the beginning of a period of time, a development, or a series **b(1)** distant in past time **(2)** primitive **2a** occurring before the usual time **b** occurring in the near future **c** maturing or producing sooner than related forms <*an ~ peach*> – *earliness* *n*

**early** *'bird* *n* one who rises or arrives early

**early** *'closing* *n* **1** the closing of shops in a British town or district on 1 afternoon a week **2** the day on which shops close early

**Early** *'English* *adj* of an early Gothic style of architecture, prevalent in Britain from the late 12th to the late 13th c, characterized by lancet windows and pointed arches  **CHURCH**

**earmark** /iə'maːk/ *n* **1** a mark of identification on the ear of an animal **2** a distinguishing or identifying characteristic

**ear, mark** *vi* **1** to mark (livestock) with an earmark **2** to designate (e.g. funds) for a specific use or owner

**ear, muffs** /-mʌfs/ *n pl* a pair of ear coverings connected by a flexible band and worn as protection against cold or noise

**earn** /uːn/ *vt* **1** to receive (e.g. money) as return for effort, esp for work done or services rendered **2** to bring in as income <*my shares ~ed nothing last year*> **3a** to gain or deserve because of one's behaviour or qualities <*Alexander ~ed the title 'The Great' by his victories in war*> **b** to make worthy of or obtain for <*Alexander's victories in war ~ed him the title 'The Great'*> [ME *ernen*, fr OE *earnian*]

**earner** /'uːnə/ *n*, *Br* sthg profitable – *slang* [EARN + *-ER*]

**earnest** /'uːnɪst/ *n* a serious and intent mental state – esp in *in earnest* [ME *erdest*, fr OE *eornost*; akin to OHG *ernust* earnest]

**earnest** *adj* determined and serious – *earnestly* *adv*, *earnestness* *n*

**earnest** *n* **1** sthg of value, esp money, given by a buyer to a seller to seal a bargain **2** a token of what is to come; a pledge [ME *ernes*, *erdest*, fr OF *erres*, *pl* of *erre* earnest, fr L *arra*, short for *arrabo*, fr Gk *arrhabōn*, fr Heb *'erabhon*]

**earnings** /'uːnɪŋgz/ *n pl* money earned; esp gross revenue

**earphone** /iə'fəʊn/ *n* a device that converts electrical energy into sound waves and is worn over or inserted into the ear

**ear, piece** /-piːs/ *n* a part of an instrument (e.g. a telephone) to which the ear is applied for listening, esp an earphone


**ear, piercing** /-piːsɪŋg/ *adj* earsplitting

**ear, plug** /-plʌg/ *n* a device inserted into the outer opening of the ear for protection against water, loud noise, etc

**ear, ring** /-rɪŋg/ *n* an ornament for the ear that is attached to the earlobe

**ear, shot** /-ʃɒt/ *n* the range within which sthg, esp the unaided voice, may be heard

**ear, splitting** /-splɪtɪŋg/ *adj* distressingly loud or shrill

**earth** /uːθ/ *n* **1** **'SOIL** **2a** the sphere of mortal or worldly existence as distinguished from spheres of spiritual life – compare *HEAVEN*, *HELL* **3a** areas of land as distinguished from sea and air **b** the solid ground **4** *often* cap the planet on which we live that is third in order from the sun  **ASTRONOMY**, **SYMBOL** **5** the people of the planet earth **6** the lair of a fox, badger, etc **7** a metallic oxide formerly classed as an element **8** chiefly *Br* an electrical connection to earth **b** a large conducting body (e.g. the earth) used as the arbitrary zero of potential **9** a huge amount of money <*his suit must have cost the ~*> – *infrm* [ME *erthe*, fr OE *eorthe*; akin to OHG *erda* earth, Gk *eraze* to the ground] – *earthlike* *adj*, *earthward* /-wɔːd/ *adj* or *adv*, *earthwards* *adv* – on earth – used to intensify an interrogative pronoun <*where on earth is it?*>

**earth** *vi* **1** to drive (e.g. a fox) to hiding in its earth **2** to draw soil about (plants) – *usu* + *up* **3** chiefly *Br* to connect electrically with earth ~ *vi* of a hunted animal to hide in its lair

**earth, bound** /-baʊnd/ *adj* **1a** restricted to the earth **b** heading or

directed towards the planet earth <an ~ spaceship> 2a bound by worldly interests; lacking spiritual quality b pedestrian, unimaginative

**'earth, closet** *n* a toilet in which earth is used to cover excreta

**'earthen** /'u:dh(ə)n/, -th(ə)n/ *adj* made of earth or baked clay

**'earthenware** /-weə/ *n* ceramic ware made of slightly porous opaque clay fired at a low temperature – compare **STONEWARE**

**'earth, light** /-li:t/ *n* earthshine


**'earth, ling** /-li:ŋ/ *n* an inhabitant of the earth, esp as contrasted with inhabitants of other planets

**'earthly** /-li/ *adj* 1a characteristic of or belonging to this earth b relating to human beings' actual life on this earth; worldly 2 possible – usu + neg or interrog <there is no ~ reason for such behaviour> – **earthliness** *n*

**'earthly** *n* a chance of success – usu + neg, infml

**'earth, mother** *n* 1 often cap **E&M** the female principle of fertility 2 a woman who embodies the earth mother, esp in being generously proportioned and maternal

**'earth, nut** /-nʌt/ *n* the pignut

**'earth, quake** /-kweɪk/ *n* a (repeated) usu violent earth tremor caused by volcanic action or processes within the earth's crust  **GEOGRAPHY**

**'earth, science** *n* any of the sciences (e.g. geology) that deal with (1 or more parts of) the earth

**'earth, shaking** /-ʃeɪkɪŋ/ *adj* having tremendous importance or a widespread often violent effect – chiefly infml

**'earth, shine** /-ʃi:ən/ *n* sunlight reflected by the earth and illuminating the dark part of the moon

**'earth, work** /-wʊk/ *n* (the construction of) an embankment, field fortification, etc. made of earth

**'earth, worm** /-wʊm/ *n* any of numerous widely distributed hermaphroditic worms that live in the soil

**'earthy** /'u:θi/ *adj* 1 consisting of, resembling, or suggesting earth <an ~ flavour> 2 crude, coarse <~ humour> – **earthily** *adv*, **earthiness** *n*

**'earwig** /'i:wig/ *n* any of numerous insects that have slender many-jointed antennae and a pair of appendages resembling forceps [ME *erwige*, fr OE *earwiga*, fr *ēare* ear + *wiga* insect – more at **VETCH**]

**'ease** /eɪz/ *n* 1 being comfortable e.g. a freedom from pain, discomfort, or anxiety b freedom from labour or difficulty c freedom from embarrassment or constraint, naturalness 2 facility, effortlessness 3 easing or being eased [ME *ese*, fr OF *aise* convenience, comfort, fr L *adjacent-, adjacens* neighbourhood, fr neut of prp of *adjacere* to lie near – more at **ADJACENT**] – **easeful** *adj*, **easefully** *adv* – at **ease** 1 free from pain or discomfort 2 free from restraint or formality <he's quite at his ease in any kind of company> 3 standing with the feet apart and usu 1 or both hands behind the body – used esp as a military command

**'ease** *vt* 1 to free from sthg that pains, disquiets, or burdens – + of 2 to alleviate 3 to lessen the pressure or tension of, esp by slackening, lifting, or shifting 4 to make less difficult 5 to manoeuvre gently or carefully in a specified way <~d the heavy block into position> 6 to put the helm of (a ship) towards the lee ~ *vi* 1 to decrease in activity, intensity, or severity – often + *off* or *up* <the rain is easing off> 2 to manoeuvre oneself gently or carefully <~d through a hole in the fence>


**esol** /'eɪzəl/ *n* a frame for supporting sthg (e.g. an artist's canvas) [D *ezel* ass; akin to OE *esol* ass; both fr a prehistoric EGmc-WGmc word borrowed fr L *asinus* ass]

**'easement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 an act or means of easing or relieving 2 a right to the limited use (e.g. for access) of another person's ground or property

**'easily** /'eɪzəli/ *adv* 1 without difficulty <my car will do a hundred ~> 2 without doubt; by far <~ the best>

**'east** /eɪst/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the east <a biting ~ wind> <we headed ~> [ME *est*, fr OE *east*, akin to OHG *ōstar* to the east, L *aurora* dawn, Gk *ēōs*, *heos*]

**'east** *n* 1 (the compass point corresponding to) the direction 90° to the right of north that is the general direction of sunrise 2a often cap regions or countries lying to the east of a specified or implied point of orientation b cap regions lying to the east of Europe 3 the altar end of a church 4 sby (e.g. a bridge player) occupying a position designated east – **eastward** /-wɔ:d/ *adj* or *n*, **eastwards** *adv*

**East Caribbean Dollar** *n* (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of certain countries in the W Indies  **NATIONALITY**

**Easter** /'eɪstə/ *n* a feast that commemorates Christ's resurrection and is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following March 21 [ME *estre*, fr OE *eastre*, akin to OHG *ōstarun* (pl) Easter; both fr the prehistoric WGmc name of a pagan spring festival, akin to OE *ēast east*]

**'Easter, egg** *n* a (chocolate or painted and hard-boiled) egg given as a present and eaten at Easter

**'easterly** /-li/ *adj* or *adv* east <in an ~ direction> <an ~ wind> [obs *easter* (eastern)]

**'easterly** *n* a wind from the east

**'Easter Monday** *n* the Monday after Easter observed as a public holiday

**'eastern** /'eɪst(ə)n/ *adj* 1 often cap (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated east 2 east 3 **Eastern, Eastern Orthodox** **ORTHODOX** 2a [ME *estern*, fr OE *easterne*; akin to OHG *ōstromi* eastern, OE *ēast east*] – **easternmost** /-məʊst/ *adj*

**'Easterner** /'eɪst(ə)nə/ *n*, chiefly **NAm** a native or inhabitant of the East, esp the E USA

**'eastern hemisphere** *n* the half of the earth to the east of the Atlantic ocean including Europe, Asia, and Africa

**'easting** /'eɪstɪŋ/ *n* 1 distance due east in longitude from the preceding point of measurement 2 easterly progress

**'east, northeast** *n* a compass point midway between east and northeast

**'east, southeast** *n* a compass point midway between east and southeast

**'easy** /'eɪzi/ *adj* 1 causing or involving little difficulty or discomfort <an ~ problem> 2a not severe, lenient b readily prevailed on, compliant: e.g. (1) not difficult to deceive or take advantage of <~ prey> (2) readily persuaded to have sexual relations – infml 3a plentiful in supply at low or declining interest rates <~ money> b less in demand and usu lower in price <gills were easier> 4a marked by peace and comfort <the ~ course of his life> b not hurried or strenuous <an ~ pace> c free from pain, annoyance, or anxiety 5 marked by social ease <~ manners> 6 not burdensome or straitened <bought on ~ terms> 7 marked by ready facility and freedom from constraint <an ~ flowing style> 8 chiefly **Br** not having marked preferences on a particular issue – infml [ME *esy*, fr OF *aaisie*, pp of *aaisier* to ease, fr *a-* ad- (fr L *ad-*) + *aise* ease] – **easy** *n* – **easy** on 1 lenient with <be easy on the boy> 2 attractive to <easy on the eyes>

**'easy** *adv* 1 easily <promises come ~> 2 without undue speed or excitement, slowly, cautiously <take it ~> – **easy** on 1 leniently with <go easy on the boy> 2 not too lavishly with <go easy on the ice, bartender>

**'easy chair** *n* a large usu upholstered armchair designed for comfort and relaxation

**'easygoing** /-'goh ɪŋ/ *adj* taking life easily: e.g. a placid and tolerant b indolent and careless – **easygoingness** *n*

**'easy street** *n* a position of affluence – often + *on*, infml

**'eat** /'et/ *vb* ate /et, aɪt/, eaten /'eɪt(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to take in through the mouth and swallow as food 2 to consume gradually, corrode <the acid has ~n away the battery terminals> 3 to vex, bother – infml <what's ~ing you?> ~ *vi* to take food or a meal [ME *eten*, fr OE *etan*; akin to OHG *ezzan* to eat, L *edere*, Gk *edmenai*] – **eatable** *adj*, **enter** *n* – **eat** humble pie to apologize or retract under pressure [humble pie alter. of *umble pie*, fr *umbles*] – **eat one's heart out** to grieve bitterly, esp for sthg desired but unobtainable – **eat one's words** to retract what one has said – **eat out of someone's hand** to accept sby's domination

**'eatables** /'eɪtəblz/ *n pl* food

**'eat out** *vi* to eat away from home, esp in a restaurant


**'eats** /'eɪts/ *n pl* food – infml [ME *et*, fr OE *æt*; akin to OE *etan* to eat]

**'eat up** *vt* 1a to consume completely or very rapidly <eat up your greens like a good boy> b to absorb, preoccupy – often pass <eaten up by vanity> 2 to show avid interest in or enjoyment of <the press ate up the explorers' story> – infml

**'eau de cologne** /,oh də kə'loʊn/ *n*, *pl* **eaux de cologne** /~/ **TOILET WATER** [F, lit., Cologne water, fr *Cologne*, city in Germany]

**'eau-de-nil** /'neɪl/ *n* or *adj* (a) pale slightly bluish green [F, lit., Nile water, fr the *Nile*, river in Africa]

**'eau-de-vie** /'veɪ/ *n*, *pl* **eaux-de-vie** /~/ **brandy** [F, lit., water of life, trans of ML *aqua vitae*]

**'eaves** /'eɪvz/ *n pl* the lower border of a roof that overhangs the wall  **ARCHITECTURE** [ME *eves* (sng), fr OE *eſes*; akin to OHG *obasa* portico, OE *up* up – more at **UP**]

**'eavesdrop** /'eɪvzdrɒp/ *vi* to listen secretly to what is said in private [prob back-formation fr *eavesdropper*, lit., one standing under the drip from the eaves] – **eavesdropper** *n*

**'ebb** /eb/, **'ebb, tide** *n* 1 the flowing out of the tide towards the sea 2 a

- point or condition of decline <relations were at a low ~> [ME *ebbe*, fr OE *ebba*, akin to MD *ebbe* *ebb*, OE *of* from ~ more at OF]
- ebb** *vi* 1 of tidal water to recede from the flood state 2 to decline from a higher to a lower level or from a better to a worse state
- ebonite** /'ebəniət/ *n* a hard black vulcanized rubber [arch *ebon* (ebony) + *-ite*]
- 'ebony** /'ebəni/ *n* (any of various tropical trees that yield) a hard heavy black wood [prob fr LL *hebeninus* of ebony, fr Gk *ebeninos*, fr *ebenos* ebony, fr Egypt *hbnj*]
- 'ebony** *adj* 1 made of or resembling ebony 2 black, dark – usu apprec
- ebullience** /'i:bul-əns, -yəns/, **ebullency** /-sɪ/ *n* the quality of being full of liveliness and enthusiasm; exuberance
- ebullient** /'i:bul-ənt, -yənt/ *adj* 1 boiling, agitated 2 characterized by ebullience [L *ebullient-*, *ebulliens*, prp of *ebullire* to bubble out, fr *e-* + *bullire* to bubble, boil – more at *'boil*] – **ebulliently** *adv*
- ebullition** /,ebə'liʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act, process, or state of boiling or bubbling up 2 a sudden violent outburst or display – *fml*
- eco-, eco-** *comb form* 1 habitat; environment (<ecospecies>) (<ecophysiology>) 2 ecological (<ecosystem>) [LL *oeco-* household, fr Gk *oik-*, *oikos*, fr *oikos* house – more at *VICINITY*]
- 'eccentric** /'ik'sentrik/ *adj* 1 not having the same centre (<~ spheres>) 2 deviating from established convention, odd (<~ behaviour>) 3a deviating from a circular path (<an ~ orbit>) b located elsewhere than at the geometrical centre, also having the axis or support so located (<an ~ wheel>) [ML *eccentricus*, fr Gk *ekkentros*, fr *ex* out of + *kentron* centre] – **eccentrically** *adv*
- 'eccentric** *n* 1 a mechanical device using eccentrically mounted parts to transform circular into reciprocating motion 2 an eccentric person
- eccentricity** /'eksən'trisəti/ *n* 1 being eccentric 2 a number that for a given conic section is the ratio of the distances from any point on the curve to the focus and the directrix
- ecclesi-** /'ikleɪ-/ , **ecclesio-** *comb form* church (<ecclesiography>) [ME *eccles-*, fr LL *ecclesia*, fr Gk *ekklesia* assembly of citizens, church, fr *ekkalein* to call forth, summon, fr *ex-* + *kalein* to call]
- Ecclesiastes** /,ikleɪ'æsteɪz/ *n* an Old Testament book ascribed to Solomon [Gk *Ekklesiastēs*, lit., preacher (trans of Heb *Qoheleth*), fr *ekklesiastēs* member of an assembly]
- ecclesiastic** /,ikleɪ'astɪk/ *n* a clergyman
- ecclesiastical** /,ikleɪ'astɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of a church, esp as a formal and established institution (<~ law>) 2 suitable for use in a church (<~ vestments>) [ME, fr LL *ecclesiasticus*, fr LGk *ekklesiastikos*, fr Gk, of an assembly of citizens, fr *ekklesiastes* member of an assembly, fr *ekklesia*] – **ecclesiastically** *adv*
- ecclesiasticism** /,ikleɪ'astɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* excessive attachment to ecclesiastical forms and practices
- Ecclesiasticus** /,ikleɪ'astɪkəs/ *n* a didactic book of the Protestant Apocrypha included in the Roman Catholic Old Testament [LL, fr *ecclesiasticus* ecclesiastic]
- ecclesiology** /,ikleɪ'ɒləj/ *n* 1 the study of church architecture and ornament 2 theological doctrine relating to the church – **ecclesiological** /-zi-ə'lɒjɪkəl/ *adj*
- ecdysis** /'ekdɪsɪs/ *n*, **pl ecdyses** /-seɪz/ the moulting or shedding of an outer layer (e.g. in insects and crustaceans) [NL, fr Gk *ekdysis* act of getting out]
- 'echelon** /'eshələn, 'ay-/ *n* 1 an arrangement of units (e.g. of troops or ships) resembling a series of steps 2 a particular division of a headquarters or supply organization in warfare 3 any of a series of levels or grades (e.g. of authority or responsibility) in some organized field of activity [F *échelon*, lit., rung of a ladder, dim. of *échelle* ladder]
- 'echelon** *vi* to form or arrange in an echelon
- echidna** /'i:kɪdnə/ *n*, **pl echidnas**, **echidnae** /-ni/ an egg-laying spiny-coated toothless burrowing nocturnal mammal of Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea that feeds chiefly on ants [NL, fr L, viper, fr Gk]
- echin-** /'ikɪn-/ , **echino-** *comb form* 1 prickle (<echinoderm>) 2 sea urchin (<echinite>) [L, fr Gk, fr *echinos* sea urchin]
- echinoderm** /'i:kiənoʊ,duhm/ *n* any of a phylum of radially symmetrical marine animals consisting of the starfishes, sea urchins, and related forms [NL *Echinodermata*, phylum name, fr *echin-* + *-dermata* (fr Gk *derma* skin)] – **echinodermatous** /-ˈduhmətəs/ *adj*
- echinoid** /'i:kiənoɪd, 'e:kiənoɪd/ *n* SEA URCHIN
- echinus** /'i:kiəns/ *n*, **pl echini** /-ni/ 1 SEA URCHIN 2 a convex moulding beneath the abacus of a classical capital  ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr L, fr Gk *echinos* hedgehog, sea urchin, architectural echinus]
- 'echo** /'ekoʊ/ *n*, **pl echoes** 1a the repetition of a sound caused by the reflection of sound waves b the repeated sound due to such reflection 2 sby or sthg that repeats or imitates another (<his opinions were just an ~ of his superiors>) 3 a repercussion, result 4 a soft repetition of a musical phrase 5a the reflection by an object of transmitted radar signals b a blip [ME *ecco*, fr MF & L, MF *echo*, fr L, fr Gk *ēchō*; akin to L *vagire* to wail, Gk *ēchē* sound] – **echoey** *adj*
- 'echo** *vi* 1 to resound with echoes 2 to produce an echo ~ *vt* 1 to repeat, imitate 2 to send back or repeat (a sound) as an echo
- Echo** – a communications code word for the letter *e*
- 'echo chamber** *n* a room with sound-reflecting walls used for making acoustic measurements and for producing echoing sound effects, esp in radio broadcasting
- echoic** /'eko:ɪk/ *adj* 1 of an echo 2 onomatopoeic – **echoism** /'eko:ɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- echolalia** /,ekə'hlaɪli-, -li-/ *n* the pathological echoing of what is said by other people that is a symptom of mental disorder [NL] – **echolalic** /-ˈlaɪlɪk, -ˈlaɪk/ *adj*
- echolocation** /'ekəloʊləkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the location of distant or invisible objects by means of sound waves reflected back to the sender (e.g. a bat or submarine) by the objects
- 'echo, sounder** *n* an instrument that uses acoustic echolocation to determine the depth of a body of water
- 'echo virus** /,vie-ərəs/ *n* any of a group of viruses found in the gastrointestinal tract and sometimes associated with respiratory ailments and meningitis [enteric cytopathogenic human orphan + virus]
- éclair** /'i:kler, ay-/ *n* a small light oblong cake of choux pastry that is split and filled with cream and usu topped with (chocolate) icing [F, lit., lightning]
- eklampsia** /'iklampsɪ-/ *n* an attack of convulsions during pregnancy or childbirth [NL, fr Gk *eklampsis* sudden flashing, fr *eklampein* to shine forth, fr *ex* out + *lampein* to shine] – **eklampsic** /-ˈtɪk/ *adj*
- éclat** /ay'klaʃ (Fr ekla)/ *n* 1 ostentatious display 2 brilliant or conspicuous success 3 acclaim, applause [F, splinter, burst, ostentation]
- 'eclectic** /'eklektɪk, -i-/ *adj* 1 selecting or using elements from various doctrines, methods, or styles 2 composed of elements drawn from various sources [Gk *eklektikos*, fr *eklegen* to select, fr *ex* out + *legen* to gather – more at *EX-*, *LEGEND*] – **eclectically** *adv*, **eclecticism** /-ˈi:ɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- 'eclectic** *n* one who uses an eclectic method or approach
- 'eclipse** /'ɪkɪlɪps/ *n* 1a the total or partial obscuring of one celestial body by another b passage into the shadow of a celestial body – compare OCCULTATION, TRANSIT 2 a falling into obscurity or decay, a decline 3 the state of being in eclipse plummage (<a mallard in ~>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *eclipsis*, fr Gk *ekleipsis*, fr *eklepein* to omit, fail, suffer eclipse, fr *ex* + *lepein* to leave – more at *LOAN*]
- 'eclipse** *vi* to cause an eclipse of e.g. a to obscure, darken b to surpass
- 'eclipse plumage** *n* comparatively dull plumage that occurs seasonally in ducks or other birds which adopt a distinct nuptial plumage – compare NUPTIAL PLUMAGE
- 'ecliptic** /'ɪkɪptɪk/ *n* 1 the plane of the earth's orbit extended to meet the celestial sphere 2 a great circle drawn on a terrestrial globe making an angle of about 23° 27' with the equator and used for illustrating and solving astronomical problems [ME *ecliptik*, fr LL *ecliptica linea*, lit., line of eclipses]
- 'ecliptic** *adj* of the ecliptic or an eclipse
- eclogue** /'ek.lɒg/ *n* a short poem; esp a pastoral dialogue [ME *eclog*, fr L *Eclogae*, title of pastoral poems by Vergil †19 bc Roman poet, lit., selections, pl of *ecloga*, fr Gk *eklogē*, fr *eklegein* to select]
- eclosion** /'ekloʊz(ə)n/ *n* the emergence of an insect from the pupal case or of a larva from the egg [F *éclosion*, fr *éclorre* to hatch]
- ecology** /'i:kələjɪ, ee-/ *n* (a science concerned with) the interrelationship of living organisms and their environments [G *ökologie*, fr *ök-* ec- + *-logie* -logy] – **ecological** /,eekə'lɒjɪkəl, ek-/ *adj*, **ecologically** *adv*, **ecologist** /'i:kə-, ee-/ *n*
- econometrics** /,i:kə'nə'metɪks/ *n* pl but sing in constr the application of statistical methods to the study of economic data and problems [blend of *economics* and *metric*] – **econometric** *adj*, **econometrically** *adv*, **econometrician** /-mə'trɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **econometrist** /-ˈmetrɪst/ *n*
- economic** /'ekə'nɒmɪk, ee-/ *adj* 1 of economics 2 of or based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services 3 of an economy 4 having practical or industrial significance or uses; affecting material resources (<~ pests>) 5 profitable – **economically** *adv*
- economical** /'ekə'nɒmɪkəl, ee-/ *adj* thrifty – **economically** *adv*
- 'economics** *n* pl but sing or pl in constr 1 a social science concerned

chiefly with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services 2 economic aspect or significance – **economist** /'ikɒnəmist/ *n*  
**economize** /'ikɒnəˌmaɪz/ *vi* to practise economy, be frugal often + *on* (< *on oil*) ~ *vt* to use more economically, save (< *oil*) – **economizer** *n*  
**economy** /'ikɒnəmi/ *n* 1 thrifty and efficient use of material resources, frugality in expenditure, also an instance or means of economizing (< the government implemented drastic economies) (< bought an economy-size packet of soap powder) (< booked an ~ flight to Greece) 2 efficient and sparing use of nonmaterial resources (e.g. effort, language, or motion) 3 the structure of economic life in a country, area, or period, *specif* an economic system [MF *yconomie*, fr ML *oeconomia*, fr Gk *oikonomia*, fr *oikonomos* household manager, fr *oikos* house + *nomēin* to manage – more at VICINITY, NIMBLE]  
**ecospecies** /'eɪkəʊˌspiːʃɪz, 'ekəʊ-/ *n*, *pl* **ecospecies** a taxonomic species regarded as an ecological unit – **ecospecific** /-spə'sɪfɪk/ *adj*  
**ecosphere** /-sfiə/ *n* the parts of the universe habitable by living organisms, *esp* BIOSPHERE  
**ecossaise** /'aykə'seɪz, 'ekə-/ *n* (the music for) a lively folk dance in duple time [F *écossaise*, fr fem of *écossais* Scottish, fr *Ecosse* Scotland]  
**eco-system** /-sɪstəm/ *n* a complex consisting of a community and its environment functioning as a reasonably self-sustaining ecological unit in nature → FOOD  
**ecotype** /'eɪkəʊˌtiːp, 'ekə-/ *n* a group equivalent to a taxonomic subspecies and maintained as a distinct population by ecological and geographical factors – **ecotypic** /-tiːpɪk/ *adj*, **ecotypically** *adv*  
**ecru** /'aykroʊh, 'ek-, -i-/ *adj* or *n* (of) a pale fawn colour [F *ecru* unbleached, fr *Öt zscru*, fr *es-* completely (fr *L ex-*) + *cru* raw, fr *L crudus* – more at RAW]  
**ecstasy** /'ekstəsi/ *n* 1 a state of very strong feeling, esp of joy or happiness 2 a (mystic or prophetic) trance [ME *extase*, fr MF, fr LL *ecstasis*, fr Gk *ekstasis*, fr *existanai* to derange, fr *ex* out + *histanai* to cause to stand – more at EX STAND]  
**ecstatic** /'ɪk'stætɪk, 'ek-/ *adj* subject to, causing, or in a state of ecstasy [ML *ecstaticus*, fr Gk *ekstatis*, fr *existanai*] – **ecstatic** *n*, **ecstatically** *adv*  
**ect-** /ekt-/ *ecto-* *comb form* outside, external (< *ectopic*) (< *ectoderm*) – compare FND- 1, EXO- 1 [NL, fr Gk *ekto-*, fr *ektos*, fr *ex* out – more at EX-]  
**ectoblast** /'ektəʊˌblɑːst/ *n* the epiblast [ISV] – **ectoblastic** /-blɑːstɪk/ *adj*  
**ectoderm** /-dʊhm/ *n* 1 the outer cellular membrane of an animal having only 2 germ layers in the embryo (e.g. a jellyfish) 2 (a tissue derived from) the outermost of the 3 primary germ layers of an embryo [ISV *ect-* + Gk *derma* skin – more at DERM-] – **ectodermal** /-dʊhml/, **ectodermic** /-mɪk/ *adj*  
**ectogenous** /'ektəʊˌdʒɪnəs/, **ectogenic** /'ektəʊˌdʒɪnɪk/ *adj*, *esp* of pathogenic bacteria capable of development apart from the host  
**ectomorph** /'ektəˌmɔːf/ *n* an ectomorphic person [ectoderm + *-morph*]  
**ectomorphic** /-mɔːfɪk/ *adj* having a light slender body build [ectoderm + *-morphic*, fr the predominance in such types of structures developed from the ectoderm]  
**ectomy** /'ektəmi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) surgical removal of (< *gastroscopy*) [NL *-ectomia*, fr Gk *ektemnein* to cut out, fr *ex* out + *temnein* to cut – more at EX-, TOME]  
**ectoparasite** /'ektəʊˌpɑːsɪt/ *n* a parasite that lives on the exterior of its host – compare ENDOPARASITE [ISV] – **ectoparasitic** /-sɪˌk/ *adj*  
**ectopic** /'ektəpɪk/ *adj* occurring in an abnormal position or in an unusual manner or form (< *heartbeat*) (< *pregnancy*) [Gk *ektos* out of place, fr *ex-* out + *topos* place – more at EX-, TOPIC] – **ectopically** *adv*  
**ectoplasm** /'ektəˌplɑːz(ə)m, 'ektəʊ-/ *n* 1 the outer relatively rigid granule-free layer of the cytoplasm of a cell – compare ENDOPASM 2 a substance supposed to emanate from a spiritualist medium in a state of trance – **ectoplasmic** /'ektəˌplɑːzmɪk, 'ektəʊ-/ *adj*  
**ecumenical** *also* **oecumenical** /'ekjuːmənɪkəl, 'eɪk-/ *adj* 1 of or representing the whole of a body of churches (< *an ~ council*) 2 promoting or tending towards worldwide Christian unity or cooperation (< *discussions*) [LL *oecumenicus* worldwide, fr LGk *oikoumenikos*, fr Gk *oikoumene* the inhabited world, fr fem of *oikoumenos*, prp passive of *oikein* to inhabit, fr *oikos* house – more at VICINITY] – **ecumenicalism** *n*, **ecumenically** *adv*, **ecumenism** /'ekjuːmənɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **ecumenist** *n*  
**eczema** /'eksi(ə)mə/ *n* an inflammatory condition of the skin characterized by itching and oozing blisters [NL, fr Gk *ekzema*, fr *ekzein* to erupt,

fr *ex* out + *zein* to boil – more at EX-, YLAST] – **eczematous** /'ek'semətəs/ *adj*  
**ed** /-d/ *after vowels and m, n, ng, v, z, zh, j, dh, r, l, b, g*, -*id* *after d, t*, -*t* *after all others* Exceptions are given at their own entry/ **suffix** 1 – used to form the past participle of regular weak verbs that end in a consonant (< *ended*) (< *dropped*), a vowel other than *e* (< *haloed*), or a final *y* that changes to *i* (< *cried*), compare 'd 1 2a having, characterized by, provided with (< *polo-necked*) (< *2-legged*) **b** wearing; dressed in (< *bowler-hatted*) (< *jodhpured*) **c** having the characteristics of (< *bigoted*) **USE** (2) used to form adjectives from nouns that end in a consonant, a vowel other than *e*, or a final *y* that changes to *i*; compare 'd 2 [ME, fr OE *-ed*, *-od*, *-ad*, akin to OHG *-t*, pp ending, L *-tus*, Gk *-tos*, suffix forming verbals]  
**ed** **suffix** – used to form the past tense of regular weak verbs that end in a consonant, a vowel other than *e*, or a final *y* that changes to *i*; compare 'd [ME *-ede*, *-de*, fr OE *-de*, *-ede*, *-ode*, *-ade*, akin to OHG *-ta*, past ending (1 sing.), & prob to OHG *-t*, pp ending]  
**edacious** /'edəʃəs/ *adj* voracious – fml [L *edac-*, *edax*, fr *edere* to eat – more at LAT] – **edacity** /'edəsəti/ *n*  
**Edam** /'eedəm/ *n* a yellow mild cheese of Dutch origin usu made in flattened balls coated with red wax [Edam, town in the Netherlands]  
**edaphic** /'ɪdəfɪk/ *adj* of or influenced by the soil [Gk *edaphos* bottom, ground] – **edaphically** *adv*  
**edaphic** **'climax** *n* an ecological climax resulting from soil conditions  
**Edda** /'eda/ *n* a 13th-c collection of Old Norse mythological and heroic poems [ON, prob fr *Edda*, name of a great-grandmother in a poem] – **Eddic** *adj*  
**'eddy** /'edi/ *n* 1 a current of water or air running contrary to the main current, esp a small whirlpool 2 sthg (e.g. smoke or fog) moving in the manner of an eddy or whirlpool [ME (Sc) *ydy*, prob fr ON *itha*, akin to OHG *ith-* again, L *et* and]  
**eddy** *vb* to (cause to) move in or like an eddy (< *the crowd eddied about in the marketplace*)  
**'eddy** **current** *n* an electric current induced by an alternating magnetic field  
**edelweiss** /'aydlˌvɪs/ *n* a small perennial plant that is covered in dense fine white hairs and grows high in the Alps [G, fr *edel* noble + *weiss* white]  
**edema** /'iːdeɪmə/ *n*, *NAM* oedema – **edematous** /'iːdemətəs/ *adj*  
**Eden** /'eedn/ *n* 1 the garden where, according to the account in Genesis, Adam and Eve lived before the Fall 2 PARADISE 2 [LL, fr Heb *'Edhen*] – **Edenic** /'iːdɪnɪk/ *adj*  
**edentate** /'ee'dentəɪt/ *n* or *adj* (a sloth, armadillo, or other mammal in the same order) having few or no teeth [L *edentatus*, pp of *edentare* to make toothless, fr *e-* + *dent-*, *dens* tooth – more at TOOTH]  
**edentulous** /'ee'dentyʊləs/ *adj* toothless  
**'edge** /eɪ/ *n* 1a the cutting side of a blade **b** the (degree of) sharpness of a blade **c** penetrating power, keenness (< *an ~ of sarcasm in his voice*) (< *took the ~ off the criticism*) 2a the line where an object or area begins or ends, a border (< *the town stands on the ~ of a plain*) **b** the narrow part adjacent to a border, the brink, verge **c** a point that marks a beginning or transition, a threshold – esp in *on the edge of* (< *felt herself to be on the ~ of insanity*) **d** a favourable margin, an advantage (< *had the ~ on the competition*) 3 a line where 2 planes or 2 plane faces of a solid body meet or cross 4 the edging of a cricket ball [ME *egge*, fr OE *ecg*; akin to L *acer* sharp, Gk *akme* point] – **on edge** anxious, nervous  
**edge** *vt* 1 to give or supply an edge to 2 to move or force gradually in a specified way (< *~d him off the road*) (< *~d her out of the leadership*) 3 to incline (a ski) sideways so that 1 edge cuts into the snow 4 to hit (a ball) or the bowling of (a bowler) in cricket with the edge of the bat ~ *vi* to advance cautiously (e.g. by short sideways steps) (< *the climbers ~d along the cliff*) (< *the car ~d round the corner*) – **edger** *n*  
**edged** /eɪd/ *adj* having a specified kind of edge, boundary, or border or a specified number of edges – usu in combination (< *rough-edged*) (< *two-edged*)  
**'edge** **tool** *n* a tool with a sharp cutting edge  
**'edgewise** /-ˌweɪz, -ˌwɪz/, **edgewise** /-ˌwɪz/ *adv* with the edge foremost; sideways  
**edging** /'eɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* sthg that forms an edge or border  
**edgy** /'eɪ/ *adj* tense, irritable; ON **EDGE** – **edgily** *adv*, **edginess** *n*  
**edh** /edh/ *n* an eth  
**edible** /'edəbl/ *adj* fit to be eaten as food [LL *edibilis*, fr L *edere* to eat – more at EAT] – **edible** *n*, **edibility** *n*, **edibility** /-ˌbɪləti/ *n*  
**edict** /'eedɪkt/ *n* 1 an official public decree 2 the order or command of



- an authority [L *edictum*, fr neut of *edictus*, pp of *edicere* to decree, fr *e-* + *dicere* to say – more at *DICTION*] – *edictal* /i'diktəl/ *adj*
- edification** /ˌedɪfɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* the improvement of character or the mind – fml [EDIFY + -IFICATION] – *edificatory* /-kəɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- edifice** /ˈedɪfɪs/ *n* 1 a building; esp a large or massive structure 2 a large abstract structure or organization (*the keystone which holds together the social* ~ – R H Tawney) [ME, fr MF, fr L *aedificium*, fr *aedificare*]
- edify** /ˈedɪfɪ/ *vt* to instruct and improve, esp in moral and spiritual knowledge [ME *edifien*, fr MF *edifier*, fr LL & L, LL *aedificare* to instruct or improve spiritually, fr L, to erect a house, fr *aedes* temple, house; akin to OE *ād* funeral pyre, L *aestas* summer]
- edit** /ˈedɪt/ *vt* 1a to prepare an edition of (<ed Pope's works>) b to assemble (e.g. a film or tape recording) by deleting, inserting, and rearranging material c to alter or adapt (e.g. written or spoken words), esp to make consistent with a particular standard or purpose 2 to direct the publication of (<s the local newspaper>) 3 to delete – usu + *out* – *editable* *adj*
- edition** /i'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the form in which a text is published (*paperback* ~) b the whole number of copies published at one time (*an* ~ of 50,000) c the issue of a newspaper or periodical for a specified time or place (*the late* ~) (*the Manchester* ~) 2 the whole number of articles of one style put out at one time (*a limited* ~ of collectors' pieces) 3 a copy, version (*she's a friendlier* ~ of her mother) [MF, fr L *editio*, *editio* publication, edition, fr *editus*, pp of *edere* to bring forth, publish, fr *e-* + *-dere* to put or *-dere* (fr *dare* to give) – more at *DO*, [DATE]
- editio princeps** /i'dɪʃiəʊ ˈprɪnsɛps, aɪˈdɪʃiəʊ ˈprɪnsɛps/ *n*, pl *editiones principes* /-nɛz -pɛz/ the first printed edition, esp of an ancient or medieval text [NL, lit., first edition]
- editor** /ˈedɪtə/ *n* 1 one who edits written material, films, etc, esp as an occupation 2 a person responsible for the editorial policy and content of (a section of a) newspaper or periodical (*sports* ~) – *editorship* *n*
- editorial** /ˈedɪtəwɪəl/ *adj* of or written by an editor (< *policy*) (< *an* ~ *statement*) – *editorially* *adv*
- editorial** *n* a newspaper or magazine article that gives the opinions of the editors or publishers
- editorialize** /-ɪz -ɪz/ *vi* 1 to express an opinion in the form of an editorial 2 to introduce personal opinion into an apparently objective report (e.g. by direct comment or hidden bias) – *editorializer* *n*, *editorialization* /-ɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- EDTA** *n* an acid that forms a tight chemical compound with magnesium and potassium ions and is used esp to remove them from solutions [ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid]
- educate** /ˈedjuːkəɪt, ˈeɪjuː-/ *vt* 1 to provide schooling for 2 to develop mentally or morally, esp by instruction 3 to train or improve (faculties, judgment, skills, etc) [ME *educaten* to rear, fr L *educatus*, pp of *educare* to rear, educate] – *educable* *adj*, *educative* /-kə-tɪv, -kəɪtɪv/ *adj*, *educator* *n*
- educated** *adj* 1 having an education, esp one beyond the average 2a trained, skilled (< *an* ~ *palate*) b befitting sby educated (< *conversation*) c based on some knowledge of fact (< *an* ~ *guess*) – *educatedly* *adv*, *educatedness* *n*
- education** /ˈedjuːkəʃ(ə)n, -joo-/ *n* 1 educating or being educated 2 the field of study that deals with methods of teaching and learning – *educational* *adj*, *educationally* *adv*
- educationalist** /ˈedjuːkəʃ(ə)nɪst, -joo-/ *n*, *educationist* /-ɪst/ *n* an educational theorist or administrator
- educational psychology** *n* psychology concerned with human maturation, school learning, and evaluation of aptitude and progress by tests – *educational psychologist* *n*
- educer** /ˈɪdyoʊs; also ɪ-/ *vt* 1 to elicit, develop 2 to arrive at through a consideration of the facts or evidence; infer *USE* fml [L *educere* to draw out, fr *e-* + *ducere* to lead – more at *TOW*] – *educible* *adj*, *eduction* /i'dʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- Edwardian** /ˈedwɔːdɪən, ˈedwəhɪdɪən/ *adj* (characteristic) of Edward VII or his age (e.g. in complacent security and opulence)
- ee** /eɪ/ *n*, pl *ees* /eɪn/ *Scott* an eye [ME (northern), fr OE *ēage*]
- ee** /-eɪ/ *suffix* 1 (*vt* → *n*) one to whom (a specified action) is done (*appointee*) (*trainee*) 2 (*n*, *adj*, *vb* → *n*) one who acts (in a specified way) (*escapee*) (*absentee*) [ME *-e*, fr MF *-ē*, fr *-ē*, pp ending, fr L *-atus*]
- ee** *suffix* (*n* → *n*) a particular, esp small, kind of (< *bootee*) [prob alter. of *-y*]
- eel** /eɪ/ *n* any of numerous long snakelike fishes with a smooth slimy skin and no pelvic fins [ME *ele*, fr OE *ēl*; akin to OHG *āl* *eel*] – *eellike* *adj*, *eely* *adj*
- eelgrass** /-ˈgrɑːs/ *n* a plant that has very long narrow leaves and grows underwater
- eelpout** /-ˈpɔʊt/ *n* any of various marine fishes resembling blennies
- eelworm** /-ˈwʊm/ *n* a nematode worm, esp one living free in the soil or as a parasite in plants
- een** /-eɪn/ *suffix* (*n* → *n*) inferior fabric resembling (a specified fabric); imitation (< *velveteen*) [prob fr *ratteen* (coarse woollen fabric), fr F *ratne*]
- een** /eɪn/ *adv* even – chiefly poetic
- eer** /-iə/ *suffix* (*n* → *n*) person engaged in (a specified occupation or activity) (< *auctioneer*) (< *buccaneer*) – often derog (< *profiteer*) (< *racketeer*) [MF *-ier*, fr L *-arius* – more at *-ARY*]
- eer** /eə/ *adv* ever – chiefly poetic
- erie** also *eery* /ˈɪəri/ *adj* frighteningly strange or gloomy; weird [ME *eri*, fr OE *earg* cowardly, wretched; akin to OHG *arg* cowardly, ON *argr* evil] – *eerily* *adv*, *eerness* *n*
- eff** /eɪ/ *vi*, *Br* to say 'fuck' (< *ing and swearing*) – slang [euphemism for *fuck*] – *eff* and *blind* *SWEAR* 2 – *cuph*
- efface** /iˈfays/ *vt* 1 to eliminate or make indistinct (as if) by wearing away a surface, obliterate (< *coins with dates* ~d by wear) 2 to make (oneself) modestly or shyly inconspicuous [MF *effacer*, fr *ex-* + *face*] – *effaceable* *adj*, *effacement* *n*, *effacer* *n*
- effect** /iˈfekt/ *n* 1a the result of a cause or agent b the result of purpose or intention (< *employed her knowledge to good* ~) 2 the basic meaning; intent – esp in to *that effect* 3 power to bring about a result; efficacy 4 pl personal movable property, goods 5a a distinctive impression on the human senses (< *the use of colour produces a very striking* ~) b the creation of an often false desired impression (< *her tears were purely* ~) c sthg designed to produce a distinctive or desired impression – often pl (< *special lighting* ~s) 6 the quality or state of being operative, operation (< *the law comes into* ~ next week) 7 an experimental scientific phenomenon named usu after its discoverer [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *effectus*, fr *effectus*, pp of *efficere* to bring about, fr *ex-* + *facere* to make, do – more at *DO*] – in *effect* for all practical purposes; actually although not appearing so – to *the effect* with the meaning (< *issued a statement to the effect that he would resign*)
- effect** *vt* 1 to bring about, often by surmounting obstacles, accomplish (< *a settlement of a dispute*) 2 to put into effect, CARRY OUT (< *the duty of the legislature to* ~ the will of the citizens)
- effective** /iˈfektɪv/ *adj* 1a producing a decided, decisive, or desired effect b impressive, striking 2 ready for service or action (< *manpower*) 3 actual, real (< *the* ~ strength of the army) 4 being in effect, operative (< *the tax becomes* ~ next year) – *effectiveness* *n*
- effective** *n* a soldier equipped and fit for duty
- effectively** /-lɪ/ *adv* for all practical purposes, IN EFFECT [EFFECTIVE + -LY]
- effector** /iˈfektə/ *n* a gland, muscle, or other bodily organ that becomes active in response to stimulation
- effectual** /iˈfektjuəl, -choʊl/ *adj* producing or able to produce a desired effect; adequate, effective – *effectualness* *n*, *effectuality* /-lətɪ/ *n*
- effectually** /-lɪ/ *adv* for all practical purposes; IN EFFECT [EFFECTUAL + -LY]
- effectuate** /iˈfektjuəɪt, -choʊ-/ *vt* EFFECT 2 – *effectuation* /-əʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- effeminate** /iˈfemɪnət/ *adj* 1 of a man having qualities usu thought of as feminine; not manly in appearance or manner 2 marked by an unbecoming delicacy or lack of vigour (< *art*) [ME, fr L *effeminatus*, fr pp of *effeminare* to make effeminate, fr *ex-* + *femina* woman – more at *FEMININE*] – *effeminate* *n*, *effeminacy* /-nə-sɪ/ *n*
- effendi** /iˈfendɪ/ *n*, pl *effendis* a man of property, authority, or education in an eastern Mediterranean country [Turk, *efendi* master, fr NGk *aphentes*, alter. of Gk *authentēs* – more at *AUTHENTIC*]
- effluent** /iˈflʊənt/ *adj* conducting outwards from a part or organ; specif conveying nervous impulses to an effector – compare *afferent* [F *effluent*, fr L *effluent*, *effluens*, prp of *effluere* to carry outwards, fr *ex-* + *ferre* to carry – more at *'BEAR*] – *effluent* *n*, *effluently* *adv*
- effervesce** /iˈfɛvəs/ *vi* 1 of a liquid to bubble, hiss, and foam as gas escapes 2 to show liveliness or exhilaration [L *effervesce*, fr *ex-* + *fervescere* to begin to boil, fr *fervere* to boil – more at *BURN*] – *effervescence* *n*, *effervescent* *adj*, *effervescingly* *adv*
- effete** /iˈfɛt/ *adj* 1 worn out; exhausted 2 marked by weakness or decadent overrefinement (< *an* ~ *civilization*) [L *effetus*, fr *ex-* + *fetus* fruitful – more at *FEMININE*] – *effetely* *adv*, *effeteness* *n*
- efficacious** /iˈfɪkəʃəs/ *adj* having the power to produce a desired



- effect [L *efficax*, *efficax*, fr *efficere*] – **efficacy** /efɪˈkəsi/ *n*, **efficacy** /efɪˈkəsi/ *n*, **efficaciously** *adv*, **efficaciousness** *n*
- efficiency** /ɪfɪʃ(ə)nsi/ *n* 1 the quality or degree of being efficient 2a **efficient operation** b the ratio of the useful energy delivered by a dynamic system to the energy supplied to it
- efficiency apartment** *n*, *NAm* a small usu furnished flat with minimal kitchen and bath facilities; a bed-sitter
- efficient** /ɪfɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 of a person able and practical, briskly competent 2 productive of desired effects, esp with minimum waste /an ~ method of generating electricity/ [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *efficient-*, *efficiens*, fr prp of *efficere* to bring about] – **efficiently** *adv*
- effigy** /efɪdʒi/ *n* an image or representation, esp of a person, specif a crude figure representing a hated person [L *effigies*, fr *effingere* to form, fr *ex-* + *fingere* to shape – more at DOUGH]
- effloresce** /ɪfləʊˈres/ *vi* 1 to burst into flower 2a to change from crystals to a powder on exposure to air b to form or become covered with a powdery covering <bricks may ~ owing to the deposition of soluble salts/ [L *efflorescere*, fr *ex-* + *florescere* to begin to blossom – more at FLORESCENCE]
- efflorescence** /ɪfləʊˈres(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the period or state of flowering 2 the action, process, period, or result of developing and unfolding as if coming into flower, blossoming <periods of ~ intellectual and artistic – Julian Huxley/ 3 the process or product of efflorescing chemically 4 a redness of the skin, an eruption – **efflorescent** *adj*
- effluence** /ɪflʊˈəns/ *n* 1 sth that flows out 2 an action or process of flowing out
- effluent** /ɪflʊˈənt/ *adj* flowing out, emanating <an ~ river/ [L *effluens*, *effluens*, prp of *effluere* to flow out, fr *ex-* + *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID]
- effluent** *n* sth that flows out e.g. a an outflowing branch of a main stream or lake b smoke, liquid industrial refuse, sewage, etc discharged into the environment, esp when causing pollution
- effluvium** /ɪflʊˈviəm, -vyəm/ *n*, pl *effluvia* /-vi-ə/ often *sing in constr.* **effluvia** 1 an offensive exhalation or smell (e.g. from rotting vegetation) 2 a by-product, esp in the form of waste [L, act of flowing out, fr *effluere*]
- efflux** /ɪflʊks/ *n* an effluence, esp of liquid or gas [I *effluxus*, pp of *effluere*] – **effluxion** /ɪflʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- effort** /ɛfɔːt/ *n* 1 conscious exertion of physical or mental power 2 a serious attempt, a try 3 sth produced by exertion or trying <(the novel was his most ambitious ~) 4 the force applied (e.g. to a simple machine) as distinguished from the force exerted against the load [MF, fr OF *esfort*, fr *esforcier* to force, fr *ex-* + *forcier* to force] – **effortful** *adj*, **effortless** *adj*, **effortlessly** *adv*, **effortlessness** *n*
- effrontery** /ɪˈfrʌnt(ə)ri/ *n* the quality of being shamelessly bold, insolence <(the ~ to propound three such heresies – TLS/ [F *effronterie*, deriv of LL *effront-*, *effrons* shameless, fr L *ex-* + *front-*, *frons* forehead – more at BRINK]
- effulgence** /ɪˈfʊl(ə)ns/ *n* radiant splendour, brilliance – fml [LL *effulgentia*, fr L *effulgent-*, *effulgens*, prp of *effulgere* to shine forth, fr *ex-* + *fulgere* to shine – more at EULGENT] – **effulgent** *adj*
- effuse** /ɪˈfjuːz/ *vi* 1 to pour out (e.g. a liquid) 2 to radiate, emit ~ *vi* to flow out, emanate **USE** (vt & vi) fml [L *effusus*, pp of *effundere*, fr *ex-* + *fundere* to pour – more at FOUND]
- effuse** /ɪˈfjuːs/ *adj* spread out flat without definite form <~ lichens/
- effusion** /ɪˈfjuːʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of effusing 2 unrestrained expression of words or feelings 3 the escape of a fluid from a containing vessel, also the fluid that escapes
- effusive** /ɪˈfjuːsɪv/ *adj* 1 unduly emotionally demonstrative, gushing 2 of rock characterized or formed by a nonexplosive outpouring of lava – **effusively** *adv*, **effusiveness** *n*
- eft** /ɛft/ *n* a newt [ME *evete*, *ewic*, fr OE *efete*]
- egad** /ˌeɪˈɡæd, -/ *interj*, *archaic* – used as a mild oath [prob euphemism for oh God]
- egalitarian** /ɪˌɡæliˈteəri-ən/ *adj* marked by or advocating egalitarianism [F *égalitaire*, fr *égalité* equality, fr L *aequalitat-*, *aequalitas*, fr *aequalis* equal] – **egalitarian** *n*
- egalitarianism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a belief in or a philosophy advocating social, political, and economic equality among human beings
- egest** /ˌeɪˈdʒest/ *vi* to rid the body of (waste material) [L *egerere*, pp of *egerere* to carry outside, discharge, fr *ex-* + *gerere* to carry – more at CASI] – **egestion** /ˌeɪˈdʒest(ə)n/ *n*, **egestive** /-stɪv/ *adj*
- egg** /eg/ *vt* to incite to action – usu + *on* (<ed the mob on to riot/ [ME *eggen*, fr ON *eggja*; akin to OE *ecg* edge – more at EDGE]
- egg** *n* 1a the hard-shelled reproductive body produced by a bird, esp that produced by domestic poultry and used as a food b an animal reproductive body consisting of an ovum together with its nutritive and protective envelopes that is capable of developing into a new individual <~ LIFE <Y L E. e an ovum 2 sth resembling an egg in shape 3 a person – infml, not now in vogue <he's a good ~ / [ME *egge*, fr ON *egg*; akin to OE *æg* egg, L *ovum*, Gk *oion*]
- egg and dart** *n* an architectural moulding or ornamentation consisting of alternate egg-shaped figures and arrowheads <~ ARCHITECTURE
- egg**, **egger** /ˈegə, -/ *n* any of various large moths with brown bodies and wings [egg *alter* of *egger*, fr *'egg* + *-er*; fr the shape of its cocoon]
- egg cup** /-kʌp/ *n* a small cup without a handle used for holding a boiled egg
- egg head** /-hed/ *n* an intellectual, highbrow – derog or humor – **eggheaded** /-hedɪd, -/ *adj*
- egg nog** /-nog/ *n* a drink consisting of eggs beaten up with sugar, milk or cream, and often spirits (e.g. rum or brandy) [egg + nog (strong ale, usu alcoholic drink containing egg and milk), of unknown origin]
- egg plant** /-plənt/ *n* a widely cultivated plant of the nightshade family, also, chiefly *NAm* its fruit, the aubergine [fr the shape of the fruit]
- egg shell** /-ʃel/ *n* the hard exterior covering of an egg
- egg shell** *adj* 1 esp of china thin and fragile 2 esp of paint having a slight sheen
- egg timer** *n* an instrument like a small hourglass that runs for about 3 minutes and is used for timing the boiling of eggs
- egg tooth** *n* a prominence on the beak or nose of an unhatched bird or reptile that is used to break through the eggshell
- egis** /ˈeɪsɪs/ *n* an aegis
- eglintine** /ˈegləntɪn, -teen/ *n* sweetbrier [ME *eglyntyn*, fr MF *agilent*, fr (assumed) VL *aculentum*, fr L *acus* needle, akin to L *acer* sharp – more at RAGE]
- ego** /ˈeɪɡəʊ, -/ *n*, pl *egos* 1 the self, esp as contrasted with another self or the world 2 SELFISHNESS 3 the one of the 3 divisions of the mind in psychoanalytic theory that serves as the organized conscious mediator between the person and reality, esp in the perception of and adaptation to reality compare ID, SUPEREGO [NL, fr L, I – more at I]
- ego centric** /-ˈsentrɪk/ *adj* limited in outlook or concern to one's own activities or needs, self-centred, selfish – **egocentric** *n*, **egocentrically** *adv*, **egocentricity** /-ˈsentrɪsɪti/ *n*, **egocentrism** /-ˈsentrɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- ego ideal** *n* the positive standards, ideals, and ambitions that form a person's conscious goals
- egoism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 (conduct based on) a doctrine that individual self-interest is or should be the foundation of morality 2 egotism
- egoist** /-ɪst/ *n* 1 a believer in egoism 2 an egocentric or egotistic person – **egoistic** /-ɪstɪk/ also **egoistical** *adj*, **egoistically** *adv*
- ego mania** /-ˈmaɪniə, -ni-ə/ *n* the quality or state of being extremely egocentric **egomaniac** *n*
- egotism** /ˈeɪɡəʊtɪz(ə)m, -/ *n* 1 the practice of talking about oneself too much 2 an extreme sense of self importance [L *ego* + E-*-ism* (as in *idiotism*)] – **egotist** *n*, **egotistic** /-ɪstɪk/, **egotistical** *adj*, **egotistically** *adv*
- ego trip** *n* an act or series of acts that selfishly enhances and satisfies one's ego – infml – **ego-trip** *vi*, **ego-tripper** *n*
- egregious** /ˈiɡreɪ(ə)ʃəs/ *adj* conspicuously or shockingly bad, flagrant <an ~ mistake/ – fml [L *egregius* extraordinary, distinguished, fr *ex-* + *greg-*, *greg* herd – more at GREGARIOUS] – **egregiously** *adv*, **egregiousness** *n*
- egress** /ˈeɡres/ *n* 1 going or coming out, specif the emergence of a celestial object from eclipse, transit, or occultation 2 a place or means of going out; an exit – fml [L *egressus*, fr *egressus*, pp of *egredi* to go out, fr *ex-* + *gradi* to go – more at GRADE] – **egress** *vi*, **egression** /ˌeɡreʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- egret** /ˈeɡrɪt, -/ *n* any of various herons that bear long plumes during the breeding season [ME, fr MF *agrette*, fr OProv *agreta*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *heigaro* heron]
- Egyptian** /ˈeɪdʒɪp(ə)n/ *adj* (characteristic) of Egypt
- Egyptian** *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Egypt 2 the Afro-Asiatic language of the ancient Egyptians to about the 3rd c AD <~ ALPHABET
- Egypto-** *comb form* Egypt <(Egyptology) [prob fr F *Égypto-*, fr Gk *Ágypto-*, fr *Ágyptos* Egypt, country of NE Africa]
- Egyptology** /ˈeɪdʒɪp(ə)lədʒi/ *n* the study of Egyptian antiquities – **Egyptologist** *n*

**eh** /ay/ *interj* – used to ask for confirmation or to express inquiry [ME *ey*]

**eider** /'iɛdə/ *n* 1 EIDER DUCK 2 EIDERDOWN 1

**eider, down** /-daʊn/ *n* 1 the down of the eider duck 2 a thick warm quilt filled with eiderdown or other insulating material [prob fr G *eiderdaune*, fr Icel *æthardunn*, fr *æthur* + *dunn* down]

**eider, duck** *n* any of several large northern sea ducks having fine soft down [eider fr D, G, or Sw, fr Icel *æthur*, fr ON *æthr*]

**eidetic** /i'eɪdɪk/ *adj* marked by or involving extraordinarily accurate and vivid recall of visual images (an ~ memory) [Gk *eidētikos* of a form, fr *eidos* form] – **eidetically** *adv*

**eidolon** /i'edəlon/ *n*, *pl* *eidolons*, *eidola* /-lə/ 1 a phantom, image 2 an ideal or idealized figure [Gk *eidolon* – more at *idol*]

**eigenvalue** /'eg(ə)n,vəlyu/ *n* the scalar value by which an eigenvector is multiplied under its linear transformation [part trans of G *eigenwert*, fr *eigen* own, peculiar, characteristic (fr OHG *eigan*) + *wert* value – more at *own*]

**eigen, vector** /-vɛktə/ *n* a nonzero vector that under a given linear transformation becomes a scalar multiple of itself [ISV *eigen-* (fr G *eigen*) + *vector*]

**eight** /ayt/ *n* 1 ➡ NUMBER 2 the eighth in a set or series 3 sth having 8 parts or members or a denomination of 8; *esp* (the crew of) an 8-person racing boat [ME *eighte*, fr *eighte*, *adj*, fr OE *eahta*; akin to OHG *ahto* eight, L *octo*, Gk *oktō*] – **eight** *adj* or *pron*, **eightfold** *adj* or *adv*

**eighteen** /ay'ti:n/ *n* ➡ NUMBER [ME *eightetene*, *adj*, fr OE *eahtatene*; akin to OE *tien* ten] – **eighteen** *adj* or *pron*, **eighteenth** *adj* or *n*

**eight, teenmo** /-moh/ *n*, *pl* *eighteenmos* the size of a piece of paper cut 18 from a sheet, also a book, a page, or paper of this size

**eighth** /ayt-h/ *n* ➡ NUMBER – **eighth** *adj* or *adv*

**eighth note** *n*, *NAM* a quaver

**eightsome reel** /-s(ə)m/ *n* a Scottish reel for 8 dancers

**Eights, Week** *n* the period in June during which boat races are held between the colleges of Oxford university and college balls take place – compare MAY WEEK [eigh 3]

**eighty** /ayti/ *n* 1 ➡ NUMBER 2 *pl* the numbers 80 to 89, *specif* a range of temperatures, ages, or dates within a century characterized by those numbers [ME *eighty*, *adj*, fr OE *eahtatig*, short for *hundeathtig*, *n*, group of eighty, fr *hund* hundred + *eahta* eight + *-tig* group of ten; akin to OE *tien* ten] – **eightieth** /-ti:θ/ *adj* or *n*, **eighty** *adj* or *pron*, **eightyfold** /-fo:ld/ *adj* or *adv*

**einkorn** /'en,kəwn/ *n* a 1-grained type of wheat [G, fr OHG, fr *ein* one + *korn* grain – more at *ONE*, *CORN*]

**Einsteinian** /,ien'sti:n-i-ən/ *adj* of Albert Einstein or his theories

**einsteinium** /,ien'sti:n-i-əm/ *n* a radioactive element produced artificially ➡ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Albert Einstein †1955 US (German-born) physicist & mathematician]

**eisteddfod** /i'estedhvd/ *n*, *pl* *eisteddfoda*, *eisteddfodau* /-die/ *a* Welsh-language competitive festival of the arts, esp music and poetry [W, lit., session, fr *eistedd* to sit + *bod* being] – **eisteddfodic** /,eistedh'vɒdɪk/ *adj*

**either** /'vedhə, 'e-/ *adj* 1 being the one and the other of 2 (flowers blooming on ~ side of the path) 2 being the one or the other of 2 (take ~ road) [ME, fr OE *æghwæther* both, each, fr *ā* always + *ge-*, collective prefix + *hwæther* which of two, whether – more at 'AYE, CO-]

**either** *pron* the one or the other (could be happy with ~ of them) (don't want ~)

**either** *conj* – used before 2 or more sentence elements of the same class or function joined usu by *or* to indicate that what immediately follows is the first of 2 or more alternatives (sink or swim) (~ coffee, tea, or whisky)

**either** *adv* for that matter, likewise – used for emphasis after a negative or implied negation (not wise or handsome ~) (I can't swim, ~)

**either-or** *adj* or *n* (involving) an unavoidable choice between only 2 possibilities

**ejaculate** /i'jakyoʊ,layt/ *vt* 1 to eject from a living body; *specif* to eject (semen) in orgasm 2 to utter suddenly and vehemently – *fml* [L *ejaculatus*, *pp* of *ejaculari* to throw out, fr *e-* + *jaculari* to throw, fr *jaculum* dart, fr *jacere* to throw – more at 'JET] – **ejaculation** /-laysh(ə)n/ *n*, **ejaculatory** /i'jakyoʊlətri, i'jakyoʊ'laytri/ *adj*

**ejaculate** /i'jakyoʊlət/ *n* the semen released by a single ejaculation

**eject** /'jekt/ *vt* 1 to drive out, esp by physical force (the hecklers were ~ed) 2 to evict from property ~ *vi* to escape from an aircraft by using the ejector seat [ME *ejecten*, fr L *ejectus*, *pp* of *eicere*, fr *e-* + *jacere*] – **ejectable** *adj*, **ejection** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, **ejective** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **ejector** *n*

**ejecta** /i'jektə/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* material thrown out (e.g. from a volcano) [NL, fr L, neut *pl* of *ejectus*]

**ejector, seat** *n* an emergency escape seat that propels an occupant out and away from an aircraft by means of an explosive charge

**eka-** /ekə-, aykə-/ *comb form* standing or assumed to stand next in order beyond (a specified element) in the same family of the periodic table – in names of chemical elements when not yet discovered or synthesized (ekasilicon (now called germanium)) (ekatantalum) [Skt *eka* one – more at *ONE*]

**eke 'out** /eek/ *vt* 1a to make up for the deficiencies of; supplement (eked out his income by getting a second job) b to make (a supply) last by economy 2 to make (e.g. a living) by laborious or precarious means (eke (to increase), fr ME *eken*, fr OE *iecan*, *ecan*; akin to OHG *ouhhan* to add, L *augere* to increase, Gk *auxein*)

**ekistics** /'kɪstɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a science dealing with human settlements and their evolution [NGK *oikistikē*, fr fem of *oikistikos* relating to settlement, fr Gk, fr *oikizein* to settle, colonize, fr *oikos* house – more at *VICINITY*] – **ekistic** *adj*

**ekuele** /'ekwɛlə/ *n* ➡ Equatorial Guinea at *NATIONALITY* [native name in Equatorial Guinea]

**el** /el/ *n*, *NAM* an elevated railway

**elaborate** /i'ləb(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 planned or carried out with great care and attention to detail (~ preparations) 2 marked by complexity, wealth of detail, or ornateness; intricate (a highly ~ coiffure) [L *elaboratus*, fr *pp* of *elaborare* to work out, acquire by labour, fr *e-* + *laborare* to work – more at *LABORATORY*] – **elaborately** *adv*, **elaborateness** *n*

**elaborate** /i'ləb(ə)rət/ *vt* 1 to build up (complex organic compounds) from simple ingredients 2 to work out in detail; develop ~ *vi* to go into detail, add further information (need I ~?) – often + *on* (urged him to ~ on his scheme) – **elaboration** /-rə'sh(ə)n/ *n*, **elaborative** /i'ləb(ə)rətɪv/ *adj*

**élan** /ay'lɒn, -'lan (Fr *elō*)/ *n* vigorous spirit or enthusiasm, verve [F, fr MF *éslan* rush, fr (s')*eslancer* to rush, fr *ex-* + *lancer* to hurl – more at 'LANCER]

**eland** /'eɪlənd/ *n* either of 2 large African antelopes [Afrk, elk, fr D, fr obs G *elend*, fr Lith *elnis*, akin to OHG *elaho* elk – more at *ELK*]

**élan vi'tal** /vee'tal (Fr *vital*)/ *n* a vital force or creative urge, esp in the philosophy of Bergson [F]

**elapse** /i'laps/ *vi*, of a period of time to pass by (4 years ~d before he returned) [L *elapsus*, *pp* of *elabi*, fr *e-* + *labi* to slip, slide – more at *SIEP*]

**elasmobranch** /i'lasmə,brɒŋk, i'laz-/ *n* CARTILAGINOUS FISH 1 [deriv of Gk *elasma* metal plate (fr *elaunein*) + L *branchia* gill]

**elastic** /i'læstɪk, i'ləh-/ *adj* 1a of a solid capable of recovering size and shape after deformation b of a gas capable of indefinite expansion 2 buoyant, resilient 3 capable of being easily stretched or expanded and resuming its former shape 4 capable of ready change; flexible, adaptable (an ~ conscience) (~ rules) (~ demand for goods) [NL *elasticus*, fr L *Gk elastos* ductile, beaten, fr Gk *elaunein* to drive, beat out; akin to OIr *luid* he went] – **elastically** *adv*, **elasticity** /i'læstɪsɪti, i'læstɪsəti/ *n*, **elasticize** /i'læstɪ,si:z/ *vt*

**elastic** *n* 1 an elastic fabric usu made of yarns containing rubber 2 easily stretched rubber, usu prepared in cords, strings, or bands

**elasticated** /i'læstɪ,kətaɪd/ *adj* 1 of fabric made stretchy by the insertion or interweaving of elastic 2 elasticized

**elastic band** *n*, *Br* RUBBER BAND

**elastin** /i'læstɪn/ *n* a protein similar to collagen that is the chief component of elastic fibres of connective tissue [ISV, fr NL *elasticus*]

**elastomer** /i'læstəmə/ *n* any of various elastic substances resembling rubber (polyvinyl ~s) [elastic + -o- + Gk *meros* part – more at *MERIT*] – **elastomeric** /-mɛrɪk/ *adj*

**Elastoplast** /i'læstə,pləhst/ *trademark* – used for an elastic adhesive plaster

**elate** /i'leɪt/ *vt* to fill with joy or pride; put in high spirits [L *elatus* (*pp* of *efferre* to carry out, elevate), fr *e-* + *latus*, *pp* of *ferre* to carry – more at *TOLERATE*, 'BEAR] – **elated** *adj*, **elatedly** *adv*, **elation** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*

**elater** /'elətə/ *n* CLICK BEETLE [NL, genus of beetles, fr Gk *elater* driver, fr *elaunein*]

**E-layer** *n* a layer of the ionosphere occurring at about 95km (about 60mi) above the earth's surface that is capable of reflecting radio waves

**elbow** /'elbɒh/ *n* 1a the joint between the human forearm and upper arm b a corresponding joint in the forelimb of a vertebrate animal 2 an elbow-like pipe fitting 3 the part of a garment that covers the elbow [ME *elbowe*, fr OE *elboga*; akin to OHG *elimboga* elbow; both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose constituents are akin to OE *eln* ell & OE

- boga* bow – more at **ELL**, **'BOW**] – **out at elbows** 1 shabbily dressed 2 **POOR** 1 – **up to the elbows in/with** busily engaged in
- 'elbow** *vt* 1 to push or shove aside (as if) with the elbow; jostle (<~ed him out of the way>) 2 to force (e.g. one's way) rudely or roughly (as if) by pushing with the elbow (<~ed his way into the best circles>) ~*vi* to advance by elbowing one's way
- 'elbow** *grease* *n* hard physical effort – *infrm*
- 'elbowroom** /-ˈru:m, -ˈru:m/ *n* adequate space or scope for movement, work, or operation
- 'elder** /ˈeldə/ *n* any of several shrubs or small trees of the honeysuckle family [ME *eldre*, fr OE *ellærn*, prob akin to OE *alor* alder – more at **ALDER**]
- 'elder** *adj* of earlier birth or greater age, esp than another related person or thing (*his ~ brother*) [ME, fr OE *ieldra*, compar of *eald* old]
- 'elder** *n* 1 one who is older, a senior (<the child trying to please his ~s>) 2 one having authority by virtue of age and experience (<the village ~s>) 3 an official of the early church or of a Presbyterian congregation
- eldership** *n*
- 'elderberry** /-b(ə)n, -ˈberi/ *n* (the edible black or red berry of) an elder
- 'elderly** /-li/ *adj* rather old – **elderliness** *n*
- elder** **'statesman** *n* an eminent senior or retired member of a group whose advice is often sought unofficially
- eldest** /ˈeldɪst/ *adj* of the greatest age or seniority, oldest
- 'eldest** **hand** *n* the card player who first receives cards in the deal
- El Dorado** /ˌel dɒˈrɑːdoh, dɒˈrɑːh-/ *n* a place of fabulous wealth, abundance, or opportunity [Sp, lit, the gilded one]
- Eleatic** /ˈeliːəˌtɪk, -tɪk/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a school of Greek philosophers founded by Parmenides and continued by Zeno that stressed unity of being and denied the existence of change [adj L *Eleaticus*, fr Gk *Eleatikos*, fr *Elea* (Velia), ancient town in S Italy, *n* fr *adj*] – **Eleaticism** /-iːˌlɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- elecampane** /ˌelɪkəˈpaɪn/ *n* a large coarse European composite plant with yellow flowers [ME *clena campana*, fr ML *enula campana*, lit, field elecampane, fr *inula*, *enula* elecampane + *campana* of the field]
- 'elect** /ˈiːlekt/ *adj* 1 **SELECT** 1, 2 2 chosen for salvation through divine mercy 3 chosen for office or position but not yet installed (<the president-elect>) [ME, fr L *electus* choice, fr pp of *eligere* to select, fr *e-* + *legere* to choose – more at **LEGEND**]
- 'elect** *vt* 1 to select by vote for an office, position, or membership (<~ed him president>) 2 of God to choose or predestine (sb) to receive salvation 3 chiefly *NAM* to make a selection of ~*vi* to choose, decide – *frm* – **election** /-ˌh(ə)n/ *n*
- electioneer** /ˌiːlekʃ(ə)nɪə/ *vi* to work for a candidate or party in an election [*election* + *-eer* (as in *auctioneer*, vb)] – **electioneer** *n*
- elective** /ˈiːlektɪv/ *adj* 1a chosen or filled by popular election (<an ~ office>) b of election 2 permitting a choice, optional – **electively** *adv*, **electiveness** *n*
- elector** /ˈiːlektə/ *n* 1 sb qualified to vote in an election 2 sb entitled to participate in an election e.g. a *often cap* any of the German princes entitled to elect the Holy Roman Emperor b a member of the electoral college in the USA
- electoral** /ˈiːlekt(ə)rəl/ *adj* of (an) election or electors
- electoral college** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of electors chosen in each state to elect the president and vice-president of the USA
- electorate** /ˈiːlekt(ə)rəl/ *n* 1 *often cap* the territory, jurisdiction, etc of a German elector 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of electors
- electr-** /-iːlektɪ-, *electro-* *comb form* 1a (caused by) electricity (<electromagnetism>) (<electrochemistry>) b electric (<electrode>), electric and (<electrochemical>) (<electromechanical>), electrically (<electropositive>) 2 electrolytic (<electroanalysis>) (<electrodeposition>) 3 electron (<electrophile>) [NL *electricus*]
- Electra** **complex** /ˈiːlektə/ *n* the Oedipus complex when it occurs in a female [Electra, character in Gk mythology who incites her brother to avenge their father's death by killing their mother]
- electret** /ˈiːlektɪt, -tɪt/ *n* a dielectric body in which a permanent state of electric polarization has been set up [electricity + *magnet*]
- 'electric** /ˈiːlektɪk/ *adj* 1a of, being, supplying, producing, or produced by electricity (<~ current>) (<an ~ plug>) b operated by or using electricity (<an ~ motor>) 2 producing an intensely stimulating effect, thrilling (<an ~ performance>) 3 of a musical instrument electronically producing or amplifying sound (<an ~ organ>) [NL *electricus* produced from amber by friction, electric, fr ML, of amber, fr L *electrum* amber, alloy of gold and silver, fr Gk *elektron*; akin to Gk *elektōr* beaming sun, Skt *ulka* meteor]
- 'electric** *n* 1 *pl* electrical parts, electric circuitry 2 electricity – sometimes *pl* with *sing* meaning, *infrm*
- electrical** /ˈiːlektɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of or connected with electricity (<~ output>) (<~ engineering>) 2 **ELECTRIC** 1 (<~ appliances>) – **electrically** *adv*
- electric blanket** *n* a blanket containing an electric heating element that is used to warm a bed
- electric blue** *adj* or *n* harshly bright slightly greenish blue
- electric chair** *n* 1 a chair used in legal electrocution 2 the penalty of death by electrocution
- electric eel** *n* a large eel-shaped fish of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers that is capable of giving a severe electric shock
- electric eye** *n* PHOTOELECTRIC CELL
- electrician** /ˌelɪkˈtɹɪʃ(ə)n, -iːlek-/ *n* one who installs, maintains, operates, or repairs electrical equipment
- electricity** /ˈiːlekˈtɹɪsəti, -ee-/ *n* 1 (the study of) the phenomena due to (the flow or accumulation of) positively and negatively charged particles (e.g. protons and electrons) 2 electric current, also electric charge **USE** *ENERGY*, *PHYSICS*
- electric organ** *n* a specialized tract of tissue (e.g. in the electric eel) in which electricity is generated
- electric ray** *n* any of various rays found in warm seas that can give electric shocks
- electric shock** *n* **SHOCK** 4
- electric storm** *n* a violent atmospheric disturbance usu accompanied by thunder and lightning
- electrify** /ˈiːlektɹɪfaɪ/ *vt* 1a to charge (a body) with electricity b to equip for use of or supply with electric power 2 to excite, thrill – **electrification** /-fɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- electro-** /-iːlektro-/ – see **ELECTR-**
- electrocardiogram** /ˌiːlektroˈkɑːdɪəˌɡrɑːm/ *n* the tracing made by an electrocardiograph
- electrocardiograph** /-ˌɡrɑːfɪ, -ˌɡrɑːf/ *n* an instrument for recording the changes of electrical potential difference occurring during the heartbeat – **electrocardiographic** /-ˌɡrɑːfɪk/ *adj*, **electrocardiographically** *adv*, **electrocardiography** /-ˌɡrɑːfɪ/ *n*
- electroconvulsive therapy** /ˌiːlektroˈkɒnˈvʊlsɪv/ *n* a treatment for serious mental disorder, esp severe depression, in which a fit is induced by passing an electric current through the brain
- electrocute** /ˌiːlektroˈkyoʊt/ *vt* to execute or kill by electricity [*electr-* + *-cute* (as in *execute*)] – **electrocution** /-ˌkyoʊʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- electrode** /ˈiːlektroʊd/ *n* a conductor used to establish electrical contact with a nonmetallic part of a circuit (e.g. the acid in a car battery)
- electrodynamics** /ˌiːlektroˈdɪnəˌmɪks, -di-/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* physics dealing with the effects arising from the interaction of electric currents with magnets, with other electric currents, or with themselves – **electrodynamic** *adj*
- electroencephalogram** /-ˌɪnˈsef(ə)ləˌɡrɑːm/ *n* the tracing made by an electroencephalograph [ISV]
- electroencephalograph** /-ˌɪnˈsef(ə)ləˌɡrɑːfɪ, -ˌɡrɑːf/ *n* an instrument for detecting and recording brain waves [ISV] – **electroencephalographic** /-ˌɡrɑːfɪk/ *adj*, **electroencephalography** /-ˌɡrɑːfɪ/ *n*
- electroform** /ˈiːlektəˌfɔːm/ *vt* to form (shaped articles) by depositing material, esp a metal, on a mould by electrolysis
- electrokinetics** /ˌiːlektroˈkiˌnetɪks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* physics dealing with the movement of particles or liquids resulting from or producing a difference of electrical potential – **electrokinetic** *adj*
- electrolysis** /ˌelektˈrəʊlɪsɪs, -iːlek-/ *n* 1 the passage of an electric current through an electrolyte to generate a gas, deposit a metal on (an object serving as) an electrode, etc 2 the destruction of hair roots, warts, moles, etc by means of an electric current [NL] – **electrolyse** /ˈiːlektəˌleɪz/ *vt*
- electrolyte** /ˈiːlektəˌliːt/ *n* 1 a nonmetallic electric conductor (e.g. a salt solution) in which current is carried by the movement of ions 2 a substance that becomes an ionic conductor when dissolved in a suitable solvent or melted
- electrolytic** /ˌiːlektəˌlɪtɪk/ *adj* of or being electrolysis or an electrolyte – **electrolytically** *adv*
- electromagnet** /ˌiːlektroˈmæɡnɪt/ *n* a core of magnetizable material surrounded by a coil of wire through which an electric current is passed to make the core into a magnet
- electromagnetic interaction** /ˌiːlektroˈmæɡˌnetɪk/ *n* a fundamental interaction experienced by most elementary particles that is responsible for the emission and absorption of photons and for electric and magnetic forces

**electromagnetic radiation** *n* radiation consisting of a series of electromagnetic waves ➔ **PHYSICS**

**electromagnetic spectrum** *n* the entire range of wavelengths or frequencies of electromagnetic radiation extending from gamma rays to the longest radio waves and including visible light

**electromagnetic unit** *n* any of a series of electrical units in the cgs system based primarily on the magnetic properties of electrical currents

**electromagnetic wave** *n* any of the waves that travel by inducing simultaneous periodic variations in the intensities of electric and magnetic fields and that include radio waves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet, X rays, and gamma rays

**electromagnetism** /i,lektroh'magnetiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 magnetism developed (e.g. in an electromagnet) by a current of electricity 2 physics dealing with the physical relations between electricity and magnetism – **electromagnetic** /-magnetik/ *adj*, **electromagnetically** *adv*

**electrometer** /,elekt'rɒmɪtə, i,lek-/ *n* any of various instruments for detecting or measuring electrical potential differences or ionizing radiations (e.g. alpha rays) using the forces of attraction and repulsion existing between charged bodies

**electromotive force** /i,lekt'rə'moʊtɪv/ *n* the amount of energy derived from an electrical source per unit current of electricity passing through the source (e.g. a cell or generator)

**electron** /'i:lektrɒn/ *n* a negatively charged elementary particle that occurs in atoms outside the nucleus and the mass movement of which constitutes an electric current in a metal ➔ **PHYSICS** [*electr-* + *-on*]

**electronegative** /i,lektroh'negatɪv/ *adj* 1 charged with negative electric particles 2 having a tendency to attract electrons – **electronegativity** /-negatɪvəti/ *n*

**electron gun** *n* the cathode and its surrounding assembly that emits a stream of electrons (e.g. in a cathode-ray tube) ➔ **TELEVISION**

**electronic** /i,lek'trɒnik, ,elekt-/ *adj* 1 of electrons 2 of, being, or using devices constructed or working by the methods or principles of electronics – **electronically** *adv*

**electronics** *n pl but sing in constr* physics or technology dealing with the emission, behaviour, and effects of electrons in thermionic valves, transistors, or other electronic devices

**electron lens** *n* a device (e.g. in an electron microscope) for focussing a beam of electrons by means of an electric or magnetic field

**electron microscope** *n* an instrument in which a beam of electrons is used to produce an enormously enlarged image of a minute object – **electron microscopist** *n*, **electron microscopy** *n*

**electron optics** *n pl but sing in constr* electronics dealing with those properties of beams of electrons that are analogous to the properties of rays of light

**electron tube** *n* an electronic device (e.g. a thermionic valve) consisting of a sealed container containing a vacuum or gas through which the flow of electrons is controlled

**electron volt** *n* a unit of energy equal to the energy gained by an electron in being accelerated through a potential difference of 1 V ➔ **PHYSICS, UNIT**

**electrophile** /i'lektroh'fi:l/ *n* a substance (e.g. a chlorine molecule) with an affinity for electrons – **electrophilic** /-fɪlɪk/ *adj*

**electrophoresis** /i,lektroh'fɜ:sis/ *n* the movement of particles through a gel or other medium in which particles are suspended under the action of an applied electric field [NL] – **electrophoretic** /-fɜ:'retɪk/ *adj*, **electrophoretically** *adv*

**electroplate** /i'lektroh'pleɪt/ *vt* to plate with a continuous metallic coating by electrolysis

**electropositive** /-pə'zɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 charged with positive electric particles 2 having a tendency to release electrons

**electroscope** /i'lekt'rə'skəʊp/ *n* any of various instruments for detecting the presence and positive or negative quality of an electric charge, esp as a measure of intensity of ionization of radiation [prob fr F *électroscope*] – **electroscopic** /-skə'pɪk/ *adj*, **electroscopically** *adv*

**electroshock therapy** /i,lekt'rə'shɒk/ *n* **ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY**

**electrostatic** /-stætɪk/ *adj* of or producing static electricity or electrostatics (an ~ generator) [ISV] – **electrostatically** *adv*

**electrostatics** *n pl but sing in constr* physics dealing with phenomena due to (attractions or repulsions of) stationary electric charges

**electrostatic unit** *n* any of a series of electrical units in the cgs system based primarily on forces of interaction between electric charges

**electrotherapy** /i,lekt'rə'therəpi, -troh-/ *n* treatment of disease by the use of electricity

**electrotype** /-ti:ep/ *n* (a copy taken from) a printing plate made from a mould that is coated with metal by electrolysis then backed with lead

**electrotype** *vt* to make an electrotype from (a printing surface) – **electrotyper** *n*

**electrovalent** /-'vəɪlənt/ *adj*, of a chemical bond formed between positively and negatively charged ions

**eleemosynary** /,eli-'mɒsɪn(ə)n/ *adj* of, supported by, or giving charity [ML *eleemosynarius*, fr LL *eleemosyna* alms – more at **ALMS**]

**elegant** /'elɪɡ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 gracefully refined or dignified (e.g. in manners, taste, or style) 2 tastefully rich or luxurious, esp in design or ornamentation (< ~ furnishings>) 3 of ideas neat and simple (an ~ piece of reasoning) (an ~ mathematical proof) [MF or L; MF, fr L *elegant-*, *elegans*; akin to L *eligere* to select, fr *e-* + *legere* to choose – more at **LEGEND**] – **elegance** *n*, **elegantly** *adv*

**elegiac couplet** /,eli'jɪ-ək/ *n* a classical verse form in which dactylic hexameters alternate with pentameters

**elegiac stanza** *n* a quatrain in iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme of *abab*

**elegy** /'eləjɪ/ *n* 1a a song, poem, or other work expressing sorrow or lamentation, esp for one who is dead b a pensive or reflective poem that is usu nostalgic or melancholy 2 a poem in elegiac couplets [L *elegia* poem in elegiac couplets, fr Gk *elegeia*, *elegeion*, fr *elegos* song of mourning] – **elegize** *vb*, **elegiac** /-'jɪ-ək/ *adj*, **elegiacal** *adj*, **elegiacally** *adv*

**element** /'eləmənt/ *n* 1a any of the 4 substances air, water, fire, and earth formerly believed to constitute the physical universe b *pl* forces of nature; esp violent or severe weather c the state or sphere natural or suited to sb or sth (at school she was in her ~) 2 a constituent part e.g. a *pl* the simplest principles of a subject of study, the rudiments b any of the numbers or symbols in an array (e.g. a matrix) c a constituent of a mathematical set d a specified group within a human community (<the rowdy ~ in the classroom>) (<the smart ~>: often *pl* with sing meaning e any of the factors determining an outcome f a distinct part of a composite device; esp a resistor in an electric heater, kettle, etc 3 any of more than 100 fundamental substances that consist of atoms of only one kind ➔ **PERIODIC TABLE** 4 *pl* the bread and wine used at Communion [ME, fr OF & L, OF, fr L *elementum*]

**elemental** /,eli'məntl/ *adj* 1 existing as an uncombined chemical element 2 of or resembling a great force of nature (< ~ passions>) – **elemental** *n*, **elementally** *adv*

**elementary** /,eli'mənt(ə)ri/ *adj* 1 of or dealing with the basic elements or principles of sthg; simple (<can't handle the most ~ decision-making>) 2 **ELEMENTAL** 1 – **elementarily** *adv*, **elementariness** *n*

**elementary particle** *n* any of the constituents of matter and energy (e.g. the electron, proton, or photon) whose nature has not yet been proved to be due to the combination of other more fundamental entities

**elementary school** *n* a state school that formerly took children from the age of 5 to 13 or 14

**elenchus** /'lengks-/ *n, pl elenchi* /-kie/ a logical refutation, esp in syllogistic form [L, fr Gk *elenchos*, fr *elenchein* to shame, cross-examine, refute]

**elephant** /'elɪfənt/ *n* a very large nearly hairless mammal having the snout prolonged into a muscular trunk and 2 upper incisors developed into long tusks which provide ivory [ME, fr OF & L, OF *olifant*, fr L *elephantus*, fr Gk *elephant-*, *elephas*]

**elephantiasis** /,elɪfənti'e-ə-sɪs/ *n, pl elephantiasises* /-seɪz/ enormous enlargement of a limb or the scrotum caused by lymphatic obstruction, esp by filarial worms [NL, fr L, a kind of leprosy, fr Gk, fr *elephant-*, *elephas*]

**elephantine** /,eli'fəntɪn/ *adj* 1a huge, massive b clumsy, ponderous 2 of an elephant


**elephant seal** *n* a nearly extinct large seal that has a long trunklike snout


**Eleusinian mysteries** /,elɪoʊ'sini-ən/ *n pl* the religious mysteries celebrated at ancient Eleusis in worship of Demeter and Persephone [Eleusis, city of ancient Greece]


**elevate** /'eli,vayt/ *vt* 1 to lift up, raise 2 to raise in rank or status; exalt 3 to improve morally, intellectually, or culturally 4 to raise the spirits of; elate [ME *elevaten*, fr L *elevatus*, pp of *elevare*, fr *e-* + *levare* to raise – more at **LEVER**]

**elevated** *adj* 1 raised, esp above a surface (e.g. the ground) (an ~ road) 2 morally or intellectually on a high plane; lofty (< ~ thoughts>) 3 exultated in mood or feeling 4 slightly tipsy – not now in vogue

**elevation** /,eli'vaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the height to which sthg is elevated; e.g.

a the angle to which a gun is aimed above the horizon b the height above sea level 2 (the ability to achieve) a ballet dancer's or a skater's leap and seeming suspension in the air 3 an elevated place 4 being elevated 5 a geometrical projection (e.g. of a building) on a vertical plane  BUILDING [ELEVATE + -ION] – **elevational** *adj*

**elevator** /'el,vaytə/ *n* 1 sby or sthg that raises or lifts sthg up: e.g. a an endless belt or chain conveyor for raising grain, liquids, etc b chiefly NAm LIFT 9 c NAm a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain 2 a movable horizontal control surface, usu attached to the tailplane of an aircraft for controlling climb and descent  FLIGHT

**eleven** /i'lev(ə)n/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 the eleventh in a set or series 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* sthg having 11 parts or members or a denomination of 11, esp a cricket, soccer, or hockey team [ME *enleven*, fr *enleven*, *adj*, fr OE *endleofan*, akin to OHG *enlif* eleven, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose first element is akin to OE *an* one, and whose second is prob akin to OE *lean* to lend] – **eleven** *adj* or *pron*, **elevenfold** *adj* or *adv*, **eleventh** *adj* or *n*

**eleven-plus**, **11-plus** *n* an examination taken, esp formerly, at the age of 10–11 to determine which type of British state secondary education a child should receive

**elevenes** *n pl* but sometimes *sing* in *constr*, Br light refreshment taken in the middle of the morning [irreg *pl* of *eleven* (o'clock)]

**eleventh hour** *n* the latest possible time (<won his reprieve at the ~>) – **eleventh-hour** *adj*

**elevon** /'elvon/ *n* a control surface (of a delta-winged aircraft) combining the functions of an aileron and an elevator [elevator + aileron]

**elf** /elf/ *n*, *pl* **elves** /'elvɪ/ *a* (mischievous) fairy [ME, fr OE *ælf*; akin to ON *alfr* *elf*] – **elfish** *adj*, **elfishly** *adv*

**elfin** /'elfin/ *adj* of or resembling an elf, esp in being small, sprightly, or impish [irreg fr *elf*]

**elf-lock** *n* a matted lock of hair – usu *pl* [fr folklore belief that an elf caused it]

**elicit** /i'lisit/ *vt* 1 to draw forth or bring out (sthg latent or potential) 2 to call forth or draw out (a response or reaction), evoke [L *elicitus*, *pp* of *elicer*, fr *e-* + *lucere* to allure – more at DELIGHT] – **elictor** *n*, **elicitation** /-'taysh(ə)n/ *n*

**elide** /i'lied/ *vt* to suppress or alter (e.g. a vowel or syllable) by elision [L *elidere* to strike out, fr *e-* + *ludere* to injure by striking]

**eligible** /'elɪjəbl/ *adj* 1 qualified to be chosen, also entitled (<~ for promotion>) (<~ to retire>) 2 worthy or desirable, esp as a marriage partner (<an ~ young bachelor>) [ME, fr MF & LL, MF, fr LL *eligibilis*, fr L *eligere* to select, fr *e-* + *legere* to chose – more at LEGEND] – **eligible** *n*, **eligibly** *adv*, **eligibility** /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**eliminate** /i'limi,nayt/ *vt* 1a to cast out or get rid of completely, eradicate (<the need to ~ poverty>) b to set aside as unimportant; ignore 2 to expel (e.g. waste) from the living body 3a to kill (a person), esp so as to remove as an obstacle b to remove (a competitor, team, etc) from a competition, usu by defeat [L *eliminatus*, *pp* of *eliminare*, fr *e-* + *limin-*, *limen* threshold] – **elimination** /-'naysh(ə)n/ *n*, **eliminative** /'liminativ/ *adj*, **eliminator** /-,naytə/ *n*

**Elinvar** /'elin,vah/ *trademark* – used for an iron alloy containing nickel and chromium and having a very low coefficient of expansion

**elision** /i'liʒh(ə)n/ *n* 1 omission of a vowel or syllable in pronunciation (e.g. I'm for I am) 2 the act or an instance of eliding, omission [LL *elision-*, *eliso*, fr L *elisu*s, *pp* of *elidere*]

**élite**, **elite** /'i:let, ay-/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a small superior group, esp one that has a power out of proportion to its size 2 a typewriter type producing 12 characters to the inch [F *élite*, fr OF *eslite*, fr fem of *eslit*, *pp* of *eslire* to choose, fr L *eligere*] – **élite** *adj*


**élitism**, **elitism** /-,ti:z(ə)m/ *n* (advocacy of) leadership by an élite – **élitist** *n* or *adj*


**elixir** /'liksə, -sia/ *n* 1 an alchemist's substance supposedly capable of changing base metals into gold 2a **elixir**, **elixir** of life a substance held to be capable of prolonging life indefinitely b a cure-all 3 a sweetened liquid (e.g. a syrup) containing a drug or medicine [ME, fr ML, fr Ar *al-iksir* the elixir, fr *al* the + *iksir* elixir, prob fr Gk *xerion* drying powder, fr *xeros* dry]

**Elizabethan** /,li:zə'beeth(ə)n/ *adj* (characteristic) of (the age of) Elizabeth I – **Elizabethan** *n*

**elk** /elk/ *n*, *pl* **elks**, *esp* collectively **elk** 1 the largest existing deer of Europe and Asia 2 NAm the wapiti [ME, prob fr OE *eolh*; akin to OHG *elaho* *elk*, Gk *elaphos* deer]


**'elkhound** /-,həund/ *n* any of a large Norwegian breed of hunting dogs with a very heavy coat

**ell** /el/ *n* a former English unit of length equal to 45in (about 1.14m)  UNIT [ME *eln*, fr OE]

**ellipse** /'i:lipz/ *n* 1 a closed plane curve generated by a point moving in such a way that the sums of its distances from 2 fixed points is a constant, a closed plane curve obtained by plane section of a right circular cone – compare HYPERBOLA, PARABOLA  MATHEMATICS 2 **ellipsis** [Gk *elleipsis*]

**ellipsis** /'i:lipz/ *n*, *pl* **ellipses** /-,se:z/ 1 the omission of 1 or more words needed to make a construction grammatically complete 2 marks or a mark (e.g. . . . or –) indicating the omission of letters or words [L, fr Gk *elleipsis* ellipsis, ellipse, fr *ellepein* to leave out, fall short, fr *en* in + *lepein* to leave – more at IN, LOAN]

**ellipsoid** /'i:lipsoyd/ *n* a surface of which all the plane sections are ellipses or circles – compare HYPERBOLOID, PARABOLOID – **ellipsoidal**, **ellipsoidal** /-'soydl/ *adj*

**elliptical** /'i:liptikl/, **elliptic** /-'tik/ *adj* 1a of or shaped like an ellipse  PLANT b of or marked by ellipsis or an ellipsis 2 of speech or writing extremely or excessively concise [Gk *elleptikos* defective, marked by ellipsis, fr *ellepein*] – **elliptically** *adv*, **ellipticity** /-'tisəti/ *n*

**elm** /elm/ *n* (the wood of) any of a genus of large graceful trees [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *elme* elm, L *ulmus*]

**'elm**, **bark**, **beetle** *n* either of 2 European beetles that transmit the fungus causing Dutch elm disease to elm trees

**elocution** /,elə'kyooʃh(ə)n/ *n* the art of effective public speaking, esp of good diction [ME *elocucioun*, fr L *elocution-*, *elocutio*, fr *elocutus*, *pp* of *elocui*] – **elocutionary** /-ʃhan(ə)n/ *adj*, **elocutionist** *n*

**'elongate** /'elong,gayt/, **'ee-** *vt* to extend the length of ~ *vi* to grow in length [LL *elongatus*, *pp* of *elongare* to withdraw, fr L *e-* + *longus* long]

**<sup>2</sup>elongate**, **elongated** *adj* long in proportion to width – used esp in botany and zoology

**elongation** /'elong,gaysh(ə)n/, **'ee-** *n* the angular distance of one celestial body from another round which it revolves or from a particular point in the sky as viewed from earth [LL *elongare* to withdraw]

**elope** /i'lohp/ *vi* to run away secretly with the intention of getting married or cohabiting, usu without parental consent [AF *aloper*] – **elopement** *n*, **eloper** *n*

**eloquent** /'eləkwənt/ *adj* 1 characterized by fluent, forceful, and persuasive use of language 2 vividly or movingly expressive or revealing (<put his arm around her in an ~ gesture of reassurance>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *eloquent-*, *eloquens*, fr *pp* of *elocui* to speak out, fr *e-* + *loqui* to speak] – **eloquence** *n*, **eloquently** *adv*

**Elsan** /'el,ən/ *trademark* – used for a type of esp portable toilet in which chemicals are used to kill bacteria and mask the smell

**else** /els/ *adv* 1 apart from the person, place, manner, or time mentioned or understood (<how ~ could he have acted>) (<everybody ~ but me>) 2 also, besides (<who ~ did you see>) (<there's nothing ~ to eat>) 3 if not, otherwise (<do what you are told or ~ you'll be sorry>) (<they must be coming, they'd have phoned ~>) – used absolutely to express a threat (<do what I tell you or ~>) [ME *elles*, fr OE, akin to L *alius* other, alter other of two, Gk *allos* other]

**elsewhere** /-'we:/ *adv* in or to another place (<took his business ~>)

**eluant**, **eluent** /'elyoo-ənt/ *n* a solvent used in eluting [L *eluent-*, *eluens*, *pp* of *eluere*]

**eluate** /'elyoo-ət, -əyt/ *n* the washings obtained by eluting [L *eluere* + *E-ate*]

**elucidate** /i'looʃhi,dayt/ *vb* to make (sthg) lucid, esp by explanation [LL *elucidatus*, *pp* of *elucidare*, fr L *e-* + *lucidus* lucid] – **elucidative** *adj*, **elucidator** *n*, **elucidation** /-'daysh(ə)n/ *n*

**elude** /i'looʃhd/ *vt* 1 to avoid cunningly or adroitly 2 to escape the memory, understanding, or notice of [L *eludere*, fr *e-* + *ludere* to play – more at LUDICROUS]

**elusive** /i'looʃhiv/ *adj* tending to elude [L *elusivus*, *pp* of *eludere*] – **elusively** *adv*, **elusiveness** *n*, **elusion** /-ʒh(ə)n/ *n*

**elute** /'ee'l(y)ooht/ *vt* to remove (adsorbed material) from an adsorbent by means of a solvent [L *elutus*, *pp* of *eluere* to wash out, fr *e-* + *lavare* to wash – more at LYE] – **elution** /-ʃh(ə)n/ *n*

**elutriate** /'ee'l(y)oohtri,ayt/ *vt* to purify, separate, or remove by washing [L *elutriatus*, *pp* of *elutriare*, irreg fr *elutus*] – **elutriator** *n*

**eluvium** /'ee'l(y)ooohv-i-əm, i-, -vyəm/ *n* rock debris produced by the weathering and disintegration of rock in situ [NL, fr L *eluere*] – **eluvial** *adj*

**elver** /'elvə/ *n* a young eel [alter. of *elfare* (migration of eels)]

**elves** /'elvz/ *pl* of ELF

**elvish** /'elvish/ *adj* elfish



**Elysium** /'i:li:əm/ *n*, *pl* **Elysiums**, **Elysia** /-zi:ə/ 1 the home of the blessed after death in Greek mythology 2 PARADISE 2 [L, fr Gk *Ēlysiōn*] – **Elysian** *adj*

**elytron** /'elitron/ *n*, *pl* **elytra** /-trə/ either of the modified front pair of wings in beetles, cockroaches, and some other insects that serve to protect the hind pair of functional wings [NL, fr Gk *elytron* sheath, wing cover, fr *elyein* to roll, wrap – more at **VOLUBLE**]

**em**, *m* /em/ *n* 1 the width of the body of a piece of type bearing the letter **M** used as a unit of measure of printed matter 2 'PICA 2

**em-** /im-, em-/ – see **EN-**

**em** /ə/ *m*/ *pron* them – used in writing to suggest casual speech

**emaciate** /i'maɪs, aɪt/ *vt* to make or become excessively thin or feeble [L *emaciatus*, pp of *emaciare*, fr *e-* + *macies* leanness, fr *macer* lean – more at **MEAGRE**] – **emaciation** /-aɪsh(ə)n/ *n*

**emanate** /'ema.nayt/ *vi* to come out from a source <a foul smell ~d from the sewer> <rumours emanating from high places> ~ *vt* + **MIT** 1 [L *emanatus*, pp of *emanare*, fr *e-* + *manare* to flow]

**emanation** /'emə'naysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg that emanates or is produced by emanating 2 a heavy gaseous element produced by radioactive disintegration (**radium** ~) [EMANATE + -ION] – **emanational** *adj*, **emanative** /'emənativ/ *adj*

**emancipate** /i'mansi,payt/ *vt* to free from restraint, control, or esp slavery [L *emancipatus*, pp of *emancipare*, fr *e-* + *mancipare* to transfer ownership of, fr *mancip-*, *manceps* purchaser, fr *manus* hand + *capere* to take – more at **MANUAL**, **HEAVE**] – **emancipator** *n*, **emancipation** /-paɪsh(ə)n/ *n*, **emancipationist** *n*

**emasculate** /i'maskyoo,layt/ *vt* 1 to castrate 2 to deprive of strength, vigour, or spirit; weaken [L *emasculatus*, pp of *emasculare*, fr *e-* + *masculus* male – more at **MATE**] – **emasculate** *adj*, **emasculation** /-laysh(ə)n/ *n*, **emasculator** *n*

**embalm** /im'bahm/ *vt* 1 to treat (a dead body) so as to give protection against decay 2 to preserve from oblivion [ME *embaumen*, fr MF *embaumer*, fr OF *embasmer*, fr *en-* + *basme* balm – more at **BAIM**] – **embalmer** *n*, **embalment** *n*

**embankment** /im'bankmənt/ *n* a raised structure to hold back water or to carry a roadway or railway – **embank** *vt*

**embargo** /im'bahgoh/ *n*, *pl* **embargoes** 1 an order of a government prohibiting the departure or entry of commercial ships 2 a legal prohibition on commerce <an ~ on arms shipments> 3 a stoppage, impediment, esp a prohibition [Sp, fr *embargar* to bar, fr (assumed) VL *imbarricare*, fr L *im-* + (assumed) VL *barra* bar] – **embargo** *vt*

**embark** /im'bahk/ *vi* 1 to go on board a boat or aircraft 2 to make a start; commence – usu + *on* or *upon* <~ed on a new career> ~ *vt* to cause to go on board a boat or aircraft [MF *embarquer*, fr OProv *embarcar*, fr *em-* (fr L *im-*) + *barca* bark] – **embarkment** *n*, **embarkation** /'embah'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**embarrass** /im'barəs/ *vt* 1 to involve in financial difficulties, esp debt 2 to cause to experience a state of self-conscious distress, disconcert <smutty stories ~ed her> [F *embarrasser*, fr Sp *embarazar*, fr Pg *embaraçar*] – **embarrassedly** *adv*, **embarrassingly** *adv*, **embarrassment** *n*

**embassy** /'embəsi/ *n* 1a the position of an ambassador **b** an ambassador's official mission abroad 2 (the residence of) a diplomatic body headed by an ambassador [MF *ambassee*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ambast* service]

**embattle** /im'batl/ *vt* 1 to prepare (an army) for battle 2 to fortify (a town, position, etc) against attack 3 to provide (a building) with battlements <an ~d facade> [ME *embataillen*, fr MF *embatailler*, fr *en-* + *batailler* to battle]

**embattled** *adj* involved in battle or conflict

**embay** /im'bay/ *vt* to enclose or shelter (as if) in a bay <an ~ed fleet>

**embayment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 the formation of a bay 2 (a geographical conformation resembling) a bay

**embed** /im'bed/ *vt* -dd- to place or fix firmly (as if) in surrounding matter <a splinter was ~ded in his finger>

**embellish** /im'belɪsh/ *vt* 1 to make beautiful by adding ornaments, decorate 2 to make (speech or writing) more interesting by adding fictitious or exaggerated detail [ME *embelishen*, fr MF *embeliss-*, stem of *embelir*, fr *en-* + *bel* beautiful – more at **BEAUTY**] – **embellisher** *n*, **embellishment** *n*

**ember** /embo/ *n* 1 a glowing fragment (e.g. of coal or wood) in a (dying) fire 2 *pl* the smouldering remains of a fire 3 *pl* slowly fading emotions, memories, ideas, or responses [ME *eymere*, fr ON *eimyrja*; akin to OE *æmerge* ashes]

**ember day** *n* a day set aside for fasting and prayer in Anglican and Roman Catholic churches that falls on the Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday following the first Sunday in Lent, Whitsunday, September 14, or December 13 [ME, fr OE *ymbrendæg*, fr *ymbrene* circuit, anniversary + *dæg* day]

**embezzle** /im'bezl/ *vt* **embezzling** /im'bezlɪŋ, im'bezl-ɪŋ/ to appropriate (e.g. property entrusted to one's care) fraudulently to one's own use [ME *embesilen*, fr AF *embeseiller*, fr MF *en-* + *besillier* to destroy] – **embezzlement** *n*, **embezzler** *n*

**embitter** /im'bitə/ *vt* 1 to make bitter 2 to excite bitter feelings in – **embitterment** *n*

**emblazon** /im'blayz(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to display conspicuously 2a(1) to deck in bright colours (2) to inscribe, adorn, or embellish (as if) with heraldic bearings or devices **b** to celebrate, extol – **emblazonment** *n*, **emblazonry** *n*

**emblem** /'embləm/ *n* 1 an object or a typical representation of an object symbolizing another object or idea 2 a device, symbol, or figure adopted and used as an identifying mark [ME, fr L *emblemata* inlaid work, fr Gk *emblemata*, *emblemata*, fr *emballen* to insert, fr *en-* + *ballen* to throw – more at **DEVI**]

**emblematic** /'embla'matɪk/ *also* **emblematical** /-tɪkl/ *adj* of or constituting an emblem, symbolic – **emblematically** *adv*

**emblematize**, -ise /'emblemə'taɪz/ *vt* to represent (as if) by an emblem, symbolize

**emblems** /'embləmənts, 'embləmənts/ *n* *pl* crops from annual cultivation legally belonging to the tenant [MF *emblayment*, fr MF *emblayment*, fr *emblaer* to sow with grain, fr *en-* + *blee* grain]

**embody** /im'bodi/ *vt* 1 to give a body to (a spirit), incarnate 2 to make (e.g. ideas or concepts) concrete and perceptible <a chapter which embodies his new theory> 3 to make (e.g. connected ideas or principles) a part of a body or system, incorporate, include – usu + *in* <their way of life is embodied in their laws> 4 to represent in human or animal form, personify <men who embodied the idealism of the revolution> – **embodier** *n*, **embodiment** *n*

**embol-**, **emboli-**, **embolo-** *comb form* embolus <embolotomy> [NL, fr *embolus*]

**embolden** /im'boɪld(ə)n/ *vt* to make bold or courageous

**embolotomy** /'embo'lektəmi/ *n* surgical removal of an embolus

**embolic** /'emboɪk/ *adj* of an embolus or an embolism

**embolism** /'emboɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the sudden obstruction of a blood vessel by) an embolus [ME *embolisme*, fr ML *embolismus*, fr Gk *embo-* (fr *emballen* to insert, intercalate) – more at **EMBLEM**] – **embolismic** /-'ɪzɪmɪk/ *adj*

**embolus** /'emboɪləs/ *n*, *pl* **emboli** /-jie/ a clot, air bubble, or other particle likely to cause an embolism – compare **THROMBUS** [NL, fr Gk *embolos* wedge-shaped object, stopper, fr *emballen*]

**emboss** /im'bos/ *vt* 1 to ornament with raised work 2 to raise in relief from a surface [ME *emboven*, fr MF *embocier*, fr *en-* + *boce* boss] – **embosser** *n*, **embossment** *n*

**embouchure** /'omboʊʃ'ʃu:ə/ *n* the position and use of the lips in playing a musical wind instrument [F, fr (s')*emboucher* to flow into, fr *en-* + *bouche* mouth – more at **DEBOUCH**]

**embrace** /im'brays/ *vt* 1 to take and hold closely in the arms as a sign of affection; hug 2 to encircle, enclose 3a to take up, esp readily or eagerly, adopt <~ a cause> **b** to avail oneself of, welcome <~d the opportunity to study further> 4 to include as a part or element of a more inclusive whole ~ *vi* to join in an embrace; hug one another [ME *embracen*, fr MF *embracer*, fr OF *embracier*, fr *en-* + *brace* two arms – more at **BRACE**] – **embracer** *n*, **embracingly** *adv*, **embractive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**embrace** *n* an act of embracing or gripping <a loving ~> <helpless in the ~ of terror>

**branchment** /im'branhmənt/ *n* a branching off or out (e.g. of a valley) [F *embranchement*, fr (s')*embranher* to branch out, fr *en-* + *branche* branch]

**embrasure** /im'brayʒə/ *n* 1 a door or window aperture, esp with played sides that increase the width of the opening on the inside 2 an opening with sides flaring outwards in a wall or parapet, usu for a gun [F, fr obs *embraser* to widen an opening]

**embrocation** /'embra'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* a liniment [LL *embrocatus*, pp of *embrocare* to rub with lotion, fr Gk *embrosche* lotion, fr *embroschein* to bathe with lotion, fr *en-* + *brechein* to wet]



**embroider** /im'broydə/ *vt* 1a to ornament (e.g. cloth or a garment) with decorative stitches made by hand or machine **b** to form (e.g. a design or pattern) in ornamental needlework 2 to elaborate on (a narrative); embellish with exaggerated or fictitious details ~ *vi* 1 to do or make



embroidery 2 to provide embellishments; elaborate – + *on* or *upon* [ME *embroderen*, fr MF *embroder*, fr *en-* + *broder* to embroider, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brord* point, *byrst* bristle] – **embroiderer** *n*, **embroidery** /-d(ə)n/ *n*

**embroil** /im'broyl/ *vt* 1 to throw (e.g. a person or affairs) into disorder or confusion 2 to involve in conflict or difficulties [F *embrouiller*, fr MF, fr *en-* + *brouiller* to broil] – **embroilment** *n*

**embryo-** /embri-/ **embryo-** *comb form* embryo <embryologist> [LL, fr Gk, fr *embryon*]

**embryo** /embrioh/ *n*, *pl embryos* 1a an animal in the early stages of growth before birth or hatching  LIFE CYCLE b the developing human individual during the first 8 weeks after conception  REPRODUCTION 2 a rudimentary plant within a seed 3a sthg as yet undeveloped b a beginning or undeveloped state of sthg – esp in *in embryo* <plans still in ~> [ML *embryon-*, *embryo*, fr Gk *embryon*, fr *en-* + *bryein* to swell, akin to Gk *bryon* moss]

**embryogenesis** /-jənə'sis/ *n* the formation and development of the embryo – **embryogenetic** /-jə'netik/ *adj*

**embryology** /embri'oləji/ *n* the biology of (the development of) embryos [F *embryologie*] – **embryologic** /embri'ɒləjɪk/, **embryological** *adj*, **embryologically** *adv*, **embryologist** /-oləjɪst/ *n*

**embryon-**, **embryoni-** *comb form* embryo- [ML *embryon-*, *embryo*]

**embryonic** /embri'ɒnik/ *also embryonal* /emb'ri-ənəl/ *adj* 1 of an embryo 2 in an early stage of development – **embryonically** /embri'ɒnikli/ *adv*

**embryophyte** /embri'ɒfiet/ *n* a plant (e.g. a fern or a flowering plant) that produces an embryo and develops vascular tissues

**'embryo sac** *n* the female part of a female plant consisting of a thin-walled sac containing the egg, nucleus, and other nuclei which give rise to endosperm

**'emcee** /em'see/ *n* a compere, MASTER OF CEREMONIES – *infrm* [master of ceremonies]

**emcee** *vb* *emceed*; *emceeding* to act as emcee (of) – *infrm*

**-eme** /-eem/ *suffix* (→ *n*) unit of language structure <phoneme> [F *-ème* (fr *phonème* speech sound, phoneme)]

**emend** /i'mend/ *vt* to correct, usu by textual alterations [ME *emenden*, fr L *emendare* – more at AMEND] – **emendable** *adj*, **emender** *n*

**emendate** /e'men,dayt/ *vt* to emend – **emendator** *n*, **emendatory** /i'mendət(ə)r/ *adj*

**emendation** /e'men,daysh(ə)n/ *n* (an alteration made by) the act of emending

**emerald** /em(ə)rəld/ *adj* or *n* (of the bright green colour of) a beryl used as a gemstone [n ME *emeraldde*, fr MF *esmeralde*, fr (assumed) VL *smaralda*, fr L *smaragdus*, fr Gk *smaragdos*, *adj* fr n]

**emerge** /i'mu:hj/ *vi* 1 to rise (as if) from an enveloping fluid, come out into view 2 to become manifest or known 3 to rise from an obscure or inferior condition [L *emergere*, fr *e-* + *mergere* to plunge – more at MERGE]

**emergence** /i'mu:hj(ə)ns/ *n* a superficial outgrowth of plant tissue (e.g. the thorn of a rose) [EMERGE + -NCE]

**emergency** /i'mu:hj(ə)nsl/ *n* an unforeseen occurrence or combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action

**emergent** /i'mu:hj(ə)nt/ *adj* *emerging*, esp in the early stages of formation or development <the ~ countries of the world> [ME, fr L *emergent-*, *emergens*, *prp* of *emergere*]

**emeritus** /i'merɪtəs/, *fem emerita* /-tə/ *adj* holding an honorary title after retirement [L, *pp* of *emereri* to serve out one's term, fr *e-* + *mereri*, *merere* to earn, deserve, serve – more at MERIT]

**emery** /em(ə)rɪ/ *n* a dark granular mineral consisting mainly of corundum which is used for grinding and polishing [ME, fr MF *emeri*, fr OIt *smiriglio*, fr ML *smirigilum*, fr Gk *smyrnd-*, *smyris*]

**'emery board** *n* a nail file of cardboard or wood covered with powdered emery

**'emery paper** *n* paper coated with emery powder for use as an abrasive

**emeti-** /i'metik/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that induces vomiting [n L *emetica*, fr Gk *emetikē*, fr *fem* of *emetikos* causing vomiting, fr *emein* to vomit – more at VOMIT; *adj* fr n] – **emetically** *adv*

**émeute** /ay'muht (Fr emut)/ *n* a popular uprising [F]

**-emia** /-eemia/, *-eemia-* *comb form* (→ *n*), *NAm* -aemia

**emigrant** /emigrant/ *n* one who emigrates – **emigrant** *adj*

**emigrate** /emi,grat/ *vi* to leave one's home or country for life or residence elsewhere [L *emigratus*, *pp* of *emigrare*, fr *e-* + *migrare* to migrate] – **emigration** /-graysh(ə)n/ *n*

**émigré**, **émigré** /emigray (Fr emigre)/ *n* a (political) emigrant [F *émigré*, fr *pp* of *émigrer* to emigrate, fr L *emigrare*]

**eminence** /eminəns/ *n* 1 a position of prominence or superiority – used as a title for a cardinal 2 sb or sthg high, prominent, or lofty: e.g. a person of high rank or attainments b a natural geographical elevation; a height

**éminence grise** /aymi,nɒnhs 'gri:z (Fr eminās griz)/ *n*, *pl éminences grises* /~/ one who exercises power through his/her often unsuspected influence on another person or group of people who have titular authority [F, lit., grey eminence, nickname of Père Joseph (François du Tremblay) †1638 F monk & diplomat, confidant of Cardinal Richelieu †1642 F statesman who was known as *Éminence Rouge* red eminence; fr the colours of their respective habits]

**eminent** /eminənt/ *adj* 1 standing out so as to be readily seen or noted; conspicuous, notable 2 exhibiting eminence, esp in position, fame, or achievement [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *eminent-*, *eminens*, *prp* of *eminere* to stand out, fr *e-* + *minere* (akin to L *mont-*, *mons* mountain)] – **eminently** *adv*

**emir** /emɪə, -i-/ *n* 1 a ruler of any of various Muslim states 2 a high-ranking Turkish official of former times 3 a male descendant of Muhammad [Ar *amir* commander]

**emirate** /emɪrət/ *n* the position, state, power, etc of an emir

**emissary** /emis(ə)rɪ/ *n* one sent on an often secret mission as the agent of another [L *emissarius*, fr *emissus*, *pp* of *emittere*]

**emission** /i'mɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or instance of emitting 2a sthg (e.g. electromagnetic waves, smoke, electrons, noise, etc) sent forth by emitting b an effluvium – **emissive** /i'mɪsɪv/ *adj*

**emissivity** /emi'sɪvɪtɪ, ɪmi-/ *n* the relative power of a surface to emit heat by radiation

**emit** /i'mɪt/ *vt* -tt- 1a to throw or give off or out (e.g. light) b to send out, eject 2 to give utterance or voice to <~ted a groan> [L *emittere* to send out, fr *e-* + *mittere* to send – more at SMITE]

**emitter** /i'mɪtə/ *n* a region in a transistor that produces charge carriers [EMIT + -ER]

**Emmenthal**, **Emmental** /em'ən,tahl/ *n* a pale yellow Swiss cheese with many holes that form during ripening [Emmenthal, valley in Switzerland]

**emmer** /emə/ *n* a hard variety of wheat [G, fr OHG *amari*]

**emmet** /emɪt/ *n*, chiefly dial an ant [ME *emete*]

**Emmy** /emi/ *n*, *pl Emmys* a statuette awarded annually by a US professional organization for notable achievement in television [alter. of *Immy*, nickname for *image* *oricon* (a camera tube used in television)]

**emollient** /i'mohli-ənt, i'mo-, -yənt/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) that makes soft or gives relief [L *emollient-*, *emolliens*, *prp* of *emollire* to soften, fr *e-* + *molli* soft – more at MEAL]

**emolument** /i'molyoʊmənt/ *n* the returns arising from office or employment, a salary [ME, fr L *emolumentum*, lit., miller's fee, fr *emolere* to grind up, fr *e-* + *molere* to grind – more at MEAL]

**emote** /i'moht/ *vi* to give expression to emotion, esp theatrically [back-formation fr *emotion*]

**emotion** /i'mohsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 excitement 2 a mental and physical reaction (e.g. anger, fear, or joy) marked by strong feeling and often physiological changes that prepare the body for immediate vigorous action [MF, fr *emouvoir* to stir up, fr L *ex-movere* to move away, disturb, fr *ex-* + *movere* to move] – **emotionless** *adj*

**emotional** /i'mohsh(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of the emotions <an ~ disorder> 2 inclined to show (excessive) emotion 3 MOTIVE 2 – **emotionalism** *n*, **emotionalist** *n*, **emotionalize** *vt*, **emotionally** *adv*, **emotionality** /-aləti/ *n*

**emotive** /i'mohtɪv/ *adj* 1 EMOTIONAL 2 appealing to, expressing, or arousing emotion rather than reason <executions were an ~ issue> – **emotively** *adv*, **emotivity** /-tɪvɪtɪ/ *n*

**empanel** /im'panl/ *vt* -ll- (NAm -l-, -ll-), /im'panl-ɪŋ/ to enrol in or on a panel <~ a jury>

**empathetic** /em'pəθetɪk/ *adj* marked by empathy – **empathetically** *adv*

**empathy** /em'pəθɪ/ *n* 1 the imaginative projection of a subjective state into an object, esp a work of art, so allowing it to be better understood and appreciated 2 the capacity for participation in another's feelings or ideas – **empathize** *vi*, **empathic** /em'pəθɪk/ *adj*

**emperor** /emp(ə)rə/ *n* the supreme ruler of an empire [ME, fr OF *empereor*, fr L *imperator*, lit., commander, fr *imperatus*, *pp* of *imperare* to command, fr *in-* + *parare* to prepare, order – more at PARE] – **emperorship** *n*

**emperor penguin** *n* the largest known penguin


**emphasis** /'emfə'siːz/ *n*, *pl* **emphases** /-siez/ **1a** force or intensity of expression that gives special impressiveness or importance to sthg (*writing with ~ on the need for reform*) **b** a particular prominence given in speaking or writing to 1 or more words or syllables **2** special consideration of or stress on sthg (*the school's ~ on examinations*) [L, fr Gk, exposition, emphasis, fr *emphainein* to indicate, fr *en-* + *phainein* to show – more at **FANCY**]

**emphasize**, -ise /'emfə'siːz/ *vt* to give emphasis to; place emphasis or stress on (<~d *the need for reform*)

**emphatic** /im'fatik/ *adj* **1** spoken with or marked by emphasis **2** tending to express oneself in forceful speech or to take decisive action [Gk *emphatikos*, fr *emphainein*] – **emphatically** *adv*

**emphysema** /'emfi'seɪmə/ *n* a disorder characterized by air-filled expansions of body tissues, esp in the lungs [NL, fr Gk *emphysema* bodily inflation]

**empire** /'empɪə/ *n* **1a** (the territory of) a large group of countries or peoples under 1 authority **b** sthg resembling a political empire; esp an extensive territory or enterprise under single domination or control **2** imperial sovereignty [ME, fr OF *empire*, fr L *imperium* absolute authority, empire, fr *imperare* to command]

**Empire** *adj* (characteristic) of a style (e.g. of furniture or interior decoration) popular during the first French Empire (1804–14); *specif* of a style of women's dress having a high waistline  **GARMENT** [F, fr (*le premier*) *Empire* the first Empire of France]

**empirical** /em'pɪrɪkl/ *also* **empiric** *adj* originating in, based, or relying on observation or experiment rather than theory (<~ *data*) (<~ *laws*) [L *empiricus* doctor relying solely on experience, fr Gk *empeirikos*, fr *empeiria* experience, fr *en-* + *peiran* to attempt – more at **FEAR**] – **empirically** *adv*

**empirical formula** *n* a chemical formula showing the simplest ratio of elements in a compound rather than the total number of atoms in the molecule

**empiricism** /em'pɪrɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1** quackery **2** the practice of discovery by observation and experiment **3** a theory that all knowledge is dependent on experience of the external world – **empiricist** *n*

**emplacement** /im'pleɪsmənt/ *n* **1** the situation or location of sthg **2** a prepared position for weapons or military equipment (<*radar ~s*) [F, fr MF *emplacer* to emplace, fr *en-* + *place*] – **emplace** *vt*

**emplane** /im'pleɪn/ *vb* to (cause to) board an aircraft

**employ** /im'plɔɪ/ *vt* **1a** to use in a specified way or for a specific purpose **b** to spend (time) **c** to use **2a** to engage the services of **b** to provide with a job that pays wages or a salary **USE** (1b,c) fml [ME *emploten*, fr MF *employer*, fr L *implicare* to enfold, involve, implicate, fr *in-* + *plicare* to fold – more at **PLY**] – **employable** *adj*, **employer** *n*, **employability** /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*

**employment** *n* the state of being employed, esp for wages or a salary (<*in the government's ~*) – fml

**employee**, *NAM* *also* **employe** /'emplɔɪ'ee, im'plɔɪ'ee/ *n* one employed by another, esp for wages or a salary and in a position below executive level [F *employé*, fr pp of *employer* to employ]

**employment** /im'plɔɪmənt/ *n* (an) activity in which one engages or is employed [**EMPLOY** + **MENT**]

**employment agency** *n* an agency whose business is to find jobs for people seeking them or to find people to fill vacant jobs

**employment exchange** *n* **LABOUR EXCHANGE**

**empoison** /im'pɔɪz(ə)n/ *vt* to embitter (<a *look of ~ed acceptance* – Saul Bellow) [ME *empoisonen*, fr MF *empoisonner*, fr *en-* + *poison*] – **empoisonment** *n*

**emporium** /im'pɔɪrɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **emporiums**, **emporia** /-rɪ-ə/ a place of trade; esp a commercial centre or large shop [L, fr Gk *emporion*, fr *emporos* traveller, trader, fr *en* in + *poros* passage, journey – more at **IN**, **FARE**]

**empower** /im'paʊə/ *vt* to give official authority or legal power to – **empowerment** *n*

**empress** /'empɪrɪə/ *n* **1** the wife or widow of an emperor **2** a woman having in her own right the rank of emperor [ME *emperesse*, fr OF, fem of *emperor* emperor]

**empty** /'empti/ *adj* **1a** containing nothing; esp lacking typical or expected contents **b** not occupied, inhabited, or frequented (<~ *house*) (<~ *streets*) **2a** lacking reality or substance; hollow (<*an ~ pleasure*) **b** lacking effect, value, or sincerity (<~ *threats*) (<*an ~ gesture*) **c** lacking sense; foolish (<*this ~ ideas*) **3** hungry – infml [ME, fr OE *æmettig* unoccupied, fr *æmetta* leisure, fr *æ-* without + *-metta* (fr *motan*

to have to) – more at **MUST**] – **emptily** *adv*, **emptiness** *n* – **on an empty stomach** not having eaten anything

**empty** *vt* **1a** to make empty; remove the contents of **b** to deprive, divest (<*acting emptied of all emotion*) **c** to discharge (itself) of contents **2** to remove from what holds, encloses, or contains **3** to transfer by emptying (<*emptied the biscuits onto the plate*) ~ *vi* **1** to become empty **2** to discharge contents (<*the river empties into the ocean*) – **emptier** *n*

**empty** *n* a bottle, container, vehicle, etc that has been emptied

**empty-handed** *adj* having or bringing nothing, esp because nothing has been gained or obtained (<*returned ~*)

**empty-headed** *adj* foolish, silly

**empyema** /'empɪ'eema/ *n*, *pl* **empyemata** /-mə'tə/, **empyemas** the presence of pus in a bodily cavity [LL, fr Gk *empyema*] – **empyemic** /-mɪk/ *adj*

**empyrean** /'empɪ'ree-əl/ *adj* celestial [LL *empyranus*, *empyreus*, fr LGk *empyros*, fr Gk *en* in + *pyr* fire]

**empyrean** /'empɪ'ree-ən/ *adj* or *n* (of) the highest heavenly sphere in ancient and medieval cosmology


**emu** /'eemyoo/ *n* a swift-running Australian flightless bird [modif of Pg *ema rhea*]

**emulate** /'emyoo,ləɪt/ *vt* **1** RIVAL **2** to imitate closely, approach equality with, *specif* to imitate by means of an emulator [L *aemulatus*, pp of *aemulari*, fr *aemulus* rivaling] – **emulation** /-'ləɪsh(ə)n/ *n*, **emulative** /'emyoolətɪv/ *adj*

**emulator** /'emyoo,ləɪtə/ *n* a piece of hardware or software that permits programs written for one computer to be run on another, usu newer, computer [EMULATE + **OR**]

**emulous** /'emyooləs/ *adj* ambitious or eager to emulate – **emulously** *adv*

**emulsify** /'ɪmʌlsɪfɪ/ *vt* to convert (e.g. an oil) into an emulsion – **emulsifiable** *adj*, **emulsifier** *n*, **emulsification** /-'fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**emulsion** /'ɪmʌlʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** (the state of) a substance (e.g. fat in milk) consisting of one liquid dispersed in droplets throughout another liquid (<~ *paint*) **2** SUSPENSION **2b**, esp a suspension of a silver compound in a gelatin solution or other solid medium for coating photographic plates, film, etc  **CAMERA** [NL *emulsion*, *emulso*, fr L *emulsus*, pp of *emulgere* to milk out, fr *e-* + *mulgere* to milk, akin to OE *melcan* to milk, Gk *amelkein*] – **emulsive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**emulsion** *vt* to paint (e.g. a wall) with emulsion paint

**en**, *n* /'en/ *n* the width of the body of a piece of type bearing the letter *n* used as a unit of measure of printed matter, one half of an em

**en-** *also* **em-** *prefix* (~ *vb*) **1** put into or onto (<*embed*) (<*enthroned*); go into or onto (<*embus*) (<*entram*) **2** cause to be (<*enslave*) (<*enrich*) **3** provide with (<*empower*) (<*enfranchise*) **4** so as to cover (<*engulf*), thoroughly (<*entangle*) **USE** usu *em* before *b*, *m*, or *p* [ME, fr OF, fr L *in-*, *im-*, fr *in*]

**en-** *also* **em-** *prefix* *n*, within (<*energy*) – usu *em-* before *b*, *m*, or *p* (<*empathy*) [ME, fr L, fr Gk, fr *en* in – more at **IN**]


**en-** *also* *n* /-(ə)n/ *suffix* (*n* → *adj*) made of, consisting of (<*earthen*) (<*wooden*) [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *-in* made of, L *-inus* of or belonging to, Gk *-inos* made of, of or belonging to]

**-en** *suffix* (*n*, *adj* → *vb*) **1a** cause to be (<*sharpen*) (<*embolden*) **b** cause to have (<*heighten*) **2a** become (<*steepen*) **b** come to have (<*lengthen*) [ME *-nen*, fr OE *-nian*, akin to OHG *-inôn* -en]

**enable** /'ɪn'əɪbl/ *vt* **1** to provide with the means or opportunity **2** to make possible, practical, or easy

**enact** /'ɪn'akt/ *vt* **1** to make into law **2** to act out, play – **enaction** /-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **enactment** *n*

**enamel** /'ɪnəml/ *vt* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), /'ɪnəml-'ɪŋ/ to cover, inlay, or decorate with enamel [ME *enamelen*, fr MF *enamailler*, fr *en-* + *esmail* enamel, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *smelzan* to melt – more at **SMELT**] – **enameler** *n*, **enamelist** *n*

**enamel** *n* **1** a usu opaque glassy coating applied to the surface of metal, glass, or pottery **2** sthg enamelled; esp enamelware **3** a substance composed of calcium phosphate that forms a thin hard layer capping the teeth  **DIGESTION** **4** a paint that dries with a glossy appearance **5** chiefly *NAM* an often coloured coating applied to the nails to give them a smooth or glossy appearance; nail varnish

**enamelware** /-'weɪ/ *n* metal household or kitchen utensils coated with enamel

**enamoured**, *NAM* chiefly **enamored** /'ɪnə'mə/ *vt* to inspire with love or liking – usu *pass* + *of* [ME *enamouren*, fr OF *enamouurer*, fr *en-* + *amour* love – more at **AMOUR**]

**enantiomer** /'ɪnənti-əmə/ *n* an enantiomorph [Gk *enantios* + *E-mer*] – **enantiomeric** /-'merɪk/ *adj*

**enantiomorph** /'nanti-ə,mawf/ *n* either of a pair of chemical compounds or crystals whose molecular structures have a mirror-image relationship to each other [Gk *enantios* opposite (fr *enanti* facing, fr *en* in + *anti* against) + ISV *-morph*] – **enantiomorph** /-mawf/ *adj*, **enantiomorphism** *n*, **enantiomorphous** *adj*

**enarthrosis** /'enə'throʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **enarthroses** /-seɪz/ BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT [NL, fr Gk *enarthrosis*]

**en bloc** /'ɒm 'blok (Fr ɔ̃ blok)/ *adv* or *adj* as a whole, in a mass [F]

**Encaenia** /'en'seɪni-ə, -nyə/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an annual university ceremony (e.g. at Oxford) of commemoration [NL, fr L, dedication festival, fr Gk *enkaima*, fr *en* in + *kainos* new – more at *IN*, *RECENT*]

**encamp** /'ɪn'kæmp/ *vt* to place or establish in a camp ~ *vi* to set up or occupy a camp

**en'campment** /-mənt/ *n* the place where a group (e.g. a body of troops) is encamped; a camp [ENCAMP + -MENT]

**encapsulate** /'ɪn'kapsyoo,layt/ *vt* 1 to enclose (as if) in a capsule 2 to epitomize, condense ~ *vi* to become encapsulated – **encapsulation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**encase** /'ɪn'keɪs/ *vt* to enclose (as if) in a case – **encasement** *n*

**encash** /'ɪn'kæʃ/ *vt*, *Br* CASH 1 – *fml* – **encashment** *n*

**encaustic** /'en'kawstɪk, -'kɔs-/ *n* (a decorative technique using) a paint made from pigment mixed with melted beeswax and resin and fixed by heat after application [*encaustic*, *adj*, fr L *encausticus*, fr Gk *enkaustikos*, fr *enkaein* to burn in, fr *en-* + *kainein* to burn – more at CAUSTIC] – **encaustic** *adj*

**-ence** /-(ə)ns/ *suffix* (*vb* → *n*) 1 action or process of (emergence), also instance of (a specified action or process) <reference> <reminiscence> 2 quality or state of (dependence) <somnolence> [ME, fr OF, fr L *-entia*, fr *-ent-*, *-ens*, *prp* ending + *-ia -y*] – **ent** *suffix* (*vb* → *adj* or *n*)

**enceinte** /'ɒn'saɪnt (Fr ɔ̃sɛ̃t)/ *adj* PREGNANT 3 [MF, fr (assumed) VL *incienta*, alter. of L *incient-*, *inciens* being with young, fr *in* + *-cient*, *-ciens* (akin to Gk *kyein* to be pregnant) – more at CAVY]

**enceinte** *n* (an area enclosed by) a line of fortification [F, fr OF, enclosing wall, fr *enceindre* to surround, fr L *incingere*, fr *in-* + *cingere* to gird – more at INCITURE]

**encephal-**, **encephalo-** *comb form* brain <encephalitis> [F *encephal-*, fr Gk *enkephal-*, fr *enkephalos*]

**encephalic** /'ensɪ'fælk/ *adj* of the brain

**encephalitis** /'ɪn'seɪfə'lietəs/ *n*, *pl* **encephalitides** /-'lɪtə,deeɪz/ inflammation of the brain, usu caused by infection [NL] – **encephalitic** /-'lɪtɪk/ *adj*

**encephalogram** /'en'seɪf(ə)lɒɡrəm/ *n* an X-ray picture of the brain made by encephalography [ISV]

**encephalograph** /'ɪn'seɪf(ə)lɒɡrəf, -grəf/ *n* 1 an encephalogram 2 an electroencephalograph

**encephalography** /'ɪn'seɪf(ə)'lɒɡrəfi/ *n* X-ray photography of the brain after the cerebrospinal fluid has been replaced by a gas (e.g. air) [ISV]

**en,cephalo,mye'litia** /-mɪe-ə'lietəs/ *n* inflammation of both the brain and spinal cord [NL]

**encephalon** /'en'seɪf(ə)lɒn/ *n*, *pl* **encephala** /-lə/ the vertebrate brain [NL, fr Gk *enkephalos*, fr *en* in + *kephalē* head – more at *IN*, *CEPHALIC*]

**enchant** /'ɪn'chahnt/ *vt* 1 to bewitch 2 to attract and move deeply, delight [ME *enchanten*, fr MF *enchanter*, fr L *incantare*, fr *in-* + *cantare* to sing – more at CHANT] – **enchantment** *n*

**enchanter** /'ɪn'chahntə/ *n* a sorcerer [ENCHANT + -ER]

**enchanter's nightshade** *n* any of several slender European plants that bear small whitish-pink flowers

**enchanting** /'ɪn'chahntɪŋ/ *adj* charming – **enchantingly** *adv*

**enchantress** /'ɪn'chahntɪs/ *n* a sorceress

**enchase** /'ɪn'chays/ *vt* to ornament with raised or incised work (e.g. by engraving or inlaying) [ME *enhasen* to emboss, fr MF *enchasser* to engrave, set, fr *en-* + *chasse* reliquary, fr L *capsa* case – more at CASE]

**enchilada** /'enʃɪ'lahdə/ *n* a tortilla spread with a meat filling, rolled up, and covered with a chilli sauce [AmerSp]

**enchiridion** /'enki'eɪndi-ən/ *n*, *pl* **enchiridia** /-di-ə/ a handbook, manual [LL, fr Gk *encheiridion*, fr *en* in + *cheir* hand – more at *IN*, *CHIR-*]

**encipher** /'ɪn'siəf/ *vt* to convert (a message) into a cipher

**encircle** /'ɪn'suhkl/ *vt* 1 to form a circle round; surround 2 to move or pass completely round – **encirclement** *n*

**enclave** /'enkleɪv/ *n* a territorial or culturally distinct unit enclosed within foreign territory [F, fr MF, fr *enclaver* to enclose, fr (assumed) VL *inclavare* to lock up, fr L *in-* + *clavis* key – more at CLAVICLE]

**enclitic** /'ɪn'klɪtɪk/ *adj*, of a word or particle being without independent accent and forming part of the preceding word (e.g. *not* in *cannot*) [LL *encliticus*, fr Gk *enklitikos*, fr *enklínesthai* to lean on, fr *en-* + *klínein* to lean – more at LEAN] – **enclitic** *n*, **enclitically** *adv*

**enclose** also **inclose** /'ɪn'kloʊz/ *vt* 1a(1) to close in completely, surround <~d the field with a high fence> (2) to fence off (common land) for individual use b to hold in, confine 2 to include in a package or envelope, esp along with sth else <a cheque is ~d herewith> [ME *enclosen*, prob fr *enclos* enclosed, fr MF, pp of *enclore* to enclose, fr (assumed) VL *inclaudere*, alter. of L *includere* – more at INCLUDE]

**enclosure** /'ɪn'kloʊzhə/ *n* 1 enclosing or being enclosed 2 sth that encloses 3 sth enclosed: e.g. a sth included in the same envelope or package as a letter b an area of enclosed ground, esp one reserved for a certain class of spectator in a sports ground

**encode** /'ɪn'kəʊd/ *vt* to convert (e.g. a body of information) from one system of communication into another; esp to convert (a message) into code – **encoder** *n*

**encomiast** /'en'kəʊmɪəst/ *n* one who praises in encomiums [Gk *enkomíastes*, fr *enkomíazein* to praise, fr *enkomion*] – **encomiastic** /-'astɪk/ *adj*

**encomium** /'en'kəʊmɪ-əm, -mɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **encomiums**, **encomia** /-mɪ-ə, -mɪ-ə/ a usu formal expression of warm or high praise, a eulogy [L, fr Gk *enkomion*, fr *en* in + *komos* revel, celebration]

**encompass** /'ɪn'kʌmpəs/ *vt* 1 to form a circle about, enclose 2 to include <a plan that ~es a number of aims> – **encompassment** *n*

**encore** /'ɒŋkəʊ/ *n* (an audience's appreciative demand for) a performer's reappearance to give an additional or repeated performance [F, still, again]

**encore** *vt* to call for an encore of or by

**encounter** /'ɪn'kəʊntə/ *vt* 1a to meet as an adversary or enemy b to engage in conflict with 2 to meet or come across, esp unexpectedly [ME *encountren*, fr OF *encontrer*, fr ML *incontrare*, fr LL *incontra* towards, fr L *in-* + *contra* against – more at COUNTER]

**encounter** *n* 1 a meeting or clash between hostile factions or people 2 a chance meeting

**encounter, group** *n* a group of people who meet to try and develop greater sensitivity to their own and one another's feelings

**encourage** /'ɪn'kʊrɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope 2 to spur on <they were ~d to paint by their parents> 3 to give help or patronage to (e.g. a process or action); promote <many companies ~ union membership> [ME *encoragen*, fr MF *encoragier*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *courage* courage] – **encouragement** *n*, **encouragingly** *adv*

**encroach** /'ɪn'krəʊtʃ/ *vi* 1 to enter gradually or by stealth into the possessions or rights of another, intrude, trespass 2 to advance beyond the usual or proper limits *USE* usu + *on* or *upon* [ME *encrochen* to get, seize, fr MF *encrochier*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *croc*, *croche* hook – more at CROCHET] – **encroachment** *n*

**encrust** also **incrust** /'ɪn'krʌst/ *vt* to cover, line, or overlay with a crust, esp of jewels or precious metal ~ *vi* to form a crust [prob fr L *incrustare*, fr *in-* + *crusta* crust]

**encrustation** /'ɛnkrʌ'stəʃ(ə)n/ *n* an incrustation

**encumber** /'ɪn'kʌmbə/ *vt* 1 to weigh down, burden 2 to impede or hamper the function or activity of 3 to burden with a legal claim <~ an estate> [ME *encumbren*, fr MF *encumber*, fr OF, fr *en-* + (assumed) OF *combre* defensive barrier of felled trees]

**encumbrance** /'ɪn'kʌmbɾəns/ *n* 1 sth that encumbers, an impediment 2 a claim (e.g. a mortgage) against property

**-ency** /-(ə)nsɪ/ *suffix* (→ *n*) quality or state of <despondency> [ME *-encie*, fr L *-entia* – more at -ENCE]

**encyclical** /'ɛn'sɪklɪk/ *n* a papal letter to the bishops of the church as a whole or to those in 1 country [*encyclical* (*adj*) sent to many persons or places, fr LL *encyclīcus*, modif of Gk *enkyklios* circular, general, fr *en* in + *kyklos* circle, wheel]

**encyclopedia**, **encyclopaedia** /'ɪn,sɪklə'pi:di-ə, -di-ə/ *n* a work containing general information on all branches of knowledge or comprehensive information on 1 branch, usu in articles arranged alphabetically by subject [ML *encyclopaedia* course of general education, fr Gk *enkyklios paideia* general education] – **encyclopædist** /-'pi:dist/ *n*

**encyclopedic**, **encyclopaedic** /'ɪn,sɪklə'pi:di:k/ *adj* (suggestive) of an encyclopedia or its methods of treating a subject; comprehensive <an ~ memory> – **encyclopedically** *adv*

**en,cyclo'pæ,dɪəm**, **encyclopaedism** /-'pi:di:z(ə)m/ *n* encyclopedic knowledge

**encyst** /'ɛn'sɪst/ *vb* to enclose or become enclosed (as if) in a cyst – **encystment** *n*, **encystation** /'ɛn'sɪstəʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**end** /end/ *n* 1a the part of an area that lies at the boundary <the north ~ of the village>; also the farthest point from where one is <it's at the other ~ of the garden> b(1) the point that marks the extent of sthg in space or time, the limit <at the ~ of the day> (2) the point where sthg ceases to exist <world without ~> c either of the extreme or last parts lengthways of an object that is appreciably longer than it is broad <a pencil with a point at either ~> 2a (the events, sections, etc immediately preceding) the cessation of action, activity, or existence <the ~ of the play was its weakest part> <at the ~ of the war> b the final condition, esp death <the ~ being oblivion> 3 sthg left over, remnant 4 an aim or purpose 5 sthg or sby extreme of a kind; the ultimate 6a either half of a games pitch, court, etc <change ~s at halftime> b a period of action or turn to play in bowls, curling, etc 7 a particular part of an undertaking or organization <the advertising ~ of a business> **USE** (5 & 7) infml [ME *ende*, fr OE; akin to OHG *enti* end, L *ante* before, Gk *anti* against] - **ended** *adj* - in the end ultimately - no end 1 exceedingly 2 an endless amount, a huge quantity - on end 1 <sup>UPRIGHT</sup> <turned the table on end to get it through the door> 2 without a stop or letup <it rained for days on end>

**end** *vt* 1 to bring to an end 2 to destroy ~ *vi* 1 to come to an end 2 to reach a specified ultimate situation, condition, or rank - often + *up* <~ed up as a colonel>

**end** *adj* final, ultimate <~ results> <~ markets>

**end-, endo-** /end-/ *comb form* 1 within, inside <endoskeleton> - compare **ECT-**, **EXO-** 1 2 taking in, absorbing <endothermal> [F, fr Gk, fr *endon* within, fr *en* in + *-don* (akin to L *domus* house) - more at **IN**, **TIMBER**]

**endanger** /in'deɪnjə/ *vt* to bring into or expose to danger or peril - **endangerment** *n*

**endangered** *adj* threatened with extinction <~ species> 

**endarterectomy** /,endaɪtə'rektəmi/ *n* surgical removal of the inner layer of an artery when it is thickened and fatty [NL *endarterium* intima of an artery (fr *end-* + *arteria* artery) + *E-*ectomy]

**endbrain** /-brɛɪn/ *n* the front subdivision of the forebrain

**endear** /in'diə/ *vt* to cause to become beloved or admired - often + *to* - **endearingly** *adv*

**endearment** /-mənt/ *n* a word or act (e.g. a caress) expressing affection [ENDEAR + **MENT**]

**endeavour**, **NAM chiefly endeavor** /in'devə/ *vt* to attempt by exertion or effort, **TRY** 4 - *usu* + *infin*, *fm*l <~ing to control her disgust> [ME *enderveren* to exert oneself, fr *en-* + *dever* work, fr OF *dever*, fr *devoir*, *dever* to owe, be obliged, fr L *debere* - more at **DEBT**]

**endeavour**, **NAM chiefly endeavor** *n* serious determined effort <fields of ~>; also an instance of this - *fm*l

**endemic** /en'demɪk/ *adj* 1 belonging or native to a particular people or region; not introduced or naturalized <~ diseases> <an ~ species of plant> 2 regularly occurring in or associated with a particular topic or sphere of activity [F *endémique*, fr *endémie* endemic disease, fr Gk *endemia* action of dwelling, fr *endemos* endemic, fr *en* in + *demos* people, populace - more at **DEMAGOGUE**] - **endemically** *adv*, **endemicty** /,ende'mɪsəti/ *n*, **endemism** /,ende'mɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**endemic** *n* an endemic disease or species

**endergonic** /,endu'gɒnɪk/ *adj* requiring expenditure of energy <~ biochemical reactions> [*end-* + Gk *ergon* work - more at **WORK**]

**endermic** /en'duhmɪk/ *adj* acting by direct application to or through the skin - **endermically** *adv*

**endgame** *n* the final stage of a (specif chess) game, esp when forces have been greatly reduced - compare **OPENING**, **MIDDLE GAME**

**ending** /'endɪŋ/ *n* 1 the last part of a book, film, etc 2 one or more letters or syllables added to a word base, esp as an inflection

**endive** /'en,dɪv/ *n* 1 an annual or biennial composite plant that resembles a lettuce and has bitter leaves used in salads 2 **NAM** the developing crown of chichory when blanched for use as a salad plant [ME, fr MF, fr LL *endivia*, fr LGk *entubion*, fr L *intubus*]

**endless** /'endlɪs/ *adj* 1 (seeming) without end 2 extremely numerous 3 of a belt, chain, etc that is joined to itself at its ends - **endlessly** *adv*, **endlessness** *n*

**endline** *n* a line marking an end or boundary, esp of a playing area

**endmost** /'end,məʊst/ *adj* situated at the very end, farthest

**endo-** *comb form* 1 - see **END-** 2 forming a bridge between 2 atoms in a cyclic system


**endocarditis** /,endə'kɑ:h'dɪə'tɪs/ *n* inflammation of the lining and valves of the heart. [NL]

**endocardium** /,endə'kɑ:hdi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **endocardia** /-dɪ-ə/ a thin mem-

brane lining the cavities of the heart [NL, fr *end-* + Gk *kardia* heart] - **endocardial** *adj*

**endocarp** /'enda,kɑ:p/, -doh-/ *n* the inner layer of the pericarp of a fruit [F *endocarpe*] - **endocarpal** /-kɑ:pəl/ *adj*

**endocrine** /,endə'kri:n/, -kri:n-, -da-/ *adj* 1 producing secretions that are discharged directly into the bloodstream <~ system> - compare **EXO-CRINE** 1 2 of or being an endocrine gland or its secretions <~ hormone> [ISV *end-* + Gk *krinein* to separate - more at **CERTAIN**]

**endocrine** *n* 1 a hormone - no longer in technical use 2 **endocrine**, **endocrine gland** the thyroid, pituitary, or other gland that produces an endocrine secretion  **DIGESTION**

**endocrinology** /,endə'kri:nələʒi/, -kri-/- *n* physiology and medicine dealing with (diseases of) the endocrine glands [ISV] - **endocrinologist** /-nələʒɪst/ *n*, **endocrinologie** /,endə'kri:nələʒɪk/, -kri-/-, -da-/-, **endocrinological** *adj*

**endocytosis** /,endə'hsɪ'təʊsɪs/ *n* the uptake and incorporation of extracellular substances into a cell by phagocytosis or pinocytosis - compare **EXOCYTOSIS** [NL, fr *end-* + *-cytosis* (as in *phagocytosis*)] - **endocytotic** /-təʊtɪk/ *adj*, **endocytotically** *adv*

**endoderm** /'endə,du:m/ *n* the innermost of the germ layers of an embryo that is the source of the epithelium of the digestive tract and its derivatives [F *endoderme*, fr *end-* + Gk *derma* skin - more at **DERM-**] - **endodermal** /-du:ml/ *adj*, **endoderally** *adv*

**endoelectric** /,endə'hju:lɪk/ *adj* endothermic <~ nuclear reactions> [*end-* + *erg-* + *-ic*]

**endogamy** /'endəgəmi/ *n* marriage within one's tribe - compare **EXOGAMY** - **endogamous** *adj*

**endogenous** /en'dəʒɪnəs/ also **endogenic** /,endə'ʒɪnɪk/ *adj* 1 growing from or on the inside 2 originating within the body - **endogenously** *adv*

**endogeny** /'endəʒəni/ *n* growth within or from a deep-seated layer

**endolymph** /'endə'limf/ *n* the watery fluid in the membranous labyrinth of the ear [ISV] - **endolymphatic** /-lɪm'fæɪk/ *adj*

**endometrium** /,endə'h'mi:tri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **endometria** /-tri-ə/ the mucous membrane lining the uterus [NL, fr *end-* + Gk *metra* uterus, fr *metr-*, *meter* mother - more at **MOTHER**] - **endometrial** *adj*

**endomorph** /'endə,məʊf/ *n* 1 a crystal enclosed in a crystal of a different type 2 a person having a heavy rounded build, often with a marked tendency to fat [ISV; (2) **endoderm** + *-morph*] - **endomorphy** *n*, **endomorphic** /-mə'fɪk/ *adj*, **endomorphism** /-mə'fɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**endoparasite** /,endə'pɑ:rsɪt/ *n* a parasite that lives in the internal organs or tissues of its host - compare **ECTOPARASITE** [ISV] - **endoparasitism** /-sɪ'tɪz(ə)m/, -'sɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**endophyte** /'endə,fɪt/ *n* a plant that lives within another plant [ISV] - **endophytic** /-fɪtɪk/ *adj*

**cytoplasm** /'endə'plɑ:z(ə)m/ *n* the inner relatively fluid part of the cytoplasm of a cell - compare **CTOPLASM** 1 [ISV] - **endoplasmic** /-plɑ:zmɪk/ *adj*

**endoradiosonde** /,endə'raɪdɪəʊ'sɒnd/ *n* a tiny electronic device introduced into the body to record physiological data

**end organ** *n* a structure (e.g. a muscle or sense organ) at the end of a nerve path

**endorse** /in'daws/ *vt* 1a to write on the back of b to write (one's signature) on a cheque, bill, or note 2 to express approval of, support, *specif*, *chiefly* **NAM** to express support for (e.g. a political candidate) publicly 3 **Br** to record on (e.g. a driving licence) particulars of an offence committed by the holder [alter of obs *endoss*, fr ME *endosen*, fr MF *endossier*, fr OF, to put on the back, fr *en-* + *dos* back, fr L *dorsum*] - **endorseable** *adj*, **endorsement** *n*, **endorser** *n*, **endorsee** /in,daw'si:, 'endaw'si:/ *n*

**endoscope** /'enda'skəʊp/ *n* an instrument for looking inside a hollow organ (e.g. the rectum or urethra) [ISV] - **endoscopic** /-skə'pɪk/ *adj*, **endoscopically** *adv*, **endoscopy** /'endə'skəpi/ *n*

**endoskeleton** /,endə'h'skelɪn/ *n* an internal skeleton or supporting framework in an animal - **endoskeletal** /-skelɪt/ *adj*

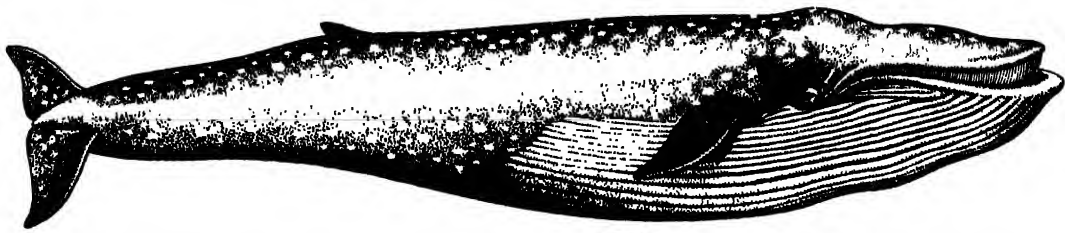
**endosmosis** /,endəz'məʊsɪs/ *n* passage of material through a membrane from a region of lower concentration to a region of higher concentration - compare **EXOSMOSIS** [alter. of obs *endosmose*, fr F, fr *end-* + Gk *osmos* act of pushing, fr *othen* to push; akin to Skt *vadhati* he strikes] - **endosmotically** /-mə'tɪk/ *adj*, **endosmotically** *adv*

**endosperm** /'endə'spu:m/ *n* a nourishing tissue in seed plants that is formed within the embryo sac [F *endosperme*, fr *end-* + Gk *sperma* seed - more at **SPERM**] - **endospermic** /-s'pu:mɪk/ *adj*, **endospermous** *adj*

**endospore** /'enda'spəʊ/ *n* an asexual spore developed within a single

- cell, esp in bacteria [ISV] – **endospore** /-ˈsponk/ *adj*, endosporous /ˈɛndɒspərəs, ˈɛndɒspawrəs/ *adj*
- endothelium** /ˈɛndəʊˈθiːli-əm/ *n*, *pl* **endothelia** /-li-ə/ an inner layer (e.g. of epithelium or a seed coat) [NL, fr *end-* + *epithelium*] – **endothelial** *adj*, **endotheloid** /-ˈθiːloɪd/ *adj*
- endothermic** /ˈɛndəʊˈθɪhmiːk/, **endothermal** /-ˈθɪhml/ *adj* characterized by or formed with absorption of heat [ISV]
- endow** /ˈɛndəʊ/ *vt* 1 to provide with a continuing source of income (< ~ a hospital) 2a to provide with an ability or attribute (< ~ ed with a natural grace) b CREDIT 3a – usu + *with* [ME *endowen*, fr AF *endouer*, fr MF *en-* + *douer* to endow, fr L *dotare*, fr *dot-*, *dos* gift, dowry – more at DOWRY]
- endowment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 sthg endowed, *specif* the part of an institution's income derived from donations 2 a natural quality with which a person is endowed [ENDOW + -MENT]
- endowment** *adj* of, being, or involving life insurance under which a certain sum is paid to the insured at the end of an agreed period or to a specified beneficiary if the insured dies within that period (< an ~ policy > (< an ~ mortgage >)
- endpaper** /-ˈpeɪpə/ *n* a folded sheet of paper forming the front or back inside cover and flyleaf of a book
- end point** *n* a point marking the completion of (a stage of) a process
- end-stopped** *adj* marked by a pause at the end (< an ~ line of verse >)
- endue** /ˈɛndyʊh/ *vt* to provide, endow, also to imbue – usu *pass* + *with*, fml [ME *enduen*, fr MF *enduire* to bring in, introduce, fr L *inducere* – more at INDUCE]
- endurance** /ˈɛndjʊərəns/ *n* the ability to withstand hardship, adversity, or stress
- endure** /ˈɛndyʊə/ *vi* to continue in the same state; last ~ *vt* 1 to undergo (e.g. a hardship), esp without giving in 2 to tolerate, permit [ME *enduren*, fr MF *endurer*, fr (assumed) VL *indurare*, fr L, to harden, fr *in-* + *durare* to harden, endure – more at DURING] – **endurable** *adj*, **endurably** *adv*
- endways** /-ˈweɪz/, **endwise** /-ˈwiːz/ *adv* or *adj* 1 with the end forwards (e.g. towards the observer) 2 in or towards the direction of the ends, lengthways 3 upright, ON FND <boxes set ~ > 4 end to end <put the tables together ~ >
- ene** /-cen/ *suffix* (→ *n*) unsaturated carbon compound (benzene), esp aliphatic carbon compound with 1 double bond (<ethylene> [ISV, fr Gk *-ene*, fem of *-enos*, *adj* suffix]
- enema** /ˈɛnɪmə/ *n*, *pl* **enemas** also **enemata** /ˈɛniˈmaɪtə/ 1 injection of liquid into the intestine by way of the anus (e.g. to ease constipation) 2 material for injection as an enema [LL, fr Gk, fr *enienai* to inject, fr *en-* + *hienai* to send – more at 3JET]
- enemy** /ˈɛnɪmi/ *n* 1 one who is antagonistic to another, esp one seeking to injure, overthrow, or confound an opponent 2 sthg harmful or deadly 3a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a military adversary (<the ~ undertook guerrilla warfare>) b a hostile military unit or force [ME *enemi*, fr OF, fr L *inimicus*, fr *in-* + *amicus* friend – more at AMIABLE]
- energetic** /ˈɛnəˈjɛtɪk/ *adj* 1 marked by energy, activity, or vigour 2 operating with power or effect; forceful 3 of energy (< ~ equation > [Gk *energetikos*, fr *energein* to be active, fr *energos*] – **energetically** *adv*
- energetics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a branch of mechanics that deals primarily with energy and its transformations
- energize**, **-ise** /ˈɛnəˌjɛz/ *vt* 1 to give energy to; make energetic or vigorous 2 to apply energy to so as to facilitate normal operation – **energizer** *n*
- energy** /ˈɛnəʒi/ *n* 1 the capacity of acting or being active (<great intellectual ~ >) 2 natural power vigorously exerted (<devoted all his energies to it>) 3 the capacity for doing work (<solar ~ >) [LL *energia*, fr Gk *energeia* activity, fr *energos* active, fr *en* in + *ergon* work – more at 1WORK]
- energy level** *n* 1 any of the stable states of constant energy that may be assumed by a physical system – used esp with reference to the quantum states of electrons in atoms and of nuclei 2 any of the divisions of a food chain defined by the method of obtaining food – compare TROPHIC → FOOD
- enervate** /ˈɛnəˌvaɪt/ *vt* to lessen the mental or physical strength or vitality of; weaken [L *enervatus*, pp of *enervare*, fr *e-* + *nervus* sinew – more at NERVE] – **enervate**, **enervated** *adj*, **enervation** /-ˈvaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- en famille** /on faˈmeɪ/ (*Fr* ù famij)/ *adv* all together as a family [F]
- enfant terrible** /ˌɒnfənt teˈrɪblə/ (*Fr* ùfä trɪblɪ)/ *n*, *pl* **enfants terribles** /- / ~ / a person whose remarks or unconventional actions cause embarrassment [F, lit., terrifying child]
- enfeeble** /ˈɛnfɪebl/ *vt* to make feeble [ME *enfeblen*, fr MF *enfeblir*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *feble* feeble] – **enfeeblement** *n*
- enfeoff** /ˈɛnfɪeɪ/ *vt* to invest with a fee, fief, etc [ME *enfeoffen*, fr AF *enfeoffer*, fr OF *en-* + *fief*] – **enfeoffment** *n*
- enfetter** /ˈɛnfɛtə/ *vt* to bind in fetters; chain
- enfilade** /ˈɛnfɪˈlaɪd/ *vt* or *n* (to subject to) gunfire directed along the length of an enemy battle line [F, fr *enfiler* to thread, enfilade, fr OF, to thread, fr *en-* + *fil* thread, fr L *filum*; vb fr n]
- enfold** /ˈɛnfəʊld/ *vt* 1 to wrap up, envelop 2 to clasp in the arms; embrace
- enforce** /ˈɛnfəʊs/ *vt* 1 to give greater force to (e.g. an argument); reinforce 2 to impose, compel (< ~ obedience from them >) 3 to cause (a rule or law) to be carried out effectively [ME *enforcen*, fr MF *enforcier*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *force*] – **enforceable** *adj*, **enforcement** *n*, **enforcer** *n*, **enforceability** /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- enfranchise** /ˈɛnfɪˈrɑːnʃiəz/ *vt* 1 to set free (e.g. from slavery) 2a to admit to the right of voting b to admit (a municipality) to political privileges, esp the right of Parliamentary representation [ME *enfranchisen*, fr MF *enfranchiss-*, stem of *enfranchir*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *franc* free – more at FRANK] – **enfranchisement** *n*
- engage** /ˈɛŋˌɡeɪj/ *vt* 1a to attract and hold (sby's thoughts, attention, etc) b to interlock with, cause to mesh 2a to arrange to employ (sby) b to arrange to obtain the services of c to order (a room, seat, etc) to be kept for one; reserve 3a to hold the attention of; engross (<her work ~ s her completely>) b to induce to participate, esp in conversation 4a to enter into contest with (< ~ the enemy fleet >) b to bring together or interlock (e.g. weapons) ~ *vi* 1 to pledge oneself, promise 2 to occupy one's time; participate (<at university he ~ d in gymnastics>) 3 to enter into conflict (<the fleets ~ d in the Atlantic>) 4 to be or become interlocked or meshed [ME *engagen*, fr MF *engager*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *gager*]
- engagé** /ɒŋˌɡəˈʒay/ (*Fr* ôgəʒ)/ *adj* actively involved or committed (politically) [F, pp of *engager* to engage, fr MF *engagier*]
- engaged** /ˈɛŋˌɡeɪd/ *adj* 1 involved in activity, occupied 2 pledged to be married 3 chiefly Br a in use (<the telephone is ~ >) b reserved, booked (<this table is ~ >)
- engagement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 an agreement to marry, a betrothal 2 a pledge 3a a promise to be present at a certain time and place b employment, esp for a stated time 4 a hostile encounter between military forces [ENGAGE + -MENT]
- engaging** /ˈɛŋˌɡeɪɪŋ/ *adj* attractive, pleasing – **engagingly** *adv*
- engender** /ˈɛŋˌdʒə/ *vt* to cause to exist or develop, produce (<angry words ~ strife> [ME *engendren*, fr MF *engendrer*, fr L *ingenere*, fr *in-* + *generare* to generate])
- engine** /ˈɛnjɪn/ *n* 1 a mechanical tool (<a terrible ~ of war>) 2 a machine for converting any of various forms of energy into mechanical force and motion → CAR 3 a railway locomotive [ME *engin*, fr OF, fr L *ingenium* natural disposition, talent, fr *in-* + *gignere* to beget – more at KIN] – **engineless** *adj*
- engined** /-ɛnjɪnd/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) engines (<front-engined cars> (<four-engined planes>)
- engineer** /ˈɛnjɪniə/ *n* 1 a soldier who carries out engineering work 2a a designer or builder of engines b a person who is trained in or follows as a profession a branch of engineering c a person who starts or carries through an enterprise, esp by skilful or artful contrivance (<the ~ of the agreement>) 3 a person who runs or supervises an engine or apparatus
- engineer** *vt* 1 to lay out, construct, or manage as an engineer 2 to contrive, plan, or guide, usu with subtle skill and craft
- engineering** /ˈɛnjɪˈniəriŋ/ *n* 1 the art of managing engines 2 the application of science and mathematics by which the properties of matter and the sources of energy in nature are made useful to human beings
- enginery** /ˈɛnjɪnri/ *n* machines and tools; machinery
- English** /ˈɪŋˌɡlɪʃ/ *adj* (characteristic of) England [ME, fr OE *englisc*, fr *Engle* (pl) Angles] – **Englishman** *n*, **Englishness** *n*
- English** *n* 1a the Germanic language of the people of Britain, the USA, and most Commonwealth countries → LANGUAGE b English language, literature, or composition as an academic subject 2 *pl* in *constr* the people of England
- English bond** *n* a masonry bond in which alternate courses consist of all headers or all stretchers → BUILDING
- English cross bond** *n* a modification of the English bond in which the joints between the bricks in the stretcher courses are not directly above each other
- English horn** *n*, chiefly NAM COR ANGLAIS [trans of It *cornu inglese*]



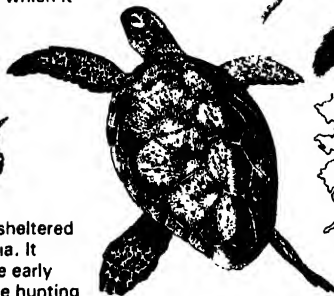


**1 The blue whale** is found throughout the world's oceans and has declined in numbers due to uncontrolled hunting for its meat and blubber. Whale hunting is now regulated by an International Convention. However, the blue whale is further threatened by commercial fishing for krill on which it feeds.

**7 The aye-aye** inhabits the coastal rainforests of northern Madagascar and is one of the world's rarest mammals. It was feared by Malagasy villagers and was killed on sight. Gradual destruction of the rainforests for agriculture has further reduced stocks.



**2 The sea otter** lives along the sheltered coasts of Alaska and California. It suffered near-extinction in the early 1920s as a result of extensive hunting for its highly valued fur.



**6 The green turtle** is widespread in warm Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian seas but is seriously threatened by over-exploitation for its meat, eggs, and hide.



**3 The giant anteater** lives in the tropical grasslands of Central and South America and, with other creatures, is threatened by the development of large areas of grassland for farming and the building of roads, railways, and towns.



**4 The chinchilla** inhabits arid regions of the Andes in South America and was hunted almost to extinction for its fur. It is now protected in Chile and widely bred in captivity.



**5 The gorilla** lives in the lowland and mountainous regions of western Africa. Its survival in the wild is threatened by agricultural development and by the demand for apes by zoos and research scientists.

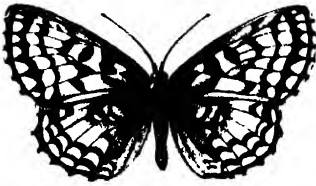


**8 The Pyrenean desman** lives by watercourses in the Pyrenees and mountains of northern Spain and Portugal. It is threatened with extinction as a result of pollution of the rivers and marshes, which poisons its food supply and prevents adequate oxygenation of the water.

### Endangered species

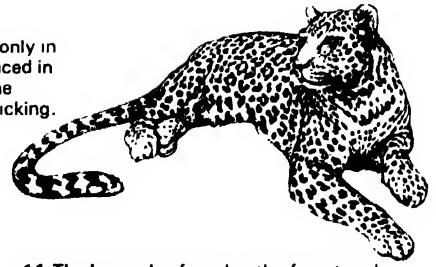
Extinction is a natural process but it has been accelerated in recent centuries by human intervention. The greatest threat to wildlife is from the destruction of their natural habitats for urban, industrial, and agricultural development. However, excessive exploitation by hunting for skins and meat, pollution of water, and upsetting the natural equilibrium by introducing species to new regions, are factors that have endangered countless species of plant and animal life.



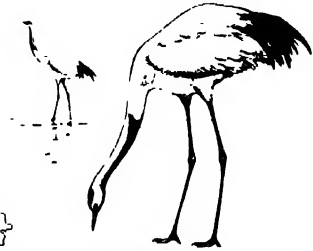


**9** The heath fritillary is found in woodland and on heaths in southern England. Its numbers were reduced when specimens of butterflies and caterpillars were too freely taken by collectors and it is now disappearing rapidly as more areas of its habitat are taken for land development.

**10** The Calabrian primrose is found only in southern Italy and has been reduced in numbers to near-extinction by the grazing of farm animals and by picking.



**11** The leopard is found in the forest and savannas of Africa and southern Asia. Because of its valuable skin, the leopard's future is seriously threatened.



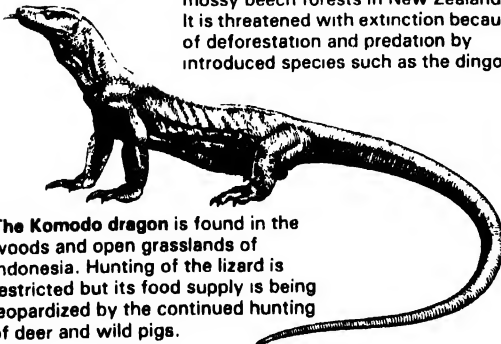
**12** The Japanese crane inhabits the wide marshlands of Japan and Manchuria. Its numbers have been diminished by hunting and by the loss of its habitat to land development.



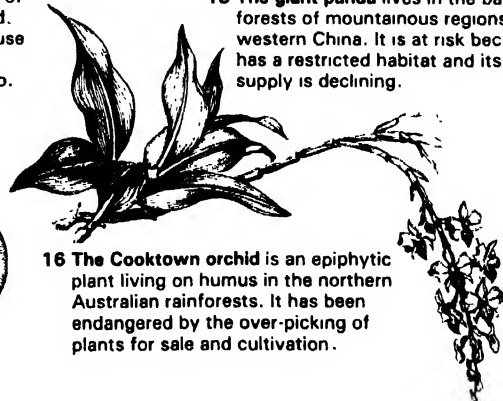
**14** The kakapo lives mainly on the floor of mossy beech forests in New Zealand. It is threatened with extinction because of deforestation and predation by introduced species such as the dingo.



**13** The giant panda lives in the bamboo forests of mountainous regions in western China. It is at risk because it has a restricted habitat and its food supply is declining.



**15** The Komodo dragon is found in the woods and open grasslands of Indonesia. Hunting of the lizard is restricted but its food supply is being jeopardized by the continued hunting of deer and wild pigs.



**16** The Cooktown orchid is an epiphytic plant living on humus in the northern Australian rainforests. It has been endangered by the over-picking of plants for sale and cultivation.

Fossil Fuels 2000 2030 2050 2080 2105 2155 2205 2280

coal



oil



gas



uranium

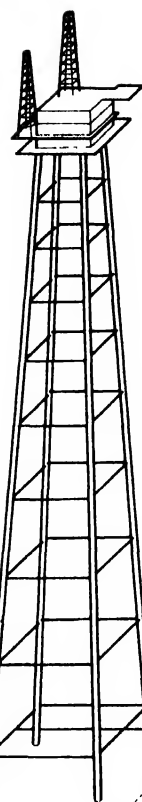


### Our limited energy resources

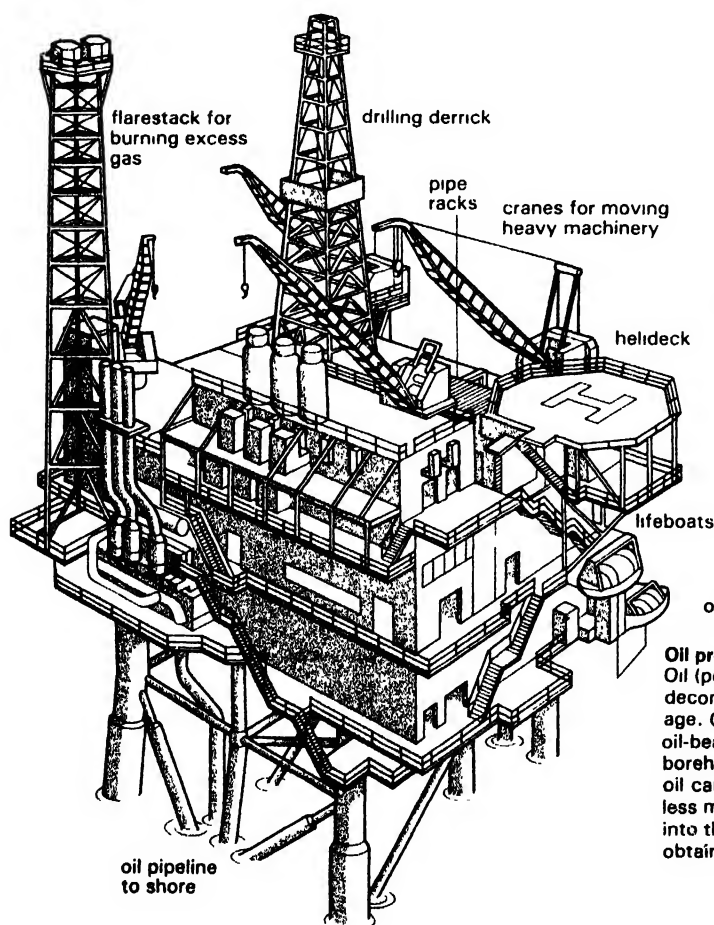
By the middle of the next century it is expected that the world's reserves of oil, gas, and uranium\* will be almost or completely exhausted, although coal is likely to be available for at least another 200 years

\* The isotope of uranium (U235) used by conventional nuclear power stations constitutes only a small proportion of naturally occurring uranium, most of which is unfissionable U238. If breeder reactors are developed, U238 which is currently unused could provide power and more fuel in the form of plutonium. The world's supply of uranium would then last another 1,000 years

platform at sea level



sea bed 300 metres



### Oil production platform

Oil (petroleum) and natural gas are the result of the decomposition of lifeforms from the Carboniferous age. Gas often forms pockets over layers of oil-bearing rock, and its pressure forces oil up the borehole to the wellhead. Only about 25% of the oil can be recovered in this way — another 10% or less may be recovered by pumping gas or water into the deposit, but the rest is not economically obtainable by current methods.



### Nuclear power

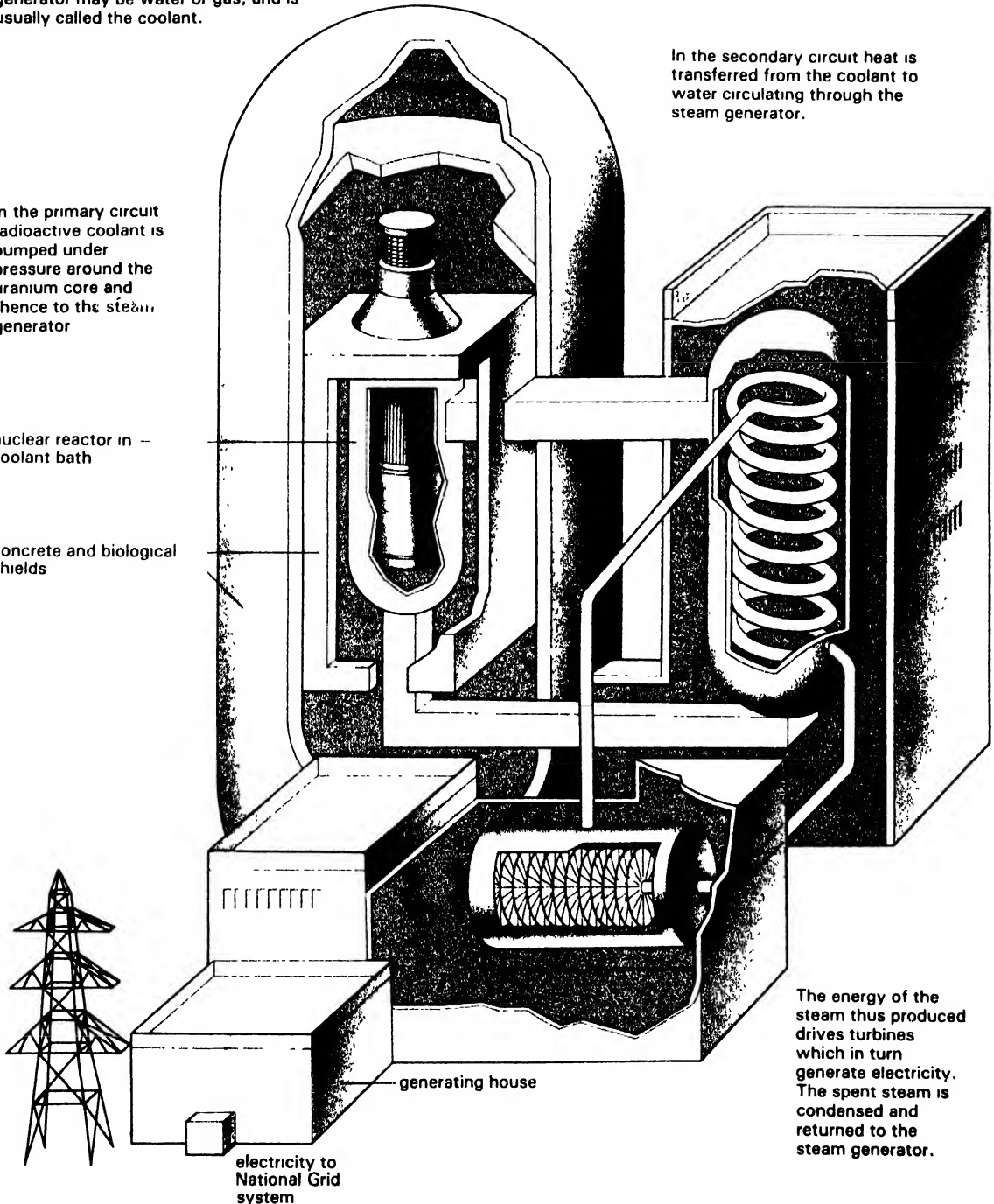
Nuclear power stations are similar in principle to conventional stations in that water is heated to steam to drive turbines which, in turn, produce electricity. However, the heating process, instead of burning oil or gas, is the fission of uranium 235 nuclei in a central core (the reactor). The substance surrounding the core and transferring heat to the steam generator may be water or gas, and is usually called the coolant.

In the primary circuit radioactive coolant is pumped under pressure around the uranium core and thence to the steam generator

nuclear reactor in —  
coolant bath

concrete and biological  
shields

In the secondary circuit heat is transferred from the coolant to water circulating through the steam generator.



The energy of the steam thus produced drives turbines which in turn generate electricity. The spent steam is condensed and returned to the steam generator.

### Energy-saving house

There are many measures that can be taken on a domestic scale to conserve and even create energy, some of which are shown on this page. The design and siting of a house also have a part to play in that small windows facing north and large windows facing south cut heat loss and make maximum use of available sunlight as a heating agent (passive solar heating).

**Solar panel** – a solar panel of photovoltaic solar cells converts sunlight into electricity

### Greenhouse heating

Vents in the walls and windows encourage convection airflows to heat in winter and cool in summer

air is heated up in greenhouse

vents in greenhouse walls

vented chimney pipe

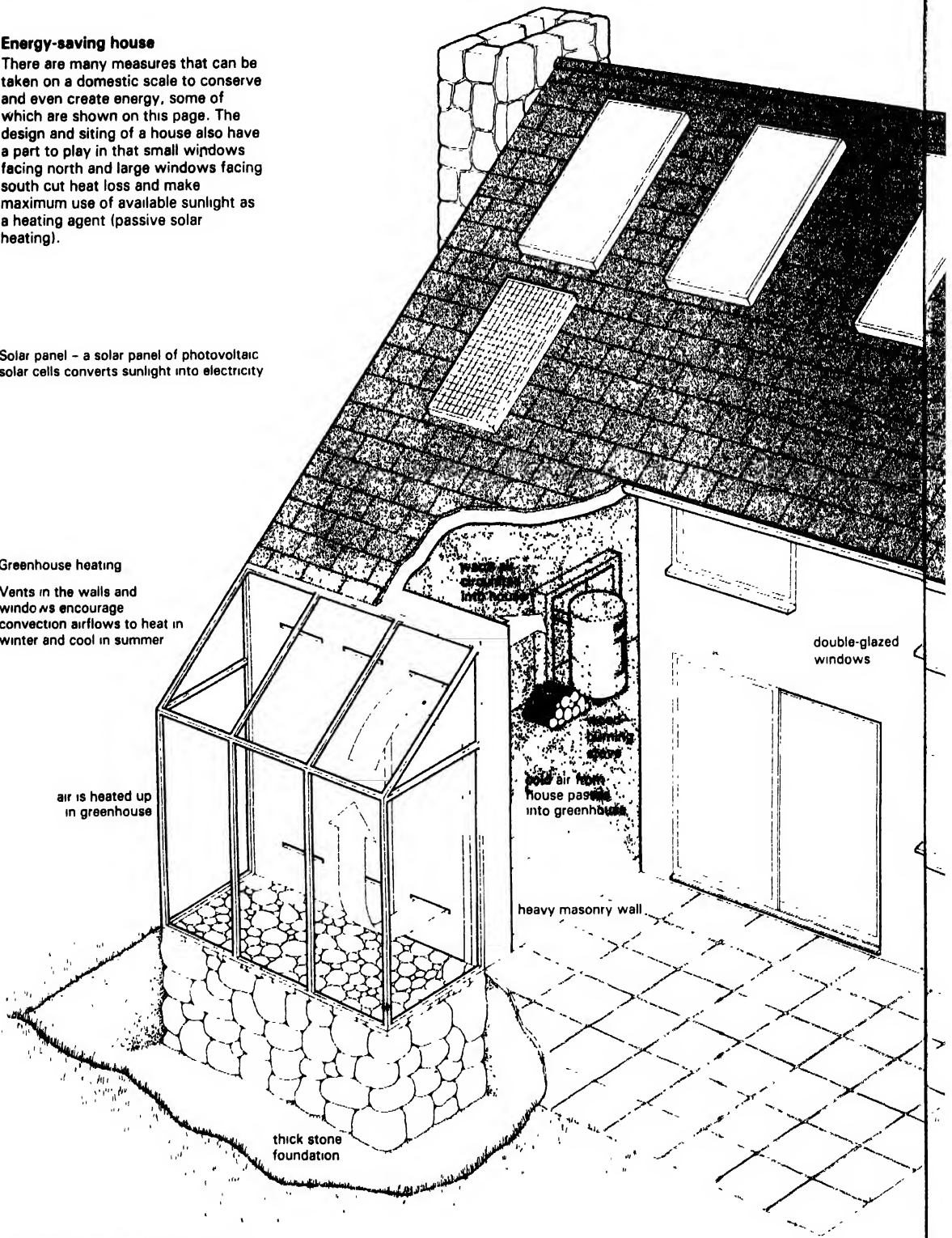
cold air from house passes into greenhouse

double-glazed windows

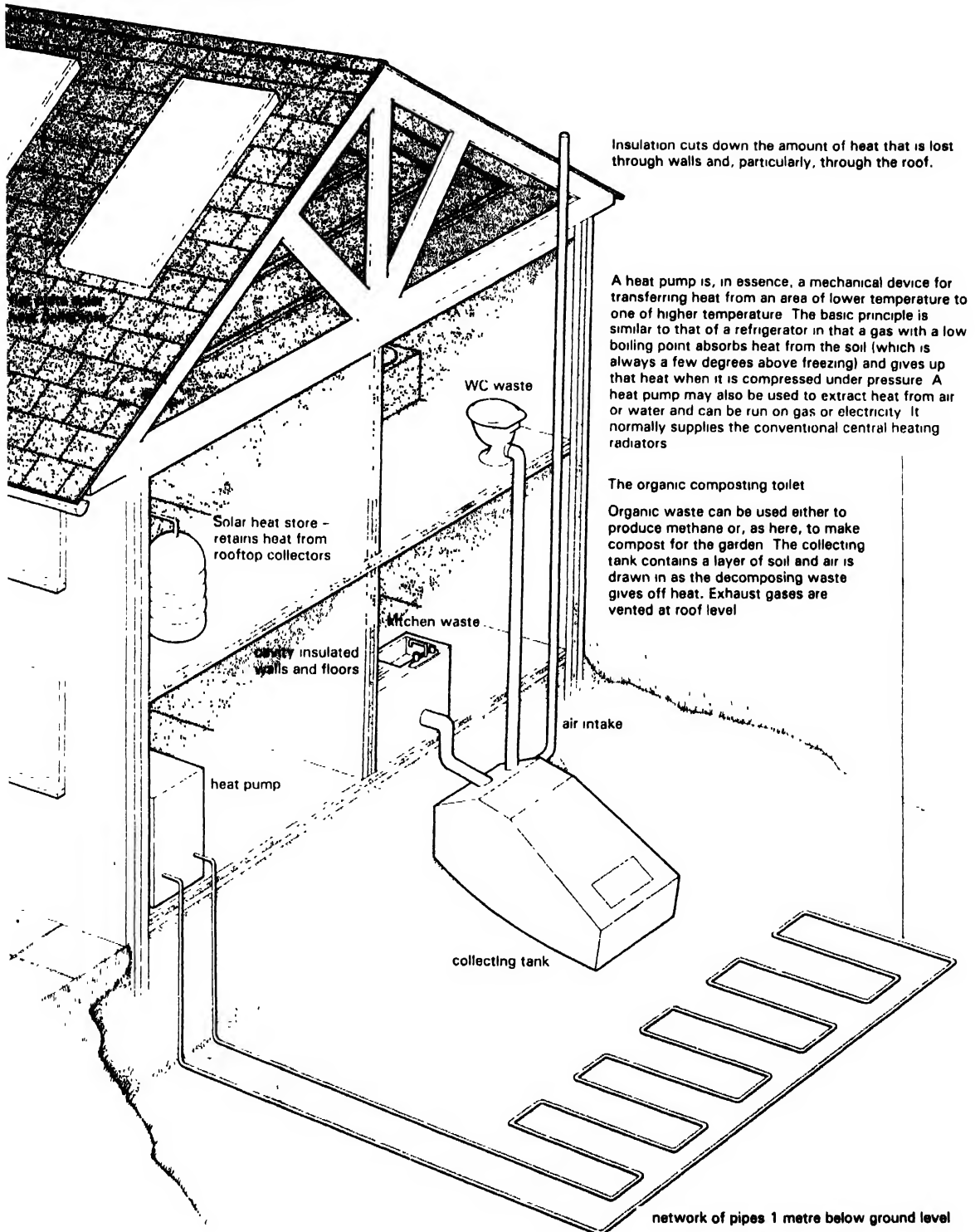
heavy masonry wall

thick stone foundation

Rocks and masonry absorb heat during the day and radiate it at night. The greenhouse glass admits short wave solar radiation but traps the heat of infra red radiation.

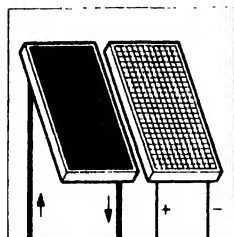


Solar heat collectors consist of single or double glass panes backed by a dark, heat-absorbing material. When the sun shines on the panels, water circulating in fine copper pipes behind the heat absorber is warmed and transfers the heat to a heat store (an insulated water tank or in more sophisticated systems a chemical tank). Solar heat collectors are usually connected to the hot water taps via the heat store but may sometimes be linked to central heating radiators.



Our alternative  
energy resources

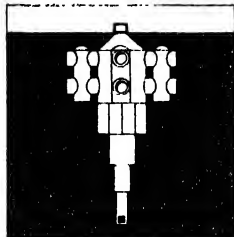
sun's energy



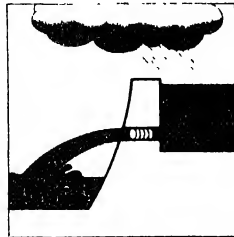
**solar collectors and solar panels** convert the sun's power into usable heat or electricity



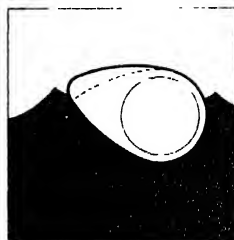
**photosynthesis** — plants convert the sun's energy into organic matter which can be fermented into alcohol, decomposed for gas, or simply burnt



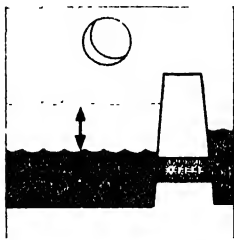
**ocean thermal energy conversion** — the temperature difference between surface water warmed by the sun and cold deeper water may in future be used to generate electricity



**hydroelectricity** — the sun's energy constantly raises water by the process of evaporation, providing the head of water necessary for hydroelectric schemes



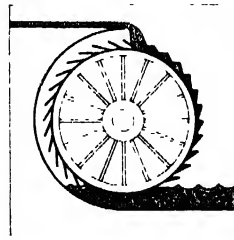
**wave power** — the bobbing motion of waves can be used to produce electricity



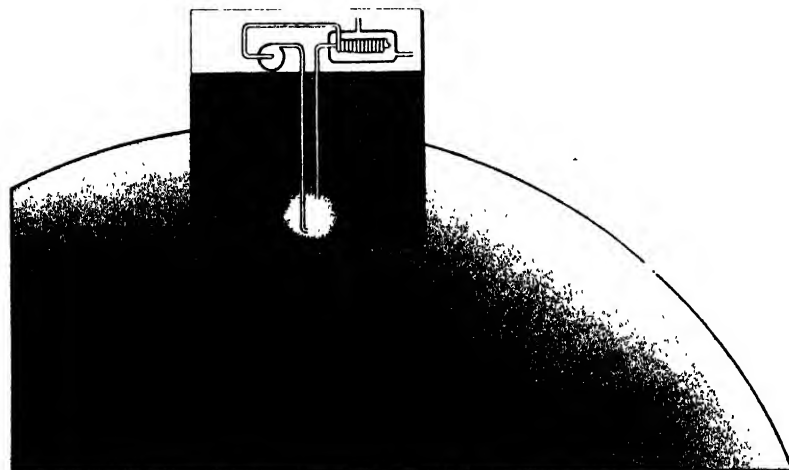
**tidal power** — where the tidal range is sufficiently great, power can be generated by harnessing the flow



**wind power** — efficient wind turbines are now being developed and offshore 'wind farms' have been proposed

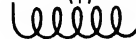


**water turbine/mill** — rivers provide energy on a relatively domestic scale



|pump|

heat



**heat pump** — extracts available heat from air, water, or earth



**English setter** *n* any of a breed of gundogs characterized by a moderately long silky coat

**engorge** /in'gaw/ *vt* 1 to fill (with blood) to the point of congestion ~ *vi* esp of an insect to suck blood to the limit of body capacity [MF *engorgier*, fr OF, to devour, fr *en-* + *gorge* throat – more at GORGE] – **engorgement** *n*

**engrailed** /in'grayld/ *adj* made of or bordered by a circle of raised dots <an ~ coin> [ME *engreiled*, fr MF *engresle*, fr *en-* + *gresle* slender, fr L *gracilis*]

**engrain** /in'grayn/ *vt* to engrain

**engram** also **engramme** /'engram/ *n* a supposed change in neural tissue postulated to account for memory [ISV] – **engrammic** /en'gramik/ *adj*

**engrave** /in'grayv/ *vt* 1a to cut (a design or lettering) on a hard surface (e.g. metal or stone) with a sharp tool b to impress deeply, as if by engraving <the incident was ~ed in his memory> 2a to cut a design or lettering on (a hard surface) for printing, also to print from an engraved plate b to photoengrave [MF *engraver*, fr *en-* + *graver* to grave, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *grafan* to grave] – **engraver** *n*

**engraving** /in'grayvɪŋ/ *n* (a print made from) an engraved printing surface

**engross** /in'groʊs/ *vt* 1a to copy or write in a large hand b to prepare the final text of (an official document) 2 to occupy fully the time and attention of, absorb <a scholar ~ed in research> <an ~ing problem> [ME *engrossen*, fr AF *engrosser*, prob fr ML *ingrossare*, fr L *in-* + ML *grossa* large handwriting, fr L, fem of *grossus* thick] – **engrosser** *n*, **engrossment** *n*

**engulf** /in'gʌlf/ *vt* 1 to flow over and enclose, overwhelm <the mounting seas threatened to ~ the island> 2 of an amoeba, phagocytic cell, etc to take in (food) by flowing over and enclosing – **engulfment** *n*

**enhance** /in'hahns/ *vt* to improve (e.g. in value, desirability or attractiveness), heighten [ME *enhauuncen*, fr AF *enhauuncer*, alter of OF *enhauwier*, fr (assumed) VL *inaltiare*, fr L *in-* + *altus* high – more at OLD] – **enhancement** *n*

**enharmonic** /en'hah'monik/ *adj* of or being notes that are written differently (e.g. A flat and G sharp) but sound the same in the tempered scale [F *enharmonique*, fr MF, of a scale employing quarter tones, fr Gk *enharmonios*, fr *en-* in + *harmonia* harmony, scale] – **enharmonically** *adv*

**enigma** /i'niɡmə/ *n* 1 intentionally obscure speech or writing, a riddle 2 sth or sthg hard to understand or explain, a puzzle [L *aenigma*, fr Gk *ainigmat-*, *ainigma*, fr *ainissesthai* to speak in riddles, fr *ainos* fable] – **enigmatic** /en'ɡmatik/ *adj*, **enigmatically** *adv*

**enjambement, enjambement** /in'jam-mənt/ (Fr ɛ̃zɑ̃bmɑ̃)/ *n* the running over of a sentence from one verse or couplet into another – compare RUN-ON [F *enjambement*, fr MF, encroachment, fr *enjamber* to straddle, encroach on, fr *en-* + *jambe* leg – more at JAMB]

**enjoin** /in'joɪn/ *vt* 1 to order (sb) to do sthg, command 2 to impose (a condition or course of action) on sb 3 to forbid by law, prohibit USE fml [ME *enjoien*, fr OF *enjoindre*, fr L *injungere*, fr *in-* + *jungere* to join – more at YOKER]

**enjoy** /in'joy/ *vt* 1 to take pleasure or satisfaction in 2a to have the use or benefit of b to experience <he ~ed good health> [MF *enjoir*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *joir* to enjoy, fr L *gaudere* to rejoice – more at JOY] – **enjoyable** *adj*, **enjoyableness** *n*, **enjoyably** *adv*, **enjoyment** *n*

**enlace** /in'lays/ *vt* 1 to encircle, enfold 2 to intertwine, interlace [MF *enlacen*, fr MF *enlacier*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *lacier* to lace] – **enlacement** *n*

**enlarge** /in'lah/ *vt* 1 to make larger 2 to reproduce in a larger form, specify to make a photographic enlargement of ~ *vi* 1 to grow larger 2 to speak or write at length; elaborate – often + *on* or *upon* [ME *enlargen*, fr MF *enlargier*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *large*] – **enlarger** *n*

**enlargement** /-mənt/ *n* a photographic print that is larger than the negative [ENLARGE + -MENT]

**enlighten** /in'liet(ə)n/ *vt* to cause to understand; free from false beliefs

**enlightenment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 cap an 18th-c movement marked by a belief in universal human progress and the importance of reason and the sciences – + *the* 2 NIRVANA 1 [ENLIGHTEN + -MENT]

**enlist** /in'list/ *vt* 1 to engage (a person) for duty in the armed forces 2a to secure the support and aid of <~ you in a good cause> ~ *vi* to enrol oneself in the armed forces – **enlistment** *n*

**enlisted man** *n* a person in the US armed forces ranking below a commissioned or warrant officer

**enliven** /in'liv(ə)n/ *vt* to give life, action, spirit, or interest to; animate – **enlivenment** *n*

**en masse** /om 'mas (Fr ɑ̃ mas)/ *adv* in a body; as a whole [F]

**enmesh** /in'mesh/ *vt* to catch or entangle (as if) in a net or mesh – **enmeshment** *n*

**enmity** /'enmɪti/ *n* (a state of) hatred or ill will [ME *enmite*, fr MF *enemite*, fr OF *enemistē*, irreg fr *enemi* enemy]

**enned** /'enɪd/ *n* a group of 9 [Gk *ennead-*, *enneas*, fr *ennea* nine – more at NINE]

**ennoble** /in'noʊbl/ *vt* 1 to make noble; elevate <believes that hard work ~s the human spirit> 2 to raise to the rank of the nobility [ME *ennobelen*, fr MF *ennoblir*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *noble*] – **ennoblement** *n*

**ennui** /on'wi (Fr ɛ̃nwi)/ *n* weariness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest or boredom [F, fr OF *enui* annoyance, fr *enuier* to annoy]

**enology** /ee'noləʒi/ *n* oenology – **enologist** *n*

**enophile** /'eenoh,fiəl/ *n* an oenophile

**enormity** /i'naʊməti/ *n* 1 great wickedness <the sheer ~ of the crime>

2 a terribly wicked or evil act 3 the quality or state of being enormous

**enormous** /i'naʊməs/ *adj* marked by extraordinarily great size, number, or degree [L *enormis*, fr *e*, *ex* out of + *norma* rule] – **enormously** *adv*, **enormousness** *n*

**enosis** /'enohsɪs/ *n* the (proposed) union of Cyprus and Greece [NGk *henosis*, fr Gk, union, fr *henoun* to unite, fr *hen-*, *heis* one]

**enough** /i'nʌf/ *adj* fully adequate in quantity, number, or degree <not ~ beer> <was fool ~ to believe him> [ME *ynough*, fr OE *genog*, akin to OHG *ginuog* enough, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *ge-* (perfective prefix) and whose second is akin to L *nancisci* to get, Gk *enenkein* to carry]

**enough** *adv* 1 to a fully adequate degree, sufficiently <not cooked long ~> 2 to a tolerable degree <he understands well ~>

**enough** *pron*, *pl* enough a sufficient quantity or number <~ were present to constitute a quorum> <had ~ of their foolishness>

**en passant** /on pa'sɒn (Fr ɑ̃ pasɔ̃)/ *adv* in passing – used in chess of the capture of a pawn as it makes a first move of 2 squares by an enemy pawn in a position to threaten the first of these squares [F]

**enplane** /en'pleɪn/ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to emplane

**en prise** /om 'preez (Fr ɑ̃ priʒ)/ *adj*, of a chess piece exposed to capture [F]

**enquire** /in'kwɪə-/ *vb* to inquire

**enquiry** /in'kwɪə-ɪn/ *n* an inquiry

**enrage** /in'ray/ *vt* to fill with rage, anger [MF *enrager* to become mad, fr OF *enragier*, fr *en-* + *rage*]

**en rapport** /onh rap'paw (Fr ɑ̃ rapo:r)/ *adv* in harmony or agreement [F]

**enrapture** /in'rapʃə-/ *vt* to fill with delight

**enrich** /in'riʃ/ *vt* 1 to make rich or richer, esp in some desirable quality <the experience greatly ~ed his life> 2 to adorn, ornament <~ing the ceiling with frescoes> 3a to make (soil) more fertile b to improve (a food) in nutritive value by adding nutrients (lost in processing) c to increase the proportion of a valuable or desirable ingredient in <~ uranium with uranium 235>, also to add a desirable substance to <~ natural gas> [ME *enrichen*, fr MF *enrichir*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *riche* rich] – **enricher** *n*, **enrichment** *n*

**enrol, NAM also enroll** /in'roʊl/ *vb* -ll- *vt* 1 to enter on a list, roll, etc 2 to prepare a final perfect copy of (a bill passed by a legislature) in written or printed form ~ *vi* to enrol oneself <~ in the history course> [ME *enrollen*, fr MF *enroller*, fr *en-* + *rolle* roll, register] – **enrolment** *n*

**en route** /on 'roʊt (Fr ɑ̃ ruti)/ *adv* or *adj* on or along the way <soon they were ~ to the border> [F]

**ensconce** /in'skɒns/ *vt* to settle (e.g. oneself) comfortably or snugly <the cat ~d itself in the basket> [en- + 'sconce]

**ensemble** /on'sɒmbəl (Fr ɑ̃sɒbɛl)/ *n* 1 a group constituting an organic whole or together producing a single effect e.g. a concerted music of 2 or more parts b a complete outfit of matching garments c *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (1) the musicians engaged in the performance of a musical ensemble (2) a group of supporting players, singers, or dancers 2 the quality of togetherness in performance <the quartet's ~ was poor> [F, fr *ensemble* together, fr L *insimul* at the same time, fr *in-* + *simul* at the same time – more at SAME]

**enshrine** /in'shri:n/ *vt* 1 to enclose (as if) in a shrine 2 to preserve or cherish, esp as sacred <they ~d their leader's memory in their hearts> – **enshrinement** *n*

**enshroud** /in'shrowd/ *vt* to shroud

**ensign** /'ensien, sense 1 naʊl/ *n* 1 a flag that is flown (e.g. by a ship) as the symbol of nationality 2a a standard-bearer b RANK [ME *ensigne*, fr MF *enseigne*, fr L *insignia* insignia, flags]

**ensilage** /'ensilj/ *n* (the process of preserving) fodder (by ensiling)  
**ensile** /en'siel/ *vt* to prepare and store (fodder) for silage in a silo or pit [F *ensiler*, fr *en-* + *silo*, fr Sp]  
**enslave** /in'slav/ *vt* to reduce (as if) to slavery, subjugate – **enslavement** *n*, **enslaver** *n*  
**ensnare** /in'sneə/ *vt* to take (as if) in a snare  
**ensure** /in'sjuə/ *vt* to take place afterwards or as a result [ME *ensuen*, fr MF *ensuivre*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *sivre* to follow – more at **SUE**]  
**en suite** /on 'swet (Fr ü s ɥ it)/ *adv* or *adj* in a set or series, esp so as to form a unit (<a bedroom with an ~ bathroom>) [F]  
**ensure** /in'shooə, -'shaw/ *vt* to make sure, certain, or safe, guarantee [ME *ensuren*, fr AF *enseurer*, prob alter of OF *aseurer*, fr ML *assecurare* – more at **ASSURE**]  
**ent-**, **ento-** /ent-/ *comb form* inner, within (<entoblast> (<entozoa>) [NL, fr Gk *entos* within; akin to L *intus* within, Gk *en* in – more at **IN**])  
**entablature** /en'tabləʃə/ *n* the upper section of a wall or storey, usu supported on columns or pilasters, and in classical order consisting of architrave, frieze, and cornice → **ARCHITECTURE** [obs F, modif of It *intavolatura*, fr *intavolare* to put on a board or table, fr *in-* (fr L) + *tavola* board, table, fr L *tabula*]  
**entablement** /in'tayblənt/ *n* a platform that supports a statue and is placed above the dado [F, fr OF, fr *en-* + *table*]  
**entail** /in'tayl/ *vt* 1 to settle (property) so that sale or bequeathal is not permitted and inheritance is limited to (a specified class of) the owner's lineal descendants 2 to involve or imply as a necessary accompaniment or result (<the project will ~ considerable expense>) [ME *entailen*, *entailen*, fr *en-* + *taile*, *taile* limitation, fr MF *taile*, fr OF, fr *taillier* to cut, limit – more at **TAILOR**] – **entailer** *n*, **entailment** *n*  
**entail** *n* 1 (the rule fixing) an entailing 2 sthg entailed  
**entangle** /in'tang-gl/ *vt* **entangling** /in'tang-ɡlɪŋ/ *also* -gl-ɪŋ/ 1 to make tangled, complicated, or confused 2 to involve in a tangle (<become ~d in a ruinous lawsuit>) – **entangler** *n*  
**entanglement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 sthg that entangles, confuses, or ensnares 2 the condition of being deeply involved  
**entasis** /en'tasɪs/ *n*, *pl* **entases** /-sɛz/ a slight convexity in the outline of a vertical architectural member (e.g. the shaft of a column) [Gk, lit., distension, stretching, fr *enteinein* to stretch tight, fr *en-* + *tein-* + *tein-* to stretch – more at **THIN**]  
**entente** /on'tont (Fr ɑ̃tɑ̃t)/ *n* 1 a friendly relationship between 2 of more countries 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the countries having an entente [F, fr OF, *intente*, understanding – more at **INTENT**]  
**entente cordiale** /kaw'di'æl, -djal (Fr kɔrdjal)/ *n* **ENTENTE** 1, *specif* that between Britain and France in 1904 or between Britain, France, and Russia in 1908 [F, lit., cordial entente]  
**enter** /enta/ *vi* 1 to go or come in 2 to register as candidate in a competition (<decided to ~ for the race>) 3 to make a beginning (<~ing upon a career> ~ *vt* 1 to go or come into (<~ a room>) (<~ing her early thirties>) 2 to inscribe, register (<~ the names of qualified voters in the rolls>) 3 to cause to be received, admitted, or considered – often + *for* (<~ a child for a public school>) 4 to put in, insert 5 to become a member of or an active participant in (<~ university>) (<~ a race>) (<~ politics>) 6 to put on record (<~ a complaint against his partner>) [ME *entren*, fr OF *entrer*, fr L *intrare*, fr *intra* within; akin to L *inter* between – more at **INTER-**] – **enterable** *adj* – **enter into** 1 to make oneself a party to or in (<enter into an important agreement>) 2 to participate or share in (<cheerfully entering into the household tasks>)  
**enter** /enta-, ento- *comb form* insect intestine (<enteritis>) [Gk, fr *enteron*]  
**enteric** /en'terɪk/ *adj* of the intestines  
**enteritis** /en'terɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the intestines, esp the human ileum, usu marked by diarrhoea [NL]  
**enterocoel**, **enterocoel** /en'teroh'seəl/ *n* a coelom that forms during the development of an embryo as an outgrowth from the cavity inside the gastrula – **enterocoelic** /-seelɪk/ *adj*, **enterocoelous** /-seeləs/ *adj*  
**enterokinase** /ent(ə)'roh'kɪənəz, -nəz/ *n* an enzyme that converts an inactive substance secreted into the intestines by the pancreas into trypsin [ISV]  
**enteron** /en'təron/ *n* the alimentary canal or system, esp of the embryo [NL, fr Gk, intestine – more at **INTER-**]  
**enterprise** /'entəprɪz/ *n* 1 a (difficult or complicated) project or undertaking 2 a unit of economic organization or activity; esp a business organization 3 readiness to engage in enterprises [ME *enterprise*, fr MF *entreprise*, fr *entreprendre* to undertake, fr *entre-* + *prendre* to take – more at **PRIZE**] – **enterpriser** *n*

**enterprising** /'entəprɪzɪŋ/ *adj* marked by initiative and readiness to engage in enterprises  
**entertain** /'entə'tayn/ *vt* 1 to show hospitality to 2 to be ready and willing to think about (an idea, doubt, suggestion, etc) 3 to hold the attention of, usu pleasantly or enjoyably, divert 4 to play against (an opposing team) on one's home ground ~ *vi* to invite guests to esp one's home [ME *entertinen*, fr MF *entretēner*, fr *entre-* + *tenir* to hold – more at **TENABLE**] – **entertainer** *n*  
**entertainment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 sthg entertaining, diverting, or engaging 2 a public performance [ENTERTAIN + **-MENT**]  
**enthalpy** /'enthəlpi, 'enthəlpi/ *n* a thermodynamic property of a system that is the total internal energy of the system [en- + Gk *thalpein* to heat]  
**enthrall**, *NAm also* **enthrall** /in'thrawl/ *vt* -ll- to hold the complete interest and attention of; captivate [ME *enthrallen*, fr *en-* + *thral* (thral)] – **enthrallment** *n*  
**enthron** /in'throhn/ *vt* to seat, esp ceremonially, (as if) on a throne – **enthronement** *n*  
**enthuse** /in'thyooz/ *vt* to make enthusiastic (<proposals which shocked the orthodox and ~d the rebellious – TLS>) ~ *vi* to show enthusiasm [back-formation fr *enthusiasm*]  
**enthusiasm** /in'thyoozɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 keen and eager interest and admiration – usu + *for* or *about* 2 an object of enthusiasm [Gk *enthousiasmos*, fr *enthousiazēin* to be inspired, fr *enthos* inspired, fr *en-* + *theos* god]  
**enthusiast** /in'thyoozɪst/ *n* sby filled with enthusiasm, esp sby ardently attached to a usu specified cause, object, or pursuit (<a cycling ~>) – **enthusiastic** /-astɪk/ *adj*, **enthusiastically** *adv*  
**entice** /in'tɪs/ *vt* to tempt or persuade by arousing hope or desire [ME *enticen*, fr OF *enticier*, fr (assumed) VL *intitiare*, fr L *in-* + *titio* firebrand] – **enticement** *n*  
**entire** /in'tɪə-/ *adj* 1 having no element or part left out (<was alone the ~ day>) 2 complete in degree; total (<his ~ devotion to his family>) 3a consisting of 1 piece; homogeneous (<the book is ~ in style>) b intact (<stroke to keep the collection ~>) 4 not castrated [ME, fr MF *entir*, fr L *integer*, lit., untouched, fr *in-* + *tangere* to touch – more at **TANGENT**] – **entirely** *adv*, **entireness** *n*  
**entirely** /-li/ *adv* 1 wholly, completely (<agreed with me ~>) 2 in an exclusive manner; solely (<it is his fault ~>)  
**entirety** /in'tɪə-ɪtɪ/ *n* 1 the state of being entire or complete 2 the whole or total  
**entitle** /in'tɪtəl/ *vt* 1 to title 2 to give (sby) the right to (do or have) sthg (<this ticket ~s the bearer to free admission>) [ME *entitlen*, fr MF *entituler*, fr LL *intitulare*, fr L *in-* + *titulus* title] – **entitlement** *n*  
**entity** /'entɪti/ *n* 1a being, existence; esp independent, separate, or self-contained existence b the existence of a thing as contrasted with its attributes 2 sthg that has separate and distinct existence [ML *entitas*, fr L *enti-*, *ens* existing thing, fr coined prp of *esse* to be – more at **IS**]  
**ento-** /ento-/ – see **ENT-**  
**entom-** /entəm-, ento- *comb form* insect (<entomophagous>) [F, fr Gk *entomon*]  
**entomb** /in'toʊhm/ *vt* 1 to deposit (as if) in a tomb; bury 2 to serve as a tomb for [ME *entoumben*, fr MF *entomber*, fr *en-* + *tombe* tomb] – **entombment** *n*  
**entomology** /'entə'mɒləʒi/ *n* zoology that deals with insects [F *entomologie*, fr Gk *entomon* insect (fr neut of *entomos* cut up, fr *en-* + *temnein* to cut) + F *-logie* -logy – more at **TOME**] – **entomologist** *n*, **entomological** /-mə'lɒjɪkəl/ *adj*, **entomologically** *adv*  
**entomophagous** /'entə'mɒfəɡəs/ *adj* feeding on insects  
**entomophilous** /'entə'mɒfɪləs/ *adj* being normally pollinated by insects – compare **ZOOPILOUS** a – **entomophily** *n*  
**entomostracan** /'entə'mɒstrə'kən/ *n* any of numerous simple typically small crustaceans (e.g. barnacles) [deriv of *entom-* + Gk *ostrakon* shell – more at **OYSTER**] – **entomostracan**, **entomostracous** *adj*  
**entourage** /'ontoo,rahʒ (Fr ɑ̃tuʁaʒ)/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of attendants or associates, esp of sby of high rank [F, fr MF, fr *entourer* to surround, fr *entour* around, fr *en* in (fr L *in*) + *tour* circuit – more at **TURN**]  
**entr'acte** /'ontrakt, -' (Fr ɑ̃trakt)/ *n* (a performance or interlude in) the interval between 2 acts of a play [F, fr *entre-* + *acte* act]  
**entrails** /'entraylz/ *n* *pl* internal parts; esp the intestines [ME *entrailles*, fr MF, fr ML *intralia*, alter. of L *interanea*, *pl* of *interaneum* intestine, fr neut of *interaneus* interior]  
**entrain** /in'trayn/ *vt*, of a fluid to draw in and transport (e.g. solid

- particles or gas) [MF *entrainer*, fr *en-* + *trainer* to draw, drag – more at **TRAIN**] – **entrainment** *n*
- entrain** *vb* to put or go aboard a train
- entrance** /'entrəns/ *n* 1 the act of entering 2 the means or place of entry 3 power or permission to enter; admission 4 an arrival of a performer onto the stage or before the cameras
- entrance** /'entrəns/ *vt* 1 to put into a trance 2 to fill with delight, wonder, or rapture – **entrancement** *n*
- entrant** /'entrənt/ *n* sby or sthg that enters or is entered, esp one who enters a contest
- entrap** /'intrəp/ *vt* -pp- 1 to catch (as if) in a trap 2 to lure into a compromising statement or act [MF *entraper*, fr *en-* + *trape* trap] – **entrapment** *n*
- entreat** /'intrɪt/ *vt* to ask urgently or plead with (sby) for (sthg), beg (< ~ ed the judge for another chance> < ~ his help>) ~ *vi* to make an earnest request, plead [ME *entreten*, fr MF *entraitier*, fr *en-* + *traitier* to treat – more at **TREAT**] – **entreatingly** *adv*, **entreatment** *n*
- entreaty** /'intrɪti/ *n* an act of entreating, a plea
- entrechat** /'ɒntʃəʃəh (Fr ɔ̃tʃəʃa)/ *n* a leap in which a ballet dancer repeatedly crosses his/her legs [F]
- entrecôte** /'ɒntʃəkot (Fr ɔ̃tʃəkot)/ *n* a steak cut from a boned sirloin  MEAT [F *entrecôte*, fr *entre-* inter- + *côte* rib, fr L *costa* – more at **COAST**]
- entrée**, **entree** /'ɒntrɪ (Fr ɛ̃tʀe)/ *n* 1 freedom of entry or access (< had an ~ into the highest circles>) 2a chiefly Br a dish served between the usual (fish and meat) courses of a dinner b chiefly NAm the principal dish of a meal [F *entrée*, fr OF]
- entremets** /'ɒntʀɛmɛt (Fr ɔ̃tʀɛmɛt)/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr SIDE DISH [F, fr OF *entremets*, fr L *intermissus*, pp of *intermittere* to intermit]
- entrench** /'ɪntʃɪn/ *vt* 1a to surround with a (defensive) trench b to place (oneself) in a strong defensive position 2 to establish solidly, esp so as to make change difficult ~ *vi* to dig or occupy a (defensive) trench – **entrenchment** *n*
- entre nous** /'ɒntʀə 'noʊh (Fr ɔ̃tʀ nu)/ *adv* between ourselves, confidentially [F]
- entrepôt** /'ɒntʀəpɒh/ *n* a seaport, warehouse, or other intermediary centre of trade and transshipment [F]
- entrepreneur** /'ɒntʀəprənʊh (Fr ɔ̃tʀəprənɔːr)/ *n* one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise [F, fr OF, fr *entreprendre* to undertake] – **entrepreneurial** /-rɪəl/ *adj*, **entrepreneurship** *n*
- entresol** /'ɒntʀəsɒl (Fr ɔ̃tʀəsɒl)/ *n* a mezzanine [F]
- entrisim** /'entʀɪz(ə)m/ *n* entrisim
- entropy** /'entʀɒpi/ *n* 1 a measure of the unavailable energy in a closed thermodynamic system 2 a measure of the amount of information in a message that is based on the logarithm of the number of possible equivalent messages 3 the degradation of the matter and energy in the universe to an ultimate state of inert uniformity [G *entropie*, fr Gk *en-* + *trepein* to turn, change – more at **TROPE**] – **entropic** /'entʀɒpɪk/ *adj*
- entrust** /'ɪntrʌst/ *vt* 1 to confer a trust on; esp to deliver sthg in trust to – + *with* (< ~ ed the bank with his savings>) 2 to commit to another with confidence – + *to* (< ~ ed his savings to the bank>) – **entrustment** *n*
- entry** /'entʀi/ *n* 1 the act of entering; entrance 2 the right or privilege of entering 3 a door, gate, hall, vestibule, or other place of entrance 4a the act of registering a record b a record made in a diary, account book, index, etc c a dictionary headword, often with its definition 5 a person, thing, or group entered in a contest; an entrant 6 the total of those entered or admitted (< double the annual ~ to our medical schools>) [ME *entre*, fr OF *entree*, fr fem of *entré*, pp of *entree* to enter]
- entriism** /'entʀɪz(ə)m/ *n* the practice of infiltrating a political party in order to influence that party's policy from within
- entwine** /'ɪntwɪn/ *vb* to twine together or round
- enucleate** /'ɪnyooʃkɪəti/ *vt* to remove without cutting into (< ~ a tumour>) [L *enucleatus*, pp of *enucleare*, lit., to remove the kernel from, fr *e-* + *nucleus* kernel – more at **NUCLEUS**] – **enucleation** /-əʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- enumerable** /'ɪnyooʃm(ə)rəbl/ *adj* denumerable – **enumerability** /-rə'bɪləti/ *n*
- enumerate** /'ɪnyooʃməraɪt/ *vt* 1 to count 2 to specify one after another, list [L *enumeratus*, pp of *enumerare*, fr *e-* + *numerare* to count, fr *numerus* number – more at **NIMBLE**] – **enumerator** *n*, **enumerative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **enumeration** /-rəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- enunciate** /'ɪnʌnsɪəti/ *vt* 1a to make a definite or systematic statement of; formulate b to announce, proclaim (< ~ d the principles to be followed by the new administration>) 2 to articulate, pronounce ~ *vi* to utter articulate sounds [L *enuntiatus*, pp of *enuntiare* to report, declare, fr *e-* + *nuntiare* to report – more at **ANNOUNCE**] – **enunciator** *n*, **enunciable** /-sɪəbl/ *adj*, **enunciation** /-əʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- enure** /'ɪnyoo/ *vb* to inure
- enuresis** /'enyoo'reesɪz/ *n* an involuntary discharge of urine [NL, fr Gk *enourein* to urinate in, wet the bed, fr *en-* + *ourein* to urinate] – **enuretic** /-rɪtɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- envelop** /'ɪnvələp/ *vt* 1 to enclose or enfold completely (as if) with a covering 2 to surround so as to cut off communication or retreat (< ~ the enemy>) [ME *envolupen*, fr MF *envoluper*, *envelopper*, fr OF *envelopper*, fr *en-* + *voloper* to wrap] – **envelopment** *n*
- envelope** /'envələhp, 'ɒn-/ *n* 1 sthg that envelops, a wrapper, covering 2 a flat container, usu of folded and gummed paper (e.g. for a letter) 3 a membrane or other natural covering that encloses 4 a curve tangent to each of a family of curves 5 the performance limits of a machine, aircraft, etc (< the flight ~ of the prototype fighter was explored>) [F *enveloppe*, fr MF *envelope*, fr *envelopper*]
- envenom** /'ɪnvənəm/ *vt* 1 to put poison into or onto (< ~ a weapon>) 2 to embitter (< jealousy ~ ing his mind>) [ME *envenimen*, fr OF *envenimer*, fr *en-* + *venim* venom]
- enviable** /'envɪəbl/ *adj* highly desirable – **enviableness** *n*, **enviably** *adv*
- envious** /'envɪəs/ *adj* feeling or showing envy (< ~ looks>) (< ~ of a neighbour's wealth>) – **enviously** *adv*, **enviousness** *n*
- environ** /'ɪnvɪ(ə)rən/ *vt* to encircle, surround – fml [ME *environnen*, fr MF *environner*, fr *environ* around, fr *en* in (fr L *in*) + *viron* circle, fr *virer* to turn, fr (assumed) VL *virare*]
- environment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded 2 the complex of climatic, soil, and biological factors that acts upon an organism or an ecological community – **environmental** /-məntl/ *adj*, **environmentally** *adv*
- environmentalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory that views environment rather than heredity as the important factor in human development
- environmentalist** /-ɪst/ *n* 1 an advocate of environmentalism 2 sby concerned about the quality of the human environment
- environs** /'ɪnvɪ(ə)rənz/ *n* pl the neighbourhood surrounding sthg, esp a town [F, pl of *environ*, fr MF, fr *environ*, *adv* & prep, round, about]
- envisage** /'ɪnvɪʒi/ *vt* to have a mental picture of, visualize, esp in advance of an expected or hoped-for realization (< ~ s an entirely new system of education>) [F *envisager*, fr *en-* + *visage*]
- envision** /'ɪnvɪʒ(ə)n/ *vt*, chiefly NAm to envisage
- envoy**, **envoi** /'envɔɪ/ *n* the concluding remarks to a poem, essay, or book, specif a short fixed final stanza of a ballade [F *envoi*, lit., message, fr OF *envet*, fr *envoyer* to send on one's way, fr (assumed) VL *inviare*, fr L *in-* + *via* way – more at **WAY**]
- envoy** *n* 1 a diplomatic agent, esp one who ranks immediately below an ambassador 2 a messenger, representative [F *envoyé*, fr pp of *envoyer* to send, fr OF *envoier*]
- envy** /'envɪ/ *n* painful, resentful, or admiring awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, accompanied by a desire to possess the same advantage; also an object of such a feeling [ME *envie*, fr OF, fr L *invidia*, fr *invidus* envious, fr *invidere* to look askance at, envy, fr *in-* + *videre* to see – more at **WIT**]
- envy** *vt* to feel envy towards or on account of – **envier** *n*, **envyingly** *adv*
- enzootic** /'enzoh'ɒtɪk/ *adj*, of animal diseases peculiar to or constantly present in a particular locality [*en-* + *zo-*] – **enzootic** *n*
- enzootic** /'enzie'gɒtɪk, -zɪ-/ *adj*, of twins identical [*en-* + *zyg-*]
- enzyme** /'enzɪm/ *n* any of numerous complex proteins that are produced by living cells and catalyse specific biochemical reactions at body temperatures [G *enzym*, fr MGk *enzymos* leavened, fr Gk *en-* + *zyme* leaven] – **enzymatic** /-mætɪk, -zɪ-/ *adj*, **enzymatically** *adv*, **enzymic** /'enzɪmɪk, -zɪ-/ *adj*, **enzymically** *adv*
- enzymology** /'enzɪ'mɒləʒi/ *n* science that deals with enzymes, their nature, activity, and significance [ISV] – **enzymologist** *n*
- eo-** /'eoh-/ *comb form* earliest; oldest (<olithic>) [Gk *eo-* dawn, fr *eōs*]
- Eocene** /'eoh,seen/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an epoch of the Tertiary between the Palaeocene and the Oligocene  EVOLUTION
- eohippus** /'eoh'ɪpʊs/ *n* any of a genus of extinct small primitive 4-toed ancestors of the horse [NL, genus name, fr *eo-* + Gk *hippos* horse – more at **EQUINE**]
- eolian** /'eohli-ən, -lɪən/ *adj*, NAm aeolian

**colith** /'eəʊlɪθ, 'eə-ə'lɪθ/ *n* a very crudely chipped flint that is the earliest form of stone tool

**Eolith** /'eə-ə'lɪθɪk/ *adj* of the early period of the Stone Age characterized by the use of eoliths

**eon** /'eɒn, 'eə-ən/ *n* an aeon

**eosin** /'eəʊsɪn, 'eə-ə-/, **eosine** /-sɪn, -seen/ *n* a red fluorescent dye used esp as a biological stain [ISV, fr Gk *eos* dawn]

**eosinophil** /'eə-ə'sɪnəfɪl/, **eosinophile** /-fɪl/ *n* a white blood cell with cytoplasmic granules readily stained by eosin – compare **BASOPHIL** – **eosinophilic** /-fɪlɪk/ *adj*

**EP** *n* a gramophone record with a playing time greater than a normal 45 [extended play]

**ep-** /ep-/ – see **EPI-**

**epact** /'eɪpækt/ *n* a period added to harmonize the lunar with the solar calendar [MF *epacte*, fr LL *epacta*, fr Gk *epakte*, fr *epagēin* to bring in, intercalate, fr *epi-* + *agēin* to drive – more at **AGENT**]

**epaulette**, *NAm chiefly epaulet* /'epɔːlet/ *n* an ornamental (fringed) strip or pad attached to the shoulder of a garment, esp a military uniform [F *épaulette*, dim. of *épaule* shoulder, fr LL *spatula* shoulder blade, spoon, dim. of *L spatula* spoon, sword – more at 'SPADE]

**épée** /'eɪpə/ (Fr *epe*) *n* (the sport of fencing with) a sword having a bowl-shaped guard and a rigid tapering blade of triangular cross-section with no cutting edge – compare **FOIT**, **SABRE** [F, fr L *spatha* – **épée** *ist n*]

**epiurogeny** /'eɪpɪ'rɔʒəni/, **epiurogenesis** /'eɪpɪ(r)ə'ʒenəsɪs/ *n* deformation of the earth's crust that produces the broader features of a continent [Gk *épēiros* mainland, continent + *E -geny*] – **epiurogenic** /-rɔʒə'nɪk/ *adj*, **epiurogenically** *adv*

**epergne** /'eɪpɜːn/ *n* a (tiered or branched) centrepiece for a dinner table holding fruit, flowers, etc [prob fr F *épargne* saving]

**ephedra** /'efedɹə, 'efədɹə/ *n* any of a large genus of nearly leafless desert shrubs [NL, genus name]

**ephedrine** /'efedɹɪn, chem 'efɪdɹɪn, -dreen/ *n* an alkaloid orig obtained from Chinese ephedras that is used esp to relieve hay fever, asthma, and nasal congestion [NL *Ephedra*, genus of shrubs, fr L, horsetail plant, fr Gk, fr *ephedros* sitting upon, fr *epi-* + *hedra* seat – more at **SIT**]

**ephemera** /'efemərə/ *n pl* things (e.g. writings) of short-lived duration or interest [NL, pl of *ephemeron*]

**ephemeral** /'efemərəl/ *adj* 1 lasting 1 day only (<an ~ fever>) 2 lasting a very short time (<~ pleasures>) [Gk *ephemeros* lasting a day, daily, fr *epi-* + *hēmera* day] – **ephemerally** *adv*, **ephemerality** /-ræləti/ *n*

**ephemeris** /'efeməɪs/ *n, pl ephemerides* /'efɪ'merɪ,dez/ a table showing the predicted position of a celestial body, also an astronomical almanac [L, diary, ephemeris, fr Gk *ephemeros*, fr *ephemeros*]

**ephemeris, time** *n* a uniform measure of time defined by the orbital motions of the planets

**ephemeron** /'efeməron/ *n, pl ephemerā* /-rə/ also **ephemeros** *sthg* ephemeral [NL, fr Gk *ephemeron* mayfly, fr neut of *ephemeros*]

**Ephesians** /'feɪʒ(y)ənz/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a book of the New Testament addressed to the Christians in Ephesus

**ephod** /'eɪfəd/ *n* a garment worn by the Jewish high priest [Heb *ephōd*]

**epi-** /epi-, **ep-** /ep-/ *prefix* 1 outer, external (<epidermis>) 2 besides, IN ADDITION (<epilogue>) (<epiphenomenon>) 3 over; above (<epigraph>) [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *epi* on, at, besides, after, akin to OE *eofot* crime]

**epiblast** /'epɪblast/ *n* the outer layer of an embryo at a very early stage in its development – **epiblastic** /-blastɪk/ *adj*

**epic** /'epɪk/ *adj* 1 (having the characteristics) of an epic 2a extending beyond the usual or ordinary, esp in size or scope (<his genius was ~ > TLS) b heroic [L *epicus*, fr Gk *epikos*, fr *epos* word, speech, poem – more at **VOICE**] – **epical** *adj*, **epically** *adv*

**epic** *n* 1 a long narrative poem recounting the deeds of a legendary or historical hero 2 a series of events or body of legend or tradition fit to form the subject of an epic (<that great environmental ~, the wreck of the Torrey Canyon – *The Guardian*>)

**epicardium** /'epɪkɑːdɪəm/ *n, pl epicardia* /-dɪə/ the visceral part of the pericardium that closely covers the heart [NL, fr *epi-* + Gk *kardia* heart] – **epicardial** *adj*

**epicene** /'epɪsɛn/ *adj* 1 of a noun having only 1 form to indicate either sex 2a having characteristics typical of both sexes; hermaphrodite b effeminate 3 lacking characteristics typical of either sex; sexless [ME, fr L *epicoenus*, fr Gk *epikoinos*, fr *epi-* + *koinos* common – more at **CO-**] – **epicene** *n*

**epicentre** /'epɪsɛntə/ *n* 1 the part of the earth's surface directly above

the place of origin of an earthquake 2 **GEOGRAPHY** 2 CENTRE 2 [NL *epicentrum*, fr *epi-* + L *centrum* centre] – **epicentral** /-sɛntərəl/ *adj*

**epi,continental** /-kɒntɪ'nɛntl/ *adj* lying on a continent or continental shelf

**epicotyl** /'epɪkɒtɪl/ *n* the portion of the axis of a plant embryo or seedling above the cotyledon [*epi-* + *cotyledon*]

**epicritic** /'epɪkɪtɪk/ *adj* of or being cutaneous sensory reception marked by accurate discrimination between small degrees of sensation [Gk *epikritikos* determinative, fr *epikrīnein* to decide, fr *epi-* + *krīnein* to judge – more at **CERTAIN**]

**epicure** /'epɪkyooə/ *n* sby with sensitive and discriminating tastes, esp in food or wine [Epicurus †270 BC Gk philosopher] – **epicurism** *n*

**Epicurean** /'epɪkyoo'ree-ən, -'kyooərən/ *n* or *adj* 1 (a follower) of the doctrine of the Greek philosopher Epicurus who advocated the superiority of emotional calm and intellectual pleasures 2 often not cap (of or suited to) an epicure – **Epicureanism** *n*

**epicycle** /'epɪsɪkl/ *n* a circle (believed in Ptolemaic astronomy to be that in which a planet moves) that itself moves round the circumference of a larger circle [ME *epicycle*, fr L *epicyclus*, fr Gk *epikykklos*, fr *epi-* + *kyklos* circle – more at **WHIRL**] – **epicyclic** /-sɪkɪk/ *adj*

**epicycloid** /'epɪsɪkloɪd/ *n* a curve traced by a point on a circle that rolls on the outside of a fixed circle

**epidemic** /'epɪdɛmɪk/ *n* or *adj* (an outbreak of a disease) affecting many individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time (<typhoid was ~>) [*adj* F *épidémique*, fr MF, fr *epidemie*, *n*, epidemic, fr L *epidemia*, fr Gk *epidemia* visit, epidemic, fr *epidemos* visiting, epidemic, fr *epi-* + *demos* people, *n* fr *adj*] – **epidemic** *adj*, **epidemic** *adv*, **epidemicity** /-dɪ'mɪsɪti/ *n*

**epidemiology** /'epɪdɛmɪ'ɒləʒi/ *n* 1 medicine that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population 2 the factors controlling the presence or absence of (a cause of) disease [1.1 *epidemia* + ISV *-logy*] – **epidemiological** /-ɒlə'ɒjɪk/, **epidemiological** *adj*, **epidemiologically** *adv*, **epidemiologist** /-ɒlə'ɒjɪst/ *n*

**epiderm-** /epɪdɜːm-, **epidermo-** *comb form* epidermis (<epidermal> [epidermis])

**epidermis** /'epɪdɜːmɪs/ *n* 1a the thin outer epithelial layer of the animal body that is derived from ectoderm and forms in vertebrates an insensitive layer over the dermis 2b any of various covering layers resembling the epidermis 3 a thin surface layer of tissue in higher plants [LL, fr Gk, fr *epi-* + *derma* skin] – **epidermal** *adj*, **epidermic** *adj*, **epidermoid** *adj*

**epidiascope** /'epɪdɪə'skɒp/ *n* a projector for images of opaque objects or for transparencies [ISV]

**epididymis** /'epɪdɪdɪmɪs/ *n, pl epididymides* /-dez/ a mass of convoluted tubes at the back of the testis in which sperm is stored 2 REPRODUCTION [NL, fr Gk, fr *epi-* + *didymos* testicle – more at **DIDYMIUM**] – **epididymal** *adj*

**epidural** /'epɪdɪ'ɒrəl/ *adj* situated on or administered outside the dura mater (<~ anaesthesia>) (<~ structures>)

**epifauna** /'epɪ'fawna/ *n* aquatic fauna living on a hard substrate (e.g. on a boulder in a river) [NL] – **epifaunal** *adj*

**epigastric** /'epɪ'gastɪk/ *adj* lying on or over the stomach

**epigeal** /'epɪ'ʒee-əl/, **epigeous** /-əs/ *adj* growing, remaining, or occurring above the surface of the ground (<~ germination of plants>) – compare **HYPOGEAL** [Gk *epigeios* upon the earth, fr *epi-* + *ge* earth]

**epigene** /'epɪ'ʒeen/ *adj*, of rock formed or occurring on the earth's surface – compare **HYPOGENE** [F *épigène*, fr Gk *epigenēs* growing after, fr *epigignesthai*]

**epigenesis** /'epɪ'ʒenəsɪs/ *n* 1 development of an organism involving differentiation of an initially undifferentiated germ cell (e.g. a fertilized egg) 2 change in the mineral character of a rock owing to outside influences [NL] – **epigenetic** /-ʒə'nɛtɪk/ *adj*

**epiglottis** /'epɪ'glɒtɪs/ *n* a thin plate of flexible cartilage in front of the glottis that folds back over and protects the glottis during swallowing 2 NERVE [NL, fr Gk *epiglottis*, fr *epi-* + *glottis* glottis] – **epiglottal** *adj*, **epiglottic** *adj*

**epigone** /'epɪ'gohn/ *n* an esp inferior follower or imitator [G, fr L *epigonos* successor, fr Gk *epigonos*, fr *epigignesthai* to be born after, fr *epi-* + *gignesthai* to be born – more at **KIN**] – **epigonic** /-gɒnɪk/, **epigonous** /-pɪ'gənoʊs/ *adj*, **epigonism** /'epɪ'gənɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**epigram** /'epɪ'gram/ *n* 1 a short often satirical poem 2 a neat, witty, and often paradoxical remark or saying [ME *epigramme*, fr L *epigramma*, fr Gk, fr *epigraphēin* to write on, inscribe, fr *epi-* + *graphein* to write – more at **CARVE**] – **epigrammatic** /-grɜː'matɪk/, **epigrammatical**

*adj.* **epigrammatically** *adv.* **epigrammatism** /-ˈɡræmɪz(ə)m/ *n.* **epigrammatist** *n.* **epigrammatize** *vb*

**epigraph** /ˈepɪɡrəf/, -ˈɡrɑːf/ *n* 1 an engraved inscription 2 a quotation at the beginning of a book, chapter, etc suggesting its theme [Gk *epigraphē*, fr *epigraphen*]

**epigraphic** /ˈepɪɡrəfɪk/ *also* **epigraphical** /-kl/ *adj* of epigraphs or epigraphy – **epigraphically** *adv*

**epigraphy** /ˈepɪɡrəfi/ *n* 1 epigraphs collectively 2 the study of esp ancient inscriptions – **epigrapher** *n.* **epigraphist** *n*

**epigynous** /ˈepɪɡɪnəs/ *adj* 1 (having floral organs) attached to the surface of the ovary and appearing to grow from the top of it – compare **HYPOGYNOUS**, **PERIGYNOUS** 2 having epigynous floral organs – **epigyny** *n*

**epilation** /ˈepɪləʃən/ *n* the loss or removal of hair [F *épilation*, fr *épiler* to remove hair, fr *é-* *e-* + L *pilus* hair – more at **'PILE**]

**epilepsy** /ˈepɪləpsi/ *n* any of various disorders marked by disturbed electrical rhythms of the brain and spinal cord and typically manifested by convulsive attacks often with clouding of consciousness [MF *epilepsie*, fr LL *epilepsia*, fr Gk *epilepsia*, fr *epilambanein* to seize, fr *epi-* + *lambanein* to take, seize – more at **LATCH**]

**epilept-**, **epilepti-**, **epilepto-** /ˈepɪlept-/ *comb form* epilepsy <epileptogenic> [Gk *epilept-*, fr *epileptos* seized by epilepsy, fr *epilambanein*]

**epileptic** /ˈepɪleptɪk/ *adj* of, affected with, or having the characteristics of epilepsy – **epileptic** *n.* **epileptically** *adv*

**epilimnion** /ˈepɪlɪmɪən, -nɪən/ *n* the water above the thermocline of a lake – compare **HYPOLIMNION** [NL, fr *epi-* + Gk *limnion*, dim of *limne* marshy lake]

**epilogue** /ˈepɪləɡ/ *n* 1 a concluding section of a literary or dramatic work that comments on or summarizes the main action or plot 2 a speech or poem addressed to the audience by an actor at the end of a play [ME *epiloge*, fr MF *epilogue*, fr L *epilogus*, fr Gk *epilogos*, fr *epilegein* to say in addition, fr *epi-* + *legein* to say – more at **LEGEND**]

**epimer** /ˈepɪmə/ *n* either of the isomers of a sugar (derivative) that differ in arrangement only in the last carbon atom of a chain that is attached to 4 different groups [*epi-* + *isomer*] – **epimeric** /-ˈmerɪk/ *adj*


**epinephrine** /ˈepɪnefrɪn, ˈɪpɪnefrɪn, -freen/ *also* **epinephrin** /-frɪn/ *n.* chiefly **NAm** adrenalin [ISV *epi-* + Gk *nephros* kidney – more at **NEPHRITIS**]

**epiphany** /ˈepɪfəni/ *n* 1 *cap* (January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of) the coming of the Magi 2 a usu sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of sth [ME *epiphanie*, fr MF, fr LL *epiphania*, fr LGk, pl, prob alter of Gk *epiphaneia* appearance, manifestation, fr *epiphaínein* to manifest, fr *phainein* to show – more at **FANCY**] – **epiphanic** /ˈepɪfənik/ *adj*

**epiphenomenalism** /ˌepɪfəˈnɒmɪnəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* the theory that mental processes are epiphenomena of brain processes

**epiphenomenon** /ˌepɪfəˈnɒmɪən/ *n.* **pl** **epiphenomena** /-nə/ a secondary phenomenon accompanying another and caused by it – **epiphenomenal** *adj.* **epiphenomenally** *adv*

**epiphysis** /ˈepɪfɪsɪs/ *n.* **pl** **epiphyses** /-seɪz/ 1 an end of a long bone 2 **PINEAL GLAND** [NL, fr Gk, growth, fr *epiphyesthai* to grow on, fr *epi-* + *phyesthai* to grow, passive of *phyein* to bring forth – more at **BE**] – **epiphyseal** /ˈepɪfɪziəl/ *adj*

**epiphyte** /ˈepɪfɪt/ *n* a plant that derives its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain and grows on another plant  **PLANT** – **epiphytic** /-ˈfɪtɪk/ *adj.* **epiphytically** *adv*

**episcopacy** /ˈepɪskəpi/ *n* 1 government of the church by bishops or by a hierarchy 2 an episcopate

**episcopal** /ˈepɪskəpl/ *adj* 1 of a bishop 2 of, having, or constituting government by bishops 3 *cap* Anglican, esp of an Anglican church that is not established (e.g. in the USA or Scotland) [ME, fr LL *episcopalis*, fr *episcopus* bishop – more at **BISHOP**] – **episcopally** *adv.* **Episcopalian** /-ˈpeɪli-ən, -liən/ *n* or *adj.* **Episcopallianism** *n*

**episcopate** /ˈepɪskəpət, -ˈpeɪt/ *n* 1 the rank, office, or term of a bishop 2 a (national) body of bishops

**episcope** /ˈepɪskəp/ *n* a projector for images of opaque objects (e.g. photographs) [ISV *epi-* + *-scope*]

**episode** /ˈepɪsəʊd/ *n* 1a the part of an ancient Greek tragedy between 2 choric songs b a developed situation or incident that is integral to but separable from a continuous narrative (e.g. a play or novel) c the part of a serial presented at 1 performance 2 an event that is distinctive and separate although part of a larger series (e.g. in history or in sb's life) [Gk *episodion*, fr neut of *episodesios* coming in besides, fr *epi-* + *eisodios* coming in, fr *eis* into (akin to Gk *en* in) + *hodos* road, journey – more at **IN**, **CEDE**]

**episodic** /ˈepɪsəʊdɪk/ *also* **episodical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 made up of separate, esp loosely connected, episodes <an ~ narrative> 2 of or limited in duration or significance to a particular episode 3 occasional, sporadic – **episodically** *adv*

**epistasis** /ˈɪpɪstəsɪs/ *n.* **pl** **epistases** /-seɪz/ suppression of the effect of a gene by another gene that is not an allele of the first gene [NL, fr Gk, act of stopping, fr *epistanai* to stop, fr *epi-* + *histanai* to cause to stand – more at **STAND**] – **epistatic** /ˈepɪstætɪk/ *adj*

**epistaxis** /ˈepɪstəksɪs/ *n.* **pl** **epistaxes** /-seɪz/ a nosebleed [NL, fr Gk, fr *epistazein* to drip on, to bleed at the nose again, fr *epi-* + *stazein* to drip – more at **STAGNATE**]

**epistemic** /ˈepɪsteemɪk/ *adj* of knowledge, cognitive – **epistemically** *adv*

**epistemology** /ˌɪpɪstəˈmɒləʒi/ *n* inquiry into the nature and grounds of experience, belief, and knowledge [Gk *episteme* knowledge, fr *epistanai* to understand, know, fr *epi-* + *histanai* to cause to stand – more at **STAND**] – **epistemological** /-məˈlɒjɪkl/ *adj.* **epistemologically** *adv.* **epistemologist** /-ˈmɒləjɪst/ *n*

**epistle** /ˈɪpsl/ *n* 1 *cap* (a liturgical reading from) any of the letters (e.g. of St Paul) adopted as books of the New Testament 2 an esp formal letter [ME, letter, Epistle, fr OF, fr L *epistula*, *epistola* letter, fr Gk *epistolē* message, letter, fr *epistellein* to send to, fr *epi-* + *stellein* to send – more at **'STAIL**]

**epistle** *side* *n.* *often cap E* the right side of an altar or chancel as one faces it [fr the custom of reading the Epistle from this side]

**epistolary** /ˈɪpsɪtəl(ə)n/ *adj* 1 of or suitable to a letter 2 carried on by or in the form of letters <an endless sequence of ~ love affairs – TLS> 3 written in the form of a series of letters <~ novel>

**epistrophe** /ˈɪpɪstrəfi/ *n* repetition of the same word or expression at the end of a series of phrases, sentences, etc for rhetorical effect – compare **ANAPHORA** [Gk *epistrophe*, lit., turning about, fr *epi-* + *strophe* turning – more at **STROPHE**]

**epitaph** /ˈepɪtəf, -təf/ *n* 1 a commemorative inscription on a tombstone or monument 2 a brief statement commemorating a deceased person or past event [ME *epitaphe*, fr MF, fr ML *epitaphium*, fr L, funeral oration, fr Gk *epitaphion*, fr *epi-* + *taphos* tomb, funeral, akin to Gk *thaptein* to bury, Arm *damban* grave]

**epitaxy** /ˈepɪtəksɪ/ *n* the oriented growth of one crystalline substance on another [*epi-* + *-taxy* (fr Gk *-taxis* -taxis)] – **epitaxial** /-ˈtəksɪəl/ *adj.* **epitaxially** *adv*

**epithalamium** /ˌepɪθəˈləɪmɪ-əm, -mɪəm/ *n.* **pl** **epithalamiums**, **epithalamia** /-mɪ-ə, -mɪ-ə/ a song or poem in celebration of a bride and bridegroom [L & Gk; L *epithalamium*, fr Gk *epithalamion*, fr *epi-* + *thalamos* room, bridal chamber]

**epitheli-**, **epithelio-** /ˌepɪθiːli-/ *comb form* epithelium [NL *epithelium*]

**epithelium** /ˌepɪθiːli-əm, -li-əm/ *n.* **pl** **epithelia** /-li-ə, -li-ə/ 1 a membranous cellular tissue that covers a free surface or lines a tube or cavity of an animal body and serves esp to enclose and protect the other parts of the body, to produce secretions and excretions, and to function in assimilation 2 a usu thin layer of cells that lines a cavity or tube of a plant [NL, fr *epi-* + Gk *thelē* nipple – more at **FEMININE**] – **epithelial** *adj.* **epithelioid** /-li-ɔɪd/ *adj*

**epithet** /ˈepɪθet/ *n* 1 a descriptive word or phrase accompanying or occurring in place of the name of a person or thing 2 a disparaging or abusive word or phrase [L *epitheton*, fr Gk, fr neut of *epithetos* added, fr *epithēnai* to put on, add, fr *epi-* + *tithēnai* to put – more at **DO**] – **epithetic** /-ˈθetɪk/, **epithetical** *adj*

**epitome** /ˈɪpɪtəmi/ *n* 1 a condensed account or summary, esp of a literary work 2 a typical or ideal example, an embodiment <the British monarchy itself is the ~ of tradition> [L, fr Gk *epitōmē*, fr *epitēmnēin* to cut short, fr *epi-* + *temnēin* to cut – more at **TOME**]

**epitomize**, **-ise** /ˈɪpɪtəmaɪz/ *vi* to make or serve as an epitome of




**epizootic** /ˌepɪzəʊˈtɒk/ *n* or *adj* (a disease temporarily) affecting many animals of 1 kind at the same time – **epizootically** *adv*

**epoch** /ˈeepək/ *n* 1 a date or time selected as a point of reference (e.g. in astronomy) 2 a memorable event or date; esp **TURNING POINT** 3a an extended period of time, usu characterized by a distinctive development or by a memorable series of events b a division of geological time less than a period and greater than an age [ML *epocha*, fr Gk *epoche* cessation, fixed point, fr *epēchein* to pause, hold back, fr *epi-* + *ēchein* to hold – more at **SCHEME**] – **epochal** /ˈeepəkl/ *adj.* **epochally** *adv*

**'epoch-making** *adj* uniquely or highly significant <the steam engine was an ~ invention>

**epode** /ˈepəʊd/ *n* 1 a lyric poem in which a long line is followed by a



- shorter one 2 the last part of a Greek ode following the strophe and the antistrophe [L *epodos*, fr Gk *epōdos*, fr *epōidos* sung or said after, fr *epi-* + *aidēin* to sing – more at ODE]
- eponym** /'epɒnɪm, 'epə-/ *n* the person after whom sth is (believed to be) named [Gk *epōnymos*, fr *epōnymos* eponymous, fr *epi-* + *onyma* name – more at NAME] – **eponymic** /'nɪmɪk/ *adj*, **eponymous** /'pɒnɪməs/ *adj*
- epos** /'epɒs/ *n* 1 a body of poems on an epic theme that are not formally united 2 an epic poem [Gk, word, epic poem]
- epoxide** /'iːpɒksɪd/ *n* an epoxy compound
- epoxid-ize**, **-ise** /'iːpɒksɪdɪz/ *vt* to convert into an epoxy compound (< *d oils*)
- epoxy** /'iːpɒksi/ *adj* 1 containing a 3-membered ring consisting of 1 oxygen and 2 carbon atoms 2 of an epoxy compound
- epoxy** *vt* **epoxied**, **epoxied** to glue with epoxy resin
- epoxy resin** *n* a flexible resin used esp in coatings and adhesives
- epsilon** /'epsɪlɒn/ *n* the 5th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *ε psilon*, lit, simple *e*]
- Epsom salts** /'eps(ə)m/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr hydrated magnesium sulphate used as a purgative [Epsom, town in Surrey, England]
- equable** /'ekwəbl/ *adj* uniform, even; *esp* free from extremes or sudden changes (< *an ~ temperament*) (< *an ~ climate*) [L *aequalis*, fr *aequare* to make level or equal, fr *aequus*] – **equably** *adv*, **equability** /'bɪləti/ *n*
- equal** /'ekwəl/ *adj* 1a of the same quantity, amount, or number as another  **SYMBOL** b identical in value; equivalent 2a like in quality, nature, or status b like for each member of a group, class, or society (< *provide ~ employment opportunities*) (< *rights*) 3 evenly balanced or matched (< *the 2 opponents were ~*) 4 capable of meeting the requirements of sth (e.g. a situation or task) – *to* (< *he is quite ~ to the job*) [ME, fr L *aequalis*, fr *aequus* level, equal]
- equal** *n* sby or sth equal (< *she is anyone's ~*)
- equal** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-) 1 to be equal to, *esp* to be identical in value to 2 to make or produce sth equal to
- equalitarian** /'iːkwəlɪ'teəri-ən/ *n* or *adj* (an) egalitarian – **equalitarianism** *n*
- equality** /'iːkwəlɪti/ *n* the quality or state of being equal
- equal-ize**, **-ise** /'ekwəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to make equal 2 to make uniform; *esp* to distribute evenly or uniformly ~ *vi* chiefly Br *to* make sth equal; *esp* to bring the scores level (e.g. in a football match) – **equalizer** *n*, **equalization** /'zəʊzɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- equally** /'ekwəli/ *adv* 1 in an equal or uniform manner; evenly 2 to an equal degree; alike (< *respected ~ by young and old*)
- equals** *sign* also **equal sign** *n* a sign = indicating mathematical or logical equivalence  **SYMBOL**
- equal temperament** *n* the division of the musical octave into 12 equal semitones
- equanimity** /'ekwə'nɪməti, 'ekwə-/ *n* evenness of mind or temper, *esp* under stress [L *aequanimitas*, fr *aequo animo* with even mind]
- equate** /'iːkwəɪt/ *vt* 1 to make or set equal 2 to treat, represent, or regard as equal, equivalent, or comparable (< *s dissension with disloyalty*) [ME *equaten*, fr L *aequatus*, pp of *aequare*]
- equation** /'iːkwəɪz(ə)n/ *sense* 1 /'iːkwəɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 equating or being equated 2 a statement of the equality of 2 mathematical expressions – **equational** *adj*, **equationally** *adv*
- equator** /'iːkwəɪtə-/ *n* 1 the great circle of the celestial sphere whose plane is perpendicular to the rotational axis of the earth 2 GREAT CIRCLE, *specif* the one that is equidistant from the 2 poles of the earth and divides the earth's surface into the northern and southern hemispheres 3 a circle or circular band dividing the surface of a body into 2 usu equal and symmetrical parts (< *the ~ of a dividing cell*) [ME, fr ML *aequator*, lit, equalizer, fr L *aequatus*; fr its containing the equinoxes] – **equatorward** /-wɒd/ *adj* or *adv*, **equatorwards** /-wɒdz/ *adv*
- equatorial** /'ekwə'tɔːri-əl/ *adj* 1a of, at, or in the plane of the (earth's) equator b of the climate characterized by consistently high temperatures and rainfall throughout the year 2 being or having a support (e.g. for a telescope) that includes 2 axes at right angles to each other and allows a celestial body to be kept in view as the earth rotates
- equerry** /'iːkwəri, 'ekwəri-/ *n* 1 an officer of a prince or noble charged with the care of horses 2 an officer of the British royal household in personal attendance on a member of the royal family [obs *escuire*, *equerry* (stable), fr MF *escuirie* office of a squire, stable, fr *escuyer*, *equier* squire – more at *ESQUIRE*]
- equestrian** /'iːkwɛstri-ən/ *adj* 1a of or featuring horses, horsemen, or horsemanship b representing a person on horseback 2 (composed) of knights [L *equestr-*, *equester* of a horseman, fr *equus* horseman, fr *equus* horse – more at EQUINE] – **equestrianism** *n*
- equestrian** *n* sby who rides or performs on horseback
- equi-** *comb form* equal (< *equipoise*); equally (< *equiprobable*) [ME, fr MF, fr L *aequi-*, fr *aequus* equal]
- equiangular** /'ekwi'ŋg-jʊʊl, 'ekwi-/ *adj* having all or corresponding angles equal (< *an ~ triangle*) (< *polygons*)
- equidistant** /'ekwi'dɪst(ə)nt, 'ekwi-/ *adj* equally distant [MF or LL, MF, fr LL *aequidistant-*, *aequidistans*, fr L *aequi-* + *distant-*, *distans*, prp of *distare* to stand apart] – **equidistantly** *adv*, **equidistance** *n*
- equilateral** /'ekwi'lateral, 'ekwi-/ *adj* having all sides equal (< *triangle*)  **MATHEMATICS** [LL *aequilateralis*, fr L *aequi-* + *later-*, *latus* side]
- equilibrate** /'ekwi'liebrayt, 'ekwi-, 'lib-, 'iːkwɪ'brayt/ *vt* to bring into or keep in equilibrium; balance ~ *vi* to bring about, come to, or be in equilibrium – **equilibration** /'brayz(ə)n/ *n*, **equilibrator** /'iːkwɪ-/ *n*, **equilibratory** /-(ə)ri/ *adj*
- equilibrium** /'ekwi'libri-əm, 'ekwi-/ *n, pl* **equilibria**, **equilibria** /-brɪ-ə/ 1 a state of balance between opposing forces, actions, or processes (e.g. in a reversible chemical reaction) 2a a state of adjustment between opposing or divergent influences or elements b a state of intellectual or emotional balance 3 the normal state of the animal body in respect to its environment that involves adjustment to changing conditions [L *aequilibrium*, fr *aequilibris* being in equilibrium, fr *aequi-* + *libra* weight, balance]
- equine** /'ekwiən/ *adj* of or resembling the horse (family) [L *equinus*, fr *equus* horse, akin to OE *eoh* horse, Gk *hippos*] – **equine** *n*, **equinely** *adv*
- equinoctial** /'ekwi'nɒkʃ(ə)l, 'ekwi-/ *adj* 1 relating to (the time when the sun passes) an equinox 2 relating to the regions or climate of the equinoctial line or equator
- equinoctial**, **equinoctial circle** *n* EQUATOR 1
- equinox** /'ekwi'nɒks/ *n* 1 either of the 2 times each year that occur about March 21st and September 23rd when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are of equal length everywhere on earth 2 either of the 2 points on the celestial sphere where the celestial equator intersects the ecliptic [ME, fr MF or ML, MF *equinox*, fr ML *equinoxium*, alter of L *aequinoctium*, fr *aequi-* equi- + *noct-*, *nox* night – more at NIGHT]
- equip** /'iːkwɪp/ *vt* -pp- 1 to make ready for service, action, or use; provide with appropriate supplies 2 to dress, array [MF *equiper*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *scip* ship]
- equipage** /'ekwɪpɪ-/ *n* 1 material or articles used in equipment 2a an etui b trappings 3 a horse-drawn carriage (with its servants)
- equipment** /'iːkwɪpmənt/ *n* 1 the set of articles, apparatus, or physical resources serving to equip a person, thing, enterprise, expedition, etc 2 mental or emotional resources [EQUIP + -MENT]
- equipoise** /'ekwi'pɔɪz, 'ekwi-/ *n* 1 a state of equilibrium 2 a counterbalance
- equipollent** /'ekwi'pɒlənt, 'ekwi-/ *n* or *adj* (sth that is) equal in force, power, validity, or effect – *fml* [ME, fr MF, fr L *aequipollent-*, *aequipollens*, fr *aequi-* equi- + *pollent-*, *pollens*, prp of *pollere* to be able] – **equipollence** *n*, **equipollency** *n*
- equipotential** /'ekwɪpɒ'tens(ə)l, 'ekwi-/ *adj* of uniform potential (throughout) (< *points*) (< *an ~ surface*) – **equipotential** *n*
- equiprobable** /'ekwi'prɒbəbl, 'ekwi-/ *adj* having the same degree of logical or mathematical probability (< *alternatives*)
- equitable** /'ekwɪtəbl/ *adj* 1 fair and just 2 valid in equity as distinguished from law [EQUITY + -ABLE] – **equitableness** *n*, **equitably** *adv*, **equitability** /'bɪləti/ *n*
- equitation** /'ekwi'taɪz(ə)n/ *n* the act or art of riding on horseback [MF, fr L *equitation-*, *equitatio*, fr *equitatus*, pp of *equitare* to ride on horseback, fr *equit-*, *equus* horseman, fr *equus* horse – more at EQUINE]
- equity** /'ekwɪti/ *n* 1 justice according to natural law or right; fairness 2 a system of justice originally developed in the Chancery courts on the basis of conscience and fairness to supplement or override the more rigid common law 3a a right, claim, or interest existing or valid in equity b the money value of a property or of an interest in a property in excess of claims against it 4 a share that does not bear fixed interest – *usu pl* [ME *equite*, fr MF *equité*, fr L *aequitas*, *aequitas*, fr *aequus* equal, fair]
- equivalent** /'iːkwɪvəl(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 equal in force, amount, or value 2 corresponding or virtually identical, *esp* in effect, function, or meaning 3 having the same chemical combining capacity (< *quantities of 2 elements*) [ME, fr MF or LL; MF, fr LL *aequivalent-*, *aequivalens*, prp



of *aequivalere* to have equal power, fr L *aequi-* + *valere* to be strong – more at WIELD] – *equivalence* also *equivalency* *n*, *equivalent* *n*, *equivalently* *adv*

**equivalent weight** *n* the atomic or molecular weight of a substance divided by its valency

**equivocal** /i'kwivəkl/ *adj* 1 subject to 2 or more interpretations, ambiguous (< ~ evidence) 2 questionable, suspicious [LL *aequivocus*, fr *aequi-* *equi-* + *voc-*, *vox* voice – more at VOICE] – *equivocally* *adv*, *equivocalness* *n*, *equivocality* /-'kəli/ *n*

**equivocate** /i'kwivə,kəit/ *vi* to use equivocal language, esp with intent to deceive or avoid committing oneself – *equivocation* /-'kəiʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *equivocator* *n*

**equivocal** also *equivoke* /'ekwi,vohk/, 'ekwi-/ *n* an equivocal word or phrase, *specif* a pun [F *équivoque*, fr *équivoque* equivocal, fr LL *aequivocus*]

**er**, **ur** /uh/ *interj* – used to express hesitation or doubt

**-er** /-ə/ *suffix* (< ~ evidence) – used to form the comparative degree of adjectives and adverbs of 1 syllable, and of some adjectives and adverbs of 2 or more syllables, that end in a consonant (<hotter>), a vowel other than *e*, or a final *y* that changes to *i* (<drier>), compare **-r** [ME *-er*, *-ere*, *-re*, fr OE *-ra* (in adjectives), *-or* (in adverbs), akin to OHG *-iro*, *adj* compar suffix, L *-ior*, Gk *-ion*]

**-er**, **-ar**, **-ier**, **-r**, **-yer** *suffix* 1 (*n* → *n*) a one engaged in the occupation of (<turner> <lawyer> <geographer>) b one belonging to or associated with (<sixth-former> c native of, resident of (<cottager> <Londoner>) d sthg that has (<three-wheeler> <four-poster>) 2 (*vb* → *n*) a one who or that which does or performs (a specified action) <reporter> <eye-opener> – sometimes added to both elements of a compound <builder-upper> b sthg that is a suitable object of (a specified action) <broiler> <cooker> 3 (*adj* → *n*) sby or sthg that is <foreigner> **USE** *-yer* in a few words after *w*, *-ier* in a few words after other letters, *-r* in words after *c*, otherwise *-er* [ME *-er*, *-ere*, *-are*, *-ier*, *-iere*, partly fr OE *-ere* (akin to OHG *-ari*, both fr a prehistoric Gmc suffix borrowed fr L *-arius*), partly fr OF *-ier*, *-iere*, fr L *-arius*, *-aria*, *-arium* *-ary*, partly fr MF *-ere*, fr L *-ator* *-or* – more at **-ARY**, **-OR**]


**era** /'iərə/ *n* 1 a system of chronological notation computed from a given date as a basis (<Christian ~> 2 **POCH** 2 3a a usu historical period set off or typified by some distinctive figure or characteristic feature (<the ~ of space flight>) b any of the 5 major divisions of geological time (<Palaeozoic ~>) **EVOLUTION** [LL *aera*, fr L, counters, pl of *aer-*, *aes* copper, money – more at ORF]

**eradicate** /i'radi,kəit/ *vt* 1 to pull up by the roots 2 to eliminate, DO AWAY WITH (< ~ ignorance by better teaching>) [L *eradicatus*, pp of *eradicare*, fr *e-* + *radic-*, *radix* root – more at **ROOT**] – *eradicator* *n*, *eradicable* *adj*, *eradication* /-'kəiʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *eradicator* /-'kəiʃ(ə)n/ *adj*

**erase** /i'rayz/ *vt* 1a to obliterate or rub out (e.g. written, painted, or engraved letters) b to remove (recorded matter) from a magnetic tape or wire c to delete from a computer storage device 2 to remove from existence or memory as if by erasing ~ *vi* to yield to being erased (<pencil ~s easily>) [L *erasus*, pp of *eradicare*, fr *e-* + *radere* to scratch, scrape – more at RAT] – *erasability* /-zə'biləti/ *n*, *erasable* *adj*, *erasure* /i'rayzə/ *n*

**eraser** /i'rayzə/ *n* RUBBER 1b [ERASE + **-ER**]

**Erastian** /i'ræsti-ən, -tjən/ *adj* of, characterized by, or advocating the doctrine of ecclesiastical subordination to the secular powers [Thomas Erastus †1583 G-Swiss physician & Zwinglian theologian] – *Erastian* *n*, *Erastianism* *n*

**erbium** /'uhbiəm/ *n* a metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Ytterby, town in Sweden]

**ere** /eə/ *prep* BEFORE 2 – poetic [ME *er*, fr OE *ær*, fr *ær*, *adv*, early, soon; akin to OHG *er* earlier, Gk *ēri* earlier]

**ere** *conj* before – poetic

**erect** /i'rekt/ *adj* 1a vertical in position; upright b standing up or out from the body (< ~ hairs>) c characterized by firm or rigid straightness (e.g. in bodily posture) (<an ~ bearing>) 2 in a state of physiological erection [ME, fr L *erectus*, pp of *erigere* to erect, fr *e-* + *regere* to lead straight, guide – more at **RIGHT**] – *erectly* *adv*, *erectness* *n*

**erect** *vt* 1a to put up by the fitting together of materials or parts; build b to fix in an upright position 2 to elevate in status (< ~s a few odd notions into a philosophy>) 3 to establish; SET UP 6a 4 to construct (e.g. a perpendicular) on a given base – *erectable* *adj*, *erector* *n*

**erectile** /i'rektiəl/ *adj* 1 capable of being raised to an erect position, esp, of animal tissue capable of becoming swollen with blood to bring about the erection of a body part 2 of or involving the erection of the penis – *erectility* /-'tiləti/ *n*

**erection** /i'rekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an occurrence in the penis or clitoris of) the dilation with blood and resulting firmness of a previously flaccid body part 2 sthg erected [ERECT + **-ION**]

**E-region** *n* the part of the ionosphere occurring between about 65 and 145km (about 40 and 90mi) above the earth's surface and containing the E layer

**eremite** /'erəmiət/ *n* a usu Christian hermit or recluse [ME – more at HERMIT] – *eremite* /'erə'mitɪk/, *eremitical* *adj*

**erepsin** /i'repsɪn/ *n* a mixture of protein-digesting enzymes present in the intestinal juice [ISV *er-* (prob fr L *eripere* to sweep away, fr *e-* + *rapere* to sweep away) + *pepsin* – more at RAPID]

**erethism** /'erethiz(ə)m/ *n* abnormal responsiveness, esp of human organs and physiological systems, to stimulation [F *éréthisme*, fr Gk *erethismos* irritation, fr *erethizein* to irritate, akin to Gk *ornynai* to rouse – more at RISE] – *erethismic* /-'thizmik/ *adj*

**erg** /uhg/ *n* the cgs unit of work or energy, 10<sup>-7</sup> J [Gk *ergon* work – more at WORK]

**erg-** /uhg-/ *ergo-* *comb form* work (<ergonomics>) [Gk, fr *ergon*]

**ergo** /'uhgoh/ *adv* therefore, hence [L, fr OL, because of, fr (assumed) OL *e rogo* from the direction (of)]

**ergo-** *comb form* ergot (<ergosterol>) [F, fr *ergot*]

**ergometer** /uh'gomitə/ *n* an apparatus for measuring the work performed by a group of muscles – *ergometric* /uh'gə'metɪk/ *adj*

**ergonomics** /uh'gə'nə'mɪks/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr a science concerned with the relationship between human beings, the machines they use, and the working environment [*erg-* + *economics*] – *ergonomic* *adj*, *ergonomist* /uh'gə'nə'mɪst/ *n*

**ergosterol** /uh'gostərol/ *n* a steroid found esp in yeast, moulds, and ergot that is converted into vitamin D<sub>2</sub> by ultraviolet light [ISV]

**ergot** /'uhgət, -got/ *n* 1 (a fungus bearing) a black or dark purple club-shaped sclerotium that develops in place of the seed of a grass (e.g. rye) 2 a disease of rye and other cereals caused by an ergot fungus 3 the dried sclerotia of an ergot fungus containing ergotamine and other alkaloids used medicinally (e.g. to treat migraine) [F, lit, cock's spur] – *ergotic* /uh'gotɪk/ *adj*

**ergotamine** /uh'gotəmeɪn/ *n* an alkaloid obtained from ergot that has the pharmacological actions of ergot and is used esp in treating migraine [ISV]

**ergotism** /uh'gə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n* an abnormal condition produced by eating grain (products) or grasses infected with ergot fungus and characterized by hallucinations and gangrene of the fingers and toes

**erice** /'erɪkə/ *n* any of a large genus of low many-branched evergreen shrubs of the heath family [NL, genus name, fr L *erice* heather, fr Gk *erike*] – *ericeaceous* /-'kəiʃəs/ *adj*

**Erie** /'iəri/ *n* (a member or the Iroquoian language of) a N American Indian people of the Lake Erie region

**Erin** /'enn/ *n* Ireland – chiefly poetic [OIr *Erinn*, dat of *Ériu* Ireland]

**eristic** /'erɪstɪk/ also *eristical* /-kl/ *adj* employing subtle and usu specious argument – fml [Gk *eristikos* fond of wrangling, fr *erizein* to wrangle, fr *eris* strife] – *eristically* *adv*


**eristic** *n* (sby who practises) the art of disputation and polemics – fml

**erk** /uhk/ *n*, *Br* a person holding the lowest rank in the air force or navy – slang [alter. of *arc*, short for *aircraftman*]

**Erlenmeyer flask** /'erlən,miə-/ *n* a flat-bottomed conical laboratory flask [Emil Erlenmeyer †1909 G chemist]

**ermine** /'uhmɪn/ *n*, *pl* ermines, esp collectively ermine (the winter fur of) a stoat or related weasel that has a white winter coat usu with black on the tail [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *harma* weasel; akin to Lith *šarmuo* weasel]

**Ernie** /'uhni/ *n* an electronic device used to draw the prizewinning numbers of Premium Bonds [Electronic random number indicator equipment]




**erode** /i'rohd/ *vt* 1a to diminish or destroy by degrees b to eat into or away by slow destruction of substance; corrode c to wear away by the action of water, wind, glacial ice, etc  GEOGRAPHY 2 to produce or form by eroding ~ *vi* to undergo erosion [L *erodere* to eat away, fr *e-* + *rodere* to gnaw – more at RAT] – *erodible* *adj*


**erogenous** /i'roʊjənz/ also *erogenic* /'erə'jenɪk/ *adj* of or producing sexual excitement (when stimulated) (< ~ zones>) [Gk *erōs* + E *-genous*, *-genic*]

**Eros** /'iəros, 'eros/ *n* 1 all the pleasure-directed life instincts; the libido – compare THANATOS 2 sexual love [Gk *Erōs*, god of love, fr *erōs* love; akin to Gk *erasthai* to love, desire]

**erosion** /i'rohzh(ə)n/ *n* (an instance or product of) eroding or being

- eroded [MF, fr L *erosion-*, *erosio*, fr *erosus*, pp of *erodere*] – **erosional** *adj*, **erosionally** *adv*, **erose** /-siv/ *adj*
- erotic** /i'rotik/ *adj* 1 of, concerned with, or tending to arouse sexual desire (< ~ art) 2 strongly affected by sexual desire [Gk *erotikos*, fr *erot-*, *erōs*] – **erotic** *n*, **erotic** *adj*, **erotically** *adv*, **erotize** /-siez/ *vt*
- erotica** /i'rotika/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* literature or art with an erotic theme or quality [NL, fr Gk *erotika*, neut pl of *erotikos*]
- eroticism** /i'rotiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an erotic theme, quality, or character 2 **EROTISM** 1 3 (insistent) sexual impulse or desire – **eroticist** *n*
- erotism** /'erətiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 sexual excitement or arousal 2 **EROTICISM** 1, 3 [Gk *erōt-*, *erōs* + E -ism]
- erotogenic** /i'rotə'jenik, i'roh-/ *adj* erogenous
- erotomania** /i'rotə'mayniə, -roh-/ *n* (abnormally) excessive sexual desire – **erotomaniac** *n*
- err** /uh/ *vi* 1a to make a mistake b to do wrong, sin 2 to be inaccurate or incorrect [ME *erren*, fr OF *errer*, fr *erre*; akin to OE *ierre* wandering, angry, ON *rás* race – more at **RACE**]
- errand** /'erənd/ *n* (the object or purpose of) a short trip taken to attend to some business, often for another [ME *erend* message, business, fr OE *ærēnd*; akin to OHG *arunt* message]
- errant** /'erant/ *adj* 1 (given to) travelling, esp in search of adventure 2 going astray (< ~ calf), esp doing wrong, erring (< ~ child) [ME *erant*, fr MF *errant*, prp of *errer* to err & *errer* to travel, fr ML *iterare*, fr L *iter* road, journey – more at **ITINERANT**] – **errant** *n*, **errantly** *adv*
- errantry** /'erantri/ *n* knight-errantry
- errata** /i'raita/ *n* (a page showing) a list of corrections [L, pl of *erratum*]
- erratic** /i'ratik/ *adj* 1 having no fixed course (< ~ comet) 2 *esp* of a boulder transported from an original resting place, esp by a glacier – **ERRATIC** 3 characterized by lack of consistency, regularity, or uniformity, esp in behaviour [ME, fr MF or L, MF *erraticus*, fr L *erraticus*, pp of *errare*] – **erratic** *n*, **erratically** *adv*, **erraticism** /-siz(ə)m/ *n*
- erratum** /i'ratam/ *n*, *pl errata* /-ta/ a corrigendum [L, fr neut of *erratus*]
- erroneous** /i'rohnyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* containing or characterized by error, incorrect (< ~ assumptions) [ME, fr L *erroneus*, fr *erron-*, *erro* wanderer, fr *errare*] – **erroneously** *adv*, **erroneousness** *n*
- error** /'erə/ *n* 1a a mistake or inaccuracy in speech, opinion, or action (< a typing ~) b the state of being wrong in behaviour or beliefs (< he realized the ~ of his ways) c an act that fails to achieve what was intended 2 the difference between an observed or calculated value and a true value [ME *errou*, fr OF, fr L *error*, fr *errare*] – **errorless** *adj* – in *error* by mistake
- ersatz** /'ezatz, 'uh-/ *adj* being a usu artificial and inferior substitute, an imitation [G *ersatz-*, fr *ersatz*, *n*, substitute] – **ersatz** *n*
- Erse** /uhs/ *n* Scottish Gaelic – no longer used technically – **ERSE** LANGUAGE [ME (Sc) *Erseh*, *adj*, Irish, alter. of *Irish*] – **Erse** *adj*
- erstwhile** /'uhs,wiəl/ *adj* former, previous (< his ~ students) [arch *erst* (formerly, fr ME *erest* earliest, first, fr OE *ærest*, superl of *ær* early) + *while*] – **erstwhile** *adv*
- erucic acid** /i'roohsik/ *n* a fatty acid found in the form of glycerides, esp in rapeseed oil [NL *Eruca*, genus of herbs, fr L, caterpillar, rocket plant]
- eructation** /i'ruk'taysh(ə)n, 'eruk-/ *n* belching [L *eructatio*-, *eructatio*, fr *eructatus*, pp of *eructare* to belch, fr *e-* + *ructare* to belch]
- erudite** /'eroodiet/ *adj* possessing or displaying extensive or profound knowledge, learned (< ~ scholar) [ME *erudit*, fr L *eruditus*, fr pp of *erudire* to instruct, fr *e-* + *rudis* rude, ignorant] – **eruditely** *adv*, **erudition** /-dish(ə)n/ *n*
- erupt** /i'rup/ *vi* 1a *esp* of a volcano to release lava, steam, etc suddenly and esp violently b(1) to burst violently from limits or restraint (2) of a tooth to emerge through the gum c to become suddenly active or violent; explode (< will terrorism ~ again?) 2 to break out (e.g. in a rash) ~ *vt* to force out or release suddenly or violently [L *eruptus*, pp of *crumpere* to burst forth, fr *e-* + *rumpere* to break – more at **BEREAVE**] – **eruptible** *adj*, **eruptive** /-tiv/ *adj*, **eruptively** *adv*
- eruption** /i'rupsh(ə)n/ *n* (a product of) erupting
- ery** /-(ə)n/, -ry suffix (< ~ n) 1 quality or state of having (a specified trait or mode of behaviour) (< snobbery) (< treachery) 2 art or practice of (< cookery) (< skulduggery) 3 place of doing, keeping, producing, or selling (a specified thing) (< fishery) (< bakery) 4a collection or body of (< finery) (< greenery) b class of (specified) goods (< ironmongery) (< confectionery) 5 state or condition of (< slavery) 6 all that is concerned with or characteristic of – chiefly derog
- <poetry> (<tomfoolery> **USE** -ry often after *d*, *t*, *l*, or *n*, otherwise -ry [ME -erie, fr OF, fr -ier -er + -ie -y]
- erysipelas** /,eri'sipələs/ *n* a feverish disease with intense deep red local inflammation of the skin, caused by infection by a streptococcal bacterium [ME *erisipila*, fr L *erysipelas*, fr Gk, fr *crysi-* (akin to Gk *erythros* red) + *-pelas* (akin to L *pellis* skin) – more at **RED**]
- erythema** /,eri'theema/ *n* abnormal redness of the skin [NL, fr Gk *erythema*, fr *erythainein* to redden, fr *erythros*] – **erythematous** /,eri'theemə'təs; also, erithe'mahtəs/ *adj*
- erythr-**, **erythro-** *comb form* 1 red (erythrocyte) 2 erythrocyte (<erythroid> [Gk, fr *erythros* – more at **RED**]
- erythroblast** /i'ritroh,blast/ *n* a nucleated bone-marrow cell that gives rise to red blood cells [ISV] – **erythroblastic** /-blastik/ *adj*
- erythrocyte** /i'ritrə'siet/ *n* RED BLOOD CELL [ISV] – **erythrocytic** /-sitik/ *adj*
- erythromycin** /i,ritrə'miesin/ *n* an antibiotic effective against many types of bacteria and some protozoans
- erythropoiesis** /i,ritroh'poy'eisis/ *n* the formation of red blood cells [NL, fr *erythr-* + Gk *poiesis* creation] – **erythropoietic** /-poy'etik/ *adj*
- erythropoietin** /i,ritroh'poyitin, -poy'etin/ *n* a hormone formed, esp in the kidney, in response to reduced oxygen concentration, that stimulates red blood cell formation [erythropoietic + -in]
- es** /-əz, -ɪz/ after *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch*; -z after *v* or a vowel/ suffix (< ~ n pl) 1 used to form the plural of most nouns that end in *s* (< glasses>), *z* (< fuzzes>), *sh* (< bushes>), *ch* (< peaches>), or a final *y* that changes to *i* (< ladies>) and some nouns ending in *f* that changes to *v* (< leaves>), compare 's 1 2 's 2 [ME -es, -s – more at 's]
- es** suffix (< ~ vb) – used to form the third person singular present of most verbs that end in *s* (< blesses>), *z* (< fixzes>), *ch* (< hushes>), *ch* (< catches>), or a final *y* that changes to *i* (< defines>), compare 's [ME – more at 's]
- escadrille** /'eska'dril/ *n* an air force unit of any of several European countries (e.g. France) [F, *flotilla*, *escadrille*, fr Sp *escuadrilla*, dim of *escuadra* squadron, squad – more at **SQUAD**]
- escalade** /'eska'layd/ *n* an act of scaling (the walls of a fortification) [F, fr It *scalata*, fr *scalare* to scale, fr *scala* ladder, fr LL – more at 'scall] – **escalade** *vi*, **escalader** *n*
- escalate** /'eska'layt/ *vi* 1 **EXPAND** 1a <the matter has ~d into something like a major scandal – Sunday Times Magazine> 2 **RISE** 10b <escalating prices> ~ *vi* **EXPAND** 1 [back-formation fr *escalator*] – **escalation** /'eska'laysh(ə)n/ *n*, **escalatory** /'eska'layt(ə)n/ *adj*
- escalator** /'eska'layta/ *n* a power-driven set of stairs arranged like an endless belt that ascend or descend continuously [fr *Escalator*, a trademark]
- scallop** /'eskolop, 'eskal-/ *n* a scallop
- escalope** /'eska'lop/ *n* a thin boneless slice of meat, esp a slice of veal from the leg – **MEAT** [F, fr MF, shell – more at **SCALLOP**]
- escapade** /'eskə'payd/ *n* a wild, reckless, and often mischievous adventure, esp one that flouts rules or convention [F, fr MF, fr OIt *scappata*, fr *scappare* to escape, fr (assumed) VL *exappare*]
- escape** /i'skayp/ *vi* 1a to get away, esp from confinement or restraint (< ~d from the burning building>) (< fantasy allows us to ~ from reality>) b of gases, liquids, etc to leak out gradually, seep c of a plant to run wild from cultivation 2 to avoid a threatening evil ~ *vt* 1 to get or stay out of the way of, avoid (< ~ death>) 2 to fail to be noticed or recallable by (< his name ~s me>) 3 to be produced or made by (esp a person), usu involuntarily (< a yawn ~d him>) [ME *escapen*, fr ONF *escaper*, fr (assumed) VL *exappare*, fr L *ex-* + LL *cappa* head covering, cloak] – **escapable** *adj*, **escaper** *n*, **escapee** /i'skay'pee/ *n*
- escape** *n* 1 an act or instance of escaping 2 a means of escape 3 a cultivated plant run wild
- escape** *adj* 1 providing a means of escape (< ~ hatch>) (< ~ literature>) 2 providing a means of evading a regulation, claim, or commitment (< ~ ~ clause in a contract>)
- escapement** /i'skaypmənt/ *n* a device in a timepiece through which the energy of the power source is delivered to the regulatory mechanism that controls the motion of the cogwheels [F'ESCAPE + -MENT]
- escape velocity** *n* the minimum velocity that a moving body (e.g. a rocket) must have to escape from the gravitational field of the earth or of a celestial body
- escapism** /i'skay,piz(ə)m/ *n* habitual diversion of the mind to purely imaginative activity or entertainment as an escape from reality or routine – **escapist** *adj* or *n*
- escapology** /'eska'poləji/ *n* the art or practice of escaping, esp as a theatrical performance – **escapologist** *n*

**escargot** /'eskəgoh/ (*Fr* eskargo)/ *n*, *pl* **escargots** /'eskəgohz (*Fr* ~)/ a snail prepared for use as food [F, fr MF, fr OProv *escaragol*]  
**escarp** /'ɪskəhp/ *vt* or *n* (to) **scarp** [F *escarpe*, *n*, fr It *scarpa*]  
**escarpment** /'ɪskəhpment/ *n* a long cliff or steep slope separating 2 more gently sloping surfaces  
**-escence** /'es(ə)ns/ *suffix* (→ *n*) process of becoming (<obsolescence>, state or condition of being (<alkalescence> (<effervescence> [MF, fr L *-escentia*, fr *-escent-*, *-escens* + *-ia* -y])  
**-escent** /'es(ə)nt/ *suffix* (→ *adj*) 1 being or beginning to be, slightly (<convalescent> (<incandescent> 2 reflecting or emitting light (in a specified way) (<fluorescent> (<opalescent> 3 having the properties of, resembling (<arborescent> [MF, fr L *-escent-*, *-escens*, *prp* suffix of incho verbs ending in *-escere*]  
**eschar** /'eskəh/ *n* a scab formed esp after a burn [ME *escare* – more at *scar*]  
**eschatology** /'eskə'tɒlədʒi/ *n* 1 a branch of theology or religious belief concerned with the ultimate destiny of the universe or of mankind 2 the Christian doctrine concerning death, judgment, heaven, and hell – compare LAST THINGS [Gk *eschatos* last, farthest] – **eschatological** /'eskə'tɒlədʒɪk/ *adj*, **eschatologically** *adv*  
**escheat** /'ɪscheɪt/ *n* the reversion of property to a government or feudal lord on the owner's dying without having made a will and without heirs, also property that has so reverted [ME *eschete*, fr OF, reversion of property, fr *eschec* to fall, devolve, fr (assumed) VL *excadere*, fr L *ex-* (assumed) VL *cadere* to fall, fr L *cadere* – more at *chance*]  
**eschew** *vb* to (cause to) revert by escheat – **eschetable** *adj*  
**eschew** /'ɪschuː/ *vt* to avoid habitually, esp on moral or practical grounds, shun – fml [ME *eschewen*, fr MF *eschiver*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *scrēhen* to frighten off – more at *shy*]  
**eschscholtziä** /'ɪskɒlʃə, 'ɛʃhɒltziː/ *n* any of a genus of yellow- or red-flowered (garden) plants of the poppy family [NL, genus name, fr J F Eschscholtz †1831 G naturalist]  
**escort** /'eskawt/ *n* 1 a person, group of people, ship, aircraft, etc accompanying sb or sth to give protection or show courtesy 2 one who accompanies another socially [F *escorte*, fr It *scorta*, fr *scorgere* to guide, fr (assumed) VL *excorrigere*, fr L *ex-* + *corrigere* to make straight, correct – more at *correct*]  
**escort** /'ɪskawt/ *vt* to accompany as an escort  
**escort agency** *n* an organization that provides usu female social escorts  
**escritoire** /'eskri'twəh/ *n* a writing table or desk [obs F, writing desk, scriptorium, fr ML *scriptorium*]  
**escrow** /'eskroʊ, -/ *n* a deed, money, piece of property, etc deposited with a third person to be delivered by him/her to a designated person only upon the fulfilment of some condition [MF *escroue* scroll] – in **escrow** in trust as an escrow  
**escudo** /'eskʊdoh/ *n*, *pl* **escudos**  *Portugal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau* at NATIONALITY [Sp & Pg, lit., shield, fr L *scutum*]  
**esculent** /'eskjuələnt/ *n* or *adj* (sthg that is) edible – fml [L *esculentus*, fr *esca* food, fr *edere* to eat – more at *eat*]  
**escutcheon** /'ɪskutʃən/ *n* 1 a shield on which a coat of arms is displayed 2 a protective or ornamental shield or plate (e.g. round a keyhole) [ME *escuchon*, fr MF *escuchon*, fr (assumed) VL *scutcheon*, *scutio*, fr L *scutum* shield – more at *esquire*]  
**-esse** /-eɪz/ *suffix* (*n* → *adj*) of or originating in (a specified place or country) (<Japanese> (<Viennese> [Pg -ēs & It -ese, fr L *-ensis*]  
**-esse** *suffix* (*n* → *n*), *pl* **-esse** 1 inhabitant of (<Chinese> 2a language of (<Portuguese> (<Cantonese> b speech, literary style, or diction peculiar to (a specified place, person, or group) – chiefly derog (<Journalese> (<officialese>)  
**esker** also **eskar** /'eska/ *n* a long narrow ridge of sand and gravel deposited by a stream flowing from a retreating glacier  GEOGRAPHY [IrGael *escair* ridge]  
**Eskimo** also **Esquimaux** /'eskɪmoh/ *n*, *pl* **Eskimos**, *esp* collectively **Eskimo** (a member or the language of) any of a group of peoples of N Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and E Siberia  LANGUAGE [Dan *Eskimo* & F *Esquimaux*, of Algonquian origin, akin to Cree *askimowew* he eats it raw] – **Eskimoan** /'eski'moh-ən/ *adj*  
**Eskimo dog** *n* (any of) a breed of broad-chested powerful sledge dogs native to Greenland and Labrador  
**esophag-**, **esophago-** *comb* form, *NAM* **oesophag-**, **oesophago-**  
**esoteric** /'esə'terɪk, 'esoh-/ *adj* 1 designed for, understood by, or restricted to a small group, esp of the specially initiated (<knowledge> (<~ pursuits> – compare EXOTERIC 2 private, confidential (<an ~ purpose>) [LL *esotericus*, fr Gk *esōterikos*, fr *esōtero*, compar of *esō*, *esō*

within, fr *eis* into, fr *en* in – more at *in*] – **esoterically** *adv*, **esotericism** /-rɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*  
**ESP** *n* extrasensory perception [extrasensory perception]  
**espadrille** /'espə'drɪl/ *n* a flat sandal that usu has a canvas upper and a rope sole and is tied round the ankle or leg with laces  GARMENT [F]  
**espallier** /'ɪspəliə/ *n* (a fruit tree or shrub trained to grow flat against) a railing, trellis, etc [F, deriv of It *spalla* shoulder, fr LL *spatula* shoulder blade – more at *epaulette*]  
**esparto** /'ɪspətoh/ *n*, *pl* **espartos** either of 2 Spanish and Algerian grasses used esp to make rope, shoes, and paper [Sp, fr L *spartum*, fr Gk *sparton* – more at *spire*]  
**especial** /'ɪspesh(ə)l/ *adj* (distinctively or particularly) special [ME, fr MF – more at *SPECIAL*] – **especially** *adv*  
**Esperanto** /'espə'rəntoh/ *n* an artificial international language largely based on words common to the chief European languages [Dr *Esperanto* (deriv of L *sperare* to hope), pseudonym of L L Zamenhof †1917 Pol oculist, its inventor] – **Esperantist** *n* or *adj*  
**espial** /'ɪspie-əl/ *n* (an act of) spying or observing  
**espionage** /'espɪ-ənəʒh, -nɪ-, -nɪj, 'ɪspie-/ *n* spying or the use of spies to obtain information (<industrial ~> [F *espionnage*, fr MF, fr *espionner* to spy, fr *espion* spy, fr OIt *spione*, fr *spia*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *spehōn* to spy – more at *spy*]  
**esplanade** /'esplə'nədh, -nədh/ *n* a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground, esp along a shore [F, fr It *spianata*, fr *spianare* to level, fr L *explanare* – more at *EXPLAIN*]  
**esposal** /'ɪspowzəl/ *n* 1 a betrothal; also a marriage – often *pl* with sing meaning, fml 2 the adoption or support of a cause or belief  
**espouse** /'ɪspowz/ *vt* 1 to marry – fml 2 to take up and support as a cause, become attached to (<~ the problems of minority groups> [ME *espousen*, fr MF *espouser*, fr LL *sponsare* to betroth, fr L *sponsus*, *pp* of *spondere* to promise, betroth – more at *spouse*] – **espouser** *n*  
**espresso** /'ɪspresoh/ *n*, *pl* **espressos** (an apparatus for making) coffee brewed by forcing steam through finely ground coffee beans [It (<caffè espresso, lit., pressed out coffee)]  
**esprit** /'espreɪ/ *n* vivacious cleverness or wit [F, fr L *spiritus* spirit]  
**esprit de 'corps** /də 'kaw/ *n* the common spirit and loyalty existing among the members of a group [F]  
**espy** /'ɪspie/ *vt* to catch sight of [ME *espien*, fr OF *espier* – more at *spy*]  
**-esque** /'esk/ *suffix* (*n* → *adj*) in the manner or style of, like (<statuesque> (<Kafkaesque> (<romanesque> [F, fr It *-esco*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *-isc* -ish – more at *-ish*]  
**Esquimaux** /'eskɪmoh/ *n*, *pl* **Esquimaux**, *esp* collectively **Esquimaux** (an) Eskimo  
**esquire** /'ɪskwɪə/ *n* 1 a member of the English gentry ranking below a knight 2 – used instead of Mr as a man's courtesy title and usu placed in its abbreviated form after the surname (<J R Smith, Esq> 3 archaic a landed proprietor [ME, fr MF *esquier* squire, fr LL *scutarius*, fr L *scutum* shield; akin to OHG *scēda* sheath]  
**-ess** /-ɪs, -əs, -es/ *suffix* (*n* → *n*) female (<actress> (<honest> – often derog (<Negress> (<poetess> [ME *-esse*, fr OF, fr LL *-issa*, fr Gk]  
**essay** /'esay/ *vt* to attempt – fml – **essay** *n*  
**essay** /'esay/ *n* 1 a usu short piece of prose writing on a specific topic 2 an (initial tentative) effort or attempt – fml [MF *essai*, fr LL *exagium* act of weighing, fr *ex-* + *agere* to drive – more at *AGENT*] – **essayist** *n*, **essayistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*  
**essence** /'es(ə)ns/ *n* 1a the real or ultimate nature of an individual being or thing, esp as opposed to its existence or its accidental qualities b the properties or attributes by means of which sth can be categorized or identified 2 sthg that exists, esp in an abstract form; an entity 3a (an alcoholic solution or other preparation of) an extract, essential oil, etc possessing the special qualities of a plant, drug, etc in concentrated form b an odour, perfume c one who or that which resembles an extract in possessing a quality in concentrated form [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *essentia*, fr *esse* to be – more at *is*] – in **essence** in or by its very nature; essentially – of the **essence** of the utmost importance; **essential** (<time was of the essence>)  
**essential** /'ɪsens(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or being (an) essence; inherent 2 of the utmost importance; basic, necessary (<~ foods> (<an ~ requirement for admission to university>) 3 idiopathic – **essentially** *adv*, **essentialness**, **essentiality** /-ʃɪ'əlsɪti/ *n*  
**essential** *n* sthg basic, indispensable, or fundamental (<the ~s of astronomy>)

**essential amino acid** *n* an amino acid (e.g. lysine) that is required in the diet for normal health and growth

**es'sentialism** /-iz(ə)m/ *n* a philosophical theory that regards the essence of sthg as more important than its existence – compare EXISTENTIALISM – **essentialist** *adj* or *n*

**es'sential oil** *n* any of various volatile oils that give the characteristic smells to plants and are used esp in perfumes and flavourings – compare FIXED OIL

**-est** /-ɪst/ *suffix* (*adj* or *adv* → *adj* or *adv*) – used to form the superlative degree of adjectives and adverbs of 1 and sometimes 2 or more syllables that end in a consonant (<fastest> <dearest>), a vowel other than *e*, or a final *y* that changes to *i* (<dearest>), compare **-st** [ME, fr OE *-st*, *-est*, *-ost*, akin to OHG *-isto* (*adj* superl suffix), Gk *-istos*]

**-est, -st** /-ɪst/ *suffix* (→ *vb*) – used to form the archaic second person singular of verbs (with *thou*) [ME, fr OE *-est*, *-ast*, *-st*, akin to OHG *-ist*, *-ost*, *-est*, 2 sing. ending]

**establish** /'ɪstəblɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to make firm or stable 2 to enact permanently <~ a law> 3 to bring into existence; found <~ ed a republic> 4a to set on a firm basis; place (e.g. oneself) in a permanent or firm usu favourable position <~ ed himself as the leader> b to gain full recognition or acceptance of <she ~ ed her fame as an actress> 5 to make (a church or religion) a national institution supported by civil authority 6 to put beyond doubt; prove <~ ed his innocence> 7 to cause (a plant) to grow and multiply in a place where previously absent [ME *establisshen*, fr MF *establis*, stem of *establier*, fr L *stabilire*, fr *stabilis* stable] – **establishable** *adj*, **establisher** *n*

**establishment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 sthg established e.g. a usu large organization or institution b a place of business or residence with its furnishings and staff 2 an established order of society: e.g. a *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, often *cap* the entrenched social, economic, and political leaders of a nation b often *cap* a controlling group <the literary ~> [ESTABLISH + -MENT]

**establishmentarian** /,ɪstəblɪʃmənt'etəriən/ *adj* of or favouring the social or political establishment or esp the established religion – **establishmentarian** *n*, **establishmentarianism** *n*

**estaminet** /'estamɪnɛ/ (*Fr* *estamine*) / *n*, *pl* *estaminets* / ~ / a small café [F]

**estate** /'ɪstet/ *n* 1 a social or political class (e.g. the nobility, clergy, or commons) 2a(1) the whole of sby's real or personal property (2) the assets and liabilities left by sby at death b a large landed property, esp in the country, usu with a large house on it 3 *Br* a part of an urban area devoted to a particular type of development <a housing ~ next to an industrial ~>; *specif* one devoted to housing <a council ~> 4 a state, condition – *fml* <men of low ~> [ME *estat*, fr MF – more at STATE]

**estate agent**, *Br* 1 an agent who is involved in the buying and selling of land and property (e.g. houses) 2 one who manages an estate, a steward

**estate car**, *n*, *Br* a relatively large motor car with a nearly vertical rear door and 1 compartment in which both passengers and bulky luggage can be carried

**estate duty** *n* DEATH DUTY

**esteem** /'i:stɛm/ *n* favourable regard <held in high ~ by his colleagues>

**esteem** *vt* 1 to consider, deem <would ~ it a privilege> 2 to set a high value on; regard highly and prize accordingly [ME *estemen* to estimate, fr MF *estimer*, fr L *aestimare*]

**ester** /'estə/ *n* a (fragrant) compound formed by the reaction between an acid and an alcohol usu with elimination of water [G, fr *essig* *ether* ethyl acetate, fr *essig* vinegar + *äther* ether]

**esterify** /'estɜːfɪ/ *vt* to convert into an ester – **esterification** /'estɜːfɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Esther** /'estə/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament concerning) a Jewish heroine and queen of Persia [L, fr Heb *Estér*]

**aesthesia** /,æ'sti:ʃiə, -ziə; also /,æ-s-/ *n*, *NAM* *aesthesia* – **esthesia** /-sɪs/ *n*

**aestheo-** *comb form*, *NAM* *aestheo-*

**aesthete** /'æsthi:t/ *n*, *NAM* an aesthete – **aesthetic** /'ɪstetɪk, es-/ *adj*, *esthetics* *n*


**estimable** /'estɪməbl/ *adj* worthy of esteem – **estimableness** *n*

**estimate** /'estɪmət/ *vt* 1a to judge approximately the value, worth, or significance of b to determine roughly the size, extent, or nature of c to produce a statement of the approximate cost of 2 to judge, conclude [L *aestimatus*, pp of *aestimare* to value, estimate] – **estimative** /-mətɪv/ *adj*, **estimator** *n*

**estimate** /'estɪmət/ *n* 1 the act of appraising or valuing; a calculation

2 an opinion or judgment of the nature, character, or quality of sby or sthg 3 (the numerical value of) a rough or approximate calculation 4 a statement of the expected cost of a job

**estimation** /'estɪməʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 ESTIMATE 2 2a estimating b the value, amount, or size arrived at in an estimate 3 esteem

**Estonian** /'estəʊniən, -niən/ *n* a native of the Finno-Ugric language of Estonia  LANGUAGE [Estonia, country in N Europe, now republic of USSR] – **Estonian** *adj*

**estop** /'ɪstɒp/ *vt* -*pp-* to impede, esp by estoppel [ME *estoppen*, fr MF *estouper*]

**estoppel** /'ɪstɒp(ə)l/ *n* a legal bar to alleging or denying a fact because of one's previous actions or words [prob fr MF *estoupail* bung, fr *estouper*]

**estr-, estro-** *comb form*, *NAM* *oestr-*

**estrangle** /'ɪstreɪn/ *vt* to arouse enmity or indifference in (sby) in place of affection, alienate – *usu* + *from* <~ d from her husband> [MF *estranger*, fr ML *extraneare*, fr L *extraneus* strange – more at STRANGE] – **estrangement** *n*, **estranger** *n*

**estuarine** /'estjuəri:n, -ri:n/, *estuarial* /'estjuəri:əl/ *adj* of, living in, or formed in an estuary <~ currents> <~ animals>

**estuary** /'estjuəri/ *n* a water passage where the tide meets a river, esp a sea inlet at the mouth of a river [L *aestuarium*, fr *aestus* boiling, tide, akin to L *aestas* summer – more at LDI V]

**esurient** /'ɪsjuəri-ənt/ *adj* hungry, greedy – *fml* [L *esuriens*, *esuriens*, prp of *esurre* to be hungry, fr *edere* to eat] – **esurience**, **esuriency** *n*, **esuriently** *adv*

**-et** /-ɪt, -et/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 small or lesser kind of <baronet> <islet> 2 group of (a specified number) <octet> [ME, fr OF *-et*, masc, & *-ete*, fem, fr LL *-itus* & *-ita*]

**eta** /'eɪtə/ *n* the 7th letter of the Greek alphabet [LL, fr Gk *eta*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *heth*, 8th letter of the Heb alphabet]

**et al** /'et 'al/ *adv* and others [I. *et alii* (masc), *et aliae* (fem), *et alia* (neut)]

**etatism** /'ætətɪz(ə)m/ *n* STATE SOCIALISM [F *étatisme*, fr *état* state, fr OF *estat*] – **etatist** *adj*

**etc** /ɪt 'etərə/ *adv* ET CETERA

**et cetera** /ɪt 'etərə/ *adv* and other things, esp of the same kind, broadly – and so forth [L]

**et ceteras** *n* *pl* unspecified additional items, OMOS AND ENDS

**etch** /'etʃ/ *vt* 1a to produce (e.g. a picture or letters), esp on a plate of metal or glass, by the corrosive action of an acid b to subject (metal, glass, etc) to such etching 2 to delineate or impress clearly <scenes that are indelibly ~ ed in our minds> ~ *vi* to practise etching [D *etsen*, fr G *ätzen*, lit, to feed, fr OHG *azzen*, akin to OHG *ezzan* to eat – more at EAT] – **etcher** *n*

**etch** *n* (the action or effect of) an etching acid (on a surface)

**etching** /'etʃɪŋ/ *n* 1 the art of producing pictures or designs by printing from an etched metal plate 2 an impression from an etched plate

**eternal** /'i:tuənl/ *adj* 1 having infinite duration, everlasting <~ life> 2 incessant, interminable 3 timeless <the ~ truths> [MF, fr MF, fr LL *aeternalis*, fr L *aeternus* eternal, akin to L *aevum* age, eternity – more at 'AYE] – **eternalize** *vt*, **eternally** *adv*, **eternals** *n*, **eternize** /'i:tuəniəz/ *vt*

**eternal** *n* 1 *cap* GOD 1 – + the 2 sthg eternal

**eternal triangle** *n* a conflict that results from the sexual attraction between 2 people of one sex and 1 person of the other

**eternity** /'i:tuəni:ti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being eternal 2 infinite time 3 the eternal life after death 4 a (seemingly) endless or immeasurable time <we waited an ~ for the train> [ME *eternite*, fr MF *eternité*, fr L *aeternitas*, *aeternitas*, fr *aeternus*]

**etesian winds** /'i:teziən, -zən/ *n* *pl*, often *cap* E annually recurring summer winds that blow over the Mediterranean [L *etesius*, fr Gk *etēsios*, fr *etos* year – more at WETHER]

**eth** /'etθ/ *n* a letter ð used in Old English and Icelandic – compare THORN 4 [Ice]

**eth-, etho-** *comb form* ethyl <ethaldehyde> <ethochloride> [ISV]

**-eth** /-ɪθ/, **-th** /-θ/ *suffix* (vb → *vb*) – used to form the archaic third person singular present of verbs <goeth> <doth> [ME, fr OE *-eth*, *-ath*, *-th*; akin to OHG *-it*, *-ot*, *-et*, 3 sing. ending, L *-it*, *-it*]

**eth** /-ɪθ/ – see ' , ' -TH

**ethane** /'eɪθən/ *n* an odourless gaseous hydrocarbon of the alkane group found in natural gas and used esp as a fuel [ISV, fr *ethy*]

**ethanol** /'etθə,nɒl, 'eɪθ-/ *n* ALCOHOL 1

**ethene** /'eɪθen/ *n* ethylene

**ether** /'eɪθə/ *n* 1 ether, **aether** (the rarefied element formerly believed

to fill) the upper regions of space; the heavens **2 ether**, **aether** a medium formerly held to permeate all space and transmit electromagnetic waves (e.g. light and radio waves) **3a** a volatile inflammable liquid used esp as a solvent and formerly as a general anaesthetic **b** any of various organic compounds characterized by an oxygen atom attached to 2 carbon atoms [ME, fr L *aether*, fr Gk *aithēr*, fr *aithein* to ignite, blaze] – **etherish** *adj*, **etheric** /eɪˈθerɪk/, *n* /-ədʒ/

**ethereal** /iˈθiəriəl; sense 3, eθəˈreə-əl/ *adj* **1** of the regions beyond the earth **2a** lacking material substance, intangible **b** marked by unusual delicacy, lightness, and refinement **3** of, containing, or resembling a chemical ether **4** celestial, heavenly – poetic [L *aethereus*, fr Gk *aithēros*, fr *aithēr*] – **ethereally** *adv*, **ethereality** /iˈθiəriˈæləti/, **ethereality** *n*, **etherealize** *vt*, **etherealization** /-iˈeɪʒən/ *n*

**ether-ize**, **-ise** /eθəˈraɪz/, *vt* to treat or anaesthetize (as if) with ether – **etherizer** *n*, **etherization** /eθəˈraɪzən/ *n*

**ethic** /eθɪk/ *n* **1 pl** but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* inquiry into the nature and basis of moral principles and judgments **2** a set of moral principles or values (<the current materialistic ~>) **3 pl** but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group (<professional ~>) [ME *ethik*, fr MF *ethique*, fr L *ethice*, fr Gk *ethike*, fr *ethikos*] – **ethically** *adv*, **ethicalness** *n*

**ethical** /eθɪkəl/ *also ethic* *adj* **1** conforming to accepted, esp professional, standards of conduct or morality **2** of a drug available to the general public only on a doctor's or dentist's prescription [ME *etik*, fr L *ethicus*, fr Gk *ethikos*, fr *ethos* character] – **ethically** *adv*, **ethicity** /eθɪˈkæləti/, **ethicalness** *n*

**ethinyl** /eθəˈnɪl, ˈθiːniəl, -niəl/ *n* ethynyl

**Ethiopian** /eθiˈoʊpi-ən, -pyən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Ethiopia [Ethiopia, country in NE Africa]

**Ethiopic** /eθiˈoʊpɪk, -oʊpɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of) a Semitic language used as the Christian liturgical language in Ethiopia

**ethmoid** /eθˈmɔɪd/, **ethmoidal** /eθˈmɔɪdl/ *adj* of, adjoining, or being **1** or more bones of the walls and septum of the nasal cavity [F *ethmoide*, fr Gk *ethmoidea*, lit., like a strainer, fr *ethmos* strainer] – **ethmoid** *n*

**ethnarch** /eθˈnɑːk/ *n* the governor of a province or people [Gk *ethnarches*, fr *ethnos* nation, people + *archos* ruler]

**ethnic** /eθˈnɪk/ *adj* **1** of or being human races or large groups classed according to common traits (< minorities > (< groups >)) **2** of an exotic, esp peasant, culture (< restaurants >) [ME, fr LL *ethnicus*, fr Gk *ethnikos* national, gentile, fr *ethnos*] – **ethnicity** /eθˈnɪsɪti, -səti/ *n*

**ethnic** *n*, chiefly NAm a member of an ethnic (minority) group

**ethnical** /eθˈnɪkəl/ *adj* **1** ethnic **2** ethnological – **ethnically** *adv*

**ethno-** *comb form* race, people; cultural group (<ethnocentric >) [F, fr Gk *ethno-*, *ethn-*, fr *ethnos*]

**ethnocentric** /eθˈnɒsɪntɪk/ *adj* **1** having race as a central interest **2** regarding one's own group as superior – **ethnocentrically** *adv*, **ethnocentricity** /-sɪntɪsɪti/ *n*, **ethnocentrism** *n*

**ethnography** /eθˈnɒɡrəfi/ *n* ethnology; specif descriptive anthropology [F *ethnographie*, fr *ethno-* + *-graphie* -graphy] – **ethnographer** *n*, **ethnographic** /eθˈnɒɡrəfɪk/, **ethnographical** *adj*, **ethnographically** *adv*

**ethnology** /eθˈnɒləʒi/ *n* a science that deals with the various forms of social relationships (e.g. kinship, law, religion, etc) found in esp prehistoric human societies – **ethnologist** *n*, **ethnologic** /eθˈnɒləʒɪk/, **ethnological** *adj*, **ethnologically** *adv*

**ethnomusicology** /eθˈnɒh,myoʊhziˈkɒləʒi/ *n* the study of the music of non-European cultures – **ethnomusicologist** *n*, **ethnomusicological** /-kɒləʒɪkəl/ *adj*

**ethology** /iˈθɒləʒi/ *n* **1** the study of the formation and evolution of human characters and beliefs **2** the scientific study of animal behaviour [L *ethologia* art of depicting character, fr Gk *ethologia*, fr *ēthos*] – **ethologist** *n*, **ethological** /iˈθɒləʒɪkəl/ *adj*

**ethos** /eθos/ *n* the distinguishing character or guiding beliefs of a person, institution, etc [NL, fr Gk *ethos* custom, character]

**ethyl** /eθɪl, ˈeθɪl, -thiəl/ *n* a univalent hydrocarbon radical C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, derived from ethane [ISV *ether* + *-yl*]

**ethyl acetate** *n* a fragrant volatile inflammable liquid ester used esp as a solvent and in flavourings

**ethyl alcohol** *n* ALCOHOL **1**

**ethylene** /eθɪˈliːn/ *n* **1** an inflammable gaseous unsaturated hydrocarbon of the alkene group, found in coal gas and used esp in organic chemical synthesis **2** a bivalent hydrocarbon radical C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, derived from ethane – **ethylenic** /-ləˈniːk/ *adj*

**ethylene glycol** *n* a thick liquid alcohol used esp as an antifreeze

**ethyl ether** *n* ETHER **3a**

**ethynyl**, **ethinyl** /eθˈnɪl, ˈθiːniəl, -niəl/ *n* a radical HC≡C derived

from acetylene by removal of 1 hydrogen atom [*ethyne*, *ethine* (acetylene) (fr *ethyl* + *-ine*) + *-yl*]

**-etic** /-etɪk/ *suffix* (→ *adj*) **1** *-ic* (<ascetic >) – often in adjectives corresponding to nouns ending in *-esis* (<genetic >) (<synthetic >) [L & Gk; L *-eticus*, fr Gk *-ētikos*, *-ētikos*, fr *-ētos*, *-ētos*, ending of certain verbals]

**etiolate** /eɪˈtɔɪə, -tɔɪ-ə/ *vt* **1** to bleach and alter the natural development of (a green plant) by excluding sunlight **2** to make weak, pale, or sickly [F *étiole*, fr ONF *éteuler* to turn to stubble, fr *éteule* stubble, deriv of L *stipula* straw] – **etiolation** /eɪˈtɔɪəʃən/ *n*, *-tɔɪ-ə/ n*


**etiology** /eɪˈtɔɪəʒi/ *n*, NAm *aetiology* – **etiologic** /eɪˈtɔɪləʒɪk/, **etiological** *adj*, **etiologically** *adv*

**etiquette** /eɪˈket/ *n* the conventionally accepted standards of proper social or professional behaviour (<medical ~>) [F *étiquette*, lit., ticket – more at TICKET]

**Eton collar** /eɪtən/ *n* a large stiff turnover collar [Eton College, public school in England]

**Etonian** /eɪˈtɒniən, -ni-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a pupil) of Eton College

**étrier** /eɪˈtriː/ (Fr *étrier*) *n* a short rope ladder used in mountaineering, potholing, etc [F *étrier*, lit., stirrup]

**Etruscan** /ɪˈtrʊskən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant or the language) of ancient Etruria  ALPHABET [L *Etruscus* of Etruria, ancient country of Italy]

**-ette** /-et/ *suffix* (*n* – *n*) **1** small or lesser kind of (<kitchenette >) (<cigarette >) **2** female (<suffragette >) (<usherette >) **3** imitation, substitute (<leatherette >) (<flannelette >) [ME, fr MF, fem dim. suffix, fr OF *-ete* – more at -ET]

**étude** /əˈyʊtoʊd (Fr *étude*)/ *n* a piece of music written primarily for the practice of a technique [F, lit., study, fr MF *estude*, *estudie*]

**etui** /eɪˈtweɪ/ *n*, *pl* *etuis* /eɪˈtweɪz/ a small ornamental case, esp for needles [F *étui*]

**etymologize**, **-ise** /eɪˈmɒləʒɪz/ *vt* to discover or give an etymology for ~ *vi* to study or formulate etymologies

**etymology** /eɪˈmɒləʒi/ *n* **1** the history of the origin and development of a word or other linguistic form **2** a branch of linguistics dealing with etymologies [ME *ethimologie*, fr L *etymologia*, fr Gk, fr *etymon* + *-logia* -logy] – **etymologist** *n*, **etymological** /-məˈləʒɪkəl/ *adj*, **etymologically** *adv*

**etymon** /eɪˈtɒm/ *n*, *pl* *etyma* /-mə/ *also* *etymons* an earlier linguistic form from which derivatives are formed [L, fr Gk, literal meaning of a word according to its origin, fr *etymos* true; akin to Gk *eteos* true]

**eu-** *comb form* **1a** well, easily (<euplastic >) (<euphonious >) **b** good (<eupepsia >) **2** true (<euchromatin >) **USE** (1) compare *eu-* **2** [ME, fr L, fr Gk, fr *eu*, *eu*, fr neut of *eys* good, akin to Hitt *asus* good, & perh to L *esse* to be]

**eucalypt** /yoʊhˈkɑːlɪpt/ *n* a eucalyptus

**eucalyptol** /yoʊhˈkɑːlɪptəl/ *n* cineole

**eucalyptus** /yoʊhˈkɑːlɪptəs/ *n*, *pl* *eucalyptuses*, *eucalypti* /-lɪpti/ *any* of a genus of mostly Australian evergreen trees of the myrtle family that are widely cultivated for their gums, resins, oils, and wood [NL, genus name, fr *eu-* + Gk *kalyptos* covered, fr *kalypten* to conceal, fr the conical covering of the buds]

**eucaryote** /yoʊhˈkɑːriəʊt, -ət/ *n* a eukaryote – **eucaryotic** /yoʊhˈkɑːriəʊtɪk/ *adj*

**Eucharist** /yoʊhˈkɑːrɪst/ *n* (the bread and wine consecrated in) the Christian sacrament in which bread and wine, being or representing the body and blood of Christ, are ritually consumed in accordance with Christ's injunctions at the Last Supper [ME *eukarist*, fr MF *euchariste*, fr LL *eucharistia*, fr Gk, Eucharist, gratitude, fr *eucharistos* grateful, fr *eu-* + *charizesthai* to show favour, fr *charis* favour, grace, gratitude] – **eucharistic** /yoʊhˈkɑːrɪstɪk/ *adj*, *often* *cap*

**euchre** /yoʊhˈkreɪ/ *n* a US card game in which a player must take at least 3 out of 5 tricks to win [origin unknown]

**euchre** *vt* to prevent from winning 3 tricks in euchre

**euchromatin** /yoʊhˈkroʊmətɪn/ *n* the genetically active part of chromatin that is largely composed of genes [G, fr *eu-* + *chromatin*] – **euchromatic** /-məˈtɪk/ *adj*

**euclidean** /yoʊhˈkliːdi-ən/ *adj*, *often* *cap* of or being the geometry of Euclid that describes euclidean space [Euclid fl ab 300 bc Gk mathematician]

**euclidean space** *n*, *often* *cap* *E* the normal three-dimensional space in which euclidean geometry applies

**eudemonism**, **eudaemonism** /yoʊhˈdeɪməˌnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the doctrine that personal well-being through a life governed by reason is the sole or chief good [Gk *eudaimonia* happiness, fr *eudaimon* happy, fr *eu-* + *daimōn* spirit] – **eudemonist** *n*, **eudemonistic** /yoʊhˈdeɪməˌnɪstɪk/ *adj*



**eugenic** /yooh'jenik/ *adj* 1 relating to or fit for the production of good offspring 2 of eugenics [Gk *eugenes* wellborn, fr *eu-* + *-genés* born – more at *-GEN*] – **eugenically** *adv*

**eugenics** *n pl* but *sing* in constr a science dealing with the improvement (e.g. by control of human mating) of the hereditary qualities of a race or breed – **eugenicist** /-nist/ *n*

**euglena** /yooh'gleenə/ *n* any of a genus of green freshwater single-celled organisms that move by means of a long flagellum [NL, genus name, fr *eu-* + Gk *glēnē* eyeball, socket of a joint] – **euglenoid** /-noyd/ *adj* or *n*

**euhemerism** /yooh'hēmə,nz(ə)m/ *n* interpretation of myths in terms of historical people and events [Euhemerus, 4th-c BC Gk mythographer] – **euhemerist** *n*, **euhemerize** *vt*, **euhemeristic** /-'ristik/ *adj*, **euhemeristically** *adv*

**eukaryote**, **eucaryote** /yooh'kariənt, -ət/ *n* an organism composed of 1 or more cells typically with visibly evident nuclei – compare *PROKARYOTE* [*eu-* + *kary-* + *-ote* (as in *zygote*)] – **eukaryotic** /-'otik, -'ohtik/ *adj*

**eulogize**, **-ise** /'yoohlə,jɪz/ *vt* to extol – **eulogizer** *n*

**eulogy** /'yoohləjɪ/ *n* 1 a (formal) speech or piece of writing in praise of a person or thing 2 high praise [ME *eulogie*, fr ML *eulogium*, fr Gk *eulogia* praise, fr *eu-* + *-logia* -logy] – **eulogist** *n*, **eulogistic** /-'jɪstik/ *adj*, **eulogistically** *adv*

**Eumenides** /yooh'meni,deɪz/ *n pl* the Furies [L, fr Gk, lit., the well-disposed ones]

**eunuch** /yooh'nʊk/ *n* 1 a castrated man employed, esp. formerly, in a harem or as a chamberlain in a palace 2 a man or boy deprived of the testes or external genitals [ME *eunuk*, fr L *eunuchus*, fr Gk *eunouchos*, fr *eune* bed + *echein* to have, have charge of – more at *SCHEME*] – **eunuchism** *n*, **eunuchoid** /-koyd/ *adj* or *n*

**euonymus** /yooh'oni'məs/ *n* SPINDLE TREE [NL, genus name, fr L *euonymus* spindle tree, fr Gk *euōnymos*, fr *euonymos* having an auspicious name, fr *eu-* + *onyma* name – more at *NAME*]

**eupepsia** /yooh'pepsi-ə/ *n* 1 good digestion 2 happiness, optimism [USE fml [NL, fr *eu-* + *-pepsia* (as in *dyspepsia*)] – **eupeptic** /-tik/ *adj*

**euphemism** /yooh'fə,mɪz(ə)m/ *n* the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for an offensive or unpleasant one; also the expression so substituted (fall asleep is a ~ for die) [Gk *euphemismos*, fr *euphēmos* auspicious, sounding good, fr *eu-* + *phēmē* speech, fr *phānai* to say, speak – more at *'BAN*] – **euphemistic** /-'mɪstɪk/ *adj*, **euphemistically** *adv*

**euphemize**, **-ise** /yooh'fə,mɪz/ *vb* to employ or express by a euphemism – **euphemizer** *n*

**euphonious** /yooh'fohnɪəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* pleasing to the ear – **euphoni-ously** *adv*, **euphonize** /yooh'fə,nɪz/ *vt*

**euphonium** /yooh'fohnɪəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a brass instrument smaller than but resembling a tuba and having a range from B flat below the bass staff upwards for 3 octaves [Gk *euphōnos* + E *-ium* (as in *harmonium*)]

**euphony** /yooh'fəni/ *n* a pleasing or sweet sound, esp. in speech [F *euphonie*, fr LL *euphonia*, fr Gk *euphōnia*, fr *euphōnos* sweet-voiced, musical, fr *eu-* + *phōnē* voice – more at *'BAN*] – **euphonic** /-'fənik/ *adj*, **euphonically** *adv*

**euphoria** /yooh'fawri-ə/ *n* an (inappropriate) feeling of well-being or elation – compare *DYSPHORIA* [NL, fr Gk, fr *euphoros* healthy, fr *eu-* + *pherein* to bear – more at *'BEAR*] – **euphoric** /-'fənik/ *adj*, **euphorically** *adv*

**euphuism** /yooh'fyooh,jɪz(ə)m/ *n* an artificial and ornate style of writing or speaking [Euphues, character in prose romances by John Lyly †1606 E writer] – **euphuist** *n*, **euphuistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*, **euphuistically** *adv*

**Eur-**, **Euro-** *comb form* 1 European (Eurocommunism); European and (Eurasian) 2 European Economic Community (Eurocrat) [Europe]

**Eurasian** /yooh'raɪz(ə)n, yoo'raɪ-/ *adj* 1 of, growing in, or living in Europe and Asia 2 of mixed European and Asian origin – **Eurasian** *n*

**eureka** /yooh'rieka/ *interj* – used to express triumph at a discovery [Gk *heureka* I have found, fr *heuriskein* to find; fr the exclamation attributed to Archimedes †212 BC Gk mathematician & inventor on finding a method for determining the purity of gold]

**eurythmic**, **eurythmic** /yooh'ndhmik/ *adj* 1 harmonious 2 of eurythmics

**eu'rhythmics**, **eurythmics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr the art of harmonious bodily movement, esp. through expressive timed movements in response to music [G *eurythmie*, fr L *eurythmia* rhythmical movement, fr Gk, fr *eurythmos* rhythmical, fr *eu-* + *rhythmos* rhythm]

**euro** /yooh'roʊh/ *n*, **pl euros** Austr a large reddish grey kangaroo [native name in Australia]

**Eurocommunism** /yooh'roʊh'komyoonɪz(ə)m/ *n* Communism as it


manifests itself in W Europe (e.g. in Italy and France) – **Eurocommunist** *adj* or *n*

**Eurocrat** /-krat/ *n* a staff member of the administrative commission of the European Economic Community – *infml* [European + *-crat* (as in *bureaucrat*)]

**Eurodollar** /-dɒlə/ *n* a US dollar held (e.g. by a bank) outside the USA, esp. in Europe [Europe + *dollar*]

**European** /yooh'pē-ən/ *adj* 1 native to Europe 2 of European descent or origin 3 concerned with or affecting the whole of Europe 4 advocating European unity or alliance [L *Europaeus*, fr Gk *Europaíos*, fr *Europe* Europe] – **Europeanism** *n*, **Europeanize** *vt*, **Europeanization** /yooh'pē-ən-ɪ-zeɪʃən/ *n*


**European** *n* a native or inhabitant of (the mainland of) Europe

**europium** /yooh'roʊpi-əm, -pyəm/ *n* a bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *Europa* Europe]

**Eurovision** /yooh'raɪvɪz(ə)n/ *trademark* – used for a television service enabling several chiefly W European broadcasting organizations to exchange programmes

**eurythmic** /yooh'ndhmik/ *adj* eurythmic

**eu'rhythmics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr eurythmics

**eustachian tube** /yooh'stayʃyan, -ʃən/ *n*, often *cap E* a tube connecting the middle ear with the pharynx that equalizes air pressure on both sides of the eardrum  NERVE [Bartolommeo Eustachio †1574 It anatomist]

**eustatic** /yooh'statik/ *adj* of or characterized by worldwide change of sea level [ISV]

**eutectic** /yooh'tektik/ *adj* of or being (the melting or freezing point of) an alloy or other mixture in which the constituents are in such proportions that the melting point is the lowest possible for a mixture of these substances [Gk *eutektos* easily melted, fr *eu-* + *tektos* melted, fr *tekein* to melt – more at *'HAW*] – **eutectic** *n*, **eutectoid** /-toyd/ *adj* or *n*

**euthanasia** /yooh'thə'nayzɪə, -zə, -zɪ-ə/ *n* the act or practice of killing (hopelessly sick or injured) individuals for reasons of mercy [Gk, easy death, fr *eu-* + *thanatos* death] – **euthanasic** /-zɪk/ *adj*

**etherian** /yooh'thiəri-ən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a mammal of a major division comprising those mammals that have placentas [deriv. of NL *eu-* + Gk *theron* wild beast – more at *TREACLE*]

**ethyroid** /yooh'thie(ə),royd/ *adj* characterized by normal thyroid function

**eutrophic** /yooh'trohfik/ *adj*, of a body of water rich in dissolved nutrients (e.g. phosphates) but often shallow and seasonally deficient in oxygen [prob. fr G *eutroph*, fr Gk *eutrophos* well nourished, nourishing, fr *eu-* + *trephein* to nourish – more at *ATROPHY*] – **eutrophication** /-trohfɪ'kayʃən/ *n*, **eutrophy** /yooh'trafi/, also *yooh'trohfɪ/ n*

**evacuate** /i'vakyoʊ,ayt/ *vt* 1 EMPTY 1a 2 to discharge from the body as waste 3 to remove gas, water, etc. from, esp. by pumping, esp. to produce a vacuum in 4a to remove, esp. from a dangerous area b to withdraw from military occupation of c to vacate (rapidly ~ d the burning building) ~ *vi* 1 to withdraw from a place in an organized way, esp. for protection 2 to pass urine or faeces from the body [L *evacuatus*, pp of *evacuare*, fr *e-* + *vacuus* empty – more at *VACUUM*] – **evacuation** /i'vakyoʊ'ayʃən/ *n*, **evacuative** /i'vakyoʊ-ətɪv/ *adj*

**evacuee** /i'vakyoʊ'ee/ *n* a person evacuated from a dangerous place **evade** /i'vayd/ *vi* to take refuge by evading sth ~ *vt* 1 to get away from or avoid, esp. by deception 2a to avoid facing up to (~ d the issue) b to fail to pay (~ taxes) 3 to baffle, foil (~ the problem ~ s all efforts at solution) [MF & L; MF *evader*, fr L *evadere*, fr *e-* + *vadere* to go, walk – more at *WADE*] – **evadable** *adj*, **evader** *n*

**evagination** /i'vaj'nayʃən/ *n* 1 everting 2 a product of eversion, an outgrowth [LL *evagination*, *evaginatio* act of unsheathing, fr L *evaginat-*, pp of *evaginare* to unsheath, fr *e-* + *vagina* sheath]

**evaluate** /i'valyoʊ,ayt/ *vt* to determine the amount, value, or significance of, esp. by careful appraisal and study (back-formation fr *evaluation*) – **evaluation** /i'valyoʊ'ayʃən/ *n*, **evaluative** /i'valyoʊ-ətɪv/ *adj*, **evaluator** /-əyto/ *n*

**evanescent** /i'vənes(ə)nt/ *adj* tending to dissipate or vanish like vapour [L *evanescent*, *evanesces*, pp of *evanescere* – more at *VANISH*] – **evanescence** /-nes(ə)ns/ *n*, **evanesce** *vi*

**evangel** /i'vanj(ə)/ *n* an evangelist

**evangelical** /i'evan'jɛlik/ also **evangelic** /-'jɛlik/ *adj* 1 of or in agreement with the Christian message as presented in the 4 Gospels 2 often *cap* Protestant; specif. of the German Protestant church 3 often *cap* (of or being a usu. Protestant denomination) emphasizing salvation by faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ, personal conversion, and the



authority of Scripture **4a** of, adhering to, or marked by fundamentalism  
**LOW CHURCH** **5** evangelistic, zealous (< ~ *ardour*) [*evangel* (gospel), fr ME *evangile*, fr MF, fr LL *evangelium*, fr Gk *euangelion* good news, gospel, fr *euangelos* bringing good news, fr *eu-* + *angelos* messenger] – **Evangelical** *n*, **Evangelicalism** *n*, **evangelically** *adv*  
**evangelism** /i'vænʒəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ 2 militant or crusading zeal – **evangelistic** /i'vænʒəlɪstɪk/ *adj*, **evangelistically** *adv*  
**evangelist** /i'vænʒəlɪst/ *n* 1 often *cap* a writer of any of the 4 Gospels 2 one who evangelizes; *specif* a Protestant minister or layman who preaches at special services  
**evangelize**, -ise /i'vænʒəlɪz/ *vb* to preach the Christian gospel (to), esp with the intention of converting to Christianity – **evangelization** /i'vænʒəlɪzə'zeɪʃən/ *n*  
**evaporate** /i'væpəreɪt/ *vi* **1a** to pass off in vapour **b** to pass off or away, disappear, fade (*his fears* ~ *d*) **2** to give out vapour ~ *vi* 1 to convert into vapour **2a** to expel moisture, esp water, from (< ~ *d milk*) **b** to cause to disappear or fade [ME *evaporaten*, fr L *evaporatus*, pp of *evaporare*, fr *e-* + *vapor* steam, vapour] – **evaporatable** *adj*, **evaporation** /i'væpə'reɪʃən/ *n*, **evaporative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **evaporator** /-rə'tɔɪə/ *n*  
**evasion** /i'veɪʒən/ *n* an act, instance, or means of evading (< *suspected of tax* ~) [ME, fr MF or LL, MF, fr LL *evasion*-, *evasio*, fr L *evadus*, pp of *evadere* to evade]  
**evasive** /i'veɪsɪv-, -zɪv/ *adj* tending or intended to evade, equivocal (< ~ *answers*) – **evasively** *adv*, **evasiveness** *n*  
**eve** /eɪv/ *n* 1 the evening or the day before a special day, esp a religious holiday (< *Christmas* ~) **2** the period immediately preceding an event (< *the ~ of the election*) **3** the evening – chiefly poetic [ME *eve*, *even*]  
**evectio** /i'vekʃiən/ *n* perturbation of the moon's orbit due to the sun's attraction [L *evectio*-, *evectio* rising, fr *evectus*, pp of *evahere* to carry out, raise up, fr *e-* + *vehere* to carry – more at *way*]  
**even** /'eɪv(ə)n/ *n*, *archaic* the evening – poetic [ME *even*, *eve*, fr OE *æfen*]  
**even** *adj* **1a** having a horizontal surface, flat, level (< ~ *ground*) **b** without break or irregularity, smooth *c* in the same plane or line – *with* (< ~ *with the ground*) **2a** without variation; uniform (< *an ~ disposition*) (< *an ~ grey sky*) **b** LEVEL **3** **3a** equal (< *we were ~ after the 4th game, having won 2 each*), also fair (< *an ~ exchange*) **b** being in equilibrium **4** exactly divisible by 2 (< *an ~ number*) – compare *odd* **2** **5** exact, precise (< *an ~ pound*) **6** fifty-fifty (< *she stands an ~ chance of winning*) [ME, fr OE *efen*, akin to OHG *eban* even] – **evenly** *adv*, **evenness** *n*  
**even** *adv* **1** at the very time – as **2a** – used as an intensive to emphasize the contrast with a less strong possibility (< *he looks content, ~ happy*) (< *can't ~ walk, let alone run*) **b** – used as an intensive to emphasize the comparative degree (< ~ *better than last time*) [ME, fr OE *efne*, fr *efen*, *adj*] – **even if** in spite of the possibility or fact that – **even now** **1** at this very moment **2** in spite of what has happened – **even so** in spite of that  
**even** *vb* to make or become even – often + *up* or *out* – **evenen** *n*  
**evenhanded** /-ˈhændɪd/ *adj* fair, impartial – **evenhandedly** *adv*, **even-handedness** *n*  
**evening** /'eɪvɪŋ/ *n* 1 the latter part of the day and the early part of the night; the time between sunset and bedtime **2** a late period (e.g. of time or life), the end **3** (the period of) an evening's entertainment [ME, fr OE *æfning*, fr *æfnian* to grow towards evening, fr *æfen* evening; akin to OHG *aband* evening]  
**evening dress** *n* 1 clothes for formal or semiformal evening occasions **2** a dress, esp with a floor-length skirt, for wear on formal or semiformal occasions  
**evening prayer** *n*, often *cap* E&P the daily evening office of the Anglican church  
**evening primrose** *n* (a plant related to) a coarse plant with large yellow flowers that open in the evening  
**evenings** *adv*, chiefly *NAm* in the evening repeatedly; on any evening  
**evening star** *n* a bright planet, *specif* Venus, seen in the western sky at sunset  
**even song** /-sɒŋ/ *n*, often *cap* **1** VESPERS **2** EVENING PRAYER [ME, fr OE *æfensang*, fr *æfen* evening + *sang* song]  
**event** /i'vent/ *n* **1a** a qualitative or quantitative change or complex of changes located in a restricted portion of time and space **b** a (noteworthy or important) happening or occurrence *c* a social occasion or activity **2** a contingency, case – esp in *the event of* (< *in the ~ of my death*) and (chiefly *NAm*) *in the event that* (< *in the ~ that I die*) **3** any of the contests in a sporting programme or tournament [MF or L; MF, fr L *eventus*, fr

*eventus*, pp of *evenire* to happen, fr *e-* + *venire* to come – more at *COME*] – **eventful** *adj*, **eventfully** *adv*, **eventfulness** *n*, **eventless** *adj* – *in any event*, *at all events* ANYWAY **1** – *in the event* *Br* when it actually happens or happened

**event horizon** *n* the boundary of a black hole

**eventide** /'eɪv(ə)n.tɪd/ *n* the evening – chiefly poetic [ME, fr OE *æfentide*, fr *æfen* evening + *tid* time]

**eventide home** *n* a home for old people

**eventing** /i'ventɪŋ/ *n* the participation of a horse or rider in a three-day event – **eventer** *n*

**eventual** /i'ventʃʊəl-, -tʃʊəl/ *adj* taking place at an unspecified later time, ultimately resulting (< *they counted on his ~ success*) – **eventually** *adv*

**eventuality** /i'ventʃʊə'ləti-, -tʃʊə-/ *n* a possible, esp unwelcome, event or outcome

**eventuate** /i'ventʃʊə'teɪ-, -tʃʊə-/ *vi* to result – *fml*

**ever** /'eɪvə/ *adv* **1** always – now chiefly in certain phrases and in combination (< ~ *yours, John*) (< *an ever-growing need*) **2** at any time (< *faster than ~*) – chiefly in negatives and questions (< *have you ~ met?*) (< *he won't ~ do it*) **3** – used as an intensive (< *looks ~ so angry*) (< *as quick as ~ I can*) (< ~ *since Monday*) (< *why ~ not?*) [ME, fr OE *æfre*] – **ever so/such** chiefly *Br* very much – *infml* (< *ever such a nice girl*) (< *thanks ever so*)

**ever and again** *adv* sometimes – poetic

**ever and anon** *adv* sometimes – poetic

**evergreen** /-ˈɡriːn/ *adj* **1** having leaves that remain green and functional through more than 1 growing season – compare *DECIDUOUS* **2** always retaining freshness, interest, or popularity (< *the ~ items of the American popular repertoire* – Benny Green)

**evergreen** *n* an evergreen plant, also a conifer

**everlasting** /-ˈlɑːstɪŋ/ *adj* **1** lasting or enduring through all time **2a** (1) continuing long or indefinitely, perpetual (2) of a plant retaining its form or colour for a long time when dried **b** tediously persistent, *ETERNAL* **2** **3** lasting or wearing for a long time, durable – **everlastingly** *adv*, **everlastingness** *n*

**everlasting** *n* **1** *cap* GOD **1** – + *the* **2** eternity

**evermore** /-ˈmɔː/ *adv* **1** always, forever **2** in the future

**evert** /i'veɪt/ *vi* to turn outwards or inside out [L *evertere*, fr *e-* + *vertere* to turn – more at *WORTH*] – **eversible** /i'veɪsəbəl/ *adj*, **eversion** /-ʃən/ *n*

**every** /'evri/ *adj* **1** being each member without exception, of a group larger than 2 (< ~ *word counts*) (< *enjoyed ~ minute*) (< *his ~ word*) **2** being each or all possible (< *was given ~ chance*) (< *have ~ confidence in him*) **3** being once in each (< *go ~ third day*) (< *change the oil ~ 5000 miles*) – compare *OTHER* **1c** [ME *everich*, *every*, fr OE *æfre ælc*, fr *æfre* ever + *ælc* each] **every now and then/again**, **every so often** at intervals, occasionally

**everybody** /-ˈbɒdi/ *pron* every person (< ~ *decides they're a bit hungry* – SEU **5**)

**everyday** /-ˈdeɪ/ *adj* encountered or used routinely or typically, ordinary (< *clothes for ~ wear*) – **everydayness** *n*

**everyman** /-ˈmæn/ *n* the typical or ordinary human being, *MAN IN THE STREET* [Everyman, allegorical character in *The Summoning of Everyman*, 15th-c E morality play]

**everyone** /-ˈwʊn/ *pron* everybody

**everything** /-ˈθɪŋ/ *pron* **1a** all that exists **b** all that is necessary or that relates to the subject (< *my new car has ~*) **2** sth of the greatest importance; all that counts (< *he meant ~ to her*)

**everywhere** /-ˈweɪ/ *adv* or *n* (in, at, or to) every place or the whole place

**every which way** *adv*, *NAm* in every direction, all over the place [prob by folk etymology fr ME *everich way* every way]

**evict** /i'veɪkt/ *vi* **1a** to recover (property) from a person by a legal process **b** to remove (a tenant) from rented accommodation or land by a legal process **2** to force out [ME *evicten*, fr LL *evictus*, pp of *evincere*, fr L, to vanquish, win a point – more at *EVINCE*] – **evictor** *n*, **eviction** /i'veɪkʃən/ *n*

**evidence** /i'veɪd(ə)ns/ *n* **1** an outward sign; an indication **2** sth, esp a fact, that gives proof or reasons for believing or agreeing with sth; *specif* information used (by a tribunal) to arrive at the truth [ME, fr MF, fr LL *evidentia*, fr L *evidens*-, *evidens*] – **evidential** /i'veɪd(ə)ns(ə)l/ *adj*, **evidentially** *adv*, **evidentiary** /-d(ə)ns(ə)ri/ *adj* – *in evidence* to be seen; conspicuous

**evidence** *vt* to offer evidence of; show

**evident** /i'veɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* clear to the vision or understanding [ME, fr MF,

fr L *evident-*, *evidens*, fr *e-* + *vident-*, *videns*, prp of *videre* to see – more at *WIT*)

**evidently** /-li/ *adv* 1 clearly, obviously 2 on the basis of available evidence; as seems evident

**evil** /'eɪvəl/ *adj* -li- (NAM -l-, -li-) 1a not good morally; sinful, wicked (<a thoroughly ~ doctrine>) b arising from bad character or conduct (<a man of ~ reputation>) 2a causing discomfort or repulsion; offensive (<a ~ smell>) b disagreeable (<a ~ temper>) 3a pernicious, harmful b marked by misfortune (<a ~ day>) [ME, fr OE *yfel*; akin to OHG *ubil* evil] – evil *adv*, *archaic*, *evilly adv*, *evilness n*

**evil** *n* 1 sth evil; sth that brings sorrow, distress, or calamity 2a the fact of suffering, misfortune, or wrongdoing b wickedness, sin

**evil eye** *n* (a spell put on sb by with) a look believed to be capable of inflicting harm

**evince** /'vɪns/ *vt* to show clearly, reveal – fml [L *vincere* to vanquish, win a point, fr *e-* + *vincere* to conquer – more at *VICTOR*] – *evinced* *adj*

**eviscerate** /'vɪsəreɪt/ *vt* 1 to disembowel 2 to remove an organ from (a patient); also to remove the contents of (an organ) 3 to deprive of vital content or force – fml [L *evisceratus*, pp of *eviscerare*, fr *e-* + *viscera* entrails] – *evisceration* /'vɪsə'reɪʃən/ *n*

**evoke** /'i:vəʊk/ *vt* to call forth or up: e.g. a CONJURE 1a b to cite, esp with approval or for support; invoke c to bring to mind or recollection, esp imaginatively or poignantly (<this place ~ s memories of happier years>) [F *évoquer*, fr L *evocare*, fr *e-* + *vocare* to call – more at *VOCATION*] – *evocation* /'evə'keɪʃən/ *n*, *evocative* /'i:və'keɪtɪv/ *adj*, *evocatively adv*, *evocator* /'evə'keɪtə/ *n*

**evolute** /'evə'lu:t/ *n* the curve that passes through the centres of all the circles that touch a given curve on its concave side at each point [L *evolutus*, pp of *evolvere*]

**evolution** /'evə'lu:ʃən/ *n* 1a a process of change and development, esp from a lower or simpler state to a higher or more complex state b the action or an instance of forming and giving sth off; emission c a process of gradual and relatively peaceful social, political, economic, etc advance d sth evolved 2 the process of working out or developing 3a the historical development of a biological group (e.g. a race or species) b a theory that the various types of animals and plants derived from preexisting types and that the distinguishable differences are due to natural selection [L *evolution-*, *evolutio* unrolling, fr *evolutus*, pp of *evolvere*] – *evolutionism n*, *evolutionist n* or *adj*, *evolutionary* /-(ə)n/ *adj*, *evolutionarily* /'evə'lu:ʃən(ə)nəli/ *adv*

**evolve** /'i:vəlv/ *vt* 1 *EMIT* 1a 2a to work out, develop b to produce by natural evolutionary processes ~ *vi* to undergo evolutionary change [L *evolvere* to unroll, fr *e-* + *volvere* to roll – more at *VOLUBLE*] – *evolvable adj*, *evolution n*

**evulsion** /'i:vʌlʃən/ *n* EXTRACTION 1 [L *evulsion-*, *evulsio*, fr *evulsus*, pp of *evellere* to pluck out, fr *e-* + *vellere* to pluck – more at *VULNERABLE*]

**evzone** /'ev.zəʊn/ *n* a member of an elite (modern) Greek infantry unit [NGK *euzōnos*, fr Gk, active, lit., well-girt, fr *eu-* + *zonē* girdle – more at *ZONE*]

**ewe** /'yʊʊh/ *n* the female of the (mature) sheep or a related animal [ME, fr OE *ēowu*; akin to OHG *ou*, *ouwi* ewe, L *ovis* sheep, Gk *ois*]

**Ewe** *n* a Kwa language of Ghana and Togo

**ewe-neck** /'yʊʊh/ *n* a thin faultily or concavely arched neck in a dog or horse – *ewe-necked adj*

**ewer** /'yʊʊh-ə/ *n* a wide-mouthed pitcher or jug; esp one used to hold water for washing or shaving [ME, fr AF, fr OF *evier*, fr (assumed) VL *aquarium*, fr L, neut of *aquarius* of water, fr *aqua* water – more at *ISLAND*]

**ex** /'eks, egz/ *adj* former (< ~ president Nixon>) – often in combination (<the ex-president>) [ME, fr LL, fr L]

**ex prep** 1 from a specified place or source 2a esp of securities without an indicated value or right b free of charges until the time of removal from (a place) (< ~ dock>) [L]

**ex** *n* a former spouse, boyfriend, or girl friend – *infm*

**ex-** /'eks-, egz-/ *prefix* 1 out of; outside (<exclude>) (<exodus>) 2 cause to be (<exacerbate>) (<exalt>) 3 not (<exanimate>) 4 deprive of (<expropriate>) (<excommunicate>) [ME, fr OF & L; OF, fr L, fr *ex* out of, from; akin to Gk *ex*, *ex-* out of, from, OSlav *iz*]

**ex-** – see *EXO-*

**exa-** *comb form* million billion (10<sup>18</sup>) ➔ PHYSICS [ISV, perh. alter. of *exo-*]

**exacerbate** /'ek'sæsbə't, 'igzə-/ *vt* to make (sthg bad) worse; aggravate

[L *exacerbatus*, pp of *exacerbare*, fr *ex-* + *acerbus* harsh, bitter, fr *acer* sharp – more at *EDGE*] – *exacerbation* /-'bæʃən/ *n*

**exact** /'igzækt/ *vt* to demand and obtain by force, threats, etc, require (<from them has been ~ed the ultimate sacrifice> – D D Eisenhower) [ME *exacten*, fr L *exactus*, pp of *exigere* to drive out, demand, measure, fr *ex-* + *agere* to drive – more at *AGENT*] – *exactable adj*, *exactor* also *exacter n*

**exact** *adj* 1 exhibiting or marked by complete accordance with fact 2 marked by thorough consideration or minute measurement of small factual details [L *exactus*, fr pp of *exigere*] – *exactness n*

**exacting** /'igzæktɪŋ/ *adj* making rigorous demands, esp requiring careful attention and precise accuracy – *exactingly adv*, *exactness n*

**extortion** /'igzækʃən/ *n* 1a exacting b extortion 2 sthg exacted, esp a fee, reward, or contribution demanded or levied with severity or injustice

**exactitude** /'igzæktɪtju:hd/ *n* (the quality of) being exact

**exactly** /'igzæktli/ *adv* 1 altogether, entirely (<not ~ what I had in mind>) 2 quite so – used to express agreement [F *EXACT* + *-LY*]

**exaggerate** /'igzædʒə'reɪt/ *vt* 1 to say or believe more than the truth about 2 to make greater or more pronounced than normal, overemphasize (<he ~d his line to gain sympathy>) ~ *vi* to make an exaggeration [L *exaggeratus*, pp of *exaggerare*, lit., to heap up, fr *ex-* + *agger* heap, fr *aggerere* to carry towards, fr *ad-* + *gerere* to carry – more at *CAST*] – *exaggeratedly adv*, *exaggeratedness n*, *exaggerative* /-rətɪv/, *exaggeratory* /-jə'reɪ(ə)n/ *adj*, *exaggerator* /-rə'ta/ *n*, *exaggeration* /-'ræʃən/ *n*

**exalt** /'igzawlt/ *vt* 1 to raise high, esp in rank, power, or character 2 to praise highly, glorify [ME *exalten*, fr MF & L, MF *exalter*, fr L *exaltare*, fr *ex-* + *altus* high – more at *OLD*] – *exaltedly adv*, *exalter n*

**exaltation** /'egzawltə'ʃən/ *n* an excessively intensified sense of well-being, power, or importance [EXALT + *-ATION*]

**exam** /'igzæm, ik'sæm/ *n* an examination

**examination** /'igzæmɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* 1 (an) examining (<a medical ~>) 2 (the taking by a candidate for a university degree, Advanced level, Ordinary level, etc of) a set of questions designed to test knowledge 3 a formal interrogation (in a law court) – *examinational adj*, *examinatorial* /-nə'tawɪn-əl/ *adj*

**examine** /'igzæmɪn/ *vt* 1 to inspect closely, investigate 2a to interrogate closely (< ~ a prisoner>) b to test (e.g. a candidate for a university degree) by an examination in order to determine knowledge [ME *examinen*, fr MF *examiner*, fr L *examinare*, fr *examen* tongue of a balance, examination, fr *exigere* – more at *EXACT*] – *examinable adj*, *examinee* /'igzæmɪ'nee/ *n*, *examiner n*

**example** /'igzæmpl/ *n* 1 sthg representative of all of the group or type to which it belongs 2 sb or sthg that may be copied by other people (<a good or bad ~>) (<set an ~>) 3 (the recipient of) a punishment inflicted as a warning to others (<make an ~ of them>) 4 a problem to be solved to illustrate a rule (e.g. in arithmetic) [ME, fr MF, fr L *exemplum*, fr *eximere* to take out, fr *ex-* + *emere* to take – more at *REDEEM*] – for example as an example (<there are many sources of air pollution; exhaust fumes, for example>)

**exanimate** /'igzænɪmət, -mət/ *adj* LIFELESS 1, 3 [L *exanimatus*, pp of *exanimare* to deprive of life or spirit, fr *ex-* + *anima* breath, soul – more at *ANIMATE*]

**exanthema** /'egzæn'themə, -eks-/ *n* (a disease that is accompanied by) a skin rash [LL, fr Gk *exanthema*, fr *exanthein* to bloom, erupt, fr *ex-* + *anthos* flower]

**exarch** /'eksærk/ *n* a viceroy in the Byzantine empire [LL *exarchus*, fr LGk *exarchos*, fr Gk, leader, fr *exarchein* to begin, take the lead, fr *ex-* + *archein* to rule, begin – more at *ARCH-*] – *exarchal adj*, *exarchate* /'eksærkə't, -eksərki/ *n*, *exarchy n*

**exasperate** /'igzæspə'reɪt/ *vt* to anger or irritate (sby) [L *exasperatus*, pp of *exasperare*, fr *ex-* + *asper* rough] – *exasperatedly adv*, *exasperatingly adv*, *exasperation* /-'ræʃən/ *n*

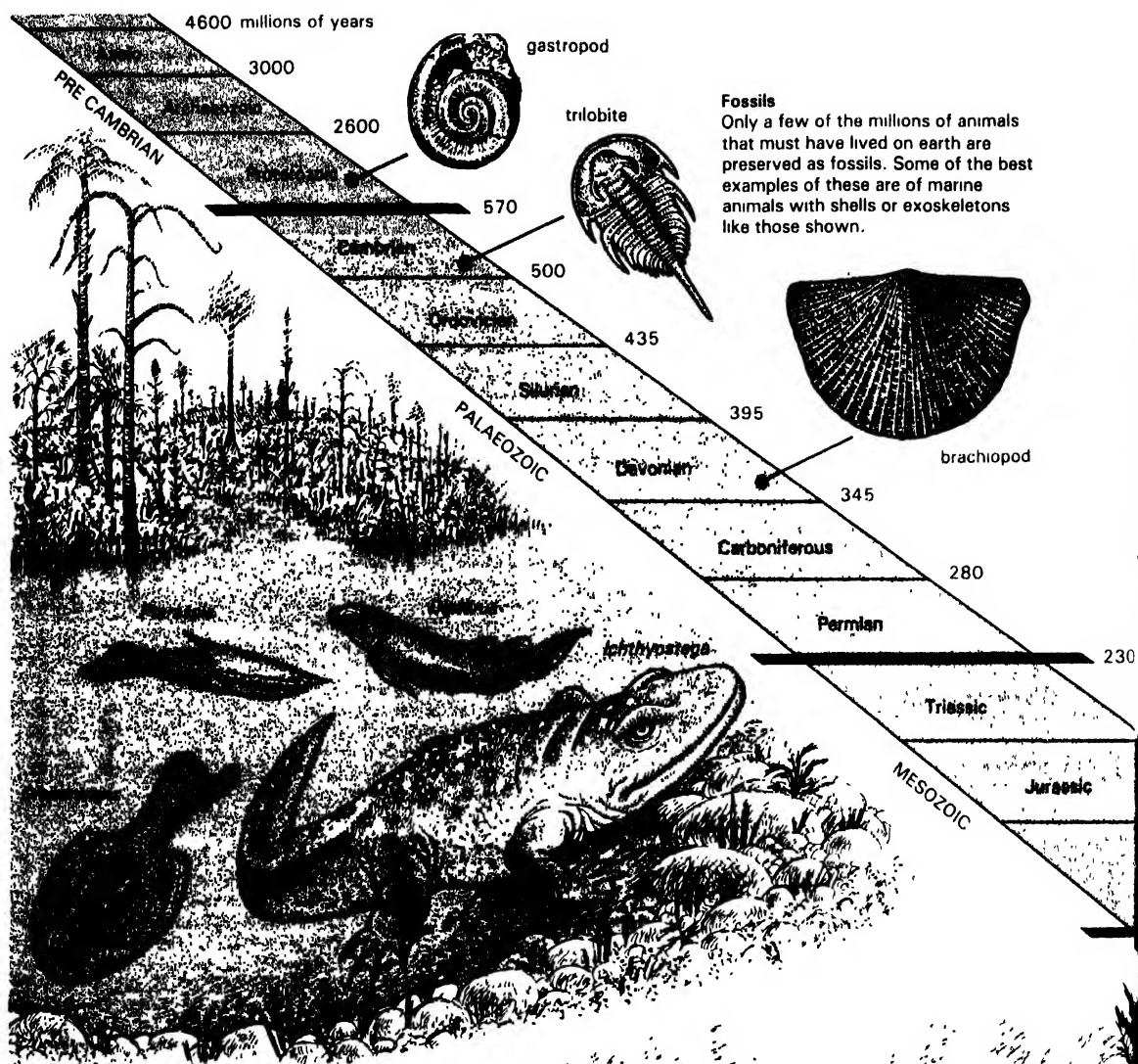
**ex cathedra** /'eks kə'thedrə/ *adv* or *adj* with authority (< ~ pronouncements>) [NL, lit., from the chair]

**excavate** /'ekskeɪvət/ *vt* 1 to form a cavity or hole in 2 to form by hollowing 3 to dig out and remove 4 to expose to view by digging away a covering ~ *vi* to make excavations [L *excavatus*, pp of *excavare*, fr *ex-* + *cavare* to make hollow – more at *CAVATINA*] – *excavator n*, *excavation* /-'væʃən/ *n*

**exceed** /'ik'si:əd/ *vt* 1 to extend beyond 2 to be greater than or superior to 3 to act or go beyond the limits of (< ~ the speed limit>) [ME *exceden*, fr MF *exceder*, fr L *excedere*, fr *ex-* + *cedere* to go – more at *CEDE*]

**exceedingly** /'ik'si:ədɪŋli/, *exceeding adv* very, extremely

- excel** /'k'sel/ *vb* -ll- to be superior (to); surpass (others) in accomplishment or achievement – often + *at* or *in* [ME *excellen*, fr L *excellere*, fr *ex-* + *-cellere* to rise, project, akin to L *collis* hill – more at **HILL**]
- excellence** /'eks(ə)l(ə)ns/ *n* 1 also **excellency** being excellent 2 also **excellency** an excellent or valuable quality, a virtue 3 **Excellency**, Excellence – used as a title for certain high dignitaries (e.g. ambassadors) of state and church
- excellent** /'eks(ə)nt/ *adj* outstandingly good [ME, fr MF, fr L *excellens*, fr *ex-* + *cellere*, fr *ex-* + *cellere* to rise, project, akin to L *collis* hill – more at **HILL**]
- except** /'ik'sept/ *vt* to take or leave out from a number or a whole, exclude [ME *excepten*, fr MF *excepter*, fr L *exceptare*, fr *exceptus*, pp of *excipere* to take out, fr *ex-* + *capere* to take – more at **HEAVE**]
- except** also **excepting** *prep* with the exclusion or exception of <daily ~ Sundays> <can do everything ~ cook>
- except** also **excepting** *conj* 1 only, but <would go ~ it's too far> <would have protested ~ that he was afraid> 2 unless <~ you repent> – fml
- except** for *prep* 1 but for; were it not for <couldn't have done it ~ your help> 2 with the exception of <all here ~ Mary>
- exception** /'ik'sepsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 excepting or excluding 2 sby or sth excepted, esp a case to which a rule does not apply 3 question, objection <witnesses whose authority is beyond ~ – T B Macaulay>
- exceptionable** /-əbl/ *adj* likely to cause objection, objectionable – **exceptionably** *adv*, **exceptionability** /-ə'biliti/ *n*
- exceptional** /'ik'sepsh(ə)nl/ *adj* 1 forming an exception, unusual <an ~ number of rainy days> 2 not average; esp superior – **exceptionally** *adv*, **exceptionality** /-ə'ləti/ *n*
- excerpt** /'ek'su:pt/ *vt* 1 to select (a passage) for quoting, copying, or performing 2 to take excerpts from (e.g. a book) [L *excerptus*, pp of *excerpere*, fr *ex-* + *carpere* to gather, pluck – more at **HARVEST**]
- excerpt** also **excerptor** *n*, **exception** /'ek'suhpsh(ə)n/ *n*
- excerpt** /'ek'su:pt/ *n* a passage taken from a book, musical composition, etc
- excess** /'ik'ses/ *n* 1a the exceeding of usual, proper, or specified limits b the amount or degree by which one thing or quantity exceeds another 2 (an instance of) undue or immoderate indulgence, intemperance 3 an amount an insured person agrees to pay him-/herself out of each claim made on an insurance policy in return for a lower premium [ME, fr MF or LL, MF *exces*, fr LL *excessus*, fr L, departure, projection, fr *excessus*, pp of *excedere* to exceed] – **excessive** *adj*, **excessively** *adv*, **excessiveness** *n* – in excess of more than
- excess** /'ekses, ik'ses/ *adj* more than the usual, proper, or specified amount, extra <charges for ~ baggage>
- exchange** /'iks'tʃeɪn/ *n* 1a the act of exchanging one thing for another, a trade <an ~ of prisoners> b a usu brief interchange of words or blows <had an acrimonious ~ with the manager> 2 sth offered, given, or received in an exchange 3a (the system of settling, usu by bills of exchange rather than money) debts payable currently, esp in a foreign country b(1) change or conversion of one currency into another (2) **exchange**, **exchange rate** the value of one currency in terms of another 4 a place where things or services are exchanged e.g. a an organized market for trading in securities or commodities b a centre or device controlling the connection of telephone calls between many different lines  **TELECOMMUNICATION** [ME *exchaunge*, fr MF *exchange*, fr *eschanger* to exchange, fr (assumed) VL *excambiare*, fr L *ex-* + *cambiare* to exchange – more at **CHANGE**]
- exchange** *vt* 1a to part with, give, or transfer in return for sth received as an equivalent <where can I ~ my dollars for pounds?> <John ~d books with Peter> <exchanging freedom for security> b of 2 parties to give and receive (things of the same type) <the 2 athletes ~d prisoners> <they ~d blows> 2 to replace by other goods <will they ~ clothes that don't fit?> ~ *vi* 1 to pass or become received in exchange 2 to engage in an exchange – **exchangeable** *adj*, **exchanger** *n*, **exchangeability** /-jə'biliti/ *n*
- exchange student** *n* a student from one country allowed to study at an institution in another country in exchange for one sent to the home country of the first
- exchequer** /'iks'tʃekə/ *n* 1 *cap* a former civil court having jurisdiction primarily over revenue and now merged with the Queen's Bench Division 2 *often cap* the department of state in charge of the national revenue 3 the (national or royal) treasury [ME *escheker*, fr AF, fr OF *eschequier* chessboard, counting table, fr *eschec* check – more at **CHECK**]
- excise** /'ek'siez, -i-/ *n* 1 an internal tax levied on the manufacture, sale, or consumption of a commodity within a country 2 any of various taxes on privileges, often levied in the form of a licence that must be bought [obs D *excys* (now *accys*), fr MD, prob modif of OF *assise* session, assessment – more at **ASSIZE**]
- excise** /'ek'siez/ *vt* to impose an excise on – **excisable** *adj*
- excise** *vt* to remove (as if) by cutting out [L *excisus*, pp of *excidere*, fr *ex-* + *caedere* to cut – more at **CONCISE**] – **excision** /'ek'sizh(ə)n/ *n*
- excise** *man* /'eksiz,man, -i-/ *n* an officer who inspects and rates articles liable to excise
- excitable** /'ik'sietəbl/ *adj* capable of being readily activated or roused into a state of excitement or irritability; specif capable of being activated by and reacting to stimuli – **excitableness**, **excitability** /'ik'sietə'biliti/ *n*
- excite** /'ik'siet/ *vt* 1a to provoke or stir up (action) <~ a rebellion> b to rouse to strong, esp pleasurable, feeling c to arouse (e.g. an emotional response) <the plight of the refugees ~d their pity> <her late arrival ~d much curiosity> 2 to induce a magnetic field or electric current in; also to induce (e.g. a magnetic field or an electric current) 3 to raise (e.g. an atom or a molecule) to a higher energy level [ME *exciten*, fr MF *exciter*, fr L *excitare*, fr *ex-* + *citare* to rouse – more at **CITE**] – **excitant** *n* or *adj*, **excitative** /-tətiv/ *adj*, **excitatory** /-tət(ə)n/ *adj*, **excitedly** *adv*, **excitement** *n*, **exciter** *n*, **exciting** *adj*, **excitingly** *adv*, **excitation** /'eksietə'sh(ə)n/ *n*
- exciton** /'eksiton/ *n* a mobile combination of a high-energy electron bound to a hole caused by the absence of an electron in a crystal (e.g. of silicon or another semiconductor) [ISV *excitation* (fr *excite* + *-ation*) + *-on*] – **excitonic** /'eksitonik/ *adj*
- exclaim** /'ik'sklaɪm/ *vt* to cry out or speak in strong or sudden emotion <~ ed in delight> ~ *vi* to utter sharply, passionately, or vehemently [MF *exclamer*, fr L *exclamare*, fr *ex-* + *clamare* to cry out – more at **CLAIM**] – **exclaimer** *n*
- exclamation** /'ekskla'maysh(ə)n/ *n* exclaiming or the words exclaimed – **exclamatory** /'ik'sklamət(ə)n/ *adj*
- exclamation mark** *n* a punctuation mark! used esp after an interjection or exclamation
- exclamation point** *n*, chiefly **NAM** **EXCLAMATION MARK**
- enclave** /'eksklaɪv/ *n* a portion of a country separated from the main part and surrounded by foreign territory [*ex-* + *-clave* (as in *enclave*)]
- exclude** /'ik'skloo:hd/ *vt* 1a to shut out b to bar from participation, consideration, or inclusion 2 to expel, esp from a place or position previously occupied [ME *excluden*, fr L *excludere*, fr *ex-* + *cludere* to close – more at **CLOSE**] – **excludable** *adj*, **excluder** *n*, **exclusion** /-zh(ə)n/ *n*, **exclusionary** *adj*
- exclusion principle** /'iks'kloo:zh(ə)n/ *n* a principle in physics stating that no 2 electrons in an atom or molecule will be exactly equivalent
- exclusive** /'ik'skloo:shv, -ziv/ *adj* 1a excluding or having power to exclude b limiting or limited to possession, control, use, etc by a single individual, group, etc <an ~ contract> <an ~ interview> 2a excluding others (considered to be inferior) from participation, membership, or entry <an ~ club> b snobbishly aloof 3 stylish and expensive 4a **SOLE** 1, 2 <~ jurisdiction> b whole, undivided <his ~ attention> 5 not inclusive <Monday to Friday ~> [MF *exclusif*, fr ML *exclusivus*, fr L *exclusus*, pp of *excludere*] – **exclusively** *adv*, **exclusiveness**, **exclusivity** /'eks'kloo:sh'viti/ *n*
- exclusive** *n* 1 a newspaper story printed by only 1 newspaper 2 an exclusive right (e.g. to sell a particular product in a certain area)
- exclusive disjunction** *n* a complex sentence in logic that is true when 1 and only 1 of its constituent sentences is true
- excogitate** /'eks'kɔjɪtə/ *vt* to think out, devise – fml [L *excogitatus*, pp of *excogitare*, fr *ex-* + *cogitare* to cogitate] – **excogitative** /-tətiv/ *adj*, **excogitation** /'eks'kɔjɪtə'sh(ə)n/ *n*
- excommunicate** /'eks'kɔmju:kəɪt/ *vt* 1 to deprive officially of the rights of church membership 2 to exclude from fellowship of a group or community [ME *excommunicaten*, fr LL *excommunicatus*, pp of *excommunicare*, fr L *ex-* + LL *communicare* to communicate] – **excommunicative** /-kətiv/ *adj*, **excommunicatory** /-kət(ə)n/ *adj*, **excommunication** /-'kəʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- excommunicate** /'eks'kɔmju:knɪkəɪt, -kəɪt/ *n* or *adj* (one who is) excommunicated
- excoriate** /'ik'skawnəɪt/ *vt* 1 to wear away the skin of, abrade 2 to censure scathingly – fml [ME *excoriaten*, fr LL *excoriatum*, pp of *excoriare*, fr L *ex-* + *corium* skin, hide – more at **CUIRASS**] – **excoriation** /'eks'kawri'əʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- excrement** /'ekskrəmənt/ *n* faeces or other waste matter discharged from the body [L *excrementum*, fr *excernere*] – **excremental** /'ekskrəmentl/ *adj*, **excrementitious** /'ekskrəment'iʃəs/ *adj*
- excrecence** /'ik'skres(ə)ns/ *n*, **excrecency** /-s/ *n* an excessive or abnormal outgrowth or enlargement [ME, fr MF *excrecence*, fr L



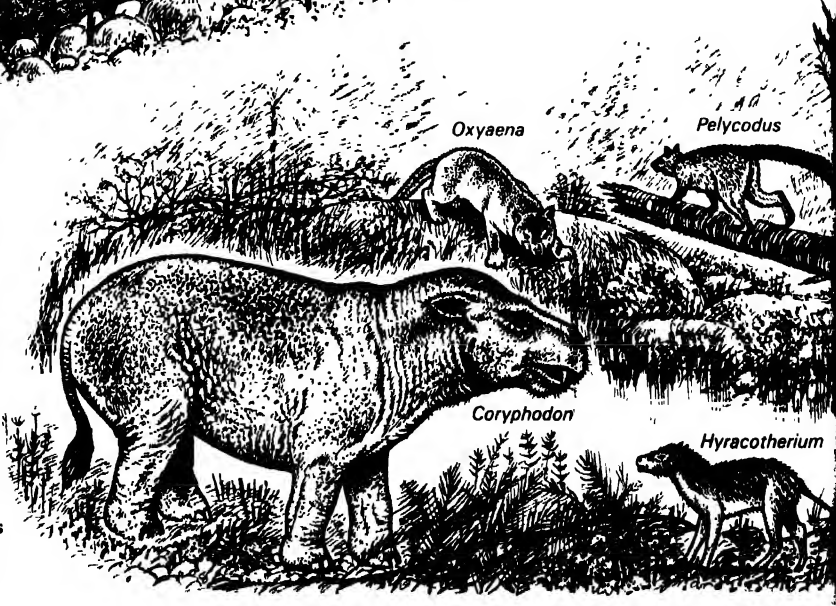
**Fossils**  
Only a few of the millions of animals that must have lived on earth are preserved as fossils. Some of the best examples of these are of marine animals with shells or exoskeletons like those shown.

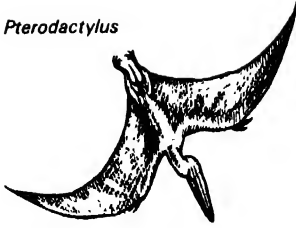
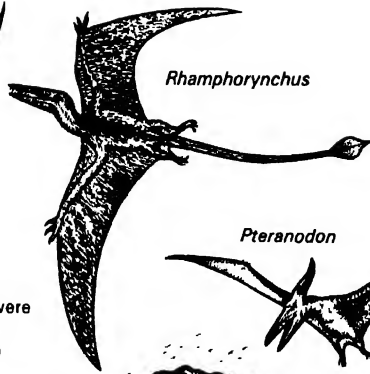
#### The age of fish

Fossils of many different kinds of fish have been found in rocks of the Devonian period. The fish, shown above, are pictured in a lake setting, but many fish of this era lived in both lakes and the sea. *Dipterus* probably had functional lungs and was therefore amphibious. *Ichthyostega* represents a form that is close in evolutionary development to the more advanced amphibians.

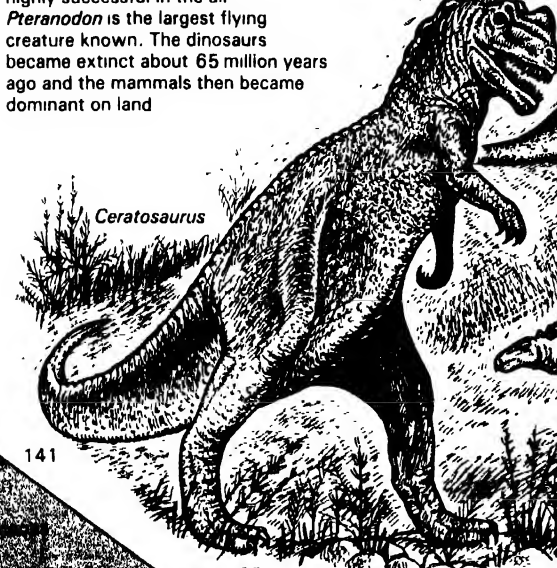
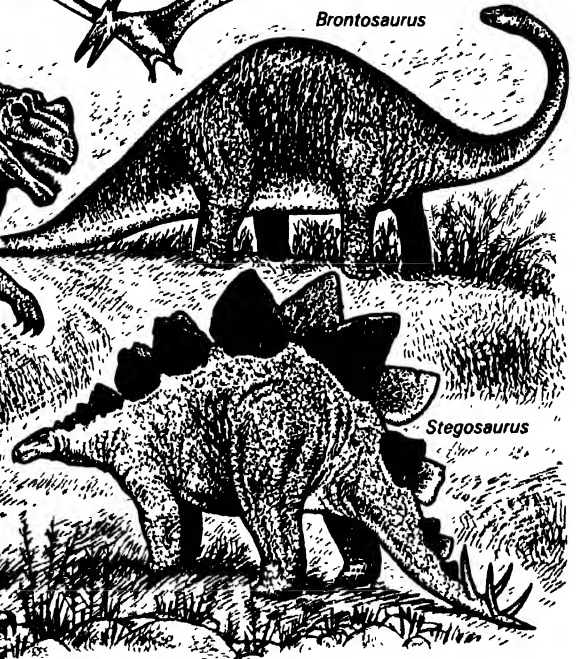
#### The age of mammals

The Cainozoic era began 65 million years ago and continues today. *Hyracotherium* - the earliest horse discovered - was probably hunted by *Oxyaena*. *Coryphodon* was a large plant-eater. Fossils of our own species and our closest relatives have been found only in rocks formed during the last 3.6 million years.



*Pterodactylus**Rhamphorynchus**Pteranodon**Brontosaurus***The age of reptiles**

During the Mesozoic era reptiles were not only dominant on land and important in the sea but were also highly successful in the air – *Pteranodon* is the largest flying creature known. The dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago and the mammals then became dominant on land

*Ceratosaurus**Stegosaurus*

195

141

65

55

38

22.5

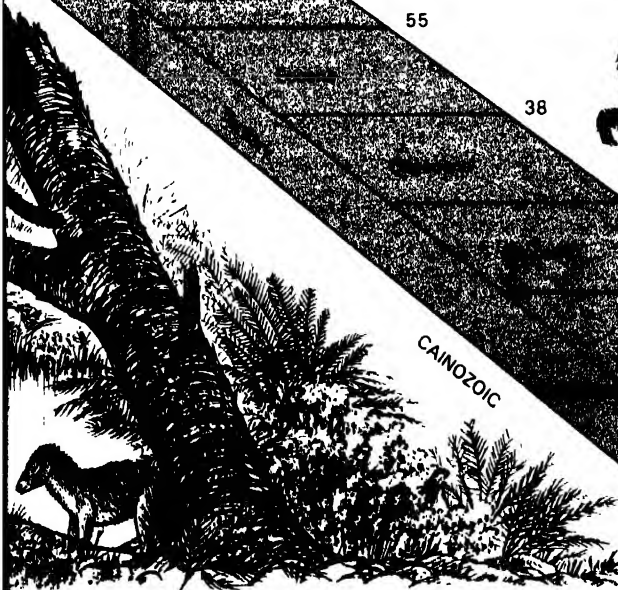
first monkeys  
and apesfirst humans (*Homo*)modern  
*Homo sapiens*

5

1.8

0.01

CENOZOIC






*excrecentia*, fr *excrecent-*, *excrecent*, prp of *excrecere* to grow out, fr *ex-* + *crecere* to grow] - *excrecent* *adj*  
**excrete** /ik'skreetə/ *n* pl excrement [NL, fr L, neut pl of *excretus*] - *excretal* *adj*  
**excrete** /ik'skreet/ *vt* to separate and eliminate or discharge (waste) from blood or living tissue [L *excretus*, pp of *excernere* to sift out, discharge, fr *ex-* + *cernere* to sift - more at CERTAIN] - *excreter* *n*, *excretory* /-t(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, *excretion* /ik'skriesh(ə)n/ *n*  
**excruciating** /ik'skroohsh,aytɪŋ/ *adj* 1 causing great pain or anguish, agonizing, tormenting (<an ~ migraine>) 2 very intense, extreme (<~ pain>) [excruciate fr L *excruciatu*; pp of *excruciare*, fr *ex-* + *cruciare* to crucify, fr *cruc-*, *crux* cross] - *excruciate* /-sh,ayt/ *vt*, *excruciatingly* *adv*, *excruciation* /-sh,aysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**exculpate** /ekskul,payt, ik'skul,payt/ *vt* to clear from alleged fault, blame, or guilt (assumed) ML *exculpatus*, pp of *exculpate*, fr L *ex-* + *culpa* blame] - *exculpation* /ekskul'paysh(ə)n/ *n*, *exculpatory* /ik'skulpot(ə)rɪ/ *adj*  
**excursion** /ik'skuhsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a (brief) pleasure trip, usu at reduced rates 2 a deviation from a direct, definite, or proper course, esp a digression (<needless ~s into abstruse theory>) 3 (the distance travelled in) a movement outwards and back or from a mean position or axis [L *excursio*-, *excursio*, fr *excursus*, pp of *excurre* to run out, extend, fr *ex-* + *curre* to run] - *excursionist* *n*  
**excursive** /ik'skuhsɪv/ *adj* digressive - *excursively* *adv*, *excursiveness* *n*  
**excursus** /ek'skuhsəs/ *n*, pl *excursus* also *excursus* an appendix or digression that contains further discussion of some point or topic [L, digression, fr *excursus*, pp]  
**excuse** /ik'skyoozh/ *vt* 1a to make apology for (<quietly ~d his clumsiness>) b to try to remove blame from (<~d himself for being so careless>) 2 to forgive entirely or overlook as unimportant (<she graciously ~d his thoughtlessness>) 3 to allow to leave; dismiss (<the class was ~d>) 4 to be an acceptable reason for, justify - usu neg (<nothing can ~ his cruelty>) 5 Br to free from (a duty) - usu pass (<the class was ~d homework>) [ME *excusen*, fr OF *excuser*, fr L *excusare*, fr *ex-* + *causa* cause, explanation] - *excusal* *n*, *excusable* *adj*, *excusably* *adv*, *excusatory* /-zatrɪ/ *adj*, *excuser* *n*  
**excuse** /ik'skyoozh/ *n* 1 sthg offered as grounds for being excused (<he had a good ~ for being late>) 2 pl an expression of regret for failure to do sthg or esp for one's absence (<make my ~s at the party tomorrow>)  
**ex-dictionary** *adj*, Br intentionally not listed in a telephone directory [*ex-*]  
**exeat** /'eksɪ,at/ *n* a formal leave of absence granted esp to a student [L, let him go out, fr *exire* to go out]  
**execrable** /'eksɪkrəbl/ *adj* detestable, appalling (<~ behaviour>) (<~ taste>) - chiefly fml [EXECRATE + -ABLE] - *execrably* *adv*  
**execrate** /'eksɪkreyt/ *vt* 1 to declare to be evil or detestable; denounce 2 to detest utterly; abhor USE chiefly fml [L *execratus*, pp of *execrari* to put under a curse, fr *ex-* + *sacri-*, *sacer* sacred] - *execrator* *n*, *execration* /'eksɪkreysh(ə)n/ *n*, *execrative* /-krətɪv/ *adj*  
**executant** /'ig'zekyoot(ə)nɪ/ *n* one who executes or performs; esp one skilled in the technique of an art  
**execute** /'eksɪkyooht/ *vt* 1 to carry out fully, put completely into effect 2 to put to death (legally) as a punishment 3 to make or produce (e.g. a work of art), esp by carrying out a design 4 to (do what is required to) make valid (<~ a deed>) 5 to play, perform (<~ a piece of music>) [ME *executen*, fr MF *executer*, back-formation fr *execution*] - *executable* *adj*  
**execution** /'eksɪkyooht(ə)n/ *n* 1 a putting to death as a punishment 2 a judicial writ directing the enforcement of a judgment 3 the act, mode, or result of performance (<the ~ was perfect but the piece lacked expression>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *execution*-, *executio*-, *executus*, pp of *execuere* to execute, fr *ex-* + *sequi* to follow - more at SUE]  
**executioner** /'eksɪkyooht(ə)nə/ *n* one who puts to death; specif one legally appointed to perform capital punishment  
**executive** /'ig'zekyootɪv/ *adj* 1 concerned with making and carrying out laws, decisions, etc; specif, Br of or concerned with the detailed application of policy or law rather than its formulation 2 of, for, or being an executive (<the ~ offices are on the top floor>) [EXECUTE + -IVE]  
**executive** *n* 1 the executive branch of a government 2 an individual or group that controls or directs an organization 3 one who holds a position of administrative or managerial responsibility  
**executor** /'eksɪkyoohtə, ig'zekyootə/, fem *executrix* /'ig'zekyoot,triks/ *n*, pl *executors*, fem *executrices* /-tri'eseez/ one appointed to carry out the

provisions of a will [ME, fr OF, fr L *executor*, fr *executus*] - *executory* /-t(ə)rɪ/, *executorial* /'ig'zekyootəwɪ-əl/ *adj*  
**exegesis** /'eksɪ'jeesɪs/ *n*, pl *exegeses* /-seez/ an explanation or critical interpretation of an esp biblical text, broadly an exposition [NL, fr Gk *exegesis*, fr *exēgeisthai* to explain, interpret, fr *ex-* + *hēgeisthai* to lead - more at SEEK] - *exegetic* /'eksɪ'jetɪk/, *exegetical* *adj*  
**exegete** /'eksɪjeet/ *n* one who practises exegesis [Gk *exēgetes*, fr *exēgeisthai*]  
**exemplar** /'ig'zemplə-, -pləh/ *n* sthg that serves as a model or example, also a copy of a book or text [ME, fr L, fr *exemplum* example]  
**exemplary** /'ig'zemplərɪ/ *adj* 1 deserving imitation, commendable (<his conduct was ~>) 2 serving as a warning (<~ punishments>) 3 serving as an example, instance, or illustration - *exemplarily* *adv*, *exemplariness*, *exemplarity* /'egzemplərətɪ/ *n*  
**exemplify** /'ig'zemplɪf/ *vt* 1 to show or illustrate by example 2 to be an instance of or serve as an example of, typify, embody [ME *exemplifien*, fr MF *exemplifier*, fr ML *exemplificare*, fr L *exemplum*] - *exemplification* /'ig'zemplɪfɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**exemplum** /'ig'zempləm/ *n*, pl *exempla* /-plə/ 1 an anecdote or short story that illustrates a moral point or supports an argument 2 an example, model - chiefly fml [LL, fr L, example]  
**exempt** /'ig'zempt/ *adj* freed from some liability or requirement to which others are subject (<~ from jury service>) [ME, fr L *exemptus*, pp of *eximere* to take out - more at EXAMPLE]  
**exempt** *vt* to make exempt, excuse (<~ed from jury service>) - *exemption* /'ig'zempt(ə)n/ *n*  
**exequy** /'eksɪkwɪ/ *n* a funeral ceremony - usu pl with sing meaning, fml [ME *exequies*, *exequise*, sing & pl, fr MF & L, MF *exequies*, pl, fr L *exequiae*, *exequiae*, pl, fr *exequi*, *exsequi* to follow, perform, execute]  
**exercise** /'eksə'si:z/ *n* 1 the use of a specified power or right (<the ~ of his authority>) 2a regular or repeated use of a faculty or body part b bodily exertion for the sake of developing and maintaining physical fitness 3 sthg performed or practised in order to develop, improve, or display a specific power or skill 4 a manoeuvre or drill carried out for training and discipline [ME, fr MF *exercice*, fr L *exercitium*, fr *exercitus*, pp of *exercere* to drive on, keep busy, fr *ex-* + *arcere* to enclose, hold off - more at ARK]  
**exercise** *vt* 1 to make effective in action, use, exert (<didn't ~ good judgment>) 2a to use repeatedly in order to strengthen or develop b to train (e.g. troops) by drills and manoeuvres c to give exercise to (<~ the horses>) 3a to engage the attention and effort of (<the problem greatly ~d his mind>) b to cause anxiety, alarm, or indignation in (<citizens ~d about pollution>) ~ *vi* to take exercise, esp to train - *exercisable* *adj*, *exerciser* *n*  
**exergue** /'eksɪh/ *n* a space on a coin, medal, etc usu on the reverse below the central part of the design [F, fr NL *exergum*, fr Gk *ex* out of + *ergon* work]  
**exert** /'ig'zuht/ *vt* 1 to bring (e.g. strength or authority) to bear, esp with sustained effort, employ, wield 2 to take upon (oneself) the effort of doing sthg (<he never ~s himself to help anyone>) [L *exertus*, pp of *exercere* to thrust out, fr *ex-* + *serere* to join - more at SERIES] - *exertion* /'ig'zuht(ə)n/ *n*  
**exent** /'eksɪ,ont/ - used as a stage direction to specify that all or certain named characters leave the stage [L, they go out, fr *exire* to go out - more at 'EXIT]  
**exfoliate** /'eks'fɒliət/ *vt* to cast (e.g. skin or bark) off in scales, layers, etc ~ *vi* 1 to split into or shed scales, layers, surface body cells, etc 2 to come off in a thin piece 3 to grow (as if) by producing or unfolding leaves [LL *exfoliatus*, pp of *exfoliare* to strip of leaves; fr L *ex-* + *folium* leaf - more at BLADE] - *exfoliative* /-tɪv/ *adj*, *exfoliation* /-tɪ'aysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**ex gratia** /'eks'grætɪə/ *adj* or *adv* as a favour; not compelled by legal right (<~ payments>) [NL]  
**exhalation** /'eksə'laysh(ə)n, -eks-hə-/ *n* 1 exhaling 2 sthg exhaled or given off; an emanation  
**exhale** /'eks'hayl, ig'zayl/ *vt* 1 to breathe out 2 to give forth (gas or vapour); emit ~ *vi* 1 to rise or be given off as vapour 2 to emit breath or vapour [ME *exalen*, fr L *exhalare*, fr *ex-* + *halare* to breathe; akin to L *anima* breath - more at ANIMATE]  
**exhaust** /'ig'zawst/ *vt* 1a to draw off or let out completely b to empty by drawing off the contents; specif to create a vacuum in 2a to consume entirely; USE UK (<~ed our funds in a week>) b to tire out (<~ed by their efforts>) 3a to develop or deal with (a subject) to the fullest possible extent b to try out the whole number of (<~ed all the possibilities>) [L *exhaustus*, pp of *exaurire*, fr *ex-* + *aurire* to draw, akin to MHG *resen* to empty,



Gk *auxin* to take] – **exhauster** *n*, **exhaustible** *adj*, **exhaustibility** /-tə'bi:lɪti/ *n*

**exhaust** *n* 1 (the escape of) used gas or vapour from an engine 2 the conduit or pipe through which used gases escape  CAR

**exhaustion** /ig'zawʃən/ *n* extreme tiredness [EXHAUST + -ION]

**exhaustive** /ig'zawstɪv/ *adj* comprehensive, thorough <conducted an ~ investigation> [EXHAUST + -IVE] – **exhaustively** *adv*, **exhaustiveness** *n*, **exhaustivity** /-tɪvɪti/ *n*

**exhibit** /ig'zɪbɪt/ *vt* to present to view. e.g. a to show or display outwardly, esp by visible signs or actions; reveal, manifest <~ed no fear> b to show publicly, esp for purposes of competition or demonstration ~ *vi* to display sthg for public inspection [ME *exhibiten*, fr L *exhibitus*, pp of *exhibere*, fr *ex-* + *habere* to have, hold more at GIVE] – **exhibitive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **exhibitor** *n*, **exhibitory** /-tɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**exhibit** *n* 1 sthg exhibited 2 sthg produced as evidence in a lawsuit 3 chiefly NAM EXHIBITION 1

**exhibition** /eksɪ'bɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or instance of exhibiting <an ~ of ill-temper> 2 a public showing (e.g. of works of art or objects of manufacture) 3 Br a grant drawn from the funds of a school or university to help to maintain a student

**exhibitioner** /eksɪ'bɪʃ(ə)nə/ *n*, Br a student who holds an exhibition

**exhibitionism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a perversion marked by a tendency to indecent exposure 2 the act or practice of behaving so as to attract attention to oneself – **exhibitionist** *n* or *adj*, **exhibitionistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**exhilarate** /ig'zɪləreɪt/ *vt* 1 to make cheerful 2 to enliven, invigorate [L *exhilaratus*, pp of *exhilarare*, fr *ex-* + *hilarare* to gladden, fr *hilaris* cheerful – more at 'AL' MARIUS] – **exhilarative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **exhilaration** /-rə'ʃaɪ(ə)n/ *n*

**exhort** /ig'zawt/ *vt* to urge or advise strongly <~ed them to behave well> ~ *vi* to give warnings or advice, make urgent appeals [ME *exhorten*, fr MF *exhorter*, fr L *exhortari*, fr *ex-* + *hortari* to urge, incite – more at YEARN] – **exhortative** /-tətɪv/ *adj*, **exhorter** *n*

**exhortation** /egzaw'taɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* language intended to incite and encourage, esp an inspiring or encouraging speech or passage of writing [EXHORT + -ATION]

**exhortatory** /ig'zawtətɪrɪ/ *adj* using exhortation, serving to exhort

**exhume** /ek'shyoʊm, ek'syoʊm, ɪk-/ *vt* 1 to disinter 2 to bring back from neglect or obscurity [F or ML, F *exhumere*, fr ML *exhumare*, fr L *ex* out of + *humus* earth – more at EX-, HUMBLE] – **exhumers** *n*, **exhumation** /-mə'ʃaɪ(ə)n/ *n*

**ex hypothesis** /eks hie'pəθəsɪs/ *adj* or *adv* according to the hypothesis [NL]

**exigency** /'eksɪj(ə)nɪ, ɪg'ɪj(ə)nɪ/, **exigence** /'eksɪj(ə)nɪ, 'egz-/ *n* 1 an exigent state of affairs, an emergency <the cabinet must be free to act in any ~> 2 such need or necessity as belongs to the occasion; a requirement – usu pl with sing meaning USE fml [EXIGENT + -CY]

**exigent** /'eksɪj(ə)nɪ, 'egz-/ *adj* 1 requiring immediate aid or action 2 exacting, demanding USE fml [L *exigent-*, *exigens*, prp of *exigere* to demand – more at EXACT] – **exigently** *adv*

**exiguous** /ig'zɪgʊoʊ-əs/ *adj* excessively scanty, inadequate, meagre – fml [L *exiguus*, fr *exigere*] – **exiguously** *adv*, **exiguosity** *n*, **exiguity** /eksɪ'gyoʊh-əti/ *n*

**exile** /'eksɪl, 'egziəl/ *n* 1 enforced or voluntary absence from one's country or home 2 one who is exiled voluntarily or by authority [ME *exil*, fr MF, fr L *exilium*, fr *exul* banished person]

**exile** *vt* to send into exile

**exist** /ɪg'zɪst/ *vi* 1a to have being in the real world, be <do unicorns ~?> b to have being in specified conditions <some chemical compounds ~ only in solution> 2 to continue to be <Nazism still ~s> 3a to have life or the functions of vitality <man cannot ~ without water> b to live at an inferior level or under adverse circumstances <starving people ~ing from one day to the next> [L *existere* to come into being, exist, fr *ex-* + *sistere* to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand – more at STAND]

**existence** /ɪg'zɪst(ə)nɪs/ *n* 1a the totality of existent things b the state or fact of existing; life <death is an elementary fact of ~> 2 manner of living or being <pursued a solitary ~>

**existent** /ɪg'zɪst(ə)nɪt/ *adj* 1 having being; existing 2 extant [L *exsistent-*, *exsistens*, prp of *exsistere*] – **existent** *n*

**existential** /egzɪ'stɛnʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or grounded in existence <~ propositions> 2 existentialist [(2) trans of Dan *eksistentiel* & G *existentia*] – **existentially** *adv*

**existentialism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a philosophical movement characterized by inquiry into human beings' experience of themselves in relation to the

world, esp with reference to their freedom, responsibility, and isolation and the experiences (e.g. of anxiety and despair) in which these are revealed

**existentialist** /-ɪst/ *n* or *adj* (a follower) of existentialism – **existentialistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**existential quantifier** *n* a quantifier that asserts that there exists at least 1 value of a variable

**exit** /'ekst, 'egzɪt/ – used as a stage direction to specify who goes off stage [L, he goes out, fr *exire* to go out, fr *ex-* + *ire* to go – more at ISSUE]

**exit** *n* 1 a departure of a performer from a scene 2 the act of going out or away 3 a way out of an enclosed place or space 4 death – euph [L *exitus*, fr *exitus*, pp of *exire*; (1) 'exit] – **exit** *vi*

**ex libris** /,eks 'leɪbrɪs/ *n*, pl *ex libris* a bookplate [NL, from the books, used before the owner's name on bookplates]

**Exmoor** /'eks,mooə, -maw/ *n* (a member of) a breed of hardy ponies with thick manes native to the Exmoor district [Exmoor, district of SW England]

**ex nihilo** /'neɪhɪlo/ *adv* or *adj* from or out of nothing <creation ~> [L]

**exo** /'eksoh-, ex- comb form 1 outside <exogamy>, outer <exoskeleton> – compare ECT-, END- 1 2 giving off, releasing <exocrine> [Gk *exō* out, outside, fr *ex* out of – more at EX-]

**exobiology** /'eksoh-/ *n* extraterrestrial biology – **exobiological** /-bɪə'ɒləjɪkəl/ *adj*, **exobiologist** /-bɪə'ɒləjɪst/ *n*

**exocrine** /'eksə,kreen, -krɪn, -krɪen/ *adj* 1 producing secretions that are discharged through a duct – compare ENDOCRINE 1 2 of or being an exocrine gland or its secretions [ISV *exo-* + Gk *knein* to separate – more at CERTAIN]

**exocrine gland** *n* a gland (e.g. a sweat gland or a kidney) that releases a secretion external to an organ by means of a duct

**exocytosis** /'eksohsɪə'toʊsɪs/ *n* the release of substances from a cell by fusion of a vesicle inside the cell with the cell membrane and release of the vesicle contents to the outside – compare ENDOCYTOSIS [NL, fr *exo-* + *-cytosis* (as in *phagocytosis*)] – **exocytic** /-sɪetɪk/ *adj*, **exocytose** /-sɪə'toʊz/ *vb*, **exocytotic** /-sɪə'totɪk/ *adj*

**exodermis** /'eksoh'duɦmɪs/ *n* a layer of the outer living cortical cells that functions as the epidermis in roots lacking secondary thickening [NL]

**exodus** /'eksədəs/ *n* 1 cap the second book of the Old Testament, relating the flight of the Israelites from Egypt 2 a mass departure, an emigration [L, fr Gk *Exodos*, lit. road out, fr *ex-* + *hodos* road – more at CEDE]

**ex officio** /'eks ə'fɪs(h)ɪə/ *adv* or *adj* by virtue or because of an office <the president is an ~ member of the committee> [LL]

**exogamy** /'eksə'gəmi/ *n* marriage outside one's tribe – compare ENDOGAMY – **exogamous**, **exogamic** /'eksəh'gəmi/ *adj*

**exogenous** /'eksə'ʒɪnəs/ *adj* originating from the outside, due to external causes [F *exogène*, fr *exo-* + *-gène* (fr Gk *-genēs* born) – more at -GEN] – **exogenously** *adv*

**exonerate** /ig'zɒnəreɪt/ *vt* 1 to relieve of a responsibility, obligation, or hardship 2 to free from blame, exculpate USE usu + *from* <~d him from a charge of corruption> [ME *exoneraten*, fr L *exoneratus*, pp of *exonerare* to unburden, fr *ex-* + *oner-*, *onus* load] – **exonerative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **exoneration** /-rə'ʃaɪ(ə)n/ *n*

**exophthalmos** /'eksəf'thalmos, -məs/ also **exophthalmus** /-məs/ *n* abnormal protrusion of the eyeball [NL, fr Gk *exophthalmos* having prominent eyes, fr *ex* out + *ophthalmos* eye] – **exophthalmic** /-mɪk/ *adj*

**exorbitant** /ig'zɒrɪbɪt(ə)nɪt/ *adj*, of prices, demands, etc much greater than is reasonable; excessive [ME, abnormal, irregular, fr MF, fr LL *exorbitant-*, *exorbitans*, prp of *exorbitare* to deviate, fr L *ex-* + *orbita* track, rut – more at ORB] – **exorbitance** *n*, **exorbitantly** *adv*

**exorcise**, -ise /'eksəw,sɪz/ *vt* 1a to expel (an evil spirit) by solemn command (e.g. in a religious ceremony) b to get rid of (e.g. an unpleasant thought or emotion) as if by exorcism 2 to free (e.g. a person or place) of an evil spirit [ME *exorcisen*, fr MF *exorciser*, fr LL *exorcizare*, fr Gk *exorkizein*, fr *ex-* + *horkizein* to bind by oath, adjure, fr *horkos* oath; akin to Gk *herkos* fence, L *sarcire* to mend] – **exorciser** *n*

**exorcism** /'eksəw,sɪz(ə)m/ *n* (a spell used in) the act of exorcising – **exorcist** /'eksəsɪst, -saw-/ *n*

**exordium** /'eksəw'dɪəm, -dɪəm/ *n*, pl *exordia*, *exordia* /-dɪə-, -dɪə/ a beginning or introduction, esp to a formal speech or literary work [L, fr *exordiri* to begin, fr *ex-* + *ordiri* to begin – more at ORDER] – **exordial** *adj*

- exoskeleton** /ˌeksəʊ'skelɪtən/ *n* an external supportive (hard or bony) covering of an animal – **exoskeletal** /-ˌskelɪtəl, -skelɪtəl/ *adj*
- exosmosis** /ˌeksəʊ'smoʊsɪs/ *n* passage of material through a membrane from a region of higher concentration to a region of lower concentration – compare **ENDOSMOSIS** [alter of obs *exosmose*, fr F, fr *ex-* + Gk *ōsmos* act of pushing – more at **ENDOSMOSIS**] – **exosmotic** /-ˌmɒtɪk/ *adj*
- exosphere** /ˌeksəʊ'sfiə/ *n* the outer region of a planet's atmosphere [ISV] – **exospheric** /-ˌsferɪk/ *adj*
- exostosis** /ˌeksəʊ'stoʊsɪs/ *n, pl* **exostoses** /-ˌseɪz/ a spur or bony outgrowth from a bone [NL, fr Gk *ekstosis*, fr *ex* out of + *osteon* bone – more at **EX-, OSSEOUS**]
- exoteric** /ˌeksəʊ'terɪk/ *adj* 1 designed for, understood by, or suitable to be imparted to the public – compare **ESOTERIC** 2 not admitted or belonging to the inner or initiated circle [L & Gk; L *exotericus*, fr Gk *exōterikos*, lit., external, fr *exotero*, compar of *exō* outside – more at **EXO-**] – **exoterically** *adv*
- exothermic** /ˌeksəʊ'thuhmɪk/, **exothermal** /-ˌtuhtml/ *adj* characterized by or formed with evolution of heat [ISV] – **exothermically** *adv*
- exotic** /ɪɡ'zɒtɪk/ *adj* 1 introduced from another country; not native to the place where found (<an ~ plant>) 2 strikingly or excitingly different or unusual (<an ~ dish>) [L *exoticus*, fr Gk *exotikos*, fr *exō* – **exotic** *n*, **exotically** *adv*, **exoticness** *n*, **exoticism** /ɪɡ'zɒtɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- exotica** /ɪɡ'zɒtɪkə/ *n pl* exotic things; esp literary or artistic items with an exotic theme or quality [NL, fr L, neut pl of *exoticus*]
- expand** /ɪk'spænd/ *vt* 1a to increase the size, extent, number, volume, or scope of (<the company has ~ed its interests overseas>) b to introduce gas into (a plastic or resin) (<~ed vinyl>) 2 to express in detail or in full (<an argument>) ~ *vi* 1 to become expanded (<iron ~s when heated>) 2 ENLARGE 2 3 to grow genial; become more sociable (<only ~s among friends>) [ME *expaunden*, fr L *expandere*, fr *ex-* + *pandere* to spread – more at **FATHOM**] – **expandable** *adj*
- expanded** *metal* *n* sheet metal cut and expanded into a lattice
- expander** /-dɔ/ *n* any of several substances (e.g. dextran) used as a blood or plasma substitute for increasing the blood volume [EXPAND + <sup>2</sup>ER]
- expansive** /ɪk'spænsɪv/ *n* 1 sth spread out, esp over a wide area 2 the extent to which sth is spread out [NL *expansum*, fr L, neut of *expansus*, pp of *expandere*]
- expandable** /-səbl/ *adj* expandable – **expandability** /-ˌbɪlətɪ/ *n*
- expansile** /ɪk'spænsiəl/ *adj* (capable) of expansion
- expansion** /ɪk'spæns(ə)n/ *n* 1 expanding or being expanded (<territorial ~>) 2 the increase in volume of working fluid (e.g. steam) in an engine cylinder 3 sth expanded: e.g. a an expanded part b a fuller treatment of an earlier theme or work 4 the expanding of a mathematical expression or function in a series – **expansional** *adj*, **expansionary** /-(ə)n/ *adj*
- expansionism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a policy of (territorial) expansion – **expansionist** *n*, **expansionist**, **expansionistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- expansive** /ɪk'spænsɪv/ *adj* 1 having a capacity or tendency to expand or cause expansion 2 freely communicative; genial, effusive (<she grew ~ after dinner>) 3 having wide expanse or extent 4 characterized by largeness or magnificence of scale (<~ living>) – **expansively** *adv*, **expansiveness** *n*, **expansivity** /-sɪvɪtɪ/ *n*
- ex parte** /ˌeks 'pɑti-, -tə/ *adv or adj* from or in the interests of 1 side only – used of legal proceedings [ML]
- expatriate** /ɪk'spæʃiəti-, ek-/ *vi* to speak or write at length or in detail, usu on a single subject – usu + *on or upon* [L *expatriatus*, pp of *expatriari* to wander, digress, fr *ex-* + *spatium* space, course – more at **SPEED**] – **expatriation** /-ʃiə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- expatriate** /ˌeks'pætriəti-/ *vt* 1 to exile, banish 2 to withdraw (oneself) from residence in or allegiance to one's native country [ML *expatriatus*, pp of *expatriare* to leave one's own country, fr L *ex-* + *patria* native country, fr fem of *patrius* of a father, fr *pater*, *pater* father – more at **FATHER**] – **expatriation** /-triə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- expatriate** /ˌeks'pætri-ət/ *n* one who lives in a foreign country – **expatriate** *adj*
- expect** /ɪk'spekt/ *vi* 1 to look forward with anticipation 2 to be pregnant ~ *vt* 1 to anticipate or look forward to (<~ed a telephone call>) 2a to consider (an event) probable or certain (<~ to be forgiven>) b to consider reasonable, due, or necessary (<he ~ed respect from his children>) c to consider bound in duty or obligated (<they ~ed him to pay his dues>) 3 to suppose, think (<I ~ that's true>) – **infml** [L *expectare* to look forward to, fr *ex-* + *spectare* to look at, fr *spectus*, pp of *specere* to look – more at **SPY**] – **expectable** *adj*, **expectably** *adv*, **expectance**, **expectancy** *n*, **expectedly** *adv*, **expectation** *n*
- expectant** /ɪk'spekt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 characterized by expectation 2 of a pregnant woman expecting the birth of a child – **expectantly** *adv*
- expectant** *n* one (e.g. a candidate for a position) who is expectant
- expectation** /ˌekspektə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 expecting or sth expected 2 prospects of inheritance – usu pl with sing. meaning 3 an expected amount or number (e.g. of years of life) based on statistical probability
- expectorant** /ɪk'spektərənt/ *n or adj* (sthg) that promotes expectoration
- expectorate** /ɪk'spektərət/ *vb* 1 to eject (matter) from the throat or lungs by coughing or spitting 2 to spit (e.g. saliva) [prob fr (assumed) NL *expectoratus*, pp of *expectorare*, fr L, to cast out of the mind, fr *ex-* + *pector-*, *pectus* breast, soul] – **expectoration** /-ˌreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- expediency** /ɪk'spiːdɪ-ənsɪ-, -dɪənsɪ/ *n* 1 **expediency**, **expedience** suitability, fitness 2 cultivation of or adherence to expedient means and methods 3 an expedient
- expedient** /-ənt/ *adj* 1 suitable for achieving a particular end 2 characterized by concern with what is opportune and esp by self-interest, rather than by concern with what is moral [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *expedient-*, *expediens*, prp of *expedire* to extricate, arrange, be advantageous, fr *ex-* + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**] – **expediently** *adv*
- expedient** *n* a means to an end; esp one devised or used in case of urgent need
- expedite** /ˌeks'piːdiət/ *vt* 1 to execute promptly 2 to hasten the process or progress of, facilitate **USE fml** [L *expeditus*, pp of *expedire*] – **expediter** *n*
- expedition** /ˌeks'piːdɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a journey or excursion undertaken for a specific purpose (e.g. for war or exploration) 2 efficient promptness, speed – **fml** [ME *expedition*, fr MF & L, MF *expedition*, fr L *expedition-*, *expeditio*, fr *expeditus*]
- expeditionary** /-rɪ/ *adj* of or constituting an expedition, also sent on military service abroad (<an ~ force>)
- expeditious** /-ʃəs/ *adj* speedy – **fml** – **expeditiously** *adv*, **expeditiousness** *n*
- expel** /ɪk'spel/ *vt* -ll- 1 to drive or force out (<~led air from the lungs>) 2 to drive away, esp to deport 3 to cut off from membership (<~led from school>) [ME *expellen*, fr L *expellere*, fr *ex-* + *pellere* to drive – more at **FELL**] – **expellable** *adj*, **expeller** *n*, **expellee** /ˌeks'pelɪe-, ɪk'spelɪe-/ *n*
- expend** /ɪk'spend/ *vt* 1 to pay out (<the new roads on which so much public money is ~ed>) 2 to consume (e.g. time, care, or attention) by use, **USE UP** (<projects on which he ~ed great energy>) [MF *expenden*, fr L *expendere* to weigh out, expend, fr *ex-* + *pendere* to weigh – more at **SPAN**] – **spender** *n*
- expendable** /-dəbl/ *adj* 1 normally used up in service, not intended to be kept or reused (<~ supplies like pencils and paper>) 2 regarded as available for sacrifice or destruction in order to accomplish an objective (<~ troops>) [EXPEND + <sup>2</sup>ABLE] – **expendability** /-ˌbɪlətɪ/ *n*
- expenditure** /ɪk'spendɪtʃə/ *n* 1 the act or process of expending 2 the amount expended [irreg fr *expend*]
- expense** /ɪk'spens/ *n* 1a sth expended to secure a benefit or bring about a result b financial burden or outlay c *pl* the charges incurred by an employee in performing his/her duties d an item of business outlay chargeable against revenue in a specific period 2 a cause or occasion of usu high expenditure (<a car is a great ~>) [ME, fr AF or LL, AF, fr LL *expensa*, fr L, fem of *expensus*, pp of *expendere*] – **at somebody's expense** in a manner that causes sby to be ridiculed (<made a joke at my expense>) – **at the expense of** to the detriment of (<develop a boy's physique at the expense of his intelligence> – Bertrand Russell)
- expense account** *n* an account of expenses reimbursable to an employee – **expense-account** *adj*
- expensive** /ɪk'spensɪv/ *adj* 1 involving great expense (<an ~ hobby>) 2 commanding a high price; dear – **expensively** *adv*, **expensiveness** *n*
- experience** /ɪk'spiəri-əns/ *n* 1 (the facts or events perceived by) the usual conscious perception or apprehension of reality or of an external, bodily, or mental event 2 (the knowledge, skill, or practice derived from) direct participation or observation 3 the sum total of conscious events that make up an individual life or the collective past of a community, nation, or humankind generally 4 sth personally encountered or undergone (<a terrifying ~>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *experientia* act of trying, fr *experient-*, *experiens*, prp of *experiri* to try, fr *ex-* + *periri* (akin to *periculum* attempt) – more at **FEAR**]
- experience** *vt* to have experience of (<~d severe hardships as a child>)
- experienced** *adj* skilful or wise as a result of experience of a particular activity or of life as a whole (<an ~ driver>)
- experiential** /ɪk'spiəri-ənʃ(ə)l/ *adj* based on or relating to experience; empirical – **experientially** *adv*
- experiment** /ɪk'sperɪmənt/ *n* 1 a tentative procedure or policy that is

on trial 2 an operation carried out under controlled conditions in order to test or establish a hypothesis or to illustrate a known law <a scientific ~> 3 the process of making experiments [ME, fr MF, fr L *experimentum*, fr *experiri*] – **experiment** /-ment/ *vi*, **experimentation** /-men-'taysh(ə)n, -mon-/ *n*, **experimenter** *n*

**experimental** /ik'speriməntl/ *adj* 1 experiential 2 based on or derived from experiment – **experimentalism** *adj*, **experimentally** *adv*

**expert** /'ekspu:t/ *n* or *adj* (sby or sthg) having or showing special skill or knowledge derived from training or experience [adj ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *expertus*, fr pp of *experiri*; *n* fr *adj*] – **expertly** *adv*, **expertise** *n*

**expertise** /'ekspu:t'teez/ *n* skill in or knowledge of a particular field, know-how <technical ~> [F, fr MF, *expertness*, fr *expert*]

**expiable** /'ekspi:əbl/ *adj* capable of being expiated

**expiate** /'ekspi:əit/ *vi* 1a to eradicate the guilt incurred by (e.g. a sin) b to pay the penalty for (e.g. a crime) 2 to make amends for [L *expiatus*, pp of *expiare* to atone for, fr *ex-* + *piare* to atone for, appease – more at *PIOUS*] – **expiation** /-ə'aysh(ə)n/ *n*, **expiator** /-ə'aitə/ *n*, **expiatory** /-ə'ait(ə)r/ *adj*

**expiration** /'ekspie-ə'reysh(ə)n, -spi-/ *n* 1 the release of air from the lungs through the nose or mouth 2 expiry, termination [EXPIRE + -ATION]

**expiratory** /ik'spie-ə'ret(ə)r/ *adj* of or employed in the expiration of air from the lungs

**expire** /ik'spie:ə/ *vi* 1 to come to an end <his term of office ~s this year> 2 to emit the breath 3 to die – *fml* – *vi* to breathe out (as if) from the lungs [ME *expiaren*, fr MF or L, MF *expirer*, fr L *exspirare*, fr *ex-* + *spirare* to breathe – more at *SPIRIT*]

**expiry** /-rɪ/ *n* a termination, exp of a time or period fixed by law, contract, or agreement

**explain** /ik'spleɪn/ *vt* 1 to make plain or understandable 2 to give the reason for or cause of <unwilling to ~ his conduct> – *vi* to make sthg plain or understandable [ME *explanen*, fr L *explanare*, *lit*, to make level, fr *ex-* + *planus* level, flat – more at *FLOOR*] – **explainable** *adj*, **explainer** *n* – **explain oneself** to clarify one's statements or the reasons for one's conduct

**explain away** *vt* to avoid blame for or cause to appear insignificant by making excuses <tried to explain away the corruption in his department>

**explanation** /'eksplə'neɪsh(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of explaining, sthg, esp a statement, that explains

**explanative** /ik'splənətɪv/ *adj* explanatory – **explanatively** *adv*

**explanatory** /ik'splənət(ə)r/ *adj* serving to explain <~ notes> – **explanatorily** *adv*

**explant** /'ek'splənt/ *vt* to remove (living tissue), esp to a medium for tissue culture [*ex-* + *-plant* (as in *implant*)] – **explantation** /-tə'aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**explant** *n* a piece of living tissue removed from an organism and placed in a medium for tissue culture

**explicative** /'ek'spleɪtɪv/ *adj* serving to fill up <~ phrases> [LL *expletivus*, fr L *expletus*, pp of *explere* to fill out, fr *ex-* + *plere* to fill – more at *FULL*]

**explicative** *n* 1 a word, phrase, etc inserted to fill a space without adding to the sense 2 a usu meaningless exclamatory word or phrase, *specif* one that is obscene or profane

**explicable** /'eksplɪkəbl, ek'splɪkəbl/ *adj* capable of being explained – **explicably** *adv*

**explicate** /'eksplɪkəit/ *vt* 1 to give a detailed explanation of 2 to develop the implications of, analyse logically [L *explicatus*: pp of *explicare*, *lit*, to unfold, fr *ex-* + *plicare* to fold – more at *PIY*] – **explicator** *n*, **explicative** /'eksplɪkətɪv, ek'spli-/ *adj*, **explicatory** /'eksplɪkəit(ə)r, ek'splɪkət(ə)r/ *adj*, **explication** /'eksplɪkə'aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**explicit** /ik'splɪsɪt/ *adj* 1 clear, unambiguous <~ instructions>; also graphically frank <~ sex scenes> 2 fully developed or formulated [F or ML; F *explicite*, fr ML *explicitus*, fr L, pp of *explicare*] – **explicitly** *adv*, **explicitness** *n*

**explode** /ik'spləʊd/ *vt* 1 to bring (e.g. a belief or theory) into discredit by demonstrating falsity <~ a rumour> 2 to cause to explode or burst noisily – *vi* 1 to give expression to sudden, violent, and usu noisy emotion <~ with anger> 2a to undergo a rapid chemical or nuclear reaction with the production of noise, heat, and violent expansion of gases b to burst or expand violently as a result of pressure <the boiler ~d> <the exploding population> [L *explodere* to drive off the stage by clapping, fr *ex-* + *plaudere* to clap] – **exploder** *n*

**exploded** *adj* showing the parts separated but in correct relationship to each other <an ~ view of a carburettor>

**exploit** /'eksplɔɪt/ *n* a deed, act; *esp* a notable or heroic one [ME, outcome, success, fr OF, fr L *explicium*, neut of *explicitus*, pp]

**exploit** /ik'splɔɪt/ *vt* 1 to turn to economic account <~ a mine>; also to utilize 2 to take unfair advantage of for financial or other gain <~s the workers by paying low wages> – **exploitable** *adj*, **exploiter** *n*, **exploitive** *adj*, **exploitively** *adj*, **exploitability** /-tə'blɪtɪ/ *n*

**exploitation** /'eksplɔɪtə'aysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 exploiting or being exploited 2 cashing in on a topical theme <~ movie> – **exploitative** /ik'splɔɪtətɪv/ *adj*, **exploitatively** *adv*

**explore** /ik'spləʊ/ *vt* 1 to examine or inquire into thoroughly <~ the possibilities of reaching an agreement> 2 to examine minutely, *esp* for diagnostic purposes 3 to travel into or through for purposes of geographical discovery – *vi* to make or conduct a search [L *explorare*, fr *ex-* + *plorare* to cry out, prob fr the outcry of hunters on sighting game] – **explorer** *n*, **exploration** /'eksplə'reysh(ə)n/ *n*, **explorative** /ik'splɔ'retɪv/ *adj*, **exploratively** *adv*, **exploratory** /-trɪ/ *adj*

**explosion** /ik'spləʊzh(ə)n/ *n* 1 exploding e.g. a rapid large-scale expansion, increase, or upheaval <the population ~> b a sudden violent outburst of emotion 2 plosion [L *explosio*-, *explosio* act of driving off by clapping, fr *explosus*, pp of *explodere*]

**explosive** /ik'spləʊsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 tending or threatening to burst forth with sudden violence or noise <an ~ substance> <an ~ situation> – *SYMBOL* 2 tending to arouse strong reactions, controversial <the play's ~ topicality> – **explosively** *adv*, **explosiveness** *n*

**explosive** *n* 1 an explosive substance 2 a plosive, stop

**expo** /'ekspoh/ *n*, *pl* **expos** EXPOSITION 3

**exponent** /ik'spəʊnənt/ *n* 1 a symbol written above and to the right of a mathematical expression to indicate the operation of raising to a power <in the expression *a<sup>b</sup>*, the ~ 3 indicates that *a* is cubed> 2a sby or sthg that expounds or interprets b sby who advocates or exemplifies *USE* (2) usu + of [L *exponent*-, *exponens*, prp of *exponere*]

**exponential** /'ekspe'nənsɪəl/ *adj* 1 involving a variable in an exponent <[*it* is an ~ expression]> 2 expressible or approximately expressible in terms of exponential functions <an ~ growth rate>

**exponential function** *n* a mathematical function in which an independent variable appears in an exponent

**export** /ik'spɔ:t/ *vt* to carry or send (e.g. a commodity) to some other place (e.g. another country) for purposes of trade – *vi* to export sthg abroad [L *exportare*, fr *ex-* + *portare* to carry – more at *FARE*] – **exportable** *adj*, **exportability** /-tə'blɪtɪ/ *n*, **exporter** *n*

**export** /'ekspɔ:t/ *n* 1 sthg exported 2 an act of exporting

**exportation** /-tə'aysh(ə)n/ *n* an act of exporting; also, chiefly *NAm* a commodity exported

**expose** /ik'spəʊz/ *vt* 1a to deprive of shelter or protection, lay open to attack or distressing influence <~s himself to ridicule> b to submit or subject to an action or influence, *specif* to subject (a photographic film, plate, or paper) to the action of radiant energy c to abandon (an infant) in an unsheltered place 2 to lay open to view, display e.g. a to exhibit for public veneration b to reveal the face of (a playing card) c to engage in indecent exposure of (oneself) 3 to bring (sthg shameful) to light <~d their treachery> [ME *exposen*, fr MF *exposer*, fr L *exponere* to set forth, explain (perf indic *exposui*), fr *ex-* + *ponere* to put, place – more at *POSITION*] – **exposer** *n*

**exposé**, **expose** /'ek'spəʊzeɪ (Fr ekspeze)/ *n* 1 a formal recital or exposition of facts, a statement 2 an exposure of sthg discreditable <a newspaper ~ of organized crime> [F *expose*, fr pp of *exposer*]

**exposed** *adj* open to view or to the elements


**exposition** /'ekspe'zɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the art or practice of expounding or explaining the meaning or purpose of sthg (e.g. a text) 2a a detailed explanation or elucidation, esp of sthg difficult to understand <a brilliant ~ of existentialism> b the first part of a musical composition in which the theme is presented 3 a usu international public exhibition or show (e.g. of industrial products) – **expositional** *adj*, **expositor** /ik'spəzɪtə/ *n*, **expository** /ik'spəzɪt(ə)r/ *adj*

**expositive** /ik'spəzɪtɪv/ *adj* descriptive, explanatory

**ex post facto** /'eks, pəʊst 'faktəh/ *adj* or *adv* 1 after the fact <~ approval> 2 applied retrospectively <~ laws> [LL, from a thing done afterwards]

**expostulate** /ik'spəʊstjuːlət, -chələt/ *vi* to reason earnestly with sby in order to dissuade or remonstrate – *fml* [L *expostulatus*, pp of *expostulare* to demand, dispute, fr *ex-* + *postulare* to ask for – more at *POSTULATE*] – **expostulation** /-lə'aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**exposure** /ik'spəʊzh(ə)/ *n* 1a a disclosure, esp of a weakness or sthg

shameful or criminal; an *exposé*, unmasking <continued his ~ of electoral frauds> **b** presentation or exposition, esp to the public by means of the mass media **c**(1) the act of exposing a sensitized photographic film, plate, or paper; also the duration of such an exposure (2) a section of a film with 1 picture on it **2a** being exposed, specif to the elements **b** the specified direction in which a building, room, etc faces <a house with a western ~> **USE** (1c)(1), (2)  CAMERA [EXPOSE + -URE]

**expound** /ik'spəʊnd/ *vt* to set forth, esp in careful or elaborate detail; state, explain [ME *expouden*, fr MF *expondre*, fr L *exponere* to explain - more at EXPOSE] - *expounder* *n*

**express** /ik'spres/ *adj* 1 firmly and explicitly stated <he disobeyed my ~ orders> **2** of a particular sort; specific <he came for that ~ purpose> **3a** (adapted or suitable for) travelling at high speed <an ~ highway> **b** *Br* designated to be delivered without delay by special messenger <~ mail> [ME, fr MF *expres*, fr L *expressus*, pp of *exprimere* to press out, *express*, fr *ex-* + *premere* to press - more at PRESS]

**express** *adv* by express

**express** *n* 1 an express vehicle **2** *Br* express mail

**express** *vt* 1a to show or represent, esp in words; state **b** to make known the opinions, feelings, etc of (oneself) <~es himself through his work> **c** to represent by a sign or symbol **2** to force out (e.g. the juice of a fruit) by pressure [ME *expressen*, fr MF & L; MF *expresser*, fr OF, fr *expres*, *adj*, fr L *expressus*, pp] - *expresser* *n*, *expressible* *adj*

**expression** /ik'spresʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a expressing, esp in words <freedom of ~> **b**(1) an outward manifestation or symbol <this gift is an ~ of my admiration for you> **(2)** a significant word or phrase **(3)** a mathematical or logical symbol or combination of symbols serving to express sthg **2a** a means or manner of expressing sthg; esp sensitivity and feeling in communicating or performing <read the poem with ~> **b**(1) the quality or fact of being expressive **(2)** facial aspect or vocal intonation indicative of feeling **3** (a product of) pressing out - *expressional* *adj*, *expressionless* *adj*, *expressionlessly* *adv*, *expressionlessness* *n*

**expressionism** /-iz(ə)m/ *n* a mode of artistic expression that attempts to depict the artist's subjective emotions and responses to objects and events - *expressionist* *n* or *adj*, *expressionistic* /-'istik/ *adj*, *expressionistically* *adv*

**expressive** /ik'spresiv/ *adj* 1 of expression <the ~ function of language> **2** serving to express or represent <he used foul and novel terms ~ of rage> - H.G. Wells **3** full of expression; significant <an ~ silence> - *expressively* *adv*, *expressiveness* *n*, *expressivity* /'ekspre'sivəti/ *n*

**expressly** /ik'spresli/ *adv* 1 explicitly <I ~ told you not to do that> **2** for the express purpose, specially <needed a clinic ~ for the treatment of addicts>

**expressway** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a motorway

**expropriate** /'eks'prɒpɪəɪt/ *vt* 1 to dispossess **2** to transfer to one's own possession <~d all the land within a 10-mile radius> [ML *expropriatus*, pp of *expropriare*, fr L *ex-* + *proprius* own] - *expropriator* *n*, *expropriation* /-'əɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**expulsion** /ik'spʊlʃ(ə)n/ *n* expelling or being expelled [ME, fr L *expulsion-*, *expulso*, fr *expulsus*, pp of *expellere* to expel] - *expulsive* /-siv/ *adj*

**expunge** /ik'spʊnj/ *vt* 1 to strike out, obliterate, erase **2** to efface completely; destroy <nothing can ~ his shame> **USE** fml [L *expungere* to mark for deletion by dots, fr *ex-* + *pungere* to prick - more at PUNGENT] - *expunction* /ik'spʊŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *expunger* *n*

**expurgate** /'eks'pʊgəɪt/ *vt* to rid of sthg morally offensive; esp to remove objectionable parts from, before publication or presentation [L *expurgatus*, pp of *expurgare*, fr *ex-* + *purgare* to purge] - *expurgator* /-gəɪtə/ *n*, *expurgation* /-'gəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *expurgatorial* /ik-'spʊgə'tɔːriəl/ *adj*, *expurgatory* /ik'spʊgət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**exquisite** /ik'skwɪzɪt, 'ekskwɪzɪt/ *adj* 1a marked by flawless, beautiful, and usu delicate craftsmanship **b** keenly sensitive, esp in feeling; discriminating <~ taste> **2a** extremely beautiful; delightful <an ~ white blossom> **b** acute, intense <~ pain> [ME *exquisit* choice, ingenious, fr L *exquisitus*, fr pp of *exquirere* to search out, fr *ex-* + *quaerere* to seek] - *exquisitely* /ik'skwɪzɪtli/ *adv*, *exquisite* *n*

**exsanguinate** /ik'sang-gwi,nəɪt/ *vt* to drain of blood [L *exsanguinatus* bloodless, fr *ex-* + *sanguin-*, *sanguis* blood] - *exsanguination* /-'nəɪ-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**exserted** /'eks'suɪtɪd/ *adj* projecting beyond an enclosing organ or part <~ anthers> [fr pp of *exsert* (to thrust out), fr L *exsertus*, *exertus*, pp of *exserere*, *exerere* - more at EXERT]

**exstipulate** /'ek'stɪpjuːlət, -ləɪt/ *adj*, of a plant or leaf having no stipules

**extant** /'ek'stənt/ *adj* still or currently existing <~ manuscripts> [L

*extant-*, *extans*, prp of *extare* to stand out, be in existence, fr *ex-* + *stare* to stand - more at STAND]

**extemporaneous** /ik'stempo'reɪnyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 done, spoken, performed, etc on the spur of the moment; impromptu <gave a witty ~ speech> **2** provided, made, or put to use as an expedient; makeshift [LL *extemporaneus*, fr L *ex tempore*] - *extemporaneously* *adv*, *extemporaneity* *n*, *extemporanely* /-pɔː'nəɪtli/ *n*

**extemporary** /ik'stemp(ə)rəri/ *adj* extemporaneous - *extemporarily* *adv*

**extempore** /ik'stempəri/ *adj* or *adv* (spoken or done) in an extemporaneous manner <speaking ~> [L *ex tempore*, fr *ex* + *tempore*, abl of *tempus* time]

**extemporize**, -ise /ik'stempə'raɪz/ *vi* to speak, or perform sthg, extemporaneously; improvise ~ *vt* to compose, perform, or utter extemporaneously - *extemporizer* *n*, *extemporization* /-'zəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**extend** /ik'stend/ *vt* 1 to spread or stretch forth, unfold <~ed both her arms> **2a** to stretch out to fullest length <~ed the sail> **b** to exert (e.g. a horse or oneself) to full capacity <won the race without ~ing himself> **3** to give or offer, usu in response to need; proffer <~ing aid to the needy> **4a** to cause to reach (e.g. in distance or scope) <national authority was ~ed over new territories> <~ed the road to the coast> **b** to prolong in time **c** to advance, further <~ing human knowledge> **5a** to enlarge **b** to increase the scope, meaning, or application of, broaden ~ *vi* 1 to stretch out in distance, space, or time <his jurisdiction ~ed over the whole area> **2** to reach in scope or application [ME *extenden*, fr MF or L, MF *extendere*, fr L *extendere*, fr *ex-* + *tendere* to stretch - more at THIN] - *extendable*, *extendible* *adj*

**extended** *adj*, of a gait or horse performed or performing with lengthened stride and extended neck - compare COLLECTED - *extendedly* *adv*, *extendedness* *n*

**extended** 'family *n* a family unit that includes 3 or more generations of near relatives in addition to a nuclear family in 1 household - compare NUCLEAR FAMILY

**extender** /-də/ *n* a substance added to a product to increase its bulk or improve its physical properties [EXTEND + -ER]

**extensible** /ik'stensəbl/, *extensile* /-siəl/ *adj* capable of being extended - *extensibility* /sə'bɪləti/ *n*

**extension** /ik'stensh(ə)n/ *n* 1a extending or being extended **b** sthg extended **2** extent, scope **3** a straightening of (a joint between the bones of) a limb **4** an increase in length of time **5** a programme of instruction for nonresident students of a university **6a** a part added (e.g. to a building) **b** an extra telephone connected to the principal line [ME, fr MF or LL, MF, fr LL *extension-*, *extensio*, fr L *extensus*, pp of *extendere*]

**extensive** /ik'stensiv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 having wide or considerable extent <~ reading> **2** of or being farming in which large areas of land are used with minimum outlay and labour - *extensively* *adv*, *extensiveness* *n*

**extensometer** /'eksten'somitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring deformations of test specimens caused by tension, compression, etc [extension + -o- + -meter]


**extensor** /ik'stensə-, -saw/ *n* a muscle that produces extension

**extent** /ik'stent/ *n* 1 the range or distance over which sthg extends <the ~ of the forest> <the ~ of his knowledge> **2** the point or limit to which sthg extends <the ~ of our patience> [ME, land valuation, seizure of land, fr AF & MF; AF *extente* land valuation, fr MF, area, surveying of land, fr *extendre* to extend]

**extenuate** /ik'stenyooəɪt/ *vt* to (try to) lessen the seriousness or extent of (e.g. a crime) by giving excuses [L *extenuatus*, pp of *extenuare*, fr *ex-* + *tenuis* thin - more at THIN] - *extenuator* *n*, *extenuatory* /-yoʊə(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, *extenuation* /-'əɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**exterior** /ik'stiəri-ə/ *adj* 1 on the outside or an outside surface; external **2** suitable for use on outside surfaces [L, compar of *exter*, *exterus* on the outside, foreign, fr *ex*] - *exteriorize* *vt*, *exteriorly* *adv*, *exteriorization* /-'zəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *exteriority* /-nɔːrəti/ *n*

**exterior** *n* 1a an exterior part or surface; outside **b** an outward manner or appearance <a deceptively friendly ~> **2** a representation of an outdoor scene

**exterior angle** *n* 1 the angle between a side of a polygon and an extended adjacent side **2** an angle between a line crossing 2 parallel lines and either of the latter and lying outside the parallel lines  MATH-EMATICS

**exterminate** /ik'stuːhmi,nəɪt/ *vt* to destroy completely; esp to kill all of <~d the mice> [L *exterminatus*, pp of *exterminare* to banish, expel, fr *ex-* + *terminus* boundary - more at TERM] - *exterminator* *n*, *extermination* /-'nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *exterminatory* /ik'stuːhmiːnət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**external** /ik'stuːhnl/ *adj* 1a capable of being perceived outwardly <~

- signs of a disease> **b**(1) superficial (2) not intrinsic or essential (< ~ circumstances> 2 of, connected with, or intended for the outside or an outer part **3a**(1) situated outside, apart, or beyond (2) arising or acting from outside (*an ~ force*) **b** of dealings with foreign countries **c** having existence independent of the mind (< ~ reality> [ME, fr L *externus* external, fr *exter*] - **externally** *adv*, **externality** /'ekstuh'næləti/ *n*
- external** *n* an external feature or aspect - usu pl
- external-combustion engine** *n* a heat engine (e.g. a steam engine) that derives its heat energy from fuel consumed outside the engine cylinder
- external degree** *n* a degree taken without actually attending the university that awards it
- external examiner** *n* a visiting examiner who ensures impartiality and equality of standards in an examination
- externalize**, -ise /'ik'stuhnl,iez/ *vt* 1 to make external or externally visible 2 to attribute to causes outside the self, rationalize /~ his failure/ - **externalization** /-'zayzhən(ə)n/ *n*
- exteroceptive** /'ekstrə'həptiv/ *adj* activated by, relating to, or being stimuli received by an organism from outside [L *exter* + F: *-o-* + *-ceptive* (as in *receptive*)] - **exteroceptor** *n*
- extraterritorial** /'eks,ter'i'tawn-əl/ *adj* extraterritorial - **extraterritoriality** /-ri'æləti/ *n*
- extinct** /'ik'stingkt/ *adj* **1a** no longer burning **b** no longer active (< *an ~ volcano*) **2** no longer existing (< *an ~ animal*) **3** having no qualified claimant (< *an ~ title*) [ME, fr L *extinctus*, pp of *extinguere*]
- extinction** /'ik'stingksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 making or being extinct or (causing to be) extinguished 2 elimination or reduction of a conditioned response by not reinforcing it - **extinctive** /'ik'stingktiv/ *adj*
- extinguish** /'ik'stingkwish/ *vt* **1a** to cause to cease burning, quench **b** to bring to an end (< *hope for their safety was slowly ~ed*) **c** to cause extinction of (a conditioned response) **2a** to make void /~ a claim/ **b** to abolish (a debt) by payment [L *extinguere* (fr *ex-* + *stingere* to extinguish) + E: *-ish* (as in *abolish*), akin to L *instigare* to incite - more at 'STICK] - **extinguishable** *adj*, **extinguisher** *n*, **extinguishment** *n*
- extirpate** /'ekstuh,payt/ *vt* 1 to destroy completely (as if) by uprooting, annihilate **2** to cut out by surgery [L *extirpatus*, pp of *extirpare*, fr *ex-* + *stirp-*, *stirps* trunk, root - more at TORPID] - **extirpator** *n*, **extirpation** /-'paysh(ə)n/ *n*, **extirpative** /'ekstuh,paytiv, 'ik'stuhpətiv/ *adj*
- extol**, *NAM* also **extoll** /'ik'stohl, -'stol/ *vt* -ll- to praise highly, glorify [ME *extollen*, fr L *extollere*, fr *ex-* + *tollere* to lift up - more at TOLERATE] - **extoller** *n*, **extolment** *n*
- extort** /'ek'staʊt/ *vt* to obtain from sb by force or threats (< ~ money> (< ~ a confession> [L *extortus*, pp of *extorquere* to wrench out, extort, fr *ex-* + *torquere* to twist - more at TORTURE] - **extorter** *n*, **extortive** *adj*
- extortion** /'ik'staʊsh(ə)n/ *n* extorting, *specif* the unlawful extorting of money - **extortioner** *n*, **extortionist** *n*
- extortionate** /'ik'staʊsh(ə)nəl/ *adj* excessive, exorbitant - **extortionately** *adv*
- extra** /'ekstrə/ *adj* 1 more than is due, usual, or necessary, additional (< ~ work> 2 subject to an additional charge (< *room service is ~*) [prob short for *extraordinary*]
- extra** *n* sth or sb by extra or additional e.g. **a** an added charge **b** a specified edition of a newspaper (< *late night ~*) **c** a run in cricket (e.g. a bye, leg bye, no-ball, or wide) that is not scored by a stroke of the bat and is not credited to a batsman's individual score **d** an additional worker, *specif* one hired to act in a group scene in a film or stage production
- extra** *adv* beyond or above the usual size, extent, or amount (< *to work ~ hard*) (< *they charge ~ for single rooms*)
- extra-** /'ekstrə-/ *prefix* outside; beyond (< *extrajudicial*) (< *extramural*) [ME, fr L, fr *extra*, *adv* & prep, outside, except, beyond, fr *exter* on the outside - more at EXTERIOR]
- extracellular** /'ekstrə'selyoolə/ *adj* situated or occurring outside a cell or the cells of the body (< ~ digestion> (< ~ enzymes> - **extracellularly** *adv*
- extra 'cover** *n* a fielding position in cricket between mid-off and cover and about a third of the way to the boundary 𐀀 SPORT
- extract** /'ik'strakt/ *vt* 1 to draw forth or pull out, esp against resistance or with effort (< ~ed a wisdom tooth> (< ~ed a confession> 2 to withdraw (e.g. a juice or fraction) by physical or chemical process; also to treat with a solvent so as to remove a soluble substance 3 to separate (a metal) from an ore 4 to find (a mathematical root) by calculation 5 to excerpt [ME *extracten*, fr L *extractus*, pp of *extrahere*, fr *ex-* + *trahere* to draw - more at DRAW] - **extractable**, **extractible** *adj*, **extractor** *n*, **extractability** /-'ts'biləti/ *n*
- extract** /'ekstrakt/ *n* 1 an excerpt 2 **extract**, **extractive** /'ik'straktiv/ (a solution of) the essential constituents of a complex material (e.g. an aromatic plant) prepared by extraction
- extraction** /'ik'straksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 extracting 2 ancestry, origin 3 sth extracted
- extractive** /'ik'straktiv/ *adj* 1 tending towards or resulting in the depletion of natural resources by extraction with no provision for replenishment (< ~ agriculture> 2 capable of being extracted - **extractively** *adv*
- extractor**, *fan* *n* a type of ventilator, usu electrically driven, designed to expel fumes, stale air, etc
- extracurricular** /'ekstrə'rikjoolə/ *adj* 1 not falling within the scope of a regular curriculum 2 lying outside one's normal activities
- extraditable** /'ekstrə'diətl/ *adj* liable to or warranting extradition (< *an ~ offence*)
- extradite** /'ekstrə'di:t/ *vt* 1 to hand over for extradition 2 to obtain by extradition [back-formation fr *extradition*]
- extradition** /'ekstrə'diʃ(ə)n/ *n* the surrender of an alleged criminal by one state to another having jurisdiction to try the charge [F, fr *ex-* + L *traditio-*, *traditio* act of handing over - more at TREASON]
- extrados** /'ek'straydos/ *n*, pl **extrados** /~/, **extradoses** the convex upper surface of an arch - compare **INTRADOS** 𐀀 ARCHITECTURE [F, fr L *extra* + F *dos* back - more at DOSSIER]
- extrajudicial** /'ekstrə'juʃiəl/ *adj* 1 not forming part of regular legal proceedings (< *an ~ investigation*) 2 in contravention of law (< *an ~ execution*) - **extrajudicially** *adv*
- extramarital** /'ekstrə'marɪtl/ *adj*, *esp* of sexual relations involving sb other than one's spouse
- extramundane** /'ekstrə'mundəyn, -'mʌ-/ *adj* situated in or relating to a region beyond the material world [LL *extramundanus*, fr L *extra* - *mundus* the world]
- extramural** /'ekstrə'myooərəl/ *adj* 1 outside (the walls or boundaries of) a place or organization 2 chiefly Br of extension courses or facilities (< *university ~ department*) - **extramurally** *adv*
- extraneous** /'ik'streɪnyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 on or coming from the outside 2 not forming an essential or vital part, irrelevant (< *an ~ scene that added nothing to the play*) [L *extraneus* - more at STRANGE] - **extraneously** *adv*, **extraneousness** *n*
- extraordinary** /'ik'straʊdɪn(ə)n/ *adj* **1a** going beyond what is usual, regular, or customary (< *an Act that gave him ~ powers*) **b** highly exceptional, remarkable (< ~ beauty> 2 on or for a special function or service (< *an ambassador ~*) (< *an ~ general meeting*) [ME *extraordinaire*, fr L *extraordinarius*, fr *extra ordinem* out of course, fr *extra* + *ordinem*, acc of *ordin-*, *ordo* order] - **extraordinarily** *adv*, **extraordinariness** *n*
- extrapolate** /'ek'strapə,ləyt/ *vt* 1 to infer (values of a variable in an unobserved interval) from values within an already observed interval 2a to use or extend (known data or experience) in order to surmise or work out sth unknown **b** to predict by extrapolating known data or experience [L *extra* outside + E: *-polate* (as in *interpolate*) - more at EXTRA-] - **extrapolator** *n*, **extrapolative** /-'lətɪv/ *adj*, **extrapolation** /-'ləyʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- extrasensory** /'ekstrə'sens(ə)n/ *adj* residing beyond or outside the ordinary physical senses (< *instances of ~ perception*)
- extraterrestrial** /'ekstrə'terɪstriəl/ *adj* originating, existing, or occurring outside the earth or its atmosphere
- extraterritorial** /'ekstrə'ter'i'tawn-əl/ *adj* outside the territorial limits of a jurisdiction
- extra, territoriality** /-ter'i'tawn'æləti/ *n* exemption from the jurisdiction of local law
- extravagance** /'ik'strə'veɪɡəns/, **extravagancy** /-si/ *n* 1 an extravagant act; *specif* an excessive outlay of money 2 sth extravagant
- extravagant** /-gənt/ *adj* **1a** lacking in moderation, balance, and restraint; excessive (< ~ praise> **b** excessively elaborate or showy **2a** wasteful, esp of money **b** profuse 3 exorbitant [MF, wandering, irregular, fr ML *extravagant-*, *extravagans*, fr L *extra-* + *vagant-*, *vagans*, prp of *vagari* to wander about - more at VAGARY] - **extravagantly** *adv*
- extravaganza** /'ik'strə'veɪɡənzə/ *n* 1 a literary or musical work marked by extreme freedom of style and structure 2 a lavish or spectacular show or event [It *estravaganza*, lit. 'extravagance', fr *estravagante* extravagant, fr ML *extravagant-*, *extravagans*]
- extravasate** /'ik'strə'veɪsəyt/ *vt* to force out or cause (e.g. blood) to escape from a proper vessel or channel ~ *vi* 1 to pass by infiltration from a proper vessel or channel (e.g. a blood vessel) into surrounding tissue 2 esp of lava to pour out [L *extra* + *vas* vessel - more at VASE] - **extravasate** *n*, **extravasation** /-'səyʃ(ə)n/ *n*



**extravehicular** /ˌekstrəˈveɪkəloʊl/ *adj* taking place outside a spacecraft in flight (< ~ activity)

**extravert** /ˌekstrəˈvɜːt/ *n* or *adj* (an) extrovert

**extreme** /ɪkˈstriːm/ *adj* 1a existing in a very high degree (< ~ poverty) b going to great or exaggerated lengths, not moderate (< an ~ right-winger) c exceeding the usual or expected; severe (< took ~ measures) 2 situated at the farthest possible point from a centre or the nearest to an end (< the country's ~ north) 3a most advanced or thoroughgoing (< the ~ avant-garde) b maximum (< the ~ penalty) [ME, fr MF, fr L *extremus*, superl of *exter*, *exterus* on the outside – more at EXTERIOR] – *extremely adv*, *extremeness n*

**extreme** *n* 1a sthg situated at or marking one or other extreme point of a range (< ~s of heat and cold) b the first term or the last term of a mathematical proportion 2 a very pronounced or extreme degree (< his enthusiasm was carried to an ~) 3 an extreme measure or expedient (< going to ~s) – in the extreme to the greatest possible extent (< boring in the extreme)

**extreme unction** *n* the (Roman Catholic) sacrament of anointing and praying over sb who is dying

**extremism** /ɪkˈstriːmɪz(ə)m/ *n* advocacy of extreme political measures, radicalism – *extremist n* or *adj*

**extremity** /ɪkˈstriːmɪti/ *n* 1a the most extreme part, point, or degree b a (human) hand, foot, or other limb 2 (a moment marked by) extreme misfortune and esp danger of destruction or death – compare IN EXTREMIS 3 a drastic or desperate act or measure

**extricate** /ˌekstriˈkeɪt/ *vt* to disentangle, esp with considerable effort (< managed to ~ himself from a tricky situation) [L *extricare*, pp of *extricare*, fr *ex-* + *tricare* trifles, perplexities] – *extricable /-kəbl/ adj*, *extrication /-kəɪʃən/ n*

**extrinsic** /ˌekstriˈnɪsɪk, -zɪk/ *adj* 1 not forming part of or belonging to a thing; extraneous 2 originating from or on the outside [F & LL, F *extrinsecus*, fr LL *extrinsecus*, fr L, *adv*, from without, akin to L *exter* outward & *sequi* to follow – more at EXTERIOR, SUE] – *extrinsically adv*

**extrinsic factor** *n* VITAMIN B<sub>12</sub> – compare INTRINSIC FACTOR

**extra-** *prefix* outwards (< extrovert) – compare INTRO- [alter of L *extra-*]

**extrovert** *also* **extravert** /ˌekstrəˈvɜːt/ *n* one whose attention and interests are directed wholly or predominantly towards what is outside the self – compare INTROVERT [deriv of L *extra-* + *vertere* to turn] – *extrovert adj*, *extroverted adj*, *extroversion /-vʊhʃən/ n*

**extrude** /ɪkˈstroʊd/ *vt* 1 to force or push out 2 to shape (e.g. metal or plastic) by forcing through a die – *vi* to become extruded [L *extrudere*, fr *ex-* + *trudere* to thrust] – *extruder n*, *extrudable adj*, *extrudability /-dəˈbɪləti/ n*, *extrusion /ɪkˈstroʊdʒh(ə)n/ n*

**extrusive** /ɪkˈstroʊsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj*, of a rock formed by crystallization of lava poured out at the earth's surface [L *extrusus*, pp of *extrudere*]

**exuberant** /ɪgˈzyoʊb(ə)rənt/ *adj* 1a joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic (< ~ high spirits) b lavish and flamboyant (< ~ metaphors) 2 great or extreme in degree, size, or extent 3 abundant, luxuriant (< ~ vegetation) [ME, fr MF, fr L *exuberant-*, *exuberans*, prp of *exuberare* to be abundant, fr *ex-* + *uber* fruitful, fr *uber* udder – more at UDDER] – *exuberance n*, *exuberantly adv*

**exudate** /ˌeksyoʊˈdeɪt/ *n* exuded matter

**exude** /ɪgˈzyoʊd/ *vi* to ooze out (< moisture ~d from the damp wall) – *vt* 1 to allow or cause to ooze or spread out in all directions (< ~ sweat) 2 to radiate an air of (< ~s charm) [L *exsudare*, fr *ex-* + *sudare* to sweat – more at SWEAT] – *exudation /ˌeksyoʊˈdeɪʃən/ n*

**exult** /ɪgˈzʌlt/ *vi* to be extremely joyful; rejoice openly – *usu* + *at*, *in*, or *over* [MF *exultare*, fr L *exultare*, lit., to leap up, fr *ex-* + *saltare* to leap – more at SALTIRE] – *exultance n*, *exultancy /-sɪ/ n*, *exultant adj*, *exultingly adv*, *exultation /ˌeksəlˈteɪʃən/ n*, *exultantly adv*

**exurb** /ˌeksʊrb, ˈegzʊrb/ *n* a prosperous region outside a city and usu beyond its suburbs [*ex-* + *-urb* (as in *suburb*)] – *exurban /ˌeksʊrbən, ˈegz-/ adj*, *exurbanite /-bənɪt/ n*

**exurbia** /ˌeksʊbɪ-ə, ˈegz-/ *n* exurbs collectively

**exuviae** /ɪgˈzyoʊvi-ə/ *n pl* the natural coverings of animals (e.g. the skins of snakes) after they have been sloughed off [L, fr *exuere* to take off, fr *ex-* + *-uere* to put on; akin to ORUSS *izuti* to take off footwear] – *exuvial /-viəl/ adj*

**exuviate** /ɪgˈzyoʊvi-ə/ *vb* to moult or shed (e.g. skin) – *exuviation /-i-əʃən/ n*

**ey** /ɪ/ – see -y

**eyas** /ˈeɪ-əs/ *n* a hawk that is a nestling [ME, alter. (by incorrect division

of a *neias*) of *neias*, fr MF *niais* fresh from the nest, fr (assumed) VL *nidax* nestling, fr L *nidus* nest – more at NEST]

**eye** /i/ *n* 1a any of various usu paired organs of sight, esp a nearly spherical liquid-filled organ that is lined with a light-sensitive retina and housed in a bony socket in the skull – *NE-RVL* b the visible parts of the eye with its surrounding structures (e.g. eyelashes and eyebrows) c(1) the faculty of seeing with eyes (< a keen ~ for detail) (2) the faculty of intellectual or aesthetic perception or appreciation (< an ~ for beauty) d a gaze, glance (< caught his ~) e view, attention (< in the public ~) 2a the hole through the head of a needle b a (nearly) circular mark (e.g. on a peacock's tail) c a loop, esp one of metal or thread into which a hook is inserted – compare HOOK AND EYE d an undeveloped bud (e.g. on a potato) e a calm area in the centre of a tropical cyclone f the (differently coloured or marked) centre of a flower 3 the centre, nub (< the ~ of the problem – Norman Mailer) 4 the direction from which the wind is blowing [ME, fr OE *eye*, akin to OHG *ouga* eye, L *oculus*, Gk *ops* eye, face] – *eyeless adj*, *eyelike adj* – in the eye/eyes of in the judgment or opinion of (< beauty is in the eye of the beholder) – *my eye* – used to express mild disagreement or sometimes surprise (< a diamond, my eye! That's glass), *infrml* – set/clap eyes on to catch sight of – with an eye to having as an aim or purpose

**eye** *vi* to watch closely – *eyer n*

**eyeball** *n* the capsule of the eye of a vertebrate formed by the sclera and cornea that cover it, together with the structures they contain

**eyeball-to-eyeball** *adj* in each other's hostile presence – *infrml*

**eyebath** *n* a small oval cup specially shaped for applying liquid remedies to the eye

**eyebolt** *n* a bolt with a looped head

**eyebright** *n* any of several small plants of the figwort family [fr its former use as a remedy for eye ailments]

**eyebrow** *n* (hair growing on) the ridge over the eye

**eye-catching** *adj* strikingly visually attractive – *eye-catcher n*

**eyed** /iəd/ *adj* having an eye or eyes, esp of a specified kind or number – often in combination (< an almond-eyed girl)

**eyeful** /-f(ə)l/ *n* a pleasing sight, specif an attractive woman – *infrml*

**eyeglass** *n* 1 an eyepiece 2 a lens worn to aid vision, specif a monocle 3 pl glasses, spectacles

**eyehole** *n* a peephole

**eyelash** *n* (a single hair of) the fringe of hair edging the eyelid

**eyelid** /-lɪt/ *n* 1 a small usu reinforced hole designed so that a cord, lace, etc may be passed through it, or used in embroidery 2 a small typically metal ring to reinforce an eyelid; a grommet [MF *oilet*, fr MF *oilet*, dim of *oil* eye, fr L *oculus*]

**eyelid** *n* a movable lid of skin and muscle that can be closed over the eyeball – *NE-RVL*

**eyeliner** *n* a cosmetic for emphasizing the contours of the eyes

**eye-opener** *n* 1 chiefly NAm a drink intended to stop one feeling sleepy on waking up 2 sthg surprising and esp revelatory – *infrml* (< his behaviour was a real ~ to me) – *eye-opening adj*

**eye-piece** *n* the lens or combination of lenses at the eye end of an optical instrument

**eye-rhyme** *n* a rhyme in which 2 words (e.g. *move* and *love*) appear from text spelling to rhyme but are pronounced differently

**eyeshade** *n* a projecting front on a cap for shading the eyes

**eye shadow** *n* a coloured cream or powder applied to the eyelids to accentuate the eyes

**eyesight** *n* SIGHT 5

**eyesore** *n* sthg offensive to the sight

**eyespot** *n* 1 a simple visual organ of pigment or pigmented cells 2 a spot of colour

**eyestalk** *n* either of the movable stalks bearing an eye at the tip in a crab or related crustacean

**Eyetie** /ˈiːti, -ti/ *n* or *adj*, chiefly Br (an) Italian – derog [by shortening & alter.]

**eyetooth** *n* a canine tooth of the upper jaw

**eye up** *vi* to look at (sb) in order to assess sexual attractiveness – *infrml* (< he was eyeing up the talent)

**eyewash** *n* deceptive statements or actions; rubbish, claptrap – *infrml*

**eyewitness** *n* one who sees an occurrence and can bear witness to it (e.g. in court)

**eyot** /aɪt, ˈaɪ-ɔt/ *n* an ait

**eyre** /eɪ/ *n* (a court held on) a circuit made by itinerant medieval justices [ME *eire*, fr AF, fr OF *erre* trip, fr *errer* to travel – more at ERRANT]

**eyrie** /ˈɪəri, ˈeəri, ˈiːəri/ *n* 1 the nest of a bird (of prey) on a cliff or a



mountain top 2 a room or dwelling situated high up <sat in his seventh floor ~ in Mayfair> [ML *aerea*, *cyra*, fr OF *aire*, fr L *area* area, feeding place for animals]

**eyrir** /'ayriə/ *n*, pl *aurar* /'aw,rah/ ➡ Iceland at NATIONALITY

**Ezekiel** /'i:zeki-əl, -kyl/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament containing the prophecies of) a Hebrew priest of the 6th c BC [LL *Ezechiel*, fr Heb *Yehhezqel*]

**Ezra** /'ezrə/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew priest, scribe, and reformer of Judaism of the 5th c BC in Babylon and Jerusalem [LL, fr Heb *Ezra*]

## F

**f** /ef/ *n*, pl *fs*, *fs* often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 6th letter of the English alphabet 2 the 4th note of a C-major scale 3 a grade rating a student's work as failing

**fa**, **fah** /fah/ *n* the 4th note of the diatonic scale in solmization [ME, fr ML – more at GAMUT]

**FA** /'efay/ *n*, Br fuck-all -euph, often in sweet FA

**fab** /fab/ *adj*, Br fabulous, great – slang, no longer in vogue

**Fabian** /'faybi-ən, -byən/ *adj* of or being a society founded in England in 1884 to work for the gradual establishment of socialism [L *Fabianus* of or like Quintus *Fabius* Maximus +203 BC Roman general who wore down his enemies while avoiding open battles] – **Fabian** *n*, **Fabianism** *n*

**fable** /'faybl/ *n* 1a a legendary story of supernatural happenings b myths or legendary tales collectively 2 a fictitious account, a lie 3 a story intended to convey a moral, esp one in which animals speak and act like human beings [ME, fr MF, fr L *fabula* conversation, story, play, fr *fari* to speak – more at HAN]

**fabled** *adj* 1 fictitious 2 told or celebrated in fables, legendary

**fabliau** /'fablioh/ *n*, pl **fabliaux** /'fablioh(z)/ a short usu coarsely satirical verse story popular in 12th- and 13th-c France [F, fr OF, dim of *fable*]

**fabric** /'fabrik/ *n* 1a the basic structure of a building <the ~ of the theatre> b an underlying structure, a framework <the ~ of society> 2 an act of constructing; an erection 3 texture, quality – used chiefly with reference to textiles 4a CLOTH 1 b a material that resembles cloth [MF *fabricque*, fr L *fabrica* workshop, structure, fr *fabr-*, *faber* smith]

**fabricate** /'kayt/ *vt* 1 to construct or manufacture from many parts 2 to invent or create, esp in order to deceive [ME *fabricaten*, fr L *fabricatus*, pp of *fabricari*, fr *fabrica*] – **fabricator** *n*, **fabrication** /'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**fabulist** /'fabyoolist/ *n* one who composes fables

**fabulous** /'fabyoolas/ *adj* 1 resembling things told of in fables, esp in incredible or exaggerated quality, extraordinary <~ wealth> 2 told in or based on fable 3 marvellous, great – infml <a ~ party> [L *fabulosus*, fr *fabula*] – **fabulously** *adv*, **fabulosity** *n*

**facade** also **façade** /'fə'sahd/ *n* 1 a face, esp the front or principal face, of a building given special architectural treatment 2 a false or superficial appearance [F *façade*, fr It *facciata*, fr *faccia* face, fr (assumed) VL *facia*]

**face** /fays/ *n* 1 the front part of the (human) head including the chin, mouth, nose, eyes, etc and usu the forehead 2a a facial expression; specif a grimace <he pulled a ~> b MAKE-UP 2a, b <she put her ~ on> 3a an outward appearance <put a good ~ on it> b effrontery, impudence <had the ~ to ask for his money back> c dignity, reputation <afraid ~ to lose ~> <we must save ~ at all costs> 4a(1) a front, upper, or outer surface (2) the front of sth with 2 or 4 sides (3) an exposed surface of rock (4) any of the plane surfaces of a geometric solid b a surface specially prepared: e.g. (1) the right side (e.g. of cloth or leather) (2) an inscribed, printed, or marked surface c the surface (e.g. of type) that receives the ink and transfers it to the paper 5 the exposed working surface of a mine, drift, or excavation [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *facia*, fr L *facies* make, form, face, fr *facere* to make, do – more at DO] – **in the face of/in face of** in opposition to; despite <succeed in the face of great difficulties> – **to someone's face** candidly in sb's presence and to his/her knowledge

**face** *vt* 1 to meet or deal with firmly and without evasion <~ the situation calmly> 2a to apply a facing to b to cover the front or surface of <~d the building with marble> 3 to have the face towards <~ the wall> also to front on <a house facing the park> 4 to turn (e.g. a playing card) face-up 5 to make the surface of (e.g. a stone) flat or smooth 6 to cause (troops) to face in a particular direction on command ~ *vi* 1 to have the face or

front turned in a specified direction <the house ~s towards the east> 2 to turn the face in a specified direction – **face the music** to confront and endure the unpleasant consequences of one's actions – **face up to** to confront without shrinking – **face with** to confront with <faced him with the evidence>

**facecloth** *n* FLANNEL 3

**faced** /-fayst/ *comb form* (*adj*, *n* → *adj*) having (such) a face or (so many) faces <two-faced>

**face, flannel** *n*, Br FLANNEL 3

**face-harden** *vt* to harden the surface of (e.g. steel)

**faceless** /-lis/ *adj* lacking identity, anonymous <~ bureaucrats> ['FACE + -LESS] – **facelessness** *n*

**face-lift** *n* 1 plastic surgery to remove facial defects (e.g. wrinkles) typical of aging 2 an alteration intended to improve appearance or utility – **face-lift** *vt*

**face-off** *n* a method of putting a ball or puck in play in lacrosse or ice hockey in which 2 opposing players stand facing each other and on a signal attempt to gain control of the ball or puck

**face out** *vt* to confront defiantly or impudently <faced out the opposition>

**face-pack** *n* a cream, paste, etc applied to the face to improve the complexion and remove impurities

**faceplate** *n* a protective cover for the human face (e.g. of a diver)

**facer** /'faysə/ *n* an unexpected difficulty for which no solution is immediately clear – infml ['FACE + -ER]

**face-saving** *adj* serving to preserve one's dignity or reputation – **face-saver** *n*

**facet** /'fasit/ *n* 1 a small plane surface (e.g. of a cut gem) 2 any of the aspects from which sth specified may be considered <another ~ of his genius> 3 the external surface of any of the usu many optical elements of the compound eye of an insect or other arthropod [F *facette*, dim of *face*] – **faceted**, **facetted** *adj*

**facetiae** /'fə'seeshi,ee/ *n* pl 1 humorous witticisms 2 pornographic items in booksellers' catalogues [L, fr pl of *facetia* jest, fr *facetus* witty]

**facetious** /'fə'seeshəs/ *adj* 1 inappropriately lacking seriousness in manner, flippant <a ~ question> 2 intended to be amusing [MF *facetieux*, fr *facette* jest, fr L *facetia*] – **facetiously** *adv*, **facetiousness** *n*

**face-to-face** *adj* in each other's usu hostile presence <a ~ encounter>

**face to face** *adv* 1 in or into the usu hostile presence of (one) another 2 in or into confrontation with sth which calls for immediate action <came ~ with the problem>

**face value** *n* 1 the value indicated on the face (e.g. of a postage stamp or a share certificate) 2 the apparent value or significance <if their results may be taken at ~>

**facia** /'fashi-ə/ *n* a fascia

**facial** /'faysh(ə)/ *adj* of the face – **facially** *adv*

**facial** *n* a facial beauty treatment

**facient** /-faysh(ə)nt/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) making, causing <somni-facient> [L *facient-*, *faciens*, prp of *facere* to make, do – more at DO]

**facies** /'fayshi-ez/ *n*, pl *facies* /- / 1 the facial appearance characteristic of a particular (abnormal) condition 2 the general appearance of a particular plant, rock, etc [NL, fr L, face]

**facile** /'fasiel/ *adj* 1a easily or readily accomplished or performed <a ~ victory> b specious, superficial <I am not concerned with offering any ~ solution for so complex a problem> – T S Eliot 2 used, done, or understood with ease [MF, fr L *facilis*, fr *facere*] – **facilely** *adv*, **facileness** *n*

**facilitate** /'fə'silitayt/ *vt* to make easier – fml – **facilitative** /-tətiv/ *adj*, **facilitator** *n*

**facilitation** /'fə'silitaysh(ə)n/ *n* the increase in the ease with which an impulse is conducted along a particular nerve, esp resulting from repetition of the impulse [FACILITATE + -ION]

**facility** /'fə'siliti/ *n* 1 the quality of being easily performed 2 the ability to perform sth easily; aptitude 3 sth (e.g. equipment) that promotes the ease of an action or operation – usu pl <provide books and other facilities for independent study>

**facing** /'faysiŋ/ *n* 1a a lining at the edge of sth, esp a garment, for stiffening or ornament b pl the collar, cuffs, and trimmings of a uniform coat 2 an ornamental or protective layer 3 material used for facing

**facsimile** /'fəksimili/ *n* 1 an exact copy, esp of printed material 2 the transmission and reproduction of graphic material (e.g. typescript or pictures) by wire or radio ➡ TELECOMMUNICATION [L *fac simile* make similar] – **facsimile** *vt*

**fact** /fakt/ *n* 1 a thing done; esp a criminal act 2 the quality of having

actual existence in the real world; also sthg having such existence 3 an event, esp as distinguished from its legal effect 4 a piece of information presented as having objective reality (*that's a ~*) [L *factum*, fr neut of *factus*, pp of *facere*] – **factless** *adj*, **facticity** /fak'tisəti/ *n* – **in fact** 1 really; AS A MATTER OF FACT 2 briefly; IN SHORT

**\*faction** /fakʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a party or minority group within a party 2 dissension with a party or group [MF & L; MF, fr L *faction-*, *factio* act of making, *factio* – more at *FASHION*] – **factional** *adj*, **factionalism** *n*, **factionally** *adv*

**\*faction** *n* the dramatized reconstruction of some real historical situation or event (<~has actually been around for quite some time. . .Shakespeare was the first great ~ writer in his history plays – *The Guardian*) [blend of *fact* and *fiction*]

**-faction** /-fakʃ(ə)n/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 making; -fication (<liquefaction>) 2 state (<satisfaction>) [ME -*faccioun*, fr MF & L, MF -*faction*, fr L -*faction-*, -*factio* (as in *satisfaction-*, *satisfactio* satisfaction)] – **-factive** *comb form* (~ *adj*)

**factious** /fakʃəs/ *adj* 1 caused by or inclined to faction 2 seditious [MF or L; MF *factieux*, fr L *factiosus*, fr *factio*] – **factiously** *adv*, **factiousness** *n*

**factitious** /fakʃi'tʃəs/ *adj* 1 produced by human beings rather than by natural forces 2 produced artificially; sham, unreal (<created a ~ demand by spreading rumours of shortage>) [L *facticius*, fr *factus*] – **factitiously** *adv*, **factitiousness** *n*

**factitive** /fak'ti'tiv/ *adj* of transitive verbs (e.g. *paint* in 'paint the town red') that can take an objective complement as well as an object [NL *factitivus*, irreg fr L *factus*] – **factitively** *adv*

**fact** of 'life *n*, *pl facts* of life 1 *pl* the processes and behaviour involved in (human) sex and reproduction 2 sthg that exists and must be taken into consideration

**\*factor** /faktə/ *n* 1 one who acts for another, an agent 2 a condition, force, or fact that actively contributes to a result 3 a gene 4 any of the numbers or symbols that when multiplied together form a product [ME, fr MF *facteur*, fr L *factor* doer, fr *factus*] – **factorship** *n*

**\*factor** *vt* to express as the product of factors – **factorable** /-t(ə)rəbl/ *adj*

**factorege** /fakt(ə)rɪj/ *n* the charges made by a factor for his services

**\*factorial** /fak'tɔːriəl/ *n* the product of all the positive integers from 1 to a given number – **SYMBOL**

**\*factorial** *adj* of a factor or a factorial

**factor-ize**, -ise /faktə'reɪz/ *vt* to factor – **factorization** /-zay-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**factory** /fakt(ə)rɪ/ *n* a building or set of buildings with facilities for manufacturing [MF *factorie* building where factors trade, fr *facteur*]

**\*factory, farming** *n* farming using intensive methods

**\*factory, ship** *n* the major ship of a whaling fleet

**factotum** /fak'toʊtəm/ *n* a servant employed to carry out many types of work [NL, lit., do everything, fr L *fac* do + *totum* everything]

**factual** /fak'tʃuəl/, -chooəl/ *adj* 1 of facts 2 restricted to or based on fact – **factually** *adv*, **factfulness** *n*, **factuality** /-tʃuə'ləti/, -choo-/ *n*

**facture** /fak'tʃə/ *n* the manner of execution of sthg (e.g. an artistic work) [ME, fr MF, fr L *factura* action of making, fr *factus*]

**facula** /fak'yoolə/ *n*, *pl* *faculae* /-li/ a bright region of the sun's photosphere [NL, fr L, dim of *fac*, *fax* torch]

**facultative** /fakultə'tiv/ *adj* 1 permitting (<~ legislation>) 2 having a particular type of life or taking place under some environmental conditions but not under others (<a ~ parasite>) – compare **OBLIGATE** 2 – **facultatively** *adv*

**faculty** /fakalti/ *n* 1a an inherent capability, power, or function of the body (<the ~ of hearing>) b a natural aptitude; a talent (<has a ~ for saying the right things>) 2 a group of related subject departments in a university 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the members of a profession 4 (conferred) power or prerogative [ME *faculte*, fr MF *faculté*, fr ML & L; ML *facultat*, *facultas* branch of learning or teaching, fr L, ability, abundance, fr *facilis* facile]

**fad** /fad/ *n* 1 a usu short-lived but enthusiastically pursued practice or interest; a craze 2 an idiosyncratic taste or habit (<cats that have ~s about food> [origin unknown]) – **faddish** *adj*, **faddishness** *n*, **faddism** *n*, **faddist** *n*, **faddy** *adj*

**\*fade** /fayd/ *vi* 1 to lose freshness or vigour, wither 2 of a brake to lose braking power gradually, esp owing to prolonged use 3 to lose freshness or brilliance of colour 4 to disappear gradually; vanish – often + *away* (<the smile ~d from his face>) 5 to change gradually in loudness, strength, or visibility – often used of electronic signals or sounds; usu + *in* or *out*

~ *vt* to cause to fade [ME *faden*, fr MF *fader*, fr *fade* feeble, insipid, fr (assumed) VL *fatidus*, alter. of L *fatuus* fatuous, insipid]

**\*fade** *n* an effect consisting of a fade-out or a fade-in or a combination of both

**\*fade-in** *n* the gradual appearance of a sound or picture, usu in broadcasting or on film

**\*fade-out** *n* the gradual disappearance of esp a sound or picture, usu in broadcasting or on film

**faeces**, *NAM* chiefly *feces* /'fieses/ *n* *pl* bodily waste discharged through the anus [ME *feces*, fr L *faec*-, *faex* (sing.) dregs] – **faecal** /'feekəl/ *adj*

**faerie** also *faery* /'fayəri, 'feəri/ *n* 1 fairyland 2 a fairy **USE** poetic [MF *faerie* – more at *FAIRY*] – **faery** *adj*

**Faeroese**, *Faroese* /'fearoh'eɪz/ *n*, *pl* *Faeroese*, *Faroese* /~/ 1 an inhabitant of the Faeroes 2 the Germanic language of the Faeroes – **LANGUAGE** [Faeroes, Faroes, islands in the N Atlantic] – **Faeroese** *adj*

**faff** /fæl/ *vi*, *Br* to waste time over (trifles); fuss – usu + *about* or *around*; *infrm* [jmit]

**\*fag** /fæg/ *vi* -gg- 1 to act as a fag, esp in a British public school 2 to work hard; toil – *infrm* [obs *fag* (to droop), perh fr *fag* (fag end)]

**\*fag** *n* 1 a British public-school pupil who acts as servant to an older schoolmate 2 chiefly *Br* a tiring or boring task (<it's a real ~>) – *infrm*

**\*fag** *n* a cigarette – *infrm* [*fag end*]

**\*fag** *n*, chiefly *NAM* **FAGGOT** 2

**\*fag, end** *n* 1 a poor or worn-out end, a remnant 2 the extreme end (<the ~ of one quarrel – William Golding>) **USE** *infrm* [earlier *fag* (end of a piece of cloth or a rope), fr ME *fagge* flap]

**fagged out** *adj* tired, exhausted – *infrm*

**\*faggot** /fagət/ *n* 1 *NAM* chiefly *fagot* a bundle e.g. (1) a bundle of sticks (2) a bundle of pieces of wrought iron to be shaped by hammering or rolling at high temperature (3) a bunch of herbs tied together, **BOUQUET GARNI** b a round mass of minced meat (e.g. pig's liver) mixed with herbs and usu breadcrumbs 2 chiefly *NAM* a usu male homosexual – *derog* [ME *fagot*, fr MF]

**\*faggot**, *NAM* chiefly *fagot* *vt* 1 to make a faggot of, bind together into a bundle (<ed sticks>) 2 to ornament with faggoting

**\*faggoting**, *NAM* chiefly *fagoting* /-tɪŋ/ *n* 1 embroidery in which some of the horizontal threads are tied in the middle to form hourglass shapes 2 a joining, esp of cloth, lace, etc., in a similar way to faggoting

**agin** /'fayɡɪn/ *n* a trainer of thieves [*Fagin*, character in the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens †1870 E novelist]

**fah** /fah/ *n* *fa*

**Fahrenheit** /'farən,hiət/ *adj* relating to, conforming to, or being a scale of temperature on which water freezes at 32° and boils at 212° under standard conditions – **UNIT** [Gabriel *Fahrenheit* †1736 G physicist]

**faience**, *faience* /'fie:əns, -'ɒns (Fr *fajōis*)/ *n* tin-glazed decorated earthenware [F, fr *Faenza*, town in Italy]

**\*fail** /fayl/ *vi* 1a to lose strength, weaken (<her health was ~ing>) b to fade or die away (<until the light ~s>) c to stop functioning 2a to fall short (<~ed in his duty>) b to be or become absent or inadequate (<the water supply ~ed>) c to be unsuccessful (e.g. in passing a test) d to become bankrupt or insolvent ~ *vt* 1a to disappoint the expectations or trust of (<his friends ~ed him>) b to prove inadequate for or incapable of carrying out an expected service or function for (<for once his wit ~ed him>) 2 to be deficient in, lack 3 to leave undone; neglect 4a to be unsuccessful in passing (e.g. a test) b to grade (e.g. a student) as not passing [ME *faulen*, fr OF *faillir*, fr (assumed) VL *fallire*, alter. of L *fallere* to deceive, disappoint; prob akin to Gk *phelos* deceitful] – **fallingly** *adv*

**\*fail** *n* 1 failure – chiefly in *without* fail 2 an examination failure

**\*failing** /'faylɪŋ/ *n* a usu slight or insignificant defect in character; broadly a fault, imperfection


**\*failing** *prep* in absence or default of (<~ specific instructions, use your own judgment>)

**faillie** /fayli/ *n* a shiny closely woven silk, rayon, or cotton fabric with transverse ribs [F]

**\*fail-safe** *adj* designed so as to counteract automatically the effect of an anticipated possible source of failure

**failure** /'fayliə/ *n* 1a nonoccurrence or nonperformance; *specif* a failing to perform a duty or expected action b inability to perform a normal function (<heart ~>) 2 lack of success 3a a falling short; a deficiency (<a ~ in the supply of raw materials>) b deterioration, decay 4a sb or sthg unsuccessful [alter. of earlier *failer*, fr AF, fr OF *faillir* to fail]

**fain** /fayn/ *adv*, *archaic* 1 with pleasure 2 rather [ME *fagen*, *fayn*, fr

- fagen, fayn* happy, pleased, fr OE *fægen*, akin to ON *fæginn* happy, OE *fæger* fair]
- faineant**, *faineant* /'fayni-ənt/ *adj* idle and ineffectual, indolent [F *faineant*, n, fr MF *fainement*, lit., does nothing, by folk etymology fr *faignant*, fr prp of *faindre, feindre*] – **faineant** *n*
- faint** /faynt/ *adj* 1 cowardly, timid – chiefly in *faint heart* 2 weak, dizzy, and likely to faint (<felt ~>) 3 performed, offered, or accomplished weakly or languidly, feeble (<made a ~ attempt at a smile>) 4 lacking distinctness, esp dim (<a ~ light>) [ME *faint*, *feint*, fr OF, fr pp of *faindre, feindre* to feign, shirk – more at FEIGN] – **faintly** *adv*, **faintness** *n*
- faint** *vi* to lose consciousness because of a temporary decrease in the blood supply to the brain (e.g. through exhaustion or shock)
- faint** *n* (a condition of) fainting
- fainthearted** *adj* lacking courage or resolution; timid – **faintheartedly** *adv*, **faintheartedness** *n*
- fair** /feə/ *adj* 1 attractive, beautiful 2 superficially pleasing; specious (<she trusted his ~ promises>) 3 clean, clear (<a ~ copy>) 4 not stormy or foul, fine (<~ weather>) 5a free from self-interest or prejudice, honest **b** conforming with the established rules, allowed (<a ~ tackle>) 6 favourable to a ship's course (<a ~ wind>) 7 light in colour, blond 8 moderately good or large, adequate (<a ~ understanding of the work>) 9 real, perfect – *infrm* (<a ~ treat to watch him – New Republic>), compare FAIR AND SQUARE [ME *fager, fair*, fr OE *fæger*, akin to OHG *fagar* beautiful, & perh to Lith *puošti* to decorate] – **fairness** *n* – in a fair way to likely to
- fair** *adv* fairly
- fair** *vi*, of the weather to clear ~ *vi* to join so that the external surfaces blend smoothly
- fair** *n* 1 a periodic gathering of buyers and sellers at a particular place and time for trade or a competitive exhibition, usu accompanied by entertainment and amusements 2a *Br* ITUN FAIR **b** an exhibition usu designed to acquaint prospective buyers or the general public with a product 3 a sale of a collection of articles usu for a charitable purpose [ME *feire*, fr OF, fr ML *feria* weekday, fair, fr L.L., festal day, fr L *feriae* (pl) holidays – more at FEAST]
- fair and square** *adv* 1 in an honest manner (<won the match ~>) 2 exactly, directly (<hit him ~ on the nose>) – **fair and square** *adj*
- fair** 'dos /'dooz/ *n pl*, chiefly *Br* fair shares – *infrm* [dos (treatment, shares), fr pl of 'do]
- fair-faced** *adj*, of brickwork not plastered
- fair** 'game *n* shy or sth open to legitimate pursuit, attack, or ridicule (<he was ~ for our criticism>)
- fairground** *n* an area where outdoor fairs, circuses, or exhibitions are held
- fairing** /'feərɪŋ/ *n* a smooth structure intended to reduce drag or air resistance [fr gerund of 'fair]
- fairish** /'feərɪʃ/ *adj* fairly good (<a ~ wage for those days>) – *infrm*
- fairly** *adv*
- Fair Isle, Fairisle** *n* (a garment or fabric in) a style of knitting having horizontal characteristically patterned bands worked in 2 or more colours against a plain background [Fair Isle, one of the Shetland islands, where it originated]
- fairlead** /'feəliəd/ *n* a block or ring that serves as a guide for a rope or chain and keeps it from chafing
- fairly** /-li/ *adv* 1 completely, quite (<~ bursting with pride>) 2a in a proper or legal manner (<~ priced stocks>) **b** impartially, honestly (<a story told ~ and objectively>) 3 to a full degree or extent, plainly, distinctly (<had ~ caught sight of him>) 4 for the most part, quite (<a ~ easy job>)
- fair** 'play *n* equitable or impartial treatment, justice
- fair-spoken** *adj* pleasant and courteous in speech (<a ~ youth>)
- fairway** *n* 1 a navigable channel in a river, bay, or harbour 2 the mowed part of a golf course between a tee and a green
- fair-weather** *adj* present or loyal only in untroubled times – chiefly in *fair-weather friend*
- fairy** /'feəri/ *n* 1 a small mythical being having magic powers and usu human form 2 an effeminate male (homosexual) – *derog* [ME *faerie* fairyland, fairy people, fr OF *faerie*, fr *feie, fee* fairy, fr L *Fata*, goddess of fate, fr *fatum* fate] – **fairy** *adj*, **fairylike** *adj*
- fairyland** *n* 1 the land of fairies 2 a place of magical charm
- fairy lights** *n pl*, chiefly *Br* small coloured electric lights for decoration, esp outdoors or on a Christmas tree
- fairy ring** *n* (a ring of darker vegetation associated with) a ring of fungi at the edge of a body of mycelium which has grown in a circle outwards from an initial point [fr the folk belief that such rings were dancing places of the fairies]
- fairy story** *n* FAIRY TALE
- fairy-tale** *adj* marked by a unusual grace or beauty **b** apparently magical success or good fortune (<a ~ start to his career>)
- fairy-tale** *n* 1 a story which features supernatural or imaginary forces and beings 2 a made-up story, usu designed to mislead; a fabrication
- fait accompli** /'fayt ə'kɒmpli, 'fet ə'kɒm'pli (Fr fet əkɔpli)/ *n, pl faits accomplis* /~/ *sthg* already accomplished and considered irreversible [F, accomplished fact]
- faith** /fayθ/ *n* 1a allegiance to duty or a person, loyalty – chiefly in *good/ bad faith* **b** fidelity to one's promises – chiefly in *keep/ break faith* 2a belief and trust in and loyalty to God or the doctrines of a religion **b**(1) firm belief in sthg for which there is no objective proof (2) complete confidence 3 sthg believed with strong conviction, esp a system of religious beliefs [ME *feith*, fr OF *feid, foi*, fr L *fides*; akin to L *fidere* to trust – more at BIDE]
- faithful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 showing faith, loyal, steadfast; *specif* loyal to one's spouse in having no sexual relations outside marriage 2 firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty, conscientious 3 true to the facts or to an original, accurate (<the portrait is a ~ likeness>) – **faithfully** *adv*, **faithfulness** *n*
- faithful** *n pl* 1 the full church members 2 the body of adherents of a religion (e.g. Islam) 3 faithful, faithfuls loyal followers or members (<party ~s>)
- faith healing** *n* a practice of attempting the cure of illnesses by prayer rather than medical techniques – **faith healer** *n*
- faithless** /-his/ *adj* 1a lacking faith, esp religious faith **b** heedless of duty or allegiance; disloyal 2 that may not be relied on, untrustworthy (<a ~ friend>) – **faithlessly** *adv*, **faithlessness** *n*
- fake** /fayk/ *vt* to coil in fakes [ME *faken*]
- fake** *n* any of the loops of a coiled rope or cable
- fake** *vt* 1 to alter or treat so as to impart a false character or appearance, falsify (<~d all the results to suit his theories>) 2a to counterfeit, simulate **b** to feign (<~d a nervous breakdown – Michael Billington>) ~ *vi* 1 to engage in faking sthg; pretend 2 *NAM* to dummy [prob fr G *fegen* to sweep, thrash] – **faker** *n*, **fakery** /'fayk(ə)rɪ/ *n*
- fake** *n* 1 a worthless imitation passed off as genuine 2 an impostor, charlatan
- fake** *adj* counterfeit, phoney
- fakir** /'faykiə, 'fəkiə, 'fahkiə, -kə/ *n* 1 a Muslim mendicant 2 an itinerant Hindu ascetic holy man [Ar *fakir*, lit., poor man]
- Falangist** /'fəlanʒɪst/ *n* 1 a member of the Spanish fascist political party 2 a member of a right-wing Christian faction in the Lebanon [Sp *Falangista*, fr *Falange española* Spanish Phalanx, a fascist organization]
- falcate** /'falkaɪt/ also **falcated** /'falkaɪtɪd/ *adj* hooked or curved like a sickle  PLANT [L *falcatus*, fr *falc-*, *fals* sickle, scythe]
- falchion** /'fawliən, -ʃən/ *n* a broad-bladed slightly curved medieval sword [ME *fauchoun*, fr OF *fauchon*, fr *fauchier* to mow, fr (assumed) VL *falcare*, fr L *falc-*, *fals*]
- falciform** /'falsɪfɔrm/ *adj* falcate [L *falc-*, *fals* + E *-iform*]
- falcon** /'faw(l)kən/ *n* 1 any of various hawks distinguished by long wings 2 <sup>1</sup> HAWK 1 [ME, fr OF, fr LL *falcon-*, *falco*, prob of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *falcho* falcon]
- falconer** /-nə/ *n* one who hunts with hawks or who breeds or trains hawks for hunting
- falconet** /'falkənɪt/ *n* a very small cannon used in the 16th and 17th c [falcon (small cannon) + -et]
- falcon-gentle** *n* the female peregrine falcon [ME *faucn gentil* peregrine falcon, fr MF, lit., noble falcon]
- falconry** /-n/ *n* the art of training or the sport of using falcons to pursue game
- folderal** /'fɔldə, rəl/ *n* (a) folderol
- fold stool** /'fɔld-/ *n* 1 a folding stool or chair; *specif* one used by a bishop 2 a folding stool or small desk at which one kneels during devotions; *specif* one used by the sovereigns of England at their coronations [ML *faldistolum*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *faldstul* folding chair, fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first constituent is akin to OHG *faldan* to fold and whose second is represented by OHG *stul* chair – more at FOLD, STOOL]
- fell** /fawl/ *vi* fell /fel/; fallen /'fawliən/ 1a to descend freely by the force of gravity **b** to hang freely (<her hair ~s over her shoulders>) **c** to come as if by descending (<a hush fell on the audience>) 2a to become less or lower in degree, level, pitch, or volume (<their voices fell to a whisper>) **b**

to be uttered; *issue* <let ~ a remark> **c** to look down <her glance fell on me> **3a** to come down from an erect to a usu prostrate position suddenly and esp involuntarily <slipped and fell on the ice> **b** to enter an undesirable state, esp unavoidably or unwittingly; stumble, stray <fell into error> <fell ill> **c** to drop because wounded or dead, esp to die in battle – euph **d** to suffer military capture <after a long siege the city fell> **e** to lose office <the government fell> **f** to suffer ruin or defeat <we must stand or ~ together> **4a** to yield to temptation; sin **b** of a woman to lose one's virginity, esp outside marriage **5a** to move or extend in a downward direction – often + *off* or *away* <the land ~s away to the east> **b** to decline in quality or quantity, abate, subside – often + *off* or *away* <production fell off because of the strike> **c** to assume a look of disappointment or dismay <his face fell> **d** to decline in financial value <shares fell sharply today> **6a** to occur at a specified time or place <the accent ~s on the second syllable> <Christmas ~s on a Thursday this year> **b** to come (as if) by chance – + *in* or *into* **c** to come or pass by lot, assignment, or inheritance, devolve – usu + *on*, *to*, or *upon* <it fell to me to break the news> **7** to come within the limits, scope, or jurisdiction of sthg <~s within our borders> **8** to pass, esp involuntarily and suddenly, into a new state or condition <~ in love> <the book fell apart> **9** to begin heartily or actively – usu + *to* <fell to work> [ME *fallen*, fr OE *feallan*, akin to OHG *fallan* to fall, & perh to Lith *pulti*] – **fall behind** DROP BEHIND – **fall between two stools** to fail because of inability to choose between or reconcile **2** alternative or conflicting courses of action – **fall flat** to produce no response or result <the joke fell flat> – **fall for** **1** to fall in love with **2** to be deceived by <he fell for the trick> – **fall foul** of to arouse aversion in; clash with – **fall on/upon** **1** to descend upon; attack <fell hungrily on the pie> **2** to meet with <he fell on hard times> **3** to hit on – **fall over oneself** to display almost excessive eagerness – **fall short** to fail to attain a goal or target

**\*fall n** **1** the act of falling by the force of gravity **2a** a falling out, off, or away; a dropping <a ~ of snow> **b** sthg or a quantity that falls or has fallen <a ~ of rock> **c** the quantity born – used esp with reference to lambs **3** a rope or chain for a hoisting tackle **4a** a loss of greatness or power, a collapse <the ~ of the Roman Empire> **b** the surrender or capture of a besieged place <the ~ of Troy> **c** often cap mankind's loss of innocence through the disobedience of Adam and Eve **5a** a downward slope **b** CATARACT **2a** – usu pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr **6** a decrease in size, quantity, degree, or value **7** the distance which sthg falls **8a** an act of forcing a wrestler's shoulders to the mat for a prescribed time **b** a bout of wrestling **9** chiefly NAm autumn

**fall about vi** to be convulsed (with laughter) – infml

**fallacy /faləsi/ n** **1** deceptive appearance or nature; deception, delusiveness **2** a false idea <the popular ~ that scientists are illiterate> **3** an argument failing to satisfy the conditions of valid inference [L *fallacia*, fr *fallax*, *fallax* deceitful, fr *fallere* to deceive – more at *FALL*] – **fallacious** /fə'leɪʃəs/ adj, **fallaciously** adv, **fallaciousness** n

**fall away vi** **1a** to withdraw friendship or support <gradually all his friends fell away> **b** to lapse in a faith **2a** to diminish gradually in size **b** to drift off a course

**fall back vi** to retreat, recede – **fallback** /-bək/ n – **fall back on/upon** to have recourse to <when facts were scarce he fell back on his imagination>

**fall down vi** to fail to meet expectations or requirements, be inadequate <she fell down on the job> – infml

**\*fall, guy n** **1** one who is easily cheated or tricked **2** a scapegoat *USE* infml

**fallible /fə'ləbl/ adj** capable of being or likely to be wrong [ME, fr ML *fallibilis*, fr L *fallere*] – **fallibly** adv, **fallibility** /-bɪləti/ n

**fall in vi** **1** to sink or collapse inwards <the roof fell in> **2** to take one's proper place in a military formation – **fall in with** to concur with <had to fall in with her wishes>

**falling star n** a meteor when falling into the earth's atmosphere and producing a bright streak of light

**\*fall off n** a decline, esp in quantity or quality <a ~ in exports>

**fallopian 'tube /fə'lɒpi-ən, -pyən/ n**, often cap *F* either of the pair of tubes conducting the egg from the ovary to the uterus in mammals REPRODUCTION [Gabriel Fallopius †1562 It anatomist]

**\*fallout n** **1a** polluting particles, esp radioactive particles resulting from a nuclear explosion, descending through the atmosphere **b** descent of fallout through the atmosphere **2** secondary results or products <the war produced its own literary ~: a profusion of books – Newsweek>

**fall out vi** **1** to have a disagreement; quarrel <they fell out with one another over money> **2** to leave one's place in the ranks of a military

formation **3** to happen; COME ABOUT – fml or poetic <as it fell out upon a day>

**\*fallow /fə'ləʊ/ adj** light yellowish brown [ME *falow*, fr OE *fealu*; akin to OHG *falo* pale, fallow, L *pallere* to be pale, Gk *pholos* grey]

**\*fallow n** **1** (ploughed and harrowed) land that is allowed to lie idle during the growing season **2** (the period of) being fallow [ME *falwe*, *falow*, fr OE *fealg*]

**\*fallow vt** to plough, harrow, etc (land) without seeding, esp so as to destroy weeds

**\*fallow adj** **1** of land left unsown after ploughing **2** dormant, inactive – chiefly in to *lie fallow* – **fallowness** n

**fallow deer n** a small European deer with broad antlers and a pale yellow coat spotted with white in the summer

**fall through vi** to fail to be carried out

**fall to vi** to begin doing sthg (e.g. working or eating), esp vigorously – often imper

**false /fəʊls/ adj** **1** not genuine <~ documents> **2a** intentionally untrue, lying <~ testimony> **b** adjusted or made so as to deceive <a suitcase with a ~ bottom> **3** not based on reality; untrue <~ premises> <a ~ sense of security> **4** disloyal, treacherous <a ~ friend> **5a** fitting over a main part as strengthening, protection, or disguise **b** appearing forced or artificial, unconvincing **6** resembling or related to a more widely known kind <~ oats> **7** inaccurate in pitch or vowel length **8** imprudent, unwise <a ~ move> [ME *fals*, fr OF & L, OF, fr L *falsus*, fr pp of *fallere* to deceive] – **falsely** adv, **falsehood** n, **falseness** n

**false alarm n** an occurrence that raises but fails to meet expectations

**\*falsehood /-hood/ n** **1** an untrue statement, a lie **2** absence of truth or accuracy, falsity **3** the practice of telling lies

**false pregnancy n** a psychosomatic state in which some of the signs of pregnancy occur without conception

**false rib n** a rib whose cartilages unite indirectly or not at all with the breastbone – compare FLOATING RIB

**\*false start n** **1** an incorrect and esp illegally early start by a competitor in a race **2** an abortive beginning to an activity or course of action

**falsetto /fəʊl'setoh/ n, pl falsettos** (a singer who uses) an artificially high voice, specif an artificially produced male singing voice that extends above the range of the singer's full voice [It, fr dim of *falso* false, fr L *falsus*] – **falsetto** adv

**\*falsework /-wuhk/ n** a temporary erection on which a main work is supported during construction

**falsies /fəʊlsɪz/ n pl** pads of foam rubber or other material worn to enlarge the apparent size of the breasts

**falsify /fəʊlsɪfɪ/ vt** **1** to prove or declare false **2a** to make false by fraudulent alteration <his accounts were falsified to conceal a theft> **b** to represent falsely; misrepresent [ME *falsifien*, fr MF *falsifier*, fr ML *falsificare*, fr L *falsus*] – **falsifier** n, **falsification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ n

**falter /fəʊltə/ vi** **1** to walk or move unsteadily or hesitatingly, stumble **2** to speak brokenly or weakly; stammer **3a** to hesitate in purpose or action; waver **b** to lose strength, purpose, or effectiveness, weaken <the business was ~ing> ~ *vt* to utter in a hesitant or broken manner [ME *falteren*] – **falterer** n, **falteringly** adv

**fame /fəɪm/ n** **1** public estimation; reputation **2** popular acclaim; renown [ME, fr OF, fr L *fama* report, fame, akin to L *fari* to speak – more at *'BAN*]

**famed adj** well-known, famous

**familial /fə'mɪli-əl, -yəl/ adj** **1** (characteristic) of a family or its members **2** tending to occur in more members of a family than expected by chance alone <a ~ disorder> [F, fr L *familia*]

**\*familiar /fə'mɪli-ə, -yə/ n** **1** an intimate associate; a companion **2** FAMILIAR SPIRIT

**\*familiar adj** **1** closely acquainted; intimate <a subject I am ~ with> **2a** casual, informal **b** too intimate and unrestrained; presumptuous **3** frequently seen or experienced; common [ME *familiar*, fr OF, fr L *familiaris*, fr *familia*] – **familiarly** adv, **familiarness** n

**familiarity /fə'mɪli-əriti/ n** **1a** absence of ceremony; informality **b** an unduly informal act or expression; an impropriety **2** close acquaintance with or knowledge of sthg ['FAMILIAR + -ITY]

**familiarize, -ise /fə'mɪli-əreɪz, -yə, -neɪz/ vt** **1** to make known or familiar **2** to make well acquainted <~ yourselves with the rules> – **familiarization** /-zeɪʃən/ n

**familiar spirit n** a spirit or demon that waits on an individual (e.g. a witch)

**\*family /fə'mɪli/ n** sing or pl in constr **1** a group of people united by their common convictions (e.g. of religion or philosophy); a fellowship, brother-

- hood 2a group of people of common ancestry or deriving from a common stock 3a group of people living under 1 roof, esp a set of 2 or more adults living together and rearing their children 4a a closely related series of elements or chemical compounds b a group of related languages descended from a single ancestral language 5 a category in the biological classification of living things ranking above a genus and below an order 6 a set of curves or surfaces whose equations differ only in certain constant terms [ME *familie*, fr L *familia* household (including servants as well as kin of the householder), fr *famulus* servant, perh akin to Skt *dhaman* dwelling place]
- \*family** *adj* of or suitable for a family or all of its members (< *entertainment*)
- family allowance** *n* CHILD BENEFIT
- Family Division** *n* a division of the High Court that deals with divorce, custody of children, etc. → LAW
- family income supplement** *n* a social-security payment made to a family whose income is below the officially recognized minimum
- family man** *n* 1 a man with a wife and children dependent on him 2 a man of domestic habits
- family name** *n* a surname
- family planning** *n* a system of achieving planned parenthood by contraception; BIRTH CONTROL
- family tree** *n* (a diagram of) a genealogy
- famine** /'famin/ *n* an extreme scarcity of food, broadly any great shortage [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *famina*, fr L *fames* hunger]
- famish** /'famish/ *vt* to cause to suffer severely from hunger – *usu pass* (< *I'm ~ed*) [ME *famishen*, prob alter of *famen*, fr MF *afamer*, fr (assumed) VL *affamare*, fr L *ad- + fames*]
- famous** /'faymʊs/ *adj* 1 well-known 2 excellent, first-rate (< *weather for a walk*) – *infrm*, no longer in vogue [ME, fr MF *fameux*, fr L *famosus*, fr *fama* fame] – *famously adv*, *famousness n*
- famulus** /'famyoolas/ *n*, *pl famuli* /-li/, -li/ a private secretary or attendant [G, *assistant* to a professor, fr L, *servant*]
- fan** /fan/ *n* 1 a device for winnowing grain 2 an instrument for producing a current of air e.g. a folding circular or semicircular device that consists of material (e.g. paper or silk) mounted on thin slats that is waved to and fro by hand to produce a cooling current of air b a device, usu a series of vanes radiating from a hub rotated by a motor, for producing a current of air [ME, fr OE *fann*, fr L *vannus* – more at *WINNOWER*] – *fanlike adj*
- \*fan** *vb* -*nn*- *vt* 1a to winnow (grain) b to eliminate (e.g. chaff) by winnowing 2 to move or impel (air) with a fan 3a to direct or blow a current of air on (as if) with a fan b to stir up to activity as if by fanning a fire, stimulate (< *he was ~ing the mob's fury with an emotive speech*) 4 to spread like a fan (< *~ed the pack of cards*) 5 to fire (a revolver) by squeezing the trigger and striking the hammer to the rear with the free hand – *vi* 1 to move like a fan, flutter 2 to spread like a fan – *often + out* (< *~ed out across the plain*)
- \*fan** *n* an enthusiastic supporter or admirer (e.g. of a sport, pursuit, or celebrity) (< *a football ~*) (< *a Presley ~*) [short for *fanatic*]
- fanatic** /'fʌnætɪk/ *n* or *adj* (one who is) excessively and often uncritically enthusiastic, esp in religion or politics [L *fanaticus* inspired by a deity, frenzied, fr *fanum* temple – more at *FEAST*] – *fanatical adj*, *fanatically adv*, *fanaticism* /-tɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, *fanaticize* /-tɪsɪz/ *vt*
- fan belt** *n* an endless belt driving a cooling fan for a radiator → CAR
- fancier** /'fænsi-ə/ *n* one who breeds or grows a usu specified animal or plant for points of excellence (< *a pigeon ~*)
- fanciful** /'fænsɪf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 given to or guided by fancy or imagination rather than by reason and experience 2 existing in fancy only; imaginary 3 marked by fancy or whim, *specif* elaborate, contrived – *fancifully adv*, *fancifulness n*
- fancily** /'fænsɪli/ *adv* in an elaborate or ornate manner (< *~ dressed*)
- \*fancy** /'fænsi/ *n* 1 a liking based on whim rather than reason; an inclination (< *took a ~ to her*) 2a a notion, whim b a mental image or representation of sthg 3a imagination, esp of a capricious or delusive sort b the power of mental conception and representation, used in artistic expression (e.g. by a poet) 4a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the group of fanciers or of devotees of a particular sport, esp boxing b sb or sthg considered likely to do well (e.g. in a race) – *infrm* [ME *fantasie*, *fantsy* fantasy, fancy, fr MF *fantasie*, fr L *phantasia*, fr Gk, appearance, imagination, fr *phantazein* to present to the mind (middle voice, to imagine), fr *phainein* to show; akin to OE *geborn* polished, Gk *phos* light]
- \*fancy** *vt* 1 to believe without knowledge or evidence (< *I ~ I've seen you somewhere before*) 2a to have a fancy for; like, desire (< *I really ~ blond men*) b to consider likely to do well (< *which horse do you ~?*) 3 to form a conception of; imagine – *often imper* (< *just ~ that!*) USE (2&3) *infrm* – *fanciable adj*
- \*fancy** *adj* 1 based on fancy or the imagination; whimsical 2a not plain or ordinary (< *~ cakes*), esp fine, quality b ornamental (< *~ goods*) c of an animal or plant bred esp for bizarre or ornamental qualities d parti-coloured (< *~ carnations*) 3 extravagant, exorbitant (< *~ prices*) – *infrm*
- fancy dress** *n* unusual or amusing dress (e.g. representing a historical or fictional character) worn for a party or other special occasion
- fancy-free** *adj* free to do what one wants, esp because not involved in a relationship – chiefly in *footloose and fancy-free*
- \*fancy man** *n* a woman's lover – *derog*, *infrm*
- \*fancy woman** *n* 1 MISTRESS 4 – *derog* 2 a prostitute USE *infrm*
- fancywork** *n* decorative needlework
- fandango** /fan'dangə/ *n*, *pl fandangos* (music for) a lively Spanish dance, usu performed by a couple to the accompaniment of guitar and castanets [Sp]
- fanfare** /'fænfə/ *n* 1 a flourish of trumpets 2 a showy outward display [F, prob of *imit* origin]
- fanfaronade** /'fænfə'naɪd/ *n* empty boasting, bluster – *fml* [F *fanfaronnade*, fr Sp *fanfarronada*, fr *fanfarrón* braggart, prob of *imit* origin]
- fang** /fang/ *n* 1a a tooth by which an animal's prey is seized and held or torn b any of the long hollow or grooved teeth of a venomous snake 2 the root of a tooth or any of the prongs into which a root divides 3 a projecting tooth or prong [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *fang* seizure, OE *fon* to seize – more at *PACT*] – *fanged adj*
- \*fan-jet** *n* (an aircraft powered by) a jet engine in which some of the air drawn in bypasses the combustion chambers
- \*fanlight** *n* an esp semicircular window with radiating divisions over a door or window → ARCHITECTURE
- fanny** /'fæni/ *n* 1 Br the female genitals – *vulg* 2 NAm the buttocks – *infrm* [Fanny, nickname for Frances]
- \*fan, tail** *n* 1 a fan-shaped tail or end 2 a domestic pigeon having a broad rounded tail often with 30 or 40 feathers 3 COUNTER 2
- \*fan-tan** *n* 1 a Chinese gambling game in which the banker divides a pile of objects into 4's and players bet on what number will be left at the end 2 a card game in which players must build in sequence upon 7's and attempt to be the first one with no cards left [Chin *fan'-tan*]
- fantasia** /'fæntəziə/, -zɪ(yə)/ *n* a free instrumental or literary composition not in strict form (comprising familiar tunes) [It *fantasia* & G *fantasie*, lit, fancy, fr L *phantasia* – more at *FANCY*]
- fantasize**, -ize /'fæntəziəz/ *vb* to indulge in reverie (about), create or develop imaginative and often fantastic views or ideas (about) (< *~d about winning the pools*) – *fantasist n*
- fantasm** /'fæntəz(ə)m/ *n* a phantasm
- fantastic** /'fæntəstɪk/ *adj* 1a unreal, imaginary b so extreme as to challenge belief, incredible, *specif* exceedingly large or great 2 marked by extravagant fantasy or eccentricity 3 – used as a generalized term of approval (< *looked ~ in his velvet jacket*) [ME *fantastic*, *fantastical*, fr MF & LL: MF *fantastique*, fr LL *phantasticus*, fr Gk *phantastikos* producing mental images, fr *phantazein* to present to the mind] – *fantastical adj*, *fantastically adv*, *fantasticness n*, *fantasticity* /-kələti/ *n*
- \*fantasy** /'fæntəsi/ *n* 1 unrestricted creative imagination, fancy 2a a creation of the unrestricted imagination whether expressed or merely conceived (e.g. a fantastic design or idea) b a fantasia c imaginative fiction or drama characterized esp by strange, unrealistic, or grotesque elements 3 (the power or process of creating) a usu extravagant mental image or daydream [ME *fantasie* – more at *FANCY*]
- \*fantasy** *vb* to fantasize
- Fante** /'fænti/ *n*, *pl Fantes*, esp collectively *Fante* (a) Fanti
- Fanti** /'fænti/ *n*, *pl Fantis*, esp collectively *Fanti* (the language of) a member of an African tribe of Ghana
- fantom** /'fæntəm/ *n* a phantom
- \*fan vaulting** *n* an elaborate system of vaulting in which the ribs diverge from a single shaft to resemble the framework of a fan → CHURCH
- fanzine** /'fænzɪn/ *n* a (science fiction) magazine for fans ['fan + magazine]
- \*far** /fɑ:/ *adv* farther /'fɑ:dhə/, further /'fʊdhə/; farthest /'fɑ:dhɪst/, furthest /'fʊdhɪst/ 1 to or at a considerable distance in space (< *wandered ~ into the woods*) 2a by a broad interval (< *the ~ distant future*) b in total contrast – *+ from* (< *from criticizing you, I'm delighted*) 3 to or at an extent or degree (as ~ as I know) 4a to or at a considerable distance or degree (< *a bright student will go ~*) b MUCH 1c (< *too hot*) (< *better*



**fascicule** /'fasikyoohl/ *n* FASCICLE 2 [F, fr L *fasciculus*]



**fasciculus** /fə'sikjooləs/ *n*, *pl fasciculi* /-li, -lie/ a slender bundle of (anatomical) fibres [NL, fr L] – **fascicular** *adj*, **fasciculate** /-lət/ *adj*  
**fascinate** /fə'saɪnəɪ/ *vt* 1 to transfix by an irresistible mental power <believed that the serpent could ~ its prey> 2 to attract strongly, esp by arousing interest, captivate ~ *vi* to be irresistibly attractive [L *fascinatus*, pp of *fascinare*, fr *fascinum* witchcraft] – **fascinator** *n*, **fascinatingly** *adv*, **fascination** /-nəʃən/ *n*

**fascine** /fə'si:ən, fə-/ *n* a long bundle of sticks of wood bound together and used for such purposes as filling ditches and making parapets [F, fr L *fascina*, fr *fascis*]

**fascism** /fə'ʃɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a political philosophy, movement, or regime that is usu hostile to socialism, exalts nation and race, and stands for a centralized government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition 2 brutal dictatorial control [It *fascismo*, fr *fascio* bundle, *fascies*, group, fr L *fascis* bundle & *fascies* *fascies*] – **fascist** *n* or *adj*, often *cap*, **fascistic** /fə'shɪstɪk/ *adj*, often *cap*  
**Fascista** /fə'shɪstə/, *n*, *pl Fascisti* /fə'shɪstɪ/ a member of the fascist political party under Mussolini that ruled Italy from 1922 to 1943 [It, fr *fascio*]

**fash** /fəʃ/ *vt*, chiefly Scot to vex [MF *fasher*, fr (assumed) VL *fastidiare* to disgust, fr L *fastidium* disgust – more at FASTIDIOUS] – **fast** *n*, chiefly Scot

**fashion** /fə'ʃʌ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the make or form of sthg 2 a manner, way <the people assembled in an orderly ~> 3a a prevailing and often short-lived custom or style b the prevailing style or custom, esp in dress c an affluent and fashionable life style <women of ~> [ME *facioun*, *fason* shape, manner, fr OF *façon*, fr L *faction*-, *factio* act of making, *faction*, fr *factus*, pp of *facere* to make – more at DO] – after a fashion in an approximate or rough way <he ~ed an artist after a fashion>

**fashion** *vt* 1 to give shape or form to, esp by using ingenuity, mould, construct 2 to mould into a particular character by influence or training, transform, adapt – **fashioner** *n*

**-fashion** *comb form* (*n* – *adv*) in the manner of a <wore the scarf turban-fashion>

**fashionable** /fə'ʃʌ(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1 conforming to the latest custom or fashion 2 of the world of fashion, used or patronized by people of fashion <~ shops> – **fashionableness** *n*, **fashionably** *adv*

**fast** /fəst/ *adj* 1a firmly fixed or attached b tightly closed or shut 2 firm, steadfast – chiefly in *fast friends* 3a(1) moving or able to move rapidly, swift (2) taking a comparatively short time (3) of a suburban train > EXPRESS 3a (4) accomplished quickly (5) quick to learn b conducive to rapidity of play or action or quickness of motion <a ~ pitch> c indicating in advance of what is correct <the clock was ~> d having or being a high photographic speed <~ film> <~ lens> 4 of a colour permanently dyed, not liable to fade 5a dissipated, wild <a very ~ set> b esp of a woman FORWARD 3b, also promiscuous 6 resistant to change from destructive action, fading, etc – often in combination <colourfast> <acid-fast bacteria> 7 dishonest, shady, also acquired by dishonest means or with little effort – infml <made a ~ buck> [ME, fr OE *fæst*, akin to OHG *festi* firm, ON *fastr*, Arm *hast*]

**fast** *adv* 1 in a firm or fixed manner 2 sound, deeply <fell ~ asleep> 3a in a rapid manner, quickly b in quick succession <orders came in thick and ~> 4 in a reckless or dissipated manner 5 ahead of a correct time or posted schedule

**fast** *vi* to abstain from some or all foods or meals ~ *vt* to deprive of food <the animals were ~ed for 24 hours before the experiment> [ME *fasten*, fr OE *fæstan*]

**fast** *n* an act or time of fasting

**fastback** *n* (a motor car with) a roof sloping backwards to or nearly to the bumper

**fasten** /fə's(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to attach or secure, esp by pinning, tying, or nailing 2 to fix or direct steadily <~ed his eyes on the awful sight> 3 to attach, impose on <~ed the blame on me> ~ *vi* to become fast or fixed [ME *fastnen*, fr OE *fæstnian* to make fast, akin to OHG *fæstnian* to make fast, OE *fæst* fast] – **fastener** /fə's(ə)nə/ *n* – **fasten** on/upon/onto 1 to take a firm grip or hold on 2 to focus attention on

**fastening** /fə's(ə)nɪŋ/ *n* a fastener

**fastidious** /fə'stɪdɪ-əs, -dɪ-əs/ *adj* 1 excessively difficult to satisfy or please 2 showing or demanding great delicacy or care [ME, fr L *fastidiosus*, fr *fastidium* disgust, prob fr *fastus* arrogance + *tædium* irksomeness; akin to L *fastigium* top] – **fastidiously** *adv*, **fastidiousness** *n*

**fastness** /fə'stnɪs/ *n* 1a the quality of being fixed b colourfast quality 2 a fortified, secure, or remote place <he spent the weekend in his mountain ~> [FAST + -NESS]

**fast neutron** *n* a neutron with high kinetic energy

**fast reactor** *n* a nuclear reactor in which fast neutrons are used

**fast-talk** *vt* or *n*, chiefly NAm (to influence or persuade by) fluent, facile, and usu deceptive talk – infml

**fat** /fæt/ *adj* -tt- 1 having an unusually large amount of fat: a plump b obese c of a meat animal fattened for market 2a well filled out, thick, big <a ~ volume of verse> b prosperous, wealthy <grew ~ on the war ~ Time> 3 richly rewarding or profitable; substantial <a ~ part in a new play> 4 productive, fertile <a ~ year for crops> 5 practically nonexistent <a ~ chance> <a ~ lot of good it did him> – infml 6 foolish, thick <get that idea out of your ~ head> – infml [ME, fr OE *fætt*, pp of *fætan* to cram; akin to OHG *feizit* fat, L *optimus* fat, copious] – **fatty** *adv*, **fatness** *n*, **fattish** *adj*

**fat** *n* 1 (animal tissue consisting chiefly of cells distended with) greasy or oily matter 2a any of numerous compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen that are a major class of energy-rich food and are soluble in organic solvents (e g ether) but not in water b a solid or semisolid fat as distinguished from an oil 3 the best or richest part <the ~ of the land> 4 excess <we must trim the ~ off this budget>

**fat** *vt* -tt- to fatten

**fatal** /faytl/ *adj* 1 fateful, decisive 2a of fate b like fate in proceeding according to a fixed sequence, inevitable 3a causing death b bringing ruin c productive of disagreeable or contrary results – infml <it's ~ to offer him a drink> [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *fatalis*, fr *fatum*]

**fatalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the belief that all events are predetermined and outside the control of human beings – **fatalist** *n*, **fatalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*, **fatalistically** *adv*

**fatality** /fə'tæləti/ *n* 1 sthg established by fate 2a the quality or state of causing death or destruction b the quality or condition of being destined for disaster 3 FATE 1 4a death resulting from a disaster b one who experiences or is subject to a fatal outcome

**fatally** /faytl-i/ *adv* 1 in a fatal manner, esp mortally <~ wounded> 2 as is or was fatal

**fata morgana** /fə'tə mɔːgə'nə/ *n* a mirage [It, lit, Morgan the fay, sorceress of Arthurian legend]

**fat cat** *n*, chiefly NAm a wealthy, privileged, and usu influential person, esp one who contributes to a political campaign fund

**fate** /fayt/ *n* 1 the power beyond human control that determines events, destiny 2a a destiny apparently determined by fate b a disaster, esp death 3a an outcome, end, esp one that is adverse and inevitable b the expected result of normal development <prospective ~ of embryonic cells> [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *fatum*, lit, what has been spoken, fr neut of *fatus*, pp of *ferre* to speak – more at BAN]

**fate** *vt* to destine; also to doom – *usu* pass <the plan was ~d to fail>

**fateful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 having a quality of ominous prophecy <a ~ remark> 2a having momentous and often unpleasant consequences, decisive <the ~ decision to declare war> b deadly, catastrophic 3 controlled by fate; foreordained – **fatefully** *adv*, **fatefulness** *n*

**Fates** /fayts/ *n* *pl* the 3 goddesses of classical mythology who determine the course of human life

**fathead** *n* a slow-witted or stupid person; a fool – infml – **fatheaded** /-f(ə)-/ *adj*, **fatheadedly** /-f(ə)-/ *adv*, **fatheadedness** /-f(ə)-/ *n*

**fat hen** *n* a widely distributed goosefoot that is a common weed

**father** /fədhə/ *n* 1a a male parent of a child, also SIRE b *cap* (1) GOD 1 (2) the first person of the Trinity 2 a forefather 3a a man who relates to another in a way suggesting the relationship of father and child, esp in receiving filial respect b often *cap* (1) an old man – used as a respectful form of address (2) sthg personified as an old man <Father Time> <Father Thames> 4 often *cap* an early Christian writer accepted by the church as authoritative 5a sby who originates or institutes <the ~ of radio> b a source, origin 6 a priest of the regular clergy – used esp as a title in the Roman Catholic church 7 any of the leading men (e g of a city) – *usu* *pl* [ME *fader*, fr OE *fæder*; akin to OHG *fater* father, L *pater*, Gk *pater*] – **fatherhood** *n*, **fatherless** *adj*, **fatherly** *adj*

**father** *vt* 1a to beget b to give rise to; initiate c to accept responsibility for 2 to fix the paternity of on

**Father Christmas** *n*, Br an old man with a white beard and red suit believed by children to deliver their presents at Christmas time

**father-in-law** *n*, *pl fathers-in-law* the father of one's spouse

**fatherland** *n* one's native land – used esp with reference to Germany

**fathom** /fədh(ə)m/ *n* a unit of length equal to 6ft (about 1.83m) used esp for measuring the depth of water UNIT [ME *fadme*, fr OE *fæthm* outstretched arms, length of the outstretched arms; akin to ON

- fathmr* fathom, *L patère* to be open, *pandere* to spread out, Gk *petan-nynai*]
- \*fathom** *vt* 1 to measure by a sounding line 2 to penetrate and come to understand – often + *out* – **fathomable** *adj*
- Fathometer** /fə'dhɒmɪtə/ *trademark* – used for a sonic depth finder
- \*fathomless** /-lɪs/ *adj* incapable of being fathomed – **fathomlessly** *adv*, **fathomlessness** *n*
- fatidic** /fay'tɪdɪk, fə-/ , **fatidical** /-kl/ *adj* of prophecy [L *fatidicus*, fr *fatum* fate + *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**]
- \*fatigue** /fə'teɪɡ/ *n* 1a physical or nervous exhaustion b the temporary loss of power to respond induced in a sensory receptor or motor end organ by continued stimulation 2a manual or menial military work b *pl* the uniform or work clothing worn on fatigue 3 the tendency of a material to break under repeated stress [F, fr MF, fr *fatiguer* to fatigue, fr L *fatigare*, akin to L *affatim* sufficiently, & prob to L *fames* hunger]
- \*fatigue** *vt* 1 to weary, exhaust 2 to induce a condition of fatigue in – *vi*, *esp* of a metal to suffer fatigue – **fatigable** *adj*, **fatigability** /-gə'bɪləti/ *n*, **fatigably** *adv*
- \*fatigue** *adj* being part of fatigues (< *a* ~ *cap*)
- fatling** /fə'tɪŋ/ *n* a young animal fattened for slaughter
- fatso** /fə'tsɒ/ *n*, *pl* **fatsoes** a fat person – *infml*; often used as a derog form of address [prob fr *Fats*, nickname for a fat person + -o]
- \*fatstock** *n* livestock that is fat and ready for market
- fatten** /fə'tæn/ *vt* 1 to make fat, fleshy, or plump, *esp* to feed (e.g. a stock animal) for slaughter – often + *up* 2 to make fertile ~ *vi* to become fat – **fattener** *n*
- \*fatty** /fə'ti/ *adj* 1 containing (large amounts of) fat, also corpulent 2 GREASY 2 (< ~ *food*) 3 derived from or chemically related to fat – **fattiness** *n*
- \*fatty** *n* a fat person or animal – *infml*
- \*fatty acid** *n* any of numerous organic acids with 1 carboxyl group (e.g. acetic acid) including many that occur naturally in fats, waxes, and essential oils
- fatuous** /fə'tyʊəs/ *adj* complacently or inanely foolish; idiotic [L *fatuus* foolish – more at **BATTLE**] – **fatuously** *adv*, **fatuousness** *n*, **fatuity** /fə'tyʊə-ti, fə'choo-/ *n*
- faubourg** /fə'h,boʊr/ *n* a suburb, *esp* of a French city [ME *fabour*, fr MF *fauxbourg*, alter. of *forbsbourg*, fr OF *forbsorc*, fr *fors* outside + *borc* town]
- fauces** /fə'weɪz/ *n*, *pl* **fauces** the narrow passage from the mouth to the pharynx situated between the soft palate and the base of the tongue – often *pl* with sing. meaning [L, *pl*, throat, fauces] – **faucial** /fə'wʃ(ə)l/ *adj*
- faucet** /fə'wɪt/ *n*, *NAM* a tap [ME, bung, faucet, fr MF *fausser* bung, fr *fausser* to damage, fr LL *falsare* to falsify, fr L *falsus* false]
- faugh** /fəʊ/ *interj* – used to express contempt or disgust [imit]
- \*fault** /fəʊlt/ *n* 1a a failing b an imperfection, defect (< *a* ~ in the computer) c an action, *esp* a service that does not land in the prescribed area, which loses a rally in tennis, squash, etc 2a a misdemeanour b a mistake 3 responsibility for wrongdoing or failure (<the accident was the driver's ~>) 4 a fracture in the earth's crust accompanied by displacement (e.g. of the strata) along the fracture line ➞ **GEOGRAPHY** [ME *faute*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *fallita*, fr fem of *fallitus*, pp of L *fallere* to deceive, disappoint – more at **FAIL**] – **faultless** *adj*, **faultlessly** *adv*, **faultlessness** *n*, **faulty** *adj*, **faultily** *adv*, **faultiness** *n* – at fault in the wrong, liable for blame
- \*fault** *vi* 1 to commit a fault; err 2 to produce a geological fault ~ *vt* 1 to find a fault in (<can't ~ his logic>) 2 to produce a geological fault in
- \*fault-finding** *adj* overinclined to criticize – **faultfinder** *n*, **faultfinding** *n*
- fauna** /fə'wnə/ *n*, *pl* **faunas** also **faunae** /-ni, -nie/ the animals or animal life of a region, period, or special environment – compare **FLORA** [NL, fr LL *Fauna*, sister of *Faunus*, fr *Faunus*, satyr-like deity in Roman mythology] – **faunal** *adj*, **faunally** *adv*, **faunistic** /fə'wɪstɪk/ *adj*
- faute de mieux** /foht də 'myuh (Fr foit də mʲø)/ *adv* for lack of sth more suitable or desirable (<sherry gave him a headache but he drank it ~>) [F]
- fauvism** /foh,vɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* a 20th-c art movement typified by the work of Matisse and characterized by pure and vivid colour and a free treatment of form [F *fauvisme*, fr *fauve* wild animal, fr *fauve* tawny, wild, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *falo* fallow – more at **'FALLOW**] – **fauvist** *n*, often *cap*
- faux-naïf** /foh nah'eɪf (Fr fo: naif)/ *n* or *adj* (sby) affecting a childlike innocence or simplicity [F, lit., false(ly) naïve]
- faux pas** /foh 'pah/ *n*, *pl* **faux pas** /foh 'pah(z)/ an esp social blunder [F, lit., false step]
- \*favour**, *NAM* chiefly **favor** /'fayvə/ *n* 1a(1) friendly regard shown towards another, *esp* by a superior (2) approving consideration or attention; approbation (<looked with ~ on our project>) b partiality, favouritism c popularity 2 (an act of) kindness beyond what is expected or due 3 a token of allegiance or love (e.g. a ribbon or badge), usu worn conspicuously 4 consent to sexual activities, *esp* given by a woman – usu *pl* with sing. meaning, euph (<granted her ~s>) [ME, fr OF *favor* friendly regard, fr L, fr *favere* to be favourable, akin to OHG *gouma* attention, OSlav *gověti* to revere] – in favour of 1 in agreement or sympathy with; on the side of 2 to the advantage of (<John gave up his rights in the house in favour of his wife>) 3 in order to choose, out of preference for (<he refused a job in industry in favour of an academic appointment>) – in someone's favour 1 liked or esteemed by sby (<doing extra work to get back in his boss's favour>) 2 to sby's advantage (<the odds were in his favour>) – out of favour unpopular, disliked
- \*favour**, *NAM* chiefly **favor** *vt* 1a to regard or treat with favour b to do a favour or kindness for, oblige – usu + *by* or *with* (<Wilson ~ed them with a kindly smile> – *The Listener*) 2 to show partiality towards, prefer 3a to give support or confirmation to, sustain (<this evidence ~s my theory>) b to afford advantages for success to, facilitate (<good weather ~ed the outing>) 4 to look like (e.g. a relation) (<he ~s his father>)
- favourable** /'fayv(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1a disposed to favour, partial b expressing or winning approval, also giving a result in one's favour (<a ~ comparison>) 2a tending to promote; helpful, advantageous (<~ wind>) b successful – **favourably** *adv*
- \*favoured** *adj* 1 endowed with special advantages or gifts 2 having an appearance or features of a specified kind – usu in combination (<an ill-favoured child>) 3 receiving preferential treatment
- \*favourite** /'fayv(ə)rɪt/ *n* 1 sby or sth favoured or preferred above others, specif one unduly favoured, *esp* by a person in authority (<teachers should not have ~s>) 2 the competitor judged most likely to win, *esp* by a bookmaker [It *favorito*, pp of *favorire* to favour, fr *favore* favour, fr L *favor*]
- \*favourite** *adj* constituting a favourite
- \*favouritism** /'fayv(ə)rɪt(ɪz)m/ *n* the showing of unfair favour, partiality
- \*fawn** /fəʊn/ *vi* 1 *esp* of a dog to show affection 2 to court favour by acting in a servilely flattering manner **USE** usu + *on* or *upon* [ME *faunen*, fr OE *fagnian* to rejoice, fr *fægen*, *fagan* glad – more at **FAIN**] – **fawner** *n*, **fawningly** *adv*
- \*fawn** *n* 1 a young (unweaned) deer 2 light greyish brown [ME *foun*, fr MF *feon*, *faon* young of an animal, fr (assumed) VL *feon-*, *feto*, fr L *fetus* offspring – more at **FOETUS**]
- fay** /fay/ *n* a fairy – poetic [ME *faie*, fr MF *feie*, *fee* – more at **FAIRY**]
- payre** /fə/ *n* **\*FAIR**
- faze** /fayz/ *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to disturb the composure of, disconcert, daunt – *infml* [alter of *feeze* (to drive away, frighten), fr ME *fesen*, fr OE *fesian* to drive away]
- F clef** /eɪ/ *n* **BASS CLEF** ➞ **MUSIC**
- fealty** /'fe:ltɪ/ *n* 1 fidelity to one's feudal lord 2 allegiance, faithfulness [alter of ME *feute*, fr OF *feulté*, *fealté*, fr L *fidelitas*, *fidelitas* – more at **FIDELITY**]
- \*fear** /fɪə/ *n* 1 (an instance of) an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of (a specified) danger; also a state marked by this emotion (<in ~ of their lives>) 2 anxiety, solicitude 3 profound reverence and awe, *esp* towards God 4 reason for alarm, danger [ME *fer*, fr OE *fær* sudden danger; akin to L *periculum* attempt, peril, Gk *peiran* to attempt, OE *faran* to go – more at **FARE**] ➞ **fearless** *adj*, **fearlessly** *adv*, **fearlessness** *n* – for fear of because of anxiety about; IN CASE OF (<for fear of losing electoral support>)
- \*fear** *vt* 1 to have a reverential awe of (<~ God>) 2 to be afraid of; consider or expect with alarm ~ *vi* to be afraid or apprehensive – **fearer** *n*
- \*fearful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 causing or likely to cause fear 2a full of fear (<~ of reprisals>) b showing or arising from fear (<a ~ glance>) c timid, timorous (<a ~ child>) 3 extremely bad, large, or intense (<a ~ waste>) – *infml* – **fearfully** *adv*, **fearfulness** *n*
- \*fearsome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* **FEARFUL** 1, 2c – **fearsomely** *adv*, **fearsomeness** *n*
- feasible** /'fi:zəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being done or carried out (<a ~ plan>) 2 capable of being used or dealt with successfully; suitable (<our ~ sources of energy are limited>) 3 reasonable, likely [ME *faissible*, fr MF, fr *fais-*

- stem of *faire* to make, do, fr L. *facere*) – **feasibility** /-zə'bɪləti/ *n*
- feast** /fi:st/ *n* **1a** an elaborate often public meal, sometimes accompanied by a ceremony or entertainment; a banquet **b** sth that gives abundant pleasure <a ~ for the eyes> **2** a periodic religious observance commemorating an event or honouring a deity, person, or thing [ME *feſte* festival, feast, fr OF, festival, fr L. *feſta*, pl of *feſtum* festival, fr neut of *feſtus* solemn, festal, akin to L. *feriae* holidays, *fanum* temple, Arm *dik'* gods]
- feast** *vt* to have or take part in a feast ~ *vt* **1** to give a feast for **2** to delight, gratify <~ your eyes on her beauty> – **feaster** *n*
- feat** /fi:t/ *n* **1** a notable and esp courageous act or deed **2** an act or product of skill, endurance, or ingenuity [ME *fait* act, deed, fr MF, fr L. *factum*, fr neut of *factus*, pp of *facere* to make, do – more at 'bo]
- feather** /'fedhə/ *n* **1a** any of the light horny outgrowths that form the external covering of a bird's body and consist of a shaft that bears 2 sets of barbs that interlock to form a continuous vane → ANATOMY **b** the vane of an arrow **2** plumage **3** the act of feathering an oar [ME *feſther*, fr OE, akin to OHG *federa* wing, L. *petere* to go to, seek, Gk *petesthai* to fly, *pteron* to fall, *pteron* wing] – **feathered** *adj*, **feathery** *adj* – a feather in one's cap a deserved honour or mark of distinction in which one can take pride
- feather** *vt* **1a** to fit (e.g. an arrow) with feathers **b** to cover, clothe, or adorn with feathers **2a** to turn (an oar blade) almost horizontal when lifting from the water **b** to change the angle at which (a propeller blade) meets the air so as to have the minimum wind resistance, also to feather the propeller blades attached to (a propeller or engine) **3** to reduce the edge of a feathered edge **4** to cut (e.g. air) (as if) with a wing ~ *vt* **1** of ink or a printer's impression to soak in and spread, blur **2** to feather an oar or an aircraft propeller blade – **feather one's nest** to provide for oneself, esp dishonestly, through a job in which one is trusted
- featherbed** /'fi:ðəbɛd/ *vt* – *dd* **1** to cushion or protect from hardship, worry, etc., to pamper **2** to assist (e.g. an industry) with government subsidies
- feather bed** *n* (a bed with) a feather mattress
- featherbrain** /'braɪn/ *n* a foolish scatterbrained person – **feather-brained** *adj*
- featheredge** /'eɪ/ *n* (a board or plank having) a very thin sharp edge – **featheredge** *vt*
- featherhead** /'hed/ *n* a featherbrain – **featherheaded** /'hedɪd/ *adj*
- feathering** /'fedhɪŋ/ *n* **1a** plumage **b** the (type of) feathers of an arrow **2** a fringe of hair (e.g. on the legs of a dog or cart horse)
- featherstitch** /'stɪtʃ/ *n* an embroidery stitch consisting of a line of loop stitches worked in a zigzag pattern – **featherstitch** *vb*
- featherweight** /'weɪt/ *n* **1** a boxer who weighs not more than 9st (57.2kg) if professional or more than 54kg (about 8st 7lb) but not more than 57kg (about 8st 13lb) if amateur **2** sb or sth of limited importance or effectiveness
- feature** /'fi:tʃə/ *n* **1a** the make-up or appearance of the face or its parts <gentle of ~> **b** a part of the face <her nose was not her best ~>, also, pl the face <an embarrassed look on his ~> **2** a prominent or distinctive part or characteristic **3a** a full-length film, esp the main film on a cinema programme **b** a distinctive article, story, or special section in a newspaper or magazine **c** *Br* a radio documentary, often one about cultural rather than political matters – compare DOCUMENTARY [ME *feſture*, fr MF, shape, form, fr L. *factura* act of making, fr *factus*, pp of *facere* to make – more at 'no] – **featureless** /-lis/ *adj*
- feature** *vt* **1** to give special prominence to (e.g. in a performance or newspaper) **2** to have as a characteristic or feature ~ *vt* **1** play an important part, be a feature – usu + *in*
- featured** /'fi:tʃəd/ *adj* having facial features of a specified kind – usu in combination <a heavy-featured man>
- febrile** /'febri/ *comb form* fever (febrifuge) [LL, fr L. *febris*]
- febrifuge** /'febriʃu:ʃ/ *n* an antipyretic [F *febrifuge*, prob fr (assumed) NL *febrifuga*, fr LL *febrifuga*, *febrifuga* centaur, fr *febris* + *-fuga* -fuge] – **febrifuge** *adj*
- febrile** /'febriəl/ *adj* of fever; feverish [ML *febrilis*, fr L. *febris* fever – more at FEVER]
- February** /'febʒuəri/, -eri/ *n* the 2nd month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Februarie*, fr L. *Februarius*, fr *Februa*, pl, feast of purification; perh akin to L. *fumus* smoke]
- feces** /'fesəz/ *n* pl, NAm *faeces* – **fecal** *adj*
- feckless** /'feklis/ *adj* **1** ineffectual, weak **2** worthless, irresponsible [Sc, fr *feck* effect, majority, fr ME (Sc) *fek*, alter. of ME *effect*] – **fecklessly** *adv*, **fecklessness** *n*
- feculent** /'fekju:lənt/ *adj* foul with impurities or excrement – fml [ME, fr L. *faeculentus*, fr *faec-*, *faex* dregs] – **feculence** /-ləns/ *n*
- fecund** /'fekənd/, 'fekənd/ *adj* **1** fruitful in offspring or vegetation; prolific **2** very intellectually productive or inventive to a marked degree *USE* fml [ME, fr MF *fecund*, fr L. *fecundus* – more at FEMININE] – **fecundity** /'fi:kəndəti/ *n*
- fecundate** /'fekəndaɪt/, 'fee-/ *vt* **1** to make fecund **2** to make fertile, impregnate *USE* fml [L. *fecundatus*, pp of *fecundare*, fr *fecundus*] – **fecundation** /-'daɪʃən/ *n*
- fed** *past of FEED*
- fed** /'fed/ *n*, often *cap*, NAm a federal agent or officer – infml [short for *federal*]
- fedayee** /'fi,dah'ye:, -da'ye:/ *n*, pl *fedayeen* /-'yeen/ a member of an Arab commando group operating esp against Israel [Ar *fidā'i*, lit. one who sacrifices himself]
- federal** /'fed(ə)rəl/ *adj* **1a** formed by agreement between political units that surrender their individual sovereignty to a central authority but retain limited powers of government, also of or constituting a government so formed **b** of the central government of a federation as distinguished from those of the constituent units **2** of or loyal to the federal government of the USA in the American Civil War [L. *foeder-*, *foedus* compact, league, akin to L. *fidere* to trust – more at *fid*] – **federally** *adv*
- Federal** *n* a supporter or soldier of the North in the American Civil War
- federal district** *n* a district set apart as the seat of a federal government
- federalism** /'fedrəlɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* (advocacy of) the federal principle
- federalist** /-lɪst/ *n* an advocate of federalism
- federate** /'fedəraɪt/ *vt* to join in a federation – **federative** /-rətɪv, -rəʊtɪv/ *adj*
- federation** /'fedə'reɪʃən/ *n* **1** federating; esp the formation of a federal union **2** sth formed by federating: e.g. a country formed by the federation of separate states **b** a union of organizations
- fedora** /'fi:dawrə/ *n* a low felt hat with the crown creased lengthways [Fedora, drama by V. Sardou †1908 F dramatist]
- fed up** *adj* discontented, bored <~ with the 9-to-5 day> – infml
- fee** /'fi:/ *n* **1a** an estate in land held in feudal law from a lord **b** an inherited or heritable estate in land **2a(1)** a sum of money paid esp for entrance or for a professional service – often pl with sing. meaning **(2)** money paid for education – usu pl with sing. meaning **b** a gratuity [ME, fr OF *fe*, *fief*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *feoh* cattle, property, OHG *fihu* cattle, akin to L. *pecus* cattle, *pecunia* money, *pectere* to comb] – **in fee** in absolute and legal possession
- fee** *vt* **1** to give a fee to **2** chiefly Scot to hire for a fee
- feeble** /'fi:bl/ *adj* **1** lacking in strength or endurance, weak <a ~ old man> **2** deficient in authority, force, or effect <a ~ joke> <a ~ excuse> [ME *feble*, fr OF, fr L. *febilis* lamentable, wretched, fr *flere* to weep – more at *BEAT*] – **feebleness** *n*, **feeblish** *adj*, **feebly** *adv*
- feeble-minded** /-'mɛndɪd/ *adj* **1** mentally deficient **2** foolish, stupid – **feeble-mindedly** *adv*, **feeble-mindedness** *n*
- feed** /'fi:d/ *vb* **feed** /'fi:d/ *vt* **1a** to give food to **b** to give as food **2** to provide sth essential to the growth, sustenance, maintenance, or operation of **3** to produce or provide food for **4a** to satisfy, gratify **b** to support, encourage **5a(1)** to supply for use, consumption, or processing, esp in a continuous manner <fed the tape into the machine> **(2)** to supply material to (e.g. a machine), esp in a continuous manner **b** to supply (a signal or power) to an electronic circuit **6** to act as a feed for **7** to pass or throw a ball or puck to (a teammate) ~ *vi* **1a** to consume food; eat **b** to prey **2** to become nourished or satisfied as if by food **3** to be moved into a machine or opening for use, processing, or storage <the grain fed into the silo> *USE* (vi 1) usu + *off*, *on*, or *upon* [ME *fedan*, fr OE *fedan*, akin to OE *fōda* food – more at FOOD]
- feed** *n* **1** an act of eating **2a** (a mixture or preparation of) food for livestock **b** the amount given at each feeding **3a** material supplied (e.g. to a furnace) **b** a mechanism by which the action of feeding is effected **4** one who supplies cues for another esp comic performer's lines or actions **5** an esp large meal – infml
- feed back** /-'bak/ *n* **1** the return to the input of a part of the output of a machine, system, or process **2** (the return to a source of) information about the results of an action or process, usu in response to a request
- feeder** /'fi:da/ *n* **1** a device or apparatus for supplying food (e.g. to a caged animal) **2a** a device feeding material into or through a machine **b** a heavy wire conductor supplying electricity to a point of an electric distribution system **c** a transmission line running from a radio transmitter

to an antenna **d** a road, railway, airline, or aircraft that links remote areas with the main transport system **3** an animal being fattened or suitable for fattening [ˈfiːd + ˌER]

**feeding bottle** *n* a bottle with a teat, designed to hold milk and used for feeding babies

**feedlot** /-lɒt/ *n* a plot of land on which livestock are fattened for market

**feedstock** /-stɒk/ *n* raw material supplied to a machine or processing plant

**feed up** *vt* to fatten by plentiful feeding

**feel** /fiːl/ *vb* felt /felt/ *vt* **1a** to handle or touch in order to examine or explore **b** to perceive by a physical sensation coming from discrete end organs (e.g. of the skin or muscles) <~ a draught> **2** to experience actively or passively; be affected by <he shall ~ my wrath> <try to ~ the music> **3** to ascertain or explore by cautious trial <~ing their way> – often + out <felt out the opposition> **4a** to be aware of by instinct or by drawing conclusions from the evidence available <felt the presence of a stranger in the room> **b** to believe, think <is generally felt that such action is inadvisable> ~ *vi* **1a** to (be able) to receive the sensation of touch **b** to search for sthg by using the sense of touch **2a** to be conscious of an inward impression, state of mind, or physical condition <~s much better now> **b** to believe oneself to be <I did ~ a fool> **3** to have sympathy or pity <really ~s for the underprivileged> [ME *fele*, fr OE *felean*; akin to OHG *fuolen* to feel, L *palpare* to caress, & perh to Gk *pallein* to brandish – more at POLEMIC] – **feel like** **1** to resemble or seem to be on the evidence of touch <it feels like velvet> **2** to wish for, be in the mood for <do you feel like a drink?>

**feel** *n* **1** the sense of feeling, touch **2** sensation, feeling **3a** the quality of a thing as imparted through touch <the material had a velvety ~> **b** typical or peculiar quality or atmosphere <the ~ of an old country pub> **4** intuitive skill, knowledge, or ability – usu + for <a ~ for words>

**feeler** /ˈfiːlə/ *n* **1** a tactile appendage (e.g. a tentacle) of an animal **2** sthg (e.g. a proposal) ventured to ascertain the views of others [ˈFFI + ˌER]

**feeler gauge** *n* a set of thin steel strips of various known thicknesses by which small gaps may be measured

**feeling** /ˈfiːlɪŋ/ *n* **1a** (a sensation experienced through) the one of the 5 basic physical senses by which stimuli, esp to the skin and mucous membranes, are interpreted by the brain as touch, pressure, and temperature **b** generalized bodily consciousness, sensation, or awareness <experienced a ~ of safety> <a good ~> **2a** an emotional state or reaction <a ~ of loneliness> **b** pl susceptibility to impression; sensibility <the remark hurt her ~s> **3** a conscious recognition; a sense <the harsh sentence left him with a ~ of injustice> **4a** an opinion or belief, esp when unreasoned; a sentiment <what are your ~s on the matter?> **b** a presentiment <I've a ~ he won't come> **5** capacity to respond emotionally, esp with the higher emotions <a man of noble ~> **6** FEEL **3, 4, 7** the quality of a work of art that embodies and conveys the emotion of the artist

**feeling adj** **1a** having the capacity to feel or respond emotionally, sensitive **b** easily moved emotionally; sympathetic **2** expressing emotion or sensitivity – **feelingly** *adv*

**fee** /fiː/ *n*, *pl* fees simple a fee without limitation to any class of heirs

**feet** /fiːt/ *pl* of 'FOOT

**fee tail** *n*, *pl* fees tail a fee limited to a particular class of heirs

**feet of clay** *n* *pl* a generally concealed but marked weakness [fr the feet of the idol in Dan 2:33]

**Fehling's solution** /ˈfeɪlɪŋz/ *n* a blue solution of Rochelle salt and copper sulphate used as an oxidizing agent in testing for sugars and aldehydes [Hermann Fehling †1885 G chemist]

**feign** /faɪn/ *vt* to give a false appearance or impression of deliberately <~ death>; also to pretend ~ *vi* to pretend, dissemble [ME *feignen*, fr OF *feign-*, stem of *feindre*, fr L *figere* to shape, feign – more at DOUGH] – **feigner** *n*

**feint** /faɪnt/ *n* sthg feigned; *specif* a mock blow or attack directed away from the point one really intends to attack [F *feinte*, fr OF, fr *feint*, pp of *feindre*]

**feint** *vi* to make a feint ~ *vt* to make a pretence of <he ~ed an attack and continued on his way>

**feint adj**, of rulings on paper faint, pale [alter of 'faint]

**feisty** /ˈfiːsti/ *adj*, *NAm* **1** fidgety, agitated **2** touchy, quarrelsome *USE* infml [feist (small dog), by shortening & alter. fr obs *fisting* hound, fr obs *fist* (to break wind)]

**feldspar** /fel(d)spah/, *feldspar* /ˈfelspah/ *n* any of a group of minerals that consist of aluminium silicates with either potassium, sodium, cal-

cium, or barium, and are an essential constituent of nearly all crystalline rocks [feldspar modif of obs G *feldspath* (now *feldspar*), fr G *feld* field + obs G *spath* (now *spat*) spar; *felspar* by alter.]

**feldspathic** /fel(d)spathik/ *adj* of or containing feldspar [feldspath (var of feldspar), fr obs G]

**felicific** /ˈfeliːsɪfɪk/ *adj* causing or intended to cause happiness – fml [L *felic-*, *felix*]

**felicitate** /ˈfeliːsɪtaɪt/ *vt* to offer congratulations or compliments to – usu + on or upon; fml [LL *felicitatus*, pp of *felicitare* to make happy, irreg fr L *felic-*, *felix*] – **felicitator** /-taɪtə/ *n*, **felicitation** /-ˈleɪʃən/ *n*

**felicitous** /ˈfeliːsɪtəs/ *adj* **1** very well suited or expressed; apt <a ~ remark>; also marked by or given to such expression <a ~ speaker> **2** pleasant, delightful *USE* fml – **felicitously** *adv*, **felicitousness** *n*

**felicity** /ˈfeliːsɪti/ *n* **1** (sth causing) great happiness **2** a felicitous faculty or quality, esp in art or language; aptness **3** a felicitous expression *USE* fml [ME *felicitate*, fr MF *felicité*, fr L *felicitat-*, *felicitas*, fr *felic-*, *felix* fruitful, happy – more at FEMININE]

**feline** /ˈfiːliːn/ *adj* **1** of cats or the cat family **2** resembling a cat; having the characteristics generally attributed to cats, esp grace, stealth, or slyness [L *felinus*, fr *felis* cat] – **feline** *n*, **felinely** *adv*, **felinity** /ˈfiːlɪnəti/ *n*

**fell** /fel/ *vt* **1** to cut, beat, or knock down <~ing trees> **2** to kill [ME *fellen*, fr OE *fellan*; akin to OE *feallan* to fall – more at FALL] – **fellable** *adj*, **feller** *n*

**fell** *past* of FALL

**fell** *n* a steep rugged stretch of high moorland, esp in northern England and Scotland – often pl with sing meaning [ME, hill, mountain, fr ON *fell*, *fjall*; akin to OHG *felis* rock, Mfr *all* cliff]

**fell** *adj* **1** fierce, cruel **2** very destructive; deadly *USE* poetic [ME *fel*, fr OF – more at FELON] – **fellness** *n*, **felly** *adv* – at one fell swoop all at once, also with a single concentrated effort

**fella** /ˈfela/ *n* FELLOW **4, 7** – infml [by alter]

**fella** /ˈfela/ *n*, *pl* fellahin, fellahen /-ˈheɪn/ a peasant or agricultural labourer in an Arab country [Ar *fallah*]

**fellatio** /ˈfəˈleɪʃioʊ/ *n* oral stimulation of the penis [NL *fellatio*-, *fellatio*, fr L *fellatus*, pp of *fellare*, *fellare*, lit, to suck – more at FEMININE] – **fellate** /ˈfelayt/ *vt*, **fellation** /ˈfəˈleɪʃən/ *n*, **fellator** /ˈfelaytə/ *n*

**feller** /ˈfela/ *n* FELLOW **4, 7** – infml [by alter]

**fellmonger** /ˈfelˌmʌŋɡə/ *n*, *Br* sby who prepares hides for leather making [fell (skin, hide, fr ME, fr OE) + *monger* (dealer)] – **fellmongered** *adj*, **fellmongering**, **fellmongery** *n*

**felloe** /ˈfeloh/ *n* (a segment of) the exterior rim of a spoked wheel [ME *fely*, *felive*, fr OE *felg*; akin to OHG *felga* felloe, OE *fealg* piece of ploughed land]

**fellow** /ˈfeloh/ *n* **1** a comrade, associate – usu pl **2a** an equal in rank, power, or character, a peer **b** either of a pair; a mate **3** a member of an incorporated literary or scientific society **4** a man, also a boy **5** an incorporated member of a collegiate foundation **6** a person appointed to a salaried position allowing for advanced research **7** a boyfriend – infml [ME *felawe*, fr OE *feolaga*, fr ON *fealagi*, fr *felag* partnership, fr *fe* cattle, money + *lag* act of laying]

**fellow** *adj* being a companion or associate, belonging to the same group – used before a noun <~ traveller>

**fellow feeling** *n* a feeling of community of interest or of mutual understanding; *specif* sympathy

**fellowship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* **1** the condition of friendly relations between people; companionship **2a** community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience **b** the state of being a fellow or associate **3** sing or pl in const a group of people with similar interests; an association **4a** the position of a fellow (e.g. of a university) **b** (a foundation for the provision of) the salary of a fellow

**fellow traveller** *n* a nonmember who sympathizes with and often furthers the ideals and programme of an organized group, esp the Communist party – chiefly derog

**felo-de-se** /ˈfeloh də ˈseɪ, ˈfeloh, see/ *n*, *pl* felones-de-se /ˈfəˈlɒneɪz/, *felo-de-se* /ˈfelohz/ (sby who commits) suicide [ML *felo de se*, *fello de se*, lit., evildoer upon himself]

**felort** /ˈfelɒn/ *n* **1** sby who has committed a felony **2** a whitlow [ME, fr OF *felon*, *fel*, fr ML *fellon*, *fello* evildoer, villain]

**felonry** /ˈfelənri/ *n* felons

**felony** /ˈfeləni/ *n* a grave crime (e.g. murder or arson) that was formerly regarded in law as more serious than a misdemeanour and involved forfeiture of property in addition to any other punishment – **felonious** /ˈfəˈlɒniəs, -ni-əs/ *adj*, **feloniously** *adv*

**felsite** /'felsi:t/ *n* a dense igneous rock that consists almost entirely of feldspar and quartz [*felspar*] – **felsitic** /-sɪtɪk/ *adj*

**felspar** /'fel.spə/ *n* feldspar


**felt** /felt/ *n* 1 a nonwoven cloth made by compressing wool or fur often mixed with natural or synthetic fibres 2 an article made of felt 3 a material resembling felt [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *filz* felt, L *pellere* to drive, beat, Gk *pelas* near]

**felt** *vt* 1 to make into or cover with felt 2 to cause to stick and mat together

**felt** *past of FELT*

**felting** /'fel.tɪŋ/ *n* 1 the process by which felt is made 2 felt

**felucca** /fe'luka/ *n* a narrow lateen-rigged sailing ship, chiefly of the Mediterranean area [It *feluca*, perh deriv of Gk *epholkion* small boat]

**female** /'feɪməl/ *n* 1 an individual that bears young or produces eggs, esp a woman or girl as distinguished from a man or boy  **SYMBOL** 2 a plant or flower with an ovary but no stamens [ME, alter of *femel*, *femelle*, fr MF & ML, MF *femelle*, fr ML *femella*, fr L, girl, dim of *femina*]

**female** *adj* 1 of or being a female 2 designed with a hole or hollow into which a corresponding male part fits (< a ~ *plug*) – **femaleness** *n*


**feminine** /'femɪnɪn/ *adj* 1 of or being a female person 2 characteristic of, appropriate to, or peculiar to women, womanly 3 of or belonging to the gender that normally includes most words or grammatical forms referring to females **1a** having or occurring in an extra unstressed final syllable (< ~ *rhyme*) **b** having the final chord occurring on a weak beat [ME, fr MF *feminin*, fr L *femininus*, fr *femina* woman, akin to OE *delu* nipple, L *filius* son, *felix*, *fetus*, *fecundus* fruitful, *felare* to suck, Gk *thele* nipple] – **femininely** *adv*, **feminineness** *n*, **femininity** /femɪ'nɪnɪti/ *n*


**feminine** *n* 1 the feminine principle in human nature – esp in *eternal feminine* 2 (a word or morpheme of) the feminine gender

**feminism** /'femɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the advocacy or furtherance of women's rights, interests, and equality with men in political, economic, and social spheres – **feminist** *n* or *adj*, **feministic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*


**feminize**, -ise /'femɪnɪz/ *vt* 1 to give a feminine quality to 2 to cause (a male or castrated female) to take on feminine characteristics (e.g. by administration of hormones) – **feminization** /-zə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**femme fatale** /fə'm fa'tahl, femi (Fr fə'm fatal)/ *n*, pl *femmes fatales* /fatah(z) (Fr ~)/ a seductive and usu mysterious woman, esp one who lures men into dangerous or compromising situations [F, lit, disastrous woman]

**femto-** /'femtoh-/ *comb form* one thousand million millionth (10<sup>-15</sup>) part of (<femtoampere)  **PHYSICS** [ISV, fr Dan or Norw *femten* fifteen, fr ON *fimmtan*, akin to OE *fifteen* fifteen]

**femur** /'feɪmə/ *n*, pl *femurs*, *femora* /'femərə/ 1 the bone of the hind or lower limb nearest the body, the thighbone 2 the third segment of an insect's leg counting from the base **USE**  **ANATOMY** [NL *femor*, *femur*, fr L, thigh] – **femoral** /'femərəl/ *adj*

**fen** /fen/ *n* an area of low wet or flooded land [ME, fr OE *fenn*, akin to OHG *fenna* fen, Skt *panka* mud]

**fen** *n*, pl *fen*  *China* at NATIONALITY [Chin (Pek) 'fɛn']

**fence** /fens/ *n* 1 a barrier (e.g. of wire or boards) intended to prevent escape or intrusion or to mark a boundary (< a garden ~) 2a a receiver of stolen goods b a place where stolen goods are bought [ME *fens*, short for *defens* defence] – **fenceless** *adj* – on the fence in a position of neutrality or indecision

**fence** *vt* 1a to enclose with a fence – usu + *in* b to separate off or keep out (as if) with a fence 2 to provide a defence for, shield, protect 3 to receive or sell (stolen goods) ~ *vi* 1a to practise fencing b(1) to use tactics of attack and defence (e.g. thrusting and parrying) resembling those of fencing (2) of a batsman to play at and miss the ball in cricket, esp outside the off stump – usu + *at* 2 to deal in stolen goods – **fencer** *n*

**fence-sitting** *n* a state of often deliberate indecision or neutrality (e.g. in an argument), usu in an attempt to protect one's own interests – **fence sitter** *n*

**fencing** /'fensɪŋ/ *n* 1 the art of attack and defence with a sword (e.g. the foil, épée, or sabre) 2 (material used for building) fences

**fend** /fend/ *vi* [ME *fenden* to defend, short for *defenden*] – **fend** for to provide a livelihood for; support

**fender** /'fendə/ *n* a device that protects: e.g. a cushion (e.g. of rope or wood) hung over the side of a ship to absorb impact b a low metal guard for a fire used to confine the coals c *NAm* a wing or mudguard

**fend off** *vt* to keep or ward off; repel

**fenestra** /'fɪnestərə/ *n*, pl *fenestrae* /-stri/ 1a an oval opening between the middle ear and the vestibule of the inner ear b a round opening

between the middle ear and the cochlea of the inner ear 2 an opening cut in bone [NL, fr L, window] – **fenestral** *adj*

**fenestrated** /'fenɪstrəɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 provided with or characterized by windows 2 also *fenestrate* having 1 or more openings or pores (< ~ *blood capillaries*) [L *fenestratus*, pp of *fenestrare* to provide with openings or windows]

**fenestration** /'fenɪstrəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the arrangement of windows in a building 2 an opening in a surface (e.g. a wall or membrane) 3 the operation of cutting an opening in the bony labyrinth between the inner ear and tympanum as a treatment for deafness

**Fenian** /'feɪniən/ *n* a member of a secret 19th-c Irish and Irish-American organization dedicated to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland [IrGael *Feinne*, pl of *Fiann*, legendary band of Irish warriors] – **Fenian** *adj*, **Fenianism** *n*

**fennec** /'fenek/ *n* a small pale-fawn African fox with large ears [Ar *fanak*]

**fennel** /'fenl/ *n* a European plant of the carrot family cultivated for its aromatic seeds and foliage [ME *fenel*, fr OE *finuġl*, fr (assumed) VL *feniculum*, fr L *feniculum* fennel, dim of *fenum* hay, perh akin to L *fetus* fruitful – more at FEMININE]

**fenugreek** /'fenyoo.greek/ *n* a leguminous Asiatic plant whose aromatic seeds are used as a flavouring [ME *fenugrek*, fr MF *fenugrec*, fr L *fenum Gracum*, lit., Greek hay]

**feoffment** /'feɪfmənt, 'feɪ-/ *n* the granting of a fief [ME *feoffement*, fr AF, fr *feoffer* to invest with a fee, fr OF *fief* fee]

**-fer** /-fə/ *comb form* (~ *n*) sb or sth that bears < *aquifer* > < *conifer* > [F & L, F *-fere*, fr L *-fer* bearing, sb or sth that bears, fr *ferre* to carry – more at BEAR]

**feral** /'fɪərəl/ *adj* 1 (suggestive) of a wild beast, savage 2a not domesticated or cultivated, wild 1a b having escaped from domestication and become wild (< ~ *pigeons*) [ML *feralis*, fr L *fera* wild animal, fr fem of *ferus* wild – more at FIERCE]


**fer-de-lance** /'fɛə də 'lɑːns/ *n*, pl *fer-de-lance* a large extremely venomous pit viper of Central and S America [F, lit, lance iron, spearhead]

**ferine** /'fɪəriən/ *adj* feral [L *fennus*, fr *fera*]


**fermata** /'fɜːmɑːtə/ *n* a prolongation at the discretion of the performer of a musical note, chord, or rest, also PAUSE 4 [It, lit., stop, fr *fermare* to stop, fr L *firmare* to make firm]


**ferment** /'fɜːmənt/ *vb* 1 to (cause to) undergo fermentation 2 to (cause to) be in a state of agitation or intense activity – **fermentable** *adj*, **fermenter** *n*

**ferment** /'fɜːmənt/ *n* 1 an agent (e.g. an enzyme or organism) capable of bringing about fermentation 2a FERMENTATION 1 b a state of unrest or upheaval; agitation, tumult [ME, fr L *fermentum* yeast – more at BARM]

**fermentation** /'fɜːməntəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a chemical change with effervescence b an enzymatically controlled anaerobic breakdown of an energy-rich compound (e.g. a carbohydrate) to carbon dioxide and alcohol, broadly an enzymatically controlled transformation of an organic compound  **ENERGY** 2 FERMENT 2b – **fermentative** /'fɜːməntatɪv/ *adj*

**fermion** /'fɜːmɪjən, 'fɛə-, -mɪ-ən/ *n* a particle (e.g. an electron) that interacts with other particles in a way described by Fermi and Dirac [Enrico Fermi †1954 It physicist + E 'on] – **fermionic** /-mɪ'ɒnɪk/ *adj*

**fermium** /'fɜːmɪjəm, -mɪ-əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive metallic element  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Enrico Fermi]

**fern** /'fɜːn/ *n* any of a class of flowerless seedless lower plants; esp any of an order resembling flowering plants in having a root, stem, and leaflike fronds but differing in reproducing by spores  **PLANT** [ME, fr OE *fearn*; akin to OHG *farn* fern, Skt *parna* wing, leaf] – **feralike** *adj*, **feray** *adj*

**fernery** /'fɜːnəri/ *n* 1 a place or stand where ferns grow 2 a collection of growing ferns

**ferocious** /'fɜːrəʃəs/ *adj* extremely fierce or violent [L *feroc*, *ferox*, lit., fierce looking, fr *ferus* + -oc-, -ox (akin to Gk *ōps* eye) – more at EYE] – **ferociously** *adv*, **ferociousness** *n*

**ferocity** /'fɜːrəsəti/ *n* the quality or state of being ferocious

**-ferous** /-fərəs/, -liferous /-lɪfərəs/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) bearing; yielding; producing; containing (<carboniferous> <pestiferous>) [ME, fr L *-fer* & MF *-fere* (fr L *-fer*)]

**ferrate** /'fɛrəɪt/ *n* a compound of a metal with an ion that contains iron and oxygen atoms [ISV, fr L *ferrum* iron]

**ferredoxin** /'fɛrə'dɒksɪn/ *n* an iron-containing plant protein that functions as an electron carrier in photosynthetic organisms and in some bacteria [L *ferrum* iron + E *redox* + -in]



**'ferret** /ferit/ *n* 1 a partially domesticated usu albino European polecat used esp for hunting small rodents (e.g. rats) 2 an active and persistent searcher [ME *furet*, *ferret*, fr MF *furet*, fr (assumed) VL *furittus*, lit., little thief, dim. of L *fur* thief] – *ferrety* *adj*

**\*ferret** *vi* 1 to hunt with ferrets 2 to search *about* or *around* – *infrml* ~ *vt* 1 to hunt (e.g. rats) with ferrets 2 to drive (game), esp from covert or burrows – *ferreter* *n*

**ferret out** *vt* to find and bring to light by searching <ferret out the answers> – *infrml*

**ferri-** /feri-/ *comb form* 1 iron <ferri-ferous> 2 ferric iron <ferricyanide> [L, fr *ferrum*]

**ferric** /ferik/ *adj* of, containing, or being (trivalent) iron

**ferric oxide** *n* the red or black oxide of iron found in nature as haematite and as rust

**ferrimagnetic** /ferimag'netik/ *adj* of or being a substance (e.g. ferrite) characterized by magnetization in which one group of magnetic ions is polarized in a direction opposite to the other – *ferrimagnetically* *adv*, **ferrimagnetism** /-magnitiz(ə)m/ *n*, **ferrimagnet** /feri,magnit/ *n*

**'Ferria wheel** /feris/ *n*, *NAM* BIG WHEEL [G W G *Ferris* †1896 US engineer]

**ferrite** /feriet/ *n* any of several magnetic substances of high magnetic permeability consisting mainly of an iron oxide – **ferritic** /fe'ritik/ *adj*

**ferritin** /feritin/ *n* an iron-containing protein that functions in the storage of iron and is found esp in the liver and spleen [ferrite + -in]

**ferro-** /feroh-/ *comb form* 1 (containing) iron <ferroconcrete>, iron and <ferronickel> – chiefly in names of alloys 2 ferrous iron <ferrocyanide> [ML, fr L *ferrum*]

**ferroelectric** /ferroh-'lektrik/ *adj* of or being a crystalline substance having spontaneous electric polarization reversible by an electric field – **ferroelectric** *n*, **ferroelectricity** /i,lek'trisiti/, -eelek/ *n*

**ferromagnetic** /-mag'netik/ *adj* of or being a substance, esp iron, characterized by strong magnetization in which all the magnetic ions are polarized in the same direction – **ferromagnetic** *n*, **ferromagnetism** *n*

**ferrous** /feros/ *adj* of, containing, or being (bivalent) iron [NL *ferrosus*, fr L *ferrum*]

**ferruginous** /fer'a'jynəs, -ni:s/ *adj* ferruginous

**ferruginous** /fə'rju:nəs, fe-/ *adj* 1 of or containing iron 2 resembling iron rust in colour [L *ferrugineus*, *ferruginus*, fr *ferrugin-*, *ferrugo* iron rust, fr *ferrum*]

**ferrule** /ferohli, -rəl/ *n* 1 a ring or cap, usu of metal, strengthening a cane, tool handle, etc 2 a short tube or bush for making a tight joint (e.g. between pipes) [alter. of ME *virole*, fr MF, fr L *virola*, dim. of *vira* bracelet, of Celtic origin; akin to OIr *fiar* oblique – more at 'VEER]

**'ferry** /feri/ *vt* 1 to carry by boat over a body of water 2 to convey (e.g. by car) from one place to another ~ *vi* to cross water in a boat [ME *ferien*, fr OE *ferian* to carry, convey; akin to OE *faran* to go – more at FARE]

**\*ferry** *n* (a boat used at) a place where people or things are carried across a body of water (e.g. a river)

**fertile** /fuhtiel/ *adj* 1a (capable of) producing or bearing fruit (in great quantities); productive b characterized by great resourcefulness and activity; inventive <a ~ imagination> 2a(1) capable of sustaining abundant plant growth <~ soil> (2) affording abundant possibilities for development <a ~ area for research> b capable of growing or developing <~ egg> c capable of breeding or reproducing 3 capable of being converted into fissile material [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *fertilis*, fr *ferre* to carry, bear – more at 'BEAR] – *fertilely* *adv*, *fertileness* *n*, *fertility* /fuhtiliti/ *n*

**fertilize**, -ise /fuhtizeh/ *vt* to make fertile: e.g. a(1) to inseminate, impregnate, or pollinate (2) to make (an ovule, egg, etc) capable of developing into a new individual by uniting with a male germ cell b to apply a fertilizer to <~ land> – *fertilizable* *adj*, *fertilization* /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, *fertilizational* *adj*

**'fertilizer**, -iser /-'zə-/ *n* a substance (e.g. manure) used to make soil more fertile [FERTILIZE + -ER]

**ferula** /feroola/ *n* 1 a ferule 2 any of a genus of Old World plants of the carrot family that yield various gum resins ((2) NL, genus name, fr L, giant fennel]

**ferule** /ferohli/ *n* a flat ruler used to punish children [L *ferula* giant fennel, ferule]

**fervency** /fuhv(ə)nsi/ *n* fervour

**fervent** /fuhv(ə)nt/ *adj* exhibiting deep sincere emotion; ardent <a ~ believer in free speech> [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *fervent-*, *fervens*, prp of *fervere* to boil, glow – more at 'BURN] – *fervently* *adv*

**fervid** /fuhvid/ *adj* passionately intense; ardent [L *fervidus*, fr *fervere*] – *fervidly* *adv*, *fervidness* *n*

**fervour**, *NAM* chiefly **fervor** /fuhvə/ *n* the quality or state of being fervent or fervid [ME *fervour*, fr MF & L; MF *ferveur*, fr L *fervor*, fr *fervere*]

**fescue** /feskyoooh/ *n* any of a genus of tufted grasses [alter. of ME *festu* stalk, straw, fr MF, fr LL *festucum*, fr L *festuca*]

**fest** /fest/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a meeting or occasion marked by a specified activity – often in combination <filmfest> [G, celebration, fr L *festum*]

**festal** /festl/ *adj* festive [L *festum* festival – more at FEAST] – *festally* *adv*

**fester** /festa/ *vi* 1 to generate pus 2 to putrefy, rot 3 to rankle ~ *vt* to make inflamed or corrupt [ME *festren*, fr *fester*, *festre* suppurating sore, fr MF *festre*, fr L *fistula* pipe, pipe-like ulcer]

**'festival** /festivl/ *adj* of, appropriate to, or set apart as a festival [ME, fr MF, fr L *festivus* festive]

**\*festival** *n* 1a a time marked by special (e.g. customary) celebration b FEAST 2 2a a usu periodic programme or season of cultural events or entertainment <the Edinburgh ~> 3 gaiety, conviviality

**festive** /festiv/ *adj* 1 of or suitable for a feast or festival 2 joyous, gay [L *festivus*, fr *festum*] – *festively* *adv*, *festiveness* *n*

**festivity** /festivati/ *n* 1 FESTIVAL 2 festive activity – often pl with sing meaning [FESTIVE + -ITY]

**'festoon** /festoohn/ *n* a decorative chain or strip hanging between 2 points; also a carved, moulded, or painted ornament representing this ARCHITECTURE [F *feston*, fr It *festone*, fr  *festa* festival, fr L – more at FEAST]

**\*festoon** *vt* 1 to hang or form festoons on 2 to cover profusely and usu gaily

**feastschrift** /fest,shrift/ *n*, pl *feastschriften* /-(tə)n/, *feastschrifts* often *cap* a volume of writings by various authors presented as a tribute or memorial, esp to a scholar [G, fr *fest* festival, celebration + *schrift* writing]

**feta** /feta, 'fetah/ *n* a firm white Greek cheese made of sheep's or goat's milk and cured in brine [NGK (tyr) *pheta*, fr tyr cheese + *pheta* slice, fr It *fetta*]

**fetal** /feetl/ *adj* foetal

**'fetch** /fech/ *vi* 1 to go or come after and bring or take back 2a to cause to come; bring b to produce as profit or return, realize 3 to reach by sailing, esp against the wind or tide and without having to tack 4 to strike or deal (a blow, slap, etc) <~ ed him one in the face> – *infrml* ~ *vi* 1 to go after sthg and bring it back 2 to take a roundabout way 3 to hold course on a body of water [ME *fecchen*, fr OE *fetan*, *feccan*; akin to OE *fot* foot – more at FOOT] – *fetcher* *n*

**\*fetch** *n* 1 the distance along open water or land over which the wind blows 2 the distance traversed by waves without obstruction

**fetching** /'feching/ *adj* attractive, becoming – *fetchingly* *adv*

**fetch up** *vt* 1 to bring up or out; produce 2 to bring to a stop 3 to vomit ~ *vi* to come to a specified standstill, stopping place, or result, arrive *USE* *infrml*

**'fête**, *fête* /fayt, fet/ *n* 1 a festival 2 *Br* a usu outdoor bazaar or other entertainment held esp to raise money for a particular purpose [F *fête*, fr OF *feste* – more at FEAST]

**\*fête**, *fête* *vt* to honour or commemorate (sby or sthg) with a fête or other ceremony

**fête champêtre** /shom'pet(rə) (Fr fit jāpet:r)/ *n*, pl *fêtes champêtres* /~/ an outdoor entertainment [F, lit., rural festival]

**fetid**, *foetid* /'feetid/ *adj* having a heavy offensive smell; stinking [ME *fetid*, fr L *foetidus*, fr *foetere* to stink, akin to L *fumus* smoke – more at FUME] – *fetidly* *adv*, *fetidness* *n*

**fetish** also **fetich** /'fetish/ *n* 1 an object believed among a primitive people to have magical power; broadly a material object regarded with superstitious trust or reverence 2 an object of irrational reverence or obsessive devotion 3 an object or bodily part whose presence in reality or fantasy is psychologically necessary for sexual gratification [F & Pg; F *fétiche*, fr Pg *feticço*, fr *feticço* artificial, false, fr L *facticus* factitious]

**fetishism** also **fetichism** /fetishiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 belief in magical fetishes 2 the displacement of erotic interest and satisfaction to a fetish – *fetishist* *n*, *fetishistic* /-'shistik/ *adj*

**fetlock** /fetlok/ *n* 1 a projection bearing a tuft of hair on the back of the leg above the hoof of an animal of the horse family 2 the joint of the limb or tuft of hair at the fetlock *USE* ANATOMY [ME *fetlok*, *fetlak*; akin to OE *fot* foot]

**feto-** also **feti-** *comb form* foeto-



**fetor** /'feɪtə-, -taw/ *n* a strong offensive smell; a stink – fml [ME *fetoure*, fr L *foetor*, fr *foetere*]

**fetter** /'feɪtə/ *n* 1 a shackle for the feet 2 sthg that confines, a restraint – usu pl with sing meaning [ME *feter*, fr OE; akin to OE *for* foot]

**fetter** *vt* 1 to put fetters on 2 to bind (as if) with fetters, shackle, restrain

**fettle** /'fetl/ *vt* **fettling** /'fetlɪŋ/ 1 to line with fettling 2 to trim the rough joints or edges of (e.g. unfired pottery or a metal casting) [ME *fetlenn* to shape, prepare, prob akin to OE *fiet* vessel – more at *VAT*]

**fettle** *n* a state of physical or mental fitness or order, condition <in fine ~>

**fettling** /'fetlɪŋ/ *n* loose material (e.g. ore or sand) thrown on the hearth of a furnace to protect it [fr gerund of 'fettle]

**fettuccine** /'fɛtə'tʃeɪni/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr tagliatelle [It, pl of *fettuccina*, dim of *fettuccia* small slice, ribbon, dim of *fetta* slice]

**fetus** /'feɪtəs/ *n* a foetus

**feu** /'fyooʃ/ *n*, Scot (land held under) a perpetual lease for a fixed rent [ME (Sc), fr MF *fē*, *fief* – more at *FFF*]

**feud** /'fyooʃd/ *n* a lasting state of hostilities, esp between families or clans, marked by violent attacks for the purpose of revenge [alter of ME *feide*, fr MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *fehida* hostility, feud, OE *fah* hostile – more at *FOF*] – *feud* *vi*

**feudal** /'fyooʃdl/ *adj* of feudalism or a medieval fee, also suggestive of feudalism (e.g. in servility) [ML *feodalis*, *feudalis*, fr *feodum*, *feudum* fee, *fief*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *fihu* cattle – more at *FEE*] – **feudally** *adv*, **feudalize** *vi*, **feudalization** /-i'eɪzə'z(ə)n/ *n*

**feudalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a medieval system of political organization involving the relationship of lord to vassal with all land held in fee, homage, the service of tenants under arms and in court, wardship, and forfeiture – **feudalist** *n*, **feudalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**feudality** /'fyooʃdælɪti/ *n* 1 being feudal 2 a feudal holding

**feudatory** /'fyooʃdət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 owing feudal allegiance 2 under a foreign overlord [ML *feudatorius*, fr *feudatus*, pp of *feudare* to enfeoff, fr *feodum*]

**fever** /'feɪvə/ *n* 1 (any of various diseases characterized by) a rise of body temperature above the normal 2a a state of intense emotion or activity <in a ~ of impatience> b a contagious usu transient enthusiasm, a craze <football ~ raged throughout the world> [ME, fr OE *fēfer*, fr L *febris*, akin to L *fovere* to warm]

**fever** *vt* to throw into a fever, agitate

**feverfew** /'feɪvə'fyooʃ/ *n* a perennial European composite plant [ME, fr (assumed) AF *fevrefue*, fr LL *febrilifugus* centaury – more at *FRBRI* FUGL]

**feverish** /'feɪvərɪʃ/ also **feverous** /-rəs/ *adj* 1a having the symptoms of a fever b indicating, relating to, or caused by (a) fever c tending to cause or infect with fever 2 marked by intense emotion, activity, or instability – **feverishly** *adv*, **feverishness** *n*, **feverously** *adv*

**fever pitch** *n* a state of intense excitement and agitation <raised the crowd to ~>

**few** /'fyooʃ/ *adj* 1 amounting to only a small number <one of his ~ pleasures> 2 at least some though not many – + a <a good ~ drinks> <caught a ~ more fish> [ME *fewe*, pron & *adj*, fr OE *fewa*, akin to OHG *fo* little, L *paucus* little, *pauper* poor, Gk *paid-*, *pais* child, Skt *putra* son] – **fewness** *n*

**few** *n* pl in constr 1 not many <~ were present> <all the ~ that remained> <~ of his stories were true> 2 at least some though not many – + a <a ~ of them> 3 a select or exclusive group of people, an elite <the ~>

**fewer** /'fyooʃə/ *n* pl in constr a smaller number of people or things

**fewer** *adj*, comparative of *FEW*

**fey** /fay/ *adj* 1a able to see into the future b marked by an otherworldly and irresponsible air 2 chiefly Scot a fated to die; doomed b marked by an excited or elated state [ME *feye* doomed, fr OE *fæge*, akin to OHG *feigi* fey, & perh to OE *fah* hostile, outlawed – more at *FOF*] – **feyness** *n*

**fez** /fez/ *n*, pl -zz- also -z- a brimless hat shaped like a truncated cone, usu red and with a tassel, which is worn by men in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries → GARMENT [F, fr *Fez*, city in Morocco]

**fiancé**, *fem fiancée* /fionsay/ *n* sby engaged to be married [F, fr MF, fr pp of *fiancier* to promise, betroth, fr OF *fiancier*, fr *fiance* promise, trust, fr *fier* to trust, fr (assumed) VL *fidare*, alter of L *fidere* – more at *BIDE*]

**fiasco** /fi'askoʃ/ *n*, pl **fiascoes** a complete and ignominious failure [F, fr It, lit, bottle, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *flaska* bottle]

**fiat** /'fi'eɪ-, -at/ *n* an authoritative and often arbitrary order; a decree

<government by ~> [L, let it be done, fr *fieri* to become, be done – more at *BE*]

**fib** /fɪb/ *vi* or *n* -bb- (to tell) a trivial or childish lie – infml [n perh by shortening & alter fr *fable*; vb fr n] – **fibber** *n*

**Fibonacci number** /'fiebə'nachi/ *n* a number in the Fibonacci sequence 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ... [Leonardo Fibonacci 'ab 1250 It mathematician]

**Fibonacci sequence** *n* an infinite sequence of integers in which every term after the second is the sum of the 2 preceding terms → NUMBER [Leonardo Fibonacci]

**fiber** /'fiebər-, *fibro-* comb form fibre, fibrous tissue (<fibroid>), fibrous and (<fibrovascular>) [L *fibra*]

**fibre**, *NAm chiefly fiber* /'fiebə/ *n* 1a an elongated tapering supportive thick-walled plant cell b(1) NERVE 2 (2) any of the filaments composing most of the intercellular matrix of connective tissue (3) any of the elongated contractile cells of muscle tissue c a slender natural or man-made thread or filament (e.g. of wool, cotton, or asbestos) 2 material made of fibres 3 essential structure or character <the very ~ of his being>, also strength, fortitude <a man of great moral ~> [F *fibre*, fr L *fibra*]

**fibrebord** /-bawd/ *n* a material made by compressing fibres (e.g. of wood) into stiff boards

**fibreglass** /-glahs/ *n* 1 glass in fibrous form used in making various products (e.g. textiles and insulation materials) 2 a combination of synthetic resins and fibreglass

**fibre optics** *n* pl but sing in constr the use of very thin (bundles of) glass or plastic fibres that transmit light throughout their length by internal reflections for bending light or seeing round corners → TELECOMMUNICATION, TELEVISION – **fibre-optic** *adj*

**fibre scope** /'fiebə'skəʊp/ *n* a flexible instrument using fibre optics for examining inaccessible areas (e.g. the lining of the stomach)

**fibril** /'fiebri/, 'fibril/ *n* a small filament or fibre [NL *fibrilla*, dim of L *fibra*] – **fibrillar** *adj*, **fibrillate** /-ləʊs/ *adj*, **fibrilliform** /-brɪlɪ'fawm/ *adj*

**fibrillation** /fɪbrɪ'ləʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the forming of fibres or fibrils 2 very rapid irregular contractions of muscle fibres (of the heart resulting in a lack of synchronization between heartbeat and pulse) – **fibrillate** /-ləɪt/ *vb*

**fibrin** /'fiebri:n/ *n* a fibrous protein formed from fibrinogen by the action of thrombin, esp in the clotting of blood – **fibrinous** *adj*

**fibrinogen** /'fiebri:nə(ə)n/ *n* a (blood plasma) protein that is produced in the liver and is converted into fibrin during clotting of blood [ISV]

**fibrinolysin** /'fiebri:nə'liesɪn, 'fiebri:nɪ'lesɪn/ *n* 1 plasmin 2 streptokinase [ISV]

**fibro** /'fiebɹəʊ/ *n*, pl **fibros** Austr (a building made from) a mixture of asbestos and cement [short for *fibro-cement*]

**fibroblast** /'fiebɹə'bləst, 'fi-/ *n* a cell giving rise to connective tissue [ISV] – **fibroblastic** /-bləstɪk/ *adj*

**fibroid** /'fiebɹɔɪd/ *adj* resembling, forming, or consisting of fibrous tissue

**fibroid** *n* a benign tumour made up of fibrous and muscular tissue that occurs esp in the uterine wall

**fibroin** /'fiebɹəʊɪn/ *n* an insoluble protein comprising the filaments of the raw silk fibre [F *fibroine*, fr *fibr-* + *-ine* -in]

**fibroma** /'fiebɹəʊmə/ *n*, pl **fibromas** also **fibromata** /-mətə/ a benign tumour consisting mainly of fibrous tissue – **fibromatous** /-mətəs/ *adj*

**fibrosis** /'fiebɹəʊsɪs/ *n* the abnormal increase of interstitial fibrous tissue in an organ or part of the body [NL] – **fibrotic** /-brɔtɪk/ *adj*

**fibrositis** /'fiebɹə'sɪtəs/ *n* a painful muscular condition prob resulting from inflammation of fibrous tissue (e.g. muscle sheaths) [NL, fr *fibrosus* fibrous, fr ISV *fibrosus*]

**fibrous** /'fiebɹəs/ *adj* 1a containing, consisting of, or resembling fibres b characterized by fibrosis c capable of being separated into fibres <a ~ mineral> 2 tough, stringy [F *fibreux*, fr *fibre* fibre, fr L *fibra*] – **fibrously** *adv*, **fibrousness** *n*

**fibula** /'fɪbyoolə/ *n*, pl **fibulae** /-li/, **fibulas** 1 an ornamented clasp used esp by the ancient Greeks and Romans 2 the (smaller) outer of the 2 bones of the hind limb of higher vertebrates between the knee and ankle – compare *TIBIA* → ANATOMY [L] – **fibular** *adj*

**-fic** /-fɪk/ suffix (→ *adj*) making; causing <horrific> <pacific> [MF & L, MF *-lique*, fr L *-ficus*, fr *facere* to make – more at 'do]

**-fication** /-fɪ'kəʃ(ə)n/ comb form (→ *n*) action, production <refication> <jollification> [ME *-ficacioun*, fr MF & L, MF *-fication*, fr L *-ficatio*-, *-ficatio*, fr *-ficatus*, pp ending of verbs ending in *-ficare* to make, fr *-ficus*]

**fiche** /feesh/ *n, pl fiches* also *fiches* a microfiche

**fichu** /feeshoo/ (Fr *fijy*) *n* a woman's light triangular scarf draped over the shoulders and fastened at the bosom [F, fr pp of *ficher* to stick in, throw on, fr (assumed) VL *figicare*, fr L *figere* to fasten, pierce – more at DYKE]

**ficin** /'fies(a)n/ *n* an enzyme that breaks down protein and is obtained from the latex of fig trees [L *ficus* fig]

**fickle** /fiki/ *adj* lacking steadfastness or constancy, capricious [ME *fikel* deceitful, inconstant, fr OE *ficol* deceitful; akin to OE *befician* to deceive, L *pigere* to irk, & prob to OE *fāh* hostile – more at FOE] – *fickleless* *n*

**fictile** /'fiktli/ *adj* 1 moulded into shape by a potter 2 of or relating to pottery [L *fictilis* moulded of clay, fr *fictus*]

**fiction** /'fikʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a sth invented by the imagination; *specif* an invented story (<distinguish fact from ~>) b literature (e.g. novels or short stories) describing imaginary people and events 2 an assumption of a possibility as a fact, irrespective of the question of its truth (<a legal ~>) 3 the action of feigning or creating with the imagination [ME *ficcoun*, fr MF *fiction*, fr L *fiction-*, *fictio* act of fashioning, fiction, fr *fictus*, pp of *figere* to shape, fashion, feign – more at DOUGH] – *fictionist* *n*, *fictional* *adj*, *fictionally* *adv*, *fictionality* /-'aləti/ *n*, *fictionalize* *vt*, *fictionalization* /-'zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**fictitious** /'fik'tiʃ(ə)s/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of fiction 2 of a name false, assumed 3 not genuinely felt; feigned [L *ficticius* artificial, feigned, fr *fictus*] – *fictitiously* *adv*, *fictitiousness* *n*

**fictive** /'fiktiv/ *adj* 1 FICTITIOUS 3 2 (capable) of imaginative creation – *fictively* *adv*

**fid** /fid/ *n* a tapering wooden pin used in opening the strands of a rope for splicing [origin unknown]

**-fid** /-fid/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) divided into (such or so many) parts (<bid>) (<pinna**fid**>) [L *-fidus*, fr *findere* to split – more at BITE]

**'fiddle** /'fidl/ *n* 1 a violin 2 a device to keep objects from sliding off a table on board ship 3 fiddlesticks – used as an interjection; infml 4 *Br* a dishonest practice; a swindle – infml 5 *Br* an activity involving intricate manipulation (<a bit of a ~ to get all these wires back in place>) – infml [ME *fidel*, fr OE *fiðele*, prob fr ML *vitula*]

**\*fiddle** *vb* **fiddling** /'fidliŋ/, **'fiding** /'fid-iŋ/ *vi* 1 to play on a fiddle 2a to move the hands or fingers restlessly b to spend time in aimless or fruitless activity – often + *about* or *around* ~ *vt* 1 *Br* to falsify (e.g. accounts), esp so as to gain financial advantage 2 *Br* to get or contrive by cheating or deception (<~d an extra 10 pounds on his expenses>) *USE* (vi 2 & vt) infml [ME *fidel*, fr OE *fiðele*, prob fr ML *vitula*]

**'fiddle-faddle** /'fadl/ *n* nonsense – often used as an interjection; infml [redupl of *fiddle* (fiddlesticks)]

**'fiddlehead** /-hed/ *n* ornamentation on a ship's bow curved like a scroll [fr the resemblance to the scroll at the head of a violin]

**'fiddler**, **crab** /'fidlə/ *n* a burrowing crab of which the male has 1 claw much enlarged [fr the position in which the enlarged claw is held, resembling the angle of a violinist's arm]

**fiddlesticks** /'fidl stɪks/ *n pl* nonsense – used as an interjection, infml [fiddlestick (violin bow); fr its small value compared with the fiddle itself]

**fiddling** /'fidliŋ/ *adj* trifling, petty (<made some ~ excuse>)

**fiddly** /'fidli/ *adj*, *Br* 1 fiddling 2 finicky *USE* infml

**fidéism** /'feday,iz(a)m/ *n* reliance on faith rather than reason, esp in metaphysics [prob fr F *fidéisme*, fr L *fides* faith] – *fidéist* *n*, *fidéistic* /-'istɪk/ *adj*

**fidélity** /'fideləti/ *n* 1a the quality or state of being faithful; loyalty b accuracy in details; exactness 2 the degree of similarity between some reproduced (e.g. recorded) material and its original source [ME *fidelite*, fr MF *fidélite*, fr L *fideliat-*, *fidélitas*, fr *fidelis* faithful, fr *fides* faith]

**'fidget** /'fɪt/ *n* 1 uneasiness or restlessness shown by nervous movements – usu pl with sing. meaning 2 sby who fidgets *USE* infml [irreg fr *fdge* to fidget, prob alter. of E dial. *fitch*, fr ME *fichen*]

**\*fidgety** *vb* to (cause to) move or act restlessly or nervously – *fidgety* *adj*

**fiducial** /'fɪdyooʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 taken as a standard of reference (<a ~ mark>) 2 founded on faith or trust 3 having the nature of a trust – *fiducially* *adv*

**fiduciary** /'fɪdyooʃəri/ *adj* FIDUCIAL 3 [L *fiduciarius*, fr *fiducia* confidence, trust, fr *fidere*]

**fie** /fie/ *interj*, *archaic* – used to express disgust or shock [ME *fi*, fr OF]

**fief** /fi:/ *n* 1 a feudal estate 2 sth over which one has rights or exercises control (<a politician's ~>) [F – more at FEE] – *fiefdom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**\*field** /fi:ld/ *n* 1a an (enclosed) area of land free of woods and buildings (used for cultivation or pasture) b an area of land containing a natural resource (<coal ~>) c (the place where) a battle is fought; also a battle d a large unbroken expanse (e.g. of ice) 2a an area or division of an activity (<a lawyer eminent in his ~>) b the sphere of practical operation outside a place of work (e.g. a laboratory) (<geologists working in the ~>) (<~ research>) c an area in which troops are operating (e.g. in an exercise or theatre of war) d(1) an area constructed, equipped, or marked for sports (2) the part of a sports area enclosed by the running track and used for athletic field events 3 a space on which sth is drawn or projected, esp the surface, esp a shield, on which a coat of arms is displayed 4 the participants in a sports activity, esp with the exception of the favourite or winner 5a a set of mathematical elements that is closed under 2 binary operations, the second of which is distributive relative to the first, and that is a commutative group under the first operation and also under the second if the identity element under the first is omitted b a region in which a mathematical quantity (e.g. a scalar or vector) is associated with every point c a region or space in which a given effect (e.g. magnetism) exists 6 also *field of view* the area visible through the lens of an optical instrument [ME, fr OE *feld*, akin to OHG *feld* field, OE *flor* floor]

**\*field** *vt* 1a to stop and pick up (a batted ball) b to deal with by giving an impromptu answer (<the Minister ~ed the reporters' questions>) 2 to put into the field of play or battle (<~ a team>) ~ *vi* to play as a fielder in cricket, baseball, etc

**field artillery** *n* artillery, other than antiaircraft or antitank guns, used in the field

**'field, day** *n* 1a a day for military exercises or manoeuvres b an outdoor meeting or social gathering 2 a time of unusual pleasure and unrestrained action (<the newspaper had a ~ with the scandal>)

**fielder** /'fi:ldə/ *n* any of the players whose job is to field the ball (e.g. in cricket) [FIELD + -ER]

**'field, event** *n* an athletic event (e.g. discus, javelin, or jumping) other than a race – compare TRACK EVENT

**'field, fare** /-fea/ *n* a medium-sized Eurasian thrush with an ash-coloured head and chestnut wings [ME *feldefare*, fr OE *feldeware*, fr *feld* + -ware dweller]

**\*field, glasses** *n pl* an optical instrument usu consisting of 2 telescopes on a single frame with a focusing device

**'field, goal** *n* a goal in basketball made while the ball is in play

**'field, hockey** *n*, chiefly NAm HOCKEY 1

**'field marshal** *n*  RANK

**'field, mouse** *n* any of various mice or voles that inhabit fields

**field mushroom** *n* the common edible mushroom that is an agaric

**'field, officer** *n* a commissioned army officer of the rank of colonel, lieutenant colonel, or major

**.field of 'view** *n* FIELD 7

**fieldman** /'fi:ldzmən/ *n, pl fieldmen* /-mən/ a fielder

**field sport** *n* an open-air sport (e.g. hunting or shooting) involving the pursuit of animals

**field theory** *n* a detailed mathematical description of the assumed physical properties of a region under some influence (e.g. gravitation)

**'field, trip** *n* a visit made by students for firsthand observation (e.g. to a farm or museum)

**'field, work** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 a temporary fortification in the field 2 work done in the field (e.g. by students) to gain practical experience through firsthand observation 3 the gathering of data in anthropology, sociology, etc through the observation or interviewing of subjects in the field – *field-worker* *n*

**fiend** /fi:nd/ *n* 1a DEVIL 1 b a demon c a person of great wickedness or cruelty 2 sby excessively devoted to a specified activity or thing; a fanatic, devotee (<a golf ~>) (<a fresh-air ~>) 3 one who uses immoderate quantities of sth (specified), an addict (<a dope ~>) 4 sby remarkably clever at a specified activity; WIZARD 2 (<a ~ at arithmetic>) *USE* (2 & 4) infml [ME, fr OE *fiend*; akin to OHG *fiant* enemy, Skt *piyant* hostile (fr *piyati* he abuses, shows hostility towards)]

**fiendish** /'fi:ndɪʃ/ *adj* 1 perversely diabolical 2 extremely cruel or wicked 3 excessively bad, unpleasant, or difficult – *fiendishly* *adv*, *fiendishness* *n*


**fierce** /fi:ə/ *adj* 1 violently hostile or aggressive; combative, pugnacious 2a lacking restraint or control; violent, heated (<a ~ argument>) b extremely intense or severe (<~ pain>) 3 furiously active or determined (<make a ~ effort>) 4 wild or menacing in appearance [ME *fiers*, fr OF, fr L *ferus* wild, savage; akin to Gk *thēr* wild animal] – *fiercely* *adv*, *fierceness* *n*


**fiery** /fi:'əri/ *adj* 1a consisting of fire b burning, blazing (<~ cross>) *c*

liable to catch fire or explode 2 very hot (< *a ~ chilli sauce*) 3 of the colour of fire; esp red 4a full of or exuding strong emotion or spirit, passionate (< *a ~ speech*) b easily provoked, irascible (< *a ~ temper*) 5 of a cricket pitch allowing the bowled ball to bounce dangerously high and fast [ME, fr *fire, fier fire*] – *fierly adv, fieriness n*

**fiesta** /fiesta/ *n* a saint's day in Spain and Latin America, often celebrated with processions and dances [Sp, fr L *fiesta* – more at *FEAST*]


**fife** /fife/ *n* a small flute used chiefly to accompany the drum [G *pfife* pipe, fife, fr OHG *pfifa* – more at *PIPE*]

**fifteen** /fifteen/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 the fifteenth in a set or series 3 *sing or pl in constr* sthg having 15 parts or members or a denomination of 15, esp a Rugby Union football team [ME *fiftene*, adj, fr OE *fiftene*, fr *fif* five + *tien, ten* ten] – *fifteen adj or pron, fifteenth /-teenth/ adj or n*

**fifth** /fifθ, also fifth/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 5 diatonic degrees b DOMINANT 2 [ME *fifte*, *fifthe*, adj & *n*, fr OE *fifta* (akin to OHG *fimfta*, *fimfto*, ON *fimmti*), fr *fif* five + *-ta* -th – more at *FIVE*] – *fifth adj or adv, fifthly adv*

**fifth column** *n* a group within a nation or faction that sympathizes with and works secretly for an enemy or rival [name applied to rebel sympathizers in Madrid in 1936 when four rebel columns were advancing on the city] – *fifth columnist n*

**fifth wheel** *n* a horizontal wheel above the front axle of a carriage enabling it to be steered without tipping, also a similar coupling between tractor and trailer of an articulated lorry

**fifty** /fifti/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 *pl* the numbers 50 to 59, specif a range of temperatures, ages, or dates within a century characterized by those numbers [MF, fr *fifty*, adj, fr OF *fiftig*, fr *fiftig*, *n*, group of 50, fr *fif* five + *-tig* group of ten – more at *LIGHTY*] – *fiftieth /-ith/ adj or n, fifty adj or pron, fiftyfold /-fold/ adj or adv*

**fifty-fifty** *adv* evenly, equally (< *they shared the money ~*)

**fifty-fifty** *adj* half favourable and half unfavourable, even (< *a ~ chance*)

**fig** /fig/ *n* 1 (any of a genus of trees that bear) a many-seeded fleshy usu pear-shaped or oblong edible fruit 2 a contemptibly worthless trifle (< *not worth a ~*) [ME *fige*, fr OF, fr OProv *figa*, fr (assumed) VL *fica*, fr L *figus* fig tree, fig]

**fig** *n* dress, array (< *in full Regency ~* – *The Listener*) [*fig* (to adorn), var of obs *scague* (to whip), prob fr G *fegen* to sweep, burnish]

**fight** /fi:t/ *vb* fought /fawt/ *vi* 1a to contend in battle or physical combat, esp to strive to overcome a person by blows or weapons b 'box 2 to strive, struggle (< *ing for his life*) ~ *vt* 1a(1) to contend against (as if) in battle or physical combat (2) to engage in a boxing match with b to attempt to prevent the success, effectiveness, or development of (< *the company fought the strike for months*) 2a to wage (< *a war*) b to take part in (a boxing match) c to stand as a candidate for (e.g. a constituency) in an election 3 to struggle to endure or surmount (< *he fought his illness for a year before he died*) 4a to make (one's way) by fighting b to resolve or control by fighting – *out or down* (fought down her fear) [ME *fighten*, fr OE *feohtan*, akin to OHG *fehtan* to fight, L *pectere* to comb – more at *FEL*] – *fight shy of* to avoid facing or meeting

**fight** *n* 1a an act of fighting, a battle, combat b a boxing match c a verbal disagreement; an argument 2 a usu protracted struggle for an objective (< *a ~ for justice*) 3 strength or disposition for fighting, pugnacity (< *still full of ~*)

**fight back** *vi* to struggle to recover from a losing or disadvantageous position, resist – *fightback n*

**fighter** /fi:ta/ *n* 1a a pugnacious or boldly determined individual b 'BOXER 2 a fast manoeuvrable aeroplane designed to destroy enemy aircraft ['FIGHT + -ER]

**fighting chance** *n* a small chance that may be realized through struggle (< *a ~ of getting to the final*)

**fight off** *vt* to ward off (as if) by fighting, repel

**fight out** *vt* to settle (e.g. an argument) by fighting – esp in *fight it out*

**figment** /'figmənt/ *n* sthg fabricated or imagined (< *a ~ of the author's imagination*) [ME, fr L *figmentum*, fr *figgere* to shape – more at *DOUGH*]

**figural** /fig(y)ərəl/ *adj* of, concerning, or containing human or animal figures

**figurant** /fig(y)ərənt/, *fem* figurante /-rɒnt/ *n* a ballet dancer who dances only in a group [F, fr prp of *figurer* to figure, represent]

**figuration** /figyoo'raysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the creation or representation of an

esp allegorical or symbolic figure 2 a form, outline 3 ornamentation of a musical passage by using musical figures

**figurative** /'figyoorativ/ *adj* 1a representing by a figure or likeness; emblematic b representational (< *sculpture*) 2 characterized by or using figures of speech, esp metaphor – *figuratively adv, figurativeness n*

**figure** /'figə/ *n* 1a an (Arabic) number symbol (< *a salary running into 6 ~s*) b *pl* arithmetical calculations (< *good at ~s*) c a written or printed character d value, esp as expressed in numbers (< *the house sold at a low ~*) 2 bodily shape or form, esp of a person (< *a slender ~*) 3a the graphic representation of an esp human form b a diagram or pictorial illustration in a text c a geometrical diagram or shape 4 an intentional deviation from the usual form or syntactic relation of words 5 the form of a syllogism with respect to the position of the middle term 6 an often repetitive pattern in a manufactured article (e.g. cloth) or natural substance (e.g. wood) 7 an appearance made, a usu favourable impression produced (< *the couple cut quite a ~*) 8a a series of movements in a dance b an outline representation of a form traced by a series of evolutions (e.g. by a skater on an ice surface) 9 a personage, personality (< *great political ~s*) 10 a short musical phrase [ME, fr OF, fr L *figura*, fr *figere*]

**figure** *vi* 1 to represent (as if) by a figure or outline, portray 2a to decorate with a pattern b to write figures over or under (the bass) in order to indicate the accompanying chords 3 to indicate or represent by numerals 4a to calculate b chiefly NAM to conclude, decide (< *he ~d there was no use in further effort*) c chiefly NAM to regard, consider ~ *vi* 1 to take an esp important or conspicuous part – often + *in* 2 to calculate 3 to seem reasonable or expected – *informal*; esp in *that figures* – *figurer n* – *figure on* NAM to take into consideration (e.g. in planning) (< *figure on \$50 a month extra income*)

**figured** /'figəd/ *adj* 1 represented, portrayed 2 adorned with or formed into a figure (< *muslin*) (< *wood*) 3 indicated by figures

**figured bass** *n* a continuo

**figure eight** *n*, chiefly NAM *FIGURE OF EIGHT*

**figurehead** /-hed/ *n* 1 an ornamental carved figure on a ship's bow 2 a head or chief in name only

**figure of eight** *n* sthg (e.g. a skater's figure) resembling the Arabic numeral 8 in form or shape


**figure of speech** *n* a form of expression (e.g. a hyperbole or metaphor) used to convey meaning or heighten effect


**figure out** *vt* 1 to discover, determine (< *try to figure out a solution*) 2 to solve, fathom (< *I just can't figure him out*)


**figure skating** *n* skating in which the skater outlines distinctive circular patterns based on the figure eight

**figurine** /figyoo'reen, -r-/ *n* a statuette [F, fr It *figurina*, dim. of *figura* figure, fr L]

**figwort** /'fig.wu:lt/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly herbaceous plants with an irregular 2-lipped corolla [*'fig* (piles) + *'wort*, fr its supposed ability to cure piles]

**Fijian** /'fee.ji:ən/ *n* 1 a member of the Melanesian people of the Fiji islands 2 the language of the Fijians  LANGUAGE [Fiji Islands, SW Pacific] – *Fijian adj*

**fil** /fil/ *n* (a note or coin representing) a money unit used by various Arab countries and usu worth 1/1000 dinar  NATIONALITY [back-formation fr *Ar* *fil*s (taken as pl)]

**filament** /'filəmənt/ *n* a single thread or a thin flexible threadlike object or part e.g. a slender conductor (e.g. in an electric light bulb) made incandescent by the passage of an electric current; specif such a conductor that heats the cathode of a thermionic device b an elongated thin series of attached cells or a very long thin cylindrical single cell (e.g. of some algae, fungi, or bacteria) c the anther-bearing stalk of a stamen  PLANT [MF, fr ML *filamentum*, fr LL *filare* to spin – more at *'FILE*] – *filamentary /-mentəri/ adj, filamentous /-mentəs/ adj*

**filaria** /'fi:ləri-ə/ *n*, *pl* filariae /-rē-/ any of numerous threadlike nematode worms that usu develop in biting insects and are parasites in the blood or tissues of mammals when adult [NL, fr L *filum*] – *filarial adj, filarid /-rɪd/ adj or n*

**filariasis** /'fi:ləri'e-əsis, 'fi:ləri'aɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* filariases /-seɪz/ infestation with or disease (e.g. elephantiasis) caused by filarial worms [NL]




**filature** /'fɪlʌʃə/ *n* (a factory for) the reeling of silk from cocoons [F, fr LL *filatus*, pp of *filare*]

**filbert** /'fɪlbət/ *n* (the sweet thick-shelled nut of) either of 2 European hazels [ME, fr AF *philber*, fr St *Philibert* †684 Frankish abbot whose feast day falls in the nutting season]

**filch** /fɪlʃ/ *vt* to steal (sthg of small value); pilfer [ME *filchen*]


**'file** /fi:əl/ *n* a tool, usu of hardened steel, with many cutting ridges for

- shaping or smoothing objects or surfaces [ME, fr OE *fēol*; akin to OHG *fila* file]
- file** *vt* to rub, smooth, or cut away (as if) with a file
- file** *vt* 1 to arrange in order (e.g. alphabetically) for preservation and reference 2 to submit or record officially (< ~ a lawsuit) ~ *vi* to place items, esp papers, in a file [ME *filen*, fr MF *filer* to string documents on a string or wire, fr *fil* thread, fr L *filum*]
- file** *n* 1 a folder, cabinet, etc in which papers are kept in order 2 a collection of papers or publications on a subject, usu arranged or classified
- file** *n* 1 a row of people, animals, or things arranged one behind the other 2 any of the rows of squares that extend across a chessboard from white's side to black's side [MF, fr *filer* to spin, fr LL *filare*, fr L *filum*]
- file** *vi* to march or proceed in file
- filefish** /'fi:lfɪʃ/ *n* any of various bony fishes with rough granular leathery skins ['file + 'fish]
- fillet** /'fɪlɪt, 'fɪlə/ *n* a lace with a square mesh and geometric designs [F, lit., net]
- fillet** *n*, chiefly NAM a fillet
- fil** /'fɪli-, 'fɪlo- *comb form* thread (<filiform>) [L *filum*]
- filial** /'fɪli-əl, -yəl/ *adj* 1 of or befitting a son or daughter, esp in his/her relationship to a parent (< ~ obedience) 2 having or assuming the relation of a child or offspring [ME, fr LL *filialis*, fr L *filius* son - more at FEMININE] - *filially* *adv*
- filial generation** *n* a generation in a breeding experiment that is successive to a parental generation
- filiation** /'fɪliəʃən/ *n* 1a filial relationship, esp of a son to his father b the adjudication of a child's paternity 2 an offshoot or branch (e.g. of a culture or language) 3 descent or derivation, esp from a culture or language
- filibeg**, **filibeg**, **philibeg** /'fɪlɪbɛɡ/ *n* a kilt [ScGael *feile-beag*, fr *feileadh* kilt + *beag* little]
- filibuster** /'fɪlɪbʊstə/ *vi* or *n*, chiefly NAM (to engage in) the use of extreme delaying tactics in a legislative assembly [n Sp *filibustero*, lit., freebooter; vb fr n]
- filigree** /'fɪlɪɡri:/ *vt* or *n* (to decorate with) a ornamental openwork of delicate or intricate design b a pattern or design resembling such openwork (< a ~ of frost on a window) [n F *filigrane*, fr It *filigrana*, fr L *filum* + *granum* grain; vb fr n]
- filing** /'fɪlɪŋ/ *n* a usu metal fragment rubbed off in filing - usu pl (<iron ~s>)
- filioque** /'fɪli-ɒk/ *n* the affirmation, added to the Nicene Creed in the Western liturgy and rejected by the Eastern church, that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Son as well as from the Father [LL, and from the Son]
- Filipino** /'fɪlɪ'pi:ni- / *n*, pl **Filipinos** a native or inhabitant of the Philippine islands [Sp, fr (*Islas*) *Filipinas* Philippine Islands] - **Filipino** *adj*
- fill** /fɪl/ *vt* 1a to put into as much as can be held or conveniently contained (< ~ a cup with water) b to supply with a full complement (<the class is already ~ed>) c(1) to cause to swell or billow (<wind ~ed the sails>) (2) to trim (a sail) to catch the wind d to repair the cavities of (a tooth) e to stop up; obstruct, plug 2a to feed, satiate b to satisfy, fulfil (< ~s all requirements>) 3a to occupy the whole of (<smoke ~ed the room>) b to spread through 4a to possess and perform the duties of; hold (< ~ an office>) b to place a person in (< ~ a vacancy>) ~ *vi* to become full [ME *fillen*, fr OE *fyllan*; akin to OE *full*] - *fill* somebody's shoes to take over sb's job, position, or responsibilities - *fill* the bill to suffice
- fill** *n* 1a the quantity needed to fill sth (< a ~ of pipe tobacco>); esp as much as one can eat or drink (<eat your ~>) b as much as one can bear (<I've had my ~ of them for today>) 2 material used to fill a receptacle, cavity, passage, or low place
- filler** /'fɪlə/ *n* 1 a substance added to a product (e.g. to increase bulk or strength) 2 a composition or material used to fill holes before painting or varnishing 3 a piece (e.g. a plate) used to cover or fill a space between 2 parts of a structure ['FILL + ^-ER]
- filler** *n*, pl **fillers**, **filler** → Hungary at NATIONALITY [Hung *fillér*]
- fillet**, chiefly NAM **fillet** /'fɪlɪt/ *n* 1 a ribbon or narrow strip of material used esp as a headband 2a a thin narrow strip of material b(1) a fleshy boneless piece of meat cut from the hind loin or upper hind leg → MEAT (2) a long slice of boneless fish 3a a junction in which the interior angle is rounded off or partly filled in b a usu triangular piece that partly fills such an interior 4 a narrow flat architectural moulding; esp the raised band between 2 flutes in a shaft → ARCHITECTURE [ME *filer*, fr MF, dim. of *fil* thread - more at 'FILE]
- fillet** *vt* 1 to bind, provide, or adorn (as if) with a fillet 2a to cut (meat or fish) into fillets b to remove the bones from (esp fish) 3 to remove inessential parts from
- fillibeg** /'fɪlɪbɛɡ/ *n* a filibeg
- fill in** *vt* 1 to give necessary or recently acquired information to (<friends filled him in on the latest gossip>) 2 to add what is necessary to complete; MAKE OUT 2 (<fill in this form, please>) 3 to enrich (e.g. a design) with detail ~ *vi* to take sb's place, usu temporarily; substitute (<he often filled in in emergencies>)
- filling** /'fɪlɪŋ/ *n* 1 sth used to fill a cavity, container, or depression (< a ~ for a tooth>) 2 a food mixture used to fill cakes, sandwiches, etc 3 chiefly NAM weft
- filling station** *n* a retail establishment for selling fuel, oil, etc to motorists
- fillip** /'fɪlɪp/ *n* sth that arouses or boosts, a stimulus (<this should give a ~ to sales>) [prob imit, orig sense, a blow or gesture made by flipping a finger away from the thumb]
- fillip** *vt* to stimulate
- fill out** *vi* to put on flesh ~ *vt*, chiefly NAM **FILL IN** 2
- filly** /'fɪli/ *n* 1 a young female horse, usu of less than 4 years 2 a young woman, a girl - *infil* [ME *fyly*, fr ON *fylla*, akin to OE *folā* foal]
- film** /fɪlm/ *n* 1a a thin skin or membranous covering b (dimness of sight resulting from) an abnormal growth on or in the eye 2a a thin layer or covering (< a ~ of ice on the pond>) b(1) a thin flexible transparent sheet (e.g. of plastic) used as a wrapping (2) a roll or strip of cellulose acetate or cellulose nitrate coated with a light-sensitive emulsion for taking photographs → CAMERA 3a a series of pictures recorded on film for the cinema and projected rapidly onto a screen so as to create the illusion of movement → TELEVISION b a representation (e.g. of an incident or story) on film c CINEMA 2 - often pl with sing. meaning [ME *filme*, fr OE *filmen*; akin to Gk *pelma* sole of the foot, OE *fell* skin] - *filmic* /-mɪk/ *adj*, *filmically* *adv*, *filmy* *adj*, *filminess* *n*
- film** *vt* to make a film of or from ~ *vi* 1 to be suitable for photographing 2 to make a film
- filmography** /'fɪlm-ɒɡrəfi/ *n* a list of films of a prominent film figure or on a particular topic [*film* + *-ography* (as in *bibliography*)]
- film, setting** /-setɪŋ/ *n* photocomposition - *filmset* *adj*, *filmset* *vt*, *filmsetter* *n*
- film, strip** /-stri:p/ *n* a strip of film containing photographs, diagrams, or graphic matter for still projection
- fil** - see **FILI**-
- filter** /'fɪltə/ *n* 1 a porous article or mass (e.g. of paper, sand, etc) through which a gas or liquid is passed to separate out matter in suspension 2 an apparatus containing a filter medium (< a car's oil ~>) 3a a device or material for suppressing or minimizing waves or oscillations of certain frequencies (e.g. of electricity, light, or sound) b a transparent material (e.g. coloured glass) that absorbs light of certain colours selectively [ME *filtre*, fr ML *filtrum*, piece of felt used as a filter, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *filz* felt - more at **FELT**]
- filter** *vt* 1 to subject to the action of a filter 2 to remove by means of a filter ~ *vi* 1 to pass or move (as if) through a filter 2 to move gradually (<the children ~ed out of assembly>) 3 to become known over a period of time (<the news soon ~ed through to the public>) 4 Br, of traffic to turn left or right in the direction of the green arrow while the main lights are still red - *filterable* *adj*, *filterability* /-rə'bɪləti/ *n*
- filter, bed** *n* a bed of sand or gravel for purifying water or sewage
- filter, feeder** *n* an animal (e.g. a blue whale) adapted to filtering minute organisms or other food from water that passes through its system
- filter, tip** *n* (a cigar or cigarette with) a tip of porous material that filters the smoke before it enters the smoker's mouth - *filter-tipped* *adj*
- filth** /fɪlθ/ *n* 1 foul or putrid matter, esp dirt or refuse 2 sth loathsome or vile; esp obscene or pornographic material [ME, fr OE *fyllth*, fr *fūl* foul]
- filthy** /'fɪlθi/ *adj* 1 covered with or containing filth; offensively dirty 2 vile, obscene - *filthily* *adv*, *filthiness* *n*
- filtrate** /'fɪltrəɪt/ *vb* to filter [ML *filtratus*, pp of *filtrare*, fr *filtrum*]
- filtrate** *n* material that has passed through a filter
- filtration** /'fɪltrəʃən/ *n* passing (as if) through a filter; also diffusion (<the kidney produces urine by ~>)
- fimbriate** /'fɪmbri-ət, -əyt/, **fimbriated** /-əytɪd/ *adj* having the edge or extremity bordered by long slender projections; fringed [L *fimbriatus* fringed, fr *fimbria* fringe] - *fimbriation* /-əytʃən/ *n*
- fim** /fɪn/ *n* 1 an external membranous part of an aquatic animal (e.g. a fish or whale) used in propelling or guiding the body → ANATOMY 2a(1) an appendage of a boat (e.g. a submarine) (2) a vertical aerofoil attached

- to an aircraft for directional stability  **FLIGHT** **b** **FLIPPER** **1** **c** any of the projecting ribs on a radiator or an engine cylinder [ME *finn*, fr OE, akin to L *spina* thorn, spine] – **finlike** *adj*, **finned** *adj*
- fin** *vb -nn- vi* to lash or move through the water (as if) using fins ~ *vt* to equip with fins
- finagle** /fɪˈnaɪɡl/ *vb* to use or obtain by devious and often dishonest methods – *infnl* [perh alter of E dial *fainaigue* (to renege)] – **finagler** *n*
- final** /fɪˈnəl/ *adj* **1** not to be altered or undone, conclusive **2** being the last, occurring at the end (<the ~ chapter of a book> **3** of or relating to the ultimate purpose or result of a process (<the ~ goal of life> [ME, fr MF, fr L *finalis*, fr *finis* boundary, end]) – **finally** *adv*
- final** *n* **1** a deciding match, game, trial, etc in a sport or competition, *also*, *pl* a round made up of these **2** the last examination in a course – *usu pl*
- finale** /fɪˈnahl/ *n* **1** the last section of an instrumental musical composition **2** a final scene or number in (an act of) a public performance **3** the last and often climactic event or item in a sequence [It, fr *finale*, *adj*, *final*, fr L *finalis*]
- finalist** /fɪˈnəlɪst/ *n* a contestant in the finals of a competition
- finality** /fɪˈnælɪti, fɪ-/ *n* the condition of being at an ultimate point, esp of development or authority **2** a fundamental fact, action, or belief [FINAL + -ITY]
- finalize**, -ise /fɪˈnæl-ɪz/ *vt* **1** to put in final or finished form **2** to give final approval to – **finalization** /ˌfʌɪzəˈzeɪʃən/ *n*
- final solution** *n*, *often* *cap* *F&S* the deportation and extermination of the Jews by the Nazis during WW II [trans of G *Endlösung*]
- finance** /fɪˈnæns/ *n* **1 pl** resources of money **2** the system that includes the circulation of money and involves banking, credit, and investment **3** the science of the management of funds **4** the obtaining of funds [ME, payment, ransom, fr MF, fr *finer* to end, pay, fr *fin* end – more at *FINE*] – **financial** /fɪˈnænsəl, fɪ-/ *adj*, **financially** *adv*
- finance** *vt* to raise or provide money for
- finance company** *n* a company that specializes in arranging or financing hire purchase
- Financial Times Index** /fɪˈnænsəl, fɪ-/ *n* an index of prices on the London stock exchange based on the daily average price of selected lists of ordinary shares [fr its being published daily in the London newspaper, *The Financial Times*]
- financier** /fɪˈnænsɪə, fɪ-/ *n* one skilled in dealing with finance or investment
- finback** /fɪˈnɒk/ *n* FIN WHALE
- finch** /fɪntʃ/ *n* any of numerous songbirds with a short stout conical beak adapted for crushing seeds [ME, fr OE *finč*, akin to OHG *fincho* finch, Gk *spiza* chaffinch]
- find** /fɪnd/ *vb* found/ *vt* **1a** to come upon, esp accidentally, encounter **b** to meet with (a specified reception) (<hoped to ~ favour> **2a** to come upon or discover by searching, effort, or experiment, obtain **b** to obtain by effort or management (<~ the time to study> **c** to attain, reach (<water ~s its own level> **3a** to experience, feel (<found much pleasure in their company> **b** to perceive (oneself) to be in a specified place or condition (<found himself in a dilemma> **c** to gain or regain the use or power of (<trying to ~ his tongue> **d** to bring (oneself) to a realization of one's powers or of one's true vocation (<he must be helped to ~ himself as an individual> **4** to provide, supply (<the parents must ~ all the school fees themselves> **5** to determine and announce (<~ a verdict> ~ *vi* to determine a case judicially by a verdict (<~ for the defendant> [ME *finden*, fr OE *findan*; akin to OHG *findan* to find, L *pōnē*, *pōns* bridge, Gk *pontos* sea, Skt *patha* way, course] **find fault** to criticize unfavourably
- find** *n* **1** an act or instance of finding sthg, esp sthg valuable **2** sb or sthg found, esp a valuable object or talented person discovered (<the new player was a real ~>)
- finder** /fɪndə/ *n* a small astronomical telescope attached to a larger telescope for finding an object [FIND + -ER]
- fin de siècle** /fæn də seeˈeklə (Fr fɛ də sjɛkl)/ *adj* (characteristic) of the close of the 19th c and esp its literary and artistic climate of sophisticated decadence and world-weariness [F, end of the century]
- finding** /fɪndɪŋ/ *n* **1** FIND **2a** the result of a judicial inquiry **b** the result of an investigation – *usu pl* with sing meaning (<the ~s of the welfare committee> **3 pl**, *NAm* small tools and materials used by a craftsman
- find out** *vt* **1** to learn by study, observation, or search; discover **2a** to detect in an offence (<the culprits were soon found out> **b** to ascertain the true character or identity of; unmask ~ *vi* to discover, learn, or verify sthg
- fine** /fɪn/ *n* **1** a sum payable as punishment for an offence **2a** a forfeiture or penalty paid to an injured party in a civil action [ME, end, settlement of a suit, sum paid as compensation, fr OF *fin*, fr L *finis* boundary, end] – *in fine* *IN SHORT*
- fine** *vt* to punish by a fine
- fine** *adj* **1** free from impurity **2a** very thin in gauge or texture (<~ thread> (<~ nib> **b** consisting of relatively small particles **c** very small (<~ print> **d** keen, sharp (<a knife with a ~ edge> **3a(1)** having a delicate or subtle quality (<a wine of ~ bouquet> **(2)** subtle or sensitive in perception or discrimination (<a ~ distinction> **b** performed with extreme care and accuracy (<~ workmanship> **4** in, at, or through a fielding position in cricket behind the batsman and near an extension of the line between the wickets  **SPORT** **5a** superior in quality, conception, or appearance; excellent (<a ~ musician> **b** bright and sunny (<the weather will be ~ in all parts of the country> **6** marked by or affecting often excessive elegance or refinement (<~ manners> **7** very well (<feel ~> **8** awful – used as an intensive (<a ~ mess we're in!> [ME *fin*, fr OF, fr L *finis*, *n*, end, limit] – **fine** *adv*, **finely** *adv*, **fineness** *n*
- fine** *vt* **1** to purify, clarify – often + *down* **2** to make finer in quality or size – often + *down* ~ *vi* **1** to become pure or clear (<the ale will ~> **2** to become finer or smaller in lines or proportions, diminish – often + *away* or *down*
- fine art** *n* (an) art (e.g. painting, sculpture, or music) concerned primarily with beauty rather than utility – *usu pl*
- finery** /fɪˈnɪəri/ *n* dressy or showy clothing and jewels
- finer** *n pl* (very fine particles of) powdered material (e.g. ore) [f*ine*]
- finer herbs** /ˌfɛnzəˈɛb (Fr fɛn zɛrb)/ *n pl* a mixture of finely chopped herbs used esp as a seasoning [F, lit, fine herbs]
- finespun** /fɪˈnɛspun/ *adj* made or developed with extreme or excessive care or delicacy
- finesse** /fɪˈnɛs/ *n* **1** refinement or delicacy of workmanship **2** skilful handling of a situation, adroitness **3** the withholding of one's highest card in the hope that a lower card will take the trick because the only opposing higher card is in the hand of an opponent who has already played [ME, fr MF, fr *fin*]
- finesse** *vi* to make a finesse in playing cards ~ *vt* **1** to play (a card) in a finesse **2a** to bring about by finesse **b** to evade or trick by finesse
- fine structure** *n* the (electron) microscopic structure of an organism or its cells – **fine structural** *adj*
- finger** /fɪŋɡə/ *n* **1** any of the 5 parts at the end of the hand or forelimb, ~ *fr* one other than the thumb **2a** sthg that resembles a finger, esp in being long, narrow, and often tapering in shape (<a ~ of toast> **b** a part of a glove into which a finger is inserted **3** the breadth of a finger  **UNIT** [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *finger* finger] – **fingered** *adj*, **fingerlike** *adj* – have a finger in the/ every pie to be involved or have an interest in sthg/everything – *infnl* – **pull/take one's finger out** *Br* to start working hard, get cracking – *slang*
- finger** *vt* **1a** to play (a musical instrument) with the fingers **b** to play (e.g. notes or chords) with a specific fingering **c** to mark fingerings on (a music score) as a guide in playing **2** to touch or feel with the fingers, handle **3** chiefly *NAm* to point out, identify (<~ed his associates to the police>) – *infnl* ~ *vi* to touch or handle sthg (<~s through the cards>)
- fingerboard** /-ˈbɔːrd/ *n* the part of a stringed instrument against which the fingers press the strings to vary the pitch
- finger bowl** *n* a small water bowl for rinsing the fingers at table
- fingerling** /fɪŋɡəˈlɪŋ/ *n* (the marking indicating) the use or position of the fingers in sounding notes on an instrument
- fingerling** *n* a fine wool yarn for knitting, used esp in the manufacture of stockings [earlier *fingram*, prob. alter. of OF *fin gram* fine grain]
- finger painting** *n* (a picture produced by) spreading pigment on wet paper chiefly with the fingers
- fingerplate** /-ˈpleɪt/ *n* a protective plate fastened to a door usu near the handle to protect the door surface from finger marks
- fingerpost** /-ˈpəʊst/ *n* a signpost whose signs are or terminate in the shape of a pointing finger
- fingerprint** /-ˈprɪnt/ *n* **1** the impression of a fingertip on any surface; esp an ink impression of the lines upon the fingertip taken for purposes of identification **2** unique distinguishing characteristics (e.g. of a recording machine or infrared spectrum) **3** the characteristic pattern produced by chromatography or electrophoresis of a particular partially broken down protein or other macromolecule – **fingerprint** *vt*, **fingerprinting** *n*
- finger stall** /-ˈstɔːl/ *n* a protective cover for an injured finger
- finger tip** /-ˈtɪp/ *adj* readily accessible; being in close proximity



**'finger, tips** *n pl* – at one's fingertips instantly or readily available to one, esp because of a full knowledge of a subject

**finial** /'fɪniəl/ *n* 1 an ornament forming an upper extremity of a spire, gable, pinnacle, etc, esp in Gothic architecture  ARCHITECTURE 2 a crowning ornament or detail (e.g. a decorative knob) [ME, fr *final*, *final* final]

**finical** /'fɪnikl/ *adj* finicky [prob fr *'fine*] – **finically** *adv*, **finicalness** *n*

**finicking** /'fɪnikɪŋ/ *adj* finicky [alter. of *finical*]

**finicky** /'fɪnikɪ/ *adj* 1 excessively exacting or meticulous in taste or standards; fussy 2 requiring delicate attention to detail (a ~ job) [alter. of *finicking*] – **finickiness** *n*

**finis** /'fɪnɪs/ *n* the end, conclusion – used esp to mark the end of a book or film [ME, fr L]

**'finish** /'fɪnɪʃ/ *vt* 1a to end, terminate b to eat, drink, or use entirely – often + *off* or *up* 2a to bring to completion or issue; complete, perfect (<~ed her new novel>) – often + *off* b to put a final coat or surface on c to neat (the raw edge of a piece of sewing) to prevent fraying d to complete the schooling of (a girl), esp in the social graces 3a to bring to an end the significance or effectiveness of (<the scandal ~ed his career>) b to bring about the death of ~ *vi* 1 to end, terminate 2a to come to the end of a course, task, or undertaking in a specified manner (<~ed with a song>) b to come to the end of a relationship (<David and I have ~ed>) 3 to arrive, end, or come to rest in a specified position or manner – often + *up* (<we ~ed up in Paris> (<the car ~ed upside down in a ditch>); *specif* to end a competition in a specified manner or position (<~ed third in the race>) [ME *finissen*, fr MF *finiss-*, stem of *finir*, fr L *finire*, fr *finis*] – **finisher** *n* – **finish with** to end a relationship or affair with

**'finish** *n* 1a the final stage; the end b the cause of one's ruin, downfall 2 the texture or appearance of a surface, esp after a coating has been applied 3 the result or product of a finishing process 4 the quality or state of being perfected, esp in the social graces

**'finishing school** /'fɪnɪʃɪŋ/ *n* a private school for girls that prepares its students esp for social activities

**finite** /'fɪniət/ *adj* 1a having definite or definable limits (a ~ number of possibilities) b subject to limitations, esp those imposed by the laws of nature (<~ beings>) 2 completely determinable in theory or in fact by counting, measurement, or thought (a ~ distance) (<the ~ velocity of light>) 3 neither infinite nor infinitesimal 4 of a verb form showing distinction of grammatical person and number [ME *finit*, fr L *finitus*, pp of *finire*] – **finite** *n*, **flatly** *adv*, **flatness** *n*, **flatude** /'fɪnɪtjuːd/ *n*

**fink** /fɪŋk/ *n*, **NAM** 1 an informer 2 a contemptible person *USE* infml [origin unknown]


**Finn** /fɪn/ *n* 1 a member of any people speaking Finnish or a Finnic language 2 a native or inhabitant of Finland [Sw *Finne*; akin to ON *finnr* Finn, OE *Finnas*, pl]

**finnan haddock** /'fɪnən 'hædɪ/ *n*, chiefly Scot FINNAN HADDOCK

**finnan haddock** *n* a haddock that is split and smoked until pale yellow [finnan alter. of *findon*, fr *Findon*, village in Scotland]

**Finnic** /'fɪnik/ *adj* of the Finns

**'Finnish** /'fɪnɪʃ/ *adj* (characteristic) of Finland

**'Finnish** *n* a Finno-Ugric language of Finland, Karelia, and parts of Sweden and Norway  LANGUAGE

**Finno-Ugric** /'fɪnəʊ'grɪk/ *adj* or *n* Finno-Ugric

**Finno-Ugric** /'fɪnəʊ'grɪk/ *adj* 1 of any of various peoples of N and E Europe and NW Siberia speaking related languages 2 of or constituting a subfamily of the Uralic family of languages comprising various languages spoken in Hungary, Lapland, Finland, Estonia, and the NW USSR – **Finno-Ugric** *n*

**finny** /'fɪni/ *adj* 1 having fins 2 relating to or being fish – chiefly poetic

**fino** /'fɛnoh/ *n*, *pl* **finos** a light-coloured dry sherry [Sp, fr *fino* fine, fr L *finis*, *n*, end, limit]

**'fin, whale** *n* a large common rorqual

**fiord**, **fjord** /'fjɑːwɪd, 'fɛɑːwɪd/ *n* a narrow inlet of the sea between cliffs (e.g. in Norway) [Norw *fjord*, fr ON *fjörðr* – more at FORD]

**'fipple, flute** /'fɪpl/ *n* a tubular wind instrument characterized mainly by a whistle mouthpiece and finger holes [perh akin to ON *flipi* horse's lip]

**fir** /fɪə/ *n* (the wood of) any of various related evergreen trees of the pine family that have flattish leaves and erect cones [ME, fr OE *fyrh*; akin to OHG *forha* fir, L *quercus* oak]

**'fire** /'fiə/ *n* 1a the phenomenon of combustion manifested in light, flame, and heat b(1) burning passion or emotion; ardour (2) liveliness of imagination; inspiration 2 fuel in a state of combustion (e.g. in a fireplace or furnace) 3a a destructive burning (e.g. of a building or forest) b a severe

trial or ordeal 4 brilliance, luminosity (<the ~ of a diamond>) 5 the discharge of firearms 6 *Br* a small usu gas or electric domestic heater [ME, fr OE *fyr*; akin to OHG *fiur* fire, Gk *pyr*] – **fireless** *adj* – on fire eager, burning – under fire under attack

**'fire** *vi* 1a to set on fire; kindle, also to ignite (<~ a rocket engine>) b(1) to give life or spirit to; inspire (<~d the poet's imagination>) (2) to fill with passion; inflame c to light up as if by fire 2a to drive out or away (as if) by fire – usu + *out* b to dismiss from a position 3a(1) to cause to explode (2) to propel (as if) from a gun (<~ a rocket>) b to throw with speed; hurl 4 to apply fire or fuel to: e.g. a to process by applying heat b to feed or serve the fire of ~ *vi* 1a to catch fire; ignite b of an internal-combustion engine to undergo ignition of the explosive charge 2 to become filled with excitement or anger – often + *up* 3a to discharge a firearm b to emit or let fly an object – **firer** *n*

**'fire, arm** /-ɑːm/ *n* a weapon from which a shot is discharged by gunpowder – usu used only with reference to small arms

**fire away** *vi* to go ahead; begin – usu imper, infml

**'fire, back** /-,bæk/ *n* the back lining of a furnace or fireplace

**'fire, ball** /-,bɔːl/ *n* 1 a large brilliant meteor 2 BALL LIGHTNING 3 the bright cloud of vapour and dust created by a nuclear explosion 4 a highly energetic person – infml

**'fire, blight** *n* a destructive highly infectious disease of apples, pears, and related fruits caused by a bacterium

**'fire, bomb** /-,bɒm/ *n* an incendiary bomb – **firebomb** *vi*

**'fire, box** /-,bɒks/ *n* a chamber (e.g. of a furnace or steam boiler) that contains a fire

**'fire, brand** /-,brænd/ *n* 1 a piece of burning material, esp wood 2 one who creates unrest or strife; an agitator, troublemaker

**'fire, break** /-,breɪk/ *n* a strip of cleared or unplanted land intended to check a forest or grass fire

**'fire, brick** /-,brɪk/ *n* a brick that is resistant to high temperatures and is used in furnaces, fireplaces, etc

**'fire, brigade** *n* an organization for preventing or extinguishing fires, esp one maintained in Britain by local government

**'fire, bug** /-,bʊg/ *n* a pyromaniac, fire-raiser – infml

**'fire, clay** /-,klaɪ/ *n* clay that is resistant to high temperatures and is used esp for firebricks and crucibles

**'fire, control** *n* the planning, preparation, and delivery of gunfire

**'fire, crest** /-,krest/ *n* a small European bird that has a red cap and conspicuous black and white stripes about the eyes [fr its bright red crest]

**'fire, damp** /-,dæmp/ *n* (the explosive mixture of air with) a combustible mine gas that consists chiefly of methane

**'fire, department** *n*, **NAM** FIRE BRIGADE

**'fire, dog** /-,dɒg/ *n* an andiron

**'fire, drill** *n* a practice drill in extinguishing or escaping from fires

**'fire, eater** *n* 1 a performer who pretends to eat fire 2 one who is quarrelsome or violent – **fire-eating** *adj*

**'fire, engine** *n* a vehicle equipped with fire-fighting equipment

**'fire, escape** *n* a device, esp an external staircase, for escape from a burning building

**'fire, extinguisher** *n* an apparatus for putting out fires with chemicals

**'fire, fight** /-,fɪt/ *n* an often spontaneous exchange of fire between opposing military units

**'fire, fighter** *n* sby who fights fires – **fire fighting** *n*

**'fire, fly** /-,flɪ/ *n* any of various night-flying beetles that produce a bright intermittent light

**'fire, guard** /-,gɑːd/ *n* a protective metal framework placed in front of an open fire

**'fire, iron** *n pl* utensils (e.g. tongs, poker, and shovel) for tending a household fire

**'fire, light** /-,lɪt/ *n* the light of a fire, esp of one in a fireplace

**'fire, lighter** *n* a piece of inflammable material used to help light a fire (e.g. in a grate)

**'fire, lock** /-,lɒk/ *n* 1 (a gun with) a gunlock in which a slow match ignites the powder charge 2a a flintlock b WHEEL LOCK

**'fireman** /-'mæn/ *n*, *pl* **firemen** 1 sby employed to extinguish fires 2 sby who tends or feeds fires or furnaces

**'fire, opal** *n* a girasol

**'fire, place** /-,pleɪs/ *n* a usu framed opening made in a chimney to hold a fire; a hearth

**'fire, plug** *n* a hydrant

**'fire, power** /-,paʊə/ *n* the capacity (e.g. of a military unit) to deliver effective fire on a target



**'fire,proof** /-pru:ph/ *adj* proof against or resistant to fire, also heatproof (< ~ dishes) – **fireproof** *vt*, **fireproofing** *n*

**'fire-raising** *n*, *Br* arson – **fire-raiser** *n*

**'fire,screen** *n* 1 a light often ornamental screen placed in front of a fireplace as a heat shield 2 chiefly *NAM* a fireguard

**'fire,ship** *n* a ship carrying combustible materials or explosives sent among the enemy's ships or works to set them on fire

**'fire,side** /-sied/ *n* 1 a place near the fire or hearth 2 home – **fireside** *adj*

**'fire,station** *n* a building housing fire apparatus and usu firemen

**'fire,stone** /-stohn/ *n* a stone that will endure high heat

**'fire,storm** *n* a huge uncontrollable fire that is started typically by bombs and that causes and is kept in being by an inrush of high winds

**'fire,trap** /-trap/ *n* a building difficult to escape from in case of fire

**'fire,watcher** *n* sby who watches for the outbreak of fire (e.g. during an air raid) – **fire-watching** *n*

**'fire,water** /-wawtə/ *n* strong alcoholic drink – *infrml*

**'fire,weed** /-weed/ *n* ROSEBAY WILLOWHERB

**'fire,wood** /-wood/ *n* wood cut for fuel

**'fire,work** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 a device for producing a striking display (e.g. of light or noise) by the combustion of explosive or inflammable mixtures 2 *pl* a display of fireworks 3 *pl* a display of temper or intense conflict *b* PYROTECHNICS 2

**firing** /'fi:ərɪŋ/ *n* 1 the process of baking and fusing ceramic products by the application of heat in a kiln 2 firewood, fuel [<sup>2</sup>FIRE + -ING]

**'firing, line** *n* 1 a line from which fire is delivered against a target, also the troops stationed in a firing line 2 the forefront of an activity, esp one involving risk or difficulty – esp in *the firing line*

**'firing, squad** *n* a detachment detailed to fire a salute at a military burial or carry out an execution

**firkin** /'fuhkɪn/ *n* 1 a small wooden vessel or cask of usu 9 gall capacity 2 any of various British units of capacity usu equal to a quarter of a barrel (about 41l) [ME, deriv of MD *veerdel* fourth]

**'firm** /'fuhm/ *adj* 1a securely or solidly fixed in place *b* not weak or uncertain, vigorous (< a ~ handshake) *c* having a solid or compact structure that resists stress or pressure 2 not subject to change, unsteadiness, or disturbance, steadfast (< a ~ price) 3 indicating firmness or resolution (< a ~ mouth) [MF *ferm*, fr MF, fr L *firmus*, akin to Gk *thronos* chair, throne] – **firm** *adv*, **firmish** *adj*, **firmly** *adv*, **firmness** *n*

**'firm** *vt* 1 to make solid, compact, or firm (< ing his grip on the racket) 2 to put into final form, settle (< a contract) 3 to support, strengthen (< help ~ up the franc) ~ *vi* 1 to become firm, harden 2 to recover from a decline, improve (< the market ~ ed slightly) *USE* (*vt* 2 & 3, *vi*) often ~ *up*


**'firm** *n* a business partnership not usu recognized as a legal person distinct from the members composing it, broadly any business unit or enterprise [G *firma*, fr It, signature, deriv of L *firmare* to make firm, confirm, fr *firmus*]


**firmament** /'fuhməmənt/ *n* the vault or arch of the sky, the heavens [ME, fr LL & L, LL *firmamentum*, fr L, support, fr *firmare*] – **firmament** *tal* /-'ment/ *adj*

**firm** /'fian/ *n* *névè* [G, fr G dial, relating to the previous year, fr OHG *firni* old, akin to OE *fyrn*, *firn* former, ancient]

**'first** /'fuhst/ *adj* 1 preceding all others in time, order, or importance *e.g.* a earliest *b* being the lowest forward gear or speed of a motor vehicle *c* relating to or having the (most prominent and) usu highest part among a group of instruments or voices 2 least, slightest (< hasn't the ~ idea what to do) [ME, fr OE *fyrist*; akin to OHG *furst* first, OE *faran* to go – more at *FARE*] – at **first hand** directly from the original source

**'first** *adv* 1 before anything else, at the beginning (< came ~ and left last) (< of all we had cocktails) 2 for the first time 3 in preference to sthg else (< I'll see him dead ~)

**'first** *n*, *pl* (2a) **first**, (2b, c, & d) **firsts** 1  *NUMBER* 2 sthg or sby that is first. *e.g.* a the first occurrence or item of a kind (< was one of the ~ to know) *b* the first and lowest forward gear or speed of a motor vehicle *c* the winning place in a contest *d* **first, first class** often *cap* the highest level of British honours degree (< got a ~ in history) – at **first** at the beginning; initially – **from the first** from the beginning

**'first aid** *n* 1 emergency care or treatment given to an ill or injured person before proper medical aid can be obtained  2 temporary emergency measures taken to alleviate a problem before a permanent solution can be found – **first-aid** *n*

**'first base** *n*, chiefly *NAM* the first step or stage in a course of action (< the plan never got to ~)

**'firstborn** *adj* born before all others; eldest – **firstborn** *n*

**'first cause** *n* the self-created source of all causality – compare **PRIME MOVER** 1

**'first class** *n* the first or highest group in a classification. *e.g.* a the highest of usu 3 classes of travel accommodation *b* **FIRST 2d** – **first-class** *adj*

**'first class** *adv* 1 in the highest quality of accommodation (< travel ~) 2 as mail that is delivered as fast as possible (< send a letter ~)

**'first, day cover** *n* a special envelope with a newly issued postage stamp postmarked on the first day of issue

**'first-degree burn** *n* a mild burn characterized by heat, pain, and reddening of the burned surface but without blistering or charring of tissues – compare **SECOND-DEGREE BURN**, **THIRD-DEGREE BURN**

**'first estate** *n*, often *cap* **F&E** the 1st of the traditional political estates, *specif* the clergy

**'first floor** *n* 1 *Br* the floor immediately above the ground floor 2 *NAM* **GROUND FLOOR**

**'first fruits** *n pl* 1 agricultural produce offered to God in thanksgiving 2 the earliest products or results of an enterprise

**'firsthand** *adj* of or coming directly from the original source – **firsthand** *adv*

**'first lady** *n*, often *cap* **F&L** the wife or hostess of a US president or state governor

**'first lieutenant** *n*  *RANK*

**'firstling** /'fuhstlɪŋ/ *n* 1 the first of a class or kind 2 the first produce or result of sthg *USE* usu *pl*, *fm*

**'firstly** /-li/ *adv* in the first place, first

**'first name** *n* the name that stands first in a person's full name

**'first night** *n* the night on which a theatrical production is first performed at a given place

**'first offender** *n* sby convicted of an offence for the first time

**'first person** *n* (a member of) a set of linguistic forms (e.g. verb forms and pronouns) referring to the speaker or writer of the utterance in which they occur

**'first post** *n*, *Br* the first of 2 bugle calls sounded at the hour of retiring in a military camp

**'first-rate** *adj* of the first or greatest order of size, importance, or quality – **first-rater** *n*

**'first reading** *n* the first submitting of a bill before a legislative assembly  *LAW*

**'first refusal** *n* **REFUSAL** 2

**'first school** *n* a primary school for children between 5 and 8

**'first sergeant** *n*  *RANK*

**'first-string** *adj* being a regular member of a team, group, etc as distinguished from a substitute


**'first water** *n* 1 the purest lustre – used with reference to gems 2 the highest grade, degree, or quality (< a fool of the ~ – Thomas Wolfe)

**'firth** /'fuhth/ *n* a sea inlet or estuary (e.g. in Scotland) [ME, fr ON *fjorth* – more at **FORD**]

**'fisc** /'fisk/ *n* a state or royal treasury [L *fiscus*]

**'fiscal** /'fiskl/ *adj* of taxation, public revenues, or public debt (< ~ policy) [L *fiscalis*, fr *fiscus* basket, treasury, akin to Gk *pitθος* wine jar] – **fiscally** *adv*

**'fiscal** *n* a procurator-fiscal

**'fish** /'fɪʃ/ *n*, *pl* **fish**, **fishes** 1a an aquatic animal – usu in combination (< starfish) (< cuttlefish) *b* (the edible flesh of) any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates that typically have an elongated scaly body, limbs, when present, in the form of fins, and gills  *EVOLUTION*, **FOOD** 2 a person, esp a fellow – usu derog (< a queer ~) [ME, fr OE *fisc*; akin to OHG *fisc* fish, L *piscis*] – **fishless** *adj*, **fishlike** *adj* – **fish out of water** a person who is out of his/her proper sphere or element

**'fish** *vi* 1 to try to catch fish 2 to seek sthg by roundabout means (< ing for compliments) 3a to search for sthg underwater (< for pearls) *b* to search (as if) by groping or feeling (< ing around under the bed for his shoes) ~ *vt* 1a to (try to) catch (fish in) (< the stream) (< ~ salmon) *b* to use (e.g. a net, type of rod, or bait) in fishing 2 to draw out as if fishing *USE* (*vi* 2 & 3) usu ~ *for*; (*vi* 2 & 3b, *vt* 2) *infrml* – **fisher** *n*

**'fish** *n* a piece of wood or iron fastened alongside another member to strengthen it [*fish* (to mend), fr F *ficher* to fix, fr (assumed) VL *figicare*, fr L *figere*]

**'fish, bowl** /-bohl/ *n* a bowl for keeping live fish

**'fisherfolk** /'fɪʃə,fəlk/ *n pl* in *constr* people who live in a community that is dependent on fishing

**'fisherman** /-mən/ *n* 1 *fem* 'fisher, woman one who engages in fishing as an occupation or for pleasure 2 a ship used in commercial fishing

**'fishery** /'fɪʃəri/ *n* 1 the activity or business of catching fish and other

## Main principles

First Aid consists of simple measures to prevent injury or illness from becoming worse until medical aid can be obtained. It aims to keep the patient in the best possible condition until responsibility is taken over by a doctor or nurse. Treat the casualty where he/she is and move only if in dangerous surroundings, such as fumes, fire or flood. Always handle the patient gently and reassure by talking. Assess the general situation and establish your priorities of action.

- 1 Be calm, take charge, clear away a crowd, but give specific jobs to those who remain to help.
- 2 Diagnose what is the matter by obtaining a history of the accident, listening to the casualty's symptoms, and examining him/her for signs.
- 3 Render the correct first aid treatment.
- 4 Send the casualty to a doctor, hospital or his home.
- 5 Report clearly the place, type of accident, and what you have done

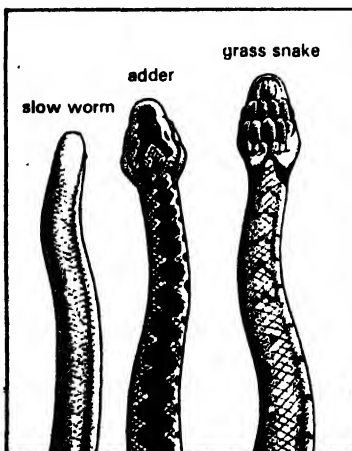
## Priorities

● **BREATHING** If breathing has stopped, make sure the mouth is clear of debris, tilt back the head to open and straighten the air passage to the lungs. Pinch the nostrils closed and blow your own breath gently through the casualty's mouth into the lungs at your own breathing rate.

● **BLEEDING** Blood loss must be stopped promptly, but strategy depends on the site of bleeding. Rapid blood loss is more severe in its effect than a gradual loss. Loss of large amounts deprives vital organs and produces a state of shock.

## Asthma attacks

These occur when the bronchial tubes are constricted, and breathing out becomes very difficult, producing wheezing. Sit the patient up with support for the back. Loosen tight clothes which might restrict movement of the chest. Allow fresh air and ventilation. Reduce anxiety and give any medicines that have been prescribed for the emergency.



## Bites and stings

If you can see it remove a bee sting gently with tweezers. Apply the tweezers as near

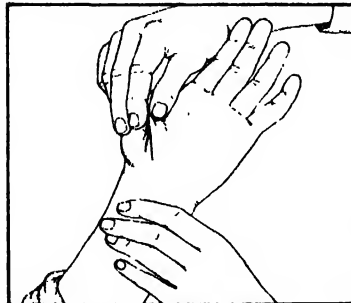
the skin as possible, in order not to squeeze venom in. Apply an alkali or antihistamine cream to bee or wasp stings. Stings in the mouth or throat can be dangerous, and multiple stings, or a sting into a vein, should be seen by a doctor.

## Snake bites

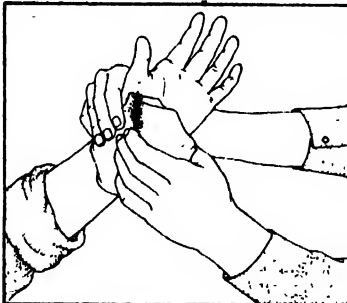
The only poisonous snake in the UK is the adder (viper). Lay the patient down and tell him/her not to move about. Reassure him/her, and wash the wound if possible with soap and water. Apply a dry dressing, and immobilize limb. Get the patient to hospital as quickly as possible.

## Bleeding

Lay the casualty down if possible. Elevate the injured part unless a fracture is suspected. Loosen tight clothing, and expose the wound



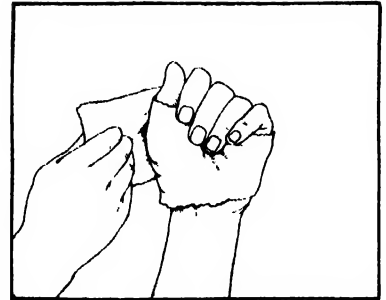
Control haemorrhage by pressure on the sides of the wound, or by direct pressure over a clean dressing



Apply sufficient sterile dressing into the depth of the wound until it projects above it, and cover with adequate padding, and bandage firmly. If bleeding continues, add more pads, but do not disturb the original dressing, or any clots.

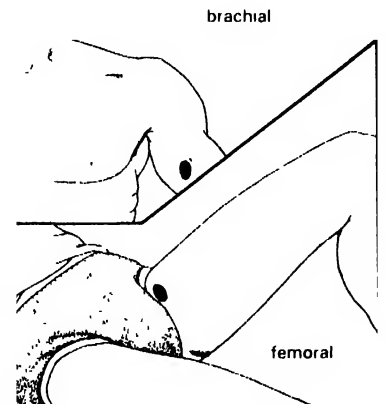
If a foreign body like glass is embedded in the wound, apply pads round the wound until high enough for a bandage to be applied across them so as to avoid pressing on the projecting foreign body or bone.

Apply bandages firmly enough to stop bleeding, but not so as to stop the circulation along a limb. Immobilize the injured part, keep the casualty warm and comfortable and get him/her to hospital as quickly as possible.



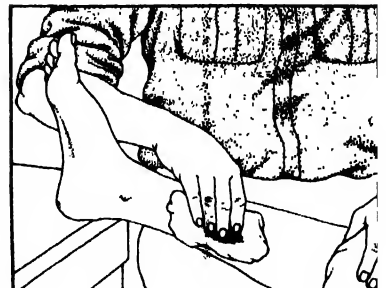
## Pressure points

Pressure points are places where firm pressure upon an artery against the underlying bone will stop blood passing to a wound. This method is used when direct pressure on the wound cannot be applied



The brachial point lies in the upper arm below the belly of the biceps muscle, or where the seam of a man's jacket runs. Pressure on the underlying humerus reduces flow, if the elbow or lower arm are injured.

The femoral pressure point is found in the middle of the upper thigh and needs the pressure of both thumbs to stop haemorrhage in the lower limb

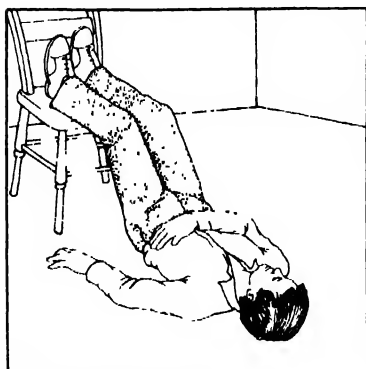


## Treatment of wounds

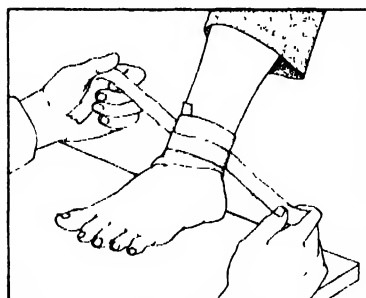
Wash your hands if possible. Elevate the limb and protect the wound with a sterile swab. Gently clean surrounding skin and dry it with swabs of cotton wool used once only and wipe away from the wound. Then apply a sterile dressing and keep it in place with bandages or adhesive strapping.

**Stop bleeding**

Slight bleeding comes from injured capillary vessels and wells up as red blood. It is easily controlled by gentle pressure. Venous blood is darker, and pours from a wound, but stops immediately on elevation. Arterial bleeding is bright red and issues from a wound in jets in time with the heart beat. Elevation and firm pressure are usually effective.

**Rest and keep wound elevated**

This position ensures the maximal supply of blood to the brain and other vital organs while the patient is at rest.

**Bandage the wound**

Bandages are wound with even firm pressure, and serve the purpose of keeping dressings in place and maintaining sufficient pressure to prevent further bleeding.

**Nose bleeds**

Sit the patient up with the head tilted slightly forward so that blood is not swallowed. Get him to press firmly the side that is bleeding for 10 minutes, or pinch both nostrils while the patient breathes through the mouth for the same time. Let him/her rest near an open window afterwards, with instructions not to blow the nose, or sniff.

**Burns and scalds**

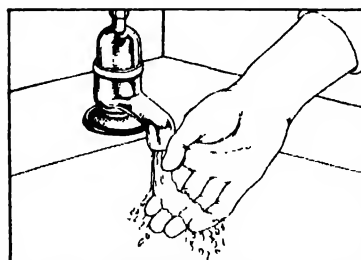
These are wounds caused by dry or moist heat, and dangerous in proportion to their area. Danger to life arises from the greater chance of infection compared to most other wounds, and from shock through loss of plasma.

**TREATMENT**

- 1 Extinguish flames by quickest method: douse with water or smother with a blanket, coat, rug, etc.



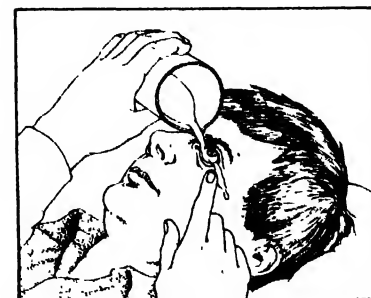
- 2 Place the affected part under cold running water, or immerse in cold water.



- 3 Do not remove burnt clothing since it is rendered sterile by heat. Do not burst blisters.
- 4 Remove at once rings, belts, or bangles, or anything that may cause constriction as the part begins to swell.
- 5 Lay the patient down, and cover the burnt area with sterile dressing, keeping the part elevated. Particular care is required not to contaminate a deep burn.
- 6 Guard against shock.

**Chemical burns**

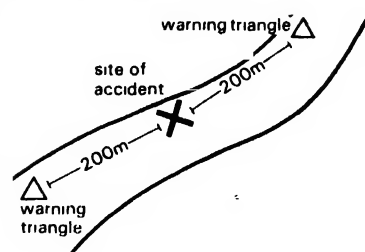
Remove contaminated clothing, avoiding burning yourself. Place the burned area under running water to dilute and wash off a strong acid or alkali. Then treat according to the general treatment for burns. Where the eye is affected. Lead the patient to a tap or sink. Place the head under running water pulling the eyelids apart.



Alternatively, lay the patient down, and freely irrigate the open eye with water. Apply a pad and bandage, and seek medical aid.

**Car and road accidents**

Be clear about your priorities.



- 1 Warn other traffic by placing red warning triangles or similar items at a distance of 200 metres from accident in both directions. Switch on your hazard flashers.
- 2 Switch off engine and lights. Disconnect battery if possible. Give a NO SMOKING order. Try to ascertain extent of injured and injuries, including any thrown clear. Only move occupants if car is on fire or if they are not breathing.
- 3 Send for ambulance service and police. State:
  - Where to come
  - How many patients
  - The nature of the injuries
  - Whether specialist equipment is required, eg cutting gear

**ACCIDENT PROCEDURE****● Breathing**

A crash victim is often unconscious and cannot breathe because of a bend or constriction in the airway. Open airway by extending the head backwards. Check for obstruction of airway and relieve it, eg remove false teeth. If still not breathing after clearing airway, pinch nose, hold head back, and inflate lungs by blowing.

**● Bleeding**

Press sides of wound together. Elevate if possible. Continue pressure over wound with pad and firm bandage. Pressure point control of haemorrhage if pressure over wound impractical.

**● Unconsciousness**

Try to keep the unconscious patient breathing until ambulance arrives. Keep the airway open and clear. Loosen tight clothing and turn into the recovery position.

**● Shock**

Shock can result from loss of blood to the brain. In severe cases the patient will die unless he/she receives a blood transfusion. Mention a state of shock when calling for an ambulance.

**● Fractures**

Use commonsense methods of immobilization eg Upper limb: use arm sling or pin sleeve to lapel.

Lower limb: tie to sound leg, and pad between knees and ankles.

**● Wounds**

Stop bleeding and cover wound with sterile or clean dressing. Immobilize.

### ● Chest Injury

**Fractured rib:** if on one side only, incline patient to injured side.

**Both sides:** sit up with support to back.

**Explosion:** internal injury to chest causes difficulty in breathing. Sit patient up with support. Give oxygen if available.

Victim may be blue and cough up blood.

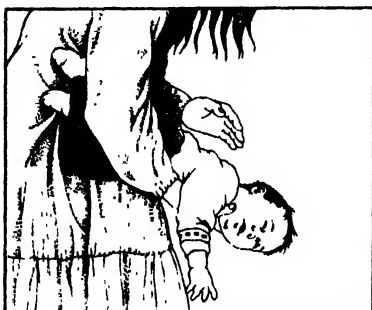
**Sucking wound:** caused by penetrating injury into pleural space

**Danger** is collapse of lungs by air entering through wound.

Place hand over wound to close it, and seal with dressing.

### Choking

Act immediately. Instruct patient to take a deep breath through the nose and give his strongest cough to move obstruction like a piston. Be ready to remove any obstruction (a crust, false teeth) with your finger.



**Baby:** hold upside down and smack on the back to loosen a swallowed object



**Child:** place across the lap inclined down at 45 degrees, and strike smartly between the shoulder blades.



**Adult:** If he collapses, keep him on his side, and strike between the shoulder blades.

If obstruction remains, begin resuscitation. Remember that the tongue can obstruct the airway in unconscious patients.

If able to stand get behind him with your arms around his waist, hands gripped just below his ribs and make a firm hug inwards and upwards.

### Cramp

Cramp is a painful often violent muscular contraction.

It may appear during exercise especially after sweating heavily, or after loss of body fluid through diarrhoea and vomiting. It is not dangerous except in circumstances such as swimming in cold water.

First aid is to stretch the muscle—for instance, in the back of the thigh, straighten the knee and swing the leg forward. Replacement of fluid and salt will prevent further attacks

### Diabetes

A diabetic treated with insulin may suffer from sugar deficiency:

- 1 if he/she does not eat within a short time after the injection
- 2 if he/she exercises heavily and the sugar reserves become depleted. As the brain is deprived of sugar, behaviour may become erratic, as if drunk. The colour is pale, the patient sweats and the hands shake.

While he/she is conscious the treatment is to give the patient sugar, jam, chocolate, or honey with a little water. Repeat this after 10 minutes

If unconscious, put the patient in the recovery position, give nothing by mouth, and send for medical help.

### Ear - object in

Usually the victim is a child. Do not try to remove object, for it usually gets pushed further in

When a small fly or insect has entered the ear, it can be floated out by olive oil or water, with the patient lying down. Children require firm handling or they may panic.

### Electric shock

Never touch the patient until the current has been switched off.

If the switch-off point is not obvious remove the patient from contact with the electric current by means of a dry non-conducting object, eg walking stick, roll of newspaper, chair, or folded garment. The patient may require resuscitation. Deep burns may require dressing. Keep under observation and send to hospital.

High voltage currents may spark across a gap up to 6 metres.

If the casualty is on or near a pylon, phone the electricity authority, and do not approach until the current has been cut off.

A patient struck by lightning may be unconscious and require resuscitation. Burns may need to be dressed.

### Epileptic attack

The patient suddenly falls to the ground unconscious, sometimes emitting a high pitched cry. On the ground he/she goes rigid and holds his/her breath and may go blue. Later he/she makes regular convulsive movements, which may injure hands, feet or the tongue.

- 1 Remove from danger of fire, glass, bookcase, etc.
- 2 Protect the feet and arms with cushioning.
- 3 Place between the back teeth a soft gag, eg handkerchief, coat lapel, to prevent biting the tongue.
- 4 Control the arm and leg movements, kneeling astride the casualty, to prevent injury. Do not try and prevent these movements entirely, only reduce their force.
- 5 If attacks are repeated fetch medical aid.
- 6 After the convulsions have stopped, place in recovery position.

### Eye injury

**Minor** Cover eye with a loose pad, and retain with sellotape. Do not insert drops or ointment. These may introduce infection.

**Major** Lay patient down on his back. Cover both eyes with clean material to prevent eye movements. Remove to hospital in this position, and continue to reassure the patient.

### Foreign body in eye

Enquire how and what entered the eye. Low velocity particles like dust can be removed. Sit the patient in a good light. Pull down the lower lid and use the moistened corner of a handkerchief to remove the particle. If the object is under the upper lid, pull the upper lid over the lower lid twice. If this fails to remove it, stand behind the head, instruct the patient to look down and hinge the eyelid over a matchstick, and wipe away. Particles lodged in the clear window of the eye (cornea) should be left, the eye covered with a pad until seen by a doctor.

### Fractures

A fracture must be suspected when a forceful injury has been applied to a bone or joint. Pain is usually, but not always, present. Look for swelling, deformity, loss of power or movement

A closed fracture does not break the skin. An open fracture involves a wound so that bacteria can enter through the skin.

A complicated fracture is one where the sharp broken bone end damages other structures.

The aim of first aid is to prevent the condition becoming worse by immobilizing the fractured area.

- 1 Treat the patient where he is.
- 2 Deal first with the haemorrhage, and dress any wound temporarily.
- 3 Tell the patient not to move.
- 4 Immobilize the fracture with splints and bandages
- 5 Pad between bony points, to prevent friction, and fill out hollows to prevent movement.
- 6 Splints should be long enough to pass beyond the joint above and below a fracture. In certain fractures of the lower limb, the uninjured limb can be used as a splint, or the trunk and leg for an arm.
- 7 Bandages should maintain the splint in position, and should therefore be firmly tied, but not so tight as to restrict the blood circulation.

This aspect of first aid requires special training.

**Note** Patients with injuries to back and neck should not be moved. Inexpert bending or twisting can complicate a spinal fracture by damaging the spinal cord. Ask the patient if he can move his fingers and toes, and feel his extremities. Note this. Maintain warmth by covering with a rug, coat, or blanket until experienced first aiders take over.

#### **Bandages and splints**

Splints may be improvised from any rigid material but they should always be padded. Neckties and belts may be used as bandages but they must not be tied so tightly as to interfere with the circulation. Never tie a bandage over the site of a fracture.

#### **Strain**

A strain is a muscle injury arising from fibres being over-stretched, so that some have torn. Treatment is by firm supporting bandaging, followed by rhythmic movement.

#### **Sprain**

This occurs near a joint. A severe sprain may be difficult to distinguish from a fracture and indeed a flake of bone may be lifted. If in doubt, treat as for a fracture. The commonest sprain is at the ankle. Swelling and pain can be reduced by applying a cold compress with the leg elevated above the horizontal. Later, apply a firm elastic bandage over a compressible pad.

#### **Gases and fire hazards**

##### **Smoke**

Smoke rapidly suffocates. Take precautions before entering smoke-filled room. If no respirator is available, take a deep breath and enter area keeping as low as possible to remove casualties who are easily accessible. Cover nose and mouth with wetted handkerchief.

##### **Poisonous gases**

Take a deep breath and hold it. Pass quickly into room and remove casualty to safety. If possible open doors and windows. The use of a lifeline is vital before entering a gas-filled chamber, and the help of others is usually required.

#### **Head injuries**

Blows to the head can cause fractures of the skull and/or brain damage.

##### **Skull fracture**

A fracture may not be serious unless a portion has been depressed so that it lies on or penetrates the brain underneath. A fracture of the side of the skull may cause bleeding from blood vessels which run in grooves on the inside of the skull. Fracture of the base of the skull (the part on which the brain rests) may be suspected if there is bleeding around an eye, through an ear, or down the nose, especially if mixed with watery fluid.

##### **Brain damage**

Concussion occurs when the brain, which is soft, is shaken violently inside the rigid bones of the skull. It may last for a few seconds, or for several hours, for which time there is a subsequent loss

of memory. Various degrees of disturbed consciousness may be shown.

#### **Compression**

Consciousness is gradually lost over a period of time, due to brain swelling, bleeding within the skull, or from a depressed skull fracture. This is a very serious condition which as it advances alters the size of the pupils, their reaction to light, and eventually affects the breathing which becomes thick and noisy. Such patients must not be left. Their condition should be constantly monitored, and they must be removed to special units in hospital. During transport provide and maintain a clear airway, remove dentures, clear saliva or mucus from the mouth and throat. If breathing stops, commence respiratory resuscitation at once. There are often other injuries, and these should be searched for and treated. Never attempt to give an unconscious patient any food or fluids by mouth.

#### **Heart attack**

This occurs most commonly in middle aged men, and women over the age of 50. Severe gripping pain, often described as crushing, is felt in the centre of the chest. It may spread into the left arm, or up into the neck. The patient may be pale, with blueness of the lips, and sweating. The pulse beats quickly and rapidly, and may become irregular and faint. Breathing may be difficult, or even very wet and bubbling, with coughing and froth in the mouth. Sometimes breathlessness and collapse may be the only effects. Keep the patient at rest. Provide a chair, loosen tight clothing, and send for medical aid. Keep crowds away, and ensure a supply of fresh air. Cover with a blanket for comfort and protection against cold.

#### **Heat (and cold)**

##### **Heat exhaustion**

Where copious sweating occurs in a hot atmosphere, the loss of fluid and minerals from the body may produce a state of weakness and collapse. The face is pale and ashen, the skin is moist, and the pulse is fast and weak. Muscles may go into cramp. Put the patient at rest in a cool place, in light clothes, and give him/her fruit juice, to which a pinch of salt has been added, to drink slowly.

##### **Heatstroke**

Where the ambient temperature is very hot, and the usual means of regulating body temperature by sweating and breathing off water vapour are insufficient, heatstroke may occur. This is a dangerous condition. The face is red, the skin hot and dry, the pulse is rapid and bounding, and the temperature may reach abnormal heights. Urgent measures are required to bring down the temperature – strip off the clothes, place patient in a cool room, pack round wet towels, ice, fans, to reduce the temperature to around 38–39°C, and then allow the temperature to fall more slowly to normal by keeping the patient in light cotton clothes, at rest, in cool surroundings.

##### **Cold (hypothermia)**

Old people and babies are less able to maintain normal temperature.

Illness, certain drugs, and unheated rooms often work in combination to produce hypothermia.

Normally warm areas of skin, eg armpits and groin, are cold to the touch. Other symptoms are pale skin (may be deceptively pink in babies), slowness of thought and speech, which is gruff, proceeding to coma, and death. Prevent heat loss by covering from head to foot in blanket. Do not use hot water bottles, or give alcohol. Give warm (not hot) drinks. Obtain medical aid.

#### **Nose**

Do not attempt to remove object placed in nose if it cannot be removed by gentle blowing. Consult a doctor.

#### **Poisoning**

##### **Corrosive substances**

All that can be done is to dilute the stomach contents by providing drinks of milk or water. Place in the recovery position while awaiting the ambulance. Never attempt to produce vomiting.

##### **General management**

Non-corrosive substances recently swallowed may be recovered by making the patient vomit. If he is conscious place the fingers or the back of a spoon down the throat, and repeat after giving half a tumbler of water.

Send urgently for medical aid. Keep for identification any empty container, or sample of vomit. Keep patient at rest, in the recovery position. Be prepared to resuscitate if he becomes unconscious. Remain with him until medical aid arrives.

#### **Household poisons to be kept out of reach of children**

All prescribed medicines, aspirin, alcohol, sleeping tablets, and iron tablets. Cleaning substances, bleach, lavatory, window and general purpose cleaners. Detergents, carpet cleaner, ammonia, perfumes and cosmetics. Fabric cleaners, sterilizing fluids, and conditioners. Soaps, scouring powders, liquids and creams. Polishes, lavatory blocks, dishwashing powder. Oven cleaning pads. All aerosols, glues, batteries. Cigarettes.

##### **Garden poisons**

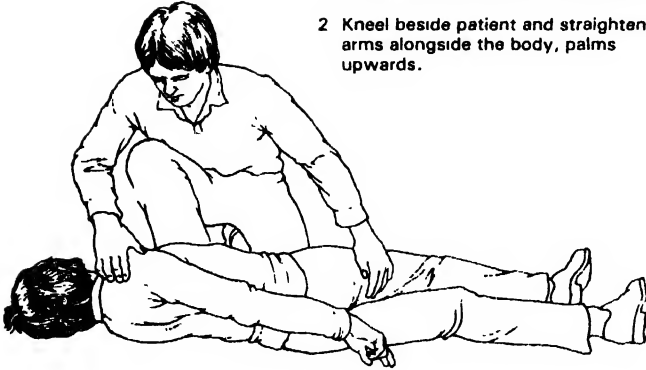
Garden sprays, weedkillers, liquid fertilizers. Seeds. Flowers and berries, eg yew, laburnum, deadly nightshade.

### Recovery position

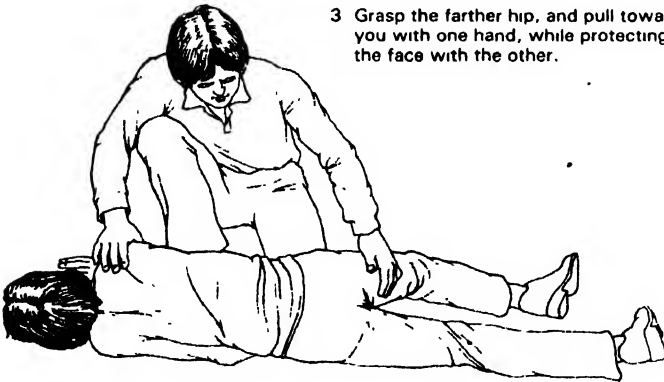
The recovery position ensures that blood reaches the brain, that the patient does not swallow his/her tongue if unconscious, and that saliva, blood or vomit do not produce choking.

To place a casualty in the recovery position:

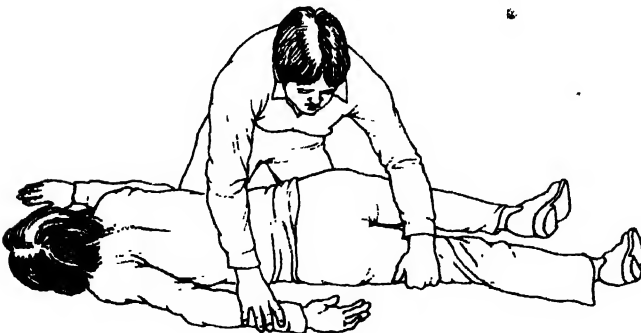
- 1 Loosen tight clothing, and remove hard or crushable objects from pockets.
- 2 Kneel beside patient and straighten the arms alongside the body, palms upwards.



- 3 Grasp the farther hip, and pull towards you with one hand, while protecting the face with the other.

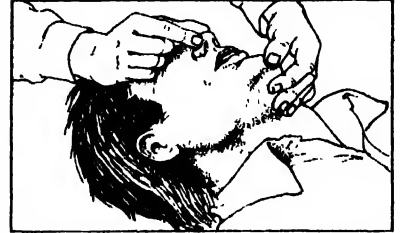


4. Adjust limbs in flexed position, and cover with blanket.

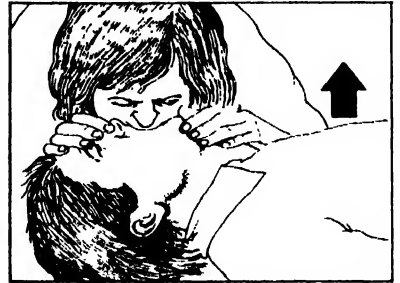


### Mouth to mouth ventilation

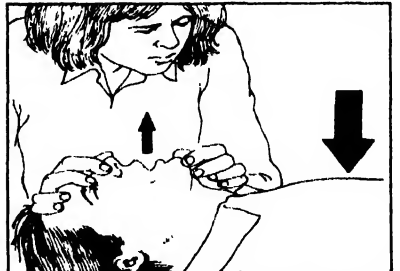
Pinch the casualty's nostrils as you take a deep breath



Seal your lips around the mouth and blow into it, observing from the corner of your eye that the chest rises. If the chest fails to rise, the airway is blocked and must be cleared



Remove your mouth to allow the chest to deflate. The escape of air is clearly audible. Inflate the lungs four times in succession rapidly, and then settle to a regular rate of one inflation every six seconds. Continue until breathing becomes spontaneous, and do not leave the casualty until the ambulance arrives



*In a child* Remember the greater capacity of an adult's lungs, and be guided by the rise in the child's chest which must not be filled beyond its smaller limit. *In a child* breathe into the nose and mouth with your mouth. *In a baby* blow gently.

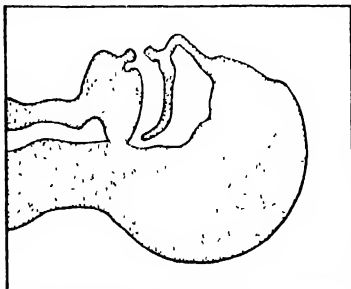


### Resuscitation

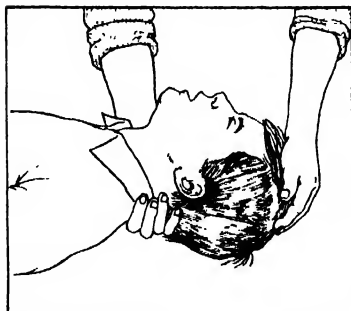
Where breathing has stopped the first priority is artificial respiration. When the face can be reached, and no facial injuries prevent it, the recommended method is mouth to mouth ventilation. This is an urgent procedure and seconds count. Lay the casualty on his/her back on a firm surface.

### Clearing the airway

Unless the airway is completely clear, any attempt at resuscitation will fail. Open the casualty's mouth and remove any obstructions, such as false teeth. If the tongue has fallen back, press the chin forward.



Tilt the head back fully



### Shock and fainting

Shock results from injury, blood loss, burns, fractures, and nervous causes. It is a dangerous condition of reduced vitality.

The casualty is pale, sweating, cold, with faint rapid pulse and shallow breathing. Comfort, confidence and reassurance with gentle handling must be supplied by the first aider to prevent the situation from worsening.

- 1 Stop severe bleeding.
- 2 Do not move casualty
- 3 Lay him/her down keeping the head low and the feet raised.
- 4 Loosen tight clothing
- 5 Ensure fresh air
- 6 Move crowd away.
- 7 Keep covered with blanket, but do not supply external heat
- 8 Moisten the mouth and lips, but do not give anything to drink.

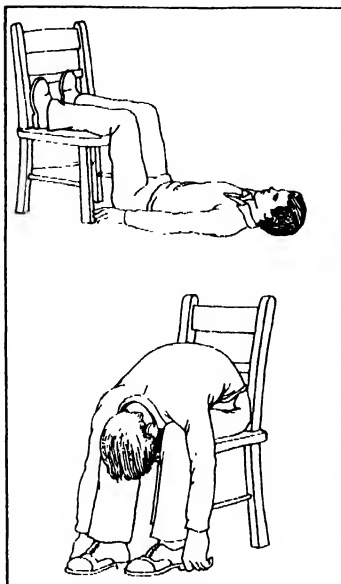
### Fainting

This occurs as a result of nervous shock, or when standing in hot oppressive circumstances.

The pulse is slow, and the patient may become fully unconscious. Do not try to lift him/her up, but raise the legs. Loosen tight clothing, ensure

a supply of cool air

Reassure patient as he/she recovers. In certain circumstances, if patient is sitting, put the head down between the knees.



### Unconsciousness

Causes of unconsciousness may not be clear – the casualty is helpless. Priority is to protect the airway, especially when the patient is on his/her back – fish out obstructions.

Then arrest any bleeding and dress any wounds.

Consider the possibility of other injuries, eg fractures.

If he/she can be moved, turn into the recovery position, but not if back injury might be present.

Never try to pour anything into the mouth. Be careful what you say for the patient may still be able to hear.

Treat the cause of unconsciousness if you know it.

Never leave the casualty unattended.

Remove to hospital, or ensure a medical check even if unconscious for a moment.

### Safety in the home

Every year a great number of serious accidents, and millions of minor ones, take place in the home. Children are particularly vulnerable to cuts, burns, and falls – care should be taken to protect them from likely hazards.

### Danger areas

**Garden** – always put garden tools away after use, and be especially careful when using electrical tools, eg hedge trimmers. Ponds, however shallow, constitute a danger to children.

**Kitchen** – electrical appliances should be wired correctly and checked often. Do not leave trailing leads, and turn saucepan handles inwards on the cooker. Knives and cleaning materials should be kept well out of reach of children.

**Living room** – never overload sockets with too many appliances or run cables under the carpet. Do not hang a mirror over the

fireplace, and fit a fireguard when children are about.

**Stairs** – keep well lit and free from obstructions. Safety gates, when fitted, should be at both top and bottom.

**Bathroom** – keep medicine cabinets locked. Be sure that no electrical appliance can be reached by anyone in the bath.

**Bedrooms** – windows of children's rooms should be fitted with safety bars. Do not put portable heaters too close to furniture and curtains. Have electric blankets serviced regularly by the manufacturer.

### First aid kit

scissors  
tweezers  
adhesive tape, or plasters  
bandage, and dressings  
gauze  
bandages, various, including cotton and triangular  
cotton wool  
eye pad  
lint dressing  
thermometers  
pocket flashlight  
first aid manual  
safety pins or bandage clips  
eyebath  
antiseptic preparations, eg alcohol  
aspirin and junior aspirin  
petroleum jelly  
calamine lotion  
sting lotion  
sting reliever  
indigestion remedy  
antihistamine cream  
nasal decongestant

Doctor

Address

Telephone


Nearest hospital

Telephone

- sea animals 2 a place or establishment for catching fish and other sea animals
- fish-eye** *adj* being, having, or produced by a wide-angle photographic lens that has a highly curved protruding front and covers an angle of about 180°
- fish-farm** *n* a tract of water used for the artificial cultivation of an aquatic life form (e.g. fishes)
- fish-finger** *n* a small oblong of fish coated with breadcrumbs
- fish-hawk** *n* OSPREY 1
- fish-hook** /-hook/ *n* a barbed hook used on the end of a line for catching fish
- fishing** /'fɪʃɪŋ/ *n* the sport or business of or a place for catching fish
- fish-kettle** *n* a usu deep long oval vessel used for cooking fish
- fish-ladder** *n* a series of pools arranged like steps by which fish can pass over a dam while going upstream
- fish-louse** *n* any of various small crustaceans parasitic on fish
- fish-meal** *n* ground dried fish used as fertilizer and animal food
- fish-monger** /-mʌŋg-ɡə/ *n*, chiefly Br a retail fish dealer
- fish-net** /-net/ *n* a coarse open-mesh fabric
- fish out** *vt* to exhaust the supply of fish in by overfishing
- fish-plate** /-pleɪt/ *n* a usu metal plate used to lap a butt joint [*'fish* + *'plate*]
- fish-slice** *n* 1 a broad-bladed knife for cutting and serving fish at table 2 a kitchen implement with a broad blade and long handle used esp for turning or lifting food in frying
- fish-way** /-weɪ/ *n* FISH LADDER
- fish-wife** /-wɪf/ *n* 1 a woman who sells or guts fish 2 a vulgar abusive woman
- fishy** /'fɪʃi/ *adj* 1 of or like fish, esp in taste or smell 2 creating doubt or suspicion; questionable – *infm*l
- fissile** /'fɪsiəl/ *adj* 1 capable of being split or cleft, having the property of cleavage 2 capable of undergoing (nuclear) fission [L *fissilis*, fr *fissus*] – *fissility* /'fɪsɪləti/ *n*
- fission** /'fɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a splitting or breaking up into parts 2 reproduction by spontaneous division into 2 or more parts each of which grows into a complete organism 3 the splitting of an atomic nucleus with the release of large amounts of energy  ENERGY [L *fission-*, *fissio*, fr *fissus*, pp of *findere* to split – more at BITE] – *fission* *vb*, *fissionable* *adj*, *fissional* *adj*, *fissionability* /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*
- fission bomb** *n* ATOM BOMB 1
- fissiparous** /'fɪsɪpərəs/ *adj* reproducing by fission [L *fissus* + E-*parous*] – *fissiparously* *adv*, *fissiparousness* *n*
- fissure** /'fɪʃə/ *n* 1 a narrow, long, and deep opening, usu caused by breaking or parting 2 a natural cleft between body parts or in the substance of an organ (e.g. the brain) [ME, fr MF, fr L *fissura*, fr *fissus*]
- fissure** *vb* to break into fissures
- fist** /fɪst/ *n* 1 the hand clenched with the fingers doubled into the palm and the thumb across the fingers 2 HAND 1a <get your ~s off my book> 3 an attempt that meets with the specified degree of success *USE* (2 & 3) *infm*l [ME, fr OE *fyst*; akin to OHG *fūst* fist, Oslav *pesti*]
- fist** *vt* to hit with the fist <the goalkeeper ~ed the ball clear>
- fisted** /-fɪstɪd/ *comb form* (*adj*, *n* → *adj*) having (such or so many) fists <(two-fisted) / (tighfisted)>
- fistful** /-fɪs(ə)l/ *n* a handful
- fisticuffs** /'fɪstɪkʊfs/ *n pl* the act or practice of fighting with the fists – no longer in vogue; humor [alter. of *fisty cuff*, fr obs *fisty* (related to boxing) + *'cuff*]
- fistula** /'fɪstjuːlə/ *n*, *pl fistulas*, *fistulae* /-li/ an abnormal or surgically made passage leading from an abscess or hollow organ to the body surface or between hollow organs [ME, fr L, pipe, fistula]
- fistulous** /-ləs/ *adj* 1 (having the form or nature) of a fistula 2 hollow like a pipe or reed
- fit** /fɪt/ *n*, *archaic* a division of a poem or song [ME, fr OE *fitt*; akin to OS *fitten* division of a poem, OHG *fizza* skein]
- fit** *n* 1a a sudden violent attack of a disease (e.g. epilepsy), esp when marked by convulsions or unconsciousness b a sudden but transient attack of a specified physical disturbance <a ~ of shivering> 2 a sudden outburst or flurry, esp of a specified activity or emotion <a ~ of letter-writing> [ME, fr OE *fitt* strife] – by/la *fits* and starts in a jerky, impulsive, or irregular manner
- fit** *adj* -*ti* -*tt* 1a(1) adapted or suited to an end or purpose (2) adapted to the environment so as to be capable of surviving b acceptable from a particular viewpoint (e.g. of competence, morality, or qualifications) 2a
- in a suitable state; ready b in such a distressing state as to be ready to do or suffer sthg specified <so tired I was ~ to drop> 3 HEALTHY 1 [ME; akin to ME *fitten*] – *fitly* *adv*, *fitness* *n*
- fit** *vb* *fit* also *fit*; -*tt* -*vt* 1 to be suitable for or to; harmonize with 2a to be of the correct size or shape for b to insert or adjust until correctly in place c(1) to cause to try on (clothes) in order to make adjustments in size (2) to make or find clothes of the right size for <it's difficult to ~ him because he's so short> d to make a place or room for, accommodate 3 to be in agreement or accord with <the theory ~s all the facts> 4a to put into a condition of readiness b to bring to a required form and size, adjust c to cause to conform to or suit sthg 5 to supply, equip – often + *out* 6 to adjust (a smooth curve of a specified type) to a given set of points 7 *archaic* to befit ~ *vi* 1 to conform to a particular shape or size 2 to be in harmony or accord, belong [ME *fitten*, fr or akin to MD *vitten* to be suitable; akin to OHG *fizza* skein]
- fit** *n* 1 the manner in which clothing fits the wearer 2 the degree of closeness with which surfaces are brought together in an assembly of parts 3 the conformity between an experimental result and theoretical expectation or between data and an approximating curve
- fitful** /'fɪt(ə)l/ *adj* having a spasmodic or intermittent character, irregular <~ sleep> [*'fit*] – *fitfully* *adv*, *fitfulness* *n*
- fitment** /'fɪtmənt/ *n* 1 a piece of equipment, esp an item of built-in furniture 2 *pl* FITTINGS 2 [*'fit*]
- fitter** /'fɪtə/ *n* sby who assembles or repairs machinery or appliances <a gas ~> [*'fɪt* + *-ER*]
- fitting** /'fɪtɪŋ/ *adj* appropriate to the situation <made a ~ answer> – *fittingly* *adv*, *fittingness* *n*
- fitting** *n* 1 a trying on of clothes which are in the process of being made or altered 2 a small often standardized part <a plumbing ~> <an electrical ~> [*'fɪt* + *-ING*]
- fit up** *vi* 1 *FIX UP* 2 Br *FRAME* 4a <was fitted up for the murder of the policeman> – *slang* – *fit-up* /- / *n*
- five** /fɪv/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 the fifth in a set or series <the ~ of clubs> 3 sthg having 5 parts or members or a denomination of 5 4 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* any of several games in which players hit a ball with their hands against the front wall of a 3- or 4-walled court [ME, fr *five*, *adj*, fr OE *fif*; akin to OHG *finfive*, L *quinque*, Gk *pente*] – *five* *adj* or *pron*, *fivefold* *adj* or *adv*
- five o'clock shadow** *n* a just visible beard-growth [fr the shadow-like appearance of dark beard stubble visible on a man's face by 5 pm]
- fiveer** /'fɪvə/ *n* a £5 or \$5 note, also the sum of £5 – *infm*l
- five-star** *adj* of the highest standard or quality <a ~ hotel>
- fix** /fiks/ *vt* 1a to make firm, stable, or stationary b(1) to change into a stable compound or available form <bacteria that ~ nitrogen> (2) to kill, harden, and preserve for microscopic study (3) to make the image of (a photographic film) permanent by removing unused sensitive chemicals c to fasten, attach 2 to hold or direct steadily <~es his eyes on the horizon> 3a to set or place definitely, establish b to assign <~ the blame> 4 to set in order; adjust 5a to repair, mend <~ the clock> b to restore, cure c to spay, castrate 6 chiefly NAM to get ready or prepare (esp food or drink) <can I ~ you a drink?> 7a to get even with – *infm*l b to influence by illicit means <the jury had been ~ed> – *infm*l – *vi* 1 to become firm, stable, or fixed 2 chiefly NAM to get ready; be about to <we're ~ing to leave soon> [ME *fixen*, fr L *fixus*, pp of *figere* to fasten – more at DYKE] – *fixable* *adj*
- fix** *n* 1 a position of difficulty or embarrassment; a trying predicament 2 (a determination of) the position (e.g. of a ship) found by bearings, radio, etc 3 sthg influenced by illicit means <the election was a ~> – *infm*l 4 a shot of a narcotic – *slang*
- fixate** /'fɪksaɪt/ *vi* 1 to make fixed, stationary, or unchanging; *FIX* 1a 2 to direct one's gaze on 3 to arrest the psychological development of at an infantile stage <he is ~d at the anal stage>
- fixation** /'fɪksaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an (obsessive or unhealthy) attachment or preoccupation 2 a concentration of the libido on infantile forms of gratification <~ at the oral stage> [FIXATE + *-ION*]
- fixative** /'fɪksətɪv/ *n* sthg that fixes or sets: e.g. a a substance added to a perfume, esp to prevent too rapid evaporation b a varnish used esp to protect crayon drawings c a substance used to fix living tissue – *fixative* *adj*
- fixed** /'fɪksɪd/ *adj* 1a securely placed or fastened, stationary b formed into a chemical compound <~ nitrogen> c not subject to or capable of change or fluctuation, settled <a ~ income> d intent, IMMOBILE 2 <a ~ stare> 2 supplied with sthg needed or desirable (e.g. money) <how are you ~?> – *infm*l – *fixedly* /-sɪdli/ *adv*, *fixedness* /-sɪdnəs/ *n* – no fixed abode no regular home

**fixed oil** *n* a nonvolatile (fatty) oil – compare ESSENTIAL OIL.

**'fixed-point** *adj* involving or being a mathematical notation (e.g. in a decimal system) in which the point separating whole numbers and fractions is fixed – compare FLOATING-POINT, SCIENTIFIC NOTATION

**fixed star** *n* any of the stars so distant that they appear to remain fixed relative to one another  SYMBOL

**fixer** /'fiksə/ *n* sby adept at bringing about a desired result (e.g. by enabling sby to get round the law or officialdom) ['FIX + -ER]

**fixings** /'fiksɪŋz/ *n* pl, *NAM* trimmings (a turkey dinner with all the ~) [fr gerund of 'fix]

**fixity** /'fiksəti/ *n* the quality or state of being fixed or stable

**fixtūre** /'fiksʃə/ *n* 1 fixing or being fixed 2a sthg fixed (e.g. to a building) as a permanent appendage or as a structural part b sthg so annexed to land or a building that it is regarded as legally a part of it 3 sby or sthg invariably present in a specified setting or long associated with a specified place or activity (now a ~ as the England wicket keeper) 4 (an esp sporting event held on) a settled date or time [modif of LL *fixura*, fr L *fixus*]

**fix up** *vt* to provide with, make the arrangements for – *infmt* [she fixed him up with a good job]

**'fizz** /fɪz/ *vi* to make a hissing or sputtering sound [prob imit]

**'fizz** *n* 1a a fizzing sound b spirit, liveliness 2 an effervescent beverage (e.g. champagne) – *infmt* – *fizzy* *adj*

**fizzle** /'fɪzl/ *vi* or *n* **fizzling** /'fɪzlɪŋ/ (to make) a weak fizzing sound [vb prob alter of *fist* (to break wind), *n* fr vb]

**fizzle out** *vi* to fail or end feebly, esp after a promising start – *infmt*

**fjeld** /'fyeld/ *n* a barren plateau of the Scandinavian upland [Dan]

**fjord** /'fjɑwd, 'fɛəwd/ *n* a fiord

**flab** /flʌb/ *n* soft flabby body tissue – *infmt* [back-formation fr *flabby*]

**flabbergast** /'flʌbəɡəst/ *vt* to overwhelm with shock or astonishment – *infmt* [prob alter of *flabby* + *aghast*]

**flabby** /'flʌbi/ *adj* 1 (having flesh) lacking resilience or firmness 2 ineffective, feeble [alter of *flappy*] – *flabbily* *adv*, *flabbiness* *n*

**flaccid** /'flæksɪd/ *adj* 1a lacking normal or youthful firmness, flabby (< ~ muscles) b *IMP* 1 – compare TURPID 1 2 lacking vigour or force [L *flaccidus*, fr *flaccus* flabby] – *flaccidly* *adv*, *flaccidity* /-'sɪdətɪ/ *n*

**'flag** /flæg/ *n* a (wild) iris or similar plant of damp ground with long leaves [ME *flagge* reed, rush]

**\*flag** *n* a (slab of) hard evenly stratified stone that splits into flat pieces suitable for paving [ME *flagge*, fr ON *flaga* slab, akin to OE *flēan* to flay – more at FLAY]

**\*flag** *vi* -*gg*- to lay (e.g. a pavement) with flags

**'flag** *n* 1 a usu rectangular piece of fabric of distinctive design that is used as a symbol (e.g. of a nation) or as a signalling device; esp one flown from a single vertical staff 2 NATIONALITY 3, esp the nationality of registration of a ship, aircraft, etc [perh fr 'flag]

**'flag** *vi* -*gg*- 1 to put a flag on (e.g. for identification) 2a to signal to (as if) with a flag b to signal to stop – *usu* – *down*

**'flag** *vi* -*gg*- 1 to hang loose without stiffness 2 to become feeble, less interesting, or less active, decline [perh fr obs *flag* (drooping), prob akin to *flaw* (sudden gust of wind)]

**'flag day** *n*, *Br* a day on which charitable contributions are solicited in exchange for small paper flags on pins or, more recently, stickers

**flagellant** /'flæjlənt/ *n* 1 a person who scourges him-/herself as a public penance 2a person who responds sexually to being beaten by or to beating another person [L *flagellanti*-, *flagellans*, prp of *flagellare* to whip] – *flagellanti* *adj*, *flagellanti* *n*

**'flagellate** /'flæjlət/ *vt* to whip or flog, esp as a religious punishment or for sexual gratification [L *flagellatus*, pp of *flagellare*, fr *flagellum*, dim. of *flagrum* whip, akin to ON *blaka* to wave] – *flagellation* /-'ləʃən/ *n*

**\*flagellate** /'flæjlət/, *flagellated* /-'ləɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 having flagella 2 shaped like a flagellum [NL *flagellatus*, fr *flagellum*]

**\*flagellate** /'flæjlət/ *n* a protozoan or algal cell that has a flagellum [NL *Flagellata*, class of unicellular organisms, fr neut pl of *flagellatus*]

**flagellum** /'flæjələm/ *n*, pl *flagella* /-'lə/ also *flagellums* any of various elongated filament-shaped appendages of plants or animals; esp one that projects singly or in groups and powers the motion of a microorganism [NL, fr L, whip, shoot of a plant] – *flagellar* *adj*

**'flageolet** /'flaʒə'let/ *n* a small fipple flute [F, fr OF *fajolet*, fr *flajol* flute, fr (assumed) VL *flabeolum*, fr L *flare* to blow – more at 'BLOW]

**\*flageolet** *n* FRENCH BEAN [F, modif of Prov *faioulet*, dim. of (assumed) OProv *faiol* kidney bean, fr (assumed) VL *fabolus*, alter. of L *phaseolus* kidney bean]

**flag of convenience** *n* the flag of a country in which a ship is registered in order to avoid the taxes and regulations of the ship-owner's home country

**'flag officer** *n* any of the officers in the navy or coast guard above captain [fr his being entitled to display a flag with 1 or more stars indicating his rank]

**flag of truce** *n* a white flag carried or displayed to an enemy as an invitation to conference or parley

**flagon** /'flæɡən/ *n* 1a a large usu metal or pottery vessel with handle and spout and often a lid, used esp for holding liquids at table b a large squat short-necked bottle, often with 1 or 2 ear-shaped handles, in which cider, wine, etc are sold 2 the contents of or quantity contained in a flagon [ME, fr MF *flacon*, *flacon* bottle, fr LL *flascōn*-, *flasco* – more at FLASK]

**'flag rank** *n* the rank of a flag officer

**flagrant** /'flæɡrənt/ *adj* conspicuously scandalous, outrageous (< ~ neglect of duty) [L *flagrant*-, *flagrans*, prp of *flagrare* to burn – more at BLACK] – *flagrance* /-'grəns/, *flagrancy* *n*, *flagrantly* *adv*

**flagrante delicto** /'flæɡrəntɪ dɪ'liktə/ *adv* IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO

**'flagship** /-'ʃɪp/ *n* 1 the ship that carries the commander of a fleet or subdivision of a fleet and flies his flag 2 the finest, largest, or most important one of a set

**'flag-waving** *n* passionate appeal to patriotic or partisan sentiment; jingoism – *flag-waver* *n*

**'flail** /'flaɪ/ *n* a threshing implement consisting of a stout short free-swinging stick attached to a wooden handle [ME *fleil*, *flail*, partly fr (assumed) OE *flēgel* (akin to OHG *flēgil* flail; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr LL *flagellum* flail, fr L, whip) & partly fr MF *flael*, fr LL *flagellum* – more at 'FLAGELLATE]

**\*flail** *vi* 1a to strike (as if) with a flail b to swing or beat as though wielding a flail (< ~ing his arms to ward off the insects) 2 to thresh (grain) with a flail ~ *vi* to wave, thrash – often + *about*

**flair** /'fleə/ *n* 1 discriminating sense, intuitive discernment, esp in a specified field (< a ~ for style) 2 natural aptitude; talent (< shows little ~ for the subject) 3 a uniquely attractive quality; esp sophistication or smartness (< she has a certain ~ about her) USE (1 & 2) *usu* + *for* [F, lit, sense of smell, fr OF, odour, fr *flairier* to give off an odour, fr LL *flagrare*, fr L *fragrare* – more at FRAGRANCE]

**flak** /'flæk/ *n* 1 the fire from antiaircraft guns 2 heavy criticism or opposition – *infmt* [G, fr *fliegerabwehrkanonen*, fr *flieger* flyer + *abwehr* defence + *kanonen* cannons]

**'flake** /'flaɪk/ *n* a platform, tray, etc for drying fish or produce [ME, hurdle, fr ON *flaki*, akin to OHG *flah* smooth, Gk *pelagos* sea, L *placere* to please – more at PLEASE]

**\*flake** *n* 1 a small loose mass or particle 2 a thin flattened piece or layer; a chip 3 a pipe tobacco of small irregularly cut pieces [ME, of Scand origin; akin to Norw *flak* disk]

**'flake** *vi* to come away in flakes – *usu* + *off* ~ *vt* 1 to form or separate into flakes; chip 2 to cover (as if) with flakes – *flaker* *n*

**flake out** *vi* to collapse or fall asleep from exhaustion – *infmt* [perh fr obs *flake* (to become languid), var of 'flag]

**'flak jacket** /'flæk/ *n* a jacket of heavy fabric containing shields (e.g. of metal or plastic) for protection, esp against enemy fire

**flaky** /'flaɪki/ *adj* 1 consisting of flakes 2 tending to flake – *flakiness* *n*

**flam** /flʌm/ *n* a drumbeat of 2 strokes, the first being a very quick grace note [prob imit]

**'flambé** /'flɒmbə/ (Fr *flûbe*) *adj*, of food sprinkled with brandy, rum, etc and ignited – used postpositively [F, fr pp of *flamber* to flame, singe, fr OF, fr *flambe* flame]

**\*flambé** *vt* **flambéed**; **flambéing** to sprinkle (food) with brandy, rum, etc and ignite

**flambeau** /'flæmbəʊ/ *n*, pl *flambeaux*, *flambeaus* /-'boh(z)/ a flaming torch, broadly TORCH 1 [F, fr MF, fr *flambe* flame]

**'flamboyant** /'flæmbɔɪnt/ *adj* 1 often *cap*, of architecture characterized by waving curves suggesting flames 2 ornate, florid; also resplendent 3 given to dashing display; ostentatious [F, fr prp of *flamboyer* to flame, fr OF, fr *flambe*] – *flamboyance* /-'ɒns/, *flamboyancy* *n*, *flamboyantly* *adv*

**\*flamboyant** *n* a showy tropical tree with scarlet and orange flowers

**'flame** /flaɪm/ *n* 1 (a tongue of) the glowing gaseous part of a fire 2a a state of blazing usu destructive combustion – often pl with sing, meaning (< the whole city was in ~s) b a condition or appearance suggesting a flame, esp in having red, orange, or yellow colour c bright reddish orange d brilliance, brightness 3 burning passion or love 4 a sweetheart – *usu* in *old flame* [ME *flaume*, *flaumbe*, fr MF *flamme* (fr L *flamma*) & *flambe*,

fr OF, fr *flamble*, fr L *flammula*, dim. of *flamma*, akin to L *flagrare* to burn – more at BLACK] – **flameless** *adj.* **flameproof** /-ˈpruːf/ *adj* or *vt.* **flamy** *adj*

**flame** *vi* 1 to burn with a flame; blaze 2 to break out violently or passionately <flaming with indignation> 3 to shine brightly like flame, glow ~ *vt* to treat or affect with flame. e.g. a to cleanse, sterilize, or destroy by fire b to flambé – **flamer** *n*

**flame** *cell* *n* a hollow cell that has a tuft of cilia and is part of the excretory system of various lower invertebrates

**flamenco** /flaˈmengkoh/ *n. pl* **flamencos** (music suitable for) a vigorous rhythmic dance (style) of the Andalusian gypsies [Sp, Flemish, like a gypsy, fr MD *Vlamin* Fleming]

**flame photometer** *n* a spectrophotometer for determining the concentration of metals from the spectrum lines formed when the metal-containing solution is vaporized in a very hot flame – **flame photometric** *adj.* **flame photometry** *n*

**flame thrower** /-ˈthroʊ-ə/ *n* a weapon that expels a burning stream of liquid

**flaming** /ˈflaɪmɪŋ/ *adj* 1 being in flames or on fire, blazing 2 resembling or suggesting a flame in colour, brilliance, or shape <~ red hair> 3 ardent, passionate <had a ~ row with the boss> 4 BLOODY 4 – slang – **flamingly** *adv*

**flamingo** /flaˈmɪŋɡoh/ *n. pl* **flamingos** also **flamingoes** any of several web-footed broad-billed aquatic birds with long legs and neck and rosy-white plumage with scarlet and black markings [Pg, fr Sp *flamenco*, prob fr OProv *flamenc*, fr *flama* flame, fr L *flamma*]


**flammable** /ˈflæməbl/ *adj* INFLAMMABLE 1 [L *flamma* to flame, set on fire, fr *flamma*] – **flammable** *n.* **flammability** /-məˈbɪləti/ *n*

**flan** /flan/ *n* 1 a pastry or cake case containing a sweet or savoury filling – compare QUICHE 2 the metal disc from which a coin, medal, etc is made [F, fr OF *flaon*, fr LL *fladon*, *flado* flat cake]

**flaneur** /flaˈnuh (Fr flaneːr)/ *n* an aimless person; an idler [F *flâneur*]

**flange** /flanʒ/ *n* a rib or rim for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object <a ~ on a pipe> [perh alter of *flanch* (a curving charge on a heraldic shield)]

**flange** *vt* to provide with a flange – **flanger** *n*

**flank** /flaŋk/ *n* 1 the (fleshy part of) the side, esp of a quadruped, between the ribs and the hip  MEAT 2a a side b the right or left of a formation [ME, fr OF *flanc*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *hlanca* lous, flank – more at LANK]


**flank** *vt* 1 to protect a flank of 2 to attack or threaten the flank of 3 to be situated at the side of, border

**flanker** /ˈflaŋkə/ *n* a player (e.g. in rugby) positioned on the outside of the forward line [ˈFLANK + ˈ-ER]

**flannel** /ˈflænɪ/ *n* 1a a twilled loosely woven wool or worsted fabric with a slightly napped surface b a stout cotton fabric usu napped on 1 side 2 *pl* garments of flannel; esp men's trousers 3 *Br* a cloth used for washing the skin, esp of the face 4 chiefly *Br* flattering talk; also nonsense – infml [ME *flaunneol* woollen cloth or garment] – **flannel** *adj.* **flannelly** *adj*

**flannel** *vb* -ll- (NAm -ll-, -ll-) /ˈflænɪŋ/ chiefly *Br* *vi* to speak or write flannel, esp with intent to deceive ~ *vt* to make (one's way) or persuade (sby) to one's advantage by flannelling USE infml

**flannelette** /ˈflæniˈet/ *n* a napped cotton flannel

**flap** /flap/ *n* 1 a stroke with sth broad; a slap 2 sth broad or flat, flexible or hinged, and usu thin, that hangs loose or projects freely. e.g. a an extended part forming a closure (e.g. of an envelope or carton) b a movable control surface on an aircraft wing for increasing lift or drag  FLIGHT 3 the motion of sth broad and flexible (e.g. a sail); also an instance of the up-and-down motion of a wing (e.g. of a bird) 4 a state of excitement or panicky confusion, an uproar – infml [ME *flappe*, prob of imit origin]

**flap** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to beat (as if) with a flap 2 to (cause to) move in flaps ~ *vi* 1 to sway loosely, usu with a noise of striking and esp when moved by the wind 2a to beat (sthg suggesting) wings b esp of wings to beat c to progress by flapping d to flutter ineffectively 3 to be in a flap or panic – infml

**flapdoodle** /ˈflæpdooɪdl/ *n* nonsense – infml [origin unknown]


**flapjack** /-ˈjak/ *n* 1 a thick pancake 2 a biscuit made with oats and syrup [ˈflap + Jack (the name)]

**flapper** /ˈflæpə/ *n* 1a an implement that can be flapped (e.g. to scare birds or swat flies) b FLIPPER 1 2 a young woman; specif an emancipated girl of the period of WW I and the twenties – infml [ˈFLAP + ˈ-ER]

**flare** /fleə/ *vi* 1 to burn with an unsteady flame 2a to shine or blaze with a sudden flame b to become suddenly and often violently excited, angry,

or active 3 to open or spread outwards, esp to widen gradually towards the lower edge ~ *vt* 1 to cause to flare 2 to provide with a flare <a ~ d skirt> USE (vi 2) usu + up [origin unknown]

**flare** *n* 1 a (sudden) unsteady glaring light or flame 2a (a device or substance used to produce) a fire or blaze of light used to signal, illuminate, or attract attention b a temporary outburst of energy (1) from a small area of the sun's surface (2) from a star 3 a sudden outburst (e.g. of sound, excitement, or anger) 4 a spreading outwards; also a place or part that spreads <jeans with wide ~s> 5 light resulting from reflection (e.g. between lens surfaces)

**flare,stack** /-ˈstæk/ *n* a device (e.g. at an oil well) for burning unwanted material  ENERGY

**flare-up** *n* an instance of sudden activity, emotion, etc <a new ~ of border disputes>

**flash** /flaʃ/ *vi* 1 of flowing water to rush, dash 2a to burst violently into flames b to break forth in or like a sudden flame or flare <lightning ~ ing in the sky> 3a to appear suddenly <an idea ~ es into her mind> b to move (as if) with great speed <the days ~ by> 4a to break forth or out so as to make a sudden display <the sun ~ ed from behind a cloud> b to act or speak vehemently and suddenly, esp in anger – often + out 5a to give off light suddenly or in transient bursts b to glow or gleam, esp with animation or passion <his eyes ~ ed in a sinister fashion> 6 to commit the offence of indecent exposure – slang ~ *vt* 1a to cause the sudden appearance or reflection of (esp light) b(1) to cause (e.g. a mirror) to reflect light (2) to cause (a light) to flash c to convey by means of flashes of light 2a to make known or cause to appear with great speed <~ a message on the screen> b to display ostentatiously <always ~ ing his money around> c to expose to view suddenly and briefly <~ ing a shy smile> [ME *flaschen*, of imit origin]

**flash** *n* 1 a sudden burst of light <a ~ of lightning> 2 a sudden burst of perception, emotion, etc <had a ~ of intuition> 3 a short time <I'll be back in a ~> 4 an esp vulgar or ostentatious display 5 a rush of water released to permit passage of a boat 6a a brief look, a glimpse b a brief news report, esp on radio or television c FLASHLIGHT 2, also flashlight photography d a quick-spreading flame or momentary intense outburst of radiant heat 7 a thin ridge on a cast or forged article, resulting from the hot metal, plastic, etc penetrating between the 2 parts of the mould 8 an immediate brief pleasurable feeling resulting from an intravenous injection (e.g. of heroin) 9 an indecent exposure of the genitals USE (8 & 9) slang

**flash** *adj* 1 of sudden origin or onset and usu short duration <a ~ fire>, also carried out very quickly <~ freezing> 2 flashy, showy – infml

**flash,back** /-ˈbæk/ *n* 1 (an) interruption of chronological sequence in a literary, theatrical, or cinematic work by the evocation of earlier events 2 a burst of flame back or out to an unwanted position (e.g. in a furnace)

**flash,bulb** /-ˈbʌlb/ *n* an electric flash lamp in which metal foil or wire is burned

**flash,card** *n* a card bearing words, numbers, etc for brief display as a learning aid

**flash,cube** /-ˈkyoʊb/ *n* a small cube incorporating 4 flashbulbs for taking 4 photographs in succession

**flasher** /ˈflæʃə/ *n* 1a a light (e.g. a traffic signal or car light) that catches the attention by flashing b a device for automatically flashing a light 2 one who commits the offence of indecent exposure – slang [ˈFLASH + ˈ-ER]

**flash flood** *n* a brief but heavy local flood usu resulting from rainfall

**flash,gun** /-ˈɡʌn/ *n* a device for holding and operating a photographic flashlight

**flashing** /ˈflæʃɪŋ/ *n* sheet metal used in waterproofing a roof or the angle between a vertical surface and a roof [fr gerund of *flash* (to cover with a thin layer)]

**flash in the pan** *n* (sby or sth having) a sudden success that appears promising but turns out to have no lasting significance [fr the firing of the priming in the pan of a flintlock musket without discharging the piece]



**flash,lamp** *n* 1 a portable flashing light 2 a usu electric lamp for producing flashlight for taking photographs

**flash,light** /-ˈli:t/ *n* 1 a usu regularly flashing light used for signalling (e.g. in a lighthouse) 2 (a photograph taken with) a sudden bright artificial light used in taking photographic pictures 3 chiefly NAm an electric torch

**flash,over** /-ˈohvə/ *n* an abnormal electrical discharge

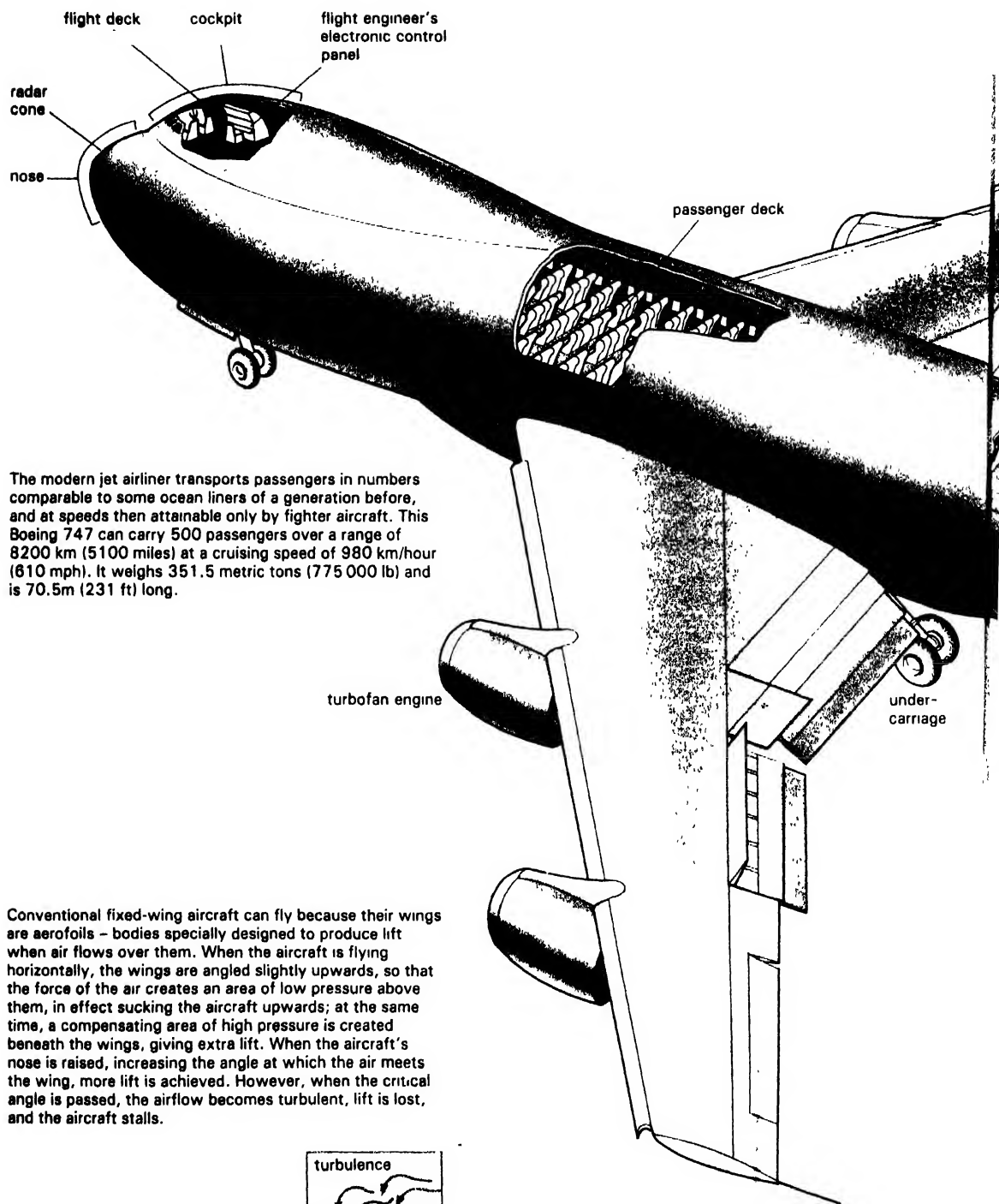
**flash,point** *n* 1 the temperature at which vapour from a volatile

- substance ignites 2 a point at which sby or sthg bursts suddenly into (violent) action
- 'flash,tube** /-tyoohb/ *n* a gas discharge tube that produces very brief intense flashes of light and is used esp in photography
- flashy** /'flashi/ *adj* 1 superficially attractive; temporarily brilliant or bright 2 ostentatious or showy, esp beyond the bounds of good taste - **flashily** *adv*, **flashiness** *n*
- flask** /'flask/ *n* 1 a broad flat bottle, usu of metal or leather-covered glass, used to carry alcohol or other drinks on the person 2 any of several conical, spherical, etc narrow-necked usu glass containers used in a laboratory 3 VACUUM FLASK [MF *flasque* powder flask, deriv of LL *flascon-*, *flasco* bottle, prob of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *flaska* bottle]
- 'flat** /'flat/ *adj* -tt- 1 having a continuous horizontal surface 2a lying at full length or spread out on a surface; prostrate b resting with a surface against sthg 3 having a broad smooth surface and little thickness, also shallow <a ~ dish> 4a clearly unmistakable; downright <gave a ~ denial> b(1) fixed, absolute <charged a ~ rate> (2) exact <got to work in 10 minutes ~> 5a lacking animation, dull, monotonous; also inactive <trade is a bit ~ just now> b having lost effervescence or sparkle <~ beer> 6a of a tyre lacking air; deflated b of a battery completely or partially discharged 7a of a musical note lowered a semitone in pitch b lower than the proper musical pitch 8a having a low trajectory <threw a fast ~ ball> b of a tennis ball or shot hit squarely without spin 9a uniform in colour b of a painting lacking illusion of depth c(1) of a photograph lacking contrast (2) of lighting for photography not emphasizing shadows or contours d esp of paint having a matt finish [ME, fr ON *flatr*; akin to OHG *flaz* flat, Gk *platys* - more at PLACE] - **flatly** *adv*, **flatness** *n*, **flatish** *adj*
- 'flat** *n* 1 an area of level ground, a plain - often pl with sing. meaning 2 a flat part or surface <the ~ of one's hand> 3 (a character indicating) a musical note 1 semitone lower than a specified or particular note - **FLAT MUSIC**: 4a a flat piece of theatrical scenery b any of the sides of a nut or bolt head 5 a flat tyre 6 often *cap* the flat-racing season <the end of the ~>
- 'flat** *adv* 1 positively, uncompromisingly <turned the offer down ~> 2a on or against a flat surface b so as to be spread out, at full length <fell ~ on the ground> 3 below the proper musical pitch 4 wholly, completely <~ broke> - **infml**
- 'flat** *vb* -tt- to flatten
- 'flat** *n* a self-contained set of rooms used as a dwelling [alter. of Sc *flat* floor, dwelling, fr OE, akin to ON *flatr* level, flat] - **flatlet** /-lit/ *n*
- 'flat** /'feet *n* pl but sing or pl in constr a condition in which the arches of the insteps of the feet are flattened so that the entire sole rests on the ground
- 'flat,fish** /-fish/ *n* any of an order of marine fishes (e.g. the flounders and soles) that swim on one side of the flattened body and have both eyes on the upper side
- 'flat,foot** /-foot/ *n*, pl **flatfeet** /-feet/ a policeman - **slang**
- 'flat,footed** /-footid/ *adj* affected with flat feet - **flat-footedly** *adv*
- 'flat,iron** /-je-əm/ *n* IRON 2c, esp one heated on a fire, stove, etc
- 'flat,mate** /-mayt/ *n*, Br one who shares a flat with another
- 'flat,out** *adv* at maximum speed, capacity, or performance - **flat-out** *adv*, chiefly Br
- 'flat,race** *n* a race, usu for horses, on a level course without obstacles - compare HURDLE 2b, STEEPCHASE 1 - **flat-racing** *n*
- 'flat,spin** *n* 1 an aerial manoeuvre or flight condition consisting of a spin in which the aircraft is roughly horizontal 2 a state of extreme agitation - **infml**
- flatten** /'flat(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to make flat 2 to lower in pitch, esp by a semitone 3 to beat or overcome utterly <got ~ ed in the annual cricket match> - **infml** ~ *vi* to become flat or flatter: e.g. a to extend in or into a flat position or form <hills ~ing into coastal plains> - often + *out* b to become uniform or stabilized, often at a new lower level - usu + *out* - **flattener** *n*
- flatten out** *vi*, of an aircraft to assume a position with the wings and fuselage parallel to the ground
- 'flatter** /'flata/ *vt* 1 to praise excessively, esp from motives of self-interest or in order to gratify another's vanity 2 to raise the hope of or gratify, often groundlessly or with intent to deceive <I was ~ ed by the invitation> 3a(1) to portray or represent (too) favourably <always paints pictures that ~ his subjects> (2) to display to advantage <candlelight often ~s the face> b to judge (oneself) (too) favourably <I ~ myself I am not a fool> ~ *vi* to flatter sby or sthg [ME *flateren*, fr OF *flater* to lick, flatter, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *flaz* flat] - **flatterer** *n*, **flatteringly** *adv*, **flattery** *n*
- 'flat,tye** /'flati/ *n* a low-heeled usu walking shoe ['flat + -ie]
- 'flat,top** /-top/ *n*, chiefly NAm AIRCRAFT CARRIER
- flatulent** /'flatyoolənt/ *adj* 1 causing, marked by, or affected with accumulation of flatus 2 pretentious without real worth or substance; turgid [MF, fr L *flatus* act of blowing, act of breaking wind, fr *flatus*, pp of *flare* to blow - more at 'BLOW] - **flatulence**, **flatulency** *n*, **flatulently** *adv*
- flatus** /'flaytas/ *n* gas generated in the stomach or intestines [L]
- 'flat,ways** /-wayz/ *adv* with the flat surface presented in a specified or implied position
- 'flat,wise** /-wiez/ *adv*, chiefly NAm flatways
- 'flat,worm** /-wuhm/ *n* a platyhelminth
- 'flaunching** /'flawnching/ *n* a slope (e.g. of concrete) given to the top of a chimney to shed rain [*flanch*, *flaunch* (to slant, flare), perh fr F *flanc* flank] - **flaunch** *vb* or *n*
- flaunt** /'lawnt/ *vi* 1 to wave or flutter proudly <the flag ~s in the breeze> 2 to parade or display oneself to public notice ~ *vt* 1 to display ostentatiously or impudently; parade <~ing his superiority> 2 to flout - nonstandard [prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *flana* to rush about - more at PLANET] - **flauntingly** *adv*, **flaunty** *adj*
- flautist** /'flawtist/ *n* one who plays a flute [It *flautista*, fr *flauto* flute, fr OProv *flaut*]
- flavescent** /'fləves(ə)nt/ *adj* (turning) slightly yellow [L *flavescent-*, *flavescens*, prp of *flavescere* to turn yellow, fr *flavus*]
- flavin** /'flayvin/ *n* any of several yellow pigments occurring as part of the coenzymes of flavoproteins [ISV, fr L *flavus* yellow - more at BLUE]
- flavine** /'flayvin/ *n* acriflavine or a similar yellow dye used as an antiseptic [ISV, fr L *flavus*]
- flavoprotein** /'flayvoh'prohtein/ *n* an enzyme that contains a flavin and often a metal and plays a major role in biological oxidation reactions [ISV *flavin* + -o- + *protein*]
- 'flavour**, NAm chiefly *flavor* /'flayvə/ *n* 1 the blend of taste and smell sensations evoked by a substance in the mouth, also a distinctive flavour <condiments give ~ to food> 2 characteristic or predominant quality <the newspaper retains a sporting ~> [ME *flavour*, fr (assumed) MF *flavour*, fr OF *flavor*, alter. of *flaur*, *flaur*, fr (assumed) VL *flator*, fr L *flare* to blow] - **flavourful** *adj*, **flavourless** *adj*, **flavoursome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj*
- 'flavour**, NAm chiefly *flavor* *vt* to give or add flavour to - **flavouring** /'flayv(ə)rɪŋ/ *n*
- flaw** /'flaw/ *n* 1 a blemish, imperfection 2 a usu hidden defect (e.g. a crack) that may cause failure under stress <a ~ in a bar of steel> 3 a weakness in sthg immaterial <a ~ in his argument> 4 a fault in a legal paper that may invalidate it [ME, prob of Scand origin; akin to Sw *flaga* flake, *flaw*, akin to OE *flæan* to flay] - **flaw** *vb*, **flawless** *adj*, **flawlessly** *adv*, **flawlessness** *n*
- flax** /'flaks/ *n* 1 (a plant related to or resembling) a slender erect blue-flowered plant cultivated for its strong woody fibre and seed 2 the fibre of the flax plant, esp when prepared for spinning [ME, fr OE *flæx*; akin to OHG *flahs* flax, L *plectere* to braid - more at PLY]
- flaxen** /'flaks(ə)n/ *adj* 1 made of flax 2 resembling flax, esp in being a pale soft straw colour <~ hair>
- flaxseed** /'flaks,seed/ *n* linseed
- flay** /'flay/ *vt* 1 to strip off the skin or surface of; also to whip savagely 2a to strip of possessions, SKIN 3 b to criticize or censure harshly [ME *flen*, fr OE *flēan*, akin to ON *flā* to flay, Lith *plešti* to tear]
- 'F layer** /'ef/ *n* the highest and most densely ionized layer of the ionosphere
- flea** /'fleə/ *n* 1 any of an order of wingless bloodsucking jumping insects that feed on warm-blooded animals 2 FLEA BEETLE [ME *fle*, fr OE *flea*; akin to OHG *flōh* flea, OE *fleon* to flea] - with a flea in one's ear with a usu embarrassing reprimand <sent off with a flea in his ear>
- 'flea,bag** /-bag/ *n* 1 a dirty or neglected person or animal 2 chiefly NAm an inferior hotel or lodging USE **infml**
- 'flea,bane** /-bayn/ *n* any of various composite plants that were once supposed to drive away fleas
- flea beetle** *n* a small jumping beetle that feeds on foliage
- 'flea,bite** /-bi:t/ *n* a trifling problem or expense - **infml** [flea + bite]
- 'flea,bitten** *adj* 1 of a (light-coloured) horse's coat flecked with chestnut or brown 2 shabby, run-down - **infml**
- 'flea,market** *n* a usu open-air market selling secondhand articles and antiques [trans of F *Marché aux Puces*, a market in Paris]
- 'flea,pit** /-pit/ *n*, chiefly Br a shabby cinema or theatre - **infml** or humor [flea + pit]
- fièche** /'flesh (Fr fle)/ *n* a slender usu wooden spire rising from the ridge of a roof [F, lit., arrow]

- fle'chette** /fle'shet/ *n* a small dart-shaped projectile that can be fired from a gun or clustered in a warhead [F, fr dim of *flèche* arrow]
- 'fleck** /flek/ *vt* to mark or cover with flecks; streak [back-formation fr *flecked* spotted, fr ME, prob fr ON *flekkötr*, fr *flekk* spot]
- \*fleck** *n* 1 a small spot or mark, esp of colour 2 a grain, particle
- flection** /'fleksh(ə)n/ *n* (a) flexion
- fledge** /fledʒ/ *vt* 1 to rear until ready for flight or independent activity 2 to cover (as if) with feathers or down 3 to feather (esp an arrow) [*fledge* (capable of flying), fr ME *flegge*, fr OE *-flycge*; akin to OHG *flucki* capable of flying, OE *fléogan* to fly – more at 'FLY]
- fledgling, fledgeling** /'fledʒ(ə)lɪŋ/ *n* 1 a young bird just fledged 2 an inexperienced person
- flee** /flee/ *vb* fled /fled/ *vi* 1 to run away from danger, evil, etc 2 to pass away swiftly; vanish (*mists ~ ing before the rising sun*) ~ *vt* to run away from; shun [ME *flen*, fr OE *fléon*; akin to OHG *flōhan* to flee]
- 'fleece** /fleez/ *n* 1a the coat of wool covering a sheep or similar animal b the wool obtained from a sheep at 1 shearing 2a a soft or woolly covering like a sheep's fleece (< a ~ of snow lay on the ground) b a soft bulky deep-piled fabric used chiefly for lining coats [ME *flees*, fr OE *fleas*, akin to MHG *vliu* fleece, L *pluma* feather, down] – *fleeced* *adj*, *fleecey* *adj*
- \*fleece** *vt* to strip of money or property, usu by fraud or extortion, esp to overcharge – *infrm* ['fleece; lit., to remove (a fleece) by shearing or plucking]
- 'fleet** /flee/ *vi* to fly swiftly, pass rapidly (< clouds ~ ing across the sky) [ME *fleten*, fr OE *flēotan* to float, swim, akin to OHG *fliozzan* to float, OE *flōwan* to flow]
- \*fleet** *n* 1 a number of warships under a single command 2 often *cap* a country's navy – *usu* + *the* 3 a group of ships, aircraft, lorries, etc owned or operated under one management [ME *flete*, fr OE *flēot* ship, fr *flēotan*]
- \*fleet** *adj* swift in motion; nimble [prob fr 'fleece] – *fleetly* *adv*, *fleetness* *n*
- fleet admiral** *n*  RANK
- Fleet Air Arm** *n* the branch of the Royal Navy that maintains and operates naval aircraft
- fleet chief petty officer** *n*  RANK
- fleeting** /'fleeɪŋ/ *adj* passing swiftly, transitory – *fleetingly* *adv*, *fleetingness* *n*
- 'Fleet Street** *n* the national London-based press [Fleet Street, London, centre of the London newspaper district]
- Fleming** /'flemɪŋ/ *n* a member of the Germanic people inhabiting Flanders [ME, fr MD *Vlaming*, fr *Vlam-* (as in *Vlamlant* Flanders)]
- 'Flemish** /'flemɪʃ/ *adj* of Flanders, the Flemings, or Flemish
- \*Flemish** *n* 1 the Germanic language of the Flemings  LANGUAGE 2 *pl* in constr Flemings
- Flemish bond** *n* a method of laying bricks in which each row consists of alternating headers and stretchers  BUILDING
- Flemish horse** *n* a short rope suspended from the end of the yard of a sailing ship, on which a seaman stands when reefing or furling the sails  SHIP
- flense** /'flems/ *vt* to strip (e.g. a whale) of blubber or skin [D *flensen* or Dan & Norw *flense*]
- 'flesh** /flesh/ *n* 1a the soft, esp muscular, parts of the body of a (vertebrate) animal as distinguished from visceral structures, bone, hide, etc b excess weight; fat 2 the edible parts of an animal; esp the muscular tissue of any animal *usu* excluding fish and sometimes fowl 3a the physical being of humans (< the spirit indeed is willing, but the ~ is weak – Mt 26:41 (AV)) b the physical or sensual aspect of human nature (< pleasures of the ~) 4a human beings; humankind – esp in *all flesh* b living beings generally c kindred, stock (*one's own ~*) 5 a fleshy (edible) part of a plant or fruit [ME, fr OE *flæsc*; akin to OHG *flesk* flesh] – *in the flesh* in bodily form; *IN PERSON*
- \*flesh** *vt* 1 to feed (e.g. a hawk or hound) with flesh from the kill to encourage interest in the chase; *broadly* to initiate or habituate, esp by giving a foretaste 2 to clothe or cover (as if) with flesh; *broadly* to give substance to (< ~ ed his argument out with solid fact) – *usu* + *out* ~ *vi* to become (more) fleshy or substantial – *usu* + *out*
- flesh and blood** *n* 1 human nature (< such neglect was more than ~ could stand) 2 near kindred – chiefly in *one's own flesh and blood* 3 substance, body (< attempting to give ~ to nebulous ideas)
- 'flesh-colour** *adj* or *n* pinkish white with a slight yellow tint – *flesh-coloured* *adj*
- fleshed** *comb form* (– *adj*) having (such) flesh (< pink-fleshed)
- 'flesh fly** *n* a fly whose maggots feed on flesh
- fleshings** /'fleshɪŋz/ *n pl* flesh-coloured tights worn by dancers and actors
- fleshly** /'fleshli/ *adj* carnal
- 'flesh,pot** /-pɒt/ *n* 1 *pl* bodily comfort or good living, luxury – *usu* + *the* 2 a nightclub or similar place of entertainment (< a tour of the city's ~s) – *usu pl*
- 'flesh wound** *n* an injury involving penetration of body muscle without damage to bones or internal organs
- fleshy** /'feshi/ *adj* 1a consisting of or resembling flesh b marked by (abundant) flesh, esp corpulent 2 succulent, pulpy – *fleshiness* *n*
- fletch** /'fletʃ/ *vt* FLEDGE 3 [back-formation fr *fletcher*]
- fletcher** /'fletʃə/ *n* one who makes arrows [ME *fleccher*, fr OF *flechier*, fr *fleche* arrow]
- fletton** /'flet(ə)n/ *n* a type of brick [Fletton, district in Cambridgeshire, England]
- fleur de coin** /'fluː də 'kwɪn/ (*Fr* fleur də kwē)/ *adj*, of a coin preserved in mint condition [F à fleur de coin, lit., with the bloom of the die]
- fleur-de-lis, fleur-de-lys** /'fluː də 'lee/ *n, pl* fleurs-de-lis, fleur-de-lis, fleurs-de-lys, fleur-de-lys /lee(z)/ 1 IRIS 2 2 a conventionalized iris in art and heraldry [ME *flourdelis*, fr MF *flor de lis*, lit., lily flower]
- fleuron** /'flooʊrən, -rən, 'fluː-/ *n* a flower-shaped ornament used for decorative effect (e.g. in architecture, printing, and cooking) [F, fr MF *floron*, fr *flor*, *flour*, *flur* flower]
- flew** /'fluː/ *past* of FLY
- flews** /'fluːz/ *n pl* the drooping side parts of the upper lip of a bloodhound or similar dog [origin unknown]
- 'flex** /fleks/ *vt* 1 BLEND 1 2a to bend (a limb or joint) b to move (a muscle or muscles) so as to flex a limb or joint [L *flexus*, pp of *flectere*]
- \*flex** *n*, chiefly Br a length of flexible insulated electrical cable used in connecting a portable electrical appliance to a socket [short for *flexible* (cord)]
- flexible** /'fleksəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being bent, pliant 2 yielding to influence, tractable 3 capable of changing in response to new conditions, versatile (< a highly ~ curriculum) – *flexibility* /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*, *flexibly* *adv*
- flexion** also *flection* /'fleksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 flexing or being flexed 2 a bent part, a bend 3 a bending of (a joint between the bones of) a limb [L *flexion-*, *flexio*, fr *flexus*, pp of *flectere*]
- flexitime** /'fleksɪtɪm/ *n* a system in Britain whereby employees work a set total of hours per week or month but can choose from a *usu* limited range of daily starting and finishing times [flexible + time]
- flexography** /'fleksə'grəfi/ *n* a process of rotary letterpress printing using flexible rubber plates and quick-drying inks [flexible + -o- + -graphy] – *flexographic* /'fleksə'grəfɪk/ *adj*, *flexographically* *adv*
- flexor** /'fleksə/ *n* a muscle that produces flexion
- flexuous** /'fleksyooəs/ *adj* having turns or windings [L *flexuosus*, fr *flexus* bend, fr *flexus*, pp] – *flexuously* *adv*
- flexure** /'flekʃə/ *n* 1 FLEXION 1 2 a turn or fold – *flexural* *adj*
- flibbertigibbet** /'flɪb(ə)'tɪɡɪbɪt/ *n* a flighty or garrulous woman – *infrm* [ME *flepergebet*, perh of imit origin]
- 'flick** /flɪk/ *n* a light jerky movement or blow [imit]
- \*flick** *vt* 1a to strike lightly with a quick sharp motion b to remove with flicks – *usu* + *away* or *off* 2 to cause to move with a flick (< the cow ~ ed its tail from side to side) ~ *vi* 1 to move lightly or jerkily, dart 2 to direct a flick at sthg – *flick through* LEAF THROUGH
- \*flick** *n* 1 FILM 4b 2 (a showing of a film at) a cinema – + *the*; *usu pl USE* *infrm* [short for 'flicker]
- 'flicker** /'flɪkə/ *vi* 1 to move irregularly or unsteadily, quiver 2 to burn fitfully or with a fluctuating light 3 to appear or be present irregularly or indistinctly 4 of a light to fluctuate in intensity ~ *vt* to cause to flicker [ME *fliker*, fr OE *flīcorian* – *flickeringly* /'flɪk(ə)rɪŋɡli/ *adv*
- \*flicker** *n* 1 a flickering (movement or light) 2 a momentary quickening or stirring (< a ~ of interest) – *flickery* /'flɪk(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- 'flick-knife** *n* a pocket knife with a blade that flicks open when required
- flier, flyer** /'flee-/ *n* 1 sby or sthg that moves very fast 2 an airman ['FLY + -ER]
- 'flight** /flaɪ/ *n* 1a a passage through the air using wings  b the ability to fly 2a(1) a passage or journey through air or space; *specif* any such flight scheduled by an airline (2) the distance covered in such a flight b the trajectory of a struck or bowled ball; *esp* a relatively high curve imparted to a bowled ball in cricket c swift movement 3 a group of similar creatures or objects flying through the air 4 a brilliant, imaginative, or unrestrained exercise or display (< a ~ of fancy) 5 (a series of locks, hurdles, etc resembling) a continuous series of stairs from one landing or

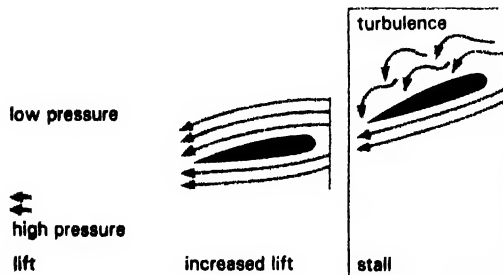


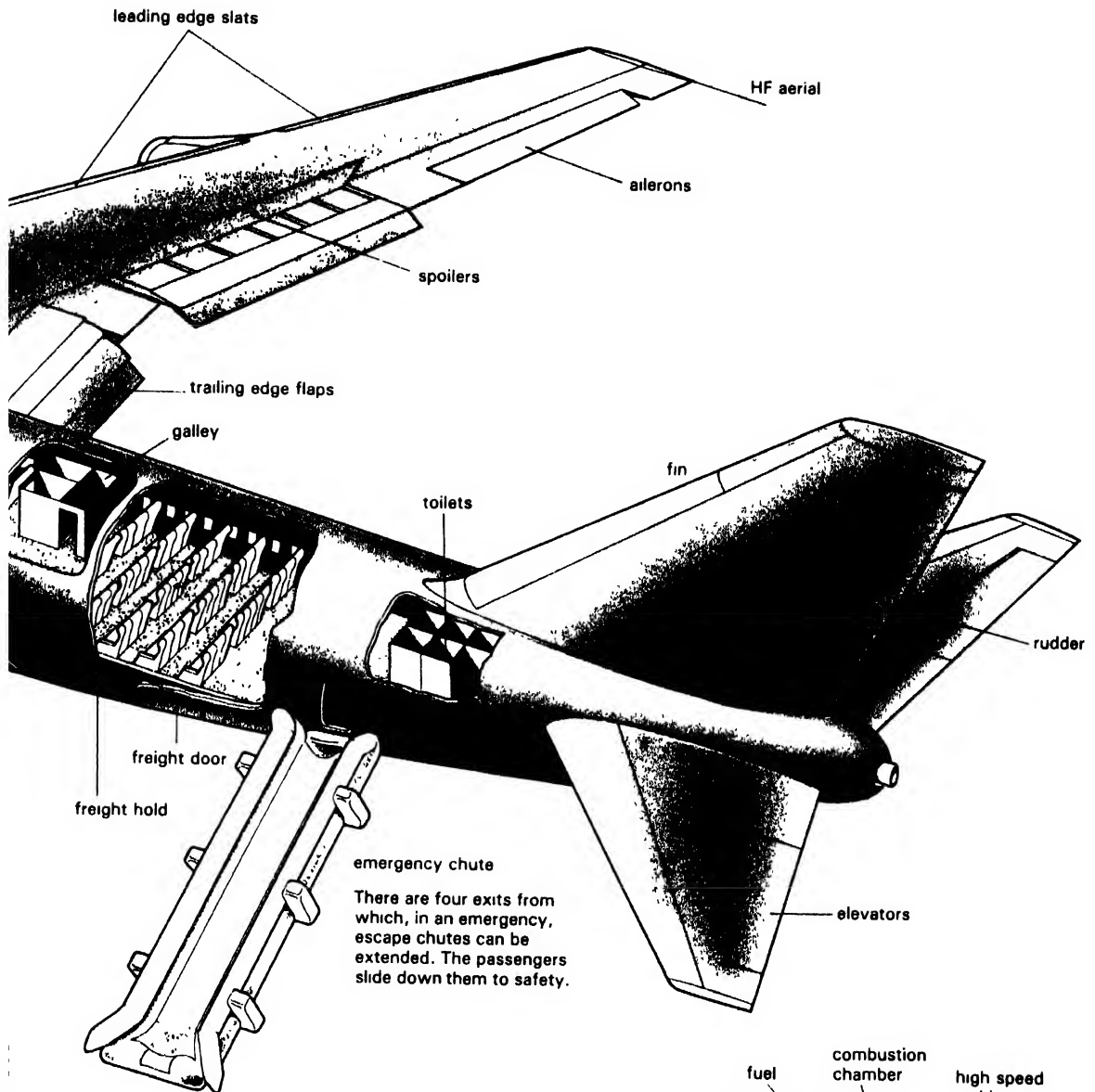
- floor to another 6 any of the vanes or feathers at the tail of a dart, arrow, etc that provide stability 7 a small unit of (military) aircraft or personnel in the Royal Air Force [ME, fr OE *flyht*; akin to MD *vlucht* flight, OE *flēogan* to fly] – *flightless* *adj*
- \*flight** *vi* 1 'FLUSH 2 2 to impart flight to (a bowled ball)
- \*flight** *n* an act or instance of fleeing [ME *fluht*, *fliht*; akin to OHG *fluht* flight, OE *flēon* to flee]
- \*flight deck** *n* 1 the deck of a ship used for the takeoff and landing of aircraft 2 the compartment housing the controls and those crew who operate them in an aircraft → FLIGHT
- flight lieutenant** *n* → RANK
- \*flight path** *n* the (planned) course taken by an aircraft, spacecraft, etc
- \*flight plan** *n* a usu written statement of the details of an intended flight
- \*flight recorder** *n* a robust device fitted to an aircraft that records details of its flight, esp for use in investigating accidents
- flight sergeant** *n* → RANK
- flight, sergeant 'aircrew** *n* → RANK
- flighty** /'fleti/ *adj* 1 easily excited or upset; skittish 2 irresponsible, silly, also flirtatious ['flight + -y] – *flightily* *adv*, *flightiness* *n*
- flimflam** /'flim,flam/ *n* 1 deception, trickery 2 nonsense, humbug *USE* *infrm* [prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *flim* mockery] – *flimflammer* *n*
- \*flimsy** /'fimis/ *adj* 1a lacking in strength or substance b of inferior materials or workmanship, easily destroyed or broken 2 having little worth or plausibility <a ~ excuse> [perh alter of 'film + -sy (as in *tricksy*)] – *flimsily* *adv*, *flimsiness* *n*
- \*flimsy** *n* (a document printed on) a lightweight paper used esp for multiple copies
- flinch** /'flinʃ/ *vi* to shrink (as if) from physical pain, esp to tense the muscles involuntarily in fear [MF *flenchir* to bend, turn aside] – *flinch* *n*, *flinchingly* *adv*
- flinders** /'flindaɪ/ *n pl* splinters, fragments [ME *flenderts*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Norw *flindra* thin piece or splinter of stone]
- \*fling** /'flɪŋ/ *vb* *flung* /'flʌŋ/ *vi* 1 to move in a hasty or violent manner (<~ing out of the room in a rage>) 2 of an animal to kick or plunge vigorously – usu + out ~ vt 1 to throw or cast (aside), esp with force or recklessness (<flung the books on the table> (<~ing his arms out> (<flung off all restraint>) 2 to place or send suddenly and unceremoniously (<the attack flung the enemy force into confusion>) 3 to ejaculate or utter vigorously 4 to cast or direct (oneself or one's efforts) vigorously or unrestrainedly (<flung herself into her work>) [ME *flingen*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *flengja* to whip, *flā* to flay – more at FLAY]
- \*fling** *n* 1 a period devoted to self-indulgence (<determined to have one last ~ before settling down>) 2 a casual attempt – chiefly *infrm*
- flint** /'flɪnt/ *n* 1 a hard quartz found esp in chalk or limestone → BUILDING 2 a flint implement used by primitive human beings 3 a material (e.g. an alloy of iron and cerium) used for producing a spark (e.g. in a cigarette lighter) [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *flins* pebble, hard stone] – *flintlike* *adj*, *flinty* *adj*
- \*flint, corn** *n* a maize with hard usu rounded kernels
- \*flint glass** *n* heavy brilliant glass of relatively high refractive index that contains lead oxide
- \*flintlock** /-lɒk/ *n* (a gun having) a gunlock used in the 17th and 18th c, in which the charge is ignited by sparks struck from flint
- \*flip** /'flɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to toss or cause to move with a sharp movement, esp so as to be turned over in the air <~ a coin> 2 FLICK 1a 3 to turn over ~ vi 1 to lose one's sanity or self-control 2 to become extremely enthusiastic, go wild (<I just ~ped over that new record>) *USE* (vi) slang [prob *infr*] – *flip through* LEAF THROUGH
- \*flip** *n* 1 a (motion used in) flipping or a flick 2 a somersault, esp when performed in the air 3 a mixed drink usu consisting of a sweetened spiced alcoholic drink to which beaten eggs have been added
- \*flip** *adj* -pp- flippant, impertinent – *infrm*
- flip-flop** /'flɪp,flɒp/ *n* 1 a backward handspring 2 a usu electronic device or circuit (e.g. in a computer) capable of assuming either of 2 stable states 3 a rubber sandal consisting of a sole and a strap fixed between the toes – *flip-flop* *vi*
- flippant** /'flɪp(ə)nt/ *adj* lacking proper respect or seriousness, esp in the consideration of grave matters [prob fr 'flip] – *flippancy* /-sɪ/ *n*, *flippantly* *adv*
- flipper** /'flɪpə/ *n* 1 a broad flat limb (e.g. of a seal) adapted for swimming 2 a flat rubber shoe with the front expanded into a paddle used for underwater swimming ['FLIP + -ER]
- flipping** /'flɪpɪŋ/ *adj* or *adv*, Br 'BLOODY 4, 'BLOODY – euph [euph for *fucking*]
- \*flip side** *n* the side of a gramophone record which is not the principal marketing attraction ['flip]
- \*flirt** /'flɪrt/ *vi* to behave amorously without serious intent {origin unknown} – *flirty* *adj*, *flirtation* /-'tʃaɪsh(ə)n/ *n*, *flirtatious* /-'tʃaɪshəs/ *adj*, *flirtatiously* *adv*, *flirtatiousness* *n* – *flirt with* to show superficial or casual interest in or liking for
- \*flirt** *n* 1 an act or instance of flirting 2 one, esp a woman, who flirts
- flit** /'flɪt/ *vi* -tt- 1 to pass lightly and quickly or irregularly from one place or condition to another, esp to fly in this manner 2 chiefly Scot & NEng to move house, esp rapidly and secretly [ME *flitten*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *flytask* to move, OE *flēotan* to float] – *flit* *n*
- flitch** /'flɪtʃ/ *n* 1 a salted and often smoked side of pork 2 a longitudinal section of a log [ME *flische*, fr OE *flisce*]
- flitter** /'flɪtə/ *vi* to flutter, flicker [freq of *flit*]
- \*float** /'floʊt/ *n* 1a a cork or other device used to keep the baited end of a fishing line afloat b a floating platform for swimmers or boats c sth (e.g. a hollow ball) that floats at the end of a lever in a cistern, tank, or boiler and regulates the liquid level d a sac containing air or gas and buoying up the body of a plant or animal e a watertight structure enabling an aircraft to float on water 2 a tool for smoothing a surface of plaster, concrete, etc 3 (a vehicle with) a platform supporting an exhibit in a parade 4 a sum of money available for day-to-day use (e.g. for expenses or for giving change) [ME *flote* boat, float, fr OE *flota* ship, akin to OHG *flōz* raft, stream, OE *flotan* to float – more at FLEET]
- \*float** *vi* 1 to rest on the surface of or be suspended in a fluid 2a to drift (as if) on or through a liquid (<yellow leaves ~ed down>) b to wander aimlessly 3 to lack firmness of purpose; vacillate 4 of a currency to find a level in the international exchange market in response to the law of supply and demand and without artificial support or control ~ vt 1 to cause to float in or on the surface of a liquid, also to carry along in this manner 2 to smooth (e.g. plaster) with a float 3 to present (e.g. an idea) for acceptance or rejection 4 to cause (currency) to float
- floatage** /'floʊtɪ/ *n* floatage
- floatation** /'floʊtəʃən/ *n* floatation
- \*floater** /'floʊtə/ *n* 1 an employee without a specific job 2 a spot before the eyes due to dead cells and cell fragments in the vitreous humour and lens ['FLOAT + -ER]
- floating** /'floʊtɪŋ/ *adj* 1 located out of the normal position <a ~ kidney> 2a continually changing position or abode <a large ~ population> b not presently committed or invested <~ capital> c short-term and usu not funded <~ debt> 3 connected or constructed so as to operate and adjust smoothly
- floating dock** *n* a floating dry dock that can be partly submerged under a ship and then raised
- \*floating point** *adj* involving or being a mathematical notation in which a value is represented by a number multiplied by a power of the number base <the value 99.9 could be represented in a ~ system as .999 × 10<sup>2</sup>> – compare FIXED-POINT, SCIENTIFIC NOTATION
- floating rib** *n* a rib (e.g. any of the last 2 pairs in human beings) that has no attachment to the sternum – compare FALSE RIB
- floating voter** *n* one who does not always vote for the same party
- floc** /'flok/ *n* 1 a foamy mass formed by the uniting of fine suspended particles 2 'FLOCK 1, 2, 3 [short for *floccule*]
- flocculate** /'flokjuːlət/ *vb* to (cause to) form a flocculent mass <~ clay> – *flocculant* *n*, *flocculation* /-'ləʃən/ *n*
- floccule** /'flokjuːl/ *n* a small loosely united bit of material (e.g. ore) in or precipitated from a liquid [LL *flocculus*]
- flocculent** /'flokjuːlənt/ *adj* 1 resembling wool, esp in loose fluffy texture 2 made up of flocs or floccules [L *floccus* + E -ulent] – *flocculence* *n*
- flocculus** /'flokjuːləs/ *n*, *pl* flocculi /-li/ 1 a floccule 2 a bright or dark patch on the sun [LL, dim. of L *floccus* flock of wool; akin to OHG *blaha* coarse linen]
- \*flock** /'flok/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a group of birds or mammals assembled or herded together 2 a church congregation, considered in relation to its pastor 3 a large group <a whole ~ of tourists> [ME, fr OE *flocc* crowd, band; akin to ON *flokkr* crowd, band]
- \*flock** *vi* to gather or move in a crowd <they ~ed to the beach>
- \*flock** *n* 1 a tuft of wool or cotton fibre 2 woollen or cotton refuse used for stuffing furniture, mattresses, etc 3 very short or pulverized fibre used esp to form a velvety pattern on cloth or paper or a protective covering on metal 4 FLOC 1 [ME]
- \*flock** *vi* to decorate with flock – *flocking* *n*



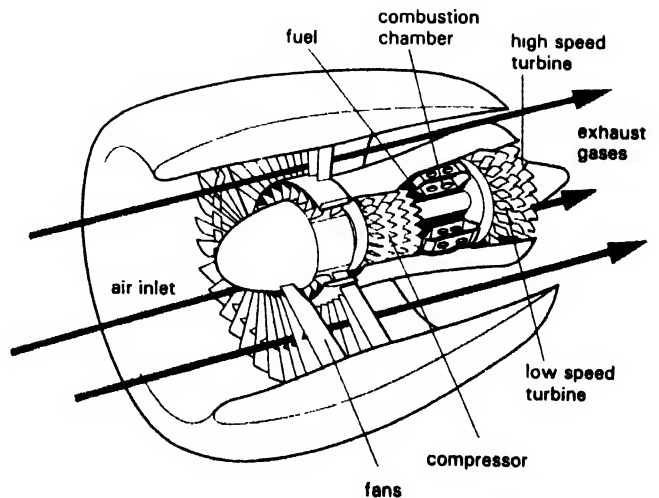
The modern jet airliner transports passengers in numbers comparable to some ocean liners of a generation before, and at speeds then attainable only by fighter aircraft. This Boeing 747 can carry 500 passengers over a range of 8200 km (5100 miles) at a cruising speed of 980 km/hour (610 mph). It weighs 351.5 metric tons (775 000 lb) and is 70.5m (231 ft) long.

Conventional fixed-wing aircraft can fly because their wings are aerofoils – bodies specially designed to produce lift when air flows over them. When the aircraft is flying horizontally, the wings are angled slightly upwards, so that the force of the air creates an area of low pressure above them, in effect sucking the aircraft upwards; at the same time, a compensating area of high pressure is created beneath the wings, giving extra lift. When the aircraft's nose is raised, increasing the angle at which the air meets the wing, more lift is achieved. However, when the critical angle is passed, the airflow becomes turbulent, lift is lost, and the aircraft stalls.






The turbofan is the engine used to power most modern jet airliners. It is a development of the original turbojet, which works by drawing in air with a turbine-driven compressor, mixing it with burning fuel, and ejecting it at high speed. The turbofan, in addition, has a large fan with a set of blades at the front, which acts rather like a conventional propeller; it draws in extra air which bypasses the engine and is ejected along with the exhaust gases at the rear. This can drastically reduce the amount of fuel the engine has to burn, and also makes it quieter.




- floe** /floh/ *n* (a sheet of) floating ice, esp on the sea [prob fr Norw *flo* flat layer]
- flog** /fog/ *vt* -gg- 1 to beat severely with a rod, whip, etc 2 to force into action; drive 3 to repeat (sthg) so frequently as to make uninteresting - esp in *flog something to death*, infml 4 *Br* sell 2a - slang [perh modif of *L flagellare* to whip - more at *'FLAGELLATE*] - **flog a dead horse** to waste time or energy on worn-out or previously settled subjects
- 'flood** /flud/ *n* 1 an overflowing of a body of water, esp onto normally dry land 2 **flow** 2 3 an overwhelming quantity or volume (a ~ of letters) 4 a floodlight [ME, fr OE *flōd*, akin to OHG *fluot* flood, OE *flowan* to flow]
- \*flood** *vt* 1 to cover with a flood, inundate 2a to fill abundantly or excessively (strawberries ~ed the market and prices dropped) b to supply (a carburettor) with an excess of fuel 3 to drive out of a house, village, etc by flooding - *vi* 1 to pour forth in a flood 2 to become filled with a flood
- 'floodgate** /-gayt/ *n* 1 a gate for shutting out or admitting water 2 sthg serving to restrain an outburst
- 'floodlight** /-let/ *n* (a source of) a broad beam of light for artificial illumination - **floodlight** *vt*
- 'floodplain** /-playn/ *n* a plain near the mouth of a river that is subject to periodic flooding and is built up by deposition of sediment  GEOGRAPHY
- 'flood, tide** *n* the tide while flowing in or at its highest point
- 'floor** /flaw/ *n* 1 the level base of a room 2a the lower inside surface of a hollow structure (e.g. a cave or bodily part) b a ground surface (the ocean ~) 3 a structure between 2 storeys of a building, also a storey 4a the part of an assembly in which members sit and speak b the members of an assembly (concluded by calling for questions from the ~) c the right to address an assembly (the member for Blackpool North has the ~) 5 a lower limit [ME *flor*, fr OE *flor*; akin to OHG *flur* meadow, *L planus* level, *Gk planasthai* to wander] - **flooring** *n*
- \*floor** *vt* 1 to cover with a floor 2a to knock to the floor or ground b to reduce to silence or defeat; nonplus *USE* (2) infml
- floor leader** *n*, *NAM* a member of a legislative body who directs his/her party's strategy in the assembly
- floor manager** *n* 1 a shopwalker 2 the stage manager of a television programme
- 'floor, show** *n* a series of acts presented in a nightclub
- 'floor, walker** /-wawks/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a shopwalker
- floozy, floozie, floosie** /floozi/ *n* 1 a (disreputable) woman or girl 2 a female companion - derog [perh alter of *flossy* (showy, flashy)]
- 'flop** /flop/ *vi* -pp- 1 to swing or hang loosely but heavily 2 to fall, move, or drop in a heavy, clumsy, or relaxed manner (~ ped into the chair with a sigh of relief) 3 to relax completely, slump 4 to fail completely (in spite of good reviews the play ~ped) *USE* (3&4) infml [alter of *'flap*]
- \*flop** *n* 1 (the dull sound of) a flopping motion (fell with a ~) 2 a complete failure - infml
- \*flop** *adv* with a flop
- floppy** /'flopi/ *adj* tending to hang loosely, esp being both soft and flexible - **floppily** *adv*, **floppiness** *n*
- 'floppy disk** *n* a flexible disk that is coated with a magnetic substance and is used to store data for a computer  COMPUTER
- flora** /'flawrə/ *n*, *pl* **floras** also **florae** /'flawri/ 1 a treatise on, or a work used to identify, the plants of a region 2 plant life (of a region, period, or special environment) - compare *Fauna* [NL, fr *L. Flora*, Roman goddess of flowers]
- floral** /'flawrəl/ *adj* of flowers or a flora [L *flor-*, *flor* flower - more at *'blossom*] - **florally** *adv*
- floral leaf** *n* a modified leaf (e.g. a sepal or petal) occurring as part of the inflorescence of a plant
- flourescence** /'flawres(ə)ns/ *n*, *flou-* *n* a state or period of flourishing or flowering - fml [NL *florescentia*, fr *L. florescent-*, *flourescens*, prp of *flourescere*, incho of *flouere* to blossom, flourish - more at *FLOURISH*] - **flourescent** *adj*
- floret** /'flawrit/ *n*, *flou-* *n* any of the small flowers forming the head of a (composite) plant [ME *flourette*, fr MF *flouret*, dim. of *flour* flower]
- flori-** /'flawri-, *flori-* *comb form* flower, flowers (floriculture) (floriferous) [L, fr *flor-*, *flor*]
- floriated** /'flawriətid/ *adj* decorated with or shaped like a floral motif - **floriation** /-ə'zhaɪ(ə)n/ *n*
- floribunda** /'flon'bunda/ *n* any of various hybrid bush roses with open clusters of flowers [NL, fem of *floribundus* flowering freely]
- florid** /'flond/ *adj* 1 excessively flowery or ornate in style 2 tinged with red; ruddy (a ~ complexion) [L *floridus* blooming, flowery, fr *flouere*] - **floridly** *adv*, **floridness** *n*, **floridity** /'floriditi/ *n*
- florilegium** /'flawri'leɪj-əm, *flori-* *n*, *pl* **florilegia** /-leɪj(i)ə/ an anthology of writings [NL, fr *L. florilegus* culling flowers, fr *flori-* + *legere* to gather - more at *LEGEND*]
- florin** /'florn/ *n* 1 any of various former gold coins of European countries 2 a former British or Commonwealth silver coin worth 2 shillings 3 ~  *The Netherlands, Surinam* at NATIONALITY [ME, fr MF, fr Olt *florino*, fr *flouere* flower, fr *L. flor-*, *flor*; fr the lily on the coins]
- florist** /'florist/ *n* one who deals in or grows flowers and ornamental plants for sale - **floristry** /-stri/ *n*
- florous** /-flawrəs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having or bearing (such or so many) flowers (uniflorous) [LL *-florus*, fr *L. flor-*, *flor*]
- floss** /flos/ *n* 1 waste or short silk or silky fibres, esp from the outer part of a silkworm's cocoon 2 soft thread of silk or mercerized cotton for embroidery [fr or akin to D *vlus*, akin to MHG *vlus*, *vlus* fleece - more at *'FLEEC*] - **flossy** *adj*
- floatage, floatage** /'floʊtɪʃ/ *n* 1 **FLOATATION** 1, also the ability to float 2 objects or material that floats, flotsam ['floʊt]
- floatation, floatation** /'floʊ'taɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act, process, or state of floating 2 the launching, esp by financing, of a company, enterprise, etc 3 the separation of particles of a material (e.g. pulverized ore) according to their relative capacity for floating on a liquid ['float]
- flotilla** /'flaʊtɪlə/ *n* a small fleet of ships, esp warships [Sp, dim of *flota* fleet, fr OF *flote*, fr ON *floti*, akin to OE *flota* ship, fleet - more at *FLOAT*]
- flotsam** /'flots(ə)m/ *n* 1 floating wreckage, esp of a ship or its cargo - compare *JETSAM* 2 **FLOTSAM** and *JETSAM* [AF *floteson*, fr OF *floter* to float, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *flotan* to float, *flota* ship]
- flotsam and jetsam** /'jets(ə)m/ *n* 1 vagrants 2 unimportant miscellaneous material, *ODDS AND ENDS*
- 'flood** /'flouns/ *vi* 1 to move in a violent or exaggerated fashion 2 to go in such a way as to attract attention, esp when angry (slapped him and ~d out of the room) [perh of Scand origin, akin to Norw *flunsa* to hurry] - **flood** *n*, **floody** *adj*
- \*flood** *n* a wide gathered strip of fabric attached by the gathered edge (e.g. to the hem of a skirt or dress) [alter of earlier *frounce*, fr ME *frouncen* to curl] - **floody** *adj*
- \*flood** *vi* to trim with a flood or floods
- 'flood** /'flowndə/ *n*, *pl* **flooders**, esp for different types flooders any of various flatfishes including some marine food fishes -  DEFENCE [ME, of Scand origin, akin to ON *flythra* flounder, *flatr* flat]
- \*flood** *vi* 1 to struggle to move or obtain footing 2 to proceed or act clumsily or ineffectually (~ing through a poor lecture) [prob alter of *flood*] - **flood** *n*
- 'flour** /'flowr/ *n* 1 finely ground meal, esp of wheat 2 a fine soft powder [ME - more at *FLOWER*] - **floury** /'flow(ə)ri/ *adj*
- \*flour** *vt* 1 to coat (as if) with flour 2 to make (e.g. grain) into flour
- 'flourish** /'flurɪʃ/ *vi* 1 to grow luxuriantly, thrive 2a to achieve success, prosper b to be in good health c to reach a height of activity, development, or influence - *vi* to wave or wield with dramatic gestures, brandish [ME *floureschen*, fr MF *flouresc-*, stem of *flouere*, fr (assumed) VL *flouere*, alter of *L. flouere*, fr *flouere*, *flouere* flower]
- \*flourish** *n* 1 a showy or flowery embellishment (e.g. in literature or handwriting) or passage (e.g. in music) 2a an act of brandishing b an ostentatious or dramatic action
- flout** /'flaʊt/ *vi* to treat with contemptuous disregard; scorn (openly ~ing the rules) [prob fr ME *flouten* to play the flute, fr *floute* flute] - **flouter** *n*
- 'flow** /floh/ *vi* 1a to issue or move (as if) in a stream (rivers ~ing to the sea) (wealth ~ing from the oil industry) b to circulate (blood ~ing round the body) 2 of the tide to rise 3 to abound (~ing with milk and honey) 4a to proceed smoothly and readily (conversation began to ~) b to have a smooth graceful continuity (the ~ing lines of the car) 5 to hang loose or freely 6 of a plastic solid (e.g. rock) to deform under stress without cracking or rupturing [ME *flouen*, fr OE *flowan*, akin to OHG *flouwen* to rinse, wash, *L. pluuere* to rain, *Gk. plein* to sail, *flouat*]
- \*flow** *n* 1 a flowing 2 the flowing in of the tide towards the land 3a a smooth uninterrupted movement or supply (a steady ~ of ideas) b a stream or gush of fluid c the direction of (apparent) movement 4 the quantity that flows in a certain time 5 menstruation 6a the motion characteristic of fluids b a continuous transfer of energy
- 'flow, chart** /-chaɪt/ *n* a diagram consisting of a set of symbols (e.g.

rectangles or diamonds) and connecting lines, that shows step-by-step progression through a usu complicated procedure or system  
**flow diagram** *n* a flowchart

**flower** /'flaʊə/ *n* 1a a blossom, inflorescence b a shoot of a higher plant bearing leaves modified for reproduction to form petals, sepals, ovaries, and anthers  PLANT c a plant cultivated for its blossoms 2a the finest or most perfect part or example <the ~ of a nation's youth destroyed in war> b the finest most vigorous period; prime c a state of blooming or flourishing – esp in *in flower* 3 *pl* a finely divided powder produced esp by condensation or sublimation (<s of sulphur> [ME *flour* flower, best of anything, flour, fr OF *flor*, flour, fr L *flor*-, *flos* – more at 'blow] – **flowered** *adj*, **flowerless** *adj*

**flower** *vi* 1 to produce flowers, blossom 2 to reach a peak condition, flourish ~ *vt* 1 to cause to bear flowers 2 to decorate with a floral design – **flowerer** *n*, **flowering** *adj*

**flower girl** *n* a girl or woman who sells flowers, esp in a market or the street

**flowering plant** *n* a plant that produces flowers, fruit, and seed, an angiosperm  PLANT

**flower pot** /-pɒt/ *n* a pot, typically the shape of a small bucket, in which to grow plants

**flowery** /'flaʊəri/ *adj* 1 of or resembling flowers 2 containing or using highly ornate language – **floweriness** *n*

**flown** /'loʊn/ *past part* of FLY

**flow sheet** *n* a flowchart

**flu** /'flu:/ *n* influenza

**fluctuate** /'flʊktʃuːeɪt, -'tʃooːeɪt/ *vi* 1 to rise and fall, swing back and forth 2 to change continually and irregularly, waver [L *fluctuatus*, pp of *fluctuare*, fr *fluctis* flow, wave, fr *fluctus*, pp of *fluere*] – **fluctuant** *adj*, **fluctuation** /-'æɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**flue** /'flu:/ *n* 1 a channel in a chimney for flame and smoke 2 a pipe for conveying heat (e.g. to water in a steam boiler) [origin unknown]

**flue-cured** *adj* cured by heat, usu from flues, without exposure to smoke or fumes (< tobacco)

**fluent** /'fluːənt/ *adj* 1 capable of flowing, fluid 2a able to speak or write with facility, also spoken or written in this way <his Welsh is ~> b effortlessly smooth and rapid, polished <a ~ performance> [L *fluent*-, *fluens*, pp of *fluere*] – **fluently** /-sɪ/ *n*, **fluently** *adv*

**flue pipe** *n* an organ pipe whose tone is produced by an air current striking the lip and causing the air within to vibrate – compare REED PIPE

**fluff** /'flʌf/ *n* 1a small loose bits of waste material (e.g. hairs and threads) that stick to clothes, carpets, etc b soft light fur, down, etc 2 a blunder, esp an actor's lapse of memory – chiefly infml [prob alter of *flue* (fluff), fr Flem *vluwe*, fr F *vcluw* shaggy]


**fluff** *vi* 1 to become fluffy – often + *out* or *up* 2 to make a mistake, esp in a performance ~ *vt* 1 to make fluffy – often + *out* or *up* <the bird ~ed out its feathers> 2a to fail to perform or achieve successfully, bungle <he ~ed his exam> b to deliver badly or forget (one's lines) in a play *USE* (vi 2; vt 2) chiefly infml

**fluffy** /'flʌfi/ *adj* 1 like or covered with fluff 2 light and soft or airy <a ~ sponge cake> – **fluffiness** *n*

**flugelhorn** /'fluːgəl'hɔːn/ *n* a valved brass instrument resembling a cornet [G *flugelhorn*, fr *flugel* wing, flank + *horn* horn, fr its use to signal the outlying beaters in a shoot]

**fluid** /'fluːd/ *adj* 1a having particles that easily change their relative position without separation of the mass, able to flow b likely or tending to change or move; not fixed 2 characterized by or employing a smooth easy style <the ballerina's ~ movements> 3a available for a different use b easily converted into cash (< assets>) [F or L, F *fluide*, fr L *fluidus*, fr *fluere* to flow; akin to Gk *phlyzein* to boil over, L *flare* to blow – more at 'blow] – **fluidly** *adv*, **fluidity** /-'ɪdɪti/ *n* also **fluidness** *n*

**fluid** *n* 1 sth capable of flowing to conform to the outline of its container; specif a liquid or gas 2 a liquid in the body of an animal or plant <cerebrospinal ~> – **fluidal** *adj*


**fluid dram** /'dræm/, chiefly NAm **fluidram** /'fluːdɪ'dræm/ *n* a unit of capacity equal to 1/16 oz (about 3.55cm<sup>3</sup>)  UNIT

**fluid drive** *n* a device (e.g. an automatic car gearbox) containing fluid that transmits power from an engine to a driven unit (e.g. the wheels of a car)

**fluidics** /'fluːdɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr the use of fluid flow in shaped channels to produce devices (e.g. an amplifier or switch) that function like electronic components – **fluidic** *adj*

**fluidize**, -ize /'fluːdɪ-zɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause to flow like a fluid 2 to fluidize the particles of (a loose bed of material) in an upward flow (e.g. of a gas)

to increase the rate of a chemical or physical reaction – **fluidizer** *n*, **fluidization** /-'zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**fluid ounce**, NAm **fluidounce** /'fluːdɪ'daʊns/ *n* 1 a British unit of liquid capacity equal to 1/16 imperial pt (about 28.41cm<sup>3</sup>) 2 a US unit of liquid capacity equal to 1/16 US pt (about 29.54cm<sup>3</sup>) *USE*  UNIT

**fluke** /'fluːk/ *n* 1 a flatfish 2 a liver fluke or related trematode worm [ME, fr OE *fluc*, akin to OHG *flah* smooth – more at 'FLAKE]

**fluke** *n* 1 the part of an anchor that digs into the sea, river, etc bottom 2 a barbed end (e.g. of a harpoon) 3 either of the lobes of a whale's tail [perh fr 'fluke; fr its flat shape]

**fluke** *n* 1 an accidentally successful stroke or action 2 a stroke of luck <the discovery was a ~> [origin unknown]

**fluky** also **flukey** /'fluːki/ *adj* 1 happening by or depending on chance rather than skill 2 esp of wind unsteady, changeable

**flume** /'fluːm/ *n* an inclined channel for conveying water (e.g. for power generation) [prob fr ME *flum* river, fr OF, fr L *flumen*, fr *fluere*]

**flummery** /'flʌməri/ *n* 1 a sweet dish typically made with flour or oatmeal, eggs, honey, and cream 2 pretentious humbug [W *llymr*]

**flummox** /'flʌmɒks/ *vt* to bewilder or confuse completely [origin unknown]

**flump** /'flʌmp/ *vb* or *n* (to move or drop with) a dull heavy sound [imit]

**flung** /'flʌŋ/ *past* of FLING

**flunk** /'flʌŋk/ *vb*, chiefly NAm *vi* 1 to fail, esp in an examination or course 2 to be turned out of a school or college for failure ~ *vt* 1 to give a failing mark to 2 to get a failing mark in *USE* infml [perh blend of *flinch* and *funk*]

**flunky**, **flunkey** /'flʌŋki/ *n* 1 a liveried servant 2 a yes-man 3 chiefly NAm a person performing menial duties <worked as a ~ in a cookhouse> [Sc, perh fr *flanker* one who stands by sb's side]

**fluor-** /'fluːə-/ , **fluoro-** *comb form* 1 fluorine <fluoride> <fluorocarbon> 2 also **fluori-** fluorescence <fluoroscope> [F, fr *fluorine*]

**fluorescence** /'fluːərə's(ə)ns/ *n* the emitting of electromagnetic radiation, usu as visible light, as a result of the simultaneous absorption of radiation of shorter wavelength, also the radiation emitted – **fluorese** /'fluːərə's/ *vi*, **fluorescer** *n*

**fluorescent** /'fluːərə's(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 of or having fluorescence 2 bright and glowing as a result of fluorescence <a ~ pink>


**fluorescent lamp** *n* a tubular electric lamp with a coating of fluorescent material on its inner surface

**fluoridate** /'fluːərɪ'deɪt/ *vt* to add a fluoride to (e.g. drinking water) – **fluoridation** /-'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**fluoride** /'fluːərɪd/ *n* a compound of fluorine

**fluorimeter** /'fluːərɪ'mɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring fluorescence and related phenomena – **fluorimetry** *n*, **fluorimetric** /-'mɪtrɪk/ *adj*

**fluorinate** /'fluːərɪ'neɪt/ *vt* to treat or cause to combine with (a compound of) fluorine – **fluorination** /-'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**fluorine** /'fluːərɪn/ *n* a nonmetallic univalent halogen element that is normally a pale yellowish toxic gas  PERIODIC TABLE [F, fr NL *fluor* mineral belonging to a group used as fluxes and including fluorite, fr L, flow, fr *fluere* – more at FLUID]

**fluorite** /'fluːərɪt/ *n* fluor spar [It]

**fluoro-** /'fluːəroʊ-/ – see FLUOR-

**fluorocarbon** /'fluːəroʊ'hæb(ə)n/ *n* any of various chemically inert compounds containing carbon and fluorine, used chiefly as lubricants and refrigerants and in making resins and plastics

**fluoroscope** /'fluːərə'skəʊp/ *n* an instrument used for observing the internal structure of an opaque object (e.g. the living body) by means of X rays [ISV] – **fluoroscopic** /-'skɒpɪk/ *adj*, **fluoroscopically** *adv*, **fluoroscopy** /'fluːərə'skɒpi/ *n*

**fluorosis** /'fluːərə'sɒsɪs/ *n* an abnormal condition (e.g. mottling of the teeth) caused by excessive intake of fluorine compounds – **fluorotic** /-'rɒtɪk/ *adj*

**fluor spar** /'fluːə'spɑː/ *n* calcium fluoride occurring as a variously coloured mineral [fluor- + 'spar]

**flurry** /'flʌri/ *n* 1a a gust of wind b a brief light fall of snow 2 a state of nervous excitement or bustle 3 a short-lived outburst of trading activity [prob fr *flurr* (to scatter, ruffle)]

**flurry** *vb* to (cause to) become agitated and confused

**flush** /'flʌʃ/ *vi* to take wing suddenly ~ *vt* 1 to cause (a bird) to flush 2 to expose or chase from a place of concealment – often + *out* <~ out the criminals> [ME *flusshen*, perh of imit origin]

**flush** *n* 1 a cleansing with a sudden flow, esp of water 2a a sudden increase, esp of new plant growth b a surge of emotion <felt a ~ of anger at the insult> 3a a tinge of red, esp in the cheeks; a blush b a fresh and

- vigorous state *<in the first ~ of womanhood>* 4 a transitory sensation of extreme heat; *specif* HOT FLUSH 5 *Br* a device for flushing toilets or drains [perh modif of *L. fluxus* – more at FLUX]
- \*flush** *adj* 1 to flow and spread suddenly and freely 2a to glow brightly with a ruddy colour b to blush 3 to produce new growth *<the plants ~ed twice during the year>* ~ *vt* 1a to cause to flow or be carried along on a stream of liquid, *specif* to dispose of thus b to pour liquid over or through; *esp* to cleanse (as if) with a rush of liquid *<~ the toilet>* 2 to inflame, excite – *usu pass <was ~ed with victory>* 3 to cause to blush
- \*flush** *adj* 1 filled to overflowing 2a having or forming a continuous edge or plane surface; not indented, recessed, or projecting *<panelling ~ with the wall>* b arranged edge to edge so as to fit snugly 3 readily available; abundant – chiefly infml 4 having a plentiful supply of money infml – *flushness* *n*
- \*flush** *adv* 1 so as to form a level or even surface or edge 2 squarely *<hit him ~ on the chin>*
- \*flush** *vi* to make flush *<~ the headings on a page>*
- \*flush** *n* a hand of playing cards, *esp* in a gambling game, all of the same suit [MF *flus*, *fluz*, fr *L. fluxus* flow]
- \*fluster** /'flusta/ *vb* to make or become agitated, nervous, or confused [prob of Scand origin, akin to Icel *flustur* hurry]
- \*fluster** *n* a state of agitated confusion
- \*flute** /'flooht/ *n* 1 a keyed woodwind instrument that consists of a cylindrical tube stopped at one end, is played by blowing air across a side hole, and has a range from middle C upwards for 3 octaves 2a a grooved pleat b any of the vertical parallel grooves on the shaft of a classical column  ARCHITECTURE [ME *floute*, fr MF *flahute*, fr OProv *flaut* – *fluting* *n*
- \*flute** *vi* to produce a flutelike sound ~ *vt* 1 to utter with a flutelike sound 2 to form flutes in – *fluter* *n*
- flutist** /'floohtist/ *n*, chiefly NAm a flautist
- \*flutter** /'fluta/ *vi* 1 to flap the wings rapidly 2a to move with quick wavering or flapping motions *<flags ~ing in the wind>* b to beat or vibrate in irregular spasms *<his pulse ~ed>* 3 to move about or behave in an agitated aimless manner ~ *vt* to cause to flutter [ME *floteren* to float, flutter, fr OE *floterian*, freq of *flotan* to float, akin to OE *flotan* to float – more at FLEET] – *flutterer* *n*, *fluttery* *adj*
- \*flutter** *n* 1 a fluttering 2a a state of (nervous) confusion, excitement, or commotion b abnormal spasmodic fluttering of a body part 3 a distortion in reproduced sound similar to but at a faster rate than wow 4 an unwanted oscillation (e.g. of an aircraft part or bridge) set up by natural forces 5 chiefly *Br* a small gamble or bet
- fluty** /'floohty/ *adj* like the sound of a flute, light and clear
- fluvial** /'fluvial:/, -vyl/ *adj* of, produced by, or living in a stream or river [L *fluvialis*, fr *fluvius* river, fr *fluere*]
- fluvatile** /'fluvial:/, -ti:/ *adj* fluvial [MF, fr L *fluvialis*, irreg fr *fluvius*]
- \*flux** /'fluks/ *n* 1 a continuous flow or flowing 2a an influx b continual change; fluctuation *<the programme was in a state of ~>* 3 a substance used to promote fusion of metals (e.g. in soldering or brazing) 4 the rate of transfer of a fluid, particles, or energy across a given surface  PHYSICS 5 archaic an (abnormal) flowing of fluid, esp excrement, from the body [ME, fr MF & ML, MF, fr ML *fluxus*, fr L, flow, fr *fluxus*, pp of *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID]
- \*flux** *vi* 1 to cause to become fluid 2 to treat with a flux ~ *vt* to become fluid
- fluxions** /'fluks(ə)n(ə)z/ *n pl*, archaic CALCULUS 2b [fluxion flow, rate of change of a varying quantity, fr MF, flow, fr L *fluxion*-, *fluxio*, fr *fluxus*, pp] – *fluxional* *adj*
- \*fly** /'fie/ *vb* flew /'flooht/; flown /'flohn/ *vi* 1a to move in or through the air by means of wings b to move through the air or space c to float, wave, or soar in the air *<flags ~ing at half-mast>* 2a to take flight; flee b to fade and disappear; vanish *<the shadows have flown>* 3a to move, act, or pass swiftly *<he flew past me>* b to move or pass suddenly and violently into a specified state *<flew into a rage>* c to seem to pass quickly *<our holiday simply flew>* 4 to operate or travel in an aircraft or spacecraft 5 to depart in haste; dash – chiefly infml ~ *vt* 1a to cause to fly *<~ a kite>* b to operate (a flying machine or spacecraft) in flight c to journey over by flying *<~ the Atlantic>* 2 to flee or escape from 3 to transport by aircraft 4 to use (a specified airline) for travelling *<I always ~ British Airways>* [ME *flen*, fr OE *fleogan*; akin to OHG *fliegen* to fly, OE *flōwan* to flow] – *flyable* *adj*, *flying* *n* – *fly at/on*, *fly out at* to assail suddenly and violently – *fly in the face/teeth* of to act in open defiance or disobedience of – *fly off the handle* to lose one's temper, esp suddenly
- \*fly** *n* 1 an act or process of flying 2 *pl* the space over a stage where scenery and equipment can be hung 3a a (garment) opening concealed by a fold of cloth extending over the fastener, *esp*, *pl* such an opening in the front of a pair of trousers b FLY SHEET 2 c(1) the length of an extended flag from its staff or support (2) the outer or loose end of a flag – compare HOIST 2b 4 chiefly *Br* a light covered horse-drawn carriage
- \*fly** *adj*, chiefly *Br* keen, artful – infml [prob fr 'fly]
- \*fly** *n* 1 a winged insect – often in combination *<mayfly>* 2 TWO-WINGED FLY 3 a natural or artificial fly attached to a fishhook for use as bait [ME *flie*, fr OE *fleoge*, akin to OHG *flōga* fly, OE *fleogan* to fly] – *fly in the ointment* a detracting factor or element
- \*fly** 'agoric /'agarik, 'agarik/ *n* a poisonous toadstool with a usu bright red cap with small white scaly patches
- flyaway** /'flie-ə-way/ *adj* 1 lacking practical sense, flighty 2 *esp* of the hair tending not to stay in place
- \*fly** 'back /-bak/ *n* the return of the spot of light on a cathode-ray tube after it has traced one image and before it begins the next
- \*fly** 'blow /-bloh/ *n* (infestation, esp of meat, with) an egg or young larva deposited by a flesh fly or blowfly ['fly + blow (deposit of insect eggs)]
- \*fly** 'blown /-blohn/ *adj* 1 infested with flyblows 2 impure, tainted, also not new, used
- flyby** /'flie-bie/ *n*, *pl* flybys /-biez/ 1 a flypast 2 a flight of a spacecraft close to a celestial body (e.g. Mars), esp to obtain scientific data
- \*fly-by-night** *n* 1 one who seeks to evade responsibilities or debts by flight 2 a shaky business enterprise *USE* chiefly infml
- \*fly-by-night** *adj* 1 given to making a quick profit, usu by disreputable or irresponsible acts, broadly untrustworthy 2 transitory, passing *<~ fashions>* *USE* chiefly infml
- \*fly** 'catcher /-katchə/ *n* any of several small birds that feed on insects caught while flying
- flyer** /'flie-ə/ *n* a flier
- \*fly** 'fishing *n* fishing (e.g. for salmon or trout) using artificial flies as bait
- \*fly** 'front *n* 'FLY 3a
- \*fly** 'half *n* STAND-OFF HALF ['fly]
- \*fly** 'in *adj*, chiefly Can or being a place where the only access is by aeroplane *<~ communities>*
- flying** /'flie-ɪŋ/ *adj* 1a (capable of) moving in the air b rapidly moving *<~ feet>* c very brief, hasty *<a ~ visit>* 2 intended for ready movement or action *<~ pickers>* 3 of (the operation of) or using an aircraft 4 (to be) traversed after a flying start – with flying colours with complete or eminent success *<passed the exam with flying colours>*
- \*flying** 'boat *n* a seaplane with a hull adapted for floating
- \*flying** 'bomb *n* a pilotless aircraft carrying explosives, *esp* a V-1
- \*flying** 'battress *n* a projecting arched structure that supports a wall or building
- \*flying** 'fish *n* any of numerous (tropical) fishes that have long pectoral fins and are able to glide some distance through the air
- \*flying** 'fox *n* FRUIT BAT
- \*flying** 'lemur *n* a tree-dwelling nocturnal mammal of E India and the Philippines that is about the size of a cat and makes long sailing leaps using a parachute-like broad fold of skin from the neck to the tail
- \*flying** 'mare *n* a wrestling throw in which an opponent is seized by the wrist and thrown over the aggressor's back
- \*flying** 'officer *n*  RANK
- \*flying** 'saucer *n* any of various unidentified flying objects reported as being saucer- or disc-shaped
- \*flying** 'squad *n*, often cap F&S a standby group of people, esp police, ready to move or act swiftly in an emergency
- \*flying** 'squirrel *n* any of various squirrels having folds of skin connecting the forelegs and hind legs used in making long gliding leaps
- \*flying** 'start *n* 1 a start to a race in which the participants are already moving when they cross the starting line or receive the starting signal 2 a privileged or successful beginning *<she got off to a ~ at school>*
- \*fly** 'leaf /-leef/ *n* a blank leaf at the beginning or end of a book that is fastened to the cover ['fly + leaf]
- \*fly** 'over /-ohvə/ *n*, *Br* (the upper level of) a crossing of 2 roads, railways, etc at different levels
- \*fly** 'paper /-paypə/ *n* paper coated with a sticky, often poisonous, substance for killing flies
- \*fly** 'past /-pahst/ *n*, *Br* a ceremonial usu low-altitude flight by (an) aircraft over a person or public gathering



**'flyposting** /-pohstɪŋ/ *n* the unauthorized placing of advertising material (e.g. posters) in public places [*'fly*] – *flypost* *vb*

**'flysheet** *n* 1 a small pamphlet or circular 2 an outer protective sheet covering a tent [*'fly*]

**fly'slip** *n* a fielding position in cricket behind the conventional slips and about halfway to the boundary ➔ *SPORT*

**'flyspeck** /-spek/ *n* a speck made by fly excrement – *flyspecked* *adj*

**'flyswatter** /-swɒtə/ *n* an implement for killing insects that consists of a flat piece of usu rubber or plastic attached to a handle

**'flyweight** /-weɪt/ *n* a boxer who weighs not more than 8st (50.8kg) if professional or more than 48kg (about 7st 7lb) but not more than 51kg (about 8st) if amateur [*'fly*]

**'flywheel** /-weɪl/ *n* a wheel with a heavy rim that when revolving can either reduce speed fluctuations in the rotation of an engine or store energy [*'fly*]

**FM** /ef 'em/ *adj* of or being a broadcasting or receiving system using frequency modulation and usu noted for lack of interference [*frequency modulation*]

**'f-number** /ef/ *n* the ratio of the focal length to the aperture in an optical system [*focal length*]

**'foal** /foʊl/ *n* a young animal of the horse family [ME *fole*, fr OE *folā*, akin to L *pullus* young of an animal, Gk *pais* child – more at *FEW*]

**'foal** *vb* to give birth to (a foal)

**'foam** /foʊm/ *n* 1a (a substance in the form of) a light frothy mass of fine bubbles formed in or on the surface of a liquid (e.g. by agitation or fermentation) b a frothy mass formed in salivating or sweating c a chemical froth discharged from fire extinguishers 2 a material in a lightweight cellular form resulting from introduction of gas bubbles during manufacture 3 the sea – poetic [ME *foame*, fr OE *fām*, akin to OHG *feim* foam, L *spuma* foam, *pumex* pumice] – *foamless* *adj*, *foamy* *adj*, *foamily* *adv*, *foaminess* *n*

**'foam** *vi* 1a to produce or form foam b to froth at the mouth, esp in anger, broadly to be angry 2 to gush out in foam 3 to become covered (as if) with foam <streets – ing with life – Thomas Wolfe> ~ *vi* 1 to cause air bubbles to form in 2 to convert (e.g. a plastic) into a foam

**'foam** 'rubber *n* fine-textured spongy rubber made by introducing air bubbles before solidification

**fob** /fɒb/ *n* 1 a small pocket on or near the waistband of a man's trousers, orig for holding a watch 2 a short strap or chain attached to a watch carried in a fob or a waistcoat pocket [perh akin to G dial *suppe* pocket]

**fob off** *vt* -bb- 1 to put off with a trick or excuse – usu + *with* 2 to pass or offer (sth spurious or inferior) as genuine or perfect – usu + *on* [fob (to cheat), fr ME *fobben* – more at *FOP*]

**fob watch** *n* a large circular watch often with a cover for the face that is usu carried in a (fob) pocket

**focal-ize**, -ise /'fɒk(ə)leɪz/ *vb* to focus – *focalization* /-'zayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**focal length** *n* the distance between the optical centre of a lens or mirror and the focal point ➔ *CAMERA*

**focal plane** *n* a plane that is perpendicular to the axis of a lens or mirror and passes through the focus

**focal point** *n* 1 the focus for a beam of incident rays parallel to the axis of a lens or mirror 2 FOCUS 5 <the fireplace was the ~ of the room>

**fo'c'sle** /'fɒks(ə)l/ *n* a forecabin ➔ *SHIP*

**'focus** /'fɒkəs/ *n*, *pl* *focuses*, *foci* /'fɒkɪe, -sɪ/ 1a a point at which rays (e.g. of light, heat, or sound) converge or from which they (appear to) diverge after reflection or refraction b the point at which an object must be placed for an image formed by a lens or mirror to be sharp ➔ *CAMERA* 2a FOCAL LENGTH b adjustment (e.g. of the eye) necessary for distinct vision c a state in which sth must be placed in order to be clearly perceived <tried to bring the issues into ~> 3 a fixed point that together with a straight line forms a reference system for generating a conic section in plane geometry; also either of 2 fixed points used in generating an ellipse or hyperbola ➔ *MATHEMATICS* 4 a localized area of disease or the chief site of a generalized disease 5 a centre of activity or attention <the ~ of the meeting was drug abuse> 6 the place of origin of an earthquake ➔ *GEOGRAPHY* [NL, fr L, *hearth*] – *focal* *adj*, *focally* *adv* – *out of/in focus* not/having or giving the proper sharpness of outline due to good focussing

**'focus** *vb* -as-, -s- *vt* 1 to bring to a focus 2 to cause to be concentrated <~sed their attention on the most urgent problems> 3a to adjust the focus of b to bring into focus ~ *vi* 1 to come to a focus; converge 2 to bring one's eyes or a camera to a focus

**fodder** /'fɒdə/ *n* (coarse) food for cattle, horses, sheep, or other domestic animals 2 sth used to supply a constant demand <collected

data which became computer ~> – compare CANNON FODDER [ME, fr OE *fodor*; akin to OHG *fuotar* food – more at *FOOD*] – *fodder* *vt*

**fœ** /foʊ/ *n* an enemy, adversary [ME *fō*, fr OE *fāh*, fr *fāh* hostile; akin to OHG *gufeh* hostile]

**foehn** /fuhn (Ger *föhn*)/ *n* a foehn

**foetid** /'feɪtɪd/ *adj* fetid

**foeto-**, **foeti-**, **feto-**, **feti-** *comb form* foetus <foeticide>, foetal and <foeto-placental> [NL *fetus*]

**foetus**, **fetus** /'feɪtəs/ *n* an unborn or unhatched vertebrate, specif a developing human from usu 3 months after conception to birth ➔

**REPRODUCTION** [NL *fetus*, fr L, act of bearing young, offspring; akin to L *fetus* fruitful] – *foetal* *adj*

**'fog** /fog/ *n* 1 dead or decaying grass on land in the winter 2 a second growth of grass, an aftermath [ME, rank grass]

**'fog** *n* 1 (a murky condition of the atmosphere caused esp by) fine particles, specif of water, suspended in the lower atmosphere 2a a state of confusion or bewilderment b sth that confuses or obscures <hid behind a ~ of rhetoric> 3 cloudiness on a developed photograph caused by chemical action or radiation (e.g. from X rays) [prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *fog* spray, shower, akin to L *pustula* blister, pimple, Gk *physan* to blow]

**'fog** *vb* -gg- *vt* 1 to envelop or suffuse (as if) with fog 2 to make confused or confusing 3 to produce fog on (e.g. a photographic film) during development ~ *vi* 1 to become covered or thick with fog 2 to become blurred (as if) by a covering of fog or mist

**'fogbound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* 1 covered with or surrounded by fog <a ~ coast> 2 unable to move because of fog

**'fogbow** /-boʊ/ *n* a dim arc or circle of light sometimes seen in fog

**fogey**, **fogy** /'fɒgeɪ/ *n* a person with old-fashioned ideas – chiefly in old fogey, chiefly infml [origin unknown] – *fogeyish* *adj*, *fogeyism* *n*

**foggy** /'fɒgi/ *adj* 1a thick with fog b covered or made opaque by moisture or grime 2 blurred, obscured <hadn't the foggiest notion what they were voting for> – *foggily* *adv*, *fogginess* *n*

**'foghorn** /-hɔːn/ *n* 1 a horn (e.g. on a ship) sounded in a fog to give warning 2 a loud hoarse voice – *infml*

**föhn**, **foehn** /fuhn (Ger *föhn*)/ *n* a warm dry wind that descends the leeward side of a mountain range, esp the Alps [G, deriv of L *favonius* warm west wind]

**foible** /'fɔɪbl/ *n* 1 the part of a sword blade between the middle and point – compare FORTE 2 2 a minor weakness or shortcoming in personal character or behaviour; also a quirk [obs F (now *faible*), fr obs *foible* weak, fr OF *feble* feeble]

**foie gras** /'fwaɪ 'grɑː/ *n* the fattened liver of an animal, esp a goose, usu in the form of a pâté [F]

**'foil** /fɔɪl/ *vt* 1 esp of a hunted animal to spoil (a trail or scent) by crossing or retracing 2 to prevent from attaining an end; frustrate, defeat [ME *foilen* to trample, full cloth, fr MF *fouler* – more at *'FULL*]

**'foil** *n* 1 (fencing with) a light fencing sword with a circular guard and a flexible blade tapering to a blunted point – compare EPEE, SABRE 2 2 archaic the track or trail of an animal

**'foil** *n* 1a a curved recess between cusps (e.g. in Gothic tracery) b any of several arcs that enclose a complex design 2a very thin sheet metal (silver ~) b a thin coat of tin or silver laid on the back of a mirror 3 a thin piece of metal put under a gem or inferior stone to add colour or brilliance 4 sb or sth that serves as a contrast to another <acted as a ~ for a comedian> 5 a hydrofoil [ME, leaf, fr MF *feuille* (fr L *folia*, pl of *folium*) & *foil*, fr L *folium* – more at *BLADE*]

**'foil** *vt* to back or cover with foil


**foist** /fɔɪst/ *vt* 1a to introduce or insert surreptitiously or without warrant – + *in* or *into* b to force another to accept or tolerate, esp by stealth or deceit 2 to pass off as genuine or worthy USE (1b&2) usu + *off*, *on*, or *upon* [prob fr obs D *vuissten* to take into one's hand, fr MD *vuysten*, fr *vuyst* fist, akin to OE *fyst* fist]

**'fold** /foʊld/ *n* 1 an enclosure for sheep; also a flock of sheep 2 *song* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people adhering to a common faith, belief, or enthusiasm [ME, fr OE *fald*; akin to MLG *vālt* enclosure]

**'fold** *vt* 1 to pen (e.g. sheep) in a fold 2 to pen sheep for the fertilization of (land)

**'fold** *vt* 1 to lay one part of over another part 2 to reduce the length or bulk of by doubling over – often + *up* 3a to clasp together; entwine <~ed his arms> b to bring (limbs) to rest close to the body <the bird ~ed its wings> 4a to clasp closely; embrace b to wrap, envelop 5 to bend (e.g. a layer of rock) into folds 6 to gently incorporate (a food ingredient) into a mixture without thorough stirring or beating – usu + *in* ~ *vi* 1 to become or be capable of being folded <a ~ing chair> 2 to fail completely;

*esp* to stop production or operation because of lack of business or capital – often + *up*; chiefly *infrml* 3 to succumb to fatigue – *infrml* [ME *folden*, fr OE *fealdan*; akin to OHG *faldan* to fold, Gk *diplosios* twofold] – *foldable adj*

**fold** *n* 1 (a crease made by) a doubling or folding over 2 a part doubled or laid over another part; a pleat 3 (a hollow inside) sthg that is folded or that enfolds 4a a bend in rock strata produced usu by compression  GEOGRAPHY b chiefly *Br* an undulation in the landscape

**-fold** /-fohlɪd/ *suffix* (– *adj* or *adv*) 1 multiplied by (a specified number), times <a twelfold increase> <repay you tenfold> 2 having (so many) parts <threefold aspect of the problem> [ME, fr OE *feald*, akin to OHG *falt* –fold, OE *fealdan*]

**foldaway** /-ɔːweɪ/ *adj* designed to fold out of the way or out of sight <a ~ bed>

**folder** /'fohlɪdɜː/ *n* a folded cover or large envelope for holding or filing loose papers [*FOLD* + *-ER*]

**folderol** /'fohlɪdɜːl/ *n* 1 a useless ornament, a trifle 2 nonsense [*fol-de-rol*, a meaningless refrain in old songs]

**foldling money** *n*, chiefly *NAm* money in the form of bank notes – *infrml*

**foldout** /-ɔʊt/ *n* a folded insert in a publication larger in size than the page

**foliaceous** /'fohlɪ'æʃəs/ *adj* 1 of or resembling a foliage leaf 2 consisting of thin plates

**foliage** /'fohlɪ-ɪj/ *n* 1 the leaves of a plant or clump of plants 2 (an ornamental representation of) a cluster of leaves, branches, etc [MF *fuellage*, fr *feuille* leaf – more at *FOIL*] – *foliated adj*, *foliar adj*

**'foliage leaf** *n* an ordinary green leaf as distinguished from a floral leaf, scale, or bract

**'foliage plant** *n* a plant grown primarily for its decorative foliage

**'foliate** /'fohlɪ-ət/ *adj* 1 having leaves or leaflets; also leaf-shaped – often in combination (<trifoliate>) 2 foliated [L *foliatus* leafy, fr *folium* leaf – more at *BLADE*]

**²foliate** /'fohlɪ-əɪt/ *vt* 1 to beat (metal) into a leaf or thin foil 2 to number the leaves of (e.g. a manuscript) – compare *PAGE* 3 to decorate (e.g. an arch or pedestal) with foils ~ *vi* to divide into thin layers or leaves – *foliation* /-ə'ʃaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'foliated** *adj* composed of (easily separable) thin layers

**'follic acid** /'fohlɪk/ *n* a vitamin of the vitamin B complex that is found esp in green leafy vegetables and liver and whose lack in the diet results in anaemia [L *folium*]

**folie à deux** /'fohlɪ əˈduː (Fr *fohlɪ ə dø*)/ *n* the presence of the same or similar delusional ideas in 2 closely associated people [F, lit, double madness]

**²folio** /'fohlɪə/ *n*, *pl* *folios* 1a a leaf of a manuscript or book b a page or leaf number 2a(1) (the size of each of the 2 leaves formed from) a sheet of paper folded once (2) a book printed on pages of this size b a book of the largest size 3 a case or folder for loose papers 4 a certain number of words taken as a unit in measuring the length of a document [ME, fr L, abl of *folium*]

**²folio** *vt* *folios*; *folioing*; *folioed* FOLIATE 2

**'folk** /'fohlk/ *n* 1 *pl* *in constr* the great proportion of a people that tends to preserve its customs, superstitions, etc 2 *pl* *in constr* a specified kind or class of people <old ~> – often *pl* with sing. meaning <just plain ~s> 3 simple music, usu song, of traditional origin or style 4 *pl* *in constr* people generally – *infrml*; often *pl* with sing. meaning 5 *pl* the members of one's own family; relatives – *infrml* [ME, fr OE *folc*; akin to OHG *folc* people]


**²folk** *adj* 1 originating or traditional with the common people 2 of (the study of) the common people

**'folk etymology** *n* the transformation of words so as to bring them into an apparent relationship with other more familiar words (e.g. in the change of Spanish *cucaracha* to *cockroach*)

**'folklore** /-ləʊ/ *n* 1 traditional customs and beliefs of a people preserved by oral tradition 2 the study of the life and spirit of a people through their folklore – *folklorist n*, *folkloric* /-lɔːrɪk/ *adj*

**folkway** /'fohlks/ *adj* 1 informal or familiar in manner or style 2 having or affecting a lack of sophistication – chiefly derog *USE* *infrml* [*folks* + *-y*] – *folkishly adv*, *folkiness n*

**'folkway** /-weɪ/ *n* a traditional social custom

**follicle** /'fohlɪk/ *n* 1a a small anatomical cavity or deep narrow depression b GRAAFIAN FOLLICLE  REPRODUCTION 2 a dry 1-celled many-seeded fruit that has a single carpel and opens along 1 line only [NL *folliculus*, fr L, dim. of *folia* bag – more at *FOOL*] – *follicular* /'fɒlɪkjʊlə/, *folliculate* /'fɒlɪkjʊlət/ also *folliculated* /-ləɪtɪd/ *adj*

**'follicle-stimulating hormone** *n* a hormone produced by the front lobe of the pituitary gland that stimulates the growth of the ovum-containing Graafian follicles and activates sperm-forming cells

**follow** /'foloh/ *vt* 1 to go, proceed, or come after <~ ed the guide> 2a to pursue, esp in an effort to overtake b to seek to attain; strive after <~ knowledge> 3a to accept as a guide or leader b to obey or act in accordance with <he ~ ed the advice> 4 to copy, imitate 5a to walk or proceed along <~ a path> b to engage in as a calling or way of life; pursue (e.g. a course of action) 6a to come or take place after in time or order b to cause to be followed – usu + *with* <~ ed dinner with a liqueur> 7 to come into existence or take place as a result or consequence of 8a to watch steadily <~ ed the ball over the fence> b to keep the mind on <~ a speech> c to attend closely to; keep abreast of <she ~ ed his career with interest> d to understand the logic of (e.g. an argument) <I don't quite ~ you> ~ *vi* 1 to go or come after sb or sthg in place, time, or sequence 2 to result or occur as a consequence or inference 3 chiefly *Br* to understand the logic of a line of thought [ME *folwen*, fr OE *folgian*, akin to OHG *folgen* to follow] – *follow one's nose* to go in a straight or obvious course – *follow suit* 1 to play a card of the same suit as the card led 2 to follow an example set

**follower** /'foloh-ə/ *n* 1a one who follows the opinions or teachings of another b one who imitates another 2 *FAN* [*FOLLOW* + *-ER*]

**²following** /-ɪŋ/ *adj* 1 next after, succeeding <the ~ day> 2 now to be stated <trains will leave at the ~ times> 3 of a wind blowing in the direction in which sthg is travelling

**²following** *n*, *pl* (1) *following*, (2) *followings* 1 sthg that comes immediately after or below in writing or speech 2 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* a group of followers, adherents, or partisans

**²following** *prep* subsequent to <~ the lecture tea was served>

**'follow-my-leader** *n*, *Br* 1 a game in which the actions of a designated leader must be copied by the other players 2 the slavish following by the majority of people of an example set by an individual

**follow on** *vi*, of a side in cricket to bat a second time immediately after making a score that is less, by more than a predetermined limit, than that of the opposing team in its first innings – *follow-on* /-ɔːn/ *n*

**'follow-the-leader** *n*, *NAm* follow-my-leader

**follow through** *vi* to continue the movement of a stroke after a cricket, golf, etc ball has been struck ~ *vi* to pursue (an activity or process), esp to a conclusion – *follow-through* /-ɔː- / *n*

**follow up** *vt* 1a to follow with sthg similar, related, or supplementary <following up his promises with action> b to take appropriate action about <follow up complaints and customer suggestions> 2 to maintain contact with or reexamine (a person) at usu prescribed intervals in order to evaluate a diagnosis or treatment – *follow-up* /-ɪ- / *n*

**folly** /'fohl/ *n* 1 lack of good sense or prudence 2 a foolish act or idea 3 (criminally or tragically) foolish actions or conduct 4 a usu fanciful structure (e.g. a summerhouse) built esp for scenic effect or to satisfy a whim [ME *folie*, fr OF, fr *fol* fool – more at *FOOT*]

**foment** /'fohmɪnt/ *vt* 1 to treat with moist heat (e.g. for easing pain) 2 to promote the growth or development of, incite <~ a rebellion> [ME *fomenten*, fr LL *fomentare*, fr L *fomentum* fomentation, fr *fovere* to warm, fondle, foment] – *fomentor n*

**fomentation** /'fohmɪntə'ʃaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (the application to the body of) hot moist substances 2 fomenting, instigation


**fond** /'fɒnd/ *adj* 1 foolish, silly <~ pride> 2 having an affection or liking for sthg specified – + *of* <~ of music> 3a foolishly tender; indulgent b affectionate, loving 4 doted on; cherished <his ~ est hopes> [ME, fr *fonne* fool] – *fondness n*

**fondant** /'fɒndənt (Fr *fɒdɒ̃*)/ *n* (a sweet made from) a soft creamy preparation of flavoured sugar and water [F, fr *ppr* of *fondre* to melt – more at *FOUND*]

**fondle** /'fɒndl/ *vb* *fondling* /'fɒndlɪŋ/ *vi* to handle tenderly or lingeringly ~ *vi* to show affection or desire by caressing [freq of obs *fond* (to be foolish, dote)]

**fondly** /'fɒndli/ *adv* 1 affectionately 2 in a willingly credulous manner <government ~ imagine that cutting taxes will reduce wage demands>

**fondue** /'fɒnd(y)ʊə (Fr *fɒdy*)/ *n* a dish consisting of a hot liquid (e.g. oil or a thick sweet or savoury sauce) into which small pieces of food are dipped for cooking or coating, esp one made with melted cheese and usu white wine [F *fondue*, fr *fem* of *fond*, *pp* of *fondre*]

**²font** /'fɒnt/ *n* 1a a receptacle for holy water; esp one used in baptism  CHURCH b a receptacle for oil in a lamp 2 chiefly *NAm* *FOUNT* [ME, fr OE, fr LL *font-*, *fons*, fr L, fountain] – *fontal adj*

**²font** *n*, chiefly *NAm* *FOUNT*

**fontanelle**, *NAm* chiefly *fontanel* /'fɒnts'nel/ *n* any of the spaces closed

by membranous structures between the parietal bones of the skull of an infant or foetus [ME *fontinelle*, a bodily hollow or pit, fr MF *fontenele*, dim of *fontaine* fountain]

**food** /foʊd/ *n* 1a (minerals, vitamins, etc together with) material consisting essentially of protein, carbohydrate, and fat taken into the body of a living organism and used to provide energy and sustain processes (e.g. growth and repair) essential for life 2b inorganic substances absorbed (e.g. in gaseous form or in solution) by plants 2 nutrient in solid form 3 sth that sustains or supplies <~ for thought> [ME *fode*, fr OE *foda*; akin to OHG *fuotar* food, fodder, L *panis* bread, *pascere* to feed]

**food chain** *n* a hierarchical arrangement of organisms ordered according to each organism's use of the next as a food source ~ FOOD

**food poisoning** *n* an acute gastrointestinal disorder caused by (the toxic products of) bacteria or by chemical residues in food

**food processor** *n* an electrical appliance that performs a range of operations in preparing food (e.g. chopping, shredding, and mixing)

**foodstuff** /-stuf/ *n* a substance with food value, esp the raw material of food before or after processing

**food vacuole** *n* a vacuole (e.g. in an amoeba) in which ingested food is digested

**food web** *n* all the interacting food chains in an ecological community

**fool** /foʊl/ *n* 1 a person lacking in prudence, common sense, or understanding 2a a jester b a person who is victimized or made to appear foolish, a dupe 3 a cold dessert of fruit puree mixed with whipped cream or custard [ME, fr OF *fol*, fr LL *folis*, fr L, bellows, bag, akin to L *flare* to blow - more at 'blow'] - foolery /-lɔri/ *n*

**fool vi** 1a to act or spend time idly or aimlessly b(1) to meddle, play, or trifle with <~ dangerous man to ~ with> (2) to philander with <stop ~ing about with my wife> 2 to play or improvise a comic role, specify to joke ~ vt to make a fool of, deceive USE (vi 1) often + around or about

**fool adj** foolish, silly <barking his ~ head off> - infml

**foolhardy** /-hahdi/ *adj* foolishly adventurous and bold; rash [ME, fr OF *fol hardi*, fr *fol* foolish + *hardi* bold - more at HARDY] - foolhardily *adv*, foolhardiness *n*

**foolish** /foʊlish/ *adj* 1 marked by or proceeding from folly 2 absurd, ridiculous - foolishly *adv*, foolishness *n*

**foolproof** /-proʊf/ *adj* so simple or reliable as to leave no opportunity for error, misuse, or failure (a ~ plan)

**foolscap** /foʊlskap, /-fool-/ *n* a size of paper usu 17 × 13½ in (432 × 343 mm) [fr the watermark of a fool's cap formerly applied to such paper]

**fool's errand** *n* a needless or fruitless errand

**fool's gold** *n* IRON PYRITES

**fool's paradise** *n* a state of illusory happiness

**fool's parsley** *n* a poisonous European plant of the carrot family that resembles parsley

**foot** /foʊt/ *n*, *pl* feet /feet/, (3) feet also foot, (9) foot 1 the end part of the vertebrate leg on which an animal stands 2 an organ of locomotion or attachment of an invertebrate animal, esp a mollusc 3 a unit of length equal to 1/3yd (0.305m) <a 10-foot pole> <6 feet tall> ~ SYMBOL, UNIT 4 the basic unit of verse metre consisting of any of various fixed combinations of stressed and unstressed or long and short syllables 5 manner or motion of walking or running, step <fleet of ~> 6a the lower end of the leg of a chair, table, etc b the piece on a sewing machine that presses the cloth against the feed 7 the lower edge or lowest part; the bottom <the ~ of a page> <the ~ of the stairs> ~ SHIP 8a the end that is opposite the head or top or nearest to the human feet <the ~ of the bed> b the part (e.g. of a stocking) that covers the human foot 9 chiefly Br, sing or pl in constr the infantry [ME *foet*, fr OE *foot*; akin to L *ped-*, *pes* foot, Gk *pod-*, *pous*] - footless *adj* - my foot MY EYE - infml - on foot by walking or running <tour the city on foot> - on one's feet 1 standing 2 in a recovered condition (e.g. from illness) 3 in an impromptu manner <good debaters can think on their feet>

**foot vi** to dance ~ vt 1a to perform the movements of (a dance) b to walk, run, or dance on, over, or through 2 to pay or stand credit for <agreed to ~ the bill> 3 to make or renew the foot of (e.g. a stocking) - foot it 1 to dance 2 to travel on foot

**footage** /foʊtiʃ/ *n* 1 length or quantity expressed in feet 2 (the length in feet of) exposed film

**foot-and-mouth, foot-and-mouth disease** *n* a contagious virus disease, esp of cloven-footed animals, marked by small ulcers in the mouth, about the hoofs, and on the udder and teats

**football** /-baw/ *n* 1 (the inflated round or oval ball used in) any of

several games, esp soccer, that are played between 2 teams on a usu rectangular field having goalposts at each end and whose object is to get the ball over a goal line or between goalposts by running, passing, or kicking ~ SPORT 2 sthg treated as a basis for contention rather than on its intrinsic merits <the bill became a political ~ in Parliament> - footballer *n*

**football pools** *n* a form of organized gambling based on forecasting the results of football matches

**footbath** /-bahth/ *n* a bath for cleansing, warming, or disinfecting the feet

**footboard** /-bawd/ *n* 1 a narrow platform on which to stand or brace the feet 2 a board forming the foot of a bed

**foot brake** *n* a brake operated by foot pressure

**footbridge** /-brɪʃ/ *n* a bridge for pedestrians

**footed adj** having a foot or feet, esp of a specified kind or number - usu in combination <a 4-footed animal>

**footer** /foʊtə/ *n*, chiefly Br soccer - infml, no longer in vogue [by shortening & alter. fr *football*]

**footer** /-foʊtə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) sby or sthg that is a (specified) number of feet in height, length, or breadth

**footfall** /-faw/ *n* the sound of a footsteps

**foot, fault vi** or *n* (to make) a fault in tennis made when a server's feet are not behind the baseline

**foothill** /-hil/ *n* a hill at the foot of mountains

**foothold** /-hohld/ *n* 1 FOOTING 1 2 an (established) position or basis from which to progress <secured a ~ in the plastics market>

**footing** /foʊtiŋ/ *n* 1 a stable position or placing of or for the feet 2 a (condition of a) surface with respect to its suitability for walking or running on 3a an established position; FOOTHOLD 2 b a position or rank in relation to others <they all started off on an equal ~> 4 an enlargement at the lower end of a foundation, wall, pier, or column to distribute the load, also a trench dug to accommodate this - often pl <the ~ must be excavated to a minimum depth of 4R>

**footle** /foʊtl/ *vi* footling /foʊtliŋ/ to mess or potter around or about, also to waste time - infml [alter. of *footer* (to bungle), fr F *foutre* to copulate]

**footlights** /-liets/ *n pl* a row of lights set across the front of a stage floor

**footling** /foʊtliŋ/ *adj* 1 bungling, inept <~ amateurs who understand nothing> - E R Bentley 2 unimportant, trivial, also pettily fussy USE infml [footle]

**foot, loose** /-loʊs/ *adj* having no ties; free to go or do as one pleases

**footman** /-mən/ *n* a servant in livery hired chiefly to wait, receive visitors, etc

**footnote** /-noʊt/ *n* 1 a note of reference, explanation, or comment typically placed at the bottom of a printed page 2 sthg subordinately related to a larger event or work <that biography is an illuminating ~ to the history of our times> - footnote *vt*

**footpad** /-pad/ *n*, archaic one who robs a pedestrian [foot + arch pad (highwayman)]

**footpad** *n* a broad foot on the leg of a spacecraft [foot + 'pad]

**footpath** /-paɪth/ *n* a narrow path for pedestrians; also PAVEMENT *a*

**footplate** /-playt/ *n*, Br the platform on which the crew stand in a locomotive

**footprint** /-prɪnt/ *n* 1 an impression left by the foot 2 an area within which a spacecraft is intended to land

**foot, rot** *n* a progressive inflammation of the feet of sheep or cattle

**footrule** /-roʊl/ *n* a ruler 1ft long; also a ruler graduated in feet and inches

**foots** *n pl* but sing or pl in constr material deposited, esp in aging or refining, dregs ['foot (lowest part, material at the bottom)]

**footale** /foʊts/ *n* 1 surreptitious amorous caresses with the feet 2 clandestine dealings USE chiefly in play *footsie with*; infml [baby-talk dim. of 'foot]

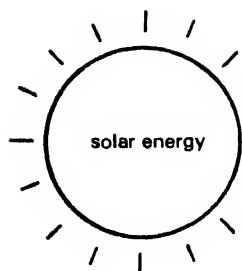
**foot, slog** /-slog/ *vi* -gg- to march or tramp laboriously - infml - footslog *n*, footslogger *n*

**foot soldier** *n* an infantryman

**foot, sore** /-saw/ *adj* having sore or tender feet (e.g. from much walking) - footsoreness *n*

**foot, step** /-step/ *n* 1a the sound of a step or tread b distance covered by a step 2 FOOTPRINT 1 3a way of life, conduct, or action - usu pl with sing. meaning <followed in his father's ~s>

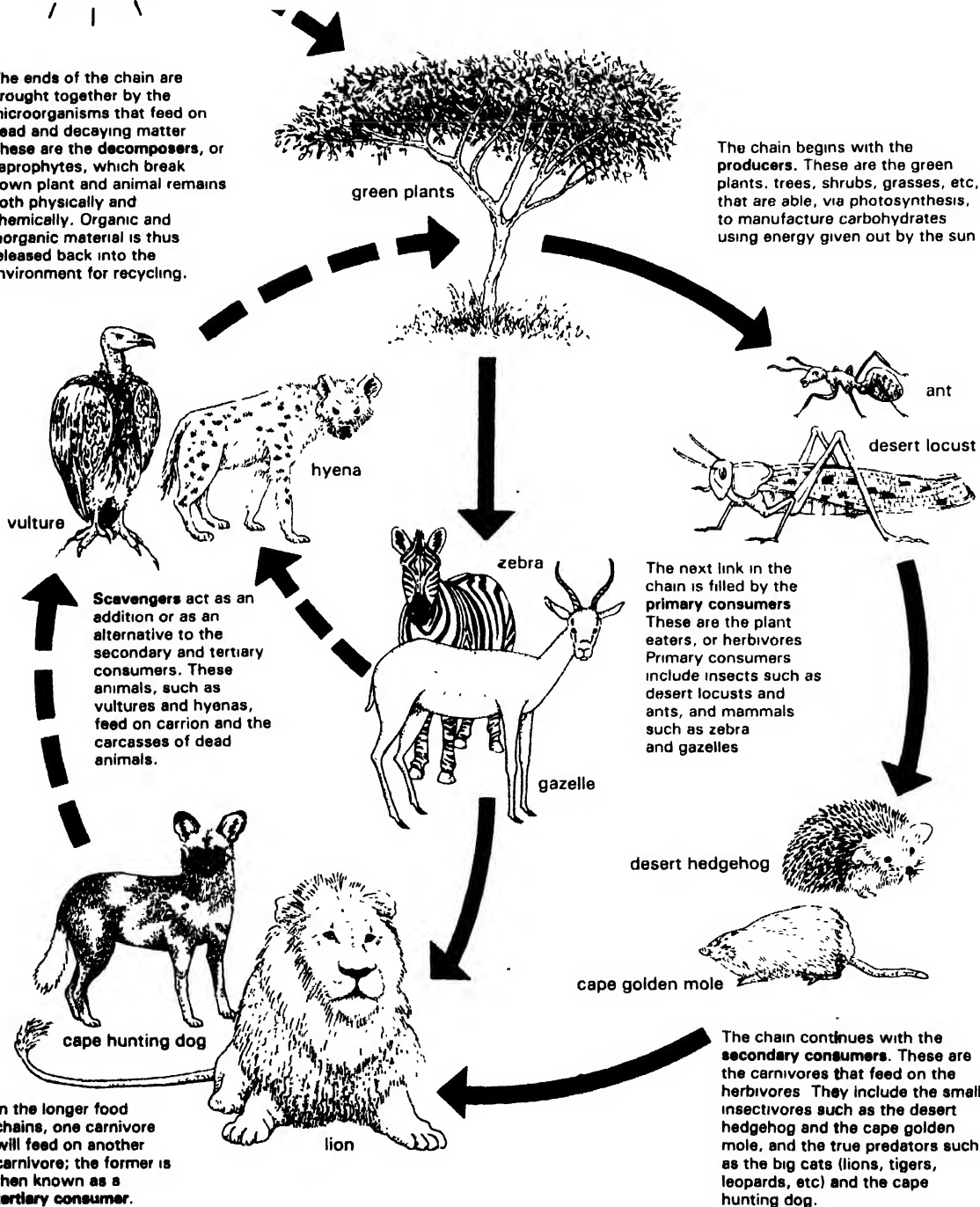
**foot, wear** /-weə/ *n* articles (e.g. shoes or boots) worn on the feet



A **food chain** is a series of organisms existing in any natural community, or ecosystem, through which energy is transferred. Each organism in the series feeds on and obtains energy from the one preceding it and in turn is consumed by and provides energy for the one following it. Usually the number of links in the chain is 3 or 4 and each link is known as an energy or trophic level. All the food chains in a community make up the food web. The diagram shows part of a food cycle typical of organisms inhabiting the African savanna.

The ends of the chain are brought together by the microorganisms that feed on dead and decaying matter. These are the **decomposers**, or **saprophytes**, which break down plant and animal remains both physically and chemically. Organic and inorganic material is thus released back into the environment for recycling.

The chain begins with the **producers**. These are the green plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, etc., that are able, via photosynthesis, to manufacture carbohydrates using energy given out by the sun.



**'foot,work** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 the control and placing of the feet, esp in sport (e.g. in boxing or batting) 2 the activity of moving from place to place on foot (<the investigation entailed a lot of ~>)

**footy** /'futi/ *n* soccer – infml [by shortening & alter. fr *football*]

**fop** /fop/ *n* a dandy [ME, fool; akin to ME *fobben* to deceive, MHG *voppen*] – *foppish* *adj*, *foppishly* *adv*, *foppishness* *n*

**foppery** /'fopəri/ *n* the behaviour, dress, or affectations (characteristic) of a fop

**for** /fə; strong faw/ *prep* 1a – used to indicate purpose (<a grant ~ studying medicine> <an operation ~ cancer> <what's this knob ~?>), goal or direction (<left ~ home> <acted ~ the best> <getting on ~ 5>), or that which is to be had or gained (<now ~ a good rest> <run ~ your life> <an eye ~ a bargain> b to belong to (<the flowers are ~ you>) 2 as being or constituting (<take him ~ a fool> <ate it ~ breakfast> <I ~ one don't care>) – compare FOR EXAMPLE 3a BECAUSE OF 1 <cried ~ joy> <feel better ~ a holiday> b because of the hindrance of (<couldn't speak ~ laughing> <if it weren't ~ you I'd leave>) 4a in place of (<change ~ a pound> b on behalf of; representing (<acting ~ my client> <red ~ danger> c in support of; in FAVOUR OF 1 <he played ~ England> 5 considered as, considering (<tall ~ her age> <cold ~ April> 6 with respect to, concerning (<famous ~ its scenery> <a stickler ~ detail> <eggs are good ~ you> 7 – used to indicate cost, payment, equivalence, or correlation (<£7 ~ a hat> <all out ~ 342 runs> <punished ~ talking> <wouldn't hurt her ~ the world> <5 duds ~ every good one> 8 – used to indicate duration of time or extent of space (<~ 10 miles> <the worst accident ~ months> 9 on the occasion or at the time of (<came home ~ Christmas> <invited them ~ 9 o'clock> 10 – used to introduce a clause with a nonfinite verb (<no need ~ you to worry> <it's dangerous ~ George to hurry> 11 chiefly NAM AFTER 5 [ME, fr OE; akin to L *per* through, *pro* before, *pro* before, *pro* ahead, Gk *pro*, OE *faran* to go – more at FARE] – for all 1 IN SPITE OF <couldn't open it for all their efforts> 2 to the extent that <dead for all I know> 3 considering how little (<might as well stop talking for all the good it does> – for all one is worth with all one's might – for it chiefly Br likely to get into trouble – infml – for what it is worth without guarantee of wisdom or accuracy – for you – used after *there* or *that* in exclamations of enthusiasm or exasperation (<that's country hotels for you!>)

**for** *conj* 1 and the reason is that 2 BECAUSE 2

**for** *adj* being in favour of a motion or measure

**for-** *prefix* 1a so as to involve prohibition or exclusion (<forbid> <forfeud> b so as to involve omission, refraining, or neglect (<forgo> <forsake> <forget> <forswear> 2 destructively; detrimentally (<fordo> 3 completely; excessively (<forspent> <forlorn> [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *fur-*, OE *for*]

**fora** /'fawrə/ *pl* OF FORUM

**'forage** /'fɔrɪ/ *n* 1 food for animals, esp when taken by browsing or grazing 2 a foraging for provisions, broadly a search [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *forre* fodder, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *fuotar* food, fodder – more at FOOD; (2) fr 'forage]

**'forage** *vt* 1 to collect or take provisions or forage from 2 to secure by foraging (<~d a chicken for the feast>) ~ *vi* 1 to wander in search of forage or food 2 to make a search for; rummage – *forager* *n*

**foramen** /'fɔ'reɪmɪn/ *n*, *pl* **foramina** /'fɔ'rə'mɪnə/, **foramens** a small anatomical opening or perforation [L *foramin-*, *foramen*, fr *forare* to bore – more at BORE] – **foraminal** /'fɔ'rə'mɪnəl/ *adj*

**foraminifer** /'fɔrə'mɪnɪfə/, **foraminiferan** /'fɔrə'mɪnɪfərən/ *n*, *pl* **foraminifera** /'fɔrə'mɪnɪfərə/, **foraminifera**, **foraminiferans** any of an order of chiefly marine amoeba-like single-celled animals usu having hard perforated calcium-containing shells that form the bulk of chalk [NL *Foraminifera*, order name, fr L *foramin-*, *foramen* + *-fera*, neut pl of *-i-*, *-fer*] – **foraminiferal** /'nɪfərəl/, **foraminiferous** /'nɪfərəs/ *adj*

**foras'much** as /'fɔrəz'mʌʃ/ *conj*, *archaic* in view of the fact that; since

**'foray** /'fɔrɪ/ *vi* to make a raid or incursion [ME *forrayen*, fr MF *forrer*, fr *forre* fodder – more at PORAGE] – **forayer** *n*

**'foray** *n* 1 a sudden invasion, attack, or raid 2 a brief excursion or attempt, esp outside one's accustomed sphere (<the teacher's ~ into politics>)

**'forbear** /'faw'beə/ *vb* **forbore** /'faw'baw/; **forborne** /'faw'bawn/ *vt* to hold oneself back from, esp with an effort of self-restraint (<he forbore to answer the slander>) ~ *vi* 1 to hold back, abstain – usu + *from* (<he forbore from expressing his disagreement>) 2 to control oneself when provoked; be patient – chiefly fml [ME *forberen*, fr OE *forberan* to endure, do without, fr *for-* + *beran* to bear]

**'forbear** /'faw'beə/ *n* a forbearer

**forbearance** /'faw'beərəns/ *n* 1 a refraining from the enforcement of sthg (e.g. a debt, right, or obligation) that is due 2 patience 3 leniency [FORBEAR + -ANCE]

**forbid** /'fə'bɪd/ *vt* **forbidding**; **forbade** /'fə'bəd, -'bəyd, -'bed/, **forbad**; **forbidden** /'fə'bɪd(ə)n/ 1a to refuse (e.g. by authority) to allow; command against (<the law ~s shops to sell alcohol to minors>) b to refuse access to or use of (<her father forbade him the house>) 2 to make impracticable; hinder, prevent (<space ~s further treatment of the subject here>) [ME *forbidden*, fr OE *forbēdan*, fr *foi-* + *bēdan* to bid – more at BID] – **forbidding** *n*

**forbidden** *adj*, of quantum phenomena not conforming to the usual selection principles

**forbidding** /'fə'bɪdɪŋ/ *adj* 1 having a menacing or dangerous appearance (<~ mountains> 2 unfriendly (<his father was a stern ~ figure>) – **forbiddingly** *adv*, **forbiddingly** *n*

**'force** /'fɔ:rs/ *n* 1a strength or energy exerted or brought to bear; active power (<the ~s of nature>) b moral or mental strength c capacity to persuade or convince (<couldn't resist the ~ of his argument>) d (legal) validity; operative effect (<an agreement having the ~ of law>) 2a(1) a body (e.g. of troops or ships) assigned to a military purpose (2) *pl* the armed services of a nation or commander b(1) a body of people or things fulfilling an often specified function (<a labour ~>) (2) POLICE FORCE – often + *the* c an individual or group having the power of effective action (<he was the driving ~ behind the passing of that bill>) 3 violence, compulsion, or constraint exerted on or against a person or thing 4a (the intensity of) an agency that if applied to a free body results chiefly in an acceleration of the body and sometimes in elastic deformation and other effects <~ PHYSICS> b an agency or influence analogous to a physical force (<economic ~s>) 5 the quality of conveying impressions intensely in writing or speech 6 *cap* a measure of wind strength as expressed by a number on the Beaufort scale (<a Force 9 gale>) [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *fortia*, fr L *fortis* strong] – **in force** 1 in great numbers (<police were summoned in force>) 2 valid, operative (<the new law is now in force>)

**'force** *vt* 1 to compel by physical, moral, or intellectual means (<~d labour>) 2 to make or cause through natural or logical necessity (<his arguments ~d them to admit he was right>) 3a to press, drive, or effect against resistance or inertia (<~ a bill through Parliament>) (<~d his way through the crowd>) b to impose or thrust urgently, importunately, or inexorably (<~ unwanted attentions on a woman>) 4a to capture or penetrate by force (<~ a castle>) (<~d the mountain passes>) b to break open or through (<~ a lock>) 5a to raise or accelerate to the utmost (<forcing the pace>) b to produce only with unnatural or unwilling effort (<she ~d a smile in spite of her distress>) (<a ~d laugh>) 6 to hasten the growth, onset of maturity, or rate of progress of (<forcing rhubarb>) 7 to induce (e.g. a particular bid from one's partner) in a card game by some conventional act, bid, etc 8 of a batsman in cricket to play an aggressive shot at (a delivery), esp off the back foot – **forcedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*, **forcer** *n* – **force** someone's hand to cause sby to act precipitously or reveal his/her purpose or intention

**'force-feed** *vt* to feed forcibly

**'force-field** *n* a hypothetical invisible barrier that is impermeable to alien life forms, weaponry (e.g. energy beams), etc

**'forceful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* possessing or filled with force; effective – **forcefully** *adv*, **forcefulness** *n*

**'force-land** *vb* to land (an aircraft) involuntarily or in an emergency [back-formation fr *forced landing*] – **forced landing** *n*

**'force majeure** /'ma'ʒu:ə/ (Fr *fɔrs mæʒœ:r*) *n* a disruptive event (e.g. war) that cannot be reasonably anticipated – compare ACT OF GOD [F, superior force]

**'force-meat** /-meɪt/ *n* a savoury highly seasoned stuffing, esp of breadcrumbs and meat [*force* (alter of *farce*) + *meat*]

**'force of habit** *n* behaviour made involuntary or automatic by repetition

**forceps** /'fɔ:rsɪps, -seps/ *n*, *pl* **forceps** an instrument used (e.g. in surgery and watchmaking) for grasping, holding firmly, or pulling – usu *pl* with sing. meaning [L, fr *formus* warm + *capere* to take – more at WARM, HEAVE]

**'force-pump** *n* a pump that can force a liquid, esp water, higher than atmospheric pressure could

**'force-shield** *n* FORCE FIELD


**forcible** /'fɔ:rsəbl/ *adj* 1 effected by force used against opposition or resistance 2 powerful, forceful (<a ~ argument>) – **forcibleness** *n*, **forcibly** *adv*

**'forcing-ground** *n* HOTBED 2

**'ford** /'fɔ:rd/ *n* a shallow part of a river or other body of water that can

be crossed by wading, in a vehicle, etc [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *fjorthr* fiord, L *portus* port, OE *faran* to go – more at FARE]

**\*ford** *vt* to cross (a river, stream, etc) at a ford – **fordable** *adj*

**\*fore** /faw/ *adj or adv* (situated) in, towards, or adjacent to the front  SHIP [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *for*]

**\*fore** *n* sthg that occupies a forward position – to the fore in or into a position of prominence

**\*fore** *interj* – used by a golfer to warn anyone in the probable line of flight of his/her ball [prob short for *before*]

**fore** /faw-/ *comb form* **f** (occurring) earlier or beforehand <forepayment> <foresee> **2a** situated at the front, in front <foreleg> **b** front part of <forearm> [ME *for-*, *fore-*, fr OE *fore-*, fr *fore*, *adv*]

**fore-and-aft** /ahft/ *adj* **1** lying, running, or acting in the general line of the length of a ship or other construction **2** having no square sails **fore and aft** *adv* from stem to stern

**forearm** /faw'rahm, faw'ahm/ *vt* to arm in advance, prepare

**forearm** /faw'rahm/ *n* (the part in other vertebrates corresponding to) the human arm between the elbow and the wrist

**forebear, forbear** /faw,bea/ *n* an ancestor, forefather [ME (Sc) *forebear*, fr *fore-* + *-bear* (fr *been* to be)]


**forebode** /faw'bohd, fa-/ *vt* **1** to foretell, portend **2** to have a premonition of (evil, misfortune, etc) – **forebode** *n*

**foreboding** /'bohdng/ *n* an omen, prediction, or presentiment, esp of coming evil

**forebrain** /faw,brayn/ *n* (the telencephalon and other parts of the adult brain that develop from) the front of the 3 primary divisions of the embryonic vertebrate brain

**forecast** /faw,kahst/ *vb* **forecast, forecasted** *vt* **1** to estimate or predict (some future event or condition), esp as a result of rational study and analysis of available pertinent data **2** to serve as a forecast of, presage <such events may ~ peace> ~ *vi* to calculate or predict the future [ME *forecasten*, fr *fore-* *fore* + *caster* to cast, contrive] – **forecaster** *n*

**\*forecast** *n* a prophecy, estimate, or prediction of a future happening or condition, esp a weather forecast

**forecastle**, fo'e'sle /'fohks(ə)/ *n* **1** a short raised deck at the bow of a ship  SHIP **2** a forward part of a merchant ship having the living quarters [ME *forecastel*, fr *fore-* *fore* + *castel* castle]

**foreclose** /faw'kloh-/ *vt* **1** to take away the right to redeem (e.g. a mortgage), usu because of nonpayment **2** to take away the right to redeem a mortgage or other debt from ~ *vi* to foreclose a mortgage or other debt [ME *forclösen*, fr OF *forclous*, pp of *forcloure*, fr *fors* outside (fr L *fors*) + *cloure* to close – more at FORUM] – **foreclosure** /-'klohzh-/ *n*

**forecourt** /-'kawt/ *n* an open or paved area in front of a building, esp that part of a petrol station where the petrol pumps are situated

**foredeck** /-'dek/ *n* the forepart of a ship's main deck

**fore-edge** *n* the edge of a book (page) opposite the spine

**forefather** /-'fahdha/ *n* **1** ANCESTOR **2a** a person of an earlier period and common heritage

**forefinger** /-'fing-ga/ *n* the finger next to the thumb

**forefoot** /-'foot/ *n* the forward part of a ship where the stem and keel meet

**forefront** /-'frunt/ *n* the foremost part or place, the vanguard <was in the ~ of the progressive movement>

**foregather** /faw'gadha/ *vi* to forgather

**forego** /fə'goh, faw-/ *vt* **foregoes; foregoing; forewent** /faw'went/, **foregone** /faw'gon/ to forgo

**foregoing** /faw'goh-ing/ *adj* going before; that immediately precedes <the ~ statement is open to challenge> [fr prp of *forego* (to go before)]


**foregone conclusion** *n* an inevitable result; a certainty <the victory was a ~>

**foreground** /-'grəund/ *n* **1** the part of a picture or view nearest to and in front of the spectator **2** a position of prominence, the forefront

**\*forehand** /-'hand/ *n* **1** the part of a horse in front of the rider **2** a forehand stroke in tennis, squash, etc, also the side or part of the court on which such strokes are made

**\*forehand** *adj or adv* (made) with the palm of the hand turned in the direction of movement

**forehead** /faw'hed, 'fənd/ *n* the part of the face above the eyes

**forehock** /-'hok/ *n* a foreleg of a bacon pig  MEAT

**foreign** /'forən; also 'forn/ *adj* **1** (situated) outside a place or country; esp (situated) outside one's own country **2** born in, belonging to, or characteristic of some place or country other than the one under consideration **3** of or proceeding from some other person or material thing than the one under consideration **4** alien in character, not connected or

pertinent to **5** of, concerned with, or dealing with other nations <~ affairs> <~ minister> <~ trade> **6** occurring in an abnormal situation in the living body and commonly introduced from outside [ME *forein*, fr OF, fr LL *forānus* on the outside, fr L *fors* outside – more at FORUM] – **foreignism** *n*, **foreignness** *n*

**foreign aid** *n* (economic) assistance provided by one nation to another

**\*foreigner** /-'nə/ *n* **1** a person belonging to or owing allegiance to a foreign country, an alien **2** chiefly dial STRANGER **1b**, esp a person not native to a community

**foreign exchange** *n* (the buying and selling of) foreign currency

**foreign legion** *n* a body of foreign volunteers serving within a regular national army, esp that of France [trans of F *légion étrangère*]

**foreign office** *n* the government department for foreign affairs

**foreign secretary** *n* a government minister for foreign affairs


**forejudge** /faw'juj/ *vt* to prejudge

**foreknow** *vt* **foreknew** /-'nyoooh/, **foreknown** /-'nohn/ to have previous knowledge of, know beforehand, esp by paranormal means or by revelation – **foreknowledge** /-'nɒlj/ *n*


**foreland** /-'lənd/ *n* a promontory, headland

**foreleg** /-'leg/ *n* a front leg, esp of a quadruped

**forelimb** /-'lim/ *n* an arm, fin, wing, or leg that is (homologous to) a foreleg

**forelock** /-'lək/ *n* a lock of hair growing just above the forehead  ANATOMY

**foreman** /-'mən/, *fem* **forewoman** *n*, *pl* **foremen** /-'mən/ **1** the chairman and spokesman of a jury **2** a person, often a chief worker, who supervises a group of workers, a particular operation, or a section of a plant

**foremast** /-'mahst/ *n* the (lower part of the) mast nearest the bow of a ship  SHIP

**\*foremost** /-'mohst, -məst/ *adj* **1** first in a series or progression **2** of first rank or position, preeminent [ME *foremost*, fr OE, superl of *forma* first, akin to OHG *fruma* advantage, OE *fore fore*]

**\*foremost** *adv* most importantly <first and ~>

**forename** /-'naym/ *n* a name that precedes a person's surname

**forenoon** /-'noohn/ *n* the morning – fml

**forensic** /'fɔ'renzik/ *adj* **1** belonging to or used in courts of law **2** of or being the scientific investigation of crime [L *forensis* public, forensic, fr *forum*] – **forensically** *adv*

**forensic medicine** *n* a science that deals with the application of medical facts and methods to criminal investigations and legal problems

**foreordain** /-'aw'dayn/ *vt* to settle, arrange, or appoint in advance, predestine – **foreordination** /-'aw'daynsh(ə)n/ *n*

**forepart** /-'paɪt/ *n* the front part of sthg

**foreplay** /-'play/ *n* erotic stimulation preceding sexual intercourse

**forequarter** /-'kwawtə/ *n* the front half of a side (of the carcass) of a quadruped

**forerunner** /-'runə/ *n* **1** a premonitory sign or symptom **2a** a predecessor, forefather **b** PROTOTYPE **1**

**fore, sail** /-'sayl/ *n* **1** the lowest square sail on the foremast of a square-rigged ship **2** the principal fore-and-aft sail set on a schooner's foremast

**foresee** /faw'see/ *vt* **foreseeing; foresaw** /-'saw/, **foreseen** /-'seen/ to be aware of (e.g. a development) beforehand – **foreseeable** *adj*, **foreseer** /-'see-ə/ *n*

**foreshadow** /-'shadoh/ *vt* to represent or typify beforehand, prefigure, suggest <present trends ~ future events> – **foreshadow** *n*

**foresheets** /-'sheets/ *n pl* the forward part of an open boat


**foreshore** /-'shaw/ *n* **1** a strip of land bordering a body of water **2** the part of a seashore between high-tide and low-tide marks

**foreshorten** /-'shawt(ə)n/ *vt* **1** to shorten (a detail in a drawing or painting) so as to create an illusion of depth **2** to make more compact

**foreshow** /-'shoh/ *vt* **foreshown** /-'shohn/ to foretell or foreshadow

**foresight** /-'siet/ *n* **1** foreseeing, prescience **2** provident care; prudence <had the ~ to invest his money wisely> **3** the sight nearest the muzzle on a firearm – **foresighted** /-'sietid/ *adj*, **foresightedly** /-'sietidli/ *adv*, **foresightedness** /-'sietidnis/ *n*

**foreskin** /-'skin/ *n* a fold of skin that covers the glans of the penis

**forest** /'forɪst/ *n* **1** a tract of wooded land in Britain formerly owned by the sovereign and used for hunting game **2** a dense growth of trees and underbrush covering a large tract of land  PLANT **3** sthg resembling a profusion of trees <a ~ of TV aerials> [ME, fr OF, fr ML *forestis*, fr L *fors* outside – more at FORUM]

**\*forest** *vt* to cover with trees or forest – **forestation** /-'steysh(ə)n/ *n*



**fore'stall** /-'stawl/ *vt* 1 to exclude, hinder, or prevent by prior measures 2 to get ahead of; anticipate [ME *forstallen*, fr *forstall* act of waylaying, fr OE *foresteall*, fr *fore-* + *steall* position, stall] – **fore'staller** *n*, **fore'stallment** *n*

**'fore'stay** /-'stay/ *n* a stay from the top of the foremast to the bow of a ship

**fore'steer** /'forista/ *n* 1 a person trained in forestry 2 a person, animal, moth, etc that inhabits forest land

**fore'st ranger** *n* an officer charged with the patrolling and guarding of a forest

**fore'stry** /'fonstri/ *n* 1 forest land 2 the scientific cultivation or management of forests

**fore'taste** /'faw,tayst/ *n* 1 an advance indication or warning 2 a small anticipatory sample

**fore'tell** /-'tel/ *vt* **fore'told** /-'tohld/ to tell beforehand; predict – **fore'teller** *n*

**'fore,thought** /-'hawt/ *n* 1 a thinking or planning out in advance, premeditation 2 consideration for the future

**fore'token** /-'tohkan/ *vt* or *n* (to indicate or warn of with) a premonitory sign

**'forever** /'fə'revə/ *adv* 1 forever, forevermore for all future time, indefinitely <wants to live ~> 2 persistently, incessantly <is ~ whistling out of tune>

**²forever** *n* a seemingly endless length of time <took her ~ to find the answer>

**fore'warn** /-'wawn/ *vt* to warn in advance

**'fore,woman** /-'wooman/ *n*, **pl forewomen** /-'wimin/ a woman who acts as a foreman

**'fore,word** /-'wuhd/ *n* a preface, esp one written by sb other than the author of the text

**'forfeit** /'fawfɪt/ *n* 1 sth lost, taken away, or imposed as a penalty 2 the loss or forfeiting of sth, esp of civil rights 3a an article deposited or a task performed in the game of forfeits **b pl** but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a game in which articles are deposited (e.g. for making a mistake) and then redeemed by performing a silly task [ME *forfait*, fr MF, fr pp of *forfaire* to commit a crime, forfeit, prob fr *fors* outside (fr L *fors*) + *faire* to do, fr L *facere* – more at **FORUM**, **DO**] – **forfeit** *adj*

**²forfeit** *vt* 1 to lose the right to by some error, offence, or crime 2 to subject to confiscation as a forfeit – **forfeitable** *adj*, **forfeiture** /-'fɪtʃə/ *n*

**forfend** /'fawfend/ *vt* to forbid – chiefly in *heaven forfend* [ME *forfenden*, fr *for-* + *fenden* to fend – more at **FFND**]

**for'gather, fore'gather** /'faw'gadhə/ *vi* to come together, assemble

**'forge** /'faw/ *n* (a workshop with) an open furnace where metal, esp iron, is heated and wrought [ME, fr OF, fr L *fabrica*, fr *fabr-*, *faber* smith – more at **DAFT**]

**²forge** *vt* 1 to shape (metal or a metal object) by heating and hammering or with a press 2 to form or bring into being, esp by an expenditure of effort <made every effort to ~ party unity> 3 to counterfeit (esp a signature, document, or bank note) ~ *vi* to commit forgery – **forgeable** *adj*, **forger** *n*

**³forge** *vi* 1 to move forwards slowly and steadily but with effort <the great ship ~d through the waves> 2 to move with a sudden increase of speed and power <the horse ~d ahead to win the race> [prob alter of **force**]

**for'gery** /'fawjəri/ *n* 1 (the crime of) forging 2 a forged document, bank note, etc

**forget** /'fə'get/ *vb* **forgetting**; **forgot** /-'got/, **forgotten** /-'got(ə)n/, *archaic* or *NAm* **forgot** *vt* 1 to fail to remember; lose the remembrance of <I ~ his name> 2 to fail to give attention to; disregard <forgot his ok.' 'tends> 3a to disregard intentionally; overlook <we will ~ our differences> **b** to reject the possibility of <as for going out tonight, ~ it!> ~ *vi* 1 to cease remembering or noticing <forgive and ~> 2 to fail to remember at the proper time – usu + *about* <~ about paying the bill> [ME *forgeten*, fr OE *forgettan*, fr *for-* + *gietan* (akin to ON *geta* to get)] – **forgetter** *n* – **forget oneself** to lose one's dignity, temper, or self-control; act unsuitably or unworthily

**for'getful** /-'f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 likely or apt to forget 2 characterized by negligent failure to remember; neglectful – usu + *of* <~ of his manners> 3 inducing oblivion <~ sleep> – poetic – **forgetfully** *adv*, **forgetfulness** *n*

**forget-me-not** *n* any of a genus of small plants of the borage family with white or bright blue flowers usu arranged in a spike

**forgettable** /'fə'getəbl/ *adj* apt to forget or be forgotten; esp unworthy of remembrance <~ performance>

**forgive** /'fə'gɪv/ *vb* **forgave** /-'gayv/; **forgiven** /-'gɪv(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to cease to resent <~ an insult> <~ one's enemies> 2 to pardon <~ us our trespasses> ~ *vi* to grant forgiveness [ME *forgiven*, fr OE *forgifan*, fr *for-* + *gifan* to give] – **forgivable** *adj*, **forgivably** *adv*, **forgiver** *n*, **forgiving** *adj*, **forgivingly** *adv*

**'forgiveness** /-nis/ *n* forgiving or being forgiven; pardon

**for'go, fore'go** /'fə'goh, 'faw-/ *vt* **for'goes; fore'going; fore'went** /'faw'went/; **for'gone** /'faw'gon/ to abstain or refrain from <~ immediate gratification for the sake of future gains> [ME *for'gon*, fr OE *for'gan* to pass by, *for'go*, fr *for-* + *gān* to go]

**for'int** /'fawɪnt/ *n* → **Hungary** at **NATIONALITY** [**Hung**]

**'fork** /'fawk/ *n* 1 a tool or implement with 2 or more prongs set on the end of a handle. e.g. a an agricultural or gardening tool for digging, carrying, etc **b** a small implement for eating or serving food 2a a forked part, or piece of equipment **b** a forked support for a cycle wheel – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning 3 (a part containing) a division into branches 4 any of the branches into which sth forks 5 an attack by a chess piece (e.g. a knight) on 2 pieces simultaneously [ME *forke*, fr OE & ONF, OE *forca* & ONF *forque*, fr L *furca*] – **forkful** *n*

**²fork** *vi* 1 to divide into 2 or more branches <where the road ~s> 2 to make a turn into one of the branches of a fork <we ~ed left at the inn> 3 to make a payment or contribution – + *out* or *up* ~ *vi* 1 to raise, pitch, dig, or work with a fork <~ hay> 2 to attack (2 chessmen) simultaneously 3 to pay, contribute – + *out*, *over*, or *up* <~ed out half of his salary for a new car> **USE** (vi 3; vi 3) *infrm*

**forked** *adj* having one end divided into 2 or more branches or points <~ lightning>

**'fork,lift, fork'lift** 'truck *n* a vehicle for hoisting and transporting heavy objects by means of steel prongs inserted under the load

**for'lorn** /'fə'lawn/ *adj* 1a bereft or forsaken of **b** sad and lonely because of isolation or desertion, desolate 2 in poor condition, miserable, wretched <~ tumbledown buildings> 3 nearly hopeless <a ~ attempt> [ME *forlorn*, fr OE, pp of *forleosan* to lose, fr *for-* + *leosan* to lose] – **forlornly** *adv*

**for,lorn** 'hope *n* a desperate or extremely difficult enterprise [by folk etymology fr D *verloren* hoop, lit., lost troop]

**'form** /'fawm/ *n* 1a the shape and structure of sth as distinguished from its material **b** a body (e.g. of a person), esp in its external appearance or as distinguished from the face 2 the essential nature of a thing as distinguished from the matter in which it is embodied 3a established or correct method of proceeding or behaving <I must ask for your name as a matter of ~> **b** a prescribed and set order of words <the ~ of the marriage service> 4 a printed or typed document, esp one with blank spaces for insertion of required or requested information <income-tax ~s> 5a conduct regulated by external controls (e.g. custom or etiquette), ceremony <the rigid ~ of the imperial court> **b** manner or conduct of a specified sort, as tested by a prescribed or accepted standard <rudeness is simply bad ~> 6a the bed or nest of a hare **b** a long seat, a bench 7 sth (e.g. shuttering) that holds, supports, and determines shape 8a the way in which sth is arranged, exists, or shows itself <written in the ~ of a letter> **b** a kind, variety <one ~ of respiratory disorder> 9a orderly method of arrangement (e.g. in the presentation of ideas), manner of coordinating elements (e.g. of an artistic production or line of reasoning) <his work lacks ~> **b** the structural element, plan, or design of a work of art – compare **CONTENT** 2b 10 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a class organized for the work of a particular year, esp in a British school 11a the past performance of a competitor considered as a guide to its future performance **b** known ability to perform <a singer at the top of his ~> **c** condition suitable for performing, esp in sports – often + *in*, *out of*, or *off* <was out of ~ all season> 12a **LINGUISTIC FORM** **b** any of the ways in which a word may be written or spoken as a result of inflection or change of spelling or pronunciation <verbal ~s> 13 **NAm** a *forme* 14 **Br** a criminal record – slang [ME *forme*, fr OF, fr L *forma*, perh modif of Gk *morphe* form, shape] – **formless** *adj*, **formlessly** *adv*, **formlessness** *n*

**²form** *vt* 1 to give form, shape, or existence to; fashion <~ed from clay> <~ a judgment> 2a to give a particular shape to; shape or mould into a certain state or after a particular model <~ed the dough into various shapes> <a state ~ed along the lines of the Roman Republic> **b** to arrange themselves in <the women ~ed a line> **c** to model or train by instruction and discipline <a mind ~ed by classical education> 3 to develop, acquire <~ a habit> 4a to serve to make up or constitute; be a usu essential or basic element of 5a to produce (e.g. a tense) by inflection <~s the past *in* -ed> **b** to combine to make (a compound word) 6 to arrange in order; **DRAW UP** 1 ~ *vi* 1 to become formed or shaped <a scab

~ed over the wound) 2 to take (a definite) form; come into existence <thunderclouds were ~ing over the hills> – **formable** *adj*

**form-** *comb form* formic acid (formaldehyde) <formate> [formic]

**form** /fawm/, -i *form comb form* (~ *adj*) having the form or shape of; resembling <cruciform> [MF & L, MF *forme*, fr L *-formis*, fr *forma*]

**formal** /fawml/ *adj* 1a determining or being the essential constitution or structure <~ cause> b of, concerned with, or being the (outward) form of sthg as distinguished from its content 2 following or according with established form, custom, or rule; conventional <lacked ~ qualifications for the job> 3a based on conventional forms and rules <~ landscaping> b characterized by punctilious respect for correct procedure <very ~ in all his dealings> c rigidly ceremonious; prim 4 having the appearance without the substance; ostensible <~ Christians who go to church only at Easter> – **formally** *adv*

**formaldehyde** /faw'maldi,hied/ *n* a pungent irritating gas used chiefly as a disinfectant and preservative and in chemical synthesis [ISV *form-aldehyde*]

**formalin** /fawmlin/ *n* a clear aqueous solution of formaldehyde [fr *Formalin*, a trademark]

**formalism** /fawml,iz(ə)m/ *n* the practice or doctrine of strict adherence to or sole consideration of prescribed or external forms (e.g. in mathematics, religion, or art) – **formalist** *n* or *adj*, **formalistic** /-istik/ *adj*

**formality** /faw'maləti/ *n* 1 compliance with or observance of formal or conventional rules 2 an established form that is required or conventional

**formalize**, -ise /fawml,iez/ *vt* 1 to make formal 2 to give formal status or approval to – **formalization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**formant** /fawmənt/ *n* a characteristic resonance band of a vowel sound or musical instrument [G, fr L *formant-*, *formans*, prp of *formare*]

**format** /fawmat/ *n* 1 the shape, size, and general make-up (e.g. of a book) 2 the general plan of organization or arrangement [F or G, F, fr G, fr L *formatus*, pp of *formare* to form, fr *forma*]

**format** *vt* -tt- to arrange (e.g. a book or data) in a particular format or style

**formation** /faw'maysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 giving form or shape to sthg or taking form; development 2 sthg formed <new word ~s> 3 the manner in which a thing is formed, structure 4 a body or series of rocks represented as a unit in geological mapping 5 an arrangement of a group of people or things in some prescribed manner or for a particular purpose, also, *sing* or *pl* in constr such a group – **formational** *adj*

**formative** /fawmətiv/ *adj* 1a (capable of) giving form, constructive <a ~ influence> b used in word formation or inflection <a ~ affix> 2 capable of alteration by growth and development <~ tissues> 3 of or characterized by formative effects or formation <~ years> – **formatively** *adv*

**formative** *n* a formative affix

**form, class** *n* a class of linguistic forms that can be used in the same position in a construction and that share 1 or more grammatical features

**forme, NAm form** /fawm/ *n* a frame enclosing metal type or blocks ready for printing [F *forme*, lit., form]

**former** /fawmə/ *adj* 1 of or occurring in the past <in ~ times> 2 preceding in time or order <the ~ Prime Minister> 3 first of 2 things (understood to have been) mentioned [ME, fr *forme* first, fr OE *forma* – more at *FOREMOST*]

**former** *n, pl* **former** the first mentioned, first <of puppies and kittens the ~ are harder to train>

**former** *n, chiefly Br* a member of a specified school form or year <the sixth ~> – often in combination [1<sup>st</sup> form + 1<sup>st</sup> er]

**former** *n* a frame or core on which an electrical coil is wound [1<sup>st</sup> FORM + 1<sup>st</sup> ER]

**formerly** /fawməli/ *adv* at an earlier time; previously

**Formica** /faw'micka/ *trademark* – used for any of various laminated plastics used for surfaces, esp on wood

**formic acid** /faw'mik/ *n* a pungent corrosive liquid acid naturally produced by ants [L *formica* ant]

**formicary** /faw'mikəri/ *n* an ant nest [ML *formicarium*, fr L *formica*]

**formidable** /faw'midəbl; also fə'midəbl/ *adj* 1 causing fear, dread, or apprehension <a ~ prospect> 2 difficult to overcome; discouraging approach 3 tending to inspire respect or awe [ME, fr L *formidabilis*, fr *formidare* to fear, fr *formido* fear; akin to Gk *mormo* she-monster] – **formidableness** *n*, **formidably** *adv*

**form letter** *n* a standard letter to which pertinent details (e.g. address

and name) are added and which is sent to a usu large number of people

**form of address** *n* a correct title or expression of politeness to be used to sb

**formula** /fawmyoola/ *n, pl* **formulas, formulae** /-lee, -lie/ 1a a set form of words for use in a ceremony or ritual b (a conventionalized statement intended to express) a truth, principle, or procedure, esp as a basis for negotiation or action <the 2 sides worked out a peace ~> <the ~ for a good marriage> 2 (a list of ingredients used in) a recipe 3a a fact, rule, or principle expressed in symbols b a symbolic expression of the chemical composition of a substance c a group of numerical symbols associated to express a single concept 4 a prescribed or set form or method (e.g. of writing), an established rule or custom <unimaginative television programmes written to a ~> 5 a classification of racing cars specifying esp size, weight, and engine capacity [L, dim. of *forma* form] – **formulaic** /-layik/ *adj*, **formulaically** *adv*

**formularize**, -ise /-iez/ *vt* **FORMULATE** 1 – **formularization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**formulary** /fawmyoolari/ *n* a book containing a list of medicinal substances and formulas

**formulate** /fawmyoolayt/ *vt* 1 to state in or reduce to a formula 2 to devise or develop <~ policy> <~d a new soap> – **formulation** /-laysh(ə)n/ *n*, **formulator** *n*

**form, work** /-wuhk/ *n* shuttering

**formyl** /formil/ *n* the radical HCO of formic acid that is also characteristic of aldehydes [ISV]

**fornicate** /faw'nikaɪt/ *vt* to commit fornication [LL *fornicatus*, pp of *fornicare*, fr L *fornic-*, *fornix* arch, vault, brothel] – **fornicator** *n*

**fornication** /faw'nikaɪsh(ə)n/ *n* voluntary sexual intercourse outside marriage

**for nothing** *adv* 1 FREE 2 2 to no purpose, without result

**forsake** /fə'sayk/ *vi* **forsook** /fə'sook/ , **forsaken** /fə'saykan/ 1 to renounce (e.g. sthg once cherished) without intent to recover or resume <forsook her family ties> 2 to desert, abandon <>false friends ~ us in adversity> [ME *forsaken*, fr OE *forsacan*, fr *for-* + *sacan* to dispute, akin to OE *sacu* action at law – more at *SACK*]

**forsooth** /fə'sooth/ *adv* indeed, actually – now often used to imply contempt or doubt [ME *for soth*, fr OE *forsoðh*, fr *for* + *soth* truth, fr neut of *soth* true – more at *SOOTHE*]

**forswear** /faw'sweə/ *vb* **forswear**; **forsworn** /-s'wəwn/ *vt* 1a to reject or deny under oath b to (solemnly) renounce 2 to make a liar of (oneself) (as if) under oath ~ *vi* to swear falsely [ME *forsweren*, fr OE *forswernan*, fr *for-* + *swernan* to swear – more at *SWEAR*]

**forsworn** /faw'swəwn/ *adj* guilty of perjury

**forsythia** /faw'siethiə, -thya/ *n* any of a genus of ornamental shrubs of the olive family with bright yellow bell-shaped flowers appearing in early spring before the leaves [NL, genus name, fr William Forsyth †1804 Br botanist]

**fort** /fawt/ *n* a strong or fortified place [ME *forte*, fr MF *fort*, fr *fort* strong, fr L *fortis*]

**fortalice** /faw'təlis/ *n, archaic* 1 a fortress 2 a small fort or outwork [ME, fr ML *fortalitia* – more at *FORTRESS*]

**forte** /fawt; esp sense 1 fawtay/ *n* 1 the area or skill in which a person excels 2 the strongest part of a sword blade being between the middle and the hilt [MF *fort*, fr *fort* strong]

**forte** /fawti, -lay/ *n, adv, or* *adj* (a note or passage played) in a loud and often forceful manner – used in music [It, fr *forte* strong, fr L *fortis*]

**forth** /fawth/ *adv* 1 onwards in time, place, or order; forwards <from that day ~> 2 out into notice or view <put ~ leaves> 3 away from a centre, abroad <went ~ to preach> [ME, fr OE, akin to OE *for*]

**forthcoming** /-kumɪŋ/ *adj* 1 approaching 2a made available <new funds will be ~ next year> b willing to give information; responsive [obs *forthcome* (to come forth)]

**forthright** /-riet/ *adj* going straight to the point without ambiguity or hesitation – **forthrightly** *adv*, **forthrightness** *n*

**forthwith** /-widh/ *adv* immediately

**fortification** /faw'tifi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a fortifying b the science or art of providing defensive works 2 sthg that fortifies, defends, or strengthens, esp works erected to defend a place or position

**fortified wine** /faw'tifi'd/ *n* a wine to which alcohol has been added during or after fermentation

**fortify** /faw'tifi/ *vt* to make strong: e.g. a to strengthen and secure by military defences b to give strength, courage, or endurance to; strengthen c to add material to for strengthening or enriching ~ *vi* to erect fortifica-

- tions [ME *fortifien*, fr MF *fortifier*, fr LL *fortificare*, fr L *fortis* strong] – **fortifier** *n*
- fortissimo** /faw'tisimoh/ *adv* or *adj* very loud – used in music [It, superl of *forte*]
- fortitude** /faw'titudooh, -choohd/ *n* patient courage in pain or adversity [ME, fr L *fortitudo*, fr *fortis*]
- fortnight** /faw'ni:t/ *n*, chiefly Br two weeks [ME *fourtenight*, alter of *fourteen night*, fr OE *feowertene niht* fourteen nights]
- \*fortnightly** /-li/ *adj* occurring or appearing once a fortnight
- \*fortnightly** *adv*, chiefly Br once in a fortnight; every fortnight
- \*fortnightly** *n* a publication issued fortnightly
- Fortran**, 'FORTRAN /faw'tran/ *n* a computer language primarily for mathematical and scientific applications [formula translation]
- fortress** /faw'tris/ *n* a fortified place, esp a large and permanent fortification, sometimes including a town [ME *forteresse*, fr MF *forteresce*, fr ML *fortalitia*, fr L *fortis* strong]
- fortuitous** /faw'tyoooh-its, -chooh-/ *adj* 1 occurring by chance 2 fortunate, lucky [L *fortuitus*, akin to L *fort*, *fors* chance, luck] – **fortuitously** *adv*, **fortuitousness** *n*
- fortunate** /fawch(ə)nat/ *adj* 1 unexpectedly bringing some good, auspicious 2 lucky – **fortunately** *adv*, **fortunateness** *n*
- fortune** /faw'choohn, -chan/ *n* 1 often *cap* a supposed (personified) power that unpredictably determines events and issues 2a prosperity attained partly through luck b LUCK 1 c pl the favourable or unfavourable events that accompany the progress of an individual or thing <tracing the ~s of a rags-to-riches hero> (the declining ~s of the film industry) 3 destiny, fate <tell his ~ with cards> 4a material possessions or wealth b a very large sum of money <won a ~ on the pools> – *infrm* [ME, fr MF, fr L *fortuna* akin to L *fort*, *fors* chance, luck, *ferre* to carry – more at 'BEAR']
- 'fortune hunter** *n* a person who seeks wealth, esp by marriage
- 'fortune-teller** *n* a person who claims to foretell future events – **fortune-telling** *n* or *adj*
- forty** /faw'ti/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 pl the numbers 40 to 49, specific a range of temperatures, ages, or dates in a century characterized by those numbers [ME *fourty*, *adj*, fr OE *feowertig*, fr *feowertig* group of 40, fr *feower* four + *-tig* group of 10 – more at EIGHTY] – **fortieth** /-ith/ *adj* or *n*, **forty** *adj* or *pron*, **fortyfold** /-fohld/ *adj* or *adv*
- forty-five** *n* 1 NUMBER 2 a gramophone record that plays at 45 revolutions per minute – *usu* written 45 – **forty-five** *adj* or *pron*
- forty winks** *n* pl but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 'NAP – *infrm*
- forum** /faw'ram/ *n*, pl *forums* also *fora* /-rə/ 1a the marketplace or public place of an ancient Roman city forming the public centre b a public meeting place or medium for open discussion 2a a public meeting or lecture involving audience discussion b a programme (e.g. on radio or television) based around the discussion of problems [L, akin to L *foris* outside, *fores* door – more at DOOR]
- 'forward** /faw'wad, *sense* 1 also 'fɔrd when referring to ships and aeroplanes/ *adj* 1a located at or directed towards the front b situated in advance 2 of or occupying a fielding position in cricket in front of the batsman's wicket SPORT 3a eager, ready b lacking modesty or reserve, pert 4 advanced in development, precocious 5 moving, tending, or leading towards a position in (or at the) front 6 advocating an advanced policy in the direction of what is considered progress 7 of or getting ready for the future <~ planning> [ME, fr OE *foreweard*, fr *fore* + *-weard* -ward] – **forwardly** *adv*, **forwardness** *n*
- \*forward** *adv* 1 to or towards what is ahead or in front <from that time ~> <moved slowly ~ through the crowd> 2 to or towards an earlier time <bring the date of the meeting ~> 3 into prominence
- \*forward** /faw'wad/ *n* a mainly attacking player in hockey, soccer, etc stationed at or near the front of his/her side or team
- \*forward** *vt* 1 to help onwards; promote 2a to send (forwards) <will ~ the goods on payment> b to send onwards from an intermediate point in transit – **forwarder** *n*
- 'forwards** *adv* forward; *esp* forward in space
- fossa** /fosa/ *n*, pl *fossae* /fosi, 'fosic/ an anatomical pit or depression [NL, fr L, ditch] – **fossate** /fosaɪt/ *adj*
- fosse**, *foss* /fos/ *n* a ditch, moat [ME *fosse*, fr OF, fr L *fossa*, fr fem of *fossus*]
- fossick** /fosak/ *vi*, *Austr* to search for gold, esp by picking over abandoned workings – *vt*, chiefly *Austr* to search for (as if) by rummaging – + *out* [E dial. *fussick*, *fussock* (to potter), irreg fr E *fuss*] – **fossicker** *n*, chiefly *Austr*
- 'fossil** /fosi/ *n* 1 a relic of an animal or plant of a past geological age, preserved in the earth's crust EVOLUTION 2a a person with out-
- moded views b sth that has become rigidly fixed [L *fossilis* dug up, fr *fossus*, pp of *fodere* to dig – more at BFD] – **fossiliferous** /fosi'fərəs/ *adj*
- \*fossil** *adj* 1a extracted from the earth and derived from the remains of living things <coal is a ~ fuel> ENERGY b preserved in a mineralized or petrified form from a past geological age 2 outmoded
- fossilize**, -ise /fosi'leɪz/ *vt* 1 to convert into a fossil 2 to make outmoded, rigid, or fixed – *vi* to become fossilized – **fossilization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- fossorial** /fo'sawri-əl/ *adj* adapted to digging [ML *fossorius*, fr L *fossus*, pp]
- 'foster** /fosta/ *adj* giving, receiving, or sharing parental care though not related by blood <a ~ child> [ME, fr OE *fostor*-, fr *fostor* food, feeding, akin to OE *fōda* food – more at FOOD]
- \*foster** *vt* 1 to give parental care to, nurture 2 to promote the growth or development of – **fosterer** *n*
- 'fosterage** /-ri/ *n* 1 fostering 2 the custom of entrusting one's child to foster parents
- 'fosterling** /-liŋ/ *n* a foster child
- fou** /fooh/ *adj*, Scot drunk [ME (Sc) *fow* full, fr ME *ful*]
- fouetté** /fooh'etay (Fr fwɛtɛ)/ *n* a quick whipping movement of the raised leg in ballet dancing [F, fr pp of *fouetter* to whip, fr MF, fr *fouet* whip, fr OF, fr *fou* beech, fr L *lagus* – more at BEECH]
- fought** /fawt/ *past* of FIGHT
- 'foul** /fowl/ *adj* 1a offensive to the senses b dirty, stained <~ linen> 2 notably unpleasant or distressing, detestable 3 obscene, abusive <~ language> 4a treacherous, dishonourable <fair means or ~> b constituting a foul in a game or sport 5 defaced by changes <~ manuscript> 6 encrusted, clogged, or choked with a foreign substance <a ~ ship's bottom> 7 polluted <~ air> 8 entangled <a ~ anchor> [ME, fr OE *fūl*, akin to OHG *ful* rotten, L *pus* pus, *putere* to stink, Gk *pyon* pus] – **foulness** *n*
- \*foul** *n* 1 an entanglement or collision in angling, sailing, etc 2 an infringement of the rules in a game or sport
- \*foul** *vi* 1 to become or be foul, esp to become clogged, choked up, or entangled 2 to commit a foul in a sport or game ~ *vt* 1a to pollute b to become entangled with c to encrust with a foreign substance d to obstruct, block – compare FOUL UP 3 2 to dishonour, discredit 3 to commit a foul against
- foulard** /foohlah(d)/ *n* a lightweight plain-woven or twilled silk (and cotton) fabric, usu decorated with a printed pattern [F]
- 'foulbrood** /-broohd/ *n* a bacterial disease of honeybee larvae
- foully** /fowl-li/ *adv* in a foul manner
- 'foulmouthed** /-mowdhd/ *adj* given to the use of obscene, profane, or abusive language
- 'foul play** *n* violence, esp murder
- 'foul-up** *n* 1 a state of confusion caused by ineptitude, carelessness, or mismanagement 2 a mechanical difficulty *USE* *infrm*
- foul up** *vi* 1 chiefly *NAM* to contaminate 2 chiefly *NAM* to spoil or confuse by making mistakes or using poor judgment 3 to entangle, block <fouled up the communications> *USE* (2 & 3) *infrm*
- 'found** /fownd/ *past* of FIND
- \*found** *adj* having all usual, standard, or reasonably expected equipment <the boat comes fully ~, ready to go>
- \*found** *vt* 1 to take the first steps in building 2 to set or ground on sth solid – often + *on* or *upon* 3 to establish (e.g. an institution), often with provision for continued financial support [ME *founden*, fr OF *fonder*, fr L *fundare*, fr *fundus* bottom – more at BOTTOM] – **founder** *n*
- \*found** *vt* to melt (metal) and pour into a mould [MF *fondre* to pour, melt, fr L *fundere*; akin to OE *geotan* to pour, Gk *chein*] – **founder** *n*
- foundation** /foun'daysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of founding 2 the basis on which sth stands or is supported 3 an organization or institution established by endowment with provision for future maintenance 4 an underlying natural or prepared base or support; esp the whole masonry substructure on which a building rests 5 a body or ground on which sth is built up or overlaid 6 a cream, lotion, etc applied as a base for other facial make-up – **foundational** *adj*, **foundationally** *adv*, **foundationless** *adj*
- foun'dation course** *n* a basic general course (e.g. as taught in the first year at certain universities)
- foundation garment** *n* a girdle, corset, or other supporting undergarment
- foundation stone** *n* a stone in the foundation of a building, esp when laid with public ceremony
- founder** /fownda/ *vi* 1 to become disabled; esp to go lame 2 to collapse;

GIVE WAY 3a 3 to sink 4 to come to grief; fail ~ *vt* to disable (e.g. a horse), esp by overwork [ME *foundren* to send to the bottom, collapse, fr MF *fondrer*, deriv of *L fundus* bottom]

**founding** 'father *n* 1 a founder 2 *cap both* Fs a member of the American Constitutional Convention of 1787

**'founding** /-ling/ *n* an infant found abandoned by unknown parents

**found object** *n* OBJET TROUVE

**foundry** /'fowndri/ *n* (a place for) casting metals ['found]

**'fount** /'fownt/ *n* a fountain, source [MF *font*, fr L *font-*, *fons*]


**'fount**, chiefly *NAM* font /font/ *n*, *Br* a complete set of matrices of characters (e.g. for photocomposition) in 1 style [F *fonte*, fr MF, act of founding, fr (assumed) VL *fundita*, fem of *funditus*, pp of *L fundere* to pour – more at 'FOUND]

**'fountain** /'fowntən/ *n* 1 a spring of water issuing from the earth 2 a source 3 (the structure providing) an artificially produced jet of water 4 a reservoir containing a supply of liquid (e.g. in a lamp or printing press) [ME, fr MF *fontaine*, fr LL *fontana*, fr L, fem of *fontanus* of a spring, fr *font-*, *fons*]

**'fountain** *vb* to (cause to) flow or spout like a fountain

**'fountainhead** /-hed/ *n* 1 a spring that is the source of a stream 2 a principal source

**'fountain pen** *n* a pen containing a reservoir that automatically feeds the nib with ink

**four** /'fau/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 the fourth in a set or series (<the ~ of hearts>) 3 sthg having 4 parts or members or a denomination of 4; esp (the crew of) a 4-person racing rowing boat 4 a shot in cricket that crosses the boundary after having hit the ground and scores 4 runs – compare BOUNDARY 2b, SIX 3a [ME, fr *four*, adj, fr OE *feower*; akin to OHG *fior* four, L *quattuor*, Gk *tessares*, *tettares*] – *four* *adj* or *pron*, *fourfold* /-fohld/ *adj* or *adv*

**four-dimensional** *adj* (consisting) of elements requiring 4 coordinates to determine them

**'four, flush** *n* a worthless hand of 4 cards of the same suit in a 5-card poker hand

**'four-handed** *adj* 1 designed for 4 hands 2 engaged in by 4 people

**'Four Hundred**, 400 *n*, *NAM* the exclusive social set of a community [arbitrary smallish number]

**Fourierism** /'foori-ə, rɪz(ə)m, 'foori-ə, rɪz(ə)m/ *n* a system for reorganizing society into cooperative communities [F *fouriérisme*, fr F M C Fourier †1837 F social reformer] – *Fourierist* *n*

**'Fourier series** /'foori-ə, 'foori-ə/ *n* an infinite series in which the terms are constants multiplied by sine or cosine functions of integer multiples of the variable and which is used in the analysis of periodic functions (e.g. simple harmonic motion) [Baron J B J Fourier †1830 F geometrician & physicist]

**'four-in-hand** *n* (a vehicle drawn by) a team of 4 horses driven by 1 person

**'four-leaf 'clover, 'four-leaved 'clover** *n* a clover leaf that has 4 leaflets instead of 3 and is held to bring good luck

**'four-letter 'word** *n* any of a group of vulgar or obscene words typically made up of 4 letters

**fourpence** /'fawp(ə)ns/ *n* the sum of 4 pence

**'fourpenny** /-p(ə)ni/ *adj* costing or worth fourpence

**'fourpenny one** *n*, *Br* a sharp blow – *infml* [prob fr rhyming slang *fourpenny* (bit) hit]

**'four-poster** /'pohstə/ *n* a bed with 4 tall often carved corner posts designed to support curtains or a canopy

**'four, score** /-skaw/ *n* eighty – *fourscore* *adj*


**foursome** /'faws(ə)m/ *n* 1 a group of 4 people or things 2 a golf match between 2 pairs of partners in which each pair plays 1 ball


**'four-square** /-'skweə/ *adj* forthright

**'foursquare** *adv* 1 in a solidly based and steady way 2 resolutely

**'four-star** *adj* of a superior standard or quality (<a ~ restaurant>) [fr the number of asterisks used in guidebooks to denote relative excellence]

**'four-stroke** *adj* 1 of or being an internal-combustion engine with a cycle of 4 strokes (e.g. intake, compression, combustion, and exhaust) 2 powered by a four-stroke engine – *four-stroke* *n*

**fourteen** /'fawteen/ *n*  NUMBER [ME *fourtene*, fr OE *feowertiene*, fr *feowertiene*, *adj*; akin to OE *ten* ten] – *fourteen* *adj* or *pron*, *fourteenth* /-teenθ/ *adj* or *n*

**fourth** /'fawθ/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 4 diatonic degrees b a subdominant 3 the 4th and usu highest forward gear or speed of a motor vehicle – *fourth* *adj* or *adv*, *fourthly* *adv*

**fourth dimension** *n* 1 a dimension in addition to length, breadth, and

depth; *specif* a coordinate in addition to 3 rectangular coordinates, esp when interpreted as the time coordinate in a space-time continuum 2 sthg outside the range of ordinary experience – *fourth-dimensional* *adj*

**fourth estate** *n*, often *cap F&E* PRESS 6a [fr its status as a rival to the three groups (clergy, nobility, commons) traditionally holding political power]

**'four-way** *adj* 1 allowing passage in any of 4 directions 2 including 4 participants

**'four-wheel, 'four-wheeled** *adj* 1 having 4 wheels 2 acting on or by means of 4 wheels of an automotive vehicle (<~ drive>)

**fovea** /'fohvi-ə, -vya/ *n*, *pl* *foveae* /-vi,ee, -vi,je/ a small anatomical pit; esp FOVEA CENTRALIS [NL, fr L, pit] – *foveal* *adj*, *foveate* /-vi,ayt/ *adj*, *foveiform* /foh'vee-i, fawm/ *adj*

**'fovea centralis** /sen'trahliis/ *n*, *pl* *foveae centrales* /-leez/ an area of the retina without rods where vision is acute [NL, central fovea]

**'fowl** /'fowl/ *n*, *pl* *fowls*, esp collectively *fowl* 1 BIRD 1 2 DOMESTIC FOWL, esp an adult hen 3 the flesh of birds used as food [ME *foul*, fr OE *fugel*, akin to OHG *fogal* bird]

**'fowl** *vt* to hunt, catch, or kill wildfowl – *fowler* *n*


**'fowling** *piece* *n* a light gun for shooting birds or small animals

**'fowl pest** *n* a fatal infectious virus disease of domestic poultry

**'fox** /foks/ *n*, *pl* *foxes*, esp collectively *fox* 1 (the fur of) a red fox or related flesh-eating mammal of the dog family with a pointed muzzle, large erect ears, and a long bushy tail 2 a clever crafty person 3 *cap* a member, or the language, of an American Indian people who once lived in Wisconsin [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *fuhs* fox, Skt *puc̥śa* tail]

**'fox** *vt* 1 to outwit 2 to baffle

**foxed** *adj* discoloured with foxing

**'fox, glove** /-gluv/ *n* a common tall European plant that has showy white or purple tubular flowers and is a source of digitalis  PLANT

**'fox, hole** /-hohl/ *n* a pit dug, usu hastily, for individual cover against enemy fire

**'fox, hound** /-hownd/ *n* any of various large swift powerful hounds of great endurance used in hunting foxes

**'fox, hunting** /-hunting/ *n* the practice of hunting foxes on horseback with a pack of hounds – *foxhunter* *n*

**foxing** /'foksɪŋ/ *n* discoloration, esp brownish spots on old paper [fr its resemblance to the colour of a fox's fur]

**'fox, tail** /-tayl/ *n* any of several grasses with spikes resembling the tail of a fox

**'fox, terrier** *n* a small lively smooth-haired or wirehaired terrier formerly used to dig out foxes

**'Fox, trot** /-troʊl/ *n* a communications code word for the letter *f*

**fox-trot** *vi* or *n* (to dance) a ballroom dance that includes slow walking and quick running steps

**foxy** /'foksɪ/ *adj* 1 cunningly shrewd in conniving and contriving 2 warmly reddish brown 3 *NAM* physically attractive ['tox + -y] – *foxily* *adv*, *foxiness* *n*

**foyer** /'foy,ay, -ə (Fr fwajə)/ *n* an anteroom or lobby (e.g. of a theatre), also an entrance hallway [F, lit., fireplace, fr ML *fovarius*, fr L *focus* hearth]

**Fra** /'frah/ *n* brother – used as a title preceding the name of an Italian monk or friar (<~ Angelico>) [It, short for *frate*, fr L *frater* – more at BROTHER]

**fracas** /'frakah/ *n*, *pl* *fracas* /-ah(z)/, *NAM* *fracases* /-siz/ a noisy quarrel; a brawl [F, din, row, fr It *fracasso*, fr *fraccassare* to shatter]

**fraction** /'fraksh(ə)n/ *n* 1a a number (e.g. ¾, ¼, 0.234) that is expressed as the quotient of 2 numbers b a (small) portion or section 2 an act of breaking up, *specif* the breaking of the bread by a priest in the Eucharist 3 a tiny bit, a little (<a ~ closer>) 4 any of several portions (e.g. of a distillate) separable by fractionation [ME *fraccioun*, fr LL *fraction*, *fractio* act of breaking, fr L *fractus*, pp of *frangere* to break – more at BREAK]

**fractional** /'fraksh(ə)nl/ *adj* 1 of or being a fraction 2 relatively tiny or brief 3 of or being a process for separating components of a mixture through differences in physical or chemical properties (<~ distillation>)

**'fractionally** /-li/ *adv* to a very small extent

**'fractionate** /-ayt/ *vt* to separate (e.g. a mixture) into different portions – *fractionation* /-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*, *fractionator* /-aytə/ *n*

**fractious** /'frakshəs/ *adj* irritable and restless; hard to control [*fraction* (discord) + *-ous*] – *fractiously* *adv*, *fractiousness* *n*

**'fracture** /'frakchə/ *n* 1 a break or breaking, esp of hard tissue (e.g. bone) 2 the appearance of a broken surface of a mineral 3a the substitution of a diphthong for an orig simple vowel, esp under the influence of a

- following consonant **b** a diphthong thus substituted [ME, fr L *fractura*, fr *fractus*]
- \*fracture** *vt* 1 to cause a fracture in 2 to damage or destroy as if by breaking apart; break up ~ *vi* to undergo fracture
- fræ** /fray/ *prep*, Scot from [ME (northern) *fra*, *fræ*, fr ON *fra*, akin to OE *from*]
- frænum**, **frenulum** /frenyooləm/ *n*, pl *frenula* /-lə/ a fraenum [NL, dim. of L *fracnum*, *frenum*]
- frænum**, **frenum** /freenəm/ *n*, pl *frena* /-nə/ a connecting fold of membrane that supports or retains a body part (e.g. the tongue) [L *fracnum*, *frenum*, lit., bridle; akin to L *firmus* firm]
- frag** /frag/ *vt* -*gg-* to injure or kill (one's military leader) deliberately by means of a grenade [fr *frag*, *n*, short for *fragmentation* (grenade)]
- fragile** /frajel/ *adj* 1 easily shattered 2 lacking in strength, delicate [MF, fr L *fragilis* - more at **FRAIL**] - *fragility* /frə'jɪləti/ *n*
- \*fragment** /frægmənt/ *n* an incomplete, broken off, or detached part [ME, fr L *fragmentum*, fr *frangere* to break - more at **BREAK**]
- \*fragment** /frægmənt/ *vt* to break up or apart into fragments ~ *vi* to fall to pieces - *fragmentation* /frægmən'taɪʃən/ *n*
- fragmentary** /frægmənt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* consisting of fragments; incomplete - *fragmentarily adv*, *fragmentariness n*
- fragmentation, bomb** /frægmən'taɪʃən/ *n* a bomb or shell whose casing is thrown in fragments in all directions on exploding
- fragrance** /frægrəns/ *n* 1 (the quality or state of having) a sweet or pleasant smell 2 the smell of perfume, cologne, or toilet water [F or L, F, fr L *fragrantia*, fr *fragrant-*, *fragrans*, prp of *fragrare* to be fragrant, akin to OE *brechen* to smell] - *fragrant adj*, *fragrantly adv*
- frail** /frayl/ *adj* 1 morally or physically weak 2 easily broken or destroyed 3 slight; insubstantial [ME, fr MF *fraille*, fr L *fragilis* fragile, fr *frangere*] - *frailly adv*, *frailness n*
- frailty** /fraylti/ *n* a (moral) fault due to weakness [FRAIL + -TY]
- framboesia**, *NAm* **framnesia** /frəm'beeziə, -zh(y)ə/ *n* yaws [NL, fr F *framboise* raspberry, fr the appearance of the lesions]
- \*frame** /fraym/ *vi* 1a to plan, work out 1b, c **b** to shape, construct 2 to fit or adjust for a purpose 3 to construct by fitting and uniting the parts of 4a to contrive evidence against (an innocent person) **b** to prearrange the outcome of (e.g. a contest) [ME *framen* to benefit, construct, fr OF *framian* to benefit, make progress, akin to ON *fram* forward, OE *from* from] - *framer n*
- \*frame** *n* 1 sth composed of parts fitted together and joined, esp the physical structure of a human body 2 a structure that gives shape or strength (e.g. to a building) 3a an open case or structure made for admitting, enclosing, or supporting sthg (a window ~)  ARCHITECTURE **b** a machine built on or within a framework (a spinning ~) **c** the rigid part of a bicycle **d** the outer structure of a pair of glasses that holds the lenses 4a an enclosing border **b** the matter or area enclosed in such a border **e** **g** (1) any of the squares in which scores for each round are recorded (e.g. in bowling) (2) a box of a strip cartoon (3) a single picture of the series on a length of film  CAMERA (4) a single complete television picture made up of lines  TELEVISION **e** a limiting, typical, or esp appropriate set of circumstances; a framework 5 a minimal unit of programmed instruction or stimulus calling for a response by the student 6 one round of play in snooker, bowling, etc 7 a frame-up - *infrm*
- \*frame** *adj* having a wooden frame (< ~ houses)
- frame of mind** *n* a particular mental or emotional state
- frame of reference** *n* 1 an arbitrary set of axes used as a reference to describe the position or motion of sthg or to formulate physical laws 2 a set or system of facts, ideas, etc serving to orient or give particular meaning to a statement, a point of view, etc
- \*frame-up** *n* a conspiracy to frame sb or sthg - *infrm*
- \*frame, work** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 a skeletal, openwork, or structural frame 2 a basic structure (e.g. of ideas)
- franc** /frangk/ *n* (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of France, Belgium, Switzerland, and certain other French-speaking countries  NATIONALITY [F]
- franc C.F.A.** *n* (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of an association of French-speaking African states including Benin, Chad, the Ivory Coast, and Senegal  NATIONALITY [F communauté financière africaine African financial community]
- \*franchise** /franchiez, 'fræn-/ *n* 1 freedom from some burden or restriction 2a a special privilege granted to an individual or group **b** a right or privilege; specify the right to vote **c** the right granted to an individual or group to market a company's goods or services in a particular territory; also the territory involved in such a right [ME, fr OF, fr *franchir* to free, fr *franc* free]
- \*franchise** *vt* to grant a franchise to
- Franciscan** /fran'siskən/ *n* a member of the Order of missionary friars founded by St Francis of Assisi in 1209 [ML *Franciscus* Francis] - *Franciscan adj*
- francium** /fransi-əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive element of the alkali metal group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *France*]
- franco-** /frangkoh-/ *comb form* 1 French nation, people, or culture (< *Francophile*) 2 French and (< *Franco-German*) [ML, fr *Francus* Frenchman, fr LL, Frank]
- francolin** /frangkohlɪn/ *n* any of numerous partridges of S Asia and Africa [F, fr It *francolino*]
- francophone** /frangkə'fohn/ *adj*, often *cap* consisting of or belonging to a French-speaking population - *Francophone n*
- frangipane** /franjɪ'pajni/ *n* a usu almond-flavoured custardlike confection [F, *frangipani* (perfume), *frangipane*, fr It, fr Marquis Muzio *Frangipane*, 16th-c It nobleman]
- frangipani** /franjɪ'pajni/ *n* 1 a perfume derived from or imitating the odour of the flower of the red jasmine 2 any of several tropical American shrubs or small trees of the periwinkle family [modif of It *frangipane*]
- franglais** /frɒŋg'glay/ *n*, often *cap* French with a considerable number of words borrowed from English [F, blend of *français* French and *anglais* English]
- \*frank** /frangk/ *adj* marked by free, forthright, and sincere expression (< a ~ reply>); also undisguised (< ~ admiration>) [ME, free, generous, fr OF *franc*, fr ML *francus*, fr LL *Francus* Frank] - *frankness n*
- \*frank** *vt* 1a to send (a piece of mail) without charge **b** to put a frank on (a piece of mail) 2 to enable to pass or go freely or easily (< the delegates will ~ the policy>)
- \*frank** *n* 1 an official signature or sign on a piece of mail indicating exemption from postal charges 2 a mark or stamp on a piece of mail indicating postage paid 3 a franked envelope
- Frank** *n* a member of a W Germanic people that established themselves in the Netherlands and Gaul and on the Rhine in the 3rd and 4th c [ME; partly fr OE *Francia*, partly fr OF *France*, fr LL *Francus*, fr Gmc origin; akin to OHG *Franko* Frank, OE *Francia*] - *Frankish adj*
- Frankenstein** /frangkən'stiən/ *n* 1 a work or agency that runs its originator 2 a monster in the shape of a man [Baron *Frankenstein*, hero (who constructs a human monster) of the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley †1851 E novelist]
- frankfurter** /frangkə'fuhtə/ *n* a cured cooked, usu beef and pork, sausage [G *frankfurter* of Frankfurt, fr *Frankfurt am Main*, city in Germany]
- frankincense** /frangkɪn'sens/ *n* a fragrant gum resin chiefly from E African or Arabian trees that is burnt as incense [ME *frauk encens*, fr *frauk*, *frank* pure, free + *encens* incense]
- franklin** /frangkɪn/ *n* a medieval English landowner of free but not noble birth [ME *frankleyn*, fr AF *franclein*, fr OF *franc*]
- Franklin stove** *n*, *NAm* a freestanding metal stove resembling an open fireplace and used for heating a room [Benjamin *Franklin* †1790 US statesman & scientist, its inventor]
- frankly** /frangkli/ *adv* to tell the truth; actually (< ~, I couldn't care less>)
- frantic** /frantik/ *adj* 1 emotionally out of control (< ~ with anger and frustration>) 2 marked by fast and nervous, disordered, or anxiety-driven activity [ME *frenetik*, *frantik* - more at **FRENETIC**] - *frantically adv*, *frantically adv*, *franticness n*
- frap** /rap/ *vt* -*pp-* to draw tight (e.g. with ropes or cables) [ME *frapen* to strike, beat, fr MF *fraper*]
- frappé** /frapay (Fr frapɛ)/ *n* or *adj* (a drink that is) chilled or partly frozen [F, fr pp of *frapper* to strike, chill, fr MF *fraper* to strike]
- fraternal** /frə'tuənl/ *adj* 1a of or involving brothers **b** of or being a fraternity or society 2 of twins derived from 2 ova 3 friendly, brotherly [ME, fr ML *fraternalis*, fr L *fraternus*, fr *frater* brother - more at **BROTHER**] - *fraternalism n*, *fraternally adv*
- fraternity** /frə'tuəni/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people associated or formally organized for a common purpose, interest, or pleasure: e.g. **a** a fraternal order **b** a club for male students in some American universities - compare **SORORITY** 2 brotherliness 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* men of the same usu specified class, profession, character, or tastes (< the racing ~>)
- fraternize**, *-ize* /frə'teɪniz/ *vi* 1 to associate or mingle on friendly terms 2 to associate on close terms with citizens or troops of a hostile country - *fraternization* /-ˈzeɪʃən/ *n*



- fratricide** /'fratrɪsɪd/, 'fray-/ *n* (the act of) sby who kills his/her brother or sister [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *fratricida* & *fratricidium*, fr *fratr-*, *frater* brother + *-cida* & *-cidum* – more at *-cide*] – **fratricidal** /-sɪdəl/ *adj*
- Frau** /'frou (Ger frau)/ *n*, *pl* **Frauen** /-ən/ a German-speaking married woman – used as a title equivalent to *Mrs* [G, woman, wife, fr OHG *frouwa* mistress, lady; akin to OE *frea* lord]
- fraud** /'fraʊd/ *n* **1a** deception, esp for unlawful gain **b** a trick **2a** a person who is not what he/she pretends to be **b** sth that is not what it seems or is represented to be [ME *fraude*, fr MF, fr L *fraud-*, *fraus*; akin to Skt *dhyarati* he bends, injures]
- fraudulent** /'fraʊdjuələnt/ *adj* characterized by, involving, or done by fraud – **fraudulence** *n*, **fraudulently** *adv*
- fraught** /'fraʊt/ *adj* **1** filled or charged with sth specified <(the situation is ~ with danger)> **2** *Br* characterized by anxieties and tensions <~ and complex relationships> [ME, fr pp of *fraughten* to load, fr *fraught*, *freight* freight – more at *FREIGHT*]
- fräulein** /'frɔːlɪn (Ger frɔːlɪn)/ *n* an unmarried German-speaking woman – used as a title equivalent to *Miss* [G, dim of *Frau*]
- Fraunhofer lines** /'frown,hohfə (Ger frau'nhofə)/ *n pl* the dark lines seen in solar and stellar spectra [Joseph von *Fraunhofer* †1826 Bavarian optician & physicist]
- fraxinella** /'fraksɪ'nɛlə/ *n* a Eurasian plant of the rue family whose flowers give off an inflammable vapour in hot weather [NL, dim of L *fraxinus* ash tree – more at *BIRCH*]
- fray** /'fray/ *n* a brawl, fight [ME, short for *afray*, *affray* *affray* – more at *AFFRAY*]
- fray** *vt* **1** to separate the threads at the edge of (e.g. fabric) **2** to strain, irritate <(his temper became a bit ~ed)> ~ *vi* to wear out or into shreds [MF *froyer*, *frayer* to rub, fr L *fricare* – more at *FRICTION*]
- frazzle** /'fræzl/ *vt* to put in a state of extreme physical or nervous fatigue, upset – *infmt* [alter of E dial. *fazle* (to tangle, fray)]
- frazzle** *n* a frazzled condition <(worn to a ~)> – *infmt*
- freak** /'freak/ *n* **1a** a sudden and odd or seemingly pointless idea or whim **b** a seemingly capricious action or event **2** a person or animal with a physical oddity who appears in a circus, funfair, etc **3** a person seen as being highly unconventional, esp in dress or ideas **4** an ardent enthusiast <a jazz ~> **5a** a sexual pervert **b** **HEAD 19** – often in combination <(speed)freak>; slang **USE (3 & 4)** *infmt* [origin unknown]
- freak** *vb* **FREAK OUT** – slang
- freakish** /'freakɪʃ/ *adj* whimsical, capricious – **freakishly** *adv*, **freakishness** *n*
- freak of nature** *n* **FREAK 2**
- freak-out** *n* a drug-induced state of mind – slang
- freak out** *vt* **1** to put under the influence of a (hallucinogenic) drug **2** to put into a state of intense excitement ~ *vi* **1** to experience hallucinations or withdraw from reality, esp by taking drugs **2** to behave in an irrational, uncontrolled, or unconventional manner (as if) under the influence of drugs **USE** slang
- freaky** /'freaki/ *adj* being a freak; characteristic of a freak
- freckle** /'freckl/ *n* any of the small brownish spots on the skin, esp of white people, that increase in number and intensity on exposure to sunlight [ME *freken*, *freckel*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *freknottir* freckled; akin to OE *spearca* spark] – **freckly** /'freckli/ *adj*
- freckle** *vb* to mark or become marked with freckles or small spots
- free** /'free/ *adj* **1a** enjoying civil and political liberty **b** politically independent *c* not subject to the control or domination of another **2a** not determined by external influences <a ~ agent> **b** voluntary, spontaneous **3a** exempt, relieved, or released, esp from an unpleasant or unwanted condition or obligation <~ from pain> – often in combination <(trouble-free)> <(duty-free)> **b** not bound, confined, or detained by force <(prisoner was now ~)> **4a** having no trade restrictions **b** not subject to government regulation **5** having or taken up with no obligations or commitments <(I'll be ~ this evening)> **6** having an unrestricted scope <a ~ variable> **7a** not obstructed or impeded **b** not being used or occupied <(used a ~ hand)> *c* not hampered or restricted; unfettered <~ speech> **8** not fastened <(the ~ end of the rope)> **9a** lavish, unrestrained <(very ~ with her praises)> **b** outspoken *c* too familiar or forward **10** not costing or charging anything **11a** not (permanently) united with, attached to, or combined with sth else; separate <~ oxygen> **b** capable of being used alone as a meaningful linguistic form <(hats is a ~ form)> – compare **'BOUND 4** **12a** not literal or exact <~ translation> **b** not restricted by or conforming to conventional forms <~ jazz> **13** open to all comers [ME, fr OE *frēo*; akin to OHG *fri* free, Gk *prays* gentle] – **freely** *adv*
- free** *adv* **1** in a free manner **2** without charge <(admitted ~)> **3** not close-hauled <(sailing ~)>
- free** *vt* **1** to cause to be free **2** to relieve or rid of sth that restrains, confines, restricts, or embarrasses <~ her husband from debt> **3** to disentangle, clear – **freer** *n*
- free and easy** *adj* **1** marked by informality and lack of constraint **2** failing to observe strict standards, careless – **free and easy** *adv*
- free association** *n* the expression of conscious thoughts, ideas, etc used esp in psychoanalysis to reveal unconscious processes; esp (the reporting of) the first thought, image, etc that comes to mind in response to a given stimulus (e.g. a word)
- freebie**, **freebee** /'freebi/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* sth (e.g. a theatre ticket) given or received without charge – *infmt* [by alter fr obs slang *freeby* (gratis), fr *free* + *-by*, of unknown origin]
- freeboard** /-bawd/ *n* the vertical distance between the waterline and the deck of a ship
- freebooter** /-boothə/ *n* a pirate, plunderer [D *vrijbouter*, fr *vrij* but plunder, fr *vrij* free + *boot* booty]
- freeborn** /-bawn/ *adj* not born in slavery
- Free Church** *n*, chiefly *Br* a British Nonconformist church
- free collective bargaining** *n* bargaining between trade unions and employers unhampered by government guidelines or by legal restrictions
- free diving** *n* **SKIN DIVING**
- freedman** /-man/, *fem* **freedwoman** *n* sby freed from slavery
- freedom** /'freɪdəm/ *n* **1a** the absence of necessity or constraint in choice or action **b** liberation from slavery or restraint *c* being exempt or released from sth (onerous) <~ from care> **2a** ease, facility **b** being frank, open, or outspoken *c* improper familiarity **3** boldness of conception or execution **4** unrestricted use of <(gave him the ~ of their home)> **5** a right or privilege, esp political ['TRFE + -DOM]
- freedom ride** *n*, often *cap* **F&R** an organized ride made through states of the USA in protest against racialism and illegal segregation
- free enterprise** *n* an economic system that relies on private business operating competitively for profit to satisfy consumer demands and in which government action is restricted to protecting public interest and to keeping the national economy in balance
- free-fall** *n* **1** (the condition of) unrestrained motion in a gravitational field **2** the part of a parachute jump before the parachute opens
- free-floating** *adj* relatively uncommitted to a particular course of action, party, etc
- free-for-all** *n* **1** a fight or competition open to all comers and usu with no rules **2** an often vociferous quarrel or argument involving several participants
- freehand** /-hand/ *adj* done without the aid of drawing or measuring instruments – **freehand** *adv*
- free hand** *n* freedom of action or decision <(gave her a ~)>
- freehanded** /-handɪd/ *adj* openhanded, generous – **freehandedly** *adv*
- freehold** /-hohld/ *n* a tenure in absolute possession, also a property held by such tenure – **freeholder** *n*
- free house** *n* a public house in Britain that is entitled to sell drinks supplied by more than 1 brewery – compare **PUB HOUSE**
- free jazz** *n* jazz that is totally improvised, lacks any regular beat, and has no predetermined harmonic or melodic structure
- free kick** *n* an unhindered kick in soccer, rugby, etc awarded because of a breach of the rules by an opponent
- freelance** /-lahns/ *n* a person who pursues a profession without long-term contractual commitments to any one employer – **freelance** *adj*
- freelance** *vi* to act as a freelance
- free lance** *n* a mercenary knight
- free-living** *adj*, of a living organism neither parasitic nor symbiotic – **free-liver** *n*
- freeload** /-lohld/ *vi* to take advantage of another's generosity or hospitality without sharing in the cost or responsibility involved – *infmt* – **freeloader** *n*
- free love** *n* the concept or practice of sexual relations without legal, financial, etc commitment
- freeman** /-man/ *n* **1** sby enjoying civil or political liberty **2** sby who has the full rights of a citizen
- free market** *n* an economic market operating by free competition
- free,martin** /-mahtɪn/ *n* a sexually imperfect usu sterile female calf born as a twin with a male [origin unknown]



**'Free.mason** /-ˌmays(ə)n/ *n* a member of an ancient and widespread secret fraternity called Free and Accepted Masons

**'free.masonry** /-ˌmays(ə)nri/ *n* 1 *cap* the principles, institutions, or practices of Freemasons 2 natural or instinctive fellowship or sympathy

**'free.port** *n* an enclosed (section of a) port where goods are received and shipped free of customs duty

**'free.range** *adj* of, being, or produced by poultry reared in the open air rather than in a battery

**'free.rein** *n* unrestricted liberty or scope (*give ~ to one's feelings*)

**'freesia** /ˈfreeszh(y)ə, -zyə/ *n* any of a genus of sweet-scented African plants of the iris family with red, white, yellow, or purple flowers [NL, genus name, fr F H T Freese †1876 G physician]

**'free skating** *n* the part of a competitive figure-skating event that features artistic interpretation of steps and movements to music

**'free-spoken** *adj* outspoken

**'free-standing** /-ˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* standing without lateral support or attachment (*a ~ column*)

**'free.stone** /-ˈstəʊn/ *n* 1 a stone that can be cut without splitting 2 (a fruit with) a stone to which the flesh does not cling

**'free.style** /-ˈstiːl/ *n* 1 (a style used in) a competition in which a contestant uses a style (e.g. of swimming) of his/her choice 2 catch-as-catch-can 3 CRAWL 2

**'free-swimming** *adj*, of an animal that lives in water able to swim about, not attached to a rock or other object

**'free.thinker** /-ˈθɪŋkə/ *n* a person who forms opinions on the basis of reason; *esp* one who rejects religious dogma – *freethinking n* or *adj*

**'free.thought** *n* freethinking, *specif* 18th-c deism

**'free trade** *n* trade based on the unrestricted international exchange of goods

**'free verse** *n* verse without fixed metrical form

**'free vote** *n* a vote in Parliament not subject to party instructions – compare TWO-LINE WHIP, THREE-LINE WHIP

**'free.way** /-ˈweɪ/ *n*, *NAM* a motorway

**'free.wheel** /-ˈweɪl/ *n* a device fitted to a vehicle wheel allowing forward motion when the motive power is removed

**²freewheel** *vi* 1 of a bicycle, cyclist, or motor car to coast freely without power from the pedals or engine 2 to move, live, or drift along freely or irresponsibly – *freewheeler n*

**'free.will** *n* the power of choosing without the constraint of divine necessity or causal law

**'free.world** *n* the non-Communist countries of the world

**'freeze** /ˈfriːz/ *vb* froze /ˈfroʊz/, frozen /ˈfroʊz(ə)n/ *vi* 1 to become congealed into a solid (e.g. ice) by cold 2 to become chilled with cold (*almost froze to death*) 3 to stick solidly (as if) by freezing 4 to become clogged with ice (*the water pipes froze*) 5 to become fixed or motionless, *esp* to abruptly cease acting or speaking 6 to be capable of undergoing freezing for preservation (*<do strawberries ~ well>*) ~ *vt* 1 to convert from a liquid to a solid by cold 2 to make extremely cold 3a to act on, usu destructively, by frost b to anaesthetize (as if) by cold (*the injection froze her gum*) 4 to cause to become fixed, immovable, or unalterable, as if paralysed 5 to immobilize the expenditure, withdrawal, or exchange of (foreign-owned bank balances) by government regulation 6 to preserve (e.g. food) by freezing the water content and maintaining at a temperature below 0°C [ME *fresen*, fr OE *fresan*, akin to OHG *frosan* to freeze, L *pruna* hoarfrost] – *freezingly adv*

**²freeze** *n* 1 freezing cold weather 2a an act or period of freezing sthg, *esp* wages or prices at a certain level b being frozen

**'freeze-dry** *vb* to dehydrate (sthg) while in a frozen state ~ *n* a vacuum, *esp* for preservation – *freeze-dried adj*

**'freeze out** *vi* to deliberately ignore or fail to respond to (sby) – *infrm*

**'freezer** /ˈfriːzə/ *n* an apparatus that freezes or keeps cool, *esp* an insulated cabinet or room for storing frozen food or for freezing food rapidly

**'freeze-up** *n* a spell of very cold weather – *infrm*

**F region** *n* the highest region of the ionosphere occurring from 145km (about 90mi) to 400km (about 250mi) above the surface of the earth


**'freight** /ˈfraɪt/ *n* 1 the charge made for transporting goods 2 a cargo 3 a goods train [ME, fr MD or MLG *vracht*, *vrecht*]

**²freight** *vt* to load (*esp* a ship) with goods for transport

**'freighter** /ˈfraɪtə/ *n* 1 a person or company that (charters and) loads a ship 2 a ship or aircraft used chiefly to carry freight

**'freight.liner** /-ˈliːnə/ *n*, *Br* a train designed for carrying containerized cargo

**'French** /ˈfrenʃ/ *adj* of France, its people, or their language [ME, fr OE *frensc*, fr *Franca* Frank] – *Frenchman n*, *Frenchness n*

**²French** *n* 1 the Romance language of the people of France and of parts of Belgium, Switzerland, and Canada –  LANGUAGE 2 *pl* in *constr* the people of France 3 language full of swear words and mild profanities – *infrm* <I wish we'd never heard of the bugger, pardon my ~ ~ Alan Coren>

**'French bean** *n*, chiefly *Br* (the seed or pod of) a common bean often cultivated for its slender edible green pods

**'French bread** *n* crusty white bread made in long thin loaves

**'French Canadian** *n* a French-speaking Canadian; *esp* one of French descent

**'French chalk** *n* a soft white granular variety of soapstone used *esp* for drawing lines on cloth and as a dry lubricant

**'French cuff** *n* a wide band turned back to make a cuff of double thickness


**'French curve** *n* a curved piece of flat material (e.g. plastic) used as an aid in drawing noncircular curves

**'French dressing** *n* a salad dressing of oil, vinegar, and seasonings

**'French fry** *n*, chiefly *NAM* 'CHIP 6a – usu *pl* [short for *French fried (potato)*]

**'French horn** *n* a circular valved brass instrument with a usual range from B below the bass staff upwards for more than 3 octaves

**'French kiss** *n* a kiss made with open mouths and usu with tongue-to-tongue contact – *French-kiss vb*

**'French knickers** *n pl* wide-legged knickers  GARMENT

**'French knot** *n* an embroidery stitch that forms a decorative knot

**'French leave** *n* leave taken without permission [fr an 18th-c French custom of leaving a reception without taking leave of the host or hostess]

**'French letter** *n*, *Br* a condom – *infrm*

**'French-polish** *vt* to apply French polish to (wood or furniture) in order to obtain a high gloss finish

**'French polish** *n* a solution of shellac used as a wood polish

**'French seam** *n* a double seam sewn on first the right, then the wrong side of a piece of fabric to enclose the raw edges

**'French windows** *n pl* a pair of doors with full length glazing

**'frenetic** /ˈfrɛnetɪk/ *adj* frenzied, frantic [ME *frenetik* insane, fr MF *frenetique*, fr L *phreneticus*, modif of Gk *phrenitikos*, fr *phrenitis* inflammation of the brain, fr *phren-*, *phrén* diaphragm, mind] – *frenetically adv*



**'frenulum** /ˈfrenyooləm/ *n*, *pl* *frenula* /-lə/ a fraenum


**'frenum** /ˈfreenəm/ *n*, *pl* *frena* /-nə/ a fraenum

**'frenzied** /ˈfrenzɪd/ *adj* marked by frenzy (*<the dog's ~ barking>*) – *frenziedly adv*

**'frenzy** /ˈfrenzi/ *n* 1 a temporary madness 2 (a spell of) wild, compulsive, or agitated behaviour [ME *frenesie*, fr MF, fr ML *phrenesia*, alter of L *phrenesis*, fr *phreneticus*]

**'Freon** /ˈfriːon/ trademark – used for any of various nonflammable gaseous and liquid fluorinated hydrocarbons used as refrigerants and as propellants for aerosols

**'frequency** /ˈfreekwənsi/ *n* 1 frequency, frequency the fact or condition of occurring frequently 2a the number of times that a periodic function repeats the same sequence of values during a unit variation of the independent variable b the number or proportion of individuals in a single class when objects are classified according to variations in a set of attributes  STATISTICS 3a the number of complete alternations per second of an alternating current b the number of sound waves per second produced by a sounding body c the number of complete oscillations per second of an electromagnetic wave USE (J)  PHYSICS

**'frequency distribution** *n* DISTRIBUTION 3b  STATISTICS

**'frequency modulation** *n* modulation of the frequency of a wave that is usu a radio carrier wave in accordance with the instantaneous value of some signal waveform – compare AMPLITUDE MODULATION

**'frequency response** *n* (a graph representing) the ability of a device (e.g. an audio amplifier) to deal with the various frequencies applied to it

**'frequent** /ˈfreekwənt/ *adj* 1 often repeated or occurring 2 habitual, persistent [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *frequent-*, *frequens* crowded, full] – *frequently adv*

**²frequent** /ˈfrikwənt/ *vt* to be in or visit often or habitually – *frequentier n*, *frequentation* /ˈfreekwəntəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'frequentative** /ˈfrikwəntətɪv/ *adj*, of a verb aspect, form, or meaning denoting repeated or recurrent action – *frequentative n*

**'fresco** /ˈfreskə/ *n*, *pl* *frescos*, *frescoes* (a painting made by) the

application of water colours to moist plaster – compare **FRESCO SECCO** [It, fr *fresco* fresh, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *frisc* fresh]  
**fresco** /'sekkə/ /'sekoʊ/ *n* the art of painting in water colours on dry plaster – compare **FRESCO** [It, dry *fresco*]

**fresh** /'frefʃ/ *adj* 1a not salt (< water) b free from taint; clean c of wind rather strong d of weather cool and windy 2a of food not preserved b refreshed (< rose ~ from a good night's sleep) c not stale, sour, or decayed 3a (different or alternative and) new (< make a ~ start) b newly or just come or arrived (< ~ from school) 4 too forward with a person of the opposite sex (< slapped his face when he got ~ with me) – infml [ME, fr OF *freis*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *frisc* fresh; akin to OE *fersc* fresh] – **freshly** *adv*, **freshness** *n*

**fresh** *adv* 1 just recently; newly (< a ~ laid egg) 2 chiefly NAm as of a very short time ago (< we're ~ out of tomatoes)

**fresh breeze** *n* wind having a speed of 29 to 38km/h (19 to 24mph)

**freshen** /'frefʃ(ə)n/ *vi* 1 of wind to increase in strength 2 of water to lose saltiness ~ vt to make fresh; also to refresh, revive – often + *up*

**freshen up** *vb* to make (oneself) fresher or more comfortable, esp by washing, changing one's clothes, etc

**fresher** /'frefʃə/ *n*, chiefly Br a student in the first term at college or university – infml [by shortening & alter fr *freshman*]

**freshet** /'frefʃət/ *n* **STREAM** 1 [fresh (a stream of fresh water) + -et]

**fresh gale** *n* wind having a speed of 62 to 74km/h (39 to 46mph)


**freshman** /-'mən/ *n* a fresher

**freshwater** /-'wɔ:tə/ *adj* of or living in fresh water

**fret** /'fret/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1 to torment with anxiety or worry; vex 2a to eat or gnaw into; corrode b to rub, chafe c to make (e.g. a channel) by wearing away 3 to agitate, ripple ~ *vi* 1 to eat into sth, corrode 2 to chafe 3a to become vexed or worried b of running water to become agitated [ME *freten* to devour, fret, fr OE *fretan* to devour, akin to OHG *frezan* to devour, *ezzan* to eat – more at **EAT**]

**fret** *n* 1 (a spot that has been subject to) wearing away 2 a state of (querulous) mental agitation or irritation

**fret** *v* -tt- 1 to decorate with interlaced designs 2 to decorate (e.g. a ceiling) with embossed or carved patterns [ME *fretten*, fr MF *freter* to bind with a ferrule, fret, fr OF, fr *frete* ferrule]

**fret** *n* an ornamental pattern or decoration consisting of small straight bars intersecting usu at right angles  **ARCHITECTURE**

**fret** *n* any of a series of ridges fixed across the fingerboard of a stringed musical instrument (e.g. a guitar) [prob fr MF *frete* ferrule]

**fretful** /-(f(ə))l/ *adj* 1 tending to fret; in a fret 2 of water having the surface agitated – **fretfully** *adv*, **fretfulness** *n*

**fretsaw** /'fret,sɔ:/ *n* a narrow-bladed fine-toothed saw held under tension in a frame and used for cutting intricate patterns in thin wood

**fretwork** /-'wɜ:k/ *n* 1 decoration consisting of frets 2 ornamental openwork, esp in thin wood; also ornamental work in relief

**Freudian** /'froidiən-, -dɪən/ *adj* of or conforming to the psychoanalytic theories or practices of S Freud [Sigmund Freud †1939 Austrian neurologist] – **Freudian** *n*

**Freudian slip** *n* a slip of the tongue that is held to reveal some unconscious aspect of the speaker's mind

**friable** /'fri:əbl/ *adj* easily crumbled [MF or L; MF, fr L *friabilis*, fr *friare* to crumble] – **friableness** *n*, **friability** /-'ə:biəli/ *n*

**friar** /'fri:ə/ *n* a member of a religious order combining monastic life with outside religious activity and orig owning neither personal nor community property [ME *frere*, *fryer*, fr OF *frere*, lit., brother, fr L *fratr*-, *frater* – more at **BROTHER**]

**friary** /'fri:əri/ *n* (a building housing) a community of friars


**fricandeau** /'frikəndəʊ/ *n*, pl **fricandeaus**, **fricandeaux** /-doh(z)/ (a slice of) larded veal braised or roasted and glazed in its own juices [F, fr MF, irreg fr *fricasser*]

**fricassée** /'frikasæ:, -s-/ *n* a dish of small pieces of stewed chicken, rabbit, etc served in a white sauce [MF, fr fem of *fricassé*, pp of *fricasser* to fricassée] – **fricassée** *vt*

**fricative** /'frikəti-/ *n* a consonant (e.g. /f, th, sh/) made by forcing air through a narrow opening formed by placing the tongue or lip close to another part of the mouth, or in languages other than English, esp Arabic, also by constricting the pharynx [L *fricatus*, pp of *fricare*] – **fricative** *adj*

**friction** /'frikʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the rubbing of one body against another b resistance to relative motion between 2 bodies in contact 2 disagreement between 2 people or parties of opposing views [MF or L; MF, fr L *frictio*-, *frictio*, fr *frictus*, pp of *fricare* to rub; akin to L *friare* to crumble, Skt *bhrīpanti* they injure] – **frictional** *adj*, **frictionless** *adj*

**friction, clutch** *n* a clutch in which connection is made through sliding friction

**Friday** /'frɪdaɪ-, -di/ *n* the day of the week following Thursday  **SYMBOL** [ME, fr OE *frīgedæg*; akin to OHG *frīatag*; both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose components are akin to OHG *Fria*, goddess of love, & to OE *dæg* day] – **Fridays** *adv*

**fridge** /'frɪdʒ/ *n*, chiefly Br a refrigerator [by shortening & alter]

**friend** /'frend/ *n* 1a a person whose company, interests, and attitudes one finds sympathetic and to whom one is not closely related b an acquaintance 2a sby or sth not hostile b sby or sth of the same nation, party, or group c sby or sth that favours or encourages sth (e.g. a charity) (< a ~ of the poor) 3 *cap* a Quaker [ME *frend*, fr OE *freond*, akin to OHG *frunt* friend, both fr the prp of a prehistoric Gmc verb represented by OE *freon* to love; akin to OE *freo* free] – **friendless** *adj*

**friendly** /-li/ *adj* 1a having the relationship of friends (< Billy is ~ with Dave) b showing interest and goodwill (< ~ neighbours) c not hostile (< ~ nations) d inclined to be favourable – usu + to 2 cheerful, comforting 3 engaged in only for pleasure or entertainment and not hotly contested (< a ~ game of poker) – **friendliness** *n*

**friendly** *n*, chiefly Br a match played for practice or pleasure and not as part of a competition


**friendly society** *n*, often *cap* F&S, Br a mutual insurance association providing its subscribers with benefits during sickness, unemployment, and old age

**friendship** /-'ʃɪp/ *n* being friends or being friendly

**frier** /'fri:ə/ *n* a fryer

**Friesian** /'frieziən-, -ziən/ *n*, chiefly Br any of a breed of large black-and-white dairy cattle from N Holland and Friesland [var of *Frisian*]

**frieze** /'frie:z/ *n* a heavy coarse fabric made of wool and shoddy [ME *frise*, fr MF, fr MD *vrise*]

**frieze** *n* 1 the part of an entablature between the architrave and the cornice  **ARCHITECTURE** 2 a sculptured or ornamented band (e.g. on a building) [MF, perh fr ML *phrygium*, *frisum* embroidered cloth, fr L *phrygium*, fr neut of *Phrygius* Phrygian, fr *Phrygia*, ancient country of Asia Minor]

**frig** /'frɪg/ *vi* -gg- 1 to masturbate 2 to have sexual intercourse **USE** vulg [prob fr E dial *frig* (to rub), fr ME *friggen*]

**frigate** /'frɪɡət/ *n* 1a a square-rigged 3-masted warship next in size below a ship of the line 2a a general-purpose naval escort vessel between a corvette and a cruiser in size [MF, fr OIt *fregata*]

**frigate, bird** *n* any of several strong-winged rapacious seabirds

**fright** /'fri:t/ *n* 1 fear excited by sudden danger or shock 2 sth unsightly, strange, ugly, or shocking (< she looks a ~) – infml [ME, fr OE *fyrhto*, *fryhto*, akin to OHG *forhta* fear]

**fright** *vt* to frighten – chiefly poetic

**frighten** /'friet(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to make afraid, scare 2 to force by frightening (< ~ed them into confessing) ~ *vi* to become frightened – **frighteningly** *adv*

**frightful** /-(f(ə))l/ *adj* 1 causing intense fear, shock, or horror 2 unpleasant, difficult (< had a ~ morning) – infml – **frightfully** *adv*

**frigid** /'frijd/ *adj* 1a intensely cold b lacking warmth or intensity of feeling 2 esp of a woman abnormally averse to sexual contact, esp intercourse [L *frigidus*, fr *frigere* to be cold, akin to L *frigus* frost, cold, Gk *rhigos*] – **frigidly** *adv*, **frigidness** *n*, **frigidity** /'fri:jdəti/ *n*

**frigid zone** *n* either of 2 regions between the poles of the earth and the polar circles

**frill** /'frɪl/ *vt* to provide or decorate with a frill

**frill** *n* 1a a gathered or pleated fabric edging used on clothing b a small fringed or fluted roll of paper for decorating the bone end of a chop, chicken leg, etc 2 a ruff of hair or feathers round the neck of an animal 3a an affectation, air b sth decorative but not essential **USE** (3) usu pl [perh fr Flem *frul*] – **frilly** *adj*

**fringe** /'frɪnʃ/ *n* 1 an ornamental border (e.g. on a curtain or garment) consisting of straight or twisted threads or tassels 2a sth resembling a fringe, a border b the hair that falls over the forehead c any of the alternating light or dark bands produced by interference or diffraction of light 3a sth marginal, additional, or secondary b *sing* or *pl* in constr a group with marginal or extremist views c often *cap* a part of the British professional theatre featuring small-scale avant-garde productions [ME *freng*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *frimb*ia, fr L *frimbriae* (pl)]

**fringe** *vt* 1 to provide or decorate with a fringe 2 to serve as a fringe for (< a clearing ~d with trees)

**fringe benefit** *n* a benefit (e.g. a pension) granted by an employer to an

- employee that involves a money cost without affecting basic wage rates
- 'frillery** /'fri:əri/ *n* 1 nonessential ornamentation, esp of a showy or tawdry kind 2 affected elegance [MF *friperie*, deriv of ML *faluppa* piece of straw]
- 'frillery** *adj* trifling, tawdry
- Frisee** /'fɪzbi/ *trademark* – used for a plastic disc thrown between players by a flip of the wrist
- Frisian** /'fri:ʒ(ə)n, -zyən/ *n* 1 a member of a Germanic people inhabiting Friesland and the Frisian islands 2 the language of the Frisian people → LANGUAGE [L *Frisii* Frisians] – **Frisian** *adj*
- 'frisk** /'frɪsk/ *vi* to leap, skip, or dance in a lively or playful way ~ *vt* to search (a person) for sth, esp a hidden weapon, by passing the hands over his/her body – *infrisk* [obs *frisk* (lively)]
- 'frisk** *n* 1 a gambol, romp 2 an act of frisking
- frisky** /'frɪski/ *adj* lively, playful – **friskiness** *n*
- frisson** /'freesən(ə)h (Fr *friso*)/ *n*, *pl* **frissons** /'freesən(ə)z (Fr ~)/ a shudder, thrill [F]
- 'frit** /'fɪt/ *n* 1 the wholly or partly fused materials of which glass is made 2 ground-up glass used as a basis for glaze or enamel [It *fritta*]
- 'frit** *vi* -*tt-* 1 to prepare (materials for glass) by heat, fuse 2 to convert into a frit
- 'frit**, **fly** *n* a minute fly whose larva is a pest of cereals [origin unknown]
- fritillary** /'fɪtɪləri/ *n* 1 any of numerous butterflies that are usu orange with black spots → ENDANGERED 2 any of a genus of bulbous plants of the lily family with mottled or chequered flowers [NL *Fritillaria*, genus name, fr L *fritillus* dice-cup, fr the markings on the wings & petals]
- fritter** /'fɪtə/ *n* a piece of fried batter often containing fruit, meat, etc [ME *fritour*, fr MF *friture*, fr (assumed) VL *fractura*, fr *fractus*, pp of *fringere* to fry – more at 'FRY]
- fritter away** *vi* to waste bit by bit <fritters away all her money on clothes> [fritter fr *fritters*, *n* pl (fragments), alter of *fitters* (rags, fragments), fr ME *fiteres*]
- Fritz** /'fɪts/ *n*, *Br* 1 a German 2 German soldiers collectively [G, nickname for *Friedrich* (Frederick)]
- frivolous** /'frɪvələs/ *adj* 1 lacking in seriousness, irresponsibly self-indulgent 2 lacking practicality or serious purpose, unimportant [ME, fr L *frivolus*] – **frivolity** /'frɪvələti/ *n*, **frivolously** *adv*, **frivolousness** *n*
- frizz** /'fɪz/ *n* (hair in) a mass of small tight curls [frizz, *vb*, fr F *friser* to shivel up, curl, prob fr *frns*-, stem of *frure* to fry] – **frizz** *vb*, **frizzy** *adj*, **frizziness** *n*
- 'frizzle** /'fɪzl/ *vb* **frizzling** /'fɪzlɪŋ/ to frizz or curl (the hair) [prob akin to OE *frs* curly, OFris *friske* curl] – **frizzle** *n*, **frizzly** /'fɪzli/ *adj*
- 'frizzle** *vt* 1 to fry (e.g. bacon) until crisp and curled 2 to burn, scorch ~ *vi* to cook with a sizzling noise ['fry + sizzle]
- fro** /'fro/ *prep*, *dial* from [ME, fr ON *fra*, akin to OE *from*]
- frock** /'frɒk/ *n* 1 a monk's or friar's habit 2 a workman's outer shirt, esp smock 3 a woman's dress [ME *frok*, fr MF *froc*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *hroch* mantle, coat]
- 'frock**, **coat** *n* a usu double-breasted coat with knee-length skirts worn by men, esp in the 19th c
- frog** /'frɒg/ *n* 1 any of various tailless smooth-skinned web-footed largely aquatic leaping amphibians 2 the triangular horny pad in the middle of the sole of a horse's foot 3a a loop attached to a belt to hold a weapon or tool b a usu ornamental fastening for the front of a garment consisting of a button and a loop 4 a device permitting the wheels on one rail of a track to cross an intersecting rail 5 a condition in the throat that produces hoarseness (<had a ~ in her throat>) – *infring* 6 often *cap* a French person – chiefly derog; *infring* 7 the hollow in either or both faces of a brick to take mortar → BUILDING [ME *frogge*, fr OE *frogga*, akin to OHG *frosk* frog, Skt *pravate* he jumps up, (6) fr the reputation of the French for eating frogs]
- 'frog**, **fish** /-,fɪʃ/ *n* ANGLER FISH
- 'frog**, **hopper** /-,hɒpə/ *n* any of numerous leaping insects whose larvae secrete froth
- 'frogman** /-mən/ *n* a person equipped with face mask, flippers, rubber suit, etc and an air supply for swimming underwater for extended periods
- 'frog**, **march** /-,mahʃ/ *vi* 1 to carry (a person) face downwards by the arms and legs 2 to force (a person) to move forwards with the arms held firmly behind
- 'frog**, **spawn** /-,spəʊn/ *n* (a gelatinous mass of) frog's eggs
- 'frolic** /'frɒlɪk/ *vi* -*ck-* 1 to play and run about happily 2 to make merry [D *vrolijk* merry, fr MD *vroljic*, fr *vro* happy, akin to OHG *fro* happy, OE *frogga* frog]
- 'frolic** *n* 1 (a) playful expression of high spirits, gaiety 2 a lighthearted entertainment or game – **frolisome** /-(ə)m/ *adj*
- from** /'frʌm, 'strɒŋ/ *prep* 1 – used to indicate a starting point: e.g. a place where a physical movement, or an action or condition suggestive of movement, begins <came here ~ the city> <shot ~ above> <translated ~ French> b a starting point in measuring or reckoning or in a statement of extent or limits <cost ~ £5 to £10> <lives 5 miles ~ the coast> <~ 60 to 80 people> c a point in time after which a period is reckoned <a week ~ today> d a viewpoint <seen ~ my window> <~ a practical standpoint> 2 – used to indicate separation e.g. a physical separation <absent ~ school> <took the toy away ~ the baby> b removal, refraining, exclusion, release, or differentiation <protection ~ the sun> <relief ~ pain> <kept the news ~ her> <saved ~ drowning> <refrain ~ smoking> <don't know one ~ the other> 3 – used to indicate the source, cause, agent, or basis <a call ~ my lawyer> <a friend ~ Oxford> <made ~ flour> <worked hard ~ necessity> <suffering ~ mumps> <~ what I hear, he's quite rich> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *fram*, *adv*, forth, away, OE *faran* to go – more at FARE]
- frond** /'frɒnd/ *n* (a shoot or thallus resembling) a leaf, esp of a palm or fern [L *frond-*, *frons* foliage] – **fronded** *adj*
- frondeur** /'frɒndə/ *n* a rebel, malcontent [F, slinger, participant in a 17th-c revolt in which the rebels were compared to schoolboys using slings only when the teacher was not looking]
- 'front** /'frʌnt/ *n* 1 (feigned) demeanour or bearing, esp in the face of a challenge, danger, etc <put up a brave ~> 2a the vanguard b *often cap* a zone of conflict between armies c the lateral space occupied by a military unit 3a a sphere of activity <progress on the educational ~> b a movement linking divergent elements to achieve certain common objectives, esp a political coalition 4a the (main) face of a building b the forward part or surface. e.g. (1) the part of the human body opposite to the back (2) the part of a garment covering the chest c a frontage d the beach promenade at a seaside resort 5 the boundary between 2 dissimilar air masses → WEATHER 6a a position ahead of a person or of the foremost part of a thing b a position of importance, leadership, or advantage 7a a person, group, or thing used to mask the identity or true character of the actual controlling agent b a person who serves as the nominal head or spokesman of an enterprise or group to lend it prestige 8 the forehead – poetic [ME, fr OF, fr L *front-*, *frons* – more at BRINK] – in front of 1 directly ahead of <watching the road in front of him> 2 in the presence of <don't swear in front of the children> – out front in the audience
- 'front** *vi* 1 to face – often + *on* or *onto* <garden ~ ing on a lake> 2 to serve as a front – often + *for* 3 Austr & NZ to appear, TURN UP 2 – often ~ *up* ~ *vt* 1 to be in front of 2 to supply a front to 3 to face towards <the house ~ s the street> 4 to articulate (a sound) with the tongue farther forward
- 'front** *adj* 1 of or situated at the front 2 articulated at or towards the front of the mouth <~ vowels> – **front** *adv*
- frontage** /'frʌntɪdʒ/ *n* 1a a piece of land that fronts b the land between the front of a building and the street 2 (the width of) the front face of a building
- 'frontal** /'frʌntl/ *n* a facade ['*frontal*]
- 'frontal** *adj* 1 of or adjacent to the forehead <~ bone> 2a of, situated at, or showing the front <full ~ nudity> b direct <~ assault> 3 of a meteorological front [NL *frontalis*, fr L *front-*, *frons*] – **frontally** *adv*
- frontal lobe** *n* the front lobe of either cerebral hemisphere
- front bench** *n* either of 2 rows of benches in Parliament on which party leaders sit
- frontier** /'frʌntɪə/ *n* 1 a border between 2 countries 2 the boundary between the known and the unknown – often pl with sing meaning <the ~ s of medicine> 3 NAM a region that forms the margin of settled or developed territory [ME *frontier*, fr MF *frontiere*, fr *front*] – **frontier** *adj*
- frontiersman** /-mən/ *n* a man living on the frontier
- frontispiece** /'frʌntɪspi:es/ *n* an illustration preceding and usu facing the title page of a book or magazine [alter. of earlier *frontispice*, fr MF, fr LL *frontispicium*, lit., view of the front, fr L *front-*, *frons* + *-i-* + *specere* to look at – more at SPY]
- front line** *n* 1 a military front 2 the most advanced, responsible, or significant position in a field of activity – **front-line** *adj*
- 'front**, **man** *n* a person serving as a front or figurehead
- fronto-** *comb form* frontal and <frontolateral> [ISV, fr L *front-*, *frons*]

**front of 'house** *n* the parts of a theatre accessible to the public (e.g. the auditorium and foyer) – **front-of-house** *adj*

**frontogenesis** /ˈfrʊntəˈjɛnəsɪs/ *n* the coming together to form a distinct front of 2 dissimilar air masses, usu with the formation of cloud and precipitation [NL]

**front-page** *adj* very newsworthy

**front room** *n* a lounge, LIVING ROOM

**'front-runner** *n* 1 a contestant who runs best when in the lead 2 a leading contestant in a competition

**'frost** /frɒst/ *n* 1a (the temperature that causes) freezing b a covering of minute ice crystals on a cold surface 2a coldness of attitude or manner b a failure – chiefly infml [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *frost*, OE *frēosan* to freeze]

**\*frost** *vt* 1a to cover (as if) with frost b to produce a fine-grained slightly roughened surface on (metal, glass, etc) c to cover (e.g. a cake or grapes) with sugar; also, chiefly NAM to ice (a cake) 2 to injure or kill (e.g. plants) by frost – *vi* to freeze – often + *over*

**'frostbite** /-ˈbi:t/ *n* (gangrene or other local effect of a partial) freezing of some part of the body

**'frostbitten** /-ˈbit(a)n/ *adj* afflicted with frostbite

**frosting** /ˈfrɒstɪŋ/ *n* 1 a dull or roughened finish on metal or glass 2a Br thick fluffy cooked icing b chiefly NAM icing

**'frostwork** /-ˈwʊrk/ *n* delicate figures that moisture sometimes forms in freezing (e.g. on a window)

**frosty** /ˈfrɒsti/ *adj* 1 marked by or producing frost 2 (appearing as if) covered with frost 3 marked by coolness or extreme reserve in manner – **frostily** *adv*, **frostiness** *n*

**'froth** /frɒθ/ *n* 1a a mass of bubbles formed on or in a liquid b a foamy saliva sometimes accompanying disease or exhaustion 2 sth insubstantial or of little value [ME, fr ON *frotha*, akin to OE *afreothan* to froth, Gk *prēthein* to blow up]

**\*froth** *vt* to cause to foam – often + *up* – *vi* to produce or emit froth – often + *up*

**frothy** /ˈfrɒθi/ *adj* gaily frivolous or light [ˈFRŌTH + ˈ-ɪ] – **frothily** *adv*, **frothiness** *n*

**frotage** /ˈfrɒtəʒ/ *n* the technique or process of creating an image of an object by rubbing (e.g. with a pencil) on a sheet of paper placed over it [F, fr *frotter* to rub]

**froufrou** /ˈfrʊʃf,frʊʃ/ *n* 1 a rustling sound, esp of a woman's dress 2 frilly ornamentation, esp in women's clothing [F, of imit origin]

**froward** /ˈfrɒəd/ *adj*, archaic habitually disobedient or contrary [ME; turned away, froward, fr *fro* from + *-ward*] – **frowardly** *adv*, **frowardness** *n*

**'frown** /fraʊn/ *vi* 1 to contract the brow in a frown 2 to give evidence of displeasure or disapproval – often + *on* or *upon* – *vt* to express by frowning [ME *frounen*, fr MF *frouner* to snort, frown, of Celt origin, akin to W *froen* nostril] – **frowner** *n*, **frowningly** *adv*

**\*frown** *n* 1 a wrinkling of the brow in displeasure, concentration, or puzzlement 2 an expression of displeasure

**frowst** /ˈfraʊst/ *vi*, chiefly Br to remain indoors in a hot airless room [back-formation fr *frowsty*]

**frowsty** /ˈfraʊsti/ *adj*, chiefly Br STUFFY 1a [alter of *frowzy*]

**frowzy**, **frowzy** /ˈfraʊzi/ *adj* 1 having a slovenly or uncared-for appearance 2 musty, stale [origin unknown]

**froze** /ˈfrɒz/ *past* of FREEZE

**frozen** /ˈfrɒz(ə)n/ *adj* 1a treated, affected, solidified, or crusted over by freezing b subject to long and severe cold (<the ~ north>) 2a drained or incapable of emotion b incapable of being changed, moved, or undone c not available for present use (<~ capital>) – **frozenly** *adv*, **frozenness** *n*

**fructification** /ˈfrʊktɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 forming or producing fruit 2 FRUIT 1d

**fructify** /ˈfrʊktɪfɪ/ *vi* to bear fruit – fml ~ *vi* to make fruitful or productive (social philosophy fructified the political thinking of liberals – TLS) – fml [ME *fructifien*, fr MF *fructifier*, fr L *fructificare*, fr *fructus* fruit]

**fructose** /ˈfrʊktəʊz, -toʊz/ *n* a (very sweet) sugar that occurs esp in fruit juices and honey

**frugal** /ˈfrʊg(ə)l/ *adj* economical in the expenditure of resources, sparing [MF or L; MF, fr L *frugalis* virtuous, frugal, alter. of *frugi*, fr dat of *frug*, *frux* fruit, value; akin to L *frui* to enjoy] – **frugally** *adv*, **frugality** /ˈfrʊgəˈbɪlti/ *n*

**frugivorous** /ˈfrʊdʒɪˈvɔərəs/ *adj* feeding on fruit [L *frug*, *frux* + E *-vorous*] – **frugivore** /ˈfrʊdʒɪˈvɔː/ *n*

**'fruit** /frʊɪt/ *n* 1a a product of plant growth (e.g. grain or vegetables) (<the ~s of the field>) b(1) the (edible) reproductive body of a flowering

plant; esp one having a sweet pulp associated with the seed (2) a succulent edible plant part used chiefly in a dessert or sweet dish c a dish, quantity, or diet of fruits <please pass the ~> d the ripened fertilized ovary of a flowering plant together with its contents 2 offspring, progeny 3a the state of bearing fruit (<a tree in ~>) b a (favourable) product or result – often pl with sing meaning 4 Br a fellow – in *old fruit*; infml [ME, fr OF, fr L *fructus* fruit, use, fr *fructus*, pp of *frui* to enjoy, have the use of – more at 'brook] – **fruited** *adj*

**\*fruit** *vb* to (cause to) bear fruit

**fruitarian** /ˈfrʊɪtəri-ən/ *n* one whose diet consists of fruit [ˈfruit + *-arian* (as in *vegetarian*)]

**'fruit bat** *n* any of various large Old World fruit-eating bats of warm regions

**fruiter** /ˈfrʊɪtə/ *n* a plant (e.g. a tree) producing fruit (<that apple is a poor ~>)

**fruiterer** /ˈfrʊɪtərə/ *n* one who deals in fruit [ME, modif of MF *fruiter*, fr *fruit*]

**'fruit fly** *n* any of various small flies whose larvae feed on fruit or decaying vegetable matter

**fruitful** /ˈfrʊɪt(ə)l/ *adj* 1 (conducive to) yielding or producing (abundant) fruit 2 abundantly productive – **fruitfully** *adv*, **fruitfulness** *n*

**fruiting body** *n* a plant organ specialized for producing spores

**fruition** /ˈfrʊɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 bearing fruit 2 realization, fulfilment [ME *fructioun*, fr MF or LL, MF *fructiō*, fr LL *fructiō*, *fructio*, fr L *fructus*, alter of *fructus*, pp]

**fruitless** /ˈfrʊɪtlɪs/ *adj* 1 lacking or not bearing fruit 2 useless, unsuccessful – **fruitlessly** *adv*, **fruitlessness** *n*

**'fruit machine** *n*, Br a coin-operated gambling machine that pays out according to different combinations of symbols (e.g. different types of fruit) visible on wheels

**fruity** /ˈfrʊɪti/ *adj* 1 having the flavour of the unfermented fruit (<~ wine>) 2 of a voice marked by richness and depth 3 amusing in a sexually suggestive way (<a ~ story>) infml [ˈFRUIT + ˈ-ɪ] – **fruitily** *adv*, **fruitiness** *n*

**frumenty** /ˈfrʊmən-ti/ *n* wheat boiled in milk and usu flavoured with sugar and spices [ME, fr MF *frumentee*, fr *frument* grain, fr L *frumentum*, fr *frui*]

**frump** /frʌmp/ *n* 1 a dowdy unattractive gill or woman 2 a staid drab old-fashioned person *USE* chiefly infml [prob fr *frumple* (to wrinkle), fr ME *fromplen*, fr MD *verrompelen*] – **frumpish** *adj*, **frumpy** *adj*

**frusemide** /ˈfrʊʒəˈmaɪd/ *n* a powerful synthetic diuretic used in the treatment of oedema and high blood pressure [alter of *furseamide*, fr *furfural* (a liquid aldehyde made of plant materials, fr L *furfur* bran) + sulphur + *-amide*, prob alter of *amide*]

**frustrate** /ˈfrʊstrəɪt/ *vt* 1a to balk or defeat in an endeavour, foil b to induce feelings of discouragement and vexation in 2 to make ineffectual, nullify [ME *frustraten*, fr L *frustratus*, pp of *frustrare* to deceive, frustrate, fr *frustra* in error, in vain, akin to L *fraus* fraud – more at FRAUD] – **frustrating** *adj*, **frustratingly** *adv*

**frustrated** *adj* filled with a sense of frustration

**frustration** /ˈfrʊstrəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a frustrating or being frustrated b a deep sense of insecurity, tension, and dissatisfaction arising from unresolved problems or unfulfilled needs 2 sth that frustrates


**frustule** /ˈfrʊstjuːl/ *n* the hard silica-containing shell of a diatom [F, fr L *frustulum*, dim of *frustum*]

**frustum** /ˈfrʊstəm/ *n*, pl *frustums*, *frusta* /-tə/ the part of a cone or pyramid left after cutting off the top at a plane parallel to the base; also the part of a solid intersected between 2 usu parallel planes [NL, fr L, piece, bit]

**frutescent** /ˈfrʊtɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* resembling a shrub [L *frutex* shrub + E *-escent*]

**'fry** /fɪe/ *vb* to cook in hot fat [ME *frien*, fr OF *frire*, fr L *frigere*; akin to Gk *phrygion* to roast, fry, Skt *bhrjati* he roasts]

**\*fry** *n* 1 a dish of fried food 2 NAM a social gathering (e.g. a picnic) at which food is fried and eaten

**\*fry** *n*, pl *fry* 1a recently hatched or very small (adult) fishes  LIFE CYCLE b the young of other animals, esp when occurring in large numbers 2 a member of a group or class, esp a person (<books for small ~>) [ME, prob fr ONF *fri*, fr OF *frier*, *froyer* to rub, spawn – more at 'FRAY]

**fryer** /ˈfɹi-ə/ *n* sth intended for or used in frying; esp a deep vessel for frying foods

**'frying pan** *n* a shallow metal pan with a handle that is used for frying foods – out of the **frying pan** into the fire clear of one difficulty only to fall into a greater one

- 'fry-up** *n*, *Br* (a dish prepared by) the frying of food for a simple impromptu meal – chiefly *infrml*
- fuchsia** /'fyoohshə/ *n* any of a genus of decorative shrubs with showy nodding flowers usu in deep pinks, reds, and purples [NL, genus name, fr Leonhard Fuchs †1566 G botanist]
- fuchsine** /'foohk,seen/, **fuchsin** /-sɪn/ *n* a brilliant bluish red dye [F *fuchsine*, prob fr NL *Fuchsia*; fr its colour]
- 'fuck** /fʊk/ *vi* 1 to have sexual intercourse 2 to mess *about* or *around* ~ *vi* to have sexual intercourse with **USE** (*vi*, *vt*) *vulg* [perh of Scand origin, akin to Norw dial. *fukka* to copulate, Sw dial. *focka* to copulate, strike, push, *fock* penis; perh akin to L *pugnus* fist, *pungere* to prick, sting, Gk *pygme* fist]
- 'fuck n** 1 an act of sexual intercourse 2 the slightest amount (<didn't care a ~> **USE** *vulg*)
- 'fuck interj** – used to express annoyance, *vulg*
- 'fuck-all** *n* nothing at all – *vulg*
- 'fucker** /'fuka/ *n* a fool – *vulg* [**'FUCK** + **-ER**]
- 'fuck off** *vi* 1 to go away 2 *NAm* to fuck about **USE** *vulg*
- fucus** /'fyoohkəs/ *n* any of a genus of brown algae that are seaweeds used in the kelp industry [L, orchil, rouge, fr Gk *phykos* seaweed, orchil, rouge, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *pukh* antimony used as a cosmetic] – **fuoid** /'fyooh,koyd/ *adj*
- fuddle** /'fudl/ *vi* 1 to make drunk 2 to make confused [origin unknown]
- fuddy-duddy** /'fudɪ,dudɪ/ *n* a person who is old-fashioned, pompous, unimaginative, or concerned about trifles – *infrml* [perh alter of *fussy* + *dud*] – **fuddy-duddy** *adj*
- 'fudge** /fʊdʒ/ *vi* to avoid commitment, hedge – usu + *on* ~ *vi* 1a to devise or put together roughly or without adequate basis (<she could always ~ up an excuse>) b to falsify (<~d the figures>) 2 to fail to come to grips with, dodge [prob alter of earlier *fadge* (to fit, adjust)]
- 'fudge n** 1 a soft (creamy) sweet made typically of sugar, milk, butter, and flavouring 2 foolish nonsense – *infrml*, sometimes used interjectionally
- fuehrer** /'fyoohərə (Ger fyər/ *n* a fuhrer
- 'fuel** /'fyoohəl/ *n* 1a a material used to produce heat or power by combustion **ENERGY** b nutritive material c a material from which atomic energy can be liberated, esp in a reactor 2 a source of sustenance, strength, or encouragement [ME *fewel*, fr OF *foaille*, fr *feu* fire, fr LL *focus*, fr L, hearth]
- 'fuel vb** -ll- (*NAm* -l-, -ll-) *vi* 1 to provide with fuel 2 to support, stimulate (<inflation ~ led by massive wage awards>) ~ *vi* to take in fuel – often + *up*
- 'fuel, cell** *n* a cell that continuously changes chemical energy to electrical energy
- fug** /fʊg/ *n* the stuffy atmosphere of a poorly ventilated space – chiefly *infrml* [prob alter of 'fog] – **fuggy** *adj*
- fugacious** /'fyooh'gayshəs/ *adj* lasting a short time – *fml* [L *fugac-*, *fugax*, fr *fugere*] – **fugacity** /'fyooh'gasəti/ *n*
- fugal** /'fyoohgl/ *adj* in the style of a musical fugue – **fugally** *adv*
- fuge** /-fyoohj/ *comb form* (~ *n*) sthg that drives away (<insectifuge> <febrifuge>) [F, fr LL *-fuga*, fr L *fugare* to put to flight, fr *fuga* flight]
- 'fugitive** /'fyoohjəti/ *adj* 1 running away or trying to escape 2a elusive b likely to change, fade, or disappear 3 fleeting, ephemeral [ME, fr MF & L; MF *fugitif*, fr L *fugitivus*, fr *fugitus*, pp of *fugere* to flee, akin to Gk *pheugain* to flee, & prob to OHG *biogan* to bend – more at 'bow] – **fugitively** *adv*, **fugitiveness** *n*
- 'fugitive n** a person who flees or tries to escape, esp from danger, justice, or oppression
- fugleman** /'fyoohglmən/ *n* a leader (of a group) [modif of G *flügelmann*, fr *flügel* wing + *mann* man]
- fugue** /'fyoohg/ *n* 1 a musical composition in which 1 or 2 themes are repeated or imitated by successively entering voices and are developed in a continuous interweaving of the voice parts 2 a disturbed state in which a person performs acts of which on recovery he/she has no recollection and which usu involves disappearance from his/her usual environment [prob fr It *fuga* flight, fugue, fr L, flight, fr *fugere*] – **fugulist** *n*
- führer, fuhrer** /'fyoohərə (Ger fyər/ *n* 1 LEADER 2c(3) 2 a leader exercising tyrannical authority [G *führer* leader, guide, fr MHG *vuerer* bearer, fr *vieren* to lead, bear, fr OHG *fuoren* to lead; akin to OE *faran* to go – more at FARE]
- 'ful** /-f(ə)/ *suffix* 1 (*n* → *adj*) full of (<eventful> <colourful>) 2 (*n* → *adj*) characterized by (<peaceful> <boastful>) 3 (*n* → *adj*) having the qualities of (<masterful>) 4 (*vb* → *adj*) tending to or able to (<mournful>) [ME, fr OE, fr *full*, *adj*]
- 'ful suffix** (*n* → *n*) number or amount that (a specified thing) holds or can hold (<roomful> <handful>)
- fulcrum** /'fʊlkɾəm, 'fool-/ *n*, *pl* **fulcrums**, **fulcra** /-krə/ the support about which a lever turns [LL, fr L, bedpost, fr *fulcire* to prop – more at **BAIK**]
- fulfil**, *NAm* chiefly **fulfill** /'foolfil/ *vi* -ll- 1a to cause to happen as appointed or predicted – usu *pass* b to put into effect, CARRY OUT 1 c to measure up to, satisfy 2 to develop the full potential of [ME *fulfillen*, fr OE *fullfyllan*, fr *full* + *fyllan* to fill] – **fulfiller** *n*, **fulfilment** *n*
- fulgent** /'fʊl(ə)nt/ *adj* dazzlingly bright – *fml* [ME, fr L *fulgens*, *fulgens*, *prp* of *fulgere* to shine; akin to L *flagrare* to burn – more at **BLACK**] – **fulgently** *adv*
- fulgurite** /'fʊlgyooret/ *n* a glasslike crust produced by the fusion of sand or rock by lightning [ISV, fr L *fulgur* lightning, fr *fulgere*]
- fuliginous** /'fyooh'lijnəs/ *adj* 1 sooty, murky 2 dark, dusky **USE** *fml* [LL *fuliginosus*, fr L *fuligin-*, *fuligo* soot, akin to L *fumus* smoke – more at **FUME**] – **fuliginously** *adv*
- 'full** /fool/ *adj* 1 possessing or containing a great amount or as much or as many as is possible or normal 2a complete, esp in detail, number, or duration b lacking restraint, check, or qualification (<~ support>) c having all distinguishing characteristics, enjoying all authorized rights and privileges 3a at the highest or greatest degree; maximum b at the height of development (<~ bloom>) 4 rounded in outline; also well filled out or plump 5a having an abundance of material (e.g. in the form of gathers or folds) (<a ~ skirt>) b rich in experience (<a ~ life>) 6 satisfied, esp with food or drink, often to the point of discomfort – usu + *up* 7 having both parents in common (<~ sisters>) 8a with the attention completely occupied by or centred on sthg (<always ~ of his own importance>) b filled with excited anticipation or pleasure (<~ of her plans for a holiday in Fiji>) 9 possessing a rich or pronounced quality 10 – used as an intensive (<won by a ~ 4 shots>) [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *fol* full, L *plenus* full, *plere* to fill, Gk *plērēs* full, *plēthein* to be full] – **fullness** *also* **fullness** *n* – full of oneself bumpuously self-centred or conceited
- 'full adv** exactly, squarely
- 'full n** 1 the highest or fullest state, extent, or degree 2 the requisite or complete amount – chiefly *in* *in full*
- 'full vi**, of the moon to become full ~ *vi* to make full in sewing
- 'full vi** to cleanse and finish (woollen cloth) by moistening, heating, and pressing [ME *fullen*, fr MF *fouler*, fr (assumed) VL *fullare*, fr L *fullo* one who fuls cloth] – **fuller** *n*
- fulla** /'foola/ *n*, *NZ* a man, fellow [prob alter of *fellow*]
- 'full, back** /-bak/ *n* a primarily defensive player in soccer, rugby, etc, usu stationed nearest the defended goal **SPORT**
- 'full, blood** *n* (an individual having) descent from parents both of the same pure breed
- 'full-blooded** *adj* 1 of unmixed ancestry, purebred 2a forceful, vigorous b virile 3 being the specified thing to a great extent (<a ~ socialist>) – **full-bloodedness** *n*
- 'full-blown** *adj* 1 at the height of bloom 2 fully developed or mature
- 'full-bodied** *adj* marked by richness and fullness, esp of flavour (<a ~ wine>)
- 'full circle** *adv* through a series of developments that lead back to the original source, position, or situation
- 'full-dress** *adj* 1 complete, full-scale 2 of or being full dress (<~ uniform>)
- full dress** *n* the style of dress prescribed for ceremonial or formal social occasions
- fuller** /'foola/ *n* a blacksmith's hammer for grooving and spreading iron [fuller (to form a groove in), perh fr the name Fuller]
- 'fuller's earth** /'fooləz/ *n* a clayey substance used in fulling cloth and as a catalyst
- 'full-fledged** *adj*, chiefly *NAm* fully-fledged
- 'full house** *n* a poker hand containing 3 of a kind and a pair
- 'full-length** *adj* 1 showing or adapted to the entire length, esp of the human figure 2 having a normal or standard length; unabridged
- 'full marks** *n pl*, *Br* due credit or commendation
- 'full moon** *n* the moon when its whole apparent disc is illuminated **SYMBOL**
- 'full-mouthed** /-'mowdh/ *adj* having a full complement of teeth
- 'full nelson** /'nɛls(ə)n/ *n* a wrestling hold in which both arms are thrust under the corresponding arms of an opponent and the hands clasped behind the opponent's head – compare **HALF NELSON**
- 'full-scale** *adj* 1 identical to an original in proportion and size 2 involving full use of available resources (<a ~ biography>)

- full stop** *n* a punctuation mark . used to mark the end (e.g. of a sentence or abbreviation) – often used to express completion (*They were just brave, clean, British success stories* Full stop. – *Punch*)
- full-term** *adj* born after a pregnancy of normal length – compare **PREMATURE**
- full tilt** *adv* at high speed [*'tilt*]
- full-time** *adj* employed for or involving full time (< ~ employees) – full time *adv*
- full time** *n* 1 the amount of time considered the normal or standard amount for working during a given period, esp a week 2 the end of a sports, esp soccer, match
- full toss** *n* a throw, esp a bowled ball in cricket, that has not hit the ground by the time it arrives at the point at which it was aimed
- fully** /'fu:li/ *adv* 1 completely 2 AT LEAST 1 (< ~ nine tenths of us)
- fully-fashioned** *adj* employing or produced by a knitting process for shaping to body lines (< ~ tights)
- fully-fledged**, *NAm* **full-fledged** *adj* having attained complete status
- fulmar** /'fu:lmɑ:/ *n* a seabird of colder regions closely related to the petrels [of Scand origin; akin to ON *fúlmar* fulmar, fr *full* foul + *mar* gull]
- fulminant** /'fu:lmɪnənt/ *ful-/ adj* **FULMINATING** 2
- fulminate** /-nəɪ/ *vt* to utter or thunder out with denunciation ~ *vi* 1 to thunder forth censure or invective – usu + *against* or *at* 2 to be agitated or enraged (by feelings of indignation) (< he ~d in silence) [ME *fulminaten*, fr ML *fulminatus*, pp of *fulminare*, fr L, to flash with lightning, strike with lightning, fr *fulmin-*, *fulmen* lightning, akin to L *flagrare* to burn – more at **BLACK**] – **fulminator** *n*, **fulmination** /-nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- fulminate** *n* an (explosive) salt (e.g. of mercury) containing the radical CNO [ISV *fulmin-* (fr L *fulmin-*, *fulmen*) + -ate]
- fulminating** /'fu:lmɪnəɪŋ/ *ful-/ adj* 1 exploding with a vivid flash 2 coming on suddenly with great severity (< ~ infection)
- fulsome** /'fu:ls(ə)m/ *adj* 1 overabundant, copious (< described in ~ detail) 2a unnecessarily effusive b obsequious [ME *fulsom* copious, cloying, fr *full* + -some -some] – **fulsomely** *adv*, **fulness** *n*
- fulvous** /'fu:vəs/ *adj* dull brownish yellow [L *fulvus*, perh akin to L *flavus* yellow – more at **BLUE**]
- fumaric acid** /'fyu:əh'mærk/ *n* an acid that has 2 carboxyl groups in its molecular structure, is found in various plants, and is used esp in making resins [ISV, fr NL *Fumaria*, genus of herbs, fr LL, fumitory, fr L *fumus*]
- fumarole** /'fyu:mɑ:roʊl/ *n* a hole in a volcanic region from which hot vapours issue [It *fumarola*, modif of LL *fumarolium*, fr L *fumarum* smoke chamber for aging wine, fr *fumar* fume] – **fumarolic** /'fyu:əhmɑ:roʊlɪk/ *adj*
- fumble** /'fʌmbəl/ *vb* **fumbling** /'fʌmbəlɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to grope for or handle sth clumsily or awkwardly b to make awkward attempts to do or find sth 2 to feel one's way or move awkwardly ~ *vt* 1 to feel or handle clumsily 2 to deal with awkwardly or clumsily [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *fumla* to fumble] – **fumble** *n*, **fumbler** *n*, **fumbly** *adv*
- fume** /'fyu:hm/ *n* 1 an (irritating or offensive) smoke, vapour, or gas – often pl with *sing.* meaning 2 a state of unreasonable excited irritation or anger (< in a ~ of impatience) [ME, fr MF *fum*, fr L *fumus*; akin to OHG *toumen* to be fragrant, Gk *thymos* mind, spirit] – **fummy** *adj*
- fume** *vt* to expose to or treat with fumes ~ *vi* 1a to emit fumes b to be in a state of excited irritation or anger (< she fretted and ~d over the delay) 2 to rise (as if) in fumes
- fumigate** /'fyu:əh'mɪgəɪt/ *vt* to apply smoke, vapour, or gas to, esp in order to disinfect or destroy pests [L *fumigatus*, pp of *fumigare*, fr *fumus* smoke + -igare (akin to L *agere* to drive) – more at **AGENT**] – **fumigator** *n*, **fumigant** *n*, **fumigation** /-gəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- fumitory** /'fyu:əhmɪt(ə)rɪ/ *n* any of several erect or climbing plants with purple or white flowers [ME *fumeterre*, fr MF, fr ML *fumus terrae*, lit., smoke of the earth, fr L *fumus* + *terrae*, gen of *terra* earth – more at **TERRACE**]
- fun** /fʌn/ *n* 1 (a cause of) amusement or enjoyment 2 derisive jest; ridicule (< made him a figure of ~) 3 violent or excited activity or argument (< let a snake loose in the classroom; then the ~ began) [E dial. *fun* (to hoax), perh alter. of ME *fonnen*, fr *fonne* dupe]
- fun adj**, chiefly *NAm* providing entertainment, amusement, or enjoyment (< a ~ person to be with) – *infml*
- funambulum** /'fyu:əh'nəmbyu:lɪz(ə)m/ *n* tightrope walking – *fml* [L *funambulus* ropewalker, fr *funis* rope + *ambulare* to walk] – **funambulist** *n*
- fun and games** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* high-spirited or overexcited activity
- function** /'fʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an occupational duty 2 the action characteristic of a person or thing or for which a thing exists (< examining the ~ of poetry in modern society) 3 any of a group of related actions contributing to a larger action 4 an impressive, elaborate, or formal ceremony or social gathering 5a a mathematical relationship between each element of one set and at least one element of the same or another set b a quality, trait, or fact dependent on and varying with another c a facility on a computer or similar device corresponding to a mathematical function or operation [L *function-*, *functio* performance, fr *functus*, pp of *fungi* to perform, prob akin to Skt *bhunkte* he enjoys] – **functionless** *adj*
- function** *vi* 1 to have a function; serve (< an attributive noun ~s as an adjective) 2 to operate (< a government ~s through numerous divisions)
- functional** /'fʌŋkʃ(ə)nl/ *adj* 1a of, connected with, or being a function b affecting physiological or psychological functions but not organic structure (< heart disease) – compare **ORGANIC** 1b 2 designed or developed for practical use without ornamentation 3 (capable of) performing a function – **functionally** *adv*
- functional group** *n* a characteristic reactive unit of a chemical compound
- functionalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a theory that stresses the interdependence of the institutions of a society 2 a theory or practice that emphasizes practical utility or functional relations to the exclusion of ornamentation – **functionalist** *n*, **functionalist**, **functionalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- functionary** /'fʌŋkʃ(ə)nəri/ *n* 1 sby who serves in a certain function 2 sby holding office
- function word** *n* a word (e.g. a preposition or conjunction) chiefly expressing grammatical relationship
- functor** /'fʌŋktə/ *n* **FUNCTION WORD** [**FUNCTION** + -OR]
- fund** /fʌnd/ *n* 1 an available quantity of material or intangible resources (< ~ of knowledge) 2 (an organization administering) a resource, esp a sum of money, whose principal or interest is set apart for a specific objective 3 pl an available supply of money [L *fundus* bottom, piece of landed property – more at **BOTTOM**]
- fund** *vt* 1 to make provision of resources for discharging the interest or principal of 2 to provide funds for (< research ~ed by the government)
- fundament** /'fʌndəmənt/ *n* 1 the buttocks 2 the anus [ME, fr OF *fondement*, fr L *fundamentum*, fr *fundare* to found, fr *fundus*]
- fundamental** /'fʌndə'mentl/ *adj* 1 serving as a basis to support existence or to determine essential structure or function – often + *to* 2 of essential structure, function, or facts (< ~ change) 3 of, being, or produced by the lowest component of a complex vibration 4 of central importance, principal (< ~ purpose) 5 belonging to one's innate or ingrained characteristics – **fundamentally** *adv*
- fundamental** *n* 1 a minimum constituent without which a thing or system would not be what it is 2 the prime tone of a harmonic series 3 the harmonic component of a complex wave that has the lowest frequency
- fundamentalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* (adherence to) a belief in the literal truth of the Bible – **fundamentalist** *n* or *adj*
- fundamental particle** *n* **ELEMENTARY PARTICLE**
- fundus** /'fʌndəs/ *n*, *pl fundi* /-dɪ-, -die/ the bottom, or part opposite the opening, of the stomach, uterus, or other hollow organ [NL, fr L, bottom] – **fundic** *adj*
- funeral** /'fyu:əhn(ə)rəl/ *n* 1 (a procession connected with) a formal and ceremonial disposing of dead body, esp by burial or cremation; *also*, *NAm* a funeral service 2 a matter, esp a difficulty, that is of concern only to the specified person (< if you get lost, that's your ~) – *infml* [ME *funerelles* (pl), fr MF *funerales* (pl), fr LL *funeralia*, neut pl of *funeralis* (adj), from L *funer-*, *funus* (n)]
- funeral director** *n* an undertaker
- funeral parlour** *n* an undertaker's establishment
- funerary** /'fyu:əhnərəɪ/ *adj* of, used for, or associated with burial (< a pharaoh's ~ chamber) [L *funerarius*, fr *funer-*, *funus*]
- funereal** /'fyu:əh'niəriəl/ *adj* 1 of a funeral 2 gloomy, solemn [L *funereus*, fr *funer-*, *funus*] – **funerally** *adv*
- fun fair** *n*, chiefly *Br* a usu outdoor show offering amusements (e.g. sideshows, rides, or games of skill)
- fungi-** *comb form* fungus (<fungiform> (<fungicide> [L *fungus*])
- fungible** /'fʌŋɡɪbəl/ *n* sth fungible – *usu pl*
- fungible** *adj* such that 1 specimen may be used in place of another in the



- satisfaction of an obligation [NL *fungibilis*, fr L *fungi* to perform – more at FUNCTION] – **fungibility** /-biliti/ *n*
- fungicide** /'fʌŋsɪd/ *n* a substance used for destroying or preventing fungus [ISV] – **fungicidal** /-'sɪd/ *adj*, **fungicidally** *adv*
- fungoid** /'fʌŋ-gɔɪd/ *adj* resembling, characteristic of, or being a fungus – **fungoid** *n*
- fungous** /'fʌŋ-gəs/ *adj* of, like, or caused by a fungus or fungi
- fungus** /'fʌŋ-gəs/ *n*, *pl* **fungi** /-gɪ-/ *also* **funguses** any of a major group of often parasitic organisms lacking chlorophyll and including moulds, rusts, mildews, smuts, mushrooms, and toadstools  **PIANT** [L] – **fungus** *adj*
- funicular** /'fjuːh'nɪkjuːlə/ *adj* 1 dependent on the tension of a cord or cable 2 (of the form of) or associated with a cord [L *funiculus* small rope, dim of *funis* rope]
- funicular** *n* a cable railway in which an ascending carriage counterbalances a descending carriage
- funk** /'fʌŋk/ *n* 1a a state of paralysing fear b a fit of inability to face difficulty 2 a coward **USE** *infrml* [prob fr obs Flem *fonck*, (2) 'fʌŋk]
- funk** *vt* 1 to be afraid of 2 to avoid doing or facing (sthg) because of lack of determination **USE** *infrml*
- funk** *n* funky music – slang [back-formation fr *funky*]
- funky** /'fʌŋki/ *adj* 1 having an offensive smell – chiefly *infrml* 2 having an earthy unsophisticated style and feeling (as in the blues) 3 having an earthy sexual quality 4 – used to approve sthg or sb, esp in pop culture **USE** (2, 3, & 4) slang [fʌŋk (offensive smell), perh fr F dial *funquer* to emit smoke] – **funkiness** *n*
- funnel** /'fʌnl/ *n* 1 a utensil usu having the shape of a hollow cone with a tube extending from the smaller end, designed to direct liquids or powders into a small opening 2 a shaft, stack, or flue for ventilation or the escape of smoke or steam [ME *fonel*, fr OProv *fonilh*, fr ML *fundibulum*, short for L *infundibulum*, fr *infundere* to pour in, fr *in-* + *fundere* to pour – more at 'FOUND]
- funnel** *vb* -ll- (*NAm* -ll-, -ll-) *pres part* /'fʌnl-ɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to have or take the shape of a funnel 2 to pass (as if) through a funnel (<the crowd ~led out of the football ground>) ~ *vt* 1 to form in the shape of a funnel (<~led his hands and shouted through them>) 2 to move to a focal point or into a central channel (<contributions were ~led into 1 account>)
- funnily enough** /'fʌnl-i/ *adv* as is curious or unexpected
- funnily** /'fʌnl/ *adj* 1 causing mirth and laughter, seeking or intended to amuse 2 peculiar, strange, or odd 3 involving trickery, deception, or dishonesty (<told the prisoner not to try anything ~> (<~ business>) 4 unwilling to be helpful, difficult (<at first he was a bit ~ about it but in the end he agreed>) 5a slightly unwell b slightly mad (<~ in the head>) 6 pleasantly amusing, nice – esp in *funny old* (<look at that ~ old dog>) **USE** (3, 4, 5, & 6) *infrml* ['fʌn + -y] – **funnily** /'fʌnl-i/ *adv*, **funniness** *n*, **funny** *adv*
- funny** *n* a comic strip or comic section in a periodical – usu *pl*
- 'funny bone** *n* the place at the back of the elbow where the nerve supplying the hand and forearm rests against the bone [fr the tingling felt when it is struck]
- 'funny farm** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a mental hospital – chiefly humor
- 'fur** /fʊr/ *vb* -rr- (to cause to) become coated or clogged (as if) with fur – often + *up* [ME *furren*, fr MF *fourrer*, fr OF *forrer*, fr *furere* sheath, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *fuotar* sheath, akin to Gk *poy* herd, Skt *pati* he protects]
- 'fur** *n* 1 a piece of the dressed pelt of an animal used to make, trim, or line garments 2 an article of clothing made of or with fur 3 the hairy coat of a mammal, esp when fine, soft, and thick, also such a coat with the skin 4 a coating resembling fur: e.g. a a coating of dead cells on the tongue of sb who is unwell b the thick pile of a fabric (e.g. chenille) c a coating formed in vessels (e.g. kettles or pipes) by deposition of scale from hard water 5 any of the heraldic representations of animal pelts or their colours that have a stylized pattern of tufts or patches – **furless** *adj*, **furred** *adj*
- furbelow** /'fʊbɪ,ləʊ/ *n* 1 a pleated or gathered piece of material, specif a flounce on women's clothing 2 sthg that suggests a furbelow, esp in being showy or superfluous – often in *frills and furbelows* [by folk etymology fr F dial. *farbella*] – **furbelow** *vt*
- furbish** /'fʊbɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to polish 2 to renovate – often + *up* [ME *furbissen*, fr MF *fourbiss-*, stem of *fourbir*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *furben* to polish] – **furbisher** *n*
- furcula** /'fʊrkyʊlə/ *n*, *pl* **furculae** /-li-, -lie-/ a wishbone or other forked part [NL, fr L, forked prop. dim. of *furca* fork] – **furcular** *adj*
- furious** /'fjʊəri-əs/ *adj* 1a exhibiting or goaded by uncontrollable anger b giving a stormy or turbulent appearance (<~ bursts of flame from the fire>) c marked by (violent) noise, excitement, or activity 2 **INTENSE** 1a [ME, fr MF *furiosus*, fr L *furiosus*, fr *fura* fury] – **furiously** *adv*
- furl** /fuhr/ *vt* to fold or roll (e.g. a sail or umbrella) close to or round sthg ~ *vi* to curl or fold as in being furled [MF *ferler*, fr ONF *ferlier* to tie tightly, fr OF *fer*, *ferm* tight (fr L *firms* firm) + *lier* to tie, fr L *ligare* – more at LIGATURE] – **furl** *n*
- furlong** /'fʊrlɒŋ/ *n* a unit of length equal to 220yd (about 0.201km)  **UNIT** [ME, fr OE *furlang*, fr *furh* furrow + *lang* long]
- 'furlough** /'fʊrləʊ/ *n* a leave of absence from duty granted esp to a soldier [D *verlof*, lit, permission, fr MD, fr *ver-* for- + *lof* permission; akin to OE *for-* and to MHG *loube* permission – more at FOR-, 'LEAVE]
- 'furlough** *vt*, chiefly *NAm* to grant a furlough to
- furmet** /'fʊhmət/ *n* frumenty [by alter]
- furmen** /'fʊhmɪn/ *n* an enclosed apparatus in which heat is produced (e.g. for heating a building or reducing ore) [ME *furnas*, fr OF *formaese*, fr L *fornac-*, *fornax*, akin to L *formus* warm – more at WARM]
- furnish** /'fʊrnɪʃ/ *vt* to provide or supply (with what is needed), esp to equip with furniture [ME *furnissen*, fr MF *fourniss-*, stem of *fournir* to complete, equip, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *frummen* to further, *fruma* advantage – more at FURNISH] – **furnisher** *n*
- furnishing** /'fʊrnɪʃɪŋ/ *n* an object that tends to increase comfort or utility, specif an article of furniture for the interior of a building – usu *pl*, compare **SOFT FURNISHINGS**
- furniture** /'fʊrnɪtʃə/ *n* 1 necessary, useful, or desirable equipment: e.g. a the movable articles (e.g. tables, chairs, and beds) that make an area suitable for living in or use b accessories (<door ~>) c the whole movable equipment of a ship (e.g. rigging, sails, anchors, and boats) 2 pieces of wood or metal less than type high placed in printing forms to fill in blank spaces [MF *furniture*, fr *fournir*]
- 'furniture beetle** *n* a small beetle whose larva is a woodworm
- furor** /'fjʊərəʊ/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a furor [MF & L, MF, fr L, fr *furere* to rage – more at DUST]
- furor** /'fjʊərəʊn/ *n* an outburst of general excitement or indignation [It, fr L *furor*]
- furphy** /'fʊfɪ/ *n*, *Austr* an unlikely or absurd rumour – *infrml* [Furphy, name of supplier of sanitation carts in Australia during WW I]
- furrier** /'fʊr-i-/ *n* a fur dealer [ME *furrer*, fr AF *furrere*, fr OF *forrer*, *furrer* to fur]
- 'furrow** /'fʊrəʊ/ *n* 1a a trench in the earth made by a plough b rural land, a field 2 sthg like the track of a plough, e.g. a a groove b a deep wrinkle [ME *furgh*, *forow*, fr OE *furh*, akin to OHG *furuh* furrow, L *porca*]
- 'furrow** *vb* to make or form furrows, grooves, lines, etc (in)
- furry** /'fʊrɪ/ *adj* like, made of, or covered with fur
- 'further** /'fʊdhə/ *adv* 1 **FARTHER** 1 2 moreover 3 to a greater degree or extent (<~ annoyed by a second interruption>) [ME, fr OE *furthor*; akin to OHG *furdar* further, both comps fr the root of OE *forth* – more at FORTH]
- 'further** *adj* 1 **FARTHER** 1 2 extending beyond what exists or has happened; additional (<~ volumes>) 3 coming after the one referred to (<closed until ~ notice>)
- 'further** *vt* to help forward (<this will ~ your chances of success>) – **furtherance** /'fʊdh(ə)rəns/ *n*, **furtherer** /'fʊdh(ə)r-/ *n*
- further education** *n*, *Br* vocational, cultural, or recreational education for people who have left school
- furthermore** /-'maw/ *adv* in addition to what precedes, moreover – used esp when introducing fresh matter for consideration
- 'furthermost** /-'mohst/ *adj* most distant
- 'further to** *prep* following up (<~ your letter of the 4th July>)
- furthest** /'fʊdhɪst/ *adv* or *adj* farthest
- furtive** /'fʊtɪv/ *adj* expressive or done by stealth [F or L; F *furtiv*, fr L *furtivus*, fr *furtum* theft, fr *fur* thief, akin to Gk *phōr* thief, L *ferre* to carry – more at 'BFAR] – **furtively** *adv*, **furtiveness** *n*
- furuncle** /'fjʊərʌŋkəl/ *n* 'BOIL [L *furunculus* petty thief, sucker, *furuncle*, dim of *furor*-, *furo* ferret, thief, fr *fur*] – **furuncular** /'fjʊərʌŋkyʊlə/ *adj*, **furunculosis** /-'lɔs/ *adj*
- furunculosis** /'fjʊərʌŋkyʊlə'loʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **furunculoses** /-'seɪz/ a highly infectious bacterial disease of trout, salmon, and related fishes [NL, fr L *furunculus* + NL *-osis*]
- fury** /'fjʊəri/ *n* 1 intense, disordered, and often destructive rage 2a *cap* any of the 3 avenging deities who in Greek mythology punished crimes b (one who resembles) an avenging spirit 3 wild disordered force or activity 4 a frenzy [ME *furie*, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *furia*, fr *furere* to rage – more at DUST]
- furze** /fʊz/ *n* gorse [ME *firse*, fr OE *fyrz*] – **furzy** *adj*

**fuscous** /'fuskas/ *adj* dark brownish grey [L *fuscus* – more at **DUCK**]  
**'fuse** /'fyoozh/ *n* 1 a combustible substance enclosed in a cord or cable for setting off an explosive charge by transmitting fire to it 2 *NAM chiefly* **fuze** the detonating device for setting off the charge in a projectile, bomb, etc [It *fuso* spindle, fr L *fusus*, of unknown origin]

**\*fuse**, *NAM also fuze* *vt* to equip with a fuse

**\*fuse** *vt* 1 to reduce to a liquid or plastic state by heat 2 to blend thoroughly (as if) by melting together 3 to cause (e.g. a light bulb) to fail by fusing ~ *vi* 1 to become fluid with heat 2 to become blended (as if) by melting together 3 to fail because of the melting of a fuse [L *fusus*, pp of *fundere* to pour, melt – more at **'FOUND**] – **fusible** *adj*, **fusibility** /-zə'bɪləti/ *n*

**\*fuse** *n* (a device that includes) a wire or strip of fusible metal that melts and interrupts the circuit when the current exceeds a particular value  
**fusee**, *NAM also fuze* /'fyoozh'zee/ *n* a conical spirally grooved pulley or wheel, esp in a watch or clock [F *fusée*, lit., spindleful of yarn, fr OF, fr *fus* spindle, fr L *fusus*]

**fuselage** /'fyoozhz,lahzh/ *n* the central body portion of an aeroplane designed to accommodate the crew and the passengers or cargo [F, fr *fuselé* spindle-shaped, fr MF, fr *fusel*, dim of *luis*]

**fusel oil** /'fyoozhz/ *n* an acrid oily poisonous liquid consisting chiefly of amyl alcohol and used esp as a source of alcohols and as a solvent [G *fusel* bad liquor]

**fusi-** /'fyoozhz-/ *comb form* spindle <*fusiform*> [L *fusus*]

**fusiform** /'fyoozhz,fawm/ *adj* tapering towards each end <~ *bacteria*>

**fusil** /'fyoozhz/ *n* a light flintlock musket [F, lit., steel for striking fire, fr OF *fossil*, fr (assumed) VL *foctilis*, fr LL *focus* fire – more at **FUEL**]

**fusilier** /'fyoozhz'liə/ *n* a member of a British regiment formerly armed with fusils [F *fusilier*, fr *fusil*]

**\*fusillade** /'fyoozhz'layd/ *n* 1 a number of shots fired simultaneously or in rapid succession 2 a spirited outburst, esp of criticism [F, fr *fusiller* to shoot, fr *fusil*]

**\*fusillade** *vt* to attack or shoot down by a fusillade

**fusion** /'fyoozhz(ə)n/ *n* 1 fusing or rendering plastic by heat 2 a union (as if) by melting, e.g. a merging of diverse elements into a unified whole b the union of light atomic nuclei to form heavier nuclei resulting in the release of enormous quantities of energy [L *fusion-*, *fusio*, fr *fusus*, pp]

**'fuss** /fus/ *n* 1a needless or useless bustle or excitement b a show of (affectionate) attention – often in *make a fuss of* 2a a state of agitation, esp over a trivial matter b an objection, protest <*kicked up a ~ about the new regulations*> [perh imit]

**\*fuss** *vi* 1a to create or be in a state of restless activity, *specif* to shower affectionate attentions b to pay close or undue attention to small details <~ *ed with her hair*> 2 to become upset; worry ~ *vt* to agitate, upset – **fusser** *n*

**'fuss,budget** /-bʊɪt/ *n* a fusspot – *infml* – **fussbudgety** *adj*

**'fusspot** /-pɒt/ *n* a person who fusses about trifles – *infml*

**fussy** /'fusi/ *adj* 1 nervous and excitable (about small matters) 2a showing too much concern over details b fastidious <*not ~ about food*> 3 having too much or too detailed ornamentation – **fussily** *adv*, **fussiness** *n*


**fustian** /'fusti.ən, 'fushən/ *n* 1 a strong cotton or linen fabric (e.g. corduroy or velveteen), usu having a pile face and twill weave 2 pretentious and banal writing or speech [ME, fr OF *fustaine*, fr ML *fustaneum*, prob fr *fustus* tree trunk, fr L, club] – **fustian** *adj*


**fustic** /'fustik/ *n* (any of various esp tropical American trees with) wood that yields a yellow dye [ME *fustik*, fr MF *fustoc*, fr Ar *fustuq*, fr Gk *pistaké* pistachio tree – more at **PISTACHIO**]

**fusty** /'fusti/ *adj* 1 stale or musty from being left undisturbed for a long time 2 out-of-date 3 rigidly old-fashioned or reactionary [ME, fr *fust* wine cask, fr MF, club, cask, fr L *fustus*] – **fustily** *adv*, **fustiness** *n*

**fut** /fut/ *adj* phut

**futile** /'fyoohtiel/ *adj* 1 completely ineffective 2 of a person ineffectual [MF or L, MF, fr L *futilis* that pours out easily, useless, fr *fut-* (akin to *fundere* to pour) – more at **'FOUND**] – **futilely** *adv*, **futility** /'fyoohtɪləti/ *n*

**futtock** /'futak/ *n* any of the usu 4 or 5 curved timbers joined together to form the lower part of the compound ribs of a ship  SHIP [prob alter. of *foothook* (futtock)]

**futtock shroud** *n* a short rope or iron rod connecting the topmast rigging with the lower mast  SHIP

**'future** /'fyoochə/ *adj* 1 that is to be; *specif* existing after death 2 of or

constituting the future tense [ME, fr OF & L; OF *futur*, fr L *futurus* about to be – more at **BE**]

**\*future** *n* 1a time that is to come b that which is going to occur 2 likelihood of success <*not much ~ in trying to sell furs in a hot country*> 3 sthg (e.g. a bulk commodity) bought for future acceptance or sold for future delivery – usu pl 4 (a verb form in) the future tense of a language – **futureless** *adj*

**'future 'perfect** *adj* of or constituting a verb tense (e.g. *will have finished*) expressing completion of an action at or before a future time – **future perfect** *n*

**futurism** /'fyoochə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 often *cap* a movement in art, music, and literature begun in Italy about 1910 and seeking to express the dynamic energy and movement of mechanical processes 2 a point of view that finds meaning or fulfilment in the future rather than in the past or present – **futurist** *n* or *adj*

**futuristic** /'fyoochə'rɪstɪk/ *adj* of the future or futurism, esp bearing no relation to known or traditional forms, ultramodern – **futuristically** *adv*

**futurity** /'fyooht'yoʊərəti, -'choʊə-/ *n* 1 **FUTURE** 1a 2 pl future events or prospects 3 chiefly *NAM* a competition, esp a horse race, for which entries are made well in advance of the event [FUTURE + -ITY]

**futurology** /'fyoochə'rɒləʒi/ *n* the forecasting of the future from current trends in society [G *futurologie*, fr *futur* future + -o- + -logia -logy] –  **futurologist** *n*

**fu-yung** /,foʊh 'yung/ *n* (a dish containing) a mixture of egg white, cornflour, and sometimes minced chicken [Chin (Pek) *fu' yung'*, lit., hibiscus]

**fuze** /'fyoozh/ *n* or *vt*, *NAM* 'FUSE 2, 'FUSE

**fuzee** /'fyoozh'zee/ *n*, *NAM* a fusee

**'fuzz** /fuz/ *n* fine light particles or fibres (e.g. of down or fluff) [prob back-formation fr *fuzzy*]

**\*fuzz** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the police – slang [origin unknown]

**fuzzy** /'fuzi/ *adj* 1 marked by or giving a suggestion of fuzz <a ~ covering of felt> 2 not clear; indistinct [perh fr LG *fussig* loose, spongy, akin to OHG *ful* rotten – more at **FOUL**] – **fuzzily** *adv*, **fuzziness** *n*

**'fuzzy,wuzzy** /-,wuzi/ *n*, *Br* a Sudanese soldier, broadly any African Negro – chiefly derog [redupl of *fuzzy*; fr the appearance of his hair]

**-fy** /-fie/, -ify *suffix* (- *vb*) 1 become or cause to be <*purity*> <*mollify*> <*solidify*> 2 fill with <*stupefy*> <*horrify*> 3 give the characteristics of; make similar to <*countenfy*> <*dandify*> 4 engage in (a specified activity) <*argufy*> <*speechify*> – often humor or derog [ME *-fien*, fr OF *-fier*, fr L *-ficare*, fr *-ficus* -fic]

**fyfot** /'fil,fot/ *n* a swastika [ME, device used to fill the lower part of a painted glass window, fr *fillen* to fill + *fot* foot]

## G

**g** /jee/ *n*, *pl* g's, *gs* often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 7th letter of the English alphabet 2 the 5th note of a C-major scale 3 a unit of force equal to the force exerted by gravity on a body at rest and used to indicate the force to which a body is subjected when accelerated 4 chiefly *NAM* a sum of \$1000 – slang [(3) gravity; (4) grand]

**'gab** /gab/ *vi* -bb- to chatter, blab – *infml* [prob short for *gabble*] – **gabber** *n*

**\*gab** *n* (idle) talk – *infml*

**gabardine** /'gəbə'deen, -'r-/ *n* 1 **GABARDINE** 1 2a a firm durable fabric (e.g. of wool or rayon) twilled with diagonal ribs on the right side b chiefly *Br* a waterproof coat made of gabardine

**gabble** /'gabəl/ *vb* **gabbling** /'gabliŋ/ *gabbler* /'gabblər/ to talk or utter rapidly or unintelligibly [prob imit] – **gabble** *n*, **gabbler** *n*

**gabbro** /'gabroʊ/ *n*, *pl* **gabbros** a granular igneous rock composed of a calcium-containing feldspar and an iron and magnesium silicates [It] – **gabbroic** /'gəbroh-ik/ *adj*

**gabby** /'gabi/ *adj* talkative, garrulous – *infml*

**gabelle** /'gəbel/ *n* a tax on salt levied in France before 1790 [ME, fr MF, fr Olt *gabella* tax, fr Ar *qabalah*]

**gaberdine** /'gəbə'deen, -'r-/ *n* 1 a coarse long coat or smock worn chiefly by Jews in medieval times 2 **GABARDINE** 2 [MF *gaverdine*]

**gabion** /'gaybi-ən, -byən/ *n* a hollow cylinder of wickerwork, iron, etc filled with earth and used esp in building fieldworks or as a support in

- mining [MF, fr OIt *gabbione*, lit. large cage, aug of *gabbia* cage, fr L *cavea* – more at *CAGE*]
- gable** /'gaɪbl/ *n* the vertical triangular section of wall between 2 slopes of a pitched roof  ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr MF, of Gmc origin, akin to ON *gafl* gable – more at *CEPHALIC*] – **gabled** *adj*
- 'gad** /'gɑd/ *vi* -dd- to go or travel in an aimless or restless manner or in search of pleasure – usu + *about* [ME *gadden*, prob back-formation fr *gadling* companion, fr OE *gædeling*] – **gadder** *n*
- 'gad** *interj*, *archaic* – used as a mild oath [euphemism for *God*]
- gadarene** /'gɑdɑːrən/ *adj*, often *cap* headlong, precipitate (<a ~ rush to the cities>) [fr the demon-possessed *Gadarene* swine (Mt 8 28) that rushed into the sea]
- 'gadfly** /-flaɪ/ *n* 1 any of various flies (e.g. a horsefly or botfly) that bite or annoy livestock 2 a usu intentionally annoying person who stimulates or provokes others, esp by persistent irritating criticism [*gad* (metal spike, goad, rod), fr ON *gaddr* spike, sting]
- gadget** /'gædʒ/ *n* a usu small and often novel mechanical or electronic device, esp on a piece of machinery [perh fr F *gâchette* catch of a lock, trigger, dim of *gâche* staple, hook] – **gadgetry** /-tri/ *n*
- gadoid** /'gædoɪd/ *adj* resembling or related to the cods [NL *Gadus*, genus of fishes, fr Gk *gados*, a fish] – **gadoid** *n*
- gadolinite** /'gædəlɪnaɪt/ *n* a black or brown mineral that is a silicate of iron, beryllium, yttrium, and cerium [G *gadolin*, fr Johann *Gadolin* †1852 Finn chemist]
- gadolinium** /'gædəlɪniəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a magnetic metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABL [NL, fr J *Gadolin*]
- godron** /'gɒdruːn/ *n* 1 an elaborately notched or indented convex moulding in architecture 2 a convex or concave fluting used in decorating silverware, glassware, etc [F *godron* round plate, godron, fr MF *god-eron*, perh dim of OF *goder* drinking cup] – **godrooning** *n*
- godwall** /'gɒdwɔːl/ *n*, *pl* *godwalls*, *esp* collectively *godwall* a greyish brown duck about the size of a mallard [origin unknown]
- Gael** /'gaɪl, 'gahl/ *n* 1 a Scottish Highlander 2 a Gaelic-speaking inhabitant of Scotland or Ireland [ScGael *Gaidheal* & IrGael *Gaedheal*]
- Gaelic** /'gaɪlɪk, 'gaɪlɪk, 'gahlɪk, 'Irish 'galɪk/ *adj* of or being (the Goidelic language of) the Celts in Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Scottish Highlands  LANGUAGE **Gaelic** *n*
- Gaelic 'coffee** *n* IRISH COFFEE
- 'gaff** /'gaf/ *n* 1a a spear or spearhead for killing fish or turtles *b* a pole with a hook for holding or landing heavy fish 2 a spar on which the head of a fore-and-aft sail is extended  SHIP [F *gaffe*, fr Prov *gal*, fr *gafar* to seize]
- 'gaff** *vi* to strike or secure (e.g. a fish) with a gaff
- gaffe** /'gaf/ *n* a social blunder, *FAUX PAS* [F, lit. gaff]
- gaffer** /'gafə/ *n* 1 the chief lighting electrician in a film or television studio 2 *Br* a foreman or overseer 3 *dial* an old man – compare *GAMMER* [prob alter of *godfather*]
- 'gag** /'gag/ *vb* -gg- *vt* 1 to apply a gag to or put a gag in the mouth of (to prevent speech) 2 to cause to retch 3 to obstruct, choke (< ~ a valve>) 4 to prevent from having free speech or expression – chiefly *journ* ~ *vi* 1 to heave, retch 2 to tell jokes [ME *gaggen* to strangle, of imit origin]
- 'gag** *n* 1 sthg thrust into the mouth to keep it open or prevent speech or outcry 2 JOKE 1a 3 a hoax, trick 4 a check to free speech – chiefly *journ*
- 'gaga** /'gahgah/ *adj* 1a *senile* *b* slightly mad 2 infatuated – often + *about* USE *infrm* [F, fr *gaga* fool, of imit origin]
- 'gag** /'gay/ *n* 1 a token of defiance, *specif* a glove, cap, et: thrown on the ground in former times as a challenge to a fight 2 sthg deposited as a pledge of performance [ME, fr MF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wetti* pledge – more at *WED*]
- 'gag** *n* 1 GAUGE 3 2 *NAM* GAUGE 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
- 'gag** *vt*, *NAM* to gauge
- 'gag** *n* a greengage
- gaggle** /'gagl/ *n* 1 a flock (of geese) 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a typically noisy or talkative group or cluster – chiefly *infrm* [ME *gagyll*, fr *gagelen* to cackle]
- galety** /'gayti/ *n* 1 merrymaking; *also* festive activity 2 gay quality, spirits, manner, or appearance [F *gaieté*, fr OF, fr *gai* gay]
- gaily** /'gayli/ *adv* in a gay manner
- 'gain** /'gaɪn/ *n* 1 resources or advantage acquired or increased; a profit 2 the obtaining of profit or possessions 3a an increase in amount, magnitude, or degree (<a ~ in efficiency>) *b* the ratio of output power to input power in an amplifier [ME *gayne*, fr MF *gaigne*, *gain*, fr OF
- gaigne*, *gaaing*, fr *gaignier* to till, earn, gain, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *weidanon* to hunt for food, L *vis* power – more at *VIM*]
- 'gain** *vt* 1a(1) to get possession of or win, usu by industry, merit, or craft (2) to increase a lead over or catch up a rival by (esp time or distance) (< ~ ed 3.5yd on the third lap>) *b* to get by a natural development or process (< ~ strength>) *c* to acquire (< ~ a friend>) *d* to arrive at (< ~ ed the river that night>) 2 to increase in (< ~ momentum>) 3 of a *timepiece* to run fast by the amount of (<the clock ~ s a minute a day>) ~ *vi* 1 to get advantage, profit (<hoped to ~ from his crime>) 2 to increase, *specif* in weight 3 of a *timepiece* to run fast – **gainer** *n* – **gain** *ground* to make progress
- 'gainful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* profitable (< ~ employment>) ['GAIN + '-FUL] – **gainfully** *adv*
- gainsay** /'gaɪn'say/ *vt* *gainsays* /-'sez/; *gainsaid* /-'sed/ 1 to deny, dispute (<couldn't ~ the statistics>) 2 to oppose, resist [ME *gainsayen*, fr *gain-* against (fr OE *gean-*) + *sayen* to say – more at *AGAIN*] – **gainsayer** *n*
- gaît** /'gayt/ *n* 1 a manner of walking or moving on foot 2 a sequence of foot movements (e.g. a walk, trot, or canter) by which a horse moves forwards [ME *gaît*, *gate* gate, way]
- gaited** /'gaytɪd/ *adj* having a specified gait – usu in combination (<slow-gaited>)
- gaïter** /'gayta/ *n* a cloth or leather covering reaching from the instep to ankle, mid-calf, or knee [F *guêtre*, fr MF *güestre*, *güestre*, prob of Gmc origin, akin to OE *wrst* wrist]
- gal** /'gal/ *n* a girl – used in writing to represent esp a US or upper-class pronunciation [by alter]
- gal** /'gahla/ *n* 1 a festive gathering (that constitutes or marks a special occasion) 2 *Br* a gala sports meeting (<a swimming ~>) [It, fr MF *gale* merrymaking, festivity, pleasure]
- galact-** /'galakt-/ , *galacto-* *comb form* 1 milk <galactopoiesis> 2 containing galactose in the molecular structure <galacturonic acid> [L *galact-*, fr Gk *galakt-*, *galakto-*, fr *galakti-*, *gala*]
- galactic** /'galaktɪk/ *adj* of a galaxy, esp the Milky Way galaxy
- galactose** /'gə'laktəʊz, -toʊz/ *n* a sugar that is less soluble and less sweet than glucose [F, fr *galact-*]
- galago** /'gə'laygəh/ *n*, *pl* *galagos* BUSH BABY [NL, genus name, perh fr Wolof *golokh* monkey]
- galah** /'gə'lah/ *n* 1 an Australian cockatoo with a rose-coloured breast and a grey back 2 *Austr* a fool, simpleton [native name in Australia]
- galantine** /'galənten/ *n* a cold dish of boned and usu stuffed cooked meat glazed with aspic [F, fr OF *galentine*, *galatine* fish sauce, fr ML *galatina*, prob fr L *gelatus*, pp of *gelare* to freeze, congeal]
- Galatians** /'gə'laɪʃ(ɪ)ənz/ *n pl* *but sing* in *constr* a book of the New Testament ascribed to St Paul and addressed to the Christians of Galatia
- galaxy** /'galəksɪ/ *n* 1a *often cap* MILKY WAY *b* any of many independent systems composed chiefly of stars, dust, and gases and separated from each other in the universe by vast distances  ASTRONOMY 2 an assemblage of brilliant or notable people or things [ME *galaxie*, *galaxias*, fr LL *galaxias*, fr Gk, fr *galakti-*, *gala* milk, akin to L *lac* milk]
- gale** /'gayl/ *n* 1 a strong wind, *specif* a moderate gale, strong gale, or esp fresh gale 2 a noisy outburst (< ~ s of laughter>) [origin unknown]
- galea** /'gayl-ə/ *n* an anatomical part suggesting a helmet [NL, fr L, helmet] – **galeate** /-əyt/ *also* **galeated** *adj*
- galena** /'gə'leənə/ *n* lead sulphide occurring as a bluish grey mineral [L, lead ore]
- Galenic** /'gə'lenɪk/, **Galenic** /-kl/ *adj* of or being the medical methods or principles of Galen [Galen *tab* 200 Gk physician & writer] – **Galenic** *n*, **Galénism** /'gaylɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- Galibi** /'gə'leɪbi/ *n*, *pl* *Galibis*, *esp* collectively *Galibi* a member, or the language, of a Carib people of French Guiana
- Galilean** /'galɪ'leɪən, -'lee-ən/ *adj* of or developed by Galileo Galilei, the founder of experimental physics and astronomy [Galileo Galilei †1642 It physicist & astronomer]
- galilee** /'gə'lee/ *n* a chapel or porch at the entrance of a church [AF, fr ML *galilaca*]
- galingale** /'gə'leɪnɪgə/ *n* (a plant related to) an Old World sedge with an aromatic root used in cooking [ME, a kind of ginger, fr MF *galingal*, fr Ar *khalanjān*]
- galipot** /'galɪ'pɒt/ *n* a crude turpentine oleoresin obtained from a S European pine [F]
- 'gall** /'gawl/ *n* 1a *SILE* 1 *b* sthg bitter to endure *c* rancour 2 brazen and insolent audacity [ME, fr OE *gealla*; akin to Gk *chole*, *cholós* gall, wrath, OE *geolu* yellow – more at *YELLOW*]

**'gall** *n* a skin sore caused by rubbing [ME *galle*, fr OE *gealla*, fr L *galla* gallnut]

**'gall** *vt* **1a** to wear (away) by rubbing; chafe **b** to cause feelings of mortification and irritation in, vex acutely **2** to harass (<~ed by enemy fire>) ~ *vi* to become sore or worn by rubbing – *gallingly adv*

**'gall** *n* a diseased swelling of plant tissue produced by infection with fungi, insect parasites, etc [ME *galle*, fr MF, fr L *galla*; perh akin to Skt *glau* round lump]

**Galla** /'gala/ *n*, pl *Gallas*, esp collectively *Galla* a member of the Cushitic language of any of several peoples of Kenya and S Ethiopia → LANGUAGE

**'gallant** /'galənt, 'galəhnt, 'galənt/ *n* a (young) man of fashion (who is particularly attentive to women)

**'gallant** /sense 1/ 'galant; sense 2/ 'galant, 'galəhnt, 'galənt/ *adj* **1a** splendid, stately (< a ~ ship>) **b** nobly chivalrous and brave **2** courteously and elaborately attentive, esp to ladies [ME *galaunt*, fr MF *galant*, fr prp of *galer* to have a good time, fr *gale* pleasure, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *wela* weal – more at WEALTH] – *gallantly adv*

**gallantry** /'galəntri/ *n* **1a** an act of marked courtesy **b** courteous attention to a lady **2** spirited and conspicuous bravery

**'gall bladder** *n* a membranous muscular sac in which bile from the liver is stored → DIGESTION

**galleon** /'galjən/ *n* a heavy square-rigged sailing ship of the 15th to early 18th c used (by the Spanish) for war or commerce [OSp *galeon*, fr MF *galion*, fr OF *galie* galley]

**gallery** /'galəri/ *n* **1a** a covered passage for walking; a colonnade **2** an outdoor balcony **3a** a long and narrow passage, room, or corridor (< a shooting ~>) **b** a horizontal subterranean passage in a cave or (military) mining system **c** a passage, esp in the ground or wood, made by a mole or insect **4a** a collection worthy of being displayed in) a room or building devoted to the exhibition of works of art (< the National Gallery>) (< the novel contained a rich ~ of characters>) **b** an institution or business exhibiting or dealing in works of art **5 sing or pl in constr** **a** (the occupants of) a balcony projecting from 1 or more interior walls of a hall, auditorium, or church, to accommodate additional people, or reserved for musicians, singers, etc → CHURCH **b** the indiscriminating general public (< a politician who always plays to the ~>) **c** the spectators at a tennis, golf, etc match [MF *galerie*, fr ML *galeria*, prob alter of *galilea*, *galilaea* galilee] – *galleried adj*

**galley** /'gali/ *n* **1** a large low usu single-decked ship propelled by oar and sails and used esp in the Mediterranean in the Middle Ages and in classical antiquity **2a** kitchen on a ship or aircraft → FLIGHT **3a** a long oblong tray with upright sides for holding set type **b** galley, galley proof a proof in the form of a long sheet (taken from type on a galley) [ME *galeie*, fr OF *galie*, deriv of MGk *galea*]

**'galley slave** *n* a drudge

**galliard** /'galiəd/ *n* a quick and lively dance that was popular in the 16th and 17th c [MF *gailarde*, fem of *gailard*, *adj*, lively, valiant, fr OF, prob of Celt origin; akin to OIr *gal* bravery]

**Gallie** /'galik/ *adj* (characteristic of) Gaul or France [L *Gallicus*, fr *Gallia* Gaul]

**gallic acid** /'galik/ *n* an acid found widely in plants and used esp in dyes, inks, and as a photographic developer [F *gallique*, fr *galle* gall]

**gallicism** /'galisiz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* a characteristic French word or expression (occurring in another language)

**'gallicize**, -ise /-siez/ *vb* to (cause to) conform to a French mode or idiom – *gallicization* /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**gallimaufry** /'gali'mawfri/ *n* a medley, jumble – chiefly humor [MF *galimaufree* hash]

**gallinaceous** /'gali'nayshəs/ *adj* of an order of (ground-living) birds including the pheasants, turkeys, grouse, and the common domestic fowl [L *gallinaceus* of domestic fowl, fr *gallina* hen, fr *gallus* cock]

**gallinule** /'gali'nyoohli/ *n* any of several aquatic birds of the rail family [NL *Gallinula*, genus of birds, fr L, pullet, dim. of *gallina*]

**gallipot** /'gali,pot/ *n* a small usu ceramic vessel formerly used to hold medicines (e.g. ointments) [ME *galy* *pot*, prob fr *galy*, *galeie* galley + *pot* *pot*; fr its being imported in galleys]

**gallium** /'gali-əm/ *n* a rare trivalent metallic element that melts at just above room temperature → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *gallus* cock (intended as trans of Paul Lecoq de Boisbaudran †1912 F chemist)]

**gallivant** /'galivənt/ *vi* to travel energetically or roam about for pleasure (perh alter. of *gallant* (to act like a gallant, flirt))

**gallon** /'galən/ *n* either of 2 units of liquid capacity equal to 8pt: **a** a British unit equal to about 4.546l **b** WINE GALLON *USE* → UNIT [ME

*galon*, a liquid measure, fr ONF, fr ML *galeta* pail, a liquid measure] – *gallionage* /-ni/ *n*

**galloon** /'gə'loohn/ *n* a narrow lace, braid, etc trimming for dresses [F *galon*, fr MF, fr OF *galonner* to adorn with braid] – *gallooned adj*

**'gallop** /'galəp/ *n* **1a** a fast bounding gait of a quadruped, specif the fastest natural 4-beat gait of the horse **2a** ride or run at a gallop **3a** rapid or hasty progression (< rushed through the reports at a ~>) [MF *galop*, fr OF]

**'gallop** *vb* to (cause to) progress or ride at a gallop – *galloper n*

**galloping** /'galəpiŋ/ *adj* increasing rapidly, accelerating (< ~ inflation>)

**Galloway** /'galəweɪ/ *n* (any of) a breed of hardy chiefly black beef cattle native to SW Scotland [Galloway, district of Scotland]

**gallows** /'galəhɜ:/ *n*, pl *gallows* also *gallowsses* **1** gallows, gallows tree a frame, usu of 2 upright posts and a crosspiece, for hanging criminals **2** the punishment of hanging [ME *galwes*, pl of *galwe*, fr OE *gealga*, akin to OHG *galgo* gallows, Arm *jatk* twig]

**gallows humour** *n* grim humour that makes fun of a very serious or terrifying situation

**gallstone** /'gawl,stəʊn/ *n* a calculus formed in the gall bladder or bile ducts

**'Gallup poll** /'galəp/ *n* a survey of public opinion frequently used as a means of forecasting sthg (e.g. an election result) [George Gallup b1901 US public opinion statistician]

**'gall wasp** *n* any of several wasps whose larvae produce plant galls in which they feed

**galop** /'galəp/ *n* (music for) a lively dance in duple time [F – more at GALLOP]

**galore** /'gə'law/ *adj* abundant, plentiful – used after a noun (< bargains ~>) [IrGael *go leor* enough]

**galosh** /'gə'loʃh/ *n* a rubber overshoe [ME *galoeche* clog, patten, fr MF] – *galoshed adj*

**galumph** /'gə'lʌm(p)f/ *vi* to move with a clumsy heavy tread – *infml* [prob alter. of 'gallop]

**galvanic** /'gal'vanik/ *adj* **1** of, being, or producing a direct current of electricity resulting from chemical action (< a ~ cell>) **2** having an electric effect, stimulating vigorous activity or vitality – *galvanically adv*

**galvanism** /'galvənɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1** (the therapeutic use of) direct electric current produced by chemical action **2** vital or forceful activity [F or It, F *galvanisme*, fr It *galvanismo*, fr Luigi Galvani †1798 It physician & physicist who first described it]

**'galvanize**, -ise /-iez/ *vt* **1** to subject to or stimulate, rouse, or excite (as if) by the action of an electric current (< ~ a muscle>) (< the candidate ~d his supporters into action>) **2** to coat (iron or steel) with zinc as a protection from rust – *galvanizer n*, *galvanization* /'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**galvanometer** /'galvə'nəmitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring a small electric current by using the electromagnetic effect of the current – *galvanometric* /-nə'metrik/ *adj*

**gam-** /gam-/ *gam-* *comb form* **1** united; joined (< gamosepalous>) **2** sexual (< gamic>) (< gamogenesis>) [NL, fr Gk, marriage, fr *gamos* – more at BIGAMY]

**gambier** /'gambiə/ *n* an astringent substance from a Malayan woody climbing plant, used esp in tanning [Malay *gambir*]

**gambit** /'gambit/ *n* **1a** a chess opening, esp in which a player risks (several) minor pieces to gain an advantage **2a** a remark intended to start a conversation or make a telling point **b** a calculated move, a stratagem [It *gambetto*, lit., act of tripping someone, fr *gamba* leg, fr LL *gamba*, *camba*, modif of Gk *kampe* bend – more at 'CAMP]

**'gamble** /'gambəl/ *vb* *gambling* /'gæmbliŋ/ *vi* **1a** to play a game (of chance) for money or property **b** to bet or risk sthg on an uncertain outcome **2 SPECULATE** **2 ~ vi** **1** to risk by gambling; wager **2** to venture, hazard [prob back-formation fr *gambler*, prob alter. of obs *gamner*, fr obs *gamen* (to play)] – *gambler n*

**'gamble** *n* **1** the playing of a game (of chance) for stakes **2** (sthg involving) an element of risk

**gamboge** /'gæmbəʒ/, -'boʊz/ *n* **1** a gum resin from some SE Asian trees that is used as a yellow pigment **2** a strong yellow [NL *gambogium*, alter. of *cambugium*, irreg fr *Cambodia*, country of SE Asia]

**'gambol** /'gambi/ *vb* or *n* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), *gambling* /'gæmbliŋ/, 'gambling/ (to engage in) skipping or leaping about in play [modif of MF *gambade* spring of a horse, gambol, prob fr OProv *camba* leg, fr LL *gamba*, *camba*]

**'gambrel** /'gæmbrel/, 'gæmbrel *roof n* a roof like a mansard but with 2 opposite vertical ends → ARCHITECTURE [ONF *gamberel* crooked stick, hock, fr *gambe* leg, fr LL *gamba*]

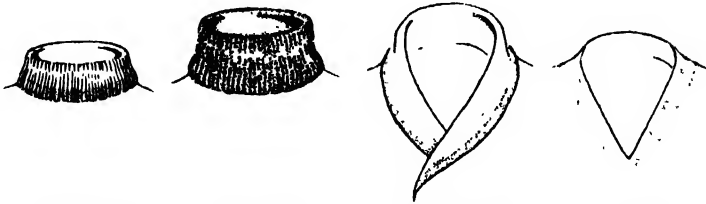
- 'game** /gaym/ *n* **1a**(1) activity engaged in for diversion or amusement, play **(2)** the equipment for a particular esp indoor game **b** often derisive or mocking jesting <make ~ of a nervous player> **2a** a course or plan consisting of (secret) manoeuvres directed towards some end <playing a waiting ~> **b** a specified type of activity seen as competitive or governed by rules (and pursued for financial gain) <the newspaper ~> **3a**(1) (the quality of play in) a physical or mental competition conducted according to rules with the participants in direct opposition to each other, a match **(2)** a division of a larger contest **(3)** the number of points necessary to win a game **b pl** organized sports, esp athletics **c** a situation that involves contest, rivalry, or struggle <got into microelectronics early in the ~> **4a** animals under pursuit or taken in hunting, specif (the edible flesh of) certain wild mammals, birds, and fish (e.g. deer and pheasant), hunted for sport or food **b** an object of ridicule or attack – often in *fair game* **5** prostitution – slang, often in *on the game* [ME, fr OE *gamen*, akin to OHG *gaman* amusement]
- 'game** *vi* GAMBLE **1** ~ *vt* *archaic* to lose or squander by gambling
- 'game** *adj* **1** having a resolute unyielding spirit <~ to the end> **2** ready to take risks or try sthg new [*'game*] – *game*ly *adv*, *game*ness *n*
- 'game** *adj* injured, crippled, or lame <a ~ leg> [perh fr *'game*]
- 'gamebook** /-book/ *n* a book for recording game killed
- 'gamekeeper** /-keepe-/ *n* one who has charge of the breeding and protection of game animals or birds on a private preserve
- gamelan** /gamilan/ *n* **1** a SE Asian instrument like the xylophone **2** a flute, string, and percussion orchestra of SE Asia [Jav]
- 'gamepoint** *n* a situation in tennis, badminton, etc in which 1 player or side will win the game by winning the next point
- gamesmanship** /'gaymzən,ʃɪp/ *n* the art or practice of winning games by means other than superior skill without actually violating the rules
- gamesome** /'gayms(ə)m/ *adj* merry, frolicsome – *gamesomely* *adv*, *gamesomeness* *n*
- gamester** /'gaymstə/ *n* one who plays games, esp a gambler
- gamet-**, **gameto-** *comb form* gamete (<gametophore> [NL, fr *gameta*])
- gametangium** /'gamitʃən/ *n*, *pl gametangia* /-tʃi-/ *a* (plant) organ in which gametes are developed [NL, fr *gamet-* + Gk *angeion* vessel – more at ANGI-]
- gamete** /'gamet/, *gə'met-/* *n* a mature germ cell with a single set of chromosomes capable of fusing with another gamete of the other sex to form a zygote from which a new organism develops [NL *gameta*, fr Gk *gametes* husband, fr *gamein* to marry, fr *gamos* marriage – more at BIGAMY] – *gametic* /'gæmɪtɪk/ *adj*, *gametically* *adv*
- game theory** *n* the strategic analysis of a business, military, social, etc conflict
- gametophyte** /'gə'metəʃi,tet/ *n* (a member of) the generation that bears sex organs, of a plant with alternation of generations – compare SPOROPHYTE [ISV] – *gametophytic* /'gamitə'fɪtɪk/ *adj*
- gamine** /'gæmin/ *n* or *adj* (a girl or woman) having an elfin impish appeal [F, fem of *gamin* urchin]
- gamma** /'gæmə/ *n* **1** the 3rd letter of the Greek alphabet **2 c** 4 [ME, fr LL, fr Gk, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *gimel*, 3rd letter of the Heb alphabet]
- gamma globulin** *n* any of several immunoglobulins in blood or serum including most antibodies
- 'gamma ray** *n* (a quantum of) electromagnetic radiation of shorter wavelength than X rays emitted in some radioactive decay processes – usu *pl* → PHYSICS
- 'gammor** /'gæmə/ *n*, *dial* an old woman – compare GAFF R 3 [prob alter of *godmother*]
- 'gammon** /'gæmən/ *n* (the meat of) the lower end including the hind leg of a side of bacon removed from the carcass after curing with salt – compare HAM 2 → MFAT [ONF *gambon* ham, aug of *gambe* leg, fr LL *gamba*]
- 'gammon** *n* the winning of a backgammon game before the loser removes any men from the board [perh alter of ME *gamen* game] – *gammon* *vt*
- 'gammon** *n* nonsense, humbug – not now in vogue [obs *gammon* (talk)]
- gammy** /'gæmi/ *adj*, *Br* 'GAME – *infm*l [prob irreg fr *'game* + -y]
- 'gamopetalous** /'gamə'petələs/ *adj*, of a flower having the corolla composed of united petals [NL *gamopetalus*, fr *gam-* + *petalus* petalous]
- 'gamosepalous** /-'sepələs/ *adj*, of a flower having the calyx composed of united sepals [prob fr (assumed) NL *gamosepalus*, fr *gam-* + *sepalus* sepalous]
- gamp** /gæmp/ *n*, *Br* a large, esp loosely tied, umbrella – *infm*l [Sarah Gamp, nurse with a large umbrella in the novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* by Charles Dickens †1870 E writer]
- gamut** /'gæmət/ *n* **1** the whole series of recognized musical notes **2** an entire range or series [ML *gamma* *ut*, lowest note in medieval scale of music, fr *gamma*, applied to the lowest note G on the bass clef + *ut*, applied to the first note of a hexachord, the notes of which were named after the first syllables of 6 lines of a Latin hymn, *ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la*]
- gamy, gamey** /'gaymi/ *adj* having the strong flavour or smell of game (that has been hung until high) – *game*ly *adv*, *game*ness *n*
- gamy** /-gæmi/ *comb form* (~ *n*) **1** marriage (<polygamy> **2** possession of (such) reproductive organs or (such) a mode of fertilization (<apogamy> [ME -*gamie*, fr LL -*gamia*, fr Gk – more at BIGAMY]) – *gamie* /-gæmik/, -*gamous* *comb form* (~ *adj*)
- 'ganda** /'gænda/ *n* **1** an adult male goose **2** a simpleton [ME, fr OE *gandra*, akin to OE *gos* goose]
- 'gander** *n* a look, glance – *infm*l (<talking and taking ~s at the girls – Life> [prob fr *'gander*, fr the outstretched neck of a person craning to look at sthg])
- Gandhian** /'gændi-ən/ *adj* of the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi (†1948) or his principle of nonviolent protest
- 'gang** /gæŋg/ *n* **1** a combination of similar implements or devices arranged to act together **2** *sing* or *pl in constr* a group of people **a** working together **b** associating for criminal, disreputable, etc ends, esp a group of adolescents who spend leisure time together **c** that have informal and usu close social relations (<have the ~ over for a party> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *gang* act of going, Skt *jangha* shank])
- 'gang** *vt* to assemble or operate (e.g. mechanical parts) simultaneously as a group ~ *vi* to move or act as a gang (<the children ~ed together>)
- 'gang** *vi*, *Scot* to go [ME *gangen*, fr OE *gangan*, akin to OE *gang*]
- 'gang-bang** *n* sexual intercourse usu between 1 woman and a succession of men on 1 occasion, esp collective rape – slang [*'gang* 2 + *'bang* 4]
- 'ganger** /'gæŋgə/ *n*, *Br* the foreman of a gang of workmen
- 'gangland** /-/land/ *n* UNDERWORLD 2
- 'gangling** /'gæŋg lɪŋg/, *gangly* /-gli/ *adj* tall, thin, and awkward in movement <a ~ gawky child> [perh irreg fr Sc *gangrel* vagrant, lanky person]
- 'ganglion** /'gæŋg-ɡli-ən/ *n*, *pl ganglia* /-gli-/ *also* *ganglions* **1a** a small cyst on a joint membrane or tendon sheath **b** a mass of nerve cells outside the brain or spinal cord, *also* NUCLEUS **2b** **2** a focus of strength, energy, or activity [LL, fr Gk] – *ganglionated* /-ˌŋŋnə'tayd/ *adj*, *ganglionic* /-'ŋŋnɪk/ *adj*
- gangplank** /'gæŋg,plæŋk/ *n* a movable board, plank, etc used to board a ship from a quay or another ship
- 'gangrene** /'gæŋg,ɡri:n/ *n* **1** local death of the body's soft tissues due to loss of blood supply **2** a pervasive moral evil [L *gangraena*, fr Gk *gangraina*, akin to Gk *gran* to gnaw] – *gangrenous* /-ɡri:nəs/ *adj*
- 'gangrene** *vb* to make or become gangrenous
- 'gangster** /'gæŋgstə/ *n* a member of a criminal gang – *gangsterism* *n*
- 'gange** /'gæŋg/ *n* the worthless part of an ore [F, fr G *gang* vein of metal, fr OHG, act of going]
- gang up** *vi* **1** to combine as a group for a specific (disreputable) purpose **2** to make a joint assault on
- 'gangway** /-/weɪ/ *n* **1** a (temporary) passageway (constructed of planks) **2a** the opening in a ship's side or rail through which it is boarded **b** a gangplank **3** a clear passage through a crowd – often used intersectionally **4** *Br* a narrow passage between sections of seats in a theatre, storage bays in a warehouse, etc
- 'ganister, gannister** /'ɡænɪstə/ *n* a (mixture containing) fine-grained quartz used for furnace linings [origin unknown]
- 'ganja** /'gæŋjə/ *n*, *WI* potent cannabis used esp for smoking [Hindi *gāja*, fr Skt *gāñjā*]
- 'gannet** /'ɡænɪt/ *n* **1** any of several related large fish-eating seabirds that breed in large colonies chiefly on offshore islands **2** a greedy person; a scavenger [ME *ganet*, fr OE *ganot*; akin to OE *gos* goose] – *gannetry* /-/tri/ *n*
- 'gantlet** /'ɡæntli:t, 'ɡæwn-/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a gauntlet
- 'gantry** /'ɡæntri/ *n* **1** a frame for supporting barrels **2** a frame structure raised on side supports that spans over or round sthg and is used for railway signals, as a travelling crane, for servicing a rocket before launching, etc [perh modif of ONF *gantier*, fr L *cantherius* trellis]
- gaol** /jay(ə)/ *vb* or *n*, chiefly *Br* (to) jail
- gap** /gæp/ *n* **1** a break in a barrier (e.g. a wall or hedge) **2a** a mountain pass **b** a ravine **3** an empty space between 2 objects or 2 parts of an object



- 4 a break in continuity <unexplained ~s in his story> 5 a disparity or difference <the ~ between imports and exports> 6 a wide difference in character or attitude <the generation ~> [ME, fr ON, chasm, hole; akin to ON *gapa* to gape] – **gappy, gapped** *adj*
- 'gape** /gəp/ *vi* 1a to open the mouth wide b to open or part widely <holes ~d in the pavement> 2 to gaze stupidly or in openmouthed surprise or wonder 3 to yawn [ME *gāpen*, fr ON *gapa*, akin to L *hiare* to gape, yawn – more at YAWN] – **gapingly** *adv*
- 'gape** *n* 1 an act of gaping, esp an openmouthed stare 2 the average width of the open mouth or beak 3 a fit of yawning 4 *pl* a disease of young birds characterized by constant gaping and caused by gapeworms infesting the windpipe
- gaper** /gəpə/ *n* any of several large (edible) burrowing clams [‘GAPE + -ER]
- 'gape, worm** /-wurm/ *n* a nematode worm that causes gapes in birds
- gar** /gə/ *n* a (fish resembling a) garfish
- 'garage** /gə'raʒh, 'gəri/ *n* 1 a building for the shelter of motor vehicles 2 an establishment for providing essential services (e.g. the supply of petrol or repair work) to motor vehicles [F, act of docking, *garage*, fr *garer* to dock, fr MF, to take care, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *biwārōn* to protect – more at 'WARF]
- 'garage** *vt* to keep or put in a garage
- garam masala** /gə'ram mə'sələ/ *n* an aromatic mixture of ground coriander, cumin, cinnamon, etc used esp in curries [Hindi *garam masala*, fr *garam* hot, pungent + *masala* spice]
- garb** /gəb/ *n* 1 a style of clothing; dress <arranged themselves in priestly ~> 2 an outward form; appearance [MF or OIt; MF *garbe* graceful contour, grace, fr OIt *garbo* grace] – **garb** *vt*
- 'garbage** /gə'bɜː/ *n* 1 worthless writing or speech 2 chiefly NAM RUBBISH 1 [ME, animal entrails; akin to OF *garbe* tax paid in sheaves]
- garble** /gəbl/ *vt* **garbling** /gə'blɪŋ/ to distort or confuse, giving a false impression of the facts <a ~d message> [ME *garbelen* to sift, select, fr OIt *garbellare* to sift, fr Ar *gharbala*, fr *ghirbal* sieve, fr LL *cribellum*, akin to L *cernere* to sift – more at CERTAIN] – **garbler** *n*
- garboard** /gə'bɔːd/ *n* the plank next to a ship's keel [obs D *gaar-boord*]
- garçon** /gə'sɒn/ (Fr *gars*) / *n*, *pl* **garçons** /-sɒnz/ (Fr ~) / a waiter, esp in a French restaurant [F, boy, servant]
- garda** /gə'dɑː/ *n*, *pl* **gardai** /gə'di, -die/ 1 the Irish police 2 a member of the garda [IrGael]
- 'garden** /gə'dɪn/ *n* 1a a plot of ground where herbs, fruits, vegetables, or typically flowers are cultivated b a rich well-cultivated region <the ~ of England> 2a a public recreation area or park <a botanical ~> b an open-air eating or drinking place <beer ~> [ME *gardin*, fr ONF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *gart* enclosure – more at YARD] – **gardenful** *n*
- 'garden** *vi* to work in, cultivate, or lay out a garden – **gardener** *n*
- 'garden** *adj* of a cultivated as distinguished from a wild kind grown in the open <a ~ plant>
- garden city** *n* a planned town with spacious residential areas including public parks and considerable garden space
- gardenia** /gə'diːniə/ *n*, *pl* *gardenias* /-ni-ə/ *n* any of a genus of Old World tropical trees and shrubs with showy fragrant white or yellow flowers [NL, genus name, fr Alexander *Garden* †1791 Sc naturalist]
- 'garden party** *n* a usu formal party held on the lawns of a garden
- garderobe** /gə'drɒb/ *n* (a part of a medieval building used as) a privy [ME, fr MF; akin to ONF *warderobe* wardrobe]
- garfish** /gə'fɪʃ/ *n* a European and N Atlantic fish with a long body and elongated jaws [ME *garfyshe*, prob fr OE *gār* spear + *fyshe* fish]
- garganey** /gə'gəni/ *n* a small European duck of which the male has a broad white stripe over the eye [It dial. *garganei*, of imit origin]
- gargantuan** /gə'gənti-ən/ *adj*, often *cap* gigantic, colossal <a ~ meal> [Gargantua, gigantic king in the novel *Gargantua* by François Rabelais †1553 F humorist & satirist]
- garret** /gə'gɪt/ *n* mastitis (occurring chronically in cows) [prob fr ME, throat, fr MF *gargate*, akin to MF *gargouiller* to gurgle] – **gargety** *adj*
- 'gargle** /gə'gl/ *vb* **gargling** /gə'glɪŋ/ *gahgl-ing* / *vi* 1 to blow air from the lungs through (a liquid) held in the mouth or throat 2 to cleanse (the mouth or throat) in this manner ~ *vi* 1 to use a gargle 2 to speak or sing as if gargling [MF *gargouiller*, of imit origin]
- 'gargle** *n* 1 a liquid used in gargling 2 a bubbling liquid sound produced by gargling
- gargoyle** /gə'gɔɪl/ *n* a spout in the form of a grotesque human or animal figure projecting from a roof gutter to throw rainwater clear of a building  CHURCH [ME *gargoyl*, fr MF *gargouille*; akin to MF *gargouiller*] – **gargoyled** *adj*
- garibaldi** /gə'riːbaldi/ *n* 1 a woman's loose long-sleeved orig bright red blouse 2 Br a biscuit with a layer of currants in it [Giuseppe *Garibaldi* †1882 It patriot]
- garish** /gə'riʃ/ *adj* 1 excessively and gaudily bright or vivid 2 tastelessly showy [origin unknown] – **garishly** *adv*, **garishness** *n*
- 'garland** /gə'laːnd/ *n* 1 a wreath of flowers or leaves worn as an ornament or sign of distinction 2 an anthology or collection [ME, fr MF *garlande*, fr OF]
- 'garland** *vt* to form into or deck with a garland
- garlic** /gə'liːk/ *n* (the pungent compound bulb, much used as a flavouring in cookery, of) a European plant of the lily family [ME *garlek*, fr OE *gārleac*, fr *gar* spear + *leac* leek – more at 'GORE] – **garlicky** *adj*
- garlic mustard** *n* a common European plant of the mustard family with small white flowers and a garlic-like smell
- garment** /gə'mənt/ *n* an article of clothing  [ME, fr MF *garment*, fr OF, fr *garinir* to equip – more at GARNISH]
- 'garner** /gə'naː/ *n* 1 a granary 2 a grain bin *USE* fml or poetic [ME, fr OF *germier*, *grenier*, fr L *granarium*, fr *granum* grain]
- 'garner** *vt* to gather, store – fml or poetic
- garnet** /gə'niːt/ *n* 1 a hard brittle silicate mineral used as an abrasive and in its transparent deep red form as a gem 2 a dark red [ME *grenat*, fr MF, fr *grenat*, *adj*, red like a pomegranate, fr (*pomme*) *grenate* pomegranate]
- 'garnish** /gə'niʃ/ *vt* 1a to decorate, embellish b to add decorative or savoury touches to (food) 2 to garnish *USE* [ME *garnishen*, fr MF *garniss*, stem of *garnir* to warn, equip, garnish, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *warnon* to take heed – more at WARN]
- 'garnish** *n* 1 an embellishment, ornament 2 an edible savoury or decorative addition (e.g. watercress) to a dish
- 'garnishee** /gə'niʃiː/ *n* sby served with a garnishment
- 'garnishee** *vt* **garnisheeing** 1 to serve with a garnishment 2 to take (money owed) by legal authority following a garnishment
- 'garnishment** /-mənt/ *n* a judicial warning to a debtor not to pay his/her debt to anyone other than the appropriate third party [‘GARNISH + -MENT]
- garniture** /gə'niʃtʃə/ *n* an embellishment, trimming [MF, equipment, alter of OF *garnesture*, fr *garnir*]
- garpike** /gə'piːk/ *n* a garfish
- garret** /gə'riːt/ *n* a small room just under the roof of a house [ME *garett* watchtower, fr MF *garrie*, perh fr OProv *garida*, fr *garr* to protect, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *weren*]
- 'garrison** /gə'riːʒn/ *n* 1 a (fortified) town or place in which troops are stationed 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the troops stationed at a garrison [ME *garisoun* protection, fr OF *garison*, fr *garr* to protect, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *weren* to defend – more at WEIR]
- 'garrison** *vt* 1 to station troops in 2a to assign (troops) as a garrison b to occupy with troops
- garrison cap** *n* a visorless folding cap worn as part of a military uniform – compare SERVICE CAP
- 'garrotte, garotte, chiefly NAM garrote** /gə'rot/ *n* 1 (a Spanish method of execution using) an iron collar for strangling sby 2 strangling, esp with robbery as the motive [Sp *garrote* cudgel, *garrotte*, prob fr MF *garrot* heavy wooden projectile]
- 'garrotte, garotte, chiefly NAM garrote** *vt* 1 to execute with a garrotte 2 to strangle and rob – **garrotter** *n*
- garrulous** /gə'ryʊləs/ *adj* excessively talkative, esp about trivial things [L *garrulus*, fr *garrare* to chatter + more at CARE] – **garrulously** *adv*, **garrulousness** *n*, **garrulity** /gə'roʊləti/ *n*
- 'garter** /gə'təː/ *n* 1 a band, usu of elastic, worn to hold up a stocking or sock 2 *cap* (the blue velvet garter that is the badge of) the Order of the Garter; also membership of the Order [ME, fr ONF *gartier*, fr *garet* bend of the knee, of Celt origin; akin to OIr *gairri* calves of the legs]
- 'garter snake** *n* any of numerous harmless longitudinally striped American snakes
- 'garter stitch** *n* (the ribbed pattern formed by using only) a plain knit stitch
- 'gas** /gəz/ *n*, *pl* *gases* /-səz/ *also* *gas* 1 a fluid (e.g. air) that has neither independent shape nor volume and tends to expand indefinitely 2a a gas or gaseous mixture used to produce general anaesthesia, as a fuel, etc  ENERGY b a substance (e.g. tear gas or mustard gas) that can be used to produce a poisonous, asphyxiating, or irritant atmosphere 3 NAM petrol 4 empty talk – chiefly infml [NL, alter. of L *chaos* space, chaos; (3) short for *gasoline*] – **gaseous** /gəsi-əs, 'gay-/ *adj*, **gaseousness** *n*



## Jumpers/sweaters



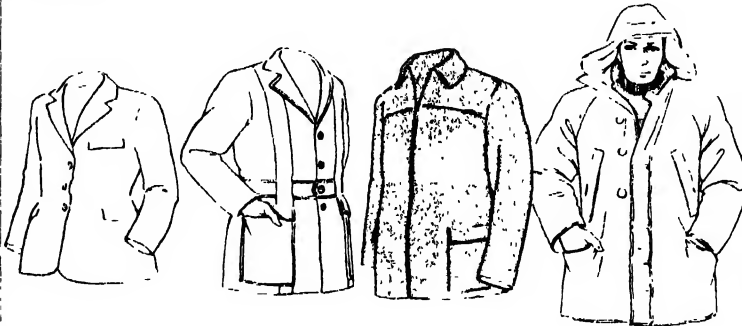
turtleneck

polo neck

shawl collar

V-neck

## Jackets



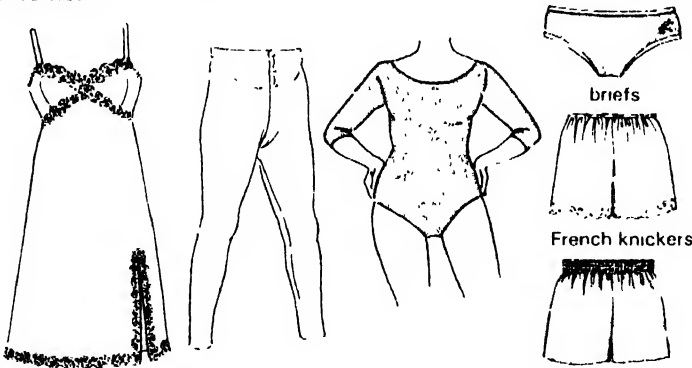
hacking jacket

Norfolk jacket

donkey jacket

anorak (parka)

## Underwear



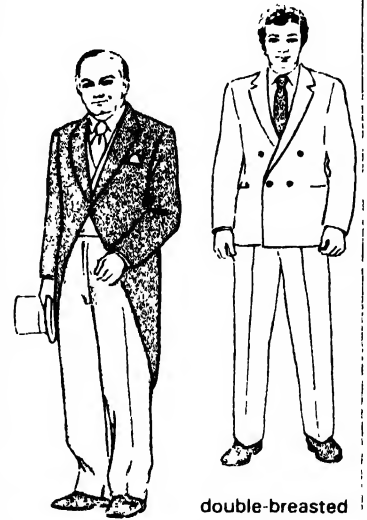
petticoat

long johns

leotard

boxer shorts

## Suits and dresses



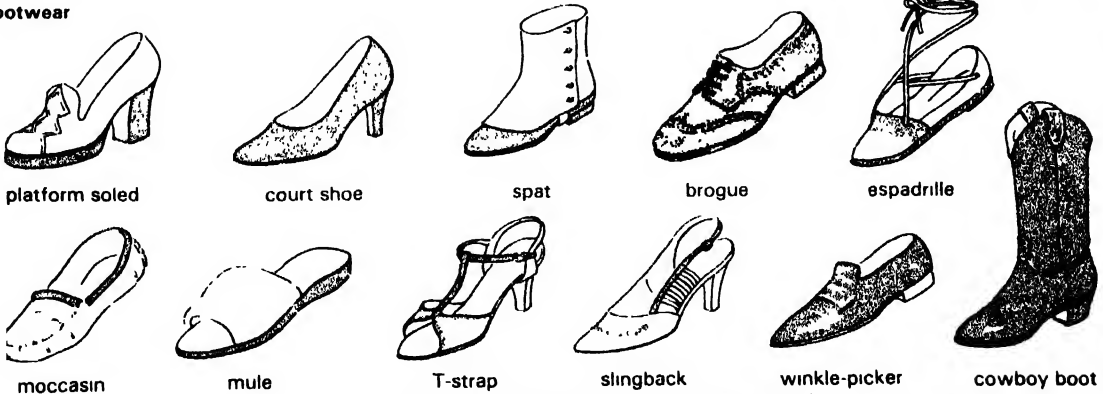
morning dress

double-breasted  
suit

pinafore dress

Empire line  
evening dress

## Footwear



platform soled

court shoe

spat

brogue

espadrille

moccasin

mule

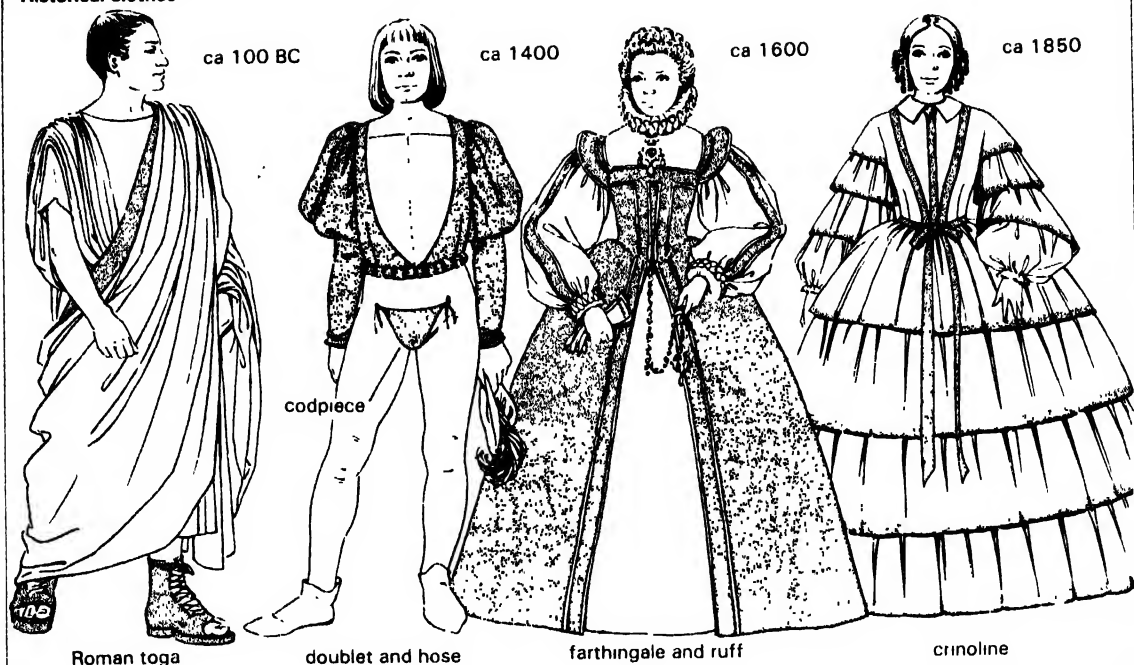
T-strap

slingback

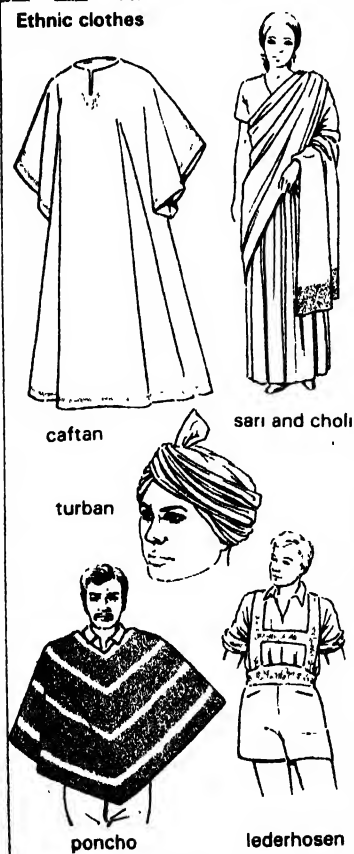
winkle-picker

cowboy boot

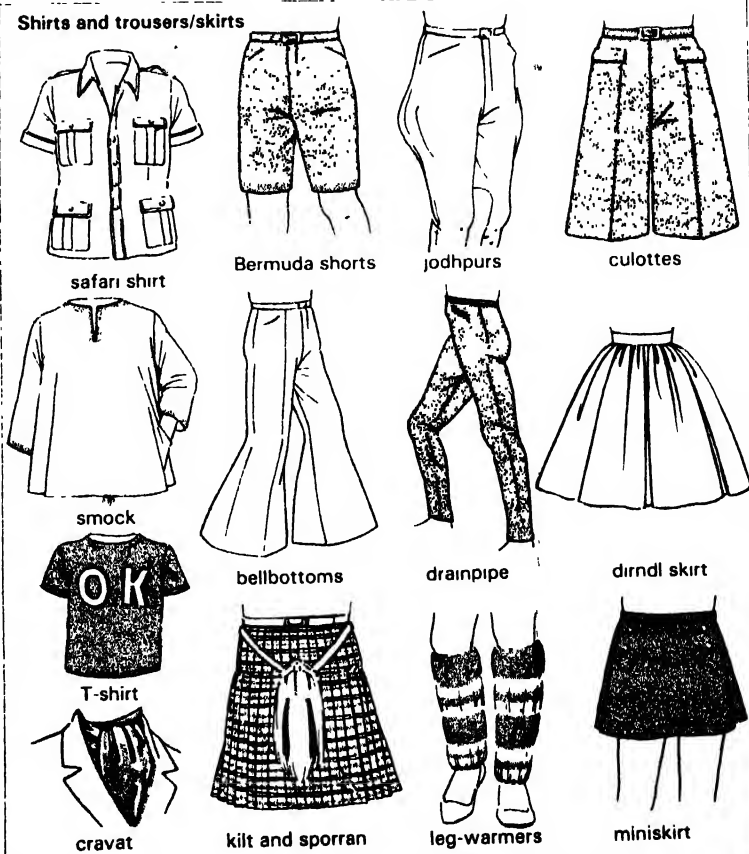
Historical clothes



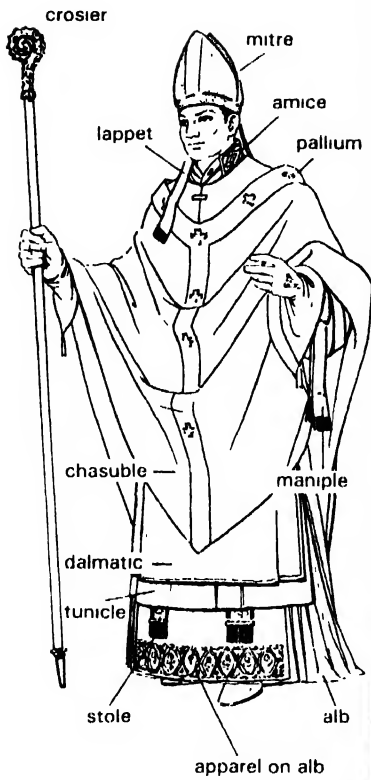
Ethnic clothes



Shirts and trousers/skirts



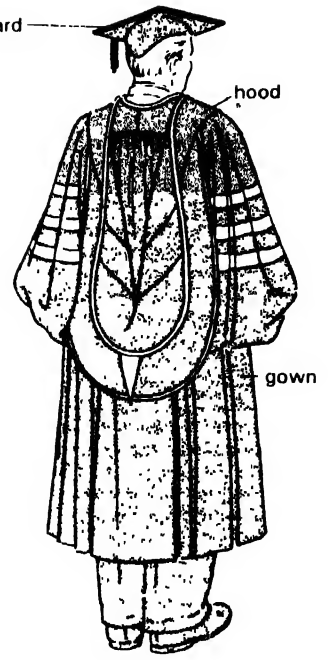
## Vestments



## Academicals



undergraduate



doctor

## Hats



biretta



opera hat



sou'wester



tam-o'-shanter



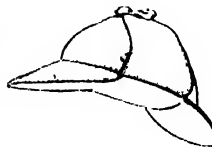
fez



busby



pillbox



deerstalker



cloche hat



busby/bearskin



yarmulke



trilby



cocked hat



balaclava

**gas** *vb* **as** *vt* 1 to treat chemically with a gas 2 to poison or otherwise affect adversely with gas **vi** 1 to give off gas 2 to talk idly – chiefly infml

**gasbag** /-bag/ *n* an idle talker – infml

**gas chamber** *n* a chamber in which prisoners are executed or animals killed by poison gas

**gascon** /'gaskən/ *n* 1 *cap* a native of Gascony 2 a braggart [ME *Gascon*, fr MF *gascon*] – *Gascon adj*

**gas gangrene** *n* often rapidly progressive gangrene marked by impregnation of the (dying) tissue with gas and caused by infection with a clostridial bacterium


**gash** /'gash/ *vt or n* (to injure with) a deep long cut or cleft, esp in flesh [vb ME *garsen*, fr ONF *garser*, fr (assumed) VL *charissare*, fr Gk *charassein* to scratch, engrave – more at **CHARACTER**; *n* fr vb]

**gash** *n* sthg, specif rubbish on board ship, superfluous or extra – infml [origin unknown]

**gasholder** /'gashəldə/ *n* a gasometer

**gasify** /'gæsfɪ/, 'gay-/ *vb* to change into gas (< ~ coal) – *gasifier n*, *gasification* /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*

**gasket** /'gæskɪt/ *n* (a specially shaped piece of) sealing material for ensuring that a joint, esp between metal surfaces, does not leak liquid or gas [prob alter. of F *gascette* thin rope, fr OF, *girl*, dim. of *garce* girl, fem of *gars boy*]

**gaskin** /'gæskɪn/ *n* a part of the hind leg of a quadruped between the stifle and the hock  **ANATOMY** [obs *gaskin* (hose, breeches), prob short for *galigaskins* (loose trousers, leggings)]

**gaslight** /'gæslɪt/ *n* (light from) a gas flame or gas lighting fixture

**gas mask** *n* a mask connected to a chemical air filter and used as a protection against noxious fumes or gases

**gasoline**, **gasolene** /'gæslɪn, 'gæslɪn/ *n*, *NA*m petrol ['gas + -ol + -ine or -ene] – *gasolineic* /-'lɪnɪk/ *adj*

**gasometer** /'gæsəmətə/ *n* a (large cylindrical storage) container for gas [F *gazomètre*, fr *gaz* + -o- + -mètre -meter]

**gas-operated** *adj*, of an automatic firearm using gases produced by the burning of the powder to operate the mechanism

**gasp** /'gæsp/ *vi* 1 to catch the breath suddenly and audibly (e.g. with shock) 2 to breathe laboriously ~ *vt* to utter with gasps – usu + out <he ~ed out his message> [ME *gaspen*, akin to ON *geispa* to yawn] – *gasp n*

**gasper** /'gæspə/ *n*, *Br* a cigarette – not now in vogue [GASP + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**gas ring** *n* a hollow metal perforated ring through which jets of gas issue and over which food is cooked

**gasser** /'gæsə/ *n* an oil well that yields gas ['GAS + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**gassy** /'gæsi/ *adj* full of, containing, or like gas (< ~ beer) – *gassiness n*

**gastarbeiter** /'gast,ahbiətə/ *n* a foreign worker, esp in a German-speaking country [G]

**gasteropod** /'gæst(ə)rə,pəd/ *n* a gastropod

**gastr-** /'gæstr-/ *gastr-* also **gastri-** *comb form* 1 belly (<gastropod>), stomach (<gastritis> <gastroctomy>) 2 gastric and (<gastrointestinal>) [Gk, fr *gastēr*, *gastēr*]

**gastric** /'gæstri:k/ *adj* of the stomach [Gk *gastēr*, *gastēr*, alter of (assumed) Gk *grastēr*, fr Gk *grān* to gnaw, eat]


**gastric juice** *n* a thin acidic digestive liquid secreted by glands in the lining of the stomach

**gastrin** /'gæstrɪn/ *n* a polypeptide hormone secreted by the stomach lining that induces secretion of gastric juice

**gastroenteritis** /'gæstrə,entə'ri:tɪs/ *n* inflammation of the lining of the stomach and the intestines, usu causing painful diarrhoea [NL]

**gastronomie** /'gæstrə,nə'mi/, **gastronomist** /'gæstrənə'mɪst/ *n* an epicure, gourmet [F, back-formation fr *gastronomie*]

**gastronomy** /'gæstrənə'mi/ *n* the art or science of good eating [F *gastronomie*, fr Gk *Gastronomia*, title of a 4th-c BC poem, fr *gastro-* belly + *-nomia* -nomy] – *gastronomic* /'gæstrə'nə'mɪk/ also *gastronomical adj*, *gastronomically adv*

**gastropod** /'gæstrə,pəd/ *n* any of a large class of molluscs (e.g. snails) usu with a distinct head bearing sensory organs  **EVOLUTION** [NL *Gastropoda*, class name, fr Gk *gastēr* + *pod-*, *pous* foot] – *gastropod adj*, *gastropodan* /'gæstrə,pə'dən/ also *gastro'pə'dən/ adj or n*

**gastrula** /'gæstrə'lə/ *n*, *pl* *gastrulas*, *gastrulae* /-li/ the embryo of a metazoan animal at the stage in its development succeeding the blastula stage and consisting of a hollow 2-layered cellular cup – compare **BLASTULA**, **MORULA** [NL, fr *gastēr* – *gastrular adj*]

**gastrulate** /'gæstrə,lə't/ *vi* to become or form a gastrula – *gastrulation* /-'ləʃən/ *n*

**gas turbine** *n* an internal-combustion engine in which turbine blades are driven by hot gases whose pressure and velocity are intensified by compressed air introduced into the combustion chamber

**gasworks** /-wʊks/ *n*, *pl* *gasworks* a plant for manufacturing gas – often *pl* with sing. meaning

**gat** /'gæt/ *archaic past of* GFT

**gat** *n* a firearm – slang [short for *Gatling (gun)*]


**gate** /'geɪt/ *n* 1 (the usu hinged frame or door that closes) an opening in a wall or fence 2 a city or castle entrance, often with defensive structures 3a a means of entrance or exit b a mountain pass c a space between 2 markers through which a skier, canoeist, etc must pass in a slalom race d a mechanically operated barrier used as a starting device for a race e either of a pair of barriers that (1) let water in and out of a lock (2) close a road at a level crossing 4 an (electronic) device (e.g. in a computer) that produces a signal when specified input conditions are met (a logic ~) 5 the set of notches in a manually worked gearbox into which the gear lever is pushed to select the gears 6 the total admission receipts or the number of spectators at a sporting event [ME, fr OE *geat*, akin to ON *gat* opening, Gk *chezein* to defecate]

**gate** *vt*, *Br* to punish by confinement to the premises of a school or college

**gateau** /'gətoʊ/ *n*, *pl* *gateaux*, *gateaus* /-toʊz/ any of various rich often filled elaborate (cream) cakes [F *gâteau* cake, fr OF *gastel*, prob of Gmc origin]

**gate-crasher** *n* one who enters, attends, or participates without a ticket or invitation – *gate-crash vb*

**gatefold** /-'foʊld/ *n*, chiefly *NA*m a foldout

**gatehouse** /-'haʊs/ *n* 1 a structure above or beside a gate (e.g. of a city wall or castle) often used in former times as a guardroom or prison  **CHURCH** 2 a lodge at the entrance to the grounds of a large house 3 a building at a dam or lock from which the sluices or gates are controlled

**gatekeeper** /-'keɪpə/ *n* sby who or sthg that tends or guards a gate

**gateleg** /'geɪtlɛg/ *n* a table with drop leaves supported by 2 movable legs

**gatepost** /-'pəʊst/ *n* the post on which a gate is hung or against which it closes

**gateway** /-'weɪ/ *n* 1 an opening for a gate 2 **GATE** 3a

**gather** /'gæðə/ *vt* 1 to bring together, collect (up) 2 to pick, harvest 3a to summon up (<ed his courage>) b to accumulate (< speed>) c to prepare (e.g. oneself) for an effort 4a to bring together the parts of b to draw about or close to sthg (<ing her cloak about her>) c to pull (fabric) together, esp along a line of stitching, to create small tucks 5 to reach a conclusion (intuitively from hints or through inferences) <I ~ you're ready to leave> ~ *vi* to come together in a body (<a crowd had ~ed>) [ME *gaderen*, fr OE *gaderian*, akin to OFris *gaderia* to gather, MLG *gadderan*, MHG *gatern* to unite] – *gatherer n*

**gather** *n* sthg gathered; esp a tuck in cloth made by gathering

**gathering** /-'rɪŋ/ *n* 1 an assembly, meeting, also a compilation 2 an abscess 3 a gather or series of gathers in cloth 4 **SECTION** 11

**Gatling gun** /'gætlɪŋ/ *n* an early machine gun with a revolving cluster of barrels fired once each per revolution [R J *Gatling* †1903 US inventor]

**gauche** /'gəʊʃ/ *adj* lacking social experience or grace [F, lit., left, fr *gauchir* to turn aside] – *gauchely adv* *gaucheness n*

**gaucherie** /'gəʊʃ(ə)rɪ/ *n* (an instance of) tactless or awkward manner or behaviour [F, fr *gauche*]

**gaucho** /'gəʊʃə/ *n*, *pl* *gauchos* a cowboy of the pampas [AmerSp, prob fr Quechua *wácha* poor person, orphan]

**gaud** /'gəʊd/ *n*, *archaic* a gaudy ornament or trinket [ME *gaude* trick, toy, prob fr OF *gaudir* to enjoy, rejoice, fr L *gaudere* to rejoice]


**gaudy** /'gəʊdi/ *adj* ostentatiously or tastelessly (and brightly) ornamented – *gaudily adv*, *gaudiness n*

**gaudy** *n* a feast, esp a dinner for ex-students, in some British universities [prob fr L *gaudium* joy – more at **JOY**]

**gauge**, *NA*m also *gage* /'geɪdʒ/ *n* 1a measurement according to some standard or system b dimensions, size 2 an instrument for or a means of measuring or testing sthg (e.g. a dimension or quantity) 3 *gage*, *gage* relative position of a ship with reference to another ship and the wind 4 the distance between the rails of a railway, wheels on an axle, etc 5 a measure of the size of the bore of a shotgun 6a the thickness of a thin sheet of metal, plastic, film, etc b the diameter of wire, a hypodermic needle, a screw, etc c (a measure of) the fineness of a knitted fabric [ME *gaugē*, fr ONF]

**gauge**, *NA*m also *gage* *vt* 1a to measure (exactly) the size, dimensions,


- capacity, or contents of **b** to estimate, judge <can you ~ his reaction?>  
**2** to check for conformity to specifications or limits – **gaugeable** *adj.*, **gaugeably** *adv.*
- gauger** /'gəʊə/ *n.*, chiefly Scot an exciseman who inspects dutiable bulk goods (e.g. whisky) [‘GAUGE + -ER]
- Gaul** /gəʊl/ *n.* a Celt of ancient Gaul [Gaul, ancient region of Europe including most of what is now France, fr *F Gaule*, fr *L Gallia*]
- gauleiter** /'gəʊ.lietə/ *n.* **1** often *cap* an official in charge of a district in Nazi Germany **2** an arrogant henchman [G, fr *gau* district, region + *leiter* leader]
- Gaulish** /'gəʊlɪʃ/ *adj* or *n.* (of or being Gaul, the Gauls, or) the Celtic language of the ancient Gauls
- Gaullism** /'gəʊ.lɪz(ə)m/ *n.* the political principles and policies of the French political leader Charles de Gaulle (†1970) – **Gaullist** *adj* or *n.*
- gaunt** /gəʊnt/ *adj.* **1** excessively thin and angular as if from suffering **2** barren, desolate [ME, perh. of Scand. origin] – **gauntly** *adv.*, **gaunt-ness** *n.*
- 'gauntlet** /'gəʊnlɪt/ *n.* **1** a glove to protect the hand, worn with medieval armour **2** a strong protective glove with a wide extension above the wrist, used esp. for sports and in industry **3** a challenge to combat – esp. in *take up/throw down the gauntlet* [ME, fr MF *gantlet*, dim. of *gant* glove, of Gmc. origin; akin to MD *want* mitten, ON *vottr* gloves] – **gauntleted** *adj.*
- ²gauntlet** *n.* a double file of men armed with weapons with which to strike at shy made to run between them, broadly criticism or an ordeal or test – usu. in *run the gauntlet* [by folk etymology fr *gantelope*, modif. of Sw *gatlopp*, fr OSw *gatulop*, fr *gata* road, lane + *lop* course, run]
- gaur** /'gəʊə/ *n.* a large E Indian wild ox [Hindi, fr Skt *gaura*, akin to Skt *go* bull, cow + *ma* 'at/cow']
- gauss** /'gəʊs/ *n.*, *pl.* **gausses** also **gausses** the cgs unit of magnetic induction [K. F. Gauss †1855 G mathematician & astronomer]
- Gaussian distribution** /'gəʊsi.ən/ *n.* NORMAL DISTRIBUTION [K. F. Gauss]
- gauze** /gəʊz/ *n.* **1a** a thin often transparent fabric used chiefly for clothing or draperies **b** a loosely woven cotton surgical dressing **c** a fine mesh of metal or plastic filaments **2** a thin haze or mist [MF *gaze*, prob. fr *Gaza*, town in Palestine] – **gauzily** *adv.*, **gauziness** *n.*, **gauzy** *adj.*
- gavage** /'gəʊvəʒ/, 'gəʊvɪ/ *n.* introduction of material, esp. food, into the stomach by a tube [F, fr *gaver* to stuff, feed forcibly]
- gave** /gəʊv/ *past* of GIVE
- gavel** /'gəʊvəl/ *n.* a small mallet with which a chairman, judge, or auctioneer commands attention or confirms a vote, sale, etc. [origin unknown]
- 'gavel, kind** /-kiend/ *n.* a former system of land tenure, esp. in Kent, providing for equal division of the estate of sb. who died without making a will, among the heirs [ME *gavelkynde*, fr *gavel* rent, tribute (fr OE *gafol*) + *kinde* kind]
- gavial** /'gəʊvi.əl, -vɪəl/ *n.* a large Indian crocodile [F, modif. of Hindi *ghariyal*]
- gavotte** /'gəʊvot/ *n.* **1** an 18th-c. dance in which the feet are raised rather than slid **2** a composition or movement of music in moderately quick **4** time [F, fr MF, fr OProv *gavoto*, fr *gavot* inhabitant of the Alps] – **gavotte** *vi.*
- Gawd** /gəʊd/ *n.* God – used in writing to represent a substandard pronunciation
- 'gawk** /'gəʊk/ *vi.* to gawk – *infmtl* [perh. alter. of obs. *gaw* (to stare), fr ME *gawen*, fr ON *gā* to heed, mark] – **gawker** *n.*
- ²gawk** *n.* a clumsy awkward person [prob. fr E dial. *gawk* (left-handed)] – **gawkish** *adj.*, **gawkishly** *adv.*, **gawkishness** *n.*
- gawky** /'gəʊki/ *adj.* awkward and usu. lanky (<a ~ child>) [‘g- + -y] – **gawkily** *adv.*, **gawky** *n.*
- gawp** /gəʊp/ *vi.* to gape or stare stupidly – *infmtl* [alter. of ME *galpen* to yawn, gape; akin to OE *gælfan* to boast, praise – more at YFIF]
- 'gay** /gəʊ/ *adj.* **1** happily excited **2** bright, attractive (<~ sunny meadows>) **3** given to social pleasures (<the ~ life>) **4** homosexual [ME, fr MF *gai*] – **gay** *adv.*, **gayness** *n.*
- ²gay** *n.* a homosexual
- gaze** /gəʊz/ *vi.* or *n.* (to fix the eyes in) a steady and intent look [vb ME *gazen*, prob. of Scand. origin; akin to Sw dial. *gasa* to stare; *n.* fr vb] – **gazer** *n.*
- gazebo** /'gəʊzeɪbo/ *n.*, *pl.* **gazebos** a freestanding structure placed to command a view; also a belvedere [perh. fr *gaze* + *L -ebo* (as in *videbo* I shall see)]
- gazelle** /'gəʊzel/ *n.*, *pl.* **gazelles**, esp. collectively **gazelle** any of numerous small, graceful, and swift African and Asian antelopes noted for their soft lustrous eyes 𐀀 FOOD [F, fr MF, fr Ar *ghazāl*]
- 'gazette** /'gəʊzet/ *n.* **1** a newspaper – usu. in newspaper titles **2** an official journal containing announcements of honours and government appointments [F, fr It *gazzetta*, fr It dial. *gazeta*, fr *gazeta* small copper coin (the price of the newspaper)]
- ²gazette** *vt.* *Br* to announce (the appointment or status of) in an official gazette (<he was ~d major>)
- gazetteer** /'gəʊzi:tə/ *n.* a dictionary of place names [The Gazetteer's or, *Newsman's Interpreter*, a geographical index edited by Laurence Echard †1730 E. historian]
- gazpacho** /'gəʊpəʒo/, 'gəʊ-/ *n.*, *pl.* **gazpachos** a Spanish cold soup containing tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, peppers, and usu. breadcrumbs [Sp]
- gazump** /'gəʊzʌmp/ *vb.* *Br* to thwart (a would-be house purchaser) by raising the price after agreeing to sell at a certain price [earlier *gezumph*, *gazoomph*, *gazumph* to swindle, perh. fr Yiddish] – **gazumper** *n.*
- G clef** /'dʒee/ *n.* TRIFLE CLEF 𐀀 MUSIC
- G-cramp** *n.* a cramp shaped like a letter G
- ge-**, **geo-** *comb. form* **1a** ground, soil (<geophyte>) (<geophagia>) **b** earth, earth's surface (<geophysics>) (<geodesic>) **2** geographical, geography and (<geopolitics>) [ME *geo-*, fr MF & L, MF, fr L, fr Gk *ge-*, *geo-*, fr *gē*]
- gean** /'dʒeen/ *n.*, chiefly *Br* (the fruit of) a wild sweet cherry [MF *guisne*, *guine*]
- 'gear** /gɪə/ *n.* **1a** clothing, garments **b** movable property, goods **2** a set of equipment usu. for a particular purpose (<fishing ~>) **3a(1)** a mechanism that performs a specific function in a complete machine (<the steering ~>) **(2)** a toothed wheel (that is one of a set of interlocking wheels) **(3)** working relation, position, or adjustment (<out of ~>) (<put the car in ~>) **b** any of 2 or more adjustments of a transmission (e.g. of a bicycle or motor vehicle) that determine direction of travel or ratio of engine speed to vehicle speed [ME *gere*, fr OE *gearwe*, akin to OHG *garuwi* equipment, clothing, OE *gearu* ready] – **gearless** *adj.*
- ²gear** *vt.* **1a** to provide with or connect by gearing **b** to put into gear **2** to adjust to so as to match, blend with, or satisfy sth. (<an institution ~ed to the needs of the blind>)
- 'gear, box** /-bɒks/ *n.* (a protective casing enclosing) a set of (car) gears 𐀀 CAR
- gearing** /'dʒiərɪŋ/ *n.* **1** a series of gear wheels **2** *Br* (the advantage gained by) the use of extra capital (e.g. borrowed money) to increase the returns on invested equity capital
- 'gear, lever** *n.* a control, esp. a rod, on a gear-changing mechanism (e.g. a gearbox) used to engage the different gears 𐀀 CAR
- 'gear, shift** /-ʃɪft/ *n.*, *NA* **GEAR LEVER**
- gear up** *vt.* to make ready for effective operation, also to put (e.g. oneself) into a state of anxious excitement or nervous anticipation
- 'gear, wheel** *n.* **GEAR 3a(2)**
- gecko** /'gekəʊ/ *n.*, *pl.* **geckos**, **geckoes** any of numerous small chiefly tropical lizards able to walk on vertical or overhanging surfaces [Malay *ge'kok*, of imit. origin]
- gee** /'dʒee/ *interj.*, chiefly *NA* – used as an introductory expletive or to express surprise or enthusiasm [euphemism for *Jesus*]
- gee-gee** /'dʒee-'dʒee/ *n.* a horse – used esp. by or to children or in racing slang [redupl. of *gee* (as in *gee-up*)]
- geese** /'dʒees/ *pl.* of GOOSE
- 'gee-up** *interj.* – used as a direction, esp. to a horse, to move ahead [origin unknown]
- 'gee, whiz** /wɪz/ *interj.*, chiefly *NA* **gee** [euphemism for *Jesus Christ*]
- geez** /'dʒeez/ *n.* a man (who is thought a little odd or peculiar) – chiefly *infmtl*, esp. in *old geezer* [prob. alter. of Sc *guiser* (one in disguise, mummer)]
- gegenschein** /'dʒeɪɡən.ʃaɪn/ *n.*, often *cap* a faint light usu. in the ecliptic opposite the sun [G, fr *gegen* against, counter- + *schein* shine]
- Gehenna** /'gəʊhə'nə/ *n.* HELL 1c, 2a [LL, fr Gk *Geenna*, fr Heb *Gē' Hinnom*, lit. valley of Hinnom]
- 'Geiger, counter** /'dʒeɪɡə/ *n.* an electronic instrument for detecting the presence and intensity of ionizing radiations (e.g. cosmic rays or particles from a radioactive substance)
- Geiger-Müller counter** /'mʊlə/ *n.* GEIGER COUNTER [Hans Geiger †1945 G physicist + W Müller, 20th-c. G physicist]
- geisha** /'dʒeɪʃə/, 'dʒeɪʃə/ *n.*, *pl.* **geishas**, **geishas** a Japanese girl who is trained to provide entertaining and lighthearted company, esp. for a man or a group of men [Jap, fr *gei* art + *-sha* person]
- 'gel** /dʒel/ *n.* **1** a colloid in a more solid form than a sol **2** JELLY **3** [gelatin]
- ²gel**, chiefly *NA* **jell** *vb.* -ll- **1** to change (from a sol) into a gel **2** to (cause

- to) take shape or become definite - **gelable** *adj.*, **gelation** /jɪ'laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- gel** /gel/ *n* a girl - used in writing to represent an upper-class pronunciation [by alter]
- gelate** /'jelayt/ *vi* to gel
- gelatin**, **gelatine** /'jelatin, -teen/ *n* 1 a glutinous material obtained from animal tissues by boiling; *esp* a protein used *esp* in food (e.g. to set jellies) and photography 2 a thin coloured transparent sheet used to colour a stage light [F *gélatine* edible jelly, *gelatin*, fr It *gelatina*, fr *gelato*, pp of *gelare* to freeze, fr L - more at **COLD**] - **gelatinize** /jɪ'latinize/ *vb*, **gelatinization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- gelatinous** /jɪ'latinas/ *adj* resembling gelatin or jelly, *esp* in consistency; viscous - **gelatinously** *adv*, **gelatinousness** *n*
- gelation** /jɪ'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the action or process of freezing [L *gelation*-, *gelatio*, fr *gelatus*, pp of *gelare*]
- geld** /geld/ *vt* to castrate - used *esp* with reference to male animals [ME *gelden*, fr ON *gelda*; akin to OE *gelte* young sow, Gk *gallos* eunuch, priest of Cybele]
- gelding** /'gelding/ *n* a castrated male horse [ME, fr ON *geldingr*, fr *gelda*]
- gelid** /'jelid/ *adj* extremely cold, icy [L *gelidus*, fr *gelu* frost, cold - more at **COLD**] - **gelidly** *adv*, **gelidity** /jɪ'lidati/ *n*
- gelignite** /'jeligniet/ *n* a dynamite in which the adsorbent base is a mixture of potassium or sodium nitrate usu with wood pulp [gelatin + L *ignis* fire + E -*ite* - more at **IGNEOUS**]
- gem** /jem/ *n* 1 a precious or sometimes semiprecious stone, *esp* when cut and polished for use in jewellery 2 sby or sthg highly prized or much beloved [ME *gemme*, fr MF, fr L *gemma* bud, gem] - **gemmy** *adj*
- gem** *vi* -*mm-* to adorn (as if) with gems
- Gemara** /ge'mahra/ *n* a commentary on the Mishnah forming most of the Talmud [Aram *gemara* completion] - **Gemarie** /-rik/ *adj*, **Gemari** *n*
- gemeinschaft** /gə'mien:shaft/ *n* a social relationship or community characterized by solidarity based on loyalty and kinship - compare **GESCHLUSCHAFT** [G, community, fr *gemein* common, general + -*schaft* -ship]
- geminat** /'jeminət/ *adj* arranged in pairs [L *geminatus*, pp of *geminare* to double, fr *geminus* twin, akin to Skt *yama* twin] - **geminately** *adv*
- geminat** /-nayt/ *vb* to make or become paired or doubled - **geminat** /-'naysh(ə)n/ *n*
- Gemini** /'jemi:ni, -nie/ *n* (sby born under) the 3rd sign of the zodiac in astrology, which is pictured as twins  SYMBOL [L, lit, the twins (Castor and Pollux)] - **Geminian** /-'nee:ən, -'nie:ən/ *adj* or *n*
- gemma** /'jema/ *n*, *pl* **gemmae** /-mee/ a bud; broadly an asexual plant reproductive body [L] - **gemmate** /'jemayt/, **gemmateous** /je'mayshəs/ *adj*, **gemmat** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*
- gemma** /'jemyooh/ *n* an internal reproductive bud (e.g. of a sponge) with a resistant case [F, fr L *gemma*, dim. of *gemma* bud] - **gemma** /-'yoohaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **gemmaiferous** /-'hi(ə)rəs/ *adj*
- gemstone** /'jem:stohn/ *n* a mineral or petrified material used as a gem
- gen** /jen/ *n*, *Br* the correct or complete information - *infmt* [short for *general (information)*]
- gen-, geo-** *comb form* 1 race <genocide> 2 genus; kind <genotype> [Gk *genos* birth, race, kind - more at **KIN**]
- gen-, geo-** *comb form* *gene* <genome>
- gen** /-jən/ *also* *-gene* /-jeen/ *comb form* (*n* - *n*) 1 sthg that produces <androgen> <carcinogen> 2 sthg that is (so) produced <phosge> [F -*gène*, fr Gk -*genes* born; akin to Gk *genos* birth]
- gendarme** /'zhon,dahm (fr 'jödarm)/ *n* 1 a member of a corps of armed police, *esp* in France 2 a policeman - chiefly humor [F, fr MF, back-formation fr *gendarmes*, *pl* of *gent d'armes*, lit., armed men]
- gendarmier**, **gendarmery** /-mən (fr -mən)/ *n*, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of gendarmes [MF *gendarmier*, fr *gendarme*]
- gender** /'jenda/ *n* 1 sex 2a a system of subdivision within a grammatical class of a language (e.g. noun or verb), partly based on sexual characteristics, that determines agreement with and selection of other words or grammatical forms b (membership of) a subclass within such a system [ME *gendre*, fr MF *genre*, *gendre*, fr L *gener-*, *genus* birth, race, kind, gender - more at **KIN**]
- gene** /jeen/ *n* a unit of inheritance that is carried on a chromosome, controls transmission of hereditary characters, and consists of DNA or, in some viruses, RNA [G *gen*, short for *pangen*, fr *pan-* + *-gen*] - **genic** /'jenik/ *adj*, **genically** *adv*
- genealogy** /jeeni'äləji/ *n* 1 (an account of) the descent of a person,

family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms 2 the study of family pedigrees [ME *genealogie*, fr MF, fr LL *genealogia*, fr Gk, fr *genea* race, family + *-logia* -logy; akin to Gk *genos* race] - **genealogist** *n*, **genealogical** /-'ləjɪkl/ *adj*, **genealogically** *adv*

**genera** /'jenərə/ *pl* of **GENUS**

**general** /'jen(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 involving or applicable to the whole 2 of, involving, or applicable to (what is common to) every member of a class, kind, or group 3a applicable to or characteristic of the majority of individuals involved; prevalent b concerned or dealing with universal rather than particular aspects 4 approximate rather than strictly accurate 5 not confined by specialization or careful limitation 6 holding superior rank or taking precedence over others similarly titled <the ~ manager> [ME, fr MF, fr L *generalis*, fr *gener-*, *genus* kind, class - more at **KIN**] - *in general* usually, *FOR THE MOST PART*

**general** *n* 1 the chief of a religious order or congregation 2  RANK

**General A'merican** *n* nonregional American pronunciation

**general assembly** *n*, *often cap G&A* the highest governing body of a religious denomination (e.g. the Presbyterian church)

**General Certificate of Education** *n* a British secondary-school examination taken at 3 levels

**general election** *n* an election in which candidates are elected in all constituencies of a nation or state

**generalissimo** /jen(ə)'rälisimoh/ *n*, *pl* **generalissimos** the supreme commander of several armies acting together or of a nation's armed forces [It, fr *generale* general + *-issimo*, superl suffix]


**generalist** /jen(ə)rälis/ *n* one whose skills, interests, etc. extend to several different fields or activities


**generality** /jen(ə)räliti/ *n* 1 total applicability 2 generalization 3 the greatest part, the bulk

**generalization**, **-isation** /jen(ə)räliz'eizh(ə)n/ *n* 1 generalizing 2 a general statement, law, principle, or proposition (that does not take adequate account of the facts) 3 the occurring of a response to a stimulus similar but not identical to a reference stimulus

**generalize**, **-ise** /jen(ə)räliz/ *vi* 1 to give a general form to 2 to derive or induce (a general conception or principle) from particulars 3 to give general applicability to <~ a law> ~ *vi* to make generalizations or vague or indefinite statements - **generalizable** *adj*, **generalizer** *n*

**generally** /jen(ə)räli/ *adv* 1 without regard to specific instances <~ speaking> 2 usually, *AS A RULE* <he ~ drinks tea> 3 collectively, *AS A WHOLE* <of interest to children ~>

**general of the air force** *n*  RANK

**general of the army** *n*  RANK

**general paralysis of the insane** *n* **GENERAL PARESIS**

**general paresis** *n* the insanity and paralysis caused by tertiary syphilis

**general practitioner** *n* a medical doctor who treats all types of disease and is usually the first doctor consulted by a patient

**generalship** /jen(ə)rälship/ *n* 1 the (tenure of) office of a general 2 military skill in a high commander

**general staff** *n* a group of officers who aid a commander in administration, training, supply, etc

**general strike** *n* a strike in all or many of the industries of a region or country

**general studies** *n pl* school courses designed to give subject specialists some education outside their subject

**general theory of relativity** *n* **RELATIVITY** 2b

**generate** /'jenərayt/ *vt* 1 to bring into existence or originate (e.g. by a life-giving, physical, or chemical process), produce <~ electricity> 2 to define (a linguistic, mathematical, etc. structure (e.g. a curve or surface)) by the application of 1 or more rules or operations to given quantities 3 to be the cause of (a situation, action, or state of mind) [L *generatus*, pp of *generare*, fr *gener-*, *genus* birth - more at **KIN**]

**generation** /jenə'raysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a group of living organisms constituting a single step in the line of descent from an ancestor b a group of individuals born and living at the same time c a group of individuals sharing a usu specified status for a limited period <the next ~ of students> d a type or class of objects usu developed from an earlier type <a new ~ of computers> 2 the average time between the birth of parents and that of their offspring 3a the producing of offspring; procreation b the process of coming or bringing into being <~ of income> <~ of electricity> [ME *generacioun*, fr MF *generation*, fr L *generation*-, *generatio*, fr *generatus*] - **generational** *adj*

**generative** /jen(ə)rätiv/ *adj* having the power or function of generating, originating, producing, reproducing, etc



**generative grammar** *n* 1 an ordered set of rules for producing the grammatical sentences of a language 2 TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR

**generator** /ˈjɛnəˌreɪtə/ *n* 1 an apparatus for producing a vapour or gas 2 DYNAMO 1; also an alternator <sup>3</sup> ENERGY [GENERATE + -OR]

**generic** /ˈjɪnɪk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of or applied to (members of) a whole group or class 2 (having the rank) of a biological genus [F *générique*, fr L *gener-*, *genus* birth, kind, class] – **generically** *adv*

**generous** /ˈjɛn(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 magnanimous, kindly 2 liberal in giving (e.g. of money or help) 3 marked by abundance, ample proportions, or richness [MF or L, MF *generosus*, fr L *generosus*, fr *gener-*, *genus* birth, family] – **generously** *adv*, **generousness** *n*, **generosity** /ˈjɛnəˈrɒsəti/ *n*

**genesis** /ˈjɛnəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **geneses** /-ˈsiːz/ the origin or coming into being of sthg [L, fr Gk, fr *gignesthai* to be born – more at **KIN**]

**Genesis** *n* the first book of the Old Testament [Gk]

**genet** /ˈjɛnɪt/ *n* any of several small Old World flesh-eating mammals related to the civets [ME *genete*, fr MF, fr Ar *jarnayt*]

**genetic** /ˈjɛnɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 of or determined by the origin or development of sthg 2a of or involving genetics **b** *genic* [ˈjɛnɪsɪs] – **genetically** *adv*

**genetic** /-ˈjɛnɪtɪk/ *comb form* (– *adj*) –GENIC 1, 2

(psychogenetic) (spermatogenetic)

**genetic code** *n* the sequence of bases in DNA or RNA strands that forms the biochemical basis of heredity and determines the specific amino acid sequence in proteins

**genetics** *n* *pl but sing in constr* 1 the biology of (the mechanisms and structures involved in) the heredity and variation of organisms 2 the genetic make-up of an organism, type, group, or condition – **geneticist** /-sɪst/ *n*

**Geneva bands** /-ˈnɛvə/ *n pl* two strips of white cloth suspended from the front of the collar of some Protestant clergymen [Geneva, city in Switzerland, fr their use by the Calvinist clergy of Geneva]

**Geneva convention** *n* any of a series of agreements, first made at Geneva, concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and of the sick, wounded, and dead in battle

**Genevan** /ˈjɛnɪv(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (of Calvinism or) a Calvinist

**genial** /ˈjɛniəl, nɪəl/ *adj* 1 favourable to growth or comfort; mild (< sunshine) 2 cheerfully good-tempered, kindly [L *genialis*, fr *genius*] – **genially** *adv*, **genialness** *n*, **geniality** /-nɪˈæləti/ *n*

**genial** /ˈjɛnɪəl/ *adj* of the chin [Gk *geneion* chin, fr *genys* jaw – more at **CHIN**]

**genic** /-ˈjɛnɪk/ *comb form* (– *adj*) 1 producing, forming (<erogenic) 2 produced by, formed from (<phyogenic) 3 well-suited to production or reproduction by (a specified medium) (<photogenic) (<telegenic) [ISV -gen & -geny + -ic]

**genie** /ˈjɛni/ *n*, *pl* **genies** also **genii** /-ˈniː/ a jinn [F *génie*, fr Ar *jinnīy*]

**genital** /ˈjɛnɪtəl/ *adj* 1 of or being the genitalia or another sexual organ 2 of or characterized by the final stage of sexual development in which oral and anal impulses are replaced by gratification obtained from (sexual) relationships – compare **ANAL**, **ORAL** [ME, fr L *genitalis*, fr *genitus*, pp of *gignere* to beget – more at **KIN**] – **genitally** *adv*

**genitalia** /ˈjɛnɪˈtɑːli-ə, -li-ə/ *n pl* the (external) reproductive and sexual organs [L, fr neut *pl* of *genitalis*]

**genitals** /ˈjɛnɪtɪz/ *n pl* the genitalia

**genitive** /ˈjɛnɪtɪv/ *adj* or *n* (of or in) a grammatical case expressing typically a relationship of possessor or source, also sthg in this case – compare **POSSESSIVE** [adj ME, fr L *genetivus*, *genitivus*, lit. of birth, fr *genitus*; *n* fr *adj*] – **genitival** /-ˈtɪvəl/ *adj*, **genitively** *adv*

**genito-** /ˈjɛnɪtoh-/ *comb form* *genital* and (<genitourinary) [ˈjɛnɪtəl]

**genito/urinary** /-ˈjɒʊərɪn(ə)ri/ *adj* of the (functions of the) genital and urinary organs

**genius** /ˈjɛniəs, -niəs/ *n*, *pl* (1a) **genii** /-ˈniː/, (1b & 3) **genii** also **geniuses**, (4) **geniuses** also **genii** 1a an attendant spirit of a person or place **b** one who influences another for good or bad 2a a peculiar, distinctive, or identifying character or spirit (<optimism was the ~ of the Victorian era>) **b** the associations and traditions of a place 3 a spirit or jinn 4a a single strongly marked capacity or aptitude (<had a ~ for teaching maths>) **b** (a person endowed with) extraordinary intellectual power (as manifested in creative activity) [L, tutelary spirit, fondness for social enjoyment, fr *gignere* to beget]

**genius loci** /ˈlɒhstɪ-ə, n/ *pl* **genii loci** /ˈjɛniː/ the pervading spirit of a place [L]

**geno-** – see **GEN-**

**genoa** /ˈjɛnoh-ə/ *n* a large jib which partly overlaps a ship's mainsail [Genoa, city in Italy]

**genocide** /ˈjɛnəˌsɪd/ *n* the deliberate murder of a racial or cultural group [ˈjɛn- + -cide] – **genocidal** /-ˈsɪdəl/ *adj*

**genome** /ˈjɛnəˌnohm/ *n* a single set of an organism's chromosomes with the genes they contain [G *genom*, fr *gen-* <sup>2</sup>gen- + *chromosom* chromosome] – **genomic** /ˈjɛnəˌnɒmɪk/ *adj*

**genotype** /ˈjɛnəˌtɪp/ *n* the genetic constitution of an individual or group – compare **PHENOTYPE** – **genotypic** /-ˈtɪpɪk/ also **genotypical** *adj*, **genotypically** *adv*

**-genous** /-ˈjɛnəs/ *comb form* (– *adj*) 1 producing; yielding (<alkaligenous>) 2 produced by, originating in (<endogenous>) [ˈgen + -ous]

**genre** /ˈzhɒnh-rə (Fr ʒɑːr)/ *n* 1 a sort, type 2 a category of artistic, musical, or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content [F, fr MF *genre* kind, gender – more at **GENDER**]

**gens** /ˈjɛnz/ *n*, *pl* **gentes** /ˈjɛntɛz/ a clan formed through the male line of descent [L *gent-*, *gens* – more at **GENTILE**]

**gent** /jɛnt/ *n* a gentleman – nonstandard or humor

**gentamicin** /ˈjɛntəˌmɛsɪn/ *n* a broad-spectrum antibiotic used esp to treat serious infections [alter of earlier *gentamycin*, fr *genta-* (prob irreg fr *gentian* violet; fr the colour of the organism from which it is produced) + -mycin]

**genteel** /ˈjɛntiːl/ *adj* 1a of or appropriate to (the status or manners of) the gentry or upper class **b** free from vulgarity or rudeness, polite 2a maintaining or striving to maintain the appearance of superior social status or respectability **b** marked by false delicacy, prudery, or affectation [MF *gentil* gentle] – **genteelly** *adv*, **genteelness** *n*

**gentelism** /ˈjɛntiːlɪz(ə)m/ *n* a word believed by its user to be more genteel than another (e.g. *stomach* for *belly*)

**gentian** /ˈjɛnsh(ə)n/ *n* any of several related esp mountain plants with showy usu blue flowers [ME *gentian*, fr MF *gentiane*, fr L *gentiana*, perh fr *Genius*, 2nd-c BC Illyrian king said to have discovered its virtues]

**gentian violet** *n*, often *cap* *G&V* a violet dye used as a biological stain and as a skin disinfectant in the treatment of boils, ulcers, etc

**gentile** /ˈjɛntiːl/ *adj* or *n*, often *cap* (of) a non-Jewish person [ME, fr LL *gentilis*, fr L *gent-*, *gens* nation]

**gentility** /ˈjɛntɪləti/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl in constr* the members of the upper class 2a genteel attitudes, behaviour, or activity **b** superior social status or prestige indicated by manners, possessions, etc [ME *gentilite*, fr MF *gentileté*, fr L *gentilitat-*, *gentilitas* state of belonging to the same clan, fr *gentilis*]

**gentle** /ˈjɛntl/ *adj* 1a honourable, distinguished, specif of or belonging to a gentleman (<of ~ birth>) **b** kind, amiable (<bear with me, ~ reader>) 2 free from harshness, sternness, or violence, mild, soft, also tractable 3 MODERATE 1, 2a [ME *gentil*, fr OF, fr L *gentilis* of a clan, of the same clan, fr *gent-*, *gens* clan, nation, akin to L *gignere* to beget – more at **KIN**] – **gentleness** *n*, **gently** /ˈjɛntli/ *adv*

**gentle** *n* a maggot, esp when used as bait for fish [ˈjɛntle (soft)]

**gentle** *vt* to make mild, docile, soft, or moderate

**gentle breeze** *n* wind having a speed of 12 to 19 km/h (8 to 12 mph)

**gentlefolk** /-ˈfohk/ also **gentlefolks** *n pl* people of good family and breeding

**gentleman** /ˈjɛntlmən/ *n*, *pl* **gentlemen** /~/ 1a a man belonging to the landed gentry or nobility **b** a man who is chivalrous, well-mannered, and honourable (and of good birth or rank) **c** a man of independent wealth who does not work for gain 2 a valet – usu in *gentleman's gentleman* 3 a man of any social class or condition (<ladies and gentlemen>) – often as a courteous reference (<show this ~ to a seat>) – **gentlemanlike** *adj*

**gentleman-at-arms** *n*, *pl* **gentlemen-at-arms** any of a bodyguard of 40 gentlemen who attend the British sovereign on state occasions

**gentlemanly** /-li/ *adj* characteristic of or having the character of a gentleman – **gentlemanliness** *n*

**gentleman's agreement** *n* gentlemen's agreement *n* an unwritten agreement secured only by the honour of the participants

**gentle sex** *n* the female sex

**gentlewoman** *n*, *pl* **gentlewomen** /-ˈwɪmɪn/ 1a a woman of noble or gentle birth **b** a woman attendant on a lady of rank 2 a lady

**gentry** /ˈjɛntri/ *n*, *sing* or *pl in constr* 1 the upper class 2 a class whose members are (landed proprietors) entitled to bear a coat of arms though not of noble rank [ME *gentric*, alter. of *gentrice*, fr OF *gentense*, *gentilise*, fr *gentil* gentle]

**gents** /ˈjɛnts/ *n*, *pl* **gents** often *cap*, *Br* a public lavatory for men – chiefly infml [short for *gentlemen*']

**genuflect** /ˈjɛnyooˌflekt/ *vi* to bend the knee, esp in worship or as a gesture of respect (to sacred objects) [LL *genuflectere*, fr L *genu* knee + *flectere* to bend – more at **KNEE**] – **genuflector** *n*, **genuflection**, **genuflexion** /-ˈflekʃj(ə)n/ *n*

**genuine** /ˈjɛnjuːn/ *adj* 1 actually produced by or proceeding from the alleged source or author or having the reputed qualities or character (<the signature is ~> <this is a ~ antique>) 2 free from pretence; sincere [L *genuinus* native, genuine, akin to L *gignere* to beget – more at KIN] – **genuinely** *adv*, **genuineness** *n*

**genus** /ˈjɛnəs/ *n*, *pl* **genera** /ˈjɛnərə/ 1 a category in the classification of living things ranking between the family and the species 2 a class divided into several subordinate classes [L *gener-*, *genus* birth, race, kind – more at KIN]

**geny** /-jɒni/ *comb form* (→ *n*) origin; development; mode of production of (<biogeny> <ontogeny>) [Gk *-genesis* act of being born, fr *-genes* born – more at -GEN]

**geo-** – see OE-

**geocentric** /ˈjɛəhˈsɛntrɪk/ *adj* 1 measured from or observed as if from the earth's centre 2 having or relating to the earth as centre – compare **HELIOCENTRIC** – **geocentrically** *adv*

**geochronology** /-krəˈnɒlədʒi/ *n* the chronology of the past as indicated by geological data – **geochronologic** /-krəˈnɒləˈdʒɪk/, **geochronological** *adj*, **geochronologically** *adv*, **geochronologist** /-krəˈnɒlədʒɪst/ *n*

**geode** /ˈjɛə, oʊd/ *n* (a rounded stone having) a cavity lined with crystals or mineral matter [L *geodes*, a gem, fr Gk *geodēs* earthlike, fr *gē* earth] – **geodic** /ˈjɒdɪk/ *adj*

**geodesic** /-ˈdɛsɪk, -ˈdɛsɪk/ *adj* 1 geodetic 2 made of light straight structural elements mostly in tension (<a ~ dome>)

**geodesic** *n* the shortest line on a given surface between 2 points

**geodesy** /ˈjɒdɪsi/ *n* a branch of applied mathematics that determines the exact positions of points and the shape and area of (large portions of) the earth's surface [Gk *geodaisia*, fr *geo-* + *daisthai* to divide – more at TIDE] – **geodesist** *n*, **geodetic** /ˈjɛəhˈdɛtɪk/ *adj*, **geodetically** *adv*

**geography** /ˈjɒɡrəfi/ *n* 1 a science that deals with the earth and its life; esp the description of land, sea, air, and the distribution of plant and animal life including human beings and their industries 2 the geographical features of an area [L *geographia*, fr Gk *geōgraphia*, fr *geographēin* to describe the earth's surface, fr *geō-* + *graphein* to write – more at CARVE] – **geographer** *n*, **geographic** /ˈjɛə-əˈɡræfɪk/, **geographical** *adj*, **geographically** *adv*

**geoid** /ˈjɛəɔɪd/ *n* (the shape of) the surface that the earth would have if all parts of the earth had the same height as the mean sea level of the oceans [G, fr Gk *geoidēs* earthlike, fr *gē*] – **geoidal** /-ɔɪdɪl/ *adj*

**geological time** /ˈjɛə-əˈlɒjɪkəl/ *n* the time occupied by the earth's geological history

**geology** /ˈjɒlədʒi/ *n* 1a a science that deals with the history of the earth's crust, esp as recorded in rocks b a study of the solid matter of a celestial body (e.g. the moon) 2 the geological features of an area [NL *geologia*, fr *ge-* + *-logia* -logy] – **geologist** *n*, **geologize** *vi*, **geological** /ˈjɛə-əˈlɒjɪkəl/, **geologic** *adj*, **geologically** *adv*

**geomagnetic** /ˈjɛəhmagˈnetɪk/ *adj* of the earth's magnetism – **geomagnetically** *adv*, **geomagnetism** /-ˈmagnɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **geomagnetist** /-ˈmagnɪtɪst/ *n*

**geometer** /ˈjɒmɪtə/ *n* 1 a specialist in geometry 2 a geometrid

**geometric** /ˈjɒmɪˈtrɪk/, **geometrical** /-kl/ *adj* 1a of or according to (the laws of) geometry b increasing in a geometric progression (< ~ population growth>) 2a cap of or being (a style of) ancient Greek pottery decorated with geometric patterns b using, being, or decorated with patterns formed from straight and curved lines – **geometrically** *adv*

**geometric mean** *n* the *n*th root of the product of *n* numbers (e.g. the square root of 2 numbers) (<the ~ of 9 and 4 is 6>)

**geometric progression** *n* a sequence (e.g. 1, 1/2, 1/4) in which the ratio of any term to its predecessor is constant

**geometrid** /ˈjɒmɪtrɪd/ *n* any of a family of moths with large wings and larvae that are inchworms [deriv of Gk *geōmetrēs* geometer, fr *geōmetrein*] – **geometrid** *adj*

**geometry** /ˈjɒmətri/ *n* 1a a branch of mathematics that deals with the measurement, properties, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids b a particular type or system of geometry 2 (surface) shape 3 an arrangement of objects or parts that suggests geometrical figures [ME *geometrie*, fr MF, fr L *geometria*, fr Gk *geōmetria*, fr *geōmetrein* to measure the earth, fr *geō-* + *metron* measure – more at MEASURE]

**geomorphic** /ˈjɛəhˈmɔːfɪk/ *adj* of or concerned with the form or solid surface features of the earth, moon, etc

**geomorphology** /-mɔːˈfɒlədʒi/ *n* (the geology of) the structure and formation of the features of the surface of the earth or other celestial body [ISV] – **geomorphologist** *n*, **geomorphologic** /-mɔːfɒˈlɒjɪk/, **geomorphological** *adj*, **geomorphologically** *adv*,

**geophysics** /ˈfɪzɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the physics of the earth including meteorology, oceanography, seismology, etc [ISV] – **geophysical** *adj*, **geophysically** *adv*, **geophysicist** *n*

**geopolitics** /-ˈpɒlɪtɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* the study of the influence of geography, economics, and demography on politics – **geopolitical** *adj*, **geopolitically** *adv*

**Geordie** /ˈjɔːdɪ/ *n* (the dialect of) a native or inhabitant of Tyneside [Sc *Geordie*, nickname for *George*] – **Geordie** *adj*

**georgette** /ˈjɔːʒet/ *n* a thin strong clothing crepe of silk or of other material with a dull pebbly surface [fr *Georgette*, a trademark]

**Georgian** /ˈjɔːʒ(ə)n/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant or the language) of Georgia in the Caucasus → LANGUAGE

**Georgian** *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Georgia in the USA

**Georgian** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of (the time of) the reigns of the first 4 Georges (1714 to 1830) 2 (characteristic) of the reign of George V (1910 to 1936) – **Georgian** *n*

**georgic** /ˈjɔːʒɪk/ *n* a poem dealing with agriculture [the *Georgics*, poem by Virgil †19 BC Roman poet, fr L *Georgica*, fr Gk *georgika* lands under cultivation]

**geostationary** /ˈjɛəhˈstəʃən(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of or being an artificial satellite that travels above the equator at the same speed as the earth rotates, so remaining above the same place

**geostrophic** /-ˈstrɒfɪk/ *adj* of or caused by the rotation of the earth (< ~ wind>) [ge- + Gk *strophikos* turned, fr *strophe* turning – more at STROPHE] – **geostrophically** *adv*

**geosynchronous** /-ˈsɪŋkrɒnəs/ *adj* geostationary

**geotaxis** /-ˈtæksɪs/ *n* a response of a cell or organism to the force of gravity [NL, fr *ge-* + *-taxis*] – **geotactic** /-ˈtæktɪk/ *adj*

**geothermal** /-ˈθuːhml/, **geothermic** /-ˈθuːhmɪk/ *adj* of the heat of the earth's interior → ENERGY [ISV *ge-* + *thermal*] – **geothermally** *adv*

**geotropism** /ˈjɛə-əˈtrɒpɪz(ə)m/ *n* tropism (e.g. in the downward growth of roots) in which gravity is the orienting factor [ISV *ge-* + *-tropism*] – **geotropic** /-ˈtrɒpɪk/ *adj*, **geotropically** *adv*

**geranium** /ˈjɛəˈræniəm, -ˈniːəm/ *n* 1 any of a widely distributed genus of plants having radially symmetrical flowers with glands that alternate with the petals 2 a pelargonium [NL, genus name, fr L, *geranium*, fr Gk *geranon*, fr *dim* of *geranos* crane – more at CRANE]

**gerbil** also **gerbille** /ˈjɜːbɪl/ *n* any of numerous Old World mouse-like desert rodents with long hind legs adapted for leaping [F *gerbille*, fr NL *Gerbillus*, genus name, *dim* of *jerboa*]

**gerfalcon** /ˈjɜːfɔːlkwɒn, -ˈfɔːlkwɒn/ *n* a gyrfalcon

**geriatric** /ˈjɛəˈtrɪk/ *adj* 1 of geriatrics, the aged, or the process of aging 2 aged, decrepit – *derog* [Gk *geras* old age + E *-iatric*] – **geriatric** *n*

**geriatrics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a branch of medicine that deals with (the diseases of) old age – **geriatrician** /-əˈtrɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**germ** /ˈjɜːm/ *n* 1a a small mass of cells capable of developing into (a part of) an organism b the embryo of a cereal grain that is usu separated from the starchy endosperm during milling 2 sth that serves as an origin 3 a (disease-causing) microorganism [F *germe*, fr L *germin-*, *germen*, fr *gignere* to beget – more at KIN] – **germproof** *adj*, **germy** *adj*

**german** /ˈjɜːmən/ *adj* having the same parents, or the same grandparents, on either the maternal or paternal side – *usu* in *comb* (<brother-german> <cousin-german>) [ME *germain*, fr MF, fr L *germanus* having the same parents, irreg fr *germen*]

**German** *n* 1a a native or inhabitant of Germany b one (e.g. a Swiss German) who speaks German as his/her native language outside Germany 2 the Germanic language of the people of Germany, Austria, and parts of Switzerland → LANGUAGE [ML *Germanus*, fr L, any member of the Germanic peoples]

**German** *adj* (characteristic) of Germany, the Germans, or German


**germander** /ˈjɜːmɒndə/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the mint family 2 any of several (blue-flowered) speedwells [ME *germaunder*, fr MF *germandree*, fr ML *germandrea*, alter. of L *chamaedrys*, fr Gk *chamaedrys*, fr *chamai* on the ground + *drys* oak, tree – more at HUMBLE TREE]

**germane** /ˈjɜːmən/ *adj* both relevant and appropriate [var of *german*] – **germanely** *adv*

**Germanic** /ˈjɜːmənɪk/ *adj* 1 German 2 (characteristic) of the Germanic-speaking peoples 3 of Germanic

**Germanic** *n* a branch of the Indo-European language family containing English, German, Dutch, Afrikaans, Flemish, Frisian, the Scandinavian languages, and Gothic

**Germanist** /ˈjɜːmənɪst/ *n* a specialist in German or Germanic language, literature, or culture

**germanium** /juh'maynyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a greyish-white metalloid element that resembles silicon and is used as a semiconductor  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr ML *Germania* Germany]

**German measles** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a virus disease that is milder than typical measles but is damaging to the foetus when occurring early in pregnancy

**Germano-** /juh'manoh-/ *comb form* 1 German nation, people, or culture <Germanophile> 2 German and <Germano-Russian>

**German shepherd** *n*, chiefly *NAM* an Alsatian

**German silver** *n* NICKEL SILVER

**germ cell** *n* (a cell from which is derived) an egg or sperm cell

**germicide** /juhm'sied-/ *n* sth that kills germs - **germicideal** /-'siedl/ *adj*, **germically** *adv*

**germinal** /juhm'ni-/ *adj* 1a in the earliest stage of development **b** creative, seminal 2 (having the characteristics) of a germ cell or early embryo [F, fr L *germin-*, *germen* - more at GERM] - **germinally** /-nəli/ *adv*

**Germinal** /zhə'minəl/ (*Fr* *germinal*) / *n* the 7th month of the French Revolutionary calendar corresponding to 22 March–20 April

**germinal vesicle** *n* the enlarged nucleus of the egg before completion of its meiotic cell division

**germinate** /juhm'nayt/ *vt* to cause to sprout or develop ~ *vi* 1 to begin to grow, sprout 2 to come into being [L *germinatus*, pp of *germinare* to sprout, fr *germin-*, *germen* bud, germ] - **germinative** /-nətiv/ *adj*, **germination** /-'naysh(ə)n/ *n*

**germ layer** *n* any of the 3 primary layers of cells, endoderm, ectoderm, or mesoderm, differentiated early in the development of most embryos

**germ plasm** *n* the hereditary material of the germ cells; the genes **geront-** /jəron't-/ *geronto-* *comb form* old person, old age <gerontology> <gerontocracy> [F *geront-*, *geronto-*, fr Gk *geront-*, *geronto-*, fr *geront-*, *geron* old man, akin to Gk *geras* old age]

**gerontocracy** /jəron'tokrəsi/ *n* rule by old men [F *gerontocratie*, fr *geront-* *geront-* + *-cratie* -cracy] - **gerontocrat** /jə'rontəkrət/ *n*, **gerontocratic** /-'kratik/ *adj*

**gerontology** /jəron'təlojə/ *n* the biology and medicine of aging and the problems of the aged [ISV] **gerontologist** *n*, **gerontological** /jəron'təlojɪkəl/ *adj*, **gerontologic** *adj*

**-gerous** /-jəras/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) bearing, producing <dentigerous> [L *-ger*, fr *gerere* to bear - more at CAST]

**gerrymander** /jəri'manda/ *n* (a pattern of districts resulting from) gerrymandering [Elbridge Gerry †1814 US statesman + *salamander*, fr the shape of an election district formed during Gerry's governorship of Massachusetts]

**gerrymander** *vt* to divide (an area) into election districts to give one political party an electoral advantage - **gerrymandering** *n*

**gerund** /jə'rənd/ *n* a verbal noun in Latin that expresses generalized or uncompleted action [LL *gerundum*, fr L *gerundus*, gerundive of *gerere* to bear, carry on - more at CAST]

**gerundive** /jə'rəndiv/ *adj* or *n* (of or like) the Latin future passive participle that expresses the desirability or necessity of an action and has the same suffix as the gerund - **gerundively** *adv*, **gerundival** /jə'rən'diəvəl/ *adj*

**gerundive** *adj* of or similar to the gerund

**gesellschaft** /gə'zəl,shəft/ *n* a social relationship or society characterized by mechanistic associations based on division of labour, utility, and self-interest - compare GEMEINSCHAFT [G, companionship, society, fr *gesell* companion + *-schaft* -ship]

**gesso** /jesoh/ *n*, *pl* **gessos** 1 plaster of paris or gypsum mixed with glue for use in painting or making bas-reliefs 2 a paste used as a basis for painting or gilding on wood or occas canvas [It, lit, *gypsum*, fr L *gypsum*]

**gest**, **geste** /jest/ *n* a tale of adventures, esp a romance in verse [ME *geste* - more at JEST]

**gestalt** /gə'stalt/ *n*, *pl* **gestalten** /-tn/, **gestalts** a structure, pattern, etc (e.g. a melody) that as an object of perception constitutes a functional unit with properties not derivable from the sum of its parts [G, lit., shape, form]

**Gestalt psychology** *n* the study of perception and behaviour using the theory that perceptions, reactions, etc are *gestalts*

**gestapo** /gə's(h)təpoh/ *n*, *pl* **gestapos** a secret-police organization operating esp against suspected traitors; *specif*, *cap* that of Nazi Germany [G, fr *Geheime Staatspolizei* secret state police]

**gestate** /jestayt/ *vt* to carry in gestation ~ *vi* to be in the process of gestation [back-formation fr *gestation*]

**gestation** /jestə'sh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the carrying of young in the uterus,

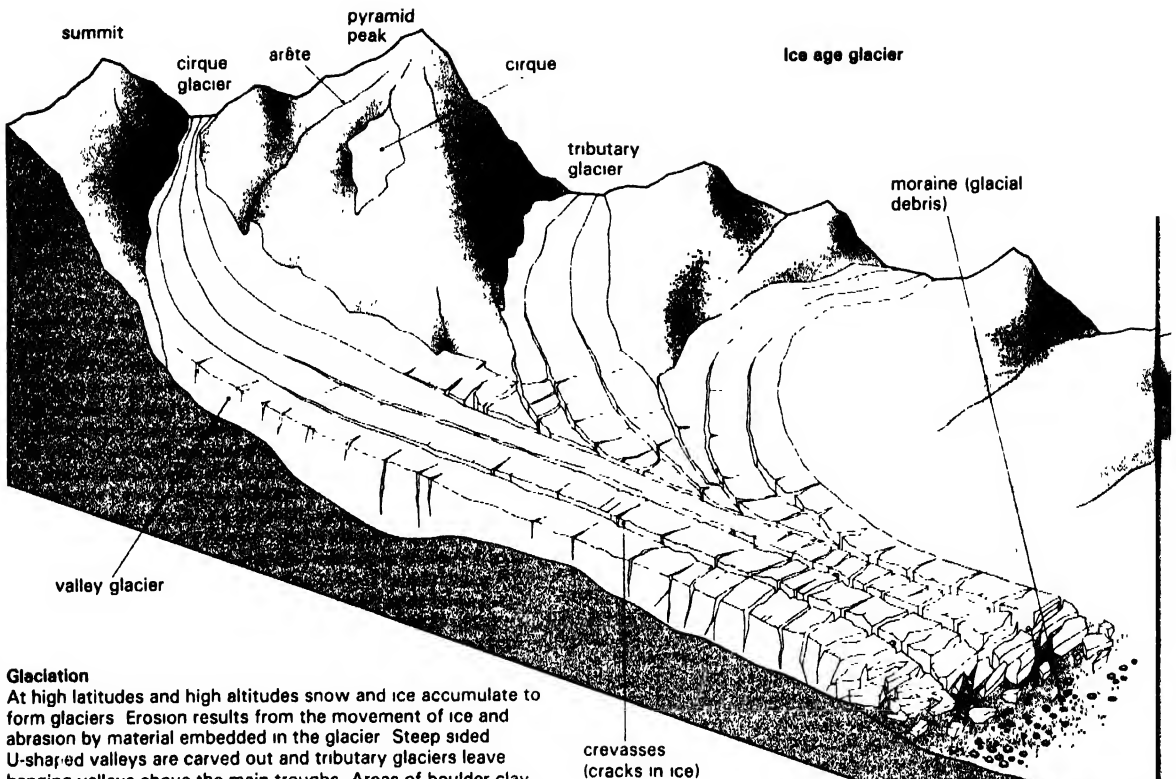
pregnancy 2 conception and development, esp in the mind [L *gestation-*, *gestatio*, fr *gestatus*, pp of *gestare* to bear, fr *gestus*, pp of *gerere* to bear] - **gestational** *adj*

**gesticulate** /jes'tikyooley/ *vi* to make expressive gestures, esp when speaking <~ d to the waiter for the bill - Rebecca West> [L *gesticulatus*, pp of *gesticulari*, fr (assumed) L *gesticulus*, dim of L *gestus*] - **gesticulator** *n*, **gesticulative** /-lətiv/ *adj*, **gesticulatory** /-lətrɪ/ *adj*, **gesticulation** /-'ləysh(ə)n/ *n*

**gesture** /jescha/ *n* 1a a movement, usu of the body or limbs, that expresses or emphasizes an idea, sentiment, or attitude **b** the use of gestures 2 sthg said or done for its effect on the attitudes of others or to convey a feeling (e.g. friendliness) [ML *gestura* mode of action, fr L *gestus*, pp] - **gestural** *adj*

**gesture** *vb* to make or express (by) a gesture

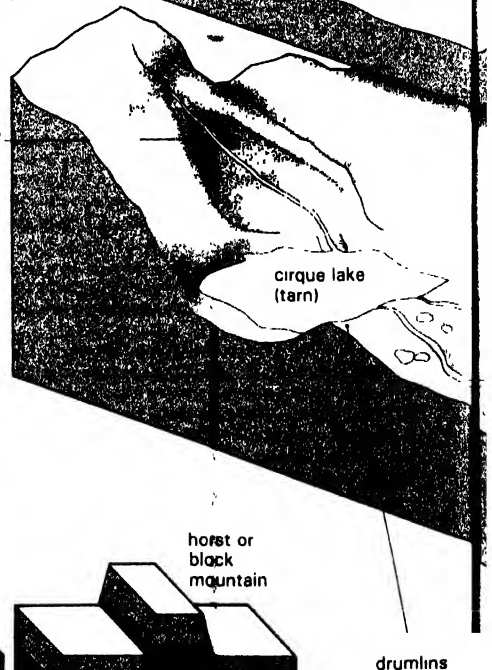
**'get** /get/ *vb* -tt-; *got*; *got* /got/, *NAM* also *gotten* /'gotn/; *nonstandard pres pl* & 1 & 2 *sing* *got vt* 1 to gain possession of e.g. **a** to obtain by way of benefit or advantage <~ the better of an enemy> <got little for his trouble> **b** to obtain by concession or entreaty <~ your mother's permission to go> **c** to seek out and fetch or provide <~ blackberries in the wood> <~ you a present> **d** to acquire by memorizing or calculation <~ the verse by heart> <~ the answer to a problem> **e** to seize **2a** to receive as a return, earn <he got a bad reputation for carelessness> **b** to become affected by, catch <got measles from his sister> **c** to be subjected to <~ the sack> **3** to beget **4a** to cause to come, go, or move <quickly ~ his luggage through customs> <grumbling won't ~ you anywhere> **b** to bring into a specified condition by direct action <~ my shoes mended> <let me ~ this clear> **c** to prevail on, induce <~ the Russians to give an English broadcast - SEU S> **5** to make ready, prepare <~ dinner> **6a** to overcome <I'll ~ him on that point> **b** to take vengeance on, *specif* to kill <out to ~ his man> **7a** to have - used in the present perfect tense form with present meaning <I've got no money> **b** to have as an obligation or necessity - used in the present perfect tense form with present meaning, + *to* and an understood or expressed infinitive <he has got to come> <I won't if I haven't got to> **8a** to hear <I didn't quite ~ that for the noise> **b** to establish communication with <~ her on the telephone> **9a** to puzzle <you've really got me there> **b** to irritate <his superior attitude really ~s me> **10** to hit <~ him on the ear with a potato> **11** to understand <don't ~ me wrong> **12** to affect emotionally <the sight of her tears got him> ~ *vi* 1 to reach or enter into the specified condition or activity <~ drunk> <food's ~ting cold> <~ moving> <you're ~ting a big girl now> <they got married last week> - used as a verbal auxiliary instead of *be* to form the passive <wouldn't take the slightest risk of ~ting trapped inside - SEU W> **2a** to reach, arrive <where's my pen got to?> **b** to succeed in coming or going <~ into my jeans> <at last we're ~ting somewhere> <~ to sleep after midnight> **c** to contrive by effort, luck, or permission - + *to* and an infinitive <when you ~ to know him> <she never ~s to drive the car> **USE** (*vt* 9a, 9b, 10, 11, & 12) *infrm* [ME *geten*, fr ON *geta* to get, beget, akin to OE *bigetan* to beget, L *prehendere* to seize, grasp, Gk *chandanem* to hold, contain] - **get ahead** to achieve success <determined to get ahead in life> - **get a move on** to hurry up - **get at** 1 to reach effectively <get at the truth> 2 to influence corruptly, bribe 3 to nag, tease 4 to mean, imply <what's he getting at?> - **get away with** to do (a reprehensible act) without criticism or penalty - **get cracking/weaving** to make a start, get going <ought to get cracking on the washing up> - *infrm* - **get even with** to repay in kind; revenge oneself on - **get into** to possess, dominate <what's got into you?> - **get it** CATCH IT - **get off one's bike** Austr to become annoyed - *infrm* - **get one's eye in** chiefly Br to get into practice; *specif* to gain ability to judge the speed and direction of a moving ball - **get one's goat** to make one angry or annoyed - *infrm* - **get one's own back** to revenge oneself - **get on one's high horse** to adopt an unyielding and usu arrogant attitude - **get outside** to eat (sthg) - *infrm* - **get over** 1 to overcome, surmount 2 to recover from 3 to accept calmly <can't get over your beard> - **get rid of** to rid oneself of, disencumber oneself of by eliminating, dismissing, or clearing away - **get round** 1 to circumvent, evade 2 to cajole, persuade - **get the better of** to overcome - **get there** 1 to be successful 2 to understand what is meant - **get the wind up** to become frightened - *infrm* - **get the wrong end of the stick** to misunderstand sthg - **get through** 1 to reach the end of; complete **2a** USE UP 1 <got through a lot of money> **b** WHILE AWAY <hardly knew how to get through his days> - **get under one's skin** to cause one persistent and often troublesome irritation, stimulation, or excitement - **get up someone's nose** to irritate sby intensely - *infrm* - **get wind of** to become aware of



### Glaciation

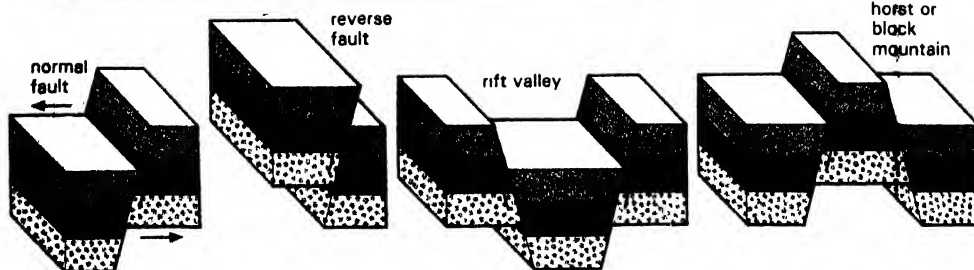
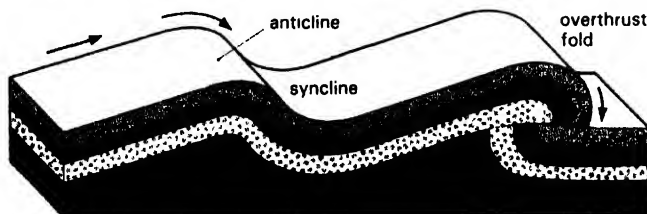
At high latitudes and high altitudes snow and ice accumulate to form glaciers. Erosion results from the movement of ice and abrasion by material embedded in the glacier. Steep sided U-shaped valleys are carved out and tributary glaciers leave hanging valleys above the main troughs. Areas of boulder clay are shifted and moulded to form groups of low, gently sloping hills known as drumlins. When ice stops moving and melts, depositional forms occur: stones and clay falling onto glaciers from valley sides are left as moraines; rivers flowing under glaciers deposit gravel and sand as eskers; and large boulders are deposited far from their origin as erratics.

U-shaped valley

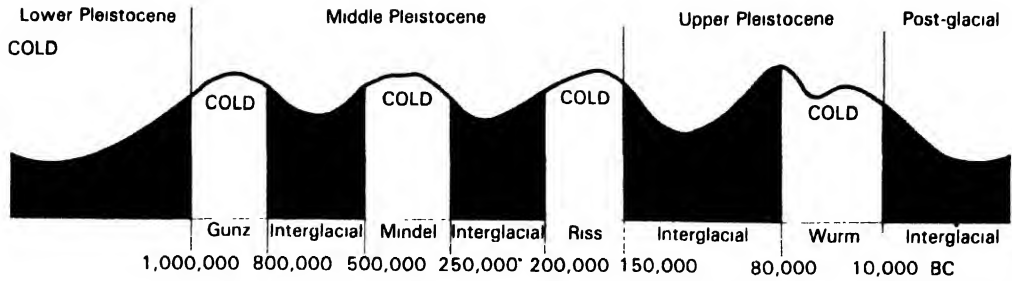


### Folds and faults

Mountainous areas are created by pressures in the earth's crust causing folding of the strata (layers of rock). Other variations in height of the land are caused by faulting, where the rock moves up or down in relation to the fault line.

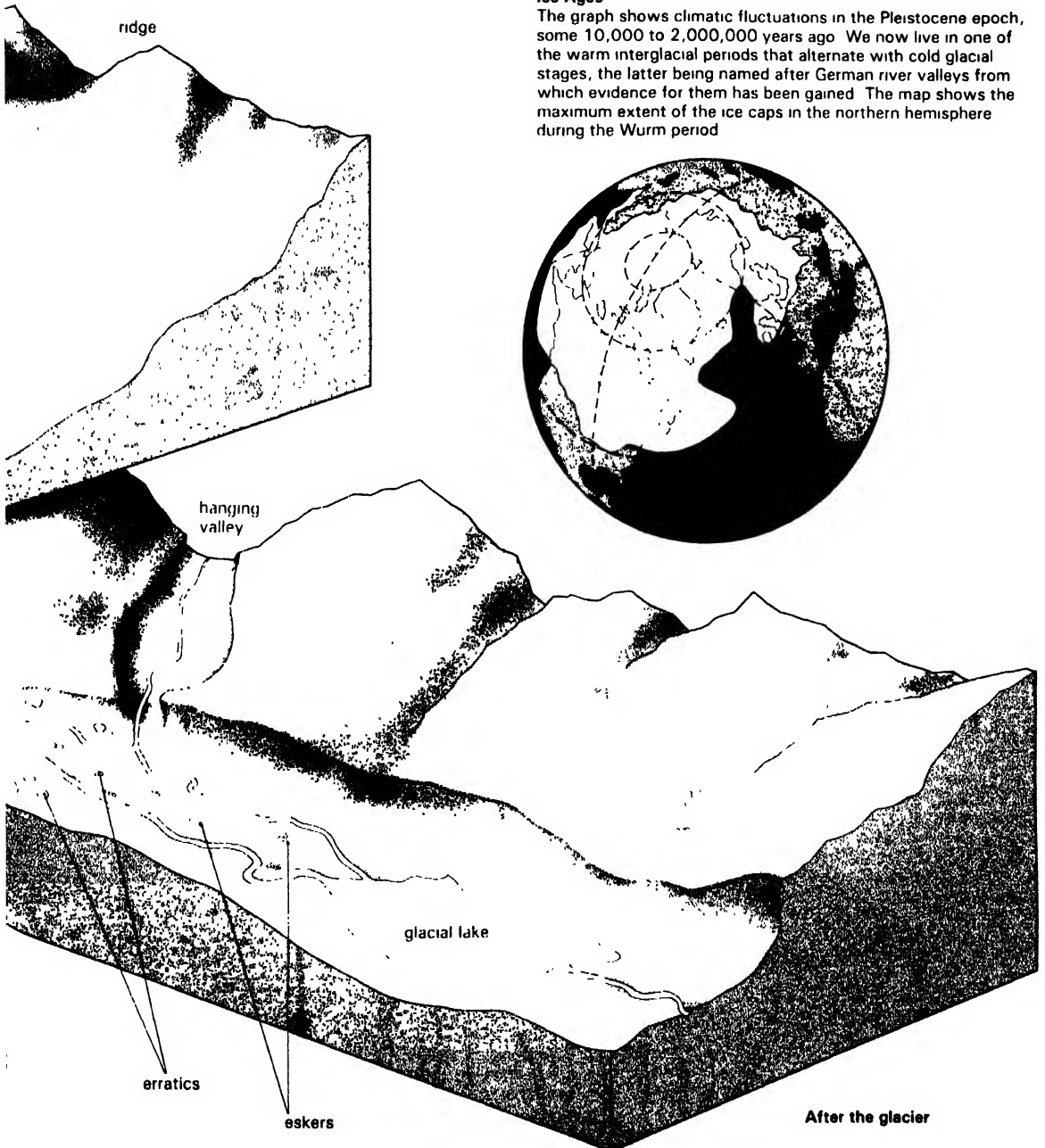


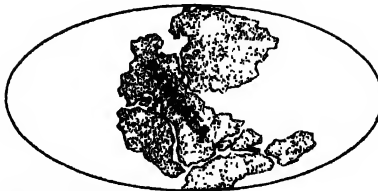
drumlins



### Ice Ages

The graph shows climatic fluctuations in the Pleistocene epoch, some 10,000 to 2,000,000 years ago. We now live in one of the warm interglacial periods that alternate with cold glacial stages, the latter being named after German river valleys from which evidence for them has been gained. The map shows the maximum extent of the ice caps in the northern hemisphere during the Wurm period.





200 million years ago



180 million years ago

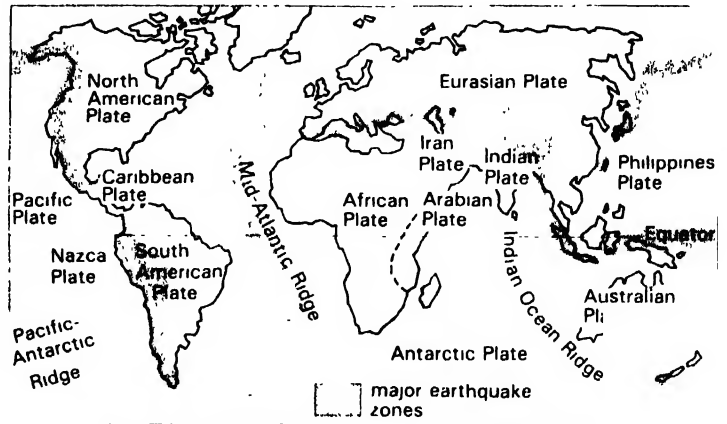


65 million years ago

### Continental drift

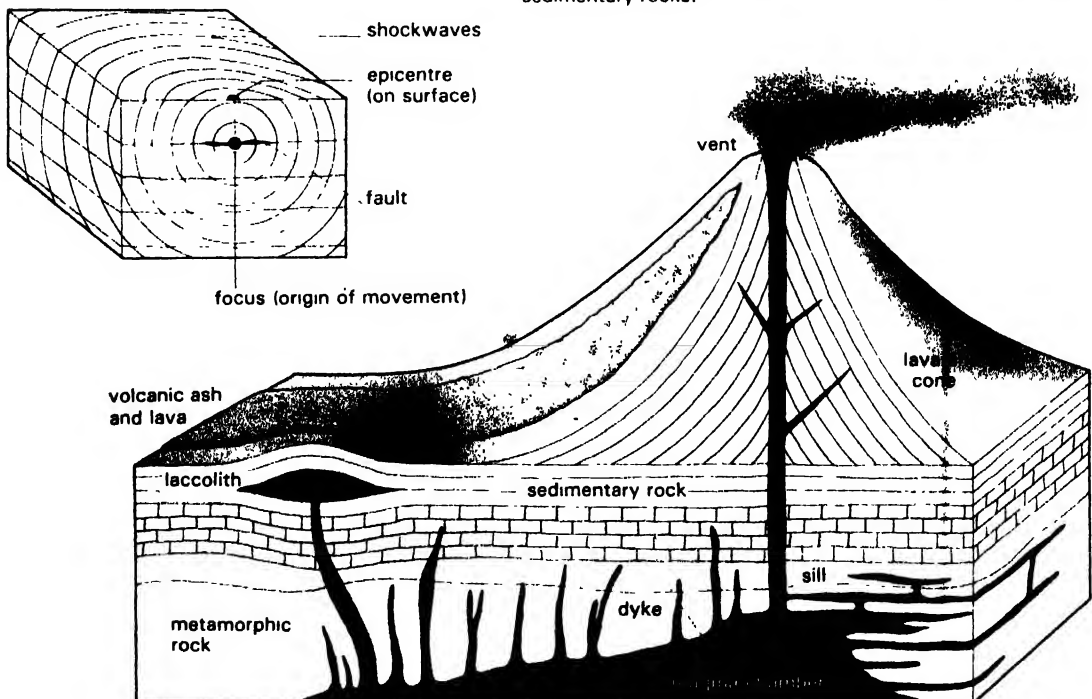
Continents, which are composed of rigid rock plates, glide slowly over the semi-molten mantle beneath the earth's crust. Geologists can work backwards from the present positions of the continents to suggest their positions in past geological eras.

Intense stress set up in the earth's crust by continental drift results in earthquakes as movement occurs along fault planes. The Himalaya range is thought to have been thrown up by the pressure of the Indian plate sliding beneath the Eurasian plate. Along the Pacific coast of North America two plates are sliding past each other, causing earthquakes as the stress builds up at an obstruction and is suddenly released. Seismologists can determine the location, or epicentre, of an earthquake by analyzing the shockwaves it emits, recorded at a number of seismic stations.

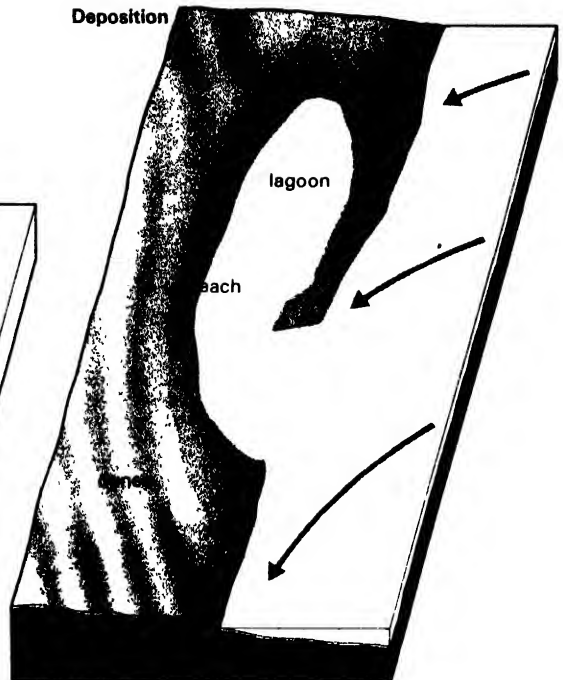


### Volcanoes

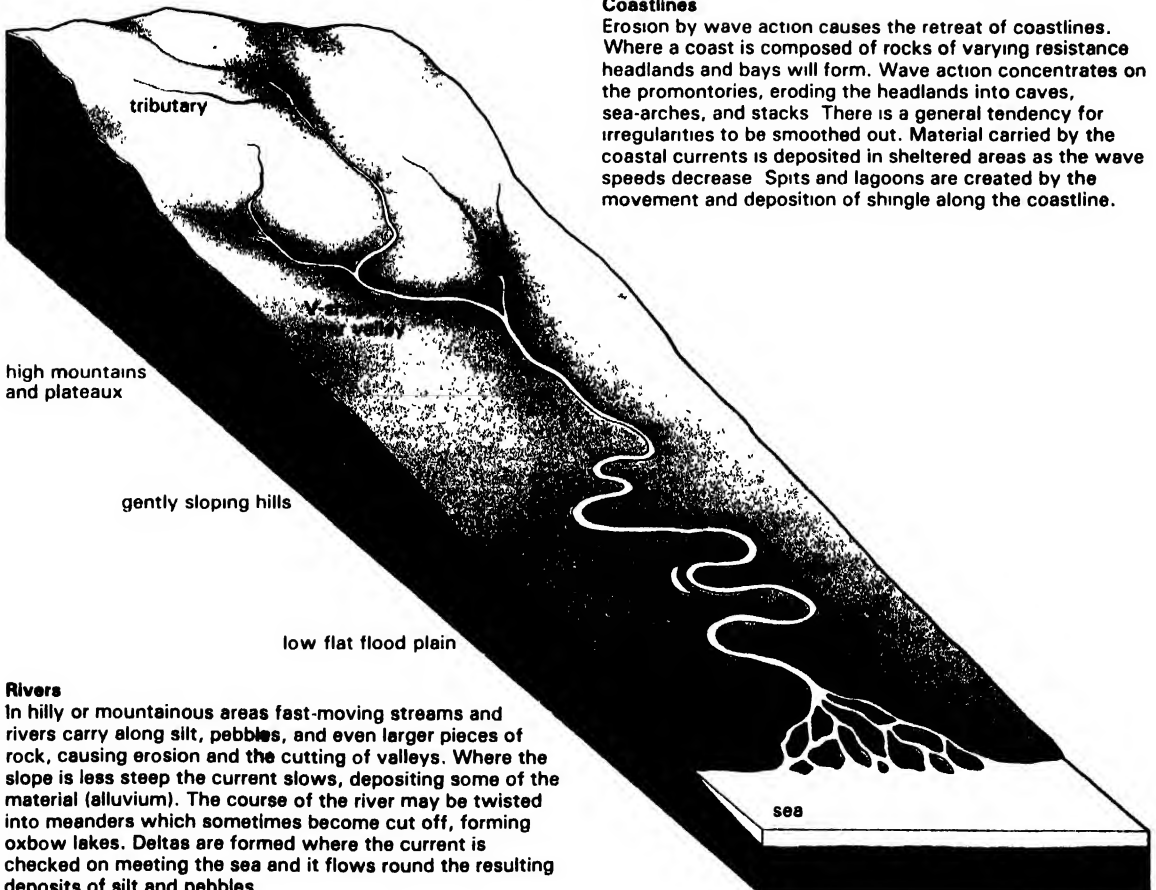
A volcano erupts when molten rock (magma) forces its way through the earth's crust from the mantle. A characteristic volcanic mountain is formed by a cone of ash and lava thrown out from the vent. Laccoliths, dykes, and sills are formed where molten rock flows into the cracks in adjacent sedimentary rocks.







**Erosion****Deposition****Coastlines**

Erosion by wave action causes the retreat of coastlines. Where a coast is composed of rocks of varying resistance headlands and bays will form. Wave action concentrates on the promontories, eroding the headlands into caves, sea-arches, and stacks. There is a general tendency for irregularities to be smoothed out. Material carried by the coastal currents is deposited in sheltered areas as the wave speeds decrease. Spits and lagoons are created by the movement and deposition of shingle along the coastline.

**Rivers**

In hilly or mountainous areas fast-moving streams and rivers carry along silt, pebbles, and even larger pieces of rock, causing erosion and the cutting of valleys. Where the slope is less steep the current slows, depositing some of the material (alluvium). The course of the river may be twisted into meanders which sometimes become cut off, forming oxbow lakes. Deltas are formed where the current is checked on meeting the sea and it flows round the resulting deposits of silt and pebbles.

**get** *n* 1 sthg begotten 2 a successful return of a difficult shot in tennis, squash, etc 3 *Br* a git – slang  
**get about** *vi* 1 to be up and about; be well enough to walk 2 to become circulated, esp orally (*the news soon got about*)  
**get across** *vb* to make or become clear or convincing  
**get along** *vi* 1 to move away, leave for another destination 2 to manage 3 to be or remain on congenial terms  
**getaway** /ˈgetə,weɪ/ *n* a departure, escape  
**get back** *vi* to return, revert – **get back at** to gain revenge on; retaliate against  
**get by** *vi* 1 to manage, survive (*we'll get by without your help*) 2 to succeed by a narrow margin, be just about acceptable  
**get down** *vi* to leave or descend (e.g. from a vehicle) ~ *vt* 1 to depress (*the weather was getting her down*) 2 to swallow (*get this medicine down*) 3 to record in writing (*get down the details*) – **get down to** to apply serious attention or consideration to, concentrate one's efforts on  
**get off** *vi* 1 to start, leave 2 to escape from a dangerous situation or from punishment (*won't get off lightly*) 3 to leave work with permission 4 *Br* to start an amorous or sexual relationship – often + *with*; slang ~ *vt* 1 to secure the release of or procure a modified penalty for (*his lawyers got him off with little difficulty*) 2 to send, post  
**get on** *vi* 1 GET ALONG 2 to become late or old – **get on for** to come near; approach (*he's getting on for 90*)  
**get out** *vi* 1 to emerge, escape (*doubted that he would get out alive*) 2 to become known, LEAK 2 (*their secret got out*) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to emerge or escape 2 to bring before the public; esp to publish (*get a new book out*)  
**get round** *vi* GET ABOUT 2 – **get round to** to give esp overdue attention or consideration  
**getter** /ˈgetə/ *n* a substance introduced into a vacuum tube, electric lamp, etc to remove traces of gas [OET + -ER]  
**get-together** *n* an (informal social) gathering or meeting  
**get together** *vt* to bring together, accumulate ~ *vi* 1 to come together, 2 to unite in discussion or promotion of a project  
**getup** /ˈget,ʌp/ *n* the outer appearance; *specif* an outfit, clothing – *infrm*  
**get up** *vt* 1a to arise from bed b to rise to one's feet 2 to go ahead or faster – used in the imperative as a command, esp to driven animals ~ *vt* 1 to organize (*got up a party for the newcomers*) 2 to arrange the external appearance of; dress 3 to acquire a knowledge of 4 to create in oneself (*can't get up an atom of sympathy for them*)  
**geum** /ˈjee-əm/ *n* an avens [NL, fr L *gæum*, *geum* herb bennet]  
**gewgaw** /ˈgyoʊh.gaw/ *n* a bauble, trinket [origin unknown]  
**gay** /ɡaɪ/ *adv*, chiefly *Scot* very, quite [alter. of *gay*, *adv*]  
**geyser** /ˈgee-zə/ *n* 1 a spring that intermittently throws out jets of heated water and steam 2 *Br* an apparatus with a boiler in which water (e.g. for a bath) is rapidly heated by a gas flame and may be stored [Icel *Geysir*, name of a hot spring in Iceland, fr *geysir* gusher, fr *geysa* to rush forth, fr ON, akin to OE *geotan* to pour – more at *FOUND*]  
**gharial** /ˈgeəri-əl/ *n* a gavial [Hindi *gharyal*]  
**gharry** /ˈɡari/ *n* a usu horse-drawn Indian taxi [Hindi *gari*]  
**ghastly** /ˈɡəstli/ *adj* 1a (terrifyingly) horrible (*a ~ crime*) b intensely unpleasant, disagreeable, or objectionable (*such a life seems ~ in its emptiness and sterility* – Aldous Huxley) 2 pale, wan [ME *gastly*, fr *gasten* to terrify] – *ghastliness* *n*  
**ghat** /ˈɡaw/ *n* a broad flight of steps providing access to an Indian river [Hindi *ghāt*]  
**Ghazi** /ˈɡəzi/ *n* a Muslim soldier fighting a non-Muslim adversary [Ar *ghāzī*]  
**ghee**, *ghi* /ˈgee/ *n* a semifluid clarified butter made, esp in India, from cow's or buffalo's milk [Hindi *ghi*, fr Skt *ghṛta*; akin to Mlr *gert* milk]  
**gherkin** /ˈɡʊkɪn/ *n* 1 (a slender annual climbing plant of the cucumber family that bears) a small prickly fruit used for pickling 2 the small immature fruit of the cucumber used for pickling [D *gurken*, pl of *gurk* cucumber, fr *augurk*, fr LG *augurke*, fr MLG, fr Pol *ogurek*, fr MGk *agourous* watermelon, cucumber]  
**ghetto** /ˈgetoh/ *n*, pl *ghettos*, *ghettos* 1 part of a city in which Jews formerly lived 2 an often slum area of a city in which a minority group live, esp because of social, legal, or economic pressures; broadly an area with 1 predominant type of resident [It]  
**Ghibelline** /ˈɡibi.liən/ *n* a member of a political party in medieval Italy supporting the German emperors – compare GUELPH [It *Ghibellino*, fr OIt,

fr MHG *Wibeling* name of the Salian emperors, fr *Wibeling* castle in Franconia, Germany]  
**ghillie** /ˈɡili/ *n* a gillie  
**ghost** /ɡoʊst/ *n* 1 the seat of life or intelligence (*give up the ~*) 2 a disembodied soul; esp the soul of a dead person haunting the living 3a a faint shadowy trace (*a ~ of a smile*) b the least bit (*didn't have a ~ of a chance*) 4 a false image in a photographic negative or on a television screen 5 a ghost-writer 6 a red blood cell that has lost its haemoglobin [ME *gost*, *gast*, fr OE *gast*; akin to OHG *geist* spirit, Skt *heḍa* anger] – *ghostlike* *adj*  
**ghost** *vb* to ghostwrite  
**ghostly** /-li/ *adj* of, like, or being a ghost; spectral – *ghostliness* *n*  
**ghost town** *n* a once-flourishing but now deserted town  
**ghostwrite** /-ri:t/ *vb* ghostwrote /-roʊt/, ghostwritten /-ri:t(ə)n/ to write (e.g. a speech) for another who is the presumed author [back-formation fr *ghost-writer*] – *ghost-writer* *n*  
**ghoul** /ɡoʊl/ *n* 1 a evil being of Arabic legend that robs graves and feeds on corpses 2 one who enjoys the macabre [Ar *ghūl*, fr *ghala* to seize] – *ghoully* *adj*, *ghoulishly* *adv*, *ghouliness* *n*  
**ghyll** /gil/ *n* 'GILL  
**GI** /jee 'te/ *adj* (characteristic) of US military personnel or equipment [galvanized iron, fr abbr used in listing articles such as rubbish bins, but taken as abbr for *government issue* or *general issue*]  
**GI** *n*, pl *GIs*, *GIs* a member of the US army, esp a private  
**giant** /ˈjɪe-ənt/ *n* 1 fem *giantess* /-tis/ a legendary humanoid being of great stature and strength 2 sby or sthg extraordinarily large 3 a person of extraordinary powers (*a literary ~*) [ME *giaunt*, fr MF *geant*, fr L *gigant-*, *gigas*, fr Gk] – *giantlike* *adj*  
**giant** *adj* extremely large  
**giant anteater** *n* a large S American anteater  ENDANGERED  
**giant hogweed** *n* a plant that is a close relative of cow parsnip but grows to more than 3m (10ft) tall  
**giantism** /ˈjɪe-əntɪz(ə)m/ *n* gigantism  
**giant panda** *n* PANDA 2  ENDANGERED  
**giant sequoia** *n* BIG TREE  
**giour** /ˈjowə/ *n* one outside the Muslim faith; INFIDEL 1a [Turk *gāyūr*]  
**gibber** /ˈjɪbə/ *vi* to make rapid, inarticulate, and usu incomprehensible utterances (*a ~ ing idiot*) [imit]  
**gibber** *n*, Austr a small stone, a pebble, also a boulder, rock [prob native name in Australia]  
**gibberellin** /ˈjɪbəˈreɪn/ *n* any of several plant hormones that promote shoot growth [NL *Gibberella fujikuroi*, fungus from which it was first isolated]  
**gibberish** /ˈjɪbəˌrɪʃ/ *n* unintelligible or meaningless language [prob fr *gibber*]  
**gibbet** /ˈjɪbɪt/ *vi* or *n* (to execute or expose on) an upright post with an arm for hanging the bodies of executed criminals [n ME *gibet*, fr OF, vb fr *n*]  
**gibbon** /ˈɡɪb(ə)n/ *n* any of several tailless Asian anthropoid tree-dwelling apes [F]  
**gibbous** /ˈɡɪbəz/ *adj* 1a of the moon or a planet seen with more than half but not all of the apparent disc illuminated b swollen on 1 side, convex, protuberant 2 having a hump; humpbacked [ME, fr MF *gibbeux*, fr LL *gibbosus* humpbacked, fr L *gibbus* hump] – *gibbously* *adv*, *gibbousness* *n*, *gibbosity* /ˈɡɪbəʊsɪti/ *n*  
**gibe**, *jibe* /ˈjɪb/ *vb* to jeer (at) [perh fr MF *giber* to shake, handle roughly] – *gibe* *n*, *giber* *n*  
**giblets** /ˈjɪblɪts/ *n* pl a fowl's heart, liver, or other edible internal organs – compare HASLET [ME *gibelet* entrails, garbage, fr MF, stew of wild-fowl]  
**gid** /ɡɪd/ *n* a disease, esp of sheep, caused by the larva of a tapeworm developing in the brain [back-formation fr *giddy*]  
**giddap** /ˈɡɪdʌp/ *interj* gee-up [alter. of *get up*]  
**giddy** /ˈɡɪdi/ *adj* 1 lightheartedly frivolous 2a feeling, or causing to feel, a sensation of unsteadiness and lack of balance as if everything is whirling round b whirling rapidly [ME *gidy* mad, foolish, fr OE *gydig* possessed, mad; akin to OE *god*] – *giddily* *adv*, *giddiness* *n*  
**gie** /gee/ *vb*, chiefly *Scot* to give [by alter.]  
**gift** /ɡɪft/ *n* 1 a natural capacity or talent 2 sthg freely given by one person to another 3 the act, right, or power of giving (*the regional fund ... is not in M Pompidou's ~* – *The Times*) [ME, fr ON, something given, talent; akin to OE *giefan* to give] – *gift of the gab* the ability to talk glibly and persuasively – *infrm*  
**gift** *vi* to present

- 'gifted** *adj* 1 having or revealing great natural ability 2 highly intelligent (< ~ children) – **giftedly** *adv*, **giftedness** *n*
- Gift of Tongues** *n* inspired ecstatic speaking, *specif* that occurring among the followers of Jesus at Pentecost
- 'gift, token** *n* a certified statement redeemable for merchandise to the amount stated thereon – compare **TOKEN** 5
- 'gift, wrap** *vi* to wrap (merchandise intended as a gift) decoratively
- 'gig** /gɪg/ *n* 1 a long light ship's boat propelled by oars, sails, etc 2 a light 2-wheeled one-horse carriage [ME *gigg* top, *perh* of Scand origin; akin to ON *geiga* to turn aside, akin to OE *geonian*, *ginian* to yawn – more at **YAWN**]
- ²gig** *n* a pronged spear for catching fish [short for earlier *fizgig*, *fishgig*, of unknown origin]
- ³gig** *n* a musician's engagement for a specified time, *esp* such an engagement for 1 performance [origin unknown]
- giga-** /ˌɡɪɡə-/ *comb form* one thousand million (10<sup>9</sup>) (<gigavolt) ➔ **PHYSICS** [ISV, fr Gk *gigas* giant]
- 'giga, hertz** /-ˌhɜːts/ *n* a unit of frequency equal to 1,000,000,000 hertz [ISV *giga-* + *hertz*]
- gigant-** /ˌɡɪɡənt-/ *comb form* giant (<gigantism) [Gk, fr *gigant-*, *gigas*]
- gigantic** /ˌɡɪɡəntɪk/ *adj* unusually great or enormous – **gigantically** *adv*
- gigantism** /ˌɡɪɡəntɪz(ə)m, -ɪz-/ *n* development of a plant or animal to abnormally large size
- 'giggle** /ˈɡɪɡl/ *vi* **giggling** /ˈɡɪɡl-ɪŋ, 'gɪɡl-ɪŋ/ to laugh with repeated short catches of the breath (and in a silly manner) [imit] – **giggler** *n*, **gigglingly** *adv*
- ²giggle** *n* 1 an act or instance of giggling 2 chiefly *Br* sthg that amuses or diverts – chiefly *infml* (<did it for a ~) – **giggly** *adj*
- gigolo** /ˈɡɪɡələ/ *n*, *pl* **gigolos** 1 a man paid by a usu older woman for companionship or sex 2 a professional dancing partner or male escort [F, back-formation fr *gigolette* girl who frequents public dances, prostitute, fr *giguer* to dance – more at **JIG**]
- gigot** /ˈzɪɡəʊ, 'ɪɡət/ *n* a (cooked) leg of meat (e.g. lamb) [MF, *dim* of *gigue* fiddle – more at **JIG**; fr its shape]
- 'gigot, sleeve** *n* a leg-of-mutton sleeve
- gigue** /ˈzheɪg/ *n* a lively dance movement having compound triple rhythm and consisting of 2 sections, each of which is repeated – compare **JIG** [F – more at **JIG**]
- 'Gila, monster** /ˈheɪlə/ *n* a large orange and black venomous lizard of SW USA [*Gila*, river in Arizona, USA]
- 'gild** /ɡɪld/ *vt* **gilded**, **gilt** /ɡɪlt/ 1 to overlay (as if) with a thin covering of gold 2 to give an attractive but often deceptive appearance to [ME *gilden*, fr OE *gyldan*, akin to OE *gold*] – **gilder** *n*, **gilding** *n* – **gild** the lily to add unnecessary ornamentation to sthg beautiful in its own right
- ³gild** *n* a guild
- gilet** /ˈzheɪlə/ *n* 1 a bodice or part of a bodice styled like a waistcoat 2 a loose waistcoat [F, fr Sp *gileco*, *jaleco*, fr Ar *jalikah*, a garment worn by slaves, fr Turk *yelek* waistcoat]
- 'gill** /ɪl/ *n* ➔ **UNIT** [ME *gille*, *perh* fr MF *gille*, *gelle* vat, tub, fr L *gerulus* bearer, carrier, fr *gerere* to bear – more at **CASH**]
- ²gill** /ɡɪl/ *n* 1 an organ, *esp* of a fish, for oxygenating blood using the oxygen dissolved in water 2 the flesh under or about the chin or jaws – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning 3 any of the radiating plates forming the undersurface of the cap of some fungi (e.g. mushrooms) [ME *gile*, *gille*, *prob* of Scand origin; akin to OSw *gel*, *geel* gill, jaw, ON *gilnar* lips] – **gilled** *adj*
- ³gill, ghyll** /ɡɪl/ *n*, *Br* 1 a ravine 2 a narrow mountain stream or riuilet [ME *gille*, fr ON *gylf*]
- 'gill, cover** /ɡɪl/ *n* the operculum
- gillie, gilly, ghillie** /ˈɡɪli/ *n* an attendant to shy who is hunting or fishing in Scotland [ScGael *gille* & IrGael *giolla* boy, servant]
- gillion** /ˈɡɪljən/ *n*, *Br* a thousand millions – compare **BILLION** ➔ **NUMBER** [*giga-* + *million*] – **gillion** *adj*, **gillionth** *adj* or *n*
- 'gill, net** *n* a flat net suspended vertically in the water with meshes for entangling fishes – **gillnet** *vi*
- gillyflower** /ˈɡɪliˌflaʊə/ *n* any of several plants having clove-scented flowers, e.g. an Old World pink **b** a wallflower [by folk etymology fr ME *giolre* clove, fr MF *girofle*, *giolre*, fr L *caryophyllum*, fr Gk *karyophyllum*, fr *karyon* nut + *phyllon* leaf – more at **CAREEN**, **BLADE**]
- 'gilt** /ɡɪlt/ *adj* covered with gold or gilt; of the colour of gold [ME, fr *pp* of *gilden* to gild]
- ²gilt** *n* 1 (sthg that resembles) gold laid on a surface 2 superficial brilliance; surface attraction 3 a gilt-edged security – usu *pl*
- ³gilt** *n* a young female pig [ME *gylte*, fr ON *gyltr*, akin to OE *gelte* young sow – more at **GEID**]
- gilt-edged, gilt-edge** *adj* 1 of the highest quality or reliability 2 of government securities having a guaranteed fixed interest rate and redeemable at face value
- gimbal** /ˈɡɪmbəl, 'ɡɪmbəl/ *n* a device that allows a ship's compass, stove, etc to remain level when its support is tipped – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning [alter of obs *gemel*, *gimmel* (double ring), deriv of L *geminus* twin]
- gimcrack** /ˈɡɪmˌkræk/ *n* a showy unsubstantial object of little use or value [perh alter of ME *gibecrake*, of uncertain meaning] – **gimcrack** *adj*, **gimcrackery** *n*
- 'gimlet** /ˈɡɪmlɪt/ *n* 1 a tool for boring small holes in wood, usu consisting of a crosswise handle fitted to a tapered screw – compare **AUGER** 2 a cocktail consisting of lime juice, gin or vodka, and soda water [ME, fr MF *gumbelet*]
- ²gimlet** *adj*, of eyes piercing, penetrating (<give him a gimlet-eyed stare)
- gimmick** /ˈɡɪmɪk/ *n* a scheme, device, or object devised to gain attention or publicity [origin unknown] – **gimmickry** *n*, **gimmicky** *adj*
- 'gin** /ɟɪn/ *n* any of various tools or mechanical devices e.g. **a** a snare or trap for game **b** a machine for raising or moving heavy weights **c** **COTTON GIN** [ME *gin*, modif of OF *engin* – more at **ENGINE**]
- ²gin** *vt* -*nn-* 1 to snare 2 to separate (cotton fibre) from seeds and waste material – **ginner** *n*, **ginning** *n*
- ³gin** *n* a spirit made by distilling a mash of grain with juniper berries [by shortening & alter fr *geneva*, modif of obs D *genever* (now *jenever*), lit., juniper, fr L *juniperus*]
- 'gin** *n*, *Austr* a female aborigine – derog. compare **LUBRA** [native name in Australia]
- gin and 'it** *n*, *Br* a drink that consists of gin and Italian vermouth [*it*, short for *Italian* (vermouth)]
- ginger** /ˈɟɪŋɡə/ *n* 1a (any of several cultivated tropical plants with) a thickened pungent aromatic underground stem used (dried and ground) as a spice, or candied as a sweet **b** the spice usu prepared by drying and grinding ginger 2 a strong brown colour [ME, fr OF *gingibre*, fr ML *gingiber*, alter. of L *zingiber*, fr Gk *zingiberis*, *prob* modif of Skt *śrngav-  
era*] – **gingery** *adj*
- ginger 'ale** *n* a sweet yellowish carbonated nonalcoholic drink flavoured with ginger
- ginger 'beer** *n* a weak alcoholic effervescent drink of milky appearance, made by the fermentation of ginger and syrup; also a similar nonalcoholic commercial preparation
- 'ginger, bread** /-ˌbred/ *n* a thick biscuit or cake made with treacle or syrup and flavoured with ginger [ME *gingerbread*, by folk etymology fr *gingebread* ginger paste, fr OF *gingembraz*, fr *gingibre*]
- 'ginger, group** *n*, *Br* a pressure group (e.g. within a political party) urging stronger action
- gingerly** /ˈɟɪŋɡəli/ *adj* very cautious or careful [perh fr MF *gensor*, *genzor*, compar of *gent* well-born, dainty, delicate] – **gingerliness** *n*, **gingerly** *adv*
- 'ginger, nut** *n* a hard brittle biscuit flavoured with ginger
- 'ginger, snap** *n* **GINGER NUT**
- ginger up** *vi* to stir to activity, vitalize (<ginger up boardroom attitudes – *Punch*) [fr the practice of stimulating a horse with ginger]
- gingham** /ˈɟɪŋɡəm/ *n* a plain-weave often checked clothing fabric usu of yarn-dyed cotton [modif of Malay *genggang* checkered cloth]
- gingiv-, gingiv-** *comb form* gum, gums (<gingivitis) [L *gingiva*]
- gingiva** /ˈɟɪnˌɪveɪ/ *n*, *pl* **gingivae** /-ˌvi/ 'GUM [L – more at **CONGER**] – **gingival** *adj*
- ginkgo** /ˈɟɪŋɡəˌɡoʊ, 'ɟɪŋɡəˌkoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **ginkgoes**, **ginkgoes** a showy (ornamental) Chinese gymnospermous tree with fan-shaped leaves and yellow fruit ➔ **PLANT** [NL *Ginkgo*, genus name, fr Jap *ginkyo*]
- 'gin, palace** *n* a gaudy public house – derog
- gin 'rummy** *n* a form of rummy in which each of 2 players is dealt 10 cards and each may end play when the value of his/her unmatched cards is less than 10 ['*gin*]
- ginseng** /ˈɟɪnˌsɛŋɡ/ *n* (the aromatic root, widely valued as a tonic, of) a Chinese or American plant of the ivy family [Chin (Pek) *jen'-shen*]
- gippy 'tummy** /ˈɟɪpi/ *n* indigestion and diarrhoea (affecting visitors to hot countries) – *infml* [*gippy* by shortening & alter. fr *Egyptian*]
- gipey, NA** *gypsy* /ˈɟɪpsi/ 1 often *cap* a member of a dark Caucasian people coming orig from India to Europe in the 14th or 15th c and leading a migratory way of life 2 a person who moves from place to place; a wanderer [by shortening & alter. fr *Egyptian*]

- 'gipsy, moth** *n* an Old World tussock moth whose hairy caterpillar is a destructive defoliator of trees
- giraffe** /ˈɡɪrəf, ˈjɪrəf/ *n*, *pl* giraffes, *esp* collectively giraffe a large African ruminant mammal with a very long neck and a beige coat marked with brown or black patches  LIFE CYCLE [It *giraffa*, fr Ar *zīrā-fah*]
- girandole** /ˈɡɪrəndɒl/ *n* 1 a radiating and showy composition (of skyrockets fired together) 2 an ornamental branched candle holder [F & It, fr It *girandola*, fr *girare* to turn, fr LL *gyrare*, fr L *gyrus* circle, spiral]
- girasol, girasole** /ˈɡɪrəsəl, -ˈsoʊl/ *n* an opal that gives out fiery reflections in bright light [It *girasole*, fr *girare* + *sole* sun, fr L *sol* – more at *'solar*]
- gird** /ɡuːd/ *vb* **girded**, **girt** /ɡuːt/ *vt* 1a to encircle or bind with a flexible band (e.g. a belt) b to surround 2 to provide or equip with a sword 3 to prepare (oneself) for action ~ *vi* to prepare for action [ME *girden*, fr OE *gyrdan*, akin to OE *gyrd* yard – more at *'yard*] – **gird** one's loins, **gird up one's loins** to prepare for action; muster one's resources
- girdle** /ɡuːdlə/ *n* a horizontal main supporting beam [*gird* + *-er*]
- 'girdle** /ɡuːdl/ *n* 1 sth that encircles or confines e.g. a belt or cord encircling the body, usu. at the waist b a woman's tightly fitting undergarment that extends from the waist to below the hips c a bony ring at the front and rear end of the trunk of vertebrates supporting the arms or legs d a ring made by the removal of the bark and cambium round a plant stem or tree trunk 2 the edge of a cut gem that is grasped by the setting [ME *girdel*, fr OE *gyrdel*; akin to OHG *gurtel* girdle, OE *gyrdan* to gird]
- 'girdle** *vt* **girdling** /ɡuːdlɪŋ/ 1 to encircle (as if) with a girdle 2 to cut a girdle round (esp. a tree), usu. in order to kill
- 'girdle** *n*, *Scot & dial* Eng a griddle [ME (Sc) *girdill*, *girdil*, alter. of ME *gredil* – more at *GRIDDLE*]
- girl** /ɡɜːl/ *n* 1a a female child b a young unmarried woman 2a a sweetheart, girlfriend b a daughter 3a a woman – chiefly infml [ME *gurle*, *girl* young person of either sex] – **girlhood** *n*, **girlish** *adj*, **girlishness** *n*
- 'girl Friday** *n* a female general assistant, esp. in an office [*girl* + *Friday* as in *man Friday*, character in the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe 17131 E writer]
- 'girlfriend** /-frend/ *n* 1 a frequent or regular female companion of a boy or man; *esp* one with whom he is romantically involved 2 a female friend
- girl 'guide** *n*, chiefly Br **GUIDE** 3 – not now used technically
- girlie, girly** /ɡɜːli/ *adj* featuring nude or scantily clothed young women (< *magazines*)
- 'girl 'scout** *n*, *NAm* **GUIDE** 3
- girn** /ɡɜːn/ *vi*, *Scot & N Eng* to be peevish or fretful [ME *gīrnen*, alter. of *gīnnen* to grin, snarl] – **girn** *n*
- giro** /ˈjɛ(ə)rəʊ/ *n* a computerized low-cost system of money transfer comparable to a current account that is one of the national post office services in many European countries [G, fr It, turn, transfer, fr L *gyrus* circle, spiral]
- girt** /ɡuːt/ *vb* to gird [ME *gīrten*, alter. of *girden* to gird]
- 'girth** /ɡɜːθ/ *n* 1 a strap that passes under the body of a horse or other animal to fasten esp. a saddle on its back 2 a measurement of thickness round a body [ME, fr ON *girth*; akin to OE *gyrdan* to gird]
- 'girth** *vt* 1 to encircle 2 to bind or fasten with a girth
- 'gismo** /ˈɡɪzməʊ/ *n*, *pl* **gismos** a gizmo
- gist** /jɪst/ *n* the main point of a matter; the essence [AF, it lies, fr MF, fr *gesir* to lie, fr L *jacere* – more at *ADJACENT*]
- git** /ɡɪt/ *n*, chiefly Br a worthless, contemptible, or foolish person – **giang** [*var* of *get* (offspring, bastard), fr *'get*]
- gittorn** /ˈɡɪtɔːn/ *n* a medieval guitar [ME *giterne*, fr MF *guterne*, modif. of OSp *guitarra* guitar]
- 'give** /ɡɪv/ *vb* **gave** /ɡeɪv/; **given** /ˈɡɪv(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to make a present of (< *a doll to a child*) 2a to grant, bestow, or allot (by formal action) b to accord or yield to another (< *blood*) (< *him her confidence*) 3a to administer as a sacrament or medicine b to commit to another as a trust or responsibility (< *gave her his coat to hold*) c to convey or express to another (< *an order*) (< *my regards to your family*) 4a to proffer, present (for another to use or act on) (< *gave his hand to the visitor*) b to surrender (oneself) to a partner in sexual intercourse 5 to present to view or observation (< *gave a signal*) (< *gave no sign of life*) 6a to present for, or provide by way of, entertainment (< *a party*) b to present, perform, or deliver in public (< *a lecture*) (< *a piano recital*) 7 to propose as a toast (< *I – you the Queen*) 8 to attribute, ascribe (< *gave all the glory to God*) 9 to yield as a product or effect (< *cows – milk*) (< *84 divided by 12 – 7*) (< *she gave him two sons*) 10 to make known; show (< *the thermometer* ~ *s the temperature*) 11 to yield possession of by way of exchange; pay 12 to make, execute, or deliver (e.g. by some bodily action) (< *gave him a push*) (< *the ship gave a lurch*) (< *gave a hollow laugh*) 13a to inflict as punishment (< *gave the boy a whipping*) b to cause to undergo; impose (< *them a spelling test*) (< *it a try*) 14a to award by formal verdict (< *judgment against the plaintiff*) b to make a specified ruling on the status of (a player) (< *Bowles was ~ n offside*) 15a to offer for consideration, acceptance, or use (< *don't ~ me that old line*) b to agree to act in accordance with (< *I – you my word*) (< *a legal undertaking*) 16a to cause to have or receive (< *mountains always gave him pleasure*) b to cause to catch or contract (< *digging – s me backache*) c to cause (sby) (to think or wonder) (< *I was given to understand that he was ill*) 17 to apply freely or fully, devote (< *one's time to the service of others*) 18 to allow, concede (< *it's late, I – you that*) 19 to care to the extent of (< *didn't ~ a hang*) ~ *vi* 1 to make gifts 2 to yield or collapse in response to pressure (< *the fence gave under his weight*) 3 to afford a view or passage; open (< *the door ~ s directly upon the garden*) 4 of weather to become mild 5 to impart information; talk – infml 6 to happen; GO ON 3 – slang (< *what ~ s?*) [ME *given*, of Scand origin, akin to OSw *giva* to give, akin to OE *giefan*, *gifan* to give, I. *habere* to have, hold] – **give** *n* – **give** a dog a bad name to implant prejudice by slander – **give** a good account of to acquit (oneself) well – **give** a miss chiefly Br to avoid, bypass (< *language learners give Russian a miss – TES*) – **give** as good as one gets to counterattack with equal vigour – **give birth** to 1 to bring forth as a mother 2 to be the cause or origin of – **give chase** to go in pursuit – **give ground** to withdraw before superior force, retreat – **give me** I prefer (give me *London any day*) – **give or take** allowing for a specified imprecision (< *three hours, give or take a few minutes either way*) – **give place** to yield by way of being superseded (< *valves give place to transistors*) – **give someone a wide berth** to stay at a safe distance from sby – **give someone best** Br to acknowledge sby's superiority – **give someone/something his/her/its head** 1 to give sby or sth greater freedom and responsibility 2 to allow (a horse) to gallop – **give someone rope** to give sby free scope – **give the lie** to to belie – **give way** 1a to retreat, GIVE GROUND b to yield the right of way (< *gave way to oncoming traffic*) 2 to yield oneself without restraint or control (< *gave way to tears*) 3a to yield (as if) to physical stress (< *the wind caused the roof to give way*) b to yield to entreaty or insistence 4 GIVE PLACE
- 'give** *n* the capacity or tendency to yield to pressure; resilience, elasticity (< *there's no ~ in this mattress*) (< *there's no ~ in her political opinions*)
- 'give-and-take** *n* 1 the practice of making mutual concessions 2 the good-natured exchange of ideas or words
- 'giveaway** /-əweɪ/ *n* 1 an unintentional revelation or betrayal 2 sth given free or at a reduced price
- give away** *vt* 1 to make a present of 2 to hand over (a bride) to the bridegroom at a wedding 3a to betray b to disclose, reveal – *esp* in **give the game/show away** 4 to be at a disadvantage in a sporting contest by (e.g. a weight or age) compared with an opponent (< *giving away 4 years to the junior champion*)
- give in** *vt* to hand in, deliver (< *gave in the money he'd found*) ~ *vi* to yield under insistence or entreaty
- given** /ˈɡɪv(ə)n/ *adj* 1 prone, disposed (< *to ~ swearing*) 2 of an official document executed on the date specified 3a fixed, specified (< *at a ~ time*) b assumed as actual or hypothetical (< *that all men are equal before the law*) [ME, fr pp of *given* to give] – **given** *n*
- 'given, name** *n*, chiefly *NAm* **CHRISTIAN NAME**
- give off** *vt* to emit (< *gave off an unpleasant smell*)
- give out** *vt* 1 to declare, publish (< *giving out that the doctor required a few days of complete rest* – Charles Dickens) 2 to emit (< *gave out a constant hum*) 3 to issue, distribute (< *gave out new uniforms*) ~ *vi* to come to an end; fail (< *finally their patience gave out and they came to blows*)
- give over** *vt* 1 to set apart for a particular purpose or use 2 to deliver to sby's care ~ *vi* to bring an activity to an end (< *told him to give over and let me alone* – Brendan Behan) – infml
- give up** *vt* 1 to surrender, esp. as a prisoner (< *he gave himself up*) 2 to desist from (< *refused to give up trying*) 3a to abandon (oneself) to a particular feeling, influence, or activity (< *gave himself up to despair*) b to renounce (< *I must give up sugar*) 4 to declare incurable or insoluble (< *the doctors gave her up for dead*) 5 to stop having a relationship with (< *she's given me up*) ~ *vi* to abandon an activity or course of action; esp. to stop trying – **give up the ghost** to die
- gizmo**, **gismo** /ˈɡɪzməʊ/ *n*, *pl* **gizmos**, **gismos** chiefly *NAm* a gadget [origin unknown]
- gizzard** /ˈɡɪzəd/ *n* 1 a muscular enlargement of the alimentary canal of

birds that immediately follows the crop and has a tough horny lining for grinding food 2 a thickened part of the alimentary canal of some animals (e.g. an earthworm) similar in function to the crop of a bird [alter of ME *giser*, fr ONF *gusier*, fr L *gigeria* (pl) giblets]


**glabella** /glə'belə/ *n*, *pl* *glabellae* /-li/ the smooth part of the forehead between the eyebrows [NL, fr L, fem of *glabellus* hairless, dim. of *glaber*] – *glabellar* *adj*

**glabrous** /glabrəs/ *adj* smooth; esp having a surface without hairs or projections [L *glabr-*, *glaber* smooth, bald – more at GLAD] – *glabrousness* *n*

**glacé** /glasə/ *adj* 1 made or finished so as to have a smooth glossy surface (< ~ *silk*) 2 coated with a glaze; candied (< ~ *cherries*) [F, fr pp of *glacer* to freeze, ice, glaze, fr L *glaciare*, fr *glacies* ice]

**glacial** /'glays(h)əl/ *adj* 1a extremely cold (< a ~ *wind*) b devoid of warmth and cordiality (< a ~ *smile*) 2a of or produced by glaciers b of or being any of those parts of geological time when much of the earth was covered by glaciers 3 resembling ice in appearance, esp when frozen (< ~ *acetic acid*) [L *glacialis*, fr *glacies*] – *glacially* *adv*

**glaciate** /'glays(h)əyt/ *vt* 1 to freeze 2a to cover with ice or a glacier b to subject to glacial action – *glaciation* /-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**glacier** /'glasi-ə, 'glay-/ *n* a large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or spreading outwards on a land surface  GEOGRAPHY [F dial, fr MF dial, fr MF *glace* ice, fr L *glacies*, akin to L *gelu* frost – more at COLD]

**glacio-** *comb form* 1 glacier <glaciology> 2 glacial and <glaciofluvial> **glaciology** /glasi'oləj, glay-/ *n* a science dealing with glacial action and effects [ISV *glaci-*, *glaci-* + *-ology*] – *glaciologist* *n*, *glaciologic* /-si-ə'lɒjɪk/, *glaciological* *adj*

**glacis** /'glasi, 'glasi, 'glay-/ *n*, *pl* *glacis* /-siz, -seez/ a slope with no cover for attackers that runs downwards from a fortification [F, fr *glacer* to freeze, slide]

**'glad** /gləd/ *adj* -dd- 1 expressing or experiencing pleasure, joy, or delight 2 very willing (< ~ *to do it*) 3 causing happiness and joy (< ~ *tidings*) [ME, shining, glad, fr OE *glæd*, akin to OHG *glat* shining, smooth, L *glaber* smooth, bald] – *gladden* *vt*, *gladly* *adv*, *gladness* *n*

**'glad** *n* a gladiolus – *infrml*

**glade** /glayd/ *n* an open space within a wood or forest [perh fr 'glad] **glad eye** *n* an amorous or sexually inviting look (< *he gave her the ~*) – *infrml*

**glad hand** *n* a warm welcome or greeting often prompted by ulterior motives – *infrml* – *glad hand* *vt*

**gladiator** /'gladiəti-/ *n* 1 sby trained to fight in the arena for the entertainment of ancient Romans 2 sby engaging in a public fight or controversy [L, fr *gladius* sword, of Celt origin, akin to W *clddyf* sword, akin to L *clades* destruction, Gk *klados* sprout, branch – more at 'HAIT] – *gladiatorial* /'gladi-ə'tɔːriəl/ *adj*

**gladiolus** /'gladi-ə-ləs/ *n*, *pl* *gladioli* /-li-/ any of a genus of (African) plants of the iris family with spikes of brilliantly coloured irregular flowers [NL, genus name, fr L *gladiolus*, fr dim. of *gladius*]

**'glad rags** *n* *pl* smart clothes – *infrml*

**gladsome** /'glads(ə)m/ *adj* giving or showing joy; cheerful – chiefly poetic – *gladsomely* *adv*, *gladsomeness* *n*

**Gladstone bag** /'gladstən/ *n* a travelling bag with flexible sides on a rigid frame that opens flat into 2 equal compartments [W E Gladstone †1898 E statesman]

**glaitkit** /'glaykit/ *adj*, chiefly Scot foolish, giddy [ME (Sc)]

**glair**, **glair** /gleə/ *n* 1 (a sizing liquid made from) egg white 2 any substance similar to an egg white [ME *gleyre* egg white, fr MF *glair*, modif of (assumed) VL *clara*, fr L *clarus* clear – more at CLEAR]

**glave** /glayv/ *n*, *archaic* a sword [ME, fr MF, javelin, sword, modif of L *gladius* sword]

**glamor-ize**, **-ise** also **glamour-ize**, **-ise** /'glamə,riəz/ *vt* 1 to make glamorous (< ~ *the living room*) 2 to romanticize (< *the novel ~s war*)

**glamour**, **NAm** also **glamor** /'glamə/ *n* a romantic, exciting, and often illusory attractiveness; esp alluring or fascinating personal attraction [Sc *glamour*, alter. of E *grammar*; fr the popular association of erudition with occult practices] – *glamorous* also *glamorous* *adj*, *glamorously* also *glamorously* *adv*

**'glance** /'glans/ *vi* 1 to strike a surface obliquely so as to go off at an angle (< *the bullet ~d off the wall*) – often + *off* 2a to flash or gleam with intermittent rays of reflected light (< *brooks glancing in the sun*) b to make sudden quick movements (< *dragonflies glancing over the pond*) 3 to touch on a subject or refer to it briefly or indirectly (< *the work ~s at the customs of ancient cultures*) 4a of the eyes to move swiftly from one thing to another b to take a quick look at sthg (< ~d at *his watch*) – *vt* 1a to cause

to glance off a surface by throwing or shooting b to play a glance in cricket at (a ball) or at the bowling of (a bowler) 2 *archaic* to catch a glimpse of [ME *glencen*, *glenchen*, perh alter. of *glenten* to move quickly – more at GLINT]

**'glance** *n* 1 a quick intermittent flash or gleam 2 a deflected impact or blow 3a a swift movement of the eyes b a quick or cursory look 4 an allusion 5 a stroke in cricket that barely deflects the ball from its line of flight – at first glance on first consideration (< at first glance *the subject seems harmless enough*)

**'glance** *n* any of several usu dark mineral sulphides with a metallic lustre [G *glanz* lustre, glance; akin to OHG *glanz* bright – more at GLINT]

**glancing** /'glahnsɪŋ/ *adj* having a slanting direction (< a ~ *blow*) – *glancingly* *adv*

**'gland** /'glænd/ *n* 1 (an animal structure that does not secrete but resembles) an organ that selectively removes materials from the blood, alters them, and secretes them esp for further use in the body or for elimination 2 any of various secreting organs (e.g. a nectary) of plants [F *glande*, fr OF, glandular swelling on the neck, gland, modif of L *gland-*, *glands* acorn, akin to Gk *balanos* acorn] – *glandless* *adj*

**'gland** *n* 1 a device for preventing leakage of fluid past a joint in machinery 2 the movable part of a stuffing box by which the packing is compressed [origin unknown]

**glanders** /'glændəz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a contagious bacterial disease, esp of horses, in which mucus is discharged profusely from the nostrils [MF *glandre* glandular swelling on the neck, fr L *glandulae*, fr *pl* of *glandula*, dim of *gland-*, *glands*] – *glandered* /-dɒd/ *adj*

**glandular** /'glandyoolə/ *adj* of, involving, or being (the cells or products of) glands – *glandularly* *adv*

**glandular** 'fever *n* INFECTION MONONUCLEOSIS

**glans** /'glanz/ *n*, *pl* *glanides* /'glan,deez/ a conical vascular part at the end of the penis or clitoris [L *gland-*, *glans*, lit, acorn]

**'glare** /gleə/ *vi* 1 to shine with a harsh uncomfortably brilliant light 2 to stare angrily or fiercely ~ *vt* to express (e.g. hostility) by staring fiercely [ME *glaren*, akin to OE *glæs* glass]

**'glare** *n* 1a a harsh uncomfortably bright light, specif painfully bright sunlight b garishness 2 an angry or fierce stare

**glaring** /'gleəriŋ/ *adj* painfully and obtrusively evident (< a ~ *error*) – *glaringly* *adv*, *glaringness* *n*

**'glass** /'glahs/ *n* 1a a hard brittle usu transparent or translucent inorganic substance formed by fusing a mixture of silica sand, metallic oxides, and other ingredients b a substance resembling glass, esp in hardness and transparency c a substance (e.g. pumice) produced by the quick cooling of molten rock from the earth's core 2a sthg made of glass. e.g. (1) a glass drinking vessel (e.g. a tumbler or wineglass) (2) a mirror; LOOKING GLASS (3) a barometer b(1) an optical instrument (e.g. a magnifying glass) for viewing objects not readily seen (2) *pl* a pair of lenses together with a frame to hold them in place for correcting defects of vision or protecting the eyes 3 the quantity held by a glass container or drinking vessel 4 glassware [ME *glas*, fr OE *glas*, akin to OE *geolu* yellow – more at YELLOW] – *glassful* *n*, *glassless* *adj*

**'glass** *vt* to enclose, case, or wall with glass (< *the sun porch was ~ed in*)

**'glassblowing** /-bloh-ɪŋ/ *n* the art of shaping a mass of semimolten glass by blowing air into it through a tube – *glassblower* *n*

**'glass cloth** *n* a usu linen cloth for drying glasses, broadly TEA TOWEL

**'glass fibre** *n* fibreglass

**'glasshouse** /-həʊz/, *n*, chiefly Br 1 a greenhouse 2 a military prison – *slang*

**glassine** /'glaseɪn/ *n* a transparent paper highly resistant to air and grease [*'glass* + *-ine*]

**'glasspaper** /-peɪpə/ *n* paper to which a thin layer of powdered glass has been glued for use as an abrasive – *glasspaper* *vt*

**'glass snake** *n* (an Old World lizard similar to) a limbless lizard of the S USA with a fragile tail

**'glassware** /-weɪ/ *n* articles made of glass

**'glass wool** *n* glass fibres in a mass resembling wool used esp for thermal insulation

**'glassworks** /-wuhks/, *n*, *pl* *glassworks* a place where glass is made – often *pl* with *sing* meaning

**'glasswort** /-wuhɪ/ *n* any of a genus of salt-marsh plants with woody jointed succulent stems and leaves reduced to fleshy sheaths [fr its former use in the manufacture of glass]

**glassy** /'glahsi/ *adj* dull, lifeless (< ~ *eyes*) [*'GLASS* + *-y*] – *glassily* *adv*, *glassiness* *n*



**Glaswegian** /glaz'weeɪn, glahz-/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Glasgow [irreg fr *Glasgow*, city in Scotland]

**Glauber's salt** /'glɒwboz/ *n* hydrated sodium sulphate, esp when used as a purgative – sometimes pl with sing. meaning [Johann Glauber †1668 G chemist]

**glaucoma** /glaw'kɒmə/ *n* increased pressure within the eyeball (leading to damage to the retina and gradual loss of vision) [L, cataract, fr Gk *glaukōma*, fr *glaukos*]

**glaucous** /'glawkəs/ *adj* **1a** pale yellowy green **b** esp of plants or plant parts of a dull blue or bluish-green colour **2** of a plant or fruit having a powdery or waxy coating giving a frosted appearance [L *glauca* gleaming, grey, fr Gk *glaukos*] – **glaucousness** *n*

**glaur** /glaw/ *n*, chiefly Scot mud, mire [origin unknown]

**glaze** /glayz/ *vt* **1** to provide or fit with glass **2** to coat (as if) with a glaze <~ apple tarts> **3** to give a smooth glossy surface to ~ *vi* **1** to become glazed or glassy <his eyes ~d over> **2** to form a glaze [ME *glasen*, fr *glas* glass] – **glazer** *n*

**glaze** *n* **1a** a liquid preparation that gives a glossy coating to food **b** a mixture predominantly of oxides (e.g. silica and alumina) applied to the surface of ceramic wares as decoration and to make them nonporous **c** a transparent or translucent colour applied to a printed surface to modify its tone **d** a smooth glossy or lustrous surface or finish **2** a glassy film (e.g. of ice)

**glazier** /glayzi-ə, -zyə/ *n* one who fits glass, esp into windows, as an occupation – **glazery** /-ri/ *n*

**gleam** /gleem/ *n* **1a** a transient appearance of subdued or partly obscured light **b** a glint <a ~ of anticipation in his eyes> **2** a brief or faint appearance or occurrence <a ~ of hope> [ME *gleem*, fr OE *glēm*; akin to OE *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**] – **gleamy** *adj*

**gleam** *vi* **1** to shine with subdued steady light or moderate brightness **2** to appear briefly or faintly

**glean** /gleen/ *vi* **1** to gather produce, esp grain, left by reapers **2** to gather material (e.g. information) bit by bit ~ *vt* **1a** to pick up (e.g. grain) after a reaper **b** to strip (e.g. a field) by gleanng **2a** to gather (e.g. information) bit by bit **b** to pick over in search of relevant material [ME *glenen*, fr MF *glenar*, fr LL *glennare*; akin to Mlr *dighlunn* I glean, OHG *glanz* bright – more at **GLINT**] – **gleanable** *adj*, **gleaner** *n*

**gleanings** /'gleenɪŋz/ *n* pl things acquired by gleanng

**globe** /gleeb/ *n* **1** land belonging to an ecclesiastical benefice **2** archaic (a plot of cultivated) land [L *gleba* clod, land – more at **'CLIP**]

**glee** /glee/ *n* **1** a feeling of merry high-spirited joy or delight **2** an unaccompanied song for 3 or more usu male solo voices [ME, fr OE *gleo* entertainment, music; akin to ON *glj* joy, Gk *chleue* joke] – **gleeful** *adj*, **gleefully** *adv*, **gleefulness** *n*

**glee club** *n* a chorus, esp in the USA, organized for singing usu short secular pieces

**glen** /glɛn/ *n* a secluded narrow valley [ME (Sc), valley, fr (assumed) ScGael *glenn*; akin to Mlr *glend* valley]

**glengarry** /glɛn'gari/ *n*, often cap a straight-sided woollen cap coming to a rounded point over the brow and having 2 short ribbons hanging down behind, worn esp as part of Highland military uniform [Glengarry, valley in Scotland]

**gley** /glay/ *n* a sticky clay formed under the surface of some waterlogged soils [Russ *glei* clay; akin to OE *clæg* clay – more at **CLAY**]

**glial** /'glie-əl, 'glee-əl/ *adj* of or being neuroglia [NL *glia* neuroglia, fr MGk, glue]

**glib** /glɪb/ *adj* **-bb-** **1** showing little forethought or preparation; lacking depth and substance <~ solutions to problems> **2** marked by (superficial or dishonest) ease and fluency in speaking or writing [prob modif of LG *glibberig* slippery] – **glibly** *adv*, **glibness** *n*

**glide** /glɪd/ *vi* **1** to move noiselessly in a smooth, continuous, and effortless manner **2** to pass gradually and imperceptibly **3a** of an aircraft to fly without the use of engines **b** to fly in a glider ~ *vt* to cause to glide [ME *gliden*, fr OE *glidan*; akin to OHG *glitan* to glide]

**glide** *n* **1** the act or action of gliding **2a** a portamento **b** a transitional sound produced by the vocal organs passing from one articulatory position to another

**glide path** *n* the path of descent of an aircraft in landing, esp as marked by ground radar or radio

**glider** /'glɪdər/ *n* an aircraft similar to an aeroplane but without an engine [**'GLIDE** + **-ER**]

**glimmer** /'glɪmə/ *vi* **1** to shine faintly or unsteadily **2** to appear indistinctly with a faintly luminous quality [ME *glimeren*; akin to OE *glēm* gleam]

**'glimmer** *n* **1** a feeble or unsteady light **2a** a dim perception or faint idea **b** a small sign or amount <a ~ of intelligence>

**glimmering** /'glɪmərɪŋ/ *n* a glimmer

**'glimpse** /'glɪmps/ *vt* to get a brief look at [ME *glimsen*, akin to MHG *glimsen* to glimmer, OE *glæm* gleam]

**'glimpse** *n* a brief fleeting view or look

**'glint** /glɪnt/ *vi* **1** of rays of light to strike a reflecting surface obliquely and dart out at an angle **2** to shine with tiny bright flashes; sparkle or glitter, esp by reflection ~ *vt* to cause to glint [ME *glinten* to dart obliquely, glint, alter of *glenten*, of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial. *glanta* to clear up; akin to OHG *glanz* bright, OE *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**]

**'glint** *n* **1** a tiny bright flash of light, a sparkle **2** a brief or faint manifestation <detected a ~ of recognition in her expression>

**'glissade** /glɪ'saɪd, -səɪd/ *vi* to slide usu in a standing or squatting position down a slope, esp one that is snow-covered [F, *n*, slide, glissade, fr *glisser* to slide, fr OF *glacier*, alter of *glie*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *glitan* to glide]

**'glissade** *n* **1** the action of glissading **2** a gliding step in ballet

**glissando** /glɪ'sandoh/ *n*, pl *glissandi* /-di/, *glissandos* a rapid sliding up or down the musical scale [prob modif of F *glissade*]

**glister** /glɪs(t)ən/ *vi* to shine, usu by reflection, with a sparkling radiance or with the lustre of a wet or oiled surface [ME *glistnen*, fr OE *glisnian*, akin to OE *glistan* to glitter, *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**]

**glister** /'glɪstə/ *vi* to glitter – chiefly poetic [ME *glisteren*, akin to OE *glisan*] – **glister** *n*

**glitch** /'glɪtʃ/ *n* a false or misleading electronic signal [prob fr G *glitschen* to slide, slip; akin to OHG *glitan* to glide – more at **GLIDE**]

**'glitter** /'glɪtə/ *vi* **1a** to shine by reflection with a brilliant or metallic lustre <~ ing sequins> **b** to shine with a hard cold glassy brilliance <~ ing eyes> **2** to be brilliantly attractive in a superficial or deceptive way <the chance of success ~ ed before them> [ME *gliteren*, fr ON *glitra*, akin to OE *geolu* yellow] – **glitteringly** *adv*

**'glitter** *n* **1** sparkling brilliance, showiness, or attractiveness **2** small glittering particles used for ornamentation – **glittery** *adj*

**gloaming** /'glɒmɪŋ/ *n* the twilight, dusk [ME (Sc) *glomung*, fr OE *glomung*, fr *glom* twilight; akin to OE *glowan* to glow]

**'gloat** /glɒt/ *vi* to observe or think about sth with great and often malicious satisfaction, gratification, or relish [prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *glotta* to grin scornfully, akin to OE *geolu* yellow] – **gloater** *n*, **gloatingly** *adv*

**'gloat** *n* a gloating feeling

**'globe** /glɒb/ *n* a blob, dollop – chiefly infml [perh blend of *globe* and *blob*]

**global** /'glɒbl/ *adj* **1** spherical **2** of or involving the entire world **3** general, comprehensive – **globally** *adv*

**globalize, -ise** /'glɒblɪz, -aɪz/ *vt* to make worldwide in scope or application – **globalization** /-zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**'global village** *n* the world viewed as a totally integrated system of which all parts are interdependent

**'globe** /glɒb/ *n* sth spherical or rounded. e.g. **a** a spherical representation of the earth, a heavenly body, or the heavens **b** EARTH **4** [MF, fr L *globus* – more at **'CLIP**]

**'globe artichoke** *n* ARTICHOKE **1b**

**'globe fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of a family of (tropical) poisonous marine fishes which can distend themselves to a globular form

**'globe flower** /-fləʊə/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the buttercup family with spherical yellow flowers

**'globe-trotter** *n* one who travels widely – **globe-trotting** *n* or *adj*

**globin** /'glɒbɪn/ *n* a colourless protein obtained by removal of haem from esp haemoglobin [ISV, back-formation fr *haemoglobin*]

**globular** /'glɒbyʊlə/ *adj* **1** globe- or globule-shaped <~ proteins> **2** having or consisting of globules [partly fr L *globus* + *-ular*; partly fr L *globulus* + *-ar*] – **globularly** *adv*, **globularity** *n*

**globule** /'glɒbyʊəl/ *n* a tiny globe or ball (e.g. of liquid or melted solid) [F, fr L *globulus*, dim. of *globus*]

**globulin** /'glɒbyʊlɪn/ *n* any of a class of widely occurring proteins that are soluble in dilute salt solutions

**glockenspiel** /'glɒkən,spi:l, -ʃpi:l/ *n* a percussion instrument consisting of a series of graduated metal bars played with 2 hammers [G, fr *glocke* bell + *spiel* play]

**glomerule** /'glɒmə,roʊəl/ *n* a compact clustered flower head like that of a composite plant [NL *glomerulus*]

**glomerulus** /'glɒməryʊələs/ *n*, pl *glomeruli* /-li:/ a small coiled or intertwined mass, specif the compact mass of capillaries at the end of each



- nephron of the kidneys of vertebrates [NL, glomerulus, glomerule, dim of L *glomer-*, *glomus* ball] – **glomerular** *adj*
- 'gloom** /gloohm/ *vi* 1 to mope 2 to loom up dimly or somberly <the castle ~ed before them> ~ *vt* to make dark, murky, or sombre [ME *gloumen*; akin to OE *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**]
- 2gloom** *n* 1 partial or total darkness 2a lowness of spirits b an atmosphere of despondency <a ~ fell over the household>
- gloomy** /gloohmi/ *adj* 1a partially or totally dark, esp dimly and depressingly dark <~ weather> b low in spirits 2 causing gloom <a ~ story> – **gloomily** *adv*, **gloominess** *n*
- Gloria** /glawri-ə, -nah/ *n* 1 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS 2 GLORIA PATRI [L, glory]
- Gloria in Excelsis** /glawri-ə in ek'selsis, -'chel-/ *n* a Christian liturgical hymn modelled on the Psalms [LL, glory (be to God) on high, fr its opening words]
- Gloria Patri** /'patrɪ/ *n* a 2-verse doxology to the Trinity [LL, glory (be) to the Father; fr its opening words]
- glorify** /glawri,fie/ *vt* 1a to make glorious by bestowing honour, praise, or admiration b to elevate to celestial glory 2 to shed radiance or splendour on 3 to cause to appear better, more appealing, or more important than in reality 4 to give glory to (e.g. in worship) – **glorifier** *n*, **glorification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*
- glorious** /glawri-əs/ *adj* 1a possessing or deserving glory b conferring glory 2 marked by great beauty or splendour 3 delightful, wonderful <had a ~ weekend> – **gloriously** *adv*, **gloriousness** *n*
- 'glory** /glawri/ *n* 1a (sth that secures) praise or renown b worshipful praise, honour, and thanksgiving <giving ~ to God> 2a (most) commendable asset <her hair was her crowning ~> 3a (sth marked by) resplendence or magnificence <the ~ that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome> – F. A. Poe> b the splendour, blessedness, and happiness of heaven, broadly eternity 4 a state of great gratification or exaltation 5 a ring or spot of light e.g. an aureole b CORONA 2a, b [ME *glorie*, fr MF & L, MF, *glorie*, *gloire*, fr L *gloria*]
- 2glory** *vi* to rejoice proudly <~ing in their youth and vigour>
- 'glory box** *n*, Austr & NZ BOTTOM DRAWER
- 1gloss** /glos/ *n* 1 (sth that gives) surface lustre or brightness 2 a deceptively attractive outer appearance 3 paint to which varnish has been added to give a gloss finish [prob of Scand origin, akin to Icel *glossa* to glow, akin to OE *geolu* yellow]
- 2gloss** *n* 1a a brief explanation (e.g. in the margin of a text) of a difficult word or expression b a false interpretation (e.g. of a text) 2a a glossary b an interlinear translation c a continuous commentary accompanying a text [ME *glose*, fr OF, fr L *glossa* unusual word requiring explanation, fr Gk *glossa*, *glotta* tongue, language, unusual word, akin to Gk *glochis* projecting point]
- 3gloss** *vt* to supply glosses for
- gloss-** /glos-/ *glosso-* *comb form* 1 tongue <glossal> <glossitis>, tongue and <glossopharyngeal> 2 language <glossology> [L, fr Gk *gloss-*, *glossa-*, fr *glossa*]
- glossa** /'glosə/ *n*, pl *glossae* /-si/ also *glossas* a (structure like a) tongue, esp in (the labium of) an insect [NL, fr Gk *glossa*]
- glossary** /'glosəri/ *n* a list of terms (e.g. those used in a particular text or in a specialized field), usu with their meanings [ME, fr ML *glossarium*, fr L *glossa*]
- glossolalia** /glosə'hlaɪlə-, -li-/ *n* the practice of ecstatic speaking, esp in evangelical Christianity, gift of tongues [NL, fr Gk *gloss-* + *lalia* chatter, fr *lalein* to chatter, talk]
- gloss over** *vt* 1 to make appear right and acceptable 2 to veil or hide by treating rapidly or superficially <glossing over humiliations, gilding small moments of glory> – TLS> [*gloss*]
- 'glossy** /'glosi/ *adj* 1 having a surface lustre or brightness 2 attractive in an artificially opulent, sophisticated, or smoothly captivating manner <a ~ musical> – **glossily** *adv*, **glossiness** *n*
- 2glossy** *n*, chiefly Br a magazine expensively produced on glossy paper and often having a fashionable or sophisticated content
- glot** /-glot/ *comb form* (→ *n*) person who speaks a (specified) number of languages <a monoglot> [Gk *-glottos*, *-glossos*, fr *glōtta*, *glossa* language, tongue]
- glott-** /glot-/ *glotto-* *comb form* language <glottochronology> [Gk *glōtt-*, *glōtto-*, fr *glōtta*, *glossa*]
- glottal stop** /'glɒt/ *n* a speech sound produced by sudden closure of the glottis
- glottis** /glotis/ *n*, pl *glottides*, *glottides* /-tɪ'deɪz/ (the structures surrounding) the elongated space between the vocal cords – compare EPI
- GLOTTIS** [Gk *glōttid-*, *glōttis*, fr *glōtta* tongue – more at **'GLOSS**] – **glottal** *adj*
- 'glove** /gluv/ *n* 1 a covering for the hand having separate sections for each of the fingers and the thumb and often extending part way up the arm 2 BOXING GLOVE [ME, fr OE *glōf*; akin to ON *glōfi* glove]
- 2glove** *vi* to cover (as if) with a glove
- 'glove box** *n*, chiefly Br GLOVE COMPARTMENT
- 'glove compartment** *n* a small storage compartment in the dashboard of a motor vehicle
- 'glow** /glɒh/ *vi* 1 to shine (as if) with an intense heat 2a to experience a sensation (as if) of heat; show a ruddy colour (as if) from being too warm <~ing with rage> b to show satisfaction or elation <~ with pride> [ME *glowen*, fr OE *glōwan*; akin to OE *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**] – **glowingly** *adv*
- 2glow** *n* 1 brightness or warmth of colour <the ~ of his cheeks> 2a warmth of feeling or emotion b a sensation of warmth <the drug produces a sustained ~> 3a the state of glowing with heat and light b light (as if) from sth burning without flames or smoke
- glower** /'glɔʊə/ *vi* to look or stare with sullen annoyance or anger [ME (Sc) *glowren*, perh of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial *glyra* to look askance, Icel *glossa* to glow – more at **'GLOSS**] – **glower** *n*
- 'glowworm** /-wuhm/ *n* a luminescent wingless insect, esp a larva or wingless female of a firefly that emits light from the abdomen
- gloxinia** /'glɒksɪni-/ *n* any of a genus of Brazilian tuberous plants including one cultivated for its showy bell-shaped flowers [NL, genus name, fr B P *Gloxin* 18th-c G botanist]
- gluc-** /gloohk-/ *gluco-* *comb form* 1 glucose <gluconeogenesis> 2 chemically related to or containing a glucose molecule in the molecular structure <glucuronic acid> [ISV]
- glucagon** /'gloohkəgon, -gən/ *n* a protein hormone produced esp by the pancreatic islets of Langerhans that promotes an increase in the sugar content of the blood by increasing the rate of breakdown of glycogen in the liver [*gluc-* + *-agon* (perh fr Gk *agōn*, prp of *agēin* to lead, drive) – more at **AGENT**]
- glucocorticoid** /'gloohkə'kawti,kɔɪd/ *n* any of several corticosteroids (e.g. cortisol) that affect metabolic processes and are used in medicine (e.g. in treating rheumatoid arthritis) because they suppress inflammation and inhibit the activity of the immune system
- gluconeogenesis** /'gloohkə,nee-ə'jənəsɪs/ *n* formation of glucose within the (liver of the) animal body from substances (e.g. fats) other than carbohydrates [NL] – **gluconeogenic** /-jənɪk/ *adj*
- glucose** /'gloohkɒz, -kɒh/ *n* a sweet (dextrorotatory form of) a sugar that occurs widely in nature and is the usual form in which carbohydrate is assimilated by animals [F, modif of Gk *gleukos* must, sweet wine; akin to Gk *glykys* sweet]
- glucoside** /'gloohkəsɪd, -kɒh-/ *n* a glycoside (that yields glucose on hydrolysis) – **glucosidic** /-sɪdɪk/ *adj*, **glucosidically** *adv*
- 'glue** /glu/ *n* 1 any of various strong adhesives, esp a gelatinous protein substance that forms a strongly adhesive solution and is obtained by boiling hides, bones, etc 2 a solution of glue used for sticking things together [ME *glu*, fr MF, fr LL *glut-*, *glus* – more at **CLAY**] – **gluey** *adj*, **gluily** *adv*
- 2glue** *vt* **gluing** also **glueing** 1 to cause to stick tightly with glue <~ the wings onto the model aeroplane> 2 to fix (e.g. the eyes) on an object steadily or with deep concentration <kept her eyes ~d to the TV>
- 'glue-sniffing** *n* the (habitual) inhalation of the vapour of various glues to produce intoxication – **glue-sniffer** *n*
- glum** /glum/ *adj* -mm- 1 broodingly morose 2 dreary, gloomy [prob akin to ME *gloumen* to gloom] – **glumly** *adv*, **glumness** *n*
- glume** /'gloohm/ *n* a chaffy bract, specif in the spikelet of grasses [NL *gluma*, fr L, hull, husk, akin to L *glubere* to peel – more at **'CLEAVE**] – **glumaceous** /-məʃəs/ *adj*
- 'glut** /glut/ *vt* -tt- 1 to fill, esp with food, to beyond capacity 2 to flood (the market) with goods so that supply exceeds demand [ME *glouten*, *glotten*, prob fr MF *glottir*, *gloutir* to swallow, fr L *gluttare* – more at **GLUTTON**]
- 2glut** *n* an excessive supply (e.g. of a harvested crop) which exceeds market demand
- glutamate** /'gloothəmaɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of glutamic acid
- glutamic acid** /'gloothə'maɪk/ *n* an acidic amino acid found in most proteins [ISV *gluten* + *amino* + -ic]
- glutamine** /'gloothəmeɪn, -mɪn/ *n* an amino acid that is a chemical base and is found in nearly all proteins [ISV *gluten* + *amine*]
- glutaraldehyde** /'gloothə'rəldɪhɪd/ *n* a compound containing 2 alde-

hyde groups which is used esp in leather tanning and fixation of biological tissues for microscopy [*glutaric acid* (a crystalline acid) + *aldehyde*]

**glutathione** /gluhtə'thi:oh-n/ *n* a sulphur-containing peptide important in biological chemical reactions involving an oxidation or a reduction [ISV *gluta-* (fr *glutamic acid*) + *thi-* + *-one*]

**gluten** /'gluhtn/ *n* an elastic protein substance, esp of wheat flour, that gives cohesiveness to dough [L *glutin-*, *gluten* glue; akin to LL *glut-*, *glus* glue – more at CLAY] – *glutenous adj*

**gluteus** /'gluht-i-as, gluht'tee-as/ *n*, *pl* *glutei* /'gluht-i-ue, gluht'tee-i-ue/ any of the large muscles of the buttocks [NL *gluteus*, *gluteus*, fr Gk *gloutos* buttock – more at CLOUD] – *gluteal adj*

**glutinous** /'gluhtin-as/ *adj* (thick and) sticky, gummy [MF or L, MF *glutineus*, fr L *glutinosus*, fr *glutin-*, *gluten*] – *glutinously adv*, *glutinousness n*

**glutton** /'glut(ə)n/ *n* 1a one given habitually to greedy and voracious eating and drinking b one who has a great capacity for accepting or enduring sthg <he's a ~ for punishment> 2 the wolverine [ME *glotoun*, fr OF *gloton*, fr L *glutton-*, *glutto*; akin to L *glutire* to swallow, *gula* throat, OE *ceole*] – *gluttonous adj*, *gluttonousness n*

**glutty** /'glut(ə)n-/ *n* excess in eating or drinking

**glyc-**, **glyco-** *comb form* sugar; *specif* glucose <*glycaemia*> [ISV, fr Gk *glyk-* sweet, fr *glykys*]

**glycan** /'glikən/ *n* a polysaccharide

**glycer-**, **glycero-** *comb form* related to glycerol <*glycerolaldehyde*> [ISV, fr *glycerin*]

**glycerolaldehyde** /'glisə'rəldi:hiəd/ *n* a sweet compound formed as an intermediate in carbohydrate metabolism

**glyceride** /'glisəriəd/ *n* an ester of glycerol, esp with fatty acids – *glyceridic /-ridik/ adj*

**glycerin** /'glisərɪn/, *glycerine* /'glisəri:n, -i-/ *n* glycerol [F *glycérine*, fr Gk *glykeros* sweet; akin to Gk *glykys* sweet]

**glycerol** /'glisərəl/ *n* a sweet syrupy alcohol usu obtained from fats and used esp as a solvent and plasticizer [*glycern* + *-ol*]

**glycine** /'gli:si:n, -i-/ *n* a sweet amino acid found in most proteins

**glycogen** /'gli:kohjən/ *n* a polysaccharide that is the chief storage carbohydrate of animals

**glycogenesis** /'gli:koh'jəni:s/ *n* the formation of (sugar from) glycogen [NL] – *glycogenetic /-jə'netik/ adj*

**glycol** /'gli:kəl/ *n* ETHYLENE GLYCOL. [ISV *glyc-* + *-ol*]

**glycolysis** /'gli:kələ'sis/ *n* the enzymatic breakdown of a carbohydrate with the production of energy for storage in the cell [NL] – *glycolytic /-kə'litik/ adj* *glycolytically adv*

**glycopeptide** /'gli:koh'peptəd/ *n* a glycoprotein

**glycoprotein** /-'prohteɪn/ *n* a protein combined with 1 or more carbohydrate groups

**glycoside** /'gli:kə'saɪd, -kəh-/ *n* any of numerous sugar derivatives in which a nonsugar group is attached by an oxygen or nitrogen atom and that on hydrolysis yield a sugar – *glycosidic /-saɪdɪk/ adj*, *glycosidically adv*

**glycosuria** /'gli:koh'syoʊəri-ə/ *n* the presence of abnormal amounts of sugar in the urine [NL] – *glycosuric /-rɪk/ adj*

**glyph** /glɪf/ *n* a carved symbolic figure or character; esp a symbol (e.g. a curved arrow on a road sign) that conveys information without using words [Gk *glyphē* carved work, fr *glyphein* to carve – more at 'CLEAVE'] – *glyphic adj*

**glyphic** /'glɪptɪk/ *adj* of carving, esp on gems [prob fr F *glyptique*, fr Gk *glyptike*, fr *glyphein*]

**gnarled** /'naɪld/ *adj* 1 full of or covered with knots or protuberances 2 crabbed in disposition, aspect, or character [prob alter. of *knurled*]

**gnash** /næʃ/ *vt* to strike or grind (esp the teeth) together [alter. of ME *gnasten*, prob of imit origin] – *gnash n*

**gnat** /nat/ *n* any of various small usu biting 2-winged flies [ME, fr OE *gnætt*; akin to OE *gnagan* to gnaw] – *gnatty adj*

**gnath-**, **gnatho-** *comb form* jaw <*gnathic*> [NL, fr Gk *gnath-*, fr *gnathos*, akin to Gk *genys* jaw – more at CHIN]

**-gnathous** *comb form* (– *adj*) having (such) a jaw <*opisthognathous*> [NL – *gnathos*, fr Gk *gnathos*]

**gnaw** /naʊ/ *vt* 1a to bite or chew on with the teeth; esp to wear away by persistent biting or nibbling <a dog ~ing a bone> b to make by gnawing <rats ~ed a hole> 2 to affect as if by continuous eating away; plague 3 to erode, corrode ~ *vi* 1 to bite or nibble persistently 2 to destroy or reduce sthg (as if) by gnawing <waves ~ing away at the cliffs> [ME *gnawen*, fr OE *gnagan*; akin to OHG *gnagan* to gnaw, ON *gnaga*] – *gnawer n*

**gneiss** /nies/ *n* a metamorphic rock usu composed of light bands of

feldspar and quartz and dark bands of mica or hornblende [G *gneis*, prob alter. of MHG *gneiste*, *ganeiste* spark, fr OHG *gneisto*] – *gneissic /-saɪk/ adj*, *gneissoid /-soɪd/ adj*, *gneissose /-soʊs/ adj*

**gnocchi** /'nɒki, gə'nɒki/ *n* *pl* small dumplings made from flour, semolina, potatoes, or choux pastry [It, *pl* of *gnocco*, alter. of *nocchio* knot in wood]

**gnome** /nohm/ *n* a dwarf of folklore who lives under the earth and guards treasure [F, fr NL *gnomus*] – *gnomish adj*

**Gnome of Zurich** /'zyoʊənkh/ *n*, *pl* *Gnomes of Zurich* an international banker usu considered to have great power over the financial sector of national economies – *infrm*; usu *pl* [Zurich, city in Switzerland famous for banking]

**gnomic** /'nohmɪk, 'nomɪk/ *adj* characterized by aphorism <~ poetry> [LL *gnomicus*, fr Gk *gnōmikos*, fr *gnome* maxim, fr *gignoskein* to know]

**gnomon** /'nohmɒn/ *n* an object that by the position or length of its shadow serves as an indicator of esp the hour of the day: e.g. a the shadow-producing part of a sundial b a column or shaft erected perpendicular to the horizon [L, fr Gk *gnōmōn* interpreter, pointer on a sundial, fr *gignōskein*] – *gnomonic /nohmɒnɪk/ adj*

**-gnosis** /-g'nɒsɪs/ *comb form* (– *n*), *pl* *-gnoses* /-seɪz/ knowledge; recognition <*prognosis*> [L, fr Gk *gnosis*]

**gnosticism** /'nɒstɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* a religious outlook or system, esp of various cults of late pre-Christian and early Christian centuries, distinguished by the conviction that matter is evil and that emancipation comes through esoteric spiritual knowledge [LL *gnosticus*, fr Gk *gnōstikos* of knowledge, fr *gignōskein*] – *Gnostic /'nɒstɪk/ n*

**gnu** /nooh/ *n*, *pl* *gnus*, esp collectively *gnu* any of several large horned African antelopes with an oxlike head, a short mane, and a long tail [modif of Bushman *nqu*]

**'go** /goh/ *vb* *went* /went/; *gone* /gon/ *vi* 1 to proceed on a course <~ slow> <went by train> <went to France> – compare STOP 2a to move out of or away from a place, leave <I must ~> <the ferry ~es every hour> – sometimes used with a further verb to express purpose <I went to see them> <I'll ~ and look> b to make an expedition for a specified activity <~ shopping> <~ skydiving> 3a to pass by means of a specified process or according to a specified procedure <your suggestion will ~ before the committee> b(1) to proceed in a thoughtless or reckless manner – used to intensify a complementary verb <don't ~ saying that> <why did she have to ~ and spoil everything?> <he's been and gone and told her> (2) to proceed to do sthg surprising – used with and to intensify a complementary verb <she went and won first prize> e(1) to extend <it's true as far as it ~es> <the field ~es as far as the stream> (2) to speak, proceed, or develop in a specified direction or up to a specified limit <you've gone too far> <don't let's ~ into details> 4 to travel on foot or by moving the feet 5 to be, esp habitually <~ bareheaded> <~ barefoot> 6a to become lost, consumed, or spent <my pen's gone> <half their income ~es in rent> b to die c to elapse <only three weeks to ~> <the evening went pleasantly enough> d to be got rid of (e.g. by sale or removal) <these slums must ~> <~ ing cheap> e to fail <his hearing started to ~> f to succumb; GIVE WAY <at last the dam went> 7a to happen, progress – often + *on* <what's ~ing on> <how are things ~ing?> b to be in general or on an average <cheap, as yachts ~> c to pass or be granted by award, assignment, or lot <the prize went to a French girl> d to turn out (well) <worked hard to make the party ~> 8 to put or subject oneself <went to unnecessary expense> 9a to begin an action, motion, or process <here ~es> <ready, steady, ~!> <~ to court to recover damages> b to maintain or perform an action or motion <his tongue went nineteen to the dozen> <went like this with her eyebrows> c to function in a proper or specified way <trying to get the motor to ~> <felt ill, but tried to keep ~ing> d to make a characteristic noise <the telephone went> e to perform a demonstrated action <~ like this with your left foot> 10a to be known or identified as specified <now ~es by another name> b(1) to be in phrasing or content <as the saying ~es> <the story ~es that the expedition was a failure> (2) to be sung or played in a specified manner <the song ~es to the tune of 'Greensleeves'> 11a to act or occur in accordance or harmony <a good rule to ~ by> b to contribute to a total or result <taxes that ~ for education> 12 to be about, intending, or destined – + *to* and an infinitive <is ~ing to leave town> <is it ~ing to rain?> 13a to come or arrive at a specified state or condition <~ to sleep> <~ to waste> b to join a specified institution professionally or attend it habitually <to ~ on the stage> <does she ~ to school?> c to come to be; turn <the tyre went flat> <he went broke> – compare COME 3 d(1) to become voluntarily <~ bail for his friend> (2) to change to a specified system or tendency <~ supersonic> <the company went public> <~ comprehensive> e to con-

true to be; remain (< hungry) (< without sugar) < jobs went unfilled >  
 14 to be compatible with, harmonize < claret ~ es with beef > 15a to be  
 capable of passing, extending, or being contained or inserted < it won't ~  
 round my waist > 3 into 2 won't ~ > b to belong < these books ~ on the  
 top shelf > 16a to carry authority < what she said went > b to be acceptable,  
 satisfactory, or adequate < anything ~ es here > c to be the case; be valid  
 < and that ~ es for you too > 17 to empty the bladder or bowels < always  
 ~ after breakfast > ~ euph ~ vt 1 to proceed along or according to < ~  
 one's own way > 2 to traverse < ~ ten miles > 3 to undertake by travelling  
 < ~ errands > 4 to emit (a sound) < the bell ~ es ding dong > 5 to  
 participate to the extent of < ~ shares > < ~ halves > 6 to perform, effect  
 < ~ the limit > 7 to change to, adopt < you ~ wheels or you go bust - R  
 A Keith > 8 Br to say - nonstandard; used in direct speech < so she ~ es  
 'Don't you ever do that again!' > [ME *gon*, fr OE *gan*, akin to OHG *gan*  
 to go, Gk *kichanein* to reach, attain] - go about to undertake; SFT ABOUT  
 - go after to seek, pursue - go against 1 to act in opposition to; offend  
 2 to turn out unfavourably to - go ahead 1 to begin 2 to continue,  
 advance - go all the way 1 to enter into complete agreement 2 to engage  
 in actual sexual intercourse - go along with 1 to occur as a natural  
 accompaniment of 2 to agree with, support - go ape to run amok; lose  
 control - go at 1 to attack, assail 2 to undertake energetically - go back  
 on 1 to fail to keep (e.g. a promise) 2 to be disloyal to; betray - go begging  
 to be available but in little demand - go by the board to be discarded -  
 go crook Aust & NZ to lose one's temper - go for 1 to serve or be  
 accounted as < pigs that go for pork > < it all went for nothing > 2 to try  
 to secure < he went for the biggest mango > 3a to favour, accept < cannot  
 go for your idea > b to have an interest in or liking for < she went for him  
 in a big way > 4 to attack, assail < went for him when his back was  
 turned > - go for a burton Br to get lost, broken, or killed - slang - go  
 great guns to achieve great success - go hang to cease to be of interest  
 or concern - go into 1 to be contained in < 5 goes into 60 12 times >  
 2 to investigate 3 to explain in depth < the book doesn't go into the moral  
 aspects > - go it 1 to behave in a reckless, excited, or impromptu manner  
 2 to proceed rapidly or furiously 3 to conduct one's affairs, act < insists  
 on going it alone > - go missing chiefly Br to disappear - go off the deep  
 end 1 to enter recklessly on a course of action 2 to become very excited  
 or perturbed - go on to be enthusiastic about < we don't go much on cars  
 - Len Deighton > - compare GO ON VI - go one better to outdo or surpass  
 another - go out of one's way to take extra trouble - go over 1 EXAMINE  
 1 2a REPEAT 1 b to study, revise - go phut chiefly Br to stop functioning  
 - infml - go places to be on the way to success - go slow to hold a go-slow  
 - go steady to be the constant and exclusive boyfriend or girl friend of  
 another or each other - go straight to abandon a life of crime - go the  
 way of all flesh to die - go through 1 to subject to thorough examination,  
 study, or discussion, GO OVER 2 to experience, undergo 3 to perform  
 < went through his work in a daze > - compare GO THROUGH VI - go to  
 bed with to have sexual intercourse with - go to one's head 1 to make  
 one confused, excited, or dizzy 2 to make one conceited or overconfident  
 - go to pieces to become shattered (e.g. in nerves or health) - go to pot  
 to deteriorate, collapse - infml < the office went to pot while his secretary  
 was away > - go to sleep to lose sensation, become numb < my foot has gone  
 to sleep > - go to town 1 to work or act rapidly or efficiently 2 to indulge  
 oneself ostentatiously < the papers went to town on the hidden life of  
 Leroy - Sunday Times > - go walkabout 1 Austr to go on a walkabout  
 2 Br to meet and hold a conversation informally with members of the  
 public during an official engagement or tour < the Queen going walkabout  
 in Milton Keynes > - go west to die or become destroyed or expended -  
 humor - go with 1 GO ALONG WITH 1 < the responsibility that goes with  
 parenthood > 2 to be the social or esp sexual companion of  
 \*go n, pl goes 1 the act or manner of going 2 energy, vigour < full of get  
 up and ~ > 3a a turn in an activity (e.g. a game) b an attempt, try < have  
 a ~ at painting > c chance, opportunity < a fair ~ at work for everyone  
 - The Listener > 4 a spell of activity < finished the job at one ~ > 5 a  
 success < made a ~ of the business > 6 the height of fashion; the rage  
 < shawls are all the ~ at the moment > - chiefly infml 7 an often  
 unexpected or awkward turn of affairs - chiefly infml < it's a rum ~ > -  
 on the go constantly or restlessly active - infml  
 \*go adj functioning properly < declared all systems ~ for the rocket  
 launch >  
 \*go n an Oriental game of capture and territorial domination played by 2  
 players with counters on a board covered in a grid [Jap]  
 goa /goh-ə/ n a common gazelle of Tibet [Tibetan *dgoba*]  
 go about vi to change tack when sailing  
 \*goad /gohd/ n 1 a pointed rod used to urge on an animal 2 sth that

pricks, urges, or stimulates (into action) [ME *gode*, fr OE *gād* spear,  
 goad; akin to Lombardic *gāda* spear, Skt *hinoti* he urges on]

\*goad vt 1 to drive (e.g. cattle) with a goad 2 to incite or rouse by nagging  
 or persistent annoyance

\*go-a-head adj energetic and progressive

\*go-a-head n a sign, signal, or authority to proceed

goal /gohl/ n 1 an end towards which effort is directed 2a an area or  
 object through or into which players in various games attempt to put a  
 ball or puck against the defence of the opposing side SPORT b (the  
 points gained by) the act of putting a ball or puck through or into a goal  
 [ME *gol* boundary, limit; perh akin to OE *gælan* to hinder, impede]

\*goal, area n a rectangular area 18.3m by 5.5m (20yd by 6yd) immedi-  
 ately in front of each goal on a soccer pitch SPORT

goalie /gohli/ n a goalkeeper - infml

\*goalkeeper /-keepə/ n a player who defends the goal in soccer, hockey,  
 lacrosse, etc SPORT - goalkeeping n

\*goal, kick n a free kick in soccer awarded to the defending side when  
 the ball is sent over the goal line by an opposing player

\*goal, line n a line at either end and usu running the width of a playing  
 area on which a goal or goal post is situated SPORT

\*goal, mouth /-mowth/ n the area of a playing field directly in front of  
 the goal

go along vi 1 to move along, proceed 2 to go or travel as a companion  
 3 to agree, cooperate < I'd go along with your suggestion >

\*goal, post /-pohst/ n either of usu 2 vertical posts that with or without  
 a crossbar constitute the goal in soccer, rugby, etc

goanna /goh'ana/ n a large Australian lizard [alter of *iguana*]

go around vi 1 to go here and there, esp in company < the friends she  
 goes around with > 2 GO ROUND 1, 2

goat /goht/ n 1 any of various long-legged (horned) ruminant mammals  
 smaller than cattle and related to the sheep 2 a lecherous man 3 a foolish  
 person - infml, compare GET ONE'S GOAT [ME *gote*, fr OE *gāt*; akin to  
 OHG *geiz* goat, L *haedus* kid] - goatish adj, goatlike adj

goatee /goh'tee/ n a small pointed beard [fr its resemblance to the beard  
 of a he-goat]

\*goat, fish /-fish/ n MULLET b

\*goat's, beard n a Eurasian composite plant whose yellow flower heads  
 close at about midday

\*goatskin /-skin/ n (leather made from) the skin of a goat

\*goatsucker /-suka/ n a nightjar [fr the belief that it sucks the milk  
 from goats]

\*gob /gob/ n a shapeless or sticky lump [ME *gobbe*, fr MF *gobe* large piece  
 of food, back-formation fr *gober*]

\*gob .i. Br MOUTH 1a - slang [IrGael & ScGael, beak, protruding  
 mouth]

gobbet /gobit/ n a piece, portion [ME *gobet*, fr MF, mouthful,  
 piece]

\*gobbie /gobl/ vt gobbling /gobling/, 'gobl-ing/ 1 to swallow or eat  
 greedily or noisily 2 to take, accept, or read eagerly - often + up [prob  
 irreg fr 'gob]

\*gobble vi to make the guttural sound of a male turkey or a similar sound  
 [imit] - gobble n

gobbledygook, gobbledegook /'goblɪd.goohk/ n wordy and generally  
 unintelligible jargon [irreg fr *gobble*, n]

gobbler /'goblə/ n a male turkey - infml

\*go-between n an intermediate agent

goblet /'goblɪt/ n 1 a drinking vessel that has a usu rounded bowl, a foot,  
 and a stem and is used esp for wine 2 the part of a liquidizer in which  
 food is liquidized or ground by means of rotating blades [ME *gobelet*,  
 fr MF]

goblet, cell n a mucus-secreting epithelial cell shaped like a goblet and  
 found in mucous membranes (e.g. of the intestines)

goblin /'goblɪn/ n a grotesque mischievous elf [ME *gobelin*, fr MF, fr ML  
*gobelinus*, perh deriv of Gk *kobalos* rogue]

gobstopper /'gobstopə/ n a large round hard sweet ['gob]

goby /'gohbi/ n, pl gobies, esp collectively goby any of numerous  
 spiny-finned fishes with the pelvic fins often united to form a sucking disc  
 [L *gobius* gudgeon, fr Gk *kobios*]

go-by /'goh.bie/ n an act of avoidance; a miss < give them the ~ >


go by vi to pass < as time goes by >

god /god/ n 1 cap the supreme or ultimate reality; the being perfect in  
 power, wisdom, and goodness whom human beings worship as creator  
 and ruler of the universe 2 a being or object believed to have more than  
 natural attributes and powers (e.g. the control of a particular aspect of  
 reality) and to require human beings' worship 3 sby or sth of supreme

- value 4 a very influential person 5 *pl* the highest gallery in a theatre, usu with the cheapest seats [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *got* god] – **godlike** *adj*
- god-awful** *adj* extremely unpleasant – *infml* < ~ explosions of violence – *Playboy* > [goddamn + awful]
- god-child** /-ˈtʃɪld/ *n* sby for whom sby else becomes sponsor at baptism
- goddamn**, **goddam** /go(d)ˈdɑːm/ *n*, often *cap* a damn <he doesn't give a ~ about anything>
- goddamn**, **goddam** /go(d)ˈdɑːm/ *vb*, often *cap* to damn <I'll be ~ed> <you feel like swearing and ~ing worse and worse – Ernest Hemingway>
- goddamned** /go(d)ˈdɑːmd/, ˈ-ˌ/, **goddamn**, **goddam** /go(d)ˈdɑːm/, ˈ-ˌ/ *adj* or *adv* damned
- god-daughter** /-ˈdɔːtə/ *n* a female godchild
- goddess** /ˈɡɒdes-, -dɪs/ *n* 1 a female deity 2 a woman whose great charm or beauty arouses adoration
- godet** /ˈɡɒdɪt/ *n* an esp triangular inset, inserted into a garment to give fullness or flare (e.g. at the bottom of a skirt) [F, lit., drinking cup, mug, prob of Gmc origin]
- godetia** /ˈɡɒˈdɛʃiə/ *n* any of several American plants of the evening primrose family widely grown as hardy annuals for their showy white, pink, or red flowers [NL, fr C H Godet †1879 Swiss botanist]
- god-father** /-ˈfɑːðə/ *n* 1 a male godparent at baptism 2 one having a relation to sby or sth like that of a godfather to his godchild <the ~ of a whole generation of rebels – TLS>
- God-fearing** *adj* devout
- god-for-saken** /-ˈfɑːsəkn/ *adj* 1 remote, desolate 2 neglected, dismal
- god-head** /-ˈhed/ *n* 1 divine nature or essence 2 *cap* a GOD 1 – usu + the *b* the nature of God, esp as existing in 3 persons [ME *godhed*, fr *god* + -*hed* -hood, akin to ME -*hod* -hood]
- godless** /-ˈlis/ *adj* not acknowledging a deity; impious – **godlessness** *n*
- godly** /-ˈli/ *adj* 1 divine 2 pious, devout – **godliness** *n*
- god-mother** /-ˈmʌðə/ *n* a female godparent
- godown** /ˈɡɒdɔːn/ *n* a warehouse in an Asian country, esp India [Malay *gudang*]
- go down** *vi* 1a to fall (as if) to the ground <the plane went down in flames> *b* to go below the horizon <the sun went down> *c* to sink <the ship went down with all hands> 2 to be capable of being swallowed <the medicine went down easily> 3 to undergo defeat 4a to find acceptance <will the plan go down well with the farmers?> *b* to come to be remembered, esp by posterity <he will go down in history as a great general> 5a to undergo a decline or decrease <the market is going down> *b* esp of a computer system or program to crash 6 to become ill – usu + with <he went down with flu> 7 *Br* to leave a university – compare COME DOWN, GO UP 8 to be sent to prison – slang – **go down on** to perform fellatio or cunnilingus on – *vulg*
- god-parent** /-ˈpeərənt/ *n* a sponsor at baptism
- God's acre** *n* a churchyard – *euph*
- godsend** /ˈɡɒdˌsend/ *n* a desirable or needed thing or event that comes unexpectedly [back-formation fr *god-send*]
- god-son** /-ˈsʌn/ *n* a male godchild
- God-speed** /-ˈspiːd/ *n* a prosperous journey; success <bade him ~> [ME *god speid*, fr the phrase *God spede you* God prosper you]
- godwit** /ˈɡɒdˌwɪt/ *n* any of a genus of long-billed wading birds resembling curlews [origin unknown]
- goer** /ˈɡɒ-ə/ *n* 1 a regular attender – usu in combination <a theatre-goer> 2 sby or sth that moves or does things fast or actively; esp a swinger – *infml* ['GO + ˈ-ER]
- goffer** /ˈɡɒfə/ *vt* to crimp, wave, or flute (e.g. linen or a lace edging), esp with a heated iron [F *gauffer*] – **goffer** *n*
- go-getter** *n* an aggressively enterprising person – **go-getting** *adj* or *n*
- goggle** /ˈɡɒɡl/ *vi* **goggling** /ˈɡɒɡlɪŋ/ to stare with wide or protuberant eyes [ME *gogelen* to squint] – **goggler** *n*
- goggle-box** *n*, *Br* a television set – *infml*
- goggle-eyed** *adj* or *adv* with the eyes wide or bulging (in amazement or fascination)
- goggles** /ˈɡɒɡlz/ *n pl* protective glasses set in a flexible frame that fits snugly against the face
- go-go** /ˈɡɒ-ə/ *adj* of or being the music or a style of dance performed or a dancer performing at a disco [*a-go-go* disco, fr *Whisky à Gogo*, café & disco in Paris, fr F à *gogo* *galore*]
- Goidelic** /ˈɡɔɪˈdelɪk/ *adj* 1 of the Gaels 2 of or constituting Goidelic [Mlr *Goidel* Gael]
- Goidelic** *n* the group of Celtic languages comprising Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, and Manx
- go in** *vi* 1 to enter 2 of a celestial body to become obscured by a cloud <the sun went in for 5 minutes> 3 to form a union or alliance – often + with <asked the rest of us to go in with them on the project> – **go in for** 1 to engage in, esp as a hobby or for enjoyment 2 to enter and compete in (e.g. a test or race) <decided not to go in for her A-levels until the following year>
- going** /ˈɡɒ-ɪŋ/ *n* 1 an act or instance of going – often in combination <theatre-going> 2 the condition of the ground (e.g. for horse racing) 3 advance, progress <found the ~ too slow and gave up the job> 4 the depth of the tread of a stair
- going** *adj* 1a living, existing <the best novelist ~> *b* available for use or enjoyment <asked if there were any jobs ~> 2a current, prevailing <~ price> *b* profitable, thriving <~ concern> – **going for** favourable to <had everything going for me>
- going-over** *n*, *pl* **goings-over** 1 a thorough examination or investigation 2 a severe scolding
- goings-on** *n pl* 1 actions, events <coming-out parties and sundry ~> 2 reprehensible happenings or conduct <tales of scandalous ~ in high circles>
- goitre**, *NAM* chiefly **goiter** /ˈɡɔɪtə/ *n* an abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland visible as a swelling of the front of the neck [F *goitre*, fr MF, back-formation fr *goitron* throat, fr (assumed) VL *gutturion-*, *guttro*, fr L *guttur* throat, crop of a bird]
- goitrogen** /ˈɡɔɪtrɒjən/ *n* a substance that induces goitre formation – **goitrogenic** /-ˈjenɪk/ *adj*
- go-kart** /ˈɡɒ-ˌkɑːt/ *n* a tiny racing car with small wheels [*go* + *kart*, alter of *cart*]
- Golconda** /ˈɡɒlˈkɒndə/ *n* a rich mine, broadly a source of great wealth [Golconda, city in India, famous for its diamonds]
- gold** /ˈɡɒld/ *n* 1 a malleable ductile yellow metallic element that occurs chiefly free or in a few minerals and is used esp in coins and jewellery and as a currency reserve PERIODIC TABLE 2a(1) gold coins (2) GOLD MEDAL <won a ~ in the 100m> *b* money *c* GOLD STANDARD *d* gold as a commodity 3 a deep metallic yellow 4 sth valued as excellent or the finest of its kind <a heart of ~> 5 (a shot hitting) the golden or yellow centre spot of an archery target [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *geolu* yellow – more at YELLOW]
- gold-beater** /-ˈbeɪtə/ *n* sby who beats gold into gold leaf – **goldbeating** *n*
- gold-brick** /-ˈbrɪk/ *n* sth that appears to be valuable but is actually worthless – *infml*
- goldcrest** /-ˈkrest/ *n* a very small olive-green European bird that has a bright yellow crown
- gold-digger** *n* a woman who uses charm to extract money or gifts from men – *infml*
- golden** /ˈɡɒld(ə)n/ *adj* 1 consisting of, relating to, or containing gold 2a of the colour of gold *b* BOND 1a 3 prosperous, flourishing <~ days> 4 highly favoured and promising (worldly) success – often in *golden boy/girl* 5 favourable, advantageous <a ~ opportunity> 6 of or marking a 50th anniversary <~ wedding> – **goldenly** *adv*, **goldenness** *n*
- golden age** *n* a period of great happiness, prosperity, and achievement
- golden eagle** *n* a large eagle of the northern hemisphere with brownish yellow tips on the head and neck feathers
- golden eye** /-ˈje/ *n* a large-headed swift-flying diving duck of which the male is strikingly marked in black and white
- golden hamster** *n* a small tawny hamster widely kept as a pet
- golden handshake** *n* a large ex gratia money payment given by a company to an employee, esp on retirement
- Golden Horde** /ˈhɔːd/ *n*, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of Mongol Tartars who overran E Europe in the 13th c [fr the golden tent of the Mongol ruler]
- golden mean** *n* the medium between extremes; moderation
- golden number** *n* a number marking a year in the Metonic cycle of 19 years and used in calculating the date of Easter
- golden oriole** *n* an Old World oriole of which the male is brilliant yellow
- golden plover** *n* either of 2 kinds of plover whose upper parts are speckled golden yellow and white in summer
- golden retriever** *n* a medium-sized golden-coated retriever

**goldenrod** /-ˈrɒd/ *n* any of numerous composite plants with (loosely clustered) heads of small usu yellow flowers

**golden rule** *n* 1 a rule of ethical conduct, recorded in Mt 7:12 and Lk 6:31, requiring one to treat others as one would wish to be treated by them 2 a guiding principle

**golden section** *n* the proportion of a geometrical figure or of a divided line such that the smaller dimension is to the greater as the greater is to the whole  MATHEMATICS

**golden syrup** *n* the pale yellow syrup derived from cane sugar refining and used in cooking

**goldfinch** /-ˈfɪnʃ/ *n* a small red, black, yellow, and white European finch

**goldfish** /-ˈfɪʃ/ *n* a small (golden yellow) fish related to the carps and widely kept in aquariums and ponds

**gold leaf** *n* gold beaten into very thin sheets and used esp for gilding

**gold medal** *n* a medal of gold awarded to sb who comes first in a competition

**gold mine** *n* a rich source of sth desired (e.g. information)

**gold rush** *n* a rush to newly discovered goldfields in pursuit of riches

**goldsmith** /-ˈsmɪθ/ *n* one who works in gold or deals in articles of gold

**gold standard** *n* a standard of money under which the basic unit of currency is defined by a stated quantity of gold of a fixed fineness

**golem** /ˈɡoʊləm/ *n* a clay figure of Hebrew folklore endowed with life [Yiddish *golem*, fr Heb *golem* shapeless mass]

**golf** /ɡɒlf/ *n* a game in which a player using special clubs attempts to hit a ball into each of the 9 or 18 successive holes on a course with as few strokes as possible [ME (Sc), perh modif of MD *colf*, *colve* club, bat] – **golf** *vi*

**Golf** – a communications code word for the letter *g*

**golf ball** *n* a spherical ball that carries the characters in an electric typewriter

**golf course** *n* an area of land laid out for playing golf consisting of a series of 9 or 18 holes each with a tee, fairway, and putting green

**golfer** /ˈɡɒlfə/ *n* sb who plays golf

**golf links** *n* a golf course, esp near the sea – often pl with sing meaning

**Golgi** /ˈɡɒlʒi/, *ˈɡɒlgi* / *adj* of the Golgi apparatus or bodies (< *vesicles*)

**Golgi apparatus** *n* a cytoplasmic organelle that appears in electron microscopy as a series of parallel (vesicular) membranes and is concerned with secretion of cell products [Camillo *Golgi* †1926 It physician]

**Golgi body** *n* (a discrete particle of) the Golgi apparatus

**Goliath** /ˈɡɒli-əθ/ *n* a giant [Heb *Golyath*, biblical giant of the Philistines slain by David (1 Sam 17)]

**Goliath beetle** *n* a very large African beetle that has a black body marked with white stripes

**golliwog, gollywog** /ˈɡɒli,wɒɡ/ *n* a child's doll made from soft material that is dressed as a man and has a black face and black hair standing out round its head [Golliwogg, an animated doll in children's fiction by Bertha Upton †1912 US writer]

**gollop** /ˈɡɒləp/ *vi* or *n* (to) gulp – *infmt* [by alter]

**golly** /ˈɡɒli/ *interj* – used to express surprise [euphemism for *God*]

**golly** *n* a golliwog [by shortening & alter]

**golosh** /ˈɡɒləʃ/ *n*, chiefly Br a galosh

**gon-**, **gono-** *comb form* sexual, reproductive, gonad (< *gonidium*) [Gk, fr *gonos* procreation, seed, fr *gignesthai* to be born – more at *KIN*]

**-gon** /-ɡɒn/, **-gon-** *comb form* (< *n*) geometrical figure having (so many) angles (decagon) [NL *-gonum*, fr Gk *-gonon*, fr *gonia* angle – kin to Gk *gony* knee – more at *KNEE*]

**gonad** /ˈɡɒnəd/; also *ˈɡo-/* *n* any of the primary sex glands (e.g. the ovaries or testes) [NL *gonad-*, *gonas*, fr Gk *gonos*] – **gonadal** /-ˈnɑːdl/ *adj*

**gonadotrophic** /ˈɡɒnədəˈtrɒfɪk/, *ɡɒnədə-/*, **gonadotropic** /-ˈtrɒpɪk/ *adj* acting on or stimulating the gonads [ISV]

**gonadotrophin** /ˈɡɒnədəˈtrɒfɪn/, *ɡɒnədəˈtrɒfɪn/*, **gonadotropin** /ˈɡɒnədəˈtrɒpɪn/, *ɡɒnədəˈtrɒpɪn/* *n* a gonadotrophic hormone (e.g. follicle-stimulating hormone)

**gondola** /ˈɡɒndələ/ *n* 1 a long narrow flat-bottomed boat used on the canals of Venice 2a an enclosure suspended from a balloon for carrying passengers or instruments b a cabin suspended from a cable and used for transporting passengers (e.g. up a ski slope) 3 a fixture approachable from all sides used in self-service retail shops to display merchandise [It, fr ML *gondula*, dim. of (assumed) VL *condua*]

**gondolier** /ˈɡɒndaˈliə/ *n* a boatman who propels a gondola [F, fr It *gondoliere*, fr *gondola*]

**gone** /ɡɒn/ *adj* 1a involved, absorbed (< *far ~ in hysteria*) b pregnant by a specified length of time (< *she's 6 months ~*) c infatuated – often + *on*; *infmt* (< *was real ~ on that man*) 2 dead – euph [fr pp of *go*]

**gone** *adv*, Br past, turned (< *it's ~ 3 o'clock*)

**goner** /ˈɡɒnə/ *n* one whose case or state is hopeless or lost – *infmt*

**gonfalon** /ˈɡɒnfələn/ *n* a gonfanon [It *gonfalone*, fr OIt, fr OF *gonfanon*, *gonfalon*]

**gonfanon** /ˈɡɒnfəˌnɒn-, *-nan/* *n* a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame [ME *gonfanoun*, fr MF *gonfanon*, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *gundfano* war flag, fr *gund-* battle, war + *-fano* cloth]

**gong** /ɡɒŋ/ *n* 1 a disc-shaped percussion instrument that produces a resounding tone when struck with a usu padded hammer 2 a flat saucer-shaped bell 3 a medal or decoration – slang [Malay & Jav, of imit origin] – **gong** *vi*

**goni-**, **gonio-** *comb form* corner; angle (< *goniometer*) [Gk *gōnia*]

**gonidium** /ɡoˈnɪdi-əm/ *n*, pl *gonidia* /-di-ə/ an asexual reproductive cell or group of cells in or on a gametophyte [NL, fr *gon-* + *-idium*] – **gonidial** *adj*

**goniometer** /ɡohniˈɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring angles – **goniometry** /-ˈɒmɪtri/ *n*, **goniometric** /-ni-ˈɒmetrɪk/ *adj*

**gonna** /ˈɡɒnə, *ɡəna/* *verbal auxiliary pres* to be going to (< *I'm ~ wash that man right out of my hair* – Oscar Hammerstein) – nonstandard [alter of *going* to]

**gono-** – see *GON-*

**gonococcus** /ˈɡɒnəˈkɒkəs/ *n*, pl *gonococci* /-ˈkɒk(s)ɪe, -ˈkɒk(s)ɪ/ the pus-producing bacterium that causes gonorrhoea [NL] – **gonococcal**, **gonococcic** /-ˈkɒk(s)ɪk/ *adj*

**gonorrhoea**, chiefly NAm **gonorrhea** /ˈɡɒnsəˈriə/ *n* a venereal disease in which there is inflammation of the mucous membranes of the genital tracts caused by gonococcal bacteria [ML, fr LL, morbid loss of semen, fr Gk *gonorrhōia*, fr *gon-* + *-rrhōia* *-rrhōia*] – **gonorrhoeal** *adj*

**-gony** /-ɡ(ə)ni/ *comb form* (< *n*) origin, reproduction; manner of coming into being (< *sporogony*) (< *cosmogony*) [L *-gonia*, fr Gk, fr *gonos*]

**goo** /ɡuː/ *n* 1 sticky matter 2 cloying sentimentality *USE* *infmt* [perh alter of *glue*] – **goosey** *adj*

**good** /ɡʊd/ *adj* better /ˈbetə/, best /ˈbest/ 1a(1) of a favourable character or tendency (< *news*) (2) handsome, fertile (< *land*) (3) handsome, attractive (< *looks*) b(1) suitable, fit (< *it's a ~ day for planting roses*) (2) free from injury or disease, whole (< *I ~ arm*) (3) not depreciated (< *bad money drives out ~*) (4) commercially sound (< *a ~ risk*) (5) certain to last or live (< *for another year*) (6) certain to pay or contribute (< *for a few quid*) (7) certain to elicit a specified result (< *always ~ for a laugh*) c(1) agreeable, pleasant; specif amusing (2) beneficial to the health or character (< *spinach is ~ for you*) (3) not rotten; fresh (< *the beef is still ~*) d ample, full e(1) well-founded, true (< *reasons*) (2) deserving of respect, honourable (< *in ~ standing*) (3) legally valid (< *title*) f(1) adequate, satisfactory, also strong, robust (2) conforming to a standard (< *English*) (3) choice, discriminating (< *taste*) 2a(1) morally commendable; virtuous (< *a ~ man*) (2) correct, specif well-behaved (3) kind, benevolent (< *intentions*) b reputable; specif wellborn (< *a ~ family*) c competent, skilful (< *a ~ doctor*) d loyal (< *a ~ Catholic*) [ME, fr OE *god*, akin to OHG *guot* good, Skt *gadh* to hold fast] – **goodish** *adj* – as good as virtually; IN EFFECT (< *as good as dead*) – as good as gold extremely well-behaved (< *the child was as good as gold*) – good and very, entirely – *infmt* (< *should be good and ready by Tuesday*) – in someone's good books in sb's favour

**good** *n* 1a sth good (< *it's no ~ complaining*) b the quality of being good (< *to know ~ from evil*) c a good element or portion (< *recognized the ~ in him*) 2 prosperity, benefit (< *for the ~ of the community*) 3a sth that has economic utility or satisfies an economic want – usu pl b pl personal property having intrinsic value but usu excluding money, securities, and negotiable instruments c pl wares, merchandise (< *tinned ~s*) > 4 pl but sing or pl in constr the desired or necessary article (< *came up with the ~s*) – *infmt* 5 pl proof of wrongdoing – slang (< *the police have got the ~s on him*) – for good forever, permanently – to the good 1 for the best, beneficial (< *this rain is all to the good*) 2 in a position of net gain or profit (< *he ended the game £10 to the good*)

**good** *adv* well – *infmt*

**good** *book* *n*, often cap *G&B* the Bible

**goodbye**, NAm also **goodby** /ˈɡʊdˈbiː/ *interj* – used to express farewell [alter. of *God be with you*]

**goodbye**, NAm also **goodby** *n* a concluding remark or gesture at parting (< *time to say our ~s*)




**'good-for-nothing** *adj* of no value; worthless  
**'good-for-nothing** *n* an idle worthless person  
**'Good Friday** *n* the Friday before Easter, observed in churches as the anniversary of the crucifixion of Christ [fr its special sanctity]  
**'good-hearted** *adj* having a kindly generous disposition – **'good-heartedly** *adv*, **'good-heartedness** *n*  
**'good-humoured** *adj* good-natured, cheerful – **'good-humouredly** *adv*  
**'goodie** /'goodi/ *n* a goody  
**'good** *life* *n* a life marked by a high standard of living  
**'good-looking** *adj* having a pleasing or attractive appearance – **'good-looker** *n*  
**'goodly** /'goodli/ *adj* 1 significantly large in amount; considerable (< a ~ number) 2 archaic pleasantly attractive; handsome  
**'good-natured** *adj* of a cheerful and cooperative disposition – **'good-naturedly** *adv*, **'good-naturedness** *n*  
**'goodness** /'goodnis/ *n* the nutritious or beneficial part of sthg (< boil all the ~ out of the meat) ['GOOD + -NESS]  
**'good 'o, good 'oh** /oh/ *interj* – used as an expression of approval or pleasure  
**'good 'offices** *n pl* power or action that helps sb out of a difficulty – often in *through the good offices of*  
**'Good Sa'maritan** /sə'marɪt(ə)n/ *n* SAMARITAN 2a  
**'goods, train** *n*, chiefly *Br* a train of wagons for carrying goods  
**'good-tempered** *adj* having an even temper; not easily annoyed – **'good-temperedly** *adv*, **'good-temperedness** *n*  
**'good-time girl** *n* a female prostitute – euph  
**'goodwill** /'wɪl/ *n* 1a a kindly feeling of approval and support; benevolent interest or concern b the favour or prestige that a business has acquired beyond the mere value of what it sells 2a cheerful consent b willing effort – **'goodwilled** *adj*  
**'good 'word** *n* a favourable statement (< put in a ~ for me)  
**'goody, goodie** /'goodi/ *n* 1 sthg particularly attractive, pleasurable, or desirable 2 a good person or hero *USE* infml  
**'goody-goody** *n or adj* (sby) affectedly or ingratiatingly prim or virtuous – infml  
**'goof** /'goʊf/ *n* 1 a ridiculous stupid person 2 chiefly *NAM* a blunder *USE* infml [prob alter of *E dial. goff* (simpleton)]  
**'goof vb**, chiefly *NAM* *vi* to make a goof; blunder ~ *vt* to make a mess of, bungle – often + *up* *USE* infml  
**'goof,ball** /-baw/ *n*, *NAM* a mentally abnormal person – slang  
**go off** *vi* 1 to explode 2 to go forth or away, depart 3 to undergo decline, or deterioration; *specif*, of food or drink to become rotten or sour 4 to follow a specified course; proceed (< the party went off well) 5 to make a characteristic noise; sound (< the alarm went off) – compare *GO OFF* THE DEEP END  
**'goofy** /'goʊfi/ *adj* silly, daft – infml – **'goofily** *adv*, **'goofiness** *n*  
**'googly** /'goʊgli/ *n* a usu slow delivery by a right-handed bowler in cricket that is an off break as viewed by a right-handed batsman although apparently delivered with a leg-break action [origin unknown]  
**'googol** /'goʊgəl/ *n* ten raised to the power 100 [coined by a child]  
**'googolplex** /-pleks/ *n* ten raised to the power of a googol [*googol* + -plex (as in duplex)]  
**'goo-goo** /'goʊ goʊ/ *adj* loving, enticing – infml; chiefly in *goo-goo eyes* (< make ~ eyes at each other – *New Republic*) [prob alter of *goggle*, *adj*, staring]  
**'goon** /'goʊn/ *n* 1 *NAM* a man hired to terrorize or eliminate opponents 2 an idiot, dope – slang [partly short for *E dial. gooney* (simpleton); partly fr Alice the *Goon*, subhuman comic-strip creature by E C Segar, †1938 US cartoonist] – **'goony** *adj*  
**go on** *vi* 1 to continue; *CARRY ON* 2 2a to proceed (as if) by a logical step (< he went on to explain why) b of time to pass 3 to take place; happen (< what's going on?) 4 to be capable of being put on (< her gloves wouldn't go on) 5a to talk, esp in an effusive manner (< the way people go on about pollution) b to criticize constantly; nag (< you're always going on at me) 6a to come into operation, action, or production (< the lights went on at sunset) b to appear on the stage 7 *Br* to manage; *GET ALONG* (< how did you go on for money?)  
**'goosander** /'goʊ'sanda/ *n* a sawbill duck of the northern hemisphere [alter. of earlier *gossander*, prob fr *gos-* (as in *gosling*) + *bergander* (sheldrake)]  
**'goose** /'goʊs/ *n*, *pl* (1 & 2) *geese* /'geɪs/, (3) *geeses* 1 (the female of) any of numerous large long-necked web-footed waterfowl 2 a simpleton, dolt 3 a tailor's smoothing iron with a goose-neck handle [ME *gos*, fr OE *gōs*, akin to OHG *gans* goose, L *anser*] – **'goosey** *adj*



**'goose** *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to poke between the buttocks – vulg  
**'gooseberry** /'goʊzb(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 (the shrub that bears) an edible acid usu prickly green or yellow fruit 2 an unwanted companion to 2 lovers – chiefly in *to play gooseberry* [perh fr 'goose + berry]  
**'goose, bumps** *n pl*, chiefly *NAM* gooseflesh  
**'goose, flesh** /-,flesh/ *n* a bristling roughness of the skin produced by erection of its papillae, usu from cold or fear [prob fr the resemblance to a plucked fowl]  
**'goose, foot** /-,foot/ *n*, *pl* *goosefoots* any of several plants with small green flowers that grow esp on disturbed or cultivated land  
**'goosegog** /'goʊz.gɒg/ *n*, *Br* a gooseberry – infml [*gooseberry* + *gog*, of unknown origin]  
**'goose, grass** *n* cleavers  
**'goose, neck** /-,neck/ *n* sthg (e.g. a flexible jointed metal pipe) curved like the neck of a goose or U-shaped – **'goosenecked** *adj*  
**'goose, pimples** *n pl* gooseflesh  
**'goose, step** *n* a straight-legged marching step – **'goose-stepper** *n*  
**go out** *vi* 1a to leave a room, house, country, etc b to fight in a duel c to travel to a distant place (< they went out to Africa) d to work away from home (< she went out charring) 2a to become extinguished (< the hall light went out) b to become obsolete or unfashionable c to play the last card of one's hand 3 to spend time regularly with sb of esp the opposite sex 4 to be broadcast (< the programme went out at 9 o'clock)  
**go over** *vi* 1 to become converted (e.g. to a religion or political party) 2 to receive approval; succeed (< my play should go over well in Scotland)  
**'gopher** /'gɒfə/ *n* 1 any of several American burrowing rodents that are the size of a large rat and have large cheek pouches 2 any of numerous small N American ground squirrels closely related to the chipmunks [origin unknown]  
**'goral** /'gɒrəl/ *n* either of 2 E Asian mammals that resemble small antelopes [perh deriv of *Skt gaura* gaur]  
**'gorblimey** /'gɒrblɪmeɪ/ *interj*, *Br* – used to express surprise and indignation; slang [euphemism for *God blind me*]  
**'gorblimey** *adj*, *Br* common, vulgar (< spoke with a ~ accent) – no longer in vogue  
**'Gordian knot** /'gɔːdɪən-, -dɪən/ *n* an intricate problem; esp one insoluble in its own terms [*Gordius*, King of Phrygia, who tied an intricate knot which supposedly could be undone only by the future ruler of Asia, and which Alexander the Great cut with his sword]  
**'gore** /'gɔː/ *n* (clotted) blood [ME, filth, fr OE *gor*; akin to OE *wearm* warm]  
**'gore** *n* a tapering or triangular piece of material (e.g. cloth) used to give shape to sthg (e.g. a garment or sail) [ME, fr OE *gara*, akin to OE *gar* spear, Gk *chaos* shepherd's staff] – **'gored** *adj*  
**'gore** *vt* to pierce or wound with a horn or tusk [ME *goren*, prob fr *gore*, *gare* spear, fr OE *gar*]  
**'gorge** /'gɔːdʒ/ *n* 1 the throat 2 the (contents of the) stomach or belly 3 the entrance into an outwork of a fort 4 a narrow steep-walled valley, often with a stream flowing through it ~ *see* GEOGRAPHY [ME, fr MF, fr LL *gurga*, alter of L *gurgus* throat, whirlpool – more at *VORACIOUS*]  
**'gorge** *vi* to eat greedily or until full ~ *vt* 1 to fill completely or to the point of making distended (< veins ~ d with blood) 2 to swallow greedily – **'gorger** *n*  
**'gorgeous** /'gɔːdʒəs/ *adj* 1 splendidly beautiful or magnificent 2 very fine; pleasant (< it was a ~ day for a picnic) [ME *gorgayse*, fr MF *gorgias* elegant, fr *gorgias* neckerchief, fr *gorge*] – **'gorgeously** *adv*, **'gorgeousness** *n*  
**'gorget** /'gɔːdʒɪt/ *n* a piece of armour protecting the throat [ME, fr MF, fr *gorge*]  
**'gorgon** /'gɔːɡən/ *n* 1 cap any of 3 sisters in Greek mythology who had live snakes in place of hair and whose glance turned the beholder to stone 2 an ugly or repulsive woman [L *Gorgon* → *Gorgo*, fr Gk *Gorgon*] – **'Gorgonian** /'gɔːɡəniən-, -ni-ən/ *adj*  
**'gorgonian** /'gɔːɡəniən-, -ni-ən/ *n* any of an order of colonial anthozoan polyps [deriv of L *gorgonia* coral, fr *Gorgon*-, *Gorgo*] – **'gorgonian** *adj*  
**'Gorgonzola** /'gɔːɡɒnzə'zɒlə/ *n* a blue-veined strongly flavoured cheese of Italian origin [It, fr *Gorgonzola*, town in Italy]  
**'gorilla** /'gɔːrɪlə/ *n* 1 an anthropoid ape of western equatorial Africa related to the chimpanzee but less erect and much larger ~ *see* ENDANGERED 2 an ugly or brutal man [deriv of Gk *Gorillai*, a mythical African tribe of hairy women]



**gormand-ize**, *-ise* /ˈɡɔːmənˌdiːz/ *vb* to eat voraciously, gorge [*gormand*, alter. of *gourmand*] – **gormandizer** *n*  
**gormless** /ˈɡɔːmlɪs/ *adj*, *Br* lacking understanding and intelligence, stupid – *infrm* [alter. of *E dial. gaumless*, fr *gaum* attention, understanding (fr *ME gome*, fr *ON gaum*, *gaumr*) + *-less*]  
**go round** *vi* 1 to spread, circulate (<there's a rumour going round>) 2 to satisfy demand; meet the need (<not enough jobs to go round>) 3 *GO AROUND* 1  
**gorse** /ˈɡɔːs/ *n* a spiny yellow-flowered evergreen leguminous European shrub [*ME gorst*, fr *OE* – more at *HORROR*] – **gorsy** *adj*  
**Gorsedd** /ˈɡɔːsɛdθ/ *n* a mock druidical institution that assembles twice a year to confer bardic degrees and titles [*W*, lit., mound, court, throne]  
**gory** /ˈɡɔːri/ *adj* 1 covered with gore, bloodstained 2 full of violence, bloodcurdling (<a ~ film>)  
**gosh** /ˈɡɔːʃ/ *interj* – used to express surprise [euphemism for *God*]  
**goshawk** /ˈɡɔːshɔːk/ *n* any of several long-tailed hawks with short rounded wings [*ME goshawke*, fr *OE goshafoec*, fr *gos* goose + *hafoec* hawk]  
**gosling** /ˈɡɔːzlɪŋ/ *n* a young goose [*ME*, fr *gos* goose]  
**go-slow** *n*, *Br* a deliberate slowing down of production by workers as a means of forcing management's compliance with their demands  
**'gospel** /ˈɡɔːspl/ *n* 1 often *cap* the message of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; *esp* any of the first 4 books of the New Testament, or any similar apocryphal book, relating this 2 *cap* a liturgical reading from any of the New Testament Gospels 3 the message or teachings of a religious teacher or movement 4a sthg accepted as a guiding principle (<the ~ of hard work>) b sthg so authoritative as not to be questioned (<they took his word as ~>) [*ME*, fr *OE godspel*, fr *god* good + *spell* tale – *see* at *SPELL*]  
**'gospel** *adj* 1 of the Christian gospel, evangelical 2 of or being usu evangelistic religious songs of American origin  
**'gospel, side** *n*, often *cap G* the left side of an altar or chancel as one faces it [fr the custom of reading the Gospel from this side]  
**gossamer** /ˈɡɔːsəmə/ *n* 1 a film of cobwebs floating in air in calm clear weather 2 sthg light, insubstantial, or tenuous [*ME gossomer*, fr *gos* goose + *somer* summer] – **gossamer** *adj*, **gossamery** *adj*  
**'gossip** /ˈɡɔːsɪp/ *n* 1 sby who habitually reveals usu sensational facts concerning other people's actions or lives 2a (rumour or report of) the facts related by a gossip b a chatty talk [*ME gossib* godparent, crony, fr *OE godsibb*, fr *god* + *sibb* kinsman, fr *sibb* related] – **gossipry** /-prɪ/ *n*, **gossipy** *adj*  
**'gossip** *vi* to relate gossip – **gossiper** *n*  
**got** /ɡɒt/ 1 *past of GET* 2 *pres pl & 1&2 sing of GET* (I ~ news for you) (<we ~ to go>) – nonstandard, compare *GOTCHA*, *GOTTA*  
**gotcha** /ˈɡɒtʃə/ *interj* 1 – used to indicate that one has understood 2 – used as a shout of triumph when seizing sthg or succeeding in an attempt *USE infrm* [alter. of *got you*]  
**Goth** /ɡoθ/ *n* a member of a Germanic people that invaded parts of the Roman Empire between the 3rd and 5th c AD [*LL Gothi*, pl. of *Gmc* origin]  
**'Gothic** /ˈɡoθɪk/ *adj* 1 of the Goths, their culture, or Gothic 2 of a style of architecture prevalent from the middle of the 12th c to the early 16th c characterized by vaulting and pointed arches 3 often *not cap* of or like a class of novels of the late 18th and early 19th c dealing with macabre or mysterious events – **gothically** *adv*, **Gothicism** /-sɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **gothicize** /-sɪz/ *vt*  
**'Gothic** *n* 1 the E Germanic language of the Goths 2 Gothic architectural style 3a *BLACK LETTER* b *SANS SERIF* *USE* (3) ➞ *ALPHABET*  
**Gothic Revival** *n* an artistic and architectural style of the 18th and 19th c largely imitative of Gothic style  
**go through** *vi* 1 to continue firmly or obstinately to the end – often + *with* (<can't go through with the wedding>) 2a to receive approval or sanction b to come to a desired or satisfactory conclusion  
**'gotta** /ˈɡɒtə/ *vt pres* to have a (I ~ horse) – nonstandard [alter. of *got a*]  
**'gotta** *verbal auxiliary pres* to have to; must (<we ~ go>) – nonstandard [alter. of *got to*]  
**gotten** /ˈɡɒtn/ *NAm past part of GET*  
**götterdämmerung** /ˈɡuːtəˈdeməʊrʊŋ/ *n*, often *cap* the final destruction of the gods and the world in Germanic mythology [*G*, twilight of the gods]  
**gouache** /ˈɡoʊˌaʃh/ (Fr *gwaf*)/ *n* a method of painting with opaque watercolours that have been ground in water and mixed with a gum

preparation [*F*, deriv of *L aquatio* act of fetching water, fr *aquatus*, pp of *aquari* to fetch water, fr *aqua* water – more at *ISLAND*]  
**Gouda** /ˈɡoʊdə/ *n* a mild cheese of Dutch origin that is similar to *Edam* but contains more fat [*Gouda*, town in the Netherlands]  
**'gouge** /ˈɡowj/ *n* 1 a chisel with a curved cross section and bevel on the concave side of the blade 2 chiefly *NAm* overcharging, extortion – *infrm* [*ME gouge*, fr *MF gouge*, fr *LL gulbia*, of Celt origin; akin to *OIr gulan* sting]  
**'gouge** *vi* 1 to scoop out (as if) with a gouge 2a to force out (an eye), *esp* with the thumb 3 chiefly *NAm* to subject to extortion; overcharge – *infrm* – **gouger** *n*  
**goulash** /ˈɡoʊlɪʃ/ *n* 1 a meat stew made usu with veal or beef and highly seasoned with paprika 2 a round in bridge played with hands dealt in lots of 5, 5, and 3 cards consecutively from a pack formed by the unshuffled arranged hands from a previous deal [*Hung gulyás* herdsman's stew]  
**go under** *vi* to be destroyed or defeated; fail (<empty order books and high interest charges forced the company to go under>)  
**go up** *vi*, *Br* to enter or return to a university  
**gourd** /ˈɡoʊəd/ *n* (the fruit of) any of the cucumber family of typically tendrill-bearing climbing plants (e.g. the melon, squash, and pumpkin); *esp* any of various hard-rinded inedible fruits used for ornament or for vessels and utensils [*ME gourde*, fr *MF*, fr *L cucurbita*]  
**gourde** /ˈɡoʊəd/ *n* ➞ *Haiti* at *NATIONALITY* [*AmerF*, fr *F*, fem of *gourd* numb, dull, heavy, fr *L gurdus* dull, stupid]  
**gourmand** /ˈɡawmɒnd/, ˈɡoo- (Fr *gurmü*)/ *n* one who is excessively fond of or heartily interested in food and drink [*MF gourmand*] – **gourmandism** *n*  
**gourmet** /ˈɡawmay/, ˈɡoo- (Fr *gurmé*)/ *n* a connoisseur of food and drink [*F*, fr *MF*, alter. of *gromet* boy servant, vintner's assistant, fr *ME grom* groom] – **gourmet** *adj*  
**gout** /ɡoʊt/ *n* 1 painful inflammation of the joints, *esp* that of the big toe, resulting from a metabolic disorder in which there is an excessive amount of uric acid in the blood 2 a sticky blob [*ME goutte*, fr *OF*, *gout*, drop, fr *L gutta* drop] – **gouty** *adj*  
**govern** /ˈɡʊv(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to exercise continuous sovereign authority over 2a to control, determine, or strongly influence (<availability often ~s choice>) b to hold in check; restrain 3 to require (a word) to be in a usu specified case (<in English a transitive verb ~s a pronoun in the accusative>) 4 to serve as a precedent or deciding principle for (<habits and customs that ~ human decisions>) ~ *vi* 1 to prevail 2 to exercise authority [*ME governen*, fr *OF gouverner*, fr *L gubernare* to steer, govern, fr *Gk kybernan*] – **governable** *adj*  
**governance** /ˈɡʊv(ə)nəns/ *n* governing or being governed – *fml*  
**governess** /ˈɡʊv(ə)nɪs/ *n* a woman entrusted with the private teaching and often supervision of a child  
**government** /ˈɡʊv(ə)mənt/, ˈɡʊvəmənt/ *n* 1 governing; *specif* authoritative direction or control 2 the office, authority, or function of governing 3 policy making as distinguished from administration 4 the machinery through which political authority is exercised 5 *sing or pl in constr* the body of people that constitutes a governing authority – **governmental** /-məntl/ *adj*, **governmentally** *adv*  
**governor** /ˈɡʊv(ə)nə/ *n* 1a a ruler, chief executive, or nominal head of a political unit b a commanding officer c the managing director and usu the principal officer of an institution or organization d a member of a group (e.g. the governing body of a school) that controls an institution 2 a device giving automatic control of pressure, fuel, steam, etc, *esp* to regulate speed 3a sby (e.g. a father, guardian, or employer) looked on as governing – *slang* b *Mister*, *Sir* – *slang*, used as a familiar form of address [*'GOVERN* + *-OR*] – **governorate** /-rət/, -raɪt/ *n*, **governorship** *n*  
**governor-general** *n*, *pl* **governors-general**, **governor-generals** a governor of high rank, *esp* one representing the Crown in a Commonwealth country – **governor-generalship** *n*  
**gowan** /ˈɡoʊən/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* *OXEYE DAISY*, broadly any white or yellow meadow flower [prob alter. of *ME gollan*]  
**gown** /ɡoʊn/ *n* 1a a loose flowing robe worn *esp* by a professional or academic person when acting in an official capacity ➞ *GARMENT* b a woman's dress, *esp* one that is elegant or for formal wear c an outer garment worn in an operating theatre 2 the body of students and staff of a college or university (<riots between town and ~>) [*ME*, fr *MF gowne*, fr *LL gunna*, a fur or leather garment]  
**gownsmen** /ˈɡoʊnzməŋ/ *n* a professional or academic person  
**goy** /ɡɔɪ/ *n*, *pl* **goyim** /-əm/, -eɪm/, **goys** a gentile – chiefly derog [*Yiddish*, fr *Heb goy* people, nation] – **goyish** *adj*

- Graafian follicle** /grahf-i-on/ *n* a vesicle in the ovary of a mammal enclosing a developing egg [Regnier de Graaf {1673 D anatomist}]
- 'grab** /grəb/ *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to take or seize hastily or by a sudden motion or grasp 2 to obtain unscrupulously 3 to forcefully engage the attention of - *infrml* <he ~s an audience> ~ *vt* to make a grab; snatch [obs D or LG *graben*; akin to ME *grasp*en to grasp, Skt *grbhñati* he seizes] - **grabber** *n*
- 'grab** *n* 1a a sudden snatch b an unlawful or unscrupulous seizure c sth intended to be grabbed - often in combination <a grab-rail> 2a a mechanical device for clutching an object - *up* for grabs available for anyone to take or win - *infrml*
- 'grab**, **bag** *n*, chiefly *NAM* LUCKY DIP
- grabby** /grəbi/ *adj* grasping, greedy - *infrml*
- graben** /grəb(ə)n/ *n* RIFT VALLEY [G, ditch]
- 'grace** /grays/ *n* 1a unmerited divine assistance given to human beings for their regeneration or sanctification b a state of being pleasing to God 2 a short prayer at a meal asking a blessing or giving thanks 3a disposition to or an act or instance of kindness or clemency b a special favour <each in his place, by right, not ~, shall rule his heritage - Rudyard Kipling> c a temporary exemption; a reprieve d approval, favour 4a a charming trait or accomplishment b an elegant appearance or effect; charm c ease and suppleness of movement or bearing 5 - used as a title for a duke, duchess, or archbishop 6 consideration, decency <had the ~ to blush> [ME, fr OF, fr L *gratia* favour, charm, thanks, fr *gratus* pleasing, grateful, akin to OHG *queran* to sigh, Skt *grāmī* he praises] - with bad/good grace (un)willingly or (un)happily <took his defeat with good grace>
- 'grace** *vt* 1 to confer dignity or honour on 2 to adorn, embellish
- graceful** /grays(ə)l/ *adj* displaying grace in form, action, or movement - **gracefully** *adv*, **gracefulness** *n*
- graceless** /grayslis/ *adj* 1 lacking a sense of propriety 2 devoid of elegance; awkward [GRACE + -LESS] - **gracelessly** *adv*, **gracelessness** *n*
- 'grace**, **note** *n* a musical note added as an ornament  MUSIC
- Graces** /graysiz/ *n pl* the 3 beautiful sister goddesses in Greek mythology who are the givers of charm and beauty
- gracile** /grasiel/ *adj* 1 slender, slight 2 graceful [L *gracilis*] - **gracileness**, **gracility** /grasi'liti/ *n*
- gracious** /grayshəs/ *adj* 1a marked by kindness and courtesy b marked by tact and delicacy c having those qualities (e.g. comfort, elegance, and freedom from hard work) made possible by wealth <~ living> 2 merciful, compassionate - used conventionally of royalty and high nobility [ME, fr MF *gracius*, fr L *gratiosus* enjoying favour, agreeable, fr *gratia*] - **graciously** *adv*, **graciousness** *n*
- grackle** /grakl/ *n* any of various Old World starlings [deriv of L *graculus* jackdaw]
- gradable**, **gradeable** /graydəbl/ *adj* capable of grammatical comparison or intensification <beautiful is a ~ adjective, but atomic is not> [GRADE + -ABLE] - **gradability** /-biliti/ *n*
- grade** /grə'dayt/ *vi* to shade into the next colour, note, or stage ~ *vt* to arrange in a progression, scale, or series [back-formation fr *gradation*]
- gradation** /grə'daysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a step or place in) a series forming successive stages 2 a gradual passing from one tint or shade to another (e.g. in a painting) 3 ablaut [GRADE + -ATION] - **gradational** *adj*, **gradationally** *adv*
- 'grade** /grayd/ *n* 1a(1) a stage in a process (2) a position in a scale of ranks or qualities b a degree of severity of illness 2 a class of things of the same stage or degree 3 a gradient 4 a domestic animal with one parent purebred and the other of inferior breeding 5 *NAM* a school form, a class 6 *NAM* a mark indicating a degree of accomplishment at school [F, fr L *gradus* step, degree; akin to L *gradi* to step, go, Lith *gradyti* to go, wander] - **gradeless** *adj*
- 'grade** *vt* 1a to arrange in grades; sort b to arrange in a scale or series 2 to improve (e.g. cattle) by breeding with purebred animals - often + *up* 3 *NAM* to assign a mark to - **grader** *n*
- grade** /-grayd/ *comb form* (- *adj*) walking <plantigrade>; moving <retrograde> [F, fr L *-gradus*, fr *gradi*]
- 'grade**, **crossing** *n*, chiefly *NAM* LEVEL CROSSING
- gradient** /graydi-ənt, -dyənt/ *n* 1 the degree of inclination of a road or slope; also a sloping road or railway 2 change in the value of a (specified) quantity with change in a given variable, esp distance <a vertical temperature ~> <a concentration ~> [L *gradient*-, *gradiens*, prp of *gradi*]
- gradual** /gradyool, -joəl, -jal/ *adj* proceeding or happening by steps or degrees [ML *gradualis*, fr *gradus*] - **gradually** *adv*, **gradualness** *n*

- graduand** /gradyoo-and, -joo-/ *n*, *Br* one about to graduate [ML *graduandus*, gerundive of *graduare*]
- 'graduate** /gradyoo-ət, -joo-/ *n* 1 the holder of an academic degree 2 a graduated cup, cylinder, or flask for measuring 3 chiefly *NAM* one who has completed a course of study [ME *graduāt*, fr ML *graduatus*, fr pp of *graduare* to graduate, fr *gradus*]
- 'graduate** *adj* 1 holding an academic degree or diploma <a ~ secretary> 2 postgraduate
- 'graduate** /gradyoo-ayt, -joo-/ *vt* 1 to mark with degrees of measurement 2 to divide into grades or intervals ~ *vi* 1 to receive an academic degree 2 to move up to a usu higher stage of experience, proficiency, or prestige 3 to change gradually 4 *NAM* to complete a course of study - **graduater** *n*
- graduation** /gradyoo-aysh(ə)n, -joo-/ *n* 1 a mark (e.g. on an instrument or vessel) indicating degrees or quantity 2 the award of an academic degree
- graeeco-**, **-ize** /'greesiəz/ *vt*, often *cap* to make Greek or Hellenistic in character
- Graeco-**, chiefly *NAM* **Graeco-** /greekoh-/ *comb form* 1 Greek nation, people, or culture <Graecomania> 2 Greek and <Graeco-Roman> [L *Graeco-*, fr *Graecus*]
- Graeco-Roman** /greekoh-/ *n* a style of wrestling resembling catch-as-catch-can but in which holds on the legs are disallowed
- Graf** /grahf/ *fem* **Graf**in /'grayfin/ *n*, *pl* **Grafen** /grahfn/ a German, Austrian, or Swedish count - usu used as a title [G]
- graffito** /grə'fētoh, gra-/ *n*, *pl* **graffiti** /-ti/ an inscription or drawing, usu of a crude or political nature, made on a wall, rock, etc - *usu pl* [It, dim of *graffio* scratch, fr *graffiare* to scratch]
- 'graft** /grahft/ *vt* 1a to cause (a plant scion) to unite with a stock, also to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 to attach, add 3 to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vi* 1 to become grafted 2 to perform grafting 3 *NAM* to practise graft [ME *graffen*, alter of *graffen*, fr *graffe* graft, fr MF *grafe*, fr ML *graphum*, fr L *stylus*, fr Gk *graphein*, fr *graphein* to write - more at *CARVE*] - **grafter** *n*
- 'graft** *n* 1a a grafted plant b (the point of insertion upon a stock of) a scion 2 (living tissue used in) grafting 3a the improper use of one's position (e.g. public office) to one's private, esp financial, advantage b sth acquired by graft
- 'graft** *vi*, *Br* to work hard - slang [E dial *grāft* (to dig), alter of 'grave] - **graft** *n*
- Grail** /grayl/ *n* HOLY GRAIL [ME *graal*, fr MF, bowl, grail, fr ML *gradalis*]
- 'grain** /grayn/ *n* 1 a seed or fruit of a cereal grass, also (the seeds or fruits collectively of) the cereal grasses or similar food plants 2a a discrete (small hard) particle or crystal (e.g. of sand, salt, or a metal) b the least amount possible <not a ~ of truth in what he said> c fine crystallization (e.g. of sugar) 3 a fast dye 4a a granular surface, nature, or appearance b the outer or hair side of a skin or hide (from which the hair has been removed) 5  UNIT 6a the arrangement of the fibres in wood b the direction, alignment, or texture of the constituent particles, fibres, or threads <the ~ of a rock> <the ~ of a fabric> 7 tactile quality 8 natural disposition or character, temper 9 (a brilliant scarlet dye made from) either kermes or cochineal - not now used technically [ME; partly fr MF *grain* cereal grain, fr L *granum*; partly fr MF *graine* seed, kermes, fr L *grana*, pl of *granum* - more at 'CORN] - **grained** *adj*, **grainy** *adj*, **graininess** *n* - against the grain counter to one's inclination, disposition, or feeling
- 'grain** *vt* 1 to form into grains; granulate 2 to paint in imitation of the grain of wood or stone ~ *vi* to become granular; granulate - **grainer** *n*
- grain whisky** *n* whisky distilled from barley and maize in continuous stills and used chiefly in producing blended whiskies
- 'gralloch** /gralakh/, *Br* the entrails of a dead animal, esp a deer killed in a hunt [ScGael *grallach*]
- 'gralloch** *vt*, *Br* to remove the entrails from (e.g. a deer)
- 'gram** /gram/ *n* a leguminous plant (e.g. the chick-pea) grown esp for its seed [obs Pg (now *grão*), grain, fr L *granum*]
- 'gram**, **gramme** *n* one thousandth of a kilogram (about 0.04oz)  UNIT [F *gramme*, fr LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr Gk *grammat*-, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr *graphein* to write - more at *CARVE*]
- gram** /-gram/ *comb form* (- *n*) drawing; writing; record <ideogram> <telegram> <chronogram> [L *-gramma*, fr Gk, fr *gramma*]
- gram atom** *n* a quantity of an element in grams with a weight numerically equal to its atomic weight

**gramineous** /gr'mini-əs/, **gramineous** /grami'nayshəs/ *adj* of a grass [L *gramineus*, fr *gramin-*, *gramen* grass] – **gramineousness** *n*  
**grammalogue** /'grama,lɒg/ *n* a logogram [Gk *gramma* letter + *E -logue*]

**'grammar** /'grama/ *n* 1 the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence; *broadly* this study when taken to include that of phonology and sometimes of usage 2 the characteristic system of inflections and syntax of a language 3a a grammar textbook b speech or writing evaluated according to its conformity to grammatical rules 4 the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique [ME *gramere*, fr MF *gramaire*, modif of L *grammatica*, fr Gk *grammatikē*, fr fem of *grammatikos* of letters, fr *grammat-*, *gramma*] – **grammarian** /gr'meəri-ən/ *n*

**²grammar** *adj* of the type of education provided at a grammar school (<the ~ stream>)

**'grammar.school** *n* 1 a secondary school that emphasized the study of the classics 2 *Br* a secondary school providing an academic type of education from the age of 11 to 18

**grammatical** /gr'matɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of grammar 2 conforming to the rules of grammar – **grammatically** *adv*, **grammaticalness** *n*, **grammaticality** /-'kæləti/ *n*

**gram-molecular weight** *n* **MOL**

**gram.molecule** *n* **MOLE**

**'gram-negative** *adj* not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's method

**gramophone** /grəmə'foʊn/ *n* a device for reproducing sounds from the vibrations of a stylus resting in a spiral groove on a rotating disc, *specif.* chiefly *Br* RECORD PLAYER [alter of *phonogram*]

**'gram-positive** *adj* holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's method

**grampus** /'grampəs/ *n* any of various (dolphinlike) small whales (e.g. the killer whale) [alter of ME *graspey*, *grapay*, fr MF *graspeis*, fr *gras* fat (fr L *crassus*) + *peis* fish (fr L *piscis*) – more at 'FISHT]

**'Gram's method** /grə'mz/ *n* the treatment of bacteria with a solution of iodine and potassium iodide after staining with gentian violet so that some species are decolorized and some remain coloured [Hans Gram †1938 Dan physician]

**gran** /gran/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a grandmother – *infml*

**grana** /'grayna/ *pl* of GRANUM

**granadilla** /grə'nɪdɪlə/ *n* the oblong fruit of various (tropical American) passionflowers used as a dessert [Sp, dim of *granada* pomegranate]

**granary** /'grɑːnəri/ *n* 1 a storehouse for threshed grain 2 a region producing grain in abundance [L *granarium*, fr *granum* grain]

**'grand** /grænd/ *adj* 1 having more importance than others, foremost 2 complete, comprehensive (<the ~ total of all money paid out>) 3 main, principal 4 large and striking in size, extent, or conception (<a ~ design>) 5a lavish, sumptuous (<a ~ celebration>) b marked by regal form and dignity, imposing c lofty, sublime (<writing in the ~ style>) 6 intended to impress (<a man of ~ gestures and pretentious statements>) 7 very good, wonderful – *infml* (<a ~ time>) [MF, large, great, grand, fr L *grandis*] – **grandly** *adv*, **grandness** *n*

**²grand** *n* 1 GRAND PIANO 2a *Br* a thousand pounds b *NAm* a thousand dollars **USE** (2) slang

**'grand'aunt** /-'aɦnt/ *n* a great-aunt

**grandchild** /'grɑːn,chiɦld/ *n* a child of one's son or daughter

**granddad**, **graddad** /'grɑːn,dɑːd/ *n* a grandfather – *infml*

**grandaughter** /'grɑːn,dɔːtɪz/ *n* a daughter of one's son or daughter

**'grand duchess** *n* 1 the wife or widow of a grand duke 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of a grand duke

**'grand duchy** *n* the territory of a grand duke or grand duchess

**'grand duke** *n* the sovereign ruler of any of various European states  
**grande dame** /grɒnd 'dɑːm/ (Fr grɒd dam) *n* a usu elderly dignified woman of high rank or standing [F, lit., great lady]

**grandee** /gran'dee/ *n* a Spanish or Portuguese nobleman of the highest rank [Sp *grande*, fr *grande*, *adj*, large, great, fr L *grandis*]

**grandeur** /'grɑːnjə, -dya/ *n* 1 the quality of being large or impressive; magnificence 2 personal greatness marked by nobility, dignity, or power [ME, fr MF, fr *grand*]

**grandfather** /'grɑːn(d),fɑːdhɑː/ *n* the father of one's father or mother, *broadly* a male ancestor – **grandfatherly** *adj*

**'grandfather clock** *n* a tall pendulum clock standing directly on the floor [fr the song *My Grandfather's Clock* by Henry C Work †1884 US songwriter]

**grandiloquence** /gran'dɪləkwəns/ *n* lofty or pompous eloquence; bom-

bast [prob fr MF, fr L *grandiloquus* using lofty language, fr *grandis* + *loqui* to speak] – **grandiloquent** *adj*, **grandiloquently** *adv*

**grandiose** /'grɑːndɪəʊs, -əɦz/ *adj* 1 impressive because of uncommon largeness, scope, or grandeur 2 characterized by affectation of grandeur or by absurd exaggeration [F, fr It *grandioso*, fr *grande* great, fr L *grandis*] – **grandiosely** *adv*, **grandioseness**, **grandiosity** /-'ɒsɪti/ *n*

**'grand jury** *n* a jury in the USA that examines accusations and if the evidence warrants makes formal charges

**grandma** /'gran,mah, 'gram,mah/ *n* a grandmother – *infml*

**grand mal** /grɒn'h'mal (Fr grɒ mā) *n* (an attack of) the severe form of epilepsy – compare PETIT MAL [F, lit., great illness]

**'grand master** *n* a chess player who has consistently scored higher than a standardized score in international competition

**grandmother** /'gran,mʊðə, 'grɑːnd-, 'gram-/ *n* the mother of one's father or mother; *broadly* a female ancestor – **grandmotherly** *adj*

**'grandmother clock** *n* a smaller version of a grandfather clock

**Grand National** *n* the major British steeplechase for horses that is run annually at Aintree near Liverpool

**grandnephew** /'grɑːnd,nefyoɦ/ *n* a great-nephew

**'grandniece** /-,nees/ *n* a great-niece

**'grand opera** *n* opera with a serious dramatic plot and no spoken dialogue

**grandpa** /'gran,pah, 'gram-/ *n* a grandfather – *infml*

**grandparent** /'grɑːn(d),peərənt/ *n* the parent of one's father or mother – **grandparenthood** *n*, **grandparental** /-'pərəntl/ *adj*

**'grand piano** *n* a piano with horizontal frame and strings

**grand prix** /'grɒn'h 'pre (Fr grɒ pri)/ *n*, *pl* **grand prix** *often cap G&P* any of a series of long-distance races for formula cars, held consecutively in different countries [F *Grand Prix de Paris*, an international horse race established 1863, lit. grand prize of Paris]

**'grand slam** *n* 1 the winning of all the tricks in 1 hand of a card game, *specif* bridge 2 a clean sweep or total success, esp in a sport

**'grandson** /'grɑːn(d),sʌn/ *n* a son of one's son or daughter

**'grandstand** /-,stænd/ *n* a usu roofed stand for spectators at a race-course, stadium, etc in an advantageous position for viewing the contest

**²grandstand** *vi*, *NAm* to play or act so as to impress onlookers – *infml* – **grandstander** *n*

**'grand tour** *n* 1 an extended tour of the Continent, formerly a usual part of the education of young British gentlemen – *usu* + *the* 2 an extensive and usu educational tour

**'granduncle** /-,ʊŋkəl/ *n* a great-uncle

**'grange** /'græɪn/ *n* a farm, esp a farmhouse with outbuildings [ME, *grange*, farmhouse, fr MF, fr ML *grānica*, fr L *granum* grain]

**'granite** *omb form* grain, seeds <granivorous> [L, fr *granum*]

**'granite** /'grænɪt/ *n* 1 a very hard granular igneous rock formed of quartz, feldspar, and mica and used esp for building 2 unyielding firmness or endurance [It *granito*, fr pp of *granire* to granulate, fr *grano* grain, fr L *granum*] – **granitelike** *adj*, **granitoid** /-,toɪd/ *adj*, **granitic** /'grænɪtɪk/ *adj*

**'graniteware** /-,weə/ *n* ironware with mottled enamel usu in 2 tones of grey, also pottery with a speckled granitelike appearance

**'granny**, **grannie** /'græni/ *n* a grandmother – *infml* [by shortening & alter]

**²granny**, **grannie** *adj* designed for use by an older relative – *infml* (<~ flat>)

**'granny bond** *n*, *Br* a savings bond, available only to those over a certain age, which is guaranteed to maintain its value in line with the rate of inflation

**'granny knot** *n* a wrongly tied insecure reef knot

**'Granny Smith** /'smɪθ/ *n* a large green variety of (cooking) apple [Maria Ann ('Granny') Smith †1870 Austr gardener]

**granolith** /'grænlɪθ/ *n* an artificial stone of crushed granite and cement [grano- granite (fr G) + -lith] – **granolithic** /-'lɪθɪk/ *adj*

**'grant** /grɑːnt/ *vt* 1a to consent to carry out or fulfil (e.g. a wish or request) (<~ a child his wish>) b to permit as a right, privilege, or favour <~ luggage allowances ~ed to passengers> 2 to bestow or transfer formally 3a to be willing to concede b to assume to be true [ME *grānten*, fr OF *creanter*, *grānter*, fr (assumed) VL *credentare*, fr L *credenti-*, *credens*, prp of *credere* to believe – more at CREED] – **grantable** *adj*, **grantee** *n*, **grantor** /'grɑːntɔː/ *n*

**²grant** *n* 1 sthg granted; esp a gift for a particular purpose 2 a transfer of property, also the property so transferred

**'grant-in-aid** *n*, *pl* **grants-in-aid** 1 a grant or subsidy paid by a central

- to a local government in aid of a public undertaking 2 a grant to a school or individual for a project
- granul** /granyool-/ *granuli*, *granulo-* *comb form* granule <granulose> [LL *granulum*]
- granular** /granyoola/ *adj* (apparently) consisting of granules, having a grainy texture – *granularly adv*, *granularity* /-larəti/ *n*
- granulate** /granyoolayt/ *vt* to form or crystallize into grains or granules <~d sugar> ~ *vi*, *esp* of a wound (to form minute granules of new capillaries while beginning) to heal – *granulator n*, *granulation* /-laysh(a)n/ *n*, *granulative* /-laytiv, -lə-/ *adj*
- granule** /granyoohl/ *n* a small grain [LL *granulum*, dim. of L *granum* grain]
- granulocyte** /granyooləsiət/ *n* any of various white blood cells that have cytoplasm containing large numbers of conspicuous stainable granules and a nucleus with many lobes – compare *AGRANULOCYTE*, *BASOPHIL*, *EOSINOPHIL* [ISV] – *granulocytic* /-sitiik/ *adj*
- granium** /graynm/ *n*, *pl grana* /-nə/ any of the stacks of thin layers of chlorophyll-containing material in plant chloroplasts [NL, fr L, grain]
- grape** /grayp/ *n* 1 (any of a genus of widely cultivated woody vines that bear, in clusters,) a smooth-skinned juicy greenish white to deep red or purple berry eaten as a fruit or fermented to produce wine 2 grapeshot [ME, fr OF *crape*, *grape* hook, *grape* stalk, bunch of grapes, *grape*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *krappō* hook – more at *CRAVE*] – *grapy adj*
- grapefruit** /-froht/ *n* (a small tree that bears) a large round citrus fruit with a bitter yellow rind and a somewhat acid juicy pulp
- grape hyacinth** *n* any of several small plants of the lily family with many usu blue flowers
- grape shot** /-shot/ *n* a cluster of small iron balls used as a charge for a cannon
- grapevine** /-vien/ *n* a secret or unofficial means of circulating information or gossip
- graph** /grahf, graf/ *n* 1 a diagram (e.g. a series of points, a line, a curve, or an area) expressing a relation between quantities or variables 2 the collection of all points whose coordinates satisfy a given relation (e.g. the equation of a function) [short for *graphic formula*]
- graph** *vt* to plot on or represent by a graph
- graph** /-grahf, -graf/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 sth written or represented <monograph> <pictograph> 2 instrument for recording or transmitting (sthg specified or by a specified means) <seismograph> <telegraph> [(1) MF *-graphie*, fr L *-graphum*, fr Gk *-graphon*, fr neut. of *-graphos* written, fr *graphein* to write; (2) F *-graphie*, fr LL *-graphus* writer, fr Gk *-graphos*]
- grapheme** /grafcem/ *n* the set of units of a writing system that represent a phoneme <the f of fin, the ph of phantom, and the gh of laugh are members of one ~> – *graphemic* /-feemik/ *adj*, *graphemically adv*
- graphic** /grafik/ *also graphical* /-kl/ *adj* 1 formed by writing, drawing, or engraving 2 marked by clear and vivid description; sharply outlined 3a of the pictorial arts b of or employing engraving, etching, lithography, photography, or other methods of reproducing material in the graphic arts c of or according to graphics 4 of a rock or mineral surface having marks resembling written characters 5 of or represented by a graph 6 of writing [L *graphicus*, fr Gk *graphikos*, fr *graphein*] – *graphically adv*, *graphically n*
- graphic** *n* 1 a product of graphic art 2 a picture, map, or graph used for illustration or demonstration 3 a graphic representation displayed by a computer (e.g. on a VDU)
- graphic** /-grafik/, *graphical* /-kl/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) 1 written, represented, or transmitted in (such) a way <stylographic> <ideographic> 2 of writing on a (specified) subject <autobiographic> [LL *-graphicus*, fr Gk *-graphikos*, fr *graphikos*]
- graphic arts** *n pl* the fine and applied arts of representation, decoration, and writing or printing on flat surfaces
- graphics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1a the art or science of drawing an object on a 2-dimensional surface according to mathematical rules of projection b GRAPHIC ARTS c (the art or technique of making) designs (e.g. advertising posters) containing both typographic and pictorial elements 2 the process whereby a computer displays graphics on a VDU and an operator can manipulate them (e.g. with a light pen)
- graphite** /grafiet/ *n* a soft black lustrous form of carbon that conducts electricity and is used esp in lead pencils and as a lubricant [G *graphit*, fr Gk *graphein* to write] – *graphitize* /-fitiez, -fietiez/ *vt*, *graphitic* /-grafitiik/ *adj*
- grapho-** *comb form* writing <graphologist> [F, fr MF, fr Gk, fr *graphe*, fr *graphein*]
- graphology** /grə'foləji/ *n* the study of handwriting, esp for the purpose of character analysis [F *graphologie*, fr *grapho-* + *-logie* -logy] – *ologist n*, *graphological* /-fə'lojiki/ *adj*
- graph paper** *n* paper ruled for drawing graphs
- graphy** /-grafi/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 writing or representation in (such) a manner or on (a specified subject) or by (a specified means) <photography> <calligraphy> <biography> 2 art or science of <organography> <choreography> [L *-graphia*, fr Gk, fr *graphein*] – *-grapher comb form* (~ *n*)
- grapnel** /grapnəl/ *n* an instrument with several claws that is hurled with a line attached in order to hook onto a ship, the top of a wall, etc [ME *grapnel*, fr (assumed) MF *grapinel*, dim. of *grapin*, dim. of *grape* hook – more at *GRAPE*]
- grappa** /grapa/ *n* an Italian spirit distilled from the fermented remains of grapes after the juice has been extracted for making wine [It]
- grapple** /grap/ *n* 1 a grapnel 2 a hand-to-hand struggle [MF *grappelle*, dim. of *grape* hook – more at *GRAPE*]
- grapple** *vb* *grappling* /grapling/, *grapling-* *vi* to seize (as if) with a grapple ~ *vi* to come to grips with, wrestle – *grappler n*
- graptolite** /graptə,liet/ *n* any of numerous extinct fossil Palaeozoic marine animals [Gk *graptos* painted (fr *graphein* to write, paint) + *E* -lite]
- grasp** /grahsp/ *vi* to make the motion of seizing, clutch ~ *vt* 1 to take, seize, or clasp eagerly (as if) with the fingers or arms 2 to succeed in understanding, comprehend [ME *graspēn* – more at *GRAB*] – *graspable adj*, *grasper n*
- grasp** *n* 1 a firm hold 2 control, power <he is in her ~> 3 the power of seizing and holding or attaining <success was just beyond his ~> 4 comprehension <showed a firm ~ of her subject>
- grasping** /grahsping/ *adj* eager for material possessions; avaricious – *graspingly adv*, *graspingness n*
- grass** /grahs/ *n* 1a herbage suitable or used for grazing animals b pasture, grazing 2 any of a large family of plants with slender leaves and (green) flowers in small spikes or clusters, that includes bamboo, wheat, rye, corn, etc 3 land on which grass is grown <keep off the ~> 4 grass leaves or plants 5 cannabis, specif marijuana – slang 6 Br a police informer – slang [ME *gras*, fr OE *græs*, akin to OHG *gras* grass, OE *grōwan* to grow; (6) rhyming slang *grass(hopper)* copper (policeman)] – *grasslike adj* – put/send out to grass to cause (sby) to enter usu enforced retirement
- grass** *vt* 1 to feed (livestock) on grass 2 to cover or seed with grass – often + *down* ~ *vi*, Br to inform the police, esp to betray sby to the police – slang
- grasshopper** /-hopə/ *n* any of numerous plant-eating insects with hind legs adapted for leaping – compare *LOCUST*  LIFE CYCLE
- grassland** /-lənd, -lənd/ *n* 1 farmland used for grazing 2 land on which the natural dominant plant forms are grasses  PLANT
- grass of Parnassus** /pah'nassəs/ *n* any of a genus of perennial (marsh) plants with single small whitish flowers [Parnassus, mountain in Greece]
- grass roots** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 society at the local level as distinguished from the centres of political leadership 2 the fundamental level or source – *grass-roots adj*
- grass snake** *n* a nonpoisonous European snake with 2 yellow or orange patches forming a collar behind its head  DEFENCE
- grass widow** *n* a woman whose husband is temporarily away from her
- grass widower** *n* a man whose wife is temporarily away from him
- grassy** /grahsi/ *adj* 1 consisting of or covered with grass 2 (having a smell) like grass
- grate** /grat/ *past of* 'GREET
- grate** /grayt/ *n* 1 a frame or bed of metal bars to hold the fuel in a fireplace, stove, or furnace 2 a fireplace [ME, fr ML *crata*, *grata* hurdle, modif of L *cratis* – more at *HURDLE*]
- grate** *vt* 1 to reduce to small particles by rubbing on sthg rough <~ cheese> 2a to gnash or grind noisily b to cause to make a rasping sound ~ *vi* 1 to rub or rasp noisily 2 to cause irritation; jar <his manner of talking ~s on my nerves> [ME *graten*, fr MF *grater* to scratch, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kratzon* to scratch] – *grater n*
- grateful** /grayt(a)l/ *adj* 1 feeling or expressing thanks 2 pleasing, comforting [obs *grate* (pleasing, thankful), fr L *gratus* – more at *GRACE*] – *gratefully adv*, *gratefulness n*
- graticule** /gratikyoohl/ *n* 1 a network or scale visible when using a telescope, microscope, etc and used in locating or measuring objects 2 the network of latitude and longitude lines on which a map is drawn [F, fr L *craticula* fine latticework, dim. of *cratis*]

**gratification** /gratifi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 gratifying or being gratified 2 a source of satisfaction or pleasure

**gratify** /grati'fie/ *vt* 1 to be a source of or give pleasure or satisfaction 2 to give in to, satisfy (< ~ a whim) [MF *gratifier*, fr L *gratificari*, lit., to make oneself pleasing, fr *gratus* + *-ficari*, passive of *-ficare* -ify] – *gratifyingly* *adv*

**grating** /graytɪŋ/ *n* 1 a partition, covering, or frame of parallel bars or crossbars 2 a lattice used to close or floor any of various openings 3 a set of close parallel lines or bars ruled on a polished surface to produce (optical) spectra by diffraction

**gratis** /'gratis, 'grah-, 'gray-/ *adv* or *adj* without charge or recompense, free [ME, fr L *gratius*, *gratis*, fr abl pl of *gratia* favour – more at GRACE]

**gratitude** /grati'tyoohd/ *n* the state or feeling of being grateful, thankfulness [ME, fr MF or ML, MF, fr ML *gratitudo*, fr L *gratus* grateful]

**gratuitous** /gr'tyooht-its/ *adj* 1a costing nothing, free b not involving a return benefit or compensation 2 not called for by the circumstances, unwarranted (<the film contained scenes of ~ violence>) [L *gratuitus*, fr *gratus*] – *gratuitously* *adv*, *gratuitousness* *n*

**gratuity** /gr'tyooht-iti/ *n* sthg given voluntarily, usu in return for or in anticipation of some service; *esp* a tip

**gravamen** /gr'vaymen-, -mən/ *n*, pl *gravamens*, *gravamina* /-'vamina/ the material part of a legal grievance [LL, burden, fr L *gravare* to burden, fr *gravis*]

**grave** /grayv/ *vt* **graven**, **graved** to engrave [ME *graven* to dig, bury, engrave, fr OE *grāfan*, akin to OHG *graban* to dig, Oslav *pogreti* to bury]

**grave** *n* an excavation for burial of a body, broadly a tomb [ME, fr OE *græf*, akin to OHG *grah* grave, OE *grāfan* to dig]

**grave** *vt* to clean and then tar (e.g. a ship's bottom) [ME *graven*]

**grave** /grayv/ *adj* 1a requiring serious consideration, important (< ~ problems> b likely to produce great harm or danger (<a ~ mistake>) 2 serious, dignified 3 drab in colour, sombre 4 of a sound low in pitch [MF, fr L *gravis* heavy, grave – more at GRIEF] – *gravely* *adv*, *graveness* *n*

**grave** /grahv/ *adj* or *n* (being or marked with) an accent used to show that a vowel is pronounced with a fall of pitch (e.g. in ancient Greek) or has a certain quality (e.g. è in French) – *grave* SYMBOL

**gravel** /'gravi/ *n* 1 (a stratum or surface of) loose rounded fragments of rock mixed with sand 2 a sandy deposit of small stones in the kidneys and urinary bladder [ME, fr MF *gravele*, fr OF, dim of *grave*, *greve* pebbly ground, beach]

**gravel** *adj* GRAVELLY 2

**gravel** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /'gravi/ *ing* 1 to cover or spread with gravel 2 to perplex, confound

**gravel-blind** *adj* having very weak vision [suggested by *sand-blind*]

**gravelly** /'gravi-/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or covered with gravel 2 harsh, grating (<a ~ voice>)

**graven image** /grayv(ə)n/ *n* an idol, usu carved from wood or stone

**graver** /grayvə/ *n* any of various tools (e.g. a burin) used in engraving [GRAVE + -ER]

**Graves** /grahv/ *n*, pl **Graves** /~/ a dry white or occas red Bordeaux produced in the Graves district

**Graves' disease** /grayvz/ *n* hyperthyroidism accompanied by enlargement of the thyroid gland and abnormal protrusion of the eyeball [Robert J Graves †1853 fr physician]

**grave-stone** /-stohn/ *n* a stone over or at one end of a grave, usu inscribed with the name and details of the dead person

**grave-yard** /-yahd/ *n* 1 a cemetery 2 a condition of final disappointment or failure (<the ~ of their hopes>)

**gravi-** *comb form* heavy; weight (<gravimeter>) [MF, fr L, fr *gravis*]

**gravid** /gravid/ *adj* pregnant [L *gravidus*, fr *gravis* heavy] – *gravidly* *adv*, *gravidity* /gravi'diti/ *n*

**gravimeter** /gravi'mita-, 'gravi'meeta/ *n* a weighing instrument for measuring variations in gravity on the earth, moon, etc [F *gravimètre*, fr *gravi-* + *-mètre* -meter]

**gravimetric** /gravi'metrik/ *adj* of the measurement a of density or weight b of a gravitational field using a gravimeter – *gravimetrically* *adv*, *gravimetry* /gravi'metri/ *n*

**graving dock** /grayvɪŋ/ *n* DRY DOCK

**gravitas** /gravi'tas/ *n* a solemn and serious quality or manner [L, lit., heaviness, fr *gravis*]

**gravitate** /gravitayt/ *vb* to (cause to) move under the influence of

gravitation – **gravitate towards** to move or be compulsively drawn towards

**gravitation** /gravi'taysh(ə)n/ *n* (movement resulting from) the natural force of mutual attraction between bodies or particles – *PHYSICS* [GRAVITATE + -ION] – *gravitational* *adj*, *gravitationally* *adv*, *gravitative* /-taytiv/ *adj*

**gravitational wave** /gravi'taysh(ə)n/ *n* a hypothetical wave by means of which gravitational attraction is effected

**gravity** /gravi'ti/ *n* 1a dignity or sobriety of bearing b significance; *esp* seriousness (<he couldn't comprehend the ~ of the situation>) 2 (the quality of having) weight 3 (the attraction of a celestial body for bodies at or near its surface resulting from) gravitation – *PHYSICS* [MF or L, MF *gravité*, fr L *gravitas*, fr *gravis*] – *gravity* *adj*

**'gravity feed** *n* (a mechanism for) the supplying of material by the action of gravity alone

**gravure** /gr'vyooə/ *n* 1 the process of printing from an intaglio plate of copper or wood 2 photogravure [F, fr *graver* to grave, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *graban* to dig, engrave – more at GRAVE]

**gravy** /grayvi/ *n* the (thickened and seasoned) fat and juices from cooked meat used as a sauce [ME *gravy*, fr MF *grave*]

**'gravy train** *n* a much exploited source of easy money – *infrml*

**gray** /gray/ *vb*, *n*, or *adj*, chiefly NAM (to) grey

**grayling** /graylɪŋ/ *n*, pl **graylings**, *esp* collectively **grayling** any of several freshwater (food and sport) fishes of the salmon family [ME, fr *gray* + *-ling*]

**'graze** /grayz/ *vi* to feed on growing herbage ~ *vt* 1a to crop and eat (growing herbage) b to feed on the herbage of (e.g. a pasture) 2 to put to graze (<~d the cows on the meadow>) [ME *grasen*, fr OE *grasian*, fr *græs* grass] – *grazable* *adj*, *grazer* *n*

**'graze** *vt* 1 to touch lightly in passing 2 to abrade, scratch (<~d her elbow>) ~ *vi* to touch or rub against sthg in passing (<our bumpers just ~d>) [perh fr 'graze]

**'graze** *n* (an abrasion, esp of the skin, made by) a scraping along a surface

**grazier** /grayzyə-, -zi-/ *n* 1 one who grazes cattle, usu for beef production 2 Austr a sheep farmer

**'grease** /grees/ *n* 1a melted down animal fat b oily matter c a thick lubricant 2 oily wool as it comes from the sheep [ME *grese*, fr OF *crasse*, *graisse*, fr (assumed) VL *crassia*, fr L *crassus* fat] – *greaseless* *adj*, *greaseproof* *adj* – in the grease of wool or fur in the natural uncleaned condition

**'grease** *vt* 1 to smear, lubricate, or soil with grease 2 to hasten or ease the process or progress of – *greaser* *n* – *grease the palm* of to bribe

**grease monkey** *n* a mechanic – *infrml*

**'grease-paint** /-paynt/ *n* theatrical make-up

**greasy** /greesi/ *adj* 1a smeared or soiled with grease b oily in appearance, texture, or manner (<his ~ smile> – Jack London) c slippery 2 containing an unusual amount of grease (<~ food>) – *greasily* *adv*, *greasiness* *n*

**'great** /grayt/ *adj* 1a notably large in size or number b of a relatively large kind – in plant and animal names c elaborate, ample (<~ detail>) 2a extreme in amount, degree, or effectiveness (<~ bloodshed>) b of importance, significant (<a ~ day in European history>) 3 full of emotion (<~ with anger>) 4a eminent, distinguished (<a ~ poet>) b aristocratic, grand (<~ ladies>) 5 main, principal (<a reception in the ~ hall>) 6 removed in a family relationship by at least 3 stages directly or 2 stages indirectly – chiefly in combination (<great-grandfather>) 7 markedly superior in character or quality; *esp* noble 8a remarkably skilled b enthusiastic, keen (<she was a ~ film-goer>) 9 archaic pregnant (<~ with child>) 10 – used as a generalized term of approval (<had a ~ time>), *infrml* [ME *grete*, fr OE *grēat*, akin to OHG *grōz* large] – *great* *adv*, *greatly* *adv*, *greatness* *n* – no great shakes not very good, skilful, effective, etc (<he's no great shakes as a boss>)

**'great** *n*, pl **great**, **greats** one who is great – usu pl (<the ~s of the stage>)

**'great-aunt** *n* an aunt of one's father or mother

**'Great Bear** *n* URSA MAJOR

**great circle** *n* a circle formed on the surface of a sphere, specif the earth, by the intersection of a plane that passes through the centre of the sphere

**'greatcoat** /-koht/ *n* a heavy overcoat

**great crested grebe** *n* a large Old World grebe that has black projecting ear tufts in the breeding season

**'Great Dane** /dayn/ *n* any of a breed of massive powerful smooth-coated dogs



- great divide** *n* 1 a significant point of division 2 death – euph; + *the* [the Great Divide, NAm watershed]
- greater** /ˈɡreɪtə/ *adj*, often *cap* consisting of a central city together with adjacent areas that are geographically or administratively connected with it (Greater London) [compar of *great*]
- greater celandine** *n* CELANDINE 1
- greathearted** /-ˈhɑːtɪd/ *adj* generous, magnanimous – *greatheartedly* *adv*, *greatheartedness* *n*
- great-nephew** *n* a grandson of one's brother or sister
- great-niece** *n* a granddaughter of one's brother or sister
- great organ** *n* the principal division of an organ including the loudest stops
- great power** *n*, often *cap* G&P any of the nations that figure most decisively in international affairs
- Great Russian** *n* or *adj* (a member) of the Russian-speaking people of the central and NE USSR
- Greats** *n* *pl* the course and final BA examination in classics at Oxford
- great tit** *n* a large common black, white, and yellow Eurasian and N African tit
- great-uncle** *n* an uncle of one's father or mother
- Great War** *n* the first World War of 1914 to 1918
- greave** /ɡreɪv/ *n* a piece of armour for the leg below the knee [ME *greve*, fr MF]
- grebe** /ɡreɪb/ *n* any of a family of swimming and diving birds closely related to the loons but having lobed instead of webbed toes [F *grèbe*]
- Grecian** /ˈɡriːʃ(ə)n/ *adj* Greek [L *Graecia* Greece] – *Grecian n*, *grecianize* *vi*, often *cap*
- Greco-** /ɡriːkəh-, ɡriːkəh-/ *comb form*, chiefly NAm Graeco-
- greed** /ɡriːd/ *n* 1 excessive acquisitiveness; avarice 2 excessive desire for or consumption of food [back-formation fr *greedy*]
- greedy** /ɡriːdi/ *adj* 1 having a usu excessive desire for sthg, esp food or money 2 having a great need for (plants ~ for water) [ME *gredy*, fr OE *gredīg*; akin to OHG *grätig* greedy] – *greedily* *adv*, *greediness* *n*
- 'greedy-guts** *n*, *pl* *greedy-guts* chiefly Br one who eats too much, a glutton – *infml*
- 'Greek** /ɡriːk/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Greece 2 the Indo-European language used by the Greeks → ALPHABET, LANGUAGE 3 *not cap* sthg unintelligible (it's all ~ to me) – *infml* [ME *Greke*, fr OE *Greca*, fr L *Graecus*, fr Gk *Γραικος*; (3) trans of L *Graecum* (in the medieval phrase *Graecum est*; non potest legi It is Greek; it cannot be read)]
- \*Greek** *adj* 1 of Greece, the Greeks, or Greek 2 Greek, Greek Orthodox a ORTHODOX 2a *b* of an Eastern church, esp the established Orthodox church of Greece using the Byzantine rite in Greek
- Greek cross** *n* a cross with 4 equal arms intersecting at right angles → SYMBOL
- Greek fire** *n* an incendiary composition used in ancient sea warfare and said to have burst into flame on contact with water
- 'green** /ɡriːn/ *adj* 1 of the colour green 2a covered by green growth or foliage (~ fields) *b* consisting of green (edible) plants (~ salad) 3a youthful, vigorous *b* not ripened or matured, immature (~ apples) *c* fresh, new 4 appearing pale, sickly, or nauseated 5 affected by intense envy or jealousy 6a not aged (~ ham) *b* not dressed or tanned (~ hides) *c* of wood freshly sawn; unseasoned 7a deficient in training, knowledge, or experience *b* lacking sophistication; naive 8 being an exchange unit that has a differential rate of exchange in relation to the specified currency and is used for paying agricultural producers in the European economic community (the ~ pound) [ME *grene*, fr OE *grene*; akin to OE *growan* to grow – more at *GROW*] – *greenly* *adv*, *greenness* *n*
- \*green** *vi* to become green
- \*green** *n* 1 a colour whose hue resembles that of growing fresh grass or the emerald and lies between blue and yellow in the spectrum 2 sthg of a green colour 3 *pl* green leafy vegetables (e.g. spinach and cabbage) the leaves and stems of which are often cooked 4a a common or park in the centre of a town or village *b* a smooth area of grass for a special purpose (e.g. bowling or putting) – *greeny* *adj*
- green alga** *n* an alga in which the chlorophyll is not masked by other pigments
- 'greenback** /-ˈbæk/ *n*, NAm a legal-tender note issued by the US government – *infml*
- green bacon** *n* unsmoked bacon
- green belt** *n* a belt of parks, farmland, etc encircling an urban area and usu subject to restrictions on new building
- green card** *n* an international certificate of motor insurance
- green cross code** *n* a British code of safety for the use of people, esp children, crossing roads
- greenery** /ˈɡriːnəri/ *n* green foliage or plants
- green-eyed** *adj* jealous
- green-eyed monster** *n* jealousy – + *the*
- 'greenfinch** /-ˈfɪnʃ/ *n* a common green and yellow Old World finch
- 'green fingers** *n* *pl* an unusual ability to make plants grow – *green-fingered* *adj*
- 'greenfly** /-ˈfliː/ *n*, *pl* *greenflies*, esp collectively *greenfly* Br (an infestation by) any of various green aphids that are destructive to plants
- 'greengage** /-ˈɡeɪj/ *n* any of several small rounded greenish cultivated plums [green + Sir William Gage †1820 E botanist]
- 'greengrocer** /-ˈɡroʊsə/ *n*, chiefly Br a retailer of fresh vegetables and fruit – *greengrocery* *n*
- 'greenheart** /-ˈhɑːt/ *n* (the hard greenish wood of) a tropical S American evergreen tree
- 'greenhorn** /-ˈhɔːn/ *n* 1 an inexperienced or unsophisticated (easily cheated) person 2 chiefly NAm a newcomer (e.g. to a country) unacquainted with local manners and customs [obs *greenhorn* (animal with young horns)]
- 'greenhouse** /-ˈhoʊs/ *n* a glassed enclosure for the cultivation or protection of tender plants → ENERGY
- greenhouse effect** *n* the warming of the lower layers of the atmosphere by absorption and reradiation of solar radiation
- greening** /ˈɡriːnɪŋ/ *n* any of several apples having a green skin when ripe
- greenish** /ˈɡriːnɪʃ/ *adj* rather green – *greenishness* *n*
- green light** *n* authority or permission to undertake a project [fr the green traffic light which signals permission to proceed]
- green manure** *n* a herbaceous crop (e.g. clover) ploughed under while green to enrich the soil
- green monkey disease** *n* an often fatal virus disease that causes high fever and internal bleeding and is transmitted to humans by a species of W African monkey
- Green Paper** *n*, chiefly Br a set of proposals issued by the government for public comment [fr colour of cover]
- green pepper** *n* SWEET PEPPER
- green revolution** *n* high crop yields due to extensive use of artificial fertilizers and high-yielding plant strains
- 'greenroom** /-ˈruːm, -ˈroʊm/ *n* a room in a theatre or concert hall where performers can relax when not on stage [prob fr its orig being painted green]
- 'green sand** /-ˈsænd/ *n* a (stratum of) sand or sandstone coloured by the dull green silicates of iron and potassium
- 'green shank** /-ˈʃaŋk/ *n* an Old World wading bird with olive-green legs and feet
- 'green sick** /-ˈsɪk/ *adj* (suffering from) chlorosis [back-formation fr *greensickness*] – *greensickness* *n*
- 'green stick fracture** /-ˈstɪk/ *n* a fracture in a young individual in which the bone is partly broken and partly bent
- 'green stone** /-ˈstoʊn/ *n* any of numerous dark green compact rocks (e.g. diorite)
- 'green stuff** /-ˈstʌf/ *n* green vegetation; greens
- 'green sward** /-ˈswɔːd/ *n* turf that is green with growing grass
- 'green tea** *n* tea that is light in colour from incomplete fermentation of the leaf before firing
- 'green thumb** *n*, NAm GREEN FINGERS – *green-thumbed* *adj*
- 'green turtle** *n* a large edible sea turtle → ENDANGERED
- Greenwich Mean Time** /ˈɡriːnɪʃ, -ˈnɪʃ/ *n* the mean solar time of the meridian of Greenwich used as the primary point of reference for standard time throughout the world; [Greenwich, borough of London]
- 'green wood** /-ˈwʊd/ *n* a forest green with foliage
- 'greet** /ɡriːt/ *vt* 1 to welcome with gestures or words 2 to meet or react to in a specified manner (the candidate was ~ed with catcalls) 3 to be perceived by (a surprising sight ~ed her eyes) [ME *greten*, fr OE *gretan*; akin to OE *gretan* to weep] – *greeter* *n*
- \*greet** *v*; *grat* /ɡræt/; *gruten* /ɡruːn/ *Scot* to weep, lament [ME *greten*, fr OE *gretan*; akin to ON *grata* to weep]
- greeting** /ˈɡriːtɪŋ/ *n* 1 a salutation at meeting 2 an expression of good wishes; regards – usu *pl* with *sg* meaning (birthday ~s)
- 'greetings card** *n* a card containing a message of good will usu sent or given on some special occasion (e.g. an anniversary)



**gregarious** /grɪˈɡeəriəs/ *adj* 1a tending to associate with others of the same kind (< a ~ gull) b marked by or indicating a liking for companionship; sociable c of a crowd, flock, or other group of people, animals, etc 2 of a plant growing in a cluster or a colony [L *gregarius* of a flock or herd, fr *greg-*, *grex* flock, herd; akin to Gk *ageirein* to collect, *agora* assembly] – **gregariously** *adv*, **gregariousness** *n*

**Gregorian** /grɪˈɡɔːriən/ *adj* of Pope Gregory XIII or the Gregorian calendar

**Gregorian calendar** *n* a revision of the Julian Calendar now in general use, that was introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII and adopted in Britain and the American colonies in 1752, and that restricts leap years to every 4th year except for those centenary years not divisible by 400

**Gregorian chant** *n* a rhythmically free liturgical chant in unison practised in the Roman Catholic church [Gregorian fr Pope Gregory I †604]

**greisen** /ɡreɪz(ə)n/ *n* a rock consisting chiefly of quartz and mica that is common in Cornwall and Saxony [G]

**gremlin** /ɡremˈlɪn/ *n* a mischievous creature said to cause malfunctioning of machinery or equipment [perh modif of IrGael *gruaimin* ill-humoured little fellow]

**grenade** /ɡrəˈnaɪd/ *n* 1 a small missile that contains explosive, gas, incendiary chemicals, etc and is thrown by hand or launcher 2 a glass container of chemicals that bursts when thrown, releasing a fire extinguishing agent, tear gas, etc [MF, pomegranate, fr LL *granata*, fr L, fem of *granatus* seedy, fr *granum* grain – more at 'CORN]

**grenadier** /ɡrenˈdiːə/ *n* a member of a regiment or corps formerly specially trained in the use of grenades

**grenadine** /ɡrenˈdiːn/ *n* a syrup flavoured with pomegranates and used in mixed drinks [F, fr *grenade*]

**Gresham's law** /ˈɡreʃ(ə)mz/ *n* an observation in economics. when 2 coins are equal in debt-paying value but unequal in intrinsic value, the one having the lesser intrinsic value tends to remain in circulation and the other to be hoarded or exported as bullion [Sir Thomas Gresham †1579 E financier]

**grew** /ɡroʊh/ *past* of GROW

**grey**, *NAM chiefly gray* /ɡreɪ/ 1 of the colour grey 2a dull in colour b having grey hair 3a lacking cheer or brightness, dismal (< a ~ day) b intermediate or unclear in position, condition, or character (< a ~ area) 4 of a textile being in an unbleached undyed state as taken from the loom 5 of a horse having white hair but dark skin [ME, fr OE *græg*; akin to OHG *grao* grey, OSla *zirēti* to see] – **greily** *adv*, **greyness** *n*

**grey**, *NAM chiefly gray* *n* 1 any of a series of neutral colours ranging between black and white 2 sth grey, esp grey clothes, paint, or horses

**grey**, *NAM chiefly gray* *vb* to make or become grey

**grey beard** /-biːd/ *n* an old man

**grey eminence** *n* EMINENCE GRISE

**Grey Friar** *n* a Franciscan friar [fr the colour of his habit]

**greyhound** /-həʊnd/ *n* (any of) a tall slender smooth-coated breed of dogs characterized by swiftness and keen sight and used for coursing game and racing [ME *grehound*, fr OE *grghund*, fr *grig-* (akin to ON *grey* bitch) + *hund* hound]

**greyish** /-ɪʃ/ *adj*, of a colour low in saturation [ˈGREY + -ɪʃ]

**grey lag** /-lɑːɡ/, **grey lag** *goose* *n* a common grey Eurasian wild goose with pink legs [grey + ~lag (one who lags or is last), prob fr its late migration]

**grey matter** *n* 1 brownish-grey nerve tissue, esp in the brain and spinal cord, containing nerve-cell bodies as well as nerve fibres 2 brains, intellect – *infml*

**grey squirrel** *n* a common light grey to black orig American squirrel that causes severe damage to deciduous trees

**grey wacke** /-wɑːkə/ *n* a coarse usu dark grey sandstone or conglomerate of cemented rock fragments [part trans of G *grauwacke*]

**grid** /ɡrɪd/ *n* 1 a grating 2a a network of conductors for distribution of electric power b (sth resembling) a network of uniformly spaced horizontal and perpendicular lines for locating points on a map 3 the starting positions of vehicles on a racetrack 4 GRILL 1 [back-formation fr *gridiron*] – **gridded** *adj*

**griddle** /ɡrɪdl/ *n* a flat metal surface on which food is cooked by dry heat [ME *gredil* gridiron, fr ONF, fr LL *craticulum*, alter. of L *craticula*, dim. of *cratis* wickerwork – more at HURDLE]

**gridiron** /-jeɪn/ *n* GRILL 1 [ME *gradire*, perh alter of *gredil*]

**grief** /ɡriːf/ *n* (a cause of) deep and poignant distress (e.g. due to bereavement) [ME *gref*, fr OF, heavy, grave, fr (assumed) VL *grevis*, alter. of L *gravis*] – **griefless** *adj*

**grievance** /ˈɡriːv(ə)ns/ *n* 1 a cause of distress (e.g. unsatisfactory working conditions) felt to afford reason for complaint or resistance 2 the formal expression of a grievance; a complaint

**grieve** /ɡriːv/ *vt* to cause to suffer grief ~ *vi* to suffer from grief, esp over a bereavement – often + *for* [ME *greven*, fr OF *grever*, fr L *gravare* to burden, fr *gravis* heavy, grave; akin to Goth *kaurjos*, pl, heavy, Gk *barys*, Skt *guru*] – **griever** *n*

**grieve** *n*, *Scot* a farm or estate manager or overseer [ME *greif*, fr OE *grēfa* governor, sheriff; akin to OE *gerefa* reeve – more at 'REEVE]

**grievous** /ˈɡriːvəs/ *adj* 1 causing or characterized by severe pain, suffering, or sorrow (< a ~ loss) 2 serious, grave (< ~ fault) – **grievously** *adv*, **grievousness** *n*

**griffin** /ˈɡrɪfɪn/, **griffon**, **griffon** /-fən/ *n* a mythical animal with the head and wings of an eagle and the body and tail of a lion [ME *griffon*, fr MF *grifon*, fr *grif*, fr L *grypus*, fr Gk *gryp-*, *gryps*, fr *grypos* curved; akin to OE *cradol* cradle]

**griffon** /ˈɡrɪfən/ *n* (any of) a breed of a (Belgian) toy dogs b (Dutch) sporting dogs [F, lit., griffin]

**griffon vulture** *n* any of a genus of large Old World vultures

**grift** /ɡrɪft/ *vi*, *NAM* 'GRAFT 3 – slang [grift, *n*, perh alter. of *graft*] – **grift** *n*, **grifter** *n*

**grigri** /ˈɡreeːɡree/ *n*, *pl* *grigris* a gris-gris

**grike**, **gryke** /ɡrɪk/ *n* a cleft developed in a horizontal limestone surface by solution [alter of ME *crke*, fr ON *crki* crack, bend]

**grill** /ɡrɪl/ *vt* 1 to cook on or under a grill by radiant heat 2a to torture (as if) with great heat b to subject to intense and usu long periods of questioning – *infml* ~ *vi* to become grilled – **griller** *n*

**grill** *n* 1 a cooking utensil of parallel bars on which food is exposed to heat (e.g. from burning charcoal) 2 an article or dish of grilled food 3 grill, grillroom a usu informal restaurant or dining room, esp in a hotel 4 Br an apparatus on a cooker under which food is cooked or browned by radiant heat [F *gril*, fr LL *craticulum* – more at GRIDDLE]

**grillage** /ˈɡrɪljə/ *n* a framework for support in building on marshy or treacherous soil [F, fr *griller* to supply with grilles, fr *grille*]

**grille**, **grill** /ɡrɪl/ *n* 1 a grating forming a barrier or screen; specif an ornamental metal one at the front end of a motor vehicle 2 an opening covered with a grille [F *grille*, alter of OF *greille*, fr L *craticula*, dim of *cratis* wickerwork – more at HURDLE]

**grilse** /ɡrɪls/ *n*, *pl* *grilse* a young mature (Atlantic) salmon returning from the sea to spawn for the first time [ME *grills*, perh fr MF *grisel*, *grisle* grey]

**grim** /ɡrɪm/ *adj* -mm- 1 fierce or forbidding in disposition, action, or appearance 2 unflinching, unyielding (< ~ determination) 3 ghastly or sinister in character 4 unpleasant, nasty (< had a pretty ~ afternoon at the dentist's) – *infml* [ME, fr OE *grimm*, akin to OHG *grimm* fierce, Gk *chromados* action of gnashing] – **grimly** *adv*, **grimness** *n*

**grimace** /ˈɡrɪməs, ɡrɪˈmeɪs/ *n* a distorted facial expression, usu of disgust, anger, or pain [F, fr MF, alter of *grimache*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *grima* mask] – **grimace** *vi*, **grimacer** *n*

**grimalkin** /ɡrɪˈmɑːlkɪn/ *n* – used in stories as a name for a (female elderly) cat [alter of grey *malkin*, fr grey + E dial *malkin* (female cat), fr ME *malkyn*, fr *Malkyn*, female forename]

**grime** /ɡrɪm/ *n* soot or dirt, esp when sticking to or embedded in a surface [Flem *grijm*, fr MD *grime* soot, mask; akin to OE *grima* mask, Gk *chrēin* to anoint – more at CHRISM] – **grime** *vt*, **grimy** *adj*, **griminess** *n*

**Grimm's law** /ɡrɪmz/ *n* a statement in historical linguistics: the Germanic languages are related to those of Proto-Indo-European by a regular system of consonantal changes [Jacob Grimm †1863 G philologist]

**grin** /ɡrɪn/ *vi* -nn- to smile so as to show the teeth [ME *grenchen*, fr OE *grenchian*; akin to OHG *grenchen* to snarl] – **grin** *n*, **grinaer** *n*

**grind** /ɡrɪnd/ *vb* *ground* /ɡraʊnd/ *vt* 1 to reduce to powder or small fragments by crushing between hard surfaces 2 to wear down, polish, or sharpen by friction, whet (< an axe) 3a to rub, press, or twist harshly (< ground the cigarette out with a heel) (< ground his fist into his opponent's stomach) b to press together with a rotating motion (< the teeth) 4 to operate or produce by turning a crank (< a hand organ) ~ *vi* 1 to perform the operation of grinding 2 to become pulverized, polished, or sharpened by friction 3 to move with difficulty or friction, esp so as to make a grating noise (< ing gears) 4 to work monotonously, esp to study hard (< for an exam) 5 to rotate the hips in an erotic manner [ME *grinden*, fr OE *grindan*; akin to L *frendere* to crush, grind, Gk *chondros* grain, OE *groat* grit] – **grindingly** *adv* – **grind** *into* to instil (knowledge, facts, etc) into (sby) with great difficulty

- \*grind** *n* 1 dreary monotonous labour or routine 2 the result of grinding; esp material obtained by grinding to a particular degree of fineness 3a the act of rotating the hips in an erotic manner – compare **BUMP** 3 b *Br* an act of sexual intercourse – vulg 4 chiefly *NAM* a swot – *infml*  
**grind down** *vt* to oppress, harass  
**grinder** /'griəndə/ *n* a molar tooth [**GRIND** + **-ER**]  
**grind out** *vt* to produce in a mechanical way (<grind out best-sellers> – *derog*)  
**'grindstone** /-stəʊn/ *n* 1 **MILLSTONE** 1 2 a flat circular stone that revolves on an axle and is used for grinding, shaping, etc  
**gringo** /'grɪŋg-goh/ *n*, *pl* **gringos** an (English-speaking) foreigner in Spain or Latin America [*Sp*, prob alter. of *griego* Greek, stranger, fr *L* *Græcus* Greek]  
**'grip** /grip/ *vb* -**pp** -*vt* 1 to seize or hold firmly 2 to attract and hold the interest of (<a story that ~s the reader>) ~ *vi* to take firm hold [*ME* *gripen*, fr *OE* *gripann*; akin to *OE* *gripan*] – **gripper** *n*, **grippingly** *adv*  
**\*grip** *n* 1a a strong or tenacious grasp b manner or style of gripping 2a control, mastery, power (<he kept a good ~ on his pupils>) b (power of) understanding or doing (<she has a good ~ of the situation>) 3 a part or device that grips (<a hair ~>) 4 a part by which sth is grasped, esp a handle 5 one who handles scenery, properties, lighting, or camera equipment in a theatre or film or television studio 6 a travelling bag  
**'gripe** /griep/ *vt* to cause intestinal gripes in ~ *vi* 1 to experience intestinal gripes 2 to complain persistently – *infml* [*ME* *gripen* to grasp, seize, fr *OE* *gripan*; akin to *OHG* *grifan* to grasp, *Lith* *griebti*] – **griper** *n*  
**\*gripe** *n* 1 a stabbing spasmodic intestinal pain – *usu* *pl* 2 a grievance, complaint – *infml*  
**grippe** /grip/ *n* influenza [*F*, *lit.*, seizure, fr *gripper* to seize] – **grippy** *adj*  
**griseofulvin** /grɪzɪə'fʊlvɪn, -'fʊl/ *n* an antibiotic given orally to treat fungal infections [*NL* *griseofulvum*, specific epithet of *Penicillium griseofulvum*, mould from which it is obtained]  
**grisette** /grɪ'zɛt/ *n* a young French working-class woman [*F*, fr *grisette* (dress made of) cheap grey cloth, fr *gris* grey]  
**gris-gris** /'griːs, 'griːs/ *n*, *pl* **gris-gris** /'griːs, 'griːs/ *n* an African amulet or spell [*F*, of African origin; akin to *Balante* *grigr* amulet]  
**grislly** /'grɪzli/ *adj* inspiring horror, intense fear, or disgust, forbidding (<houses that were dark and ~ under the blank, cold sky> – *DH* Lawrence) [*ME*, fr *OE* *grislic*, fr *gris-* (akin to *OE* *grisan* to fear), akin to *OHG* *grisenlih* terrible] – **grisliness** *n*  
**grison** /'ɡrɪs(ə)n, 'ɡrɪz(ə)n/ *n* any of various *S* American flesh-eating mammals that resemble large weasels [*F*, fr *grison* grey, fr *MF*, fr *gris* – more at **GRIZZLED**]  
**grist** /grɪst/ *n* 1 (a batch of) grain for grinding 2 the product obtained from grinding grain [*ME*, fr *OE* *grist*; akin to *OE* *grindan* to grind] – **grist** to the mill sth that can be put to use or profit  
**gristle** /'grɪsl/ *n* cartilage; broadly tough cartilaginous or fibrous matter, esp in cooked meat [*ME* *gristil*, fr *OE* *gristle*; akin to *MLG* *gristel* gristle] – **gristly** /'grɪsl/ *adj*, **gristliness** *n*  
**'grit** /grɪt/ *n* 1 a hard sharp granule (e.g. of sand or stone); also material composed of such granules 2 the structure or texture of a stone that adapts it to grinding 3 firmness of mind or spirit; unyielding courage – *infml* [*ME* *grete*, fr *OE* *greot*; akin to *OHG* *grioz* sand, *L* *furfur* bran, *Gk* *chrōs* skin]  
**\*grit** *vb* -**tt** -*vi* to give forth a grating sound ~ *vt* 1 to cover or spread with grit 2 to cause (esp one's teeth) to grind or grate  
**grits** /grɪts/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* grain, esp oats, husked and *usu* coarsely ground [*ME* *gryt*, fr *OE* *grytt*; akin to *OE* *grēot*]  
**gritty** /'grɪti/ *adj* 1 courageously persistent or determined 2 caustic, incisive (<~ realism>) [**GRIT** + **-Y**] – **grittily** *adv*, **grittiness** *n*  
**grizzle** /'grɪzl/ *vi* **grizzling** /'grɪzlɪŋ, 'grɪzl-ɪŋ/ *Br* 1 of a child to cry quietly and fretfully 2 to complain in a self-pitying way – often + *about* *USE* *infml* [origin unknown]  
**'grizzled** *adj* sprinkled or streaked with grey (<a ~ beard>) [*ME* *griseled*, fr *MF* *grisel* grey, fr *OF*, fr *gris* grey, of *Gmc* origin; akin to *OHG* *gris* grey]  
**\*grizzly** /-li/ *adj* grizzled [*ME* *grisel* grey, fr *MF*]  
**\*grizzly**, **grizzly** *bear* *n* a very large typically brownish yellow bear that lives in the highlands of western *N* America [prob var of *grisly*]  
**groan** /groʊn/ *vi* 1 to utter a deep moan 2 to creak under strain (<the boards ~ ed under our weight>) ~ *vt* to utter with groaning [*ME* *gromen*, fr *OE* *granian*; akin to *OHG* *grinan* to growl] – **groan** *n*, **groaner** *n*  
**\*groat** /groʊt/ *n* hulled grain (broken into fragments larger than grits) – *usu* *pl* with *sing.* meaning but *sing.* or *pl* in *constr* [*ME* *grotes*, *pl*, fr *OE* *groatan*; akin to *OE* *grēot*]  
**\*groat** *n* a former British coin worth 4 old pence [*ME* *groot*, fr *MD*]  
**grocer** /'groʊsə/ *n* a dealer in (packaged or tinned) staple foodstuffs, household supplies, and *usu* fruit, vegetables, and dairy products [*ME*, fr *MF* *grossier* wholesaler, fr *gros* coarse, wholesale – more at **GROSS**]  
**grocery** /'groʊs(ə)tri/ *n* 1 *pl* commodities sold by a grocer 2 a grocer's shop  
**grog** /groʊ/ *n* alcoholic drink; specif spirits (e.g. rum) mixed with water [*Old Grog*, nickname of Edward Vernon †1757 *E* admiral responsible for diluting the sailors' rum]  
**groggy** /'groʊgi/ *adj* weak and dazed, esp owing to illness or tiredness [*grog* + **-y**] – **groggily** *adv*, **grogginess** *n*  
**rogram** /'groʊrəm/ *n* a coarse loosely woven fabric of silk, silk and mohair, or silk and wool – compare **GROSRAIN** [*MF* *gros grain* coarse texture]  
**groin** /groʊn/ *n* 1a the fold marking the join between the lower abdomen and the inner part of the thigh b the male genitals – *euph* 2 the line along which 2 intersecting vaults meet  **CHURCH** 3 chiefly *NAM* a groyne [alter. of *ME* *grynde*, fr *OE*, abyss, akin to *OE* *grund* ground]  
**grommet** /'ɡrɒmɪt/ *n* 1 a ring, *usu* of twisted rope 2 an eyelet of firm material to strengthen or protect an opening [perh fr obs *F* *gornette* curb of a bridle]  
**gromwell** /'ɡrɒmwəl/ *n* any of a genus of hard-seeded plants of the borage family [*ME* *gromil*, fr *MF*]  
**\*groom** /'ɡruːm/ *n* 1 one who is in charge of the feeding, care, and stabling of horses 2 a bridegroom 3 *archaic* a manservant [*ME* *grom* boy, man, manservant]  
**\*groom** *vt* 1 to clean and care for (e.g. a horse) 2 to make neat or attractive (<an impeccably ~ ed woman>) 3 to get into readiness for a specific objective; prepare (<was being ~ ed as a Tory candidate>) ~ *vi* to groom oneself – **groomer** *n*  
**'groove** /'ɡruːv/ *n* 1a a long narrow channel or depression b the continuous spiral track on a gramophone record whose irregularities correspond to the recorded sounds 2 a fixed routine, a rut 3 top form – *infml* (<a great talker when he is in the ~>) 4 an enjoyable or exciting experience – *infml*, no longer in vogue [*ME* *groof*, akin to *OE* *grafan* to dig – more at **GRAVE**]  
**\*groove** *vt* 1 to make a groove in 2 to excite pleasantly – *infml*, no longer in vogue ~ *vi* 1 to form a groove 2 to enjoy oneself intensely, also to get on well – *infml*, no longer in vogue – **groover** *n*  
**groovy** /'ɡruːvi/ *adj* fashionably attractive or exciting – *infml*, no longer in vogue  
**grope** /'ɡrɒp/ *vi* 1 to feel about blindly or uncertainly for 2 to search blindly or uncertainly for or after (<groping for the right words>) ~ *vt* 1 to touch or fondle the body of (a person) for sexual pleasure 2 to find (e.g. one's way) by groping [*ME* *gropen*, fr *OE* *grapan*, akin to *OE* *gripan* to seize] – **grope** *n*, **groper** *n*  
**groschen** /'grɒʃh(ə)n/ *n*, *pl* **groschen** often *cap* 1  *Austria* at **NATIONALITY** 2 a German coin worth 10 pfennigs [*G*]  
**grosgrain** /'grɒʃ,grɛɪn/ *n* a strong closely woven corded fabric, *usu* of silk or rayon and with crosswise ribs – compare **GROGRAM** [*F* *gros grain* coarse texture]  
**gros point** /'grɒʃ,poɪnt/ *n* a large cross-stitch or tent stitch; also needlepoint embroidery worked on canvas across double threads in *gros* point – compare **PETIT POINT** [*F*, *lit.*, large point]  
**\*gross** /'grɒʃs/ *adj* 1 glaringly noticeable, *usu* because excessively bad or objectionable, flagrant (<~ error>) 2a big, bulky, esp excessively fat b of vegetation dense, luxuriant 3 consisting of an overall total before deductions (e.g. for taxes) are made (<~ income>) – compare **NET** 1a 4 made up of material or perceptible elements; corporal (<the ~ er part of human nature>) 5 coarse in nature or behaviour; specif crudely vulgar [*ME*, fr *MF* *gros* thick, coarse, fr *L* *grossus*] – **grossly** *adv*, **grossness** *n*  
**\*gross** *n* an overall total exclusive of deductions  
**\*gross** *vt* to earn or bring in (an overall total) exclusive of deductions – **grosser** *n*  
**\*gross** *n*, *pl* **gross** a group of 12 dozen things (<a ~ of pencils>) [*ME* *groce*, fr *MF* *grosse*, fr *fem* of *gros*]  
**gross domestic product** *n* the total volume of the goods and services produced in a country during a specified period, *usu* a year, excluding income from possessions and investments abroad – compare **GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT**  
**gross national product** *n* the total value of the goods and services produced in a country during a specified period, *usu* a year – compare **GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**

- grosso modo** /ˈɡrɒʃə ˈmoʊdə/ *adv* as an approximation; roughly – *fm*l [It]
- groz** /ˈɡrɒʃ/ *n*, *pl* **grozys** /-ʃi/ ➤ *Poland* at NATIONALITY [Pol]
- grot** /ˈɡrɒt/ *n* (unpleasant) dirt, soot, etc – *infml* [back-formation fr *grotty*]
- 'grotesque** /ˈɡrəʊˈtesk/ *n* 1 a style of decorative art in which incongruous or fantastic human and animal forms are interwoven with natural motifs (e.g. foliage) 2 *sby* grotesque 3 *SANS SERIF* [MF & OIt; MF, fr OIt (*pittura*) *grotesca*, lit., cave painting, fem of *grotesco* of a cave, fr *grotta*]
- 'grotesque** *adj* (having the characteristics) of the grotesque: e.g. a fanciful, bizarre *b* absurdly incongruous *c* departing markedly from the natural, expected, or typical – *grotesquely* *adv*, *grotesqueness* *n*
- gro'tesquerie** also **grotesquery** /-kəri/ *n* 1 sth grotesque 2 grotesqueness [grotesque + -erie -ery]
- grotto** /ˈɡrəʊtə/ *n*, *pl* **grottoes** also **grottos** 1 an esp picturesque cave 2 an excavation or structure made to resemble a natural cave [It *grotta*, *grotto*, fr L *crypta* cavern, crypt]
- grotty** /ˈɡrɒti/ *adj*, *Br* nasty, unpleasant – *slang* [by shortening & alter fr *grotesque*] – *grottilly* *adv*
- grouch** /ˈɡrəʊtʃ/ *n* 1 a bad-tempered complaint 2 a habitually irritable or complaining person; a grumbler [prob alter of *grutch* (grudge)] – *grouch* *vi*, *grouchy* *adj*
- 'ground** /ɡraʊnd/ *n* 1a the bottom of a body of water *b* *pl* (1) *SEDIMENT* 1 (2) ground coffee beans after brewing 2 a basis for belief, action, or argument – often *pl* with *sing* meaning (<~s for complaint>) 3a a surrounding area, a background *b* (material that serves as) a substratum 4a the surface of the earth *b* an area used for a particular purpose (<parade ~> <football ~>) *c* *pl* the area round and belonging to a house or other building *d* an area to be won or defended (as if) in battle *e* an area of knowledge or special interest (<covered a lot of ~ in his lecture>) 5a 'soil 2b *b* chiefly *NAM* EARTH 8 [ME, fr OE *grund*, akin to OHG *grunt* ground, Gk *chraînēn* to touch slightly] – *off* the ground started and in progress (<the programme never got off the ground>) – *to* ground into hiding
- 'ground** *vt* 1 to bring to or place on the ground 2a to provide a reason or justification for *b* to instruct in fundamentals (e.g. of a subject) 3 to restrict (e.g. a pilot or aircraft) to the ground 4 chiefly *NAM* to earth ~ *vi* to run aground
- 'ground** *past* of GRIND
- 'ground,bait** /-ˈbaɪt/ *n* bait scattered on the water so as to attract fish
- 'ground,bass** /-ˈbaɪs/ *n* a short bass passage continually repeated below constantly changing melody and harmony
- 'ground,cover** *n* (all the) low-growing plants (in a forest except young trees)
- 'ground,effect** *n* an aircraft's gaining of added buoyancy when close to the ground, also a similar but intentionally produced effect (e.g. in a hovercraft) – *ground-effect* *adj*
- 'ground,floor** *n* the floor of a house on a level with the ground – compare FIRST FLOOR
- 'grounding** /ˈɡraʊndɪŋ/ *n* fundamental training in a field of knowledge
- 'ground,ivy** *n* a trailing plant of the mint family with bluish-purple flowers
- 'groundless** /-ˈlɪs/ *adj* having no foundation (<~ fears>) – *groundlessly* *adv*, *groundlessness* *n*
- 'groundling** /-ˈlɪŋ/ *n* 1 a spectator who stood in the pit of an Elizabethan theatre 2 *sby* of low status
- 'ground,nut** /-ˈnʌt/ *n* 1 (a *NAM* American leguminous plant with) an edible tuberous root 2 chiefly *Br* the peanut
- 'ground,pine** *n* 1 a European yellow-flowered bugle with a resinous smell 2 any of several club mosses with long creeping stems
- 'ground,plan** *n* 1 a plan of the ground floor of a building 2 a first or basic plan
- 'ground,rent** *n* the rent paid by a lessee for the use of land, esp for building
- 'ground,rule** *n* a basic rule of procedure
- 'groundseel** /ˈɡraʊnd(z)l/ *n* (a plant related to a) European composite plant that is a common weed and has small yellow flower heads [ME *groundeswele*, fr OE *grundeswelge*, fr *grund* ground + *swelgan* to swallow – more at 'swallow]
- 'ground,sheet** /-ˈʃi:t/ *n* a waterproof sheet placed on the ground (e.g. in a tent)
- 'groundman** /-ˈmæn/ *n* *sby* who tends a playing field, esp a cricket pitch
- 'ground,speed** *n* the speed (e.g. of an aircraft) relative to the ground
- 'ground,squirrel** *n* any of various burrowing *NAM* American rodents, esp a chipmunk
- 'ground,staff** /-ˈstɑːf/ *n* the people who maintain a sports ground
- 'ground,state** *n* the lowest possible energy level of a system of interacting elementary particles
- 'ground,stroke** *n* a stroke made (e.g. in tennis) by hitting a ball that has rebounded from the ground – compare VOLLEY lc(1)
- 'ground,swell** *n* a sea swell caused by an often distant gale or ground tremor
- 'ground,work** /-ˈwʊk/ *n* (work done to provide) a foundation or basis
- 'group** /ɡruːp/ *n* 1 two or more figures or objects forming a complete unit in a composition 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a number of individuals or objects assembled together or having some unifying relationship *b* an operational and administrative unit belonging to a command of an air force 3a an assemblage of atoms forming part of a molecule; a radical (<a methyl ~>) *b* all the (similar) chemical elements forming one of the vertical columns of the periodic table 4 a mathematical set that is closed under a binary associative operation, has an identity element, and has an inverse for every element [F *groupe*, fr It *gruppo*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *kropf* *craw* – more at CROP]
- 'group** *vt* 1 to combine in a group 2 to assign to a group, classify ~ *vi* to form or belong to a group – *groupable* *adj*
- 'group,captain** *n* ➤ RANK
- 'grouper** /ˈɡruːpə/ *n*, *pl* **groupers**, esp collectively **grouper** any of numerous (large bottom-dwelling) fishes usu. of warm seas [Pg *garupa*]
- 'grouple** /ˈɡruːpl/ *n* an ardent (female) fan of a famous person, esp a rock star, who follows the object of admiration on tour ['group + -ie]
- 'grouping** /ˈɡruːpɪŋ/ *n* a set of individuals or objects combined in a group
- 'group,practice** *n* a practice run by a group of associated medical general practitioners
- 'group,therapy** *n* the treatment of several individuals (with similar psychological problems) simultaneously through group discussion and mutual aid
- 'grouse** /ˈɡrəʊs/ *n*, *pl* **grouse** any of several (important game) birds with a plump body and strong feathered legs [origin unknown]
- 'grouse** *vi* or *n* (to) grumble – *infml* [origin unknown] – *grouser* *n*
- 'grout** /ɡraʊt/ *n* 1 sediment (e.g. tea leaves) at the bottom of a vessel – usu. *pl* with *sing* meaning 2 grout, grouting a thin mortar used for filling spaces (e.g. the joints in masonry) [ME, fr OE *grut* coarse meal; akin to OE *grytt* gnt]
- 'grout** *vt* to fill up or finish with grout – *grouter* *n*
- 'grove** /ɡrəʊv/ *n* a small wood, group, or planting of trees [ME, fr OE *graf*]
- 'grovel** /ˈɡrəʊv/ *vi* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-) /ˈɡrəʊv-ɪŋ/ 1 to lie or creep with the body prostrate in token of subservience or abasement 2 to abase or humble oneself [back-formation fr *groveling* prone, fr *groveling*, *adv*, fr ME, fr *gruf*, *adv*, on the face (fr ON a *grüfu*) + -ling; akin to OE *creopan* to creep] – *groveller* *n*, *grovelingly* *adv*
- 'grow** /ɡrəʊ/ *vb* *grew* /ɡrəʊ/ *grown* /ɡroʊn/ *vi* 1a to spring up and develop to maturity (in a specified place or situation) *b* to assume some relation (as if) through a process of natural growth (<tree trunks grown together>) 2a to increase in size by addition of material (e.g. by assimilation into a living organism or by crystallization) *b* to increase, expand 3 to develop from a parent source (the book grew out of a series of lectures) 4 to become gradually (<grew pale>) ~ *vi* 1 to cause to grow; produce (<~ roses>) 2 DEVELOP 5 (<~ wings>) [ME *growen*, fr OE *growan*; akin to OHG *gruowan* to grow] – *grower* *n*, *growingly* *adv* – *grow* *on* to have an increasing influence on; esp to become more pleasing to
- 'growing,pains** *n* *pl* 1 pains in the legs of growing children that have no known cause 2 the early problems attending a new project or development
- 'growl** /ɡrəʊl/ *vi* 1a to rumble *b* to utter a growl 2 to complain angrily [prob imit]
- 'growl** *n* a deep guttural inarticulate sound
- 'growler** /ˈɡrəʊlə/ *n* a small iceberg ['GROWL + -ER]
- 'grown** /ɡroʊn/ *adj* 1 fully grown; mature (<~ men>) 2 overgrown or covered (with)
- 'grown-up** *n* or *adj* (an) adult
- 'growth** /ɡrəʊθ/ *n* 1a (a stage in the process of) growing *b* progressive

- development **c** an increase, expansion **2a** sthg that grows or has grown **b** a tumour or other abnormal growth of tissue **3** the result of growth, a product
- 'growth factor** *n* a substance (e.g. a vitamin) necessary for the growth of an organism
- 'growth hormone** *n* 1 a polypeptide growth-regulating hormone of vertebrates that is secreted by the front lobe of the pituitary gland **2** any of various plant substances (e.g. an auxin or gibberellin) that promote growth
- grow up** *vi* **1** of a person to develop towards or arrive at a mature state **2** to arise and develop (*the movement grew up in the 60s*) **3** to begin to act sensibly – *usu imper*
- groynes**, chiefly *NAM* *groin* /*groyn*/ *n* a rigid structure built out from a shore, esp. to check erosion of the beach [*groynes* prob. alter. of *groin*]
- 'grub** /*grub*/ *vb* -bb- *vt* **1** to clear by digging up roots and stumps **2** to dig up or out (as if) by the roots ~ *vi* **1** to dig in the ground, esp. for sthg that is difficult to find or extract **2** to search about; rummage [ME *grubben*; akin to OE *grāfan* to dig – more at 'GRAVE] – **grubber** *n*
- 'grub** *n* 1 a soft thick wormlike larva of an insect **2** food – *infrm* [ME *grubbe*, prob. fr. *grubben*]
- grubby** /*grubi*/ *adj* dirty, grimy (< ~ *hands*) [*'GRUB* + *-y*] – **grubbily** *adv*, **grubbiness** *n*
- 'grub-screw** *n* a headless screw-bolt
- 'grubstake** /-stayk/ *n*, *NAM* supplies or funds given to a mining prospector in return for a share in his/her discoveries; *broadly* any material assistance provided to an organization or individual [*'grub* + *stake*]
- 'Grub Street** *n* the world or life-style of needy literary hacks [*Grub Street*, London, formerly inhabited by literary hacks]
- 'grudge** /*gruj*/ *vt* to be unwilling or reluctant to give or admit; begrudge (< ~ *d the money to pay taxes*) [ME *grucchen*, *grudgen* to grumble, complain, fr. OF *groucier*, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *groezen* to howl] – **gruder** *n*
- 'grudge** *n* a feeling of deep-seated resentment or ill will
- 'grudging** /*grujing*/ *adj* unwilling, reluctant – **grudgingly** *adv*
- gruel** /*grooh-əl*/ *n* a thin porridge [ME *grewel*, fr. MF *gruel*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *grūt* grout]
- gruelling**, *NAM* chiefly *gruelling* /*grooh-əling*/ *adj* trying or taxing to the point of causing exhaustion; punishing (< ~ *race*) [fr. prp. of obs. *gruel* (to punish)]
- gruesome** /*groohs(ə)m*/ *adj* inspiring horror or repulsion, (< ~ *scenes of torture*) [alter. of earlier *growsome*, fr. E dial. *grow*, *grue* (to shiver); fr. ME *gruen*, prob. fr. MD *gruwen*; akin to OHG *ingruen* to shiver] – **gruesomely** *adv*, **gruesomeness** *n*
- gruff** /*gruf*/ *adj* 1 brusque or stern in manner, speech, or aspect (< ~ *reply*) **2** deep and harsh (< ~ *voice*) [D *grof*; akin to OHG *grob* coarse, *hruf* scurf – more at DANDRUFF] – **gruffly** *adv*, **gruffness** *n*
- 'grumble** /*grumb*/ *vb* **grumbling** /*grumb*/ *vi* **1** to mutter in discontent **2** to rumble ~ *vt* to express in a moaning or discontented way [prob. fr. MF *grommeler*, deriv. of MD *grommen*; akin to OHG *grimm* grim] – **grumble** *n*, **grumbler** *n*, **grumbly** *adv*, **grumbly** *adj*
- 'grumbling** /*grumb*/ *adj* causing intermittent pain or discomfort (< ~ *appendix*)
- grummet** /*grumit*/ *n* a grummet
- 'grump** /*grump*/ *n* 1 *pl* a fit of ill humour or sulkiness **2** a grumpy person [obs. *grumps* (snubs, slights), prob. of imit. origin]
- 'grumpy** /*grumpi*/ *adj* moodily cross; surly – **grumpily** *adv*, **grumpiness** *n*
- Grundism** /*grundi,z(ə)m*/ *n* prudery [Mrs Grundy]
- 'grunt** /*grunt*/ *vb* to utter (with) a grunt [ME *grunten*, fr. OE *grunnetan*, freq. of *grunian*, of imit. origin] – **grunter** *n*
- 'grunt** *n* the deep short guttural sound of a pig; also a similar sound
- 'grunted** /*grunt*/ *adj* (made) contented or satisfied – *infrm* [back-formation fr. *disgruntled*]
- grutten** /*grutin*/ *past part* of 'GREET
- Gruyère** /*grooh-yeə* (Fr. *grye:r*)/ *n* a Swiss cheese with smaller holes and a slightly fuller flavour than Emmenthal [Gruyère, district of Switzerland]
- gryke** /*griek*/ *n* a grike
- gryphon** /*grifn*/ *n* a griffin
- 'G-string** *n* a small piece of cloth, leather, etc. covering the genitalia and held in place by thongs, elastic, etc. that is passed round the hips and between the buttocks [origin unknown]
- guaiac** /*g(w)ie,ak*/ *n* guaiacum [NL *Guaiacum*]
- guaiacum** /*g(w)ie-əkəm*/ *n* (a resin with a faint balsamic smell or the
- hard greenish brown wood of) any of several tropical American trees [NL, genus name, fr. Sp. *guayaco*, fr. Taino *guayacan*]
- guanaco** /*gwah'nahkoh*/ *n*, *pl* **guanacos**, *esp* collectively **guanaco** a S. American mammal that has a soft thick fawn-coloured coat and is related to the camel [Sp., fr. Quechua *huanacu*]
- guanine** /*gwahneen*/ *n* a purine base that is one of the 4 bases whose order in a DNA or RNA chain codes genetic information – compare ADENINE, CYTOSINE, THYMINE, URACIL [*guano* + *-ine*; fr. its being found esp. in guano]
- guano** /*gwahnoh*/ *n* (an artificial fertilizer similar to) a phosphate-rich substance consisting chiefly of the excrement of seabirds and used as a fertilizer [Sp., fr. Quechua *huanu dung*]
- guanidine** /*gwahnaseen*/ *n* a nucleoside containing guanine [blend of *guanine* and *ribose*]
- guarani** /*gwahr'nee*/ *n*, *pl* (1) **guarani**, **guaranis**, (2) **guaranis**, **guaranies** 1 *cap* a member or the language of a people inhabiting Bolivia, Paraguay, and S. Brazil 2 LANGUAGE 2 3 Paraguay at NATIONALITY [Sp. *guarani*] – **guaranian** /-nee-ən/ *n* or *adj*
- 'guarantee** /*garən'tee*/ *n* 1 one who guarantees **2** a written undertaking to answer for the payment of a debt or the performance of a duty of another in case of the other's default **3a** an agreement by which one person accepts responsibility for another's obligations, esp. debts, in case of default **b** an assurance of the quality of or of the length of use to be expected from a product offered for sale, accompanied by a promise to replace it or pay the customer back **4** sthg given as security, a pledge [prob. alter. of 'guaranty]
- 'guarantee** *vi* **guaranteed**; **guaranteeing** **1** to undertake to answer for the debt or default of **2a** to undertake to do or secure (sthg) (< ~ *d delivery of the goods*) **b** to engage for the existence, permanence, or nature of **3** to give security to
- guarantor** /*garən'taw*/ *n* 1 one who guarantees **2** one who makes or gives a guarantee [*guaranty* + *-or*]
- guaranty** /*garənti*/ *n* GUARANTEE **2** [MF *garantie*, fr. OF, fr. *garantr* to guarantee, fr. *garant* warrant, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *werento* guarantor – more at 'WARRANT]
- 'guard** /*gahd*/ *n* **1** a defensive position in boxing, fencing, etc. **2** the act or duty of protecting or defending **3** a person or a body of men on sentinel duty **4a** a person or group whose duty is to protect a place, people, etc. **b** *pl* HOUSEHOLD TROOPS **5** a protective or safety device, esp. a device on a machine for protecting against injury **6** *Br* the person in charge of a railway train [ME *garde*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *garder* to guard, defend, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wāren* to watch, take care – more at 'WARD OFF]
- 'guard** *vi* **1** to protect from danger, esp. by watchful attention; make secure [*policemen* ~ *ing our cities*] **2** to watch over so as to prevent escape, entry, theft, etc.; also to keep in check (< ~ *your tongue*) ~ *vi* to watch by way of caution or defence; stand guard – **guarder** *n* – **guard against** to attempt to prevent (sthg) by taking precautions
- 'guard cell** *n* either of the 2 crescent-shaped cells that border and open and close a plant stoma
- guarded** /*gahdid*/ *adj* marked by caution (< ~ *reply*) (< ~ *look*) – **guardedly** *adv*, **guardedness** *n*
- 'guardhouse** /-hows/ *n* a building used by soldiers on guard duty or as a prison
- guardian** /*gahdiən*, -dyən/ *n* 1 one who or that which guards or protects **2** sby who has the care of the person or property of another, specif. sby entrusted by law with the care of sby who is of unsound mind, not of age, etc. – **guardianship** *n*
- 'guardrail** /-rayl/ *n* a railing for guarding against danger or trespass
- 'guardroom** /-room, -roohm/ *n* a room serving as a guardhouse CHURCH
- 'guardsman** /-mən/ *n* a member of a military body called *guard* or *guards*
- 'guard's van** *n*, *Br* a railway wagon or carriage attached usu. at the rear of a train for the use of the guard
- guava** /*gwahvə*/ *n* (the sweet acid yellow edible fruit of) a shrubby tropical American tree [modif. of Sp. *guayaba*, of Arawakan origin, akin to Tupi *guayava* guava]
- gubbins** /*gubinz*/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *const.*, *pl* **gubbins** *Br* 1 the inner workings of a machine, gadgetry **2** a thingamajig **3** a group or collection of objects associated with sthg specified (< *he received the catalogue and all the ~ that goes with it*) USE *infrm* [*pl* of *gubbin* (fragment, scrap), alter. of obs. *gobone* (goblet, portion), fr. ME *gobyn*, *goboun*]
- gubernatorial** /*gyoobhə'nə'tawri-əl*/ *adj* of a governor [L. *gubernator* governor, fr. *gubernatus*, pp. of *gubernare* to govern – more at GOVERN]

**guddle** /'gudl/ *vb*, chiefly Scot to catch (fish) by groping with the hands (e.g. under stones or banks of streams) [prob imit]

**'gudgeon** /'guj(ə)n/ *n* 1 a pivot or journal 2 a socket for a rudder pintle [ME *gudyon*, fr MF *goujon*]

**²gudgeon** *n*, *pl* *gudgeons*, *esp* collectively *gudgeon* a small European freshwater fish used esp for food or bait [ME *gojune*, fr MF *gouvion*, *gougon*, fr L *gobion-*, *gobio*, alter. of *gobius* – more at *Goby*]

**'gudgeon** *pin* *n* a metal pin linking the piston and connecting rod in an internal-combustion engine

**guelder rose** /'gelda/ *n* a (cultivated) shrub of the honeysuckle family with clusters of white flowers [*Guelderland*, *Gelderland*, province of the Netherlands]

**Guelf, Guelph** /'gwelf/ *n* a member of a political party in medieval Italy opposing the German emperors – compare *GHIBELLINE* [It *Guelfo*]

**guenon** /gə'nɒn/ (Fr *gənɔ̃*/, *pl* *guenons*, *esp* collectively *guenon* any of various long-tailed (tree-dwelling) African monkeys [F, fr MF]

**guernsey** /'guhni/ *n*, often *cap* 1 (any of) a breed of fawn and white dairy cattle larger than the jersey 2 a thick knitted tunic or jersey traditionally worn by sailors [*Guernsey*, Channel islands]

**guerrilla, guerilla** /gə'rɪlə/ *n* a member of a small independent fighting force which engages in sabotage, unexpected assaults, etc [Sp *guerrilla*, fr dim. of *guerra* war, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *werra* strife – more at *WAR*]

**'guess** /ges/ *vt* 1 to form an opinion of with little or no consideration of the facts 2 to arrive at a correct conclusion about by conjecture, chance, or intuition (< ~ ed the answer) 3 chiefly *NAM* to believe, suppose (< I ~ you're right) – *infrml* ~ *vi* to make a guess [ME *gessen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *geta* to get, guess – more at *GERT*] – *guesser* *n*

**²guess** *n* a surmise, estimate

**guesstimate** /'gestɪmət/ *n* an estimate made without adequate information – *infrml* [blend of *guess* and *estimate*] – *guesstimate* /-,mayt/ *vt*

**'guesswork** /-,wuhk/ *n* (judgment based on) the act of guessing

**'guest** /gest/ *n* 1a a person entertained in one's home b a person taken out, entertained, and paid for by another c a person who pays for the services of an establishment (e.g. a hotel) 2 one who is present by invitation (< a ~ star on a TV programme) [ME *gest*, fr ON *gestr*, akin to OE *gest* guest, stranger, L *hostis* stranger, enemy]

**²guest** *vi* to appear as a guest

**'guesthouse** /-,həʊs/ *n* a private house used to accommodate paying guests

**'guest, worker** *n* an immigrant worker who is a temporary resident of a country, esp in the Common Market, and is usu employed in an unskilled job [trans of G *gastarbeiter*]

**guff** /gʊf/ *n* humbug, nonsense – *infrml* [prob imit]

**guffaw** /'gʊfaw, gə'faw/ *vi* or *n* (to utter) a loud or boisterous laugh [imit]

**guidance** /'gied(ə)ns/ *n* 1 help, advice 2 the process of controlling the course of a projectile by a built-in mechanism [²GUIDE + -ANCE]

**'guide** /'gied/ *n* 1a one who leads or directs another b one who shows and explains places of interest to travellers, tourists, etc c sthg, esp a guidebook, that provides sby with information about a place, activity, etc d sthg or sby that directs a person in his/her conduct or course of life 2 a bar, rod, etc for steadying or directing the motion of sthg 3 often *cap*, chiefly *Br* a member of a worldwide movement of girls and young women founded with the aim of forming character and teaching good citizenship through outdoor activities and domestic skills, specif a member of the intermediate section for girls aged from 10 to 15 [ME, fr MF, fr OProv *guda*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *witan* to look after, *witan* to know – more at *WIT*]

**²guide** *vt* 1 to act as a guide to, direct in a way or course 2 to direct or supervise, usu to a particular end, also to supervise the training of ~ *vi* to act or work as a guide; give guidance – *guides* *n*, *guidable* *adj*

**'guidebook** /-,bʊk/ *n* a handbook; esp a book of information for travellers

**'guide, dog** *n* a dog trained to lead a blind person

**'guideline** /-,li:n/ *n* a line by which one is guided, esp an indication of policy or conduct

**'guidepost** /-,pəʊst/ *n* a signpost

**'guide, way** /-,weɪ/ *n* a channel or track

**guiding** /'giedɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* the activities of the Guide movement

**guidon** /'gied(ə)n/ *n* a triangular or forked pennant (e.g. a standard of a regiment of dragoons) [MF]

**guild** /'gild/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an association of people with similar interests or pursuits; esp a medieval association of merchants or craftsmen

[ME *gilde*, fr ON *gildi* payment, guild; akin to OE *gield* tribute, guild – more at *DANEGELD*] – *guildship* *n*

**guild** /'gilda/ *n* a gulden [modif of D *gulden*]

**guildhall** /-'hawl/ *n* a hall where a guild or corporation usu assembles; esp TOWN HALL

**'guildsman** /-man/ *n* a guild member

**guild socialism** *n* an early socialist theory advocating state ownership of industry with control by guilds of workers

**guile** /'giel/ *n* deceitful cunning; duplicity [ME, fr OF] – *guileful* *adj*, *guilefully* *adv*, *guileless* *adj*, *guilelessly* *adv*

**guillemot** /'gɪl,mot/ *n*, *pl* *guillemots*, *esp* collectively *guillemot* any of several narrow-billed auks of northern seas [F, fr MF, dim. of *Guillaume* William]

**guillotine** /'gɪlteen/ *n* 1 a machine for beheading consisting of a heavy blade that slides down between grooved posts 2 an instrument (e.g. a paper cutter) that works like a guillotine 3 limitation of the discussion of legislative business by the imposition of a time limit – compare *CLOSURE* [F, fr Joseph *Guillotin* †1814 F physician] – *guillotine* *vt*

**guilt** /'gɪlt/ *n* 1 the fact of having committed a breach of conduct, esp one that violates law 2a responsibility for a criminal or other offence b feelings of being at fault or to blame, esp for imagined offences or from a sense of inadequacy [ME, delinquency, guilt, fr OE *gylt*]

**guilty** /'gɪlti/ *adj* 1 justly answerable for an offence 2a suggesting or involving guilt (< a ~ deed) b feeling guilt (< their ~ consciences) – *guiltily* *adv*, *guiltiness* *n*

**guinea** /'ɡɪni/ *n* 1 a former British gold coin worth 21 shillings 2 a money unit worth £1 and 5 new pence [*Guinea*, region of W Africa, supposed source of the gold from which it was made]

**'guinea, fowl** /'ɡɪni/ *n* a W African bird with white-speckled slaty plumage that is related to the pheasants and is widely kept for food

**'guinea, pig** *n* 1 a small stout-bodied short-eared nearly tailless rodent often kept as a pet 2 sby or sthg used as a subject of (scientific) research or experimentation

**'guinea, worm** *n* a very long slender nematode worm of warm climates that lives under the skin of human beings and other mammals

**guipure** /'ɡɪpuːə/ *n* a heavy large-patterned decorative lace on a fabric foundation [F]

**guise** /'ɡɪz/ *n* 1 external appearance, aspect 2 assumed appearance, semblance [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wisa* manner – more at 'WISE] – in the guise of masquerading as

**guitar** /'ɡɪtə/ *n* a flat-bodied stringed instrument with a long fretted neck, plucked with a plectrum or the fingers [F *guitare*, fr Sp *guitarra*, fr Ar, *qitar*, fr Gk *kithara* cithara] – *guitarist* *n*

**Gujarati, Gujarati** /'ɡʊdʒə'raɪti/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* *Gujarati, Gujarati* (the language or a member of a people) of the state of Gujarat in W India → LANGUAGE [Hindi *gujarati*, fr *Gujarat* Gujarat]

**gulch** /'gulch/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a ravine, esp with a torrent flowing through it [perh fr E dial *gulch* (to gulp), fr ME *gulchen*]

**gulden** /'ɡʊld(ə)n/ *n*, *pl* *guldens, gulden* → The Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Surinam at NATIONALITY [ME (Sc), fr MD *gulden* florijn golden florin]

**gules** /'ɡyʊʊhɪz/ *n* red – used in heraldry [ME *goules*, fr MF]

**'gulf** /'ɡʊlf/ *n* 1 a partially landlocked part of the sea, usu larger than a bay 2 a deep chasm, an abyss 3 an unbridgeable gap (< the ~ between theory and practice) [ME *goulf*, fr MF *golle*, fr It *golfo*, fr LL *colpus*, fr Gk *kolpos* bosom, gulf, akin to OE *hwælf* vault, OHG *walbo*]

**²gulf** *vt* to engulf

**'gulf, weed** /-,weed/ *n* a sargassum [Gulf of Mexico]

**'gull** /'ɡʊl/ *n* any of numerous related long-winged web-footed largely white, grey, or black aquatic birds [ME, of Celt origin, akin to W *gwyllan* gull]

**²gull** *vi* to trick, cheat, or deceive (< ~ ed into a bad purchase) [obs *gull* (gullet), fr ME *golle*, fr MF *goule*]

**Gullah** /'ɡʊlə, also 'ɡoʊlə/ *n* a member or the English dialect of a group of Negroes of the sea islands and coast of S Carolina, Georgia, and NE Florida

**gullet** /'ɡʊlɪt/ *n* the oesophagus; broadly the throat → DIGESTION [ME *golet*, fr MF *goulet*, dim. of *goule* throat, fr L *gula* – more at GLUTTON]

**gullible** /'ɡʊləbl/ *adj* easily deceived or cheated – *gullibility* /-,bɪləti/ *n*


**'gully** also *gulley* /'ɡʊli/ *n* 1 a trench worn in the earth by running water after rain 2 a deep gutter or drain 3 a fielding position in cricket close to the batsman on the off side and between point and the slips → SPORT [obs *gully* (gullet), prob alter. of ME *golet*]



**\*gully** *vt* to make gullies in

**gulp** /gʊlp/ *vt* to swallow hurriedly, greedily, or in 1 swallow – often + *down* ~ *vi* to make a sudden swallowing movement as if surprised or nervous [ME *gulpen*, fr a MD or MLG word akin to D & Fris *gulpen* to bubble forth, drink deep; akin to OE *gielpen* to boast – more at YELP] – *gulp* *n*, *gulper* *n*

**gulp back** *vt* to keep back (as if) by swallowing; suppress <gulped back his tears>

**\*gum** /gʊm/ *n* (the tissue that surrounds the teeth and covers) the parts of the jaws from which the teeth grow  [ME *gome*, fr OE *goma* palate; akin to OHG *guomo* palate, Gk *chaos* abyss]

**\*gum** *n* 1a any of numerous polysaccharide plant substances that are gelatinous when moist but harden on drying – compare MUCILAGE b any of various substances (e.g. a mucilage or gum resin) that exude from plants 2 a substance or deposit resembling a plant gum (e.g. in adhesive quality) 3 Austr a eucalyptus [ME *gomme*, fr OF, fr L *cummi*, *gummi*, fr Gk *kommi*, fr Egypt *qmy.t*] – *gummy* *adj*

**\*gum** *vb* – *mm-* *vt* to smear or stick (as if) with gum ~ *vi* to exude or form gum – *gummer* *n*

**\*gum** *n* God – esp in *by gum* as a mild oath [euphemism]

**\*gum** 'arabic *n* a water-soluble gum obtained from several acacias and used esp in the manufacture of adhesives and in pharmacy

**gumbo** /gʊmbə/ *n* 1 a (meat and vegetable) soup thickened with okra pods 2 often *cap* a pators used by Negroes and Creoles, esp in Louisiana 3 NAM OKRA 1 [AmerF *gombo*, of Bantu origin; akin to Umbundu *ochingbombo* okra] – *gumbo* *adj*

**gumboil** /gʊmboɪ/ *n* an abscess in the gum

**\*gumboot** /-boʊt/ *n* a strong waterproof rubber boot reaching usu to the knee

**gumma** /gʊmə/ *n*, *pl* *gummas* also *gummata* /gʊmətə/ a rubbery tumour characteristic of tertiary syphilis [NL *gummat-*, *gumma*, fr LL, *gum*, alter. of L *gummi*] – *gummatous* *adj*

**gumption** /gʊmpʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 shrewd practical common sense 2 initiative; specif boldness [origin unknown]

**\*gum, resin** *n* a mixture of gum and resin (e.g. myrrh), usu obtained by making an incision in a plant and allowing the juice which exudes to solidify

**gumshoe** /gʊm,shoʊ/ *n*, chiefly NAM a detective – infml [*gumshoe* (rubber shoe, sby who walks stealthily)]

**\*gum, tree** *n* a eucalyptus

**gum up** *vt* to prevent or impede the proper working or carrying out of – esp in *gum up the works*; infml

**\*gun** /gʊn/ *n* 1a a piece of ordnance, usu with a high muzzle velocity and a comparatively flat trajectory b a rifle, pistol, etc c a device that throws a projectile 2 a discharge of a gun 3a sby who carries a gun in a shooting party b NAM one who is skilled with a gun; esp a gunman [ME *gonne*, *gunne*] – *gunned* *adj*

**\*gun** *vi* – *na-* 1 to fire on 2 to shoot – often + *down* – *gun* for to search for in order to attack – infml

**\*gunboat** /-boʊt/ *n* a relatively heavily armed ship of shallow draught

**\*gunboat** *adj* of or employing the high-handed use of naval or military power (< *diplomacy*)

**\*gun,cotton** /-kə(ə)n/ *n* (an explosive highly nitrated with) cellulose nitrate

**\*gundog** /-dɒg/ *n* a dog trained to locate or retrieve game for hunters

**\*gun,fire** /-fiə/ *n* the (noise of) firing of guns

**gunge** /gʊnj/ *n*, Br an unpleasant, dirty, or sticky substance slang [origin unknown] – *gungy* *adj*

**gung ho** /gʊŋ 'həʊ/ *adj*, chiefly NAM extremely or excessively enthusiastic [*Gung ho*, motto (interpreted as meaning 'work together') of certain US marine raiders in WW II, fr Chin (Pek) *kung'-ho'*, short for *chung'-kuo' kung'-yeh' ho'-tso' she'* Chinese Industrial Cooperatives Society]

**gunk** /gʊŋk/ *n*, chiefly NAM *gunge* – slang [prob imit]

**gunlayer** /gʊn,ləɪə/ *n* sby who aims a large gun

**\*gun,lock** /-lək/ *n* the mechanism for igniting the charge of a firearm


**\*gunman** /-mən/ *n* a man armed with a gun; esp a professional killer

**\*gun,metal** /-metl/ *n* (a metal treated to imitate) a bronze formerly used for cannon – *gunmetal* *adj*

**gunnel** /gʊnl/ *n* a gunwale

**gunner** /gʊnə/ *n* 1 a soldier or airman who operates a gun; specif a private in the Royal Artillery 2 sby who hunts with a gun 3 a warrant officer who supervises naval ordnance and ordnance stores

**gunnery** /gʊnəri/ *n* the use of guns; specif the science of the flight of projectiles and of the effective use of guns

**gunnery sergeant** *n*  RANK

**gunny** /gʊni/ *n* a coarse heavy material, usu of jute, used esp for sacking [Hindi *gani*]

**gunpoint** /gʊn,pɔɪnt/ *n* – at *gunpoint* under threat of death

**\*gun,powder** /-paʊdə/ *n* an explosive mixture of potassium nitrate, charcoal, and sulphur used in gunnery and blasting

**\*gun,room** *n* quarters on a British warship used by junior officers

**\*gun,runner** /-rʌnə/ *n* one who carries or deals in contraband arms and ammunition – *gunrunning* *n*

**\*gun,ship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* a heavily armed relatively slow aircraft (e.g. a helicopter or converted transport aeroplane) used to suppress ground fire, also an antitank helicopter

**\*gun,shot** /-ʃɒt/ *n* 1 a shot or projectile fired from a gun 2 the range of a gun <out of ~>

**\*gun,shy** *adj*, esp of a dog afraid of the sound of a gun

**\*gun,slinger** /-slɪŋə/ *n* a gunman – slang

**\*gun,smith** /-smɪθ/ *n* sby who designs, makes, or repairs firearms

**gunwale, gunnel** /gʊnl/ *n* the upper edge of a ship's or boat's side [ME *gonnewale*, fr *gonne* gun + *wale*; fr its former use as a support for guns]

**guppy** /gʊpi/ *n*, *pl* *guppies*, esp collectively *guppy* a small (aquarium) fish native to the W Indies and S America [R J L *Guppy* †1916 Trinidadian naturalist]

**gurgle** /gʊɜl/ *vb* *gurgling* /gʊɜlɪŋ/ *vi* to make the sound (as if) of unevenly flowing water, also to flow or move with such a sound ~ *vt* to utter with a gurgling sound [prob imit] – *gurgle* *n*

**Gurkha** /gʊrkə/ *n* a member of the dominant race in Nepal (serving in the British or Indian army)

**gurnard** /gʊnəd/ *n*, *pl* *gurnards*, esp collectively *gurnard* any of various fishes with large armoured heads and 3 pairs of pectoral fins [ME, fr MF *gornart*, irreg fr *grogner* to grunt, fr L *grunnire*, of imit origin]

**guru** /goʊroʊh, 'goo-/ *n*, *pl* *gurus* 1 a personal religious teacher and spiritual guide (e.g. in Hinduism) 2a a spiritual and intellectual guide, a mentor b an acknowledged leader or chief proponent (e.g. of a cult or idea) – infml <the ~ of modern philosophical thought> [Hindi *guru*, fr Skt *guru*, fr *guru*, *adj*, heavy, venerable – more at 'GRUEVE]

**\*gush** /gʊʃ/ *vi* 1 to issue copiously or violently 2 to emit a sudden copious flow 3 to make an effusive often affected display of sentiment or enthusiasm <women ~ing over the baby> ~ *vt* to emit in a copious free flow [ME *guschen*] – *gushy* *adj*, *gushing* *adj*

**\*gush** *n* 1 (sth emitted in) a sudden outpouring 2 an effusive and usu affected display of sentiment or enthusiasm

**gusher** /gʊʃə/ *n* an oil well with a copious natural flow ['gʊʃ + 'ER]

**gusset** /gʊsɪt/ *n* 1 a piece of material inserted in a seam (e.g. the crotch of an undergarment) to provide expansion or reinforcement 2 a plate or bracket for strengthening an angle in framework [ME, piece of armour covering the joints in a suit of armour, fr MF *goucher*] – *gusset* *vt*

**\*gust** /gʊst/ *n* 1 a sudden brief rush of (rain carried by the) wind 2 a sudden outburst; a surge <a ~ of emotion> [prob fr ON *gustr*, akin to OHG *gussa* flood, OE *geotan* to pour – more at 'FOUND] – *gustily* *adv*, *gustiness* *n*, *gusty* *adj*

**\*gust** *vi* to blow in gusts <winds ~ing up to 40 mph>

**gustatory** /gʊstət(ə)ri/, *gustative* /-tɪv/ *adj*, associated with, or being the sense of taste [L *gustus*, pp of *gustare* to taste, akin to L *gustus* taste, liking] – *gustatorily* *adv*, *gustation* /gʊ'stəʃən(ə)n/ *n*

**gusto** /gʊsto/ *n* enthusiastic and vigorous enjoyment or vitality <he sang with great ~> [Sp, fr L *gustus*]

**\*gut** /gʊt/ *n* 1a the basic emotionally or instinctively responding part of a person <a ~ feeling> b (a part of) the alimentary canal c the belly or abdomen d catgut 2a narrow (water) passage 3 the sac of silk taken from a silkworm and drawn out into a thread for use in attaching a fish hook to a fishing line 4 *pl* the inner essential parts <the ~s of a car> – infml 5 *pl* courage, determination – infml [ME, fr OE *guttas*, *pl*; akin to OE *geotan* to pour]

**\*gut** *w* – *tt-* 1 to eviscerate, disembowel 2a to destroy the inside of <fire ~ted the building> b to destroy the essential power or effectiveness of <inflation ~ting the economy of a country> 3 to extract the essentials of <~ a novel>

**\*gut** *adj* arising from or concerning one's strongest emotions or instincts <her ~ reaction to their behaviour was one of disgust>

**\*gutless** /-lis/ *adj* lacking courage; cowardly – infml – *gutlessness* *n*

**\*gutty** /-si/ *adj* 1 courageous 2 expressing or appealing strongly to the



physical passions, lusty <belting out ~ rock> **USE** infml – gutsiness *n*

**gutta-percha** /gutaˈpɜːtʃə/ *n* a tough plastic substance obtained from the latex of several Malaysian trees and used esp for electrical insulation [Malay *gētah-pēcha*, fr *gētah* sap, latex + *pēcha*, tree producing gutta-percha]

**guttate** /gutayt/ *adj* having small (coloured) spots or drops [L *guttatus*, fr *gutta*]

**'gutter** /guta/ *n* 1 a trough just below the eaves or at the side of a street to catch and carry off rainwater, surface water, etc 2 a white space between 2 pages of a book, 2 postage stamps on a sheet, etc 3 the lowest or most vulgar level or condition of human life [ME *goter*, fr OF *goutiere*, fr *goute* drop, fr L *gutta*]

**gutter** *vt* to cut or wear gutters in ~ *vi* 1 to flow in rivulets 2a of a candle to burn unevenly so that melted wax runs down one side b of a flame to burn fitfully or feebly, be on the point of going out

**'gutter** *adj* (characteristic) of the gutter, esp marked by extreme vulgarity or cheapness <the ~ press>

**guttering** /gutərɪŋ/ *n* a length or section of a gutter

**'gutter-snipe** /-sni:p/ *n* a deprived child living in poverty and usu dressed in ragged clothes [*'gutter* + *snipe* (wretched person), fr *'snipe*]

**guttural** /gut(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 of the throat 2a formed or pronounced in the throat (~ sounds) b velar or palatal [MF, prob fr ML *gutturālis*, fr L *guttur* throat – more at *'rot*] – **gutturally** *adv*, **gutturalize** *vt*, **gutturalization** /-ˈzayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**guy** /guy/ *n*, *Br* GOVERNOR 3 – slang

**guvnor** /guvnə/ *n*, *Br* GOVERNOR 3 – slang [by alter]

**'guy** /gie/ *vt* or *n* (to steady or reinforce with) a rope, chain, rod, etc attached to sthg ~ brace or guide [prob fr D *gei* brail]

**guy** *n* 1 often *cap* a humorous effigy of a man burnt in Britain on Guy Fawkes Night 2 a man, fellow infml [*Guy Fawkes* †1606 E conspirator]

**guy** *vt* to make fun of, ridicule

**'Guy Fawkes Night** /ˈgieˈfawks/ *n* November 5 observed in Britain with fireworks and bonfires in commemoration of the arrest of Guy Fawkes in 1605 for attempting to blow up the Houses of Parliament

**guzzle** /guzl/ *vb* **guzzling** /guzlɪŋ/ to consume (sthg) greedily, continually, or habitually [origin unknown] – **guzzler** *n*

**gwyniad** /gwɪniad/ *n* a whitefish found in Bala Lake in N Wales [W, fr *gwyn* white]

**gybe**, *NAM* chiefly *jibe* /jɛb/ *vi* 1 of a fore-and-aft sail to swing (suddenly and violently) from one side to another when running before the wind 2 to change a ship's course so that the sail gybes ~ *vt* to cause to gybe [perh modif of D *gyben*]

**gym** /jim/ *n* 1 a gymnasium 2 development of the body by games, exercises, etc, esp in school

**gymkhana** /jimˈkahnə/ *n* a sporting event featuring competitions and displays, *specif* a meeting involving competition in horse riding and carriage driving [prob modif of Hindi *gend-khana* racket court]

**gymn-** /jimn-/ *gymno-* *comb form* naked, bare <*gymnosperm*> [NL, fr Gk, fr *gymnos* – more at *NAKED*]

**gymnasium** /jimˈnayziəm, -ziəm/ *n*, *pl* **gymnasiums**, **gymnasia** /-zi-/ 1 a large room or separate building used for indoor sports and gymnastic activities 2 a German or Scandinavian secondary school that prepares pupils for university [L, exercise ground, school, fr Gk *gymnasion*, fr *gymnazein* to exercise naked, fr *gymnos*, (2) G, fr L, school]

**gymnast** /jimnast/ *n* sby trained in gymnastics [MF *gymnaste*, fr Gk *gymnastēs* trainer, fr *gymnazein*] – **gymnastic** /-ˈnastɪk/ *adj*

**gymnastics** /jimˈnastiks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 ~ physical exercises developing or displaying bodily strength and coordination, often performed in competition 2 an exercise in intellectual or physical dexterity <*verbal* ~>

**gymnosperm** /jimnohˈspu:m/ *n* any of a class of woody vascular seed plants (e.g. conifers) that produce naked seeds not enclosed in an ovary – compare *ANGIOSPERM* ~ *PLANT* [deriv of NL *gymn-* + Gk *sperma* seed – more at *SPERM*] – **gymnospermy** *n*, **gymnospermous** /-ˈspu:mas/ *adj*

**'gymslip** /jimˈslɪp/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a girl's tunic or pinafore dress that is worn usu with a belt as part of a school uniform

**'gymslip** *adj*, chiefly *Br* of a schoolgirl or a girl of school age <a ~ pregnancy> – infml

**gyn-, gyno-** *comb form* 1 woman <*gynocracy*> 2 female reproductive organ; ovary <*gynophore*> pistil <*gynoecium*> [Gk *gyn-*, fr *gyne* – more at *QUEEN*]

**gynaec-, gynaeco-**, *NAM* chiefly **gynec-, gyneco-** woman; reproductive organs of women <*gynaecology*> [GK *gynaik-, gynaiko-*, fr *gynaik-, gyne* woman]

**gynaecology** /ˈgi:nsˈkɒlədʒi, -jɛ-/ *n* a branch of medicine that deals with diseases and disorders (of the reproductive system) of women [ISV] – **gynaecologist** *n*, **gynaecologic** /-kəˈlɒjɪk/, **gynaecological** *adj*

**gynandromorph** /ˈje:ˌnandrəˈmɔ:f, -ji-, -gie-, -droh-/ *n* an (abnormal) individual having characters of both sexes in different parts of the body [ISV] – **gynandromorphy** *n*, **gynandromorphic** /-ˈmɔ:fɪk/ *adj*, **gynandromorphism** *n*, **gynandromorphous** *adj*

**gynandrous** /ˈje:ˌnandrəs, -jie-, -gie-/ *adj*, of a flower, esp an orchid having the male and female parts united in a column [Gk *gynandros* of doubtful sex, fr *gyne* woman + *andr-, aner* man – more at *ANDR-*]

**-gyne** /-jen/ *comb form* (→ *n*) woman, female <*pseudogyne*> [Gk *gyne*]

**gynoecium** /ˈje:ˌneesi-əm, -gie-/ *n*, *pl* **gynoecia** /-si-/ all the female parts of a flower [NL, alter of L *gynaecium* women's apartments, fr Gk *gynaikon*, fr *gynaik-, gyne*]

**-gynous** /-jənəs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) females or female parts or organs <*heterogynous*> [NL *-gynus*, fr Gk *-gynos*, fr *gyne*] – **-gyny** *comb form* (→ *n*)

**'gyp** /jɪp/ *n* 1 *Br* a college servant at Cambridge university – compare *BEDDER*, *SCOUT* 2 *NAM* a cheat, swindler b a fraud, swindle **USE** (2) infml [prob short for *gypsy*]

**gyp** *vb* -pp- *NAM* to cheat – infml

**'gyp** *n* sharp pain – chiefly in *give one gyp*, infml [origin unknown]

**gypsophila** /ˈjɪpsəˈfɪlə, -often ˈjɪpsəˈfɪli-/ *n* any of a genus of Old World plants of the pink family with many small delicate flowers [NL, genus name, fr L *gypsum* + *-phila* -phil]

**gypsum** /ˈjɪpsəm/ *n* hydrated calcium sulphate occurring as a mineral and used esp in plaster of paris [L, fr Gk *gypsos*, of Sem origin, akin to Ar *jibs* plaster] – **gypseous** /-si-əs/ *adj*, **gypsiferous** /-sɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj*

**gypsy** /ˈjɪpsi/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a gipsy

**gyr-, gyro-** *comb form* 1 ring; circle, spiral, rotation <*gyromagnetic*> 2

gyroscope <*gyrocompass*> [prob fr MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *gyros*]

**gyrate** /ˈje:ˌraɪt, -ji-/ *vb*: 1 to revolve round a point or axis 2 to (cause to) move with a circular or spiral motion – **gyrator** *n*, **gyration** /-ˈraɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **gyrational** *adj*, **gyratory** /ˈje:ˌrə(ə)tri-, -ˈraɪ-/ *adj*

**gyrfalcon** /ˈju:hˌfaw(ɪ)kən/ *n* a large powerful arctic falcon [ME *ger-faucun*, fr MF *girfaucun*]

**gyro** /ˈje:-(ə)rɒh/ *n*, *pl* **gyros** 1 a gyroscope 2 a gyrocompass **USE** infml

**gyrocompass** /ˈje:ˌrɒhˌkʌmpəs/ *n* a compass in which the horizontal axis of a constantly spinning gyroscope always points to true north

**gyromagnetic** /-ˈmagˌnetɪk/ *adj* of the magnetic properties of a rotating electrical particle

**gyroplane** /ˈje:ˌrəˌpleɪn/ *n* an aircraft supported by rapidly rotating horizontal aerofoils [ISV]

**'gyroscope** /-ˈskɒp/ *n* a wheel that is mounted to spin rapidly about an axis and is free to turn in various directions but that maintains constant orientation while spinning in the absence of applied forces [F, fr *gyr-* + *-scope*, fr its original use to illustrate the rotation of the earth] – **gyroscopic** /-ˈskɒpɪk/ *adj*, **gyroscopically** *adv*

## H

**h** /aɪch/ *n*, *pl* **h's**, *hs* often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 8th letter of the English alphabet 2 a speech counterpart of orthographic *h*

**ha** /hah/ *interj* – used esp to express surprise, joy, triumph, etc [ME]


**haar** /hah/ *n* a cold fog on the E coast of Britain [prob fr a LG or D dial word; akin to ON *harr* grey, hoary]

**Habakkuk** /ˈhəbəkʊk/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of 7th-c Judah [Heb *Hābbaqqūq*]

**habanera** /ˈhəbəˈnyeərə/ *n* (music for) a Cuban dance in slow duple time [Sp (*danza*) *habanera*, lit., Havanan dance, fr L a *Habana* (Havana), capital city of Cuba]

**habdalah** /ˈhəvdəˈləh, hahvˈdawlə/ *n*, often *cap* a Jewish domestic ceremony marking the close of a Sabbath or holy day [Heb *habhdālāh* separation]

**habeas corpus** /ˈhaɪbi-əs ˈkawps, -byəs/ *n* a judicial writ requiring a

- detained person to be brought before a court so that the legality of his/her detention may be examined [ME, fr ML, lit., you should have the body (the opening words of the writ)]
- haberdasher** /ˈhæbəˌdæʃə/ *n* 1 *Br* a dealer in buttons, thread, ribbon, etc used in making clothes 2 *NAM* a dealer in shirts, ties, and other minor articles of menswear [ME *haberdassher*, prob fr modif of AF *hapertas* petty merchandise]
- 'haberdashery** /-rɪ/ *n* 1 goods sold by a haberdasher 2 a haberdasher's shop
- habergeon** /ˈhæbəʒən/ *n* (a sleeveless mail jacket shorter than) a hauberk [ME *haubergeoun*, fr MF *haubergeon*, dim. of *hauberc* hauberk]
- habiliment** /ˈhæbɪlɪmənt/ *n* an article of clothing (characteristic of an occupation or occasion) – usu pl; fml [MF *habillement*, fr *habiller* to dress a log, dress, fr *bille* log – more at *'BILLET*]
- 'habit** /ˈhæbɪt/ *n* 1 a costume characteristic of a calling, rank, or function <riding ~> <monk's ~> 2 bodily or mental make-up <a cheerful ~ of mind> 3a a settled tendency or usual manner of behaviour b an acquired pattern or mode of behaviour 4 addiction <a drug ~> 5 characteristic mode of growth, occurrence, or appearance (e.g. of a plant or crystal) [ME, fr OF, fr L *habitus* condition, character, fr *habitus*, pp of *habere* to have, hold – more at *GIVE*]
- 'habit** *vt* to clothe, dress – fml
- habitable** /ˈhæbɪtəbl/ *adj* capable of being lived in – *habitableness* *n*, *habitably* *adv*, *habitability* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- habitant** /ˈhæbɪtənt/ *n* 1 an inhabitant, resident 2 (a descendant of) a settler of French origin
- habitat** /ˈhæbɪtət/ *n* 1 the (type of) place where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives 2 HABITATION 2 [L, it inhabits, fr *habitare*]
- habitation** /ˈhæbɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of inhabiting; occupancy 2 a dwelling place; a residence, home [ME *habitacioun*, fr MF *habitation*, fr L *habitation*-, *habitation*, fr *habitus*, pp of *habitare* to inhabit, fr *habitus*, pp]
- 'habit-forming** *adj* inducing the formation of an addiction
- habitual** /ˈhæbɪtʃuəl, -ˌtʃuəl/ *adj* 1 having the nature of a habit <~ smoking> 2 by force of habit <~ drunkard> 3 in accordance with habit, customary <gave his ~ end of term speech> – *habitually* *adv*, *habitualness* *n*
- habituate** /ˈhæbɪtʃuəˌteɪ, -ˌtʃu-/ *vt* to make used to ~ *vi* to cause habituation
- habituation** /ˈhæbɪtʃuəˌteɪʃ(ə)n, -ˌtʃu-/ *n* psychological need for a drug after a period of use [HABITUATE + -ION]
- habitué** /ˈhæbɪtʃuəˌteɪ, -ˌtʃuəˌteɪ/ *n* one who frequents a specified place <~s of the theatre> [F, fr pp of *habiter* to frequent, fr LL *habituare* to habituate, fr L *habitus*]
- haboob** /ˈhæbəʊb/ *n* a sandstorm in N Africa [Ar *habūb* violent wind]
- Habeburg** /ˈhæpsbʊrg/ *n* or *adj* (a) Hapsburg
- hacek** /ˈhæh-ˌtʃek/ *n* an inverted circumflex accent (e.g. in č)  SYMBOL [Czech *háček*, lit., little hook]
- hachure** /ˈhæʃyʊə/ *n* a line used on a map to shade and denote hills, valleys, etc [F]
- hacienda** /ˈhæsiˈɛnda/ *n* (the main house of) a large estate or plantation, esp in a Spanish-speaking country [Sp, fr L *facienda*, neut pl of *faciendus*, gerundive of *facere* to make, do]
- 'hack** /hæk/ *vt* 1a to cut (as if) with repeated irregular or unskilful blows b to sever with repeated blows *vt* 2 to clear by cutting away vegetation <~ a path> 3 to kick (an opposing player or the ball in football) 4 chiefly *NAM* to bear, tolerate – slang – *vi* 1 to make cutting blows or rough cuts 2 to cough in a short dry manner <a ~ing cough> [ME *hakken*, fr OE *-haccian*; akin to OHG *hacchōn* to hack, OE *hōc* hook] – *hacker* *n*
- 'hack** *n* 1 a mattock, pick, etc 2 (a wound from) a kick in football 3 a hacking blow
- 'hack** *n* 1 the board on which a falcon's meat is served 2 the state of partial liberty in which a young hawk is kept before training – usu + at [blend of *hatch* and *heck* (hatch, rack)]
- 'hack** *n* 1a a riding horse let out for hire b *JADE* 1 c a light easy saddle horse 2 an act of hacking; a ride 3 one who produces mediocre work for financial gain; esp a commercial writer 4 *NAM* a taxi [short for *hackney*]
- 'hack** *adj* 1 performed by, suited to, or characteristic of a hack <~ writing> 2 hackneyed, trite
- 'hack** *vb* to ride (a horse) at an ordinary pace, esp over roads – *hacker* *n*
- hackamore** /ˈhækməʊ/ *n* a bridle with a loop capable of being tightened about the nose and used in place of a bit on a horse not used to one [by folk etymology fr Sp *jáquima*]
- 'hacking jacket** /ˈhækɪŋ/ *n* a waisted riding coat with slits in the skirt and slanting flapped pockets  GARMENT ['hack]
- hackle** /ˈhækl/ *n* 1 a steel comb with long teeth for dressing flax or hemp 2a any of the long narrow feathers on the neck of a domestic cock or other bird b pl the erectile hairs along the neck and back of esp a dog 3 an artificial fishing fly made from a cock's hackles [ME *hakell*, akin to OHG *hako* hook – more at *HOOK*]
- 'hackney** /ˈhæknɪ/ *n* any of an English breed of rather compact English horses with a conspicuously high leg action [ME *hakeneý*, prob fr *Hakeneý* Hackney, borough of London]
- 'hackney** *adj* kept for public hire <a ~ cab>
- hackneyed** /ˈhæknɪd/ *adj* lacking in freshness or originality; meaningless because used or done too often
- hacksaw** /ˈhæksəʊ/ *n* a fine-toothed saw, esp for cutting metal – *hacksaw* *vt*
- had** /d, ɒd, həd, strong had/ *past* of HAVE
- hadal** /ˈhædəl/ *adj* of or being the parts of the ocean below 6000m (about 6562yd) [F, fr *Hades* Hades]
- haddock** /ˈhædək/ *n*, pl **haddocks**, esp collectively **haddock** an important Atlantic food fish, usu smaller than the related common cod [ME *haddok*]
- hade** /ˈhæd/ *n* the angle made by the plane of a rock fault or vein with the vertical (<hade (to incline from the vertical), of unknown origin]
- Hades** /ˈhædeɪz/ *n* 1 the underground abode of the dead in Greek mythology 2 often not cap hell – euph [Gk *Haidēs*]
- hadith** /ˈhædɪθ/ *n*, often cap the body of traditions relating to Muhammad and his companions [Ar *ḥadīth*]
- hadj** /ˈhæj/ *n* the hajj
- hadj** /ˈhæj/ *n* a hajj
- hadn't** /ˈhædn̩t/ *had not*
- hadron** /ˈhædrən/ *n* a pion or heavier elementary particle that takes part in strong interactions [ISV *hadr*– thick, heavy (fr Gk *hadrōn*) + *-ion*] – *hadronic* /ˈhædrɒnɪk/ *adj*
- hadst** /ˈhædst/ *archaic past 2nd sing* of HAVE
- haem**, chiefly *NAM* **heme** /ˈhiːm/ *n* a deep red iron-containing compound that occurs esp as the oxygen-carrying part of haemoglobin [ISV, fr *haematin*]
- haem**-, **haema**-, **haemo**-, *NAM* **hem**-, **hema**-, **hemo**- *comb form* blood <haemoflagellate> <haemophilia> [MF *hemo*-, fr L *haem*-, *haemo*-, fr Gk *haim*-, *haumo*-, fr *haima*]
- haemagglutinate** /ˈhiːməˌgluːtɪˌneɪt/ *vi* to cause agglutination of (red blood cells) – *haemagglutination* /-ˌneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- haemal** /ˈhiːml/ *adj* 1 of the blood (vessels) 2 of or situated on the same side of the spinal cord as that on which the heart is placed
- haemat**-, **haemato**-, *NAM* **hemat**-, **hemato**- *comb form* haem- <haematoid> <haematogenous> [L *haemat*-, *haemato*-, fr Gk *haimat*-, *haimato*-, fr *haimat*-, *haima*]
- haematic** /ˈhiːmætɪk/ *adj* of, containing, or affecting the blood
- haematin** /ˈhiːmætɪn, ˈhiː-/ *n* (a brownish or bluish black derivative of oxidized) haem
- haematite** /ˈhiːmætɪt, ˈhiː-/ *n* iron oxide occurring as a crystalline or red earthy mineral
- haematocrit** /ˈhiːməˌtɒk.rɪt, ˈhiːmə-, hiˈmætə-/ *n* (an instrument for determining) the ratio of the volume of red blood cells to volume of whole blood [ISV *haemat*– + Gk *krites* judge, fr *krinein* to judge – more at *CERTAIN*]
- haematology** /ˈhiːməˌtɒləʒi/ *n* the biology and medicine of (diseases of) the blood and blood-forming organs – *haematologic* /-ˌtɒləjɪk/, *haematological* *adj*
- haematoma** /ˈhiːməˌtɒhmə, ˈhiːmə-/ *n* a tumour or swelling containing blood; BRUISE 1a
- haemin** /ˈhiːmɪn/ *n* a red-brown to blue-black salt derived from oxidized haem [ISV]
- haemo**– see *HAEM*–
- haemocoel**, **haemocoel** /ˈhiːməˌseɪl/ *n* a body cavity in arthropods or some other invertebrates that normally contains blood and functions as part of the circulatory system
- haemocyanin** /ˈhiːməʊˌsiːˌæɪn/ *n* a colourless copper-containing respiratory pigment found in the blood of various arthropods and molluscs that is analogous to the haemoglobin of higher animals [ISV]
- haemocyte** /ˈhiːməʊˌsiːt, ˈhiːməʊ-/ *n* a blood cell, esp of an invertebrate animal [ISV]
- haemocytometer** /-ˌsiːˌtɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for counting (blood)

cells suspended in a liquid, usu when viewed under a microscope [ISV]

**haemodialysis** /-die'ælisis/ *n* purification of the blood (of sb) whose kidneys have failed) by dialysis

**haemo/globin** /-'glohbin/ *n* an iron-containing protein that occurs in the red blood cells of vertebrates and is the means of oxygen transport from the lungs to the body tissues [ISV, short for earlier *haematoglobulin*] – **haemoglobinous adj**, **haemoglobinic** /-'gloh'binik/ *adj*

**haemo/lymph** /-limf/ *n* a circulatory fluid of various invertebrate animals that is functionally comparable to the blood and lymph of vertebrates

**haemolysis** /hi'molisis/ *n* dissolution of red blood cells with release of haemoglobin [NL] – **haemolytic** /,heemoh'litik/, **hemoh-/ adj**, **haemolyse** /,heemohliez/, **hemoh-/ vt**


**haemophilia** /,heemoh'fili-ə, -mə-/ *n* delayed clotting of the blood with consequent difficulty in controlling bleeding even after minor injuries, occurring as a hereditary defect, usu in males [NL] – **haemophilic** /-'fihik/ *adj*

**haemo/philiac** /-liak/ *n* or *adj* (sby) suffering from haemophilia  
**haemopoiesis** /,heemoh'poyeisis/, **hemoh-/ n** the formation of blood cells in the bone marrow and lymphoid tissue [NL] – **haemopoietic** /-'poy'etik/ *adj*, **haemopoietically adv**

**haemorrhage** /'heməri-/ *n* a (copious) loss of blood from the blood vessels [F & L, F *hémorrhagie*, fr L *haemorrhagia*, fr Gk *haimorrhagia*, fr *haimo-* haem- + *-rrhagia*] – **haemorrhage vi**, **haemorrhagic** /,hemə'raijk/ *adj*

**haemorrhoid** /'hemaroid/ *n* a mass of dilated veins in swollen tissue round or near the anus – usu pl with sing meaning [MF *hemorrhoides*, pl, fr L *haemorrhoidae*, fr Gk *haimorrhoides*, fr *haimorrhos* flowing with blood, fr *haimo-* + *rhein* to flow] – **haemorrhoidal** /-'roydl/ *adj*

**haemostasis** /,heemoh'staysis/, **hemoh-/ n** arrest of bleeding [NL, fr Gk *haimostasis* stytic, fr *haimo-* haem- + *-stasis*] – **haemostatic** /-'statik/ *adj*

**hafnium** /'hafnyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a metallic transition element chemically resembling zirconium  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *Hafnia* Copenhagen, city in Denmark]

**haft** /'hahft/ *n* the handle of a weapon or tool [ME, fr OE *haeft* akin to OE *hebban* to lift – more at *HLAFT*]

**haft vt** to fit with a haft

**hag** /'hag/ *n* 1 a witch 2 an ugly and usu ill-natured old woman [ME *hagge*] – **haggish adj**

**hag** *n*, Scot & NEng (a firm spot in) a bog [E dial. *hag* (felled timber), of Scand origin, akin to ON *hogg* stroke, blow, akin to OE *heawan* to hew]

**hag, fish** /-'fish/ *n* any of several marine vertebrates that are related to the lampreys, resemble eels, and feed on fishes by boring into their bodies

**haggadah** /hə'gədhə/ *n* 1 often *cap* ancient Jewish lore forming the nonlegal part of the Talmud – compare HALAKAH 2 *cap* the narrative read at the Passover seder [Heb *haggadhab*]

**Haggei** /'hagay,te/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet who flourished about 500 BC and advocated the rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem [Heb]

**haggard** /'hagəd/ *adj* 1 of a hawk not tamed 2 having a worn or emaciated appearance, esp through anxiety or lack of sleep [MF *hagard*] – **haggardly adv**, **haggardness n**

**haggard n** an adult hawk caught wild

**haggis** /'hagis/ *n* a traditionally Scottish dish that consists of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep, calf, etc minced with suet, oatmeal, and seasonings and traditionally boiled in the stomach of the animal [ME *hagese*, perh fr *haggen* to hack, chop]

**haggle** /'hagl/ *vi* **haggling** /'hagling/ to bargain, wrangle [freq of E dial. *hag* (to hew)] – **haggler n**

**hagi-** /hagi-/ , **hagio-** *comb form* 1 holy (hagioscope) 2 saints (hagiography) [LL, fr Gk, fr *hagios*]

**hagiography** /,hagi'ografi/ *n* 1 biography of saints or venerated people 2 idealizing or idolizing biography – **hagiographer n**, **hagiographic** /-'s'grafik/ *adj*, **hagiographical adj**, **hagiographically adv**

**hagioscope** /hagi-'askohp/ *n* a narrow opening in an inside wall or pillar of a church giving a view of the main altar to those in a side aisle or transept

**hah** /'hah/ *interj* ha

**ha-ha** /'hah 'hah/ *interj* – used to express or represent laughter or derision [ME, fr OE *ha ha*]

**ha-ha** /'hah 'hah/ *n* a fence or retaining wall sunk into a ditch and used

as a boundary (e.g. of a park or grounds) so as to give an uninterrupted view [F *haha*, prob fr *haha*, *interj* of surprise]

**haiku** /'hie,koooh/ *n*, *pl* **haiku** (a poem in) an unrhymed Japanese verse form of 3 lines containing 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively – compare TANKA [Jap]

**hail** /hayl/ *n* 1 (precipitation in the form of) small particles of clear ice or compacted snow 2 a group of things directed at sb or sth and intended to cause pain, damage, or distress (< *a ~ of bullets*) (< *a ~ of obscenities*) [ME, fr OE *hæg*; akin to OHG *hagal* hail, Gk *kachlex* pebble]

**hail vi** 1 to precipitate hail 2 to pour down or strike like hail

**hail interj** 1 – used to express acclamation (< *to the chief* – Sir Walter Scott) 2 *archaic* – used as a salutation [ME, fr ON *heill*, fr *heill* healthy – more at WHOIE]

**hail vt** 1a to salute, greet b to greet with enthusiastic approval; acclaim as 2 to greet or summon by calling (< *a taxi*) ~ *vi* to call (a greeting to a passing ship) – **hailer n** – **hail from** to be or have been a native or resident of

**hail n** 1 a call to attract attention 2 hearing distance (< *stayed within ~*) 3 *archaic* an exclamation of greeting or acclamation

**hail-fellow-well-met adj** heartily and often excessively informal from the first moment of meeting [fr the archaic greeting 'Hail, fellow! Well met!']

**Hail Mary** /'meəri/ *n* a Roman Catholic prayer to the Virgin Mary that consists of salutations and a plea for her intercession [trans of ML Ave, Maria]

**hail, stone** /-'stohn/ *n* a pellet of hail

**hair** /heə/ *n* 1a (a structure resembling) a slender threadlike outgrowth on the surface of an animal; esp (any of) the many usu pigmented hairs that form the characteristic coat of a mammal b the coating of hairs, esp on the human head or other body part 2 **hairstyle** 3 **HAIR'S BREADTH** (< *won by a ~*) [ME, fr OE *hær*; akin to OHG *har* hair] – **hairless adj**, **hairlessness n**, **hairlike adj**

**hair, breadth** /-'bret-th, -'bredth/ *n* HAIR'S BREADTH

**hair, brush** /-'brush/ *n* a brush for the hair

**hair, cloth** /-'kloth/ *n* any of various stiff wiry fabrics, esp of horsehair or camel hair, used for upholstery or for stiffening in garments

**hair, cut** /-'kut/ *n* (the result of) cutting and shaping of the hair – **haircutter n**, **haircutting n**

**hair, do** /-'doooh/ *n*, *pl* **hairdos** a hairstyle

**hair, dresser** /-'dresə/ *n* sby whose occupation is cutting, dressing, and styling the hair – **hairdressing n**

**haired** /'hed/ *adj* having hair (of a specified kind) (< *hair-haired*)

**hair, grip** /-'grip/ *n*, *Br* a flat hairpin with prongs that close together

**hair, line** /-'lien/ *n* 1 a very slender line, esp a tiny line or crack on a surface 2 (a fabric with) a design consisting of lengthways or widthways lines usu 1 thread wide 3 the line above the forehead beyond which hair grows – **hairline adj**

**hair, piece** /-'pees/ *n* a section of false hair worn to enhance a hairstyle or make a person's natural hair seem thicker or more plentiful

**hair, pin** /-'pin/ *n* 1 a 2-pronged U-shaped pin of thin wire for holding the hair in place 2 a sharp bend in a road

**hairpin adj** having the shape of a hairpin (< *a ~ bend*)

**hair, raiser** *n* a thriller

**hair, raising adj** causing terror or astonishment – **hair-raisingly adv**

**hair's, breadth** *n* a very small distance or margin

**hair, shirt** *n* a rough shirt worn next to the skin as a penance

**hair, slide** *n*, *Br* a (decorative) clip for the hair

**hair, space** *n* a very thin space between (the letters of) words

**hair, splitting** /-'spliting/ *n* argument over unimportant differences and points of detail, quibbling – **hairsplitting adj**, **hairsplitter n**

**hair, spring** /-'spring/ *n* a slender spiral spring that regulates the motion of the balance wheel of a timepiece

**hair, style** /-'sti:el/ *n* a way of wearing or arranging the hair – **hairstyling n**, **hairstylist n**



**hair, trigger** *adj* immediately responsive to or disrupted by the slightest stimulus (< *a ~ temper*)

**hair trigger** *n* a trigger so adjusted that very slight pressure will fire the gun


**hairy** /'heəri/ *adj* 1 covered with (maternal like) hair 2 made of or resembling hair 3 frighteningly dangerous (< *a ~ crossing through mountainous waves*) – *infrm* – **hairiness n**

**hajj**, **hadj** /'haj/ *n* the pilgrimage to Mecca prescribed as a religious duty for Muslims [Ar *hajj*]

**hajji**, **hadji** /'haj/ *n* one who has made a pilgrimage to Mecca – used as a title [Ar *hajji*, fr *hajj*]

**hake** /'hahkah/ *n* a ceremonial Maori war dance [Maori]  
**hake** /hayk/ *n, pl* *hakes*, esp collectively *hake* any of several marine food fishes related to the common Atlantic cod [ME]  
**hakenkreuz** /'hahkon,kroyts/ *n*, often *cap* the swastika used as a symbol of German anti-Semitism or of Nazi Germany [G, fr *haken* hook + *kreuz* cross]  
**'hakim** /'hakeem/ *n* a Muslim physician [Ar *hakim*, lit., wise one]  
**'hakim** *n* a Muslim ruler, governor, or judge [Ar *hakim*]  
**hal**, **halo-** *comb form* salt (<halophyte) [F, fr Gk, fr *hals* – more at **SALT**]  
**halakah** /'hahlo'k'kah, hə'lahkə/ *n*, often *cap* the body of Jewish law supplementing the scriptural law and forming the legal part of the Talmud – compare HAGGADAH 1 [Heb *halakah*, lit., way] – *halakic* /hə'lakik, -'lah-/ *adj*, often *cap*  
**halala** also **halalah** /hə'lahlə/ *n, pl* *halala, halalas*  Saudi Arabia at NATIONALITY [Ar]  
**halation** /hə'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the spreading of light beyond its proper boundaries (e.g. in a faulty photographic image) [*halo* + -ation]  
**halberd** /'halbəd/ *n* a long-handled weapon combining a spear and battle-axe, used esp in the 15th and 16th c [ME *halberd*, fr MF *halbarde*, fr MHG *helmbarte*, fr *helm* handle + *barte* axe] – *halberdier* /-'diə/ *n*  
**halbert** /'halbət/ *n* a halberd  
**'halcyon** /'halsi-ən/ *n*, a kingfisher – poetic [ME *alcyon* bird believed to breed at sea and calm the waves, fr L *halcyon*, fr Gk *alkyon, halyon*]  
**'halcyon** *adj* calm, peaceful – esp in *halcyon days*  
**hale** /hayl/ *adj* free from defect, disease, or infirmity; sound <a ~ and hearty old man> [partly fr ME (northern) *hale*, fr OE *hāl*; partly fr ME *hail*, fr ON *heil* – more at **WHOLE**]  
**haler** /'hahlə/ *n, pl* *halers, halers* /-lə,rooh/  Czechoslovakia at NATIONALITY [Czech]  
**'half** /haif/ *n, pl* *halves* /hahvz/ 1a either of 2 equal parts into which sthg is divisible; also a part of a thing approximately equal to a half b half an hour – used in designation of time 2 either of a pair: e.g. a a partner <my other ~> b a school term – used esp at some British public schools 3 sthg of (approximately) half the value or quantity: e.g. a a half a pint b a child's ticket c HALFPENNY 1 [ME, fr OE *healf*; akin to L *scalpere* to cut, OE *sciell* shell] – and a half of remarkable quality – *infrml* <that was a party and a half> – by half by a great deal – by halves half heartedly – in half into 2 (nearly) equal parts  
**'half** *adj* 1a being one of 2 equal parts <a ~ share> <~ a dozen> b(1) amounting to approximately half <~ the class> <a ~ mile> <~ my life> (2) falling short of the full or complete thing <~ measures> <a ~ smile> 2 extending over or covering only half <a ~ door> <~ sleeves> 3 Br half past <~ seven> – *halfness* *n*  
**'half** *adv* 1 in an equal part or degree <she was ~ crying, ~ laughing> 2 nearly but not completely <~ cooked> <half-remembered stories from her childhood> – compare NOT HALF – *half as much* again one-and-a-half times as much  
**half-a-crown** *n* HALF CROWN  
**half a dozen** *n* a set of 6; also several  
**half-and-half** *n* sthg that is approximately half one thing and half another; specif a mixture of 2 beers (e.g. mild and bitter) – *half-and-half* *adj* or *adv*  
**'half, back** /-'bak/ *n* a player in rugby, soccer, hockey, etc positioned immediately behind the forward line – *halfback* *adj*  
**half-baked** *adj* marked by or showing a lack of forethought or judgment; foolish <a ~ scheme for making money>  
**'half, beak** /-'beik/ *n* any of a family of marine fishes with a long protruding lower jaw  
**half blood** *n* 1a the relation between people having only 1 parent in common b a person so related to another 2 a half-breed 3 GRADE 4 – *half-blooded* *adj*  
**half blue** *n* (the colours awarded to) one who represents either Oxford or Cambridge in a minor sport against the other university  
**half-board** *n* provision of bed, breakfast, and evening meal (e.g. by a hotel)  
**'half-bound** *adj*, of a book bound in 2 materials with the better quality material (e.g. leather) on the spine and corners – *half binding* *n*  
**'half-bred** *adj* having 1 purebred parent – *half-bred* *n*  
**'half-breed** *n* the offspring of parents of different races – *half-breed* *adj*  
**half brother** *n* a brother related through 1 parent only  
**'half-caste** *n* a half-breed – *half-caste* *adj*  
**half cock** *n* 1 the position of the hammer of a firearm when about half

retracted and held by the safety catch so that it cannot be operated by a pull on the trigger 2 a state of inadequate preparation – esp in *go off at half cock*

**half-cocked** *adj* lacking adequate preparation or forethought  
**half-court line** *n* a line down the middle of the floor of a squash court, from the short line to the back wall, which separates the backhand and forehand courts  SPORT

**half 'crown** *n* (a former British silver coin worth) 2 shillings and sixpence

**half-'hardy** *adj*, of a plant able to withstand a moderately low temperature but injured by severe frost

**halfhearted** /-'hahtid/ *adj* lacking enthusiasm or effort <~ attempts to start a conversation> – *halfheartedly* *adv*, *halfheartedness* *n*

**'half, hitch** *n* a type of simple knot made so as to be easily unfastened

**half-'holiday** *n* a holiday of half a day, esp an afternoon

**half 'hour** *n* 1 a period of 30 minutes 2 the middle point of an hour – *half-hourly* *adv* or *adj*

**half-'inch** *vt*, chiefly Br to steal – *infrml* [rhyming slang *half inch* pinch]

**'half-knot** *n* a knot joining the ends of 2 cords together, often used as the basis of other knots (e.g. a reef knot)

**'half-length** *n* a portrait showing only the upper half of the body

**'half-life** *n* the time required for half of a the atoms of a radioactive substance to become disintegrated b a drug or other substance to be eliminated from an organism by natural processes

**'half, light** *n* dim greyish light (e.g. at dusk)

**half-'mast** *n* the position of a flag lowered halfway down the staff as a mark of mourning

**half-'moon** *n* (sthg shaped like) the figure of the moon when half its disc is illuminated – *half-moon* *adj*

**half 'nelson** /'nels(ə)n/ *n* a wrestling hold in which one arm is thrust under the corresponding arm of an opponent and the hand placed on the back of the opponent's neck – compare FULL NELSON

**'half, note** *n*, NAm a minim

**halfpenny** /'haypni/ *n* 1 (a British bronze coin representing) one half of a penny 2 a small amount – *halfpenny* *adj*

**halfpennyworth** /'haypənt/ *n* as much as can be bought for 1 halfpenny; broadly a small amount

**'half-pint** *n* a small or inconsequential person – *infrml*

**'half-pint** *adj* of less than average size, diminutive – *infrml*

**'half-round** *adj* having a cross section that is a semicircle <a ~ file>

**half sister** *n* a sister related through 1 parent only

**half 'sovereign** *n* a former British gold coin worth 10 shillings

**'half, step** *n*, NAm a semitone

**half 'term** *n*, chiefly Br (a short holiday taken at) a period about halfway through a school term

**half-'timbered** *adj* constructed of timber framework with spaces filled in by brickwork or plaster – *half-timbering* *n*

**half-time** /-'tiem/ *n* (an intermission marking) the completion of half of a game or contest

**'half-title** *n* the title of a book standing alone on a right-hand page immediately preceding the title page

**'half, tone** /-'tohn/ *n* 1 any of the shades of grey between the darkest and the lightest parts of a photographic image 2 a photoengraving made from an image photographed through a screen and then etched so that the details of the image are reproduced in dots – *halftone* *adj*

**'half-track** *n* (a vehicle with) a drive system of an endless chain or track at the back and wheels at the front – *half-track*, *half-tracked* *adj*

**'half-truth** *n* a statement that is only partially true; esp one deliberately intended to deceive

**half-'volley** *n* 1 a shot in tennis made at a ball just after it has bounced 2 an easily-hit delivery of the ball in cricket that bounces closer than intended to the batsman

**halfway** /-'wey/ *adj* or *adv* 1 midway between 2 points 2 (done or formed) partially – *halfway* *adv*

**halfway 'house** *n* 1 a place (e.g. an inn) to stop midway on a journey 2 a halfway point or place; esp a compromise 3 a house, hostel, etc for former residents (e.g. psychiatric patients) of institutions, that is designed to help them readjust to living in the community

**'half-wit** *n* a foolish or mentally deficient person – derog – *half-witted* /-'witid/ *adj*, *half-wittedness* *n*

**halibut** /'halibət/ *n, pl* *halibuts*, esp collectively *halibut* a large marine food flatfish [ME *halybutte*, fr *haly*, *holy* holy + *butte* flatfish, fr MD or MLG *but*; fr its being eaten on holy days]

**halide** /'haliəd/ *n* a binary compound of a halogen and another element or radical

**halite** /'haliət/ *n* ROCK SALT

**halitosis** /'hali'toʊsɪs/ *n* (a condition of having) offensively smelling breath [NL, fr L *halitus* breath, fr *halare* to breathe – more at EXHALE] – **halitotic** /'tɒtɪk/ *adj*

**hall** /'hawl/ *n* **1a** the house of a medieval king or noble **b** the chief living room in a medieval house or castle **2** the manor house of a landed proprietor **3a** a building used by a college or university for some special purpose <a ~ of residence> **b** (a division of) a college at some universities **c** (a meal served in) the common dining room of an English college **4** the entrance room or passage of a building **5** a large room for public assembly or entertainment **6** *NAM* a corridor or passage in a building [ME *halle*, fr OE *heall*; akin to L *cella* small room, *celare* to conceal – more at HELI]

**hallelujah** /'hali'looʒə/ *n* or *interj* (a shout, song, etc) used to express praise, joy, or thanks [Heb *halēlūyah* praise (ye) the Lord]

**halliard** /'haliəd/ *n* a halyard

**hallmark** /'hawl,mahk/ *n* **1** an official mark stamped on gold and silver articles in Britain after an assay test to testify to their purity **2** a distinguishing characteristic or object <the dramatic speeches which are the ~ of a barrister> [Goldsmiths' Hall, London, where gold and silver articles were assayed and stamped]

**hallmark** *vt* to stamp with a hallmark

**'hallo** /'hə'loh, hə-/ , **halloo** /-'loh(ə)/ *vb*, *interj*, or *n* **halloing**; **halloed**; **halloing**; **halloed**; *pl* **halloos**; **halloos** (to) **hollo**

**'hallo** *n* or *interj*, *pl* **halloos** chiefly *Br* (a) **hello**  
**Hall of Fame** *n*, chiefly *NAM* (a structure housing memorials to) a group of famous or illustrious individuals

**halloo** /'hə'loo/ *vb* *interj*, or *n* **halloing**; **halloed**; *pl* **halloos** (to) **hollo**

**hallow** /'haloh/ *vt* **1** to make holy or set apart for holy use **2** to respect and honour greatly, venerate [ME *halowen*, fr OE *hālgan*, fr *hālig* holy – more at HOLY]

**Halloween**, **Hallowe'en** /'haloh'teen/ *n* October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day, observed by dressing up in disguise, party turns, etc [short for *All Hallow Even* All Saints' Eve]

**hallstand** /'hawl'stænd/ *n* a piece of furniture with pegs for holding coats, hats, and umbrellas

**hallucinate** /'hə'looʃɪnaɪt/ *vt* to perceive or experience as a hallucination ~ *vi* to have hallucinations [L *hallucinatus*, pp of *hallucinari* to prate, dream]

**hallucination** /'hə'looʃɪnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** the perception of sthg apparently real to the perceiver but which has no objective reality, also the image, object, etc perceived **2** a completely unfounded or mistaken impression or belief – **hallucinational** *adj*, **hallucinative** /'looʃɪnətɪv/ *adj*

**hallucinatory** /'hə'looʃɪnət(ə)n/ *adj* **1** tending to produce hallucination (~ *drugs*) **2** resembling or being a hallucination

**hallucinogen** /'hə'looʃɪnəʒən/ *n* a substance (e.g. LSD) that induces hallucinations [*hallucination* + -o- + -gen] – **hallucinogenic** /-nə'jenɪk/ *adj*

**hallux** /'hələks/ *n*, *pl* **halluces** /'hələsɛz/ the innermost digit (e.g. the big toe) of the hind or lower limb [NL, fr L *hallus*, *hallux*]

**hallway** /'hawl'weɪ/ *n* an entrance hall or corridor

**'halo** /'hayloh/ *n*, *pl* **halos**, **haloes** **1** a circle of light appearing to surround the sun or moon and resulting from refraction or reflection of light by ice particles in the earth's atmosphere **2a** *NIMBUS* **1**, **2** **b** a differentiated zone surrounding a central object **3** the aura of glory or veneration surrounding an idealized person or thing [L *halos*, fr Gk *halos* threshing floor, disc, halo]

**'halo** *vt* **haloing**; **haloed** to form into or surround with a halo

**halo** – see HAL-

**halogen** /'hələʒən/ *n* any of the 5 elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine that form part of group VII A of the periodic table [Sw] – **halogenate** /-ʒənəɪt/ *vt*, **halogenation** /-'nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **halogenous** /'hə'ləʒənəs/ *adj*

**halothane** /'həloʊθəɪn/ *n* a nonexplosive general anaesthetic that is inhaled [*halo* + *ethane*]

**'halt** /'hawlt/ *adj*, *archaic* lame [ME, fr OE *healt*; akin to OHG *halz* lame, L *clades* destruction, Gk *klaō* to break]

**'halt** *vi* **1** to hesitate between alternative courses; waver **2** to display weakness or imperfection (e.g. in speech or reasoning); falter

**'halt** *n* **1** (a temporary) stop or interruption **2** *Br* a railway stopping place,

without normal station facilities, for local trains [G, fr MHG, fr *halt*, imper of *halten* to hold, fr OHG *haltan* – more at 'HOLD]

**'halt** *vi* to come to a halt ~ *vt* **1** to bring to a stop <the strike has ~ed tubes and buses> **2** to cause to stop; end <~ the slaughter of seals>

**'halter** /'hawltə/ *n* **1a** a rope or strap for leading or tying an animal **b** a band round an animal's head to which a lead may be attached **2** a noose for hanging criminals [ME, fr OE *hælftr*; akin to OHG *halftira* halter, OE *helfe* helve]

**'halter** *vt* to put a halter on or catch (as if) with a halter

**'halter, break** /-brayk/ *vt* **halterbroke** /-brohk/; **halterbroken** /-brohkən/ to accustom (e.g. a colt) to wearing a halter

**haltere** /'haliʔə/ also **halter** /'haliʔə/ *n*, *pl* **halteres** /'haliʔiʔeɪz/ either of a pair of club-shaped sensory organs in a two-winged fly that maintain equilibrium in flight [NL *halter*, fr L, jumping weight, fr Gk *háltēr*, fr *hallesthai* to leap – more at SALLY]

**'halter, neck** *n* (a garment having) a neckline formed by a strap passing from the front of a garment round the neck and leaving the shoulders and upper back bare

**halting** /'hawltɪŋ/ *adj* hesitant, faltering <the witness spoke in a ~ manner> – **haltingly** *adv*


**halvah**, **halva** /'həlvə/ *n* a sweet confection of crushed sesame seeds mixed with a syrup (e.g. honey) [Yiddish *halva*, fr Romanian, fr Turk *helva*, fr Ar *halwa* sweetmeat]

**halve** /'hahv/ *vt* **1a** to divide into 2 equal parts **b** to reduce to a half <halving the present cost> **2** to play (e.g. a hole or match in golf) in the same number of strokes as one's opponent [ME *halven*, fr *half*]

**'halves** /'hahvz/ *pl* of HALF

**'halves** *adv* with equal half shares <let's go ~>

**halyard**, **haliard** /'haliəd/ *n* a rope or tackle for hoisting or lowering [alter of ME *halier*, fr *halen* to pull – more at HAUL]

**'ham** /'ham/ *n* **1** a buttock with its associated thigh – usu *pl* **2** (the meat of) the rear end of a bacon pig, esp the thigh, when removed from the carcass before curing with salt – compare GAMMON  MEAT **3a** an inept but showy performer, also an actor performing in an exaggerated theatrical style **b** an operator of an amateur radio station [ME *hamme*, fr OE *hamm*; akin to OHG *hamma* ham, Gk *knēmē* shinbone; (3) short for *hamfatter*, fr 'The Ham-fat Man,' Negro minstrel song] – **ham** *adj*

**'ham** *vb* -mm- *vt* to execute with exaggerated speech or gestures; overact ~ *vi* to overplay a part

**hamadryad** /'həmə'driəd- , -əd/ *n* **1** a dryad **2a** KING COBRA **b** a baboon worshipped by the ancient Egyptians [L *hamadryad*-, *hamadryas*, fr Gk, fr *hama* together with + *dryad*-, *dryas* dryad – more at SAME]

**hamburger** /'hambuhgə/ *n* a round flat cake of minced beef, also a sandwich of a fried hamburger in a bread roll [G *Hamburger* of Hamburg, fr *Hamburg*, city in Germany]

**'hame** /'həɪm/ *n* either of 2 curved projections on the collar of a draught horse to which the traces are attached [ME, fr MD]

**'hame** *n*, Scot home [ME (Sc & northern), var of *home*]


**'ham-fisted** *adj*, chiefly *Br* lacking dexterity with the hands, clumsy – *infrm*

**'ham-handed** *adj* ham-fisted – *infrm*

**Hamitic** /'hə'mɪtɪk, hə-/ *adj* belonging or relating to the Berber, Cushitic, and sometimes Egyptian branches of the Afro-Asiatic languages [*Hamite* a member of a group of African peoples, fr *Ham*, son of Noah & supposed ancestor of the Egyptians & other African people]

**hamlet** /'həmlɪt/ *n* a small village [ME, fr MF *hamelet*, dim of *ham* village, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *hām* village, home]

**hammam** /'həmməh/ *n* TURKISH BATH [Ar *hammam* bath]

**'hammer** /'həmə/ *n* **1a** a hand tool that consists of a solid head set crosswise on a handle and is used to strike a blow (e.g. to drive in a nail) **b** a power tool that substitutes a metal block or a drill for the hammerhead **2a** a lever with a striking head for ringing a bell or striking a gong **b** the part of the mechanism of a modern gun whose action ignites the cartridge **c** the malleus  NERVE **d** a gavel **e** (1) a padded mallet in a piano action for striking a string (2) a hand mallet for playing various percussion instruments **3** (an athletic field event using) a metal sphere weighing 16lb (about 7.3kg) attached by a wire to a handle and thrown for distance [ME *hamer*, fr OE *hamor*; akin to OHG *hamar* hammer, Gk *akmé* point, edge – more at EDGE] – **under the hammer** for sale at auction

**'hammer** *vi* **1** to strike blows, esp repeatedly, (as if) with a hammer; pound **2** to make repeated efforts at, esp to reiterate an opinion or attitude <the lectures all ~ed away at the same points> ~ *vi* **1** to beat, drive, or shape (as if) with repeated blows of a hammer **2** to force as if by hitting repeatedly <wanted to ~ him into submission> **3** to declare formally that



- (a member of the Stock Exchange) is insolvent and is therefore forbidden to trade 4 to beat decisively – *infrml* <we ~ed them at football> – **hammerer** *n* – **hammer** into to cause (sby) to learn or remember (sthg) by continual repetition
- hammer and sickle** *n* an emblem consisting of a crossed hammer and sickle used chiefly as a symbol of Communism
- hammer and tongs** *adv* with great force, vigour, or violence <went at each other ~>
- hammer beam** *n* either of the short horizontal beams or cantilevers to support either end of an arch or principal rafter in a roof truss
- hammer head** *n* 1 the striking part of a hammer 2 any of various medium-sized sharks with eyes at the ends of bulging projections on each side of the flattened head
- hammering** /'hæmərɪŋ/ *n* a decisive defeat – *infrml*
- hammer lock** *n* a wrestling hold in which an opponent's arm is held bent behind his back
- hammer out** *vt* to produce or bring about through lengthy discussion <hammered out a new policy>
- hammer toe** *n* a toe that is bent permanently downwards
- hammock** /'hæmək/ *n* a hanging bed, usu made of netting or canvas and suspended by cords at each end [Sp *hamaca*, fr Taino]
- hammy** /'hæmi/ *adj* (characteristic) of ham actors – chiefly *infrml* – *hammily* *adv*, *hamminess* *n*
- hamper** /'hæmpə/ *vt* 1 to restrict the movement or operation of by bonds or obstacles; hinder 2 to interfere with; encumber [ME *hamperen*]
- hamper** *n* a large basket with a cover for packing, storing, or transporting crockery, food, etc <picnic ~> [ME *hampere*, alter. of *hanaper*, lit, case to hold goblets, fr MF *hanapier*, fr *hanap* goblet, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *hnepp* bowl]
- hamster** /'hæmstə/ *n* any of numerous small Old World rodents with very large cheek pouches [G, fr OHG *hamustro*, of Slav origin, akin to OSlav *chomestorŭ* hamster]
- hamstring** /'hæmstrɪŋ/ *n* 1 either of 2 groups of tendons at the back of the human knee 2 a large tendon above and behind the hock of a quadruped  ANATOMY
- hamstring** *vt* **hamstrung** /-strʊŋ/ 1 to cripple by cutting the leg tendons 2 to make ineffective or powerless, cripple
- Han** /hæn/ *n* the Chinese people; ethnic Chinese [*Han*, Chin dynasty 207 BC–AD 220]
- hand** /hænd/ *n* 1a (the segment of the forelimb of vertebrate animals corresponding to) the end of the forelimb of human beings, monkeys, etc when modified as a grasping organ b a part (e.g. the chela of a crustacean) serving the function of or resembling a hand c sthg resembling a hand e.g. (1) a stylized figure of a hand used as a pointer or marker (2) a group of usu large leaves (e.g. of tobacco) reaped or tied together, or of bananas growing together d a forehook of pork  MEAT e an indicator or pointer on a dial 2a possession – usu pl with sing. meaning <the documents fell into the ~s of the enemy> b control, supervision – usu pl with sing. meaning <I'll leave the matter in your capable ~s> 3a a side, direction <men fighting on either ~> b either of 2 sides or aspects of an issue or argument <on the one ~ we can appeal for peace, on the other declare war> 4 a pledge, esp of betrothal or marriage 5 handwriting 6a skill, ability <tried her ~ at sailing> b an instrumental part <had a ~ in the crime> 7 a unit of measure equal to 4in (about 102mm) used esp for the height of a horse  UNIT 8a assistance or aid, esp when involving physical effort <lend a ~> b a round of applause 9a (the cards or pieces held by) a player in a card or board game b a single round in a game c the force or solidity of one's position (e.g. in negotiations) d a turn to serve in a game (e.g. squash) in which only the server may score points and which lasts as long as the server can win points 10a one who performs or executes a particular work <2 portraits by the same ~> b a worker, employee <employed over 100 ~s>; esp one employed at manual labour or general tasks <a field ~> c a member of a ship's crew <all ~s on deck> d one skilled in a particular action or pursuit <she's an old ~ at this job> 11a handiwork b style of execution; workmanship <the ~ of a master> [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *hant* hand] – at hand near in time or place – at the hands of, at the hand of by the act or instrumentality of – by hand with the hands, usu as opposed to mechanically – in hand 1 not used up or lost and at one's disposal <they have a game in hand> 2 of a horse being led rather than being ridden 3 UNDER WAY <put the work in hand> – off one's hands out of one's care or charge – on hand 1 ready to use 2 in attendance; present – on one's hands in one's possession, care, or management – out of hand 1 without delay; without reflection or consideration <refused it out of hand> 2 out of control <that
- child has got quite out of hand>* – to hand available and ready for use; esp within reach
- hand** *vt* 1 to lead or assist with the hand <he ~ed her out of the car> 2 to give or pass (as if) with the hand <~ a letter to her> – hand it to to give credit to
- hand and foot** *adv* totally, assiduously <waited on him ~>
- hand and spring** *n* a cut of pork consisting of the hand, jowl, knuckle, trotter, and a few ribs  MEAT [spring (the belly or lower part of the forequarter of pork)]
- handbag** /'hænd,bæg/ *n* a bag designed for carrying small personal articles and money, carried usu by women
- hand ball** *n* 1 (the small rubber ball used in) a game resembling fives and played in a walled court or against a single wall 2 an amateur indoor or outdoor game between 2 teams of 7 or 11 players whose object is to direct a soccer ball into the opponent's goal by throwing and catching
- hand barrow** *n* a flat rectangular frame with handles at both ends for carrying loads
- hand bill** *n* a small printed sheet to be distributed (e.g. for advertising) by hand
- hand book** *n* a short reference book, esp on a particular subject
- handcraft** *n* (a) handicraft
- handcraft** *vt* to fashion by handicraft
- handcuff** /'hænd,kʊf/ *vt* to apply handcuffs to, manacle
- handcuffs** *n* pl a pair of metal rings, usu connected by a chain or bar, for locking round prisoners' wrists
- hand down** *vt* 1 to transmit in succession (e.g. from father to son), bequeath 2 to give (an outgrown article of clothing) to a younger member of one's family 3 to deliver in court <hand down a judgment>
- handed** /'hændɪd/ *comb form* (*adj* – *adj*) having or using a specified (kind of) hand or (number of) hands <a large-handed man> <(right-handed) – **hander** *comb form* (*adj* – *n*)>
- handedness** /'hændɪdnɪs/ *n* 1 a tendency to use one hand rather than the other 2 the quality of existing in one or both of a pair of mirror images
- hander** /'hændə/ *n* a play, film, etc having a specified number of leading roles – usu in combination <the new musical was a spectacular two-hander>
- handful** /'hændfʊl/ *n*, *pl* **handfuls** also **handsful** /'hændzʃʊl/ 1 as much or as many as the hand will grasp 2 a small quantity or number 3 sby or sthg (e.g. a child or animal) that is difficult to control – *infrml* <that boy is a real ~>
- hand grip** *n* a handle
- hand gun** *n* a firearm held and fired with 1 hand
- hand hold** *n* sthg to hold on to for support (e.g. in mountain climbing)
- handicap** /'hændɪ,kæp/ *n* 1 (a race or contest with) an artificial advantage or disadvantage given to contestants so that all have a more equal chance of winning 2 a (physical) disability or disadvantage that makes achievement unusually difficult [obs *handicap* (a game in which forfeits were held in a cap), fr *hand in cap*]
- handicap** *vt* – *pp*– 1 to assign handicaps to; impose handicaps on 2 to put at a disadvantage
- handicapper** /'hændɪ,kæpə/ *n* 1 sby who assigns handicaps 2 sby who competes, esp in golf, with a specified handicap – usu in combination <a 5-handicapper>
- handicraft** /'hændɪ,kraʃt/ *n* 1 (an occupation requiring) manual skill 2 articles fashioned by handicraft [ME *handi-crafter*, alter. of *handcraft*] – **handicrafter** *n*
- hand-in** *n* the server in a game (e.g. squash or badminton) in which only the server may score points
- hand in 'glove** *adv* in extremely close relationship or agreement, esp in sthg underhand <were found to be working ~ with the racketeers>
- hand in 'hand** *adv* 1 clasping one another's hands (e.g. in intimacy or affection) 2 in close association
- handiwork** /'hændɪ,wɜ:k/ *n* 1 (the product of) work done by the hands 2 work done personally [ME *handiwerk*, fr OE *handgeweorc*, fr *hand* + *geweorc*, fr *ge-* (collective prefix) + *weorc* work]
- handkerchief** /'hæŋkə,tʃeɪf, -tʃɪf/ *n*, *pl* **handkerchiefs** also **handkerchieves** /-tʃeevz/ a small piece of cloth used for various usu personal purposes (e.g. blowing the nose or wiping the eyes) or as a clothing accessory
- handle** /'hændl/ *n* 1 a part that is designed to be grasped by the hand 2 the feel of a textile 3 a title; also an esp aristocratic or double-barrelled name – *infrml* [ME *handel*, fr OE *handle*; akin to OE *hand*] – **handled** *adj*,



**handleless** *adj* – off the handle into a state of sudden and violent anger

**handle** *vb* **handling** /'handlɪŋ/ *vt* **1a** to try or examine (e.g. by touching or moving) with the hand (< ~ silk to judge its weight) **b** to manage with the hands (< ~ a horse) **2a** to deal with (e.g. a subject or idea) in speech or writing, or as a work of art **b** to manage, direct (< a solicitor ~s all my affairs) **3** to deal with, act on, or dispose of (< ~d the clients very well) **4** to engage in the buying, selling, or distributing of (a commodity) ~ *vi* to respond to controlling movements in a specified way (< car that ~s well) – **handleable** *adj*

**handlebar** *n* a bar, esp on a cycle or scooter, for steering – often pl with sing. meaning

**handlebar moustache** *n* a long heavy moustache that curves upwards at each end

**handler** /'hændlɜ:/ *n* one who is in immediate physical charge of an animal (< a police dog ~) ['HANDLE + 'ER]

**handling** /'hændlɪŋ/ *n* **1** the packaging and shipping of an object or material (e.g. to a consumer) **2** the manner in which sth is treated (e.g. in a stage production) **3** *Br* the offence of dealing with stolen goods ['HANDLE + 'ING]

**hand-made** *adj* made by hand rather than by machine

**handmaid** *n* a handmaiden

**handmaiden** *n* a personal maid or female servant

**hand-me-down** *n* a reach-me-down

**hand off** *vt* to push off (an opposing player) with the palm of the hand so as to avoid a tackle in rugby – **handoff** /'hændɔːf/ *n*

**hand on** *vi* **HAND DOWN**

**hand out** *n* **1** sth (e.g. food, clothing, or money) distributed free, esp to people in need **2** a folder or circular of information for free distribution

**hand-out** *n* a player (e.g. in squash or badminton) who is not hand-in

**hand out** *vt* **1** to give freely or without charge **2** to administer (< hand out a severe punishment)

**hand over** *vb* to yield control or possession (of)

**handpick** *vt* **1** to pick by hand rather than by machine **2** to select personally and carefully

**handrail** *n* a narrow rail for grasping with the hand as a support, esp near stairs  **ARCHITECTURE**

**hand saw** *n* a saw, usu operated with 1 hand

**hands down** *adv* without much effort, easily (< they won ~)

**handset** *n* **RECEIVER** **3b**

**handshake** *n* a clasping and shaking of each other's usu right hand by 2 people (e.g. in greeting or farewell)

**handsome** /'hænsəm/ *adj* **1** considerable, sizable (< a painting that commanded a ~ price) **2** marked by graciousness or generosity, liberal (< ~ contributions to charity) **3a** of a man having a pleasing appearance, good-looking **b** of a woman attractive in a dignified statuesque way **4** *NAm* marked by skill or cleverness, adroit [*ME* *handsom* easy to manipulate, fr *'hand* + *-some*] – **handsomely** *adv*, **handsomeness** *n*

**handspike** *n* a bar used as a lever, chiefly by sailors and gunners [*by folk etymology* fr *D* *handspaak*, fr *hand* + *spaak* pole]

**handspring** *n* an acrobatic movement in which the body turns forwards or backwards in a full circle from a standing position and lands first on the hands and then on the feet

**handstand** *n* an act of supporting and balancing the body on only the hands with the legs in the air

**hand-to-hand** *adj* involving physical contact, very close (< ~ fighting) – **hand to hand** *adv*

**hand-to-mouth** *adj* having or providing only just enough to live on, precarious (< ~ existence)

**handwork** *n* work done with the hands and not by machine – **handworker** *n*

**handwoven** *adj* produced on a hand-operated loom

**handwriting** *n* writing done by hand; esp the style of writing peculiar to a particular person

**handwrought** *adj* fashioned by hand or without complex machinery

**handy** /'hændi/ *adj* **1a** convenient for use; useful **b** of a vessel or vehicle easily handled **2** clever in using the hands, esp in a variety of practical ways **3** conveniently near – *infrml* ['hand + -y] – **handily** *adv*, **handiness** *n*

**handyman** /-mən, -man/ *n* **1** sby who does odd jobs **2** sby competent in a variety of skills or repair work

**hang** /hæŋ/ *vb* **hung** /hʌŋ/, (*1b*) **hanged** *vt* **1a** to fasten to some

elevated point by the top so that the lower part is free; suspend **b** to suspend by the neck until dead – often used as a mild oath (< I'll be ~ed) **c** to fasten on a point of suspension so as to allow free motion within given limits (< ~ a door) (< ~ a pendulum) **d** to suspend (meat, esp game) before cooking to make the flesh tender and develop the flavour **2** to decorate, furnish, or cover by hanging sth up (e.g. flags or bunting) (< a room hung with tapestries) **3** to hold or bear in a suspended or inclined position (< hung his head in shame) **4** to fasten (sthg, esp wallpaper) to a wall (e.g. with paste) **5** to display (pictures) in a gallery ~ *vi* **1a** to remain fastened at the top so that the lower part is free; dangle **b** to die by hanging **2** to remain poised or stationary in the air **3** to stay on, persist (< the smell of the explosion hung in the afternoon air) **4** to be imminent, impend (< doom hung over the nation) **5** to fall or droop from a usu tense or taut position (< his mouth hung open) **6** to depend (< election ~s on one vote) **7** to lean, incline, or jut over or downwards **8** to fall in flowing lines (< the coat ~s well) [partly fr *ME* *hon*, fr *OE* *hon*, *vi*, partly fr *ME* *hengen*, fr *OE* *hangian*, *vi* & *vt*, both akin to *OHG* *hahan*, *vt*, to hang, *hangen*, *vi*] – **hangable** *adj* – **hang fire** **1** to be slow in the explosion of a charge after its primer has been discharged **2** to be delayed or held up – **hang in the balance** to be uncertain or at stake – **hang on** **1** to pay close attention to (< hangs on her every word) **2** to depend on (< the success of the whole enterprise hangs on your cooperation) **3** to be burdensome or oppressive (< time hangs on his hands)

**hang** *n* **1** the manner in which a thing hangs **2** a downward slope; also a droop **3** the special method of doing, using, or dealing with sth; the knack – chiefly in *get the hang of* < 4 Austr & NZ an impressive amount (< they got down in a ~ of a hurry – Frank Sargeson)

**hang about** *vi*, *Br* **1** to wait or stay, usu without purpose or activity **2** to delay or move slowly **USE** *infrml*

**hanger** /'hæŋgə/ *n* a shed; esp a large shed for housing aircraft [*F*]

**hang around** *vi* **HANG ABOUT** **1**

**hang back** *vi* to be reluctant to move or act, hesitate

**hangdog** /'hæŋgdɒg/ *adj* ashamed, also abject

**hanging** /'hæŋgɪŋ/ *n* **1** (an) execution by suspension from a noose **2a** a curtain **b** a covering (e.g. a tapestry) for a wall

**hanger** *n* a device (e.g. a loop or strap) by which or to which sth is hung or hangs, esp a hook and crosspiece to fit inside the shoulders of a dress, coat, etc to keep the shape of the garment when hung up ['HANG + 'ER]


**hanger-on** *n*, *pl* **hangers-on** one who attempts to associate with a person, group, etc, esp for personal gain, a dependant [*hang* on + *-er*]

**hang-glider** *n* (sby who flies) a glider that resembles a kite and is controlled by the body movements of the harnessed person suspended beneath it – **hang-glide** *vi*

**hang** *tr*, *vi*, chiefly *NAm* to refuse to be discouraged or intimidated; persist – *infrml*

**hanging** /'hæŋgɪŋ/ *n* **1** an execution by suspension from a noose **2a** a curtain **b** a covering (e.g. a tapestry) for a wall

**hanging** *adj* **1** situated or lying on steeply sloping ground (< ~ gardens) **2** jutting out, overhanging (< a ~ rock) **3** adapted for sustaining a hanging object (< a ~ rail) **4** deserving or liable to inflict hanging (< a ~ matter) (< a ~ judge) [(1, 2) fr prp of 'hang; (3, 4) fr gerund of 'hang]

**hanging valley** *n* a valley ending in a steeply descending cliff face  **GEOGRAPHY**

**hangman** /-mən/ *n* one who hangs a condemned person; a public executioner

**hangnail** /'hæŋnəɪl/ *n* a bit of skin hanging loose at the side or root of a fingernail [*by folk etymology* fr *agnail*]

**hang on** *vi* **1** to keep hold, hold onto sth **2** to persist tenaciously (< a cold that hung on all spring) **3** to wait for a short time (< hang on a second) **4** to remain on the telephone (< could you hang on please and I'll connect you) – **hang on to** to hold or keep tenaciously (< learned to hang on to his money)

**hang-out** *n* a place where one is often to be seen – *slang*

**hang out** *vi* **1** to protrude, esp downwards **2** to live or spend much time – *slang* (< the kids hang out on street corners)

**hangover** /'hæŋgəʊvə/ *n* **1** sth (e.g. a custom) that remains from the past **2** the disagreeable physical effects following heavy consumption of alcohol or use of other drugs

**hang-up** *n* a source of mental or emotional difficulty – *infrml*

**hang up** *vt* **1** to place on a hook or hanger (< told the child to hang up his coat) **2** to delay, suspend (< the negotiations were hung up for a week) ~ *vi* to terminate a telephone conversation, often abruptly

**hank** /hæŋk/ *n* **1** a coil, loop; specif a coiled or looped bundle (e.g. of yarn, rope, or wire) usu containing a definite length **2** a ring attaching

a jib or staysail to a stay [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *hónk* hank; akin to OE *hangian* to hang]

**hanker** /'hʌŋkə/ *vi* to desire strongly or persistently – usu + *after* or *for* [prob fr Flem *hankeren*, freq of *hangen* to hang; akin to OE *hangian*] – *hankering* *n*

**hankie**, **hanky** /'hʌŋki/ *n* a handkerchief – infml [*handkerchief* + *-ie*, *-y*]

**hanky-panky** /'pʌŋki/ *n* mildly improper or deceitful behaviour – infml [prob alter. of *hocus-pocus*]

**Hanoverian** /'hʌnəvɪən/ *adj* of or supporting the British royal house that reigned from 1714 to 1901 [*Hanover*, former province of Germany] – *Hanoverian* *n*

**Hanse** /'hʌnsə, 'hahnzə/, **Hanse** /'hʌns/ *n* 1 a medieval merchant guild 2 a medieval league of (merchants of) various free German cities trading abroad 3 the entrance fee to a *Hansa* *USE* (1 & 2) sing. or pl in constr [*Hansa* fr ML, fr MLG *hanse*; *Hanse* fr ME, fr MF, fr MLG] – *Hansatic* /'hʌnsiˈʌtɪk/ *n* or *adj*

**Hansard** /'hʌnsərd/ *n* the official report of Parliamentary proceedings [Luke Hansard †1828 E printer]

**hansom** /'hʌnsəm/, **hansom cab** *n* a light 2-wheeled covered carriage with the driver's seat high up at the back [Joseph Hansom †1882 E architect]

**Hanukkah**, **Chanukah** /'hʌnʊkə(h)h/ *n* an 8-day Jewish holiday falling in December and commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem after its defilement by Antiochus of Syria [Heb *hānukkah* dedication]

**hanuman** /'hʌnʊm'əh/ *n* 1 *cap* the Hindu monkey-god, noted for his devotion to Rama 2 a long-tailed Asian monkey considered sacred by Hindus [Hindi *Hanumān*, fr Skt *hanumant*, lit., possessing (large) jaws, fr *hanu* jaw]

**hào** *n*  Vietnam at NATIONALITY [Vietnamese]

**hapax legomenon** /'hʌpəks li'gɒmənon, -nən/ *n*, *pl* *hapax legomena* /-nə/ a word or form which occurs only once [Gk, something said only once]

**ha'penny** /'hæpni/ *n* a halfpenny

**haphazard** /'hæpəzəd/ *adj* marked by lack of plan or order; aimless [*haphazard*, *n* (chance, accident), fr *hap* (event, chance) + *hazard*] – *haphazardly* *adv*, *haphazardness* *n*

**hapl-**, **haplo-** *comb form* 1 single; simple 2 of the haploid generation or condition [*haplosis*] [NL, fr Gk, fr *haploos*, fr *ha-* one + *-ploos* multiplied by; akin to Gk *homos* same – more at SAME, DOUBLE, (2) *haploid*]

**hapless** /'hæpləs/ *adj* having no luck; unfortunate [*hap* (event, chance) + *-less*] – *haplessly* *adv*, *haplessness* *n*

**haplography** /'hæp'lɒgrəfi/ *n* a written haploglogy

**haploid** /'hæplɔɪd/ *adj* having half the number of chromosomes characteristic of somatic cells (*gametes are usually ~*) – compare DIPLOID, POLYPLOID [ISV, fr Gk *haploeidēs* single, fr *haploos*] – *haploid* *n*, *haploidy* *n*

**haplogy** /'hæp'lɒləji/ *n* contraction of a word by the omission of one or more similar sounds or syllables in pronunciation (e.g. /'liebri/ for 'library') [ISV *hapl-* + *-logy*]

**hap'orth**, **ha'porth**, **ha'p'orth** /'hæpəθ/ *n* a halfpennyworth (<doesn't make a ~ of difference> [by contr])

**happen** /'hæpən/ *vi* **happening** /'hæpən-ɪŋ, 'hæpən-ɪŋ/ 1 to occur by chance – often + *it* (<it so ~s I'm going your way>) 2 to come into being as an event; occur 3 to have the luck or fortune to; chance (<he ~ed to overhear the plotters> [ME *happenen*, fr *hap* event, chance, fortune, fr ON *happ* good luck, akin to OE *gehep* suitable] – *happen* on/upon to see or meet (sth or sb) by chance (<happened upon an old acquaintance last week>)

**happening** /'hæp-ɪŋ, 'hæpən-ɪŋ/ *n* 1 sth that happens; an occurrence 2a the creation or presentation of a nonobjective work of art (e.g. an action, painting) b a usu unscripted or improvised often multimedia public performance in which the audience participates

**happenstance** /'hæpən'stɑːns, -stɑːns/ *n*, *NAm* a circumstance regarded as due to chance [*happen* + *circumstance*]

**happily** /'hæpili/ *adv* 1 by good fortune; luckily (<~, he never knew>) 2 in a happy manner or state (<lived ~ ever after>) 3 in an adequate or fitting manner; successfully (<white wine goes ~ with fish>)

**happy** /'hæpi/ *adj* 1 favoured by luck or fortune; fortunate 2 well adapted or fitting; felicitous (<a ~ choice>) 3a enjoying or expressing pleasure and contentment b glad, pleased (<I was very ~ to hear from you>) 4 characterized by a dazed irresponsible state – usu in combination (<a punch-happy boxer>) 5 impulsively quick or overinclined to use sth

– usu in combination (<trigger-happy>) 6 having or marked by an atmosphere of good fellowship; friendly 7 satisfied as to the fact; confident, sure (<we're now quite ~ that the murder occurred at about 5.30>) 8 tipsy – euph [ME, fr *hap*] – *happiness* *n*

**'happy-go-lucky** *adj* blithely unconcerned; carefree

**happy hour** *n* a limited period of the day during which drinks are sold in a bar, pub, etc at reduced prices

**happy hunting ground** *n* a choice or profitable area of activity – infml

**Hapsburg** /'hæpsbʊrg/ *n* or *adj* (a member, esp a monarch) of a princely German house that reigned in Austria from 1278 to 1918 and in Spain from 1516 to 1700 [*Habsburg*, castle in Aargau, Switzerland]

**haptēn** /'hæpt(ə)n/ *n* a small (separable) part of an antigen that reacts specifically with an antibody [G *haptēn*]

**haptic** /'hæptɪk/, **haptical** /-kl/ *adj* relating to or based on the sense of touch [ISV, fr Gk *haptēshai* to touch]

**hara-kiri** /'harə 'kɪri/ *n* suicide by ritual disembowelment practised by the Japanese samurai, esp when disgraced or found guilty of a crime carrying the death penalty for commoners [Jap *harakiri*]

**'harangue** /'hə'rʌŋ/ *n* 1 a speech addressed to a public assembly 2 a lengthy, ranting, and usu censorious speech or piece of writing [ME *arang*, fr MF *areng*, fr OIt *aringa*]

**'harangue** *vb* to make or address in a harangue

**harass** /'hærəs/ *vt* 1 to worry and impede by repeated raids (<~ed the enemy>) 2 to annoy or worry persistently [F *harasser*, fr MF, fr *harer* to set a dog on, fr OF *hare*, interj used to incite dogs, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *hier* here – more at HERF] – *harasser* *n*, *harassment* *n*

**harbinger** /'hæbrɪŋə/ *n* 1 one who pioneers or initiates a major change, a precursor 2 sth that presages or foreshadows what is to come [ME *herberger*, fr OF, host, fr *herberge* hostelry, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *herberga*] – *harbinger* *vt*

**'harbour**, *NAm chiefly harbor* /'hæbə/ *n* 1 a place of security and comfort, a refuge 2 a part of a body of water providing protection and anchorage for ships (<the ship came into ~> [ME *herberge*, akin to OHG *herberga* army encampment, hostelry, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose constituents are akin respectively to OHG *hen* army & to OHG *bergan* to shelter – more at HARRY, BURY]

**'harbour**, *NAm chiefly harbor* *vt* 1 to give shelter or refuge to 2 to be the home or habitat of, contain (<these cracks can ~ dangerous bacteria>) 3 to have or keep (e.g. thoughts or feelings) in the mind (<~ed a grudge>) ~ *vi* to take shelter (as if) in a harbour

**harbourage** /'hæbbərɪ/ *n* shelter, harbour

**harbourmaster** *n* the officer who regulates the use of a harbour

**'hard** /hɑːd/ *adj* 1 not easily penetrated or yielding to pressure, firm 2a of alcoholic drink having a high percentage of alcohol b of water containing salts of calcium, magnesium, etc that inhibit lathering with soap 3a of or being radiation of relatively high penetrating power (<~ X rays>) b having or producing relatively great photographic contrast (<a ~ negative>) 4a metal as distinct from paper (<~ money>) b of currency stable in value; also soundly backed and readily convertible into foreign currencies without large discounts c being high and firm (<~ prices>) d available to borrowers in limited supply and at high interest rates 5 firmly and closely twisted (<~ yarns>) 6a physically fit or resistant to stress (<the ~ men ran 100mi a week>) b free of weakness or defects 7a(1) firm, definite (<reached a ~ agreement>) (2) not speculative or conjectural; factual (<~ evidence>) b close, searching (<gave a ~ look>) 8a(1) difficult to endure (<~ times>) (2) oppressive, inequitable (<indirect taxes are ~ on the poor>) b lacking consideration or compassion, (<a ~ heart>) c(1) harsh, severe (<said some ~ things>), resentful (<~ feelings>) d inclement (<~ winter>) e(1) forceful, violent (<~ blows>) (2) demanding energy or stamina (<~ work>) (3) using or performing with great energy or effort (<a ~ worker>) 9a sharply defined; stark (<a ~ outline>) b of *c* and *g* pronounced /k/ and /g/ respectively – not used technically 10a difficult to do, understand, or explain (<~ problems>) b having difficulty in doing sth (<~ of hearing>) c difficult to magnetize or demagnetize 11a of a drug addictive and gravely detrimental to health (<such ~ drugs as heroin>) b of pornography **HARD-CORE** 2 12 PERSISTENT 2b [ME, fr OE *heard*; akin to OHG *hart* hard, Gk *kratos* strength] – *hardness* *n*

**'hard** *adv* 1a with great or maximum effort or energy; strenuously (<were ~ at work>) b in a violent manner; fiercely c to the full extent – used in nautical directions (<steer ~ apart>) d in a searching or concentrated manner (<stared ~ at him>) 2a in such a manner as to cause hardship, difficulty, or pain; severely b with bitterness or grief (<took his defeat ~>) 3 in a firm manner; tightly 4 to the point of hardness (<the water froze

- ~> 5 close in time or space (<the house stood ~ by the river> – hard done by unfairly treated)
- hard** *n*, chiefly *Br* a firm usu artificial foreshore or landing place [*'hard*]
- hard-and-fast** *adj* fixed, strict (<a ~ rule>)
- hardback** *n* a book bound in stiff covers – compare **PAPERBACK** – *hardback* *adj*
- hard-bitten** *adj* steeled by difficult experience, tough
- hardboard** *n* (a) composition board made by compressing shredded wood chips
- hard-boil** *vt* to cook (an egg) in the shell until both white and yolk have solidified [back-formation fr *hard-boiled*]
- hard-boiled** *adj* devoid of sentimentality, tough
- hard 'case** *n* a tough or hardened person
- hard 'cash** *n* money in the form of coin or bank notes as opposed to cheques or credit
- hard 'cheese** *n*, chiefly *Br* **HARD LUCK** – often used as an interjection expressing mild sympathy, *infrm*
- hard coal** *n* anthracite
- hard copy** *n* copy (e.g. produced in connection with a computer or from microfilm) that is readable without the use of a special device
- hardcore** *n*, *Br* compacted rubble or clinker used esp as a foundation for roads, paving, or floors
- hard-core** *adj* 1 of or constituting a hard core (<~ *Conservative supporters*> 2 of pornography extremely explicit, *specif* showing real rather than simulated sexual acts
- hard 'core** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the unyielding or uncompromising members that form the nucleus of a group
- harden** *'hahdn/ vt* 1 to make hard or harder 2 to confirm in disposition, feelings, or action, esp to make callous (<~ed his heart> 3a to toughen, *inure* <~ troops> b to inure (e.g. plants) to cold or other unfavourable environmental conditions – often + *off* 4 to protect from blast or heat (<~ a missile emplacement> ~ *vi* 1 to become hard or harder 2a to become confirmed or strengthened (<opposition began to ~> b to assume an appearance of harshness (<her face ~ed at the word> 3 to become higher or less subject to fluctuations downwards (<prices ~ed quickly>) – *hardener* *n*
- hardening** *'hahdn-ing, 'hahdnng/ n* 1 sth that hardens 2 sclerosis (<~ of the arteries>)
- hard 'hat** *n* 1 a protective hat made of rigid material (e.g. metal or fibreglass) and worn esp by construction workers 2 chiefly *NAm* a construction worker
- hardhead** *n* a hardheaded person
- hardheaded** *adj* 1 stubborn 2 sober, realistic (<~ common sense>) – *hardheadedly* *adv*, *hardheadedness* *n*
- hardheads** *n*, *pl* **hardheads** any of several knapweeds
- hardhearted** *adj* lacking in sympathetic understanding, unfeeling – *hardheartedly* *adv*, *hardheartedness* *n*
- hard-hitting** *adj* vigorous, effective (<a ~ series of articles>)
- hard 'labour** *n* compulsory labour as part of prison discipline
- hard-line** *adj* advocating or involving a persistently firm course of action; unyielding (<a ~ policy on unemployment>) – *hard-liner* *n*
- hard 'lines** *n* *pl*, chiefly *Br* **HARD LUCK** – often used as an interjection expressing mild sympathy, *infrm*
- hard 'luck** *n*, chiefly *Br* bad luck – often used as an interjection expressing mild sympathy
- hardly** *'hahdli/ adv* 1 in a severe manner, harshly 2 with difficulty, painfully 3 only just; barely (<I ~ knew her>) 4 scarcely (<that news is ~ surprising>)
- hard-nosed** *adj* 1 hard-bitten, stubborn 2 **HARDHEADED** 2 (<~ budgeting>)
- hard-of-hearing** *adj* partially deaf
- hard-on** *n*, *pl* **hard-ons** **ERECTION** 1 – *vulg*
- hard 'pad** *n* a frequently fatal virus disease of dogs related to distemper
- hard palate** *n* the bony front part of the palate forming the roof of the mouth
- hardpan** *n* a hard compact soil layer
- hard-paste porcelain**, **hard 'paste** *n* **PORCELAIN** 1a
- hard 'put** *adj* barely able; faced with difficulty (<was ~ to find an explanation>)
- hard rock** *n* basic rock music played in its original style
- hard rubber** *n* ebonite
- hard sauce** *n* a creamed mixture of butter and sugar usu flavoured with brandy or rum and served esp with hot rich puddings
- hard sell** *n* aggressive high-pressure salesmanship – compare **SOFT SELL**
- hard-set** *adj* rigid, fixed
- hardship** *'hahdʃp/ n* (an instance of) suffering, privation
- hard 'shoulder** *n* either of 2 surfaced strips of land along a road, esp a motorway, on which stopping is allowed only in an emergency
- hard-standing** *n* a hard-surfaced area on which vehicles (e.g. cars or aeroplanes) may park
- hard,tack** *n* **SHIP'S BISCUIT**
- hardtop** *n* a motor car with a rigid top
- hard 'up** *adj* short of sthg, esp money (<I'm very ~ for summer clothes>) – *infrm*
- hard,ware** *n* 1 items sold by an ironmonger 2 the physical components (e.g. electronic and electrical devices) of a vehicle (e.g. a spacecraft) or an apparatus (e.g. a computer) 3 tape recorders, closed-circuit television, etc used as instructional equipment
- hardwearing** *adj* durable
- hard ,wheat** *n* a wheat (e.g. durum) with hard kernels that are high in gluten and yield a strong flour suitable for making bread and pasta
- hard,wood** *n* (the wood of) a broad-leaved as distinguished from a coniferous tree – *hardwood* *adj*
- hardy** *'hahdi/ adj* 1 bold, audacious 2a inured to fatigue or hardships; robust b capable of withstanding adverse conditions, esp capable of living outdoors over winter without artificial protection (<~ plants> [*ME hardi*, fr *OF*, fr (assumed) *OF hardir* to make hard, of *Gmc* origin; akin to *OE* *hard*] – *hardiness* *n*
- 'hare** */heə/ n*, *pl* **hares**, esp collectively **hare** 1 any of various swift timid long-eared mammals like large rabbits with long hind legs 2 a figure of a hare moved mechanically along a dog track for the dogs to chase [*ME*, fr *OE hara*, akin to *OHG* *hase* hare, *L canus* hoary, grey]
- 'hare** *vi* to run fast – *infrm*
- hare and 'hounds** *n* **PAPER CHASE**
- 'hare,bell** *n* a slender plant with blue bell-shaped flowers that grows esp on heaths and in open woodlands
- 'hare,brained** *adj* flighty, foolish – *infrm*
- 'hare'lip** *n* a split in the upper lip like that of a hare occurring as a congenital deformity – *harelipped* *adj*
- harem** *'heərəm, hah'reem/ n* 1a a usu secluded (part of a) house allotted to women in a Muslim household b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the women occupying a harem 2 a group of females associated with 1 male – used with reference to polygamous animals [*Ar harim*, lit., something forbidden & *haram*, lit., sanctuary]
- haricot** *'hankoh/, 'haricot 'bean* *n* **FRENCH BEAN** [*F*]
- harijan** *'hahri'jahn, 'harjən/ n*, often *cap* an Indian untouchable [*Skt harijana* one belonging to the god Vishnu, fr *Hari* Vishnu + *jana* person]
- hari-kari** *'har/ n* **hara-kiri**
- hark** *'hahk/ vi* to listen closely [*ME herken*; akin to *OHG hōrechen* to listen]
- hark back** *vi* to return to an earlier topic or circumstance
- harken** *'hahkən/ to* *hearken*
- harlequin** *'hahlikwɪn/ n* 1a *cap* a stock character in comedy and pantomime b a buffoon 2 a variegated pattern (e.g. of a textile) [*It arlecchino*, fr *MF Helquin*, a demon]
- harlequinade** *'hahlikwi'nayd/ n* a part of a play or pantomime in which Harlequin has a leading role
- harlequin duck** *n* a small N American and Icelandic diving sea duck the male of which is bluish with black, white, and chestnut markings
- harlot** *'hahlət/ n*, *archaic* a woman prostitute [*ME*, fr *OF herlot* rogue] – *harlotry* *n*
- 'harm** */hɑ:m/ n* 1 physical or mental damage; injury 2 mischief, wrong [*ME*, fr *OE harm*, akin to *OHG harm* injury, *OSlav sramŭ* shame] – *harmful* *adj*, *harmfully* *adv*, *harmfulness* *n* – out of harm's way safe from danger
- 'harm** *vi* to cause harm to
- harmattan** *'hah'mat(ə)n/ n* a dry dust-laden wind that blows off the desert onto the Atlantic coast of Africa from December to February [*Twī haramata*]
- harmless** *'hahmlis/ adj* 1 free from harm, liability, or loss 2 lacking capacity or intent to injure – *harmlessly* *adv*, *harmlessness* *n*
- 'harmonic** *'hah'monik/ adj* 1 of musical harmony, a harmonic, or harmonics 2 pleasing to the ear; harmonious 3 expressible in terms of sine or cosine functions (<~ function>) – *harmonically* *adv*, *harmonicalness* *n*
- 'harmonic** *n* 1a a tone in a harmonic series b a flute-like tone produced

on a stringed instrument by touching a vibrating string at a point (e.g. the midpoint) which divides it into halves, thirds, etc. 2 a component frequency of a harmonic motion that is an integral multiple of the fundamental frequency

**harmonica** /hah'monika/ *n* a small rectangular wind instrument with free reeds recessed in air slots from which notes are sounded by breathing out and in [It *armonica*, fem of *armonico* harmonious]

**harmonics** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the study of the physical characteristics of musical sounds

**harmonic series** *n* a set of tones consisting of a fundamental and all the overtones whose frequency ratio to it can be expressed in whole numbers

**harmonious** /hah'monias, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 musically concordant 2 having the parts arranged so as to produce a pleasing effect <the patterns blended into a ~ whole> 3 marked by agreement – *harmoniously adv*, *harmoniousness n*

**harmonist** /hah'monist/ *n* one who is skilled in musical harmony – **harmonistic** /hah'monistik/ *adj*, *harmonistically adv*

**harmonium** /hah'mohni-əm, -nyəm/ *n* a reed organ in which pedals operate a bellows that forces air through free reeds [F, fr MF *harmonie*, *armonie*]

**harmonize**, -ize /hah'moniez/ *vi* 1 to be in harmony 2 to play or sing in harmony ~ *vt* 1 to bring into consonance or accord 2 to provide or accompany with harmony – *harmonizer n*, *harmonization* /hah'moniezaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**harmony** /hah'moni/ *n* 1a the (pleasant-sounding) combination of simultaneous musical notes in a chord b (the science of) the structure of music with respect to the composition and progression of chords 2a pleasing or congruent arrangement of parts <a painting exhibiting ~ of colour and line> b agreement, accord <lives in ~ with her neighbours> 3 an arrangement of parallel literary passages (e.g. of the Gospels) [ME *armony*, fr MF *armonie*, fr L *harmonia*, fr Gk, joint, harmony, fr *harmos* joint – more at 'ARM]

**harness** /hah'nis/ *n* 1a the gear of a draught animal other than a yoke b (military) equipment (for a knight) 2 sth that resembles a harness (e.g. in holding or fastening sth) <a safety ~> 3 a part of a loom which holds and controls the heddles [ME *herneis* baggage, gear, fr OF] – in *harness* 1 in one's usual work, surroundings, or routine <back in harness after a long illness> 2 in close association <working in harness with his colleagues>

**harness** *vt* 1a to put a harness on (e.g. a horse) b to attach (e.g. a wagon) by means of a harness 2 to tie together; yoke 3 to utilize; *esp* to convert (a natural force) into energy

**harness racing** *n* the sport of trotting

**harp** /hahp/ *n* a musical instrument that has strings stretched across an open triangular frame, plucked with the fingers [ME, fr OE *harpe*; akin to OHG *harpha* harp, Gk *karphe* dry stalk] – *harpist n*

**harp** *vi* – *harp on* to dwell on or return to (a subject) tediously or monotonously

**harper** /hahpa/ *n* a harp player

**harpoon** /hah'poohn/ *n* a barbed spear used *esp* in hunting large fish or whales [prob fr D *harpoen*, fr OF *harpon* brooch, fr *harper* to grapple] – *harpoon vt*, *harpooner n*

**harp seal** *n* an arctic seal with a black saddle-shaped mark on the back

**harpsichord** /hahpsi,kawd/ *n* a chromatic keyboard instrument having a horizontal frame and strings and producing notes by the action of quills or leather points plucking the strings [modif of It *arpicordo*, fr *arpa* harp + *corde* string] – *harpsichordist n*

**harpy** /hahpi/ *n* 1 *cap* a rapacious creature of Greek mythology with the head of a woman and the body of a bird 2 a predatory person; *esp* a rapacious woman – *derog* [L *Harpyia*, fr Gk]

**harquebus** /hahkwibas/ *n* an arquebus

**harridan** /hahd(ə)n/ *n* an ill-tempered unpleasant woman [perh modif of F *haridelle* old horse, gaunt woman]

**harrid** /hahrid/ *adj* beset by worrying problems; harassed

**harrier** /hahri-ə/ *n* 1 a hunting dog resembling a small foxhound and used *esp* for hunting hares 2 a runner in a cross-country team [irreg fr 'hare]

**harrier** *n* any of various slender hawks with long angled wings [alter of earlier *harrower*, fr arch *harrow* (to rob, plunder), var of *harry*]

**Harrie tweed** /hahris/ *trademark* – used for a loosely woven tweed made in the Outer Hebrides

**Harrovian** /hahrovi-ən, -nyən/ *n* or *adj* (a pupil) of Harrow School [NL *Harrovia* Harrow, district of London]

**harrow** /'haroh/ *n* a cultivating implement set with spikes, spring teeth, or discs and drawn over the ground *esp* to pulverize and smooth the soil [ME *harwe*]

**harrow** *vt* 1 to cultivate (ground or land) with a harrow 2 to cause distress to, agonize – *harrower n*

**harrumph** /hə'rʌmp(p)/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a guttural sound as if clearing the throat, *esp* as a sign of disapproval [imit]

**harry** /'hari/ *vi* 1 to make a destructive raid on; ravage 2 to torment (as if) by constant attack; harass [ME *harren*, fr OE *hergian*, akin to OHG *herion* to lay waste, *heri* army, Gk *koiranos* commander]

**harsh** /hahsh/ *adj* 1 having a coarse uneven surface, rough 2 disagreeable or painful to the senses <a ~ light> 3 unduly exacting; severe 4 lacking in aesthetic appeal or refinement; crude [ME *harsk*, of Scand origin, akin to Norw *harsk* harsh] – *harshen vb*, *harshly adv*, *harshness n*

**hart** /haht/ *n*, chiefly Br the male of the (red) deer, *esp* when over 5 years old – compare *HIND* [ME *hert*, fr OE *heort*, akin to L *cervus* hart, Gk *keras* horn – more at *HORN*]

**hartebeest** /'hahti,beest/ *n* any of several large African antelopes with ridged horns that project upwards and outwards [obs Afrk (now *hartbees*), fr D, fr *hart* deer + *beest* beast]

**harteorn** /'hahts,haw'n/ *n* ammonium carbonate – not now used technically [fr the earlier use of hart's horns as the chief source of ammonia]

**hart's tongue** *n* a Eurasian fern with undivided fronds

**harum-scarum** /,heərəm 'skeərəm/ *adj* reckless, irresponsible – *infrm* [perh alter of *helter-skelter*] – *harum-scarum adv*

**haruspex** /hə'ruspeks/ *n*, *pl* *haruspices* /-spi,seɪz/ a diviner in ancient Rome basing his predictions on the entrails of animals [L]

**harvest** /'hahvist/ *n* 1 (the season for) the gathering in of agricultural crops 2 (the yield of) a mature crop of grain, fruit, etc 3 the product or reward of exertion [ME *hervest*, fr OE *herfest*, akin to L *carpere* to pluck, gather, Gk *karpos* fruit, *keiren* to cut – more at *SHAR*]

**harvest** *vt* 1 to gather in (a crop), reap 2 to gather (a natural product) as if by harvesting <~ bacteria> ~ *vi* to gather in a food crop – *harvestable adj*, *harvester n*

**Harvest Festival** *n* a festival of thanksgiving for the harvest celebrated on a Sunday in September or October in British churches

**harvest home** *n* 1 the gathering or the time of harvest 2 a festival at the close of harvest

**harvestman** /-mən/ *n* an arachnid with a small rounded body and very long slender legs

**harvest mite** *n* a 6-legged mite larva that sucks the blood of vertebrates and causes intense irritation

**harvest moon** *n* the full moon nearest the time of the September equinox

**has** /haz/ *pres 3rd sing of HAVE*

**has-been** *n* sby or sth that has passed the peak of effectiveness, success, or popularity – *infrm*

**hash** /hash/ *vi* to chop (e.g. meat and potatoes) into small pieces [F *hacher*, fr OF *hachier*, fr *hache* battle-axe, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *happa* sickle; akin to Gk *koptein* to cut – more at *CAPON*]

**hash** *n* 1 (a dish consisting chiefly of reheated cooked) chopped food, *esp* meat 2 a rehash 3 a muddle, mess <made a ~ of things> *USE(2 & 3) infrm*

**hash** *n* hashish – *infrm*

**hashish** /'hashish, -sheesh/ *n* the resin from the flowering tops of the female hemp plant that is smoked, chewed, etc for its intoxicating effect – compare *BHANG*, *MARIJUANA*, *CANNABIS* [Ar *hashish*]

**hasket** /'hazlit/ *n* the edible entrails (e.g. the liver) of an animal, *esp* a pig (cooked and compressed into a meat loaf) – compare *GIBLETS* [ME *hastelet*, fr MF, piece of meat roasted on a spit]

**hasn't** /'haznt/ *has not*

**hasp** /hahsp/ *n* a device for fastening; *esp* a hinged metal strap that fits over a staple and is secured by a pin or padlock [ME, fr OE *hasp*; akin to MHG *haspe* hasp] – *hasp vt*

**hassle** /hasl/ *n* 1 a heated often protracted argument; a wrangle 2 a trying problem; a struggle <it's such a ~ getting across London> *USE infrm* [perh fr 'haggle + 'tussle]

**hassle** *vb* *hassling* /'hasling/ *vi* to argue, fight <~d with the referee> ~ *vt* to subject to usu persistent harassment *USE infrm*

**hassock** /'hasək/ *n* 1 a tussock 2 a cushion for kneeling on, *esp* in church [ME, sedge, fr OE *hassuc*]

**hast** /hast/ *archaic pres 2 sing of HAVE*

**hastate** /'hastayt/ *adj* shaped like (the triangular head of) a spear <a ~

- leaf* /-ə/ **PIANT** [NL *hastatus*, fr L *hasta* spear – more at **'YARD**] – **hastately** *adv*
- 'haste** /'haɪst/ *n* 1 rapidity of motion; swiftness 2 rash or headlong action, precipitance <marry in ~, repent at leisure> [ME, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *hæst* violence] – **make haste** to act quickly, hasten
- 'haste** *vi* to move or act swiftly – **fml**
- hasten** /'hæst(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to cause to hurry <~ ed her to the door – A J Cronin> 2 to accelerate <~ the completion of the project> ~ *vi* to move or act quickly, hurry – **hastener** *n*
- hasty** /'haɪsti/ *adj* 1 done or made in a hurry 2 precipitate, rash 3 prone to or showing anger; irritable – **hastily** *adv*, **hastiness** *n*
- hat** /hæt/ *n* 1 a covering for the head usu having a shaped crown and brim 2 GARMENT 2 a role, position – **in**fml <wearing his ministerial ~> [ME, fr OE *hæt*, akin to OHG *huot* head covering – more at **HOOD**] – **hatless** *adj*
- 'hatband** *n* a fabric, leather, etc band round the crown of a hat just above the brim
- 'hatch** /hæç/ *n* 1 a small door or opening (e.g. in a wall or aircraft) 2a (the covering for) an opening in the deck of a ship or in the floor or roof of a building **b** a hatchway [ME *hache*, fr OE *hæc*; akin to MD *hecke* trapdoor]
- 'hatch** *vi* 1 to emerge from an egg or pupa 2 to incubate eggs, brood 3 to give forth young <the egg ~ed> ~ *vt* 1 to produce (young) from an egg by applying heat 2 to devise, esp secretly, originate [ME *hachen*, akin to MHG *hecken* to mate] – **hatchable** *adj*, **hatcher** *n*
- 'hatch** *n* (a brood of young produced by) hatching
- 'hatch** *vt* to mark (e.g. a drawing, map, or engraving) with fine closely spaced parallel lines [ME *hachen*, fr MF *hacher* to inlay, chop up] – **hatching** *n*
- 'hatchback** *n* (a usu small motor car with) an upward-opening hatch giving entry to the luggage and passenger compartment
- hatchery** /'hætʃəri/ *n* a place for hatching (esp fish) eggs
- hatchet** /'hætʃt/ *n* a short-handled axe [ME *hacher*, fr MF *hachette*, dim. of *hache* battle-axe – more at **HAMM**]
- 'hatchetman** /'hætʃtmən/ *n* one hired for murder, coercion, or attack – **slang**
- hatchling** /'hætʃlɪŋ/ *n* a recently hatched animal
- hatchment** /'hætʃmənt/ *n* a square panel set cornerwise bearing the coat of arms of a deceased person for display outside a house or in a church – **CHURCH** [perh alter. of *achievement*]
- 'hatchway** *n* a passage giving access (e.g. to a lower deck in a ship), also **HATCH** 2a
- 'hate** /haɪt/ *n* 1 intense hostility or dislike, loathing 2 an object of hatred – **in**fml <one of my pet ~s> [ME, fr OE *hete*, akin to OHG *haz* hate, Gk *kedōs* grief]
- 'hate** *vb* to feel extreme enmity or aversion (towards) – **hater** *n* – **hate someone's guts** to hate sb with great intensity
- 'hateful** /-(ə)/ *adj* 1 full of hate, malicious 2 deserving of or arousing hate – **hatefully** *adv*, **hatefulness** *n*
- hath** /hæθ/ *archaic pres 3 sing of HAVE*
- hatha** /'yoga/ *'hata*, *'hatha*, *'haththa*/ *n* a yoga consisting of physical and breathing exercises for the body in order to keep it healthy and thus leave the mind free from its demands [Skt *hatha* force, persistence + *yoga* – more at **YOGA**]
- hat in hand** *adv* CAP IN HAND
- hatred** /'hætrɪd/ *n* hate [ME, fr *hate* + OE *ræden* condition – more at **KINDRED**]
- 'hat, trick** *n* three successes by 1 person or side in a usu sporting activity, **specif** the dismissing of 3 batsmen with 3 consecutive balls by a bowler in cricket [prob fr a former practice of rewarding the feat by the gift of a hat]
- hauberk** /'haw,bu:hk/ *n* a tunic of chain mail worn as defensive armour, esp from the 12th to the 14th c [ME, fr OF *hauberc*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *healsbeorg* neck armour]
- haughty** /'hawti/ *adj* disdainfully proud, arrogant [obs *haught*, fr ME *haute*, fr MF *haut*, lit. 'high, fr L *altus* – more at **OID**] – **haughtily** *adv*, **haughtiness** *n*
- 'haul** /haw/ *vt* 1a to pull with effort, drag **b** to transport in a vehicle, esp a cart 2 to bring up (e.g. before an authority for judgment) – **in**fml <~ ed up before the magistrate for a traffic offence> ~ *vi* 1 to pull, drag <~ ed on the rope> 2 of the wind to shift [ME *halen* to pull, fr OF *haler*, of Gmc origin; akin to MD *halen* to pull; akin to OE *geholian* to obtain] – **hauled** /-h/ *n*
- 'haul** *n* 1 the act or process of hauling 2a an amount gathered or acquired; a take <the burglar's ~> **b** the fish taken in a single draught of a net 3a
- transport by hauling or the load transported **b** the distance or route over which a load is transported <a long ~>
- haulier** /'hawli-ə/, **NAm hauler** /'hawli-ə/ *n* a person or commercial establishment whose business is transport by lorry [**HAUL** + **-IER**, **-ER**]
- haulm** /hawm/ *n* 1 the stems or tops of potatoes, peas, beans, etc (after the crop has been gathered) 2 **Br** an individual plant stem [ME *halm*, fr OE *healm*, akin to OHG *halm* stem, L *culmus* stalk, Gk *kalamos* reed]
- haunch** /hawntʃ/ *n* 1 **'HIP** la 2a **HINDQUARTER** 2 – **usu pl b** **HIND QUARTER** 1 3 the lower half of either of the sides of an arch [ME *haunche*, fr OF *hanche*, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *hanke* haunch] – **on one's haunches** in a squatting position
- 'haunt** /hawnt/ *vt* 1a to visit often, frequent **b** to continually seek the company of (a person) 2a to recur constantly and spontaneously to <the tune ~ ed her all day> **b** to reappear continually in, pervade <a sense of tension that ~ s his writing> 3 to visit or inhabit as a ghost ~ *vi* 1 to stay around or persist, linger 2 to appear habitually as a ghost [ME *haunten*, fr OF *hanter*] – **haunter** *n*, **hauntingly** *adv*
- 'haunt** *n* a place habitually frequented <the bar was a favourite ~ of criminals>
- Hausa** /'howsə/ *n*, *pl Hausa*, *esp collectively Hausas* 1 a member of a Negroid people of N Nigeria and S Niger 2 the Chad language of the Hausa people widely used in W Africa 3 **LANGUAGE**
- hausfrau** /'hows,frow/ *n* a housewife [G, fr *haus* house + *frau* woman, wife]
- haustellum** /'haw'stelɪəm/ *n*, *pl haustella* /-lə/ *a* mouth part (e.g. of an insect) adapted to suck blood, plant juices, etc [NL, fr L *haustus*, pp of *haurre* to drink, draw – more at **EXHAUST**] – **haustellate** /-lət/ *adj*
- hautboy**, **hautbois** /'ohboɪ/ *n*, *archaic* an oboe [MF *hautbois*, fr *haut* high + *bois* wood]
- haute couture** /oht,koo'hjʊə/ (*Fr* ot *kuty:r*)/ *n* (the houses or designers that create) exclusive and often trend-setting fashions for women [F, lit. 'high sewing]
- haute cuisine** /'kwizien/ (*Fr* kɥizɪn)/ *n* elaborate cookery that reaches a high standard [F, lit. 'high cooking]
- haute école** /ay'kol/ (*Fr* ekol)/ *n* a highly stylized form of classical riding [F, lit. 'high school]
- hauteur** /oht'u:/ (*Fr* otɛ:r)/ *n* arrogance, haughtiness [F, fr *haut* high – more at **HAUGHTY**]
- haut monde** /oht'mon(h)d/ (*Fr* o mɔ̃d)/ *n* high society [F]
- Havana** /hə'vænə/ *n* (a cigar made in Cuba or from) tobacco (of the type) grown in Cuba [prob fr Sp *habano*, fr *habano* of Havana, fr La *Hubana* (Havana), capital city of Cuba]
- 'have** /əv, həv, strong hav/ *vb* **has** /s, z, əz, həz, strong haz/, **had** /d, əd, həd/, *strong had*/ *vi* 1a to hold in one's possession or at one's disposal <~ a car> <has only a little French> **b** to contain as a constituent or be characterized by <~ red hair> <coat has no pockets> <has it in him to w> 2 to own as an obligation or necessity – **to** and an expressed or understood infinitive <~ to go> <don't ~ to if you don't want to> 3 to stand in relationship to <~ enemies> <~ 2 sisters> 4a to get, obtain <these shoes are the best to be had> **b** to receive <had news> **c** to accept, **specif** to accept in marriage **d** to have sexual intercourse with (a woman or passive partner) 5 to display, show <had the impudence to refuse> <~ mercy on us> 6a to experience, esp by undergoing or suffering <~ a cold> <~ my watch stolen> **b** to undertake and make or perform <~ a bath> <~ a look at that> **c** to entertain in the mind <~ an opinion> <~ down on him> **d** to engage in, CARRY ON <~ sex> <~ a meeting> 7a to cause to by persuasive or forceful means <~ the children stay> <so he would ~ us believe> **b** chiefly **Br** to bring into a specified condition by the action of another <~ my shoes mended> **c** to cause to be <soon ~ it finished> **d** to invite as a guest <~ them over for drinks> 8 to allow, permit <I'm not having any more of that> 9a to hold in a position of disadvantage or certain defeat <we ~ him now> **b** to perplex, floor <you ~ me there> 10 to be able to exercise; be entitled to <I ~ my rights> 11a to be pregnant with or be the prospective parents of <they're having a baby in August> **b** to give birth to <the cat's just had kittens> 12 to partake of, consume <~ dinner> <~ a cigar> 13 to take advantage of, fool <been had by his partner> – **in**fml ~ *va* 1 – used with the past participle to form the present perfect <has gone home>, the past perfect <had already eaten>, the future perfect <will ~ finished dinner by then>, or nonfinite perfective forms <having gone> <silly not to ~ gone>; used with *got* to express obligation or necessity <~ got to go>; used in the past tense with the past participle as a rather literary expression of the conditional <had I known> 2 WOULD 1b <I had as soon not> **USE** British speakers in particular often



express the idea of momentary as opposed to habitual possession or experience with *have got* (<have you got a cold?> <do you have many colds?> [ME *haven*, fr OE *habban*; akin to OHG *haben* to have, *hevan* to lift – more at HEAVE] – *have a lot/enough on one's plate* to be (fully) occupied, often with a variety of tasks, problems, etc – *have an ear to the ground* to be in receipt of information not generally known – *have a screw/slate loose* to be slightly cracked, feeble-minded, or eccentric – *have a way with* to be good at dealing with (<he has a way with old ladies>) – *have a way with one* to be charming, esp persuasively – *have been around* to be sophisticated or well-informed – *have coming* to deserve or merit what one gets, benefits by, or suffers (<he had that coming to him>) – *have done with* to bring to an end; have no further concern with (<let us have done with name-calling>) – *have had it* 1 to have had and missed one's chance – infml 2 to have passed one's prime; be obsolete, smashed, or dead (<I'm afraid the car's had it>) – infml – *have it* 1 to maintain, affirm (<as rumour has it>) 2 to live in the specified conditions (<never had it so good>) – *have it both ways* to exploit or profit from each of a pair of contradictory positions, circumstances, etc; also to maintain 2 contradictory views simultaneously – *have it coming* to one to deserve what one is going to get – *have it in for* to intend to do harm to – *have it off/away* to copulate with – slang – *have it out* to settle a matter of contention by discussion or a fight – *have no time for* to be unable or reluctant to spend time on; dislike – infml – *have one's eye on* 1 to watch, esp constantly and attentively 2 to have as an objective – *have one's hands full* to be fully occupied (<what with the triplets, 6 goldfish, 3 dogs, and the mushroom farm, he's got his hands full most days>) – *have one's head screwed on* to be sensible, practical, or provident – *have one's work cut out* to be hard put to it – *have taped* to have the measure of, be in command or control of (<soon have the problem taped>) – *have the advantage of* to have superiority over; specif to have personal unreciprocated knowledge of – often used as an ironic disclaimer of acquaintanceship (<I'm afraid you have the advantage of me>) – *have the wind of* to be to windward of – *have to do with* 1 to deal with 2 to have in the way of connection or relation with or effect on (<the lawyer would have nothing to do with the case>) – compare *DO WITH* – *have up one's sleeve* to have as an undeclared resource (<he's got some new ideas up his sleeve>) – *not have a clue* to know nothing, not to know – *what have you* any of various other things that might also be mentioned (<paper clips, pins, and what have you>)

\***have** *n* a wealthy person – usu pl, esp in *the haves and have-nots*

**haven** /'hæv(ə)n/ *n* 1 a harbour, port 2 a place of safety or refuge [ME, fr OE *hæfen*; akin to MHG *habene* harbour, OE *hebban* to lift – more at HEAVE]

**have-not** *n* a poor person – usu pl, compare **HAVE**

**haven't** /'hævnt/ have not

**have 'on** *vi* 1 to be wearing (<have a new suit on>) 2 to have plans for (<what do you have on for tomorrow?>) 3 chiefly Br to deceive, tease – infml

**haver** /'hævə/ *vi*, chiefly Br to be indecisive, hesitate [origin unknown]

**havers** /'hævəz/ *n* pl, chiefly Scot nonsense, poppycock [haver]

**haversack** /'hævəsək/ *n* a knapsack [F *havresac*, fr G *habersack* bag for oats, fr *haber* oats + *sack* bag]

**have 'up** *vt* to bring before the authorities (<he was had up in court for dangerous driving>) – infml

**havoc** /'hævək/ *n* 1 widespread destruction; devastation 2 great confusion and disorder (<several small children can create ~ in a house>) [ME *havok*, fr AF, modif of OF *havot* plunder]

**haw** /'haw/ *n* (a berry of) hawthorn [ME *hawe*, fr OE *haga* – more at HEDGE]

**haw** *n* (a domestic animal's inflamed) nictitating membrane [origin unknown]

**haw** *vi* to utter a sound resembling *haw*, esp in hesitation (<hummed and ~ed before answering>) – compare **HUM** [imit]

**haw interj** – often used to indicate hesitation

**Hawaiian** /'hæwɪˈeɪən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Hawaii [Hawaii, group of islands in Pacific Ocean]

**Hawaiian guitar** *n* STEEL GUITAR

**hawfinch** /'hawfɪnʃ/ *n* a large Eurasian finch with a large heavy bill [haw]

**haw-haw interj** ha-ha

**hawk** /'hawk/ *n* 1 any of numerous medium-sized birds of prey that have (short) rounded wings and long tails and that hunt during the day 2 a small board with a handle on the underside for holding mortar or plaster 3 one who takes a militant attitude; a supporter of a warlike policy – usu

contrasted with *dove* [ME *hawk*, fr OE *hafoc*; akin to OHG *habuh* hawk, Russ *kobets*, a falcon] – *hawkish adj*, *hawkishly adv*, *hawkishness n*

\***hawk** *vi* 1 to hunt game with a trained hawk 2 to soar and strike like a hawk (<birds ~ ing after insects>) ~ *vt* to hunt on the wing like a hawk

\***hawk** *vt* to offer for sale in the street (<~ ing newspapers>) [back-formation fr 'hawker]

\***hawk** *vi* to utter a harsh guttural sound (as if) in clearing the throat ~ *vt* to raise by hawking (<~ up phlegm>) [imit]

\***hawk** *n* an audible effort to force up phlegm from the throat

\***hawker** /'hawko/ *n* a falconer

\***hawker** *n* sby who hawks wares [by folk etymology fr LG *hoker*, fr MLG *hoker*, fr *hoken* to peddle; akin to OE *heah* high]

\***hawkmoth** *n* any of numerous stout-bodied moths with long strong narrow fore wings DEFENCE

**hawkbill** /'hauksbɪl/ *n* a flesh-eating sea turtle whose shell yields a valuable tortoiseshell

\***hawkweed** *n* any of several red, orange, or yellow composite plants

**hawse** /'hawz/ *n* 1 a hawsehole 2 the part of a ship's bow that contains the hawseholes [ME *halse*, fr ON *hals* neck, *hawse* – more at COL-LAR]

**hawsehole** /'hawz,hoʊl/ *n* a hole in the bow of a ship through which a cable passes

**hawser** /'hawzə/ *n* a large rope [ME, fr AF *haucour*, fr MF *haucier* to hoist, fr (assumed) VL *altiare*, fr L *altus* high – more at OI D]

\***hawser-laid** *adj* cable-laid

**hawthorn** /'haw,θɔːn/ *n* any of a genus of spring-flowering spiny shrubs of the rose family with white or pink flowers and small red fruits [ME *hawethorn*, fr OE *hagathorn*, fr *hagu* hawthorn + *thorn* – more at HEDGE]

\***hay** /'hay/ *n* herbage, esp grass, mowed and cured for fodder [ME *hey*, fr OE *hieȝ*, akin to OHG *hewi* hay, OE *heawan* to hew]

\***hay** *vi* to cut, cure, and store grass for hay

\***hay, hey** *n* a rustic dance featuring winding and interweaving dance figures [MF *haye*]

\***haybox** *n* a well-insulated airtight box used to keep a previously heated vessel hot and allow slow cooking to continue

\***haycock** *n* a small conical pile of hay in a field

\***hay fever** *n* nasal catarrh and conjunctivitis occurring usu in the spring and summer through allergy to pollen

\***haymaker** *n* 1 one who tosses and spreads hay to dry after cutting 2 chiefly NAM a powerful blow – *haymaking n*

\***hayrick** /-,rɪk/ *n* a haystack

\***haystack** *n* a relatively large sometimes thatched outdoor pile of hay

\***haywire** *adj* 1 out of order (<the radio went ~>) 2 emotionally or mentally upset, crazy (<went completely ~ after the accident>) USE infml [fr the use of baling wire for makeshift repairs]

\***hazard** /'hæzəd/ *n* 1 a game of chance played with 2 dice 2a a risk, peril b a source of danger 3 a golf-course obstacle (e.g. a bunker) [ME, fr MF *hasard*, fr Ar *az-zahr* the die]

\***hazard** *vi* 1 to expose to danger (<a captain guilty of ~ ing his ship>) 2 to venture, risk (<~ a guess>)

**hazardous** /'hæzədəs/ *adj* 1 depending on hazard or chance 2 involving or exposing one to risk (e.g. of loss or harm) (<a ~ occupation>) – *hazardously adv*, *hazardousness n*

\***haze** /'hæz/ *vb* to make or become hazy or cloudy [prob back-formation fr *hazy*]

\***haze** *n* 1 vapour, dust, smoke, etc causing a slight decrease in the air's transparency 2 vagueness or confusion of mental perception [prob back-formation fr *hazy*]

\***haze** *vt*, chiefly NAM to harass (a new student) with ridicule, criticism, etc [origin unknown] – *hazer n*, *hazing n*

**hazel** /'hæzl/ *n* 1 (the wood or nut of) any of a genus of shrubs or small trees bearing nuts 2 a yellowish light to strong brown [ME *hasel*, fr OE *hæsel*; akin to OHG *hasal* hazel, L *corulus*] – *hazel adj*

\***hazel 'hen** *n* a European woodland grouse

\***hazel nut** *n* the nut of a hazel

**hazy** /'hæzi/ *adj* 1 obscured, cloudy (<a ~ view of the mountains>) 2 vague, indefinite (<had only a ~ recollection of what happened>) [origin unknown] – *hazily adv*, *haziness n*

\***H-bomb** *n* HYDROGEN BOMB

\***he** /(h)/, ee; strong *hee*/ *pron* 1 that male person or creature who is neither speaker nor hearer (<~ is my father>) – a cap in reference to God; compare SHE, HIM, HIS, IT, THEY 2 – used in a generic sense or when the sex of the



person is unspecified (< ~ *that hath ears to hear, let him hear* – Mt 11:15 (AV)) [ME, fr OE *he*; akin to OE *heo she*, *hit it*, OHG *he he*, L *cis, citra* on this side, Gk *ekēnos* that person]

**'he** *n* 1 a male person or creature (*is the baby a ~ or a she?*) (< a he-goat) 2 'it 1

**'head** /hed/ *n, pl heads, (4b) head* 1 the upper or foremost division of the body containing the brain, the chief sense organs, and the mouth 2a the seat of the intellect, the mind (< 2 ~ *s are better than 1*) b natural aptitude or talent (< a good ~ *for figures*) c mental or emotional control, composure (< a level ~) d a headache 3 the obverse of a coin – usu pl with sing meaning; compare tail 5 4a a person, individual (< a ~ *count*) b a single individual (domestic animal) out of a number – usu pl (< 500 ~ *of cattle*) 5a the end that is upper, higher, or opposite the foot (< the ~ *of the table*) – SHIP b the source of a stream, river, etc c either end of sthg (e.g. a cask or drum) whose 2 ends need not be distinguished d DRIFT 5 6 a director, leader e g a school principal b one in charge of a department in an institution (< the ~ *of the English department*) 7a a capitulum b the foliated part of a plant, esp when consisting of a compact mass of leaves or fruits 8 the leading part of a military column, procession, etc 9a the uppermost extremity or projecting part of an object, the top – ARCHITECTURE b the striking part of a weapon, tool, implement, etc 10a a body of water kept in reserve at a height b a mass of water in motion 11a (the pressure resulting from) the difference in height between 2 points in a body of liquid b the pressure of a fluid (< a good ~ *of steam*) 12a (parts adjacent to) the bow of a ship b a (ship's) toilet – usu pl with sing meaning in British English 13 a measure of length equivalent to a head (< the horse won by a ~) 14 the place of leadership, honour, or command (< at the ~ *of his class*) 15a a word often in larger letters placed above a passage in order to introduce or categorize b a separate part or topic 16 the foam or froth that rises on a fermenting or effervescing liquid 17a the part of a bowl, umple, etc at which it is likely to break b a culminating point, a crisis – esp in *come to a head* 18a a part of a machine or machine tool containing a device (e.g. a cutter or drill), also the part of an apparatus that performs the chief or a particular function b any of at least 2 electromagnetic components which bear on the magnetic tape in a tape recorder, such that one can erase recorded material if desired, and another may either record or play back 19 one who uses LSD, cannabis, etc habitually or excessively – often in combination, slang [ME *hed*, fr OE *heafod*, akin to OHG *houbit* head, L *caput*] – *headless adj, headlessness n* – off one's head crazy, mad – over someone's head 1 beyond sb's comprehension (< I understand the gist but the technical language is over my head) 2 so as to pass over sb's superior standing or authority (< went over his supervisor's head to complain)

**'head** *adj* 1 principal, chief (< ~ *cook*) (< ~ *office*) 2 situated at the head

**'head** *vt* 1 to cut back or off the upper growth of (a plant) 2a to provide with a head b to form the head or top of (< tower ~ *ed by a spire*) 3 to be at the head of, lead (< ~ *a revolt*) 4 to go round the head of (a stream) 5a to put sthg at the head of (e.g. a list), also to provide with a heading b to stand as the first or leading member of (< ~ *s the list of heroes*) 6 to set the course of (< ~ *a ship northwards*) 7 to drive (e.g. a soccer ball) with the head – *vi* 1 to form a head (< this cabbage ~ *s early*) 2 to point or proceed in a specified direction (< ~ *ing for disaster*)

**headache** /'hedayk/ *n* 1 pain in the head 2 a difficult situation or problem – *headachy adj*

**'head and 'shoulders** *adv* to a great degree, considerably (< stood ~ *above the rest in character and ability*)

**'head,band** *n* a band worn round the head, esp to keep hair out of the eyes

**'head,board** *n* a board forming the head (e.g. of a bed)

**'head,case** *n* a mad person; a lunatic – *infirm*

**'head,cheese** *n* BRAIN 2

**'head,dress** *n* an often elaborate covering for the head

**headed** /'hedid/ *adj* 1 having a head or a heading (< ~ *notepaper*) 2 having a head or heads of a specified kind or number – in combination (< a coolheaded businessman) (< a roundheaded screw)

**header** /'heda/ *n* 1 a brick or stone laid in a wall with its end towards the face of the wall – compare STRUTCHER – BUILDING 2 a headfirst fall or dive 3 a shot or pass in soccer made by heading the ball

**'head'first** *adv* with the head foremost; headlong (< dived ~ *into the waves*) – *headfirst adj*

**'head'foremost** *adv* headfirst

**'head-hunting** *n* 1 decapitating and preserving the heads of enemies as trophies 2 searching for and recruitment of personnel, esp at the executive level and often from other firms – *headhunter n*

**heading** /'heding/ *n* 1 the compass direction in which a ship or aircraft points 2a an inscription, headline, or title standing at the top or beginning (e.g. of a letter or chapter) b a piece used in making either of the flat ends of a barrel 3 DRIFT 5

**'head,lamp** *n* a headlight

**headland** /'hedland/ *n* 1 unploughed land near an edge of a field 2 a point of usu high land jutting out into a body of water – GEOGRAPHY

**'head,light** *n* (the beam cast by) the main light mounted on the front of a motor vehicle

**'head,line** *n* a title printed in large type above a newspaper story or article; also, *pl, Br* a summary given at the beginning or end of a news broadcast

**'head,long** *adv or adj* 1 headfirst 2 without deliberation 3 without pause or delay [ME *hedlong*, alter. of *hedling*, fr *hed* head]

**'headman** /-mən/ *n* a chief of a primitive community

**'head,master, fem, 'head'mistress** *n* one who heads the staff of a school – *headmastership n*

**'head,most** *adj* most advanced, leading

**head off** *vt* to stop the progress of or turn aside by taking preventive action, block (< head them off at the pass)

**'head of 'state** *n, often cap H&S* the titular head of a state (e.g. a monarch) as distinguished from the head of government (e.g. a prime minister)

**'head-on** *adv or adj* 1 with the head or front making the initial contact (< the cars collided ~) (< a ~ *collision*) 2 in direct opposition (< what happens when primitive and civilized man meet ~?) (< a ~ *confrontation*)

**'head over 'heels** *adv* 1 turning (as if) in a somersault 2 very much; completely (< ~ *in love*)

**'head,phone** *n* an earphone held over the ear by a band worn on the head – usu pl

**'head,piece** *n* an ornamental printed device esp at the beginning of a chapter

**'head,quarters** *n, pl headquarters* 1 a place from which a commander exercises command 2 the administrative centre of an enterprise *USE* often pl with sing meaning

**'head,race** *n* a channel taking water to a mill wheel or turbine

**'head,rest** *n* a support for the head, esp a cushioned pad supporting the head in a vehicle

**'headroom** /-room, -roohm/ *n* vertical space (e.g. beneath a bridge) sufficient to allow passage or unrestricted movement

**'head,set** *n* an attachment for holding earphones and a microphone to one's head

**'headship** /-ship/ *n* the position or office of a head (e.g. a headmaster), leader, ship

**'head,shrinker** *n* 1 a headhunter who shrinks the heads of his/her victims 2 a psychoanalyst or psychiatrist – *humor*

**'headsman** /'hedzmən/ *n* an executioner

**'head,spring** *n* a fountainhead, source

**'head,stalk** *n* the part of a bridle or halter that encircles the head

**'head,'start** *n* 1 an advantage granted or achieved at the beginning of a race, competition, etc 2 an advantageous or favourable beginning

**'head,stock** *n* a bearing or pedestal for a revolving or moving part (e.g. in a lathe)

**'head,stone** *n* a memorial stone placed at the head of a grave

**'head,strong** *adj* wilful, obstinate (< violent ~ *actions*)

**'head,'teacher** *n* a headmaster or headmistress

**'head-up** *adj, of an instrument display* visible without the eyes having to look down from the view ahead

**'head,waiter** *n* the head of the dining-room staff of a restaurant or hotel

**'head,water** /-wawia/ *n* the upper part or source of a river – usu pl with sing meaning – GEOGRAPHY

**'head,way** *n* 1a (rate of) motion in a forward direction b advance, progress 2 headroom 3 the time interval between 2 vehicles travelling in the same direction on the same route

**'head,wind** /-wind/ *n* a wind blowing in a direction opposite to a course, esp of a ship or aircraft

**'head,word** *n* a word or term placed at the beginning (e.g. of a chapter or encyclopedia entry)

**'head,work** *n* mental effort, thinking

**heady** /'hedi/ *adj* 1 violent, impetuous 2a tending to make giddy or exhilarated, intoxicating b giddy, exhilarated (< ~ *with his success*) – *headily adv, headiness n*

**heel** /heel/ *vt* **1a** to make sound or whole (< ~ a wound) **b** to restore to health **2** to restore to a sound or normal state; mend (< ~ a breach between friends) ~ *vi* to return to a sound or healthy state [ME *helen*, fr OE *hælan*; akin to OHG *heilen* to heal, OE *hāl* whole – more at **WHOLE**] – **bealer** *n*

**health** /helth/ *n* **1a** soundness of body, mind, or spirit **b** the general condition of the body (< in poor ~) **2** condition (< the economic ~ of the country is not good>), esp a sound or flourishing condition; well-being **3** a toast to sb's health or prosperity [ME *helthe*, fr OE *hælt*, fr *hāl*]

**health farm** *n* a usu rural residential establishment that caters for people wishing to lose weight

**health food** *n* organically grown untreated food (e.g. live yoghurt) containing no synthetic ingredients and eaten for the health-giving properties credited to it – compare **WHOLEFOOD**, **JUNK FOOD**

**healthful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* **1** beneficial to health of body or mind **2** **HEALTHY** **1**

**health visitor** *n* sby employed by a local authority in Britain to visit old people, nursing mothers, etc and advise them on health matters

**healthy** /helth/ *adj* **1** enjoying or showing health and vigour of body, mind, or spirit **2** conducive to good health **3** prosperous, flourishing – **healthily** *adv*, **healthiness** *n*

**heap** /heep/ *n* **1a** a collection of things lying one on top of another; a pile **2** a great number or large quantity; a lot – *infml*; often *pl* with *sing* meaning (< ~s more to say>) [ME *heep*, fr OE *heap*, akin to OE *heah* high]

**heap** *vt* **1a** to throw or lay in a heap; pile up (< his sole object was to ~ up riches>) **b** to form or round into a heap (< ~ed the earth into a mound>) **2** to supply abundantly *with*; also to bestow lavishly or in large quantities upon

**hear** /hɪə/ *vb* **heard** /hʊd/ *vt* **1** to perceive (sound) with the ear **2** to learn by hearing (< I ~d you were leaving>) **3a** to listen to with attention, heed (< ~ me out>) **b** to attend (< ~ mass>) **4** to give a legal hearing to ~ *vi* **1** to have the capacity of perceiving sound **2** to gain information, learn (< I've ~d about what you did>) **3** – often in the expression *Hear! Hear!* indicating approval (e.g. during a speech) [ME *heren*, fr OE *herian*; akin to OHG *hōren* to hear, L *cavēre* to be on guard, Gk *akouein* to hear] – **hearer** *n* – **hear from** to receive a communication from – **hear of** to ascertain the idea of – *usu neg* (< wouldn't hear of it>)

**hearing** /'hiəriŋ/ *n* **1a** the one of the 5 basic physical senses by which waves received by the ear are interpreted by the brain as sounds varying in pitch, intensity and timbre **b** earshot **2a** an opportunity to be heard **b** a trial in court

**hearing aid** *n* an electronic device worn by a deaf person for amplifying sound before it reaches the ears

**hearken** /'hækn/ *vi* to listen to, also to heed – poetic [ME *herkennen*, fr OE *heorecnian*, akin to OHG *hōrechen* to listen]

**hearsay** /'hɪəseɪ/ *n* sthg heard from another; rumour

**hearsay evidence** *n* evidence based not on a witness's personal knowledge but on matters told him/her by another

**hearse** /hɜːs/ *n* a vehicle for transporting a dead body in its coffin [ME *herse* candelabrum, catafalque, fr MF *herce* harrow, frame for holding candles, fr L *hirpic-*, *hirpex* harrow]

**heart** /haːt/ *n* **1a** a hollow muscular organ that by its rhythmic contraction acts as a force pump maintaining the circulation of the blood → **ANATOMY** **b** the breast, bosom *c* sthg resembling a heart in shape, *specif* a conventionalized representation of a heart **2a** a playing card marked with 1 or more red heart-shaped figures **b** *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the suit comprising cards identified by this figure *c* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a card game in which the object is to avoid taking tricks containing a heart or the queen of spades **3a** humane disposition, compassion (< have you no ~?>) **b** love, affections (< lost his ~ to her>) *c* courage, spirit (< had no ~ for the task>) **4** one's innermost character or feelings (< a man after my own ~>) **5a** the central or innermost part (of a lettuce, cabbage, etc) **b** the essential or most vital part (< the ~ of the matter>) [ME *hert*, fr OE *heorte*; akin to OHG *herza* heart, L *cord-*, *cor*, Gk *kardia*] – by heart by rote or from memory

**heart** *vi*, of a cabbage, lettuce, etc to form a heart

**heartache** *n* mental anguish; sorrow

**heart attack** *n* an instance of abnormal functioning of the heart; esp **CORONARY THROMBOSIS**

**heartbeat** *n* a single complete pulsation of the heart

**heart block** *n* incoordination of the beating of the atria and ventricles of the heart resulting in a decreased output of blood

**heartbreak** *n* intense grief or distress

**heartbreaking** *adj* **1** causing intense sorrow or distress (< a ~ waste of

*talent*) **2** extremely trying or difficult (< a ~ task>) – **heartbreakingly** *adv*

**heartbroken** *adj* overcome by sorrow

**heartburn** *n* a burning pain behind the lower part of the breastbone usu resulting from spasm of the stomach or throat muscles

**hearted** /'haːtɪd/ *adj* having a heart, esp of a specified kind – *usu* in combination (< a faithhearted leader>) (< a brokenhearted lover>)

**hearten** /'haːtn/ *vt* to cheer, encourage – **hearteningly** *adv*

**heart failure** *n* (inability of the heart to perform adequately often leading to) cessation of the heartbeat and death

**heartfelt** *adj* deeply felt; earnest

**hearth** /'haːθ/ *n* **1a** a brick, stone, or cement area in front of the floor of a fireplace **b** the lowest section of a metal-processing furnace **2** home, fireside (< the comforts of ~ and home>) [ME *herth*, fr OE *heorth*, akin to OHG *herd* hearth, Skt *kudayati* he sings]

**hearthstone** *n* a soft stone or composition of powdered stone and pipe clay used to whiten or scour hearths and doorsteps

**heartily** /'haːtli/ *adv* **1a** with all sincerity, wholeheartedly (< I ~ recommend it>) **b** with zest; vigorously (< ate ~>) **2** quite, thoroughly (< ~ sick of all this talk>) [HEARTY + ~LY]

**heartland** /-land, -lənd/ *n* a central and vital area

**heartless** /-lis/ *adj* unfeeling, cruel – **heartlessly** *adv*, **heartlessness** *n*

**heart-lung machine** *n* a mechanical pump that shunts the body's blood away from the heart and maintains the circulation and respiration during heart surgery

**heartrending** *adj* **HEARTBREAKING** **1** – **heartrendingly** *adv*

**heart-searching** *n* close examination of one's motives or feelings (< reached the decision after much ~>)

**hearts ease** *n* any of various violas, esp the wild pansy

**heartsick** *adj* very despondent, depressed – **heartsickness** *n*

**heartsore** *adj* heartsick

**heartstrings** *n* *pl* the deepest emotions or affections (< pulled at his ~>)

**heartthrob** *n* one who is the object of or arouses infatuation

**heart-to-heart** *adj* sincere and intimate (< ~ confidences>)

**heart-to-heart** *n* a frank or intimate talk – *infml*

**heartwarming** *adj* inspiring sympathetic feeling, cheering

**heartwood** *n* the older harder nonliving central wood in a tree, usu darker and denser than the surrounding **sapwood**

**heartly** /'haːli/ *adj* **1a** enthusiastically or exuberantly friendly, jovial **b** unrestrained, vigorous (< a ~ laugh>) **2a** robustly healthy (< hale and ~>) **b** substantial, abundant (< a ~ meal>) – **heartiness** *n*

**heartly** *n* **1** a sailor **2** chiefly *Br* a sporty outgoing person (< rugged hearties>)

**heat** /heet/ *vb* to make or become warm or hot – *often* + *up* [ME *heten*, fr OE *hætan*, akin to OE *hat* hot] – **heatable** *adj*, **heatedly** *adv*

**heat** *n* **1a** the condition of being hot, warmth, also a marked degree of this **b** excessively high bodily temperature *c* the form of energy associated with the random motions of the molecules, atoms, etc of which matter is composed, transmitted by conduction, convection, or radiation *d* an esp high temperature (< at melting ~>) *e* any of a series of degrees of heating (< this iron has 4 ~s>) **2a** intensity of feeling or reaction (< the ~ of passion>) **b** the height or stress of an action or condition (< in the ~ of battle>) *c* readiness for sexual intercourse in a female mammal, *specif* oestrus – *usu* in *on heat* or (chiefly *NAm*) in *heat* **3** pungency of flavour **4a** a single round of a contest that has 2 or more rounds for each contestant *b* any of several preliminary contests whose winners go into the final **5** pressure, coercion (< his enemies turned the ~ on him>) – *slang* – **heatless** *adj*, **heatproof** /'heet,pruːf/ *adj*

**heated** /'heetɪd/ *adj* marked by anger (< a ~ argument>)

**heat engine** *n* a mechanism (e.g. an internal-combustion engine) for converting heat energy into mechanical energy

**heater** /'hiːtə/ *n* a device that gives off heat or holds sthg to be heated [HEAT + ~ER]

**heat exchanger** *n* a device (e.g. in a nuclear power station) that transfers heat from one liquid or gas to another without their mixing → **ENERGY**

**heath** /heeth/ *n* **1** any of various related evergreen plants that thrive on barren usu acid soil, with whorls of needlelike leaves and clusters of small flowers: **2a** a tract of wasteland **b** a large area of level uncultivated land usu with poor peaty soil and bad drainage [ME *heth*, fr OE *hæth*; akin to OHG *heida* heather, OW *coit* forest] – **heathless** *adj*, **heathlike** *adj*, **heathy** *adj*


**heathen** /'hedh(ə)n/ *n*, *pl* **heathens**, **heathen** **1** an unconverted member

of a people or nation that does not acknowledge the God of the Bible – often pl + *the* <the ~ say there is no God> 2 an uncivilized or irreligious person [ME *hethen*, fr OE *hæthen*, akin to OHG *hedan* heathen] – *heathen* adj, *heathenish* adj, *heathenism* n, *heathendom* /-dəm/ n, *heathenize* /'hedhni:z/ vt

**heather** /'hedhə/ n a (common usu purplish-pink flowered northern) heath [ME (northern) *hather*] – *heather* adj

**heathery** /'hedhəri/ adj having flecks of various colours <a soft ~ tweed> [HEATHER + -Y]

**Heath Robinson** /'heeth 'rɒbɪnz(ə)n/ adj, Br impractically complex and ingenious – infml [W *Heath Robinson* †1944 E cartoonist famous for his drawings of absurdly ingenious machines]

**'heat pump** n an apparatus for transferring heat by mechanical means to a place of higher temperature (e.g. for heating or cooling a building)  ENERGY

**'heat rash** n PRICKLY HEAT

**'heat sink** n a means of absorbing or dissipating unwanted heat

**'heatstroke** n overheating of the body resulting from prolonged exposure to high temperature and leading to (fatal) collapse

**'heat wave** n a period of unusually hot weather

**'heave** /'heev/ vb **heaved**, **hove** /'hohv/ vt 1 to lift upwards or forwards, esp with effort 2 to throw, cast 3 to utter with obvious effort <~d a sigh> 4 to cause to swell or rise 5 to haul, draw ~ vt 1 to rise or become thrown or raised up 2a to rise and fall rhythmically <his chest ~ing with sobs> b to pant 3 to vomit 4 to pull [ME *heven*, fr OE *hebban*, akin to OHG *hevan* to lift, L *capere* to take] – **heaver** n – **heave in/into sight** to come into view

**²heave** n 1a an effort to heave or raise b a throw, cast 2 an upward motion, esp a rhythmic rising <the ~ of the sea> 3 pl *but sing or pl in constr* BROKEN WIND

**heaven** /'hev(ə)n/ n 1 (any of the spheres of) the expanse of space that surrounds the earth like a dome, the firmament – usu pl with sing meaning 2 often *cap* the dwelling place of God, his angels, and the spirits of those who have received salvation, Paradise 3 *cap* GOD 1 4 a place or condition of utmost happiness [ME *heven*, fr OE *heofon*, akin to OHG *himil* heaven]

**'heavenly** /-'li/ adj 1 of heaven or the heavens, celestial <the ~ choir> 2a suggesting the blessed state of heaven, divine <~ peace> b delightful <what a ~ idea> – infml – **heavenliness** n

**'heaven-sent** adj providential

**'heavenward** /-'wɔ:d/ adj directed towards heaven or the heavens – **heavenwards**, **NAm chiefly heavenward** adv

**'heave 'to** vb to bring (a ship) to a stop with head to wind

**'heavier-than-air** /'hevi:ə/ adj of greater weight than the air displaced

**'heavily** /'hevli/ adv 1 slowly and laboriously, dully 2 to a great degree, severely [HEAVY + -LY]

**Heaviside layer** /'hevisid/ n E LAYER [Oliver *Heaviside* †1925 E physicist]

**'heavy** /'hevi/ adj 1a having great weight b having great weight in proportion to size c of an isotope or compound having, being, or containing atoms of greater than normal mass <~ hydrogen> 2 hard to bear; specif grievous <a ~ sorrow> 3 of weighty import, serious <a ~ book> 4 emotionally intense, profound <a ~ silence> 5a oppressed, burdened <returned with ~ spirit from the meeting> b pregnant, esp approaching parturition – often + with 6a slow, sluggish <~ movements> b lacking sparkle or vivacity, dull <the book made ~ reading> 7 dulled with weariness, drowsy <his eyelids felt ~ with sleep> 8a of an unusually large amount <~ traffic> b of great force <~ seas> c overcast <a ~ sky> d of ground or soil full of clay and inclined to hold water, impeding motion e loud and deep <the ~ roll of thunder> f abominous, difficult <made ~ going of it> g of large capacity or output h consuming in large quantities – usu + on <this car is ~ on petrol> 9a digested with difficulty, usu because of excessive richness <~ fruit cake> b esp of bread not sufficiently raised or leavened 10 producing heavy usu large goods (e.g. coal, steel, or machinery) often used in the production of other goods <~ industry> 11a of the larger variety <a ~ howitzer> b heavily armoured, armed, or equipped <the ~ cavalry> 12 of rock music loud and strongly rhythmic – slang 13 chiefly NAm frighteningly serious, specif threatening – slang; often used as an interjection [ME *hevy*, fr OE *hefig*; akin to OHG *hebic* heavy, OE *hebban* to lift – more at HEAVE] – **heaviness** n – **with a heavy hand** 1 with little mercy; sternly 2 without grace; clumsily

**²heavy** adv in a heavy manner; heavily <time hangs ~ on us>

**³heavy** n 1 pl units (e.g. of bombers, artillery, or cavalry) of the heavy sort

2a (an actor playing) a villain b sby of importance or significance – infml 3 a serious newspaper – usu pl, infml 4 one hired to compel or deter by means of threats or physical violence <set a gang of heavies on him> – slang

**'heavy-duty** adj able or designed to withstand unusual strain or wear

**'heavy-footed** adj heavy and slow in movement, dull

**'heavy-handed** adj 1 clumsy, awkward 2 oppressive, harsh –

**'heavy-handedly** adv, **'heavy-handedness** n

**'heavyhearted** adj despondent, melancholy – **'heavyheartedly** adv,

**'heavyheartedness** n

**'heavy spar** n barytes

**'heavy water** n water enriched esp with deuterium

**'heavyweight** n 1 sby or sth above average weight 2 one in the usu heaviest class of contestants e.g. a boxer whose weight is not limited if he is professional or is more than 81 kg (about 12st 10lb) if he is amateur b a wrestler weighing over 100 kg (about 15st 10lb) c a weight-lifter weighing over 110 kg (about 17st 4lb) 3 an important or influential person <an intellectual ~>


**hebdomad** /'hebdoməd/ n a week – fml [L *hebdomad-*, *hebdomas*, fr Gk, fr *hebdomos* seventh, fr *hepta* seven – more at SEVEN]

**hebdomadai** /'hebdomədi/ adj weekly – fml – **hebdomadally** adv

**hebephrenia** /'hebi:'freɪniə, -ni:ə/ n schizophrenia characterized esp by silliness and regression to a childish state [NL, fr Gk *hebe* youth] – **hebephrenic** /-'frenik/ adj

**Hebraic** /'hi:'brayik/, **Hebraistic** /'hebray:'istik/ adj of the Hebrews, their culture, or Hebrew [ME *Ebrayke*, fr LL *Hebraicus*, fr Gk *Hebraikos*, fr *Hebraios*] – **Hebraically** adv, **Hebraistically** adv

**Hebraist** /'hebray:'ist/ n a specialist in Hebrew and Hebraic studies


**Hebrew** /'heebroʊ/ n 1 a member or descendant of any of a group of N Semitic peoples including the Israelites, esp an Israelite 2 the Semitic language of the ancient Hebrews; also a later form of Hebrew  ALPHABET, LANGUAGE [ME *Ebreu*, fr OF, fr LL *Hebraeus*, fr L, adj, fr Gk *Hebraios*, fr Aram 'Ebrai] – **Hebrew** adj

**'Hebrews** n pl *but sing in constr* a theological treatise addressed to early Christians and included as a book in the New Testament

**hecatomb** /'hekətəʊm, -təʊm/ n 1 an ancient Greek and Roman sacrifice of 100 oxen or cattle 2 the sacrifice or slaughter of many victims [L *hecatombe*, fr Gk *hekatombē*, fr *hekatōn* hundred + *bous* cow – more at HUNDRED, COW]

**heck** /'hek/ n HELL 2a – used as an interjection or intensive <what the ~!> <a ~ of a lot of money> [euphemism]

**'heckle** /'hekl/ vt **heckling** /'heklɪŋ/ to harass and try to disconcert (e.g. a speaker) with questions, challenges, or gibes [ME *hekelen*, fr *heckele* hackle, akin to OHG *hako* hook – more at HOOK] – **heckler** n

**hect** /'hekt-, 'hecto- comb form hundred (10²) <hectograph>  PHYSICS [F, irreg fr Gk *hekatōn*]

**hectare** /'hektəh/ n  UNIT [F, fr *hect-* + *are*]

**hectic** /'hektik/ adj 1 of, being, or suffering from a fluctuating fever (e.g. in tuberculosis) 2 filled with excitement or feverish activity <the ~ days before Christmas> [ME *etyk*, fr MF *etique*, fr LL *hecticus*, fr Gk *hektikos* habitual, consumptive, fr *echein* to have – more at SCHEME] – **hectically** adv


**hector** /'hektə/ vt to play the bully; swagger ~ vt to intimidate by bullying or blustering [Hector, a Trojan warrior in Homer's *Iliad*] – **hectoringly** adv

**he'd** /'ed, id, hid, strong heed/ he had, he would

**heddle** /'hedl/ n any of the sets of parallel cords or wires that with their mouting compose the harness used to guide warp threads in a loom [prob alter of ME *helde*, fr OE *hefeld*; akin to ON *hafald* heddle, OE *hebban* to lift – more at HEAVE]

**'hedge** /'hej/ n 1a a boundary formed by a dense row of shrubs or low trees b a barrier, limit 2 a means of protection or defence (e.g. against financial loss) 3 a calculatedly noncommittal or evasive statement [ME *hegge*, fr OE *hecg*; akin to OE *haga* hedge, hawthorn, L *colum* sieve]

**²hedge** vt 1 to enclose or protect (as if) with a hedge 2 to hem in or obstruct (as if) with a barrier; hinder 3 to protect oneself against losing (e.g. a bet), esp by making counterbalancing transactions ~ vi 1 to plant, form, or trim a hedge 2 to avoid committing oneself to a definite course of action, esp by making evasive statements 3 to protect oneself financially: e.g. a to buy or sell commodity futures as a protection against loss due to price fluctuation – often + *against* b to minimize the risk of a bet – **hedger** n, **hedgingly** adv

**hedgehog** /'hej.hɒg/ n any of a genus of small Old World spine-covered insect-eating mammals that are active at night  FOOD

**'hedgehop** vi -pp- to fly an aircraft close to the ground and rise over

obstacles as they appear [back-formation fr *hedgehopper*] – *hedgehopper* *n*

**'hedge, row** /-roh/ *n* a row of shrubs or trees surrounding a field

**'hedge, sparrow** *n* a duncock

**hedonic** /'hedɒnɪk, hi-/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by pleasure 2 hedonistic – *hedonically* *adv*

**hedonism** /'hedɒnɪz(ə)m, 'hee-/ *n* (conduct based on) the doctrine that personal pleasure is the sole or chief good [Gk *hedonē* pleasure; akin to Gk *hēdys* sweet – more at SWEET] – *hedonist* *n*, *hedonistic* /'hedɒnɪstɪk, 'hee-/ *adj*, *hedonistically* *adv*

**-hedral** /-hedrəl/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) a surface or (such or so many) surfaces <*dihedral*> [NL *-hedron*]

**-hedron** /-hedr(ə)n/ *comb form*, (→ *n*), *pl* -hedrons, -hedra /-rə/ crystal or geometrical figure having (such or so many) surfaces <*pentahedron*> <*trapezohedron*> [NL, fr Gk *-edron*, fr *hedra* seat – more at *str*]

**heeble-jeebles** /'heebɪ 'jeebz/ *n pl* the jitters, willies – *infml* [coined by Billy DeBeck †1942 US cartoonist]

**'heed** /'heed/ *vb* to pay attention (to) [ME *heeden*, fr OE *hēdan*; akin to OHG *huota* guard]

**'heed** *n* attention, notice <*take* ~>

**'heedful** /-(f(ə))/ *adj* attentive, mindful of – *heedfully* *adv*, *heedfulness* *n*

**'heedless** /-lis/ *adj* inconsiderate, thoughtless – *heedlessly* *adv*, *heedlessness* *n*

**hee-haw** /'hee, 'haw/ *n* 1 the bray of a donkey 2 a loud rude laugh, a guffaw [imit] – *hee-haw* *vi*

**'heel** /'heel/ *n* 1 (the back part of the hind limb of a vertebrate corresponding to) the back of the human foot below the ankle and behind the arch or an anatomical structure resembling this 2 either of the crusty ends of a loaf of bread 3 the part of a garment or an article of footwear that covers or supports the human heel 4a the lower end of a mast b the base of a tuber or cutting of a plant used for propagation 5 a backward kick with the heel in rugby, esp from a set scrum 6 a contemptible person – *slang* [ME, fr OE *hēla*, akin to ON *hæll* heel, OE *hoh* – more at 'HOCK] – *heeled* *adj*, *heelless* *adj* – *down at (the) heel* *in* or *into* a run-down or shabby condition – *on the heels* of immediately following; closely behind – *to heel* 1 close behind – *usu* used in training a dog 2 *into* agreement or line, under control

**'heel** *vt* 1 to supply with a heel; *esp* to renew the heel of <~ a sock> 2 to exert pressure on, propel, or strike (as if) with the heel; *specif* to kick (a rugby ball) with the heel, *esp* out of a scrum ~ *vi* to move along at the heels of sb or close behind sthg <a dog that ~s well> – *heeler* *n*

**'heel** *vi* to tilt to one side ~ *vt* to cause (a boat) to heel [alter of ME *heelden*, fr OE *hieldan*; akin to OHG *hald* inclined, Lith *šalis* side, region]

**'heel** *n* (the extent of) a tilt to one side

**'heel-and-toe** *adj* with a stride in which the heel of one foot touches the ground before the toe of the other foot leaves it

**'heel, ball** *n* a mixture of wax and lampblack used to polish the heels of footwear and to take brass or stone rubbings

**heel** *in vt* to plant (cuttings or plants) temporarily before setting in the final growing position [heel, alter. of E dial. *hele*, *heal* to cover over, fr ME *helen* to hide, conceal, fr OE *helian*]

**'heft** /'heft/ *n*, *dial Br & NAM* weight, heaviness [irreg fr *heave*]

**'heft** *vt* 1 to test the weight of by lifting 2 *dial* to heave up, hoist

**'hefty** /'hefti/ *adj* 1 large or bulky and usu heavy 2 powerful, mighty <a ~ blow> 3 impressively large <a ~ price to pay> – *heftily* *adv*, *heftiness* *n*

**Hegelian** /'haɪ'geeli-ən, -lyən/ *adj* of Hegel, his philosophy, or his dialectical method [Georg Hegel †1831 G philosopher] – *Hegelian* *n*, *Hegelianism* /-nɪz(ə)m/ *n*


**hegemony** /'hi'geməni/ *n* domination by one nation, group, etc over others [Gk *hēgēmonia*, fr *hegemon* leader, fr *hēgeisthai* to lead – more at SEEK]

**hejira** also *hejira* /'hejɪrə/ *n* a journey, esp when undertaken to escape from a dangerous or undesirable situation, *specif*, *cap* the flight of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 AD, the event marking the beginning of the Muhammadan era [ML *hejira*, fr Ar *hijrah*, lit., flight]

**heifer** /'hefə/ *n* a young cow (that has at most 1 calf) [ME *hayfare*, fr OE *hēahfore*]

**heigh-ho** /'hay, 'hoh/ *interj* – used to express boredom, weariness, or sadness [heigh (var of *hey*) + *ho*]

**height** /'hi:t/ *n* 1 the highest or most extreme point; the zenith <at the

~ of his powers> 2a the distance from the bottom to the top of sthg standing upright  *UNIT* b the elevation above a level 3 the condition of being tall or high 4a a piece of land (e.g. a hill or plateau) rising to a considerable degree above the surrounding country – *usu pl* with sing. meaning b a high point or position [ME *heighthē*, fr OE *hiehtu*, akin to OHG *hohida* height, OE *heah* high]

**heighten** /'hi:t(ə)n/ *vt* 1a to increase the amount or degree of; augment <~ed his awareness of the problem> b to deepen, intensify <her colour was ~ed by emotion> 2 to raise high or higher; elevate <the building was ~ed by another storey> ~ *vi* 1 to become great or greater in amount, degree, or extent 2 to intensify

**height-to-paper** *n* the height of printing type measured from foot to face and standardized at 0.9186in (about 23.33mm) in English-speaking countries

**heinous** /'heɪnəs, 'heɪnəs/ *adj* hatefully or shockingly evil; abominable <a ~ crime> [ME, fr MF *haineus*, fr *haine* hate, fr *hair* to hate, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *haz* hate – more at HATE] – *heinously* *adv*, *heinousness* *n*

**heir** /eə/ *n* 1 sb who inherits or is entitled to succeed to an estate or rank 2 sb who receives or is entitled to receive some position, role, or quality passed on from a parent or predecessor [ME, fr OF, fr L *hered-*, *heres*, akin to Gk *cheros* bereaved, OE *gan* to go] – *heirless* *adj*, *heirship* *n*

**heir apparent** *n*, *pl heirs apparent* 1 an heir who cannot be displaced so long as he/she outlives the person from whom he/she is to inherit 2 one whose succession, esp to a position or role, appears certain under existing circumstances

**heirless** /'eɪrɪs/ *n* a female heir, esp to great wealth

**'heirloom** /-loohm/ *n* 1 a piece of valuable property handed down within a family for generations 2 sthg of special value handed on from one generation to another [ME *heirloom*, fr *heir* + *lome* implement – more at 'LOOM]

**heir presumptive** *n*, *pl heirs presumptive* an heir who can be displaced only by the birth of a child with a superior claim

**heist** /'hi:t/ *vt*, *NAM* 1 to commit armed robbery on 2 to steal *USE* *slang* [alter of 'hoist] – *helst* *n*

**hejira** /'hejɪrə/ *n* a hejira

**HeLa** /'heɪlə/ *adj* of, derived from, or being a particular strain of human cells kept continuously in tissue culture [Henrietta Lacks †1951, whose cervical cancer provided the original cells]

**held** /'held/ *past* of HOLD

**heldentenor** /'heldn,tenə/ *n*, *often cap* a tenor with a dramatic voice suited to heroic roles [G, fr *held* hero + *tenor*]

**'heli-, helio-** *comb form* sun <helio- centric> [L, fr Gk *hel-*, *hēlio-*, fr *helios* – more at 'SOLAR]

**'heli-** *comb form* helicopter <heliport>

**heliac** /'hi'li-əkəl/ *adj* relating to or near the sun – used esp of the last setting of a star before and its first rising after invisibility due to nearness to the sun [LL *heliacus*, fr Gk *heliakos*, fr *helios*]

**helic-, helico-** *comb form* helix, spiral <helic- centric> [Gk *hēlik-*, *hēliko-*, fr *hēlik-*, *hēlix* spiral – more at 'HELIX]

**helic- centric** /'hēlik(ə)sentrik/ *adj* (having the form of) a helix, broadly SPIRAL 1a – *helically* *adv*

**helicoid** /'hēlikɔɪd/, *helicoidal* /-'kɔɪd/ *adj* forming or arranged in a spiral

**helicon** /'hēlikən/ *n* a large circular tuba similar to a sousaphone [prob fr Gk *hēlik-*, *hēlix* + E -*on* (as in *bombardon* bass tuba) from its tube's forming a spiral encircling the player's body]

**helicopter** /'hēli,kɒptə/ *n* an aircraft which derives both lift and propulsive power from a set of horizontally rotating rotors or vanes and is capable of vertical takeoff and landing [F *hélicoptère*, fr Gk *hēliko-*, *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER]

**heliocentric** /'hēliəh'sentrik/ *adj* 1 referred to, measured from, or as if observed from the sun's centre 2 having or relating to the sun as a centre – compare GEOCENTRIC

**heliograph** /'hēli-ə'grɑ:f, -'grɑ:f/ *n* 1 a photoheliograph 2 an apparatus for signalling using the sun's rays reflected from a mirror [ISV]

**heliographic** /-'grɑ:fik/ *adj* of heliography or a heliograph

**heliography** /'hēli-ə'grɑ:fɪ/ *n* the system or practice of signalling with a heliograph

**heliostat** /'hēliəh'stat/ *n* an instrument consisting of a mirror moved on an axis so as to reflect a sunbeam steadily in one direction [NL *heliostata*, fr *heli-* + Gk *-stas* -stat]

**heliotaxis** /'hēliəh'taksɪs/ *n* the response of a cell or organism to the stimulus of sunlight [NL]

**heliotrope** /'hēli-ə'trɒp/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the borage

family 2 (a) bloodstone 3 light purple [L *heliotropium*, fr Gk *heliotropion*, fr *helio-* heli- + *tropos* turn - more at *TROPE*; fr its flowers' turning towards the sun]

**heliotropism** /ˈheli.ɒtrəp(ɪ)z(ə)m/ *n* a tropism in which sunlight is the orienting stimulus - **heliotropic** /-li.ɒtrəp(ɪ)k/ *adj*, **heliotropically** *adv*

**heliport** /ˈheli.pɔːt/ *n* a place for helicopters to take off and land [*helicopter* + *port*]

**helium** /ˈheli.əm, -lyəm/ *n* a noble gaseous element found in natural gases and used esp for inflating balloons and in low-temperature research - **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Gk *helios*]

**helix** /ˈheliːks/ *n*, *pl helices* /ˈheliːsɪz/ *also helixes* 1 sth spiral in form (e.g. a coil formed by winding wire round a uniform tube) 2 the rim curved inwards of the external ear - **NFRVF** 3 a curve traced on a cylinder by the rotation of a point moving up the cylinder at a constant rate, **BROADLY SPIRAL** 1b [L, fr Gk, akin to Gk *eilyein* to roll, wrap - more at *VOLUME*]

**hell** /hel/ *n* 1a a nether world (e.g. Hades or Sheol) inhabited by the spirits of the dead b the nether realm of the devil in which the souls of those excluded from Paradise undergo perpetual torment c the home of the devil and demons in which the damned suffer punishment 2a a place or state of torment, misery, or wickedness - often as an interjection, an intensive, or as a generalized term of abuse (<one ~ of a mess> <go to ~>) b a place or state of chaos or destruction (<all ~ broke loose>); c a severe scolding (<got ~ for coming in late>) [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *helan* to conceal, L *celare*, Gk *kalyptein*] - **for the hell of it** for the intrinsic amusement or satisfaction of an activity - **hell to pay** serious trouble (<if he's late there'll be hell to pay>) - **like hell** 1 very hard or much (<worked like hell to get the job done on time>) 2 - used to intensify denial of a statement, slang (<I did 4 hours overtime "Like hell you did!">) - **what the hell it doesn't matter**

**he'll** /hiːl/ *excl*, *it, stroung* *heel*/ he will, he shall

**hell-bent** *adj* stubbornly and often recklessly determined (<civilization is ~ on self-destruction> - R F Delderfield)

**hellcat** *n* a spiteful ill-tempered woman

**hellebore** /ˈheli.bəʊ/ *n* any of a genus of showy-flowered plants of the buttercup family [L *helleborus*, fr Gk *helleboros*]

**helleborine** /ˈheli.bəːn, -briːn/ *n* any of various plants of the orchid family [L, a kind of hellebore, fr Gk *helleborine*, fr *helleboros*]

**Hellene** /ˈheleɪn/ *n* GREEK 1 [Gk *Hellen*]

**Hellenic** /ˈheleɪnik, -ˈleenik, ha-/ *adj* of Greece, its people, or its language

**Hellenism** /ˈheliːnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 devotion to or imitation of ancient Greek culture 2 Greek civilization, esp as later modified by oriental influences 3 a body of humanistic and classical ideals associated with ancient Greece - **hellenize** *vb*, *often cap*

**Hellenist** /ˈheliːnist/ *n* 1 sby living in ancient times who was Greek in language, outlook, and way of life but not in ancestry 2 a specialist in the language or culture of ancient Greece

**Hellenistic** /ˈheliːnistɪk/ *adj* of Greek history, culture, or art after Alexander the Great

**hell-for-leather** *adv* or *adj* at full speed (<pelted ~ down the street>) *infm* [perh alter of *all of a lather*]

**hellhole** *n* 1 the pit of hell 2 a place of extreme discomfort, squalor, or evil - *infm*

**hellhound** *n* a fiendish person

**hellion** /ˈheli.ən, ˈheli.ən/ *n*, *NAM* a troublesome or mischievous person - *infm* [prob alter of *halion* (scamp)]

**hellish** /ˈheliʃ/ *adj*, resembling, or befitting hell, diabolical - **hellishly** *adv*, **hellishness** *n*

**hellish** *adv* extremely, damnably (<a ~ cold day>)

**hello** /ˈheɪloʊ, ˈheloh, ha-/ *n*, *pl hellos* an expression or gesture of greeting - used interjectionally in greeting, in answering the telephone, to express surprise, or to attract attention [alter of *hollo*]

**hell's angel** *n*, *often cap H* a member of a reckless and often violent gang who wear leather clothing and ride motorcycles - compare **ROCKER** 3

**hell's bells** *interj* - used esp to express irritation or impatience

**helluva** /ˈheləvə/ *adj* great, terrific - slang, often used as an intensive (<a ~ din> [alter. of *hell of a*])

**helm** /helm/ *n* HELMET 1 [ME, fr OE]

**helm** *n* 1 a tiller or wheel controlling the steering of a ship 2 the position of control; the head (<a new dean is at the ~ of the medical school>) [ME *helme*, fr OE *helma*; akin to OHG *helmo* tiller]

**helm** *vt* to steer (as if) with the helm

**helmet** /ˈhelmit/ *n* 1 a covering or enclosing headpiece of ancient or

medieval armour 2 any of various protective head coverings, esp made of a hard material to resist impact 3 sth, esp a hood-shaped petal or sepal, resembling a helmet [MF, dim of *helme* helmet, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *helm* helmet, OHG *helan* to conceal - more at *HELL*] - **helmeted** *adj*, **helmetlike** *adj*

**helminth** /ˈhelmɪnθ/ *n* an (intestinal) worm - used technically [Gk *helminth-*, *helmis*, akin to Gk *eilyein* to roll - more at *VOLUME*] - **helminthic** /ˈhelˈmɪnθɪk/ *adj*

**helminth-**, **helmintho-** *comb form* helminth (<helminthology>) [NL, fr Gk *helminth-*, *helmis*]

**helmsman** /ˈhelmzˌmən/ *n* the person at the helm - **helmsmanship** *n*

**helot** /ˈhelət/ *n* 1 *cap* a serf in ancient Sparta 2 a serf, slave [L *Helotes*, pl, fr Gk *Heilotes*] - **helotry** /-trɪ/ *n*

**help** /help/ *vt* 1 to give assistance or support to (<~ a child to understand his lesson>) 2 to remedy, relieve (<took an aspirin to ~ her headache>) 3a to be of use to, benefit b to further the advancement of, promote (<~ing industry with loans>) 4a to refrain from (<couldn't ~ laughing>) b to keep from occurring, prevent (<they couldn't ~ the accident>) c to restrain (oneself) from taking action (<tried not to say anything, but couldn't ~ myself>) 5 to serve with food or drink, esp at a meal (<let me ~ you to some salad>) 6 to appropriate sth for (oneself), esp dishonestly (<~ed himself to my pen>) ~ *vi* to be of use or benefit (<every little ~s>) [ME *helpen*, fr OE *helpan*, akin to OHG *helfan* to help, Lith *šelpiti*] - **helper** *n* - **help somebody on/off with** to help sby take off/put on (an article of clothing)

**help** *n* 1 aid, assistance 2 remedy, relief (<there was no ~ for it>) 3a sby, esp a woman, hired to do work, esp housework (<a mother's ~>) b the services of a paid worker, *also*, **chiefly NAM** the workers providing such services (<~ wanted>)

**helpful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* of service or assistance, useful - **helpfully** *adv*, **helpfulness** *n*

**helping** /ˈhelpɪŋ/ *n* a serving of food

**helpless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 lacking protection or support, defenceless 2 lacking strength or effectiveness, powerless - **helplessly** *adv*, **helplessness** *n*

**helpmate** *n* one who is a companion and helper, esp a spouse [by folk etymology fr *helpmeet*]

**helpmeet** *n*, *archaic* a helpmate [*help* + *meet*, *adj*]

**help out** *vb* to give assistance or aid (to), esp when in great difficulty (<she helped me out when I was in hospital>)

**helter-skelter** /ˈhelts ˈskeltə/ *adj* or *adv* (done) in a hurried and disorderly manner (<ran ~ down the stairs>) [imit]

**helter-skelter** *n* a spiral slide at a fairground

**helve** /helv/ *n* a haft [ME, fr OE *helfe*, akin to OE *healf* half]

**Helvetian** /ˈhelˌveʃi(ə)n/ *adj* Swiss [NL *Helvetia* land of the Helvetii, Switzerland, fr L *Helvetii*, ancient people of Switzerland] - **Helvetian** *n*

**hem** /hem/ *n* 1 the border of a cloth article when turned back and stitched down; esp the bottom edge of a garment finished in this manner 2 a similar border on an article of plastic, leather, etc [ME, fr OE; akin to MHG *hemmen* to hem in, Arm *kamel* to press]

**hem** *vb* -mm- *vt* 1a to finish (e.g. a skirt) with a hem b to border, edge 2 to enclose, confine - *usu* + *in* or *about* (<~med in by enemy troops>) - *vi* to make a hem in sewing - **hemmer** *n*

**hem** *interj* - often used to indicate a pause in speaking [imit]

**hem-**, **hema-**, **hemo-** *comb form*, *NAM* haem-

**he-man** /ˈhee-/ *n* a strong virile man - *infm*

**hemat-**, **hemato-** *comb form*, *NAM* haemat-

**heme** /ˈheem/ *n*, *chiefly NAM* haem

**hemi-** /ˈhemi-/ *prefix* half (<hemisphere>) [ME, fr L, fr Gk *hemi-* - more at *SEMI-*]

**hemicellulose** /ˈhemiˈselyooloʊs, -loʊz/ *n* any of various polysaccharides of plant cell walls that are less complex than cellulose [ISV]



**hemichordate** /ˈhemiˈkawdət, -dəyt/ *n* any of a division of marine chordate animals with an outgrowth of the pharyngeal wall prob homologous with the notochord of higher chordates [NL *Hemichordata*, group name, fr *hemi-* + *Chordata* chordates]

**hemidemisemiquaver** /ˈhemiˌdemiˌsemiˈkwayvə/ *n* a musical note with the time value of 1/2 of a demisemiquaver

**hemi-hedral** /-ˈhedrəl/ *adj*, of a crystal having half the faces required for complete symmetry - compare **HOLOHEDRAL** [*hemi-* + *-hedron*]

**hemiola** /ˈhemiˈoʊlə/ *n* a musical rhythmic alteration consisting of 3 beats in place of 2 or 2 beats in place of 3 [LL *hemiolia*, fr Gk *hemiolia* ratio of 1 1/2 to 1, fr *hemi-* + *holos* whole - more at *SAFE*]

**hemi-plegia** /-ˈpleeji(ə)/ *n* paralysis of (part of) 1 lateral half of the body

- [NL, fr MGK *hémiplegia* paralysis, fr Gk *hemi-* + *-plegia* -plegia] – **hemiplegic** /-jik/ *adj* or *n*
- hemisphere** /'hemisfiə/ *n* **1a** a half of the celestial sphere when divided into 2 halves by the horizon, the celestial equator, or the ecliptic **b** the northern or southern half of the earth divided by the equator or the eastern or western half divided by a meridian **2** either of the 2 half spheres formed by a plane that passes through the sphere's centre **3** CEREBRAL HEMISPHERE [ME *hemisphere*, fr L *hemisphaerium*, fr Gk *hémisphaíron*, fr *hēmi-* + *sphaíron*, dm. of *sphaíra* sphere] – **hemispheric** /'hemisferik/, **hemispherical** *adj*
- hemistich** /'hemistik/ *n* half of a line of verse usu divided from the other half by a caesura [L *hemistichium*, fr Gk *hemistichion*, fr *hemi-* + *stichos* line, verse; akin to Gk *steichēin* to go, walk – more at STAIR]
- hemline** /'hemlin/ *n* the line formed by the lower hemmed edge of a garment, esp a dress
- hemlock** /'hemlok/ *n* **1** (a poison obtained from) a very tall plant of the carrot family or a related very poisonous plant **2** (the soft light wood of) any of a genus of evergreen coniferous trees of the pine family [ME *hemlok*, fr OE *hemlic*]
- hemo-** – see HEM-
- hemp** /hemp/ *n* **1** (marijuana, hashish, or a similar drug obtained from) a tall widely cultivated plant from which a tough fibre used esp for making rope is prepared **2** the fibre of hemp or (a plant yielding) a similar fibre (e.g. jute) [ME, fr OE *hænep*; akin to OHG *hanaf* hemp; both prob fr the source of Gk *kannabis* hemp] – **hempen** *adj*
- 'hemp, nettle** *n* any of a genus of hairy Old World plants of the mint family
- 'hemstitch** *vt* or *n* (to decorate with) drawnwork that consists of open spaces and embroidered groups of cross threads and is used esp on or next to the stitching line of hems
- 'hen** /hen/ *n* **1a** a female bird, specif a domestic fowl (over a year old) **b** a female lobster, crab, fish, or other aquatic animal **2** an esp fussy woman – *infml* **3** chiefly Scot DEAR **1b** – used to girls and women [ME, fr OE *henn*; akin to OE *hana* cock – more at CHANT]
- 'hen** *adj* relating to or intended for women only (< a ~ party)
- 'hen and chickens** *n* any of several plants with offsets, runners, or profliferous flowers
- 'henbane** /-bayn/ *n* a poisonous fetid Old World plant of the nightshade family that contains hyoscyamine and scopolamine ['hen + bane; fr its poison being fatal esp to fowl]
- hence** /hens/ *adv* **1** from this time; later than now **2** because of a preceding fact or premise (<born at Christmas, ~ the name Noel> **3** from, here; away – *fm* (<go ~>); sometimes + *from* (<depart from ~>); sometimes used as an interjection (<~! Depart!>) [ME *hennes*, *henne*, fr OE *heonan*, akin to OHG *hinnan* away, OE *hēr* here]
- 'henceforth** *adv* from this time or point on (<promise never to get drunk ~>)
- 'henceforward** *adv* henceforth
- henchman** /'henchman/ *n* **1** a trusted follower; a right-hand man **2** a follower whose support is chiefly for personal advantage [ME *hengest-man* groom, fr *hengest* stallion (fr OE) + *man*; akin to OHG *hengist* gelding]
- hendecasyllabic** /'hendekəsi'labik/ *adj* consisting of (metrical lines of) 11 syllables [L *hendecasyllabus*, fr Gk *hendeka* eleven (fr *hen-*, *heis* one + *deka* ten) + *syllabē* syllable – more at SAME, TEN] – **hendecasyllabic** *n*, **hendecasyllable** /'hendekəsi'ləbl/ *n*
- hendiadya** /'hen'die-adi-/ *n* the expression of an idea by the use of 2 independent words connected by and (e.g. *nice and warm* instead of *nicely warm*) [LL *hendiadya*, *hendiadyoin*, modif of Gk *hen dia dyoin* one through two]
- henequen** /'henikin/ *n* (a strong hard fibre obtained from the leaves of) a tropical American agave plant [Sp *henequén*]
- henge** /henj/ *n* a prehistoric monument consisting of a circular structure made of wood or stones [back-formation fr *Stonehenge*, a prehistoric stone monument near Salisbury in England]
- 'hen, harrier** *n* a common Eurasian hawk
- 'henna** /'hena/ *n* **1** An Old World tropical shrub or small tree with fragrant white flowers **2** a reddish brown dye obtained from the leaves of the henna plant and used esp on hair [Ar *hinnā*]
- 'henna** *vt* **hennalag**; **hennaed** to dye or tint (esp hair) with henna
- henpecked** /'henpekt/ *adj* cowed by persistent nagging (< ~ husband>)
- henry** /'henri/ *n*, *pl* **henrys**, **henries** the SI unit of electrical inductance  **PHYSICS** [Joseph Henry †1878 US physicist]
- 'hen-toed** *adj* having the toes turned in
- hep** /hep/ *adj* -pp- 'HIP
- heparin** /'heparin/ *n* a polysaccharide that is found esp in liver and is injected to slow the clotting of blood, esp in the treatment of thrombosis [ISV, fr Gk *hepar* liver] – **heparinise** /-niez/ *vt*
- hepat-**, **hepato-** *comb form* **1** liver (<hepatoma> <hepatotoxic> <hepatectomy> **2** hepatic and (<hepatobiliary>) [L, fr Gk *hepat-*, *hepato-*, fr *hepat-*, *hepar*]
- hepatic** /hi'patik/ *adj* of or resembling the liver [L *hepaticus*, fr Gk *hepatikos*, fr *hepat-*, *hepar*; akin to L *jecur* liver]
- hepatica** /hi'patika/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the buttercup family with lobed leaves and delicate flowers [NL, genus name, fr ML, liverwort, fr L, fem of *hepaticus*]
- hepatitis** /'hepə'tiəti-/ *n*, *pl* **hepatitides** /-'titideez/ (a condition marked by) inflammation of the liver **a** INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS **b** SERUM HEPATITIS [NL]
- Hepplewhite** /'hepl.wiet/ *adj* of or being a late 18th-c English furniture style characterized by lightness, elegance, and graceful curves [George Hepplewhite †1786 E cabinet-maker]
- hepta-**, **hept-** *comb form* **1** seven (<heptameter> **2** containing 7 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure (<heptane>) [Gk, fr *hepta* – more at SEVEN]
- heptad** /'heptad/ *n* a group or series of 7 [Gk *heptad-*, *heptas*, fr *hepta*]
- heptagon** /'heptəɡən/ *n* a polygon of 7 angles and 7 sides  **MATHEMATICS** [Gk *heptagonos* heptagonal, fr *hepta* + *gonia* angle more at -GON] – **heptagonal** /'heptəɡənəl/ *adj*
- heptameter** /'heptəmitə/ *n* a line of verse consisting of 7 metrical feet
- heptane** /'heptayn/ *n* a hydrocarbon of the alkane series that occurs in petroleum and is used esp as a solvent and in determining octane numbers
- heptarchy** /'heptərkɪ/ *n* a supposed confederacy of 7 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7th and 8th c
- 'her** /hə, ə, strong huh/ *adj* of her or herself, esp as possessor (<~ house>) (<~ fuselage>), agent (<~ research>), or object of an action (<~ rescue>) – used in titles of females (<~ Majesty>) [MF: *hire*, fr OE *here*, gen of *heo* she – more at HI]
- 'her** *pron*, *objective case* of SHE – compare phrases at ME **1**
- 'herald** /'herəld/ *n* **1a** an officer whose original duties of officiating at tournaments gave rise to other duties (e.g. recording names, pedigrees, and armorial bearings or tracing genealogies) **b** an official messenger between leaders, esp in war **c** an officer of arms ranking above a pursuivant and below a king of arms **2a** an official crier or messenger **b** sby or sthg that conveys news or proclaims (<it was the lark, the ~ of the morn – Shak> **3** a harbinger, forerunner [ME, fr MF *hiraut*, fr an (assumed) Gmc compound whose first component is akin to OHG *heri* army, and whose second is akin to OHG *waltan* to rule – more at HARRY WIFED]
- herald** *vt*
- heraldic** /'hɪrəldik/ *adj* of a herald or heraldry – **heraldically** *adv*
- heraldry** /'hɪrəldrɪ/ *n* **1** the system, originating in medieval times, of identifying individuals by hereditary insignia, also the practice of granting, classifying, and creating these **2** the study of the history, display, and description of heraldry and heraldic insignia **3** pageantry
- herb** /huhb/ *n* **1** a seed plant that does not develop permanent woody tissue and dies down at the end of a growing season **2** a plant (part) valued for its medicinal, savoury, or aromatic qualities (<cultivated her ~ garden>) [ME *herbe*, fr OF, fr L *herba*] – **herbal** *adj*
- herbaceous** /'huh'beɪʃəs/ *adj* of, being, or having the characteristics of a (part of a) herb
- herbaceous border** *n* a permanent flower border of hardy, usu perennial, herbaceous plants
- herbage** /'huhbi/ *n* (the succulent parts of) herbaceous plants (e.g. grass), esp when used for grazing
- herbal** /'huhbl/ *n* a book about (the medicinal properties of) plants
- 'herbalist** /-ist/ *n* sby who grows or sells herbs, esp for medicines
- herbarium** /'huh'beəri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **herbaria** /-ri-ə/ (a place containing) a collection of dried plant specimens usu mounted and systematically arranged for reference
- herbicide** /'huhbi:sid/ *n* sthg used to destroy or inhibit plant growth [L *herba* + ISV -icide] – **herbicidal** /'huhbi:sidl/ *adj*
- herbivore** /'huhbi:və/ *n* a plant-eating animal  **FOOD** [NL *Herbivora*, group of mammals, fr neut pl of *herbivorus* plant-eating, fr L *herba* + -ivorus -vorous] – **herbivorous** /'huhbi:vərəs/ *adj*
- herb Robert** /'rəʊbət/ *n* a common geranium with small reddish purple flowers [prob fr *Robertus* (St Robert) †1067 F ecclesiastic]



**herculean** /ˈhʊkjuːlee-ən/ *adj* of extraordinary strength, size, or difficulty (< a task) [*Hercules*, Greco-Roman mythological hero, fr L, fr Gk *Hēraklēs*]

**'Hercules beetle** /ˈhʊkjuːleez/ *n* a very large S American beetle

**'herd** /hɜːd/ *n* 1 a number of animals of 1 kind kept together or living as a group 2a *sing or pl in constr* a group of people usu having a common bond – often derog (< the ~ instinct) b the masses – derog (< the common ~) [ME, fr OE *heord*; akin to OHG *herta* herd, Gk *korthys* heap] – *herdlike adj*

**²herd** *vi* to assemble or move in a herd or group ~ *vt* 1 to keep or move (animals) together 2 to gather, lead, or drive as if in a herd (< ed his pupils into the hall)

**'herdsman** /-mən/ *n* a manager, breeder, or tender of livestock

**'here** /hiə/ *adv* 1 in or at this place (< turn ~) – often interjectional, esp in answering a roll call 2 at or in this point or particular (< we agree) 3 to this place or position (< come ~) 4 – used when introducing, offering, or drawing attention (< she comes) (< is the news) (< ~, take it) 5 – used interjectionally to attract attention (< ~, what's all this?) [ME, fr OE *her*; akin to OHG *hier* here, OE *he* he] – here goes – used to express resolution at the outset of a bold act, infml – here's to – used when drinking a toast – here, there, and everywhere scattered lavishly about – here we go again the same distressing events are repeating themselves – here you are 1 here is what you wanted 2 you have arrived – neither here nor there of no consequence, irrelevant

**²here** *adj* 1 – used for emphasis, esp after a demonstrative (< this book ~) (< ask my son ~) 2 – used for emphasis between a demonstrative and the following noun, substandard (< this ~ book)

**³here** *n* this place or point (< full up to ~)

**'heres,bouts** /-əˌbəʊts/ *adv* in this vicinity

**'here'after** /-ˈɑːftə/ *adv* 1 after this 2 in some future time or state

**²here'after** *n*, often *cap* 1 the future 2 an existence beyond earthly life

**here and 'now** *n* the immediate present (< lived in the ~ without regard for the future)

**here and 'there** *adv* 1 in one place and another 2 FROM TIME TO TIME

**hereby** /hiəˈbiː, hiə-/ *adv* by this means or pronouncement (< I ~ declare her elected)

**hereditament** /ˌhɛrɪˈdɪtəmənt/ *n* (real) property that can be inherited [ML *hereditamentum*, fr LL *hereditare*, fr L *hered-*, *heres*]

**hereditary** /hɪˈrɛdɪ(ə)n/ *adj* 1a genetically transmitted or transmissible from parent to offspring b characteristic of one's predecessors, ancestral (< ~ pride) 2a received or passing by inheritance b having title through inheritance (< ~ peer) 3 traditional (< ~ enemy) 4 of inheritance or heredity – *hereditarily adv*

**heredity** /hɪˈrɛdɪti/ *n* 1 the sum of the qualities and potentialities genetically derived from one's ancestors 2 the transmission of qualities from ancestor to descendant through a mechanism lying primarily in the chromosomes [MF *hereditie*, fr LL *hereditat-*, *hereditas*, fr *hered-*, *heres* heir – more at *HEIR*]

**Hereford** /ˈhɛrɪfəd/ *n* any of an English breed of red hardy beef cattle with white faces and markings [*Hereford*, county of England]

**herein** /hiəˈrɪn/ *adv* in this – fml

**herein'after** /-ˈɑːftə/ *adv* in the following part of this writing or document – fml

**hereof** /hiəˈrɒv/ *adv* of this – fml

**hereon** /hiəˈrɒn/ *adv* on this – fml

**heresiarch** /hɪˈrɛziˌɑːrk/ *n* an originator or chief advocate of a heresy [LL *haeresiarcha*, fr LGk *haresiarches*, fr *haireisis* + Gk *-arches* -arch]

**heresy** /ˈhɛrəsi/ *n* 1 (adherence to) a religious belief or doctrine contrary to or incompatible with an explicit church dogma 2 an opinion or doctrine contrary to generally accepted belief [ME *heresie*, fr OF, fr LL *haeresis*, fr LGk *haireisis*, fr Gk, action of taking, choice, sect, fr *hairein* to take]

**heretic** /ˈhɛrətɪk/ *n* 1 a dissenter from established church dogma; esp a baptized member of the Roman Catholic church who disavows a revealed truth 2 one who dissents from an accepted belief or doctrine [ME (*h*)*eretik*, fr MF (*h*)*eretique*, fr LL *haereticus*, fr LGk *hairetikos*, fr Gk, able to choose, fr *hairein*] – *heretic*, *heretical* /hɪˈrɛtɪk(ə)l/ *adj*, *heretically adv*

**hereto** /hiəˈtoʊh/ *adv* to this matter or document – fml

**heretofore** /hiəˈtoʊhˈfaw/ *adv* up to this time; hitherto – fml

**hereunder** /hiəˈrʌndə/ *adv* under or in accordance with this writing or document – fml

**hereunto** /hiəˈrʌnˈtoʊh/ *adv* to this – fml

**hereupon** /hiəˈrʌpən/ *adv* 1 on this matter (< if all are agreed ~) 2 immediately after this (< let us ~ adjourn)

**herewith** /hiəˈwɪð/ *adv* 1 hereby 2 with this, enclosed in this – fml

**heritable** /ˈhɛntəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being inherited 2 HEREDITARY 1a, 2a – *heritability* /ˌhɛntəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**heritage** /ˈhɛrɪti/ *n* 1 sth transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor, a legacy (< a rich ~ of folklore) 2 a birthright (< the ~ of natural freedom) [ME, fr MF, fr *heriter* to inherit, fr LL *hereditare*, fr L *hered-*, *heres* heir – more at *HEIR*]

**heritor** /ˈhɛrɪtə/ *n* an inheritor

**herl** /hʊl/ *n* a barb of a feather used in tying an artificial fishing fly [ME *herle*]

**hermaphrodite** /hʊˈmɑːfrədɪt/ *n* 1 an animal or plant having both male and female reproductive organs 2 sth that is a combination of 2 usu opposing elements [ME *hermafrodite*, fr L *hermaphroditus*, fr Gk *hermaphroditos*, fr *Hermaphroditos*, mythological son of Hermes and Aphrodite who became joined in body with the nymph Salmacis] – *hermaphrodite adj*, *hermaphroditism n*, *hermaphroditic* /-ˌmɑːfrədɪtɪk/ *adj*, *hermaphroditically adv*

**hermaphrodite brig** *n* a 2-masted vessel with square sails on the foremast and fore-and-aft sails on the after mast

**hermeneutics** /ˌhʊməˈnjuːoʊtɪks/ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* (the study of) the principles and methodology of Biblical interpretation [Gk *hermeneutikē*, fr fem of *hermeneutikos* interpretative, fr *hermeneuein* to interpret, fr *hermēneus* interpreter] – *hermeneutic*, *hermeneutical adj*

**hermetic** /hʊˈmɛtɪk/ *also hermetical* /-kl/ *adj* 1 often *cap* of or relating to the Gnostic and alchemical writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus 2a airtight (< ~ seal) b impervious to external influences 3 often *cap* abstruse, recondite – infml [NL *hermeticus*, fr *Hermet-*, *Hermes Trismegistus* (fr Gk *Hermēs trismegistos*, lit., Hermes thrice-greatest), legendary author of mystical & alchemical works, (2) fr the belief that Hermes Trismegistus invented a magic seal to keep vessels airtight] – *hermetically adv*

**hermeticism** /hʊˈmɛtəˌɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* (adherence to) a system of ideas based on hermetic teachings – *hermeticist n*

**hermetism** /hʊməˈtɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* hermeticism – *hermetist n*

**hermit** /hʊˈmɪt/ *n* 1 one who retires from society and lives in solitude, esp for religious reasons 2 a recluse [ME *eremite*, fr OF, fr LL *eremita*, fr LGk *erēmites*, fr Gk, adj, living in the desert, fr *erēma* desert, fr *erēmos* lonely – more at *RETINA*] – *hermitism n*, *hermitic* /hʊˈmɪtɪk/ *adj*

**'hermitage** /-tɪ/ *n* 1 the habitation of one or more hermits 2 a secluded residence or private retreat, a hideaway

**'hermit crab** *n* any of numerous chiefly marine 10-legged crustaceans that have soft abdomens and occupy the empty shells of gastropod molluscs → DEFENCE

**hernia** /hʊˈniːə, -nyə/ *n*, *pl* *hernias*, *herniae* /-niːe/ a protrusion of (part of) an organ through a wall of its enclosing cavity (e.g. the abdomen) [L – more at *YARN*] – *hernial adj*, *herniated* /-niːəˈtɪd/ *adj*

**hero** /ˈhɪərə/ *n*, *pl* *heroes* 1a a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability b an illustrious warrior c a person, esp a man, admired for noble achievements and qualities (e.g. courage) 2 the principal male character in a literary or dramatic work [L *heros*, fr Gk *herōs*] – *heroize vt*

**heroic** /hɪˈrɒɪk/ *also heroidal* /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or befitting heroes 2a showing or marked by courage b grand, noble 3 of impressive size, power, or effect, potent 4 of heroic verse – *heroically adv*

**heroic couplet** *n* a rhyming couplet in iambic pentameter

**heroics** *n pl* 1 HEROIC VERSE 2 extravagantly grand behaviour or language

**heroic verse** *n* the verse form employed in epic poetry (e.g. the heroic couplet in English)

**heroin** /ˈhɛrɒɪn/ *n* a strongly physiologically addictive narcotic made from, but more potent than, morphine [fr *Heroin*, a trademark] – *heroinism n*

**heroine** /ˈhɛrɒɪn/ *n* 1a a mythological or legendary woman having the qualities of a hero b a woman admired for her noble achievements and qualities, esp courage 2 the principal female character in a literary or dramatic work [L *heroina*, fr Gk *herōinē*, fem of *herōs*]

**heroism** /ˈhɛrɒɪz(ə)m/ *n* heroic conduct or qualities, esp extreme courage


**heron** /ˈhɛrən/ *n*, *pl* *herons*, esp collectively *heron* any of various long-necked long-legged wading birds with a long tapering bill, large

- wings, and soft plumage [ME *heiron*, fr MF *hairon*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *heigaro* heron, Gk *krizein* to creak, OHG *scrian* to scream]
- heronry** /-ri/ *n* a place where herons breed
- hero**, **worship** *n* 1 veneration of a hero 2 foolish or excessive admiration for sb; ~ **hero-worship** *vt*, **hero-worshipper** *n*
- herpes** /'huhpeɪz/ *n* herpes simplex or a similar inflammatory virus disease of the skin [L, fr Gk *herpēs*, fr *herpein* to creep – more at SERPENT] – **herpetic** /-'petik/ *adj*
- herpes simplex** /'sɪmpleks/ *n* a virus disease marked by groups of watery blisters on the skin or mucous membranes (e.g. of the mouth, lips, or genitals) [NL, lit., simple herpes]
- herpes zoster** /'zɒstə/ *n* shingles [NL, lit., girdle herpes]
- herpet-**, **herpeto-** *comb form* 1 reptile; reptiles (<herpetofauna>) (herpetology) 2 herpes (<herpetiform>) [Gk *herpeton*, fr neut of *herpetos* creeping, fr *herpein*; (2) L *herpet-*, *herpes*]
- herpetology** /'huhpi'tɒlədʒi/ *n* zoology dealing with reptiles and amphibians – **herpetologist** *n*, **herpetologist** /-'tɒlədʒik/, **herpetological** *adj*, **herpetologically** *adv*
- Herr** /heə/ *n*, *pl* **Herren** /'heərən/ *pl* **Herren** /- / – used of a German-speaking man as a title equivalent to *Mr* [G]
- herrenvolk** /'heərən.folk/ *n*, often *cap* a master race; *specif* the German people according to the Nazis [G]
- herring** /'heərɪŋ/ *n*, *pl* **herring**, *esp* for different types herrings a N Atlantic food fish that is preserved in the adult state by smoking or salting [ME *herring*, fr OE *hæring*; akin to OHG *hāring* herring]
- herringbone** /-boʊn/ *n* (sthg arranged in) a pattern made up of rows of parallel lines with any 2 adjacent rows slanting in opposite directions; *esp* a twilled fabric decorated with this pattern
- herringbone** *vt* to make a herringbone pattern on ~ *vi* to ascend a (snow) slope by pointing the toes of the skis out
- herringbone** *stitch* *n* a needlework stitch that forms a zigzag pattern
- herring**, **gull** *n* a large gull of the northern hemisphere that as an adult is largely white with a blue-grey mantle and dark wing tips  LIFE CYCLE
- hers** /huɪz/ *pron*, *pl* **hers** that which or the one who belongs to her – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *her*; compare phrases at MINE 2
- herself** /hə'self/ *medially often* ə/ *pron* 1 that identical female person or creature – compare SHE 1, ONESELF; used reflexively (<she considers ~ lucky>), for emphasis (<she ~ did it>) (<Britain ~>), or in absolute constructions (<~ an orphan, she understood the situation>) 2 her normal self (<isn't quite ~>)
- hertz** /'hɜːts/ *n*, *pl* **hertz** the SI unit of frequency equal to 1 cycle per second  PHYSICS [Heinrich Hertz †1894 G physicist]
- Hertzian wave** /'hɜːtsi-ən, -sɪn/ *n* a radio wave of wavelength ranging from less than 1mm to more than 1km [Heinrich Hertz]
- he's** /hɪz, eɪz, ɪz, strong heɪz/ *he* is; he has
- hesitant** /'hezɪ(ə)nt/ *adj* tending to hesitate; irresolute – **hesitance**, **hesitancy** *n*, **hesitantly** *adv*
- hesitate** /'hezɪtaɪt/ *vi* 1 to hold back, *esp* in doubt or indecision 2 to be reluctant or unwilling to 3 to stammer [L *haesitare*, pp of *haesitare* to stick fast, hesitate, fr *haesus*, pp of *haerere* to stick, akin to Lith *gaisiti* to loiter] – **hesitater** *n*, **hesitatingly** *adv*, **hesitative** *adj*, **hesitation** /'hezɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- Hesperian** /'hespiəri-ən/ *adj* western, occidental – poetic [L *Hesperia*, the west, fr Gk, fr fem of *hesperios* of the evening, western, fr *hesperos* evening – more at WEST]
- hesperidium** /'hespi'ridi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **hesperidia** /-di-ə/ an orange or similar fruit with a leathery rind and a pulp divided into sections [NL, orange, fr L *Hesperides*, mythological nymphs guarding a garden where golden apples grow, fr Gk]
- Hesperus** /'hespərəs/ *n* EVENING STAR [L, fr Gk *Hesperos*]
- hessian** /'hesi-ən/ *n* 1 a coarse heavy plain-weave fabric, usu of jute or hemp, used esp for sackings 2 a lightweight material resembling hessian and used chiefly in interior decoration [Hesse, region or state in SW Germany]
- Hessian**, **fly** *n* a small fly that is destructive to wheat in America
- hetaira** /hi'teɪ-rə/ *n*, *pl* **hetairas**, **hetairae** /-'ti-æ/ a courtesan, *esp* in ancient Greece [Gk *hetaira*, lit., companion, fem of *hetairos*] – **hetairism** *n*
- heter-**, **hetero-** *comb form* other; different; abnormal (<heteromorphic>) [MF or LL; MF, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *heteros*; akin to Gk *heis* one – more at SAME]
- hetero** /'hetərə/ *n*, *pl* **heteros** a heterosexual
- heterochromatic** /-kroh'matɪk/ *adj* 1 of or having different colours 2 made up of various wavelengths or frequencies 3 of heterochromatin – **heterochromatism** /-'krohmatɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- heterochromatin** /-'krohmatɪn/ *n* densely staining chromatin that appears as nodules in or along chromosomes and contains relatively few genes [G]
- hetero**, **clite** /-'kliet/ *adj* 1 deviating from common forms or rules 2 of a noun irregular in declension [MF or LL; MF, fr LL *heteroclitus*, fr Gk *heteroklitos*, fr *heter-* + *klinein* to lean, inflect – more at LEAN] – **heteroclit** *n*
- heterocyclic** /-'sɪklɪk, -sɪe-/ *adj* of, characterized by, or being a ring composed of atoms of more than 1 kind [ISV] – **heterocyclic** *n*, **heterocycle** /'hetərəh,sɪkl/ *n*
- heterodox** /-'dɒks/ *adj* 1 contrary to or different from established doctrines or opinions, *esp* in matters of religion (<~ sermon>) 2 holding opinions or doctrines which are not orthodox [LL *heterodoxus*, fr Gk *heterodoxos*, fr *heter-* + *doxa* opinion – more at DOXOLOGY] – **heterodox** *n*
- heterodyne** /-'dien/ *adj*, of a radio signal, receiver, etc combining 2 similar radio frequencies to produce a lower frequency or beat – **heterodyne** *vt*
- heteroga'metic** /-'gə'metɪk/ *adj* forming 2 kinds of germ cells of which one produces male offspring and the other female offspring – **heterogamete** /'hetərəh'gæmeɪt/ *n*
- heterogamy** /'hetərə'gəmi/ *n* (the condition of having) sexual reproduction involving fusion of unlike gametes – **heterogamous** *adj*
- heterogeneous** /'hetərə'ʤeɪni əs, -nyəs/ *adj* consisting of dissimilar ingredients or constituents, disparate [ML *heterogeneous*, *heterogenus*, fr Gk *heterogenes*, fr *heter-* + *genos* kind – more at KIN] – **heterogeneously** *adv*, **heterogeneousness** *n*, **heterogeneity** /-'rohʒə'nee-əti/ *n*
- heterogenesis** /-'jɛnəsɪs/ *n* ALIENATION OF GENERATIONS [NL] – **heterogenetic** /-'jə'netɪk/ *adj*
- heterogony** /'hetərə'gəni/ *n* ALIENATION OF GENERATIONS
- heterograft** /'hetərəh'grɑːft/ *n* a graft of tissue taken from a donor of one species and grafted into a recipient of another species
- heterologous** /'hetərə'lɒɡəs/ *adj* derived from a different species (<~ transplants>) – **heterologously** *adv*
- heteromorphic** /'hetərəh'mɔːfɪk/, **heteromorphous** /-'fəs/ *adj* exhibiting diversity of form or forms (<~ pairs of chromosomes>) [ISV] – **heteromorphism** *n*
- heteronomy** /'hetərə'nəmi/ *n* subjection to the law or domination of another; *esp* a lack of moral freedom or self-determination – compare AUTONOMY [*heter-* + *-nomy* (as in *autonomy*)] – **heteronomous** *adj*
- heteronym** /'hetərəh'nɪm/ *n* any of 2 or more words spelt alike but different in meaning and pronunciation (e.g. *sow* the noun and *sow* the verb) – **heteronymous** /'hetərə'nɪməs/ *adj*
- heterosexual** /-'seksju(ə)l, -ʃ(ə)l/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) sb having a sexual preference for members of the opposite sex – compare HOMOSEXUAL [ISV] – **heterosexually** *adv*, **heterosexuality** /-'seksju(ə)ləti, -seksju(ə)l/ *n*
- heterosis** /'hetərə'hoʊsɪs/ *n* a marked vigour or capacity for growth often shown by crossbred animals or plants [NL] – **heterotic** /-'rɒtɪk/ *adj*
- heterotrophic** /'hetərəh'trɒfɪk/ *adj* needing complex organic compounds for essential metabolic processes – compare AUTOTROPHIC – **heterotrophically** *adv*, **heterotroph** /'hetərəh'trɒf/ *n*
- heterozygote** /-'ziəgoʊt, -ziəgoht/ *n* an animal, plant, or cell having dissimilar alleles (e.g. 1 dominant and 1 recessive) of a particular gene – compare HOMOZYGOTE – **heterozygous** /-'ziəgəs/ *adj*, **heterozygosis** /-'ziə'gəʊsɪs/ *n*, **heterozygosity** /-'ziə'gəʊsəti/ *n*
- het** 'up *adj* highly excited, upset – infml [*het*, dial. past of *heat*]
- heuristic** /'hyoo(ə)'rɪstɪk, hoy-/ *adj* 1 furthering investigation but otherwise unproved or unjustified (<~ assumption>) 2 of problem-solving techniques that proceed by trial and error (<~ computer program>) [G *heurnstisch*, fr NL *heurnsticus*, fr Gk *heuriskein* to discover; akin to OIr *fuar* I have found] – **heuristically** *adv*
- heuristic** *n* the study or practice of heuristic method
- hew** /hyoo(ə)/ *vb* hewed; hewed, hewn /hyoo(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to strike, chop, or *esp* fell with blows of a heavy cutting instrument (<~ ed off a branch>) (<~ ed down the tree>) 2 to give form or shape to (as if) with heavy cutting blows – often + *out* (<she ~ ed out a career for herself>) ~ *vi* to make cutting blows [ME *hewen*, fr OE *hāwan*; akin to OHG *houwan* to hew, L *cadere* to beat] – **hewer** *n*
- hex** /heks/ *vb*, *NAM* *vi* to practise witchcraft ~ *vt* to affect as if by an evil spell; jinx [PaG *hexe*, fr G *hexen*, fr *hexe* witch] – **hexer** *n*
- hex** *n*, *NAM* 1 a spell, jinx 2 a witch

**hexa-**, **hex-** *comb form* 1 *six* (<hexamerous>) 2 containing 6 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure (<hexane> (<hexavalent> [Gk, fr *hex* six – more at *six*])

**hexad** /'heksəd/ *n* a group or series of 6 [LL *hexad-*, *hexas*, fr Gk, fr *hex*] – **hexadic** /'hek'sadik/ *adj*

**hexadecimal** /'heksəd'seɪsməl/ *adj* of or being a number system with a base of 16

**hexagon** /'heksəɡən/ *n* a polygon of 6 angles and 6 sides  **MATHEMATICS** [Gk *hexagonon*, neut of *hexagonos* hexagonal, fr *hexa-* + *gonia* angle – more at *-gon*] – **hexagonal** /'heksəɡənəl/ *adj*, **hexagonally** *adv*

**hexagram** /'heksəɡrəm/ *n* a 6-pointed star drawn by extending the sides of a regular hexagon [ISV]

**hexahedron** /'hecedrən/ *n*, *pl* **hexahedrons** also **hexahedra** /-rə/ a polyhedron of 6 faces [LL, fr Gk *hexaedron*, fr neut of *hexaedros* of six surfaces, fr *hexa-* + *hedra* seat – more at *site*]

**hexameter** /'hek'samɪtə/ *n* a line of verse consisting of 6 metrical feet [L, fr Gk *hexametron*, fr neut of *hexametros* having six measures, fr *hexa-* + *metron* measure – more at *measure*]

**hexane** /'heksaɪn/ *n* a volatile liquid hydrocarbon of the alkane series, found in petroleum [ISV]

**hexapod** /'heksəpɒd/ *n* or *adj* (an insect) having 6 feet [Gk *hexapod-*, *hexapous* having six feet, fr *hexa-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at *foot*]

**hexose** /'heksəʊs/, -soʊz/ *n* a monosaccharide (e.g. glucose) containing 6 carbon atoms in the molecule [ISV]

**hexyl** /'heks(ə)l/ *n* an alkyl radical C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>, derived from a hexane [ISV]

**'hey** /hay/ *interj* – used esp to call attention or to express inquiry, surprise, or exultation [ME]

**hey** *n* 'HAY

**heyday** /'heɪdeɪ/ *n* the period of one's greatest vigour, prosperity, or fame [*hey*day, *interj* expressing usu joy or exultation, fr earlier *heyda*, alter of 'hey]

**hey presto** /hay 'prestəʊ/ *interj* – used as an expression of triumph or satisfaction on completing or demonstrating sthg, esp used by conjurers about to reveal the outcome of a trick

**hi** /hiə/ *interj* – used esp to attract attention or, esp in the USA, as a greeting [ME *hy*]

**'hiatus** /'hi:əɪtəs/ *n* **1a** a break, gap **b** an (abnormal) anatomical gap or passage **2a** a lapse in continuity **b** the occurrence of 2 vowel sounds together without pause or intervening consonantal sound [L, fr *hiatus*, pp of *hiare* to yawn – more at *yawn*]

**hiatus** *adj* 1 involving a hiatus 2 of a *hernia* having a part that protrudes through the oesophageal opening of the diaphragm

**hibernal** /'hi:bənl/ *adj* of or occurring in winter

**hibernate** /'hibənaɪt/ *vi* 1 to pass the winter in a torpid or resting state – compare *ASTIVAT* 2 to be or become inactive or dormant [L *hibernatus*, pp of *hibernare* to pass the winter, fr *hibernus* of winter, akin to L *hiems* winter, Gk *cheimon*] – **hibernator** *n*, **hibernation** /'hibənaɪʃən/ *n*

**Hibernian** /'hi:bɪniən, -niən/ *adj* (characteristic) of Ireland chiefly poetic [L *Hibernia* Ireland] – **Hibernian** *n*

**hibiscus** /'hi:bɪskəs/ *n* any of a genus of herbaceous plants, shrubs, or small trees of the mallow family with large showy flowers [NL, genus name, fr L, marshmallow]

**'hiccup** also **hiccuph** /'hɪkʌp/ *n* 1 a spasmodic involuntary inhalation with closure of the glottis accompanied by a characteristic sharp sound 2 an attack of hiccupping – usu pl but sing or pl in constr 3 chiefly *Br* a brief interruption or breakdown, a hitch (<a mistake due to a ~ in the computer>) – *infml* [imit]

**'hiccup** also **hiccuph** *vi* -*pp*, -*pp*- to make a hiccup or hiccup

**hick** /hɪk/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* an unsophisticated provincial person [*Hick*, nickname for *Richard*] – **hick** *adj*

**'hickey** /'hɪki/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a gadget, object [origin unknown]

**'hickey** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a lovebite [origin unknown]

**hickory** /'hɪkəri/ *n* (the usu tough pale wood of) any of a genus of *N* American hardwood trees of the walnut family that often have sweet edible nuts [short for obs *pokahickory*, fr *pawcohiccora* food prepared from pounded nuts (in some Algonquian language of Virginia)] – **hickory** *adj*

**hidalgo** /hi'dalɡəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **hidalgos** often *cap* a member of the lower nobility of Spain [Sp]

**hidden** /'hɪd(ə)n/ *adj* 1 out of sight; concealed 2 obscure, unexplained

**'hide** /hɪd/ *n* any of various former English units of land area based on

the amount of land that would support 1 free family and dependants [ME, fr OE *higd*]

**'hide** *vb* *hid* /hɪd/; *hidden* /'hɪd(ə)n/, *hid* *vt* 1 to put out of sight, conceal 2 to keep secret (<hid the news from his parents>) 3 to screen from view (<house hidden by trees>) ~ *vi* 1 to conceal oneself 2 to remain out of sight – often + *out* [ME *hiden*, fr OE *hydan*; akin to Gk *keuthein* to conceal, OE *hyd* hide, skin] – **hider** *n*

**'hide** *n*, chiefly *Br* a camouflaged hut or other shelter used for observation, esp of wildlife or game

**'hide** *n* the raw or dressed skin of an animal – used esp with reference to large heavy skins [ME, fr OE *hyd*, akin to OHG *hut* hide, L *cutis* skin, Gk *kytos* hollow vessel] – **hide or nor hair** the least vestige or trace – *infml* (<hadn't seen hide or hair of his wife for 20 years>)

**'hide-and-seek** *n* a children's game in which one player covers his/her eyes and then hunts for the other players who have hidden themselves

**'hideaway** /-ə,weɪ/ *n* a retreat, hideout

**'hidebound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* narrow or inflexible in character

**hideous** /'hɪdɪəs/ *adj* 1 offensive to the senses, esp the sight; exceedingly ugly 2 morally offensive, shocking [alter of ME *hidous*, fr OF, fr *hisdre*, *hide* terror] – **hideously** *adv*, **hideousness** *n*

**hideout** /'hɪd,əʊt/ *n* a place of refuge or concealment

**'hidey-hole**, **hidy-hole** /'hɪdi/ *n* a hideout – *infml* [alter of earlier *hiding-hole*]

**'hiding** /'hɪdɪŋ/ *n* a state or place of concealment (<go into ~>)

**'hiding** *n* a beating, thrashing (<gave him a good ~>), also a severe defeat – *infml* [fr gerund of *hide* (to flog), fr 'hide]

**hidrosis** /'hɪdrəʊsɪs/ *n* sweating [NL, fr Gk *hidrosis*, fr *hidroun* to sweat, fr *hidros* sweat] – **hidrotic** /-'drɒtɪk/ *adj*

**hie** /hiə/ *vb* *hying*, *hieing* *archaic* to hurry [ME *hien*, fr OE *higian* to strive, hasten, akin to OSw *hikka* to pant, Skt *śighra* quick]

**hier-**, **hiero-** *comb form* sacred, holy (<hierology>) [LL, fr Gk, fr *hieros* – more at *ire*]

**hierarchical** /'hi:ə'ræhɪkəl, -hi:/, **hierarchical** *adj* of or arranged in a hierarchy – **hierarchically** *adv*

**hierarchy** /'hi:ə'ræhki, -hi:/ *n* 1 (church government by) a body of clergy organized according to rank, specif the bishops of a province or nation 2 a graded or ranked series [ME *ierarchie*, fr MF *ierarchie*, *hierarchie*, fr ML *hierarchia*, fr LGk, fr Gk *hierarches* high priest]

**'hieratic** /-'ræɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 of or written in a simplified form of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics 2 (characteristic) of a priest, esp in dignity or stateliness of manner [L *hieraticus* priestly, fr Gk *hieratikos*, deriv of *hieros*] – **hieratically** *adv*

**hieroglyph** /'hi:ə'rəʒlɪf, -hi:/ *n* a pictorial character used in hieroglyphics – compare *IDEOGRAM* [F *hiéroglyphe*, fr MF, back-formation fr *hieroglyphique*]

**hieroglyphic** /-fɪk/, **hieroglyphical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 written in, constituting, belonging to, or inscribed with a system of writing mainly in hieroglyphs 2 difficult to decipher [MF *hieroglyphique*, fr LL *hieroglyphicus*, fr Gk *hieroglyphikos*, fr *hier-* + *glyphein* to carve – more at 'CLEAVE'] – **hieroglyphically** *adv*

**hieroglyphics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 a system of hieroglyphic writing, specif the picture script of various ancient peoples (e.g. the Egyptians) 2 sthg like hieroglyphics, esp in being difficult to decipher

**hierophant** /'hi:ə'rəfənt/ *n* 1 a priest in ancient Greece responsible for initiation rites, esp to Eleusis 2 an expositor, interpreter – *fml* [LL *hierophanta*, fr Gk *hierophantes*, fr *hier-* + *phainein* to show] – **hierophantic** /'hi:ə'rəfəntɪk/ *adj*

**hi-fi** /'hi:fi, -hie 'fi:/ *n* 1 HIGH FIDELITY 2 equipment for the high-fidelity reproduction of sound **USE** *infml*

**higgledy-piggledy** /'hɪɡldi 'pɪɡldi/ *adv* in confusion; topsy-turvy – *infml* [origin unknown] – **higgledy-piggledy** *adj*

**'high** /hi:/ *adj* **1a** extending upwards for a considerable or above average distance (<rooms with ~ ceilings>) **b** situated at a considerable height above a base (e.g. the ground) (<a ~ plateau>) **c** of physical activity extending to or from, or taking place at a considerable height above, a base (e.g. the ground or water) (<~ diving>) **d** having a specified elevation; tall (<6 feet ~>) – often in combination (<sky-high>) **2** at the period of culmination or fullest development (<~ summer>) (<~ Gothic>) **3** elevated in pitch (<a ~ note>) **4** relatively far from the equator (<~ latitudes>) **5** of meat, esp game slightly decomposed or tainted **6a** exalted in character; noble (<~ principles>) **b** good, favourable (<has a very ~ opinion of her>) **7** of greater degree, amount, cost, value, or content than average (<~ prices>) (<food ~ in iron>) **8a** foremost in rank, dignity, or standing (<~ officials>) **b** critical, climactic (<the ~ point of the novel is the escape>) **c** marked by sublime or heroic events or subject matter (<~ tragedy>) **9**

forcible, strong <~ winds> 10a showing elation or excitement <feelings ran ~> b intoxicated by alcohol or a drug 11 advanced in complexity, development, or elaboration <~er nerve centres> <~er mathematics> <~ technology> 12 of a vowel CLOSE 2b 13 of a gear designed for fast speed 14 of words expressive of anger 15 rigidly traditionalist <a ~ Tory>; specif HIGH CHURCH [ME, fr OE *heah*; akin to OHG *hoh* high, L *cacumen* point, top] - **highly** *adv* - on one's **high horse** stubbornly or disdainfully proud <gave up trying to reason with him when he got on his high horse>  
**high** *adv* at or to a high place, altitude, or degree <threw the ball ~ in the air>  
**high** *n* 1 a region of high atmospheric pressure 2 a high point or level, a height <sales have reached a new ~> 3 NAM TOP 4 - on high in or to a high place, esp heaven  
**high altar** *n* the principal altar in a church  
**high and 'dry** *adv* 1 out of the water 2 in a helpless or abandoned situation; without recourse  
**high** and **'low** *adv* everywhere <hunted ~ but could not find the ring>  
**high-and-mighty** *adj* arrogant, imperious  
**highball** /'hi:bəwl/ *n* a drink of spirits (e.g. whisky) and water or a carbonated beverage, served with ice in a tall glass  
**highborn** /-bawn/ *adj* of noble birth  
**highboy** /-boy/ *n*, NAM TALLBOY 1  
**highbrow** /-brow/ *adj* dealing with, possessing, or having pretensions to superior intellectual and cultural interests or activities <a ~ radio programme> - **highbrow** *n*, **highbrowed** *adj*, **highbrowism** *n*  
**high camp** *adj* or *n* (marked by) a sophisticated form of camp style or behaviour  
**'high, chair** *n* a child's chair with long legs, a footrest, and usu a feeding tray  
**High 'Church** *adj* tending, in the Anglican church, towards Roman Catholicism in liturgy, ceremonial, and dogma - **High Churchman** *n*  
**high-class** *adj* superior, first-class  
**high-coloured** *adj* FLORID 2  
**high command** *n* the supreme headquarters of a military force  
**high commissioner** *n* a principal commissioner, esp an ambassadorial representative of one Commonwealth country stationed in another  
**High 'Court** *n* the lower branch of the Supreme Court of Judicature of England and Wales ➡ LAW  
**High Court of Justiciary** *n* the superior criminal court of Scotland dealing with treason, murder, rape, and all cases involving heavy penalties, and with appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal ➡ LAW  
**High 'Dutch** *n* 1 HIGH GERMAN 2 Dutch of the Netherlands rather than Afrikaans  
**high-energy** *adj* yielding a relatively large amount of energy when undergoing hydrolysis <~ phosphate bonds in ATP>  
**higher criticism** *n* the critical study of biblical writings, esp to determine their sources - compare LOWER CRITICISM - **higher critic** *n*  
**higher education** *n* education beyond the secondary level, at a college or university  
**higher-up** *n* a person occupying a superior rank or position - *infrm*, compare HIGH-UP  
**highest common factor** *n* the largest integer or the polynomial of highest degree that is an exact divisor of each of 2 or more integers or polynomials  
**high explosive** *n* an explosive (e.g. TNT) that explodes with extreme rapidity and has a shattering effect  
**highfalutin** /-fə'loohtin/ *adj* pretentious, pompous <written<sup>it</sup> in a ~ style> - *infrm* [perfr *high* + *alter.* of *fluting*, prp of *flute*]  
**high 'fashion** *n* 1 the latest in fashion or design 2 HAUTE COUTURE  
**high fidelity** *n* the faithful reproduction of sound - **high-fidelity** *adj* - **high 'finance** *n* (the major financial institutions engaged in) large and complex financial operations  
**high-flier, high-flyer** *n* a person who shows extreme ambition or outstanding promise  
**high-flown** *adj* 1 excessively ambitious or extravagant 2 excessively elaborate or inflated; pretentious <~ rhetoric>  
**high-flying** *adj* 1 rising to considerable height 2 marked by extravagance, pretension, or excessive ambition  
**high gear** *n* TOP GEAR 2  
**High 'German** *n* German as used in S and central Germany  
**high-grade** *adj* 1 of superior grade or quality <~ bonds> 2 being near the upper or most favourable extreme of a specified range

**high-handed** *adj* overbearingly arbitrary - **high-handedly** *adv*, **high-handedness** *n*  
**High 'Holiday** *n* either of 2 important Jewish holidays a ROSH HASHANAH b YOM KIPPUR  
**high 'jinks** /jɪŋks/ *n pl* high-spirited fun and games  
**'high jump** *n* (an athletic field event consisting of) a jump for height over a bar suspended between uprights - **high jumper** *n*, **high jumping** *n* - for the high jump about to receive a severe reprimand or punishment  
**highland** /'hi:lənd/ *n* high or mountainous land - usu *pl* with sing meaning - **highland** *adj*, **highlander** *n*  
**Highland** *adj* 1 of the Highlands of Scotland 2 relating to or being a member of a shaggy long-haired breed of hardy beef cattle - **Highlander** *n*  
**Highland 'fling** *n* a lively solo Scottish folk dance  
**'Highlands** *n pl* the northwest mountainous part of Scotland  
**high-level** *adj* 1 occurring, done, or placed at a high level 2 of high importance or rank <~ diplomats> 3 of a computer language having each word equal to several machine code instructions and being easily understandable to humans  
**'high life** *n* luxurious living associated with the rich  
**'high, light** /-li:t/ *n* 1 the lightest spot or area (e.g. in a painting or photograph) 2 an event or detail of special significance or interest <~s from the week's news> 3 a contrasting brighter part in the hair or on the face that reflects or gives the appearance of reflecting light  
**'high, light** *vt* 1a to focus attention on, emphasize b to emphasize (e.g. a figure) with light tones in painting, photography, etc 2 to give highlights to - **highlighter** *n*  
**highly** /'hi:li/ *adv* 1 to a high degree, extremely <~ delighted> 2 with approval, favourably <~ of someone>  
**highly-strung, high-strung** *adj* extremely nervous or sensitive  
**high 'mass** *n*, often *cap* H&M an elaborate sung mass  
**high-minded** *adj* having or marked by elevated principles and feelings - **high-mindedly** *adv*, **high-mindedness** *n*  
**Highness** /'hi:nis/ *n* - used as a title for a person of exalted rank (e.g. a king or prince) ['HIGH + -NESS]  
**high-octane** *adj* having a high octane number and hence good antiknock properties <~ petrol>  
**high-pitched** *adj* 1 having a high pitch <a ~ voice> 2 marked by or exhibiting strong feeling, agitated <a ~ election campaign>  
**high polymer** *n* a polymer (e.g. polystyrene) of high molecular weight  
**high-powered** *also high-power* *adj* having great drive, energy, or capacity, dynamic <~ executives>  
**high-pressure** *adj* 1 having or involving a (comparatively) high pressure, esp greatly exceeding that of the atmosphere 2a using, involving, or being aggressive and insistent sales techniques <~ selling> b imposing or involving severe strain or tension <~ occupations>  
**high 'priest** *n* 1 a chief priest, esp of the ancient Jewish Levitical priesthood 2 the head or chief exponent of a movement - **high priesthood** *n*  
**high 'priestess** *n* 1 a chief priestess 2 the female head or chief exponent of a movement  
**high relief** *n* sculptural relief in which at least half of the circumference of the design stands out from the surrounding surface - compare BAS-RELIEF  
**high-rise** *adj* (situated in a building) constructed with a large number of storeys <~ flats> <~ blocks> - **high rise** *n*  
**'high, road** /-ro:hd/ *n* 1 the easiest course to <the ~ to success> 2 chiefly Br a main road  
**'high, school** *n* 1 chiefly Br secondary school; esp GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2 - now chiefly in names 2 NAM a school usu for pupils aged about 15-18  
**high 'sea** *n* the part of a sea or ocean outside territorial waters - usu *pl* with sing. meaning  
**high-sounding** *adj* pompous, but meaningless  
**high-speed** *adj* 1 (adapted to be) operated at high speed 2 relating to the production of photographs by very short exposures  
**high-spirited** *adj* characterized by a bold or lively spirit; also highly-strung <a ~ horse> - **high-spiritedly** *adv*, **high-spiritedness** *n*  
**'high, spot** /-spɒt/ *n* the most important or enjoyable feature of sth <the ~ of his political career>  
**'high-stepping** *adj*, of a horse lifting the feet high - **high-stepper** *n*  
**'high, street** *n*, Br a main or principal street, esp containing shops  
**high-strung** *adj* highly-strung  
**high table** *n*, often *cap* H&T a dining-room table, usu on a platform,

used by the masters and fellows of a British college, or at a formal dinner or reception (e.g. by distinguished guests)

**'high,tail** /-ˈtaɪl/ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to move away at full speed – often + *it*

**high 'tea** *n*, *Br* a fairly substantial early evening meal (at which tea is served) – compare **TEA** 4b

**high 'tech** /tek/ *n* 1 a style of interior decoration involving the use of industrial building materials, fittings, etc 2 high technology – **high tech** *adj*

**high-tension** *adj* having a high voltage, also relating to apparatus to be used at high voltage

**high 'tide** *n* 1 (the time of) the tide when the water reaches its highest level 2 the culminating point; the climax

**high-toned** *adj* high in social, moral, or intellectual quality, dignified

**high 'treason** *n* TREASON 2

**high-up** *n* a person of high rank or status – *informal*, compare **HIGHFIVE** 1 – **high-up** *adj*

**high 'water** *n* HIGH TIDE 1

**high-water, mark** *n* 1 a mark showing the highest level reached by the surface of a body of water 2 the highest point or stage

**'highway** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* 1 a public way, esp a main direct road 2 a busbar

**highway 'code** *n*, often *cap* **H&C**, *Br* the official code of rules and advice for the safe use of roads

**'highwayman** /-ˈmæn/ *n* a (mounted) robber of travellers on a road, esp in former times

**hijack**, **high-jack** /'hɪjak/ *vt* 1a to stop and steal from (a vehicle in transit) b to seize control of, and often divert, (a means of transport) by force *[gunmen ~ed a plane bound for Frankfurt]* 2 to steal, rob, or kidnap as it by rjacking [origin unknown] – **hijack** *n*, **hijacker** *n*

**'hike** /hɪk/ *vi* to go on a hike [*hike*, *vt*, to jerk, pull, *perh* akin to 'hitch] – **hiker** *n*

**'hike** *n* 1 a long walk in the country, esp for pleasure or exercise 2 chiefly *NAM* an increase or rise <a new wage ~>

**hike up** *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to move, pull, or raise with a sudden movement <hiked himself up on the wall> – *informal*

**hilar** /'hɪlə/ *adj* of, relating to, or located near a hilum

**hilarious** /'hɪləriəs/ *adj* marked by or causing hilarity [*irreg* fr *L. hilarus, hilaris* cheerful, fr *Gk hilaros*] – **hilariously** *adv*, **hilariousness** *n*

**hilarity** /'hɪləriti/ *n* mirth, merriment

**Hilary term** /'hɪləri/ *n* the Oxford university term beginning in January [St Hilary †367 F bishop, whose feast day is 13 January]

**'hill** /hɪl/ *n* 1 a usu rounded natural rise of land lower than a mountain 2 an artificial heap or mound (e.g. of earth) 3 an esp steep slope [ME, fr OE *hyll*, akin to *L. collis* hill, *culmen* top] – **hilly** *adj* – over the hill past one's prime, too old

**'hill** *vi* to draw earth round the roots or base of (plants)

**hillbilly** /'hɪlbɪli/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a person from a remote or culturally unsophisticated area [*'hill* + *Billy*, nickname for *William*]

**hill climb** *n* a race for cars, motorcycles, etc up a hill side

**'hill,fort** /-ˈfawt/ *n* a fortified hilltop characteristic of Iron Age settlements in W Europe

**hillock** /'hɪlək/ *n* a small hill – **hillocky** *adj*

**hilt** /hɪlt/ *n* a handle, esp of a sword or dagger [ME, fr OE, akin to OE *healt* lame – more at 'HALT] – to the hilt completely

**hilum** /'hɪləm/ *n*, *pl* **hila** /-lɪ/ 1a a scar on a seed (e.g. a bean) marking the point of attachment of the ovule to its stalk b the nucleus of a starch grain 2 a notch, opening, etc in a bodily part, usu where a vessel, nerve, etc enters [NL, fr *L. trisle*]

**him** /hɪm/ *pron*, *objective case* of **HE** – compare phrases at **ME** 1 [ME, fr OE, dat of *he* he – more at **HE**]

**himation** /hɪ'meɪʃən/ *n* an ancient Greek rectangular garment of cloth draped about the body and over the left shoulder [Gk, fr *hennynai* to clothe – more at **WEAR**]

**himself** /hɪm'self/ *medially often* *im-/pron* 1a that identical male person or creature – compare **HE** 1, **ONESELF**; used reflexively <he considers ~ lucky>, for emphasis <he ~ did it>, or in absolute constructions <~ unhappy, he understood the situation> b – used reflexively when the sex of the antecedent is unspecified <everyone must fend for ~> 2 his normal self <isn't quite ~ today> 3 chiefly *NAM* oneself – used with *one* <one should wash ~>

**Hinayana** /ˌhɛnəˈjɑːnə/ *n* Theravada [Skt *hinayana*, lit., lesser vehicle] – **Hinayanist** *n*, **Hinayanistic** /-jɑːnɪstɪk/ *adj*

**'hind** /hɪnd/ *n*, *pl* **hinds** also **hind** a female (red) deer – compare **HART** [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *hinta* hind, Gk *kemas* young deer]

**'hind** *adj* situated at the back or behind, rear [ME, prob back-formation fr OE *hinder*, *adv*, behind, akin to OHG *hinter*, prep, behind]

**'hind,brain** /-ˈbrɛɪn/ *n* (the cerebellum, pons, and other parts of the adult brain that develop from) the rear of the 3 primary divisions of the embryonic vertebrate brain

**'hinder** /'hɪndə/ *vi* 1 to retard or obstruct the progress of, hamper 2 to restrain, prevent – often + *from* [ME *hindren*, fr OE *hindrian*, akin to OE *hinder* behind] – **hinderer** *n*

**'hinder** /'hɪndə/ *adj* situated behind or at the rear; posterior [ME, fr OE *hinder*, *adv*]

**Hindi** /'hɪndi/ *n* 1 a literary and official Indic language of N India 2 a complex of Indic dialects of N India **USE** – **ALPHABET, LANGUAGE** [Hindi *hindi*, fr *Hind* India, fr *Per*] – **Hindi** *adj*

**hindmost** /'hɪndˌmoʊst/ *adj* furthest to the rear, last

**hindquarter** /ˌhɛɪndˈkwɔːtə/ *n* 1 the back half of a side (of the carcass) of a quadruped 2 *pl* the hind legs (and adjoining structures) of a quadruped

**hindrance** /'hɪndrəns/ *n* 1 the action of hindering 2 an impediment, obstacle

**hindsight** /'hɪndˌsaɪt/ *n* the grasp or picture of a situation that one has after it has occurred – compare **FORESIGHT**

**Hindu**, **archaic Hindoo** /'hɪnduː, hɪnˈduː/ *n* an adherent of Hinduism [Per *Hindu* inhabitant of India, fr *Hind* India] – **Hindu** *adj*

**'Hinduism** /-ˌɪz(ə)m/ *n* the dominant religion of India which involves belief in the illusory nature of the physical universe and in cycles of reincarnation, and is associated with a caste system of social organization

**'Hindustani** /ˌhɪnduːˈstɑːni, -ˈstɑːni/ *n* 1 a group of Indic dialects of N India and Pakistan of which Hindi and Urdu are considered the main written forms 2 a form of speech allied to Urdu but less divergent from Hindi [Hindi *Hindustani*, fr *Per Hindustan* India]

**'Hindustani** *adj* of Hindustan, its people, or Hindustani

**'hinge** /'hɪŋj/ *n* 1a a jointed or flexible device on which a swinging part (e.g. a door or lid) turns b a flexible joint in which bones are held together by ligaments c a small piece of thin gummed paper used in fastening a postage stamp in an album 2 a point or principle on which sthg turns or depends [ME *heng*, akin to MD *henge* hook, OE *hangian* to hang]

**'hinge** *vi* to attach by or provide with hinges ~ *vi* 1 to hang or turn (as if) on a hinge <door ~s outwards> 2 to depend or turn on a single consideration or point

**'hinny** /'hɪni/ *n* a hybrid offspring of a stallion and a female ass – compare **MULE** [*L. hinnus*]

**'hinny** **hinnie** *n*, *Scot* & *N Eng* **DLAR** 1b [E dial., var of *honey*]

**'hint** /hɪnt/ *n* 1 a brief practical suggestion or piece of advice <~s for home decorators> 2 an indirect or veiled statement, an insinuation 3 a light indication or trace; a suggestion – usu + *of* <a ~ of irony in her voice> [prob alter of obs *hent* (act of seizing), fr *hent* (to seize)]

**'hint** *vt* to indicate indirectly or by allusion <~ed that something was up> ~ *vi* to give a hint – **hint at** to imply or allude to (sthg)

**hinterland** /'hɪntəˌlænd/ *n* 1 a region lying inland from a coast 2 a region remote from urban or cultural centres [G, fr *hinter* hinder + *land*]

**'hip** /hɪp/ *n* the ripened fruit of a rose [ME *hipe*, fr OE *hēope*, akin to OHG *hīfo* hip]

**'hip** *n* 1a the projecting region at each side of the lower or rear part of the mammalian trunk formed by the pelvis and upper part of the thigh b **HIP JOINT** 2 an external angle between 2 adjacent sloping sides of a roof **ARCHITECTURE** [ME, fr OE *hype*, akin to OHG *huf* hip, *L. cubitum* elbow, *cubare* to lie, Gk *kybos* cube, die, OE *heah* high – more at **HIGH**]

**'hip** *interj* – usu used to begin a cheer <~ ~ hooray> [origin unknown]


**'hip** *adj* -**pp** keenly aware of or interested in the newest developments, broadly trendy – *informal* [alter. of *hep*, of unknown origin] – **hipness** /-nɪs/ *n*

**'hip, bone** /-ˈboʊn/ *n* INNOMINATE BONE **ANATOMY**

**'hip, flask** *n* a flat flask, usu for holding spirits, carried in a hip pocket

**'hip, joint** *n* the joint between the femur and the hipbone **ANATOMY**

**hipp-, hippo-** *comb form* horse <hippophagous> [*L*, fr *Gk*, fr *hippos* – more at **EQUINE**]

- hipped** /hipt/ *adj* having hips, esp of a specified kind – often in combination (< *broad-hipped*)
- hipple, hippy** /'hipi/ *n* a usu young person, esp during the 1960s, who rejected established mores, advocated a nonviolent ethic, and, in many cases, used psychedelic drugs; *broadly* a long-haired unconventionally dressed young person [*\*hip* + *-ie*] – *hippiehood* *n*, *hipple* *adj*, *hippiedom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*
- hippo** /'hipoh/ *n, pl hippos* a hippopotamus – *infrm*
- hippocampus** /'hipoh'kampəs/ *n, pl hippocampi* /-pie/ a curved elongated ridge of nervous tissue inside each hemisphere of the brain [NL, fr Gk *hippokampos* sea horse, fr *hipp-* + *kampos* sea monster] – *hippocampal* *adj*
- Hippocratic oath** /'hipə'kratik/ *n* an oath embodying a code of medical ethics [*Hippocratic* fr LL *Hippocraticus*, fr *Hippocrates* †ab377 bc Gk physician]
- hippodrome** /'hipdrohm/ *n* 1 an arena for equestrian performances or circuses 2 a music hall, theatre, etc – esp in names [MF, fr L *hippodromos*, fr Gk, fr *hipp-* + *dromos* racecourse – more at *DROMEDARY*]
- hippopotamus** /'hipə'potəməs/ *n, pl hippopotamuses, hippopotami* /-mie/ any of several large plant-eating 4-toed chiefly aquatic mammals, with an extremely large head and mouth, very thick hairless skin, and short legs [L, fr Gk *hippopotamos*, fr *hipp-* + *potamos* river, fr *petesthai* to fly, rush – more at *FEATHER*]
- hippus** /-hips/ *comb form* (< *n*) horse – in generic names, esp of extinct ancestors of the horse (< *Eohippus*) [NL, fr Gk *hippos* – more at *EQUINE*]
- hipster** /'hipstə/ *n* 1 sby who is unusually aware of and interested in new and unconventional patterns, esp in jazz 2 *pl* trousers that start from the hips rather than the waist [(1) *\*hip*, (2) *\*hip*]
- hircine** /'hu:siən/ *adj* goatlike [L *hircinus*, fr *hircus* he-goat]
- hire** /'hie-/ *n* 1 payment for the temporary use of sthg 2 hiring or being hired [ME, fr OE *hȳr*, akin to MD *hure* hire]
- hire** *vt* 1a to engage the services of for a set sum (< *a new crew*) b to engage the temporary use of for an agreed sum (< *a half*) 2 to grant the services of or temporary use of for a fixed sum (< *themselves out*) – *hire* *n*
- hiring** /-liŋ/ *n* a person who works for payment, esp for purely mercenary motives – *derog*
- hire purchase** *n*, chiefly *Br* a system of paying for goods by instalments (< *bought their car on ~*) (< *signed a ~ agreement*)
- hirsute** /'hu:siuht/ *adj* covered with (coarse stiff) hairs [L *hirsutus*; akin to L *horre* to bristle, tremble – more at *HORROR*] – *hirsuteness* *n*
- hirsutism** /-'tɪz(ə)m/ *n* excessive growth of hair
- his** /i:; strong hɪz/ *adj* 1 of him or himself, esp as possessor (< *house*) (< *tail*), agent (< *writings*), or object of an action (< *confirmation*) – used in titles of males (< *Majesty*) 2 chiefly *NAM* one's – used with *one* (< *one's duty to ~ public*) [ME, fr OE, gen of *he* he]
- his** /hɪz/ *pron, pl* his that which or the one who belongs to him – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *his*; compare phrases at *MINE* 2
- Hispanic** /'hɪspənɪk/ *adj* (characteristic) of Spain, Portugal, or Latin America [L *hispanicus*, fr *Hispania* Iberian peninsula, Spain] – *Hispanicism* /-nɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, *Hispanicist* /-nɪsɪst/ *n*, *Hispanicize* /-nɪsɪz/ *vt*
- hispid** /'hɪspɪd/ *adj* covered with bristles, stiff hairs, etc (< *a ~ plant*) – compare *PUBESCENT* 2 [L *hispidus*; prob akin to L *horre*] – *hispidity* /'hɪspɪdɪti/ *n*
- hiss** /hɪs/ *vi* to make a sharp voiceless sound like a prolonged *s*, esp in disapproval – *vt* 1 to show disapproval of by hissing 2 to utter with a hiss [ME *hissen*, of imit origin] – *hiss* *n*
- hist** /hɪst/ *interj* – used to attract attention [origin unknown]
- hist-** /-hist-, *histo-* *comb form* tissue (< *histology*) [F, fr Gk *histos* mast, loom beam, web, fr *histana* to cause to stand]
- histamine** /'hɪstəmin/ *n* an amine that is a neurotransmitter in the autonomic nervous system and whose release under certain conditions causes an allergic reaction [ISV] – *histamine* /'hɪstəminɪk/ *adj*
- histidine** /'hɪstədi:n-, -dɪn/ *n* an amino acid that is a chemical base and is found in most proteins [ISV]
- histiocyte** /'hɪstɪ-əsi:t/ *n* a macrophage (that is not capable of independent movement) [Gk *histion* web (dim. of *histos*) + *ISV* -cyte] – *histiocyte* /'hɪstɪ-əsi:tɪk/ *adj*
- histochemistry** /'hɪstə'kemɪstri/ *n* histology in which chemical techniques are used in preparing tissues for microscopy [ISV] – *histochemical* /-'kemɪkl/ *adj*
- histocompatibility** /-kəm.pə'tɪbəlɪti/ *n* a state of mutual tolerance that allows some tissues to be grafted effectively onto others
- histogram** /'hɪstəgrəm/ *n* a diagram consisting of a series of adjacent rectangles, the height and width of each rectangle being varied to represent each of 2 variables  *STATISTICS* [*history* + *-gram*]
- histology** /'hɪstələdʒi/ *n* (anatomy that deals with) the organization and microscopic structure of animal and plant tissues [F *histologie*, fr *hist-* + *-logie* -logy] – *histologist* *n*, *histological* /'hɪstə'lɒjɪkl/ *adj*, *histologic* *adj*, *histologically* *adv*
- histone** /'hɪstəhn/ *n* any of various proteins found associated with DNA in chromosomes [ISV]
- histopathology** /'hɪstəpə'tɒlədʒi/ *n* (pathology concerned with) the tissue changes accompanying disease [ISV] – *histopathologist* *n*
- historian** /'hɪstəwɪən/ *n* a student or writer of history
- historic** /'hɪstɒrk/ *adj* 1 (likely to be) famous or important in history (< *a ~ occasion*) 2 of a tense expressive of past time
- historical** /-kl/ *adj* 1a of or based on history b used in the past 2 famous in history 3 diachronic (< *linguistics*) 4 dealing with or representing the events of history (< *a novel*) – *historically* *adv*
- historicism** /'hɪstərɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory that emphasizes the importance of history as a standard of value or determiner of events – *historicism* *adj* or *n*
- historicity** /'hɪstə'ri:si:ti/ *n* historical authenticity
- historico-** *comb form* historical; historical and (< *historicosocial*)
- historic present** *n* the present tense used to relate past events
- historiographer** /'hɪstərɪ'ɒgrəfə/ *n* a usu official writer of history [MF *historiographeur*, fr LL *historiographus*, fr Gk *historiographos*, fr *historia* + *graphein* to write – more at *CARVE*]
- historiography** /-fi/ *n* 1 the writing of history 2 the principles of historical writing – *historiographic* /'hɪstəwɪn-ə'græfɪk/ *adj*, *historiographical* *adj*
- history** /'hɪstəri/ *n* 1 (a chronological record of) significant past events  *BRITISH* 2a a treatise presenting systematically related natural phenomena (< *a ~ of British birds*) b an account of sby's medical, sociological, etc background 3 a branch of knowledge that records the past 4a past events (< *that's all ~ now*) b an unusual or interesting past (< *this goblet has a ~*) c previous treatment, handling, or experience [L *historia*, fr Gk, inquiry, history, fr *histor*, *istor* knowing, learned, akin to Gk *idenai* to know – more at *WII*]
- histrionic** /'hɪstrɪ'ɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 of actors, acting, or the theatre 2 deliberately affected, theatrical [LL *histrionicus*, fr L *histrion*-, *histrion* actor, alter of *hister*, fr Etruscan] – *histrionically* *adv*
- histrionics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* deliberate display of emotion for effect
- hit** /hɪt/ *vb* -tt-; *hit* *vt* 1a to reach (as if) with a blow, strike (< *the ball*) (< *by an attack of flu*) b to make sudden forceful contact with (< *the car ~ the tree*) 2a to bring into contact (< *the stick against the railings*) b to deliver, inflict (< *a severe blow*) 3 to have a usu detrimental effect or impact on (< *hard by the drought*) 4 to discover or meet, esp by chance (< *I seem to have ~ a snag*) 5a to reach, attain (< *prices ~ a new high*) b to cause a propelled object to strike (e.g. a target), esp for a score in a contest c of a batsman to score (runs) in cricket, also to score runs off a ball bowled by (a bowler) 6 to indulge in, esp excessively (< *the bottle*) 7 to arrive at or in (< *town*) 8 to rob 9 chiefly *NAM* to kill ~ *vi* 1 to strike a blow 2a to come into forceful contact with sthg b to attack (< *wondered where the enemy would ~ next*) c to happen or arrive, esp with sudden or destructive force (< *the epidemic ~ that summer*) 3 to come, esp by chance; arrive at or find sthg – + *on* or *upon* (< *on a solution*) *USE* (vt 6 & 7) *infrm*; (vt 8 & 9) *slang* [ME *hitten*, fr ON *hitta* to meet with, hit] – *hit* *it* off to get along well – *infrm* – *hit* the jackpot to be or become notably and unexpectedly successful – *hit* the nail on the head to be exactly right – *hit* the road to start on a journey – *infrm* – *hit* the roof to give vent to a burst of anger or angry protest – *infrm*
- hit** *n* 1 a blow; esp one that strikes its target 2a a stroke of luck b sthg (e.g. a popular tune) that enjoys great success (< *the song was a big ~*) 3 a telling remark 4 a robbery 5 chiefly *NAM* an act of murder *USE* (4 & 5) *slang*
- hit-and-miss** *adj* hit-or-miss
- hit-and-run** *adj* 1 being or involving a driver who does not stop after causing damage or injury 2 involving rapid action and immediate withdrawal (< *raids on coastal towns*)
- hitch** /hɪtʃ/ *vt* 1 to move by jerks 2 to catch or fasten (as if) by a hook or knot (< *ed his horse to the top rail of the fence*) – often + *up* 3 to solicit and obtain (a free lift) in a passing vehicle ~ *vi* to hitchhike – *infrm* [ME *hytchen*] – *hitcher* *n*



- hitch** *n* 1 a sudden movement or pull, a jerk [*gave his trousers a ~*] 2 a sudden halt or obstruction; a stoppage [*a ~ in the proceedings*] 3 a knot used for a temporary fastening 4 *NAM* a period of use of military service – *slang*
- hitchhike** /-hɪk/ *vi* to travel by obtaining free lifts in passing vehicles – *hitchhiker* *n*
- hither** /'hɪðə/ *adv* to or towards this place – *fml* [ME *hider*, *hither*, fr OE *hider*; akin to Goth *hidre* hither, L *citra* on this side – more at *HE*]
- hither** *adj* *NEAR* 3a *<the ~ side of the hill>* – *fml*
- hither and thither** *adv* in all directions
- hither to** /-tʊh/ *adv* up to this time, until now – *fml*
- Hitlerian** /'hɪtləriən/ *adj* of Adolf Hitler or his regime in Germany [Adolf Hitler †1945 G political leader]
- Hitlerism** /'hɪtlərɪz(ə)m/ *n* the nationalistic and totalitarian principles and policies of Adolf Hitler – *Hitlerite* /-ɪt/ *n* or *adj*
- hit off** *vt* to represent or imitate accurately
- hit-or-miss** *adj* showing a lack of planning or forethought, haphazard
- hit out** *vi* 1 to aim violent blows at 2 to aim angry verbal attacks at, speak violently against
- hit parade** *n* a group or listing of popular songs ranked in order of the number of records of each sold
- Hittite** /'hɪtɪ/ *n* a member of a people that established an empire in Asia Minor and Syria in the 2nd millennium BC, also their language [Heb *Hitti*, fr Hitt *hatti*] – *Hittite* *adj*
- hive** /hɪv/ *n* 1 (a structure for housing) a colony of bees 2 a place full of busy occupants [*a ~ of industry*] [ME, fr OE *hyf*, akin to Gk *kypellon* cup, OE *heah* high – more at *HIGH*]
- hive** *vi* to collect into a hive ~ *vi*, of bees to enter and take possession of a hive
- hive off** *vt* to separate from a group or larger unit; *specif* to assign (e.g. assets or responsibilities) to a subsidiary company or agency ~ *vi* 1 to become separated from a group, form a separate or subsidiary unit 2 to leave without warning [*hived off at 4.30*] – *infm*
- hives** /hɪvz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* urticaria [origin unknown]
- ho** /hoh/ *interj* 1 – used esp to attract attention to sth specified [*land ~*] 2 – used to express surprise or triumph, compare HO-HO [ME]
- hoar** /haw/ *adj* hoary – *fml* [ME *hor*, fr OE *har*; akin to OHG *her* hoary]
- hoar** *n* *FRONT* 1b [ME, hoariness, fr *hor*, *adj*]
- hoard** /hawd/ *n* 1 an often secret supply (e.g. of money or food) stored up for preservation or future use 2 a cache of valuable archaeological remains [ME *hord*, fr OE; akin to Gk *kysthos* vulva, OE *hydan* to hide]
- hoard** *vb* to lay up a hoard (of)
- hoarding** /'hawdɪŋ/ *n* 1 a temporary fence put round a building site 2 *Br* a large board designed to carry outdoor advertising [earlier *hourd*, *hoard*, prob deriv of OF *hourt* scaffold, platform]
- hoar, frost** /-frost/ *n* *FRONT* 1b
- hoarse** /haws/ *adj* 1 rough or harsh in sound, grating [*~ voice*] 2 having a hoarse voice [*~ with shouting*] [ME *hos*, *hors*, fr OE *has*, akin to OE *hat* hot – more at *HOI*] – *hoarsely* *adv*, *hoarseness* *n*, *hoarsen* /haws(ə)n/ *vb*
- hoary** /'hawɪ/ *adj* 1a grey or white with age, also grey-haired b having greyish or whitish hair, down, or leaves 2 impressively or venerably old, ancient 3 hackneyed [*a ~ old joke*] – *hoariness* *n*
- hoax** /hohks/ *vi* to play a trick on, deceive [prob contr of *hocus*] – *hoaxer* *n*
- hoax** *n* an act of deception; a trick [*the warning about the bomb was a ~*]
- hob** /hob/ *n*, *dial* *Br* a goblin, elf [ME *hobbe*, fr *Hobbe*, nickname for Robert]
- hob** *n* 1 a ledge near a fireplace on which sth may be kept warm 2 a horizontal surface either on a cooker or installed as a separate unit that contains heating areas on which pans are placed [origin unknown]
- hobbit** /'hɒbɪt/ *n* a member of an imaginary race of genial hole-dwellers that resemble small human beings [figure in novels by J.R.R. Tolkien †1973 E writer]
- hobble** /'hɒbl/ *vi* to move along unsteadily or with difficulty, esp to limp ~ *vt* 1 to cause to limp 2 to fasten together the legs of (e.g. a horse) to prevent straying; fetter [ME *hoblen*, akin to MD *hobbelen* to turn, roll, (2) prob alter. of earlier *hopple*]
- hobble** *n* 1 a hobbling movement 2 sth (e.g. a rope) used to hobble an animal
- hobbledehoy** /,hɒblɪ'dɔɪ/ *n* an awkward gawky youth [origin unknown]
- hobby** /'hɒbi/ *n* a leisure activity or pastime engaged in for interest or recreation [short for *hobbyhorse*] – *hobbyist* *n*
- hobby** *n* a small Old World falcon that catches small birds while in flight [ME *hoby*, fr MF *hobē*]
- hobbyhorse** /-haws/ *n* 1 a figure of a horse fastened round the waist of a performer in a morris dance 2a a toy consisting of an imitation horse's head attached to one end of a stick on which a child can pretend to ride b a toy horse on a merry-go-round c ROCKING HORSE 3 a topic to which one constantly returns [arch *hobby* (small light horse), fr ME *hoby*, *hobyn*, prob fr *Hobbin*, nickname for Robin]
- hobgoblin** /,hɒb'gɒblɪn/ *n* 1 a goblin 2 a bugbear; ROGUEY 2
- hobnail** /'hɒb,nayl/ *n* a short large-headed nail for studding shoe soles [arch *hob* (peg or stake used as a target in games)] – *hobnailed* *adj*
- hobnob** /'hɒb,nɒb/ *vi* -bb- 1 to associate familiarly 2 to talk informally USE usu + *with*, *infm* [fr the obs phrase *drink hobnob* (to drink alternately to one another)]
- hobo** /'hɒb,bɒh/ *n*, *pl* hoboos also hobos 1 chiefly *NAM* a migratory worker 2 *NAM* TRAMP 1 [perh fr *ho*, *bo* (assumed to be form of greeting between tramps)]
- Hobson's choice** /'hɒbs(ə)nɪz/ *n* an apparently free choice which offers no real alternative [prob fr Thomas Hobson †1631 E liveryman, who required every customer to take the horse nearest the door]
- hock** /hɒk/ *n* the tarsal joint of the hind limb of a horse or related quadruped that corresponds to the ankle in human beings ANATOMY [ME *hoch*, *hough*, fr OE *hōh* heel, akin to ON *hásin* hock, Skt *kankala* skeleton]
- hock** *n*, often *cap*, chiefly *Br* a dry to medium-dry or sometimes sweet white table wine produced in the Rhine valley [modif of G *hochheimer*, fr *Hochheim*, town in Germany]
- hock** *n* 1 PAWN 2 *<got her watch out of ~>* 2 DEBT 1 *<in ~ to the bank>* USE *infm* [D *hok* pen, prison]
- hock** *vi* to pawn – *infm*
- hockey** /'hɒki/ *n* 1 a game played on grass between 2 teams of usu 11 players whose object is to direct a ball into the opponents' goal with a stick that has a flat-faced blade 2 *NAM* ICE HOCKEY [perh fr MF *hoquet* shepherd's crook, dim of *hoc* hook, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *hōc* hook]
- hocus** /'hɒkəs/ *vi* -ss- (*NAM* -s-, -ss-) to drug (e.g. an animal or its drink) [obs *hocus*, *n*, short for *hocus-pocus*]
- hocus-pocus** /'pɒkəs/ *n* 1 SLEIGHT OF HAND 2 pointless activity or words, usu intended to obscure or deceive [prob fr *hocus pocus*, imitation Latin phrase used by jugglers]
- hod** /hɒd/ *n* 1 a trough mounted on a pole handle for carrying mortar, bricks, etc 2 a coal scuttle, *specif* a tall one used to shovel fuel directly onto a fire [prob fr MD *hodde*; akin to MHG *hotte* cradle, ME *schuderen* to shudder]
- hodgepodge** /'hɒd,pɒdʒ/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a hotchpotch [by alter.]
- Hodgkin's disease** /'hɒdʒkɪnz/ *n* a malignant disease characterized by progressive anaemia with enlargement of the lymph glands, spleen, and liver [Thomas Hodgkin †1866 E physician]
- hoe** /hoh/ *n* any of various implements, esp one with a long handle and flat blade, used for tilling, weeding, etc [ME *howe*, fr MF *houe*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *houwa* mattock, *houwan* to hew – more at *HEW*]
- hoe** *vi* to work with a hoe ~ *vt* 1 to weed or cultivate (land or a crop) with a hoe 2 to remove (weeds) by hoeing
- hoe, down** /-daʊn/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a gathering featuring square dances
- hog** /hɒg/ *n* 1 a hogg 2 a warthog or other wild pig 3 *Br* a castrated male pig raised for slaughter 4 chiefly *NAM* a domestic (fully grown) pig 5 a selfish, gluttonous, or filthy person – *slang*, compare ROAD HOG [ME *hogge*, fr OE *hogg*]
- hog** *vi* -gg- 1 to cut (a horse's mane) off or short 2 to appropriate a selfish or excessive share of, monopolize [*~ ged the discussion*] – *infm*
- hog, back** /-bak/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a hogsback
- hogg** /hɒg/ *n*, *Br* a young unshorn sheep [var of *hog*]
- hogget** /'hɒɡɪt/ *n*, *Br* a hogg
- hoggish** /'hɒɡɪʃ/ *adj* grossly selfish, gluttonous, or filthy
- Hogmanay** /'hɒɡməˈneɪ/ *n*, Scot the eve of New Year's Day [origin unknown]
- hogs, back** /-bak/ *n* a ridge with a sharp summit and steeply sloping sides
- hog's head** /-hed/ *n* 1 a large cask or barrel 2 any of several measures of capacity, esp a measure of 52½ imperial gallons (about 238l)

## A TABLE OF MAJOR EVENTS IN WORLD HISTORY

### EUROPE

**10,000 BC** Last great Ice Age ends

**8000–4000** Farming spreads using 'slash and burn' techniques to farm in forests

**3500**

c **3200–2000** Early Cycladic civilization in the Aegean

**3000**

**2500**

c **2500–1550** Minoan Bronze Age culture in Crete  
Use of sail on seagoing vessels  
c **2400** Stonehenge

**2000**

c **1600–1300** Mycenaean Greece

**1500**

c **1350** Sack of Troy

c **1100** Dorians invade Greece with iron weapons

**1090** Etruscans enter Italy.

**1000**

**800**

**776** 1st Olympic Games in Greece.  
**753** Traditional date for foundation of Rome  
c **750** Greek cities found colonies around Mediterranean.  
*Iliad and Odyssey.*  
*Hesiod's poetry first written down*

### NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**9000–8000** Domestication of animals and cultivation of crops

**8350–7350** Foundation of Jericho – 1st walled town

c **7000** Copper ores used in Anatolia

c **6000** 1st known pottery and woollen textiles

c **5000** Agricultural settlements in Mesopotamia and Egypt

c **4000** Bronze casting, 1st use of plough

Irrigation allows surplus of crops – prosperity – basis of civilization

c **3500** Invention of sail (Egypt)  
Invention of plough and wheel (Mesopotamia)

c **3200** Beginning of Old Kingdom in Egypt

c **3100** Menes unites Egypt – 1st dynasty

Lunar calendar – Sumer

Pictographic writing – Sumer

c **3000** Development of major cities – Sumer

Solar calendar

Gilgamesh, legendary Sumerian king  
Cuneiform writing – Sumer

**2371–2230** Akkadian Empire – 1st empire in world history  
Use of plough spreads to rain-watered lands, bringing civilization to Turkey, Canaan

c **2200** Babylonian Empire

Middle Kingdom begins in Egypt

Hebrews first go to Canaan

**1800** Assyrian state founded

**1750** Hammurabi founds Babylonian Empire, issues 1st code of laws

c **1600** Hyksos invaders rule Egypt

**1567–1090** New Kingdom in Egypt

c **1370** Akhnaton tries to develop worship of one God, the Sun, in Egypt

c **1200** Jewish Exodus from Egypt, beginning of Jewish religion

c **1100** Alphabetic writing developed by Phoenicians

Solomon – height of Israel's power

c **840** Rise of Urartu – rival of Assyria

**814** Phoenician colony at Carthage

**750** Amos, 1st great prophet in Israel

**721–705** Assyrian Empire at military height.

### ASIA

**6000** Rice cultivation (Thailand)

**3500** Earliest Chinese city (Lung-shan culture)

c **3400** Cart developed in Caucasus

**3000** Bronze used in Thailand

c **2750** Growth of civilizations in the Indus valley

c **2500** Domestication of horse (steppes)  
Farming in Yellow Valley

c **2000** Cities at Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa

c **1600** Shang Dynasty in China  
Chinese calligraphy develops

**1500–1200** *Rig Veda* and other Vedic Hymns composed

**1027** Chou overthrows Shang Dynasty in China  
Silk weaving and astronomy develop under Chou – also use of copper

- **850** First Upanishads written  
Integers and '0' invented in India

c **800** Aryans expand southwards in India.

Kingdoms on Ganges.

**771** Collapse of Chou Dynasty

### AFRICA, AMERICAS AND PACIFIC

**10,000** Last Ice Age ends

**9000** Hunters spread south through the Americas

c **3000** Arable farming in central Africa

Pottery develops in America

c **2500** Sahara begins to dry out  
Maize cultivation in Mexico

c **2000** Metalworking in Peru  
Settlement of Melanesia by Indonesians

c **1150** Olmec civilization in Mexico

c **900** Kingdom of Kush (Nubia)

## EUROPE

c **700** *Architects build in stone*  
 c **700–450** *Hallstatt culture in Western Europe – iron tools, mixed farming*

**650** Rise of 'tyrants' in Greek cities  
*Coins used in Greece*  
*Greek lyric poetry develops*  
**621** Draco's legal code

**594** *Thales of Miletus – beginning of Greek philosophy*

**510** Roman Republic  
 c **505** Democracy fully established in Athens

c **500** Solon's legal code  
**500–100** *La Tène Celtic culture in Europe*  
**490–480** Battles of Marathon, Salamis, and Plataea prevent Persian domination of Greece  
**479–338** *Height of 'classical' culture in Greece*  
*Drama – Aeschylus, Sophocles*  
*Medicine – Hippocrates*  
*Philosophy – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle*  
**449** Twelve Tables of Roman law first written  
**431–404** Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta

**356** Philip II king of Macedonia  
**338** Battle of Chaeronea  
 Macedonia controls Greece

**290** Rome completes conquest of central Italy  
**264** 1st Punic War against Carthage  
 Rome conquers Sicily (ends **214**)

**218–201** 2nd Punic War – Hannibal invades Italy and is defeated  
**206** Rome conquers Spain

**168** Rome conquers Macedonia  
**146** Rome conquers Greece  
**133–132** Tiberius and Caius Gracchus fail in their reform movement

**89** All Italy receives Roman Citizenship  
**49** Julius Caesar conquers Gaul  
**47–45** Civil War  
**44** Caesar assassinated  
**31** Battle of Actium – Octavian dominates Rome.  
**27** Beginning of Roman Empire – Octavian becomes Augustus

## NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

c **700** Scythian horsemen spread to east Europe

**663** Assyrian conquest of Egypt – *iron-working spreads*

**650** *1st coins used in Lydia (modern Turkey)*

**612** Sack of Nineveh by Babylonians  
 Collapse of Assyrian power

**586** Fall of Jerusalem – Jews taken to Babylon

**550** Cyrus the Great ends Babylonian Empire – founds Persian Empire  
 Zoroastrianism becomes official religion

**540** Deutero-Isaiah, prophet of exile  
**521** Darius the Great rules from Nile to Indus

**486–465** Xerxes, son of Darius I, rules Persian Empire

Alexander the Great conquers Asia Minor and Egypt (**332**) Persia (**330**) reaches India (**329**) dies (**323**) Empire divided into 4 sections – Macedonia, Egypt, Syria, Pergamum  
**312–64** Seleucids rule area extending from Thrace to India  
**304** Ptolemy I, Governor of Egypt, founds independent dynasty

**290** *Foundation of Alexandrian Library*

**149–146** Rome destroys Carthage in 3rd Punic War and creates province of Africa **149**

**30** Deaths of Antony and Cleopatra – Egypt becomes Roman province

c **3** Birth of Christ

## ASIA

**650** *Iron technology in China*

**528** Death of Mahavira founder of Jain Sect

**520** Death of Lao-Tzu founder of Taoism

c **500** Sinhalese (Aryans) reach Ceylon – caste system in India  
**500–200** *Bhagavad Gita written*  
**486** Death of Buddha

**479** *Death of Confucius*

**403–221** 'Warring States' in China

Cavalry techniques spread to Asia  
**350–200** Great period of Chinese thought, Taoist, Confucian, Legalist schools – scientific discoveries  
**322** Beginning of Mauryan Empire in India  
 1st sections of Great Wall of China

**262** Asoka, Emperor converted to Buddhism  
**247** Arsaces I founds kingdom of Parthia  
**221–206** Ch'in Dynasty strengthens Great Wall  
*'Ramayana' completed by this date*  
**206–AD 221** Han Dynasty in China

**185** Kings of Bactria conquer north-west India  
**138** Chang Chien explores central Asia  
**112** *Silk road opens across central Asia*

Extension of Great Wall

**9** Wang Mang deposes Han Dynasty in China

## AFRICA, AMERICAS AND PACIFIC

† **700**

– **600**

– **500**

c **500** *First hieroglyphics in Mexico*  
*Iron making spreads to sub-Saharan Africa*  
*Beginning of Nok culture in Nigeria*

– **400**

– **300**

– **200**

– **100**

c **100** Camel introduced to Sahara

	EUROPE	NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	ASIA	AFRICA, AMERICAS AND PACIFIC
AD1	<b>43</b> Roman invasion of Britain <b>46–47</b> Missionary journeys of Paul <b>64</b> Nero's persecution of Christians <b>79</b> Vesuvius eruption, Pompeii buried	<b>c.30</b> Christ's crucifixion <b>44</b> Rome conquers Mauritania (Morocco) <b>53</b> Parthia defeats Rome	<b>25</b> Restoration of Han Dynasty, capital at Lo-Yang  <b>91</b> Chinese defeat Huns from Mongolia	<b>c.50</b> Ethiopian kingdom expands
100	<b>117</b> Roman Empire at its greatest extent <b>117–38</b> Hadrian – Roman Emperor <b>161–80</b> Marcus Aurelius – Roman Emperor	<b>116</b> Trajan conquers Mesopotamia <b>132</b> Jewish revolt crushed Jews dispersed	<b>105</b> <i>1st use of paper in China</i> <b>c.150</b> Buddhism reaches China <i>Earliest surviving Sanskrit inscription</i> <b>184</b> 'Yellow Turban' rebellions	<b>c.150</b> Berber and Mandingo tribes dominate Niger Basin
200	<b>212</b> Roman citizenship given to all free people in Empire <b>234</b> War on Rhine frontier <b>238</b> Goths raid frontier <b>293</b> Emperor Diocletian reorganizes Roman Empire into East and West	<b>c.200</b> Mishnah (Jewish law) compiled <b>200–50</b> <i>Development of Christian theology – Tertullian, Clement, Origen</i> <b>224</b> Foundation of Sassanian Dynasty in Persia	<b>221</b> End of Han Dynasty. China splits into three states <b>245</b> Chinese envoys visit Funan (Cambodia) <b>285</b> Confucianism introduced into Japan	
300	<b>313</b> Edict of Milan published by Constantine Toleration of Christianity <b>370</b> Huns appear in Europe <b>378</b> Visigoths defeat and kill Roman Emperor	<b>325</b> Nicene creed <b>330</b> Capital of Roman Empire transferred to Constantinople	<b>c.300</b> <i>Foot stirrup used</i> <b>304</b> Huns invade China, which becomes fragmented until <b>589</b> <b>320</b> Gupta Empire begins in India <b>350</b> Huns invade Persia and India	<b>300</b> <i>Hopewell Indians in North America</i> <i>Mayan civilization in Mexico</i> Settlement of Eastern Polynesia <b>325</b> Ethiopia conquers Nubia
400	<b>410</b> Visigoths sack Rome, overrun Spain <b>449</b> Angles, Saxons, Jutes begin conquest of Britain <b>476</b> Last Roman emperor in West deposed <b>486</b> Frankish kingdom founded by Clovis <b>493</b> Ostrogoths take power in Italy <b>497</b> Franks converted to Christianity	<b>426</b> <i>St Augustine of Hippo writes 'The City of God'</i> <b>429</b> Vandal kingdom in North Africa	<b>480</b> Gupta Empire overthrown	
500	<b>529</b> Rule of St Benedict regulates Western monasteries <b>542</b> Bubonic Plague ravages Europe <b>568</b> Lombards conquer North Italy <b>590</b> Gregory the Great extends Papal power	<b>527–65</b> Justinian – Emperor of Eastern Roman Empire <b>534</b> Justinian's legal code <b>553</b> Justinian brings Italy and North Africa back into Eastern Roman Empire control	<b>531</b> Sassanian Empire spreads from Persia <b>550</b> Buddhism enters Japan from Korea <b>589</b> China briefly reunified by Sui Dynasty	
600	<b>680</b> Bulgars invade Balkans	<b>610–41</b> Heraclius defends East Roman Empire, now called Byzantine, from Persians and Arabs <b>611</b> Persian armies capture Jerusalem and Antioch and overrun Asia Minor <b>622</b> Hegira of Muhammad – beginning of Islamic calendar <b>632</b> Death of Muhammad. Arab expansion begins	<b>607</b> Tibet unified <b>624</b> China united under T'ang Dynasty <b>645</b> Buddhism reaches Tibet <i>Japanese society remodelled on Chinese lines</i>	<b>c.600</b> <i>Apogee of Mayan civilization in Mexico</i>
700	<b>711</b> Muslim invasion of Spain <b>732</b> Battle of Poitiers keeps Arabs out of France <b>751</b> Lombards overrun Ravenna, last Byzantine stronghold <b>793</b> Viking raids begin	<b>717</b> Emperor Leo III prevents Arab conquest of Constantinople <b>750</b> Abbasid Caliphate established <b>751</b> <i>Muslims learn papermaking from Chinese.</i>	<b>712</b> Arabs conquer Sind, Samarkand <b>745</b> Uighur Empire starts in Mongolia <b>757</b> Battle of Talas River. Sets boundary of China and Abbasid Caliphate	<b>c.700</b> <i>Rise of Empire of Ghana</i>
800	<b>800</b> Charlemagne crowned Emperor in Rome. Later became Holy Roman Emperor <b>843</b> Treaty of Verdun, divided Frankish Empire <b>871</b> Alfred, King of Wessex, halts Danes.	<b>809</b> Death of Haroun-al-Rashid, Abbasid Caliph, protagonist of 1001 nights	<b>802</b> Angkor kingdom established in Cambodia <b>833</b> <i>1st printed book in China</i> <b>842</b> Tibetan Empire disintegrates  <b>890</b> <i>Japanese cultural renaissance</i>	<b>800</b> Settlers reach Easter Island from Polynesia <b>836</b> Struggle for Indian Deccan <b>850</b> Settlers reach New Zealand Collapse of Mayan Civilization in Mexico

EUROPE	NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	ASIA	AFRICA, AMERICAS AND PACIFIC	
<b>911</b> Vikings obtain Duchy of Normandy <b>937</b> Magyar raids from Hungary <b>955</b> Otto I (German) defeats Magyars, who accept Christianity <b>959</b> Unification of England (Eadgar) <b>960</b> Poland founded <b>962</b> Otto I becomes Holy Roman Emperor <b>972</b> Hungary founded <b>983</b> Slavs rebel against Germans <b>987</b> Capetians rule France	<b>935</b> <i>Text of Koran finalized</i> <b>936</b> Caliphs of Baghdad lose power  <b>969</b> Fatimids conquer Egypt and found Cairo	<b>907</b> Last T'ang Emperor deposed <b>916</b> Khitan kingdom in Mongolia <b>939</b> Vietnam becomes independent <b>947</b> Khitans overrun North China Liao Dynasty established, capital at Peking <b>967</b> Fujiwara rule Japan <b>979</b> Sung Dynasty reunites China	<b>990</b> Expansion of Inca Empire (Peru)	<b>900</b>
<b>1014</b> Battle of Clontarf: Vikings defeated in Ireland <b>1016</b> Canute the Great rules England, Denmark, and Norway <b>1031</b> Caliphate of Cordova collapses <b>1054</b> Division between Orthodox and Western Christianity <b>1066</b> Normans conquer England <b>1071</b> Normans conquer southern Italy <b>1073</b> Gregory VII becomes Pope - start of conflict between Popes and Holy Roman Emperors <b>1095</b> First Crusade begins	<b>1037</b> <i>Death of Avicenna, Persian philosopher</i> <b>1055</b> Seljuk Turks take Baghdad <b>1071</b> Battle of Manzikert - Seljuk Turks take Byzantium <b>1096</b> Europeans found crusader states in Holy Land	<b>1000</b> <i>Great Age of Chinese painting and ceramics under Sung Dynasty</i> <b>1018</b> Muslims break power of Hindu states <b>1020</b> <i>'Tale of Genji' written in Japan</i> <b>1044</b> First Burmese state <b>1045</b> Movable type invented in China	<b>c 1000</b> Vikings colonize Greenland and discover Vinland (America) <b>c 1000</b> First Iron Age culture at Zimbabwe  <b>1076</b> Arabs destroy kingdom of Ghana	<b>1000</b>
<b>1100</b> <i>First European universities at Salerno and Bologna</i> <b>1125</b> Germans renew eastward expansion <b>1154</b> <i>Chartres Cathedral begins spread of Gothic architecture</i> Henry II becomes King of England and Northern France <b>1190</b> Innocent III becomes Pope - height of Papal power	<b>1100</b> <i>Omar Khayyam writes 'The Rubaiyat'</i> <b>1135</b> Almohads dominate North Africa and Muslim Spain <b>1147-49</b> Second Crusade <b>1171</b> Saladin (a Turk) conquers Egypt <b>1189-92</b> Third Crusade: Richard I fails to recapture Jerusalem from Saladin <b>1198</b> <i>Death of Averroes, scientist</i>	<b>1126</b> Chin overrun North China, Sung kept in South  <b>1150</b> <i>Hindu temple of Angkor Wat built in Cambodia</i> <b>1175</b> First Muslim Empire in India <b>1185</b> Minamoto warlords in Japan <b>1193</b> <i>Zen Buddhists begin in Japan</i>	<b>1100</b> <i>Toltecs build their first capital in Mexico</i>  <b>1150</b> <i>Beginnings of Yoruba city-states in Nigeria</i>	<b>1100</b>
<b>1206</b> Albigensian crusades <b>1215</b> Magna Carta: King John concedes to English barons <b>1226</b> <i>St Francis of Assisi dies</i> <b>1236</b> Mongols invade Russia <b>1241</b> Mongols invade Poland, Hungary, and Bohemia <b>1242</b> Alexander Nevsky defeats Germans <b>1291</b> Swiss confederation begins	<b>1204</b> Fourth Crusade: Europeans capture Jerusalem  <b>1250-1919</b> Ottoman Empire - Turkish empire in Europe, Asia and Africa <b>1258</b> Mongols invade Baghdad <b>1261</b> Greeks resume rule in Constantinople <b>1299</b> Ottoman Turks begin expansion in Anatolia	<b>1206</b> <i>Turkish Sultanate of Delhi rules North India</i> Genghis Khan starts conquest of Asia <b>1234</b> Mongols destroy Chin in China <b>1264</b> Kublai Khan starts Yuan Dynasty in China <b>1275</b> <i>Marco Polo visits China</i> <b>1279</b> Mongols conquer southern China	<b>1250</b> <i>Mayapan becomes dominant Maya city of Yucatan</i>	<b>1200</b>
<b>1309</b> Papacy moves from Rome to Avignon <b>1314</b> Battle of Bannockburn: Scotland defeats England <b>1325</b> Ivan I begins recovery of Moscow <b>1337</b> Hundred Years War between France and England begins <b>1340</b> Black Death in Europe <b>1360</b> Treaty of Brétigny <b>1378-1429</b> Great Schism - division in the Church leads to two Popes - one in Avignon, one in Rome <b>1389</b> Battle of Kosovo: Ottomans gain control in Balkans <b>1397</b> Union of Kalmar unites Sweden, Norway, and Denmark into a single monarchy	<b>1361</b> Ottomans capture Adrianople, entering Balkans <b>c 1369</b> Timur (Tamburlaine) rules area of Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan from Samarkand	<b>1333</b> End of Minamoto in Japan <b>c 1341</b> Black Death starts in Asia <b>1349</b> Chinese expand into south-east Asia  <b>1368</b> Ming Dynasty in China: End of Mongol rule  <b>c 1390</b> Sack of Delhi <b>1392</b> Korea becomes independent	<b>1300</b> <i>Empire of Benin in Nigeria</i>  <b>1325</b> <i>Rise of Aztecs in Mexico - city of Tenochtitlán founded</i>	<b>1300</b>

1400	EUROPE	NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	ASIA	AFRICA, AMERICAS AND PACIFIC
	<p><b>1415</b> Battle of Agincourt Henry V resumes war against France</p> <p><b>1428</b> Joan of Arc. Beginning of French revival</p> <p><b>1478</b> Ivan III, 1st Russian Tzar, throws off Mongol rule.</p> <p><b>1482</b> Spaniards expel Arabs and Jews and invade North Africa</p> <p><b>1494</b> Italian wars Beginning of struggle between Hapsburgs and French kings</p>	<p><b>1402</b> Timur defeats Ottoman Turks at Ankara</p> <p><b>1453</b> Ottoman Turks capture Constantinople End of Byzantine Empire</p>	<p><b>1428</b> Vietnam expels Chinese</p>	<p><b>1415</b> Beginning of Portugal's African Empire under Henry the Navigator</p> <p>c <b>1450</b> Height of Songhai Empire in south Sahara <i>University at Timbuktu</i></p> <p>Monomotapa Empire founded in Zimbabwe</p> <p>c <b>1470</b> Incas conquer Chimú kingdom</p> <p><b>1492</b> <i>Columbus reaches America</i></p> <p><b>1493</b> Treaty of Tordesillas – Pope divides New World between Spanish and Portuguese</p>
1500	<p><b>1500</b> <i>Italian Renaissance</i></p> <p><b>1519</b> Charles V, King of Spain and Netherlands, becomes Holy Roman Emperor</p> <p><b>1521</b> Martin Luther outlawed by the Diet of Worms</p> <p><i>Protestant Reformation</i></p> <p><b>1534</b> Henry VIII breaks with the Church at Rome</p> <p><b>1556</b> Ivan IV conquers Volga Basin</p> <p><b>1572</b> Dutch revolt against Spain</p> <p><b>1581</b> Russian conquest of Siberia</p>	<p><b>1500</b> Shah Ismail founds Dynasty in Persia</p> <p><b>1516</b> Ottomans conquer Syria, Egypt, Arabia</p>	<p><b>1498</b> <i>Vasco Da Gama reaches India</i></p> <p><b>1511</b> Portuguese take Malacca, Malaysia</p> <p><b>1526</b> Moghul Dynasty (Islamic) in North India founded by Babur, descended from Timur</p> <p><b>1557</b> Portuguese colony at Macao, Southern China</p> <p><b>1565</b> Akbar extends rule halfway down India <i>Important cultural period</i></p> <p><b>1571</b> Spanish conquer Philippines</p>	<p><b>1505</b> Portuguese have trading posts in East Africa</p> <p><b>1510</b> African slaves go to America</p> <p><b>1519</b> Cortez begins conquest of Aztecs</p> <p><i>Magellan crosses Pacific</i></p> <p><b>1532</b> Pizarro begins conquest of Incas</p> <p><b>1546</b> Songhai Empire destroys Mali Empire</p> <p><b>1571</b> Portuguese colony in Angola</p> <p><b>1578</b> Moroccans defeat Portuguese</p> <p><b>1591</b> Moroccans destroy Songhai Empire</p>
1600	<p><b>1588</b> English defeat Spanish Armada</p> <p><b>1600</b> Foundation of English and Dutch (1602) East India Companies</p> <p><b>1642–1649</b> English Civil War</p> <p><b>1683</b> Hapsburgs break the Ottoman siege of Vienna, and establish basis of Austrian Empire</p> <p><b>1688</b> 'Glorious Revolution' in England</p> <p><b>1689</b> 'Grand Alliance' surrounds and checks Louis XIV of France</p> <p><b>1699</b> Hapsburgs obtain Hungary from Turks</p>	<p><b>1600's and 1700's</b> Barbary pirates raid from North African coast</p>	<p><b>1609</b> Tokugawa shogunate in Japan</p> <p><b>1619</b> Beginning of Dutch East Indian Empire</p> <p><b>1641</b> Dutch take Malacca</p> <p><b>1644</b> New Manchu Dynasty</p> <p><b>1650</b> <i>Cultural developments in Japan – kabuki, puppet theatre, the novel</i></p> <p><b>1674</b> Hindu Maharatha kingdom</p> <p><b>1689</b> Treaty between Russia and China</p> <p><b>1690</b> English found Calcutta</p> <p><b>1697</b> Chinese occupy Outer Mongolia</p>	<p><b>1600</b> Height of Oyo Empire in Africa</p> <p><b>1607</b> English found Jamestown, Virginia, U S A</p> <p><b>1608</b> French found Quebec</p> <p><b>1620</b> Mayflower sails to New England</p> <p><b>1628</b> Portuguese destroy Monomotapa Empire in Zimbabwe</p> <p><b>1652</b> Dutch found Cape Colony in South Africa</p> <p><b>1662</b> Portuguese destroy Kongo kingdom in Africa</p>
1700	<p><b>1700–20</b> Great Northern War</p> <p><b>1703</b> Foundation of St Petersburg Peter the Great westernizes Russia</p> <p><b>1707</b> Union of England and Scotland</p> <p><b>1709</b> Peter the Great defeats Swedes at Poltava</p> <p><b>1713</b> Treaty of Utrecht ends war of Spanish succession, apportions colonization rights</p> <p><b>1740</b> Frederick the Great begins to strengthen Prussia</p> <p><b>1748</b> Maria Theresa secures Austrian throne, but has to give up Silesia to Prussia (war of Austrian succession).</p> <p><b>1756–63</b> Seven Years War (England and Prussia against France, Austria, Russia)</p> <p><b>1780</b> <i>Industrial Revolution begins in Britain; leads to mechanization, steam power, factory system, and improved transport and communications</i></p> <p><b>1762</b> Catherine the Great of Russia withdraws from war</p> <p><b>1763</b> Peace of Paris England and Prussia victorious.</p> <p><b>1772, 1793, 1795</b> Partitions of Poland</p> <p><b>1793</b> Russia takes Crimea</p> <p><b>1789–98</b> French Revolution</p>	<p>c <b>1735</b> <i>Wahabite movement to purify Islam starts in Arabia</i></p> <p><b>1736</b> Nadir Shah takes power in Persia</p>	<p><b>1707</b> Death of Aurangzeb – decline of Moghul power</p> <p><b>1747</b> Afghanistan founded</p> <p><b>1751</b> French control Deccan and Carnatic in India</p> <p>China overruns Tibet</p> <p><b>1757</b> Battle of Plassey British destroy French power in India</p>	<p><b>1700</b> Rise of Asante power (Gold Coast)</p> <p><b>1728</b> <i>Bering begins Russian exploration of Alaska</i></p> <p><b>1730</b> Rise of Ancient Empire of Bornu</p> <p><b>1760</b> British take French colonies at Quebec, Montreal</p> <p><b>1768</b> <i>Cook explores Pacific</i></p>
		<p><b>1798</b> Napoleon attacks Egypt</p>	<p><b>1796</b> British conquer Ceylon</p>	<p><b>1775–81</b> American War of Independence</p> <p><b>1789</b> U S. Constitution adopted – George Washington first President.</p>



## EUROPE

- 1804** Napoleon defeats Austria and Prussia  
**1805** Nelson defeats French at Trafalgar  
**1812** Napoleon invades Russia  
**1815** Wellington defeats Napoleon at Waterloo Congress of Vienna  
**1830** Revolutionary movements in France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Belgium becomes independent  
**1845** Famine in Ireland  
**1848** Revolutionary movements in Europe, French Second Republic proclaimed  
*Karl Marx 'Communist Manifesto'*  
**1854–56** Crimean War  
**1860** Unification of Italy  
**1861** Emancipation of serfs in Russia  
**1864** Suppression of Polish revolt  
**1870** Franco-Prussian war  
**1871** Proclamation of German republic and French Third Republic  
**1878** Treaty of Berlin – Balkan countries independent of Turks  
**1879** Dual alliance Germany and Austria-Hungary  
**1894** Franco-Russian alliance
- 1904** Anglo-French entente  
**1905** Norway independent of Sweden  
 Revolution in Russia, followed by reforms  
**1907** Anglo-Russian entente  
**1912–13** Balkan wars  
**1914–18** First World War  
**1917** Russian Revolution  
 Communists take control  
**1918–21** Civil War in Russia  
**1920** League of Nations founded  
**1922** Mussolini controls Italy  
 Eire created  
**1933** Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany  
**1936** Spanish Civil War  
**1938** Stalin's purges  
**1939** German-Soviet non-aggression pact  
**1939–45** Second World War  
**1945** Yalta Russia lays basis for domination of Eastern Europe  
**1947** Marshall plan to rebuild Europe  
**1948** Communist governments take over in East Europe Berlin airlift  
**1955** Warsaw Pact  
**1956** Polish, Hungarian revolts crushed  
**1957** Treaty of Rome EEC formed  
**1961** Berlin Wall built  
**1968** Russians stop liberalization in Czechoslovakia  
**1969** Violence in Northern Ireland starts  
**1973** Britain, Eire, Denmark join EEC  
**1974** Turkey invades Cyprus  
**1975** End of dictatorship in Spain.

## ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST

- 1818** Britain defeats Marathas and rules India – beginning of the British Raj  
**1819** Britain founds Singapore  
**1825–30** Indonesians rebel against Dutch  
**1830** Russia begins conquest of Kazakhstan  
**1842** Britain annexes Hong Kong after Opium War  
**1850–64** T'ai-p'ing rebellion causes much suffering  
**1853** *Railway and telegraph in India*  
**1854** Perry, U.S. naval officer, opens Japan to U.S. trade  
**1857** Indian mutiny  
**1863** Indo-China becomes French Protectorate  
**1868** End of Tokugawa Shogunate – Meiji restoration in Japan  
*Modernization begins*  
**1879** Britain controls Afghanistan after Afghan War  
**1885** Indian National Congress formed  
**1886** British annex Burma  
**1894–95** War between China and Japan Japan takes Formosa
- 1900** Boxer Rebellion in China against foreign influences  
**1904–05** Russo-Japanese war  
 Japanese win
- 1910** Japan takes Korea  
**1911** Chinese Revolution Sun Yat-sen president of new republic
- 1926** Chiang Kai-Shek leads China  
**1931** Japan occupies Manchuria  
**1934** Long March of Mao
- 1945** Japan – 1st atom bombs dropped by U.S.  
**1947** India and Pakistan independent  
**1948** Israel independent  
**1949** Indonesia independent  
 Mao Tse-Tung's communists take over in China  
**1950** Korean War begins  
**1954** Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam granted independence Vietnam divided – war begins  
**1965–71** War between India and Pakistan Bangladesh formed  
**1966** Chinese cultural revolution  
**1967** 3rd Arab-Israeli war  
**1973** 4th Arab-Israeli war  
 U.S. withdraws from Vietnam  
**1975** Communists rule in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam
- 1978** Camp David Summit between Israel and Egypt  
**1978–79** Iranian revolution  
**1979** Russia invades Afghanistan

## AFRICA

- 1804** Fulani conquer Hausa  
**1806** British control Cape Colony  
**1807** Slave Trade abolished in British Empire  
**1811** Mohammed Ali controls Egypt  
**1818** Shaka forms Zulu kingdom in south east Africa  
**1822** Liberia founded colony for freed slaves  
**1830** French begin conquest of Algeria  
**1835** 'Great Trek' of Boers leads to foundation of Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal
- 1853** *Livingstone's explorations begin*  
**1860** French expand in West Africa  
**1869** *Suez Canal opens*  
**1875** Disraeli buys Suez Canal Company to ensure British control  
**1880–1900** Peak period of partition and colonization of Africa by Europe  
**1899** Boer War begins
- 1908** Belgium takes over Congo  
**1910** Union of South Africa formed  
**1911** Italy conquers Libya  
**1914** Britain proclaims protectorate over Egypt
- 1935** Italy invades Ethiopia
- 1942** Battle of El Alamein British gain advantage in North Africa  
 Allied landings in Morocco and Algeria  
**1949** Apartheid policy begins in South Africa.  
**1952** Mau-Mau rebellion in Kenya  
 Nasser throws off British rule in Egypt  
**1956** Suez canal crisis  
**1957–61** Many African states achieve independence  
**1962** Algeria becomes independent  
**1965** Rhodesia declares U.D.I.  
**1967** Civil War in Nigeria  
**1975** Portugal gives independence to Mozambique, Angola  
**1980** Zimbabwe granted independence  
**1981** President Sadat of Egypt assassinated

## AMERICAS AND PACIFIC

- 1803** Purchase of Louisiana doubles size of U.S.  
**1808–26** Central and South American states become independent from Spain and Portugal  
**1819** U.S. purchases Florida from Spain  
**1823** Monroe doctrine – U.S. intends to keep Europe out of Western Hemisphere  
**1840** Britain annexes New Zealand  
**1845** U.S. annexes Texas  
**1846** Oregon treaty sets U.S. – Canadian boundary  
**1846–48** Mexican war U.S. annexes New Mexico and California  
**1849** California gold rush  
**1850** Australia and New Zealand granted responsible government  
**1861–65** Civil War in U.S.  
**1863** Slavery abolished in U.S.  
**1865** President Lincoln assassinated  
**1867** Dominion of Canada established  
**1898** Spanish American war U.S. annexes Guam, Puerto Rico, Philippines
- 1901** Unification of Australia  
**1903** *Wright Brothers' first flight*  
**1907** New Zealand becomes dominion
- 1911** Mexican revolution  
**1914** *Panama canal opens*
- 1920** U.S. refuses to join League of Nations  
**1929** Wall Street Crash of stock market  
**1933** Roosevelt introduces New Deal  
**1941** Attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese – U.S. enters World War II against Germany and Japan  
**1942** *Fermi builds 1st nuclear reactor*  
**1945** United Nations founded  
**1948** Nato founded  
**1949** Organization of American states  
**1952** *Contraceptive pill developed in U.S.*  
**1959** Cuban revolution  
**1963** President Kennedy assassinated  
**1966** Rise of black protest movements in U.S.  
**1968** Student protest movement  
**1969** *First man on the moon*  
**1970** Allende – President of Chile (killed 1973)  
**1971** Nixon and Kissinger start detente with China and U.S.S.R.  
**1973** First steep rise in oil prices jolts western economies  
**1974** Nixon resigns after Watergate  
**1982** Falkland Islands crisis

1800

1900

**'hog.wash** /-,wosh/ *n* 1 SWILL 1, SLOP 3a 2 sthg worthless, *specif* meaningless talk – slang

**'hog.weed** /-,weed/ *n*, *Br* a tall foul-smelling Old World plant of the carrot family, with large leaves and broad heads of white or pinkish flowers

**ho-ho** /hoh/ 'hoh/ *interj* – used to express hearty amusement

**ho hum** /hoh/ 'hum/ *interj* – used to express weariness, boredom, or disdain [imit]

**holck** /hoyk/ *vt* to lift or pull abruptly; yank – *infrm* (<ed my case out of the rack) [prob alter. of 'hike]

**hol polloi** /,hoy pə'loi/ *n pl* the common people; the masses [Gk, the many]

**'hoist** /hoyst/ *vt* to raise into position (as if) by means of tackle, *broadly* to raise [alter. of earlier *hoise*, *perh* fr MD *hischen*]

**\*hoist** *n* 1 an apparatus for hoisting 2a the distance a flag extends along its staff or support b the end of a flag next to the staff – compare 'FLY 3c(2)

**\*hoist** *adj* – **hoist with one's own petard** made a victim of or hurt by one's own usu malicious scheme

**hoity-toity** /hoyti/ 'toyti/ *adj* having an air of assumed importance, haughty – *infrm* [irreg redupl of E dial *hoit* (to play the fool)]

**hokey** /'hohki/ *adj*, chiefly NAm corny, also contrived, phoney [irreg fr *hokum* + -y]


**hokum** /'hohkm/ *n*, chiefly NAm 1 a crude device, esp sentimental or comic, designed to appeal to an audience 2 pretentious nonsense, bunkum [prob fr *hocus-pocus* + *bunkum*]

**hol-, holo-** *comb form* 1 complete, total (<holometabolism>) 2 completely, totally (<holographic>) [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *holos* whole – more at SAFE]

**Holarctic** /'həlahktik/ *adj* of or being the biogeographical area that includes the northern parts of the Old World and New World

**'hold** /'hohld/ *vb* **held** /'held/ *vt* 1a to have in one's keeping, possess (<s the title to the property>) b to retain by force (<troops ~ ing the ridge>) c to keep by way of threat or coercion (<~ ing the child for ransom>) 2a to keep under control; check (<held her tongue>) b to stop the action of temporarily; delay (<held the presses to insert a late story>) c to keep from advancing or from attacking successfully (held their opponents to a draw) d to restrict, limit (<~ price increases to a minimum>) e to bind legally or morally (<~ a man to his word>) 3a to have, keep, or support in the hands or arms, grasp (<held her to him>) b to keep in a specified situation, position, or state (<~ the ladder steady>) c to support, sustain (<the roof won't ~ much weight>) d to retain (<houses should ~ their value>) e to keep in custody f to set aside; reserve (<~ a room>) 4 to bear, carry (<the soldierly way he ~ s himself>) 5a to have in store (<what the future ~ s>) 7a to consider to be true; believe b to have in regard (<she held the matter to be of little importance>) 8a to engage in with sb else or with others (<~ a conference>) b to cause to be conducted; convene (<~ a meeting of the council>) 9a to occupy as a result of appointment or election (<~ s a captaincy in the navy>) b to have earned or been awarded (<~ s a PhD>) ~ *vi* 1a to maintain position (<the defensive line is ~ ing>) b to continue unchanged; last (<hopes the weather will ~ >) 2 to withstand strain without breaking or giving way (<the anchor held in the rough sea>) 3 to bear or carry oneself (<asked her to ~ still>) 4 to be or remain valid, apply (<the rule ~ s in most cases>) 5 to maintain a course, continue (<held south for several miles>) [ME *holden*, fr OE *healdan*; akin to OHG *haltan* to hold, L *celere* rapid] – **hold a brief** for to be retained as counsel for – **hold forth** to speak at great length – **hold good** to be true or valid – **hold one's own** to maintain one's ground, position, or strength in the face of competition or adversity – **hold the fort** to cope with problems for or look after the work of sb who is absent – **hold to** 1 to remain steadfast or faithful to; ABIDE BY 2 to cause to hold to (<held him to his promise>) – **hold water** to stand up under criticism or analysis – **hold with** to agree with or approve of (<don't hold with such practices>) – **not hold a candle to** to be much inferior to; not qualify for comparison with

**\*hold** *n* 1a a manner of grasping an opponent in wrestling b influence, control (<his father had a strong ~ over him>) c possession (<tried to get ~ of a road map>) 2 sthg that may be grasped as a support 3 a temporary stoppage of a countdown (e.g. in launching a spacecraft)

**\*hold** *n* 1 a space below a ship's deck in which cargo is stored  SHIP 2 the cargo compartment of a plane [alter. of *hole*]

**'hold.all** /-,awl/ *n* a bag or case for miscellaneous articles

**hold back** *vt* 1 to hinder the progress of; restrain 2 to retain in one's keeping ~ *vi* to keep oneself in check

**hold down** *vt* 1 to keep within limits; *specif* to keep at a low level (<try to hold prices down>) 2 to hold and keep (a position of responsibility) (<holding down 2 jobs>)

**holder** /'hohlda/ *n* 1 a device that holds an often specified object (<cigarette ~ >) 2a an owner b a tenant c a person in possession of and legally entitled to receive payment of a bill, note, or cheque ['HOLD + 'ER]

**holdfast** /'hohld,fahst/ *n* a part by which an alga or other organism clings to a (flat) surface

**holding** /'hohlding/ *n* 1 land held 2 property (e.g. land or securities) owned – usu pl with *sing* meaning

**'holding company** *n* a company whose primary business is holding a controlling interest in the shares of other companies – compare INVESTMENT COMPANY, SUBSIDIARY

**hold off** *vt* 1 to keep at a distance (<hold the dogs off>) 2 to resist successfully, withstand (<hold off the enemy attack>) 3 to defer action on, postpone ~ *vi* 1 to keep off or at a distance (<hope the rain holds off>) 2 to defer action, delay

**hold on** *vi* 1 to persevere in difficult circumstances 2 to wait, HANG ON (<hold on a minute>) – **hold on to** to keep possession of

**hold out** *vt* to present as likely or realizable, proffer (<the doctors hold out every hope of her recovery>) ~ *vi* 1 LAST 2 (<hope the car holds out till we get home>) 2 to refuse to yield or give way (<the garrison held out against the enemy attack>) – **hold out for** to insist on as the price for an agreement – **hold out on** to withhold sthg (e.g. information) from – *infrm*

**hold over** *vt* 1 to postpone 2 to prolong the engagement or tenure of (<the show was held over for another week by popular demand>)

**'hold.up** /-,up/ *n* 1 an armed robbery 2 a delay

**hold up** *vt* 1 to delay, impede (<got held up in the traffic>) 2 to rob at gunpoint 3 to present, esp as an example (<her work was held up as a model>) ~ *vi* to endure a test, HOLD OUT

**'hole** /'hohl/ *n* 1 an opening into or through a thing 2a a hollow place, esp a pit or cavity b a deep place in a body of water c a place in the crystal structure of a semiconductor, equivalent to a positively charged particle, where an electron has left its normal position 3 an animal's burrow 4 a serious discrepancy or flaw (<picked ~ s in his story>) 5a the unit of play from the tee to the hole in golf b a cavity in a putting green into which the ball is to be played in golf 6 a dirty or dingy place (<lives in a dreadful ~ >) 7 an awkward position, a fix USE (6 & 7) *infrm* [ME, fr OE *hol* (fr neut of *hol*, *adj*, hollow) & *hohk*, akin to OHG *hol*, *adj*, hollow, L *caulis* stalk, stem, Gk *kaulos*] – *holey* *adj*

**\*hole** *vt* 1 to make a hole in 2 to drive into a hole ~ *vi* 1 to make a hole in sthg 2 to play one's ball into the hole in golf – usu + *out*

**hole-and-corner** *adj* clandestine, underhand

**hole up** *vi* to take refuge or shelter in ~ *vt* to place (as if) in a refuge or hiding place USE *infrm*

**'holiday** /'həldi, d/ *n* 1 a day, often in commemoration of some event, on which no paid employment is carried out (<Christmas Day is a public ~ >) 2 a period of relaxation or recreation spent away from home or work (<went on ~ for a fortnight>) – often pl with *sing* meaning [ME, fr OE *haligdæg*, fr *halig* holy + *dæg* day]

**\*holiday** *vi* to take or spend a holiday

**'holidaymaker** /-,maykə/ *n* a person who is on holiday

**'holier-than-thou** /'həliə-/ *adj* having an air of superior piety or morality

**holiness** /'həhlinis/ *n* 1 *cap* – used as a title for various high religious dignitaries (<His Holiness Pope John Paul II>) 2 sanctification [HOLY + -NESS]

**holism** /'həh,liz(ə)m/ *n* a view of the universe, and esp living nature, as being composed of interacting wholes that are more than simply the sum of their parts [hol- + -ism] – **holistic** /'həh,listik/ *adj*

**hollo** /'həla/ *vb*, *n*, or *interj* (to) hullo

**holland** /'hələnd/ *n*, often *cap* a cotton or linen fabric in plain weave, usu heavily sized or glazed, that is used for window blinds, bookbinding, and clothing [ME *holand*, fr *Holand* Holland, province of the Netherlands, fr MD *Holland*]

**hollandaise sauce** /'hələnd'dayz/ *n* a rich sauce made with butter, egg yolks, and lemon juice or vinegar [F *sauce hollandaise*, lit., Dutch sauce]

**hollier** /'həla/ *vb*, chiefly NAm to call out or shout (sthg) [alter. of *hollo*] – *hollier* *n*

**hollo** *also* **hollos** /'hɒlə, 'hɒ-/ *interj* 1 – used to attract attention 2 – used as a call of encouragement or jubilation [origin unknown]

**hollo** *also* **hollos** *vi* or *n* **hollos**; **holloing**; **holloed**; *pl* **hollos** (to utter) an exclamation or call of **hollo**

**hollow** /'hɒlə/ *adj* 1a having a recessed surface; sunken b curved inwards; concave 2 having a cavity within (< *tree*) 3 echoing like a sound made in or by beating on an empty container, muffled 4a deceptively lacking in real value or significance (< *~ victory*) b lacking in truth or substance; deceitful (< *promises*) [ME *holw*, *holh*, fr *holh* hole, den, fr OE *holh* hole, hollow – more at **HOLE**] – **hollowly** *adv*, **hollowness** *n*

**hollow** *vb* to make or become hollow

**hollow** *n* 1 a depressed or hollow part of a surface, esp a small valley or basin 2 an unfilled space, a cavity

**hollow** *adv* 1 in a hollow manner (*his laughter rang ~*) 2 completely, totally – *infml* (*she beat me ~*)

**hollow out** *vt* to form a cavity or hole in, *also* to make in this way  
**hollowware**, **holloware** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* domestic vessels that have a significant depth and volume, specif metal pots, pans, etc

**holly** /'hɒli/ *n* (the foliage of) any of a genus of trees and shrubs with thick glossy spiny-edged leaves and usu bright red berries [ME *holin*, *holly*, fr OE *hōlegn*; akin to OHG *hulus* holly, MLr *cuilenn*]

**hollyhock** /'hɒli,hɒk/ *n* a tall org Chinese plant of the mallow family with large coarse rounded leaves and tall spikes of showy flowers [ME *holhoc*, fr *holi* holly + *hoc* mallow, fr OE]

**Hollywood** /-ˈwɒd/ *n* the American film industry [Hollywood, district of Los Angeles, California, USA]

**holm** /'hɒlm, 'hɒm/ *n*, *Br* a small inland or inshore island, *also* flat low-lying land near a river [ME, fr OE, fr ON *hólmr*; akin to OE *hyll* hill]

**holmium** /'hɒlmi-əm/ *n* a metallic element of the rare-earth group that forms highly magnetic compounds ➤ **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr *Holmia* Stockholm, city in Sweden]

**holm oak** *n* a S European evergreen oak [ME *holm* holly, alter of *holin*]

**holo-** – see **HOL-**

**holocaust** /'hɒlə,kɔːst/ *n* 1 a sacrificial offering consumed by fire 2 an instance of wholesale destruction or loss of life 3 *often cap* the genocidal persecution of European Jewry by Hitler and the Nazi party during WW II [ME, fr OF *holocauste*, fr LL *holocaustum*, fr Gk *holokauston*, fr neut of *holokaustos* burnt whole, fr *hol-* + *kaustos* burnt, fr *kaiain* to burn – more at **CAUSTIC**]

**Holocene** /'hɒləˈsiːn/ *adj* **RECENT 2** ➤ **EVOLUTION** [ISV] – **Holocene** *n*

**hologram** /'hɒləgrəm/ *n* a pattern produced by the interference between one part of a split beam of coherent light (e.g. from a laser) and the other part of the same beam reflected off an object, *also* a photographic reproduction of this pattern that when suitably illuminated produces a three-dimensional picture

**holograph** /-ˈgrɑːf, -ˈgrɑːf/ *n* a document wholly in the handwriting of its author, *also* the handwriting itself [LL *holographus*, fr LGk *holographos*, fr Gk *hol-* + *graphein* to write – more at **CARVE**] – **holograph** *adj*, **holographic** /-ˈgrɑːfɪk/ *adj*

**holography** /'hɒləgrəfi/ *n* the technique of making or using a hologram – **holograph** /'hɒləgrɑːf, -ˈgrɑːf/ *vt*, **holographic** /'hɒləˈgrɑːfɪk/ *adj*, **holographically** *adv*

**holohedral** /'hɒləˈhiːdrəl/ *adj*, of a crystal having all the faces required for complete symmetry – compare **HEMIHEDRAL** [*hol-* + Gk *hedra* seat – more at **SIT**]

**holometabolous** /,hɒləˈmɒləˈbɒləs, -ˈhɒlə-/ *adj*, of an insect having undergone complete metamorphosis – **holometabolism** *n*

**holophrastic** /'hɒləˈfrɑːstɪk/ *adj* expressing a complex of ideas in a single word or in a fixed phrase [ISV *hol-* + *-phrastic* (fr Gk *phrazein* to point out, declare)]

**holophytic** /,hɒləˈfɪtɪk/ *adj* obtaining food in the manner of a green plant by photosynthetic activity

**holothurian** /,hɒləˈθyʊəri-ən/ *n* a sea cucumber or related echinoderm [deriv of Gk *holothourion* water polyp] – **holothurian** *adj*

**holozotic** /,hɒləˈzɒtɪk/ *adj* obtaining food in the manner of most animals by ingesting complex organic matter

**hols** /hɒlz/ *n pl*, chiefly *Br* holidays – *infml* [by shortening]

**holstein** /'hɒlsteɪn/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a Friesian [short for *holstein-friesian*, fr *Holstein*, region of Germany + *Friesian*]

**holster** /'hɒlɪstə, 'hɒl-/ *n* a usu leather holder for a pistol [D; akin to OE *heolstor* cover, *helan* to conceal – more at **HELL**]

**holt** /'hɒlt/ *n* a den or lair, esp of an otter [ME, alter. of *'hold*]

**holy** /'hɒli/ *adj* 1 set apart to the service of God or a god; sacred 2a characterized by perfection and transcendence, commanding absolute adoration and reverence (< *the ~ Trinity*) b spiritually pure, godly 3 evoking or worthy of religious veneration or awe (< *the ~ cross*) 4 terrible, awful – used as an intensive (< *a ~ terror*) [ME, fr OE *hālig*; akin to OE *hal* whole – more at **WHOLE**]

**Holy Communion** *n* **COMMUNION 1**

**holy day** *n* a day set aside for special religious observance

**Holy Father** *n* **POPE 1**

**Holy Ghost** *n* **HOLY SPIRIT**

**Holy Grail** *n* the cup or platter that according to medieval legend was used by Christ at the Last Supper and became the object of knightly quests

**holy hour** *n* an afternoon period during which public houses close in Ireland

**Holy Innocents' Day** *n* December 28 kept by churches in memory of the children killed by Herod according to Mt 2:16

**Holy Joe** /joh/ *n* a parson, chaplain, *also* a pious person – *infml* [*Joe*, nickname for *Joseph*]

**Holy Land** *n* the territory containing sites associated with the ministry and death of Christ

**holy of holies** *n* the innermost and most sacred chamber of the Jewish tabernacle and temple; broadly any place or thing considered sacred [trans of LL *sanctum sanctorum*, trans of Heb *godhesh hag-godhashim*]

**holy orders** *n pl*, *often cap* **H&O** the office of a Christian minister

**Holy Roller** /'rɒlə/ *n* a member of any of several ecstatic Protestant fundamentalist sects – *often derog*

**Holy Roman Empire** *n* a loose confederation of mainly German and Italian territories under an emperor, that existed from the 9th or 10th c to 1806

**Holy Saturday** *n* the Saturday before Easter

**Holy See** *n* the papacy

**Holy Spirit** *n* the 3rd person of the Trinity

**holystone** /-ˈstəʊn/ *vt* or *n* (to clean with) a soft sandstone used for scrubbing a ship's decks

**Holy Thursday** *n* 1 **ASCENSION DAY** 2 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Holy Week** *n* the week before Easter during which the last days of Christ's life are commemorated

**holy writ** *n*, *often cap* **H&W** a writing or utterance of unquestionable authority

**hom-**, **homo-** *comb form* 1 one and the same, similar; alike (**homograph**) (<homosexual>) 2 containing one more CH<sub>2</sub> group than (the specified compound) (<homocysteine>) [L, fr Gk, fr *homos* – more at **SAME**]

**homage** /'hɒmɪj/ *n* 1a a ceremony by which a man acknowledges himself the vassal of a lord b an act done or payment made by a vassal 2a reverential regard, deference b flattering attention, tribute [ME, fr OF *homage*, fr *homme* man, vassal, fr L *homin-*, *homo* man, akin to OE *guma* man, L *humus* earth – more at **HUMBLE**]

**homburg** /'hɒmbʊrg/ *n* a felt hat with a stiff curled brim and a high crown creased lengthways [*Homburg*, town in Germany]

**home** /'həʊm/ *n* 1a a family's place of residence; a domicile b a house 2 the social unit formed by a family living together (<comes from a broken ~>) 3a a congenial environment (<the theatre is my spiritual ~>) b a habitat 4a a place of origin, *also* one's native country b the place where sth originates or is based (<Lord's, ~ of cricket>) 5 an establishment providing residence and often care for children, convalescents, etc [ME *hom*, fr OE *hām* village, home; akin to Gk *komē* village, L *civis* citizen, Gk *koiman* to put to sleep – more at **CEMETERY**] – **homeless** *adj*, **homelessness** *n* – **at home** 1 relaxed and comfortable; **AT EASE 2** (<felt completely at home on the stage>) 2 on familiar ground; knowledgeable (<teachers at home in their subjects>)

**home** *adv* 1 to or at home (<wrote ~>) 2 to a final, closed, or standard position (<drive a nail ~>) 3 to an ultimate objective (e.g. a finishing line) 4 to a vital sensitive core (<the truth struck ~>) 5 **HOMI AND DRY**

**home** *adj* 1 of or being a home, place of origin, or base of operations 2 prepared, carried out, or designed for use in the home (<cooking>) 3 operating or occurring in a home area (<the ~ team>)

**home** *vi* 1 to go or return home 2 of an animal to return accurately to one's home or birthplace from a distance – **home in on** to be directed at or head towards (a specified goal, target, etc)

**home-**, **homeo-** *comb form*, chiefly *NAm* **homoeo-**

**home** and **'dry** *adv* having safely or successfully achieved one's purpose

**'home.bird** /-bu:hd/ *n* a homebody – *informal*

**'home.body** /-bodi/ *n* one whose life centres round the home

**'home.bound** /-bownd/ *adj* confined to the home (< ~ *invalids*) [*home* + *'bound*]

**'home.bred** /-bred/ *adj* produced at home; indigenous

**'home.brew** *n* an alcoholic drink (e.g. beer) made at home

**'home.coming** /-kuming/ *n* a returning home

**'home eco.nomics** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* DOMESTIC SCIENCE – *home economist n*

**'home from 'home** *n, Br* a place as comfortable or congenial as one's own home

**'home front** *n* the sphere of civilian activity in war

**'home.grown** /-grohn/ *adj* produced in, coming from, or characteristic of the home country or region (< ~ *vegetables*) (< ~ *politicians*)

**'home 'help** *n, Br* a person employed by a local authority to carry out household chores for the sick, elderly, or disabled

**'homeland** /-land/ *n* 1 one's native land 2 a Bantustan

**'home.like** /-li:k/ *adj* characteristic of one's own home, esp in being cheerful or cosy

**'homely** /-li/ *adj* 1 commonplace, familiar (< *explained the problem in ~ terms*) 2 of a sympathetic character; kindly 3 simple, unpretentious (< ~ *meal of bacon and eggs*) 4 chiefly *NAM* not good-looking, plain [*'HOME* + *'-LY*] – *homeliness n*

**'home.made** /-mayd/ *adj* made in the home, on the premises, or by one's own efforts (< ~ *cakes*)

**'home.office** *n, often cap H&O* the government office concerned with internal affairs

**'home .plate** *n* a rubber slab at which a baseball batter stands

**homer** /'hohmz/ *n* HOMING PIGEON

**Homeric** /'hoh'merik/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Homer, his age, or his writings 2 of epic proportions; heroic (< ~ *feat of endurance*) [*L. Homericus*, fr *Gk. Homērikos*, fr *Homēros* Homer fl ab 850 bc *Gk. epic poet*]

**'home rule** *n* limited self-government by the people of a dependent political unit – compare SELF-GOVERNMENT

**'home run** *n* a hit in baseball that enables the batter to make a complete circuit of the bases and score a run

**'home 'secretary** *n, often cap H&S* a government minister for internal affairs

**'home.sick** /-sik/ *adj* longing for home and family while absent from them [*back-formation fr homesickness*] – *homesickness n*

**'home .signal** *n* a railway signal that controls the movement of trains into a section of track

**"home.spun** /-spun/ *adj* 1 made of homespun 2 lacking sophistication, simple (< ~ *prose*)

**\*homespun** *n* a loosely woven usu. woollen or linen fabric orig. made from yarn spun at home

**'homestead** /-std/ *n* 1 a house and adjoining land occupied by a family 2 *Austr. & NZ* the owner's living quarters on a sheep or cattle station – *homesteader /-stedz/ n*

**'homestead .law** *n* any of several US legislative acts authorizing the sale of public lands to settlers

**'home .straight** *n* the straight final part of a racecourse usu. opposite the grandstand

**'home.stretch** /-stretch/ *n* the final stage (e.g. of a project)

**'home 'truth** *n* an unpleasant but true fact about a person's character or situation – often *pl*

**'homeward** /-wood/ *adj* being or going towards home

**'homewards**, chiefly *NAM* *homeward* *adv* towards home

**'home.work** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 work done in one's own home for pay 2 an assignment given to a pupil to be completed esp. away from school 3 preparatory reading or research (e.g. for a discussion) (< *she's done her ~ on the subject*) – *homeworker n*

**homey** /'hohmi/ *adj* homy

**'homicide** /'homisid/ *n* (the act of) sb who kills another [*ME*, fr *MF*, fr *L. homicida & homicidium*, fr *homo* man + *-cida & -cidium* – more at *-cide*] – *homicidal /'homi:sidiəl/ adj*

**'homiletic** /'homi'letik/, *homiletical* /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or resembling a homily 2 relating to homiletics [*LL. homileticus*, fr *Gk. homiletikos* of conversation, fr *homilein*]

**'homiletics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* the art of preaching

**'homily** /'homi:li/ *n* 1 a sermon 2 a lecture on moral conduct [*ME*

*omelie*, fr *MF*, fr *LL. homilia*, fr *L.Gk.*, fr *Gk.*, conversation, discourse, fr *homilein* to consort with, address, fr *homilos* crowd, assembly]

**'homing .pigeon** /'hohming/ *n* a domesticated pigeon trained to return home

**'hominid** /'hominid/ *n* any of a family of biped primate mammals comprising recent man and his immediate ancestors [*deriv. of L. homin-, homo* man] – *hominid adj*

**'hominoid** /'hominoyd/ *adj* resembling or related to man – *hominoid n*

**'hominy** /'hohmi/ *n* crushed or coarsely ground husked maize, esp. when boiled with water or milk [*prob. of Algonquian origin; akin to Natick -minne* grain]

**'homo** /'hohmoh/ *n, pl homos* any of a genus of primate mammals including recent man and various extinct ancestors [*NL. Homin-, Homo*, genus name, fr *L.*, man]

**\*homo** *n, pl homos* a homosexual – chiefly *derog.* [by shortening]

**homoe-, homoeo-, chiefly NAM** *home-, homeo-* *comb. form* like, similar (< *homoeostasis*) [*L. & Gk. L. homoeo-*, fr *Gk. homoi-, homoio-*, fr *homoiōs*, fr *homos* same – more at *SAME*]

**'homoeopath** /'homi:ə'pəθ/ *n* a practitioner of a system of disease treatment relying on the administration of minute doses of a remedy that produces symptoms like those of the disease [*G. homoeopath*, fr *homoeo-* *homeo-* + *-path*] – *homoeopathic /-mi:ə'pəθik/ adj. homoeopathy /'homi'opəθi/ n*

**'homoeostasis** /'homi:ə'staɪsɪs/ *n* the physiological maintenance of relatively constant conditions (e.g. constant internal temperature) within the body in the face of changing external conditions [*NL.*] – *homoeostatic /-statik/ adj. homoeostatically adv*

**'homogenate** /'hoh'mojnəɪt, ho-/ *n* a product of homogenizing

**'homogeneity** /'hohmɑ:'neɪ-əti, -'nəɪ-, 'hohmoh-/ *n* the quality or state of being homogeneous

**'homogeneous** /'hohmɑ:'jeənəs, -ni:əs/ *adj* 1 of the same or a similar kind or nature 2 of uniform structure or composition throughout (< ~ *culturally* ~ *neighbourhood*) 3 of an equation, fraction, etc. having each term of the same degree when all variables are taken into account (< *x<sup>2</sup> + xy + y<sup>2</sup> = 0* is a ~ *equation*) 4 *HOMOGENEOUS* 1 [*ML. homogeneus, homogenus*, fr *Gk. homogenes*, fr *hom-* + *genos* kind – more at *KIN*] – *homogeneously adv. homogeneity n*

**'homogen-ize, -ise** /'hoh'mojəneɪz, hɑ-/ *vt* 1 to make homogeneous 2 to reduce the particles of so that they are uniformly small and evenly distributed, esp. to break up the fat globules of (milk) into very fine particles ~ *vi* to become homogenized – *homogenizer n, homogenization /-zəɪz(ə)n/ n*

**'homogenous** /'hoh'mojənəs, hɑ-/ *adj* 1 of or exhibiting homogeneity 2 *HOMOGENEOUS* 1, 2, 3

**'homogeny** /'hoh'mojəni, hɑ-/ *n* correspondence between parts or organs due to descent from the same ancestral type

**'homograft** /'hohmɑ:'grɑ:ft, 'hohmɑ-/ *n* a graft of tissue taken from a donor of the same species as the recipient

**'homograph** /'hohmɑ:'grɑ:f, -'grɑ:/ *n* any of 2 or more words spelled alike but different in meaning, derivation, or pronunciation (e.g. the noun *conduct* and the verb *conduct*) – *homographic /'hohmɑ:'grɑ:fik, 'hohmɑ-/ adj*

**homol-, homoio-** *comb. form* *homoeo-*

**'homolotherm** /'hoh'moyh'thuhm/ *n* a warm-blooded organism – *homolothermy n, homolothermic /hə'moyh'thuhmik/, homolothermal adj*

**'homologate** /'hoh'moləgəɪt/ *vt* to sanction or allow, esp. officially [*ML. homologatus*, pp. of *homologare* to agree, fr *Gk. homologein*, fr *homologos*] – *homologation /'hoh'molə'gəɪz(ə)n/ n*

**'homologous** /'hoh'moləgəs/ *adj* 1a having the same relative position, value, or structure b(1) exhibiting biological homology (2) of chromosomes joining together with each other in pairs at meiotic cell division and having the same or corresponding genes c belonging to or consisting of a chemical series (e.g. the alkanes) whose members exhibit homology 2 derived from an organism of the same species (< ~ *tissue graft*) [*Gk. homologos* agreeing, fr *hom-* + *legen* to say – more at *LEGEND*] – *homologize /-jeɪz/ vb*

**'homologue**, *NAM* also *homolog* /'hoh'moləg/ *n* a chemical compound, chromosome, etc. that exhibits homology

**'homology** /'hoh'moləji/ *n* 1 correspondence in structure but not necessarily in function a between different parts of the same individual b between parts of different organisms due to evolutionary differentiation from a common ancestor 2 the relation existing a between chemical compounds in a series whose successive members have a regular difference

in composition **b** between elements in the same group of the periodic table **3** a similarity often attributable to common origin – chiefly fml


**homomorphy** /homaˈmɔːfi/ *n* similarity of form (with different fundamental structure or origin) [ISV] – **homomorphism** *n*, **homomorphic** /-ˈmɔːfɪk/ *adj*

**homonym** /həˈnɪm/ *n* **1a** a homophone **b** a homograph **c** any of 2 or more words that are both spelt and pronounced alike **2** a namesake – chiefly fml [L *homonymum*, fr Gk *homonymon*, fr neut of *homonymos* having the same name, fr *hom-* + *onyma*, *onoma* name – more at NAME] – **homonymic** /həˈnɪmɪk/, *hoh-* /-, **homonymous** /həˈnɪmɪəs/, *hoh-* /- *adj*, **homonymously** *adv*, **homonymy** *n*

**homophone** /həˈmɒfəʊn/ *n* **1** any of 2 or more words pronounced alike but different in meaning, derivation, or spelling (e.g. *to*, *too*, and *two*) **2** a character or group of characters pronounced the same as another [ISV] – **homophonous** /həˈmɒfənəs/ *adj*

**homophonic** /həˈmɒfɒnɪk/ *adj* of or being music consisting of a single accompanied melodic line – compare **POLYPHONIC** [Gk *homophōnos* being in unison, fr *hom-* + *phōne* sound – more at 'RAN] – **homophony** /həˈmɒfəni/ *n*

**homopterous** /hohˈmɒptərəs/ *adj* of a large suborder of true bugs that have sucking mouthparts and include the aphids and cicadas [deriv of Gk *hom-* + *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER] – **homopteran** /-rən/ *n* or *adj*

**Homo sapiens** /hohmohˈsapienz/, *ˈhohmoh-* *n* mankind  EVOLUTION [NL, species name, fr *Homo*, genus name + *sapiens*, specific epithet, fr L, wise, intelligent – more at 'HOMO, SAPIENT]

**homosexual** /həˈmæksəyoʊ(ə)/, *ˈsɛks(ə)l* /- *adj* or *n* (of, for, or being) sby having a sexual preference for members of his/her own sex – compare **HEREROSEXUAL** – **homosexually** *adj*, **homosexuality** /-ˈsɛksyoʊˈæləti/, *-shoo-* *n*

**homozygote** /hohmohˈziːgoht/, *ˈhohmoh-*, *ˈziːgoht* /- *n* an animal, plant, or cell having identical alleles of a particular gene and so breeding true for that gene – compare **HETEROZYGOSE** [ISV] – **homozygosity** /-ˈgɒsəti/, **homozygous** /-ˈgohsɪs/ *n*, **homozygous** /-ˈziːgəs/ *adj*

**homunculus** /həˈmʌŋkjuːləs/ *n*, *pl* **homunculi** /-ˈliː/ a little man, a manikin [L, dim of *homin-*, *homo* man – more at **HOMAGE**]

**homy**, **homey** /ˈhohmi/ *adj* homelike – chiefly infml

**hone** /hohn/ *vt* or *n* (to sharpen or make more keen or effective with or as if with) a stone for sharpening a cutting tool (<finely ~d sarcasm>) [n ME, fr OE *han* stone, akin to ON *heim* whetstone, L *cot-*, *cos*, Gk *konos* cone, vb fr n]

**honest** /ˈɒnɪst/ *adj* **1** free from fraud or deception, legitimate, truthful **2** respectable or worthy **3a** marked by integrity **b** frank, sincere (<an ~ answer>) [ME, fr OF *honeste*, fr L *honestus* honourable, fr *honos*, *honor* honour]


**honest broker** *n* a neutral mediator

**honestly** /-li/ *adv* to speak in an honest way (<~, I don't know why I bother>) [HONEST + -LY]

**honesty** /ˈɒnɪsti/ *n* **1a** upright and straightforward conduct, integrity **b** sincerity, truthfulness **2** any of a genus of European plants of the mustard family with large broad smooth semitransparent seed pods

**honey** /ˈhʌni/ *n* **1a** (a pale golden colour like that typical of) a sweet viscous sticky liquid formed from the nectar of flowers in the honey sac of various bees **b** a sweet liquid resembling honey that is collected or produced by various insects **2** sthg sweet or agreeable, sweetness **3** chiefly *NAM* sweetheart, dear **4** a superlative example (<a ~ of a girl – Philip Roth>) – chiefly infml [ME *hony*, fr OE *hunig*; akin to OHG *honag* honey, L *canicæ* bran]

**honey badger** *n* a ratel

**honeybee** /-ˈbeː/ *n* (a social honey-producing bee related to) **a** European bee kept for its honey and wax  DEFENCE

**honey buzzard** *n* a Eurasian and African hawk that feeds on the larvae of wasps and bees

**honeycomb** /-ˈkɒhm/ *n* **1** (sthg resembling in shape or structure) a mass of 6-sided wax cells built by honeybees in their nest to contain their brood and stores of honey **2** (tripe from) the second stomach of a cow or other ruminant mammal

**honeycomb** *vt* **1** to cause to be chequered or full of cavities like a honeycomb **2** to penetrate into every part; riddle (<the government is ~ed with spies – T H White>)

**honeydew** /-ˈdyoʊh/ *n* a sweet deposit secreted on the leaves of plants used by aphids

**honeydew melon** *n* a pale smooth-skinned muskmelon with greenish sweet flesh

**honey eater** *n* any of several chiefly S Pacific songbirds with a long tongue for extracting nectar and small insects from flowers

**honeyed** also **honied** /ˈhʌnid/ *adj* sweetened (as if) with honey (<~ words>)

**honey guide** *n* any of several small plainly coloured birds that inhabit Africa, the Himalayas, and the E Indies and are supposed to lead people or animals to the nests of bees

**honey moon** /-ˈmoʊn/ *n* **1** the period immediately following marriage, esp when taken as a holiday by the married couple **2** a period of unusual harmony following the establishment of a new relationship (<the government's ~ with the public>) [*honey* + 'moon 2] – **honeymoon** *vi*, **honeymooner** *n*

**honey sac** *n* a distension of the oesophagus of a bee in which honey is produced

**honey suckle** /-ˈsʌkl/ *n* any of a genus of (climbing) shrubs usu with showy sweet-smelling flowers rich in nectar [ME *honysoekel*, alter. of *honysoke*, fr OE *hunsuke*, fr *hunig* honey + *sūcan* to suck]

**honk** /hʌŋk/ *n* (a sound made by a car's electric horn like) the short loud unmusical tone that is the characteristic cry of the goose [imit]

**honk** *vb* to (cause to) make a honk (<the driver ~ed his horn>) – **honker** *n*

**honkie**, **honky** /hʌŋki/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a white man – derog; used by Blacks [origin unknown]

**honky-tonk** /hʌŋkiˈtɒŋk/ *n* **1** a form of ragtime piano playing **2** a cheap nightclub or dance hall – chiefly infml [origin unknown] – **honky-tonk** *adj*

**honorarium** /ˈɒnəˈreɪn-əm/ *n*, *pl* **honorariums**, **honoraria** /-ri-ə/ a payment in recognition of professional services on which no price is set [L, fr neut of *honorarius*]

**honorary** /ˈɒn(ə)rəri/ *adj* **1a** conferred or elected in recognition of achievement, without the usual obligations (<an ~ degree>) **b** unpaid, voluntary (<an ~ chairman>) **2** depending on honour for fulfilment (<an ~ obligation>) [L *honorarius*, fr *honor*] – **honorarily** *adv*

**honorific** /ˈɒnəˈrɪfɪk/ *adj* **1** conferring or conveying honour (<~ titles>) **2** belonging to or constituting a class of grammatical forms (e.g. in Chinese) used in speaking to or about a social superior – **honorifically** *adv*

**honorific** *n* an honorific expression

**honour**, *NAM* chiefly **honor** /ˈɒnə/ *n* **1a** good name or public esteem (<his ~ was at stake>) **b** outward respect, recognition **2** a privilege (<I have the ~ to welcome you>) **3** *cap* a person of superior social standing – now used esp as a title for a holder of high office (e.g. a judge in court) (<If Your Honour pleases>) **4** one who brings respect or fame (<was an ~ to his profession>) **5** a mark or symbol of distinction: e.g. **a** an exalted title or rank **b** a ceremonial rite or observance – usu *pl* (<buried with full military ~s>) **6** *pl* a course of study for a university degree more exacting and specialized than that leading to a pass degree **7** (a woman's) chastity or purity **8a** a high standard of ethical conduct, integrity **b** one's word given as a pledge (<~ bound>) **9** *pl* social courtesies or civilities extended by a host (<did the ~s at the table>) **10a** an ace, king, queen, or jack of the trump suit in whist, also these cards and the 10 in bridge or the 4 aces when the contract is no trumps **b** the privilege of playing first from the tee in golf awarded to the player who won the previous hole [ME, fr OF *honor*, fr L *honos*, *honor*]

**honour**, *NAM* chiefly **honor** *vt* **1a** to regard or treat with honour or respect **b** to confer honour on **2a** to live up to or fulfil the terms of (<~ a commitment>) **b** to accept and pay when due (<~ a cheque>) **3** to salute (e.g. one's partner) with a bow in a country dance

**honourable**, *NAM* chiefly **honorable** /ˈɒn(ə)rəbl/ *adj* **1** worthy of honour **2** performed or accompanied with marks of honour or respect **3** entitled to honour – used as a title for the children of certain British noblemen and for various government officials **4a** bringing credit to the possessor or doer (<an ~ performance>) **b** consistent with an untarnished reputation (<an ~ discharge from the army>) **5** characterized by (moral) integrity (<his intentions were ~>)

**honours**, *list* *n* a twice-yearly produced list of people who are to be honoured by the British sovereign in recognition of their public service

**hooch** /hʊʊtʃ/ *n*, *NAM* spirits, esp when inferior or illicitly made or obtained – slang [short for *hoochinoo* (spirits made by the Hoochinoo Indians of Alaska)]

**hood** /hʊd/ *n* **1a** a loose often protective covering for the top and back of the head and neck that is usu attached to the neckline of a garment **b** a usu leather covering for a hawk's head and eyes **2a** an ornamental scarf worn over an academic gown that indicates by its colour the wearer's university and degree  GARMENT **b** a hoodlike marking, crest, or

- expansion on the head of an animal (e.g. a cobra or seal) **3a** a folding waterproof top cover for an open car, pram, etc **b** a cover or canopy for carrying off fumes, smoke, etc **4** *NAM* BONNET **2** [ME, fr OE *hōd*; akin to OHG *huot* head covering] – **hood vt**
- hood** *n* a hoodlum or gangster – **infrml**
- hood** /-hood/ *suffix* (*adj* or *n* – *n*) **1** state or condition of <priesthood> <manhood> **2** quality or character of <likeness> **3** time or period of <childhood> **4** instance of (a specified quality or condition) <a falsehood> **5** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* body or class of people sharing (a specified character or state) <brotherhood> <priesthood> [ME -*hood*, fr OE -*hād*; akin to OHG -*heit* state, condition, *heitar* bright, clear]
- hooded** *adj* **1** covered (as if) by a hood (< eyes) **2** shaped like a hood
- hooded 'crow** *n* a black and grey Eurasian crow closely related to the carrion crow
- hoodie** /'hudi/, **hoodie** *crow* *n*, chiefly *Scot* HOODED CROW
- hoodlum** /'hʊdɪləm/ *n* **1** a (violent) thug **2** a young rowdy [origin unknown] – **hoodlumish** *adj*
- 'hoodoo** /'hʊdʊdoo/ *n*, *pl* **hoodoos** chiefly *NAM* voodoo [of African origin; akin to Hausa *hu'du'da'* to arouse resentment] – **hoodooism** *n*
- 'hoodoo** *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to cast an evil spell on, broadly to bring bad luck to
- hoodwink** /'hʊd,wɪŋk/ *vt* to deceive, delude – chiefly *infrml* ['*hood* + '*wink*] – **hoodwinker** *n*
- hooley** /'hʊhli-/ *n* nonsense – *slang* [origin unknown]
- 'hoof** /'hʊf/, *hoof* /*n*, *pl* **hooves** /'hʊvz/, **hoofs** (a foot with) a curved horny casing that protects the ends of the digits of a horse, cow, or similar mammal and that corresponds to a nail or claw  *ANATOMY* [ME, fr OE *hof*; akin to OHG *huof* hoof, Skt *sapha*] – **hoofed** *adj* – on the hoof of a meat animal before being butchered; while still alive <50p a pound on the hoof>
- 'hoof** *vt* to kick ~ *vi* to go on foot – *usu* + *it* **USE** *infrml*
- 'hoof,beat** /-beet/ *n* the sound of a hoof striking a hard surface
- hoofers** /'hʊfəz/, **hoofa** /*n*, *NAM* a professional dancer – *slang*
- hoo-ha** /'hʊh ,hə/ *n* a fuss, to-do – chiefly *infrml* [prob *imit*]
- 'hook** /'hʊk/ *n* **1** (sthg shaped like) a curved or bent device for catching, holding, or pulling **2a** (a flight of) a ball in golf that deviates from a straight course in a direction opposite to the dominant hand of the player propelling it – compare *SLICE* **b** an attacking stroke in cricket played with a horizontal bat aimed at a ball of higher than waist height and intended to send the ball on the leg side **3** a short blow delivered in boxing with a circular motion while the elbow remains bent and rigid [ME, fr OE *hōc*; akin to MD *hoec* fishhook, corner, OHG *hako* hook, Lith *kenge*] – **by hook or by crook** by any possible means – *hook*, *line*, and *sinker* completely <swallowed all the lies hook, line, and sinker>
- 'hook** *vt* **1** to form into a hook (shape) **2** to seize, make fast, or connect (as if) by a hook **3** to make (e.g. a rug) by drawing loops of yarn, thread, or cloth through a coarse fabric with a hook **4a** to hit or throw (a ball) so that a hook results **b** to play a hook in cricket at (a ball) or at the bowling of (a bowler) **5** to steal – *infrml* – *vi* **1** to form a hook; curve **2** to become hooked **3** to play a hook in cricket or golf
- hookah** /'hʊkə, -kə/ *n* a water pipe (with a single flexible tube by which smoke is drawn through water and into the mouth) – compare *NAROHILE* [Ar *huqqah* bottle of a water pipe]
- hook and 'eye** *n* a fastening device used chiefly on garments that consists of a hook that links with a loop
- hooked** *adj* **1** (shaped) like or provided with a hook **2** made by hooking <a ~ rug> **3a** addicted to drugs – *slang* **b** very enthusiastic or compulsively attached to (sthg specified) (< on skiing>) – *infrml*
- hooker** /'hʊkə/ *n* **1** (the position of) a player in rugby stationed in the middle of the front row of the scrum  **SPORT** **2** chiefly *NAM* a woman prostitute – *slang* ['*HOOK* + '*-ER*]
- 'hook,up** /-up/ *n* (the plan of) a combination (e.g. of electronic circuits) used for a specific often temporary purpose (e.g. radio transmission)
- 'hook,worm** /-wʊm/ *n* (infestation with or disease caused by) any of several parasitic nematode worms that have strong mouth hooks for attaching to the host's intestinal lining
- hooky, hooky** /'hʊki/, *hooky* *n*, chiefly *NAM* truant – chiefly in *play hooky*; *infrml* [prob fr *slang hook*, *hook it* (to make off)]
- hooligan** /'hʊlɪɡən/ *n* a young ruffian or hoodlum [perh fr Patrick Hooligan fl 1898 Irish criminal in London] – **hooliganism** *n*
- 'hoop** /'hʊp/ *n* **1** a large (rigid) circular strip used esp for holding together the staves of containers, as a child's toy, or to expand a woman's skirt **2** a circular figure or object **3** an arch through which balls must be hit in croquet [ME, fr OE *hōp*; akin to MD *hoep* ring, hoop, Lith *kabė* hook]
- 'hoop** *vt* to bind or fasten (as if) with a hoop – **hooper** *n*
- hoop-la** /'hʊhp ,lə/ *n* a (fairground) game in which prizes are won by tossing rings over them [partly fr '*hoop*'; partly fr *hoopla* (commotion, excitement, nonsense), fr F *houp-là*, *interj*]
- hoopoe** /'hʊhpʊə, -pʊh/ *n* (any of several birds related to) a Eurasian and N African bird with pale pinkish brown plumage, a long erectile crest, and a slender downward-curving bill [alter. of obs *hoop*, fr MF *huppe*, fr L *upupa*, of *imit* origin]
- hooray** /'hʊ'reɪ/ *interj* hurrah
- 'hoot** /'hʊht/ *vi* **1** to utter a loud shout, *usu* in contempt **2a** to make (a sound similar to) the long-drawn-out throat noise of an owl **b** to sound the horn, whistle, etc of a motor car or other vehicle <the driver ~ ed at me as he passed> **3** to laugh loudly – *infrml* – *vi* **1** to assail or drive out by hooting (< ~ ed down the speaker> **2** to express in or by hooting (< ~ ed their disapproval>) [ME *houten*, of *imit* origin]
- 'hoot** *n* **1** a sound of hooting **2** *DAMN* **2** <I couldn't care 2 ~ s> **3** a source of laughter or amusement <the play was an absolute ~> **USE** (2, 3) *infrml*
- hooter** /'hʊhta/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **1** a device (e.g. the horn of a car) for producing a loud hooting noise **2** the nose – *infrml* ['*HOOT* + '*-ER*]
- hoots** *interj*, chiefly *Scot* – used to express impatience, dissatisfaction, or objection [origin unknown]
- hoover** /'hʊvə/ *vb* to clean using a vacuum cleaner
- Hoover** *trademark* – used for a vacuum cleaner
- 'hop** /'hɒp/ *vb* -*pp* -*vi* **1** to move by a quick springy leap or in a series of leaps, esp to jump on 1 foot **2** to make a quick trip, esp by air **3** to board or leave a vehicle (< ~ onto a bus>) ~ *vi* **1** to jump over (< ~ a fence> **2** *NAM* to ride on, esp without authorization (< ~ a train>) **USE** (vi 2, 3) *infrml* [ME *hopen*, fr OE *hoppian*, akin to OE *hype* hip] **hop it** *Br* go away! – *infrml*
- 'hop** *n* **1a** a short leap, esp on 1 leg **b** a bounce, a rebound **2** a short or long flight between 2 landings <flew to Bangkok in 3 ~ s> **3** *DANCE* **2** – *infrml*
- 'hop** *n* **1** a climbing plant of the hemp family with inconspicuous green flowers of which the female ones are in cone-shaped catkins **2** *pl* the ripe dried catkins of a hop used esp to impart a bitter flavour to beer [ME *hoppe*, fr MD, akin to OHG *hopfō* hop, OE *sceaf* sheaf – more at *SHEAF*]
- 'hop** *vi* -*pp* - to impregnate (esp beer) with hops
- 'hope** /'hɒp/ *vi* to wish with expectation of fulfilment ~ *vi* **1** to long for with expectation of attainment **2** to expect with desire, trust [ME *hopen*, fr OE *hopian*, akin to MHG *hoffen* to hope] – **hoper** *n* – **hope against hope** to hope without any basis for expecting fulfilment
- 'hope** *n* **1** trust, reliance <all my ~ is in the Lord> **2a** desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfilment <has high ~ s of an early recovery> **b** sby or sthg on which hopes are centred **c** sthg hoped for
- 'hope,chest** *n*, *NAM* BOTTOM DRAWER
- 'hopeful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* **1** full of hope <I'm ~ he'll come> **2** inspiring hope <the situation looks ~> – **hopefulness** *n*
- 'hopeful** *n* a person who aspires to or is likely to succeed <young ~ s>
- 'hopefully** /-f(ə)li/ *adv* **1** in a hopeful manner **2** it is hoped (< ~ he will arrive in time>) – disapproved of by some speakers
- 'hopeless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** having no expectation of success **2a** giving no grounds for hope <a ~ case> **b** incapable of solution, management, or accomplishment <a ~ task> **3** incompetent, useless – chiefly *infrml* <I'm ~ at sums> – **hopelessly** *adv*, **hopelessness** *n*
- hoplite** /'hɒplɪt/ *n* a heavily armed infantry soldier of ancient Greece [Gk *hoplites*, fr *hoplon* tool, weapon, fr *hepein* to care for, work at – more at *SEPUCHRE*]
- hopper** /'hɒpə/ *n* **1** a leaping insect; *specifan* immature hopping form of an insect **2a** a (funnel-shaped) receptacle for the discharging or temporary storage of grain, coal, etc **b** a goods wagon with a floor through which bulk materials may be discharged **c** a barge that can discharge dredged material through an opening bottom ['*HOP* + '*-ER*]; (2) fr the shaking motion of hoppers used to feed grain into a mill]
- hopping** /'hɒpɪŋ/ *adv* – **hopping mad** extremely annoyed – *infrml*
- hopsack** /'hɒp,sæk/ *n* **1** a coarse sacking material **2** a firm rough-surfaced clothing fabric woven in basket weave [ME *hopsak* sack for hops, fr *hoppe* hop + *sak* sack]
- 'hop,scotch** /-skɒtʃ/ *n* a children's game in which a player tosses an object (e.g. a stone) into areas of a figure outlined on the ground and hops through the figure and back to regain the object ['*hop* + '*scotch* slight cut, scratch, scratched line]



**hop, skip, and jump** *n* a short distance – *infrml*

**Horatian** /hə'raɪsh(y)ən, ho-/ *adj* (characteristic) of Horace or his poetry [L *Horatianus*, fr *Horatius* Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus) †8 bc Roman poet]

**horde** /hawd/ *n* 1 a (Mongolian) nomadic people or tribe 2 a crowd, swarm [MF, G, & Pol; MF & G, fr Pol *horda*, of Mongolic origin, akin to Mongolian *orda* camp, horde]

**horehound** /həw,hownd/ *n* (a plant resembling or related to) a plant of the mint family with hoary downy leaves and bitter juice [ME *horhoune*, fr OE *hārhrūne*, fr *har* hoary + *hune* horehound – more at HOAR]

**horizon** /hə'riz(ə)n/ *n* 1a the apparent junction of earth and sky b(1) the plane that is tangent to the earth's surface at an observer's position (2) the great circle formed by the intersection with the celestial sphere of the plane parallel to such a plane but passing through the earth's centre c range of perception, experience, or knowledge 2a the geological deposit of a particular time, usu identified by distinctive fossils b any of the reasonably distinct soil or subsoil layers in a vertical section of land [ME *orizon*, fr LL *horizont*, *horizon*, fr Gk *horizont*-, *horizon*, fr prp of *horizein* to bound, define, fr *horos* boundary; akin to L *urvus* circumference of a city] – **horizontal** *adj*

**horizontal** /hə'riz(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1a near the horizon b in the plane of or (operating in a plane) parallel to the horizon or a base line, level < ~ distance > (a ~ engine) 2 of or concerning relationships between people of the same rank in different hierarchies – compare VERTICAL 4 – **horizontally** *adv*

**hormone** /hawmohn/ *n* (a synthetic substance with the action of) a product of living cells that usu circulates in body liquids (e.g. the blood or sap) and produces a specific effect on the activity of cells remote from its point of origin [Gk *hormon*, prp of *horman* to stir up, fr *hormē* impulse, assault – more at STIRUP] – **hormonal** /haw'mohnl/ *adj*, **hormonally** *adv*

**horn** /hawn/ *n* 1a(1) any of the usu paired bony projecting parts on the head of cattle, giraffes, deer, and similar hoofed mammals and some extinct mammals and reptiles (2) a permanent solid pointed part consisting of keratin that is attached to the nasal bone of a rhinoceros b a natural projection from an animal (e.g. a snail or owl) resembling or suggestive of a horn c the tough fibrous material consisting chiefly of keratin that covers or forms the horns and hooves of cattle and related animals, or other hard parts (e.g. claws or nails) d a hollow horn used as a container 2 sthg resembling or suggestive of a horn e.g. a either of the curved ends of a crescent b a horn-shaped body of land or water 3a an animal's horn used as a wind instrument b(1) HUNTING HORN (2) FRENCH HORN c a wind instrument used in a jazz band; esp a trumpet d a device (e.g. on a motor car) for making loud warning noises < a fog ~ > [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *horn*, L *cornu*, Gk *keras*] – **horn** *adj*, **horned** *adj*, **hornless** *adj*, **hornlike** *adj*

**hornbeam** /hawn,beem/ *n* any of a genus of trees of the hazel family with smooth grey bark and hard white wood [*horn* + *beam*, fr its hard smooth wood]

**hornbill** /-bɪl/ *n* any of a family of large Old World birds with enormous bills

**hornblende** /hawn,blend/ *n* a dark mineral that consists chiefly of silicates of calcium, magnesium, and iron and is a major constituent of many igneous and metamorphic rocks [G] – **hornblende** /hawn'blendɪk/ *adj*

**hornbook** /-book/ *n* a child's primer that consisted of a sheet of parchment or paper protected by a sheet of transparent horn

**horned toad** *n* any of several small insect-eating lizards of W USA and Mexico with hornlike spines

**hornet** /hawnɪt/ *n* a large wasp with a black and yellow banded abdomen and a powerful sting [ME *hermet*, fr OE *hyrnet*, akin to OHG *hornaz* hornet, L *crabro*]

**hornet's nest** *n* an angry or hostile reaction – esp in *stir up a hornet's nest*

**horn in** *vi* to intrude – slang; often + *on*

**horn of plenty** *n* a cornucopia

**hornpipe** /-pi:p/ *n* (a piece of music for) a lively British folk dance typically associated with sailors [ME, wind instrument made partly of horn]

**horn-rims** *n pl* glasses with horn rims – **horn-rimmed** *adj*

**hornswoggle** /-swogl/ *vi* to bamboozle, hoax – slang [origin unknown]

**horny** /hawnɪ/ *adj* 1 (made) of horn 2 sexually aroused – slang [(2) *horn* (erect penis) + -y]

**horology** /hə'roləʒi/ *n* 1 the science of measuring time 2 the art of constructing instruments for indicating time [Gk *hōra* hour + E -logy] – **horologer** *n*, **horologist** *n*, **horologic** /hə'roləjɪk/, **horological** *adj*

**horoscope** /hə'roskop/ *n* (an astrological forecast based on) a diagram of the relative positions of planets and signs of the zodiac at a specific time, esp sby's birth, used by astrologers to infer individual character and personality traits and to foretell events in a person's life [MF, fr L *horoscopus*, fr Gk *horoskopos*, fr *hora* + *skopein* to look at – more at SPY]

**horrendous** /hə'rendəs/ *adj* dreadful, horrible [L *horrendus*, fr gerundive of *horrere* to bristle, tremble] – **horrendously** *adv*

**horrible** /hə'rebl/ *adj* 1 marked by or arousing horror < a ~ accident > 2 extremely unpleasant or disagreeable – chiefly *infrml* < ~ weather > [ME, fr MF, fr L *horribilis*, fr *horrere*] – **horribleness** *n*, **horribly** /hə'reblɪ/ *adv*

**horrid** /hə'rid/ *adj* 1 horrible, shocking 2 repulsive, nasty < a ~ little boy > [L *horridus* rough, shaggy, bristling, fr *horrere*] – **horridly** *adv*, **horridness** *n*

**horrific** /hə'rifɪk/ *adj* arousing horror, horrifying < a ~ account of the tragedy > – **horrifically** *adv*

**horrify** /hə'rifɪ/ *vt* 1 to cause to feel horror 2 to fill with distaste, shock – **horrifyingly** *adv*

**horror** /hə'rə/ *n* 1a intense fear, dread, or dismay b intense aversion or repugnance 2 (sby or sthg that has) the quality of inspiring horror < contemplating the ~ of their lives – Liam O'Flaherty > < that child is a perfect ~ > 3 *pl* a state of horror, depression, or apprehension – chiefly *infrml* [ME *horroure*, fr MF *horror*, fr L, action of trembling, fr *horrere* to tremble, akin to OE *gorst* gorse, Gk *chersos* dry land]

**'horror-struck**, **'horror-stricken** *adj* filled with horror

**hors de combat** /aw də 'kɒmbəh (Fr ɔ:r də kɔ:bə)/ *adv* or *adj* out of the fight; disabled [F]

**hors d'œuvre** /aw 'duhv (Fr ɔ:r dəvɜ:/ *n*, *pl* **hors d'oeuvres** also **hors d'oeuvre** /duhv(z) (Fr ~)/ any of various savoury foods usu served as appetizers [F *hors-d'œuvre*, lit., outside of work]

**'horse** /haws/ *n*, *pl* **horses**, (3) **horse** 1a(1) a large solid-hoofed plant-eating quadruped mammal domesticated by humans since prehistoric times and used as a beast of burden, a draught animal, or for riding ~ ANATOMY (2) a racehorse < play the ~ > b a male horse, a stallion or gelding 2a a usu 4-legged frame for supporting sthg (e.g. planks) b(1) POMMEL HORSE (2) VAULTING HORSE 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the cavalry 4 a mass of wall rock occurring in a vein 5 a rope suspended from the yard of a sailing ship, on which the seamen stand when working on the sails ~ SHIP 6 heroin – slang [ME *hors*, fr OE, akin to OHG *hros* horse] – from the horse's mouth from the original source

**'horse** *vi* to engage in horseplay < horsing around > ~ *vt* to provide (e.g. a person or vehicle) with a horse

**'horseback** /-bak/ *n* – on **horseback** mounted on a horse

**'horseback** *adv*, chiefly *NAM* ON HORSEBACK

**'horse,bean** /-be:n/ *n* BROAD BEAN [*horse* (large, coarse, in names of plants & animals), fr '*horse*]

**'horse,box** /-bɒks/ *n* a lorry or closed trailer for transporting horses

**'horse,brass** *n* a brass ornament worn orig on a horse's harness

**'horse,breaker** /-breɪkə/ *n* one who breaks in or trains horses

**'horse 'chestnut** *n* (the large glossy brown seed of) a large tree with 5-lobed leaves and erect conical clusters of showy flowers ~ PLANT

**'horse,fly** /-flɪ/ *n* any of a family of swift usu large flies with bloodsucking females – compare CLIG

**'horse,hair** /-heə/ *n* hair (from the mane or tail) of a horse, also cloth made from this

**horse latitudes** *n pl* either of 2 belts in the region of latitudes 30°N and 30°S with weather characterized by calms and light changeable winds

**'horse,laugh** /-laɪf/ *n* a loud boisterous laugh

**'horse,mackerel** *n* any of various large (food) fishes

**'horseman** /-mən/, *fem* **'horse,woman** *n* 1 a rider on horseback 2 a (skilled) breeder, tender, or manager of horses – **horsemanship** *n*

**'horse,play** /-pleɪ/ *n* rough or boisterous play





**'horse,power** /-paʊə/ *n* an imperial unit of power equal to about 746W

**'horse,radish** /-radɪʃ/ *n* 1 a tall coarse white-flowered plant of the mustard family 2 (a condiment prepared from) the pungent root of the horseradish

**'horse,sense** *n* COMMON SENSE

**'horse,shit** /-ʃɪt/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* bullshit – *vulg*

**'horse,shoe** /-ʃu:h/ *n* (sthg with a shape resembling) a shoe for horses,

- usu consisting of a narrow U-shaped plate of iron fitting the rim of the hoof  **ARCHITECTURE** - **horseshoe** *vt*, **horseshoer** */-shooh-ə/ n*
- horseshoe bat** *n* any of several Old World bats with a horseshoe-shaped pad on the muzzle
- horseshoe crab** *n*, **NAm** KING CRAB
- horsetail** */-tayl/ n* any of a genus of flowerless plants related to the ferns  **PLANT**
- horse-trading** *n* negotiation accompanied by hard bargaining and reciprocal concessions
- horse-whip** */-wip/ vt* to flog (as if) with a whip for horses
- horsewoman** */-woomən/ n* a female horseman
- horsey, horsy** */hawsi/ adj* 1 of or resembling a horse 2 very interested in horses, horse riding, or horse racing 3 characteristic of horsemen - **horsily** *adv*, **horsiness** *n*
- horsie** */hawsi/ n* - used as a pet name for a horse
- horst** */hawst/ n* a block of the earth's crust higher than and separated by faults from adjacent blocks  **GEOGRAPHY** [G]
- hortative** */hawtativ/, hortatory* */hawtət(ə)rɪ/ adj* giving encouragement - **fml** [LL *hortativus*, fr L *hortatus*, pp of *hortari* to urge - more at **YEARN**] - **hortatively** *adv*
- horticulture** */hawti:kulchə/ n* the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers [L *hortus* garden + E *-i-* + *culture* - more at **YARD**] - **horticultural** */hawti:kulch(ə)rəl/ adj*, **horticulturally** *adv*, **horticulturist** *n*
- hosanna** */hoh'zənə/ interj* or *n* (used as) a cry of acclamation and adoration [ME *osanna*, fr LL, fr Gk *hōsanna*, fr Heb *hoshi'ah-nna* pray, save (us)]
- hose** */hohz/ n*, **pl** (1) *hose*, (2) *hoses* 1 a leg covering that sometimes covers the foot: e.g. a short breeches reaching to the knee <doublet and ~>  **GARMENT** **b pl**, chiefly **NAm** stockings; also tights 2 a flexible tube for conveying fluids (e.g. from a tap or in a car engine) [ME, fr OE *hosa* stocking, husk; akin to OHG *hosa* leg covering, Gk *kystis* bladder, OE *hyd* hide]
- hose** *vt* to spray, water, or wash with a hose <~ down a stable floor>
- Hosea** */hoh'zee-ə/ n* (an Old Testament book ascribed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 8th c bc [Heb *Hoshea*]
- hosepipe** */hohz'pi:p/ n* a length of hose for conveying water (e.g. for watering plants or putting out fires)
- hosier** */hohzyəri/ n* socks, stockings, and tights in general
- hospice** */hospis/ n* 1 a place of shelter for travellers or the destitute (run by a religious order) 2 **Br** a nursing home, esp for terminally ill patients [F, fr L *hospitum*, fr *hospit-*, *hospes* host - more at **HOST**]
- hospitable** */ho'spitabl/, 'hos-/ adj* 1a offering a generous and cordial welcome (to guests or strangers) **b** offering a pleasant or sustaining environment <a ~ climate> 2 readily receptive <~ to new ideas> - **hospitably** *adv*
- hospital** */hospitl/ n* 1 an institution where the sick or injured are given medical care - often used in British English without an article <the injured were taken to ~> 2 a repair shop for specified small objects <a doll's ~> [ME, fr OF, fr ML *hospitale*, fr LL, *hospice*, fr L, guest room, fr neut of *hospitalis* of a guest, fr *hospit-*, *hospes*]
- hospitality** */hospitəlati/ n* hospitable treatment or reception
- hospital-ize, -ise** */hospitl-iez/ vt* to place in a hospital as a patient - **hospitalization** */hospitl-izəzən(ə)n/ n*
- Hospitaller, NAm Hospitaler** */hospitl-ə/ n* a member of a charitable, orig military, religious order established in Jerusalem in the 12th c [ME *hospitaller*, fr MF, fr ML *hospitarius*, fr LL *hospitale*]
- host** */hohst/ n* 1 a very large number; a multitude 2 an army - chiefly poetic or archaic [ME, fr OF, fr LL *hostis*, fr L, stranger, enemy - more at **GUEST**]
- host** *n* 1a an innkeeper <mine ~> **b** one who receives or entertains guests socially or officially **c** sby or sthg that provides facilities for an event or function <our college served as ~ for the chess tournament> 2a a living animal or plant on or in which a parasite or smaller organism lives **b** an individual into which a tissue or part is transplanted from another 3 a compere on a radio or television programme [ME *hoste* host, guest, fr OF, fr L *hospit-*, *hospes*, fr *hospis*]
- host** *vt* to act as host at or of <~ed a series of TV programmes>
- host** *n*, often **cap** cap the bread consecrated in the Eucharist [ME *hoste*, fr MF *hoiste*, fr LL & L; LL *hostia* Eucharist, fr L, sacrifice]
- hostage** */hostij/ n* a person held by one party as a pledge that promises will be kept or terms met by another party <hijackers took 3 ~s> [ME, fr OF, fr *hoste* host, guest]
- hostel** */hostl/ n* 1 chiefly **Br** a supervised residential home: e.g. a an establishment providing accommodation for nurses, students, etc **b** an institution for junior offenders, ex-offenders, etc, encouraging social adaptation 2 **YOUTH HOSTEL** 3 an inn - chiefly poetic or archaic [ME, lodging, inn, fr OF, fr LL *hospitale* hospice] - **hosteller** *n*
- hostelry** */-rɪ/ n* an inn, hotel
- hostess** */hoh'stes/ n* 1 a woman who entertains socially or acts as host 2a a female employee on a ship, aeroplane, etc who manages the provisioning of food and attends to the needs of passengers **b** a woman who acts as a companion to male patrons, esp in a nightclub; also a prostitute
- hostile** */hostiel/ adj* 1 of or constituting an enemy 2 antagonistic, unfriendly 3 not hospitable <a ~ environment> [MF or L, MF, fr L *hostilis*, fr *hostis*] - **hostile** *n*, **hostilely** *adv*
- hostility** */ho'stiliti/ n* 1 *pl* overt acts of warfare 2 antagonism, opposition, or resistance [HOSTILE + *-ity*]
- hostler** */osla/ n*, chiefly **NAm** an ostler
- hot** */hot/ adj* -**tt-** 1a having a relatively high temperature **b** capable of giving a sensation of heat or of burning, searing, or scalding **c** having a temperature higher than normal body temperature 2a vehement, fiery <a ~ temper> **b** sexually excited; also sexually arousing **c** eager, enthusiastic <~ on the idea> **d** of or being an exciting style of jazz with strong rhythms - compare **'COOL** 2c 3 severe, stringent - usu + *on* <police are ~ on drunken drivers> 4 having or causing the sensation of an uncomfortable degree of body heat <felt too ~> 5a very recent, fresh <~ off the press> **b** close to sthg sought <guess again, you're getting ~> 6a suggestive of heat or of burning objects <~ colours> **b** pungent, peppery <a ~ curry> 7a of intense and immediate interest, sensational **b** performing well or strongly fancied to win (e.g. in a sport) <~ favourite> **c** currently popular; selling very well **d** very good - used as a generalized term of approval <his English is not so ~> 8 (of, being, or for material that is) radioactive 9a recently and illegally obtained <~ jewels> **b** wanted by the police **USE** (2b, 2c, & 7d) **infrm**, (9) **slang** [ME, fr OE *hat*, akin to OHG *heiz* hot, Lith *karsti* to get hot] - **hottish** *adj*, **hotness** *n*
- hot** *adv* hotly
- hot** *air* *n* empty talk - chiefly **infrm**
- hotbed** */-bed/ n* 1 a bed of soil heated esp by fermenting manure and used for forcing or raising seedlings 2 an environment that favours rapid growth or development, esp of sthg specified <a ~ of crime>
- hot-blooded** *adj* excitable, ardent - **hot-bloodedness** *n*
- hotchpotch** */ho:hpotʃ/ n* a mixture composed of many usu unrelated parts, a jumble [ME *hochepot*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *hochier* to shake + *pot*]
- hot cross bun** *n* a yeast-leavened spicy bun marked with a cross and eaten esp on Good Friday
- hot dog** *n* a frankfurter or other sausage (heated and served in a bread roll)
- hotel** */('h)oh'tel/ n* a usu large establishment that provides meals and (temporary) accommodation for the public, esp for people travelling away from home [F *hôtel*, fr OF *hostel*]
- Hotel** - a communications code word for the letter *h*
- hotelier** */('h)oh'telyə, -yay-/ n* a proprietor or manager of a hotel [F *hôteier*, fr OF *hostelier*, fr *hostel*]
- hot flash** *n*, **NAm** HOT FLUSH
- hot flush** *n* a sudden brief flushing and sensation of heat, usu associated with an imbalance of endocrine hormones occurring esp at the menopause
- hotfoot** */-foot/ vi* or *adv* (to go) in haste - **hotfoot** it to hotfoot
- hothead** */-hed/ n* a hotheaded person
- hotheaded** */-hedid/ adj* fiery, impetuous - **hotheadedly** *adv*, **hot-headedness** *n*
- hot house** */-hous/ n* a heated greenhouse, esp for tropical plants
- hot house** *adj* delicate, overprotected
- hot line** *n* a direct telephone line kept in constant readiness for immediate communication (e.g. between heads of state)
- hotly** */-li/ adv* in a hot or fiery manner <a ~ debated issue>
- hot metal** *n* a method of printing using type cast directly from molten metal
- hot pepper** *n* (a plant bearing) any of various small usu thin-walled pungent capsicum fruits
- hot plate** *n* a metal plate or spiral, usu on an electric cooker, on which food can be heated and cooked
- hot pot** *n* a (mutton, lamb, or beef and potato) stew cooked esp in a covered pot
- hot potato** *n* a controversial or sensitive question or issue - **infrm**
- hot rod** *n* a motor vehicle rebuilt or modified for high speed and fast acceleration - **hot-rodder** *n*
- hot seat** *n* 1 a position involving risk, embarrassment, or responsibility

- for decision-making (*in the ~ at the interview*) – infml 2 **ELECTRIC CHAIR** – slang
- 'hotshot** /-shot/ *n* a showily successful or important person – infml – **botshot** *adj*
- hot 'spring** *n* a spring of naturally hot water  **ENERGY**
- hot 'stuff** *n* 1 shy or sthg of outstanding ability or quality 2 shy or sthg sexually exciting (*she's really ~*) **USE** infml
- Hottentot** /'hot(ə)n,tot/ *n* a member, or the language, of a people of southern Africa apparently of mixed Bushman and Bantu origin [Afrik]
- hot up** *vi* to become hot, increase in activity, intensity, liveliness, excitement, etc (*air raids began to hot up about the beginning of February* – George Orwell) ~ *vt* to make hotter, livelier, or faster
- hot 'water** *n* a distressing predicament (likely to lead to punishment), trouble – infml
- hot-'water ,bottle** *n* a usu flat rubber container that is filled with hot water and used esp to warm a (person in) bed
- 'hound** /'haʊnd/ *n* 1 a dog, esp one of any of various hunting breeds typically with large drooping ears and a deep bark that track their prey by scent 2 a mean or despicable person 3 one who is devoted to the pursuit of sthg specified [ME, fr OE *hund*, akin to OHG *hunt* dog, L *canis*, Gk *kyon*]
- hound** *vt* 1 to pursue (as if) with hounds 2 to harass persistently – **hounder** *n*
- 'hound's-tongue** *n* any of various coarse plants of the borage family with tongue-shaped leaves (and dull reddish-purple flowers)
- hounds,tooth 'check** /-tu:θtʃ/, **hound's-tooth check** *n* a small broken-check textile pattern
- hour** /'aʊə/ *n* 1 (any of the 7 times of day set aside for) a daily liturgical devotion 2 the 24th part of a day, a period of 60 minutes 3a the time of day reckoned in hours and minutes by the clock, esp the beginning of each full hour measured by the clock (*the train leaves on the ~*) b *pl* the time reckoned in one 24-hour period from midnight to midnight (*attack at 0900 ~s*) 4a a fixed or customary period of time set aside for a usu specified purpose (*the lunch ~*) · often *pl* (*during office ~s*) b a particular, usu momentous, period or point of time (*in his ~ of need*) c the present (*the story of the ~*) 5 *pl* one's regular time of getting up or going to bed (*kept late ~s*) 6 the work done or distance travelled at normal rate in an hour (*the city was 2 ~s away*) 7 **NAm** a unit of educational credit [ME, fr OF *heure*, fr IL & L, LL *hora* canonical hour, fr L, hour of the day, fr Gk *hora*]
- 'hour,glass** /-glahs/ *n* a glass or perspex instrument for measuring time consisting of 2 bulbs joined by a narrow neck from the uppermost of which a quantity of sand, water, etc runs into the lower in the space of an hour
- hourglass** *adj* shapely with a narrow waist (*an ~ figure*)
- 'hour ,hand** *n* the short hand that marks the hours on the face of a watch or clock
- hourl** /'hooə/ *n, pl* **houris** 1 any of the female virgin attendants of the blessed in the Muslim paradise 2 a voluptuously beautiful young woman [F, fr Per *huri*, fr Ar *hurriyah*]
- 'hourly** /'aʊəli/ *adv* 1 at or during every hour, also continually (*we're expecting him ~*) 2 by the hour (~ *paid workers*)
- hourly** *adj* 1 occurring or done every hour, also continual 2 reckoned by the hour
- 'house** /'həʊs/ *n, pl* **houses** /'haʊz/ 1 a building designed for people to live in 2a an animal's shelter or refuge (e.g. a nest or den) b a building in which sthg is housed or stored (*a hen ~*) c a building used for a particular purpose, esp eating, drinking, or entertainment (*a public ~*) 3 any of the 12 equal sectors into which the celestial sphere is divided in astrology 4a *sing or pl in constr* the occupants of a house (*you'll wake the whole ~*) b a family including ancestors, descendants, and kindred (*the ~ of Tudor*) 5a (a residence of) a religious community b any of several groups into which a British school may be divided for social purposes or games 6 (the chamber of) a legislative or deliberative assembly, esp a division of a body consisting of 2 chambers 7a a business organization or establishment (*a publishing ~*) (~ *style*) b *cap* a large building used by a business or institution – used in names (*Transport House*) c (the audience in) a theatre or concert hall (*a full ~*) [ME *hus*, fr OE *hus*; akin to OHG *hūs* house] – **houseful** *n*, **houseless** *adj* – on the **house** at the expense of an establishment or its management (*have a drink on the house*)
- 'house** /'həʊz/ *vt* 1 to provide with accommodation or storage space 2 to serve as shelter for; contain (*a library ~s thousands of books*)
- 'house ar,rest** *n* confinement to one's place of residence instead of prison
- 'house,boat** /-boht/ *n* an often permanently moored boat that is fitted out as a home
- 'house,bound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* confined to the house (e.g. because of illness)
- 'house,breaking** /-braykɪŋ/ *n* an act of breaking into and entering the house of another, with a criminal purpose – **housebreaker** *n*
- 'house,broken** /-brɒkən/ *adj*, chiefly **NAm** housetrained
- 'house,carl** /-kahl/ *n* a member of the bodyguard of a Danish or early English king or noble [OE *huscarl*, fr ON *huskari*, fr *hus* house + *karl* man]
- 'house,coat** /-koht/ *n* a woman's light dressing gown for wear round the house; also a short overall
- 'house,craft** /-kraɦt/ *n* 1 **DOMESTIC SCIENCE** 2 skill in running a household
- 'house,father** /-fahdɦə/, *fem* **'house,mother** /-mudɦə/ *n* sby in charge of a group of young people living in care (e.g. in a children's home)
- 'house,fly** /-flie/ *n* a fly found in most parts of the world that frequents houses and carries disease
- 'house,guest** /-gest/ *n* **GUEST** 1a
- 'house,hold** /-hohld/ *n* *sing or pl in constr* all the people who live together in a dwelling
- 'household** *adj* 1 domestic 2 familiar, common (*a ~ name*)
- household cavalry** *n* a cavalry regiment appointed to guard a sovereign or his/her residence
- 'house,holder** /-hohldə/ *n* a person who occupies a dwelling as owner or tenant
- household troops** *n pl* troops appointed to guard a sovereign or his/her residence
- 'house,keeper** /-keepə/ *n* sby, esp a woman, employed to take charge of the running of a house
- 'house,keeping** /-keepɪŋ/ *n* 1 (money used for) the day-to-day running of a house and household affairs 2 the general management of an organization which ensures its smooth running (e.g. the provision of equipment, keeping of records, etc) 3 the routine tasks that have to be done in order for sthg to function properly
- 'house,leek** /-leek/ *n* a pink-flowered Eurasian plant which grows esp on walls and roofs
- 'house,lights** /-liets/ *n pl* the lights that illuminate the auditorium of a theatre
- 'house,maid** /-mayd/ *n* a female servant employed to do housework
- house,maid's knee** *n* a swelling over the knee due to an enlargement of the bursa in the front of the kneecap [fr its frequent occurrence among servants who often work on their knees]
- 'houseman** /-mən/ *n* (one holding) the most junior grade of British hospital doctor
- 'house ,martin** *n* a European martin with blue-black plumage and white rump that nests on cliffs and under the eaves of houses
- 'house,master** /-mahstə/, *fem* **'house,mistress** *n* a teacher in charge of a school house
- 'house,mother** /-mudɦə/, *masc* **'house,father** *n* sby in charge of a group of young people living in care (e.g. in a children's home)
- 'house ,mouse** *n* a common usu grey mouse that lives and breeds in and around buildings and is found in most parts of the world
- house of cards** *n* a precarious structure or situation
- House of 'Commons** *n* the lower house of the British and Canadian parliaments  **LAW**
- house of ill repute** *n* a brothel – euph
- House of 'Lords** *n* 1 the upper house of Parliament 2 the body of Law Lords that constitutes the highest British court of appeal **USE**  **LAW**
- House of Representatives** *n* the lower house of the US Congress or Australian Parliament
- 'houseparent** /-peərənt/ *n* a housemother or housefather
- 'house ,party** *n* a party lasting for a day or more held at a large, usu country, house
- 'house,plant** /-plahnt/ *n* a plant grown or kept indoors
- 'house ,proud** *adj* (excessively) careful about the management and appearance of one's house
- 'house ,sparrow** *n* a brown Eurasian sparrow that lives esp in or near human settlements
- house-to-'house** *adj* **DOOR-TO-DOOR** 1
- 'house,top** /-top/ *n* a roof – from the **housetops** for all to hear; IN **PUBLIC** (*shouting their grievances from the housetops*)

- 'house,train** /-,trayn/ *vt* 1 chiefly *Br* to train (e.g. a pet) to defecate and urinate outdoors 2 to teach (e.g. a person) to behave acceptably – humor
- 'house,warming** /-,wawming/ *n* a party to celebrate moving into a new house or premises
- housewife** /'hows,wif/; *sense* 2 'huzif/ *n* 1 a usu married woman who runs a house 2 a small container for needlework articles (e.g. thread) – **housewifely** /'hows,wiefli/ *adj*, **housewifery** /-,wif(ə)ri/ *n*
- 'house,work** /-,wuhk/ *n* the work (e.g. cleaning) involved in maintaining a house
- housing** /'howzɪŋ/ *n* 1 (the provision of) houses or dwelling-places collectively 2 a protective cover for machinery, sensitive instruments, etc
- housing association** *n* a nonprofitmaking society that constructs, renovates, and helps tenants to rent or buy housing
- hove** /'hohv/ *past of HEAVE*
- hovel** /'hovl/ *n* a small, wretched, and often dirty house or abode [ME]
- hover** /'hova/ *vi* 1 to hang in the air or on the wing 2a to linger or wait restlessly around a place b to be in a state of uncertainty, irresolution, or suspense [ME *hoveren*, freq of *hoven* to hover] – **hover** *n*, **hoverer** *n*
- 'hover,craft** /-,kraɪft/ *n, pl hovercraft* a vehicle supported on a cushion of air provided by fans and designed to travel over both land and sea
- 'hover,fly** /-,flie/ *n* any of various brightly coloured flies that hover in the air → DEFENCE
- 'hover,port** /-,pawt/ *n* a place where passengers embark on and disembark from hovercraft [*hovercraft* + *port*]
- 'hover,train** /-,trayn/ *n* a train that travels on a cushion of air along a special use concrete track
- 'how** /'how/ *adv* 1a in what manner or way (< do you spell it? > [know ~ it works]) b with what meaning; to what effect (< can you explain it? > c for what reason; why (< could you do it? > 2 by what measure or quantity (< much does it cost? > – often used in an exclamation as an intensive (< nice of you to come! > 3 in what state or condition (e.g. of health) (< are you? > < is the market today? > [ME, fr OE *hū*, akin to OHG *hwuo* how, OE *hwā* who – more at WHO] – **how** about what do you say to or think of (< how about going to London for the day? > – **how** come how does it happen; why is it (< how come we never meet? > – *infm* – **how** do you do – used as a formal greeting between people meeting for the first time – **how's that** 1 – used to call attention to and invite comment on sthg (< how's that for enterprise? > 2 please repeat 3 – used in cricket as an appeal to the umpire to give the batsman out
- ²how cony** 1a the way, manner, or state in which (< remember ~ they fought > < asked ~ he felt > b that (< do you remember ~ he arrived right at the end > 2 however, as (< do it ~ you like >)
- ²how** *n* the manner in which sthg is done (< the ~ and the why of it >)
- howdah** /'howda/ *n* a usu canopied seat on the back of an elephant or camel [Hindi *hauda*]
- how-do-you-do, how d'ye do** /'dya/ *n* a confused or embarrassing situation – *infm* [fr the phrase *how do you do?*]
- howdy** /'howdi/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* hello – *infm* [alter of *how do (you do)*]
- howe** /'how, hoh/ *n*, *Scot* a hollow, valley [ME (northern) *how*, *holl*, fr OE *hol*, fr *hol*, *adj*, hollow – more at HOLE]
- 'however** /'howeva/ *conj* in whatever manner or way (< can go ~ he likes >)
- ²however** *adv* 1 to whatever degree or extent; no matter how (< fast I car? > 2 in spite of that; nevertheless (< would like to go; ~, I think I'd better not > 3 how in the world (< did you manage it? > – *infm*]
- howff, howf** /'howf, hohf/ *n*, *Scot* a haunt, resort; esp a pub [D *hof* enclosure; akin to OE *hof* enclosure, *hyf* hive]
- howitzer** /'how-itzə/ *n* a short cannon usu with a medium muzzle velocity and a relatively high trajectory [D *howitzer*, deriv of Czech *houfnice* ballista]
- howl** /'howl/ *vi* 1a esp of dogs, wolves, etc to make a loud sustained doleful cry b of wind to make a sustained wailing sound 2 to cry loudly and without restraint (e.g. with pain or laughter) ~ *vi* to utter with a loud sustained cry [ME *houlen*; akin to MHG *hiulen* to howl, Gk *kōkyein* to shriek] – **howl** *n*
- howl down** *vt* to express one's disapproval of (e.g. a speaker or his/her views), esp by shouting in order to prevent from being heard
- howler** /'howlə/ *n* a stupid and comic blunder – *infm* [HOWL + -ER]
- 'howler, monkey** *n* any of a genus of S and Central American monkeys that have a long prehensile tail and a loud howling cry
- howling** /'howlɪŋ/ *adj* very great, extreme, or severe (< a ~ success > – *infm*]
- howzat** /'howzat/ *interj* HOW'S THAT 3 [by alter]
- 'hoy** /'hoy/ *interj* – used in attracting attention or in driving animals [ME]
- ²hoy** *n* a small usu fore-and-aft rigged coaster [ME, fr MD *hoer*]
- hoyden** /'hoydn/ *n* a boisterous girl [perh fr obs D *heiden* country lout, fr MD, heathen; akin to OE *hæthen* heathen – more at HEATHEN] – **hoydenish** *adj*
- hub** /'hub/ *n* 1 the central part of a wheel, propeller, or fan through which the axle passes 2 the centre of activity or importance [prob alter. of 'hob]
- hubble-bubble** /'hubl, bubl/ *n* 1 WATER PIPE 2 2 a flurry of noise or activity, a commotion [redupl of *bubble*]
- hubbub** /'hubub/ *n* a noisy confusion, uproar [prob of Celt origin; akin to ScGael *ub ub*, interj of contempt]
- hubby** /'hubl/ *n* a husband – *infm* [by alter.]
- hubcap** /'hub,kap/ *n* a removable metal cap placed over the hub of a wheel
- hubris** /'hyooɦbrɪs/ *n* overweening pride, usu leading to retribution [Gk *hubris* – more at OUT] – **hubristic** /'hyooɦbrɪstɪk/ *adj*
- huckaback** /'huka,bak/ *n* an absorbent durable fabric of cotton, linen, or both, used chiefly for towels [origin unknown]
- huckleberry** /'huklɪbə(r), -,beri/ *n* 1 (an edible dark blue or black berry of) any of a genus of American shrubs of the heath family 2 a blueberry [perh alter of *hurtleberry* (whortleberry, huckleberry)]
- 'huckster** /'hukstə/ *n* 1 a hawker, pedlar 2 chiefly *NAM* one who writes advertising material, esp for radio or television [ME *hukster*, fr MD *hokester*, fr *hoeken* to peddle, akin to MLG *hoken* to peddle – more at HAWKER]
- ²huckster** *vi* to haggle ~ *vt* 1 to deal in or bargain over 2 to promote or advertise, esp in an aggressive or underhand manner
- 'huddle** /'hudl/ *vb* **huddling** /'hudlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to crowd together 2 to draw or curl (oneself) up ~ *vi* 1 to gather in a closely-packed group 2 to curl up; crouch [prob fr or akin to ME *hoderen* to huddle]
- ²huddle** *n* 1 a closely-packed group, a bunch 2 a secretive or conspiratorial meeting (< went into a ~ with his colleagues >)
- hue** /'hyooɦ/ *n* 1 a complexion, aspect [political factions of every ~ > 2 the attribute of colours that permits them to be classed as red, yellow, green, blue, or an intermediate between any adjacent pair of these colours, also a colour having this attribute – compare LIGHTNESS, SATURATION [ME *hewe*, fr OE *hiw*; akin to OE *har* hoary – more at HOAR]
- hue and cry** *n* 1 a cry formerly used when in pursuit of a criminal 2 a clamour of alarm or protest [*hue* (shout, outcry), fr ME *hew*, *hu*, fr OF *hue*, fr *huer* to shout, fr *hu*, interj]
- hued** *adj* coloured – usu in combination (< green-hued >)
- 'huff** /'huf/ *vi* 1 to emit loud puffs (e.g. of breath or steam) 2 to make empty threats (< management ~ed and puffed about the chances of a lockout > [imit])
- ²huff** *n* – **huffily** *adv*, **huffiness** *n*, **huffish** *adj*, **huffy** *adj* – in a huff in a piqued and resentful mood
- 'hug** /'hug/ *vt* -gg- 1 to hold or press tightly, esp in the arms 2a to feel very pleased with (oneself) b to cling to; cherish (< ged his miseries like a sulky child – John Buchan > 3 to stay close to (< thick smoke ~ged the ground > [perh of Scand origin, akin to ON *hugga* to soothe] – **huggable** *adj*)
- ²hug** *n* a tight clasp or embrace
- huge** /'hyooɦ/ *adj* great in size, scale, degree, or scope, enormous (< ~ mountains > (< a ~ success > [ME, fr OF *ahuge*] – **hugely** *adv*, **hugeness** *n*
- 'hugely** /-li/ *adv* very much, enormously (< was ~ excited >)
- hugger-mugger** /'huga, 'muga/ *n* 1 secrecy 2 confusion, muddle [origin unknown] – **hugger-mugger** *adj* or *adv*
- huh** /'huh, hah/ *interj* – used to express surprise, disapproval, or inquiry
- hula** also **hula-hula** /'hoola/ *n* a Polynesian dance involving swaying of the hips [Hawaiian]
- 'hula, hoop** *n* a light usu cane or plastic hoop that can be made to spin round the waist by gyrating the body [*hula*]
- hulk** /'hulk/ *n* 1a the hull of a ship that is no longer seaworthy and is used as a storehouse or, esp formerly, as a prison b an abandoned wreck or shell, esp of a vessel 2 a person, creature, or thing that is bulky or unwieldy (< a big ~ of a man > [ME *hulke*, fr OE *hulc*, fr ML *holcas*, fr Gk *holkas*, fr *helkein* to pull – more at SULCUS]
- hulking** /'hulkiŋ/ *adj* bulky, massive

- hull** /hul/ *n* **1a** the outer covering of a fruit or seed **b** the calyx that surrounds some fruits (e.g. the strawberry) **2** the main frame or body of a ship, flying boat, airship, etc **3** a covering, casing [ME, fr OE *hulu*; akin to OHG *hala* hull, OE *helan* to conceal – more at **HULL**]
- hull vt** **1** to remove the hulls of **2** to hit or pierce the hull of (e.g. a ship) – **huller** *n*
- hullabaloo** /huləbə'loo/ *n, pl hullabaloes* a confused noise; uproar – infml [perh irreg fr *hallo* + *Sc balloo*, interj used to hush children]
- hullo** /hu'loh/ *interj* or *n*, chiefly *Br* hello
- hum** /hum/ *vb -mm-* *vt* **1a** to utter a prolonged /m/ sound **b** to make the characteristic droning noise of an insect in motion or a similar sound **2** to be lively or active – infml **3** to have an offensive smell – slang ~ *vt* **1** to sing with the lips closed and without articulation **2** to affect or express by humming [ME *hummen*; akin to MHG *hummen* to hum, MD *hommel* bumblebee] – **hum** *n* – **hum** and **ha** also **hum** and **haw** to equivocate
- hum** *interj* – used to express hesitation, uncertainty, disagreement, etc
- human** /'hyoohmən/ *adj* **1** (characteristic) of humans (< ~ voice> **2** consisting of men and women (<the ~ race>) (<~ barrier> **3a** having the esp good attributes (e.g. kindness and compassion) thought to be characteristic of humans (<is really very ~> **b** having, showing, or concerned with qualities or feelings characteristic of mankind (<to err is ~>) (<~ interest>) [ME *human*, fr MF, fr L *humanus*, akin to L *homo* man – more at **HOMAGE**] – **humanness** *n*
- human, human being** *n* a man, woman, or child; a person
- humane** /'hyoohmayn/ *adj* **1a** marked by compassion or consideration for other human beings or animals **b** causing the minimum pain possible (<~ killing of animals> **2** characterized by broad humanistic culture, liberal (<~ studies>) [ME *human*] – **humanely** *adv*, **humaneness** *n*
- human engineering** *n*, chiefly *NAM* ergonomics
- humanism** /'hyoohmənɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1a** a cultural movement dominant during the Renaissance that was characterized by a revival of classical learning and a shift of emphasis from religious to secular concerns, broadly literary culture **2** humanitarianism **3a** a doctrine, attitude, or way of life based on human interests or values, esp a philosophy that asserts the intrinsic worth of man and that usu rejects religious belief – **humanist** *n* or *adj*, **humanistic** /'hyoohmə'nɪstɪk/ *adj*, **humanistically** *adv*
- humanitarian** /'hyooh,manɪ'teəri-ən/ *n* one who promotes human welfare and social reform, a philanthropist – **humanitarian** *adj*, **humanitarianism** /-nɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- humanity** /'hyooh,manəti/ *n* **1** the quality of being humane **2** the quality or state of being human **3 pl** the cultural branches of learning **4** mankind
- humanize, -ise** /'hyoohmə,nɪz/ *vt* **1** to cause to be or seem human **2** to make humane – **humanization** /'hyoohmə'nɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- human'kind** /-kɪnd/ *n* sing or *pl* in constr human beings collectively
- humanly** /-li/ *adv* **1a** from a human viewpoint **b** within the range of human capacity (<as perfectly as is ~ possible> **2a** in a manner characteristic of humans, esp in showing emotion or weakness **b** with humane-ness
- humanoid** /'hyoohmə,nɔɪd/ *adj* having human form or characteristics – **humanoid** *n*
- humble** /'humbəl/ *adj* **1** having a low opinion of oneself, unassertive **2** marked by deference or submission (<~ apology> **3a** ranking low in a hierarchy or scale (<man of ~ origins> **b** modest, unpretentious (<~ dwelling>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *humilis* low, humble, fr *humus* earth, akin to Gk *khthon* earth, *chamai* on the ground] – **humbleness** *n*, **humbly** *adv*
- humble vt** **1** to make humble in spirit or manner, humiliate **2** to destroy the power, independence, or prestige of
- 'humble-bee** *n* a bumblebee [ME *humbylbee*, fr *humbyl-* (akin to MD *hommel* bumblebee) + *bee* – more at **HUM**]
- 'humbug** /'hum,bʊg/ *n* **1a** sth designed to deceive and mislead **b** an impostor, sham **2** pretence, deception **3** drivel, nonsense **4** a hard usu peppermint-flavoured striped sweet made from boiled sugar [origin unknown] – **humbugery** *n*
- 'humbug vb -gg-** to deceive with a hoax
- humdinger** /'hum,dɪŋgə/ *n* an excellent or remarkable person or thing – infml [origin unknown]
- humdrum** /'hum,drum/ *adj* monotonous, dull [irreg redupl of *hum*] – **humdrum** *n*
- humeral** /'hyoohmə-rəl/ *adj* (situated in the region) of the humerus or shoulder
- humerus** /'hyoohmə-rəs/ *n, pl humeri* /-rɪ-/ the long bone of the upper arm or forelimb extending from the shoulder to the elbow  **ANATOMY** [NL, fr L, upper arm, shoulder; akin to Goth *ams* shoulder, Gk *omōs*]
- humid** /'hyoohmɪd/ *adj* containing or characterized by perceptible moisture (<~ climate> [F or L; *Fr* *humide*, fr L *humidus*, fr *humere* to be moist] – **humidly** *adv*
- humidifier** /'hyooh'mɪdɪfɪ-ə/ *n* a device for supplying or maintaining humidity (e.g. in a centrally heated room)
- humidify** /'hyooh'mɪdɪfɪ- / *vt* to make humid – **humidification** /-mɪdɪfɪ'kayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- humidity** /'hyooh'mɪdɪtɪ/ *n* (the degree of) moisture or dampness, esp in the atmosphere – compare **RELATIVE HUMIDITY**
- humidor** /'hyoohmɪdər/ *n* a case or room in which cigars or tobacco can be kept moist [*humid* + -or (as in *cuspidor*)]
- humify** /'hyoohmɪfɪ- / *vb* to convert into or form humus – **humification** /'hyoohmɪfɪ'kayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- humiliate** /'hyooh'mɪliət/ *vt* to cause to feel humble, lower the dignity or self-respect of [LL *humiliatus*, pp of *humiliare*, fr L *humilis* low – more at **HUMBLE**] – **humiliation** /-mɪlɪ'ayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- humility** /'hyooh'mɪlɪtɪ/ *n* the quality or state of being humble
- hummingbird** /'humɪŋ,bʊd/ *n* any of numerous tiny brightly coloured usu tropical American birds related to the swifts, having a slender bill and narrow wings that beat rapidly making a humming sound
- hummock** /'hʌmɒk/ *n* **1** a hillock **2** a ridge of ice [alter of earlier *hammock*, of unknown origin] – **hummocky** *adj*
- hummas, humous** /'hʊohməs, 'hʊohməs/ *n* a puree made from chick-peas and sesame seed paste, served as an appetizer or salad [Turk *humus* mashed chick-peas]
- humoral** /'hyoohmə-rəl/ *adj* of or relating to a bodily fluid or secretion (e.g. an endocrine hormone)
- humoresque** /'hyoohmə'resk/ *n* a musical composition that is whimsical or fanciful in character [G *humoreske*, fr *humor*, fr E *humour*]
- humorist** /'hyoohmə-rɪst/ *n* a person specializing in or noted for humour in speech, writing, or acting – **humoristic** /'hyoohmə'rɪstɪk/ *adj*
- humorous** /'hyoohmə-rəs/ *adj* full of, characterized by, or expressing humour – **humorously** *adv*, **humorousness** *n*
- 'humour, NAM chiefly humor** /'hyoohmə/ *n* **1** any of the 4 fluids of the body (blood, phlegm, and yellow and black bile) formerly held to determine, by their relative proportions, a person's health and temperament **2** characteristic or habitual disposition (<a man of cheerful ~> **3** a state of mind, a mood **4** a sudden inclination, a caprice **5a** (sthg having) the quality of causing amusement **b** the faculty of expressing or appreciating what is comic or amusing [ME *humour*, fr MF *humeur*, fr ML & L, ML *humor* humour of the body, fr L, moisture; akin to ON *vokr* damp, L *humidus* to be moist, Gk *hygros* wet] – **humourless** *adj*, **humourlessness** *n* – out of humour in a bad temper
- 'humour, NAM chiefly humor** *vt* to comply with the mood or wishes of; indulge
- 'hump** /hʌmp/ *n* **1a** a rounded protuberance e.g. **a** a humped or crooked back **b** a fleshy protuberance on the back of a camel, bison, etc **c** a mound, knoll **2** a difficult, trying, or critical phase (<we're over the ~ now> **3 Br** a fit of depression or sulking – infml, + the (<he's got the ~>) [akin to MLG *hump* bump, L *incumbere* to lie down, Gk *kymbe* bowl, OE *hype* hip] – **humped** *adj*
- 'hump** *vt* **1** to form or curve into a hump **2** chiefly *Br* to carry with difficulty (<~ing suitcases around> **3** to have sexual intercourse with ~ *vt* **1** to rise in a hump **2 Austr** to travel around or go on foot **3** to have sexual intercourse **USE** (vi2, vi2) infml, (vi3, vi3) slang
- 'humpback** /-bæk/ *n* **1a** a hunchback **2a** also **humpback whale** a large whale related to the orquals but having very long flippers – **humpbacked** *adj*
- 'humpback 'bridge** *n* a usu narrow bridge rising and falling steeply from a central hump
- humph** /hum(p)f/ *vi* or *interj* (to utter) a gruntlike sound used to express doubt or contempt [imit]
- 'humpy** /'hʌmpɪ/ *adj* **1** full of or covered in humps **2** having the form of a hump **3** irritable, irascible – infml
- 'humpy** *n*, *Austr* a small or primitive hut [native name in Australia]
- humus** /'hyoohməs/ *n* a brown or black organic soil material resulting from partial decomposition of plant or animal matter [NL, fr L, earth – more at **HUMBLE**] – **humic** /-mɪk/ *adj*
- Hun** /hʌn/ *n, pl Huns* (2b) *Huns*, esp collectively *Hun* **1** a member of a nomadic Mongolian people who overran a large part of central and E Europe under Attila during the 4th and 5th c AD **2a** often not cap a

- person who is wantonly destructive **b** a German; *esp* a German soldier in WW I or II – *derog* [LL *Hunni*, pl] – *Hunnish adj*
- 'hunch** /hʌnʃ/ *vi* to assume a bent or crooked posture ~ *vt* to bend into a hump or arch <~ed his shoulders> [origin unknown]
- 'hunch** *n* 1 **HUMP** 1 2 a strong intuitive feeling
- 'hunchback** /ˈbʌk/ *n* (sby with) a humped back – *hunchbacked adj*
- hundred** /ˈhʌndrəd/ *n*, *pl* **HUNDREDS**, **hundred** 1 **NUMBER** 2 the number occupying the position 3 to the left of the decimal point in Arabic notation; *also*, *pl* this position 3 100 units or digits; *specif* £100 <must have cost ~s> 4 *pl* the numbers 100 to 999 5 a score of 100 or more runs made by a batsman in cricket 6 *pl* the 100 years of a specified century <the 19 ~s> 7 a historical subdivision of a county 8 an indefinitely large number – *informal*, often *pl* with *sing.* meaning [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *hundrað* hundred; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose constituents were akin respectively to OE *hund* hundred & to Goth *garathjan* to count, akin to L *centum* hundred, Gk *hekaton*, Av *satom*, OE *ten* ten – more at TEN, REASON] – *hundred adj*, *hundredth* /-dɪθ/ *adj* or *n*
- hundreds and thousands** *n* *pl* tiny strips of sugar of assorted bright colours, used *esp* for cake decoration
- 'hundredweight** /-weɪt/ *n*, *pl* **HUNDREDWEIGHT**, **hundredweights** 1 a British unit of weight equal to 112lb (about 50.8kg) 2 *chiefly* *NAM* a US unit of weight equal to 100lb (about 45.36kg) *USE* **UNIT**
- hung** /hʌŋ/ *past* of **HANG**
- Hungarian** /ˈhʌŋɡeəriən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Hungary, a Magyar 2 the Finno-Ugric language of Hungary [*Hungary*, country in central Europe] – *Hungarian adj*
- 'hunger** /ˈhʌŋɡə/ *n* 1 (a weakened condition or unpleasant sensation arising from) a craving or urgent need for food 2 a strong desire, a craving [ME, fr OE *hungor*; akin to OHG *hungar* hunger, Skt *kankṣati* he desires]
- 'hunger** *vi* 1 to feel or suffer hunger 2 to have an eager desire – *usu* + *for* or *after*
- 'hunger strike** *n* refusal, as an act of protest, to eat enough to sustain life – *hunger striker n*
- hung** /ˈdʒʊri/ *n* a jury that fails to reach a verdict
- hung over** *adj* suffering from a hangover
- hungry** /ˈhʌŋɡri/ *adj* 1a feeling hunger **b** characterized by or indicating hunger or appetite <a ~ look> 2 eager, avid <~ for power> 3 not rich or fertile; barren – *hungrily adv*, *hungeriness n*
- hunk** /hʌŋk/ *n* 1 a large lump or piece 2 a *usu* muscular sexually attractive man – *informal* [Flem *hunkel*]
- hunkers** /ˈhʌŋkəz/ *n* *pl* the haunches – *informal* [*hunker* (to crouch, squat), *perh* of Scand origin]
- hunky-dory** /ˈhʌŋki ˈdaʊni/ *adj* excellent, fine – *informal* [obs E dial *hunk* (home base) + -dory (origin unknown)]
- 'hunt** /hʌnt/ *vt* 1a to pursue for food or enjoyment <~ foxes> **b** to use (e.g. hounds) in the search for game 2a to pursue with intent to capture <~ed the escaped prisoner> **b** to search out, seek 3 to persecute or chase, *esp* by harrying 4 to traverse in search of prey ~ *vi* 1 to take part in a hunt, *esp* regularly 2 to attempt to find sthg 3 of a device, machine, etc to run alternately fast and slowly [ME *hūnten*, fr OE *hūntian*, akin to OHG *herihunda* battle spoils, ON *henda* to grasp]
- 'hunt** *n* 1 the act, the practice, or an instance of hunting 2a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of *usu* mounted hunters and their hounds **b** the area hunted
- hunter** /ˈhʌntə/, *fem* (1&2) **hunteress** /-trɪs/ *n* 1a sby who hunts game, *esp* with hounds **b** a *usu* fast strong horse used in hunting 2 a person who hunts or seeks sthg, *esp* overeagerly <a fortune ~> 3 a watch with a hinged metal cover to protect it
- 'hunter's moon** *n* the first full moon after harvest moon
- 'hunting** /ˈhʌntɪŋ/ *n* the pursuit of game on horseback with hounds
- 'hunting ground** *n* an area of *usu* fruitful search or exploitation <the British Empire is now a favourite ~ for historians>
- 'hunting horn** *n* a signal horn used in the chase, *usu* consisting of a long coiled tube with a flared bell
- hunting pink** *adj* or *n* (of) the red colour of the coats worn by fox-hunters
- Huntington's chorea** /ˈhʌntɪŋtənz/ *n* a hereditary fatal brain disorder that develops *usu* in middle age and is characterized by chorea and nervous degeneration [George Huntington †1916 US neurologist]
- 'huntsman** /-mən/ *n* 1 **HUNTER** 1a 2 sby who looks after the hounds of a hunt
- 'hurdle** /ˈhʌbdl/ *n* 1a a portable framework, *usu* of interlaced branches and stakes, used *esp* for enclosing land or livestock **b** a frame formerly used for dragging traitors to execution 2a a light barrier jumped by men, horses, dogs, etc in certain races **b** *pl* any of various races over hurdles 3a barrier, obstacle [ME *hurdel*, fr OE *hyrde*, akin to OHG *hurd* hurdle, L *cratis* wickerwork, hurdle]
- 'hurdle** *vb* **hurdlɪŋ** /ˈhʌbdlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to jump over, *esp* while running 2 to overcome, surmount ~ *vi* to run in hurdle races – *hurdler n*
- hurdy-gurdy** /ˈhʌrdi ˈɡʊrdi/ *n* a musical instrument in which the sound is produced by turning a crank, *esp* **BARRFL ORGAN** [prob *imit*]
- hurl** /hʊl/ *vt* 1 to drive or thrust violently 2 to throw forcefully 3 to utter or shout violently <~ed insults at him> ~ *vi* to rush, hurtle [ME *hurlen*, prob of *imit* origin] – *hurl n*, *hurler n*
- 'hurling** /ˈhʊlɪŋ/ *n* an Irish game resembling hockey played between 2 teams of 15 players each [fr *gerund* of *hurl*]
- hurly-burly** /ˈhʊli ˈbʊli/ *n* (an) uproar, commotion [prob *alter.* & redupl of *hurling*, *gerund* of *hurl*]
- hurrah** /ˈhʊrəh/ *interj* hurray
- hurray** /ˈhʊrəɪ/ *interj* – used to express joy, approval, or encouragement [perh fr G *hurra*]
- hurricane** /ˈhʊrɪkən/ *n* (a *usu* tropical cyclone with) a wind of a velocity greater than 117km/h (73 to 136mph) [Sp *huracan*, fr Taino *hura-kán*]
- 'hurricane** *deck* *n* an upper deck of a ship
- 'hurricane lamp** *n* a candlestick or oil lamp equipped with a glass chimney to protect the flame
- hurried** /ˈhʊrɪd/ *adj* done in a hurry – *hurriedly adv*
- 'hurry** /ˈhʊri/ *vt* 1a to transport or cause to go with haste, rush <~ him to hospital> **b** to cause to move or act with (greater) haste 2 to hasten the progress or completion of <don't ~ this passage of the music> ~ *vi* to move or act with haste – *often* + *up* [perh fr MF *horyen*]
- 'hurry** *n* 1 flurried and often bustling haste 2 a need for haste, urgency <there's no ~ for it> – in a hurry 1 without delay, hastily 2 eager <never in a hurry to get up> 3 without difficulty, easily <won't manage that in a hurry> – *informal*
- 'hurt** /hʊt/ *vb* **hurt** *vt* 1a to afflict with physical pain, wound **b** to cause mental distress to, offend 2 to be detrimental to <~ his chances of success> ~ *vi* 1 to feel pain, suffer 2 to cause damage, distress, or pain [ME *hurten*, *hurten* to strike, injure, prob fr OF *hurter* to collide with, prob of Gmc origin, akin to ON *hruir* ram (male sheep)]
- 'hurt** *n* 1 a bodily injury or wound 2 (a cause of) mental distress 3 wrong, harm – *hurtful adj*, *hurtfully adv*, *hurtfulness n*
- 'hurtle** /hʊrtl/ *vb* **hurtlɪŋ** /ˈhʊrtlɪŋ/ *vi* to move rapidly or precipitately ~ *vt* to hurl, fling [ME *hurten* to collide, freq of *hurten*]
- 'husband** /ˈhʊzbənd/ *n* a married man, *esp* in relation to his wife [ME *husbonde*, fr OE *husbonda* master of a house, fr ON *husbondi*, fr *hus* house + *bondi* householder] – *husbandly adj*
- 'husband** *vt* to make the most economical use of, conserve <~ one's strength>
- husbandry** /ˈhʊzbəndri/ *n* 1 the judicious management of resources 2 farming, *esp* of domestic animals
- 'hush** /hʊʃ/ *vb* to make or become quiet or calm [back-formation fr *husht* (hushed), fr ME *hussht*, fr *hussht*, *interj* used to enjoin silence]
- 'hush** *n* a silence or calm, *esp* following noise
- 'hush-hush** *adj* secret, confidential – *informal*
- 'hush, money** *n* money paid secretly to prevent disclosure of damaging information
- hush up** *vt* to keep secret, suppress <hush the story up>
- 'husk** /hʊsk/ *n* 1 a dry or membranous outer covering (e.g. a shell or pod) of a seed or fruit 2 a useless outer layer of sthg [ME *husk*, *huske*, prob modif of MD *huuskyn*, dim of *huus* house, cover]
- 'husk** *vt* to strip the husk from
- 'husky** /ˈhʊski/ *adj* of, resembling, or containing husks
- 'husky** *adj* hoarse, breathy <a ~ voice> [prob fr *husk* (huskiness), fr obs *husk* (to have a dry cough), prob of *imit* origin] – *huskily adv*, *huskiness n*
- 'husky** *adj* burly, hefty – *informal* [prob fr *husk*]
- 'husky** *n* **ESKIMO** **DOG** [prob by shortening & *alter.* fr *Esquimo*]
- huss** /hʊs/ *n* dogfish [alter. of ME *husk*]
- hussar** /ˈhʊzəh/ *n* 1 a Hungarian horseman of the 15th c 2 *often cap* a member of any of various European cavalry regiments [Hung *huszár* hussar, (obs) highway robber, fr Serb *husar* pirate, fr ML *corsarius* – more at **CORSAIR**]
- Hussite** /ˈhʊsiət/ *n* a member of the Bohemian religious and nationalist movement led by John Huss [NL *Hussita*, fr John Huss †1415 Bohemian religious reformer] – *Hussite adj*, *Hussitism n*



**hussy** /'husi/ *n* an impudent or promiscuous woman or girl [alter of *housewife*]

**hustings** /'hustɪŋz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a raised platform used until 1872 for the nomination of candidates for Parliament and for election speeches 2 a place where election speeches are made 3 the proceedings of an election campaign [ME, local court, fr OE *hustung* deliberative assembly, fr ON *husting*, fr *hús* house + *thing* assembly]

**hustle** /'husl/ *vb* *hustling* /'hustlɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to push or convey roughly, forcibly, or hurriedly (<~d him into a taxi) b to impel, force (<~d her into accepting) 2 to swindle, cheat out of - *infrml* ~ *vt* 1 to hasten, hurry 2 chiefly *NAm* to make strenuous, often dishonest, efforts to secure money or business 3 chiefly *NAm* to engage in prostitution, solicit [D *husselen* to shake, fr MD *hutselen*, freq of *hutsen*, akin to MD *hodde* *hod*] - *hustle* *n*, *hustler* *n*

**hut** /hut/ *n* a small often temporary dwelling of simple construction [MF *hutte*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *hutta* hut, akin to OE *hyd* skin, hide]

**hutch** /huch/ *n* 1 a pen or cage for a small animal (e.g. a rabbit) 2 a shack, shanty - *infrml*, *derog* [ME *huche*, fr OF]

**hutment** /'hutmənt/ *n* an encampment of huts

**hyacinth** /'hie-ə-sɪnθ/ *n* 1 a *hyacinth* 2 a common garden plant with fragrant usu blue, pink, or white flowers that grow in spikes, also any of various related bulbous plants of the lily family 3 a colour varying from light violet to mid-purple [L *hyacinthus*, a precious stone, a flowering plant, fr Gk *hyakinthos*] - *hyacinth* *adj*, *hyacinthine* /'hie-ə-sɪnθiən/ *adj*

**Hyades** /'hie-ədət/ *n pl* a cluster of stars in the constellation Taurus held by the ancients to indicate rainy weather when they rise with the sun [L, fr Gk]

**hyaena** /'hie-ə-nə/ *n* a *hyaena*

**hyal**, **hyalo-** *comb form* glass, glassy, hyaline (<*hyalescent*) (<*hyalogen*) [LL, glass, fr Gk, fr *hyalos*]

**hyaline** /'hie-ə-lɪn/ *adj* 1 of or relating to glass 2a of biological materials or structures (nearly) transparent b of a mineral glassy, vitreous [LL *hyalinus*, fr Gk *hyalinos*, fr *hyalos*]

**hyaline** *n* sthg glassy or transparent (e.g. a clear sky or sea) - poetic  
**hyaline cartilage** *n* translucent bluish white cartilage that is present in joints and respiratory passages and forms most of the foetal skeleton

**hyalite** /'hie-ə-lɪt/ *n* a colourless or translucent opal [G *hyalit*, fr Gk *hyalos*]

**hyaloid** /'hie-ə-lɔɪd/ *adj*, of biological materials or structures glassy, transparent [Gk *hyalooidēs*, fr *hyalos*]

**hyaloplasm** /'hie-ə-lɔh-pləz(ə)m/ *n* the clear, fluid, apparently homogeneous basic substance of cytoplasm [prob fr G *hyaloplasma*, fr *hyal-* + *-plasma* - *plasm*]

**hybrid** /'hiebrɪd/ *n* 1 an offspring of 2 animals or plants of different races, breeds, varieties, etc. 2 SYMBOL 2 a person of mixed cultural background 3a sthg heterogeneous in origin or composition b a word (e.g. *television*) made up of elements from different languages [L *hybrida*] - *hybrid* *adj*, *hybridism* *n*, *hybridist* *n*, *hybridize* *vb*, *hybridizable* /-dɪzəbl/ *adj*, *hybridization* /-zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*, *hybridity* /'hiebrɪdɪti/ *n*  
**hybrid vigour** *n* heterosis

**hydatid** /'hɪdətɪd/ *n* (a fluid-filled sac produced by and containing) a tapeworm larva [Gk *hydatid-*, *hydatid* watery cyst, fr *hydat-*, *hydor*]

**hydr**, **hydro-** *comb form* 1a water (<*hydrous*) (<*hydroelectricity*) b liquid (<*hydrokinetics*) (<*hydrometer*) 2 hydrogen, containing or combined with hydrogen (<*hydrocarbon*) (<*hydrochlorine*) [ME *hydr*, *ydoro*, fr OF, fr L *hydr-*, *hydro-*, fr Gk, fr *hydor* - more at *water*]

**hydra** /'hɪdrə/ *n* 1 a persistent evil that is not easily overcome 2 any of numerous small tubular freshwater polyps having a mouth surrounded by tentacles [Hydra, a serpent in Gk mythology with many heads which regrew when cut off, fr L, fr Gk, (2) NL, genus name, fr L, Hydra]

**hydrangea** /'hɪdrænjə/ *n* any of a genus of shrubs which produce large clusters of white, pink, or pale blue flowers [NL, genus name, fr *hydr-* + Gk *angeion* vessel - more at *angi-*]

**hydrant** /'hɪdrənt/ *n* a discharge pipe with a valve and nozzle from which water may be drawn from a main

**hydrate** /'hɪdrəɪt/ *n* a compound or complex ion formed by the union of water with another substance

**hydrate** /'hɪdrəɪt, 'hɪdrəɪt/ *vt* to cause to take up or combine with (the elements of) water - *hydrator* *n*, *hydration* /'hɪdrəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**hydraulic** /'hɪdrəʊlɪk/ *adj* 1 operated, moved, or effected by means of liquid, esp liquid moving through pipes 2 of hydraulics (< *engineer*) 3 hardening or setting under water (< *cement*) [L *hydraulicus*, fr Gk

*hydraulikos*, fr *hydraulis* hydraulic organ, fr *hydr-* + *aulos* reed instrument - more at *ALVEOLUS*] - *hydraulically* *adv*

**hydraulic ram** *n* a pump that forces running water to a higher level by using the kinetic energy of a descending flow

**hydraulics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a branch of physics that deals with the practical applications of liquid in motion

**hydrazine** /'hɪdrəziːn, -zɪn/ *n* a colourless liquid that acts as a reducing agent and is used esp in rocket fuels [ISV]

**-hydric** /-hɪdrɪk/ *suffix* (- *adj*) 1 containing (so many) acid hydrogens (<*monohydric*) 2 containing (so many) hydroxyl groups (<*hexahydric alcohols*)

**hydride** /'hɪdrɪd/ *n* a compound of hydrogen usu with a more electropositive element or radical

**hydriodic acid** /'hɪdrɪ'ɒdɪk/ *n* a solution of hydrogen iodide in water that is a strong acid and reducing agent [ISV]

**hydro** /'hɪdrəh/ *n, pl hydros* *Br* a hotel or establishment providing facilities for hydropathic treatment [short for *hydropathic establishment*]

**hydro-** *comb form* - see *HYDR-*

**hydrobromic acid** /'hɪdrəh'brɒmɪk/ *n* a solution of hydrogen bromide in water that is a strong acid and a weak reducing agent [ISV]

**hydrocarbon** /'hɪdrəh'kɑb(ə)n/ *n* an organic compound (e.g. benzene) containing only carbon and hydrogen - *hydrocarbonaceous*, *hydrocarbonaceous* /-kɑb(ə)'naɪʃəs/, *hydrocarbonic* /-kɑ'bɒnɪk/ *adj*

**hydrocele** /'hɪdrəh'seɪl/ *n* an accumulation of watery liquid in a body cavity (e.g. the scrotum) [L, fr Gk *hydrocele*, fr *hydr-* + *kēlē* tumour - more at *-CELL*]

**hydrocephalus** /'hɪdrəh'seʃələs/ *also* *hydrocephaly* /-li/ *n* an abnormal increase in the amount of cerebrospinal fluid within the brain cavity accompanied by enlargement of the skull and brain atrophy [NL *hydrocephalus*, fr LL, *hydrocephalic*, fr Gk *hydrokephalos*, fr *hydr-* + *kephale* head - more at *CEPHALIC*] - *hydrocephalic* /-se'fəlɪk/ *adj*

**hydrochloric acid** /'hɪdrə'klɒrɪk/ *n* a solution of hydrogen chloride in water that is a strong corrosive acid and is naturally present in the gastric juice [ISV]

**hydrochloride** /'hɪdrə'klaʊnd/ *n* a compound of hydrochloric acid, esp with an organic chemical base (e.g. an alkaloid)

**hydrocortisone** /'hɪdrəh'kɔːtɪzəʊn, -səʊn/ *n* a steroid hormone that is produced by the cortex of the adrenal gland and used esp in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

**hydrocyanic acid** /'hɪdrəh'saɪnɪk/ *n* a solution of hydrogen cyanide in water that is a highly poisonous weak acid [ISV]

**hydrodynamics** /'hɪdrəhɪ'dɪnəmɪks, -dɪ-/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a science that deals with the motion of fluids and the forces acting on solid bodies immersed in them [NL *hydrodynamica*, fr neut pl of *hydrodynamicus*, *adj*, fr *hydr-* + *dynamicus* *dynamic*] - *hydrodynamic* *adj*, *hydrodynamicist* /-dɪ'nəməsɪst/ *n*

**hydroelectric** /-lɪk'trɪk/ *adj* of or being the production of electricity by waterpower 2 ENRGY [ISV] - *hydroelectrically* *adv*, *hydroelectricity* /-lɪk'trɪsɪti/ *n*

**hydrofluoric acid** /'hɪdrəh'flʊə'ɒrɪk/ *n* a solution of hydrogen fluoride in water that is a poisonous weak acid used esp in etching glass [ISV]

**hydrofoil** /'hɪdrə'fɔɪl/ *n* (a ship or boat fitted with) an aerofoil-like device that, when attached to a ship, lifts the hull out of the water at speed

**hydrogen** /'hɪdrə(ə)n/ *n* the simplest and lightest of the elements that is normally a highly inflammable gas - compare *DEUTERIUM*, *TRITIUM* 2 PERIODIC TABLE [F *hydrogene*, fr *hydr-* + *-gène* - *gen*; fr the fact that water is generated by its combustion] - *hydrogenous* /'hɪdrə'ɒjɪnəs/ *adj*

**hydrogenate** /'hɪdrə'ɒjɪnaɪt/ *vt* to combine or treat (esp an unsaturated organic compound) with hydrogen - *hydrogenation* /'hɪdrə'ɒjɪnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**hydrogen bomb** *n* a bomb whose violent explosive power is due to the sudden release of atomic energy resulting from the nuclear fusion of hydrogen initiated by the explosion of an atom bomb

**hydrogen bond** *n* a weak electrostatic chemical bond consisting of a hydrogen atom bonded to 2 electronegative atoms (e.g. oxygen or nitrogen)

**hydrogen cyanide** *n* 1 a poisonous usu gaseous compound that has the smell of bitter almonds 2 HYDROCYANIC ACID

**hydrogen peroxide** *n* an unstable compound used esp as an oxidizing and bleaching agent, an antiseptic, and a rocket propellant

**hydrogen** /'sʌlphid/ *n* an inflammable poisonous gas that has a smell of rotten eggs and is formed in putrefying matter

**hydrography** /'hi:drɒgrəfi/ *n* (the description, measurement, and mapping of) bodies of water (e.g. seas) [MF *hydrographie*, fr *hydr-* + *-graphie* -graphy] - hydrographer *n*, hydrographic /'hi:drɒ'græfɪk/ *adj*, hydrographically *adv*

**hydroid** /'hi:drɔɪd/ *n* a hydrozoan (polyp) [NL *Hydroida*, order name, fr *Hydra*] - hydroid *adj*

**hydrology** /'hi:drɒlədʒi/ *n* a science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of the water of the earth and atmosphere [NL *hydrologia*, fr L *hydr-* + *-logia* -logy] - hydrologist *n*, hydrologic /'hi:drɒ'lɒjɪk/, hydrological *adj*, hydrologically *adv*

**hydrolyse**, *NAM* **hydrolyze** /'hi:drɒlɪz/ *vb* to undergo or subject to hydrolysis (~d protein) [ISV, fr NL *hydrolysis*] - hydrolysable *adj*

**hydrolysis** /'hi:drɒlɪsɪs/ *n* chemical breakdown involving splitting of a bond and addition of the elements of water [NL] - hydrolytic /'hi:drɒ'lɪtɪk/ *adj*, hydrolytically *adv*

**hydrometer** /'hi:drɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for determining specific gravities of solutions and hence their strength - hydrometry *n*, hydrometric /'hi:drɒh'metrɪk/, hydrometrical *adj*

**hydronium** /'hi:drɒni-əm, -nyəm/ *n* a hydrated hydrogen ion H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [ISV *hydr-* + *-onium*]

**hydropathy** /'hi:drɒpəθi/ *n* hydrotherapy [ISV] - hydropathic /'hi:drɒpəθɪk/ *adj*, hydropathically *adv*

**hydropstone** /'hi:drɒfəʊn/ *n* a semitranslucent opal that becomes transparent in water

**hydrophilic** /'hi:drɒfɪlɪk/ *adj* of or having a strong affinity for water [NL *hydrophilus*, fr Gk *hydr-* + *-philos* -philous] - hydrophilicity /-fɪ'lɪsɪti/ *adv*

**hydrophobia** /'hi:drɒfəbi-ə/ *n* 1 abnormal dread of water 2 rabies [LL, fr Gk, fr *hydr-* + *-phobia* fear of something - more at PHOBIA]

**hydrophobic** /-fəbɪk/ *adj* 1 characteristic of or suffering from hydrophobia 2 lacking affinity for water - hydrophobicity /-fə'bɪsɪti/ *n*

**hydrophone** /-fəʊn/ *n* an instrument for listening to sound transmitted through water

**hydrophyte** /'hi:drɒfɪt/ *n* a plant that grows in water or waterlogged soil [ISV] - hydrophytic /'hi:drɒfɪtɪk/ *adj*

**hydroplane** /'hi:drɒfleɪn, -dra-/ *n* 1 a speedboat fitted with hydrofoils or a stepped bottom so that the hull is raised wholly or partly out of the water when moving at speed 2 a horizontal surface on a submarine's hull, used to control movement upwards or downwards

**hydroponics** /'hi:drɒpənɪks, -dr-/ *n pl but sing in constr* the growing of plants in (a mechanically supporting medium containing) nutrient solutions rather than soil [*hydr-* + Gk *-ponikos* cultural (in *geoponikos* agricultural, fr *geoponein* to plough, fr *gē* earth + *ponēin* to toil)] - hydroponic *adj*, hydroponically *adv*

**hydroquinone** /'hi:drɒkwɪnoʊn/ *n* a phenol that is a reducing agent and is used esp as a photographic developer [ISV]

**hydrosphere** /'hi:drɒsfɪə/ *n* the waters and watery vapour of the earth's surface and atmosphere [ISV] - hydrospheric /'hi:drɒsfɪrɪk/ *adj*

**hydrostatic** /-'stætɪk/, **hydrostatical** /-kl/ *adj* of or being (the pressures exerted by) liquids at rest [prob fr NL *hydrostaticus*, fr *hydr-* + *staticus* static] - hydrostatically *adv*

**hydrostatics** *n pl but sing in constr* physics dealing with the characteristics of liquids at rest, esp the pressure in or exerted by a liquid

**hydrotherapy** /'hi:drɒθerəpi/ *n* the use of water in the treatment of disease; esp treatment using exercise in heated water [ISV]

**hydrothermal** /'hi:drɒ'thɜ:ml/ *adj* relating to or caused by the action of hot water, esp on the earth's crust [ISV] - hydrothermally *adv*

**hydrothorax** /-'θawrəks/ *n* an excess of watery fluid in the pleural cavity, usu resulting from failing circulation [NL]

**hydrotropism** /'hi:drɒtrɒpɪz(ə)m/ *n* a tropism (e.g. in plant roots) in which water (vapour) is the orienting factor [ISV] - hydrotropic /'hi:drɒtrɒpɪk/ *adj*, hydrotropically *adv*

**hydrous** /'hi:drəs/ *adj* containing water (chemically combined with other atoms or molecules)

**hydroxide** /'hi:drɒksɪd/ *n* a compound of hydroxyl with an element or radical [ISV]

**hydroxy** /'hi:drɒksi/ *adj* hydroxyl; esp containing hydroxyl, esp in place of hydrogen - often in combination (<hydroxyacetic acid>) [ISV, fr *hydroxyl*]

**hydroxyl** /'hi:drɒksɪl, -sɪl/ *n* the univalent group or radical OH consisting of 1 hydrogen atom and 1 oxygen atom that is characteristic of

hydroxides, alcohols, etc [*hydr-* + *ox-* + *-yl*] - hydroxylate /-ləɪt/ *vt*, hydroxyllic /'hi:drɒksɪlɪk/ *adj*

**hydroxytryptamine** /'hi:drɒksɪ'triptəmeɪn/ *n* serotonin

**hydrozoan** /'hi:drɒ'zəʊ-ən/ *n* any of a class of coelenterates that includes simple and compound polyps and jellyfishes [deriv of Gk *hydr-* + *zoon* animal - more at ZO-] - hydrozoan *adj*

**hyena**, **hyaena** /'hi:əneɪ/ *n* any of several large strong nocturnal flesh-eating Old World mammals that usu feed as scavengers 𐤇𐤍𐤏𐤃 FOOD [L *hyaena*, fr Gk *hyaena*, fr *hys* hog - more at 'sow]

**hyet-**, **hyeto-** *comb form* rain (<hyetology>) [Gk, fr *hyetos*, fr *hyein* to rain - more at SUCK]

**hygiene** /'hi:jeɪn/ *n* (conditions or practices, esp cleanliness, conducive to) the establishment and maintenance of health [F *hygiène* & NL *hygiene*, fr Gk, neut pl of *hygieinos* healthful, fr *hygieis* healthy; akin to Skt *su* well, & to L *vivus* living - more at 'quick] - hygienist *n*, hygienic /'hi:jeɪnɪk/ *adj*, hygienics *n pl but sing in constr*, hygienically *adv*

**hygr-** *also* **hygro-** *comb form* humidity, moisture (<hygroscopy>) (<hygrometer>) [Gk, fr *hygros* wet - more at HUMOUR]

**hygrometer** /'hi:grɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the humidity of the atmosphere [prob fr F *hygromètre*, fr *hygr-* + *-mètre* -meter] - hygrometry *n*, hygrometric /'hi:grɒ'metrɪk/ *adj*

**hygrophilous** /'hi:grɒfɪləs/ *adj* living or growing in moist places

**hygroscope** /'hi:grɒskoʊp/ *n* an instrument that shows changes in humidity (e.g. of the atmosphere)

**hygroscopic** /-'skɒpɪk/ *adj* readily taking up and retaining moisture [fr the use of such materials in the hygroscope] - hygroscopically *adv*, hygroscopicity /-skɒpɪsɪti/ *n*

**hying** /'hi:ɪŋ/ *pres part* of HIE

**hyl-**, **hylo-** *comb form* 1 matter, material (<hylozoism>) 2 wood (<hylophagous>) [Gk, fr *hyle*, lit., wood]

**hymen** /'hi:men/ *n* a fold of mucous membrane partly closing the opening of the vagina in virgins [LL, fr Gk *hymen* membrane] - hymenal *adj*

**hymeneal** /'hi:me'neɪ-əl/ *adj* nuptial - poetic [L *hymenaeus* wedding song, wedding, fr Gk *hymenaios*, fr *Hymen*, god of marriage]

**hymenium** /'hi:me'ni-əm/ *n, pl* hymenia /-ni-ə/, hymeniums *a* spore-bearing layer in fungi [NL, fr Gk *hymen* membrane] - hymenial *adj*

**hymenopteran**, **hymenopteron** /'hi:mi'nɒptə'm-/ *n* any of an order of highly specialized usu stinging insects (e.g. bees, wasps, or ants) that often associate in large colonies and have usu 4 membranous wings [NL *hymenopteron*, fr Gk, neut of *hymenopteros* membrane-winged, fr *hymen* + *pteron* wing - more at FEATHER] - hymenopteran *adj*

**'hymn** /'hɪm/ *n* 1 a song of praise to God, esp a metrical composition that can be included in a religious service 2 a song of praise or joy [ME *ymne*, fr OF, fr L *hymnus* song of praise, fr Gk *hymnos*]

**'hymn** *vt* to praise or worship in hymns ~ *vi* to sing a hymn

**hymnal** /'hɪmnəl/ *n* (a book containing) a collection of church hymns [ME *hymnale*, fr ML, fr L *hymnus*]

**hymnary** /'hɪmnəri/ *n* a hymnal

**'hymn,book** /-book/ *n* a hymnal

**hyoid** /'hi:ɔɪd/ *adj* of the hyoid bone

**hyoid bone** *n* a complex of joined bones situated at the base of the tongue and supporting the tongue and its muscles [NL *hyoides*, fr Gk *hyoideis* shaped like the letter upsilon (Υ, υ), being the hyoid bone, fr *y*, *hy* upsilon]

**hyoscine** /'hi:ə'seɪn/ *n* an alkaloid found in various plants of the nightshade family that has effects on the nervous system similar to those of atropine [ISV *hyoscyamine* + *-ine*]

**hyoscyamine** /'hi:ə'si:ə'meɪn, -mɪn/ *n* the laevorotatory form of atropine found esp in deadly nightshade and henbane [G *hyoscyamin*, fr NL *Hyoscyamus*, genus of herbs, fr L, henbane; fr Gk *hyoskamos*, lit., swine's bean, fr *hyos* (gen of *hys* swine) + *kamos* bean - more at 'sow]

**hyp-** - see HYPO-

**hypabyssal** /'hɪpə'bɪsl/ *adj* of or being igneous rock formed at a moderate depth below the earth's surface [ISV]

**hypæthral** /'hi:pæθrəl, hi-/ *adj* open to the sky (<~ temple>) [L *hypæthrus* exposed to the open air, fr Gk *hypæthros*, fr *hypo-* + *aitēr* ether, air - more at ETHER]

**hype** /'hi:p/ *n* 1 extravagant and esp false publicity (<media ~>) 2 a deceit, swindle - slang [origin unknown]

**hyped-up** *adj* keyed up - slang [*hype* (to stimulate), short for *hypodermic*]

**hyper** /'hi:pə/ *adj* overexcited, overwrought - slang [*hyper-*]

**hyper-** *prefix* 1 above; beyond, super- (<hyperphysical>) 2a excessively (<hypersensitive>) (<hypercritical>) (<hyperactive>) b excessive (<hyperaemia>) (<hypertension>) 3 that exists in or is a space of more than 3 dimensions (<hypercube>) (<hyperspace>) [ME *iper-*, fr L *hyper-*, fr Gk, fr *hyper* – more at *OVER*]

**hyperaemia** /ˌhiəpə'reemia-, -myə/ *n* excess of blood in a body part [NL]

**hyperaesthesia** /-eəs'theezya-, -zh(y)ə/ *n* a pathologically increased sensitivity to sensory stimuli (e.g. touch) [NL, fr *hyper-* + *aesthesia* (as in *anaesthesia*)]

**hyperbaric** /ˌhiəpə'barik/ *adj* of or using greater than normal pressure, esp of oxygen (~ *oxygen chambers*) [*hyper-* + *bar-* + *-ic*] – **hyperbarically** *adv*

**hyperbola** /ˌhiə'puhblə/ *n*, *pl* **hyperbolas**, **hyperbolae** /-lee/ a plane curve generated by a point so moving that the difference of its distances from 2 fixed points is a constant, the intersection of a double right circular cone with a plane that cuts both halves of the cone – compare **ELLIPSE**, **PARABOLA** → **MATHEMATICS** [NL, fr Gk *hyperbolē*]

**hyperbole** /ˌhiə'puhblə/ *n* a figure of speech based on extravagant exaggeration [L, fr Gk *hyperbole* excess, *hyperbole*, *hyperbola*, fr *hyperballēin* to exceed, fr *hyper-* + *ballēin* to throw – more at *DEVI*] – **hyperbolist** *n*, **hyperbolize** /-liez/ *vb*

**hyperbolic** /ˌhiəpə'bolik/ *also* **hyperbolical** /-kl/ *adj* of, characterized by, or given to hyperbole – **hyperbolically** *adv*

**hyperbolic** *also* **hyperbolical** *adj* of or analogous to a hyperbola  
**hyperbolic function** *n* any of a set of 6 functions related to the hyperbola in a way similar to that in which the trigonometric functions are related to a circle

**hyperboloid** /ˌhiə'puhbalɔɪd/ *n* a surface, some plane sections of which are hyperbolas and no plane sections of which are parabolas – compare **ELLIPSOID**, **PARABOLOID** → **MATHEMATICS** – **hyperboloidal** /-ləɪdl/ *adj*

**hyperborean** /ˌhiəpə'bowriən/ *adj* 1 of an extreme northern region 2 of any of the Arctic peoples

**hyperborean** *n* an inhabitant of a cool northern climate [L *Hyperborei* (pl), fr Gk *Hyperboreoi*, fr *hyper-* beyond + *Boreas* (god of the) north wind]

**hyperconscious** /-ˈkɒnʃəs/ *adj* acutely aware or sensitive

**hyperfine** /-ˈfiːn/ *adj* of or being very closely spaced a energy levels in an atom b spectral lines

**hyperfocal distance** /-ˈfoʊkl/ *n* the limit of the region of sharp focus for a lens focussed at infinity [ISV]

**hyperglycaemia** /-ˈglɪeːsemy-, -mi-/ *n* excess of sugar in the blood (e.g. in diabetes mellitus) [NL]

**hyperinflation** /-ˈɪnˌflaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* very rapid inflation of an economy – **hyperinflationary** *adj*

**hyperkinetic** /-ˈkiːnetɪk/ *adj* of or marked by abnormally increased, usu uncontrollable, muscular movement – **hyperkinesis** /-ˈkiːneɪsɪs/

**hypermarket** /-ˈmɑːkɪt/ *n* a very large self-service retail store selling a wide range of household and consumer goods and usu situated on the outskirts of a major town or city

**hypermetropia** /-ˈmeˌtroʊpi-, -pya/ *n* a condition in which visual images come to a focus behind the retina of the eye and vision is better for distant than for near objects, longsightedness – compare **MYOPIA** [NL, fr Gk *hypermetros* beyond measure (fr *hyper-* + *metron* measure, metre) + NL *-opia*] – **hypermetropic** /-ˈtroʊpɪk/, **hypermetropical** *adj*

**hyperon** /ˌhiəpəˈrɒn/ *n* any of a group of unstable elementary particles that belong to the baryon group [prob fr *hyper-* + *-on*]

**hyperopia** /ˌhiəpəˈroʊpi-, -pya/ *n* hypermetropia [NL] – **hyperopic** /-ˈroʊpɪk/ *adj*

**hyperphysical** /-ˈfɪzɪkl/ *adj* supernatural – **hyperphysically** *adv*

**hyperplasia** /-ˈpleɪzɪə-, -zh(y)ə/ *n* an abnormal or unusual increase in the elements (e.g. the cells of a tissue) composing a body part (< cervical ~ >) [NL] – **hyperplastic** /-ˈplɑːstɪk/ *adj*

**hypersensitive** /-ˈsensɪtɪv/ *adj* abnormally susceptible (e.g. to a drug or antigen) – **hypersensitivity** *n*, **hypersensitivity** /-ˈsensɪtɪvɪti/ *n*

**hypersonic** /-ˈsɒnɪk/ *adj* of or being a speed (over) 5 times that of the speed of sound – compare **SONIC** [ISV] – **hypersonically** *adv*

**hyper-space** /-ˈspeɪs/ *n* 1 space of more than 3 dimensions 2 space other than ordinary Euclidean space

**hypersthene** /ˌhiəpəˈsteɪn/ *n* iron magnesium silicate occurring as a green to black mineral in igneous rocks [F *hypersthène*, fr Gk *hyper-* + *sthēnos* strength] – **hypersthenic** /ˌhiəpəˈsthenɪk/ *adj*

**hypertension** /-ˈtensh(ə)n/ *n* (the systemic condition accompanying)

abnormally high (arterial) blood pressure [ISV] – **hypertensive** /-ˈtensɪv/ *adj* or *n*

**hyperthermia** /-ˈtuːhmɪə/ *n* very high body temperature [NL, fr *hyper-* + *therm-* + *-ia*] – **hyperthermic** /-ˈmɪk/ *adj*

**hyperthyroidism** /-ˈθaɪrɔɪˌdɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the condition of increased metabolic and heart rate, enlargement of the thyroid gland, nervousness, etc resulting from) excessive activity of the thyroid gland – compare **HYPOTHYROIDISM** [ISV] – **hyperthyroid** *adj*

**hypertonic** /-ˈtɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 having excessive muscular tone or tension 2 having a higher concentration than a surrounding medium or a liquid under comparison – compare **HYPOTONIC**, **ISOTONIC** [ISV] – **hypertonicity** /-ˈtɒnɪsɪti/ *n*

**hypertrophy** /ˌhiəˈpuˌtrəfi/ *n* excessive increase in bulk of an organ or part (prob fr NL *hypertrophia*, fr *hyper-* + *-trophia* -trophy) – **hypertrophied** *adj*, **hypertrophic** /ˌhiəpəˈtroʊfɪk/ *adj*

**hyperventilation** /-ˌventɪˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* excessive breathing leading to abnormal loss of carbon dioxide from the blood

**hypha** /ˈhɪfə/ *n*, *pl* **hyphae** /-ˈfee/ any of the threads that make up the mycelium of a fungus [NL, fr Gk *hypsē* web; akin to Gk *hyphos* web – more at *WAVE*] – **hyphal** *adj*

**hyphen** /ˈhɪef(ə)n/ *n* a punctuation mark – used to divide or to join together words, word elements, or numbers [LL & Gk; LL, fr Gk, fr *hyph' hen* under one, fr *hypon* under + *hen*, neut of *heis* one – more at *UP*, *SAME*]

**hyphen** *vt* to hyphenate

**hyphenate** /-ˈaɪt/ *vt* to join or separate with a hyphen – **hyphenation** /ˌhɪef(ə)nˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**hypn-**, **hypno-** *comb form* 1 sleep (<hypnophobia>) 2 hypnotism (<hypnogenesis>) [F, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *hypnos* – more at *SOMNOLENT*]

**hypnagogic**, **hypnagogic** /ˌhɪpnəˈɡɔɪk/ *adj* of or associated with the drowsiness preceding sleep – compare **HYPNOPOMPIC** [F *hypnagogique*, fr Gk *hypn-* + *-agogos* leading, inducing, fr *agēin* to lead – more at *AGENT*]

**hypnogenesis** /-ˈjənəsɪs/ *n* the induction of a hypnotic state [NL] – **hypnogenetic** /-ˈjəˌnetɪk/ *adj*, **hypnogenetically** *adv*

**hypnopompic** /-ˈpɒmpɪk/ *adj* of or associated with the semiconsciousness preceding waking – compare **HYPNAGOGIC** [*hypn-* + Gk *pompē* act of sending – more at *POMP*]

**hypnosis** /ˌhɪpˈnoʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **hypnoses** /-ˈseɪz/ 1 any of various conditions that (superficially) resemble sleep, *specif* one induced by a person to whose suggestions the subject is then markedly susceptible 2 **HYPNOTISM** 1 [NL]

**hypnotherapy** /ˌhɪpnəˈθerəpi/ *n* the (psychotherapeutic) treatment of mental or physical disease, compulsive behaviour, etc using hypnosis

**hypnotic** /ˌhɪpˈnɒtɪk/ *adj* 1 tending to produce sleep; soporific 2 of hypnosis or hypnotism [F or LL; F *hypnotique*, fr LL *hypnoticus*, fr Gk *hypnotikos*, fr *hypnōin* to put to sleep, fr *hypnos*] – **hypnotically** *adv*

**hypnotic** *n* 1 sth (e.g. a drug) that induces sleep 2 a person or animal that is or can be hypnotized

**hypnotism** /ˌhɪpnəˈtɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the induction of hypnosis 2 **HYPNOSIS** 1 – **hypnotist** *n*

**hypnotize**, *-ise* /ˌhɪpnəˈtɪz/ *vt* 1 to induce hypnosis in 2 to dazzle or overcome (as if) by suggestion, mesmerize (<drivers ~ d by speed>) – **hypnotizable** *adj*, **hypnotization** /ˌhɪpnəˈtɪz(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**hypo** /ˈhiəpə/ *n*, *pl* **hypos** sodium thiosulphate used as a fixing agent in photography [short for *hypoalbumite*]

**hypo** *n*, *pl* **hypos** a hypodermic

**hypo-**, **hyp-** *prefix* 1 under; beneath (<hypoblast>) (<hypodermic>) 2 less than normal or normally (<hypoaesthesia>) (<hypotension>) 3 in a lower state of oxidation (<hypochlorous acid>) [ME *ypo-*, fr OF, fr LL *hypo-*, *hyp-*, fr Gk, fr *hypo* – more at *UP*]

**hypoblast** /ˌhiəpəˈblast/ *n* the endoderm of an embryo – **hypoblastic** /ˌhiəpəˈblastɪk/ *adj*

**hypocaust** /ˌhiəpəˈkawst/ *n* an ancient Roman central heating system with an underground furnace and flues [L *hypocaustum*, fr Gk *hypokauston*, fr *hypokaiein* to light a fire under, fr *hypo-* + *kaiēin* to burn – more at *CAUSTIC*]

**hypochlorite** /ˌhiəpəˈklaɪnɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of hypochlorous acid  
**hypochlorous acid** /ˌhiəpəˈklaɪrəs/ *n* an unstable weak acid that is a strong oxidizing agent and is used esp as a bleach, disinfectant, and chlorinating agent [ISV]

**hypochondria** /-ˈkɒndrɪə/ *also* **hypochondriasis** /-ˈkɒndˈneɪsɪs/ *n* morbid concern about one's health [NL, fr LL, pl, upper abdomen (formerly regarded as the seat of hypochondria), fr Gk, lit., the parts

under the cartilage (of the breastbone), fr *hypo-* + *chondros* cartilage, granule, grain – more at GRIND]

**hypochondriac** /ˌhiəpəˈkɒndrɪæk/ *n* or *adj* (sby) affected by hypochondria [F *hypochondriaque*, fr Gk *hypochondrakos*, fr *hypochondria*]

**hypocorism** /ˌhiəpəˈkɒrɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the use of) a pet name [LL *hypocorisma*, fr Gk *hypokorisma*, fr *hypokorizesthai* to call by pet names, fr *hypo-* + *korizesthai* to caress, fr *koros* boy, *korē* girl] – *hypocoristic* /ˌhiəpəˈkɒrɪstɪk/ *adj*

**hypocotyl** /ˌhiəpəˈkɒtɪl/ *n* the part of a plant embryo or seedling below the cotyledon [ISV]

**hypocrisy** /ˌhiːpəˈkrəsi/ *n* the feigning of virtues, beliefs, or standards, esp in matters of religion or morality [ME *ypocrisie*, fr OF, fr LL *hypocrisis*, fr Gk *hypokrisis* act of playing a part on the stage, *hypocrisys*, fr *hypokrinesthai* to answer, act on the stage, fr *hypo-* + *krinein* to decide – more at CERTAIN]

**hypocrite** /ˌhiəpəˈkriːt/ *n* one given to hypocrisy [ME *ypocrite*, fr OF, fr LL *hypocrita*, fr Gk *hypokritēs* actor, hypocrite, fr *hypokrinesthai*] – *hypocritical* /ˌhiəpəˈkriːtɪkəl/ *adj*, *hypocritically* *adv*

**hypocycloid** /ˌhiəpəˈsɪklɔɪd/ *n* a curve traced by a point on the circumference of a circle that rolls internally on a fixed circle

**hypodermic** /ˌduːhmiːk/ *adj* 1 of the parts beneath the skin 2 adapted for use in or administered by injection beneath the skin [ISV] – *hypodermically* *adv*

**hypodermic** *n* 1 a hypodermic injection 2 HYPODERMIC SYRINGE

**hypodermic syringe** *n* a small syringe used with a hollow needle for injection or withdrawal of material beneath the skin

**hypogeal** /ˌhiəpəˈdʒiːəl/, **hypogeous** /-əʃ/, **hypogean** /-ən/ *adj* growing, remaining, or occurring below the surface of the ground (< ~ *cotyledons*) – compare EPIGEAL [LL *hypogeus* subterranean, fr Gk *hypogaïos*, fr *hypo-* + *gē* earth]

**hypogene** /ˌhiəpəˈdʒiːn/ *adj*, of rock formed or occurring at depths below the earth's surface – compare EPIGENE [*hypo-* + Gk *-genes* born, produced – more at -GEN]

**hypoglossal nerve** /ˌhiəpəˈɡlɔːl/ *n* either of the 12th and final pair of cranial nerves that supply muscles of the tongue in higher vertebrates

**hypoglycaemia** /ˌhiəpəˈɡliːsɪmiːə/, *-miːə* *n* abnormally low amount of sugar in the blood [NL] – *hypoglycaemic* /-mɪk/ *adj*

**hypogynous** /ˌhiəpəˈdʒɪnəs/ *adj* (having floral organs) attached to the receptacle or axis below the ovary and free from it – compare EPIGYNOUS, PERIGYNOUS – *hypogynous* *n*

**hypolimnion** /ˌhiəpəˈlɪmniːən/ *n*, *pl* *hypolimnia* /-niːə/ the (oxygen-deficient nutrient-rich) water below the thermocline of a lake – compare EPIMLIMNION [NL, fr *hypo-* + Gk *limnion*, dim. of *limne* lake]

**hypomania** /ˌhiəpəˈmaɪniːə/ *n* a mild form of mania [NL] – *hypomaniac* /-ˈmænɪk/ *adj*

**hypophysis** /ˌhiəpəˈfɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* *hypophyses* /-sɪz/ PITUITARY GLAND [NL, fr Gk, attachment underneath, fr *hypophycin* to grow beneath, fr *hypo-* + *phyein* to grow, produce – more at BE] – *hypophyseal*, *hypophysial* /ˌhiəpəˈfɪziːəl/ *adj*, *hypophysectomy* /ˌhiəpəˈfɪsɪktəmi/ *n*, *hypophysectomize* /-mɪz/ *vt*

**hypoplasia** /ˌhiəpəˈplæziːə/, *-zh(y)ə* *n* arrested development in which an organ or part remains below the normal size or in an immature state [NL] – *hypoplastic* /-ˈplæstɪk/ *adj*

**hypo-sensit-ize**, *-ise* /-ˈsensətɪz/ *vt* to reduce the sensitivity of, esp to sth that causes an allergic reaction; desensitize – *hypo-sensitization* /-ˈsensətɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*

**hypostasis** /ˌhiəpəˈstæsiːs/ *n*, *pl* *hypostases* /-sɪz/ 1 the settling of blood in the lower parts of an organ or body, esp due to impaired circulation 2 the substance or essential nature of an individual [LL, substance, sediment, fr Gk, support, foundation, substance, sediment, fr *hypistasthai* to stand under, support, fr *hypo-* + *histasthai* to be standing – more at STAND] – *hypostatic* /ˌhiəpəˈstætɪk/, *hypostatical* *adj*, *hypostatically* *adv*


**hypostatize**, *-ise* /ˌhiəpəˈstætiːz/ *vt* to reify [Gk *hypostatos* substantially existing, fr *hypistasthai*] – *hypostatization* /-ˈpɒstətɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*

**hyposulphite** /ˌhiəpəˈsʌlfɪt/ *n* thiosulphate, esp as used as a fixing agent in photography

**hypotaxis** /-ˈtæksɪs/ *n* syntactic subordination (e.g. by a conjunction) [NL, fr Gk, subjection, fr *hypotassein* to arrange under, fr *hypo-* + *tassein* to arrange – more at TACTICS] – *hypotactic* /-ˈtæktɪk/ *adj*

**hypotension** /ˌtensh(ə)n/ /-poh-/ *n* abnormally low blood pressure [ISV] – *hypotensive* /-sɪv/ *adj* or *n*

**hypotenuse** /ˌhiəpəˈtɛn(ə)s/ *n* the side of a right-angled triangle

that is opposite the right angle  MATHEMATICS [L *hypotenusa*, fr Gk *hypoteinousa*, fr fem of *hypoteinōn*, prp of *hypoteinein* to sublend, fr *hypo-* + *teinēin* to stretch – more at THIN]

**hypothalamus** /ˌhiəpəˈθaləməs/ *n* a part of the brain that lies beneath the thalamus and includes centres that regulate body temperature, appetite, and other autonomic functions [NL] – *hypothalamic* /-mɪk/ *adj*

**hypothec** /ˌhiəpəˈθɒk/ *n* legal right in favour of a creditor over the property of his/her debtor – used in Roman and Scots law [F & LL, F *hypothèque*, fr MF, fr LL *hypotheca*, fr Gk *hypothēke* deposit, pledge, fr *hypotithenai* to deposit as a pledge]

**hypothermia** /ˌhiəpəˈθuːmiːə/ *n* abnormally low body temperature [NL, fr *hypo-* + *therm-* + *-ia*] – *hypothermic* /-mɪk/ *adj*

**hypothesis** /ˌhiəpəˈθɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* *hypotheses* /-sɪz/ 1 a provisional assumption made in order to investigate its logical or empirical consequences 2 a proposition assumed for the sake of argument [Gk, fr *hypotithenai* to put under, suppose, fr *hypo-* + *tithenai* to put – more at DO]

**hypothesize**, *-ise* /ˌhiəpəˈθɪːz/ *vb* to form or adopt as a hypothesis

**hypothetical** /ˌhiəpəˈθetɪkəl/ *adj* 1 involving logical hypothesis 2 of or depending on supposition, conjectural – *hypothetically* *adv*

**hypothyroidism** /ˌhiəpəˈθaɪrɔɪdɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the condition of) lowered metabolic rate, lethargy, etc resulting from) deficient activity of the thyroid gland – compare HYPERTHYROIDISM [ISV] – *hypothyroid* *adj*

**hypotonic** /ˌhiəpəˈtɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 having deficient muscular tone or tension 2 having a lower concentration than a surrounding medium or a liquid under comparison – compare HYPERTONIC, ISOTONIC [ISV] – *hypotonically* *adv*, *hypotonicity* /-təˈnɪsɪti/ *n*

**hypoxia** /ˌhiəpəˈksɪə/, *hi-* *n* a deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body [NL, fr *hypo-* + *ox-* + *-ia*] – *hypoxic* /-sɪk/ *adj*

**hyps-**, *hyps-*, **hypo-** *comb form* height, altitude (< *hypsography*) [Gk, fr *hypsos* height, akin to OE *ūp* up]

**hypsography** /ˌhɪpəˈɡrəfi/ *n* the measurement and mapping of the earth's surface with reference to elevation [ISV]

**hyrax** /ˈhɪərəks/ *n*, *pl* *hyraxes* also *hyraces* /-ræːsɪz/ any of several small thickset short-legged mammals with feet with soft pads and broad nails [Gk *hyrak-*, *hyrax* shrewmouse]

**hyssop** /ˈhɪsəp/ *n* 1 a plant used in purificatory rites by the ancient Hebrews 2 a Eurasian plant of the mint family with aromatic leaves [ME *ysop*, fr OE *ysope*, fr L *hyssopus*, fr Gk *hyssopos*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *ʕôbb* hyssop]

**hyster-**, *hyster-* *comb form* 1 womb (< *hysterotomy*) 2 hysteria (< *hysterogenic*); hysteria and (< *hysteroneurosthenia*) [F or L, F *hystér-*, fr L *hyster-*, fr Gk, fr *hysterā*, (2) NL, fr *hysteria*]


**hysterectomy** /ˌhɪstəˈrɛktəmi/ *n* surgical removal of the uterus – *hysterectomize* *vt*

**hysteresis** /ˌhɪstəˈreɪsɪs/ *n* a delay in the production of an effect by a cause; esp an apparent lag in the values of resulting magnetization in a magnetic material due to a changing magnetizing force [NL, fr Gk *hystereōsis* shortcoming, fr *hysterein* to be late, fall short, fr *hysteros* later – more at OUT] – *hysteretic* /-ˈrɛtɪk/ *adj*

**hysteria** /ˈhɪstəriːə/ *n* 1 a mental disorder marked by emotional excitability and disturbances (e.g. paralysis) of the normal bodily processes 2 unmanageable emotional excess [NL, fr E *hysteric*, *adj*, fr L *hystericus*, fr Gk *hysterikos*, fr *hystera* womb; fr the former notion that hysterical women were suffering from disturbances of the womb] – *hysterical* /-ˈstɛnkəl/ *n*, *hysterical*, *hysterical* *adj*, *hysterically* *adv*

**hysterics** /ˈhɪstərɪks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a fit of uncontrollable laughter or crying; hysteria

**hysteron proteron** /ˌhɪstərənˈprɒtərən/ *n* a figure of speech consisting of the reversal of a natural or rational order (e.g. *in thunder and lightning*) [LL, fr Gk, lit., (the) later earlier, (the) latter first]

**i** /iː/ *n*, *pl* *i's*, is often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 9th letter of the English alphabet 2 one  NUMBER 3 – used as a symbol for the imaginary unit

**I** /iː/ *pron* the one who is speaking or writing (< ~ *feel fine*) (< *my wife and I*) – compare ME, MINE, MY, WE [ME, fr OE *ic*; akin to OHG *ih* I, L *ego*, Gk *egō*]

**-i-** used as a connective vowel to join word elements, esp of Latin origin <matrilinear> <raticide> [ME, fr OF, fr L, stem vowel of most nouns and adjectives in combination]

**<sup>1</sup>-ia** suffix (→ *n*) 1 pathological condition of <hystera> <anaemia> 2 genus of (specified plant or animal) <Fuchsia> 3 territory, world, or society of <suburbia> <Austraia> [NL, fr L & Gk, suffix forming feminine nouns]

**<sup>2</sup>-ia** suffix (→ *n pl*) 1 higher taxon (e.g. class or order) consisting of (specified plants or animals) <Sauria> 2 things derived from or relating to <regalia> <juvenilia> [NL, fr L (neut pl of *-ius*, adj ending) & Gk, neut pl of *-ios*, adj ending]

**<sup>3</sup>-ia** pl of *-ium*

**-ial** - see *-AL* <manorial> [ME, fr MF, fr L *-ialis*, fr *-i-* + *-alis* -al]

**iamb** /i'e-am(b)/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 1 short or unstressed syllable followed by 1 long or stressed syllable [L *iambus*, fr Gk *iambos*]  
- **iambic** /i'e-ambik/ *adj* or *n*

**iambus** /i'e-ambos/ *n* an iamb [L]

**-ian** - see *-AN*

**-iana** /-i'ahna/ - see *-ANA*

**-iasis** /i'e-osis/ suffix (→ *n*), *pl* **-iases** disease having the characteristics of or produced by <hypochondriasis> <psoriasis> [NL, fr L, fr Gk, suffix of action, fr denominative verbs in *-ian*, *-iazein*]

**-iatrik** /-i'atrik/ *also* **-iatrial** /-ki/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) of or relating to (a specified medical treatment) <paediatric> [NL *-iatria*]

**-iatria** *comb form* (→ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*) medical treatment <paediatrics>

**iatio-** *comb form* medical; healing <iatrogenic> <iatrochemistry> [NL, fr Gk, fr *iateros* physician]

**iaterogenic** /i'e,atrah'jenik/ *adj* induced inadvertently by (the treatment of) a medical *δόξαται, αὐτὸν ἑλπίσας* [Gk *iateros* + *E. -genic*] - **iaterogenically** *adv*

**-iatriy** /-i'e-atrɪ/ *comb form* (→ *n*) medical treatment <psychiatry> [F *-iatrie*, fr NL *-iatria*, fr Gk *iatria* art of healing, fr *iateros*]

**<sup>1</sup>Iberian** /i'e-bɪrɪən/ *n* a member of any of the ancient peoples inhabiting the Caucasus between the Black and Caspian seas [*Iberia*, ancient region of the Caucasus] - **Iberian** *adj*

**<sup>2</sup>Iberian** *n* 1a a member of any of the Caucasian peoples that in ancient times inhabited Spain and Portugal b a native or inhabitant of Spain or Portugal 2 any of the languages of the ancient Iberians [*Iberia*, peninsula in Europe] - **Iberian** *adj*


**ibex** /i'ebeks/ *n*, *pl* **ibexes**, *esp* collectively **ibex** any of several wild goats living chiefly in high mountain areas of the Old World and having large ridged backward-curving horns [L]

**ibidem** /i'bɪdɪəm/ *adv* in the same book, chapter, passage etc as previously mentioned [L, in the same place]

**-ibility** /-ə'bɪləti/ - see *-ABILITY*

**ibis** /i'ebɪs/ *n*, *pl* **ibises**, *esp* collectively **ibis** any of several wading birds related to the herons but distinguished by a long slender downward-curving bill [L, fr Gk, fr Egypt *hby*]

**-ible** /-əbəl, -əbl/ - see *-ABLE*

**Ibo** /e'ebɒh/ *n*, *pl* **Ibos**, *esp* collectively **Ibo** 1 a member of a Negro people of the area round the lower Niger 2 a Kwa language widely used in S Nigeria  **LANGUAGE**

**IC** *n* INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

**<sup>1</sup>-ic** /-ik/ suffix (*n* → *adj*) 1 having the character or form of, being <panoramic> <rumic> 2a (characteristic) of or associated with <Homeric> <quixotic> b related to, derived from, or containing <alcoholic> <oleic> 3 utilizing <electric> <atomic> 4 exhibiting <nostalgic>; affected with <allergic> 5 characterized by, producing <analgesic> 6 having a valency relatively higher than in 'specified compounds or ions named with an adjective ending in *-ous*' <ferrous iron> <mercuric> [ME, fr OF & L, OF *-ique*, fr L *-icus* - more at *-y*]

**<sup>2</sup>-ic** suffix (→ *n*) 1 one having the character or nature of <fanatic> 2 one belonging to or associated with <epic> 3 one affected by <alcoholic> 4 one that produces <emetic>


**-ical** /-ikl/ suffix (*n* → *adj*) **-ic** <symmetrical> <geological> [ME, fr LL *-icalis* (as in *clerkicalis* clerical, *radicalis* radical)]

**ICBM** *n*, *pl* **ICBM's**, **ICBM's** an intercontinental ballistic missile

**ice** /i'es/ *n* 1a frozen water b a sheet or stretch of ice 2 a substance reduced to the solid state by cold <ammonia ~ in the rings of Saturn> 3 (a serving of) a frozen dessert: e.g. a ICE CREAM b WATER ICE 4 *NAM* diamonds - slang [ME *is*, fr OE *is*; akin to OHG *is* ice, Av *isu* - icy] - **iceless** *adj* - on ice in abeyance; in reserve for later use <kept their plans on ice for the time being>

**<sup>1</sup>ice** *vt* 1a to coat with or convert into ice b to supply or chill with ice 2

to cover (as if) with icing ~ *vi* 1 to become ice-cold 2 to become covered or clogged with ice <the carburettor ~d up>

**ice, age** *n* 1 a time of widespread glaciation 2 *cap I&A* the Pleistocene glacial epoch  **GEOGRAPHY**

**ice, axe** *n* a combination pick and adze with a spiked handle used in climbing on snow or ice

**ice, bag** *n* a bag of ice for application of cold to a part of the body


**ice, berg** /-bu:rg/ *n* 1 a large floating mass of ice detached from a glacier 2 an emotionally cold person [prob part trans of Dan or Norw *isberg*, fr *is* ice + *berg* mountain]

**ice, blink** /-blɪŋk/ *n* a glare in the sky over a sheet of ice, caused by the reflection of light

**ice, boat** /-bo:t/ *n* a boat or frame on runners propelled on ice, usu by sails

**ice, box** /-bɒks/ *n* 1 *Br* the freezing compartment of a refrigerator 2 *NAM* a refrigerator


**ice, breaker** /-brɛɪkə/ *n* a ship equipped to make and maintain a channel through ice

**ice, cap** /-kæp/ *n* a lasting (extensive) cover of ice  **GEOGRAPHY**  
**ice, cream** /i'es 'kreem, 'ies 'kreem/ *n* a sweet flavoured frozen food containing cream (substitute) and often eggs

**ice, hockey** *n* a game played on an ice rink by 2 teams of 6 players on skates whose object is to drive a puck into the opponent's goal with a hockey stick

**Icelander** /i'es,landə, -ləndə/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Iceland [Dan *Islander*, fr *Island* Iceland, island between the Arctic & Atlantic]

**<sup>1</sup>Icelandic** /i'es'landɪk/ *adj* (characteristic) of Iceland

**<sup>2</sup>Icelandic** *n* the N Germanic language of the Icelandic people  **LANGUAGE**

**Iceland moss** *n* an edible lichen of mountainous and arctic regions that yields an extract used esp as a sizing agent

**Iceland poppy** *n* any of various cultivated poppies with usu pastel-coloured smallish single or double flowers

**Iceland spar** *n* a doubly refracting transparent form of calcite

**ice lolly** /i'es 'lɒli, 'ies 'lɒli/ *n* an ice cream or esp a flavoured piece of ice on a stick

**ice, man** /-man/ *n* 1 a man skilled in travelling on ice 2 one who sells or delivers ice, esp in the USA

**Icen** /i'e'seɪni/ *n pl* an ancient British people who revolted against the Romans in AD 61 under Boadicea [L] - **Icenian** /-m-ən/, **Icenic** /-nɪk/ *adj*

**ice, pack** *n* 1 an expanse of pack ice 2 *ICE BAG*

**ice, pick** *n* a hand tool ending in a spike for chipping ice

**ice, show** *n* an entertainment consisting of various acrobatic, dance, etc routines, esp to music, by ice skaters

**ice, skate** *n* a shoe with a metal runner attached for skating on ice - *ice-skate* *vi*, *ice skater* *n*

**I Ching** /'tʃɪŋ/ *n* an ancient Chinese book that is a source of Confucian and Taoist philosophy and presents 64 symbolic 6-line figures each containing information relevant to daily life and future events, and accompanied by an explanatory text which advises on the possible courses of action and their outcome [Chin, lit, classic (book) of changes]

**ichn-**, **ichno-** *comb form* footprint, track <ichnology> [Gk, fr *ichnos*]

**ichneumon** /ɪk'nyoʊmən/ *n* 1 a mongoose 2 **ichneumon**, **ichneumon** fly any of various related 4-winged insects whose larvae are usu internal parasites of other insect larvae, esp caterpillars [L, fr Gk *ichneumon*, lit., tracker, fr *ichneuein* to track, fr *ichnos*]

**ichor** /'i:tʃəw/ *n* 1 a fluid that took the place of blood in the veins of the ancient Greek gods 2 a thin watery or blood-tinged discharge [Gk *ichōr*] - **ichorous** *adj*

**ichthy-**, **ichthyo-** *comb form* fish <ichthyology> [L, fr Gk, fr *ichthys*; akin to Arm *jukn* fish]

**ichthyophagous** /ɪk'thi'ɒfəɡəs/ *adj* eating or subsisting on fish [Gk *ichthyophagos*, fr *ichthy-* + *-phagos* -phagous]

**ichthyosaur** /ɪk'thi'ɔ:səw/ *n* any of an order of extinct marine reptiles with fish-shaped bodies and long snouts [deriv of Gk *ichthy-* + *sauros* lizard - more at SAURIAN] - **ichthyosaurian** /ɪk'thi'ɔ:səwri-ən/ *adj* or *n*

**-ician** /-ɪʃ(ə)n/ suffix (→ *n*) specialist in or practitioner of <beautician> <technician> [ME, fr OF *-icien*, fr L *-ica* (as in *rhetorica* rhetoric) + OF *-ien* -ian]

**icicle** /'esɪkl/ *n* a hanging tapering mass of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water [ME *iskel*, fr *is* ice + *ikel* icicle, fr OE *gice*; akin to OHG *thilla* icicle, Mlr *aig* ice]

**icing** /'i:zɪŋ/ *n* a sweet (creamy) coating for cakes or other baked goods



**'icing** *sugar* *n* finely powdered sugar used in making cake icings and sweets

**icky** /'iki/ *adj* cloying, sentimental – *infml* [perh baby-talk alter. of *sticky*]

**icon**, *ikon* /'i:kon/ *n* 1 a usu pictorial representation; an image 2 a conventional religious image typically painted on a small wooden panel and used in worship by the Eastern Christian Church [L, fr Gk *eikōn*, fr *eikēnai* to resemble] – *iconic* /i:'konik/ *adj*, *iconically adv*, *iconicity* /i:'kon'nisəti/ *n*

**icon-**, *icono-* *comb form* image; likeness (<iconolater> (<iconographer> [Gk *eikon-*, *eikōno-*, fr *eikōn*, *eikōn*])

**iconoclast** /i:'kɒnə,k'laz(ə)m/ *n* the doctrine, practice, or attitude of an iconoclast [fr *iconoclast*, by analogy to *enthusiast/enthusiasm*]


**'iconoclast** /-k'lazt/ *n* 1 a person who destroys religious images or opposes their veneration 2 one who attacks established beliefs or institutions [ML *iconoclastes*, fr MGk *eikonoklastēs*, lit., image destroyer, fr Gk *eikōno-* + *klan* to break – more at 'HALT] – *iconoclastic* /-kɒnə'klastik/ *adj*, *iconoclastically adv*

**iconographer** /i:'kɒnə'grɑ:fə/ *n* a student of iconography

**iconography** /i:'kɒnə'grɑ:fɪ/ *n* 1 pictorial material relating to or illustrating a subject; a pictorial record of a subject 2 the traditional or conventional images or symbols associated with a subject, esp a religious or legendary subject 3 the imagery or symbolism of a work of art, an artist, or a body of art 4 iconology 5 a published work dealing with or featuring iconography [Gk *eikonographia* sketch, description, fr *eikōno-* *graphein* to describe, fr *eikōn-* + *graphein* to write – more at CARVE] – *iconographic* /i:'kɒnə'grɑ:fik/, *iconographical adj*, *iconographically adv*

**iconology** /i:'kɒnə'lɒʒi/ *n* the study of icons or of artistic symbolism [F *iconologie*, fr *icono-* *icon-* + *-logie* *-logy*] – *iconological* /i:'kɒnə'lɒjɪk(ə)/ *adj*

**iconostasis** /i:'kɒnə'stəsis/ *n*, *pl* *iconostases* /-seɪz/ a screen or partition with doors and tiers of icons separating the sanctuary from the nave in Eastern churches [MGk *eikonostasi*]

**icosahedron** /i:'kɒsə'hedrən/ *n*, *pl* *icosahedrons*, *icosahedra* /-drə/ a polyhedron of 20 faces  MATHEMATICS [Gk *eikosaedron*, fr *eikosi* twenty + *-edron* *-hedron* – more at VIGESIMAL] – *icosahedral adj*

**-ica** /-iks/ *suffix* (→ *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr*) 1 study, knowledge, skill, or practice of (<linguistics> (<electronics> 2 actions, activities, or mode of behaviour characteristic of (a specified person or thing) (<histronics> (<acrobatics> 3 qualities, operations, or phenomena relating to (<mechanics> (<acoustics> [-ic + -s; trans of Gk *-ika*, fr neut pl of *-ikos* *-ic*]

**icterus** /'iktərəs/ *n* JAUNDICE 1 [NL, fr Gk *ikterōs*; akin to Gk *iktus*, a yellow bird] – *icteric* /'iktərɪk/ *adj*

**ictus** /'iktəs/ *n* rhythmic or metrical stress [L, fr *ictus*, pp of *icere* to strike; akin to Gk *ischme* lance]

**icy** /'iesi/ *adj* 1a covered with, full of, or consisting of ice b intensely cold 2 characterized by personal coldness (<an ~ stare>) – *icily adv*, *iceiness n*

**id** /ɪd/ *n* the one of the 3 divisions of the mind in psychoanalytic theory that is completely unconscious and is the source of psychic energy derived from instinctual needs and drives – compare EGO, SUPEREGO [NL, fr L, it]

**1-id** /-ɪd, -əd/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 member of (a specified zoological family) (<arachnid> 2 meteor associated with or radiating from (a specified constellation or comet) (<Perseid> [(1) L *-ides*, masc patronymic suffix, fr Gk *-ides*; (2) It *-ide*, fr L *-id-*, *is*, fem patronymic suffix, fr Gk]

**2-id suffix** (→ *n*) (such) a body, particle, or structure (<energid> (<pyramid>) [prob fr L *-id-*, *-is*, fem patronymic suffix, fr Gk]

**3-id suffix** (→ *n*) *ide*

**1'd** /i:ed/ I had; I should; I would

**-idae** /-idee/ *suffix* (→ *n pl*) members of (a specified zoological family) (<Felidae> [NL, fr L, fr Gk *-idai*, pl of *-idēs*]

**ID card** /i:'de/ *n* IDENTITY CARD

**ide** /i:ed/ *n* a European freshwater food fish of the carp family [Sw *id*]

**-ide** /-i:ed/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 binary chemical compound – added to the contracted name of the nonmetallic or more electronegative element (<hydrogen sulphide> or radical (<cyanide> 2 chemical compound derived from or related to (a specified compound) (<gluconide> (<lanthanide> [G & F; G *-id*, fr F *-ide* (as in *oxide*)]

**idea** /i:'di:ə/ *n* 1a a transcendent entity of which existing things are imperfect representations b a plan of action 2a an indefinite or vague impression (<I'd an ~ you were coming>) b sth (e.g. a thought, concept, or image) actually or potentially present in the mind (<the ~ of death never occurred to him>) 3 a formulated thought or opinion 4 whatever

is known or supposed about sth 5 an individual's conception of the perfect or typical example of sth specified (<not my ~ of a good time>) 6 the central meaning or aim of a particular action or situation (<the ~ of the game is to score goals>) [L, fr Gk, fr *idein* to see – more at WIT] – *idealess adj*

**'ideal** /i:'di:əl/ *adj* 1a existing only in the mind, broadly lacking practicality b relating to or constituting mental images, ideas, or conceptions 2 of or embodying an ideal; perfect (<an ~ spot for a picnic>) [F or LL; F *idéal*, fr LL *ideālis*, fr L *idea*]

**1'ideal** *n* 1 a standard of perfection, beauty, or excellence 2 one looked up to as embodying an ideal or as a model for imitation 3 an ultimate object or aim – *idealless adj*

**Idealism** /i:'di:əlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a a theory that the essential nature of reality lies in consciousness or reason b a theory that only what is immediately perceived (e.g. sensations or ideas) is real 2 the practice of living according to one's ideals 3 a literary or artistic theory or practice that affirms the preeminent value of imagination and representation of ideal types as compared with faithful copying of nature

**'idealist** /-lɪst/ *n* 1 one who advocates or practises idealism in art or writing 2 sby guided by ideals, esp one who places ideals before practical considerations – *idealist*, *idealistic* /-di:əlɪstɪk/ *adj*, *idealistically adv*

**ideality** /i:'di:əli:ti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being ideal 2 sth imaginary or idealized

**idealize**, *-ise* /i:'di:əleɪz/ *vt* 1 to attribute qualities of excellence or perfection to 2 to represent in an ideal form ~ *vi* to form ideals – *idealizer n*, *idealization* /-di:əleɪzə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'ideally** /-li/ *adv* 1 in accordance with an ideal, perfectly (<~ suited for the job>) 2 for best results (<~, we should eat less sugar>)

**ideate** /i:'di:əɪt/ *vb* to form an idea (of) – *ideation* /i:'di:əɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *ideational adj*

**idée fixe** /i:'deɪ 'feeks (Fr *ide fiks*)/ *n*, *pl* *idéées fixes* /- / a fixed or obsessive idea [F]

**idem** /'idem, 'i:dem/ *pron* the same as previously mentioned [L, same – more at IDENTITY]

**identical** /i:'dentɪkəl/ *adj* 1 being the same (<the ~ place we stopped before>) 2 being very similar or exactly alike (<the copy was ~ with the original>) 3 of twins, triplets, etc derived from a single egg [prob fr ML *identicus*, fr LL *identitas*]

**identification** /i:'dentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a identifying or being identified b evidence of identity (<employees must carry ~ at all times>) 2a the putting of oneself mentally in the position of another b the (unconscious) attribution of the characteristics of another to oneself in order to attain gratification, emotional support, etc

**identification parade** *n*, chiefly Br a line-up of people arranged by the police to allow a witness to identify a suspect

**identify** /i:'dentɪfɪ/ *vt* 1a to cause to be or become identical b to associate or link closely (<groups that are identified with conservatism>) 2 to establish the identity of ~ *vi* to experience psychological identification (<~ with the hero of a novel>) – *identifiable adj*, *identifiably adv*, *identifier n*

**'identikit** /i:'dentɪkɪt/ *n*, often *cap* a set of alternative facial characteristics used by the police to build up a likeness, esp of a suspect; also a likeness constructed in this way [fr *Identikit*, a trademark]

**2'identikit** *adj*, often *cap* 1 of or produced by identikit 2 like many others of the same type (<a middlebrow ~ novel>)

**identity** /i:'dentɪti/ *n* 1 the condition of being exactly alike 2 the distinguishing character or personality of an individual 3 the condition of being the same as sth or sby known or supposed to exist (<establish the ~ of the stolen goods>) 4 an algebraic equation that remains true whatever values are substituted for the symbols (<(x + y)<sup>2</sup> = x<sup>2</sup> + 2xy + y<sup>2</sup> is an ~>) 5 IDENTITY ELEMENT 6 Austr & NZ a person, character [MF *identité*, fr LL *identitat*, *identitas*, irreg fr L *idem* same, fr *is* that – more at ITERATE]

**'identity card** *n* a card bearing information that establishes the identity of the holder

**identity element** *n* an element that leaves any element of the set to which it belongs unchanged when combined with it by a specified mathematical operation (<0 is the ~ in the group of numbers under addition>)

**'identity parade** *n* IDENTIFICATION PARADE

**ideo-** *comb form* idea (<ideogram>) [F *idéo-*, fr Gk *idea*]

**ideogram** /i:'di:ə'grɑ:m/ *n* 1 a stylized picture or symbol used instead of a word or sound to represent a thing or idea – compare HIEROGLYPH 2 a logogram – compare PICTOGRAPH – *ideogramic*, *ideogrammatic* /i:'di:ə'grɑ:mɪk/ *adj*, *ideogrammatic* /i:'di:ə'grɑ:'mætɪk/ *adj*



**ideograph** /'idi:ə'grɑ:f/, -grɑ:f/ *n* an ideogram – **ideographic** /'idi:ə'grɑ:fik/ *adj*, **ideographically** *adv*

**ideography** /'idi:ə'grɑ:fɪ/ *n* the use of ideograms

**ideologue** /'i:deə'ə:lə/ *n* 1 an (unpractical) theorist 2 an advocate or adherent of a particular ideology [F *idéologue*, back-formation fr *idéologie*]

**ideology** /'i:di'ɒləʒɪ/ *n* 1 a systematic body of concepts 2 a manner of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture <medical ~> 3 the ideas behind a social, political, or cultural programme [F *idéologie*, fr *idéo-* *ideo-* + *-logie* *-logy*] – **ideologist** *n*, **ideological** /'i:deə'ə:lɒjɪkəl, -'ɔ:-/ *also ideologic adj*, **ideologically** *adv*

**ides** /'i:dz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (the week preceding) the 15th day of March, May, July, or October or the 13th day of any other month in the ancient Roman calendar [MF, fr L *idus*]

**-idine** /-ə:deɪn/ *suffix* (→ *n*) nitrogen-containing chemical compound related in origin or structure to (a specified compound) <toluidine> <pyrroline> [ISV *-ide* + *-ine*]

**idio-** *comb form* one's own; personal, distinct <idiolect> [Gk, fr *idios* – more at *idiot*]

**idiocy** /'idi:əsi/ *n* 1 extreme mental deficiency 2 sthg notably stupid or foolish

**idiolect** /'idi:ə'lekt/ *n* the language or speech pattern of an individual [idio- + *-lect* (as in *dialect*)] – **idiolectal** /-'lektl/, **idiolectic** /-'lektɪk/ *adj*

**idiom** /'idi:əm/ *n* 1a the language peculiar to a people or to a district, community, or class b the syntactic, grammatical, or structural form peculiar to a language 2 an expression in the usage of a language that has a meaning that cannot be derived from the sum of the meanings of its elements 3 a characteristic style or form of artistic expression <the modern jazz ~> [MF & LL, MF *idiome*, fr LL *idioma* individual peculiarity of language, fr Gk *idiomat-*, *idioma*, fr *idiousthai* to appropriate, fr *idios*]

**idiomatic** /'idi:ə'matɪk/ *adj* of or conforming to idiom – **idiomatically** *adv*, **idiomaticity** /-mə'tɪvətɪ/ *n*

**idiopathic** /'idi:ə'pæθɪk/ *adj*, of a disease arising spontaneously or from an unknown cause – **idiopathically** *adv*

**idiosyncrasy** /'idi:ə'sɪŋkɹəsi/ *n* 1 characteristic peculiarity of habit or structure 2 a characteristic of thought or behaviour peculiar to an individual or group, esp an eccentricity [Gk *idiosynkrasia*, fr *idio-* + *synkerannynai* to blend, fr *syn-* + *kerannynai* to mingle, mix – more at *crater*] – **idiosyncratic** /-sɪŋ'krætɪk/ *adj*, **idiosyncratically** *adv*

**idiot** /'idi:ət/ *n* 1 an (ineducable) person afflicted with idiocy, esp from birth 2 a silly or foolish person [ME, fr L *idiota* ignorant person, fr Gk *idios* one in a private station, layman, ignorant person, fr *idios* one's own, private, akin to L *secl*, se without, *sui* of oneself] – **idiot adj**, **idiotic** /'idi:ətɪk/ *adj*, **idiotically** *adv*

**'idiot board** *n* a device that is used to prompt a performer on television – *infrml*

**-idium** /-idi:əm/ *suffix* (→ *n*) *pl* -idiums, -idia /-idi:ə/ small or lesser kind of <antithidium> [NL, fr Gk *-idion*, dim *suffix*]

**'idle** /'i:dl/ *adj* 1 having no particular purpose or value <~ curiosity> 2 groundless <~ rumour> 3 not occupied or employed. e.g. a not in use or operation <machines lying ~> b not turned to appropriate use <~ funds> 4 lazy [ME *idel*, fr OE *idel*; akin to OHG *ital* worthless] – **idleness** *n*, **idly** /'i:dlɪ/ *adv*

**'idle** *vb* **idling** /'i:dlɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to spend time in idleness b to move idly 2 *esp* of an engine to run without being connected to the part (e.g. the wheels of a car) that is driven, so that no useful work is done ~ *vt* 1 to pass in idleness 2 to cause to idle – **idler** *n*

**'idler wheel** *n* a wheel, gear, or roller used to transfer motion or to guide or support sthg

**Ido** /'i:edoh/ *n* an artificial international language based on Esperanto [Esperanto, offspring, fr Gk *-ides*, patronymic *suffix*]

**idol** /'i:dl/ *n* 1 an image or symbol used as an object of worship; broadly a false god 2 an object of passionate or excessive devotion <a pop ~> [ME, fr OF *idole*, fr LL *idolū*, fr Gk *eidōlon* phantom, idol; akin to Gk *eidos* form – more at *idyl*]

**idolater** /'i:ədələtə/ *n* 1 a worshipper of idols 2 a passionate and often uncritical admirer [ME *idolatr*, fr MF *idolatre*, fr LL *idololātres*, fr Gk *eidōlōlatres*, fr *eidōlon* + *-latrēs* *-later*]

**idolatry** /'i:ədələtri/ *n* 1 the worship of a physical object as a god 2 excessive attachment or devotion to sthg – **idolatrous** *adj*, **idolatrously** *adv*, **idolatrousness** *n*

**idol-ize, -ise** /'i:ed(ə)lɪz/ *vt* to worship idolatrously, broadly to love or

admire to excess ~ *vi* to practise idolatry – **idolizer** *n*, **idolization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**idyll, idyl** /'idɪl/ *n* 1 a simple work in poetry or prose describing peaceful rustic life or pastoral scenes 2 an episode suitable for an idyll 3 a pastoral or romantic musical composition [L *idyllium*, fr Gk *eidyllion*, fr dim. of *eidos* form, akin to Gk *idein* to see – more at *wrt*] – **idyllic** /'i:dlɪk/ *adj*, **idyllically** *adv*

**-ie** /-e:/ *suffix* (*n* → *n*) *^Y* [ME]

**-ier** /-ɪə/ – see *^ER*

**'if** /ɪf/ *conj* 1a in the event that <~ she should telephone, let me know> b supposing <~ you'd listened, you'd know> c on condition that 2 whether <asked ~ the mail had come> 3 – used to introduce an exclamation expressing a wish <~ it would only rain> 4 even if; although <an interesting ~ irrelevant point> 5 that – used after expressions of emotion <I don't care ~ she's cross> <it's not surprising ~ you're annoyed> 6 – used with a negative when an expletive introduces startling news <blow me ~ he didn't hit her!> [ME, fr OE *gif*; akin to OHG *ibu* if] – if anything on the contrary even; perhaps even <if anything, you ought to apologize>

**'if** *n* 1 a condition, stipulation <the question depends on too many ~s> 2 a supposition <a theory full of ~s>

**-iferous** /-ɪf(ə)rəs/ – see *-ferous* [ME, fr L *-ifer*, fr *-i-* + *-fer* *-ferous*]

**-iform** /-ɪfəw/ – see *-form* <ramiform> [MF & L; MF *-iforme*, fr L *-iformis*, fr *-i-* + *-formis* *-form*]

**-ify** /-ɪfɪ, -əfɪ/ – see *-ify* [ME *-ifien*, fr OF *-ifier*, fr L *-ificare*, fr *-i-* + *-ficare* *-fy*]

**Igbo** /'ɪgbɒh/ *n pl* Igbo, *esp* collectively Igbo (an) Ibo


**igloo** /'ɪgloo/ *n, pl* igloos 1 an Eskimo dwelling, usu made of snow blocks and in the shape of a dome 2 a structure shaped like a dome [Esk *iglu*, *igdlu* house]

**igneous** /'ɪɡni:əs/ *adj* 1 fiery 2 relating to or formed by the flow or solidification of molten rock from the earth's core <~ rocks> [L *igneus*, fr *ignis* fire; akin to Skt *agni* fire]

**igni-** *comb form* fire; burning <ignitron> [L, fr *ignis*]

**ignis fatuus** /'ɪɡnɪs 'fatyoo:əs/ *n, pl* ignes fatui /'ɪɡneeɪz 'fatyoo:ɪe/ a will-o'-the-wisp [ML, lit., foolish fire]

**ignite** /'ɪɡnɪt/ *vt* 1a to set fire to; also to kindle b to cause (a fuel mixture) to burn 2 to spark off; excite, esp suddenly ~ *vi* 1 to catch fire 2 to begin to glow 3 to burst forth suddenly into violence or conflict [L *ignitus*, pp of *ignire* to ignite, fr *ignis*] – **ignitable** *also* **ignitible** *adj*, **igniter**, **ignitor** *n*

**ignition** /'ɪɡnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or action of igniting 2 the process or means (e.g. an electric spark) of igniting a fuel mixture  *CAR*

**ignoble** /'ɪɡnəbl/ *adj* 1 of low birth or humble origin 2 base, dishonourable [! *ignobilis*, fr *in-* + *nobilis* noble] – **ignobleness** *n*, **ignobly** *adv*, **ignobility** /'ɪɡnəbɪləti/ *n*

**ignominious** /'ɪɡnə'mɪni:əs/ *adj* 1 marked by or causing disgrace or discredit 2 humiliating, degrading <suffered an ~ defeat> – **ignominiously** *adv*, **ignominiousness** *n*

**ignominy** /'ɪɡnə'mɪni/ *n* 1 deep personal humiliation and disgrace 2 disgraceful or dishonourable conduct or quality [MF or L, MF *ignominie*, fr L *ignominia*, fr *ig-* (as in *ignorare* to be ignorant of, *ignore*) + *nomin-*, *nomen* name, repute – more at *NAME*]

**ignoramus** /'ɪɡnə'reɪməs, -'rahməs/ *n* an ignorant person [Ignoramus, ignorant lawyer in *Ignoramus*, play by George Ruggle †1622 E dramatist, fr NL *ignoramus* endorsement by a Grand Jury on a bill of indictment giving insufficient evidence for prosecution, fr L, we do not know, fr *ignorare*]

**ignorance** /'ɪɡnərəns/ *n* the state of being ignorant

**ignorant** /'ɪɡnərənt/ *adj* 1 lacking knowledge, education, or comprehension (of sthg specified) 2 caused by or showing lack of knowledge 3 lacking social training; impolite – chiefly *infrml* – **ignorantly** *adv*



**ignore** /'ɪɡnəw/ *vt* to refuse to take notice of; disregard [obs *ignore* (to be ignorant of), fr F *ignorer*, fr L *ignorare*, fr *ignarus* ignorant, unknown, fr *in-* + *gnoscere*, *noscere* to know – more at *KNOW*] – **ignorable** *adj*, **ignorant** *n*

**iguana** /'ɪɡyoo'ahna, 'ɪgwahna/ *n* any of various large lizards; esp a plant-eating (dark-coloured) tropical American lizard with a serrated crest on its back [Sp, fr Arawak *iwana*]

**iguanodon** /'ɪɡyoo'ahnədon, 'ɪgwah-/ *n* a very large plant-eating dinosaur [NL *Iguanodon*-, *Iguanodon*, genus name, fr Sp *iguana* + NL *-odon* (as in *mastodon*)]

**IHS** – used as a Christian symbol and monogram for *Jesus* [LL, part transliteration of Gk ΙΗΣ, abbreviation for ΙΗΣΟΥΣ *Iēsous* Jesus]

**ikebana** /'ɪkə'bahna, 'ɪki-, 'eek-/ *n* the Japanese art of flower arranging

- that emphasizes form and balance [Jap, fr *ikeru* to keep alive, arrange + *hana* flower]
- ikon** /'i:kon/ *n* an icon
- il-** /ɪl-/ – see **in-**
- ilang-ilang** /'e:laŋ 'e:laŋ/ *n* ylang-ylang
- ile-** also **ileo-** *comb form* 1 ileum <ileitis> 2 ileal and <ileocaecal> [NL *ileum*]
- ile-** /-iel/ *suffix* (– *adj*) (capable) of (such action) <prehensile>, liable to (so act or be acted on) <volatile> <fragile> [ME, fr MF, fr L *-ilis*]
- ile-** *suffix* (– *n*) segment of (a specified size) in a frequency distribution <decile> [prob fr *-ile* (as in *quartile*, *n*)]
- ileum** /'i:l-əm/ *n*, pl **ilea** /'i:l-ə/ the last division of the small intestine extending between the jejunum and the large intestine [NL, fr L, groin, viscera] – **ileal** *adj*
- ileus** /'i:l-i:əs/ *n* obstruction of the bowel [L, fr Gk *eileos*, fr *eilyein* to roll – more at **VOLUBLE**]
- ilex** /'i:leks/ *n* 1 HOLM OAK 2 the holly [L]
- iliac** /'i:li:ək/ also **iliac** /'i:l-əl/ *adj* of or located near the ilium [LL *iliacus*, fr L *ilium*]
- ilio-** *comb form* iliac and <ilolumbar> [NL *ilium*]
- ilium** /'i:l-i:əm/ *n*, pl **ilia** /'i:l-ə/ the upper and largest of the 3 principal bones composing either half of the pelvis [NL, fr L *ilium*, *ileum*]
- ilk** /ɪlk/ *pron*, chiefly *Scot* that same – esp in the names of landed families [ME, fr OE *ilca*, fr a prehistoric compound whose constituents are akin respectively to Goth *is* he (akin to L *is* he, that) and OE *gelic* like – more at **LIKE**]
- ilk** *n* sort, kind <politicians and others of that ~>
- ilk** *adj*, chiefly *Scot* each, every [ME, *adj* & *pron*, fr OE *ylc*, *ælc* – more at **EACH**]
- ilka** /'i:l-kə/ *adj*, chiefly *Scot* *ilk* [ME, fr *ilk* + *a* (indef article)]
- ill** /ɪl/ *adj* worse /wʊrs/, worst /wʊrst/ 1 bad: e.g. a morally evil <~ deeds> b malevolent, hostile <~ feeling> c attributing evil or an objectionable quality <held an ~ opinion of his neighbours> 2a causing discomfort or inconvenience; disagreeable <~ effects> b(1) not normal or sound <~ health> (2) not in good health, also nauseated (3) chiefly *Br* hurt, wounded <still very ~ after the accident> 3 unlucky, disadvantageous <an ~ omen> <~ fortune> 4 socially improper <~ breeding> 5a unfriendly, hostile <~ feeling> <~ will> b harsh <~ treatment> [ME, fr ON *illr*]
- ill** *adv* worse; worst 1a with displeasure or hostility b in a harsh manner <used him ~> c so as to reflect unfavourably <spoke ~ of his neighbours> 2 in a reprehensible, harsh, or deficient manner <fared ~> <ill-adapted to city life> 3 hardly, scarcely <~ at ease> <can ~ afford such extravagances> 4a in an unfortunate manner, badly, unluckily <ill-fated> b in a faulty, imperfect, or unpleasant manner <ill-equipped> *USE* often in combination
- ill** *n* 1 the opposite of good; evil 2a (a) misfortune, trouble <hope no more ~s befall him> b(1) an ailment (2) sthg that disturbs or afflicts <economic and social ~s> 3 sthg that reflects unfavourably <spoke no ~ of him>
- I'll** /i:əl/ I will; I shall
- ill-advised** *adj* showing lack of proper consideration or sound advice – **ill-advisedly** /əd'vizi:dlɪ/ *adv*
- ill at ease** *adj* uneasy, uncomfortable
- illative** /i'leɪtɪv/ *adj* inferential [LL *illativus*, fr L *illatus*, suppletive pp of *inferre* to bring in, infer, fr *in-* *in-* + *latus*, suppletive pp of *ferre* to bear] – **illatively** *adv*
- ill-bred** *adj* having or showing bad upbringing, impolite
- illegal** /'i:leɡl/ *adj* not authorized by law [F or ML; F *illégal*, fr ML *illegalis*, fr L *in-* + *legalis* legal] – **illegally** *adv*, **illegality** /ɪl'ɡæləti/ *n*
- illegible** /'i:leɪbəl/ *adj* not legible – **illegibly** *adv*, **illegibility** /'i:leɪbəlɪti/ *n*
- illegitimate** /ɪl'i:ɡɪtɪmət/ *adj* 1 not recognized as lawful offspring; *specif* born out of wedlock 2 wrongly deduced or inferred 3 departing from the regular; abnormal 4 illegal – **illegitimately** *adv*, **illegitimacy** /-məsi/ *n*
- ill-favoured** *adj* 1 unattractive in physical appearance 2 offensive, objectionable
- ill-gotten** *adj* acquired by illicit or improper means – esp in *ill-gotten gains*
- ill-humoured** *adj* surly, irritable
- illiberal** /i'li:bərəl/ *adj* not liberal: e.g. a lacking culture and refinement b not broad-minded; bigoted c opposed to liberalism [MF or L; MF, fr L *illiberalis* ignoble, stingy, fr L *in-* + *liberalis* liberal] – **illiberalism** *n*, **illiberally** *adv*, **illiberalness**, **illiberality** /-lɪbə'ræləti/ *n*
- illicit** /'ɪlɪsɪt/ *adj* not permitted, unlawful <~ love affairs> [L *illicitus*, fr *in-* + *licitus* lawful – more at **LICIT**] – **illicitly** *adv*
- illiterate** /'ɪlɪt(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 unable to read or write 2 showing lack of education [L *illiteratus*, fr *in-* + *litteratus* literate] – **illiterate** *n*, **illiterately** *adv*, **illiterateness**, **illiteracy** /-rəsi/ *n*
- ill-mannered** *adj* having bad manners
- ill-natured** *adj* having a disagreeable disposition, surly – **ill-naturedly** *adv*
- illness** /'ɪlnɪs/ *n* an unhealthy condition of body or mind
- illogical** /'ɪlədʒɪkl/ *adj* 1 contrary to the principles of logic 2 devoid of logic, senseless – **illogically** *adv*, **illogicalness**, **illogicality** /-lədʒɪ'kæləti/ *n*
- ill-tempered** *adj* ill-natured – **ill-temperedly** *adv*
- ill-timed** *adj* badly timed; esp inopportune
- ill-treat** *vt* to treat cruelly or improperly – **ill-treatment** *n*
- illuminate** /'ɪljooɦm/ *vt* to illuminate – poetic [short for *illumine*]
- illuminate** /'ɪljooɦmɪnaɪt/ *vt* 1a(1) to cast light on, fill with light (2) to brighten b to enlighten spiritually or intellectually 2 to elucidate 3 to decorate (a manuscript) with elaborate initial letters or marginal designs in gold, silver, and brilliant colours [L *illuminatus*, pp of *illuminare*, fr *in-* + *luminare* to light up, fr *lumen*, *lumen* light – more at **LUMINARY**] – **illuminatingly** *adv*, **illuminator** *n*, **illuminative** /-nətɪv/ *adj*
- illuminate** /'ɪljooɦmɪ'naɪt/ *n* pl 1 *cap* any of various groups claiming special religious enlightenment 2 people who are or claim to be unusually enlightened [It & NL, It, fr NL, fr L, pl of *illuminatus*]
- illumination** /ɪljooɦmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n, ɪljooɦ-/ *n* 1 illuminating or being illuminated. e.g. a spiritual or intellectual enlightenment b decorative lighting or lighting effects <the Blackpool ~s> c decoration of a manuscript by the art of illuminating 2 the amount of light per unit area of a surface on which it falls  *PHYSICS* 3 any of the decorative features used in the art of illuminating or in decorative lighting
- illumine** /'ɪljooɦmɪn/ *vt* to illuminate – poetic [ME *illuminen*, fr MF or L, MF *illuminare*, fr L *illuminare*] – **illuminable** *adj*
- ill-use** *vt* to treat harshly or unkindly – **ill-usage** *n*
- illusion** /'ɪljooɦz(ə)n/ *n* 1 a false impression or notion <I have no ~s about my ability> 2a(1) a misleading image presented to the vision (2) sthg that deceives or misleads intellectually b(1) perception of an object n such a way that it presents a misleading image <an optical ~> (2) **ILLUCINATION** 1 [ME, fr MF, fr LL *illusion-*, *illusio*, fr L, action of *nocturn*, fr *illusus*, pp of *illudere* to mock at, fr *in-* + *ludere* to play, mock – more at **LUDICROUS**] – **illusional** *adj*, **illusionist** *n*
- lusive** /'ɪljooɦsɪv, -zəri/ *adj* deceptive, unreal <~ hopes> – **illusorily** *adv*, **illusoriness** *n*
- illustrate** /'ɪləstreɪt/ *vt* 1a to clarify (by giving or serving as an example or instance) b to provide (e.g. a book) with visual material 2 to show clearly, demonstrate – *vi* to give an example or instance [L *illustratus*, pp of *illustrare*, fr *in-* + *lustrare* to purify, make bright, shine] – **illustrator** *n*
- illustration** /ɪlə'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 illustrating or being illustrated 2 sthg that serves to illustrate e.g. a an example that explains or clarifies sthg b a picture or diagram that helps to make sthg clear or attractive – **illustrational** *adj*
- illustrative** /'ɪləstrətɪv, -stray-/ *adj* serving or intended to illustrate <~ examples> – **illustratively** *adv*
- illustrious** /'ɪlʌstri:əs/ *adj* marked by distinction or renown [L *illustris*, prob back-formation fr *illustrare*] – **illustriously** *adv*, **illustriousness** *n*
- ill** /'wɪll *n* unfriendly feeling
- im-** /ɪm-/ – see **in-**
- I'm** /ɪəm/ I am
- image** /'ɪmɪj/ *n* 1 a reproduction (e.g. a portrait or statue) of the form of a person or thing 2a the optical counterpart of an object produced by a lens, mirror, etc. or an electronic device b a likeness of an object produced on a photographic material 3a exact likeness <God created man in his own ~> – Gen 1:27 (RSV) b a person who strikingly resembles another specified person <he's the ~ of his father> 4 a typical example or embodiment (e.g. of a quality) <he's the ~ of goodness> 5a a mental picture of sthg (not actually present) b an idea, concept 6 a figure of speech, esp a metaphor or simile 7 a conception created in the minds of people, esp the general public <worried about his public ~> 8 an element in the range of a mathematical function that corresponds to a particular element in the domain *USE* (2)  *CAMERA* [ME, fr OF, short for *imagene*, fr L *imagin-*, *imago*; akin to L *imitari* to imitate]
- imagery** /'ɪmɪj(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 (the art of making) images 2 figurative language 3 mental images; esp the products of imagination

**imaginable** /i'majɪnəbl/ *adj* capable of being imagined – **imaginable-ness** *n*, **imaginably** *adv*

**'imaginal** /i'majɪnəl/ *adj* of imagination, images, or imagery [*imagine* + -al]

**²imaginal** *adj* of the insect imago [NL *imagin-*, *imago*]

**imaginary** /i'majɪn(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 existing only in imagination, lacking factual reality 2 containing or relating to (a multiple of) the positive square root of minus 1 – **imaginarily** *adv*, **imaginariness** *n*

**imaginary number** *n* COMPLEX NUMBER

**imaginary part** *n* the part of a complex number (e.g.  $3i$  in  $2 + 3i$ ) that has the imaginary unit as a factor

**imaginary unit** *n* the positive square root of minus 1, + -1

**imagination** /i'majɪnəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or power of forming a mental image of sthg not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality 2 creative ability 3 a fanciful or empty notion

**imaginative** /i'majɪn(ə)tɪv/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by imagination 2 given to imagining; having a lively imagination 3 of images, esp showing a command of imagery – **imaginatively** *adv*, **imaginativeness** *n*

**imagine** /i'maj(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to form a mental image of (sthg not present) 2 to suppose, think [*I ~ it will rain*] 3 to believe without sufficient basis <~s himself to be indispensable> ~ *vi* to use the imagination [ME *imaginein*, fr MF *imaginer*, fr L *imaginari*, fr *imagin-*, *imago* image]

**imagism** /i'mɪjɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* a 20th-c movement in poetry advocating the expression of ideas and emotions through clear precise images – **imagist** *n*, **imagist**, **imagistic** /i'mɪjɪstɪk/ *adj*, **imagistically** *adv*

**imago** /i'maygoh/ *n*, *pl* **imagoes**, **imagines** /i'mahɪnəz/, -'may-, -jɪ-, -neez/ 1 an insect in its final mature (winged) state – LHT CYCLE 2 a subconscious idealized mental image of a person, esp a parent [NL, fr L, image]

**imam** /i'mahm, -'-/ *n* 1 the leader of prayer in a mosque 2 *cap* a Shiite leader held to be the divinely appointed successor of Muhammad 3 a caliph, also any of various Islamic doctors of law or theology [Ar *imam*] – **imamate** /-mət-, -mayt/ *n*

**imbalance** /i'mbələns/ *n* lack of balance: e.g. a lack of functional balance in a physiological system <hormonal ~> b lack of balance between segments of a country's economy c numerical disproportion

**imbecile** /i'mbeseɪl, -siel/ *n* 1 MENTAL DEFECTIVE 2 a fool, idiot [F *imbécile*, fr *imbécile* weak, weak-minded, fr L *imbecillus*] – **imbecille**, **imbecillie** /i'mbəsɪlɪk/ *adj*

**imbecility** /i'mbəsɪlɪti/ *n* 1 being (an) imbecile 2 (an instance of) utter foolishness or nonsense

**imbed** /i'mbed/ *vb* -dd- to embed

**imbibe** /i'mbi:b/ *vt* 1 to drink 2 to take in or up, absorb, assimilate ~ *vi* DRINK 2 [L *imbibere* to drink in, conceive, fr *in-* + *bibere* to drink] – **imbiber** *n*

**'imbricate** /i'mbrɪkət-, -kayt/ *adj* (having scales, sepals, etc) lying lapped over each other in regular order [LL *imbricatus*, pp of *imbricare* to cover with pantiles, fr L *imbric-*, *imbrēx* pantile, fr *imbr-*, *imber* rain; akin to Gk *ombros* rain] – **imbricately** *adv*

**²imbricate** /i'mbrɪkayt/ *vb* to overlap, esp in regular order – **imbrication** /i'mbrɪ'kayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**imbroglío** /i'm'brɒhloʊ/ *n*, *pl* **imbroglíos** 1 a confused mass 2a an intricate or complicated situation (e.g. in a drama) b a confused or complicated misunderstanding or disagreement [It, fr *imbrogliare* to entangle, fr MF *embrouiller*, fr *en-* + *brouiller* to brouil]

**imbrue** /i'm'brʊə/ *vt* to stain, drench – chiefly fml [ME *enbrenen*, prob fr MF *abrevier*, *embevver* to soak, drench, deriv of L *bibere* to drink]

**imbue** /i'm'byʊə/ *vt* 1 to tinge or dye deeply 2 to cause to become permeated <a man ~d with a strong sense of duty> [L *imi-* + *-re*]

**imidazole** /i'mɪ'dəʊl, -'day-, i'mɪ'də'zɒl/ *n* (any of various derivatives of) an organic compound that is a chemical base with a characteristic heterocyclic structure [ISV]

**imide** /i'mɪd/ *n* a compound that is derived from ammonia by replacement of 2 hydrogen atoms by a metal or by acid radicals [ISV, alter of *amide*] – **imideic** /i'mɪdɪk/ *adj*

**imitate** /i'mɪtəɪt/ *vt* 1 to follow as a pattern, model, or example 2 to reproduce 3 to resemble 4 to mimic; TAKE OFF [L *imitatus*, pp of *imitari* – more at IMAGE] – **imitable** *adj*, **imitator** *n*

**'imitation** /i'mɪ'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or instance of imitating 2 sthg produced as a copy; a counterfeit 3 the repetition in one musical part of the melodic theme, phrase, or motive previously found in another musical part – compare OSTINATO, SEQUENCE 1c – **imitational** *adj*

**²imitation** *adj* made in imitation of sthg else that is usu genuine and of better quality

**imitative** /i'mɪtəɪv/ *adj* 1a marked by or given to imitation <acting in an ~ art> b onomatopoeic 2 imitating sthg superior – **imitatively** *adv*, **imitativeness** *n*

**immaculate** /i'makjʊlət/ *adj* 1 without blemish, pure 2 free from flaw or error 3 spotlessly clean [ME *immaculat*, fr L *immaculatus*, fr *in-* + *maculatus*, pp of *maculare* to stain, fr *macula* spot, stain] – **immaculately** *adv*, **immaculateness**, **immaculacy** /-ləsi/ *n*

**Immaculate Conception** *n* the conception of the Virgin Mary held in Roman Catholic dogma to have freed her from original sin

**immanent** /i'mənənt/ *adj* 1 indwelling, esp having existence only in the mind 2 pervading nature or the souls of men <belief in an ~ God> – compare TRANSCENDENT [LL *immanent-*, *immanens*, pp of *immanere* to remain in place, fr L *in-* + *manere* to remain – more at MANSION] – **immanence**, **immanency** *n*, **immanently** *adv*

**immaterial** /i'mə'tɪəriəl/ *adj* 1 not consisting of matter, incorporeal 2 unimportant [ME *immaterial*, fr MF, fr LL *immaterialis*, fr L *in-* + LL *materialis* material] – **immaterially** *adv*, **immaterialness**, **immateriality** /-tɪəri'æləti/ *n*, **immaterialize** /-tɪəri'leɪz/ *vt*

**immature** /i'mə'tyʊə/ *adj* 1 lacking complete growth, differentiation, or development 2a not having arrived at a definitive form or state <a vigorous but ~ school of art> b exhibiting less than an expected degree of maturity <emotionally ~ adults> [L *immaturus*, fr *in-* + *maturus* mature] – **immature** *n*, **immaturely** *adv*, **immatureness**, **immaturity** *n*

**immeasurable** /i'mezh(ə)rəbl/ *adj* indefinitely extensive [IM- + MEASURABLE] – **immeasurableness** *n*, **immeasurably** *adv*

**immediacy** /i'mi:diə'si/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being immediate 2 sthg requiring immediate attention – usu *pl* <the immediacies of life>

**immediate** /i'mi:diət-, -dyət/ *adj* 1a acting or being without any intervening agency or factor <the ~ cause of death> b involving or derived from a single premise <an ~ inference> 2 next in line or relationship <only the ~ family was present> 3 occurring at once or very shortly 4 in close or direct physical proximity <the ~ neighbourhood> 5 directly touching or concerning a person or thing [LL *immediatus*, fr L *in-* + LL *mediatus* intermediate – more at MEDIATE] – **immediate-ness** *n*

**'immediately** /-li/ *adv* 1 in direct relation or proximity, directly <the parties ~ involved in the case> 2 without delay

**²immediately** *conj* AS SOON AS

**immedicable** /i'medɪkəbl/ *adj* incurable – chiefly fml [L *immedicabilis*, fr *in-* + *medicabilis* medicable] – **immedicably** *adv*

**immemorial** /i'mɪ'məwɪəl/ *adj* extending beyond the reach of memory, record, or tradition <existing from time ~> [prob fr F *immémorial*, fr MF, fr *in-* + *memoria*] – **immemorially** *adv*

**immense** /i'mens/ *adj* very great, esp in size, degree, or extent [MF, fr L *inn-* + *mens* immeasurable, fr *in-* + *mensus*, pp of *metiri* to measure – more at MEASURE] – **immensely** *adv*, **immenseness**, **immensity** *n*

**immerse** /i'mu:z/ *vt* 1 to plunge into sthg, esp a fluid, that surrounds or covers 2 to baptize by complete submergence 3 to engross, absorb <completely ~d in his work> [L *immersus*, pp of *immergere*, fr *in-* + *mergere* to merge] – **immerse** *adj*

**immersed** *adj*, of a plant growing wholly under water

**immersion** /i'mu:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* disappearance of a celestial body behind or into the shadow of another [IMMERSE + -ION]

**immersion heater** *n* an electrical apparatus for heating a liquid in which it is immersed, esp an electric water-heater fixed inside a domestic hot-water storage tank

**immigrant** /i'mɪgrənt/ *n* 1 one who comes to a country to take up permanent residence 2 a plant or animal that becomes established in an area where it was previously unknown [IMMIGRATE + -ANT] – **immigrant** *adj*

**immigrate** /i'mɪgrəɪt/ *vt* to come into a country of which one is not a native for permanent residence ~ *vi* to bring in or send as immigrants [L *immigratus*, pp of *immigrare* to remove, go in, fr *in-* + *migrare* to migrate] – **immigration** /i'mɪ'græʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **immigrational** *adj*

**imminent** /i'mɪnənt/ *adj* about to take place; esp impending, threatening [L *imminēt-*, *imminens*, pp of *imminere* to project, threaten, fr *in-* + *-minere* (akin to L *mont-*, *mons* mountain)] – **imminently** *adv*, **imminent-ness**, **imminence** /-nəns/ *n*

**immiscible** /i'mɪsəbl/ *adj* incapable of being mixed – used technically – **immiscibly** *adv*, **immiscibility** /i'mɪsə'bɪləti/ *n*

**immitigable** /i'mɪtɪgəbl/ *adj* incapable of being mitigated – chiefly fml [LL *immitigabilis*, fr L *in-* + *mitigare* to mitigate] – **immitigableness** *n*, **immitigably** *adv*

**immobile** /i'məʊbiəl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being moved 2 motionless

- <keep the patient ~> [ME *in-mobil*, fr L *immobilis*, fr *in-* + *mobilis* mobile] – **immobility** /im'ɒbɪləti/ *n*
- immobilize**, -ise /im'ɒbɪlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to prevent freedom of movement or effective use of 2 to reduce or eliminate motion of (sby or a body part) by mechanical means or by strict bed rest [IMMOBILE + -IZE] – **immobilizer** *n*, **immobilization** /im'ɒbɪlə'zeɪʃən/ *n*
- immoderate** /i'mɒd(ə)rət/ *adj* lacking in moderation; excessive [ME *immoderat*, fr L *immoderatus*, fr *in-* + *moderatus*, pp of *moderare* to moderate] – **immoderately** *adv*, **immoderacy** /-rəsi/, **immoderateness**, **immoderation** /-məd(ə)'reɪʃən/ *n*
- immodest** /i'mɒdɪst/ *adj* not conforming to standards of sexual propriety [L *immodestus*, fr *in-* + *modestus* modest] – **immodestly** *adv*, **immodesty** *n*
- immolate** /im'ɒlət/ *vt* 1 to kill as a sacrificial victim 2 to kill, destroy [L *immolatus*, pp of *immolare*, fr *in-* + *mola* meal; fr the custom of sprinkling victims with sacrificial meal] – **immolator** *n*, **immolation** /im'ɒlə'teɪʃən/ *n*
- immoral** /i'mɒrəl/ *adj* not conforming to conventional moral standards, esp in sexual matters – **immorally** *adv*, **immorality** /i'mɒrə'ləti/ *n*
- immortal** /i'mɔːtəl/ *adj* 1 exempt from death (<the ~ gods> 2 enduring forever; imperishable (<~ fame> [ME, fr L *immortalis*, fr *in-* + *mortalis* mortal] – **immortally** *adv*, **immortalize** *vt*, **immortality** /i'mɔː'tæləti/ *n*
- immortal** *n* 1a one exempt from death *b pl*, often *cap* the gods of classical antiquity 2 a person of lasting fame
- immortelle** /i'mɔːtel/ *n* an everlasting flower [F, fr fem of *immortel* immortal, fr L *immortalis*]
- immovable** /i'muʊvəbl/ *adj* 1 not moving or not intended to be moved 2a steadfast, unyielding *b* incapable of being moved emotionally – **immovably** *adv*, **immovableness**, **immovability** /i'muʊvə'bɪləti/ *n*
- immovables** *n pl* real property
- immune** /i'mjuːn/ *adj* 1 free, exempt (<~ from prosecution> 2 having a high degree of resistance to a disease (<~ to diphtheria> 3a having or producing antibodies to a corresponding antigen (<an ~ serum> *b* concerned with or involving immunity (<an ~ response> [L *immunis*, fr *in-* + *munia* services, obligations; akin to L *munus* service] – **immune** *n*, **immunize** /i'mjuːnɪz/ *vt*, **immunization** /i'mjuːnɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n*
- immunity** /i'mjuːnəti/ *n* being immune, *specif* the ability to resist the effects or development of a disease-causing parasite, esp a microorganism
- immuno-** *comb form* immunity, immunology and <immunogenesis> <immunochemistry> [ISV, fr *immune*]
- immunoassay** /i'mjuːnə'hə'seɪ, i'mjuːnə'hə'seɪ/ *n* the identification and measurement of the concentration of a substance (e.g. a protein) through its capacity to act as an antigen in the presence of specific antibodies that react with it – **immunoassayable** *adj*
- immunoglobulin** /i'mjuːnə'hə'glɒbiʊlɪn/ *n* a protein (e.g. an antibody) that is made up of light and heavy amino acid chains and usu binds specifically to a particular antigen
- immunology** /i'mjuː'nɒlədʒi/ *n* biology that deals with the phenomena and causes of immunity [ISV] – **immunologist** *n*, **immunologic** /i'mjuːnə'lɒjɪk/, **immunological** *adj*, **immunologically** *adv*
- immunosuppression** /i'mjuːnə'hə'spreʃən/ *n* suppression (e.g. by drugs) of natural immune responses – **immunosuppress** *vt*, **immunosuppressant** *n* or *adj*, **immunosuppressive** /-sɪv/ *adj*
- immunotherapy** /i'therəpi/ *n* treatment of or preventive measures against disease by administering (preparations of) antigens [ISV]
- imburse** /i'mjʊə/ *vt* 1 to enclose (as if) within walls, imprison 2 to build into, or esp entomb in, a wall [ML *immurare*, fr L *in-* + *murus* wall] – **imbursement** *n*
- immutable** /i'mjuːəbəl/ *adj* not capable of or susceptible to change [ME, fr L *immutabilis*, fr *in-* + *mutabilis* mutable] – **immutably** *adv*, **immutableness**, **immutability** /i'mjuːə'bɪləti/ *n*
- imp** /ɪmp/ *n* 1 a small demon 2 a mischievous child; a scamp [ME *impe*, fr OE *impa*, fr *impian* to imp]
- imp** *vt*, *archaic* to graft or repair (e.g. a falcon's wing or tail) with a feather to improve flight [ME *impen*, fr OE *impian*; akin to OHG *impfōn* to graft; both from a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *imputare*, fr L *in-* + *putare* to prune – more at *PAVE*]
- Impact** /ɪm'pækt/ *vt* to fix or press firmly (as if) by packing or wedging ~ *vi* to impinge or make contact, esp forcefully [L *impactus*, pp of *impingere* to push against – more at *IMPINGE*] – **impactive** /-tɪv/ *adj*
- Impact** /ɪm'pækt/ *n* 1a an impinging or striking, esp of one body against another *b* (the impetus produced by or as if by) a violent contact or collision 2 a strong or powerful effect or impression (<the ~ of modern science on our society>)
- impacted** *adj*, of a tooth not erupted as a result of lack of space in the jaw or of obstruction by bone or other teeth
- impaction** /ɪm'pækʃən/ *n* becoming or being impacted; esp the lodging of sthg (e.g. faeces) in a body passage
- impair** /ɪm'peə/ *vt* to diminish in quality, strength, or amount [ME *empeiren*, fr MF *empeirer*, fr (assumed) VL *impejorare*, fr L *in-* + LL *pejorare* to make worse – more at *PEJORATIVE*] – **impairer** *n*, **impairment** *n*
- impaired** *adj*, *Can*, of a driver or driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics
- impala** /ɪm'pahlə/ *n* a large brownish African antelope [Zulu]
- impale** /ɪm'peɪl/ *vt* 1 to pierce (as if) with sthg pointed, esp to torture or kill by fixing on a stake 2 to join (coats of arms) on a heraldic shield divided in half vertically [MF & ML, MF *empaler*, fr ML *impalare*, fr L *in-* + *palus* stake – more at *'POLI*] – **impalement** *n*
- impalpable** /ɪm'pæpəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being sensed by the touch, intangible 2 not easily discerned or grasped by the mind **impalpably** *adv*, **impalpability** /ɪm'pæpə'bɪləti/ *n*
- impanel** /ɪm'pænəl/ *vt* to empanel
- impart** /ɪm'pɑːt/ *vt* 1 to convey, transmit (<the flavour ~ed by herbs> 2 to make known; disclose [MF & L, MF *impartir*, fr L *impartire*, fr *in-* + *partire* to divide, part] – **impartable** *adj*, **impartment**, **impartation** /ɪm'pɑː'teɪʃən/ *n*
- impartial** /ɪm'pɑːʃəl/ *adj* not biased – **impartially** *adv*, **impartiality** /ɪm'pɑːʃə'ləti/ *n*
- impartible** /ɪm'pɑːtəbl/ *adj* not divisible (<an ~ inheritance> [LL *impartibilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *partibilis* divisible, fr L *partire*] – **impartibly** *adv*
- impassable** /ɪm'pɑːsəbl/ *adj* incapable of being passed, traversed, or surmounted – **impassably** *adv*, **impassableness**, **impassability** /ɪm'pɑːsə'bɪləti/ *n*
- impasse** /'æmpəs (Fr ɛpɑs)/ *n* 1 a predicament from which there is no obvious escape 2 DEADLOCK 2 [F, fr *in-* + *passer* to pass]
- impassible** /ɪm'pɑːsəbl/ *adj* incapable of suffering, of feeling emotion, or of experiencing pain or injury – chiefly fml [ME, fr MF or LL, MF, fr LL *impassibilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *passibilis* capable of feeling, fr L *passus*, pp of *pati* to suffer – more at *PATIENT*] – **impassibly** *adv*, **impassibility** /ɪm'pɑːsə'bɪləti/ *n*
- impassion** /ɪm'pɑːʃən/ *vt* to arouse the feelings or passions of [prob fr It *impassionare*, fr *in-* (fr L) + *passione* passion, fr LL *passion-*, *passio*] – **impassioned** *adj*
- impassive** /ɪm'pɑːsɪv/ *adj* 1 incapable of or not susceptible to emotion 2 showing no feeling or emotion – **impassively** *adv*, **impassiveness**, **impassivity** /ɪm'pɑːsɪvəti/ *n*
- impasto** /ɪm'pastə/ *n* (the technique of) applying pigment thickly in painting [It, fr *impastare* to make into a paste, fr *in-* (fr L) + *pasta* paste, fr LL] – **impastoed** *adj*
- impatient** /ɪm'peɪʃənt/ *adj* 1a restless or quickly roused to anger or exasperation *b* intolerant (<~ of delay> 2 showing or caused by a lack of patience (<an ~ reply> 3 eagerly desirous, anxious (<~ to see her boyfriend> [ME *impacient*, fr MF, fr L *impatient-*, *impatiens*, fr *in-* + *patient-*, *patiens* patient] – **impatience** *n*, **impatiently** *adv*
- impeach** /ɪm'peetʃ/ *vt* 1a to bring an accusation against *b* to charge with a usu serious crime; *specif*, chiefly *NAm* to charge (a public official) with misconduct in office 2 to cast doubt on, esp to challenge the credibility or validity of (<~ the testimony of a witness> [ME *empechen*, fr MF *empechier* to hinder, fr LL *impedicare* to fetter, fr L *in-* + *pedica* fetter, fr *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at *FOOT*] – **impeachable** *adj*, **impeachment** *n*
- impeccable** /ɪm'pekəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of sinning 2 free from fault or blame; flawless [L *impeccabilis*, fr *in-* + *peccare* to sin] – **impeccably** *adv*, **impeccability** /ɪm'pekə'bɪləti/ *n*
- impecunious** /ɪm'pɪkjuːniəs, -niːəs/ *adj* having very little or no money – chiefly fml [*in-* + obs *pecunious* (rich), fr ME, fr L *pecuniosus*, fr *pecunia* money – more at *FEE*] – **impecuniously** *adv*, **impecuniousness**, **impecuniosity** /-iːəsəti/ *n*
- impedance** /ɪm'piːdəns/ *n* sthg that impedes; esp the opposition in an electrical circuit to the flow of an alternating current that is analogous to the opposition of an electrical resistance to the flow of a direct current
- impede** /ɪm'piːd/ *vt* to interfere with or retard the progress of [L *impedire*, fr *in-* + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at *FOOT*] – **impeder** *n*
- impediment** /ɪm'piːdɪmənt/ *n* 1 sthg that impedes; esp a physiological speech defect 2 a hindrance to lawful marriage
- impedimenta** /ɪm'piːdɪməntə/ *n pl* 1 unwieldy baggage or equipment

- 2 things that impede; encumbrances [L, pl of *impedimentum* impediment, fr *impedire*]
- impel** /im'pel/ *vi* -ll- 1 to urge forward or force into action (<felt ~ led to speak his mind>) 2 to propel [L *impellere*, fr *in-* + *pellere* to drive - more at *FELT*]
- impeller** also **impellor** /im'pela/ *n* (a blade of) a rotor [IMPEL + <sup>2</sup>-ER]
- impend** /im'pend/ *vi* 1a to hover threateningly; menace b to be about to happen 2 *archaic* to be suspended, hang [L *impendere*, fr *in-* + *pendere* to hang - more at *PENDANT*]
- impenetrability** /im,penit'rə'biliti/ *n* the inability of 2 portions of matter to occupy the same space at the same time [IMPENETRABL + -ITY]
- impenetrable** im'penit'rəbl/ *adj* 1a incapable of being penetrated or pierced b inaccessible to intellectual influences or ideas 2 incapable of being comprehended 3 having the property of impenetrability [ME *impenetrabel*, fr MF *impenetrable*, fr L *impenetrabilis*, fr *in-* + *penetrabilis* penetrable] - *impenetrableness* *n*, *impenetrably* *adv*
- imperative** /im'perətiv/ *adj* 1a of or being the grammatical mood that expresses command b expressive of a command, entreaty, or exhortation c having power to restrain, control, and direct 2 urgent (<an ~ duty>) [LL *imperativus*, fr L *imperatus*, pp of *imperare* to command - more at *EMPEROR*] - *imperatively* *adv*, *imperativeness* *n*
- imperative** *n* 1 (a verb form expressing) the imperative mood 2 sth imperative e.g. a command, order b an obligatory act or duty c an imperative judgment or proposition
- imperator** /im'perə'taw/ *n* a commander in chief or emperor of the ancient Romans [L - more at *EMPEROR*] - *imperialorial* /im,perə'tawri-əl/ *adj*
- imperceptible** /im'pɜ:ptəbl/ *adj* 1 not perceptible by the mind or senses 2 extremely slight, gradual, or subtle (<an ~ change in attitude>) [MF, fr ML *imperceptibilis*, fr L *in-* + L *perceptibilis* perceptible] - *imperceptibly* *adv*, *imperceptibility* /-biliti/ *n*
- impercipient** /im'pɜ:pi-ənt/ *adj* not perceptive - *impercipience* *n*
- imperfect** /im'pɜ:fɪkt/ *adj* 1 not perfect e.g. a defective b not having the stamens and carpels in the same flower 2 of or being a verb tense expressing a continuing state or an incomplete action, esp in the past 3 of a cadence passing to a dominant chord from a tonic chord [ME *imperfitt*, fr MF *imparfait*, fr L *imperfectus*, fr *in-* + *perfectus* perfect] - *imperfectly* *adv*, *imperfectness* *n*
- imperfect** *n* (a verb form expressing) the imperfect tense
- imperfection** /im'pɜ:fɪkʃən/ *n* the quality or state of being imperfect, also a fault, blemish
- imperfective** /im'pɜ:fɪktiv/ *adj*, of a form of a verb expressing action as incomplete or repeated - compare *PERFECTIVE* - *imperfective* *n*
- imperforate** /im'pɜ:f(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 having no (normal anatomical) opening 2 of a stamp or a sheet of stamps lacking perforations
- imperial** /im'piəri-əl/ *adj* 1a of or befitting an empire, emperor, or empress b of the British Empire 2a sovereign, royal b regal, imperious 3 belonging to an official nonmetric British series of weights and measures [ME, fr MF, fr LL *imperialis*, fr L *imperium* command, empire] - *imperially* *adv*
- imperial** *n* a size of paper usu 30 × 22in (762 × 559mm)
- imperialism** /im'piəri-ə,liz(ə)m/ *n* 1 government by an emperor 2 the policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and dominion of a nation, esp by territorial acquisition - *imperialist* *n* or *adj*, *imperialistic* /-listik/ *adj*, *imperialistically* *adv*
- imperial** /im'perəl/ *vt* -ll- (NAM -li-, -ll-) to endanger - *imperialment* *n*
- imperious** /im'piəri-əs/ *adj* marked by arrogant assurance, domineering (<his ~ arbitrariness>) [L *imperiosus*, fr *imperium*] - *imperiously* *adv*, *imperiousness* *n*
- imperishable** /im'perishəbl/ *adj* 1 not perishable or subject to decay 2 enduring permanently (<~ fame>) - *imperishable* *n*, *imperishably* *adv*, *imperishableness*, *imperishability* /-shə'biliti/ *n*
- imperium** /im'piəri-əm/ *n* supreme power, sovereignty [L - more at *EMPIRE*]
- impermanent** /im'pɜ:mənənt/ *adj* transient - *impermanence*, *impermanency* *n*, *impermanently* *adv*
- impermeeable** /im'pɜ:mi-əbl/ *adj* not permitting passage, esp of a fluid [LL *impermeabilis*, fr L *in-* + L *permeabilis* permeable] - *impermeably* *adv*, *impermeability* /-ə'biliti/ *n*
- impersonal** /-puhs(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1a denoting verbal action with no expressed subject (e.g. *methinks*) or with a merely formal subject (e.g. *rained in it rained*) b of a pronoun indefinite 2a having no personal reference or connection; objective b not involving or reflecting the human personality or emotions (<spoke in a flat ~ tone>) c not having personality (<an ~ deity>) [LL *impersonalis*, fr L *in-* + LL *personalis* personal] - *impersonalize* *vt*, *impersonally* *adv*, *impersonality* /-puhs'nəli/ *n*
- impersonate** /im'puhsənəyt/ *vt* to assume or act the character of - *impersonator* *n*, *impersonation* /-nəyʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- impertinent** /im'pɜ:tnənt/ *adj* 1 not restrained within due or proper bounds (<~ curiosity>), also rude, insolent 2 irrelevant - chiefly fml [ME, fr MF, fr LL *impertinent-*, *impertinens*, fr L *in-* + *pertinent-*, *pertinens*, pp of *pertinere* to pertain] - *impertinence* *n*, *impertinently* *adv*
- imperturbable** /im'pɜ:tuhəbl/ -puh-/ *adj* marked by extreme calm and composure [ME, fr LL *imperturbabilis*, fr L *in-* + *perturbare* to perturb] - *imperturbably* *adv*, *imperturbability* /-bə'biliti/ *n*
- impervious** /im'pɜ:viəs/ *adj* 1 impenetrable (<a coat ~ to rain>) 2 not capable of being affected or disturbed (<~ to criticism>) *USE* usu + to [L *impervius*, fr *in-* + *pervius* pervious] - *imperviously* *adv*, *imperviousness* *n*
- impetigo** /im'pɜ:tiɡəh/ *n* a contagious skin disease characterized by blisters and pustules [L, fr *impetere* to attack - more at *IMPETUS*] - *impetiginous* /-tiʃiːnəs/ *adj*
- impetuous** /im'petjuəs/ *adj* 1 marked by impulsive vehemence (<an ~ temperament>) 2 marked by forceful and violent movement - chiefly poetic [ME, fr MF *impetueux*, fr LL *impetuosus*, fr L *impetus*] - *impetuousness* *n*, *impetuously* *adv*, *impetuosity* /im,petju'oʊsəti/ *n*
- impetus** /im'pitəs/ *n* 1a a driving force b an incentive, stimulus (<gave a new ~ to the ailing economy>) 2 the energy possessed by a moving body [L, assault, impetus, fr *impetere* to attack, fr *in-* + *petere* to go to, seek - more at *FEATHER*]
- impi** /im'pi/ *n*, pl **impis** SAfr an armed us organized band of Africans [Zulu]
- impiety** /im'pi-əti/ *n* (an act showing) a lack of reverence
- impinge** /im'pinj/ *vi* 1 to strike, dash 2 to make an impression 3 to encroach, infringe (<~ on other people's rights>) *USE* usu + on or upon [L *impingere*, fr *in-* + *pungere* to fasten, drive in - more at *FACT*] - *impingement* *n*
- impious** /im'pi-əs/ *adj* lacking in reverence or proper respect (e.g. for God), irreverent [L *impius*, fr *in-* + *pius* pious] - *impiously* *adv*
- impish** /im'piʃ/ *adj* mischievous [IMP + -ISH] - *impishly* *adv*, *impishness* *n*
- implaceable** /im'plakəbl/ *adj* not capable of being appeased or pacified (<an ~ enemy>) [MF or L, MF, fr L *im placabilis*, fr *in-* + *placabilis* placable] - *implaceableness* *n*, *implaceably* *adv*, *implaceability* /-kə'biliti/ *n*
- implant** /im'plahnt/ *vt* 1a to fix or set securely or deeply b to set permanently in the consciousness or habit patterns 2 to insert in the tissue of a living organism - *implantable* *adj*, *implanter* *n*, *implantation* /im,plənt'n'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- implant** /im,plahnt/ *n* sth (e.g. a graft or hormone pellet) implanted in tissue
- implausible** /im'plawzəbl/ *adj* provoking disbelief - *implausibly* *adv*, *implausibility* /-zə'biliti/ *n*
- implead** /im'pled/ *vt* to take legal action against [ME *empledēn*, fr MF *emplader*, fr OF *emplaidier*, fr *en-* + *plaidier* to plead]
- implement** /'impliment/ *n* 1 an article serving to equip (<the ~s of religious worship>) 2 (sby or sth that serves as) a utensil or tool [ME, fr LL *implementum* action of filling up, fr L *implere* to fill up, fr *in-* + *plere* to fill - more at *FULL*]
- implement** /'impliment, -mənt/ *vi* CARRY OUT; esp to give practical effect to (<plans not yet ~ed due to lack of funds>) - *implementation* /'impliment'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- implicate** /'implikayt/ *vt* 1 to involve as a consequence, corollary, or inference, imply 2a to bring into (incriminating) connection b to involve in the nature or operation of sthg; affect 3 *archaic* to entwine [L *implicatus*, pp of *implicare* - more at *EMPLOY*]
- implication** /'implikəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a implicating or being implicated b incriminating involvement 2a implying or being implied b a logical relation between 2 propositions such that if the first is true the second must be true 3 sthg implied - *implicative* /'implikativ/ *adj*
- implicit** /im'plisit/ *adj* 1a implied rather than directly stated (<an ~ assumption>) b potentially present though not realized or visible 2 unquestioning, absolute (<~ obedience>) [L *implicitus*, pp of *implicare*] - *implicitly* *adv*, *implicitness* *n*
- implode** /im'pləhd/ *vb* to collapse inwards suddenly [*in-* + *-plode* (as in *explode*)]
- implore** /im'plaw/ *vt* 1 to call on in supplication; beseech 2 to call or beg for earnestly; entreat [MF or L; MF *implorare*, fr L *implorare*, fr *in-* + *plorare* to cry out]



**implosion** /ɪm'ploʒh(ə)n/ *n* 1 imploding 2 the release of obstructed breath inwards that occurs in the articulation of one kind of stop consonant 3 the act or action of coming (as if) to a centre [*in-* + *-plosion* (as in *explosion*)] – *implosive* /-zɪv, -sɪv/ *adj* or *n*

**imply** /ɪm'plɪ/ *vt* 1 to involve or indicate as a necessary or potential though not expressly stated consequence 2 to express indirectly, hint at (<his silence implied consent>) [ME *emphen*, fr MF *emplier*, fr L *implicare*]

**impolite** /ɪm'pɒlɪt/ *adj* not polite, rude – *impolitely* *adv*, *impoliteness* *n*

**impolitic** /ɪm'pɒlɪtɪk/ *adj* unwise, ill-advised – chiefly fml – *impolitically* *adv*

**imponderable** /ɪm'pɒnd(ə)rəbl/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) incapable of being precisely weighed or evaluated [ML *imponderabilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *ponderabilis* ponderable] – *imponderably* *adv*, *imponderability* /-rəbɪləti/ *n*

**import** /ɪm'pawt/ *vt* 1 to bring from a foreign or external source, esp to bring (e.g. merchandise) into a place or country from another country 2 to convey as meaning or portent, signify – chiefly fml [ME *importen*, fr L *importare* to bring into, fr *in-* + *portare* to carry – more at *'FARF*] – *importable* *adj*, *importer* *n*, *importation* /ɪm'paw'taɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**import** /ɪm'pawt/ *n* 1 sthg imported 2 importing, esp of merchandise 3 purport, meaning 4 (relative) importance (<it is hard to determine the ~ of this decision>) *USE* (3 & 4) fml

**importance** /ɪm'pawt(ə)nɪs/ *n* consequence, significance

**important** /ɪm'pawt(ə)n(ə)t/ *adj* of considerable significance or consequence [MF, fr OIt *importante*, fr L *important-*, *importantis*, prp of *importare*] – *importantly* *adv*

**importunate** /ɪm'pawtyoʊnət, -chənət/ *adj* troublesomely urgent, extremely persistent in request or demand – chiefly fml – *importunately* *adv*, *importunity* /ɪm'paw'tyooʊnəti, -chooʊn-/ *n*

**importune** /ɪm'pawtyoʊn, -chooʊn/ *vi* 1 to press or urge with repeated requests, solicit with troublesome persistence 2 to solicit for purposes of prostitution ~ *vi* to beg, urge, or solicit importunately *USE* chiefly fml [MF or ML, MF *importuner*, fr ML *importunare*, fr L *importunus* unfit, troublesome, fr *in-* + *-portunus* (as in *opportunus* fit) – more at *OPPOR TUNE*] – *importuner* *n*

**impose** /ɪm'pɒz/ *vt* 1a to establish or apply as compulsory b to establish or make prevail by force 2 to arrange (typeset or plated pages) in order for printing 3 PAID OFF <~ fake antiques on the public> 4 to force into the company or on the attention of another (<oneself on others>) ~ *vi* to take unwarranted advantage (<~ on his good nature>), also to be an excessive requirement or burden *USE* (except *vt* 1 & 2) 1 on or upon [MF *imposer*, fr L *imponere*, lit. to put upon (perf. indic. *imposui*), fr *in-* + *ponere* to put – more at *POSITION*] – *imposer* *n*

**imposing** /ɪm'pɒzɪŋ/ *adj* impressive because of size, bearing, dignity, or grandeur – *imposingly* *adv*

**imposition** /ɪm'pɒzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of imposing 2 sthg imposed e.g. a a levy, tax b an excessive or unwarranted requirement or burden

**impossible** /ɪm'pɒsəbl/ *adj* 1a incapable of being or occurring, not possible b seemingly incapable of being done, attained, or fulfilled, insuperably difficult c difficult to believe (<an ~ story>) 2 extremely undesirable or difficult to put up with (<life became ~ because of lack of money>) [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *impossibilis*, fr *in-* + *possibilis* possible] – *impossibly* *adv*, *impossibility* /ɪm'pɒsəbɪləti, -sɪ-/ *n*

**impost** /ɪm'pɒst/ *n* a tax [MF, fr ML *impositum*, fr L, neut. of *impositus*, pp of *imponere*]

**impost** *n* a bracket, top part of a pillar, or moulding that supports an arch ➤ *ARCHITECTURE* [F *imposte*, deriv. of L *impositus*]

**impostor**, **imposter** /ɪm'pɒstə/ *n* one who assumes a false identity or title for fraudulent purposes [LL *impostor*, fr *impostus*, pp]

**imposture** /ɪm'pɒschə/ *n* (an instance of) fraud, deception [LL *impostura*, fr L *impositus*, *impostus*, pp of *imponere*]

**impotent** /ɪm'pɒt(ə)n(ə)t/ *adj* 1 lacking in efficacy, strength, or vigour 2a unable to copulate through an inability to maintain an erection of the penis b of a male STERILE 1 – not used technically [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *impotens*, *impotens*, fr *in-* + *potens*, *potens* potēt] – *impotence*, *impotency* *n*, *impotent* *n*, *impotently* *adv*

**impound** /ɪm'paʊnd/ *vt* 1a to shut up (as if) in a pound, confine b to take and hold in legal custody 2 to collect and confine (water) (as if) in a reservoir – *impoundment* *n*

**impoverish** /ɪm'pɒv(ə)rɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to make poor 2 to deprive of strength, richness, or fertility [ME *empoverisen*, fr MF *empovriss-*, stem of *empovrir*, fr *en-* + *povre* poor – more at *POOR*] – *impoverisher* *n*, *impoverishment* *n*

**impracticable** /ɪm'praktɪkəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being put into effect or carried out 2 impassable (<an ~ road>) – *impracticably* *adv*, *impracticableness*, *impracticability* /-kə'bɪləti/ *n*

**impractical** /ɪm'praktɪkəl/ *adj* not practical e.g. a incapable of dealing sensibly with practical matters b impracticable (<economically ~>) – *impracticality* /-tɪ'kæləti/ *n*, *impractically* *adv*

**imprecate** /ɪm'prɪkət/ *vb* to invoke evil (on), curse [L *imprecatus*, pp of *imprecari*, fr *in-* + *precari* to pray – more at *PRAY*] – *imprecatory* *adj*, *imprecation* /ɪm'prɪ'kayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**impregnable** /ɪm'pregnəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being taken by assault (<an ~ fortress>) 2 beyond criticism or question (<an ~ social position>) [ME *imprenable*, fr MF, fr *in-* + *prenable* vulnerable to capture, fr *prendre* to take – more at *'PRIZE*] – *impreguably* *adv*, *impregnability* /-nə'bɪləti/ *n*

**impregnate** /ɪm'pregnəɪt/ *adj* filled, saturated

**impregnate** *vt* 1a to introduce sperm cells into b to make pregnant, fertilize 2a to cause to be imbued, permeated, or saturated b to permeate thoroughly [L *impregnatus*, pp of *impregnare*, fr L *in-* + *praegnas* pregnant] – *impregnable* /ɪm'pregnəbl/ *adj*, *impregnation* /ɪm'preg'nayʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *impregnator* /ɪm'pregnəɪtə/ *n*

**impresario** /ɪm'prɪ'saɦnoɦ/ *n*, *pl* *impresarios* one who organizes, puts on, or sponsors a public entertainment (e.g. a sports event), esp the manager or conductor of an opera or concert company [It, fr *impresa* undertaking, fr *imprendere* to undertake, fr (assumed) VL *imprehendere*, fr L *in-* + *prehendere* to seize – more at *PREHENSILE*]

**imprescriptible** /ɪm'prɪ'skrɪptəbl/ *adj* that cannot be taken away or revoked, inalienable [MF, fr *in* 'in- + *prescriptible* subject to prescription, fr ML *praescriptibilis*, fr *praescribere*, pp of *praescribere* to claim by right of prescription – more at *PRESCRIBE*]

**impress** /ɪm'pres/ *vt* 1a to apply with pressure so as to imprint b to mark (as if) by pressure or stamping 2a to fix strongly or deeply (e.g. in the mind or memory) b to produce a deep and usu. favourable impression on 3 to transmit (force or motion) by pressure ~ *vi* to produce a (favourable) impression (<performances that failed to ~>) [ME *impressen*, fr L *impressus*, pp of *imprimere* fr *in-* + *primere* to press – more at *'PRESS*] – *impressible* *n* or *adj*

**impress** /ɪm'pres/ *n* 1 the act of impressing 2 a mark made by pressure 3 an impression, effect

**impress** *vt* 1 to force into naval service 2 to procure or enlist by forcible persuasion [*in* + *press*] – *impressment* *n*

**impression** /ɪm'presʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of impressing 2 the effect produced by impressing e.g. a a stamp, form, or figure produced by physical contact b a (marked) influence or effect on the mind or senses, esp a favourable impression 3a an effect of alteration or improvement (<the settlement left little ~ on the wilderness>) b a telling image impressed on the mind or senses (<first ~s of Greece>) 4a the amount of pressure with which an inked printing surface deposits its ink on the paper b (a print or copy made from) the contact of a printing surface and the material being printed c all the copies of a publication (e.g. a book) printed in 1 continuous operation 5 a usu. indistinct or imprecise notion or recollection 6 an imitation or representation of salient features in an artistic or theatrical medium, esp an imitation in caricature of a noted personality as a form of theatrical entertainment

**impressable** /-əbəl/ *adj* 1 easily influenced 2 easily moulded – *impressionability* /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*

**impressionism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 often cap an art movement, esp in late 19th-c France, that tries to convey the effects of actual reflected light on natural vs outdoor subjects 2 literary depiction that seeks to convey a general subjective impression rather than a detailed re-creation of reality – *impressionist* *n* or *adj*, often *cap*

**impressionistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 of or being impressionism 2 based on or involving subjective impression as distinct from knowledge, fact, or systematic thought – *impressionistically* *adv*

**impressive** /ɪm'presɪv/ *adj* making a marked impression, stirring deep feelings, esp of awe or admiration – *impressively* *adv*, *impressiveness* *n*

**imprimatur** /ɪm'prɪ'maɦtə, -maɦtə/ *n* 1 a licence granted, esp by Roman Catholic episcopal authority, to print or publish 2 sanction, approval [NL, let it be printed, fr *imprimere* to print, fr L, to imprint, *impress* – more at *'IMPRESS*]

**imprimis** /ɪm'prɪmɪs/ *adv* in the first place – used to introduce a list of items [ME *imprimis*, fr L *in primis* among the first (things)]

**imprint** /ɪm'prɪnt/ *vt* 1 to mark (as if) by pressure 2 to fix indelibly or permanently (e.g. on the memory)

**imprint** /ɪm'prɪnt/ *n* 1 a mark or depression made by pressure (<the fossil



~ of a dinosaur's foot' 2 a publisher's name printed at the foot of a title-page 3 an indelible distinguishing effect or influence <their work bears a sort of regional ~ - Malcolm Cowley> [MF *empreinte*, fr fem of *empreint*, pp of *empreindre* to imprint, fr L *imprimere*]

**imprinting** /im'prɪntɪŋ/ *n* a behaviour pattern rapidly established early in the life of an animal that involves attachment to an object or other animal, esp the animal's mother, seen just after birth

**imprison** /im'prɪz(ə)n/ *vt* to put (as if) in prison [ME *imprisonen*, fr OF *emprisoner*, fr *en-* + *prison*] - **imprisonment** *n*

**improbable** /im'prɒbəbl/ *adj* unlikely to be true or to occur [MF or L, MF, fr L *improbabilis*, fr *in-* + *probabilis* probable] - **improbably** *adv*, **improbability** /-bə'biləti/, *improb-* *n*

**improbability** /im'prɒbəbi/ *n* lack of integrity; dishonesty - chiefly fml [MF or L, MF *improbite*, fr L *improbitas*, fr *improbus* bad, dishonest, fr *in-* + *probus* good, honest - more at **PROVE**]

**impromptu** /im'prɒptju/ *adj* made, done, composed, or uttered (as if) on the spur of the moment <an ~ change of plan> [F, fr *impromptu* extemporaneously, fr L *in promptu* in readiness] - **impromptu** *adv*

**impromptu** *n* 1 sth impromptu 2 a musical composition suggesting improvisation

**improper** /im'prɒpə/ *adj* 1 not in accordance with fact, truth, or correct procedure <~ inference> 2 not suitable or appropriate 3 not in accordance with propriety or modesty, indecent [MF *impropre*, fr L *improprius*, fr *in-* + *proprius* proper] - **improperly** *adv*

**improper fraction** *n* a fraction whose numerator is equal to, larger than, or of equal or higher degree than the denominator

**impropriety** /im'prɒpɪə'ti/ *n* 1 being improper 2 an improper act or remark, esp an unacceptable use of a word [F or LL, F *impropriété*, fr L *improprietas*, *improprīetas*, fr L *improprius*]

**improvable** /im'prɒvəbl/ *adj* capable of improving or being improved - **improvability** /-və'bɪləti/ *n*

**improve** /im'pru:v/ *vt* 1a to enhance in value or quality, make better b to increase the value of (land or property) by making better (e.g. by cultivation or the erection of buildings) 2 to use to good purpose ~ *vi* 1 to advance or make progress in what is desirable 2 to make useful additions or amendments <the new version ~s on the original> [AF *emprouer* to invest profitably, fr OF *en-* + *prou* advantage, fr LL *prode* - more at **PROUD**]

**improvement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 improving or being improved 2 (sth that gives) increased value or excellence <~s to an old house>

**improver** /im'pru:və/ *n*, chiefly Br one who works for low wages in order to gain instruction and experience in a trade or occupation, esp while serving an apprenticeship [IMPROVE + *-ER*]

**improvident** /im'prɒvɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* lacking foresight, not providing for the future [LL *improvident*, *improvidens*, fr L *in-* + *provident-*, *providens* provident] - **improvident** *n*, **improvidently** *adv*

**improvise** /im'prɒvɪz/ *vb* 1 to compose, recite, or perform impromptu or without a set script, musical score, etc 2 to make, devise, or provide (sth) without preparation (from what is conveniently to hand) [F *improviser*, fr It *improvvisare*, fr *improvisso* sudden, fr L *improvisus*, lit., unforeseen, fr *in-* + *provisus*, pp of *providere* to see ahead - more at **PROVIDE**] - **improviser** *n*, **improvisation** /-ˈzayʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **improvisatory** /,imprəvɪˈzeɪtəri/, *im'prɒvɪzətəri*, *imprəˈvɪzeɪtəri* *adj*

**imprudent** /im'pru:d(ə)nt/ *adj* lacking discretion or caution [ME, fr L *imprudens*, *imprudens*, fr *in-* + *prudens*, *prudens* prudent] - **imprudence** *n*, **imprudently** *adv*

**impudent** /im'pyu:d(ə)nt/ *adj* marked by contemptuous or cocky boldness or disregard of others [ME, fr L *impudens*, *impudens*, fr *in-* + *pudens*, *pudens*, prp of *pudere* to feel shame] - **impudence** *n*, **impudently** *adv*

**impugn** /im'pyu:hn/ *vt* to assail by words or arguments, call into question the validity or integrity of [ME *impugnare*, fr MF *impugner*, fr L *impugnare*, fr *in-* + *pugnare* to fight] - **impugnably** *adj*, **impugner** *n* **impulse** /'ɪmpʌls/ *n* 1a (motion produced by) the act of driving onwards with sudden force b a wave of excitation transmitted through a nerve that results in physiological (e.g. muscular) activity or inhibition 2a a force so communicated as to produce motion suddenly b inspiration, stimulus <the creative ~> 3a a sudden spontaneous inclination or incitement to some usu unpremeditated action b a propensity or natural tendency, usu other than rational 4a the change in momentum produced by a (large) force b PULSE 4a [L *impulsus*, fr *impulsus*, pp of *impellere* to impel]

**impulsion** /im'pulʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a impelling or being impelled b an impelling force c an impetus 2 IMPULSE 3

**impulsive** /im'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* 1 having the power of driving or impelling 2

actuated by or prone to act on impulse 3 acting momentarily - **impulsively** *adv*, **impulsiveness** *n*

**impunity** /im'pyu:hnəti/ *n* exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss <trespassing with ~> [MF or L, MF *impunité*, fr L *impunitat-*, *impunitas*, fr *impune* without punishment, fr *in-* + *poena* pain]

**impure** /im'pyu:ə/ *adj* not pure. e.g. a not chaste b containing sth unclean <~ water> c ritually unclean d mixed; esp adulterated [F & L, F, fr L *impurus*, fr *in-* + *purus* pure] - **impurely** *adv*, **impurity** *n*

**impute** /im'pyu:t/ *vt* 1 to lay the responsibility or blame for, often unjustly 2 to credit to a person or a cause; esp to attribute unjustly [ME *imputen*, fr L *imputare*, fr *in-* + *putare* to think, consider - more at **PAVE**] - **imputable** *adj*, **imputative** /-tə'tɪv/ *adj*, **imputation** /im'pyu:tə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**in** /ɪn/ *prep* 1a(1) - used to indicate location within or inside sth three-dimensional <swimming ~ the lake> (2) - used to indicate location within or not beyond limits <~ reach> <~ sight> <wounded ~ the leg> (3) at - used with the names of cities, countries, and seas <~ London> (4) during <~ the summer> <~ 1959> <lost ~ transit> (5) by or before the end of <wrote it ~ a week> <will come ~ an hour> b INTO 1a <went ~ the house> 2a - used to indicate means, instrumentality, or medium of expression <drawn ~ pencil> <written ~ French> <drink your health ~ cider> b - used to describe costume <a child ~ gumboots> <a girl ~ red> 3a - used to indicate qualification, manner, circumstance, or condition <~ fun> <~ public> <~ step> <~ his sleep> <~ a hurry> <~ pain> b so as to be <broke ~ pieces> - compare INTO 1b c - used to indicate occupation or membership <a job ~ insurance> <everyone ~ the team> 4a as regards <equal ~ distance> <weak ~ arithmetic> b by way of <said ~ reply> <the latest thing ~ shoes> 5a - used to indicate division, arrangement, or quantity <standing ~ a circle> <arrived ~ their thousands> b - used to indicate the larger member of a ratio <one ~ six is eligible> <a tax of 40p ~ the £> 6 of an animal pregnant with <~ calf> 7 - used to introduce indirect objects <rejoice ~> or to form adverbial phrases, compare IN FACT, IN RETURN [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *in* in, L *in*, Gk *en*] - in it of advantage (e.g. between competitors or alternatives) <there's not much in it between them> <what's in it for me?>

**in** *adv* 1a to or towards the inside or centre <come ~ out of the rain> b so as to incorporate <mix ~ the flour> c to or towards home, the shore, or one's destination <3 ships came sailing ~> d at a particular place, esp at one's home or business <be ~ for lunch> e into concealment <the sun went ~> 2a so as to be added or included <fit a piece ~> <write a paragraph ~> b in or into political power <voted them ~> c(1) on good terms <~ with the boss> (2) in a position of assured success (3) into a state of efficiency or proficiency <work a horse ~> d in or into vogue or fashion e in or into a centre, esp a central point of control <letters pouring ~> <after harvests are ~> <went ~ to bat> - in for certain to experience <in for trouble> - compare LET IN FOR - in on having a share in

**in** *adj* 1a located inside b being in operation or power <the fire's still ~> c shared by a select group <an ~ joke> 2 directed or serving to direct inwards <the ~ tray> 3 extremely fashionable <the ~ place to go>

**in-** /ɪn-, ɪl-, ɪl-/ *im-* /ɪm-, ɪr-/ *ir-* *prefix* not, non-, un- - usu *il-* before *l* <illogical>, *im-* before *b, m*, or *p* <imbalance> <immoral> <impractical>, *ir-* before *r* <irreducible>, and *in-* before other sounds <inconclusive> [ME, f; MF, fr L; akin to OE *un-*]

**in-, il-, im-, ir-** *prefix* 1 in, within, into; towards, on <influx> <immerse> <irradiance> - usu *il-* before *l*, *im-* before *b, m*, or *p*, *ir-* before *r*, and *in-* before other sounds 2 *in-* <impen> <inspire> [ME, fr MF, fr L, fr *in* in, into]

**in-** /ɪn/ *suffix* (- *n*) chemical compound e.g. a hydrolytic enzyme <pepsin> b antibiotic <streptomycin> c *-ine* <glycerin> [F *-ine*, fr L *-ina*, fem of *-inus* or of belonging to - more at *-EN*]

**in** *comb form* (- *n*) 1 organized public protest by means of or in favour of, demonstration <teach-in> <love-in> 2 public group activity <sing-in> [*in* (as in *sit-in*)]

**inability** /,ɪnə'bɪləti/ *n* lack of sufficient power, resources, or capacity <his ~ to do maths> [ME *inabilitē*, fr MF *inhabilité*, fr *in-* + *habilité* ability]

**in absentia** /,ɪn əb'sentɪə, -ʃɪə/ *adv* in absence [L]

**inaccessible** *adj*

**inaccuracy** /ɪn'ækjʊərəsi/ *n* 1 being inaccurate 2 a mistake, error

**inaccurate** /ɪn'ækjʊərət/ *adj* faulty [*in* + *ACCURATE*] - **inaccurately** *adv*

**inaction** /ɪn'ækʃ(ə)n/ *n* lack of action or activity

**inactive** /ɪn'æktɪv/ *adj* 1 not given to action or effort 2 out of use; not functioning 3 relating to members of the armed forces who are not

performing or available for military duties 4 *of a disease* quiescent 5 chemically or biologically inert, esp because of the loss of some quality – **inactively** *adv*, **inactivate** /-vayt/ *vt*, **inactivity** /-nak'tivati/ *n*

**Inadequate** /in'adikwət/ *adj* not adequate e.g. an insufficient b characteristically unable to cope – **inadequacy** *n*, **inadequately** *adv*, **inadequateness** *n*

**Inadmissible** *adj*

**Inadvertence** /in'advuht(ə)ns/, **inadvertency** /-si/ *n* (a result of) inattention [ML *inadvertentia*, fr L *in-* + *advertent-*, *advertens*, *prp* of *advertere* to advert]

**Inadvertent** /in'advuht(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 heedless, inattentive 2 unintentional [back-formation fr *inadvertence*] – **inadvertently** *adv*

**Inadvisable** *adj*

**-inae** /-inee/ *suffix* (– *n pl*) members of the subfamily of – in all names of zoological subfamilies in recent classifications <Fefinae> [NL *-inae*, fr L, fem pl of *-inus*]

**Inalienable** /in'alyənabl/ *adj* incapable of being alienated [prob fr F *inaliénable*, fr *in-* + *aliénable* alienable] – **inalienably** *adv*, **inalienability** /-nə'biləti/ *n*

**Inamorate** /in'amə'rahta, in'amə-/ *n* a woman with whom one is in love or is having a sexual relationship [It *innamorata*, fr fem of *innamorato*, *pp* of *innamorare* to inspire with love, fr *in-* (fr L) + *amore* love, fr L *amor*, fr *amare* to love]

**Inane** /in'ayn/ *adj* lacking significance, meaning, or point [L *inanis* empty, insubstantial] – **inanely** *adv*, **inaneness**, **inanity** /in'anəti/ *n*

**Inanimate** /in'animat/ *adj* 1 not endowed with life or spirit 2 lacking consciousness or power of motion [LL *inanimatus*, fr L *in-* + *animatus*, *pp* of *animare* to animate] – **inanimately** *adv*, **inanimateness** *n*

**Inanition** /in'ə'nish(ə)n/ *n* 1 the quality of being empty 2 the absence or loss of social, moral, or intellectual vitality or vigour *USE* fml [ME *in-anisioun*, fr ML *inanition-*, *inanitio*, fr *inanitus*, *pp* of *inanire* to make empty, fr *inanis*]

**Inapplicable** *adj*

**Inapposite** *adj*

**Inappreciable** /inə'priesh(yə)bl/ *adj* too small or slight to be perceived [prob fr F *inappreciable*, fr MF *inappreciable*, fr *in-* + *appreciable*] – **inappreciably** *adv*

**Inappropriate** *adj*

**Inapt** /in'apt/ *adj* not suitable or appropriate [IN- + APT] – **inaptness** *n*

**Inaptitude** /in'aptitju:hd/ *n* lack of aptitude

**Inarticulate** /in'ah'tykyoolət/ *adj* 1a not understandable as spoken words <~ cries> b incapable of (being expressed by) speech, esp under stress of emotion 2a not giving or not able to give coherent, clear, or effective expression to one's ideas or feelings b not coherently, clearly, or effectively expressed <an ~ speech> 3 not jointed or hinged [LL *inarticulatus*, fr L *in-* + *articulatus*, *pp* of *articulare* to utter distinctly, (3) NL *inarticulatus*, fr L *in-* + *articulatus* articulate] – **inarticulately** *adv*, **inarticulateness** *n*

**Inartistic** /in'ah'tistik/ *adj* 1 not conforming to the principles of art 2 not appreciative of art – **inartistically** *adv*

**Inasmuch as** /inəz'much əz/ *conj* 1 INsofar AS 2 in view of the fact that; because

**Inattention** /in'stəns(ə)n/ *n* failure to pay attention; disregard

**Inattentive** *adj*

**Inaudible** *adj*

**Inaugural** /in'awgyoorəl/ *adj* marking a beginning; first in a projected series [F, fr *inaugurare* to inaugurate, fr L *inaugurare*]

**Inaugural** *n* an address at inauguration

**Inaugurate** /in'awgyoorayt/ *vt* 1 to induct ceremonially into office 2 to observe formally, or bring about, the beginning of [L *inauguratus*, *pp* of *inaugurare*, lit., to practise augury, fr *in-* + *augurare* to augur; fr the rites connected with augury] – **inaugurator** *n*, **inauguration** /-awgyoo'raysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Inauguration Day** *n* January 20 following a presidential election, on which the president of the USA is inaugurated

**Inauspicious** *adj*

**In between** *adv* or *prep* between – **in-between** *adj*

**Inboard** /in'bawd/ *adv* 1 towards the centre line of a vessel 2 in a position closer or closest to the long axis of an aircraft – **inboard** /in'bawd, '-:/ *adj*

**Inborn** /-bawn/ *adj* 1 born in or with one; forming part of one's natural make-up 2 hereditary, inherited

**Inbred** /-bred/ *adj* 1 rooted and deeply ingrained in one's nature 2 subjected to or produced by inbreeding

**Inbreeding** /-breeding/ *n* 1 the interbreeding of closely related individuals, esp to preserve and fix desirable characters 2 confinement to a narrow range or a local or limited field of choice – **inbreed** *vt*, **inbreeder** *n*

**Inbuilt** /-bilt/ *adj* built-in; esp inherent

**Inca** /'ingka/ *n* 1 a king or member of the ruling family of an empire existing in Peru before the Spanish conquest 2 a member of the Quechuan peoples inhabiting the Inca empire [Sp, fr Quechua *inka* king, prince] – **Incan** *adj*, **Incaic** /'ing'kayik/ *adj*

**Incalculable** /in'kalkyooləbl/ *adj* 1 too large or numerous to be calculated 2 unpredictable, uncertain – **incalculably** *adv*, **incalculability** /-lə'biləti/ *n*

**In camera** *adv* in private [NL, lit. in a chamber]

**Incandescent** /'inkan'des(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a white, glowing, or luminous with intense heat b strikingly bright, radiant, or clear 2 of or being visible light produced by a (white) hot body [prob fr F, fr L *incandescent-*, *incandescens*, *prp* of *incandescere* to become hot, fr *in-* + *candescere* to become hot, fr *candere* to glow – more at CANDID] – **incandescence** *vb*, **incandescence** *n*, **incandescently** *adv*

**Incandescent lamp** *n* an electric lamp in which an electrically-heated filament gives off light

**Incantation** /'inkan'taysh(ə)n/ *n* the use of spoken or sung spells in magic ritual, also a formula so used [ME *incantacioun*, fr MF *incantation*, fr LL *incantation-*, *incantatio*, fr L *incantatus*, *pp* of *incantare* to enchant – more at ENCHANT] – **incantatory** /in'kantə(ə)n/ *adj*

**Incapable** /in'kaypəbl/ *adj* lacking capacity, ability, or qualification for the purpose or end in view e.g. a not in a state or of a kind to admit of b not able or fit for the doing or performance of [MF, fr *in-* + *capable*] – **incapableness** *n*, **incapably** *adv*, **incapability** /-pə'biləti/ *n*

**Incapacitate** /'inkə'pasitayt/ *vt* 1 to deprive of capacity or natural power; disable 2 to disqualify legally – **incapacitation** /-tə'raysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Incapacity** /'inkə'pasəti/ *n* lack of ability or power or of natural or legal qualifications [F *incapacité*, fr MF, fr *in-* + *capacite* capacity]

**Incarcerate** /in'kəhsərayt/ *vt* to imprison, confine [L *incarceratus*, *pp* of *incarcerare*, fr *in-* + *carcer* prison] – **incarceration** /-tə'raysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Incardine** /in'kəhndien/ *adj* 1 flesh-coloured 2 blood red *USE* poetic [MF *incardin*, fr OIt *incardinato*, fr *incurnato* flesh-coloured, fr LL *incarnatus*]

**Incardine** *vt* to make incarnadine

**Incarinate** /in'kəhnat, -nayt/ *adj* 1 invested with bodily, esp human, nature and form 2 that is the essence of, typified <evil ~> [ME *incarnat*, fr LL *incarnatus*, *pp* of *incarnare* to incarnate, fr L *in-* + *carne*, *caro* flesh – more at CARNAL]

**Incarinate** /in'kəh'nayt/ *vt* to make incarnate

**Incarnation** /'inkəh'naysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 making or being incarnate 2a(1) the embodiment of a deity or spirit in an earthly form (2) *cap* Christ's human manifestation b a quality or concept typified or made concrete, esp in a person 3 any of several successive bodily manifestations or lives

**Incendiary** /in'sendiyəri/ *n* 1a one who deliberately sets fire to property b an incendiary agent (e.g. a bomb) 2 one who inflames or stirs up factions, quarrels, or sedition [L *incendarius*, fr *incendium* conflagration, fr *incendere*] – **incendiarism** /-rɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**Incendiary** *adj* 1 of the deliberate burning of property 2 tending to inflame or stir up trouble 3 (of, being, or involving the use of a missile containing a chemical) that ignites spontaneously on contact

**Incense** /'insens/ *n* 1 material used to produce a fragrant smell when burned 2 the perfume given off by some spices and gums when burned; broadly a pleasing scent [ME *encens*, fr OF, fr LL *incensum*, fr L, neut of *incensum*, *pp* of *incendere* to set on fire, fr *in-* + *cendere* to burn; akin to L *candere* to glow – more at CANDID]

**Incense** /in'sens/ *vt* to arouse the extreme anger or indignation of [ME *encensen*, fr MF *incenser*, fr L *incensus*]

**Incentive** /in'sentiv/ *n* sth that motivates or spurs one on (e.g. to action or effort) [ME, fr LL *incentivum*, fr neut of *incentivus* stimulating, fr L, setting the tune, fr *incensus*, *pp* of *incinere* to set the tune, fr *in-* + *canere* to sing – more at CHANT] – **incentive** *adj*

**Incept** /in'sept/ *vt* to take in; esp to ingest [L *in-* + *-ceptus*, fr *captus*, *pp* of *capere* to take] – **inceptor** *n*

**Inception** /in'seph(ə)n/ *n* an act, process, or instance of beginning [L *inception-*, *inceptio*, fr *inceptus*, *pp* of *incipere* to begin, fr *in-* + *capere* to take – more at HEAVE]


**Inceptive** /in'septiv/ *adj* inchoative – **inceptive** *n*, **inceptively** *adv*

**Incertitude** /in'suhtitju:hd/ *n* uncertainty, doubt [MF, fr LL *incertitudo*, fr L *in-* + LL *certitudo* certitude]

**incessant** /in'ses(ə)nt/ *adj* continuing without interruption [ME *incessant*, fr LL *incessant-*, *incessans*, fr L *in-* + *cessant-*, *cessans*, prp of *cessare* to delay – more at *CEASE*] – **incessantly** *adv*

**incest** /'insest/ *n* sexual intercourse between people so closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry [ME, fr L *incestum*, fr neut of *incestus* impure, fr *in-* + *castus* pure – more at *CASTE*]

**incestuous** /in'sestyoos/ *adj* 1 being, guilty of, or involving incest 2 unhealthily closed to outside influences – **incestuously** *adv*, **incestuousness** *n*

**inch** /'ɪnʃ/ *n* 1 a unit of length equal to 1/16 yd (about 25.4 mm)  2 a small amount, distance, or degree 3 *pl* stature, height 4 a fall of rain, snow, etc enough to cover a surface to the depth of 1 in [ME, fr OE *ynce*, fr L *uncia* twelfth part, ounce, inch – more at *OUNCE*] – **every inch** to the utmost degree (looks every inch a winner) – **within an inch of one's life** very thoroughly, soundly (thrashed him within an inch of his life)

**inch** *vb* to move by small degrees

**inch** *n*, chiefly Scot an island – usu in place-names [ME, fr ScGael *innis*]

**inchoate** /'ɪnkoh-əyt/ *adj* only partly in existence or operation, esp imperfectly formed or formulated (an ~ longing) – *fml* [L *inchoatus*, pp of *inchoare*, lit, to hitch up, fr *in-* + *cohūm* strap fastening a plough beam to the yoke] – **inchoately** *adv*, **inchoateness** *n*

**inchoative** /'ɪnkoh-ə-tiv/ *adj*, of a verb denoting the beginning of an action or state – **inchoative** *n*, **inchoatively** *adv*

**inchworm** /'ɪnʃ,wu:m/ *n* a rather small hairless caterpillar that is the larva of a moth, specif a geometrid moth, and moves with a looping movement

**incidence** /'ɪnsɪd(ə)ns/ *n* 1a an occurrence b the rate of occurrence or influence (a high ~ of crime) 2 the meeting of sthg (e.g. a projectile or a ray of light) with a surface

**incident** /'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt/ *n* 1 an occurrence of an action or situation that is a separate unit of experience 2 an occurrence that is a cause of conflict or disagreement (a serious border ~) 3 an event occurring as part of a series or as dependent on or subordinate to sthg else [ME, fr MF, fr ML *incident-*, *incidens*, fr L, prp of *incidere* to fall into, fr *in-* + *cadere* to fall – more at *CHANCE*]

**incident** *adj* 1 that is a usual accompaniment or consequence (the confusion ~ to moving house) 2 dependent on another thing in law 3 falling or striking on sthg (~ light rays)

**incidental** /'ɪnsɪd(ə)ntl/ *adj* 1 occurring merely by chance 2 likely to ensue as a chance or minor consequence

**incidental** *n* 1 sthg incidental 2 *pl* minor items (e.g. of expenses)

**incidentally** /'ɪnsɪd(ə)ntli/ *adv* 1 by chance 2 BY THE WAY

**incidental music** *n* descriptive music played during a play to project a mood or to accompany stage action

**incinerate** /'ɪnsɪnəreɪt/ *vt* to cause to burn to ashes [ML *incineratus*, pp of *incinerare*, fr L *in-* + *ciner-*, *cinis* ashes, akin to Gk *konis* dust, ashes] – **incineration** /-ˈreɪʃən/ *n*

**incinerator** /'ɪnsɪnəreɪtə/ *n* a furnace or container for incinerating waste materials [INCINERATE + -OR]


**incipient** /'ɪnɪpi-ənt/ *adj* beginning to come into being or to become apparent [L *incipient-*, *incipiens*, prp of *incipere* to begin – more at *INCEPTION*] – **incipience**, **incipiency** *n*, **incipiently** *adv*

**incise** /'ɪn'si:z/ *vt* 1 to cut into 2a to carve letters, figures, etc into, engrave b to carve (e.g. an inscription) into a surface [MF or L, MF *inciser*, fr L *incisus*, pp of *incidere*, fr *in-* + *caedere* to cut – more at *CONCISE*]

**incised** *adj*, of a wound (as if) made with a sharp knife

**incision** /'ɪn'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a (marginal) notch b a cut or gash (a ~ on one's face) made, esp in surgery, into the body 2 an incising

**incisive** /'ɪn'si:sv/ *adj* impressively direct and decisive (e.g. in manner or presentation) – **incisively** *adv*, **incisiveness** *n*

**incisor** /'ɪn'si:zə/ *n* a cutting tooth; specif any of the cutting teeth in mammals in front of the canines  DIGESTION

**incite** /'ɪn'si:t/ *vt* to move to action; stir up [MF *inciter*, fr L *incitare*, fr *in-* + *citare* to put in motion – more at *CITE*] – **inciter** *n*, **incitement**, **incitation** /'ɪn'si:təʃən/ *n*

**incivility** /'ɪn'sɪvɪlɪti/ *n* 1 being uncivil 2 a rude or discourteous act [MF *incivilité*, fr LL *incivilitas*, *incivilitas*, fr *incivilis*, fr L *in-* + *civilis* civil]

**inclement** /'ɪn'klemənt/ *adj* physically severe; stormy [L *inclement-*, *inclemens*, fr *in-* + *clement-*, *clemens* clement] – **inclementy** *n*, **inclemently** *adv*

**inclination** /'ɪnklɪˈnəʃən/ *n* 1a a bow, nod b a tilting of sthg 2 a

particular tendency or propensity; esp a liking 3a (the degree of) a deviation from the vertical or horizontal b a slope c the angle between 2 lines or planes (the ~ of 2 rays of light) ['INCLINE + -ATION] – **inclinational** *adj*

**incline** /'ɪn'kli:n/ *vb* 1 to (cause to) lean, tend, or become drawn towards an opinion or course of conduct 2 to (cause to) deviate or move from a line, direction, or course, esp from the vertical or horizontal [ME *inclinen*, fr MF *incliner*, fr L *inclinare*, fr *in-* + *clinare* to lean – more at *LEAN*]

**incline** /'ɪn'kli:n/ *n* an inclined surface, a slope

**inclined plane** *n* a plane surface that makes an angle with the plane of the horizon

**inclinometer** /'ɪnklɪˈnɒmɪtə/ *n* 1 an apparatus for determining the direction of the earth's magnetic field with reference to the plane of the horizon 2 an instrument for indicating the inclination to the horizontal of an axis of a ship or aircraft

**inclose** /'ɪn'kloʊz/ *vt* to enclose – **inclosure** /-zə/ *n*

**include** /'ɪn'kloʊd/ *vt* 1 to contain, enclose 2 to take in or comprise as a part of a larger group, set, or principle [ME *includen*, fr L *includere*, fr *in-* + *cludere* to close – more at *CLOSE*] – **includable**, **includible** *adj*

**inclusion** /'ɪn'kloʊzh(ə)n/ *n* 1 including or being included 2 sthg included e.g. a gaseous, liquid, or solid foreign body enclosed in a mass, esp a mineral b sthg (e.g. a starch grain) taken up by, or stored within, a living cell [L *inclusion-*, *inclusio*, fr *inclusus*, pp of *includere*]

**inclusive** /'ɪn'kloʊsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1a broad in orientation or scope b covering or intended to cover all or the specified items, costs, or services (~ of VAT) 2 including the stated limits or extremes (Monday to Friday ~) – **inclusively** *adv*, **inclusiveness** *n*

**inclusive disjunction** *n* a complex sentence in logic that is true when either or both of its constituent sentences are true

**incognito** /'ɪn'kɒg'nɛtoh/ *adv* or *adj* with one's identity concealed [It, fr L *incognitus* unknown, fr *in-* + *cognitus*, pp of *cognoscere* to know – more at *COGNITION*]

**incognito** *n*, *pl* **incognitos** the state or disguise of one who is incognito

**incognizant** /'ɪn'kɒgnɪz(ə)nt/ *adj* lacking awareness or consciousness of – **incognizance** *n*

**incoherent** /'ɪnkoh'hɪərənt/ *adj* lacking in logical connection or clarity of expression, unintelligible ['IN- + *COHERENT*] – **incoherence**, **incoherency** *n*, **incoherently** *adv*

**incombustible** /'ɪnkəm'bʌstəbl/ *adj* incapable of being ignited or burned [ME, prob fr MF, fr *in-* + *combustible*] – **incombustibility** /-bɪlə'ti/ *n*

**income** /'ɪnkʊm, 'ɪnkəm/ *n* 1a coming in, an input, influx 2 (the amount of) a usu periodic gain or recurrent benefit usu measured in money that derives from one's work, property, or investment

**income tax** *n* a tax on income

**incoming** /'ɪn'kʊmɪŋ/ *n* 1a coming in, arrival 2 *pl* **INCOME** 2

**incoming** *adj* 1 arriving or coming in (an ~ ship) (the ~ tide) 2 just starting, beginning, or succeeding (the ~ president)

**incommensurable** /'ɪnkə'mensə(r)əbl/ *adj* lacking a common basis of comparison in respect to a quality normally subject to comparison; incapable of being compared ['IN- + *COMMENSURABLE*] – **incommensurably** *adv*, **incommensurability** /-rə'bɪlə'ti/ *n*

**incommensurate** /'ɪnkə'menshərət/ *adj* not adequate (in proportion) – **incommensurately** *adv*

**incommod** /'ɪnkə'mɒhd/ *vt* to inconvenience, trouble – *fml* [MF *incommoder*, fr L *incommodare*, fr *incommodus* inconvenient, fr *in-* + *commodus* convenient – more at *COMMODE*]

**incommodious** /'ɪnkə'mɒdi-əs/ *adj* inconvenient or uncomfortable, esp because of being too small – *fml* ['IN- + *COMMODIOUS*] – **incommodiously** *adv*, **incommodiousness** *n*

**incommunicado** /'ɪnkə'myoʊhni'kahdoh/ *adv* or *adj* without means of communication; also in solitary confinement [Sp *incomunicado*, fr pp of *incomunicar* to deprive of communication, fr *in-* (fr L) + *comunicar* to communicate, fr L *communicare*]

**incommutable** /'ɪnkə'myoʊhəbəl/ *adj* 1 not interchangeable 2 unchangeable [ME, fr L *incommutabilis*, fr *in-* + *commutabilis* commutable] – **incommutably** *adv*

**incomparable** /'ɪn'kɒmp(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 matchless 2 not suitable for comparison [ME, fr MF, fr L *incomparabilis*, fr *in-* + *comparabilis* comparable] – **incomparableness** *n*, **incomparably** *adv*, **incomparability** /-rə'bɪlə'ti/ *n*

**incompatible** /'ɪnkəm'pətbəl/ *adj* 1 (incapable of association because)

incongruous, discordant, or disagreeing 2 unsuitable for use together because of undesirable chemical or physiological effects (< ~ drugs) [MF & ML, MF, fr ML *incompatibilis*, fr L *in-* + ML *compatibilis* compatible] – incompatibly *adv*, incompatibility /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*

**incompetent** /in'kɒmpɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 lacking the qualities needed for effective action 2 not legally qualified (<an ~ witness>) 3 inadequate to or unsuitable for a particular purpose [MF *incompetent*, fr *in-* + *compétent* competent] – incompetence, incompetency *n*, incompetent *n*, incompetently *adv*

**incomplete** /in'kɒmpleet/ *adj* 1 unfinished 2 lacking a part [ME *incomplete*, fr LL *incompletus*, fr L *in-* + *completus* complete] – incompletely *adv*, incompleteness *n*

**incomprehensible** /in'kɒmpri'hensəbl, -r-/-/ *adj* impossible to comprehend or understand [ME, fr L *incomprehensibilis*, fr *in-* + *comprehensibilis* comprehensible] – incomprehensibility *n*, incomprehensibly *adv*, incomprehensibility /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*

**incomprehension** /in'kɒmpri'hens(ə)n/ *n* lack of comprehension or understanding

**incompressible** /in'kɒmpresəbl/ *adj* resistant to compression – incompressibly *adv*, incompressibility /-presə'bɪləti/ *n*

**inconceivable** /in'kɒn'si:vəbl/ *adj* 1 beyond comprehension, unimaginable 2 unbelievable ['in- + CONCEIVABLE] – inconceivableness *n*, inconceivably *adv*, inconceivability /-və'bɪləti/ *n*

**inconclusive** /in'kɒn'klooʃɪv/ *adj* leading to no conclusion or definite result – inconclusively *adv*, inconclusiveness *n*

**incongruous** /in'kɒŋ'gru:əs/ *adj* out of place, discordant or disagreeing [LL *incongruus*, fr L *in-* + *congruus* congruous] – incongruously *adv*, incongruousness, incongruity /in'kɒŋ'gru:əti/ *n*

**inconsequent** /in'kɒnsɪkwənt/ *adj* 1 lacking reasonable sequence, illogical 2 irrelevant [LL *inconsequent*, *inconsequens*, fr L *in-* + *consequent*, *consequens* consequent] – Inconsequence *n*, inconsequently *adv*

**inconsequential** /in'kɒnsɪ'kwɛnʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 irrelevant 2 of no significance – inconsequentially *adv*, inconsequentiality /-ʃɪ'ələti/ *n*

**inconsiderable** /in'kɒn'sɪd(ə)rəbl/ *adj* trivial (<exercised no ~ influence> [MF, fr *in-* + *considerable*, fr ML *considerabilis* considerable] – inconsiderableness *n*, inconsiderably *adv*

**inconsiderate** /in'kɒn'sɪd(ə)rət/ *adj* careless of the rights or feelings of others, thoughtless [L *inconsideratus*, fr *in-* + *consideratus* considerate] – inconsiderately *adv*, inconsiderateness, inconsideration /-sɪdə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**inconsistent** /in'kɒn'sɪst(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 not compatible, containing incompatible elements (<an ~ argument>) 2 not consistent or logical in thought or actions – inconsistency, inconsistency *n*, inconsistently *adv*

**inconsolable** /in'kɒn'sɒləbl/ *adj* incapable of being consoled, broken-hearted [L *inconsolabilis*, fr *in-* + *consolabilis* consolable] – inconsolably *adv*

**inconsonant** /in'kɒns(ə)nənt/ *adj* not harmonious ['in- + 'CONSONANT] – inconsonance *n*

**inconspicuous** /in'kɒn'spɪkyoo:əs/ *adj* not readily noticeable [L *inconspicuus*, fr *in-* + *conspicuus* conspicuous] – inconspicuously *adv*, inconspicuousness *n*

**inconstant** /in'kɒnst(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 likely to change frequently without apparent reason 2 unfaithful (<an ~ lover>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *inconstant*, *inconstans*, fr *in-* + *constant*, *constans* constant] – Inconstancy *n*, inconstantly *adv*

**incontestable** /in'kɒn'testəbl/ *adj* not contestable, indisputable (<~ proof>) [F, fr *in-* + *contestable*, fr *contestar* to contest] – incontestably *adv*, incontestability /-bɪləti/ *n*

**incontinent** /in'kɒntɪnənt/ *adj* 1 lacking self-restraint (e.g. in sexual appetite) 2 suffering from lack of control of urination or defecation 3 not under control or restraint [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *incontinent*, *incontinens*, fr *in-* + *continent*, *continens* continent] – Incontinence *n*, incontinently *adv*

**incontrovertible** /in'kɒntrə'vʊtəbl, in'kɒn-/ *adj* indisputable – Incontrovertibly *adv*

**inconvenience** /in'kɒn'veenyəns, -ni:əns/ *vt* or *n* (to subject to) difficulty or discomfort or sth that is inconvenient

**inconvenient** /in'kɒn'veenyənt, -ni:ənt/ *adj* not convenient, esp in causing difficulty, discomfort, or annoyance [ME, fr MF, fr L *inconvenient*, *inconveniens*, fr *in-* + *convenient*, *conveniens* convenient] – Inconveniently *adv*

**inconvertible** /in'kɒn'vʊtəbl/ *adj*, of a currency not exchangeable for a foreign currency – Inconvertibly *adv*, inconvertibility /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**Incoordination** /in'kɒh,awdi'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* lack of (muscular) coordination

**incorporate** /in'kawpəreɪt/ *vt* 1a to unite thoroughly with or work indistinguishably into sthg b to admit to membership in a corporate body 2a to combine thoroughly to form a consistent whole b to form into a legal corporation ~ *vi* 1 to unite in or as 1 body 2 to form a legal corporation [ME *incorporaten*, fr LL *incorporatus*, pp of *incorporare*, fr L *in-* + *corpor*, *corpus* body] – incorporator *n*, incorporable /-rəbl/ *adj*, incorporation /-reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**incorporated also incorporate** *adj* 1 united in 1 body 2 formed into a legal corporation – compare LIMITED COMPANY

**incorporeal** /in'kaw'pɔəriəl/ *adj* 1 having no material body or form 2 based upon property (e.g. bonds or patents) which has no intrinsic value [L *incorporeus*, fr *in-* + *corporeus* corporeal] – incorporeally *adv*, incorporeity /in'kaw'pɔəriəti, in'kaw-, -ree əti/ *n*

**incorrect** /in'kɒ'rekt/ *adj* 1 inaccurate factually wrong 2 not in accordance with an established norm, improper [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *incorrectus*, fr *in-* + *correctus* correct] – incorrectly *adv*, incorrectness *n*

**incorrigible** /in'kɒrɪjəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being corrected or amended, esp incurably bad 2 unwilling or unlikely to change [ME, fr LL *incorrigibilis*, fr L *in-* + *corrige* to correct more at CORRECT] – incorrigibly *adv*, incorrigibility /-rɪjə'bɪləti/ also incorrigibleness *n*

**incorruptible** /in'kɒ'rʊptəbl/ *adj* 1 not subject to decay or dissolution 2 incapable of being bribed or morally corrupted ['in- + CORRUPTIBLE] – incorruptibly *adv*, incorruptibility /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**increase** /in'kri:s/ *vi* 1 to become progressively greater (e.g. in size, amount, quality, number, or intensity) 2 to multiply by the production of young ~ *vt* to make greater [ME *encresen*, fr MF *encresire*, fr I *increscere*, fr *in-* + *crecere* to grow – more at CREMENT] – increaseable *adj*, increasingly *adv*

**increase** /in'kri:s/ *n* 1 (an) addition or enlargement in size, extent, quantity, etc 2 sthg (e.g. offspring, produce or profit) added to an original stock by addition or growth

**incredible** /in'kredəbl/ *adj* 1 too extraordinary and improbable to be believed, also hard to believe 2 – used as a generalized term of approval [ME, fr L *incredibilis*, fr *in-* + *credibilis* credible] – incredibly *adv*, incredibility /-də'bɪləti/ *n*

**incredulous** /in'kredyooʊləs/ *adj* 1 unwilling to admit or accept what is offered as true 2 expressing disbelief [L *incredulus*, fr *in-* + *credulus* credulous] – incredulously *adv*, incredulity /in'kri'dyooʊləti/ *n*

**increment** /'ɪŋkrɪmənt, in-/ *n* 1 (the amount of) an increase, esp in quantity or value 2a any of a series of regular consecutive additions b a minute increase in the value of a variable (e.g. velocity) ~ *SYMBOL* 3 a regular increase in pay resulting from an additional year's service [ME, fr L *incrementum*, fr *increscere*] – incremental /-mentl/ *adj*, incrementally *adv*

**incriminate** /in'krɪmɪnəɪt/ *vt* to involve in or demonstrate involvement in a crime or fault [LL *incriminatus*, pp of *incriminare*, fr L *in-* + *crimen*, *crimen* crime] – incriminatory /-nətri/ *adj*, incrimination /-naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**incrust** /in'krʊst/ *vb* to encrust

**incrustation** /in'krʊstəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 encrusting or being encrusted 2 (a growth or accumulation resembling) a crust or hard coating [L *incrustatio*, *incrustatio*, fr *incrustus*, pp of *incrutare* to encrust]

**incubate** /'ɪŋkyooəbət, 'in-/ *vt* 1 to sit on so as to hatch (eggs) by the warmth of the body, also to maintain (e.g. an embryo or a chemically active system) under conditions favourable for hatching, development, or reaction 2 to cause (e.g. an idea) to develop ~ *vi* 1 to sit on eggs 2 to undergo incubation [L *incubatus*, pp of *incubare*, fr *in-* + *cubare* to lie – more at 'HIP] – incubative /-baɪtɪv/, incubatory /'ɪŋkyoo,bəɪtəri, -bətri, 'in-/ *adj*

**incubation** /'ɪŋkyoo'bəɪʃ(ə)n, -ɪn-/ *n* 1 incubating 2 the period between infection by a disease-causing agent and the manifestation of the disease

**incubator** /'ɪŋkyoo,bəɪtə, 'in-/ *n* 1 an apparatus in which eggs are hatched artificially 2 an apparatus that maintains controlled conditions, esp for the housing of premature or sick babies or the cultivation of microorganisms [INCUBATE + '-OR]

**incubus** /'ɪŋkyooəbəs, 'in-/ *n*, *pl* incubuses, incubi /-bi: 1 a male demon believed to have sexual intercourse with women in their sleep – compare succubus 2 (one who or that which oppresses or burdens like) a nightmare [ME, fr LL, fr L *incubare*]

**incubate** /'ɪŋkʊləɪt/ *vt* to teach or instil by frequent repetition or warning (<~d a sense of social responsibility in her children>) <students

- ~d with a desire for knowledge) [L *incolatus*, pp of *incolare*, lit. to tread on, fr *in-* + *calcare* to trample, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel] – *incolator* *n*, *incolation* /ˌɪnˈkʊlˌeɪʃən/ *n*
- inculpable** /ˌɪnˈkʊlpəbəl/ *adj* free from guilt
- inculpate** /ˌɪnˈkʊlpəti/ *vt* to incriminate [LL *incolpatus*, fr L *in-* + *culpatus*, pp of *culpāre* to blame – more at **CULPABLE**] – *inculpatory* /ˌɪnˈkʊlpət(ə)ri/ *adj*, *inculpation* /ˌɪnˈkʊlpəʃən/ *n*
- incumbency** /ˌɪnˈkʊmb(ə)nsi/ *n* the sphere of action or period of office of an incumbent
- incumbent** /ˌɪnˈkʊmb(ə)nt/ *n* the holder of an office or Anglican benefice [ME, fr L *incumbent-*, *incumbens*, prp of *incumbere* to lie down on, fr *in-* + *cumbere* to lie down; akin to L *cubare* to lie – more at **³HUP**]
- incumbent** *adj* 1 imposed as a duty or obligation – usu + *on* or *upon* 2 occupying a specified office (*the ~ caretaker*)
- incunable** /ˌɪnˈkyoʊnəbəl/ *n* an incunabulum [F, fr NL *incunabulum*]
- incunabulum** /ˌɪnkyooˈnabyooləm/ *n*, *pl* *incunabula* /-lə/ 1 a book printed before 1501 2 an artefact from an early period [NL, fr L *incunabula*, *pl*, swaddling clothes, cradle, source, fr *in-* + *cunae* cradle – more at **CEMETERY**]
- incur** /ˌɪnˈkuh/ *vt* -rr- to become liable or subject to, bring upon oneself (*she ~ red several debts*) [L *incurrere*, lit. to run into, fr *in-* + *currere* to run – more at **CURRENT**] – *incurable* *adj*, *incurrence* *n*
- incurable** *adj*
- incurious** /ˌɪnˈkyooən-əs/ *adj* lacking a normal or usual curiosity (*a blank ~ stare*) [L *incuriosus*, fr *in-* + *curiosus* curious] – *incuriously* *adv*, *incuriosity* /-kyooənˈoʊsi/ *n*
- incursion** /ˌɪnˈkʊʃən/ *n* an unexpected or sudden usu brief invasion or entrance, esp into another's territory [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *incursio*, *incursio*, fr *incursus*, pp of *incurrere*] – *incursive* /-siv/ *adj*
- incus** /ˈɪŋkəs/ *n*, *pl* *incudes* /ˌɪnˈkyooʊdɛz/ the middle bone of a chain of 3 small bones in the ear of a mammal, the anvil – **NERVE** [NL, fr L, anvil, fr *incudere*]
- incuse** /ˌɪnˈkyooʊz/ *adj*, esp of (*designs on*) old coins formed by stamping or punching in [L *incusus*, pp of *incudere* to stamp, strike, fr *in-* + *cudere* to beat – more at **HEW**]
- ind-, indi-, indo-** *comb form* (resembling) indigo <indole> [ISV, fr L *indicum* – more at **INDIGO**]
- Ind-, Indo-** *comb form* 1 Indian <Indo-*British*>; Indian and <Indo-*African*> 2 Indo-European <Indo-*Hittite*> [Gk, fr *Indos* India]
- indaba** /ˌɪnˈdɑbə/ *n*, chiefly SA fr a conference, parley [Zulu *in-daba* affair]
- indebted** /ˌɪnˈdɛtɪd/ *adj* 1 owing money 2 owing gratitude or recognition to another [ME *indetted*, fr OF *endeté*, pp of *endetere* to involve in debt, fr *en-* + *dete* debt] – *indebtedness* *n*
- indecent** /ˌɪnˈdiːs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 hardly suitable, unseemly (*he remarried with ~ haste*) 2 morally offensive [MF or L, MF *indecent*, fr L *indecent-*, *indecentis*, fr *in-* + *decent-*, *decentis* decent] – *indecently* *n*, *indecently* *adv*
- indecent assault** *n* a sexual assault exclusive of rape
- indecent exposure** *n* intentional public exposure of part of one's body (eg the genitals) in violation of generally accepted standards of decency
- indecision** /ˌɪnˈdiːʒ(ə)ns/ *n* a wavering between 2 or more possible courses of action [F *indécision*, fr *indécis* undecided, fr LL *indecisus*, fr L *in-* + *decisus*, pp of *decidere* to decide]
- indecisive** /ˌɪnˈdiːsɪv/ *adj* 1 giving an uncertain result (*an ~ battle*) 2 marked by or prone to indecision – *indecisively* *adv*, *indecisiveness* *n*
- indeclinable** /ˌɪnˈdiːkɪnəbəl/ *adj* having no grammatical inflections [MF, fr LL *indeclinabilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *declinabilis* capable of being inflected, fr L *declinare* to inflect – more at **DECLINE**]
- indecorous** *adj*
- indecorum** /ˌɪnˈdiːkəwəm/ *n* impropriety [L, neut of *indecorus* improper, fr *in-* + *decorus* proper]
- indeed** /ˌɪnˈdiːd/ *adv* 1 without any question; truly (*it is ~ remarkable*) – often used in agreement (*~ I will*) 2 – used for emphasis after very and an adjective or adverb (*very cold ~*) 3 in point of fact; actually (*I don't mind; ~, I'm pleased*) (*if ~ they come at all*) 4 – expressing irony, disbelief, or surprise (*she wants to marry him. "Indeed?" "Does she ~?"*) [ME *in dede*, fr *in* + *dede* deed]
- indefatigable** /ˌɪnˈdiːfətiɡəbəl/ *adj* tireless [MF, fr L *indefatigabilis*, fr *in-* + *defatigare* to fatigue, fr *de* down + *fatigare* to fatigue] – *indefatigably* *adv*, *indefatigability* /-ɡəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- indefeasible** /ˌɪnˈfiːzəbəl/ *adj* not capable of being annulled or forfeited (*an ~ right*) – *indefeasibly* *adv*, *indefeasibility* /-zəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- indefensible** /ˌɪnˈfɛnsəbəl/ *adj* incapable of being defended or justified – *indefensibly* *adv*, *indefensibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- indefinable** /ˌɪnˈdiːfɛnəbəl/ *adj* incapable of being precisely described or analysed – *indefinable* *n*, *indefinably* *adv*
- indefinite** /ˌɪnˈdɛfɪt/ *adj* 1 designating an unidentified or not immediately identifiable person or thing (*the ~ articles a and an*) 2 not precise, vague 3 having no exact limits [L *indefinitus*, fr *in-* + *definitus* definite] – *indefinite* *n*, *indefinitely* *adv*, *indefiniteness* *n*
- indefinite integral** *n* a function whose derivative is a given function – **SYMBOL**
- indehiscent** /ˌɪnˈdɪh(ə)s(ə)nt/ *adj* remaining closed at maturity (*~ fruits*) – *indehiscence* *n*
- indelible** /ˌɪnˈdɛləbəl/ *adj* (making marks difficult to remove or) incapable of being removed or erased [ML *indelibilis*, alter. of L *indelebilis*, fr *in-* + *delere* to delete] – *indelibly* *adv*, *indelibility* /-ləˈbɪləti/ *n*
- indelicat** /ˌɪnˈdɛləkət/ *adj* offensive to good manners or refined taste [*IN-* + *DELICATE*] – *indelicacy* *n*, *indelically* *adv*
- indemnify** /ˌɪnˈdɛmnɪf/ *vt* 1 to secure against harm, loss, or damage 2 to make compensation to for incurred harm, loss, or damage [L *indemnus* unharmed, fr *in-* + *damnum* damage] – *indemnification* /-fɪˈkæʃən/ *n*
- indemnity** /ˌɪnˈdɛmnəti/ *n* security against harm, loss, or damage [ME *indempnyte*, fr MF *indemnité*, fr L *indemnitas*, *indemnitas*, fr *indemnis*]
- indemonstrable** /ˌɪnˈdɪmənstrəbəl/ *adj* not subject to proof [*IN-* + *DEMONSTRABILE*] – *indemonstrably* *adv*
- indent** /ˌɪndɛnt/ *vt* 1a to cut or divide (a document) to produce sections with edges that can be matched for authentication b to draw up (eg a deed) in 2 or more exact copies 2 to notch the edge of 3 to set (eg a line of a paragraph) in from the margin 4 chiefly Br to requisition officially ~ *vi* 1 to form an indentation 2 chiefly Br to make out an official requisition [ME *indenten*, fr MF *endenter*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *dent* tooth, fr L *dent-*, *dens* – more at **TOOTH**] – *indenter* *n*
- ²indent** /ˌɪndɛnt/ *n* 1 an indentation 2 an indentation 3 chiefly Br an official requisition
- ³indent** /-/ *vt* (to force inwards so as) to form a depression in [ME *indenten*, fr *en-* + *dentem* to dent] – *indenter* *n*
- ⁴indent** /-/ *n* (an) indentation
- indentation** /ˌɪndɛntəˈʃən/ *n* 1a an angular cut in an edge b a usu deep recess (eg in a coastline) 2 indentation
- indention** /ˌɪndɛnʃ(ə)ns/ *n* 1 indenting or being indented 2 the blank space produced by indenting
- indenture** /ˌɪndɛnʃə/ *n* 1a an indented document b a contract binding sb to work for another – usu pl with sing meaning 2a a formal certificate (eg in inventory or voucher) prepared for purposes of control b a document stating the terms under which a security (eg a bond) is issued
- ²indenture** *vt* to bind (eg an apprentice) by indentures
- independence** /ˌɪnˈdɛp(ə)ns/ *n* being independent
- Independence Day** *n* a day set aside for public celebration of the achievement of national independence; esp the public holiday observed in the USA on July 4 commemorating the Declaration of Independence in 1776
- independent** /ˌɪnˈdɛp(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 not dependent: eg a(1) self-governing (2) not affiliated with a larger controlling unit b(1) not relying on sth else (*an ~ conclusion*) (2) not committed to a political party c(1) not requiring or relying on, or allowing oneself to be controlled by, others (eg for guidance or care) (2) having or providing enough money to live on, esp without working (*a woman of ~ means*) 2a MAIN 4 (*the ~ clause*) b neither deductible from nor incompatible with another statement (*~ postulates*) – *independently* *adv*
- ²independent** *n*, often *cap* sb not bound by a political party
- independent school** *n* a school providing full-time education without support from public funds
- in-depth** *adj* having detailed thoroughness; searching (*~ questions*) (*an ~ study*)
- indescribable** /ˌɪnˈdiːskrɪəbəl/ *adj* 1 that cannot be described (*an ~ sensation*) 2 surpassing description (*~ joy*) – *indescribably* *adv*
- indestructible** *adj*
- indeterminable** /ˌɪnˈdɪtərnəbəl/ *adj* incapable of being definitely decided or ascertained
- indeterminate** /ˌɪnˈdɪtərnənt/ *adj* 1 not definitely or precisely determined or fixed 2 having an infinite number of solutions (*a system of ~*



*equations* > [ME *indeterminat*, fr LL *indeterminatus*, fr L *in-* + *determinatus*, pp of *determinare* to determine] – **indeterminacy** *n*, **indeterminately** *adv*, **indeterminateness**, **indetermination** /-ˈnəɪs(ə)n/ *n*  
**indeterminism** /-diˈtʊhm, nɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory that actions and choices are not determined by previous physical or mental events – **indeterminist** *n*, **indeterministic** /-ˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*

**index** /ˈɪndeks/ *n*, *pl* **indexes**, **indices** /ˈɪndɪseɪz/, (4) *usu* **indices** 1 a guide or list to aid reference e.g. an alphabetical list of items (e.g. topics or names) treated in a printed work that gives with each item the page number where it appears b **CARD INDEX** 2 sth that points towards or demonstrates a particular state of affairs <the fertility of the land is an ~ of the country's wealth> 3 a list of restricted or prohibited material *specif*, *cap* the list of books banned by the Roman Catholic church 4 a mathematical figure, letter, or expression, esp an exponent 5 a character used to direct attention (e.g. to a note or paragraph) 6 a number derived from a series of observations and used as an indicator or measure (e.g. of change in prices), *specif* **INDEX NUMBER** [L *indic-*, *index* forefinger, informer, guide, fr *indicare* to indicate] – **indexical** /ˈɪndɪksɪkəl/ *adj*

**index** *vt* 1 to provide with or list in an **index** 2 to serve as an **index** of 3 to cause to be index-linked ~ *vi* to prepare an **index** – **indexer** *n*  
**indexation** /ˈɪndeksəˈʃən/ *n* the act or process of making sth (e.g. a pension) index-linked

**index finger** *n* the forefinger

**index-linked** *adj* increasing or decreasing proportionately to a rise or fall in an **index**, esp the cost-of-living **index**

**index number** *n* a number used to indicate change in value (e.g. of cost or price) as compared with the value, *usu* taken to be 100, at some earlier time

**indi-** – see **IND-**

**India** /ˈɪndiə/ – a communications code word for the letter *i* [*India*, subcontinent of Asia]

**India** /ˈɪnk/ *n*, often *cap* *1st I*, **NAM** **INDIAN INK**

**Indiaman** /ˈɪndi-əmən/ *n*, *pl* **Indiamen** /-mən/ a (sailing) ship used in trade with India or the E Indies in former times

**Indian** /ˈɪndiən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of India 2a a member of any of the indigenous peoples of N, Central, or S America excluding the Eskimos b any of the native languages of American Indians [*India*, subcontinent of Asia, fr L, fr Gk, fr *Indos* India, Indus (river in NW India), fr OPer *Hindu* India, akin to Skt *sindhu* river, esp (river or region of) Indus, (2) fr the belief held by Columbus that the lands he discovered were part of Asia] – **Indian** *adj*

**Indian club** *n* a club shaped like a large bottle that is swung for gymnastic exercise

**Indian corn** *n*, chiefly **NAM** **maize**

**Indian file** *n* **SINGLE FILE** [fr the (American) Indian practice of going through woods in single file]

**Indian hemp** *n* **HEMP** 1

**Indian ink** *n*, often *cap* *1st I*, **Br** (an ink made from) a solid black pigment used in drawing and lettering [fr a belief that it was made in India]

**Indian summer** *n* 1 a period of warm weather in late autumn or early winter 2 a happy or flourishing period occurring towards the end of sth, esp of a person's life

**Indian wrestling** *n*, **NAM** **ARM WRESTLING**

**India rubber** *n*, often *cap* *I* 'RUBBER 1b

**Indic** /ˈɪndɪk/ *adj* 1 of India 2 of or constituting the Indian branch of the Indo-European languages – **Indic** *n*

**indicate** /ˈɪndɪkeɪt/ *vt* 1a(1) to point to, point out (2) to show or demonstrate as or by means of a sign or pointer b to be a sign or symptom of c to demonstrate or suggest the necessity or advisability of – chiefly pass 2 to state or express briefly, suggest [L *indicatus*, pp of *indicare*, fr *in-* + *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate – more at **DICTION**]

**indication** /ˈɪndɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* 1 the action of indicating 2a sth (e.g. a sign or suggestion) that serves to indicate b sth indicated as advisable or necessary 3 the degree indicated on a graduated instrument

**indicative** /ˈɪndɪˈkeɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 of or constituting the grammatical mood that represents the denoted act or state as an objective fact 2 serving to indicate <actions ~ of fear> – **indicatively** *adv*

**indicative** *n* the indicative mood; also a verb form expressing it

**indicator** /ˈɪndɪˈkeɪtə/ *n* 1a a hand or needle on an instrument (e.g. a dial) b an instrument for giving visual readings attached to a machine or apparatus c a device (e.g. a flashing light) on a vehicle that indicates an intention to change direction 2a a substance (e.g. litmus) that shows, esp by change of colour, the condition (e.g. acidity or alkalinity) of a solution b **TRACER** 2 3 a statistic (e.g. the level of industrial production) that gives


an indication of the state of a national economy [**INDICATE** + **-OR**] – **indicatory** /ˈɪndɪkə(ə)t(ə)n/ *adj*

**indices** /ˈɪndɪseɪz/ *pl* of **INDEX**

**indicia** /ˈɪndɪʃiə/ *n* *pl* distinctive marks, indications [L, *pl* of *indicium* sign, fr *indicare*]

**indict** /ˈɪndɪkt/ *vt* 1 to charge with an offence 2 to charge with a crime [alter of earlier *indite*, fr ME *inditen*, fr AF *enditer*, fr OF, to write down – more at **INDITE**] – **indicter**, **indictor** *n*

**indictable** /ˈɪndɪtəbl/ *adj* (making one) liable to indictment

**indictable offence** *n* a serious crime triable in the Crown Court  **LAW**

**indictment** /ˈɪndɪktmənt/ *n* 1 indicting 2 a formal written accusation by a prosecuting authority 3 grounds for severe censure, condemnation – *usu* + of <a searing ~ of contemporary society>

**indifference** /ˈɪndɪf(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 the quality, state, or fact of being indifferent 2 absence of interest or importance <it's a matter of complete ~ to me>

**indifferent** /ˈɪndɪfrənt/ *adj* 1 that does not matter one way or the other 2 not interested in or concerned about sth <completely ~ to the outcome> 3a neither good nor bad, mediocre <does ~ work at the office> b not very good, inferior <a very ~ wine> 4 chemically, magnetically, etc neutral [ME, fr MF or L, MF, regarded as neither good nor bad, fr L *indifferent-*, *indifferens*, fr *in-* + *different-*, *differe*ns, prp of *differe*re to be different – more at **DIFFERENT**] – **indifferently** *adv*

**indigenous** /ˈɪndɪj(ə)nəs/ *adj* 1 originating, growing, or living naturally in a particular region or environment <~ to Australia> 2 innate, inborn [LL *indigenus* fr L *indigena*, *n*, native, fr OL *indu*, *endo* in, within (akin to L *in* & to L *de* down) + L *gignere* to beget – more at **DE-**, **KIN**] – **indigenously** *adv*, **indigenize** *vt*

**indigent** /ˈɪndɪj(ə)nt/ *adj* needy, poor – *fml* [ME, fr MF, fr I *indigent-*, *indigens*, prp of *indigere* to need, fr OL *indu* + L *egere* to need, akin to OHG *ekrodi* thin] – **indigence** *n*, **indigent** *n*

**indigestible** /ˈɪndɪˈjestəbl/ *adj* not (easily) digested [LL *indigestibilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *digestibilis* digestible] – **indigestibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**indigestion** /ˈɪndɪˈjesʃən/ *n* (pain in the digestive system *usu* resulting from) difficulty in digesting sth

**indignant** /ˈɪndɪɡnənt/ *adj* filled with or marked by indignation [L *indignant-*, *indignans*, prp of *indignari* to be indignant, fr *indignus* unworthy, fr *in-* + *dignus* worthy – more at **DECLINT**] – **indignantly** *adv*

**indignation** /ˈɪndɪɡnaɪʃən/ *n* anger aroused by sth judged unjust, unworthy, or mean

**indignity** /ˈɪndɪɡnəti/ *n* 1 an act that offends against a person's dignity or self-respect 2 humiliating treatment [L *indignitas*-, *indignitas*, fr *indignus*]

**indigo** /ˈɪndɪɡoh/ *n*, *pl* **indigos**, **indigos** 1 (any of several dyes related to) a blue dye with a coppery lustre formerly obtained from a plant and now made artificially 2 a dark greyish blue colour whose hue lies between violet and blue in the spectrum 3 a (leguminous) plant that yields indigo [It dial, fr L *indicum*, fr Gk *indikón*, fr neut of *indikós* Indic, fr *Indos* India]

**indirect** /ˈɪndɪˈrekt, -di-/ *adj* 1a deviating from a direct line or course b not going straight to the point 2 not straightforward or open 3 not directly aimed at <~ consequences> 4 stating what a real or supposed original speaker said but with changes of tense, person, etc <~ speech> – compare **DIRECT** 5 [ME, fr ML *indirectus*, fr L *in-* + *directus* direct] – **indirectly** *adv*, **indirectness** *n*

**indirect object** *n* a grammatical object representing the secondary goal of the action of its verb (e.g. *her* in *I gave her the book*)

**indirect tax** *n* a tax levied on goods, services, etc and paid indirectly by a person or organization purchasing these goods or services at an increased price – compare **DIRECT TAX**

**indiscernible** /ˈɪndɪˈsɜːnəbl/ *adj* 1 that cannot be perceived or recognized 2 not recognizable as separate or distinct

**indiscipline** /ˈɪndɪˈsɪplɪn/ *n* lack of discipline – **indisciplined** *adj*

**indiscreet** /ˈɪndɪˈskriːt/ *adj* not discreet, imprudent [ME *indiscrete*, fr MF & LL, MF *indiscrēt*, fr LL *indiscretus*, fr L, indistinguishable, fr *in-* + *discretus*, pp of *discernere* to separate – more at **DISCERN**] – **indiscreetly** *adv*

**indiscrete** /-dɪˈskriːt/ *adj* not separated into distinct parts [L *indiscretus*]

**indiscretion** /-dɪˈskreʃən/ *n* (an act or remark showing) lack of discretion

**indiscriminate** /-dɪˈskrɪmɪnət/ *adj* 1 not marked by careful distinc-



- tion; lacking in discrimination and discernment 2 not differentiated, confused – *indiscriminately* *adv*, *indiscriminateness* *n*
- indispensable** /-di'spensəbl/ *adj* that cannot be done without – *indispensable* *n*, *indispensableness* *n*, *indispensably* *adv*, *indispensability* /-sə'biləti/ *n*
- indispose** /-di'spohz/ *vt* 1 to make unfit 2 to make averse [prob back-formation fr *indisposed*]
- indisposed** *adj* 1 slightly ill 2 averse [ME, not prepared for, unfitted, fr *in-* + *disposed*]
- indisposition** /-dispo'zish(ə)n/ *n* 1 disinclination 2 (a) slight illness
- indisputable** /-di'spyoohtəbl/ *adj* incontestable [LL *indisputabilis*, fr L *in-* + *disputabilis* disputable] – *indisputableness* *n*, *indisputably* *adv*
- indissoluble** /-di'solyooobl/ *adj* incapable of being dissolved, decomposed, undone, or annulled – *indissolubility* *n*, *indissolubly* *adv*
- indistinct** /-di'stingkt/ *adj* not distinct e.g. a not sharply outlined or separable; not clearly seen b not clearly recognizable or understandable [L *indistinctus*, fr *in-* + *distinctus* distinct] – *indistinctly* *adv*, *indistinctness* *n*
- indistinctive** /-di'stingktiv/ *adj* lacking distinctive qualities or features
- indistinguishable** /-di'sting-gwishəbl/ *adj* incapable of being a clearly perceived b discriminated – *indistinguishably* *adv*
- indite** /-in'diet/ *vt* to give expression to, esp to write – fml [ME *enditen*, fr OF *enditer* to write down, proclaim, fr (assumed) VL *indicare* to proclaim, fr L *indictus*, pp of *indicare* to proclaim, fr *in-* + *dicere* to say – more at *DICTION*]
- indium** /-indi-əm/ *n* a rare silvery (trivalent) metallic element –  $\curvearrowright$  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr ISV *ind-* + NL *-ium*, fr the 2 indigo-blue lines in its spectrum]
- individual** /-indi'vidyooəl, -jəl/ *adj* 1a of or being an individual b intended for 1 person <an ~ serving> 2 existing as a distinct entity, separate 3 having marked individuality <an ~ style> [ML *individualis*, fr L *individuus* indivisible, fr *in-* + *dividuus* divided, fr *dividere* to divide] – *individually* *adv*
- individual** *n* 1 a particular person, being, or thing (as distinguished from a class, species, or collection) 2 a person <an odd ~>
- individualism** /-indi'vidyooə,liz(ə)m, -jə,liz(ə)m/ *n* (conduct guided by) a a doctrine that bases morality on the interests of the individual b a theory maintaining the independence of the individual and stressing individual initiative
- individualist** /-indi'vidyooə,lizt, -jəlizt/ *n* one who shows marked individuality or independence in thought or behaviour – *individualist*, *individualistic* *adj*
- individuality** /-indi'vidyooə'ləti, -joo-/ *n* 1 the total character peculiar to and distinguishing an individual from others 2 the tendency to pursue one's course with marked independence or self-reliance [INDIVIDUAL + -ITY]
- individual-ize**, -ise /-indi'vidyooə,liez, -jə,liez/ *vt* 1 to make individual in character 2 to treat or notice individually 3 to adjust or adapt to suit a particular individual – *individualization* /-li'e'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- individuate** /-indi'vidyoo,əyt, -joo-/ *vt* to give individuality or individual form to – *individuation* /-ə'ysh(ə)n/ *n*
- indivisible** *adj*
- Indo-** /-indoh-/ – see *IND-*
- Indo-** – see *IND-*
- Indo-Aryan** *n* 1 a member of any of the peoples of India of Indo-European language and Caucasian physique 2 the Indo-Iranian languages of India and Pakistan – *Indo-Aryan* *adj*
- Indo-Chinese** *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Indochina 2 Sino-Tibetan [(1) *Indochina*, former region of SE Asia; (2) *Ind-* + *Chinese*] – *Indo-Chinese* *adj*
- indoctrinate** /-in'doktrinayt/ *vt* to imbue with a usu partisan or sectarian opinion, point of view, or ideology [prob fr ME *endoctrinen*, fr MF *endoctriner*, fr OF, fr *en-* + *doctrina* teaching, sthg taught] – *indoctrinator* *n*, *indoctrination* /-nə'ysh(ə)n/ *n*
- Indo-European** *adj* or *n* (of or belonging to) a family of languages spoken in most of Europe, Asia as far east as N India, and N and S America
- Indo-Germanic** *adj* or *n* Indo-European
- Indo-Iranian** *adj* or *n* (of or constituting) a subfamily of the Indo-European languages comprising the Indic and the Iranian branches
- indole** /-indohl/ *n* (a derivative of) a compound that is a decomposition product of some proteins and is formed from indigo [ISV *ind-* + *-ole*]
- indoleacetic acid** /-indohlə'setik/ *n* a plant hormone that promotes growth and rooting of plants
- indolent** /-indələnt/ *adj* 1a causing little or no pain b slow to develop or heal <an ~ ulcer> 2a averse to activity, effort, or movement b conducive to or exhibiting laziness [LL *indolent-*, *indolens* insensitive to pain, fr L *in-* + *dolent-*, *dolens*, prp of *dolere* to feel pain – more at *CONDOL*] – *indolence* *n*, *indolently* *adv*
- indomethacin** /-indoh'methəsin/ *n* a synthetic drug used esp to relieve (arthritic) pain and inflammation [*indole* + *meth-* + *acetic acid* + *-in*]
- indomitable** /-in'domitəbl/ *adj* incapable of being subdued [LL *indomitabilis*, fr L *in-* + *domitare* to tame – more at *DAUNT*] – *indomitably* *adv*, *indomitability* /-tə'biləti/ *n*
- Indonesian** /-indo'neesh(ə)n, -zyən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Indonesia or the Malay archipelago 2 BAHASA INDONESIA [*Indonesia*, country in SE Asia] – *Indonesian* *adj*
- indoor** /-in'daw/ *adj* 1 of the interior of a building 2 done, living, or belonging indoors <an ~ sport> [alter (influenced by *in*) of obs *within-door*, *adj*, fr the phrase *within door* in a building]
- indoors** /-in'dawz/ *adv* in or into a building
- indorse** /-in'daws/ *vt* to endorse
- indraught** /-indrahft/ *n* 1 a drawing or pulling in 2 an inward flow or current (e.g. of air or water)
- indrawn** /-in'drawn/ *adj* 1 drawn in 2 aloof, reserved
- indri** /-indri/ *n* a large Madagascan lemur with black and white markings [F, fr Malagasy *indry* look!]
- indubitable** /-in'dyoohtəbl/ *adj* too evident to be doubted [F or L; F, fr L *indubitabilis*, fr *in-* + *dubitabilis* dubitable] – *indubitably* *adv*, *indubitability* /-tə'biləti/ *n*
- induce** /-in'dyoohs/ *vt* 1 to lead on to do sthg, move by persuasion or influence 2a to cause to appear or to happen, BRING ON, *specif* to cause (labour) to begin by the use of drugs b to cause the formation of c to produce (e.g. an electric current) by induction 3 to establish by logical induction, *specif* to infer from particulars – compare *DEDUCE* [ME *inducen*, fr L *inducere*, fr *in-* + *ducere* to lead – more at *TOW*] – *inducer* *n*, *inducible* *adj*
- inducement** /-mɒnt/ *n* sthg that induces, esp a motive or consideration that encourages one to do sthg
- induct** /-in'dukt/ *vt* 1 to place formally in office 2a to introduce, initiate b NAM to enrol for military training or service [ME *inducten*, fr ML *inductus*, pp of *inducere*, fr L]
- inductance** /-in'dukt(ə)ns/ *n* 1a a property of an electric circuit by which an electromotive force is induced in it by a variation of current either in the circuit itself or in a neighbouring circuit b the amount of inductance of an electric circuit 2 a circuit or device possessing inductance USE  $\curvearrowright$  PHYSICS
- induction** /-in'duksh(ə)n/ *n* 1a the act or process of inducing (e.g. into office) b an initial experience, an initiation 2a the act or an instance of reasoning from particular premises to a general conclusion, *also* a conclusion reached by such reasoning b mathematical demonstration of the validity of a law concerning all the positive integers, by proving that the law holds for the first integer and that if it holds for all the integers preceding a given integer it must hold for the given integer 3a the act of causing or bringing on or about b the process by which an electrical conductor becomes electrified when near a charged body, by which a magnetizable body becomes magnetized when in a magnetic field or in the magnetic flux set up by a magnetomotive force, or by which an electromotive force is produced in a circuit by varying the magnetic field linked with the circuit c the drawing of the fuel-air mixture from the carburettor into the combustion chamber of an internal-combustion engine
- inductive** /-in'duktiv/ *adj* 1 of or employing mathematical or logical induction 2 of inductance or electrical induction 3 introductory – *inductively* *adv*, *inductiveness* *n*
- inductor** /-in'dukta/ *n* a component that is included in an electrical circuit to provide inductance and that usu consists of a coiled conductor [INDUCT + *-OR*]
- indue** /-in'dyoooh/ *vt* to endue
- indulge** /-in'duly/ *vt* 1a to give free rein to (e.g. a taste) b to allow (oneself) to do sthg pleasurable or gratifying 2 to treat with great or excessive leniency, generosity, or consideration ~ *vi* to indulge oneself [L *indulgere* to be complaisant] – *indulger* *n*
- indulgence** /-in'dulj(ə)ns/ *n* 1 a remission (of part of) the purgatorial atonement for confessed sin in the Roman Catholic church 2 indulging or being indulgent 3 an indulgent act 4 sthg indulged in

- indulgent** /ɪn'dʌlʒ(ə)nt/ *adj* indulging or characterized by indulgence [L *indulgent-, indulgens*, prp of *indulgere*] – **indulgently** *adv*
- indurate** /ɪn'dʒoʊəreɪt/ *vt* 1 to make unfeeling or obdurate 2 to make hardy 3 to make hard – *vi* to grow hard [L *induratus*, pp of *indurare*, fr *in-* + *durare* to harden, fr *durus* hard – more at DURING] – **induration** /-ˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **indurative** /ɪn'dʒoʊəreɪtɪv/ *adj*
- indusium** /ɪn'dyooʒi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **indusia** a covering outgrowth or membrane (e.g. of a cluster of fern spores) [NL, fr L, tunic]
- industrial** /ɪn'dʌstri-əl/ *adj* 1 of, involved in, or derived from industry 2 characterized by highly developed industries <an ~ nation> 3 used in industry <~ diamonds> – **industrially** *adv*
- industrial** *n* a share or bond issued by an industrial enterprise – *usu* *pl*
- industrial 'action** *n* action (e.g. a strike or go-slow) taken by a body of workers to force an employer to comply with demands
- Industrial archaeology** *n* the scientific study of the products and remains of past industrial activity
- industrial estate** *n* an area, *usu* at a distance from the centre of a city or town, designed esp. for a community of industries and businesses
- industrialism** /ɪn'dʌstri-ə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n* social organization in which industries, esp. large-scale industries, are dominant
- industrialist** /ɪn'dʌstri-əlɪst/ *n* one who is engaged in the management of an industry
- industrialize, -ise** /ɪn'dʌstri-ə,lɪz/ *vb* to make or become industrial, introduce industry (to) <~ an agricultural region> – **industrialization** /-ˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- industrial melanism** *n* genetically determined darkening, esp. in insects that occur in areas blackened by industrial pollutants
- industrial relations** *n pl* the dealings or relationships between a usual large business or industrial enterprise and the employees, esp. the trade unions, operating within it
- industrial revolution** *n* a rapid major development of an economy (e.g. in England in the late 18th c.) marked by the general introduction of mechanized techniques and large-scale production
- industrial school** *n* a school specializing in the teaching of manual skills, esp. to juvenile delinquents
- industrious** /ɪn'dʌstri-əs/ *adj* 1 persistently diligent 2 constantly, regularly, or habitually occupied – **industriously** *adv*, **industriousness** *n*
- industry** /ɪn'dʌstri/ *n* 1 diligence in an employment or pursuit 2a systematic work, esp. for the creation of value b(1) a *usu* specified group of productive or profit-making enterprises <the car ~> (2) an organized field of activity regarded in its commercial aspects <the Shakespeare ~> c manufacturing activity as a whole <the nation's ~> [MF *industrie* skill, employment involving skill, fr L *industria* diligence, fr *industrius* diligent, fr OL *indostruus*, fr *indu* in + *-struus* (akin to L *struere* to build) – more at INDIGENOUS, STRUCTURE]
- indwell** /ɪn'dwel/ *vb* to exist within as an activating spirit, force, or principle – **indweller** /-r-/ *n*
- ine** /-ien, -een, -ɪn/ *suffix* (~ *adj*) 1 of or resembling <equine> <feminine> 2 made of, like <opahne> <crystalline> [ME *-in, -ine*, fr MF & L, (1) MF *-in*, fr L *-inus*; (2) MF *-in*, fr L *-inus*, fr Gk *-inos* – more at -EN]
- ine** *suffix* (~ *n*) 1 chemical compound e.g. a carbon compound (e.g. an amino acid or alkaloid) that is a chemical base and contains nitrogen <morphine> <leucine> b mixture of 'compounds (e.g. of hydrocarbons) <kerosine> c *usu* gaseous hydride <arsine> 2 *-in* a,b [ME *-ine, -in*, fr MF & L; MF *-ine*, fr L *-ina*, fr fem of *-inus*, *adj* suffix]
- inebriate** /ɪn'ebrɪəɪt/ *vt* to exhilarate or stupefy (as if) by liquor, intoxicate [L *inebriatus*, pp of *inebriare*, fr *in-* + *ebriare* to intoxicate, fr *ebrius* drunk – more at SOBER] – **inebriant** *adj* or *n*, **inebriate** *adj* or *n*, **inebriation** /-ˈeɪʃ(ə)n/, **inebriety** /ɪn'brɪ-ə-ti/ *n*
- inedible** /ɪn'edəbl/ *adj* not fit to be eaten
- ineffable** /ɪn'efəbl/ *adj* 1 unutterable 2 not to be uttered, taboo <the ~ name of Jehovah> [ME, fr MF, fr L *ineffabilis*, fr *in-* + *effabilis* capable of being expressed, fr *effari* to speak out, fr *ex-* + *fari* to speak – more at BAN] – **ineffably** *adv*
- ineffective** /ɪn'efektɪv/ *adj* 1 not producing an intended effect 2 not capable of performing efficiently or achieving results – **ineffectively** *adv*, **ineffectiveness** *n*
- ineffectual** /ɪn'efektʃooəl, -chooəl/ *adj* 1 not producing or not able to give the proper or intended effect 2 unable to get things done; weak in character <a very ~ person> – **ineffectually** *adv*, **ineffectualness** *n*
- inefficiency** /ɪn'efɪkəsi/ *n* lack of power to produce a desired effect [LL *inefficacia*, fr L *inefficax*, *inefficax* ineffective, fr *in-* + *efficax*, *EFFICAX* effective]
- inefficient** /ɪn'efɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* not producing the effect intended or desired, esp. in a capable or economical way [IN- + EFFICIENT] – **inefficiency** *n*, **inefficiently** *adv*
- inelastic** /ɪn'elastɪk/ *adj* 1 slow to react or respond to changing conditions 2 inflexible, unyielding [IN- + ELASTIC] – **inelasticity** /ˌɪnɪləˈstɪsɪti/ *n*
- inelegant** /ɪn'elɪɡənt/ *adj* lacking in refinement, grace, or good taste [MF, fr L *inelegant-, inelegans*, fr *in-* + *elegant-, elegans* elegant] – **inelegance** *n*, **inelegantly** *adv*
- ineligible** /ɪn'elɪʒəbl/ *adj* not qualified or not worthy to be chosen or preferred [F *ineligible*, fr *in-* + *eligible* eligible] – **ineligibility** /-ˈbɪləbɪlɪti/ *n*
- ineluctable** /ɪn'elʊktəbl/ *adj* not to be avoided, changed, or resisted – *fm* [L *ineluctabilis*, fr *in-* + *eluctari* to struggle out, fr *ex-* + *luctari* to struggle – more at LOCK] – **ineluctably** *adv*
- inept** /ɪnept/ *adj* 1 not suitable or apt to the time, place, or occasion 2 lacking sense or reason 3 generally incompetent [F *inepte*, fr L *ineptus*, fr *in-* + *aptus* apt] – **ineptitude** *n*, **ineptly** *adv*, **ineptness** *n*
- inequality** /ɪn'ekwələti/ *n* 1a social disparity b disparity of distribution or opportunity 2 an instance of being unequal 3 a formal statement of inequality between 2 expressions, *usu* with a sign of inequality (e.g. <, >, or ≠ signifying respectively *is less than*, *is greater than*, and *is not equal to*) between them [MF *inequalite*, fr L *inaequalitat-, inaequalitas*, fr *inaequalis* unequal, fr *in-* + *aequalis* equal]
- inequitable** /ɪn'ekwɪtəbl/ *adj* unfair – **inequitably** *adv*
- inequity** /ɪn'ekwɪti/ *n* (an instance of) injustice or unfairness
- ineradicable** /ɪn'radɪkəbl/ *adj* incapable of being eradicated – **ineradically** *adv*
- inert** /ɪnuh/ *adj* 1 lacking the power to move 2 deficient in active (chemical or biological) properties 3 not moving, inactive, indolent [L *inert-, iners* unskilled, idle, fr *in-* + *art-, ars* skill – more at ARM] – **inertly** *adv*, **inertness** *n*
- inert gas** *n* NOBLE GAS
- inertia** /ɪnuhʃə/ *n* 1 a property of matter by which it remains at rest or in uniform motion in the same straight line unless acted on by some external force 2 indisposition to motion, exertion, or change [NL, fr L, lack of skill, fr *inert-, iners*] – **inertial** *adj*, **inertially** *adv*
- inertial guidance** *n* guidance (e.g. of an aircraft or spacecraft) by comparison of preprogrammed data with data collected by measurement of inertial forces within the craft
- inertia reel** *n* a device allowing automatic adjustment to accommodate slow body movements <~ safety belts>
- inertia selling** *n*, *chiefly* *Br* the practice of sending unrequested goods to people with the intention of demanding payment if the goods are not returned
- inescapable** /ɪn'ɪskeɪpəbl/ *adj* unavoidable – **inescapably** *adv*
- inessential** /ɪn'ɪsensh(ə)l/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that is not essential
- inestimable** /ɪn'estɪməbl/ *adj* 1 too great to be estimated 2 too valuable or excellent to be measured [ME, fr MF, fr L *inaestimabilis*, fr *in-* + *aestimabilis* estimable] – **inestimably** *adv*
- inevitable** /ɪn'evɪtəbl/ *adj* incapable of being avoided or evaded, bound to happen or to confront one [ME, fr L *inevitabilis*, fr *in-* + *evitabilis* avoidable] – **inevitableness** *n*, **inevitably** *adv*, **inevitability** /-təˈbɪləbɪlɪti/ *n*
- inexact** /ɪnɪgˈzækt/ *adj* not precisely correct or true [F, fr *in-* + *exact*] – **inexactitude** *n*, **inexactly** *adv*, **inexactness** *n*
- inexcusable** /ɪnɪksˈkyooʒəbəl/ *adj* without excuse or justification [L *inexcusabilis*, fr *in-* + *excusabilis* excusable] – **inexcusableness** *n*, **inexcusably** *adv*
- inexhaustible** /ɪnɪgˈzawstəbl/ *adj* incapable of being used up or worn out – **inexhaustibly** *adv*, **inexhaustibility** /-stəˈbɪləbɪlɪti/ *n*
- inexorable** /ɪn'eks(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 not to be persuaded or moved by entreaty 2 continuing inevitably, that cannot be averted [L *inexorabilis*, fr *in-* + *exorabilis* pliant, fr *exorare* to prevail upon, fr *ex-* + *orare* to speak – more at ORATION] – **inexorably** *adv*, **inexorability** /-rəˈbɪləbɪlɪti/ *n*
- inexpedient** *adj*
- inexpensive** /ɪnɪksˈpensɪv/ *adj* reasonable in price; cheap – **inexpensively** *adv*, **inexpensiveness** *n*
- inexperience** /ɪnɪksˈpiəri-əns/ *n* 1 lack of (the skill gained from) experience 2 lack of knowledge of the ways of the world [MF, fr LL *inexperientia*, fr L *in-* + *experientia* experience] – **inexperienced** *adj*
- inexpert** /ɪn'ekspeɪt/ *adj* unskilled [ME, fr MF, fr L *inexpertus*, fr *in-* + *expertus* expert] – **inexpertly** *adv*, **inexpertness** *n*
- inexplicable** /ɪnɪksˈplɪkəbl, ɪn'eksplɪkəbl/ *adj* incapable of being explained, interpreted, or accounted for [MF, fr L *inexplicabilis*, fr *in-* +

*explicabilis* explicable] – *inexplicableness* *n*, *inexplicably* *adv*, *inexplicability* /-kə'biləti/ *n*

**Inexpressible** /ˌɪnɪk'spresəbl/ *adj* beyond one's power to express – *inexpressibly* *adv*, *inexpressibility* /-sə'biləti/ *n*

**Inexpressive** /ˌɪnɪk'spresiv/ *adj* lacking expression or meaning – *inexpressively* *adv*, *inexpressiveness* *n*

**in extenso** /ˌɪn ɪk'stensə/ *adv* at full length [ML]

**inextinguishable** /ˌɪnɪk'stɪŋɡwɪʃəbl/ *adj* unquenchable – *inextinguishably* *adv*

**in extremis** /ˌɪn ɪk'streemɪs/ *adv* in extreme circumstances, esp at the point of death [L]

**inextricable** /ˌɪnɪk'strɪkəbl/ *adj* 1 from which one cannot extricate oneself 2 incapable of being disentangled or untied (<*an ~ knot*> [MF or L; MF, fr L *inextricabilis*, fr *in-* + *extricabilis* extricable] – *inextricably* *adv*

**infallible** /ˌɪnfə'ləbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of error, esp, of the Pope incapable of error in defining dogma 2 not liable to fail [ML *infallibilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *fallibilis* fallible] – *infallibly* *adv*, *infallibility* /-lə'biləti/ *n*

**infamous** /ˌɪnfəməs/ *adj* 1 having a reputation of the worst kind, notorious 2 disgraceful [ME, fr L *infamis*, fr *in-* + *fama* fame] – *infamously* *adv*

**infamy** /ˌɪnfəmi/ *n* 1 evil reputation brought about by sthg grossly criminal, shocking, or brutal 2 an extreme and publicly known criminal or evil act

**infancy** /ˌɪnf(ə)nəsi/ *n* 1 early childhood 2 a beginning or early period of existence <when sociology was in its ~> 3 the legal status of an infant

**infant** /ˌɪnf(ə)nt/ *n* 1 a child in the first period of life 2 a minor [ME *enfant*, fr MF *enfant*, fr L *infans*, *infans*, fr *in-*, *infans* incapable of speech, young, fr *in-* + *fant-*, *fans*, prp of *fari* to speak – more at *BAN*]

**infant** *adj* 1 in an early stage of development 2 concerned with or intended for young children, esp those aged from 5 to 7 or 8 <*an ~ teacher*>

**infanta** /ˌɪnfəntə/ *n* a daughter of a Spanish or Portuguese monarch [Sp & Pg, fem of *infante*]

**infante** /ˌɪnfənt/ *n* a younger son of a Spanish or Portuguese monarch [Sp & Pg, lit., *infant*, fr L *infans*, *infans*]

**infanticide** /ˌɪnfəntɪsɪd/ *n* (the act of) sby who kills an infant [LL *infanticidium* & *infanticida*, fr L *infans*, *infans* + *-i-* + *-cidium* & *-cida* -cide – more at *-CIDE*]

**infantile** /ˌɪnf(ə)ntɪl/ *adj* (suggestive) of infants or infancy <~ *behaviour*>

**infantile paralysis** *n* poliomyelitis

**infantilism** /ˌɪnfəntɪlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 retention of childish physical, mental, or emotional qualities in adult life 2 an act or expression that indicates lack of maturity – used technically

**infantry** /ˌɪnf(ə)ntri/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (a branch of an army containing) soldiers trained, armed, and equipped to fight on foot [MF & OIt; MF *infanterie*, fr OIt *infanteria*, fr *infante* boy, foot soldier, fr L *infans*, *infans*]

**infantryman** /-mən/ *n* an infantry soldier

**infant school** *n*, *Br* a kindergarten for children aged from 5 to 7 or 8

**infarct** /ˌɪnfəkt/ *n* an area of death in a tissue or organ resulting from obstruction of the local blood circulation [L *infarctus*, pp of *infarcire* to stuff, fr *in-* + *farcire* to stuff – more at *FARCE*] – *infarcted* *adj*, *infarction* *n*

**infatuate** /ˌɪnfə'tyooəʊt/ *vt* 1 to affect with folly 2 to inspire with powerful but superficial or short-lived feelings of love and d. v. e [L *infatuatus*, pp of *infatuare*, fr *in-* + *fatuus* fatuous] – *infatuated* *adj*, *infatuation* /-ə'ʃaɪ(ə)n/ *n*

**infect** /ˌɪnfekt/ *vt* 1 to contaminate (e.g. air or food) with a disease-causing agent 2a to pass on a disease or a disease-causing agent to b to invade (an individual or organ), usu by penetration – used with reference to a pathogenic organism 3 to transmit or pass on sthg (e.g. an emotion) to [ME *infecten*, fr L *infectus*, pp of *infectere*, fr *in-* + *facere* to make, do – more at *DO*] – *infecter* *n*

**infection** /ˌɪnfekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 infecting 2 (an agent that causes) a contagious or infectious disease 3 the communication of emotions or qualities through example or contact

**infectious** /ˌɪnfekʃəs/ *adj* 1a *infectious*, *infective* capable of causing infection b communicable by infection – compare *CONTAGIOUS* 2 readily spread or communicated to others <~ *excitement*> – *infectiously* *adv*, *infectiousness* *n*

**infectious hepatitis** *n* a highly infectious liver inflammation caused by a virus

**infectious mononucleosis** *n* an acute infectious disease characterized by fever and swelling of lymph glands

**infelicitous** /ˌɪnfə'lɪsɪtəs/ *adj* not apt; not suitably chosen for the occasion – *infelicitously* *adv*

**infelicity** /ˌɪnfə'lɪsɪti/ *n* 1 being infelicitous 2 sthg infelicitous [ME *infelice*, fr L *infelicitas*, fr *infelic-*, *infelix* unhappy, fr *in-* + *felic-*, *felix* fruitful – more at *FEMININE*]

**Infer** /ˌɪnfə/ *vb* -*rr-* *vi* 1 to derive as a conclusion from facts or premises – compare *IMPLY* 2 to suggest, imply – disapproved of by some speakers ~ *vi* to draw inferences [MF or L; MF *inferre*, fr L *inferre*, lit., to carry or bring into, fr *in-* + *ferre* to carry – more at *'BEAR*] – *inferable* *adj*

**inference** /ˌɪnf(ə)rəns/ *n* 1a the act of inferring b the act of passing from statistical sample data to generalizations (e.g. of the value of population parameters), usu with calculated degrees of certainty 2 sthg inferred, esp a proposition arrived at by inference

**inferential** /ˌɪnfə'renʃ(ə)l/ *adj* deduced or deducible by inference [ML *inferentia* inference, fr L *inferent-*, *inferens*, prp of *inferre*]

**inferior** /ˌɪnfɪəriə/ *adj* 1 situated lower down 2 of low or lower degree or rank 3 of little or less importance, value, or merit 4a of an animal or plant part situated below or at the base of another (corresponding) part b(1) of a calyx lying below the ovary (2) of an ovary lying below the petals or sepals 5 of or being a subscript 6 of a planet nearer the sun than the earth is [ME, fr L, compar of *inferus* – more at *UNDER*] – *inferior* *n*, *inferiorly* *adv*, *inferiority* /-nɪ'ɔrəti/ *n*

**inferiority complex** *n* a sense of personal inferiority often resulting either in timidity or, through overcompensation, in exaggerated aggressiveness

**infernal** /ˌɪnfənl/ *adj* 1 of hell 2 hellish, diabolical 3 damned – *infernally* <*an ~ nuisance*> [ME, fr OF, fr LL *infernalis*, fr *infernus* hell, fr L, lower; akin to L *inferus* inferior] – *infernally* *adv*

**inferno** /ˌɪnfəno/ *n*, *pl* *infernos* a place or a state that resembles or suggests hell, esp in intense heat or raging fire [It, hell, fr LL *infernus*]

**infertile** /ˌɪnfʊtɪl/ *adj* not fertile or productive <~ *eggs*> <~ *fields*> [MF, fr LL *infertilis*, fr L *in-* + *fertilis* fertile] – *infertility* /ˌɪnfə'tɪləti/ *n*

**infest** /ˌɪnfest/ *vt* 1 to spread or swarm in or over in a troublesome manner <*shark-infested waters*> 2 to live in or on as a parasite [MF *infester*, fr L *infestare*, fr *infestus* hostile] – *infestation* /ˌɪnfə'steɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**infidel** /ˌɪnfɪdl/ *n* 1a an unbeliever in or opponent of a particular religion, esp of Christianity or Islam b sby who acknowledges no religious belief 2a disbeliever in sthg specified or understood [MF *infidele*, fr LL *infidelis* unbelieving, fr L, unfaithful, fr *in-* + *fidelis* faithful, fr *fides* faith] – *infidel* *adj*

**infidelity** /ˌɪnfɪdɪləti/ *n* 1 lack of belief in a religion 2a unfaithfulness, disloyalty b marital unfaithfulness

**infield** /ˌɪnfild/ *n* (the fielding positions in) the area of a cricket or baseball field relatively near the wickets or bounded by the bases – *infielder* *n*

**infield** /-/ *adv* away from the edge of a playing field

**infighting** /ˌɪnfɪtɪŋ/ *n* 1 fighting or boxing at close quarters 2 prolonged and often bitter dissension among members of a group or organization – *infighter* *n*





**infill** /ˌɪnfɪl/ *vt* to fill in (a gap), esp to build houses in between (houses already standing)  *BUILDING* – *infilling* *n*


**infiltrate** /ˌɪnfɪlɪtəʊt/ *vt* 1 to cause (e.g. a liquid) to permeate sthg (e.g. by penetrating its pores or interstices) 2 to pass into or through (a substance) by filtering or permeating 3 to enter or become established in gradually or unobtrusively ~ *vi* to enter, permeate, or pass through a substance or area by filtering or by insinuating gradually – *infiltrative* *adj*, *infiltrator* *n*, *infiltration* /-tɪ'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**infinite** /ˌɪnfɪnət/ *adj* 1 subject to no limitation or external determination 2 extending indefinitely 3 immeasurably or inconceivably great or extensive 4a extending beyond, lying beyond, or being greater than any arbitrarily chosen finite value, however large <*there are an ~ number of positive integers*> b extending to infinity <~ *plane surface*> [ME *infinīt*, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *infinitus*, fr *in-* + *finitus* finite] – *infinitely* *adv*, *infiniteness* *n*

**infinite** *n* 1 divineness, sublimity – + the 2 an incalculable or very great number 3 an infinite quantity or magnitude

**infinitesimal** /ˌɪnfɪnɪ'tesɪml/ *n* an infinitesimal variable or quantity [NL *infinitesimus* infinite in rank, fr L *infinitus*]

**<sup>1</sup>infinitesimal** *adj* 1 taking on values arbitrarily close to zero 2 immeasurably or incalculably small – **infinitesimally** *adv*  
**infinitive** /'ɪnfɪnɪtɪv/ *adj* or *n* (using) a verb form that performs some functions of a noun and that in English is used with *to* (e.g. *go in I asked him to go*) except with auxiliary and various other verbs (e.g. *go in I must go*) [*adj* LL *infinitivus*, fr L *infinitus*; *n* fr *adj*] – **infinitival** /'ɪnfɪnɪtɪvəl/ *adj* or *n*  
**infinitude** /'ɪnfɪnɪtuːd/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being infinite 2 sth infinite, esp in extent 3 an infinite number or quantity  
**infinity** /'ɪnfɪnɪti/ *n* 1a the quality of being infinite b unlimited extent of time, space, or quantity 2 an indefinitely great number or amount 3 a distance so great that the rays of light from a point source at that distance may be regarded as parallel **USE**  **SYMBOL**  
**infirm** /'ɪnfɪrm/ *adj* 1 physically feeble, esp from age 2 weak in mind, will, or character [ME, fr L *infirmus*, fr *in-* + *firmus* firm] – **infirmly** *adv*  
**infirmery** /'ɪnfɪrməri/ *n* HOSPITAL 1  
**infirmity** /'ɪnfɪrmɪti/ *n* 1 being infirm or frail 2 a disease, malady  
**infix** /'ɪnfɪks/ *vt* 1 to fasten or fix by piercing or thrusting in 2 to instil, inculcate 3 to insert (e.g. a sound or letter) as an infix [L *infixus*, pp of *infigere*, fr *in-* + *figere* to fasten – more at DYKE]  
**<sup>1</sup>infix** /'ɪnfɪks/ *n* an affix inserted in the body of a word or root – compare **PREFIX**, **SUFFIX**  
**in flagrante delicto** /ɪn flə'grɑnti dɪ'lɪktə/ *adv* in the very act of committing a misdeed [ML, lit., in blazing crime]  
**inflame** /'ɪnflaɪm/ *vt* 1 to set on fire 2a to excite or arouse passion or excessive action or feeling in b to make more heated or violent 3 to cause to redden or grow hot 4 to cause inflammation in (bodily tissue) ~ *vi* 1 to burst into flame 2 to become excited or angered 3 to become affected with inflammation [ME *enflamen*, fr MF *enflamer*, fr L *inflammare*, fr *in-* + *flamma* flame] – **inflamer** *n*  
**inflammable** /'ɪnfləməbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being easily ignited and of burning rapidly  **SYMBOL** 2 easily inflamed, excited, or angered [F, fr ML *inflammabilis*, fr L *inflammare* to inflame] – **inflammable** *n*, **inflammableness**, **inflammability** /-mə'bɪləti/ *n*  
**inflammation** /'ɪnflə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 inflaming or being inflamed 2 a response to cellular injury marked by local redness, heat, and pain  
**inflammatory** /'ɪnfləmə'tɔri/ *adj* 1 tending to inflame (< *speeches*) 2 accompanied by or tending to cause inflammation  
**inflatable** /'ɪnflə'teɪbl/ *n* an inflatable boat, toy, etc  
**inflate** /'ɪnflaɪt/ *vt* 1 to swell or distend (with air or gas) 2 to increase (a price level) or cause (a volume of credit or the economy) to expand ~ *vi* to become inflated [L *inflatus*, pp of *inflare*, fr *in-* + *flare* to blow – more at BLOW] – **inflatable** *adj*, **inflator**, **inflater** *n*  
**inflated** *adj* 1 bombastic, exaggerated 2 expanded to an abnormal or unjustifiable volume or level (< *prices*) 3 swelled out; distended  
**inflation** /'ɪnflə'sh(ə)n/ *n* inflating or being inflated, esp a substantial and continuing rise in the general level of prices, caused by or causing an increase in the volume of money and credit or an expansion of the economy – **inflationary** *adj*  
**inflect** /'ɪnflekt/ *vt* 1 to vary (a word) by inflection 2 to change or vary the pitch of (a voice or note) ~ *vi* to become modified by inflection [ME *inflecten*, fr L *inflectere* to bend, modulate, fr *in-* + *flectere* to bend] – **inflective** *adj*  
**inflection**, *Br* also **inflexion** /'ɪnflektʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 change in pitch or loudness of the voice 2a the change in the form of a word showing its case, gender, number, tense, etc b an element (e.g. a suffix) showing such variation 3 (a point on a curve of) change of curvature with respect to a fixed line from concave to convex or conversely  **MATHEMATICS** – **inflectional** *adj*  
**inflexed** /'ɪnflektəd/ *adj* bent or turned abruptly inwards, downwards, or towards the axis [L *inflexus*, pp of *inflectere*]  
**inflexible** /'ɪnfleksəbl/ *adj* rigidly firm: e.g. a lacking or deficient in suppleness b UNYIELDING 2 incapable of change [ME, fr L *inflexibilis*, fr *in-* + *flexibilis* flexible] – **inflexibly** *adv*, **inflexibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*  
**infect** /'ɪnfekt/ *vt* to force or impose (sthg damaging or painful) on sby [L *infectus*, pp of *infigere*, fr *in-* + *figere* to strike – more at PROFLIGATE] – **infecter**, **infectior** *n*, **infection** *n*  
**in-flight** *adj* made, carried out, or provided in flight (< *refuelling*) (< *meals*)  
**inflorescence** /ɪnflə'res(ə)ns, -flə-/ *n* 1a (the arrangement of flowers on) a floral axis  **PLANT** b a flower cluster; also a solitary flower 2 the budding and unfolding of blossoms; flowering [NL *inflorescentia*, fr LL *inflorescent-*, *inflorescens*, prp of *inflorescere* to begin to bloom, fr L

*in-* + *florescere* to begin to bloom – more at FLORESCENCE] – **inflorescent** *adj*  
**inflow** /'ɪnfləʊ/ *n* a flowing in (< a pipe taking the maximum rate of ~>)  
**<sup>1</sup>influence** /'ɪnfluːəns/ *n* 1 an ethereal fluid supposed to flow from the stars and to affect the actions of human beings 2 the power to achieve sthg desired by using wealth or position 3 the act, power, or capacity of causing or producing an effect in indirect or intangible ways 4 sby or sthg that exerts influence; esp sby or sthg that tends to produce a moral or immoral effect on another [ME, fr MF, fr ML *influentia*, fr L *influent-*, *influens*, prp of *influer* to flow in, fr *in-* + *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID] – **under the influence** affected by alcohol, drunk (< *was arrested for driving under the influence*)  
**<sup>2</sup>influence** *vt* to affect, alter, or modify by indirect or intangible means  
**influent** /'ɪnfluːənt, '-/ *n* a tributary stream [ME, fr *influent* flowing in, fr L *influent-*, *influens*, prp of *influer*]  
**influential** /'ɪnfluːənʃ(ə)l/ *adj* exerting or possessing influence – **influentially** *adv*  
**influenza** /'ɪnfluːənʒə/ *n* 1 a highly infectious virus disease characterized by sudden onset, fever, severe aches and pains, and inflammation of the respiratory mucous membranes 2 any of numerous feversh us virus diseases of domestic animals marked by respiratory symptoms [It, lit., influence, fr ML *influentia*; fr the belief that epidemics were due to the influence of the stars]  
**influx** /'ɪnfluks/ *n* a usu sudden increase in flowing in, the arrival of large amounts [LL *influxus*, fr L, pp of *influer*]  
**info** /'ɪnfəʊ/ *n* information – **infmtl**  
**infold** /'ɪnfəʊld/ *vt* to enfold  
**inform** /'ɪnfawm/ *vt* 1 to impart an essential quality or character to 2 to communicate knowledge to ~ *vi* 1 to give information or knowledge 2 to act as an informer against or on [ME *informen*, fr MF *enformer*, fr L *informare* to give shape to, fr *in-* + *forma* form] – **informant** *n*  
**informal** /'ɪnfawml/ *adj* marked by an absence of formality or ceremony, everyday – **informally** *adv*, **informality** /'ɪnfaw'mæləti/ *n*  
**information** /'ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the communication or reception of facts or ideas 2a knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction b news c (significant) facts or data d a signal or character (e.g. in a radio transmission or computer) representing data e a quantitative measure of the content of information, specif a numerical quantity that measures the uncertainty in the outcome of an experiment to be performed 3 a formal accusation presented to a magistrate – **informational** *adj*  
**information science** *n* the collection, classification, storage, retrieval, and distribution of recorded knowledge  
**information theory** *n* a theory that deals statistically with the efficiency of communication of information  
**informative** /'ɪnfawmɪtɪv/, **informatory** /'ɪnfawmət(ə)n/ *adj* conveying facts or ideas; instructive – **informatively** *adv*, **informativeness** *n*  
**informed** /'ɪnfawmd/ *adj* 1 possessing or based on possession of information 2 knowledgeable about matters of contemporary interest  
**informer** /'ɪnfawmə/ *n* one who informs against another, esp to the police for a financial reward  
**infra** /'ɪnfra/ *adv* lower on the same or a following page [L]  
**infra-** /'ɪnfra-/ *prefix* 1 below (< *infrarenal*) (< *infrastructure*), less than (< *infrahuman*) 2 within (< *infraspecific*) (< *infraterritorial*) 3 below in a scale or series (< *infrared*) [L *infra* – more at UNDER]  
**infract** /'ɪnfɹæktʃ(ə)n/ *n* a violation, infringement [L *infractio-*, *infractio*, fr *infractus*, pp of *infringere*]  
**infra** 'dig *adj* beneath one's dignity – **infmtl** [short for L *infra dignitatem*]  
**infrangible** /'ɪnfɹəŋgəbl/ *adj* 1 not capable of being broken or separated 2 not to be infringed or violated [MF, fr LL *infrangibilis*, fr L *in-* + *frangere* to break – more at BREAK] – **infrangibly** *adv*, **infrangibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*  
**infrared** /'ɪnfɹə'red/ *adj* or *n* (being, using, producing, or sensitive to) electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength between the red end of the visible spectrum and microwaves, that is commonly perceived as heat  **PHYSICS**  
**infra-sonic** /'ɪnfə'sonɪk/ *adj* (of, being, using, or produced by waves or vibrations) having a frequency below the lower threshold of human hearing  
**infrastructure** /-strʌktʃə/ *n* 1 an underlying foundation or basic framework 2 the permanent installations required for military purposes

**infrequent** /in'freekwənt/ *adj* 1 rare 2 not habitual or persistent [L *infrequent-, infrequens*, fr *in-* + *frequent-, frequens* frequent] – *infrequency* *n*, *infrequently* *adv*

**infringe** /in'frɪŋ/ *vt* to encroach on; violate ~ *vi* to encroach, trespass [L *infringere*, lit., to break off, fr *in-* + *frangere* to break – more at *BRFAK*] – *infringement* *n*

**infundibular** /infun'dibjoolə/, **infundibulate** /-lət/ *adj* 1 funnel-shaped 2 of or having an infundibulum

**infundibulum** /infun'dibjooləm/ *n*, *pl* **infundibula** /-lə/ the funnel-shaped mass of grey matter that connects the pituitary gland to the brain [NL, fr L, funnel – more at *FUNNEL*]

**infuriate** /in'fjooəriət/ *vt* to make furious [ML *infuratus*, pp of *infuriare*, fr L *in-* + *furia* fury] – *infuriate* *adj*, *infuriatingly* *adv*

**infuse** /in'fju:z/ *vt* 1 to inspire, imbue 2 to steep in liquid without boiling so as to extract the soluble properties or constituents [ME *infusen*, fr MF & L; MF *infuser*, fr L *infusus*, pp of *infundere* to pour in, fr *in-* + *fundere* to pour – more at \**FOUND*] – *infuser* *n*

**infusible** /in'fju:zəbl/ *adj* very difficult or impossible to fuse or melt – *infusibility* /-zə'bɪləti/ *n*

**infusion** /in'fju:ʒən/ *n* 1 infusing 2 the continuous slow introduction of a solution, esp into a vein 3 an extract obtained by infusing

**infusorian** /in'fju:ʒəwɪən/ *n* any of a group composed of different types of minute living organisms found esp in decomposing organic matter, esp a cilia-bearing protozoan – not now used technically [deriv of L *infusus*] – *infusorial* *adj*, *infusorian* *adj*

**1-ing** /-ɪŋ/ *suffix* (→ *vb* or *adj*) -used to form the present participle <*sailing*> and sometimes to form an adjective resembling a present participle but not derived from a verb <*swashbuckling*> [ME, alter of *-ende*, fr OF *n* “”, verb stem vowel + *-nde*, prp suffix – more at *-ANI*]

**2-ing** *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 action or process of <*running*> <*sleeping*>, also instance of (a specified action or process) <a *meeting*> – sometimes used to form a noun resembling a gerund but not derived from a verb <*skydiving*> 2 product or result of (a specified action or process) <a *engraving*> – often pl with sing. meaning <*earnings*> 3 activity or occupation connected with <*boating*> <*banking*> 4a collection or aggregate of <*shipping*> <*housing*> b sth connected with, consisting of, or used in making <*scaffolding*> <*shirting*> 5 sth related to (a specified concept) <*offing*> [ME, fr OE, suffix forming nouns from verbs, akin to OHG *-ung*, suffix forming nouns from verbs]

**ingenious** /in'jeɪni-əs/ *adj* marked by originality, resourcefulness, and cleverness [MF *ingenieux*, fr L *ingenosus*, fr *ingenium* natural capacity – more at *ENGINE*] – *ingeniously* *adv*

**ingenue**, **ingénue** /anzhay'nooh (Fr ɛʒeny)/ *n* 1 a naive or artless young woman 2 (an actress playing) the stage role of an ingenue [F *ingénue*, fem of *ingénu* ingenuous, fr L *ingenuus*]


**ingenuity** /inj'nyoo-əti/ *n* (resourceful) cleverness, inventiveness [L *ingenuitas* ingenuousness, fr *ingenuus* ingenuous, afterwards influenced in meaning by *ingenious*]

**ingenuous** /in'jenyoo-əs/ *adj* showing innocent or childlike simplicity, frank, candid [L *ingenuus* native, free born, fr *in-* + *gignere* to beget – more at *KIN*] – *ingenuously* *adv*, *ingenuousness* *n*

**ingest** /in'jest/ *vt* to take in (as if) for digestion, absorb [L *ingestus*, pp of *ingerere* to carry in, fr *in-* + *gerere* to bear – more at *CAST*] – *ingestible* *adj*, *ingestion* *n*, *ingestive* *adj*

**inglenook** /'ɪŋ-gl.nook/ *n* (a seat in) an alcove by a large open fireplace [ScGael *aingeal* light, fire + E *nook*]

**inglorious** /in'glawri-əs/ *adj* shameful, ignominious [L *inglorius*, fr *in-* + *gloria* glory] – *ingloriously* *adv*

**in-goal** *n* a rectangular area behind the goal line in rugby, extending completely across the field, in which the ball must be touched down to score a try  *SPORT*

**ingolng** /'ɪŋgoh-ɪŋ/ *adj* entering

**ingot** /'ɪŋ-gət/ *n* a (bar-shaped) mass of cast metal [ME, mould for casting metal, prob fr OE *in* + *goten*, pp of *gēotan* to pour, cast in metal]

**ingrain** /in'grayn/ *vt* to work (sth) indelibly into a natural texture or mental or moral constitution

**1-ingrain** /in'grayn/ *n* or *adj* (an article) made of fibres that are dyed to various colours before being spun into yarn, or made of the resultant yarn

**2-ingrain** *adj* firmly and deeply implanted; deep-rooted – *ingrainedly* *adv*

**ingratiate** /in'graysh.i.ət/ *vt* to gain favour for (e.g. oneself) by deliberate effort <~ *themselves with the public*> [*in-* + L *gratia* grace] –

*ingratiatingly* *adv*, *ingratiatory* /-shɪ-ət(a)rɪ/ *adj*, *ingratiation* /-əyʃən/ *n*

**ingratitude** /in'gratitju:hd/ *n* forgetfulness or scant recognition of kindness received [ME, fr MF, fr ML *ingratitudo*, fr L *in-* + LL *gratitudo* gratitude]

**ingredient** /in'gredi-ənt/ *n* sth that forms a component part of a compound, combination, or mixture [ME, fr L *ingredient-, ingrediens*, prp of *ingredi* to go into, fr *in-* + *gradi* to go – more at *GRADE*]

**ingress** /in-gres/ *n* 1 the act of entering, *specif* that of a celestial body into eclipse, occultation, or transit 2 the right of entrance or access [ME, fr L *ingressus*, fr *ingressus*, pp of *ingredi*]

**ingrowing** /in.groh-ɪŋ/, *NAm chiefly ingrown* /-grohŋ/ *adj* growing inwards, *specif* having the free tip or edge embedded in the flesh <*an ~ toenail*>

**ingrowth** /in.groʊth/ *n* 1 a growing inwards 2 sth that grows in or into a space

**inguinal** /'ɪŋ-gwɪn/ *adj* of or situated in the groin region [L *inguinalis*, fr *inguin-*, *inguen* groin – more at *ADEN-*]

**ingurgitate** /in'gʊhɪtəɪt/ *vt* to swallow greedily or in large quantities [L *ingurgitatus*, pp of *ingurgitare*, fr *in-* + *gurgit-*, *gurgus* whirlpool – more at *VORACIOUS*] – *ingurgitation* /-təyʃən/ *n*

**inhabit** /in'həbɪt/ *vt* to occupy or be present in <*the hopes and fears that ~ the human mind*> [ME *inhabiten*, fr MF & L; MF *inhabiter*, fr L *inhabitare*, fr *in-* + *habitare* to dwell, fr *habitus*, pp of *habere* to have – more at *GIVE*] – *inhabitable* *adj*, *inhabitancy* *n*, *inhabitant* *n*, *inhabitation* /-təyʃən/ *n*

**inhalant** /in'həɪlənt/ *n* sth (e.g. a medication) that is inhaled

**inhalation** /in'hə'leɪʃən/ *n* (material for) inhaling

**inhale** /in'həɪl/ *vb* to breathe in [*in-* + *-hale* (as in *exhale*)]

**inhaler** /in'həɪlə/ *n* a device used for inhaling a medication [INHALE + *-ER*]

**inharmonious** /in'hə'mohnyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 not harmonious 2 not congenial or compatible – *inharmoniously* *adv*

**inhere** /in'hɪə/ *vi* to be inherent, belong <*power to make laws ~ s in the state*> [L *inhaerere*, fr *in-* + *haerere* to adhere – more at *HESITATE*]

**inherent** /in'hɪərənt, -hɪə/ *adj* intrinsic to the constitution or essence of sth [L *inhaerent-, inhaerens*, prp of *inhaerere*] – *inherence* *n*, *inherently* *adv*

**inherit** /in'hɪrɪt/ *vi* 1 to receive a by right b from an ancestor at his/her death 2 to receive by genetic transmission <~ a *strong constitution*> ~ *vi* to receive sth by inheritance [ME *enheriten* to make heir, inherit, fr MF *enheriter* to make heir, fr LL *inhereditus*, fr L *in-* + *hereditas* inheritance – more at *HEREDITY*] – *inheritor* *n*, *inheritress* /-trɪs/, *inheritrix* /-trɪks/ *n*

**inheritable** /in'hɪrɪtəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being inherited 2 capable of inheriting – *inheritability* /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**inheritance** /in'hɪrɪt(ə)ns/ *n* 1a inheriting property b the transmission of genetic qualities from parent to offspring c the acquisition of a possession, condition, or trait from past generations 2a sth that is or may be inherited b sth acquired or derived from the past

**inhesion** /in'heezhən/ *n* inherence [L *inhaesus*, pp of *inhaerere*]

**inhibit** /in'hɪbɪt/ *vt* 1 to prohibit from doing sth 2a to restrain b to discourage from free or spontaneous activity, esp by psychological or social controls ~ *vi* to cause inhibition [ME *inhibiten*, fr L *inhibitus*, pp of *inhibere*, fr *in-* + *habere* to have – more at *GIVE*] – *inhibitive* *adj*, *inhibitory* *adj*

**inhibition** /in'hɪ'bɪʃən/ *n* 1a inhibiting or being inhibited b sth that forbids, debars, or restricts 2a a psychological restraint on another psychological or physical activity <*sexual ~ s*> b a restraining of a function (e.g. of a bodily organ or enzyme)

**inhibitor**, **inhibiter** /in'hɪbɪtə/ *n* sth that slows or interferes with a chemical action [INHIBIT + *-OR*, *-ER*]

**inhomogeneous** /in'homa'jeɪnyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* not homogeneous – *inhomogeneity* /in'homa'jeɪni-əti, -'neɪ-, -hohmoh-/ *n*

**inhospitable** /in'hɒ'spɪtəbl/ *adj* 1 not friendly or welcoming 2 providing no shelter or means of support – *inhospitableness* *n*, *inhospitably* *adv*

**inhospitality** /in'hɒ'spɪtəli/ *n* being inhospitable

**inhuman** /in'hyoohmən/ *adj* 1a inhumane b failing to conform to basic human needs 2 being other than human [MF & L; MF *inhumanus*, fr L *inhumanus*, fr *in-* + *humanus* human] – *inhumanly* *adv*

**inhumane** /inhyoo'hmayn/ *adj* lacking in kindness or compassion [MF *inhumanus* & L *inhumanus*] – *inhumanely* *adv*

**inhumanity** /inhyoo'hmanəti/ *n* 1 being pitiless or cruel 2 a cruel or barbarous act



**inhume** /in'hyoohm/ *vt* to bury, inter – fml [prob fr *F inhumare*, fr *L inhumare*, fr *in-* + *humus* earth – more at **HUMBLE**] – **inhumation** /inhyooh'maysh(ə)n/ *n*

**inimical** /i'nik(ə)l/ *adj* 1 hostile or indicating hostility 2 adverse in tendency, influence, or effects [LL *inimicalis*, fr *L inimicus* enemy – more at **ENEMY**] – **inimically** *adv*

**inimitable** /i'nimitəbl/ *adj* defying imitation [MF or L, MF, fr *L inimitabilis*, fr *in-* + *imitabilis* imitable] – **inimitableness** *n*, **inimitably** *adv*

**iniquity** /i'nikwəti/ *n* 1 gross injustice 2 a sin [ME *iniquite*, fr *MF iniquité*, fr *L iniquitat-*, *iniquitas*, fr *iniquus* uneven, fr *in-* + *aequus* equal] – **iniquitous** *adj*

**initial** /i'nish(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of the beginning (<the ~ symptoms of a disease>) 2 first (<the ~ number of a code>) [MF & L; MF, fr *L initialis*, fr *initium* beginning, fr *initus*, pp of *inire* to go into, fr *in-* + *ire* to go – more at **ISSUE**] – **initially** *adv*

**initial** *n* 1 the first letter of a name 2 *pl* the first letter of each word in a full name

**initial** *vt* -ll- (NAm -l-, -ll-) to put initials (indicating ownership or authorization) on

**initial teaching alphabet** *n* a 44-character phonetic alphabet designed for teaching children to read English

**initiate** /i'nishiəti/ *vt* 1 to cause or enable the beginning of; start 2 to instil with rudiments or principles (of sth complex or obscure) 3 to induct into membership (as if) by formal rites [LL *initiatum*, pp of *initiare*, fr *L*, to induct, fr *initium*] – **initiator** *n*, **initiatory** *adj*

**initiate** /i'nishi-ət/ *adj* 1 initiated or properly admitted (e.g. to membership or an office) 2 instructed in some secret knowledge

**initiate** /-ət/ *n* 1 sby who is undergoing or has undergone initiation 2 sby who is instructed or proficient in a complex or specialized field

**initiation** /i,nishi'aysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 initiating or being initiated 2 the ceremony or formal procedure with which sby is made a member of a sect or society

**initiative** /i'nish(yə)tiʋ/ *adj* introductory, preliminary

**initiative** *n* 1 a first step, esp in the attainment of an end or goal 2 energy or resourcefulness displayed in initiation of action 3 a procedure enabling voters to propose a law by petition – compare **REFERENDUM** – on one's own **initiative** without being prompted; independently of outside influence or control

**inject** /in'jekt/ *vt* 1a to throw, drive, or force into sthg (<~ fuel into an engine>) b to force a fluid into 2 to introduce as an element or factor [L *injectus*, pp of *injacere*, fr *in-* + *jacere* to throw – more at **JEET**] – **injector** *n*

**injection** /in'jeksh(ə)n/ *n* 1a injecting b the placing of an artificial satellite or a spacecraft into an orbit or on a trajectory 2 sthg (e.g. a medication) that is injected

**injection moulding** *n* the manufacture of rubber or plastic articles by injecting heated material into a mould – **injection-moulded** *adj*

**injudicious** /injuoh'dishəs/ *adj* indiscreet, unwise – **injudiciously** *adv*, **injudiciousness** *n*

**Injun** /in'jən/ *n* a N American Indian – infml [alter. of *Indian*]

**injunction** /in'jungksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an order, warning 2 a writ requiring sby to do or refrain from doing a particular act [MF & LL; MF *injonction*, fr *LL injunctio-*, *injunctio*, fr *L injunctus*, pp of *injungere* to enjoin – more at **ENJOIN**] – **injunctive** *adj*

**injure** /in'jə/ *vt* 1 to do injustice to 2a to inflict bodily hurt on b to impair the soundness of c to inflict damage or loss on [back-formation fr *injury*]

**injurious** /in'juəniəs/ *adj* inflicting or tending to inflict injury – **injuriously** *adv*, **injuriousness** *n*

**injury** /in'jəri/ *n* 1 a wrong 2 hurt, damage, or loss sustained [ME *injurie*, fr *L injuria*, fr *injurus* injurious, fr *in-* + *jur-*, *jus* right – more at **JUST**]

**injury-time** *n* time added on to the end of a match in soccer, rugby, etc to compensate for time lost through injuries to players

**injustice** /in'justis/ *n* (an act or state of) unfairness [ME, fr MF, fr *L injustitia*, fr *injustus* unjust, fr *in-* + *justus* just]

**ink** /iŋk/ *n* 1 a coloured liquid used for writing and printing 2 the black secretion of a squid or similar cephalopod mollusc that hides it from a predator or prey [ME *enke*, fr OF, fr *LL encaustum*, fr neut of *L encaustus* burned in, fr *Gk enkaustos*, verbal of *enkaiein* to burn in – more at **ENCAUSTIC**] – **inky** *adj*

**ink** *vt* to apply ink to

**inkblot test** /iŋkblət/ *n* **RORSCHACH TEST**

**ink cap** *n* any of several toadstools whose cap melts into an inky fluid after the spores have matured

**inked** /iŋkt/ *adj*, *Austr & NZ* drunk, incapacitated – infml [*ink* (cheap wine), fr *'ink*]

**inkhorn** /-hawn/ *n* a small portable bottle (e.g. of horn) for holding ink

**inkhorn** *adj* ostentatiously pedantic (<~ terms>)

**inkling** /iŋkling/ *n* 1 a faint indication 2 a slight knowledge or vague idea [ME *ynγκiling*, prob fr *inclin* to hint at, akin to OE *inca* suspicion, *Lith ingis* sluggard]

**inkstand** /-stand/ *n* a stand with fittings for holding ink and often pens

**inkwell** /-wel/ *n* a container (e.g. in a school desk) for ink

**inlaid** /in'layd/ *adj* 1 set into a surface in a decorative design (<tables with ~ marble>) 2 decorated with a design or material set into a surface (<a table with an ~ top>)

**inland** /in'land, -lənd/ *adv* or *n* (into or towards) the interior part of a country

**inland** /inlənd/ *adj* 1 of the interior of a country 2 chiefly *Br* not foreign, domestic

**inlander** /inlənda/ *n* one who lives inland

**Inland Revenue** *n* the government department responsible for collecting taxes in Britain

**in-law** *n* a relative by marriage – infml (<all her ~s turned up>) [back formation fr *mother-in-law*, etc]

**inlay** /in'lay/ *vt* **inlaid** /-layd/ 1 to set into a surface or ground material for decoration or reinforcement 2 to decorate with inlaid material

**inlay** /in'lay/ *n* 1 inlaid work or a decorative inlaid pattern 2 a dental filling shaped to fit a cavity

**inlet** /inlet, -lit/ *n* 1 a (long and narrow) recess in a shoreline or a water passage between 2 land areas 2 a means of entry, esp an opening for intake (<a fuel ~>) [fr its letting water in]

**inlier** /in'lie-ə/ *n* an outcrop of rock surrounded by rock of younger age [*in* + *-lier* (as in *outher*)]

**in loco parentis** /in ,lohkoh po'rentis/ *adv* in the place of and esp having the responsibilities of a parent [L]

**inly** /inli/ *adv* inwardly, intimately – poetic

**innate** /inmayt/ *n* any of a group occupying a place of residence, esp a prison or hospital

**in medias res** /in ,medias 'rayz/ *adv* in or into the middle of a narrative or plot [L, lit., into the middle of things]

**in memoriam** /in mɪ'mawri-əm, -əm/ *prep* in memory of [L]

**inmost** /inmoʃt/ *adj* 1 furthest within 2 most intimate [ME, fr OE *innemest*, superl of *inne*, *adv*, in, within, fr *in*, *adv*]


**inn** /in/ *n* 1a an establishment (e.g. a small hotel) providing lodging and food, esp for travellers b **PUBLIC HOUSE** 2 a residence formerly provided for students in London [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *inni* dwelling, *inn*, OE *in*, *adv*]

**innards** /'inədz/ *n pl* 1 the internal organs of a human being or animal, esp the viscera 2 the internal parts of a structure or mechanism *USE* infml [alter. of *inwards*]

**innate** /i'nayt/ *adj* 1a existing in or belonging to an individual from birth b inherent c originating in the intellect 2 **ENDOGENOUS** 2 [ME *innat*, fr *L innatus*, pp of *innasci* to be born in, fr *in-* + *nasci* to be born – more at **NATION**] – **innately** *adv*, **innateness** *n*

**inner** /'inə/ *adj* 1a situated within; internal (<an ~ chamber>) b situated near to a centre, esp of influence (<an ~ circle of government ministers>) 2 of the mind or soul (<the ~ life of man>) [ME, fr OE *innera*, compar of *inne* within – more at **INMOST**] – **inner** *n*, **innermost** *adj*

**inner city** *n* a usu older and more densely populated central section of a city; esp such an area characterized by social problems – **inner-city** *adj*

**inner ear** *n* the innermost part of the ear from which sound waves are transmitted to the brain as nerve impulses  **NERVE**

**inner light** *n*, often *cap* **I&L** a divine influence held, esp in Quaker doctrine, to enlighten and guide the soul

**inner man** *n* 1 the soul, mind 2 the stomach, appetite

**inner planet** *n* any of the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars that as a group have orbits nearer the sun than the outer planets

**inner space** *n* space at or near the earth's surface or under the sea

**inner tube** *n* an inflatable tube inside the casing of a pneumatic tyre

**innervate** /in'nevayt/ *vt* to supply with nerves – **innervation** /-vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Inning** /'ining/ *n* a baseball team's turn at batting or a division of a



baseball game consisting of a turn at batting for each team [*in* + *-ing*]

**innings** *n*, *pl* **innings** 1a any of the alternating divisions of a cricket match during which one side bats and the other bowls b the (runs scored in or quality of the) turn of 1 player to bat c an unplayed innings of a side <won by an ~ and 32 runs> 2a a period in which sb has opportunity for action or achievements b chiefly *Br* the duration of sb's life <he had a good ~>

**innkeeper** /'in,keɪpə/ *n* the landlord of an inn

**innocent** /'ɪnəs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a free from guilt or sin, pure b harmless in effect or intention <an ~ conversation> c free from legal guilt 2 lacking or deprived of sthg <a face ~ of make-up> 3a artless, ingenuous b ignorant, unaware [ME, fr MF, fr L *innocent-*, *innocens*, fr *in-* + *nocent-*, *nocens* wicked, fr *prp* of *nocere* to harm – more at NOXIOUS] – **innocence**, **innocency** *n*, **innocent** *n*, **innocently** *adv*

**innocuous** /'ɪnɒkjʊəs/ *adj* 1 having no harmful effects 2 inoffensive, inipid [L *innocuus*, fr *in-* + *nocere*] – **innocuously** *adv*, **innocuousness** *n*

**innominate** /'ɪnɒmɪnət/ *adj* having no name; also anonymous – chiefly *fml* [LL *innominatus*, fr L *in-* + *nominatus*, *pp* of *nominare* to nominate]

**innominate bone** *n* the large bone composed of the ilium, ischium, and pubis that forms half of the pelvis in mammals, the hipbone

**innovate** /'ɪnəveɪt/ *vi* to make changes, introduce sthg new [L *innovatus*, *pp* of *innovare*, fr *in-* + *novus* new – more at NEW] – **innovative** *adj*, **innovator** *n*, **innovatory** *adj*, **innovation** /'ɪnəveɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Inns of Court** *n pl* (4 buildings housing) 4 societies of students and barristers in London which have the exclusive right of admission to the English Bar

**innuendo** /'ɪnuːəndə/ *n*, *pl* **innuendos**, **innuendoes** an oblique allusion, esp a veiled slight on sb's character or reputation [L, by hinting, fr *innuere* to hint, fr *in-* + *nuere* to nod – more at NUMEN]

**innumerable** /'ɪnyʊərəbəl/ *adj* countless [ME, fr L *innumerabilis*, fr *in-* + *numerabilis* numerable] – **innumerably** *adv*

**innumerate** /'ɪnyʊərəmət/ *adj*, *Br* lacking understanding of the mathematical approach, not numerate – **innumerate** *n*, **innumeracy** *n*

**inobservance** /'ɪnəbzəvəns/ *n* 1 lack of attention 2 failure to observe a custom, rule, etc [F & L, F, fr L *inobservantia*, fr *in-* + *observantia* observance] – **inobservant** *adj*

**inoculate** /'ɪnɒkjʊleɪt/ *vi* 1a to introduce a microorganism into <~ mice with anthrax> b to introduce (e.g. a microorganism) into a culture, animal, etc for growth c VACCINATE 2 2 to imbue [ME *inoculatus* to insert a bud in a plant, fr L *inoculatus*, *pp* of *inoculare*, fr *in-* + *oculus* eye, bud – more at EYE] – **inoculative** /-ləɪtɪv/ *adj*, **inoculator** *n*, **inoculation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**inoculum** /'ɪnɒkjʊləm/ *n*, *pl* **inocula** /-lə/ material used for inoculation [NL, fr L *inoculare*]

**in-off** *n* the putting of one ball after it has touched another in billiards, snooker, etc [fr the phrase *in off* (the red ball or the white ball)]

**inoffensive** /'ɪnɒfensɪv/ *adj* 1 not causing any harm, innocuous 2 not objectionable to the senses – **inoffensively** *adv*, **inoffensiveness** *n*

**inoperable** /'ɪnɒp(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 not suitable for surgery 2 impracticable [prob fr F *inopérable*]

**inoperative** /'ɪnɒp(ə)rətɪv/ *adj* not functioning; having no effect

**inopportune** /'ɪnɒp(ə)tʃuːn/ *adj* inconvenient, unseasonable [L *inopportunus*, fr *in-* + *opportunus* opportune] – **inopportunately** *adv*, **inopportuneness** *n*

**in order that** *conj* THAT 2(1)

**inordinate** /'ɪnɔːdɪnət/ *adj* exceeding reasonable limits [ME *inordinat*, fr L *inordinatus*, fr *in-* + *ordinatus*, *pp* of *ordinare* to put in order] – **inordinate** *adv*, **inordinately** *adv*

**inorganic** /'ɪnɔːɡənɪk/ *adj* 1a being or composed of matter other than plant or animal; mineral b of, being, or dealt with by a branch of chemistry concerned with inorganic substances 2 not arising through natural growth – **inorganically** *adv*

**inosculate** /'ɪnɒskjʊleɪt/ *vb* to unite by apposition or contact, blend [deriv of L *osculare* to provide with a mouth or outlet, fr *osculum*, dim. of *os* mouth] – **inoscultation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**inotropic** /'ɪnə'trɒpɪk, -tə-, -trɒpɪk/ *adj* of or influencing the force of contraction of heart muscle [ISV *ino-* (fr Gk *in-*, *is* sinew) + *-tropic*]

**inpatient** /'ɪn,peɪʃ(ə)nt/ *n* a hospital patient who receives lodging and food as well as treatment – compare OUTPATIENT

**input** /'ɪnpʊt/ *n* 1a an amount coming or put in b sthg (e.g. energy, material, or data) supplied to a machine or system c a component of

production (e.g. land, labour, or raw materials) 2 the point at which an input (e.g. of energy, material, or data) is made

**input** *vi* -tt- to enter (e.g. data) into a computer or data-processing system ~ COMPUTER

**inquest** /'ɪn(g)kwɛst/ *n* 1 a judicial inquiry, esp by a coroner, into the cause of a death 2 an inquiry or investigation, esp into sthg that has failed [ME, fr OF *enquête*, fr (assumed) VL *inquaestus*, *pp* of *inquærere* to inquire]

**inquietude** /'ɪn'kwɪə-tɪyoʊd/ *n* uneasiness, restlessness [ME, fr MF or LL, MF, fr LL *inquietudo*, fr L *inquietus* disturbed, fr *in-* + *quietus* quiet]

**inquiline** /'ɪnkwɪliən/ *n* an animal (e.g. the cuckoo) that lives habitually in the abode of some other species [L *inquilinus* tenant, lodger, fr *in-* + *colere* to cultivate, dwell – more at WHFL] – **inquiline** *adj*, **inquilism** /-lɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **inquilinous** /-lɪnəs/ *adj*

**inquire** /'ɪn'kwɪə-/ *vi* to ask about, ask to be told ~ *vi* 1 to seek information by questioning 2 to make a search or inquiry [ME *enquiren*, fr OF *enquerre*, fr (assumed) VL *inquærere*, alter. of L *inquirere*, fr *in-* + *quaerere* to seek] – **inquirer** *n*, **inquiringly** *adv* – **inquire after** to ask about the health of

**inquiry** /'ɪn'kwɪə-əri/ *n* 1 a request for information 2 a systematic investigation

**inquiry agent** *n*, *Br* PRIVATE DETECTIVE

**inquisition** /'ɪnkwɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of inquiring 2 a judicial or official inquiry 3a *cap* a former Roman Catholic tribunal for the discovery and punishment of heresy b a ruthless investigation or examination [ME *inquisicioun*, fr MF *inquisition*, fr L *inquisition-*, *inquisitio*, fr *inquisitus*, *pp* of *inquirere*] – **inquisitional** *adj*

**inquisitive** /'ɪn'kwɪzɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 eager for knowledge or understanding 2 fond of making inquiries; esp unduly curious about the affairs of others – **inquisitively** *adv*, **inquisitiveness** *n*

**inquisitor** /'ɪn'kwɪzɪtə/ *n* one who inquires or conducts an inquisition (harshly or with hostility)

**inquisitorial** /'ɪn'kwɪzɪtəriəl/ *adj* of a system of criminal procedure in which the judge is also the prosecutor – compare ACCUSATORIAL – **inquisitorially** *adv*

**in re** /'ɪn 'reɪ/ *prep* in the matter of [L]

**inroad** /'ɪn,roʊd/ *n* 1 a raid 2 a serious or forcible encroachment or advance <an illness made ~s on his savings>

**inrush** /'ɪn,rʊʃ/ *n* a crowding or flooding in

**insalubrious** /'ɪnsə'ljuːbrɪəs/ *adj* unhealthy <an ~ climate> [L *insalubris*, fr *in-* + *salubris* healthful – more at SAFE] – **insalubriously** *adv*, **insalubrity** *n*

**ins and outs** *n pl* characteristic peculiarities and complexities, ramifications

**insane** /'ɪn'seɪn/ *adj* 1 mentally disordered, exhibiting insanity 2 typical of or intended for insane people <an ~ asylum> 3 utterly absurd [L *insanus*, fr *in-* + *sanus* sane] – **insanely** *adv*, **insanity** /'ɪn'sænɪti/ *n*

**insanitary** /'ɪn'sænɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj* unclean enough to endanger health; filthy, contaminated

**insatiable** /'ɪn'saɪə(ə)bl/ *adj* incapable of being satisfied [ME *insaci-*, fr MF, fr L *insatiabilis*, fr *in-* + *satiare* to satisfy – more at SATIATE] – **insatiably** *adv*, **insatiability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**insatiate** /'ɪn'saɪəʃi-ət/ *adj* insatiable

**inscape** /'ɪnskayp/ *n* a unity perceived in natural objects that is expressed in literature [*in-* + *-scape* (as in *landscape*)]

**inscribe** /'ɪnskriːb/ *vi* 1a to write, engrave, or print (as a lasting record) b to enter on a list, enrol 2 to address or dedicate to sb, esp by a handwritten note 3 to draw within a figure so as to touch at as many points as possible <a regular polygon ~d in a circle> [L *inscribere*, fr *in-* + *scribere* to write – more at SCRIBE] – **inscriber** *n*

**inscription** /'ɪnskriːpʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a title, superscription b EPIGRAPH 2 c LEGEND 2a a handwritten dedication in a book or on a work of art 3a the act of inscribing b the enrolment of a name (as if) on a list [ME *inscripcioun*, fr L *inscription-*, *inscriptio*, fr *inscriptus*, *pp* of *inscribere*] – **inscriptional** *adj*, **inscriptive** *adj*

**inscrutable** /'ɪnskroʊtəbl/ *adj* hard to interpret or understand; enigmatic [ME, fr LL *inscrutabilis*, fr L *in-* + *scrutari* to search – more at SCRUTINITY] – **inscrutableness** *n*, **inscrutably** *adv*, **inscrutability** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*

**insect** /'ɪnsekt/ *n* 1 any of a class of arthropods with a well-defined head, thorax, and abdomen, only 3 pairs of legs, and typically 1 or 2 pairs of wings 2 any of various small invertebrate animals (e.g. woodlice and spiders) – not used technically 3 a worthless or insignificant person [L

- insectum*, fr neut of *insectus*, pp of *insecare* to cut into, fr *in-* + *secare* to cut – more at *'saw*)
- insectarium** /ˈɪnsek'tɪəriəm/ *n*, pl *insectariums*, *insectaria* /-ri-ə/ *n* an insectary
- insectary** /ˈɪnsektəri/ *n* a place where insects are kept or reared
- insecticide** /ˈɪnsektɪsaɪd/ *n* sth that destroys insects [ISV] – *insecticidal* /-sɪdəl/ *adj*
- insectivore** /ˈɪnsektɪvəʊ/ *n* 1 any of an order of mammals including moles, shrews, and hedgehogs that are mostly small, nocturnal, and eat insects 2 an insect-eating plant or animal  **FOOD** [deriv of *L insectum* + *-vorus* - vorous]
- insecure** /ˈɪnsɪ'kyooə/ *adj* 1 lacking adequate protection or guarantee <an ~ job> 2 not firmly fixed or supported <the hinge is ~> 3a not stable or well-adjusted <an ~ marriage> b deficient in assurance; beset by fear and anxiety [ML *insecurus*, fr *L in-* + *securus* secure] – *insecurely* *adv*, *insecurity* *n*
- inseminate** /ˈɪnseminayt/ *vt* 1 sow lb, lc 2 to introduce semen into the genital tract of (a female) [L *inseminatus*, pp of *inseminare*, fr *in-* + *semin-*, *semen* seed – more at *SEMEN*] – *inseminator* *n*, *insemination* /-ˈnəyʃən/ *n*
- insensate** /ˈɪnsensayt, -sət/ *adj* 1 insentient 2 lacking in human feeling [LL *insensatus*, fr *L in-* + LL *sensatus* having sense, fr *L sensus* sense] – *insensately* *adv*
- insensible** /ˈɪnsensəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable or bereft of feeling or sensation e.g. a having lost consciousness b lacking or deprived of sensory perception <~ to pain> 2 incapable of being felt or sensed 3 lacking concern or awareness [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr *L insensibilis*, fr *in-* + *sensibilis* sensible] – *insensibly* *adv*, *insensibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- insensitive** /ˈɪnsensətɪv/ *adj* 1 lacking the ability to respond to or sympathize with the needs or feelings of others 2 not physically or chemically sensitive <~ to light> – *insensitively* *adv*, *insensitivity* /-tɪvətɪ/ *n*
- insentient** /ˈɪnsenʃi-ənt/ *adj* not endowed with the capacity to perceive – *insentience* *n*
- inseparable** /ˈɪnsəp(ə)rəbl/ *adj* incapable of being separated [ME, fr *L inseparabilis*, fr *in-* + *separabilis* separable] – *inseparable* *n*, *inseparably* *adv*, *inseparability* /-rəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- 'insert** /ˈɪnzɪt, -suɪt/ *vt* 1 to put or thrust in <~ a coin in a slot machine> 2 to put or introduce into the body of sth <~ an advertisement in a newspaper> 3 to set in and make fast; esp to insert by sewing between 2 cut edges ~ *vi*, of a muscle to be in attachment to a specified part <muscles ~ on bone> [L *insertus*, pp of *inserere*, fr *in-* + *serere* to join – more at *SERIES*] – *insert* *n*
- \*insert** /-/ *n* sth (esp written or printed) inserted
- insertion** /ˈɪnzɪʃən/ *n* 1 the mode or place of attachment of an organ or part 2 embroidery or needlework inserted as ornament between 2 pieces of fabric 3 a single appearance of an advertisement (e.g. in a newspaper) [ˈɪNSERT + -ION] – *insertional* *adj*
- in-service** *adj*, of training undertaken in mid-career
- 'inset** /ˈɪnsɛt/ *n* sth set in: e.g. a a small illustration set within a larger one b a piece of cloth set into a garment for decoration, shaping, etc
- \*inset** *vt* -tt; *inset*, *insetted* to insert as an inset
- inshore** /ˈɪnʃəʊ/ *adj* or *adv* (near or moving) towards the shore
- 'inside** /ˈɪnsɪd/ *n* 1 an inner side or surface 2a an interior or internal part <fire destroyed the ~ of the house> b inward nature, thoughts, or feeling e the middle or main part of a division of time <the ~ of a week> d viscera, entrails – usu pl with sing meaning 3 a position of confidence or of access to confidential information 4 the middle portion of a playing area 5 the side of a pavement nearer the wall
- \*inside** *adj* 1 of, on, near, or towards the inside <an ~ toilet> 2 of or being the inner side of a curve or being near the side of the road nearest the kerb or hard shoulder <driving on the ~ lane>
- \*inside** *prep* 1a in or into the interior of b on the inner side of 2 within <~ an hour>
- \*inside** *adv* 1 to or on the inner side 2 in or into the interior 3 indoors 4 chiefly *Br* in or into prison – slang
- inside job** *n* a crime, esp a robbery, committed by or with the help of sby associated with (e.g. employed by) the victim – *infrml*
- inside-left** *n* an attacking player to the left of the centre-forward in a traditional soccer lineup  **SPORT**
- inside of** *prep* 1 in less time than 2 chiefly *NAM* inside *USE* *infrml*
- inside 'out** *adv* 1 with the inner surface on the outside <turned his socks ~> 2 in a very thorough manner – *infrml* <knows his subject ~>
- 'insider** /ˈɪnsaɪdər/ *n* sby recognized or accepted as a member of a group, category, or organization; esp one who has access to confidential information or is in a position of power
- inside-right** *n* an attacking player to the right of the centre-forward in a traditional soccer lineup  **SPORT**
- inside track** *n* the inner lane of a curved racetrack
- insidious** /ˈɪnsɪdi-əs/ *adj* 1 harmful but enticing 2a acting gradually and imperceptibly but with grave consequences b of a disease developing so gradually as to be well established before becoming apparent [L *insidiosus*, fr *insidiare* ambush, fr *insidere* to sit in, sit on, fr *in-* + *sedere* to sit – more at *SIT*] – *insidiously* *adv*, *insidiousness* *n*
- insight** /ˈɪnsaɪt/ *n* the power of or an act or result of discerning the true or underlying nature of sth – *insightful* *adj*
- insigne** /ˈɪnsɪgn/ *n*, pl *insignia* /ˈɪnsɪgnɪ-ə/ a badge of authority or honour [L, mark, badge, fr neut of *insignis* marked, distinguished, fr *in-* + *signum* mark, sign]
- insignia** /ˈɪnsɪgnɪ-ə/ *n* pl in *constr*, pl *insignia*, *insignias* badges of authority or honour – sometimes treated as sing in American English
- insignificant** /ˈɪnsɪgnɪfɪkənt/ *adj* 1 lacking meaning or import, inconsequential 2 very small in size, amount, or number – *insignificance*, *insignificancy* *n*, *insignificantly* *adv*
- insincere** /ˈɪnsɪn'siə/ *adj* hypocritical [L *insincerus*, fr *in-* + *sincerus* sincere] – *insincerely* *adv*, *insincerity* /-sɪn'ɛrəti/ *n*
- insinuate** /ˈɪnsɪnyoo,ayt/ *vt* 1 to introduce (an idea) or suggest (sth unpleasant) in a subtle or oblique manner 2 to gain acceptance for (e.g. oneself) by craft or stealth [L *insinuatus*, pp of *insinuare*, fr *in-* + *sinuare* to bend, curve, fr *sinus* curve] – *insinuatively* *adv*, *insinuator* *n*
- insinuation** /ˈɪnsɪnyoo'ayʃən/ *n* a sly and usu derogatory reference [ˈɪNSINUATE + -ION]
- insipid** /ˈɪnsɪpɪd/ *adj* 1 devoid of any definite flavour 2 devoid of interesting or stimulating qualities [F & LL, F *insipide*, fr LL *insipidus*, fr *L in-* + *sapidus* savoury, fr *sapere* to taste – more at *SAGE*] – *insipidly* *adv*, *insipidity* /-sɪˈpɪdɪti/ *n*
- insist** /ˈɪnsɪst/ *vi* 1 to take a resolute stand 2 to place great emphasis or importance on sth ~ *vt* to maintain persistently [MF or L, MF *insister*, fr *L insistere* to stand upon, persist, fr *in-* + *sistere* to stand, akin to *L stare* to stand – more at *STAND*]
- insistent** /ˈɪnsɪst(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 insisting forcefully or repeatedly, emphatic 2 demanding attention [L *insistent-*, *insistsens*, prp of *insistere*] – *insistence* *n*, *insistently* *adv*
- in situ** /ˈɪnsɪtyoo/ *adv* or *adj* in the natural or original position [L, in position]
- insobriety** /ˈɪnsəˈbrɪe-əti/ *n* intemperance, esp in drinking
- insofar as** /ˈɪnsəˈfah, ɪnsəhˈfah/ *conj* to the extent or degree that <I'll help you ~ I can>
- insolation** /ˈɪnsəˈləʃən/ *n* solar radiation that has been received on a given surface [F or L, F, exposure to the sun, fr MF, fr *L insolation-*, *insolatio*, fr *insolatus*, pp of *insolare* to place in the sunlight, fr *in-* + *sol* sun – more at *'SOLAR*]
- insole** /ˈɪnsəhl/ *n* 1 an inside sole of a shoe 2 a strip the shape of the sole that is placed inside a shoe for warmth or comfort
- insolent** /ˈɪnsələnt/ *adj* showing disrespectful rudeness; impudent [ME, fr *L insolent-*, *insolens*; akin to *L insollescere* to grow haughty] – *insolence* *n*, *insolently* *adv*
- insoluble** /ˈɪnsəlyooəbl/ *adj* 1 having or admitting of no solution or explanation 2 (practically) incapable of being dissolved in liquid [ME *insoluble*, fr *L insolubilis*, fr *in-* + *solvere* to free, dissolve – more at *SOLVE*] – *insoluble* *n*, *insolubleness* *n*, *insolubly* *adv*, *insolubility* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- insolvable** /ˈɪnsəlvəbl/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* impossible to solve <an apparently ~ problem> – *insolvably* *adv*
- insolvent** /ˈɪnsəlvənt/ *adj* 1 unable to pay debts as they fall due; specif having liabilities in excess of the value of assets held 2 relating to or for the relief of insolvents – *insolvency* *n*, *insolvent* *n*
- insomnia** /ˈɪnsəˈmni-ə/ *n* prolonged (abnormal) inability to obtain adequate sleep [L, fr *insomnus* sleepless, fr *in-* + *somnus* sleep – more at *SOMNOLENT*] – *insomniac* /-ak/ *adj* or *n*
- inso much that** /ˈɪnsəˈmʊtʃ, ɪnsəhˈmʊtʃ/ *conj* to such a degree that
- insoolance** /ˈɪnsəʊlənʃ/ (Fr ɛ̃suɔljɑ̃s) *n* lighthearted unconcern [F, fr *in-* + *soucier* to trouble, disturb, fr *L sollicitare*] – *insoolant* *adj*, *insoolantly* *adv*
- inspect** /ˈɪnspekt/ *vt* 1 to examine closely and critically; scrutinize 2 to view or examine officially [L *inspectus*, pp of *inspicere*, fr *in-* + *specere* to look – more at *SPY*] – *inspection* *n*, *inspective* *adj*
- inspector** /ˈɪnspektər/ *n* a police officer ranking immediately above a sergeant [ˈɪNSPEKT + -OR] – *inspectorate* /-rət/ *n*, *inspectorship* *n*
- inspiration** /ˈɪnspraɪʃən/ *n* 1a a divine influence or action on a

person which qualifies him/her to receive and communicate sacred revelation **b** the action or power of stimulating the intellect or emotions **2** the drawing of air into the lungs **3a** being inspired **b** an inspired idea *<I've had an ~, let's go to the seaside>* **4** an inspiring agent or influence – **inspirational** *adj*, **inspirationally** *adv*, **inspiratory** *adj*

**inspirator** /'inspi:reɪtə/ *n* an injector, respirator, etc by which gas, vapour, etc is drawn in [INSPIRE + -ATOR]

**inspire** /'inspie:ə/ *vt* **1** to inhale **2a** to influence or guide by divine inspiration **b** to exert an animating or exalting influence on *<was particularly ~d by the Impressionists>* (inspiring music) **c** to act as a stimulus for *<threats don't necessarily ~ people to work harder>* (music ~d by a trip to Venice) **d** to affect – *usu + with <seeing the old room again ~d him with nostalgia>* **3** to communicate to an agent supernaturally *<writings ~d by God>* ~ *vi* to breathe in [ME *inspiren*, fr MF & L; MF *inspirer*, fr L *inspirare* to blow or breathe upon, fr *in-* + *spirare* to breathe – more at SPIRIT] – **inspirer** *n*

**inspired** *adj* outstanding or brilliant in a way that suggests divine inspiration *<gave an ~ rendering of the piano sonata>*

**inspirit** /'inspi:t/ *vt* to animate, encourage

**inspissate** /'inspi:səɪt/ *vt* to make thick or thicker, esp by condensation [LL *inspissatus*, pp of *inspissare*, fr L *in-* + *spissare* to thicken, fr *spissus* thick; akin to Gk *spidios* extended, L *spatium* space] – **inspissation** /-'səʃən/ *n*

**instability** /'ɪnstə'bɪləti/ *n* lack of (emotional or mental) stability

**install** /'ɪnstɔ:l/ *vt* **1** to induct into an office, rank, or order, esp with ceremonies or formalities *<~ed the new department chairman>* **2** to establish in a specified place, condition, or status **3** to place in usu permanent position for use or service *<had a shower ~ed in the bathroom>* [MF *installer*, fr ML *installare*, fr L *in-* + ML *stallum* stall, fr OHG *staf* – **installer** *n*

**installation** /'ɪnstə'leɪʃən/ *n* **1** a device, apparatus, or piece of machinery fixed or fitted in place to perform some specified function *<a new gas central-heating ~>* **2** a military base or establishment *<US ~s in Europe>* [INSTALL + -ATION]

**instalment**, *NAM chiefly installment* /'ɪnstəlmənt/ *n* **1** any of the parts into which a debt is divided when payment is made at intervals **2a** any of several parts (e.g. of a publication) presented at intervals **b** a single part of a serial story [alter of earlier *estallment* payment by instalment, deriv of OF *estaler* to place, fix, fr *estal* place, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *stal* place, stall]

**instance** /'ɪnst(ə)ns/ *n* **1** an example cited as an illustration or proof **2** the institution of a legal action *<a court of first ~>* **3** a situation viewed as 1 stage in a process or series of events *<prefers, in this ~, to remain anonymous – TLS>* **4** a solicitation, request – *fml <am writing to you at the ~ of my client>* [ME *instance*, fr MF *instance* act of urging, motive, instant, fr L *instantia* presence, urgency, fr *instant-*, *instans*] – **for instance** as an example

**instance** *vt* **1** to exemplify by an instance **2** to put forward as a case or example, cite

**instancy** /'ɪnst(ə)nsi/ *n* urgency, insistence

**instant** /'ɪnst(ə)nt/ *n* **1** an infinitesimal space of time, esp a point in time separating 2 states *<at the ~ of death>* **2** the present or current month [ME, fr ML *instant-*, *instans*, fr *instant-*, *instans*, *adj*, *instant*, fr L.]

**instant** *adj* **1a** present, current *<previous felonies not related to the ~ crime>* **b** of or occurring in the present month – *used in commercial communications* **2** immediate *<the play was an ~ success>* **3a(1)** premixed or precooked for easy final preparation *<~ mashed potatoes>* **(2)** appearing (as if) in ready-to-use form *<updating your image with ~ beards, moustaches, and sideburns – Playboy>* **b** immediately soluble in water *<~ coffee>* **4** demanding, urgent – *fml* [ME, fr MF or I; MF, fr L *instant-*, *instans*, fr prp of *instare* to stand upon, urge, fr *in-* + *stare* to stand – more at STAND]

**instantaneous** /'ɪnst(ə)n'teɪni-əs/ *adj* **1** done, occurring, or acting in an instant or instantly; IMMEDIATE **3** *<death was ~>* **2** occurring or present at a particular instant *<~ velocity>* [ML *instantaneus*, fr *instant-*, *instans*, *n*] – **instantaneously** *adv*, **instantaneousness**, **instantaneity** /'ɪnstəntə'neɪti, -'nee-əti/ *n*

**instantly** /'ɪnstəntli/ *adv* instantly – *fml* [ML, fr L, earnestly, vehemently, fr *instant-*, *instans*]

**instantiate** /'ɪnstəntʃaɪt/ *vt* to represent (an abstraction) by a concrete instance – **instantiation** /-'aɪʃən/ *n*

**instantly** /'ɪnst(ə)ntli/ *adv* immediately; AT ONCE

**instar** /'ɪnstə/ *n* (an insect or similar arthropod in) a (particular) stage between successive moults [NL, fr L, equivalent, figure, akin to L *instare* to stand upon]

**instate** /'ɪnstəɪt/ *vt* to set or establish in a rank or office

**instauration** /'ɪnstəw'reɪʃən/ *n* restoration after decay or a lapse – *fml* [L *instauration-*, *instauratio*, fr *instauratus*, pp of *instaurare* to renew, restore – more at STORE]

**instead** /'ɪnstəd/ *adv* as a substitute or alternative *<was going to write but called ~>* *<sent his son ~>* – compare STEAD

**instead** *of prep* as a substitute for or alternative to [ME *in sted of*]

**instep** /'ɪnstɛp/ *n* **1** (the upper surface of) the arched middle portion of the human foot **2** the part of a shoe or stocking over the instep [perh fr *in + step*]

**instigate** /'ɪnstɪɡeɪt/ *vt* **1** to goad or urge forwards; provoke, incite **2** to initiate (a course of action or procedure, e.g. a legal investigation) [L *instigatus*, pp of *instigare* – more at 'STICK] – **instigator** *n*, **instigation** /-'ɡaɪʃən/ *n*

**instill**, *NAM chiefly instill* /'ɪnstɪl/ *vt* **1** to cause to enter drop by drop *<~ medication into the infected eye>* **2** to impart gradually *<~ling in children a love of learning>* – + *in* or *into* [MF & L, MF *instillare*, fr L *instillare*, fr *in-* + *stillare* to drip, trickle – more at DISTIL] – **instillment**, **instillation** /'ɪnstɪ'leɪʃən/ *n*

**instinct** /'ɪnstɪŋkt/ *n* **1** a natural or inherent aptitude, impulse, or capacity *<had an ~ for the right word>* **2** (a largely inheritable tendency of an organism to make a complex and specific) response to environmental stimuli without involving reason [ME, fr L *instinctus* impulse, fr *instinctus*, pp of *instinguere* to incite; akin to L *instigare* to instigate] – **instinctive** *adj*, **instinctively** *adv*, **instinctual** *adj*

**instinct** *adj* imbued, infused – *fml <~ with patriotism>*

**institute** /'ɪnstɪtju:t/ *vt* **1** to instate **2** to originate and establish; inaugurate *<~d many social reforms>* [ME *instituten*, fr L *institutus*, pp of *instituere*, fr *in-* + *statuere* to set up – more at STATUTE]

**institute** *n* sth instituted e.g. **a(1)** an elementary principle recognized as authoritative **(2)** *pl* a (legal) compendium **b** (the premises used by) an organization for the promotion of a cause *<an ~ for the blind>* **c** an educational institution

**institute of education** *n*, *often cap I&E* any of 20 institutions that oversee teacher training in England and Wales

**institution** /'ɪnstɪ'tju:ʃən/ *n* **1** an established practice in a culture *<the ~ of marriage>*; also a familiar object **2** an established organization or (public) body (e.g. a university or hospital) ['INSTITUTE + -ION] – **institutional** *adj*

**institutionalism** /'ɪnstɪ'tju:ʃən(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ *n* emphasis on organization (e.g. in religion) at the expense of other factors

**institutionalize**, *-ise* /'ɪnstɪ'tju:ʃən(ə)nɪz/ *vt* **1** to make into an institution *<~d phrases>* **2a** to put or keep in an institution **b** to allow to acquire personality traits typical of people in an institution – **institutionalization** /-'zəʊʃən(ə)n/ *n*

**instruct** /'ɪnstʁʊkt/ *vt* **1** to teach **2a** to direct authoritatively **b** COMMAND **1** **3** to engage (a lawyer, specif a barrister) for a case [ME *instruere*, fr L *instruere*, pp of *instruere*, fr *in-* + *struere* to build – more at STRUCTURE]

**instruction** /'ɪnstʁʊkʃən/ *n* **1a** ORDER **7b**, COMMAND **1** – *often pl* with sing. meaning *<had ~s not to admit strangers>* **b** *pl* an outline or manual of technical procedure **c** a code that tells a computer to perform a particular operation **2** teaching – **instructional** *adj*

**instructive** /'ɪnstʁʊktɪv/ *adj* carrying a lesson; enlightening – **instructively** *adv*, **instructiveness** *n*

**instructor** /'ɪnstʁʊktə/, *fem instructor* /-tʁɪs/ *n* a teacher. e.g. **a** a teacher of a technical or practical subject *<a swimming ~>* **b** *NAM* a college teacher below professional rank [INSTRUCT + -OR] – **instructorship** *n*

**instrument** /'ɪnstʁəmənt/ *n* **1a** a means whereby sth is achieved, performed, or furthered **b** a dupe; TOOL **3** a implement, tool, or device designed esp for delicate work or measurement *<scientific ~s>* **3a** a device used to produce music **4** a formal legal document **5** an electrical or mechanical device used in navigating an aircraft [ME, fr L *instrumentum*, fr *instruere* to arrange, instruct]

**instrument** *vt* to orchestrate

**instrumental** /'ɪnstʁə'menti/ *adj* **1a** serving as an instrument, means, agent, or tool *<was ~ in organizing the strike>* **b** of or done with an instrument or tool **2** relating to, composed for, or performed on a musical instrument **3** of or being a grammatical case or form expressing means or agency – **instrumentally** *adv*

**instrumental** *n* a musical composition or passage for instruments but not voice

**instrumentalist** /'ɪnstʁə'mentlɪst/ *n* a player on a musical instrument

- instrumentality** /ˌɪnstrəməntə'ləti/ *n* a means, agency [ˈINSTRUMENTAL + -ITY]
- instrumentation** /ˌɪnstrəməntə'taɪʃ(ə)n, -men-/ *n* the arrangement or composition of music for instruments
- instrument panel** *n* a panel on which instruments are mounted; esp a dashboard
- insubordinate** /ˌɪnsə'bɔːdɪnət/ *adj* unwilling to submit to authority – **insubordinately** *adv*, **insubordination** /-ˈnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- insubstantial** /ˌɪnsə'bʌnstəʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 lacking substance or material nature; unreal 2 lacking firmness or solidity; flimsy [prob fr *F* *insubstantiel*, fr LL *insubstantialis*, fr L *in-* + LL *substantialis* *substantial*] – **insubstantiality** /-ʃi'æləti/ *n*
- insufferable** /ˌɪnsʌf(ə)rəbl/ *adj* intolerable (<an ~ bore> – **insufferably** *adv*)
- insufficiency** /ˌɪnsə'fɪʃ(ə)nəsi/ *n* being insufficient; specif inability of an organ or body part (e.g. the heart or kidneys) to function normally
- insufficient** /ˌɪnsə'fɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* deficient in power, capacity, or competence [ME, fr MF, fr LL *insufficient-*, *insufficiens*, fr L *in-* + *sufficient-*, *sufficiens* *sufficient*] – **insufficiently** *adv*
- insufflate** /ˌɪnsuːflaɪt/ *vt* 1 to blow on or into 2 to blow (e.g. a powder or gas), esp into a cavity **USE** fml [LL *insufflatus*, pp of *insufflare*, fr L *in-* + *sufflare* to blow up, fr sub- up + *flare* to blow – more at SUB-, 'BLOW] – **insufflator** *n*, **insufflation** /-ˈflaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- insular** /ˌɪnsyʊlə/ *adj* 1 of or being an island 2a of island people b that results (as if) from lack of contact with other peoples or cultures, narrow-minded 3 of an island of cells or tissue [LL *insularis*, fr L *insula* *island*] – **insularism** *n*, **insularly** *adv*, **insularity** /-ˈləʊəti/ *n*
- insulate** /ˌɪnsyʊləɪt/ *vt* to place in a detached situation, esp to separate from conducting bodies by means of nonconductors so as to prevent transfer of electricity, heat, or sound [LL *insula* *island*]
- insulation** /ˌɪnsyʊləˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 insulating or being insulated ➡ ENERGY 2 material used in insulating [INSULATE + -ION]
- insulator** /ˌɪnsyʊlətaɪə/ *n* (a device made from) a material that is a poor conductor of electricity and is used for separating or supporting conductors to prevent undesired flow of electricity [INSULATE + -OR]
- insulin** /ˌɪnsyʊlɪn/ *n* a protein pancreatic hormone secreted by the islets of Langerhans that is essential esp for the metabolism of carbohydrates and is used in the treatment of diabetes mellitus [NL *insula* *islet* (of Langerhans), fr L, *island*]
- insult** /ˌɪn'sʊlt/ *vt* to treat with insolence, indignity, or contempt; also to cause offence or damage to <arguments that ~ the reader's intelligence>, [MF or L; MF *insultare*, fr L *insultare*, lit., to spring upon, fr *in-* + *saltare* to leap – more at SALTIRE] – **insultingly** *adv*
- insult** /ˌɪn'sʊlt/ *n* 1 an act of insulting, sthg that insults 2 (sthg that causes) injury to the body or 1 of its parts <pollution and other environmental ~s>
- insuperable** /ˌɪns(ə)'pʌwəbl/ *adj* incapable of being surmounted, overcome, or passed over (<~ difficulties> [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *insuperabilis*, fr *in-* + *superare* to surmount, fr *super* over – more at OVER] – **insuperably** *adv*
- insupportable** /ˌɪnsə'pɔːtəbl/ *adj* 1 unendurable (<~ pain> 2 incapable of being sustained (<~ charges> [MF or LL, MF, fr LL *insupportabilis*, fr L *in-* + *supportare* to support] – **insupportably** *adv*
- insurance** /ˌɪn'shʊərəns, -'shaw-/ *n* 1 insuring or being insured 2a the business of insuring people or property b (the protection offered by) a contract whereby one party undertakes to indemnify or guarantee another against loss by a particular contingency or risk c(1) the premium demanded under such a contract (2) the sum for which sthg is insured
- insure** /ˌɪn'shʊə, ˌɪn'shəw/ *vt* 1 to give, take, or procure insurance on or for 2 chiefly NAM to ensure ~vi to contract to give or take insurance, specif to underwrite [ME *insuren*, prob alter. of *assuren* to assure] – **insurable** *adj*, **insurer** *n*
- insured** *n, pl* insured sby whose life or property is insured
- insurgent** /ˌɪn'sʊj(ə)nt/ *n* a rebel [L *insurgent-*, *insurgens*, prp of *insurgere* to rise up, fr *in-* + *surgere* to rise – more at SURGE] – **insurgence**, **insurgency** *n*, **insurgent** *adj*
- insurmountable** /ˌɪnsə'maʊntəbl/ *adj* insuperable (<~ problems> – **insurmountably** *adv*)
- insurrection** /ˌɪnsə'rekʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a) revolt against civil authority or established government [ME, fr MF, fr LL *insurrection-*, *insurrectio*, fr *insurrectus*, pp of *insurgere*] – **insurrectional** *adj*, **insurrectionary** *adj* or *n*, **insurrectionist** *n*
- inswing** /ˌɪn'swɪŋ/ *n* the swing of a bowled cricket ball from the off to the leg side – compare OUTSWING – **inswinger** *n*
- intact** /ɪn'takt/ *adj* 1 untouched, esp by anything that harms or diminishes; whole, uninjured 2a being a virgin b not castrated [ME *intacte*, fr L *intactus*, fr *in-* + *tactus*, pp of *tangere* to touch – more at TANGENT]
- intaglio** /ɪn'tahliə/ *n, pl* intaglios 1a (the act or process of producing) an incised or engraved design made in hard material, esp stone, and sunk below the surface of the material b printing done from a plate engraved in intaglio 2 sthg (e.g. a gem) carved in intaglio [It, fr *intagliare* to engrave, cul, fr ML *intaliare*, fr L *in-* + LL *taliare* to cut – more at TAILOR]
- intake** /ɪn'taɪk/ *n* 1 an opening through which liquid or gas enters an enclosure or system 2a a taking in b(1) *sing* or *pl* in constr an amount or number taken in (2) sthg taken in
- intal** /ɪntal/ *trademark* – used for sodium cromoglycate
- intangible** /ɪn'tændjəbl/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) not tangible [adj F or ML; F, fr ML *intangibilis*, fr L *in-* + LL *tangibilis* *tangible*; *n* fr *adj*] – **intangibly** *adv*, **intangibility** /-ˈjəbɪləti/ *n*
- intarsia** /ɪn'tahsɪə/ *n* inlaid mosaic work of wood [G, modif of It *intarsiò*]
- integer** /ɪn'tɪjə/ *n* the number 1 or any number (e.g. 6, 0, -23) obtainable by once or repeatedly adding 1 to or subtracting 1 from the number 1 [L, *adj*, whole, entire – more at ENTIRE]
- integrable** /ɪntɪgrəbl/ *adj* capable of being integrated – **integrability** /-bɪləti/ *n*
- integral** /ɪn'tɪgrəl/ *esp in maths* *int'egrəl/ adj* 1a essential to completeness, constituent – chiefly in *integral part* b of a mathematical integer, integral, or integration c formed as a unit with another part 2 composed of integral parts 3 lacking nothing essential, whole – **integrally** *adv*, **integrality** /ɪn'tɪgrəli/ *n*
- integral** *n* 1 a mathematical expression denoting a definite integral or an indefinite integral ➡ SYMBOL 2 a solution of a differential equation
- integral calculus** *n* a branch of mathematics dealing with methods of finding indefinite integrals and with their applications (e.g. to the determination of lengths, areas, and volumes and to the solution of differential equations)
- integrand** /ɪn'tɪgrənd/ *n* a mathematical expression to be integrated [L *integrandus*, gerundive of *integrare*]
- integrate** /ɪn'tɪgrəɪt/ *vt* 1 to form or blend into a whole 2a to combine together or with sthg else b to incorporate into a larger unit – *usu* + *into* 3 to find the integral of (e.g. a function or differential equation) 4 to end the segregation of or in ~vi 1 to become integrated 2 to calculate an integral [L *integratus*, pp of *integrare*, fr *integr-*, *integer*] – **integrative** *adj*
- integrated circuit** *n* an electronic circuit formed in or on a single tiny slice of semiconductor material (e.g. silicon) – **integrated circuitry** *n*
- integration** /ɪn'tɪgrə'sheɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a ending of segregation b coordination of mental processes 2a the operation of finding a function whose differential is known b the operation of solving a differential equation [INTEGRATE + -ION]
- integrationist** /-ɪst/ *n* an advocate of social integration
- integrator** /ɪn'tɪgrətaɪə/ *n* a device (e.g. in a computer) whose output corresponds to a mathematical integral [INTEGRATE + -OR]
- integrity** /ɪn'tɛgrəti/ *n* 1 an unimpaired condition 2 uncompromising adherence to a code of esp moral or artistic values 3 the quality or state of being complete or undivided (<the ~ of the Empire was threatened>)
- integument** /ɪn'tegyəmɒnt/ *n* a skin, membrane, husk, or other covering or enclosure, esp of (part of) a living organism [L *integumentum*, fr *integere* to cover, fr *in-* + *tegere* to cover – more at THATCH] – **integumental** /-ˈmentl/ *adj*, **integumentary** /-ˈment(ə)n/ *adj*
- intellect** /ɪnt(ə)'lekt/ *n* the capacity for intelligent thought, esp when highly developed [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *intellectus*, fr *intellectus*, pp of *intelligere* to understand – more at INTELLIGENT]
- intellection** /ɪnt(ə)'lektʃ(ə)n/ *n* thought, reasoning – **intellective** *adj*
- intellectual** /ɪnt(ə)'lektjuəl-, -chəl/ *adj* 1a of the intellect b developed or chiefly guided by the intellect rather than by emotion or experience (<a coldly ~ artist> 2 given to or requiring the use of the intellect – **intellectualize** *vb*, **intellectually** *adv*, **intellectuality** /-ˈæləti/ *n*
- intellectual** *n* an intellectual person
- intellectualism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* (excessive) devotion to the exercise of intellect or to intellectual pursuits – **intellectualist** *n*
- intelligence** /ɪn'telj(ə)nəs/ *n* 1 the ability to learn, apply knowledge, or think abstractly, esp in allowing one to deal with new or trying situations; also the skilled use of intelligence or reason 2 the act of understanding 3a news; INFORMATION 2a, c b (a group of people who gather) informa-

tion concerning an enemy [ME, fr MF, fr L *intelligentia*, fr *intelligent-*, *intelligens* intelligent]

**intelligence quotient** *n* a number expressing the ratio of sb's intelligence as determined by a test to the average for his/her age

**intelligencer** /in'telɪdʒənsə/ *n* a bringer of news; REPORTER *b*

**intelligence test** *n* a test designed to determine relative mental capacity

**intelligent** /in'telɪdʒənt/ *adj* having or indicating esp high intelligence [L *intelligent-*, *intelligens*, prp of *intelligere*, *intelleger* to understand, fr *inter-* + *legere* to gather, select – more at LFGEND] – **intelligently** *adv*

**intelligentsia** /in'telɪdʒəntsɪə/ *n* sing or pl in constr the intellectuals who form an artistic, social, or political vanguard [Russ *intelligentsiya*, fr L *intelligentia* intelligence]

**intelligible** /in'telɪdʒəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being understood 2 able to be apprehended by the intellect only [ME, fr L *intelligibilis*, fr *intelligere*] – **intelligibly** *adv*, **intelligibility** /-dʒə'bɪləti/ *n*

**intemperance** *n*

**intemperate** /in'temp(ə)rət/ *adj* not temperate; esp going beyond the bounds of reasonable behaviour [ME *intemperat*, fr L *intemperatus*, fr *in-* + *temperatus*, pp of *temperare* to temper] – **intemperately** *adv*, **intemperateness** *n*

**intend** /in'tend/ *vt* 1 to mean, signify 2a to have in mind as a purpose or goal *b* to design for a specified use or future <poems ~ ed for reading aloud> [ME *entenden*, *intenden*, fr MF *entendre* to purpose, fr L *intendere* to stretch out, to purpose, fr *in-* + *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN]

**intendant** /in'tend(ə)nt/ *n* an administrative official, esp under the French, Spanish, or Portuguese monarchies [F, fr MF, fr L *intendens*, prp of *intendere* to intend, attend]

**intended** -ɪ ŋk s future spouse <she was his ~> – *in*fm

**intendment** /in'tendmənt/ *n* the true (legal) intention

**intense** /in'tens/ *adj* 1a existing or occurring in an extreme degree *b* having or showing a usual characteristic in extreme degree 2 INTENSIVE 3a feeling emotion deeply, esp by nature or temperament *b* deeply felt [ME, fr MF, fr L *intensus*, fr pp of *intendere* to stretch out] – **intensely** *adv*, **intenseness** *n*

**intensifier** /in'tensɪfɪə/ *n* a linguistic element (e.g. *very*) that gives force or emphasis [INTENSIFY + <sup>1</sup>-FR]

**intensify** /in'tensɪfɪə/ *vb* to make or become (more) intense – **intensification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*

**intension** /in'tenʃən/ *n* 1 intensity 2 a connotation – **intensional** *adj*

**intensity** /in'tensəti/ *n* 1 extreme degree of strength, force, or energy 2 the magnitude of force or energy per unit (e.g. of surface, charge, or mass) 3 SATURATION 1 [INTENSE + -ITY]

**intensive** /in'tensɪv/ *adj* of or marked by intensity or intensification *e.g.* a highly concentrated *b* constituting or relating to a method designed to increase productivity by the expenditure of more capital and labour rather than by increase in the land or raw materials used <~ farming> – **intensively** *adv*

**intensive** *n* an intensifier

**intent** /in'tent/ *n* 1a the act or fact of intending *b* the state of mind with which an act is done 2 criminal intention <loitering with ~> 3 meaning, significance [ME *entent*, fr OF, fr LL *intentus*, fr L, act of stretching out, fr *intensus*, pp of *intendere*] – to all **intents and purposes** in every practical or important respect; virtually

**intently** *adj* 1 directed with strained or eager attention, concentrated 2 having the mind, attention, or will concentrated on sth or some end or purpose <~ on his work> [L *intensus*, fr pp of *intendere*] – **intently** *adv*, **intentlyness** *n*

**intention** /in'tenʃən/ *n* 1 a determination to act in a certain way; a resolve 2 pl purpose with respect to proposal of marriage 3a what one intends to do or bring about; an aim *b* the object for which religious devotion is offered 4 a concept

**intentional** /in'tenʃənəl/ *adj* done by intention or design – **intentionally** *adv*

**inter** /in'tu/ *vt* -rr- to deposit (a dead body) in the earth or a tomb [ME *enteren*, fr OF *enterrer*, fr (assumed) VL *interrare*, fr *in-* + L *terra* earth – more at TERRACE]

**inter** *n* any of various intermediate examinations – *in*fm [short for *intermediate*]

**inter-** /inta-/ *prefix* 1 between; among; in the midst <intercity> <interpenetrate> <interstellar> 2a reciprocal <interrelation> *b* reciprocally <intermarry> 3 located between <interface> 4 carried on between <international> 5 occurring between <interglacial> <interlunar>

[ME *inter-*, *enter-*, fr MF & L; MF *inter-*, *entre-*, fr L *inter-*, fr *inter*; akin to OHG *untar* between, among, Gk *enteron* intestine, OE *in* in]

**interact** /,ɪntə'rækt/ *vi* to act upon each other – **interactant** *n*, **interaction** *n*

**interactive** /,ɪntə'ræktɪv/ *adj* characterized by interaction, specif by the exchange of information between a computer and user while a program is being run

**inter alia** /,ɪntə'ræliə/ *adv* among other things [L]

**interatomic** /-ə'tomɪk/ *adj* existing or acting between atoms

**interbreed** /-breɪd/ *vb* **interbred** /-bred/ *vi* 1 to crossbreed 2 to breed within a closed population ~ *vt* to cause to interbreed

**intercalary** /in'tuhkəl(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1a inserted in a calendar to resynchronize it with some objective time-measure (e.g. the solar year) *b* of a year containing an intercalary period 2 inserted between other elements or layers; interpolated [L *intercalarius*, fr *intercalare*]

**intercalate** /in'tuhkə,ləɪt/ *vt* to insert between or among existing items, elements, or layers [L *intercalatus*, pp of *intercalare*, fr *inter-* + *calare* to call, summon – more at 'LOW] – **intercalation** /-ləɪʃən/ *n*

**intercede** /,ɪntə'siːd/ *vi* to beg or plead on behalf of another with a view to reconciling differences [L *intercedere*, fr *inter-* + *cedere* to go – more at CFDE]

**intercellular** /-sɛlyələ/ *adj* occurring between cells <~ spaces>

**intercept** /-sept/ *vt* 1 to stop, seize, or interrupt in progress, course, or movement, esp from one place to another 2 to intersect [L *interceptus*, pp of *intercipere*, fr *inter-* + *capere* to take, seize – more at HEAVE] – **interception** *n*

**intercept** *n* 1 the distance from the origin to a point where a graph crosses a coordinate axis 2 an interception

**interceptor**, **interceptor** /-septə/ *n* a high-speed fast-climbing fighter plane or missile designed for defence against raiding bombers or missiles [INTERCEPT + <sup>1</sup>-OR, <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**intercession** /-sɛʃən/ *n* the act of interceding, esp by prayer, petition, or entreaty [MF or L, MF, fr L *intercessio*-, *intercessio*, fr *intercessus*, pp of *intercedere*] – **intercessional** *adj*, **intercessor** *n*, **intercessory** *adj*

**interchange** /-tʃeɪnʒ/ *vt* 1 to put each of (2 things) in the place of the other 2 EXCHANGE 1 ~ *vi* to change places reciprocally [ME *entrenchungen*, fr MF *entrenchangier*, fr OF, fr *entre-* *inter-* + *changier* to change] – **interchangeable** *adj*, **interchangeably** *adv*, **interchangeability** /-dʒə'bɪləti/ *n*

**interchange** *n* 1 (an) interchanging 2 a junction of 2 or more roads having a system of separate levels that permit traffic to pass from one to another without the crossing of traffic streams

**intercity** /-sɪti/ *adj* existing or travelling (quickly) between cities

**intercollegiate** /-kə'leɪʃjəl/ *adj* between colleges <~ athletics>

**intercom** /-kɒm/ *n* a local communication system (e.g. in a ship or building) with a microphone and loudspeaker at each station [short for *intercommunication* (system)]

**interconnect** /-kə'nekt/ *vb* to connect with one another – **interconnection** *n*

**intercontinental** /-kɒntɪ'nentl/ *adj* extending among continents; also carried on or (capable of) travelling between continents <~ ballistic missile>

**intercostal** /-kɒstl/ *adj* (of a part) situated between the ribs [NL *intercostalis*, fr L *inter-* + *costa* rib] – **intercostal** *n*

**intercourse** /-kɔːrs/ *n* 1 connection or dealings between people or groups 2 exchange, esp of thoughts or feelings 3 physical sexual contact between individuals that involves the genitals of at least 1 person <oral ~>, esp SEXUAL INTERCOURSE a [ME *intercourse*, prob fr MF *entreccours*, fr ML *intercurus*, fr L, act of running between, fr *intercurus*, pp of *intercurrere* to run between, fr *inter-* + *currere* to run – more at CURRENT]


**intercrop** /-krɒp/ *vb* -pp- *vt* to grow a crop in between rows, plots, etc. of (another crop) ~ *vi* to grow 2 or more crops simultaneously on the same plot – **intercrop** *n*

**intercross** /-krɒs/ *n* (a product of) crossbreeding – **intercross** /-/-/ *vb*

**intercurrent** /-kʊrənt/ *adj* intervening; esp occurring during the course of another disease [L *intercurrent-*, *intercurrents*, prp of *intercurrere*] – **intercurrently** *adv*

**intercut** /-kʊt/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1 to insert a contrasting camera shot into (a film sequence) by cutting; *broadly* to insert contrasting matter into 2 to insert (a contrasting camera shot) into a film sequence by cutting; *broadly* to insert (contrasting matter) into a narrative ~ *vi* to alternate contrasting camera shots by cutting



- interdepartmental** /-ˈdeɪpɑːtməntl/ *adj* carried on between or involving different departments (e.g. of a firm or an educational institution) – **interdepartmentally** *adv*
- interdependent** /-ˈdiːpənd/ *vi* to depend on each other – **interdependence**, **interdependency** *n*, **interdependent** *adj*
- interdict** /-ˈdɪkt/ *n* 1 a Roman Catholic disciplinary measure withdrawing most sacraments and Christian burial from a person or district 2 a prohibition [ME *entredit*, fr OF, fr L *interdictum* prohibition, praetorian interdict, fr neut of *interdictus*, pp of *interdicere* to interpose, forbid, fr *inter-* + *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**]
- interdict** *vt* to forbid in a usu formal or authoritative manner – **interdiction** /-ˈdɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **interdictory** /-ˈdɪktəri/ *adj*
- interdisciplinary** /-ˈdɪsɪplɪnəri/ *adj* involving 2 or more disciplines or fields of study
- interest** /ˈɪnt(ə)rest, -rəst/ *n* 1a(1) right, title, or legal share in sthg (2) participation in advantage and responsibility b a business in which one has an interest 2 benefit; **ADVANTAGE** 2; *specific self-interest* (*it is to your ~ to speak first*) 3a a charge for borrowed money, generally a percentage of the amount borrowed b sthg added above what is due 4 a financially interested group 5a readiness to be concerned with, moved by, or have one's attention attracted by sthg; curiosity b (the quality in) a thing that arouses interest (*sport doesn't hold much ~ for me*) (*has many ~s*) [ME, prob alter. of earlier *interesse*, fr AF & ML, AF, fr ML, fr L, to be between, make a difference, concern, fr *inter-* + *esse* to be – more at **IS**]
- interest** *vt* 1 to induce or persuade to participate or engage, esp in an enterprise 2 to concern or engage (sby, esp oneself) in an activity or cause 3 to engage the attention or arouse the interest of
- interested** *adj* 1 having the interest aroused or attention engaged 2 affected or involved; not impartial – **interestedly** *adv*
- interesting** /ˈɪnt(ə)restɪŋ/ *adj* holding the attention – **interestingly** *adv*
- interface** /-ˈfeɪs/ *n* 1 a surface forming a common boundary of 2 bodies, regions, or phases (*an oil-water ~*) 2 the place at which (diverse) independent systems meet and act on or communicate with each other (*the man-machine ~*) – **interfacial** /-ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj*
- interface** *vt* 1 to connect by means of an interface (*~ a machine with a computer*) 2 to serve as an interface for ~ *vi* 1 to become interfaced 2 to serve as an interface
- interfacing** /-ˈfeɪsɪŋ/ *n* stiffening material attached between 2 layers of fabric
- interfere** /-ˈfiə/ *vi* 1 to get in the way of, hinder, or impede another – + *with* (*noise ~s with my work*) 2 to enter into or take a part in matters that do not concern one 3 of sound, light, etc waves to act so as to augment, diminish, or otherwise affect one another 4 to claim priority for an invention 5 to hinder illegally an attempt of a player to catch or hit a ball or puck – *usu* + *with* [MF (*s'entreferre* to strike one another, fr OF, fr *entre-* + *ferr* to strike, fr L *ferre* – more at **BORE**)]
- interference** /-ˈfɪərəns/ *n* 1 the phenomenon resulting from the meeting of 2 wave trains (e.g. of light or sound) with an increase in intensity at some points and a decrease at others 2 the illegal hindering of an opponent in hockey, ice hockey, etc 3 (stg that produces) the confusion of received radio signals by unwanted signals or noise [**INTERFERE** + **-ENCE**] – **interferential** /-ˈfɪərəns(ə)l/ *adj*
- interferometer** /-ˈfɪərəmɪtə/ *n* an instrument that uses light interference phenomena for precise determination of wavelength, distance, etc [**ISV**] – **interferometric** /-ˈfɪərəˈmetrɪk/ *adj*, **interferometry** /-ˈfɪərəmɪtri, -fiə-/ *n*
- interferon** /-ˈfɪərən/ *n* a protein that inhibits the development of viruses and is produced by cells in response to infection by a virus [**INTERFERENCE** + **-ON**]
- interfile** /-ˈfiəl/ *vi* **FILE** 1 ~ *vi* **FILE**; also to fit in with an existing file
- interfuse** /-ˈfyoʊh/ *vi* to blend, infuse [L *interfus*, pp of *interfundere* to pour between, fr *inter-* + *fundere* to pour – more at **FOUND**] – **interfusion** /-ˈzʰ(ə)n/ *n*
- intergrade** /-ˈɡreɪd/ *vi* to merge gradually one with another through a continuous series of intermediate forms – **intergradation** /-ˈɡreɪdʒ(ə)n/ *n*
- intergrade** *n* an intermediate or transitional form
- intergrowth** /-ˈɡroʊθ/ *n* (the product of) a growing between or together
- interim** /ˈɪntɪrɪm/ *n* an intervening time (*in the ~*) [L, *adv*, meanwhile, fr *inter* between – more at **INTER-**]
- interim** *adj* temporary, provisional
- interior** /ˈɪntiəri-/ *adj* 1 lying, occurring, or functioning within the limits or interior 2 away from the border or shore 3 of the mind or soul [MF & L; MF, fr L, compar of (assumed) OL *interus* inward, on the inside; akin to L *inter*] – **interiorize** *vi*, **interiorly** *adv*, **interiority** /-ˈɒrɪti/ *n*
- interior** *n* 1 the internal or inner part of a thing; also the inland 2 internal affairs (*the minister of the ~*) 3 a representation of the interior of a building or room
- interior angle** *n* 1 the angle between two sides of a polygon 2 an angle between a line crossing two parallel lines and either of the latter and lying inside the parallel lines  **MATHEMATICS**
- interior decoration** *n* (the art or practice of planning) the decorating and furnishing of the interiors of rooms – **interior decorator** *n*
- interior design** *n* **INTERIOR DECORATION** – **interior designer** *n*
- interior monologue** *n* a literary device presenting a character's thoughts and feelings in the form of a monologue
- interior-sprung** *adj* having (coil) springs within a padded casing (*~ mattress*)
- interject** /ˈɪntəˈdʒekt/ *vi* to throw in (e.g. a remark) abruptly among or between other things [L *interjectus*, pp of *intericere*, fr *inter-* + *jacere* to throw – more at **JET**] – **interjector** *n*, **interjectory** /-ˈ(ə)trɪ/ *adj*
- interjection** /-ˈdʒekʃ(ə)n/ *n* an ejaculatory word (e.g. *Wonderful*) or utterance (e.g. *ah* or *good heavens*) usu expressing emotion [**INTERJECT** + **-ION**] – **interjectional** *adj*, **interjectionally** *adv*
- interlace** /-ˈleɪs/ *vi* 1 to unite (as if) by lacing together 2 to mingle, blend, or intersperse (*narrative ~d with anecdotes*) ~ *vi* to cross one another intricately [ME *entrelacen*, fr MF *entrelacer*, fr OF *entrelacier*, fr *entre-* + *lacier* to lace] – **interlacement** *n*
- interlard** /-ˈlɑːd/ *vi* to intersperse, esp with sthg foreign or irrelevant [MF *entrelarder*, fr OF, fr *entre* + *larder* to lard, fr *lard*, *n*]
- interleaf** /-ˈleɪf/ *n* a usu blank leaf inserted between 2 leaves of a book
- interleave** /-ˈleɪv/ *vi* to provide with interleaves
- interline** /-ˈliːn/ *vi* to provide (a garment) with an interlining [ME *interlinen*, fr *inter-* + *linen* to line]
- interlinear** /-ˈlɪni-/ *adj* inserted between lines already written or printed [ME *interliniare*, fr ML *interlineas*, fr L *inter-* + *linea* line]
- interlining** /-ˈliːnɪŋ/ *n* a lining (e.g. of a coat) sewn between the ordinary lining and the outside fabric to give additional warmth or bulk
- interlock** /-ˈlɒk/ *vi* to become engaged, interrelated, or interlocked ~ *vi* 1 to lock together 2 to connect so that motion of any part is constrained by another – **interlock** /-ˈlɒk/ *n* or *adj*
- interlocutor** /-ˈlɒkyootə/, *fem* **interlocutress** /-ˈtrɪs/ *n* one who takes part in dialogue or conversation [L *interlocutus*, pp of *interloqui* to speak between, fr *inter-* + *loqui* to speak] – **interlocation** /-ˈlɒkyooʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interlocutory** /-ˈlɒkyoot(ə)trɪ/ *adj* pronounced during a legal action and only provisional (*~ decree*) [ML *interlocutorius*, fr LL *interlocutus*, pp of *interloqui* to pronounce a provisional sentence, fr L, to speak between]
- interloper** /-ˈlɒhpə/ *n* sby who interferes or encroaches; an intruder [*inter-* + *-loper* (akin to MD *lopen* to run, OE *hleapan* to leap) – more at **LEAP**] – **interlope** /-ˈlɒp-, -ˈlɒp-/ *vi*
- interlude** /-ˈlɒhd/ *n* 1 an intervening or interruptive period, space, or event, esp of a contrasting character; an interval 2 a musical composition inserted between the parts of a longer composition, a drama, or a religious service [ME *enterlude*, fr ML *interludium*, fr L *inter-* + *ludus* play – more at **LUDICROUS**]
- intermarriage** /-ˈmæri-/ *n* 1 marriage between members of different families, tribes, etc 2 endogamy
- intermarry** /-ˈmæri-/ *vi* 1 to marry each other or sby from the same group 2 to become connected by marriage with another group or with each other (*the different races ~ freely*)
- intermediary** /-ˈmediəri/ *n* or *adj* (sby or sthg) acting as a mediator or go-between
- intermediate** /-ˈmediət/ *adj* being or occurring at or near the middle place, stage, or degree or between 2 others or extremes [ML *intermediarius*, fr L *intermedius*, fr *inter-* + *medius* mid, middle – more at **MID**] – **intermediately** *adv*, **intermediacy** /-ˈseɪ/ *n*
- intermediate** *n* a chemical compound formed as an intermediate step in a reaction
- interment** /ˈɪntəmənt/ *n* burial [**INTER** + **-MENT**]
- intermezzo** /ˈɪntəˈmetsoh/ *n*, *pl* **intermezzi** /-ˈseɪ/, **intermezzos** 1 a movement coming between the major sections of an extended musical



- work (e.g. an opera) 2 a short independent instrumental composition [It. deriv. of L. *intermedius* intermediate]
- interminable** /in'tu:mi:nəbl/ *adj* having or seeming to have no end, esp. wearisomely long [ME, fr. LL *interminabilis*, fr. L *in-* + *terminare* to terminate] – **interminableness** *n*, **interminably** *adv*, **interminability** /-bələt/ *n*
- intermingle** /-mɪŋ-gəl/ *vb* to mix or mingle together or with sth else
- intermission** /-mɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 intermitting or being intermitted 2 an intervening period of time (e.g. between acts of a performance or attacks of a disease) [L *intermissio*-, *intermissio*, fr. *intermissus*, pp of *intermittere*]
- intermit** /-mɪt/ *vb* -tt- (to cause to) cease for a time or at intervals [L. *intermittere*, fr. *inter-* + *mittere* to send – more at *SMITE*]
- intermittent** /-mɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* coming and going at intervals; not continuous (< ~ rain) [L. *intermittent-*, *intermittens*, prp of *intermittere*] – **intermittence** *n*, **intermittently** *adv*
- intermolecular** /-mæ'lekju:lə/ *adj* existing or acting between molecules – **intermolecularly** *adv*
- intern** /in'tu:hn/ *vt* to confine, esp. during a war (< ~ enemy aliens) [F. *interner*, fr. *interner* internal, fr. MF, fr. L *internus*] – **internee** /,intu'h'nee/ *n*, **internment** *n*
- intern**, **interne** /in'tu:hn/ *n*, *NAm* an advanced student or graduate in medicine, teaching, etc. gaining supervised practical experience (e.g. in a hospital or classroom) [F. *interne*, fr. *interne*, *adj*] – **intern** *vi*, **internship** *n*
- internal** /in'tu:hn/ *adj* 1 existing or situated within the limits or surface of sth 2 applied through the stomach by swallowing (<an ~ medicine>) 3 of or existing within the mind 4 depending only on the properties of the thing under consideration without reference to things outside it (< ~ evidence of forgery in a document>) 5 (present or arising) within (a part of) the body or an organism (<an ~ organ>) (<an ~ stimulus>) 6 within a state (< ~ strife>) (< ~ affairs>) [L. *internus*; akin to L. *inter* between] – **internally** *adv*, **internality** /,intu'h'nælət/ *n*
- internal-combustion engine** *n* a heat engine in which the combustion that generates the heat energy takes place inside the engine (e.g. in a cylinder)
- internalize**, **-ise** /in'tu:hn-'izez/ *vt* to make internal, *specif* to incorporate (e.g. learnt values) within the self as guiding principles – **internalization** /-zə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- internal rhyme** *n* rhyme between a word within a line and another either at the end of the same line or within another line
- international** /-nə'sh(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 affecting or involving 2 or more nations (< ~ trade>) (<an ~ movement>) 2 known, recognized, or renowned in more than 1 country (<an ~ celebrity>) – **internationally** *adv*, **internationality** /-lətət/ *n*
- international** *n* 1 (sby who plays or has played in) a sports, games, etc. match between 2 national teams 2 *also* **internationale** often *cap* any of several socialist or communist organizations of international scope [(2) F. *internationale*, fr. fem. of *international*, *adj*, fr. E]
- international date line** *n*, often *cap* *I, D, & L* an arbitrary line approximately along the 180th meridian, east and west of which the date differs by 1 calendar day
- internationalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 international character, interests, or outlook 2 (an attitude favouring) cooperation among nations – **internationalist** *n* or *adj*
- internationalize**, **-ise** /-ɪz/ *vb* to make or become international, esp. to place under international control – **internationalization** /-ɪzə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- international law** *n* a body of rules accepted as governing relations between nations
- International Phonetic Alphabet** *n* an alphabet designed to represent each human speech sound with a unique symbol
- International Scientific Vocabulary** *n* a set of international specialized or technical terms adapted to the structure of the individual languages in which they are used – *abbr* *ISV*
- international unit** *n* an internationally agreed unit of a vitamin, hormone, etc. that produces a standard biological effect
- interne** /in'tu:hn/ *n* an intern
- internecine** /,ɪntə'nesi:n/ *adj* 1 mutually destructive 2 of or involving conflict within a group [L. *internecinus* deadly, fr. *internecare* to destroy, kill, fr. *inter-* + *necare* to kill, fr. *nec-*, *nex* violent death – more at *NOXIOUS*]
- internode** /-no:hd/ *n* an interval or part between 2 nodes (e.g. of a plant stem) [L. *internodium*, fr. *inter-* + *nodus* knot] – **internodal** /-no:hd/ *adj*
- internuclear** /-nɪ'nyoo:hkli-ə/ *adj* situated or occurring between atomic or biological nuclei
- internuncial** /-nʌnʃl/ *adj* serving to link sensory and motor neurons [It. *internunzio* conveyer of messages, go-between, fr. L. *internuntius*, *internuntius*, fr. *inter-* + *nuntius*, *nuntius* messenger] – **internuncially** *adv*
- interoceptive** /-rə'h'septɪv/ *adj* of or being stimuli arising within the body, esp. in the viscera [*inter-* (as in *interior*) + *-o-* + *-ceptive* (as in *receptive*)]
- interpellate** /in'tu:hpləɪt/ *vt* to question (e.g. a minister) formally concerning an action or policy [L. *interpellatus*, pp of *interpellare* to interrupt, fr. *inter-* + *-pellare* (fr. *pellere* to drive)] – **interpellator** *n*, **interpellation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interpenetrate** /,ɪntə'penɪtraɪt/ *vt* to penetrate thoroughly ~ *vi* to penetrate mutually – **interpenetration** /-trəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interphase** /-fayz/ *n* the interval between the end of one mitotic or meiotic division and the beginning of another
- interplanetary** /-plænɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* existing, carried on, or operating between planets
- interplay** /-pleɪ/ *n* interaction – **interplay** /-pleɪ/ *vi*
- interpleader** /-pleɪdər/ *n* a legal proceeding by which 2 parties making the same claim against a third party determine between themselves which is the rightful claimant [AF. *enterpleader*, fr. *enterpleader*, *vb*]
- Interpol** /-pɒl/ *n* an international police organization for liaison between national police forces [International police]
- interpolate** /in'tu:hpləɪt/ *vt* 1 to alter or corrupt (e.g. a text) by inserting new or foreign matter 2 to insert between other things or parts, esp. to insert (words) into a text or conversation 3 to estimate values of (a function) between 2 known values [L. *interpolatus*, pp of *interpolare* to refurbish, alter, interpolate, fr. *inter-* + *-polare* (fr. *polire* to polish)] – **interpolative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*, **interpolator** /-ləɪtə/ *n*, **interpolation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interpose** /,ɪntə'pəʊz/ *vt* 1 to place between 2 things or in an intervening position 2 to put forth by way of interference or intervention (<prevented a decision by interposing a veto>) 3 to interrupt with (words) during a conversation or argument ~ *vi* 1 to be or come in an intervening position 2 *INTERVENE* 3 3 to interrupt [MF. *interponere*, fr. L. *interponere* (perf. indic. *interposui*), fr. *inter-* + *ponere* to put – more at *POSITION*] – **interposer** *n*, **interposition** /-pə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interpret** /in'tu:hprɪt/ *vt* 1 to expound the meaning of (< ~ a dream>) 2 to conceive of in the light of one's beliefs, judgments, or circumstances; construe 3 to represent by means of art, bring to realization by performance (< ~ a role>) ~ *vi* to act as an interpreter [ME. *interpreten*, fr. MF & L, MF. *interpretar*, fr. L. *interpretari*, fr. *interpret-*, *interpret* agent, negotiator, interpreter] – **interpretable** *adj*, **interpretive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **interpretation** /-tɪv/ *n*, **interpretatively** *adv*
- interpretation** /in'tu:hprɪtə'ʃ(ə)n/ *n* an instance of artistic interpreting in performance or adaptation [INTERPRET + *-ATION*] – **interpretational** *adj*
- interpreter** /in'tu:hprɪtə/ *n* 1 one who translates orally for people speaking in different languages 2 a computer program that translates an instruction into machine language for immediate execution [INTERPRET + *-ER*]
- interred** /in'tu:hd/ *past* of *INTER*
- interregnum** /,ɪntə'reɡnəm/ *n*, *pl* **interregnums**, **interregna** /-regnə/ 1 the time during which a throne is vacant between reigns 2 the normal functions of government are suspended 2 a lapse or pause in a continuous series [L, fr. *inter-* + *regnum* reign – more at *REIGN*]
- interrelate** /-nɪ'leɪt/ *vb* to bring into or be in a relationship where each one depends upon or is acting upon the other – **interrelation** /-nɪ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **interrelationship** *n*
- interring** /in'tu:hɪŋ/ *pres part* of *INTER*
- interrobang** /in'terə'baŋ/ *n* a punctuation mark. P for use at the end of an exclamatory question [*interrogation* mark + *bang* (printers' slang for exclamation mark)]
- interrogate** /in'terə'ɡeɪt/ *vt* 1 to question formally 2 to give or send out a signal to (e.g. a computer) to trigger a response [L. *interrogatus*, pp of *interrogare*, fr. *inter-* + *rogare* to ask – more at *RIGHT*] – **interrogator** *n*, **interrogation** /-ɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- interrogation mark** *n* QUESTION MARK
- interrogative** /,ɪntə'rogatɪv/, **interrogatory** /-t(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1a of or being the grammatical mood that expresses a question 2 used in a question 2 questioning – **interrogatively** *adv*

- \*interrogative** *n* 1 an interrogative utterance 2 a word, esp a pronoun, used in asking questions 3 the interrogative mood of a language  
**interrogatory** /ˌɪntəˈrɒɡ(ə)ri/ *n* a formal question; esp a written question to be answered under direction of a court
- \*interrupt** /ˌɪntəˈrʌpt/ *vt* 1 to break the flow or action of (a speaker or speech) 2 to break the uniformity or continuity of (sth) ~ *vi* to interrupt an action; esp to interrupt another's utterance with one's own [ME *interrupten*, fr L *interruptus*, pp of *interrumpere*, fr *inter-* + *rumpere* to break – more at *BEREAVE*] – **interrupter** *n*, **interruptible** *adj*, **interruption** /-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **interruptive** /-tɪv/ *adj*
- \*interrupt** *n* (a circuit that conveys) a signal to a computer that halts a program while a higher-priority program is carried out  
**inter se** /ˌɪntəˈseɪ/ *adv* or *adj* among or between themselves [L]  
**intersect** /-ˈsekt/ *vt* to pierce or divide (e.g. a line or area) by passing through or across ~ *vi* to meet and cross at a point [L *intersectus*, pp of *intersecare*, fr *inter-* + *secare* to cut – more at *SAW*]  
**intersection** /ˌɪntəsɛkʃ(ə)n, -ˈsɪ-/ *n* 1 a place where 2 or more things (e.g. streets) intersect 2 the set of elements common to 2 sets, esp the set of points common to 2 geometric configurations  SYMBOL [INTERSECT + -ION]  
**\*intersex** /-ˈseks/ *n* (the condition of being) an intersexual individual [ISV]  
**intersexual** /-ˈseksjuəl, -ʃ(ə)n/ *adj* intermediate in sexual characters between a typical male and a typical female [ISV] – **intersexually** *adv*, **intersexuality** /-sjuːˈæləti, -ʃuːˈæləti/ *n*  
**interspace** /-ˈspeɪs/ *vt* to separate (e.g. printed letters) by spaces  
**interspecies** /-ˈspeʃiəs/ *adj* interspecific  
**interspecific** /-ˈspɜːsɪfɪk/ *adj* existing or arising between different species  
**intersperse** /-ˈspɜːs/ *vt* 1 to insert at intervals among other things <interspersing drawings throughout the text> 2 to diversify or vary with scattered things <interspersing the text with drawings> [L *interspersus* interspersed, fr *inter-* + *spargere* to scatter – more at *SPARK*] – **interspersed** /-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**\*interstate** /-ˈsteɪt/ *adj* between 2 or more states, esp of the USA or of Australia <an ~ highway>  
**\*interstate** *adv*, *Austr* to or in another state <went ~ to live>  
**interstellar** /-ˈstɛlə/ *adj* located or taking place among the stars  
**interstice** /ˌɪntɪˈstɪʃ/ *n* a small space between adjacent things – *fml* [F, fr LL *interstitium*, fr L *interstitus*, pp of *intersistere* to stand still in the middle, fr *inter-* + *sistere* to come to a stand, akin to L *stare* to stand]  
**interstitial** /ˌɪntəˈstɪʃl/ *adj* 1 of or situated in interstices 2 of or being a crystalline compound in which (small) atoms or ions occupy holes between larger metal atoms or ions in the crystal lattice – **interstitially** *adv*  
**intertidal** /-ˈtiːdl/ *adj* of or being the part of a seashore between high and low watermarks – **intertidally** *adv*  
**intertwine** /-ˈtwɪn/ *vt* to twine together ~ *vi* to twine about one another – **intertwinement** *n*  
**interval** /ˌɪntəˈvæl/ *n* 1 an intervening space e.g. a time between events or states; a pause b a distance or gap between objects, units, or states <lamp posts placed at regular ~s> c the difference in pitch between 2 notes 2 a set of real numbers between 2 numbers, also the set of real numbers greater or less than some number 3 *Br* a break in the presentation of an entertainment (e.g. a play) [ME *intervalle*, fr MF, fr L *intervallum* space between ramparts, *interval*, fr *inter-* + *vallum* rampart – more at *WALL*]  
**\*intervene** /-ˈviːn/ *vi* 1 to enter or appear as sth irrelevant or extraneous 2 to occur or come between 2 things, esp points of time or events 3 to come in or between so as to hinder or modify 4a to enter a lawsuit as a third party b to interfere in another nation's internal affairs [L *intervenire* to come between, fr *inter-* + *venire* to come – more at *COME*] – **intervenor** *n*, **intervention** /-ˈvɛnʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**intervention** /-ˈvɛnʃ(ə)n/ *adj*, of a commodity purchased from the producer by the European economic community when the market price falls to a specified level <~ butter>  
**interventionism** /-ˌɪz(ə)m/ *n* intervening, *specif* interference in the political affairs of another country – **interventionist** *n* or *adj*  
**intervertebral disc** /ˌɪntəˈvɜːbrəl/ *n* any of the tough elastic discs between the bodies of adjoining vertebrae  
**\*interview** /-ˈvyoo/ *n* 1 a formal consultation usu to evaluate qualifications (e.g. of a prospective student or employee) 2 (a report of) a meeting at which information is obtained (e.g. by a journalist) from sby [MF *entrevue*, fr (s')*entrevoir* to see one another, meet, fr *entre-* *inter-* + *voir* to see – more at *VIEW*] – **interview** *vt*, **interviewer** *n*, **interviewee** /-ˈvyooˈhiː/ *n*  
**inter vivos** /ˌɪntəˈveɪvɒs/ *adv* or *adj* between living people <property transferred ~> [LL]  
**\*interwar** /-ˈwaw/ *adj* occurring or falling between wars, esp WW I and II  
**interweave** /-ˈweɪv/ *vb* **interwove** /-ˈwoʊv/ also **interweaved**; **interwoven** /-ˈwoʊv(ə)n/ also **interweaved** 1 to weave together 2 to intermingle, blend – **interwoven** *adj*, **interweave** /ˌɪntəˈweɪv/ *n*  
**\*intestate** /ˌɪntəˈsteɪt, -tət/ *adj* having made no valid will <he died ~> [ME, fr L *intestatus*, fr *in-* + *testatus* testate] – **intestacy** /-ˈsteɪsi/ *n*  
**\*intestate** *n* sby who dies intestate  
**intestinal** /ˌɪntəˈstɪnəl/ *adj* of, being, affecting, or occurring in the intestine – **intestinally** *adv*  
**\*intestine** /ˌɪntəˈstɪn/ *adj* of the internal affairs of a state or country [MF or L, MF *intestin* internal, fr L *intestinus*, fr *intus* within – more at *ENT*]  
**\*intestine** *n* the tubular part of the alimentary canal that extends from the stomach to the anus [MF *intestin*, fr L *intestinum*, fr *neut* of *intestinus*]  
**intimacy** /ˌɪntɪˈmæsi/ *n* 1 familiarity 2 SEXUAL INTERCOURSE – *euph* [ˌɪntɪˈmæti + -cy]  
**\*intimate** /ˌɪntɪˈmeɪt/ *vt* to make known e.g. a to announce b to hint, IMPLY 2 [LL *intimatus*, pp of *intimare* to put in, announce, fr L *intimus* innermost, superl of (assumed) OL *interus* inward – more at *INTERIOR*] – **intimation** /-ˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**\*intimate** /ˌɪntɪˈmeɪt/ *adj* 1a intrinsic, essential b belonging to or characterizing one's deepest nature 2 marked by very close association, contact, or familiarity 3a marked by a warm friendship developing through long association b suggesting informal warmth or privacy 4 of a very personal or private nature 5 involved in a sexual relationship, *specif* engaging in an act of sexual intercourse <in six months they were ~ six times in the car and twice on a mountainside – News of the World> – *euph* [alter of obs *intime*, fr L *intimus*] – **intimately** *adv*  
**\*intimate** *n* a close friend or confidant  
**intimidate** /ˌɪntɪˈmɪdaɪt/ *vt* to frighten, esp to compel or deter (as if) by threats [ML *intimidatus*, pp of *intimidare*, fr L *in-* + *timidus* timid] – **intimidator** *n*, **intimidatory** /-t(ə)n/ *adj*, **intimidation** /-ˈdaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**intitule** /ˌɪntɪˈtyoʊl/ *vt* *Br* to supply (e.g. a legislative act) with a title [MF *intituler*, fr LL *intitulare*, fr I. *in-* + *titulus* title]  
**into** /ˈɪntə/ *prep* 1a so as to be inside <come ~ the house> b so as to be <grow ~ a woman> <divide it ~ sections> <roll it ~ a ball> c so as to be in (a state) <get ~ trouble> <shocked ~ silence> d so as to be expressed in <translate it ~ French>, dressed in <changed ~ his uniform>, engaged in <go ~ farming>, or a member of <enter ~ an alliance> – compare *COMING INTO* e – used in division as the inverse of *by* or *divided by* <divide 35 ~ 70> 2 – used to indicate a partly elapsed period of time or a partly traversed extent of space <far ~ the night> <deep ~ the jungle> 3 in the direction of, esp towards the centre of <look ~ the sun> <inquire ~ the matter> 4 to a position of contact with, against <ran ~ a wall> 5 involved with <they were ~ hard drugs>, esp keen on <are you ~ meditation?> – *infml* [ME, fr OE *into*, fr 'in + to to]  
**intolerable** /ˌɪntəˈlə(ə)rəbl/ *adj* unbearable [ME, fr L *intolerabilis*, fr *in-* + *tolerabilis* tolerable] – **intolerableness** *n*, **intolerably** *adv*  
**intolerant** /-ˈtələrənt/ *adj* 1 unable or unwilling to endure <a plant ~ of direct sunlight> 2 unwilling to grant or share social, professional, political, or religious rights, bigoted – **intolerance** *n*, **intolerantly** *adv*  
**intone** /ˌɪntəˈnoʊ/ *vt* to intone, utter  
**intonation** /ˌɪntəˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sth that is intoned; *specif* the opening notes of a Gregorian chant 2 performance of music with respect to correctness of pitch and harmony 3 the rise and fall in pitch of the voice in speech [INTONE + -ATION]  
**intone** /ˌɪntəˈnoʊ/ *vb* to utter (sth) in musical or prolonged tones; recite in singing tones or in a monotone [ME *entonen*, fr MF *entoner*, fr ML *intonare*, fr L *in-* + *tonus* tone] – **intoner** *n*  
**in toto** /ˌɪn ˈtoʊto/ *adv* totally, entirely [L]  
**intoxicate** /ˌɪntəˈtɒksɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 POISON 1a 2a to excite or stupefy by alcohol or a drug, esp to the point where physical and mental control is markedly diminished b to cause to lose self-control through excitement or elation [ML *intoxicatus*, pp of *intoxicare*, fr L *in-* + *toxicum* poison – more at *TOXIC*] – **intoxicant** *n* or *adj*, **intoxicatedly** *adv*, **intoxication** /-ˈkæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**intra-** /ˌɪntrə-/ *prefix* 1 within; inside <intrauterine> 2 intro- <an

**intramuscular injection** > [LL, fr L *intra*, fr (assumed) OL *interus*, adj, inward – more at **INTERIOR**]

**intracellular** /ˈɪntrəˈsɛljool/ *adj* situated, occurring, or functioning within a living cell <~ *enzymes*>

**intracranial** /ˈkræɪnɪəl, -ni-əl/ *adj* (affecting or involving structures) within the skull – **intracranially** *adv*

**intractable** /ˈɪntræktəbəl/ *adj* 1 not easily managed or directed; OBSTINATE 2 not easily manipulated, wrought, or solved 3 not easily relieved or cured <~ *pain*> [L *intractabilis*, fr *in-* + *tractabilis* tractable] – **intractableness** *n*, **intractably** *adv*, **intractability** /-ˈbɪləti/ *n*

**intrados** /ˈɪntrəˈdɒs/ *n, pl* **intrados**, **intradoes** the underside of an arch – compare **EXTRADOS** – ARCHITECTURE [F, fr L *intra* within + F *dos* back – more at **DOSSIER**]

**intramural** /ˈɪntrəˈmyooərəl/ *adj* within the limits of a community or institution (e.g. a university) – **intramurally** *adv*

**intramuscular** /-ˈmʊskyoələ/ *adj* in or going into a muscle [ISV] – **intramuscularly** *adv*

**intransigent** /ˈɪntrænsɪj(ə)nt, -ˈtrænz-/ *adj* refusing to compromise or to abandon an extreme position or attitude, esp in politics; uncompromising [Sp *intransigente*, fr *in-* + *transigente*, prp of *transigir* to compromise, fr L *transigere* to transact – more at **TRANSACT**] – **intransigence** *n*, **intransigent** *n*, **intransigently** *adv*

**intransitive** /-ˈtrænzɪv, -ˈtrænz-/ *adj* characterized by not having a direct object <an ~ *verb*> [LL *intransitivus*, fr L *in-* + LL *transitivus* transitive] – **intransitive** *n*, **intransitively** *adv*

**intraspecific** /ˈɪntrəˈspɪsɪfɪk/ *adj* occurring within a species; involving members of 1 species – **intraspecifically** *adv*

**intrauterine** /-ˈyoʊtərɪn, -rɪən/ *adj* situated, used, or occurring in the uterus [ISV]

**intrauterine device**, **intrauterine contraceptive device** *n* a device inserted and left in the uterus to prevent conception

**intravascular** /-ˈvaskyoələ/ *adj* situated or occurring in a (blood) vessel – **intravascularly** *adv*

**intravenous** /-ˈveənəs/ *adj* situated or occurring in, or entering by way of a vein; also used in intravenous procedures [ISV] – **intravenously** *adv*

**intrench** /ˈɪntrenʃ/ *vb* to entrench

**intrepid** /ˈɪntrepɪd/ *adj* fearless, bold, and resolute [L *intrepidus*, fr *in-* + *trepidus* alarmed – more at **TREPIDATION**] – **intrepidly** *adv*, **intrepidity** /-ˈpɪdəti/ *n*

**intricate** /ˈɪntrɪkət/ *adj* 1 having many complexly interrelating parts or elements 2 difficult to resolve or analyse [ME, fr L *intricatus*, pp of *intricare* to entangle, fr *in-* + *tricare* trifles, impediments] – **intricacy** /-ˈkeɪsi/ *n*, **intricately** *adv*

**intrigue** /ˈɪntriːg/ *vt* 1 to arouse the interest or curiosity of 2 to captivate; FASCINATE 2 <her beauty ~ s me> ~ *vi* to carry on an intrigue, esp to plot, scheme [F *intriguer*, fr It *intrigare*, fr L *intricare* to entangle, perplex] – **intriguer** *n*

**intrigue** /ˈɪntriːg, -/ *n* 1a a secret scheme or plot b the practice of engaging in or using scheming or underhand plots 2 a clandestine love affair

**intriguing** /ˈɪntriːgɪŋ/ *adj* engaging the interest to a marked degree; fascinating – **intriguingly** *adv*

**intrinsic** /ˈɪntrɪnzɪk/ *adj* 1 belonging to the essential nature or constitution of sth <an ornament of no ~ worth but of great sentimental value> 2 originating or situated within the body [MF *intrinseque* internal, fr LL *intrinsecus*, fr L, *adv*, inwardly; akin to L *intra* within – more at **INTRA-**] – **intrinsically** *adv*

**intrinsic factor** *n* a substance produced by the lining of the intestines that is required for the absorption of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> – compare **EXTRINSIC FACTOR**

**intro** /ˈɪntroʊ/ *n, pl* **intros** **INTRODUCTION** 1 – **infmt**

**intro-** *prefix* 1 in; into <introduction> 2 inwardly; within <introvert> – compare **EXTRO-** [ME, fr MF, fr L, fr *intro* inside, to the inside, fr (assumed) OL *interus*, adj, inward]

**introduce** /ˈɪntrəˈdyooz/ *vt* 1 to lead or bring in, esp for the first time <~ a rare plant species into the country> 2a to bring into play <~ a new line of approach into the argument> b to bring into practice or use; institute 3 to lead to or make known by a formal act, announcement, or recommendation: e.g. a to cause to be acquainted; make (oneself or sby) known to another b to present formally (e.g. at court or into society) c to announce formally or by an official reading d to make preliminary explanatory or laudatory remarks about (e.g. a speaker) 4 PLACE 2a, INSERT 2 <the risk of introducing harmful substances into the body> 5

to bring to a knowledge or discovery of sth <~ her to the works of Byron> [L *introducere*, fr *intro-* + *ducere* to lead – more at **TOW**]

**introduction** /ˈɪntrəˈduks(ə)n/ *n* 1a a preliminary treatise or course of study b a short introductory musical passage 2 sth introduced; *specif* a plant or animal new to an area [ME *introduccioun* act of introducing, fr MF *introduction*, fr L *introduction-*, *introductio*, fr *introductus*, pp of *introducere*]

**introductory** /ˈɪntrəˈdukt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of or being a first step that sets sth going or in proper perspective; preliminary – **introductorily** *adv*

**introit** /ˈɪntroɪt/ *n* a piece of music sung or played at the beginning of a church service; *specif*, often *cap* the antiphon or psalm sung as the priest approaches the altar to celebrate the Eucharist [MF *introite*, fr ML *introitus*, fr L, entrance, fr *introitus*, pp of *introyre* to go in, fr *intro-* + *ire* to go – more at **ISSUE**]

**introject** /ˈɪntroˈjekt/ *vt* to incorporate (attitudes or ideas) unconsciously into one's personality [*intro-* + *-ject* (as in *project*, vb)] – **introjection** /-ˈjeksh(ə)n/ *n*

**intromission** /-ˈmɪsh(ə)n/ *n* intromitting; esp the (period of) insertion of the penis in the vagina in copulation [F, fr MF, fr L *intromissus*, pp of *intromittere*]

**intromit** /-ˈmɪt/ *vt* -*tt-* to put in, insert [L *intromittere*, fr *intro-* + *mittere* to send] – **intromittent** *adj*

**introspect** /-ˈspekt/ *vi* to examine one's own mind or its contents reflectively [L *introspectus*, pp of *introspicere* to look inside, fr *intro-* + *specere* to look – more at **SPY**] – **introspection** /-ˈspeksh(ə)n/ *n*, **introspective** /-ˈtɪv/ *adj*

**introvert** /-ˈvuɪt/ *vi* to turn inwards or in on itself or oneself: e.g. a to draw in (a tubular part) usu by invagination b to concentrate or direct (the mind, thoughts, or emotions) on oneself [*intro-* + *-vert* (as in *divert*)] – **introversion** /-ˈvʊhsh(ə)n/ *n*

**introvert** *n* 1 sth (e.g. the eyestalk of a snail) that is or can be drawn in 2 one whose attention and interests are directed towards his/her own mental life – compare **EXTROVERT**

**intrude** /ˈɪntrʊd/ *vi* 1 to thrust oneself in without invitation, permission, or welcome 2 to enter as a geological intrusion ~ *vt* 1 to thrust or force in or on, esp without permission, welcome, or suitable reason 2 to cause (e.g. rock) to intrude [L *intrudere* to thrust in, fr *in-* + *trudere* to thrust – more at **THREAT**] – **intruder** *n*

**intrusion** /ˈɪntrʊʒh(ə)n/ *n* 1 intruding or being intruded; *specif* wrongfully entering upon the property of another 2 (the forcible entry of) rock or magma forced while molten into or between other rock formations [ME, fr MF, fr ML *intrusion-*, *intrusio*, fr L *intrusus*, pp of *intrudere*]

**intrusive** /ˈɪntrʊsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 characterized by (a tendency to) intrusion: 2 of a rock being an intrusion – **intrusively** *adv*

**intrust** /ˈɪntrʌst/ *vt* to entrust

**intubation** /ˈɪntyoʊˈbeɪsh(ə)n/ *n* the introduction of a tube into a hollow organ (e.g. the windpipe) – **intubate** /ˈɪntyoʊˈbeɪt/ *vt*

**intuit** /ˈɪntyoʊ-ɪt/ *vt* to apprehend by intuition – **intuitable** *adj*

**intuition** /ˈɪntyoʊˈɪʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1a (knowledge gained by) immediate apprehension or cognition b the power of attaining direct knowledge without evident rational thought and the drawing of conclusions from evidence available 2 quick and ready insight [LL *intuitio-*, *intuitio* act of contemplating, fr L *intuitus*, pp of *intueri* to look at, contemplate, fr *in-* + *tuere* to look at] – **intuitionally** *adj*, **intuitive** /ˈɪntyoʊ-ɪtɪv/ *adj*, **intuitively** *adv*

**intumescence** /ˈɪntyoʊˈmes/ *vi* ENLARGE 1, SWELL 1b [L *intumescere* to swell up, fr *in-* + *tumescere*, incho of *tumere* to swell – more at **THUMB**] – **intumescence** *n*, **intumescent** *adj*

**intussusception** /ˈɪntəsəˈseps(ə)n/ *n* a drawing in of sth from without; esp the slipping of a length of intestine into an adjacent portion, usu producing obstruction [prob fr (assumed) NL *intussusception-*, *intussusceptio*, fr (assumed) NL *intussusceptus*, pp of (assumed) NL *intussus-cipere* to cause to turn inwards, fr L *intrus* within + *suscipere* to take up – more at **ENT-**, **SUSCEPTIBLE**] – **intussuscept** /-ˈsept/ *vb*, **intussusceptive** /-ˈseptɪv/ *adj*

**inundate** /ˈɪnʊndəɪt/ *vt* to cover or overwhelm (as if) with a flood [L *inundatus*, pp of *inundare*, fr *in-* + *unda* wave – more at **WATER**] – **inundation** /-ˈdaɪsh(ə)n/ *n*

**inure** /ˈɪnyoo-/ *vt* to accustom to sth undesirable [ME *enuren*, fr *en-* + *ure*, *n*, use, custom, fr MF *uevre* work, practice, fr L *opera* work – more at **OPERA**] – **inurement** *n*

**inurn** /ˈɪnuɹn/ *vt* to place (e.g. cremated remains) in an urn

**in utero** /ɪn ˈyoʊtəroʊ/ *adj* in the uterus [L]

**inutile** /ˈɪnyooʃiəl/ *adj* useless, unusable – **fmil** [ME, fr MF, fr L *inutilis*, fr *in-* + *utilis* useful – more at **UTILITY**] – **inutility** /-ˈtɪləti/ *n*

- in vacuo** /in 'vakyoo,oh/ *adv* in a vacuum; *esp* without being related to practical application, relevant facts, etc [NL]
- invade** /in'vayd/ *vt* 1 to enter (e.g. a country) for hostile purposes 2 to encroach on <a noise ~ d his privacy> 3a to spread over or into as if invading b to affect injuriously and progressively [gangrene ~ s healthy tissue] [ME *invaden*, fr L *invadere*, fr *in-* + *vadere* to go – more at **WADE**] – **invader** *n*
- invaginate** /in'vajinayt/ *vt* 1 to enclose, sheathe 2 to fold in so that an outer becomes an inner surface ~ *vi* to undergo invagination [ML *invaginatus*, pp of *invaginare*, fr L *in-* + *vagina* sheath]
- invagination** /in,vajinaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 invaginating 2 an invaginated part
- invalid** /in'valid/ *adj* 1 without legal force 2 logically inconsistent [L *invalidus* weak, fr *in-* + *validus* strong – more at **VALID**] – **invalidly** *adv*, **invalidity** /in'vel'iditi, -va-/ *n*
- invalid** /in'valid/; also /-leed/ *adj* 1 suffering from disease or disability 2 of or suited to an invalid [L & F; F *invalida*, fr L *invalidus*]
- invalid** /in'valid/ *n* one who is sickly or disabled
- invalid** /in'valid, in'vel'id/ *vt* to remove from active duty by reason of sickness or disability <he was ~ed out of the army>
- invalidate** /in'validayt/ *vt* to make invalid; *esp* to weaken or destroy the convincingness of (e.g. an argument or claim) – **invalidation** /-daysh(ə)n/ *n*
- invaluable** /in'valyooobl/ *adj* valuable beyond estimation; priceless ['in- + 'value + -able] – **invaluably** *adv*
- invar** /in'vah/ *trademark* – used for an alloy of iron and nickel with a low coefficient of thermal expansion
- invariable** /in'veari-əbl/ *adj* not (capable of) changing; constant – **invariable** *n*, **invariableness** *n*, **invariably** *adv*, **invariability** /-ə'biliti/ *n*
- invariant** /-veəri-ənt/ *adj* unchanging; *specif* unaffected by a particular mathematical operation <~ under rotation of the coordinate axes> – **invariance** *n*, **invariant** *n*
- invasion** /in'vayzh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an invading, *esp* by an army 2 the incoming or spread of sth usu harmful [ME *invasioun*, fr MF *invasion*, fr LL *invasio*-, *invasio*, fr L *invasus*, pp of *invadere*] – **invasive** /-siv, -ziv/ *adj*
- investive** /in'vektiv/ *n* abusive or insulting (use of) language; denunciation [ME *investif*, *adj*, fr MF, fr L *investivus*, fr *investus*, pp of *invehere*] – **investive** *adj*, **investively** *adv*
- inveigh** /in'vay/ *vi* to speak or protest bitterly or vehemently against [L *invehi* to attack, inveigh, passive of *invehere* to carry in, fr *in-* + *vehere* to carry – more at **WAY**]
- inveigle** /in'vaygl/ *vt* **inveigling** /in'vaygling/ to win (sby or sth) over by ingenuity or flattery [modif of MF *aveugler* to blind, hoodwink, fr OF *avogler*, fr *avogle* blind, fr ML *ab oculis*, lit., lacking eyes] – **inveiglement** *n*
- invent** /in'vent/ *vt* 1 to think up <~ an excuse> 2 to produce (e.g. sth useful) for the first time [ME *inventen* to find, discover, fr L *inventus*, pp of *invenire* to come upon, find, fr *in-* + *venire* to come – more at **COME**] – **inventor** *n*, **inventress** *n*
- invention** /in'vensh(ə)n/ *n* 1a productive imagination; inventiveness 2a sth invented: e.g. (1) a (misleading) product of the imagination (2) a contrivance or process devised after study and experiment b a short keyboard composition, usu in double counterpoint [INVENT + -ION]
- inventive** /in'ventiv/ *adj* 1 creative 2 characterized by invention – **inventively** *adv*, **inventiveness** *n*
- inventory** /in'ventri/ *n* 1a an itemized list (e.g. of the property of an individual or estate) b a list of traits, preferences, attitudes, etc used to evaluate personal characteristics or skills 2a the items listed in an inventory b *NAM* the quantity of goods, components, or raw materials on hand; stock 5b 3 the taking of an inventory [ML *inventorium*, alter. of LL *inventarium*, fr *inventus*]
- inventory** *vt* to make an inventory of; catalogue
- inverse** /in'vers/; -/ *adj* 1 opposite in order, direction, nature, or effect 2 of a mathematical function expressing the same relationship as another function but from the opposite viewpoint 3 being or relating to an inverse function <~ sine> [L *inversus*, fr pp of *invertere*] – **inversely** *adv*
- inverse** *n* 1 a direct opposite 2 an inverse function or operation in mathematics (addition is the ~ of subtraction)
- inverse proportion** *n* the relation between 2 quantities, one of which varies directly as the reciprocal of the other – **inversely proportional** *adj*
- inversion** /in'vuhsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of inverting 2 a reversal of position, order, form, or relationship: e.g. a(1) a change in normal word order; *esp* the placement of a verb before its subject (2) the process or
- result of changing, converting, or reversing the relative positions of the elements of a musical interval, chord, or phrase b being turned inwards or inside out 3 the operation of forming the inverse of a magnitude, operation, or element 4 homosexuality 5 a conversion of a substance showing dextrorotation into one showing laevorotation or vice versa <~ of sucrose> 6 a conversion of direct current into alternating current 7 a reversal of the normal atmospheric temperature gradient – **inversive** /-siv/ *adj*
- invert** /in'vuh/ *vt* 1a to turn inside out or upside down b to turn (e.g. a foot) inwards 2a to reverse in position, order, or relationship b to subject to musical inversion c to subject to chemical inversion d to express the mathematical inverse, *esp* the reciprocal, of [L *invertere*, fr *in-* + *vertere* to turn – more at **WORTH**] – **invertible** *adj*
- invert** /in'vuh/ *n* sby or sth characterized by inversion; *esp* a homosexual
- invertase** /in'vuhtayz, -tays/ *n* an enzyme capable of converting sucrose into invert sugar [ISV]
- invertebrate** /in'vuhtribrat, -brayt/ *adj* 1 (of animals) lacking a spinal column or notochord 2 lacking in strength or vitality of character [NL *invertebratus*, fr L *in-* + NL *vertebratus* vertebrate] – **invertebrate** *n*
- inverted comma** *n* 1 a comma in type printed upside down at the top of the line 2 chiefly Br QUOTATION MARK
- inverted pleat** *n* a pleat made by forming 2 folded edges which are secured to face each other on the right side of the fabric – compare **BOX PLEAT**
- inverter** /in'vuhtr/ *n* a device for converting direct current into alternating current ['INVERT + -ER]
- invert sugar** *n* a mixture of glucose and fructose found in fruits or produced artificially from sucrose
- invest** /in'vest/ *vt* 1 to confer (the symbols of) authority, office, or rank on 2 to clothe, endow, or cover (as if) with sth <~ed with an air of mystery> 3 to surround with troops or ships so as to prevent escape or entry [L *investire* to clothe, surround, fr *in-* + *vestis* garment, (1) ML *investire*, fr L, to clothe; (3) MF *investir*, fr OIt *investire*, fr L, to surround]
- invest** *vt* 1 to commit (money) to a particular use (e.g. buying shares or new capital outlay) in order to earn a financial return 2 to devote (e.g. time or effort) to sth for future advantages ~ *vi* to make an investment <~ in a new car> [It *investire* to clothe, invest money, fr L, to clothe] – **investable** *adj*, **investor** *n*
- investigate** /in'vestigayt/ *vb* 1 to make a systematic examination or study (of) 2 to conduct an official inquiry (into) [L *investigatus*, pp of *investigare* to track, investigate, fr *in-* + *vestigum* footprint, track] – **investigational** *adj*, **investigative** /-gətiv/ *adj*, **investigator** *n*, **investigatory** /-t(ə)ri/ *adj*, **investigation** /-gaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- investiture** /in'vestichə/ *n* a formal ceremony conferring an office or honour on sby [ME, fr ML *investitura*, fr *investitus*, pp of *investire*]
- investment** /in'vestmənt/ *n* a siege or blockade ['invest]
- investment** *n* (a sum of) money invested for income or profit; *also* the asset (e.g. property) purchased ['invest]
- investment company** *n* a company whose primary business is acquiring shares or securities of other companies purely for investment purposes – compare **HOLDING COMPANY**
- investment trust** *n* an investment company that purchases securities on behalf of its investors – compare **UNIT TRUST**
- inveterate** /in'vet(ə)rət/ *adj* 1 firmly, obstinately, and persistently established 2 habitual <an ~ liar> [L *inveteratus*, fr pp of *inveterare* to age (vt), fr *in-* + *veter-*, *vetus* old – more at **WETHER**] – **inveteracy** /-si/ *n*, **inveterately** *adv*
- invidious** /in'vidi-əs/ *adj* 1 tending to cause discontent, ill will, or envy 2 of an unpleasant or objectionable nature; of a kind causing or likely to cause harm or resentment [L *invidiosus* envious, invidious, fr *invidia* envy – more at **ENVY**] – **invidiously** *adv*, **invidiousness** *n*
- invigilate** /in'viplayt/ *vb* to keep watch (over); *specif*, Br to supervise (candidates) at (an examination) [L *invigilatus*, pp of *invigilare* to keep watch, fr *in-* + *vigilare* to keep watch – more at **VIGILANT**] – **invigilator** *n*, **invigilation** /-laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- invigorate** /in'vigorayt/ *vt* to give fresh life and energy to [prob fr *in-* + 'vigour] – **invigoratingly** *adv*, **invigorator** *n*, **invigoration** /-raysh(ə)n/ *n*
- invincible** /in'vinsəbl/ *adj* incapable of being conquered or subdued [ME, fr MF, fr LL *invincibilis*, fr L *in-* + *vincere* to conquer – more at **VICTOR**] – **invincibleness** *n*, **invincibly** *adv*, **invincibility** /-biliti/ *n*
- inviolable** /in'vie-sləbl/ *adj* (to be kept) secure from violation, profana-


- tion, or assault [MF or L; MF, fr L *inviolabilis*, fr *in-* + *violare* to violate] – **inviolably** *adv*, **inviolability** /-biliti/ *n*
- involute** /in'vie:slət, -ləyt/ *adj* not violated or profaned – **inviolacy** /-ləsi/ *n*, **inviolately** /-lətli/ *adv*, **involuteness** *n*
- invisible** /in'vɪzəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable (by nature or circumstances) of being seen 2a not appearing in published financial statements (< ~ assets>) b not reflected in statistics (< ~ earnings>) c of or being trade in services (e.g. insurance or tourism) rather than goods – compare **VISIBLE** 3 too small or unobtrusive to be seen or noticed; inconspicuous [ME, fr MF, fr L *invisibilis*, fr *in-* + *visibilis* visible] – **invisible** *n*, **invisibleness** *n*, **invisibly** *adv*, **invisibility** /-zə'biliti/ *n*
- invisible** /'ɪnk *n* an ink that remains invisible on paper until it is given some special treatment
- invitation** /invi'teɪʃən/ *n* 1 an often formal request to be present or participate 2 an incentive, inducement ['INVITE + -ATION] – **invitational** *adj*
- invite** /in'vi:t/ *vt* 1a to offer an incentive or inducement to b to (unintentionally) increase the likelihood of (<his actions ~ trouble>) 2 to request (the presence of) formally or politely [MF or L; MF *invitare*, fr L *invitare*] – **invitatory** /-tət(ə)r/ *adj*, **inviter** *n*, **invitee** /-tee/ *n*
- invite** /in'vi:t/ *n* an invitation – **infinal**
- inviting** /in'vi:tɪŋ/ *adj* attractive, tempting – **invitingly** *adv*
- in vitro** /in 'veetroh, 'vitroh/ *adv* or *adj* outside the living body and in an artificial environment [NL, lit., in glass]
- in vivo** /in 'veevoh/ *adv* or *adj* in the living body of a plant or animal [NL, lit., in the living]
- invocation** /ɪnva'keɪʃən/ *n* 1 the act or process of petitioning for help or support, *specif.* often *cap* an invocatory prayer, esp at the beginning of a church service 2 the performing of magical rites in order to summon spirits [ME *invocacoun*, fr MF *invocation*, fr L *invocatio*, fr *invocatus*, pp of *invocare*] – **invocational** *adj*, **invocatory** /in'vokət(ə)r/ *adj*
- invoice** /ɪnvoɪs/ *n* 1 'BILL 3a; *specif* an itemized list of goods shipped, usu specifying the price and the terms of sale 2 a consignment of merchandise [modif of MF *envois*, pl of *envoi* message – more at *ENVOY*]
- invoice** *vt* to submit an invoice for or to
- invoke** /in'vohk/ *vt* 1a to petition (e.g. a deity) for help or support b to appeal to or cite as an authority 2 to call forth (e.g. a spirit) by uttering a spell or magical formula 3 to make an earnest request for; **SOLICIT** 3 4 to put into effect (< ~ economic sanctions>) [ME *invoken*, fr MF *invoker*, fr L *invocare*, fr *in-* + *vocare* to call – more at *VOICE*] – **invoker** *n*
- involute** /ɪnva'looʃə/ *n* 1 or more whorls of bracts situated below and close to a flower (cluster) or fruit [F, fr NL *involutum*, fr L, sheath, fr *involvere* to wrap] – **involutal** /-krəl/ *adj*
- involuntary** /in'vɒlənt(ə)r/ *adj* 1 done contrary to or without choice 2 not subject to conscious control; reflex (< ~ muscle>) [LL *involuntarius*, fr L *in-* + *voluntarius* voluntary] – **involuntarily** *adv*, **involuntariness** *n*
- involute** /ɪn'vɒloʊt/ *adj* 1a curled spirally b curled or curved inwards, esp at the edge (<an ~ leaf>) c having the form of an involute (<a gear with ~ teeth>) 2 CONVOLUTED 1 [L *involutus* involved, fr pp of *involvere*] – **involutely** *adv*
- involute** *n* a curve traced by a point on a thread kept taut as it is unwound from another curve
- involute** /ɪnva'looht/ *vi* to return to a former condition (<after pregnancy the uterus ~s>)
- involution** /ɪnva'looʃən/ *n* 1 (part) curving inwards 2 a shrinking or return to a former size [L *involutio*, fr *involutus*, pp of *involvere*]
- involve** /in'vɒlv/ *vt* 1a to cause to be associated or take part b to occupy (oneself) absorbingly; esp to commit (oneself) emotionally 2 to envelop 3 to relate closely 4a to have within or as part of itself b to require as a necessary accompaniment [ME *involvere* to roll up, wrap, fr L *involvere*, fr *in-* + *volvere* to roll – more at *VOLUBLE*] – **involvement** *n*, **involver** *n*
- involved** *adj* 1 (needlessly or excessively) complex 2 taking part in (<workers ~ in building a dam>) – **involvedly** /-vidli/ *adv*
- invulnerable** /in'vʌlnərəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being injured or harmed 2 immune to or proof against attack [L *invulnerabilis*, fr *in-* + *vulnerare* to wound – more at *VULNERABLE*] – **invulnerableness** *n*, **invulnerably** *adv*, **invulnerability** /-rə'biliti/ *n*
- inward** /in'wɒd/ *adj* 1 situated within or directed towards the inside 2 of or relating to the mind or spirit (<struggled to achieve ~ peace>) [ME, fr OE *inweard*; akin to OHG *inwert* inward; both fr a prehistoric WGrmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *in* & OE *-weard* -ward] – **inwardness** *n*
- inwardly** /-li/ *adv* 1 beneath the surface; internally 2 to oneself; in one's private thoughts
- inwards**, *NAm chiefly inward* *adv* 1 towards the inside, centre, or interior 2 towards the inner being
- inwrought** *adj* 1 of a fabric decorated with a pattern woven or worked in 2 of a pattern woven or worked in (e.g. to a fabric)
- inyala** /in'yahla/ *n*, pl *inyalas*, esp collectively *inyala* a *nyala* [Zulu *inxala*]
- iod-**, **iodo-** *comb form* iodine (<iodize>) (<iodoform>) [F *iode*]
- iodic** /i'edɪk/ *adj* of or containing (pentavalent) iodine [F *iodique*, fr *iode*] – **iodate** /i'edə, -tə/ *n*
- iodide** /i'edə, -dɪd/ *n* a compound of iodine with an element or radical; esp a salt or ester of hydriodic acid [ISV]
- iodine** /i'edə, -deɪn/ *n* a (solid blackish grey) halogen element  PERIODIC TABLE [F *iode*, fr Gk *ioeides* violet-coloured, fr *ion* violet] – **iodinate** /i'edə, -nə/ *vt*, **iodination** /-nə, -tə/ *n*
- iod-ize**, **-ise** /i'edə, -dɪz/ *vt* to treat with iodine or an iodide (<~d salt>)
- iodoform** /i'edə, -fɔ:m/ *n* a yellow solid compound with a penetrating smell that is a mild disinfectant [ISV *iod-* + *-form* (as in *chloroform*)]
- iodopsin** /i'edə, -dɒpsɪn/ *n* a light-sensitive pigment in the retinal cones that is important in the perception of colour, esp in daylight vision [*iod-* (fr Gk *ioeides* violet-coloured) + Gk *opsis* sight, vision + *E -in* – more at *OPTIC*]
- iodous** /i'edəs/ *adj* of or containing (trivalent) iodine [ISV]
- ion** /i'ən/ *n* 1 an atom or group of atoms that carries a positive or negative electric charge as a result of having lost or gained 1 or more electrons 2 a free electron or other charged subatomic particle [Gk, neut of *ión*, prp of *ienai* to go – more at *ISSUE*]
- ion** /-iən/ *suffix* (vb → *n*) 1a act or process of (<validation>) b result of (<a specified act or process>) (<regulation>) 2 quality or condition of (<hydration>) (<ambition>) [ME *-ioun*, *-ion*, fr OF *-ion*, fr L *-ion-*, *-io*]
- ion exchange** *n* a reversible reaction, used esp for softening or removing dissolved substances from water, in which one kind of ion is interchanged with another of like charge – **ion-exchanger** *n*
- ionic** /i'ənik/ *adj* 1 of, existing as, or characterized by ions (< ~ gases>) 2 functioning by means of ions (< ~ conduction>) [ISV] – **ionically** /i'ə-nɪsəli/ *n*
- ionic** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Ionia 2 of that 1 of the 3 Greek orders of architecture that is characterized esp by the scroll-shaped ornament of its capital  ARCHITECTURE [L & MF; MF *ionique*, fr L *ionicus*, fr Gk *ionikos*, fr *Iōnia* Ionia, ancient region of Asia Minor]
- ionic** *n* a dialect of ancient Greek used in Ionia
- ionic bond** *n* an electrovalent chemical bond
- ionium** /i'əhniəm/ *n* a natural radioactive isotope of thorium with a mass number of 230 [*ion*; fr its ionizing action]
- ion-ize**, **-ise** /i'ə, -nɪz/ *vb* to convert or become converted wholly or partly into ions [ISV] – **ionizable** *adj*, **ionizer** *n*, **ionization** /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- ionophore** /i'ənə, -fɔ:/ *n* a compound that increases the transport of a (metal) ion across a lipid barrier (e.g. a cell membrane) by reversibly combining with the ion and by increasing the permeability of the barrier to it
- ionosphere** /i'ənə, -sfɪə/ *n* the part of the earth's atmosphere that extends from an altitude above that of the stratosphere out to at least 480km (about 300mi) and consists of several distinct regions containing free ions; also a comparable region surrounding another planet – **ionospheric** /-sfɪrɪk/ *adj*, **ionospherically** *adv*
- iota** /i'əʊtə/ *n* 1 the 9th letter of the Greek alphabet 2 an infinitesimal amount [L, fr Gk *iōta*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *yōd*, 10th letter of the Heb alphabet]
- IOU** /i'əʊ/ *n* (a written acknowledgment of) a debt [prob fr the pronunciation of *I owe you*]
- ious** /-iəs/ *suffix* (*n* → *adj*) -ous (<capious>) [ME; partly fr OF *-ious*, *-ieux*, fr L *-iosus*, fr *-i-* (penultimate vowel of some noun stems) + *-osus* -ous; partly fr L *-ius*, *adj* suffix]
- IPA** *n* INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET
- ipecac** /'ipɪkək/ *n* **ipecacuanha**
- ipecacuanha** /'ipɪkəkjo'ahna/ *n* (a tropical S American creeping plant of the madder family with) an underground stem and root formerly used dried as a purgative and emetic [Pg *ipecacuanha*, fr Tupi *ipekaag-uéne*]



- ipse dixit** /'ipsə 'dɪksɪt/ *n* an arbitrary dogmatic assertion [L, he himself said it]
- ipsilateral** /'ipsɪ'lət(ə)rəl/ *adj* situated or appearing on or affecting the same side of the body – compare **CONTRALATERAL** [ISV, fr L *ipse* self, himself + *later-, latus* side] – **ipsilaterally** *adv*
- ipse facto** /'ɪpsə 'faktə/ *adv* by the very nature of the case [NL, lit., by the fact itself]
- IQ** *n* INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT
- ir-** – see 'IN-
- Iranian** /'aɪrən-ɪən, 'ɪrən-ɪən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Iran 2 a branch of the Indo-European family of languages that includes Persian [Iran, country in SW Asia] – **Iranian** *adj*
- Iraqi** /'ɪrɑːki, 'ɪrɑːki/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Iraq 2 the dialect of Modern Arabic spoken in Iraq [Ar 'irāqīy, fr 'Irāq Iraq, country in SW Asia] – **Iraqi** *adj*
- irascible** /'ɪrəsɪbl/ *adj* having an easily provoked temper [MF, fr LL *irascibilis*, fr L *irasci* to become angry, be angry, fr *ira* anger] – **irascibility** *n*, **irascibly** *adv*, **irascibility** /-'bɪləti/ *n*
- irate** /'ɪeɪt/ *adj* roused to or arising from anger [L *iratus*, fr *ira*] – **irately** *adv*, **irateness** *n*
- ire** /'ɪe-/ *n* intense and usu openly displayed anger [ME, fr OF, fr L *ira*, akin to OE *ofost* haste, zeal, Gk *hieros* holy, *oistros* gadfly, frenzy] – **lreful** *adj*
- irid-**, **irido-** *comb form* 1 rainbow (<iridescent>) 2 iris of the eye (<iridectomy>) 3 iridium (<iride>); iridium and (<iridosmium>) [(1) L *irid-, iris*; (2) NL *irid-, iris*; (3) ML *iridium*]
- irideaceous** /'ɪrɪ'deɪʃəs/ *adj* of the iris family
- iridescence** /'ɪrɪ'des(ə)ns/ *n* (a display or effect suggestive of) a play of changing colours in a soap bubble, bird's plumage, etc – **iridescent** *adj*, **iridescently** *adv*
- iridium** /'ɪrɪ'di-əm/ *n* a silver-white hard brittle very heavy (tetravalent) metallic element of the platinum group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *irid-, iris*; fr the colours produced by its dissolving in hydrochloric acid] – **iridic** /-dɪk/ *adj*
- iris** /'ɪerɪs/ *n*, *pl* (1) *irises*, *irides* /'ɪendeez/, (2) *irises*, *irides*, *esp collectively* *iris* 1a the opaque contractile diaphragm perforated by the pupil that forms the coloured portion of the eye  NERVE b *iris*, *iris diaphragm* an adjustable diaphragm of thin opaque plates that can be moved to control the size of an aperture 2 any of a large genus of plants with long straight leaves and large showy flowers  PLANT [(2) NL *Irid-, Iris*, genus name, fr L *irid-, iris* rainbow, iris plant, fr Gk, rainbow, iris plant, iris of the eye; (1) NL *irid-, iris*, fr Gk]
- Irish** /'ɪerɪʃ/ *adj* 1 of Ireland or the Irish (language) 2 amusingly illogical [ME, fr OE *Irās* Irishmen, of Celtic origin; akin to OIr *Eriu* Ireland] – **Irishman** /-mən/ *n*
- Irish** *n* 1 *pl in constr* the people of Ireland 2 *Irish*, *Irish Gaelic* the Celtic language of Ireland, esp as used since the end of the medieval period  ALPHABET
- Irish coffee** *n* hot sugared coffee with Irish whiskey and whipped cream
- Irish moss** *n* carrageen
- Irish setter** *n* (any of) a breed of chestnut-brown or mahogany-red Gundogs
- Irish terrier** *n* (any of) a breed of active medium-sized terriers with a dense usu reddish wiry coat
- Irish whiskey** *n* whisky made in Ireland, chiefly of barley
- Irish wolfhound** *n* (any of) a breed of very large tall hounds of the general form of a greyhound but much larger and stronger
- Irish** /'uɪk/ *vt* to make weary, irritated, or bored [ME *irken*]
- irksome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* troublesome, annoying – **irksomely** *adv*, **irksomeness** *n*
- iron** /'ɪe-ən/ *n* 1 a heavy malleable ductile magnetic silver-white metallic element that readily rusts in moist air, occurs in most igneous rocks, and is vital to biological processes  PERIODIC TABLE 2 sth (orig) made of iron: e.g. a sth used to bind or restrain – usu *pl* b a heated metal implement used for branding or cauterizing c a metal implement with a smooth flat typically triangular base that is heated (e.g. by electricity) and used to smooth or press clothing d a stirrup e any of a numbered series of usu 9 golf clubs with metal heads of varying angles for hitting the ball to various heights and lengths 3 great strength or hardness [ME, fr OE *isern*, *iren*; akin to OHG *isarn* iron] – from *la* the fire a prospective course of action; a plan not yet realized <got several irons in the fire and I'm hoping to land something before very long> – W S Maugham
- iron** *adj* 1 (made) of iron 2 resembling iron (e.g. in appearance, strength, solidity, or durability) – **ironness** *n*
- iron** *vt* 1 to smooth (as if) with a heated iron (<ed his shirt>) 2 to remove (e.g. wrinkles) by ironing – often + *out* ~ *vi* to be capable of being ironed <this skirt ~s well>  USE  SYMBOL
- Iron Age** *n* the period of human culture characterized by the widespread use of iron for making tools and weapons and dating from before 1000 BC
- ironbound** /-'bəʊnd/ *adj* bound (as if) with iron: e.g. a rugged or harsh (< coast>) b stern, rigorous
- ironclad** /-'klɑːd/ *adj* sheathed in iron or steel armour
- ironclad** *n* an ironclad naval vessel, esp in the 19th c
- iron curtain** *n*, often *cap* *IdC* an esp political and ideological barrier between the Communist countries of E Europe and the non-Communist countries of (and those friendly to) W Europe
- iron grey** *adj* or *n* dark greenish grey
- ironic** /'ɪrənɪk/, **ironical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or constituting irony 2 given to irony – **ironically** *adv*, **ironicalness** *n*
- ironing** /'ɪe-nɪŋ/ *n* clothes and cloth articles (e.g. towels and tablecloths) that are (to be) ironed
- ironing board** *n* a narrow flat board, on which clothes are ironed, mounted on collapsible and adjustable legs
- ironist** /'ɪerənɪst/ *n* one who uses irony, esp in the development of a literary work or theme
- iron lung** *n* a device for artificial respiration that fits over the patient's chest and forces air into and out of the lungs
- ironmonger** /-'mʌŋg-ə/ *n*, *Br* a dealer in esp household hardware – **ironmongery** *n*
- iron out** *vt* to put right or correct (e.g. a problem or defect); resolve (e.g. difficulties)
- iron pyrites** *n* iron disulphide occurring as a lustrous pale brass-yellow mineral
- iron ration** *n* an emergency food ration, esp for a soldier [fr its org consisting mainly of tinned food]
- ironstone** /-'stəʊn/ *n* a hard sedimentary iron ore, esp a siderite
- ironware** /-'weə/ *n* articles, esp vessels and implements for domestic use, made of iron
- ironworks** /-'wʊɪks/ *n*, *pl* ironworks a mill or building where iron or steel is smelted or heavy iron or steel products are made – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning
- irony** /'ɪerənɪ/ *n* 1a the use of words to express a meaning other than and esp the opposite of the literal meaning b an expression or utterance using irony 2a (an event or situation showing) incongruity between actual circumstances and the normal, appropriate, or expected result b **DRAMATIC IRONY** 3 an attitude of detached awareness of incongruity <viewed with ~ the craze for individuality> [L *ironia*, fr Gk *ironia*, fr *iron* dissembler]
- Iroquoian** /'ɪrə'kwɔɪən/ *n* a language family of eastern N America including Cherokee, Erie, and Mohawk  LANGUAGE – **Iroquoian** *adj*
- Iroquois** /'ɪrəkwɔɪ(z)/ *n* *pl in constr* a confederation of N American Indian tribes of the W USA [F, fr Algonquin *Iroakhoiw*, lit., real address]
- irradiate** /'ɪreɪdɪət/ *vt* 1a to cast rays (of light) upon b to give intellectual or spiritual insight to c to affect or treat by (exposure to) radiant energy (e.g. heat) 2 to emit like rays (of light); **RADIATE** 2 [L *irradiatus*, pp of *irradiare*, fr *in-* + *radius* ray] – **irradiance** *n*, **irradiative** *adj*, **irradiator** *n*
- irradiation** /'ɪreɪdɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* 1 an irradiating 2 exposure to radiation (e.g. X rays or alpha rays)
- irrational** /'ɪrəʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* not rational: e.g. a not governed by or according to reason b being or having a value that is an irrational number <an ~ root of an equation> [ME, fr L *irrationalis*, fr *in-* + *rationalis* rational] – **irrationalism** *n*, **irrationalist** *n*, **irrationally** *adv*, **irrationality** /-'æbɪti/ *n*
- irrational, irrational number** *n* a number (e.g.  $\pi$ ) that cannot be expressed as the result of dividing 1 integer by another – compare **RATIONAL NUMBER**, **SURD**  NUMBER
- irreconcilable** /'ɪrekən'siəbl/ *adj* impossible to reconcile: e.g. a resolutely opposed b **INCOMPATIBLE** 1 – **irreconcilableness** *n*, **irreconcilably** *adv*, **irreconcilability** /-'æbɪləti/ *n*
- irreconcilable** *n* an opponent of compromise or collaboration
- irrecoverable** /'ɪrɪ'kʊv(ə)rəbl/ *adj* not capable of being recovered or retrieved – **irrecoverably** *adv*
- irredeemable** /'ɪrɪ'deɪməbl/ *adj* not redeemable; esp beyond remedy; hopeless – **irredeemably** *adv*
- irredentism** /'ɪrɪ'den,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* advocacy of the restoration of territories



- to the countries to which they are historically or ethnically related [It *irredentismo*, fr (*Italia*) *irredenta* Italian-speaking territory not incorporated in Italy, lit., unredeemed Italy] – *irredentist* *n* or *adj*
- irreducible** /iˈrɪdjuəbəl/ *adj* impossible to bring into a desired, normal, or simpler state (an ~ *matrix*) – *irreducibly* *adv*, *irreducibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- irrefrangible** /iˈfrʌŋɡəbəl/ *adj* not capable of being refracted
- irrefutable** /iˈrɪfjuːtəbəl, iˈrefjuːtəbəl/ *adj* incontrovertible [LL *irrefutabilis*, fr L *in-* + *refutare* to refute] – *irrefutably* *adv*, *irrefutability* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- irregular** /iˈregjʊlə/ *adj* 1a contrary to rule, custom, or moral principles b not inflected in the normal manner; *specif* STRONG 14 c inadequate because of failure to conform d of troops not belonging to the regular army organization 2 lacking symmetry or evenness 3 lacking continuity or regularity, esp of occurrence or activity [ME *irregular*, fr MF, fr LL *irregularis* not in accordance with rule, fr L *in-* + *regularis* regular] – *irregularly* *adv*
- irregular** *n* an irregular soldier
- irregularity** /iˈregjʊləˈrɪti/ *n* sthg irregular (e.g. contrary to accepted professional or ethical standards) [IRREGULAR + -ITY]
- irrelevant** /iˈrelɪv(ə)nt/ *adj* not relevant; inapplicable – *irrelevance* *n*, *irrelevancy* *n*, *irrelevantly* *adv*
- irreligion** /iˈrɪlɪ(ə)n/ *n* hostility to or disregard of religion [MF or L; MF, fr L *irreligion-*, *irreligio*, fr *in-* + *religio-*, *religio* religion] – *irreligious* *n*, *irreligious* *adj*, *irreligiously* *adv*
- irremediable** /iˈrɛmɛdiəbəl, -ɪəbəl/ *adj* not remediable; *specif* incurable [L *irremediabilis*, fr *in-* + *remediabilis* remediable] – *irremediableness* *n*, *irremediably* *adv*
- irreparable** /iˈrep(ə)rəbəl/ *adj* not able to be restored to a previous condition [ME, fr MF, fr L *irreparabilis*, fr *in-* + *reparabilis* reparable] – *irreparableness* *n*, *irreparably* *adv*
- irreplaceable** /iˈrɪpleɪsəbəl/ *adj* having no adequate substitute [IR- + REPLACEABLE] – *irreplaceably* *adv*
- irrepressible** /iˈrɛspresəbəl/ *adj* impossible to restrain or control [IR- + REPRESSIBLE] – *irrepressibly* *adv*, *irrepressibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- irreproachable** /iˈrɒpəʃəbəl/ *adj* offering no foundation for blame or criticism [IR- + REPROACHABLE] – *irreproachably* *adv*, *irreproachability* /-ʃəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- irresistible** /iˈrɪzɪstəbəl/ *adj* impossible to resist successfully; highly attractive or enticing – *irresistibleness* *n*, *irresistibly* *adv*, *irresistibility* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- irresolute** /iˈrezəl(y)uːt/ *adj* lacking decision or a firm aim and purpose – *irresolutely* *adv*, *irresoluteness* *n*, *irresolution* /iˈ(ɪ)uːʃən(ə)n/ *n*
- irrespective** of /iˈrɪspektɪv/ *prep* without regard or reference to; IN SPITE OF
- irresponsible** /iˈrɪsponsəbəl/ 1 showing no regard for the consequences of one's actions 2 unable to bear responsibility [IR- + RESPONSIBLE] – *irresponsibly* *adv*, *irresponsibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- irreverence** /iˈrev(ə)rəns/ *n* (an act or utterance showing) lack of reverence – *irreverent* *adj*, *irreverently* *adv*
- irreversible** /iˈrɪvərsəbəl/ *adj* unable to be changed back into a previous state or condition [IR- + REVERSIBLE] – *irreversibly* *adv*, *irreversibility* /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*
- irrevocable** /iˈrevəkəbəl/ *adj* incapable of being revoked or altered [ME, fr L *irrevocabilis*, fr *in-* + *revocabilis* revocable] – *irrevocably* *adv*, *irrevocability* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- irrigate** /iˈrɪɡeɪt/ *vi* to wet, moisten e.g. a to supply (e.g. land) with water by artificial means b to flush (e.g. an eye or wound) with a stream of liquid ~ *vi* to practise irrigation [L *irrigatus*, pp of *irrigare*, fr *in-* + *rigare* to water] – *irrigator* *n*, *irrigation* /-ˈɡeɪʃən/ *n*
- irritable** /iˈrɪtəbəl/ *adj* capable of being irritated: e.g. a easily exasperated or excited b (excessively) responsive to stimuli – *irritableness* *n*, *irritably* *adv*, *irritability* /-bɪləti/ *n*
- irritant** /iˈrɪtənt/ *n* sthg that irritates or excites – *irritant* *adj*
- irritate** /iˈrɪtəɪt/ *vt* 1 to excite impatience, anger, or displeasure in 2 to induce a response to a stimulus in or of ~ *vi* to cause or induce displeasure or anger [L *irritatus*, pp of *irritare*] – *irritatingly* *adv*, *irritative* /-tətɪv/ *adj*, *irritation* /-təɪʃən/ *n*
- irrupt** /iˈrʌpt/ *vi* to rush in forcibly or violently [L *irruptus*, pp of *irrumper*, lit., to break in, fr *in-* + *rumper* to break – more at BEREAVE] – *irruption* /-ʃən/ *n*, *irruptive* /-tɪv/ *adj*, *irruptively* *adv*
- is** /z/; strong *ɪz*/ *pres* 3 *sing* of *be*, *dial* *pres* 1&2 *sing* of *be*, *substandard* *pres* *pl* of *be* [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *ist* is (fr *sin* to be), L *est* (fr *esse* to be), Gk *esti* (fr *einai* to be)]
- is-**, **iso-** *comb* *form* 1 equal; homogeneous; uniform (<isacoustic> 2 isomeric with (a specified compound or radical) (<isopropyl> [LL, fr Gk, fr *isos* equal])
- Isaiah** /iˈzeɪə/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a major Hebrew prophet active about 720 bc [Heb *Yēshaʿyahū*]
- ischaemia** /iˈskeɪmɪə/ *n* local deficiency of blood due to decreased arterial flow [NL, fr *ischæmus* stytic, fr Gk *ischaimos*, fr *ischēin* to restrain + *haima* blood; akin to Gk *echein* to hold – more at SCHEME]
- ischium** /ˈɪski-əm/ *n*, *pl* **ischia** /ˈɪski-ə/ the rearmost and lowest of the 3 principal bones composing either half of the pelvis [L, hip joint, fr Gk *ischion*] – **ischial** *adj*
- ise** /-ɪz/ – see -IZE
- isentropic** /ˈesenˈtɹɒpɪk/ *adj* of equal or constant entropy – **isentropically** *adv*
- ish** /-ɪʃ/ *suffix* 1 (*n* → *adj*) of or belonging to (a specified country or ethnic group) (<Finnish> 2a(1) (*adj*, *n* → *adj*) having a trace of (<summerish>); slightly (<purplish>) (<biggish>) (2) (*n* → *adj*) having the approximate age of (<fortyish>) (3) (*n* → *adj*) being or occurring at the approximate time of (<eightish>) b (*n* → *adj*) having the characteristics of (<boyish>) (<muftish>) – often derog (<childish>) (<bookish>) [ME, fr OE -isc; akin to OHG -isc -ish, Gk -iskos, dim. suffix]
- isinglass** /ˈɪzɪŋɡlɑːs/ *n* a very pure gelatin prepared from the air bladders of sturgeons and other fishes and used esp in jellies and glue [prob by folk etymology fr obs D *huizenblas*, fr MD *huusblase*, fr *huus* sturgeon + *blase* bladder]
- Islam** /ˈɪzlɑːm, -lɑːm/ *n* 1 the religious faith of Muslims including belief in Allah as the sole deity and in Muhammad as his prophet 2a the civilization or culture accompanying Islamic faith b the group of modern nations in which Islam is the dominant religion [Ar *islām* submission (to the will of God)] – **Islamic** /-mɪk/ *n* or *adj*, **Islamize** /ˈɪzləˈmeɪz/ *vi*, **Islamization** /-ˈzeɪʃən/ *n*
- island** /ˈelənd/ *n* 1 an area of land surrounded by water and smaller than a continent 2 sthg like an island (e.g. in being isolated or surrounded) 3 TRAFFIC ISLAND 4 an isolated superstructure on the deck of a ship, esp an aircraft carrier [alter of earlier *iland*, fr ME, fr OE *igland*; akin to ON *eyland* island; both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *ig* island (akin to OE *ea* river, L *aqua* water) and whose second is represented by OE *land*] – **islander** *n*
- isle** /iəl/ *n* a (small) island – used in some names [ME, fr OF, fr L *insula*]
- islet** /ˈleɪt/ *n* 1 a little island 2 a small isolated mass of 1 type of tissue
- islet of Langerhans** /ˈlɑːŋgəˈhɑːnz/ *n* any of the groups of endocrine cells in the pancreas that secrete insulin [Paul Langerhans †1888 G physician]
- ism** /ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a distinctive doctrine, cause, theory, or practice – often derog [-ism]
- ism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *suffix* (*n*, *adj* → *n*) 1a act, practice, or process of (<plagiarism>) b mode of behaviour characteristic of (sb or sthg specified) (<cannibalism>) 2a state, condition, or property of (<magnetism>) b pathological state or condition resulting from excessive use of (a specified drug) (<alcoholism>) or marked by resemblance to (a specified person or thing) (<gigantism>) 3a doctrine, theory, or cult of (<Buddhism>) b adherence to (a specified doctrine or system) (<stoicism>) c prejudice on grounds of (<sexism>) 4 characteristic or peculiar feature of (a specified language or variety of language) (<colloquialism>) (<Anglicism>) [ME -isme, fr MF & L; MF, partly fr L -isma (fr Gk) & partly fr L -ismus, fr Gk -ismos; Gk -isma & -ismos, fr verbs in -izein -ize]
- isn't** /ɪznt/ is not
- iso-** – see IS-
- isobar** /ˈɪsəʊbɑː, ˈɪsə-/ *n* 1 a line on a chart connecting places where the atmospheric pressure is the same 2 any of 2 or more atoms or elements having the same atomic weights or mass numbers but different atomic numbers [ISV *is-* + *-bar* (fr Gk *baros* weight); akin to Gk *barys* heavy – more at GRIEVE] – **isobaric** /-ˈbærɪk/ *adj*
- isochron** /ˈɪsəˈkrɒn/ *n* a line on a chart connecting points at which an event occurs simultaneously or which represents the same time or time difference [ISV *is-* + *-chron* (fr Gk *chronos* time)]
- isochronal** /iˈsəkrənəl/, **isochronous** /-nəs/ *adj* having equal duration; recurring at regular intervals [Gk *isochronos*, fr *is-* + *chronos* time] – **isochronally** *adv*, **isochronism** *n*
- isocline** /ˈɪsəʊkliːn/ *n* a fold of rock so closely compressed that the 2 sides are (nearly) parallel – **isoclinally** /-ˈkliːnəl/, **isoclinic** /-ˈkliːnɪk/ *adj*
- isodynamic** /ˈɪsəʊdɪˈnæmɪk/ *adj* connecting points at which the magnetic intensity is the same (< ~ *line*) [ISV]

- isoelectric** /i'lektrik/ *adj* having or representing no difference of electric potential [ISV]
- isoenzyme** /i'enzim/ *n* an isozyme – **isoenzymatic** /-enzi'matik/ *adj*, **isoenzyme** /-enzi'mik/ *adj*
- isogenic** /i'jenik/ *adj* characterized by essentially identical genes <identical twins are ~> [is- + *gene* + -ic]
- isogloss** /i'glos/ *n* (a representation of) an imaginary line dividing places or regions that differ in a particular linguistic feature [ISV is- + Gk *glossa* language – more at **GLOSS**] – **isoglossal** /i'gloal/ *adj*
- isogonic** /i'sa'gonik/, **isogonal** /i'sa'gan/ *adj* of or having equal angles [ISV is- + Gk *gonia* angle – more at **GOON**]
- isogonic** *adj* of, having, or indicating equality of magnetic dip
- isohel** /i'soh'hel/, **isohel** /i'soh'hel/ *n* a line on a chart connecting places of equal duration of sunshine [is- + Gk *hēlios* sun – more at **SOLAR**]
- isohyet** /i'soh'hie-ət/ *n* a line on a chart connecting areas of equal rainfall [ISV is- + Gk *hyetos* rain – more at **HYET-**] – **isohyetal** /i'hie-ət/ *adj*
- isolate** /i'es(ə)layt/ *vt* 1 to set apart from others; also to quarantine 2 to separate from another substance so as to obtain in a pure form 3 to insulate [back-formation fr *isolated* set apart, fr F *isolé*, fr It *isolato*, fr *isola* island, fr L *insula*] – **isolatable** *adj*, **isolator** *n*, **isolable** *adj*, **isolation** /i'laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- isolationism** /i'sa'layshan,iz(ə)m/ *n* a policy of national isolation by refraining from engaging in international relations – **isolationist** *n* or *adj*
- isoleucine** /i'soh'looheen, -sin, i'seə-/ *n* an essential amino acid found in most proteins and essential to the diet of human beings [ISV]
- isomer** /i'esmə/ *n* a compound, radical, ion, or nuclide isomeric with 1 or more others [ISV, back-formation fr *isomeric*, fr Gk *isomerēs* equally divided, fr is- + *meros* part – more at **MERIT**]
- isomerism** /i'esmə,riz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the relation of 2 or more chemical compounds, radicals, or ions that contain the same numbers of atoms of the same elements but differ in structural arrangement and properties 2 the relation of 2 or more types of atom with the same mass number and atomic number but different energy states and rates of radioactive decay 3 the condition of being isomeric – **isomerize** *vb*, **isomerization** /i'rie'zə:sh(ə)n/ *n*, **isomeric** /i'soh'merik/ *adj*
- isomeric** /i'soh'merik/ *adj* having an equal number of parts (e.g. ridges or markings); esp. of a flower having the members of each floral whorl equal in number
- isometric** /i'soh'metrik, i'seə-/ *adj* also **isometrical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by equality of measure 2 cubic 2 3 of or involving isometrics 4 being a representation of an object in which 3 mutually perpendicular axes are equally inclined to the drawing surface – **isometrically** *adv*
- isometric line** *n* a line representing changes of pressure or temperature under conditions of constant volume
- isometrics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl in constr* (a system of) exercises in which opposing muscles are contracted so that there is little shortening but great increase in tone of muscle fibres involved
- isomorphic** /i'sə'mawfik, i'seə-/ *adj* having or involving structural similarity or identity – **isomorph** *n*, **isomorphically** *adv*, **isomorphism** *n*, **isomorphous** *adj*
- isophote** /i'sə'foht, i'seə-/ *n* a line on a chart joining points of equal light intensity from a given source [ISV is- + *-phote* (fr Gk *phōt-, phōs* light) – more at **FANCY**] – **isophotal** /i'fohtl/ *adj*
- isopleth** /i'soh'pleth, i'seə-/ *n* a line on a map connecting points at which a given variable (e.g. humidity) has a constant value [ISV is- + Gk *plēthos* quantity; akin to Gk *plēthein* to be full – more at **FULL**] – **isoplethic** /i'plethik/ *adj*
- isopod** /i'sə'pod/ *n* any of a large order of small crustaceans with eyes not borne on stalks and having 7 pairs of similar legs [deriv of Gk is- + *pod-, pous* foot – more at **FOOT**] – **isopod** *adj*, **isopoda** /i'sə'podən, i'sə'pə'dən/ *adj* or *n*
- isoprene** /i'prien-/ *n* an inflammable liquid compound used esp in synthetic rubber [prob fr is- + *propyl* + -ene]
- isoscapes** /i'sə'skeɪps/ *adj*, of a triangle having 2 equal sides  **MATHEMATICS** [LL, fr Gk *isokelēs*, fr is- + *skelos* leg – more at **CYLINDER**]
- isoseismal** /i'sə'siezmal, i'seə-/ *adj* relating to, having, or indicating equal intensity of earthquake shock
- isostasy** /i'sə'stəsi/ *n* the condition of equilibrium in the earth's crust maintained by a yielding flow of sub-surface rock material under gravitational stress [ISV is- + Gk *-stasia* condition of standing, fr *histanai* to cause to stand – more at **STAND**] – **isostatic** /i'sə'statik, i'seə-/ *adj*
- isotherm** /i'sə'h'θu:m, i'seə-/ *n* 1 a line on a chart connecting points having the same temperature at a given time or the same mean temperature for a given period 2 a line on a chart representing changes of volume or pressure under conditions of constant temperature [F *isotherme* isothermal, fr is- + Gk *thermos* hot – more at **WARM**] – **isothermal** /i'θu:hm/ *adj*
- isotonic** /i'sə'tonik/ *adj* having the same concentration as a surrounding medium or a liquid under comparison – compare **HYPERTONIC**, **HYPOTONIC** [ISV] – **isotonicity** /i'toh'nisoti/ *n*
- isotope** /i'sə'təhp/ *n* any of 2 or more species of atoms of a chemical element that have the same atomic number and nearly identical chemical behaviour but differ in atomic mass or mass number and physical properties [is- + Gk *topos* place – more at **TOPIC**] – **isotopic** /i'topik/ *adj*, **isotopically** *adv*, **isotopy** /i'sə'təpi/ *n*
- isotropic** /i'sə'h'tropik, i'seə-/ *adj* having physical properties with the same values in all directions <an ~ crystal> [ISV] – **isotropy** /i'sə'trəpi/ *n*
- isozyme** /i'ziem/ *n* any of 2 or more chemically distinct but functionally similar enzymes – **isozymic** /i'ziemik/ *adj*
- ispy** /i'e'spie/ *n* a children's game in which a visible object is guessed from the initial letter of its name
- Israel** /i'zraɪl, i'zi:əl/ *n* 1 the Jewish people 2 a people chosen by God <Christians claim to be the true ~> [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr Gk *Israel*, fr Heb *Yisra'el*]
- Israeli** /i'zraɪli/ *adj* (characteristic) of modern Israel [NHeb *yisr'eli*, fr Heb, *Israelite*, *n* & *adj*, fr *Yisra'el*] – **Israeli** *n*
- Israelite** /i'zraɪliət/ *n* any of the descendants of the Hebrew patriarch Jacob; specif a member of any of the 10 Hebrew tribes occupying northern Palestine in biblical times [ME, fr LL *Israelita*, fr Gk *Israelitēs*, fr *Israel*] – **Israelite** *adj*
- issue** /i'ʃ(y)u:h, i'syoo:h/ *n* 1 the action of going, coming, or flowing out 2 a means or place of going out 3 offspring <died without ~> 4 an outcome that usu resolves or decides a problem 5 a matter that is in dispute between 2 or more parties; a controversial topic 6 sthg coming out from a usu specified source 7a the act of publishing, giving out, or making available <the next ~ of commemorative stamps> b the thing or the whole quantity of things given out, published, or distributed at 1 time <read the latest ~> [ME, exit, proceeds, fr MF, fr OF, fr *issir* to come out, go out, fr L *exire* to go out, fr *ex- + ire* to go; akin to Goth *iddja* he went, Gk *ienai* to go, Skt *eti* he goes] – **issuē** *adj* – at **issue** under discussion or consideration; in dispute – join/take **issue** to take an opposing or conflicting stand; disagree or engage in argument on a point of dispute
- issue** *vt* 1a to go, come, or flow out b to emerge 2 to descend from a specified parent or ancestor 3 to be a consequence – + *in* 4 to appear or become available through being given out, published, or distributed ~ *vt* 1 to cause to come out 2a to give out, distribute, or provide officially b to send out for sale or circulation – **issuer** *n*
- ist** /-ist/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1a one who performs (a specified action) <cyc<sup>ist</sup>> b one who makes or produces (a specified thing) <novel<sup>ist</sup>> c one who plays (a specified musical instrument) <harp<sup>ist</sup>> d one who operates (a specified mechanical instrument or device) <motor<sup>ist</sup>> 2 one who specializes in or practises (a specified art, science, skill, or profession) <geologist> <ventriloquist> 3 one who adheres to or advocates (a specified doctrine, system, or code of behaviour) <social<sup>ist</sup>> <royal<sup>ist</sup>> <hedon<sup>ist</sup>> <Calvin<sup>ist</sup>> 4 one who is prejudiced on grounds of <sex<sup>ist</sup>> [ME *-iste*, fr OF & L; OF *-iste*, fr L *-ista, -istes*, fr Gk *-istes*, fr verbs in *-izein* -ize]
- ist** *suffix* (→ *adj*) 1 relating to, or characteristic of <dilettant<sup>ist</sup>> <obscurant<sup>ist</sup>> 2 showing prejudice on grounds of <racist>
- Isthmian** /i'sthmi-ən/ *adj* of or occurring on or near an isthmus; esp, often cap of the Isthmus of Corinth in Greece of the games held there in ancient times
- Isthmus** /i'smə; also i'sthmə/ *n* 1 a narrow strip of land connecting 2 larger land areas 2 a narrow anatomical part connecting 2 larger parts [L, fr Gk *isthmos*]
- istle** /i'stl/ *n* a strong fibre (e.g. for cordage or basketry) made from various tropical American plants [AmerSp *ixtle*, fr Nahuatl *ichtli*]
- it** /it/ *pron* 1a that thing, creature, or group – used as subject or object <saw the house and noticed that ~ was very old> <had a baby but lost ~>; compare HE, ITS, THEY, THERE 2 b the person in question <who is ~? It's me> 2 ~ used as subject of an impersonal verb <~'s raining> <~'s not far to London> 3a – used as anticipatory subject or object of a verb <~'s no fun being a secretary> <I take ~ that you refuse> b – used to

highlight part of a sentence (< ~ was the President who arrived yesterday > (< ~ was yesterday that he arrived >)) c - used with many verbs and prepositions as a meaningless object (< run for ~ > (< footed ~ back to camp >)) 4a this, that - used to refer to previous or following information (< She failed. It's a shame >)) b - used to refer to an explicit or implicit state of affairs (< how's ~ going? >)) 5 that which is available (< one boiled egg and that's ~ >), important (< yes, that's just ~ >), or appropriate (< a bit tighter, that's ~ >)) [ME, fr OE *hit* - more at *HE*]

**it** *n* 1 the player in a usu children's game who performs a unique role (e.g. trying to catch others in a game of tag) 2 SEX APPEAL; also SEXUAL INTERCOURSE - *infrml*

**Italian** /i'tali-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Italy 2 the Romance language of the Italians → LANGUAGE [ME, fr L *Italia* Italy, country of S Europe, fr Gk *Italia*] - **Italian** *adj*, **Italianate** /-nət-, -nəɪt/ *adj*

**italic** /i'talik/ *adj* 1 *cap* (characteristic) of ancient Italy or of Italic 2 of a type style with characters that slant upwards to the right (e.g. in 'these words are italic')

**Italic** *n* 1 (a character in) an italic type style 2 *cap* the Italic branch of the Indo-European language family that includes Latin, ancient Italian languages, and the Romance languages descended from Latin

**italicize**, **-ise** /i'tali,ziəz/ *vt* to print in italics - **italicization** /-ˈzəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**Italo-** /i'talə-/ *comb form* Italian; Italian and <Italo-Austrian>

**itch** /ɪtʃ/ *vi* 1 to have or produce an itch 2 to have a restless desire (< were ~ing to go outside > ~ - *infrml* ~ *vi* to cause to itch [ME *icchen*, fr OE *giccan*; akin to OHG *jucchen* to itch])

**itch** *n* 1a an irritating sensation in the upper surface of the skin that makes one want to scratch b a skin disorder characterized by such a sensation 2 a restless desire - *infrml* - **itchiness** *n*, **itchy** *adj*

**it'd** /ɪtəd/ *it had*; it would

**-ite** /-i:t/ *suffix* (- *n*) 1a one who belongs to (a specified place, group, etc) (< Isra<sup>elite</sup> > (< socia<sup>lite</sup> > (< Hit<sup>ite</sup> >)) b adherent or follower of (a specified doctrine or movement) (< Pre-Rapha<sup>elite</sup> > (< Thatch<sup>erite</sup> >)) 2a(1) product of (< metabo<sup>lite</sup> > (< catabo<sup>lite</sup> >)) (2) commercially manufactured product (< ebo<sup>nite</sup> >)) b -ito<sup>l</sup> (< inos<sup>ite</sup> >)) 3 fossil (< ammo<sup>nite</sup> >)) 4 mineral (< baux<sup>ite</sup> >)) (< benton<sup>ite</sup> >)) 5 segment or constituent part of (a specified body or organ) (< som<sup>ite</sup> >)) (< dend<sup>rite</sup> >)) [ME, fr OF & L; OF, fr L *-ita*, *-ites*, fr Gk *-ites*; (3) NL *-ites*, fr L; (5) F, fr L *-ita*, *-ites*]

**-ite** *suffix* (- *n*) salt or ester of (a specified acid with a name ending in -ous) (< sulpha<sup>ite</sup> >)) [F, alter. of *-ate* -ate, fr NL *-atum*]

**item** /i'tem/ *adv* and in addition - used to introduce each article in a list or enumeration [ME, fr L, fr *ita* thus]

**item** *n* 1 a separate unit in an account or series 2 a separate piece of news or information

**itemize**, **-ise** /i'temiziəz/ *vt* to list (< ~d all expenses >)) - **itemization** /-ˈzəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**iterate** /i'taɪtəɪ/ *vt* to say or do again or repetitively [L *iteratus*, pp of *iterare*, fr *iterum* again; akin to L *is* he, that, *ita* thus, Skt *itara* the other, *itu* thus] - **iteration** /-ˈræɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**iterative** /i'taɪtəɪv/ *adj* 1 frequentative 2 relating to or being a computational procedure in which each repetition of a cycle of operations produces a result that approximates more closely to the desired result - **iteratively** *adv*

**ithyphallic** /i'thi'fəlik/ *adj* having an erect penis - used of figures in pictures or statues [LL *ithyphallicus*, fr Gk *ithyphallos*, fr *ithyphallos* erect phallus, fr *ithys* straight + *phallos* phallus]

**itinerancy** /i'tɪnərənsi, i'ti-/ *n* a system (e.g. in the Methodist Church) of rotating ministers among several congregations [ITINERANT + -CY]

**itinerant** /i'tɪnərənt, i'ti-/ *adj* travelling from place to place; esp covering a circuit (< ~ preacher >)) [LL *itinerant*, *itinerans*, prp of *itinerari* to journey, fr L *itiner*-, *iter* journey, way, fr *ire* to go - more at: *ISUE*] - **itinerant** *n*

**itinerary** /i'tɪnəriəri, i'ti-/ *n* 1 the (proposed) route of a journey 2 a travel diary 3 a traveller's guidebook

**iterate** /i'tɪnəriəri, i'ti-/ *vi* to travel from place to place, esp on a preaching or judicial circuit - **iteration** /-ˈræɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**-itious** /-iʃəs/ *suffix* (- *adj*) relating to or having the characteristics of (< ficti<sup>itious</sup> >)) (< supers<sup>itious</sup> >)) [L *-icius*, *-itius*]

**-itis** /-i:tiəs/ *suffix* (- *n*), *pl* **-itides** also **-itides** /-i:ti:deɪz/ 1 disease or inflammation of (< bronchi<sup>itis</sup> >)) 2a suffering caused by a surfeit or excess of (< electio<sup>nitis</sup> >)) b infatuation or obsession with (< jazz<sup>itis</sup> >)) **USE** (2) humor [NL, fr L & Gk; L, fr Gk, fr fem of *-itēs* -ite]

**it'll** /i'tɪl/ *it will*; it shall

**-itol** /-i:təl/ *suffix* (- *n*) polyhydroxy alcohol, usu related to a sugar (< man<sup>itol</sup> >)) [ISV *-ite* (fr *-ite*) + -ol]

**its** /ɪts/ *adj* relating to it or itself, esp as possessor (< ~ climate > (< going to ~ kennel >)), agent (< a child proud of ~ first drawings >), or object of an action (< ~ final enactment into law >))

**it's** /ɪts/ *it is*; it has

**itself** /ɪt'self/ *pron* 1 that identical thing, creature, or group - compare 'it' 1; used reflexively (< a cat washing ~ >) or for emphasis (< the letter ~ was missing >), compare ONESELF 2 its normal self - in itself intrinsically considered (< not dangerous in itself >))

**itay-bitay** /ɪtsi 'bɪtsi/ *adj* tiny - *infrml* [prob fr baby talk for *little bit*]

**-ity** /-əti/ *suffix* (- *n*) 1 quality or state of (< author<sup>ity</sup> >)) (< theatra<sup>city</sup> >)), also instance of (a specified quality or state) (< an obscen<sup>city</sup> >)) 2 amount or degree of (< humid<sup>ity</sup> >)) (< salin<sup>ity</sup> >)) [ME *-ite*, fr OF or L; OF *-ité*, fr L *-itāt*, *-itas*, fr *-i-* (stem vowel of adjs) + *-itāt*, *-tas* -ity; akin to Gk *-tēt*-, *-tēs* -ity]

**IUD** *n* INTRAUTERINE DEVICE

**-ium** /-i-əm/ *suffix* (- *n*), *pl* **-iums**, **-ia** /-i-ə/ 1a chemical element (< sodi<sup>um</sup> >)) b positive ion (< imidazo<sup>um</sup> >)) (< ammo<sup>nium</sup> >)) 2 small kind of; mass of - esp in botanical terms (< pollin<sup>ium</sup> >)) 3 biological part; part or region of body (< epi<sup>thelium</sup> >)) (< hypo<sup>gastrum</sup> >)) [(1) NL, fr L, ending of some neut nouns; (2, 3) NL, fr L, fr Gk *-ion*]

**-ive** /-iv/ *suffix* (- *adj*) 1 tending to; disposed to (< correct<sup>ive</sup> >)) (< sport<sup>ive</sup> >)) 2 performing (a specified function) (< descrip<sup>ive</sup> >)) (< generat<sup>ive</sup> >)) [ME *-if*, *-ive*, fr MF & L; MF *-if*, fr L *-ivus*]

**-ive** *suffix* (- *n*) 1 sby or sthg that performs or serves to accomplish (a specified action) (< sedat<sup>ive</sup> >)) (< detect<sup>ive</sup> >)) 2 sby who is in or affected by (a specified state or condition) (< capt<sup>ive</sup> >)) (< consump<sup>ive</sup> >))

**I've** /i:v/ I have

**ivied** /'reɪvɪd/ *adj* overgrown with ivy (< ~ walls >))

**ivory** /'evəri/ *n* 1 the hard creamy-white form of dentine of which the tusks of elephants and other tusked mammals are made 2 a creamy slightly yellowish white colour 3 *pl* things (e.g. dice or piano keys) made of (sthg resembling) ivory - *infrml* **IVORY** *ivone*, fr OF *ivoire*, fr L *eboreus* of ivory, fr *ebor*-, *ebur* ivory, fr Egypt *b*, *bw* elephant, ivory] - **ivory** *adj*

**ivory black** *n* a fine black pigment made by calcining ivory

**ivory nut** *n* the nutlike seed of a S American palm that is the source of vegetable ivory

**ivory tower** *n* aloofness from practical concerns; also a place encouraging such an attitude [trans of F *tour d'ivoire*]

**ivy** /'evi/ *n* a very common and widely cultivated Eurasian woody climbing plant with evergreen leaves, small yellowish flowers, and black berries [ME, fr OE *ifig*; akin to OHG *ebah* ivy]

**Ivy League** *adj*, **NAM** (characteristic) of a group of long-established prestigious eastern US colleges (e.g. Harvard)

**izard** /'ɪzəd/ *n* a chamois found in the Pyrenees [F]

**-ize**, **-ise** /-i:z/ *suffix* (- *vb*) 1a(1) cause to be, conform to, or resemble (< liqui<sup>dize</sup> >)) (< popula<sup>rize</sup> >)) (2) subject to (a specified action) (< plagia<sup>rize</sup> >)) (< critic<sup>ize</sup> >)) (3) impregnate, treat, or combine with (< albumi<sup>nize</sup> >)) (< oxidi<sup>ze</sup> >)) b treat like; make into (< honi<sup>ze</sup> >)) (< prosely<sup>rize</sup> >)) c treat according to the method of (< bowdler<sup>ize</sup> >)) 2a become; become like (< crystal<sup>ize</sup> >)) b engage in (a specified activity) (< philosoph<sup>ize</sup> >)) [ME *-isen*, fr OF *-iser*, fr LL *-izare*, fr Gk *-izen*]

**J**

**j** /jay/ *n*, *pl* **J's**, **js** often *cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 10th letter of the English alphabet

**jab** /jab/ *vb* -bb- *vt* 1a to pierce (as if) with a sharp object b to poke quickly or abruptly 2 to strike with a short straight blow ~ *vi* 1 to make quick or abrupt thrusts (as if) with a sharp or pointed object 2 to strike sby with a short straight blow [alter. of *job* (to strike)]

**jab** *n* 1 a short straight punch in boxing delivered with the leading hand 2 a hypodermic injection - *infrml*

**jabber** /jabo/ *vi* or *n* (to engage in) rapid or unintelligible talk or chatter [vb ME *jaberen*, of imit origin; *n* fr vb] - **jabberer** *n*

**jaborandi** /ˌjabo'rændi/ *n* the dried leaves of either of 2 S American shrubs that contain an alkaloid with actions similar to those of acetylcholine [Pg, fr Tupi *yaborandi*]

**jabot** /ˌzəboʊ/ *n* a pleated frill of lace or cloth attached down the centre front of a woman's bodice [F]

- jacaranda** /jaka'randa/ *n* any of a genus of tropical American trees with showy blue flowers [NL, genus name, fr Pg, a tree of this genus]
- jacinth** /jasinth/ *n* a reddish orange transparent zircon used as a gem [ME *iacinct*, fr OF *jacinthe*, fr L *hyacinthus*, a flowering plant, a gem]
- jacinthe** /jasinth/, zhah'sant/ *n* a medium orange colour [F]
- jack** /jak/ *n* 1a *MAN* la(1), c, 3 - usu as an intensive in such phrases as *every man jack* b a labourer, lumberjack, or steeplejack 2 any of various portable mechanisms for exerting pressure or lifting a heavy object a short distance 3 a male donkey 4a a small white target ball in lawn bowling b(1) *pl but sing in constr* a game in which players toss and pick up small bone or metal objects in a variety of shapes in between throws of a ball (2) a small 6-pointed metal object used in the game of jacks 5 a playing card carrying the figure of a soldier or servant and ranking usu below the queen 6a JACK PLUG b JACK SOCKET [ME *jake*, fr *Jacke*, nickname for *Johan* John]
- jack** *vt* 1 to move or lift (as if) by a jack 2 to raise the level or quality of 3 GIVE UP - usu + *in*; *infrml* <I was fed up with my job so I ~ed it *in*> USE (1&2) usu + *up*
- jackal** /jakl/ *n* 1 any of several Old World wild dogs smaller than the related wolves 2 sby who collaborates with another in committing immoral acts [Turk *çakal*, fr Per *shagāl*, fr Skt *śṛgāla*]
- jackanapes** /jaka'napes/ *n* 1 a monkey, ape 2a an impudent or conceited person b a mischievous child [perh alter. of (assumed) *Jack Ape*, name given to a pet ape]
- jackaroo**, **jackeroo** /jaka'rooh/ *n*, Austr a young inexperienced worker on a cattle or sheep station [Jack + -aroo (as in *kangaroo*)]
- jackass** /jakas/ *n* 1 a male ass 2 a stupid person; a fool
- jackboot** /-booh/ *n* 1 a heavy military leather boot extending above the knee and worn esp during the 17th and 18th c 2a a laceless military boot reaching to the calf b political repression effected by military or paramilitary force - + *the* - *jackbooted* *adj*
- Jack-by-the-hedge** *n* GARLIC MUSTARD
- jackdaw** /jakdaw/ *n* a common black and grey Eurasian bird that is related to but smaller than the common crow
- jacketer** /jakit/ *n* 1 an outer garment for the upper body opening down the full length of the centre front  GARMENT 2a the natural coat of an animal b the skin of a (baked) potato 3a a thermally insulating cover (e.g. for a hot water tank) b(1) DUST JACKET (2) the cover of a paperback book [ME *jaket*, fr MF *jaquet*, dim. of *jaque* short jacket, fr *jacque* peasant, fr the name *Jacques* James]
- jack** *vt* to put a jacket on; enclose in + *a* jacket
- Jack Frost** *n* frost or frosty weather personified
- jackhammer** /-hama/ *n*, NAM PNEUMATIC DRILL
- jack-in-office** *n* a self-important minor official
- jack-in-the-box** *n*, *pl* *jack-in-the-boxes*, *jacks-in-the-box* a toy consisting of a small box out of which a figure springs when the lid is raised
- jackknife** /-niel/ *n* 1 a large clasp knife for the pocket 2 a dive in which the diver bends from the waist, touches the ankles with straight knees, and straightens out before hitting the water
- jackknife** *vt* to cause to double up like a jackknife ~ *vi* 1 to double up like a jackknife 2 esp of an articulated lorry to turn or rise and form an angle of 90 degrees or less
- jack-of-all-trades** *n*, *pl* *jacks-of-all-trades* a handy versatile person - sometimes derog
- jack-o'-lantern** *n* 1 a will-o'-the-wisp 2 a lantern made from a hollowed-out pumpkin cut to look like a human face
- jack plane** *n* a plane used in the first stages of smoothing wood
- jack plug** *n* a single-pronged electrical plug for insertion into a jack socket
- jackpot** /-pot/ *n* 1 (a combination that wins) a top prize on a fruit machine 2 a large prize (e.g. in a lottery), often made up of several accumulated prizes that have not been previously won [jack 5 + 'pot 4; fr a form of poker in which a player requires 2 jacks or better to open]
- Jack Russell terrier** /rusl/ *n* any of a breed of small pugnacious terriers orig bred to hunt rats [Jack (John) Russell †1883 E clergyman & dog-fancier]
- jacksnipe** /-sniip/ *n* a small Old World true snipe
- jack socket** *n* an electrical socket that is designed to receive a jack plug
- jack tar** *n* a sailor - *infrml*
- jack towel** *n*, dial Br ROLLER TOWEL
- jack up** *vt*, NZ to settle, fix
- Jacobean** /jaka'bee-on/ *adj* of (the age of) James I [NL *Jacobaeus*, fr *Jacobus* James]
- Jacobin** /jakabin/ *n* a member of a radical democratic political group engaging in terrorist activities during the French Revolution; broadly an extremist radical [F, fr *Jacobin* Dominican; fr the group's founding in the Dominican convent in the Rue St-Jacques in Paris] - *Jacobinism* *n*
- Jacobite** /jakabiet/ *n* a supporter of James II or of the Stuarts after 1688 [Jacobus (James II)] - *Jacobitism* /jaka'bitiz(ə)m/ *n*
- Jacob's ladder** /jaykabz/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the phlox family that have bell-shaped flowers 2 a ship's rope or wire ladder [fr the ladder seen in a dream by Jacob in Gen 28:12]
- Jacquard** /jakahd/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a loom apparatus or head for weaving figured fabrics 2 a fabric of intricate variegated weave or pattern [Joseph Jacquard †1834 F inventor]
- jacquerie** /zhakari (Fr zakri)/ *n*, often *cap* a peasants' revolt [F, fr the French peasant revolt in 1358, fr MF, fr *jacque* peasant - more at JACKET]
- jactitation** /jakti'taysh(ə)n/ *n* a tossing to and fro or jerking and twitching of (a part of) the body [LL *jactitation*-, *jactitatio*, fr *jactitatus*, pp of *jactitare*, freq of *jactare* to throw - more at JET]
- jade** /jaid/ *n* 1 a vicious or worn-out old horse 2 *archaic* a flirtatious or disreputable woman [ME]
- Jade** *n* either of 2 typically green hard gemstones: a jadeite b nephrite [F, fr obs Sp (*piedra de la*) *jada*, lit., loin stone; fr the belief that jade cures renal colic]
- jaded** *adj* fatigued (as if) by overwork or dissipation [fr pp of *jade* (to wear out by overwork), fr 'jade]
- Jade green** *n* or *adj* (a) light bluish green
- jadeite** /jaydiel/ *n* the rarer more valuable usu white to green jade that is a silicate of sodium and aluminium [F]
- jagger** /yayga/ *n* a skua [G *jäger* hunter]
- jaffa** /jafa/ *n*, often *cap* a large type of orange grown esp in Israel [Jaffa, former port in Israel]
- jag** /jag/ *vt* -gg- 1 to cut or tear unevenly or raggedly 2 to cut indentations into [ME *jaggen* to stab, slash]
- jag** *n* a sharp projecting part - *jaggy* *adj*
- jag** *n* a period of indulgence <a crying ~>; esp a drinking bout - slang [origin unknown]
- jagged** /jagid/ *adj* having a sharply uneven edge or surface - *jaggedly* *adv*, *jaggedness* *n*
- Jaguar** /jagyoo-ə/ *n* a big cat of tropical America that is typically brownish yellow or buff with black spots [Sp *yaguar* & Pg *jaguar*, fr Guarani *yaguara* & Tupi *jaguara*]
- Jaguarundi** /jagwa'roondi/ *n*, *pl* *jaguarundis* a slender long-tailed greyish wildcat of Central and S America [AmerSp & Pg, fr Tupi *jaguarundi* & Guarani *yaguarundi*]
- jai alai** /khay ah'lay/ *n* a court game for 2 or 4 players who use a long curved wicker basket strapped to the wrist to catch and hurl a ball against a wall [Sp, fr Basque, fr *jai* festival + *alai* merry]
- jail**, Br also *gaol* /jayl/ *n* a prison [ME *jaiole*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *caveola*, dim. of *L* *caves* cage - more at CAGE]
- jail**, Br also *gaol* *vt* to confine (as if) in a jail
- jailbird** /-buhd/ *n* a person who has been (habitually) confined in jail
- jailbreak** /-brayk/ *n* an escape from jail
- jail delivery** *n* the clearing of a jail by bringing the prisoners to trial
- jailer**, **jallor** /'jaila/ *n* 1 a keeper of a jail 2 sby or sthg that restricts another's liberty (as if) by imprisonment
- Jain** /jain, jien/ *n* an adherent of a Hindu sect whose religion resembles Buddhism [Hindi, fr Skt *Jaina*] - *Jainism* *n*
- jakes** /jays/ *n*, *pl* *jakes* a privy - *infrml* [perh fr F *Jacques* James]
- jalap** /jalap/ *n* (a drastic purgative prepared from the root of) a Mexican plant [F & Sp; F *jalap*, fr Sp *jalapa*, fr *Jalapa*, city in Mexico]
- jalopy** /ja'lopi/ *n* a dilapidated old vehicle or aircraft - *infrml* [origin unknown]
- jealousie** /zhalazi, 'zhaloo, zee/ *n* a blind with adjustable horizontal slats for admitting light and air while excluding sun and rain [F, lit., jealousy, fr OF *jealous* jealous]
- jam** /jam/ *vb* -mm- *vt* 1a to press, squeeze, or crush into a close or tight position b to cause to become wedged so as to be unworkable <~ the typewriter keys> c to block passage of or along <crowds ~ming the streets> d to fill (to excess) <a book ~med with facts> 2 CRUSH 1; also to bruise by crushing 3 to send out interfering signals or cause reflections so as to make a (a radio signal) unintelligible b (a radio device) ineffective

- ~ *vi* 1a to become blocked or wedged b to become unworkable through the jamming of a movable part 2 to crowd or squash tightly together <they all ~med into the room> 3 to take part in a jam session – slang [perh imit]
- <sup>1</sup>**jam** *n* 1 a crowded mass that impedes or blocks <traffic ~> 2 the pressure or congestion of a crowd 3 a difficult state of affairs – *infrm*
- <sup>1</sup>**jam** *n* a preserve made by boiling fruit and sugar to a thick consistency [prob fr 'jam]
- jamb** /jam/ *n* a straight vertical member or surface forming the side of an opening for a door, window, etc [ME *jambe*, fr MF, lit., leg, fr LL *gamba* – more at GAMBIT]
- jamboree** /jambo'ree/ *n* 1 a large festive gathering 2 a large gathering of scouts or guides in a camp [origin unknown]
- James** /jaymz/ *n* (a book of the New Testament attributed to) a brother of Jesus [F, fr LL *Jacobus*]
- jammy** /jami/ *adj*, *Br* 1 lucky 2 easy *USE* *infrm* ['jam + 'y]
- jam on** *vt* to apply (brakes) suddenly and forcibly
- jam-packed** *adj* full to overflowing
- jam session** *n* an impromptu jazz performance that features group improvisation ['jam]
- jandal** /jandl/ *n*, *NZ* a flip-flop [prob alter of *sandal*]
- jangle** /'jang-gl/ *vi* 1 of the nerves to be in a state of tense irritation 2 to make a harsh or discordant often ringing noise ~ *vt* 1 to utter or cause to sound in a jangling way 2 to excite (e.g. nerves) to tense irritation [ME *janglen*, fr OF *jangler*, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *jangelen* to grumble] – *jangle n*, *jangly adj*
- janissary** /janisəri/ *n* 1 often *cap* a soldier of an élite corps of Turkish troops organized in the 14th c and abolished in 1826 2 a loyal or subservient official or supporter [It *gianizzero*, fr Turk *yanıçeri*]
- janitor** /janitə/, *from* *janitres* /-tris/ *n* 1 a doorkeeper, 'PORTER 2 *NAm* a caretaker [L, fr *janua* door, fr *janus* arch, gate] – *janitorial* /-tawn-əl/ *adj*
- janizary** /janizəri/ *n* a janissary
- January** /janyoo(ə)ri/ *n* the 1st month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Januarie*, fr L *Januarius*, 1st month of the ancient Roman year, fr *Janus*, god of doors, gates, & beginnings, fr *janus*]
- Jap** /jap/ *n* a Japanese – *infrm*
- <sup>1</sup>**Japan** /jə'pæn/ *n* 1 a varnish giving a hard brilliant finish 2 work (e.g. lacquer ware) finished and decorated in the Japanese manner [*Japan*, country in E Asia]
- <sup>2</sup>**Japan** *vt* -*un-* 1 to cover with a coat of japan 2 to give a high gloss to
- Japanese** /japə'nee/ *n*, *pl* *Japanese* 1 a native or inhabitant of Japan 2 the language of the Japanese – *ALPHABET, LANGUAGE* – *Japanese adj*
- Japanese quince** *n* the japonica
- jape** /jayp/ *vi* or *n* (to) jest, joke [vb ME *japen* to trick, copulate with, jest; *n* fr vb]
- japonica** /jə'ponika/ *n* a hardy ornamental shrub of the rose family with clusters of scarlet, white, or pink flowers [NL, fr fem of *Japonicus* Japanese, fr *Japonia* Japan]
- <sup>1</sup>**jar** /jah/ vb -*rr-* *vi* 1a to make a harsh or discordant noise b to be out of harmony with c to have a harshly disagreeable effect – + *on* or *upon* 2 to vibrate ~ *vt* to cause to jar, esp by shaking or causing a shock to [prob imit] – *jarringly adv*
- <sup>2</sup>**jar** *n* 1 a jarring noise 2a a sudden or unexpected shake b an unsettling shock (e.g. to nerves or feelings)
- <sup>3</sup>**jar** *n* 1a a usu cylindrical short-necked and wide-mouthed container, made esp of glass b the contents of or quantity contained in a jar 2 a glass of an alcoholic drink, esp beer – *infrm* [MF *jarre*, fr OPProv *jarra*, fr Ar *jarrah* earthen water vessel] – *jarful n*
- jardinière** /zəhdi'niyeə (Fr *jardinière*)/ *n* 1 an ornamental stand or large pot for plants or flowers 2 a garnish consisting of several vegetables arranged in groups round meat [F *jardinière*, lit., female gardener]
- jargon** /jərgən/ *n* 1a confused unintelligible language b outlandish or barbarous language 2 the terminology or idiom of a particular activity or group <scientific ~> 3 obscure and often pretentious language [ME, fr MF] – *jargonize vb*, *jargonistic* /-nistik/ *adj*
- jargoon** /jah'goon/ *n* a colourless, pale yellow, or smoky zircon [F *jargon* – more at ZIRCON]
- jarl** /yah/ *n* a Scandinavian noble ranking immediately below the king [ON – more at EARL]
- jarrah**, *jarra* /jə'rə/ *n* (the wood of) an Australian eucalyptus [native name in Australia]
- jasmine** /jasmin, 'jaz-/ *n* 1 any of numerous often climbing shrubs that usu have extremely fragrant flowers; esp a high-climbing half-evergreen Asian shrub with fragrant white flowers 2 a light yellow [F *jasmin*, fr Ar *yāsamin*, fr Per]
- jasper** /jaspa/ *n* an opaque quartz which is usu red brown, yellow, or dark green [ME *jaspre*, fr MF, fr L *jaspis*, fr Gk *iaspis*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *yāshēpheh* jasper] – *jaspery adj*
- Jat** /jaht/ *n* a member of an Indo-Aryan people living esp in the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh [Hindi *Jāt*]
- jaundice** /'jawn-dis/ *n* 1 an abnormal condition marked by yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments 2 a state of prejudice inspired by bitterness, envy, or disillusionment [ME *jaundis*, fr MF *jaunisse*, fr *jaune* yellow, fr L *galbinus* yellowish green, fr *galbus* yellow]
- <sup>1</sup>**jaundiced** *adj* 1 affected with jaundice 2 mistrustful or prejudiced, esp because of bitterness, envy, or disillusionment
- jaunt** /'jawn-t/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a short journey for pleasure [origin unknown]
- jaunting car** /'jawn-ting/ *n* a light open 2-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle used formerly in Ireland
- jaunty** /'jawn-ti/ *adj* having or showing airy self-confidence; sprightly [modif of F *gentil* genteel, elegant] – *jauntily adv*, *jauntness n*
- Java** 'man /jahvə/ *n* pithecanthropus [*Java*, island in Indonesia, where skulls of pithecanthropus were found]
- Javanese** /jahvə'nee/ *n*, *pl* *Javanese* 1 a member of an Indonesian people inhabiting the island of Java 2 the Austronesian language of the inhabitants of Java – *LANGUAGE* [*Java* + *-nese* (as in *Japanese*)] – *Javanese adj*
- javelin** /jav(ə)lin/ *n* a light spear thrown as a weapon or in an athletic field event; also the sport of throwing the javelin [MF *javeline*, alter. of *javelot*, of Celt origin; akin to Olr *gabul* forked stick]
- Javelle water** /zhə'vel, zha-/ *n* an aqueous solution of sodium hypochlorite used in disinfecting, bleaching, etc [*Javel*, former village in France]
- <sup>1</sup>**jaw** /jaw/ *n* 1a either of 2 cartilaginous or bony structures that in most vertebrates form a framework above and below the mouth in which the teeth are set b any of various organs of invertebrates that perform the function of the vertebrate jaws 2 *pl* a the entrance of a narrow pass or channel b the 2 parts of a machine, tool, etc between which sthg may be clamped or crushed <the ~s of a vice> c a position or situation of imminent danger <stared into the ~s of death> 3a continual and esp impudent or offensive talk – *infrm* b a friendly chat – *infrm* [ME]
- <sup>2</sup>**jaw** *vi* to talk or gossip for a long time or long-windedly – *infrm*
- jawbone** /-bohn/ *n* the bone of an esp lower jaw
- jawbreaker** /-brayka/ *n* a word which is difficult to pronounce – *infrm*
- jawed** /jəwd/ *adj* having jaws, esp of a specified type or shape – usu in combination <square-jawed>
- jay** /jay/ *n* an Old World bird of the crow family with a dull pink body, black, white, and blue wings, and a black-and-white crest [ME, fr MF *jai*, fr LL *gaius*]
- Jaywalk** /-wawk/ *vi* to cross a street carelessly so as to be endangered by traffic [*jay* (simpleton, yokel) + *walk*] – *jaywalker n*
- jazz** /jaz/ *n* 1 music developed esp from ragtime and blues and characterized by syncopated rhythms and individual or group improvisation around a basic theme or melody 2 empty pretentious talk <spouted a lot of scientific ~> – *infrm* 3 similar but unspecified things <planting, weeding, cropping, and all that ~ – Evening Argus (Brighton)> – *infrm* [*jazz*, vb (to copulate with), of unknown origin]
- jazz up** *vt* 1 to play (e.g. a piece of music) in the style of jazz 2 to enliven 3 to make bright, esp in a vivid or garish way *USE* *infrm*
- jazzy** /'jazi/ *adj* 1 having the characteristics of jazz 2 garish, gaudy – *infrm* – *jazzily adv*, *jazziness n*
- jealous** /'jeləs/ *adj* 1a intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness <the Lord your God is a ~ God – Ex 20:5(AV)> b apprehensive of and hostile towards a (supposed) rival 2 resentful, envious of 3 vigilant in guarding a possession, right, etc <~ of his honour> 4 distrustfully watchful <kept a ~ eye on her husband> [ME *jealous*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *zelusos*, fr LL *zelus* zeal – more at ZEAL] – *jealously adv*, *jealousness n*, *jealousy n*
- jean** /jeen/ *n* a durable twilled cotton cloth used esp for work clothes [short for *jean fustian*, fr ME *Gene* Genoa, city in Italy + *fustian*]
- jeans** /'jeenz/ *n* *pl* in constr, *pl* *jeans* casual usu close-fitting trousers, made esp of blue denim
- jeep** /jeep/ *n* a small rugged general-purpose motor vehicle with 4-wheel



- drive, used esp by the armed forces [alter. of *gee pee*, fr *general-purpose*]
- 'jeer** /jia/ *vb* to laugh mockingly or scoff (at) [origin unknown] – *jeerer* *n*, *jeeringly* *adv*
- ²jeer** *n* a jeering remark; a taunt
- Jehovah** /ji'hohvə/ *n* GOD 1 (*in the Lord ~ is everlasting strength* – Isaiah 26:4 (AV)) [NL, false reading (as *Yēhōwāh*) of Heb *Yahweh*]
- Je.hovah's** 'Witness *n* a member of a fundamentalist sect practising personal evangelism, rejecting the authority of the secular state, and preaching that the end of the present world is imminent
- jejun-** /ji'joohn-/ *jejuno-* *comb form* jejunum (jejunectomy) [L *jejunum*]
- jejune** /ji'joohn/ *adj* 1 lacking nutritive value or substance; also barren 2 lacking interest or significance 3 lacking maturity; puerile [L *jejunus*] – *jejunely* *adv*, *jejuneness* *n*
- jejunum** /ji'joohnəm/ *n* the section of the small intestine between the duodenum and the ileum [L, fr neut of *jejunus*] – *jejunal* *adj*
- Jekyll and Hyde** /jekəl and 'hied/ *n* a person having a split personality, one side of which is good and the other evil [Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, the 2 sides of the split personality of the protagonist of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by R L Stevenson †1894 Sc writer] – *Jekyll-and-Hyde* *adj*
- jell** /jel/ *vb*, chiefly *NAM* to gel
- jellaba** /jo'lahbə/ *n* a djellaba
- 'jelly** /'jeli/ *n* 1a a soft fruit-flavoured transparent dessert set with gelatin b a savoury food product of similar consistency, made esp from meat stock and gelatin 2 a clear fruit preserve made by boiling sugar and the juice of fruit 3 a substance resembling jelly in consistency [ME *gelly*, fr MF *gelee*, fr fem of *gelé*, pp of *geler* to freeze, congeal, fr L *gelare* – more at COLD]
- ²jelly** *vi* to jell ~ *vt* 1 to bring to the consistency of jelly; cause to set 2 to set in a jelly [jellied beef]
- 'jelly** *baby* *n* a small soft gelatinous sweet in the shape of a person
- 'jellyfish** /-fish/ *n* 1 a free-swimming marine coelenterate that has a nearly transparent saucer-shaped body and extendable tentacles covered with stinging cells 2 a person lacking firmness of character
- jemmy** /'jemi/ *vt or n*, Br (to force open with) a steel crowbar, used esp by burglars [*Jemmy*, nickname for *James*]
- je ne sais** *quol* /zə nə say 'kwəh (Fr ʒə nə se kwə)/ *n* a quality that cannot be adequately described or expressed [F, lit., I know not what]
- jennet** /'jenit/ *n* 1 a small Spanish riding horse 2 a female donkey [ME *genett*, fr MF *genet*, fr Catal, Zenete (member of a Berber people), horse]
- jenny** /'jen/ *n* 1 a female donkey 2 SPINNING JENNY [fr the name *Jenny*]
- jeon** /jun/ *n*  Korea (North), Korea (South) at NATIONALITY [Korean]
- jeopardize**, -ise /'jepədiez/ *vt* to put in jeopardy
- jeopardy** /'jepədi/ *n* 1 exposure to or risk of death, loss, injury, etc; danger 2 liability to conviction faced by a defendant in a criminal trial [ME *jeopardie*, fr AF *juparti*, fr OF *jeu parti* alternative, lit., divided game]
- jequirity bean** /ji'kwirəti/ *n* (the poisonous scarlet and black seed of) the Rosary pea [Pg *jequiriti*]
- jerboa** /ju'hboh-/ *n* any of several nocturnal Old World desert rodents with long legs adapted for jumping [Ar *yərbū*]
- jeremiad** /jers'mie-əd/ *n* a prolonged lamentation or complaint [F *jérémiade*, fr *Jérémie* Jeremiah, fr LL *Jeremias*]
- Jeremiah** /jers'mie-/ *n* 1 (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 6th and 7th c bc 2 sby who is mournfully pessimistic about the present and foretells a calamitous future [LL *Jeremias*, fr Gk *Hieremias*, fr Heb *Yirmeyāh*]
- 'jerk** /juhk/ *vt* 1 to give a quick suddenly arrested push, pull, twist, or jolt to 2 to propel with short abrupt motions 3 to utter in an abrupt or snappy manner ~ *vi* 1 to make a sudden spasmodic motion 2 to move in short abrupt motions [prob alter. of E dial. *yerk* (to thrash, attack, excite), fr ME *yerken* to bind tightly] – *jerker* *n*
- ²jerk** *n* 1 a single quick motion (e.g. a pull, twist, or jolt) 2a an involuntary spasmodic muscular movement due to reflex action b *pl* spasmodic movements due to nervous excitement 3 chiefly *NAM* a stupid, foolish, or naive person – *infrm*
- ²jerk** *vt* to preserve (e.g. beef or venison) by cutting into long slices or strips and drying in the sun [back-formation fr *jerky* (preserved meat), modif of AmerSp *charqui*]
- jerklin** /'juhkin/ *n* 1 a close-fitting hip-length sleeveless jacket, made esp of leather and worn by men in the 16th and 17th c 2 a man's or woman's sleeveless jacket [origin unknown]
- jerk off** *vb*, chiefly *NAM* to masturbate – *vulg*
- jerky** /'juhki/ *adj* 1 marked by irregular or spasmodic movements 2 marked by abrupt or awkward changes – *jerklily* *adv*, *jerkiness* *n*
- jeroboam** /jerə'boh-am, -əm/ *n* a wine bottle holding 4 to 6 times the usual amount [*Jeroboam* 1 † ab 912 bc king of the northern kingdom of Israel]
- Jerry** /'jeri/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 1 a German; esp a German soldier in WW II 2 *sing or pl* in constr the German armed forces in WW II [by shortening & alter.]
- 'jerry-build** /'jen-/ *vt* *jerry-built* /bilt/ to build (e.g. houses) cheaply and flimsily [back-formation fr *jerry-built*, of unknown origin] – *jerry-builder* *n*, *jerry-built* *adj*
- jerry can**, *jerrican* /'jen,kan/ *n* a narrow flat-sided container for carrying liquids, esp petrol or water, with a capacity of about 25l (about 5gal) [*Jerry* + *can*; fr its German design]
- jersey** /'juhzi/ *n* 1 a plain weft-knitted fabric made of wool, nylon, etc and used esp for clothing 2 **JUMPER** 1 3 *often* *cap* any of a breed of small short-horned cattle noted for their rich milk [*Jersey*, one of the Channel islands]
- Jerusalem artichoke** /jo'rooshələm/ *n* (an edible sweet-tasting tuber of) a perennial N American sunflower [*Jerusalem* by folk etymology fr lt *grasole* *grasol*]
- jeze** /jes/ *n* a short strap made esp of leather which is secured to the leg of a hawk and usu has a ring on the other end for attaching a leash [ME *ges*, fr MF *gies*, fr *pl* of *jet* throw, fr *jeter* to throw – more at **JET**] – *jeze* *vt*
- 'jeat** /jest/ *n* 1 an amusing or mocking act or utterance, a joke 2 a frivolous mood or manner [*was just said in ~*] [ME *geste* deed, exploit, prank, fr OF, fr L *gesta* deeds, fr neut *pl* of *gestus*, pp of *gerere* to bear, wage – more at **CAST**]
- ²jeat** *vi* 1 to speak or act without seriousness 2 to make a witty remark
- jeater** /'jestə/ *n* a retainer formerly kept in great households to provide casual amusement and commonly dressed in a brightly coloured costume [**JEST** + **-ER**]
- Jesu** /'jeezyooh/ *n* Jesus – *poetic*
- Jesuit** /'jeezyoo-it/ *n* 1 a member of the Society of Jesus, a Roman Catholic order founded by St Ignatius Loyola in 1534 which is devoted to missionary and educational work 2 one given to intrigue or equivocation [NL *Jesuita*, fr LL *Jesús*] – *Jesuitism*, *Jesuitry* /-tri/ *n*, *often* *cap*, *Jesuitize* *vb*, *often* *cap*, *Jesuitic* /-itik/, *Jesuitical* *adj*, *often* *cap*, *Jesuitically* *adv*, *often* *cap*
- Jesus** /'jeezəs/, *Jesus* 'Christ *n* 1 the Jewish religious teacher whose life, death, and resurrection as reported by the Evangelists in the New Testament are the basis of the Christian message of salvation 2 – used interjectionally as an expression of surprise, dismay, annoyance, etc; slang [LL, fr Gk *Iēsous*, fr Heb *Yēshua*]
- 'Jesus**, *freak* *n* a usu young member of any of various evangelical Christian groups characterized by a simple, usu communal way of life – *infrm*
- 'jet** /jet/ *n* 1 a hard velvet-black form of coal that is often polished and used for jewellery 2 an intense black [ME, fr MF *jaiet*, fr L *gagates*, fr Gk *gagatēs*, fr *Gagas*, town & river in Asia Minor]
- ²jet** *vb* -*tt-* *vi* to spout forth in a jet or jets ~ *vt* 1 to emit in a jet or jets 2 to direct a jet of liquid or gas at [MF *jeter*, lit., to throw, fr L *jactare* to throw, fr *jactus*, pp of *jacere* to throw; akin to Gk *hiēnai* to send]
- ²jet** *n* 1a a forceful stream of fluid discharged from a narrow opening or a nozzle b a nozzle or other narrow opening for emitting a jet of fluid 2 (an aircraft powered by) a jet engine
- ²jet** *vi* -*tt-* to travel by jet aircraft
- jet-black** *adj* of a very dark black
- jeté** /zhə'tay (Fr ʒə'te)/ *n* a high arching leap in ballet in which the dancer has one leg stretched forwards and the other backwards [F, fr pp of *jeter*]
- 'jet, engine** *n* an engine that produces motion in one direction as a result of the discharge of a jet of fluid in the opposite direction; *specif* an aircraft engine that discharges the hot air and gases produced by the combustion of a fuel to produce propulsion or lift
- 'jet lag** *n* a temporary disruption of normal bodily rhythms after a long flight, esp due to differences in local time
- jet-propelled** *adj* moving (as if) by jet propulsion
- jet propulsion** *n* propulsion of a body produced by the forwardly



directed forces resulting from the backward discharge of a jet of fluid, *specif* propulsion of an aeroplane by jet engines

**jetsam** /'jetsəm/ *n* 1 goods thrown overboard to lighten a ship in distress; *esp* such goods when washed ashore 2 FLOTSAM AND JETSAM [alter. of *jettison*]

**jet-set** *n sing or pl in constr* an international wealthy elite who frequent fashionable resorts ['jet] – *jet-set adj.* *jetsetter n*

**jet stream** *n* a current of strong winds high in the atmosphere usu blowing from a westerly direction and often exceeding a speed of 400km/hour (250mi per hour)

**jettison** /'jetis(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of jettisoning cargo 2 abandonment [ME *jettison*, fr AF *getteson*, fr OF *getaison* action of throwing, fr L *jactation*, *jactatio*, fr *jactatus*, pp of *jactare* – more at 'JET]

**jettison** *vt* 1 to throw (e.g. goods or cargo) overboard to lighten the load of a ship in distress 2 to cast off as superfluous or encumbering; abandon 3 to drop (e.g. unwanted material) from an aircraft or spacecraft in flight – *jettisonable adj.*

**jetty** /'jetɪ/ *n* 1 a structure (e.g. a pier or breakwater) extending into a sea, lake, or river to influence the current or tide or to protect a harbour 2 a small landing pier [ME *jette*, fr MF *jete*, fr fem of *jeté*, pp of *jeter* to throw – more at 'JET]

**jeu d'esprit** /'zhu: de'spree (Fr ʒø de'spʁi)/ *n, pl jeux d'esprit* /~ / a witty comment or composition [F, lit., play of the mind]

**jeunesse dorée** /'zhu: nes daw'rei (Fr ʒœnes dɔʁe)/ *n* young people of wealth and fashion [F, gilded youth]

**jew** /'ju:ə/ *vt* to get the better of financially, *esp* by hard bargaining – often + *out of*, *derog*

**Jew**, *fem Jewess* /'jes-, -is/ *n* 1 a member of a Semitic people existing as a nation in Palestine from the 6th c BC to the 1st c AD, some of whom now live in Israel and others in various countries throughout the world 2 a person whose religion is Judaism 3 sby given to hard financial bargaining – *derog* [ME, fr OF *gyu*, fr L *Judaicus*, fr Gk *Ioudaios*, fr Heb *Yehudhi*, fr *Yehudhah* Judah, Jewish kingdom] – *Jewish adj.*

**jewel** /'ju:əl/ *n* 1 an ornament of precious metal often set with stones and worn as an accessory 2 sby or sth highly esteemed 3 a precious stone 4 a bearing for a pivot (e.g. in a watch or compass) made of crystal, precious stone, or glass [ME *juel*, fr OF, dim of *jeu* game, play, fr L *lucius* game, joke – more at JOKE] – *jewelled adj.*

**jeweller**, *NAM chiefly jeweler* /'ju:əl-ə/ *n* sby who deals in, makes, or repairs jewellery and often watches, silverware, etc

**jewellery**, *NAM chiefly jewelry* /-ri/ *n* jewels, *esp* as worn for personal adornment

**jewfish** /'ju:əfɪʃ/ *n* any of various large groupers living *esp* in southern seas

**Jewry** /-ri/ *n* 1 a Jewish quarter (e.g. of a town); a ghetto 2 the Jewish people collectively

**Jew's harp**, **Jews' harp** *n* a small lyre-shaped instrument that is placed between the teeth and sounded by striking a metal tongue with the finger

**jezeil** /'ʒe:zi:l, -'zayl/ *n* a long heavy Afghan rifle [Per *jaza'il*]

**Jezebel** /'je:zəbel-, -bl/ *n*, often *not cap* a shameless or immoral woman [Jezebel, wife of a King of Israel, known for her wicked conduct (1 Kings 16:31 ff)]

**JHVN** *n* YHWH

**jiao** /'jow/ *n* ㄅ ㄅ *China* at NATIONALITY [Chin]

**jib** /'jɪb/ *n* a triangular sail set on a stay extending from the top of the foremast to the bow or the bowsprit ㄅ SHIP [origin unknown]

**jib vb -bb-** *chiefly NAM* to gybe

**jib** *n* the projecting arm of a crane [prob by shortening & alter fr *gibbet*]

**jib vi -bb-** *esp of a horse* to refuse to proceed further [prob fr 'jib] ㄅ *huber n* – jib at to recoil or balk at

**jibe** /'jɪb/ *vb* to gybe

**jibe vb, chiefly NAM to gybe**

**jiff** /'jɪf/ *n* a jiffy [by shortening]

**jiffy** /'jɪf/ *n* a moment, instant (<ready in a ~>) – *infml* [origin unknown]

**jig** /'dʒɪg/ *n* 1 (a piece of music for) any of several lively springy dances in triple time – compare GIGUE 2a any of several fishing lures that jerk up and down in the water b a device used to hold a piece of work in position (e.g. during machining or assembly) and to guide the tools working on it c a device in which crushed ore or coal is separated from waste by agitating in water [prob fr MF *gigue* to dance, fr *gigue* fiddle, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *giga* fiddle; akin to ON *geiga* to turn aside – more at 'GIG]

**jig vb -gg-** *vt* 1 to dance in the rapid lively manner of a jig 2a to cause to make a rapid jerky movement b to separate (a mineral from waste) with a jig 3 to catch (a fish) with a jig 4 to machine by using a jig ~ *vi* 1a to dance a jig b to move with rapid jerky motions 2 to fish with a jig 3 to work with or operate a jig

**jigger** /'dʒɪgə/ *n* 1 (a glass container holding) a variable measure of spirits used *esp* in mixing drinks 2 *chiefly NAM* sth, *esp* a gadget or small piece of apparatus, which one is (temporarily) unable to designate accurately – *infml* ['dʒɪg + 'ɛr]

**jiggered** /'dʒɪgəd/ *adj* 1 blowed, damned (<well I'll be ~>) – *infml* 2 *N Eng* tired out, exhausted [perh euphemism for *buggered*]

**jiggery-pokery** /'dʒɪgəri-'pəʊkəri/ *n, Br* dishonest underhand dealings or scheming – *infml* [alter of Sc *joukery-pawkery*, fr *jouk* to cheat + *paw* trick]

**jiggle** /'dʒɪɡl/ *vb* **jiggling** /'dʒɪɡ-lɪŋ, 'dʒɪɡ-lɪŋ/ to (cause to) move with quick short jerks – *infml* [freq of 'jig] – *jiggle n*

**jigsaw** /'dʒɪɡsɔw/ *n* 1 a power-driven fretsaw 2 **jigsaw puzzle** a puzzle consisting of small irregularly cut pieces, *esp* of wood or card, that are fitted together to form a picture for amusement, *broadly* sth composed of many disparate parts or elements

**jihad** /'dʒɪhəd/ *n* 1 a holy war waged on behalf of Islam as a religious duty 2 a crusade for a principle or belief [Ar *jihād*]

**jilt** /'dʒɪlt/ *vt* to cast off (e.g. one's lover) capriciously or unfeelingly [jilt (flirtatious woman), prob alter of earlier *juliet*, fr *Jill* (nickname for *Gillian*) + -et]

**Jim Crow** /'dʒɪm-/ *n*, often *cap J&C*, *NAM* 1 racial discrimination, *esp* against black Americans (<~ laws>) 2 a Negro – *derog* (<~ schools>) [Jim Crow, stereotype Negro in a 19th-c song-and-dance act]

**jimjams** /'dʒɪm,dʒənz/ *n pl* 1 DELIRIUM TREMENS 2 JITTERS 1 *USE* *infml*, + the [perh alter of *delirium tremens*]

**jimsonweed** /'dʒɪms(ə)n,weəd/ *n*, often *cap*, *NAM* THORN APPLE [Jimson alter. of *Jamestown*, fr *Jamestown*, site of first permanent E settlement in USA]

**jingle** /'dʒɪŋɡl/ *vb* **jingling** /'dʒɪŋɡ-lɪŋ, 'dʒɪŋɡ-lɪŋ/ to (cause to) make a light clinking or tinkling sound [ME *ginglen*, of imit origin]

**jingle n** 1 a light, *esp* metallic clinking or tinkling sound 2 a short catchy song or rhyme characterized by repetition of phrases and used *esp* in advertising – *jingly adj*

**jingo** /'dʒɪŋɡoʊ/ *interj* – used as a mild oath in *by jingo* [prob euphemism for *Jesus*]

**jingoism** /-'dʒɪŋɡ(ə)m/ *n* belligerent patriotism; chauvinism [fr the occurrence of *by jingo* in the refrain of a 19th-c E chauvinistic song] – **jingolist** *n*, **jingoistic** /-'dʒɪŋɡ(ə)stɪk/ *adj*, **jingoistically** *adv*

**jink** /'dʒɪŋk/ *n* 1 a quick evasive turn 2 *pl* pranks, frolics – *esp* in *high jinks* [origin unknown]

**jink vi** to move quickly with sudden turns and shifts (e.g. in dodging)

**jinn**, **djinn** /'dʒɪn/ *n, pl jinns*, **jān** 1 any of a class of spirits that according to Muslim demonology inhabit the earth, assume various forms, and exercise supernatural power 2 a spirit, often in human form, which serves whoever summons it [Ar *jinnīy* demon]

**jinni**, **jinnee** /'dʒɪnee, 'dʒɪni/ *n* a jinn

**jinx** /'dʒɪŋks/ *n* sby or sth (e.g. a force or curse) which brings bad luck – *infml* [prob alter of *jynx* (wryneck), fr the use of wrynecks in witchcraft] – **jinx vt**

**jitney** /'dʒɪtni/ *n*, *NAM* NICKEL 2 – *slang* [origin unknown]

**jitter** /'dʒɪtə/ *vi* 1 to be nervous or act in a nervous way 2 to make continuous fast repetitive movements [origin unknown]

**jitter n** 1 *pl* panic or extreme nervousness – *usu* + *the* 2 an irregular random movement – *jittery adj*

**jitterbug** /-'dʒɪtə-/ *n* (one who dances) a jazz variation of the two-step in which couples swing, balance, and twirl

**jiu-jitsu** /'ju:əʃ 'dʒi:tsu:/ *n* ju-jitsu

**jive** /'dʒɪv/ *n* 1 (dancing or the energetic dance performed to) swing music 2 *NAM* a glib or deceptive talk b a type of jargon used *esp* by jazz musicians [origin unknown]

**jive vi** 1 to dance to or play jive 2 *NAM* to kid ~ *vt*, *NAM* to cajole, TEASE 2b

**jo** /'dʒoʊ/ *n, pl Joes* *chiefly Scot* a sweetheart, dear [alter. of *joy*]

**joanna** /'dʒə'nə/ *n, Br* a piano – *infml* [rhyming slang]

**job** /'dʒɒb/ *n* 1a a piece of work; *esp* a small piece of work undertaken at a stated rate b sth produced by work 2a(1) a task (2) sth requiring unusual exertion (<it was a real ~ to talk over that noise>) b a specific duty, role, or function c a regular paid position or occupation d *chiefly Br* a state of affairs – + *bad* or *good* (<make the best of a bad ~>) 3 an object of a usu specified type (<bought myself a brand-new V-8 sports ~>)

**4a** a plan or scheme designed or carried out for private advantage (*suspected the whole incident was a put-up ~*) **b** a crime; *specif* a robbery *USE* (3&4) *infrml* [perh fr obs *job* (lump), fr ME *jobbe*, perh alter. of *gobbe* job – more at 'GOB'] – *jobless* *adj* – on the job **1** engaged in one's occupation; AT WORK **1** (*this burglar is known to wear black woollen gloves when he is on the job*) **2** in the act of copulation – *vulg*

**Job** *vb* -bb- *vi* **1** to do odd or occasional pieces of work, usu at a stated rate (*a ~bing gardener*) **2** to carry on public business for private gain **3a** to carry on the business of a middleman or wholesaler **b** to work as a stockjobber *~ vt* **1** to buy and sell (e.g. shares) for profit **2** to hire or let for a definite job or period of service **3** to get, deal with, or effect by jobbery **4** to subcontract – *usu* *v out*

**Job** /jɒb/ *n* (a narrative and poetic book of the Old Testament which tells of) a Jewish patriarch who endured afflictions with fortitude and faith – *usu* in the *patience* of Job [L, fr Gk *Iob*, fr Heb *Iyyōbh*]

**jobber** /jɒbə/ *n* a stockjobber

**jobbery** /jɒbəri/ *n* corruption in public office

**Job Centre** *n* a government office where unemployed people can look at job vacancies on display and arrange interviews with prospective employers

**job lot** *n* a miscellaneous collection of goods sold as a lot; *broadly* any miscellaneous collection of articles

**Job's comforter** /jɒbz/ *n* sby whose attempts to encourage or comfort have the opposite effect [fr the tone of the speeches made to Job by his friends]

**Job's tears** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* an Asiatic grass whose seeds are often used as beads

**jockey** /jɒk/ *n* a jockey – *infrml*

**Jock** *n*, *Br* a Scotsman; *esp* a Scottish soldier – *infrml* [Sc nickname for John]

**jockey** /jɒki/ *n* **1** sby who rides a horse, *esp* as a professional in races **2** *NAm* sby who operates a specified vehicle, device, or object (*a truck ~*) [Jockey, Sc nickname for John]

**jockey** *vt* **1** to ride (a horse) as a jockey **2** to manoeuvre or manipulate by adroit or devious means (*~ed me into handing over the money*) **3** *chiefly* *NAm* to drive or operate; *also* to manoeuvre *~ vi* **1** to act as a jockey **2** to manoeuvre for advantage (*~ed for position*)

**jockstrap** /jɒkstrəp/ *n* a support for the genitals worn by men taking part in strenuous *esp* sporting activities [jock (penis) + strap]

**jocose** /jə'kəʊs/ *adj* **1** given to joking **2** jocular *USE* *infrml* or poetic [L *jocosus*, fr *jocus* joke] – *jocosely* *adv*, *jocoseness* *n*, *jocosity* /jə'kɒsəti/ *n*

**jocular** /jɒkjʊlə/ *adj* **1** habitually jolly **2** characterized by joking [L *jocularis*, fr *joculus*, *dim.* of *jocus*] – *jocularly* /-lə'retli/ *adv*, *jocularity* *n*

**jocund** /jɒkənd/ *adj* marked by or suggestive of high spirits; merry – *infrml* or poetic [ME, fr LL *jocundus*, alter of L *jucundus* pleasant, fr *juvare* to help] – *jocundly* *adv*, *jocundity* /jɒk'kʌndəti, jə-/ *n*

**jodhpurs** /jɒd'pɜ:/ *n pl* in *constr*, *pl* jodhpurs riding trousers cut full at the hips and close-fitting from knee to ankle *~* GARMENT [Jodhpur, city in India]

**Joel** /joh-el/ *n* a narrative and prophetic book of the Old Testament [L, fr Gk *Iōēl*, fr Heb *Yō'ēl*]

**joey** /joh-i/ *n*, *Austr* a young kangaroo [native name in Australia]

**jog** /jɒg/ *vb* -gg- *vt* **1** to give a slight shake or push to; nudge **2** to rouse (the memory) *~ vi* **1** to move up and down or about with a short heavy motion **2a** to run or ride at a slow trot **b** to go at a slow or monotonous pace [perh alter. of *shog* (to shake, shove), fr ME *shoggen*]

**jog** *n* **1** a slight shake **2a** a jogging movement or pace **b** a slow trot

**jogger** /jɒgə/ *n* sby who regularly jogs to keep fit

**joggle** /jɒgl/ *vb* joggling /jɒgling, 'jɒg-ling/ to (cause to) move or shake slightly – *infrml* [freq of 'jog] – *joggle* *n*

**jog trot** *n* **1** a slow regular trot (e.g. of a horse) **2** a routine or monotonous progression

**Johannine** /joh'hanien/ *adj* (characteristic) of the apostle John or the New Testament books ascribed to him [LL *Johannes* John]

**John** /jɒn/ *n* **1** *NAm* TOILET **2** – *infrml* **2** *chiefly* *NAm* a prostitute's client – *slang* [fr the name John]

**John** *n* **1** the 4th Gospel in the New Testament **2** any of 3 short didactic letters addressed to early Christians and included in the New Testament [LL *Johannes*, fr Gk *Iōānēs*, fr Heb *Yōhānān*]

**John Barleycorn** /'bʌli:kɔ:n/ *n* alcoholic liquor personified

**John Bull** /'bʊl/ *n* **1** the English nation personified **2** a typical Englishman, *esp* regarded as truculently insular [John Bull, character typifying the English nation in *The History of John Bull* by John

Arbuthnot †1735 Sc physician & writer] – John Bullish *adj*, John Bullishness *n*, John Bullism *n*

**John Dory** /'dɔ:ri/ *n* a common yellow to olive European food fish [earlier *dory*, fr ME *dorre*, fr MF *doree*, lit. gilded one]

**johnny** /'jɒni/ *n*, often *cap* a fellow, guy – *infrml* [fr the name Johnny]

**Johnny-come-lately** *n*, *pl* Johnny-come-latelies, Johnnies-come-lately a late or recent arrival

**Johnsonian** /'jɒn'sohnyan, -ni-ən/ *adj* (characteristic) of Samuel Johnson, his works, or his style of writing; *esp* having balanced phraseology and Latinate diction [Samuel Johnson †1784 E lexicographer & writer] – *Johnsonese* /jɒn'sə'neez/ *n*

**John Thomas** /'tɒməs/ *n*, *Br* a penis – *euph* [fr the names John & Thomas]

**joie de vivre** /'zɜ:wa də 've:v (Fr 'zwa də vi:v)/ *n* keen enjoyment of life [F, lit., joy of living]

**join** /jɔɪn/ *vt* **1a** to put or bring together so as to form a unit **b** to connect (e.g. points) by a line *c* to adjoint; MEET *lc* (*where the river ~s the sea*) **2** to put or bring into close association or relationship (*~ed in marriage*) **3a** to come into the company of (*~ed us for lunch*) **b** to become a member of (*~ed the sports club*) *~ vi* **1** to come together so as to be connected **2** to come into close association: e.g. **a** to form an alliance **b** to become a member of a group *c* to take part in a collective activity – *usu* + *in* [ME *joinen*, fr OF *joindre*, fr L *jungere* – more at YOKE] – *joinable* *adj* – *join battle* to engage in battle or conflict

**Join** *n* JOINT **2a**

**joinder** /jɔɪndə/ *n* a joining in a legal action [F *joindre* to join]

**joiner** /jɔɪnə/ *n* **1** one who constructs or repairs wooden articles, *esp* furniture or fittings – compare CARPENTER **2** a gregarious person who joins many organizations – *infrml* ['JOIN + -ER]

**joinery** /jɔɪnəri/ *n* **1** the craft or trade of a joiner **2** woodwork done or made by a joiner

**Joint** /jɔɪnt/ *n* **1a(1)** a point of contact between 2 or more bones of an animal skeleton together with the parts that surround and support it (2) NODE **3a** **a** a part or space included between 2 articulations, knots, or nodes **c** a large piece of meat (for roasting) cut from a carcass *~* MEAT **2a** a place where 2 things or parts are joined **b** an area at which 2 ends, surfaces, or edges are attached *c* a crack in rock not accompanied by dislocation *d* the hinge of the binding of a book along the back edge of each cover **3** a shabby or disreputable place of entertainment – *infrml* **4** a marijuana cigarette – *slang* [ME *jointe*, fr OF, fr *joindre*] – *jointed* *adj*, *jointedly* *adv*, *jointedness* *n* – out of joint **1** of a bone dislocated **2** disordered, disorganized

**Joint** *adj* **1** united, combined (*a ~ effort*) **2** common to 2 or more: e.g. **a** involving the united activity of 2 or more **b** held by, shared by, or affecting 2 or more **3** sharing with another (*~ heirs*) **4** being a function of or involving 2 or more random variables (*a ~ probability density function*) [ME, fr MF, fr pp of *joindre*]

**Joint** *vt* **1** to fit together **2** to provide with a joint **3** to prepare (e.g. a board) for joining by planing the edge **4** to separate the joints of (e.g. meat) ['joint]

**joiner** /jɔɪntə/ *n* any of various tools used in making joints ['JOINT + -ER]

**Jointly** /-li/ *adv* together

**joint stock** *n* capital held jointly and usu divided into shares between the owners

**joint-stock company** *n* a company consisting of individuals who own shares representing a joint stock of capital

**jointure** /'jɔɪnjə/ *n* property settled on a wife as provision for her widowhood [ME, joint, jointure, fr MF, fr L *junctura*, fr *junctus*, pp of *jungere* to join]

**join up** *vi* to enlist in an armed service

**joist** /jɔɪst/ *n* any of the parallel small timbers or metal beams that support a floor or ceiling [ME *giste*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *jacitum*, fr L *jacere* to lie – more at ADJACENT]

**jojoba** /'hə'hɒbə/ *n* a shrub or small tree of the box family, native to N America, having edible seeds that yield a valuable wax similar in properties to sperm oil [MexSp]

**Jokey** /jɒki/ *n* **1a** sthg said or done to provoke laughter; *esp* a brief oral narrative with a humorous twist – compare PRACTICAL JOKE **b** the humorous or ridiculous element in sthg *c* an instance of joking or making fun (*can't take a ~*) **d** a laughingstock **2** sthg of little difficulty or seriousness; a trifling matter (*that exam was a ~*) – often in neg constructions (*no ~ to be lost in the desert*) [L *jocus*; akin to OHG *gehan* to say, Skt *yācati* he implores] – *jokey*, *joky* *adj*

- \*joke** *vi* to make jokes – **jokingly** *adv*  
**joker** /'jɒkə/ *n* 1 sby given to joking 2 a playing card added to a pack usu as a wild card 3a sthg (e.g. an expedient or stratagem) held in reserve to gain an end or escape from a predicament **b** chiefly *NAM* an unsuspected or misunderstood clause in a document that greatly alters it **c** chiefly *NAM* a not readily apparent factor or condition that nullifies a seeming advantage 4 a fellow; *esp* an insignificant, obnoxious, or incompetent person – *infml*
- jolie laide** /'zɒli 'led (Fr ʒɔli lɛd)/ *n*, *pl* **jolies laides** /'zɒli 'led(z) (Fr ~)/ a woman whose looks are decidedly plain, but whose manner and charm make her highly attractive [F. lit., pretty ugly woman]
- jollification** /'dʒɒlɪfɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* (an instance of) merrymaking
- \*jolly** /'dʒɒli/ *adj* 1a full of high spirits **b** given to conviviality **c** expressing, suggesting, or inspiring gaiety 2 extremely pleasant or agreeable – *infml* 3 *Br* slightly drunk – *euph* [ME *jolif*, *joli*, fr OF] – **jolliness** *n*, **jollity** *n*
- \*jolly** *adv* *very* – *infml* (< *cold for the time of year*)
- \*jolly** *vt* 1 to (try to) put in good humour, *esp* to gain an end – *usu* + *along* 2 to make cheerful or bright – + *up*, *infml*
- 'jolly boat** *n* a ship's boat of medium size used for general work [origin unknown]
- Jolly Roger** /'rɒʒə/ *n* a pirate's black flag with a white skull and crossbones [prob fr 'jolly + the name Roger]
- 'jolt** /'dʒɒlt/ *vt* 1 to cause to move with a sudden jerky motion 2 to give a (sudden) knock or blow to 3 to abruptly disturb the composure of (< *crudely* ~ ed out of that mood – Virginia Woolf) ~ *vt* to move with a jerky motion [prob blend of obs *joll* (to strike) and *jot* (to bump)]
- \*jolt** *n* an unsettling blow, movement, or shock – **joltly** *adj*
- Jonah** /'dʒɒnə/ *n* (a narrative book of the Old Testament telling of) an Israelite prophet who resisted a divine call to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, was swallowed and vomited by a great fish, and eventually carried out his mission [Heb *Yōnāh*]
- jongleur** /'ʒɒŋ'glɜ:/ (Fr ʒɔŋglɛʁ)/ *n* a wandering medieval minstrel [F, fr OF *jogleur* – more at JUGGLER]
- jonquil** /'dʒɒŋkwɪl/ *n* a Mediterranean plant of the daffodil family that is widely cultivated for its yellow or white fragrant flowers [F *jonquille*, fr Sp *junquillo*, dim. of *junco* reed, fr L *juncus*; akin to ON *einir* juniper, L *juniperus*]
- Joshua** /'dʒɒʃ(ə)ʒə-/ *n* (a mainly narrative book of the Old Testament telling of) the divinely commissioned successor of Moses and military leader of the Israelites during the conquest of Canaan [Heb *Yehōshua*]
- joss** /'dʒɒs/ *n* a Chinese idol or cult image [Pidgin E, fr Pg *deus* god, fr L – more at DEITY]
- 'joss house** *n* a Chinese temple or shrine
- 'joss stick** *n* a slender stick of incense (e.g. for burning in front of a joss)
- joistle** /'dʒɒsl/ *vb* **joistling** /'dʒɒslɪŋ/ 1a to come in contact or into collision (with) **b** to make (one's way) by pushing 2 to vie (with) in gaining an objective [alter of *justle*, freq of *joust*] – **joistle** *n*
- 'jot** /'dʒɒt/ *n* the least bit (< *not a ~ of evidence*) [L *iota*, *jota* iota]
- \*jot** *vt* -tt- to write briefly or hurriedly – **jotting** *n*
- jotter** /'dʒɒtə/ *n* a small book or pad for notes or memoranda
- joule** /'dʒəʊl/ *n* the SI unit of work or energy equal to the work done when a force of 1N moves its point of application through a distance of 1m — **PHYSICS, UNIT** [James Joule †1889 E physicist]
- journal** /'dʒʊnl/ *n* 1 a record of current transactions: e.g. an account of day-to-day events **a** a private record of experiences, ideas, or reflections kept regularly **c** a record of the transactions of a public body, learned society, etc **d** LOG 3, 4 2a a daily newspaper **b** a periodical dealing esp with matters of current interest or specialist subjects 3 the part of a rotating shaft, axle, roll, or spindle that turns in a bearing [ME, service book containing the day hours, fr MF, fr *journal* daily, fr L *diurnalis*, fr *diurnus* of the day, fr *dies* day – more at DEITY]
- 'journal box** *n* a metal housing to support and protect a journal bearing
- journalise** /'dʒɜ:/ *n* a style of writing supposed to be characteristic of newspapers; *specif* loose or cliché-ridden writing
- 'journalism** /'dʒɜ:(z)m/ *n* 1 (the profession of) the collecting and editing of material of current interest for presentation through news media 2a writing designed for publication in a newspaper or popular magazine **b** writing characterized by a direct presentation of facts or description of events without an attempt at interpretation
- 'journalist** /'dʒɜ:/ *n* a person engaged in journalism, *esp* one working for a news medium – **journalistic** /'dʒɜ:stɪk/ *adj*
- 'journalize**, -ise /-iez/ *vb* to record in or keep a journal – **journalizer** *n*
- journey** /'dʒʊni/ *n* 1 travel from one place to another, *esp* by land and over a considerable distance 2 the distance involved in a journey, or the time taken to cover it [ME, fr OF *journee* day's journey, fr *jour* day, fr LL *diurnum*, fr L, neut of *diurnus*] – **journey** *vi*, **journeyer** *n*
- 'journeyman** /-mən/ *n* 1 a worker who has learned a trade and is employed by another person, *usu* by the day 2 an experienced reliable worker or performer, as distinguished from one who is outstanding [ME, fr *journey* journey, a day's labour + *man*]
- 'joust** /'dʒəʊst/ *vi* to fight in a joust or tournament [ME *jousten*, fr OF *juster*, fr (assumed) VL *jutare*, fr L *juxta* near; akin to L *jungere* to join – more at YOKE] – **jouster** *n*
- \*joust** *n* a combat on horseback between 2 knights or men-at-arms with lances
- Jove** /'dʒɒv/ *n* Jupiter, the chief Roman god – often used interjectionally to express surprise or agreement (< *by ~*) [L *Jov-, Juppiter*]
- joyal** /'dʒɒvi-əl/ *adj* markedly good-humoured [MF & LL; MF, fr LL *joialis* Jovian, fr *Jov-, Juppiter*] – **joyally** *adj*, **joyality** /-ələti/ *n*
- Jovian** /'dʒɒvi-ən/ *adj* (characteristic of) the god or planet Jupiter
- 'jowl** /'dʒɒwl/ *n* 1 the jaw; *esp* a mandible 2 CHEEK 1 [alter. of ME *chavel*, fr OE *ceaf*; akin to MHG *kivel* jaw, Av *zafar*-mouth]
- \*jowl** *n* usu slack flesh associated with the lower jaw or throat – often pl with *sing.* meaning [ME *cholle*, prob fr OE *ceole* throat]
- joy** /'dʒɒi/ *n* 1 (the expression of) an emotion or state of great happiness, pleasure, or delight 2 a source or cause of delight 3 *Br* success, satisfaction (< *had no ~ at the first shop he went into*) – *infml* [ME, fr OF *joie*, fr L *gaudia*, pl of *gaudium*, fr *gaudere* to rejoice; akin to Gk *gêthen* to rejoice] – **joyless** *adj*, **joylessly** *adv*, **joylessness** *n*
- 'joyful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* filled with, causing, or expressing joy – **joyfully** *adv*, **joyfulness** *n*
- 'joyous** /-əs/ *adj* joyful – **joyously** *adv*, **joyousness** *n*
- 'joyride** /-raɪd/ *n* 1 a ride in a motor car taken for pleasure and often without the owner's consent 2 a short pleasure flight in an aircraft – **joyrider** *n*, **joyriding** *n*
- 'joystick** /-stɪk/ *n* 1 a hand-operated lever that controls an aeroplane's elevators and ailerons 2 a control for any of various devices that resembles an aeroplane's joystick, *esp* in being capable of motion in 2 or more directions [perh fr slang *joystick* (penis)]
- jubilant** /'dʒʊbɪlənt/ *adj* filled with or expressing great joy [L *jubilant*, *jubilans*, prp of *jubilare* to rejoice] – **jubilance** *n*, **jubilantly** *adv*
- Jubilate** /'dʒʊbɪləti/ *n* the 100th Psalm sung liturgically in Catholic and Anglican churches [L, 2 pl imper of *jubilare*; fr its opening word]
- jubilant** /'dʒʊbɪlənt/ *n* being jubilant; rejoicing [ME *jubilacioun*, fr L *jubilatio*, *jubilatio*, fr *jubilatus*, pp of *jubilare*]
- jubilee** /'dʒʊbiːl/ *n* 1 often cap a year of emancipation and restoration provided by ancient Hebrew law to be kept every 50 years 2 (< celebration of) a special anniversary (e.g. of a sovereign's accession) (< *remembered Queen Victoria's diamond ~*) 3 a period of time, proclaimed by the Pope ordinarily every 25 years, during which a special plenary indulgence is granted to Catholics who perform certain works of repentance and piety 4 a season or occasion of celebration [ME, fr MF & LL, MF *jubilé*, fr LL *jubilaeus*, modif of LGk *iōbēlaos*, fr Heb *yōbhel* ram's horn, jubilee]
- Judaism** /'dʒʊdaɪzɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a religion developed among the ancient Hebrews and characterized by belief in 1 transcendent God and by a religious life in accordance with Scriptures and rabbinic traditions 2 (conformity with) the cultural, social, and religious beliefs and practices of the Jews [LL *judaismus*, fr Gk *ioudaismos*, fr *ioudaios* Jew] – **Judaize** *vi*, **Judaizer** *n*, **Judale** /-ˈdeɪ-ɪk/ *adj*
- Judas** /'dʒʊdəs/ *n* 1 one who betrays, *esp* under the guise of friendship 2 **Judas**, **Judas hole** a peephole in a door [*Judas* Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Christ]
- 'Judas tree** *n* any of a genus of trees and shrubs that are often cultivated for their showy esp purplish flowers [fr the belief that Judas Iscariot hanged himself from such a tree]
- judder** /'dʒʊdə/ *vi*, chiefly *Br* to vibrate jerkily [prob alter. of *shudder*] – **judder** *n*
- Jude** /'dʒʊd/ *n* a short epistle addressed to early Christians included as a book in the New Testament [LL *Judas*]
- 'judge** /'dʒʌdʒ/ *vt* 1 to form an opinion about through careful weighing of evidence 2 to sit in judgment on 3 to determine or pronounce after deliberation 4 to decide the result of (a competition or contest) 5 to form an estimate or evaluation of 6 to hold as an opinion ~ *vi* 1 to form a judgment or opinion 2 to act as a judge (< *to ~ between us*) [ME *juggen*,

- fr OF *jugier*, fr L *judicare*, fr *judic-*, *judex* judge, fr *jus* right, law + *dicere* to decide, say – more at JUST, DICTION]
- <sup>1</sup>**judge** *n* sby who judges: e.g. a public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court [LAW *b* often *cap* a Hebrew tribal leader in the period after the death of Joshua *c* sby appointed to decide in a competition or (sporting) contest (e.g. diving) *d* sby who gives an (authoritative) opinion <a good ~ of character> <a good ~ of modern art>] [ME *juge*, fr MF, fr L *judex*] – **Judgeship** *n*
- judge** 'advocate *n* an officer appointed to superintend the trial and advise on law at a court martial
- judge** 'advocate 'general *n* the senior civil legal officer in control of courts martial
- Judges** /'juɟz/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a narrative and historical book of the Old Testament
- judgment, judgement** /'juɟmənt/ *n* 1 (a formal utterance of) an authoritative opinion 2a a formal decision by a court *b* an obligation (e.g. a debt) created by a court decision 3a **Judgment, Last Judgment** the final judging of mankind by God *b* a calamity held to be sent by God as a punishment 4 (the process of forming) an opinion or evaluation based on discerning and comparing 5 the capacity for judging – **judgmental** /-'mentl/ *adj*
- Judgment Day** *n* the day of God's judgment of mankind at the end of the world, according to various theologies
- judicature** /'juɟdɪkətʃə/ *n* 1 the administration of justice 2 a court of justice 3 JUDICIARY 1 4 (the duration of) a judge's office [MF, fr ML *judicator*, fr L *judicator*, pp of *judicare*]
- judicial** /'juɟdɪʃəl/ *adj* 1 of a judgment, judging, justice, or the judiciary 2 ordered by a court (< separation>) 3 of, characterized by, or expressing judgment; CRITICAL 1c [ME, fr L *judicialis*, fr *judicium* judgment, fr *judex*] – **judicially** *adv*
- judiciary** /'juɟdɪʃəri/ *n* 1a a system of courts of law *b* the judges of these courts 2 a judicial branch of the US government [*judiciary*, *adj*, fr L *judiciarius* judicial, fr *judicium*] – **judiciary** *adj*
- judicious** /'juɟdɪʃəs/ *adj* having, exercising, or characterized by sound judgment – **judiciously** *adv*, **judiciousness** *n*
- judo** /'juɟdoh/ *n* a martial art developed from ju-jitsu and emphasizing the use of quick movement and leverage to throw an opponent [Jap *jūdō*, fr *jū* weakness, gentleness + *dō* art] – **judoist** *n*
- judy** /'juɟdi/ *n*, often *cap* a girl – slang [*Judy*, nickname for *Judith*]
- <sup>1</sup>**jug** /'juɟ/ *n* 1a(1) chiefly *Br* a vessel for holding and pouring liquids that typically has a handle and a lip or spout (2) chiefly *NAM* a large deep earthenware or glass vessel for liquids that usu has a handle and a narrow mouth often fitted with a cork; FLAGON 1b *b* the contents of or quantity contained in a jug: a jugful 2 prison – *infrm* [perh fr *Jug*, nickname for *Joan*] – **jugful** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**jug** *vt -gg-* 1 to stew (e.g. a hare) in an earthenware vessel 2 to imprison – *infrm*
- juggernaut** /'juɟənaw/ *n* 1 an inexorable force or object that crushes anything in its path 2 chiefly *Br* a very large, usu articulated, lorry; *esp* one considered too large for safety [Hindi *Jagannāth*, title of Vishnu, lit., lord of the world; fr a former belief that devotees of Vishnu threw themselves beneath the wheels of a cart bearing his image in procession]
- <sup>1</sup>**juggle** /'juɟl/ *vb* **juggling** /'juɟlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to perform the tricks of a juggler 2 to engage in manipulation, *esp* in order to achieve a desired end ~ *vt* 1 to manipulate, *esp* in order to achieve a desired end (< an account to hide a loss>) 2 to hold or balance precariously 3 to toss in the manner of a juggler [ME *jogelen*, fr MF *jogler* to joke, fr L *joculari*, fr *joculus*, dim. of *jocus* joke]
- <sup>2</sup>**juggle** *n* an act or instance of juggling
- juggler** /'juɟlə/ *n* one skilled in keeping several objects in motion in the air at the same time by alternately tossing and catching them [ME *jogelour*, fr OE *geogelere*, fr OF *jogleour*, fr L *joculator*, fr *joculatus*, pp of *joculari*] – **jugglery** *n*
- jugular** /'juɟjələ/ *adj* 1a of the throat or neck *b* of the jugular vein 2 of a ventral fin of a fish located on the throat [LL *jugularis*, fr L *jugulum* collarbone, throat; akin to L *jungere* to join – more at YOKE]
- jugular vein**, **jugular** *n* any of several veins of each side of the neck that return blood from the head
- juice** /'juɟə/ *n* 1 the extractable fluid contents of cells or tissues 2a *pl* the natural fluids of an animal body *b* the liquid or moisture contained in sthg 3 the inherent quality of sthg; *esp* the basic force or strength of sthg 4 a medium (e.g. electricity or petrol) that supplies power – *infrm* [ME *jus*, fr OF, broth, juice, fr L; akin to Skt *yūṣa* broth] – **juiceless** *adj*
- juicy** /'juɟsi/ *adj* 1 succulent 2 financially rewarding or profitable – *infrm* 3 rich in interest (< a ~ problem>); *esp* interesting because of titillating content (< ~ scandal>) – *infrm* – **juicily** *adv*, **juiciness** *n*
- ju-jitsu, jiu-jitsu** /'juɟ 'jitsoh/ *n* a martial art employing holds, throws, and paralyzing blows to subdue or disable an opponent [Jap *jijutsu*, fr *jū* weakness, gentleness + *jutsu* art]
- juju** /'juɟju/ *n* (a magic attributed to) a fetish or charm of W African peoples [of W African origin; akin to Hausa *djudju* fetish]
- jujube** /'juɟju/ *n* 1 (the edible fruit of) any of several trees of the buckthorn family 2 a fruit-flavoured gum or lozenge [ME, fr ML *jujuba*, alter. of L *zizyphum*, fr Gk *zizyphos*]
- jukebox** /'juɟk.bɒks/ *n* a coin-operated record player that automatically plays records chosen from a restricted list [Gullah *juke* disorderly, of W African origin; akin to Bambara *dzugu* wicked]
- julep** /'juɟhlɪp/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a drink consisting of a spirit and sugar poured over crushed ice and garnished with mint [ME, syrupy liquid, fr MF, fr Ar *julab*, fr Per *gulāb*, fr *gul* rose + *ab* water]
- Julian calendar** /'juɟliən, -li-ən/ *n* a calendar introduced in Rome in 46 BC establishing the 12-month year of 365 days with an extra day every fourth year – compare GREGORIAN CALENDAR [L *julianus*, fr Gaius Julius Caesar 144 BC Roman general & statesman]
- <sup>1</sup>**julienne** /'juɟli'en/ *n* a clear soup containing julienne vegetables [F, prob fr the name *Jules, Julien*]
- <sup>2</sup>**julienne** *adj* cut into long thin strips (< potatoes>) <green beans ~>
- Juliet, cap** /'juɟli-ət, -et/ *n* a woman's small close-fitting brimless cap worn *esp* by brides [fr the name *Juliet*]
- Juliett** /'juɟli'et/ – a communications code word for the letter *j* [prob irreg fr *Juliet*]
- July** /'juɟli'e/ *n* the 7th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Julie*, fr OE *Julius*, fr L, fr Gaius Julius Caesar]
- <sup>1</sup>**jumble** /'jʌmbl/ *vt* **jumbling** /'jʌmblɪŋ/ to mix up in a confused or disordered mass [perh imit]
- <sup>2</sup>**jumble** *n* 1 a mass of things mingled together without order or plan 2 *Br* articles for a jumble sale
- jumble, sale** *n, Br* a sale of donated secondhand articles, usu conducted to raise money for some charitable purpose
- jumbo** /'jʌmbə/ *n, pl* **jumbos** a very large specimen of its kind [prob fr *mumbo-jumbo*] – **jumbo** *adj*
- Jumbo jet** *n* a large jet aeroplane capable of carrying several hundred passengers
- jumbuck** /'jʌmbʊk/ *n*, Austr a sheep [native name in Australia]
- <sup>1</sup>**jump** /'juɟp/ *vi* 1a to spring into the air, *esp* using the muscular power of feet and legs *b* to move suddenly or involuntarily from shock, surprise, etc *c* to move quickly or energetically (as if) with a jump, *also* to act with alacrity 2 to pass rapidly, suddenly, or abruptly (as if) over some intervening thing: e.g. a to skip (< ~ed to the end of the book>) *b* to rise suddenly in rank or status (< ~ed from captain to colonel>) *c* to make a mental leap *d* to come to or arrive at a position or judgment without due deliberation (< ~ to conclusions>) *e* to undergo a sudden sharp increase <prices ~ed sky-high> 3 to move haphazardly or aimlessly 4 to make a sudden verbal or physical attack – *usu* + *on* or *upon* 5 *NAM* to bustle with activity <by midnight the place was really ~ing> ~ *vt* 1a to (cause to) leap over (< ~ a hurdle>) (< ~ed his horse over the fence>) *b* to pass over, *esp* to a point beyond; skip, bypass *c* to act, move, or begin before (e.g. a signal) 2a to escape or run away from *b* to leave hastily or in violation of an undertaking (< ~ed bail>) *c* to depart from (a normal course) <the train ~ed the rails> 3a to make a sudden or surprise attack on *b* to occupy without proper legal rights (< ~ a mining claim>) 4 chiefly *NAM* to leap aboard, *esp* so as to travel illegally [prob akin to LG *gumpen* to jump] – **jump at** to accept eagerly [*jump at the chance*] – **jump the gun** 1 to start in a race before the starting signal 2 to act, move, or begin sthg before the proper time – **jump the queue** 1 to move in front of others in a queue 2 to obtain an unfair advantage over others who have been waiting longer – **jump to it** 1 to make an enthusiastic start 2 to hurry
- <sup>2</sup>**jump** *n* 1a(1) an act of jumping; a leap (2) a sports contest (e.g. the long jump) including a jump (3) a space, height, or distance cleared by a jump (4) an obstacle to be jumped over (e.g. in a horse race) *b* a sudden involuntary movement; a start 2a a sharp sudden increase (e.g. in amount, price, or value) *b* a sudden change or transition; *esp* one that leaves a break in continuity *c* any of a series of moves from one place or position to another; a move 3 *pl* the fidgets – *infrm*
- jumped-up** *adj* recently risen in wealth, rank, or status – *derog*
- jumper** /'juɟpə/ *n* 1 a short wire used to close a break in or cut out part

- of a circuit 2 a jumping animal; esp a horse trained to jump obstacles [**JUMP** + **-ER**]
- 1** **Junper** *n* 1 Br a knitted or crocheted garment worn on the upper body  **2** *NA* **pinafore** 2 [prob fr E dial. *jump* (loose jacket), perh alter. of *jupe* (coat, jacket), fr OF, fr Ar *jubbah*]
- 1** **Jumping bean** *n* a seed of any of several Mexican shrubs of the spurge family that tumbles about because of the movements inside it of the larva of a small moth
- 1** **Jumping jack** *n* a firework that jumps about when lit
- 1** **Jumping-off** *adj* - **jumping-off place/point** a place or point from which an enterprise is launched
- 1** **Jump-jet** *n*, chiefly Br a jet aircraft able to take off and land vertically
- 1** **Jump lead** */leed/ n* a length of thick electric cable for starting the engine of a motor vehicle with a flat battery, by using a second battery
- 1** **Jump-off** *n* the final round of a showjumping competition - **jump off** *vi*
- 1** **Jump seat** *n* a folding seat for temporary use in a vehicle or aircraft
- 1** **Jump start** *n* the starting of a motor vehicle's engine using jump leads - **jump start** *vt*
- 1** **Jump suit** */-s(y)uot/ n* a 1-piece garment combining top and trousers or shorts
- 1** **Jump** */jump/ adj* 1 having jumps or sudden variations 2 nervous, jittery - **jumpiness** *n*
- 1** **Junction** */jʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ n* 1 joining or being joined 2a a place of meeting b an intersection of roads, esp where 1 terminates c a point of contact or interface between dissimilar metals or semiconductor regions (e.g. in a transistor) 3 sth that joins [**Junction-**, **unctio**, fr **unctus**, pp of **ungere** to join - more at **YOKE**] - **junctional** *adj*
- 1** **Juncture** */jʌŋktʃə/ n* 1 an instance or place of joining; a connection or joining part 2 a point of time (made critical by a concurrence of circumstances)
- 1** **June** */juhn/ n* the 6th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME, fr MF & L, MF **Jun**, fr L **Junius**]
- 1** **June bug** *n* a chafer
- 1** **Jungian** */yoŋg-i-ən/ adj* (characteristic) of the psychoanalytical psychology of Carl Jung [Carl Jung †1961 Swiss psychologist] - **Jungian** *n*
- 1** **Jungle** */jʌŋgl/ n* 1 an area overgrown with thickets or masses of (tropical) trees and other vegetation 2a a confused, disordered, or complex mass (*the ~ of tax laws*) b a place of ruthless struggle for survival (*the blackboard ~*) [Hindi *jāngal*] - **jungly** */jʌŋgl-ɪ/ adj*
- 1** **Jungle fowl** *n* any of several Asian wild birds from which domestic fowls have prob descended
- 1** **Junior** */juːniə/ n* 1 a person who is younger than another (*she is my ~*) 2a a person holding a lower or subordinate position in a hierarchy of ranks b a member of a younger form in a school 3 *NA* a student in the next-to-the-last year before graduating 4 *NA* a male child, a son - **junior** *adj* [L, **n** & **adj**]
- 1** **Junior** *adj* 1 younger - used, esp in the USA, to distinguish a son with the same name as his father 2 lower in standing or rank 3 for children aged from 7 to 11 (*a ~ school*) [L, compar of *juvenis* young - more at **YOUNG**]
- 1** **Juniorate** */juːniəreɪt-, -rət/ n* (a seminary providing) a course of higher study (preparatory to that in philosophy) for candidates for the priesthood, brotherhood, or sisterhood
- 1** **Junior college** *n* a US college that offers 2 years of studies corresponding to the first 2 years of a 4-year college course
- 1** **Junior Common Room** *n* a common room for students, pupils, etc
- 1** **Junior school** *n* 1 a primary school for children aged esp from 7 to 11 2 a junior department for preparing intended pupils of a fee-paying secondary school
- 1** **Junior seaman** *n*  **RANK**
- 1** **Junior technician** *n*  **RANK**
- 1** **Juniper** */juːnɪpə/ n* any of several evergreen shrubs or trees of the cypress family [ME *junipere*, fr L *juniperus* - more at **JONQUIL**]
- 1** **Juniper oil** *n* an oil obtained from the fruit of the common juniper and used esp in gin and liqueurs
- 1** **Jump** */jʌŋk/ n* 1 pieces of old cable or rope used for mats, swabs, or oakum 2a secondhand or discarded articles or material; broadly RUBBISH 1 b sth of little value or inferior quality 3 narcotics; esp heroin - **slang** [ME *jonke*] - **jeaky** *adj*
- 1** **Junk** *vt* to get rid of as worthless - **infml**
- 1** **Junk** *n* a sailing ship used in the Far East with a high poop and overhanging stem, little or no keel, and lugsails often stiffened with horizontal battens [Pg *junco*, fr Jav *joŋ*]
- 1** **Junker** */yoŋgkə/ n* a member of the Prussian landed aristocracy [G, fr OHG *juncherro*, lit., young lord] - **Junkerdom** */-d(ə)m/ n*, **Junker-ism** *n*
- 1** **Junket** */jʌŋkɪt/ n* 1 a dessert of sweetened flavoured milk curdled with rennet 2 a festive social affair (at public or a firm's expense) - chiefly **infml** [ME *ioncate*, deriv of (assumed) VL *juncata*, fr L *juncus* rush]
- 1** **Junket** *vi* to feast, banquet - **infml** - **junketer** *n*, **junketeer** */-tɪə/ n*
- 1** **Junk food** *n* processed food (e.g. hot dogs or candy floss) that typically has a high carbohydrate content but overall low nutritional value - compare **WHOI FOOD**, **HEALTHFOOD**
- 1** **Junkie, junky** */jʌŋki/ n* a drug peddler or addict - **infml** [*junk* 3 + *-ie, -y*]
- 1** **Junoeseque** */juːnoʊh'esk/ adj*, of a woman having stately beauty [**Juno**, ancient It goddess, wife of Jupiter]
- 1** **Junta** */jʌntə/ n* **sing** or **pl** in **constr** 1 a political council or committee; esp a group controlling a government after a revolution 2 a **junto** [Sp, fr fem of *junto* joined, fr L *unctus*, pp of *ungere* to join - more at **YOKE**]
- 1** **Junto** */jʌnto/ n* **sing** or **pl** in **constr**, **pl** **juntos** a group of people joined for a common purpose [prob alter of *junta*]
- 1** **Jupiter** */juːpɪtə/ n* the largest of the planets and 5th in order from the sun  **ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL** [L, supreme deity of the Roman pantheon]
- 1** **Jural** */juːərəl/ adj* of law, rights, or obligations [L *jur-*, *jus* law] - **jurally** *adv*
- 1** **Jurassic** */juːrəsɪk/ adj* or *n* (of or being) the middle period of the Mesozoic era between the Cretaceous and the Triassic  **EVOLUTION** [F *jurassique*, fr *Jura* mountain range between France & Switzerland]
- 1** **Juridical** */juːrɪdɪkəl/ also juridic* */juːrɪdɪk/ adj* 1 **JUDICIAL** 1 2 of or being jurisprudence, legal (< ~ *terms*) [L *juridicus*, fr *jur-*, *jus* + *dicere* to say - more at **DICTION**] - **juridically** *adv*
- 1** **Juriconsult** */juːrɪkən'sʌlt/ n* a jurist [L *jurisconsultus*, fr *juris* (gen of *jus*) + *consultus*, pp of *consulere* to consult]
- 1** **Juris'diction** */-dɪkʃ(ə)n/ n* 1 the power, right, or authority to apply the law 2 the authority of a sovereign power 3 the limits within which authority may be exercised [ME *jurisdiccoun*, fr OF & L; OF *jurisdiction*, fr L *jurisdiction-*, *jurisdiccio*, fr *juris* + *dictio*, *dictio* act of saying - more at **DICTION**] - **jurisdictional** *adj*, **jurisdictionally** *adv*
- 1** **Jurisprudence** */-prʊd(h)əns/ n* (the science or philosophy of) a body or branch of law (*criminal ~*) [F & LL; F, fr MF, fr LL *jurisprudentia*, fr L *prudētia juris*] - **jurisprudential** */-prʊd'hensh(ə)l/ adj*
- 1** **Jurist** */juːrɪst/ n* 1 sby with a thorough knowledge of law 2 *NA* a lawyer, *specif* a judge [MF *juriste*, fr ML *jurista*, fr L *jur-*, *jus*]
- 1** **Juristic** */juːrɪstɪk/, juristical* */-kl/ adj* of a jurist, jurisprudence, or law - **juristically** *adv*
- 1** **Juror** */juːərə/ n* 1 a member of a jury 2 one who takes an oath
- 1** **Jury** */juːri/ n* 1 a body of usu 12 people who hear evidence in court and are sworn to give an honest verdict, esp of guilty or not guilty, based on this evidence 2 a committee for judging a contest or exhibition [ME *jure*, fr AF *juree*, fr OF *jurere* to swear, fr L *jurare*, fr *jur-*, *jus*]
- 1** **Jury** *adj* improvised for temporary use (in an emergency) (*a ~ rig for a sailing boat*) [origin unknown]
- 1** **Juryman** */-mən/, fem 'jurywoman* *n* **JUROR** 1
- 1** **Jussive** */jusɪv/ n* a word, form, case, or mood expressing command [L *jussus*, pp of *jubere* to order; akin to Gk *hysminē* battle] - **jussive** *adj*
- 1** **Just** */juːst/ adj* 1a conforming (rigidly) to fact or reason (*a ~ but not a generous decision*) b conforming to a standard of correctness; proper 2a(1) acting or being in conformity with what is morally upright or equitable (2) being what is merited; deserved b legally correct [ME, fr MF & L; MF *juste*, fr L *justus*, fr *jus* right, law; akin to Skt *yos* welfare] - **justly** *adv*, **justness** *n*
- 1** **Just** *adv* 1a exactly, precisely - not following *not* (< ~ *right*) (< ~ *the thing for your cold*) b at this moment and not sooner (*he's only ~ arrived*) - sometimes used with the past tense (*the bell ~ rang*) c only at this moment and not later (*I'm ~ coming*) 2a by a very small margin; immediately, barely (< ~ *too late*) (< ~ *possible*) b only, simply (< ~ *a short note*) 3 quite (*not ~ yet*) (< ~ *as well I asked*) 4 perhaps, possibly 5 very, completely (< ~ *wonderful*) 6 indeed - sometimes expressing irony (*didn't he ~?*) **USE** (5, 6) **infml** - **just about** 1 almost 2 not more than (*just about room to cook*) - **just in case** as a precaution - **just now** 1 at this moment 2 a moment ago - **just on** almost exactly - used with reference to numbers and quantities - **just so** 1 tidily arranged 2 - used to express agreement - **just the same** nevertheless; **EVEN SO**



**justice** /ˈdʒʌstɪs/ *n* 1a the maintenance or administration of what is just b the administration of law <court of ~> c JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 2a the quality of being just, impartial, or fair b (conformity to) the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action 3 conformity to truth, fact, or reason 4 *Br* – used as a title for a judge <Mr Justice Smith> [ME, fr OF, fr L *justitia*, fr *justus*]

**justice of the peace** *n* a lay magistrate empowered chiefly to administer summary justice in minor cases and to commit for trial

**justiciable** /ˌjuːstɪʃi-əbəl/ *adj* 1 liable to trial <a ~ offence> 2 capable of legal decision <a ~ issue> – **justiciability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**justify** /ˈdʒʌstɪfaɪ/ *vt* 1 to prove or show to be just, right, or reasonable 2 to extend freedom from the consequences of sin to, by Christ's righteousness or by grace 3 to space out (e.g. a line of printed text) so as to be flush with a margin [ME *justifien*, fr MF or LL, MF *justifier*, fr LL *justificare*, fr L *justus*] – **justifier** *n*, **justifiable** *adj*, **justifiably** *adv*, **justificatory** /ˌdʒʌstɪfɪˈkeɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, **justification** /-ˈkeɪʃən/ *n*

**jut** /dʒʊt/ *vi* -tt- to extend out, up, or forwards; project, protrude – often + *out* [partly var of *jet* (to project); partly short for *obtusity* (to project), fr ME *juteyten*]

**jut** *n* sth that juts (out)

**jute** /dʒuːt/ *n* the glossy fibre of either of 2 E Indian plants of the linden family used chiefly for sacking, burlap, and twine [Hindi & Beng *jūt*]

**Jute** *n* a member of a Germanic people that invaded England and esp Kent along with the Angles and Saxons in the 5th c AD [ME, fr ML *Jutae* Jutes, of Gmc origin] – **Jutish** *adj*

**juvenile** /ˈdʒuːvniəl/ *adj* 1 physiologically immature or undeveloped 2 (characteristic of) or suitable for children or young people [F or L; F *juvénile*, fr L *juvenilis*, fr *juvenis* young person – more at **YOUNG**] – **juvenilely** *adv*, **juvénility** /-nɪləti/ *n*

**juvenile** *n* 1a a young person b a book for young people 2 a young individual resembling an adult of its kind except in size and reproductive activity 3 an actor who plays youthful parts

**juvenile court** *n* a court with special jurisdiction over delinquent and dependent young people

**juvenile hormone** *n* an insect hormone that controls maturation to the imago and plays a role in reproduction

**juvenilia** /ˌdʒuːvniˈli-ə/ *n pl* artistic or literary works produced in an artist's or author's youth [L, neut pl of *juvenilis*]

**juxta-** /ˌdʒʊkstə-/ *comb form* situated near <juxtaglomerular cells>; beside <juxtapose> [L *juxta* near]

**juxtapose** /ˌdʒʊkstəˈpoʊz/ *vt* to place side by side [prob back-formation fr *juxtaposition*] – **juxtaposition** /-ˈpəʊzɪʃən/ *n*, **juxtapositional** *adj*

## K

**k** /kay/ *n*, *pl* k's, *ks*, often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 11th letter of the English alphabet 2 a unit of computer storage capacity equal to 1024 bytes <a memory of 64K> [(2) kilo-]

**ka** /kah/ *n* the personality double believed in ancient Egypt to be born with, and survive, an individual [Egypt]

**Kaaba** /ˈkɑːbə/ *n* a small building in the court of the Great Mosque at Mecca containing a sacred black stone which is the goal of Islamic pilgrimage [Ar *ka'bah*, lit., square building]

**kabala**, **kabbala**, **kabbalah** /ˈkɑːbələ/ *n* the cabala – **kabalism** *n*, **kabbalist** /ˈkɑːbəlist/ *n*, **kabbalistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**Kabuki** /ˈkɑːboʊki/ *n* traditional Japanese popular drama performed in a highly stylized manner by males only [Jap, lit., art of singing and dancing]

**Kabyile** /ˈkɑːbiəl/ *n* a member or the language of a Berber people of the mountainous coastal area E of Algiers [Ar *qabā'il*, pl of *qabīlah* tribe]

**kaddish** /ˈkɑːdɪʃ/ *n*, often *cap* a Jewish prayer recited in the daily ritual of the synagogue and by mourners after the death of a close relative [Aram *qaddish* holy]

**kadi** /ˈkɑːdi/ *n* a qadi

**Kaffir**, **Kafir** /ˈkɑːfɪr/ *n* 1 a member of a group of southern African Bantu-speaking peoples 2 often *not cap*, chiefly *SAfr* a S African Black – derog [Ar *kāfir* infidel]

**Kafkaesque** /ˈkɑːfəˈesk/ *adj* suggestive of the writings of Franz Kafka, esp in expressing the anxieties and alienation of 20th-c man [Franz *Kafka* †1924 Austrian writer]

**kaftan** /ˈkɑːftən/ *n* a caftan


**kailyard**, **kaleyard**, **kailyard school** /ˈkaylɪərd/ *n* a late 19th-c literary movement specializing in a parochial and sentimentalized depiction of Scottish Lowland life [Sc. lit., cabbage garden]

**kainite** /ˈkiːniət/ *n* also **kainit** /ˈkiːniːt/ *n* a naturally occurring hydrated sulphate and chloride of magnesium and potassium used as a fertilizer [G *kainit*, fr Gk *kainos* new – more at **RECENT**]

**kaiser** /ˈkiːzə/ *n* an emperor of Germany during the period 1871 to 1918 [G, fr OHG *keisar* emperor, fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *Caesar*, cognomen of Gaius Julius Caesar †44 bc Roman general & statesman] – **kaiserdum** /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**kaiserin** /-rɪn/ *n* the wife of a kaiser [G, fem of *kaiser*]

**kaka** /ˈkɑːkɑː/ *n* an olive brown New Zealand parrot [Maori]

**kakapo** /ˈkɑːkəpə/ *n*, *pl* **kakapos** a chiefly nocturnal burrowing New Zealand parrot  **ENDANGERED** [Maori]


**kakemono** /ˈkɑːkɪˈmoʊno/ *n*, *pl* **kakemonos** a Japanese painting or inscription on a silk or paper scroll designed to be hung on a wall [Jap]

**kala-azar** /ˈkɑːləˈɑːzər/ *n* a severe infectious disease, chiefly of Asia, marked esp by fever and enlargement of the spleen and liver and caused by a protozoan transmitted by the bite of sand flies [Hindi *kālā-āzār* black disease, fr *kālā* black + *Per* *azar* disease]

**kale**, **kail** /kayl/ *n* 1 a hardy cabbage with curled often finely cut leaves that do not form a dense head 2 *Scot* a broth of cabbage, esp kale [Sc, fr ME (northern) *cal*, fr OE *cal* – more at **COLE**]


**kaleidoscope** /ˈkɑːliˈdɒskoʊp/ *n* 1 a tubular instrument containing loose chips of coloured glass between mirrors so placed that an endless variety of symmetrical patterns is produced as the instrument is rotated and the chips of glass change position 2 sth that is continually changing; esp a variegated changing pattern, scene, or succession of events [Gk *kalos* beautiful + *eidōs* form + *E*-*scope* – more at **CALLIGRAPHY**, **IDOL**] – **kaleidoscopic** /-ˈskɒpɪk/, **kaleidoscopical** *adj*, **kaleidoscopically** *adv*

**kalelends** /ˈkælɒndz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* calends

**Kalmuck**, **Kalmuk** /ˈkɑːlmʊk/, **Kalmyk** /ˈkɑːlmɪk/ *n* a member or the language of a group of Mongolian peoples inhabiting a region stretching from W China to the Caspian Sea  **LANGUAGE** [Russ *Kalmyk*, fr Kazan Tartar]

**kālpa** /ˈkɑːlpə/ *n*, *pl* **kālps** a period in which, according to Hindu cosmology, the universe undergoes a cycle of creation and destruction [Skt]

**Kama** /ˈkɑːmə/ *n* the Hindu god of love [Skt *Kama*, fr *kama* love]

**kame** /kaym/ *n* a mound of sand and gravel deposited by water from a melting glacier  **GEOGRAPHY** [Sc, kame, comb, fr ME (northern) *camb* comb, fr OE]

**kamikaze** /ˈkɑːmɪˈkɑːzi/ *n* (the volunteer Japanese pilot of) an explosive-packed aircraft crashed on a target by its pilot [Jap, lit., divine wind]

**kamikaze** *adj* suicidal <(the city's ~ taxi drivers)> – humor

**kampong**, **campong** /ˈkɑːmpɒŋ/ *n*, *pl* **kampongs** a hamlet or village in a Malay-speaking country [Malay]

**Kampuchean** /ˈkɑːmpʊtʃi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Kampuchea [Kampuchea (formerly Khmer Republic, formerly Cambodia), country in SE Asia]

**kanaka** /ˈkɑːnɑːkə/ *n*, often *cap* a South Sea islander [Hawaiian, person, human being]

**Kanarese** /ˈkɑːnəˈreɪz/ *n*, *pl* **Kanarese** 1 a member of a Kannada-speaking people of Mysore in S India 2 Kannada [Kanara, district of India]

**kangaroo** /ˈkæŋɡəˈroʊ/ *n*, *pl* **kangaroos** any of various plant-eating marsupial mammals of Australia, New Guinea, and adjacent islands that hop on their long powerful hind legs  **LIFE CYCLE** [prob native name in Australia]

**kangaroo court** *n* an unauthorized or irresponsible court in which justice is perverted

**kangaroo rat** *n* any of numerous nocturnal burrowing rodents of dry parts of W USA

**Kannada** /ˈkɑːnədə/ *n* the major Dravidian language of Mysore in S India  **LANGUAGE** [Kannada *kannada*]

**Kantian** /ˈkɑːnti-ən/ *n*, *pl* **Kantians** *adj* of Kant or his philosophy [Immanuel Kant †1804 G philosopher] – **Kantian** *n*, **Kantianism** *n*

**kaolin** /ˈkɑːlɪn/ *n* a fine usu white clay formed from decomposed feldspar and used esp in ceramics [F *kaolin*, fr *Kao-ling*, hill in SE China, where it was originally obtained]

**kaon** /ˈkɑːjɒn/ *n* an unstable heavy elementary particle of the meson family that exists in positive, negative, and neutral forms [ISV *ka K* (fr *K-meson*, its earlier name) + *-on*]

**kapok** /ˈkɑːpɒk/ *n* a mass of silky fibres that surround the seeds of a



tropical tree and are used esp as a soft (insulating) filling for mattresses, cushions, sleeping bags, etc [Malay]

**kappa** /'kapa/ *n* the 10th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *kaph*, 11th letter of the Heb alphabet]

**kaput** /kə'poot/ *adj* no longer able to function, broken, exhausted – *infrm* [G, fr F *capot* not having made a trick at piquet]

**karabiner** /kə'rəbeənə/ *n* a carabiner

**karakul**, **caracul** /'karakl/ *n* 1 often *cap* any of a breed of hardy fat-tailed sheep from Bukhara 2 the tightly curled glossy black coat of karakul lambs valued as fur [Karakul, village in Bukhara, USSR]

**karat** /'karat/ *n*, *NAM* CARAT 2

**karate** /kə'raht/ *n* a martial art in which opponents use their hands and feet to deliver crippling blows [Jap, lit., empty hand]

**karma** /'kahma/ *n*, often *cap* the force generated by a person's actions, held in Hinduism and Buddhism to determine his/her destiny in his/her next existence [Skt *karman* (nom *karma*), lit., work] – *karmic* /-mɪk/ *adj*, often *cap*

**karoo**, **karroo** /kə'rooh/ *n*, *pl* **karroos**, **karroos** a dry tableland of S Africa [Afrik *karo*]

**karst** /kə'st/ *n* an irregular limestone region with underground streams, caverns, and potholes [G] – *karstic* *adj*

**kart** /ka:ht/ *n* a go-kart – *karting* *n*


**kary-** /kə'rɪ-, kə'rɪo- *comb form* nucleus of a cell (<karyokinesis) [NL, fr Gk *karyon* nut – more at CAREEN]

**karyokinesis** /kə'rɪoʊkɪnɪsɪs, -kɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **karyokineses** /-seɪz/ (the division of the nucleus that occurs in) mitotic cell division [NL, fr *karyo-* + Gk *kinesis* motion, fr *kinein* to move] – *karyokinetic* /-netɪk/ *adj*

**karyotype** /kə'rɪoʊtɪp/ *n* (the sum of the specific characteristics of) the chromosomes of a cell [ISV] – *karyotypic* /-tɪpɪk/ *adj*

**karzy** /'kahzi/ *n*, *Br* TOILET 2 – slang [modif of It *casa* house]

**Kasbah** /'kɑ:zbəh/ *n* a Casbah

**Kashmiri** /kə'shɪmɪrɪ/ *n*, *pl* **Kashmiris**, esp collectively **Kashmiri** 1 a native or inhabitant of Kashmir 2 the Indic language of Kashmir  LANGUAGE [Kashmir, region of the Indian subcontinent]

**kashruth**, **kashrut** /'kəʃrʊt/ *n* the Jewish dietary laws [Heb *kashrūt*, lit., fitness]

**kat**, **kbat** /ka:ht, kat/ *n* a shrub of the spindle tree family cultivated by the Arabs for its leaves and buds that are the source of a habit-forming drug similar to amphetamine when chewed or used as a tea [Ar *qat*]

**kata** /'kahtəh/ *n* a formal training exercise in an Oriental martial art (e.g. karate) [Jap]

**katabatic** /kə'təbətɪk/ *adj* moving downwards (< a ~ wind) [LGk *katabatikos* of descent, fr Gk *katabatos* descending, fr *katabainein* to descend, fr *kata-* *cata-* + *bainein* to go]

**katydid** /'kaɪtɪdɪd/ *n* any of several large green N American long-horned grasshoppers [imit]

**kauri** /'kɔ:wɪ/ *n* (the fine white straight-grained wood of) a tall New Zealand timber tree of the pine family [Maori *kawri*]

**kava** /'kahvə/ *n* (an intoxicating beverage made from the crushed root of) an Australasian shrubby pepper plant [Tongan & Marquesan, lit., bitter]

**kayak** /'kie/ *yak/ n* an Eskimo canoe made of a frame covered with skins, also a similar canvas-covered or fibreglass canoe [Esk *qajaq*]

**kayo**, **KO** /kə'yo/ *n*, *pl* **kayoes** **knockout** 1 – *infrm* [knockout]

**kayo**, **KO** *vt* **kayoes**, **kayoes**; **kayoling**; **kayoid** to knock out – *infrm* **Kazan** /kə'zæn, kə'zahn/ *adj* of or from the city of Kazan in the USSR (<the ~ Tartar language)

**kazoo** /kə'zooh/ *n*, *pl* **kazoos** a musical instrument consisting of a tube into which one sings or hums to vibrate a membrane covering a side hole [imit]

**kea** /'kəyə/ *n* a large green New Zealand parrot that normally eats insects but sometimes destroys sheep by slashing the back to feed on the kidney fat [Maori]

**kebab** /ki'bəb/ *n* cubes of (marinated) meat cooked with onions, mushrooms, etc, usu on a skewer [Per, Hindi, Ar, & Turk; Per & Hindi *kabab*, fr Ar, fr Turk *kebap*]

**ked** /kəd/ *n* SHEEP KED

**kedgø** /kej/ *vb* to pull (a ship) along by means of a line attached to an anchor [ME *caggen*]


**kedgø** *n* a small anchor used esp in kedging

**kedgøe** /kej'ree, -/ *n* a dish containing rice, flaked fish, and chopped hard-boiled eggs [Hindi *khicari*, fr Skt *khicā*]

**keek** /keek/ *vi* or *n*, chiefly Scot (to) peep, look [vb ME *kiken*, prob fr MD *kiken*; akin to MLG *kiken* to look; *n* fr vb] – *keeker* *n*

**keel** /keel/ *n* a flat-bottomed ship; esp a barge used on the river Tyne to

carry coal [ME *kele*, fr MD *kiel*; akin to OE *cēol* ship, *cot* small house – more at 'cot]

**keel** *n* 1a a timber or plate which extends along the centre of the bottom of a vessel and usu projects somewhat from the bottom  SHIP *b* the main load-bearing member (e.g. in an airship) 2 a projection (e.g. the breastbone of a bird) suggesting a keel 3 a ship – poetic [ME *kele*, fr ON *kjōlr*; akin to OE *cēole* throat, beak of a ship – more at GLUTTON] – *keeled* *adj*, *keelless* *adj*

**keel** *vt* to cause to turn over ~ *vi* 1 to turn over 2 to fall over (as if) in a faint

**'keelhaul** /-haw/ *vt* 1 to drag (a person) under the keel of a ship as punishment 2 to rebuke severely [D *kielhalen*, fr *kiel* keel + *halen* to haul]

**keelson** /'kelson, 'keel-, kelson /'kelson/ *n* a structural beam fastened to the keel of a ship for strength and to support the flooring [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *kölsvin* keelson]

**'keen** /keen/ *adj* 1a having or being a fine edge or point; sharp *b* affecting one as if by cutting or piercing (< a ~ wind) 2a enthusiastic, eager (< a ~ swimmer) *b* of emotion or feeling intense (< took a ~ interest) 3a intellectually alert, also shrewdly astute (< a ~ awareness of the problem) *b* sharply contested, competitive; *specif*, *Br*, of prices low in order to be competitive *c* extremely sensitive in perception (< eyesight) 4 *NAM* wonderful, excellent [ME *kene* brave, sharp, fr OE *cēne* brave, akin to OHG *kuoni* brave, OE *cnaun* to know – more at KNOW] – *keenly* *adv*, *keenness* *n* – *keen* on interested in; attracted to

**'keen** *vi* or *n* (to utter) a loud wailing lamentation for the dead, typically at Irish funerals [IrGael *caoinim* I lament] – *keen* *n*

**'keep** /keep/ *vb* **kept** /kept/ *vt* 1a to take notice of by appropriate conduct; fulfil (the obligations of) (< a promise) (< the law) *b* to act fittingly in relation to (a feast or ceremony) (< the Sabbath) *c* to conform to in habits or conduct (< late hours) *d* to stay in accord with (a beat) (< time) (< step) 2a to watch over and defend; guard (< us from harm) (< s goal for the local team) *b* (1) to take care of, esp as an owner; tend (< s dog) (2) to support (< earns enough to ~ himself) (3) to maintain in a specified condition – often in combination (< a well-kept garden) *c* to continue to maintain (< order) (< a lookout) *d* (1) to cause to remain in a specified place, situation, or condition (< him waiting) (< kept him up all night) (< a net to ~ the birds out) (2) to store habitually for use (< where do you ~ the butter?) (3) to preserve (food) in an unspoiled condition (< how long can you ~ fish in a freezer?) *e* to have or maintain in one's service, employment, or possession or at one's disposal (< a car) (< a mistress) – often + on (< the cook on for another month) (< the flat on over the summer) *f* to record by entries in a book (< accounts) (< a diary) *g* to have customarily in stock for sale 3a to delay, detain (< what kept you?) (< children in after school) *b* to hold back, restrain (< him from going) (< kept him back with difficulty) *c* to save, reserve (< some for later) *d* to refrain from revealing or releasing (< a secret) (< kept the news back) 4 to retain possession or control of (< kept the money he found) (< a copy of the letter) (< your temper) 5a to continue to follow (< the path) *b* to stay or remain on or in, often against opposition (< kept his ground) (< your seat) 6 to manage, run (< s a shop) ~ *vi* 1a to maintain a course (< right) *b* to continue, usu without interruption (< talking) (< on smiling) *c* to persist in a practice (< kept bothering them) (< kept on smoking in spite of warnings) 2a to stay or remain in a specified desired place, situation, or condition (< warm) (< out of the way) (< off the grass) *b* to remain in good condition (< meat will ~ in the freezer) *c* to be or remain with regard to health (< how are you ~ing?) (< she ~s well) *d* to call for no immediate action (< the matter will ~ till morning) 3 to act as wicketkeeper or goalkeeper – *infrm* [ME *kepen*, fr OE *cēpan*; akin to OHG *chapfen* to look] – *keep* *an/one's* eye on to watch over – *keep* at to persist in doing or concerning oneself with – *keep* *cave* *Br* to act as a lookout at school – *keep* *company* to provide with companionship (< won't anyone stay and keep me company?) – *keep* *from* to refrain from; help (< can't keep from laughing) – *keep* *one's* eye in chiefly *Br* to keep in practice; *specif* to retain ability to judge the speed and direction of a moving ball – *keep* *one's* eyes open/peeled, *Br* *keep* *one's* eyes skinned to be on the alert; be watchful – *keep* *one's* feet to avoid overbalancing – *keep* *one's* fingers crossed to hope for the best – *keep* *one's* hand in to remain in practice – *keep* *one's* head above water to remain solvent; *broadly* to stay out of difficulty – *keep* *one's* nose clean to keep one's record untarnished by playing safe – *keep* *one's* shirt on, *Br* *keep* *one's* hair on to remain calm; *keep* *one's* temper – *infrm* – *keep* *the* ball rolling to play one's part (e.g. in conversation) – *keep* to 1 to stay in or on (< keep to the path) 2 not to deviate from; ABIDE BY (< keep to the rules) – *keep*

- to oneself 1 to keep secret <kept the facts to himself> 2 also keep oneself to oneself to remain solitary or apart from other people – keep warm to occupy (a position) temporarily for another
- \***keep** *n* 1 a castle, fortress, or fortified tower ➡ CHURCH 2 the means (e.g. food) by which one is kept <earned his ~> – for keeps 1 with the provision that one keeps as one's own what one wins or receives <he gave it to me for keeps> – infml 2 FOR GOOD <came home for keeps> – infml
- keeper** /'keɪpə/ *n* 1a a protector, guardian b a gamekeeper c a custodian d a curator 2 any of various devices (e.g. a latch or guard ring) for keeping sth in position 3a a goalkeeper b a wicketkeeper *USE* (3) chiefly infml ['KEEP + <sup>2</sup>-ER]
- keep** 'fit *n* physical exercises designed to keep one healthy and supple
- keeping** /'keɪpɪŋ/ *n* custody, care ['KEEP + <sup>2</sup>-ING] – out of/in keeping not/conforming or agreeing with sth implied or specified – usu + with
- 'keep,net** /-net/ *n* a large net suspended in the water in which an angler keeps caught fish alive
- keep on** *vi* to talk continuously; esp to nag <kept on at him to buy her a fur coat>
- 'keep,sake** /-səʊk/ *n* sth (given, to be) kept as a memento, esp of the giver ['keep + -sake (as in *namesake*)]
- keep up** *vt* 1 to persist or persevere in; continue <keep up the good work> 2 to preserve from decline <keep up appearances> ~ *vi* 1 to maintain an equal pace or level of activity, progress, or knowledge (e.g. with another) 2 to continue without interruption <rain kept up all night>
- keeshond** /'keɪs,hɒnd/ *n* (any of) a breed of small heavy-coated dogs with pointed muzzle and erect ears [D, prob fr Kees (nickname for Cornelis Cornelius) + *hond* dog, fr MD; akin to OE *hund* hound]
- keg** /keɪg/ *n*, *Br* 1 a small barrel having a capacity of (less than) 10 gal (about 45.5l); specif a metal beer barrel from which beer is pumped by pressurized gas 2 beer from a keg [ME *kag*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *kaggi* keg]
- kelp** /kelp/ *n* 1 any of various large brown seaweeds 2 the ashes of seaweed used esp as a source of iodine [ME *culp*]
- kelpie** /'kelpi/ *n* a water sprite of Scottish folklore said to delight in drowning travellers [prob of Celt origin; akin to ScGael *caipeach* colt]
- kelson** /'kelsən/ *n* a keelson
- kelt** /kelt/ *n* a salmon or sea trout after spawning [ME (northern), prob fr ScGael *ceall*]
- Kelt** *n* a Celt – *Keltic* *adj*
- kelter** /'keltə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* kilter
- kelvin** /'kelvɪn/ *n* the SI unit of temperature defined by the Kelvin scale ➡ PHYSICS
- Kelvin** *adj* of, conforming to, or being a scale of temperature on which absolute zero is at 0 and water freezes at 273.16K under standard conditions [William Thomson, Lord Kelvin †1907 Sc physicist]
- 'ken** /ken/ *vb* -*na-* chiefly Scot to have knowledge (of), know [ME *kennen*, fr OE *cennan* to make known & ON *kenna* to perceive; both akin to OE *can* know – more at 'CAN]
- \***ken** *n* the range of perception, understanding, or knowledge – usu + beyond, outside
- kenaf** /'kə'naf/ *n* (the fibre, used esp for ropes, of) an E Indian hibiscus [Per]
- kendo** /'kendoh/ *n* the Japanese martial art of fencing with bamboo staves [Jap *kendō*, fr *ken* sword + *dō* art]
- 'kennel** /'kenl/ *n* 1a a shelter for a dog b an establishment for the breeding or boarding of dogs – often pl with sing. meaning both sing. or pl in constr <runs a ~s in the country> 2 a pack of dogs [ME *kenel*, deriv of (assumed) VL *canile*, fr L *canis* dog – more at HOUND]
- \***kennel** *vt* -*ll* (NAM -*l*-, -*ll*-), /'kenl-ɪŋ/ to put or keep (as if) in a kennel
- Kennelly-Heavyside layer** /'kenəli 'heɪvɪsaɪd/ *n* E LAYER [Arthur Kennelly †1939 US electrical engineer & Oliver Heavyside †1925 E physicist]
- kenning** /'kenɪŋ/ *n* a metaphorical compound word or phrase used esp in Old English and Old Norse poetry (e.g. *swan-road* for ocean) [ON, fr *kenna*]
- Kentishman** /'kentɪʃmən/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Kent; specif one from west of the river Medway – compare MAN OF KENT
- kentledge** /'kentlɪdʒ/ *n* pig iron or scrap metal used as permanent ballast in a ship [prob fr F *quintalage* ballast]
- kepi** /'kaypee (Fr *kepi*)/ *n* a round French military cap with a flat top and a horizontal peak [F *képi*, fr G dial. *käppi*, dim. of *kappe* cap, fr OHG *kappa* cloak, cape, fr LL *cappa* head covering, cloak]
- Keplerian** /'keɪpləriən/ *adj* of the astronomer Kepler or his laws concerning the motions of the planets in their orbits [Johannes Kepler †1630 G astronomer]
- kept** /kept/ *past* of **KEEP**
- keramic** /'kɪrə'mɪk/ *adj* or *n* ceramic
- kerat-**, **kerato-** *comb form* 1 cornea <keratitis> 2 – see CERAT-
- keratin** /'kerətɪn/ *n* any of various fibrous proteins that form the chemical basis of nails, claws, and other horny tissue and hair [ISV] – *keratinous* /kɪ'rətɪnəs/ *adj*, *keratinize* /kɪ'rətɪnɪz/, 'keratinize/ *vb*
- kerb** /kuhb/ *n*, *Br* 1 the edging, esp of stone, to a pavement, path, etc 2 a market for trading in securities not listed on a stock exchange [alter. of *curb*; (2) fr its orig trading on the street]
- 'kerb,drill** *n*, *Br* a sequence of actions, esp looking to right and left, performed before crossing a road
- 'kerb,stone** *n*, *Br* a block of stone forming a kerb
- kerchief** /'ku:hɪf/ *n*, pl *kerchiefs* /-chɪvz/ also *kerchieves* /-, -cheevz/ 1 a square or triangle of cloth used as a head covering or worn as a scarf around the neck 2 a handkerchief [ME *courchief*, fr OF *cuevrechief*, fr *covrir* to cover + *chief* head – more at CHIEF]
- kerf** /kuhf/ *n* a slit or notch made by a saw or cutting torch [ME, fr OE *cyrf* action of cutting; akin to OE *coorfan* to carve – more at CARVE]
- kerfuffle** /kə'fʊfl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a fuss, commotion – infml [Sc *curfuffle* disorder, agitation]
- kermes** /'kuhmɪz/ *n* the dried bodies of the females of various scale insects that are found on the kermes oak and constitute a red dyestuff [F *kermès*, fr Ar *qirmiz*]
- kermes 'oak** *n* a dwarf often shrubby Mediterranean oak
- kern**, **kerne** /kuhn/ *n* a lightly-armed medieval Irish foot soldier [ME *kerne*, fr Mlr *cethern* band of soldiers]
- kernel** /kuhn/ *n* 1 the inner softer often edible part of a seed, fruit stone, or nut 2 a whole seed of a cereal 3 a central or essential part, CORE 2 [ME, fr OE *cymel*, dim. of *corn*]
- kerosine**, **kerosene** /'kerəseɪn/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* PARAFFIN 3 [Gk *kēros* wax + E *-ene* (as in *camphene*)]
- kerry** /'ken/ *n*, often *cap* any of an Irish breed of small black dairy cattle [County Kerry, Eire]
- 'Kerry 'blue**, **Kerry blue** *terrier* *n* any of an Irish breed of terrier with a silky bluish coat
- kersey** /'kuhzi/ *n* a heavy compact ribbed or twilled woollen cloth with a short nap [ME, prob fr *Kersey*, village in Suffolk, England]
- 'kersey,mere** /-mɪə/ *n* a fine woollen fabric with a close nap made in fancy twill weaves [alter. (influenced by *kersey*) of *cassimere* (cashmere), fr obs *Cassimere* (Kashmir)]
- Keep** /kɛsp/ *trademark* – used for a textured vegetable protein woven from spun fibres and used as a meat substitute
- kestrel** /'kestrəl/ *n* a small common Eurasian and N African falcon that is noted for its habit of hovering in the air against a wind [ME *castrel*, fr MF *crecerelle*, fr *crecelle* rattle, prob of imit origin]
- ket-**, **keto-** *comb form* ketone <ketosis> [ISV]
- ketch** /kech/ *n* a fore-and-aft rigged ship with the mizzenmast stepped forward of the rudder [ME *cache*, prob fr *cacchen* to chase, catch]
- ketchup** /'keʃəp, -ʊp/, *NAM* chiefly *catchup* /~, 'kəʃəp/ *n* any of several sauces made with vinegar and seasonings and used as a relish; esp a sauce made from seasoned tomato puree [Malay *kəchap* spiced fish sauce]
- ketone** /'keetoh/ *n* an organic compound (e.g. acetone) with a carbonyl group attached to 2 carbon atoms [G *keton*, alter. of *aceton* acetone] – *ketonic* /kɪ'tonɪk/ *adj*
- ketone body** *n* a ketone or related compound found in the blood and urine in abnormal amounts in conditions of impaired metabolism (e.g. diabetes mellitus)
- ketosis** /kɪ'toʊsɪə/ *n* an abnormal increase of ketone bodies in the body [NL] – *ketotic* /kɪ'totɪk/ *adj*
- kettle** /'ketl/ *n* 1 a metal vessel used esp for boiling liquids; esp one with a lid, handle, and spout that is placed on top of a stove or cooker or contains an electric heating-element and is used to boil water 2 a steep-sided hollow in a deposit of glacial drift, caused by the melting of a mass of underlying ice ➡ GEOGRAPHY [ME *ketel*, fr ON *ketill*; akin to OE *cietel* kettle; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *catillus*, dim. of *cattus* bowl]
- 'kettle,drum** /-drʌm/ *n* a percussion instrument that consists of a hollow brass or copper hemisphere with a parchment head whose tension can be changed to vary the pitch

**kettle of 'fish** *n* a (muddled or awkward) state of affairs – *infml*

**'key** /ke/ *n* **1a** a usu metal instrument by which the bolt of a lock is turned **b** sthg having the form or function of such a key (< *a ~ for a clock*) **2a** a means of gaining or preventing entrance, possession, or control **b** an instrumental or deciding factor **3a** sthg that gives an explanation or identification or provides a solution **b** a list of words or phrases explaining symbols or abbreviations **c** an arrangement of the important characteristics of a group of plants or animals used for identification **4** a small piece of wood or metal used as a wedge or for preventing motion between parts **5a** any of the levers of a keyboard musical instrument that is pressed by a finger or foot to actuate the mechanism and produce the notes **b** a lever that controls a vent in the side of a woodwind instrument or a valve in a brass instrument **c** a small button or knob on a keyboard (e.g. of a typewriter) designed to be pushed down by the fingers **6a** (a particular) system of 7 notes based on their relationship to a tonic **7** characteristic style or tone **8** a small switch for opening or closing an electric circuit **9** a dry usu single-seeded fruit (e.g. of an ash or elm tree) **10** the indentation, roughness, or roughening of a surface to improve adhesion of plaster, paint, etc. [ME, fr OE *cæg*; akin to MLG *keige* spear] – **keyed** *adj*, **keyless** *adj*

**\*key** *vt* **1** to secure or fasten by a key **2** to roughen (a surface) to provide a key for plaster, paint, etc. **3** to bring into harmony or conformity; make appropriate **4** to make nervous, tense, or excited – *usu + up* (< *was ~ed up over her impending operation*) **5** to keyboard

**\*key** *adj* of basic importance, fundamental

**\*key** *n* a low island or reef, esp in the Caribbean area [Sp *cayo*, fr *Lucayo*]

**'keyboard** /-bawd/ *n* **1a** a bank of keys on a musical instrument (e.g. a piano) typically having 7 usu white and 5 raised usu black keys to the octave **b** any instrument having such a keyboard, esp when forming part of a pop or jazz ensemble **2** a set of systematically arranged keys by which a machine is operated

**\*keyboard** *vi* to operate a machine (e.g. for typesetting) by means of a keyboard ~ *vt* to capture or set (e.g. data or text) by means of a keyboard – **keyboarder** *n*

**'keybutton** /-but(ə)n/ *n* 'KEY **5c**

**key grip** *n* the chief grp in a film or television studio

**'keyhole** /-hohl/ *n* a hole in a lock into which the key is put

**'key, money** *n* a payment made by a tenant to secure occupancy of a rented property

**Keynesianism** /'kaynz-i-ənz(ə)m/ *n* the economic theories ascribed to J M Keynes and his followers; *specif* the theory that government should regulate effective demand, inflation, and employment through its monetary and fiscal policies [J M Keynes †1946 E economist] – **Keynesian** *adj*

**'keynote** /'key.noht/ *n* **1** the first and harmonically fundamental note of a scale **2** the fundamental or central fact, principle, idea, or mood

**\*keynote** *adj* being or delivered by a speaker who presents the issues of primary interest to an assembly (< *a ~ speech*)

**'keypunch** /-punch/ *n* a machine with a keyboard used to cut holes or notches in punched cards – **keypunch** *vt*, **keypuncher** *n*

**key signature** *n* the sharps or flats placed on the musical staff to indicate the key ➔ **MUSIC**

**'keystone** /-stohn/ *n* **1** the wedge-shaped piece at the apex of an arch that locks the other pieces in place – compare **VOUSSOIR** ➔ **ARCHITECTURE** **2** sthg on which associated things depend for support

**khaki** /'kahki/ *n* **1** a dull yellowish brown **2** a khaki-coloured cloth made usu of cotton or wool and used esp for military uniforms [Hindi *khaki* dust-coloured, fr *khak* dust, fr *Per*] – **khaki** *adj*

**Khalka** /'kalka/ *n* the official language of the Mongolian People's Republic

**khamain** /'kamsin, kam'seen/ *n* a hot southerly Egyptian wind coming from the Sahara [Ar *rih al-khamsin* the wind of the fifty (days between Easter and Pentecost)]

**khan** /kahn/ *n* a medieval supreme ruler over the Turkish, Tartar, and Mongol tribes [ME *caan*, fr MF, of Turkic origin; akin to Turk *han* prince] – **khanate** /'kahnayt/ *n*

**khat** /kəht, kat/ *n* **kat**

**khedive** /'ki'dev/ *n* a ruler of Egypt during the period 1867 to 1914, governing as a viceroy of the sultan of Turkey [F *khédive*, fr Turk *hidiv*] – **khedivial** /-vi-əl/, **khedivial** *adj*

**Khmər** /kmeə/ *n*, *pl* **Khmers**, *esp* collectively **Khmers** **1** a member of one of the main ethnic groups of Kampuchea; *broadly* a Kampuchean **2** the official language of Kampuchea ➔ **LANGUAGE** – **Khmerian** /-ri-ən/ *adj*

**Khoisan** /'koyzahn, -/-/ *n* a group of African languages comprising Hottentot and the Bushman languages

**khoom** /'khood/ *n* ➔ **Mauritania** at **NATIONALITY** [of Ar origin]

**khyber** /'kiebə/ *n*, *Br* the buttocks, arse – slang [rhyming slang *Khyber (Pass)* arse, fr the *Khyber Pass* between Afghanistan & Pakistan]

**kiang** /'ki'ang/ *n* an Asiatic wild ass usu with a reddish back and sides and white underparts, muzzle, and legs [Tibetan *rkyan*]

**kibble** /'kibl/ *vt* to grind coarsely [origin unknown]

**kibbutz** /'ki'boots/ *n*, *pl* **kibbutzim** /-'tssem/ a collective farm or settlement in Israel [NHeb *qibbūs*, fr Heb, gathering]

**kib'butznik** /-nik/ *n* a member of a kibbutz [Yiddish, fr *kibbutz* + *-nik*]

**kibe** /'kieb/ *n* an ulcerated chilblain, esp on the heel [ME, prob fr W *cibi*, *cibwst*]

**kibitzer** /'kibitsə/ *n* sby who looks on and often offers unwanted advice or comment, esp at a card game [Yiddish *kibitser*, fr *kibitsen* to kibitz, fr G *kiebitzen*, fr *kiebitz* lapwing, busybody, fr MHG *gibitz* lapwing, of imit origin] – **kibitz** *vb*

**kiboosh** /'kie,bosh/ *n* sthg that serves as a check or stop (< *put the ~ on that*) – *infml* [origin unknown] – **kiboosh** *vt*

**\*kick** /kik/ *vi* **1a** to strike out with the foot or feet **b** to make a kick in football **2** to show opposition, rebel **3** of a firearm to recoil when fired ~ *vt* **1** to strike suddenly and forcefully (as if) with the foot **2** to score by kicking a ball **3** to free oneself of (a drug or drug habit) – *infml* [ME *kiken*] – **kick oneself** to reprove oneself for some stupidity or omission – **kick one's heels** **1** to be kept waiting **2** to be idle – **kick over the traces** to cast off restraint, authority, or control – **kick the bucket** **DIE** **1** – *infml*, humor – **kick upstairs** to promote to a higher but less desirable position

**\*kick** *n* **1a** a blow or sudden forceful thrust with the foot; *specif* one causing the propulsion of an object **b** the power to kick **c** a repeated motion of the legs used in swimming **d** a sudden burst of speed, esp in a footrace **2** the recoil of a gun **3** power or strength to resist; *broadly* resilience (< *still has some ~ in him*) **4a** a stimulating effect or quality (< *this drink has quite a ~*) **b** a stimulating or pleasurable experience or feeling – often *pl* (< *he did it for ~s*) **c** an absorbing or obsessive new interest (< *on a health food ~ at present*)

**\*kick** *n* an indentation in the base of a glass vessel, esp a bottle [origin unknown]

**kick about** *vb* **KICK AROUND**

**kick around** *vt* **1** to treat inconsiderately or high-handedly **2** to consider (a problem) from various angles, esp in an unsystematic or experimental way ~ *vi* **1** to wander aimlessly or idly **2** to lie unused or unwanted (< *there's a spare blanket kicking around in one of these rooms*) **USE** (*vi* & *vi*) *infml*

**'kickback** /-bak/ *n* **1** a sharp violent reaction **2** a money return received usu because of help or favours given or sometimes because of confidential agreement or coercion

**kicker** /'kika/ *n* a horse with a habit of kicking ['KICK + *-ER*]

**'kick,off** /-oʊ/ *n* **1** a kick that puts the ball into play in soccer, rugby, etc. **2** an act or instance of starting or beginning

**kick off** *vi* **1** to start or resume play with a kickoff **2** to start or begin proceedings – *infml*

**kick out** *vt* to dismiss or eject forcefully or summarily – *infml*

**'kick,pleat** *n* a short pleat consisting of a layer of fabric sewn under an opening at the lower edge of a narrow skirt to allow freedom of movement

**kickshaw** /'kikshaw/ *n* **1** a fancy dish **2** a bauble, gewgaw [modif of F *quelque chose* something]

**'kickstand** /-stand/ *n* a swivelling stand for a 2-wheeled vehicle when not in use [fr its being put in position by a kick]

**kick-starter** *n* a foot-operated starter (e.g. for a motorcycle) – **kick-start** *vt*

**kick up** *vi* **1** to cause to rise upwards; raise (< *clouds of dust kicked up by passing cars*) **2 to stir up (a row, a fuss, trouble, etc) – *infml***

**'kid** /kid/ *n* **1** the young of a goat or related animal **2** the flesh, fur, or skin of a kid **3** a child; *also* a young person (e.g. a teenager) – *infml* [ME *kide*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *kith* kid] – **kiddish** *adj* – with **kid gloves** with special consideration

**\*kid** *vi* **-dd-** of a goat or antelope to bring forth young

**\*kid** *vb* **-dd-** *vt* **1a** to mislead as a joke (< *it's the truth; I wouldn't ~ you*) **b** to convince (oneself) of sthg untrue or improbable **2** to make fun of ~ *vi* to engage in good-humoured fooling **USE** (*vt* & *vi*) *infml* [prob fr 'kid] – **kidder** *n*, **kiddingly** *adv*

- Kidderminster** /'kɪdə,mɪnstə/ *n* a type of ingrain carpet [*Kidderminster*, town in England]
- kiddie, kiddy** /'kɪdi/ *n* a small child – infml ['kɪd + -ie]
- 'kiddie,wink** /-wɪŋk/ *n* a kiddle [*kiddie* + *wink* (of unknown origin), perh after *kiddywink* (beerhouse, building)]
- kiddush** /'kɪdʌʃ, kɪ'doʊʃ/ *n* a ceremonial blessing pronounced over wine or bread in a Jewish home or synagogue on a sabbath or other holy day [LHeb *qiddush* sanctification]
- kid-glove** *adj* using or involving especially considerate or tactful methods
- kidnap** /'kɪdnəp/ *vt* -pp-, -p- to seize and detain (a person) by force and often for ransom [prob back-formation fr *kidnapper*, fr *kid* + obs *napper* (thief)] – *kidnapper*, *kidnaper* *n*
- kidney** /'kɪdni/ *n* 1a either of a pair of organs situated in the body cavity near the spinal column that excrete waste products of metabolism in the form of urine → DIGESTION b an excretory organ of an invertebrate 2 the kidney of an animal eaten as food 3 sort, kind, or type, esp with regard to temperament [ME]
- 'kidney,bean** *n* (any of the kidney-shaped seeds of) the French bean
- kidskin** /'kɪdskɪn/ *n* (a soft pliant leather made from) the skin of a kid
- kieselguhr, kieselgur** /'keɪzəlɡuː/ *n* loose or porous earth consisting of the fossil remains of diatoms, used for polishing, filtering, and as an absorbent in the manufacture of dynamite [G *kieselgur*]
- kike** /'kiːk/ *n*, chiefly NAM a Jew – derog [prob alter. of *kiki*, redupl of -*ki*, common ending of names of Jews who lived in Slavonic countries]
- Kikuyu** /'kɪkoʊ-yoo/ *n*, pl *Kikuyus*, *esp* collectively *Kikuyu* 1 a member of a Bantu-speaking people of Kenya 2 the Bantu language of the Kikuyu people
- kilderkin** /'kɪldəkn/ *n* a small cask having a capacity of 16 or 18 gal (about 73 or 82 l) [ME, fr MD *kindekin*, fr ML *quintale* quantal]
- \*kill** /kɪl/ *vt* 1 to deprive of life 2a to put an end to b to defeat, veto 3a to destroy the vital, active, or essential quality of (<ed the pain with drugs>) b to spoil, subdue, or neutralize the effect of (<that colour ~s the room>) c(1) to turn off (studio or stage lighting) (2) to remove (a shadow) by adjusting lighting or moving a camera 4 to cause (time) to pass (e.g. while waiting) 5 to hit (a shot) so hard in a racket game that a return is impossible 6 to cause (e.g. an engine) to stop 7 to cause extreme pain to (<my feet are ~ing me>) 8 to overwhelm with admiration or amusement 9 to discard or abandon further investigation of (a story) – *journ ~vi* to destroy life *USE* (6, 7, 8) infml [ME *killen*, *cullen* to strike, beat, kill; perh akin to OE *cwellan* to kill – more at *QUELL*] – *killer* *n* – to *kill* to THE NINES (<dressed to kill>)
- \*kill** *n* 1 a killing or being killed (<moved in for the ~>) 2 sth killed: e.g. a animals killed in a shoot, hunt, season, or particular period of time b an enemy aircraft, submarine, etc destroyed by military action
- killdeer** /'kɪldiːə/ *n*, pl *killdeers*, *esp* collectively *killdeer* a plover of temperate N America [imit]
- 'killer,whale** /'kɪlə/ *n* a flesh-eating gregarious black-and-white toothed whale found in most seas of the world
- killick** /'kɪlɪk/ *n* an anchor [origin unknown]
- 'killifish** /'kɪlɪfɪʃ/ *n* a topminnow [*killie*, *killy* (killifish; fr *kill* channel, river, stream – fr D *kil*, fr MD *kille* – + *-ie*, *-y*) + *fish*]
- 'killing** /'kɪlɪŋ/ *n* a sudden notable gain or profit – infml ['kɪll + -ING]
- \*killing** *adj* 1 extremely exhausting or difficult to endure 2 highly amusing *USE* infml – *killagly* *adv*
- 'kill,joy** /-jɔɪ/ *n* one who spoils the pleasure of others
- kill off** *vt* to destroy totally or in large numbers
- killn** /'kɪln/ *n* an oven, furnace, or heated enclosure used for processing a substance by burning, firing, or drying [ME *kilne*, fr OE *cyln*, fr L *culina* kitchen, fr *coquere* to cook – more at *COOK*] – *killn* *vt*
- kilo** /'keɪlə/ *n*, pl *kiloes* 1 a kilogram 2 a kilometre
- Kilo** – a communications code word for the letter *k*
- kilo-** *comb form* thousand (<kiloton>) → PHYSICS [F, modif of Gk *chilioi* – more at *MILE*]
- kilobit** /'kɪləbɪt/ *n* either of 2 units of information: a one equal to 1000 bits b one equal to 1024 bits [ISV]
- 'kilo,byte** /-biːt/ *n* either of 2 units of computer storage: a one equal to 1000 bytes b one equal to 1024 bytes [ISV]
- 'kilo,calorie** /-kæləri/ *n* the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 kg of water 1°C under standard conditions [ISV]
- 'kilo,cycle** /-sɪkl/ *n* a kilohertz [ISV]
- 'kilo,gram** /-ɡrɑːm/ *n* 1 the SI unit of mass and weight equal to the mass of a platinum-iridium cylinder kept near Paris, and approximately equal to the weight of a litre of water 2 a unit of force equal to the weight of a kilogram mass under the earth's gravitational attraction *USE* → PHYSICS, UNIT [F *kilogramme*, fr *kilo-* + *gramme* gram]
- 'kilo,hertz** /-huːrts/ *n* a unit of frequency equal to 1000 hertz [ISV]
- kilometre** /'kɪlə,meɪtə, kɪ'lomɪtə/ *n* 1000 metres → UNIT [F *kilomètre*, fr *kilo-* + *mètre* metre]
- 'kilo,ton** /-tʌn/ *n* an explosive force equivalent to that of 1000 tons of TNT
- 'kilo,watt** /-wɒt/ *n* 1000 watts [ISV]
- kilowatt-hour** *n* a unit of work or energy equal to that expended by 1 kW in 1 hr → UNIT
- kilt** /kɪlt/ *n* a skirt traditionally worn by Scotsmen that is formed usu from a length of tartan, is pleated at the back and sides, and is wrapped round the body and fastened at the front → GARMENT [ME *kiltan* to gather up (a skirt), of Scand origin; akin to ON *kjalta* fold of a gathered skirt]
- kilter** /'kɪltə/ *n* adjustment; (good) working order – chiefly in *out of kilter* [origin unknown]
- kimono** /kɪ'moʊnoh/ *n*, pl *kimonos* a loose robe with wide sleeves and a broad sash traditionally worn by the Japanese [Jap, clothes]
- 'kin** /kɪn/ *n* 1 a group of people of common ancestry 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* one's relatives 3 *archaic* kinship [ME, fr OE *cyn*; akin to OHG *chunni* race, L *genus* birth, race, kind, Gk *genos*, L *gignere* to beget, Gk *gignesthai* to be born]
- \*kin** *adj* kindred, related
- kin** /-kɪn/ *also* -*kins* *suffix* (→ *n*) small kind of (<catkin>) (<mannikin>) [ME, fr MD -*kin*; akin to OHG -*chin*, dim suffix]
- kina** /'keɪnə/ *n* → Papua New Guinea at NATIONALITY [native name in Papua]
- kinæsthesia, NAM chiefly kinesthesia** /'kɪnəs'theɪziə, -zɪ(y)ə/, 'kie-/ *n* the sense of the position and movement of the joints of the body [NL, fr Gk *kinēin* + *aisthēsis* perception – more at ANAESTHESIA] – *kinæsthetic* /-ˈθetɪk/ *adj*, *kinæsthetically* *adv*
- kinæsthesia, NAM chiefly kinesthesia** /'kɪnəs'theɪsi/ *n* kinæsthesia
- 'kind** /kɪnd/ *n* 1 fundamental nature or quality 2a a group united by common traits or interests b a specific or recognized variety – often in combination (<how delinquents differ from the rest of juvenile-kind – TLS>) c a doubtful or barely admissible member of a category (<a ~ of grey>) [ME *kunde*, fr OE *cynd*; akin to OE *cyg* kin] – *in kind* 1 in goods, commodities, or natural produce as distinguished from money 2 in a similar way or with the equivalent of what has been offered or received (<repayed his generosity in kind>)
- \*kind** *adj* 1 disposed to be helpful and benevolent 2 forbearing, considerate, or compassionate 3 showing sympathy, benevolence, or forbearance 4 cordial, friendly 5 not harmful; mild, gentle – *kindness* *n*
- kinda** /'kiɪndə/ *adv* *KIND* of – used in writing to suggest casual speech [by alter.]
- kindergarten** /'kɪndə,ɡaːtn/ *n* a school or class for small children [G, fr *kinder* children + *garten* garden]
- kindhearted** /'kiɪnd'hɑːtɪd/ *adj* marked by a sympathetic nature – *kindheartedly* *adv*, *kindheartedness* *n*
- kindle** /'kɪndl/ *vb* *kindling* /'kɪndlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to set (a fire, wood, etc) burning 2 to stir up (e.g. emotion) ~ *vi* 1 to catch fire 2 to become animated or aroused [ME *kindlen*, fr ON *kynda*; akin to OHG *cuntesal* fire]
- kindling** /'kɪndlɪŋ/ *n* material (e.g. dry wood and leaves) for starting a fire
- 'kindly** /'kiɪndli/ *adj* 1 agreeable, beneficial 2 sympathetic, generous – *kindliness* *n*
- \*kindly** *adv* 1 in an appreciative or sincere manner (<I'd take it ~ if you'd put in a good word for the boy>) 2 – used (1) to add politeness or emphasis to a request (<~ fill in the attached questionnaire>) (2) to convey irritation or anger in a command (<will you ~ shut that door>)
- 'kind of** *adv* 1 to a moderate degree; somewhat (<it's ~ late to begin>) 2 in a manner of speaking (<all you can do is ~ nurse it – SEUS>) 3 roughly, approximately *USE* infml
- 'kindred** /'kɪndrɪd/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (one's) relatives 2 family relationship [ME, fr *kin* + OE *ræden* condition, fr *rædan* to advise, read]
- \*kindred** *adj* similar in nature or character
- kine** /kɪn/ *archaic* *pl* of cow
- kinematics** /kɪnɪ'matiks, 'kie-/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a branch of physics that deals with aspects of motion without consideration of mass or force [F *cinématique*, fr Gk *kinēmat-*, *kinēma* motion – more at CINEMATOGRAPH] – *kinematic*, *kinematical* *adj*, *kinematically* *adv*

- kinesics** /kɪˈneɪsɪks, kie-/ *n* pl but sing in constr a systematic study of the relationship between bodily cues or movements (e.g. eye movement, blushes, or shrugs) and communication [Gk *kinēsis* + *-ics*]
- kinesis** /-kɪˈneɪsɪs/ *comb form* (→ *n*), pl **-kineses** /-seɪz/ 1 movement <telekinesis> <psychokinesis> 2 division <karyokinesis> [NL, fr Gk *kinēsis* motion, fr *kinēin* to move]
- kinaesthesia** /kɪˈnæːstheɪzə, -zh(y)ə, kie-/ *n*, chiefly NAM kinaesthesia – **kinaesthetic** /-ˈθetɪk/ *adj*, **kinaesthetically** *adv*
- kinaesthesia** /kɪˈnæːstheɪsɪs/ *n*, chiefly NAM kinaesthesia
- kinet-**, **kineto-** *comb form* movement; motion <kinetogenic> <kinetoscope> [Gk *kinētos* moving]
- kinetic** /kɪˈnetɪk/ *adj* of motion [Gk *kinētikos*, fr *kinetos* moving, fr *kinēin*]
- kinetic art** *n* art (e.g. sculpture) depending for its effect on the movement of surfaces or volumes – **kinetic artist** *n*
- kinetic energy** *n* energy that a body or system has by virtue of its motion
- kinetics** *n* pl but sing or pl in constr 1 science that deals with the effects of forces on the motions of material bodies or with changes in a physical or chemical system 2 the mechanism by which a physical or chemical change is effected
- kinetic theory** *n* any of several theories in physics based on the fact that constituent particles of a substance are in vigorous motion
- king** /kɪŋ/ *n* 1 a male monarch of a major territorial unit; *esp* one who inherits his position and rules for life 2 the holder of a preeminent position 3 the principal piece of each colour in a set of chessmen that has the power to move 1 square in any direction and must be protected against check 4 a playing card marked with a stylized figure of a king and ranking usu below the ace 5 a draughtsman that has reached the opposite side of the board and is empowered to move both forwards and backwards [ME, fr OE *cuning*; akin to OHG *kuning* king, OE *cyn* kin] – **kingship** *n*
- 'kingbolt** /-ˈbɒlt/ *n* a large or major bolt
- king cobra** *n* a large venomous cobra of southeastern Asia and the Philippines
- king crab** *n* any of several closely related marine arthropods that have a broad crescent-shaped cephalothorax
- 'kingcraft** /-ˈkraɪft/ *n* the art of governing as a king
- 'kingcup** /-ˈkɪp/ *n* MARSH MARIGOLD
- 'kingdom** /-ˈd(ə)m/ *n* 1 a territorial unit with a monarchical form of government 2 *often cap* the eternal kingship of God 3 an area or sphere in which sby or sthg holds a preeminent position 4 any of the 3 primary divisions into which natural objects are commonly classified – compare ANIMAL KINGDOM, MINERAL KINGDOM, PLANT KINGDOM
- 'kingfish** /-ˈfɪʃ/ *n* the opah
- 'kingfisher** /-ˈfɪʃə/ *n* any of numerous small brightly-coloured fish-eating birds with a short tail and a long stout sharp bill
- King James Version** /ˈjaɪmz/ *n* AUTHORIZED VERSION [King James I †1625 who commissioned this translation of the Bible]
- 'kingklip** /-ˈkɪlp/ *n* an edible eel-like marine fish [short for *kingklipfish*, trans of Afrik *koningklipvis*]
- 'kingmaker** /-ˈmaɪkə/ *n* sby having influence over the choice of candidates for office
- king penguin** *n* a large antarctic penguin
- 'kingpin** /-ˈpɪn/; *also sense* 1 /-ˈ-/ *n* 1 the key person or thing in a group or undertaking 2 a kingbolt
- 'king post** *n* a vertical supporting post connecting the apex of a triangular truss (e.g. of a roof) with the base – compare QUEEN POST 
- ARCHITECTURE
- Kings** /kɪŋz/ *n* pl but sing in constr any of 2 or, in the Roman Catholic canon, 4 narrative and historical books of the Old Testament
- King's Bench** *n* QUEEN'S BENCH – used when the British monarch is a man
- King's Counsel** *n* QUEEN'S COUNSEL – used when the British monarch is a man
- King's English** *n* standard or correct S British English speech or usage – used when the monarch is a man
- king's evil** *n*, *often cap* K&E scrofula [fr the former belief that it could be healed by a king's touch]
- kingship** /kɪŋˈʃɪp/ *n* the position, office, or dignity of a king
- 'king-size**, **'king-sized** *adj* larger or longer than the regular or standard size
- kinin** /kɪˈnɪn/ *n* any of various polypeptide hormones that are formed locally in the tissues and chiefly affect smooth muscle [Gk *kinēin* to move, stimulate + *-in*]
- kink** /kɪŋk/ *n* 1 a short tight twist or curl caused by sthg doubling or winding on itself 2 an eccentricity or mental peculiarity; *esp* such eccentricity in sexual behaviour or preferences [D; akin to MLG *kunke* kink] – **kink** *vb*
- kinkejou** /kɪŋkəˈjoʊ/ *n* a slender nocturnal tree-dwelling fruit-eating mammal of Mexico and Central and S America [F, of Algonquian origin; akin to Ojibwa *qwingwāge* wolverine]
- kinky** /kɪŋki/ *adj* 1 closely twisted or curled 2a offbeat b titillatingly unusual or bizarre; *esp* sexually perverted *USE* (2) infml [kink + *-y*] – **kinkiness** *n*
- kinsfolk** /kɪnzˈfoʊk/ *n* pl relatives
- kinship** /kɪnˈʃɪp/ *n* 1 blood relationship 2 similarity
- kinsman** /kɪnzˈmæn/, *fem* 'kina,woman *n* a (male) relative
- kiosk** /ˈkeɪˌɒsk/ *n* 1 an open summerhouse or pavilion common in Turkey or Iran 2 a small stall or stand used *esp* for the sale of newspapers, cigarettes, and sweets 3 Br a public telephone box [Turk *koşk*, fr Per *kushk* portico; (2, 3) F *kiosque*, fr Turk *koşk*]
- 'kip** /kɪp/ *n*, pl **kip**, **kips**  Laos at NATIONALITY [Thai]
- 'kip** *n*, chiefly Br 1 a place to sleep 2 a period of sleep *USE* infml [perh fr Dan *kippe* cheap tavern]
- 'kip** *vi* -pp- *chiefly* Br 1 to sleep 2 to lie down to sleep – *often* + *down* *USE* infml
- 'kipper** /kɪpə/ *n* a kippered fish, *esp* a herring – compare BUCKLING [ME *kyppe* male salmon, fr OE *cypera*; akin to OE *coper* copper]
- 'kipper** *vt* to cure (split dressed fish) by salting and drying, usu by smoking
- Kirghiz** /kɪrˈɡɪz/ *n*, pl **Kirghiz**, **Kirghizes** a member of a Mongolian people inhabiting chiefly the Central Asian steppes; *also* the language of this people  LANGUAGE [Kirghiz *Kyrgyz*]
- kirk** /kuːk/ *n* 1 *cap* the national Church of Scotland as distinguished from the Church of England or the Episcopal Church in Scotland 2 *chiefly* Scot a church [ME (northern), fr ON *kirkja*, fr OE *cirice* – more at CHURCH]
- kirsch** /kɪərʃ/ *n* a dry colourless spirit distilled from the fermented juice of the black morello cherry [G, short for *kirschwasser*, fr *kirsche* cherry + *wasser* water]
- kirtle** /kɜːtl/ *n* a man's tunic or coat or a woman's dress worn *esp* in the Middle Ages [ME *kirtel*, fr OE *cyrtel*, fr (assumed) OE *curt* short, fr L *curtus* shortened – more at SHEAR]
- kismet** /kɪzˈmɛt, 'kɪs-/ *n*, *often cap* FATE 1, 2a [Turk, fr Ar *qismah* portion, lot]
- 'kiss** /kɪs/ *vi* 1a to touch with the lips, *esp* as a mark of affection or greeting b to express or effect by kissing (<~ed her good night>) 2 to touch gently or lightly (<wind gently ~ing the trees>) ~ *vi* 1 to touch one another with the lips, *esp* as a mark of love or sexual desire 2 to come into gentle contact [ME *kissen*, fr OE *cyssan*; akin to OHG *kussen* to kiss] – **kissable** *adj*
- 'kiss** *n* an act or instance of kissing
- 'kiss-curl** *n* a small curl of hair falling on the forehead or cheek
- kisser** /kɪsə/ *n* the mouth or face – slang ['KISS + *-ER*]
- 'kiss of death** *n* an act or association bound to cause ruin or failure – infml [fr the kiss with which Judas betrayed Jesus (Mk 14:44-46)]
- 'kiss of life** *n* artificial respiration in which the rescuer blows air into the victim's lungs by mouth-to-mouth contact
- 'kiss of peace** *n* a ceremonial kiss, embrace, or clasping of hands used in Christian liturgies, *esp* the Eucharist
- 'kit** /kɪt/ *n* 1 a set of tools or implements 2 a set of parts ready to be assembled (<a model aeroplane ~>) 3 a set of clothes and equipment for use in a specified situation; *esp* the equipment carried by a member of the armed forces [ME *kitt*, *kyt* wooden tub, prob fr MD *kitte*, *kit* jug, vessel]
- 'kit** *vi* -tt- *chiefly* Br to equip, outfit; *esp* to clothe – *usu* + *out* or *up* (<all ~ted out for camping>)
- 'kit** *n* a kitten
- 'kitbag** /-ˈbæg/ *n* a large cylindrical bag carried over the shoulder and used for holding the kit, *esp* of a member of the armed forces
- kitchen** /ˈkɪtʃɪn/ *n* a place (e.g. a room in a house or hotel) where food is prepared [ME *kichene*, fr OE *cyccene*; akin to OHG *chuhhina* kitchen; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr LL *coquina*, fr L *coquere* to cook – more at COOK]
- kitchenette** /kɪtʃɪˈnet/ *n* a small kitchen or alcove containing cooking facilities
- 'kitchen garden** *n* a garden in which vegetables are grown
- 'kitchen-sink** *adj*, Br, *esp* of drama portraying modern daily life in a realistic and often sordid manner
- kite** /kiːt/ *n* 1 any of various hawks with long narrow wings, a deeply



- forked tail, and feet adapted for taking insects and small reptiles as prey  
 2 a light frame covered with thin material (e.g. paper or cloth), designed to be flown in the air at the end of a long string [ME, fr OE *cýta*; akin to MHG *küze* owl, Gk *gon* to lament]
- \*Kite-mark** *n* a kite-shaped mark on goods approved by the British Standards Institution  SYMBOL
- kith** /kiθ/ *n* friends or neighbours (< and kin) [ME, fr OE *cýthth*, fr *cūth* known – more at UNCOUTH]
- kitech** /kich/ *n* artistic or literary material that is pretentious or inferior and is usu designed to appeal to popular or sentimental taste [G] – **kitchy** *adj*
- \*kitten** /kitn/ *n* the young of a cat or other small mammal [ME *kitoun*, fr (assumed) ONF *caton*, dim. of *cat*, fr LL *cattus*]
- \*kitten** *vi* to give birth to kittens
- kittenish** /kitn-ish/ *adj* coyly playful or flirtatious [‘KITTEN + -ISH]
- kittiwake** /kiti,weɪk/ *n* any of various gulls that have a short or rudimentary hind toe [imit]
- \*kittle** /kitl/ *vt*, chiefly Scot to tickle [ME (northern) *kytyllen*, prob fr ON *kida*]
- \*kittle** *adj*, Scot difficult or risky to deal with
- \*kitty** /kiti/ *n* CAT 1a; esp a kitten – used chiefly as a pet name or calling name
- \*kitty** *n* a jointly held fund of money (e.g. for household expenses) [‘kɪr]
- kiwi** /keewi/ *n* 1 a flightless New Zealand bird with hairlike plumage 2 *cap* a New Zealander [Maori, of imit origin]
- Klan** /klan/ *n* KU KLUX KLAN – **Klanism** /kla,nɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **Klansman** /-mən/ *n*
- Klaxon** /klaks(ə)n/ *trademark* – used for a powerful electrically operated horn or warning signal
- Kleenex** /kleeneks/ *trademark* – used for a paper handkerchief
- \*Klein, bottle** /klien/ *n* a l-sided surface that is formed by passing the narrow end of a tapered tube through the side of the tube and flaring this end out to join the other end [Felix Klein †1925 G mathematician]
- klept** /kleft/ *n*, often *cap* a Greek belonging to any of several independent guerrilla communities after the Turkish conquest of Greece in the 15th c [NGk *kleptēs*, lit., robber, fr Gk *kleptes*, fr *kleptein* to steal; akin to Goth *hlifan* to steal, L *clepere*] – **kleptic** /-tik/ *adj*, often *cap*
- kleptomania** /klepts’mayniə/ *n* an irresistible desire to steal, esp when not accompanied by economic motives or desire for financial gain [NL, fr Gk *kleptein* to steal + LL *mania*] – **kleptomaniac** /-niak/ *n*
- \*klieg, light, klieg light** /kleeg/ *n* a powerful arc lamp used in film studios [John H Klieg †1959 & Anton T Klieg †1927 German-born US lighting experts]
- \*Klinefelter's syndrome** /klien,feltz/ *n* an abnormal condition in a male characterized by 2 X and 1 Y chromosomes, infertility, and smallness of the testicles [Harry F Klinefelter b 1912 US physician]
- klipspringer** /klipspring-ə/ *n* a small African antelope [Afrnk, fr *khip* cliff, rock + *springer* springer, leaper]
- klystron** /klistron, ‘kle-/ *n* an electron tube in which bunching of electrons is produced by electric fields and which is used for the generation and amplification of uhf current [fr *Klystron*, a trademark]
- knack** /nak/ *n* a special ability, capacity, or skill that enables sth, esp of a difficult or unusual nature, to be done with ease (<skating is easy once you've got the ~); broadly APTITUDE 1 (<has a ~ for saying the wrong thing) [ME *knak*, *knakke* trick, prob fr *knak* sharp blow or sound, of imit origin]
- \*knacker** /naka/ *n*, Br 1 sby who buys and slaughters worn-out horses for use esp as animal food or fertilizer (<a ~'s yard) 2 a buyer of old ships, houses, or other structures for their constituent materials [prob fr E dial. (saddlemaker)] – **knackery** *n*
- \*knacker** *vt*, chiefly Br to exhaust – infml (<after working all night I felt ~ed)
- knap** /nap/ *vt* -pp- to break with a quick blow; esp to shape (flints) by breaking off pieces [ME *knappen*, of imit origin] – **knapper** *n*
- knapsack** /nap.sak/ *n* a (soldier's) bag (e.g. of canvas or leather) strapped on the back and used for carrying supplies or personal belongings [LG *knappack* or D *knappzak*, fr LG & D *knappen* to make a snapping noise, eat + LG *sack* or D *zak* sack]
- \*knapweed** /-weed/ *n* a widely naturalized European perennial with tough wiry stems and knobby heads of purple flowers [ME *knopwed*, fr *knop* knob + *wed* weed]
- knave** /naɪv/ *n* 1 an unprincipled deceitful fellow 2 JACK 5 3 *archaic* a male servant [ME, fr OE *cnafo* boy, male servant; akin to OHG *knabo* boy] – **knavery** /naɪv(ə)ri/ *n*, **knavish** *adj*, **knavishly** *adj*
- knead** /need/ *vt* 1 to work and press into a mass (as if) with the hands (<~ing dough) 2 to manipulate (as if) by kneading (<~ the idea into shape) [ME *kneden*, fr OE *cneðan*; akin to OHG *knētan* to knead, OE *cnotta* knot] – **kneadable** *adj*, **kneader** *n*
- \*knee** /nee/ *n* 1a (the part of the leg that includes) a joint in the middle part of the human leg that is the articulation between the femur, tibia, and kneecap b a corresponding joint in an animal, bird, or insect 2 sth (e.g. a piece of wood or iron) shaped like the human knee [ME, fr OE *cneow*; akin to OHG *kneo* knee, L *genu*, Gk *gony*] – **knead** *adj*
- \*knee** *vt* to strike with the knee
- \*kneecap** /nee,kap/ *n* a thick flat triangular movable bone that forms the front point of the knee and protects the front of the joint  ANATOMY
- \*kneecap** *vt* to smash the kneecap of, as a punishment or torture
- \*knee-deep** *adj* 1 knee-high 2 immersed in (as if) up to the knees (<~ in work)
- \*knee-high** *adj* high or deep enough to reach up to the knees
- \*knee jerk** *n* an involuntary forward kick produced by a light blow on the tendon below the kneecap
- knelt** /neɪl/ *vi* knelt /nelt/, **kneeled** to fall or rest on the knee or knees [ME *knelen*, fr OE *cneowlian*, akin to OE *cneow* knee] – **kneeler** *n*
- \*knees-up** *n*, pl **knees-ups** chiefly Br 1 an exhausting party dance in which alternate knees are raised in time with the increasing tempo of the music 2 a boisterous celebration, usu with dancing USE infml
- \*knell** /nel/ *vt* 1 of a bell to ring, esp for a death, funeral, etc 2 to sound ominously ~ *vt* to summon, announce, or proclaim (as if) by a knell [ME *knellen*, fr OE *cnyllan*; akin to MHG *erknellen* to toll]
- \*knell** *n* 1 (the sound of) a bell rung slowly (e.g. for a funeral or disaster) 2 an indication of the end or failure of sth
- Knesset** /knesit/ *n* the legislative assembly of Israel [NHeb, *kéneseth*, lit., gathering, assembly, fr Heb *kānas* to gather]
- knew** /nyoo/ *past* of KNOW
- Knickerbocker** /nikə,bokə/ *n* a descendant of the early Dutch settlers of New York [Diedrich Knickerbocker, fictitious author of *History of New York* by Washington Irving †1859 US writer]
- \*knicker,bocker 'glory** *n* an elaborate dessert, typically consisting of layers of fruit, jelly, ice cream, and cream served in a tall glass
- \*knicker,bockers** *n* pl short baggy trousers gathered on a band at the knee [fr the resemblance of the garment to the knee-breeches of the Dutchman, Knickerbocker, in Cruikshank's illustrations to Irving's *History of New York*]
- knickers** /nikz/ *n* pl 1 Br women's pants 2 NAM knickerbockers [short for knickerbockers]
- \*knick,knack** /nik,nak/ *n* a small trivial ornament or trinket – infml [redupl of *knack*]
- \*knife** /nif/ *n*, pl **knives** /nievz/ 1a a cutting implement consisting of a more or less sharp blade fastened to a handle b such an instrument used as a weapon 2 a sharp cutting blade or tool in a machine [ME *knif*, fr OE *cnif*; akin to MLG *knif* knife, OE *cnotta* knot] – **knifelike** /nif,liək/ *adj* – at **knifepoint** under a threat of death by being knifed
- \*knife** *vt* 1 to cut, slash, or wound with a knife 2 to cut, mark, or spread with a knife 3 chiefly NAM to try to defeat by underhand means – infml
- \*knife,edge** *n* 1 a sharp wedge of hard material (e.g. steel) used as a fulcrum or pivot in a pair of scales, a pendulum, etc 2 sth sharp and narrow (e.g. a ridge of rock) resembling the edge of a knife 3 an uncertain or precarious position or condition
- \*knife,pleat** *n* a narrow flat pleat; esp any of a series of such pleats that overlap and fall in the same direction
- \*knight** /ni:t/ *n* 1a(1) a mounted man-at-arms serving a feudal superior; esp a man ceremonially inducted into special rank after service as page and squire (2) a man honoured by a sovereign for merit, ranking below a baronet (3) sby equivalent to a knight in rank b a man devoted to the service of a lady (e.g. as her champion) 2 either of 2 pieces of each colour in a set of chessmen that move from 1 corner to the diagonally opposite corner of a rectangle of 3 by 2 squares over squares that may be occupied [ME, fr OE *cniht*; akin to OHG *kneht* youth, military follower, OE *cnotta* knot] – **knighthly** *adj* or *adv*, **knighthood** /ni:t,hood/ *n*
- \*knight** *vt* to make a knight of
- \*knight-errant** *n*, pl **knights-errant** 1 a knight travelling in search of chivalrous adventures 2 a quixotic or chivalrous person
- \*knight-errantry** *n*, pl **knights-errantries** quixotic conduct
- \*Knight Templar** /templa/ *n*, pl **Knights Templars**, **Knights Templar** a templar
- \*knit** /nit/ *vb* knit, knitted; -tt- *vt* 1a to link firmly or closely b to unite



- intimately **2a** to cause to grow together (*time and rest will ~ a fractured bone*) **b** to contract into wrinkles (<~ed her brow in thought>) **3a** to form (e.g. a fabric, garment, or design) by working 1 or more yarns into a series of interlocking loops using 2 or more needles or a knitting machine **b** to work (e.g. a specified number of rows) using a knitting stitch, specif knit stitch (<~ 1, purl 1>) ~ *vi* **1a** to make knitted fabrics or articles **b** to work yarn or thread in a knitting stitch, specif knit stitch **2a** to become compact **b** to grow together *c* to become joined or drawn together [ME *knitten*, fr OE *cnyttan*; akin to OE *cnotta* knot] – knitter *n*
- \***knit, knit stitch** *n* a basic knitting stitch that produces a raised pattern on the front of the work – compare PURL **2**
- knitting** /ˈnɪtɪŋ/ *n* work that has been or is being knitted
- knob** /nɒb/ *n* **1a** a rounded protuberance **b** a small rounded ornament, handle, or control (for pushing, pulling, or turning) **2** a small piece or lump (e.g. of coal or butter) [ME *knobbe*; akin to MLG *knubbe* knob, OE *-cnoppe*] – knobbed *adj*, knobby *adj* – with knobs on to an even greater degree – *infrm*
- knobble** /ˈnɒbl/ *n* a small rounded irregularity [ME *knoble*, fr *knobbe* + *-le* (dim. suffix)] – knobably *adj*
- knobkerrie** /ˈnɒb,keri/ *n* a short wooden club with a knobbed head used esp by S African tribesmen [Afrk *knopkierie*, fr *knop* knob + *kierie* club]
- \***knock** /nok/ *vi* **1** to strike sth with a sharp (audible) blow; esp to strike a door seeking admittance **2** to collide with sth **3** to be in a place, often without any clearly defined aim or purpose – usu + *about* or *around* **4a** to make a sharp pounding noise *b* of an internal-combustion engine to make a metallic rattling noise because of a mechanical defect; also 'PINK **3** **5** to find fault ~ *vt* **1a**(1) to strike sharply (2) to drive, force, make, or take (as if) by so striking (<~ed a hole in the wall> / <her earnings would be ~ed off her mother's benefit – The Times>) **b** to set forcibly in motion with a blow **2** to cause to collide (with each other) (<~ed their heads together>) **3** to find fault with (<always ~ing those in authority>) *USE* (*vi* **5**; *vt* **3**) *infrm* [ME *knoken*, fr OE *cnocian*; akin to MHG *knochen* to press] – knock together to make or assemble, esp hurriedly or shoddily
- \***knock** *n* **1a** (the sound of) a knocking or a sharp blow or rap (<the engine has a ~>) **b** a piece of bad luck or misfortune **2** a harsh and often petty criticism **3** INNINGS **1b** – *infrm*
- knockabout** /ˈnɒk,baʊt/ *adj* **1** suitable for rough use (<~ clothes> **2** (characterized by antics that are) boisterous (<a ~ comedy>)
- knock about** *vi* to treat roughly or with physical violence
- knock back** *vt*, chiefly *Br* **1** to drink (an alcoholic beverage) rapidly **2** to cost, SET BACK **2** **3** to surprise, disconcert *USE* *infrm*
- \***knock down** /-daʊn/ *n* sth (e.g. a piece of furniture) that can be easily assembled or dismantled
- \***knockdown** *adj* **1** having such force as to strike down or overwhelm **2** easily assembled or dismantled (<a ~ table>) **3** of a price very low or substantially reduced; esp being the lowest acceptable to the seller
- knock down** *vt* **1** to strike to the ground (as if) with a sharp blow **2** to dispose of (an item for sale at an auction) to a bidder **3** to take apart; disassemble **4** to make a reduction in (knock the price down to £4)
- knocker** /ˈnɒkə/ *n* a metal ring, bar, or hammer hinged to a door for use in knocking ['KNOCK + *-ER*]
- \***knockers** *n pl* a woman's breasts – *vulg*
- knock-for** *adj* of or being an agreement between insurance companies whereby each company indemnifies its own policyholder regardless of legal liability
- \***knocking shop** /ˈnɒkɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* a brothel – *vulg* [*knock* (to copulate with), fr 'knock]
- knock-'knee** *n* a condition in which the legs curve inwards at the knees – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning but *sing.* or *pl* in constr. – knock-kneed *adj*
- knock off** *vi* to stop doing sth, esp one's work ~ *vt* **1** to do hurriedly or routinely (<knocked off one painting after another>) **2** to discontinue, stop (<knocked off work at 5>) **3** to deduct (<knocked off a pound to make the price more attractive>) **4** to kill; esp to murder **5** to steal **6** *Br* to have sexual intercourse with *USE* (4&5) *infrm*, (6) *slang*
- \***knock-on** *n* (an instance of) the knocking of the ball forwards on the ground with the hand or arm in rugby in violation of the rules – knock on *vt*
- knockout**, **knock-out** /ˈnɒk,əʊt/ *n* **1a** knocking out or being knocked out **b** a blow that knocks out an opponent (or knocks him down for longer than a particular time, usu 10s, and results in the termination of a boxing match) *c* TECHNICAL KNOCKOUT **2** a competition or tournament with successive rounds in which losing competitors are eliminated until a winner emerges in the final **3** *sby* or sth that is sensationally striking or attractive – *infrm* – *knockout* *adj*
- knock out** *vt* **1** to empty (a tobacco pipe) by striking on or with sth **2** KNOCK UP **1** **3a** to defeat (a boxing opponent) by a knockout **b** to make unconscious **4** to tire out, exhaust **5** to eliminate (an opponent) from a knockout competition **6** to overwhelm with amazement or pleasure – *infrm*
- \***knockout, drops** *n pl* drops containing a drug (e.g. chloral hydrate) put into a drink, esp surreptitiously, to produce unconsciousness or stupefaction
- knock up** *vt* **1** to make, prepare, or arrange hastily **2** KNOCK OUT **4** **3** to achieve a total of (<knocked up 300m in the first day of travelling>) **4** *Br* to rouse, awaken **5** chiefly *NAm* to make pregnant – *infrm* ~ *vi* to practise informally before a tennis, squash, etc match
- knoll** /nɒl/ *n* a small round hill; a mound [ME *knol*, fr OE *cnoll*; akin to ON *knollr* mountaintop, OE *cnotta* knot]
- \***knott** /nɒt/ *n* **1a** an interlacing of (parts of) 1 or more strings, threads, etc that forms a lump or knob **b** a piece of ribbon, braid etc tied as an ornament *c* a (sense of) tight constriction (<his stomach was all in ~s>) **2** sth hard to solve **3** a bond of union; esp the marriage bond **4a** a protuberant lump or swelling in tissue **b** (a rounded cross-section in timber of) the base of a woody branch enclosed in the stem from which it arises **5** a cluster of people or things **6a** a speed of 1 nautical mile per hour  UNIT **b** 1 nautical mile – not used technically [ME, fr OE *cnotta*, akin to OHG *knoto* knot, Lith *gnusti* to press]
- \***knott** *vb-tt-vt* **1** to tie in or with a knot **2** to unite closely or intricately ~ *vi* to form a knot or knots – knotted *n*
- \***knott** *n*, *pl* knots, esp collectively knot (a bird of) a species of migratory sandpiper [ME *knotti*]
- \***knoggrass** /-ˈgrɑːs/ *n* a widely occurring weed of the dock family with jointed stems and minute flowers
- \***knothole** /-ˈhɒl/ *n* a hole in a board or tree trunk where a knot or branch has come out
- knotty** /ˈnɒti/ *adj* complicated or difficult (to solve) (<a ~ problem>) ['KNOT + *-y*] – knottiness *n*
- knout** /naʊt/ *n* a whip formerly used in Russia for flogging criminals [Russ *knut*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *knútr* knot; akin to OE *cnotta*] – knout *vt*
- \***know** /noʊ/ *vb* *knew* /nyooʊ/, *known* /noʊn/ *vt* **1a**(1) to perceive directly; have direct cognition of (2) to have understanding of (3) to recognize or identify (<would ~ him again>) **b**(1) to be acquainted or familiar with (2) to have experience of **2a** to be aware of the truth or factual nature of; be convinced or certain of **b** to have a practical understanding of (<~s how to write>) **3** *archaic* to have sexual intercourse with ~ *vi* to (come to) have knowledge (of sth) [ME *knowen*, fr OE *cneawan*; akin to OHG *bichnān* to recognize, L *gnoscere*, *noscere* to come to know, Gk *gignōskēn*] – knowable *adj*, knower *n* – be to know be expected to discern; have any knowledge of (<how was I to know it wouldn't bite?>) – not know someone from Adam have no idea who sby is – you know – used for adding emphasis to a statement (<you'll have to try harder, you know, if you want to succeed>)
- \***know** *n* – in the know in possession of confidential or otherwise exclusive knowledge or information
- \***know-all** *n* one who behaves as if he knows everything
- \***know-how** *n* (practical) expertise
- knowing** /ˈnoʊ-ɪŋ/ *adj* **1** having or reflecting knowledge, information, or intelligence **2** shrewd or astute; esp implying (that one has) knowledge of a secret **3** deliberate, conscious – knowingly *adv*
- \***know-it-all** *n* a know-all – know-it-all *adj*
- knowledge** /ˈnɒlj/ *n* **1a** the fact or condition of knowing sth or sby through experience or association **b** acquaintance with, or understanding or awareness of, sth (<some ~ of Newtonian physics>) **2a** the range of a person's information, perception, or understanding (<is it true? Not to my ~>) **b** the fact or condition of having information or of being learned (<a man of little ~>) **3** the sum of what is known; the body of truth, information, and principles acquired by mankind (on some subject) [ME *knowledge*, fr *knowlechen* to acknowledge, irreg fr *knowen*]
- knowledgeable** /ˈnɒljəbəl/ *adj* having or exhibiting knowledge or intelligence; well-informed – knowledgeably *adv*
- known** /noʊn/ *adj* generally recognized (<a ~ authority on this topic>)
- \***knuckle** /ˈnʌkl/ *n* **1** the rounded prominence formed by the ends of the 2 bones at a joint; specif any of the joints between the hand and the fingers or the finger joints closest to these **2** a cut of meat consisting of the lowest leg joint of a pig, sheep, etc with the adjoining flesh  MEAT [ME

- knock**; akin to MHG *knöchel* knuckle, OE *cnotta* knot] – bear the knuckle almost improper or indecent
- \***knuckle** *vi* **knuckling** /*nukling*/ to place the knuckles on the ground in shooting a marble
- \***knucklebone** /*ˌbohn*/ *n* either of the bones forming a knuckle; *esp* a metacarpal or metatarsal bone of a sheep formerly used in gaming or divination
- knuckle down** *vi* to apply oneself earnestly
- \***knuckle-duster** *n* a metal device worn over the front of the doubled fist for protection and use as a weapon
- knuckle under** *vi* to give in, submit <refused to knuckle under to any dictatorship>
- knur**, *Br* also **kaur** /*nuh*/ *n* a hard lump or knot (e.g. on a tree trunk) [ME *knorre*; akin to OE *cnotta* knot]
- knurl** /*nuhl*/ *n* a small knob or protuberance; *esp* any of a series of small ridges, beads, etc. on a surface to aid in gripping [prob. alter. of *knur*] – **knurled** *adj*
- \***KO** /*kay'oh*/ *n*, *pl* **KOs** a kayo – *infrm* [knock out]
- \***KO** *vt* **KO's**; **KO'ing**; **KO'd** to kayo – *infrm*
- koe** /*koh-ə*/ *n* a (Hawaiian tree with) fine-grained red wood [Hawaiian]
- koala** /*koh'ahla*/, *koala* 'bear *n* an Australian tree-dwelling marsupial mammal that has large hairy ears, grey fur, and sharp claws and feeds on eucalyptus leaves [native name in Australia]
- koan** /*koh,ahn*/ *n* a paradox to be meditated upon, used by Zen Buddhist monks to gain enlightenment [Jap *kōan*, fr *kō* public + *an* proposition]
- kobo** /*koh,boh*/ *n*, *pl* **kobo** ➡ *Nigeria* at NATIONALITY [native name in Nigeria]
- kobold** /*kobohld*/ *n* 1 a gnome in German folklore that inhabits underground places 2 a domestic spirit of German folklore [G – more at COBALD]
- \***Köchel number** /*kukh(ə)*/ *n* any of a group of numbers used as a cataloguing system for Mozart's works [Ludwig von Köchel †1877 Austrian naturalist & cataloguer of Mozart's works]
- kodiak bear** /*kohdi,ak*/ *n* a brown bear of Alaska [Kodiak Island, S Alaska]
- kohl** /*kohl*/ *n* (a cosmetic preparation made with) a black powder used, orig. chiefly by Asian women, to darken the eyelids [Ar *kuhl*]
- kohlraabi** /*kohl rahbi*/ *n*, *pl* **kohlraabis** a cabbage with a greatly enlarged fleshy turnip-shaped edible stem [G, modif (influenced by G *kohl* cabbage) of It *cavoli rape*, *pl* of *cavolo rape* *kohlraabi*, fr *cavolo* cabbage + *rape* turnip]
- kolne** /*koyni*/ *n* 1 *cap* the Greek language as used in E Mediterranean countries in the Hellenistic and Roman periods 2 a language of a region that has become the lingua franca of a larger area [Gk *koinē*, fr fem of *koinos* common]
- kola** /*kohla*/ *n* <sup>2</sup>**COLA**
- \***kola nut**, **cola nut** *n* the bitter caffeine-containing seed of any of several trees that is chewed *esp* as a stimulant and used in beverages [kola, of African origin (akin to Temne *K'ola* kola nut, Mandingo *kolo*) + *nut*]
- kolinsky** /*ka'inski*/ *n* (the fur of) any of several Asiatic minks [Russ *kolinskii* of Kola, fr Kola, town and peninsula in USSR]
- kolkhoz** /*kol'hawz*, *kol'khawz*/ *n*, *pl* **kolkhozy** /*-zi*/, **kolkhozes** a collective farm of the USSR [Russ, fr *kollektivnoe khozyaistvo* collective farm]
- Kol Nidre** /*kol 'nidri*, *-rə*/ *n* a formula for the annulment of private vows chanted in the synagogue on the eve of Yom Kippur [Aram *kol niddre* all the vows; fr the opening phrase of the prayer]
- komodo dragon** /*ka'mohdoh*/ *n* an Indonesian monitor lizard that is the largest of all known lizards ➡ **ENDANGERED** [Komodo Island, Indonesia]
- Komsomol** /*komso'mol*/ *n* the Communist youth organization of the USSR [Russ, fr *Kommunisticheskiy Soyuz Molodezhi* Communist Union of Youth]
- Kongo** /*kong-goh*/ *n*, *pl* **Kongos**, *esp* collectively **Kongo** a member, or the Bantu language, of a people of the lower Congo
- koodoo** /*koooh,doo*/ *n* a kudu
- kook** /*kookh*/ *n*, *NAm* a nut, loony – *infrm* [by shortening & alter. fr *cuckoo*] – **kookie**, **kooky** *adj*, **kookiness** *n*
- kookaburra** /*kooka,bura*/ *n* a large Australian kingfisher that has a call resembling loud laughter [native name in Australia]
- kopeck**, *esp* **also** **kopek** /*kohpek*/ *n* ➡ *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics* at NATIONALITY [Russ *kopeika*]
- kopje**, **koppie** /*kopi*/ *n* a small hill on the S African veld; *broadly*, *SAfr* a small hill [Afrik *koppie*]
- Koran**, **Qur'an** /*kaw'rahn*/ *n* the book composed of writings accepted by Muslims as revelations made to Muhammad by Allah through the angel Gabriel [Ar *qur'ān*, fr *qara'a* to read, recite] – **Koranic** /*-nik*/ *adj*
- Korean** /*ka'ree-an*/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant of the language) of Korea ➡ **LANGUAGE** [Korea, peninsula in E Asia]
- koruna** /*ko'roohna*/ *n*, *pl* **koruny**, **korunas** ➡ *Czechoslovakia* at NATIONALITY [Czech, lit., crown, fr L *corona*]
- \***kosher** /*kohsha*/ *adj* 1a of food prepared according to Jewish law b selling kosher food (<a ~ butcher>) 2 proper, legitimate – *infrm* [Yiddish, fr Heb *kāsher* fit, proper] – **kosher** *n*
- \***kosher** *vt* to make (food) kosher
- koto** /*koh,toh*/ *n*, *pl* **kotos** a long Japanese musical instrument with a rectangular wooden body and 13 silk strings [Jap]
- koumiss**, **kumiss** /*koohmis*/ *n* an alcoholic drink of fermented (mare's) milk made orig. by the nomadic peoples of central Asia [Russ *kumys*]
- kowhai** /*koh,wie*/ *n* a golden-flowered shrub or small tree of Australasia and Chile [Maori]
- \***kowtow** /*kow,tow*, *koh-*/ *n* a (Chinese) gesture of deep respect in which one kneels and touches the ground with one's forehead [Chin (Pek) *k'ou t'ou*, fr *k'ou* to bump + *t'ou* head]
- \***kowtow** /*-*/ *vi* 1 to make a kowtow 2 to show obsequious deference
- \***kraal** /*krah*/ *n* 1 a village of S African tribesman 2 an enclosure for domestic animals in S Africa [Afrik, fr Pg *curral* pen for cattle, enclosure, fr (assumed) VL *currale* enclosure for vehicles – more at CORRAL]
- \***kraal** *vt* to pen in a kraal
- kragdadige** /*krahkh,dahdikh-ə*/ *n*, *SAfr* an advocate of hard-line policies – compare VERLIGTE, VERKRAMPTE [Afrik *kragdadig* firm, determined, fr D *krachtadig*]
- kragdadigheid** /*krahkh,dahdikh,hiet*/ *n*, *SAfr* uncompromising toughness (e.g. by government in response to demands for liberalization) [Afrik, fr *kragdadig* + *-heid* -ness]
- krait** /*kriet*/ *n* any of several extremely venomous E Asian snakes that are active at night [Hindi *karait*]
- kraken** /*krahkn*/ *n* a mythical Scandinavian sea monster [Norw dial]
- \***kraut** /*krowt*/ *n*, *often cap* a German – chiefly derog [G, cabbage]
- \***Krebs cycle** /*krebz*/ *n* a sequence of reactions in the living organism which provide energy stored in phosphate bonds [Sir Hans (Adolf) Krebs †1981 Brit (German-born) biochemist]
- kremlin** /*kremlin*/ *n* 1 a citadel within a Russian town or city 2 *cap* the government of the USSR [prob fr obs G *kremelin*, fr Russ *kremli*; (2) the *Kremlin*, citadel of Moscow and governing centre of the USSR]
- kremlinology** /*kremli'noləji*/ *n*, *often cap* the study of Soviet policies and practices – **kremlinologist** *n*, *often cap*
- krill** /*kri*/ *n* planktonic crustaceans and larvae that are the principal food of whalebone whales [Norw *kri* fry of fish]
- kris** /*krees*/ *n* a Malay or Indonesian dagger with a wavy blade [Malay *kéns*]
- Krishna** /*'krishna*/ *n* a deity of later Hinduism worshipped as an incarnation of Vishnu [Skt *Kṛṣṇa*]
- krona** /*krohna*/ *n*, *pl* **kronor** /*-*/ ➡ *Sweden* at NATIONALITY [Sw, lit., crown]
- króna** /*krohna*/ *n*, *pl* **kronur** /*-*/ ➡ *Iceland* at NATIONALITY [Icel *króna*, lit., crown]
- krone** /*krohna*/ *n*, *pl* **kroner** /*-*/ ➡ *Denmark, Norway* at NATIONALITY [Dan, lit., crown]
- Kru** /*krooh*/ *n*, *pl* **Krus**, *esp* collectively **Kru** a member, or the language, of a Negro people of Liberia
- \***Krugerrand** /*kroohgə,rahnt*, *-rand*/ *n* a 1-ounce (28.35g) gold coin of S Africa [SJP *Kruger* †1904 SAfr statesman + *rand*]
- krummhorn** /*kroom,haw*/ *n* a crumhorn
- krypton** /*kript(ə)n*/ *n* a noble gaseous element found in very small amounts in air ➡ **PERIODIC TABLE** [Gk, neut of *kryptos* hidden – more at CRYPT]
- Kshatriya** /*'kshatri-ə*/ *n* a Hindu of an upper military caste [Skt *kṣatriya*]
- kudos** /*'k(y)oohdos*/ *n* fame and renown, *esp* resulting from an act or achievement [Gk *kydos*; akin to Gk *akouein* to hear – more at HEAR]
- kudu**, **koodoo** /*koooh,doo*/ *n*, *pl* **kudus**, *esp* collectively **kudu** a large greyish brown African antelope with large spirally twisted horns [Afrik *koedoe*]

**Ku Klux Klan** /k(y)oo'h, kluks 'klan/ *n* 1 a secret society opposing the right of blacks to vote after the US Civil War 2 a secret political organization in the USA that confines its membership to American-born Protestant whites and is hostile to blacks [perh fr Gk *kyklos* circle + *E* *clan*]

**kukri** /'kookri/ *n* a short curved knife used esp by Gurkhas [Hindi *kukri*]

**kulak** /'koo'hjak/ *n* 1 a prosperous peasant farmer in prerevolutionary Russia 2 a member of a class of peasant-proprietors working for individual profit – used technically in Marxist literature [Russ, lit, *fist*]

**kultur** /kool'tooa/ *n*, often *cap* 1 CULTURE 4 2 German culture as conceived by militant Nazis and Hohenzollern expansionists, esp emphasizing individual subordination to the state and practical efficiency – often derog [G, fr *L cultura* culture]

**Kulturkampf** /-kampf/ *n* conflict between civil and religious authorities, esp over control of education; *specif* the conflict between the German government and the Papacy in the late 19th c [G, fr *kultur* + *kampf* conflict]

**kumiss** /'koomis/ *n* koumiss

**kummel** /'kooml/ *n* a colourless aromatic liqueur flavoured with caraway seeds [G, lit, caraway seed, fr OHG *kumin* cumin]

**kumquat**, **cumquat** /'kumkwot/ *n* (any of several trees that bear) any of several small citrus fruits that are used chiefly for preserves [Chin (Cant) *kam kwat*, fr *kam* gold + *kwat* orange]

**kung fu** /'koong 'fooh/ *n* a Chinese martial art resembling karate [Chin dial, alter. of Pek *ch'uan'fa*, lit., boxing principles]

**Kurd** /kuhd/ *n* a member of a pastoral and agricultural people who inhabit adjoining parts of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria and the Armenian and Azerbaijan sectors of the Soviet Caucasus – **Kurdish** *adj*

**Kurdish** /'kʊdʃɪʃ/ *n* the Iranian language of the Kurds → **LANGUAGE**

**kurrajong** /'kura:ʒɒŋ/ *n* any of several Australian trees or shrubs having strong bast fibre [native name in Australia]

**kurtosis** /kuh'tohsis/ *n* the peakedness or flatness of the graph of a frequency distribution [Gk *kyrtosis* convexity, fr *kyrtos* convex, akin to *L curvus* curved – more at **CROWN**]

**kuru** /'koorooh/ *n* a fatal disease of the nervous system that occurs among tribesmen in eastern New Guinea [native name in New Guinea, lit, trembling]

**kurus** /koo'roohsh/ *n*, *pl* **kurus** → **Turkey** at **NATIONALITY** [Turk *kurus*]

**kvass** /k'vash/ *n* a slightly alcoholic beverage made in E Europe usu by fermenting mixed cereals and adding flavouring [Russ *kvass*]

**Kwa** /kwah/ *n* a branch of the Niger-Congo language family that includes Ibo and Yoruba

**kwacha** /'kwahcha/ *n*, *pl* **kwacha** → **Malawi, Zambia** at **NATIONALITY** [native name in Zambia, lit., dawn]

**kwanza** /'kwanza/ *n* → **Angola** at **NATIONALITY** [of Bantu origin]

**kwashiorkor** /kwash'awka/ *n* severe malnutrition in infants and children that is caused by a diet high in carbohydrate and low in protein [native name in Ghana, lit., red boy]

**kyanite** /'kie-aniet/ *n* aluminium silicate occurring as blue (aggregate of) crystals and sometimes used as a gemstone [deriv of Gk *kyanos* dark blue enamel, lapis lazuli]

**kyat** /k'iaht/ *n* → **Burma** at **NATIONALITY** [Burmese]

**kye**, **ky** /kie/ *n*, *pl*, *dial* cattle [ME *ky*, fr OE *cý*, *pl* of *cu* cow]

**kyphosis** /kie'fohsis/ *n* abnormal backward curvature of the spine – compare **LORDOSIS**, **SCOLIOSIS** [NL, fr Gk *kyphosis*, fr *kyphos* hump-backed; akin to OE *heah* high] – **kyphotic** /-fotik/ *adj*

**kyrie** /'kirɪə/ *n*, *pl* **kyrie** *eleison* /e'lay(i)son/ *n*, often *cap* a short liturgical prayer, often set to music, that begins with or consists of the words 'Lord, have mercy' [NL, fr LL *kyrie eleison*, transliteration of Gk *kyrie eleison* Lord, have mercy]



**l** /el/ *n*, *pl* **l's**, *la* often *cap* 1a (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 12th letter of the English alphabet **b** sthg shaped like the letter **L** 2 fifty → **NUMBER** 3 **NAM** an elevated railway; an el **l**-*vel*-*prefix* 1 laevorotatory (*l*-tartaric acid) 2 having a similar configuration at an optically active carbon atom to the configuration of laevorota-

tory glyceraldehyde – usu printed as a small capital <L-fructose> [ISV, fr *laev*-]

**la** /lah/ *n* the 6th note of the diatonic scale in solmization [ME, fr ML – more at **GAMUT**]

**lager** /'lahga/ *n* a camp, esp an encampment protected by a circle of wagons or armoured vehicles [obs Afrik *lager* (now *lacr*), fr G] – **lager** *vi*

**lab** /lab/ *n* a laboratory

**labdanum** /'labdanəm/ *n* a fragrant oleoresin derived from various rockroses and used in perfumery [ML *lapdanum*, fr *L ladanum*, *ledanum*, fr Gk *ladanon*, *ledanon*, fr *ledon* rockrose]

**label** /'laybl/ *n* 1 a slip (e.g. of paper or cloth), inscribed and fastened to sthg to give information (e.g. identification or directions) 2 a descriptive or identifying word or phrase e.g. an epithet **b** a word or phrase used with a dictionary definition to provide additional information (e.g. level of usage) 3 an adhesive stamp 4 TRADE NAME 1b, 2; *specif* a name used by a company producing commercial recordings <several new record ~s> [ME, narrow band, strip, fr MF]

**label** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /'laybl/ *ing* 1a to fasten a label to **b** to describe or categorize (as if) with a label 2 to make (e.g. an element) traceable, by substitution of a radioactive or other special isotope – **labellable** /'laybl-əbl/ *adj*, **labeller** *n*

**labial** /'laybi-əl/ *adj* 1 of the lips or labia 2 articulated using 1 or both lips [ML *labialis*, fr *L labium* lip] – **labially** *adv*, **labialize** /-liez/ *vt*, **labialization** /-liezə'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**labial** *n* a labial consonant (e.g. /f/ and /p/)

**labia majora** /'laybi-ə mə'jəwɔ:/ *n* *pl* the outer fatty folds bounding the vulva [NL, lit., larger lips]

**labia minora** /mɪ'nəwɔ:/ *n* *pl* the inner highly vascular largely connective-tissue folds bounding the vulva [NL, lit., smaller lips]

**labiate** /'laybiət-, -ət/ *adj*, of a plant corolla or calyx having 2 unequal portions resembling lips [NL *labiatus*, fr *L labium*]

**labile** /'laybil-, -biəl/ *adj* 1 readily open to change <an emotionally ~ person> 2 unstable (a ~ mineral) [F, fr MF, prone to err, fr LL *labilis*, fr *L labi* to slip – more at **SLEEP**] – **lability** /'ləbiləti/ *n*

**labio** -comb form labial and <labiodental> [L *labium*]

**labium** /'laybi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **labia** /-bi-ə/ 1 any of the folds at the margin of the vulva – compare **LABIA MAJORA**, **LABIA MINORA** → **REPRODUCTION** 2 the (lower) lip of a flower divided into 2 lip-like parts 3a a lower mouthpart of an insect **b** a liplike part of various invertebrates [NL, fr *L*, lip – more at **LIP**]

**laboratory** /lə'bɒrətɪ/ *n* a place equipped for scientific experiment, testing, or analysis; broadly a place providing opportunity for research in a field of study [ML *laboratorium*, fr *L laboratus*, pp of *laborare* to labour, fr *labor*]

**laborious** /lə'bɔ:ni-əs/ *adj* involving or characterized by effort [ME, fr MF or L, MF *laborieux*, fr *L laboriosus*, fr *labor*] – **laboriously** *adv*, **laboriousness** *n*

**labor**, **union** *n*, **NAM** TRADE UNION

**labour**, **NAM chiefly labor** /'laybo/ *n* 1a expenditure of effort, esp when difficult or compulsory, toil **b** human activity that provides the goods or services in an economy **c** (the period of) the physical activities involved in the birth of young 2 an act or process requiring labour; a task 3a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an economic group comprising those who do manual work or work for wages **b** workers <local ~ isn't suitable> 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *cap* the Labour party [ME, fr OF, fr *L labor*]

**labour**, **NAM chiefly labor** *vi* 1 to exert one's powers of body or mind, esp with great effort, work, strive 2 to move with great effort <a fat man ~ing up the stairs> 3 to be in labour when giving birth 4 to suffer from some disadvantage or distress <~ under a delusion> 5 of a ship to pitch or roll heavily ~ *vt* 1 to treat in laborious detail <~ the obvious> 2 *archaic* to spend labour on or produce by labour


**Labour** *adj* of or being a political party, *specif* one in the UK, advocating a planned socialist economy and associated with working-class interests

**Labour**, **Day** *n* a day set aside for special recognition of working people e.g. a the first Monday in September observed in the USA and Canada as a public holiday **b** MAY DAY

**laboured** *adj* bearing marks of labour and effort; esp lacking ease of expression <a ~ speech>

**labourer** /'layb(ə)rə/ *n* one who does unskilled manual work, esp outdoors [LABOUR + -ER]

**labour exchange** *n*, often *cap* **L&E** a government office that seeks to match unemployed people and vacant jobs and that is responsible for paying out unemployment benefit

- labour-intensive** *adj* 1 using proportionately more labour than capital or land in the process of production – compare CAPITAL-INTENSIVE 2 employing or made by a high proportion of people (rather than machinery)
- labourite** /'ləbɔriət/ *n*, often *cap* a member or supporter of the Labour party
- labour of love** *n* a task performed for the pleasure it yields rather than for personal gain
- labour-saving** /-səvɪŋ/ *adj* adapted to replace or decrease (manual) labour (~ domestic appliances)
- labrador** /'ləbrədɔw/ *n*, often *cap* LABRADOR RETRIEVER
- labradorite** /'ləbrədɔwɪt/ *n* a feldspar showing a play of several colours due to light diffraction [Labrador peninsula, Canada]
- Labrador retriever** *n* a retriever characterized by a dense black or golden coat [Labrador, Newfoundland]
- labrum** /'ləbrəm, 'ləy-/ *n*, *pl* **labra** /-brə/ an upper or front mouthpart of an arthropod [NL, fr L, lip, edge – more at LIP]
- laburnum** /'ləbʊnəm/ *n* any of a small genus of Eurasian leguminous shrubs and trees with bright yellow flowers and poisonous seeds [NL, genus name, fr L, laburnum]
- labyrinth** /'ləbərɪnθ/ *n* 1 a place that is a network of intricate passages, tunnels, blind alleys, etc 2 sth perplexingly complex or tortuous in structure, arrangement, or character 3 (the tortuous anatomical structure in) the ear or its bony or membranous part [ME *laborintus*, fr L *labyrinthus*, fr Gk *labyrinthos*] – **labyrinthine** /'ləbərɪnθiən/ *adj*
- lact** /læk/ *n* a resinous substance secreted by a scale insect [Per *lak* & Hindi *lakḥ*, fr Skt *lakṣa*]
- lacc** *n* a lach
- laccolith** /'lækəlɪθ/ *n* a mass of intrusive igneous rock having a domed top that produces bulging of the overlying strata  GEOGRAPHY [Gk *lakkos* cistern + E *-lith*]
- lace** /lays/ *n* 1 a cord or string used for drawing together 2 edges (e.g. of a garment or shoe) 2 an ornamental braid for trimming coats or uniforms 3 an openwork usu figured fabric made of thread, yarn, etc, used for trimmings, household furnishings, garments, etc [ME, fr OF *laz*, fr L *laqueus* snare – more at DELIGHT]
- lace** *vi* 1 to draw together the edges of (as if) by means of a lace passed through eyelets 2 to draw or pass (e.g. a lace) through sth 3 to confine or compress by tightening laces, esp of a corset 4 to adorn (as if) with lace 5 to beat, lash 6a to add a dash of an alcoholic drink to b to give savour or variety to <a mundane story line ~ d with witty repartee> ~ *vi* to be fastened or tied up with a lace [ME *lacen*, fr OF *lacier*, fr L *laqueare* to ensnare, fr *laqueus*]
- lacerate** /'læsə, reɪt/ *vt* 1 to tear or rend roughly 2 to cause sharp mental or emotional pain to [L *laceratus*, pp of *lacerare* to tear; akin to L *lacer* mangled, Gk *lakis* rent]
- laceration** /'læsə'reɪʃən/ *n* a torn and ragged wound [LACERATE + -ION]
- lace-up** *n*, chiefly *Br* a shoe or boot that is fastened with laces
- lacewing** /-wɪŋ/ *n* any of various insects having wings with a fine network of veins
- laches** /'læʃɪz/ *n*, *pl* **laches** /-cheɪz/ negligence in carrying out a legal duty or undue delay in asserting a legal claim [ME *lachesse*, fr MF *laschesse*, fr OF *lasche* lax]
- lachrymal, lacrimal** /'lækɪməl/ *adj* 1 of or constituting the glands that produce tears 2 of or marked by tears [MF or ML; MF *lacrymal*, fr ML *lacrimalis*, *lachrymalis*, fr L *lacrima* tear – more at 'TEAR]
- lachrymation, lacrimation** /'lækɪ'meɪʃən/ *n* the (abnormal or excessive) secretion of tears [L *lacrimation-*, *lacrimatio*, fr *lacrimatus*, pp of *lacrimare* to weep, fr *lacrima* tear]
- lachrymator** /'lækɪ'meɪtə/ *n* a tear-producing substance (e.g. a tear gas)
- lachrymatory** /'lækɪ'metɔri/ *adj* of or prompting tears [ML *lachrymatorius*, fr LL *lacrimatorius*, fr L *lacrimatus*, pp]
- lachrymose** /'lækɪ'moʊs/ *adj* 1 given to weeping 2 tending to cause tears – **lachrymously** *adv*
- lacing** /'leɪsɪŋ/ *n* 1 lace 2 a trace or sprinkling that adds savour or variety 3 BEATING 1
- laciniate** /'lə'ni:əɪt, -ət/ *adj* bordered with a fringe <a ~ petal> [L *lacinia* flap; akin to L *lacer* mangled] – **laciniation** /-ə'ɪʃən/ *n*
- lack** /læk/ *vi* 1 to be deficient or missing 2 to be short or have need of sth – usu + *for* <she will not ~ for advisers> ~ *vt* to stand in need of; suffer from the absence or deficiency of [ME *laken*, fr MD; akin to ON *leka* to leak]
- lack** *n* 1 the fact or state of being wanting or deficient 2 sth lacking
- lackadaisical** /'lækə'deɪzɪkəl/ *adj* lacking life or zest; also (reprehensibly) casual or negligent [arch *lackaday* (exclamation of regret), alter. of *lackaday*, *alack the day* + *-ical*] – **lackadaisically** *adv*
- lackey** /'læki/ *n* 1 a usu liveried retainer 2 a servile follower [MF *laquis*]
- lacklustre** /-lʊstə/ *adj* lacking in sheen, radiance, or vitality; dull
- laconic** /'lə'kɒnɪk/ *adj* using, or involving the use of, a minimum of words; terse [L *laconicus* Spartan, fr Gk *lakónikos*; fr the Spartan reputation for terseness of speech] – **laconically** *adv*, **laconicism** /-nɪ'sɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- lacquer** /'lækə/ *n* 1 a clear or coloured varnish obtained by dissolving a substance (e.g. shellac) in a solvent (e.g. alcohol) 2 a durable natural varnish; esp one obtained from an Asian shrub of the sumach family [Pg *lacrē* sealing wax, fr *laca* lac, fr Ar *lakk*, fr Per *lak*]
- lacquer** *vi* to coat with lacquer – **lacquerer** *n*
- lacrimal** /'lækɪməl/ *adj* lachrymal
- lacrimation** /'lækɪ'meɪʃən/ *n* lachrymation
- lacrosse** /'lə'kɒs/ *n* a game played on grass by 2 teams of 10 players, whose object is to throw a ball into the opponents' goal, using a long-handled stick that has a triangular head with a loose mesh pouch for catching and carrying the ball [CanF *la crosse*, lit., the crosier]
- lact-** /lækt-/ , **lacti-**, **lacto-** *comb form* 1 milk <lactoflavin> 2a lactic acid <lactate> b lactose <lactase> [F & L; F, fr L, fr *lact-*, *lac* – more at GALAXY]
- lactate** /'læk,tæt/ *vi* to secrete milk [L *lactatus*, pp of *lactare*, fr *lact-*, *lac*]
- lactation** /'læk'teɪʃən/ *n* (the period of time given to) the secretion of milk by a mammal – **lactational** *adj*, **lactationally** *adv*
- lacteal** /'læktu-əl/ *adj* 1 consisting of, producing, or resembling milk 2a conveying or containing a milky fluid b of the lacteals [L *lacteus* of milk, fr *lact-*, *lac*]
- lacteal** *n* any of the lymphatic vessels conveying chyle to the thoracic duct
- lactic** /'læktɪk/ *adj* of milk
- lactic acid** *n* an organic acid, normally present in living tissue, and used esp in food and medicine and in industry
- lactiferous** /'læktɪ'fərəs/ *adj* 1 secreting or conveying milk 2 yielding a milky juice [F or LL, F *lactifère*, fr LL *lactifer*, fr L *lact-*, *lac* + *-fer*] – **lactiferousness** *n*
- lactose** /'læktəʊz, -toʊs/ *n* a sugar that is present in milk [ISV]
- lacto-vegetarianism** /'læktəv'eɪtəriənɪzəm/ *n* vegetarianism that allows the inclusion of certain animal products (e.g. milk, cheese, and sometimes eggs) – **lacto-vegetarian** *n*
- lacuna** /'lə'kyoʊhnə/ *n*, *pl* **lacunae** /-ni/, **lacunas** 1 a blank space or a missing part 2 a small cavity in an anatomical structure [L, pool, pit, gap – more at LAGOON] – **lacunal** *adj*, **lacunar** *adj*, **lacunary** *adj*, **lacunate** /-neɪt/ *adj*
- lacustrine** /'lə'kʊstɪriən/ *adj* of or occurring in lakes [prob fr F or It *lacustre*, fr L *lacus* lake]
- lacey** /'leɪsi/ *adj* resembling or consisting of lace
- lad** /læd/ *n* 1 a male person between early boyhood and maturity 2 a fellow, chap 3 *Br* STABLE LAD [ME *ladde*]
- ladanum** /'lədənəm/ *n* labdanum
- ladder** /'lædə/ *n* 1 a structure for climbing up or down that has 2 long sidepieces of metal, wood, rope, etc joined at intervals by crosspieces on which one may step 2a sth that resembles or suggests a ladder in form or use b chiefly *Br* a vertical line in hosiery or knitting caused by stitches becoming unravelling 3 a series of ascending steps or stages 4 a means of rising or climbing (e.g. to a higher status or social position) [ME, fr OE *hlæder*; akin to OHG *leitara* ladder, OE *hlīnian*, *hleonian* to lean – more at 'LEAN]
- ladder** *vb*, chiefly *Br* to develop a ladder (in) <she ~ed her tights> <her tights have ~ed>
- laddie** /'lædi/ *n* a (young) lad
- lade** /ləd/ *vt* **laded**, **laden** /lədɪn/ 1 to put a load or burden on or in (e.g. a ship); load 2 to put or place as a load, esp for shipment 3 to weigh down with sth [ME *laden*, fr OE *hladan*; akin to OHG *hladan* to load, OSlav *klasti*]
- la-di-da, lah-di-dah** /'ləh dɪ 'dɑh/ *adj* affectedly refined, esp in voice and pronunciation – *infrm* [perh alter. of *lardy-dardy* (foppish)]
- ladies** /'leɪdiz/ *n pl* but *sing in constr*, often *cap*, chiefly *Br* a public lavatory for women – *infrm* [short for *ladies' room*, *ladies' lavatory*, etc]
- 'ladies' man, lady's man** *n* a man who likes to please or to be with women
- 'ladies' room** *n* a room equipped with toilets for use by women

**ladies' tresses** *n pl but sing or pl in constr* any of a widely distributed genus of terrestrial orchids

**Ladin** /la'deen/ *n* (one whose mother tongue is) Romansh [Rhaeto-Romanic, fr L *Latinum* Latin]

**lading** /'laydɪŋ/ *n* cargo, freight [fr gerund of *lade*]

**ladino** /la'deenoh/ *n, pl ladinos* 1 Judeo-Spanish 2 often *cap* a Spanish-American of mixed descent [Sp, fr *ladino* cunning, learned, lit., Latin, fr L *latinus*; (2) AmerSp, fr Sp]

**ladle** /'laydl/ *n* 1 a deep-bowled long-handled spoon used esp for taking up and conveying liquids or semiliquid foods (e.g. soup) 2 a vessel for carrying molten metal [ME *ladel*, fr OE *hlædel*, fr *hladan*]

**ladle** *vt* **ladling** /'laydl-ɪŋ/ to take up and convey (as if) in a ladle

**lady** /'leɪdi/ *n* 1a a woman with authority, esp as a feudal superior b a woman receiving the homage or devotion of a knight or lover 2a a woman of refinement or superior social position b a woman – often in courteous reference <show the ~ to a seat> or usu pl in address <ladies and gentlemen> 3 a wife <the captain and his ~> – compare OLD LADY 4a *cap* any of various titled women in Britain – used as a title b *cap* a female member of an order of knighthood – compare DAME [ME, fr OE *hlæfdige*, fr *hlaf* bread + *-dige* (akin to *dæge* kneader of bread) – more at LOAF, DAIRY]

**ladybird** /-buɪd/ *n* any of numerous small beetles of temperate and tropical regions; esp any of several ladybirds that have red wing cases with black spots [Our Lady, the Virgin Mary]

**ladybug** /-bug/ *n, NAm* a ladybird

**lady chapel** *n, often cap L&C* a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary that is usu part of a larger church

**Lady Day** *n* March 25 observed as the feast of the Annunciation

**lady-in-waiting** *n, pl ladies-in-waiting* a lady of a queen's or princess's household appointed to wait on her

**lady-killer** *n* a man who captivates women

**ladylike** /-li:k/ *adj* 1 resembling a lady, esp in manners, well-bred 2 becoming or suitable to a lady

**lady's bedstraw** /'bed,straʊ/ *n* a common Eurasian bedstraw with bright yellow flowers [Our Lady, the Virgin Mary]

**ladyship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* – used as a title for a woman having the rank of lady [LADY + SHIP]

**lady's slipper** *n* any of several temperate-zone orchids having flowers whose shape suggests a slipper

**lady's smock** *n* CUCKOOFLOWER 1

**Lætrile** /'leɪtriəl/ *trademark* – used for a drug derived from amygdalin that is held to be of use in the treatment of cancer

**laev-, laevo-, NAm lev-, levo-** 1 laevorotatory <laevulose> 2 to the left <laevorotatory> [L *laevus* left; akin to Gk *laeos* left]

**laevorotary** /'leəvoh'roʊəri/ *adj* laevorotatory

**laevo'rotatory** /-roʊtət(ə)ri, -roh'tayt(ə)ri/ *adj* turning towards the left or anticlockwise; esp rotating the plane of polarization of light to the left – compare DEXTROROTATORY – **laevorotation** /-roh'taysh(ə)n/ *n*

**laevulose** /'leɪvoolohs, -lohɜz/ *n* FRUCTOSE 2 [ISV, irreg fr *laev-* + *-ose*]

**lag** /lag/ *vi -gg-* 1a to stay or fall behind; fail to keep pace – often + *behind* b to become retarded in attaining maximum value 2 to slacken or weaken gradually [prob of Scand origin; akin to Norw *lagga* to go slowly]

**lag** *n* 1 the act or an instance of lagging 2 comparative slowness or retardation 3 an interval between related events, *specif* TIME LAG

**lag** *vt -gg-* 1 to send to prison 2 to arrest *USE* slang [origin unknown]

**lag** *n* 1 a convict 2 an ex-convict

**lag** *n* lagging [orig sense, stave of a barrel, wooden covering or casing; prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *lōgg* rim of a barrel]

**lag** *vt -gg-* to cover or provide with lagging – **lagger** *n*  
**lagan** /'lagən/ *n* goods thrown into the sea with a buoy attached so that they may be found again; also goods lying on the seabed [MF *lagan* or ML *laganum* debris washed up from the sea, prob of Gmc origin; akin to ON *lōg* law]


**lager** /'lahgə/ *n* a light beer brewed by slow fermentation [G *lagerbier* beer made for storage, fr *lager* storehouse + *bier* beer]

**laggard** /'lagəd/ *n* sby who or sthg that lags or lingers – **laggardly** *adv* or *adj*

**lagging** /'lagɪŋ/ *n* material for thermal insulation (e.g. wrapped round a boiler or laid in a roof) ['lag + -ɪŋ]

**lagomorph** /'lagəmaʊf/ *n* any of an order of gnawing mammals comprising the rabbits and hares [deriv of Gk *lagōs* hare + *morphe* form] – **lagomorphic** /-maʊfɪk/ *adj*, **lagomorphous** *adj*

**lagoon** /'la'goʊn/ *n* a shallow channel or pool usu separated from a

larger body of water by a sand bank, reef, etc.  **GEOGRAPHY** [F & It; F *lagune*, fr It *laguna*, fr L *lacuna* pit, pool, fr *lacus* lake]

**lah-di-dah** /'lah dɪ 'dah/ *adj* la-di-da

**laic** /'layɪk/ , **laical** /'layɪkl/ *adj* of the laity [LL *laicus*, fr LGk *laikos*, fr Gk, of the people, fr *laos* people] – **laically** *adv*

**laicism** /'lay,sɪz(ə)m/ *n* a political movement or programme having secularization as its principal aim

**laic-ize, -ise** /'lay,sɪz/ *vt* to secularize – **laicization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**laid** /'layd/ *past* of LAY

**laid** *n* paper watermarked with fine lines running across the grain – compare WOVE [laid (paper), fr pp of 'lay]

**laid-back** *adj* relaxed, casual – *informal*

**lain** /'leɪn/ *past part* of LIE

**lair** /'leə/ *n* 1 the resting or living place of a wild animal 2 a refuge or place for hiding [ME, fr OE *leger*, akin to OHG *legar* bed, OE *licgan* to lie – more at LIE]


**laird** *n, Austr* a showily dressed young man – chiefly derog [leary, lairy (artful, flash in dress or manners); akin to OE *laeran* to teach, *leornian* to learn] – **lairy** *adj*

**laird** /'leəd/ *n, Scot* a member of the landed gentry [ME (northern) *lord*, *lard* lord]

**laissez-aller** /,lesay 'alay (Fr lese ale)/ *n* lack of constraint [F *laissez aller* let (someone) go]

**laissez-faire**, *Br also laissez-faire* /,lesay 'feə (Fr lese frɛr)/ *n* a doctrine opposing government interference in economic affairs [F *laissez faire*, imper of *laissez faire* to let (people) do (as they choose)] – **laissez-faire** *adj*

**laity** /'leɪti/ *n sing or pl in constr* 1 the people of a religion other than its clergy 2 the mass of the people as distinguished from those of a particular profession ['lay]

**lake** /'layk/ *n* a large inland body of water; also a pool of oil, pitch, or other liquid  **GEOGRAPHY** [ME, fr OF *lac* lake, fr L *lacus*; akin to OE *lagu* sea, Gk *lakkos* pond]

**lake** *n* 1a a deep purplish red pigment orig prepared from lac or cochineal b any of numerous usu bright pigments composed essentially of a soluble dye absorbed in or combined with an inorganic carrier 2 CARMINE 2 [F *laque* lac, fr OProv *laca*, fr Ar *lakk* – more at LACQUER]

**lake dwelling** *n* a (prehistoric) dwelling built on piles in a lake

**Lakeland** /'leɪklənd/ *n* any of an English breed of small wirehaired terriers [Lakeland (Lake District), area in NW England where the breed was developed]

**lakh** /'lak/ *n, chiefly Ind* 1 one hundred thousand <50 ~s of rupees> 2 a great number [Hindi *lakh*, fr Skt *lakṣa*, lit., mark, sign] – **lakh** *adj*

**-lalia** /-'leɪliə/ *comb form* (– *n*) speech disorder (of a specified type) <echolalia> [NL, fr Gk *lalia* chatter, fr *lalein* to chat]

**Lallans** /'ləlɒns/ *n* Lowland Scots dialect [Sc, var of Lowlands]

**lame** /'lam/ *vt -mm-* to beat soundly – *informal* [of Scand origin; akin to ON *læmja* to thrash; akin to OE *lama* lame]


**lame** *n, NAm* sudden or hurried flight, esp from the law – *informal* ['lam (to depart hurriedly)]

**lama** /'lahmə/ *n* a Lamaist monk [Tibetan *blama*]

**Lamaism** /'lahmə,z(ə)m/ *n* the Buddhism of Tibet, marked by a dominant monastic hierarchy headed by the Dalai Lama – **Lamaist** *n* or *adj*, **Lamaistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**Lamarckism** /'ləh'mɑ:kɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory of organic evolution asserting that changes in the environment of plants and animals cause changes in their structure that are transmitted to their offspring [J B de Monet Lamarck †1829 F botanist & zoologist] – **Lamarckian** *adj*

**lamasery** /'ləhməsəri/ *n* a monastery of lamas [F *lamaserie*, fr *lama* + Per *sarai* palace]

**lamb** /'lamb/ *n* 1a a young sheep, esp one that is less than a year old or without permanent teeth b the young of various animals (e.g. the smaller antelopes) other than sheep 2a a gentle, meek, or innocent person b a dear, pet 3 the flesh of a lamb used as food  **MEAT** [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *lamb* lamb, *elaho* elk – more at ELK]

**lamb** *vi* to give birth to a lamb ~ *vt* to tend (ewes) at lambing time – **lamber** /'lamba/ *n*

**lambaste, lambast** /'lamb'ast/ *vt* 1 to beat, thrash 2 to attack verbally; censure [prob fr 'lam + *baste*]

**lambda** /'lamdə/ *n* 1 the 11th letter of the Greek alphabet 2 an unstable elementary particle of the hyperon family that exists in a neutral form with a mass 2183 times that of an electron [Gk, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *lamedh*, 12th letter of the Heb alphabet]

**lambent** /'lamb(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 playing lightly on or over a surface; flickering (~ flames) 2 softly bright or radiant <eyes ~ with love> 3 marked



- by lightness or brilliance, esp of expression (a ~ wit) *USE* fml [L *lambent-*, *lambens*, prp of *lambere* to lick – more at 'LAP] – *lambently* *adv*, *lambency* /-b(ə)nsi/ *n*
- lambert** /'lambət/ *n* the cgs unit of brightness [Johann Heinrich Lambert †1777 G physicist & philosopher]
- lambrequin** /'lamb(r)əkin/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a short decorative piece of drapery (e.g. for the top of a window or door) [F]
- lambskin** /'lamb,skin/ *n* 1 (leather made from) the skin of a lamb or small sheep 2 the skin of a lamb dressed with the wool on
- lame** /'laym/ *adj* 1 having a body part, esp a leg, so disabled as to impair freedom of movement; *esp* having a limp caused by a disabled leg 2 weak, unconvincing (a ~ excuse) [ME, fr OE *lama*; akin to OHG *lam* lame, Lith *limti* to break down] – *lamely* *adv*, *lameness* *n*
- lame** *vt* 1 to make lame 2 to make weak or ineffective
- lamé** /'lahmay/ *n* a brocaded clothing fabric made from any of various fibres combined with tinsel wft threads often of gold or silver [F]
- lame-brain** /-brayn/ *n*, *NAM* a dull-witted or erratic person – *lame-brain*, *lamebrained* *adj*
- lame** 'duck *n* sby or sth (e.g. a person or business) that is weak or incapable
- lamell**, **lamelli-** *comb form* lamella (<lamelli/orm> (<lamellose> [NL, fr *lamella*])
- lamella** /'lə'melə/ *n*, *pl* lamellae /-li/ also lamellas a thin flat scale, membrane, or part (e.g. a gill of a mushroom) [NL, fr L, dim of *lamina* thin plate] – *lamellar* *adj*, *lamellate* /'lamilayt, 'lə'melayt, -lət/ *adj*, *lamellation* /'ləm'laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- lamellibranch** /'lə'meli,brangk/ *n*, *pl* lamellibranchs any of a class of bivalve molluscs (e.g. clams, oysters, and mussels) [NL *Lamellibranchia*, classname, fr *lamell-* + L *branchia* gill – more at BRANCHIA] – *lamelli-branch* *adj*, *lamellibranchiate* /-brangkiayt/ *adj* or *n*
- lamellicorn** /'lə'meli,kɔrn/ *adj* of or belonging to a group of large beetles (e.g. the stag beetle) [NL *Lamellicornia*, superfamily name, fr *lamell-* + L *-cornia*, neut pl of *-cornis* of horn] – *lamellicorn* *n*
- lament** /'lə'ment/ *vi* to feel or express grief or deep regret; mourn aloud – often + *for* or *over* ~ *vi* to lament or mourn (demonstratively) for [MF & L, MF *lamentar*, fr L *lamentari*, fr *lamentum*, *n*, lament; akin to ON *lönrr* loon, L *latrare* to bark, Gk *lēros* nonsense] – *lamentation* /'ləmən'taysh(ə)n/ *n*
- lament** *n* 1 an expression of grief 2 a dirge, elegy
- lamentable** /'ləməntəbl/ *adj* that is to be regretted; deplorable – *lamentableness* *n*, *lamentably* *adv*
- Lamentations** /'ləmən'taysh(ə)nz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a poetic book of the Old Testament, attributed to Jeremiah, on the fall of Jerusalem
- lamin**, **lamin-**, **lamino-** *comb form* lamina; laminae (<lamina> (<laminitis>)
- lamina** /'ləminə/ *n*, *pl* laminae /-ni/, *laminae* a thin plate, scale, layer, or flake [L]
- laminar** /'ləminə/ *adj* arranged in, consisting of, or resembling laminae
- laminar flow** *n* streamline flow in a viscous fluid near a solid boundary – compare TURBULENT FLOW
- lamine** /'ləminayt/ *vt* 1 to roll or compress (e.g. metal) into a thin plate or plates 2 to separate into laminae 3 to make by uniting superimposed layers of 1 or more materials 4 to overlay with a thin sheet or sheets of material (e.g. metal or plastic) ~ *vi* to separate into laminae
- lamine** /'ləminat, -nayt/ *adj* covered with or consisting of laminae
- laminat** /'ləminat, -nayt/ *n* a product made by laminating
- lamination** /'ləmin'aysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a laminate structure 2 a lamina [LAMINATE + -ION]
- laminitis** /'ləmini'ti:s/ *n* painful inflammation of the lining of a horse's hoof [NL]
- Lammass** /'ləmas/ *n* 1 August 1 formerly celebrated in England as a harvest festival 2 also Lammastide the time of the year around Lammass [ME *Lammasse*, fr OE *hlāfmaesse*, fr *hlāf* loaf, bread + *maesse* mass; fr the fact that formerly loaves from the first ripe grain were consecrated on this day]
- lammergeier**, **lammergeyer** /'ləma,gieə/ *n* a large vulture that lives in mountain regions from the Pyrenees to northern China [G *lammersgeier*, fr *lümmer* (pl of *lamm* lamb) + *geier* vulture]
- lamp** /'læmp/ *n* 1 any of various devices for producing visible light: e.g. a vessel containing an inflammable substance (e.g. oil or gas) that is burnt to give out artificial light b s usu portable electric device containing a light bulb 2 any of various light-emitting devices (e.g. a sunlamp) which produce electromagnetic radiation (e.g. heat radiation) 3 a source of intellectual or spiritual illumination [ME, fr OF *lampe*, fr L *lampas*, fr Gk, fr *lampein* to shine; akin to ON *leiptr* lightning]
- lamp,black** /-blæk/ *n* a pigment made from finely powdered black soot [fr the black soot deposited by the flame of a smoking oil lamp]
- lamp,lighter** /-li:tə/ *n* one whose occupation was to light and extinguish street gas lamps
- lampoon** /'læmp'pu:n/ *vt* or *n* (to make the subject of) a harsh vitriolic satire [n F *lampon*, perh fr *lampons* let us drink, fr *lamper* to guzzle; vb fr n] – *lampooner*, *lampoonist* *n*, *lampoonery* *n*
- lamp,post** *n* a post, usu of metal or concrete, that supports a light which illuminates a street or other public area (e.g. a park)
- lamprey** /'læmpri/ *n* any of several eel-like aquatic vertebrates that have a large sucking mouth with no jaws [ME, fr OF *lampreie*, fr ML *lampreda*]
- lampshade** /-shayd/ *n* a decorative translucent cover placed round an electric light bulb to reduce glare
- lamp standard** *n* LAMP POST
- Lancastrian** /'læŋ'kɑ:stri-ən/ *n* or *adj* 1 (a native or inhabitant) of Lancashire 2 (an adherent) of the English royal house of Lancaster that ruled from 1399 to 1461 [John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster †1399]
- lance** /'lɑ:ns/ *n* 1 a weapon having a long shaft with a sharp steel head carried by horsemen for use when charging 2a LANCET 1 b a spear or harpoon for killing whales 3 LANCER 1 [ME, fr OF, fr L *lancea*]
- lance** *vt* 1 to pierce (as if) with a lance 2 to open (as if) with a lance (<~ a boil>) [ME *launcen*, fr MF *lancer*, fr LL *lanceare*, fr L *lancea*]
- lance corporal** *n* ➤ RANK [lance (as in obs *lancepedesade* lance corporal, fr MF *lancepedade*, fr OIt *lancia spezzata* battle-trained or seasoned soldier, lit., broken lance)]
- lancelet** /'lɑ:nsli:t/ *n* any of various small translucent marine animals
- lanceolate** /'lɑ:nsi-əleyt, -lət/ *adj* shaped like a lance head, *specif* tapering to a point at the apex and sometimes at the base (<~ leaves>) ➤ PLANT [LL *lanceolatus*, fr L *lanceola*, dim of *lancea*]
- lancer** /'lɑ:nsə/ *n* 1 a member of a light-cavalry unit (formerly) armed with lances 2 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* (the music for) a set of 5 quadrilles each in a different metre
- lancet** /'lɑ:nsit/ *n* 1 a sharp-pointed and usu 2-edged surgical instrument used to make small incisions 2a also lancet window a high narrow window with an acutely pointed head ➤ CHURCH b also lancet arch an acutely pointed arch *USE* (2) ➤ ARCHITECTURE [ME *lancette*, fr MF, dim. of *lance*]
- lancewood** /'lɑ:ns,wood/ *n* (a tree yielding) a tough elastic wood used esp for carriage shafts, fishing rods, and bows
- land** /'lænd/ *n* 1a the solid part of the surface of a celestial body, esp the earth b ground or soil of a specified situation, nature, or quality (<wet ~> 2 (the way of life in) the rural and esp agricultural regions of a country (<going back to the ~> 3 (the people of) a country, region, etc 4 a realm, domain (<in the ~ of dreams> 5 ground owned as property – often pl with *sing* meaning [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *lant* land, OIr *land* open space] – *landless* *adj*
- land** *vt* 1 to set or put on shore from a ship 2a to set down (e.g. passengers or goods) after conveying b to bring to or cause to reach a specified place, position, or condition (<his carelessness ~ed him in trouble> c to bring (e.g. an aeroplane) to a surface from the air 3a to catch and bring in (e.g. a fish) b to gain, secure (<~ a job> – *infrml* 4 to strike, hit (<~ed him one on the nose> – *infrml* 5 to present or burden with sth unwanted – *infrml* ~ *vi* 1a to go ashore from a ship; disembark b of a boat, ship, etc to come to shore; also to arrive on shore in a boat, ship, etc 2a to end up – *usu* + *up* (<took the wrong bus and ~ed up on the other side of town> b to strike or come to rest on a surface (e.g. after a fall) (<~ed on his head> c of an aircraft, spacecraft, etc to alight on a surface; also to arrive in an aircraft, spacecraft, etc which has alighted on a surface
- land agent** *n* ESTATE AGENT
- landau** /'ləndəw/ *n* a 4-wheeled carriage with a folding top divided into 2 sections [Landau, town in Rhineland-Palatinate (pre-1945 Bavaria), Germany, where first made]
- landaulet** /'ləndə'let/ *n* a small landau
- land breeze** *n* a breeze blowing seawards from the land, generally at night
- land crab** *n* any of various crabs that live mostly on land and breed in the sea
- landed** /'ləndid/ *adj* 1 owning land (<~ proprietors> 2 consisting of land (<~ property>)
- land,fall** /-fawl/ *n* an act or instance of sighting or reaching land after a voyage or flight



**'land,form** /-fawm/ *n* a natural feature of the earth's surface (e.g. a mountain)

**'land,holder** /-hohldə/ *n* a holder or owner of land – **landholding** *adj* or *n*

**landing** /'lændɪŋ/ *n* 1 the act of going or bringing to a surface from the air or to shore from the water ➞ **SPACE** 2 a place for discharging and taking on passengers and cargo 3 a level space at the end of a flight of stairs or between 2 flights of stairs

**'landing,craft** *n* any of numerous naval craft designed for putting troops and equipment ashore

**'landing,stage** *n* a sometimes floating platform for landing passengers or cargo

**'landing,strip** *n* a runway without normal airfield or airport facilities

**'land,lady** /-laydi/ *n* 1 a female landlord 2 the female proprietor of a guesthouse or lodging house

**'land,line** *n* a telecommunications link using cables as opposed to radio transmission

**'land,locked** /-lokt/ *adj* (nearly) enclosed by land

**'land,lord** /-lawd/ *n* 1 sby who owns land, buildings, or accommodation for lease or rent 2 sby who owns or keeps an inn; an innkeeper

**'land,lubber** /-luba/ *n* a person unacquainted with the sea or seaman-ship – **landlubberly** *adj*

**'land,mark** /-mahk/ *n* 1a an object (e.g. a stone) that marks a boundary b a conspicuous object that can be used to identify a locality 2 an event that marks a turning point or new development (<a ~ in the history of aviation>)

**'land,mas** /-mas/ *n* a large area of land

**'land,ra** *n* a corncrake

**'land,scape** /-skayp/ *n* 1 natural, esp inland scenery 2a a picture, drawing, etc of landscape b the art of depicting landscape [D *landschap*, fr *land* + *-schap* -ship]

**'landscape** *vt* to improve or modify the natural beauties of ~ *vt* to engage in the occupation of landscape gardening – **landscaper** *n*

**landscape architect** *n* LANDSCAPE GARDENER – **landscape architecture** *n*

**landscape 'gardener** *n* one who designs and arranges the layout of gardens and grounds – **landscape gardening** *n*

**'land,slide** /-sliəd/ *n* 1 a usu rapid movement of rock, earth, etc down a slope, also the moving mass 2 an overwhelming victory, esp in an election

**'land,slip** /-slɪp/ *n* a small landslide

**'lane** /layn/ *n* 1 a narrow passageway, road, or street 2a a fixed ocean route used by ships b a strip of road for a single line of vehicles c **AIR LANE** d any of several marked parallel courses to which a competitor must keep during a race (e.g. in running or swimming) e a narrow hardwood surface down which the ball is sent towards the pins in tenpin bowling [ME, fr OE *lanu*; akin to MD *lane lane*]

**'lane** *adj*, *Scot* lone [ME (Sc), var of lone]

**'lane,way** /-way/ *n*, chiefly *Can* a lane or mews running between or behind houses

**Langobardic** /lang-ɡə'bahdɪk, -ɡoh-/ *n* the W Germanic language of the Lombard people [L *Langobardus* Lombard]

**lang syne** /lang 'sɪen; often 'zi:ən/ *n* or *adv*, *Scot* (times) long ago [ME (Sc), fr *lang* long + *syne* since]

**language** /'lang-ɡwɪj/ *n* 1a those words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used by a particular people, nation, etc (<the English ~>) b(1) (the faculty of making and using) audible articulate meaningful sound (2) a systematic means of communicating using conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks ➞ **ALPHABET** (3) the suggestion by objects, actions, or conditions of associated ideas or feelings (<body ~>) (4) a formal system of signs and symbols (e.g. a logical calculus or one for use with a computer) together with rules for the formation and transformation of admissible expressions 2a a particular style or manner of verbal expression b the specialized vocabulary and phraseology belonging to a particular group or profession (<legal ~>) [ME, fr OF, fr *langue* tongue, language, fr L *lingua* – more at **TONGUE**]

**'language laboratory** *n* a room, usu divided into booths each equipped with a tape recorder, where foreign languages are learnt by listening and speaking

**langue** /lɒŋ-ɡə/ (Fr *lɑ̃ɡ*) *n* language regarded as a system of elements or a set of habits common to a community of speakers – compare **PAROLE**; **COMPETENCE** 2 [F, lit., language]

**langue d'oc** /lɒŋ-ɡə dok (Fr *lɑ̃ɡ dok*) *n* (the medieval dialects of S France including medieval Provençal, which formed the basis of) Proven-

çal [F, fr OF, lit., language of oc; fr the Provençal use of the word *oc* for 'yes']

**langue d'oil** /do'eel (Fr *dɔil*) *n* (the medieval French dialects of N France which formed the basis of) modern French [F, fr OF, lit., language of oil; fr the French use of the word *oil* for 'yes']

**languid** /'lang-ɡwɪd/ *adj* 1 drooping or flagging (as if) from exhaustion; weak 2a spiritless or apathetic in character b esp of literary style lacking colour, uninteresting 3 lacking force or quickness, esp of movement; sluggish [MF *languide*, fr L *languidus*, fr *languere* to languish – more at **SACK**] – **languidly** *adv*, **languidness** *n*

**languish** /'lang-ɡwɪʃ/ *vi* 1 to be or become feeble or enervated 2a to become dispirited or depressed; pine – often + *for* b to lose intensity or urgency (<his interest ~ed>) c to suffer hardship or neglect (<~ed in prison for 2 years>) 3 to assume an expression of emotion appealing for sympathy [ME *languishen*, fr MF *languiss-*, stem of *languir*, fr (assumed) VL *languere*, fr L *languere*] – **languishingly** *adv*, **languishment** *n*

**languor** /'lang-ɡə/ *n* 1 weakness or weariness of body or mind 2 a feeling or mood of wistfulness or dreaminess 3 heavy or soporific stillness [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr *languere*] – **languorous** *adj*, **languorously** *adv*

**langur** /'lʌŋg'ɡooə/ *n* any of various Asiatic slender long-tailed monkeys [Hindi *lāgūr*]

**lank** /'laŋk/ *adj* 1 lean, gaunt 2 straight, limp, and usu greasy (<~ hair>) [(assumed) ME, fr OE *hlanc*; akin to OHG *hlanca* loin, L *clingere* to girdle] – **lankly** *adv*, **lankness** *n*

**lanky** /'laŋki/ *adj* ungracefully tall and thin **lankily** *adv*, **lankiness** *n*

**lanner** /'lana/ *n* (the female of) a falcon of S Europe, SW Asia, and Africa [ME *laner*, fr MF *lanier*]

**lanneret** /'lana:ret/ *n* a male lanner

**lanolin**, **lanoline** /'lanɪn/ *n* wool grease, esp when refined for use in ointments and cosmetics [L *lana* wool + ISV *-ol* + *-in*]

**lantern** /'lɑ:ntən/ *n* 1 a portable protective case with transparent windows that houses a light (e.g. a candle) 2a the chamber in a lighthouse containing the light b a structure above an opening in a roof which has glazed or open sides for light or ventilation 3 **MAGIC LANTERN** [ME *lanterne*, fr MF, fr L *lanterna*, fr Gk *lampōter*, fr *lampein* to shine – more at **LAMP**]

**'lantern, fly** *n* any of several large brightly marked insects having a hollow structure at the front of the head once thought to emit light **lanthanide** /'lɑ:ntənɪd/ *n* any one of a series of elements of increasing atomic numbers beginning with lanthanum (57) or cerium (58) and ending with lutetium (71) [ISV]

**lanthanum** /'lɑ:ntənəm/ *n* a white soft malleable metallic element that occurs in rare-earth minerals ➞ **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Gk *lanthanein* to obscure notice]

**lanugo** /'lɑ:nyooəgoh/ *n* soft downy hair, esp that covering the foetus of some mammals, including humans [L, down – more at **WOOL**]

**lanyard** /'lanyəd/ *n* 1 a piece of rope or line for fastening sth on board ship ➞ **SHIP** 2 a cord worn round the neck as a decoration or to hold sth (e.g. a knife) 3 a cord used in firing certain types of cannon [alter. of ME *lanyer*, fr MF *laniere*]

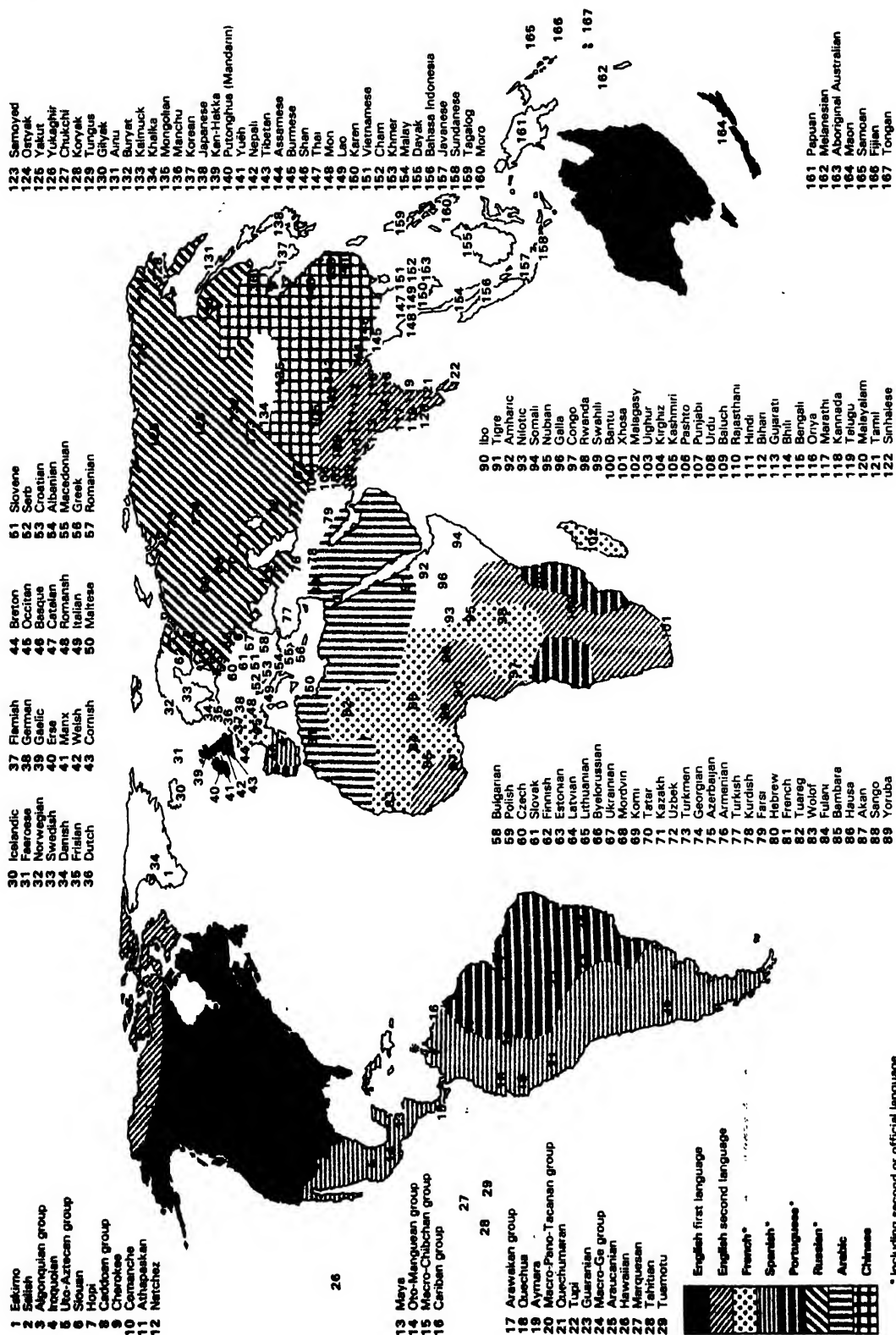
**La** /ləw/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* Laos, esp collectively **Lao** (a member or the language of) a Tai people living in Laos and adjacent parts of NE Thailand ➞ **LANGUAGE**

**Laodicean** /'ləyohdɪ'si:ən/ *n* or *adj* (one who is) lukewarm or indifferent with regard to religion or politics [*Laodicea* (now *Latakia*), ancient city in Asia Minor, fr the reproach to the church of the Laodiceans in Rev 3.15-16]

**Laotian** /lay'ohəh(ə)n, 'ləwsh(ə)n/ *n* a Lao [prob fr F *laotien*, *adj* & *n*, irreg fr *Laos*] – **Laotian** *adj*

**'lap** /lap/ *n* (the clothing covering) the front part of the lower trunk and thighs of a seated person [ME *lappe*, fr OE *leppa*; akin to OHG *lappa* flap, L *labi* to slide – more at **SLEEP**] – **lapful** *n* – **drop/land (sth)** in someone's lap to (cause to) become sby's responsibility – **in the lap of luxury** in an environment of great ease, comfort, and wealth – **in the lap of the gods** beyond human influence or control

**'lap vb -pp-** *vt* 1a to fold or wrap over or round b to envelop entirely; swathe 2 to surround or hold protectively (as if) in the lap 3a to place or lie so as to (partly) cover (one another) (<~ tiles on a roof>) b to unite (e.g. beams or timbers) so as to preserve the same breadth and depth throughout 4a to dress, smooth, or polish (e.g. a metal surface) to a high degree of refinement or accuracy b to work (2 surfaces) together with or without abrasives until a very close fit is produced 5a to overtake and thereby lead or increase the lead over (another contestant) by a full circuit



- Including second or official language

**NATIONALITY**

## Chronological table of the English language

date and period	historical development	extracts from period texts
AD 450 <b>Old English</b>	English develops from the languages of the West Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes) who invade Britain in the 5th and 6th centuries and drive the Celtic-speaking population north and west.	<i>Hwæt, wē Gār-Dena in géardagum Hear: We the Spear-Danes in days of yore þeodcyniga þrym gefrūnon the people's kings' glory have heard tell of hū þā æþelingas ellen fremedon how those princes deed of bravery performed</i>
597	Arrival of St Augustine and his missionaries marks beginning of the conversion of the English to Christianity. Many religious terms are borrowed from Latin.	(Hear! We have heard tell of the glory of the Danish kings in days of yore, and of how those princes performed deeds of bravery!)
900	The invasions by the Danes and Norwegians in the 9th and 10th centuries introduce a large number of Norse words into English. The West Saxon dialect emerges as the main form of Old English and is used in the literature of the period.	<i>Beowulf</i> (mainly W Saxon) 8th century, written down late 10th century
1100 <b>Middle English</b>	After the Norman Conquest French is used as the language of government, business, and the ruling classes for 200 years. The grammatical endings of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Old English become simplified.	<i>When that Aprill with his shoures soote The droughthe of March hath perced to the roote, And bathed every veyne in swich licour Of which vertu engendred is the flour By</i>
1300	By the 14th century the East Midland dialect of London emerges as the standard form of English and is used as the literary language.	<i>power</i> <i>flower</i>
1400	Henry IV (1399–1413) is the first English-speaking king to rule since 1066.	Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> , General Prologue (SE Midland late 14th century)
1500 <b>Early Modern English</b>	The spread of printing (1475 onwards) helps stabilize the written language so that it becomes suitable for serious literary works (eg Tyndale's translation of the New Testament in 1525).	To be, or not to be, that is the question, Whether tis nobler in the minde to suffer The slings and arrowes of outrageous fortune, Or to take Armes against a sea of troubles, And by opposing, end them.
1600	The revival of interest in Classical Latin and Greek leads to many learned words being introduced.  The 'great vowel shift' that began in Chaucer's day brings about major changes in pronunciation (Chaucer's pronunciation of <i>house</i> probably rhymed with <i>goose</i> , Shakespeare's with <i>grass</i> ).	Shakespeare <i>Hamlet</i> (2nd Quarto 1604)
1700 <b>Later Modern English</b>	Samuel Johnson's first major English dictionary (published 1755) attempts to fix and refine the language further.	I have protracted my work till most of those whom I wished to please, have sunk into the grave, and success and miscarriage are empty sounds: I therefore dismiss it with frigid tranquillity, having little to fear or hope from censure or from praise.
1800	The growth of British colonial power up to the late 19th century leads to the spread of English as a world language and the emergence of distinct varieties of English in countries like North America, South Africa, and Australia.	Samuel Johnson, Preface to <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i> (mid 18th century)
1900 <b>Present-day English</b>	Present-day English is almost an international language, spoken, either as a first or second language, in most parts of the world. It has borrowed words from countless other languages, and the boom in science and technology has led to the creation of large numbers of new words, many of them derived from Latin and Greek. English today is richer than ever before, but, like all living languages, it is still in the process of changing.	British Airways is considering introducing gambling, such as bingo and fruit machines, on long-haul flights in an attempt to win passengers. As the fight for passengers and financial survival hots up among international airlines, the company has commissioned market research on various forms of in-flight entertainment.  (From a news report, 1981; the passage contains at least 12 words, or senses of words, unknown in Shakespeare's time)

## English imported

English contains words derived, directly and indirectly, from over 100 languages, besides owing a great deal to Latin, German, French and Greek. Sources of some of these borrowings are shown with approximate dates of their introduction into English.

### EUROPE

#### BRITISH ISLES

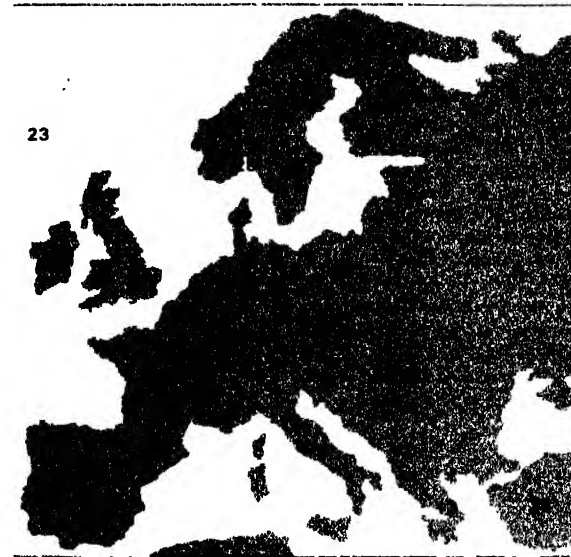
- 1 **Cornish**  
wrasse 1670  
porbeagle 1760
- 2 **Irish Gaelic**  
shamrock 1570  
brogue 1590  
tory 1640  
galore 1670  
whisky 1710  
smithereens 1840
- 3 **Scottish Gaelic**  
clan 1420  
slogan 1510  
cairn 1530  
trousers 1610
- 4 **Welsh**  
coracle 1550  
flummery 1620  
cwm 1850  
corgi 1920

- 5 **Czech**  
pistol 1570  
howitzer 1700  
robot 1920

- 6 **Dutch**  
frollic 1540  
yatch 1560  
landscape 1600  
b andy 1620  
easel 1630  
cruise 1650  
sleigh 1700  
spook 1800  
boss (*chief*) 1820  
dope 1850

#### FRANCE

- 7 **Breton**  
bijou 1840  
menhir 1840  
dolmen 1860
- 8 **French**  
capon 1000  
proud 1050  
juggler 1100  
prison 1120  
duke 1130  
justice 1140  
market 1150  
standard 1150  
grace 1170  
catch 1200  
boil (*vb*) 1220  
city 1220  
judge 1220  
face 1290  
manor 1290  
parliament 1290  
pork 1290  
voice 1290  
beef 1300  
tailor 1300  
carpenter 1320  
due 1340  
scent 1370  
village 1380  
kestrel 1477  
guardian 1420  
attainder 1470



#### FRANCE

- serviette 1490  
fricassee 1570  
role 1600  
cadet 1610  
cajole 1640  
entre nous 1690  
glacier 1740  
bidet 1760  
brochure 1760  
frisson 1780  
aspic 1790  
séance 1800  
gourmet 1820  
communism 1840  
cancan 1850  
hanger 1850  
monocle 1860  
frappé 1890  
garage 1900  
camouflage 1910  
discotheque 1950

- 9 **Gaulish**  
andiron 1300  
bracket 1580
- 10 **Provençal**  
nutmeg 1360  
funnel 1400  
cocoon 1700  
nougat 1830

- 11 **Flemish**  
grime 1470  
hunk 1810

- 12 **German**  
plunder 1630  
spanner 1640  
zinc 1650  
quartz 1760  
poodle 1820  
dachshund 1880  
seminar 1890

#### GREECE

- 13 **Ancient Greek**  
priest 600  
church 700  
devil 700  
angel 950  
hypocrisy 1220  
allegory 1380  
diaphragm 1400  
idea 1430  
alphabet 1510  
drama 1520  
anemone 1550  
rhythm 1560  
bulb 1570  
larynx 1580  
pathos 1580  
cosmos 1650  
**Modern Greek**  
moussaka 1940  
enosis 1950

- 14 **Hungarian**  
hussar 1530  
coach 1560  
goulash 1870  
paprika 1900

#### IBERIAN PENINSULA

- 15 **Basque**  
chaparral 1850  
jai alai 1910
- 16 **Catalan**  
brocade 1560  
barrack 1690  
aubergine 1790
- 17 **Portuguese**  
marmalade 1630  
caste 1550  
molasses 1580  
tank 1620  
albino 1780

#### IBERIAN PENINSULA

- 18 **Spanish**  
cask 1530  
galleon 1530  
mosquito 1580  
sherry 1610  
cargo 1660  
stevedore 1790  
ranch 1810  
silo 1830

#### ITALIAN PENINSULA

- 19 **Etruscan**  
histrionic 1560  
mantissa 1640
- Italian**  
cupola 1550  
squadron 1560  
stanza 1590  
macaroni 1600  
umbrella 1610  
balcony 1620  
regatta 1650  
sonata 1690  
portfolio 1720  
influenza 1740  
mozzarella 1910
- Latin**  
candle 700  
dish 700  
street 700  
wine 700  
temple 820  
anchor 880  
port (*harbour*) 890  
cup 1000  
fever 1000  
pear 1000

#### NEAR EAST

- 30 **Akkadian**  
ziggurat 1880
- 31 **Arabic**  
alkali 1390  
syrup 1390  
lemon 1400  
algebra 1540  
magazine 1580  
monsoon 1580  
sash 1590  
emir 1620  
sofa 1620  
harem 1630  
alcove 1680  
ghoul 1790
- 32 **Aramaic**  
abbot 880  
dragoman 13??
- 33 **Hebrew**  
rabbi 1000  
shibboleth 1380
- 34 **Persian**  
spinach 1530  
turban 1560  
bazaar 1600  
sherbet 1600  
shawl 1660
- 35 **Turkish**  
divan 1590  
coffee 1600  
cossack 1600  
jackal 1600  
kiosk 1620  
yoghourt 1620  
bosh 1830

#### ITALIAN PENINSULA

- capital (*adj*) 1220  
minor 1300  
translate 1300  
necessary 1340  
create 1380  
tradition 1380  
cancer 1390  
respect 1390  
cadaver 1400  
ligament 1400  
major 1400  
neuter 1400  
punctual 1400  
provide 1410  
minute (*adj*) 1420  
separate 1430  
spine 1430  
frustrate 1450  
aggravate 1470  
legal 1500  
pauper 1510  
enormous 1530  
item 1530  
segregate 1540  
fusion 1550  
section 1560  
select 1570  
strict 1590  
radius 1600  
specimen 1610  
insomnia 1620  
curt 1630  
onus 1640  
data 1650  
simulate 1650  
rabies 1660  
fulcrum 1670  
lens 1690  
momentum 1700  
calix 1710  
propaganda 1720  
alibi 1730  
prospectus 1780  
hibernate 1800  
omnibus 1830  
sanatorium 1870  
referendum 1880

#### ITALIAN PENINSULA

- 20 **Polish**  
mazurka 1820
- 21 **Russian**  
muzhik 1570  
tsar 1670  
vodka 1800  
samovar 1830  
pogrom 1880  
cosmonaut 1960

#### SCANDINAVIA

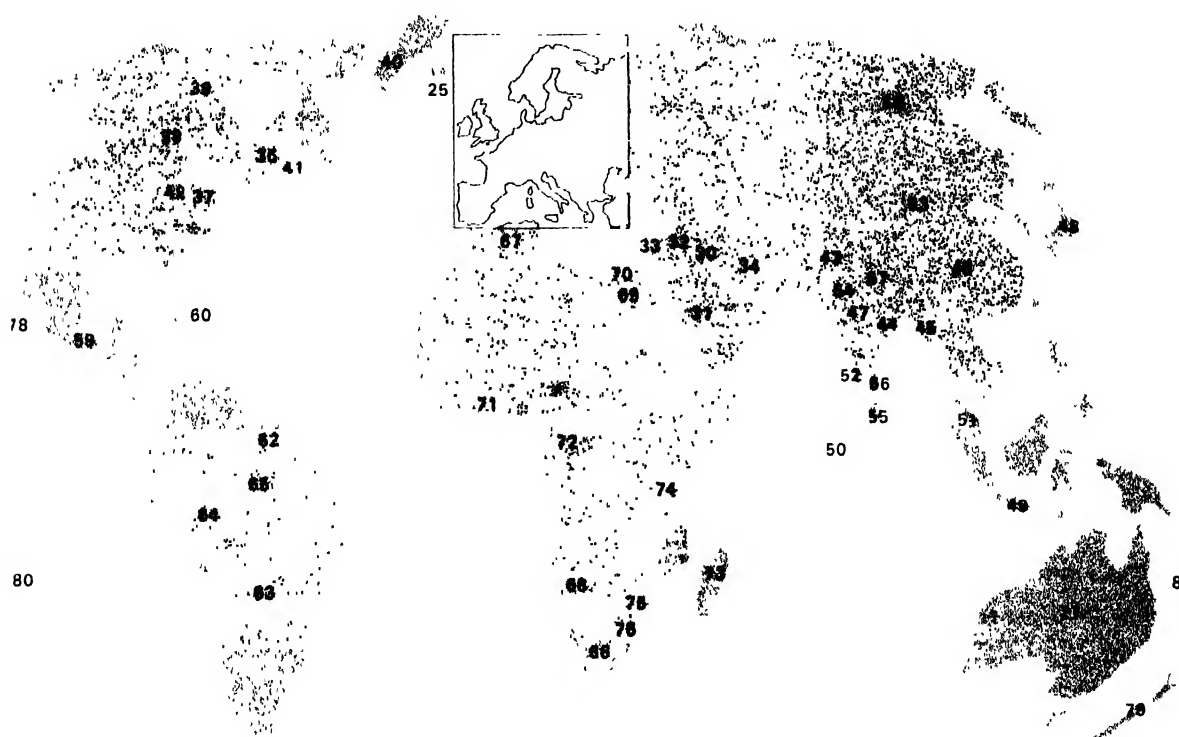
- 22 **Danish**  
troll 1610
- 23 **Faroese**  
skua 1680
- 24 **Finnish**  
sauna 1950
- 25 **Icelandic**  
eider 1740  
geyser 1780
- 26 **Lapp**  
tundra 1840
- 27 **Norwegian**  
lemming 1600  
fiord 1670  
kraken 1750  
floe 1820  
ski 1850  
slalom 1920
- 28 **Old Norse**  
egg (*n*) 800  
call 1000  
law 1000  
fellow 1010  
take 1100  
die (*vb*) 1130  
root 1150  
crook 1170  
anger 1200  
raise 1200  
seat 1200  
they 1200  
want 1200  
sky 1220  
window 1220  
loan 1240  
leg 1270  
dirt 1300  
weak 1300  
flat 1320  
odd 1330  
snub 1340
- 29 **Swedish**  
gauntlet (*as in run the gauntlet*) 1660  
tungsten 1770  
moped 1950  
ombudsman 1950

**NORTH AMERICA**

- 36 **Abnaki**  
skunk 1630  
wigwam 1630
- 37 **Algonquian**  
moccasin 1610  
toboggan 1830
- 38 **Cree**  
pemmican 1800
- 39 **Eskimo**  
kayak 1760  
igloo 1850
- 40 **Greenland Eskimo**  
anorak 1920
- 41 **Narraganset**  
papoose 1630  
squash  
(vegetable) 1640
- 42 **Ojibwa**  
wampum 1640  
totem 1770

**ASIA**

- 43 **Balti**  
polo 1870
- 44 **Bengali**  
dinghy 1800
- 45 **Burmese**  
chindit 1940
- 46 **Chinese**  
silk 1000  
tea 1650  
kowtow 1800  
tycoon 1860  
yen 1870
- 47 **Hindi**  
bungalow 1680  
dungaree 1700  
shampoo 1760  
jungle 1780
- pyjamas 1800  
loot 1840  
gymkhana 1860  
khaki 1860
- 48 **Japanese**  
kimono 1890  
rickshaw 1890  
dan 1940  
kamikaze 1940
- 49 **Javanese**  
junk (ship) 1550  
palanquin 1590  
gong 1600
- 50 **Maldivian islands**  
atoll 1620
- 51 **Malay**  
sago 1550
- bamboo 1600  
gingham 1610  
amok 1660  
ketchup 1710  
caddy 1790
- 52 **Malayalam**  
copra 1580  
teak 1700
- 53 **Mongolian**  
horde 1560  
mogul 1590
- 54 **Sanskrit**  
sugar 1290  
lingam 1720  
avatar 1780  
suttee 1790  
yoga 1820
- nirvana 1840  
swastika 1870
- 55 **Sinhalese**  
tourmaline 1760  
anaconda 1770  
beriberi 1880
- 56 **Tamil**  
pariah 1620  
cheroot 1670  
catamaran 1700  
mulligatawny 1780
- 57 **Tibetan**  
lama 1650  
yak 1800
- 58 **Tungus**  
shaman 1700

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

- 59 **Nahuatl**  
chocolate 1600  
tomato 1600  
coyote 1850
- 60 **Taino**  
hammock 1550  
hurricane 1550  
maize 1550  
potato 1560  
tobacco 1580  
barbecue 1660

**SOUTH AMERICA**

- 61 **Araucanian**  
poncho 1750
- 62 **Arawakan**  
iguana 1550  
canoe 1560
- 63 **Guarani**  
jaguar 1600
- 64 **Quechua**  
condor 1600  
llama 1600  
puma 1780  
quinine 1830
- 65 **Tupi**  
toucan 1570  
tapioca 1710  
cougar 1770  
petunia 1820

**AFRICA**

- 66 **Afrikaans**  
spoor 1820
- 67 **Commando**  
trek 1850  
apartheid 1950
- 68 **Berber**  
zouave 1850
- 69 **Bushman**  
gnu 1780
- 70 **Coptic**  
adobe 1830
- 71 **Egyptian**  
pharaoh 890  
ivory 1300  
gum 1390  
nitre 1400
- 72 **Kongo**  
chimpanzee 1740  
zombie 1930
- 73 **Malagasy**  
raffia 1880
- 74 **Swahili**  
bwana 1880
- 75 **Tswana**  
tsetse 1850
- 76 **Zulu**  
mamba 1890  
impala 1900
- 77 **Ewe**  
voodoo 1880

**AUSTRALASIA**

- 77 **Australian**  
native languages  
kangaroo 1770  
dingo 1790  
wombat 1800  
boomerang 1830  
wallaby 1830  
budgerigar 1850
- 78 **Hawaiian**  
lei 1840  
ukulele 1900
- 79 **Maori**  
kiwi 1830  
moa 1840
- 80 **Tahitian**  
tattoo 1770
- 81 **Tongan**  
taboo 1780  
kava 1820

- of a racetrack **b** to complete a circuit of (a racetrack) ~ *vi* 1 to overlap 2 to traverse or complete a circuit of a course
- lap** *n* 1a the amount by which one object overlaps another **b** the part of an object that overlaps another 2 a smoothing and polishing tool (e.g. for metal or precious stones), usu. consisting of a rotating disc covered with abrasive 3 a layer of a flexible substance (e.g. fibres or paper) wound round sthg., esp. a roller 4a (the distance covered during) the act or an instance of moving once round a closed course or track **b** one stage or segment of a larger unit (e.g. a journey) **c** one complete turn (e.g. of a rope round a drum)
- lap** *vb* -pp- *vi* 1 to take in liquid with the tongue 2 to move in little waves, usu. making a gentle splashing sound <the sea ~ped gently against the edge of the quay> ~ *vi* 1a to take in (liquid) with the tongue **b** to take in eagerly or quickly - usu. + *up* <the crowd ~ped up every word he said> 2 to flow or splash against in little waves [ME *lapen*, fr. OE *lapan*; akin to OHG *laffan* to lick, L *lambere*, Gk *laphyssein* to devour]
- lap** *n* 1 an act or instance of lapping 2 a thin or weak beverage or food 3 a gentle splashing sound
- laparotomy** /ˌlɑːpəˈrɒtəmi/ *n* surgical incision through the abdominal wall [Gk *lapara* flank + ISV -*tomy*]
- lapdog** /ˌlɑːp.dɒɡ/ *n* a small dog that may be held in the lap
- lapel** /ˈleɪəl/ *n* a fold of the top front edge of a coat or jacket that is continuous with the collar [dim. of *lap*]
- lapidary** /ˌlæpɪdəri/ *n* sby who cuts, polishes, or engraves precious stones
- lapidary** *adj* 1a sculptured in or engraved on stone **b** of or relating to (the cutting of) gems 2 of literary style having the elegance and dignity associated with monumental inscriptions [L. *lapidarius* of stone, fr. *lapid-*, *lapis* stone; akin to Gk *lepas* crag]
- lapillus** /ˈlæpɪləs/ *n*, pl *lapilli* /-lie/ a small fragment of lava ejected in a volcanic eruption - usu. pl [L, dim. of *lapis*]
- lapis lazuli** /ˌlæpɪs ˈlæziʊliː, -li/ *n* (the colour of) a rich blue semiprecious stone [ME, fr. ML, fr. L *lapis* + ML *lazuli*, gen. of *lazulum* lapis lazuli, fr. Ar *lazaward* - more at *azure*]
- lap joint** *n* a joint made by overlapping 2 ends or edges and fastening them together - *lap-jointed* *adj*
- Laplander** /ˌlæpləndə/ *n* LAPP 1
- Lapp** /lɑːp/ *n* 1 a member of a nomadic people of N Scandinavia and the Kola peninsula of N Russia 2 also **Lappish** any or all of the Finno-Ugric languages of the Lapps [Sw, perh. akin to MHG *lappe* simpleton] - **Lapp** *adj*, **Lappish** *adj*
- lappet** /ˈlæpɪt/ *n* 1 a fold or flap on a garment or headdress 2 a flat overlapping or hanging piece, esp. of flesh or membrane (e.g. the wattle of a bird) [*lap* + -*et*]
- lapse** /lɑːps/ *n* 1 a slight error (e.g. of memory or in manners) 2a a drop; specif. a drop in temperature, humidity, or pressure with increasing height **b** an esp. moral fall or decline <a ~ from grace> 3a(1) the legal termination of a right or privilege through failure to exercise it (2) the termination of insurance coverage for nonpayment of premiums **b** a decline into disuse 4 an abandonment of religious faith 5 a continuous passage or elapsed period <returned after a ~ of several years> [L *lapsus*, fr. *lapsus*, pp. of *labi* to slip - more at *sleep*]
- lapse** *vi* 1a to fall or depart from an attained or accepted standard or level (e.g. of morals) - usu. + *from* **b** to sink or slip gradually <the guests ~d into silence when the speech began> 2 to go out of existence or use 3 to pass to another proprietor by omission or negligence 4 of time to run its course; pass
- lapse** *rate* *n* the rate of change of temperature, humidity, or pressure with changing height
- lapseus linguae** /ˌlæpsəs ˈlɪŋɡ.wi/ *n* a slip of the tongue [L]
- lapwing** /ˌlæp.wɪŋ/ *n* a crested Old World plover noted for its shrill wailing cry [ME, by folk etymology fr. OE *hlæpewinc*; akin to OE *hlæpan* to leap, *wincian* to wink]
- larboard** /ˈlɑːbɔːd/ *n*, archaic **PORT** [ME *ladeborde*] - **larboard** *adj*
- larceny** /ˈlɑːsnɪ/ *n* theft [ME, fr. MF *larcin* theft, fr. L *latrocinium* robbery, fr. *latron-*, *latro* mercenary soldier; akin to OE *unlād* poor, Gk *latron* pay]
- larch** /lɑːtʃ/ *n* (the wood of) any of a genus of trees of the pine family with short deciduous leaves [prob. fr. G *lärche*, fr. L *larix*, *larix*]
- lard** /lɑːd/ *vi* 1a to dress (e.g. meat) for cooking by inserting or covering with fat, bacon, etc. **b** to cover with grease 2 to intersperse or embellish (e.g. speech or writing) with sthg.
- lard** *n* a soft white solid fat obtained by rendering the esp. abdominal fat of a pig [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *lardum*; akin to L *laetus* glad, *largus* abundant, Gk *larinos* fat] - **lardy** *adj*
- larder** /ˈlɑːdə/ *n* a place where food is stored; a pantry [ME, fr. MF *lardier*, fr. OF, fr. *lard*]
- lardoon** /ˈlɑːd(ə)n/ *n* a strip (e.g. of pork fat or bacon) with which meat is larded - compare **BARD** [F, piece of fat pork, fr. OF, fr. *lard*]
- lardoon** /ˈlɑːdoʊn/ *n* a lardon
- lardy cake** /ˈlɑːdi/ *n* a sweet cake made with yeast dough, dried fruit, and lard
- lares and penates** /ˌlɑːreɪz ənd ˈpeɪnəteɪz/ *n* pl 1 the Ancient Roman household gods 2 the goods of a household [*lares* fr. L, pl. of *lar*, a Roman household god; *penates* fr. L, Roman household gods]
- Largactil** /ˌlɑːɡæktɪl/ *trademark* - used for chlorpromazine
- large** /lɑːdʒ/ *adj* 1 having more than usual power, capacity, or scope 2 exceeding most other things of like kind (in quantity or size) 3 dealing in great numbers or quantities; operating on an extensive scale <a ~ and highly profitable business> [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *largus*] - **largeness** *n*, **largish** *adj*
- large** *n* - at **large** 1 without restraint or confinement; AT LIBERTY <the escaped prisoner is still at large> 2 AS A WHOLE <society at large>
- large calorie** *n* a kilocalorie
- large intestine** *n* the rear division of the vertebrate intestine that is divided into caecum, colon, and rectum, and concerned esp. with the resorption of water and formation of faeces
- largely** /ˈlɑːdʒli/ *adv* to a large extent
- large-scale** *adj* 1 involving great numbers or quantities 2 of a map showing much detail
- largesse, largesse** /ˈlɑːdʒes/ *n* 1 liberal giving, esp. to an inferior 2 sthg. (e.g. money) given generously as a gift [ME *largesse*, fr. OF, fr. *large*]
- large white** *n* any of a British breed of large long-bodied white pigs
- larghetto** /ˌlɑːɡetoh/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, pl *larghetts* (a movement that is) slower than *andante* but not as slow as *largo* - used in music [*adj* It, somewhat slow, dim. of *largo*, *n* & *adv* fr. *adj*]
- largo** /ˈlɑːɡoh/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, pl *largos* (a movement to be) played in a very slow and broad manner - used in music [*adj* It, slow, broad, fr. L *largus* abundant; *n* & *adv* fr. *adj*]
- lari** /ˈlɑːri/ *n*  Maldivian Islands at NATIONALITY [Per *lari*]
- lariat** /ˈlɑːriət/ *n*, chiefly NAm a lasso [AmerSp *la reata* the lasso, fr. Sp *la* the (fem. of *el*, fr. L *ille* that) + AmerSp *reata* lasso, fr. Sp *reatar* to tie - again, fr. *re-* + *atar* to tie, fr. L *aptare* to fit - more at *ADAPT*]
- lark** /lɑːk/ *n* any of numerous brown singing-birds mostly of Europe, Asia, and northern Africa, esp. a skylark [ME, fr. OE *lawerce*; akin to OHG *lerihha* lark]
- lark** *vi* to have fun - usu. + *about* or *around* [prob. alter. of E dial *lake* (to frolic), fr. ME *laiken*, fr. ON *leika* to play, dance]
- lark** *n* 1 a lighthearted adventure; also a prank 2 *Br* a type of activity, esp. a business, job <it's a good ~: 80 quid a week, own car, and no questions asked> **USE** infml
- larkspur** /ˈlɑːkspuː/ *n* a delphinium; esp. a cultivated annual delphinium grown for its bright irregular flowers [fr. the spur-shaped calyx]
- larrikin** /ˈlɑːrɪkɪn/ *n*, Austr a hooligan [perh. fr. *Larry* (nickname for *Lawrence*) + -*kin*]
- larrup** /ˈlɑːrʌp/ *vi*, *Br* dial to beat soundly - infml [perh. imit.]
- larva** /ˈlɑːvə/ *n*, pl *larvae* /-vi/ 1 the immature, wingless, and often wormlike feeding form that hatches from the egg of many insects and is transformed into a pupa or chrysalis from which the adult emerges  **LIFE CYCLE** 2 the early form (e.g. a tadpole) of an animal (e.g. a frog) that undergoes metamorphosis before becoming an adult [NL, fr. L, spectre, mask; akin to L *lar*, Roman household deity] - **larval** *adj*
- larvi-** *comb form* larva (<*larvicide*>) [NL, fr. *larva*]
- larvicide** /ˈlɑːrvɪsaɪd/ *n* an agent for killing larval pests
- larynx, laryngo-** *comb form* 1 larynx (<*laryngitis*>) 2 laryngeal and (<*laryngopharyngeal*>) [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *larynx*, *larynx*]
- laryngeal** /ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒeəl, ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒəl/ *n* a nerve, artery, etc. that supplies or is associated with the larynx
- laryngectomy** /ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒektəmi/ *n* surgical removal of (part of) the larynx
- laryngitis** /ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒaɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the larynx [NL] - **laryngitic** /-dʒɪtɪk/ *adj*
- larynx** /ˈlɑːrɪŋks/ *n*, pl *larynges* /ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒeɪz/, *larynxes* the modified upper part of the trachea of air-breathing vertebrates that contains the vocal cords in human beings, most other mammals, and a few lower forms  **DIGESTION** [NL *larynx*, *larynx*, fr. Gk] - **laryngeal** /ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒeəl, ˌlɑːrɪnˈdʒəl/
- lasagne** /ˈlɑːzəni/ *n* (a baked dish of minced meat, sauce, and) pasta in




- the form of broad flat sheets [It, pl of *lasagna*, fr (assumed) VL *lasania*, fr L *lasanum* cooking-pot, fr Gk *lasanon* chamber pot]
- lascar** /'laska/ *n*, often *cap* an E Indian sailor, army servant, or artilleryman [Hindi *laskar* army, E *lascar* influenced in meaning by Hindi *laskari* soldier, sailor]
- lascivious** /'lasi:v-i:əs/ *adj* inclined or inciting to lechery or lewdness [L *lascivia* wantonness, fr *lascivus* wanton – more at LUST] – **lasciviously** *adv*, **lasciviousness** *n*
- lase** /layz/ *vi* to function as a laser by emitting coherent light [back-formation fr *laser*]
- laser** /'layzə/ *n* a device that generates an intense beam of coherent light or other electromagnetic radiation of a single wavelength by using the natural oscillations of atoms or molecules [light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation]
- lash** /lash/ *vi* 1 to move violently or suddenly 2 to beat, pour <rain ~ ed down> 3 to attack physically or verbally, (as if) with a whip – often + *at*, *against*, or *out* ~ *vt* 1 to strike quickly and forcibly (as if) with a lash 2a to drive (as if) with a whip, rouse <~ ed the crowd into a frenzy> b to cause to lash [ME *lashen*, perh of imit origin]
- lash** *n* 1a(1) a stroke (as if) with a whip (2) (the flexible part of) a whip b a sudden swinging movement or blow 2 violent beating <the ~ of a north wind> 3 an eyelash 4 Austr & NZ an attempt, go – *infrm*
- lash** *vt* to bind or fasten with a cord, rope, etc [ME *lasschen* to lace, fr MF *lacier* – more at LACE] – **lasher** *n*
- lashing** /'lashing/ *n* a physical or verbal beating ['lash]
- lashing** *n* sthg used for binding, wrapping, or fastening ['lash]
- lashings** *n* pl an abundance – usu + *of* <~ of hot water>, *infrm* [fr gerund of 'lash]
- lash out** *vi* 1 to make a sudden violent physical or verbal attack – usu + *at* or *against* 2 *Br* to spend unrestrainedly – often + *on*, *infrm*
- lass** /las/, *lassie* /'lasi/ *n* a young woman, a girl [ME *las*]
- lassa fever** /'lasə/ *n* an acute severe often fatal virus disease of tropical countries [Lassa, village in northern Nigeria]
- lassitude** /'lasityu:hd/ *n* 1 fatigue, weariness 2 languor, listlessness [MF, fr L *lassitudo*, fr *lassus* weary – more at LET]
- lasso** /la'so:ʊh, 'laso:ʊh/ *n*, pl *lassos*, *lassoes* a rope or long thong of leather with a running noose that is used esp for catching horses and cattle [Sp *lazo*, fr L *laqueus* snare – more at DEFLIGHT]
- lasso** *vt* *lassos*, *lassoes*; *lassoed*; *lassoing* to catch (as if) with a lasso – **lassoer** *n*
- last** /lahst/ *vi* 1 to continue in time 2a to remain in good or adequate condition, use, or effectiveness b to manage to continue (e.g. in a course of action) c to continue to live <he won't ~ much longer> ~ *vt* 1 to continue in existence or action as long as or longer than – often + *out* <couldn't ~ out the training> 2 to be enough for the needs of <the supplies will ~ them a week> [ME *lasten*, fr OE *laestan* to last, follow, akin to OE *last* footprint] – **laster** *n*
- last** *adj* 1 following all the rest e.g. a final, latest b being the only remaining <his ~ pound> 2 of the final stage of life <~ rites> 3 next before the present, most recent <~ week> <this is better than his ~ book> 4a lowest in rank or standing, also worst b least suitable or likely <he'd be the ~ person to fall for flattery> 5a conclusive, definitive <the ~ word on the subject> b single – used as an intensive <ate every ~ scrap> [ME, fr OE *latost*, superl of *laet* late] – **lastly** *adv* – **last but one** 1 second most recent 2 penultimate
- last** *adv* 1 after all others, at the end <came ~ and left first> 2 on the most recent occasion <when we ~ met> 3 in conclusion, lastly <and ~, the economic aspect>
- last** *n* sby or sthg last – **at last/at long last** after everything, finally, esp after much delay – **to the last** till the end
- last** *n* a form (e.g. of metal) shaped like the human foot, over which a shoe is shaped or repaired [ME, fr OE *laeste*, fr *last* footprint, akin to OHG *leist* shoemaker's last, L *lira* furrow – more at LEARN]
- last-ditch** *adj* made as a final effort, esp to avert disaster <a ~ attempt>
- lasting** /'lahstɪŋ/ *adj* existing or continuing for a long while [prp of 'last] – **lastingly** *adv*, **lastingness** *n*
- last post** *n* the second of 2 bugle calls sounded at the hour for retiring in a military camp; also such a bugle call sounded at a military funeral or tattoo
- last straw** *n* the last of a series (e.g. of events or indignities) stretching one's patience beyond its limit [fr the fable of the last straw that broke the camel's back when added to his burden]
- Last Supper** *n* the supper eaten by Jesus and his disciples on the night of his betrayal in which he requested them to celebrate the Eucharist in his memory
- last thing** *adv* as the final action, esp before going to bed <always has a cup of cocoa ~ at night>
- Last Things** *n* pl events (e.g. the resurrection and divine judgment of all mankind) marking the end of the world, specif death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell in Catholic theology [trans of ML *Novissima*]
- last word** *n* 1 the final remark in a verbal exchange 2 the power of final decision 3 the most up-to-date or fashionable example of its kind <the ~ in sports cars>
- latakia** /'latə'ki:ə/ *n*, often *cap* a highly aromatic oriental smoking tobacco [Latakia, seaport in Syria]
- latch** /lach/ *vi* 1 to attach oneself <~ ed onto a rich widow> 2 to gain understanding or comprehension **USE** + *on* or *onto* [ME *lachen*, fr OE *laeccan*, akin to Gk *lambanein* to take, seize]
- latch** *n* 1 a fastener (e.g. for a door) with a pivoted bar that falls into a notch on the door post 2 a fastener (e.g. for a door) in which a spring slides a bolt into a hole when the door is shut – **latch** *vt*
- latchkey** /-kee/ *n* a key to an outside (front) door
- latchkey child** *n*, chiefly *Br* a child whose mother is regularly out on his/her return from school; specif one given a key to let him-/herself in
- late** /layt/ *adj* 1a occurring or arriving after the expected time <a ~ spring> b of the end of a specified time span <the ~ Middle Ages> 2a (recently) deceased – used with reference to names, positions or specified relationships <the ~ James Scott> <his ~ wife> <the ~ chairman> b just prior to the present, esp as the most recent of a succession <the ~ government> <some ~ news has just arrived> 3 far on in the day or night <it's too ~ to go now> [ME, late, slow, fr OE *laet*, akin to OHG *laz* slow, OE *laetan* to let] – **lateness** *n*
- late** *adv* 1a after the usual or proper time <stayed up ~> b at or near the end of a period of time or of a process – often + *on* <~ on in the experiment> 2 until lately <Dr Evans, ~ of Birmingham, now lectures at Durham> – **of late** in the period shortly or immediately before, recently <have not seen him of late>
- lateen** /'la:teen/ *adj* of or being a rig characterized by a triangular sail hung from a long spar set obliquely on a low mast [F (voile) *latine* lateen sail, fr MF, fem of *latin*, lit, Latin, fr L *latinus*, fr its use in the Mediterranean]
- lately** /'laytli/ *adv* recently, OF LATE <has been friendlier ~>
- latency** /'lænsi/ *n*, **latency** /'lænsi/ *n* a stage of personality development observed in W Europe, N America, and some other cultures, that extends from about the age of 5 to puberty, and during which sexual urges appear to lie dormant
- La Tène** /la'ten/ (*Fr* la tɛn)/ *adj* of the later period of the Iron Age in Europe dating from the 5th c bc to the Roman conquests [La Tène, shallows of the Lake of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where remains of it were first discovered]
- latent** /'lænt/ *adj* present but not manifest <a ~ infection> <his desire for success remained ~> [L *latens*, fr prp of *latere* to lie hidden, akin to OHG *luog* den, Gk *lanthanein* to escape notice] – **latency** /-si/ *n*, **latently** *adv*
- latent heat** *n* heat given off or absorbed in a change of phase without a change in temperature
- latent period** *n* 1 the incubation period of a disease 2 the interval between stimulation and response
- lateral** /'læt(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 of the side, situated on, directed towards, or coming from the side 2 made by allowing air to escape on either or both sides of the tongue <l is a ~ consonant> [L *lateralis*, fr *later*, *latus* side] – **laterally** *adv*
- lateral** *n* a lateral consonant
- lateral line** *n* a sense organ along the side of a fish sensitive to low vibrations  ANATOMY
- lateral thinking** *n* thinking that concentrates on unexpected aspects of a problem or proceeds by seemingly illogical methods
- laterite** /'lætə,ri:t/ *n* a usu red clay formed from rock decay and consisting esp of iron oxides and aluminium hydroxides [L *later* brick] – **lateritic** /-rɪtɪk/ *adj*
- latest** /'leɪst/ *n* 1 the most recent or currently fashionable style or development <the ~ in diving techniques> 2 the latest acceptable time <be home by one at the ~> [latest, *adj*, superl of late]
- latex** /'leɪtɛks/ *n*, pl *latices* /'lætə,si:z/, *latexes* 1 a milky usu white fluid that is produced by various flowering plants (e.g. of the spurge and poppy families) and is the source of rubber, gutta-percha, chicle, and balata 2

- a water emulsion of a synthetic rubber or plastic [NL *latic-*, *latex*, fr L, fluid] – **laticiferous** /ˌlætɪˈsɪfərəs/ *adj*
- lath** /lɑːtʃ/ *n, pl laths*, /lɑːtʃs, lɑːtʃz/ *lath* a thin narrow strip of wood, esp for nailing to woodwork (e.g. rafters or studding) as a support (e.g. for tiles or plaster) ➔ **BUILDING** [ME, fr OE *lætt*; akin to OHG *latta* lath, W *lath* yard]
- lath** *vt* to cover or line with laths – **lathing** *n*
- lath** /ˌlæθ/ *n* a former administrative district of Kent [ME, fr OE *læth* estate; akin to ON *lath* landed property]
- lath** *n* a machine in which work is rotated about a horizontal axis and shaped by a fixed tool [prob fr ME *lath* supporting stand, prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *-lad* supporting structure; akin to ON *hlatha* to load]
- lather** /ˈlædhə/ *n* **1a** a foam or froth formed when a detergent (e.g. soap) is agitated in water **b** foam or froth from profuse sweating (e.g. on a horse) **2** an agitated or overwrought state [(assumed) ME, fr OE *leathor*; akin to OE *læg* lye – more at **LYE**] – **lathery** *adj*
- lather** *vt* **1** to spread lather over **2** to beat severely – *infrm* ~ *vt* to form a (froth like) lather – **latherer** *n*
- latices** /ˈlætɪsɪz/ *pl* of **LATEX**
- latifundium** /ˌlætɪˈfʌndi-əm/ *n, pl latifundia* /-di-ə/ a great landed estate [L, fr *latus* wide + *fundus* piece of landed property – more at **BOTTOM**]
- latimeria** /ˌlætɪˈmɪəri-ə/ *n* any of a genus of living coelacanth fishes of deep seas off southern Africa [NL, genus name, fr Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer b1907 SAfr museum director]
- Latin** /ˈlætɪn/ *adj* **1** of Latium or the Latins **2a** of or composed in Latin **b** Romance **3** of the part of the Christian church using a Latin liturgy, broadly ROMAN CATHOLIC **4** of the peoples or countries using Romance languages **5** chiefly NAm of the peoples or countries of Latin America [ME, fr OE, fr L *Latinus*, fr *Latium*, ancient country of Italy] – **Latinize** *vb*
- Latin** *n* **1** the Italic language of ancient Latium and of Rome ➔ **LANGUAGE** **2a** a member of the people of ancient Latium **3** a member of any of the Latin peoples **4** chiefly NAm a native or inhabitant of Latin America
- Latinate** /ˈlætɪnət-, -nəɪt/ *adj* of, resembling, or derived from Latin
- Latin cross** *n* a cross consisting of a long upright bar crossed near the top by a shorter transverse bar ➔ **SYMBOL**
- Latinism** /ˈlætɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1** a characteristic feature of Latin occurring in another language **2** Latin quality, character, or mode of thought
- latinize**, **-ize** /ˈlætɪnɪz/ *vt* **1** to give a Latin form or character to **2** ROMANIZE **2** – **latinization** /-ˈzæɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- Latin Quarter** *n* a section of the Left Bank in Paris frequented by students and artists [trans of *Quartier Latin*]
- latitude** /ˈlætɪtuːd/ *n* **1a** the angular distance of a point on the surface of a celestial body, esp the earth, measured N or S from the equator – compare **LONGITUDE** **b** the angular distance of a celestial body from the ecliptic **2** a region as marked by its latitude – often pl with *sing.* meaning **3** (permitted) freedom of action or choice [ME, fr L *latitudo*-, *latitudo*, fr *latus* wide; akin to Arm *lun* wide] – **latitudinal** /ˌlætɪˈtuːdɪnəl/ *adj*, **latitudinally** *adv*
- latitudinarian** /ˌlætɪˈtuːdɪˈneəri-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a person) liberal in standards of religious belief and conduct; *specif* a member of the Church of England favouring freedom of doctrine and practice within it – **latitudinarianism** *n*
- latrine** /ˈlætriːn/ *n* a small pit used as a toilet, esp in a military camp, barracks, etc; broadly a toilet [F, fr L *latrina*, contr of *lavatrina*, fr *lavare* to wash – more at **LYE**]
- latry** /-ˈlætri/ *comb form* (~ *n*) worship (<*heliolatry*> (<*idolatry*> [ME *-latre*, fr OF, fr LL *-latra*, fr Gk, fr *latreia*] – **-later** /-ˈlətə/ *comb form* (~ *n*)
- latter** /ˈlætə/ *adj* **1** of the end; later, final (<*the ~ stages of a process*> **2** recent, present (<*in ~ years*> **3** second of 2 things, or last of several things mentioned or understood (<*of ham and beef the ~ meat is cheaper today*> [ME, fr OE *lætra*, compar of *læt* late]
- latter** *n, pl latter* the second or last mentioned
- latter-day** *adj* of present or recent times
- Latter-Day Saint** *n* a Mormon [fr Mormons' name for themselves, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints]
- latterly** /-li/ *adv* **1** towards the end or latter part of a period **2** lately
- lattice** /ˈlætɪs/ *n* (a window, door, etc having) a framework or structure of crossed wooden or metal strips with open spaces between **2** a network or design like a lattice **3a** a regular geometrical arrangement of points or objects over an area or in space **b** the geometrical arrangement of the atoms or ions in a crystal [ME *latis*, fr MF *latis*] – **lattice** *vt*, **latticed** *adj*
- lattice,work** /-,wʊh/ *n* a lattice or work made of lattices
- Latvian** /ˈlætvi-ən/ *n* **1** a native or inhabitant of Latvia; *specif* a Lett **2** the Baltic language of the Latvians ➔ **LANGUAGE** [*Latvia*, country in N central Europe, since 1940 a constituent republic of USSR] – **Latvian** *adj*
- laud** /ˈlɔːd/ *n* **1** *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.* often *cap* an office usu immediately following matins and forming with it the first of the canonical hours **2** praise – used esp in hymns [ME *laudes* (pl), fr ML, fr L, pl of *laud*-, *laus* praise; akin to OHG *liod* song; (**2**) ME *laude*, fr *laudes* (pl)]
- laud** *vt* to praise, esp with hymns [L *laudare*, fr *laud*-, *laus*]
- laudable** /ˈlɔːdəbl/ *adj* worthy of praise; commendable – **laudableness** *n*, **laudably** *adv*, **laudability** /ˈlɔːdəbɪləti/ *n*
- laudanum** /ˈlɔːdnəm/ *n* **1** any of various preparations of opium formerly used in medicine **2** a tincture of opium [NL]
- laudatory** /ˈlɔːdət(ə)rɪ-, *laudative* /-dətɪv/ *adj* of or expressing praise
- laugh** /lɑːf/ *vi* **1a** to make the explosive vocal sounds characteristically expressing amusement, mirth, joy, or derision **b** to experience amusement, mirth, joy, or derision (<*ed inwardly though her face remained grave*> **2** to produce a sound of or like laughter – chiefly poetic (<*a ~ ing brook*> ~ *vt* **1** to influence or bring to a specified state by laughter (<*ed him out of his fears*> **2** to utter (as if) with a laugh (<*ed her consent*> **3** to dismiss as trivial – + *off* or *away* (<*you can't ~ off a royal commission*> – Alan Villiers) [ME *laughen*, fr OE *hlæhhan*, akin to OHG *lachen* to laugh, OE *hlowan* to moo – more at **LOW**] – **laugher** *n*, **laughingly** *adv* – **laugh up one's sleeve** to be secretly amused
- laugh** *n* **1** the act or sound of laughing **2** an expression of mirth or scorn **3** a means of entertainment; a diversion – often pl with *sing* meaning **4** a cause for derision or merriment, a joke – *infrm* (<*swim in that current?*> *That's a ~* >)
- laughable** /ˈlɑːfəbl/ *adj* of a kind to provoke laughter or derision, ridiculous – **laughableness** *n*, **laughably** *adv*
- laughing gas** *n* NITROUS OXIDE
- laughing jackass** *n* the kookaburra [fr its call, which resembles loud laughter]
- laughing stock** /-,stɒk/ *n* an object of ridicule
- laugher** /ˈlɑːfə/ *n* **1** a sound (as if) of laughing **2** the action of laughing [ME, fr OE *hlæhtor*; akin to OE *hlæhhan*]
- launch** /ˈlɔːnʃ/ *vt* **1a** to throw forward, hurl **b** to release or send off (e.g. a self-propelled object) (<*~ a rocket*> **2a** to set (an esp newly built boat or ship) afloat **b** to start or set in motion (e.g. on a course or career) **c** to introduce (a new product) onto the market (<*a party to ~ a new book*> ~ *vi* **1** to throw oneself energetically – + *into* or *out into* (<*ed into a brilliant harangue*> **2** to make a start – usu + *out* or *forth* (<*ed forth on a long-winded explanation*> [ME *launchen*, fr ONF *lancher*, fr LL *lanccare* to wield a lance – more at **LANCE**]
- launch** *n* an act or instance of launching
- launch** *n* **1** the largest boat carried by a warship **2** a large open or half-decked motorboat [Sp or Pg; Sp *lancha*, fr Pg]
- launcher** /ˈlɔːnʃə/ *n* a device for launching rockets, missiles, etc [LAUNCH + -ER]
- launching pad** /ˈlɔːnʃɪŋ/ *n* a nonflammable platform from which a rocket can be launched
- launch pad** *n* **1** LAUNCHING PAD **2** a base from which sthg is set in motion (<*the project is still on the ~*>)
- launch vehicle** *n* the rocket power source or sources used to launch a spacecraft
- launder** /ˈlɔːndə/ *vt* **1** to wash (e.g. clothes) in water **2** to make ready for use by washing, sometimes starching, and ironing **3** to give (sthg, esp money, obtained illegally) the appearance of being respectable or legal ~ *vi* to become clean by washing, ironing, etc (<*clothes that ~ well*> [ME *launder* launderer, contr of *lavender*, fr MF *lavandier*, fr ML *lavandarius*, fr L *lavandus*, gerundive of *lavare* to wash] – **launderer** *n*, **laundress** /-drɪs/ *n*
- laundrette** /ˈlɔːndr(ə)ret/ *n* a self-service laundry [fr *Laundrette*, a trademark]
- Laundromat** /ˈlɔːndrəˌmæt/ *trademark* – used for a self-service laundry
- laundry** /ˈlɔːndri/ *n* **1** clothes or cloth articles that have been or are to be laundered, esp by being sent to a laundry **2** a place where laundering is done; *esp* a commercial laundering establishment

**laureate** /'lauri-ət/ *n* a person specially honoured for achievement in an art or science [L *laureatus* crowned with laurel, fr *laurea* laurel wreath, fr fem of *laureus* of laurel, fr *laurus*] – **laureate** *adj*, **laureateship** *n*

**laurel** /'lɔːrəl/ *n* 1 any of a genus of trees or shrubs that have alternate entire leaves, small flowers, and fruits that are ovoid berries 2 a tree or shrub that resembles the true laurel 3 a crown of laurel awarded as a token of victory or preeminence, distinction, honour – usu pl with sing. meaning [ME *lore*, fr OF *lorier*, fr *lor* laurel, fr L *laurus*]

**lav** /lav/ *n* a lavatory – *infml*

**lava** /'lavə/ *n* (solidified) molten rock that issues from a volcano  GEOGRAPHY [It, fr L *labes* fall, akin to L *labi* to slide – more at *slief*] – **lavali** *adj*

**lavabo** /'lavəboh/ *n*, *pl* **lavabos** *often cap* the celebrant's ritual hand-washing and saying of Psalm 25 6–12 after the offertory at Mass [L, I shall wash, fr *lavare*]

**lavage** /'lavɪʒ (Fr lava ʒ)/ *n* the therapeutic washing of an organ [F, fr MF, fr *laver* to wash, fr L *lavare*]

**lavation** /'lavəʃən/ *n* washing, cleansing – *fml* [L *lavation-*, *lavatio*, fr *lavatus*] – **lavational** *adj*

**lavatorial** /'lavə'tɔːri-əl/ *adj* characterized by excessive reference to lavatories and (the bodily functions associated with) their use, *broadly*, vulgar (< ~ *humour*)

**lavatory** /'lavətri/ *n* 1 a toilet 2 *NAm* a room with facilities for washing and usu with 1 or more toilets [ME *lavatorie* washbasin, fr ML *lavatorium*, fr L *lavatus*, pp of *lavare* to wash – more at *tye*] – **lavatory** *adj*

**lavatory paper** *n* TOILET PAPER

**lave** /layv/ *vt* to wash, *BATH* 1 – poetic [ME *laven*, fr OE *lafian*, akin to OHG *labon* to wash, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *lavare*]

**lavender** /'lavində/ *n* 1 a Mediterranean plant of the mint family widely cultivated for its narrow aromatic leaves and spikes of lilac-purple flowers which are dried and used in perfume sachets 2 pale purple [ME *lavendre*, fr AF, fr ML *lavandula*]

**laver** /'layvə/ *n* a large basin used for ceremonial ablutions in ancient Jewish worship [ME *lavour*, fr MF *lavor*]

**laver** *n* any of several mostly edible seaweeds [NL, fr L, a water plant]

**lavish** /'lavɪʃ/ *adj* 1 expending or bestowing profusely 2 expended, bestowed, or produced in abundance [ME *lavas* abundance, fr MF *lavasse* downpour of rain, fr *laver* to wash, fr L *lavare*] – **lavishly** *adj*, **lavishness** *n*

**lavish** *vt* to expend or bestow with profusion

**law** /law/ *n* 1a(1) a rule of conduct formally recognized as binding or enforced by authority (2) the whole body of such rules (<the ~ of the land>) (3) COMMON LAW *b* the control brought about by such law – esp in *law and order* *c* litigation (<ready to go to ~>) 2a a rule one should observe *b* control, authority 3a *often cap* the revelation of the will of God set out in the Old Testament *b* *cap* the first part of the Jewish scriptures, the Pentateuch 4 a rule of action, construction, or procedure (<the ~ of poetry>) 5 the law relating to one subject (<company ~>) 6 *often cap* the legal profession 7 jurisprudence 8a a statement of an order or relation of natural phenomena (<the first ~ of thermodynamics>) (<Boyle's ~>) *b* a necessary relation between mathematical or logical expressions 9 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *often cap* the police – *infml* [ME, fr OE *lagu*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *log* law, pl of *lag* layer, due place, order, akin to OE *licgan* to lie – more at *'lie*] – in/at law according to the law – law unto him-/her-/itself sby or sthg that does not follow accepted conventions

**law-abiding** *adj* abiding by or obedient to the law

**lawbreaker** /-,braykə/ *n* one who violates the law – **lawbreaking** *adj* or *n*

**lawful** /'lawf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 allowed by law 2 rightful (<your ~ Queen>) – **lawfully** *adv*, **lawfulness** *n*

**lawgiver** /-,gɪvə/ *n* sby who gives a code of laws to a people

**lawks** /'lɔːks/ *interj*, *dial* or *archaic*, *Br* – used to express surprise [euphemism for *Lord*]

**lawless** /'lawlis/ *adj* 1 not regulated by or based on law 2 not restrained or controlled by law – **lawlessly** *adv*, **lawlessness** *n*

**Law, Lord** *n* a member of the House of Lords qualified to take part in its judicial proceedings

**lawmaker** /-,maykə/ *n* a legislator – **lawmaking** *n*


**lawman** /'law.mən, -mən/ *n*, *NAm* a law-enforcement officer

**law merchant** *n*, *pl* **law merchants** the legal rules formerly applied to commercial transactions [ME *lawe marchaund* (trans of ML *lex mercatoria*), fr *lawe* law + *marchaund*, *marchant*, *adj*, merchant]

**'lawn** /'lawn/ *n* a fine sheer linen or cotton fabric of plain weave that is thinner than cambric [ME, fr *Laon*, town in France] – **lawn** *adj*

**²lawn** *n* an area of ground (e.g. around a house or in a garden or park) that is covered with grass and is kept mowed [ME *launde*, fr MF *lande* heath, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *land* open space – more at *land*]

**lawn mower** *n* a machine for cutting grass on lawns


**lawn tennis** *n* tennis played on a grass court  SPORT

**law of averages** *n* the principle that one extreme will be cancelled out by its opposite, and the balance redressed

**law officer** *n* an official appointed to administer and interpret the law, *specif* a British attorney general or solicitor general

**law of nations** *n* INTERNATIONAL LAW

**law of war** *n* a code that governs the duties of belligerents

**lawrencium** /'law'rensi-əm, lo-/ *n* a short-lived radioactive artificial element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Ernest O Lawrence †1958 US physicist]

**'law,suit** /-,s(ɪ)ʊoht/ *n* a noncriminal case in a court of law

**lawyer** /'lɔːyə, 'lɔɪə/ *n* sby whose profession is to conduct lawsuits or to advise on legal matters

**lax** /laks/ *adj* 1 of the bowels loose, open 2 not strict or stringent; negligent (< ~ *morals*) (< ~ in his duties>), also deficient in firmness or precision (<his ideas are a bit ~>) 3a not tense, firm, or rigid, slack (<a ~ rope>) *b* not compact or exhibiting close cohesion, loose (<a ~ flower cluster>) 4 of a speech sound articulated with the muscles in a relatively relaxed state (e.g. the vowel /ɪ/ in contrast with the vowel /ee/) [ME, fr L *laxus* loose – more at *slack*] – **laxity**, **laxness** *n*, **laxly** *adv*, **laxation** /lak'sayʃən/ *n*

**laxative** /'laksətiʋ/ *n* or *adj* (a usu mild purgative) having a tendency to loosen or relax the bowels (to relieve constipation) [*adj* ME *laxatif*, fr ML *laxativus*, fr L *laxatus*, pp of *laxare* to loosen, fr *laxus*, *n* fr *adj*] – **laxativeness** *n*

**'lay** /lay/ *vb* *laid* /layd/ *vt* 1 to beat or strike down with force (<a blow that laid him to the ground>) (<wheat laid flat by the wind and rain>) 2a to put or set down *b* to place for rest or sleep, esp to bury 3 of a bird to produce (an egg) 4 to calm, allay (<the dust>) (<~ a ghost>) 5 to bet, wager (<~ odds on the favourite>) (<~ my life on it>) 6 to press down giving a smooth and even surface (<laid tarmac on the road>) 7a to dispose or spread over or on a surface (<~ a cloth on the table>) *b* to set in order or position (<~ a table for dinner>) (<~ bricks>) *c* to put (strands) in place and twist to form a rope, hawser, or cable 8a to put or impose as a duty, burden, or punishment – esp + *on* or *upon* *b* to put as a burden of reproach (<laid the blame on him>) *c* to advance as an accusation; impute (<the disaster was laid to faulty inspection>) (<laid a charge of manslaughter>) 9 to place (sthg immaterial) on sthg (<~ stress on grammar>) 10 to prepare, contrive (<a well-laid plan>) 11a to bring into position or against or into contact with sthg (<laid the watch to his ear>) (<the horse laid his ears back>) *b* to prepare or position for action or operation (<~ a fire in the fireplace>) *c* to adjust (a gun) to the proper direction and elevation 12 to bring to a specified condition (<~ waste the land>) 13a to assert, allege (<~ claim to an estate>) *b* to submit for examination and judgment (<laid his case before the tribunal>) 14 to place fictitiously, locate (<the scene is laid in wartime London>) 15 to put aside for future use, store, reserve – + *aside*, *by*, *in*, or *up* 16 to put out of use or consideration – + *aside* or *by* 17 to copulate with – *slang* – *vi* 1 esp of a hen to produce eggs 2 to wager, bet 3 to apply oneself vigorously (<laid to his oars>) 4 *trif* – nonstandard [ME *leyen*, fr OE *leggan*; akin to OE *licgan* to lie – more at *'lie*] – lay about one to deal blows indiscriminately; lash out on all sides – lay hands on 1 to seize forcibly 2 to find – lay into to attack with words or blows – lay it on 1 to exaggerate, esp in order to flatter or impress (<that was really laying it on a bit thick>) 2 to charge an exorbitant price – lay on the table to make public; disclose – lay low 1 to knock or bring down, esp; destroy 2 to cause to be ill or physically weakened – lay open to expose e.g. a to cut (<a blow that laid his head open>) *b* to explain or make known; UNCOVER 1 (<the facts of the case were laid wide open>) – lay siege to 1 to besiege militarily 2 to attempt to conquer or persuade diligently or persistently

**²lay** *n* 1 (a partner in) sexual intercourse – *slang* 2 chiefly *NAm* the position or situation in which sthg lies, esp relative to sthg else (<the ~ of the land>) – in lay esp of a hen in condition to lay eggs

**'lay past** of *LIE*

**'lay** *n* a simple narrative poem intended to be sung; a ballad [ME, fr OF *lai*]

**'lay** *adj* 1 of or performed by the laity 2 of domestic or manual workers in a religious community (<a ~ brother>) 3 not belonging to a particular

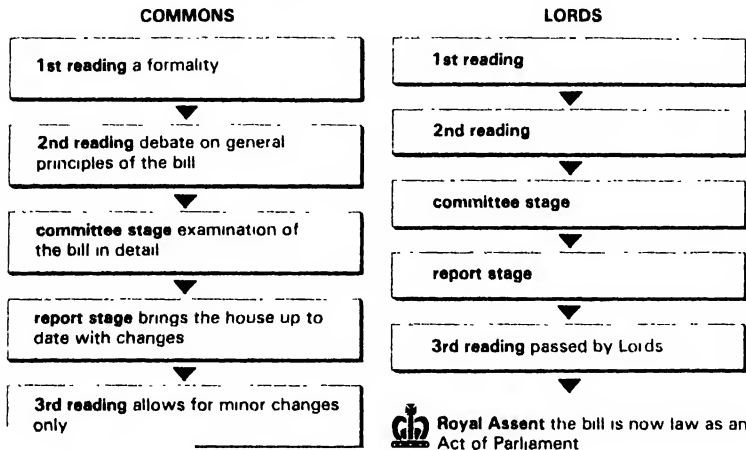
## Making Laws

In the UK law is made by legislation or by case law

### Legislation

Supreme legislative authority is vested in Parliament and Bills must go through both houses and have the Royal Assent before they can become Acts of Parliament. Bills can be presented in either House, but usually start in the Commons. They may be presented on behalf of the government or by a private member, though fewer of the latter reach the statute book.

In the case of Public General Acts, the procedure is as follows



**Delegated legislation** is made by subordinate authorities acting under the authority of parliament

### Orders in council

made at a formal meeting of the Privy Council and the monarch

### Statutory instruments

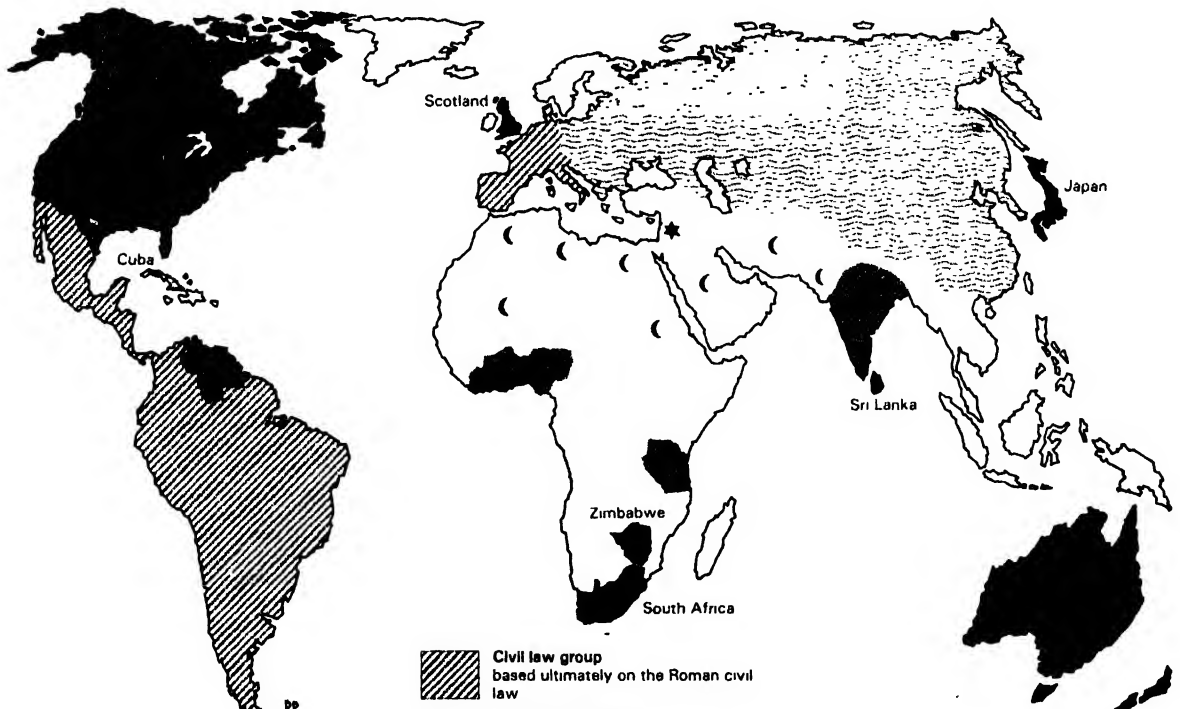
made by ministers for specified purposes





### Bylaws

made by local authorities and other public bodies

### Case law




This is based on judicial precedent. A decision of a superior court is binding on the courts beneath it and sometimes on itself. It is the principle behind the decision which constitutes the binding precedent.



-  Civil law group based ultimately on the Roman civil law
-  Common law group based chiefly on the common law of England
-  Socialist group new legal codes based upon Marxist philosophy, but with traces of civil law
-  Hybrid systems basically civil law, but heavily influenced by common law ideas and rules

### Religious systems

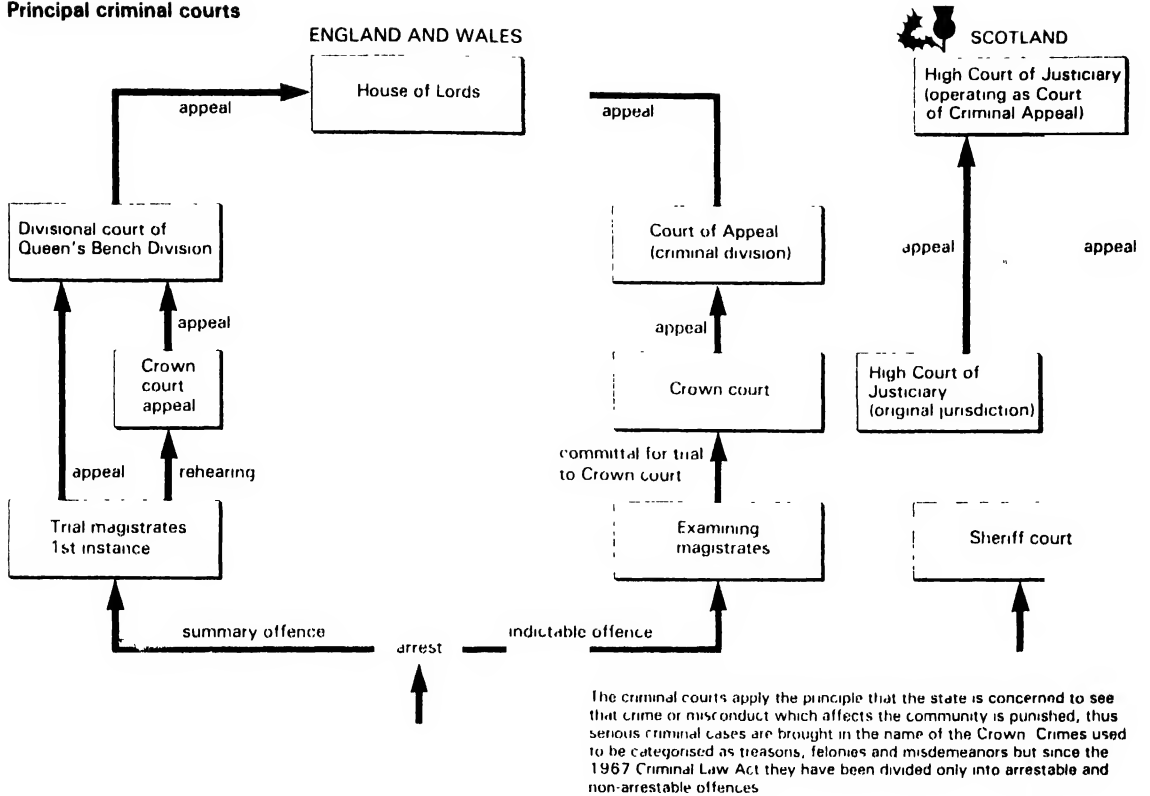
Religious systems may be influenced by the common law, civil law and/or socialist law

-  Islamic law
-  Hindu law
-  Jewish law

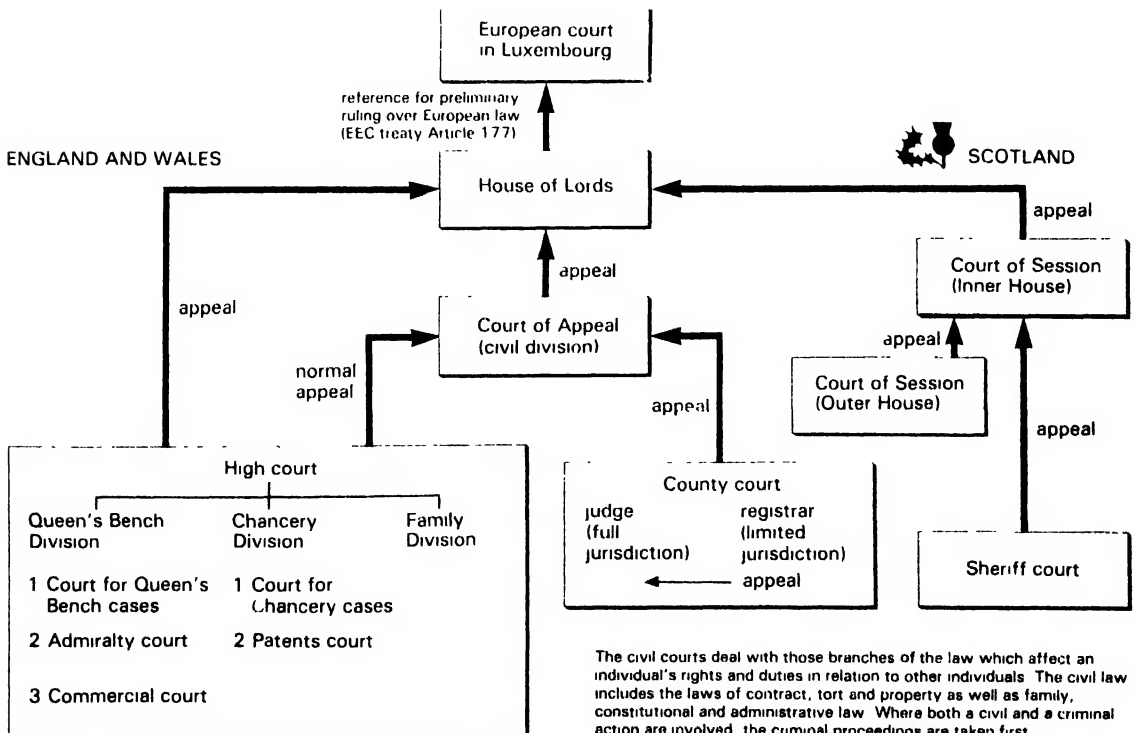
### Systems of law

Comparative law studies have grouped the main world legal systems into families, whose members resemble each other in institutions and methods, usually as a result of a common history or borrowing.

## Principal criminal courts



## Principal civil courts



- profession [ME, fr OF *lai*, fr LL *laicus*, fr Gk *laikos* of the people, fr *laos* people]
- layabout** /'laɪəbaʊt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a lazy shiftless person
- lay-by** *n*, *pl* **lay-bys** *Br* a branch from or widening of a road to permit vehicles to stop without obstructing traffic
- lay, day** *n* a day allowed for loading or unloading a vessel
- lay down** *vt* 1 to surrender; GIVE UP (laid down her life for the cause) 2a to begin to construct (e.g. a ship or railway) b to establish, prescribe, esp to dictate (<~ the law>) 3 to store; specif to store (wine) in a cellar
- 'layer** /'leɪə/ *n* 1a a single thickness of some substance spread or lying over or under another (as part of a series) b any of a series of gradations or depths (<~s of meaning>) 2a a branch or shoot of a plant treated to induce rooting while still attached to the parent plant b a plant developed by layering ['LAY + -ER]
- 'layer** *vt* 1 to propagate (a plant) by means of layers 2 to cut (hair) in layers 3 to arrange or form (as if) in layers (potato slices ~ed with cheese) 4 to form out of or with layers ~ *vi*, of a plant to form roots where a stem comes in contact with the ground
- layette** /'leɪet/ *n* a complete outfit of clothing and equipment for a newborn infant [F, fr MF, dim. of *laye* box, fr MD *lade*; akin to MHG *lade* box, OE *hladan* to load – more at LADE]
- lay figure** *n* 1 a jointed model of the human body used by artists, esp to show the arrangement of drapery 2 a person likened to a dummy or puppet [obs *layman* (lay figure), fr D *leeman*, fr *hd* limb + *man* man]
- layman** /'leɪmən/, *fem* 'laywoman *n* 1 a person not of the clergy 2 a person without special (e.g. professional) knowledge of some field
- 'lay off** /-of/ *n* 1 the laying off of an employee or work force 2 a period of unemployment, inactivity, or idleness
- lay off** *vt* 1 to cease to employ (a worker), usu temporarily 2a to let alone b to avoid (lay off pastry and pud – *The Times*) ~ *vi* to stop or desist, specif from an activity causing annoyance *USE* (*vt* 2, *vi*) *infrml*
- lay on** *vt*, chiefly *Br* 1 to supply (e.g. water or gas) to a building 2 to supply; organize (cars were laid on) (they laid on a good meal)
- 'lay out** /-əʊt/ *n* 1 arranging or laying out 2 the plan, design, or arrangement of sth (e.g. rooms in a building or matter to be printed) laid out 3 sth laid out (a model train ~)
- lay out** *vt* 1 to prepare (a corpse) for a funeral 2 to arrange according to a plan (flower beds and lawns were laid out in a formal pattern) 3 to knock flat or unconscious 4 to spend 5 to exert (oneself) for a purpose *USE* (except 1 & 2) *infrml*
- lay reader** *n* a lay person authorized to conduct parts of church services
- lay shaft** *n* an intermediate shaft that receives and transmits power, esp in a gearbox [prob fr 'lay]
- lay up** *vt* 1 to store up, have or keep for future use 2 to disable or confine with illness or injury 3 to take out of active service
- 'lazar** /'læzə/ *n*, *archaic* one afflicted with a repulsive disease, specif a leper [ME, fr ML *lazarus*, fr LL *Lazarus*, beggar with sores mentioned in Lk 16:20]
- lazaret** /'læzəret/ *n* a lazaretto [F, fr It dial. *lazaretto*]
- lazaretto** /'læzə'retəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **lazarettoes** 1 a hospital for contagious diseases 2 a building or ship used for detention in quarantine 3 a ship's storeroom [It dial. *lazaretto*, alter of *nazaretto*, fr *Santa Maria di Nazaret*, church in Venice that maintained a hospital]
- laze** /'leɪz/ *vi* to act or rest lazily ~ *vt* to pass (time) away in idleness or relaxation [back-formation fr *lazy*] – *laze* *n*
- 'lazy** /'leɪzi/ *adj* 1a disinclined or averse to activity; indolent; also not energetic or vigorous (<~ manner>) b encouraging inactivity or indolence (<~ afternoon>) 2 moving slowly (<~ river>) [perh fr MLG *lasich* feeble; akin to MHG *erleswen* to become weak, ON *lasinn* dilapidated] – *lazily* *adv*, *laziness* *n*
- 'lazybones** /-bəʊnz/ *n*, *pl* **lazybones** a lazy person – *infrml*
- lazy tongs** *n* an arrangement of jointed and pivoted bars capable of great extension, used for picking up or handling sth at a distance
- LCD** *n* a display of numbers, symbols, etc (e.g. in a digital watch) produced by applying an electric current to liquid crystal cells in order to increase the amount of light they reflect [liquid crystal display]
- L-dopa** /el 'dɒpə/ *n* the levorotatory form of dopa used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease [- + *dopa*]
- lea** /'leɪ/ *n* (an area of) grassland, pasture – chiefly poetic [ME *leye*, fr OE *lēah*; akin to OHG *lōh* thicket, L *lucus* grove, *lux* light – more at LIGHT]
- leach** /'leɪtʃ/ *vt* to separate the soluble components from (a mixture) or remove (sth soluble) by the action of a percolating liquid ~ *vi* to pass out or through (as if) by percolation [prob deriv of OE *leccan* to moisten – more at LEAK] – *leach* *n*, *leacher* *n*
- 'lead** /'liːd/ *vb* **led** /'led/ *vt* 1a(1) to guide on a way, esp by going in advance (2) to cause to go with one (under duress) (led the condemned man to the scaffold) b to direct or guide on a course or to a state or condition; influence (reflection led him to a better understanding of the problem) c to serve as a channel or route for (a pipe ~s water to the house) (the road led her to a small village) 2 to go through; live (<~ a quiet life>) 3a(1) to direct the operations, activity, or performance of; have charge of (led a safari into little known territory) (2) to act as or be a leader in or of (<~ fashion>) (<~ an orchestra>) b to go or be at the head or ahead of 4 to begin play, esp at a card game, with ~ *vi* 1a(1) to guide sb or sth along a way (2) to act as or be a leader b(1) to lie or run in a specified place or direction (the path ~s uphill) (2) to serve as an entrance or passage (this door ~s to the garden) 2a to be first or ahead b(1) to begin, open – usu + *off* (led off with a speech by the chairman) (2) to play the first card of a trick, round, or game 3 to tend or be directed towards a specified result (study ~ing to a degree) 4 to direct the first of a series of blows at an opponent in boxing (with the right or left hand) [ME *leden*, fr OE *ledan*, akin to OHG *leiten* to lead, OE *lithan* to go] – *lead up* to prepare the way for, esp by using a gradual or indirect approach – *lead someone a dance* to cause sb a lot of trouble
- 'lead** /'liːd/ *n* 1a(1) position at the front or ahead (2) the act or privilege of leading in cards, also the card or suit led b guidance, direction, (an) example c a margin or position of advantage or superiority 2a a channel of water (1) leading to a mill (2) through an ice field b an indication, clue c (one who plays) a principal role in a dramatic production d a line or strap for leading or restraining an animal (e.g. a dog) e a news story of chief importance 3 an insulated electrical conductor 4 'PITCH 2b(2)
- 'lead** /'led/ *n* 1 a heavy soft malleable bluish-white metallic element used esp in pipes, cable sheaths, batteries, solder, type metal, and shields against radioactivity (see PERIODIC TABLE) 2a the (lead) weight on a sounding line b *pl* lead framing for panes in windows c a thin strip of metal used to separate lines of type in printing 3a a thin stick of graphite or crayon in or for a pencil b WHITE LEAD 4 bullets, projectiles (the ~ was flying) 5 *pl*, *Br* (a usu flat roof covered with) thin lead sheets [ME *lead*, fr OE *lēad*; akin to MHG *lot* lead] – *leadless* *adj*
- 'lead** /'led/ *vt* 1 to fix (window glass) in position with leads 2 to separate lines of (type) with leads 3 to treat or mix with (a compound of) lead (<~ed petrol>)
- leaden** /'led(ə)n/ *adj* 1a made of lead b dull grey 2a oppressively heavy (<~ limbs>) (<~ silence>) b lacking spirit or animation, sluggish (<~ prose>) – *leadily* *adv*, *leadiness* *n*
- leader** /'liːdə/ *n* 1a a main or end shoot of a plant b *pl* dots or hyphens used to lead the eye horizontally c a blank section at the beginning or end of a reel of film or recorded tape 2a sb or sth that ranks first, precedes others, or holds a principal position b sb who has commanding authority or influence c(1) the principal officer of a political party (<~ of the opposition>) (2) either of 2 government ministers in charge of government business in Parliament (the Leader of the Commons) (3) the principal member of the ruling party in a totalitarian system 3 a horse placed in advance of the other horse or horses of a pair or team 4 chiefly *Br* a newspaper editorial 5a *Br* the principal first violinist and usu assistant conductor of an orchestra b *NAm* CONDUCTOR 2 ['LEAD + -ER] – *leaderless* *adj*, *leadership* *n*
- 'lead-in** /'liːd/ *n* 1 introductory matter 2 the part of the groove on a record before the recording
- 'leading** /'liːdɪŋ/ *adj* coming or ranking first; foremost, principal (the ~ role)
- 'leading** /'liːdɪŋ/ *n* 1 LEAD 2c; also a space between printed lines made (as if) with a lead
- leading aircraftman** /'liːdɪŋ/ *n* (see RANK)
- leading article** *n*, chiefly *Br* LEADER 4
- leading case** *n* a legal case which establishes a precedent
- leading edge** *n* the foremost edge of an aerofoil (e.g. a propeller blade or wing)
- 'leading lady**, *masculine* **leading man** *n* an actress who plays the female lead in a film, play, etc
- 'leading light** *n* a prominent and influential person in a particular sphere
- leading note** *n* the seventh note of a diatonic scale
- 'leading question** *n* a question so phrased as to suggest the expected answer
- 'leading reins** *n pl* straps by which children are supported when beginning to walk



**leading seaman** *n*  RANK

**leading strings** *n pl* 1 LEADING RLINS 2 a state of unnecessary or prolonged dependence – chiefly in *in leading strings*

**lead-off** /led/ *n* a beginning or leading action, a start


**lead on** *vt* 1 to entice or induce to proceed in a (mistaken or unwise) course 2 to cause to believe sthg that is untrue

**lead pencil** /led/ *n* a pencil containing a graphite lead

**leadscrew** /led,skrooh/ *n* a screw that moves the carriage of a lathe

**leadman** /ledzmn/ *n* a man who uses a sounding lead to determine depth of water

**lead time** /led/ *n* the period between the initiation and the completion of a new production process

**leaf** /leef/ *n, pl leaves* /leevz/ 1a(1) any of the usu green flat and typically broad-bladed outgrowths from the stem of a plant that function primarily in food manufacture by photosynthesis  PLANT (2) a modified leaf (e.g. a petal or sepal) b(1) (the state of having) foliage *<in ~>* (2) the leaves of a plant (e.g. tobacco) as an article of commerce 2a a part of a book or folded sheet of paper containing a page on each side b(1) a part (e.g. of a window shutter, folding door, or table) that slides or is hinged – compare DROP LEAF (2) a section that can be inserted into a tabletop to extend it c(1) a thin sheet of metal, marble, etc (2) metal (e.g. gold or silver) in sheets, usu thinner than foil [ME *leef*, fr OE *leaf*; akin to OHG *lob* leaf, L *liber* bast, book, Skt *lumpati* he injures, robs] – leafless *adj*, leaflike *adj*

**leaf** *vi* to shoot out or produce leaves – leaf through to turn over the pages of (e.g. a book) quickly while only glancing at the contents

**leafage** /leefij/ *n* FOLIAGE 1

**leaf curl** *n* a plant disease characterized by curling of the leaves

**leafed** *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) -leafed

**leafhopper** /-hopa/ *n* any of numerous small leaping insects that suck the juices of plants

**leaflet** /leeflit/ *n* 1a any of the divisions of a compound leaf b a small or young foliage leaf 2 a single sheet of paper or small loose-leaf pamphlet containing printed matter (e.g. advertising)

**leaf miner** *n* any of various small insects that as larvae burrow in and eat the internal tissues of leaves


**leaf mould** *n* a compost or soil layer composed chiefly of decayed vegetable matter

**leaf shutter** *n* a shutter for a camera made of usu 5 thin metallic leaves that swing out of the light path when a picture is taken

**leaf spring** *n* a spring made of superimposed metal strips

**leafstalk** /-stawk/ *n* a petiole

**leafy** /leefi/ *adj* 1 having or thick with leaves *<~ woodlands>* 2 consisting chiefly of leaves *<green ~ vegetables>* – leafiness *n*

**league** /leeg/ *n* any of various units of distance of about 3mi (5km)  UNIT [ME *leuge*, *lege*, fr LL *leuga*, *leuca*, of Gaulish origin]

**league** *n* 1a an association of nations, groups, or people for a common purpose or to promote a common interest b (a competition for an overall title, in which each person or team plays all the others at least once, held by) an association of people or sports clubs 2 a class, category *<the top ~>* [ME (Sc) *hgg*, fr MF *hgue*, fr OIt *liga*, fr *ligare* to bind, fr L – more at LIGATURE] – leaguer *n* – in league in alliance

**league** *vb* to form into a league

**leaguer** /leega/ *n* a laager [D *leger*; akin to OHG *legar* act of lying down, bed – more at LAIR]

**league table** *n* a table showing the relative positions of competitors in a league; broadly a list in order of merit

**leak** /leek/ *vi* 1 to (let a substance) enter or escape through a crack or hole 2 to become known despite efforts at concealment – often out ~ *vt* 1 to permit to enter or escape (as if) through a leak 2 to give out (information) surreptitiously *<~ed the story to the press>* [ME *leken*, fr ON *leka*; akin to OE *leccan* to moisten, OIr *legaim* I melt] – leakage *n*

**leak** *n* 1a a crack or hole through which sthg (e.g. a fluid) is admitted or escapes, usu by mistake b a means by which sthg (e.g. secret information) is admitted or escapes, usu with prejudicial effect c a loss of electricity due to faulty insulation 2 a leaking or that which is leaked; esp a disclosure 3 an act of urinating – slang

**leaky** /leeki/ *adj* permitting fluid, information, etc to leak in or out, broadly not watertight *<a ~ argument>* – leakiness *n*

**leal** /leel/ *adj*, chiefly Scot loyal, true [ME *leel*, fr OF *leial*, *leel* – more at LOYAL] – leally *adv*

**lean** /lecn/ *vb* leant /lent/, leaned /leend, lent/ *vi* 1a to incline or bend from a vertical position *<~t forward to look>* b to rest supported

on/against sthg 2 to rely for support or inspiration – + on or upon 3 to incline in opinion, taste, etc 4 to exert pressure, use coercion – + on, intransitive ~ *vt* to place on/against for support [ME *lenen*, fr OE *hleonian*; akin to OHG *hlînen* to lean, Gk *klînein*, L *clinare*] – lean *n*

**lean** *adj* 1a lacking or deficient in flesh or bulk b of meat containing little or no fat 2 lacking richness, sufficiency, or value 3a deficient in an essential or important quality or ingredient b esp of a fuel mixture low in the combustible component [ME *lene*, fr OE *hlêne*] – leanly *adv*, leanness *n*

**lean** *n* the part of meat that consists principally of fat-free muscular tissue

**leaning** /leening/ *n* a definite but weak attraction, tendency, or partiality

**lean-to** *n, pl lean-tos* a small building having a roof that rests on the side of a larger building or wall

**leap** /lecp/ *vb* leapt /lept/, leaped /leapt, lept/ *vi* 1 to jump in or through the air 2a to pass abruptly from one state or topic to another; esp to rise quickly *<the idea ~t into his mind>* b to seize eagerly at an opportunity, offer, etc ~ *vt* to pass over by leaping [ME *lepen*, fr OE *hleapan*, akin to OHG *hlouffan* to run, ON *hlaupa* to jump, leap] – leaper *n*

**leap** *n* 1a (the distance covered by) a jump b a place leapt over or from 2 a sudden transition, esp a rise or increase

**leapfrog** /-frog/ *n* a game in which one player bends down and another leaps over him/her

**leapfrog** *vb* -gg- 1 to leap (over) (as if) in leapfrog 2 to go ahead of (each other) in turn

**leap year** *n* a year with an extra day added to make it coincide with the solar year, esp a year in the Gregorian calendar with February 29 as the 366th day [prob fr the 'leap' made by any date after February in a leap year over the weekday on which it would normally fall]

**learn** /luhn/ *vb* learnt /luhnt/, learned /luhnd, luhnt/ *vt* 1a(1) to gain knowledge of or skill in *<~ a trade>* (2) to memorize *<~ the lines of a play>* b to come to be able – + infinitive *<~ to dance>* c to come to realize or know *<we ~ed that he was ill>* 2 to teach – substandard ~ *vi* to acquire knowledge or skill [ME *lernen*, fr OE *leornian*, akin to OHG *lêrnen* to learn, L *lira* furrow, track] – learnable *adj*, learner *n*

**learned** /luhnd, sense 2 luhnd/ *adj* 1 characterized by or associated with learning; erudite 2 acquired by learning *<~ versus innate behaviour patterns>* – learnedly /-ndli/ *adv*, learnedness /-ndnis/ *n*

**learning** /luhning/ *n* 1 acquired knowledge or skill 2 modification of a behavioural tendency by experience (e.g. exposure to conditioning)

**lease** /lees/ *n* 1 a contract putting the land or property of one party at the disposal of another, usu for a stated period and rent 2 a (prospect of) continuance – chiefly in *lease of life*

**lease** *vt* to grant by or hold under lease [AF *lessen*, fr OF *laisser* to let go, fr L *laxare* to loosen, fr *laxus* slack – more at SLACK]

**leasehold** /-hohld/ *n* tenure by or property held by lease – leaseholder *n*

**leash** /leesh/ *n* 1a LEAD 2d b a restraint, check 2 a set of 3 animals (e.g. greyhounds, foxes, or hares) [ME *lees*, *leshe*, fr OF *laisse*, fr *laisser*] – leash *vt*

**least** /leest/ *adj* 1 lowest in rank, degree, or importance 2a smallest in quantity or extent b being (of) a kind distinguished by small size *<~ bitterness>* c smallest possible; slightest *<haven't the ~ idea>* [ME *leest*, fr OE *leest*, superl of *laessa* less] – at least 1 as a minimum, if not more *<costs at least £5>* 2 if nothing else, in ANY CASE *<at least it is legal>*

**least** *n* the smallest quantity, number, or amount *<it's the ~ I can do>* *<to say the ~>* – least of all especially not *<no one, least of all the children paid attention>*

**least** *adv* to the smallest degree or extent *<least-known>* *<when we ~ expected it>*

**least squares** *n pl* a method of fitting a curve to a set of points representing statistical data in such a way that the sum of the squares of the distances of the points from the curve is a minimum

**least ways** /-wayz/, leastwise /-wicz/ *adv*, chiefly dial AT LEAST 2

**leather** /ledhə/ *n* 1 animal skin dressed for use 2 sthg wholly or partly made of leather; esp a piece of chamois, used esp for polishing metal or glass [ME *lether*, fr OE *lether*; akin to OHG *leder* leather]

**leather** *vi* to beat with a strap; thrash

**leatherette** /ledhə'ret/ *trademark* – used for an imitation leather

**leatherjacket** /-jakit/ *n*, chiefly Br the larva of the crane fly

**leathern** /ledhən/ *adj* made of or resembling leather

**leatherneck** /-nek/ *n* MARINE 2 – slang; used esp by sailors [fr the leather neckband formerly part of the uniform]

- leathery** /'ledhəri/ *adj* resembling leather in appearance or consistency, esp tough
- leave** /leev/ *vb* *left* /left/ *vt* **1a** (1) to bequeath (2) to have (esp members of one's family) remaining after one's death **b** to cause to remain as an aftereffect **2a** to cause or allow to be or remain in a specified or unaltered condition <his manner left me cold> <~ the washing-up for tomorrow> **b** to fail to include, use, or take along <left his notes at home> – sometimes + *off* or *out* <left his name off the list> **c** to have remaining or as a remainder <10 from 12 ~s 2> **d** to permit to be or remain subject to the action or control of a specified person or thing <just ~ everything to me> <nothing left to chance> **e** to allow to do or continue sthg without interference <~ you to take care of things> **3a** to go away from <told him to ~ the room> **b** to desert, abandon <left his wife> **c** to withdraw from <left school at 15> **4** to put, station, deposit, or deliver, esp before departure <the postman left a package for you> <~ your name with the receptionist> – *vi* to depart, SET OUT [ME *leven*, fr OE *læfan*; akin to OHG *verleiben* to leave, OE *belifan* to be left over, Gk *lipos* fat] – **leaver** *n* – **leave alone** /**be** LET ALONE/**BE** – **leave go** LET GO – **leave well alone** to avoid meddling
- leave** *n* **1** permission to do sthg **2** authorized (extended) absence (e.g. from employment) [ME *leve*, fr OE *leaf*; akin to MHG *loube* permission, OE *alýfan* to allow – more at BELIEVE]
- leaved** /-leevd/ *comb form* (*adj* – *adj*) having (such or so many) leaves <palmetto-leaved> <4-leaved clover>
- leaven** /'lev(ə)n/ *n* **1** a substance (e.g. yeast) used to produce fermentation or a gas in dough, batter, etc to lighten it, esp a mass of fermenting dough reserved for this purpose **2** sthg that modifies or lightens [ME *levain*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *levamen*, fr L *levare* to raise – more at LEVER]
- leaven** *vt* to raise or make lighter (as if) with a leaven
- leave off** *vb* to stop, cease
- leaves** /leevz/ *pl* of leaf
- leave-taking** *n* a departure, farewell
- leavings** /'leevinz/ *n pl* remains, residue
- Lebanese** /'lebo'neez/ *n or adj, pl* Lebanese /~ / (a native or inhabitant) of the Lebanon [Lebanon, country in SW Asia]
- lebensraum** /'layb(ə)nz.raʊm/ *n*, often *cap* territory necessary for national existence or self-sufficiency – used chiefly with reference to land Nazi Germany attempted to take in WW II [G, fr *leben* living, life + *raum* space]
- lecher** /'lecho/ *n* a man who engages in lechery [ME *lechour*, fr OF *lecheor*, fr *lecher* to lick, live in debauchery, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *leckōn* to lick – more at LICK]
- lechery** /'lechari/ *n* inordinate indulgence in sexual activity; debauchery, lasciviousness – **lecherous** *adj*, **lecherously** *adv*
- lecithin** /'lesəθɪn/ *n* any of several waxy compounds that are widely distributed in animals and plants and have emulsifying, wetting, and antioxidant properties [ISV, fr Gk *lekithos* yolk of an egg]
- lectern** /'lek.tərn/ *n* a reading desk, esp one from which the Bible is read in church [ME *lettorne*, fr MF *letrun*, fr ML *lectornum*, fr L *lector* reader, fr *lectus*, pp of *legere* to read – more at LEGEND]
- lection** /'leksh(ə)n/ *n* a variant reading in a particular copy or edition of a text [NL *lection*-, *lectio*, fr L, act of reading, fr *lectus*]
- lectionary** /'leksh(ə)nri/ *n* a book or list of scriptural texts proper to each day of the church year [ML *lectionarium*, fr LL *lection*-, *lectio* liturgical lesson for a particular day, fr L, act of reading]
- lector** /'lektaw/ *n* the reader of a lesson in a church service [LL, fr L, reader]
- lecture** /'lekchə/ *n* **1** a discourse given to an audience, esp for instruction **2** a reproof delivered at length; a reprimand [ME, act of reading, fr MF, fr LL *lectura*, fr L *lectus*, pp]
- lecture** *vi* to deliver a lecture or series of lectures – *vt* **1** to deliver a lecture **2** to reprove at length or severely – **lecturer** *n*
- lectureship** /-ship/ *n* the office of an academic lecturer
- led** /led/ *past* of LEAD
- LED** /'el.ɛe 'dee; also led/ *n* a diode that emits light when an electric current is passed through it and that is used esp to display numbers, symbols, etc on a screen (e.g. in a pocket calculator) ➔ TELECOMMUNICATION [light-emitting diode]
- lederhosen** /'laydə.hohz(ə)n/ *n pl* in *constr*, *pl* lederhosen traditional leather shorts that often have braces and are worn esp in Bavaria ➔ GARMENT [G, fr MHG *lederhose*, fr *leder* leather + *hose* trousers]
- ledge** /lej/ *n* **1** (narrow) horizontal surface that projects from a vertical or steep surface (e.g. a wall or rock face) **2** an underwater ridge or reef
- 3** a mineral-bearing lode or vein [ME *legge* bar of a gate, prob fr *leggen* to lay] – **ledgy** *adj*
- ledger** /'lejdə/ *n* **1** a book containing (the complete record of all) accounts **2** a horizontal piece of timber secured to the uprights of scaffolding [ME *legger*, prob fr *leyen*, *leggen* to lay]
- ledger** *vi* to fish with ledger tackle
- ledger** ,line, **leger line** *n* a short line added above or below a musical staff to extend its range ➔ MUSIC
- ledger** ,tackle *n* fishing tackle arranged so that the weight and bait rest on the bottom
- lee** /lee/ *n* **1** protecting shelter **2** lee, lee side the side (e.g. of a ship) sheltered from the wind [ME, fr OE *hlēo*; akin to OFrns *hli* protection, shelter, OHG *lao* lukewarm, L *calere* to be warm]
- leeboard** /-bawd/ *n* either of 2 movable flat surfaces attached to the outside of the hull of a sailing vessel that reduce leeway when lowered
- leech** /leech/ *n* **1** any of numerous flesh-eating or bloodsucking usu freshwater worms **2** one who gains or seeks to gain profit or advantage from another, esp by clinging persistently **3** archaic a physician, surgeon [ME *leche* physician, fr OE *læce*; akin to OHG *lahhi* physician; (1) prob fr its former use by physicians for bleeding patients]
- leech** *vt* to bleed by the use of leeches
- leech** *n* **1** either vertical edge of a square sail **2** the rear edge of a fore-and-aft sail ➔ SHIP [ME *leche*, fr MLG *lik* boltrope, akin to MHG *geleich* joint – more at LIGATURE]
- Lee-Enfield** /'lee'enfeeld/ *n* a magazine-fed British military rifle [James P Lee †1904 US (Sc-born) designer + Enfield, district of London]
- leek** /leek/ *n* a biennial plant of the lily family grown for its mildly pungent leaves and esp for its thick edible stalk [ME, fr OE *lēac*; akin to OHG *louh* leek, ON *laukr* leek, garlic]
- leer** /liə/ *vi or n* (to give) a lascivious, knowing, or sly look [prob fr obs *leer* (cheek), fr ME *ler*, *lere*, fr OE *hleor*; akin to OS *hleor* cheek, ON *hljyr*]
- lees** /leez/ *n pl* the sediment of a liquor (e.g. wine) during fermentation and aging [ME *le*, fr MF, fr ML *lia*]
- lee shore** *n* a shore lying off a ship's lee side
- lee side** *n* LEE **2**
- leeward** /'leewood, naut 'loooh-ad/ *adj or adv* in or facing the direction towards which the wind is blowing – compare WINDWARD
- leeward** *n* LEE **2**
- lee-way** /-way/ *n* **1** off-course sideways movement of a ship in the direction of the wind **2a** an allowable margin of freedom or variation, tolerance **b** a margin of shortcoming in performance <she has a lot of ~ to make up after her absence>
- left** /left/ *adj* **1a** of, situated on, or being the side of the body in which most of the heart is located **b** (1) located nearer to the left hand than to the right; esp located on the left hand when facing in the same direction as an observer <the ~ wing of an army> (2) located on the left when facing downstream <the ~ bank of a river> **2** often *cap* of the Left in politics [ME, fr OE, weak; akin to MLG *lucht* left, fr the left hand's being the weaker in most people] – **left** *adv*
- left** *n* **1a** (a blow struck with) the left hand **b** the location or direction of the left side **c** the part on the left side **2** *sing or pl* in *constr*, often *cap* the members of a European legislative body occupying the left of a legislative chamber as a result of holding more radical political views than other members **3** *sing or pl* in *constr* a *cap* those professing socialist or radical political views **b** often *cap* LEFT WING **1**
- left** *past* of LEAVE
- left** ,atrioventricular valve /'aytrəvɛn'trikiyoʊlə/ *n* BICUSPID VALVE
- left** ,back *n* a fullback playing on the left side of the pitch in a traditional soccer lineup ➔ SPORT
- Left Bank** *n* the bohemian district of Paris situated on the left bank of the Seine [trans of F *Rive Gauche*]
- left** ,half *n* a halfback playing on the left side of the pitch in a traditional soccer lineup ➔ SPORT
- left** ,handed *adj* **1** situated on the left **2** left-handed
- left** ,handed *adj* **1** using the left hand habitually or more easily than the right; also swinging from left to right <a ~ batsman> **2** of, designed for, or done with the left hand **3** morganatic **4** clumsy, awkward **5** ambiguous, double-edged <a ~ compliment> **6** anticlockwise – used of a twist, rotary motion, or spiral curve as viewed from a given direction with respect to the axis of rotation – **left-handed**, **left-handedly** *adv*, **left-handedness** *n*
- left** ,hander *n* **1** a left-handed person **2** a blow struck with the left hand

**leftism** /ˈlef.tɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* (advocacy of) the principles and policy of the Left – **leftist** *n* or *adj*



**left-luggage** *adj*, *Br* of or for the storing of luggage for safekeeping  
**leftover** /-ˌoʊvə/ *n* an unused or unconsumed residue, esp leftover food – often *pl* – **leftover** *adj*

**leftward** /ˈleft.wəd/ *adj* towards or on the left

**leftwards**, chiefly *NAm* **leftward** *adv* towards the left

**left-wing** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 often *cap* *L&W* the more socialist division of a group or party 2 *cap* *L&W* **LEFT** 3a – **left-wing** *adj*, **left-winger** *n*

**lefty** /ˈlefti/ *n* a left-winger – *informal*

**leg** /leg/ *n* 1 a limb of an animal used esp for supporting the body and for walking: e.g. a (an artificial replacement for) either of the lower limbs of a human b a (hind) leg of a meat animal, esp above the hock  MEAT c any of the appendages on each segment of an arthropod (e.g. an insect or spider) used in walking and crawling 2a a pole or bar serving as a support or prop (*the ~s of a tripod*) < *a table ~* > b a branch of a forked or jointed object (*the ~s of a compass*) 3 the part of a garment that covers (part of) the leg 4 either side of a triangle as distinguished from the base or hypotenuse 5a **LEG SIDE** b a fielding position in cricket on the leg side of the pitch – *usu* in combination < *fine ~* > < *short ~* >  SPORT 6a the course and distance sailed on a single tack b a portion of a trip, a stage c the part of a relay race run by 1 competitor d any of a set of events or games that must all be won to decide a competition [ME, fr *ON* *leggr*, akin to OE *lira* muscle, calf, L *lacertus* muscle, upper arm] – a **leg** to stand on the least support or basis for one's position, esp in a controversy – on one's last legs at or near the end of one's resources, on the verge of failure, exhaustion, or ruin

**leg** *vi* -gg- – *leg* it to walk or run fast, esp to hurry

**leg** *adj* 1 esp < *a ball bowled in cricket* moving or tending to move in the direction of the off side < *a ~ break* > 2 in, on, through, or towards the leg side of a cricket field < *the ~ stump* >

**legacy** /ˈlegəsi/ *n* 1 a gift by will; a bequest 2 sthg passed on or remaining from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past < *the bitter ~ of 2 world wars* > [ME *legacie* office of a legate, bequest, fr MF or ML, MF, office of a legate, fr ML *legatus*, fr L *legatus*]

**legal** /ˈleɡl/ *adj* 1 of law 2a deriving authority from law b established by or having a formal status derived from law 3 permitted by law 4 recognized in common law as distinguished from equity [ME, fr MF, fr L *legalis*, fr *leg-*, *lex* law] – **legalize** *vt*, **legally** *adv*, **legalization** /-ˌiːzəʃən/ *n*

**legal aid** *n* payments from public funds to those who cannot afford legal advice or representation

**legal fiction** *n* an assertion recognized by the law as fictitious but accepted for convenience as true

**legalism** /-ˌzɪz(ə)m/ *n* strict or excessive conformity to the law or to a (moral) code – **legalist** *n*, **legalistic** /-ˌɪstɪk/ *adj*, **legalistically** *adv*

**legality** /ˈliːɡəlɪti/ *n* 1 lawfulness 2 *pl* the requirements and procedures of the law

**legal tender** *n* currency which a creditor is bound by law to accept as payment of a money debt

**legate** /ˈlegat/ *n* an official delegate or representative [ME, fr OF & L, OF *legat*, fr L *legatus* deputy, emissary, fr *pp* of *legare* to depute, send as emissary, bequeath, fr *leg-*, *lex*] – **legateship** *n*, **legatine** /ˈlegə.tiən, -ˌtiːn/ *adj*

**legatee** /ˈlegəˈtiː/ *n* one to whom a legacy is bequeathed

**legation** /ˈliːɡəʃən/ *n* (the official residence of) a diplomatic mission in a foreign country headed by a minister [ME *legacioun*, fr MF & L, MF *legation*, fr L *legation-*, *legatio*, fr *legatus*]

**legato** /ˈliːɡətoʊ/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, *pl* **legatos** (a manner of performing or passage of music performed) in a smooth and connected manner: *π* [It, lit, tied]

**leg before wicket** *adj*, of a batsman in cricket out because of having obstructed with a part of the body, esp the legs, a ball that would otherwise have hit the wicket

**leg bye** *n* a run scored in cricket after the ball has touched a part of the batsman's body but not his bat or hands – compare **BYE**, **EXTRA**

**legend** /ˈleɡ(ə)nd/ *n* 1a(1) a story coming down from the past; esp one popularly regarded as historical (2) a body of such stories < *a character in Celtic ~* > b a person, act, or thing that inspires legends < *a ~ in her own lifetime* > 2a an inscription or title on an object (e.g. a coin) b **CAPTION** 2 c the key to a map, chart, etc [ME *legende*, fr MF & ML, MF *legende*, fr ML *legenda*, fr L, fem of *legendus*, gerundive of *legere* to gather, select, read; akin to Gk *legein* to gather, say, *logos* speech, word, reason] – **legendary** /-ˌdri/ *n*

**legendary** /ˈleɡjənd(ə)rɪ/ *adj* (characteristic) of (a) legend, esp told of in legend

**legerdemain** /ˌleɪdʒəˈman, -ˈmaɪn/ *n* 1 SLEIGHT OF HAND 2 a display of artful skill, trickery, or adroitness < *political ~* > [ME, fr MF *leger de main* light of hand]

**leger line** /ˈleɪdʒ/ *n* 1 FINGER LINE

**legged** /-ˈleɪd, also -ˈleɪd/ *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) having (such or so many) legs < *a 4-legged animal* >

**legging** /ˈleɪɡɪŋ/ *n* a closely fitting covering (e.g. of leather) that reaches from the ankle to the knee or thigh

**leggy** /ˈleɪɡi/ *adj* 1 having disproportionately long legs < *a ~ colt* > 2 esp of a woman having attractively long legs 3 of a plant, spindly

**leghorn** /ˈleɪ.hɔːn, sense 2 ˈleɪ.hɔːn/ *n* 1 (a hat of) fine plaited straw made from an Italian wheat 2 *cap* any of a Mediterranean breed of small hardy domestic fowls [Leghorn (Livorno), port in Italy from where the straw was exported]

**legible** /ˈleɪbəl/ *adj* capable of being read or deciphered < *~ handwriting* > [ME, fr LL *legibilis*, fr L *legere* to read] – **legibly** *adv*, **legibility** /ˈleɪbɪləti/ *n*

**legion** /ˈleɪʃən/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the principal unit of the ancient Roman army comprising 3000 to 6000 foot soldiers with cavalry 2 a very large number, a multitude 3 a national association of ex-servicemen < *the Royal British Legion* > [ME, fr OF, fr L *legion-*, *legio*, fr *legere* to gather – more at **LEGEND**]

**legion** *adj* many, numerous < *the problems are ~* >

**legionary** /ˈleɪʃən(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of or being a legion [L *legionarius*, fr *legion-*, *legio*]

**legionary** *n* a legionnaire

**legionnaire** /ˈleɪʃənɔː/ *n* a member of (a foreign) legion [F *léionnaire*, fr L *legionarius*]

**legionnaire's disease** *n* a serious sometimes fatal infectious disease like pneumonia that is caused by a bacterium and often affects groups of closely associated people [fr its outbreak among a group of US ex-servicemen in 1976]

**legislate** /ˈleɪsləɪt/ *vi* to make or enact laws [back-formation fr *legislator*]

**legislation** /ˈleɪsləɪʃən/ *n* 1 (the making of) laws 2 a prospective law [LEGISLATE + -ION] – **legislative** /ˈleɪsləɪtɪv/ *adj*, **legislatively** *adv*

**legislator** /ˈleɪsləɪtə/ *n* a maker of laws [L *legis* *lato*, lit., proposer of a law, fr *legis*, gen of *lex* law + *lato* proposer, fr *latus*, suppletive *pp* of *ferre* to carry, propose – more at **TOLLRATE**, **BEAR**] – **legislatress** /-ˌtrɪs/, **legislatrix** /-ˌtrɪks/, *n*, **legislatorial** /-ˌsləʊˈtɔːrɪəl/ *adj*

**legislature** /ˈleɪslətʃə/ *n* a body of people having the power to legislate

**legit** /ˈləɪt/ *adj* 1 **LEGITIMATE** 2, 3a, 4, 5 – *informal*

**legitimate** /ˈləɪtɪmət/ *adj* 1 lawfully begotten, *specific* born in wedlock 2 neither spurious nor false, genuine < *~ grievance* > 3a in accordance with law < *a ~ government* > b ruling by or based on the strict principle of hereditary right < *a ~ king* > 4 conforming to recognized principles or accepted rules and standards 5 relating to plays acted by professional actors but not including revues, music hall, or some forms of musical comedy 6 in accord with reason or logic, following logically < *a ~ deduction* > [ML *legitimus*, *pp* of *legitimare* to legitimate, fr L *legitimus* legitimate, fr *leg-*, *lex* law] – **legitimately** *adv*, **legitimacy** /-ˌsɪ/ *n*

**legitimate** /-ˌmeɪt/, **legitimize**, -ize /ˈləɪtɪməˌaɪz/ **legitim-ize**, -ize /-ˌmeɪz/ *vt* 1a to give legal status to b **JUSTIFY** 1 2 to give (an illegitimate child) the legal status of one legitimately born – **legitimation** /-ˌmeɪʃən/ *n*, **legitimatization** /-ˌmeɪtɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*, **legitimization** /-ˌmeɪtɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*


**legitimism** /ˈləɪtɪˌmɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* adherence to the principles of political legitimacy or to sby claiming a throne by descent – **legitimist** *n*, often *cap*, **legitimist** *adj*

**legless** /ˈleɪlɪs/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* **DRUNK** 1 – *informal* [ˈLEG + -LESS]

**leg-of-mutton**, **leg-o'-mutton** *adj* having an approximately triangular shape < *~ sleeves* >

**leg-pull** *n* a playful trick or hoax intended to deceive sby [fr the phrase *pull somebody's leg*]

**legroom** /ˈleɪroʊm, -ˌruːm/ *n* space in which to extend the legs while seated

**leg side**, **leg** *n* the part of a cricket field on the side of a line joining the middle stumps in which the batsman stands when playing a ball – compare **OFF SIDE**  **SPORT**

**legume** /ˈleɪɡjuːm/ *n* 1 the (edible) pod or seed of a leguminous plant 2 any of a large family of plants, shrubs, and trees having pods containing 1 or many seeds and including important food and forage plants (e.g. peas,

- beans, or clovers) [F *légume*, fr L *legumin-*, *legumen* leguminous plant, fr *legere* to gather – more at LEGEND] – **leguminous** /ləˈɡjuːhmiːnəs/ *adj*
- leg-up** *n* 1 assistance in mounting an object 2 a helping hand; a boost [USE infml]
- leg-warmer** *n* a knitted legging → GARMENT
- leg-work** /-ˈwʊk/ *n* work involving physical activity and forming the basis of more creative or mentally exacting work
- lei** /ˈleɪ/ *n* a wreath or necklace usu of flowers or leaves that is a symbol of affection in Polynesia [Hawaiian]
- lei** *pl of LEU*
- leishmaniasis** /ˌleɪʃməˈniː-æ-sɪs/ *n* any of various diseases (e.g. kala-azar) caused by any of a genus of parasitic protozoan organisms [NL, fr Sir William Leishman †1926 Br physician]
- leisure** /ˈleɪzə/ *n* 1 freedom provided by the cessation of activities; esp time free from work or duties 2 unhurried ease [ME *leiser*, fr OF *leisir*, fr *laisir* to be permitted, fr L *licere* – more at LICENCE] – **leisureless** *adj* – at leisure, at one's leisure 1 at an unhurried pace 2 at one's convenience
- leisured** *adj* 1 having plenty of free time, esp because of not needing to work 2 leisurely
- leisurely** /-li/ *adv* without haste; deliberately
- leisurely** *adj* characterized by leisure; unhurried – **leisureliness** *n*
- leitmotiv**, **leitmotif** /ˌleɪtmotɪf/ *n* 1 a musical phrase that accompanies the reappearance of an idea, person, or situation 2 a (dominant) recurring theme, esp in a literary work [G *leitmotiv*, fr *leiten* to lead + *motiv* motive, fr F *motif*]
- lek** /lek/ *n* → Albania at NATIONALITY [Alb]
- lek** *n* an area where black grouse or other social birds congregate to carry on display and courtship behaviour [prob fr Sw, sport, play]
- lekker** /ˈleka/ *adj*, SAfr pleasant, nice – infml [Afrik, fr D]
- lemma** /ˈlema/ *n*, *pl lemmas*, **lemmata** /ˈlematə/ 1 a proposition accepted as true for the sake of demonstrating another proposition 2 the argument or theme of a composition prefixed as a title or introduction, broadly (a subsidiary part of) a heading or introduction [L, fr Gk *lemma* thing taken assumption, fr *lambanein* to take – more at LATCH]
- lemming** /ˈlemɪŋ/ *n* any of several small short-tailed furry-footed northern voles; esp one of northern mountains that undergoes recurrent mass migrations [Norw; akin to ON *lomr* guillemot, L *latrare* to bark – more at LAMENT]
- lemon** /ˈlemən/ *n* 1 (a stout thorny tree that bears) an oval yellow acid citrus fruit 2 a pale yellow colour 3 one who or that which is unsatisfactory or worthless; a dud – infml [ME *lymon*, fr MF *limon*, fr ML *limon-*, *limo*, fr Ar *laymūn*] – **lemony** *adj*
- lemonade** /ˈlemaˈneɪd/ *n* a (carbonated) soft drink made or flavoured with lemon
- lemon balm** *n* a bushy perennial Old World plant of the mint family often cultivated for its fragrant lemon-flavoured leaves
- lemon-grass** /-ˈɡrɑːs/ *n* a robust grass that grows in tropical regions and is the source of an essential oil with an odour of lemon or verbena
- lemon sole** *n* a flatfish that is found in N Atlantic and European waters and is highly valued for food [lemon fr F *limande*, a flatfish]
- lemon squeezer** *n* a device for pressing the juice from citrus fruits
- lempira** /ˈlempɪrə/ *n* → Honduras at NATIONALITY [AmerSp, fr *Lempira*, 16th-c Indian chief]
- lemur** /ˈlema/ *n* any of numerous tree-dwelling chiefly nocturnal mammals, esp of Madagascar, typically having a muzzle like a fox, large eyes, very soft woolly fur, and a long furry tail [NL, fr L *lemures*, *pl*, ghosts; akin to Gk *lamia* devouring monster]
- lend** /lend/ *vb* **lent** /lent/ *vt* 1a to give for temporary use on condition that the same or its equivalent be returned *b* to let out (money) for temporary use on condition of repayment with interest 2a to give the assistance or support of; afford, contribute (a *dispassionate and scholarly manner which ~s great force to his criticisms* – TLS) *b* to adapt or apply (oneself); accommodate (a *topic that ~s itself admirably to class discussion*) ~ *vi* to make a loan [ME *lenen*, *lenden*, fr OE *lænan*, fr *læn* loan – more at LOAN] – **lender** *n*
- lend-lease** *n* the transfer of goods and services to an ally in a common cause – used esp with reference to the system by which the USA gave material aid to the Allies in WW II – **lend-lease** *vt*
- length** /leng(k)θ/ *n* 1a(1) the longer or longest dimension of an object → PHYSICS, UNIT (2) the extent from end to end (walked the ~ of the street) *b* a measured distance or dimension (a *2m ~ of tube*) *c* the quality or state of being long 2a duration or extent in or with regard to
- time (the ~ of a broadcast) *b* relative duration or stress of a sound 3a distance or extent in space (an arm's ~ apart) *b* the length of sth taken as a unit of measure (his horse led by a ~) 4 the degree to which sth (e.g. a course of action or a line of thought) is carried; a limit, extreme – often *pl* with sing. meaning (went to great ~s to learn the truth) 5a a long expanse or stretch (~s of hair) *b* a piece, esp of a certain length (being or usable as part of a whole or of a connected series) (a ~ of pipe) 6 the (ideal) distance down a cricket pitch which the bowled ball travels before pitching 7 the vertical extent of sth (e.g. an article of clothing), esp with reference to the position it reaches on the body – usu in combination (shoulder-length hair) [ME *lengthe*, fr OE *lengthu*, fr *lang* long] – at length 1 fully, comprehensively 2 for a long time 3 finally, AT LAST
- lengthen** /ˈlengθ(ə)n, ˈlengθk(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become longer
- lengthways** /-ˈweɪz/, **lengthwise** /-ˈwɪz/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction of the length (bricks are generally laid ~)
- lengthy** /ˈleng(k)θi/ *adj* of great or unusual length; long, also excessively or tediously protracted – **lengthily** *adv*, **lengthiness** *n*
- lenient** /ˈlenɪənt, ˈlenɪ-ənt/ *adj* 1 of a mild or merciful nature; not severe (~ laws) 2 archaic exerting a soothing or easing influence [L *lenient-*, *leniens*, *prp* of *lenire* to soften, soothe, fr *lenis* soft, mild – more at LET] – **lenience**, **leniency** *n*, **leniently** *adv*
- Leninism** /ˈlenɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the (communist) principles and policies advocated by Lenin [V I Lenin (Ulyanov) †1924 Russ political leader] – **Leninist**, **Leninite** /-ˈniːt/ *n* or *adj*
- lenitive** /ˈlenɪtɪv/ *adj* relieving pain or stress [MF *lenitif*, fr ML *lenitivus*, fr L *lenitus*, *pp* of *lenire*] – **lenitive** *n*
- lenity** /ˈlenɪti/ *n* gentleness, mercy – fml [F & L, F *lénité*, fr L *lenitas*, *lenitas*, fr *lenis*]
- lens** /lenz/ *n* 1a a piece of glass or other transparent material with 2 opposite regular surfaces, at least 1 of which is curved, that is used either singly or combined in an optical instrument to form an image by focussing rays of light → CAMERA *b* a combination of 2 or more simple lenses 2 a device for directing or focussing radiation other than light (e.g. sound waves or electrons) 3 sth shaped like an optical lens with both sides convex 4 a transparent lens-shaped or nearly spherical body in the eye that focuses light rays (e.g. on the retina) → NERVE [NL *lent-*, *lens*, fr L, *lentil*, fr its shape] – **lensed** *adj*, **lensless** *adj*
- Lent** /lent/ *n* the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by Christians as a period of penitence and fasting [ME *lente* springtime, *Lent*, fr OE *lengten*, akin to OHG *lenzin* spring] – **Lenten** *adj*
- Lenten fare** /ˈlent(ə)n/ *n* food or a diet without meat
- lenticel** /ˈlentɪˌsel, -s(ə)l/ *n* a pore in the stems of woody plants through which gases are exchanged between the atmosphere and the stem tissues [NL *lenticella*, dim. of L *lent-*, *lens* *lenticul*]
- lenticular** /ˈlentɪˌkjʊlə/ *adj* 1 having the shape of a lens with both sides convex 2 of a lens [L *lenticularis* lenticul-shaped, fr *lenticula* lenticul]
- lentil** /ˈlentɪ/ *n* (the small round edible seed of) a widely cultivated Eurasian leguminous plant [ME, fr OF *lentille*, fr L *lenticula*, dim of *lent-*, *lens*; akin to Gk *lathyros* vetch]
- lento** /ˈlentoh/ *adv* or *adj* in a slow manner – used in music [It, fr *lento*, *adj*, slow, fr L *lentus* plant, sluggish, slow – more at ITHE]
- Leo** /ˈlee-oh/ *n* (sby born under) the 5th sign of the zodiac in astrology, pictured as a lion → SYMBOL [L, lit, lion – more at LION]
- leone** /ˈliːohni/ *n* → Sierra Leone at NATIONALITY [Sierra Leone]
- leonine** /ˈlee-əniːn/ *adj* resembling a lion; having the characteristics (e.g. courage) popularly ascribed to a lion [ME, prob fr OF *léonin*, fr L *leoninus*, fr *leon-*, *leo*]
- leopard** /ˈlepəd/, *fem leopardess* /-ˈdes/ *n* 1 a big cat of southern Asia and Africa that is usu tawny or buff with black spots arranged in broken rings or rosettes → DANGEROUS 2 a heraldic charge that is a lion with the farther forepaw raised and its head turned towards the observer [ME, fr OF *leupart*, fr LL *leopardus*, fr Gk *leopardos*, fr *leon* lion + *pardos* leopard]
- leotard** /ˈlee-əˌtɑːd/ *n* a close-fitting one-piece garment worn by dancers or others performing physical exercises → GARMENT [Jules Léotard †1870 F trapeze performer]
- leper** /ˈlepa/ *n* 1 sby suffering from leprosy 2 a person shunned for moral or social reasons; an outcast [ME, fr *lepre* leprosy, fr OF, fr LL *lepra*, fr Gk, *it lepein* to peel; akin to OE *læfer* read]
- lepid-** /ˈlepið-, ˈlepiðo- comb form flake; scale (Lepidoptera) [NL, fr Gk, fr *lepid-*, *lepis* scale, fr *lepein*]
- lepidolite** /ˈlepiðəliːt/ *n* a violet-coloured mica containing lithium [G *lepidolith*, fr *lepid-* + *-lith*]
- lepidopteran** /ˈlepiðəptərən/ *n* any of a large order of insects compris-

ing the butterflies, moths, and skippers that are caterpillars in the larval stage and have 4 wings usu covered with minute overlapping and often brightly coloured scales when adult [NL *Lepidoptera*, order of insects, fr *lepid-* + Gk *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER] – **lepidopterous** *adj*, **lepidopterous** *adj*

**lepidopterist** /ˈlepiˌdɒptərɪst/ *n* a specialist in the study of lepidopterans

**lepidopteron** /ˈlepiˌdɒptərən/ *n*, pl **lepidoptera** /-rə/ also **lepidopterons** a lepidopteran [NL, sing of *Lepidoptera*]

**leporine** /ˈleɪpəriən/ *adj* of or resembling the hare [L *leporinus*, fr *lepor-*, *lepus* hare]

**leprechaun** /ˈleprɪk(h)əʊn/ *n* a mischievous elf of Irish folklore [IrGael *lepreachán*, fr Mlr *luchorpan*, fr *lú* small + *corpan* body, dim of *corp*, fr L *corpus*]


**leprosy** /ˈleɪprəsi/ *n* a long-lasting bacterial disease characterized by loss of sensation with eventual paralysis, wasting of muscle, and production of deformities and mutilations [*leprous* + *-y*] – **leprotic** /leˈprɒtɪk/ *adj*

**leptous** /ˈleɪprəs/ *adj* of, resembling, or suffering from leprosy [ME, fr LL *leprosus* leprous, fr *lepra* leprosy]

**-lepsy** /-ˈlepsi/ *comb form* (– *n*) attack, seizure <catap<sup>lepsy</sup>> [MF *-lepsie*, fr LL *-lepsia*, fr Gk *-lepsia*, fr *lépsis*, fr *lambanein* to take, seize – more at LATCH]

**lepto-** *comb form* narrow; slender <leptocephalous> [Gk, fr *leptos*, lit, peeled, husked, fr *lepein* to peel]

**lepton** /ˈleɪptən/ *n* any of a group of elementary particles (e.g. an electron or muon) that take part in weak interactions with other elementary particles and weigh less than mesons and baryons [Gk *leptos* + *E* ‘-on] – **leptonic** /leɪˈtɒnɪk/ *adj*

**lepton** *n*, pl **lepta** /ˈleɪptə/  Greece at NATIONALITY [NGk, fr Gk, small bronze coin, *τ*, neut of *leptos* small]

**leptospirosis** /ˌleptospaɪəˈrɒzɪs/ *n*, pl **leptospiroses** /-ˈseɪz/ any of several diseases in human beings and domestic animals caused by any of various spirochaetal bacteria [NL]

**lesbian** /ˈleɪzbiən/ *n*, often *cap* a female homosexual [L *lesbius* of Lesbos, fr Gk *Lesbios*, fr Lesbos, island in the Aegean Sea, home of Sappho fl ab 600 Bc. Gk poetess & reputed homosexual] – **lesbian** *adj*, **lesbianism** *n*

**lese majesty** /ˈleɪz, leɪz/, *lese majesté* /ˈleɪ leɪ məˈʒɛsteɪ/ *n* 1a a crime (e.g. treason) committed against a sovereign power b an offence violating the dignity of a ruler 2 an affront to dignity or importance [MF *lese majesté*, fr L *laesa majestas*, lit, injured majesty]

**lesion** /ˈleɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 injury, harm 2 abnormal change in the structure of an organ or part due to injury or disease [ME, fr MF, fr L *laesion-*, *laesio*, fr *laesus*, pp of *laedere* to injure]

**less** /les/ *adj* 1 fewer <~ than 3> <a call for ~ government controls> – disapproved of by some speakers 2 lower in rank, degree, or importance <James the Less> <no ~ a person than the president himself> 3 smaller in quantity or extent <of ~ importance> <in ~ time> <weighs 3 pounds ~> [ME, fr OE *les*, adv & *n*, and *laessa*, *adj*; akin to OS & OFris *lēs* less, Gk *limos* hunger]

**less** *adv* to a lesser degree or extent <sleeps ~ in summer> <much ~ angrily> – **less** and **less** to a progressively smaller size or extent – **less** than by no means, not at all <was being less than honest in her replies>

**less** *prep* diminished by, minus <£100 ~ tax>

**less** *n*, pl **less** a smaller portion or quantity – **less** of 1 not so truly <he’s less of a fool than I thought> 2 enough of <less of your cheek> – *infrm*

**-less** /-lɪs/ *suffix* (– *adj*) 1a destitute of, not having <brainless> <childless> <hopeless> b free from <painless> <careless> 2. –able to (so act or be acted on) <tireless> <stainless> [ME *-less*, *-lesse*, fr OE *-leas*, fr *leās* devoid, false; akin to OHG *lōs* loose, OE *losian* to get lost – more at LOSE]

**lessee** /leˈseɪ/ *n* sby who holds property under a lease [ME, fr AF, fr *lēsé*, pp of *lessor* to lease – more at LEASE]

**lessen** /ˈles(ə)n/ *vb* to reduce in size, extent, etc; diminish, decrease

**lesser** /ˈlesə/ *adj* or *adv* less in size, quality, or significance <lesser-known> <the ~ of 2 evils> – not used in comparatives

**lesser black-backed gull** *n* a common Eurasian gull that is about the size of a herring gull and has a greyish black back

**lesser celandine** /ˈselændiən/ *n* CELANDINE 2

**lesson** /ˈles(ə)n/ *n* 1 a passage from sacred writings read in a service of worship 2a a reading or exercise to be studied b a period of instruction 3a sthg, esp a piece of wisdom, learned by study or experience <her years of travel had taught her valuable ~s> b an instructive or warning

example <the ~s history holds for us> [ME, fr OF *leçon*, fr LL *lectio-*, *lectio*, fr L, act of reading, fr *lectus*, pp of *legere* to read – more at LEGEND]

**lessor** /ˈlesəw, -ɪ-/ *n* sby who conveys property by lease [ME *lessour*, fr AF, fr *lessor* to lease]

**lest** /lest/ *conj* 1 so that not, IN CASE <obeyed her ~ she should be angry> 2 that – used after an expression of fear <afraid ~ she be angry> [ME *les the*, *leste*, fr OE *thý læs the*, fr *thý* (instrumental of *thæt* that) + *læs* + *the*, relative particle]

**let** /let/ *n* 1 a serve or rally in tennis, squash, etc that does not count and must be replayed 2 sthg that impedes, an obstruction – *infrm* <without ~ or hindrance> [ME, obstruction, fr *letten* to hinder, fr OE *lettan*; akin to OHG *lezzen* to delay, hurt, OE *let* late]

**let** *vt* let; *tt-* 1 to cause to; make <~ it be known> 2a to offer or grant for rent or lease <~ rooms> b to assign, esp after bids <~ a contract> 3a to give opportunity to, whether by positive action or by failure to prevent, allow to <he ~ his beard grow> <please ~ me know> <~ the prisoner go> b to allow to escape, enter, or pass <~ the dogs loose> <~ them through> <she ~ out a scream> 4 – used in the imperative to introduce a request or proposal <~ us pray> <~ me see>, a challenge <just ~ him try>, a command <~ it be known>, or sthg to be supposed for the sake of argument <~ AB be equal to BC>; compare LET’S [ME *leten*, fr OE *lētan*, akin to OHG *lāzzan* to permit, L *lassus* weary, *lenis* soft, mild] – **let alone** /be to stop or refrain from molesting, disturbing, or interrupting <please let the cat alone> – **let fall** /drop to mention casually as if by accident – **let fly** to aim a blow – **let go** to stop holding <let go of the handle> – **let in** for to involve (sby, esp oneself) in sthg undesirable <let myself in for a lot of work> – **let into** to insert into (a surface) <a tablet let into the wall> – **let loose** on to give freedom of access to or of action with respect to <can’t let him loose on the files just yet> – **let oneself go** 1 to behave with relaxed ease or abandonment 2 to allow one’s appearance to deteriorate – **let rip** to proceed with abandon <lost his temper and really let rip> – *infrm* – **let slip** 1 LET FALL 2 to fail to take <let slip a chance> – **let up** on to become less severe towards

**let** *n*, *Br* 1 an act or period of letting premises (e.g. a flat or bed-sitter) 2 premises rented or for rent

**-let** /-lɪt/ *suffix* (– *n*) 1 -ETTE 1 <booklet> <starlet> 2 article worn on (a specified part of the body) <anklet> [ME, fr MF *-elet*, fr *-el*, dim suffix (fr L *-ellus*) + *-et*]

**let alone** *prep* to say nothing of; esp still less <can’t walk, let alone run>

**letdown** /-ˌdaʊn/ *n* a disappointment, disillusionment – *infrm*

**let down** *vt* 1 to make (a garment) longer 2 to fail in loyalty or support, disappoint <let her friend down badly>

**lethal** /ˈleθ(ə)l/ *adj* relating to or (capable of) causing death [L *letalis*, *lethalis*, fr *letum* death] – **lethally** *adv*, **lethality** /leɪˈθælɪti/ *n*

**lethargic** /ˈleɪθɑːrɡɪk/ *adj* 1 sluggish 2 indifferent, apathetic [LETH- ARGY + *-ic*] – **lethargically** /-klɪ/ *adv*

**lethargy** /ˈleθɑːrɡi/ *n* 1 abnormal drowsiness 2 lack of energy or interest [ME *litargie*, fr ML *liturgia*, fr LL *lethargia*, fr Gk *lēthargia*, fr *lēthargos* forgetful, lethargic, fr *lēthe* + *argos* lazy – more at ARGON]

**Lethe** /ˈleθi/ *n* the river in Hades in Greek mythology whose waters caused drinkers to forget their past [L, fr Gk *Lēthē*, fr *lēthe* forgetfulness; akin to Gk *lanthanein* to escape notice, *lanthanesthai* to forget – more at LATENT] – **Lethean** /ˈleθiən/ *adj*

**let off** *vt* 1 to cause to explode <let the fireworks off> 2 to excuse from punishment 3 chiefly *Br* to offer (part of a building) for rent


**let on** *vi* 1 to reveal or admit sthg; esp to divulge secret information <nobody let on about the surprise party> 2 to pretend <she let on that she was a stranger> – *infrm*

**let-out** *n* sthg (e.g. an exclusion clause in a contract) that provides an opportunity to escape or be released from an obligation – *infrm*

**let out** *vt* 1 to make (a garment) wider (e.g. by inserting an inset) – compare TAKE IN 2 to excuse from an obligation or responsibility 3 chiefly *Br* to express publicly; esp to blab 4 chiefly *Br* to rent out (e.g. property)

**let’s** /lets/ *let us* – used of a group that includes the one addressed <~ face it> <~ dance, Mary> <~ not have lunch yet>; compare LET 4

**Lett** /let/ *n* a member of a people mainly inhabiting Latvia [G *Leti*, fr Latvian *Latvi*]

**letter** /ˈleɪtə/ *n* 1 a symbol, usu written or printed, representing a speech sound and constituting a unit of an alphabet  ALPHABET 2a a written or printed message addressed to a person or organization and usu sent through the post b a formal written communication containing a grant or authorization – usu pl with sing. meaning 3 pl but sing or pl in



- constr* a literature; BELLES LETTRES **b** learning; *esp* scholarly knowledge of or achievement in literature <a man of ~s> **4** the precise wording; the strict or literal meaning <obeyed the instructions to the ~> **5a** a single piece of type **b** a style of type [ME, fr OF *lettre*, fr L *littera* letter of the alphabet, *litterae*, pl, epistle, literature]
- letter** *vt* to set down in or mark with letters
- letter bomb** *n* an explosive device concealed in an envelope or package and sent through the post to the intended victim
- letter box** *n*, *Br* a hole or box (e.g. in a door) to receive material delivered by post
- lettered** *adj* learned, educated
- letterhead** /-hed/ *n* stationery printed with a heading, also the heading itself
- lettering** /'letərɪŋ/ *n* the letters used in an inscription, esp as regards their style or quality
- letterpress** /-pres/ *n* 1 (work produced by) printing from an inked raised surface **2** chiefly *Br* text (e.g. of a book) as distinct from pictorial illustrations
- letters of credence** *n* pl a formal document authorizing the power of a diplomatic agent to act for his/her government
- letters patent** *n* pl a formal document (e.g. from a sovereign) conferring on sb the sole right to exploit his/her invention
- letting** /'letɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **LET**
- Lettish** /'letɪʃ/ *n* LATVIAN **2**
- lettre de cachet** /let(r)a də kaʃ'et/ (*Fr* let(r) də kaʃ(r)/ *n*, pl *lettres de cachet* /~/ an official order usu authorizing imprisonment without trial of a named person [F, lit., letter with a seal]
- lettuce** /'letɪs/ *n* a common garden vegetable whose succulent edible leaves are used esp in salads [ME *letuse*, fr OF *laitues*, pl of *laitue*, fr L *lactuca*, fr *lact-*, *lac* milk – more at GALAXY, fr its milky juice]
- letup** /'letʌp/ *n* a cessation or lessening of effort, activity, or intensity
- let up** *vi* 1a to diminish, slow down, or cease **b** to relax or cease one's efforts or activities **2** to become less severe – usu + *on*, *in*fm
- leu** /'ləʊh/ *n*, pl *lei* /'leɪ/ ⚡ *Romania* at NATIONALITY [Romanian, lit., lion, fr L *leo* – more at LION]
- leuco-, leuk-, leuko-** *comb form* 1 white; colourless <leucocyte> <leucorrhoea> **2** white matter of the brain <leucotomy> [NL *leuco-*, *leuco-*, fr Gk *leuk-*, *leuko-*, fr *leukos* – more at LIGHT]
- leucine** /'ləʊkəsiːn/ *n* an amino acid found in most proteins and essential to the diet of human beings [ISV *leuc-* + *-ine*]
- leucocyte** /'lyʊəksəɪt/ *n* WHITE BLOOD CELL
- leucoma** /'lyʊəksəɪt/ *n* a dense white opaque part in the cornea of the eye [LL, fr Gk *leukoma*, fr *leukos* white]
- leucorrhoea** /'lyʊəksəɪt/ *n* a thick whitish discharge from the vagina resulting from inflammation or congestion of the mucous membrane [NL]
- leucotomy** /'lyʊəksəɪt/ *n* a lobotomy
- leukemia** /'lyʊəksəɪt/ *n*, *mi-/* *n* any of several usu fatal types of cancer that are characterized by an abnormal increase in the number of white blood cells in the body tissues, esp the blood, and occur in acute or chronic form [NL]
- lev** /lef/ *n*, pl *leva* /'leva/ ⚡ *Bulgaria* at NATIONALITY [Bulg., lit., lion]
- lev-, levo-** *comb form*, chiefly *NAM* *laev-* [F *lévo-*, fr L *laevus* left, akin to Gk *laos* left]
- levanter** /'ləvəntə/ *n* a strong easterly Mediterranean wind [Levant, the countries of the eastern Mediterranean, fr F *levant*, *prp* of *lever* to rise]
- levator** /'liːvəntə/ *n*, pl *levatores* /'levə'tawreez/, 'levə'tareez/, *levators* a muscle that serves to raise a part of the body – compare DEPRESSOR [NL, fr L *levatus*, *pp* of *levare* to raise – more at LEVER]
- levee** /'levi/ *n* 1 a reception of visitors formerly held by a person of rank on rising from bed **2** a reception, (usu) in honour of a particular person [F *lever*, fr MF, act of arising, (fr *se*) *lever* to rise, fr L *levare*]
- levee** *n*, *NAM* 1 an embankment for preventing or confining flooding **2** a river landing place [F *levée*, fr OF, act of raising, fr *lever* to raise – more at LEVER]
- level** /'levəl/ *n* 1 a device (e.g. a spirit level) for establishing a horizontal line or plane **2a** a horizontal state or condition **b** the equilibrium of a fluid marked by a horizontal surface of even altitude <water seeks its own ~> **c** an (approximately) horizontal line, plane, or surface **3a** a position of height in relation to the ground; height <eye ~> **b** a practically horizontal or flat area, esp of land **4** a position or place in a scale or rank (e.g. of value or importance) <a high ~ of academic excellence> **5** (a passage in) an interconnecting series of regularly worked horizontal mine passages **6** the (often measurable) size or amount of sth specified <noise ~> [ME, fr MF *livel*, fr (assumed) VL *libellum*, alter. of L *libella*, fr dim. of *libra* weight, balance] – *on the level* honest; *BONA FIDE*
- level** *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), /'levlɪŋ/ *vt* **1a** to make (a line or surface) horizontal, make level, even, or uniform **b** to raise or lower to the same height – often + *up* <~ up the picture with the one next to it> **2a** to bring to a horizontal aiming position **b** to aim, direct – + *at* or *against* <~ led a charge of fraud at her> **3** to bring to a common level, plane, or standard; equalize <love ~s all ranks> – W S Gilbert **4** to lay level with the ground; raze **5** to find the heights of different points in (a land area) ~ *vi* **1** to attain or come to a level – usu + *out* or *off* <the plane ~ led off at 10,000ft> **2** to aim a gun or other weapon horizontally **3** to deal frankly and openly – *in*fm
- level** *adj* **1a** having no part higher than another **b** parallel with the plane of the horizon, conforming to the curvature of the liquid parts of the earth's surface **2a** even, unvarying <a ~ temperature> **b** equal in advantage, progression, or standing <drew ~ with the leaders> **c** steady, unwavering <spoke in ~ tones> **3** distributed evenly, uniform <~ stress> – *levelly* *adv*, *levelness* *n* – *level* best very best <she did her level best>
- level crossing** *n*, *Br* the crossing of railway and road or 2 railways on the same level
- levelheaded** /-'hedɪd/ *adj* having sound judgment, sensible – *level-headedness* *n*
- leveller**, *NAM* chiefly *leveler* /'levələ/ *n* 1 *cap* a member of a radical group during the English Civil War who advocated legal equality and religious tolerance **2** an advocate of equality **3** sth that tends to reduce human differences [LEVEL + -ER]
- lever** /'levə/ *n* **1a** a bar used for prizing up or dislodging sth **b** an inducing or compelling force; a tool <attempts to use food as a political ~> – *Time* **2a** a rigid bar used to exert a pressure or sustain a weight at one end by applying force at the other and turning it on a fulcrum **b** a projecting part by which a mechanism is operated or adjusted [ME, fr OF *levier*, fr *lever* to raise, fr L *levare*; akin to L *levis* light in weight – more at LIGHT]
- lever** *vt* to prize, raise, or move (as if) with a lever
- leverage** /'levərɪʒ/ *n* 1 the action of a lever or the mechanical advantage gained by it **2** power, influence
- leveret** /'lev(ə)rɪt/ *n* a hare in its first year [ME, fr (assumed) MF *levret*, fr MF *levre* hare, fr L *lepor-*, *lepus*]
- leviathan** /'leɪvɪəθən/ *n* 1 often *cap* a biblical sea monster **2** sth large or formidable [ME, fr LL, fr Heb *liwyathan*] – *leviathan* *adj*
- levigate** /'levɪɡeɪt/ *vt* to grind to a fine smooth powder while in a moist condition [L *levigatus*, *pp* of *levigare*, fr *levis* smooth + *-igare* (akin to *agere* to drive) – more at LIME, AGENT] – *levigation* /-'gæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- levitate** /'levɪtəɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) rise or float in the air, esp in apparent defiance of gravity [*levity*] – *levitation* /'levɪtəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *levitational* *adj*
- Levite** /'levɪt/ *n* a member of the priestly Hebrew tribe of Levi [ME, fr LL *Levita*, *Levites*, fr Gk *Leuites*, fr *Levi* Levi, third son of Jacob, fr Heb]
- Levitical** /'leɪvɪtɪkl/ *adj* of the Levites or Leviticus [LL *Leviticus*]
- Leviticus** /'leɪvɪtɪkəs/ *n* the third book of the Old Testament [LL, lit., of the Levites]
- levity** /'levɪtɪ/ *n* lack of seriousness, esp excessive or unseemly frivolity [L *levitāt-*, *levitas* lightness, frivolity, fr *levis* light in weight – more at LIGHT]
- levy** /'levi/ *n* **1a** the imposing or collection of a tax, fine, etc **b** an amount levied **2a** the enlistment or conscription of men for military service **b** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* troops raised by levy [ME, fr MF *levee*, fr OF, act of raising – more at LEVEE]
- levy** *vt* 1 to impose, collect, or demand by legal authority <~ a tax> **2** to enlist or conscript for military service **3** to prepare for and make (war) – usu + *on* or *upon* – *leviable* *adj*
- lewd** /'lyʊəhd/ *adj* 1 sexually coarse or suggestive **2** obscene, salacious <~ songs> [ME *lewed* vulgar, fr OE *læwede* of the laity, ignorant] – *lewdly* *adv*, *lewdness* *n*
- lewis** /'luːh-ɪz/ *n* a device consisting of wedges or curved metal bars used to grip and hoist large stones or blocks [prob fr the name *Lewis*]
- lewisite** /'luːh-ɪsɪt/ *n* a blister-inducing liquid developed as a poison gas for war use [Winford *Lewis* †1943 US chemist]
- lexical** /'leɪksɪkl/ *adj* 1 of words or the vocabulary of a language as distinguished from its grammar and construction **2** of a lexicon – *lexically* *adv*, *lexicality* /'leɪksɪ'kælɪtɪ/ *n*
- lexicography** /'leɪksɪ'kɒɡrəfi/ *n* (the principles of) the editing or making



of a dictionary – **lexicographer** *n*, **lexicographic** /ˌleksɪkəˈɡræfɪk/, **lexicographical** *adj*

**lexicology** /ˌleksɪˈkɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of linguistics concerned with the meaning and use of words [F *lexicologie*, fr *lexico-* (fr LGk *lexiko-*, fr *lexikon*) + *-logic* *-logy*] – **lexicologist** *n*

**lexicon** /ˈleksɪkən/ *n*, *pl* **lexica** /-kə/, **lexicons** 1 a dictionary, esp of Greek, Latin, or Hebrew 2 the vocabulary of a language, individual, or subject [LGk *lexikon*, fr neut of *lexikos* of words, fr Gk *lexis* word, speech, fr *legein* to say – more at **LEGEND**]

**lexis** /ˈleksɪs/ *n*, *pl* **lexes** /-seɪz/ **LEXICON** 2 [Gk, speech, word]

**ley** /lee, lay/ *arable land used temporarily for hay or grazing* [var of *lea*]


**ley** *n* an alignment of landmarks held to mark the course of a prehistoric trackway [var of *lea* (tract of open ground)]

**liability** /ˌlieəˈbɪləti/ *n* 1 being liable 2 sthg for which one is liable, *esp*, *pl* debts 3 a hindrance, drawback – *infinl*

**liable** /ˈlieəbl/ *adj* 1 legally responsible 2 exposed or subject to (< to a fine> <~ to hurt yourself>) 3 habitually likely to (<she's ~ to get annoyed>) [(assumed) AF, fr OF *lier* to bind, fr L *ligare* – more at **LIGATURE**]

**liaise** /ˈleɪəz/ *vi* 1 to establish a connection and cooperate 2 to act as a liaison officer [back-formation fr *liaison*]

**liaison** /ˈleɪəzən, -z(ə)n, -zən/ *n* 1 a substance or mixture used in cooking to thicken or bind liquids 2a a close bond or connection **b** an illicit sexual relationship, **AFFAIR** 3a 3 the pronunciation (e.g. in the French *est-il*) of an otherwise silent consonant before a word beginning with a vowel sound 4 communication, *esp* between parts of an armed force [F, fr MF, fr *lier*]

**liane** /ˈliːəna/ *n* a climbing plant, *esp* of tropical rain forests, that roots in the ground  **PLANT** [F *liane*] – **lianoid** /ˈleɪəˌnɔɪd/ *adj*

**liar** /ˈliːə/ *n* one who (habitually) tells lies [ME, fr OE *leogere*, fr *leogan* to lie – more at **LIE**]

**Lias** /ˈliːəs/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earliest subdivision of the Jurassic (rocks) [n F, fr E (a limestone rock), *adj* fr n] – **Liasic** /ˈliːəsɪk, li-/ *adj*

**lib** /lɪb/ *n*, *often* *cap* **LIBERATION** 2 – *infinl* (<women's ~>) – **libber** *n*

**libation** /ˈliːbəʃən/ *n* 1 (an act of pouring) a liquid used in a sacrifice to a god 2a an act or instance of drinking **b** a beverage, *esp* alcoholic **USE** (2) *fml* or *humor* [L *libation-*, *libatio*, fr *libatus*, pp of *libare* to pour as an offering, akin to Gk *lebein* to pour]

**libel** /ˈliːbl/ *n* 1 (a) defamation of sby by published writing or pictorial representation as distinguished from spoken words or gestures – compare **SLANDER** 2 a false insulting statement [ME, written declaration, fr MF, fr L *libellus*, dim. of *liber* book – more at **LEAF**] – **libellous** *adj*

**libel** *vb* *ll-* (*NAM* *-l-, -ll-*), /ˈliːbl-ɪŋ/ to make or publish a libel (against) – **libeller** *n*, **libellist** *n*

**liberal** /ˈlɪbrəl/ *adj* 1 of or in liberal studies (<~ education>) 2a generous, openhanded (<a ~ giver>) **b** abundant, ample (<a ~ helping>) 3 broad-minded, tolerant, *esp* not bound by authoritarianism, orthodoxy, or tradition 4 *cap* based on or advocating (political) liberalism, *specif* of a political party in the UK advocating economic freedom and moderate reform [ME, fr MF, fr L *liberalis* suitable for a freeman, generous, fr *liber* free; akin to OE *leodan* to grow, Gk *eleutheros* free] – **liberally** *adv*, **liberalness**, **liberality** /ˈlɪbrəlɪti/ *n*

**liberal** *n* 1 one who is not strict in the observance of orthodox ways (e.g. in politics or religion) 2 *cap* a supporter of a Liberal party 3 a champion of individual rights

**liberal arts** *n pl* the medieval studies comprising the trivium and quadrivium

**liberalism** /ˈlɪbrəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 breadth of mind; tolerance, understanding 2a a political philosophy based on belief in progress and the protection of political and civil liberties **b** *cap* Liberal principles and policies – **liberalist** *n* or *adj*, **liberalistic** /ˈlɪbrəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

**liberalize**, *-ise* /ˈlɪbrəˌleɪz/ *vb* to make or become (more) liberal – **liberalization** /-ˌzeɪʃən/ *n*

**Liberal Judaism** *n* **REFORM JUDAISM**

**liberal studies** *n pl* studies (e.g. language, history, etc) intended to provide general knowledge rather than professional or vocational skills

**liberate** /ˈlɪbəreɪt/ *vt* 1 to set free; *specif* to free (e.g. a country) from foreign domination 2 to free (a molecule, ion, etc) from combination 3 to steal – *euph* or *humor* [L *liberatus*, pp of *liberare*, fr *liber* free] – **liberator** *n*

**liberation** /ˈlɪbəreɪʃən/ *n* 1 liberating or being liberated 2 the seeking of equal rights and status (<gay ~>) – **liberationist** *n*

**libertarian** /ˈlɪbəˈteəriən/ *n* 1 a believer in free will 2 an advocate of liberty – **libertarian** *adj*, **libertarianism** *n*

**libertine** /ˈlɪbəteɪn/ *n* a person who is unrestrained by convention or morality; *specif* one leading a dissolute life [ME *libertyn* freedman, fr L *libertinus*, fr *libertinus*, *adj*, of a freedman, fr *libertus* freedman, fr *liber*] – **libertinage** /-tɪnɪdʒ/, **libertinism** /-tɪˌnɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**liberty** /ˈlɪbəti/ *n* 1a the power to do as one pleases **b** freedom from physical restraint or dictatorial control **c** the enjoyment of various rights and privileges (<civil ~>) **d** the power of choice 2 a right or immunity awarded or granted; a privilege 3a a breach of etiquette or propriety **b** a risk, chance (<took foolish liberties with her health>) [ME, fr MF *liberté*, fr L *libertat-*, *libertas*, fr *liber* free – more at **LIBERAL**] – **at liberty** 1 free 2 at leisure, unoccupied


**liberty cap** *n* a close-fitting conical cap used as a symbol of liberty (e.g. by the French revolutionaries)

**liberty horse** *n* a circus horse that performs without a rider

**libidinous** /ˈlɪbɪdɪnəs/ *adj* having or marked by strong sexual desire; lascivious [ME, fr MF *libidineus*, fr L *libidinosus*, fr *libidin-*, *libido*] – **libidiously** *adv*, **libidinousness** *n*

**libido** /ˈlɪbɪdoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **libidos** 1 emotional or mental energy derived in psychoanalytic theory from primitive biological urges 2 sexual drive [NL *libidin-*, *libido*, fr L, desire, lust, fr *libere* to please – more at **LOVE**] – **libidinal** /ˈlɪbɪd(ə)nəl/ *adj*

**Lib-Lab** /ˈlɪb ˈlæb/ *adj* involving both the Labour and Liberal parties (<the ~ pact>) [**Liberal** + **Labour**]

**Libra** /ˈleɪbrə, ˈliː-/ *n* (sby born under) the 7th sign of the zodiac in astrology, pictured as a pair of scales  **SYMBOL** [ME, fr L, lit., scales, pound] – **Libran** *n* or *adj*

**librarian** /ˈliːbreəriən/ *n* sby who manages or assists in a library – **librarianship** *n*

**library** /ˈleɪbrəri/ *n* 1a a place in which books, recordings, films, etc are kept for reference or for borrowing by the public **b** a collection of such books, recordings, etc 2 a series of related books issued by a publisher [ME, fr ML *libranum*, fr L, neut of *librarius* of books, fr *libr-*, *liber* book – more at **LEAF**]

**library science**, *chiefly* *NAM* the study or the principles and practices of librarianship

**librate** /ˈleɪbrəɪt/ *vi* 1 to oscillate, vibrate 2 to stay poised [L *libratus*, pp of *librare* to balance, fr *libra* scales]

**libration** /ˈleɪbrəʃən/ *n* an apparent oscillation of the moon or other celestial body that causes parts at the edge of the disc to become alternately visible and invisible [L *libration-*, *libratio*, fr *libratus*] – **librational**, **libratory** /ˈleɪbrə(ɪ)əri/ *adj*

**libretto** /ˈlɪbretoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **librettos**, **libretti** /-ti/ (the book containing) the text of a work (e.g. an opera) that is both theatrical and musical [It, dim. of *libro* book, fr L *libr-*, *liber*] – **librettist** *n*

**Librium** /ˈlɪbrɪəm/ *trademark* – used for chlordiazepoxide

**Libyan** /ˈlɪbiən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Libya 2 a Berber language of ancient N Africa [*Libya*, country in N Africa, fr L *Libye*, *Libya*, fr Gk *Libyē*] – **Libyan** *adj*

**lice** /liːs/ *pl* of **LOUSE**

**licence**, *NAM* *chiefly* **license** /ˈliːs(ə)ns/ *n* 1a permission to act **b** freedom of action 2 (a certificate giving evidence of) permission granted by authority to engage in an otherwise unlawful activity, *esp* the sale of alcoholic drink 3a freedom that allows or is used with irresponsibility **b** disregard for rules of propriety or personal conduct 4 freedom claimed by an artist or writer to alter facts or deviate from the rules of an art, *esp* for the sake of the effect gained (<poetic ~>) [ME, fr MF *licence*, fr L *licentia*, fr *licent-*, *licens*, prp of *licere* to be permitted; akin to Latvian *likt* to come to terms]

**license**, *licence /ˈliːs(ə)ns/ *vt* to give official permission to or for (esp the sale of alcoholic drink)*

**licensed victualler** *n*, *Br* a publican holding a licence to sell food and alcoholic drink on the premises

**licensee** /ˈliːs(ə)nˈsee/ *n* the holder of a licence; *esp*, *Br* a publican

**license plate**, *n*, *NAM* a renewable number plate showing that the vehicle to which it is attached is licensed

**licentiate** /ˈliːsɪns(h)ɪət, -aɪt/ *n* 1 one licensed to practise a profession 2 an academic degree awarded by some European universities [ML *licentiatus*, fr pp of *licentare* to allow, fr L *licentia*]

**licentious** /ˈliːsɪnshəs/ *adj* behaving in a sexually uncontrolled manner [L *licentiosus*, fr *licentia*] – **licentiously** *adv*, **licentiousness** *n*

**lichee** /ˈliːchee, ˈ-/ *n* a litchi

**lichen** /ˈliːkən, ˈliːchɪn/ *n* 1 any of numerous complex plants made up of an alga and a fungus growing in symbiotic association on a solid surface

(e.g. a rock or tree trunk)  **PLANT** 2 any of several skin diseases characterized by raised spots [L, fr Gk *leichen*, *lichen*] – **lichenous** *adj*, **lichenoid** /-noyd/ *adj*

**'lich-gate** /lich/ *n* a lych-gate

**licit** /'lisit/ *adj* not forbidden (by law); permissible [MF *licite*, fr L *licitus*, fr pp of *licere* to be permitted – more at **LICENCE**] – **licitly** *adv*

**'lick** /lik/ *vt* 1a(1) to draw the tongue over, esp in order to taste, moisten, or clean (~ a stamp) (2) to flicker or play over like a tongue b to take into the mouth with the tongue; lap – usu + up 2a to strike repeatedly, thrash b to get the better of, overcome (<has ~ed every problem>) ~ *vi* to lap (as if) with the tongue, also to dart like a tongue (<flames ~ing at the windows>) **USE** (vt 2) *infrm* [ME *licken*, fr OE *liccian*; akin to OHG *leckōn* to lick, L *lingere*, Gk *leichen*] – **lick into shape** to put into proper form or condition

**'lick** *n* 1a an act or instance of licking b a small amount, a touch (<a ~ of paint>) 2 'blow 1 3 a place to which animals regularly go to lick a salt deposit 4 speed, pace (<the car was travelling at a good ~>) – *infrm* – a lick and a promise sthg hastily and not thoroughly done, esp a quick wash

**licking** /'likɪŋ/ *n* 1 a sound thrashing; a beating 2 a severe setback; a defeat **USE** *infrm*

**licorice** /'likərɪʃ/ *n* liquorice

**lictor** /'likta/ *n* an officer of ancient Rome who carried the fasces and accompanied the chief magistrates in public appearances [L, perh akin to L *ligare* to bind]

**lid** /lid/ *n* 1 a hinged or detachable cover (for a receptacle) 2 the operculum in mosses [ME, fr OE *hlid*; akin to OHG *hlit* cover, OE *hlinian*, *hleonian* to lean – more at **LEAN**] – **lidded** *adj*

**lido** /'hedɒ/ *n*, pl **lidos** 1 a fashionable beach resort 2 a public open-air swimming pool [*Lido*, resort near Venice in Italy, fr L *litus* shore]

**'lie** /lie/ *vi* lying; lay /lay/, lain /layn/ 1a to be or to stay at rest in a horizontal position; rest, recline (~ motionless) (~ asleep) b to assume a horizontal position – often + down c to be or remain in a specified state or condition (~ in wait) (<machinery lying idle>) 2a of sthg inanimate to be or remain in a flat or horizontal position on a surface (<books lying on the table>) b of snow to remain on the ground without melting 3 to have as a direction; 'LEAD 1b(1) (<the route lay to the west>) 4a to occupy a specified place or position (<hills ~ behind us>) (<the responsibility ~s with us>) b to have an adverse or disheartening effect, weigh (<remorse lay heavily on her>) c of an action, claim, etc in a court of law to be sustainable or admissible 5 to remain at anchor or becalmed [ME *lien*, fr OE *licgan*, akin to OHG *līgen* to lie, L *lectus* bed, Gk *lechos*] – **lie low** 1 to stay in hiding; strive to avoid notice 2 to bide one's time

**'lie** *n* 1 the way, position, or situation in which sthg lies (<the ~ of the land>) 2 a haunt of an animal or fish

**'lie** *vi* lying /lie-ɪŋ/ 1 to make an untrue statement with intent to deceive, speak falsely 2 to create a false or misleading impression (<the camera never ~s>) [ME *lien*, fr OE *lēogan*, akin to OHG *logan* to lie, OSlav *līgati*]

**'lie** *n* 1 an untrue or false statement, esp when made with intent to deceive 2 sthg that misleads or deceives

**liebfraumilch** /'leebfrow.milk/ *n*, often *cap* a dry Hock [G, alter. of *liebfrauenmilch*, fr *Liebfrauenstift*, religious foundation in Worms, Germany + *milch* milk]

**lied** /lied (Ger *liet*)/ *n*, pl **lieder** /'leeda, (Ger *li:der*)/ a German song; esp a 19th-c setting of a lyrical poem [G, song, fr OHG *liod* – more at **LAUD**]

**'lie detector** *n* an instrument for detecting physical evidence of the mental tension that accompanies telling lies

**'lie-down** *n*, chiefly *Br* a brief rest, esp on a bed – *infrm*

**lie down** *vi* to submit meekly or abjectly to defeat, disappointment, or insult (<won't take that criticism lying down>)

**lieft** /leɪf/ *adv*, archaic soon, gladly (<I'd as ~ go as not>) [ME *lef*, *leif*, fr OE *lēof*, *adj*; akin to OE *lufu* love – more at **LOVE**]

**'liege** /leej/ *adj* 1a entitled to feudal allegiance b owing feudal allegiance 2 faithful, loyal [ME, fr OF, fr LL *laeticus*, fr *laetus* serf, of Gmc origin; akin to OFris *let* serf]

**'liege** *n* 1a a feudal vassal b a loyal subject 2 a feudal superior


**'liege man** *n* 1 **LIEGE** 1a 2 a devoted follower

**lie in** *vi* 1 to be confined to give birth to a child 2 chiefly *Br* to stay in bed until later than usual in the morning – **lie-in** *n*

**lien** /lee-ən, leen/ *n* the legal right to hold another's property until a claim is met [MF, tie, band, fr L *ligamen*, fr *ligare* to bind – more at **LIGATURE**]

**lie off** *vi*, of a ship to keep a little distance away from the shore or another ship


**lie over** *vi* to await attention at a later time (<several jobs lying over from last week>)

**lierne** /li'uhn, lie'ən/ *n* a nonstructural rib in a vault  **CHURCH** [F, fr MF, fr *lier* to bind, tie – more at **LIABLE**]

**lie to** *vi*, of a ship to stay stationary with head to windward **lieu** /li(y)oo/ *n* [MF, place, fr L *locus* – more at **'STALL**] – **in lieu** in substitution; instead (<I'm sending this message in lieu of a letter>)

**lie up** *vi* 1 to stay in bed, esp for a long period 2 of a ship to remain in dock or out of commission 3 to remain inactive or at rest

**lieutenancy** /lef'tenənsi, NAM looh-/ *n* the office, rank, or commission of a lieutenant


**lieutenant** /lef'tenənt, Royal Navy and NAM looh'tenənt/ *n* 1 an official empowered to act for a higher official, a deputy or representative 2  **RANK** [ME, fr MF, fr *lieu* + *tenant* holding, fr *tenir* to hold, fr L *tenere* – more at **THIN**]

**lieutenant colonel** *n*  **RANK**

**lieutenant commander** *n*  **RANK**

**lieutenant general** *n*  **RANK**

**lieutenant governor** *n* a deputy or subordinate governor

**'lieutenant junior grade** *n*, pl **lieutenants junior grade**  **RANK**

**'life** /li:/ *n*, pl **lives** /lievz/ 1a the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body b a principle or force considered to underlie the distinctive quality of animate beings – compare **VITALISM** 1 c a state of matter (e.g. a cell or an organism) characterized by capacity for metabolism, growth, reaction to stimuli, and reproduction 2a the sequence of physical and mental experiences that make up the existence of an individual b an aspect of the process of living (<the sex ~ of the frog>) 3 **BIOGRAPHY** 1 4 a state or condition of existence (~ after death) 5a the period from birth to death or to the present time (<I have lived here all my ~>) b a specific phase of earthly existence (<adult ~>) c the period from an event or the present time until death (<a member for ~>) d a sentence of imprisonment for life (<got ~ for the murder>) 6 a way or manner of living (<a holy ~>) (<a full ~>) 7 a person (<many lives were lost in the disaster>) 8 the source of pleasure, interest, or enjoyment in living, the reason for living (<his work was his whole ~>) 9 the living form considered as a model (<painted from ~>) 10 the period of usefulness, effectiveness, or functioning of sthg inanimate (<the expected ~ of torch batteries>) 11 a period of existence (e.g. of a subatomic particle) – compare **HALF-LIFE** 12 living beings (e.g. of a specified kind or environment) (<forest ~>) 13a the active part of human existence, esp in a wide range of circumstances or experiences (<left home to see ~>) b activity from living things; movement (<stirrings of ~>) c the activities of a specified sphere, area, or time (<the political ~ of the country>) 14 (one who provides) interest, animation, or vigour (<the ~ and soul of the party>) 15 any of several chances to participate given to a contestant in some games, 1 of which is forfeited each time he/she loses; also a failed chance to get a batsman out (<dropped a catch and gave the batsman a ~>) [ME *lif*, fr OE *lif*; akin to OE *libban* to live – more at **LIVE**]

**'life** *adj* 1 using a living model (<a ~ class>) 2 of, being, or provided by life insurance (<a ~ policy>)


**'life-and-death** *adj* involving death or risk to life, vitally important

**'life belt** *n* a buoyant belt for keeping a person afloat

**'life blood** /-blud, -'-/ *n* 1 the blood necessary to life 2 a vital or life-giving force

**'life boat** /-boht/ *n* a robust buoyant boat for use in saving lives at sea

**'life buoy** /boy/ *n* a buoyant often ring-shaped float to which a person may cling in the water

**'life cycle** *n* the series of stages in form and functional activity through which an organism, group, culture, etc passes during its lifetime 

**'life expectancy** *n* the expected length of sb's or sthg's life, based on statistical probability

**'life force** *n* **ELAN VITAL**

**'life-giving** *adj* giving or having power to give life or spirit; invigorating

**'life guard** /-gahd/ *n* a usu expert swimmer employed to safeguard other swimmers – **lifeguard** *vi*

**'life history** *n* the changes through which an organism passes in its development from the primary stage to its natural death

**'life insurance** *n* insurance providing for payment of a stipulated sum to a beneficiary on the death of the insured person or to the insured person on reaching a certain age

**'life jacket** *n* a buoyant device that is designed to keep a person afloat and can be worn continuously as a precaution against drowning

**'lifeless** /-lis/ *adj* **1a** dead **b** inanimate **2** having no living beings (< a ~ planet> **3** lacking qualities expressive of life and vigour, dull (< a ~ voice> [**'LIFE** + **-LESS**] - **lifelessly** *adv*, **lifelessness** *n*)

**'life,like** /-lek/ *adj* accurately representing or imitating (the appearance of objects in) real life

**'life, line** /-lien/ *n* **1a** a rope for saving or safeguarding life e.g. (1) one stretched along the deck of a ship in rough weather (2) one fired to a ship in distress by means of a rocket **b** the line by which a diver is lowered and raised **2** sthg, esp the sole means of communication, regarded as indispensable for the maintenance or protection of life

**'life, long** /-long/ *adj* lasting or continuing throughout life

**life of 'Riley** /'neli/ *n* a carefree comfortable way of living - esp in *live the life of Riley* [fr the name *Riley* or *Reilly*]

**life, peer**, *ferm* **life peeress** /'pi:əs/ *n* a British peer whose title is not hereditary - **life peerage** *n*

**'life pre,server** *n* **1** chiefly *Br* a small weighted club **2** chiefly *NAm* a life jacket, life buoy, etc

**lifer** /'li:fə/ *n* one sentenced to life imprisonment - *infrm*

**'life, raft** *n* a raft for use by people forced into the water (e.g. in a shipwreck)

**'life, saver** /-sayvə/ *n* shy or sthg timely and effective in the prevention or relief of distress or difficulty - **lifesaving** *adj* or *n*

**life, science** *n* a science (e.g. biology, medicine, anthropology, or sociology) that deals with living organisms and life processes - **life scientist** *n*

**'life, size, life-sized** *adj* of natural size, of the size of the original (< a ~ statue>)

**'life, style** *n* *ind. & mod.* individual's way of life

**life, table** *n* a table of life based on the mortality statistics for several years

**'life, time** /-ti:m/ *n* the length of time for which a person, living thing, subatomic particle, etc exists

**life, work** /-'wuk/ *n* the entire or principal work (filling the whole) of one's lifetime

**'lift** /lift/ *vt* **1a** to raise from a lower to a higher position, elevate **b** to raise in rank or condition **2** to put an end to (a blockade or siege) by withdrawing the surrounding forces **3** to revoke, rescind (< ~ an embargo> **4a** to plagiarize **b** to take out of normal setting (< ~ a word out of context> **5** to take up (e.g. a root crop) from the ground **6** to hit (e.g. a cricket ball) or to hit the bowling of (a bowler) into the air **7** to steal (< had her purse ~ed> - *infrm* ~ *vi* **1** to ascend, rise **2a** to disperse upwards (< until the fog ~s> **b** of bad weather to cease temporarily (< the rain finally ~ed> **3** of a bowled ball in cricket to rise at a sharper angle than expected after pitching [**ME** *liffen*, fr *ON* *lypta*, akin to *OE* *lyft* air - more at **TOFT**] - **liftable** *adj*, **lifter** *n*

**'lift** *n* **1a** (a device for) lifting or (the amount) being lifted **b** the lifting up of a dancer or skater usu by her partner **2** a usu free ride as a passenger in a motor vehicle **3** a slight rise or elevation of ground **4** the distance or extent to which sthg (e.g. water in a canal lock) rises **5** a usu temporary feeling of cheerfulness, pleasure, or encouragement (< her new haircut gave her a real ~> **6** the upward part of the aerodynamic force acting on an aircraft or aerofoil that opposes the pull of gravity → **FLIGHT** **7** an organized transport of men, equipment, or supplies, esp an airlift **8** any of the ropes by which the yard is suspended from the mast on a square-rigged ship → **SHIP** **9** chiefly *Br* a device for conveying people or objects from one level to another, esp in a building

**'lift, off** *n* a vertical takeoff by an aircraft, rocket vehicle, or missile → **SPACE** - **lift off** *vi*

**ligament** /'ligəmənt/ *n* a tough band of connective tissue forming the capsule round a joint or supporting an organ (e.g. the womb) → **ANATOMY** [**ME**, fr **ML** & **L**, **ML** *ligamentum*, fr **L**, band, tie, fr *ligare*] - **ligamentary** /-'ment(ə)r/, **ligamentous** /-'mentəs/ *adj*

**ligand** /'ligənd/, 'lie-/ *n* an ion, molecule, etc joined by many bonds to a central atom, ion, etc (e.g. in a coordination complex) [**L** *ligandus*, gerundive of *ligare*]

**ligate** /'li:geɪt/, -/-/ *vt* to tie with a ligature [**L** *ligatus*, pp of *ligare*] - **ligation** /'li:geɪʃən/ *n*

**ligature** /'li:gəʃə/ *n* **1a** sthg that is used to bind; *specif* a thread used in surgery **b** sthg that unites or connects **2** the action of binding or tying **3** 'st UR **1** **4a** a character consisting of 2 or more letters or characters joined together; esp one (e.g. fr) other than a diphthong [**ME**, fr **MF**, fr **LL** *ligatura*, fr **L** *ligatura*, pp of *ligare* to bind, tie, akin to **MHG** *geleich* joint, **Alb** *lith* **1** tie]

**'light** /li:t/ *n* **1a** (the sensation aroused by) sthg that makes vision possible by stimulating the sense of sight **b** an electromagnetic radiation in the wavelength range including infrared, visible, ultraviolet, and X rays, *specif* the part of this range that is visible to the human eye → **PHYSICS** **2** daylight **3** a source of light: e.g. **a** a celestial body **b** a burning candle **c** an electric light **4a** spiritual illumination **b** **INNER LIGHT** **c** understanding, knowledge **d** the truth (< see the ~> **5a** public knowledge (< facts brought to ~> **b** a particular aspect or appearance in which sthg is viewed (< now saw the matter in a different ~> **6** a particular illumination in a place (< studio with a north ~> **7** (enlightening) information or explanation (< he shed some ~ on the problem> **8** a medium (e.g. a window) through which light is admitted **9 pl** a set of principles, standards, or opinions (< true by your ~s> **10** **LEADING LIGHT** **11** a specified expression, perceived as being in sb's eyes (< the ~ of love in his eyes> **12a** a lighthouse **b** **TRAFFIC LIGHT** **13** the representation in art of the effect of light on objects or scenes **14** a flame or spark for lighting sthg (e.g. a cigarette) **15 Br** the answer to 1 of the clues of a crossword [**ME**, fr *OE* *leoht*, akin to *OHG* *hoht* light, **L** *luc-*, *lux* light, *lucere* to shine, **Gk** *leukos* white] - **lightless** *adj*, **lightproof** /-pru:pf/ *adj* - **in the light of** with the insight provided by

**'light** *adj* **1** having plenty of light, bright (< a ~ airy room> **2a** pale in colour or colouring **b** of colours medium in saturation and high in lightness

**'light** *vb* /lit/, **lighted** /'li:ted/ *vi* **1** **LIGHT UP** **1** **2** to catch fire ~ *vi* **1** to set fire to **2a** to conduct (sb) with a light, guide **b** to illuminate (< a room lit by a bay window>)

**'light** *adj* **1a** having little weight, not heavy **b** designed to carry a comparatively small load (< a ~ van> **c** of the smaller variety (< a ~ gun> **d** (made of materials) having relatively little weight in proportion to bulk (< aluminium is a ~ metal> **e** containing less than the legal, standard, or usual weight (< a ~ coin> **2a** of little importance, trivial **b** not abundant (< ~ rain> (< a ~ crop of wheat> **3a** of sleep or a sleeper easily disturbed **b** exerting a minimum of force or pressure, gentle, soft (< a ~ touch> (< ~ breeze> (< a ~ voice> **c** faint (< ~ print> **4a** easily endurable (< ~ taxation> **b** requiring little effort (< ~ work> **5** nimble (< ~ on his feet> **6** lacking seriousness, frivolous **7** free from care, cheerful (< a ~ heart> **8** intending or intended chiefly to entertain (< ~ reading> **9** of a drink having a comparatively low alcoholic content or a mild flavour (< a ~ white wine> **10a** easily digested (< a ~ dessert> **b** well leavened (< a ~ cake> **11** lightly armoured, armed, or equipped (< ~ cavalry> **12** easily pulverized, crumbly (< ~ soil> **13** dizzy, giddy (< felt ~ in the head> **14a** carrying little or no cargo (< the ship returned ~> **b** producing light usu small goods often for direct consumption (< ~ industry> [**ME**, fr *OE* *leoht*; akin to *OHG* *liht* light, **L** *levis*, **Gk** *elachys* small] - **lightish** *adj*, **lightly** *adv*, **lightness** *n*

**'light** *adv* **1** lightly **2** with the minimum of luggage (< travel ~>)

**'light** *vb* /li:ht/, **lighted** /li:ht/ *vi* **1** to settle, alight (< a bird lit on the lawn> **2** to arrive by chance, happen (< lit upon a solution> [**ME** *lighten*, fr *OE* *lihtan*, akin to *OE* *leoht* light in weight])

**light air** *n* wind having a speed of 1 to 5 km/h (1 to 3 mph)

**light breeze** *n* wind having a speed of 6 to 11 km/h (4 to 7 mph)

**'light bulb** *n* **INCANDESCENT LAMP**

**light-emitting diode** *n* an LED → **TELECOMMUNICATION**

**'lighten** /'li:t(ə)n/ *vt* **1** to make (more) light or clear, illuminate **2** to make (e.g. a colour) lighter ~ *vi* **1** to grow lighter, brighten **2** to discharge flashes of lightning [**ME** *lightenen*, fr *light*] - **lightener** *n*

**'lighten** *vi* **1** to reduce the weight of (< ~ the lorry> (< ~ her duties> **2** to relieve (partly) of a burden (< the news ~ed his mind> **3** to make less wearisome, alleviate (< ~ed his gloom>), broadly to cheer, gladden ~ *vi* **1** to become lighter or less burdensome **2** to become more cheerful (< his mood ~ed> - **lightener** *n*

**'lighter** /'li:tə/ *vt* or *vi* (to convey by) a large usu flat-bottomed barge used esp in unloading or loading ships [**N** **ME**, fr (assumed) **MD** *lichter*, fr **MD** *lichten* to unload, akin to *OE* *leoht* light in weight, *vb* fr **n**]

**'lighter** *n* a device for lighting (a cigar, cigarette, etc) [**'LIGHT** + **-ER**]

**lighterage** /'li:təri/ *n* (the charge for) the loading, unloading, or transport of goods by means of a lighter

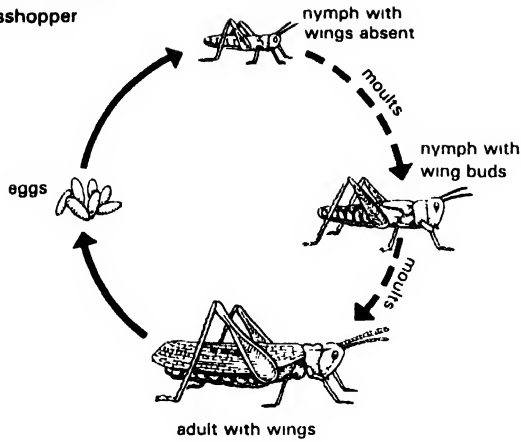
**'lighter-than-air** *adj*, of an aircraft of less weight than the air displaced

**'light-fingered** *adj* **1** adroit in stealing, esp picking pockets **2** having a light and dexterous touch; nimble - **light-fingeredness** *n*

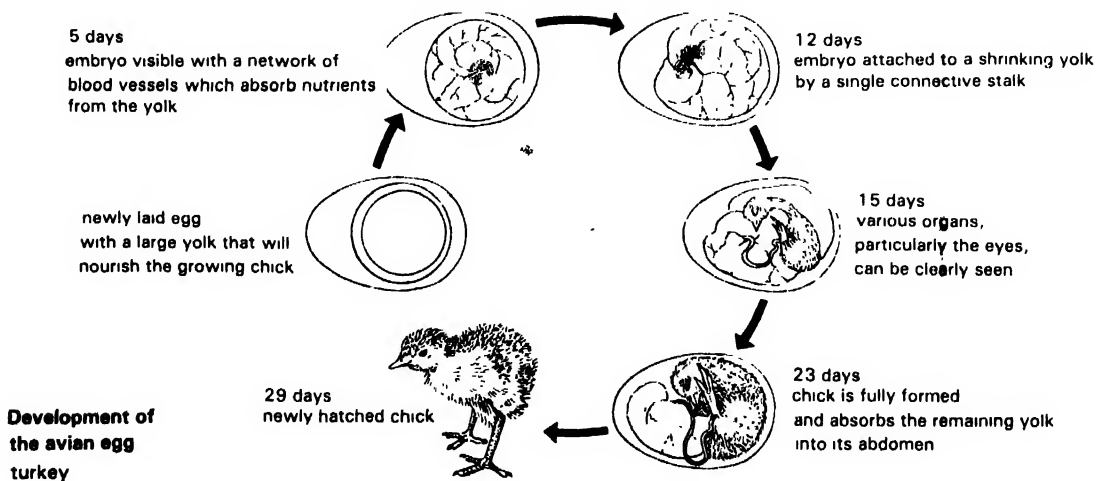
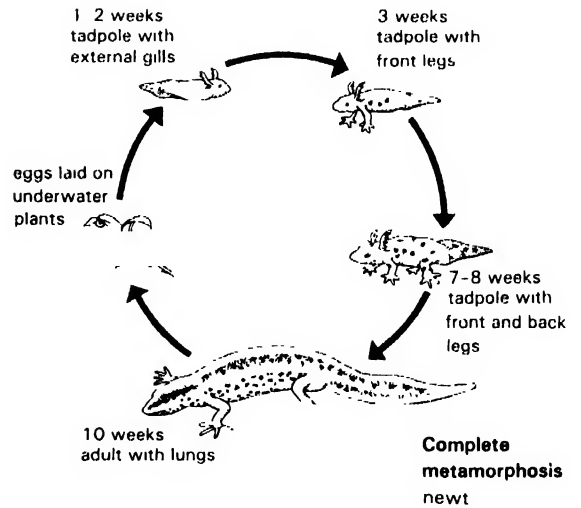
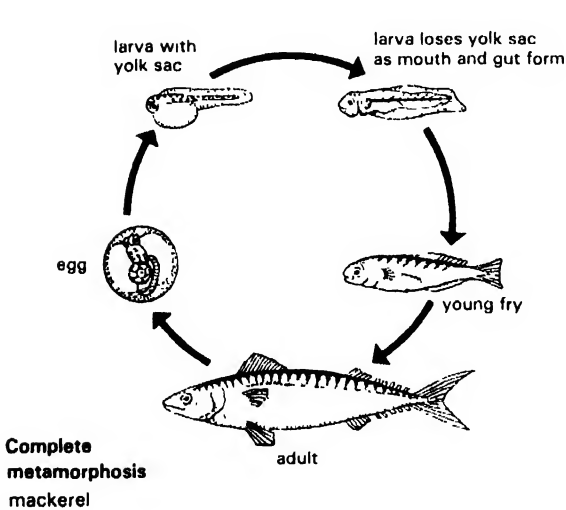
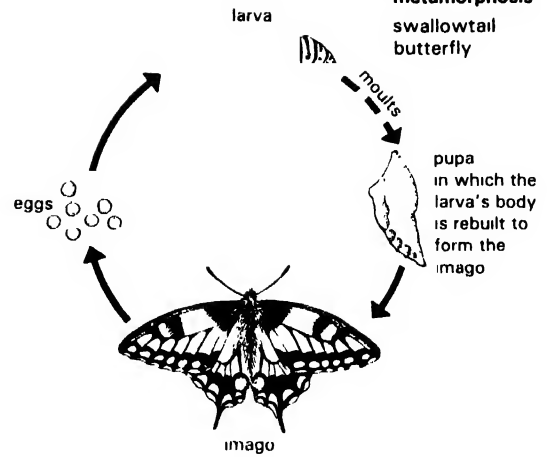
**'light-footed, light-foot** *adj* moving gracefully and nimbly

**'light-headed** *adj* **1** mentally disoriented, dizzy **2** frivolous - **light-headedly** *adv*, **light-headedness** *n*

**Incomplete metamorphosis**  
grasshopper



**Complete metamorphosis**  
swallowtail butterfly



### Development of a marsupial mammal

After a six-week gestation, the kangaroo gives birth to a tiny undeveloped offspring, which crawls to its mother's pouch and attaches itself to a nipple. When sufficiently developed the young kangaroo makes excursions from the pouch, but will return to suckle until it is a year old.



birth

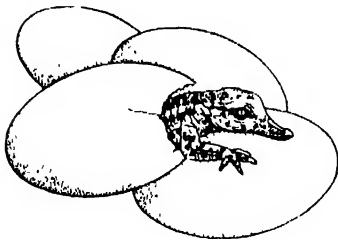
young kangaroo  
crawls to pouchattachment  
at the nipple

### Development of a placental mammal

The young of placental mammals are nurtured and protected inside the mother during early development. Continuous nourishment and oxygen pass from the mother to the embryo via the placenta. As a result, the offspring are born at a more advanced stage of development than marsupial offspring. ➔ REPRODUCTION

### Oviparity

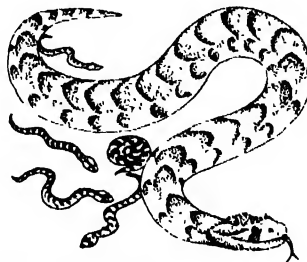
Birds and many reptiles are oviparous: the young develop and hatch from eggs outside the mother's body. In general, oviparous species lay large numbers of eggs in order that some of their offspring might survive



crocodile hatching from egg

### Ovoviviparity

Some lizards and snakes are ovoviviparous: the young develop in eggs inside the mother's body and hatch at, or just after, laying. Offspring produced ovoviviparously are less vulnerable to climatic variations and predation than those produced oviparously.



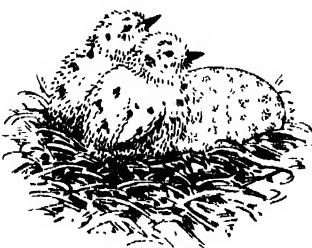
puff adder and young

### Viviparity

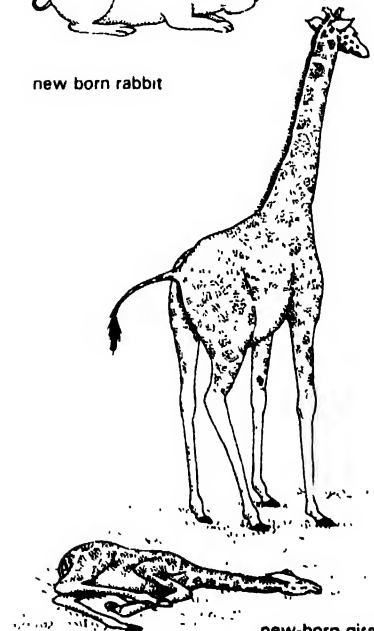
Most mammals, some reptiles, and a few fish are viviparous: the young develop inside the mother and are born in an active state. A giraffe is well-developed at birth as it must run with the herd, soon after, in order to survive. Rabbits, on the other hand, are born blind, naked, and helpless in the protection of the burrow.



new born rabbit



herring gull chicks in nest

common lizard hatching from  
newly-laid soft membranous egg

new-born giraffe

- lighthearted** /'haɪtɪd/ *adj* free from care or worry, cheerful – **lightheartedly** *adv.* **lightheartedness** *n*
- light, house** /-həʊz/ *n* a tower, mast, etc equipped with a powerful light to warn or guide shipping at sea
- lighting** /'li:tnɪŋ/ *n* (the apparatus providing) an artificial supply of light
- lightness** /-nis/ *n* the attribute of object colours by which more or less of the incident light is reflected or transmitted [LIGH + -NESS]
- lightning** /'li:tnɪŋ/ *n* (the brilliant light flash resulting from) an electric discharge between 2 clouds or between a cloud and the earth [ME, fr gerund of *lightenen* to lighten]
- lightning** *adj* very quick, short, or sudden
- lightning conductor** *n* a metal rod fixed to the highest point of a building or mast and connected to the earth or water below as a protection against lightning
- light opera** *n* an operetta
- light out** *vi*, *NAM* to leave in a hurry – *informal* <lit out for home as soon as he could> ['light]
- light pen** *n* a pen-shaped photoelectric device that is pointed at a VDU to create or identify characters, symbols, etc for input into a computer
- lights** /li:ts/ *n pl* the lungs, esp of a slaughtered sheep, pig, etc [ME *lightes*, fr *light* light in weight]
- lightship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* a moored vessel equipped with a powerful light to warn or guide shipping at sea
- light show** *n* an entertainment of ever-changing coloured light
- lights-out** *n* 1 a command or signal for putting out lights 2 a prescribed bedtime for people living in an institution (e.g. boarding school)
- light up** *vb* 1 to illuminate or become illuminated or lit (in a sudden or conspicuous manner) <fireworks lit up the night sky> <her face lit up> 2 to ignite (a cigarette, pipe, etc)
- lightweight** /-weɪt/ *n or adj* 1 (a boxer) weighing not more than 9st 9lb (61 2kg) if professional or more than 57kg (about 8st 13lb) but not more than 60kg (about 9st 6lb) if amateur 2 (sby) of little ability or importance
- light-year** *n* a unit of length in astronomy equal to the distance that light travels in 1 year in a vacuum, 9,460 thousand million km (about 5,878 thousand million mi) [ASTRONOMY, UNIT]
- lign-, ligni-, ligno-** *comb form* 1 wood [lignum] <lignous> 2 lignin and <lignocellulose> [L *lign-*, *ligni-*, fr *lignum*, fr *legere* to gather – more at LEGEND]
- lignify** /'lɪgnɪfə/ *vb* to convert into or become wood or woody tissue [F, *lignifier*, fr L *lignum*] – **lignification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*
- lignin** /'lɪgnɪn/ *n* a substance that forms the (cementing material between the) woody cell walls of plants
- lignite** /'lɪgnɪt/ *n* a brownish black coal that is harder than peat but usu retains the texture of the original wood [F, fr L *lignum*] – **lignitic** /-'nɪtɪk/ *adj*
- lignocaine** /'lɪgnə'keɪn/ *n* a synthetic local anaesthetic
- lignum vitae** /'lɪgnəm 'vi:teɪ/ *n*, *pl* **lignum vitae** (the very hard heavy dark wood of) any of several tropical American trees [NL, lit., wood of life]
- ligulate** /'lɪgju:leɪt, -ləɪt/ *adj* 1 shaped like a strap <the ~ corolla of a ray flower of a composite plant> [PLANT] 2 having ligules
- ligule** /'lɪgju:əl/ *n* an appendage on a foliage leaf and esp on the part of a blade of grass that forms a sheath round the stem [NL *ligula*, fr L, small tongue, strap, akin to L *lingere* to lick – more at LICK]
- likable** also **likeable** /'li:kəbl/ *adj* pleasant, agreeable – **likableness** *n*, **likability** /-'bɪləti/ *n*
- like** /li:k/ *vt* 1a to find agreeable, acceptable, or pleasant, enjoy <~s games> <~s playing games> b to feel towards, regard <how would you ~ a change?> 2 to wish or choose to have, be, or do; want <~s to help> <~s us to come early> ~ *vi* to feel inclined; choose <you can leave any time you ~> [ME *liken*, fr OE *lician*, akin to OE *gelic* alike] – if you like SO TO SPEAK
- like** *n* a liking, preference <one's ~s and dislikes>
- like** *adj* 1a alike in appearance, character, or quantity <suits of ~ design> b bearing a close resemblance; esp faithful <his portrait is very ~> 2 likely [ME, alter. of *ilich*, fr OE *gelic* like, alike, akin to OHG *gilih* like, alike; both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *ge-* (associative prefix) and whose second is represented by OE *lic* body; akin to Lith *lygas* like – more at CO-]
- like** *prep* 1a having the characteristics of; similar to <his house is ~ a barn> b typical of <was ~ her to do that> 2a in the manner of; similarly to <act ~ a fool> b to the same degree as <fits ~ a glove> c close to <cost something ~ £5> 3 appearing to be, threaten, or promise <you seem ~ a sensible man> 4 – used to introduce an example <a subject ~ physics> – **like that** 1 in that way <don't eat like that> 2 without demur or hesitation <can't change jobs just like that> – **like anything/crazy** – used to emphasize a verb; *informal* <run like anything>
- like** *n* one who or that which is like another, esp in high value; a counterpart <never saw the ~ of it> <had no use for the ~s of him> <her ~ will never be seen again> – **the like** similar things <football, tennis, and the like>
- like** *adv* 1 likely, probably <he'll come as ~ as not> 2 SO TO SPEAK <went up to her casually, ~> – nonstandard
- like** *conj* 1 in the same way as <if she can sing ~ she can dance> 2 chiefly *NAM* as if <acts ~ he knows what he's doing>
- like** /-li:k/ *comb form* (n → adj) resembling or characteristic of <bell-like> <ladylike>
- likelihood** /'li:kli.hʊd/ *n* probability <in all ~ it will rain>
- likely** /'li:kli/ *adj* 1 having a high probability of being or occurring <~ to succeed> <the ~ result> 2a reliable, credible <a ~ enough story> b incredible – used ironically <a ~ tale> 3 seeming appropriate, suitable <a ~ spot> 4 promising <~ lads> [ME, fr ON *glíkligr*, fr *glíkr* like, akin to OE *gelic*]
- likely** *adv* probably – often in *most/very/more/quite likely* <he most ~ will give up>
- like-minded** *adj* having a similar outlook or disposition – **like-mindedly** *adv.* **like-mindedness** *n*
- liken** /'li:kən/ *vt* to find or point out similarities in, compare
- likeness** /-nis/ *n* 1 resemblance 2 a copy, portrait <a good ~ of her> 3 archaic an appearance, semblance [LÍKE + -NESS]
- likewise** /-wi:z/ *adv* 1 in like manner, similarly <go and do ~> 2 moreover, IN ADDITION 3 similarly so with me <answered ~ to 'Pleased to meet you'>
- liking** /'li:knɪŋ/ *n* favourable regard, fondness, taste <took a ~ to the newcomer> <things were not to his ~>
- likuta** /lɪ'kyʊʊhtə/ *n*, *pl* **makuta** /mah-/ ʒ Zaire at NATIONALITY [of Niger-Congo origin, prob akin to obs Nupe *kuta* stone]
- lilac** /'li:lək, -lək/ *n* 1 a European shrub of the olive family with heart-shaped leaves and large clusters of fragrant white or (pale pinkish) purple flowers 2 pale pinkish purple [obs F (now *lilas*), fr Ar *lilak*, fr Per *nīlak* bluish, fr *nīl* blue, fr Skt *nīla* dark blue]
- lilangeni** /'lɪlɑŋ'geɪn/ *n*, *pl* **emalangeni** /eɪnɪ'ɑŋ'geɪn/ ʒ Swaziland at NATIONALITY [of Bantu origin]
- lilliputian** /'lɪlɪ'pyʊʊʃh(ɪ)ən/ *n or adj*, often *cap* (sby or sthg) remarkably tiny or diminutive [Lilliput, imaginary country of tiny people in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift 1745 1r satirist]
- Li-Lo** /'li:loh/ *trademark* – used for an airbed
- lilt** /lɪlt/ *vb* to sing or speak rhythmically and with varying pitch [ME *lulten*] – **liltingly** *adv*
- lilt** *n* 1 (a song or tune with) a rhythmic swing, flow, or rising and falling inflection 2 a light springy motion <a ~ in her step>
- lily** /'li:lɪ/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants that grow from bulbs and are widely cultivated for their variously coloured showy flowers, also any of various other plants of the lily or the related daffodil or iris families 2 WATER LILY 3 a calla 4 FLEUR-DE-LIS 5 one resembling a lily in fairness, purity, or fragility – poetic [ME *lihe*, fr OE, fr L *lilium*] – **lilaceous** /-'aɪʃəs/ *adj*
- lily-livered** /'lɪvəd/ *adj* lacking courage, cowardly
- lily of the valley** *n* a low perennial plant of the lily family that has usu 2 large leaves and a stalk of fragrant drooping bell-shaped white flowers
- lily pad** *n* a large flat floating leaf of a water lily
- lily-white** *adj* 1 pure white 2 irreproachable, pure
- lima bean** /'li:mə/ *n* (the flat edible seed of) any of various widely cultivated bushy or tall-growing orig tropical American beans [Lima, capital city of Peru]
- limb** /lɪm/ *n* 1 any of the projecting paired appendages of an animal body used esp for movement and grasping but sometimes modified into sensory or sexual organs; esp a leg or arm of a human being 2 a large primary branch of a tree 3 an active member or agent <~s of the law> 4 an extension, branch; *specif* any of the 4 branches or arms of a cross 5 archaic a mischievous child [ME *lim*, fr OE; akin to ON *limr* limb, L *limes* limit, *lumen* threshold, Gk *leimon* meadow] – **limbless** *adj* – out on a limb in an exposed and unsupported position
- limb** *vt* to dismember; esp to cut off the limbs of (a felled tree)
- limb** *n* 1 the graduated edge of a quadrant, levelling staff, etc 2 the outer edge of the apparent disc of a celestial body 3 the broad flat part of a petal or sepal furthest from its base [L *limbus* border – more at LIMB]



**limbed** /limd/ *adj* having (a specified kind or number of) limbs – usu in combination <strong-limbed>

**limber** /limbo/ *n* a 2-wheeled (ammunition-carrying) vehicle to which a gun may be attached [ME *lymour*]

**limber** *adj* supple in mind or body; flexible [origin unknown] – limberly *adv*, limberness *n*

**limber up** *vb* to (cause to) become supple, flexible, or prepared for physical action <limbered up before the match>

**limbic** /limbik/ *adj* of or being a group of structures in the brain, including the hypothalamus and hippocampus, that are concerned esp with emotion and motivation [NL *limbic* of a border or margin, fr L *limbus*]

**limbo** /limboh/ *n*, *pl* **limbos** 1 often *cap* an abode of souls that are according to Roman Catholic theology barred from heaven because of not having received Christian baptism 2a a place or state of restraint or confinement, or of neglect or oblivion b an intermediate or transitional place or state [ME, fr ML, abl of *limbus* limbo, fr L, border – more at *LIMP*]

**limbo** *n*, *pl* **limbos** a W Indian acrobatic dance that involves bending over backwards and passing under a low horizontal pole [native name in W Indies]

**lime** /liem/ *n* 1 birdlime 2a a caustic solid consisting of calcium (and some magnesium) oxide, obtained by heating calcium carbonate (e.g. in the form of shells or limestone) to a high temperature, and used in building (e.g. in plaster) and in agriculture *→ BUILDING* b calcium hydroxide (occurring as a dry white powder), made by treating caustic lime with water c calcium <carbonate of ~> – not now used technically [ME, fr OE *lim*, akin to OHG *lim* birdlime, L *lima* file, *linere* to smear, *levis* smooth, Gk *leios*] – limy *adj*

**lime** *vt* to treat or color with lime <~ the soil in the spring>

**lime** *n* (the light fine-grained wood of) any of a genus of widely planted (ornamental) trees that usu have heart-shaped leaves [alter of ME *lind*, fr OE, akin to OHG *linta* linden]

**lime** *n* a (spiny) tropical citrus tree cultivated for its small spherical greenish-yellow fruit [F, fr Prov *limo*, fr Ar *lim*]

**lime-juicer** /'joohsə/ *n*, *NAm* a British ship or sailor – slang [fr the former use of lime juice on British ships as a drink to prevent scurvy]

**lime-light** /-liet/ *n* 1 (the white light produced by) a stage lighting instrument producing illumination by means of an intense flame directed on a cylinder of lime 2 the centre of public attention <she's in the ~ again>

**limen** /'liemən, -men/ *n* **THRESHOLD** 3 [L *limen*, *limen* – more at *LIMB*]

**limerick** /'limərɪk/ *n* a humorous and often epigrammatic or indecent verse form of 5 lines with a rhyme scheme of aabba [Limerick, city & county in Eire]

**lime-stone** /-stohn/ *n* a widely-occurring rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate

**lime-wash** /-wash/ *n* a mixture of lime and water used as a coating (e.g. for walls)

**lime-water** /-wawtə/ *n* an alkaline solution of calcium hydroxide in water used esp as an antacid

**limey** /'liemi/ *n*, often *cap*, *NAm* a British person, esp a sailor – slang [*lime-juicer* + -y]

**liminal** /'liminal/ *adj* 1 of or at a sensory threshold 2 barely perceptible [L *limen*, *limen* threshold]

**limit** /'lɪmɪt/ *n* 1a a boundary b *pl* the place enclosed within a boundary <must not go off ~> 2a sthg that bounds, restrains, or confines <worked within the ~s of his knowledge> <set a ~ on his spending> b a line or point that cannot or should not be passed 3 a prescribed maximum or minimum amount, quantity, or number <a speed ~> 4 a number which is approached but not reached by the value of a function when the independent variable is made to approach a prescribed number or to increase or decrease indefinitely b the sum of a series as the number of terms is increased indefinitely 5 sby or sthg exasperating or intolerable – + *the*; *infrm* [ME, fr MF *limite*, fr L *limit*, *limes* boundary – more at *LIMB*] – limitless *adj*, limitlessly *adv*, limitlessness *n*

**limit** *vt* 1 to restrict to specific bounds or limits <the specialist can no longer ~ himself to his speciality> 2 to curtail or reduce in quantity or extent; curb <we must ~ the power of aggressors> – limitable *adj*, limiter *n*, limitative /'lɪmɪtəv/ *adj*

**limitation** /'lɪmɪtəʃən/ *n* 1 (sthg that is) limiting; esp a limit of capability 2 a period defined by statute after which a claimant is barred from bringing a legal action [*LIMIT* + -ATION] – limitational *adj*

**limited** /'lɪmɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 confined within limits; restricted <~ success> 2

restricted as to the scope of powers <a ~ monarchy> 3 lacking the ability to grow or do better <a bit ~; a bit thick in the head – Virginia Woolf>

4 *Br* being a limited company – limitedly *adv*, limitedness *n*

**limited company** *n* a company in which the responsibility of an individual shareholder for the company's debts is limited according to the amount of his/her personal interest – compare *INCORPORATED*

**limnology** /lim'nɒləʒi/ *n* the scientific study of physical, chemical, biological, etc conditions in fresh waters (e.g. lakes) [Gk *limne* pool, marshy lake + *ISV* -logy] – limnologist *n*, limnological /lim'nɒləjəkl/ *adj*, limnologically *adv*

**limo** /'limoh/ *n*, *pl* **limos** a limousine – *infrm*

**limousine** /limə'ziːn, 'li-/ *n* a luxurious motor car (with a glass partition separating the driver from the passengers) [F, lit., cloak, fr *Limousin*, former province of France]

**limp** /limp/ *vi* 1 to walk in a manner that avoids putting the full weight of the body on l (injured) leg 2 to proceed slowly or with difficulty <the plane ~ ed home> [prob fr ME *lympen* to fall short, akin to OE *limpan* to happen, L *limbus* border, *labi* to slide – more at *SLEEP*] – limper *n*

**limp** *n* a limping movement or gait

**limp** *adj* 1a lacking firmness and body, drooping or shapeless b not stiff or rigid <a ~ cover for a book> 2 lacking energy [akin to *'limp*] – limply *adv*, limpness *n*

**limpet** /limpit/ *n* 1 a marine gastropod mollusc with a low conical shell broadly open beneath, that clings very tightly to rock when disturbed 2 sby or sthg that clings tenaciously 3 an explosive device designed to cling to the hull of a ship, tank, etc <a ~ mine> [ME *lempet*, fr OE *lempedu*, fr ML *lampreda*]

**limpid** /limpid/ *adj* 1 transparent, pellucid <~ streams> 2 clear and simple in style <~ prose> [F or L, F *limpide*, fr L *limpidus*, fr *lympa*, *limpa* water – more at *LYMPH*] – limpidly *adv*, limpidness, limpidity /lim'pɪdɪti/ *n*

**limulus** /limy'ooləs/ *n*, *pl* **limuli** /-li-/ any of a genus of king crabs [NL, genus name, fr L *limus* sidelong]

**linage** /'lieni/ *n* the number of lines of printed or written matter

**linchpin**, *lynchpin* /'lɪntʃ,piːn/ *n* 1 a locking pin inserted crosswise (e.g. through the end of an axle or shaft) 2 sby or sthg regarded as a vital or coordinating factor <the ~ of the organization> [ME *lynspin*, fr *lyn* linchpin (fr OE *lyn* + *pin*)]


**lingctus** /'lɪŋktəs/ *n* any of various syrupy usu medicated liquids used to relieve throat irritation and coughing [NL, fr L, pp of *lingere* to lick – more at *LICK*]

**lindane** /'lɪndaɪn/ *n* a type of benzene hexachloride used as an insecticide that persists in the environment [T van der Linden b1884 D chemist]

**linden** /lɪnd(ə)n/ *n* 'LIME [ME, made of linden wood, fr OE, fr *lind* linden tree]

**line** /liːn/ *vt* 1 to cover the inner surface of, provide with a lining <~ a cloak with silk> 2 to fill <lining his pockets with other people's money> 3 to serve as the lining of <tapestries ~ d the walls> [ME *linen*, fr *line* flax, fr OE *lin* – more at *LINEN*]

**line** *n* 1a(1) a (comparatively strong slender) cord or rope (2) a rope used on shipboard b(1) a device for catching fish consisting of a usu single-filament cord with hooks, floats, a reel, etc (2) scope for activity c a length of material (e.g. cord) used in measuring and levelling <a plumb ~> d piping for conveying a fluid (e.g. steam or compressed air) e(1) a connection for communication by means of a set of wires connecting one telephone or telegraph (exchange) with another (2) the principal circuits of an electric power distribution system 2a a horizontal row of written or printed characters b a single row of words in a poem c a short letter; a note d a short sequence of words spoken by an actor playing a particular role, also, *pl* all of the sequences making up a particular role 3a sthg (e.g. a ridge, seam, or crease) that is distinct, elongated, and narrow b a wrinkle (e.g. on the face) c(1) the course or direction of sthg in motion <the ~ of march> (2) the trail of scent left by a hunted animal d a real or imaginary straight line <lies on a ~ between London and Glasgow> e a boundary or limit (of an area) <the state ~> <there's a very fine ~ between punishment and cruelty> f (a single set of rails forming) a railway track 4a a course of conduct, action, or thought b a field of activity or interest <what's your ~?> c a specified way or theme of talking or writing 5a(1) a related series of people or things coming one after the other in time; a family, lineage (2) a strain produced and maintained by selective breeding b a linked series of trenches and fortifications, esp facing the enemy – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning c a military formation in which men, companies, etc are abreast of each other d naval ships arranged in a regular order <the fleet changed from ~ ahead to ~ abreast> e the regular and numbered infantry regiments of the army as

opposed to auxiliary forces or household troops **f** a rank of objects of 1 kind; a row **g** (the company owning or operating) a group of vehicles, ships, aeroplanes, etc carrying passengers or goods regularly over a route **<a shipping ~>** **h** an arrangement of operations in manufacturing allowing ordered occurrence of various stages of production **6** a narrow elongated mark drawn, projected, or imagined (e.g. on a map): e.g. **a** a boundary, contour, circle of latitude or longitude, etc **b** the equator **c** any of the horizontal parallel strokes on a music staff on or between which notes are placed – compare **SPACE 3 d** a mark (e.g. in pencil) that forms part of the formal design of a picture, also an artist's use of such lines **<purity of ~>** **e** (a single passage of the scanning spot tracing) a horizontal line on a television screen – compare **FRAME 4b(4)**  **TELEVISION f** a narrow part of a spectrum (e.g. of light from the sun) distinguished by being noticeably more or less bright than neighbouring areas **<the sodium ~s occur in the yellow part of the spectrum>** **g** a demarcation of a limit with reference to which the playing of some game or sport is regulated – usu in combination **<a touchline>** **7** a straight or curved geometric element, generated by a moving point (continually satisfying a particular condition), that has length but no breadth **8a** a defining outline; a contour **<the ~ of a building>** **<the clean ~s of a ship>** **b** a general plan; a model – usu pl with sing. meaning **<writing sth on the ~s of a guidebook>** **9** merchandise or services of the same general class for sale or regularly available **10** an indication (e.g. of intention) based on insight or investigation **<got a ~ on their plans>** **11 pl, Br** a row of tents or huts in a military camp **12 chiefly Br** a pica **13 pl, Br** a (specified) number of lines of writing, esp to be copied as a school punishment [ME; partly fr OF *ligne*, fr L *linea*, fr fem of *lineus* made of flax, fr *linum* flax, partly fr OE *line*; akin to OE *lin*] – **liny** also **liney** /*lieni*/ **adj** – **between the lines 1** by concealed implication **2** by way of inference **<if you read between the lines, the meaning is different>** – **in line for due or in a position to receive** – **into line** into a state of agreement or obedience – **on the line** at risk **<put his job on the line because of his principles>**

**\*line vt 1** to mark or cover with a line or lines **2** to place or form a line along **<pedestrians ~ the streets>** **3** to form into a line or lines, **LINE UP**

**lineage** /*lini-ij*/ **n** a (group of organisms belonging to the same) line of descent from a common ancestor or source [ME *linage*, fr MF *linage*, *lignage*, fr OF, fr *ligne*]


**lineal** /*lini-əl*/ **adj** **1** composed of or arranged in lines **2** consisting of or being in a direct line of ancestry or descent – usu contrasted with **collateral 3** of, being, or dealing with a lineage – **lineally adv**, **lineality** /*lini'aləti*/ **n**

**lineament** /*lini-əmənt*/ **n** a distinctive outline, feature, or contour of a body or figure, esp a face – usu pl [ME, fr L *lineamentum*, fr *linea*] – **lineamental** /*li-mentl*/ **adj**

**linear** /*lini-ə*/ **adj** **1a(1)** of, being, or resembling a line **(2)** involving a single dimension **b** of an equation, function, etc containing any number of variables, all of the first degree, and represented graphically by a straight line **c(1)** characterized by an emphasis on line; esp having clearly defined outlines **(2) esp of writing** composed of simply drawn lines with little attempt at pictorial representation **d** consisting of a straight chain of atoms **2** having or being a response or output that is directly proportional to the input **<a good amplifier is ~>** – **linearly adv**, **linearity** /*li-ərti*/ **n**

**Linear 'A** **n** a linear form of writing used in Crete from the 18th to the 15th c BC

**linear accelerator** **n** a device in which charged particles are accelerated in a straight line by successive impulses from a series of electric fields

**Linear 'B** **n** a linear form of writing used in Crete and on the Greek mainland from the 15th to the 12th c BC  **ALPHABET**

**linear motor** **n** an electric motor that produces thrust in a straight line by direct induction (e.g. between a track and a vehicle running on it)

**linear perspective** **n** representation in a drawing or painting of parallel lines as converging in order to give the illusion of depth and distance

**linear programming** **n** a mathematical method of solving practical problems (e.g. the allocation of resources) by means of the interaction of many separate linear functions

**lineation** /*lini'aysh(ə)n*/ **n** **1** the action of marking with lines; delineation **2** an arrangement of lines [ME *lineacion* outline, fr L *lineation*, *lineatio*, fr *lineatus*, pp of *lineare* to make straight, fr *linea*]

**'line engraving** **n** **1** a plate or print produced by a method of engraving in metal using incised lines of varying width and closeness **2** a linocut – **line engraver** **n**


**linen** /*linin*/ **n** **1** cloth or yarn made from flax **2** clothing or household articles (e.g. sheets and tablecloths) made of a usu washable cloth, esp linen [ME, fr *linen* (adj) flaxen, fr OE *linen*, fr *lin* flax; akin to OHG *lin* flax; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *linum* flax]

**'line of duty** **n** all that is authorized, required, or normally associated with some field of responsibility

**'line of force** **n** a line in a (magnetic, electric, etc) field of force whose tangent at any point gives the direction of the field at that point

**'line of sight** **n** a straight line from an observer's eye to a distant point towards which he/she is looking


**'line-out** **n** (a method in Rugby Union of returning the ball to play after it has crossed a touchline which involves throwing it in between) a line of forwards from each team [*line out* to line up]

**'line printer** **n** a high-speed printing device (e.g. for a computer) that prints each line as a unit rather than character by character  **COMPUTER** – **line printing** **n**

**'liner** /*liənz*/ **n** a passenger ship belonging to a shipping company and usu sailing scheduled routes [<sup>1</sup>, 'LINE + 'ER]

**'liner** **n** a replaceable (metal) lining (for reducing the wear of a mechanism) ['LINE + 'ER] – **linerless** **adj**

**linesman** /*lienzmən*/ **n** an official who assists the referee or umpire in various games, esp in determining if a ball or player is out of the prescribed playing area

**'line-up** /*li-ʌp*/ **n** (a list of) the players playing for usu 1 side in a game  **SPORT**

**'line-up** **n** **1** a line of people arranged esp for inspection or as a means of identifying a suspect **2** a group of people or items assembled for a particular purpose **<the ~ for tonight's show>**

**line up** **vi** to assume an orderly arrangement in a line **<line up for inspection>** ~ **vt 1** to put into alignment **2** to assemble or organize

**'ling** /*liŋ*/ **n** a large food fish of shallow seas off Greenland and Europe [ME; akin to D *leng* ling, G *lange*]

**'ling** **n** the commonest British heather [ME, fr ON *lyng*; akin to Lith *lenkti* to bend – more at 'LING]

**'ling** /*liŋ*/ **suffix** (**adj** or **n** – **n**) **1** one connected with **<hiring>** **<subbing>** **2** young, small, or lesser kind of **<duckling>** **<princeling>** **3** one having (a specified quality or attribute) **<underling>** **<darling>** [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *-ing*]

**'ling** **suffix** (**n** or **adj** – **adj** or **adv**) of or in (such) a state, direction, or manner **<darkling>** [ME *-ling* (fr OE), *-linges* (fr *-ling* + *-es* -s); akin to OHG *-lingun* -ling, Lith *lenkti* to bend]

**linge** /*liŋ-gə*/ **n** a phallus symbolic of the masculine cosmic principle and of the Hindu god Siva – compare **YONI** [Skt *linga* (nom *lingam*), lit., characteristic]

**Lingala** /*liŋgəhɔ*/ **n** a Bantu language of the Congo

**lingam** /*liŋ-gəm*/ **n** a linga

**linger** /*liŋ-gə*/ **vi** **1a** to delay going, esp because of reluctance to leave, tarry **b** to dwell on a subject – usu + *over*, *on*, or *upon* **2** to continue unduly or unhappily in a failing or moribund state – often + *on* **3** to be slow to act, procrastinate **4** to be protracted or slow in disappearing [ME (northern) *lengeren* to dwell, freq of *lengen* to prolong, fr OE *lengan*, akin to OE *lang* long] – **lingerer** **n**, **lingeringly** **adv**

**lingerie** /*lonh-zhəri*, 'lan(h)- (Fr *lɛʒəri*)/ **n** women's underwear and nightclothes [F, fr MF, fr *linge* linen, fr L *lineus* made of flax – more at 'LINE]

**lingo** /*liŋ-goh*/ **n, pl** **lingoes** **1** a foreign language **2** JARGON **2 USE** infml [prob fr Prov, tongue, fr L *lingua* – more at TONGUE]

**lingu-**, **lingui-**, **linguo-** **comb form** **1** language **<lingust>** **2** tongue **<linguiform>** [L *lingu-*, fr *lingua*]

**lingua franca** /*liŋ-gwə* 'frangkə/ **n, pl** **lingua francas**, **linguae francae** /*liŋ-gwie* 'frangkɛ/ **1** a language spoken in Mediterranean ports that consists of a mixture of Italian with French, Spanish, Greek, and Arabic **2** a language used as a common or commercial tongue among people not speaking the same native language **3** sth resembling a common language [It, lit., Frankish language]

**lingual** /*liŋ-gwəl*/ **adj** **1a** of or resembling the tongue **b** lying near or next to the tongue **c** articulated with the tongue **2** linguistic – **lingually** **adv**

**lingulet** /*liŋ-gwɪst*/ **n** **1** sby accomplished in languages; esp POLYGLOT **1 2** sby who specializes in linguistics

**linguistic** /*liŋ-gwɪstɪk*/ **adj** of language or linguistics – **linguistically** **adv**


**linguistic form** **n** a meaningful unit of speech (e.g. a morpheme, word, or sentence)

**Linguistics** /*liŋ-gwɪstɪks*/ **n pl** but **sing** in constr the study of human

language with regard to its nature, structure, and modification – compare PHILOLOGY

**liniment** /'lɪnɪmənt/ *n* a liquid preparation that is applied to the skin, esp to allay pain or irritation [ME, fr LL *linimentum*, fr L *linere* to smear – more at 'LIME]

**lining** /'liːnɪŋ/ *n* 1 (a piece of) material used to line sth (e.g. a garment) 2 providing sth with a lining

**link** /lɪŋk/ *n* 1 a connecting structure: e.g. a(1) a single ring or division of a chain (2) a unit of length formerly used in surveying equal to 7.92 in (about 20.12 cm)  UNIT b the fusible part of an electrical fuse 2 sth analogous to a link of chain: e.g. a a connecting element <sought a ~ between smoking and cancer> b a unit in a communications system [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *hlekk* chain; akin to OE *hlanc* link] – linker *n*

**link** *vt* to join, connect <road that ~s 2 towns> ~ *vi* to become connected by a link – often + *up*

**linkage** /'lɪŋkɪdʒ/ *n* 1 the manner or style of being joined, specif. BOND 3a 2 the relationship between genes on the same chromosome that causes them to be inherited together 3a a system of links b the degree of electromagnetic interaction expressed as the product of the number of turns of a coil and the magnetic flux linked by the coil ['LINK + -AGE]

**linkman** /'lɪŋkmən/ *n* a broadcaster whose function is to link and introduce separate items, esp in a news programme

**links** /lɪŋks/ *n pl* 1 GOLF COURSE – often *pl* with sing. meaning 2 Scot. sand hills, esp along the seashore [ME, rising ground, sand hills, fr OE *hlincas*, *pl* of *hlinc* ridge; akin to OE *hlanc*]

**link, up** /-ʊp/ *n* 1 the establishment of contact, a meeting <the ~ of 2 spacecraft> 2a sth that serves as a linking device or factor b a functional whole that is the result of a linkup

**Linnaean**, **Linnean** /'lɪneɪn/ *adj* of or following the systematic methods of the Swedish botanist Linné who established the system of binomial nomenclature for all living things [NL Carolus *Linnaeus* (Carl von Linné) †1778 Sw. botanist]

**linnet** /'lɪnɪt/ *n* a common small Old World finch having variable reddish brown plumage [MF *linette*, fr *lin* flax, fr L *linum*; fr its feeding on linseed]

**lino** /'liːnoh/ *n, pl* *linos* chiefly Br linoleum

**lino, cut** /-kʊt/ *n* (a print made from) a design cut in relief on a piece of linoleum

**linoleate** /'lɪnɒliːəɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of linoleic acid

**linoleic acid** /'lɪnɒliːk/ *n* a liquid unsaturated fatty acid found in oils obtained from plants (e.g. linseed or peanut oil) and essential for mammalian nutrition [Gk *linon* flax + ISV *oleic* (acid)]

**linolenate** /'lɪnɒliːnəɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of linolenic acid

**linolenic acid** /'lɪnɒliːk/ *n* a liquid unsaturated fatty acid found esp in drying oils (e.g. linseed oil) and essential for mammalian nutrition [ISV, irreg. fr *linoleic*]

**linoleum** /'lɪnɒliːəm/ *n* a floor covering with a canvas back and a coloured or patterned surface of hardened linseed oil and a filler (e.g. cork dust) [L *linum* flax + *oleum* oil – more at OIL]

**Linotype** /'lɪnətiːp, -noh-/ *trademark* – used for a keyboard-operated typesetting machine that produces each line of type in the form of a solid metal slug

**linsang** /'lɪnsaŋ/ *n* any of various Asiatic mammals that are related to the civets and genets [Malay]

**linseed** /'lɪnsiːd/ *n* the seed of flax used esp as a source of linseed oil [ME, fr OE *linsæd*, fr *lin* flax + *sæd* seed – more at LINEN]

**linseed oil** *n* a yellowish drying oil obtained from flaxseed and used esp in paint, varnish, printing ink, and linoleum and for conditioning cricket bats


**linsey-woolsey** /'lɪnzi 'wʊlzi/ *n* a coarse sturdy fabric of wool and linen or cotton [ME *lynsey wolsye*, prob. fr *Lindsey*, village in Suffolk, England + *wolle* wool + -*sy*, arbitrary suffix]

**linstock** /'lɪnstɒk/ *n* a staff formerly used to hold a lighted match for firing cannon [D *lontstok*, fr *loat* match + *stok* stick]

**lint** /lɪnt/ *n* 1 a soft absorbent material with a fleecy surface that is made from linen and is used chiefly for surgical dressings 2 chiefly NAm FLUFF 1a [ME] – linty *adj*

**lintel** /'lɪntl/ *n* a horizontal architectural member spanning and usu. carrying the load above an opening  ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr MF, fr LL *limitaris* threshold, fr L, constituting a boundary, fr *limit*, *lines* boundary – more at LIMB]

**linter** /'lɪntə/ *n, NAm* 1 *pl* the fuzz of short fibres that sticks to cottonseed after the ginning process 2 a machine for removing linters

**lion** /'liːən/, *fem* *lioness* /'liːənes/ *n, pl* *lions*, (1a) *lions*, esp collectively *lion* 1a a flesh-eating big cat of open or rocky areas of Africa and formerly southern Asia that has a tawny body with a tufted tail and in the male a shaggy blackish or dark brown mane  FOOD b cap Leo 2 a person of interest or importance <literary ~s> [ME, fr OF, fr L *leon*, *leo*, fr Gk *leōn*]

**lionhearted** /-ˈhɑːtɪd/ *adj* courageous, brave

**lion-ize**, **-ise** /'liːəˌnaɪz/ *vt* to treat as an object of great interest or importance – lionizer *n*, lionization /-ˈzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**lion's mouth** *n* a place of great danger

**lion's share** *n* the largest or best portion

**lip** /lɪp/ *n* 1 either of the 2 fleshy folds that surround the mouth 2a a fleshy edge or margin (e.g. of a wound) b a labium 3 the edge of a hollow vessel or cavity, esp one shaped to make pouring easy 4 an embouchure 5 impudent or insolent talk, esp in reply – slang [ME, fr OE *lippe*; akin to OHG *leffur* lip, & prob. to L *labium*, *labrum* lip] – lipless *adj*, liplike *adj*

**lip, lipo-** *comb. form* fat, fatty tissue, fatty <lipoma> <lipoprotein> [NL, fr Gk, fr *lipos* – more at 'LEAVE]

**lipase** /'lɪpəz/, -ays, 'liː-/ *n* an enzyme that accelerates the hydrolysis or synthesis of fats or the breakdown of lipoproteins [ISV]

**lip, gloss** *n* a cosmetic for giving a gloss to the lips

**lipid** /'lɪpɪd/, 'liː-/ *n* any of various substances that with proteins and carbohydrates form the principal structural components of living cells and that include fats, waxes, and related and derived compounds [ISV] – lipidic /-ˈpɪdɪk/ *adj*

**Lipizzaner**, **Lippizaner** /'lɪpɪtˈsahnə/ *n* (any of) a breed of horses developed in Austria and used esp in dressage displays [G, fr *Lipizza*, *Lippiza*, stud in Yugoslavia (formerly the Austrian Imperial Stud)]

**lipogenesis** /'lɪpəˌdʒenəsɪs/ *n* the formation of fatty acids in the living body [NL]

**lipophilic** /'lɪpəˈfɪlɪk, liː-/ *adj* having an affinity for lipids (e.g. fats)

**lipoprotein** /'lɪpɒh-, 'lɪpɒh-/ *n* a conjugated protein that is a complex of protein and lipid

**lipped** /lɪpt/ *adj* having a lip or lips, esp of a specified kind or number – often in combination <tight-lipped>

**lippling** /'lɪpɪŋ/ *n* an embouchure

**lip, reading** /-ˈriːdɪŋ/ *n* the interpreting of a speaker's words (e.g. by the deaf) by watching the movements of the lips – lip-read *vb*, lip-reader *n*

**lip, service** *n* support in words but not in deeds <paid ~ to racial equality but still employed only whites>

**lipstick** /'lɪpsɪk/ *n* (a cased stick of) a waxy solid cosmetic for colouring the lips

**lip, strap** *n* a strap that passes under a horse's chin to hold the bit in position

**liquefy** /'liːkwɪ-/ *vt* to separate (esp. a metal) from an ore, alloy, etc. by selective melting [L *liquatus*, pp of *lique*; akin to L *liquere*] – liquefaction /'liːkwɪʃən/ *n*

**liqueficient** /'liːkwɪˈfaɪʃ(ə)nt/ *n* sth that liquefies a substance or promotes liquefaction

**liquefaction** /-ˈfakʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the process of making or becoming liquid 2 the state of being liquid [ME, fr LL *liquefaction*, *liquefactio*, fr L *liquefactus*, pp of *liquefacere*, fr *lique* to be fluid + *facere* to make – more at 'DO]

**liquefy** also **liquify** /'liːkwɪf-/ *vt* to reduce to a liquid state ~ *vi* to become liquid [MF *liquefier*, fr L *liquefacere*] – liquefiable /-ˈfiːəbl/ *adj*, liquefier /-ˈfiːə/ *n*, liquefability /-ˈfiːəbɪləti/ *n*

**liquescent** /'liːkwes(ə)nt/ *adj* being or tending to become liquid [L *liquescent*, *liquescent*, prp of *liquescere* to become fluid, incho. of *liquere*]

**liqueur** /'liːkwɔː/ *n* any of several usu. sweetened alcoholic drinks variously flavoured (e.g. with fruit or aromatics) [F, fr OF *licour* liquid – more at LIQUOR]

**liquid** /'lɪkwɪd/ *adj* 1 flowing freely like water 2 neither solid nor gaseous; characterized by free movement of the constituent molecules among themselves but without the tendency to separate like those of gases (< ~ mercury>) 3a shining and clear <large ~ eyes> b of a sound flowing, pure, and free of harshness c smooth and unconstrained in movement d of a consonant (e.g. /r/ or /l/) articulated without friction and capable of being prolonged like a vowel 4 consisting of or capable of ready conversion into cash (< ~ assets>) [ME, fr MF *liquide*, fr L *liquidus*, fr *liquere* to be fluid; akin to L *lixa* water, lyce, OIr *liuch* damp] – liquid *n*, liquidly *adv*, liquidness *n*, liquidity /'liːkwɪdəti/ *n*

**liquid** /'aɪr/ *n* air in the liquid state that is intensely cold and used chiefly as a refrigerant

**liquidambar** /'likwi'damba/ *n* (a resin from) the sweet gum tree [NL, genus name, fr L *liquidus* + ML *ambar*, *ambra* amber]

**liquidate** /'likwidəɪt/ *vt* 1a to settle (a debt), esp by payment b to settle the accounts of (e.g. a business) and use the assets towards paying off the debts 2 to get rid of; *specif* to kill 3 to convert (assets) into cash ~ *vi* 1 to liquidate debts, damages, or accounts 2 to be or become liquidated [LL *liquidatus*, pp of *liquidare* to melt, fr L *liquidus*] - **liquidation** /-'daɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**liquidator** /'likwi'daɪtə/ *n* a person appointed by law to liquidate a company [LIQUIDATE + -OR]

**liquid crystal** *n* a liquid having certain physical, esp optical, properties shown by crystalline solids but not by ordinary liquids

**liquid crystal display** *n* an LCD

**liquidize**, **-ise** /'likwidiez/ *vt* to cause to be liquid, esp to pulverize (e.g. fruit or vegetables) into a liquid



**liquidizer**, **-iser** /'likwidieɪzə/ *n*, chiefly Br a domestic electric appliance for grinding, puréeing, liquidizing, or blending foods

**liquidus** /'likwidəs/ *n* a curve, usu on a temperature and composition graph for a mixture, above which only the liquid phase can exist - compare SOLIDUS [L *liquidus* liquid]

**liquor** /'li:kə/ *n* a liquid substance: e.g. a solution of a drug in water b BATH 2c e a liquid, esp water, in which food has been cooked d chiefly NAM a usu distilled rather than fermented alcoholic drink [ME *licour*, fr OF, fr L *liquor*, fr *liquere*]

**liquor** *vt* 1 to dress (e.g. leather) with oil or grease 2 to make drunk with alcoholic drink - usu + *up* ~ *vi* to drink alcoholic drink, esp to excess - usu + *up*

**liquorice** /'likərɪʃ, -ɪs/ *n* 1 a European leguminous plant having spikes of blue flowers and grown for its roots 2 the dried root of liquorice, also an extract of this used esp in medicine, brewing, and confectionery [ME *licorice*, fr OF, fr LL *liquiritia*, alter of L *glycyrrhiza*, fr Gk *glykyrrhiza*, fr *glykys* sweet + *rhiza* root - more at 'ROOT']

**lire** /'hɔ:rə/ *n*, pl (1) lire also liras, (2) liras also lire 1  Italy at NATIONALITY 2  Turkey at NATIONALITY [fr L *libra*, a unit of weight]

**lisante** /'li:sente/ *n*  Lesotho at NATIONALITY [of Bantu origin]

**lisle** /'leɪl/ *n* a smooth tightly twisted thread usu made of long-staple cotton [Lisle, former name of Lille, city in N France]

**lisp** /'lɪsp/ *vi* 1 to pronounce /s/ and /z/ imperfectly, esp by giving them the sounds of /th/ and /dh/ 2 to speak with a lisp [ME *lispēn*, fr OE -*wylsþian*, akin to OHG *lispēn* to lisp] - **lisper** *n*

**lisp** *n* a speech defect or affectation characterized by lisping

**lissom**, **lissome** /'lɪs(ə)m/ *adj* easily flexed, lithe, nimble [alter of *lithesome*, fr *lithe* + -some]

**list** /'lɪst/ *n* 1 a band or strip of material, esp a selvage 2 *pl but sing or pl in constr* a (the fence surrounding) a tillyard b a scene of competition [ME, fr OE *liste*; akin to OHG *lista* edge, Alb *leth*]

**list** *n* a roll or catalogue of words or numbers (e.g. representing people or objects belonging to a class), usu arranged in order so as to be easily found <a guest ~> <a shopping ~> [F *liste*, fr It *lista*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *lista*]

**list** *vt* 1 to make a list of 2 to include on a list, *specif*, Br to include (a building) in an official list as being of architectural or historical importance and hence protected from demolition

**list** *vb* to (cause to) lean to one side <the ship was ~ing badly> [origin unknown] - **list** *n*

**listen** /'lɪs(ə)n/ *vi* 1 to pay attention to sound <~ to music> 2 to hear or consider with thoughtful attention, heed <~ to a plea> 3 to be alert to catch an expected sound <~ for his step> [ME *lɪstēn*, fr OE *hlýsnan*; akin to Skt *śroṣati* he hears, OE *hlud* loud] - **listener** /'lɪsn-ə/ *n*

**listen** *n* an act of listening - *infrml*

**listen** *in* *vi* to tune in to or monitor a broadcast - **listener-in** *n*

**listing** /'lɪstɪŋ/ *n* 1 an act or instance of making or including in a list 2 sthg listed

**listless** /'lɪstlis/ *adj* characterized by indifference, lack of energy, and disinclination for exertion; languid [ME *listles*, fr *list* desire (fr *lysten* to wish, fr OE *lȳstan* to be pleasing) + -less -less] - **listlessly** *adv*, **listlessness** *n*

**lit** /'lɪt/ *past* of LIGHT

**litany** /'li:təni/ *n* a prayer consisting of a series of petitions by the leader with alternate responses by the congregation [ME *letanie*, fr OF, fr LL *litania*, fr LGk *litaneia*, fr GK, entreaty, fr *litanos* entreating; akin to OE *lim* lime]

**litchi**, **lichee** /'hechee, -i-/ *n* (a Chinese tree that bears) an oval fruit that has a hard scaly outer covering and a small hard seed surrounded by edible pulp [Chin (Pek) *l' chih'*]

**-lite** /-liet/ *comb form* (~ *n*) mineral <rhodolite>, rock <aerolite>, fossil <ichnolite> [F, alter of -*lithe*, fr Gk *lithos* stone]

**liter** /'leɪtə/ *n*, NAM a litre

**literacy** /'lɪt(ə)rəsi/ *n* the quality or state of being literate

**literal** /'lɪt(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1a according with the exact letter of a written text; *specif* according with the letter of the scriptures b having the factual or ordinary construction or primary meaning of a term or expression; actual e characterized by a lack of imagination, prosaic <a very ~ approach to the subject> 2 of or expressed in letters 3 reproduced word for word; exact, verbatim <a ~ translation> [ME, fr MF, fr ML *litteralis*, fr L, of a letter, fr *littera* letter] - **literalness**, **literality** /'lɪtərələti/ *n*

**litteral** *n* a misprint involving a single letter

**literalism** /'lɪtrəliz(ə)m/ *n* the rejection of allegorical or metaphorical interpretations of esp biblical texts - **literalist** *n*, **literalistic** /-'lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**literally** /'lɪtrəli/ *adv* 1 in the literal sense; without metaphor or exaggeration 2 with exact equivalence, verbatim <follow the instructions ~> 3 - used to intensify a metaphorical or hyperbolic expression <she was ~ tearing her hair out>, disapproved of by some speakers

**literary** /'lɪt(ə)rəri/ *adj* 1a of, being, or concerning literature <~ criticism> b characteristic of or being in a formal, rather than colloquial, style 2a well-read b producing, well versed in, or connected with literature - **literarily** *adv*, **literariness** *n*

**literate** /'lɪt(ə)rət/ *adj* 1a educated, cultured b able to read and write 2 versed in literature or creative writing [ME *līterāt*, fr L *litteratus* marked with letters, *literate*, fr *litterae* letters, literature, fr pl of *littera*] - **literately** *adv*, **literateness** *n*

**literate** *n* a literate person

**literati** /'lɪtərəti/ *n* pl the educated class, the intelligentsia [obs It *litterati*, fr L, pl of *litteratus*]

**literation** /'lɪtərəʃən/ *n* the representation of sounds or words by letters [L *littera* + E -ation]

**literature** /'lɪt(ə)rəʃə/ *n* 1a writings in prose or verse, esp writings having artistic value or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest b the body of writings on a particular subject <scientific ~> c printed matter (e.g. leaflets or circulars) 2 the body of musical compositions <the piano ~ of Brahms>

**lith-**, **litho-** *comb form* 1 stone <lithograph> <lithotomy> 2 lithium <lithic> [(1) L, fr Gk, fr *lithos*; (2) NL *lithium*]

**-lith** /-liθ/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1a structure or implement of stone <megalith> <colith> b (artificial) stone <granolith> 2 stone in (a specified body cavity) <uroolith> 3 -lite <laccolith> [NL -*lithus* & F -*lithe*, fr Gk *lithos*]

**litharge** /'lɪθərdʒ/ *n* a fused lead monoxide - compare MASSICOT [ME, fr MF, fr L *lithargyrus*, fr Gk *lithargyros*, fr *lithos* + *argyros* silver - more at ARGENT]

**lithe** /'li:ðh/ *adj* flexible, supple [ME, fr OE *lithe* gentle; akin to OHG *lindi* gentle, L *lentus* slow] - **lithely** *adv*, **litheness** *n*

**lithia** /'li:θi-ə/ *n* a white oxide of lithium [NL, fr Gk *lithos*]

**lithic** /'liθɪk/ *adj* 1 (made) of stone 2 of lithium [Gk *lithikos*, fr *lithos*] - **lithically** *adv*

**-lithic** /-'liθɪk/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) relating to or characteristic of (a specified stage) in human beings' use of stone implements <Neolithic> [lithic]

**lithium** /'li:θi-əm/ *n* a soft silver-white element of the alkali metal group that is the lightest metal known  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *lithia*]

**lithium carbonate** *n* a lithium salt used in the glass and ceramic industries and to treat manic-depressive psychosis

**litho** /'li:θoh/ *n*, pl **lithos** 1 a lithograph 2 lithography

**lithograph** /'li:θə'grɑ:f, -grɑ:f/ *vt* or *n* to produce or copy in the form of a print made by lithography - **lithographic** /-'grɑ:fɪk/ *adj*, **lithographically** *adv*

**lithography** /'li:θə'grɑ:fi/ *n* the process of printing from a surface (e.g. a stone or a metal plate) on which the image to be printed is ink-receptive and the blank area ink-repellent [G *lithographie*, fr *lith-* + -*graphie* -graphy]


**lithology** /'li:θə'lɔ:ʒi/ *n* the study of the composition, shape, etc. of (a) rock - **lithologic** /'li:θə'lɔ:ʒɪk/ also **lithological** *adj*, **lithologically** *adv*

**lithophyte** /'li:θə'fai/ *n* a plant that grows on rock [F, fr *lith-* + -*phyte*] - **lithophytic** /-'fɪtɪk/ *adj*

**lithopone** /'li:θə'poh/ *n* a white pigment consisting essentially of zinc sulphide and barium sulphate [ISV *lith-* + Gk *ponos* work]

**'lithosphere** /-sfiə/ *n* the solid rocky crust of the earth or another celestial body [ISV]

**lithotomy** /li'thotəmi/ *n* surgical incision of the urinary bladder for removal of a stone [LL *lithotomia*, fr Gk, fr *lithotomein* to perform a lithotomy, fr *lith-* + *temnein* to cut – more at **TOME**]

**Lithuanian** /li'thʊə'niən, -ni-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Lithuania 2 the Baltic language of the Lithuanians  LANGUAGE [Lithuania, country in E Europe, now a republic of the USSR] – **Lithuanian** *adj*


**litigate** /'litəgaɪ/ *vi* to carry on a lawsuit ~ *vt* to contest (an issue) at law [L *litigatus*, pp of *litigare*, fr *lit-*, *his* lawsuit + *agere* to drive – more at **AGENT**] – **litigable** /'litigəbl/ *adj*, **litigant** /-gənt/ *n* or *adj*, **litigation** /-ˈgaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**litigious** /li'tiʃəs/ *adj* 1 (excessively) inclined to engage in lawsuits 2 subject to litigation 3 tending to argue, disputatious – *fml* [ME, fr MF *litigieux*, fr L *litigiosus*, fr *litigium* dispute, fr *litigare*] – **litigiously** *adv*, **litigiousness** *n*

**litmus** /'litməs/ *n* a colouring matter from lichens that turns red in acid solutions and blue in alkaline solutions and is used as an acid-alkali indicator [of Scand origin, akin to ON *litmos* herbs used in dyeing, fr *litr* colour (akin to OHG *antlizzi* face, L *vultus*) + *mos* moss (akin to OE *mōs* moss)]

**'litmus paper** *n* absorbent paper coloured with litmus and used as an indicator

**litotes** /'li:tə,teez, 'li-, li'e'tohteez/ *n, pl* **litotes** /~/ understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its opposite (e.g. in 'not a bad singer') [Gk *litotes*, fr *litos* simple, akin to Gk *leios* smooth – more at **'LIME**]

**litre**, *NAM* chiefly **liter** /'lektə/ *n* a metric unit of capacity equal to 1 000 028 dm<sup>3</sup> (approx. 220 gal)  UNIT [F *litre*, fr ML *litra*, a measure, fr Gk, a weight]

**'litter** /'lɪtə/ *n* 1a a covered and curtained couch carried by people or animals b a stretcher or other device for carrying a sick or injured person 2a material used as bedding for animals b the uppermost slightly decayed layer of organic matter on the forest floor 3 a group of offspring of an animal, born at 1 birth 4a rubbish or waste products, esp in a public place b an untidy accumulation of objects (e.g. papers) [ME, fr OF *litere*, fr *lit* bed, fr L *lectus* – more at **'LIFE**] – **littery** *adj*

**litter** *vt* 1 to provide (e.g. a horse) with litter as a bed 2 to give birth to (young) 3a to strew with litter, esp scattered articles (< ~ the horse's stall> < ~ the desk-top with papers>) b to scatter about in disorder ~ *vi* 1 to give birth to a litter 2 to strew litter

**litterae humaniores** /li'təri hyooh,man'awreez/ *n pl* classics as a university subject [ML, *lit*, more humane letters]

**litterateur** also **littérateur** /li'tərə'tu:h (Fr *litterateur*)/ *n* a literary man, esp a professional writer [F *litterateur*, fr L *litterator* critic, fr *litteratus* literate]

**litterbug** /'lɪtə,bʊg/ *n* a litterlout

**'litterbug** /-ˌlɒt/ *n* one who carelessly drops rubbish in public places – *in fml*

**'little** /'lɪtl/ *adj* **littler** /'lɪtlə/, **less** /les/, **lesser** /'lesə/, **littlest** /'lɪtlɪst/, **least** /leɪst/ 1a amounting to only a small quantity (<had ~ or no time>) b of a plant or animal small in comparison with related forms – used in vernacular names c small in condition, distinction, or scope d narrow, mean (<the pettiness of ~ minds>) 2 not much. e.g. a existing only in a small amount or to a slight degree (<unfortunately he has ~ money>) b short in duration, brief (<wait a ~ while>) c existing to an appreciable though not extensive degree or amount – + a (<fortunately she had a ~ money in the bank>) 3 small in importance or interest, trivial [ME *littel*, fr OE *lytel*, akin to OHG *luzzil* little, Lith *liūsti* to be sad] – **little-ness** *n*

**'little** *adv* **less** /les/, **least** /leɪst/ 1 to no great degree or extent; not much (<little-known>) 2 not at all (<care ~ for his neighbours>)

**'little** *n* 1a a small portion or quantity, not much (<understood ~ of his speech> (<do what ~ I can>) b at least some, though not much – + a (<have a ~ of this cake>) 2 a short time or distance (<walk for a ~>) – a little somewhat, rather (<a little over 50 years> (<found the play a little boring>)

**'Little Bear** *n* URSA MINOR

**'little by little** *adv* by small degrees or amounts, gradually

**'Little Dipper** /'dɪpə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* URSA MINOR

**'little 'englander** /'ɪŋgləndə/ *n*, often *cap* **L&E** an opponent of British imperial expansion, esp in the 19th c

**'little 'finger** *n* the fourth and smallest finger of the hand counting the index finger as the first

**'little 'leaf** *n* any of several plant disorders characterized by small and often discoloured and distorted leaves

**Little Office** *n* a short office in honour of the Virgin Mary

**'little 'owl** *n* an Old World insect-eating owl that is distinguished by its small size and squat flat-headed appearance

**'little 'people** *n pl* imaginary beings (e.g. fairies, elves, etc) of folklore – + *the*

**'little 'toe** *n* the outermost and smallest digit of the foot

**'little 'woman** *n* one's wife – humor, often derog

**'littoral** /li'tərəl/ *adj* of or occurring on or near a (sea) shore [L *litoralis*, fr *litor-*, *litus* seashore]

**littoral** *n* a coastal region, esp the intertidal zone

**liturgical** /li'tʃʊrjɪkl/ *adj* 1 (having the characteristics) of liturgy 2 using or favouring the use of liturgy – **liturgically** *adv*

**liturgist** /li'tʃʊst/ *n* 1 a person who follows, compiles, or leads a liturgy 2 a specialist in the study of formal public worship

**liturgy** /'li:tʃi/ *n* 1 often *cap* the form of service used in the celebration of Communion, esp in the Orthodox church 2 a prescribed form of public worship [LL *liturgia*, fr Gk *leitourgia*, fr (assumed) Gk (Attic) *leitōs* public (fr Gk *laos* – Attic *laos* – people) + *-ourgia* –urgy]

**livable** also **liveable** /'lɪvəbl/ *adj* 1 suitable for living in or with 2 endurable – **livableness** *n*

**'live** /li:v/ *vi* 1 to be alive, have the life of an animal or plant 2 to continue alive (<his illness is so serious, he is lucky to ~>) 3 to maintain oneself; subsist (<she ~d by writing> (<he ~d by his wits>) 4 to conduct or pass one's life (<~d only for her work>) 5 to occupy a home; dwell (<they had always ~d in the country>) 6 to attain eternal life (<though he were dead, yet shall he ~ - Jn 11 25 (AV)>) 7 to have a life rich in experience (<the right to ~, not merely to exist>) 8 to cohabit – + *together* or *with* 9 chiefly *Br*, of a thing to be found in a specified place, esp normally or usually – *in fml* ~ *vt* 1 to pass, spend, or experience 2 to enact, practise (<~ a lie> (<really ~s her faith>) [ME *liven*, fr OE *libban*, akin to OHG *leben* to live, L *cacere* unmarned] – live in sin to cohabit – live it up to enjoy an exciting or extravagant social life or social occasion (<lived it up with wine and song - Newsweek>) – live up to to act or be in accordance with (esp a standard expected by shy)

**'live** /li:v/ *adj* 1 having life 2 containing living organisms (<~ yoghourt>) 3 exerting force or containing energy e.g. a glowing (<~ coals>) b connected to electric power c of ammunition, bombs, etc unexploded, unfired d driven by or imparting motion or power e of a nuclear reactor or nuclear bomb charged with material capable of undergoing fission 4 of continuing or current interest (<~ issues>) 5 esp of a rock not quarried or cut, native 6 in play in a game (<a ~ ball>) 7a of or involving the presence or participation of real people (<a ~ audience>) (<~ music>) b broadcast while happening (<a ~ television programme>) [short for *alive*]

**'live** /li:v/ *adv* during, from, or at a live production

**live down** /li:v/ *vt* to cause (e.g. a crime or mistake) to be forgotten, esp by future good behaviour (<made a mistake and couldn't live it down>)

**live in** /li:v/ *vi* to live in one's place of work (<the housekeeper is required to live in>)

**livelihood** /li:vli,hood/ *n* a means of support or sustenance [alter of ME *livelode* course of life, fr OE *līflād*, fr *lif* + *lād* course – more at **'LODE**]


**live long** /li:v,loŋg/ *adj* whole, entire – chiefly poetic (<the ~ day>) [ME *lef long*, fr *lef* dear + *long* – more at **'LIFE**]

**lively** /li:vli/ *adj* 1 briskly alert and energetic; vigorous, animated (<a ~ discussion>) (<~ children racing home from school>) 2 brilliant, vivid (<a ~ flashing wit>) (<~ colour>) 3 quick to rebound, resilient 4 responding readily to the helm (<a ~ boat>) 5 full of life, movement, or incident (<the crowded streets made a ~ scene>) 6 full of possibly disagreeable or dangerous action – humor (<given a ~ time by enemy artillery>) [ME, fr OE *līflīc*, fr *lif* life] – **livelily** *adv*, **liveliness** *n*, **lively** *adv*

**live on** /li:v(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become lively – often + *up*


**'live 'oak** /li:v/ *n* any of several N American evergreen oaks

**live out** /li:v/ *vi* to live outside one's place of work (<owing to the shortage of college rooms, some students must live out>) ~ *vt* to live till the end of (<will the sick man live out the month?>)

**'liver** /li:və/ *n* 1a a large vascular glandular organ of vertebrates that secretes bile and causes changes in the blood (e.g. by converting blood sugar into glycogen)  DIGESTION b any of various large digestive glands of invertebrates 2 the liver of an animal (e.g. a calf or pig) eaten as food 3 a greyish reddish brown 4 *archaic* the seat of the emotions [ME, fr OE *lifer*, akin to OHG *lebra* liver]

**'liver** *n* one who lives, esp in a specified way (<a clean ~>)



- 'liver, fluke** *n* any of various worms that invade and damage the liver of mammals, esp sheep
- 'liverish** /'lɪvərɪʃ/ *adj* 1 suffering from liver disorder; bilious 2 peevish, irascible; also glum – *liverishness* *n*
- Liverpudlian** /ˈlɪvəˈpuːdliən/ *n* (the dialect of) a native or inhabitant of Liverpool [*Liverpudli-* (alter – influenced by *puddle* – of *Liverpool*, city in England) + *-ian*] – **Liverpudlian** *adj*
- 'liver, sausage** *n* a sausage consisting chiefly of cooked minced liver often with pork trimmings
- 'liverwort** /ˌwɜːt/ *n* a plant of a class related to and resembling the mosses but differing in reproduction and development  **PLANT**
- 'livery** /'lɪvəri/ *n* 1a the distinctive clothing worn by a member of a livery company or guild b the uniform of servants employed by an individual or a single household c distinctive colouring or marking; also distinctive dress d a distinctive colour scheme (e.g. on aircraft) distinguishing an organization or group 2 the legal delivering of property 3 chiefly *NAM* **LIVERY STABLE** [ME, fr OF *livree*, lit., delivery, fr *livrer* to deliver, fr *L. liberare* to free – more at **LIBERATE**] – **liveried** /'lɪvəriːd/ *adj*
- 'livery** *adj* *livensh*
- 'livery company** *n* any of various London craft or trade associations that are descended from medieval guilds
- 'liveryman** /-mən/ *n* a freeman of the City of London who is a member of a livery company
- 'livery stable** *n* an establishment where horses are stabled and fed for their owners
- lives** /'li:vz/ *pl* of **LIFE**
- live steam** /'li:v/ *n* steam direct from a boiler and under full pressure
- 'live stock** /-stɒk/ *n* 1 animals kept or raised for use or pleasure; esp farm animals kept for use and profit 2 *Br* small verminous creatures (e.g. lice or fleas) – chiefly humor
- live wire** /'li:v/ *n* an alert, active, or aggressive person
- livid** /'lɪvɪd/ *adj* 1 discoloured by bruising 2 ashen, pallid (*this cross, thy ~ face, thy pierced hands and feet* – Walt Whitman) 3 reddish 4 very angry, enraged (*was ~ at his son's disobedience*) [F *livide*, fr *L. lividus*, fr *livere* to be blue; akin to OE *slāh* sloe, Russ *sliva* plum] – **lividness** *n*, **lividity** /'lɪvɪdɪti/ *n*
- 'living** /'lɪvɪŋ/ *adj* 1a having life; alive b existing in use (*a ~ language*) 2 **LIVE** 3a 3a true to life; exact – esp in *the living image* of b suited for living (*the ~ area*) 4 – used as an intensive (*scared the ~ daylights out of him*) 5 *of feelings, ideas, etc* full of power and force (*in ~ colour*) – **livingness** *n*
- 'living** *n* 1 the condition of being alive 2 a manner of life 3a means of subsistence, a livelihood (*earning a ~*) b *Br* a benefice
- living death** *n* a life so full of misery that death would be preferable
- 'living room** *n* a room in a residence used for everyday activities
- 'living space** *n* *lebensraum*
- 'living standard** *n* **STANDARD OF LIVING**
- living wage** *n* 1 a subsistence wage 2 a wage sufficient to provide an acceptable standard of living
- livre** /'li:vra, (Fr *livr*)/ *n* (a coin representing) a former French money unit worth 20 sols [F, fr *L. libra*, a unit of weight]
- lixivate** /'lɪksɪvaɪt/ *vt* to extract a soluble constituent from (a solid mixture) by washing or percolation [LL *luxivum* lye, fr *L. lixivius* made of lye, fr *lixa* lye – more at **LIQUID**] – **lixivation** /-aɪʃən/ *n*
- lizard** /'lɪzəd/ *n* any of a suborder of reptiles distinguished from the snakes by 2 pairs of well differentiated functional limbs (which may be lacking in burrowing forms), external ears, and eyes with movable lids  **LIFE CYCLE** [ME *liserd*, fr MF *laisarde*, fr *L. lacerta*; akin to *L. lacertus* lizard – more at **LEG**]
- 'll /-l/** *vb* will, shall (*you'll be late*)
- llama** /'læmə/ *n* any of several wild and domesticated S American ruminant mammals related to the camels but smaller and without a hump; esp the domesticated guanaco [Sp, fr Quechua]
- llano** /'lɪjənoh/ *n*, *pl llanos* an open grassy plain, esp in Spanish America [Sp, plain, fr *L. planum* – more at **PLAIN**]
- Lloyd's** /'lɔɪdz/ *n* an association of London underwriters specializing in marine insurance and shipping news and insuring against losses of almost every kind [Edward Lloyd †1730 E coffee-house keeper whose premises in London became the centre of shipbroking & marine insurance business]
- lo** /lɔ:/ *interj*, *archaic* – used to call attention or to express wonder or surprise [ME, fr OE *lā*]
- loach** /lɔ:h/ *n* any of a family of small Old World freshwater fishes related to the carps [ME *loche*, fr MF]
- 'load** /ləʊd/ *n* 1a an amount, esp large or heavy, that is (to be) carried, supported, or borne; a burden b the quantity that can be carried at 1 time by a specified means – often in combination (*a boatload of tourists*) 2 the forces to which a structure is subjected (*the ~ on the arch*) 3 a burden of responsibility, anxiety, etc (*took a ~ off her mind*) 4 external resistance overcome by a machine or other source of power 5a power output (e.g. of a power plant) b a device to which power is delivered 6 the amount of work to be performed by a person, machine, etc 7 a large quantity or amount, a lot – usu *pl* with sing. meaning; infml (*there's ~s of room on the back seat*) [ME *lod*, fr OE *lād* support, carrying – more at **LODE**] – **get a load of** to pay attention to (sth surprising) – slang
- 'load** *vt* 1a to put a load in or on (< *a van with furniture*) b to place in or on a means of conveyance (< *cargo*) 2 to encumber or oppress with sth heavy, laborious, or disheartening; burden (*a company ~ed down with debts*) 3a to weight or shape (dice) to fall unfairly b to charge with one-sided or prejudicial influences, bias c to charge with emotional associations or hidden implications (*a ~ed statement*) 4a to put a load or charge in (a device or piece of equipment) (< *a gun*) b to place or insert in a device or piece of equipment (< *a film in a camera*) 5 to affect, often adversely, (the output of a preceding stage of an electrical circuit) – *vi* 1 to receive a load 2 to put a load on or in a carrier, device, or container, esp to insert the charge in a firearm – **loader** *n*
- 'loaded** *adj* having a large amount of money – infml
- loading** /'ləʊdɪŋ/ *n* 1 a cargo, weight, or stress placed on sth 2 a surcharge
- 'loading gauge** *n*, *Br* a bar suspended over railway tracks to show how high a train may be loaded
- 'load line** *n* **PLIMSOLL LINE**
- 'load star** /-stɑ:/ *n* a lodestar
- 'load stone** /-stəʊn/ *n* (a) lodestone
- 'loaf** /ləʊf/ *n*, *pl loaves* /ləʊvz/ 1 a mass of bread often having a regular shape and standard weight 2 a shaped or moulded often symmetrical mass of food (e.g. sugar or chopped cooked meat) 3 *Br* head, brains – slang; esp in *use one's loaf* [ME *lof*, fr OE *hlaf*, akin to OHG *hleib* loaf, (3) rhyming slang *loaf (of bread) head*]
- 'loaf** *vi* to spend time in idleness [prob back-formation fr *loafer* (idler), perh short for *landloafer*, fr G *landläufer* tramp, fr *land* + *läufer* runner]
- loafer** /'ləʊfə/ *n* 1 one who loafs 2 chiefly *NAM* a low leather shoe similar to a moccasin but with a broad flat heel [(2) fr *Loafer*, a trademark]
- loam** /ləʊm/ *n* **SOIL** 2a, *specif* crumbly soil consisting of a mixture of clay, silt, and sand [ME *lom* clay, clayey mixture, fr OE *lam*, akin to OE *lim* lime] – **loamy** *adj*
- 'loan** /ləʊn/ *n* 1a money lent at interest b sth lent, usu for the borrower's temporary use 2 the grant of temporary use [ME *lon*, fr ON *lan*, akin to OE *læn* loan, *leān* to lend, *L. linquere* to leave, Gk *leipein*]
- 'loan** *vt* to lend (< *~ed to the gallery by an unnamed owner*) – **loanable** *adj*
- lo and behold** /ləʊ/ *interj* – used to express wonder or surprise
- 'loan translation** *n* a word or phrase introduced into a language through translation of the elements of a term in another language (e.g. *superman* from German *Übermensch*)
- 'loan word** /-wɜːd/ *n* a word taken from another language and at least partly naturalized
- loath, loth** /ləʊθ/ *also* **loathe** /ləʊdh/ *adj* unwilling to do sth disliked; reluctant [ME *loth* loathsome, fr OE *lath*; akin to OHG *leid* loathsome, OIr *luss* aversion]
- loathe** /ləʊdh/ *vt* to dislike greatly, often with disgust or intolerance, detest [ME *lothen*, fr OE *lāthan*, fr *lāth*] – **loather** *n*
- 'loathing** /'ləʊdɪŋ/ *n* extreme disgust; detestation
- loathsome** /'ləʊdhəs(ə)m, 'ləʊθ-/ *adj* giving rise to loathing; disgusting [ME *lothsum*, fr *loth* evil, fr OE *lath*, fr *lāth*, *adj*] – **loathsomely** *adv*, **loathsomeness** *n*
- loaves** /ləʊvz/ *pl* of **LOAF**
- 'lob** /ləʊb/ *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to throw, hit, or propel easily or in a high arc 2 to hit a lob against (an opponent, esp in tennis) ~ *vi* to hit a ball easily in a high arc, esp in tennis, squash, etc [*lob* (a loosely hanging object), prob of LG or Flem origin]
- 'lob** *n* a ball that is lobbed
- lob-, lobo-** *comb form* lobe (< *lobar*) (< *lobotomy*)
- lobation** /ləʊ'bəʃən/ *n* 1 the condition of having lobes 2 a lobed part



**'lobby** /'lobi/ *n* 1 a porch or small entrance hall 2 an anteroom of a legislative chamber to which members go to vote during a division 3 *sing or pl in constr* a group of people engaged in lobbying [ML *lobium* gallery, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *louba* porch]

**'lobby** *vt* 1 to try to influence members of a legislative body towards an action ~ *vt* 1 to secure the passage of (legislation) by influencing public officials 2 to try to influence (e.g. a member of a legislative body) towards an action - **lobbyer** *n*, **lobbyist** *n*

**lobe** /'lohb/ *n* a curved or rounded projection or division, esp such a projection or division of a bodily organ or part [MF, fr LL *lobus*, fr Gk *lobos*] - **lobed** /'lohbd/ *adj*, **lobar** /'lohba/ *adj*, **lobate** /'lohbayt/ *adj*, **lobated** *adj*

**lobectomy** /'loh'bekdami/ *n* surgical removal of a lobe of an organ (e.g. a lung) or gland (e.g. the thyroid) [ISV]

**'lobe-fin** *n* any of a large group of mostly extinct fishes that have paired fins resembling limbs and that may be ancestral to the ground-living vertebrates - **lobe-finned** *adj*

**lobelia** /'loh'beelya/ *n* any of a genus of widely distributed herbaceous plants often cultivated for their clusters of small showy flowers [NL, genus name, fr Matthias de Lobel †1616 Flem botanist]

**lobotomy** /'la'botami, loh-/ *n* a brain operation used, esp formerly, in the treatment of some mental disorders (e.g. violent psychoses) in which nerve fibres in the cerebral cortex are cut in order to change behaviour [ISV] - **lobotomize** /'loh'botomiez, la-/ *vt*

**lobcouse** /'lob,skows/ *n* a (sailors') dish prepared by stewing or baking meat with vegetables and ship biscuit [origin unknown]

**lobster** /'lobsta/ *n*, *pl* **lobsters**, *esp collectively* lobster any of a family of large edible 10-legged marine crustaceans that have stalked eyes, a pair of large claws, and a long abdomen [ME, fr OE *loppestre*, modif (prob influenced by OE *lappa* spider) of L *locusta* crustacean, lobster]

**'lobster pot** *n* (a basket used as) a trap for catching lobsters

**lobule** /'lobyoohl/ *n* (a subdivision of) a small lobe - **lobulate** /-layt/ *adj*, **lobulose** /-loh, -lohz/ *adj*

**'local** /'lohk(a)/ *adj* 1 characterized by or relating to position in space 2 (characteristic of) or belonging to a particular place, not general or widespread (< ~ *news*) 3a primarily serving the needs of a particular limited district (< ~ *government*) b of a public conveyance making all the stops on a route 4 involving or affecting only a restricted part of a living organism [ME *locale*, fr MF *local*, fr LL *localis*, fr L *locus* place - more at 'STALL] - **locally** *adv*

**'local** *n* a local person or thing (< spoke to the friendly ~s> e.g. a Br the neighbourhood pub b NAM a local public conveyance (e.g. a train or bus)

**'local authority** *n sing or pl in constr* the body of elected and salaried people who administer British local government

**'local colour** *n* the description in a literary work of the features and peculiarities of a particular locality and its inhabitants

**locale** /'loh'kahl/ *n* a place or locality, esp when viewed in relation to a particular event or characteristic, a scene [modif of F *local*, fr *local*, *adj*]

**'local government** *n* the government of a specific local subdivision of a major political unit

**localism** /'lohk(a)'luz(a)m/ *n* 1 affection or partiality for a particular place, esp to the exclusion of others 2 a local idiom or custom

**locality** /'loh'kalati/ *n* 1 the fact or condition of having a location in space or time 2 a particular place, situation, or location

**local-ize, -ise** /'lok(a)'liez/ *vt* 1 to give local characteristics to 2 to assign to or keep within a definite locality ~ *vt* to collect in a specific or limited area - **localization** /-ie'zaysh(a)n/ *n*

**locate** /'loh'kayt/ *vt* 1 to determine or indicate the place, site, or limits of 2 to set or establish in a particular spot [L *locatus*, pp of *locare* to place, fr *locus*] - **locatable** *adj*, **locater** *n*

**location** /'loh'kaysh(a)n/ *n* 1 a particular place or position 2 a place outside a studio where a (part of a) picture is filmed - usu in *on location* [LOCATE + -ION] - **locational** *adj*, **locationally** *adv*

**locative** /'lokativ/ *n* (a form in) a grammatical case expressing place where or wherein [L *locus* + E -ative (as in vocative)] - **locative** *adj*

**loch** /'lokh/ *n* a lake or (nearly landlocked) arm of the sea in Scotland [ME (Sc) *louch*, fr ScGael *loch*; akin to L *lacus* lake]

**loch** /'lohzi; also lohki/ *pl* of LOCUS

**'lock** /'lok/ *n* 1 a curl, tuft, etc of hair 2 *pl* the hair of the head [ME *lok*, fr OE *locc*; akin to OHG *loc* lock, L *luctari* to struggle, *luxus* dislocated]

**'lock** *n* 1a a fastening that can be opened and often closed only by means of a particular key or combination b a gunlock 2a an enclosed section

of waterway (e.g. a canal) which has gates at each end and in which the water level can be raised or lowered to move boats from one level to another b AIR LOCK 3a a locking or fastening together b a hold in wrestling secured on a usu specified body part 4 chiefly Br the (maximum) extent to which the front wheels of a vehicle are turned to change the direction of travel (< from ~ to ~ is 3½ turns of the steering wheel) [ME *lok*, fr OE *loc*; akin to OHG *loh* enclosure, OE *locc* lock of hair]

**'lock** *vt* 1a to fasten the lock of b to make fast (as if) with a lock (< ~ up the house) 2a to shut in or out or make secure or inaccessible (as if) by means of locks (< ~ed himself away from the curious world> (< ~ed her husband out>) b to hold fast or inactive, fix in a particular situation or method of operation 3a to make fast by the interlacing or interlocking of parts b to hold in a close embrace c to grapple in combat; also to bind closely - often pass (< administration and students were ~ed in conflict>) 4 to move or permit (e.g. a ship) to pass by raising or lowering in a lock ~ *vt* to become locked - **lockable** *adj*

**lockage** /'loky/ *n* 1 an act or process of passing through a lock 2 a system of locks 3 the tariff charged for passing through a lock

**locker** /'loka/ *n* 1 a cupboard or compartment that may be closed with a lock, esp one for individual storage use 2 a chest or compartment on board ship [¹LOCK + -ER]

**loket** /'lokɪt/ *n* a small case usu of precious metal that has space for a memento (e.g. a small picture) and is usu worn on a chain round the neck [MF *loquet* latch, fr MD *loke*; akin to OE *loc*]

**'lock forward** *n* either of two players positioned inside the second row of the scrum in rugby < SPORT

**lockjaw** /'lokjaw/ *n* an early symptom of tetanus characterized by spasm of the jaw muscles and inability to open the jaws; also tetanus

**'lockkeeper** /-keepe/ *n* sby who looks after a canal or river lock

**'locknut** /-nut/ *n* 1 a nut screwed hard up against another to prevent either of them from moving 2 a nut so constructed that it locks itself when screwed up tight

**lock on** *vt* to sight and follow automatically by means of a radar beam or sensor

**'lockout** /-owt/ *n* a whole or partial closing of a business by an employer in order to gain concessions from or resist demands of employees

**lock out** *vt* to subject (a body of employees) to a lockout

**'locksmith** /-smith/ *n* sby who makes or mends locks as an occupation

**'lockstep** /-step/ *n* a mode of marching in step as closely as possible

**'lockstitch** /-stich/ *n* a sewing machine stitch formed by the looping together of 2 threads, 1 on each side of the material being sewn - **lockstitch** *vb*

**'lock, stock, and barrel** *adv* wholly, completely [fr the principal parts of a flintlock]

**'lockup** /-up/ *n* 1 (the time of) locking; the state of being locked 2 a (small local) prison 3 Br a lock-up shop or garage

**'lock-up** *adj*, Br, of a building (able to be) locked up and left when not in use

**'loco** /'lohkoh/ *n*, *pl* **locos** a locomotive

**'loco** *adj*, chiefly NAM out of one's mind - slang [Sp]

**locomotion** /'lohkə'mohsh(a)n/ *n* 1 an act or the power of moving from place to place 2 TRAVEL 1, 2a [L *locus* + E *motion*]

**'locomotive** /'lohkə'mohtiv/ *adj* 1 of or functioning in locomotion 2 of travel 3 moving, or able to move, by self-propulsion

**'locomotive** *n* an engine that moves under its own power; esp one that moves railway carriages and wagons

**'locomotor** /-'mohta/ *adj* 1 LOCOMOTIVE 1 2 affecting or involving the locomotive organs

**'locomotor ataxia** /'taksi-a/ *n* a tertiary syphilitic disorder of the nervous system marked esp by disturbances of gait and difficulty in coordinating voluntary movements

**locoweed** /'lohkoh,weed/ *n* any of several leguminous plants of western N America that cause madness in livestock


**oculus** /'lokyoolas/ *n*, *pl* **oculi** /'lokyoolae/ a small chamber or cavity, esp in a plant or animal body [NL, fr L, dim. of *locus*] - **ocular** /'lokyoolae/ *adj*, **oculate** /'lokyoolayt/ *adj*

**locum** /'lohkəm/ *n* sby filling an office for a time or temporarily taking the place of another - used esp with reference to a doctor or clergyman [short for *locum tenens*]

**'locum tenens** /'tenenz/ *n*, *pl* **locum tenentes** /te'nenteez, -tiz/ a locum - fml [ML, lit., one holding a place]

**locus** /'lohkəs, 'loksə/ *n*, *pl* **loci** /'lohzie, 'lohzi; also 'lohkie, 'lohki/ also **locuses** 1 a place, locality 2 the set of all points whose location is

- determined by stated conditions 3 the position on a chromosome of a particular gene or allele [L – more at **'STALL**]
- locus** *'klassikəs/ n, pl loci classici* *'klasiki, -kie/* the best-known and most authoritative passage or work on a particular subject [NL]
- locus** *'standi/ n* the right to appear in court or be heard on any question [L. lit., place to stand]
- locust** *'lohkəst/ n* 1 a migratory grasshopper that often travels in vast swarms stripping the areas passed of all vegetation  **FOOD** 2 any of various hard-wooded leguminous trees, esp a carob [ME, fr L *locusta*]
- 'locust, bean** *n* the fruit of the carob
- locution** */loh'kyoohsh(ə)n, lə-/ n* 1 a word or expression characteristic of a region, group, or cultural level 2 phraseology [ME *locucioun*, fr L *locution-, locutio*, fr *locutus*, pp of *loqui* to speak]
- lode** */lohəd/ n* an ore deposit [ME, fr OE *lād* course, support, akin to OE *lithan* to go – more at **'LEAD**]
- loden** */lohəd(ə)n/ n* a dull greyish green, also a thick woollen cloth (e.g. for coats) typically of this colour [G, fr OHG *lodo* coarse cloth]
- lodestar, loadstar** */lohəd, stah/ n* 1 a star that guides, esp POLE STAR 2 sth that serves as a guiding star [ME *lode sterre*, fr *lode* course, fr OE *lād*]
- 'lode, stone, loadstone** */-, stohn/ n* 1 (a piece of) magnetized mineral iron oxide 2 sth that strongly attracts, a magnet [obs *lode* (course), fr ME]
- 'lodge** */loj/ vt* 1a to provide temporary, esp rented, accommodation for b to establish or settle in a place 2 to serve as a receptacle for, contain, house 3 to beat (e.g. a crop) flat to the ground 4 to fix in place 5 to deposit for safeguard or preservation (< ~ your money in the nearest bank) 6 to place or vest (e.g. power), esp in a source, means, or agent 7 to lay (e.g. a complaint) before authority ~ **vi** 1a to occupy a place, esp temporarily b to be a lodger 2 to come to rest, settle (< the bullet ~ d in his chest) 3 esp of hay or grain crops to fall or lie down
- lodge** *n* 1 the meeting place of a branch of an esp fraternal organization 2 a house set apart for residence in a particular season (e.g. the hunting season) 3a a house orig for the use of a gamekeeper, caretaker, porter, etc b a porter's room (e.g. at the entrance to a college, block of flats, etc) c the house where the head of a university college lives, esp in Cambridge 4 a den or lair of an animal or a group of animals (e.g. beavers or otters) 5 a wigwam [MF *loge*, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *louba* porch]
- lodger** */lojə/ n* one who occupies a rented room in another's house [**'LODGE** + **-ER**]
- lodging** */lojɪŋ/ n* 1 a place to live, a dwelling 2a a temporary place to stay (< a ~ for the night) b a rented room or rooms for residing in, usu in a private house rather than a hotel – usu pl with sing. meaning
- 'lodging, house** *n* a house where lodgings are provided and let
- loess** */loh-ɪs, les/ n* a usu yellowish brown loamy deposit found in Europe, Asia, and N America and believed to be chiefly deposited by the wind [G *loss*] – **loessial** */loh'esi-əl, 'lesi-əl/*
- 'loft** */loft/ n* 1 an attic 2a a gallery in a church or hall b an upper floor in a barn or warehouse used for storage – sometimes in combination (< a hayloft) c a shed or coop for pigeons 3 the backward slant of the face of a golf-club head 4 **NAM** an upper room or floor [ME, fr OE, fr ON *loft* air; akin to OE *lyft* air, OHG *luft*]
- loft** *vt* to propel through the air or into space (< ~ ed the ball over midwicket)
- lofty** */lofti/ adj* 1 having a haughty overbearing manner; supercilious 2a elevated in character and spirit; noble b elevated in position; superior 3 rising to a great height; impressively high (< ~ mountains) – **loftily** *adv*, **loftiness** *n*
- 'log** */log/ n* 1 a usu bulky piece or length of unshaped timber (ready for sawing or for use as firewood) 2 an apparatus for measuring the rate of a ship's motion through the water 3a the record of the rate of a ship's speed or of her daily progress; also the full nautical record of a ship's voyage b the full record of a flight by an aircraft 4 any of various records of performance (< a computer ~) [ME *loge*, prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *lög* fallen tree, akin to OE *lucgan* to lie – more at **'LIE**]
- 'log vb -gg- vt** 1 to cut (trees) for timber 2 to enter details of or about in a log 3a to move or attain (e.g. an indicated distance, speed, or time) as noted in a log b(1) to sail a ship or fly an aircraft for (an indicated distance or period of time) (2) to have (an indicated record) to one's credit; achieve (< ~ ged about 30,000 miles a year in his car) ~ **vi** to cut logs for timber
- 'log** *n* a logarithm
- log-, logo-** *comb form* thought; speech (< *logogram*) (< *logorrhoea*) [Gk, fr *logos* – more at **LEGEND**]
- log** */-log/ comb form* (– *n*), chiefly **NAM** -logue
- loganberry** */lohɡən(b)əri, -beri/ n* (the red sweet edible berry of) an upright-growing raspberry hybrid [James H Logan †1928 US lawyer + **E berry**]
- logarithm** */logə, rɪd(ə)m/ n* the exponent that indicates the power to which a number is raised to produce a given number (< the ~ of 100 to the base 10 is 2) [NL *logarithmus*, fr *log-* + Gk *arithmos* number – more at **ARITHMETIC**] – **logarithmic** */-rɪdɪmɪk/ adj*, **logarithmically** *adv*
- 'log, book** */-, bu:k/ n* 1 **LOG** 3, 4 2 **Br** a document held with a motor vehicle that gives the vehicle's registration number, make, engine size, etc and a list of its owners – not now used technically, compare **REGISTRATION DOCUMENT**
- loge** */lohzh/ n* a box in a theatre [F – more at **LODGE**]
- logger** */lɒɡə/ n, NAM* a lumberjack
- loggerhead** */lɒɡə, hed/ n* 1 any of various very large marine turtles 2 an iron tool consisting of a long handle ending in a ball or bulb that is heated and used to melt tar or to heat liquids [prob fr E dial. *logger* (block of wood) + *head*] – at **loggerheads** in or into a state of quarrelsome disagreement
- loggia** */lɒj(ɪ)ə/ n, pl loggias* also **loggie** */lojje/* a roofed open gallery behind a colonnade or arcade [It, fr F *loge*]
- logic** */lɒjɪk/ n* 1a(1) a science that deals with the formal principles and structure of thought and reasoning (2) a specified branch or system of logic: b a particular mode of reasoning viewed as valid or faulty (< couldn't follow his ~) c the interrelation or sequence of facts or events when seen as inevitable or predictable d the fundamental principles and the connection of circuit elements for performing Boolean operations (e.g. those needed for arithmetical computation) in a computer, also the circuits themselves 2 sth that forces a decision apart from or in opposition to reason (< the ~ of war) [ME *logik*, fr MF *logique*, fr L *logica*, fr Gk *logike*, fr fem of *logikos* of reason, fr *logos* reason – more at **LEGEND**] – **logician** */lɒjɪʃ(ə)n, lə-/*
- logical** */lɒjɪkl/ adj* 1 of or conforming with logic (< a ~ argument) 2 capable of reasoning or of using reason in an orderly fashion (< a ~ thinker) – **logically** *adv*, **logicalness**, **logicality** */lɒjɪ'kælɪti/ n*
- logical** *'positi, vɪəm* *n* a 20th-c philosophical movement stressing linguistic analysis and rejecting metaphysical theories – **logical positivist** *n*
- logico-** */lɒjɪkəh-/ comb form* logical, logical and (< *logico-mathematical*)
- logistica** */lɒjɪstɪks, lə-/ n pl* but sing or pl in constr 1 the aspect of military science dealing with the transportation, quartering, and supplying of troops in military operations 2 the handling of the details of an operation [F *logistique* art of calculating, logistics, fr Gk *logistike* art of calculating, fr fem of *logistikos* of calculation, fr *logizein* to calculate, fr *logos* reason] – **logistic** *adj*, **logistically** *adv*
- logjam** */lɒɡjəm/ n, chiefly NAM* a deadlock, impasse
- logo** */lɒɡoh/ n, pl logos* **LOGOTYPE** 2
- logo-** – see **LOG**
- logogram** */lɒɡə, ɡrəm/ n* a character or sign used (e.g. in shorthand) to represent an entire word – **logogrammatic** */-ɡrə'matɪk/ adj*
- logograph** */lɒɡə, ɡrəf, -ɡrəf/ n* a logogram
- 'logo, griph** */-, grɪf/ n* a word puzzle (e.g. an anagram) [*log-* + Gk *grphos* reed basket, riddle – more at **CRIB**]
- 'logorrhoea** */lɒɡə'rɪə/ n* excessive and often incoherent talkativeness or wordiness [NL]
- Logos** */lɒɡos/ n, pl Logoi* */lɒɡoi/* **WORD** 4 [Gk, speech, word, reason – more at **LEGEND**]
- logotype** */lɒɡə, ti:p/ n* 1 a single block or piece of type that prints a whole word (e.g. the name of a newspaper) 2 an identifying symbol (e.g. for advertising)
- logrolling** */lɒɡ, rɒhɪŋ/ n, chiefly NAM* the trading of votes by members of a legislature to secure favourable action on projects of mutual interest [fr a former US custom of neighbours assisting one another in rolling logs]
- logue**, *NAM* chiefly **-log** */-log/ comb form* (– *n*) 1 conversation; talk (< *duologue*) 2 student; specialist (< *sinologue*) [ME *-logue*, fr OF, fr L *-logus*, fr Gk *-logos*, fr *legein* to speak – more at **LEGEND**]
- logy** */-ləj/ comb form* (– *n*) 1 oral or written expression (< *phraseology*); esp body of writings of (a specified kind) or on (a specified subject) (< *trilogy*) (< *hagiology*) 2 doctrine; theory; science (< *ethnology*) (< *semiology*) [ME *-logie*, fr OF, fr L *-logia*, fr Gk, fr *logos* word]

**loin** /loyn/ *n* 1a the part of a human being or quadruped on each side of the spinal column between the hipbone and the lower ribs b a cut of meat comprising this part of one or both sides of a carcass with the adjoining half of the vertebrae included  MEAT 2 *pl* a the upper and lower abdominal regions and the region about the hips b(1) the pubic region (2) the genitals [ME *loyne*, fr MF *loigne*, fr (assumed) VL *lumbea*, fr L *lumbus*, akin to OE *lenden* loins]

**loin, cloth** /-kloth/ *n* a cloth worn about the hips and covering the genitals

**loiter** /'loyta/ *vi* 1 to remain in an area for no obvious reason, HANG ABOUT 2 to make frequent pauses while travelling; dawdle [ME *loiteren*, prob fr MD *loteren* to waggle, be loose] – **loiterer** *n*

**loll** /lɒl/ *vi* 1 to hang down loosely <his tongue ~ ed out> 2 to recline, lean, or move in a lazy or excessively relaxed manner, lounge [ME *lollen*, prob of imit origin]

**lollipop**, **lollypop** /'lɒli,pɒp/ *n* a large often round flat sweet of boiled sugar on the end of a stick [prob fr E dial *lolly* (tongue) + *pop*]

**lollipop man**, *fem* **lollipop lady** *n*, *Br* sby controlling traffic to allow (school) children to cross busy roads [fr the round warning sign on a pole carried by him/her]

**lollop** /'lɒləp/ *vi* to move or proceed with an ungainly loping motion ['*loll* + -*op* (as in *gallop*)]

**lolly** /'lɒli/ *n* 1 a lollipop or ice lolly 2 *Br* money – infml [short for *lollipop*]

**Lombard** /'lɒmbəd/, -bəd/ *n* 1 a member of a Teutonic people that invaded Italy and settled in the Po valley in the 6th c AD 2 a native or inhabitant of Lombardy [ME *Lumbarde*, fr MF *lombard*, fr OIt *lombardo*, fr L *Langobardus*] – **Lombardian** /lɒm'bɑ:di-ən/ *adj*, **Lombardic** /lɒm'bɑ:dɪk/ *adj*

**Lombardy poplar** /'lɒmbədi, 'lum-/ *n* a much planted tall narrow European poplar [*Lombardy*, district of Italy]

**loment** /'ləʊmənt/ *n* a dry 1-celled fruit that breaks transversely into numerous usu 1-seeded segments at maturity [NL *lomentum*, fr L, wash made of bean meal, fr *lotus*, pp of *lavare* to wash – more at *LYE*]

**Lomotil** /'ləʊməti/ *trademark* used for diphenoxylate hydrochloride

**London plane** /'lʌndən/ *n* a fast-growing smoke-resistant hybrid plane tree that is often planted in streets of towns [*London*, capital city of England]

**lone** /lohn/ *adj* 1 only, sole 2 situated alone or separately, isolated 3 having no company, solitary – fml [ME, short for *alone*] – **loneness** *n* **lonely** /'ləʊnli/ *adj* 1 cut off from others, solitary 2 not frequented by people, desolate 3 sad from being alone or without friends – **lonelily** *adv*, **loneliness** *n*

**lonely hearts** *adj* of or for lonely people seeking companions or spouses <a ~ club>

**loner** /'ləʊnə/ *n* a person or animal that prefers solitude

**lonesome** /'ləʊns(ə)m/ *adj* 1 **lonely** 2 **ONE** 2 <on the trail of the ~ pine – Ballard Macdonald> – **lonesomely** *adv*, **lonesomeness** *n*

**lonesome** *n* self – infml <sat all on his ~>

**lone wolf** *n* a person who prefers to work, act, or live alone

**long** /lɒŋ/ *adj* 1a extending for a considerable distance b having greater length or height than usual 2a having a specified length <6ft ~> b forming the chief linear dimension <the ~ side of the room> 3 extending over a considerable or specified time <a ~ friendship> <2 hours ~> 4 containing a large or specified number of items or units <a ~ list> <300 pages ~> 5a of a speech sound or syllable of relatively long duration b being one of a pair of similarly spelt vowel sounds that is longer in duration <~ a in fate> c bearing a stress or accent 6a having the capacity to reach or extend a considerable distance <a ~ left jab> b hit for a considerable distance <a ~ drive from the tee> 7 of betting odds greatly differing in the amounts wagered on each side 8 subject to great odds <a ~ chance> 9 owning or accumulating securities or goods, esp in anticipation of an advance in prices <they are now ~ on wheat> [ME *long*, *lang*, fr OE; akin to OHG *lang* long, L *longus*, Gk *dolichos*] – **longish** *adj*, **longness** *n* – before *long* in a short time; soon – in the *long* run in the course of sufficiently prolonged time, trial, or experience – compare IN THE SHORT RUN – *long* in the tooth past one's best days; old – not by a *long* chalk not at all

**long** *adv* 1 for or during a long or specified time <not ~ returned> 2 at a point of time far before or after a specified moment or event <was excited ~ before the big day> 3 after or beyond a specified time <said it was no ~ er possible> – so long goodbye – infml

**long** *n* a long syllable – the long (and) the short the gist; the outline <the long and the short of it was that we had to walk home>

**long** *vi* to feel a strong desire or craving, esp for sth not likely to be attained [ME *longen*, fr OE *langian*, akin to OHG *langēn* to long, OE *lang* long]

**long ago** *n* the distant past – **long-ago** *adj*

**longboat** /-boht/ *n* the largest boat carried by a sailing vessel

**longbow** /-boh/ *n* a long wooden bow for shooting arrows, specif that used in medieval England that was about 6ft (1.8m) long, was made of yew or ash, and was drawn by hand

**long-chain** *adj* having a relatively long chain of (carbon) atoms in the molecule

**long-distance** *adj* 1 covering or effective over a long distance 2 of telephone communication between points a long distance apart

**long-distance** *adv* by long-distance telephone

**long division** *n* arithmetical division in which the calculations corresponding to the division of parts of the dividend by the divisor are written out

**long-drawn-out** *adj* extended to a great length, protracted

**long-eared owl** *n* a medium-sized European owl with long ear tufts

**longeron** /'lɒnjərən/ *n* a fore-and-aft framing member of an aircraft fuselage [F, fr *allonger* to make long]

**longevity** /lɒn'jevəti, also lɒn'gevəti/ *n* (great) length of life <a study of ~> [LL *longaevitas*, fr L *longaevus* long-lived, fr *longus* long + *aevum* age – more at *LYE*]

**longhair** /-hea/ *n* a person with, or usu thought of as having, long hair e.g. a hippie b sby of an artistic, esp avant-garde, temperament c an unworldly intellectual [back-formation fr *long-haired*] – **long-hair**, **long-haired** *adj*

**longhand** /-hand/ *n* ordinary writing; handwriting

**long haul** *n* 1 a lengthy usu difficult period of time <the ~ back to health> 2 the transport of goods over long distances – **long-haul** *adj*

**longheaded** /-hedid/ *adj* 1 having unusual foresight or wisdom 2 dolichocephalic

**long hop** *n* an easily hit short-pitched delivery of a cricket ball

**longhorn** /-hawn/ *n* any of a breed of long-horned cattle of Spanish derivation

**long-horned beetle**, **longhorn beetle** *n* any of various beetles usu distinguished by their very long antennae

**long-horned grasshopper** *n* any of various grasshoppers distinguished by their very long antennae

**longi-** *comb form* long <longipennate> <longitude> [ME, fr L, fr *longus*]


**longicorn** /'lɒnj,kɔ:rn/ *adj* of or being long-horned beetles [deriv of *longi-* + L *cornu* horn – more at *HORN*] – **longicorn** *n*

**longing** /'lɒŋ-ɪŋ/ *n* a strong desire, esp for sth difficult to attain – **longingly** *adv*


**longitude** /'lɒnjityu:hd, also 'lɒŋ-ɡi:tyu:hd/ *n* the (time difference corresponding to) angular distance of a point on the surface of a celestial body, esp the earth, measured E or W from a prime meridian (e.g. that of Greenwich) – compare **LATITUDE** 1a [ME, fr L *longitudin-*, *longitudo* length, fr *longus*]

**longitudinal** /-'tyu:hdɪnəl/ *adj* 1 of length or the lengthways dimension 2 placed or running lengthways – **longitudinally** *adv*

**longitudinal wave** *n* a wave (e.g. a sound wave) in which the particles of the medium vibrate in the direction of the line of advance of the wave – compare **TRANSVERSE WAVE**


**long Johns** /'jɒnz/ *n pl* underpants with legs extending usu down to the ankles – infml  GARMENT [fr the name *John* + -s]


**long jump** *n* (an athletic field event consisting of) a jump for distance from a running start – **long jumper** *n*

**long leg** *n* a fielding position in cricket near the boundary behind the batsman on the leg side of the pitch  SPORT

**long-life** *adj* (processed so as to be) long-lasting

**long-lived** /lɪvd/ *adj* 1 characterized by long life <a ~ family> 2 long-lasting, enduring – **long-livedness** *n* /-'lɪv(e)dɪnɪs/

**long off** *n* a fielding position in cricket near the boundary behind the bowler on the off side of the pitch  SPORT

**long on** *n* a fielding position in cricket near the boundary behind the bowler on the leg side of the pitch  SPORT

**long-range** *adj* 1 involving or taking into account a long period of time <~ planning> 2 relating to or fit for long distances <~ rockets>

**long run** *n* a relatively long period of time – usu in the *long run* – **long-run** *adj*

**longship** /-ship/ *n* a long open ship propelled by oars and a sail and used by the Vikings principally to carry warriors

- 'longshoreman** /-shawmən/ *n*, chiefly NAm a docker [*longshore*, short for *alongshore*]
- 'long shot** *n* 1 (a bet at long odds on) a competitor given little chance of winning 2 a venture that involves considerable risk and has little chance of success – by a long shot by a great deal
- 'long-sighted** /-sɪəd/ *adj* hypermetropic – **longsightedness** *n*
- 'long-standing** *adj* of long duration
- 'long stop** *n* a now little-used fielding position in cricket near the boundary and directly behind the wicketkeeper  SPORT
- 'long-suffering** *n* or *adj* (the quality of) patiently enduring pain, difficulty, or provocation – **long-sufferingly** *adv*
- 'long suit** *n* the activity or quality in which a person excels
- 'long-term** *adj* occurring over or involving a relatively long period of time
- 'long ton** *n* a British unit of weight equal to 2240 lb (about 1016 05 kg)
- longueur** /lɒŋ'gʊh/ (Fr lɔ̃gœʁ) *n*, pl **longueurs** /lɒŋ'gʊh(z) (Fr ~)/ a dull and tedious part or period [F, lit., length]
- 'long vacation** *n* the long summer holiday of British law courts and universities
- 'long-waisted** *adj* of more than average length from the shoulders to the waist
- 'long wave** *n* a band of radio waves typically used for sound broadcasting and covering wavelengths of 1000 m or more
- 'long ways** /-weɪz, wɪz/ *adv* lengthways
- 'long week-end** *n* a short holiday including a weekend
- 'long-winded** /-wɪndɪd/ *adj* tediously long in speaking or writing – **long-windedly** *adv*, **long-windedness** *n*
- longwise** /lɒŋ,wɪz, -wɪz/ *adv* lengthways
- 'loo** /loo/ *n* (money staked at) an old card game in which the winner of each trick takes a portion of the pool while losing players have to contribute to the next pool [short for obs *lanterloo*, fr F *lanturelu piffle*]
- 'loo n**, chiefly Br TOILET 2 – *infrml* [perh modif of F *l'eau* the water]
- 'loofah** /'looʃə/ *n* a dried seed pod of any of several plants of the cucumber family that is used as a bath sponge [NL *Luffa*, genus name, fr A. lūf]
- 'look** /loo/ *vt* 1 to find out or learn by the use of one's eyes (< what time it starts> (< what you've done>) 2 to regard intensely; examine (< him in the eye> (< a gift horse in the mouth>) 3 to express by the eyes or facial expression (< ed daggers at him>) 4 to have an appearance that befits or accords with (< really ~ ed the part>) ~ *vi* 1a to use the power of sight; esp to make a visual search for b to direct one's attention (< into the matter>) c to direct the eyes (< at him!>) 2 to have the appearance of being; appear, seem (< ~s very ill> (< ed to be crying – Colin MacInnes>) 3 to have a specified outlook (< the house ~ ed east>) [ME *looken*, fr OE *lōcan*, akin to OS *locon* to look] – **look after** to take care of – **look sharp** to be quick; hurry
- 'look n** 1a the act of looking b GLANCE 3 2a a facial expression (< she had a funny ~ on her face>) b (attractive) physical appearance – usu pl with sing. meaning 3 the state or form in which sth appears (< a new ~ in knitwear>) (< has the ~ of a loser about him>)
- 'look-a-like** *n* sby or sth that looks like another; a double
- 'look back** *vi* 1 to remember – often + *to*, on 2 to fail to make successful progress – *in never look back* (< after his initial success, he never looked back>)
- 'look down** *vi* to have an attitude of superiority or contempt – + *on* or *upon* (< snobbishly looks down on the poor>)
- 'looker** /loo'kə/ *n* 1 one having an appearance of a specified kind – often in combination (< a good-looker>) 2 an attractive person, esp a woman – *infrml* ['LOOK + -ER]
- 'look-in** *n* a chance to take part; also a chance of success – *infrml*
- 'look in** *vi*, Br to pay a short visit (< will look in on the party>)
- 'looking glass** /'loo'kɪŋ/ *n* a mirror
- 'look on** *vi* to be a spectator
- 'look out** /-oʊt/ *n* 1 one engaged in keeping watch 2 a place or structure affording a wide view for observation 3 a careful looking or watching 4 a matter of care or concern (< it's your ~ if you do such a silly thing>) 5 chiefly Br a future possibility; a prospect
- 'look out** *vi* 1 to take care – often *imper* 2 to keep watching (< look out for your parents>) ~ *vt*, chiefly Br to choose by inspection; select (< look out a suit for the interview>)
- 'look over** *vt* to examine (quickly) – **lookover** *n* /'loo'k,əvə/
- 'look up** *vi* to improve in prospects or conditions (< business is looking up>) ~ *vt* 1 to search for (as if) in a reference work (< look up a phone number in the directory>) 2 to pay a usu short visit to (< looked up my friend while I was there>) 3 to have an attitude of respect – + *to* (< always looked up to their parents>)
- 'loom** /loo'm/ *n* a frame or machine for weaving together yarns or threads into cloth [ME *lome* tool, loom, fr OE *geloma* tool; akin to MD *allame* tool]
- 'loom** *vi* 1 to come into sight indistinctly, in enlarged or distorted and menacing form, often as a result of atmospheric conditions 2a to appear in an impressively great or exaggerated form b to take shape as an impending occurrence (< exams ~ ed large>) [origin unknown]
- 'loon** /loo'n/ *n* a mad or silly person [ME *loun* rogue, idler]
- 'loon** *n* any of several large fish-eating diving birds that have the legs placed far back under the body [of Scand origin, akin to ON *lomr* loon – more at LAMENT]
- loony, looney** /'loo'ni/ *adj* crazy, foolish – *infrml* [by shortening & alter fr *lunatic*] – **looniness** *n*, **loony** *n*
- 'loony bin** *n* MADHOUSE 1 – humor
- 'loop** /loo'p/ *n* 1 a (partially) closed figure that has a curved outline surrounding a central opening 2a sth shaped like a loop b a manoeuvre in which an aircraft passes successively through a climb, inverted flight, and a dive, and then returns to normal flight c a zigzag-shaped intrauterine contraceptive device 3 a ring or curved piece used to form a fastening or handle 4 a piece of film or magnetic tape whose ends are spliced together so as to reproduce the same material continuously 5 a series of instructions (e.g. for a computer) that is repeated until a terminating condition is reached [ME *loupe*, of unknown origin]
- 'loop** *vi* 1 to make, form, or move in a loop or loops 2 to execute a loop in an aircraft ~ *vt* 1a to make a loop in, on, or about b to fasten with a loop 2 to join (2 courses of loops) in knitting 3 to form a loop with (< ~ ed the wool round the knitting needle>) – **loop the loop** to perform a loop in an aircraft
- 'looper** /loo'pə/ *n* 1 an inchworm 2 a device on a sewing machine for making loops ['LOOP + -ER]
- 'loophole** /loo'p,həʊl/ *n* 1 a small opening through which missiles, firearms, etc may be discharged or light and air admitted 2 a means of escape, esp an ambiguity or omission in a text through which its intent may be evaded [arch *loop*, fr ME *loupe*; perh akin to MD *lupen* to watch, peer]
- 'loophole** *vt* to make loopholes in
- 'loop line** *n* a railway line that leaves and ~~later~~ rejoins a main line
- 'loop of Henle** /'henli/ *n* a part of each nephron in a kidney that plays a part in water resorption [F G J Henle †1885 G pathologist]
- 'loop stitch** *n* a needlework stitch consisting of a series of interlocking loops
- 'loopy** /loo'pi/ *adj* slightly crazy or foolish – *infrml* ['LOOP + -Y]
- 'loose** /loo's/ *adj* 1a not rigidly fastened or securely attached b having worked partly free from attachments (< the masonry is ~ at the base of the wall>) c of a cough produced freely and accompanied by rising of mucus d not tight-fitting (< a ~ cardigan>) 2a free from a state of confinement, restraint, or obligation (< a hon ~ in the streets>) b not brought together in a bundle, container, or binding (< ~ hair>) 3 not dense, close, or compact in structure or arrangement 4a lacking in (power of) restraint (< a ~ tongue>) (< ~ bowels>) b dissolute, promiscuous (< ~ living>) 5 not tightly drawn or stretched; slack 6a lacking in precision, exactness, or care (< a ~ translation>) b permitting freedom of interpretation (< the wording of the document is very ~>) [ME *lous*, fr ON *lauss*; akin to OHG *lōs* loose – more at -LESS] – **loosely** *adv*, **loosen** /loo's(ə)n/ *vb*, **looseness** *n*
- 'loose** *vi* 1a to let loose; release b to free from restraint 2 to make loose; untie (< ~ a knot>) 3 to cast loose; detach 4 to let fly; discharge (e.g. a bullet)
- 'loose** *adv* in a loose manner; loosely (< the rope hung ~>)
- 'loose box** *n*, Br an individual enclosure within a barn or stable in which an animal may move about freely
- 'loose cover** *n*, chiefly Br a removable protective usu cloth cover for an article of furniture (e.g. an upholstered chair)
- 'loose end** *n* – at a loose end having nothing to do
- 'loose leaf** *adj* bound so that individual leaves can be detached or inserted (< a ~ photograph album>)
- 'loose-limbed** /lɪm'd/ *adj* having flexible or supple limbs
- 'loosestrife** /loo's,tri:f/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants of the primrose family with leafy stems and yellow or white flowers 2 any of a genus of plants including some with showy spikes of purple flowers [intended as trans of Gk *lysimachios* loosestrife (as if fr *lysis* act of loosening + *machesthai* to fight) – more at LYSIS]
- 'loot** /loo't/ *n* 1 goods, usu of considerable value, taken in war; spoils 2

- sthg taken illegally (e.g. by force or deception) <the robbers' ~> [Hindi *lut*, fr Skt *luntati* he robs]
- loot** *vb* 1 to plunder or sack (a place) in war 2 to seize and carry away (sthg) by force or illegally, esp in war or public disturbance - *looter* *n*
- lop** /lop/ *n* small branches and twigs cut from a tree [ME *loppe*]
- lop** *vt* -pp- 1a to cut off branches or twigs from b to cut from a person 2 to remove or do away with as unnecessary or undesirable - usu + *off* or *away* <~ped several thousand off the annual budget> - *lopper* *n*
- lope** /lohp/ *n* an easy bounding gait capable of being sustained for a long time [ME *loup*, *lope* leap, fr ON *hlaup*; akin to OE *hleapan* to leap - more at LEAP]
- lope** *vi* to go, move, or ride at a lope - *loper* *n*
- lop-eared** *adj* having ears that droop [*lop* (to hang down, droop), perh of imit origin]
- lophophore** /'lohfə,faw/ *n* a circular or horseshoe-shaped organ about the mouth, esp of a brachiopod or bryozoan, that bears tentacles and functions esp in food collecting [Gk *lophos* crest + E -*phore*]
- lopsided** /'lopsi:di:d/ *adj* 1 having one side heavier or lower than the other 2 lacking in balance, symmetry, or proportion [*lop* (to hang down, droop)] - *lopsidedly* *adv*, *lopsidedness* *n*
- loquacious** /lə'kwəʃəs/ *adj* talkative - fml [L *loquax*, *loquax*, fr *loqui* to speak] - *loquaciously* *adv*, *loquaciousness* *n*, *loquacity* /lə'kwəsəti/ *n*
- loquat** /'lokwat, -kwot/ *n* (the yellow edible fruit of) an often cultivated Asiatic evergreen tree of the rose family [Chin (Cant) *lo-kwat*, fr *lo* rush + *kwat* orange]
- loran** /'lɔrən/ *n* a system of navigation using pulsed signals sent out by 2 pairs of radio stations [*long-range* navigation]
- lord** /lɔ:d/ *n* 1 *usu* having power and authority over others e.g. a (hereditary) ruler b sby from whom a feudal fee or estate is held c BARON 3 2 cap a GOD 1 b Jesus - often + *Our* 3 a man of rank or high position e.g. a a feudal tenant holding land directly from the king b a British nobleman e.g. (1) BARON 2a (2) a marquess, earl, or viscount (3) the son of a duke or marquess or the eldest son of an earl (4) a bishop of the Church of England 4 pl, cap HOUSE OF LORDS - often + *the* ~ 5 1AW 5 - used as the title of a lord or as an official title <Lord Advocate> [ME *loverd*, *lord*, fr OE *hlaford*, fr *hlaf* loaf + *weard* keeper - more at 1LOAF]
- lord** *vi* to act like a lord, esp to put on airs - usu + *it* <~s it over his friends>
- Lord** *intery* - used to express surprise, amazement, or dismay, esp in *Oh Lord!*, *Good Lord!*, etc
- lord** 'advocate *n*, often cap L&A the chief law officer of the Crown in Scotland
- lord** 'Chamberlain *n* the chief officer of the British royal household
- lord** 'chancellor *n*, often cap L&C an officer of state who presides over the House of Lords, serves as head of the judiciary, and is usu a member of the cabinet
- lord** 'Chief Justice *n*, pl Lords Chief Justice the president of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court
- Lord Justice of Appeal** *n*, pl Lords Justices of Appeal a judge of the Court of Appeal
- lord** 'Lieu'tenant *n*, pl Lords Lieutenant, Lord Lieutenants an official representative of a sovereign in a British county
- lordly** /'lɔ:dlɪ/ *adj* 1a (having the characteristics) of a lord; dignified b grand, noble 2 disdainful and arrogant - *lordliness* *n*, *lordly* *adv*
- Lord of Appeal in Ordinary** *n*, pl Lords of Appeal in Ordinary an eminent lawyer appointed a life peer to hear appeals in the Lords
- lordosis** /lɔ:'dohsɪs/ *n* abnormal forward curvature of the spine - compare KYPHOSIS, SCOLIOSIS [NL, fr Gk *lordōsis*, fr *lordos* curving forwards; akin to OE *belyrtan* to deceive] - *lordotic* /lɔ:'dotɪk/ *adj*
- lord** 'President of the 'Council *n*, pl Lord Presidents of the Council the president of the Privy Council
- lord** 'Privy 'Seal /'prɪvɪ/ *n*, pl Lords Privy Seal a member of the British Cabinet with no departmental duties
- lords** and 'ladies *n* pl but sing in constr cuckoo-pint
- Lord's day** *n*, often cap D Sunday - usu + *the* [fr the Christian belief that Christ rose from the dead on Sunday]
- lordship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* 1 - used as a title for a lord 2 the authority of a lord
- lord's** 'Prayer *n* the prayer taught by Jesus beginning 'Our Father'
- lord's** 'table *n*, often cap T ALTAR 2
- lore** /lɔ:/ *n* a specified body of knowledge or tradition <bird ~> <ghost ~> [ME, learning, doctrine, lesson, fr OE *lār*; akin to OHG *lera* doctrine, OE *leorman* to learn]
- lore** *n* the space between the eye and bill in a bird or the corresponding region in a reptile or fish [NL *lorum*, fr L, thong, rein, akin to Gk *eulera* reins] - *loreal* /'lɔ:riəl/
- lorgnette** /lɔ:'njet/ (Fr *lorgnet*) *n* a pair of glasses or opera glasses with a handle [F, fr *lorgner* to take a sidelong look at, fr MF, fr *lorgne* cross-eyed]
- lorgnon** /lɔ:'nyon (Fr *lorgnō*)/ *n* a lorgnette [F, fr *lorgner*]
- lorica** /lɔ:'neka/ *n*, pl *loricae* /-ki/ a hard protective case or shell [NL, fr L, breastplate, fr *lorum*] - *loricate* /'lɔ:keɪt/, *loricated* *adj*
- lorikeet** /'lɔ:keet, -'-/ *n* any of numerous small tree-dwelling parrots mostly of Australasia [*lory* (parrot, fr Malay *nuri*, *luri*) + *-keet* (as in *parakeet*)]
- lorimer** /'lɔ:ma/ *n* a maker of the metal parts of brdles and saddles [ME *lorimer*, *lorimer*, fr OF *lormier*, *lorenier*, fr *lorain* strap holding a horse's saddle, fr LL *loramentum* harness, straps, fr L *lorum* strap]
- lorimer** /'lɔ:ma/ *n* a lorimer
- loris** /'lɔ:ris/ *n* any of several small nocturnal slow-moving tree-dwelling primates [F, perh fr obs D *loeris* simpton] - *lorisiform* /lɔ:'rɪsɪ,fawm/ *adj*
- lorry** /'lɔ:ri/ *n*, Br a large motor vehicle for carrying loads by road [perh fr E dial *lurry* (to pull, drag)]
- lose** /looʒz/ *vb* lost /lost/ *vt* 1a to bring to destruction, perish - usu pass <the ship was lost on the reef> b to damn (lost souls) 2 to miss from one's possession or from a customary or supposed place, also to fail to find (lost her glasses) 3 to suffer deprivation of, part with, esp in an unforeseen or accidental manner (lost his leg in an accident) 4 to suffer loss through the death of or final separation from (sby) (lost a son in the war) 5a to fail to use, let slip by (he lost his chance of a place in the team) b(1) to be defeated in (a contest for) <~ a battle> <~ a prize> (2) to have less of (the aircraft began to ~ height) c to fail to catch with the senses or the mind (lost part of what was said) 6 to cause the loss of (one careless statement lost her the election) 7 to fail to keep or maintain (lost her balance) 8a to cause to miss one's way (lost themselves in the maze of streets) b to withdraw (oneself) from immediate reality (lost himself in a book) 9 to fail to keep in sight or in mind (I lost track of his reasoning) 10 to free oneself from, get rid of (driest to ~ some weight) 11 to run slow by the amount of - used with reference to a timepiece (my watch ~s a minute each day) ~ *vi* 1 to undergo deprivation of sthg of value 2 to undergo defeat 3 of a timepiece to run slow [ME *losen*, fr OE *losian* to perish, *lose*, fr *los* destruction, akin to OE *lēosan* to lose; akin to ON *losa* to loosen, L *luere* to release, atone for, Gk *lyein* to loosen, dissolve, destroy] - *lose* one's head to lose self-control (e.g. in anger or panic)
- lose out** *vt* 1 to make a loss 2 to be the loser, esp unluckily *USE* often + *on*
- loser** /'looʒə/ *n* 1 one who loses, esp consistently 2 one who does poorly, a failure
- losing** 'hazard /'looʒɪŋ/ *n* the pocketing of the cue ball after it strikes an object ball in billiards
- loss** /los/ *n* 1a the act or an instance of losing possession b the harm or privation resulting from loss or separation 2 a person, thing, or amount lost <the woman who retired is a great ~ to her firm>: e.g. a pl killed, wounded, or captured soldiers b the power diminution of a circuit element corresponding to conversion of electric power into heat 3a failure to gain, win, obtain, or use sthg b an amount by which cost exceeds revenue 4 decrease in amount, size, or degree 5 destruction, ruin <the ship went down with the ~ of many lives> [ME *los*, prob back-formation fr *lost*, pp of *losen* to lose] - at a loss uncertain, puzzled
- loss leader** *n* an article sold at a loss in order to draw customers
- lossy** /'loʃi/ *adj* causing diminution or dissipation of electrical energy
- lost** /lost/ *adj* 1a unable to find the way b no longer visible c bewildered, helpless 2 ruined or destroyed physically or morally 3a no longer possessed (one's ~ youth) b no longer known <the ~ art of letter-writing> 4a taken away or beyond reach or attainment; denied b insensible, hardened <~ to shame> 5 rapt, absorbed <~ in reverse> [pp of *lose*]
- lost** 'cause *n* a cause that has lost all prospect of success
- lost** wax *n* CIRE PERDUE
- lot** /lot/ *n* 1 an object used as a counter in deciding a question by chance <they drew ~s for who was to go> 2 (the use of lots as a means of making) a choice 3a sthg that falls to sby by lot; a share b one's way of life or worldly fate; fortune <it's my ~ to be misunderstood> 4a a portion of land; esp one with fixed boundaries designated on a plot or survey b a



- film studio and its adjoining property **5** an article or a number of articles offered as 1 item (e.g. in an auction sale) (*what am I bid for ~ 16?*) **6a** sing or pl in constr a number of associated people, a set (*hello you ~ ~ Margaret Drabble*) **b** a kind, sort – chiefly in a bad lot **7** a considerable amount or number (*a ~ of illness*) (*has ~s of friends*) – often pl with sing meaning **8** chiefly Br the whole amount or number (*ate up the whole ~*) **USE** (**6a&8**) infml [ME, fr OE *hlōt*; akin to OHG *hlōz*, Lith *kludyti* to hook on] – **a** lot 1 lots (*drove a lot faster*) – chiefly infml **2** often, frequently (*goes there a lot*) – chiefly infml
- lot** vt -tt- **1** to form or divide into lots **2** to allot, apportion [ME /loht/ *adj* loath]
- lothario** /lə'thahriə/ *n*, pl **lotharios** often cap a man whose chief interest is seducing women [*Lothario*, seducer in the play *The Fair Penitent* by Nicholas Rowe †1718 E dramatist]
- loti** /'lohti/ *n*, pl **maloti** /ma'lohti/ Lesotho at NATIONALITY [of Bantu origin]
- lotion** /'loʃh(ə)n/ *n* a medicinal or cosmetic liquid for external use [L *lotio*-, *lotio* act of washing, fr *lotus*, pp of *lavere* to wash – more at LYE]
- lots** /lots/ *adv* much, considerably (*is ~ older than me*) – infml [pl of 'lot]
- lottery** /'lot(ə)r/ *n* **1** (a way of raising money by the sale or) the distribution of numbered tickets some of which are later randomly selected to entitle the holder to a prize **2** an event or affair whose outcome is (apparently) decided by chance (*buying a secondhand car is a ~*) [MF *loterie*, fr MD, fr *lot* lot; akin to OE *hlōt* lot]
- lotto** /'lotoh/ *n* bingo [It, lottery, lotto, fr F *lot* lot, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *hlōt* lot]
- lotus** /'loʊtəs/ *n* **1** a fruit considered in Greek legend to cause indolence and dreamy contentment **2** any of various water lilies including several represented in ancient Egyptian and Hindu art and religious symbolism **3** any of a genus of widely distributed upright herbaceous plants (e.g. bird's-foot trefoil) [L & Gk, L *lotus*, fr Gk *lotos*, fr Heb *lot* myrrh, (3) NL, genus name, fr L]
- lotus-eater** *n* sby who lives in dreamy indolence [*lotus-eaters*, a mythical people living in indolence caused by lotus fruit, trans of Gk *Lotophagoi*]
- lotus position** *n* a yoga position in which one sits with legs folded and the arms resting on the knees [trans of Skt *padmasana*, fr *padma* lotus (symbolizing transcendence of external impulse and sensation) + *asana* seat, posture]
- louche** /'loʊʃh/ *adj* morally dubious, disreputable, seedy [F, lit, cross-eyed, fr L *luscus* one-eyed]
- loud** /'loʊd/ *adj* **1** marked by or producing a high volume of sound **2** clamorous, noisy **3** obtrusive or offensive in appearance; flashy (*a ~ checked suit*) [ME, fr OE *hlud*, akin to OHG *hlut* loud, L *inclusus* famous, Gk *klytos*, Skt *śroti* he hears] – **loud** *adv*, **louden** *v*b, **loudly** *adv*, **loudness** *n*
- loud-hailer** *n*, chiefly Br a megaphone
- loudmouth** /-moʊθ/ *n* a person given to much loud offensive talk – infml – **loudmouthed** /-moʊðd/ *adj*
- loudspeaker** /'loʊdspika/ *n* (a cabinet that contains) an electro-mechanical device that converts electrical energy into acoustic energy and that is used to reproduce audible sounds in a room, hall, etc
- lough** /'loʊk/ *n* a loch in Ireland [ME, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *loch* lake; akin to L *lacus* lake]
- louis d'or** /'loʊ-i 'dɔr/ *n*, pl **louis d'or** /~/ **1** a French gold coin first struck in 1640 and issued until the Revolution **2** the French 20-franc gold piece issued after the Revolution [F, fr Louis XIII †1643 King of France + *d'or* of gold]
- Louis Quatorze** /'loʊ-i ka'tɔwz (Fr ~ katɔr/ *adj* (characteristic) of the architecture or furniture of the reign of Louis XIV of France [F, Louis XIV †1715 King of France]
- Louis Quinze** /kanhʒ (Fr kɛz/ *adj* (characteristic) of the architecture or furniture of the reign of Louis XV of France [F, Louis XV †1774 King of France]
- Louis Seize** /sez (Fr sɛz/ *adj* (characteristic) of the architecture or furniture of the reign of Louis XVI of France [F, Louis XVI †1793 King of France]
- Louis Treize** /trez (Fr trez/ *adj* (characteristic) of the furniture or architecture of the reign of Louis XIII of France [F, Louis XIII]
- 'lounge** /'loʊnj/ *vi* to act or move idly or lazily; loll [origin unknown] – **lounger** *n*
- 'lounge n** **1** a room in a private house for sitting in; **SITTING ROOM** **2** a room in a public building providing comfortable seating; also a waiting room (e.g. at an airport)
- lounge bar** *n*, Br SALOON BAR
- 'lounge suit** *n* a man's suit for wear during the day and on informal occasions
- loupe** /'loʊhp/ *n* a small optical magnifying instrument used esp by jewellers and watchmakers [F, gem of imperfect brilliancy, loupe]
- loup-garou** /'loʊh ga'roʊh (Fr lu ga'ru/ *n*, pl **louns-garous** a werewolf [MF]
- lour** /'loʊw/ *vi* or *n*, chiefly Br 'LOWER – **loury** /'loʊəri/ *adj*, **louring** /'loʊrɪŋ/ *adj*
- louse** /'loʊs/ *n*, pl lice, /lies/, *sense* **2** **louses** **1a** any of various small wingless usu flattened insects parasitic on warm-blooded animals **b** any of several small arthropods that are not parasitic – usu in combination (*book ~*) (*wood ~*) **2** a contemptible person – infml [ME *lous*, fr OE *lus*, akin to OHG *lus* louse, W *llaw* lice]
- louse up** /'loʊs, loʊz/ *vi* to make a mess of, spoil – infml
- 'lousewort** /-wɜ:lt/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the figwort family
- lousy** /'loʊzi/ *adj* **1** infested with lice **2a** very mean, despicable (*a ~ trick to play*) **b** very bad, unpleasant, useless, etc **c** amply or excessively supplied (*~ with money*) (*the place was ~ with police*) **USE** (2) tr, fml – **lously** *adv*, **lousiness** *n*
- lout** /'loʊt/ *n* a rough ill-mannered man or youth [perh fr ON *lútr* bent down, fr *luta* to bow down] – **loutish** /-tɪʃ/ *adj*
- louvre**, **louver** /'loʊvə/ *n* **1** a roof lantern or turret with slatted apertures for the escape of smoke or admission of light **2** an opening provided with 1 or more slanted fixed or movable strips of metal, wood, glass, etc to allow flow of air or sound (e.g. in a bell louvre) but to exclude rain or sun or to provide privacy – CHURCH [ME *lover*, fr MF *lovier*] – **louvered**, **louverd** /'loʊvəd/ *adj*
- lovable** also **loveable** /'loʊvəbl/ *adj* having qualities that deserve love, worthy of love – **lovableness** *n*, **lovably** *adv*
- lovage** /'loʊvɪʃ/ *n* any of several aromatic perennial plants of the carrot family, esp a European plant sometimes cultivated as a herb or flavouring agent [ME *lovache*, fr AF, fr LL *levisticum*, alter of L *ligusticum*, fr neut of *ligusticus* of Liguria (ancient country in SW Europe, now part of Italy), fr *Ligur*-, *Ligus*, *n*, inhabitant of Liguria]
- 'love** /'lʊv/ *n* **1a**(1) strong affection for another (*maternal ~ for a child*) (2) attraction based on sexual desire, strong affection and tenderness felt by lovers **b** an assurance of love (*give her my ~*) **2** warm interest in, enjoyment of, or attraction to sthg (*~ of music*) **3a** the object of interest and enjoyment (*music was his first ~*) **b** a person who is loved, **DEAR** **1a**, also **DEAR** **1b** **4a** unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another **b**(1) the fatherly concern of God for man (2) a person's adoration of God **5** a god or personification of love **6** an amorous episode, **LOVE AFFAIR** (*My Life and Loves* – Frank Harris) **7** a score of zero in tennis, squash, etc **8** SEXUAL INTERCOURSE – euph [ME, fr OE *lufu*, akin to OHG *lupa* love, OE *leof* dear, L *lubere*, *libere* to please, (7) fr the phrase *to play for love* to play for nothing (i.e. without stakes)] – **for love** or **money** in any possible way – usu neg (*couldn't get a ticket for love or money*)
- 'love** *vt* **1** to hold dear, cherish **2a** to feel a lover's passion, devotion, or tenderness for **b**(1) to caress (2) to have sexual intercourse with **3** to like or desire actively, take pleasure in (*~d to play the violin*) **4** to thrive in (*the rose ~s sunlight*) ~ *vi* to feel love or affection or experience desire
- 'love affair** *n* **1** an often temporary romantic attachment between lovers, esp a man and a woman **2** a lively enthusiasm
- 'love apple** *n*, archaic the tomato [prob trans of F *pomme d'amour*]
- 'love bird** /-bɜ:rd/ *n* any of various small usu grey or green parrots that show great affection for their mates
- 'love bite** /-bi:t/ *n* a temporary red mark produced by biting or sucking an area of one's partner's skin, esp the neck, in sexual play
- 'love child** *n* an illegitimate child – euph
- 'love feast** *n* a meal eaten together by a Christian congregation in token of brotherly love
- 'love-in-a-mist** *n* a European garden plant of the buttercup family
- 'love knot** *n* a stylized knot sometimes used as an emblem of love
- 'loveless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** without love (*a ~ marriage*) **2** unloving **3** unloved – **lovelessly** *adv*, **lovelessness** *n*
- 'love-les-bleeding** *n* any of various plants of the amaranth family widely cultivated for their drooping clusters of small usu scarlet or purple flowers
- 'love lock** /-lɒk/ *n* a long lock of hair worn over the shoulder by men in the 17th and 18th c
- 'love lorn** /-lɔ:rn/ *adj* sad because of unrequited love [*lorn* (forsaken),



- fr ME, fr *loren*, pp of *lesen* to lose, fr OE *leosan*) - **lovelornness** *n*
- 'lovely** /'lʊvli/ *adj* 1 delicately or delightfully beautiful 2 very pleasing, fine (< a ~ view) [ME, fr OE *luflic* loving, lovable, fr *lufu* love + *-lic* '-ly'] - **loveliness** *n*, **lovely** *adv*
- 'lovely** *n* a beautiful woman - *infml* (<hello, my ~>)
- 'love, making** /-,maykɪŋ/ *n* 1 courtship 2 sexual activity, esp **SEXUAL INTERCOURSE**
- 'love, match** *n* a marriage or engagement undertaken for love rather than financial or other advantages
- 'love, nest** *n* a small secret flat, room, or house used for conducting a usual illicit sexual relationship
- lover** /'lʊvə/ *n* 1a a person in love b a man with whom a woman has sexual relations, esp outside marriage *c pl* 2 people in love with each other, esp 2 people who habitually have sexual relations 2 **DEVOTEE** 2 (<a ~ of the theatre>)
- lovely** /'lʊvli/ *adj*, *Br* lovely - nonstandard or humor
- 'love, seat** *n* an S-shaped double chair or settee that allows 2 people to sit side by side though facing in opposite directions
- 'love, sick** /-,sɪk/ *adj* languishing with love - **lovesickness** *n*
- love** /'lʊvi/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **LOVE** 3b - *infml*
- loving** /'lʊvɪŋ/ *adj* feeling or showing love, affectionate (< ~ care> (<a ~ glance>) - **lovingly** *adv*
- 'loving, cup** *n* a large ornamental drinking vessel with 2 or more handles that is passed among a group of people for all to drink from
- 'low** /loh/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the deep sustained throat sound characteristic of esp a cow [vb ME *loowen*, fr OE *hlowan*, akin to OHG *hlucen* to moo, L *calare* to call, summon, Gk *kalein*, *n* fr vb]
- 'low** *adj* 1a not measuring much from the base to the top, not high (<a ~ wall>) b situated or passing little above a reference line, point, or plane (< ~ bridges> (<his work was ~ on his list of priorities>) c low-necked 2a situated or passing below the normal level or below the base of measurement (< ~ ground>) b marking a nadir or bottom (<the ~ point of her career>) 3a of sound not shrill or loud, soft b depressed in pitch (<a ~ note>) 4 near the horizon (<it was evening, and the sun was ~>) 5 humble in character or status (<people of ~ birth>) 6a lacking strength, health, or vitality, weak (<he's been very ~ with pneumonia>) b lacking spirit or vivacity, depressed (< ~ spirits>) 7 of less than usual degree, size, amount, or value (< ~ pressure> (<prices are ~ at the moment>) 8a lacking dignity or formality (<a ~ style of writing>) b morally reprehensible (<played a ~ trick on her>) c coarse, vulgar (< ~ language>) 9 unfavourable, disparaging (<had a ~ opinion of him>) 10 of a gear designed for slow speed 11 of a vowel open [ME *lah*, *low*, fr ON *lagr*; akin to MHG *læge* low, flat] **lowness** *n*
- 'low** *n* 1 sthg low e.g. a a depth, nadir (<sales have reached a new ~>) b a region of low atmospheric pressure - **WEATHER** 2 *NAM* **DOT TOM** 4c
- 'low** *adv* at or to a low place, altitude, or degree
- low 'blood, pressure** *n* hypotension
- 'low, born** /-,bɔːn/ *adj* born to parents of low social rank
- 'low, boy** /-,bɔɪ/ *n*, *NAM* a low chest or side table that is supported on short legs
- 'low, bred** /-,bred/ *adj* rude, vulgar
- 'low, brow** /-,braʊ/ *adj* dealing with, possessing, or having unsophisticated or unintellectual tastes, esp in the arts - often *derog* - **low-brow** *n*
- 'Low 'Church** *adj* tending, esp in the Anglican church, to minimize emphasis on the priesthood, sacraments, and ceremonial and often to emphasize evangelical principles - **Low Churchman** *n*
- 'low 'cloud** *n* cloud with an average height of less than 2000m (about 6500ft)
- 'low 'comedy** *n* comedy bordering on farce and depending on physical action and situation rather than wit and characterization
- 'low-cut** *adj* fashioned so as to leave the cleavage or breasts exposed (<she wore a very ~ dress to the party>)
- 'low, down** /-,daʊn/ *n* inside information - *usu* + *the*, *infml*
- 'low, down** *adj* contemptible, base - *infml*
- 'lower, Br chiefly** *lower* /'ləʊə/ *vi* 1 to look sullen, frown 2 to become dark, gloomy, and threatening [ME *lowren*; akin to MHG *luren* to lie in wait] - **lowering** *adj*
- 'lower, Br chiefly** *lower* *n* 1 a lowering look, a frown 2 a gloomy sky or aspect of weather - **lowery** *adj*
- 'lower** /'ləʊə/ *adj* 1 relatively low in position, rank, or order 2 less advanced in the scale of evolutionary development (< ~ organisms>) 3 constituting the popular, more representative, and often (e.g. in Britain) more powerful branch of a legislative body consisting of 2 houses (<the ~
- chamber>) 4a beneath the earth's surface b often *cap* being an earlier division of the named geological period or series (<Lower Carboniferous>)
- 'lower** /'ləʊə/ *vi* to move down; drop, also to diminish ~ *vi* 1a to cause to descend; let down in height (< ~ed the boat over the side of the ship>) (< ~ your aim>) b to reduce the height of (< ~ed the ceiling>) 2a to reduce in value, amount, degree, strength, or pitch (< ~ the price>) (< ~ your voice>) b to bring down; degrade, also to humble (<I wouldn't ~ myself to speak to them>) c to reduce the objective of (< ~ed their sights and accepted less>)
- 'lower 'bound** *n* a number less than or equal to every element of a given set
- 'lower-case** *adj*, of a letter of or conforming to the series (e.g. a, b, c rather than A, B, C) typically used elsewhere than at the beginning of sentences or proper names [fr the compositor's practice of keeping such letters in the lower of a pair of type cases]
- lower case** *n* 1 a type case containing lower-case letters and usu spaces and quads 2 lower-case letters - **ALPHABET**
- 'lower 'criticism** *n* criticism aimed at the restoration of (biblical) texts by comparison of extant manuscripts - compare **HIGHER CRITICISM**
- 'lower 'deck** *n* 1 a deck below the main deck of a ship - **SHIP** 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, chiefly *Br* the petty officers and men of a ship or navy as distinguished from the officers - compare **QUARTERDECK**
- 'Lower 'Forty-eight** *n pl*, *NAM* the 48 states of the USA excluding Alaska
- 'lower 'fungus** *n* a fungus with absent or rudimentary filaments
- 'lower, most** /-,moʊst, -məst/ *adj* lowest
- 'lower, regions** *n pl* hell - *euph*
- 'lower 'school** *n* a school or part of a school for younger pupils
- 'lower 'sixth** *n*, often *cap* **L&S** the first year of a school sixth form
- 'lowest, common denominator** *n* 1 the lowest common multiple of 2 or more denominators 2 sthg (e.g. a level of taste) that typifies or is common, acceptable, or comprehensible to all or the greatest possible number of people - chiefly *derog*
- 'lowest, common 'multiple** *n* the smallest number that is a multiple of each of 2 or more numbers
- 'lowest 'terms** *n pl* the numerator and denominator of a fraction that have no factors in common (<reduce a fraction to ~>)
- 'low 'frequency** *n* a radio frequency in the range between 30 and 300kHz
- 'Low 'German** *n* 1 **Plattddeutsch** 2 the W Germanic languages (e.g. Dutch) other than High German
- 'low-grade** *adj* 1 of inferior grade or quality (< ~ bonds>) 2 being near the lower or least favourable extreme of a range
- 'low-key** also **low-keyed** /kiːd/ *adj* of low intensity, restrained
- Lowland** /'ləʊlənd/ *adj* of the Lowlands of Scotland - **Lowlander** /-,ləndə/ *n*
- 'Low 'Latin** *n* the Latin language in its later stages (e.g. Vulgar or Medieval Latin)
- 'low-level** *adj* 1 occurring, done, or placed at a low level 2 of a computer language having each word, symbol, etc equal to one machine code instruction and being easily understandable to machines
- 'low-loader** *n* a vehicle with a low load-carrying platform
- 'lowly** /'ləʊli/ *adv* 1 in a humble or meek manner 2 in a low position, manner, or degree
- 'lowly** *adj* 1 humble and modest in manner or spirit 2 low in the scale of biological or cultural evolution 3 ranking low in a social or economic hierarchy - **lowliness** *n*
- 'low-lying** *adj* lying below the normal level or surface or below the base of measurement or mean elevation (< ~ clouds>)
- 'low 'mass** *n*, often *cap* **L&M** a mass recited by a single celebrant - compare **HIGH MASS**
- 'low-necked, low-neck** *adj* having a low-cut neckline
- 'low-paid** *adj* receiving a low wage
- 'low-pitched** *adj* 1 of sound not shrill; deep 2 of a roof sloping gently
- 'low 'profile** *n* an inconspicuous mode of operation or behaviour (intended to attract little attention) (<the Government has been keeping a ~ over the disturbances> - *The Guardian*)
- 'low relief** *n* bas-relief
- 'low-rise** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* constructed with only 1 or 2 storeys (<a ~ classroom building>)
- 'low silhouette** *n* **LOW PROFILE**
- 'low-spirited** *adj* dejected, depressed - **low-spiritedly** *adv*, **low-spiritedness** *n*

**Low** /'sʌndei/ *n* the Sunday following Easter

**low-tension** *adj* having a low voltage, *also* relating to apparatus for use at low voltages

**low tide** *n* (the time of) the tide when the water reaches its lowest level

**low water** *n* LOW TIDE

**lox** /lɒks/ *n* liquid oxygen [liquid oxygen]

**loxodrome** /'lɒksəˌdrɒhm/ *n* RHUMB LINE [ISV, back-formation fr *loxodromic*, prob fr (assumed) NL *loxodromicus*, fr Gk *loxos* oblique + *dromos* course] – **loxodromic** /-ˈdrɒmɪk/ *adj*, **loxodromically** *adv*

**loyal** /'lɔɪəl/ *adj* 1 unswerving in allegiance (e.g. to a person, country, or cause); faithful 2 showing such allegiance <her ~ determination to help the party> [MF, fr OF *leial*, *leel*, fr L *legalis* legal] – **loyally** *adv*, **loyalty** /-ti/ *n*

**loyalist** /'lɔɪəlɪst/ *n* sby loyal to a government or sovereign, esp in time of revolt

**lozenge** /'lɒzɪŋ/ *n* 1 (sthg shaped like) a figure with 4 equal sides and 2 acute and 2 obtuse angles 2 a small often medicated sweet [ME *losenge*, fr MF *losange*, fr OF]

**LP** /el/ 'pee/ *n* a gramophone record designed to be played at 33½ revolutions per minute and typically having a diameter of 12in (30.5cm) and a playing time of 20–25min [long playing]

**LSD** /el es/ 'dee/ *n* a drug taken illegally for its potent action in producing hallucinations and altered perceptions [lysergic acid diethylamide]

**lubber** /'lʊbə/ *n* 1 a big clumsy fellow 2 a clumsy seaman [ME *lobre*, *lobur*] – **lubberliness** *n*, **lubberly** *adj* or *adv*

**lubra** /'lʊəbrəh, -brə/ *n*, Austr an Australian aboriginal woman – compare GIN [native name in Tasmania]

**lubricant** /'lʊbrɪkənt/ *n* 1 a substance (e.g. grease or oil) capable of reducing friction, heat, and wear when introduced as a film between solid surfaces 2 sthg that lessens or prevents difficulty – **lubricant** *adj*

**lubricate** /'lʊbrɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to make smooth or slippery 2 to apply a lubricant to ~ *vi* to act as a lubricant [L *lubricatus*, pp of *lubricare*, fr *lubricus* slippery – more at SLEEVF] – **lubricator** *n*, **lubricative** /-kəɪtɪv, -kəɪv/ *adj*, **lubrication** /-kəɪʃən/ *n*

**lubricious** /'lʊbrɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 lecherous, salacious 2 slippery, smooth **USE** fml [(1) ML *lubricus*, fr L, slippery, easily led astray, (2) L *lubricus*] – **lubriciously** *adv*, **lubricity** /'lʊbrɪsəti/ *n*

**lubricious** /'lʊbrɪkɪəs/ *adj* lubricious

**Lucan, Lukan** /'lʊkən/ *adj* of (the Gospel of) Luke [LL *lucanus*, fr *Lucas* Luke, fr Gk *Loukas*]

**Lucayo** /'lʊkɪe-oh/ *n* (the language of) an extinct Arawakan tribe of the Bahamas

**lucent** /'lʊʊks(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 glowing with light, luminous 2 clear, translucent [L *lucent*-, *lucens*, pp of *lucere* to shine – more at LIGHT] – **lucently** *adv*, **lucency** /'lʊʊks(ə)nsɪ/ *n*

**lucerne** *also* **lucern** /'lʊʊsuh/n/ *n*, chiefly Br a deep-rooted European leguminous plant widely grown for fodder [F *luzerne*, fr Prov *luserno*]

**lucid** /'lʊʊsɪd/ *adj* 1 having full use of one's faculties, sane 2 clear to the understanding, plain [L *lucidus*, akin to L *lucere*] – **lucidly** *adv*, **lucidness**, **lucidity** /'lʊʊsɪdəti/ *n*

**Lucifer** /'lʊʊsɪfə/ *n* 1 – used as a name of the devil 2 the planet Venus when appearing as the morning star [ME, the morning star, a fallen rebel archangel, the Devil, fr OE, fr L, the morning star, fr *lucifer* light-bearing, fr *luc*-, *lux* light + *-fer* -ferous – more at LIGHT]

**luciferase** /'lʊʊsɪfəˌreɪz, -reɪs/ *n* an enzyme that catalyses the oxidation of luciferin [ISV, fr *luciferin*]

**luciferin** /'lʊʊsɪfərɪn/ *n* a protein in some organisms (e.g. fireflies and glowworms) that gives out practically heatless light when undergoing oxidation [ISV, fr L *lucifer* light-bearing]

**luck** /lʊk/ *n* 1 whatever good or bad events happen to a person by chance 2 the tendency for a person to be consistently fortunate or unfortunate 3 success as a result of good fortune [ME *lucke*, fr MD *luc*; akin to MHG *gelücke* luck]

**lucky** /'lʊki/ *adj* having, resulting from, or bringing good luck – **luckily** *adv*, **luckiness** *n*

**lucky dip** *n*, Br an attraction (e.g. at a fair) in which articles can be drawn unseen from a receptacle

**lucrative** /'lʊʊkrətɪv/ *adj* producing wealth; profitable [ME *lucratus*, fr MF, fr L *lucratus*, fr *lucrari*, pp of *lucrari* to gain, fr *lucrum*] – **lucratively** *adv*, **lucratively** *n*

**lucres** /'lʊʊkə/ *n* financial gain; profit; *also* money – esp in filthy *lucres* [ME, fr L *lucrum*; akin to OE *lean* reward, OHG *lon*, Gk *leia* booty]

**lucubration** /'lʊʊkɪəˌbreɪʃən/ *n* 1 laborious study or meditation,


esp when done at night 2 studied or pretentious expression in speech or writing **USE** fml [L *lucubration*-, *lucubratus* study by night, work produced at night, fr *lucubratus*, pp of *lucubrare* to work by lamplight, akin to L *luc*-, *lux* light] – **lucubrate** /'lʊʊkɪəˌbreɪt/ *vi*

**Luddite** /'lʊdɪt/ *n* a member of a group of early 19th-c English workmen who destroyed labour-saving machinery as a protest against unemployment, *broadly* sby opposed to change, esp automation [Ned *Ludd* fl 1779 half-witted Leicestershire villager]

**ludicrous** /'lʊʊdɪkrəs/ *adj* 1 amusing because of obvious absurdity or incongruity 2 meriting derision [L *ludicrus*, fr *ludus* play, sport, akin to L *ludere* to play, Gk *ludoros* abusive] – **ludicrously** *adv*, **ludicrousness** *n*

**ludo** /'lʊʊdoh/ *n* a simple game played on a square board with counters and dice in which the first to reach the home square wins [L, 1 play, fr *ludere*]

**lues** /'lʊʊ-eɪz/ *n*, pl **lues** syphilis [NL, fr L, plague, akin to Gk *lyein* to loosen, destroy – more at LOSE] – **luetical** /'lʊʊetɪk/ *adj*, **luetically** /-etɪkli/ *adv*

**luff** /lʊf/ *n* the forward edge of a fore-and-aft sail  SHIP [ME, weather side of a ship, luff, fr MF *lof* weather side of ship]

**luff** *vi* to sail nearer the wind – often + *up*

**luffa** /'lʊfə/ *n* a loofah

**Luftwaffe** /'lʊʊftˌvafə/ *n* the German Air Force just before and during WW II [G, fr *luft* air + *waffe* weapon]

**lug** /lʊg/ *vt* -gg- to drag, pull, or carry with great effort – infml [ME *luggen* to pull by the hair or ear, drag, prob of Scand origin, akin to Norw *lugga* to pull by the hair]

**lug** *n* a lugsail

**lug** *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a handle) that projects like an ear 2 'LAR 1a – chiefly dial or humor [ME (Sc) *lugga* ear, perh fr ME *luggen*]

**luge** /'lʊʊzh/ *n* a small toboggan that is ridden in a supine position and used esp in racing [F]

**luggage** /'lʊʊgi/ *n* (cases, bags, etc. containing) the belongings that accompany a traveller ['LUG + -AGE]

**lugger** /'lʊʊgə/ *n* a small fishing or coasting boat that carries 1 or more lugsails [lugsail]

**lughole** /'lʊʊhoh/ *n*, Br 'LAR 1a – chiefly dial or humor

**lugsail** /'lʊʊsəl, -səl/ *n* a 4-sided fore-and-aft sail attached to an obliquely hanging yard [perh fr 'lug]

**lugubrious** /'lʊʊgʊbrɪəs, -lə-/ *adj* (exaggeratedly or affectedly) mournful [L *lugubris*, fr *lugere* to mourn, akin to Gk *lygros* mournful] – **lugubriously** *adv*, **lugubriousness** *n*

**lugworm** /'lʊʊwʊrm/ *n* any of a genus of marine worms that are used for bait [origin unknown]

**Lukan** /'lʊʊkən/ *adj* Lukan

**Luke** /'lʊʊk/ *n* the 3rd Gospel in the New Testament [L *Lucas*, fr Gk *Loukas*]

**lukewarm** /'lʊʊk'wɔrm/ *adj* 1 moderately warm, tepid 2 lacking conviction; indifferent [ME, fr *luke* tepid + *warm*, akin to OHG *lao* lukewarm – more at LEE] – **lukewarmly** *adv*, **lukewarmness** *n*

**lull** /lʊl/ *vi* 1 to cause to sleep or rest, soothe 2 to cause to relax vigilance, esp by deception [ME *lullen*, prob of imit origin]

**lull** *n* a temporary pause or decline in activity

**lullaby** /'lʊʊləbi/ *n* a song to quieten children or lull them to sleep [obs *lulla*, interj used to lull a child (fr ME) + *bye*, interj used to lull a child, fr ME *by*]

**lulu** /'lʊʊh, lʊʊh/ *n*, chiefly NAm sby or sthg that is remarkable or wonderful [prob fr *Lulu*, nickname for *Louise*]

**lum** /lʊm/ *n*, chiefly Scot a chimney [origin unknown]

**lumbo**, **lumbo** *comb form* lumbar and **lumbosacral** [L *lumbus* loin – more at LOIN]

**lumbago** /'lʊʊmˌbægo/ *n* muscular pain of the lumbar region of the back [L, fr *lumbus*]


**lumbar** /'lʊʊmə/ *adj* of or constituting the loins or the vertebrae between the thoracic vertebrae and sacrum <the ~ region> [NL *lumbaris*, fr L *lumbus*]

**lumber** /'lʊʊmə/ *vi* to move heavily or clumsily [ME *lomenen*]

**lumber** *n* 1 surplus or disused articles (e.g. furniture) that are stored away 2 NAm timber or logs, esp when dressed for use [perh fr *Lombard* (banker, moneylender, pawnshop; fr the prominence of Lombards as moneylenders); fr the use of pawnshops as storehouses of disused property] – **lumber** *adj*

**lumber** *vt* 1 to clutter (as if) with lumber; encumber, saddle <parents, ~ed with the unenviable task of guiding choice – *The Economist*> 2 NAm to cut down and saw the timber of – **lumberer** /'lʊʊmə(r)/ *n*

**'lumberjack** /-jak/ *n* a person engaged in logging

**lumen** /'loohmin/ *n*, *pl* **lumina** /'loohmina/ **lumens** 1 the cavity of a tubular organ (*the ~ of a blood vessel*) 2 the SI unit of luminous flux  **PHYSICS** [NL *lumin*, *lumen*, fr L, light, air shaft, opening] – **luminal** *also* **luminal** /'loohmina/ *adj*

**lumin-**, **lumin-**, **lumino-** *comb form* light (<luminiferous> [ME *lumin-*, fr L *lumin-*, *lumen*])

**luminescence** /'loohminəs/ *n* the luminous intensity of a surface in a given direction per unit of projected area

**luminary** /'loohmin(ə)rɪ/ *n* a source of light or illumination e.g. a natural body that gives light (e.g. the sun or moon) **b** a person brilliantly outstanding in some respect [ME *luminary*, fr MF & LL, MF *luminare* lamp, fr LL *luminaria*, *pl* of *luminare* lamp, heavenly body, fr I, window, fr *lumin-*, *lumen* light, akin to L *lucere* to shine – more at **'LIGHT**] – **luminary** *adj*


**luminesce** /'loohminəs/ *vi* to exhibit luminescence [back-formation fr *luminescent*]

**luminescence** /'loohminəs(ə)ns/ *n* (an emission of) light that occurs at low temperatures and that is produced by physiological processes (e.g. in the firefly), by chemical action, by friction, or by electrical action – **luminescent** /-sənt/ *adj*

**luminiferous** /'loohmi'nifərəs/ *adj* transmitting, producing, or yielding light

**luminosity** /'loohmi'nəsəti/ *n* **1a** being luminous **b** sthg luminous **2a** the relative quantity of light **b** relative brightness of sthg

**luminous** /'loohminəs/ *adj* **1a** emitting or full of light, bright **b** of light or luminous flux **2** easily understood, *also* explaining clearly [MF, fr L *luminosus*, fr *lumin-*, *lumen*] – **luminously** *adv*, **luminousness** *n*

**luminous flux** *n* radiant flux in the visible-wavelength range  **PHYSICS**

**luminous paint** *n* paint containing a phosphorescent compound causing it to glow in the dark

**lumme** /'lumi/ *interj*, *Br* – used to express surprise, infml [contr of *love me* (in the expression *Lord love me!*)]

**lummox** /'luma/ *n* a clumsy person – infml [origin unknown]

**'lump** /lump/ *n* **1** a usu compact piece or mass of indefinite size and shape (<a ~ of coal or sugar>) **2a** an abnormal swelling **b** *HRV* 1 **3** a heavy thickset person, *specif* one who is stupid or dull **4** *Br* the whole group of casual nonunion building workers [ME]

**'lump** *vt* **1** to group without discrimination **2** to make lumps on, in, or of ~ *vi* to become formed into lumps

**'lump** *adj* not divided into parts, entire (<a ~ sum>)

**'lump** *vi* to put up with – chiefly in *like it or lump it*, infml [*lump* (to be sulky, dislike), of imit origin]

**lumpen** /'loompan/ *adj* cut off from the economic and social class with which they might normally be identified (<~ proletarian>) [G *lumpen-proletariat* lowest section of the proletariat, fr *lump* contemptible person (fr *lumpen* rags) + *proletariat*]

**lumpish** /'lumpish/ *adj* **1** dull, sluggish **2** heavy, awkward – **lumpishly** *adv*, **lumpishness** *n*

**lumpy** /'lumpi/ *adj* **1a** filled or covered with lumps **b** characterized by choppy waves **2** having a thickset clumsy appearance – **lumpily** *adv*, **lumpiness** *n*

**lunacy** /'loohnəsi/ *n* **1a** insanity (interrupted by lucid intervals) – not now in technical use **b** insanity amounting to lack of capability or responsibility in law **2** wild foolishness, extravagant folly **3** a foolish act [*lunatic*]

**'luna, moth** /'loohnə/ *n* a large N American moth with crescent-shaped markings and long tails on the hind wings [NL *luna* (specific epithet of *Actias luna*, the luna moth), fr L, moon]

**lunar** /'loohnə/ *adj* **1a** of the moon **b** designed for use on the moon (<~ vehicles>) **2** lunar, *lunate* shaped like a crescent **3** measured by the moon's revolution (<~ month>) [L *lunaris*, fr *luna* moon, akin to L *lucere* to shine – more at **'LIGHT**]

**lunar eclipse** *n* an eclipse in which the moon passes partly or wholly through the earth's shadow

**lunar month** *n* the period of time, averaging 29½ days, between 2 successive new moons

**lunatic** /'loohnətik/ *adj* **1a** insane **b** of or designed for the care of insane people (<a ~ asylum>) **2** wildly foolish [ME *lunatic*, fr OF or LL; OF *lunaticus*, fr LL *lunaticus*, fr L *luna*; fr the belief that lunacy fluctuated with the phases of the moon] – **lunatic** *n*

**lunatic fringe** *n* the extremist or fanatical members of a political or social movement

**lunation** /'looh'naysh(ə)n/ *n* LUNAR MONTH [ME *lunacioun*, fr ML *lunation-*, *lunatio*, fr L *luna*]

**'lunch** /lunch/ *n* (the food prepared for) a light midday meal; *broadly*, *NAm* a light meal [prob short for *luncheon*, fr E dial *luncheon* (a large lump), alter of earlier *lunch* (lump, piece, esp of food), prob alter of *lump*]

**'lunch** *vi* to eat lunch


**luncheon** /'lunch(ə)n/ *n* **1** a midday social gathering at which a formal, usu relatively large, meal is eaten **2** lunch – *fml*

**'luncheon, meat** *n* a precooked mixture of meat (e.g. pork) and cereal shaped in a loaf

**'luncheon, voucher** *n* a voucher given to an employee as a benefit additional to pay and exchangeable for food in some British restaurants or shops

**lune** /'loohn/ *n* a crescent-shaped figure on a plane surface or sphere formed by 2 intersecting arcs [L *luna* moon – more at **'LUNAR**]

**lunette** /'looh'net (Fr *lyn*)t/ *n* sthg (e.g. a window, space above a door, or fortification) shaped like a crescent [F, fr OF *lunete* small object shaped like the moon, fr *lune* moon]

**lung** /lung/ *n* **1** either of the usu paired compound saclike organs in the chest that constitute the basic respiratory organ of air-breathing vertebrates –  **DIGESTION** **2** any of various respiratory organs of invertebrates [ME *lunge*, fr OE *lungen*, akin to OHG *lungen* lung, *lhtu* light in weight – more at **'LIGHT**]

**'lunge** /lunj/ *vb* to make a lunge (with) [by shortening & alter fr obs *allonge* (to make a thrust with a sword), fr F *allonger* to lengthen]

**'lunge** *n* **1** a sudden thrust or forceful forward movement **2** the act of plunging forward

**'lunge** *n* a long rein used to hold and guide a horse in breaking and training [F *longe*, fr OF, fr fem of *long* long, fr L *longus*]

**'lunge** *vi* to guide (a horse) on a lunge in a circular course round the trainer

**-lunged** /-lungd/ *comb form* (<~ *adj*) having a lung or lungs of a specified kind or number (<one-lunged>)

**'lung, fish** /-,fish/ *n* any of various fishes that breathe by a modified air bladder as well as gills

**lungi** /'loong gi/ *n* a usu cotton cloth worn variously as a loincloth, turban, or sash, esp by Indians [Hindi *lungi*, fr Per]

**'lung, wort** /-,wuht/ *n* a European plant of the borage family with usu white-spotted leaves covered in rough hairs, and bluish flowers [fr its being formerly used to treat lung diseases]

**lunisolar** /'loohni'sohlə/ *adj* of or attributed to the moon and the sun [L *luna* moon + E *-i-* + *solar*]

**lunule** /'loohnyooh/ *n* a crescent-shaped body part or marking (e.g. the white mark at the base of a fingernail) [NL *lunula*, fr L, crescent-shaped ornament, fr dim of *luna* moon]

**Lupercalia** /'loohpuh'kaylyə/ *n* an ancient Roman festival celebrated on February 15 to ensure fertility for the people, fields, and flocks [L, *pl*, fr *Lupercus*, god of flocks] – **Lupercalian** /-'kaylyən/ *adj*

**lupin** *also* **lupine** /'loohpin/ *n* **1** any of a genus of leguminous plants some of which are cultivated for fertiliser, fodder, their edible seeds, or their long spikes of variously coloured flowers **2** an edible lupin seed [ME *lupine*, fr L *lupinus*, *lupinum*, fr *lupinus*, *adj*]

**lupine** /'loohpin/ *adj* of or resembling a wolf [L *lupinus*, fr *lupus* wolf – more at **WOOLF**]

**lupus** /'loohpəs/ *n* any of several diseases characterized by skin disorders [ML, fr L, wolf]

**lupus, erythema'tosus** /,erə,thema'tohsəs/ *n* a slowly progressive systemic disease that is marked by degenerative changes of connective tissue, reddish skin lesions, arthritic changes, lesions of internal organs, and wasting [NL, lit., erythematous lupus]

**lupus vul'garis** /'vool'gahrɪs, vul-/ *n* a tuberculous disease of the skin marked by ulceration and scarring [NL, lit., common lupus]

**'lurch** /luhch/ *n* [obs *lurch* (game like backgammon, decisive defeat in this game), fr MF *lourche* deceived] – in the lurch in a vulnerable and unsupported position, deserted – *infml*

**'lurch** *vi* **1** to roll or tip abruptly, pitch **2** to stagger [origin unknown] – **lurch** *n*

**lurcher** /'luhchə/ *n* any of several types of swift-running dogs that are crosses between greyhound and whippet and another breed (e.g. the collie or terrier) [E dial. *lurch* (to prowl), fr ME *lorchen*, prob alter of *lurken* to lurk]

**'lure** /lyooə, looə/ *n* **1** a bunch of feathers and other meat attached to a long cord and used by a falconer to recall his/her bird **2a** sby or sthg used to entice or decoy **b** the power to appeal or attract (<the ~ of success>)

- 3** a decoy for attracting animals to capture [ME, fr MF *loire*, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *luoder* bait; akin to OE *lathian* to invite, OHG *ladon*]
- lure** *vi* **1** to recall (a hawk) by means of a lure **2** to tempt with a promise of pleasure or gain
- Luror** /'lyoooreks/ *trademark* - used for a type of thread which is (partly) coated so as to give a metallic appearance
- lurid** /'lyooorid/ *adj* **1** wan and ghastly pale in appearance **2a** causing horror or revulsion, gruesome **b** sensational (~ newspaper reports of the crime) **c** highly coloured; gaudy [L *lurdus* pale yellow, sallow] - **luridly** *adv*, **luridness** *n*
- lurk** /luhk/ *vi* **1a** to lie hidden in wait, esp with evil intent **b** to move furtively or inconspicuously **2** to lie hidden, esp to be a hidden threat [ME *lurken*; akin to MHG *luren* to lie in wait - more at **lower**] - **lurker** *n*
- luscious** /'lushas/ *adj* **1** having a delicious taste or smell **2** having sensual appeal, seductive **3** richly luxurious or appealing to the senses; also excessively ornate [ME *lucus*, perh alter of *lucius*, short for *delicious*] - **lusciously** *adv*, **lusciousness** *n*
- lush** /'lush/ *adj* **1** producing or covered by luxuriant growth (~ grass) (~ pastures) **2** opulent, sumptuous [ME *lusch* soft, tender] - **lushly** *adv*
- lush** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a heavy drinker; an alcoholic [origin unknown]
- lust** /'lust/ *n* **1** strong sexual desire, esp as opposed to love **2** an intense longing, a craving [ME, pleasure, appetite, sexual desire, fr OE, akin to OHG *lust* pleasure, L *lascivus* wanton] - **lustful** *adj*
- lust** *vi* to have an intense (sexual) desire or craving
- lustral** /'lustral/ *adj* purificatory [L *lustralis*, fr *lustrum*]
- lustrate** /'lustrayt/ *vi* to purify ceremonially [L *lustratus*, pp of *lustrare* to brighten, purify] - **lustration** /'lu'straysh(ə)n/ *n*
- lustre**, *NAm* chiefly *luster* /'lusta/ *n* a lustrum
- lustre**, *NAm* chiefly *luster* *n* **1** (the quality of) the glow of reflected light from a surface (e.g. of a mineral) **2a** a glow of light (as if) from within **b** radiant beauty **3** glory, distinction **4** a glass pendant used esp to ornament a chandelier **5** a lustrous fabric with cotton warp and a wool, mohair, or alpaca weft [MF, fr OIt *lusto*, fr *lustrare* to shine, fr L] - **lustreless** *adj*
- lustre**, *NAm* chiefly *luster* *vi* to give lustre or distinction to - **lustring** *n*
- lustreware** /-weə/ *n* ceramic ware decorated with an iridescent glaze
- lustrous** /'lustras/ *adj* evenly shining (a ~ satin) (the ~ glow of an opal) - **lustrously** *adv*
- lustrum** /'lustrəm/ *n*, pl **lustrums**, *lustra* /'lustra/ a period of 5 years [L, purification of the Roman people made every 5 years after the census; akin to L *lustrare* to brighten, purify]
- lusty** /'lusti/ *adj* **1** full of vitality, healthy **2** full of strength, vigorous ['lust + -y] - **lustily** *adv*, **lustiness** *n*
- lute** /'looht/ *n* a stringed instrument with a large pear-shaped body, a neck with a fretted fingerboard, and pairs of strings tuned in unison [ME, fr MF *lut*, fr OProv *laut*, fr Ar *al-'ud*, lit, the wood]
- lute**-, **luteo**- *comb form* yellowish [L *luteolus*] [L *luteus*]
- lute**-, **luteo**- *comb form* corpus luteum [L *luteotrophic*] [NL (*corpus luteum*)]
- luteal** /'loohti-əl/ *adj* of or involving the corpus luteum
- lutein-ize** /'loohti-niez/, -teeniez/, -ise *vb* to produce or become corpora lutea - **luteinization** /'loohti-mie'zaysh(ə)n/, -teen-/
- luteinizing hormone** *n* a hormone from the front lobe of the pituitary gland that in the female stimulates the development esp of corpora lutea and in the male interstitial tissue of the testis
- lutenist** /'loohtinist/, **lutaniat** /-tən-/ *n* a lute player [ML *lutanista*, fr *lutana* lute, prob fr MF *lut*]
- luteotrophic** /'loohti-ə'trofik/, -trohfik/ *adj* promoting the growth of corpora lutea
- luteotrophic hormone** *n* prolactin
- luteotrophin** /-trohfin/ *n* prolactin [L *luteotrophic* + -in]
- luteotropin** /-trohpin/ *n* prolactin
- luteous** /'loohti-əs/ *adj* greenish or brownish yellow [L *luteus* yellowish, fr *lutum*, a plant used for dyeing yellow]
- lutetium** also **lutecium** /'looht'eesh(y)əm/ *n* a metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Lutetia*, ancient name of Paris, city in France]
- Lutheran** /'loohtəran/ *n* a member of a Lutheran church
- Lutheran** *adj* relating to religious doctrines (e.g. justification by faith alone) or Protestant churches derived from Martin Luther or his followers [Martin Luther †1546 G religious reformer] - **Lutheranism** *n*
- lutz** /'loots/ *n* a jump in ice-skating from one skate with a complete turn in the air and a return to the other skate [prob irreg fr Gustave Luzzi b 1898 Swiss figure skater, its inventor]
- lux** /'luks/ *n*, pl **lux**, **luxes** the SI unit of illumination  PHYSICS [L, light - more at **light**]
- luxate** /'luksayt/ *vi* to dislocate [L *luxatus*, pp of *luxare*, fr *luxus* dislocated - more at **locate**] - **luxation** /'luk'saysh(ə)n/ *n*
- luxuriant** /'lug'zhoori-ənt/ *adj* **1** characterized by abundant growth **2a** exuberantly rich and varied, prolific **b** richly or excessively ornamented (~ prose) - **luxuriance** *n*, **luxuriantly** *adv*
- luxuriate** /'lug'zhoori-ayt/ *vi* to enjoy oneself consciously, revel - often + *in* [L *luxuriatus*, pp of *luxuriare*, fr *luxuria*]
- luxurious** /'lug'zhoori-əs/ *adj* **1** fond of luxury or self-indulgence, also voluptuous **2** characterized by opulence and rich abundance - **luxuriously** *adv*, **luxuriousness** *n*
- luxury** /'lukshəri/ *n* **1** great ease or comfort based on habitual or liberal use of expensive items without regard to cost (lived in ~) **2a** sthg desirable but costly or difficult to obtain **b** sthg relatively expensive adding to pleasure or comfort but not indispensable [ME *luxurie*, fr MF, fr L *luxuria* rankness, luxury, excess, akin to L *luxus* luxury, excess]
- lwe** /'lway/ *n*  Angola at NATIONALITY [of Bantu origin]
- ly** /-li/ *suffix* (- → *adv*) **1** like in appearance, manner, or nature, having the characteristics of (queenly) (fatherly) **2** recurring regularly at intervals of; every (hourly) (daily) [ME, fr OE *-lic*, *-lic*, akin to OHG *-lih*, both fr a prehistoric Gmc noun represented by OE *lic* body - more at **like**]
- ly** *suffix* (- → *adv*) **1** in (such) a manner (slowly), like (kingly) **2** from (such) a point of view (musically speaking) **3** with respect to (partly) **4** as is (specified), it is (specified) that (naturally) (regrettably) **5** speaking (in a specified way) (frankly) (briefly) [ME, fr OE *-lice*, *-lice*, fr *-lic*, *adj* suffix]
- lycaenid** /'lie'seimid/ *n* any of a family of medium-sized often brilliantly coloured butterflies (e.g. the blues or coppers) [deriv of NL *Lycaena*, genus of butterflies, fr Gk *lykaina*, fem of *lykos* wolf]
- lycanthrope** /'liekən'trohp/, **lie'kanthrohp** / *n* **1** a person displaying lycanthropy **2** a werewolf [NL *lycanthropus*, fr Gk *lykanthropos* werewolf, fr *lykos* wolf + *anthropos* man - more at **wolf**]
- lycanthropy** /'lie'kanthropi/ *n* **1** a delusion that one has become a wolf **2** the change from a human being into a wolf, held to be possible by witchcraft or magic - **lycanthropic** /'liekən'trohpik/ *adj*
- lycée** /'leesay/ (Fr *lise*) / *n* a French public secondary school [F, fr MF, hall for public lectures, fr L *Lyceum*, gymnasium near Athens where Aristotle taught, fr Gk *Lykeion*, fr neut of *lykeios*, epithet of Apollo, god of poetry]
- lychee** /'liechi/ *n* a litchi
- lych-gate** /'lich/ *n* a roofed gate in a churchyard traditionally used as resting place for a coffin during part of a burial service [ME *lycheyate*, fr *lich* body, corpse (fr OE *lic*) + *gate*, *yate* gate]
- lychnis** /'liknis/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the pink family [NL, genus name, fr L, a red flower, fr Gk, akin to Gk *lychnos* lamp, L *lux* light - more at **light**]
- lycopod** /'liekə,pod/ *n* LYCOPODIUM **1**, broadly CLUB MOSS [NL *Lycopodium*]
- lycopodium** /'liekə'pohdi-əm/ *n* **1** any of a large genus of erect or creeping club mosses with evergreen l-nerved leaves **2** a fine yellowish powder of lycopodium spores used in pharmacy and as a component of fireworks and flashlight powders [NL, genus name, fr Gk *lykos* wolf + *podion*, dim of *pod*-, *pous* foot - more at **foot**]
- Lycra** /'liekra/ *trademark* - used for a synthetic stretchy yarn made from polyurethane and used chiefly in corsetry and swimwear
- lyddite** /'lidi:t/ *n* a high explosive composed chiefly of picric acid [Lydd, town in England]
- lye** /'lie/ *n* a strong alkaline liquid rich in potassium carbonate, leached from wood ashes, and used esp in making soap, broadly a strong alkaline solution [ME, fr OE *leag*; akin to OHG *louga* lye, L *lavare*, *lavere* to wash, Gk *louein*]
- lying-in** /'lie-ing/ *n*, pl **lyings-in**, **lying-ins** confinement for childbirth
- lying in state** *n* (the period of) the ceremonial display of (a coffin containing) the dead body of sb of high rank to which people may pay their last respects
- lymph** /'limf/ *n* a pale fluid resembling blood plasma that contains white blood cells but normally no red blood cells, that circulates in the



unsubstantiated charges against individuals [Joseph R McCarthy †1957 US politician] – **McCarthyist** *n*

**McCoy** /mə'kɔɪ/ *n* sth that is neither imitation nor substitute – usu in the *real McCoy* [alter. of *MacKay* (in the phrase *the real MacKay* the true chief of the MacKay clan, a position often disputed)]

**mace** /meɪs/ *n* 1 a medieval heavy spiked staff or club 2 an ornamental staff used as a symbol of authority [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *matia*, akin to OHG *medela* plough, L *mateola* mallet]

**mace** *n* an aromatic spice consisting of the dried external fibrous covering of a nutmeg [ME, fr MF *macis*, fr L *macis*, an East Indian spice, fr Gk *makir*]

**Mace** *trademark* – used for a riot control agent containing tear gas  
**macédoine** /ˌmasə'dwahn, 'masədoɪn/ *n* a mixture of fruits or vegetables served sometimes in jelly as a salad, cocktail, or garnish [F, fr *Macédoine* Macedonia, region of S Europe, perh fr the mixture of races in Macedonia]

**macerate** /ˌmasə'reɪt/ *vt* 1 to cause to waste away (as if) by excessive fasting 2 to cause to become soft or separated into constituent elements (as if) by steeping in fluid ~ *vi* to soften and wear away, esp as a result of being wetted [L *maceratus*, pp of *macerare* to soften, steep] – **macerator** *n*, **maceration** /ˌmasə'reɪʃən/ *n*

**Mach** /mak, mahk/ *n* MACH NUMBER (an aeroplane flying at ~ 2)  
**machete** /mə'sheɪ, 'chayti/ *n* a large heavy knife used for cutting vegetation and as a weapon [Sp]

**Machiavellian** /ˌmaki-ə'vel-i-ən/ *adj* cunning and deceitful [Niccolò Machiavelli †1527 It statesman & political theorist]

**Machiavellianism** /ˌnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the political theory of Machiavelli, esp the view that the necessities of the State transcend individual morality

**machicolation** /ˌmɑːtʃɪkə'ləɪʃən/ *n* an opening between the corbels of a projecting parapet or in the floor of a gallery or roof of a portal for discharging missiles upon assailants below – CHURCH [ML *machicolatus*, pp of *machicolare* to furnish with machicolations, fr OF *machicoller*, fr *machicolis* machicolation, fr *macher* to crush + *col* neck, fr L *collum* – more at *collar*], – **machicolate** /ˌtʃɪkə'ləɪt/ *vt*

**machinate** /ˌmakinəɪt/ *vi* to plan or plot, esp to do harm [L *machinatus*, pp of *machinari*, fr *machina* machine, contrivance] – **machinator** *n*

**machination** /ˌmaki'nayʃən/ *n* a scheming or crafty action or plan intended to accomplish some usu evil end [MACHINATE + -ION]

**machine** /mə'sheen/ *n* 1a a combination of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy one to another in a predetermined manner (a sewing ~) b an instrument (e.g. a lever or pulley) designed to transmit or modify the application of power, force, or motion c a combination of mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated parts for performing a task d a coin-operated device e machinery – + *the* or in pl <humanity must not become the servant of the ~> 2a a person or organization that acts like a machine b the (controlling or inner) organization (e.g. of a group or activity) <the war ~> c a highly organized political group [MF, structure, fabric, fr L *machina*, fr Gk *mēchanē* (Doric dial *machana*), fr *mēchos* means, expedient – more at *MAY*]

**machine** *vt* 1 to shape, finish, or operate on by a machine 2 to act on, produce, or perform a particular operation or activity on, using a machine; esp to sew using a sewing machine (<~ the zip in place>) – **machinable** *also* **machineable** *adj*

**machine code** *n* a system of symbols and rules for coding information in a form usable by a machine (e.g. a computer), also information so coded

**machine gun** *n* an automatic gun for rapid continuous fire – **machine-gun** *vb*, **machine gunner** *n*

**machine-readable** *adj* directly usable by a computer (<~ text>)

**machinery** /mə'sheen(ə)n/ *n* 1a machines in general or as a functioning unit b the working parts of a machine 2 the means by which sth is kept in action or a desired result is obtained 3 the system or organization by which an activity or process is controlled

**machine tool** *n* a usu power-driven machine designed for cutting or shaping wood, metal, etc

**machinist** /mə'sheenɪst/ *n* 1 a craftsman skilled in the use of machine tools 2 one who operates a machine, esp a sewing machine

**machismo** /mə'kɪzmoh, -'chɪz-/ *n* an exaggerated awareness and assertion of masculinity [MexSp, fr Sp *macho* male]

**Mach number**, **Mach** *n* a number representing the ratio of the speed of a body to the speed of sound in the surrounding atmosphere (<a ~ of 2 indicates a speed that is twice that of sound>) [Ernst Mach †1916 Austrian physicist]

**macho** /ˈmɑːchoh, 'mahchoh, -koh/ *adj* aggressively virile [Sp, male, fr L *masculus* – more at *MALE*]

**mack** /mak/ *n*, *Br* a raincoat – *infrm* [short for *mackintosh*]

**mackerel** /ˌmak(ə)rəl/ *n*, *pl* **mackerels**, esp collectively **mackerel** a fish of the N Atlantic that is green with dark blue bars above and silvery below and is one of the most important food fishes, also any of various usu small or medium-sized related fishes – CYCLE [ME *makerel*, fr OF]

**mackerel shark** *n* the porbeagle

**mackerel sky** *n* a sky covered with rows of altocumulus or cirrocumulus clouds

**mackintosh** also **macintosh** /ˌmakɪntəʃ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a raincoat [Charles Macintosh †1843 Sc chemist & inventor]

**macle** /makl/ *vb* to blur [F *macule* spot, stain, fr L *macula*]

**macle** /makl/ *n* 1WIN 3 [F, wide-meshed net, lozenge, macle, fr OF, mesh, lozenge, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *masca* mesh – more at *MESH*]

**macro-**, **macro-** *comb form* 1 long <macrodiagonal> <macrobiotic> 2 large <macrospore> 3 including or more comprehensive than <Macro-Ge> used of a language group [F & L, fr Gk *makr-*, *makro-* long, fr *makros* – more at *MEAGRE*]

**macrame**, **macrame** /mə'kraɦmi/ *n* (the act of making) a coarse lace or fringe made by knotting threads or cords in a geometrical pattern [F or It, F *macrame*, fr It *macramé*, fr Turk *makrama* napkin, towel, fr Ar *migramah* embroidered veil]

**macro** /ˌmakrəh/ *n*, *pl* **macros** a single computer instruction that stands for a sequence of operations [short for *macroinstruction*]

**macrobiotic** /ˌmakrəbi'ɒtɪk, -kroɦ-/ *adj* of or being a restricted diet, esp one consisting chiefly of whole grains or whole grains and vegetables, that is usu undertaken with the intention of promoting health and prolonging life

**macrocephalous** /ˌmakrəh'sefələs/, **macrocephalic** /-sɪ'fəlɪk/ *adj* having or being an exceptionally large head or cranium [F *macrocephale*, fr Gk *makrokephalos* having a long head, fr *makr-* + *kephale* head – more at *CEPHALIC*] – **macrocephaly** *n*

**macroclimate** /ˌmakrəh'kliemət/ *n* the predominant or normal climate of a large region

**macrocosm** /ˌmakrə'koz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the universe 2 a complex that is a large-scale reproduction of 1 of its constituents [F *macrocosme*, fr ML *macrocosmos*, fr L *makr-* + Gk *kosmos* order, universe] – **macrocosmic** /ˌmakrə'kɒzmɪk/ *adj*, **macrocosmically** *adv*

**macroeconomics** /ˌmakrəh'ekə'nɒmɪks, -eekə-/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in constr a study of large-scale economics (e.g. of a nation) compare *MICROECONOMICS* – **macroeconomic** *adj*

**macro-molecule** /ˌmɑːləkyoʊl/ *n* a large molecule (e.g. of a protein or rubber) built up from smaller chemical structures [ISV] **macromolecular** /-mə'lekyoʊl/ *adj*

**macron** /ˌmakrən/ *n* a mark used over a vowel or syllable to indicate a long or stressed sound – SYMBOL [Gk *makron*, neut of *makros* long]

**macronutrient** /ˌmakrəh'nyooɦtɪ-ənt/ *n* a nutrient element of which relatively large quantities are essential to the growth and welfare of a plant – compare *TRACE ELEMENT*

**macrophage** /-ˌfayj, -ˌfahz/ *n* any of various large cells that are distributed throughout the body tissues, ingest foreign matter and debris, and may be attached to the fibres of a tissue or mobile [F, fr *makr-* + *-phage*] – **macrophagic** /-ˌfajɪk/ *adj*

**macroscopic** /-ˌskɒpɪk/ also **macroscopical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 large enough to be observed by the naked eye 2 considered in terms of large units or elements [ISV *makr-* + *-scopic* (as in *microscopic*)] – **macroscopically** *adv*

**macro-structure** /-ˌstrʊktʃə/ *n* the structure of a metal, body part, the soil, etc revealed by visual examination with little or no magnification – **macrostructural** /-ˌstrʊktʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj*

**macula** /ˌmɑːkyoʊlə/ *n*, *pl* **maculae** /-li/ also **maculas** 1 a blotch, spot, esp a macule 2 an anatomical structure (e.g. the macula lutea) having the form of a spot differentiated from surrounding tissues [L] – **macular** *adj*

**macula lutea** /ˌlooɦti-ə/ *n*, *pl* **maculae luteae** /-ti-ee/ a small yellowish area lying slightly to the side of the centre of the retina that constitutes the region of best vision [NL, lit., yellow spot]

**maculation** /ˌmɑːkyoo'layʃən/ *n* the arrangement of spots and markings on an animal or plant

**macule** /ˌmɑːkyoʊl/ *n* a patch of skin altered in colour but usu not raised that is a characteristic feature of various diseases (e.g. smallpox) [F, fr L *macula*]



**mad** /mad/ *adj* 1 mentally disordered, insane – not now used technically 2 utterly foolish, senseless 3 carried away by intense anger 4 carried away by enthusiasm or desire 5 affected with rabies 6 intensely excited or distraught, frantic 7 marked by intense and often chaotic activity <made a ~ dash for cover> [ME *medd*, *madd*, fr OE *gemed*, pp of (assumed) *gemedan* to madden, fr *gemad* silly, mad, akin to OHG *gimet* foolish, crazy, Skt *methati* he hurts] – like **mad** very hard, fast, loud, etc <shouted like mad>

**madam** /madəm/ *n*, *pl* **madams**, (1) **mesdames** /may.dəm/ 1 a lady – used without a name as a form of respectful or polite address to a woman 2 a mistress – used as a title formerly with the Christian name but now with the surname or esp with a designation of rank or office <Madam Chairman> <Madam President> 3 a female brothel keeper 4 Br a conceited pert young lady or girl <a little ~> [ME, fr OF *ma dame*, lit. my lady]

**madame** /madəm, (Fr *madam*)/ *n*, *pl* **mesdames** /may.dəm/ – used as a title equivalent to *Mrs* preceding the name of a married woman not of English-speaking nationality or used without a name as a generalized term of direct address [F, fr OF *ma dame*]

**madcap** /mad.kap/ *adj* marked by impulsiveness or recklessness – **madcap** *n*

**madden** /madn/ *vt* 1 to drive mad, craze 2 to exasperate, enrage

**madder** /mada/ *n* 1 a Eurasian plant with whorled leaves and small yellowish flowers 2 (a dye prepared from) the root of the madder [ME, fr OE *mædere*, akin to OHG *matara* madder]

**made** /mayd/ *adj* 1 assembled or prepared, esp by putting together various ingredients <~ mustard> 2 assured of success <you've got it ~> – **infirm** [ME, fr pp of *maken* to make]

**Madeira** /mə'diərə/ *n* any of several fortified wines from Madeira [Pg, fr *Mader* – *Kladys* in F Atlantic]

**madeira cake** *n*, *often cap*, Br a very rich sponge cake

**mademoiselle** /madmwə'zel (Fr *madmwazi*)/ *n*, *pl* **mademoiselles**, **mesdemoiselles** /maydmwə'zel (Fr *mdmwazi*)/ 1 an unmarried French-speaking girl or woman – used as a title equivalent to *Miss* for an unmarried woman not of English-speaking nationality 2 a French governess or female language teacher [F, fr OF *ma damoisele*, lit. my (young) lady]

**made-to-measure** *adj*, *of a garment* made according to an individual's measurements in order to achieve a good fit – compare **off-the-peg**

**made-up** *adj* 1 wearing make-up 2 fancifully conceived or falsely devised, fictional 3 fully assembled 4 *of a road* covered in tarmac

**madhouse** /mad.həʊz/ *n* 1 a lunatic asylum – not used technically 2 a place of uproar or confusion

**madly** /-li/ *adv* to a degree suggestive of madness e.g. a with great energy, frantically b without restraint, passionately

**madman** /-mən/, *fem* **madwoman** *n* a person who is or acts insane

**madness** /-nis/ *n* 1a insanity b extreme folly 2 any of several ailments of animals marked by frenzied behaviour, specif rabies [MAD + -NESS]

**Madonna** /mə'dona/ *n* VIRGIN MARY [It, fr Olt *ma donna*, lit. my lady]

**Madonna, lily** *n* a white lily with trumpet-shaped flowers

**madras** /mə'dras, -drahs/ *n* a fine usu cotton plain-woven shirting and dress fabric, usu in brightly coloured checked or striped designs [Madras, city in India]

**madrepore** /,madrɪ'paw/ *n* any of various reef-building corals of tropical seas [F *madrepore*, fr It *madrepora*, fr *madre* mother (fr L *mater*) + *poro* pore (fr L *porus*) – more at **MOTHER**] – **madreporian** /-pawri-ən/ *adj* or *n*, **madreporic** /-pɒrɪk/ *adj*

**madrigal** /'madrɪg(ə)l/ *n* 1 a short medieval love poem 2 an unaccompanied and often complex secular song for several voices [It: *adrigale*, fr ML *matricale*, fr neut of (assumed) *matricalis* simple, fr LL, of the womb, fr L *matric-*, *matrix* womb] – **madrigalian** /,madrɪ'gali-ən/ *adj*

**maduro** /mə'dyoʊroʊh/ *n*, *pl* **maduros** a dark-coloured relatively strong cigar [Sp, fr *maduro* ripe, fr L *maturus* – more at **MATURE**]

**Maccenas** /mie'seenas/ *n* a generous patron, esp of literature or art [L, fr Gaius *Maccenas* 1st bc Roman statesman & patron of literature]

**maelstrom** /maylstrɒhm/ *n* 1 a powerful whirlpool 2 sthg resembling a maelstrom in turbulence and violence [obs D (now *maelstrom*), fr *malen* to grind + *strom* stream; akin to OHG *malan* to grind, *strom* stream – more at **STREAM**]

**maenad** /'meenad/ *n* 1 a female participant in ritual orgies in honour of Dionysus 2 a distraught woman [L *maenad-*, *maenas*, fr Gk *mainad-*, *mainas*, fr *mainesthai* to be mad, akin to Gk *menos* spirit – more at **MIND**] – **maenadic** /,mee'nadɪk/ *adj*

**maestro** /'miestroh/ *n*, *pl* **maestros**, **maestri** /-tri/ a master in an art; esp

an eminent composer, conductor, or teacher of music [It, lit., master, fr L *magister* – more at **MASTER**]

**Mae West** /may 'west/ *n* an inflatable life jacket [Mae West †1980 US actress noted for her full figure]

**Mafia** /mafɪ-ə/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a secret society of Sicilian political terrorists 2 an organized secret body originating in Sicily and prevalent esp in the USA that controls illicit activities (e.g. vice and narcotics) 3 *often not cap* an excessively influential coterie of a usu specified kind <the literary ~> [It, fr It dial., boldness, bragging]

**mafioso** /mafɪ'ohzoh/ *n*, *pl* **mafiosi** /-si/ a member of the Mafia [It, fr *Mafia*]

**mag** /mag/ *n* a magazine – **infirm**

**magazine** /,maga'zeen, -/-/ *n* 1 a storeroom for arms, ammunition, or explosives (e.g. gunpowder) 2a a usu illustrated periodical, bound in paper covers, containing miscellaneous pieces by different authors b a television or radio programme containing a number of usu topical items, often without a common theme 3 a supply chamber e.g. a a holder from which cartridges can be fed into a gun chamber automatically b a lightproof chamber for films or plates in a camera or for film in a film projector [MF, fr OProv, fr Ar *makhāzin*, pl of *makhzan* storehouse]

**magdalen** /'magdalan/ *n*, *often cap* 1 a reformed prostitute 2 a home for reformed prostitutes [Mary *Magdalen* or *Magdalene*, woman healed by Jesus of evil spirits (Lk 8 2), identified with a reformed prostitute (Lk 7 36–50)]

**Magdalenian** /,magda'leenyən, -ni-ən/ *adj* of the latest Palaeolithic culture in Europe characterized by implements of flint, bone, and ivory and by cave paintings [F *magdalénien*, fr La *Madeleine*, rock shelter in SW France]

**magenta** /mə'jenta/ *n* 1 fuchsine 2a a deep purplish red b a pinkish red – used in photography with reference to one of the primary colours [Magenta, town in Italy]

**maggot** /'magat/ *n* a soft-bodied legless grub that is the larva of a 2-winged fly (e.g. the housefly) [ME *mathek*, *maddok*, *magotte*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *matthkr* maggot, akin to OE *matha* maggot] – **maggoty** *adj*

**magi** /'mayje/ *pl* of **MAGUS**

**'magic** /'majɪk/ *n* 1 (rites, incantations, etc used in) the art of invoking supernatural powers to control natural forces by means of charms, spells, etc 2a an extraordinary power or influence producing results which defy explanation b sthg that seems to cast a spell <the ~ of the voice> 3 the art of producing illusions by sleight of hand [ME *magik*, fr MF *magique*, fr L *magicus*, fr Gk *magike*, fem of *magikos* of the Magi, magical, fr *magos* mag is, sorcerer, of Iranian origin, akin to OPer *mogush* sorcerer]

**²magic** *adj* 1 of, being, or used in magic 2 having seemingly supernatural qualities 3 – used as a general term of approval, *infirm* <this new record is really ~> – **magical** *adj*, **magically** *adv*

**³magic** *vt* -ek- to affect, influence, or take away (as if) by magic

**magic 'eye** *n* PHOTOLECTRIC CELL

**magician** /mə'jɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 one skilled in magic 2 a conjurer

**magic 'lantern** *n* an early device for the projection of still pictures from slides

**magic 'square** *n* a square array of numbers in which the sum of each vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row is the same

**'Maginot, Line** /mə'zɪnoh, (Fr *mazino*)/ *n* a line of defensive fortifications built in NE France before WW II [André *Maginot* †1932 F minister of war]

**magisterial** /majɪ'stɪəri-əl/ *adj* 1a of, being, or having the characteristics of a master or teacher b having mastery skill 2 of a magistrate [LL *magisterialis* of authority, fr *magisterium* office of a master, fr *magister*] – **magisterially** *adv*


**magistral** /majɪ'strəl/ *adj* (characteristic) of a master, **MAGISTERIAL** 1a [LL *magistratus*, fr *magistr-*, *magister*] – **magistrally** *adv*

**magistrate** /majɪ'straɪt, -strət/ *n* a civil legislative or executive official e.g. a a principal official exercising governmental powers b a paid or unpaid local judicial officer who presides in a magistrates' court LAW [ME *magistrat*, fr L *magistratus* magistracy, magistrate, fr *magistr-*, *magister* master, political superior – more at **MASTER**] – **magistracy** /-strəsi/ *n*, **magistrature** /-strə'tʃə/ *n*, **magistratical** /majɪ'strətɪkəl/ *adj*

**magistrate's court** *n* a court of summary jurisdiction for minor criminal cases and preliminary hearings LAW

**Maglemosien** /,magli'mohsi-ən, -sh(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (of) an early Mesolithic culture characterized by lakeside settlements and fishing implements [Maglemose, site in Denmark]

**magma** /'magma/ *n* 1 a thin pasty suspension (e.g. of a precipitate in water) 2 molten rock material within the earth from which an igneous

rock results by cooling  **GEOGRAPHY** [L *magmat-*, *magma* dregs, fr Gk, thick unguent, fr *massein* to knead – more at **MINGIE**] – **magmatic** /mag'matik/ *adj*


**Magna Carta** *also* **Magna Charta** /magnə 'kɑ:tə/ *n* 1 a charter of liberties to which the English barons forced King John to assent in 1215 2 a document constituting a fundamental guarantee of rights and privileges [ML, lit., great charter]

**magnanimous** /mag'naniməs/ *adj* 1 showing or suggesting a lofty and courageous spirit 2 showing or suggesting nobility of feeling and generosity of mind; not subject to petty feelings [L *magnanimus*, fr *magnus* great + *animus* spirit – more at **MUCH**, **ANIMATE**] – **magnanimously** *adv*, **magnanimity** /mag'nəniməti/ *n*

**magnate** /magnayt/ *n* a person of wealth or influence, often in a specified area of business or industry [ME *magnates*, pl, fr LL, fr L *magnus*]

**magnesia** /mag'neezh(y)ə, -zyə/ *n* 1 a white oxide of magnesium used esp in making cements, insulation, fertilizers, and rubber, and in medicine as an antacid and mild laxative 2 magnesium [NL, fr *magnes carneus*, a white earth, lit., flesh magnet] – **magnesian** *adj*

**magnesite** /magnə'siet/ *n* magnesium carbonate occurring as a mineral and used esp as a refractory

**magnesium** /mag'neezyəm/ *n* a silver-white bivalent metallic element that burns with an intense white light, is lighter than aluminium, and is used in making light alloys  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr *magnesia*]


**magnet** /magnit/ *n* 1a **LODESTONE** 1 b a body (of iron, steel, etc) that has an (artificially imparted) magnetic field external to itself and attracts iron 2 sthg that attracts [ME *magnete*, fr MF, fr L *magnet-*, *magnes*, fr Gk *magnēs* (*lithos*), lit., stone of Magnesia, ancient city in Asia Minor]

**magnet-, magneto-** *comb form* magnetic force; magnetism, magnetic [magnetoelectric] (magneton) [L *magnet-*, *magnes*]

**magnetic** /mag'netik/ *adj* 1a of magnetism or a magnet 1b (capable of being) magnetized 2 working by magnetic attraction 3 possessing an extraordinary power or ability to attract or charm – **magnetically** *adv*

**magnetic equator** *n* **ACLINIC LINE**

**magnetic field** *n* a region of space (near a body possessing magnetism or carrying an electric current) in which magnetic forces can be detected

**magnetic flux** *n* lines of force used to represent magnetic induction  **PHYSICS**


**magnetic needle** *n* a slender bar of magnetized iron, steel, etc that when freely suspended indicates the direction of a magnetic field in which it is placed and that is the essential part of a magnetic compass

**magnetic north** *n* the northerly direction in the earth's magnetic field as indicated by a horizontal magnetic needle

**magnetic pole** *n* either of 2 small nonstationary regions in the N and S geographical polar areas of the earth or another celestial body towards which a magnetic needle points from any direction

**magnetic resonance** *n* the resonant vibration of electrons, atoms, molecules, or nuclei when in a magnetic field in response to radio waves at particular frequencies

**magnetic storm** *n* a marked local disturbance of the earth's magnetic field, prob related to sunspot activity

**magnetic tape** *n* a ribbon of thin paper or plastic with a magnetizable coating for use in recording sound, video, etc signals  **COMPUTER, SYMBOL**

**magnetism** /magnə'tiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 (physics dealing with) a class of physical forces and interactions that includes the attraction for iron shown by a permanent magnet or an electromagnet and is believed to be produced by moving electric charges 2 an ability to attract or charm

**magnetite** /magnə'tiet/ *n* iron oxide occurring as a black mineral strongly attracted by a magnet – **magnetitic** /magnə'titik/ *adj*

**magnetize**, **-ize** /-ti:z/ *vt* 1 to attract like a magnet 2 to cause to be a magnet – **magnetizable** *adj*, **magnetizer** *n*, **magnetization** /-'zayzh(ə)n/ *n*

**magneto** /mag'neetoh/ *n*, *pl magnetos* an alternator with permanent magnets (formerly) used to generate a high voltage for the ignition in an internal-combustion engine [short for *magnetolectric machine*]

**magneto-** *see* **MAGNET-**

**magnetohydrodynamic** /mag'neetoh-hiedroh'die'namik/ *adj* of or being phenomena arising from the motion of electrically conducting fluids in the presence of electric and magnetic fields – **magnetohydrodynamics** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*

**magnetometer** /magnə'tomitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring mag-

netic intensity, esp of the earth's magnetic field – **magnetometry** /-'tri/ *n*, **magnetometric** /-toh'netrik/ *adj*

**magneton** /magniton, mag'neton/ *n* a unit in which the magnetic moment of a particle (e.g. an atom) is measured [ISV *magnet-* + *-on*]

**magnetopause** /mag'neetoh,pawz/ *n* the outer boundary of a magnetosphere [magnetosphere + L *pausa* stop – more at **PAUSE**]

**magnetosphere** /-'sfiə/ *n* a region surrounding a celestial body, specif the earth, in which charged particles are trapped by its magnetic field – **magnetospheric** /-'sferik/ *adj*

**magnetostriction** /-'striks(h)ən/ *n* the change in the dimensions of a ferromagnetic body caused by magnetization or demagnetization [ISV *magnet-* + *-striction* (as in *constriction*)] – **magnetostrictive** /-'striktiv/ *adj*, **magnetostrictively** *adv*

**magnetron** /magnitron/ *n* a thermionic diode that is used with an externally applied magnetic field as a high-power microwave oscillator (e.g. for a radar transmitter) [blend of *magnet* and *-tron*]

**Magnificat** /magnifikat/ *n* (a musical setting of) the canticle of the Virgin Mary in Luke 1 46–55 [ME, fr L, (it) magnifies, fr *magnificare* to magnify; fr the first word of the canticle]

**magnification** /magnifi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a magnifying or being magnified 2 the apparent enlargement of an object by a microscope, telescope, etc

**magnificent** /mag'nifis(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 marked by stately grandeur and splendour 2a sumptuous in structure and adornment 1b strikingly beautiful or impressive 3 sublime (<her ~ prose>) 4 exceptionally fine or excellent (<a ~ day>) [L *magnificens*, irreg fr *magnificus* noble, splendid, fr *magnus* great – more at **MUCH**] – **magnificence** *n*, **magnificently** *adv*

**magnify** /'magnifi/ *vt* 1 to (falsely) increase in significance 2 to enlarge in fact or in appearance (<a telescope magnifies distant objects>) ~ *vi* to have the power of causing objects to appear larger than they are [MF *magnifier*, fr MF *magnifier*, fr L *magnificare*, fr *magnificus*] **magnifier** *n*

**magnifying glass** *n* a single optical lens for magnifying

**magniloquent** /mag'nilykwənt/ *adj* grandiloquent [back-formation fr *magniloquence*, fr L *magniloquentia*, fr *magniloquus* magniloquent, fr *magnus* + *loqui* to speak] – **magniloquence** *n*, **magniloquently** *adv*

**magnitude** /magnit'yoo(h)d/ *n* 1a (great) size or extent 1b a quantity, number 2 the importance or quality of sthg 3 the apparent brightness of a celestial body, esp a star, measured on a logarithmic scale in which a difference of 5 units corresponds to the multiplication or division of the brightness of light by 100 [ME, fr L *magnitudo*, fr *magnus*]

**magnolia** /mag'nohli-ə, -lyə/ *n* any of a genus of shrubs and trees with evergreen or deciduous leaves and usu large white, yellow, rose, or purple flowers [NL, genus name, fr Pierre Magnol 1715 F botanist]

**magnum** /magnəm/ *n* a wine bottle holding twice the usual amount (about 1.5l) [L, neut of *magnus* great]

**magnum opus** /'ohpəs/ *n* the greatest achievement of an artist, writer, etc [L, great work]

**magpie** /'magpie/ *n* 1 any of numerous birds of the crow family with a very long tail and black-and-white plumage 2 one who chatters noisily 3 one who collects objects in a random fashion [*Mag* (nickname for *Margaret*) + *pie*]

**maguay** /magway/ *n* (a hard fibre obtained from) any of various fleshy-leaved agave plants [Sp, fr Taino]

**magus** /maygəs/ *n*, *pl magi* /-je/ 1a a member of a Zoroastrian hereditary priestly class in ancient Persia 1b often *cap* any of the traditionally 3 wise men from the East who paid homage to the infant Jesus 2 a magician, sorcerer [ME, fr L, fr Gk *magos* – more at **MAGIC**]

**Magyar** /'magyah/ *n* (the language of) a member of the Finno-Ugric people of Hungary [Hung] – **Magyar** *adj*

**maharajah**, **maharaja** /mah-hah'rahjah/ *n* a Hindu prince ranking above a rajah [Skt *maharaja*, fr *mahat* great + *rajan* raja; akin to Gk *megas* great – more at **MUCH**]

**maharani**, **maharanee** /mah-hah'rahnee/ *n* 1 the wife of a maharaja 2 a Hindu princess ranking above a rani [Hindi *mahārāni*, fr *maha* great (fr Skt *mahat*) + *rāni* rani]

**maharishi** /mah-hah'rishi/ *n* a Hindu teacher of mystical knowledge [Skt *maharshi*, fr *mahat* + *rishi* sage and poet]

**mahatma** /mah'hatma/ *n* a person revered for outstanding moral and spiritual qualities – used as a title of honour, esp by Hindus [Skt *mahātman*, fr *mahātman* great-souled, fr *mahat* + *atman* soul – more at **ATMAN**]

**Mahayana** /mah-hə'yahna/ *n* a liberal and theistic branch of Buddhism prevalent in Tibet, China, and Japan that teaches social concern and

universal salvation – compare *THEYAVADA* [Skt *mahayana*, lit., great vehicle] – **Mahayanist** *n*, **Mahayanistic** /mah-həyāh'nistik/ *adj*

**Mahdi** /'mahdi/ *n* (a leader claiming to be) the expected messiah of Muslim tradition [Ar *mahdiy*, lit., one rightly guided] – **Mahdism** *n*, **Mahdist** *n*

**mah-jong, mah-jongg** /,mah'jɒŋ/ *n* a game of Chinese origin usu played by 4 people with 144 tiles that are drawn and discarded until one player secures a winning hand [Chin *ma-ch'iao*, lit., sparrows]

**mahlistick** /'mawlistik/ *n* a maulstick

**mahogany** /mə'hɒg(ə)ni/ *n* 1 (any of various tropical, esp W Indian, trees that yield) a durable usu reddish-brown moderately hard and heavy wood, widely used for fine cabinetwork 2 the reddish-brown colour of mahogany [origin unknown]

**mahout** /mə'howt/ *n* a keeper and driver of an elephant [Hindi *mahawat*, *mahaut*]

**Mahratta** /mə'rɑ:tə/ *n* a Maratha

**maid** /mayd/ *n* 1 an unmarried girl or woman, also a female virgin 2 a female servant [ME *maide*, short for *maiden*]

**maiden** /mie'dəhn/ *n* a parade ground or esplanade in Asia [Hindi *maidan*, fr Ar]

**'maiden** /mayd(ə)n/ *n* 1 an unmarried girl or woman 2 a former Scottish beheading device like a guillotine 3 a horse that has never won a race 4 **maiden**, **maiden** over an over in cricket in which no runs are credited to the batsman [ME, fr OE *mæġden*, *mæden*, dim. of *mægeth*, akin to OHG *magad* maiden, OIr *mug* serf, *macc* son] – **maidenly** *adj*, **maidenliness** *n*, **maidenhood** /-hood/ *n*

**2maiden** *adj* 1a (1) not married (2) VIRGIN 2, 3 b of a female animal never having borne young or been mated c that has not been altered from its original state 2 being the first or earliest of its kind (*the ship's ~ voyage*)

**maidenhair** /-hea/ *n* any of a genus of ferns with fronds that have delicate spreading branches

**maidenhair, tree** *n* a ginkgo

**maidenhead** /-hed/ *n* 1 virginity 2 the hymen [ME *maidenhed*, fr *maiden* + *-hed* -hood, akin to ME *-hod* -hood]

**maiden, name** *n* the surname of a woman prior to marriage

**maid of honour** *n*, pl **maids of honour** 1 a bride's principal unmarried wedding attendant 2 a puff pastry tartlet filled with custard

**'maid, servant** /-,səhv(ə)nt/ *n* a female servant

**maieutic** /may'yoohtik/ *adj* of or resembling the Socratic method of eliciting ideas latent in the mind of another [Gk *maieutikos* of midwifery]

**maigre** /'maygə/ *adj* 1 of days in the calendar of the Roman Catholic church prescribed for fasting or for not eating meat 2 suitable for eating on maigre days, specif not containing meat (juices) [F, lit., meagre, fr MF]

**'mail** /mayl/ *n* 1a a bag of posted items conveyed from one post office to another b the postal matter that makes up 1 particular consignment c a conveyance that transports mail 2 a postal system [ME *male* pack, bag, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *malaha* bag]

**2mail** *vi* 'POST 1 – **maillable** *adj*

**3mail** *n* 1 armour made of interlocking metal rings, chains, or sometimes plates 2 a hard enclosing covering of an animal [ME *maille*, fr MF, fr L *macula* spot, mesh] – **mailed** *adj*

**'mail** *vi* to clothe (as if) with mail

**'mail, bag** /-bag/ *n* a bag used to carry mail

**'mail, box** /-bɒks/ *n*, NAm a letter box


**'mailing, list** /'maylɪŋ/ *n* an organization's list of the names and addresses to which it regularly sends information

**'mail, man** /-man/ *n*, NAm a postman

**'mail, order** *n* an order for goods that is received and fulfilled by post – **mail-order** *adj*


**maim** /maym/ *vi* to mutilate, disfigure, or wound seriously, cripple [ME *maynhen*, *maymen*, fr OF *maynier*] – **maimer** *n*

**'main** /mayn/ *n* 1 physical strength – in *with might and main* 2 the chief or essential part – chiefly in *in the main* 3 the chief pipe, duct, or cable of a public service (e.g. gas, electricity, or water) – often pl with sing meaning (*turned the electricity off at the ~s*) 4a a mainland b the high sea **USE** (4) chiefly poetic or archaic [(1) ME, fr OE *mægen*, akin to OHG *magan* strength, OE *magan* to be able; (2, 3, 4) 'main or by shortening – more at *MAY*]

**2main** *adj* 1 chief, principal 2 fully exerted (*used ~ force*) 3 connected with or located near the mainmast or mainsail  SHIP 4 of a clause able to stand alone (e.g. *he laughed in he laughed when he heard*) [ME, fr OE *maegen*-, fr *mægen* strength]

**'main** *n* a number from 4 to 9 inclusive called by a player before throwing the dice in the game of hazard [prob fr 'main]

**main chance** *n* the chance that promises most advantage or profit – esp in *have an eye for the main chance*

**'main, deck** *n* 1 the highest deck that extends the full width and length of a naval vessel 2 the upper deck of a merchant vessel between the poop and forecastle **USE**  SHIP


**'main, frame** /-,fraɪm/ *n* a large computer (installation) that is bigger than a minicomputer

**'mainland** /-lənd/ *n* the largest land area of a continent, country, etc., considered in relation to smaller offshore islands – **mainlander** *n*


**'main, line** /-,li:n/ *vb* to inject (a narcotic or other drug of abuse) into a vein – slang – **mainliner** *n*

**'main, line** *n* a principal railway line

**'mainly** /-li/ *adv* in most cases or for the most part, chiefly

**'main, mast** /-,mahst, naut -məst/ *n* (the lowest section of) a sailing vessel's principal mast  SHIP

**mains** /maynz/ *adj* of or (suitable to be) powered by electricity from the mains (<a ~ razor>)

**'main, sail** /-,səyl, naut -s(ə)l/ *n* 1 the lowest square sail on the mainmast of a square-rigged ship  SHIP 2 the principal fore-and-aft sail on the mainmast of a fore-and-aft rigged ship

**'main, sequence** *adj* of or being a dwarf star, similar to the sun, which is the quiet middle phase of a star's development

**'main, spring** /-,sprɪŋ/ *n* 1 the chief spring, esp of a watch or clock 2 the chief motive, agent, or cause

**'main, stay** /-,stəy/ *n* 1 a rope that stretches forwards from a sailing ship's maintop, usu to the foot of the foremast, and provides the chief support of the mainmast 2 a chief support

**'main, stream** /-,stri:m/ *n* a prevailing current or direction of activity or influence – **mainstream** *adj*

**'Main, Street** *n* (a place where people hold) materialistic self-satisfied ideals [*Main Street*, novel by Sinclair Lewis †1951 US novelist] – **Main Streeter** *n*

**maintain** /mayn'tayn/ *vt* 1 to keep in an existing state (e.g. of operation, repair, efficiency, or validity) 2 to sustain against opposition or danger 3 to continue or persevere in 4 to support, sustain, or provide for (<has a family to ~> 5 to affirm (as if) in argument [ME *maintenir*, fr OF *maintenir*, fr ML *manuteneōre*, fr L *manu tenere* to hold in the hand] – **maintainable** *adj*, **maintainer** *n*

**maintained school** *n* a school provided, controlled, or aided by a British local education authority

**maintenance** /'mayntɪnəns/ *n* 1 maintaining or being maintained 2 (paymēt) for the upkeep of property or equipment 3 chiefly Br payments for the support of one spouse by another, esp of a woman by a man, pending or following legal separation or divorce [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *maintenir*]

**maintop** /'mayn,tɒp/ *n* a platform at the top of the mainmast of a square-rigged ship  SHIP

**maisonette** /,mays(ə)n'et/ *n* 1 a small house 2 a part of a house, usu on 2 floors, let or sold separately [F *maisonnette*, fr OF, dim. of *maison* house, fr L *mansion-*, *mansio* dwelling place – more at *MANSION*]

**'maitre d'hôtel** /,metrə doh'tel/ *n*, pl **maitres d'hôtel** /~/ 1 a major-domo 2 a headwaiter [F, lit., master of house]

**2maitre d'hôtel** *adj* containing or cooked with butter, parsley, and lemon juice (<~ butter>)

**maize** /mayz/ *n* (the ears or edible seeds of) a tall widely cultivated cereal grass bearing seeds on elongated ears [Sp *maiz*, fr Taino *mahiz*]

**majesty** /'majəsti/ *n* 1 sovereign power 2 – used in addressing or referring to a king or queen (<Your Majesty>) 3a impressive bearing or aspect b greatness or splendour of quality or character [ME *maiesté*, fr OF *majesté*, fr L *majestāt-*, *majestas*; akin to L *major* greater] – **majestic** /mə'jestik/ *adj*, **majestically** *adv*

**majolica** /mə'jɒlɪkə, -'jɒl-/ *n* a type of early Italian tin-glazed earthenware [It *maiolica*, fr ML *Majolica* Majorca, largest of the Balearic Islands, fr LL *Majorca*]

**'major** /'mayjə/ *adj* 1a greater in importance, size, rank, or degree (<one of our ~ poets>) b of considerable importance (<a ~ improvement>) 2 having attained the age of majority 3 notable or conspicuous in effect or scope 4 involving serious risk to life; serious (<a ~ operation>) 5a esp of a scale or mode having semitones between the third and fourth and the seventh and eighth degrees b being or based on a (specified) major scale (<in a ~ key>) (<a piece in D ~>) c being an interval (equivalent to that) between the first and the second, third, sixth, or seventh degree of a major scale d of a chord having an interval of a major third between the root

and the next note above it [ME *maior*, fr L *major*, compar of *magnus* great, large – more at MUCH]


**major** *n* 1 one who has attained the age of majority 2 a major musical interval, scale, key, or mode 3  RANK

**major axis** *n* the chord of an ellipse passing through its foci 

#### MATHEMATICS

**majordomo** /ˈmajɔːdohmoh/ *n, pl* majordomos 1 a man having charge of a large household (e.g. a palace) 2 a butler or steward [Sp *mayordomo* or obs *it* *maiorordo*, fr ML *major domus*, lit., chief of the house]

**majorette** /ˈmajɔːret/ *n* a girl or woman who twirls a baton and accompanies a marching band [short for *drum majorette*, fem of *drum major* leader of a marching band]

**major general** *n*  RANK [F *major général*, fr *major*, *n* + *general*, adj., general]

**majority** /ˈmɔːjɔːrɪti/ *n* 1 the (status of one who has attained the) age at which full legal rights and responsibilities are acquired 2a a number greater than half of a total b the amount by which such a greater number exceeds the remaining smaller number 3 the greatest in number of 2 or more groups constituting a whole; *specif* (the excess of votes over its rival obtained by) a group having sufficient votes to obtain control 4 the military office, rank, or commission of a major [ˈMAJOR + -ITY]

**major league** *n* a league of highest classification in US sport, esp baseball

**major order** *n* 1 the priesthood in the Roman Catholic church 2 the offices of bishop, priest, or deacon in the Orthodox or Anglican church **USE** usu *pl*

**major suit** *n* either of the suits of hearts or spades that are of superior scoring value in bridge – compare **MINOR SUIT**

**majuscule** /ˈmajʊskyoʊl/ *n* (a letter in) a style of handwriting employing only capital or uncial letters – compare **MINUSCULE** [F, fr L *majusculus* rather large, dim. of *major*] – **majuscule** *adj.*, **majuscular** /ˈmajʊskyoʊl/ *adj.*

**maker** /ˈmækoʊ, ˈmay-/ *n, Scot* a poet [ME *maker* *maker*, poet]

**make** /mayk/ *vb* **made** /mayd/ *vt* 1a to create or produce (for someone) by work or action (< a dress> <made in Korea> <she made herself a cup of coffee> b to cause; BRING ABOUT (< a disturbance>) (< peace> 2 to formulate in the mind (< plans>) (< no doubt about it>) 3 to put together from ingredients or components (< butter is made from milk>) – often + *up* 4 to compute or estimate to be (< what time do you ~ it?> 5a to assemble and set alight the materials for (a fire) b to renew or straighten the bedclothes on (a bed) c to shuffle (a pack of cards) in preparation for dealing 6a to cause to be or become (<made him bishop>) (<couldn't ~ himself heard>) b to cause (sthg) to appear or seem to; represent as (<in the film they ~ the battle take place in winter>) c(1) to change, transform (< ~ the material into a skirt>) (2) to produce as an end product (<the navy will ~ a man of you>) d to carry on right through (a period) (<take sandwiches and ~ a day of it>) 7a to enact, establish (< laws>) b to draft or produce a version of (< a will>) 8 to cause (an electric circuit) to be completed 9a to perform, CARRY OUT (< a speech>) (< a discovery>) (< a sweeping gesture>) (< a delour>) b to eat (< a good breakfast>) c to put forward for acceptance (< an offer>) (< a promise>) 10 to cause to act in a specified way; compel (<rain ~s the flowers grow>) (<she was made to give in>) 11a to amount to; count as (<4 and 4 ~ 8>) (<~s a great difference>) b to be integral or essential to the existence or success of (<it made my day>) c to combine to form (<hydrogen and oxygen ~ water>) 12 to be capable of becoming or of serving as (<you'll ~ a lexicographer yet>) 13 to reach, attain (<never ~ the airfield>) (<the story made the papers>) – often + *it* (<you'll never ~ it that far>) 14 to gain (e.g. money) by working, trading, dealing, etc 15a to act so as to acquire (< enemies>) b to score (points, runs, etc) in a game or sport 16a to fulfil (a contract) in bridge or another card game b to win a trick with (a card) 17 to persuade to consent to sexual intercourse – *infrml* ~ *vt* 1a to behave so, as to seem (<made as though he were angry>) b to behave as if beginning a specified action (<made as if to hand it over>) c to act so as to be (< ~ ready to leave>) 2 to set out or go (in a specified direction) (<made towards the door>) (<we're making for the coast>) 3 to undergo manufacture or processing – *usu* + *up* (<the silk ~s up beautifully>) [ME *maken*, fr OE *macian*; akin to OHG *mahhon* to prepare, make, OSlav *mazati* to anoint] – **maker** *n* – as near as makes no difference almost exactly – **make a book** to take bets on – **make a meal of** *Br* to make more of than is necessary or tactful – **make an exhibition of oneself** to behave foolishly in public – **make away with** 1 **MAKE OFF WITH** (<the thief made away with her handbag>) 2 to destroy – **make believe** to pretend, feign – **make bold** to venture, dare (<made so bold as to ask for more>) – **make certain/sure** 1 to ascertain by enquiry 2 to take measures to ensure (<make certain of

a seat>) – **make do** to get along or manage with the means at hand – **make ends meet** to live within one's income – **make eyes** to ogle – + *at* – **make fast** to tie or attach firmly – **make for** to be conducive to (<courtesy makes for safer driving>) – **make free with** to take excessive or disrespectful liberties with – **make friends** 1 to acquire friends 2 to become friendly (<make friends with a neighbour>) – **make fun** of to make an object of amusement or ridicule – **make good** 1 **MAKE UP** *vt* 4 2 to be successful in life 3 chiefly *Br* to repair (<make good the brickwork under the window>) – **make head or tail of** to understand in the least (<I can't make head or tail of it>) – **make it** 1 to be successful (<actors trying to make it in the big time>) – *infrml* 2 to achieve sexual intercourse – *slang* – **make like** to act the part of; imitate – *slang* – **make love** 1 to woo, court, also to pet, neck 2 to engage in sexual intercourse – **make no bones** to have no hesitation or shame (<makes no bones about giving her opinion>) – **make of** 1 to attribute a specified degree of significance to (<tends to make too much of his problems>) 2 to understand by, conclude as to the meaning of (<could make nothing of the play>) – **make oneself scarce** to hide or avoid sb or sth unobtrusively – **make public** to disclose – **make the grade** **MAKE IT** 1 – **make tracks** to leave (<its getting late, we'll have to make tracks>) – *infrml* – **make water** to urinate – *euph* – **make way** to give room (<the crowd made way for the ambulance>) – **make with** chiefly *NAm* to produce, perform – *usu* + *the*, *slang*

**make** *n* 1a the manner or style in which sth is constructed b a place or origin of manufacture, **BRAND** 3a 2 the physical, mental, or moral constitution of a person 3 the type or process of making or manufacturing – on the make 1 rising or attempting to rise to a higher social or financial status 2 *NAm* in search of a sexual partner or sexual adventure

**make-believe** *n* or *adj* (sthg) imaginary or pretended

**make off** *vi* to leave in haste – **make off with** to take away, steal

**make out** *vt* 1 to draw up in writing 2 to complete (e.g. a printed form or document) by writing information in appropriate spaces 3 to find or grasp the meaning of (<tried to make out what had happened>) 4 to claim or pretend to be true (<made out that he had never heard of me>) 5 to identify (e.g. by sight or hearing) with difficulty or effort ~ *vi* 1 to fare, manage (<how is he making out in his new job?>) 2 chiefly *NAm* to engage in sexual intercourse – *slang*

**make over** *vt* 1 to transfer the title of (property) (<made over the estate to his eldest son>) 2 chiefly *NAm* to remake, remodel (<made the whole house over>)

**Maker** /ˈmayka/ *n* **GOD** 1 [ˈMAKE + -FR]

**make, ready** /-,redi/ *n* final preparation for printing

**make, shift** /-,shift/ *adj* or *n* (being) a crude and temporary expedient

**make-up** *n* 1a the way in which the parts of sth are put together b physical, mental, and moral constitution 2a cosmetics (e.g. lipstick and mascara) applied, esp to the face, to give colour or emphasis b the effect achieved by the application of make-up c materials (e.g. wigs and cosmetics) used for special costuming (e.g. for a play)

**make up** *vt* 1a to invent (e.g. a story), esp in order to deceive b to set (an account) in order 2a to arrange typeset matter into (columns or pages) for printing b to produce (e.g. clothes) by cutting and sewing c **PREPARE** 3a (<make up a prescription>) 3 to wrap or fasten up (<make the books up into a parcel>) 4 to compensate for (a deficiency); esp to make (e.g. a required amount or number) complete 5 to settle, decide (<made up his mind to leave>) (<made up their differences>) 6a to prepare in physical appearance for a role b to apply cosmetics to ~ *vi* 1 to become reconciled 2 to compensate for (<we made up for lost time>) 3 to put on costumes or make-up (e.g. for a play) 4 to assemble a finished article; esp to complete a garment by sewing together

**make, weight** /-,weɪt/ *n* 1 sth added to bring a weight to a desired value 2 sth of little intrinsic value thrown in to fill a gap

**making** /ˈmaykɪŋ/ *n* 1 a process or means of advancement or success 2a the essential qualities for becoming – often *pl* with *sing* meaning (<had the ~s of a great artist>) b *pl*, chiefly *NAm* & *Austr* paper and tobacco used for rolling one's own cigarettes [ˈMAKE + -ING] – in the making in the process of becoming, forming, or developing

**mako** /ˈmahkoʊ/, **mako shark** *n, pl* makos either of 2 species of shark that are notable sport fish [Maori]

**makuta** /mahˈkoota/ *pl* of **LIKUTA**

**mal-** *comb form* 1a bad (<malpractice>); faulty (<malfunction>) b badly (<malodorous>); deficiently (<malnourished>) 2a abnormal (<malformation>) b abnormally (<malformed>) 3 not (<malcontent>) (<maladroït>) [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *mal* bad (fr L *malus*) & *mal* badly, fr L *male*, fr *malus* – more at **SMALL**]

**malabsorption** /ˈmaləbzəʊpʃ(ə)n/; also -əbzəw-/ *n* the deficient

absorption of food substances, vitamins, etc (e.g. vitamin B<sub>12</sub>) from the stomach and intestines

**malac-, malaco-** *comb form* soft [malacoid] [L, fr Gk *malak-, malako-, fr malakos*, akin to L. *molere* to grind]

**malacca cane** /mə'lakə/ *n* an often mottled cane from an Asiatic rattan palm used esp for walking sticks [Malacca, city & state in Malaya]

**Malachi** /mə'lakie/ *n* a prophetic book of the Old Testament [Heb *Mal'akhi*]

**malachite** /mə'lakiet/ *n* hydrated copper carbonate occurring as a green mineral and used esp for ornaments [ME *melochites*, fr L. *molochites*, fr Gk *molochites*, fr *moloche* mallow]

**malacology** /mə'lakoləʒi/ *n* a branch of zoology dealing with molluscs [F *malacologie*, contr of *malacozoologie*, fr NL *Malacozoa*, zoological group including soft-bodied animals (fr *malac-* + *-zoa*) + F *-logie* -logy] - **malacologist** *n*, **malacological** /-kə'lɒjɪkəl/ *adj*

**malacostracan** /mə'lə'kɒstrəkən/ *n* any of a major subclass of crustaceans including the crabs, woodlice, lobsters, shrimps, etc. [deriv of Gk *malakostrakos* soft-shelled, fr *malak-* + *-ostrakon* shell - more at OYSITER] - **malacostracan** *adj*

**maladjusted** /mə'lə'dʒʊstɪd/ *adj* poorly or inadequately adjusted, specif to one's social environment and conditions of life - **maladjustment** *n*

**maladministration** /mə'lædmi'nɪ'strəʃ(ə)n/ *n* incompetent or corrupt administration, esp in public office - **maladminister** /-mɪnɪ'stə/ *vt*

**maladroit** /mə'lə'droɪt/ *adj* clumsy, inept [Fr, fr MF, fr *mal-* + *adroit*]

**malady** /mə'lædi/ *n* an animal disease or disorder [MF *maladie*, fr OF, fr *malade* sick, fr L *male habitus* in bad condition]

**Malaga** /mə'læɡə/ *n* a usu sweet fortified wine from the Malaga region of Spain

**Malagasy** /mə'læɡəsi/ *n, pl Malagasy* also **Malagasies** (the language of) a native or inhabitant of the Malagasy Republic - **LANGUAGE** [Malagasy Republic (Madagascar), island in Indian Ocean] - **Malagasy** *adj*

**malaise** /mə'leɪz, 'ləɪz/ *n* 1 an indeterminate feeling of debility or lack of health, often accompanying the start of an illness 2 a vague sense of mental or moral unease [F *malaise*, fr OF, fr *mal-* + *aise* comfort - more at ASE]

**malapropism** /mə'læprɒzɪz(ə)m/ *n* (an instance of) an incongruous misapplication of a word (e.g. in 'always said "polobears", ... and "neonstockings"' - *Time*) [Mrs *Malaprop*, character often misusing words in *The Rivals*, comedy by R B Sheridan †1816 Ir dramatist]

**malaria** /mə'læəriə/ *n* a disease caused by protozoan parasites in the red blood cells, transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes, and characterized by periodic attacks of chills and fever [It, fr *mala aria* bad air] - **malarious** *adj*, **malarial** *adj*, **malarian** *adj*

**malerkey** /mə'læhki/ *n* foolishness, esp insincere or foolish talk - **informal** [origin unknown]

**malate** /mə'læɪt, 'mæɪ/ *n* a salt or ester of malic acid

**malathion** /mə'læθi'ɒn, -ən/ *n* an insecticide less poisonous to mammals than parathion [fr *Malathion*, a trademark]

**Malay** /mə'læɪ/ *n* (the language of) a member of a people of the Malay peninsula and adjacent islands - **LANGUAGE** [obs D *Malayo* (now *Malacra*), fr Malay *Melayu*] - **Malay** *adj*, **Malayan** *n or adj*

**Malayalam** /mə'læɪləm, mə'læhləm/ *n* a Dravidian language of SW India - **LANGUAGE**

**Malayo-** /mə'ləɪəh-/ *comb form* Malayan and (Malayo-Indonesian)

**malcontent** /mə'lɒkənt/ *n* a discontented person, esp sb violently opposed to a government or regime

**malcontent**, **malcontented** *adj* dissatisfied with the existing state of affairs [MF, fr OF, fr *mal-* + *content*]

**mal de mer** /mə'l də 'meɪ/ *n* seasickness [F]

**male** /maɪ/ *adj* 1a(1) of or being the sex that produces relatively small sperms, spermatozooids, or spermatozoa by which the eggs of a female are made fertile (2) of a plant or flower having stamens but no ovaries b(1) (characteristic) of the male sex (2) made up of male individuals 2 designed for fitting into a corresponding hollow part [ME, fr MF *masle*, *male*, *adj & n*, fr L *masculus*, dim. of *mas-*, *mas* male] - **maleness** *n*

**male** *n* a male person, animal, or plant - **SYMBOL**

**male chauvinist** *n* a man who believes in the inherent superiority of men over women and is excessively loyal to his own sex - **male chauvinism** *n*

**male chauvinist pig** *n* MALE CHAUVINIST - **derog**

**malediction** /mə'lædɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* a curse - **fml** [ME *malediccioun*, fr LL

*maledictio-*, *maledictio*, fr *maledictus*, pp of *maledicere* to curse, fr L, to speak evil of, fr *male* badly + *dicere* to speak, say - more at MAT-, DICTI-] - **maledictory** /-dɪkt(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**malefaction** /mə'lɪfækʃ(ə)n/ *n* an evil deed - **fml**

**malefactor** /mə'lɪfæktə/ *n* 1 a criminal, esp a felon 2 one who does evil - **fml** [ME, fr L, fr *malefactor*, pp of *malefacere* to do evil, fr *male* + *facere* to do - more at DO]

**male fern** *n* a fern from which an extract is obtained that is used to treat tapeworm infestation

**malefic** /mə'lɛfɪk/ *adj* 1 having malignant influence 2 harmful, malicious **USE fml** [L *maleficus* wicked, mischievous, fr *male*] - **maleficence** /-fɪs(ə)ns/ *n*, **maleficent** /-fɪs(ə)nt/ *adj*

**malevolent** /mə'levələnt/ *adj* having, showing, or arising from an often intense desire to do harm [L *malevolens*, *malevolens*, fr *male* badly + *volens*, *volens*, prp of *velle* to wish - more at MAT-, WILL] - **malevolence** *n*, **malevolently** *adv*

**malefaisance** /mə'lɛ'fɛə(ə)ns/ *n* (official) misconduct [mal- + obs *faisance* (doing, execution)]

**malformation** /mə'lɒfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* anomalous, abnormal, or faulty formation or structure - **malformed** *adj*

**malfunction** /-fʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *vi* to fail to operate in the normal manner - **malfunction** *n*

**malic 'acid** /mə'lɪk/ *n* an acid found in the juices of certain fruits (e.g. apples) and other plants [F *acide malique*, fr L *malum* apple, fr Gk *melon*, *malon*]

**malice** /mə'lɪs/ *n* conscious desire to harm, esp a premeditated desire to commit a crime [ME, fr OF, fr L *malitia*, fr *malus* bad - more at SMAIT]

**malicious** /mə'lɪʃəs/ *adj*, **maliciously** *adv*, **maliciousness** *n*

**malice aforethought** *n* that which is said to accompany the doing of any act known in advance to be capable of causing serious harm, *specif* that which must be proved in order to make a killing an act of murder

**malign** /mə'lɪən/ *adj* 1a harmful in nature, influence, or effect b of a disease malignant, virulent 2 bearing or showing (vicious) ill will or hostility [ME *maligne*, fr MF, fr L *malignus*, fr *male* badly + *gignere* to beget - more at MAT-, KIN]

**malign** *vt* to utter injuriously (false) reports about, speak ill of [ME *malighen*, fr MF *maligner* to act maliciously, fr LL *malignari*, fr L *malignus*]

**malignant** /mə'lɪɡnənt/ *adj* 1a harmful in nature, influence, or effect b passionately and relentlessly malevolent 2 of a disease very severe or deadly (< *malaria*), *specif*, of a tumour tending to infiltrate, spread, and cause death [LL *malignant-*, *malignans*, prp of *malignari*] - **malignantly** *adv*, **malignancy** /-nənsɪ/ *n*

**malinger** /mə'lɪŋɡə/ *vi* to pretend illness or incapacity so as to avoid duty or work [F *malinger* sickly] - **malingering** *n*

**mall** /maʊl, mæl/ *n* 1 a public promenade, often bordered by trees 2 *N* a shopping precinct, usu with associated parking space [The Mall, promenade in London, orig an alley used for playing pall-mall (an old game played with balls & mallets)]

**mallard** /mə'lɑːd, -ləd/ *n, pl mallards*, esp collectively **mallard** a common large wild duck that is the ancestor of the domestic ducks [ME, fr MF *mallari*]

**malleable** /mə'lɪəbəl/ *adj* 1 esp of metals capable of being beaten or rolled into a desired shape 2 easily shaped by outside forces or influences [ME *malleable*, fr MF or ML, MF *malleable*, fr ML *malleabilis*, fr *mallicare* to hammer, fr L *malleus* hammer, akin to L *molere* to grind - more at MALAL] - **malleableness** *n*, **malleability** /mə'lɪə'bɪləti/ *n*






**mallee** /mə'lɪ/ *n* (a dense thicket or growth of) any of several low-growing scrubby Australian eucalyptuses [native name in Australia]

**mallet** /mə'lɪt/ *n* 1 a hammer with a usu large head of wood, plastic, etc 2 an implement with a large usu cylindrical wooden head for striking the ball in croquet, polo, etc 3 a light hammer with a small rounded or spherical usu padded head used in playing certain musical instruments (e.g. a vibraphone) [ME *maillet*, fr MF, fr OF, dim of *mail* hammer, fr L *malleus*]

**malleus** /mə'lɪəs/ *n, pl mallei* /-lɪe/ the outermost of the chain of 3 small bones that transmit sound to the inner ear of mammals; the hammer - **NERVE** [NL, fr L, hammer]

**mallow** /mə'ləʊ/ *n* any of various related plants with usu deeply cut lobed leaves and showy flowers [ME *malwe*, fr OE *mealwe*, fr L *malva*]

**malin** /mə'lɪn/ *n* a soft crumbly limestone (soil) [ME *malme*, fr OE *meulm-*, akin to OE *melu* meal - more at MEAL]

- malmsey** /'mahmzi/ *n.* often *cap* the sweetest variety of Madeira [ME *malmesey*, fr ML *Malmasia* Monemvasia, village in Greece where it was orig produced]
- malnutrition** /malnu'oo(h)trish(ə)n/ *n.* faulty or inadequate nutrition
- malodorous** /'ohd(ə)rəs/ *adj* smelling bad – fml
- Malpighian tubule** /mal'pigi-ən/ *n.* any of a group of long vessels that open into the alimentary canal in insects and other arthropods and function esp as excretory organs [Marcello *Malpighi* †1694 It anatomist]
- malpractice** /mal'praktis/ *n.* 1 failure to exercise due professional skill or care 2 an instance of improper conduct; malfeasance – *malpractitioner* /mal'prakt'ish(ə)nə/ *n.*
- 'malt** /mawlt/ *n.* 1 grain softened in water, allowed to germinate, then roasted and used esp in brewing and distilling 2 unblended malt whisky produced in a particular area <the finest Highland ~s> [ME, fr OE *mealt*; akin to OHG *malz* malt, OE *meltan* to melt] – *malty adj*
- 'malt vt** 1 to convert into malt 2 to make or treat with malt or malt extract ~ *vi* to become malt
- Maltese** /mawlt'eez/ *n, pl* Maltese (the language of) a native or inhabitant of Malta  LANGUAGE [Malta, island in the Mediterranean] – *Maltese adj*
- Maltese cross** *n.* a cross consisting of 4 equal arms that widen out from the centre and have their outer ends indented by a V  SYMBOL
- Malthusian** /mal'thyoozh(ə)n, -zi-ən/ *adj* of Malthus or his theory that population tends to increase faster than its means of subsistence and that widespread poverty inevitably results unless population growth is checked [Thomas *Malthus* †1834 E economist] – *Malthusian n*
- maltings** /mawltinz/ *n, pl* maltings an establishment where malt is prepared and stored
- maltese** /mawltəz, -tohs/ *n.* a sugar formed esp from starch by amylase [F, fr E *'malt*]
- maltreat** /mal'treet/ *vt* to treat cruelly or roughly [F *maltraiter*, fr MF, fr *mal-* + *traiter* to treat, fr OF *traitier* – more at *TREAT*] – *maltreatment n*
- 'malt whisky** *n.* whisky distilled from malted barley
- malversation** /malvuh'saysh(ə)n/ *n.* corruption in office – fml [MF, fr *malverser* to be corrupt, fr *mal* + *verser* to turn, handle, fr L *versare*, fr *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at *'WORTH*]
- mam** /mam/ *n, dial Br* 'MOTHER 1a [short for *mama*]
- 'mama, mamma** /mə'mah/ *n* 'MOTHER 1a – formerly used in address [baby talk]
- 'mama, mamma** /'mumə/, *NAm* /'mahmə/ *n* mummy – used informally and by children
- mamba** /'mamba/ *n.* any of several (tropical) African venomous snakes related to the cobras but with no hood [Zulu *im-mamba*]
- mambo** /'mamboh/ *n, pl* mambos (the music for) a ballroom dance of Haitian origin that resembles the rumba [AmerSp] – *mambo vi*
- Mameluke** /'mam:luk/ *n.* a member of a politically powerful Egyptian military class occupying the sultanate from 1250 to 1517 [F *mameluk*, fr Ar *mamlūk*, lit, slave]
- mamillary, NAM** *mammillary* /'mamli(ə)ri/ *adj* of or resembling the breasts [L *mamilla*, *mammilla* breast, nipple] – *mamillate* /-layt/ *adj*, *mamillated adj*
- mamma** /'mama/ *n, pl* mammae /-mu/ a mammary gland with its accessory parts [L, mother, breast, of baby-talk origin] – *mammate* /-mayt/ *adj*
- mammal** /'maməl/ *n.* any of a class of higher vertebrates comprising humans and all other animals that have mammary glands and nourish their young with milk  EVOLUTION [deriv of LL *mammalis* of the breast, fr L *mamma* breast] – *mammalian* /mə'mayli-ən/ *adj* or *n*, *mammalogy* /mə'mə'ləj/ *n*
- mammary** /'maməri/ *adj* of, lying near, or affecting the mammary glands
- 'mammary gland** *n.* the breasts or other large compound modified skin glands in female mammals that secrete milk and are situated on the front of the body in pairs
- Mammon** /'mamən/ *n.* material wealth or possessions, esp considered as an evil [LL *mammona*, Gk *mamōna*, fr Aram *māmōnā* riches]
- 'mammoth** /'maməθ/ *n.* any of numerous large hairy long-tailed extinct Pleistocene elephants [Russ *mamont*, *mamot*]
- 'mammoth adj** of very great size
- 'mammy** /'mami/ *n.* 1 mamma, mummy – used esp by children 2 *NAm* a Negro nanny of white children, esp formerly in the southern USA [alter. of *mamma*]
- 'man** /man/ *n, pl* men /men/ 1a(1) a human being; esp an adult male as distinguished from a woman or child (2) a man belonging to a usu specified category – usu in combination <businessman> <horseman> (3) a husband – esp in *man and wife* (4) a male sexual partner *b* the human race *c* a member of a family of biped primate mammals anatomically related to the great apes but distinguished esp by greater brain development and a capacity for articulate speech and abstract reasoning, broadly any ancestor of modern man  EVOLUTION *d* one possessing the qualities associated with manhood (e.g. courage and strength) *e* a fellow, chap – used interjectionally 2a a feudal vassal *b* *pl* the members of (the ranks of) a military force *c* *pl* the working force as distinguished from the employer and usu the management *d* *pl* the members of a team 3a an individual, person <what can a ~ do in this situation?> *b* the most suitable man <he's your ~ for the job> 4 any of the pieces moved by each player in chess, draughts, etc 5 often *cap*, *NAm* the police 6 often *cap*, *NAm* the white establishment – used by Negroes 7 – used interjectionally to express intensity of feeling <~, what a party!> *USE* (5, 6 & 7) slang [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *man* man, Skt *manu*] – *manless adj*, *manlike adj* – to a man without exception
- 'man vt -nn-** 1 to supply with the man or men necessary 2 to take up station by <~ the pumps> 3 to serve in the force or complement of
- mana** /'mahna/ *n.* the power of elemental forces embodied in an object or person [of Melanesian & Polynesian origin, akin to Hawaiian & Maori *mana*]
- man-about-town** *n, pl* men-about-town /men/ a worldly and socially active man
- 'manacle** /'manəkl/ *n.* 1 a shackle or handcuff 2 a restraint *USF* usu *pl* [ME *manicle*, fr MF, fr L *manicula*, dim. of *manus* hand – more at *MANUAL*]
- 'manacle vb** 1 to confine (the hands) with manacles 2 to subject to a restraint
- manage** /'manj/ *vt* 1a to make and keep submissive *b* to use (e.g. money) economically 2 to succeed in handling (e.g. a difficult situation or person) 3 to succeed in accomplishing <she could only ~ a smile> <always ~s to win> 4 to conduct the running of (esp. a business), also to have charge of (e.g. a sports team or athlete) ~ *vi* to be able to cope with difficulties, esp to use one's finances to the best advantage [It *maneggiare*, fr *mano* hand, fr L *manus*] – *manageable adj*
- 'management** /-mənt/ *n.* 1 the act or art of managing 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr the collective body of those who manage or direct an enterprise
- manager** /'manjə/, *fem* *manageress* /-jə'res/ *n.* 1 one who conducts business or household affairs 2 sby who directs a sports team, player, entertainer, etc [MANAGE + '-ER'] – *managership n*, *managerial* /,mani'jəri-əl/ *adj*
- managing director** *n.* the chief director of a company, responsible for the overall management of the company's business
- mañana** /man'yahna/ *adv* or *n* (at) an indefinite time in the future [Sp, lit, tomorrow, fr earlier *cras* *mañana* early tomorrow, fr *cras* tomorrow (fr L) + *mañana* early, fr L *mane* early in the morning]
- 'man ape** *n.* an ape-man
- man-at-arms** *n, pl* men-at-arms a (heavily armed and usu mounted) soldier
- manatee** /,mans'tee/ *n.* any of several (tropical) aquatic plant-eating mammals with broad tails [Sp *manatí*]
- Manchu** /man'chooh/ *n, pl* Manchus, esp collectively *Manchu* (the language of) a member of the orig nomadic native Mongolian race of Manchuria who established a dynasty in China in 1644  LANGUAGE – *Manchu adj*
- manciple** /'manspl/ *n.* a steward or caterer, esp in a college or monastery [ME, fr ML *mancipium* office of steward, fr L, act of purchase, fr *mancip*, *manceps* purchaser – more at *EMANCIPATE*]
- Maniculan** /'mang'kyoo(h)ni-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Manchester [LL *Mancunium* Manchester, city in England]
- mancy** /-mənsi/ *comb form* (– *n*) divination <necromancy> [ME *-mancie*, fr OF, fr L *-mantia*, fr Gk *-mantela*, fr *manente*, fr *mantis* diviner, prophet – more at *MANTIS*]
- mandala** /'mahndəla/ *n.* a Hindu or Buddhist graphic symbol used in ritual and meditation; specif a circle enclosing a square with a deity on each of its 4 sides used to represent the universe [Skt *maṇḍala* circle]
- mandamus** /man'daymas/ *n.* a judicial writ requiring sthg to be carried out [L, we enjoin, fr *mandare*]
- mandarin** /'mandərɪn, -rɪ-/ *n.* 1a a public official in the Chinese Empire ranked according to any of 9 grades *b* a person of position and influence, esp in literary or bureaucratic circles; esp an elder and often reactionary member of such a circle 2 *cap* a the primarily northern dialect of Chinese used by the court and officials under the Empire *b* the chief dialect of



Chinese that has a standard variety spoken in the Peking area 3 **mandarin**, **mandarin orange** (a small spiny Chinese orange tree that bears) a yellow to reddish orange fruit [Pg *mandarin*, fr Malay *mèntèr*, fr Skt *mantrin* counsellor, fr *mantra* counsel – more at **MANTRA**]

**mandarin 'collar** *n* a narrow stand-up collar

**mandarin 'duck** *n* a brightly marked crested Asian duck, often found domesticated

**'mandate** /ˈmændəɪt/, -dəɪt/ *n* 1 an authoritative command from a superior 2 an authorization to act on the behalf of another, *specif* the political authority given by electors to parliament (<the ~ of the people>) 3a an order granted by the League of Nations to a member nation for the establishment of a responsible government over a conquered territory b a mandated territory [MF & I, MF *mandat*, fr L *mandatum*, fr neut of *mandatus*, pp of *mandare* to entrust, enjoin, prob irreg fr *manus* hand + *-dere* to put – more at **MANUAL**, 'do]

**2 mandate** /ˈmændəɪt/ *vt* to administer or assign under a mandate

**'mandatory** /ˈmændə(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 containing or constituting a command 2 compulsory, obligatory

**2 mandatory** *n* a nation or person holding a mandate

**mandible** /ˈmændɪbəl/ *n* 1a **JAW** 1a b a lower jaw together with its surrounding soft parts c the upper or lower part of a bird's bill 2 any of various mouth parts in insects or other invertebrates for holding or biting food [MF, fr LL *mandibula*, fr I. *mandere* to chew – more at **MOUTH**] – **mandibular** /ˈmændɪbʊlə/ *adj*, **mandibulate** /ˌleɪt/ *adj* or *n*

**mandolin** also **mandoline** /ˈmændəˈlɪn/ *n* a musical instrument of the lute family with a fretted neck [It *mandolino*, dim of *mandola* lute, fr F *mandore*, modif of LL *pandura* 3-stringed lute, fr Gk *pandoura*]

**mandragora** /ˈmændrəɡərə/ *n* mandrake [ME]

**mandrake** /ˈmændrək/ *n* (the root of) a Mediterranean plant of the nightshade family with whitish or purple flowers and a large forked supposedly man-shaped root formerly used in medicine [ME, prob alter of *mandragora*, fr OE, fr L *mandragoras*, fr Gk]

**mandrel** also **mandril** /ˈmændrəl/ *n* 1 an axle or spindle inserted into a hole in a workpiece to support it during machining 2 a metal bar round which material (e.g. metal) may be cast, shaped, etc [prob modif of F *mandrin*]

**mandrill** /ˈmændrɪl/ *n* a large gregarious baboon found in W Africa, the male of which has red and blue striped cheeks [prob fr 'man + *drill* (W African baboon), prob native name in W Africa]

**mane** /ˈmaɪn/ *n* 1 long thick hair growing about the neck of a horse, male lion, etc 2 ANATOMY 2 long thick hair on a person's head [ME, fr OE *manu*, akin to OHG *mana* mane, L *monile* necklace]

**'man-eater** *n* a person or animal that eats human flesh – **man-eating** *adj*

**manège** also **manège** /ˈmaːnɛʒ/ *n* 1 a school for training horses and teaching horsemanship 2 the movements or paces of a trained horse [F *manège*, fr It *maneggio* training of a horse, fr *maneggiare* to manage]

**manes** /ˈmaɪnɛz/ *n pl*, often *cap* the spirits of the ancient Roman dead to which graveside sacrifices were made [L]

**maneuver** /ˈmaːnoʊvər/ *vb* or *n*, **NAM** (to) manoeuvre

**manful** /ˈmæn(ə)l/ *adj* having courage and resolution – **manfully** *adv*

**mangebey** /ˈmæŋɡeɪ/ *n* any of a genus of long-tailed African monkeys [Mangabey, region of Malagasy Republic]

**mangen-, mangano-** *comb form* manganese <manganous> [G *mangan*, fr F *manganèse*]

**manganese** /ˈmæŋɡəˈneɪz/ *n* a greyish white hard divalent or hexavalent metallic element 3 PERIODIC TABLE [F *manganèse*, fr It *manganese* magnes, *manganese*, fr ML *magnesia*] – **manganic** /ˈmæŋɡənɪk/ *adj*, **manganous** /ˈmæŋɡənəs/ *adj*

**manganese dioxide** *n* a dark insoluble compound used . . . as an oxidizing agent and in making glass and ceramics

**manganin** /ˈmæŋɡənɪn/ *n* an alloy of copper, manganese, and nickel used esp for electrical resistors

**mange** /ˈmæŋ/, *maynj*/ *n* any of various contagious skin diseases affecting domestic animals or sometimes human beings, marked by inflammation and loss of hair and caused by a minute parasitic mite [ME *manjewe*, fr MF *mangene* itching, fr *mangier* to eat]

**mangel-wurzel** /ˈmæŋɡəlˌwʊɹəl/, **mangel** *n* a large yellow to orange type of beet grown as food for livestock [G *mangoldwurzel*, *mangelwurzel*, fr *mangold* beet + *wurzel* root]

**manger** /ˈmaɪnjə/ *n* a trough or open box in a stable for holding feed [ME *mangeour*, *manger*, fr MF *maingeur*, fr *mangier* to eat, fr L *manducare* to chew, devour, fr *manducus* glutton, fr *mandere* to chew – more at **MOUTH**]

**'mangle** /ˈmæŋɡəl/ *vt* 1 to hack or crush (as if) by repeated blows 2 to

spoil by poor work, errors, etc [ME *manglen*, fr AF *mangler*, freq of OF *maynier* to maim]

**2 mangle** *vt* or *n* (to pass through) a machine with rollers for squeezing water from and pressing laundry [n D *mangel*, fr G, fr MHG, dim of *mange* mangonel, mangle, fr L *manganum*, vb fr n]

**mango** /ˈmæŋɡoh/, *n pl mangoes, mangos* (a tropical evergreen tree that bears) a yellowish red fruit with a firm skin, large stone, and juicy edible slightly acid pulp [Pg *manga*, fr Tamil *mān-kay*]

**mangold** /ˈmæŋɡohld/, -gold/ *n* a mangel-wurzel

**mangonel** /ˈmæŋɡənel/ *n* a military engine formerly used to throw rocks, stones, etc [ME, fr MF, prob fr ML *manganellus*, dim of LL *manganum* philtre, mangonel, fr Gk *manganon*; akin to **MLr meng** deception]

**mangosteen** /ˈmæŋɡohˌsteen/ *n* (an E Indian tree that bears) a dark reddish brown fruit with thick rind and edible flesh [Malay *mangustan*]

**mangrove** /ˈmæŋɡroʊv/ *n* any of a genus of tropical maritime trees or shrubs with prop roots that form dense masses [prob fr Pg *mangue* mangrove (fr Sp *mangle*, fr Taino) + **E grove**]

**mangy** /ˈmæŋj/, *'maynj*/ *adj* 1 suffering or resulting from mange 2 having many worn or bare spots

**manhandle** /ˈmænˌhændl/, -ˌ-/ *vt* 1 to move or manage by human force 2 to handle roughly

**manhattan** /ˈmænˌhætən/ *n*, often *cap* a cocktail consisting of vermouth, whisky, and sometimes a dash of bitters [Manhattan, borough of New York City, USA]

**manhole** /ˈmænˌhoʊl/ *n* a covered opening through which a person may go, esp to gain access to an underground or enclosed structure (e.g. a sewer)

**'manhood** /-ˌhʊd/ *n* 1 manly qualities 2 the condition of being an adult male as distinguished from a child or female 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* adult males collectively ['MAN + **-HOOD**]

**'man-hour** *n* a unit of 1 hour's work by 1 person, used esp as a basis for cost accounting and wage calculation

**'manhunt** /-ˌhʌnt/ *n* an organized hunt for sb, esp a criminal

**mania** /ˈmaɪnjə/ *n* 1 abnormal excitement and euphoria marked by mental and physical hyperactivity and disorganization of behaviour 2 excessive or unreasonable enthusiasm – often in combination (<*Beatlemania*>) [ME, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *mainesthai* to be mad, akin to Gk *menos* spirit – more at **MIND**]

**maniac** /ˈmaɪniək/ *n* one who is or acts as if (violently) insane, a lunatic – not used technically [LL *maniacus* maniacal, fr Gk *maniakos*, fr *manial*]

**mania** /ˈmaɪniək/ also **maniac** /ˈmaɪniək/ *adj* 1 affected with or suggestive of madness 2 characterized by ungovernable frenzy

**manic** /ˈmanɪk/ *adj* affected by, relating to, or resembling mania – **manic** *n*, **manically** *adv*

**manic-depressive** *adj* of or affected by a mental disorder characterized by alternating mania and (extreme) depression – **manic-depressive** *n*

**Manichaean, Manichean** /ˈmænɪˈkeɪən/, **Manichee** /ˈmænɪˈkeɪ/ *n* 1 a believer in a religious dualism originating in Persia in the 3rd . . . AD and teaching the release of the spirit from matter through austere living 2 a believer in religious or philosophical dualism [LL *manichaëus*, fr LGk *manichaïos*, fr *Manichaïos* Manes † ab 276 AD Per founder of the sect] – **Manichaean** *adj*, **Manichaeism** *n*, **Manichaeism** /ˈmænɪˈkeɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**'manicure** /ˈmænɪkjʊə/ *n* 1 (a) treatment for the care of the hands and fingernails 2 a manicurist [F, fr L *manus* hand + F *-icure* (as in *pedicure* pedicure) – more at **MANUAL**]

**2 manicure** *vt* 1 to give a manicure to 2 to trim closely and evenly – **manicurist** *n*


**'manifest** /ˈmænɪfɪst/ *adj* readily perceived by the senses (e.g. sight) or mind, obvious [ME, fr MF or L, MF *manifeste*, fr L *manifestus*, lit., hit by the hand, fr *manus* + *-festus* (akin to L *infestus* hostile) – more at **DARE**] – **manifestly** *adv*

**2 manifest** *vt* to make evident or certain by showing or displaying ~ *vi* of a spirit, ghost, etc to appear in visible form – **manifest** *n*

**2 manifest** *n* a list of passengers or an invoice of cargo, esp for a ship **manifestation** /ˌmænɪˈfɛstəʃ(ə)n/ *n* a sign (e.g. materialization) of the presence of a spirit ['MANIFEST + **-ATION**]

**manifesto** /ˌmænɪˈfɛstoh/ *n pl manifestos, manifestoes* a public declaration of intentions, esp by a political party before an election [It, denunciation, indication, fr *manifestare* to manifest, fr L, fr *manifestus*]

**'manifold** /ˈmænɪfoʊld/ *adj* many and varied [ME, fr OE *manigfeald*, fr *manig* many + *-feald* -fold] – **manifoldly** *adv*, **manifoldness** *n*

**2 manifold** *n* 1 a whole that unites or consists of many diverse elements 2 a hollow fitting (e.g. connecting the cylinders of an internal combustion engine with the exhaust pipe) with several outlets or inlets for connecting 1 pipe with several other pipes  **CAR**

**3 manifold** *vt* to make (many) copies of

**Manihot** /ˈmæni.hoʊt/ *n* a genus of tropical American herbs or shrubs economically important for their fruit (e.g. cassava) [NL, fr F, cassava, of Tupian origin]

**manikin**, **mannikin** /ˈmænɪkɪn/ *n* 1 a mannequin 2 a little man [D *mannekin* little man, fr MD, dim. of *man*; akin to OE *man*]

**manila** *also* **manilla** /məˈniːlə/ *adj*, *often cap* made of Manila paper or hemp – **manila** *n*

**Manila hemp** *n* abaca [*Manila*, city in the Philippine Islands]


**manila paper** *n*, *often cap M* a strong paper of a brownish or buff colour with a smooth finish, made orig from Manila hemp

**manilla** /məˈniːlə/ *n* a horseshoe-shaped metal bracelet used as money by some peoples of W Africa [Pg *manilha* or Sp *manilla*]

**manille** /məˈniːl/ *n* the second highest trump in various card games (e.g. ombre) [modif of Sp *malilla*]

**man in the 'street** *n* an average or typical person, esp for statistical purposes

**manioc** /ˈmæni.ɒk/ *n* cassava [F *manioc* & Sp & Pg *mandioca*, of Tupian origin; akin to Tupi *manioc* cassava]

**maniple** /ˈmænɪpl/ *n* 1 a long narrow strip of silk worn at mass over the left arm by clerics of or above the order of subdeacon  **GARMENT** 2 a subdivision of the ancient Roman legion consisting of either 120 or 60 men ((1) ML *manipulus*, fr L, handful, fr *manus* hand + *-pulus* (akin to L *plere* to fill); fr its having been originally held in the hand; (2) L *manipulus*, fr *manipulus* handful; fr the custom of using a handful of hay on the end of a pole as a military standard]

**manipulate** /məˈnɪpyoʊləɪt/ *vt* 1 to handle or operate, esp skilfully 2a to manage or use skilfully b to control or influence by artful, unfair, or insidious means, esp to one's own advantage 3 to examine and treat (a fracture, sprain, etc) by moving bones into the proper position manually [back-formation fr *manipulation*, fr F, fr *manipule* handful, fr L *manipulus*] – **manipulatable** *adj*, **manipulator** *n*, **manipulative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*, **manipulatory** /-lət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, **manipulation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**man 'jack** *n* individual man (every ~)

**mankind** /ˈmæn.kɪnd/ *n* *sing but sing or pl in constr* the human race

**man,like** /-lɪk/ *adj* resembling or characteristic of a man rather than an animal b a man rather than a woman or child

**manly** /-li/ *adj* (marked by the good qualities) befitting a man – **manliness** *n*

**man-made** *adj* made or produced by human beings rather than nature, *also* *synthetic*

**manna** /ˈmænə/ *n* 1 food miraculously supplied to the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness 2 a sudden source of benefit [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr Gk, fr Heb *mān*]

**manned** /ˈmænd/ *adj* 1 equipped with men 2 of a spacecraft carrying a human crew

**mannequin** /ˈmænɪkɪn/ *n* 1 an artist's, tailor's, or dressmaker's model of the human figure; *also* such a model used esp for displaying clothes 2 a woman who models clothing [F, fr D *mannekin* little man – more at **MANIKIN**]

**manner** /ˈmænə/ *n* 1 a kind, sort; *also* sorts <all ~ of information> 2a the mode or method in which sth is done or happens b a method of artistic execution; a style 3 *pl* a (rules of) social conduct b social behaviour evaluated as to politeness; *esp* conduct indicating good background <mind you ~s> 4 characteristic or distinctive bearing, air, or deportment [ME *manere*, fr OF *maniere* way of acting, fr (assumed) VL *manuaria*, fr L, fem of *manuarius* of the hand, fr *manus* hand – more at **MANUAL**] – **mannerless** *adj*

**mannered** /ˈmænəd/ *adj* 1 having manners of a specified kind – *usu* in combination <well-mannered> 2 having an artificial or stilted character

**mannerism** /ˈmæn.ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a exaggerated or affected adherence to a particular style in art or literature b *often cap* a style of art in late 16th-c Europe characterized by distortion of the human figure 2 a characteristic (unconscious) gesture or trait; an idiosyncrasy – **mannerist** *n*, **manneristic** /ˌmæn.ɪˈrɪstɪk/ *adj*

**'mannerly** /-li/ *adj* showing or having good manners – **mannerliness** *n*, **mannerly** *adv*

**mannikin** /ˈmænɪkɪn/ *n* a manikin

**mannish** /ˈmænɪʃ/ *adj* resembling, befitting, or typical of a man rather than a woman – **mannishly** *adv*, **mannishness** *n*

**'manoeuvre**, *NAm chiefly* **maneuver** /məˈnoʊhvə/ *n* 1a a military or naval movement b a (large-scale) training exercise for the armed forces 2 an intended and controlled deviation from a straight and level flight path in the operation of an aircraft 3 a skilful or dexterous movement 4 an adroit and clever management of affairs, often using deception [F *manœuvre*, fr OF *manœuvre* work done by hand, fr ML *manuopera*, fr L *manu* operate to work by hand]

**2 manoeuvre**, *NAm chiefly* **maneuver** *vt* 1 to perform a military or naval manoeuvre (to secure an advantage) 2 to perform a manoeuvre 3 to use stratagems ~ *vt* 1 to cause (e.g. troops) to execute manoeuvres 2 to manipulate with adroitness 3 to bring about or secure as a result of contriving – **manoeuvrable** *adj*, **manoeuvrer** *n*, **manoeuvrability** /məˈnoʊhv(ə)rəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**Man of 'Kent** /ˈkɛnt/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Kent, *specif* one from east of the river Medway compare **KENTISHMAN**

**man of 'letters** *n* 1 a scholar 2 a reputable author

**man of 'straw** *n* 1a weak or imaginary opposition (e.g. an argument or adversary) set up only to be easily countered b a person set up to serve as a cover for a (questionable) transaction 2 a weak and irresolute person

**man of the 'house** *n* the chief male in a household

**man of the 'world** *n* a man of wide experience


**man-of-war** *n*, *pl* **men-of-war** /ˈmen-/ a warship (of the days of sail)

**manometer** /məˈnɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the pressure of gases and vapours [F *manomètre*, fr Gk *manos* sparse, loose, rare + F *-mètre* – more at **MONK**] – **manometry** /-trɪ/ *n*, **manometric** /ˌmænəˈmetrɪk/, **manometrical** *adj*, **manometrically** *adv*

**manor** /ˈmænə/ *n* 1 a landed estate 2a a medieval estate under a lord who held a variety of rights over land and tenants, including the right to hold court b **manor**, **manor house** the house of the lord of a manor 3 a district of police administration – *slang* [ME *maner*, fr OF *manoir*, fr *manoir* to sojourn, dwell, fr L *manere* – more at **MANSION**] – **manorial** /məˈnəwɪəl/ *adj*, **manorialism** *n*

**'man,power** *n* the total supply of people available for work or service

**manqué** /ˈmɒŋ.keɪ (Fr mɑ̃kɛ)/ *adj* that could have been but failed to be – *used* after the noun modified <a poet ~ > [F, fr pp of *manquer* to lack, fail]

**mansard** /ˈmɑːnsɑːd, -sɑːd/, **mansard roof** *n* a roof with a lower steeper slope and a higher shallower one on all 4 sides  **ARCHITECTURE** [F *mansarde*, fr François *Mansart* †1666 F architect]

**manse** /ˈmɑːns/ *n* the residence of an esp Presbyterian or Baptist clergyman [ME *mans* mansion house, fr ML *mansa*, *mansus*, *mansum*, fr L *mansus*, pp of *manere*]

**manservant** /ˈmɑːnsəv(ə)nt/ *n*, *pl* **manservants** a male servant, esp a valet

**-manship** /-mənʃɪp/ *suffix* (< ~ *n*) art or skill of one who practises <horsemanship> <gamesmanship>

**mansion** /ˈmænʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the house of the lord of a manor b a large imposing residence 2 a separate apartment in a large structure 3 *archaic* a dwelling [ME, fr MF, fr L *mansion-*, *mansio*, fr *mansus*, pp of *manere* to remain, dwell; akin to Gk *menein* to remain]

**manslaughter** /ˈmɑːnslɔːt/ *n* the unlawful killing of sb without malicious intent

**'manta,ray** /ˈmɑːntə/, **manta** *n* any of several extremely large rays of warm seas [AmerSp *manta*, fr Sp, blanket, fr its being caught in traps resembling large blankets]

**mantelet** /ˈmæntɪ.let, 'mæntɪlɪt/ *n* 1 a short loose cape 2 a movable shield or shelter: e.g. a movable shelter formerly used by besiegers when attacking b the movable frontal plate of the turret of an armoured fighting vehicle [ME, fr MF, dim of *mantel*, *manteau* mantle]

**mantelpiece** /ˈmæntɪˌpiːs/, *mantel* *n* an ornamental structure round a fireplace; *also* a mantelshelf [MF *mantel*]

**'mantel,shelf** /-ˌʃelʃ/, **mantel** *n* a shelf forming part of or above a mantelpiece

**mantic** /ˈmæntɪk/ *adj* of divination [Gk *mantikos*, fr *mantis*]

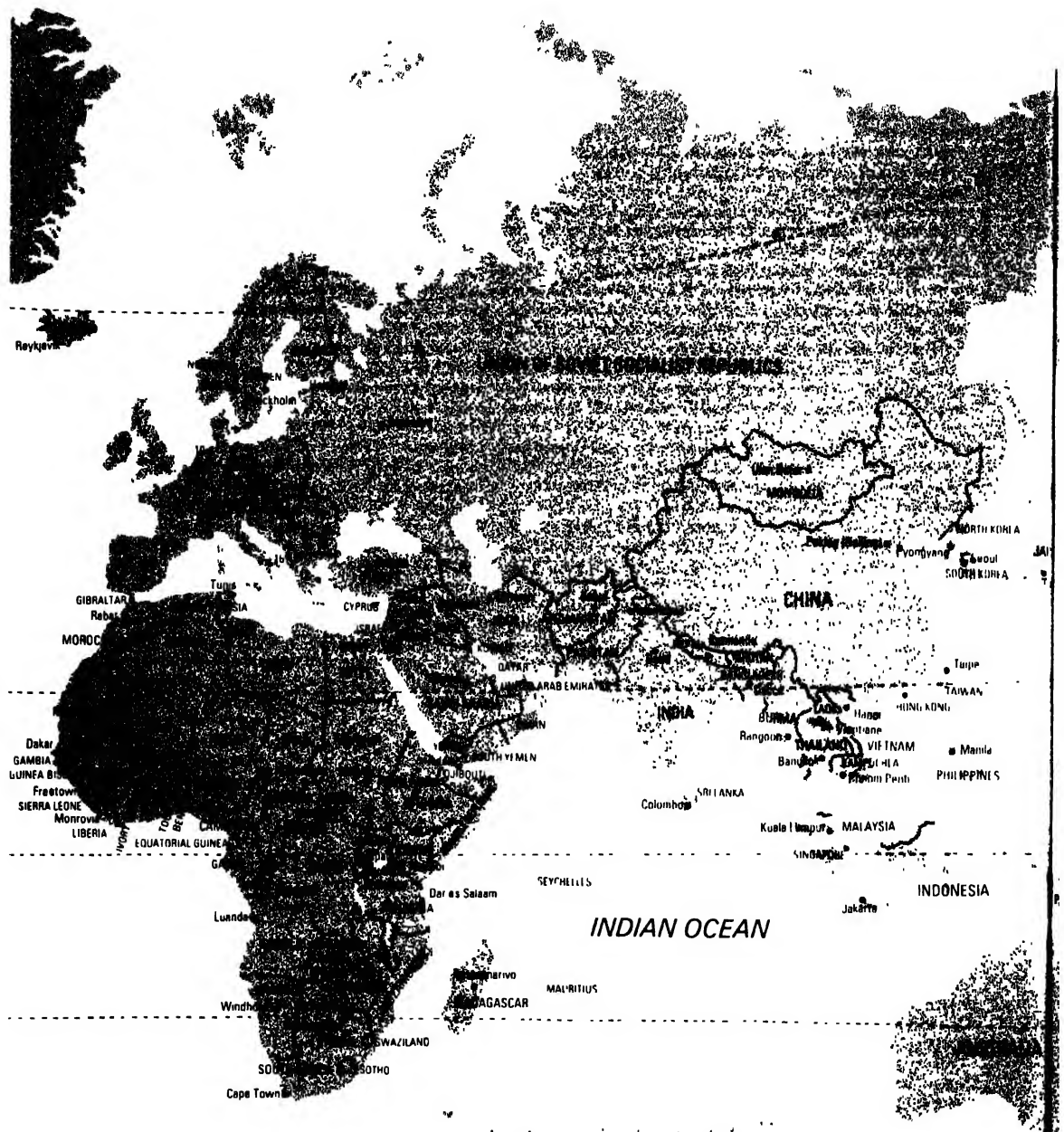
**mantilla** /ˈmæntɪlə/ *n* a light scarf worn over the head and shoulders esp by Spanish and Latin-American women [Sp, dim. of *manta*]

**mantis** /ˈmæntɪs/ *n*, *pl* **mantises**, **mantas** /-teez/ any of several insects that feed on other insects; *esp* **PRAYING MANTIS** [NL, fr Gk, lit., diviner, prophet; akin to Gk *mainesthai* to be mad – more at **MANIA**]

**mantissa** /ˈmæntɪsə/ *n* the part of a common logarithm following the decimal point [L *mantissa*, *mantissa* makeweight, fr Etruscan]

**'mantle** /ˈmæntl/ *n* 1a a loose sleeveless garment worn over other clothes;

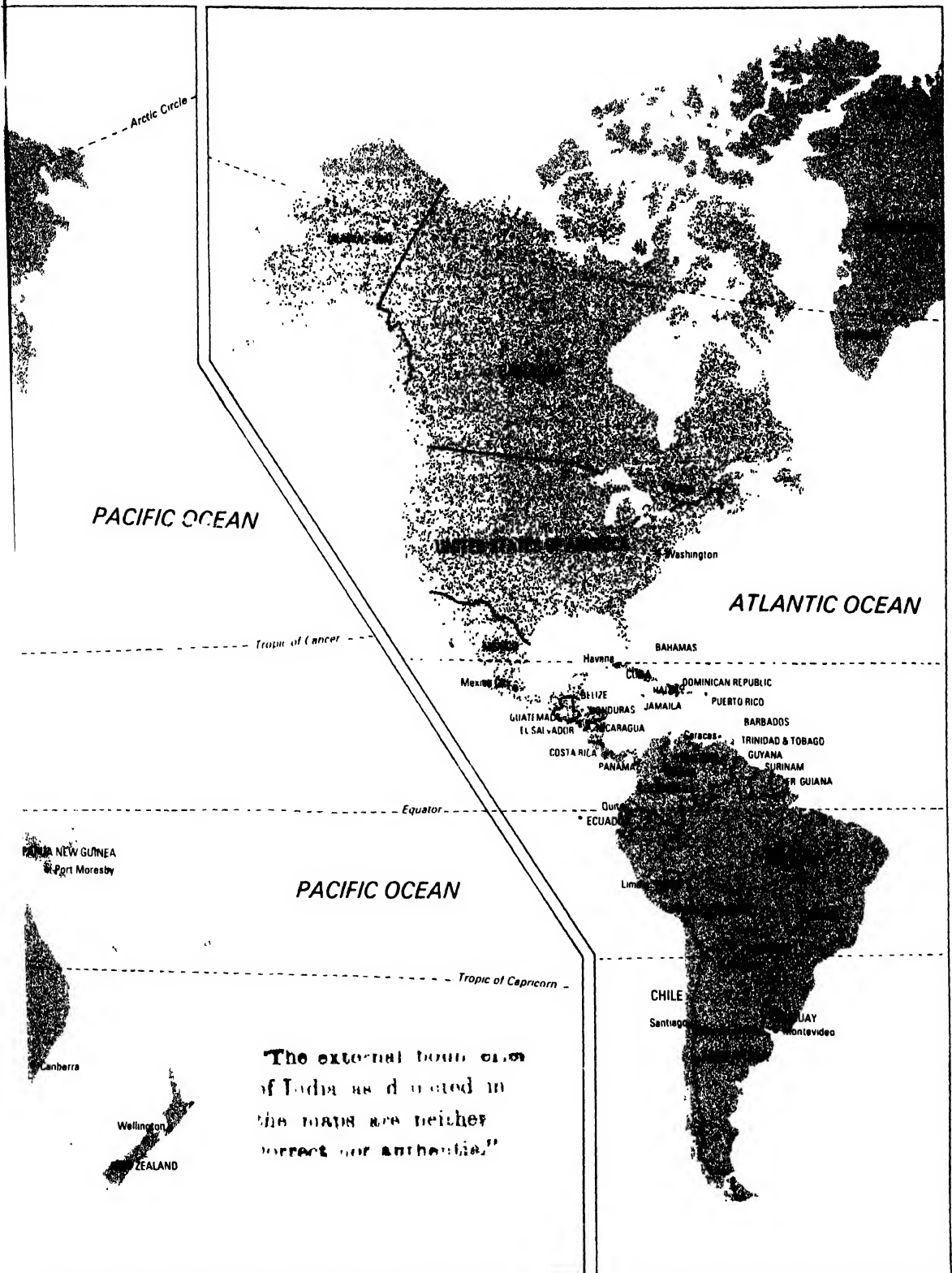
- a cloak **b** a mantle regarded as a symbol of preeminence or authority **2a** sth that covers, envelops, or conceals **b** a fold of a tunicate's, barnacle's, or mollusc's body wall (lining the shell) **3** the feathers covering the back, shoulders, and wings of a bird **4** a lacelike sheath of some reflecting material that gives light by incandescence when placed over a flame **5** the part of the earth or a similar planet that lies between the crust and central core [ME *mantel*, fr OF, fr L *mantellum*]
- mantle** *vt* to cover (as if) with a mantle
- mantlet** /'mantli/ *n* a mantelet
- man-to-man** *adj* **1** characterized by frankness and honesty **2** of or being a defensive system in soccer, basketball, etc in which each player marks 1 specific opponent
- mantra** /'mantrə/ *n* a devotional incantation (e.g. in Hinduism or Buddhism) [Skt, sacred counsel, formula, fr *manyate* he thinks, akin to L *mens* mind - more at MIND]
- mantrap** *n* a trap for catching people
- manual** /'manyooəl/ *adj* **1** of or involving the hands **2** requiring or using physical skill and energy **3** worked or done by hand and not by machine or automatically [ME *manuel*, fr MF, fr L *manualis*, fr *manus* hand, akin to OE *mund* hand, Gk *marē*] - **manually** *adv*
- manual** *n* **1** a book of instructions, a handbook **2** the set movements in the handling of a weapon during a military drill or ceremony **3** a keyboard for the hands, *specif* any of the several keyboards of an organ that control separate divisions of the instrument
- manubrium** /mə'nyooəbri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **manubria** /-bri-ə/ *also* **manubriums** the section of the sternum nearest the head of human beings and many other mammals [NL, fr L, handle, fr *manus*]
- manufactory** /'manyoo'fakt(ə)r/ *n* a factory
- manufacture** /'manyoo'fakchə/ *n* **1** the esp large-scale making of wares by hand or by machinery **2** an industry using mechanical power and machinery **3** the act or process of producing sth [MF, fr L *manu factus* made by hand]
- manufacture** *vt* **1** to make (materials) into a product suitable for use **2** to make (wares) from raw materials by hand or by machinery, esp on a large scale **3** to invent, fabricate **4** to produce as if by manufacturing <writers who ~ stories for television> - **manufacturing** *n*
- manufacturer** /'manyoo'fakchə/ *n* an employer in a manufacturing industry [MANUFACTURE + -ER]
- manuka** /'mahnooka/ *n* an evergreen New Zealand shrub of the myrtle family that forms large areas of scrub [Maori]
- manumit** /'manyoo'mit/ *vt* -tt- to release from slavery [ME *manumitten*, fr MF *manumitter*, fr L *manumittere*, fr *manus* hand + *mittere* to let go, send - more at SMITH] - **manumission** /-'mish(ə)n/ *n*
- manure** /mə'nyooə/ *vt* to enrich (land) by the application of manure [ME *manouren* to till, cultivate, fr MF *manouver*, lit, to do work by hand, fr L *manu operare*] - **manurer** *n*
- manure** *n* material that fertilizes land, esp the faeces of domestic animals - **manurial** /-'ri-əl/ *adj*
- manuscript** /'manyoo'skript/ *n* or *adj* (a composition or document) written by hand or typed as distinguished from a printed copy [adj 1 *manu scriptus* written by hand, 2 ML *manuscriptum*, fr neut of L *manu scriptus*]
- Manx** /'mangks/ *adj* (characteristic) of the Isle of Man [alter of earlier *Maniske*, fr (assumed) ON *mansk*, fr *Mana* Isle of Man]
- Manx** *n* **1** *pl* in *constr* the people of the Isle of Man **2** the almost extinct Celtic language of the Manx people [LANGUAGE]
- Manx cat** *n* (any of) a breed of short-haired domestic cats some of which have no external tail
- Manxman** /-'man/, *fem* **Manx woman** *n* a native or inhabitant of the Isle of Man
- Manx shearwater** /'shia,wawə/ *n* a small black-and-white N Atlantic shearwater
- many** /'meni/ *adj* **more** /'maw/; **most** /'mohst/ **1** consisting of or amounting to a large but unspecified number <worked for ~ years> <many-sided> **2** being one of a large number <~ a man> <~ is the time I've wondered> [ME, fr OE *manig*; akin to OHG *manag* many, OSla *minigō* much] - **as many** the same in number <saw 3 plays in as many days>
- many** *pron pl* in *constr* a large number of people or things <~ prefer to stay at home> <I haven't got as ~ as you>
- many** *n pl* in *constr* **1** a large but indefinite number <a good ~ of them have already left> **2** the great majority
- many** *adv* to a considerable degree or amount; far - with plurals <~ more cars than usual>
- many-sided** *adj* **1** having many sides or aspects **2** having many interests or aptitudes - **many-sidedness** *n*
- Manzanilla** /'manzə'nilla/ *n* a pale very dry sherry [Sp, dim. of *manzana* apple]
- Maoism** /'mow,iz(ə)m/ *n* Marxism-Leninism as developed in China chiefly by Mao Tse-tung [Mao Tse-tung †1976 Chin political leader] - **Maist** *n* or *adj*
- Maori** /'mowri, 'mahri/ *n*, *pl* **Maoris**, *esp* collectively **Maori** **1** a member of the indigenous people of New Zealand **2** the Austronesian language of the Maori [LANGUAGE]
- Maoritanga** /'mowri'tahŋ-ə/ *n*, *NZ* Maori culture [Maori]
- map** /'map/ *n* **1** a representation, usu on a flat surface, of (part of) the earth's surface, the celestial sphere, etc [C] **2** sth that represents with a clarity suggestive of a map [ML *mappa*, fr L, napkin, towel]
- map** *vt* -pp- **1a** to make a map of **b** to delineate as if on a map **c** to survey in order to make a map **2** to assign to every element of (a mathematical set) an element of the same or another set **3** to plan in detail - often + *out* <~ out a programme> - **mappable** *adj*, **mapper** *n*
- maple** /'maypl/ *n* (the hard light-coloured close-grained wood, used esp for furniture, of) any of a genus of widely planted trees or shrubs [ME, fr OE *mapul*, akin to ON *mopurr* maple]
- maple sugar** *n* sugar made by boiling maple syrup
- maple syrup** *n* syrup made by concentrating the sap of (sugar) maple trees
- maquette** /'maket/ *n* a small preliminary model of a sculpture (e.g. in wax or clay) [F, fr It *macchietta*, dim of *macchia* sketch, deriv of L *macula* spot]
- maquis** /'maki/ *n*, *pl* **maquis** /~/ **1** (an area of) thick scrubby underbrush of Mediterranean shores [C] **2a** often *cap* a member of the French Resistance during WW II **b** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a band of maquis [F, fr It *macchie*, pl of *macchia* thicket, spot, fr L *macula*]
- mar** /'mah/ *vt* -rr- to detract from the perfection or wholeness of [ME *marren*, fr OE *mierran* to obstruct, waste, akin to OHG *merren* to obstruct]
- marabou, marabout** /'marəbooh/ *n* a large African stork [F *marabout*, lit, marabout]
- marabout** /'marəbooh/ *n*, often *cap* (a shrine marking the grave of) a Muslim holy man of N Africa [F, fr Pg *marabuto*, fr Ar *murabī*]
- maraca** /mə'rakə/ *n* a dried gourd or a rattle like a gourd that is used as a rhythm instrument and is usu played as one of a pair [Pg *maraca*]
- maraschino** /'marə'sheenoh, -'skeenoh/ *n*, *pl* **maraschinos** often *cap* **1** a sweet liqueur distilled from the fermented juice of a bitter wild cherry **2** a large cherry preserved in true or imitation maraschino [It, fr *marasca* bitter wild cherry]
- marasmus** /mə'rəzməs/ *n* progressive emaciation, esp in the young, due usu to faulty digestion and absorption of food [LL, fr Gk *marasmos*, fr *marainein* to waste away - more at SMART] - **marasmic** /-'mik/ *adj* or *n*
- Maratha, Mahratta** /mə'rahta/ *n* a member of a people of the S central part of India [Marathi *Marāṭha* & Hindi *Marhatta*, fr Skt *Maharashtra* Maharashtra]
- Marathi** /mə'rahti/ *n* the chief Indic language of the state of Maharashtra in India [LANGUAGE] [Marathi *marathi*]
- marathon** /'marəθ(ə)n/ *n* **1** a long-distance race, *specif* a foot race of 76 mi 385 yd (about 42.2 km) that is contested on an open course in major athletics championships **2a** an endurance contest **b** an event or activity characterized by great length or concentrated effort [Marathon, Greece, site of a victory of Greeks over Persians in 490 BC, the news of which was carried to Athens by a long-distance runner]
- maraud** /mə'raʊd/ *vt* to roam about in search of plunder ~ *vt* to raid, pillage [F *marauder*] - **marauder** *n*
- maravedi** /mə'rə'veidi/ *n*, *pl* **maravedis** a medieval Spanish copper coin unit worth 1/16 real [Sp *maravedi*, fr Ar *Murabitin* 11th- & 12th-c Muslim dynasty in N Africa & Spain]
- marble** /'mahbl/ *n* **1a** (more or less) crystallized limestone that can be highly polished and is used esp in building and sculpture **b** a sculpture or carving made of marble **2a** a little ball made of a hard substance, esp glass, and used in children's games **b** *pl* but *sing* in *constr* any of several games played with marbles, the object of which is to hit a mark or hole, to hit another player's marble, or to knock as many marbles as possible out of a ring **3** marbling **4** *pl* elements of common sense, esp samty - *infin* <he's lost his ~s> [ME, fr OF *marbre*, fr L *marmor*, fr Gk *marmaros*]

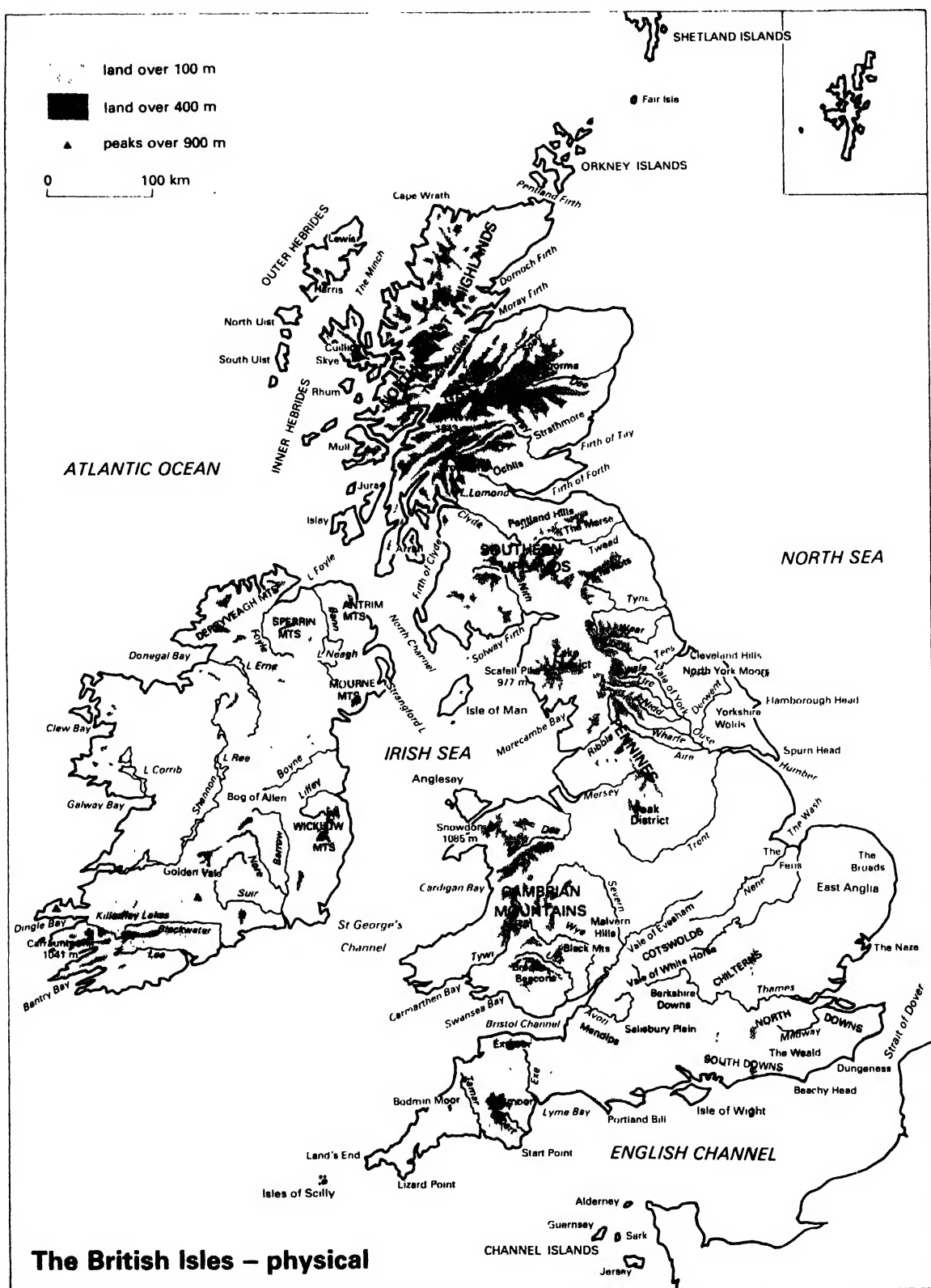


## The World

### Key - Europe

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND Dublin           | 13 AUSTRIA Vienna        |
| 2 UNITED KINGDOM London                | 14 ITALY Rome            |
| 3 PORTUGAL Lisbon                      | 15 YUGOSLAVIA Belgrade   |
| 4 SPAIN Madrid                         | 16 ALBANIA Tirana        |
| 5 ANDORRA Andorra                      | 17 GREECE Athens         |
| 6 FRANCE Paris                         | 18 BULGARIA Sofia        |
| 7 SWITZERLAND Berne                    | 19 ROMANIA Bucharest     |
| 8 BELGIUM Brussels                     | 20 HUNGARY Budapest      |
| 9 LUXEMBOURG Luxembourg                | 21 CZECHOSLOVAKIA Prague |
| 10 THE NETHERLANDS The Hague/Amsterdam | 22 POLAND Warsaw         |
| 11 WEST GERMANY Bonn                   | 23 DENMARK Copenhagen    |
| 12 EAST GERMANY Berlin                 |                          |







- marble** *vb* **marbling** /'mahblɪŋ, 'mahblɪŋ/ to give a veined or mottled appearance to (e.g. the edges of a book) – **marbling** /-b(ə)lɪŋ/ *n*
- marbled** *adj* **1a** made of or veneered with marble **b** marked by an extensive use of marble as an architectural or decorative feature (*ancient ~ cities*) **2** of meat marked by a mixture of fat and lean
- marc** /mahk/ *n* **1** the organic residue remaining after an extraction process (e.g. the pressing of grapes) **2** brandy made from the residue of grapes after pressing [F, fr MF, fr *marchier* to trample]
- marcasite** /mahkə'seet, 'mahkə'siet/ *n* (a piece of) crystallized iron pyrites or a similar mineral, used esp for jewellery [ME *marchasite*, fr ML *marcasita*, fr Ar *marqashutha*]
- marcel** /mah'sel/ *n* a deep soft wave made in the hair by a heated curling iron [Marcel Grateau †1936 F hairdresser] – **marcel** *vt*
- march** /mahch/ *n*, often *cap* a border region, esp a tract of land between 2 countries whose ownership is disputed – usu pl <the Welsh ~es> [ME *marche*, fr OF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *marha* boundary – more at 'MARK]
- march** *vi* to have common borders or frontiers <a region that ~es with Canada in the north>
- march** *vi* **1** to move along steadily, usu in step with others **2a** to move in a direct purposeful manner **b** to make steady progress <time ~es on> ~ *vt* **1** to cause to march <~ed him off to the police station> **2** to cover by marching <~ed 30 miles> [MF *marchier* to trample, march, fr OF, to trample, prob of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *marcōn* to mark]
- march** *n* **1a** the action of marching **b** the distance covered within a specified period of time by marching **c** a regular measured stride or rhythmic step used in marching **d** steady forward movement **2a** a musical composition, usu in duple or quadruple time, that has a strongly accented beat and is designed or suitable to accompany marching – on the march moving steadily, advancing
- March** *n* the 3rd month of the Gregorian calendar [ME, fr OF, fr L *martius*, fr *martius* of Mars, fr *Mart-*, Mars]
- marcher** /mahchə/ *n* **1** one who inhabits a border region **2** the lord of a border region in former times <the King's authority was constantly challenged by the ~ lords>
- marcher** *n* one who marches, esp for a specified cause <a peace ~>
- marching orders** /mah'chɪŋ/ *n* pl **1** official notice for troops to move **2** notice of dismissal <the player was given his ~ after the brutal foul>
- marchioness** /mahshə'nes, 'mahshənɪs/ *n* **1** the wife or widow of a marquess **2** a woman having in her own right the rank of a marquess [ML *marchionissa*, fr *marchion-*, *marchio* marquess, fr *marca* border region]
- Mardi Gras** /mahdi 'grah/ *n* (a carnival period culminating on) Shrove Tuesday often observed (e.g. in New Orleans) with parades and festivities [F, lit, fat Tuesday]
- mare** /meə/ *n* a female equine animal, esp when fully mature or of breeding age, esp a female horse [ME, fr OE *mere*; akin to OHG *merha* mare, OE *mea* horse, W *march*]
- mare** /mahray/ *n*, pl *maria* /-riə/ any of several large dark areas on the surface of the moon or Mars [NL, fr L, sea – more at MARINE]
- mare clausum** /mahray 'kloʊs(ə)m/ *n* a navigable body of water under the jurisdiction of 1 nation [NL, lit, closed sea]
- mare liberum** /mahray 'leebərəm/ *n* a navigable body of water open to all nations [NL, lit, free sea]
- mare's nest** /meəz/ *n*, pl *mare's nests*, *mares' nests* a false discovery, illusion, or deliberate hoax
- mare's tail** *n*, pl *mare's tails*, *mares' tails* **1** a common aquatic plant with long shoots covered with narrow leaves **2** a long streak ~ cirrus cloud
- margarine** /mahjə'reen; also mahgə'reen, '-/-/ *n* a substitute for butter made usu from vegetable oils churned with ripened skimmed milk to a smooth emulsion [F, fr Gk *margaron* pearl]
- margay** /mahgay/ *n* a small American spotted cat resembling the ocelot [F, fr Tupi *maracaja*]
- marge** /mahj/ *n* MARGIN **1, 2** – poetic [MF, fr L *margo*]
- marge** *n* *margarine* – infml [by shortening & alter.]
- margin** /mahjɪn/ *n* **1** the part of a page outside the main body of printed or written text **2** the outside limit and adjoining surface of sth **3a** a spare amount or measure or degree allowed (e.g. in case of error) **b(1)** a bare minimum below which or an extreme limit beyond which sth becomes impossible or is no longer desirable **(2)** the limit below which economic activity cannot be continued under normal conditions **4** the difference between net sales and the cost of merchandise sold **5** measure or degree of difference [ME, fr L *margin-*, *margo* border – more at 'MARK] – **margined** *adj*
- margin** *vt* to provide with a border
- marginal** /mahjɪn/ *adj* **1** written or printed in the margin **2** of or situated at a margin or border **3** close to the lower limit of qualification, acceptability, or function **4** of or providing a nominal profit margin **5** being a constituency where the Member of Parliament was elected with only a small majority – compare SAFT 6 [ML *marginalis*, fr L *margin-*, *margo*] – **marginally** *adv*, **marginality** /mahjɪ'naləti/ *n*
- marginal** *n* a marginal constituency
- marginalia** /mahjɪ'naljə/ *n* pl marginal notes (e.g. in a book) [NL, fr ML, neut pl of *marginalis*]
- margrave** /mahgrayv/ *n* **1** the hereditary title of some princes of the Holy Roman Empire **2** a member of the German nobility corresponding in rank to a British marquess [D *markgraaf*, fr MD *marcgrave*; akin to OHG *marcgrāvo*, both fr a prehistoric D-G compound whose constituents are akin to OHG *marha* boundary & to OHG *grāvo* count – more at 'MARK] – **margraval** /mah'grayvəl/ *adj*
- margravine** /mahgrə'veen/ *n* the wife of a margrave
- marguerite** /mahgə'reet/ *n* (a single-flowered chrysanthemum like) an oxeye daisy [F, fr MF *margarite* pearl, daisy, fr L *margarita* pearl, fr Gk *margarites*, fr *margaron*]
- Marian** /meərɪən/ *adj* of the Virgin Mary
- mariculture** /mar,kulchə/ *n* the cultivation of marine organisms by exploiting their natural environment [L *mare* sea + E *-culture* (as in *agriculture*)]
- marigold** /marigold/ *n* any of a genus of composite plants with showy yellow or red flower heads [ME, fr *Mary*, mother of Jesus + ME *gold*]
- marijuana, marihuana** /marə(h)wahnə, -yoʊ'ahnə/ *n* **1** HEMP **2** a usu mild form of cannabis [MexSp *marijuana*, *marihuana*]
- marimba** /mə'rɪmbə/ *n* a percussion instrument resembling a large xylophone [of African origin, akin to Kimbundu *marimba* xylophone]
- marina** /mə'reenə/ *n* a dock or basin providing secure moorings for motorboats, yachts, etc [It & Sp, seashore, fr fem of *marino*, *adj*, marine, fr L *marinus*]
- marinade** /marɪ'naɪd/ *vt* or *n* (to soak in) a blend of oil, wine or vinegar, herbs, and spices in which meat, fish, etc is soaked, esp to enrich its flavour [n F, fr Sp *marinada*, fr *marinar* to pickle in brine, fr *marino*, *vb* fr n]
- marinate** /marɪ'naɪt/ *vt* to marinate [prob fr It *marinato*, pp of *marinare* to marinate, fr *marino*]
- marine** /mə'reen/ *adj* **1** of or (living) in the sea **2** of or used in the navigation or commerce of the sea <a ~ chart> <~ law> [ME, fr L *marinus*, fr *mare* sea, akin to OE *mere* sea, pool, OHG *meri* sea, Oslav *morje*]
- marine** *n* **1** seagoing ships (of a specified nationality or class) <the mercantile ~> **2a** any of a class of soldiers serving on shipboard or in close association with a naval force **b** RANK **3** a seascaper
- mariner** /marɪ'nə/ *n* a seaman, sailor [ME, fr AF, fr OF *marinier*, fr ML *marinarius*, fr L *marinus*]
- Mariolatry** /meərɪ'olətri/ *n* excessive veneration of the Virgin Mary – **Mariolater** *n*
- marionette** /marɪ'net/ *n* a small-scale usu wooden figure with jointed limbs that is moved from above by attached strings or wires [F *marionnette*, fr MF *maryonete*, fr *Marion*, dim of *Marie* Mary]
- marital** /marɪtl/ *adj* of marriage [L *maritalis*, fr *maritus* married] – **maritally** *adv*
- maritime** /marɪ'tiəm/ *adj* **1** MARINE **2** 2 of or bordering on the sea [L *maritimus*, fr *mare*]
- marjoram** /mahjə'rəm, -rəm/ *n* any of various plants of the mint family used as herbs, also oregano [alter. of ME *majorane*, fr MF, fr ML *majorana*]
- mark** /mahk/ *n* **1a(1)** a conspicuous object serving as a guide for travellers **(2)** sth (e.g. a line, notch, or fixed object) designed to record position **b** any of the points on a sounding line that correspond to a depth in whole fathoms **c** TARGET **2a** **d** the starting line or position in a track event **e** a goal or desired object **f** the point under discussion <that comment was rather off the ~> **g** an established or accepted standard of performance, quality, or condition <his singing was hardly up to the ~> **2a(1)** a sign or token <a ~ of his esteem> **(2)** an impression on the surface of sth; esp a scratch, stain, etc that spoils the appearance of a surface **(3)** a distinguishing characteristic <bears the ~ of an educated woman> **b(1)** a symbol used for identification or indication of ownership **(2)** a symbol, esp a cross, made in place of a signature **c** a written or printed symbol

<punctuation ~s> **d cap** – used with a numeral to designate a particular model of a weapon or machine (Mark II) **e** a symbol representing a judgment of merit, esp one used by a teacher **f** a point or level (reached) <passed the halfway ~> **3a** attention, notice <nothing worthy of ~ occurred> **b** importance, distinction <a person of little ~> **c** a lasting or strong impression <years of warfare have left their ~ on the country> **d** an assessment of merits <got high ~s for honesty> **4** an object of attack, specif a victim of a swindle – **infml** [ME, fr OE *mearc* boundary, march, sign; akin to OHG *marha* boundary, L *margo*]

**mark** *vt* **1a(1)** to fix or trace out the limits of **(2)** to plot the course of **b** to set apart (as if) by a line or boundary – **usu** + *off* **2a(1)** to designate or identify (as if) by a mark <~ed for greatness> **(2)** to make or leave a mark on **(3)** to label (merchandise) so as to indicate price or quality **(4)** to add appropriate symbols, characters, or other marks to or on <~ the manuscript for the printer> – **usu** + *up* **b(1)** to indicate by a mark <X ~s the spot> **(2)** to register, record <~ the date in your diary> **(3)** to evaluate by marks <~ examination papers> **c(1)** to characterize, distinguish <the flamboyance that ~s her stage appearance> **(2)** to be the occasion of (sthg notable), to indicate as a particular time <this year ~s the 50th anniversary of the organization> **3** to take notice of <~ what I say> **4 Br** to stay close to (an opposing player) in hockey, soccer, etc so as to hinder the getting or play of the ball ~ *vt* **1** to become or make sthg stained, scratched, etc <it won't ~ will it?> **2** to evaluate sthg by marks [ME *marken*, fr OE *mearcian*, akin to OHG *marcon* to determine the boundaries of, OE *mearc* boundary] – **marker** *n* – **mark time** **1** to keep the time of a marching step by moving the feet alternately without advancing **2** to function listlessly or unproductively while waiting to progress or advance

**mark** *n* **1** often *cap* (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of either East or West Germany ➞ *Germany (Democratic Republic), Germany (Federal Republic)* at NATIONALITY **2** a markka [ME, fr OE *marc*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *mork* mark, akin to OE *mearc* sign]

**Mark** *n* the 2nd Gospel in the New Testament [L *Marcus*]

**Mark der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik** /mahk dəˌdɔɪtʃən demohˌkratɪʃən repoʊˈbleek (Ger mark der dɔɪtʃən demohˌratɪʃən republiˈk)/ *n* ➞ *Germany (Democratic Republic)* at NATIONALITY [G, mark of the German Democratic Republic]

**mark down** *n* (the amount of) a reduction in price – **mark down** *vt* **marked** /mahkt/ *adj* **1a** having natural marks (of a specified type) <wings ~ with white> **b** made identifiable by marking <a ~ card> **2** having a distinctive or emphasized character <a ~ American accent> **3** being an object of attack, suspicion, or vengeance <a ~ man> **4** distinguished from a basic form (e.g. the singular) by the presence of a particular linguistic feature (e.g. *s* indicating the plural form) – **markedly** /mahkidli/ *adv*

**market** /mahkit/ *n* **1a** a meeting together of people for the purpose of trade, by private purchase and sale **b** an open space, building, etc where a market (e.g. for trading in provisions or livestock) is held **2a** (a geographical area or section of the community in which there is) demand for commodities <the foreign ~> **b** commercial activity, extent of trading **c** an opportunity for selling <create new ~s for our product> **d** the area of economic activity in which the forces of supply and demand affect prices <~ value> [ME, fr ONF, fr L *mercatus* trade, marketplace, fr *mercatus*, pp of *mercari* to trade, fr *merc-*, *merx* merchandise; akin to Oscan *amricadut* without remuneration] – **in the market** interested in buying <in the market for a house> – **on the market** available for purchase

**market** *vt* to deal in a market ~ *vt* to sell – **marketable** *adj*, **marketability** /mahkitəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**market cross** *n* a cross orig erected in a market place

**market garden** *n* a plot in which vegetables are grown for market – **market gardener** *n*, **market gardening** *n*

**marketing** /mahkitɪŋ/ *n* the skills and functions, including packaging, promotion, and distribution, involved in selling goods

**marketplace** *n* **1** an open place in a town where markets are held **2** MARKET **2c, d**

**market research** *n* research (e.g. the collection and analysis of information about consumer preferences) dealing with the patterns or state of demand (for a particular product) in a market

**marking** /mahkiŋ/ *n* **1** (the giving of) a mark or marks **2** arrangement, pattern, or disposition of marks

**marking ink** *n* indelible ink for marking fabric

**markka** /mahkə/ *n*, *pl* markkaa /-kah/, markkaa ➞ *Finland* at NATIONALITY [Finn, fr Sw *mark*, a unit of value; akin to ON *mörk*]

**Markov chain** /ˈmahkəf/ *n* a random sequence of states in which the probability of occurrence of a future state depends only on the present state and not on the path by which it was reached [A A Markov †1922 Russ mathematician]

**marksman** /ˈmahksmən/, *fem* markswoman *n*, *pl* marksmen, *fem* markswomen a person skilled in hitting a mark or target – **marksmanship** *n*

**mark up** *n* (the amount of) an increase in price – **mark up** *vt*

**marl** /mahl/ *vt* or *n* (to fertilize with) a crumbly earthy deposit (e.g. of silt or clay) that contains calcium carbonate and is used esp as a fertilizer for lime-deficient soils [n ME, fr MF *marle*, fr ML *margula*, dim. of L *marga* marl, fr Gaulish, vb fr n] – **marly** *adj*

**marlin** /mahlin/ *n* any of several large oceanic game fishes [short for *marlinspike*, fr the appearance of its beak]

**marline, marlin** /mahlin/ *n* a thin 2-stranded usu tarred rope used on board ship [D *marlyn*, alter of *marling*, fr *meren*, *marren* to tie, moor, fr MD *meren*, *maren* – more at *MOOR*]

**marline spike, marlinspike** /-spi:k/ *n* a pointed steel tool used to separate strands of rope or wire

**marlite** /mah(r)li:t/ *n* a marl resistant to the action of air

**marmalade** /ˈmahməˌleɪd/ *n* a clear sweetened preserve made from oranges, lemons, etc and usu containing pieces of fruit peel [Pg *mar-melada* quince conserve, fr *marmelo* quince, fr L *melimelum*, a sweet apple, fr Gk *melimelon*, fr *meli* honey + *melon* apple – more at MELIMELIMOUS]

**marmalade** *adj*, esp of cats brownish orange

**Marmite** /ˈmahmi:t/ *trademark* – used for a concentrated yeast extract used esp as a savoury spread

**marmoreal** /mahˈmawri-əl/, also **marmorean** /-ri-ən/ *adj* of or like marble or a marble statue – chiefly poetic [L *marmoraceus*, fr *marmor* marble, fr Gk *marmaros*]

**marmoset** /ˈmahməˌzɛt/ *n* any of numerous soft-furred S and Central American monkeys [ME *marmousette*, fr MF *marmoset* grotesque figure, fr *marmouset* to mumble, of imit origin]

**marmot** /mahmət/ *n* any of several stout-bodied short-legged small-eared burrowing rodents [F *marmotte*]

**Maronite** /ˈmarəni:t/ *n* a member of a Syrian Christian church now existing chiefly in the Lebanon [ML *maronita*, fr *Maron-*, *Maro* 5th-c AD Syrian monk]

**maroon** /məˈroʊn/ *vt* **1** to abandon on a desolate island or coast **2** to isolate in a helpless state [*Maroon*]

**maroon** *n* **1** a dark brownish red **2** an explosive rocket used esp as a distress signal [F *marron* Spanish chestnut]

**Maroon** /məˈroʊn/ *n* (a descendant of) a fugitive Negro slave of the W Indies and Guiana in the 17th and 18th c [modif of AmerSp *cimarrón*, fr *cimarrón* wild, savage, lit, living on mountaintops, fr Sp *cima* peak, fr L *cyma* young sprout of cabbage]

**marque** /mahk/ *n* a brand or model of a product, esp a car [F, mark, brand, fr *marquer* to mark, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *marcon* to mark]

**marquee** /mahˈkee/ *n* **1** a large tent (e.g. for an outdoor party or exhibition) **2** *NAm* a permanent canopy projecting over an entrance (e.g. of a hotel or theatre) [modif of F *marquise*, lit, marchioness]

**Marquesan** /mahˈkayz(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (of) an inhabitant, or the Austronesian language, of the Marquesas islands ➞ LANGUAGE

**marquess, marquis** /mahkwɪs/ *n*, *pl* marquesses, marquises, **marquis** (a European nobleman equivalent in rank to) a member of the British peerage ranking below a duke and above an earl [ME *marquis*, *markis*, fr MF *marquis*, alter. of *marchis*, fr *marche* march] – **marquessate** /-kwɪsɪt/, **marquise** /-kwɪzɪt/, -sɪt/ *n*

**marquetry** also **marqueterie** /mahkwɪtri/ *n* decorative work of pieces of wood, ivory, etc inlaid in a wood veneer that is then applied to a surface (e.g. of a piece of furniture) [MF *marqueterie*, fr *marqueter* to chequer, inlay, fr *marque* mark]

**marquise** /mahˈkee/ *n* **1** a marchioness **2** a gem or ring setting shaped like an oval with pointed ends [F, fem of *marquis*]

**marram grass** /ˈmarəm/ *n* any of several strong wiry grasses that grow on sandy shores and prevent erosion [of Scand origin; akin to ON *maralinn*, a beach grass]

**marriage** /ˈmarij/ *n* **1a** the state of being or mutual relation of husband and wife **b** the institution whereby a man and a woman are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence **2** an act or the rite of marrying; esp the wedding ceremony **3** an intimate or close union [ME *marriage*, fr MF, fr *marier* to marry] – **marriageable** *adj*

**marriage of convenience** *n* a marriage contracted for advantage rather than for love

**married** /ˈmɑːrɪd/ *adj* **1a** joined in marriage **b** of married people **2** united, joined

**\*married** *n* a married person (<young ~s>)

**marrons glacés** /ˌmɑːrɒn ˈɡlɑːsɪ/ *n pl* chestnuts candied or preserved in syrup [F]

**marrow** /ˈmɑːrəʊ/ *n* **1a** a soft tissue that fills the cavities and porous part of most bones and contains many blood vessels **b** the substance of the spinal cord **2** the inmost, best, or essential part, the core **3 chiefly Br** VEGETABLE MARROW [ME *marowe*, fr OE *mearg*; akin to OHG *marag* marrow, Skt *majjan*] – **marrowless** *adj*, **marrowy** *adj*

**marrowbone** /ˌmɑːrəʊˈboʊn, -rəʊ-/ *n* a bone rich in marrow

**marrowfat** /ˌmɑːrəʊˈfæt, -rəʊ-/ *n* any of several types of large pea

**\*marry** /ˈmɑːri/ *vt* **1a** to give in marriage **b** to take as spouse **c** to perform the ceremony of marriage for **d** to obtain by marriage (<she married money> **2** to bring together closely, harmoniously, and usu permanently ~ *vi* **1a** to take a spouse **b** to become husband and wife **2** to join in a close or harmonious relationship [ME *marren*, fr OF *marier*, fr L *maritare*, fr *maritus* married] – **marry into** to become a member of or obtain by marriage (married into a prominent family)

**\*marry interj**, *archaic* – used for emphasis, esp to express amused or surprised agreement [ME *marie*, fr *Marie*, the Virgin Mary]

**Mars** /ˈmɑːz/ *n* the planet 4th in order from the sun and conspicuous for its red colour 𐀓 ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [L *Mars*, *Mars*, Roman god of war]

**Marsala** /ˌmɑːˈsɑːlə/ *n* a (sweet) fortified wine from Sicily [*Marsala*, town in Sicily]

**marsh** /ˈmɑːʃ/ *n* (an area of) soft wet land usu covered with sedges, rushes, etc [ML *marish* fr OE *merisc*, *mersc*; akin to MD *mersch* marsh, OE *mere* sea, pool – more at MARINE] – **marshy** *adj*, **marshiness** *n*

**\*marshal** /ˈmɑːʃəl(ə)/ *n* **1a** a high official in a medieval royal household **b** one who arranges and directs a ceremony **c** one who arranges the procedure at races **2a** FIFTH MARSHAL **b** an officer of the highest military rank **3a** a chief officer in the USA responsible for court processes in a district **b** the head of a US police or fire department [ME, fr OF *mareschal*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *marahscalc* marshal, fr *marah* horse + *scalc* servant] – **marshalee** /-sɪ/, **marshalship** *n*

**\*marshal** *vb* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈmɑːʃəl ɪŋ/ *vt* **1** to place in proper rank or position **2** to bring together and order in an effective way (<one's thoughts> **3** to lead ceremoniously or solicitously, usher ~ *vi* to form or collect together (in a proper order)

**\*marshalling**, **yard** *n*, *chiefly Br* a place where railway vehicles are shunted and assembled into trains

**marshal of the Royal Air Force** *n* 𐀓 RANK

**\*marsh**, **gas** *n* methane

**\*marsh**, **harrier** *n* an Old World hawk

**marshmallow** /ˌmɑːʃˈmɑːləʊ/ *n* **1** a pink-flowered Eurasian marsh plant of the mallow family **2** a light spongy confection made from the root of the marshmallow or from sugar, albumen, and gelatin – **marshmallows** *adj*

**\*marsh** /ˈmɑːrɪˌɡɒld/ *n* a European and N American marsh plant of the buttercup family with large bright yellow flowers

**\*marsupial** /ˌmɑːˈsjuːpiəl, -soʊ-/ *adj* **1** of or being a marsupial **2** of or forming a marsupium or pouch

**\*marsupial** *n* any of an order of lower mammals including the kangaroos, wombats, and opossums that have a pouch on the abdomen of the female for carrying young, and do not develop a placenta 𐀓 LIFE CYCLE [deriv of NL *marsupium*]

**\*marsupium** /-piːəm/ *n*, *pl* **marsupia** /-piːə/ the abdominal pouch of a marsupial, formed by a fold of the skin and enclosing the mammary glands [NL, fr L, purse, pouch, fr Gk *marsypion*, dim of *marsypos* pouch]

**mart** /mɑːt/ *n* a place of trade (e.g. an auction room or market) [ME, fr MD *marct*, *mart*, prob fr ONF *marker*]

**Martello** /ˌmɑːˈteləʊ/, **Martello**, **tower** *n* a circular masonry fort or blockhouse formerly used (e.g. in Britain) for coastal defence [alter of Cape *Mortella*, Corsica, where such a tower was captured by a British fleet in 1794]

**marten** /ˈmɑːtɪn/ *n*, *pl* **martens**, *esp collectively* marten any of several slender-bodied flesh-eating tree-dwelling mammals larger than the related weasels [ME *martryn*, fr MF *martre* marten fur, fr OF, fr fem of *martin* of a marten, fr *martre* marten, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *mearth* marten]

**martensite** /ˈmɑːtɪnˌziːt/ *n* the chief constituent of steel hardened by

rapid cooling [Adolf *Martens* †1914 G metallurgist] – **martensitic** /ˌmɑːtɪnˈzɪtɪk/ *adj*

**martial** /ˈmɑːʃ(ə)l/ *adj* of or suited to war or a warrior, also warlike [ME, fr L *martialis* of (the god) Mars, fr *Mart-*, *Mars*] – **martially** *adv*

**\*martial** **art** *n* an Oriental art of combat (e.g. judo or karate) practised as a sport

**\*martial** **law** *n* the law administered by military forces in occupied territory or in an emergency

**Martian** /ˈmɑːʃ(ə)n/ *adj* of or coming from the planet Mars [ME, fr OF *martien*, fr L *Mart-*, *Mars* (the planet) Mars] – **Martian** *n*

**martin** /ˈmɑːtɪn/ *n* any of various birds of the swallow family. e.g. **a** a house martin **b** a sand martin [MF, fr St *Martin*, prob fr the migration of martins around Martinmas]

**martinet** /ˌmɑːtɪˈnet/ *n* a strict disciplinarian [Jean *Martinet* †1672 F army officer]

**martingale** /ˈmɑːtɪŋˌɡeɪl/ *n* **1** one or more straps fastened to the girth of a horse's harness, passed between the forelegs, and attached to the reins, noseband, or bit, for checking the upward movement of the horse's head **2** any of several systems of betting in which the stake is doubled every time a bet is lost [MF]

**martini** /ˈmɑːtiːni/ *n* a cocktail made of gin and dry vermouth [prob fr *Martini* & Rossi, It firm selling vermouth]

**Martinmas** /ˈmɑːtɪnmɑːs, -mɑːs/ *n* November 11 celebrated as the feast of St Martin [ME *martinmasse*, fr St *Martin* + ME *masse* mass]

**martlet** /ˈmɑːltɪt/ *n* a bird used in heraldry that resembles a martin but has no feet [MF, prob alter of *martinet*, dim. of *martin*]

**\*martyr** /ˈmɑːtɪə/ *n* **1** one who is put to death for adherence to a cause, esp a religion **2** a victim, esp of constant (self-inflicted) suffering [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr Gk *martyr-*, *martys*, lit, witness, akin to L *memor* mindful] – **martyrize** *vt*, **martyrdom** /-təˈdɒm/ *n*, **martyrization** /ˌmɑːtɪəˈrɪz(ə)ʃən/ *n*

**\*martyr** *vt* **1** to put to death as a martyr **2** to inflict agonizing pain on

**martyrology** /ˌmɑːtɪəˈrɒləʒi/ *n* ecclesiastical history concerned with the lives and sufferings of martyrs – **martyrologist** *n*, **martyrological** /-rɒləˈdʒɪkl/ *adj*

**\*marvel** /ˈmɑːv(ə)l/ *n* one who or that which is marvellous [ME *mervel*, fr OF *merveille*, fr LL *mirabilia* marvels, fr L, neut pl of *mirabilis* wonderful, fr *mirari* to wonder – more at SMILE]

**\*marvel** *vi* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈmɑːvl-ɪŋ/ to become filled with surprise, wonder, or amazed curiosity

**marvellous**, **NAM chiefly marvelous** /ˈmɑːvl-əs/ *adj* **1** causing wonder **2** of the highest kind or quality – **marvellously** *adv*, **marvellousness** *n*

**Marxism** /ˈmɑːksɪz(ə)m/ *n* the political and economic principles and policies advocated by Karl Marx, that stress the importance of human labour in determining economic value, the struggle between classes as an instrument of social change, and dictatorship of the proletariat [Karl *Marx* †1883 G political philosopher] – **Marxist** *n* or *adj*, **Marxian** /-sɪ-ən/ *adj*

**Marxism-Leninism** /ˌlenɪnɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory and practice of communism developed by Lenin from the doctrines of Marx – **Marxist-Leninist** *n* or *adj*

**marzipan** /ˌmɑːzɪˈpæn/ *n* a paste made from ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites, used for coating cakes or shaped into small sweets [G, fr It *marzapane*, a medieval coin, marzipan, fr Ar *mawthaban*, a medieval coin]

**Masai** /ˈmɑːsie/ *n*, *pl* **Masais**, *esp collectively* Masai a member or the language of a pastoral and hunting people of Kenya and Tanzania

**mascara** /ˌmɑːskɑːrə/ *n* a cosmetic for colouring, esp darkening, the eyelashes [It *maschera* mask]

**mascon** /ˈmɑːskən/ *n* any of the concentrations of mass that are situated just under the surface of the moon and have strong gravitational pull [*mass* + *concentration*]

**mascot** /ˈmɑːskɒt, -kət/ *n* a person, animal, or object adopted as a (good luck) symbol [F *mascotte*, fr Prov *mascolo*, fr *masco* witch, fr ML *masca*]

**\*masculine** /ˈmɑːskjʊlɪn/ *adj* **1a** male **b** having qualities appropriate to a man (<her deep ~ voice> **2** of, belonging to, or being the gender that normally includes most words or grammatical forms referring to males **3** having or occurring in a stressed final syllable [ME *masculin*, fr MF, fr L *masculus*, fr *masculus*, *n*, male, dim. of *mas* male] – **masculinely** *adv*, **masculineness** *n*, **masculinize** /-niːz/ *vt*, **masculinity** /ˌmɑːskjʊˈlɪnəti/ *n*

**\*masculine** *n* (a word or morpheme of) the masculine gender

**maser** /ˈmayzə/ *n* a device that works like a laser for amplifying or generating (microwave) radiation [microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation]

**'mash** /ˈmæʃ/ *n* 1 crushed malt or grain meal steeped and stirred in hot water to ferment 2 a mixture of bran or similar feeds and usu hot water for livestock 3 a soft pulpy mass 4 *Br* mashed potatoes – *infml* [ME, fr OE *max*, akin to MHG *meisch* mash]

**'mash** *vt* 1 to crush, pound, etc to a soft pulpy state 2 to heat and stir (e.g. crushed malt) in water to prepare wort – *masher* *n*

**'mask** /ˈmæsk/ *n* 1a a (partial) cover for the face used for disguise or protection b(1) a figure of a head worn on the stage in ancient times to identify the character (2) a grotesque false face worn at carnivals or in rituals c a copy of a face made by sculpting or by means of a mould – compare **DEATH MASK** 2a sthg that disguises or conceals, esp a pretence, facade b a translucent or opaque screen to cover part of the sensitive surface in taking or printing a photograph 3 a device covering the mouth and nose used a to promote breathing (e.g. by connection to an oxygen supply) b to remove noxious gas from air c to prevent exhalation of infective material (e.g. during surgery) 4 a face-pack 5 the head or face of a fox, dog, etc [MF *masque*, fr Olt *maschera*]

**'mask** *vt* 1 to provide, cover, or conceal (as if) with a mask. e.g. a to make indistinct or imperceptible (< ~ *the strong flavour*) b to cover up (< ~ *ed his real purpose*) 2 to cover for protection 3 to modify the shape of (e.g. a photograph) by means of a mask

**'masked ball** *n* a ball at which the participants wear masks

**masochism** /ˈmæsəkɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a sexual perversion in which pleasure is experienced from being physically or mentally abused – compare **SADISM** 2 pleasure from sthg tiresome or painful – not used technically [ISV, fr Leopold von Sacher-Masoch †1895 Austrian novelist] – **masochist** *n*, **masochistic** /ˈmæsəkɪstɪk/ *adj*, **masochistically** *adv*

**mason** /ˈmeɪs(ə)n/ *n* 1 a skilled worker with stone 2 *cap* a freemason [ME, fr OF *maçon*, prob of Gmc origin, akin to OE *macian* to make]

**Mason-Dixon line** /ˈdɪks(ə)n/ *n* the S boundary line of Pennsylvania, also the boundary line between the free N and slave-owning S states of the USA [Charles Mason †1787 and Jeremiah Dixon †1767 E surveyors]

**Masonic** /ˈmæsonɪk/ *adj* (characteristic) of Freemasons or Freemasonry

**masonry** /ˈmeɪs(ə)nri/ *n* 1 work done with or sthg constructed of stone, also a brick construction – *ARCHITECTURE* 2 *cap* FREEMASONRY 1

**Masora, Masorah** /ˈmæsəwə/ *n* a body of notes on the text of the Hebrew Old Testament [NHeb *mešorah*, fr LHeb *masoreth* tradition, fr Heb, bond] – **Masoretic** /ˈmæsəretɪk/ *adj*

**masque** /ˈmæsk/ *n* 1 MASQUERADE 1 2 a short allegorical dramatic entertainment of the 16th and 17th c performed by masked actors [MF *masque*, fr Olt *maschera* mask]

**'masquerade** /ˈmæskəˈreɪd/ *n* 1 a social gathering of people wearing masks and often fantastic costumes 2 sthg that is merely show [MF, fr Olt dial. *mascardada*, fr Olt *maschera*]

**'masquerade** *vi* 1 to disguise oneself, also to wear a disguise 2 to assume the appearance of sthg that one is not – usu + *as* – **masquerader** *n*

**'mass** /ˈmæs/ *n* 1 *cap* the liturgy or a celebration of the Eucharist, esp in Roman Catholic and Anglo-Catholic churches 2 a musical setting for the ordinary of the Mass [ME, fr OE *mæsse*, modif of (assumed) VL *messa*, lit., dismissal at the end of a religious service, fr LL *missa*, fr L, fem of *mittere*, pp of *mittere* to send – more at **SMITE**]

**'mass** *n* 1a a quantity of matter or the form of matter that holds together in 1 body b(1) an (unbroken) expanse (< *a mountain* >) (< *a ~ of colour*) (2) the principal part or main body (3) a total, whole – esp in *the mass* e the property of a body that is a measure of its inertia, causes it to have weight in a gravitational field, and is commonly taken as a measure of the amount of material it contains – *PHYSICS* 2a a large quantity, amount, or number – often pl with sing meaning (< *there was ~es of food left*) 3 *pl* the body of ordinary people as contrasted with the élite [ME *masse*, fr MF, fr L *massa*, fr Gk *masa*; akin to Gk *massein* to knead – more at **MINGLE**] – **massless** *adj*

**'mass** *vb* to assemble in or collect into a mass

**'mass** *adj* 1a of, designed for, or consisting of the mass of the people (< *a ~ marker*) b participated in by or affecting a large number of individuals (< ~ *murder*) c large scale 2 viewed as a whole; total

**Massachusetts** /ˈmæsəˈtʃooʃɪt/ *n*, *pl* **Massachusetts** also **Massachusetts**, esp collectively **Massachusetts** a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people of Massachusetts [Massachusetts *Massa-ad-chu-es-et*, a locality, lit., about the big hill]

**'massacre** /ˈmæsəko/ *vt* 1 to kill (as if) in a massacre 2 to defeat severely; also **MANGLE** 2 – *infml* – **massacrer** /-kɹə/ *n*

**'massacre** *n* 1 the ruthless and indiscriminate killing of large numbers 2 complete defeat or destruction [MF]

**'massage** /ˈmasaʒ/, -sahz/ *n* (an act of) kneading, rubbing, etc of the body in order to relieve aches, tone muscles, give relaxation, etc [F, fr *masser* to massage, fr Ar *masa* to stroke] – **massage** *vt*, **massager** *n*

**'mass defect** /ˈdeefekt/ *n* the difference between the mass of an isotope and its mass number

**'massé** /ˈmasi/ *n* a shot in billiards, snooker, etc made with a (nearly) vertical cue so as to drive the cue ball in a curved path [F, fr pp of *masser* to make a massé shot, fr *masse* sledgehammer, fr MF *mace* mace]

**'masseter** /ˈmaʃetə/ *n* a large muscle that raises the lower jaw and assists in chewing [NL, fr Gk *maseter*, fr *masasthai* to chew]

**'masseur** /ˈmasuː/, fem **masseuse** /ˈmasuːhɪz/ *n* one who practises massage and physiotherapy [F, fr *masser*]

**'massicot** /ˈmasiːkɒt/ *n* yellow lead monoxide used esp as a pigment – compare **ITHARGE** [ME *masticot*, fr MF *massicot*, *masticot*, fr Olt *massicotto* pottery glaze]

**'massif** /ˈmasɪf/ *n* 1 a principal mountain mass 2 a mountainous block bounded by faults or folds and displaced as a unit [F, fr *massif*, *adj*]

**'massive** /ˈmasɪv/ *adj* 1a large, solid, or heavy b impressively large or ponderous c of a mineral not obviously crystalline 2a large or impressive in scope or degree b large in comparison to what is typical (< *a ~ dose of penicillin*) c extensive and severe (< *haemorrhage*) [ME *massiffe*, fr MF *massif*, fr *masse* mass] – **massively** *adv*, **massiveness** *n*

**'mass media** *n pl* broadcasting, newspapers, and other means of communication designed to reach large numbers of people

**'mass number** *n* the number (of protons and neutrons in the nucleus) that expresses the mass of an isotope

**'mass observation** *n*, *Br* the study and reporting of everyday human behaviour, habits, and opinions

**'mass-produce** /ˈprɑːdyooʃ/ *vt* to produce (goods) in large quantities by standardized mechanical processes [back-formation fr *mass production*] – **mass production** /ˈprɑːdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'mass spectrograph** *n* an apparatus that separates a stream of charged particles (e.g. electrons or fragments of a molecule) according to mass, usu with photographic recording of the data

**'mass spectrometer** *n* an apparatus similar to a mass spectrograph but usu adapted for the electrical measurement of data – **mass spectrometry** /-mətri/ *n*

**'mass spectrum** *n* the spectrum of a stream of charged particles produced by a mass spectrograph or mass spectrometer

**'massy** /ˈmæsi/ *adj* massive, heavy – *fml*

**'mast** /ˈmæst/ *n* 1 a tall pole or structure rising from the keel or deck of a ship, esp for carrying sails 2 a vertical pole or lattice supporting a radio or television aerial [ME, fr OE *mæst*, akin to OHG *mast*, L *malus*] – before the **mast** as an ordinary sailor, not an officer

**'mast** *vt* to give a mast to

**'mast** *n* beechnuts, acorns, etc accumulated on the forest floor and often serving as food for animals (e.g. pigs) [ME, fr OE *mæst*, akin to OHG *mast* food, mast, OE *mete* food – more at **MEAT**]





**'mastaba** /ˈmæstəbə/ *n* an Egyptian tomb that is oblong in shape with sloping sides and a flat roof [Ar *maṣṣabah* stone bench]

**'mastectomy** /ˈmæstektəmi/ *n* excision or amputation of a breast [Gk *masios* breast]

**'masted** /-mæstɪd/ *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) having (such or so many) masts

**'master** /ˈmæstə/ *n* 1a(1) a male teacher (2) a person holding an academic degree higher than a bachelor's but lower than a doctor's b *often cap* a revered religious leader c a workman qualified to teach apprentices (< *a ~ carpenter*) d an artist, performer, player, etc of consummate skill 2a one having control or authority over another b one who or that which conquers or masters, a victor c a person qualified to command a merchant ship d(1) an owner, esp of a slave or animal (2) *often cap* one who directs a hunt and has overall control of the pack of hounds e an employer f the male head of a household 3 *cap* a youth or boy too young to be called *mister* – used as a title 4 a presiding officer in an institution or society (e.g. a Masonic lodge) or at a function 5a a mechanism or device that controls the operation of another b an original from which copies (e.g. of film or gramophone records) can be made 6 *archaic* Mr [ME, fr OE *magister* & OF *maistre*, both fr L *magister*, akin to L *magnus* great – more at **MUCH**] – **mastership** *n*

**'master** *vt* 1 to become master of; overcome 2a to become skilled or proficient in the use of b to gain a thorough understanding of

- \*master** *adj* 1 having chief authority, controlling 2 principal, main (<the ~ bedroom>)
- master aircrew** *n*  RANK
- master-at-arms** *n*, *pl* **masters-at-arms** a petty officer responsible for maintaining discipline aboard ship
- master chief petty officer** *n*  RANK
- master class** *n* a class in which an eminent musician listens to and corrects advanced pupils
- masterful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 inclined to take control and dominate 2 having or showing the technical, artistic, or intellectual skill of a master – **masterfully** *adv*, **masterfulness** *n*
- master gunnery sergeant** *n*  RANK
- master key** *n* a key designed to open several different locks
- \*masterly** /-li/ *adj* showing superior knowledge or skill [**MASTER** + **-LY**] – **masterliness** *n*
- \*mastermind** *n* 1 one who masterminds a project 2 a person of outstanding intellect
- \*mastermind** *vt* to be the intellectual force behind (a project)
- master of arts** *n*, often *cap* **M&A** the recipient of a master's degree, usu in an arts subject
- master of ceremonies**, *fem* **mistress of ceremonies** /'mistris/ *n* 1 one who determines the procedure to be observed on a state or public occasion 2 one who acts as host, esp by introducing speakers, performers, etc, at an event
- master of science** *n*, often *cap* **M&S** the recipient of a master's degree in a scientific subject
- Master of the Rolls** *n* the presiding judge of the Court of Appeal
- masterpiece** *n* a work done with extraordinary skill, esp the supreme creation of a type, period, or person [prob trans of *D meesterstuk* or *G meisterstück* (orig, a piece of work qualifying a craftsman for the rank of master)]
- \*master sergeant** *n*  RANK
- \*masterstroke** *n* a masterly performance or move
- mastery** /'mahstəri/ *n* 1a the authority of a master b the upper hand in a contest or competition 2a possession or display of great skill or technique b skill or knowledge that makes one master of a subject [ME *mastric*, fr OF, fr *maître* master]
- masthead** /'mahst,hed/ *n* 1 the top of a mast 2 the name of a newspaper displayed on the top of the first page
- mastic** /'mastik/ *n* 1 an aromatic resin that exudes from mastic trees and is used esp in varnishes 2 a pasty substance used as a protective coating or cement [ME *mastiche*, fr L *mastiche*, fr Gk *masticē*; akin to Gk *mastichan*]
- masticate** /'mastikayt/ *vt* 1 to grind or crush (food) before swallowing, (as if) with the teeth, to chew 2 to soften or reduce to pulp (e.g. by crushing) ~ *vi* to chew [LL *masticatus*, pp of *masticare*, fr Gk *mastichan* to gnash the teeth, akin to Gk *masasthai* to chew – more at MOUTH] – **masticator** *n*, **masticatory** /-kət(ə)n/ *adj* or *n*, **mastication** /'mastikə'sh(ə)n/ *n*
- \*mastic tree** *n* a small S European tree of the sumach family that yields mastic
- mastiff** /'mastif/ *n* any of a breed of very large powerful deep-chested smooth-coated dogs used chiefly as guard dogs [ME *mastif*, modif of MF *mastin*, fr (assumed) VL *mansuetinus*, fr L *mansuetus* tame, fr pp of *mansuescere* to tame, fr *manus* hand + *suescere* to accustom]
- mastitis** /'mastietəs/ *n* inflammation of the breast or udder, usu caused by infection [NL] – **mastitic** /'mastitik/ *adj*
- mastodon** /'mastədən/ *n* any of numerous extinct mammals similar to the related mammoths and elephants [NL *mastodont-*, *mastodon*, fr Gk *mastōs* breast, nipple + *odont-*, *odon*, *odontos* tooth – more at DENTH, fr the nipple-shaped projections on the molar teeth] – **mastodont** /-'dɒnt/ *adj* or *n*, **mastodontic** /-'dɒntik/ *adj*
- mastoid** /'mastɔɪd/ *adj* or *n* (of, near, or bearing) a somewhat conical part of the temporal bone lying behind the ear [NL *mastoides* resembling a nipple, mastoid, fr Gk *mastoeidēs*, fr *mastōs* breast – more at MFA1] – **mastoiditis** /'mastɔɪ'diətəs/ *n*
- masturbation** /'mastə'bayʃ(ə)n/ *n* stimulation of the genitals commonly resulting in orgasm and accomplished by any means except sexual intercourse [prob fr (assumed) NL *masturbation-*, *masturbatio*, fr L *masturbatus*, pp of *masturbari* to masturbate] – **masturbate** /'mastəbayt/ *vb*, **masturbatory** /'mastə'baytəri/ *adj*
- \*mat** /mat/ *n* 1a a piece of coarse usu woven, felted, or plaited fabric (e.g. of rushes or rope) used esp as a floor covering; also RUG 1 b **DOORMAT** 1 c an often decorative piece of material used to protect a surface from heat, moisture, etc caused by an object placed on it d a large thick pad used as a protective surface for wrestling, tumbling, gymnastics, etc 2 sthg made up of many intertwined or tangled strands [ME, fr OE *maette*, fr LL *matta*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *mittah* bed]
- \*mat vb -tt- vt** 1 to provide with a mat or matting 2 to form into a tangled or compact mass ~ *vi* to become tangled or intertwined
- \*mat** *vi*, *adj*, or *n -tt- (to) matt*
- matador** /'matədaw/ *n* one who has the principal role and who kills the bull in a bullfight [Sp, fr *matar* to kill]
- \*match** /mach/ *n* 1a one who or that which is equal to or able to contend with another b a person or thing exactly like another 2 two people, animals, or things that go well together 3 a contest between 2 or more teams or individuals 4a a marriage union b a prospective partner in marriage [ME *macche*, fr OE *maccea*; akin to OE *macian* to make – more at MAKE]
- \*match** *vt* 1a to be equal to (an opponent) b to set in competition, opposition, or comparison 2a to cause to correspond (<ing life-style to income>) b(1) to be, find, or provide the exact counterpart or equal of or for (2) to harmonize with c to provide funds complementary to 3 *archaic* to join or give in marriage ~ *vi* 1 to be a counterpart or equal 2 to harmonize – **matcher** *n*
- \*match** *n* 1 a chemically prepared wick or cord formerly used in firing firearms or powder 2 a short slender piece of wood, cardboard, etc tipped with a mixture that ignites when subjected to friction [ME *macche*, fr MF *meiche*]
- matchboard** /'mach,bawd/ *n* a board with a groove cut along one edge and a tongue along the other so as to fit snugly with the edges of similarly cut boards
- \*matchless** /-lis/ *adj* having no equal – **matchlessly** *adv*
- matchlock** /'mach,lɒk/ *n* (a musket with) a gunlock with a match for igniting the charge
- matchmaker** /'mach,maykə/ *n* one who arranges marriages, also one who derives vicarious pleasure from contriving to arrange marriages – **matchmaking** *n*
- \*match, play** *n* a golf competition scored by number of holes won rather than strokes played – compare **STROKE PLAY**
- \*match, point** *n* a situation in tennis, badminton, etc in which a player will win the match by winning the next point
- matchstick** /'mach,stɪk/ *n* **\*MATCH** 2, *specif* one made of wood
- matchwood** /'mach,wood/ *n* wood suitable for matches, also wood splinters
- \*mate** /mayt/ *vi* **CHLCKMATE** 2 [ME *maten*, fr MF *mater*, fr OF *mat*, *n*, checkmate, fr Ar *mat* (in *shāh māt*)]
- \*mate** *n* **CHECKMATE** 1
- \*mate** 1a an associate, companion – usu in combination (<*flatmate*> <*playmate*>) b an assistant to a more skilled workman (<*plumber's* ~>) c a friend, chum – often used in familiar address, esp to a man by a man 2 a deck officer on a merchant ship ranking below the captain 3a either of a pair, e.g. (1) either member of a breeding pair of animals (2) either of 2 matched objects b a marriage partner [ME, prob fr MLG *mat*, akin to OE *gemetta* guest at one's table, *mete* food – more at MEAT]
- \*mate** *vi* 1 to join or fit together, couple 2a to join together as mates b to provide a mate for ~ *vi* 1 to become mated (<*ears that ~ well*>) 2 to copulate
- maté, mate** /'matay, 'matay/ *n* 1 a tealike aromatic beverage used chiefly in S America 2 (the leaves and shoots, used in making maté, of) a S American holly [F & AmerSp; F *mate*, fr AmerSp *mate*, fr Quechua]
- matelot** /'mat(ə)loh/ *n*, *Br* **SAILOR** 1b – *infrm* [F, fr MF, fr MD *mattenoot*, fr *matte* mat, bed + *noot* companion]
- mater** /'maytə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a mother – now usu humor [L]
- materfamilias** /'maytəf'mili-əs/ *n* a female head of a household [L, fr *mater* + *familias*, arch gen of *familia* household – more at FAMILY]
- \*material** /mə'tiəri-əl/ *adj* 1a(1) of, derived from, or consisting of matter; esp physical (2) bodily b of matter rather than form (<~ cause>) 2 important, significant (<*facts ~ to the investigation*>) 3 of or concerned with physical rather than spiritual things [ME *materiel*, fr MF & LL; MF, fr LL *materialis*, fr L *materia* matter – more at MATTER] – **materially** *adv*, **materiality** /mə'tiəri'ali'ti/ *n*
- \*material** *n* 1a(1) the elements, constituents, or substances of which sthg is composed or can be made (2) matter that has usu specified qualities which give it individuality (<*sticky* ~>) b(1) data that may be worked into a more finished form – compare **RAW MATERIAL** (2) a person considered with a view to his/her potential for successful training (<*I don't think he's officer* ~>) c cloth 2 *pl* apparatus necessary for doing or making sthg



**materialism** /-lɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1a a theory that only physical matter is real and that all processes and phenomena can be explained by reference to matter **b** a doctrine that the highest values lie in material well-being and material progress **2** a preoccupation with or stress on material rather than spiritual things – **materialist** *n* or *adj*, **materialistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**materialize**, **-ise** /mə'tɪə-ə-lɪz/ *vb* 1 (to cause to) have existence or tangibility <~ an idea in words> **2** (to cause to) appear in or assume bodily form – **materialization** /-lɪzə'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**matériel**, **matériel** /mə'tɪəri'el/ *n* equipment, apparatus, and supplies used by an organization, the armed forces, etc [F *matériel*, fr *matériel*, *adj*]

**maternal** /mə'tuːnəl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a mother **2** related through a mother [ME, fr MF *maternel*, fr L *maternus*, fr *mater* mother – more at **'MOTHER**] – **maternally** *adv*

**'maternity** /mə'tuːnəti/ *n* 1a motherhood **b** motherliness **2** a hospital department for the care of women before and during childbirth


**maternity** *adj* designed for wear during pregnancy <~ dress>

**'matey** /'maɪti/ *n*, chiefly Br **'MATE** *lc* – chiefly in familiar address [*'mate* + *-y*]

**matey** *adj*, chiefly Br friendly – *infrm* [*'mate* + *-y*] – **mateyness**, **matiness** *n*

**math** /math/ *n*, *NA* mathematics

**mathematical** /,mathə'matɪkəl/ also **mathematic** /-tɪk/ *adj* 1 of, used in, using, or according with mathematics **2** rigorously exact [L *mathematicus*, fr Gk *mathēmatikos*, fr *mathēmatē*, *mathēma* mathematics, fr *mathēnēan* to learn; akin to Goth *mundon* to pay attention, Skt *medha* intelligence] – **mathematically** *adv*

**mathematics** /,mathə'matɪks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, and combinations and of space configurations and their structure, measurement, etc **2** the mathematics or mathematical operations involved in a particular problem, field of study, etc **USE**  **SYMBOL** – **mathematician** /-mə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**maths** /maths/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, chiefly Br mathematics

**matinée**, **matinee** /'matɪneɪ/ *n* a musical or dramatic performance during the day, esp the afternoon [F *matinée*, lit, morning, fr OF, fr *matin* morning, fr L *matutinus*, fr neut of *matutinus* of the morning, fr *Matuta*, goddess of morning; akin to L *maturus* ripe – more at **MATURE**]

**'matinee jacket** *n*, Br a cardigan worn by babies

**matins** /'matɪnz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* often *cap* 1 the (night) office forming with lauds the first of the canonical hours **2** MORNING, PRAYER [ME *matines*, fr OF, fr LL *matutinae*, fr L, fem *pl* of *matutinus*]

**matr-**, **matr-** also **matro-** *comb* form mother <*matrarch*> <*matronymic*> [L *matr-*, *matr-*, fr *matr-*, *mater*]

**matrarch** /'maɪtri,ɑːk/ *n* a woman who rules a family, group, or state, *specif* a mother who is the head of her family – **matrarchal** *adj*

**'matrarchy** /-ki/ *n* a (system of) social organization in which the female is the head of the family, and descent and inheritance are traced through the female line

**matricide** /'maɪtri,siːd/ *n* (the act of) one who kills his/her mother [L *matricida* & *matricidium*, fr *matr-* + *-cida* & *-cidium* – more at **-CIDE**] – **matricidal** /,maɪtri'siːd/ *adj*

**matriculate** /mə'trɪkjuːləɪt/ *vt* to enrol as a member of a body, esp a college or university ~ *vi* (to become eligible) to be matriculated [ML *matriculatus*, pp of *matriculare*, fr LL *matricula* public roll, dim. of *matric-*, *matrx* list, fr L, womb] – **matriculation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**matrilineal** /,matrɪ'liːnəl/, **matrilineal** /-lɪnəl/ *adj* of or tracing descent through the maternal line – **matrilineally** *adv*

**matrimony** /'matrɪməni/ *n* **MARRIAGE** 1 [ME, fr MF *matremoine*, fr L *matrimonium*, fr *matr-*, *mater* mother, *matron* – more at **'MOTHER**] – **matrimonial** /,matrɪ'mohni-əl/ *adj*, **matrimonially** *adv*

**matrix** /'maɪtrɪks/ *n*, *pl* **matrices** /-seɪz/, **matrices** 1 a substance, environment, etc within which sth else originates or develops **2** a mould in which sth is cast or from which the surface in relief (e.g. a piece of type) is made by pouring or pressing **3** the (natural) material in which sth (e.g. a fossil, gem, or specimen for study) is embedded **4** the substance between the cells of a tissue that holds them together **5** a rectangular array of mathematical elements treated as a unit and subject to special algebraic laws [L, womb, fr *matr-*, *mater*]

**matron** /'maɪtrən/ *n* 1a a (dignified mature) married woman **b** a woman in charge of living arrangements in a school, residential home, etc **2** Br a woman in charge of the nursing in a hospital – not now used technically [ME *matrone*, fr MF, fr L *matrona*, fr *matr-*, *mater*] – **matronly** *adj*

**,matron of 'honour** *n* a bride's principal married wedding attendant **matronymic** /,matrə'nɪmɪk/ *n* a metronymic [*matr-* + *-onymic* (as in *patronymic*)]

**'matt**, **mat**, **matte** /mat/ *vt* to make (e.g. metal or colour) matt

**²matt**, **mat**, **matte** *adj* lacking lustre or gloss, esp having an even surface free from shine or highlights [F *mat*, fr OF, defeated, fr L *maius* drunk, akin to L *madere* to be wet – more at **MEAT**]

**³matt**, **mat**, **matte** *n* 1 a border round a picture between the picture and frame or serving as the frame **2** a dull or roughened finish (e.g. on gilt or paint) [F *mat* dull colour, unpolished surface, fr *mat*, *adj*]

**matte** /mat/ *n* a crude mixture of sulphides formed in smelting (copper, lead, etc) sulphide ores [F]

**'matter** /'mætə/ *n* 1a a subject of interest or concern or which merits attention **b** an affair, concern <*it's no laughing ~*> **c** material (for treatment) in thought, discourse, or writing **d** that part of a legal case which deals with facts rather than law **e** a condition (unfavourably) affecting a person or thing <*what's the ~?*> **2a** the substance of which a physical object is composed **b** material substance that occupies space and has mass **c** sth of a specified kind or for a specified purpose <*mineral ~*> <*reading ~*> <*d(1) material* (e.g. faeces or urine) discharged from the living body (2) material discharged by suppuration, pus **3** the formless substratum of all existing things **4** a more or less definite amount or quantity <*a ~ of 10 years*> [ME *matere*, fr OF, fr L *materna* matter, physical substance, fr *mater*] – **as a matter of fact** as it happens, actually – often used in correcting a misapprehension – **for that matter** so far as that is concerned – **no matter** it does not matter, irrespective of <*would be calm no matter what the provocation*>

**²matter** *vi* 1 to be of importance **2** to form or discharge pus

**,matter of 'course** *n* sth routine or to be expected as a natural consequence

**,matter-of-fact** *adj* keeping to or concerned with fact, esp not fanciful or imaginative **matter-of-factly** *adv*, **matter-of-factness** *n*

**mattey** /'mætəri/ *adj* exuding pus, purulent

**Matthew** /'mæθyoo/ *n* the 1st Gospel in the New Testament [F *Mathieu*, fr LL *Matthaeus*, fr Gk *Matthaios*, fr Heb *Mattithyah*]

**matting** /'mætiŋ/ *n* material (e.g. hemp) for mats

**mattock** /'mætk/ *n* a digging tool with a head like that of a pick and often a blade like that of an axe or adze – compare **РІК 1** [ME *mattock*, fr OE *matuc*]

**mattress** /'matrs/ *n* a fabric casing filled with resilient material (e.g. foam rubber or an arrangement of coiled springs) used esp on a bed [ME *matras*, fr OF, fr Ar *matrah* place where something is thrown]

**'mature** /mə'tyooə/ *adj* 1 based on careful consideration <*a ~ judgment*> **2a** having completed natural growth and development, ripe **b** having attained a final or desired state **3a** (characteristic) of or having a condition of full or adult development **b** older or more experienced than others of his/her kind <*a ~ student*> **4** due for payment <*a ~ loan*> [ME, fr L *maturus* ripe, akin to L *mane* in the morning, *manus* good] – **maturely** *adv*, **maturness**, **maturity** *n*

**²mature** *vt* to bring to full development or completion ~ *vi* 1 to become mature **2** to become due for payment – **maturation** /,matyoo'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **maturational** *adj*

**matutinal** /,matyoo'tienəl/ *adj* of or occurring in the morning – *fml* [LL *matutinalis*, fr L *matutinus* – more at **MATINEE**]

**matzo** /'matsoh/ *n*, *pl* **matzoth** /-soht(h)/, **matzos** /-sohs/ (a wafer of) unleavened bread eaten esp at the Passover [Yiddish *matse*, fr Heb *massah*]

**maudlin** /'maʊdlɪn/ *adj* 1 weakly and effusively sentimental **2** drunk enough to be emotionally silly [alter of *Mary Magdalen*; fr the practice of depicting her as a weeping, penitent sinner]

**'maul** /maʊl/ *vt* 1 *esp* of an animal to attack and tear the flesh of **2** to handle roughly [ME *mallen*, fr OF *maillier*, fr *mail* hammer, fr L *malleus*; akin to L *molere* to grind – more at **'MEAL**] – **mauler** *n*

**²maul** *n* 1 a situation in Rugby Union in which 1 or more players from each team close round the player carrying the ball, who tries to get the ball out to his own team – compare **RUCK** **2** a confused and noisy struggle **maulstick**, **mahlstick** /'maʊl.stɪk/ *n* a stick used by painters to support and steady the hand while working [part trans of D *maulstick*, fr obs D *malen* to paint + D *stok* stick]

**Mau Mau** /'mow, mow/ *n* a political terrorist organization founded in 1952 with the aim of driving Europeans out of Kenya [origin unknown]

**maun** /mawn/ *verbal auxiliary*, *Scot* *va* must [ME *man*, fr ON, will, shall]

**maunder** /'maʊnda/ *vi* 1 to act or wander idly **2** to speak in a rambling



or indistinct manner, *also*, *Br* to grumble [prob init] – **maunderer** /-dəʊə/ *n*

**maundy** /'maʊndi/ *n*, *often cap* (the distribution of) maundy money  
**'maundy, money** *n*, *often cap 1st or 1st&2nd M* specially minted coins given to selected poor people by the British Sovereign in a ceremony on Maundy Thursday

**Maundy Thursday** *n* the Thursday before Easter observed in commemoration of the Last Supper [ME *maunde* ceremony of washing the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday, fr OF *mandé*, fr L *mandatum* command, fr Jesus' words in John 13 34 – more at MANDATE]

**mausoleum** /'maʊsə'lee-əm/ *n*, *pl* **mausoleums** *also* **mausolea** /-'lee ə/ a large and elaborate tomb [L, fr Gk *mausoleion*, fr *Mausolos* Mausolus † ab 353 BC, ruler of Caria in Asia Minor]

**mauve** /mohv/ *n* or *adj* bluish purple [n F, mallow, fr L *malva*, *adj* fr n]

**maverick** /'mav(ə)nrk/ *n* 1 an independent and nonconformist individual 2 *NAm* an unbranded range animal; *esp* a motherless calf [Samuel A. *Maverick* †1870 US pioneer who did not brand his calves]

**mavis** /'mayvis/ *n* SONG THRUSH – chiefly poetic [ME, fr MF *mauvie*]

**mavouneen** /mə'vooəneən/ *n*, *Irish* my darling [IrGael *mó mhúirín*, fr *mó* my + *múirín* darling]

**maw** /maw/ *n* 1a an animal's stomach or crop b the throat, gullet, or jaws, *esp* of a voracious flesh-eating animal 2 sth resembling a maw, *esp* in gaping or tending to swallow things up [ME, fr OE *maga*, akin to OHG *mago* stomach, Lith *makas* purse]

**mawkish** /'mawkɪʃ/ *adj* 1 having an insipid often unpleasant taste 2 sickly or feebly sentimental [ME *mawke* maggot, fr ON *mathkr* – more at MAGGOT] – **mawkishly** *adv*, **mawkishness** *n*

**maxi** /'maksi/ *n*, *pl* **maxis** a floor-length woman's coat, skirt, etc [maxi-]

**maxi-** *comb form* 1 extra long <maxi-skirt> 2 extra large <maxi-budget> [fr *maximum*, by analogy to *minimum* mini-]

**maxilla** /'mak'silə/ *n*, *pl* **maxillae** /-'li/, **maxillas** 1a JAW 1a b (either of) 2 bones of the upper jaw of a human or other higher vertebrate 2 any of the (1 or 2 pairs of) mouthparts behind the mandibles in insects and other arthropods [L, dim of *mala* jaw] – **maxillary** /-'lari/ *adj* or *n*

**maxim** /'maksim/ *n* (a succinct expression of) a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct [ME *maxime*, fr MF, fr ML *maxima*, fr L, fem of *maximus*, superl of *magnus* great – more at MUCH]

**maximal** /'maksiml/ *adj* 1 greatest, most comprehensive 2 being an upper limit – **maximally** *adv*

**maximalist** /'maksimlɪst/ *n* one who seeks to secure immediate acceptance of his/her demands without compromise

**maximize**, *ise* /'maksimɪz/ *vi* to increase to a maximum or to the highest possible degree – **maximization** /-'zayʃən/ *n*

**maximum** /'maksiməm/ *n*, *pl* **maxima** /-'mɔ/, **maximums** 1 the greatest quantity or value attainable or attained 2 the period of highest or most extreme development [L, neut of *maximus*] – **maximum** *adj*

**maxwell** /'makswəl, -wel/ *n* the cgs unit of magnetic flux [James Clerk *Maxwell* †1879 Sc physicist]

**may** /may/ *verbal auxiliary, pres sing & pl may; past might* /mɪet/ *va* 1a have permission to <you ~ go now>; have liberty to <what's this, ~ I ask?> b be in some degree likely to <you ~ be right> <the road ~ well be closed> – compare AS WELL 3 2 – used to express a wish or desire, *esp* in prayer, curse, or benediction <long ~ he reign> 3 – used to express purpose or expectation <sit here so I ~ see you better>, contingency <he'll do his duty come what ~>, or concession <he ~ be slow but he is thorough>, used in questions to emphasize ironic uncertainty <and who ~ you be?> [ME (1 & 3 sing pres indic), fr OE *mæg*; akin to CHG *mag* (1 & 3 sing pres indic) have power, am able (infinitive *magan*), Gk *méchos* means, expedient]

**May** *n* 1 the 5th month of the Gregorian calendar 2 *not cap* (the blossom of) hawthorn [ME, fr OF & L; OF *mai*, fr L *Maius*, fr *Maia*, Roman goddess]

**maya** /'mie-ə/ *n* the diverse world as perceived by the senses, held in Hinduism to conceal the unity of absolute being, broadly deceptive appearance or illusion [Skt *māyā*]

**Maya** /'mie-ə/ *n*, *pl* **Mayas**, *esp* collectively *Maya* a member of the language of a group of American Indian peoples inhabiting the Yucatán peninsula until the 15th c → LANGUAGE [Sp] – **Mayan** *n* or *adj*

**mayapple** /'mayapl/ *n* (a N American plant that bears) an edible egg-shaped yellow fruit [May]

**maybe** /'may,bee/ *adv* perhaps [ME, fr (it) *may be*]

**maybug** /'may,bug/ *n* a cockchafer

**Mayday** /'may,day/ – used for an international radiotelephone signal word used as a distress call [F *m'aider* help me]

**'May, Day** *n* May 1 celebrated as a springtime festival and in many countries as a public holiday in honour of working people

**mayest** /'mayɪst/, **mayst** /'mayst/ *archaic pres 2 sing* of *MAY*

**may, flower** /-fləʊə/ *n* any of various spring-blooming plants

**'may, fly** /-flɪe/ *n* any of an order of insects with an aquatic nymph and a short-lived fragile adult with membranous wings

**mayhem** /'mayhem/ *n* 1 needless or wilful damage 2 a state of great confusion or disorder [ME *mayme*, fr AF *mahaim*, fr OF, loss of a limb, fr *maynier* to maim]

**maying** /'mayɪŋ/ *n*, *often cap* the celebrating of *May Day* [ME, fr gerund of *mayen* to may, celebrate *May Day*]

**mayn't** /'maynt/ *may not*

**mayonnaise** /'mayə'nayz/ *n* a thick dressing (e.g. for salad) made with egg yolks, vegetable oil, and vinegar or lemon juice [F]

**mayor** /'meɔ/ *n* the chief executive or nominal head of a city or borough [ME *maire*, fr OF, fr L *major* greater – more at MAJOR] – **mayoral** /'meɔrəl/ *adj*

**mayorality** /'meɔrəlɪti/ *n* the (term of) office of a mayor [ME *mairaltie*, fr MF *mairalté*, fr OF, fr *maire*]

**mayoress** /'meɔrɪs/ *n* 1 the wife or hostess of a mayor 2 a female mayor

**maypole** /'may,pohl/ *n* a tall ribbon-wreathed pole forming a centre for dances, *esp* on *May Day*

**mayst** /'mayst/ *mayest*

**'May, Week** *n* a Cambridge university festival period in June with boat races between the colleges, balls, etc – compare EIGHTS WEEK

**'maze** /'mayz/ *vi*, *archaic* to bewilder, perplex [ME *mazen*, prob fr (assumed) OE *masian* to confuse; perh akin to Sw *masa* to be sluggish]

**²maze** *n* 1a (a drawn representation of) a network of paths designed to confuse and puzzle those who attempt to walk through it b sth intricately or confusingly complicated 2 *archaic* a state of bewilderment – **mazy** *adj*

**mazer** /'mayzə/ *n* a large drinking bowl orig of a hard wood [ME, fr OF *mazere*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *masar* gnarled excrescence on a tree]

**mazurka** *also* **mazourka** /mɔ'zʊhka/ *n* (music for, or in the rhythm of) a Polish folk dance in moderate triple time [F, fr Pol *mazurka* woman of province Mazovia]

**mazzard** /'mæzəd/ *n* a (wild) sweet cherry (used as a rootstock for grafting) [origin unknown]

**MC** *n* MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**'me** /me/, *pron, objective case* of *I* <looked at ~> <fatter than ~> <it's ~> [ME, fr OE *me*, akin to OHG *mih* me, L *me*, Gk *me*, Skt *mā*]

**²me** *n* sth suitable for me <that dress isn't really ~>

**³me** *n* the 3rd note of the diatonic scale in solmization [ML *mi* – more at GAMUT]

**mea culpa** /'mayəh 'koolpah/ *n* or *interj* (a formal acknowledgment) used to admit personal fault [L, through my fault]

**'mead** /'meəd/ *n* a fermented alcoholic drink made of water, honey, malt, and yeast [ME *mede*, fr OE *medu*, akin to OHG *metu* mead, Gk *methy* wine, Skt *madhu* sweet, honey, mead]

**²mead** *n* a meadow – *archaic* or poetic [ME *mede*, fr OE *mæd*]

**'meadow** /'medoh/ *n* (an area of moist low-lying usu level) grassland [ME *medwe*, fr OE *mædwæ*, oblique case form of *mæd*, akin to OE *mawan* to mow – more at ³MOW]

**'meadow, grass** *n* any of various grasses that thrive in moist areas

**'meadow, pipit** *n* a common olive and white Old World pipit

**'meadow, saffron** *n* a (lilac-flowered European) colchicum

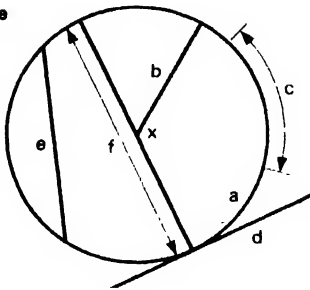
**'meadow, sweet** *n* a tall Eurasian plant of the rose family with creamy-white fragrant flowers

**meagre**, *NAm* chiefly **meager** /'meega/ *adj* 1 having little flesh 2 deficient in quality or quantity [ME *mege*, fr MF *maigre*, fr L *macr*, *macer* lean; akin to OE *mæger* lean, Gk *makros* long] – **meagrely** *adv*, **meagreness** *n*

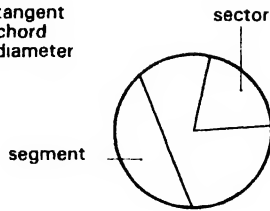
**'meal** /'meəl, mɪəl/ *n* 1 the portion of food taken or provided at 1 time to satisfy appetite 2 (the time of) eating a meal [ME *meel* appointed time, meal, fr OE *mæl*; akin to OHG *māl* time, L *metun* to measure – more at MEASURE]

**²meal** *n* (a product resembling, *esp* in texture) the usu coarsely ground seeds of a cereal grass or pulse [ME *mele*, fr OE *melu*; akin to OHG *mele* meal, L *molere* to grind, Gk *myle* mill]

**Circle**

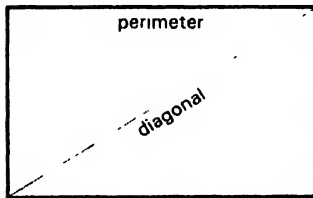


x = centre  
a = circumference  
b = radius  
c = arc  
d = tangent  
e = chord  
f = diameter



**Parallelograms**

**square**

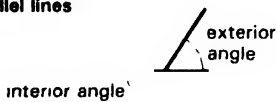


**rectangle**

**trapezium**

**rhombus**

**Parallel lines**



**Regular polygons**



pentagon



hexagon



heptagon



octagon



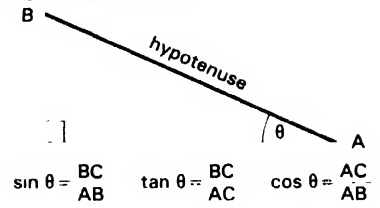
nonagon



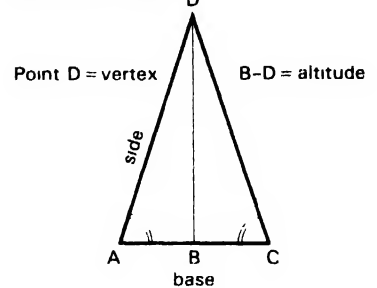
dodecagon

**Triangles**

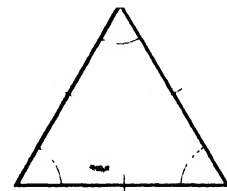
**right-angled triangle**



**isosceles triangle**

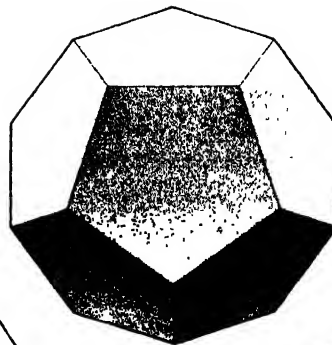


**equilateral triangle**

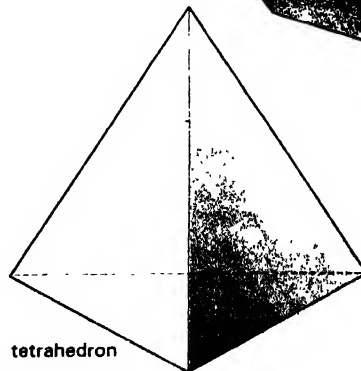


**Polyhedrons**

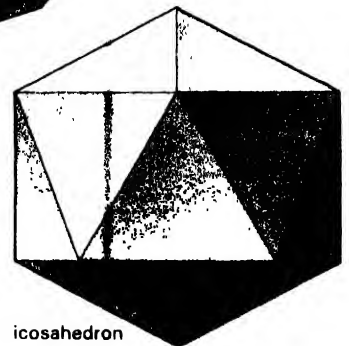
**dodecahedron**



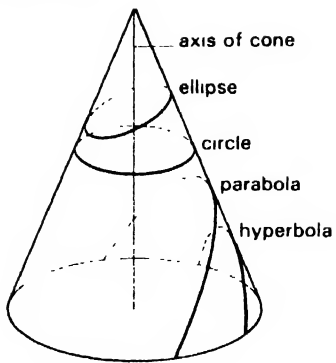
**tetrahedron**



**icosahedron**

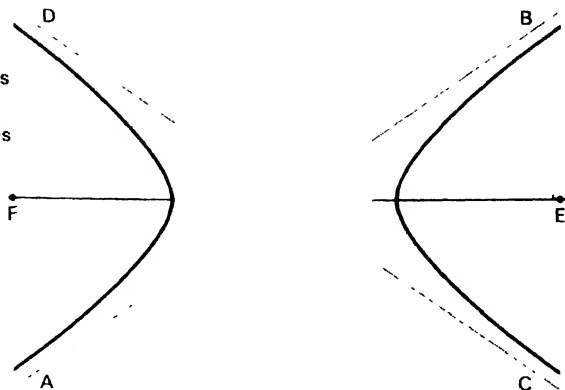


## Conic sections

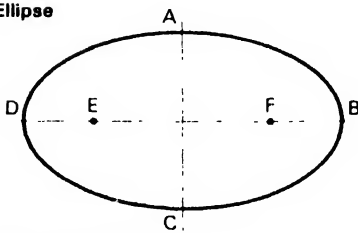


## Hyperbola

E, F focuses  
AB, CD  
asymptotes



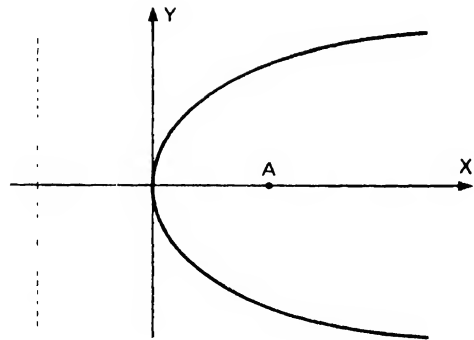
## Ellipse



DB = major axis  
AC = minor axis  
E, F = focuses

## Parabola

A = focus  
dotted line = directrix

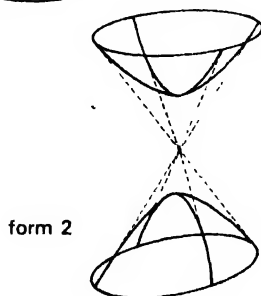
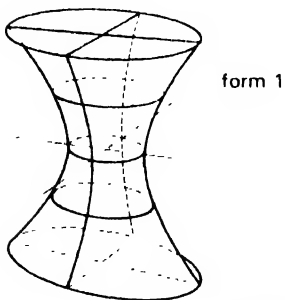


## Golden section

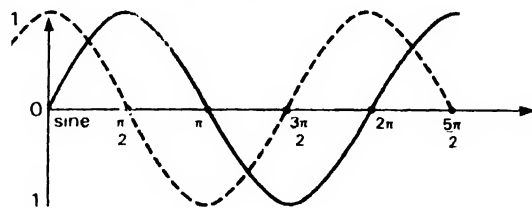
A

$$\frac{AC}{AB} = \frac{AB}{BC} \quad AB \cdot AC = 1 \quad 1.618034$$

## Hyperboloid



## Trigonometric functions sine and cosine



## tangent

A, B, C, D = points of inflection ----- = asymptotes



**mealie** /'meeli/ *n*, SAfr (an ear of) maize [Afrk *miehe*, fr Pg *milho* millet, fr L *mihum* - more at MILLER]

**meals** on 'wheels *n* a service whereby meals are brought to the housebound

**mealtime** *n* the usual time for a meal

**mealworm** *n* the larva of various beetles that infest grain products, esp one raised as food for insect-eating animals, bait for fishing, etc

**mealy** /'meeli/ *adj* 1 soft, dry, and crumbly 2 containing meal 3a covered with meal or fine granules b esp of a horse flecked with another colour

**mealybug** /-bug/ *n* any of numerous scale insects with a white powdery covering that are pests, esp of fruit trees

**mealy-mouthed** *adj* unwilling to speak plainly or directly, esp when this may offend

**mean** /'me:n/ *adj* 1 lacking distinction or eminence, merely ordinary or inferior (<a man of ~ estate> (<no ~ feat>) 2 of poor shabby inferior quality or status 3 not honourable or worthy; base, esp small-minded 4a not generous b characterized by petty malice, spiteful c chiefly NAM particularly bad-tempered, unpleasant, or disagreeable d excellent, impressive - infml (<blows a ~ trumpet - Globe & Mail (Toronto)>) [ME *meene*, fr *imene*, fr OE *gemæne*, akin to OHG *gemein* common, L *communis* common, *munus* service, gift] - **meanly** *adv*, **meanness** *n*

**mean** vb **meant** /ment/ *vt* 1 to have in mind as a purpose, intend (<she ~t no offence>) (<I ~ to leave soon>) 2 to serve or intend to convey, produce, or indicate, signify (<red ~s danger> (<this action will ~ war>) 3 to intend for a particular use or purpose (<it is ~t to relieve pain>) (<I ~t it as a warning>) 4 to have significance or importance to the extent or degree of (<health ~s everything>) - *vi* to have an intended purpose - chiefly in to mean well/all [ME *menen*, fr OE *mænan*, akin to OHG *meinen* to have in mind, OSlav *meniti* to mention] - I **mean** - used to introduce and emphasize a clause or sentence or when hesitating (<it wasn't too bad I mean it didn't even hurt>) - **mean** business to be in earnest

**mean** *n* 1a a middle point between extremes b a value that lies within a range of values and is computed according to a prescribed law; esp ARITHMETIC MEAN → STATISTICS 2 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr that which enables a desired purpose to be achieved; also the method used to attain an end 3 *pl* resources available for disposal, esp wealth (<a man of ~s>) [ME *meene*, fr MF *meien*, fr *meien*, *adj*]

**mean** *adj* 1 occupying a middle position, intermediate in space, order, time, kind, or degree 2 being the mean of a set of values (<~ temperature>) [ME *meene*, fr MF *meien*, fr L *medianus* - more at MEDIAN]

**meander** /'mi:andə/ *n* a turn or winding of a stream - *usu pl* → GEOGRAPHY [L *mæander*, fr Gk *maiandros*, fr *Maiandros* (now *Menderes*), river in Asia Minor]

**meander** *vi* 1 to follow a winding course 2 to wander aimlessly without urgent destination

**mean free path** *n* the average distance travelled in a gas by a molecule between collisions with other molecules

**meanie** /'meeni/ *n* a narrow-minded or ungenerous person - infml [*'mean* + -ie]

**meaning** /'mi:nɪŋ/ *n* 1 that which is conveyed or which one intends to convey, esp by language 2 significant quality, value (<this has no ~ in law>) 3 implication of a hidden or special significance (<a glance full of ~>)

- **meaningful** *adj*, **meaningfully** *adv*, **meaningfulness** *n*, **meaningless** *adj*, **meaninglessly** *adv*, **meaninglessness** *n*

**meaning** *adj* significant, expressive - **meaningly** *adv*

**means** ,test *n* an examination into sb's financial state to determine his/her eligibility for public assistance, for a student grant, etc

**mean sun** *n* a fictitious sun used for timekeeping that moves at a constant rate along the celestial equator

**meant** /ment/ *adj*, past of MEAN Br expected, supposed (<to get a mature student's place ~ you are ~ to have a minimum of five O-levels - Observer Magazine>) [fr pp of 'mean]

**meantime** /'mi:n.ti:m/ *n* the intervening time (<in the ~>) [*'mean*]

**meantime** *adv* meanwhile

**mean time** *n* time that is based on the motion of the mean sun and that has the mean solar second as its unit

**meanwhile** /'mi:n.wi:l/ *n* the meantime

**meanwhile** *adv* 1 during the intervening time 2 during the same period (<~, down on the farm>)

**measles** /'meezli/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 (German measles or another disease similar to) an infectious virus disease marked by a rash of distinct red circular spots 2 infestation with larval tapeworms, esp in pigs or pork [(1) ME *mesles*, pl of *mesel* measles, spot characteristic of

measles, alter (influenced by *mesel* leper) of *masel*, akin to MD *masel* spot characteristic of measles, & prob to OHG *masar* gnarled excrescence on tree - more at MAZER, (2) ME *mesel* infested with tapeworms, lit, leprous, fr OF, fr ML *misellus* leper, fr L, wretch, fr *misellus*, dim. of *miser* miserable]

**measly** /'meezli/ *adj* 1 infected with measles 2 containing larval tapeworms (<~ pork>) 3 contemptibly small, also worthless - infml

**measure** /'meʒə/ *n* 1a(1) an appropriate or due portion (<had their ~ of luck>) (2) a (moderate) extent, amount, or degree (<a ~ of respectability>) (3) a fixed, suitable, or conceivable limit (<wisdom beyond ~>) b(1) the dimensions, capacity, or amount of sth ascertained by measuring (2) the character, nature, or capacity of sth ascertained by assessment - esp in get the measure of (3) the width of a full line of type c a measured quantity (<a ~ of whisky>) (<short ~>) 2a an instrument or utensil for measuring b(1) a standard or unit of measurement (<the metre is a ~ of length>) (2) a system of standard units of measure (<metric ~>) (<liquid ~>) - → UNIT 3a a (slow and stately) dance b(1) poetic rhythm measured by quantity or accent, *specif* 'MFTRF 1 (2) musical time c(1) the notes and rests that form a bar of music (2) a metrical unit, foot 4 an exact divisor or factor of a quantity 5 a basis or standard of comparison 6a a step planned or taken to achieve an end (<we must take ~s to improve sales>) b a proposed legislative act (<~s to combat unemployment>) [ME *mesure*, fr OF, fr L *mensura*, fr *mensus*, pp of *metiri* to measure, akin to OE *mæth* measure, Gk *metron* metre, measure, Skt *mati* he measures]

**measure** *vt* 1 to choose or control with cautious restraint, regulate (<~d his words to suit the occasion>) 2 to take or allot in measured amounts - *usu* + out (<~ out 60g of flour>) 3 to mark off by making measurements - often + off 4 to ascertain the measurements of 5 to estimate or appraise by a criterion - *usu* + against or by 6 to serve as a measure of (<a thermometer ~s temperature>) - *vi* 1 to take or make a measurement 2 to have a specified measurement (<~s 2ft from end to end>) - **measurable** *adj*, **measurably** *adv*

**measured** *adj* 1 rhythmical, esp slow and regular 2 carefully thought out (<a ~ remark>) - **measuredly** *adv*

**measureless** /-li:v/ *adj* having no observable limit, immeasurable

**measurement** /-ment/ *n* 1 measuring 2 a figure, extent, or amount obtained by measuring 3 MEASUR 2b

**measure up** *vi* to have necessary or fitting qualifications - often + to

**measuring worm** /'meʒərɪŋ/ *n* an inchworm

**meat** /meet/ *n* 1a food, esp solid food as distinguished from drink b the edible part of sth as distinguished from a husk, shell, or other covering 2 animal tissue used as food, esp FISH 2 → 3 the core or essence of sthg 4 archaic a meal; esp dinner [ME *mete*, fr OE, akin to OHG *maz* food, L *madere* to be wet, Gk *madaros* wet, *mastos* breast, Skt *madati* he is drunk]

**meatus** /'mi:ə'tas/ *n, pl meatuses*, meatus (the opening on the outside of) a natural body passage [LL, fr L, going, passage, fr *meatus*, pp of *meare* to go - more at PLMEATE]

**meaty** /'meeti/ *adj* 1 full of meat, fleshy 2 rich in matter for thought 3 of or like meat - **meatiness** *n*

**mecca** /'mekə/ *n*, often *cap* a place regarded as a goal (by a specified group of people) [Mecca, city in Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Muhammad and holy city of Islam]

**Meccano** /'mekəno/ *trademark* - used for a toy construction set, esp of perforated strips of metal or plastic

**mechanic** /'mekənik/ *n* a skilled worker who repairs or maintains machinery (<a motor ~>) [prob fr MF *mechanique*, *meccanique*, *adj* & *n*, fr I. *mechanicus*, fr Gk *mechanikos*, fr *mēchanē* machine - more at MACHINE]

**mechanical** /-kl/ *adj* 1a of or using machinery b made, operated by, or being a machine or machinery 2 done as if by machine, lacking in spontaneity 3 of, dealing with, or in accordance with (the principles of) mechanics (<~ energy>) (<~ engineering>) 4 caused by or being a physical as opposed to a chemical process - **mechanically** *adv*

**mechanical advantage** *n* the ratio of the force that performs the useful work of a machine to the force that is applied to the machine

**mechanical drawing** *n* (a) drawing done with the aid of instruments

**mechanician** /'mekə'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a mechanic or machinist

**mechanics** /'mekəniks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 the physics and mathematics of (the effect on moving and stationary bodies of) energy and forces 2 the practical application of mechanics to the design, construction, or operation of machines or tools 3 mechanical or functional details

**mechanism** /ˈmekənɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1a** a piece of machinery **b** a process or technique for achieving a result **2** mechanical operation or action **3** a theory that all natural processes are mechanically determined and can be explained by the laws of physics and chemistry **4** the physical or chemical processes involved in a natural phenomenon (e.g. an action, reaction, or biological evolution) [LL *mechanisma* contrivance, fr Gk *mechane*] – **mechanist** *n*, **mechanistic** /ˈmekəˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*, **mechanistically** *adv*

**mechanize**, **-ise** /ˈmekənaɪz/ *vt* **1** to make mechanical or automatic **2a** to equip with machinery, esp in order to replace human or animal labour **b** to equip with (armed and armoured) motor vehicles – **mechanization** /ˈˌzəʃn(ə)n/ *n*

**meconium** /mɪˈkohni-əm/ *n* a dark greenish mass that accumulates in the bowels during foetal life and is discharged shortly after birth [L, lit., poppy juice, fr Gk *mekonton*, fr *mekon* poppy; akin to OHG *mago* poppy]

**medal** /ˈmedl/ *n* a piece of metal with a (stamped) design, emblem, inscription, etc that commemorates a person or event or is awarded for excellence or achievement [MF *medaille*, fr OIt *medaglia* coin worth half a denarius, medal, fr (assumed) VL *medalis* half, fr LL *medialis* middle, fr L *medius* – more at MID] – **medallic** /mɪˈdɪlɪk/ *adj*

**medallion** /mɪˈdɪljən/ *n* **1** a large medal **2** a decorative tablet, panel, etc, often bearing a figure or portrait in relief [F  *médaillon*, fr It *medaglione*, aug of *medaglia*]

**medallist**, **NAm chiefly medalist** /-ɪst/ **1** a designer, engraver, or maker of medals **2** a recipient of a (specified) medal as an award

**medal play** *n* STROKE PLAY

**meddle** /ˈmedl/ *vb* **meddling** /ˈmedlɪŋ/, **med-ling** / to interest oneself in what is not one's concern, interfere unduly – usu + *in* or *with* [ME *medlen*, fr OF *mesler*, *medler*, fr (assumed) VL *misculare*, fr L *miscere* to mix – more at MIX] – **meddler** *n*, **meddlesome** /ˈmedl-səm/ *adj*

**Mede** /ˈmed/ *n* a native or inhabitant of ancient Media in Persia [ME, fr L *Medus*, fr Gk *Medos*]

**media** /ˈmedi-ə/ *n*, *pl* **mediae** /-di-ee/ the middle muscular part of the wall of a blood or lymph vessel [NL, fr L, fem of *medius* middle]

**media** *pl* of MEDIUM

**mediaeval** /ˈmedɪeɪvl/ *adj* mediaeval

**medial** /ˈmedi-əl/ *adj* being, occurring in, or extending towards the middle, median [LL *medialis*, fr L *medius*] – **medially** *adv*

**median** /ˈmedi-ən/ *n* **1** a median vein, nerve, etc **2** a value in a series above and below which there are an equal number of values – **STATISTICS** **3** a line from a vertex of a triangle to the midpoint of the opposite side

**median** *adj* **1** in the middle or in an intermediate position **2** lying in the plane that divides an animal into right and left halves [MF or L, MF, fr L *medianus*, fr *medius* middle – more at MID]

**mediant** /ˈmedi-ənt/ *n* the 3rd note of a diatonic scale [It *mediante*, fr LL *mediant*, *medians*, prp of *mediare* to be in the middle]

**mediastinum** /ˈmedi-əˈsti-nəm/ *n*, *pl* **mediastina** /-nə/ (the contents or walls of) the space in the chest between the coverings of the lungs, containing all the chest organs except the lungs [NL, fr L, neut of *mediastinus* medial, fr *medius*] – **mediastinal** *adj*

**mediate** /ˈmedi-ət/ *adj* acting through an intervening agent or agency [ME, fr LL *mediatus* intermediate, fr pp of *mediare*] – **mediacy** /-di-əsi/ *n*, **mediately** *adv*

**mediate** /ˈmedi-əyt/ *vt* to intervene between parties in order to reconcile them ~ *vt* **1** to bring about (a settlement) by mediation **2a** to act as intermediary agent in or between *b* to transmit or effect by acting as an intermediate mechanism or agency [ML *mediatus*, pp of *mediare*, fr LL, to be in the middle, fr L *medius* middle – more at MID] – **mediator** *n*, **mediatory** /-di-ət(ə)n/ *adj*, **mediative** /-di-ətɪv/ *adj*, **mediation** /ˈmedi-əʃn(ə)n/ *n*

**medic** /ˈmedɪk/ *n* a medick

**medic** *n* a medical doctor or student – infml [L *medicus*]

**medicable** /ˈmedɪkəbl/ *adj* curable, remediable [L *medicabilis*, fr *medicare* to heal]

**medical** /ˈmedɪkl/ *adj* **1** of or concerned with physicians or the practice of medicine **2** requiring or devoted to medical treatment [F or LL; F *médical*, fr LL *medicālis*, fr L *medicus* physician, fr *mederi* to heal, akin to Av vi-*mad-* healer, & perh to L *meditari* to meditate] – **medically** *adv*

**medical** /ˈmedɪkl/, **medical examination** *n* an examination to determine sb's physical fitness

**medicament** /mɪˈdɪkəmənt/ *n* MEDICINE **1**

**medicare** /ˈmedɪˌkeɪ/ *n* comprehensive medical insurance, esp for the

aged, sponsored by the US and Canadian governments [blend of *medical* and *care*]

**medicate** /ˈmedɪkəyt/ *vt* **1** to treat medicinally **2** to impregnate with a medicinal substance (< *d soap*) [L *medicatus*, pp of *medicare* to heal, fr *medicus*] – **medication** /ˈmedɪˌkəʃn(ə)n/ *n*

**medicinal** /ˈmɛdɪs(ə)nəl/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) tending or used to cure disease or relieve pain – **medicinally** *adv*

**medicine** /ˈmedəsɪn/ *n* **1** a substance or preparation used (as if) in treating disease **2** the science and art of the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease (using nonsurgical methods) [ME, fr OF, fr L *medicina*, fr fem of *medicinus* of a physician, fr *medicus*]

**medicine ball** *n* a heavy ball that is usu thrown between people for exercise

**medicine man** *n* a healer or sorcerer, esp among the N American Indians – compare WITCH DOCTOR

**medick**, **medic** /ˈmedɪk/ *n* any of a genus of leguminous plants that includes lucerne [ME *medike*, fr L *medica*, fr Gk *medikē*, fr fem of *medikos* Median, fr *Media* Media, ancient country of Persian empire]

**medico** /ˈmedɪkəh/ *n*, *pl* **medicos** 'MEDIC – infml [It *medico* or Sp *médico*, both fr L *medicus*]

**medico-comb form** medical (<medicopsychology>); medical and (<medico-legal>) [NL, fr L *medicus*]

**mediaeval**, **mediaeval** /ˈmedɪeɪvl/ *adj* of or like the Middle Ages [L *medius* middle + *aeuum* age – more at 'AVE] – **medievalism** *n*, **medievalist** *n*, **medievally** *adv*

**Medieval Latin** *n* liturgical and literary Latin of the 7th–15th c

**mediocre** /ˈmedi-əhka/ *adj* **1** neither good nor bad, indifferent, esp conspicuously lacking distinction or imagination **2** not good enough; fairly bad [MF, fr L *mediocris*, lit., halfway up a mountain, fr *medius* + *ocris* stony mountain, akin to L *acer* sharp – more at EDGE] – **mediocrity** /ˈmedi-əkrəti/ *n*

**meditate** /ˈmedɪtəyt/ *vt* to focus one's thoughts on, consider or plan in the mind ~ *vi* **1** to engage in deep or serious reflection **2** to empty the mind of thoughts and fix the attention on 1 matter, esp as a religious exercise [L *meditatus*, pp of *meditari* – more at METE] – **meditator** *n*, **meditative** /-tətɪv/ *adj*, **meditatively** *adv*, **meditation** /ˈmedɪ-ˈtəʃn(ə)n/ *n*

**Mediterranean** /ˈmedɪtəˈreɪnjən, -ni-ən/ *adj* **1** of or characteristic of (the region round) the Mediterranean sea **2** of or resembling a physical type of the Caucasian race characterized by medium or short stature, slender build, and dark complexion [Mediterranean Sea, between Europe & Africa, fr L *mediterraneus* inland, landlocked, fr *medius* + *terra* land]

**medium** /ˈmedi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **mediums**, **media** /-di-ə/, (2b(2)) **media**, (2c) **mediums**, (3b) **media** also **mediums** **1** (sthg in) a middle position or state **2** a means of effecting or conveying sthg. e.g. a(1) a substance regarded as the means of transmission of a force or effect (<*air is the ~ that conveys sound*>) (2) a surrounding or enveloping substance; esp MATRIX **3** b(1) a channel of communication (2) *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr MASS MEDIA *c* a mode of artistic expression or communication (<*discovered his true ~ as a writer*>) *d* an intermediary, go-between *e* one through whom others seek to communicate with the spirits of the dead *f* a material or technical means of artistic expression (<*found watercolour a satisfying ~*>) **3a** a condition or environment in which sthg may function or flourish **b** a nutrient for the artificial cultivation of bacteria and other (single-celled) organisms *c* a liquid with which dry pigment can be mixed [L, fr neut of *medius* middle – more at MID]

**medium** *adj* intermediate in amount, quality, position, or degree

**medium wave** *n* a band of radio waves, typically used for sound broadcasting, covering wavelengths between about 180m and 600m – sometimes *pl* with *sing.* meaning

**medlar** /ˈmedlə/ *n* (a small Eurasian tree of the rose family that bears) a fruit like a crab apple used in preserves [ME *medeler*, fr MF *meslier*, *medlier*, fr *mesle*, *medle* medlar fruit, fr L *mespilum*, fr Gk *mespilon*]

**medley** /ˈmedli/ *n* **1a** (confused) mixture **2** a musical composition made up of a series of songs or short musical pieces [ME *medle*, fr MF *medlee*, fr fem of *medle*, pp of *medler* to mix – more at MEDDLE]

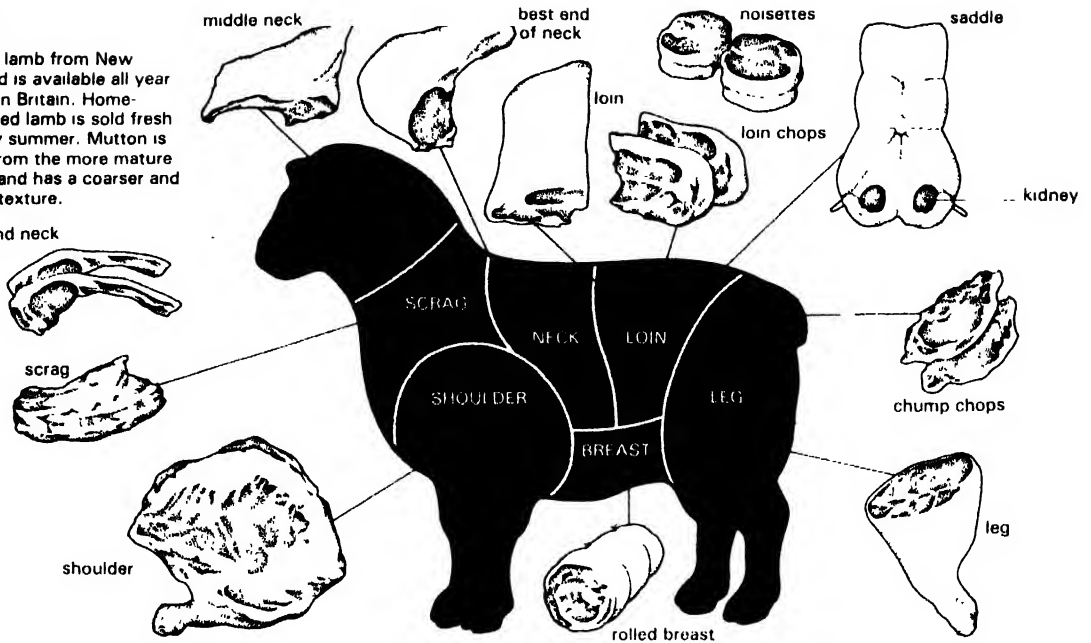
**medulla** /mɪˈdʊlə/ *n*, *pl* (1) **medullae** /-li/, (2) **medullas** also **medullae** **1a** MARROW **1 b** MEDULLA OBLONGATA **2a** the inner or deep part of an animal or plant structure (<*the adrenal ~*>) **b** the myelin sheath that surrounds some nerves [L]

**medulla oblongata** /ˌɒblŋˈɡɑ:tə/ *n*, *pl* **medulla oblongatas**, **medullae oblongatae** /-ti/ the (pyramid-shaped) part of the brain of vertebrates

### Lamb

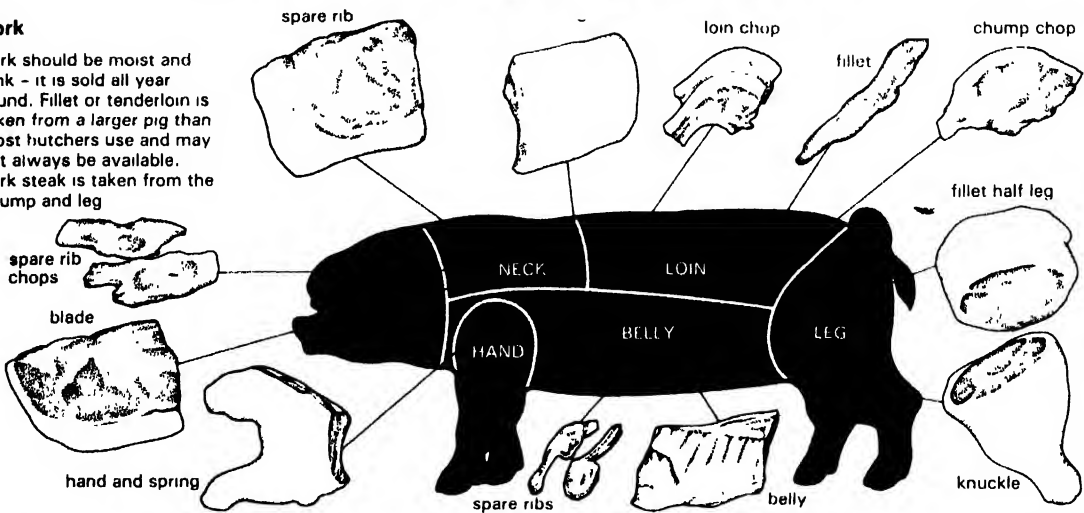
Frozen lamb from New Zealand is available all year round in Britain. Home-produced lamb is sold fresh in early summer. Mutton is meat from the more mature sheep and has a coarser and fattier texture.

best end neck cutlet



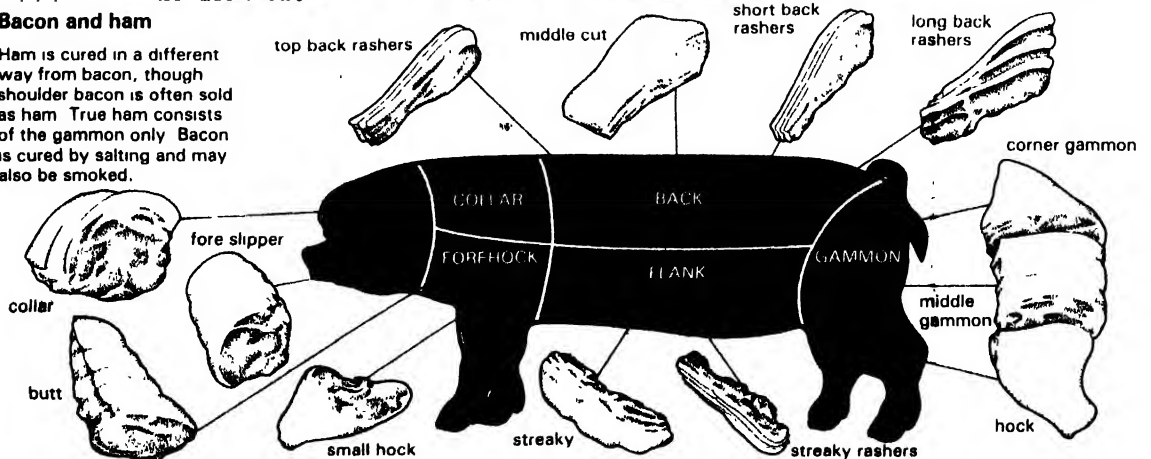
### Pork

Pork should be moist and pink - it is sold all year round. Fillet or tenderloin is taken from a larger pig than most hutchers use and may not always be available. Pork steak is taken from the chump and leg

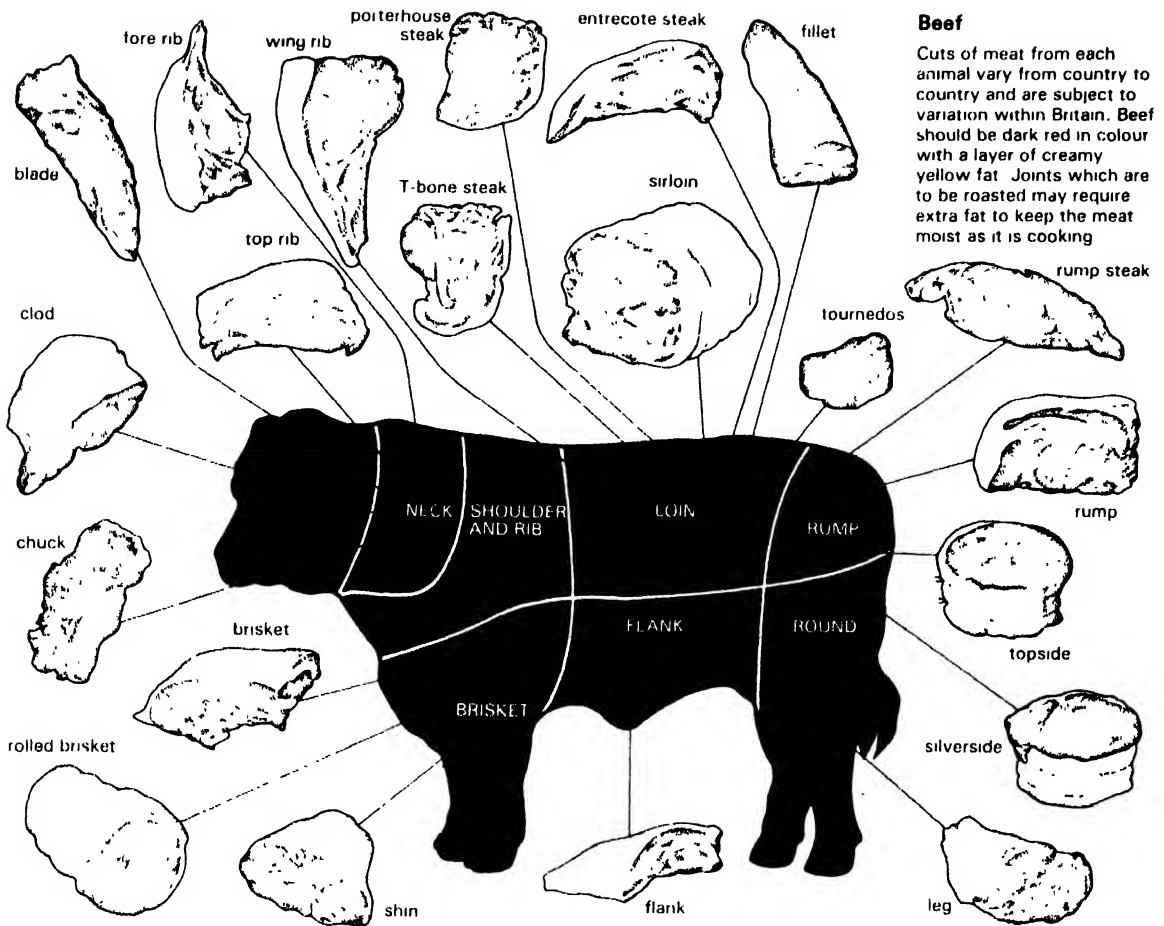


### Bacon and ham

Ham is cured in a different way from bacon, though shoulder bacon is often sold as ham. True ham consists of the gammon only. Bacon is cured by salting and may also be smoked.

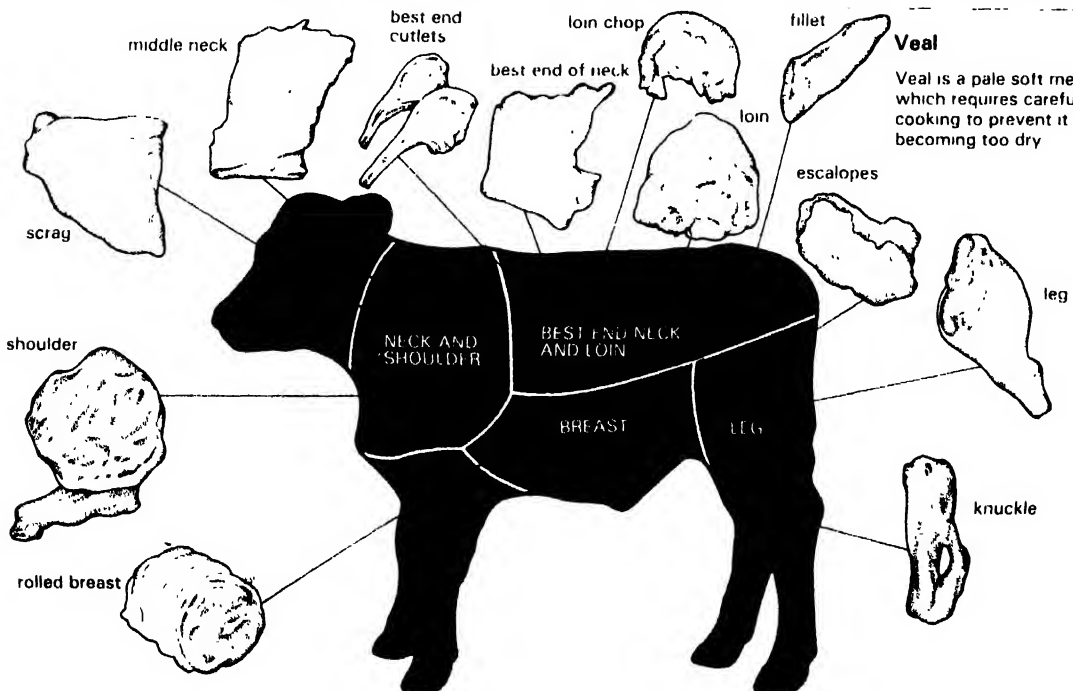






### Beef

Cuts of meat from each animal vary from country to country and are subject to variation within Britain. Beef should be dark red in colour with a layer of creamy yellow fat. Joints which are to be roasted may require extra fat to keep the meat moist as it is cooking.



### Veal

Veal is a pale soft meat which requires careful cooking to prevent it from becoming too dry.

- whose back part merges with the spinal cord [NL, lit. oblong medulla]
- medullary** /mi'duləri/ *adj* 1 of or located in a medulla, esp the medulla oblongata 2 of or located in the pith of a plant
- medullary ray** *n* a wedge of tissue that is composed of parenchyma cells, joins the vascular bundles in the stems of many plants, and connects the pith with the cortex
- medulated** /'med(ə)l,aytɪd, mi'dul-/ *adj* myelinated
- medusa** /mi'dyooʒə/ *n*, *pl medusae* /-zɪ/, **medusas** a (small hydrozoan) jellyfish [NL, fr *Medusa*, one of the 3 Gorgons with snakes for hair, fr L, fr Gk *Medousa*, fr the resemblance of some species to a head with snake-like curls] – **medusan** *adj* or *n*, **medusoid** /-zɔɪd/ *adj*
- meek** /meek/ *adj* 1 patient and without resentment 2 lacking spirit and courage; timid [ME, of Scand origin, akin to ON *mykr* gentle; akin to L *mucus* nasal mucus] – **meekly** *adv*, **meekness** *n*
- meerkat** /'mi:ka:t/ *n* any of several small flesh-eating S African mammals related to the mongooses [Afrik, fr D, a kind of monkey, fr MD *meercatte* monkey, fr *meer* sea + *catte* cat; fr the fact that monkeys came to Europe from overseas]
- meerschäum** /'mi:ʃəʊm/ *n* 1 hydrated magnesium silicate occurring, chiefly in Asia Minor, as a white clayey mineral and used esp for tobacco pipes 2 a tobacco pipe with a bowl made of meerschäum [G, fr *meer* sea + *schaum* foam]
- 'meet** /meet/ *vb* **met** /met/ *vt* **1a** to come into the presence of by accident or design **b** to be present to greet the arrival of <met the London train> **c** to come into contact or conjunction with <where the river ~s the sea> **d** to appear to the perception of <hazy sunshine ~s the eye> **2** to encounter as antagonist or foe **3** to answer, esp in opposition <his speech was met by loud catcalls> **4** to conform to, esp exactly and precisely, satisfy <this should ~ your requirements> **5** to pay fully <~ the cost> **6** to become acquainted with **7** to experience during the course of sthg <met his death during the war> ~ *vi* **1** to come together **a** from different directions **b** for a common purpose **c** as contestants, opponents, or enemies **2** to join at a fastening <the waistcoat won't ~> **3** to become acquainted [ME *meten*, fr OE *metan*, akin to OHG *muoz* meeting, Arm *matum* I approach] – **meet someone halfway** to make concessions to, compromise with
- ²meet** *n* the assembling of participants for a hunt or for competitive sports
- 'meet** *adj* suitable, proper – fml [ME *mete*, fr OE *gemæte*; akin to OE *metan* to mete] – **meetly** *adv*
- meeting** /'mi:tiŋ/ *n* **1a** coming together: e.g. **a** an assembly of people for a common purpose **b** a session of horse or greyhound racing **2** a permanent organizational unit of the Quakers **3** an intersection, junction
- 'meetinghouse** *n* a building used for Protestant worship
- mega-** /'mega-/ *meg-* *comb form* **1a** great, large <megalth> <megaspor> **b** having (a specified part) of large size <megacephalic> **2** million [10<sup>6</sup>] <megawatt> <megohm> ~ *PHYSICS* [Gk, fr *megas* large – more at MUCH]
- megabit** /'mega,bɪt/ *n* a unit of computer information **a** equal to 1,000,000 bits **b** equal to 2<sup>20</sup> bits
- 'mega.byte** /-bi:t/ *n* a unit of computer storage **a** equal to 1,000,000 bytes **b** equal to 2<sup>20</sup> bytes
- 'mega.cycle** /-sɪkl/ *n* a megahertz
- 'mega.death** /-deth/ *n* one million deaths – used as a unit esp in reference to atomic warfare
- 'mega.hertz** /-hu:ts/ *n* a unit of frequency equal to 1,000,000 hertz [ISV]
- megal-** /'meg(ə)-/ *megalo-* *comb form* **1** large; of giant size <megalopolis> <megaloblast> **2** grandiose <megalomania> [NL, fr Gk, fr *megal-*, *megas* – more at MUCH]
- megolith** /'megəlɪθ/ *n* a huge undressed block of stone used in prehistoric monuments – **megalithic** /'mega'lɪθɪk/ *adj*
- megalomania** /'meg(ə)l'maɪni-ə/ *n* **1a** a mania for grandiose things **2** feelings of personal omnipotence and grandeur occurring as a delusional mental disorder – compare **SUPERIORITY COMPLEX** [NL] – **megalomaniac** /-ni:ək/ *adj* or *n*, **megalomaniacal** /-mə'ni:ək-l/ *adj*
- 'mega.lopolis** /'meg(ə)l'opolɪs/ *n* **1** a very large city **2** a densely populated urban region embracing 1 or several metropolises – **megalopolitan** /-lə'pɒlɪt(ə)n/ *n* or *adj*
- megaphone** /'mega,fəʊn/ *n* a hand-held device used to amplify or direct the voice – **megaphonic** /'mega'fəʊnɪk/ *adj*
- 'mega.ton** /-tʌn/ *n* an explosive force (of an atom or hydrogen bomb) equivalent to that of 1,000,000 tons of TNT
- 'megrim** /'meeɡrɪm/ *n* **1** migraine **2** vertigo, dizziness – usu pl with sing meaning [ME *migreime*, fr MF *migraïne*]
- ²megrim** *n* any of several small flounders or other flatfishes [origin unknown]
- meiosis** /'meɪoʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl meioses* /-sɛz/ **1** understatement **2** a specialized cellular process of division in gamete-producing cells by which 1 of each pair of chromosomes passes to each resulting gametic cell which thus has half the number of chromosomes of the original cell – compare **MITOSIS** [NL, fr Gk *meiosis* diminution, fr *meioun* to diminish, fr *meion* less – more at **MINOR**] – **meiotic** /-'ɒtɪk/ *adj*, **meiotically** *adv*
- Meissen** /'mɛs(ə)n/ *n* a type of European hard-paste porcelain developed in the 18th c at Meissen near Dresden
- melamine** /'meləmin, -meen/ *n* (an organic compound used esp to make) a melamine resin or a derived plastic [G *melamin*]
- melamine resin** *n* any of various plastics used esp in moulded products and coatings
- melan-, melano-** *comb form* **1** black, dark <melanin> **2** melanin <melanoid> <melanocyte> [ME, fr MF, fr L.L., fr Gk, fr *melan-*, *melas* – more at **MULLER**]
- melancholia** /'melən'kɒli-ə/ *n* feelings of extreme depression and worthlessness occurring as an abnormal mental condition [NL, fr LL, melancholy] – **melancholiac** /-'kɒli:ək/ *n*
- 'melancholy** /'melənkəli, -kɒli/ *n* **1a** (a tendency to) irascibility or depression, melancholia **b** **BLACK BIFF** **2a** depression of mind or spirits **b** a sad pensive mood [ME *malencolie*, fr MF *melancolie*, fr LL *melancholia*, fr Gk, fr *melan-* + *chole* bile – more at **GAUL**] – **melancholic** /-'kɒlɪk/ *adj* or *n*, **melancholically** *adv*
- ²melancholy** *adj* **1** depressed in spirits, dejected **2** causing, tending to cause, or expressing sadness or depression
- Melanesian** /'melə'neɪʒ(ɪ)ən, -rɪən/ *n* **1a** a member of the dominant indigenous group of Melanesia **2a** a language group consisting of the Austronesian languages of Melanesia ~ *LANGUAGE* [Melanesia, island group in Pacific, fr Gk *melas* + *nesos* island] – **Melanesian** *adj*
- mélange** /'maylɒnhɜ:z (Fr melo:ʒ)/ *n* a mixture (of incongruous elements) [F, fr MF, fr *mesler*, *meler* to mix – more at **MIDDLE**]
- melanin** /'melənɪn/ *n* a dark brown or black animal and plant pigment (e.g. of skin or hair)
- melanism** /'melə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* an increased amount of (nearly) black pigmentation of skin, feathers, hair, etc – **melanic** /'mɛlənɪk/ *adj*
- melan-ize** /'meləneɪz/, -ɪz *vt* **1** to convert into or increase the amount of melanin in **2** to make dark or black – **melanization** /'melə-neɪ'zəʃən/ *n*
- melanocyte-stimulating hormone** /'mɪlənəsɪet, 'melənəh-/ *n* a hormone of the pituitary gland in vertebrates that produces darkening of the skin – compare **MELATONIN**
- melanoma** /'melə'noʊmə/ *n*, *pl melanomas* also **melanomata** /-mətə/ *a* usu malignant tumour, esp of the skin, containing dark pigment [NL]
- melanophore** /'mɪlənəfəʊ, 'melənəf-/ *n* a melanin-containing chromatophore, esp of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles
- melanosis** /'melə'noʊsɪs/ *n* the (abnormal) deposition of pigments, esp melanin, in the tissues of the body [NL] – **melanotic** /'melə'notɪk/ *adj*
- melatonin** /'melə'toʊnɪn/ *n* a hormone of the pineal gland in vertebrates that produces lightening of the skin – compare **MELANOCYTF-STIMULATING HORMONE** [prob fr *melanocyte* + *serotonin*]
- Meiba** 'toast /'melbə/ *n* very thin crisp toast [Dame Nellie Melba ~1931 Austr operatic soprano]
- 'meld** /meld/ *vb* to declare (a card or combination of cards) for a score in a card game, esp by placing face up on the table [G *melden* to announce, fr OHG *meldon*, akin to OE *meldian* to announce, OSlav *moliti* to ask for]
- ²meld** *n* a card or combination of cards that is or can be melded
- mêlée, melee** /'mɛlə/ *n* a confused or riotous struggle; esp a general hand-to-hand fight [F *mêlée*, fr OF *meslée*, fr *mesler* to mix – more at **MEDDLE**]
- melic** /'melɪk/ *adj*, of poetry intended to be sung [L *melicus*, fr Gk *melikos*, fr *melos* song – more at **MELODY**]
- mellilot** /'mɛlɪlət/ *n* any of a genus of leguminous plants widely cultivated to enrich the soil and for hay [ME *mellilot*, fr MF *mellilot*, fr L *mellilotos*, fr Gk *mellilotos*, fr *meli* honey + *lotos* clover, lotus – more at **MELLIFLUOUS**]
- meliorate** /'meɪli-ə,rayt/ *vb* to ameliorate [LL *melioratus*, pp of *meliorare*, fr L *melior* better; akin to L *multus* much, Gk *mala* very] – **meliorative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **melioration** /'meɪli-ə'rayʃən/ *n*
- melisma** /'mɛlɪzmə/ *n*, *pl melismata* /-mətə/ *a* group of notes or tones

sung on 1 syllable, esp in plainsong [NL, fr Gk, song, melody, fr *melizein* to sing, fr *melos* song] – **mellismatic** /ˌmɛlɪzˈmætɪk/ *adj*

**melliferous** /məˈlɪfərəs/ *adj* producing or yielding honey [L *mellifer*, fr *mell-*, *mel* + *-fer* -ferous]

**mellifluous** /məˈlɪfluːəs/, **mellifluent** /-ənt/ *adj* smoothly or sweetly flowing (< a ~ voice) [LL *mellifluus*, fr L *mell-*, *mel* honey + *fluere* to flow; akin to Goth *milith* honey, Gk *melit-*, *meli*] – **mellifluously**, **mellifluently** *adv*, **mellifluousness**, **mellifluence** *n*

**mellophone** /ˈmɛləˌfoʊn/ *n* a circular valved brass instrument with a range similar to that of the French horn [*mellow* + *-phone*]

**Melotron** /ˈmɛləˌtrɒn/ *trademark* ~ used for an electronic keyboard instrument in which the sound source is a prerecorded tape

**mellow** /ˈmɛləʊ/ *adj* **1a** of a fruit tender and sweet because ripe **b** of a wine well aged and pleasingly mild **2a** made gentle by age or experience **b** rich and full but free from harshness (< ~ lighting) **c** pleasantly intoxicated [ME *melowe*] – **mellow** *vb*, **mellowly** *adv*, **mellowness** *n*

**melodeon**, **melodion** /məˈləʊdi-ən/ *n* a reed organ in which the air is drawn through the reeds by suction bellows [G *melodion*, fr *melodie* melody, fr OF]

**melodic** /məˈlədɪk/ *adj* **1** of or forming melody **2** melodious – **melodically** *adv*

**melodious** /məˈləʊdi-əs/ *adj* of or producing (a pleasing) melody – **melodiously** *adv*, **melodiousness** *n*

**melodist** /ˈmɛlədɪst/ *n* **1** a singer **2** a composer of melodies

**melodrama** /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmə/ *n* **1a** a work (e.g. a film or play) characterized by crude emotional appeal and by the predominance of plot and action over characterization **b** the dramatic genre comprising such works **2** sensational or sensationalized events or behaviour [modif of F *melodrame*, fr Gk *melos* + F *drame* drama, fr LL *drama*] – **melodramatic** /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmætɪk/ *adj*, **melodramatically** *adv*, **melodramatist** /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmætɪst/ *n*, **melodramatize** /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmætɪz/, -ˈdrɑːmə-/ *vt*

**melodramatics** /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmætɪks/ *n* *pl* MFIDRAMA **2**

**melody** /ˈmɛlədi/ *n* **1** an agreeable succession or arrangement of sounds **2a** a rhythmic succession of single notes organized as an aesthetic whole **b** the chief part in a harmonic composition [ME *melodie*, fr OF, fr LL *melodia*, fr Gk *melodia* chanting, music, fr *melos* limb, musical phrase, song (akin to Bret *mell* joint) + *acidein* to sing – more at ODE]

**melon** /ˈmɛlən/ *n* (any of various plants of the cucumber family having) a fruit (e.g. a watermelon) containing sweet edible flesh and usu eaten raw [ME, fr MF, fr LL *melon-*, *melo*, short for L *melo-pepon-*, *melo-pepo*, fr Gk *melo-pepon*, fr *melon* apple + *pepon*, an edible gourd – more at PUMPKIN]

**melt** /mɛlt/ *vt* **1** to become altered from a solid to a liquid state, usu by heating **2a** to dissolve, disintegrate (< food that ~s in the mouth) **b** to disappear as if by dissolving (< his anger ~ed) **3** to be or become mild, tender, or gentle **4** to lose distinct outline, blend (< tried to ~ into the background) ~ *vi* **1** to reduce from a solid to a liquid state, usu by heating **2** to cause to disappear or disperse **3** to make tender or gentle [ME *melten*, fr OE *meltan*, akin to L *mollis* soft, *molere* to grind – more at MEAL] – **meltable** *adj*, **meltingly** *adv*

**melt** *n* **1a** molten material **b** the mass melted at a single operation **2** (the period of) melting or being melted (< the river overflowed during the Spring ~)

**melt** *n* the spleen, esp when used as food [ME *milte*, fr OE, akin to OHG *miltzi* spleen]

**melting point** /ˈmɛltɪŋ/ *n* the temperature at which a solid melts

**melting pot** *n* a place, a situation, or the result of mixing diverse ideas, peoples, traditions, etc

**meltwater** *n* water from the melting of (glacial) ice or snow

**member** /ˈmɛmbə/ *n* **1** a part or organ of the body e.g. **a** a limb **b** the penis – **euph** **2a** an individual or unit belonging to or forming part of a group or organization **b** often *cap* one who is entitled to sit in a legislative body, esp a member of Parliament **3a** a constituent part of a whole **b** a beam or similar (load-bearing) structure, esp in a building **c** either of the expressions on either side of a mathematical equation or inequality [ME *membre*, fr OF, fr L *membrum*; akin to Goth *mimz* flesh, Gk *meros* thigh, *meninx* membrane, Skt *māmsa* flesh]

**membership** /-ʃɪp/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the body of members (< an organization with a large ~) [MEMBER + *-ship*]

**membrane** /ˈmɛmbraɪn/ *n* a thin pliable sheet or layer, esp in an animal or plant [L *membrana* skin, parchment, fr *membrum*] – **membranous** /-brəːnəs/ *adj*

**memento** /məˈmentəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **mementos**, **mementoes** sth (e.g. a souvenir) that serves as a reminder of past events, people, etc [ME, fr L, remember, imper of *meminisse* to remember, akin to L *ment-*, *mens* mind]

**memento** /ˈmɒri/ /ˈmawri/ *n*, *pl* **memento mori** a reminder of mortality, esp a death's-head [L, remember that you must die]

**memo** /ˈmemoh/ *n*, *pl* **memos** a memorandum

**memoir** /ˈmemwəh/ *n* **1a** a narrative written from personal experience **b** an autobiography – *usu* *pl* with *sing.* meaning **c** a biography **2a** a learned essay on a particular topic *USE* (1a&1c) often *pl* with *sing.* meaning [F *mémoire*, lit., memory, fr L *memoria*] – **memoirist** *n*

**memorabilia** /ˌmem(ə)rəˈbɪli-ə/ *n* *pl* (records of) memorable events [L, fr neut *pl* of *memorabilis*]

**memorable** /ˈmem(ə)rəbl/ *adj* worth remembering, notable [ME, fr L *memorabilis*, fr *memorare* to remind, mention, fr *memor* mindful] – **memorability** /ˌmem(ə)rəˈbɪləti/ *n*, **memorably** *adv*

**memorandum** /ˌmeməˈrændəm/ *n*, *pl* **memorandums**, **memoranda** /-də/ **1** an often unsigned informal record or communication, also a written reminder **2** a document recording the terms of an agreement, the formation of a company, etc **3** a usu brief communication for internal circulation (e.g. within an office) [ME, fr L, neut of *memorandus* to be remembered, gerundive of *memorare*]

**memorial** /məˈmɒri-əl/ *adj* serving to commemorate a person or event [MEMORY + *-IAL*] – **memorially** *adv*, **memorialize** /-liez/ *vt*

**memorial** *n* **1** sth, esp a monument, that commemorates a person or event **2** a historical record – often *pl*

**memorize**, -ise /ˈmeməraɪz/ *vt* to commit to memory, learn by heart – **memorizable** *adj*, **memorization** /ˌmeməˈraɪz(ə)ʃn/ *n*

**memory** /ˈmem(ə)ri/ *n* **1** (the power or process of recalling or realizing) the store of things learned and retained from an organism's experience (< good visual ~) **2** commemorative remembrance (< a statue in ~ of the hero) **3a** (the object of) recall or recollection (< had no ~ of the incident) (< left many happy memories) **b** (posthumous) image or impression (< hrs ~ will stay with us) **c** the time within which past events can be or are remembered **4** (the capacity of) a device in which information, esp for a computer, can be inserted, stored, and extracted when wanted **5** a capacity of a metal, plastic, etc for retaining effects as the result of past treatment, or for returning to a former condition [ME *memorie* fr MF *memoire*, fr L *memoria*, fr *memor* mindful; akin to OE *nimorian* to remember, L *mora* delay, Gk *memēra* care, Skt *smarati* he remembers]

**memsahib** /ˈmem.səh.hɪb/ *n* a white foreign woman of high social status living in India, broadly any woman of rank in India [Hindi *memsāhib*, fr E *ma'am* + Hindi *sāhib* *sahib*, fr Ar *sāhib* friend, lord]

**men** /men/ *pl* of MAN

**men-**, **meno-** *comb form* menstruation (< *menorrhagia*) [NL, fr Gk *men* month – more at MOON]

**menace** /ˈmenɪs/ *n* **1** a show of intention to inflict harm; a threat **2a** a source of danger **b** a person who causes annoyance [ME, fr MF, fr L *minacia*, fr *minac-*, *minax* threatening, fr *munari* to threaten – more at MOUNT]

**menace** *vb* to threaten or show intent to harm – **menacingly** *adv*

**ménage** /ˈmɛnəʒh/, -/ *n* a household [F, fr OF *mesnage* dwelling, fr (assumed) VL *mansionaticum*, fr L *mansion-*, *mansio* mansion]

**ménage à trois** /əh ˈtrɔɪ/ *n* a relationship in which 3 people, esp a married couple and the lover of 1, live together [F, lit., household for three]

**menagerie** /məˈnɑːʒəri/ *n* a place where animals are kept and trained, esp for exhibition; also a zoo [F *ménagerie*, fr MF, management of a household or farm, fr *menage*]

**menarche** /ˈmenɑːki/ *n* (the onset of the menstrual function marked by) the first menstrual period [NL, fr *men-* + Gk *archē* beginning] – **menarcheal** /ˌmenɑːkˈkeɪ-əl/ *adj*

**mend** /mend/ *vt* **1** to improve or rectify (< one's ways) (< attempt to ~ matters) **2a** to restore to sound condition or working order, repair **b** to restore to health, cure ~ *vi* **1** to undergo improvement **2** to improve in health; also to heal [ME *menden*, short for *amenden* – more at AMEND] – **mendable** *adj*, **mender** *n*

**mend** *n* a mended place or part – *on the mend* improving, esp in health

**mendacity** /ˈmendəsəti/ *n* (sth marked by) untruthfulness – *fml* [LL *mendacitas*, fr L *mendac-*, *mendax* lying, false – more at AMEND] – **mendacious** /-ˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj*, **mendaciously** *adv*

**mendelevium** /ˌmɛndəˈleɪvi-əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive metallic element ⚗ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Dmitri Mendeleev + 1907 Russ chemist]

**Mendelian** /ˈmendɪli-ən/ *adj* of or according with the genetic principle that genes occur in pairs, each gamete receives 1 member of each pair, and that an organism thus has 1 gene of each pair randomly selected from each

- of its parents [Gregor Mendel †1884 Austrian biologist] – **Mendelian** *n*, **Mendelian** *n*
- mendicant** /ˈmendikənt/ *n* 1 BEGGAR 2 often *cap* a friar living off alms [L *mendicans*, *mendicans*, *pp* of *mendicare* to beg, *fr* *mendicus* beggar – more at AMEND] – **mendicant** *adj*, **mendicancy**, **mendicity** /ˈmendɪsɪti/ *n*
- menfolk** /ˈmen.fəʊk/ *n* *pl* in *constr* 1 men in general 2 the men of a family or community
- menhir** /ˈmenhɪr/ *n* a single upright roughly-shaped monolith, usu of prehistoric origin [F, fr Bret, *fr* *men* stone (akin to W *maen* stone, Corn *mēn*) + *hir* long; akin to OIr *sir* long, L *serus* late – more at SINCE]
- menial** /ˈmeɪniəl/, -niəl/ *adj* 1 of servants, lowly 2a degrading; also servile *b* lacking in interest or status (< a boring ~ job) [ME *meynial*, *fr* *meynie* household, retinue, *fr* OF *mesnie*, *fr* (assumed) VL *mansionata*, *fr* L *mansion*-, *mansio* dwelling] – **menially** *adv*
- menial** *n* a domestic servant or retainer
- Ménière's disease** /məˈniːəz/ *n* recurrent attacks of dizziness, ringing in the ears, and deafness occurring as a disorder of the inner ear [Émile A Ménière †1905 F physician]
- meningo-** *also* **meningi-** *comb form* *meninges* < *meningitis*; *meninges* and < *meningoencephalitis* [NL, *fr* *mening*-, *meninx*]
- meninges** /məˈniŋiːdʒ/ *pl* of *meninx* – **meningeal** /-dʒiəl/ *adj*
- meningitis** /ˌmeniˈniːdʒɪs/ *n* bacterial, fungal, or viral inflammation of the meninges [NL] – **meningitic** /-dʒɪtɪk/ *adj*
- meninx** /ˈmeniŋks/, -mē-/ *n*, *pl* **meninges** /məˈniŋiːdʒ/ any of the 3 membranes (the dura mater, pia mater, and arachnoid) that envelop the brain and spinal cord – usu *pl* [NL, *fr* Gk *mēning*-, *mēninx* membrane, akin to L *membrana* membrane]
- meniscus** /məˈnɪskəs/ *n*, *pl* **menisci** /-nɪsi/ *also* **meniscuses** 1 a crescent-shaped body or figure 2 a lens that is concave on one side and convex on the other 3 the curved concave or convex upper surface of a column of liquid [NL, *fr* Gk *meniskos*, *fr* dim of *mene* moon, crescent – more at MOON]
- Mennonite** /ˈmenənɪt/ *n* a member of any of various Protestant groups derived from the Anabaptist movement in Holland and characterized by congregational autonomy and rejection of military service [G *Mennonit*, *fr* Menno Simons †1561 Frisian religious reformer]
- meno-** – see MEN-
- menopause** /ˈmenəˌpaʊz/ *n* (the time of) the natural cessation of menstruation occurring usu between the ages of 45 and 50 [F *ménopause*, *fr* *méno*- *men*- + *pause*] – **menopausal** /ˈmenəˌpaʊzəl/ *adj*
- menorah** /ˈmiˌnaʊrə/ *n* a many-branched candelabrum used in Jewish worship [Heb *ménorah* candlestick]
- menorrhagia** /ˌmenəˈrɛɪʒiə/ *n* abnormally profuse menstrual flow [NL] – **menorrhagic** /-nəˈrɛɪʒɪk/ *adj*
- menorrhoea** /ˌmenəˈrɛɪə/ *n* normal menstrual flow [NL]
- meneses** /ˈmensɛz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the menstrual flow [L, lit., months, *pl* of *mensis* month – more at MOON]
- Menshevik** /ˈmɛnʃɪvɪk/ *n* a member of the less radical wing of the Russian Social Democratic party before and during the Russian Revolution [Russ *men'shevik*, *fr* *men'she* less, *fr* their forming the minority group of the party] – **Menshevism** *n*, **Menshevist** *n*
- mens rea** /ˌmɛnzˈreɪə/ *n* criminal intent [NL, lit., guilty mind]
- men's room** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a men's toilet
- menstruation** /ˌmɛnstroʊˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the discharging of blood, secretions, and tissue debris from the uterus that recurs in nonpregnant female of breeding age at approximately monthly intervals, *also* a single occurrence of this  [LL *menstruatus*, *pp* of *menstruari* to menstruate, *fr* L *menstrua* menses, *fr* neut *pl* of *menstruus* monthly, *fr* *mensis*] – **menstruous** *adj*, **menstruate** /-stroʊˌaɪt/ *vi*, **menstrual** /ˈmɛnstroʊ(ə)l/ *adj*
- menstruum** /ˈmɛnstroʊ-əm/, *n*, *pl* **menstruums**, **menstrua** /-stroʊ-ə/ a solvent – used in alchemy [ML, lit., menses, alter. of L *menstrua*; *fr* the comparison made by alchemists of a base metal in a solvent undergoing transmutation into gold with an ovum in the womb being (supposedly) transformed by menstrual blood]
- mensuration** /ˌmɛnʃəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 measurement 2 geometry applied to the computation of lengths, areas, or volumes [LL *mensuration*-, *mensuratio*, *fr* *mensuratus*, *pp* of *mensurare* to measure, *fr* *mensura* measure] – **mensurable** /ˌmɛnʃərəbl/ *adj*, **mensural** *adj*
- ment** /-mənt/ *suffix* (*vb* → *n*) 1a concrete result, object, or agent of a (specified) action (< *embankment*) < *entertainment* > *b* concrete means or instrument of a (specified) action (< *entertainment*) 2a action; process (< *encirclement*) < *development* > *b* place of a (specified) action (< *encampment*) [ME, *fr* OF, *fr* L -*mentum*, akin to L -*men*, suffix denoting concrete result, Gk -*mat*-, -*ma*]
- mental** /ˈmentl/ *adj* 1a of the mind or its activity (< *health*) < *processes* > *b* of intellectual as contrasted with emotional or physical activity (< *ability*) < *a* ~ *age* of 3 > *c* (performed or experienced) in the mind (< *arithmetic*) < *anguish* > 2 of, being, or (intended for the care of people) suffering from a psychiatric disorder (< *a* ~ *patient*) < *illness* > 3 crazy; *also* stupid – *infrm* [ME, *fr* MF, *fr* LL *mentalis*, *fr* L *ment*-, *mens* mind – more at MIND] – **mentally** *adv*
- mental defective** *n* one who is mentally deficient
- mental deficiency** *n* failure in development of the mind resulting in a need for continuing parental or institutional care
- mentalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a doctrine that only individual minds and their subjective states are real – **mentalist** /-ɪst/ *n*
- mentality** /ˈmentəlɪti/ *n* 1 mental power or capacity, intelligence 2 a mode of thought, mental disposition or outlook
- mentation** /ˌmɛntəˈtʃ(ə)n/ *n* mental activity – *fm* [L *ment*-, *mens* + E -*ation*]
- menthol** /ˈmenthəl/ *n* an alcohol that occurs esp in mint oils and has the smell and cooling properties of peppermint [G, deriv of L *mentha* mint] – **mentholated** /-θəˌləɪtəd/ *adj*
- mention** /ˈmentʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a brief reference to sthg, a passing remark 2 a formal citation for outstanding achievement [ME *meñcioun*, *fr* OF *mention*, *fr* L *mention*-, *mentio*, *fr* *ment*-, *mens*]
- mention** *vt* to make mention of, refer to; *also* to cite for outstanding achievement – **mentionable** *adj*
- mentor** /ˈmentəw/ *n* a wise and trusted adviser [*Mentor*, tutor of Odysseus' son Telemachus in Homer's *Odyssey*, *fr* L, *fr* Gk *Mentor*]
- menu** /ˈmenyʊh/ *n*, *pl* **menus** (a list of) the dishes that may be ordered (e.g. in a restaurant) or that are to be served (e.g. at a banquet) [F, *fr* *menu* small, detailed, *fr* L *minutus* minute (*adj*)]
- meow** /ˈmeʊ/ *vi* or *n* (to) miaow [*imit*]
- Mephistopheles** /ˌmɛfɪsˈtɒfɪleɪz/ *n* a diabolical or fiendish person [G, name for the devil in various versions of the Faust legend] – **Mephistophelean** /-fɪstəˈfeɪliən/, **Mephistophelian** *adj*
- mer** *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 sthg that is (a specified type) of polymer or isomer (< *tautomer*) 2 sthg that has (such or so many) parts (< *pentamer*) [ISV, *fr* Gk *meros* part – more at MERIT] – **merism** *comb form* (→ *n*), **merous** *comb form* (→ *adj*)
- mercantile** /ˈmɜːkəntɪl/ *adj* 1 of or concerned with merchants or trading (< *law*) 2 of mercantilism [F, *fr* It, *fr* *mercante* merchant, *fr* L *mercant*-, *mercans*, *fr* *pp* of *mercari* to trade – more at MARKET]
- mercantilism** /ˈmɜːkəntɪlɪz(ə)m/, -tɪlɪz(ə)m/ *n* an economic system first prominent in the 17th c that was intended to increase the power and wealth of a nation by strict governmental regulation of the national economy – **mercantilist** *n* or *adj*
- mercaptan**, **mercapto-** *comb form* containing the -SH group in the molecular structure (< *mercaptopyruvate*) [ISV, *fr* *mercaptan*]
- mercaptan** /ˈmɜːkˌtæn/ *n* any of various (organic) compounds analogous to alcohols but containing sulphur in place of oxygen [G, *fr* Dan, *fr* ML *mercurium captans*, lit., seizing mercury]
- Mercator's projection** /ˌmɜːkəˈtɔːr/ *n* a map projection showing the lines of longitude as parallel evenly-spaced straight lines and the lines of latitude as parallel straight lines whose distance from each other increases with their distance from the equator [Gerhardus Mercator (Gerhard Kremer) †1594 Flem geographer]
- mercenary** /ˈmɜːs(ə)nəri/ *n* a hired soldier in foreign service [ME, *fr* L *mercenarius*, *fr* *merced*-, *merces* wages – more at MERCY]
- mercenary** *adj* 1 serving merely for (financial) reward 2 hired for service in the army of a foreign country – **mercenaryness** *n*, **mercenaryly** /ˌmɜːs(ə)nəri/ *adv*
- mercier** /ˈmɜːsɪə/ *n*, *Br* a dealer in (fine quality) textile fabrics [ME, *fr* OF *mercier* merchant, *fr* *mers* merchandise, *fr* L *merc*-, *merx* – more at MARKET] – **mercery** *n*
- mercierize**, **-ise** /ˈmɜːsɪəˌaɪz/ *vt* to give (e.g. cotton or fabrics) lustre and strength by chemical treatment [John Mercier †1866 E calico printer] – **mercierization** /ˌmɜːsɪəˌaɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- merchandise** /ˈmɜːtʃənˌdaɪz/ *n* 1 the commodities that are bought and sold in commerce 2 wares for sale [ME *marchandise*, *fr* OF *marchandise*, *fr* *marchant*]
- merchandise** /ˈmɜːtʃənˌdaɪz/ *vb* to buy and sell in business; trade (in) – **merchandiser** *n*
- merchant** /ˈmɜːtʃənt/ *n* 1 a wholesaler; *also*, chiefly *NAm* a shopkeeper 2 a person who is given to a specified activity – chiefly derog (< *a speed* ~) [ME *merchant*, *fr* OF *marchant*, *fr* (assumed) VL *mercant*-,

*mercans*, fr prp of *mercatare* to trade, fr L *mercatus*, pp of *mercari* – more at MARKET]

**merchant** *adj* of or used in commerce, esp of a merchant navy

**merchantable** /ˈmʊtʃəntəbl/ *adj* marketable, salable

**merchant bank** *n* a firm of private bankers that handle bills of exchange and guarantee new issues of securities – **merchant banker** *n*

**merchantman** /-mən/ *n*, *pl* **merchantmen** /-mən/ a ship used in commerce

**merchant marine** *n*, chiefly NAm **MERCHANT NAVY**

**merchant navy** *n*, Br (the personnel of) the privately or publicly owned commercial ships of a nation

**mercuro-**, **mercuro-** *comb form* mercury <mercurous> <mercuric> [ISV, fr *mercury*]

**mercurial** /muhˈkyooriəl/ *adj* 1 of or born under the planet Mercury 2 having qualities of eloquence, ingenuity, or thievishness attributed to Mercury 3 characterized by rapid and unpredictable changes of mood 4 of, containing, or caused by mercury – **mercurially** *adv*

**mercurial** *n* a drug or chemical containing mercury

**mercurous chloride** /muhkyorəs/ *n* an insoluble compound formerly used as a purgative

**mercury** /ˈmʊkyoori/ *n* 1 a heavy silver-white poisonous univalent or bivalent metallic element that is liquid at ordinary temperatures and used in thermometers, barometers, etc ~ PERIODIC TABLE 2 cap the planet nearest the sun ~ ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [ME *mercurie*, fr ML *mercurus*, fr L *Mercurius* Mercury, god of commerce, travel, etc (fr *merc-*, & the planet Mercury) – **mercuric** *adj*, **mercurous** *adj*

**mercy** /ˈmu:si/ *n* 1 compassion or forbearance shown esp to an offender 2a an act of divine compassion, a blessing b a fortunate circumstance <it was a ~ they found her before she froze> 3 compassionate treatment of those in distress [ME, fr OF *merci*, fr ML *merced-*, *merces*, fr L, price paid, wages, fr *merc-*, *merx* merchandise – more at MARKET] – **merciful** *adj*, **mercifully** *adv*, **mercifulness** *n*, **merciless** *adj*, **mercilessly** *adv*, **mercilessness** *n* – at the mercy of wholly in the power of, with no way to protect oneself against

**mercy killing** *n* euthanasia

**mercy seat** *n* 1 the gold plate resting on the ancient Jewish ark according to the account in Exodus 2 the throne of God

**mere** /miə/ *n* a (small) lake [ME, fr OE – more at MARINE]

**mere** *adj* being what is specified and nothing else; nothing more than <a ~ child> [ME, fr L *merus* pure, unmixed – more at MORN] – **merely** *adv*

**mere** 3 *n* a ceremonial Maori hand weapon made of bone or greenstone [Maori]

**-mere** /-miə/ *comb form* (< ~ n> part, segment <blastomere> [F *-mère*, fr Gk *meros* part – more at MERIT])

**meretricious** /məˈtrɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 tawdry and falsely attractive 2 based on pretence or insincerity, specious [L *meretricius*, fr *meretrix*, *meretrix* prostitute, fr *merere* to earn – more at MERIT] – **meretriciously** *adv*, **meretriciousness** *n*

**merganser** /muhˈgansə/ *n* any of various usu crested fish-eating and diving sawbill ducks [NL, fr L *mergus*, a waterfowl (fr *mergere*) + *anser* goose – more at GOOSE]

**merge** /muhj/ *vb* 1 to (cause to) combine or unite 2 to blend or (cause to) come together gradually without abrupt change [L *mergere* to dip, plunge; akin to Skt *majjati* he dives] – **mergence** *n*

**merger** /ˈmuhjə/ *n* 1 the absorption of an estate, contract, or interest in another – used in law 2 a combining or combination, esp of 2 organizations (e.g. business concerns) [*merge* + <er> (as in *waiver*)]

**meridian** /məˈrɪdi-ən/ *n* 1 a great circle passing through the poles of the celestial sphere and the zenith of a given place 2 a high point, esp of success or greatness 3 (a representation on a map or globe of) a circle on the surface of the earth or other celestial body, passing through both poles [ME, fr MF *merdien*, fr *merdien* of noon, fr L *meridianus*, fr *meridies* noon, south, irreg fr *medius* mid + *dies* day – more at MID, DEITY] – **meridian** *adj*

**meridional** /məˈrɪdi-ənəl/ *adj* 1 of, characteristic of, or (being people) situated in the south, esp of France 2 of a meridian [ME, fr MF *meridional*, fr LL *meridionalis*, irreg fr L *meridies*] – **meridional** *n*, **meridionally** *adv*

**meringue** /məˈrang/ *n* (a small cake, cream-filled shell, etc made with) a mixture of stiffly beaten egg whites and sugar baked until crisp [F]

**merino** /məˈreenoh/ *n*, *pl* **merinos** 1 (any of) a breed of fine-woolled white orig Spanish sheep 2 a soft wool or wool and cotton clothing fabric resembling cashmere 3 a fine wool and cotton yarn used for hosiery and knitwear [Sp]

**meristem** /ˈmeristem/ *n* a plant tissue that is the major area of growth and is made up of small cells capable of dividing indefinitely [Gk *meristos* divided (fr *merizein* to divide, fr *meros*) + E <-em (as in *system*)] – **meristematic** /məˈrɪstəˈmatik/ *adj*, **meristematically** *adv*

**merit** /ˈment/ *n* 1a the quality of deserving well or ill <payment by ~> b a praiseworthy quality, virtue c worth, excellence 2 spiritual credit held to be earned by performance of righteous acts and to ensure future benefits 3 *pl* the intrinsic rights and wrongs of a (legal) case [ME, fr OF *merite*, fr L *meritum*, fr neut of *meritus*, pp of *merere* to deserve, earn, akin to Gk *meros* part, L *memor* mindful – more at MEMORY]

**merit** *vt* to be worthy of or entitled to

**meritocracy** /ˌmerɪˈtɒkrəsi/ *n* (a social system based on) leadership by the talented [*'merit* + <-o- + <-cracy>] – **meritocratic** /-təˈkratik/ *adj*

**meritorious** /ˌmerɪˈtɔːriəs/ *adj* deserving of reward or honour [ME, fr ML *meritorius*, fr L, that brings in money, fr *meritus*] – **meritoriously** *adv*, **meritoriousness** *n*

**merlin** /ˈmuhlin/ *n* a small N American and European falcon with pointed wings [ME *merloun*, fr AF *merlun*, fr OF *esmerillon*, aug of *esmeril*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *smirl* merlin]

**merlon** /ˈmuhlon/ *n* any of the solid intervals between indentations of a battlemented parapet ~ CHURCH [F, fr It *merlone*, aug of *merlo* battlement, fr ML *merulus*, fr L, blackbird]

**mermaid** /ˈmuh,mayd/, *pl* **mermen** /-man/ *n*, *pl* **mermen** /-men/ a mythical sea creature usu represented with a woman's body to the waist and a fish's tail [ME *mermaide*, fr *mere* sea, lake + *maide* maid]

**mermaid's purse** *n* the leathery egg case of the skate or a related fish

**Merovingian** /ˌmerohˈvɪnj-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of the first Frankish dynasty reigning from about AD 500 to 751 [F *merovingien*, fr ML *Merovingi* Merovingians, fr *Merovaeus* Merowig †458 Frankish founder of the dynasty]

**merriment** /ˈmerɪmənt/ *n* lighthearted gaiety or fun

**merry** /ˈmeri/ *adj* 1 full of gaiety or high spirits 2 marked by festivity 3 slightly drunk, tipsy – *infrml* [ME *mery*, fr OE *myrge*, *merge*; akin to OHG *murg* short – more at 'BRILL] – **merrily** *adv*, **merriness** *n*

**merry-go-round** *n* a fairground machine with seats, often shaped like horses, that revolve about a fixed centre

**merry-making** *n* gay or festive activity – **merrymaker** *n*

**mes-**, **meso-** *comb form* 1 mid, in the middle (Mesolithic) 2 intermediate (e.g. in size or type) <mesomorph> <meson> [L, fr Gk, fr *mesos* – more at MID]

**mesa** /ˈmaysə/ *n* a usu isolated hill, esp in SW USA, with steeply sloping sides and a level top [Sp, lit., table, fr L *mensa*]

**mésalliance** /ˈmeːzəlɪ-əns/ *n* a marriage with sb of inferior social position [F, fr *més-* mis- + *alliance*]

**mescal** /ˈmeːskəl/ *n* 1 a small cactus with rounded stems covered with mesquite-containing jointed protuberances used as a hallucinogen, esp among the Mexican Indians 2 (a usu colourless Mexican spirit made esp from) the maguey plant [Sp *mezcal*, *mescal*, fr Nahuatl *mexcalli* mescal liquor]

**mes'al button** *n* any of the dried disc-shaped tops of the mescal

**mescaline** /ˈmeskalɪn, -leen/ *n* a hallucinogenic alkaloid found in mescal buttons

**mesdames** /ˈmayˈdam/ *pl* of MADAM or of MADAME or of MRS

**mesdemoiselles** /ˈmaydəmˈwəhˈzel/ *pl* of MADEMOISELLE

**mesembryanthemum** /ˌmezembriˈanthəm, mɪˌzembri-/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly S African fleshy-leaved herbaceous plants or undershrubs [NL, genus name, fr Gk *mesembria* midday (fr *mes-* + *hemera* day) + *anthemon* flower, fr *anthos* – more at ANTHOLOGY]

**mesencephalon** /ˌmesenˈsef(ə)lən/ *n* the midbrain [NL] – **mesencephalic** /-sɪˈfalk/ *adj*

**mesentery** /ˈmez(ə)nˈteri, -mes-/ *n* any of several membranous double folds of the peritoneum of vertebrates, that envelop the intestines and connected organs and join them with the rear wall of the abdominal cavity [NL *mesenterium*, fr MF & Gk; MF *mesentere*, fr Gk *mesenteron*, fr *mes-* + *enteron* intestine – more at INTER-] – **mesenteric** /ˌmez(ə)nˈtenk/, -mes-/ *adj*

**mesh** /mesh/ *n* 1 an open space in a net, network, etc 2a the cords, wires, etc that make up a net; NETWORK 1 <wire ~> b a woven, knitted, or knotted fabric with evenly spaced small holes 3a an interlocking or intertwining arrangement or construction b a web, snare – usu *pl* with sing. meaning 4 working contact (e.g. of the teeth of gears) <in ~> [prob fr obs D *maesche*; akin to OHG *masca* mesh, Lith *mazgos* knot]

**mesh** *vt* 1 to catch or entangle (as if) in the openings of a net 2 to cause

to engage ~ *vi* 1 *esp* of gears to be in or come into mesh 2 to fit or work together properly or successfully

**mesial** /ˈmeɪziəl/ *adj* (in or directed towards the) middle; *esp*, of a plane dividing an animal into right and left halves [*mes-* + *-ial*] – **mesially** *adv*

**mesio-** /ˈmeɪziəh-, ˈmeɪziəh-/ *comb form* mesial and (mesio-)distal <mesio- + *-distal*> [*mesial* + *-o-*]

**mesmerism** /ˈmeɪzmaːrɪz(ə)m/ *n* hypnotism [F A Mesmer †1815 Austrian physician & hypnotist] – **mesmerist** *n*, **mesmeric** /ˈmeɪzmerɪk/ *adj* **mesmerize**, -ise /ˈmeɪzmaɪz-/ *vt* 1 to hypnotize 2 to fascinate, rivet – **mesmerizer** *n*

**meso-** – *SEE* MES-

**mesoblast** /ˈmeɪzəˌblast/, ˈmesoh-/ *n* (the embryonic cells that give rise to) mesoderm – **mesoblastic** /ˈmeɪzəˌblastɪk/, ˈmesoh-/ *adj*

**'mesoderm** /-ˈduhm/ *n* (tissue derived from) the middle of the 3 primary germ layers of an embryo that is the source of bone, muscle, connective tissue, and the inner layer of the skin in the adult – compare **ENDODERM**, **ECTODERM** 2 [ISV] – **mesodermal** /-ˈduhməl/, **mesodermic** /-mɪk/ *adj*

**Mesolithic** /ˈmesohˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a transitional period of the Stone Age between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic [ISV]

**mesomorphic** /ˈmesohˈmɔːfɪk/ *adj* having a muscular body build [*mesoderm* + *-morphic*; for the predominance in such types of structures developed from the mesoderm] – **mesomorphism**, **mesomorph** /ˈmesohˈmɔːf/ *n*, **mesomorphy** *n*

**meson** /ˈmeɪzən/ *n* any of a group of unstable elementary particles including the pions and kaons that are bosons and have a mass between that of an electron and a proton [ISV *mes-* + *-on*] – **mesonic** /ˈmeɪzənɪk/, ˈmi-, ˈsɔ-/ *adj*

**mesophyll** /ˈmesohˈfɪl/ *n* the parenchymatous tissue between the epidermal surface layers of a foliage leaf [NL *mesophyllum*, fr *mes-* + Gk *phylon* leaf – more at **BLADE**] – **mesophyllous** /-ˈfɪliks/ *adj*, **mesophyllous** *adj*

**'mesophyte** /-ˈfiet/ *n* a plant that grows under medium conditions of moisture [ISV] – **mesophytic** /-ˈfɪtɪk/ *adj*

**'mesosphere** /-ˈsfɪə/ *n* a layer of the upper atmosphere which extends from the top of the stratosphere to an altitude of about 80km (about 50mi) and in which photochemical reactions take place – **mesospheric** /-ˈsfenɪk/ *adj*

**mesothelioma** /-ˈθeliˈohmə/ *n*, *pl* **mesotheliomas**, **mesotheliomata** /-ˈmətə/ a tumour of the lining of the peritoneum, lungs, heart, etc, often occurring after prolonged contact with blue asbestos dust [NL, fr *mesothelium* epithelium derived from mesoderm, fr *mes-* + *epithelium*]

**Mesozoic** /ˈmeɪzohˈzɔɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an era of geological history that extends from the end of the Permian to the Tertiary – **EVOLUTION**

**mesquite** /ˈmeɪsket/ *n* a spiny leguminous tree or shrub that forms extensive thickets in the SW USA and Mexico and bears sugar-rich pods used as a livestock feed [Sp, fr Nahuatl *mizquitl*]

**'mess** /mes/ *n* 1 a prepared dish of soft or liquid food; *also* a usu unappetizing mixture of ingredients eaten together 2a(1) *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people (e.g. servicemen or servicewomen) who regularly take their meals together 2a(2) a meal so taken b a place where meals are regularly served to a group <the officers' ~> 3a a confused, dirty, or offensive state or condition b a disordered situation resulting from misunderstanding, blundering, or misconduct [ME *mes*, fr OF, fr LL *missus* course at a meal, fr *missus*, pp of *mittere* to put, fr L, to send – more at **SMITE**]

**'mess** *vi* 1 to take meals with a mess 2 to make a mess 3a to dabble, potter b to handle or play with sth, esp carelessly c to interfere, meddle **USE** (3) often + *about* or *around*

**mess about** *vb*, chiefly *Br* *vi* 1a to waste time b to work according to one's whim or mood <messing about in boats> 2 to conduct an affair with <messing about with someone else's husband> ~ *vt* to treat roughly or without due consideration <he shouldn't mess the men about too much, they know their job – The Lorry Driver>

**message** /ˈmesɪdʒ/ *n* 1 a communication in writing, in speech, or by signals 2 a messenger's errand or function 3 a central theme or idea intended to inspire, urge, warn, enlighten, advise, etc [ME, fr OF, fr ML *missaticum*, fr L *missus*, pp of *mittere*]

**messenger** /ˈmesɪnjə/ *n* one who bears a message or does an errand: e.g. a dispatch bearer in government or military service b an employee who carries messages [ME *messangere*, fr OF *messagier*, fr *message*]

**messenger RNA** *n* an RNA that carries the code for the synthesis of

a particular protein and acts as a template for its formation – compare **TRANSFER RNA**

**messiah** /ˈmeɪsiə/ *n* 1 *often cap* a the expected king and deliverer of the Jews b Jesus 2 a professed leader of some cause [Heb *māshiah* & Aram *mēshīa*, lit., anointed] – **messiahship** *n*

**messianic** /ˈmesɪˈanɪk/ *adj* 1 of a messiah 2 marked by idealistic enthusiasm for a cherished cause 3 of a time of blessedness and peace associated with the Jewish and Christian concept of the end of the world [(assumed) NL *messianicus*, fr LL *Messias* + L *-anicus* (as in *romanicus Romanicus*)] – **messianism** /ˈmeɪsiəˈnɪz(ə)m/, ˈmesɪˈɔːnɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**Messias** /ˈmeɪsiə/ *n* **MESSIAH** 1 [ME, fr LL, fr Gk, fr Aram *mēshīa*]

**Messidor** /ˈmesɪdɔːr/ (Fr *mesidoir*) *n* the 10th month of the French Revolutionary calendar, corresponding to 20 June–19 July [F, fr L *messis* harvest + Gk *doron* gift]

**messieurs** /ˈmesɪjə, ˈmesəz/ (Fr *mɛsjø*) *pl* of **MONSIEUR**

**'mess jacket** *n* a short fitted man's jacket reaching to the waist and worn as part of a uniform on formal occasions in the mess

**'mess kit** *n* a compact kit of cooking and eating utensils for soldiers, campers, etc

**'messmate** /-ˈmeɪt/ *n* a member of a (ship's) mess

**Messrs** /ˈmesəz/ *pl* of **MR** < ~ Jones, Brown, and Robinson>

**message** /ˈmesɪdʒ/ *n* a dwelling house with its outbuildings and land [ME, fr AF, prob alter. of OF *mesnage* – more at **MENAGE**]

**mess up** *vt* to make a mess of, spoil – **INFORMAL**

**messy** /ˈmesi/ *adj* 1 marked by confusion, disorder, or dirt 2 lacking neatness or precision; slovenly 3 unpleasantly or tryingly difficult to conclude – **messily** *adv*, **messiness** *n*

**mestizo** /ˈmeɪsteɪzə/, *masculine* **mestizo** /-ˈzoh/ *n*, *pl* **mestizas**, *feminine* **mestizas** a person of mixed European and American Indian ancestry [Sp, fem of *mestizo* mixed, fr LL *mixticus*, fr L *mixtus*, pp of *miscere* to mix – more at **MIX**]

**'met** /met/ *past* of **MEET**

**'met** *adj* meteorological <the ~ office forecast>

**meta-** /ˈmeta-/ *met-* *prefix* 1a situated behind or beyond <metacarpus> <metagalaxy> b later or more highly organized or specialized form of <metaxylem> 2 change, transformation <metamorphosis> <metabolism> 3 more comprehensive, transcending, of a higher or second order <metapsychology> – used with the name of a discipline to designate a new but related discipline designed to deal critically with the original one <metalanguage> 4a related to <metaldhyde> b involving substitution at 2 positions in the benzene ring that are separated by 1 carbon atom – compare **ORTHO-**, **PARA-** [NL & ML, fr L or Gk; L, change, fr Gk, among, with, after, change, fr *meta* among, with, after, akin to OE *mid*, *mith* with, OHG *mit*]

**metabolism** /ˈmeɪtəˌbɒlɪz(ə)m/ *n* all the processes (by which a specified substance is dealt with) in the building up and destruction of living tissue, specif the chemical changes in living cells by which energy is provided and new material is assimilated [ISV, fr Gk *metabolē* change, fr *metaballein* to change, fr *meta-* + *ballein* to throw – more at **DEVIL**] – **metabolize** *vb*, **metabolic** /ˈmeɪtəˌbɒlɪk/ *adj*

**metabolite** /ˈmeɪtəˌbɒlɪt/ *n* 1 a product of metabolism 2 a substance essential to the metabolism of a particular organism or to a particular metabolic process

**metacarpal** /ˈmeɪtəˌkɑːpəl/ *n* a metacarpal bone **ANATOMY**

**metacarpus** /-ˈkɑːpəs/ *n* the part of the hand or forefoot between the wrist and fingers or the ankle and toes [NL] – **metacarpal** *adj*

**'meta-centre** /-ˈsenta/ *n* the point of intersection of the vertical line through the centre of buoyancy of a floating body with the vertical line through the new centre of buoyancy when the body is displaced (e.g. by being heeled over) – **metacentric** /-ˈsentɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**metagenesis** /-ˈjenəsɪs/ *n* **ALTERNATION OF GENERATIONS** [NL] – **metagenetic** /-ˈjəˌnetɪk/ *adj*, **metagenetically** *adv*

**metal** /ˈmetl/ *n* 1 any of various opaque, fusible, ductile, and typically lustrous substances (e.g. iron, copper, or mercury), esp chemical elements, that are good conductors of electricity and heat, form positive ions by loss of electrons, and yield basic oxides and hydroxides 2 glass in its molten state 3 either of the heraldic colours gold or silver 4 chiefly *Br* **ROAD METAL** [ME, fr OF, fr L *metallum* mine, metal, fr Gk *metallon*] – **metalliferous** /ˈmetlɪˈfərəs/ *adj*

**metallanguage** /ˈmetaˌlɒŋˌɡwɪj/ *n* a language used to talk about language

**metalled** /ˈmetld/, *NAm* chiefly **metaled** *adj*, chiefly *Br*, of a road covered with a surface of broken stones



**metallic** /mi'talik/ *adj* 1 of, containing, like, or being (a) metal 2 yielding metal 3 having an acrid quality – **metallically** *adv*

**metallize**, -ise, *NAm* also **metallize** /'metli-iz/ *vt* to treat, combine, or coat with a metal – **metallization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**metallography** /,met'logrəfi/ *n* the study of the (microscopic) structure of metals [F *métallographie*, fr L *metallum* + F *-graphie* -graphy] – **metallographer** *n*, **metallographic** /mi'tala'grafik/ *adj*, **metallographically** *adv*

**metalloid** /'metli-oid/ *n* an element (e.g. arsenic) having some properties of typical metals and some properties of typical nonmetals

**metalloid** also **metalloidal** /,met'li-oidl/ *adj* 1 resembling a metal 2 of or being a metalloid

**metallurgy** /mɑ'taləʒi/, 'metl,uhi/ *n* the science and technology of metals [NL *metallurgia*, fr Gk *metallon* + NL *-urgia* -urgy] – **metallurgist** *n*, **metallurgical** /,met'uhjɪkl/ *adj*, **metallurgically** *adv*

**metalwork** /-,wuhk/ *n* the craft or product of shaping things out of metal – **metalworker** *n*

**metamere** /'meta,mia/ *n* a somite [ISV] – **metameric** /-'menk/ *adj*, **metamerically** *adv*, **metamerism** /mɑ'tama,rɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**metamorphic** /,meta'mawfɪk/ *adj* 1 of or involving metamorphosis 2 of a rock of or produced by metamorphism – **metamorphically** *adv*

**metamorphism** /,meta'mawfɪz(ə)m/ *n* a change in rock effected esp by heat and pressure and resulting in a more compact and crystalline structure

**metamorphose** /meta'mawfoʒ-, -'z/ *vt* 1a to change into a different physical form b to change strikingly the appearance or character of, transform 2 to cause (rock) to undergo metamorphism ~ *vi* to undergo metamorphosis [prob fr MF *metamorphoser*, fr *metamorphose* metamorphosis, fr I *metamorphosis*]

**metamorphosis** /-'mawfəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **metamorphoses** /-'seɪz/ 1a change of form, structure, or substance, esp by supernatural means b a striking alteration (e.g. in appearance or character) 2 a marked (abrupt) change in the form or structure of a butterfly, frog, etc. occurring in the course of development ~ *LF* CYCLE [L, fr Gk *metamorphosis*, fr *metamorphoun* to transform, fr *meta-* + *morphe* form]

**metaphase** /-'fayz/ *n* the stage of mitotic or meiotic cell division in which the chromosomes become arranged in the equatorial plane of the spindle [ISV]

**metaphor** /'metafə-, -faw/ *n* (an instance of) a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is applied to another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (e.g. in the ship ploughs the sea) – compare **SIMILE** [MF or L, MF *metaphore*, fr I. *metaphora*, fr Gk, fr *metapherein* to transfer, fr *meta-* + *pherein* to bear – more at *'BEAR*] – **metaphoric** /-'fɔrk/, **metaphorical** *adj*, **metaphorically** *adv*

**metaphysic** /-'fɪzɪk/ *n* a particular system of metaphysics [ME *metaphysyk*, fr ML *Metaphysica*] – **metaphysic** *adj*

**metaphysical** /-'fɪzɪkl/ *adj* 1 of metaphysics 2 often *cap* of or being poetry, esp of the early 17th c, marked by elaborate subtleties of thought and expression – **metaphysically** *adv*

**metaphysics** *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* 1 a division of philosophy concerned with ultimate causes and the underlying nature of things, esp ontology 2 pure or speculative philosophy [ML *Metaphysica*, title of Aristotle's treatise on the subject, fr Gk (*ta*) *meta* (*ta*) *physika*, lit., the (works) after the physical (works); fr its position in his collected works] – **metaphysician** /-'fɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**metaplasia** /-'pleɪzi-ə-, -zh(yə)/ *n* (abnormal) replacement of cells of one type by cells of another [NL] – **metaplastic** /-'plastɪk/ *adj*

**metastable** /-'stəbəl/ *adj* having or characterized by only a slight margin of (chemical) stability < a ~ compound > [ISV] – **metastably** *adv*, **metastability** /-'stəbɪləti/ *n*

**metastasis** /mi'tastəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **metastases** /-'seɪz/ change of position, state, or form; *specif* a secondary growth of a malignant tumour at a site distant from the primary growth [NL, fr LL, *transitio*, fr Gk, fr *metistanai* to change, fr *meta-* + *histanaí* to set – more at **STAND**] – **metastatic** /,meta'statɪk/ *adj*, **metastatically** *adv*, **metastasize** /mi'tastə'seɪz/ *vi*

**metatarsal** /,meta'taɦsl/ *n* a metatarsal bone ~ *ANATOMY*

**metatarsus** /-'taɦsəs/ *n* the part of the foot in human beings or of the hind foot in 4-legged animals between the ankle and toes [NL] – **metatarsal** *adj*

**metathesis** /mɑ'tathəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **metatheses** /-'seɪz/ a change of place or condition: e.g. a transposition of 2 phonemes in a word (e.g. in Old English *bridd*, Modern English *bird*) b **DOUBLE DECOMPOSITION** [Gk, fr *metati-*

*thenai* to transpose, fr *meta-* + *tithenai* to place – more at *'DO*] – **metathetical** /,meta'thetɪkl/, **metathetic** *adj*, **metathetically** *adv*

**meta'thorax** /-'θawraks/ *n* the rear segment of the thorax of an insect [NL] – **metathoracic** /-'θaw'rakɪk/ *adj*

**meta'zoan** /-'zoh-ən/ *n* any of a kingdom or subkingdom of animals that comprises all those with multicellular bodies differentiated into tissues [NL *Metazoa*, group name, fr *meta-* + *-zoa*] – **metazoal** *adj*, **metazoan** *adj*

**metē** /meet/ *vt* to assign by measure, allot – *usu* + *out* [ME *meten*, fr OE *metan*; akin to OHG *mezzan* to measure, L *modus* measure, *meditari* to meditate]

**metempsychosis** /,metempsi'kɒhɪsɪz/ *n* the passing of the soul at death into another body [LL, fr Gk *metempsychosis*, fr *metempsychous-thai* to undergo metempsychosis, fr *meta-* + *empsychos* animate, fr *en-* + *psyche* soul – more at **PSYCH-**]

**meteor** /'meeti-ə-, -aw/ *n* a phenomenon in the atmosphere; *esp* (the streak of light produced by the passage of) any of many small particles of matter in the solar system observable only when heated by friction so that they glow as they fall into the earth's atmosphere [ME, fr MF *meteore*, fr ML *meteorum*, fr Gk *meteoron* phenomenon in the sky, fr neut of *meteoros* high in air, fr *meta-* + *-oros* (akin to Gk *aerein* to lift)]

**meteoric** /,meeti'ɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 of a meteor 2 resembling a meteor in speed or in sudden and temporary brilliance < ~ *rise to fame* > – **meteorically** *adv*

**meteorite** /'meeti-ə,net/ *n* a meteor that reaches the surface of the earth without being completely vaporized – **meteoritic** /-'rɪtɪk/, **meteoritical** *adj*

**meteoroid** /'meeti-ə,roɪd/ *n* a particle in orbit round the sun that becomes a meteor when it meets the earth's atmosphere – **meteoroidal** /-'roɪdl/ *adj*

**meteorology** /,meeti-ə'roləʒi/ *n* 1 the science of the atmosphere and its phenomena, esp weather and weather forecasting ~ *WEATHER* 2 the weather or atmospheric phenomena of a region [F or Gk, F *météorologie*, fr MF, fr Gk *meteorologia*, fr *meteoron* + *-logia* -logy] – **meteorologist** *n*, **meteorologic** /-'rɒləʒɪk/, **meteorological** *adj*, **meteorologically** *adv*

**meter** /'meɪtə/ *n*, *NAm* a metre

**meter** *n* an instrument for measuring (and recording) the amount of sth (e.g. gas, electricity, or parking time) used [*'-meter*]

**meter** *vt* 1 to measure by means of a meter 2 to supply in a measured or regulated amount

**meter** /-'mɛtə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) measure or unit of metrical verse <pentameter> – compare **FOOT** 4 [*'metre*]

**meter** *omb form* (→ *n*) instrument or means for measuring <barometer> [F *-mètre*, fr Gk *metron* measure]

**meth-**, **metho-** *comb form* methyl <methacrylic> [ISV, fr *methyl*]

**methadon** /'methə,dɒn/ *n* methadone

**methadone** /'methə,dɒn/ *n* a synthetic narcotic drug used esp as a substitute narcotic in the treatment of heroin addiction and as a painkiller [6-di-methylamino-4, 4-diphenyl-3-heptanone]

**methamphetamine** /,metham'fetəmin/ *n* an amphetamine drug [meth- + *amphetamine*]

**methane** /'meɪ,θaɪn/ *n* an inflammable gaseous hydrocarbon of the alkane series used as a fuel and as a raw material in chemical synthesis ~ *ENERGY* [ISV]

**methanol** /'methə,nɒl/ *n* a volatile inflammable poisonous liquid alcohol that is added to ethyl alcohol to make it unfit to drink and is used as a solvent and as a raw material in chemical synthesis [ISV]

**Methedrine** /'methədrɪn/ *trademark* – used for methamphetamine

**metheglin** /mɑ'theglɪn/ *n* *'MEAD* [W *meddyglyn*]

**methinks** /mɪ'thɪŋks/ *vb* impersonal methought /mɪ'thaw/ *archaic* it seems to me [ME *me thinketh*, fr OE *me thinceth*, fr *me* (dat of ic I) + *thinceth* (it) seems, fr *thyncan* to seem]

**methionine** /mɪ'thi-ə,neɪn-, -niən/ *n* a sulphur-containing amino acid that is found in most proteins and is an essential constituent of human diet [ISV, fr *methyl* + *thion-* + *-ine*]

**method** /'methəd/ *n* 1a a systematic procedure for doing sth b a regular way of doing sth 2a an orderly arrangement or system b the habitual practice of orderliness and regularity 3 *cap* a dramatic technique by which an actor seeks to identify closely with the inner personality of the character being portrayed – *usu* + *the* [MF or L; MF *methode*, fr L *methodus*, fr Gk *methodos*, fr *meta-* + *hodos* way – more at **CEDE**]

**methodical** /mɑ'thɒdɪkl/, *NAm* also **methodic** *adj* 1 arranged, characterized by, or performed with method or order 2 habitually proceeding according to method; systematic – **methodically** *adv*, **methodicalness** *n*

**Methodism** /ˈmethədɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the doctrines and practice of) the Methodist churches

**Methodist** /ˈmethədɪst/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of any of the denominations deriving from the Wesleyan revival in the Church of England [*method* + *-ist*; orig sense, one devoted to a particular method] – **Methodistic** /-dɪstɪk/ *adj*

**method-ize, -ise** /ˈmethədiəz/ *vt* to reduce to method, systematize

**methodology** /ˌmethəˈdɒləʒi/ *n* (the analysis of) the body of methods and rules employed by a science or discipline [NL *methodologia*, fr L *methodus* + *-logia* -logy] – **methodologist** *n*, **methodological** /-dɒˈlɒjɪkl/ *adj*

**methotrexate** /ˌmethəˈtreksaɪt/ *n* a synthetic anticancer drug used esp to treat lymphomas and some forms of leukaemia [*meth-* + *-trexate*, of unknown origin]

**meths** /meths/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr, *Br* METHYLATED SPIRITS – *infrml* [by contr]

**Methuselah** /mɪˈθyooʒələ/ *n* a champagne bottle holding 8 times the usual amount [*Methuselah*, a biblical patriarch said to have lived 969 years (Gen 5:27), fr Heb *Mēthushā‘el*]

**methyl** /ˈmethɪl, ˈmeethɪl, -thɪl/ *n* a univalent hydrocarbon radical CH<sub>3</sub>, derived from methane [ISV, back-formation fr *methylene*] – **methylic** /mæˈθɪlɪk/ *adj*

**methyl alcohol** *n* methanol

**methylate** /ˈmethɪlaɪt/ *vt* 1 to impregnate or mix with methanol 2 to introduce the methyl group into – **methylator** *n*, **methylation** /-ˈlaɪʃən/ *n*

**methylated 'spirits** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr alcohol mixed with an adulterant, esp methanol, to make it undrinkable and therefore exempt from duty

**methylene** /ˌmethəˈliːn/ *n* a bivalent hydrocarbon radical CH<sub>2</sub>, derived from methane [F *méthylène*, fr Gk *methy* wine + *hyle* wood – more at *'MEAD*]

**methylene 'blue** *n* a dye used esp to stain biological specimens, and as an antidote in cyanide poisoning

**metical** /metɪˈkəl/ *n, pl* **meticaes** /metɪˈkɪəʃ/ ➡ *Mozambique* at NATIONALITY

**meticulous** /məˈtɪkjʊləs/ *adj* marked by extreme or excessive care over detail [L *meticulosus* timid, fr *metus* fear + *-iculosus* (as in *periculosus* dangerous)] – **meticulously** *adv*, **meticulousness** *n*

**métier** /ˈmaytɪə/ *n* one's trade, also sthg (e.g. an activity) in which one is expert or successful [F, fr (assumed) VL *misterium*, alter of L *ministerium* work, ministry]

**metif** /mayˈteɪf/ *n* an octoroon [F *métif*, alter of *métis*]

**métis** /ˈmeɪtɪs/ *n, pl* **métis** one of mixed blood: *a* a half-breed *b* a crossbred animal [F, fr LL *mixticus* mixed – more at *MESTIZA*]

**metoestrus** /ˌmetəʊˈstrʊs/ *n* the period of regression that follows oestrus in a mammal's sexual cycle [NL]

**Metonic cycle** /mɪˈtɒnɪk/ *n* a period of 19 years covering all the phases of the moon, after which the new moons occur again on the same cycle of dates [*Meton*, 5th-c bc Gk astronomer]

**metonym** /ˌmetənɪm/ *n* a word used in metonymy [back-formation fr *metonymy*]

**metonymy** /mɪˈtɒnəmi/ *n* a figure of speech in which the name of an attribute of a thing is used in place of the thing itself (e.g. lands belonging to the crown) [L *metonymia*, fr Gk *metonymia*, fr *meta-* + *-onymia* -onymy]

**metope** /ˈmetoʊp, ˈmetəpi/ *n* the space between 2 triglyphs of a Doric frieze [Gk *metopē*, fr *meta-* + *opē* opening; akin to Gk *ops* eye, face – more at *EYE*]

**metr-, metro-** *comb form* uterus <metrorrhagia> [NL, fr Gk *metr-*, fr *metra*, fr *metr-, méter* mother – more at *'MOTHER*]

**'metre, NAm chiefly meter** /ˈmeɪtə/ *n* the SI unit of length equal to a certain number of wavelengths of a specific radiation of the krypton isotope <sup>86</sup>Kr<sup>+</sup> (about 1.094yd) ➡ PHYSICS, UNIT [F *mètre*, fr Gk *metron* measure]

**'metre, NAm chiefly meter** *n* 1 systematically arranged and measured rhythm in verse <iambic ~> 2 a basic recurrent rhythmical pattern of accents and beats per bar in music [ME, fr OE & MF; OE *mēter*, fr L *metrum*, fr Gk *metron* measure, metre; MF *metre*, fr OF, fr L *metrum* – more at *MEASURE*] – **metrist** /ˈmetrɪst/ *n*

**metre-kilogram-second** *adj* of or being a system of units based on the metre, the kilogram, and the second – compare *SI*

**metric** /ˈmetrɪk/ *adj* 1 **metric, metrical** (using or being units) based on the metre, litre, and kilogram as standard of measurement – compare *SI* 2 **metrical** – **metrically** *adv*

**-metric** /-ˈmetrɪk/, **-metrical** /-kl/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) 1 of, employing, or obtained by (a specified meter) <galvanometric> 2 of or relating to the art, process, or science of measuring (sthg specified) <chronometric> <gravimetric>

**metrical** /ˈmetrɪkl/, **metric** *adj* 1 of or composed in metre 2 of measurement – **metrically** *adv*

**metrificate** /ˈmetrɪkaɪt/ *vt* to change into or express in the metric system ~ *vi* to adopt the metric system – **metrification** /-ˈkəɪʃən/ *n*

**metrics** /ˈmetrɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr a part of prosody that deals with metrical structure

**metric ton** *n* a tonne

**metro** /ˈmetrəʊ/ *n, pl* **metros** an underground railway system in a city <the Leningrad ~> [F *métro*, short for (*chemin de fer*) *métropolitain* metropolitan railway]

**Metro** *adj*, *Can* of or relating to the inner urban area of a Canadian city, esp of Toronto [short for *Metropolitan*]

**metro-** – see *METR-*

**metronidazole** /ˌmetrəˈniːdəˌzəʊl/ *n* a synthetic drug used to treat infections, esp vaginal trichomoniasis, produced by protozoans [methyl + *-tron-* (prob fr *nitro*) + *imide* + *azole*]

**metronome** /ˌmetrəˈnɒm/ *n* an instrument designed to mark exact time by a regularly repeated tick [Gk *metron* + *-nomos* controlling, fr *nomos* law – more at *NIMBLE*] – **metronomic** /ˌmetrəˈnɒmɪk/ *adj*

**metronymic** /ˌmetrəˈnɪmɪk/ *n* a name derived from a mother or maternal ancestor (e.g. by suffixation) [MGk *metronymikos*, *adj*, named after one's mother, fr Gk *metr-, meter* mother + *onyma, onoma* name] – **metronymic** *adj*

**metropolis** /mɪˈtrɒpəlɪs/ *n* 1 the chief city of a country, state, or region 2 a centre of a usu specified activity 3 a large or important city [LL, fr Gk *mētropolis*, fr *metr-, meter* mother + *polis* city – more at *'MOTHER, POLICE*]

**'metropolitan** /ˌmetrəˈpɒlɪt(ə)n/ *n* 1 the primate of an ecclesiastical province 2 one who lives in a metropolis

**'metropolitan** *adj* 1 of or constituting a metropolitan or his see 2 (characteristic) of a metropolis 3 of or constituting a mother country [LL *metropolitānus* of the see of a metropolitan, fr *metropolita, n*, metropolitan, fr LGk *metropolitēs*, fr *metropolis* see of a metropolitan, fr Gk, chief city]

**metropolitan area** *n* a large urban area in Britain governed by a single local authority

**metrorrhagia** /ˌmeɪtrəˈrɛɪʒiə, -met-, -raw-/ *n* profuse bleeding from the uterus, esp between menstrual periods [NL] – **metrorrhagic** /-jɪk/ *adj*

**-metry** /-ˈmetrɪ/ *comb form* (→ *n*) art, process, or science of measuring (sthg specified) <chronometry> <photometry> [ME *-metrie*, fr MF, fr L *-metria*, fr Gk, fr *metrein* to measure, fr *metron* – more at *MEASURE*]

**mettle** /ˈmetl/ *n* 1 strength of spirit or temperament 2 staying quality, stamina [alter of *meta*] – on one's mettle aroused to do one's best

**'mettlesome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* spirited [ME *METTLI* + *'-SOME*]

**meunière** /muˈnɪyə (Fr mœnjɛːr)/ *adj* with a sauce of melted butter, parsley, and lemon juice <sole ~> [F (*à la*) *meunière*, lit., in the manner of a miller's wife, fr *meunière* miller's wife, fem of *meunier* miller, fr LL *molinarus*, fr *molina* mill]

**'mew** /myooʊ/ *vi* to utter a miaow or similar sound <gulls ~ ed over the bay> ~ *vt* to miaow [ME *mewen*, of imit origin] – **mew** *n*

**'mew** *vt* to shut up; confine – often + *up* [ME *mewen*, fr *mewe*, *n* – more at *MEWS*]

**mewl** /myooʊl/ *vi* to cry weakly, whimper [imit]

**mews** /myooʊz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr, *pl* **mews** chiefly *Br* (living accommodation adapted from) stables built round an open courtyard [ME *mewe* cage for moulting hawks, coop, fr MF *mue*, fr *muer* to moult, fr L *mutare* to change]

**Mexican** /ˈmeksɪkən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Mexico 2 NAHUATL 2 [Sp *mexicano, mejicano*, fr *Mexico*, a country in Southern North America] – **Mexican** *adj*

**mezereon** /məˈziəriən/ *n* a small European shrub with fragrant lilac purple flowers [ME *mizerion*, fr ML *mazereon*, fr Ar *māzaryūn*, fr Per]

**mezuzah, mezuza** /məˈzuʊzə/ *n* a small oblong case containing a parchment inscribed with religious texts, fixed to the doorpost by some Jewish families as a sign and reminder of their faith [Heb *mēzuzah* doorpost]

**mezzanine** /ˈmeɪzəniːn/ *n* a low-ceilinged storey between 2 main storeys, esp the ground and first floors, of a building [F, fr It *mezzanino*, fr *mezzano* middle, fr L *medianus* middle, median]

**mezza voce** /ˈmetsə ˈvohʃi/ *adv* or *adj* with medium or half volume of tone – used in music [It, lit, half voice]

**mezzo** /ˈmetsoh/, **mezzo-soprano** *n*, *pl* **mezzos**, **mezzo-sopranos** (a singer with) a woman's voice with a range between that of the soprano and contralto [It *mezzosoprano*, fr *mezzo* middle, moderate, half + *soprano*]

**mezzo forte** /ˈfawtay/ *adj* or *adv* moderately loud – used in music [It]

**mezzo piano** /piˈahnɒh/ *adj* or *adv* moderately soft – used in music [It]

**mezzo-rilievo** /riˈleevoʃ, reeˈlyayvoʃ/ *n* sculptural relief which is half-way between bas-relief and high relief and in which about half of the circumference of the design stands out from the surrounding area [It, fr *mezzo* + *rilievo* relief]

**mezzotint** /ˈmetsoh.tɪnt/ *n* (a print produced by) a method of engraving on copper or steel by scraping or burnishing a roughened surface to produce light and shade [modif of It *mezzatinta*, fr *mezza* (fem of *mezzo*) + *tinta* tint]

**mi** /mee/ *n* the 3rd note of the diatonic scale in solmization [ML – more at GAMUT]

**mi-**, **mi-** *comb form* less <Miocene> [prob fr NL *mi-*, fr Gk, fr *meion* – more at MINOR]

**M15** *n* the security service of British Military Intelligence – not now in official use [military intelligence]

**M16** *n* the espionage service of British Military Intelligence – not now in official use

**miaow**, **meow** /miˈow, myow/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the characteristic cry of a cat [imit]

**miasma** /miˈazma/ *n*, *pl* **miasmas** also **miasmata** /-mətə/ 1 a heavy vapour (e.g. from a swamp) formerly believed to cause disease, broadly any heavy or malodorous vapour 2 a pervasive influence that tends to weaken or corrupt [NL, fr Gk, defilement, fr *miasme* to pollute] – **miasmal** *adj*, **miasmatic** /,mee-əˈzmatik/ *adj*, **miasmie** /miˈazmik/ *adj*

**mica** /ˈmɪkə/ *n* any of various coloured or transparent silicate materials occurring as crystals that readily separate into very thin flexible leaves [NL, fr L, grain, crumb, akin to Gk *mikros* small] – **micaceous** /miˈkeɪʃəs/ *adj*

**Micah** /ˈmɪkə/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 8th c BC [Heb *Mikha*, short for *Mikayah*]

**mice** /mɪs/ *pl* of MOUSE

**micelle** /miˈsel/ *n* a body of molecules or ions that forms a colloidal particle [NL *micella*, fr L *mica*] – **micellar** /miˈselə/ *adj*

**Michaelmas** /ˈmɪk(ə)lmas/ *n* September 29 celebrated as the feast of St Michael the Archangel [ME *mychelmesse*, fr OE *Michaels mæsse* Michael's mass]

**Michaelmas daisy** *n* any of several (Autumn-blooming) asters widely grown as garden plants

**Michaelmas term** *n* the university term beginning in October

**mick** /mɪk/ *n* an Irishman – chiefly derog [Mick, nickname for Michael, common Irish forename]

**mickey** /mɪki/ *n* [origin unknown] – take the mickey to make sby an object of amusement by humorous or playful ridicule – *infrml*

**Mickey Finn** /ˈfɪn/ *n* an alcoholic drink doctored usu with a hypnotic drug [prob fr the name Mickey Finn]

**Mickey Mouse** *adj* trivial, petty *infrml* [Mickey Mouse, cartoon character created by Walt Disney †1966 US film producer]

**mickle** /ˈmɪkl/ *adj*, chiefly Scot great, much [ME *mikel*, fr OE *micel* – more at MUCH] – **mickle adv**, chiefly Scot

**Micmac** /ˈmɪk.mak/ *n*, *pl* **Micmacs**, esp collectively **Micmae** a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people † E Canada [Micmac *Migmag*, lit, allies]

**micr-**, **micro-** *comb form* 1a small, minute <microcosm> b used for or involving minute quantities or variations <microbarograph> <microcalorimeter> c microscopic <microorganism> 2 one millionth (10<sup>-6</sup>) part of (a specified unit) <microsecond> <microgram> <microhm> ➞ PHYSICS 3 enlarging, magnifying, amplifying <microphone> 4a used in or involving microscopy <microdissection> b used in or connected with microphotography <microcopy> <microfilm> 5 of a small or localized area <microclimate> <microhabitat> [ME *micro-*, fr L, fr Gk *mikr-*, *mikro-*, fr *mikros*, *mikros* small, short; akin to OE *smealc* careful, exquisite]

**micro** /ˈmɪkroʃ/ *adj* very small; esp microscopic [*micr-*]  
**microbe** /ˈmɪkroʊb/ *n* a microorganism, germ [ISV *micr-* + Gk *bios* life – more at QUICK] – **microbial** /ˈmɪkroʊbi-əl/, **microbic** /-bɪk/ *adj*  
**microbiology** /ˈmɪkroʊbi-ələʒi, -kroʊ-/ *n* the biology of bacteria and

other microscopic forms of life [ISV] – **microbiologist** *n*, **microbiological** /-bi-əˈlɒjɪkəl/, **microbiologic** *adj*

**microcephalic** /ˈmɪkroʊsiˈfəlɪk/ *n* or *adj* (sby) having an abnormally small head and usu mental defects [adj NL *microcephalus*, fr *micr-* + Gk *kephale* head – more at CEPHALIC; *n* fr *adj*] – **microcephaly** /-ˈsefəli/ *n*  
**microcircuit** /-ˈsʊkt/ *n* a compact electronic circuit, esp INTEGRATED CIRCUIT – **microcircuitry** *n*

**microclimate** /-ˈkliemət/ *n* the essentially uniform local climate of a small site or habitat [ISV] – **microclimatic** *adj*, **microclimatology** *n*

**microcomputer** /-kəm.pyoohtə/ *n* a small self-contained computer that is based on one or more microprocessors and that typically has a keyboard and a visual display unit ➞ COMPUTER

**microcopy** /-ˈkopi/ *n* a photographic copy in which graphic matter is greatly reduced in size [ISV] – **microcopy** *vb*

**microcosm** /ˈmɪkroʊkɒz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a little world, esp an individual human being or human nature seen as an epitome of the world or universe 2 a whole (e.g. a community) that is an epitome of a larger whole [ME, fr ML *microcosmus*, modif of Gk *mikros kosmos*] – **microcosmic** /-ˈkɒzmɪk/ *adj*

**microcrystal** /ˈmɪkroʊkristl/ *n* a crystal visible only under the microscope – **microcrystalline** /-ˈkrist(ə).iən/ *adj*, **microcrystallinity** /-ˈɪnəti/ *n*

**microdot** /ˈmɪkroʊdɒt/ *n* a photographic reproduction of printed matter reduced to the size of a single dot for security or ease of transmission

**microeconomics** /ˈmɪkroʊ-ekəˈnɒmɪks, -ekə-/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a study of economics in terms of individual areas of activity (e.g. a firm, household, or prices) – compare MACROECONOMICS – **microeconomic** *adj*

**microelectronics** /-ˌlekˈtrɒnɪks, -elek-/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a branch of electronics that deals with or produces miniaturized electronic circuits and components – **microelectronic** *adj*

**microfiche** /-ˈfeʃh/ *n*, *pl* **microfiche**, **microfiches** /-ʃɪz/ a sheet of microfilm containing rows of very small images of pages of printed matter [F, fr *micr-* + *fiche* peg, tag, slide, fr OF, fr *ficher* to stick in – more at ICHU]

**microfilm** /ˈmɪkroʊfɪlm/ *n* a film bearing a photographic record on a reduced scale of graphic matter (e.g. printing) [ISV] – **microfilm** *vb*, **microfilmable** /-ˈfɪlməbl/ *adj*

**microhabitat** /ˈmɪkroʊˈhæbɪt/ *n* a small usu specialized and isolated habitat (e.g. a decaying tree stump)

**microinstruction** /-ɪnˈstrʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n* a computer instruction corresponding to several machine instructions

**micro, lith** /-ˈlɪθ/ *n* a tiny flint blade tool often set in a bone or wooden haft [ISV]

**micromanipulation** /-məˌnɪpyooˈləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* dissection and injection of tissue or cells under the microscope using fine needles controlled by a series of levers

**micrometer** /ˈmɪkroˌmɪtə/ *n* 1 an instrument for measuring distances between objects seen through a microscope or telescope 2 a gauge for making precise measurements of length by means of a spindle moved by a finely threaded screw [F *micrometre*, fr *micr-* + *-metre* -meter]

**micron** /ˈmɪkron/ *n*, *pl* **microns** also **micra** /-kra/ one millionth (10<sup>-6</sup>) part of a metre – not now recommended for technical use [NL, fr Gk *mikron*, neut of *mikros* small – more at MICR-]

**Micronesian** /ˈmɪkroˌneeʒ(ə)n, -zi-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Micronesia 2 a group of Austronesian languages spoken in the Micronesian islands [ISV, fr NL *Micronesia*, islands of the Western Pacific ocean east of the Philippines] – **Micronesian** *adj*

**micronutrient** /ˈmɪkroʊˈnyoohtɹ-ənt/ *n* a nutrient (e.g. a trace element) required in small quantities

**microorganism** /-ˈawɡənɪz(ə)m/ *n* an organism of (smaller than) microscopic size [ISV]

**microphage** /ˈmɪkroʊˌfay, -ˌfahz/ *n* a small phagocyte [ISV]

**microphone** /ˈmɪkroʊˌfohn/ *n* a device that converts sounds into electrical signals, esp for transmission or recording [ISV] – **microphone** /-ˈfɒnik/ *adj*

**microphotograph** /ˈmɪkroʊˈfohtəgrəfi, -grəf/ *n* a reduced photograph that must be magnified for viewing; a microcopy [ISV] – **microphotograph** *vi*, **microphotographic** /-ˈfohtəˈɡrafɪk/ *adj*, **microphotography** /-ˈfohtəˈɡrəfi/ *n*

**microprocessor** /-ˈproʊsesə/ *n* a very small computer composed of 1 or more integrated circuits functioning as a unit ➞ COMPUTER [ISV]

**micro, pyle** /-ˈpiəl/ *n* 1 a differentiated area of the surface of an egg through which the sperm enters 2 an opening in the surface of an ovule

- of a flowering plant through which the pollen tube penetrates [ISV *micr-* + Gk *pylē* gate] – **micropylar** /-ˈpiələ/ *adj*
- microscope** /ˈmɪkrəˌskəʊp/ *n* an instrument consisting of (a combination of) lenses for making enlarged images of minute objects using light or other radiations [NL *microscopium*, fr *micr-* + *-scopium* -scope]
- microscopic** /-ˈskopɪk/ *also* **microscopical** /-ˈkl/ *adj* 1 of or conducted with the microscope or microscopy 2 resembling a microscope, esp in perception 3a invisible or indistinguishable without the use of a microscope **b** very small, fine, or precise – **microscopically** *adv*
- microscopy** /ˈmɪkrəˌskəpi/ *n* the use of or investigation with the microscope – **microscopist** *n*
- microsome** /ˈmɪkrəˌsoʊm/ *n* a minute particle **a** seen in the cytoplasm of a cell viewed through a light microscope **b** seen in a fraction obtained by heavy centrifugation of broken cells viewed through an electron microscope [G *mikrosom*, fr *mikr-* *micr-* + *-som* -some] – **microsomal** /-ˈsoʊml/ *adj*
- microstructure** /-ˈstrʊktʃə/ *n* the microscopic structure of a mineral, alloy, living cell, etc [ISV] – **microstructural** *adj*
- microsurgery** /-ˈsuɜːdʒəri/ *n* minute (surgical) dissection or manipulation of living tissue, usu under a microscope (e.g. in eye surgery) – **microsurgical** *adj*
- microswitch** /-ˈswɪtʃ/ *n* an electrical switch that can be operated by a small usu delicate movement
- micro-teaching** *n* the teaching of a small group for a short time, esp as practice for a trainee teacher
- microtome** /-ˈtoʊm/ *n* an instrument for cutting sections (e.g. of plant or animal tissues) for microscopic examination [ISV]
- microtone** /-ˈtoʊn/ *n* a musical interval smaller than a semitone – **microtonally** *adv*, **microtonal** /-ˈtoʊnl/ *adj*, **microtonality** /-ˈtoʊˈnæləti/ *n*
- microtubule** /-ˈtoʊəbjuːl/ *n* any of the minute cylindrical structures in cells that are widely distributed in cytoplasm and are made up of protein subunits – **microtubular** /-ˈtoʊəbjuːlə/ *adj*
- microwave** /ˈmɪkrəˌweɪv/ *n* a band of very short electromagnetic waves of between 1m and 0.1m in wavelength
- microwave oven** *n* an oven in which food is cooked by the heat produced as a result of the interaction between penetrating microwaves and the substance of the food
- micturate** /ˈmɪktʃʊəreɪt/ *vi* to (want to) urinate – *fml*, sometimes used technically [L *micturere*, fr *mictus*, pp of *ungere*; akin to OE *migan* to urinate, Gk *omechein*] – **micturition** /-ˈrɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- mid** /mɪd/ *adj* 1 being the part in the middle or midst (<*in* ~ *ocean*) – often in combination (<*mid-August*) (<*in mid-sentence*) 2 occupying a middle position 3 of a vowel articulated with the tongue midway between the upper and lower areas of the mouth [ME, fr OE *midde*; akin to OHG *mitti* middle, L *medius*, Gk *mesos*] – **mid** *adv*
- mid prep** *amid* – poetic
- mid-air** /-ˈeə/ *n* a point or region in the air not immediately near the ground
- mid-Atlantic** *adj* or *n* (of) a dialect halfway between American and British English
- mid-brain** /-ˈbreɪn/ *n* (the parts of the adult brain that develop from) the middle of the 3 primary divisions of the embryonic vertebrate brain
- mid-day** /-ˈdeɪ/ *n* the middle part of the day; noon
- midden** /ˈmɪd(ə)n/ *n* 1 a dunghill 2 a refuse heap; esp a heap or stratum of domestic rubbish found on the site of an ancient settlement [ME *midning*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *myki* dung, *dyngja* manure pile – more at MUCUS, DUNG]
- middle** /ˈmɪdl/ *adj* 1 equally distant from the extremes; central 2 at neither extreme 3 *cap* a constituting a division intermediate between those prior and later or upper and lower (<Middle Palaeozoic) **b** belonging to a period of a language intermediate between Old and New or Modern forms (<Middle Dutch) [ME *middel*, fr OE; akin to L *medius*]
- middle** *n* 1 a middle part, point, or position 2 the waist 3 the position of being among or in the midst of sthg 4 sthg intermediate between extremes; a mean
- middle** *vt* to hit (a shot) correctly with the middle of the bat in cricket
- middle-age** *n* the period of life from about 40 to about 60 – **middle-aged** *adj*
- middle-aged** *spread* *n* an increase in girth, esp round the waist, associated with middle age
- Middle Ages** *n pl* the period of European history from about AD 500 to about 1500
- Middle America** *n* the US middle class – **Middle American** *n*
- middle-brow** /-ˈbrəʊ/ *adj* dealing with or having conventional and often bourgeois intellectual and cultural interests and activities – often derog – **middlebrow** *n*
- middle C** *n* the note designated by the first ledger line below the treble staff and the first above the bass staff
- middle-class** *n* a class occupying a position between upper and lower, esp a fluid heterogeneous grouping of business and professional people, bureaucrats, and some farmers and skilled workers – often *pl* with sing. meaning – **middle-class** *adj*
- middle-distance** *adj* of or being a footrace over a distance between 400m and 1m
- middle distance** *n* the part of a picture or view between the foreground and the background
- middle ear** *n* a cavity through which sound waves are transmitted by a chain of tiny bones from the eardrum to the inner ear → NERVE
- Middle English** *n* English of the 12th to 15th c → LANGUAGE
- middle game** *n* the part of a chess game following the opening moves when players attempt to gain and exploit positional and material superiority – compare END GAME, OPENING 3a
- middle ground** *n* a standpoint midway between extremes
- middle-man** /-ˈmæn/ *n* an intermediary between 2 parties, esp a dealer intermediate between the producer of goods and the retailer or consumer
- middle name** *n* 1 a name between one's first name and surname 2 a quality of character for which sby is well known (<*generosity is her* ~)
- middle-of-the-road** *adj* conforming to the majority in taste, attitude, or conduct; also neither right-wing nor left-wing in political conviction
- middle-of-the-roader** *n*, **middle-of-the-roadism** *n*
- middle school** *n* (part of) a school for pupils aged 8–12 or 9–13
- middle-weight** /-ˈweɪt/ *n* a boxer who weighs not more than 11st 6lb (72.6kg) if professional or more than 71kg (about 11st 2lb) but not more than 75kg (about 11st 11lb) if amateur
- middling** /ˈmɪdlɪŋ/ *adj* 1 of middle or moderate size, degree, or quality 2 mediocre, second-rate [ME (Sc) *mydlyn*, prob fr *mid*, *middle* *mid* + *-ling*] – **middling** *adv*, **middlingly** *adv*
- middlings** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a granular product or by-product of grain, esp wheat, milling usu used in animal feeds
- middy** /ˈmɪdi/ *n* a midshipman – *infml*, no longer in vogue [by shortening & alter]
- midfield** /ˈmɪdˌfi:ld/ *n* (the players who normally play in) the part of a pitch or playing field midway between the goals → SPORT
- midge** /mɪdʒ/ *n* a tiny two-winged fly [ME *mygge*, fr OE *mycg*; akin to OHG *mucka* midge, Gk *myia* fly, L *musca*]
- midget** /ˈmɪdʒɪt/ *n* 1 a very small person; a dwarf 2 sthg (e.g. an animal) much smaller than usual [*midge* + *-et*] – **midget** *adj*
- midl** /ˈmɪdl/ *n* a woman's garment that extends to the mid-calf ['*mid* + *-i* (as in *mini*)]
- midland** /ˈmɪdlænd/ *n*, often *cap* the central region of a country – *usu pl* with sing. meaning – **midland** *adj*, often *cap*
- midline** /ˈmɪdˌli:n/ *n*, often *cap* the middle line or plane, esp of (a part of) the body
- mid,most** /-ˈmoʊst/ *adj* in or near the middle – **midmost** *adv* or *n*
- midnight** /ˈmɪdˌnaɪt/ *n* the middle of the night, specif 12 o'clock at night – **midnight** *adj*, **midnightly** *adv* or *adj*
- midnight sun** *n* the sun visible at midnight in the arctic or antarctic summer
- mid-off** *n* a fielding position in cricket near the bowler on the off side of the pitch → SPORT
- mid-on** *n* a fielding position in cricket near the bowler on the leg side of the pitch → SPORT
- mid-point** /-ˈpɔɪnt/ *n* a point midway between the beginning and end of sthg
- midrash** /ˈmɪdræʃ/ *n*, *pl* **midrashim** /-ˈræʃɪm/ a Jewish work of commentary and exegesis on a biblical text: [Heb *midhrash* exposition, explanation] – **midrashic** /-ˈræʃɪk/ *adj*
- midrib** /-ˈrɪb/ *n* the central vein of a leaf
- midriff** /ˈmɪdrɪf/ *n* 1 DIAPHRAGM 2 the middle part of the human torso [ME *midrif*, fr OE *midhrif*, fr *midde* *mid* + *hrif* belly; akin to OHG *throf* body, L *corpus*]
- midshipman** /ˈmɪdˌʃɪpmən/ *n* (the rank of) a young person training to become a naval officer → RANK
- midships** /-ˈʃɪps/ *adv* amidships → SHIP
- midst** /mɪdst/ *n* 1 the inner or central part or point, the middle 2 a

position near to the members of a group <a traitor in our ~> 3 the condition of being surrounded or beset (e.g. by problems) 4 a period of time about the middle of a continuing act or state <in the ~ of the celebrations> [ME *middest*, alter. of *midde*s, back-formation fr *amides* amid] – *midst* prep

**midstream** /-strem/ *n* 1 the part of a stream towards the middle 2 the middle part of a process

**midsummer** /-suma/ *n* the summer solstice

**Midsummer Day** *n* June 24 celebrated as the feast of the nativity of John the Baptist

**midway** /-way/ *adv* halfway

**midweek** /-week/ *n* the middle of the week – *midweek* *adj*, *midweekly* *adj* or *adv*

**mid-wicket** *n* a fielding position in cricket on the leg side equidistant from each wicket – *SPORT*

**midwife** /mid,wief/ *n* 1 a woman who assists other women in childbirth 2 sb or sth that helps to produce or bring forth sthg [ME *midwif*, fr *mid* with (fr OE) + *wif* woman]

**midwifery** /mid,wifəri/ *n* (the art of) assisting at childbirth, also obstetrics

**midwinter** /-winta/ *n* the winter solstice

**mien** /meen/ *n* air or bearing, esp as expressive of mood or personality – *fm* [by shortening & alter fr *demean*]

**miff** /mif/ *n* 1 a brief outburst of bad temper 2 a trivial quarrel *USE* *infml* [origin unknown]

**miff** *vt* to make cross or peeved – *infml*

**might** /miet/ *past* of *MAY* – used to express permission or liberty in the past <asked whether he ~ come> <the king ~ do nothing without parliament's consent>, a past or present possibility contrary to fact <I ~ well have been killed> <if he were older he ~ understand>, purpose or expectation in the past <wrote it down so that I ~ not forget it>, less probability or possibility than *may* <~ get there before it rains>, a polite request <you ~ post this letter for me>, or as a polite or ironic alternative to *may* <who ~ you be?> or to *ought* or *should* <you ~ at least apologize> <he ~ have offered to help> [ME, fr OE *meahte*, *mihte*, akin to OHG *mahta*, *mohta* could]

**might** *n* 1 power, authority, or resources wielded individually or collectively 2a physical strength b all the power or effort one is capable of [ME, fr OE *miht*, akin to OHG *maht* might, *magan* to be able – more at *MAY*]

**mightily** /'miet(ə)li/ *adv* very much <it amused us ~ – Charles Dickens> ['MIGHTY + <sup>2</sup>-LY]

**mightn't** /'mietn/ *might* not

**mighty** /'mi:ti/ *adj* 1 powerful 2 accomplished or characterized by might <a ~ thrust> 3 imposingly great <the ~ mountains> – *mightiness* *n*

**mighty** *adv* to a great degree, extremely <a ~ big man>

**mignonette** /'minjə'net/ *n* an annual garden plant with fragrant greenish yellow flowers or any of various related plants [F *mignonnette*, fr obs F, fem of *mignonnet* dainty, fr MF, fr *mignon* darling]

**migraine** /'meigrayn/ *n* recurrent severe headache usu associated with disturbances of vision, sensation, and movement often on only 1 side of the body [F, fr LL *hemikrania* pain in one side of the head, fr Gk *hemikrania*, fr *hemi-* hemi- + *kranion* cranium] – *migrainous* *adj*

**migrant** /'migrant/ *n* 1 a person who moves regularly in order to find work, esp in harvesting crops 2 an animal that moves from one habitat to another [MIGRATE + <sup>1</sup>-ANT] – *migrant* *adj*

**migrate** /'miegrayt/ *vi* 1 to move from one country or locality to another 2 of an animal to pass usu periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding [L *migratus*, pp of *migrare*; akin to Gk *ameibein* to change] – *migration* /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, *migrational* *adj*, *migrator* *n*

**migratory** /'miegrə't(ə)r/ *adj* wandering, roving [MIGRATE + <sup>2</sup>-ORY]

**mikado** /'mɪkə'doh/ *n*, *pl mikados* – formerly used as a title for the emperor of Japan [Jap]

**mike** /mek/ *n* a microphone – *infml* [by shortening & alter]

**Mike** – a communications code word for the letter *m*

**mil** /mil/ *n* 1 a unit of length equal to  $\frac{1}{1000}$ in (about 25.4mm) used esp for the diameter of wire and formerly in precision engineering 2 – *CYPRUS*, *Malta* at *NATIONALITY* [L *mille* thousand – more at *MILF*]

**milady** /'mɪlədi/ *n* an Englishwoman of noble or gentle birth – often used as a term of address or reference [F, fr E *my lady*]

**milch** /milch/ *adj*, of a domestic animal bred or used primarily for milk production [ME *milche*, fr OE *-milce*; akin to OE *melcan* to milk – more at *EMULSION*]

**'mild** /mi:ld/ *adj* 1 gentle in nature or manner 2a not strong in flavour or effect b not being or involving what is extreme 3 not severe, temperate <a ~ climate> 4 easily worked; malleable <~ steel> [ME, fr OE *milde*; akin to Gk *malthakos* soft, OE *melu* meal – more at <sup>1</sup>*MEAL*] – *mildly* *adv*, *mildness* *n*

**'mild** *n*, *Br* a dark-coloured beer not flavoured with hops

**'mildew** /'mɪldyoʊh/ *n* (a fungus producing) a usu whitish growth on the surface of organic matter (e.g. paper or leather) or living plants [ME, fr OE *meledcaw*; akin to OHG *miltohu* honeydew] – *mildewy* *adj*

**'mildew** *vb* to affect or become affected (as if) with mildew

**mile** /mi:əl/ *n* 1 any of various units of distance: e.g. a unit equal to 1760yd (about 1.61km) – *UNIT* b NAUTICAL MILE – *UNIT* 2 a large distance or amount – often pl with *sing.* meaning [ME, fr OE *mil*, akin to OHG *mila* mile, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *milia* miles, fr *milia* passuum, lit., thousands of paces, fr *milia*, pl of *mille* thousand, perh fr a prehistoric compound whose constituents are akin to Gk *mia* (fem of *heis* one) and to Gk *chilioi* thousand, Skt *sahasra* – more at *SAME*] – *miles from nowhere* in an extremely remote place

**mileage** /'mi:lj/ *n* 1 an allowance for travelling expenses at a certain rate per mile 2 total length or distance in miles. e.g. a the number of miles travelled over a period of time b the distance, or distance covered, in miles c the average distance in miles a vehicle will travel for an amount of fuel

**'milepost** /-pohst/ *n* a post indicating the distance in miles from or to a given point

**miler** /'mi:lə/ *n* a person or horse that competes in mile races

**miles** *adv* very much <worked ~ better when oiled> – *infml*

**milestone** /'mi:lstəʊn/ *n* 1 a stone serving as a milepost 2 a crucial stage in sthg's development

**milfoil** /'milfoyl/ *n* 1 yarrow 2 any of a genus of water plants with submerged leaves divided into very narrow segments [ME, fr OF, fr L *millefolium*, fr *mille* + *folium* leaf – more at *BLADE*]

**miliary** /'mɪljəri/ *adj* having, made up of, or accompanied by many small projections, blisters, or nodules [L *miliaris* of millet, fr *milium* millet – more at *MILITARY*]

**milieu** /'meɪljə/ (*Fr* *mɪljø*) *n*, *pl milieus*, *milieux* /-lyu(z) (*Fr* ~)/ an environment, setting <three studies of women, each from a different ~ – Edmund Wilson> [F, fr OF, *midst*, fr *mi* middle (fr L *medius*) + *lieu* place, fr L *locus*]

**militant** /'mɪlɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 engaged in warfare or combat 2 aggressively active (e.g. in a cause), combative [ME, fr MF, fr L *militant-*, *milicans*, prp of *militare* to engage in warfare] – *militancy* *n*, *militant* *n*, *militantly* *adv*, *militantness* *n*

**militarism** /'mɪlɪtə,rɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 exaltation of military virtues and ideals 2 a policy of aggressive military preparedness – *militarist* *n*, *militaristic* /-rɪstɪk/ *adj*, *militaristically* *adv*

**militarize**, *-ise* /'mɪlɪtə,neɪz/ *vt* 1 to equip with military forces and defences 2 to give a military character to – *militarization* /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**'military** /'mɪlɪt(ə)r/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of soldiers, arms, or war 2 carried on or supported by armed force <a ~ dictatorship> 3 of the army or armed forces [MF *militaire*, fr L *militaris*, fr *mil-*, *miles* soldier] – *militarily* *adv*

**'military** *n* 1 *pl* in constr soldiers 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr the army (as opposed to civilians or police) – *RANK*

**military police** *n* a branch of an army that carries out police functions within the army

**militate** /'mɪlɪtaɪt/ *vi* to have significant weight or effect – often + *against* [L *militatus*, pp of *militare* to engage in warfare, fr *mil-*, *miles* soldier]

**militia** /'mɪlɪʃ(y)ə/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr a body of citizens with some military training who are called on to fight only in an emergency [L, military service, fr *mil-*, *miles*] – *militiaman* /-mə'n/ *n*

**'milk** /mɪlk/ *n* 1 a (white or creamy) liquid secreted by the mammary glands of females for the nourishment of their young (and used as a food by humans) 2 a milklike liquid: e.g. a the latex of a plant b the juice of a coconut c a cosmetic lotion, esp a cleanser [ME, fr OE *meolc*, *milk*; akin to OHG *miluh* milk] – *milky* *adj*, *milkiness* *n*

**'milk** *vt* 1 to draw milk from the breasts or udder of 2 to draw sthg from as if by milking: e.g. a to induce (a snake) to eject venom b to compel or persuade to yield illicit or excessive profit or advantage <opera stars who ~ their audience for applause> – *milker* *n*

**'milk-and-water** *adj* weak, insipid

**'milk, fever** *n* 1 a feversh disorder following childbirth 2 a disease of cows, sheep, goats, etc that have recently given birth, caused by a drain

on the body's mineral reserves during the establishment of the milk flow

**'milk float** *n*, *Br* a light usu electrically-propelled vehicle for carrying esp milk for domestic delivery

**'milk leg** *n* a painful swelling of the leg after childbirth caused by thrombosis in the veins

**'milkmaid** /-mayd/ *n* a female who works in a dairy

**'milkman** /-mən/ *n* one who sells or delivers milk

**'milk of magnesia** *n* a white suspension of magnesium hydroxide in water, used as an antacid and mild laxative

**'milk pudding** *n* a pudding consisting of rice, tapioca, sago, etc boiled or baked in (sweetened) milk

**'milk run** *n* a regular journey or course [fr the resemblance in regularity & unevenfulness to the morning delivery of milk]

**milk shake** *n* a thoroughly shaken or blended beverage made of milk and a flavouring syrup

**'milk sop** /-sɒp/ *n* a weak and unmanly male [ME, fr *milk* + *sop*]

**milk sugar** *n* lactose

**milk tooth** *n* a tooth of a mammal, esp a child, that is replaced later in life

**'milkweed** /-weed/ *n* any of various plants that secrete milky latex

**'milkwort** /-wuht/ *n* any of a genus of herbaceous plants and shrubs with many-coloured showy flowers

**'Milky Way** /'mɪlki/ *n* a broad irregular band of faint light that stretches completely round the celestial sphere and is caused by the light of the many stars forming the galaxy of which the sun and the solar system are a part [ME, trans of *L* *via lactea*]

**'mill** /mɪl/ *n* 1 a building provided with machinery for grinding grain into flour 2a a machine or apparatus for grinding grain b a machine or hand-operated device for crushing or grinding a solid substance (e.g. coffee beans or peppercorns) 3 a building or collection of buildings with machinery for manufacturing 4 MILLING MACHINE 5 an experience that has a hardening effect on the character – usu in *through the mill* [ME *mille*, fr OE *mylen*; akin to OHG *muli* mill; both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc word borrowed fr LL *molina*, *molinum*, fr fem and neut of *n.olinus* of a mill, of a millstone, fr *L* *mola* mill, millstone; akin to *L* *molere* to grind – more at 'MEAL]

**mill** *vt* 1 to subject to an operation or process in a mill: e.g. a to grind into flour, meal, or powder b to shape or dress by means of a rotary cutter 2 to give a raised rim or a ridged edge to (a coin) 3 to cut grooves in the metal surface of (e.g. a knob) ~ *vi* 1 to move in a confused swirling mass, – usu + *about* or *around* 2 to undergo milling

**'millboard** /-bawd/ *n* strong cardboard suitable for book covers and for panelling in furniture [alter of *milled board*]

**'milledam** /-dam/ *n* a dam to make a millpond

**millenarian** /'mɪliːnəri-ən/ *adj* 1 of or relating to 1000 years 2 of or having belief in the millennium – *millenarian n*, *millenarianism n*

**'millenary** /'mɪlenəri/ *n* 1 a group of 1000 units or things 2 1000 years [LL *millenarius*, fr neut of *millenarius* of a thousand, fr *L* *milleni* one thousand each, fr *mille*]

**'millenary** *adj* 1 relating to or consisting of 1000 2 suggesting a millennium [L *millenarius*]

**millennium** /'mɪlɪni-əm/ *n*, *pl* *millennia* /-ni-ə/, *milleniums* 1a a period of 1000 years b (the celebration of) a 1000th anniversary 2a the thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20 during which holiness is to prevail and Christ is to reign on earth b a (future) golden age [NL, fr *L* *mille* thousand + NL *-ennium* (as in *biennium* period of two years)] – *millennial adj*

**millepede** /'mɪliːped/ *n* a millepede

**millepore** /'mɪliːpaw/ *n* any of an order of often large stony reef-building corals [deriv of *L* *mille* thousand + *porus* pore]

**millor** /'mɪlə/ *n* sby who owns or works a mill, esp for corn ['MILL + -ER]

**'miller's-thumb** *n* any of several small freshwater fishes

**millesimal** /'mɪlesɪm(ə)/ *n* the quotient of a unit divided by 1000; any of 1000 equal parts of anything [L *millesimus*, *adj*, thousandth, fr *mille*] – *millesimal adj*, *millesimally adv*

**millet** /'mɪlɪt/ *n* (the seed of) any of various small-seeded annual cereal and forage grasses cultivated for their grain, used as food [ME *milet*, fr MF, dim. of *mil*, fr *L* *milium*; akin to Gk *meline* millet]

**milli-** /'mɪli-/ *comb form* one thousandth (10<sup>-3</sup>) part of (a specified unit) <milliampere> PHYSICS, UNIT [F, fr *L* *milli-* thousand, fr *mille* – more at MILE]

**milliard** /'mɪliəhd, 'mɪlyəhd/ *n* a thousand millions (10<sup>9</sup>) [F, fr MF *millart*, fr *mili-* (fr *milion* million)]

**millibar** /'mɪlibah/ *n* a unit of pressure equal to 1/1000 bar [ISV]

**milligram** /'mɪliːɡrəm/ *n* one thousandth of a gram (about 0.015 grain) UNIT [F *milligramme*, fr *mili-* + *gramme* gram]

**millilitre** *n* a thousandth of a litre (0.002pt) UNIT

**millime** /mɔːleem/ *n* Sudan, Tunisia at NATIONALITY [modif of Ar *malim*, fr F *millème*]

**millimetre** /'mɪliːmetə/ *n* one thousandth of a metre (about 0.039in) [F *millimètre*, fr *mili-* + *mètre* metre]

**millimicro-** *comb form* nano-

**milliner** /'mɪlɪnə/ *n* sby who designs, makes, trims, or sells women's hats [irreg fr *Milan*, city in Italy; fr the importation of women's finery from Italy in the 16th c] – *millinery n*

**'milling machine** /'mɪlɪŋ/ *n* a machine tool for shaping metal against rotating milling cutters

**million** /'mɪljən/ *n*, *pl* *millions*, *million* 1 NUMBER 2 an indefinitely large number – *infini*, often *pl* with *sing* meaning <~s of cars in that traffic jam> 3 *pl* 'MASS 3 (appealing to the ~s) [ME *milioun*, fr MF *milion*, fr OIt *milione*, aug of *mille* thousand, fr *L* – more at MILE] – *million adj*, *millionth adj* or *n*

**millionaire** /'mɪljəˈneɪ/ *n* sby whose wealth is estimated at a million or more money units [F *millionnaire*, fr *milion*, fr MF *milion*]

**'millionaire** /-nɪs/ *n* a woman who is (the wife of) a millionaire

**millepede**, *millepede* /'mɪliːˌped/ *n* any of numerous myriapods usu with a cylindrical segmented body and 2 pairs of legs on each segment [L *millepeda*, a small crawling animal, fr *mille* thousand + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at 1001]

**millpond** /'mɪlˌpɒnd/ *n* a pond produced by damming a stream to produce a head of water for operating a mill

**'millrace** /-ˌreɪs/ *n* (the current in) a channel in which water flows to and from a mill wheel [ME *milras*, fr *mln*, *mille* mill + *ras* race, current]

**'millstone** /-ˌstəʊn/ *n* 1 either of a pair of circular stones that rotate against each other and are used for grinding (grain) 2 a heavy or crushing burden

**'mill wheel** *n* a waterwheel that drives a mill

**'millwright** /-ˌreɪt/ *n* sby who plans, builds, or maintains mills

**milometer** /'miːləmɪtə/ *n* an odometer calibrated in miles

**milord** /'mɪləwɔːd/ *n* an Englishman of noble or gentle birth – often used in imitation of foreigners [F, fr E *my lord*]

**milt** /mɪlt/ *n* the male reproductive glands of fishes when filled with secretion; also the secretion of these glands [prob fr MD *milte* milt of fish, spleen, akin to OE *milte* spleen – more at 'MFI 1] – *milty adj*

**milter** /'mɪltə/ *n* a male fish in breeding condition

**'mime** /miem/ *n* 1 an ancient dramatic entertainment representing scenes from life usu in a ridiculous manner 2 the art of portraying a character or telling a story by body movement [L *mimus*, fr Gk *mimos* imitator, actor, akin to Gk *mimēsthai* to imitate]

**'mimic** *vi* to act a part with mimic gesture and action, usu without words ~ *vt* 1 to mimic 2 to act out in the manner of a mime – *mimer n*

**mimesis** /'miːmeɪsɪs/ *n* imitation, mimicry [LL, fr Gk *mimesis*, fr *mimēsthai*]

**mimetic** /'miːmetɪk/ *adj* 1 imitative 2 relating to, characterized by, or exhibiting mimicry [LL *mimeticus*, fr Gk *mimetikos*, fr *mimēsthai*] – *mimetically adv*

**'mimic** /'mɪmɪk/ *adj* 1a IMITATIVE 1 b imitation, mock (<a ~ battle>) 2 of mime or mimicry [L *mimicus*, fr Gk *mimikos*, fr *mimos*] – *mimical adj*

**'mimic** *vt* -ck- 1 to imitate slavishly; ape 2 to ridicule by imitation 3 to simulate 4 to resemble by biological mimicry – *mimic n*

**mimicry** /'mɪmɪkri/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of mimicking 2 resemblance of one organism to another that secures it an advantage (e.g. protection from predation) DEFENCE

**mimosa** /'miːmɒzə, -sə/ *n* any of a genus of leguminous trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants of warm regions with globular heads of small white, pink, or esp yellow flowers [NL, genus name, fr L *mimus* mime; fr its apparent imitation of animal sensitivity in drooping & closing its leaves when touched]

**mina** /'miːnə/ *n* a myna

**minacious** /'miːnəʃəs/ *adj* minatory [L *minac-*, *minax* threatening, fr *minari*]

**minaret** /'mɪnəˈret/ *n* a slender tower attached to a mosque and surrounded by 1 or more projecting balconies from which the summons to prayer is made [F, fr Turk *minare*, fr Ar *manarah* lighthouse]

**minatory** /'mɪnət(ə)ri/ *adj* menacing, threatening – *fnl* [LL *minatorius*, fr *L* *minatus*, pp of *minari* to threaten – more at 'MOUNT]




- 'mince** /mins/ *vt* 1 to cut or chop into very small pieces 2 to keep (one's words) within the bounds of decorum (*doesn't ~ his words*) ~ *vi* to walk with short affected steps [ME *mincen*, fr MF *mincer*, fr (assumed) VL *minutiare*, fr L *minutus* smallness – more at MINUTIA] – *mincer n*
- 'mince** *n* minced meat
- 'mince,meat** /-meɪt/ *n* a finely chopped mixture of raisins, apples, suet, spices, etc (with brandy) which traditionally used to contain meat
- 'mince 'pie** *n* a sweet usu small and round pie filled with mincemeat
- 'mincing** /'minʃɪŋ/ *adj* affectedly dainty or delicate (*trying to speak in a small ~ treble* – George Eliot) – *mincingly adv*
- 'mind** /mɪnd/ *n* 1 the (capabilities of the) organized conscious and unconscious mental processes of an organism that result in reasoning, thinking, perceiving, etc 2a recollection, memory (*keep that in ~*) b attention, concentration (*can't keep her ~ on her work*) 3 the normal condition of the mental faculties (*lost his ~*) 4a an intention, desire (*he changed his ~*) (*doesn't know his own ~*) (*I've a good ~ to box his ears*) (*had half a ~ to leave early*) b an opinion, view (*unwilling to speak his ~*) (*they were of the same ~*) (*though she's just a child, she has a ~ of her own*) (*in two ~s about the problem*) 5 a disposition, mood (*her state of ~ was calm*) (*always has good peace of ~*) 6 the mental attributes of a usu specified group (*the scientific ~*) 7 a person considered as an intellectual being (*one of the finest ~s of the academic world*) 8a the intellect and rational faculties as contrasted with the emotions b the human spirit and intellect as opposed to the body and the material world (*~ over matter*) [ME, fr OE *gemynd*, akin to OHG *gimunt* memory, both fr a prehistoric EGmc-WGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *ge-* (perfective prefix) and whose second is akin to L *ment-*, *mens* mind, *monere* to remind, warn, Gk *menos* spirit, *mnasthai*, *mnimneskesthai* to remember – more at *co-*] – *bear/keep in mind* to think of, esp at the appropriate time, not forget – *on one's mind* as a preoccupation, troubling one's thoughts (*she can't work with the problem of the mortgage on her mind*)
- 'mind** *vt* 1 to attend to closely (*~ how you behave*) (*~ your manners*) (*~ your own business*) 2 to pay attention to or follow (advice, instructions, or orders) 3a to be concerned about, care (*I don't ~ what we do*) (*Never ~ the hole in your tights no one will notice*) b to object to (*do you ~ going?*) (*I don't ~ the noise*) 4a to be careful (*~ you finish your homework!*) b to be cautious about (*~ the step*) 5 to give protective care to, look after (*~ed the children while their parents were out*) ~ *vi* 1 to be attentive or wary – often + *out* 2 to be or become concerned, care (*would you prefer tea of coffee? I don't ~*) (*I'm sorry, I've spilt my coffee. Never ~!*) – *mind* *n* – *mind you* take this fact into account, notice this (*mind you, I don't blame him*)
- 'mind,bending** /-bendɪŋ/ *adj* at the limits of understanding or credibility – *infrm* – *mindbendingly adv*, *mindbender n*
- 'mind-blowing** *adj* 1 of or causing a psychic state similar to that produced by a psychedelic drug 2 mentally or emotionally exhilarating *USE* *infrm* – *mindblower n*
- 'mind-boggling** *adj* causing great surprise or wonder – *infrm*
- 'minded** *adj* 1 having a (specified kind of) mind – usu in combination (*narrow-minded*) 2 inclined, disposed (*was not ~ to report his losses* – *Herts & Essex Observer*) – *mindfulness n*
- 'mind-expanding** *adj* PSYCHEDELIC 1b – *infrm*
- 'mindful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* keeping in mind; aware of – *mindfully adv*, *mindfulness n*
- 'mindless** /-lɪs/ *adj* 1 devoid of thought or intelligence, senseless (*~ violence*) 2 involving or requiring little thought or concentration (*the work is routine and fairly ~*) 3 inattentive, heedless – usu + *of* (*dashed into the burning house ~ of the danger*) – *mindlessly adv*, *mindlessness n*
- 'mind ,reader** *n* sby who can, or is thought to be able to, perceive another's thought directly – *mind reading n*
- 'mind's 'eye** *n* the faculty of visual memory or imagination
- 'mine** /miən/ *adj*, *archaic* *my* – used before a vowel or *h* (*~ host*) or sometimes to modify a preceding noun (*~ mistress ~*) [ME *min*, fr OE *min* – more at *MY*]
- 'mine** *pron*, *pl* *mine* that which or the one who belongs to me – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *my* (*children younger than ~*) (*that brother of ~*) (*the house became ~*) – *me* and *mine* 1 and my family and possessions
- 'mine** *n* 1a an excavation from which mineral substances are taken b an ore deposit 2 an underground passage beneath an enemy position 3 an encased explosive designed to destroy enemy personnel, vehicles, or ships 4 a rich source of (*a ~ of information*) [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *mina*, prob of Celt origin; akin to W *mwyn* ore]

- 'mine** *vt* 1a to dig an underground passage to gain access to or cause the collapse of (an enemy position) b UNDERMINE 2 2 to obtain from a mine 3 to place military mines in, on, or under (*~ a harbour*) 4 to dig into for ore, coal, etc 5 to seek valuable material in ~ *vi* to dig a mine – *miner n*, *mining n*
- 'mine,layer** /-ləɪə/ *n* a vessel or aircraft for laying mines
- 'mineral** /'mɪn(ə)rəl/ *n* 1 (a synthetic substance resembling) a solid homogeneous crystalline material that results from the inorganic processes of nature, broadly any of various naturally occurring substances (e.g. stone, coal, and petroleum) obtained by drilling, mining, etc 2 sth neither animal nor vegetable 3 *Br* MINERAL WATER – usu *pl* [ME, fr ML *mineralis*, fr neut of *mineralis*, *adj*, fr *minera* mine, ore, fr OF *miniére*, fr *mine*] – *mineral adj*
- 'mineral-ize**, *-ise* /'mɪn(ə)rəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to impregnate with or convert into a mineral or inorganic compound 2 to petrify – *mineralization* /-raɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- 'mineral kingdom** *n* the one of the 3 basic groups of natural objects that includes inorganic objects – compare ANIMAL KINGDOM, PLANT KINGDOM
- 'mineralogy** /'mɪnə'rɒlədʒi/ *n* a science dealing with the structure, properties, and classification of minerals [prob fr (assumed) NL *mineralogia*, irreg fr ML *mineralis* + L *-logia* -logy] – *mineralogist n*, *mineralogical* /-rɒlədʒɪkl/ *adj*
- 'mineral ,oil** *n* an oil of mineral as opposed to vegetable origin
- 'mineral ,water** *n* water naturally or artificially impregnated with mineral salts or gases (e.g. carbon dioxide), broadly any effervescent nonalcoholic beverage
- 'minestrone** /'mɪnɪ'stroʊni/ *n* a rich thick vegetable soup usu containing pasta (e.g. macaroni) [It, aug of *minestra*, fr *ministrare* to serve, dish up, fr L *ministrare*, fr *minister* servant – more at MINISTER]
- 'minesweeper** /'mi:n,sweɪpə/ *n* a ship designed for removing or neutralizing mines – *minesweeping n*
- Ming** /mɪŋ/ *n* a Chinese dynasty dated from AD 1368 to 1644 [Chin (Pek) *ming* 'luminous']
- 'mingle** /'mɪŋ gl/ *vb* *mingling* /'mɪŋ-gliŋ/ *vt* to bring or mix together or with sth else ~ *vi* 1 to become mingled 2 to mix with or go among a group of people (*simply will not ~ at parties*) (*~d with the crowd*) [ME *menglen*, freq of *mengen* to mix, fr OE *mengan*, akin to MHG *mengen* to mix, Gk *massein* to knead]
- 'mingy** /'mɪŋj/ *adv* mean, stingy – *infrm* [perh blend of *'mean* and *stingy*]
- 'mini** /'mɪni/ *n*, *pl* *minis* 1 sthg small of its kind (e.g. a motor car) 2 a woman's skirt or dress with the hemline several inches above the knee [*mini-*, *mini adj*]
- 'mini-** /'mɪni-/ *comb form* miniature, of small dimensions (*minicomputer*), specif having a hemline several inches above the knee (*miniskirt*) → *GARMENT* [miniature]
- 'miniature** /'mɪniəʃə/ *n* 1a a copy or representation on a much reduced scale b sthg small of its kind 2 a painting in an illuminated manuscript 3 the art of painting miniatures 4 a very small painting (e.g. a portrait on ivory or metal) [It *miniatura* art of illuminating a manuscript, fr ML, fr L *miniatus*, pp of *miniare* to colour with minium, fr *minium* cinnabar, red lead] – *miniaturist* /-tʃooənɪst/ *n*
- 'miniature** *adj* 1 (represented) on a small or reduced scale 2 of still photography using film 35mm wide or smaller
- 'miniatur-ize**, *-ise* /'mɪniəʃəraɪz/ *vt* to design or construct as a small copy, reduce in scale – *miniaturization* /-raɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- 'minibus** /'mɪnɪ'bʊs/ *n* a small bus for carrying usu between 5 and 10 passengers
- 'mini,cab** /-kæb/ *n* a motor car that serves as a taxicab when hired by telephone but that cannot cruise in search of passengers
- 'minicomputer** /-kəm.pyooɦtə/ *n* a small digital computer
- 'minim** /'mɪnɪm/ *n* 1 a musical note with the time value of 2 crotchets or ½ of a semibreve → *MUSIC* 2 a unit of capacity equal to 1/16 fluid drachm (about 59.19mm³) → *UNIT* [L *minimus* least] – *minim adj*
- 'minimal** /'mɪnɪmɪl/ *adj* of or being a minimum, constituting the least possible – *minimalize vt*, *minimally adv*
- 'minimal art** *n* abstract art, esp sculpture, consisting of simple geometric forms executed in an impersonal style
- 'minimalist** /-ɪst/ *n* one who favours restricting the powers of a political organization or is content with minimum achievement
- 'minim-ize**, *-ise* /'mɪnɪmeɪz/ *vt* 1 to reduce to a minimum 2 to represent (sb or sthg) at less than true value; *PLAY DOWN* – *minimizer n*, *minimization* /-raɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- 'minimum** /'mɪnɪməm/ *n*, *pl* *minima* /-mə/, *minimums* 1 the least

- quantity or value assignable, admissible, or possible 2 the lowest degree or amount reached or recorded [L, neut of *minimus* smallest, akin to L *minor* smaller] – **minimum** *adj*
- minimum lending rate** *n* the discount rate fixed by a country's central bank (e.g. the Bank of England)
- minimum wage** *n* a wage fixed by legal authority or by contract as the least that may be paid either to employees generally or to a particular category of employees
- minion** /'minyan/ *n* 1 a servile attendant 2 FAVOURITE 1 3 a minor official – derog [MF *mignon* darling]
- minipill** /'mini.pil/ *n* an oral contraceptive in the form of a pill taken daily by a woman over a monthly cycle and containing only progesterone
- miniacule** /'miniskyoohl/ *adj* minuscule [by alter]
- minister** /'minista/ *n* 1 AGENT 1a, 2 2a one officiating or assisting the officiant in Christian worship b a clergyman, esp of a Protestant or nonconformist church c the superior of any of several religious orders 3 a high officer of state managing a division of government 4 a diplomatic representative accredited to a foreign state [ME *ministre*, fr OF, fr L *minister* servant, akin to L *minor* smaller] – **ministerial** /-'stian-əl/ *adj*, **ministerially** *adv*
- minister** *vi* 1 to perform the functions of a minister of religion 2 to give aid or service (< ~ to the sick) – **ministrant** *n* or *adj*
- minister-general** *n* MINISTER 2c
- minister of state** *n* a government minister ranking below a head of department
- minister without portfolio** *n* a government minister with no specific departmental responsibilities
- ministration** /,mini'straysh(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of ministering, esp in religious matters
- ministry** /'ministri/ *n* 1 service, ministration 2 the office, duties, or functions of a minister 3 the body of ministers of religion or government 4 the period of service or office of a minister or ministry 5 a government department presided over by a minister
- minium** /'mini-əm/ *n*, *archaic* RED LEAD [ME, fr L, cinnabar, red lead, of Iberian origin, akin to Basque *armineá* cinnabar]
- miniver** /'minivə/ *n* a white fur used chiefly for robes of state [ME *meniver*, fr OF *menu vair* small vair]
- mink** /'mingk/ *n*, *pl* mink, minks 1 any of several semiaquatic flesh-eating mammals that resemble weasels and have partially webbed feet and a soft thick coat 2 the soft fur or pelt of the mink [ME]
- minke whale** /'mingkə/ a small rorqual of northern seas [prob fr (the name) *Meincke*, reputedly a Norw whaling gunnér]
- minnesinger** /'minis,siŋ-ə/ *n* a member of a class of German lyric poets and musicians of the 12th to the 14th c [G, fr MHG, fr *minne* love + *singer*]
- minnow** /'minoh/ *n*, *pl* minnows, *esp* collectively minnow 1 a small dark-coloured freshwater fish or any of various small fishes 2 ANATOMY 2 sthg small or insignificant of its kind [ME *menawe*, akin to OE *myne* minnow, Russ *men'* eelpout]
- Minoan** /'mi'noh-ən/ *adj* of the Bronze Age culture of Crete (3000–1100 bc) [L *minous* of Minos, fr Gk *minōios*, fr *Minos* Minos, legendary king of Crete]
- Minoan** *n* a native or inhabitant of ancient Crete
- minor** /'mienə/ *adj* 1a inferior in importance, size, rank, or degree (< a ~ poet) b comparatively unimportant (< a ~ alteration) 2 not having attained majority 3a *esp* of a scale or mode having semitones between the second and third, fifth and sixth, and sometimes seventh and eighth steps b being or based on a (specified) minor scale (< in a ~ key) (< a piece in A ~) c being an interval less by a semitone than a corresponding major interval d of a chord having an interval of a minor third between the root and the next note above it 4 not serious or involving risk to life (< a ~ illness) [ME, fr L, smaller, inferior; akin to OHG *minniro* smaller, L *minuere* to lessen, Gk *meiōn* less]
- minor** *n* 1 sby who has not attained majority 2 a minor musical interval, scale, key, or mode
- minor axis** *n* the chord of an ellipse passing through the centre and perpendicular to the major axis 3 MATHEMATICS
- minor canon** *n* a canon in the Church of England usu having liturgical duties but no vote in the chapter
- minority** /'mie'norəti, mi-/ *n* 1a the period before attainment of majority b the state of being a legal minor 2 the smaller of 2 groups constituting a whole; *specif* a group with less than the number of votes necessary for control 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people who share common characteristics or interests differing from those of the majority of a population
- minor order** *n* any of the Roman Catholic or Eastern clerical orders that are lower in rank than major orders – usu *pl*
- minor planet** *n* an asteroid
- minor suit** *n* either of the suits of clubs or diamonds that in bridge are of inferior scoring value – compare MAJOR SUIT
- Minotaur** /'mienə,taw/ *n* a mythological monster shaped half like a man and half like a bull and confined in the labyrinth at Crete [ME, fr MF, fr L *Minotaurus*, fr Gk *Minotauros*, fr *Minos* Minos, legendary king of Crete + *tauros* bull]
- minster** /'minsta/ *n* a large or important church often having cathedral status [ME, monastery, church attached to a monastery, fr OE *mynster*, fr LL *monasterium* monastery]
- minstrel** /'minstrəl/ *n* 1 a medieval singer, poet, or musical entertainer 2 any of a troupe of performers usu with blackened faces giving a performance of supposedly Negro singing, jokes, dancing, etc [ME *menestrel*, fr OF, official, servant, minstrel, fr LL *ministerialis* imperial household officer, fr L *ministerium* service, fr *minister* servant – more at MINISTER]
- minstrelsy** /-si/ *n* 1 the singing and playing of a minstrel 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of minstrels 3 songs or poems (composed or performed by minstrels) [ME *minstralcie*, fr MF *menestralcie*, fr *menestrel*]
- mint** /'mint/ *n* 1 a place where money is made 2 a vast sum or amount – *informal* [ME *mynt* coin, money, fr OE *mynet*, akin to OHG *munizza* coin, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *moneta* mint, coin, fr *Moneta*, epithet of Juno, fr the fact that the Romans coined money in the temple of Juno Moneta]
- mint** *vt* 1 to make (e.g. coin) by stamping metal 2 to fabricate, invent (< a new word) – **minster** *n*
- mint** *adj* unspoil as if fresh from a mint, pristine (< in ~ condition)
- mint** *n* 1 any of a genus of plants that have whorled leaves and foliage with a characteristic strong taste and smell, used esp as a flavouring 2 a sweet, chocolate, etc flavoured with mint [ME *mince*, fr OE, akin to OHG *minza*, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound borrowed fr 1 *mentha* mint]
- mintage** /'mintiŋ/ *n* 1 the action, process, or cost of minting coins 2 coins produced in a single period of minting
- mint mark** *n* an official mark stamped on a coin to indicate its origin
- minuend** /'minyoo,ənd/ *n* a number from which another is to be subtracted [L *minuendum*, neut of *minuendus*, gerundive of *minuere* to lessen – more at MINOR]
- minuet** /'minyoo'et/ *n* (music for or in the rhythm of) a slow graceful dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time [F *menuet*, fr obs F, tiny, fr OF, fr *menu* small, fr L *minutus*]
- minus** /'mienas/ *prep* 1 diminished by (< seven ~ four is three) 2 SYMBOL 2 without (< his hat) [ME, fr L *minus*, adv, less, fr neut of *minor* smaller – more at MINOR]
- minus** *n* 1 a negative quantity 2 a deficiency, defect
- minus** *adj* 1 negative (< a ~ quantity) (< a temperature of ~ 10°C) 2 having negative qualities, esp involving a disadvantage (< a ~ factor) 3 falling low in a specified range (< a mark of B ~)
- minuscule** /'minə,skyoohl/ *n* (a lower-case letter in) a style of small flowing handwriting – compare MAJUSCULE 3 ALPHABET [F, fr L *minuscule* rather small, dim of *minor* smaller]
- minuscule** *adj* 1 written in minuscules 2 very small
- minus sign** *n* a sign – denoting subtraction or a negative quantity 3 SYMBOL
- minute** /'minit/ *n* 1 the 60th part of an hour of time or of a degree 2 the distance one can cover in a minute (< lived 5 ~s from the station) 3 a short space of time, a moment 4a MEMORANDUM 3 b *pl* the official record of the proceedings of a meeting [ME, fr MF, fr LL *minuta*, fr L *minutus* small, fr pp of *minuere* to lessen – more at MINOR]
- minute** *vb* to make notes or a brief summary (of)
- minute** /'mie'nyooht/ *adj* 1 extremely small 2 of minor importance; petty 3 marked by painstaking attention to detail [L *minutus*] – **minutely** *adv*, **minuteness** *n*
- minute hand** *n* the long hand that marks the minutes on the face of a watch or clock
- minute man** /-,man/ *n* a member of a group of armed men pledged to take the field at a minute's notice during and immediately before the American Revolution
- minutiae** /'mi'nyooohshya, mic-/ *n*, *pl* minutiae /-sh,ee/ a minor detail – usu *pl* [L *minutiae* trifles, details, fr *pl* of *minutus* smallness, fr *minutus*]
- minx** /'mings/ *n* a flirtatious girl [origin unknown]

**mio-** – see **MI-**

**Miocene** /miə'si:ən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an epoch of the Tertiary between the Pliocene and the Oligocene  **EVOLUTION**

**miosis, myosis** /mi'oi:sis/ *n*, *pl* **mioses** /-seəz/ excessive smallness or contraction of the pupil of the eye [NL, fr *Gk myein* to be closed (of the eyes) + NL *-osis*] – **miotic** /mi'oi:tik/ *adj* or *n*

**mir** /miə/ *n* a village community in tsarist Russia [Russ]

**miracle** /'mirəkl/ *n* 1 an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs 2 an astonishing or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment 3 a person or thing that is a remarkable example or instance of sthg <this watch is a ~ of precision> [ME, fr OF, fr L *miraculum*, fr *mirari* to wonder at – more at **SMIT** E]

**'miracle play** *n* a medieval drama based on episodes from the Bible or the life of a saint, also **MYSTILRY PLAY**

**miraculous** /mi'rakjooləs/ *adj* 1 of the nature of a miracle, supernatural 2 evoking wonder like a miracle, marvellous 3 (capable of) working miracles [MF *miraculeux*, fr ML *miraculosus*, fr L *miraculum*] – **miraculously adv**, **miraculousness n**

**mirage** /'mirəhʒ/ *n* 1 an optical illusion appearing esp as a pool of water or as the reflection of distant objects caused by the reflection of rays of light by a layer of heated air (near the ground) 2 sthg illusory and unattainable [F, fr *mirer* to look at, fr L *mirari*]

**'mire** /'mieə/ *n* 1 a tract of soft waterlogged ground, a marsh, bog 2 (deep) mud or slush [ME, fr ON *myrr*, akin to OE *mos* bog – more at **MOSS**] – **miry adj**

**²mire** *vt* to cause to stick fast (as if) in mire, **BOG DOWN**

**mirepoix** /miə'pwaɪ/ *n*, *pl* **mirepoix** a mixture of diced vegetables sautéed and used in brown sauces or as a bed for braising meat on [F, prob fr *Charles*: d'Évis, Duc de *Mirepoix* †1757 F diplomat & general]

**mirk** /muhk/ *n* **murk** – **mirky adj**

**'mirror** /'mɪrə/ *n* 1 a smooth surface (e.g. of metal or silvered glass) that forms images by reflection 2 sthg that gives a true representation [ME *mirour*, fr OF, fr *mirer* to look at, fr L *mirari* to wonder at – more at **SMIT** E] – **mirrorlike adj**

**²mirror** *vt* to reflect (as if) in a mirror

**mirror carp** *n* a domesticated variety of the carp with large shiny scales

**mirror 'image** *n* sthg that has its parts reversely arranged in comparison with another similar thing

**mirth** /mu:th/ *n* happiness or amusement accompanied with laughter [ME, fr OE *myrth*, fr *myrge* merry – more at **MERRY**] **mirthful adj**, **mirthfully adv**, **mirthfulness n**, **mirthless adj**

**MIRV** /mu:vh/ *n* an intercontinental missile having multiple warheads which may be directed to separate targets [multiple independently targeted reentry vehicle]

**¹mis-** /mis-/ *prefix* 1 badly, wrongly; unfavourably <misjudge> (misbehave) 2 suspicious, apprehensive <misgiving> 3 bad, wrong <misdeed> (misfit) 4 opposite or lack of <mistrust> (misfortune) 5 not <misunderstand> [partly fr ME, fr OE, partly fr ME *mes-*, *mis-*, fr OF *mes-*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *mis-*, akin to OE *missan* to miss]

**²mis-** *mis-* *comb form* hatred <misogamy> [Gk, fr *misein* to hate]

**misadventure** /misəd'ventʃə/ *n* a misfortune, mishap [ME *mesaventure*, fr OF, fr *mesavener* to chance badly, fr *mis-* 'mis- + *avenir* to chance, happen, fr L *advenire* – more at **ADVENTURE**]

**misaligned** /-ə'li:nd/ *adj* not correctly aligned – **misalignment n**

**misalliance** /-ə'li:əns/ *n* an improper or unsuitable alliance, esp a mésalliance [modif of *F mésalliance*]

**misanthrope** /'miz(ə)n'thro:p/, **misanthropist** /'miz'zanthrəpɪst/ *n* one who hates or distrusts people [Gk *misanthropos* hating mankind, fr *mis-* 'mis- + *anthropos* man] – **misanthropic** /'miz(ə)n'thropɪk/ *adj*, **misanthropy** /'miz'zanthrəpi/ *n*

**misapply** /'misə'plɪ:/ *vt* to apply wrongly – **misapplication** /-ə'pli:kəʃən/ *n*

**misapprehend** /-ə'pri:hend/ *vt* to misunderstand – **misapprehension** /-hensh(ə)n/ *n*

**misappropriate** /-ə'prəʊpriənt/ *vt* to appropriate wrongly (e.g. by theft or embezzlement) – **misappropriation** /-ə'prəʊp(ə)ʃən/ *n*

**misbegotten** /-bi'gɒtn/ *adj* 1 having a disreputable or improper origin 2 wretched, contemptible <a ~ scoundrel> 3 archaic illegitimate, bastard

**misbehave** /-bi'hayv/ *vi* to behave badly – **misbehaviour n**

**miscalculate** /-kalkjoolayt/ *vb* to calculate wrongly – **miscalculation** /-ləʃən/ *n*

**'mis,carriage** /-kari/ *n* 1 a failure in administration <~ of justice> 2

the expulsion of a human foetus before it is viable, esp after the 12th week of gestation

**'mis,carry** /-'kari/ *vi* 1 to suffer miscarriage of a foetus 2 to fail to achieve an intended purpose

**'mis,cast** /-'kahst/ *vt* **miscast** to cast in an unsuitable role

**miscegenation** /,mis,eɪ'nayʃən/, ,misja-/ *n* interbreeding of races, esp between shy white and shy nonwhite [L *miscere* to mix + *genus* race – more at **MIX**, **KIN**] – **miscegenational adj**

**miscellanea** /,misə'leɪnjə/, -ni-/ *n pl* a miscellaneous collection, esp of literary works [L, fr neut pl of *miscellaneus*]

**miscellaneous** /-nyəs/, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 consisting of diverse items or members 2 having various characteristics or capabilities [L *miscellaneus*, fr *miscellus* mixed, prob fr *miscere* to mix] – **miscellaneously adv**, **miscellaneousness n**

**miscellany** /'misələni/ *n* 1 a mixture of various things 2 a book containing miscellaneous literary pieces [prob modif of *F miscellanées*, pl, fr 1 *miscellanea*] – **miscellanist n**

**mischance** /,mis'chahns/ *n* (a piece of) bad luck [ME *mischaunce*, fr OF *meschance*, fr *mis-* 'mis- + *chance*]

**'mischief** /'misʃɪl/ *n* 1 a specific injury or damage from a particular agent <did himself a ~ on the barbed wire> 2 sthg or esp sbg that causes harm or annoyance 3 often playful action that annoys or irritates, usu without causing or intending serious harm 4 the quality or state of being mischievous [ME *meschief*, fr OF, calamity, fr *mes-* + *chief* head, end – more at **CHIEF**]

**'mischievous** /'misʃɪvəs/ *adj* 1 harmful, malicious 2 able or tending to cause annoyance, unrest, or minor injury 3a playfully provocative, arch b disruptively playful – **mischievously adv**, **mischievousness n**

**'misch,metal** /'mɪʃ/ *n* an alloy of rare-earth metals used esp in tracer bullets and as a flint in lighters [G *mischtmetall*, fr *mischen* to mix + *metall* metal]

**'miscible** /'mɪsɪbl/ *adj*, esp of a liquid capable of being mixed (with another liquid in any proportion without separating) [ML *miscibilis*, fr L *miscere* to mix – more at **MIX**] – **miscibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**'misconceive** /,mɪskən'si:v/ *vt* to interpret wrongly, misunderstand – **misconception** /-kən'sepʃən/ *n*

**'misconduct** /-'kɒndʌkt/ *n* 1 mismanagement of responsibilities 2 adultery – **misconduct** /,mɪskən'dʌkt/ *vi*

**'misconstrue** /-kən'stroʊ/ *vt* to construe wrongly, misinterpret – **misconstruction** /-kən'strukʃən/ *n*

**'miscount** /-'kəʊnt/ *vt* to count wrongly ~ *vi* to make a wrong count [ME *misconten*, fr MF *mesconter*, fr *mes-* 'mis- + *conter* to count] – **miscount** /-/ *n*

**'miscreant** /'mɪskri-ənt/ *adj* or *n* (of) one who behaves criminally or maliciously [ME *miscreant* disbeliever, heretic, fr MF *mescreant*, prp of *mescroire* to disbelieve, fr *mes-* 'mis- + *croire* to believe, fr L *credere* – more at **CREED**]

**'miscreate** /-'kri-əɪt/ *vt* to create badly or incorrectly <a higher image, a legitimate hope she had ~ d and deformed it, but it had been there – Margaret Drabble>

**'mis,cue** /-'kyoʊh/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a faulty stroke in billiards or snooker in which the cue slips

**'mis,date** /-'deɪt/ *vi* to date (e.g. a letter) wrongly

**'mis,deal** /-'di:l/ *vb* to deal (cards) incorrectly – **misdeal n**

**'mis,deed** /-'di:d/ *n* a wrong deed, an offence

**'misde,meanour** /-di'mi:nə/ *n* 1 a minor crime formerly technically distinguished from a felony 2 a misdeed

**'misdirect** /-di'rekt/, -di-/ *vt* 1 to give a wrong direction to 2 to address (mail) wrongly – **misdirection n**

**'mise-en-scène** /,mɛz ɒn 'sen/ (Fr *miz ɔ sen*) *n*, *pl* **mise-en-scènes** /sen(z)/ (Fr ~) 1 the arrangement of actors, props, and scenery on a stage in a theatrical production 2 the environment or setting in which sthg takes place [F *mise en scène*, lit., (action of) putting on stage]

**'miser** /'mie:zə/ *n* a mean grasping person, esp one who hoards wealth [L *miser* miserable, wretched] – **miserly adj**, **miserliness n**

**'miserable** /'miz(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1a wretchedly inadequate or meagre b causing extreme discomfort or unhappiness 2 in a pitiable state of distress or unhappiness 3 shameful, contemptible <a ~ failure> [ME, fr MF, fr L *miserabilis* wretched, pitiable, fr *miserari* to pity, fr *miser*] – **miserableness n**, **miserably adv**

**'miserere** /'mizə'reɪn/ *n* 1 cap the 51st Psalm 2 a misericord [L, be merciful, fr *misereri* to be merciful, fr *miser* wretched; fr the first word of the Psalm]

**'misericord, misericorde** /'mɪzəri,kawd/ *n* a ledge on the underside of the hinged seat of a choir stall, on which, when the seat is turned up, the

- occupant can support him-/herself while standing [ML *misericordia* seat in church, fr L, mercy, fr *misericord-*, *misericors* merciful, fr *misereri* + *cord-*, cor heart – more at HEART]
- misery** /'mɪzəri/ *n* 1 (a cause of) physical or mental suffering or discomfort 2 great unhappiness and distress 3 chiefly Br a grumpy or querulous person; esp a killjoy – infml [ME *miserie*, *miserere*, fr MF, fr L *miseria*, fr *miser*]
- misfeasance** /'mis'fi:z(ə)ns/ *n* the wrongful exercise of lawful authority [MF *mesfaisance*, fr *mesfaire* to do wrong, fr *mes-* 'mis-' + *faire* to make, do, fr L *facere* – more at DO] – *misfeasor* *n*
- misfield** /'fi:ld/ *vb* to make a mistake in fielding (the ball) in cricket, baseball, etc – *misfield* *n*
- misfire** /'fi:ə/ *vt* 1 of a motor vehicle, engine, etc to have the explosive or propulsive charge fail to ignite at the proper time (<the engine ~d>) 2 esp of a firearm to fail to fire 3 to fail to have an intended effect – *misfire* /-/-/ *n*
- 'misfit** /-fɪt/ *n* 1 sthg that fits badly 2 a person poorly adjusted to his/her environment
- 'misfortune** /'fawchoon-, -chən/ *n* 1 bad luck 2 a distressing or unfortunate incident or event; also the resultant unhappy situation (<feared that some ~ would befall her>) (<sympathized with her in her ~>)
- 'misgive** /-'gɪv/ *vb* *misgave* /-'gavv/; *misgiven* /-'gɪv(ə)n/ to (cause to) be fearful or apprehensive
- 'misgiving** /-'gɪvɪŋ/ *n* a feeling of doubt, suspicion, or apprehension, esp concerning a future event
- 'misgovern** /-'gʊvən/ *vt* to govern badly – *misgovernment* /-'gʊv(ə)nmənt-, -'gʊvəmənt/ *n*
- 'misguide** /-'gɪd/ *vt* to lead astray – *misguidance* *n*
- 'misguided** *adj* directed by mistaken ideas, principles, or motives – *misguidedly* *adv*, *misguidedness* *n*
- 'mishandle** /-'hændl/ *vt* 1 to treat roughly, maltreat 2 to mismanage (a situation, crisis, etc)
- mishap** /'mɪʃ,hap/ *n* an unfortunate accident [ME, fr 'mis- + *hap* (happening, chance), fr ON *happ* good luck]
- 'mishear** /-'hɪə/ *vb* *misheard* /-'hʊhd/ to hear wrongly
- 'mishit** /-'hɪt/ *vt* *mishit*-, -tt- to hit (a ball or stroke) faultily – *mishit* /'mɪʃ,hɪt/ *n*
- mishmash** /'mɪʃ,məʃ/ *n* a hotchpotch, jumble – infml [partly fr MHG *misch-masch*, redupl of *mischen* to mix, partly fr Yiddish *mish-mash*, fr MHG *mischmasch*]
- Mishnah**, *Mishna* /'mɪʃnə/ *n* the collection of Jewish traditions compiled about AD 200 to form the basis of the Talmud [Heb *mishnah* instruction, oral law, fr *shanah* to repeat, learn] – *Mishnaic* /-'naɪk/ *adj*
- misinform** /'mɪsɪn'fawm/ *vt* to give untrue or misleading information to – *misinformation* /-'ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'misinterpret** /-'ɪntɪ'prɪt/ *vt* to understand or explain wrongly – *misinterpretation* /-'ɪntɪ'prɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'misjudge** /-'juːdʒ/ *vt* 1 to estimate wrongly 2 to have an unjust opinion of ~ *vi* to make a mistaken judgment – *misjudgment* *n*
- Miskito** /'mɪ'ski:toʊ/ *n*, *pl* *Miskitos*, esp collectively *Miskito* a member, or the language, of a people of Nicaragua and Honduras
- mislay** /'mɪs'leɪ/ *vt* *mislaid* /-'leɪd/ to leave in an unremembered place
- 'mislead** /-'li:əd/ *vt* *misled* /-'led/ to lead in a wrong direction or into a mistaken action or belief – *misleadingly* *adv*
- 'mismanage** /-'mænɪ/ *vt* to manage wrongly or incompetently – *mismanagement* *n*
- 'mis'match** /-'mætʃ/ *vt* to match incorrectly or unsuitably, esp in marriage – *mis'match* /-/-/ *n*
- 'misname** /-'naɪm/ *vt* to call by the wrong name
- 'misnomer** /-'nəʊmə/ *n* (a use of) a wrong name or designation [ME *misnomer*, fr MF *mesnommer* to misname, fr *mes-* 'mis-' + *nommer* to name, fr L *nominare* – more at NOMINATE]
- mis-** – see 'mis-
- 'misogamist** /'mɪsə'gæmɪst-, mie-/ *n* one who hates marriage [Gk *mis-* 'mis-' + *gamos* marriage] – *misogamy* *n*
- 'misogynist** /'mɪsə'ʒɪnɪst-, mie-/ *n* one who hates women [Gk *misogynēs*, fr *mis-* 'mis-' + *gynē* woman] – *misogynous* *adj*, *misogyny* *n*, *misogynistic* /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- 'misology** /'mɪsə'ləʒi-, mie-/ *n* a hatred of argument, reasoning, or knowledge [Gk *misologia*, fr *mis-* 'mis-' + *-logia* -logy]
- 'misplace** /'mɪs'pleɪs/ *vt* 1a to put in the wrong place b to mislay 2 to direct towards a wrong object or outcome (<~d affections>) (<~d enthusi-
- asm*) 3 to fail to suit to the occasion (<~d humour) – *misplacement* *n*
- 'misprint** /-'prɪnt/ *vt* to print wrongly – *misprint* /-/-/ *n*
- 'misprision** /'mɪs'prɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 misconduct or neglect of (public) duty 2 concealment of treason or felony by sb who is not actually a participant [ME, fr MF *mesprison* error, wrongdoing, fr OF, fr *mespris*, pp of *mesprendre* to make a mistake, fr *mes-* 'mis-' + *prendre* to take, fr L *prehendere* to seize – more at PREHENSILE]
- 'mispronounce** /-'prə'naʊns/ *vt* to pronounce wrongly
- 'mispronunciation** /-'prə'nʌnsɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (an instance of) mispronouncing
- 'misquote** /-'kwəʊt/ *vt* to quote incorrectly – *misquotation* /-'kwəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'misread** /-'ri:əd/ *vt* *misread* /-'red/ to read or interpret incorrectly
- 'misreport** /-'rɪ'pawt/ *vt* to report falsely – *misreport* *n*
- 'misrepresent** /-'reprɪ'zent/ *vt* to represent falsely, give an untrue or misleading account of – *misrepresentation* /-'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'misrule** /-'ru:hl/ *vt* to rule incompetently
- 'misrule** *n* 1 misruling or being misruled 2 disorder, anarchy
- 'miss** /mɪs/ *vt* 1 to fail to hit, reach, contact, or attain (<~ed the train>) (<his arrow ~ed the mark>) (<~ed her step and fell heavily>) 2 to discover or feel the absence of, esp with regret (<didn't ~ his cheque book for several days>) (<~ed his wife desperately>) 3 to escape, avoid (<narrowly ~ed being run over>) 4 to leave out, omit – often + *out* 5 to fail to understand, sense, or experience (<he ~ed the point of the speech>) 6 to fail to perform or attend (<~ed his appointment>) 7 to fail to take advantage of (<never ~es an opportunity of playing golf>) ~ *vi* 1 to fail to hit sthg 2 to misfire (<the engine ~ed>) [ME *missen*, fr OE *missan*, akin to OHG *missan* to miss, L *mutare* to change] – *miss out* to lose or not to have had (a good opportunity) (<people who missed out on further education>) – *miss the boat* to fail to take advantage of an opportunity
- 'miss** *n* 1a a failure to hit 2a failure to attain a desired result 3a deliberate avoidance or omission of sthg (<felt so full he gave the dessert a ~>)
- 'miss** *n* 1a – used as a title preceding the name of an unmarried woman or girl b – used before the name of a place or of a line of activity or before some epithet to form a title for a usu young unmarried female who is representative of the thing indicated (Miss World) 2 young lady used without a name as a conventional term of address to a young woman 3 a young unmarried woman or girl – chiefly infml [short for *mistress*]
- missal** /'mɪsl/ *n* a book containing the order of service of the mass for the whole year [ME *mesel*, fr MF & ML, MF, fr ML *missale*, fr neut of *missalis* of the mass, fr LL *missa* mass – more at MASS]
- 'missel** /'mɪsl/ *n* MISTLE THRUSH
- 'misshape** /'mɪs'shayp/ *vt* to shape badly, deform – *misshapen* *adj*, *misshapenly* *adv*
- 'missile** /'mɪsiəl, NAm 'mɪsl/ *n* an object thrown or projected, usu so as to strike sthg at a distance; also a self-propelled weapon that travels through the air [L, fr neut of *missilis* capable of being thrown, fr *missus*, pp of *mittere* to throw, send – more at SMITL]
- 'missilery** /'mɪsləri/ *n* (the science dealing with the design, manufacture, and use of guided) missiles
- 'missing** /'mɪsɪŋ/ *adj* absent; also lost (<~ in action>)
- 'missing link** *n* 1 an item needed to complete a continuous series 2 a supposed intermediate form between man and his anthropoid ancestors
- 'mission** /'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work, usu abroad b assignment to or work in a field of missionary enterprise c a mission establishment d *pl* organized missionary work e a campaign to increase church membership or strengthen Christian faith 2a a group sent to a foreign country to negotiate, advise, etc b a permanent embassy or legation 3 a specific task with which a person or group is charged 4a a definite military, naval, or aerospace task (<a bombing ~>) (<a space ~>) b a flight operation of an aircraft or spacecraft in the performance of a mission (<a ~ to Mars>) 5a calling, vocation [NL, ML, & L; NL *missio*, *missio* religious mission, fr ML, task assigned, fr L, act of sending, fr *missus*, pp of *mittere*]
- 'missionary** /'mɪʃən(ə)n/ *adj* 1 relating to, engaged in, or devoted to missions 2 characteristic of a missionary
- 'missionary** *n* a person undertaking a mission; esp one in charge of a religious mission in some remote part of the world
- 'missionary position** *n* a position for sexual intercourse in which the woman lies on her back with the man above and facing her, regarded as the conventional position [fr its being reputedly advocated as the proper position by missionaries to primitive peoples]

**missioner** /'mɪʃənə/ *n* a person engaged in parochial missionary work

**missive** /'mɪsɪv/ *n* a written communication, a letter – *fml* [MF *lettre missive*, *lit.*, letter intended to be sent]

**misspell** /'mɪs'pel/ *vt* **misspelt**, *Nam chiefly misspelled* to spell incorrectly

**misspend** /-'spend/ *vt* **misspent** /-'spent/ to spend wrongly or foolishly, squander <regretted his misspent youth>

**misstate** /-stə'teɪt/ *vt* to state incorrectly, give a false account of – *misstatement* *n*

**misstep** /-'step/ *n* 1 a wrong step 2 a blunder

**missus**, **missis** /'mɪsɪz/ *n* 1 a wife – *infml* or humor <have you met the ~?> 2 *chiefly Br* – used to address a married woman, *infml* [alter of *mistress*]

**missy** /'mɪsi/ *n* a young girl; *miss* – *infml*

**'mist** /'mɪst/ *n* 1 water in the form of diffuse particles in the atmosphere, esp near the earth's surface 2 sthg that dims or obscures <the ~s of time> 3 a film, esp of tears, before the eyes 4a a cloud of small particles suggestive of a mist b a suspension of a finely divided liquid in a gas [ME, fr OE, akin to MD *mist* mist, Gk *omichle*]

**'mist** *vi* to be or become misty ~ *vt* to cover (as if) with mist

**'mistake** /'mɪstə'k/ *vt* **mistook** /'mɪst'uk/, **mistaken** /'mɪstə'kən/ 1 to choose wrongly <mistook her way in the dark> 2a to misunderstand the meaning, intention, or significance of b to estimate wrongly 3 to identify wrongly, confuse with another <I mistook him for his brother> [ME *mistaken*, fr ON *mistaka* to take by mistake, fr *mis-* 'mis-' + *taka* to take – more at *TAKF*]

**'mistake** *n* 1 a misunderstanding of the meaning or significance of sthg 2 a wrong action or statement arising from faulty judgment, inadequate knowledge, or carelessness

**mistaken** /'mɪstə'kən/ *adj* 1 of a person wrong in opinion <if you think he's honest, you're ~> 2 of an action, idea, etc based on wrong thinking, incorrect <trusted him in the ~ belief that he was honest> – *mistakenly* *adv*

**mister** /'mɪstə/ *n* 1 – used sometimes in writing instead of the usual *Mr* 2 *sr* – used without a name as a generalized *infml* term of direct address of a man who is a stranger 3 a man not entitled to a title of rank or an honorific or professional title [alter. of *'master*]

**mistime** /'mɪstɪəm/ *vt* to time badly

**'mistle**, **thrush**, **missel thrush** /'mɪsl/ *n* a large Eurasian thrush with larger spots on its underparts than the song thrush [obs *mistle*, *missel* (mistletoe), fr ME *mistel*, fr OE, fr its feeding on mistletoe berries]

**mistletoe** /'mɪsl'təʊ/ *n* a European shrub that grows as a parasite on the branches of trees and has thick leaves and waxy white glutinous berries [ME *mistilto* basil, fr OE *misteltan*, fr *mistel* mistletoe, basil + *tān* twig, akin to OHG & OS *mistl* mistletoe, OHG *zein* twig]

**mistral** /'mɪstrəl, 'mɪstrahl (fr *mistral*)/ *n* a strong cold dry northerly wind of S France [F, fr Prov, fr *mistral* masterful, fr L *magistralis* – more at *MAGISTRAL*]

**mistreat** /'mɪst'reɪt/ *vt* to treat badly [ME *mistreten*, prob fr MF *mestraitier*, fr OF, fr *mis-* 'mis-' + *traitier* to treat – more at *TRAIT*] – *mistreatment* *n*

**mistress** /'mɪstrɪs/ *n* 1a a woman in a position of power or authority b the female head of a household 2 a woman who has achieved mastery of a subject or skill 3 sthg personified as female that rules or directs 4 a woman with whom a man has a continuing sexual relationship outside marriage 5 *chiefly Br* a schoolmistress <thoroughly disliked the maths ~> 6 *archaic* a sweetheart 7 – used archaically as a title preceding the name of a woman and now superseded by *Mrs*, *Miss*, and *Ms* [ME *maistresse*, fr MF, fr OF, fem of *maistre* master – more at *MASTER*]

**mistrial** /'mɪst'riəl/ *n* a trial declared void because of some error in the proceedings

**'mist** /'mɪst/ *tr* /'mɪst/ *tr* 1 to have little trust in; be suspicious of 2 to doubt the reliability or effectiveness of – *mistrust* *n*, *mistrusted* *adj*, *mistrustful* *adj*, *mistrustfully* *adv*

**misty** /'mɪsti/ *adj* 1 obscured by mist 2 not clear to the mind or understanding; indistinct – *mistily* *adv*, *mistiness* *n*

**misunderstand** /'mɪsʊndə'stænd/ *vt* 1 to fail to understand 2 to interpret incorrectly

**'misunderstanding** /-'stændɪŋ/ *n* 1 a failure to understand; a misinterpretation 2 a disagreement, dispute

**'misusage** /-'yoʊsɪʒ/ *n* 1 bad treatment; abuse 2 wrong or improper use (e.g. of words) [MF *mesusage*, fr *mis-* + *usage*]

**'misuse** /-'yoʊz/ *vt* 1 to put to wrong or improper use 2 to abuse or

maltreat [ME *misusen*, partly fr *mis-* + *usen* to use; partly fr MF *mesuser* to abuse, fr OF, fr *mis-* + *user* to use] – *misuse* /'mɪs'yooʊs/ *n*

**mite** /'mɪt/ *n* 1 any of numerous (extremely) small arachnids that often infest animals, plants, and stored foods 2 a small coin or sum of money <a widow's ~> 3 a very small object or creature; esp a small child [ME, fr OE *mite*, akin to MD *mite* mite, small copper coin, OHG *meizan* to cut, OE *gemad* silly, (2) ME, fr MF, small Flemish copper coin, fr MD] – a mite to a small extent – *infml*

**Mithras** /'mɪθrəs/ *n* an ancient Persian god whose cult flourished in the late Roman empire and had as its central ceremony the sacrifice of a bull [L, fr Gk, fr OPER *Mithra*] – *Mithraic* /'mɪθraɪk/ *adj*, *Mithraist* *n*, *Mithraism* /'mɪθrəɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**mithridate** /'mɪθrɪdaɪt/ *n* a sweetened medicinal preparation formerly held to be a universal antidote to poison [ML *mithridatum*, fr LL *mithridatum*, fr I., dogtooth violet (used as an antidote), fr Gk *mithridation*, fr *Mithridatēs* Mithridates VI ʔ63 BC King of Pontus, who reputedly inured himself to poisons]

**mitigate** /'mɪtɪgaɪt/ *vt* 1 to cause to become less harsh or hostile 2a to make less severe or painful, alleviate b to extenuate <mitigating circumstances> [ME *mitigaten*, fr L *mitigatus*, pp of *mitigare* to soften, fr *mitis* soft + *-igare* (akin to L *agere* to drive); akin to OIr *mōth* soft – more at *AGENT*] – *mitigatory* /'mɪtɪgaɪtəri, -gət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, *mitigation* /-'gaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*



**mitochondrion** /'mɪtoʊh'kɒndrɪən/ *n*, *pl* **mitochondria** /-dri-ə/ any of several organelles in a cell that are rich in fats, proteins, and enzymes and produce energy through cellular respiration [NL, fr Gk *mitos* thread + *chondrion*, dim of *chondros* grain – more at *GRIND*] – *mitochondrial* *adj*, *mitochondrially* *adv*

**mitosis** /'mɪtoʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **mitoses** /-seɪz/ the formation of 2 new nuclei from an original nucleus, each having the same number of chromosomes as the original nucleus, during cell division; also cell division in which this occurs – compare *MEIOSIS* [NL, fr Gk *mitos* thread] – *mitotic* /'mɪtə'tɪk/ *adj*

**mitrailleuse** /'meɪtri'euhz/ *n* a machine gun (with several barrels) [F]

**mitral** /'mɪtrəl/ *adj* relating to, being, or adjoining a bicuspid valve ['MITRE + -AL]

**'mitral valve** *n* BICUSPID VALVE

**'mitre**, *NAm chiefly miter* /'mɪtə/ *n* 1 a tall pointed divided headdress with 2 bands hanging down at the back worn by bishops and abbots on ceremonial occasions  *GARMENT* 2 *MITRE JOINT* 3 a seam joining 2 pairs of a sail whose fabric runs in different directions  *SHIP* [ME *mitre* { fr MF, fr OF, fr L *mitra* headband, turban, fr Gk, akin to Skt *mitra* friend]

**'mitre**, *NAm chiefly miter* *vt* 1 to bevel the ends of to make a mitre joint 2 to match or fit together in a mitre joint

**'mitre**, *box* *n* a device for guiding a handsaw at the proper angle in making a mitre joint in wood

**'mitre**, *gear* *n* either of a pair of bevel gears with axes at right angles

**'mitre**, *joint* *n* a joint made by cutting the ends of 2 pieces of wood at an oblique angle so that they form a right angle when fitted together

**mitt** /'mɪt/ *n* 1a a glove that leaves the (ends of the) fingers uncovered b *MITTEN* 1 c a baseball catcher's protective glove made in the style of a mitten 2 a hand or paw, *specif* a person's hand – *infml* [short for *mitten*]

**mitten** /'mɪt(ə)n/ *n* 1 a glove that is divided into one part covering the fingers and another part covering the thumb 2 *MITT* 1a [ME *mitain*, fr MF *mitaine* fr OF, fr *mite* mitten]



**mitzvah** /'mɪtsvəh/ *n*, *pl* **mitzvot** /'mɪtsvoht, -voht, -vohs/, **mitzvahs** 1 a commandment of the Jewish law 2 a charitable act considered in Judaism to be specially praiseworthy [Heb *miswah*]

**'mix** /'mɪks/ *vt* 1a(1) to combine or blend into a mass (2) to combine with another – often + *in* <prepare the soup and ~ in the herbs> b to bring into close association <~ business with pleasure> 2 to prepare by mixing different components or ingredients <~ a drink> 3 to control the balance of (various sounds), esp during the recording of a film, broadcast, record, etc ~ *vi* 1a to become mixed b to be capable of mixing 2 to seek or enjoy the society of others 3 to crossbreed 4 to become actively involved <decided not to ~ in politics> [ME *mixen*, back-formation fr *mixte* mixed, fr MF, fr L *mixtus*, pp of *miscere* to mix, akin to Gk *mignynai* to mix] – *mix* it to fight, brawl – *infml*

**'mix** *n* 1 an act or process of mixing 2 a product of mixing; *specif* a commercially prepared mixture of food ingredients 3 a combination <the right ~ of jobs, people, and amenities – The Times> 4 a combination in

- definite proportions of 2 or more recordings (e.g. of a singer and an accompaniment)
- mixed** /mɪksɪ/ *adj* 1 combining diverse elements 2 made up of or involving people of different races, national origins, religions, classes, or sexes 3 including or accompanied by conflicting or dissimilar elements <~ feelings> 4 deriving from 2 or more races or breeds <a person of ~ blood> [ME *mixte*]
- mixed 'bag** *n* a miscellaneous collection, an assortment
- mixed economy** *n* an economic system in which free enterprise and nationalized industries coexist
- mixed farming** *n* the growing of food crops and the rearing of livestock on the same farm
- mixed 'grill** *n* a dish of several meats and vegetables grilled together
- mixed metaphor** *n* a combination of incongruous metaphors (e.g. in *iron out bottlenecks*)
- mixed 'number** *n* a number (e.g. 5½) composed of an integer and a fraction
- mixed-up** *adj* marked by perplexity, uncertainty, or disorder; confused – *infrm*
- mixer** /mɪksə/ *n* 1a a set of adjustable electrical resistances or attenuators used to combine signals, esp sound signals, from a number of sources in variable proportions for recording, broadcasting, etc. *also* one who operates such a device *b* a container, device, or machine for mixing sth (e.g. food or concrete) 2a a person considered with respect to his/her sociability <was shy and a poor ~> *b* a nonalcoholic beverage intended to be drunk mixed with spirits ['MIX + -ER]
- mixture** /mɪksʃə/ *n* 1a mixing or being mixed *b* the relative proportions of constituents; *specif* the proportion of fuel to air produced in a carburettor 2a (a portion of) matter consisting of 2 or more components in varying proportions that retain their own properties *b* a fabric woven of different coloured threads *c* a combination of several different kinds, a blend [MF, fr OF *mixture*, fr L *mixtura*, fr *mixtus*]
- 'mix-up** *n* a state or instance of confusion
- mix up** *vt* 1 to make untidy or disordered 2 to mistake or confuse <it's easy to mix her up with her sister>
- mizzen, mizen** /mɪz(ə)n/ *n* (the principal fore-and-aft sail set on) a mizzenmast  SHIP [ME *meson*, fr MF *misaine*, prob deriv of Ar *mazzān* mast]
- 'mizzenmast** /ˈmɪznəst/ *n* the mast behind the mainmast in a sailing vessel  SHIP
- mizzle** /mɪzl/ *vi* mizzling /mɪzɪŋ/ to drizzle [ME *misellen*, akin to Flem *mizzelen* to drizzle, MD *mist* fog, mist] – *mizzle n*, *mizzly adj*
- 'mnemonic** /nɪˈmɒnɪk, nee-/ *adj* 1 assisting or intended to assist the memory 2 of memory [Gk *mnēmonikos*, fr *mnēmōn* mindful, fr *mimnēskesthai* to remember – more at MIND] – *mnemonically adv*
- mnemonic** *n* a mnemonic device or code
- mnemonics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* the art of improving the memory
- mo, mo'** /moh-/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a very short space of time, a moment – *infrm*; often in *half a mo* [short for *moment*]
- moa** /moh-/ *n* a very large extinct flightless bird of New Zealand [Maori]
- 'moan** /mohn/ *n* 1 a complaint <the unflagging stream of ~s and queries – *Honey Magazine*> 2 a low prolonged sound of pain or grief [ME *mone*, fr (assumed) OE *man*]
- moan** *vi* 1 to lament 2 to utter with moans ~ *vi* 1 to produce (a sound like) a moan 2 to complain, grumble <always ~ing on about something> – *moaner n*
- 'moat** /moht/ *n* a deep wide trench round a castle, fortified home, etc that is usu filled with water  CHURCH [ME *mote*, prob fr MF *motte* bank, mound, fr OF *mote*]
- moat** *vi* to surround (as if) with a moat <a ~ed grange>
- 'mob** /mob/ *n* 1 the masses, populace 2 a disorderly notorious crowd 3 a criminal gang 4 chiefly *Austr* a flock, drove, or herd of animals 5 *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, chiefly *Br* a crowd, bunch – *infrm* [short for earlier *mobile*, fr L *mobile* vulgar fickle crowd] – *mobbish adj*, *mobocracy n*
- 'mob** *vi* -bb- 1 to attack in a large crowd or group 2 to crowd round, esp out of curiosity or admiration
- 'mob cap** *n* a woman's full soft cap with a frill round the edge [*mob* (woman's cap; perh modif of obs *D mop*) + *cap*]
- 'mobile** /mohbiəl/ *adj* 1 capable of moving or being moved 2 changing quickly in expression or mood 3 (capable of) undergoing movement into a different social class 4 marked by movement <~ warfare> [MF, fr L *mobilis*, fr *movēre* to move] – *mobility* /mohˈbɪləti, mə-/ *n*
- 'mobile** *n* a structure (e.g. of cardboard or metal) with usu suspended parts that are moved in different planes by air currents or machinery
- mobilize, -ise** /mohbɪlaɪz/ *vt* 1a to put into movement or circulation *b* to release (sth stored in the body) for use in an organism 2a to assemble and make ready (e.g. troops) for active service *b* to marshal (e.g. resources) for action ~ *vi* to undergo mobilization – *mobilization* /ˈzaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- Möbius strip** /muhbiːs/ *n* a one-sided surface that is constructed from a rectangle by holding one end fixed, rotating the opposite end through 180°, and joining it to the first end [August Möbius †1868 G mathematician]
- mobster** /ˈmɒbstə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a member of a criminal gang
- moccasin** /ˈmɒkəsɪn/ *n* a soft leather heelless shoe with the sole brought up the sides of the foot and joined to the upper by a puckered seam  GARMENT [of Algonquian origin, akin to Natick *mokkussin* shoe]
- mocha** /ˈmɒkə, ˈmɒhka/ *n* 1 a coffee of superior quality, specif grown in Arabia 2 a flavouring obtained from a (mixture of cocoa or chocolate with a) strong coffee infusion [Mocha, town in Arabia]
- 'mock** /mok/ *vt* 1 to treat with contempt or ridicule 2 to disappoint the hopes of 3 to mimic in fun or derision ~ *vi* to jeer, scoff [ME *mocken*, fr MF *moquer*, fr OF *moquer*] – *mock* *n*, *mockingly adv*
- 'mock** *n* a school examination used as a rehearsal for an official one
- 'mock** *adj* (having the character) of an imitation or simulation <~ cream> <a ~ battle>
- 'mock** *adv* in an insincere or pretended manner – usu in combination <mock-serious>
- 'mockery** /ˈmɒkəri/ *n* 1 jeering or contemptuous behaviour or words 2 an object of laughter or derision 3 a deceitful or contemptible imitation, a travesty 4 sth insultingly or ridiculously inappropriate
- mockingbird** /ˈmɒkɪŋˌbɜːd/ *n* a common bird of esp the southern USA that imitates the calls of other birds
- 'mock 'orange** *n* an ornamental shrub of the hydrangea family with showy aromatic white flowers
- mock turtle soup** *n* a soup made from a calf's head in imitation of green turtle soup
- 'mock-up** *n* a full-sized structural model built accurately to scale
- 'mod** /mod/ *n* a Gaelic competitive festival of the arts, esp singing and recitation, held in Scotland [ScGael *mòd*, fr ON *mot* meeting, akin to OF *mot* assembly – more at *MOD*]
- 'mod** *n*, often *cap* a member of a group of young people in Britain, esp in the 1960s, noted for their neat and distinctive style of dress – compare *ROCKER* 3 [short for *modern*] – *mod adj*, often *cap*
- modal** /ˈmɒdl/ *adj* 1 of modality in logic 2 of or being (in) a mode (e.g. in music), specif being in one of the church modes rather than a major or minor key 3 of general form or structure as opposed to particular substance or content 4 of or being a form or category indicating grammatical mood [ML *modalis*, fr L *modus*] – *modally adv*
- modal auxiliary** *n* an auxiliary verb (e.g. *can*, *must*, *may*) expressing a distinction of mood
- modality** /mohˈdæləti/ *n* 1 a modal quality or attribute, a form 2 the classification of logical propositions according to the possibility, impossibility, contingency, or necessity of their content 3 a procedure (e.g. massage) or apparatus used in (physical) therapy 4 'MOOD [MODAL + -ITY]
- mod con** /ˈmod ˈkon/ *n*, *Br* a modern convenience, esp a household fitting or device designed to increase comfort or save time – *infrm*; often in *all mod cons*
- 'mode** /mohd/ *n* 1a an arrangement of the 8 diatonic musical notes of an octave in any of several fixed schemes which use different patterns of whole tones and semitones between successive notes *b* a rhythmical scheme, esp in 13th and 14th-c music 2 'MOOD 3 MODALITY 2 4a a particular form or variety of sth *b* a form or manner of expression, a style 5 a way of doing or carrying out sth 6 a particular functional arrangement or condition <a spacecraft in orbiting ~> 7 the most frequently occurring value in a set of data  STATISTICS 8 any of various stationary vibration patterns of which an elastic body or oscillatory system is capable <the vibration ~s of a propeller blade> [ME *moede*, fr L *modus* measure, manner, musical mode – more at *METE*; (3) LL *modus*, fr L]
- 'mode** *n* a prevailing fashion or style (e.g. of dress or behaviour) – *fml* [F, fr L *modus*]
- 'model** /ˈmɒdl/ *n* 1 structural design <built his home on the ~ of an old farmhouse> 2 a replica of sth in relief or 3 dimensions; *also* a representation of sth to be constructed 3 an example worthy of imitation or emulation <this essay is a ~ of clarity> 4 sby or sth that serves as a pattern for an artist; esp one who poses for an artist 5 one who is



- employed to wear merchandise, esp clothing, in order to display it < a fashion ~ > 6 a type or design of an article or product (e.g. a garment or car) 7 a (simplified) description or analogy used to help visualize sthg (e.g. an atom) that cannot be directly observed 8 a system of postulates, data, and inferences presented as a mathematical description of an entity or state of affairs 9 a prostitute – euph [MF *modelle*, fr OIt *modello*, fr (assumed) VL *modellus*, fr L *modulus* small measure, fr *modus*]
- model** *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /ˈmɒd-ɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to plan or form after a pattern 2 to shape in a mouldable material; *broadly* to produce a representation or simulation of <using a computer to ~ a problem> 3 to construct or fashion in imitation of a particular model 4 to display, esp by wearing <~ led hats for a living> ~ *vi* 1 to design or imitate forms 2 to work or act as a fashion model – **modeller** *n*
- model** *adj* 1 (worthy of) being a pattern for others <a ~ student> 2 being a miniature representation of sthg <a ~ aeroplane>
- modern** /ˈmɒdəm/ *n* an electronic device that converts data from a form understandable by a computer into a form that can be transmitted via a telephone line, radio signal, etc and that reconverts data so received (e.g. to allow communication between distant computers) [*modulator* + *demodulator*]
- moderate** /ˈmɒd(ə)rət/ *adj* 1a avoiding extremes of behaviour or expression b not violent, temperate 2a being (somewhat less than) average in quality, amount, or degree b (done or kept) within reasonable limits <~ wage demands> [ME, fr L *moderatus*, fr pp of *moderare* to moderate, akin to L *modus* measure] – **moderately** *adv*, **moderateness** *n*
- moderate** /ˈmɒdəraɪt/ *vt* 1 to lessen the intensity or extremeness of 2 to preside over ~ *vi* 1 to act as a moderator 2 to decrease in violence, severity, intensity, or volume – **moderation** /ˈræʃən/ *n*
- moderate** /ˈmɒd(ə)rət/ *n* one who holds moderate views or favours a moderate course [*moderate*]
- moderate breeze** *n* wind having a speed of 20 to 28 km/h (13 to 18 mph)
- moderate gale** *n* wind having a speed of 50 to 61 km/h (32 to 38 mph)
- Moderations** /ˈmɒdəˈreɪʃən/ *n pl* the first honours examination at Oxford in some subjects [*moderator* (university official presiding over examinations)]
- moderato** /ˈmɒdəˈraɪto/ *adv* or *adj* in a moderate tempo – used in music [It, fr L *moderatus*]
- moderator** /ˈmɒdəraɪtə/ *n* 1 a mediator 2 the presiding officer of a Presbyterian governing body 3 a substance (e.g. graphite) used for slowing down neutrons in a nuclear reactor – **moderatorship** *n*
- modern** /ˈmɒd(ə)n/ *adj* 1a (characteristic) of a period extending from a particular point in the past to the present time b (characteristic) of the present or the immediate past, contemporary 2 involving recent techniques, styles, or ideas 3 *cap* constituting the present or most recent period of a language [LL *modernus*, fr L *modo* just now, fr *modus* measure – more at MEFE] – **modernness**, **modernity** /mɒˈdʊnəti, mɒ-/ *n*
- Modern English** *n* English since the late 15th c  **LANGUAGE**
- modernism** /ˈmɒdənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a practice, usage, or expression characteristic of modern times 2 *often cap* a tendency in theology to adapt traditional doctrine to contemporary thought by minimizing the role of the supernatural 3 the theory and practices of modern art, esp a search for new forms of expression involving a deliberate break with the past – **modernist** *n* or *adj*, **modernistic** /ˈnɪstɪk/ *adj*
- modernize, -ise** /ˈmɒdənaɪz/ *vi* to adapt to modern needs, style, or standards ~ *vi* to adopt modern views, habits, or techniques – **modernization** /ˈzæɪʃən/ *n*
- modern languages** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* contemporary foreign languages as a subject of academic study
- modern maths** /ˈmæθs/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* mathematics that is based on set theory, esp as taught in primary and secondary schools
- modern pentathlon** *n* a contest in which all contestants compete in a 300-m freestyle swimming race, a 4000-m cross-country run, a 5000-m 30-jump equestrian steeplechase, épée fencing, and target shooting at 25m
- modest** /ˈmɒdɪst/ *adj* 1 having a moderate estimate of one's abilities or worth; not boastful or self-assertive 2 (characteristic) of a modest nature 3 carefully observant of proprieties of dress and behaviour 4 small or limited in size, amount, or aim [L *modestus* moderate; akin to L *modus* measure] – **modestly** *adv*, **modesty** *n*
- modicum** /ˈmɒdɪkəm/ *n* a small or limited amount [ME, fr L, neut of *modicus* moderate, fr *modus* measure]
- modification** /ˌmɒdɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* 1 the limiting of a statement 2 the making of a limited change to sthg
- modifier** /ˈmɒdɪfɪə/ *n* a word or word group that modifies another [MODIFY + -ER]
- modify** /ˈmɒdɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to make less extreme 2 to limit in meaning, qualify 3a to make minor changes in b to make basic changes in, often for a specific purpose ~ *vi* to undergo change [ME *modifien*, fr MF *modifier*, fr L *modificare* to measure, moderate, fr *modus*] – **modifiable** *adj*
- modish** /ˈmɒdɪʃ/ *adj* fashionable, stylish – **modishly** *adv*, **modishness** *n*
- Modes** /ˈmɒd/ *n pl* Moderations – *infml*
- modular** /ˈmɒdyʊlə/ *adj* of or based on a module or modulus – **modularly** *adv*, **modularity** /ˈlærəti/ *n*
- modular arithmetic** *n* arithmetic that deals with whole numbers that have been replaced by the remainders left after division by a fixed number <in a ~ with modulus 5, 3 multiplied by 4 would be 2>
- modulate** /ˈmɒdyʊleɪt/ *vt* 1 to vary in tone, make tuneful <~ one's voice> 2 to adjust to or keep in proper measure or proportion 3 to vary the amplitude, frequency, or phase of (a carrier wave or signal) by combining with a wave of a different frequency, so as to transmit a radio, television, etc signal ~ *vi* to pass by regular chord or melodic progression from one musical key or tonality into another [L *modulatus*, pp of *modulari* to play, sing, fr *modulus* small measure, rhythm, dim of *modus* measure – more at MEFE] – **modulator** *n*, **modulatory** /ˈmɒdyʊlət(ə)r/ *adj*, **modulation** /ˈləʃən/ *n*
- module** /ˈmɒdyʊəl/ *n* 1 a standard or unit of measure, esp one by which the proportions of an architectural composition are regulated 2 a standardized or independent unit used in construction (e.g. of buildings, electronic systems, or spacecraft)  **SPACE** [L *modulus*]
- modulo** /ˈmɒdyʊələ/ *prep* with respect to a modulus of <19 and 54 give the same value ~ 7> [NL, abl of *modulus*]
- modulus** /ˈmɒdyʊələs/ *n, pl moduli* /-li/ 1 a constant or coefficient that expresses the degree in which a property is possessed by a substance or body 2a the positive square root of the sum of the positive values of the squares of the real and imaginary parts of a complex number b a number that is used to divide another number in order to find out the remainder (e.g. in modular arithmetic) c the factor by which a logarithm of a number to one base is multiplied to obtain the logarithm of the number to a new base [NL, fr L, small measure]
- modus operandi** /ˈmɒdəs ɒpəˈrændi/ *n, pl modi operandi* /ˈmɒdi/ a method or procedure [NL]
- modus vivendi** /ˈviːvendi/ *n, pl modi vivendi* 1 a practical compromise, esp between opposed or quarrelling parties 2 a manner of living; a way of life [NL, manner of living]
- mofette, moffette** /mɒfˈet (Fr mɒfɛt)/ *n* a vent in the earth from which carbon dioxide and some nitrogen and oxygen escape [F *mofette* gaseous exhalation]
- Mogadon** /ˈmɒɡəˌdɒn/ *trademark* – used for nitrazepam
- moggie, mogy** /ˈmɒɡi/ *n, Br CAT* 1a – *infml* [prob fr *Mog*, nickname for *Margaret*]
- mogul** /ˈmɒɡ(ə)l/ *n* 1 *Mogul, Moghul* a member of a Muslim dynasty of Turkish and Mongolian origin ruling India from the 16th to the 18th c 2 a great or prominent (business) person [Per *Mughul*, fr Mongolian *Mongol*]
- mohair** /ˈmɒh,heɪ/ *n* a fabric or yarn made (partly) from the long silky hair of the Angora goat – compare **ANGORA** 2 [modif of obs It *mocaiarro*, fr Ar *mukhayyar*, lit., choice]
- Mohammedan** /mɒˈhæmɪd(ə)n/ *adj* Muhammadan
- Mohawk** /ˈmɒh,hawk/ *n, pl Mohawks*, esp collectively **Mohawk** 1 (the language of) a member of a N American Indian people of the Mohawk river valley in New York State 2 *often not cap* a turn in ice-skating from an edge of one foot to the same edge of the other foot in the opposite direction – compare **CHOCTAW** [of Algonquian origin; akin to Narraganset *Mohowaiuck*]
- Mohican** /mɒhˈiːkən, mɒ-/ *n, pl Mohicans*, esp collectively **Mohican** (the language of) a member of a N American Indian people of the upper Hudson river valley
- Moho** /ˈmɒh,hoh/ *n* the point of transition between the earth's crust and mantle [short for *Mohorovicic discontinuity*, fr Andrija *Mohorovicic* †1936 Yugoslav geologist]
- Mohock** /ˈmɒh,hok/ *n* a member of a gang of aristocratic ruffians who molested people in London streets in the 18th c [alter. of *Mohawk*]
- Mohorovicic discontinuity** /ˌmɒh-ˈhəʊrəvɪtʃɪk/ *n* the Moho

**'Mohs' scale** /mohz/ *n* a scale of hardness for minerals [Friedrich Mohs †1839 G mineralogist]  
**moladore** /moydaw/ *n* a former Portuguese gold coin [modif of Pg *moeda de ouro*, lit. coin of gold]  
**moiety** /moyati/ *n* 1 either of 2 (approximately) equal parts 2 any of the portions into which sthg is divided [ME *moite*, fr MF *moité*, fr LL *mediat*, *medietas*, fr L *medius* middle – more at MID]  
**moiré** /mwahray (Fr mware)/, **moire** /mwahray; also mwah/ *n* an irregular wavy sheen on a fabric or metal [F *moire*, fr *moiré* like watered mohair, fr E *mohair*] – **moiré** *adj*  
**moist** /moyst/ *adj* 1 slightly wet; damp 2 highly humid [ME *moiste*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *muscidus*, alter. of L *mucidus* slimy, fr *mucus*] – **moistly** *adv*, **moistness** *n*, **moisten** /moysn/ *vb*  
**moisture** /moyscha/ *n* liquid diffused, condensed, or absorbed in relatively small amounts [ME, modif of MF *moistour*, fr *moiste*]  
**moisturize, -ise** /moyscha,riez/ *vt* to add or restore moisture to (e.g. the skin) – **moisturizer** *n*  
**moke** /mohk/ *n* 1 Br a donkey 2 Austr a horse, esp of poor appearance **USE** slang [origin unknown]  
**mol** /mohl/ *n* MOLE  
**molal** /mohal/ *adj* of or containing 1 gram molecule (of solute) in 1 kg of solvent – not now used technically [*'mole*] – **molality** /moh-laliti/ *n*  
**'molar** /mohla/ *n* a grinding tooth with a rounded or flattened surface, *specif* one lying behind the incisors and canines of a mammal → DIGESTION [L *molars*, fr *molaris* of a mill, fr *mola* millstone – more at MILL]  
**\*molar** *adj* of or located near the molar teeth  
**\*molar** *adj* 1 of a mass of matter as distinguished from the properties of individual molecules or atoms 2 of or containing 1 gram molecule (of solute) in 1 litre of solution (< a ~ solution>) [(1) L *moles* mass – more at MOLE; (2) *'mole*] – **molarity** /moh'lariti/ *n*  
**molasses** /moh'lasiz/ *n* the darkest most viscous syrup remaining after all sugar that can be separated by crystallization has been removed during the refining of raw sugar [Pg *melaço*, fr LL *mellaceum* grape juice, fr L *meli*, *mel* honey – more at MELLIFLUOUS]  
**mold** /mohld/ *vt* or *n*, **NAM** (to) mould  
**'mole** /mohl/ *n* a pigmented spot, mark, or lump on the human body, *esp* a naevus [ME, fr OE *mal*; akin to OHG *meil* spot]  
**\*mole** *n* 1 any of numerous small burrowing insect-eating mammals with minute eyes, concealed ears, and soft fur → GOOD 2 one who works, subversively within an organization, esp to secretly further the interests of a rival organization or government [ME, akin to MLG *mol*]  
**\*mole** *n* (a harbour formed by) a massive work of masonry, large stones, etc laid in the sea as a pier or breakwater [MF, fr OIt *molo*, fr LGk *mólos*, fr L *moles*, lit. mass, exertion; akin to OHG *muodi* weary, Gk *molos* exertion]  
**'mole** *n* an abnormal mass in the womb, esp when containing foetal tissues [F *môle*, fr L *mola* mole, lit. mill, millstone – more at MILL]  
**\*mole** also **mol** /mohl/ *n* the basic SI unit of substance; the amount of substance that contains the same number of atoms, molecules, ions, etc as there are atoms in 0.012 kg of carbon-12 → PHYSICS [G *mol*, short for *molekulargewicht* molecular weight, fr *molekular* molecular + *gewicht* weight]  
**'mole cricket** /mohl/ *n* any of several large crickets whose front legs are extensively developed for use in digging  
**molecular** /moh'lekyaol/ *adj* of, produced by, or consisting of molecules (< ~ oxygen>) – **molecularly** *adv*, **molecularity** /-lariti/ *n*  
**molecular biology** *n* the study of the basic molecular organization and functioning of living matter  
**molecular weight** *n* the sum of the atomic weights of the constituent atoms of a molecule  
**molecule** /moh'kyoohl/ *n* the smallest particle of a substance that retains its characteristic properties, consisting of 1 or more atoms [F *molécule*, fr NL *molecula*, dim. of L *moles* mass]  
**'mole drain** *n* a drainage channel just below the surface used esp for draining heavy soils on farms  
**'molehill** /-hil/ *n* a mound of earth thrown up by a burrowing mole  
**molest** /moh'lest/ *vt* to annoy, disturb, or attack; *specif* to annoy or attack (esp a child or woman) sexually [ME *molesten*, fr MF *molester*, fr L *molestare*, fr *molestus* burdensome, annoying, fr *moles* mass] – **molester** *n*, **molestation** /moh'lestaysh(ə)n, moh-/ *n*  
**moll** /moh/ *n* 1 a prostitute 2 a gangster's girlfriend **USE** infml [prob fr *Moll*, nickname for Mary]  
**mollie** also **molly** /mohi/ *n* any of a genus of brightly coloured topmin-

nnows often kept in aquariums [short for NL *Mollienisia*, genus name, fr François Mollien †1850 F statesman]  
**mollify** /moh'lie/ *vt* 1 to lessen the anger or hostility of 2 to reduce in intensity [ME *mollifien*, fr MF *mollifier*, fr LL *mollificare*, fr L *mollis* soft – more at 'MELT] – **mollification** /-fikaysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**mollusc**, **NAM** chiefly **mollusk** /moh'losk/ *n* any of a large phylum of invertebrate animals with soft bodies not divided into segments and usu enclosed in a shell, including the snails, shellfish, octopuses, and squids [F *mollusque*, fr NL *Mollusca*, phylum name, fr L, neut pl of *molluscus* soft, fr *mollis*] – **molluscan** /moh'luskən/ *adj*  
**mollycoddle** /moh'kodl/ *vt* **mollycoddling** /moh'kodling, -kodl-ing/ to treat with excessive indulgence and attention [*Molly*, nickname for Mary]  
**Molotov 'cocktail** /moh'lotof/ *n* a crude hand grenade made from a bottle filled with petrol or other inflammable liquid with usu a saturated rag for a wick [Vyacheslav M Molotov b 1890 Russ statesman]  
**molt** /mohlt/ *vb* or *n*, **NAM** (to) moult  
**molten** /mohlt(ə)n/ *adj* melted by heat [ME, fr pp of *melten* to melt]  
**molto** /moh'toh/ *adv* much, very – used in music (< ~ *sostenuto*>) [It, fr L *multum*, fr neut of *multus* much]  
**molybdenite** /moh'ibd(ə)n,et/ *n* molybdenum disulphide occurring as a blue-grey mineral [NL *molybdena*]  
**molybdenum** /moh'ibd(ə)nəm/ *n* a metallic element resembling chromium and tungsten and used esp in strengthening and hardening steel → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *molybdena*, a lead ore, molybdenite, molybdenum, fr L *molybdaena* galena, fr Gk *molybdaina*, fr *molybdos* lead]  
**mom** /mom/ *n*, **NAM** 'MUM  
**moment** /moh'mənt/ *n* 1 a very brief interval or point of time 2a present time (< at the ~>) b a time of excellence or prominence (< she has her ~>) 3 importance in influence or effect 4 a stage in historical or logical development 5 (a measure of) the tendency of a force to produce turning motion 6 the product of a force and the distance from its line of action to a particular axis [ME, fr MF, fr L *momentum* movement, particle sufficient to turn the scales, moment, fr *movere* to move]  
**momentarily** /moh'mənt(ə)rəli, moh'mən'tərəli/ *adv* 1 for a moment 2 chiefly **NAM** instantly  
**momentary** /moh'mənt(ə)rəli/ *adj* lasting a very short time – **momentariness** *n*  
**moment of inertia** *n* the ratio of the turning force applied to a body free to rotate about a particular axis to the acceleration thus produced  
**moment of truth** *n* 1 the moment of the final sword thrust in a bullfight 2 a moment of crisis on whose outcome everything depends  
**momentous** /moh'məntəs, moh-/ *adj* of great consequence or significance – **momentousness** *n*  
**momentum** /moh'məntəm, moh-/ *n*, **pl** **momenta** /-tə/, **momentums** the product of the mass of a body and its velocity [NL, fr L, movement]  
**momma** /moma, 'mumə/ *u*, **NAM** 'MUM  
**Mon** /mohn/ *n* a member, or the language of, the dominant ethnic group of Burma and Thailand  
**mon-, mono-** *comb form* 1 one; single, alone (< monoplane>) (< monodrama>) (< monophobia>) 2a containing 1 (specified) atom, radical, or group (< monohydrate>) (< monoxide>) b monomolecular (< monolayer>) [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *monos* alone, single – more at MONK]  
**monad** /moh'nad, 'mo-/ *n* 1 a unit; one 2 ATOM 1 [LL *monad*, *monas*, fr Gk, fr *monos*] – **monadism** *n*, **monadic** /moh'nadik/ *adj*  
**monadelphous** /moh'nadelfəs/ *adj*, of stamens united by the filaments into 1 group usu forming a tube around the carpels [*mon-* + *-adelphous* having groups of stamens, deriv of Gk *adelphos* brother]  
**monandrous** /moh'nandras/ *adj* 1 having (flowers with) a single stamen 2 of or based on monandry [(2) Gk *monandros*, fr *mon-* + *-andros* having (so many) men – more at -ANDROUS]  
**monandry** /moh'nandri/ *n* 1 the state or custom of having only 1 husband at a time 2 a monandrous condition of a plant or flower  
**monarch** /monək/ *n* 1 sby who reigns over a kingdom or empire 2 sby or sthg occupying a commanding or preeminent position 3 a large American butterfly with orange-brown wings with black veins and borders → DEFENCE [LL *monarcha*, fr Gk *monarchos*, fr *mon-* + *-archos* -arch] – **monarchal** /moh'nahkl/, **monarchial** /-kiəl/, **monarchic** /-kik/, **monarchical** *adj*  
**monarchism** /moh'nə'kiz(ə)m/ *n* government by or the principles of monarchy – **monarchist** *n* or *adj*, **monarchistic** /-kistik/ *adj*  
**monarchy** /monə'ki/ *n* (a government or state with) undivided rule by a monarch

**monastery** /ˈmɒnəst(ə)r/ *n* a residence occupied by a religious community, esp of monks [ME *monasterie*, fr LL *monasterium*, fr LGk *monastērion*, fr Gk, hermit's cell, fr *monazein* to live alone, fr *monos* single – more at **MONK**]

**monastic** /məˈnastɪk/ *adj* of or being monasteries, monks, or nuns – **monastic** *n*, **monastically** *adv*, **monasticism** /-stɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**monatomic** /məˈnɒtəmɪk/ *adj* 1 consisting of (molecules containing) 1 atom 2 having 1 replaceable atom or radical (< ~ *alcohols*) – **monatomically** *adv*

**monazite** /ˈmɒnəzɪt/ *n* a mineral that is a phosphate of cerium and lanthanum and often contains thorium [G *monazit*, fr Gk *monazein*]

**Monday** /ˈmʌndaɪ/ *n* the day of the week following Sunday ☞ SYMBOL [ME, fr OE *monandæg*, akin to OHG *manatag* Monday, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose components are represented by OE *mona* moon and by OE *dæg* day] – **Mondays** *adv*

**monecious** /məˈneʃəs, mo-/ *adj*, **NAM** monoeceous

**monetarism** /ˈmʌnɪtərɪz(ə)m/ *n* an economic theory that the most effective way of controlling the economy is by controlling only the supply of money – **monetarist** *n* or *adj*

**monetary** /ˈmʌnɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of money or its behaviour in an economy [LL *monetarius* of a mint, of money, fr L *moneta*] – **monetarily** /ˈmʌnɪt(ə)rɪli/ *adv*

**money** /ˈmʌni/ *n*, *pl* **moneys**, **monies** 1 sth generally accepted as a means of payment, esp officially printed, coined, or stamped currency ☞ NATIONALITY 2 (one who has) wealth reckoned in terms of money <she refused to marry ~> 3 a form or denomination of coin or paper money 4 the first, second, and third places in a race on whose result money is betted – usu in *in/out* of the money [ME *moneye*, fr MF *monie*, fr L *moneta* mint, money – more at **MINT**]

**moneybags** /ˈmʌniˌbæɡz/ *n*, *pl* **moneybags** a wealthy person – derog **money box** *n* a container for small personal savings, usu with a slot for the insertion of coins

**money changer** *n* one whose occupation is the exchanging of kinds or denominations of currency

**moneyed**, **monied** /ˈmʌniəd/ *adj* 1 having much money 2 consisting of or derived from money

**moneyer** /ˈmʌni-ə/ *n* a minter [ME, fr OF *monier*, fr LL *monetarius* master of a mint, coiner, fr *monetarius* of a mint]

**money grubber** *n* a person sordidly bent on accumulating money – *infrm* – **money-grubbing** *adj* or *n*

**money lender** /-ˈlɛndə/ *n* one whose business is lending money and charging interest on it

**money maker** *n* a product or enterprise that produces much profit – **money-making** *adj* or *n*

**money spider** *n* a small spider supposed to bring luck to the person on whom it crawls

**money spinner** *n*, chiefly *Br* a money-maker – *infrm* – **money-spinning** *adj* or *n*

**money wort** /-ˈwɜːlt/ *n* ☞ CREEPING JENNY

**monger** /ˈmʌŋɡ-ə/ *n* 1 a trader or dealer <alemonger> 2 one who attempts to stir up or spread sth petty or discreditable <gossipmonger> <warmonger> **USE** use in combination [ME *mongere*, fr OE *mangere*, fr L *mangon-*, *mango*, of Gk origin; akin to Gk *manganon* charm, philtre – more at **MANGONEL**]

**mongo** /ˈmɒŋɡoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **mongo** ☞ Mongolia at **NATIONALITY** [Mongolian]

**Mongol** /ˈmɒŋɡol, ˈmɒŋɡ-əl/ *n* 1 a member of any of the chiefly pastoral peoples of Mongolia 2 **MONGOLIAN** 3 a person of Mongoloid racial stock 4 often *not cap* a sufferer from Down's syndrome [Mongolian *Mongol*] – **Mongol** *adj*

**Mongolian** /ˈmɒŋɡəliən, -li-ən/ *n* 1a **MONGOL** 1, 3 b a native or inhabitant of Mongolia or of the Mongolian People's Republic 2 the language of the Mongol people ☞ ALPHABET, LANGUAGE – **Mongolian** *adj*

**mongolism** /ˈmɒŋɡ-əl, -ɪz(ə)m/ *n* **DOWN'S SYNDROME**

**Mongoloid** /ˈmɒŋɡ-əloɪd/, **Mongolic** /ˈmɒŋɡolɪk/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of or constituting a major racial stock including peoples of N and E Asia, Malaysians, Eskimos, and often American Indians 2 *not cap* of or suffering from Down's syndrome – **Mongoloid** *n*

**mongoose** /ˈmɒŋɡuːs/ *n*, *pl* **mongooses** also **mongeese** /-ˈɡees/ an agile ferret-sized esp Indian mammal that feeds on snakes and rodents and is related to the civets [Hindi *māṅṡ*, fr Prakrit *manguso*]

**mongrel** /ˈmɒŋɡ-rəl, ˈmʌŋɡ-/ *n* a dog or other individual (of unknown ancestry) resulting from the interbreeding of diverse breeds [prob fr ME *mong* mixture, short for *ymong*, fr OE *gemong* crowd – more at **AMONG**]

– **mongrel**, **mongrelly** *adj*, **mongrelize** *vt*, **mongrelization** /-ˈliːˈzaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**monied** /ˈmʌniəd/ *adj* moneyed

**monies** /ˈmʌniːz/ *pl* of **MONEY**

**moniker**, **monicker** /ˈmʌnɪkə/ *n* a name, nickname – slang [origin unknown]

**moniliasis** /ˈmɒniˈliː-ə-sɪs, -mo-/ *n*, *pl* **moniliasis** /-ˈseɪz/ candidiasis, specif thrush [NL, fr *Monilia*, genus of fungi, fr L *monile* necklace]

**moniliform** /ˈmɒnɪliˌfɔːm/ *adj* shaped like a string of beads (< ~ *insect antennae*) [L *monile* necklace – more at **MANE**] – **moniliformly** *adv*

**monism** /ˈmɒnɪz(ə)m, ˈmo-/ *n* 1 a doctrine that a complex entity (e.g. the universe) is basically a single unit 2 a doctrine that asserts the identity of mind and matter [G *monismus*, fr *mon-* + *-ismus* -ism] – **monist** *n*, **monistic** /-ˈnɪstɪk/, **monistical** *adj*

**monitor** /ˈmɒnɪtə/, *fem* **monitress** /ˈmɒnɪtrɪs/ *n* 1a a pupil appointed to help a teacher b sb or sth that monitors or is used in monitoring e.g. (1) a receiver used to view the picture being picked up by a television camera (2) a device for observing a biological condition or function <a heart ~> 2 any of various large tropical Old World lizards closely related to the iguanas 3 a small warship with guns heavy in relation to its size [L, one who warns, overseer, fr *monitus*, pp of *monere* to warn – more at **MIND**, (3) *Monitor*, first ship of the type] – **monitorship** *n*, **monitorial** /ˈmɒnɪˈtɔːrɪ-əl/ *adj*

**monitor** *vi* 1 to keep (a broadcast) under surveillance by means of a receiver, in order to check the quality or fidelity to a frequency or to investigate the content (e.g. for political significance) 2 to observe or inspect, esp for a special purpose 3 to regulate or control the operation of (e.g. a machine or process)

**monitory** /ˈmɒnɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* warning, admonitory – *fml* [L *monitarius*, fr *monitus*]

**monk** /ˈmʌŋk/ *n* a male member of a religious order, living apart from the world under vows of poverty, chastity, etc. [ME, fr OE *munuc*, fr LL *monachus*, fr LGk *monachos*, fr Gk, *adj*, single, fr *monos* single, alone, akin to OHG *mengen* to lack, Gk *manos* sparse] – **monkhood** /-ˈhʊd/ *n*

**monkey** /ˈmʌŋki/ *n* 1 any (small long-tailed) primate mammal with the exception of the human beings and usu also the lemurs and tarsiers ☞ EVOLUTION 2 the falling weight of a pile driver 3a a mischievous child; a scamp b a ludicrous figure, a fool <made a ~ of him> 4 £500 or \$500 – slang **USE** (3) *infrm* [prob of LG origin, akin to *Moneke*, name of an ape, prob of Romance origin; akin to OSp *mona* monkey]

**monkey** *vi* 1 to act in an absurd or mischievous manner 2 **TAMPER** 2 – *usu* – *with* **USE** *infrm*, often + *about* or *around*

**monkey business** *n* mischievous or underhand activity – *infrm*

**monkey jacket** *n* a short fitted uniform jacket reaching to the waist

**monkey nut** *n* **PEANUT** 1

**monkey puzzle** *n* a commonly planted S American evergreen gymnospermous tree with intertwined branches and stiff sharp leaves

**monkey wrench** *n* a large spanner with one fixed and one adjustable jaw

**monkfish** /ˈmʌŋkɪʃ/ *n* any of various flat fishes closely related to the sharks and rays

**monkish** /ˈmʌŋkɪʃ/ *adj* practising strict self-denial, ascetic – often derog [MONK + -ISH]

**monkshood** /ˈmʌŋksˌhʊd/ *n* a very poisonous Eurasian plant often cultivated for its showy spikes of white or purplish flowers

**mono** /ˈmɒnoʊ/ *adj* or *n* monophonic (sound reproduction)

**mono-** – see **MON-**

**monobasic** /ˈmɒnoʊˈbeɪsɪk/ *adj* having only 1 replaceable hydrogen atom in each molecule [ISV]

**monocarpic** /ˈmɒnoʊˈkɑːpɪk/ *adj*, of a plant bearing fruit only once and then dying [prob fr (assumed) NL *monocarpicus*, fr NL *mon-* + *-carpicus* -carpic]

**monochord** /ˈmɒnəˌkɔːd/ *n* an instrument that is used for measuring and demonstrating the mathematical relations of musical notes [ME *monocorde*, fr MF, fr ML *monochordum*, fr Gk *monochordon*, fr *mon-* + *chorde* string – more at **YARN**]

**monochromatic** /ˈmɒnəˌkrəˈmætɪk/ *adj* 1 having or consisting of 1 colour or hue 2 consisting of radiation of a single wavelength [L *monochromatos*, fr Gk *monochromatos*, fr *mon-* + *chromat-*, *chroma* colour – more at **CHROMATIC**] – **monochromatically** *adv*, **monochromaticity** /ˈmɒnəˌkrɒhməˈtɪsɪti/ *n*

**monochrome** /ˈmɒnəˌkrɒhm/ *adj* or *n* (of, using, or being) reproduction or execution in 1 colour, black and white, or shades of grey [ML

- monochroma**, fr L, fem of *monochromos* of one colour, fr Gk *monochromos*, fr *mon-* + *-chromos* (chrome) – **monochromist** /ˌkrɒhmɪst/ *n*, **monochrome** /ˌkrɒhmɪk/ *adj*
- monocle** /ˈmɒnəkl/ *n* an eyeglass for 1 eye [F, fr LL *monoculus* having one eye, fr L *mon-* + *oculus* eye – more at **EYE**] – **monocled** /ˈmɒnək(ə)ld/ *adj*
- monoclinal** /ˌmɒnəˈkliːnəl/ *adj* (relating to strata, a fold, etc) having a single oblique inclination – **monoclinally** *n*
- monocline** /ˌmɒnəˈkliːn/ *n* a monoclinical geological fold
- monoclinic** /ˌmɒnəˈkliːnɪk/ *adj* having or being a system of crystal structure characterized by 3 unequal axes only 2 of which are at right angles to each other [ISV]
- monocoque** /ˌmɒnəˈkɒk/ *n* 1 a type of construction (e.g. of a fuselage) in which the outer skin carries (nearly) all the stresses 2 a type of vehicle construction in which the body is integral with the chassis [F, fr *mon-* + *coque* shell, fr L *coccum* excrescence on a tree, fr Gk *kokkos* berry]
- monocot** /ˌmɒnəˈkɒt/ *n* a monocotyledon
- monocotyledon** /ˌmɒnəˈkɒtɪˈleɪdn/ *n* any of various plants of a group comprising all those with a single cotyledon and usu parallel-veined leaves (e.g. the grasses, orchids, and lilies) → **PLANT** [deriv of NL *mon-* + *cotyledon*] – **monocotyledonous** *adj*
- monocular** /ˌmɒnəˈkʊlə/ *adj* of, involving, affecting, or suitable for use with only 1 eye [LL *monoculus* having one eye] – **monocularly** *adv*
- monoculture** /ˌmɒnəˈkʊltʃə/ *n* the cultivation of a single agricultural product to the exclusion of other uses of the land – **monocultural** /ˌˈkʊltʃərəl/ *adj*
- monocyte** /ˌmɒnəˈsɪt/ *n* a large white blood cell that is present in small numbers in the blood and defends the body by engulfing and digesting invading or unwanted matter – compare **LYMPHOCYTE** → **ANATOMY** [ISV] – **monocytic** /ˌˈsɪtɪk/ *adj*
- monody** /ˌmɒnəˈdi/ *n* 1 an ode sung by 1 voice, esp in a Greek tragedy 2 a poem lamenting sb's death [ML *monodia*, fr Gk *monoidia*, fr *monoidos* singing alone, fr *mon-* + *aidein* to sing – more at **ODE**] – **monodist** *n*, **monodic** /ˌmɒnəˈdɪk/, **monodical** *adj*, **monodically** *adv*
- monoeclous**, *NAm* also **mosaeclous** /ˌmɒˈneʃəs, mo-/ *adj* hermaphroditic; esp having female and male flowers on the same plant – compare **DIOECIOUS** [deriv of Gk *mon-* + *oikos* house – more at **VICINITY**] – **monoeclously** *adv*, **mosaeclism** /ˌmɒˈneɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- monestrous** /ˌmɒˈneɪstrəs, mo-/ *n* experiencing oestrus once each year; having a single annual breeding period
- monofilament** /ˌmɒnəˈfɪləmənt/ *n* a single untwisted synthetic filament (e.g. of nylon)
- monogamy** /ˌmɒnəˈɡæmi/ *n* the state or custom of being married to 1 person at a time [F *monogamie*, fr LL *monogamia*, fr Gk, fr *monogamos* monogamous, fr *mon-* + *gamos* marriage – more at **BIGAMY**] – **monogamist** *n*, **monogamous** *adj*, **monogamously** *adv*, **monogamic** /ˌmɒnəˈɡæmɪk/ *adj*
- monogenesis** /ˌmɒnəˈʒenəsɪs/ *n* unity of origin (e.g. of all languages from an original language) [NL] – **monogenetic** /ˌʒəˈnetɪk/ *adj*, **monogeny** /ˌmɒˈnɒʒəni/ *n*
- monogerm** /ˌmɒnəˈdʒɜm/ *adj* producing or being a fruit that gives rise to a single plant (< a ~ variety of sugar beet > [mon- + *germinate*] – **monogermity** /ˌˈdʒɜməti/ *n*)
- monogram** /ˌmɒnəˈɡræm/ *vt* or *n* (to mark with) a character usu formed of the interwoven initials of a name [n LL *monogramma*, fr Gk *mon-* + *gramma* letter – more at **GRAM**; vb fr n] – **monogrammatic** /ˌgræˈmætɪk/ *adj*
- monograph** /ˌmɒnəˈɡrafi/, -ˌgrafi/ *n* a treatise on a small area of learning – **monographic** /ˌˈɡrafiːk/ *adj*
- monogyny** /ˌmɒˈnɒʒəni/ *n* the state or custom of having only 1 wife at a time [ISV] – **monogynous** *adj*
- monohybrid** /ˌmɒnəˈhɪbrɪd/ *n* or *adj* (an organism, cell, etc) having 2 different versions of 1 gene
- monohydric** /ˌmɒnəˈhɪdrɪk/ *adj* containing 1 atom of acid hydrogen or 1 hydroxyl group in the molecular structure
- monolayer** /ˌmɒnəˈleɪə/ *n* a single continuous layer 1 cell or molecule in thickness
- monolingual** /ˌmɒnəˈlɪŋˌɡwəl/ *adj* knowing or using only 1 language – **monolingual** *n*
- monolith** /ˌmɒnəˈlɪθ/ *n* 1 a single large block of stone, often in the form of an obelisk or column 2 a massive structure 3 an organized whole that acts as a single powerful force [F *monolithe*, fr *monolithe* consisting of a single stone, fr L *monolithus*, fr Gk *monolithos*, fr *mon-* + *lithos* stone]
- monolithic** /ˌmɒnəˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* 1 formed from or produced in or on a single crystal (< a ~ silicon chip > 2 constituting a massive uniform whole (< the ~ totalitarian state > [MONOLITH + -IC] – **monolithically** *adv*
- monologue**, *NAm* also **monolog** /ˌmɒnəˈlɒɡ/ *n* 1 a dramatic or literary soliloquy; also a dramatic sketch performed by 1 speaker 2 a long speech monopolizing conversation [F *monologue*, fr *mon-* + *-logue* (as in *dialogue*)] – **monologist** /ˌmɒnəˈlɒɡɪst/, **monologist** /ˌjɪst-, -ɡɪst/ *n*
- monomania** /ˌmɒnəˈmaɪniə/ *n* obsessional concentration on a single object or idea [NL] – **monomaniac** /ˌˈmaɪniæk/ *n* or *adj*
- monomer** /ˌmɒnəˈmɜː/ *n* a chemical compound that can undergo polymerization, a single unit of a polymer [ISV *mon-* + *-mer* (as in *polymer*)] – **monomeric** /ˌmɒnəˈmɜːrɪk/ *adj*
- monomial** /ˌmɒnəˈmiːəl/ *n* or *adj* (a mathematical expression) consisting of a single term [blend of *mon-* and *-nomial* (as in *binomial*)]
- monomolecular** /ˌmɒnəˈmɒləˈkʊlə/ *adj* (of a layer) only 1 molecule thick (< a ~ film > – **monomolecularly** *adv*
- mononucleosis** /ˌmɒnəˈnyʊʊhkiːlɪsɪs/ *n* INFECTIOUS MONONUCLEOSIS
- mononucleotide** /ˌmɒnəˈnyʊʊhkiːlɪˈtiːd/ *n* a nucleotide, esp as contrasted with a polynucleotide
- monophonic** /ˌmɒnəˈfɒnɪk/ *adj* of or being a system for sound reproduction in which the sound signal is not split into 2 or more different channels between the source and the point of use – **monophonically** *adv*
- monophthong** /ˌmɒnəˈfθɒŋ/ *n* a simple nongliding vowel sound (e.g. /i/ in *bid*) [LGk *monophthongos* single vowel, fr Gk *mon-* + *phthongos* sound] – **monophthongal** /ˌˈfθɒŋˌɡl/ *adj*
- monoplane** /ˌmɒnəˈpleɪn/ *n* an aeroplane with only 1 main pair of wings
- monopole** /ˌmɒnəˈpəʊl/ *n* a radio aerial consisting of a single usu straight radiating element
- monopolist** /ˌmɒnəˈpɒlɪst/ *n* one who has or favours a monopoly – **monopolistic** /ˌˈlɪstɪk/ *adj*
- monopolize**, -ise /ˌmɒnəˈpɒləɪz/ *vt* to get a monopoly of, assume complete possession or control of – **monopolizer** *n*, **monopolization** /ˌˈzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- monopoly** /ˌmɒnəˈpɒli/ *n* 1 (a person or group having) exclusive ownership or control (through legal privilege, command of the supply of a commodity, concerted action, etc) 2 sthg, esp a commodity, controlled by one party [L *monopolium*, fr Gk *monopóleon*, fr *mon-* + *polein* to sell]
- monorail** /ˌmɒnəˈreɪl/ *n* (a vehicle running on) a single rail serving as a track for a wheeled vehicle
- monosaccharide** /ˌmɒnəˈsækəˈrɪd/ *n* a sugar (e.g. glucose) not decomposable to simpler sugars [ISV]
- monosodium glutamate** /ˌmɒnəˈsɒdɪ-əm ˈɡluːtəmaɪt/ *n* a salt of glutamic acid used for seasoning foods
- monosyllable** /ˌmɒnəˈsɪləbəl/ *n* a word of 1 syllable, specif one used by sb intending to be pointedly brief in answering or commenting [modif of MF or LL, MF *monosyllabe*, fr LL *monosyllabon*, fr Gk, fr neut of *monosyllabos* having one syllable, fr *mon-* + *syllabē* syllable] – **monosyllabic** /ˌˈsɪləbɪk/ *adj*, **monosyllabically** *adv*
- monotheism** /ˌmɒnəˈθiːz(ə)m/ *n* the doctrine or belief that there is only 1 God – **monotheist** /ˌˈθiːz(ə)st/ *n*, **monotheistic** /ˌˈɪstɪk/ *adj*
- monotone** /ˌmɒnəˈtəʊn/ *n* 1 a succession of speech sounds in 1 unvarying pitch 2 a single unvaried musical note 3 a tedious sameness or repetition [Gk *monotonos* monotonous]
- monotone** *adj* 1 having a uniform colour 2 **MONOTONIC** 2
- monotonic** /ˌmɒnəˈtɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 uttered in a monotone 2 of a mathematical function increasing continuously or decreasing continuously as the independent variable increases – **monotonically** *adv*
- monotonous** /ˌmɒˈnɒt(ə)nəs/ *adj* 1 uttered or sounded in 1 unvarying tone 2 tediously uniform or repetitive [Gk *monotonos*, fr *mon-* + *tonos* tone] – **monotonously** *adv*, **monotonousness**, **monotony** *n*
- monotreme** /ˌmɒnəˈtriːm/ *n* any of an order of lower mammals comprising the platypus and echidna [NL *Monotremata*, group name, fr Gk *mon-* + *trēmat-*, *trēma* hole – more at **TREMATODE**] – **monotrematous** /ˌˈtriːmətəs, -ˈtrēmətəs/ *adj*
- monotype** /ˌmɒnəˈtiːp/ *n* an impression on paper taken from a painting on glass or metal
- Monotype trademark** – used for a keyboard-operated typesetting machine that casts and sets metal type in separate characters
- monovalent** /ˌmɒnəˈvaɪlənt/ *adj* UNIVALENT 1 [ISV]
- monozygotic** /ˌmɒnəˈziːɡɒtɪk/ *adj* IDENTICAL 3
- Monroe Doctrine** /ˌmɒˈrɒ, mun-/ *n* a statement of US foreign policy

expressing opposition to extension of European influence in the western hemisphere [James *Monroe* †1831 US President]

**monsieur** /mə'sju:/ *n*, *pl* *messieurs* /me'sju:/, mə'sju:z/ – used by or to a French-speaking man as a title equivalent to Mr or without a name as a term of direct address [MF, lit., my lord]

**monsignor** /monsɪn'jəw/ *n*, *pl* *monsignors*, *monsignori* /-n/ – used as a title for certain Roman Catholic prelates and officers of the papal court [It *monsignore*, fr F *monseigneur*] – **monsignorial** /-rɪ-əl/ *adj*

**monsoon** /mon'su:hn/ *n* 1 a seasonal wind of S Asia blowing from the SW in summer and the NE in winter 2 the season of the SW monsoon, marked by very heavy rains [obs D *monsoen*, fr Pg *monção*, fr Ar *mawsim* time, season] – **monsoonal** *adj*

**monster** /'monstə/ *n* 1a an animal or plant of (grotesquely) abnormal form or structure **b** an (imaginary) animal of incredible shape or form that is usu dangerous or horrifying 2 one exceptionally large for its kind (< ~ tomatoes>) 3 sthg monstrous; esp a person of appalling ugliness, wickedness, or cruelty [ME *monstre*, fr MF, fr L *monstrum* omen, monster, prob fr *monere* to warn, remind]

**monstrance** /'monstrəns/ *n* a vessel in which the consecrated Host is exposed for veneration, esp in a Catholic church [MF, fr ML *monstrantia*, fr L *monstrant*-, *monstrans*, prp of *monstrare* to show – more at *MUSTER*]

**monstrosity** /mon'stro:səti/ *n* 1 *MONSTER* 1a 2 (the quality or state of being) sthg monstrous

**monstrous** /'monstrəs/ *adj* 1 having the qualities or appearance of a monster, extraordinarily large 2a extraordinarily ugly or vicious **b** outrageously wrong or ridiculous – **monstrously** *adv*, **monstrousness** *n*

**mons veneris** /monz 'venəris/ *n*, *pl* *montes veneris* /'muntez/ a rounded raised mass of fatty tissue over the pubic bone and above the vulva of the human female [NL, lit., hill of Venus or of venery]

**montage** /mon'h'ta:zh/ *n* 1a a picture made by combining or overlapping several separate pictures **b** an artistic composition made from different materials combined or juxtaposed 2 (a film sequence using) a method of film editing in which the chronological sequence of events is interrupted by juxtaposed or rapidly succeeding shots [F, fr *monter* to mount]

**montane** /'montayn/ *adj* of, being, or growing or living in the area of cool slopes just below the tree line on mountains [L *montanus* of a mountain – more at *MOUNTAIN*]

**montbretia** /mon(t)'breʃi(yə)/ *n* a widely grown hybrid plant of the iris family with bright yellow or orange flowers [NL, fr A F E Coquebert de *Montbret* †1801 F naturalist]

**Montessorian** /monti'saw:n/ *adj* of or being a system of teaching young children through play [Maria *Montessori* †1952 It physician & educator]

**month** /munθ/ *n* 1a any of the 12 divisions of the year in the Julian or Gregorian calendars corresponding roughly with the period of the moon's rotation, also any similar division of the year in other calendars **b** 28 days or 4 weeks, also the interval between the same date in adjacent months 2 *pl* an indefinite usu protracted period of time (<he's been gone for ~s>) 3 a ninth of the typical duration of human pregnancy (<in her 8th ~>) [ME, fr OE *monath*, akin to OHG *manod* month, OE *mona* moon] – **monthly** *adv* or *adj*

**'monthly** /-li/ *n* 1 a monthly periodical 2 *pl* a menstrual period – *infml*

**monticule** /'montikyoohl/ *n* a small elevation or prominence, esp a subordinate cone of a volcano [F, fr LL *monticulus*, dim. of L *mont-*, *mons* mountain – more at *'MOUNT*]

**Montilla** /mon'tila/ *n* a typically dry unfortified white wine made in the Córdoba area of Spain that resembles sherry [Sp, fr *Montilla*, town in Spain]

**monument** /'monyoomənt/ *n* 1 a written record 2a a lasting evidence or reminder of sth or sthg notable or influential **b** a memorial stone, sculpture, or structure erected to commemorate a person or event 3 a structure or site of historical or archaeological importance [ME, fr L *monumentum*, lit., memorial, fr *monere* to remind – more at *MIND*]

**monumental** /'monyoo'mentl/ *adj* 1a of, serving as, or resembling a monument **b** occurring or used on a monument (<a ~ inscription>) 2 very great in degree; imposing, outstanding (<their ~ arrogance>) (<a ~ work>) – **monumentally** *adv*

**moo** /mooh/ *vi* or *n* 'LOW [imit]

**mooch** /moohch/ *vi* 1 to wander aimlessly or disconsolately – usu + *around*, *about*, or *along* 2 *NAm* to sponge, cadge ~ *vi*, *NAm* 1 to steal; *MAKE OFF* with 2 to cadge, beg *USE* *infml* [prob fr F dial *muchier* to hide, lurk] – **moocher** *n*

**'mood** /moohd/ *n* 1a (the evocation, esp in art or literature, of) a predominant emotion, feeling, or frame of mind **b** the right frame of mind (<you must be in the ~, or you'll fall asleep – *The Listener*) 2 a fit of often silent anger or bad temper 3 a prevailing attitude [ME, fr OE *mod*; akin to OHG *muot* mood, L *mos* will, custom]

**²mood** *n* a distinct form or set of inflectional forms of a verb indicating whether the action or state it denotes is considered a fact, wish, possibility, etc (<the subjunctive ~> [alter. of 'mode])

**moody** /'moohdi/ *adj* 1 sullen or gloomy 2 temperamental – **moodyly** *adv*, **moodiness** *n*

**Moog** /moohg/, *Moog synthesizer trademark* – used for a musical synthesizer

**'moon** /moohn/ *n* 1a (the appearance or visibility from the earth of) the earth's natural satellite that shines by reflecting the sun's light (<there is a ~ tonight>) *SYMBOL* **b** a satellite 2 *UNAR* MONTH – poetic *USE* (1) *SYMBOL* ASTRONOMY [ME *mone*, fr OE *mona*, akin to OHG *mano* moon, L *mensis* month, Gk *menis* month, *mene* moon] – **moonless** *adj*, **moonlet** *n*, **moonlike** *adj* – over the moon absolutely delighted

**²moon** *vi* 1 to move about listlessly 2 to spend time in idle gazing or daydreaming *USE* often + *around* or *about*, *infml*

**'moon,beam** /-,beem/ *n* a ray of light from the moon

**'moon,calf** /-,kəhf/ *n* *MONSTER* 1a

**'moon,fish** /-,fɪʃ/ *n*, *pl* *moonfishes*, *moonfishes* an opah

**moonie** /'moohni/ *n*, often *cap* a member of a religious sect, founded in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon, whose adherents live in communes, donate all their possessions to the movement, and believe that the founder has been given a divine mission to complete the task, orig given to Adam and then to Christ, of uniting the whole world in a perfect sinless family [Sun Myung Moon b 1920 Korean industrialist & religious leader]

**'moon,light** /-,liet/ *vi* **moonlighted** to hold a second job in addition to a regular one [back-formation fr *moonlighter* one whose activities are done at night] – **moonlighter** *n*

**'moon,lit** /-,lit/ *adj* lighted (as if) by the moon

**'moon,quake** /-,kwaɪk/ *n* a ground tremor on the moon

**'moon,rat** /-,rat/ *n* an insect-eating mammal of SE Asia

**'moon,shine** /-,ʃi:en/ *n* 1 the light of the moon 2 empty talk, nonsense 3 (illegally distilled) spirits, esp whisky – *infml*

**'moon,shiner** /-,ʃi:enə/ *n*, *NAm* a maker or seller of illicit spirits

**'moon,stone** /-,stəʊn/ *n* a transparent or translucent opalescent feldspar used as a gem

**'moon,struck** /-,strʊk/ *adj* affected (as if) by the moon, specifically unbalanced

**moony** /'moohni/ *adj* inanely dreamy, moonstruck – *infml* ['MOON + -Y]

**'moor** /mɔː, moʊ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* an expanse of open peaty infertile usu heath-covered upland [ME *mor*, fr OE *mor*; akin to OHG *meri* sea – more at *MARINE*]

**²moor** *vi* to make (e.g. a boat or buoy) fast with cables, lines, or anchors ~ *vi* 1 to secure a vessel by mooring 2 to be made fast [ME *mōren*; akin to MD *meren*, *maren* to tie, moor]

**Moore** *n* a member of the mixed Arab and Berber people that conquered Spain in the 8th c AD [ME *More*, fr MF, fr L *Maurus* inhabitant of Mauretania, ancient country of N Africa] – **Moorish** *adj*

**moorage** /'maʊrɪdʒ/ *n* a place to moor ['MOOR + -AGE]

**moorhen** /'maʊ,hɛn/, 'moʊ-/ *n* a common red-billed blackish bird of the rail family that nests near fresh water

**mooring** /'maʊrɪŋ/, 'moʊrɪŋ/ *n* 1 a place where or an object to which a ship, boat, etc can be made fast 2 the lines, chains, anchors, etc used to make a ship, boat, etc fast (<she may have dragged her ~s>) 3 moral principles used as a guide to behaviour (<lose one's ~s>) *USE* usu *pl* with sing. meaning ['MOOR + -ING]

**moose** /moohs/ *n*, *pl* *moose* 1 a large N American ruminant mammal of the deer family with very large flattened antlers 2 the European elk [of Algonquian origin, akin to Natick *moos* moose]

**'moot** /moht/ *n* 1 an early English assembly to decide points of community and political interest 2 a mock court in which law students argue hypothetical cases [ME, fr OE *mōt*; akin to OE *mētan* to meet – more at 'MEET]

**²moot** *vi* to put forward for discussion (<the idea was first ~ed years ago>)

**'moot** *adj* open to question; debatable – usu in *moot point*

**'mop** /mɒp/ *n* 1 an implement consisting of a head made of absorbent material fastened to a long handle and used esp for cleaning floors 2 (sthg like) a shock of untidy hair [ME *mappe*, perh deriv of L *mappa* napkin, towel]



**mop** *vt* -pp- 1 to clean (a floor or other surface) with a mop 2 to wipe (as if) with a mop (<ped his brow with a handkerchief) - **mopper** *n*

**mope** /mohp/ *vi* to give oneself up to brooding, become listless or dejected [prob fr obs *mop*, *mope* (fool)] - **moper** *n*

**moped** /mohped/ *n* a low-powered motorcycle whose engine can be pedal-assisted (e.g. for starting) [Sw, fr *motor* motor + *pedal* pedal]


**mopes** /mohps/ *n pl* but *sung or pl in constr* the blues or low spints

**moppet** /mopit/ *n* a young child, esp a little girl - chiefly infml, apprec [obs *mop* (fool, child)]

**mop up** *vt* 1 to eliminate remaining resistance in (e.g. a previously occupied area in a war) 2 to absorb, take up, or deal with (esp a remnant or remainder) ~ *vi* to complete a project or transaction - **mop-up** /-/-/ *n*

**moquette** /mo'ket/ *n* a carpet or upholstery fabric with a velvety pile [F]

**mor** /maw/ *n* a humus usu in forests that forms a distinct layer above the underlying soil [Dan]

**moraine** /mo'rayn/ *n* an accumulation of earth and stones carried and deposited by a glacier  **GEOGRAPHY** [F] - **morainal**, **morainic** *adj*

**moral** /moral/ *adj* 1a of or being principles of right and wrong in conduct; ethical b expressing or teaching a conception of right conduct (<a ~ poem>) c conforming to a standard of right conduct (<a ~ person>) d sanctioned by, resulting from, or operative on one's conscience or (correct) moral judgment (<a ~ obligation>) (<a ~ right>) e capable of distinguishing right and wrong (<man is a ~ being>) 2 very probable though not proved (<a ~ certainty>) 3 of, occurring in, or acting on the mind, emotions, or will (<a ~ victory>) (<~ support>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *moralis*, fr *mor*-, *moos* custom - more at 'MOOD] - **morally** *adv*

**moral** *n* 1 (a concluding passage pointing out) the moral significance or practical lesson 2 *pl* a moral practices or teachings; standards of esp sexual conduct (<a man of loose ~s>) b ethics

**morale** /ma'rahl/ *n* the mental and emotional condition (e.g. of enthusiasm or loyalty) of an individual or group with regard to the function or tasks at hand [modif of F *moral*, fr *moral*, *adj*]

**moralism** /moraliz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a conventional moral attitude or saying 2 an often exaggerated emphasis on moral rectitude

**moralist** /moralist/ *n* 1 one concerned with moral principles and problems 2 one concerned with regulating the morals of others - often derog - **moralistic** /-tistik/ *adj*, **moralistically** *adv*

**morality** /ma'raliti/ *n* 1 a system or sphere of moral conduct (<Christian ~>) 2 (degree of conformity to standards of) right conduct or moral correctness (<questioned the ~ of his act>)

**morality play** *n* a form of allegorical drama popular esp in the 15th and 16th c in which the characters personify moral or abstract qualities (e.g. pride or youth)

**moralize**, -ize /moralizez/ *vi* 1 to interpret morally, draw a moral from 2 to make moral or morally better ~ *vi* to make moral reflections - **moralizer** *n*, **moralization** /-lic'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**moral philosophy** *n* ethics

**morass** /ma'ras/ *n* 1 a marsh, swamp 2 sth that ensnares, confuses, or impedes [D *moeras*, modif of OF *maresc*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *mersc* marsh - more at MARSH] - **morassy** *adj*

**moratorium** /mora'tawri-əm/ *n, pl moratoriums, moratoria* /-ri-ə/ 1 a legally authorized delay in the performance of an obligation or the payment of a debt 2 a suspension of (a specified) activity - usu + *on* [NL, fr LL, neut of *moratorius* dilatory, fr L *moratus*, pp of *morari* to delay, fr *mora* delay]

**Moravian** /ma'rayvi-ən/ *n* 1 a member of a Protestant denomination derived from the Hussite movement for religious reform in Bohemia and Moravia 2a a native or inhabitant of Moravia b the group of Czech dialects spoken by the Moravians [Moravia, former province of Czechoslovakia] - **Moravian** *adj*


**morbid** /mawbid/ *adj* 1 of, affected with, induced by, or characteristic of disease (<~ anatomy>) 2 abnormally susceptible to or characterized by gloomy feelings; esp having an unnatural preoccupation with death 3 grisly, gruesome (<~ curiosity>) [L *morbidus* diseased, fr *morbus* disease; akin to Gk *marainein* to waste away - more at SMART] - **morbidly** *adv*, **morbidness** *n*

**morbidity** /maw'bidity/ *n* the relative incidence of (a) disease [MORBID + -ITY]

**mordacious** /maw'dayshəs/ *adj* 1 MORDANT 1 2 given to biting **USE** fml [L *mordac*-, *mordax* biting, fr *mordere* to bite - more at SMART] - **mordacity** /maw'dasiti/ *n*

**mordant** /mawd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 caustic or sharply critical in thought,

manner, or style (<~ wit>) 2 acting as a mordant 3 burning, pungent [MF, prp of *mordre* to bite, fr L *mordere*] - **mordancy** *n*, **mordantly** *adv*

**mordant** *n* 1 a chemical that fixes a dye by combining with it to form an insoluble compound 2 a corroding substance used in etching **mordent** /mawd(ə)nt/ *n* a musical ornament made by a quick alternation of a principal note with either of the immediately adjacent notes  music [It *mordente*, fr L *mordent*-, *mordens*, prp of *mordere*]

**more** /maw/ *adj* 1 greater in quantity or number (<something ~ than she expected>) (<7 is 2 ~ than 5>) 2 additional, further (<three ~ guests arrived>) (<have some ~ tea>) (<what ~ do you want?>) [ME, fr OE *marā*; akin to OE *mā*, *adv*, more, OHG *mer*, OIr *mor* large] - **neither/nothing more or nor less than** simply, plainly

**more** *adv* 1a as an additional amount (<not much ~ to do>) b moreover, again (<summer is here once ~>) 2 to a greater degree or extent (<you should practise ~>) (<~ sad than angry>) (<costs ~ than making your own beer - SEU S>) - often used with an adjective or adverb to form the comparative (<much ~ evenly matched>) - **more often than not** at most times; usually

**more** *n, pl more* 1 a greater or additional quantity, amount, or part (<hope to see ~ of her>) (<tell me ~>) (<~ than meets the eye>) 2 *pl* additional ones (<many ~ were found as the search continued>) - **more of** nearer to being (sth specified) (<it's more of a sofa than a bed>)

**more and more** *adv* to a progressively increasing degree

**moreish** also **more-ish** /maw'rish/ *adj* so tasty as to cause a desire for more - chiefly infml

**morel** /mo'rel/ *n* (a fungus related to) a large edible fungus with a light yellowish brown cap [F *morille*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *morhila* morel]

**morello** /ma'reloh/ *n, pl morellos* a cultivated red-skinned sour cherry used esp in jams [prob modif of Flem *amarelle*, *marelle*, fr ML *amarellum*, a cultivated cherry, fr L *amarus* sour]

**more or less** *adv* 1 to some extent or degree, somewhat 2 almost, nearly

**moreover** /maw'rohva/ *adv* in addition to what has been said - used to introduce new matter

**mores** /maw'rez/ *n pl* the (morally binding) customs or conventions of a particular group [L, pl of *mos*, custom - more at 'MOOD]

**moresque** /maw'resk/ *adj*, often *cap* typical of Moorish art or architecture [F, fr Sp *morisco*, fr *moro* Moor, fr L *Maurus*]

**more than** *adv* very, exceedingly (<was ~ happy>)

**morganatic** /mawgə'natik/ *adj* of or being a marriage between people of different rank in which the rank of the inferior partner remains unchanged and the children do not succeed to the titles or property of the parent of higher rank [NL *matrimonium ad morganaticam*, lit, marriage with morning gift] - **morganatically** *adv*

**morganite** /mawgə'ni:t/ *n* a rose-coloured beryl [J P Morgan †1913 US financier]

**morgue** /mawg/ *n* 1a a mortuary b a gloomy dispiriting place 2 a collection of reference works and files in a newspaper office [F]

**moribund** /mori'bund/ *adj* dying [L *moribundus*, fr *mori* to die - more at MURDER] - **moribundity** /-bundəti/ *n*

**morian** /mawri-ən/ *n* a high-crested helmet with no visor [MF]

**Morisco** /mə'nskoh/ *n, pl Moriscos, Moriscoes* a (Spanish) Moor [Sp, fr *morisco*, *adj*, fr *moro* Moor] - **Morisco** *adj*


**Mormon** /mawmən/ *n* a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, founded in 1830 in the USA by Joseph Smith, and following precepts contained in the Book of Mormon, a sacred text that he discovered - **Mormonism** *n*

**morn** /mawm/ *n* the morning - chiefly poetic [ME, fr OE *morgen*, akin to OHG *morgan* morning, L *merus* pure, unmixed]

**mornay sauce** /mawnay/ *n* a rich creamy cheese sauce [perh fr Philippe de Mornay †1623 F Huguenot leader]

**morning** /mawning/ *n* 1a the dawn b the time from midnight or sunrise to noon 2 an early period (e.g. of time or life); the beginning [ME, fr *morn* + -ing (as in *evening*)] - **in the morning** tomorrow morning

**'morning coat** *n* a man's tailcoat that is worn on formal occasions during the day

**'morning dress** *n* men's dress for formal occasions (e.g. a wedding) during the day  **GARMENT**


**'morning glory** *n* any of various usu twining plants of the bindweed family with showy trumpet-shaped flowers

**'Morning Prayer** *n* a daily morning office of the Anglican church

**'mornings** *adv*, chiefly **NAM** in the morning; on any morning



**'morning sickness** *n* nausea and vomiting occurring esp in the morning during the earlier months of a woman's pregnancy  
**'morning star** *n* a bright planet, specif Venus, seen in the eastern sky before or at sunrise

**Moro** /mə'roʊ/ *n*, *pl* **Moros**, *esp collectively* **Moro** 1 a member of any of several Muslim peoples of the S Philippines 2 an Austronesian language of the Moro peoples  LANGUAGE [Sp, lit., Moor, fr L *Maurus*]

**morocco** /mə'roʊkə/ *n* a fine leather made from goatskin tanned with sumach [*Morocco*, country in N Africa]


**moron** /mə'wɒn/ *n* 1 **MENTAL DEFECTIVE** 2 a very stupid person – *infml* [irreg fr Gk *moros* foolish, stupid; akin to Skt *mura* foolish] – **moronism** *n*, **moronic** /mə'roʊnɪk/ *adj*

**morose** /mə'roʊs/ *adj* (having a disposition) marked by or expressive of gloom [L *morosus*, lit., capricious, fr *mor-*, *mos* will – more at 'MOOD] – **morosely** *adv*, **moroseness** *n*

**morph** /mawf/ *n* 'ALLOMORPH [back-formation fr *morpheme*]

**morph-** /mawf-/ , **morpho-** *comb form* form <morphogenesis> [G, fr Gk, fr *morphe*]

**-morph** /-mawf/ *comb form* (→ *n*) one having (such) a form <isomorph> [ISV, fr *-morphous*] – **-morphic**, **-morphous** *comb form* (→ *adj*), **-morphy** *comb form* (→ *n*)

**morpheme** /mawfeem/ *n* a meaningful linguistic unit that contains no smaller meaningful parts and can be either a free form (e.g. *pin*) or a bound form (e.g. the *-s* of *pins*)  ALPHABET [F *morphème*, fr Gk *morphe* form] – **morphemic** /maw'feemɪk/ *adj*

**morphemics** /maw'feemɪks/ *n pl* but *sing in constr* the study of morphemes and esp of word structure

**morphia** /mə'wɒfi.ə/ *n* morphine [NL, fr *Morpheus* Roman god of dreams & sleep]

**morphine** /mawfeen/ *n* the principal alkaloid of opium that is an addictive narcotic drug used esp as a powerful painkiller [F, fr *Morpheus*] – **morphinism** *n*, **morphine** /-feenɪk, -fɪnɪk/ *adj*

**-morphism** /-mawfɪz(ə)m/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 quality or state of having (such) a form <heteromorphism> 2 conceptualization in (such) a form <anthropomorphism> [LL *-morphus* *-morphous*, fr Gk *-morphos*]

**morphogenesis** /mawfoh'jenəsɪs/ *n* the formation and differentiation of tissues and organs (during embryonic development) [NL] – **morpho-genetic** /-pə'netɪk/ *adj*

**morphology** /maw'fɒləʒi/ *n* 1 (the biology of) the form and structure of animals and plants 2a a study and description of word formation in a language including inflection, derivation, and compounding b the system of word-forming elements and processes in a language 3 (a study of) the structure or form of sth [G *morphologie*, fr *morph-* + *-logie* *-logy*] – **morphologist** *n*, **morphological** /maw'fɒləjɪk/ *adj*

**'moris dance** /mə'ris/ *n* any of several traditional English dances that are performed by groups of people wearing costumes to which small bells are attached [ME *mores daunce*, fr *mores* Moorish (fr *More* Moor) + *daunce* dance] – **morris dancer** *n*

**morrow** /mə'roʊ/ *n* 1 the next day – *fml* 2 *archaic* the morning [ME *morn*, *morwen* morn]

**Morse** /maws/, **'Morse code** *n* a signalling code consisting of dots and dashes used to send messages by light or by sound signals or esp by radio [Samuel Morse †1872 US artist & inventor] – **morse** *vb*

**morsel** /mawsl/ *n* 1 a small piece of food 2 a small quantity, a scrap [ME, fr OF, dim. of *mors* bite, fr L *morsus*, fr *morsus*, pp of *mordere* to bite – more at SMART]

**mort** /mawf/ *n* a note sounded on a hunting horn when a deer is killed [prob alter. of ME *mot* horn note, fr MF, word, horn note – more at MOT]

**'mortal** /mawtl/ *adj* 1 causing or about to cause death, fatal 2a not living forever; subject to death b humanly conceivable <every ~ thing> 3 marked by relentless hostility <a ~ enemy> 4 very great, intense, or severe 5 of or connected with death 6 very tedious and prolonged <waited 3 ~ hours> – *infml* [ME, fr MF, fr L *mortalis*, fr *mort-*, *mors* death – more at MURDER]


**²mortal** *n* 1 a human being 2 a person of a specified kind  
**mortality** /maw'tæləti/ *n* 1 being mortal 2 the death of large numbers of people, animals, etc 3 the human race <take these tears, ~'s relief – Alexander Pope> 4a the number of deaths in a given time or place b the ratio of deaths in a given time to population c the number lost, or the rate of loss or failure

**mortality table** *n* LIFE TABLE

**mortally** /mawtl-i/ *adv* 1 in a deadly or fatal manner 2 to an extreme degree; intensely

**'mortal sin** *n* a sin (e.g. murder) of such gravity that it totally debars the soul from divine grace – compare VENIAL SIN – **mortal sinner** *n*

**'mortar** /mawtə/ *n* 1 a strong usu bowl-shaped vessel (e.g. of stone) in which substances are pounded or ground with a pestle 2 a usu muzzle-loading artillery gun having a tube short in relation to its calibre, a low muzzle velocity, and a high trajectory [(1) ME *morter*, fr OF *mortere* & MF *mortier*, fr L *mortarium*; akin to Gk *marainein* to waste away – more at SMART, (2) MF *mortier*]

**²mortar** *n* a mixture of cement, lime, gypsum plaster, etc. with sand and water, that hardens and is used to join bricks, stones, etc. or for plastering  BUILDING [ME *morter*, fr OF *mortier*, fr L *mortarium*]

**'mortar** *vt* to plaster or make fast with mortar

**'mortarboard** /-bawd/ *n* 1 'HAWK 2 2 an academic cap consisting of a close-fitting crown with a stiff flat square attached on top

**'mortgage** /mawgɪ/ *n* 1 a transfer of the ownership of property (e.g. for security on a loan) on condition that the transfer becomes void on payment 2 the state of the property whose ownership is transferred by a mortgage [ME *morgage*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *mort* dead (fr L *mortuus*, fr pp of *mori* to die) + *gage* – more at MURDER]

**²mortgage** *vt* 1 to transfer the ownership of (property) by a mortgage 2 to make subject to a claim or obligation

**mortgagee** /mawgɪ'jee/ *n* sby to whom property is mortgaged

**mortgagor** /mawgɪjə, mawgɪ'jəw/ *also* **mortgager** /mawgɪjə/ *n* sby who mortgages his/her property

**mortician** /maw'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* an undertaker [L *mort-*, *mors* death]

**mortify** /mawtɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to subdue (e.g. bodily needs and desires), esp by abstinence or self-inflicted suffering 2 to subject to feelings of shame or acute embarrassment – *vi* to become necrotic or gangrenous [ME *mortifien* to kill, subdue, fr MF *mortifier*, fr LL *mortificare*, fr L *mort-*, *mors*] – **mortification** /-fɪ'kæʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'mortise** *also* **mortice** /mawtɪs/ *n* a usu rectangular cavity cut into a piece of material (e.g. wood) to receive a protrusion, esp a tenon, of another piece [ME *mortays*, fr MF *mortaise*]

**²mortise** *also* **mortice** *vt* 1 to join or fasten securely, specif by a mortise and tenon joint 2 to cut or make a mortise in

**'mortise lock** *n* a lock that is designed to be fitted into a mortise in the edge of a door

**mortmain** /mawt,maɪn/ *n* 1 a nontransferable possession of lands or buildings by an ecclesiastical or other corporation 2 (the condition of) property or other gifts nontransferably bequeathed to a church or corporation [ME *morte-mayne*, fr MF *mortemain*, fr OF, fr *morte* (fem of *mort* dead) + *main* hand, fr L *manus* – more at MANUAL]

**'mortuary** /mawtyuəri, -tʃəri/ *n* a room or building in which dead bodies are kept before burial or cremation [ME *mortuarie*, fr ML *mortuarium*, fr L, neut of *mortuarius* of the dead, fr *mortuus*, pp]

**²mortuary** *adj* of death or the burial of the dead

**morula** /mə'roʊlə/ *n*, *pl* **morulae** /-li/ the embryo of a metazoan animal at a (very early) stage in its development preceding the blastula stage, consisting of a solid globular mass of cells – compare BLASTULA, GAS-TRULA [NL, fr L *morum* mulberry]

**mosaic** /mə'zayɪk, məh-/ *n* 1 (a piece of) decorative work made from small pieces of different coloured material (e.g. glass or stone) inlaid to form pictures or patterns 2 sth like a mosaic 3a (a part of) an organism composed of cells with different genetic make-up, CHIMERA 3 b a virus disease of plants (e.g. tobacco) characterized esp by diffuse yellow and green mottling of the foliage [ME *musycke*, fr MF *mosaïque*, fr OIt *mosaico*, fr ML *mosaicum*, alter of LL *musivum*, fr neut of *musivus* of a muse, artistic, fr L *Musa* muse] – **mosaic** *adj*, **mosaicism** /məh-'zayɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **mosaici** /-sɪst/ *n*

**Mosaic** *adj* of Moses or the institutions or writings attributed to him [NL *Mosaicus*, fr *Moses*, biblical prophet & lawgiver]

**Moselle**, **Mosel** /mə'hɛl/ *n* a typically light-bodied white table wine made in the valley of the Moselle [G *moselwein*, fr *Mosel* Moselle, river in Germany + G *wein* wine]

**mosey** /mə'hoʊz/ *vi*, *NAM* to saunter – *infml* [origin unknown]

**Moslem** /mə'zɒlɪm/ *n* or *adj* (a) Muslim


**mosque** /mɒsk/ *n* a building used for public worship by Muslims [MF *mosquee*, fr OIt *moschea*, fr OSp *mezquita*, fr Ar *masjid* temple, fr *sajada* to prostrate oneself]

**mosquito** /mə'skeetoh/ *n*, *pl* **mosquitoes** *also* **mosquitos** any of numerous 2-winged flies with females that suck the blood of animals and often

transmit diseases (e.g. malaria) to them [Sp, fr *mosca* fly, fr *L. musca* – more at MIDGE] – **mosquitoey** *adj*

**mo'squito, boat** *n*, *NAM* MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT

**mo'squito, net** *n* a net or screen for keeping out mosquitoes

**moss** /mos/ *n* 1 (any of various plants resembling) any of a class of primitive plants with small leafy stems bearing sex organs at the tip; also many of these plants growing together and covering a surface  *PLANT* 2 chiefly *Scot* a (peat) bog [ME, fr OE *mos* bog; akin to OHG *mos* moss, *L. muscus*] – **mosslike** *adj*, **mossy** *adj*

**moss agate** *n* an agate containing brown, black, or green mosslike markings

**moss animal** *n* a bryozoan

**moss, back** /-bak/ *n*, *NAM* an extremely conservative person, a fogey – *infml* [mossback (old turtle with mossy growth on its back, large sluggish fish)]

**moss, rose** *n* an older variety of garden rose with a glandular mossy growth on the calyx and flower stalk

**moss, trooper** *n* any of a class of 17th-c raiders in the Scottish Border – **moss-trooping** *adj*

**most** /mohst/ *adj* 1 the majority of (< ~ men) 2 greatest in quantity or extent (< the ~ ability) [ME, fr OE *mæst*; akin to OHG *meist* most, OE *māra* more – more at MORE]

**most** *adv* 1 to the greatest degree or extent (< what I like ~ about him) – often used with an adjective or adverb to form the superlative (< the ~ challenging job he ever had) 2 very (< shall ~ certainly come) (< her argument was ~ persuasive)

**most** *n*, *pl* **most** the greatest quantity, number, or amount (< it's the ~ I can do) (< spends ~ of her time in bed) (< ~ became discouraged and left) (< she made the ~ of the fine weather) – at **most**, at the **most** 1 as a maximum limit (< took him an hour at most to finish the job) 2 *AT BEST*

**most** *adv*, *archaic*, *dial*, or *NAM* almost

**-most** /-mohst/ *suffix* (– *adj*) 1 most; to the highest possible degree (< innermost) (< utmost) 2 most towards (< topmost) (< hindmost) [ME, alter. of *-mest* (as in *formest* foremost)]

**mostly** /mohstli/ *adv* for the greatest part; mainly; also in most cases, usually

**mot** /moh/ *n*, *pl* **mots** /moh(z)/ a pithy or witty saying [F, word, saying, fr *L. muttum* grunt – more at MOTTO]

**MOT** also **MoT** *n* a compulsory annual roadworthiness test in Britain for motor vehicles older than a certain age [Ministry Of Transport]

**mote** /moh/ *n* a small particle, esp a particle of dust suspended in the air [ME *mot*, fr OE, akin to MD & Fms *mot* sand]

**motel** /moh'tel/ *n* an establishment which provides accommodation and parking and in which the rooms are usu accessible from an outdoor parking area [blend of *motor* and *hotel*]

**motet** /moh'tet/ *n* a choral composition on a sacred text [ME, fr MF, dim. of *mot*]

**moth** /moth/ *n* 1 CLOTHES MOTH 2 a usu night-flying insect with feathery antennae and a stouter body and duller colouring than the butterflies [ME *mothe*, fr OE *moththe*; akin to MHG *motte* moth]

**moth, ball** /-bawl/ *n* 1 a naphthalene or (formerly) camphor ball used to keep moths from clothing 2 *pl* a state of indefinitely long protective storage; also a state of having been rejected as of no further use or interest – **mothball** *vt*

**moth, bean** *n* (the yellowish brown edible seed of) a bean cultivated, esp in India, for food, forage, and soil conditioning [prob by folk etymology fr Marathi *math*]

**moth-eaten** *adj* 1 eaten into by moth larvae (< ~ clothes) 2a very worn-out or shabby in appearance b antiquated, outmoded

**mother** /'mudhə/ *n* 1a a female parent b an old or elderly woman 2 a source, origin (< necessity is the ~ of invention) [ME *moder*, fr OE *mōdor*; akin to OHG *muoter* mother, *L. mater*, *Gk. mētēr*, *Skt. mātṛ*] – **motherhood** *n*, **motherless** *adj*

**mother** *adj* 1a of or being a mother b bearing the relation of a mother 2 derived (as if) from one's mother 3 acting as or providing a parental stock – *used without reference to sex*

**mother** *vt* 1a to give birth to b to give rise to; initiate, produce 2 to care for or protect like a mother – *often derog*

**mother, mother of vinegar** *n* a slimy membrane of yeast and bacterial cells that develops on the surface of alcoholic liquids undergoing vinegar-producing fermentation and is added to wine or cider to produce vinegar [akin to MD *modder* mud, lees, dregs, MLG *mudde* mud]

**Mother, Carey's** 'chicken' /'keəriz/ *n* STORM PETREL [origin unknown]

**Mother 'Goose, rhyme** *n*, chiefly *NAM* NURSERY RHYME [Mother Goose, fictional author of *Mother Goose's Melodies*, collection of nursery rhymes published in London ab 1760]

**Mothering Sunday** /'mudhɔrɪŋ/ *n* the fourth Sunday in Lent observed in Britain in honour of motherhood

**'mother-in-law** *n*, *pl* **mothers-in-law** the mother of one's spouse

**'motherland** /-lænd/ *n* one's fatherland

**'motherly** /-li/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a mother 2 like a mother; maternal – **motherliness** *n*

**'mother-naked** *adj* stark naked

**'mother-of-pearl** *n* the hard pearly iridescent substance forming the inner layer of a mollusc shell

**'Mother's, Day** *n* MOTHERING SUNDAY

**'mother superior** *n*, often *cap* **M&S** the head of a religious community of women

**'mother, tongue** *n* 1 one's native language 2 a language from which another language derives

**mothproof** /'moth.proohf/ *vt* or *adj* (to make) resistant to attack by the larvae of (clothes) moths

**motif** /moh'teef/ *n* 1 a recurring element forming a theme in a work of art or literature, esp a dominant idea or central theme 2 a single or repeated design or colour 3 a leitmotiv [F, motive, motif]

**motile** /'mohtli/ *adj* exhibiting or capable of movement [L *motus*, pp] – **motility** /moh'tiliti/ *n*

**'motion** /'mohsh(a)n/ *n* 1a a formal proposal made in a deliberative assembly b an application to a court or judge for an order, ruling, or direction 2a an act, process, or instance of changing position, movement b an active or functioning state or condition 3a an act or instance of moving the body or its parts, a gesture b *pl* actions, movements, esp merely simulated or mechanical actions – often in *go through the motions* 4 melodic change of pitch 5a an evacuation of the bowels – *usu pl* with sing meaning b the matter evacuated [ME *mocioun*, fr MF *motion*, fr *L. motio*-, *motio* movement, fr *motus*, pp of *movere* to move] – **motional** *adj*, **motionless** *adj*, **motionlessness** *n*

**'motion** *vt* to direct by a gesture (< ~ed me to a seat)

**'motion, picture** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a film, movie

**'motivate** /'moh'tivayt/ *vt* to provide with a motive or incentive, impel (< ~d by fear) – **motivation** /-'vaysh(a)n/ *n*

**'motive** /'moh'tiv/ *n* 1 a need, desire, etc that causes sby to act 2 a recurrent phrase or figure that is developed through the course of a musical composition [ME, fr MF *motif*, fr *motif*, *adj*, moving] – **motiveless** *adj*

**'motive** *adj* 1 moving or tending to move to action 2 of (the causing of) motion (< ~ energy) [MF or ML, MF *motif*, fr ML *motivus*, fr *L. motus*, pp]

**'motive power** *n* sth (e.g. water or steam) whose energy is used to impart motion to machinery

**'motivity** /moh'tiviti/ *n* the power of (producing) movement


**mot juste** /,moh 'zhoohst (Fr mo 'zyst)/ *n*, *pl* **mots justes** /~/ the exactly right word or phrasing [F]

**'motley** /'mothi/ *adj* 1 multicoloured 2 composed of varied (disreputable or unsightly) elements [ME, perh fr *mot* mote, speck]

**'motley** *n* 1 a woollen fabric of mixed colours made in England between the 14th and 17th c 2 a haphazard mixture (of incompatible elements) [ME, prob fr 'motley]

**moto-cross** /'mohtɒx, /kros/ *n* the sport of racing motorcycles across country on a rugged usu hilly closed course [motor + cross (country)]

**'motor** /'mohtə/ *n* 1 sth or sby that imparts motion 2 any of various power units that develop energy or impart motion: e.g. a a small compact engine b INTERNAL-COMBUSTION ENGINE c a rotating machine that transforms electrical energy into mechanical energy 3 MOTOR VEHICLE; esp MOTOR CAR [L, fr *motus*, pp of *movere* to move] – **motorless** *adj*

**'motor** *adj* 1a causing or imparting motion b of or being a nerve (fibre) that conducts an impulse causing the movement of a muscle  *NERVE* c of or involving muscular movement 2a equipped with or driven by a motor b of or involving motor vehicles (< the ~ trade)

**'motor** *vj* to travel by motor car; esp *DRIVE* 2

**'Motorail** /'mohtə,rayl/ *trademark* – used for a railway system in which a passenger train also carries the passengers' cars

**'motor, bike** *n* a motorcycle – *infml*

**'motor, boat** /-boht/ *n* a usu small boat propelled by a motor

**'motor,cade** /-kayd/ *n* a procession of motor vehicles

**'motor, car** *n* a usu 4-wheeled motor vehicle designed for transporting

a small number of people and typically propelled by an internal-combustion engine

**motorcycle** /-sɪkl/ *n* a 2-wheeled motor vehicle that can carry 1 or sometimes 2 people astride the engine – *motorcycle* *vi*, *motorcyclist* /-sɪklist/ *n*

**motorist** /'moʊtərɪst/ *n* sby who drives a car

**motorize** /-ɪz/ *vt* 1 to equip (e.g. a vehicle) with a motor 2 to provide with motor-driven equipment (e.g. for transport) – *motorization* /-rɪ'eɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**motorman** /-mən/ *n* a driver of a motor-driven vehicle (e.g. a bus or underground train)

**motor scooter** *n* a usu 2-wheeled motor vehicle having a seat so that the driver sits in front of rather than astride the engine

**motor torpedo boat** *n* a high-speed motorboat whose principal offensive armament is torpedoes

**motor vehicle** *also motor* *n* an automotive vehicle not operated on rails, esp one with rubber tyres for use on roads

**motorway** /-weɪ/ *n* *Br* a major road designed for high-speed traffic that has separate carriageways for different directions and certain restrictions on the types of vehicle and driver allowed on it

**motte** /mɒt/ *n* the fortified mound of a (Norman) castle  *CHURCH* [F – more at *MOAT*]

**mottle** /'mɒtl/ *n* 1 a coloured spot or blotch 2 an irregular pattern of spots or blotches on a surface [prob back-formation fr *motley*] – *mottled* *adj*

**mottle** *vt* *mottling* /'mɒtl-ɪŋ/ to mark with mottles

**motto** /'mɒtəʊ/ *n*, *pl* *motatoes* *also* *mottoes* 1 a sentence, phrase, or word inscribed on sthg as appropriate to or indicative of its character or use 2 a short expression of a guiding principle; a maxim 3 (a piece of paper printed with) a usu humorous or sentimental saying [It, fr L *muttum* grunt, fr *muttire* to mutter]

**moue** /'moʊ/ *n* a little grimace, a pout [F, fr MF, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *mouwe* protruding lip]

**mouflon, moufflon** /'moʊflən/ *n* (any of) a wild race of the domestic sheep found on European mountains [F *mouflon*, fr It dial *movrone*, fr LL *mulron*, *mulro*]

**mouille** /'mweɪ/ *adj* pronounced palatally [F, lit., moistened]

**moujik** /'moʊzhɪk/ *n* a muzhik

**mould, NAm chiefly mold** /'moʊld/ *n* crumbling soft (humus-rich) soil suited to plant growth [ME *mold*, *molde*, fr OE *molda*, *molde*, akin to OHG *molta* soil, L *molere* to grind – more at *'MEAL*]


**mould, NAm chiefly mold** *n* 1 distinctive character or type <need to recruit more men of his ~> 2 the frame on or round which an object is constructed 3 a cavity or form in which a substance (e.g. a jelly or a metal casting) is shaped 4 a moulding 5 a fixed pattern or form [ME *mold*, *molde*, fr OF *modle*, fr L *modulus*, dim. of *modus* measure – more at *METE*]

**mould, NAm chiefly mold** *vt* 1 to give shape to 2 to form in a mould 3 to exert a steady formative influence on 4 to fit closely to the contours of 5 to ornament with moulding or carving <~ed picture frames>

**mould, NAm chiefly mold** *n* (a fungus producing) an often woolly growth on the surface of damp or decaying organic matter [ME *mowilde*]

**mould, board** /-bawd/ *n* a curved plate on a ploughshare for lifting and turning the soil

**moulder, NAm chiefly molder** /'moʊldə/ *vt* to crumble into dust or decayed fragments, esp gradually [freq of *mould* (to become mouldy), fr *'mould*]

**moulding** /'moʊldɪŋ/ *n* 1 an article produced by moulding 2 a decorative recessed or embossed surface 3 a decorative band or strip used for ornamentation or finishing (e.g. on a cornice)  *ARCHITECTURE*

**mouldy** /'moʊldi/ *adj* 1 of, resembling, or covered with a mould-producing fungus 2 old and mouldering, fusty, crumbling 3a miserable, nasty b stingy *USE* (3) *mfml*

**moulin** /'moʊlɪn/ (Fr *mūlɛ*) *n* a nearly cylindrical vertical shaft worn in a glacier by water from melting snow and ice [F, lit., mill, fr LL *molinum* – more at *MILL*]

**moult, NAm chiefly molt** /'moʊlt/ *vb* to shed or cast off (hair, feathers, shell, horns, or an outer layer) periodically [alter of ME *mouten*, fr OE *-mūtian* to change, fr L *mutare*]

**moult, NAm chiefly molt** *n* moulting; *specif* ecdysis

**mound** /'moʊnd/ *n* 1a(1) an artificial bank of earth or stones (2) the slightly elevated ground on which a baseball pitcher stands b a knoll, hill 2 a heap, pile [origin unknown]

**'mount** /'moʊnt/ *n* a high hill; a mountain – usu before a name <Mount

Everest> [ME, fr OE *munt* & OF *mont*, fr L *mont-*, *mons*, akin to ON *mœna* to project, L *minari* to project, threaten]

**'mount** *vi* 1 to increase in amount, extent, or degree 2 to rise, ascend 3 to get up on or into sthg above ground level; esp to seat oneself (e.g. on a horse) for riding ~ *vt* 1a to go up, climb b(1) to seat or place oneself on <the speaker ~ed the platform> (2) *COVER* 6a 2a to lift up, raise, erect b to place (e.g. artillery) in position c to initiate and carry out (e.g. an assault or strike) 3a to set (sby) on a means of conveyance <~ed his little daughter on a donkey> b to provide with animals for riding 4 to station for defence or observation or as an escort <~ guard over the palace> 5a to attach to a support b to arrange or assemble for use or display 6a to prepare (e.g. a specimen) for examination or display b to organize and present for public viewing or performance, stage <~ed a sumptuous opera> [ME *mouten*, fr MF *monter*, fr (assumed) VL *montare*, fr L *mont-*, *mons*]

**'mount** *n* 1 an opportunity to ride a horse, esp in a race 2 sthg on which sby or sthg is mounted e.g. a the maternal (e.g. cardboard) on which a picture is mounted b a jewellery setting c an attachment for an accessory d a hinge, card, etc for mounting a stamp in a stamp collection 3 a horse for riding

**mountain** /'moʊnt(ə)n, -təɪn/ *n* 1 a landmass that projects conspicuously above its surroundings and is higher than a hill 2a a vast amount or quantity – often pl with sing meaning b a supply, esp of a specified usu agricultural commodity, in excess of demand <a butter ~> [ME, fr OF *montaigne*, fr (assumed) VL *montanea*, fr fem of *montaneus* of a mountain, alter of L *montanus*, fr *mont-*, *mons*]

**mountain ash** *n* a rowan or related tree of the rose family usu with small red fruits

**mountaineering** /'moʊntə'niəriŋ/ *n* the pastime or technique of climbing mountains and rock faces – *mountaineer* /-mə/ *n*

**mountain lion** *n* a puma

**mountainous** /'moʊnt(ə)nəs/ *adj* 1 containing many mountains 2 resembling a mountain, huge – *mountainously* *adv*

**'mountain sickness** *n* sickness caused by insufficient oxygen in the air at heights, esp above 3,500m (about 10,000ft)

**mountebank** /'moʊntɪ'baŋk/ *n* 1 sby who sells quack medicines from a platform 2 a charlatan [It *montimbanco*, fr *montare* to mount + *in* in, on + *banco*, *banca* bench – more at *'BANK*] – *mountebankery* /-kəri/ *n*

**Mountie** /'moʊnti/ *n* a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police [*mounted policeman*]

**mounting** /'moʊntɪŋ/ *n* *'MOUNT* 2

**mourn** /maʊn/ *vi* to feel or express (e.g. in a conventional manner) grief or sorrow, esp for a death ~ *vt* to feel or express grief or sorrow for [ME *mournen*, fr OE *murnan*, akin to OHG *mornen* to mourn, Gk *mermera* care – more at *MEMORY*] – *mourner* *n*

**'mournful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* expressing, causing, or filled with sorrow – *mournfully* *adv*, *mournfulness* *n*

**mourning** /'maʊnɪŋ/ *n* 1 the act or state of one who mourns 2a an outward sign (e.g. black clothes or an armband) of grief for a person's death <is wearing ~> b a period of time during which signs of grief are shown

**'mouse** /'maʊs/ *n*, *pl* *mice* /'maɪs/ 1 any of numerous small rodents with a pointed snout, rather small ears, and slender tail 2 a timid person [ME, fr OE *mus*, akin to OHG *mus* mouse, L *mus*, Gk *mys* mouse, muscle]

**'mouse** *vi* to hunt for mice ~ *vt*, chiefly *NAm* to search for carefully – *usu* + *out* – *mouser* *n*

**'mouse deer** *n* a chevrotain

**'mouse-ear** *n* any of several plants (e.g. hawkweed) with soft hairy leaves

**mouse-ear chickweed** *n* any of several related usu hairy chickweeds

**'mouse-trap** /-træp/ *n* a trap for mice

**moussaka, mousaka** /'moʊ'sakə/ *n* a Greek dish consisting of layers of minced meat (e.g. lamb), aubergine or potato, tomato, and cheese with cheese or savoury custard topping [NGk *mousakas*]

**mousse** /'muʊs/ *n* a light sweet or savoury cold dish usu containing cream, gelatin, and whipped egg whites [F, lit., froth, fr LL *mulsa* mixture of honey and water; akin to L *mel* honey – more at *MELLIFIUOUS*]

**mousseline** /'moʊsleɪn/ *n* a fine sheer fabric (e.g. of rayon) that resembles muslin [F, lit., muslin – more at *MUSLIN*]

**moustache, NAm chiefly mustache** /mə'stəʃh, mə'stəʃ/ *n* 1 the hair growing or allowed to grow on sby's upper lip 2 hair or bristles round

the mouth of a mammal [MF *moustache*, fr Olt *mustaccio*, fr MGk *moustaki*, dim. of Gk *mystak*, *mystax* upper lip, moustache]

**Mousterian** /moo'steri-ən/ *adj* of a Lower Palaeolithic culture characterized by well-made flint tools [F *moustérien*, fr Le Moustier, cave in Dordogne, France]

**mousy**, **mousey** /mows/ *adj* 1 of or resembling a mouse: e.g. a quiet, stealthy b timid; also colourless 2 of hair light greyish brown

**'mouth** /mowth/ *n*, *pl* mouths /mowdhz/ 1a the opening through which food passes into an animal's body; also the cavity in the head of the typical vertebrate animal bounded externally by the lips that encloses the tongue, gums, and teeth b a grimace made with the lips c a horse's response to pressure on the bit d an individual, esp a child, requiring food <too many ~s to feed> 2a utterance <finally gave ~ to his feelings> b MOUTHPIECE 3 3 sth like a mouth, esp in affording entrance or exit e.g. a the place where a river enters a sea, lake, etc b the opening of a cave, volcano, etc c the opening of a container 4a a tendency to talk too much b impertinent language – compare 'tup 2 **USE** (4) infml [ME, fr OE *muth*, akin to OHG *mund* mouth, L *mandere* to chew, Gk *masasthai* to chew, *mastax* mouth, jaws] – **mouthed** /mowdh/ *adj*, **mouthlike** *adj* – down in the mouth dejected, sulky

**²mouth** /mowdh/ *vt* 1 to utter pompously 2 to repeat without comprehension or sincerity 3 to form (words) soundlessly with the lips ~ *vi* to talk pompously

**mouthful** /mowthf(ə)/ *n* 1a a quantity that fills the mouth b the amount (of food) put into the mouth at 1 time 2 a small quantity 3a a word or phrase that is very long or difficult to pronounce b chiefly *NAM* a very apt or significant comment or statement – chiefly in say a *mouthful* **USE** (3) infml

**'mouth,organ** *n* a harmonica

**'mouth,part** /-paht/ *n* a structure or appendage near or forming part of the mouth

**'mouth,piece** /-pees/ *n* 1 sth placed at or forming a mouth 2 a part (e.g. of a musical instrument or a telephone) that goes in the mouth or is put next to the mouth 3 sby or sth that expresses or interprets another's views

**'mouth,watering** *adj* stimulating or appealing to the appetite; appetizing – **mouth-wateringly** *adv*

**mouthy** /mowdhi/ *adj* garrulous

**movable**, **moveable** /moohvəbl/ *n* or *adj* (property) able to be removed – often used to distinguish personal property from buildings, land, etc, usu *pl* ['MOVE + -ABLE]

**movable 'feast** *n* an annual church festival (e.g. Easter) not celebrated on the same date each year

**'move** /moohv/ *vi* 1a(1) to go or pass with a continuous motion (2) to proceed or progress towards a (specified) place or condition <moving up the executive ladder> – often + *on* (<on to the next item>) b to go away <it's time we were moving> c(1) to transfer a piece in a board game (e.g. in chess) from one position to another <it's your turn to ~> (2) of a piece in board games to travel or be capable of travelling to another position <the bishop ~s diagonally> d(1) to change one's residence (2) to change one's (official) location 2 to pass one's life in a specified environment (<~s in fashionable circles>) 3 to change position or posture 4 to take action, act 5 to make a formal request, application, or appeal 6 to change hands by being sold or rented – often + *quickly* or *slowly* 7 of the bowels to evacuate 8a to operate or function, esp mechanically b to show marked activity or speed – infml <after a brief lull things really began to ~> ~ *vt* 1a to change the place or position of b to transfer (e.g. a piece in chess) from one position to another 2a(1) to cause to go or pass with a continuous motion (2) to take (furniture and possessions) from one residence or location to another b to cause to operate or function <this button ~s the whole machine> 3 to cause (the body or part of the body) to change position or posture 4 to prompt to action 5 to affect in such a way as to lead to a show of emotion or of a specified emotion 6 to propose formally in a deliberative assembly 7 to cause (the bowels) to evacuate [ME *moven*, fr MF *moveoir*, fr L *movēre*] – **mover** *n*

**²move** *n* 1a the act of moving a piece (e.g. in chess) b the turn of a player to move 2a a step taken so as to gain an objective b a movement c a change of residence or official location – on the move 1 in a state of moving about from place to place <a salesman is constantly on the move> 2 in a state of moving ahead or making progress <said that civilization is always on the move>

**move in** *vi* 1 to take up occupation of a dwelling or place of work 2 to advance aggressively in order to gain control – often + *on* <police moved in on the criminals hiding in the house>

**'movement** /-mant/ *n* 1a the act or process of moving; esp change of

place, position, or posture b a particular instance or manner of moving c an action, activity – usu *pl* with sing. meaning <troop ~s> 2a a trend, specif in prices b an organized effort to promote an end <the civil rights ~> 3 the moving parts of a mechanism that transmit motion 4 a unit or division having its own key, rhythmic structure, and themes and forming a separate part of an extended musical composition 5a the development of the action in a work of literature b the quality of a book, play, etc of having a quickly moving plot 6 MOTION 5

**move on** *vi* to change one's residence or location for another ~ *vt* to cause to depart <the squatters were moved on by the police>

**move out** *vi* to leave a dwelling or place of work

**move over** *vi* to make room

**movie** /moohvi/ *n* FILM 3a, b [moving picture]

**moving** /moohvɪŋ/ *adj* 1a marked by or capable of movement b of a change of residence 2a producing or transferring motion or action <the ~ spirit behind the scheme> b evoking a deep emotional response – **movingly** *adv*

**moving 'picture** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a film, movie

**'mow** /mow/ *n* 1 a stack of hay, grain, fodder, etc (in a barn) 2 the part of a barn where hay or straw is stored [ME, heap, stack, fr OE *mūga*, akin to ON *mugi* heap, Gk *mykon*]

**²mow** /moh/ *vb* mowed; mowed, mown /mohn/ *vt* 1 to cut down (a crop, esp grass) 2 to cut down the standing herbage, esp grass, of (e.g. a field) ~ *vi* to cut down standing herbage, esp grass [ME *mowen*, fr OE *māwan*, akin to OHG *māen* to mow, L *metere* to reap, mow, Gk *aman*]

**mower** *n*

**mow down** *vt* 1 to kill, destroy, or knock down, esp in great numbers or mercilessly 2 to overcome swiftly and decisively, rout

**moxie** /moksɪ/ *n*, *NAM* courage – infml [fr *Moxie*, a trademark for a soft drink]

**mozzarella** /,motsə'rela/ *n* a moist white unsalted unripened curd cheese [It]

**mozzetta** /moh(t)'zeta/ *n* a short cape with a small ornamental hood worn over the rochet by Roman Catholic prelates [It]

**Mr** /'mɪstə/ *n*, *pl* Messrs /'mesəz/ 1 – used as a conventional title of courtesy before a man's surname, except when usage requires the substitution of a title of rank or an honorary or professional title 2 – used in direct address before a man's title of office <may I ask one more question, ~ Chairman?> 3 – used before the name of a place or of a profession or activity or before some epithet (e.g. *clever*) to form a title applied to a male viewed or recognized as representative of the thing indicated (< ~ Football>) [Mr fr ME, abbr of *maister* master, *Messrs* abbr of *Messieurs*, fr F, *pl* of *Monsieur*]

**mRNA** *n* MESSENGER RNA

**Mrs** /'mɪsɪz/ *n*, *pl* Mesdames /may'dahm/ 1a – used as a conventional title of courtesy before a married woman's surname, except when usage requires the substitution of a title of rank or an honorary or professional title <spoke to ~ Smith> b – used before the name of a place (e.g. a country or city) or of a profession or activity (e.g. a sport) or before some epithet (e.g. *clever*) to form a title applied to a married woman viewed or recognized as representative of the thing indicated (< ~ Tennis 1982>) 2 a wife <took the ~ along to the pub> – infml [Mrs abbr of 'mistress, Mesdames fr F, *pl* of *Madame*]

**'Mrs 'Grundy** /'grundi/ *n* sby marked by prudish conventionality in personal conduct [Mrs Grundy, offstage character personifying prudery in the play *Speed the Plough* by Thomas Morton †1838 E dramatist]

**Ms** /mɒz, mɪz/ *n* – used instead of Mrs or Miss, esp when marital status is unknown or irrelevant

**MSH** *n* MELANOCYTE-STIMULATING HORMONE

**mu** /m(y)uoh/ *n* the 12th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *my*]

**muc-**, **muel-**, **muc-** *comb form* 1 mucus <mucoprotein> 2 mucous and <mucopurulent> [L *muc-*, fr *mucus*]

**'much** /much/ *adj* more /maw/; most /moʊst/ 1 great in quantity or extent <not ~ money> <nothing ~ to do> <how ~ milk is there?> – compare SO MUCH 2 excessive, immoderate <it's a bit ~ having to work so late> [ME *much* large, much, fr *michel*, *muchel*, fr OE *micel*, *mycel*; akin to OHG *mihhil* great, large, L *magnus*, Gk *megas*] – too much 1 wonderful, exciting 2 terrible, awful

**²much** *adv* more; most 1a(1) to a great degree or extent; considerably (< ~ happier>) <don't ~ like it> < ~ to my surprise> <how ~ did it cost?> – compare SO MUCH (2) very – with verbal adjectives <was ~ amused> b frequently, often (< ~ married>) c by far (< ~ the fatter>) <I'd ~ rather not> (< ~ the brightest student>) 2 nearly, approximately <looks ~ the way his father did> – as much 1 the same quantity 2 that, so <I thought

as much) – **much less** and certainly not <can't even walk, much less run>

**much** *n* 1 a great quantity, amount, or part <gave away ~> <~ of the night> <got too ~ to do> – compare SO MUCH 2 sthg considerable or impressive <wasn't ~ to look at> <the film wasn't up to ~> <I don't think ~ of that idea> 3 a relative quantity or part <I'll say this ~ for him> – too much for 1 more than a match for 2 beyond the endurance of

**'much as** *conj* however much; even though

**muchness** /'muchnis/ *n* ['MUCH + -NESS] – **much of a muchness** very much the same

**muclage** /'myoohsilij/ *n* a gelatinous substance obtained esp from seaweeds and similar to plant gums [ME *musculage*, fr LL *muclago* mucus, musty juice, fr L *mucus*]

**muclaginous** /,myoohsilajinas/ *adj* 1 sticky, viscid 2 of, full of, or secreting muclage [LL *muclaginosus*, fr *muclagin-*, *muclago*]

**muck** /muk/ *n* 1 soft moist farmyard manure 2 slimy dirt or filth 3 mire, mud 4a a worthless or useless thing; rubbish – *infrm* b *Br* – used in *Lord Muck* and *Lady Muck* to designate an arrogantly patronizing person [ME *muk*, perh fr OE *-moc*; akin to ON *myki* dung – more at MUCUS] – **mucky** *adj*

**muck about** *vb*, chiefly *Br* MESS ABOUT – *infrm*

**mucker** /'muka/ *n* a friend, pal – *infrm* [*muck* (in) + '-er]

**muck in** *vi*, *Br* to share or join in esp a task <all mucked in together>, also to share sleeping accommodation – *infrm*

**muck out** *vi* to remove manure or filth, esp from an animal's quarters – *vt* to clear (e.g. a stable) of manure

**'muck,rake** /-,rayk/ *vi* to search out and publicly expose real or apparent misconduct of prominent individuals [obs *muckrake*, *n* (rake for dung)] – **muckraker** *n*

**muck sweat** *n* – in a muck sweat sweating profusely, esp through fear or haste


**muck up** *vt*, chiefly *Br* 1 to dirty (as if) with muck, soil 2 to bungle, spoil *USE* *infrm*

**muc-** – see MUC-

**mucosa** /'myooh'kohza/ *n*, *pl* *mucosae* /-zi/, *mucosae* MUCOUS MEMBRANE [NL, fr L, fem of *mucosus* mucous]

**mucous** /'myoohka-/ *adj* of, like, secreting, or covered (as if) with mucus [L *mucosus*, fr *mucus*]

**'mucous** **'membrane** /'membrayn/ *n* a membrane rich in mucous glands, specif lining body passages and cavities (e.g. the mouth) with openings to the exterior

**muco** /'myoohkroh/ *n*, *pl* *mucones* /-neez/ a sharp end point or part (e.g. of a leaf)  PLANT [NL *mucon-*, *muco*, fr L, point, edge; akin to Gk *anyssin* to scratch, sting] – **muconate** /'myoohkra,nayt/ *adj*

**mucus** /'myoohkas/ *n* a thick slippery secretion produced by mucous membranes (e.g. in the nose) which it moistens and protects [L, nasal mucus, akin to ON *myki* dung, Gk *myxa* mucus]

**mud** /mud/ *n* 1 (a sticky mixture of a solid and a liquid resembling) soft wet earth 2 abusive and malicious remarks or charges [ME *muðde*, prob fr MLG; akin to OE *mōs* bog – more at MOSS]

**'muddle** /'mudl/ *vb* **muddling** /'mudling/, 'mudl-ing/ *vt* 1 to stupefy, esp with alcohol 2 to mix confusedly in one's mind – often + *up* 3 to cause confusion to ~ *vi* to proceed or get along in a confused aimless way – *along* or *on* [prob fr obs D *moddelen*, fr MD, fr *modde* mud; akin to MLG *muðde*] – **muddler** *n*

**'muddle** *n* 1 a state of (mental) confusion 2 a confused mess

**'muddleheaded** /-'hedid/ *adj* 1 mentally confused 2 inept, bungling – **muddleheadedness** *n*

**muddle through** *vi* to succeed in spite of incompetence or lack of method and planning

**'muddy** /'mudi/ *adj* 1 lacking in clarity or brightness 2 obscure in meaning, muddled, confused [MUD + '-y] – **muddily** *adv*, **muddiness** *n*

**'muddy** *vt* to make cloudy, dull, or confused

**mudflap** /'mud,flap/ *n* a flap suspended behind the wheel of a vehicle to prevent mud, splashes, etc being thrown up

**'mud,flat** /-,flat/ *n* a muddy area of ground covered at high tide – often *pl* with sing. meaning

**'mud,guard** /-,gahd/ *n* a metal or plastic guard over the wheel of a bicycle, motorcycle, etc to deflect or catch mud

**'mud,lark** /-,lahk/ *n* a destitute child in Victorian London, esp one who tried to find useful or salable objects in the tidal mud of the Thames

**'mud,pack** /-,pak/ *n* a face-pack containing fuller's earth

**'mud**, **puppy** *n* any of several large American salamanders

**'mud,stone** /-,stohn/ *n* a hardened shale produced by the consolidation of mud

**muëli** /m(y)oozhli/, 'mwayzli/ *n* a (breakfast) dish of Swiss origin consisting of rolled oats, dried fruit, nuts, grated apple, etc [G *mushl*, fr *mus* soft food, pulp, fr OHG *muos*; akin to OE *mos* food]

**muëzzin** /muoh'ezin/ *n* a mosque official who calls the faithful to prayer at fixed daily times, usu from a minaret [Ar *mu'addhin*]

**'muff** /muf/ *n* a warm cylindrical wrap in which both hands are placed [D *mof*, fr MF *moufle* mitten, fr ML *muffula*]

**'muff** *n* 1 a failure to hold a ball in attempting a catch 2 a timid awkward person, esp in sports – *infrm* <a hopeless ~ at tennis> [perh fr 'muff]

**'muff** *vt* 1 to handle awkwardly, bungle 2 to fail to hold (a ball) when attempting a catch

**muffin** /'mufin/ *n* a light round yeast-leavened bun usu served hot [prob fr LG *muffen*, *pl* of *muffe* cake]

**'muffle** /'mufl/ *vt* **muffling** /'mufling/ 1 to wrap up so as to conceal or protect 2a to wrap or pad with sthg to dull the sound b to deaden the sound of 3 to keep down, suppress <~d laughter> [ME *muflen*]

**'muffle** *n* a chamber in a furnace or kiln where articles can be heated without direct contact with flames or combustion products [F *moufle*, lit., mitten, fr MF]

**muffler** /'mufla/ *n* 1 a warm scarf worn round the neck 2 *NAM* a silencer for a motor vehicle

**'mufti** /'mufti/ *n* a professional Muslim jurist [Ar *mufti*]

**'mufti** *n* civilian or ordinary clothes worn by one who is usually in uniform [prob fr 'mufti]

**'mug** /mug/ *n* 1 a large usu cylindrical drinking cup 2 the face or mouth of sb 3 *Br* sb easily deceived, a sucker *USE* (2 & 3) *infrm* [origin unknown]

**'mug** *vt* -gg- to assault, esp in the street with intent to rob [back-formation fr *mugger*, prob fr obs *mug* (to punch in the face), fr 'mug] – **mugger** *n*

**muggins** /'muginz/ *n*, *pl* *mugginses*, *muggins* a fool, simpleton – slang, often used in address <~ here lost her passport> [prob fr the name Muggins]

**muggy** /'mugi/ *adj*, of weather warm, damp, and close [E dial *mug* (drizzle), prob of Scand origin] – **muggily** *adv*, **mugginess** *n*

**'mug's**, **game** *n*, chiefly *Br* a profitless activity – *infrm* ['mug 3]

**'mug**, **shot** *n* a photograph of a suspect's face – slang ['mug 2]

**mug up** *vi*, *Br* to study hard – *infrm* [*mug* (to study), of unknown origin]

**'mug,wort** /-,wuht/ *n* a tall Eurasian composite plant with small brownish flower heads [ME, fr OE *muęwyr*, fr *muę-* (perh akin to OE *mycg* midge) *wyr* wort – more at MIDGE, 'wort]

**'mug,wump** /-,wump/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* an independent in politics [obs slang *mugwump* (important person), fr Natick *mugwomp* captain]

**Muhammadan** /m'hamid(ə)n/ *adj* of Muhammad or Islam [Muhammad 632 Arabian prophet & founder of Islam] – **Muhammadan** *n*, **Muhammadanism** *n*

**mulatto** /'myooh'latoh/ *n*, *pl* *mulattoes*, *mulattos* the first-generation offspring of a Negro and a white person [Sp *mulato*, fr *mulo* mule, fr L *mulus*]

**mulberry** /'mulb(ə)n/ *n* (any of a genus of trees of the fig family bearing) an edible usu purple multiple fruit [ME *murberie*, *mulberie*, fr OF *moure* mulberry (fr L *morum*, fr Gk *moron*) + ME *berie* berry]

**mulch** /mulch/ *n* a protective covering (e.g. of compost) spread on the ground to control weeds, enrich the soil, etc [perh irreg fr E dial *melch* (soft, mild)] – **mulch** *vt*

**'mulct** /mukt/ *n* a fine, penalty [L *multa*, *multa*]

**'mulct** *vt* 1 to punish by a fine 2a to swindle b to obtain by swindling

**'mule** /'myoohl/ *n* 1 the offspring of a mating between a (female) horse and an ass 2 a very stubborn person 3 a machine for simultaneously drawing and twisting fibre into yarn or thread and winding it onto spindles [ME, fr OF *mul*, fr L *mulus*]

**'mule** *n* a backless shoe or slipper  GARMENT [MF, a kind of slipper, fr L *mulleus* shoe worn by magistrates]

**muleta** /m(y)oo'h'layta/ *n* a small cape attached to a stick that is used by a matador during the final stage of a bullfight [Sp, crutch, *muleta*, dim. of *mula* she-mule, fr L, fem of *mulus*]

**muleteer** /'myoohla'tia/ *n* sb who drives mules [F *muletier*, fr *mulet*, fr OF, dim. of *mul* mule]

**muley** /'myoohli/ *adj*, of an animal of a type that normally has horns polled or (naturally) hornless [of Celtic origin; akin to IrGael & ScGael *maol* bald, hornless, W *moe*]



- mulish** /'myoohlish/ *adj* unreasonably and inflexibly obstinate [*'mule*]  
- **mulishly** *adv*, **mulishness** *n*
- 'mull** /mul/ *vt* to heat, sweeten, and flavour (e.g. wine or beer) with spices [origin unknown]
- \*mull** *n* crumbly soil humus forming a layer of mixed organic matter and mineral soil and merging into the underlying mineral soil [G, fr Dan *muld*, fr ON *mold* dust, soil; akin to OHG *molta* dust, soil - more at 'MOULD]
- \*mull** *n* a headland or peninsula in Scotland [ME (Sc) *mole*, prob fr ON *mūli* projecting crag, snout, muzzle, akin to OHG *mula*, *mūl* mouth (of an animal), Gk *myllon* lip, L *mutus* mute - more at 'MUTE]
- mullah** /'mʊlə, 'moʊlə/ *n* a Muslim of a quasi-clerical class trained in traditional law and doctrine [Turk *molla* & Per & Hindi *mulla*, fr Ar *mawla*] - **mullahism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- mullein** also **mullen** /'mulən/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the figwort family with spikes of usu. yellow flowers [ME *moleyne*, fr AF *moleine*, prob fr OF *mol* soft, fr L *mollis*]
- muller** /'mʊlə/ *n* a pestle usu. for grinding substances on a slab [alter. of ME *molour*, prob fr *mullen* to grind, fr *mul*, *mol* dust, prob fr MD]
- Müllerian** /'mʊliəriən, 'myooh-/ *adj* of or being mimicry between 2 or more inedible or dangerous species, considered to reduce the difficulties of recognition by potential predators [Fritz *Muller* †1897 G zoologist]
- mullet** /'mʊlɪt/ *n*, *pl* **mullet**, *esp* for different types **mullet**s any of a family of a food fishes with elongated bodies b red or golden fishes with 2 barbels on the chin [ME *molet*, fr MF *mulet*, fr L *mullus* red mullet, fr Gk *myllos*; akin to Gk *melas* black, Skt *malina* dirty, black]
- muligatawny** /'mʊlɪgə'taʊni/ *n* a rich meat soup of Indian origin seasoned with curry [Tamil *milakutanni*, a strongly seasoned soup, fr *milaku* pepper + *tanṇi* water]
- mullion** /'mʊliən/ *n* a slender vertical bar placed esp. between panes or panels (e.g. of windows or doors)  ARCHITECTURE [prob alter. of *monial* (mullion), fr ME *moynel*, *moniel*, fr MF *moinel*, perh fr *moyen* middle] - **mullion** *vt*
- mullock** /'mulək/ *n*, *Austr* mining refuse [ME *mullok* rubbish, refuse, fr *mul*, *mol* dust]
- mull over** *vt* to consider at length [*mull* (to grind, ponder), fr ME *mullen* - more at MULLER]
- multi-** /multi-/ *comb form* 1a many; multiple; much (<multi-storey) b more than 2 (<multilateral) (<multivalent) c more than 1 (<multiparous) 2 many times over (<multimillionaire) [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L, fr *multus* much, many - more at MELIORATE]
- 'multi, coloured** /-kʊləd/ *adj* of various colours
- multi'dentate** /-'dentəɪt/ *adj* having many teeth
- multifarious** /-'fear-iəs/ *adj* having or occurring in great variety, diverse [L *multifarius*, fr *multi-* + *-farius* (akin to *facere* to make, do)] - **multifariously** *adv*, **multifariousness** *n*
- 'multi, form** /-'fawm/ *adj* having many forms or appearances [F *multiforme*, fr L *multiformis*, fr *multi-* + *-formis* -form] - **multiformity** /-'fawməti/ *n*
- multi'lateral** /-'lat(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 having many sides 2 participated in by more than 2 parties 3 of a school divided into more than 2 separately organized sides offering different curricula - **multilaterally** *adv*
- multi'layered** /-'leɪəd/, **multilayer** *adj* having or involving several distinct layers, strata, or levels (< tropical rain forest)
- multi'lingual** /-'lɪŋ-gwəl/ *adj* 1 POLYGLOT 2 2 using or able to use several languages (< stewardess) - **multilingualism** *n*, **multilingually** *adv*
- 'multi, media** /-'meɪdi-/ *adj* using or involving several media
- multi,millionaire** /-'mɪljə'neɪ/ *n* sby whose wealth is estimated at many millions of money units
- multi'national** /-'næʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of more than 2 nations (< alliance) (< society) 2 having divisions in more than 2 countries (< company) - **multinational** *n*
- multiparous** /'mʊltɪpərəs/ *adj* 1 producing many or more than 1 offspring at a birth 2 having given birth 1 or more times previously [NL *multiplus*, fr *multi-* + L *-parus* -parous]
- multi'partite** /-'pɑːtiət/ *adj* multilateral [L *multipartitus*, fr *multi-* + *partitus*, pp of *partire* to divide, fr *part-*, *pars* part]
- multi'phaseic** /-'fayzɪk/ *adj* having various phases or elements (< a ~ test)
- 'multiple** /'mʊltɪpl/ *adj* 1 consisting of, including, or involving more than 1 2 many, manifold (< achievements) 3 shared by many (< ownership) 4 of a fruit formed by coalescence of the ripening ovaries of several flowers [F, fr L *multiplex*, fr *multi-* + *-plex* -fold - more at SIMPLE]
- \*multiple** *n* 1 the product of a quantity by an integer (< 35 is a ~ of 7) 2 **multiple, multiple store** chiefly Br CHAIN STORE
- 'multiple-choice** *adj* having several answers from which 1 is to be chosen (< a ~ exam question)
- 'multiple, scler'osis** *n* progressively developing partial or complete paralysis and jerking muscle tremor resulting from the formation of patches of hardened nerve tissue in nerves of the brain and spinal cord that have lost their myelin
- 'multiple 'unit** *n* a train that has 1 or more carriages containing motors for propulsion and is used mainly for local services
- 'multiple 'voting** *n* illegal voting by 1 person in 2 or more constituencies
- 'multiplex** /'mʊltɪpleks/ *adj* 1 manifold, multiple 2 being or relating to a system allowing several messages to be transmitted simultaneously by the same circuit or channel [L]
- \*multiplex** *vb* to send (messages or signals) by a multiplex system - **multiplexer**, **multiplexor** *n*
- 'multiplicable** /'mʊltɪplɪkəbəl/ *adj* capable of being multiplied
- 'multiplicand** /'mʊltɪplɪkənd/ *n* a number that is to be multiplied by another [L *multiplicandus*, gerundive of *multiplicare*]
- 'multiplication** /'mʊltɪplɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 multiplying or being multiplied 2 a mathematical operation that at its simplest is an abbreviated process of adding an integer to itself a specified number of times and that is extended to other numbers in accordance with laws that are valid for integers [ME *multiplicacioun*, fr MF *multiplication*, fr L *multiplication*, *multiplicatio*, fr *multiplicatus*, pp of *multiplicare* to multiply] - **multiplicative** /'mʊltɪplɪkətɪv/ *adj*, **multiplicatively** *adv*
- 'multiplication, sign** *n* the symbol × denoting multiplication  SYMBOL
- 'multiplicity** /'mʊltɪplɪsəti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being multiple or various 2 a great number (< a ~ of errors) [MF *multiplicité*, fr LL *multiplicitat*, *multiplicitas*, fr L *multiplic-*, *multiplex*]
- 'multiplier** /'mʊltɪplɪə-/ *n* 1 a number by which another number is multiplied 2 an instrument or device for multiplying or intensifying some effect 3 a key-operated machine or mechanism or circuit on a machine that multiplies figures and records the products [MULTIPLY + -IER]
- 'multiply** /'mʊltɪple/ *vt* 1 to increase in number, esp. greatly or in multiples; augment 2a to combine by multiplication (< 7 and 8) b to combine with (another number) by multiplication - usu. pass (< 7 multiplied by 8 is 56) > - *vi* 1a to become greater in number, spread b to breed or propagate 2 to perform multiplication *USE* (vt 2, vi 2)  SYMBOL [ME *multiplen*, fr OF *multiplier*, fr L *multiplicare*, fr *multipl-*, *multiplex* multiple] - **multipliable** *adj*
- 'multi'pronged** /-'prɒŋgd/ *adj* having several distinct aspects or elements
- 'multi'purpose** /-'puhpəs/ *adj* serving several purposes
- 'multi'racial** /-'reɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* composed of, involving, or representing various races - **multiracialism** *n*
- 'multi, stage** /-'steɪdʒ/ *adj* 1 having successive operating stages, esp. having propulsion units that operate in turn (< rockets) 2 conducted in stages (< a ~ investigation)
- 'multi-storey** /-'stɔːwri/ *n* or *adj* (a building, esp. a car park) having several storeys
- 'multitude** /'mʊltɪtyuːd/ *n* 1 the state of being many 2 a great number, a host 3 a crowd - chiefly fml 4 the populace, masses [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *multitudo*-, *multitudo*, fr *multus* much - more at MELIORATE]
- 'multitudinous** /'mʊltɪtyuːdɪnəs/ *adj* 1 comprising a multitude of individuals; populous 2 existing in a great multitude 3 existing in or consisting of innumerable elements or aspects *USE* fml - **multitudinously** *adv*, **multitudinousness** *n*
- 'multiversity** /'mʊltɪ'vɜːsɪti/ *n* a very large university with many component divisions [*multi-* + *-versity* (as in *university*)]
- 'mum** /mʊm/ *adj* silent (< keep ~) - infml [prob imit. of a sound made with closed lips]
- \*mum** *n*, chiefly Br MOTHER 1a - infml [short for *mummy*]
- 'mumble** /'mʊmbəl/ *vb* **mumbling** /'mʊmbəlɪŋ/ to say (words) in an inarticulate usu. subdued voice [ME *momelen*, of imit. origin] - **mumble** *n*, **mumbler** /'mʊmblə/ *n*
- 'mumbo jumbo** /'mʊmbəʊ 'dʒʊmbəʊ/ *n* 1 elaborate but meaningless ritual 2 involved activity or language that obscures and confuses [*Mumbo Jumbo*, an idol or deity held to have been worshipped in Africa]
- 'mumetal** /'myooh,metl/ *n* a nickel-containing alloy that has a high magnetic permeability [ $\mu$  (*mu*), symbol for permeability]



**mummery** /'mʌməri/ *n* 1 a performance of mumming 2 an absurd or pretentious ceremony or performance

**mummify** /'mʌmfie/ *vt* 1 to embalm and dry (the body of an animal or human being) 2 to cause to dry up and shrivel ~ *vi* to dry up and shrivel like a mummy - **mummification** /,mʌmfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*

**mumming** /'mʌmɪŋ/ *n* 1 the practice of performing in a traditional pantomime 2 the custom of going about merrymaking in disguise during festivals [ME *mommyng*, fr gerund of *mommen* to perform in a pantomime, fr MF *momier* to go masked] - **mummer** *n*

**mummy** /'mʌmi/ *n* 1 a body embalmed for burial in the manner of the ancient Egyptians 2 an unusually well-preserved dead body [ME *mumie* powdered parts of a mummified body used as a drug, fr MF *momie*, fr ML *mumia* mummy, powdered mummy, fr Ar *mumiyah* bitumen, mummy, fr Per *mum* wax]

**mummy** *n*, chiefly Br **MOTHER** 1a - used esp by or to children [baby talk, var of *mama*, *mamma*]

**mumps** /'mʌmps/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr an infectious virus disease marked by gross swelling of esp the parotid glands [fr pl of obs *mump* (gumace)]

**mun** /mən, strong mun/ *verbal auxiliary*, dial Br 1 must 2 may [ME *mun*, *mon* must, shall, fr ON *mon* shall (1 & 3 sing pres indic; infinitive *munu*, *monu*); akin to OE *man*, *mon* he remembers, thinks of, L *mens*, *mens* mind]

**munch** /'mʌntʃ/ *vb* to chew (food) with a crunching sound and visible movement of the jaws [ME *monchen*, prob of imit origin] - **muncher** *n*

**mundane** /'mʌn'deɪn/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of this world in contrast to heaven 2 practical and ordinary, esp to the point of dull familiarity [ME *mondeyne*, fr MF *mondain*, fr LL *mundanus*, fr L *mundus* world] - **mundanely** *adv*, **mundaneness** *n*

**mung bean** /'mʌŋ/ *n* (the edible green or yellow seeds of) an erect bushy bean grown in warm regions, esp as the chief source of bean sprouts [Hindi *m* ug, fr Skt *mudga*]

**mungo** /'mʌŋ goh/ *n*, pl **mungos** reclaimed wool of poor quality, shoddy [origin unknown]

**municipal** /'myʊʊh'nɪsɪpl/ *adj* 1a of a municipality b having local self-government 2 restricted to 1 locality [L *municipalis* of a municipality, fr *municip-*, *municipes* inhabitant of a municipality, lit, undertaker of duties, fr *munus* duty, service + *capere* to take - more at 'MFAN, HEAVE] - **municipally** *adv*


**municipality** /'myʊʊh'nɪsɪ'pælətɪ/ *n* (the governing body of) a primarily urban political unit having corporate status and some self-government

**municipalize**, -**ise** /'myʊʊh'nɪsɪp(ə)leɪz/ *vt* to invest control of in a municipality - **municipalization** /-ɪ'eɪzəʃən/ *n*

**munificent** /'myʊʊh'nɪfɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 giving or bestowing with great generosity 2 characterized by great liberality **USE** fml [back-formation fr *munificence*, fr L *munificentia*, fr *munificus* generous, fr *munus* service, gift] - **munificence** *n*, **munificently** *adv*

**muniment** /'myʊʊh'nɪmənt/ *n* a document kept as evidence of title or privilege - usu pl [AF, fr MF, defence, fr L *munimentum*, fr *munire* to fortify]

**munition** /'myʊʊh'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* armament, ammunition - usu pl with sing meaning [MF, fr L *munitio*-, *munitio*, fr *munitus*, pp of *munire* to fortify, fr *moena* walls, akin to OE *mære* boundary, L *muris* wall] - **munition** *vt*

**muntin** /'mʌntɪn/ *n* a strip separating panes of glass in a sash window or panels in a door  **ARCHITECTURE** [alter. of *montant* (vertical dividing bar), fr F, fr prp of *monter* to rise - more at 'MOUNT]

**muntjac** also **muntjak** /'mʌnt'jak/ *n* any of several small deer of SE Asia and the E Indies [prob modif. of Jav *mundjangan* deer]

**Muntz metal** /'mʌnts/ *n* a widely used brass zinc alloy [George Muntz †1857 E metal manufacturer]

**muon** /'myʊʊʊh-on/ *n* an unstable elementary particle similar to but heavier than the electron, that occurs esp in cosmic rays [contr of earlier *mu-meson*, fr *mu* (taken as a symbol for *meson*, and used to distinguish it from the short-lived *pi-meson*, i.e. *pion*)] - **muonic** /'myʊʊʊh-onɪk/ *adj*

**mural** /'myʊʊʊərəl/ *adj* of, resembling, or applied to a wall [L *muralis*, fr *muris* wall - more at **MUNITION**]

**mural** *n* a mural work of art (e.g. a painting) - **muralist** *n*

**murder** /'mʌdə/ *n* 1 the crime of unlawfully and intentionally killing sby 2 sthg very difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable - infml <it was ~ trying to park> [partly fr ME *murthe*, fr OE *morthor*; partly fr ME *murdre*, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *morthor*; akin to OHG *mord* murder, L *mors* death, *mori* to die, Gk *bros* mortal]

**murder** *vt* 1 to kill (sby) unlawfully and intentionally 2 to slaughter

brutally 3a to put an end to b to mutilate, mangle <~ a sonata> ~ *vi* to commit murder - **murderer**, *fem* **murderess** /-rɪs/ *n*

**murderous** /'mʌdə(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1a having the purpose or capability of murder b characterized by or causing murder or bloodshed 2 capable of overwhelming <~ heat> - **murderously** *adv*, **murderousness** *n*

**murex** /'myʊʊərəks/ *n*, pl **murexes** /'myʊʊərəkseɪz/, **murexes** any of a genus of tropical marine gastropod molluscs with a rough (spiny) shell that yield a purple dye [NL, genus name, fr L, purple shell, akin to Gk *myak*-, *myax* sea-mussel]

**muriate** /'myʊʊəri-ət, -əɪt/ *n* a chloride [F, back-formation fr (*acide*) *muratique* muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid), fr L *muraticus* pickled in brine, fr *muria* brine]

**murine** /'myʊʊənɪn, -rɪn/ *adj* of or being a common domestic rat or esp (house) mouse [deriv of L *mur*-, *mus* mouse - more at **MOUSE**] - **murine** *n*

**murk** /'mʌrk/ *n* gloom, darkness, also fog [ME *mirke*, prob fr ON *myrk*]

**murky** /'mʌki/ *adj* dark and gloomy - **murkily** *adv*, **murkiness** *n*

**murmur** /'mʌmə/ *n* 1 a half-suppressed or muttered complaint 2a a low indistinct (continuous) sound b a subdued or gentle utterance 3 an atypical sound of the heart indicating an abnormality [ME *murmure*, fr MF, fr L *murmur* murmur, roar, of imit origin]

**murmur** *vi* 1 to make a murmur 2 to complain, grumble ~ *vi* to say in a murmur <~ ed an apology for being late> - **murmurer** *n*

**murmuration** /'mʌmə'reɪʃən/ *n* a flock - used with reference to starlings [MURMUR + -ATION]


**murmurous** /'mʌmərus/ *adj* 1 filled with or making murmurs 2 low and indistinct - **murmurously** *adv*

**muscadine** /'mʌskædiən, -dɪn/ *n* a grape of the southern USA with musky fruits borne in small clusters [prob alter of *muscatel*]

**muscarine** /'mʌskəriən/ *n* an alkaloid orig found in fly agaric that gives the effect of stimulation of the parasympathetic nervous system (e.g. in stimulating smooth muscle and dilating blood vessels) [G *muskarin*, fr NL *muscaria*, specific epithet of *Amanita muscaria* fly agaric] - **muscarinic** /-'nɪk/ *adj*

**muscat** /'mʌskət, -kət/ *n* any of several cultivated grapes used in making wine and raisins [F, fr Prov, fr *muscat* musky, fr *musc* musk, fr LL *muscus*]

**muscatel** /'mʌskə'tel/ *n* 1 a sweet dessert wine made from muscat grapes 2 a raisin made from muscat grapes [ME *muscadelle*, fr MF *muscadell*, fr OProv, fr *muscadell* resembling musk, fr *muscat*]

**muscle** /'mʌsl/ *n* 1 (an organ that moves a body part, consisting of) a tissue made of modified elongated cells that contract when stimulated to produce motion  **ANATOMY** 2 muscular strength, brawn [MF, fr L *musculus*, fr dim of *mus* mouse - more at **MOUSE**] - **muscle** *adj*

**muscle-bound** /-'bəʊnd/ *adj* 1 having enlarged muscles with impaired elasticity, often as a result of excessive exercise 2 lacking flexibility, rigid

**muscle** *in* *vi* **muscling** /'mʌslɪŋ, 'mʌʃlɪŋ/ to interfere forcibly - **in**fm; often + *on*

**uscovado** /'mʌskə'vədhə/ *n* the unrefined sugar obtained as crystals after sugarcane juice has been evaporated and the molasses drained off [Sp or Pg, Sp (azúcar) *mascabado*, fr Pg (açúcar) *mascavado*, fr açúcar sugar + *mascavado*, pp of *mascavar* to adulterate, separate raw sugar (from molasses), fr (assumed) VL *minuscapare*, fr L *minus* less + *caput* head]

**uscovite** /'mʌskə'vɪt/ *n* 1 *cap* a native or inhabitant of (the ancient principality of) Moscow 2 a colourless to pale brown potassium mica [ML or NL *Muscovia*, *Moscovia* Moscow, principality & city of Russia] - **uscovite** *adj*

**Muscovy duck** /'mʌskə'vi/ *n* a large S American crested duck widely kept in domestication [prob alter of *musk duck*]

**muscul**, **musculo-** *comb form* 1 muscle <(muscular)> 2 muscular and <(musculoskeletal)> [LL *muscul*-, fr L *musculus*]

**muscular** /'mʌskjʊələ/ *adj* 1a of, constituting, or performed by muscle or the muscles b having well-developed musculature 2 having strength of expression or character; vigorous - **muscularly** *adv*, **muscularity** /-'lærəti/ *n*

**muscular dystrophy** *n* progressive wasting of muscles occurring as a hereditary disease

**musculature** /'mʌskjʊələtʃə/ *n* the system of muscles of (part of) the body [F, fr L *musculus*]

**musé** /'myʊʊh/ *vi* to become absorbed in thought; esp to engage in daydreaming ~ *vi* to think or say reflectively [ME *musen*, fr MF *muser*]

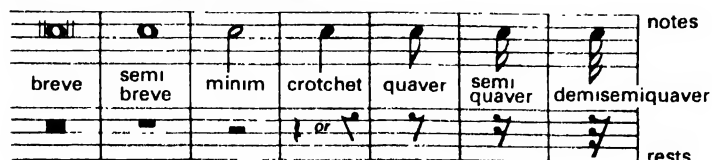
- to gape, idle, muse, fr *muse* mouth of an animal, fr ML *musus*] – *r n*
- 1** *muse* *n* 1 cap any of the 9 sister goddesses in Greek mythology who were the patrons of the arts and sciences 2 a source of inspiration, esp a woman who influences a creative artist [ME, fr MF, fr L *Musa*, fr Gk *Mousa*, prob akin to Gk *mnasthai* to remember]
- 2** *museum* /myoo'h-zee-əm/ *n* 1 an institution devoted to the acquiring, care, study, and display of objects of interest or value; also a place exhibiting such objects [L *Museum* library, study, fr Gk *Mouseion*, fr neut of *Mouseios* of the Muses, fr *Mousa*]
- 3** *muséum, pièce* *n* 1 an object interesting enough for a museum to display 2 sthg absurdly old-fashioned
- 4** *mush* /mush/ *n* 1 a soft mass of semiliquid material 2 mawkish sentimentality [prob alter of *marsh*]
- 5** *mushroom* /'mushrohm, -room/ *n* 1 the enlarged, esp edible, fleshy fruiting body of a class of fungus, consisting typically of a stem bearing a flattened cap 2 a fungus [ME *musseroun*, fr MF *mousseron*, fr LL *muscirion*-, *musirino*]
- 6** *mushroom* *vi* 1 to spring up suddenly or multiply rapidly 2 to flatten at the end on impact 3 to pick wild mushrooms (<go ~ing>)
- 7** *mushy* /'mushi/ *adj* 1 having the consistency of mush 2 mawkishly sentimental – *mushily* *adv*, *mushiness* *n*
- 8** *music* /'myoo'h-zik/ *n* 1a the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession and combination to produce a composition having unity and continuity b vocal, instrumental, or mechanical sounds having rhythm, melody, or harmony 2 an agreeable sound 3 the score of a musical composition set down on paper **USE** © [ME *musik*, fr OF *musique*, fr L *musica*, fr Gk *mousike* any art presided over by the Muses, esp music, fr fem of *mousikos* of the Muses, fr *Mousa* Muse]
- 9** *musical* /'myoo'h-zikl/ *adj* 1 having the pleasing harmonious qualities of music 2 having an interest in or talent for music 3 set to or accompanied by music 4 of music, musicians, or music lovers – *musically* *adv*, *musicality* /-'kaloti/ *n*
- 10** *musical* *n* a film or theatrical production that consists of songs, dances, and dialogue based on a unifying plot
- 11** *musical box*, chiefly *NAM* *music box* *n* a container enclosing an apparatus that reproduces music mechanically when activated
- 12** *musical chairs* *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* a game in which players march to music round a row of chairs numbering 1 less than the players and scramble for seats when the music stops
- 13** *musical comedy* *n* a musical, esp one of a sentimental or humorous nature
- 14** *music centre* *n*, *Br* a usu stereophonic system that houses a record player, a radio, and a cassette tape recorder in a single unit
- 15** *music hall* *n* (a theatre formerly presenting) entertainments consisting of a variety of unrelated acts (e.g. acrobats, comedians, or singers)
- 16** *musician* /'myoo'h-zish(ə)n/ *n* a composer, conductor, or performer of music; esp an instrumentalist – *musicianship* *n*
- 17** *musicology* /'myoo'h-zik'oləj/ *n* the study of music as a branch of knowledge or field of research [It *musicologia*, fr L *musica* music + *-logia* -logy] – *musicologist* *n*, *musicological* /'myoo'h-zik'oljkl/ *adj*
- 18** *music stool* *n* a stool used having an adjustable height and used by a pianist
- 19** *musings* /'myoo'h-zing/ *n* meditation, reflection – *musingly* *adv*
- 20** *musique concrète* /'mooh-zee'k kɔŋ'kret (Fr myzik kɔkret)/ *n* a montage of recorded natural sounds (e.g. voices, traffic noise, and bird calls) arbitrarily modified and arranged [F, lit., concrete music]
- 21** *musk* /'musk/ *n* 1a (a synthetic substitute for) a substance with a penetrating persistent smell that is obtained from a gland of the male musk deer and used as a perfume fixative; also a similar substance from another animal b the odour of musk 2 any of various plants with musky smells [ME *muske*, fr MF *musc*, fr LL *muscus*, fr Gk *moschos*, fr Per *mushk*, fr Skt *mushka* testicle, fr dim. of *muṣ* mouse; akin to OE *mus* mouse] – *musky* *adj*
- 22** *musk deer* *n* a small heavy-limbed hornless deer of central Asia, the male of which produces musk
- 23** *muskeg* /'muskeg/ *n* 1 a sphagnum bog of northern N America, often with tussocks 2 a usu thick deposit of partially decayed vegetable matter of wet northern regions [of Algonquian origin; akin to Ojibwa *mūskeg* grassy bog]
- 24** *musketeer* /'muskit/ *n* a heavy large-calibre shoulder firearm with a smooth bore [MF *mouquet*, fr OIt *moschetto* arrow for a crossbow, musket, fr dim. of *mosca* fly, fr L *musca* – more at *MIDGE*]
- 25** *musketeer* /'muskə'tiə/ *n* a soldier armed with a musket [modif of MF *mousquetaire*, fr *mouquet*]
- 26** *musketry* /'musktri/ *n* 1 (troops armed with) muskets 2 musket fire
- 27** *muskmelon* /'musk.melən/ *n* (an Asiatic plant that bears) a usu sweet musky-smelling edible melon
- 28** *musk-ox* *n* a thickset shaggy-coated wild ox of Greenland and northern N America  *DEFENCE*
- 29** *musk, rat* /-,rat/ *n*, *pl* *musk rats*, esp collectively *musk rat* an aquatic rodent of N America with a long scaly tail and webbed hind feet [prob by folk etymology fr a word of Algonquian origin; akin to Natick *musquash* muskrat]
- 30** *musk, rose* *n* a rose of the Mediterranean region with musky flowers
- 31** *musk, thistle* *n* a Eurasian thistle with drooping musky flower heads
- 32** *Muslim* /'moozlim, 'muz-/ *n* an adherent of Islam [Ar *muslim*, lit. one who surrenders (to God)] – *Muslim* *adj*
- 33** *muslin* /'muzlin/ *n* a plain-woven sheer to coarse cotton fabric [F *mousseline*, fr It *mussolina*, fr Ar *mawṣilīy* of Mosul, fr al-Mawṣil Mosul, city in Iraq]
- 34** *musquash* /'muskwoʃ/ *n* (the dark glossy brown fur or pelt of) the muskrat [of Algonquian origin, akin to Natick *musquash* muskrat]
- 35** *muss* /mus/ *n*, *NAM* a state of disorder, mess – *infrm* [origin unknown] – *mussy* *adj*
- 36** *muss* *vt*, *NAM* to make untidy, disarrange, dishevel – *infrm*
- 37** *musse* /'musl/ *n* 1 a marine bivalve mollusc with a dark elongated shell 2 a freshwater bivalve mollusc whose shell has a lustrous mother-of-pearl lining [ME *muscle*, fr OE *muscelle*, akin to OHG *muscula* mussel; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *muscula*, fr L *musculus* muscle, mussel]
- 38** *Musulman* /'muslman, 'moos-/ *n*, *pl* *Musulmen* /-mən, -men/, *Musulmans* *archaic* a Muslim [Turk *musluman* & Per *musulman*, modif of Ar *muslim*]
- 39** *must* /məst(ə), strong must/ *verbal auxiliary*, *pres & past all persons must* 1a be commanded or requested to (<you ~ stop>) b certainly should, ought by all means to (<I ~ read that book>) <we mustn't despair> 2 be compelled by physical, social, or legal necessity to (<man ~ eat to live>) <I ~ say you're looking much better>, be required by need or purpose to (<we ~ hurry if we want to catch the bus>) – past often replaced by *had* to except in reported speech; used in the negative to express the idea of prohibition (<we ~ not park here>) 3 'will <(if you ~ go at least wait till morning)>, esp be unreasonably or perversely compelled to (<why ~ you be so stubborn?>) <in spite of my advice, she ~ go and do the opposite> 4 be logically inferred or supposed to (<it ~ be time>) <(they mustn't have arrived)> – compare 'CAN *Id* 5 was presumably certain to, was or were bound to (<if he really was there I ~ have seen him>) [ME *moste*, fr OE *moste*, past indic & subj of *motan* to be allowed to, have to, akin to OHG *muozan* to be allowed to, have to, OE *metan* to measure – more at *METE*]
- 40** *must* /must/ *n* an essential or prerequisite
- 41** *must* /must/ *n* grape juice before and during fermentation [ME, fr OE, fr L *mustum*, fr neut of *mustus* young, fresh, new]
- 42** *mustache* /mə'stəʃh, mə'stəʃ-/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a moustache
- 43** *mustachio* /mə'stəʃhiə, mə'stəʃhiə/ *n*, *pl* *mustachios* a (large) moustache [Sp & It, Sp *mostacho*, fr It *mustaccio*] – *mustachioed* *adj*
- 44** *mustang* /'mustang/ *n* the small hardy naturalized horse of the western plains of the USA [MexSp *mestengo*, fr Sp, stray, fr *mesteño* strayed, fr *mesta* annual roundup of cattle that disposed of strays, fr ML (*animalia*) *mista* mixed animals]
- 45** *mustard* /'müstəd/ *n* (a pungent yellow powder used as a condiment or in medicine, esp as an emetic or counterirritant, and ground from the seeds of) any of several related plants with lobed leaves, yellow flowers, and straight seed pods [ME, fr OF *moŕtarde*, fr *mouste* must, fr L *mustum*] – *mustardy* *adj*
- 46** *mustard gas* *n* an irritant and blister-inducing oily liquid used as a poison gas
- 47** *muster* /'müstə/ *vt* 1a to assemble, convene b to call the roll of 2 to summon in response to a need (<all the courage he could ~>) ~ *vi* to come together; congregate [ME *mustren* to show, muster, fr OF *monstrer*, fr L *monstrare* to show, fr *monstrum* evil omen, monster – more at *MONSTER*]
- 48** *muster* *n* 1a assembling (for military inspection) b an assembled group; a collection 2 a critical examination (<slipshod work that would never pass ~>)
- 49** *muster roll* *n* a register of the officers and men in a military unit or ship's company
- 50** *muṣṣ*, *muṣṣ* /must/ *n* a periodic state of frenzy in the male elephant, usu

## Clefs



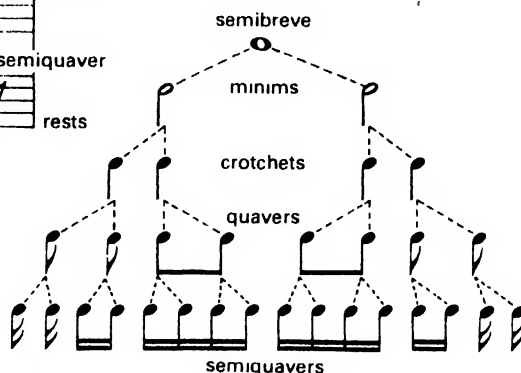
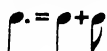
The C clef is called the alto clef or the tenor clef, depending on where it is placed on the staff. The positions of middle C on the alto and tenor clefs are shown.

## Notes and rests, and their values

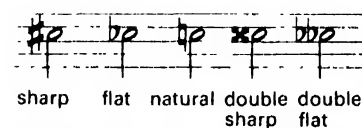


Each note is played or sung exactly half as long as the one in the row above.

When a note has a dot placed after it, it is held for exactly half as long again.

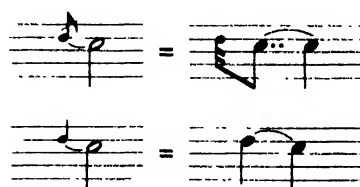


## Accidentals

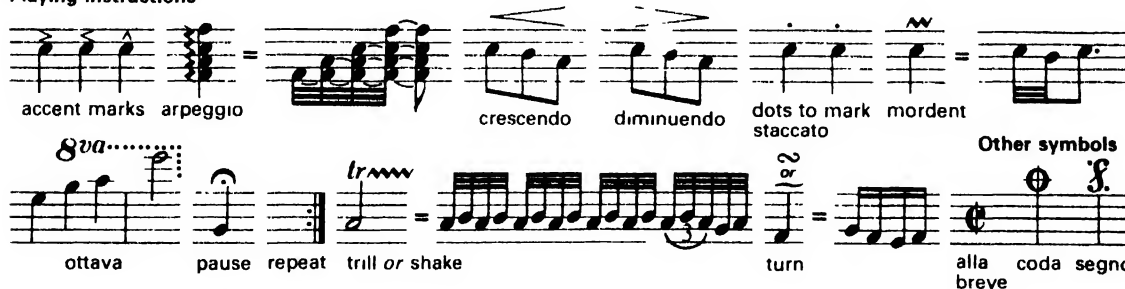
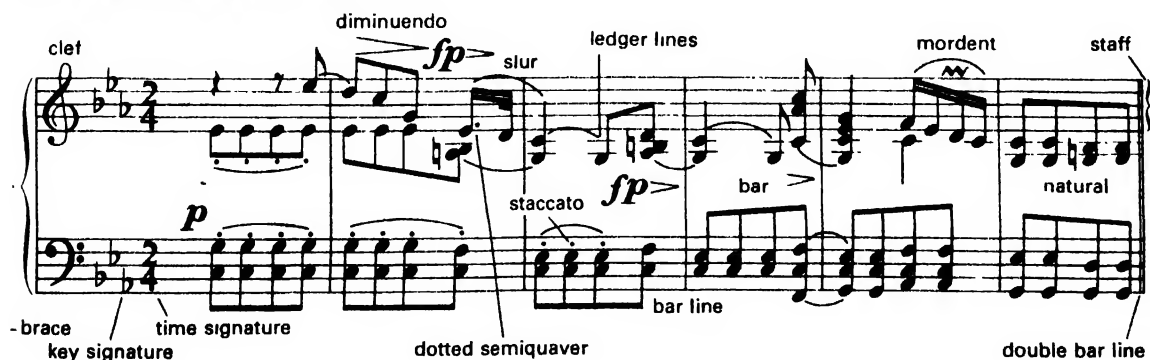


Accidentals are notes that are outside the key indicated by the key signature.

Grace notes are decorative notes before a main note, if they have a stroke across the tail (acciaccaturas) they are played as quickly as possible, but if not (appoggiaturas) they are of the same length as the main note.



## Playing instructions

First bars of Schubert's *Gute Nacht*

- connected with the rutting season [Hindi *mast* intoxicated, fr Per; akin to OE *mete* meat]
- mustn't** /musnt/ must not
- musty** /mʊsti/ *adj* 1 affected by mould, damp, or mildew 2 tasting or smelling of damp and decay [*must* (musk, mould; fr MF, alter. of *musc* musk) + <sup>1</sup>-y] – **mustily** *adv*, **mustiness** *n*
- mutable** /'myoohtəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of or liable to change or alteration 2 capable of or subject to mutation [L *mutabilis*, fr *mutare* to change – more at *MISS*] – **mutableness** *n*, **mutably** *adv*, **mutability** /'myoohtəbiliti/ *n*
- mutagen** /'myoohtəʒən/ *n* sthg (e.g. mustard gas) that increases the frequency of mutation [ISV *mutation* + *-gen*] – **mutagenesis** /-ʒənəsɪs/ *n*, **mutagenic** /-ʒenɪk/ *adj*, **mutagenically** *adv*, **mutagenicity** /-ʒə-'nisəti/ *n*
- mutation** /'myoohtəʔən/ *n* 1 (a) significant and fundamental alteration 2 *sandhi*; *specif* umlaut 3 (an individual or strain differing from others of its type and resulting from) a relatively permanent change in an organism's hereditary material [ME *mutacioun*, fr MF *mutation*, fr L *mutation*, *mutatio*, fr *mutatus*, pp of *mutare*] – **mutational** *adj*, **mutationally** *adv*, **mutant** /'myooht(ə)nt/ *n*, **mutate** /'myoohtəʔt/ *vb*
- mutatis mutandis** /'mooh,tahtʊs mooh'tandɪs/ *adv* with the necessary changes having been made or respective differences considered [NL]
- 'mute** /'myooht/ *adj* 1 unable to speak; dumb 2a felt but not expressed (< ~ *sympathy*) b refusing to plead (<the prisoner stands ~>) 3 of letters (e.g. the *b* in *plumb*) not pronounced [ME *muet*, fr MF, fr OF *mu*, fr L *mutus*; akin to OHG *māwen* to cry out, Gk *mytēs* mute] – **mutely** *adv*, **muteness** *n*
- 'mute** *n* 1 one who cannot or does not speak 2 STOP 7 3 a device attached to a musical instrument to reduce, soften, or muffle its tone
- 'mute** *vt* 1 to muffle or reduce the sound of 2 to tone down (a colour)
- 'mute** *vi*, of a bird to pass waste matter from the body [ME *muten*, fr MF *meutir*, short for *esmeutir*, fr OF *esmutir*, of Gmc origin]
- 'muted** *adj* 1 silent, subdued 2 provided with or produced or modified by the use of a mute – **mutedly** *adv*
- mute swan** *n* the common white swan of Europe and W Asia that produces no loud notes
- mutilate** /'myoohtilaɪt/ *vt* 1 to cut off or permanently destroy or damage a limb or essential part of 2 to damage or deface (<the censors had ~d the script>) [L *mutilatus*, pp of *mutilare*, fr *mutilus* mutilated; akin to L *muticus* curtailed, docked, OIr *mut* short] – **mutilator** *n*, **mutilation** /-'ləʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- mutineer** /'myoohtɪnɪə/ *n* sby who mutines
- mutinous** /'myoohtɪnəs/ *adj* 1 tending to mutiny; rebellious 2 of or constituting mutiny – **mutiniously** *adv*, **mutinousness** *n*
- mutiny** /'myoohtɪni/ *n* open resistance to lawful authority; esp concerted revolt (e.g. of a naval crew) against discipline or a superior officer [obs *mutine* (to rebel), fr MF (se) *mutiner*, fr *mutin* mutinous, fr *meute* revolt, fr (assumed) VL *movia*, fr fem of *movitus*, alter. of L *motus*, pp of *movēre* to move] – **mutiny** *vi*
- mutt** /mut/ *n* 1 a dull or stupid person 2 a (mongrel) dog [short for *muttonhead* (dull-witted person)]
- mutter** /'mutə/ *vi* 1 to utter sounds or words in a low or indistinct voice 2 to utter muffled threats or complaints ~ *vt* to utter, esp in a low or indistinct voice [ME *muteren*; akin to L *muttire* to mutter, *mutus* mute] – **mutter** *n*, **mutterer** *n*
- mutton** /'mutn/ *n* the flesh of a mature sheep used as food  MEAT [ME *motoun*, fr OF *mouton* ram, wether, of Celt origin, akin to MBret *mout* wether] – **muttony** *adj*
- 'mutton, chops** /-chɒps/ *n* *pl* side-whiskers that are narrow at the temple and broad by the lower jaws
- mutual** /'myoohtyooəl, -chəl/ *adj* 1a directed by each towards the other (< ~ *affection*) b having the same specified feeling for each other (<they had long been ~ *enemies*) 2 shared by 2 or more in common [ME, fr MF *mutuel*, fr L *mutuus* lent, borrowed, mutual; akin to L *mutare* to change – more at *MISS*] – **mutualize** *vb*, **mutually** *adv*, **mutuality** /-'aləti/ *n*
- mutualism** /'myoohtyooəlɪz(ə)m, -chəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the doctrine or practice of mutual dependence as essential for social welfare 2 symbiosis for mutual benefit – **mutualist** *n*, **mutualistic** /-'lɪstɪk/ *adj*
- Muzak** /'myoohtzak/ *trademark* – used for recorded background music played in public places
- muzhik** /'moohzhɪk/ *n*, *pl* **muzhiks** also **muzhiki** /-ki/ a Russian peasant [Rus]
- 'muzzle** /'mʊzl/ *n* 1a the projecting jaws and nose of a dog or other animal b a covering for the mouth of an animal used to prevent biting, barking, etc 2 the discharging end of a pistol, rifle, etc [ME *musell*, fr MF *musel*, fr dim of *muse* mouth of an animal, fr ML *musus*]
- 'muzzle** *vt* **muzzling** /'mʊzlɪŋ, 'mʊzlɪŋ/ 1 to fit with a muzzle 2 to restrain from free expression; gag – **muzzler** *n*
- 'muzzle-loader** *n* a firearm that is loaded through the muzzle
- muzzy** /'mʊzi/ *adj* mentally confused, befuddled [perh blend of *muddled* and *fuzzy*] – **muzzily** *adv*, **muzziness** *n*
- my** /mie/ *adj* 1 of me or myself, esp as possessor (< ~ *car*), agent (< ~ *promise*), or object of an action (< ~ *injuries*) – sometimes used with vocatives (< ~ *child*) (< ~ *lord*) and in the opening of a letter (<My dear Mrs Jones>) 2 – used interjectionally to express surprise and sometimes reduplicated (< ~ *oh* ~), in certain fixed exclamations (< ~ *God!*), and with names of certain parts of the body to express doubt or disapproval (< ~ *foot!*) [ME, fr OE *min*, fr *min*, suppletive gen of *ic* I; akin to OE *me* me]
- my-** /mie-, myo- *comb form* muscul- <myograph> <myoneural> [NL, fr Gk, fr *mys* mouse, muscle – more at *MOUSE*]
- myasthenia** /mie-əs'theenɪə, -ni-ə/ *n* muscular weakness [NL] – **myasthenic** *adj*
- myasthenia 'gravis** /'grahvɪs/ *n* a disease characterized by progressive weakness and exhaustibility of voluntary muscles without wasting [NL, lit, grave myasthenia]
- myc-**, **myco-** *comb form* fungus <mycology> <mycosis> [NL, fr Gk *myket-*, *mykes*, akin to Gk *myxa* nasal mucus]
- mycelium** /mie'seelyəm/ *n*, *pl* **mycelia** /-li-ə/ the mass of interwoven filamentous hyphae that forms the body of a fungus and is usu submerged in another body (e.g. of soil or the tissues of a host) [NL, fr *myc-* + Gk *helos* nail, wart, callus] – **mycellial** *adj*
- Mycenaean** also **Mycenian** /miesi'neɪ-ən/ *adj* (characteristic) of the Bronze Age culture of Mycenae and the Eastern Mediterranean area, esp from 1400 BC to 1100 AC [Mycenae, ancient city of Greece, fr L, fr Gk *Mykenai*] – **Mycenaean** *n*
- mycetozoon** /mie,seɪ'zoh ən/ *n* SLIME MOUND [NL *Mycetozoa*, order of protozoans, fr Gk *myket-*, *mykes* + NL *-zoo*] – **mycetozoon** *adj*
- mycoflora** /,mɪkə'sflawrə/ *n* the fungi characteristic of a region or special environment [NL]
- mycology** /mie'koləʒi/ *n* (the biology of) fungal life or fungi [NL *mycologia*, fr *myc-* + L *-logia* -logy] – **mycologist** *n*, **mycological** /,mɪkə'lojɪkl/ also **mycologic** *adj*, **mycologically** *adv*
- mycoplasma** /,mɪkə'hplazmə/ *n*, *pl* **mycoplasmas**, **mycoplasmata** /-mətə/ any of a genus of minute microorganisms without cell walls that are intermediate in some respects between viruses and bacteria and are mostly parasitic, usu in mammals [NL, genus name, fr *myc-* + *plasma*] – **mycoplasmal** *adj*
- mycorrhiza** /,mɪkə'rezə/ *n*, *pl* **mycorrhizae** /-zi/, **mycorrhizas** the symbiotic association of the mycelium of a fungus with the roots of a flowering plant (e.g. an orchid) [NL, fr *myc-* + Gk *rhiza* root – more at 'ROOT] – **mycorrhizal** *adj*
- mycosis** /mie'kəʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **mycoses** /-seɪz/ infection with or disease caused by a fungus [NL] – **mycotic** /mie'kəʊtɪk/ *adj*
- mycotoxin** /,mɪkə'tɒksɪn/ *n* a toxic substance produced by a fungus, esp a mould
- mydriasis** /mie'drie-əsɪs/ *n* a long-continued (excessive) dilation of the pupil of the eye [L, fr Gk] – **mydriatic** /,mɪdri'atɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- myel-**, **myelo-** *comb form* marrow; spinal cord <myelencephalon> [NL, fr Gk, fr *myelos*, fr *mys* mouse, muscle – more at *MOUSE*]
- myelin** /mie-əlin/ *n* a soft white fatty material that forms a thick sheath about the cytoplasmic core of nerve cells adapted for fast conduction of nervous impulses [ISV] – **myelinic** /-'lɪnɪk/ *adj*
- myelinated** /mie-əli,naɪtɪd/ *adj*, of a nerve fibre having a sheath of myelin
- myelitis** /mie-ə'lietɪs/ *n* inflammation of the bone marrow [NL]
- myelogenous** /mie-ə'lojɪnəs/, **myelogenic** /mie-ə'loh'jenɪk/ *adj* of, originating in, or produced by the bone marrow [ISV]
- myeloid** /mie-ə'loɪd/ *adj* myelogenous [ISV]
- myeloma** /mie-ə'lohmə/ *n* a tumour of the bone marrow [NL] – **myelomatous** /-mətəs/ *adj*
- myna**, **mynah** also **mina** /mienə/ *n* any of various Asian starlings; esp a largely black one easily taught to pronounce words [Hindi *mainā*, fr Skt *mādana*]
- myo-** – see **MY-**
- myocardium** /mie-oh'kahdi-əm/ *n* the middle muscular layer of the heart wall [NL, fr *my-* + Gk *kardia* heart – more at *HEART*] – **myocardial** *adj*, **myocarditis** /-kah'diɪtɪs/ *n*

**myofibril** /mie-oh'fiebril, -'fibril/ *n* any of the long thin parallel contractile filaments of a muscle cell [NL *myofibrilla*, fr *my-* + *fibrilla* fibril] – **myofibrillar** *adj*

**myoglobin** /mie-ə'glohbɪn, -'glohbɪn/ *n* a red iron-containing protein pigment in muscles, similar to haemoglobin [ISV]

**myope** /mie-ohp/ *n* a myopic person [F, fr LL *myops* myopic, fr Gk *myops*, fr *myein* to be closed + *ops* eye, face – more at MYSTERY, EYE]

**myopia** /mie'ohpi-ə/ *n* defective vision of distant objects resulting from the focussing of the visual images in front of the retina, shortsightedness – compare HYPERMETROPIA [NL, fr Gk *myopia*, fr *myop-*, *myops*] – **myopic** /mie'opik, -'ohpik/ *adj*, **myopically** *adv*

**myosin** /mie-əsin/ *n* a fibrous muscle protein that reacts with actin to produce muscular movement [ISV *myos-* (fr Gk *myos*, gen of *mys* mouse, muscle) + *-in*]

**myosis** /mie'ohsis/ *n* miosis – **myotic** /mie'otik/ *adj*

**'myriad** /mɪrɪ-əd/ *n* 1 ten thousand 2 an indefinitely large number – often pl with sing meaning [Gk *myriad-*, *myrias*, fr *myrios* countless, ten thousand]

**'myriad** *adj* innumerable, countless

**myriapod**, **myriopod** /mɪrɪ-ə,pod/ *n* a millipede, centipede, or related arthropod with a body made up of numerous similar segments bearing jointed legs [deriv of Gk *myrios* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT]

**myrmec**, **myrmeco-** *comb form* ant <myrmecophagous> [Gk *myrmek-*, *myrmekōn*, fr *myrmek-*, *myrmex* – more at PISMIKE]

**myrmidon** /muhmɪd(ə)n/ *n* a subordinate who carries out orders unquestioningly [L *Myrmidon-*, *Myrmido*, fr Gk *Myrmidon*, one of the legendary Thessalian people accompanying Achilles to the Trojan War]

**myrobalan** /mɪrə'ʊbələn, mɪ-/ *n* 1 the dried astringent fruit of an E Indian tree used chiefly in tanning and in inks 2 an Asian plum tree much used in Europe as grafting stock [MF *myrobalan*, fr L *myrobalanus*, fr Gk *myrobalanos*, fr *myron* unguent + *balanos* acorn – more at SMEAR, GLAND]

**myrrh** /muh/ *n* (a mixture of labdanum with) brown bitter aromatic gum resin obtained from any of several African and Asian trees [ME *myrre*, fr OE, fr L *myrrha*, fr Gk, of Sem origin, akin to Ar *murr* myrrh]

**myrtle** /muɪtl/ *n* 1 an evergreen S European bushy shrub with shiny leaves, fragrant white or rosy flowers, and black berries, or a related tropical shrub or tree 2 *NAm* 'PERIWINKLE [ME *myrtile*, fr MF, fr ML *myrtillus*, fr L *myrtus*, fr Gk *myrtos*, prob of Sem origin]

**myself** /mie'self/ *pron* 1 that identical one that is I – used reflexively (<I got ~ a new suit>), for emphasis (<I ~ will go>), or in absolute constructions (<~ a tourist, I nevertheless avoided other tourists>) 2 my normal self (<I'm not quite ~ today>) – compare ONESELF [ME, alter of *meself*]

**mysterious** /mɪ'stɪən-əs/ *adj* 1 difficult to comprehend 2 containing, suggesting, or implying mystery – **mysteriously** *adv*, **mysteriousness** *n*

**mystery** /mɪ'st(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1a a religious truth disclosed by revelation alone b(1) any of the 15 events (e.g. the Nativity, the Crucifixion, or the Assumption) serving as a subject for meditation during the saying of the rosary (2) *cap* a Christian sacrament, specif the Eucharist c a secret religious rite (e.g. of Eleusinian or Mithraic cults) 2a sthg not understood or beyond understanding (<his disappearance remains a ~> (<a ~ illness>) b a fictional work dealing usu with the solution of a mysterious crime 3 an enigmatic or secretive quality [ME *mysterie*, fr L *mysterium*, fr Gk *mystērion*, fr (assumed) *mystos* keeping silence, fr Gk *myein* to be closed (of the eyes or lips)]

**'mystery play**, **mystery** *n* a medieval religious drama based on episodes from the Scriptures [F *mystère*, fr L *mysterium*]

**mystic** /mɪstɪk/ *n* a person who believes that God or ultimate reality can only be apprehended by direct personal experience (and who orders his/her life towards this goal)

**mystical** /mɪstɪkl/, **mystic** *adj* 1 having a sacred or spiritual meaning not given by normal modes of thought or feeling 2 of or resulting from a person's direct experience of communion with God or ultimate reality 3 of mysteries or esoteric rites 4 of mysticism or mystics 5a mysterious, incomprehensible b obscure, esoteric c arousing awe and wonder [ME *mistik*, fr L *mysticus* of mysteries, fr Gk *mystikos*, fr (assumed) *mystos*] – **mystically** *adv*, **mysticism** /-sɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**mystification** /mɪstɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* mystifying or being mystified

**mystify** /mɪstɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to perplex, bewilder 2 to cause to appear mysterious or obscure [F *mistifier*, fr *mystère* mystery, fr L *mysterium*] – **mystifier** *n*, **mystifyingly** *adv*

**mystique** /mɪ'steɪk/ *n* 1 a mystical reverential atmosphere or quality

associated with a person or thing 2 an esoteric skill peculiar to an occupation or activity [F, fr *mystique*, *adj*, mystic, fr L *mysticus*]

**myth** /mith/ *n* 1 a traditional story that embodies popular beliefs or explains a practice, belief, or natural phenomenon 2 a parable, allegory 3a a person or thing having a fictitious existence b a belief subscribed to uncritically by an (interested) group [Gk *mythos* tale, speech, myth]

**mythical** /mɪthɪkl/ *also* **mythic** *adj* 1 based on or described in a myth 2 invented or imagined – **mythically** *adv*

**mythicize**, **-ise** /mɪthɪ,sɪz/ *vt* to treat as or make the basis of a myth – **mythicizer** *n*

**mythological** /mɪθə'lɒjɪkl/ *adj* 1 of or dealt with in mythology or myths 2 lacking factual or historical basis – **mythologically** *adv*

**mythologize**, **-ise** /mɪθə'lɒjɪz/ *vt* to build a myth round ~ *vi* to relate, classify, and explain myths – **mythologizer** *n*

**mythology** /mɪθə'lɒjɪ/ *n* 1 a body of myths, esp those dealing with the gods and heroes of a particular people 2 a branch of knowledge that deals with myth 3 a body of beliefs, usu with little factual foundation, lending glamour or mystique to sthg [F or LL, F *mythologie*, fr LL *mythologia* interpretation of myths, fr Gk, legend, myth, fr *mythologein* to relate myths, fr *mythos* + *logos* speech – more at LEGEND] – **mythologist** *n*

**my 'word** *interj* – used to express surprise or astonishment

**myxoedema** /mɪksə'deɪmə/ *n* thickening and dryness of the skin and loss of vigour resulting from severe hypothyroidism [NL, fr Gk *myxa* lamp wick, mucus + NL *oedema* swelling]

**myxoma** /mɪk'sohmə/ *n*, pl **myxomas**, **myxomata** /-mətə/ a soft tumour made up of gelatinous connective tissue [NL, fr Gk *myxa*] – **myxomatous** /-mətəs/ *adj*

**myxomatosis** /mɪksə'mə'tohsɪs/ *n* a severe flea-transmitted virus disease of rabbits that is characterized by the formation of myxomas in the body, and that has been used in their biological control [NL, fr *myxoma*, *myxoma*]

**myxomycete** /mɪksəh'mi:seɪt, -'sɪ-/ *n* SLIME MOULD [deriv of Gk *myxa* + *myket-*, *mykes* fungus – more at MYC-] – **myxomycetous** /-sɪ-/ *adj*

## N

**n** /en/ *n*, pl **n's**, *ns* often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 14th letter of the English alphabet 2 an indefinite number 3 the haploid or gametic number of chromosomes 4 an en

-n – see 1-EN

**'n** *also* **'n** / (ə)n/ *conj* and (<fish ~ chips>)

**na** /nə/ *adv*, Scot *no* [ME (northern), fr OE *nā* – more at NO]

**Naafi** /nafi/ *n* the organization which runs shops and canteens in British military establishments, *also* any of these shops or canteens [Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes]

**nab** /nab/ *vt* -bb- 1 to arrest, apprehend 2 to catch hold of, grab *USE* infml [perh alter of E dial *nap*, prob of Scand origin]

**nabob** /nə'bob/ *n* 1 a provincial governor of the Mogul empire in India 2 a man of great wealth – used orig of an Englishman grown rich in India [Hindi & Urdu *nawwāb*, fr Ar *nawwāb*, pl of *nā'ib* governor] – **nabobess** /-bə/ *n*

**nacelle** /nə'sel/ *n* a housing for an aircraft engine [F, lit., small boat, fr LL *navicella*, dim. of L *navis* ship – more at NAVE]

**nacre** /'nə'kə/ *n* mother-of-pearl [MF, fr Olt *naccara* drum, nacre, fr Ar *naqqārah* drum] – **nacred** *adj*, **nacreous** /'nə'kri-əs/ *adj*

**NAD** *n* a widely occurring compound that is a cofactor of numerous enzymes that catalyse oxidation or reduction reactions [nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide]

**Na-dene** /nə'deɪn/ *also* **Na-déné** /~, nah'deɪn/ *n* a group of related American Indian languages spoken in parts of NW USA [na- (fr an Athapaskan word-stem basically meaning 'people') + *Déné* (a member or the language of an Athapaskan people living in Alaska & NW Canada), fr F, fr *Déné*]

**nadir** /'nə'dɪə, 'nah-/ *n* 1 the point of the celestial sphere that is directly opposite the zenith and vertically downwards from the observer 2 the lowest point [ME, fr MF, fr Ar *nazir* opposite]

**naevus** /'neɪvəs/ *n* a congenital pigmented area on the skin; a birthmark [NL, fr L]

**naft** /'off /naf/ vi, Br F\*UCK OFF 1 – euph, slang [naft perh alter of eff]

**nag** /nag/ n a horse, esp one that is old or in poor condition [ME *nagge*; akin to D *negge* small horse]

**nag** vb -gg- vi 1 to find fault incessantly 2 to be a persistent source of annoyance or discomfort ~ vt to subject to constant scolding or urging [prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *gnaga* to gnaw; akin to OE *gnagan* to gnaw] – *nagger* n, *nagging* adj, *naggingly* adv

**nag** n a person, esp a woman, who nags habitually

**Naga** /'naga/ n, pl *Nagas*, esp collectively *Naga* a member of a group of Tibeto-Burman peoples in Assam and adjoining parts of Burma  
**nagana** /nə'gana/ n a fatal disease of domestic animals in tropical Africa caused by a trypanosome and transmitted by tsetse flies [Zulu *u-nakane*, *ulu-nakane*]

**Nahuatl** /'nah,wahtl, -wo-/ n, pl *Nahuatl*, esp collectively *Nahuatl* 1 a group of American Indian peoples of S Mexico and Central America 2 the language of the Nahuatl people [Sp, fr Nahuatl] – *Nahuatl* /nah'wahtlan, -'wotlan/ adj or n

**Nahum** /'nayham/ n (an Old Testament book attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 7th c bc [Heb *Nahum*]

**naïad** /'niead/ n, pl *naïades*, *naïades* /'nie-ə,dee/ 1 often cap a nymph in classical mythology living in lakes, rivers, etc 2 the aquatic larva of a mayfly, dragonfly, damselfly, etc [F or L; F *naïade*, fr L *naïad*-, *naïas*, fr Gk, fr *nan* to flow – more at *NOURISH*]

**naïce** /nays/ adj affectedly proper or polite – humor or derog [alter of nice]

**naïf** /nah'eef/ adj naïve [F] – *naïf* n

**nail** /nayl/ n 1 (a claw or other structure corresponding to) a horny sheath protecting the upper end of each finger and toe of human beings and other primates 2 a slender usu pointed and headed spike designed to be driven in, esp with a hammer, to join materials, act as a support, etc [ME, fr OE *nægl*, akin to OHG *nagal* nail, fingernail, L *unguis* fingernail, toenail, claw, Gk *onyx*]

**nail** vt 1 to fasten (as if) with a nail 2 to fix steadily 3 to catch, trap 4 to detect and expose (e.g. a lie or scandal) so as to discredit 5 chiefly *NAM* to hit, strike *USE* (except 1) intransitive – *nailer* n

**nail down** vt 1 to define or establish clearly 2 to secure a definite promise or decision from

**naïnsok** /'nayn,sook/ n a soft lightweight cotton cloth [Hindi *naïnsukh*, fr *naïn* eye + *sukh* delight]

**naïra** /'niəra/ n *NAÏRA* at NATIONALITY [native name in Nigeria]

**naïve**, *naïve* /nah'eēv, nie-/ adj 1 ingenuous, unsophisticated 2 lacking in worldly wisdom or informed judgment; esp credulous 3 PRIMITIVE 3d [F *naïve*, fem of *naïf*, fr OF, inborn, natural, fr L *nativus* native] – *naïvely* adv, *naïvness* n

**naïveté**, *naïveté*, *naïvete* /nah'eēvəti, nie-/ n naïvety [F *naïveté*, fr OF, inborn character, fr *naïf*]

**naïvety** also *naïvety* /nah'eēv'ti, nie-/ n 1 being naïve 2 a naïve remark or action

**naked** /'naykid/ adj 1 having no clothes on 2a of a knife or sword not enclosed in a sheath or scabbard b exposed to the air or to full view <a ~ light> c of (part of) a plant or animal lacking hairs or other covering or enveloping parts (e.g. a shell or feathers) d lacking foliage or vegetation 3 without furnishings or ornamentation <a ~ room> 4 unarmed, defenceless 5 lacking factual confirmation or support <~ faith> 6 not concealed or disguised <the ~ truth> 7 unaided by any optical device <visible to the ~ eye> [ME, fr OE *nacod*; akin to OHG *nackot* naked, L *nudus*, Gk *gymnos*] – *nakedly* adv, *nakedness* n

**namby-pamby** /'nambi'pambi/ adj 1 insipidly sentimental 2 lacking resolution or firmness; soft [Namby Pamby, satirical nickname given to Ambrose Philips 1749 E poet] – *namby-pamby* n, *namby-pambyism* n

**name** /naym/ n 1 a word or phrase designating an individual person or thing 2 a descriptive usu disparaging epithet <called him ~s> 3a reputation <gave the town a bad ~> b a famous or notorious person or thing 4 family, kindred <was a disgrace to his ~> 5 semblance as opposed to reality <a friend in ~ only> [ME, fr OE *nama*; akin to OHG *namo* name, L *nomen*, Gk *onoma*, *onyma*] – one's name is mud one is in disgrace

**name** vt 1 to give a name to; call 2 to identify by name 3 to nominate, appoint 4 to decide on; choose <~ the day for the wedding> 5 to mention explicitly; specify – *nameable* adj, *namer* n

**name-calling** n the use of abusive language, esp when resorted to in place of reasoned argument

**name, day** n the feast day of the saint whose name one has taken at baptism

**name-dropping** n seeking to impress others by the apparently casual mention of prominent people as friends – *name-dropper* n

**nameless** /-lis/ adj 1 obscure, undistinguished 2 not known by name, anonymous 3 having no legal right to a name; illegitimate 4a having no name <a ~ species of moth> b left purposely unnamed <a certain person who shall remain ~> 5 not marked with a name <a ~ grave> 6a not capable of being described; indefinable <~ fears> b too terrible or distressing to describe <a ~ horror> – *namelessly* adv, *namelessness* n

**namely** /-li/ adv that is to say

**name of the 'game** n the essence or true purpose of an activity <in dieting perseverance is the ~>

**nameplate** /-playt/ n a plate or plaque bearing a name

**namesake** /-sayk/ n sby or sth that has the same name as another [prob fr *name's sake* (i.e. one named for the sake of another's name)]

**nancy** /'nansi/ n an effeminate male (homosexual) – derog [fr the female name Nancy]

**nankeen** /'nang'keen/ n a durable brownish yellow cotton fabric orig made in China [Nanking, city in China]

**nanna** /'nana/ n, Br a granny – used by or to children [prob baby-talk]

**nanny** also *nannie* /'nani/ n, chiefly Br a child's nurse, a nursemaid [prob baby-talk]

**nanny goat** n a female domestic goat – intransitive [Nanny, nickname for Anne]

**nanosecond** /'nanə'seknd/ n one thousand millionth (10<sup>-9</sup>) part of (nanosecond) – *nanosecond* PHYSICS [ISV, fr Gk *nanos* dwarf]

**nap** /nap/ vi -pp- 1 to take a short sleep, esp during the day 2 to be off one's guard <caught his opponent ~ping> [ME *nappen*, fr OE *hnappian*, akin to OHG *hnaffen* to dote]

**nap** n a short sleep, esp during the day

**nap** n a hairy or downy surface (e.g. on a woven fabric), a pile [ME *nappe*, fr MD, flock of wool, nap, akin to OE *hnoppian* to pluck, Gk *konis* ashes – more at INCINERATE] – *napless* adj, *napped* adj

**nap** vi -pp- to raise a nap on (fabric or leather)

**nap** n NAPOLEON 2

**nap** vi -pp- to recommend (a horse) as a possible winner – *nap* n

**napalm** /'nay,pahm/ n 1 a thickener consisting of a mixture of aluminium soaps 2 petrol jellied with napalm and used esp in incendiary bombs and flamethrowers [naphthenate (a salt of naphthene) + *palmitate*]

**napalm** vt to attack with napalm

**nape** /nayp/ n the back of the neck [ME]

**napery** /'nayperi/ n household linen, esp table linen [ME, fr MF *naperie*, fr *nappe*, *nape* tablecloth – more at NAPKIN]

**naphth-**, **naphtho-** comb form naphthalene <naphthoquinone> [ISV, fr *naphtha* & *naphthalene*]

**naphtha** /'naftha/ n 1 petroleum 2 any of various liquid hydrocarbon mixtures used chiefly as solvents [L, fr Gk, of Iranian origin, akin to Per *nēft* naphtha]

**naphthalene** /'naftha'leen/ n a hydrocarbon usu obtained by distillation of coal tar and used esp in the synthesis of organic chemicals [alter of earlier *naphthaline*, irreg fr *naphtha*] – *naphthalenic* /-lenik/ adj

**Napierian logarithm** /'nəpiəriən/ n NATURAL LOGARITHM [John Napier 1617 Sc mathematician]

**napkin** /'napkin/ n 1 a usu square piece of material (e.g. linen or paper) used at table to wipe the lips or fingers and protect the clothes 2 chiefly Br a nappy – fml [ME *nappekin*, fr *nappe* tablecloth, fr MF, fr L *nappa* napkin]

**napoleon** /nə'pohli-ən/ n 1 a French 20-franc gold coin 2 (a bid to win all 5 tricks at) a card game played with hands of 5 cards in which players bid to name the numbers of tricks they will take [F *napoléon*, fr *Napoléon* Napoleon I 1821 Emperor of France]

**Napoleonic** /nə'pohli'oniik/ adj of or resembling Napoleon I <~ ambitions>

**nappy** /'napi/ n, chiefly Br a square piece of cloth or paper worn by babies to absorb and retain excreta and usu drawn up between the legs and fastened at the waist [napkin + -y]

**nappy rash** n a rash on the part of a baby's body covered by its nappy caused esp by contact with ammonia from its urine

**narcissism** /'nahsi,siz(ə)m/ n love of or sexual desire for one's own body [G *narzissismos*, fr *Narziss* Narcissus, a youth in Gk mythology who died




- for love of his own reflection & was turned into a narcissus, fr L *Narcissus*, fr Gk *Narkissos*] – **narcissist** *n* or *adj*, **narcissistic** /-sɪstɪk/ *adj*
- narcissus** /nɑːsɪsəs/ *n* a daffodil, esp one whose flowers are borne separately and have a short corona [NL, genus name, fr L, fr Gk *narkissos*]
- narcolepsy** /nɑːkəˈlepsi/ *n* brief attacks of deep sleep occurring as an abnormal condition [ISV, fr Gk *narkē*] – **narcoleptic** /-leptɪk/ *n* or *adj*
- narcosis** /nɑːkəʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **narcoses** /-seɪz/ stupor or unconsciousness produced by narcotics or other chemicals [NL, fr Gk *narkosis* action of benumbing, fr *narkoun*]
- narcotic** /nɑːkəʊtɪk/ *n* a usu addictive drug, esp (a derivative of) morphine, that dulls the senses, induces prolonged sleep, and relieves pain – compare **HEROIN** [ME *narkotik*, fr MF *narcotique*, fr *narcotique*, *adj*, fr ML *narcoticus*, fr Gk *narkōtikos*, fr *narkoun* to benumb, fr *narkē* numbness – more at **SNARE**] – **narcotize** /nɑːkəˈtɪz/ *vb*
- narcotic adj** 1a like, being, or yielding a narcotic b inducing mental lethargy, soporific 2 of (addiction to) narcotics – **narcotically** *adv*
- nard** /nɑːd/ *n* the spikenard plant [ME *narde*, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *nardus*, fr Gk *nardos*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *nerd nard*]
- narghile**, **narghleh** /nɑːgɪli/ *n* a water pipe (with several flexible tubes for drawing the smoke through water) – compare **HOOKAH** [Per *nargila*, fr *nargil* coconut (of which the bowls were orig made)]
- nasal** /ˈnɑːs/ *n*, *pl* **nares** /-reez/ the opening of the nose or nasal cavity of a vertebrate [L, akin to L *nasus* nose – more at **NOSE**]
- nark** /nɑːk/ *n* 1 Br a police informer 2 chiefly Austr an annoying person or thing **USE** slang [prob fr Romany *nak* nose]
- nark vb**, *Br vi* to act as an informer – slang, often + *on* ~ *vt* to offend, affront – *infinl*
- Narraganset** <sup>+</sup> /ˈnɑːrɑːɡænsɪt/ *n*, *pl* **Narragansets**, esp collectively **Narraganset** a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people of Rhode Island
- narrate** /nəˈraɪt/ *vt* to recite the details of (a story) [L *narratus*, pp of *narrare*, fr L *gnarus* knowing, akin to L *gnoscere*, *noscere* to know – more at **KNOW**] – **narrator** /nəˈraɪtə/, **narator** /ˈnɑːrətoʊ/ *n*
- narration** /nəˈraɪʃən/ *n* 1 (a) narrating 2 a story, narrative – **narrational** *adj*
- narrative** /ˈnɑːrətɪv/ *n* 1 sth (e.g. a story) that is narrated 2 the art or practice of narration – **narrative** *adj*, **narratively** *adv*
- narrow** /ˈnɑːrə/ *adj* 1 of little width, esp in comparison with height or length 2 limited in size or scope, restricted 3 inflexible, hidebound 4 only just sufficient or successful (< a ~ *escape*) 5 TENSE 3 [ME *narowe*, fr OE *nearu*, akin to OHG *narwa* scar, *snur* cord, Gk *narmax* box] – **narrowly** *adv*, **narrowness** *n*
- narrow n** a narrow part or (water) passage, *specif* STRAIT 1 – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning
- narrow vt** 1 to make narrow or narrower 2 to restrict the scope or sphere of ~ *vi* to become narrow or narrower
- narrow boat n** a canal barge with a beam of 2 lm (7ft) or less
- narrow gauge** /ˈɡaɪ/ *n* a railway gauge narrower than standard gauge
- narrow-minded** /-ˈmiːndɪd/ *adj* lacking tolerance or breadth of vision, bigoted – **narrow-mindedly** *adv*, **narrow-mindedness** *n*
- narthex** /nɑːθeks/ *n* 1 the portico of an early church 2 a vestibule at the west end of a church [LGk *narthex*, fr Gk, giant fennel, cane, casket]
- narwhal** also **narwal** /ˈnɑːrwəl/ *n* a small arctic whale, the male of which has a long twisted ivory tusk [Norw & Dan *narhval* & Sw *narval*, prob modif of Icel *nárhvalur*, fr ON *nahvalr*, fr *nar* corpse + *hvalr* whale, fr its colour]
- nary** /ˈnɑː/ *adj*, chiefly dial not one single [alter. of *ne'er a*]
- nas-**, **naso-** also **nasal-** *comb form* 1 nose (< *nasosinusitis*) 2 nasal; nasal and (< *nasolabial*) [L *nasus* nose – more at **NOSE**]
- nasal** /ˈnɑːzəl/ *n* a nasal speech sound [MF, nosepiece, fr OF, fr *nes* nose, fr L *nasus*]
- nasal adj** 1 of the nose 2a uttered through the nose with the mouth passage closed (as in English /m, n, ŋ/) b uttered with both the mouth and nose passage open (as in French *en*) c characterized by resonance produced through the nose – **nasally** *adv*, **nasality** /ˈnɑːzəlɪti/ *n*
- nasalize**, **-lize** /ˈnɑːzəlaɪz/ *vb* to speak or say in a nasal manner – **nasalization** /-ɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*
- nascent** /ˈnɑːs(ə)nt/, *ˈnɑː-/* *adj* in the process of being born; just beginning to develop – *fml* [L *nascent-*, *nascens*, prp of *nasci* to be born – more at **NATION**] – **nascence** *n*, **nascency** *n*
- naetic** /ˈnæstɪk/ *adj* of or being a movement of a plant part caused by the disproportionate growth of 1 surface [Gk *nastos* close-pressed, fr *nassen* to press]
- nasturtium** /nəˈstʊhʃ(ə)m/ *n* (any of a genus of plants related to) a widely cultivated plant with showy spurred flowers and pungent seeds [L, a cress, perh fr *nasus* nose + *-turtium*, *-turtium* (fr *torquere* to twist); fr its strong smell]
- nasty** /ˈnɑːsti/ *adj* 1a disgustingly filthy b repugnant, esp to smell or taste 2 obscene, indecent 3 mean, lawdry (< *cheap* and ~ *furniture*) 4a harmful, dangerous (< a ~ *accident*) b disagreeable, dirty (< ~ *weather*) 5 giving cause for concern or anxiety (< a ~ *suspicion*) 6 spiteful, vicious (< *trespassers who turn ~ when challenged*) [ME] – **nastily** *adv*, **nastiness** *n*
- natal** /ˈnɑːtl/ *adj* of, present at, or associated with (one's) birth (< a ~ *star*) [ME, fr L *natalis*, fr *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born – more at **NATION**]
- natality** /nəˈtælɪti/ *n* the birthrate
- natation** /ˈnɑːtəʃən/ *n* the action or art of swimming – *fml* [L *natation-*, *natatio*, fr *natatus*, pp of *natare* to swim, float]
- natatorial** /ˈnɑːtəʊˈtɔːrɪəl/, **natatory** /ˈnɑːtə(ə)rɪ/ *adj* (adapted to) swimming
- natch** /nɑːtʃ/ *adv* NATURALLY 2 – *infinl*, usu used interjectionally [by shortening & alter]
- nates** /ˈnɑːteɪz/ *n pl* the buttocks [L, pl of *natis* buttock, akin to Gk *notos*, *noton* back]
- Natick** /ˈnɑːtɪk/ *n* a dialect of Massachusett
- nation** /ˈnɑːʃən/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in constr a a people with a common origin, tradition, and language (capable of) constituting a nation-state b a community of people possessing a more or less defined territory and government 2 a tribe or federation of tribes (e.g. of American Indians) [ME *nacioun*, fr MF *nation*, fr L *nation-*, *natio* birth, race, nation, fr *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born, akin to L *gignere* to beget – more at **KIN**] – **nationhood** *n*
- national** /ˈnæʃənəl/ *adj* 1 of a nation 2 belonging to or maintained by the central government 3 of or being a coalition government – **nationally** *adv*
- national n** 1 a citizen of a specified nation 2 a competition that is national in scope – *usu pl*
- national assistance n**, *Br*, often *cap N&A* SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT – not now used technically
- National Certificate n** a British technician's qualification obtained at either of 2 levels by part-time study
- national debt n** the amount of money owed by the government of a country
- National Diploma n** an advanced British qualification, usu in a technical or applied subject, obtained at either of 2 levels typically by part-time or sandwich-course study
- National Front n** an extreme right-wing political party of Britain asserting the racial superiority of the indigenous British population over immigrants (e.g. blacks)
- national grid n**, *Br* 1 a country-wide network of high-voltage cables between major power stations  ENERGY 2 the system of coordinates used for map reference by the Ordnance Survey
- National Guard n** a militia force recruited by each state of the USA and equipped by the federal government that can be called up by either
- National Health Service, National Health n** the British system of medical care, started in 1948, by which every person receives free medical treatment paid for by taxation
- national insurance n**, often *cap N&I* a compulsory social-security scheme in Britain funded by contributions from employers, employees, and the government which insures the individual against sickness, retirement, and unemployment
- nationalism** /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* loyalty and devotion to a nation, esp the exalting of one nation above all others
- nationalist** /-ɪst/ *n* 1 an advocate of nationalism 2 *cap* a member of a political group advocating national independence or strong national government – **nationalist**, **nationalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*, **nationalistically** *adv*
- nationality** /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəlɪti/ *n* 1 national character 2 national status 3 citizenship of a particular nation 4 existence as a separate nation **5a** **NATION** 1a b an ethnic group within a larger unit **USE** 
- nationalize**, **-lize** /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəlɪz/ *vt* 1 to make national 2 to invest control or ownership of in the national government – **nationalizer** *n*, **nationalization** /-ɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*

country	adjective	language		country	adjective	language	
Afghanistan	Afghan <i>sp:</i> Afghanistani <i>pl:</i> Afghans Albanian	Pashto Dan Persian	afghani = 100 puls	Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinean <i>sp:</i> Bantu <i>pl:</i> Bantu Ethiopian	Spanish	ekuele
Albania	Albanian	Albanian	lek = 100 qindarka	Ethiopia	Amharic	Ethiopian dollar = 100 cents	
Algeria	Algerian	Arabic	Algerian dinar = 100 centimes	Falkland Islands	Falkland Island	English	Falkland Island pound = 100 pence
Andorra	Andorran	Catalan	French franc Spanish peseta	Fiji	Fijian	English	Fiji dollar = 100 cents
Angola	Angolan	Portuguese	kwanza = 100 lweis	Finland	Finnish <i>sp:</i> Finn French	Finnish	markka = 100 pennia
Argentina	Argentinian	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	France	French	French	franc = 100 centimes
Australia	Australian	English	Australian dollar = 100 cents	Gabon	Gabonese	French	franc CFA
Austria	Austrian	German	Schilling = 100 Groschen	The Gambia	Gambian	English	dalasi = 100 bututs
Bahamas	Bahamian	English	Bahamian dollar = 100 cents	Germany (Democratic Republic)	(East) German	German	Mark der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik (infrmi - Ostmark)
Bahrain	Bahraini	Arabic	Bahraini dinar = 1000 fils	Germany (Federal Republic)	(West) German	German	= 100 Pfennig Deutsche Mark
Bangladesh	Bangladesh <i>sp:</i> Bangladeshi Barbadian	Bengali	taka = 100 paise	Ghana	Ghanian	English	= 100 Pfennig cedi
Barbados	Barbadian	English	Barbados dollar = 100 cents	Gibraltar	Gibraltar Dutch	English	= 100 pesewa Gibraltar pound = 100 pence
Belgium	Belgian	French Dutch German English	Belgian franc = 100 centimes	Greece	Greek	Greek	drachma = 100 lepta
Belize	Belizean	French	Belize dollar = 100 cents	Grenada	Grenadian	English	East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents
Benin (formerly Dahomey)	Bermudan	English	franc CFA	Guatemala	Guatemalan	Spanish	quetzal = 100 centavos
Bermuda	Bermudan	English	Bermuda dollar = 100 cents	Guinea	Guinean	French	sylk = 100 cauris
Bhutan	Bhutan	Dzongkha	Indian rupee	Guinea Bissau	Guinean	Portuguese	Escudo = 100 centavos
Bolivia	Bolivian	Spanish	Bolivian peso = 100 centavos	Guyana	Guyanese	English	Guyana dollar = 100 cents
Botswana	Setswana <i>sp:</i> Motswana, Batswana <i>pl:</i> Batswana Brazilian	English	pula = 100 thebe	Haiti	Haitian	French	gourde
Brazil	Portuguese	Portuguese	cruzeiro = 100 centavos	Honduras	Honduran	Spanish	lempira = 100 centavos
Brunei	Bruneian	Malay	Brunei dollar = 100 cents	Hong Kong		English	Hong Kong dollar = 100 cents
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	Bulgarian	lev = 100 stotinki	Hungary	Hungarian	Hungarian (Magyar)	lorint = 100 filler
Burma	Burmese	Burmese	kyat = 100 pyas	Iceland	Icelandic	Icelandic	krona = 100 eyrir
Burundi	Burundian	French	Burundi franc	India	Indian	Hindi English	rupee = 100 paise
Cameroon	Cameroonian	French	franc CFA	Indonesia	Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesian	rupiah = 100 sen
Canada	Canadian	English	Canadian dollar = 100 cents	Iran	Iranian	Farsi Persian	rial = 100 dinars
Cape Verde	Cape Verdean	Portuguese	escudo = 100 centavos	Iraq	Iraqi	Arabic	Iraqi dinar = 1000 fils
Cayman Islands	Cayman Island <i>sp:</i> Cayman Islander	English	Cayman Island dollar = 100 cents	Irish Republic	Irish	Irish & English	Irish punt = 100 pence
Central African Republic	French Sango	French	franc CFA	Israel	Israeli	Hebrew, Arabic	Israeli shekel = 100 new agora
Chad	Chadian	French	franc CFA	Italy	Italian	Italian	lira = 100 centesimi
Chile	Chilean	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	Ivory Coast	Ivorian	French	franc CFA
China	Chinese	Putonghua (Mandarin)	yuan = 10 jiao or 100 fen	Jamaica	Jamaican	English	Jamaican dollar = 100 cents
Colombia	Colombian	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	Japan	Japanese	Japanese	yen = 1000 fils
Comoros	Comorian, Comoro	French	franc CFA	Jordan	Jordanian	Arabic	Jordanian dinar = 1000 fils
Congo	Congolese	French	franc CFA	Kampuchea	Kampuchean	Khmer	formerly riel, but money officially abolished under Pol Pot Government in 1978 Present situation unclear
Costa Rica	Costa Rican	Spanish	colon = 100 céntimos	Kenya	Kenyan	English, Swahili	Kenya shilling = 100 cents
Cuba	Cuban	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	Kiribati	Kiribati	English	Australian dollar = 100 cents
Cyprus	Cypriot <i>sp:</i> Cypriot	Turkish Greek	Cyprus pound = 1000 mils	Korea (North)	N Korean	Korean	won = 100 jeon
Czechoslovakia	Czech <i>p:</i> Czechoslovak	Czechoslovak	Koruna ore = 100 haler	Korea (South)	S Korean	Korean	won = 100 jeon
Denmark	Danish <i>sp:</i> Dane	Danish	krona = 100 ore	Kuwait	Kuwaiti	Arabic	Kuwaiti dinar = 1000 fils
Djibouti or Jibuti	Djiboutian, Jibutian	French	Djibouti franc	Laos	Laotian	Lao	kip = 100 ats
Dominica	Dominican	English	East Caribbean dollar = 100 cents	Lebanon	Lebanese	Arabic	Lebanese pound = 100 piastres
Dominican Republic	Dominican	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	Lesotho	Sesotho <i>sp:</i> Mosotho <i>pl:</i> Basotho <i>p:</i> Basotho Liberian	Sesotho, English	loti ( <i>pl:</i> maloti) = 100 lisente
Ecuador	Ecuadorian	Spanish	sucre = 100 centavos	Liberia	English	Liberian dollar = 100 cents	
Egypt	Egyptian	Arabic	Egyptian pound = 100 piastres	Libya	Libyan	Arabic	Libyan dinar = 1000 dirham
El Salvador	Salvadorean	Spanish	colón = 100 centavos	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein <i>sp:</i> Liechtensteiner	German	Swiss franc

*sp:* single person *pl:* plural *p:* people

country	adjective	language	money	country	adjective	language	money
Luxemburg	Luxemburg <i>sp</i> Luxembourg	French	Luxemburg franc = 100 centimes	South Africa	South African	Afrikaans, English	rand = 100 cents
Macao	Macaoan	Portuguese	<i>pataca</i> = 100 avos	Spain	Spanish <i>sp</i> Spaniard	Spanish	<i>peseta</i> = 100 céntimos
Madagascar	Malagasy	French	Malagasy franc	Sri Lanka	Sinhalese	Sinhala, English, Tamil	Sri Lanka rupee = 100 cents
Malawi	Malawian	English	Malawi kwacha = 100 tambala	Sudan	Sudanese	Arabic	Sudanese pound = 100 piastres <i>or</i> 1000 millîmes
Malaysia	Malaysian	Malay	ringgit (Malaysian dollar) = 100 cents	Suriname	Surinamese	Dutch	Surinam florin/ guilder
Maldives Islands	Maldivian	Divehi	Maldivian rupee = 100 laris	Swaziland	Swazi	siSweti English	ilangeni (pl emalangeni) = 100 cents
Mali	Malian	French	Mali franc	Sweden	Swedish <i>sp</i> Swede	Swedish	krona = 100 ore
Malta	Maltese	Maltese	Maltese pound = 100 cents <i>or</i> 1000 mils	Switzerland	Swiss	French German Italian Arabic	Swiss franc = 100 centimes <i>or</i> rappen
Mauritania	Mauritanian	Arabic, French	ouguiya = 5 khoums	Syria	Syrian	Syrian pound = 100 piastres	Syrian pound = 100 piastres
Mauritius	Mauritian	English	rupee = 100 cents	Taiwan	Taiwanese	Mandarin	New Taiwan dollar = 100 cents
Mexico	Mexican	Spanish	peso = 100 centavos	Tanzania	Tanzanian	Swahili English	Tanzanian shilling = 100 cents
Monaco	Monegasque	French	French franc	Thailand	Thai	Thai	baht = 100 stangs
Mongolia	Mongolian	Khalka Mongolian	tugrik = 100 mongo	Togo	Togolese	French	franc CFA
Montserrat	Montserratian	English	East Caribbean dollar	Tonga	Tongan	Tongan	pa'anga = 100 seniti
Morocco	Moroccan	Arabic	dirham = 100 centimes	Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidadian, Tobagan	English	T & T dollar = 100 cents
Mozambique	Mozambiquean	Portuguese	metical = 100 centavos	Tunisia	Tunisian	Arabic	Tunisian dinar = 1000 millimes
Namibia	Namibian	Afrikaans English	South African rand	Turkey	Turkish <i>sp</i> Turk	Turkish	Turkish lira = 1000 millimes
Nauru	Nauruan	Nauruan English	Australian dollar	Tuvalu (from Ellice Islands)	Tuvaluan	English, French	Tuvalu franc = 100 centimes
Nepal	Nepalese	Nepali	Nepalese rupee = 100 paise	Uganda	Ugandan	Swahili, English	Uganda shilling = 100 cents
The Netherlands	Dutch	Dutch	florin <i>or</i> guilder = 100 cents	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)	Russian <i>also</i> Soviet	Russian	rouble = 100 kopecks
The Netherlands Antilles	Dutch	Dutch	Netherlands Antilles florin	United Arab Emirates (UAE)		Arabic	dirham of the UAE
New Zealand	New Zealand	English	New Zealand dollar = 100 cents	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)	British	English	pound sterling = 100 pence
Nicaragua	Nicaraguan	Spanish	córdoba = 100 centavos	United States of America (USA)	American	English	dollar = 100 cents
Niger	Nigerien	French	franc CFA	Upper Volta	Voltaic <i>sp</i> Voltain	French	franc CFA
Nigeria	Nigerian	English	naira = 100 kobo	Uruguay	Uruguayan	Spanish	new peso = 100 céntimos
Norway	Norwegian	Norwegian	krone = 100 ore	Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides)	Vanuatuan	English, French	Vanuatu franc
Oman	Omani	Arabic	rial Omani = 1000 baiza	Venezuela	Venezuelan	Spanish	bolivar = 100 céntimos
Pakistan	Pakistan	English Urdu	Pakistan rupee = 100 paisa	Vietnam	Vietnamese	Vietnamese	dong = 10 hào <i>or</i> 100 xu
Panama	Panamanian	Spanish	balboa = 100 cents	Western Samoa	Samoan	English, Samoan	tala = 100 sene
Papua New Guinea	Papuan	Papuan, English	kina = 100 toea	West Indian Associated States (Antigua & St Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla)		English	East Caribbean dollar
Paraguay	Paraguayan	Spanish	guarani = 100 centimos	Yemen Arab Republic	Yemeni	Arabic	Yemeni rial = 100 fils
Peru	Peruvian	Spanish	sol = 100 centavos	Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen	Arabic		Southern Yemen dinar = 1000 fils
Philippines	Philippine <i>sp</i> Filipino	Philipino (Tagalog) English, Spanish	Philippine peso = 100 centavos	Yugoslavia	Yugoslavian <i>sp</i> Yugoslav	Serbo-Croat Slovene Macedonian French	dinar = 100 paras
Pitcairn Islands	Pitcairn	English	New Zealand dollar	Zaire	Zairean		zaire = 100 makuta ( <i>sing</i> likuta) <i>or</i> 10,000 sengi
Poland	Polish	Polish	zloty = 100 groszy	Zambia	Zambian	English	kwacha = 100 ngwee
Portugal	Portuguese	Portuguese	escudo = 100 centavos	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean	English	Zimbabwe dollar = 100 cents
Qatar	Qatari	Arabic	Qatar rial = 100 dirhams				
Romania	Romanian	Romanian	lev = 100 bani				
Rwanda	Rwandan	Kinyarwanda, French	Rwandan franc				
St Helena		English	St Helena pound				
St Lucia		English	East Caribbean dollar				
St Vincent		English	East Caribbean dollar				
San Marino		Italian	Italian lira				
São Tomé	St Tomean	Portuguese	dobra = 100 centavos				
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian <i>sp</i> Saudi <i>or</i> Saudi Arabian	Arabic	rial = 20 qursh <i>or</i> 100 halalas				
Senegal	Senegalese	French	franc CFA				
Seychelles	Seychellois	English	Seychelles rupee = 100 cents				
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leonean	English	leone = 100 cents				
Singapore	Singaporean	Malay, English	Singapore dollar = 100 cents				
Solomon Islands	Solomon Island	English	Solomon Islands dollar = 100 cents				
Somalia	Somalian	Somali, English Italian, Arabic	Somali shilling = 100 cents				

- national 'park** *n* an area of special scenic, historical, or scientific importance preserved and maintained by the government
- national 'product** *n* the value of the goods and services produced in a nation during a year
- national 'service** *n* conscripted service in the British armed forces – **national serviceman** /-mən/ *n*
- national 'socialism** *n* Nazism – **national socialist** *adj*
- nation-state** /-n 'steɪ-/ *n* a sovereign state inhabited by a relatively homogeneous people as opposed to several nationalities
- 'native** /'nætɪv/ *adj* 1 inborn, innate (< ~ talents) 2 belonging to a particular place by birth (< ~ to Yorkshire) 3a belonging to or being the place of one's birth (< my ~ language) b of or being one's first language or sby using his/her first language (< a ~ speaker) < ~ fluency) 4 living (naturally), grown, or produced in a particular place, indigenous 5 found in nature, esp in a pure form (< mining ~ silver) 6 chiefly Austr (superficially) resembling a specified British plant or animal [ME *natif*, fr MF, fr L *nativus*, fr *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born – more at NATION] – **natively** *adv*, **nativeness** *n*
- 'native** *n* 1 one born or reared in a particular place (< a ~ of London) 2a an original or indigenous (non-European) inhabitant b a plant, animal, etc indigenous to a particular locality 3 a local resident
- nativity** /nə'tɪvəti/ *n* 1 birth, specif, cap the birth of Jesus 2 a horoscope [ME *nativite*, fr MF *nativite*, fr ML *nativitas*-, *nativitas*, fr LL, birth, fr L *nativus*]
- natron** /'nætɹən, -trən/ *n* hydrated sodium carbonate occurring as a mineral and used in ancient times in embalming [F, fr Sp *natron*, fr Ar *natrūn*, fr Gk *nitron*]
- natier** /'nætə/ *vi* or *n*, chiefly Br (to) chatter, gossip – *infml* [prob imit]
- natterjack** /'nætəjak/ *n* a common brownish yellow W European toad with short hind legs which runs rather than hops [origin unknown]
- netty** /'næti/ *adj* neat and trim, spruce [perh alter. of earlier *netty*, fr obs *net* (neat, clean)] – **nettily** *adv*, **nettiness** *n*
- natural** /'nætʃərəl/ *adj* 1 based on an inherent moral sense (< ~ justice) (< ~ law) 2 in accordance with or determined by nature 3 related by blood rather than by adoption (< his ~ parents) 4 innate, inherent (< a ~ talent for art) 5 of nature as an object of study 6 having a specified character or attribute by nature (< a ~ athlete) 7 happening in accordance with the ordinary course of nature (< death from ~ causes) 8 normal or expected (< events followed their ~ course) 9 existing in or produced by nature without human intervention (< ~ scenery) 10 (as if) in a state unenlightened by culture or morality (< ~ man) 11a having a physical or real existence b of the physical as opposed to the spiritual world 12a true to nature; lifelike b free from affectation or constraint c not disguised or altered in appearance or form 13a (containing only notes that are) neither sharp nor flat b having the pitch modified by the natural sign [ME, fr MF, fr L *naturalis* of nature, fr *natura* nature] – **naturalness** *n*
- natural n** 1 one born mentally defective 2 (a note affected by) a sign placed on the musical staff to nullify the effect of a preceding sharp or flat  MUSIC 3 one having natural skills or talents (< as an actor, he was a ~) 4 one who is likely to be particularly suitable or successful **USE** (3 & 4) *infml*
- natural 'gas** *n* gas from the earth's crust, specif a combustible mixture of methane and other hydrocarbons used chiefly as a fuel and as raw material in industry  ENERGY
- natural 'history** *n* 1 a treatise on some aspect of nature 2 the natural development of an organism, disease, etc over a period of time 3 the usu amateur study, esp in the field, of natural objects (e.g. plants and animals), often in a particular area
- naturalism** /'nætʃərəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 action or thought based on natural desires and instincts 2 a theory discounting supernatural explanations of the origin and meaning of the universe 3 realism in art or literature, esp when emphasizing scientific observation of life without idealization of the ugly – **naturalist** *adj*, **naturalistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*, **naturalistically** *adv*
- naturalist** /'nætʃərəlɪst/ *n* 1 a follower or advocate of naturalism 2 a student of natural history
- natural-ize**, -ise /'nætʃərəlɪz/ *vt* 1a to introduce into common use or into the vernacular b to cause (e.g. a plant) to become established as if native 2 to make natural 3 to admit to citizenship ~ *vi* to become naturalized – **naturalization** /-lɪz(ə)ʃən/ *n*
- natural 'logarithm** *n* a logarithm with *e* as base
- 'naturally** /-li/ *adv* 1 by nature (< ~ timid) 2 as might be expected (< ~, we shall be there) 3 in a natural manner
- natural 'number** *n* the number 1 or any number (e.g. 3, 12, 432) obtained by repeatedly adding 1 to the number 1
- natural 'resources** *n pl* industrial materials and capacities (e.g. mineral deposits and waterpower) supplied by nature
- natural 'science** *n* any of the sciences (e.g. physics or biology) that deal with objectively measurable phenomena – **natural scientist** *n*
- natural selection** *n* a natural process that tends to result in the survival of organisms best adapted to their environment and the elimination of (mutant) organisms carrying undesirable traits
- natural the'ology** *n* deism
- nature** /'nætʃə/ *n* 1a the inherent character or constitution of a person or thing b disposition, temperament 2a a creative and controlling force in the universe b the inner forces in an individual 3 a kind, class (< documents of a confidential ~) 4 the physical constitution of an organism 5 the external world in its entirety 6 (a way of life resembling) mankind's original or natural condition 7 natural scenery [ME, fr MF, fr L *natura*, fr *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born – more at NATION]
- 'nature reserve** *n* an area of great botanical or zoological interest protected from exploitation by human beings
- 'nature trail** *n* a walk (e.g. in a nature reserve) planned to indicate points of interest to the observer of nature
- naturism** /'nætʃə,rɪz(ə)m/ *n* nudism – **naturist** *adj* or *n*
- naturopathy** /'nætʃə'rɒpəθi/ *n* treatment of disease emphasizing stimulation of the natural healing processes, including the use of herbal medicines [*nature* + -o- + -pathy] – **naturopathic** /'nætʃərə'pæθɪk, -nætʃərə- / *adj*
- naught** /'nawt/ *n* 1 nothing 2 NOUGHT 2 [ME, fr OE *nawiht*, fr *na* no + *wiht* creature, thing – more at NO]
- naughty** /'nawti/ *adj* 1 badly behaved, wicked (< you ~ boy?) 2 slightly improper – euph or humor [naught + -y, orig senses, inferior, bad] – **naughtily** *adv*, **naughtiness** *n*
- nauplius** /'nawplɪəs/ *n*, *pl* nauplii /'nawplɪi/ *a* crustacean larva in the first stage after leaving the egg [NL, fr L, a shellfish, fr Gk *nauphos*]
- nausea** /'nawziə/ *n* 1 a feeling of discomfort in the stomach accompanied by a distaste for food and an urge to vomit 2 extreme disgust [L, seasickness, nausea, fr Gk *nautia*, *nausia*, fr *nautes* sailor] – **nauseant** *n* or *adj*
- nauseate** /'nawzi,əɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) become affected with nausea or disgust – **nauseatingly** *adv*
- nauseous** /'nawziəs/ *adj* causing or affected with nausea or disgust – **nauseously** *adv*, **nauseousness** *n*
- nautch** /'nawch/ *n* an entertainment in India performed by professional dancing girls [Hindi *nac*, fr Skt *nṛtya*, fr *nṛtyati* he dances]
- nautical** /'nawtɪkəl/ *adj* of or associated with seamen, navigation, or ships  SHIP [L *nauticus*, fr Gk *nautikos*, fr *nautes* sailor, fr *naus* ship – more at 'NAVE] – **nautically** *adv*
- 'nautical 'mile** *n* any of various units of distance used for sea and air navigation based on the length of a minute of arc of a great circle of the earth e.g. a British unit equal to 6080ft (about 1853.18m) b an international unit equal to 1852m (about 6076.17ft)  UNII
- nautilus** /'nawtɪləs/ *n*, *pl* nautilus, nautili /-,li/ 1 any of a genus of molluscs related to the octopuses and squids that live in the Pacific and Indian oceans and have a spiral shell 2 PAPER NAUTILUS [NL, genus name, fr L, paper nautilus, fr Gk *nautilus*, lit., sailor, fr *naus* ship]
- Navaho, Navajo** /'navəhoh/ *n*, *pl* Navahos, Navajos, esp collectively Navaho, Navajo a member of an American Indian people of N New Mexico and Arizona, also their language [Sp (*Apache de*) Navajó, lit., Apache of Navajó, fr Navajó, a pueblo]
- navaid** /'navayd/ *n* a usu electronic device or system that assists a navigator [navigation aid]
- naval** /'navl/ *adj* 1 of a navy 2 consisting of or involving warships [L *navalis*, fr *navis* ship]
- naval architect** *n* sby who designs ships
- 'nave** /'navv/ *n* the hub of a wheel [ME, fr OE *nafu*; akin to OE *nafela* nave]
- 'nave** *n* the main body of a church lying to the west of the chancel, esp the long central space flanked by aisles  CHURCH [ML *navis*, fr L, ship, akin to OE *nowend* sailor, Gk *naus* ship, Skt *nau*]
- navel** /'navl/ *n* 1 a depression in the middle of the abdomen marking the point of former attachment of the umbilical cord 2 the central point [ME, fr OE *nafela*; akin to OHG *nabalo* navel, L *umbilicus*, Gk *omphalos*]
- 'navel orange** *n* a seedless orange with a pit at the top enclosing a small secondary fruit
- navicular** /'navɪkyoolə/ *n* or *adj* (a bone, esp in the ankle) shaped like a boat [L *navicula* boat, dim. of *navis*]
- navigable** /'nævɪgəbl/ *adj* 1 suitable for ships to pass through or along

2 capable of being steered – **navigableness** *n*, **navigably** *adv*, **navigability** /-gə'biləti/ *n*

**navigate** /'naviɡeɪt/ *vt* 1 to travel by water 2 to steer a course through a medium 3 to perform the activities (e.g. taking sightings and making calculations) involved in navigation ~ *vt* 1a to sail over, on, or through b to make one's way over or through 2a to steer or manage (a boat) in sailing b to operate or direct the course of (e.g. an aircraft) [L *navigatus*, pp of *navigare*, fr *navis* ship + *-igare* (fr *agere* to drive) – more at **AGENT**] – **navigator** *n*

**navigation** /,navi'ɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 navigating 2 the science of determining position, course, and distance travelled during a journey and hence advising on the best course to be steered or taken 3 ship traffic or commerce – **navigational** *adj*, **navigationally** *adv*

**navvy** /'navi/ *n*, *Br* an unskilled labourer [by shortening & alter fr *navigator* (construction worker on canals, railways, roads)]

**navy** /'navi/ *n* 1 a nation's ships of war and support vessels together with the organization needed for maintenance ~ <sup>3</sup> RANK 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the personnel manning a navy 3 NAVY BLUE [ME *navie*, fr MF, fr L *navigia* ships, fr *navigare*]

**navy 'blue** *adj* or *n* deep dark blue

**'navy yard** *n*, *NAm* a naval dockyard

**nawab** /nə'wəʊb, -'wəʊb/ *n* NAWAB 1 <the Nawab of Pataudi> [Hindi & Urdu *nawab*]

**'nay** /nəɪ/ *adv* 1 not merely this but also <she was happy, ~, ecstatic> 2 *N Eng* or *archaic* no [ME, *no*, fr ON *nei*, fr *ne* not + *ei* ever – more at 'AYE]

**'nay** *n* 1 denial, refusal 2 a vote or voter against

**Nazarene** /,nəzə'reɪn/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Nazareth [ME *Nazaren*, fr LL *Nazarenus*, fr Gk *Nazarenos*, fr *Nazareth*, town in Palestine]

**nazi** /'naɪtsi/ *n*, *often cap* a member of the German fascist party controlling Germany from 1933 to 1945 [G, by shortening & alter fr *nationalsozialist*, fr *national* + *sozialist* socialist] – **nazi** *adj*, **nazify** /-fi/ *vt*, **nazification** /-fi'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Nazism** /'naɪtsɪz(ə)m/, **Nazism** /'naɪtsɪz(ə)m/ *n* the totalitarian and racist doctrines of the fascist National Socialist German Workers' party in the 3rd German Reich [Nazi + -ism]

**NCO** *n* NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

**-nd** *suffix* (– *adj*), *chiefly Br* – used after the figure 2 to indicate the ordinal number *second* (2nd) <72nd>

**neo-, neo-** *comb form* 1a new, recent (Neocene) b new, subsequent, or revived period or form of (Neoplatonism) (neo-Classicism) c in a new, subsequent, or revived form or manner (Neolithic) (neo-Georgian) 2 New World <Neotropical> [Gk, fr *neos* new – more at **NEW**]

**Neanderthal** /ne'eɪndə'tʃɑ:l, -tʃ(ə)l/ *adj* being, relating to, or like Neanderthal man – **Neanderthal** *n*

**Neanderthal man** *n* a Middle Palaeolithic man known from skeletal remains in Europe, N Africa, and W Asia [Neanderthal, valley in western Germany where the remains were first discovered] – **Neanderthaloid** /-tʃəloɪd/ *adj* or *n*

**neap** /neɪp/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a neap tide [adj ME *neep*, fr OE *nep* being at the stage of neap tide, *n* fr *adj*]

**Neapolitan** /,neɪə'pɒlɪtən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Naples [L *neapolitanus* of Naples, fr Gk *neapolites* citizen of Naples, fr *Neapolis* Naples, city in Italy]

**neap tide** *n* a tide of minimum height occurring at the 1st and the 3rd quarters of the moon

**'near** /nɪə/ *adv* 1 in or into a near position or manner <came ~ to tears> 2 closely approximating; nearly <a near-perfect performance> [isn't anywhere ~ clever enough] [ME *ner*; partly fr *ner* nearer, fr OE *near*, compar of *neah* high, partly fr ON *nær* nearer, compar of *na* – high – more at **NIGH**] – **near** on **CLOSE** ON

**'near** *prep* near to <went too ~ the edge> <call me ~ er the time>

**'near** *adj* 1 intimately connected or associated <he and I are ~ relations> 2a not far distant in time, space, or degree <in the ~ future> b close, narrow <a ~ miss> <a ~ resemblance> 3a being the closer of 2 <the ~ side> b being the left-hand one of a pair <the ~ wheel of a cart> – **nearness** *n*

**'near** *vb* to approach

**nearby** /-bi/ *adv* or *adj* close at hand <live ~> <a ~ café>

**Nearctic** /nɪ'æktɪk/ *adj* or *n* of or being the biogeographic subregion that includes Greenland and arctic and temperate N America

**near 'gale** *n* MODERATE GALE

**nearly** /nɪəli/ *adv* 1 in a close manner or relationship <~ related> 2 almost but not quite <very ~ identical> <~ a year later>

**'nearside** /-sɪd/ *n*, *Br* the left-hand side (e.g. of a vehicle or road) <hit a car parked on his ~> – **'nearside** /-sɪd/ *adj*

**'nearsighted** /-sɪtɪd/ *adj* able to see near things more clearly than distant ones; myopic – **'nearsightedly** *adv*, **'nearsightedness** *n*

**'neat** /neɪt/ *n*, *pl* **neat**, **neats** *archaic* the common domestic ox or cow [ME *neet*, fr OE *neat*, akin to OHG *noz* head of cattle, OE *neotan* to make use of]

**'neat** *adj* 1a without addition or dilution <~ *gan*> b free from irregularity, smooth 2 elegantly simple 3a precise, well-defined <a ~ solution to the problem> b skilful, adroit 4 (habitually) tidy and orderly <a ~ room> <a ~ little man> 5 chiefly *NAm* fine, excellent – *informal* [MF *net*, fr L *nitidus* bright, neat, fr *nitere* to shine; akin to OPer *naiba* – beautiful] – **neatly** *adv*, **neatness** *n*

**'neat** *adv* without addition or dilution; straight <drinks his whisky ~>

**neaten** /neɪtən/ *vt* to make neater

**neath** /neɪθ/ *prep* beneath – poetic

**neat's-foot oil** *n* a pale yellow oil made esp from the bones of cattle and used chiefly as a leather dressing

**neb** /neb/ *n*, *chiefly dial* 1 a nose, snout 2 a small usu pointed end, a tip [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *nef* beak]

**nebula** /'nebyʊlə/ *n*, *pl* **nebulas**, **nebulae** /-li/ 1 a cloudy patch on the cornea 2a any of many immense bodies of highly rarefied gas or dust in interstellar space b a galaxy [NL, fr L, mist, cloud, akin to OHG *nebul* fog, Gk *nephelē*, *nephos* cloud] – **nebular** *adj*

**nebulousity** /,nebyʊ'ɒləsəti/ *n* 1 being nebulous 2 nebulous matter, also **NEBULA** 2

**nebulous** /'nebyʊləs/ *adj* 1 indistinct, vague 2 of or resembling a nebula, nebular [L *nebulosus* misty, fr *nebula*] – **nebulously** *adv*, **nebulousness** *n*

**necessarily** /'nesəs(ə)rəli, -nesə'serəli/ *adv* as a necessary consequence, inevitably

**'necessary** /'nesəs(ə)n, -nesə'seri/ *n* an indispensable item, an essential

**'necessary** *adj* 1a inevitable, inescapable b(1) logically unavoidable <a ~ conclusion> (2) that cannot be denied without contradiction of some other statement c determined by a previous state of affairs d acting under compulsion, not free <a ~ agent> 2 essential, indispensable [ME *necessarie*, fr L *necessarius*, fr *ne-* not + *cedere* to withdraw – more at **NO**, **CEDE**]

**necessitate** /nə'sesətaɪt/ *vt* to make necessary or unavoidable – **necessitation** /-təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**necessitous** /nə'sesɪtəs/ *adj* needy, impoverished – *formal* – **necessitously** *adv*, **necessitousness** *n*

**necessity** /nə'sesəti/ *n* 1 the quality of being necessary, indispensable, or unavoidable 2 impossibility of a contrary order or condition <physical ~> 3 poverty, want 4a sthg necessary or indispensable <the bare necessities of life> b a pressing need or desire [ME *necessite*, fr MF *necessité*, fr L *necessitat*, *necessitas*, fr *necesse*] – of **necessity** necessarily

**'neck** /nek/ *n* 1a the part of an animal that connects the head with the body, also a cut of beef, mutton, etc taken from this part ~ <sup>3</sup> MEAT b the part of a garment that covers the neck, also the neckline 2a a narrow part, esp shaped like a neck <~ of a bottle> b the part of a stringed musical instrument extending from the body and supporting the fingerboard and strings c a narrow stretch of land d STRAIT 1 e a column of solidified magma of a volcanic pipe or laccolith 3 a narrow margin <won by a ~> [ME *nekke*, fr OE *necca*; akin to OHG *hnac* nape, OE *hnutu* nut – more at **NUT**] – **neck of the woods** area or district in which one lives, locality

**'neck** *vt* to reduce the diameter of ~ *vt* 1 to become constricted 2 to kiss and caress in sexual play – *informal*

**'neck and 'neck** *adv* evenly matched; running level

**necked** /nekt/ *adj* having a (specified kind of) neck – often in combination <long-necked>

**neckerchief** /'neki,tʃi:f, -tʃɪf/ *n*, *pl* **neckerchiefs** also **neckerchieves** /-tʃi:vz/ a square of fabric folded and worn round the neck [ME *nekkerchef*, fr *nekke* + *kernof* kerchief]

**necklace** /'neklɪs/ *n* a string of jewels, beads, etc worn round the neck as an ornament

**'neckline** /-li:n/ *n* the upper edge of a garment that forms the opening for the neck and head

**'necktie** /-ti:/ *n*, *chiefly NAm* TIE 5

**necr-, necro-** *comb form* 1 corpse, corpses <(necropsy)> <(necrophilia)> 2 conversion to dead tissue <(necrosis)> [LL, fr Gk *nekr-*, *nekro-*, fr *nekros* dead body – more at **NOXIOUS**]

- necrology** /'nekroləʒi/ *n* 1 a list of the recently dead 2 an obituary [NL *necrologium*, fr *necr-* + *-logium* (as in ML *eulogium* eulogy)] – **necrologist** *n*, **necrological** /'nekroləʒɪkəl/ *adj*
- necromancy** /'nekərəmænsi/ *n* 1 the conjuring up of the spirits of the dead in order to predict or influence the future 2 magic, sorcery [alter. of ME *nigromance*, fr MF, fr ML *nigromantia*, by folk etymology (infl by L *nigr-*, *niger* black) fr LL *necromantia*, fr LGk *nekromanteia*, fr Gk *nekr-* + *-manteia* -mancy] – **necromancer** *n*, **necromantic** /'mæntɪk/ *adj*, **necromantically** *adv*
- necrophagous** /'nekroʃəɡəs, ni-/ *adj* feeding on corpses or carrion (< ~ insects)
- necrophilia** /'nekroʃɪli-/ *n* obsession with and usu erotic interest in corpses [NL] – **necrophile** /'fi:li/ *n*, **necrophiliac** /'fɪliæk/ *adj* or *n*, **necrophilic** /'fɪlɪk/ *adj*, **necrophillism** /'nekroʃɪlɪz(ə)m, ni-/ *n*
- necropolis** /'nekroʊpəlɪs, ni-/ *n*, *pl* **necropolises**, **necropoles** /-pəleɪz/, **necropoleis** /-ləɪz/, **necropoli** /-li-/ *a* cemetery, esp a large elaborate cemetery of an ancient city [LL, city of the dead, fr Gk *nekropolis*, fr *nekr-* + *-polis*]
- necropsy** /'nekropsɪ/ *n* **POSTMODERN** 1 – **necropsy** *vt*
- necrosis** /'nekroʊsɪs, ni-/ *n*, *pl* **necroses** /-seɪz/ (localized) death of living tissue [LL, fr Gk *nekrosis*, fr *nekroun* to make dead, fr *nekros* – more at NOXIOUS] – **necrotic** /'nekroʊtɪk, ni-/ *adj*, **necrotize** /'nekroʊtɪz/ *vb*
- nectar** /'nektə/ *n* 1 the drink of the gods in classical mythology, broadly a delicious drink 2 a sweet liquid secreted by the flowers of many plants that is the chief raw material of honey [L, fr Gk *nektar*] – **nectarous** *adj*
- nectarine** /'nektərɪn, -reen/ *n* (a tree that bears) a smooth-skinned peach [obs *nectarine*, *adj* (like nectar)]
- nectary** /'nektəri/ *n* a plant gland that secretes nectar [NL *nectarium*, irreg fr L *nectar* + *-arium* -ary]
- née, nee** /nə/ *adj* – used to identify a woman by her maiden name (< Mrs Thomson, ~ Wilkinson) [F *née*, fem of *né*, lit, born, pp of *naître* to be born, fr L *nasci* – more at NATION]
- need** /'ni:əd/ *n* 1a a necessary duty; an obligation **b** reason or grounds for an action or condition 2a a lack of sth necessary, desirable, or useful (< socks in ~ of mending) **b** a physiological or psychological requirement for the well-being of an organism 3 a condition requiring supply or relief (< help in time of ~) 4 poverty, want [ME *ned*, fr OE *nied*, *ned*; akin to OHG *nōt* distress, need] – **needful** *adj*, **needfulness** *n*
- need** *vt* 1 to be in need of, require (< the soup ~s salt) (< my socks ~ mending) 2 to be constrained (< I'll ~ to work hard) ~ *va* be under necessity or obligation to (< I go) (< he ~ not answer)
- needful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* necessary, requisite (< do whatever is ~)
- needle** /'ni:dl/ *n* 1a a small slender usu steel instrument with an eye for thread at one end and a sharp point at the other, used for sewing **b** any of various similar larger instruments without an eye, used for carrying thread and making stitches (e.g. in crocheting or knitting) **c** the slender hollow pointed end of a hypodermic syringe for injecting or removing material 2 a slender, usu sharp-pointed, indicator on a dial, esp a magnetic needle 3a a slender pointed object resembling a needle e.g. (1) a pointed crystal (2) a sharp pinnacle of rock (3) an obelisk **b** a needle-shaped leaf, esp of a conifer **c** STYLUS **d** a slender pointed rod controlling a fine inlet or outlet (e.g. in a valve) 4 a beam used to take the load of a wall while supported at each end by shores 5 *Br* a feeling of enmity or ill will – *infrml* (< a ~ match) [ME *nedle*, fr OE *nædl*, akin to OHG *nādala* needle, *najan* to sew, L *nēre* to spin, Gk *nen*] – **needlelike** *adj*
- needle** *vt* 1 to sew or pierce (as if) with a needle 2 to provoke by persistent teasing or gibes – **needler** /'ni:dlə/ *n*, **needling** /'ni:dlɪŋ/ *n*
- needle, cord** /-kəʊd/ *n* a fine corduroy with close ribs and a flattish pile
- needle, point** /-pɔɪnt/ *n* 1 lace worked over a paper or parchment pattern – compare POINT 8, PILLOW LACE 2 embroidery worked on canvas usu in a simple even stitch (e.g. cross- or tent stitch) – compare GROS POINT, PETIT POINT – **needlepoint** *adj*
- needless** /'ni:dləs/ *adj* not needed; unnecessary (< ~ to say) – **needlessly** *adv*, **needlessness** *n*
- needle, woman** /-wʊmən/ *n* a woman who does needlework
- needle, work** /-wʊk/ *n* sewing; esp fancy work (e.g. embroidery)
- needn't** /'ni:dn't/ *need not* – **needn't have** was under no necessity to but did (< I needn't have worn this sweater)
- needs** /'ni:dz/ *adv* necessarily (< must ~ be recognized) [ME *nedes*, fr OE *nādes*, fr gen of *nēd* need]
- needy** /'ni:di/ *adj* in want, impoverished – **neediness** *n*
- neep** /'ni:p/ *n*, *dial Scot* a turnip [ME *nepe*, fr OE *næp*, fr L *napus*]
- ne'er** /'ne:/ *adv* never – poetic
- 'ne'er-do-well** *n* an idle worthless person – **ne'er-do-well** *adj*
- nefarious** /'ni:feəriəs/ *adj* iniquitous, evil [L *nefarus*, fr *nefas* crime, fr *ne-* not + *fas* right, divine law, akin to L *feri* to speak] – **nefariously** *adv*, **nefariousness** *n*
- negate** /'ni:ɡeɪt/ *vt* 1 to deny the existence or truth of 2 to make ineffective or invalid [L *negatus*, pp of *negare* to say no, deny, fr *neg-* no, not (akin to *ne-* not) – more at NO] – **negate** *n*, **negator**, **negater** *n*
- negation** /'ni:ɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a a denial or refusal **b** a negative statement, esp an assertion of the falsity of a given proposition 2a sth that is merely the absence of sth actual or positive (< anarchy is the ~ of government) **b** sth opposite to sth regarded as positive [NEGATE + -ION] – **negational** *adj*
- 'negative** /'negatɪv/ *adj* 1a marked by denial, prohibition, or refusal **b** expressing negation 2 lacking positive or agreeable features (< a ~ outlook on life) 3a less than zero and opposite in sign to a positive number that when added to the given number yields zero (< -2 is a ~ number) **b** in a direction opposite to an arbitrarily chosen regular direction (< ~ angle) 4a being, relating to, or charged with electricity as a result of an excess of electrons **b** having lower electric potential and constituting the part towards which the current flows from the external circuit 5a not showing the presence or existence of the organism, condition, etc in question **b** directed or moving away from a source of stimulation (< ~ tropism) 6 having the light and dark parts in approximately inverse order to those of the original photographic subject – **negatively** *adv*, **negativeness** *n*, **negativity** /-tɪvəti/ *n*
- negative** *n* 1a a proposition by which sth is denied or contradicted **b** a negative reply 2 sth that is the negation or opposite of sth else 3 an expression (e.g. the word *no*) of negation or denial 4 the side that upholds the contradictory proposition in a debate 5 the plate of a voltaic or electrolytic cell that is at the lower potential 6 a negative photographic image on transparent material used for printing positive pictures
- negative** *vt* 1a to refuse to accept or approve **b** to reject, veto 2 to demonstrate the falsity of, disprove
- negative income tax** *n* a system of subsidy payments to families with incomes below a stipulated level, proposed as a substitute for or supplement to social-security payments
- 'neglect** /'ni:ɡlekt/ *vt* 1 to pay insufficient attention to, disregard 2 to leave undone or unattended to [L *neglectus*, pp of *neglegere*, *neglegere*, fr *neg-* not (akin to *ne-* not) + *legere* to gather – more at NO, LEGEND] – **neglecter** *n*
- 'neglect** *n* neglecting or being neglected
- 'neglectful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* careless, forgetful – **neglectfully** *adv*, **neglectfulness** *n*
- negligee, negligé** /'neglɪʒə/ *n* a woman's light decorative housecoat, often designed to be worn with a matching nightdress [F *néglige*, fr pp of *négliger* to neglect, fr L *neglegere*]
- negligence** /'neglɪʒ(ə)ns/ *n* 1 forgetfulness, carelessness 2 failure to exercise the proper care expected of a prudent person
- negligent** /'neglɪʒ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 (habitually or culpably) neglectful 2 pleasantly casual in manner [ME, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *neglegent-*, *neglegens*, prp of *neglegere*] – **negligently** *adv*
- negligible** /'neglɪʒəbl/ *adj* trifling, insignificant [L *neglegere*, *neglegere*] – **negligibly** *adv*, **negligibility** /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*
- negotiable** /'ni:ɡəʊʃəbəl/ *adj* 1 transferable to another (< ~ securities) 2 capable of being passed along or through (< a difficult but ~ road) 3 capable of being dealt with or settled through discussion [NEGOTIATE + -ABLE] – **negotiability** /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*
- negotiate** /'ni:ɡəʊʃaɪt/ *vi* to confer with another in order to reach an agreement or settlement ~ *vt* 1 to arrange or bring about through discussion 2a to transfer (e.g. a bill of exchange) to another by delivery or endorsement **b** to convert into cash or the equivalent value (< ~ a cheque) 3a to travel successfully along or over **b** to complete or deal with successfully [L *negotius*, pp of *negotari* to carry on business, fr *negotium* business, fr *neg-* not + *otium* leisure – more at NEGATE] – **negotiant** /-ənt/ *n*, **negotiator** /-ə'tɪə/ *n*, **negotiatory** /-ə'tɪəri/ *adj*
- negotiation** /'ni:ɡəʊʃi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* negotiating or being negotiated; esp discussion of a disputed issue – often *pl* with sing. meaning
- Negress** /'neɡrɪs/ *n* a female Negro – chiefly derog and technical
- Negrillo** /'ni:ɡrɪlə/ *n*, *pl* **Negrillos**, **Negrillos** a member of any of a group of small Negroid peoples (e.g. Pygmies) that inhabit Africa [Sp, dim. of *negro*]
- Negrito** /'ni:ɡreɪtə/ *n*, *pl* **Negritos**, **Negritos** a member of any of a



group of small Negroid peoples that inhabit Oceania and SE Asia [Sp, dim of *negro*]

**negritude** /ˈnɛɡrɪtyoʊhd/, /ˈnee-/ *n* conscious pride in the African heritage [F *négritude*, fr *négre* Negro + *-i-* + *-tude*]

**Negro** /ˈnɛɡroʊh/, *n*, *pl* **Negroes** 1 a member of the esp African branch of the black race of mankind 2 a person of Negro descent [Sp or Pg, fr *negro* black, fr L *nigr-*, *niger*] – **Negro** *adj*, often not cap, **Negroid** *n* or *adj*, often not cap

**negus** /ˈnɛɡəs/ *n* a drink of wine, hot water, sugar, lemon juice, and nutmeg [Francis *Negus* †1732 E colonel]

**Nehemiah** /ˈnee-ɪˈmie-ə/ *n* (a book of the Old Testament concerning) a Jewish leader of the 5th c BC who supervised the rebuilding of the city walls of Jerusalem [Heb *Nēhemiah*]

**neigh** /ˈnaɪ/ *vi* to make the loud prolonged cry characteristic of a horse [ME *neyen*, fr OE *hnegan*; akin to MHG *nēgen* to neigh] – **neigh** *n*

**neighbour**, *NAM* chiefly **neighbor** /ˈnaɪbər/ *n* 1 one living or situated near another 2 a fellow human being [love thy ~] [ME *neighbor*, *neighebor*, fr OE *neahgebūr*; akin to OHG *nahgibūr* neighbour, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound represented by OE *neah* near & OE *gebūr* dweller – more at *NIGH*]

**neighbour**, *NAM* chiefly **neighbor** *vt* to adjoin or lie near to

**neighbourhood** /-ˈhʊd/ *n* 1 an adjacent or surrounding region 2 an approximate amount, extent, or degree [cost in the ~ of £300] 3a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the neighbours *b* a district lived in by neighbours *c* (the inhabitants of) a district of a town, city etc, forming a distinct community 4 the set of all points whose distances from a given point are not greater than a given positive number [‘NEIGHBOUR’ + -HOOD]

**neighbouring** /ˈnaɪb(ə)rɪŋg/ *adj* nearby, adjacent

**neighbourly** /-li/ *adj* characteristic of congenial neighbours, esp friendly

**neither** /ˈniːðə, or ˈniːdʰə/ *pron* not the one or the other (< of us) [ME, alter of *nauther*, *noth*, fr OE *nahwæther*, *noth*, fr *nā*, no not + *hwæther* which of two, whether]

**neither** *conj* 1 not either (< here nor there) (< ate, drank, nor smoked) 2 also not, nor [he didn’t go and ~ did I]

**neither** *adj* not either (< hand)

**neither** *adv* 1 similarly not, also not [‘I can’t swim’ ‘Neither can I’] 2 chiefly *dial* either

**nekton** /ˈnekton/ *n* aquatic animals (e.g. whales or squid) free-swimming near the surface of the water [G, fr Gk *nekton*, neut of *nektes* swimming, fr *nēchein* to swim, akin to L *nare* to swim – more at *NOURISH*] – **nektonic** /-ˈtɒnɪk/ *adj*

**nelly** /ˈneli/ *n* [Nelly (*Duff*), rhyming slang for *puff* (breath, life)] – not on your nelly *Br* certainly not – slang

**nelson** /ˈnels(ə)n/ *n* 1 FULL NELSON, also HALF NELSON [prob fr the name *Nelson*]

**nemat-**, **nemato-** *comb form* 1 thread [nematocyst] 2 nematode [nematology] [NL, fr Gk *nēmat-*, fr *nemat-*, *nema*, fr *nen* to spin – more at *NEEDLE*]

**nematocyst** /ˈnemətəˌsɪst/ *n* any of the minute stinging organs of jellyfish or other coelenterates [ISV]

**nematode** /ˈneməˌtoʊd/ *n* any of a phylum of elongated cylindrical worms parasitic in animals or plants or free-living in soil or water [deriv of Gk *nemat-*, *nema*]

**Nembutan** /ˈnembyooˌtɒl, -təl/ *trademark* – used for pentobarbitone

**nemertean** /ˈniːmɜːtɪən/ *n* any of a phylum of often vividly coloured marine worms [deriv of Gk *Nēmertes* Nemertes, one of the Nereids (sea nymphs)] – **nemertean** *adj*, **nemertine** /-ˌtɪn/, **nemertinean** /ˈnemə-ˈtɪniən/ *adj* or *n*

**nemesia** /ˈniːmezɪə/ *n* any of various S African plants of the figwort family cultivated for their coloured flowers [NL, genus name, fr Gk, pl of *nemesion* catchfly]

**nemesia** /ˈneməsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **nemeses** /-ˌseɪz/ 1a (an agent of) retribution or vengeance *b* a formidable enemy or opponent 2 downfall, undoing [L *Nemesia*, goddess of divine retribution, fr Gk, fr *nemesis* retribution, righteous anger, fr *nemien* to distribute – more at *NIMBLE*]

**nene** /ˈnaɪˌnaɪ/ *n* a Hawaiian goose [Hawaiian *nene*]

**neo-** – see *NE-*

**neoclassic** /ˈneəhˌklæsɪk/, **neoclassical** /-kl-/ *adj* of or constituting a revival or adaptation of the classical, esp in literature, music, art, or architecture – **neoclassicism** /-ˌklæsɪˌsɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **neoclassicist** *n* or *adj*

**neocolonialism** /-kəˈləʊnɪəlɪz(ə)m/, -nɪ-əl/ *n* the economic and political policies by which a great power indirectly extends its influence over other areas – **neocolonial** *adj*, **neocolonialist** *n* or *adj*

**neodymium** /ˈdiːmi-əm/ *n* a yellow metallic element of the rare-earth group – *see* PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *ne-* + *-dymium* (fr *didymium*)]

**Neolithic** /ˈnee-əˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* of the last period of the Stone Age characterized by polished stone implements

**neologism** /ˈnɪˌləʒɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the use of) a new word, usage, or expression [F *néologisme*, fr *né-* *ne-* + *-log-* + *-isme* -ism] – **neology** /-jɪ/ *n*, **neological** /ˈnee-əˈləʒɪkəl/ *adj*, **neologistic** /ˈnee-əˈləʒɪstɪk/ *adj*

**neon** /ˈneon/ *n* 1 a noble gaseous element used esp in electric lamps

– *see* PERIODIC TABLE 2a discharge lamp in which the gas contains a large proportion of neon [Gk, neut of *neos* new – more at *NEW*] – **neon** *adj*, **neoned** *adj*

**neonate** /ˈnee-əˌnaɪt/ *n* a newborn child (less than a month old) [NL *neonatus*, fr *ne-* + *natus*, pp of *nasci* to be born – more at *NATION*] – **neonatal** /-ˌnaɪtl/ *adj*

**neophyte** /ˈnee-əˌfiːt/ *n* 1 a new convert 2 a beginner [LL *neophytus*, fr Gk *neophytos*, fr *neophytos* newly planted, newly converted, fr *ne-* + *phyein* to bring forth – more at *BE*]

**neoplasm** /ˈnee-əˌplæz(ə)m/ *n* an abnormal growth of tissue, a tumour [ISV] – **neoplastic** /-ˌplæstɪk/ *adj*

**neoprene** /ˈnee-əˌpriːn/ *n* a synthetic rubber resistant to oils [*ne-* + *chloroprene*]

**neoteny** /ˈnee-əˌtəni/ *n* 1 attainment of sexual maturity during the larval stage (e.g. in the axolotl) 2 retention of some larval or immature characters in adulthood [NL *neotenia*, fr *ne-* + Gk *teinein* to stretch – more at *THIN*] – **neotenic** /ˈnee-əˌtenɪk/ *adj*

**neoteric** /ˈnee-əˌterɪk/ *adj* of recent origin, modern [LL *neotericus*, fr LGk *neoterikos*, fr Gk, youthful, fr *neoterios*, compar of *neos* new, young – more at *NEW*]

**Neotropical** /ˈneəhˌtrɒpɪkəl/ also **Neotropic** /-ˌtrɒpɪk/ *adj* of or constituting the region comprising tropical America and the W Indies [ISV]

**Neozoic** /ˈnee-əˌzəʊ-ɪk/ *adj* or *n* CENOZOIC

**Nepalese** /ˈnep(ə)ˈleez/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* **Nepalese** (a) Nepali

**Nepali** /ˈnɪˌpɑːli/ *n*, *pl* **Nepalis**, esp collectively **Nepali** 1 the language of Nepal – *see* LANGUAGE 2 a native or inhabitant of Nepal [Hindi *narpaḷi* of Nepal, fr Skt *narpaḷya*, fr *Nepala* Nepal, country in Asia] – **Nepali** *adj*

**nephanalysis** /ˈnefəˌnælɪsɪs/ *n* the analysis of the clouds and related phenomena over a large area of the earth [NL, fr Gk *nephos* cloud + *analysis* – more at *NEBULA*]

**nephew** /ˈnefyoʊh/ *n* a son of one's brother or sister or of one's brother-in-law or sister-in-law [ME *neveu*, fr OF *neveu*, fr L *nepot-*, *nepos* grandson, nephew, akin to OE *nefa* grandson, nephew, Skt *napāt* grandson]

**nephro-**, **nephro-** *comb form* kidney, kidneys [neph- *rectom-*, < *nephrology*] [NL, fr Gk, fr *nephros*]

**nephrite** /ˈnefriːt/ *n* the less valuable white to dark green or black jade that is a silicate of calcium and magnesium [G *nephrit*, fr Gk *nephros*; fr its formerly being worn as a remedy for kidney diseases]

**nephritic** /ˈniːfrɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 renal 2 of or affected with nephritis

**nephritis** /ˈniːfrɪtɪs/ *n*, *pl* **nephritides** /ˈniːfrɪtɪdeɪz/ inflammation of the kidneys [LL, fr Gk, fr *nephros* kidney, akin to ME *nere* kidney]

**nephron** /ˈnefrɒn/ *n* a single excretory unit, esp of the kidneys of vertebrate animals [G, fr Gk *nephros*]

**ne plus ultra** /ˌnaɪˌploʊˈoʊltʁə/ *n* 1 the highest point or stage 2 the greatest degree of a quality or state [NL, (go) no more beyond]

**nepotism** /ˈnepəˌtɪz(ə)m/ *n* favouritism shown to a relative (e.g. by appointment to office) [F *népotisme*, fr It *nepotismo*, fr *nepote* nephew, fr L *nepot-*, *nepos* grandson, nephew – more at *NEPHEW*] – **nepotist** *n*

**Neptune** /ˈneptɪyoʊh/ *n* 1 the ocean personified 2 the planet 8th in order from the sun – *see* ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [L *Neptunus*, Roman god of the sea] – **Neptunian** /ˈneptɪyoʊhniən/, -ni-ən/ *adj*

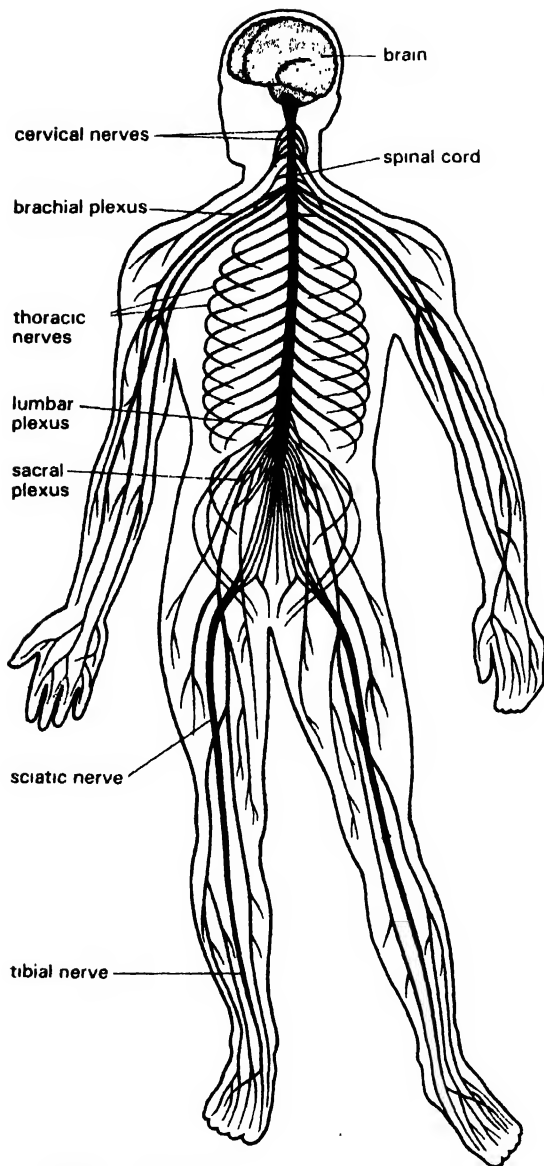
**neptunium** /ˈneptɪyoʊhni-əm/ *n* a radioactive metallic element chemically similar to uranium from which it is formed in nuclear reactors – *see* PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr ISV *Neptune*]

**nerëis** /ˈnɛəri-ɪs/ *n*, *pl* **nerëides** /ˈnɛəri-əˌdeɪz/ any of a genus of (large) marine annelid worms [NL *Nereid-*, *Nereis*, genus name, fr L, *Nereid* (sea nymph), fr Gk *Nereid-*, *Nereis*, fr *Nereus* Nereus, god of the sea] **neritic** /ˈneɪtɪk/ *adj* of or being the region of shallow water adjoining the seacoast [perh fr NL *Nerita*, genus of marine snails]

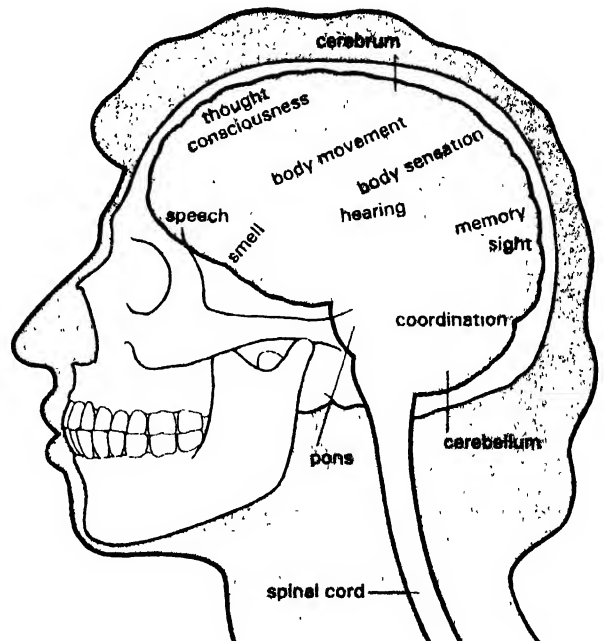
**nerve**, **nerve**, **nerve** *comb form* neur- < *(nervine)* [ME *nerf*, fr L, fr *nervus*]

**nerve** /nuh/ *n* 1 sinew, tendon (< strain every ~) 2 any of the filaments of nervous tissue that conduct nervous impulses to and from the nervous system and are made up of axons and dendrites (C) 3a fortune,

**The nervous system**



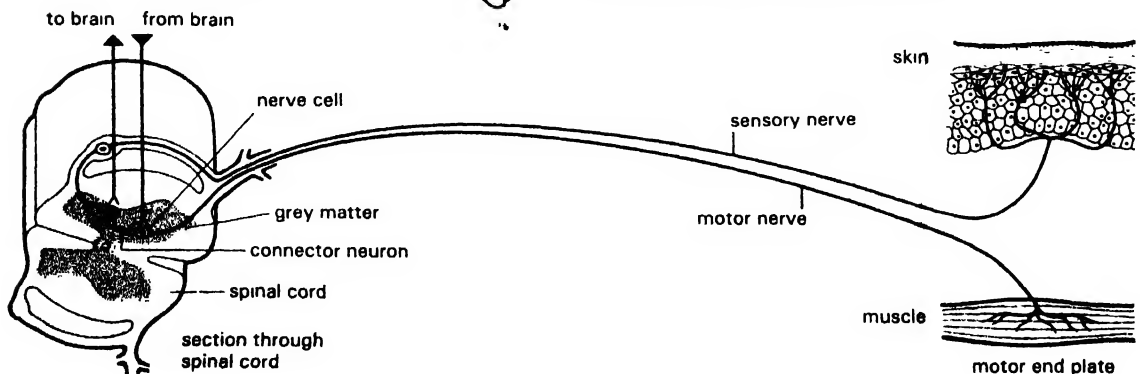
**Correlation areas of the brain**

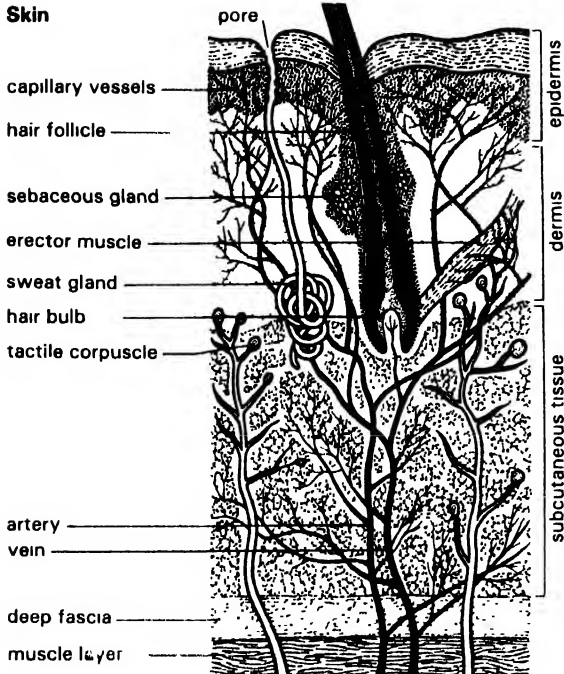


The nervous system is divided into two parts: central, comprising the brain and spinal cord, and peripheral, comprising cranial, spinal, and autonomic nerves. The brain is the centre of coordination and thought and is responsible for interpreting and correlating stimuli. Certain areas govern specific functions as shown in the diagram above. The 12 pairs of cranial nerves supply the muscles of the face and eyeballs, and provide pathways for sensations of hearing, smell, taste, and vision. The autonomic nervous system regulates 'automatic' activities such as breathing, heart action, and digestion. The 31 pairs of spinal nerves emerge along the length of the spinal cord and are concerned with activities of different parts of the body. Each spinal nerve divides into two roots, motor and sensory, along which reflexes pass.

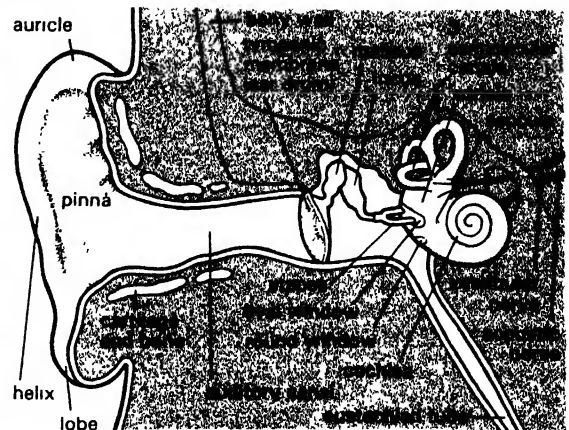
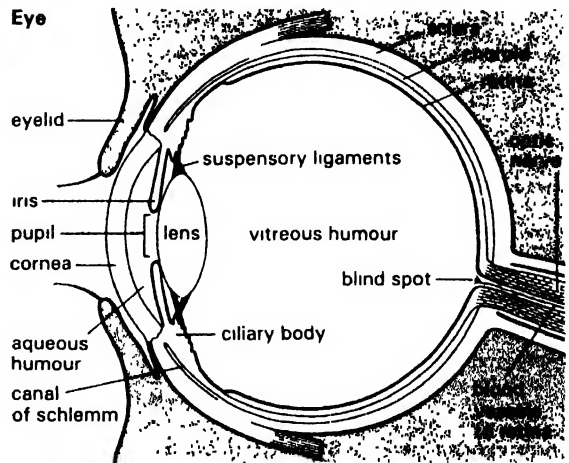
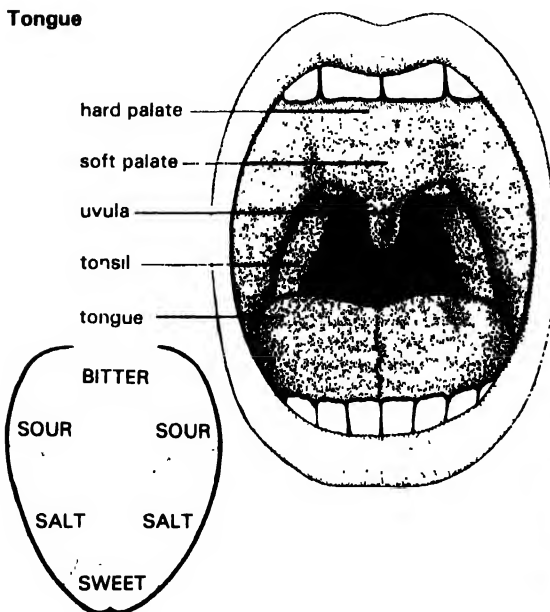
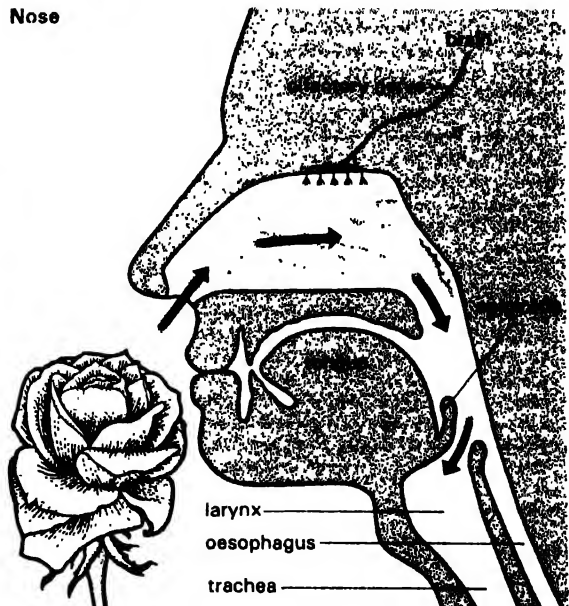
**The reflex response**

If a painful stimulus, such as a flame, touches the skin, messages are sent along the sensory nerve to the spinal cord where the motor nerve immediately instructs muscles to remove the part from potential harm.



**Skin**

Sensory organs relay the sensations they receive to the brain where these messages are synthesized into consciousness of the world around us

**Ear****Eye****Tongue****Nose**

- b (disrespectful) assurance or boldness **4a** a sore or sensitive subject – esp in *hit/touch a nerve* **b** *pl* acute nervousness or anxiety **5** *VF*IN 3 **6** the sensitive pulp of a tooth [L *nervus* sinew, nerve; akin to Gk *neuron* sinew, nerve, *nén* to spin – more at NEEDLE]
- \*nerve** *vt* **1** to give strength and courage to **2** to prepare (oneself) psychologically for – often + *up* <~d herself up for the confrontation>
- 'nerve, cell** *n* a neuron  NERVE
- 'nerve, centre** *n* **1** CENTRE **3** **2** a source of leadership, control, or energy
- nerved** *adj* having (a specified kind or number of) veins or nerves – usu in combination
- 'nerve gas** *n* a deadly usu organophosphate poison gas that interferes with nerve transmission
- 'nerveless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** lacking strength or vigour **2** not agitated or afraid; cool – *nervelessly* *adv*, *nervelessness* *n*
- 'nerve-racking, 'nerve-wracking** *adj* placing a great strain on the nerves
- nervosity** /nuh'vɒsɪti/ *n* the state of being nervous
- nervous** /nuh'vɒs/ *adj* **1** of, affected by, or composed of (the) nerves or neurons **2a** easily excited or agitated **b** timid, apprehensive <~ of strangers> – *nervously* *adv*, *nervousness* *n*
- nervous 'breakdown** *n* (an occurrence of) a disorder in which worrying, depression, severe tiredness, etc prevent one from coping with one's responsibilities
- 'nervous, system** *n* the brain, spinal cord, or other nerves and nervous tissue together forming a system for interpreting stimuli from the sense organs and transmitting impulses to muscles, glands, etc  NERVL
- nerve** /nuh'vɒs/ *n* VEIN **3** [F, fr *nerf* sinew, fr L *nervus*]
- nervy** /nuh'vi/ *adj* **1** suffering from nervousness or anxiety **2** brash, imprudent – *infrm* – *nerveless* *n*
- nescience** /nesi-'ɒns, 'nesh(ə)ns/ *n* ignorance; lack of knowledge – *fml* [LL *nescientia*, fr L *nescient-*, *nesciens*, *prp* of *nescire* to not know, fr *ne-* not + *scire* to know – more at NO, SCIENCE] – *nescient* /-ənt/ *adj*
- ness** /nes-/ *n* a cape or headland [ME *nasse*, fr OE *naess*, akin to OE *nasu* nose – more at NOSE]
- ness** /-nis/ *suffix* (*adj* → *n*) **1** state or quality of <goodness>; also instance of (a specified state or quality) <a kindness> **2** degree or amount of <bigness> [ME *-nes*, fr OE; akin to OHG *-nissa* -ness]
- 'nest** /nest/ *n* **1a** a bed or receptacle prepared by a bird for its eggs and young **b** a place or structure in which animals live, esp in their immature stages <an ants' ~> **2a** a place of rest, retreat, or lodging **b** a den or haunt **3a** a group of similar things **b** a hotbed **4** a series of objects made to fit close together or one inside another [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *nest* nest, L *nidus*]
- \*nest** *vi* **1** to build or occupy a nest **2** to fit compactly together ~ *vt* to pack or fit compactly together – *nester* *n*
- 'nest, egg** *n* **1** a real or artificial egg left in a nest to induce a fowl to continue to lay there **2** an amount of money saved up as a reserve
- nestle** /nesl/ *vb* *nestling* /'neslɪŋ/ *vi* **1** to settle snugly or comfortably **2** to lie in a sheltered position ~ *vt* **1** to shelter or enclose (as if) in a nest **2** to press closely and affectionately [ME *nestlen*, fr OE *nestlan*, fr *nest*]
- nestling** /nes(t)lɪŋ/ *n* a young bird that has not abandoned the nest
- Nestor** /'nestaw/ *n*, often not cap a patriarch or mentor [L, fr Gk *Nestor*, old wise hero in Gk mythology]
- Nestorian** /'nestawri-ən/ *adj* of (a church following) the doctrine ascribed to Nestorius that divine and human persons remained separate in the incarnate Christ [ME, fr LL *Nestorianus*, fr *Nestorius* † ab 451 patriarch of Constantinople] – *Nestorian* *n*, *Nestorianism* *n*
- 'net** /net/ *n* **1a** an open meshed fabric twisted, knotted, or woven together at regular intervals **b** a device for catching fish, birds, or insects **c** a net barricade which divides a tennis, badminton, etc court in half and over which a ball or shuttlecock must be hit to be in play  SPORT **d** the fabric that encloses the sides and back of a soccer, hockey, etc goal **e(1)** a practice cricket pitch surrounded by nets – usu *pl* **(2)** a period of practice in such a net **2** an entrapping situation **3** a network of lines, fibres, etc **4** a ball hit into the net in a racket game [ME *nett*, fr OE; akin to OHG *nezz* net, L *nodus* knot] – *netless* *adj*, *netlike* *adj*, *netty* *adj*
- \*net** *vt* -tt- **1** to cover or enclose (as if) with a net **2** to catch (as if) in a net **3a** to hit (a ball) into the net for the loss of a point in a game **b** to hit or kick (a ball or puck) into the goal for a score in hockey, soccer, etc – *netter* *n*
- \*net, chiefly Br** *net* *adj* **1a** remaining after all deductions (e.g. for taxes, outlay, or loss) <~ earnings> – compare GROSS **b** excluding all tare <~ weight> **2** final, ultimate <the ~ result> [ME, clean, bright, fr MF – more at 'NEAT]
- \*net, chiefly Br** *net* *vt* -tt- **1** to make by way of profit **2** to get possession of
- 'net** *n* a net amount, profit, weight, price, or score
- 'net, ball** /-bawl/ *n* a game, usu for women, between 2 sides of 7 players each who score goals by tossing an inflated ball through a high horizontal ring on a post at each end of a hard court
- nether** /'nedhə/ *adj* **1** beneath the earth's surface <the ~ regions> **2** lower, under – *fml* [ME, fr OE *nithra*, fr *nither* down; akin to OHG *nidar* down, Skt *ni*, Gk *en*, *eni* in – more at IN] – *nethermost* /-mohst/ *adj*
- 'nether, world** /-wuhld/ *n* the world of the dead
- netsuke** /'netsook/, 'netski/ *n*, *pl* *netsuke*, *netsukes* a small and often intricately carved toggle (e.g. of ivory) used to fasten a pouch to a kimono sash [Jap]
- netting** /'netɪŋ/ *n* NETWORK **1**
- 'nettle** /'netl/ *n* **1** any of a genus of widely distributed green-flowered plants covered with stinging hairs **2** any of various plants like the nettle – used in combination <red dead nettle> [ME, fr OE *netel*; akin to OHG *nazza* nettle, Gk *adike*]
- \*nettle** *vi* *netting* /'netlɪŋ/ **1** to strike or sting (as if) with nettles **2** to arouse to annoyance or anger
- 'nettle, rash** *n* urticaria
- 'network** /-wuhk/ *n* **1** a fabric or structure of cords or wires that cross at regular intervals and are knotted or secured at the crossings **2** a system of crisscrossing lines or channels **3** an interconnected chain, group, or system **4a** a group of radio or television stations linked together so that they can broadcast the same programmes if desired **b** a radio or television company that produces programmes for broadcast over such a network
- \*network** *vt* to present on or integrate into a radio or television network <~ed programmes>
- Neufchâtel** /'nuh,ʃatəl (Fr nœʃatəl)/ *n* a soft white cheese similar to cream cheese but containing less fat [F, fr *Neufchâtel*, town in France]
- neur-, neuro-** *comb form* **1** nerve, nervous system <neural> <neurology> <neurosurgeon> **2** neural, neural and <neuramuscular> [NL, fr Gk, nerve, sinew, fr *neuron* – more at NERVE]
- neural** /'nyooərəl/ *adj* **1** of or affecting a nerve or the nervous system **2** dorsal – *neurally* *adv*
- 'neuralgia** /'nyoo(ə)'raɪjə/ *n* intense paroxysms of pain radiating along the course of a nerve without apparent cause [NL] – *neuralgic* /-jɪk/ *adj*
- neurasthenia** /'nyooərə'sti:enya/ *n* severe fatigue, depression, etc occurring as a mental disorder, NERVOUS BREAKDOWN – not now used technically [NL] – *neurasthenic* /-nɪk/ *adj*, *neurasthenically* *adv*
- neuritis** /'nyooə'netɪs/ *n* inflammation or degeneration of a nerve causing pain, sensory disturbances, etc [NL] – *neuritic* /-'rɪtɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- 'neurochemistry** /'nyooərə'kɪstrɪ/ *n* the biochemistry of (the transmission of impulses down) nerves – *neurochemical* *adj*, *neurochemist* *n*
- neuroglia** /'nyoo(ə)'rɒɡli-ə, 'nyooərə'ɡli-ə/ *n* supporting tissue that is intermingled with the impulse-conducting cells of nervous tissue in the brain, spinal cord, and ganglia [NL, fr *neur-* + MGk *glia* glue] – *neuroglial* *adj*
- neuroleptic** /'nyooərə'leptɪk/ *n* TRANQUILLIZER [F *neuroleptique*, fr *neur-* + *-leptique* affecting, fr Gk *lēptikos* seizing, fr *lambanein* to take, seize – more at LATCH] – *neuroleptic* *adj*
- neurology** /'nyoo(ə)'rɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of (diseases of) the nervous system [NL *neurologia*, fr *neur-* + *-logia* -logy] – *neurologist* *n*, *neurology* /-rɒlədʒɪk/, *neurological* *adj*, *neurologically* *adv*
- 'neuro/muscular** /'nyooərə'roʊ-/ *adj* involving nervous and muscular cells, tissues, etc <a ~ junction> [ISV]
- neuron** /'nyooərən/ *n* any of the many specialized cells each with an axon and dendrites that form the functional impulse-transmitting units of the nervous system [NL, fr Gk, nerve, sinew – more at NERVE] – *neuronal* /'nyooərənəl, 'nyooərə'nəl/ also *neuronic* /-'rɒnɪk/ *adj*
- neuropathy** /'nyoo(ə)'rɒpəθi/ *n* an abnormal (degenerative) state of the nerves or nervous system [ISV] – *neuropathic* /'nyooərə'pəθɪk/ *adj*, *neuropathically* *adv*
- neuropteran** /'nyoo(ə)'rɒptərən/ *n* any of an order of insects, usu having a fine network of veins in their wings, including the lacewings [deriv of Gk *neur-* + *pteron* wing – more at FEATHER] – *neuropteran* *adj*, *neuropterous* *adj*
- neurosis** /'nyoo(ə)'rɒhɪsɪz/ *n*, *pl* *neuroses* /-sɛz/ a nervous disorder,

- unaccompanied by disease of the nervous system, in which phobias, compulsions, anxiety, and obsessions make normal life difficult [NL]
- neurotic** /nyoo(ə)'rotik/ *n* one who is emotionally unstable or is affected with a neurosis - *neurotic adj*, *neurotically adv*, *neuroticism* /-'roti,sɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- neurotransmitter** /nyoooroh-/ *n* a substance (e.g. acetylcholine) that is released at a nerve ending and transmits nerve impulses across the synapse - *neurotransmission n*
- neuter** /nyoohtə/ *adj* 1a of or belonging to the gender that is neither masculine nor feminine **b** intransitive 2 lacking generative organs or having nonfunctional ones <the worker bee is ~> ➡ **SYMBOL** [ME *neutre*, fr MF & L, MF *neutre*, fr L *neuter*, lit., neither, fr *ne-* not + *uter* which of two - more at NO, WHETHER]
- neuter** *n* 1 (a word or morpheme of) the neuter gender 2a WORKER 2 b a castrated animal
- neuter** *vt* CASIRATE 1
- neutral** /nyoohtrel/ *adj* 1 (of or being a country, person, etc) not engaged on either side of a war, dispute, etc <~ territory> 2a indifferent, indefinite **b** without colour **c** NEUTER 2 **d** neither acid nor alkaline <a ~ solution> **e** not electrically charged or positive or negative, not live <the ~ wire in a mains plug is blue> 3a produced (e.g. like the vowel /ə/) with the tongue in the position it has when at rest **b** produced (e.g. like the vowel /ah/) with the lips neither spread nor rounded [MF, fr (assumed) ML *neutralis*, fr L, of neuter gender, fr *neutr-*, *neuter*] - *neutrally adv*, *neutrality n*, *neutralist n*, *neutralistic* /-'listik/ *adj*, *neutrality* /nyooht'raləti/ *n*
- neutral** *n* 1 a neutral country, person, etc 2 a neutral colour 3 a position (of a gear lever) in which gears are disengaged 4 a neutral electrical conductor
- neutralize**, -ise /nyooht'leɪz/ *vt* 1 to make (chemically, politically, electrically, etc) neutral 2 to nullify or counteract (the effect of) with an opposing action, force, etc ~ *vi* to become neutralized - *neutralization* /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- neutrino** /nyooht'reenoh/ *n*, *pl* *neutrinos* either of 2 forms of an uncharged elementary particle that is created in the process of particle decay (e.g. inside a star), is believed to be massless, and that interacts only slightly with other matter [It, dim. of *neutrone* neutron]
- neutron** /nyooht'ron/ *n* an uncharged elementary particle with a mass about that of the proton, present in the nuclei of all atoms except those of normal hydrogen ➡ **PHYSICS** [prob fr *neutra*]
- neutron bomb** *n* a nuclear bomb that produces relatively large amounts of radiation and a relatively small blast
- neutron star** *n* any of various very dense celestial bodies that consist of closely packed neutrons resulting from the collapse of a much larger star
- neutrophil** /nyooht'rɪfɪl/, *neutrophile* /-'fiel/ *n* a white blood cell that has neutrophilic granules in its cytoplasm and is present in large numbers in the blood ➡ **ANATOMY** [ISV *neutro-* neutral (fr L *neutr-*, *neuter* neither) + *-phil*, *-phile*]
- neutrophilic** /nyooht'rɪfɪlɪk/, *neutrophil* /nyooht'rɪfɪl/ *adj* staining weakly with both acidic and basic dyes
- névé** /'nevay (fr neve)/ *n* (a field of) partly compacted granular snow, esp forming the surface part of the upper end of a glacier [F (Swiss dial.), fr L *niv-*, *nix* snow - more at SNOW]
- never** /'nevə/ *adv* 1 not ever; at no time <~ saw him before> <~ forgotten> 2 not in any degree; not under any condition <this will ~ do> <~ mind> 3 surely not <you're ~ 18!> <'I said it to his face' ~> - chiefly infml [ME, fr OE *naefre*, fr *ne* not + *æfre* ever - more at NO] - **I never** 1 - used to express amazement <well I never>, chiefly infml 2 I didn't do it - nonstandard <no she never>
- nevermore** *adv* never again
- never-never** *n*, *Br* HIRE PURCHASE - + *the*, infml
- never-never land** *n* an ideal or imaginary place
- nevertheless** /nevəd'hes/ *adv* in spite of that; yet <true but ~ unkind>
- novus** /'neevəs/ *n*, *pl* *novi* /-'vie/ *NAm* a naevus
- new** /nyooht/ *adj* 1 not old; not used previously, recent <a ~ book> <a ~ science> 2a(1) only recently discovered, recognized, or in use; novel <the ~ morality> (2) fresh, unfamiliar <visit ~ places> **b** different from or replacing a former one of the same kind <a ~ model> 3 having been in the specified condition or relationship for only a short time; unaccustomed <~ to the job> <a ~ member> 4a beginning as the repetition of a previous act or thing <a ~ day> **b** refreshed, regenerated <awoke, a ~ man> 5 *cap* MODERN 3; esp in use after medieval times [ME, fr OE *niwe*, akin to OHG *niwi* new, L *novus*, Gk *neos*] - *newish adj*, *newness n* -
- new lease of life** a renewed period of healthy activity, strength, or usefulness
- new adv** newly, recently - usu in combination <new-mown grass>
- newborn** /-'bawn/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* *newborn*, *newborns* (an individual who is) recently born
- Newcastle disease** /nyooht'kaʃl, -kəsl/ *n* FOWL PEST [Newcastle upon Tyne, city in England]
- newcomer** /-'kuma/ *n* 1 a recent arrival 2 a beginner, novice
- New Deal** *n* the programme of economic and social reform in the USA during the 1930s [fr its supposed resemblance to the situation of freshness and equality of opportunity afforded by a fresh deal in a card game]
- newel** /nyooht-əl/ *n* 1 an upright post about which the steps of a spiral staircase wind 2 also *newel post* a principal post supporting either end of a staircase handrail ➡ **ARCHITECTURE** [ME *nowell*, fr MF *nouel* stone of a fruit, fr LL *nucalis* like a nut, fr L *nuc-*, *nux* nut - more at NUT]
- newfangled** /-'fang-gld/ *adj* modern and unnecessarily complicated or gimmicky - derog or humor [ME, fond of novelty, fr *newefangel*, fr *new* + OE *fangen*, pp of *fān* to take, seize - more at FACT] - *newfangledness n*
- Newfoundland** /nyooht'fowndlnd/ *n* (any of) a breed of large intelligent dogs with coarse dense usu black hair [Newfoundland, island of Canada]
- New Hebrew** /'heebrooh/ *n* the Hebrew of present-day Israel
- New Latin** /'latɪn/ *n* post-medieval Latin, used esp in scientific terminology
- New Left** *n* a radical left-wing movement originating in Britain in the late 1950s
- newly** /nyoohtli/ *adv* 1 lately, recently <a ~ married couple> 2 anew
- newlywed** /-'wed/ *n* or *adj* (one who is) recently married
- new maths** *n* MODERN MATHS
- new moon** *n* the phase of the moon when its dark side is towards the earth, also the thin crescent moon seen a few days after this ➡ **SYMBOL**
- new penny** *n* PENNY 1a(2)
- news** /nyoohtz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in constr 1 (a report or series of reports of) recent (notable) events, new information about sthg <have you heard the ~?> <there is no ~ of him> 2a news reported in a newspaper, a periodical, or a broadcast **b** material that is newsworthy 3 a radio or television broadcast of news - *newsless adj*
- newsagent** /-'ayjənt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a retailer of newspapers and magazines
- newsboy** /-'boy/, *fem* *news girl* *n* a paperboy
- news cast** /-'kəst/ *n* NEWS 3 [news + broadcast] - *newscaster n*, *newscasting n*
- news letter** /-'leɪə/ *n* a printed pamphlet containing news or information of interest chiefly to a special group
- news monger** /-'mʌŋ-gə/ *n* a gossip
- newspaper** /nyoohts'peɪpə/ *n* 1 (an organization that publishes) a paper printed and distributed usu daily or weekly and containing news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising 2 the paper on which a newspaper is printed
- news paperman** /-'mən, -man/ *n* a journalist employed by a newspaper
- newspeak** /nyooht'spi:k/ *n*, often *cap* propagandistic language marked by euphemism, circumlocution, and the inversion of customary meanings [Newspeak, a language 'designed to diminish the range of thought,' in the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell †1950 E writer]
- news print** /-'prɪnt/ *n* cheap paper made chiefly from wood pulp and used mostly for newspapers
- news reader** /-'ri:da/ *n* a broadcaster who reads the news
- news reel** /-'ri:el/ *n* a short film dealing with current events
- news room** /-'ru:m, -roo:m/ *n* a place (e.g. an office) where news is prepared for publication or broadcast
- news stand** /-'stand/ *n* a stall where newspapers and periodicals are sold
- New Style** *adj* or *adv* according to the Gregorian calendar
- news vendor** /-'venda/ *n* one who sells newspapers, esp in the street at a regular place
- news worthy** /-'wʊdhɪ/ *adj* sufficiently interesting to warrant reporting
- newsway** /nyoohtzi/ *adj* full of (inconsequential) news - *newswaim n*
- newt** /nyooht/ *n* any of various small semiaquatic salamanders ➡

**LIFE CYCLE** [ME, alter. (by incorrect division of *an ewte*) of *ewte* – more at *EFT*]

**new technology** *n* technology that is new, esp that using microprocessors (e.g. in domestic appliances, cars, printing, etc)

**New Testament** *n* the second part of the Christian Bible comprising the canonical Gospels and Epistles, the books of Acts, and the book of Revelation

**newton** /nyooht(ə)n/ *n* the SI unit of force equal to the force that when acting for 1 s on a free mass of 1 kg will give it a velocity of 1 m/s

**PHYSICS, UNIT** [Sir Isaac Newton †1727 E mathematician & scientist]

**Newtonian** /nyooht'noyn. -ni-ən/ *adj* of, following, or agreeing with (the discoveries of) Isaac Newton (< *mechanics*)

**new town** *n* any of several towns in Britain planned and built as a unit since 1946

**new wave** *n*, often *cap* N&W 1 a cinematic movement characterized by improvisation, abstraction, a subjective treatment of chronology and symbolism, and the frequent use of experimental photographic techniques 2 a style of rock music that developed from punk rock and is usu more complex musically while retaining an emphasis on social comment [trans of *F nouvelle vague*]

**New World** *n* the W hemisphere, esp the continental landmass of N and S America

**New Year** *n* the first day or days of a year, esp NEW YEAR'S DAY

**New Year's Day** *n* January 1 observed as a public holiday in many countries

**next** /nekst/ *adj* 1 immediately adjacent or following (e.g. in place or order) (<the ~ house>) 2 immediately after the present or a specified time (<~ week> <he left the very ~ Monday> [ME, fr OE *nieht*, superl of *neah* high – more at *NIGHT*])

**next** *adv* 1 in the time, place, or order nearest or immediately succeeding (<~ we drove home> <the ~ closest school>) 2 on the first occasion to come (<when ~ we meet>)

**next** *prep* nearest or adjacent to (<wear wool ~ the skin>)

**next** *n* the next occurrence, item, or issue of a kind (<to be contained in our ~>)

**next-door** *adj* situated or living in the next building, room, etc

**next door** *adv* in or to the next building, room, etc

**next man** *n* – the next man anyone else (<would do it as well as the next man>)

**next of kin** *n*, *pl* next of kin the person most closely related to another person

**next to** *prep* immediately following or adjacent to (<sit ~ Mary> <~ gin I like sherry best>)

**next to** *adv* very nearly, almost (<it was ~ impossible to see in the fog> <the article told me ~ nothing>)

**nexus** /'neksəs/ *n*, *pl* nexuses, nexus 1 a connection or link 2 a connected group or series [*L*, fr *nexus*, pp of *nectere* to bind]

**ngwee** /'ngwee/ *n*, *pl* ngwee – Zambia at NATIONALITY [native name in Zambia, lit., bright]

**niacin** /'nie-əsin/ *n* NICOTINIC ACID [nicotinic acid + *-in*]

**nib** /nɪb/ *n* 1 a bill or beak 2a the sharpened point of a quill pen *b* (each of the 2 equal divisions of) a small thin (detachable) piece of metal at the end of a pen, that tapers to a split point which is placed in contact with the paper or other surface to be marked 3 a small pointed or projecting part or article (<roasted almond ~s> [prob alter of *neb*])

**nib** *vt* -bb- to make into a nib or give a nib to

**nibble** /nɪbl/ *vb* nibbling /'nɪblɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to bite cautiously, gently, or playfully *b* to eat or chew in small bites 2 to produce by repeated small bites ~ *vi* 1 to take gentle, small, or cautious bites 2 to show cautious or qualified interest *USE* (vi) usu + *at* [origin unknown] – nibbler /'nɪblə/ *n*

**nibble** *n* 1 an act of nibbling 2 a very small amount (e.g. of food) *USE* infml

**nibs** /nɪbz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* an important or self-important person – infml; chiefly in *his nibs* or *His Nibs* [earlier *nabs*, perh alter of *neb*]

**nice** /nies/ *adj* 1 showing or requiring fine discrimination or treatment (<a ~ distinction>) 2a pleasant, agreeable *b* well done; well-executed (<~ shot>) 3 inappropriate or unpleasant – usu ironic (<he's a ~ one to talk>); compare PRETTY 2 4a socially acceptable; well-bred *b* decent, proper [ME, foolish, wanton, fr OF, fr L *nescius* ignorant, fr *nescire* to not know – more at *nescience*] – *nicely* *adv*, *niceness* *n* – nice and to a satisfactory degree (<it's nice and cool>)

**Nicene Creed** /'nies.ən, -i-ən/ *n* a Christian creed expanded from a creed issued by the first Nicene Council in AD 325, beginning 'I believe in one

God' [Nicene (of Nicaea, ancient city in Asia Minor), fr ME, fr LL *Nicenus, Nicaenus*]

**nicety** /'niesəti/ *n* 1 an elegant or refined feature 2 a fine point or distinction 3 (the showing or requiring of) delicacy, discernment, or careful attention to details [ME *nicete*, fr MF *niceté* foolishness, fr *nice*, *adj*] – to a nicety to the point at which sth is at its best (<roasted to a nicety>)

**niche** /neesh, nich/ *n* 1 a recess in a wall, esp for a statue 2a a place or activity for which a person is best suited *b* the ecological role of an organism in a community, esp in regard to food consumption [F, fr MF, fr *nicher* to nest, fr (assumed) VL *nidicare*, fr L *nidus* nest – more at *NEST*]

**niche** *vt* to place (as if) in a niche

**Nichrome** /'niekrohm/ *trademark* – used for a nickel and chromium alloy with a high electrical resistance

**nick** /nik/ *n* 1 a small notch or groove 2 the point at which the back or side wall of a squash court meets the floor 3 FDGE 4 4 Br state of health or repair – infml, esp in *in good/bad nick* (<it's not in very good ~>) 5 Br a prison or police station – slang (<he's been in the ~ for the last 3 years> [MF *nyke*, prob alter of *nocke* *nock*] – in the nick of time at the final critical moment, just before it would be too late

**nick** *vt* 1a to make a nick in *b* to cut into or wound slightly 2 Br a STEAL 1a *b* ARREST 2 ~ *vi* esp of domestic animals to complement one another genetically and produce superior offspring *USE* (vt 2) slang

**nickel** /'nik(ə)l/ *n* 1 a hard bivalent metallic transition element with magnetic properties like those of iron PERIODIC TABLE 2 (a US coin containing 1 part of nickel to 3 of copper and worth) the sum of 5 cents [prob fr Sw, fr G *kupfernickel* *niccolite* (a mineral largely composed of a nickel arsenide), prob fr *kupfer* copper + *nickel* goblin, fr the deceptive copper colour of *niccolite*]

**nickelodeon** /'nik(ə)'ləndi-ən/ *n* a jukebox [prob fr *nickel* + *-odeon* (as in *melodeon* reed organ)]

**nickel silver** *n* a silver-white alloy of copper, zinc, and nickel

**nicker** /'nika/ *n*, *pl* nicker Br the sum of £1 – slang [origin unknown]

**nicker** *vi* to whinny [perh alter of *neigh*]

**knickknack** /'nik,nak/ *n* a knick-knack

**nickname** /'nik,naym/ *n* 1 a name used in place of or in addition to a proper name 2 a familiar form of a proper name, esp of a person [ME *nekename* additional name, alter (by incorrect division of an *ekename*) of *ekename*, fr *eke* also + *name*] – *nickname* *vt*

**nicol** /'nik(ə)l/, *nicol prism* two pieces of transparent calcite cemented together and used esp to obtain a ray of polarized light [William Nicol †1851 Sc physicist]

**nicotinamide** /'nika'tinə,miəd, -'tee-/ *n* a vitamin of the vitamin B complex with actions similar to those of nicotinic acid [ISV]

**nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide** /,adəneɪn di'nyoohklɪ-ə-tiəd, adəni'n/ *n* NAD

**nicotine** /'nikateɪn/ *n* an alkaloid that is the chief drug in tobacco and has the actions of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine on some of its receptors, esp those in skeletal muscle [F, fr NL *nicotiana*, genus name of tobacco plants, fr Jean Nicot †1600 F diplomat & scholar who introduced tobacco into France] – *nicotinic* /-'teenik, -'tinik/ *adj*

**nicotinic acid** /-'teenik, -'tinik/ *n* a vitamin of the vitamin B complex that is found widely in animals and plants and whose lack results in pellagra

**nictitating membrane** /'nikta,taɪtɪŋ/ *n* a thin membrane capable of extending across the eyeball under the eyelids of many animals (e.g. cats) [*nictitate* (to wink), alter of *nictate*, fr L *nictatus*, pp of *nictare*]

**nidification** /,nidɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act, process, or technique of building a nest [ML *nidificatio*-, *nidificatio*, fr L *nidificatus*, pp of *nidificare* to build a nest, fr *nidus* nest]

**nidus** /'nɪdəs/ *n*, *pl* nidi /'nɪdi, -di/, *nidues* 1 a nest or breeding place, esp a place in an animal or plant where bacteria or other organisms lodge and multiply 2 a place where sth originates, develops, or is located [NL, fr L]

**niece** /nees/ *n* a daughter of one's brother or sister or of one's brother-in-law or sister-in-law [ME *nece* granddaughter, *niece*, fr OF *niece*, fr LL *neptia*, fr L *neptis*; akin to L *nepot*-, *nepos* grandson, nephew – more at *NEPHEW*]

**niello** /'ni:liəh/ *n*, *pl* nielli /-,li-, -li/, *niellos* 1 a black enamel-like mixture of sulphur with silver, copper, and lead 2 (a piece of) metal decorated with incised designs filled with niello [It, fr ML *niellum*, fr neut of L *niellus* blackish, dim. of *niger* black] – *niello* *vt*



**niff** /nɪf/ *n*, *Br* an unpleasant smell – slang [E dial, perh fr *sniff*] – **niffy** *adj*

**nifty** /nɪfti/ *adj* very good or effective, esp cleverly conceived or executed – *infml* [origin unknown] – **nifty** *adv*

**nigger** /nɪgəd/ *n* a mean and stingy person [ME, of Scand origin, akin to ON *hnegg* niggardly, akin to L *cinis* ashes – more at INCINERATE] – **niggard** *adj*

**niggardly** /-h/ *adj* 1 grudgingly mean, miserly 2 provided in meagre amounts (< ~ *praise*) – **niggardliness** *n*, **niggardly** *adv*

**nigger** /nɪgə/ *n* a Negro; broadly a member of any dark-skinned race – *derog* [alter of earlier *neger*, fr MF *negre*, fr Sp or Pg *negro*, fr *negro* black, fr L *niger*]

**niggle** /nɪgl/ *vb* **niggling** /ˈnɪɡlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to waste time or effort on minor details 2 to find fault constantly in a petty way ~ *vt* to cause slight irritation to, bother [origin unknown] – **niggle** *n*, **niggler** *n*, **niggly** *adj*

**niggling** /ˈnɪɡlɪŋ/ *adj* 1 petty 2 persistently annoying (< ~ *doubts*) – **nigglingly** *adv*

**nigh** /nɪe/ *adv*, *adj*, or *prep* near (in place, time, or relation) (< ~ *on 50 years*) [ME, fr OE *neah*, akin to OHG *nah*, *adv*, *nigh*, & *prep*, *nigh*, *after*, ON *na-* *nigh*]

**night** /nɪet/ *n* 1 the period of darkness from dusk to dawn caused by the earth's daily rotation 2 an evening characterized by a specified event or activity (< *Thursday is bingo* ~ > < *opening* ~ >) 3a darkness b a state of affliction, ignorance, or obscurity [ME, fr OE *niht*, akin to OHG *naht* night, L *noct-*, *nox*, Gk *nykt-*, *nyx*]

**night blindness** *n* reduced vision in faint light (e.g. at night) – **night-blind** *adj*

**nightcap** /-kəp/ *n* 1 a cloth cap worn in bed 2 a drink taken at bedtime

**nightclub** /-klʌb/ *n* a place of entertainment open at night that has a floor show, provides music and space for dancing, and usu serves drinks and food

**nightdress** /-dres/ *n* a woman's or girl's nightgown

**nightfall** /-fɔːl/ *n* dusk

**nightgown** /-ɡəʊn/ *n* a loose garment for sleeping in

**night hawk** /-hɔːk/ *n* a nightjar, owl, or similar bird that flies at night

**nightie**, **nighty** /nɪti/ *n* a nightdress – *infml* [*nightgown* + *-ie*, *-y*]

**nightingale** /ˈnɪtɪŋɡeɪl/ *n* any of several Old World thrushes noted for the sweet usu nocturnal song of the male [ME, fr OE *nihtegale*, fr *niht* + *galean* to sing – more at YELL]

**nightjar** /-jɑːh/ *n* a Eurasian insect-eating bird that is active at night and has a characteristic churring call [fr its harsh sound]

**nightlife** /-lɪf/ *n* late evening entertainment or social life

**night-light** *n* a dim light kept burning all night long, esp in sb's bedroom

**nightly** /-li/ *adj* or *adv* (of, occurring, taken, or done) at or by night or every night

**nightmare** /-meə/ *n* 1 an evil spirit that causes frightening dreams 2 a frightening dream accompanied by a sense of oppression or suffocation that usu awakens the sleeper 3 an experience, situation, or object that causes acute anxiety or terror [*night* + *mare* (evil spirit), fr ME, fr OE] – **nightmare**, **nightmarish** *adj*, **nightmarishly** *adv*

**night owl** *n* sb who tends to be most active at night – *infml*

**nights** *adv* in the night repeatedly; on any night

**night school** *n* classes, often in subjects leading to a qualification, held in the evening

**nightshade** /ˈnɪtʃeɪd/ *n* any of various related usu poisonous plants. e.g. a bitter-sweet b DEADLY NIGHTSHADE

**nightshirt** /-ʃuːt/ *n* a long loose shirt for sleeping in

**night soil** *n* human excrement collected for fertilizing the soil

**nightstick** /-stɪk/ *n*, *NAm* a club carried by a policeman

**night watchman** *n* 1 sb who keeps watch (e.g. over a building) by night 2 a relatively inexperienced batsman who is sent in to bat towards the end of a day's play so that a more expert batsman need not face the bowling until the following day

**nighty** /nɪti/ *n* a nightie

**nigger** /nɪɡnɒɡ/ *n*, *Br* a nigger – humor, *derog* [redupl of *nig*, short for *nigger*]

**nigritude** /ˈnɪɡrɪtuːd/ *n* blackness – *fml* [L *nigritudo*, fr *nigr-*, *niger* black]

**nihilism** /ˈniːəˌlɪz(ə)m/, ˈni-/ *n* 1 a view that rejects all values and beliefs as meaningless or unfounded 2a often *cap* the doctrine that social conditions are so bad as to make destruction desirable for its own sake, adhered to specif by a 19th-c Russian terrorist revolutionary party b

terrorism [G *nihilismus*, fr L *nihil* nothing – more at NIL] – **nihilist** *n* or *adj*, **nihilistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**nihil obstat** /ˈniːəl ˈɒbstət/ *n* authoritative or official approval [L, nothing hinders]

**-nik** /-nɪk/ *suffix* (*n* or *adj* → *n*) one connected with or characterized by being <beatnik> <computerik> [Yiddish, fr Russ & Pol]

**nil** /nɪl/ *n* nothing, zero <a score of 2 points to ~> [L, nothing, contr of *nihil*, fr OL *nihilum*, fr *ne-* not + *hilum* trifle – more at NO] – **nil** *adj*

**nilgai** /ˈnɪlɡeɪ/ *n*, pl **nilgais**, esp collectively **nilgai** a large Indian antelope [Hindi *nilgaw* blue bull (fem *nilgai*), fr Skt *nīla* dark blue + *go* bull, cow]

**Nilotic** /ˈniːlətɪk/ *adj* of (the inhabitants or languages of) the Nile or Nile region → LANGUAGE [L *Niloticus*, fr Gk *Neilotes*, fr *Neilos* Nile, river in E Africa]

**nim** /nɪm/ *n* any of various games in which each player in turn draws objects from 1 or more piles and attempts to take the last object or force the opponent to take it [prob fr obs *nim* (to take), fr ME *nimen*, fr OE *niman*]

**nimble** /ˈnɪmbəl/ *adj* 1 quick, light, and easy in movement 2 quick and clever in thought and understanding [ME *nimel*, fr OE *numol* holding much, fr *niman* to take, akin to OHG *neman* to take, L *numerus* number, Gk *nemein* to distribute, manage, *nomos* pasture, *nomos* usage, custom, law] – **nimbleness** *n*, **nimbly** /ˈnɪmbli/ *adv*

**nimbostratus** /ˈnɪmbəʊˈstrætʃəs/ *n* a low dark rainy cloud layer [NL, fr L *nimbus* + NL *stratus*]

**nimbus** /ˈnɪmbəs/ *n*, pl **nimb** /-bɪe, -bɪ/, **nimbuses** 1 a luminous vapour, cloud, or atmosphere surrounding a god or goddess 2 a luminous circle about the head of a representation of a god, saint, or sovereign 3 a cloud from which rain is falling → WEATHER [L, rainstorm, cloud, akin to Pahlavi *namb* mist]

**nimiety** /ˈnɪmiːəti/ *n* an excess, redundancy – *fml* [L *nimietas*, fr L *nimius* too much, *adj*, fr *nimis*, *adv*]

**niminy-piminy** /ˈnɪmɪni ˈpɪmɪni/ *adj* affectedly dainty or delicate [prob alter of *namby-pamby*]

**nincompoop** /ˈnɪŋkəmˌpuːp/ *n* a silly or foolish person [origin unknown]

**nine** /niːn/ *n* 1 → NUMBER 2 the ninth in a set or series 3 sth having 9 parts or members or a denomination of 9 4 the first or last 9 holes of an 18-hole golf course 5 *pl* in *constr.*, *cap* the Common Market countries between 1973 and 1981 [ME, fr *nynce*, *adj*, fr OE *nigon*; akin to OHG *nun* nine, L *novem*, Gk *ennea*] – **nine** *adj* or *pron*, **ninefold** /-fəʊld/ *adj* or *adv* – to the nines elaborately in special, formal, or party clothes <ressed up to the nines> [perh fr the use of 9 as a mystic number symbolizing perfection, *n*]

**nine days' wonder** *n* sth that creates a short-lived sensation

**nineteen** /niːntiːn/ *n* → NUMBER [ME *nynetene*, *adj*, fr OE *nigon-tene*; akin to OE *tien* ten] – **nineteen** *adj* or *pron*, **nineteenth** /-tiːnti/ *adj* or *n* – **nineteen** to the dozen very fast and volubly <alking nineteen to the dozen>

**Nineteen Eighty-Four** *n* a (future) era envisaged as having all aspects of life controlled by an all-seizing totalitarian government [*Nineteen Eighty-Four*, futuristic novel by George Orwell †1950 E writer]

**nineteenth hole** *n* the bar of a golf club or other gathering place – humor [fr its being resorted to after the 18 holes on a standard golf course]

**ninety** /ˈniːnti/ *n* 1 → NUMBER 2 *pl* (a range of temperatures, ages, or dates within a century characterized by) the numbers 90 to 99 [ME *ninety*, *adj*, fr OE *nigontig*, short for *hundnigontig*, fr *hundnigontig*, *n*, group of 90, fr *hund* hundred + *nigon* nine + *-tig* group of 10 – more at HUNDRED, EIGHTY] – **ninety** *adj* or *pron*, **ninetyfold** /-fəʊld/ *adj* or *adv*, **ninetieth** /-iθ/ *adj* or *n*

**ninhydrin** /ˈnɪnhɪdrɪn/ *n* an oxidizing agent used esp for the detection of amino acids and polypeptides [fr *Ninhydrin*, a trademark]

**linny** /ˈlɪni/ *n* a silly or foolish person – humor, *infml* [perh by shortening & alter. fr *an innocent*]

**ninth** /niːntʃ/ *n* 1 → NUMBER 2a (a chord containing) a musical interval of an octave and a second b the note separated by this interval from a lower note – **ninth** *adj* or *adv*

**niobium** /ˈniːəʊbiəm/ *n* a ductile metallic element chemically resembling tantalum → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Niobe*, mythical daughter of Tantalus, fr Gk *Niobe*, fr its occurrence in tantalite]

**nip** /nɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to catch hold of and squeeze sharply; pinch 2a to sever (as if) by pinching sharply – often + *off* b to prevent the growth or development of <her plans were ~ ped in the bud> 3 to injure or make numb with cold ~ *vi* chiefly *Br* to go quickly or briefly; hurry – *infml* <I'll

*just ~ out to the shops* > [ME *nippen*, akin to ON *hnippa* to prod, Gk *kónis* ashes – more at INCINFRALE]

**\*nip** *n* 1 a sharp stinging cold <a ~ in the air> 2 (an instance of) nipping; a pinch 3 chiefly *NAm* a pungent flavour; a tang

**\*nip** *n* a small measure or drink of spirits [prob short for *nipperkin* (a small liquor container)]

**\*nip** *vb* -pp- to take nips of (a drink)

**Nip** *n* a Japanese – derog [short for *Nipponese*]

**nipa** /'neɪpə, 'ni:/ *n* (an alcoholic drink made from the juice of) an Australasian creeping palm [prob fr *it*, fr Malay *nipah* nipa palm]

**nip** and **tuck** *adj* or *adv*, chiefly *NAm* NECK AND NECK ['nip + 'tuck]

**nipper** /'nɪpə/ *n* 1 any of various devices (e.g. pincers) for gripping or cutting – usu pl with sing meaning 2 chiefly *Br* a child; esp a small boy – infml ['NIP + 'ɪər]

**nipple** /'nɪpl/ *n* 1 the small protuberance of a mammary gland (e.g. a breast) from which milk is drawn in the female 2a an artificial teat through which a bottle-fed infant feeds b a device with a hole through which the discharge of a liquid can be regulated 3 a small projection through which oil or grease is injected into machinery [earlier *neble*, *nible*, prob dim. of *neb*, *nib*]

**nippewort** /'nɪpl,wu:t/ *n* a slender composite Eurasian plant with small yellow flower heads

**Nipponese** /'nɪpə'neɪz/ *n* or *adj*, pl *Nipponese* (a) Japanese [*Nippon* (Japan), fr Jap *Dai Nippon*]

**nippy** /'nɪpi/ *adj* 1 nimble and lively, snappy 2 CHILLY 1 ['NIP + 'ɪ-ɪ]

– *nippily* *adv*, *nippiness* *n*

**nirvana** /'nɪə'vahnə, nu:/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a Hindu and Buddhist state of final bliss and freedom from the cycle of rebirth, attainable through the extinction of desire and individual consciousness 2 a place or state of relief from pain or anxiety [Skt *nirvāna*, lit., act of extinguishing, fr *ni-* out + *vati* it blows – more at 'WIND]

**nisi** /'ni:siə, 'neɪzi/ *adj* taking effect at a specified time unless previously modified or avoided <a decree ~> [L, unless, fr *ne-* not + *si* if]

**Nissen hut** /'nɪs(ə)n/ *n* a prefabricated shelter with a semicircular arching roof of corrugated iron and a concrete floor [Peter Nissen †1930 *Br* mining engineer]

**\*nit** /nɪt/ *n* (the egg of) a parasitic insect (e.g. a louse) [ME *nite*, fr OE *hnitu*, akin to OHG *hniz* nit, Gk *kónid-*, *kónis*]

**\*nit** *n*, chiefly *Br* a nitwit – infml

**\*nit-picking** *n* petty and usu unjustified criticism ['nit] – *nitpick* *vi* **nit-**, **nitr-** *comb form* 1 nitrogen <nitrate> 2 nitrate <nitrocellulose> – [nitre]

**\*nitrate** /'ni:treɪt/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of nitric acid 2 sodium or potassium nitrate used as a fertilizer [F, fr *nitrique*]

**\*nitrate** *vt* to treat or combine with nitric acid or a nitrate – *nitrator* *n*, *nitration* /'ni:treɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**nitrazepam** /'ni:etrazi,pəm/ *n* a synthetic drug with actions similar to those of diazepam, widely used as a hypnotic in sleeping pills – compare MOGADON [nitro- + -azepam (as in *diazepam*)]

**nitre**, *NAm* chiefly *niter* /'ni:etə/ *n* POTASSIUM NITRATE – not now used technically [ME *nitre* natron, fr MF, fr L *nitrum*, fr Gk *nitron*, fr Egypt *n try*]

**nitric** /'ni:tri:k/ *adj* of or containing nitrogen (with a relatively high valency) <~ oxide> [F *nitrique*, fr *nitro-*]

**nitric acid** *n* a corrosive inorganic liquid acid used esp as an oxidizing agent and in making fertilizers, dyes, etc

**nitride** /'ni:triəd/ *n* a compound of nitrogen with 1 other element <boron ~> [ISV]

**nitrification** /'ni:tri:fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* nitrifying; *specif* the oxidation (e.g. by bacteria) of ammonium salts first to nitrites and then to nitrates

**nitrify** /'ni:tri:fɪ/ *vt* to combine or impregnate with (a compound of) nitrogen [F *nitrifier*, fr *nitro-*]

**nitriole** /'ni:triəl, -tri:/ *n* an organic compound containing the cyanide group [ISV *nitro-* + *-ole*, *-ole* (fr L *-ilis* *-ile*)]

**nitrite** /'ni:tri:et/ *n* a salt or ester of nitrous acid

**nitro** /'ni:troh/ *adj* being the univalent group NO<sub>2</sub> or containing it in the molecular structure – usu in combination <nitrobenzene> [nitro-]

**nitro-** – see **NITR-**

**nitrobenzene** /'ni:troh'benzeɪn/ *n* an oily liquid with an almond smell, used esp as a solvent and in making aniline [ISV]

**nitrocellulose** /'seɪyoo,ləʊs, -ləʊz/ *n* CELLULOSE NITRATE [ISV]

**nitrogen** /'ni:etraz(ə)n/ *n* a trivalent gaseous chemical element that constitutes about 78 per cent by volume of the atmosphere and is found in combined form as a constituent of all living things → PERIODIC

TABLE [F *nitrogène*, fr *nitro-* + *-gène* -gen] – **nitrogenous** /'ni:etrojənəs/ *adj*

**\*nitrogen cycle** *n* the continuous circulation of nitrogen and nitrogen-containing compounds from air to soil to living organisms and back to air, involving nitrogen fixation, nitrification, decay, and denitrification

**nitrogen fixation** *n* (industrial or biological) assimilation of atmospheric nitrogen into chemical compounds, *specif* this process performed by soil microorganisms, esp in the root nodules of leguminous plants (e.g. clover) – **nitrogen-fixer** *n*, **nitrogen-fixing** *n*

**nitroglycerine** /'ni:troh'glɪsəri:n, -rɪn/ *n* an only explosive liquid used chiefly in making dynamite and, as a weak solution in water, in medicine to dilate the blood vessels [ISV]

**nitros-**, **nitroso-** *comb form* containing the univalent group NO in the molecular structure <nitrosamine> [NL *nitrosus* nitrous]

**nitrosamine** /'ni:etroh'seɪm, -mɪn/ *n* any of various often cancer-producing compounds containing the group NNO in their molecular structure

**nitrous** /'ni:tros/ *adj* of or containing a potassium nitrate b nitrogen (with a relatively low valency) [NL *nitrosus*, fr L, full of natron, fr *nitrum* natron – more at **NITRE**]

**nitrous acid** *n* an unstable acid containing less oxygen than nitric acid and occurring only in solution or in the form of its salts

**nitrous oxide** *n* a gas used as a general anaesthetic, esp in obstetrics and dentistry

**nitty-gritty** /'nɪti'grɪti/ *n* the important basic realities – infml [origin unknown] – **nitty-gritty** *adj*

**nitwit** /'nɪt,wɪt/ *n* a scatterbrained or stupid person – infml [prob fr G dial *nit* not + E *wit*] – **nit-witted** *adj*

**\*nix** /nɪks/, fem *nixie* /-sɪ/ *n* a water sprite of Germanic folklore [G, fr OHG *nihhus*, akin to OE *nicor* water monster, Gk *nizein* to wash]

**\*nix** *n* nothing – slang [G *nichts* nothing]

**\*nix** *adv*, *NAm* no – slang

**\*nix** *vt*, *NAm* to veto, forbid – slang

**nizam** /'ni:zəhm, nɪ-, -zəm, '--/ *n* any of a line of sovereigns of Hyderabad in India, reigning from 1713 to 1950 [Hindi *nizam* order, governor, fr Ar *nizam*] – **nizamate** /-məɪt/ *n*

**\*no** /noh/ *adv* 1 – used to negate an alternative choice <whether you like it or ~> 2 in no respect or degree – in comparisons <~ better than before> 3 – used in answers expressing negation, dissent, denial, or refusal, contrasted with *yes* <~, I'm not going> 4 – used like a question demanding assent to the preceding statement <she's pretty, ~?> 5 *nay* <happy, ~, ecstatic> 6 – used as an interjection to express incredulity <'She's 17? 'No!> 7 chiefly *Scott* not <it's ~ canny> [ME, fr OE *na*, fr *ne* not + *a* always, akin to ON & OHG *ne* not, L *ne-*, Gk *ne-* – more at 'AYE]

**\*no** *adj* 1a not any <~ money> <there's ~ denying> <~ parking> b hardly any, very little <I'll be finished in ~ time> 2a not a, quite other than a <he's ~ expert> b – used before a noun phrase to give force to an opposite meaning <in ~ uncertain terms>, compare **NOT** 3

**\*no** *n*, pl *noes*, *nos* a negative reply or vote

**No**, *Noh* /noh/ *n*, pl *No*, *Noh* a classic Japanese (form of) dance-drama [Jap *no*, lit., talent]

**\*nob** /nob/ *n* 1 a jack of the same suit as the card turned by the dealer in cribbage, that scores 1 point for the holder – chiefly in *his nob/nobs* <one for his ~> 2 a person's head – infml [prob alter of *knob*]

**\*nob** *n*, chiefly *Br* a wealthy or influential person – infml [perh fr 'nob]

**\*no-ball** *intery* or *n* – (used as a call by an umpire to indicate) an illegal delivery of the ball in cricket which cannot take a wicket and counts 1 run to the batsman's side if the batsman does not score a run off it

**\*no-ball** *vt*, of an umpire in cricket to declare (a bowler) to have delivered or (a delivery) to be a no-ball ~ *vi* to bowl a no-ball

**nobbie** /'nɒbi/ *vt* **nobbling** /'nɒblɪŋ, 'nɒblɪŋ/ *Br* 1 to incapacitate (esp. a racehorse), esp by drugging 2a to win over to one's side, esp by dishonest means b to get hold of, esp dishonestly c to swindle, cheat **USE** (1) infml; (2) slang [perh irreg freq of *nab*] – **nobbler** *n*

**nobbut** /'nɒbət/ *adv*, *N Eng* no more than; only <he's ~ a lad> [ME *no but*, fr *no* (adv) + *but*]

**nobelium** /'nɒb'eli:əm/ *n* an artificially produced radioactive metallic element → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Alfred Nobel †1896 Sw manufacturer, inventor, & philanthropist]

**Nobel prize** /'nɒb'el/ *n* any of various annual prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel for the encouragement of people who work for the interests of humanity (e.g. in the fields of peace, literature, medicine, and physics)

**nobility** /noh'biləti/ *n* 1 being noble 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the people making up a noble class [ME *noblite*, fr MF *nobilité*, fr L *nobilitas*, *nobilitas*, fr *nobilis*]

**'noble** /nohbl/ *adj* 1a gracious and dignified in character or bearing b famous, notable (< a ~ victory) 2 of or being high birth or exalted rank 3 of fine quality, excellent (< a ~ vintage) 4 imposing, stately 5 having or showing a magnanimous character or high ideals (< a ~ deed) [ME, fr OF, fr L *nobilis* knowable, well known, noble, fr *noscere* to come to know – more at KNOW] – **nobleness** *n*, **nobly** /'nohbl/ *adv*

**'noble** *n* 1 a person of noble rank or birth 2 a former English gold coin worth £1/4

**noble gas** *n* any of a group of gaseous elements that react only slightly with other elements and include helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon

**'nobleman** /-mən/, *fem* **'noblewoman** *n* a man of noble rank

**noblesse** /noh'bles/, *no- / n sing* or *pl* in *constr* the members of the (French) nobility [ME, fr OF *noblesce*, fr *noble*]

**noblesse oblige** /noh'bles o'bleezh/, *no- / n* the obligation of honourable and responsible behaviour associated with high rank [F, lit, nobility obligates]

**'nobody** /noh'bɒdi/, *no- / pron* not anybody (< ~ likes me)

**'nobody** *n* a person of no influence or consequence

**'nock** /nok/ *n* 1 a notch cut at the end of an archer's bow to hold the string 2 (the strengthened part of an arrow carrying) a notch into which the bowstring fits [ME *nocke* notched tip on the end of a bow; akin to MD *nocke* summit, tip, L *nux* nut – more at NUT]

**'nock** *vt* to make a nock in (e.g. a bow or arrow), also to fit (e.g. a bowstring) into or by means of a nock

**no-claim, bonus, no-claims, bonus** *n*, *Br* a discount allowed in (motor) insurance premiums when no claim has been made under the policy in previous years

**noct-, nocti-, nocto-** *comb form* night (<noctambulation> (<nocturnal> [L *noct-*, *nocti-*, fr *noct-*, *nox* – more at NIGHT])

**noctule** /noktyool/ *n* a large Eurasian reddish-brown insect-eating bat [prob fr NL *noctula*, specific epithet, fr LL, small owl, dim. of L *noctua* owl]

**nocturnal** /nok'tuənl/ *adj* 1 of or occurring in the night 2 active at night (< a ~ predator) [MF or LL, MF, fr LL *nocturnalis*, fr L *nocturnus* of night, nocturnal, fr *noct-*, *nox* night] – **nocturnally** *adv*

**nocturne** /nok'tuənl/ *n* a work of art dealing with evening or night, esp a dreamy pensive composition for the piano [F, *adj*, nocturnal, fr L *nocturnus*]

**nocuous** /'nokyoos-/ *adj* harmful, noxious [L *nocuus*, fr *nocēre* to harm – more at NOXIOUS] – **nocuously** *adv*


**'nod** /nod/ *vb -dd-* *vi* 1 to make a short downward movement of the head (e.g. in assent or greeting) 2 to bend or sway gently downwards or forwards 3a to become drowsy or sleepy (< ~ in front of the fire) b to make a slip or error in a moment of inattention (even Homer sometimes ~s) ~ *vi* 1 to incline (e.g. the head) in a quick downward movement 2 to express by a nod (< ~ded their approval) [ME *nodden*, akin to OHG *hnotan* to shake, L *cinis* ashes – more at INCINERATE] – **nodder** *n*

**'nod** *n* 1 (an instance of) nodding 2 an unconsidered indication of agreement, approval, etc – *infrm* (<the motion went through on the ~>)

**nodding** /'nodɪŋ/ *adj* 1 pendulous or drooping (< a plant with ~ flowers) 2 casual, superficial (< a ~ acquaintance with French)

**noddle** /'nodl/ *n* a person's head – *infrm* [ME *noddle* back of the head or neck]

**noddy** /'nɒdi/ *n* any of several stout-bodied terns of warm seas [prob short for obs *noddypoll*, alter. of *hoddypoll* (fumbling inept person)]

**node** /nohd/ *n* 1 a thickening or swelling (e.g. of a rheumatic joint) 2 either of the 2 points where the orbit of a planet or comet intersects the ecliptic  *SYMBOL* b an earth satellite crosses the plane of the equator 3a a point on a stem at which 1 or more leaves are attached b a point at which a curve intersects itself 4 a point, line, etc of a vibrating body at which vibration is at a minimum [L *nodus* knot, node – more at 'NET] – **nodal** *adj*, **nodally** *adv*

**node of Ranvier** /'rænvɪə/, /'rɒnhvɪə/ *n* a constriction in the myelin sheath of a myelinated nerve fibre [Louis Ranvier ?1922 F histologist]

**nodical** /'nodɪkl/, *noh- / adj* of astronomical nodes

**nod off** *vi* to fall asleep, esp unintentionally

**nodose** /'nohdɒs/, *- / adj* having (conspicuous) protuberances [L *nodosus*, fr *nodus*] – **nodosity** /-dɒsəti/ *n*

**nodule** /'nɒdyool/ *n* a small rounded mass: e.g. a small rounded lump of a mineral or mineral aggregate b a swelling on the root of a leguminous plant (e.g. clover) containing symbiotic bacteria that convert atmospheric

nitrogen into a form in which it can be used by the plant [L *nodulus*, dim. of *nodus*] – **nodular** *adj*, **nodulated** /'nɒdyooləɪtɪd/ *adj*, **nodulation** /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**nodus** /'nohdəs/ *n*, *pl* **nod** /-di/, *-di/* a difficult or complex situation [L, knot, node]

**Noel**, **Noel** /noh'eɪ/ *n* the Christmas season [F *noel* Christmas, carol, fr L *natalis* birthday, fr *natalis* natal]

**noes** /nohz/ *pl* of *No*

**noetic** /noh'etɪk/ *adj* of or based on the intellect [Gk *noetikos* intellectual, fr *noein* to think, fr *nous* mind]

**nog** /nog/ *n* (an) eggnog

**noggin** /'nɒɡɪn/ *n* 1 a small mug or cup 2 a small measure of spirits, usu 0.142 litres (¼ pt) 3 a person's head – *infrm* [origin unknown]

**no-go** /noh'goh/ *adj* having prohibited or restricted access (< a ~ military zone)


**Noh** /noh/ *n* *No*

**no-hoper** /noh'hoʊpə/ *n*, chiefly *Austr* one who has no chance of success – *infrm*

**nohow** /'nohəʊ/ *adv* in no way, not at all – chiefly *dial* or *humor*

**'noise** /noɪz/ *n* 1 loud confused shouting or outcry 2a a (harsh or unwanted) sound b unwanted signals or fluctuations in an electrical circuit c irrelevant or meaningless information occurring with desired information in the output of a computer 3 a usu trite remark of a specified type – *usu* *pl* (<made sympathetic ~s>) [ME, fr OF, strife, quarrel, noise, fr L *nausea* nausea] – **noiseless** *adj*, **noiselessly** *adv*

**'noise** *vt* to spread by gossip or hearsay *usu* + *about* or *abroad*

**noisette** /nwah'zet/ (Fr *nwazi*) / *n* a small round thick boneless slice of lamb or other meat  *MFAT* [F, hazel nut, fr MF, fr OF, dim. of *nois*, *nois* nut, fr L *nuc-*, *nux*]

**noisome** /'noɪs(ə)m/ *adj* repellent, offensive – *fml* [ME *noysome*, fr *noy* annoyance, fr OF *enui*, *anoi* – more at ENNUI] – **noisomely** *adv*, **noisomeness** *n*

**noisy** /'noɪzi/ *adj* 1 making noise 2 full of or characterized by noise – **noisily** *adv*, **noisiness** *n*

**noli me tangere** /nohli may'tang-eray/ *n* a warning against touching or interference [L, do not touch me]

**nolle prosequi** /noli'prosi:kwi/ *n* an entry on the record of a legal action stating that the prosecutor or plaintiff will not proceed with part or all of his suit or prosecution [L, to be unwilling to pursue]

**nomad** /nohmad/ *n* 1 a member of a people that wanders from place to place, usu seasonally and within a well-defined territory 2 one who wanders aimlessly from place to place [L *nomad-*, *nomas* member of a wandering pastoral people, fr Gk, fr *nemein* to distribute, pasture – more at NIMBLE] – **nomad** *adj*, **nomadism** *n*, **nomadic** /-'madɪk/ *adj*

**'no-man's-land** *n* 1a an area of waste or unclaimed land b an unoccupied area between opposing armies 2 an area of anomalous, ambiguous, or indefinite character

**nom de plume** /nom de'ploʊm/ *n*, *pl* **noms de plume** /~/ *a* pseudonym under which an author writes [F *nom* name + *de* of + *plume* pen]

**nomen** /'nohmən-, -men/ *n*, *pl* **nomina** /'nomɪnə/ the second of the 3 names that an ancient Roman *usu* had [L *nomin-*, *nomen* name – more at NAME]

**nomenclature** /no'menkləʃə/ *n* 1 a name, designation 2 (an instance of) naming, esp within a particular system 3 a system of terms used in a particular science, discipline, or art [L *nomenclatura* calling by name, list of names, fr *nomen* + *calatus*, pp of *calare* to call – more at 'LOW] – **nomenclatural** /-'kleɪʃərəl/ *adj*

**'nominal** /'nɒmɪnəl/ *adj* 1 of or being a nominal 2 of or constituting a name 3a being sth in name only – compare **TITULAR** 1 b assigned as a convenient approximation (e.g. to an actual weight or size) c negligible, insignificant (< a ~ rent) [ME *nominalle*, fr ML *nominalis*, fr L, of a name, fr *nomin-*, *nomen* name] – **nominally** *adv*

**'nominal** *n* a word (group) functioning as a noun

**'nominalism** /-'nɒmɪnəlɪzəm/ *n* a theory that abstract things and general ideas are mere names and have no independent reality inside or outside the mind – **nominalist** *n*, **nominalistic**, **nominalistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**nominate** /'nɒmɪnəɪt/ *vt* 1 to designate, specify 2a to appoint or recommend for appointment b to propose for an honour, award, or candidature [L *nominatus*, pp of *nominare*, fr *nomin-*, *nomen* name] – **nominator** *n*, **nominee** /-'nee/ *n*, **nomination** /-'nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**nomorative** /'nɒmɪnəɪv/ *adj* 1 of or being the grammatical case expressing the subject of a verb 2 nominated [fr the traditional use of the nominative form in naming a noun] – **nominative** *n*

**nomogram** /'nɒmɒɡrəm, noh-/ , **nomograph** /-'grəf/, *-grəf/ n* a graphic

representation that consists of several lines marked off to scale and arranged in such a way that by using a straightedge to connect known values on 2 lines an unknown value can be read at the point of intersection with another line [Gk *nomos* law + ISV *-gram* – more at NIMBLE] – **nomographic** /ˈnɒɡrəfɪk/ *adj*, **nomography** /ˈnɒɡrəfi/ *n*

**no more** *conj* neither <he can't go and ~ can I>

**nomy** /ˈnɑːmi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 system of laws or principles governing a (specified) field; science of <agronomy> <astronomy> 2 management <economy> 3 government, rule <autonomy> [ME *-nomie*, fr OF, fr L *-nomia*, fr Gk, fr *nemein* to distribute]

**non-** /nɒn-/ *prefix* 1 ~ not, reverse of, absence of <nonconformity> <nonpayment> <nonexistence> <nonalcoholic> 2 failure to be; refraining from <nonsmoker> <nonviolent> <nonappearance> 3 lacking the usual characteristics of the thing specified <nonevent> <nonappearance> 4 proof against, designed to avoid <nonstick> <non-iron> <nonflammable> [ME, fr MF, fr L *non* not, fr OL *noenum*, fr *ne-* not + *oinom*, neut of *oinos* one – more at NO, ONE]

**nonage** /ˈnɒnɪdʒ/, /ˈnɒni/ *n* a period or state of youth or immaturity [ME, fr MF, fr *non-* + *age*]

**nonagenarian** /ˌnɒnəˈdʒɪəriən/, /ˌnɒnə-/ *n* a person between 90 and 99 years old [L *nonagenarius* containing ninety, fr *nonageni* ninety each, fr *nonaginta* ninety, fr *nona-* (akin to *novem* nine) + *-ginta* (akin to *viginti* twenty) – more at NINE, VIGESIMAL] – **nonagenarian** *adj*

**nonagon** /ˌnɒnəˈɡɒn/ *n* a polygon of 9 angles and 9 sides → MATH

**nonaligned** /ˌnɒnəˈliend/ *adj* not allied with other nations, esp any of the great powers – **nonalignment** *n*

**nonarrestable offence** *n* an offence for which a warrant is required before an arrest can be made → LAW

**nonce** /nɒns/ *n* the present occasion, time, or purpose (<for the ~> <a ~ word>) [ME *nanas*, alter. (by incorrect division of *then anes* in such phrases as *to then anes* for the one purpose) of *anes* one purpose, irreg fr *an* one, fr OE *an*]

**nonchalant** /ˌnɒnʃələnt/ *adj* giving an impression of easy unconcern or indifference [F, fr OF, fr prp of *nonchalour* to disregard, fr *non-* + *chal-ur* to concern, fr L *calere* to be warm – more at LEE] – **nonchalance** /-ləns/ *n*, **nonchalantly** *adv*

**noncombatant** /ˌnɒnˈkɒmbət(ə)nt/, -ˈkɒmˈbət(ə)nt/ *n* a civilian, army chaplain, etc who does not engage in combat – **noncombatant** *adj*

**noncommissioned officer** /ˌnɒnkəˈmɪʃ(ə)nd/ *n* a subordinate officer (e.g. a sergeant) in the armed forces appointed from among the personnel who do not hold a commission

**noncommittal** /ˌkɒmɪˈtɪl/ *adj* giving no clear indication of attitude or feeling – **noncommittally** *adv*

**non compos mentis** /ˌnɒnˌkɒmpɒsˈmentɪs/ *adj* not of sound mind [L, lit., not having mastery of one's mind]

**nonconductor** /ˌkɒnˈdʌktə/ *n* a substance that conducts heat, electricity, etc only very slightly under normal conditions

**nonconformist** /ˌkɒnˈfɔːmɪst/ *n* 1 *often cap* a person who does not conform to an established church, *specif* a member of a Protestant body separated from the Church of England 2 one who does not conform to a generally accepted pattern of thought or behaviour – **nonconformism** *n*, *often cap*, **nonconformist** *adj*, *often cap*

**nonconformity** /ˌkɒnˈfɔːmɪti/ *n* 1 refusal to conform to an established creed, rule, or practice 2 absence of correspondence or agreement

**noncooperation** /ˌkɒhˌɒpəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* refusal to cooperate, *specif* CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE – **noncooperationist** *n*, **noncooperative** /ˌkɒhˌɒp(ə)ˈrətɪv/ *adj*, **noncooperator** /ˌkɒhˌɒpəˈreɪtə/ *n*

**nondescript** /ˌnɒndɪskrɪpt/ *adj* 1 (apparently) belonging to no particular class or kind 2 lacking distinctive or interesting qualities, dull [non- + L *descriptus*, pp of *describere* to describe] – **nondescript** *n*

**non drying oil** /ˌnɒnˈdriːɪŋ/ *n* a highly saturated oil (e.g. olive oil) that is unable to solidify when exposed in a thin film to air

**none** /nʌn/ *pron*, *pl none* 1 not any; no part or thing (<~ of the money is missing>) (<~ of the telephones are working>) 2 not one person; nobody (<it's ~ other than Tom>) (<~ but a fool>) 3 not any such thing or person (<a bad film is better than ~ at all>) [ME, fr OE *nan*, fr *ne* not + *an* one – more at NO, ONE]

**none** *adv* 1 by no means; not at all (<~ too soon to begin>) 2 in no way, to no extent (<~ the worse for wear>)

**none** /nɒn/ *n*, *often cap* the fifth of the canonical hours that was orig fixed for 3 pm [LL *nona*, fr L, 9th hour of the day from sunrise – more at NOON]

**nonentity** /ˌnɒnɪti/ *n* 1 sth that does not exist or exists only in the

imagination 2 nonexistence 3 sby or sth of little importance or interest

**nones** /nɒnz/ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* 1 the 9th day before the ides according to ancient Roman reckoning 2 *often cap* 'NONE [ME *nonys*, fr L *nonae*, fr fem pl of *nonus* ninth]

**nonesuch** *also* **nonsuch** /ˈnʌn,sʊtʃ/ *n* a person or thing without an equal, a paragon – **nonesuch** *adj*

**nonetheless** /ˌnʌndhəˈles/ *adv* nevertheless

**non-euclidean** *adj*, *often cap E* not assuming or in accordance with all of Euclid's postulates (<~ geometry>)

**nonevent** /ˌnɒmɪˈvent/ *n* an event that is (unexpectedly) dull or inconsequential

**nonfeasance** /ˌˈfiːz(ə)ns/ *n* failure to act [non- + obs *feasance* (doing, execution), fr AF *fesance*, fr MF *faisance* act, fr OF, fr *fais-*, stem of *faire* to make, do, fr L *facere*]

**nonferrous** /ˌˈfɛrəs/ *adj* of or being a metal other than or not containing iron

**nonflammable** /ˌˈflæməbl/ *adj* difficult or impossible to set alight

**nonflammability** *n*

**noninductive** /ˌnɒnɪˈdʌktɪv/ *adj* not inductive, esp having negligible electrical inductance

**nonintervention** /ˌɪntəˈvenʃ(ə)n/ *n* the state or policy of not intervening – **noninterventionist** *n or adj*

**nonionic** /ˌnɒnɪˈɒnɪk/ *adj* not ionic, esp, of a detergent not dependent on a surface-active anion for effect

**nonjoinder** /ˌˈɔɪndə/ *n* failure to include a necessary party in a legal action

**nonjuring** /ˌˈɔɪnɪŋ/ *adj* being a nonjuror [non- + L *iurare* to swear – more at JURY]

**nonjuror** /ˌˈɔɪnə/ *n* a person refusing to take an oath, *specif* a member of the clergy in Britain who refused to take an oath of allegiance after 1688

**nonmetal** /ˌˈmɛtl/ *n* a chemical element (e.g. boron or carbon) that is not a metal – **nonmetallic** /ˌˈmɪˈtælɪk/

**nonnuclear** /ˌˈnyooʊkli/ *adj* not having or using nuclear power or weapons (<~ country>)

**non-nonsense** /ˌnɒnˈnɒns(ə)ns/ *adj* 1 serious, businesslike 2 without trifles or frills

**nonpareil** /ˌnɒnpəˈreɪl/ *n or adj* (sby or sth) having no equal [adj MF, fr non- + *pareil* equal, fr (assumed) VL *pariculus*, fr L *par* equal, *n* fr adj]

**nonplus** /ˌnɒnˈplʌs/ *vt -ss- (NAM -s-, -ss-)* to perplex or disconcert [nonplus, *n* (quandary), fr L *non plus* no more]

**nonpolar** /ˌˈpɒhlə/ *adj* not polar, esp not having or requiring the presence of electrical poles

**nonproductive** /ˌˈprɒdʌktɪv/ *adj* 1 failing to produce or yield 2 of a cough dry – **nonproductiveness** *n*

**nonproliferation** /ˌˈprɒlɪfəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *adj or n* (providing for) the stoppage of proliferation (e.g. of nuclear weapons)

**nonrepresentational** /ˌˈrɛprɪzənˈteɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* not representing a natural or actual object, figure, etc (<~ art>) – **nonrepresentationalism** *n*

**nonresident** /ˌˈrezɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* not residing in a particular place (e.g. a hotel) – **nonresident** *n*, **nonresidence**, **nonresidency** *n*

**nonresistance** /ˌˈrɪzɪst(ə)ns/ *n* passive submission to authority; *also* the principle of not resisting violence by force

**nonreturnable** /ˌˈnɒrtʃnəbl/ *adj* not returnable (to a dealer in exchange for a deposit) (<~ bottles>)

**nonrigid** /ˌˈrɪd/ *adj* maintaining form by pressure of contained gas (<~ airship> [NON- + RIGID]) – **nonrigidity** /ˌˈrɪdɪti/ *n*

**nonsecretor** /ˌˈsɪkɹetə/ *n* a person of blood group A, B, or AB who does not secrete the corresponding antigen in bodily fluids (e.g. saliva)


**nonsectarian** /ˌˈsekˈtəriən/ *adj* not affiliated with or restricted to a particular religious sect or denomination

**nonsense** /ˌnɒnsəns/ *n* 1a meaningless words or language b (an instance of) foolish or absurd language, conduct, or thought 2 frivolous or insolent behaviour 3 – used interjectionally to express forceful disagreement – **nonsensical** /ˌˈsensɪkəl/ *adj*, **nonsensically** *adv*, **nonsensicalness** *n*

**nonserise** *verse* *n* humorous or whimsically absurd verse

**non sequitur** /ˌˈnɒnˈsekʊɪtə/ *n* 1 a conclusion that does not follow from the premise 2 a statement that does not follow logically from anything previously said [L, it does not follow]


**nonskid** /ˌˈskɪd/ *adj*, of a tyre or road designed or equipped to prevent skidding

**non'slip** /-'slip/ *adj* designed to reduce or prevent slipping  
**non'standard** /'standəd/ *adj* not conforming in pronunciation, grammatical construction, idiom, or word choice to accepted usage – compare SUBSTANDARD [NON- + STANDARD]  
**non'starter** /-'stɑ:tə/ *n* sby or sth that is sure to fail or prove impracticable [NON- + STARTER]  
**non'stick** /-'stɪk/ *adj* having or being a surface that prevents adherence of food during cooking ['stick]  
**non'stop** /-'stop/ *adj* done or made without a stop – **nonstop** *adv*  
**nonsuch** /'nʌn,sʊtʃ/ *n* a nonesuch  
**non'suit** /-'soʊt/ *n* a judgment against a plaintiff for failure to prosecute, or inability to establish, a case [ME, fr AF *nounsuyte*, fr *noun-non-* + OF *sute* following, pursuit – more at **SUIT**] – **nonsuit** *vt*  
**non'trivial** /-'trɪvɪəl/ *adj* of or being a solution to an equation in which at least 1 unknown value is not equal to zero [NON- + TRIVIAL]  
**non troppo** /,non 'troppo/ *adv* or *adj* without excess – used in music [It, lit, not too much]  
**non-'U** /'yoʊh/ *adj* not characteristic of the upper classes  
**non'union** /-'yoʊniən/ *adj* not belonging to or connected with a trade union (< *plumbers*) (< *a ~ job*)  
**non'violence** /-'viə-ləns/ *n* 1 refraining from violence on moral grounds 2 passive resistance or peaceful demonstration for political ends – **nonviolent** *adj*, **nonviolently** *adv*  
**non'white** /-'wi:t/ *n* or *adj* (one who is) not Caucasian  
**non'zero** /-'zi:əro/ *adj* not zero, either positive or negative  
**noodle** /'noʊdl/ *n* a silly or foolish person – humor [perh alter of *noddle*]  
**noodle** *n* a narrow flat ribbon of pasta made with egg [G *nudelf*]  
**nook** /'noʊk/ *n* a small secluded or sheltered place or part [ME *noke*, *nok*]  
**noon** /'noʊn/ *n* 1 noon, **noonday** the middle of the day, midday 2 the highest or culminating point [ME, fr OE *non* ninth hour from sunrise, fr L *nona*, fr lem of *nonus* ninth, akin to L *novem* nine – more at **NINE**]  
**no, one** *pron* nobody  
**'noose** /'noʊs/ *n* a loop with a running knot that tightens as the rope is pulled [prob fr Prov *nous* knot, fr L *nodus* – more at **'NET**]  
**'noose** *vt* 1 to secure by a noose 2 to make a noose in or of  
**Nootka** /'noʊtkə, 'noʊtkə/ *n*, *pl* **Nootkas**, *esp* collectively **Nootka** a member, or the language, of a people of Vancouver Island and NW Washington  
**nopai** /'noʊpə/ *n* (a plant related to) a cactus similar to the prickly pear, cultivated in Mexico as food for the cochineal insect [Sp, fr Nahuatl *nopalli*]  
**nope** /'noʊp/ *adv*, chiefly *NAM* *no* – *infrm* [by alter]  
**nor** /'naw/ *conj* 1 – used to join 2 sentence elements of the same class or function (< *neither here ~ there*) (< *not done by you ~ me ~ anyone*) 2 also not, neither (< *it didn't seem hard, ~ was it*) [ME, contr of *noth* neither, *nor*, fr *nother*, *pron* & *adj*, neither – more at **NEITHER**]  
**nor'** /'naw, nɑ:/ *n* north – often in combination (< *~easter*)  
**noradrenalin**, **noradrenaline** /,nɒrə'drenəlɪn/ *n* a compound from which adrenalin is formed in the body and which is the major neurotransmitter released from the nerve endings of the sympathetic nervous system [ISV *nor-* (a compound derived from another by replacing 1 or more methyl groups with hydrogen atoms, fr *normal*) + *adrenalin*, *adrenaline*]  
**'Nordic** /'nawdɪk/ *adj* 1 of a tall, fair, longheaded, blue-eyed physical type characteristic of the Germanic peoples of N Europe, esp Scandinavia 2 of competitive ski events consisting of ski jumping and cross-country racing – compare **ALPINE** 3 [F *nordique*, fr *nord* north, fr OE *north*]  
**'Nordic** *n* a person of Nordic physical type or of a suppose: 'Nordic division of the Caucasian race, *esp* one from N Europe  
**norepinephrine** /,nɒrɪp'iːnɪfrɪn, 'nɒrɪpɪnəfrɪn/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* *noradrenalin* [*nor-* (as in *noradrenalin*) + *epinephrine*]  
**Norfolk jacket** /'nawfək/ *n* a man's semifitted belted single-breasted jacket with box pleats  **GARMENT** [Norfolk, county of England]  
**norm** /'nawm/ *n* 1 an authoritative standard; a model 2 a principle of correctness that is binding upon the members of a group, and serves to regulate action and judgment 3 the average e.g. a set standard of development or achievement, usu derived from the average achievement of a large group b a pattern typical of a social group [L *norma*, lit, carpenter's square]  
**'normal** /'nawml/ *adj* 1 PERPENDICULAR 1 2 conforming to or constituting a norm, rule, or principle 3 occurring naturally (< *immunity*) 4a having average intelligence or development b free from mental disorder 5 of a solution having a concentration of 1 gram equivalent weight of a


solute in 1 l 6 of, involving, or being a normal curve or normal distribution [L *normalis*, fr *norma* carpenter's square] – **normally** /'nawml-i/ *adv*, **normalcy** /-sɪ/, **normality** /-'malɪtɪ/ *n*

**normal** *n* 1 a line that is normal 2 sby or sth that is normal

**normal curve** *n* the symmetrical bell-shaped curve of a normal distribution


**normal distribution** *n* a frequency distribution whose graph is a standard symmetrical bell-shaped curve  **STATISTICS**

**normal-ize**, **-ise** /'nawmlɪz/ *vt* to make normal – **normalizable** *adj*, **normalization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Norman** /'nawmən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Normandy. e.g. a any of the Scandinavian conquerors of Normandy in the 10th c b any of the Norman-French conquerors of England in 1066 2 **Norman**, **Norman-French** the French language of the medieval Normans 3 a style of architecture characterized, esp in its English form, by semicircular arches and heavy pillars  **CHURCH** [ME, fr OF *Normant*, fr ON *Northmann-*, *Northmaðr* Norseman, fr *north* north + *mann-*, *maðr* man] – **Norman** *adj*

**normative** /'nawmətɪv/ *adj* serving as or prescribing a norm [F *normatif*, fr *norme* norm, fr L *norma*] – **normatively** *adv*, **normativeness** *n*

**Norn** /'nawn/ *n* any of the 3 Norse goddesses of fate [ON]

**'Norse** /'naws/ *n* 1 *pl* in constr Scandinavians; specif Norwegians 2a the (older forms of the) language of Norway b **NORTH GERMANIC**  **LANGUAGE** [prob fr obs D *noorsch*, *adj*, Norwegian, Scandinavian, alter. of obs D *noordsch* northern, fr D *noord* north; akin to OE *north*]

**'Norse** *adj* Scandinavian, *esp* of ancient Scandinavia or Norway

**'Norseman** /-mən/ *n*, *pl* **Norsemen** /-mən/ a native or inhabitant of ancient Scandinavia

**'north** /'nawθ/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the north [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *nord* north, Gk *nerteros* lower, infernal]

**'north** *n* 1 (the compass point corresponding to) the direction of the north terrestrial pole 2 *often cap* regions or countries lying to the north of a specified or implied point of orientation – **northward** /-'wood/ *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, **northwards** *adv*

**'northeast** /-'ceɪst/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the northeast

**²northeast** *n* 1 (the general direction corresponding to) the compass point midway between north and east 2 *often cap* regions or countries lying to the northeast of a specified or implied point of orientation – **northeastward** /-'wood/ *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, **northeastwards** *adv*

**'northeasterly** /-'ceɪstəl/ *adj* or *adv* northeast [*'northeast* + *-erly* (as in *easterly*)]

**²northeasterly**, **northeaster** /-'ceɪstə/ *n* a wind from the northeast  
**'northeastern** /-'ceɪst(ə)n/ *adj* 1 *often cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated Northeast 2 northeast [*'northeast* + *-ern* (as in *eastern*)] – **northeasternmost** /-'moʊst/ *adj*

**'northerly** /'nawðəli/ *adj* or *adv* north [*'north* + *-erly* (as in *easterly*)]

**²northerly** *n* a wind from the north

**northern** /'nawðən/ *adj* 1 *often cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated North 2 north [ME *northerne*, fr OE; akin to OHG *nordron* northern, OE *north* north] – **northernmost** *adj*

**Northerner** /'nawðənə/ *n* a native or inhabitant of the North

**northern 'lights** *n pl* **AURORA BOREALIS**

**North Germanic** *n* a group of Germanic languages comprising the Scandinavian languages including Icelandic and Faroese

**northing** /'nawθɪŋ/ *n* 1 distance due north in latitude from the preceding point of measurement 2 northerly progress

**'northland** /-lənd, -land/ *n*, *often cap* land in the north, the north of a country – poetic

**'Northman** /-mən/ *n*, *pl* **Northmen** /-mən/ a Norseman

**north,northeast** *n* the compass point midway between north and northeast

**north,northwest** *n* the compass point midway between north and northwest

**'north pole** *n* 1a *often cap* **N&P** the northernmost point of the rotational axis of the earth or another celestial body b the northernmost point on the celestial sphere, about which the stars seem to revolve 2 the northward-pointing pole of a magnet

**North Star** *n* **POLE STAR**

**'Northumbrian** /'nawθʊmbrɪən/ *adj* (characteristic) of ancient or modern Northumbria or Northumberland [obs *Northumber* (inhabitant

of England north of the river Humber), fr ME *Northumbre*, fr OE *Northhymbre*, pl]

**Northumbrian** *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Northumbria or Northumberland 2 the English dialect of ancient or modern Northumbria

**Northwest** /-west/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the northwest

**Northwest** *n* 1 (the general direction corresponding to) the compass point midway between north and west 2 often *cap* regions or countries lying to the northwest of a specified or implied point of orientation – **Northwestward** *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, **Northwestwards** *adv*

**Northwesterly** /-westli/ *adj* or *adv* northwest [*Northwest* + *-erly* (as in *westerly*)]

**Northwesterly, northwester** /-westə/ *n* a wind from the northwest **Northwestern** /-west(ə)n/ *adj* 1 often *cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated Northwest 2 northwest [*Northwest* + *-ern* (as in *western*)]

**Norwegian** /naw'weejən/ *n* a native or inhabitant or the language of Norway → LANGUAGE [ML *Norvegia*, *Norvegia* Norway, country of N Europe] – **Norwegian** *adj*

**nor** 'yet *conj* and also not

**nos-**, **noso-** *comb form* disease (nosology) [Gk, fr *nosos*]

**Nose** /nohʒ/ *n* 1a the part of the face that bears the nostrils and covers the front part of the nasal cavity (together with the nasal cavity itself) → NERVE b the front part of the head above or projecting beyond the mouth; a snout, muzzle 2a the sense or (vertebrate) organ of smell b aroma, bouquet 3 the projecting part or front end of sth → FLIGHT 4a the nose as a symbol of undue curiosity or interference b a knack for detecting what is latent or concealed [ME, fr OE *nasu*, akin to OE *nasu* nose, OHG *nasa*, L *nasus*] – through the nose at an exorbitant rate (*had to pay through the nose*)

**nose** *vt* 1 to detect (as if) by smell, scent 2 to push (as if) with the nose 3 to touch or rub with the nose, nuzzle ~ *vi* 1 to use the nose in examining, smelling, etc, to sniff or nuzzle 2a to pry – often + *into* b to search or look inquisitively – usu + *about* or *around* 3 to move ahead slowly, or cautiously

**nose, bag** *n* a bag for feeding a horse or other animal, that covers the muzzle and is fastened on top of the head

**noseband** /-band/ *n* the part of a bridle that passes over a horse's nose

**nosebleed** /-bleed/ *n* an attack of bleeding from the nose

**nosed** /nohʒd/ *adj* having a (specified kind of) nose – usu in combination <*snub-nosed*>

**nose, dive** *n* 1 a downward nose-first plunge of an aircraft or other flying object 2 a sudden dramatic drop – **nose-dive** *vb*

**nosegay** /-gay/ *n* a small bunch of flowers, a posy [*nose* + E dial *gay* (ornament)]

**nosepiece** /-pees/ *n* 1 a piece of armour for protecting the nose 2 the end piece of a microscope to which the lens nearest the specimen is attached

**nosey** /'nohzi/ *adj* nosy

**nosh** /noʃ/ *vt* to chew, munch ~ *vi* to eat – *infrm* [Yiddish *nashn*, fr MHG *naschen* to eat on the sly] – **nosh** *n*

**nosh** *n* food (in sufficient quantities for a meal), a meal – *infrm*

**nosh, up** *n*, *Br* a large meal – *infrm*

**no-side** *n* full time in rugby

**noising** /'nohziŋ/ *n* (any of various projections like) the usu rounded edge of a stair tread that projects over the riser [*'nose* + *-ing*]

**noso-** – see **NOS-**

**nosology** /'no'soləʒi/ *n* (a branch of medical science that deals with) the classification of diseases [prob fr NL *nosologia*, fr *nos-* + *-logia* -logy] – **nosological**, **nosologic** /'nosə'lɒjɪk/ *adj*, **nosologically** *adv*

**nostalgia** /'noʊstəlʒiə/ *n* 1 homesickness 2 a wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for sth past or irrecoverable [NL, fr Gk *nostos* return home + NL *-algia*; akin to OE *genesan* to survive, Skt *nasate* he approaches] – **nostalgic** *adj* or *n*, **nostalgically** *adv*

**nostoc** /'nostok/ *n* any of a genus of blue-green algae [NL, genus name]

**nostril** /'noʊstrɪl, 'noʊstrəl/ *n* the opening of the nose to the outside (together with the adjoining nasal passage) [ME *nosethirl*, fr OE *nos-thyrl*, fr *nosu* nose + *thyrl* hole; akin to OE *thurh* through]

**nostrum** /'noʊstrəm/ *n* 1 a medicine of secret composition recommended by its preparer usu without proof of its effectiveness 2 a facile or questionable remedy [L, neut of *noster* our, ours, fr *nos* we – more at *us*]

**nosy, nose** /'nohzi/ *adj* inquisitive, prying – *infrm* [*'nose*] – **nosily** *adv*, **nosiness** *n*

**nosy parker** /'pahkə/ *n*, *Br* a busybody – *infrm* [prob fr the name Parker]

**not** /'not/ *adv* 1 – used to negate a word or word group (< ~ *thirsty*) (< ~ *to complain*), often *n't* after auxiliary verbs (< can't go) 2 – used to negate a preceding word or word group (< will it rain? I hope ~ > < are you ready? If ~, hurry up) 3 – used to give force to an opposite meaning (< ~ *without reason*) (< ~ a few of us) – compare 'no 2b [ME, alter. of *nought*, fr *nought*, pron, var of *naught* – more at NAUGHT] – **not** a not even one – **not at all** – used in answer to thanks or to an apology (< Sorry to trouble you 'Not at all!') – **not half** 1 chiefly *Br* not nearly (< not half long enough) 2 very much; totally (< didn't half scold us) (< Are you busy?' 'Not half!') – slang

**not-, noto-** *comb form* back (part) (notochord) [NL, fr Gk *nōt-*, *noto-*, fr *noton*, *nōtos* back – more at NATES]

**nota bene** /'nohtə 'benay/ *interj* – used to call attention to sth important [L, mark well]

**notability** /'nohtə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 a notable 2 being notable

**'notable** /'nohtəbl/ *adj* 1 worthy of note, remarkable 2 distinguished, prominent – **notableness** *n*, **notably** *adv*

**'notable** *n* 1 a prominent person 2 *pl*, often *cap* a group of people summoned, esp in France when it was a monarchy, to act as a deliberative body

**notarial** /'noht'eəriəl/ *adj* of or executed by a notary – **notarially** *adv*

**notarize, -ise** /'nohtə'raɪz/ *vt*, chiefly *NAm* to validate as a notary public

**notary** /'nohtəri/, **notary public** *n*, *pl* **notaries**, **notaries public**, **notary publics** a public officer appointed to administer oaths and draw up and authenticate documents [ME *notary* clerk, *notary public*, fr L *notarius* clerk, secretary, fr *notarius* of shorthand, fr *nota* note, shorthand character]

**notate** /'noht'et/ *vt* to put into notation [back-formation fr *notation*]

**notation** /'noht'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a representation of sth by) a system or set of marks, signs, symbols, figures, characters, or abbreviated expressions (e.g. to express technical facts or quantities) → MUSIC, SYMBOL 2 chiefly *NAm* an annotation, note [L *notation-*, *notatio*, fr *notatus*, pp of *notare* to note] – **notational** *adj*

**'notch** /'noʊtʃ/ *n* 1a a V-shaped indentation b a slit or cut used as a record 2 a degree, step 3 *NAm* a deep narrow pass, a gap [perh alter. (by incorrect division of an *otch*) of (assumed) *otch*, fr MF *oche*] – **notched** *adj*

**'notch** *vt* 1 to make a notch in 2a to mark or record (as if) by a notch – often + *up* b to score or achieve – usu + *up*

**'note** /'noht/ *vt* 1a to take due or special notice of b to notice, observe e to record in writing 2 to make special mention of, remark [ME *noten*, fr OF *noter*, fr L *notare* to mark, note, fr *nota*] – **note** *n*

**'note** *n* 1a(1) a sound having a definite pitch (2) a call, esp of a bird b a written symbol used to indicate duration and pitch of a tone by its shape and position on the staff 2a a characteristic feature of smell, flavour, etc b a mood or quality 3a a memorandum b(1) a brief comment or explanation (2) a printed comment or reference set apart from the text c a piece of paper money d(1) a short informal letter (2) a formal diplomatic communication e a short essay 4a distinction, reputation b observation, notice [L *nota* mark, character, written note]

**'note, book** /-book/ *n* a book for notes or memoranda

**'noted** /'nohtɪd/ *adj* well-known, famous – **notedly** *adv*, **notedness** *n*

**'note-row** /'roh/ *n* a tone-row

**'note, worthy** /-wuhdhi/ *adj* worthy of or attracting attention, notable – **noteworthily** *adv*, **noteworthiness** *n*

**'nothing** /'nʌθɪŋ/ *pron* 1 not any thing; no thing (< ~ *greasy*) (< ~ *much to eat*) (< eats next to ~ >) 2 sth of no consequence (< it means ~ to me) (< thinks ~ of walking 20 miles) (< would be ~ without his title) 3 no truth or value (< there's ~ in this rumour) – compare FOR NOTHING [ME, fr OE *nan* thing, *naðing*, fr *nan* no + *thing* – more at NONE] – like **nothing on earth** 1 severely indisposed or embarrassed 2 grotesque, outlandish

**'nothing** *adv* not at all; in no degree (< ~ *like as cold*)

**'nothing** *n* 1a sth that does not exist b NOTHINGNESS 2b 2 sb or sth of no or slight value or size (< whisper sweet ~s >)

**'nothing** *adj* of no account, worthless

**'nothingness** /-nis/ *n* 1a nonexistence b utter insignificance 2a a void, emptiness b a metaphysical entity opposed to and devoid of being [*'NOTHING* + *-ness*]



**'notice** /'noʊtɪs/ *n* **1a** warning of a future occurrence **b** notification of intention of terminating an agreement at a particular time **2** attention, heed **3a** written or printed announcement **4a** a review (e.g. of a play) [ME, fr MF, acquaintance, fr L *notitia* knowledge, acquaintance, fr *notus* known, fr pp of *noscere* to come to know - more at **KNOW**]  
**'notice** *vt* **1** to comment upon; refer to **2** to take notice of, mark **3** chiefly *NAm* to give a formal notice to  
**noticeable** /'noʊtɪsəbl/ *adj* **1** worthy of notice **2** capable of being noticed, perceptible - **noticeably** *adv*  
**'notice-board** *n*, chiefly *Br* a board on which notices may be (temporarily) displayed  
**notifiable** /'noʊtɪfɪəbl/ *adj*, of a disease required by law to be reported to official health authorities [NOTIFY + -ABLE]  
**notification** /'noʊtɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** (an instance of) notifying **2** sthg written that gives notice  
**notify** /'noʊtɪfɪə/ *vt* **1** to give (official) notice to **2** to make known [ME *notifien*, fr MF *notifier* to make known, fr LL *notificare*, fr L *notus* known] - **notifier** *n*  
**notion** /'noʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1a**(1) a broad general concept **(2)** a conception, impression <had no ~ of the poem's meaning> **b** a whim or fancy **2** *pl*, chiefly *NAm* small articles of merchandise (e.g. haberdashery) [L *notion-*, *notio*, fr *notus*, pp of *noscere*]  
**notional** /'noʊʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* **1** theoretical, speculative **2** existing only in the mind, imaginary [NOTION + -IAL] - **notionally** *adv*, **notionality** /-'nɒʃ(ə)nəlɪ/ *n*  
**noto-** - see **NOT-**  
**notochord** /'noʊtə,kɔːrd/ *n* a longitudinal rod that forms the supporting axis of the body in the lancelet, lamprey, etc and in the embryos of higher vertebrates [not- + *chorda* cord - more at **CORD**] - **notochordal** /-'kɔːrdl/ *adj*  
**notoriety** /'noʊtə'riːəti/ *n* the quality or state of being notorious [MF or ML; MF *notoriete*, fr ML *notorietat-*, *notorietas*, fr *notorius*]  
**'notorious** /'noʊtə'riəs/ *adj* well-known, esp for a specified (unfavourable) quality or trait [ML *notorius*, fr LL *notorum* information, indictment, fr neut of (assumed) LL *notorius* making known, fr L *notus*, pp of *noscere* to come to know - more at **KNOW**] - **notoriously** *adv*, **notoriousness** *n*  
**'no-trump** *adj* being a bid, contract, or hand in bridge suitable to play without any suit being trumps - **no-trump** *n*  
**'notwithstanding** /'noʊtɪd'wɪð'stændɪŋ, -wɪð-/ *prep* in spite of [ME *notwithstanding*, fr *not* + *withstanding*, prp of *withstonden* to withstand]  
**'notwithstanding** *adv* nevertheless  
**'notwithstanding** *conj* although  
**nougat** /'nuːɡət, 'noʊɡət/ *n* a sweetmeat of nuts or fruit pieces in a semisolid sugar paste [F, fr Prov, fr OProv *nogat*, fr *noga* nut, fr L *nuc-*, *nux* - more at **NUT**]  
**nought** /'naʊt/ *n* **1** NAUGHT **2** the arithmetical symbol 0, zero  
**noughts and crosses** *n pl* but *sing* in constr a game in which 2 players alternately put noughts and crosses in usu 9 square spaces arranged in a square in an attempt to get a row of 3 noughts or 3 crosses  
**noumenon** /'noʊmɪ'non, 'noʊ-/ *n*, *pl* **noumena** /-'nɔː/ the basis of all phenomena that according to Kant cannot be directly experienced but can be postulated by reason [G, fr Gk *nooumenon* that which is apprehended by thought, fr neut of prp passive of *noein* to think, conceive, fr *nous* mind] - **noumenal** *adj*  
**noun** /'naʊn/ *n* a word that is the name of a person, place, thing, substance, or state and that belongs to 1 of the major form classes in grammar [ME *nowne*, fr AF *noun* name, noun, fr OF *nom*, fr L *nōmen* - more at **NAME**]  
**nourish** /'nʊrɪʃ/ *vt* **1** to nurture, rear **2** to encourage the growth of, foster **3a** to provide or sustain with nutriment, feed **b** to cherish, entertain [ME *nurishen*, fr OF *noriss-*, stem of *norrr*, fr L *nutrire* to suckle, nourish; akin to Gk *nan* to flow, *noteros* damp, L *nare* to swim, Gk *nein*] - **nourisher** *n*, **nourishing** *adj*  
**'nourishment** /-'mɛnt/ *n* **1** food, nutriment **2** nourishing or being nourished  
**nous** /'naʊs/ *n* **1** mind, reason **2** chiefly *Br* gumption, common sense [Gk *noos*, *nous* mind]  
**nouveau riche** /'noʊvə'riːʃ (Fr nuvo riʃ)/ *n*, *pl* **nouveaux riches** /~/ sby who has recently become rich (and shows it) [F, lit. new rich]  
**nouvelle vague** /'noʊvəl 'vɑːɡ (Fr nuvel vag)/ *n*, often *cap N&V* **NEW WAVE** **1** [F]

**nova** /'noʊvə/ *n*, *pl* **novas**, **novae** /-vi, -vay/ a previously faint star that becomes suddenly very bright and then fades away to its former obscurity over months or years [NL, fem of L *novus* new] - **novalike** *adj*  
**'novel** /'nɒvəl/ *adj* **1** new and unlike anything previously known **2** original and striking, esp in conception or style [ME, fr MF, new, fr L *novellus*, fr dim of *novus* new - more at **NEW**]  
**'novel** *n* an invented prose narrative that is usu long and complex and deals esp with human experience and social behaviour [It *novella*] **novelist** *n*, **novelistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*  
**novelle** /'nɒvəl/ *n* a short novel or long short story, often of a sentimental nature - **novelletish** *adj*  
**novella** /'nɒvələ/ *n*, *pl* **novellas** also **novelle** /-li/ a short novel, usu more complex than a short story [It, fr fem of *novello* new, fr L *novellus*]  
**novelty** /'nɒv(ə)ltɪ/ *n* **1** sthg new and unusual **2** the quality or state of being novel **3** a small manufactured often cheap article for personal or household adornment [ME *novelte*, fr MF *novelte*, fr *novel*]  
**November** /'nɒv'embə/ *n* the 11th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Novembre*, fr OF, fr L *November* (ninth month), fr *novem* nine - more at **NUM**]  
**novena** /'nɒli'venə/ *n* a Roman Catholic 9 days' devotion of prayers for the intercession of a particular saint for a special purpose [ML, fr L, fem of *novenus* nine each, fr *novem*]  
**novice** /'nɒvɪs/ *n* **1** a person admitted to probationary membership of a religious community **2** a beginner [ME, fr MF, fr ML *novicius*, fr L, new, inexperienced, fr *novus* - more at **NEW**]  
**novitiate** /'nɒvɪ'ʃiːt, -aɪt, nɔː-/ *n* **1** (the duration of) the state of being a novice **2** a house where novices are trained [F *noviciat*, fr ML *noviciatus*, fr *novicius*]  
**'now** /'naʊ/ *adv* **1a** at the present time **b** in the immediate past **c** in the time immediately to follow forthwith <come in ~> <~ for tea> **2** - used with the sense of present time weakened or lost **a** to introduce an important point or indicate a transition <~ if we turn to the next aspect of the problem> **b** to express command, request, or warning <oh, come ~> <~, ~, don't squabble> <~ then, what's the matter?> **3** sometimes - linking 2 or more coordinate words or phrases <~ one and ~ another> **4** under the changed or unchanged circumstances <he'll never believe me ~, after what happened> **5** at the time referred to <~ the trouble began> **6** up to the present or to the time referred to <haven't been for years ~> [ME, fr OE *nu*, akin to OHG *nu* now, L *nunc*, Gk *nyn*]  
**'now** *conj* in view of the fact that, since <~ that we are here>  
**'now** *n* **1** the present time <been ill up to ~> <goodbye for ~> **2** the time referred to <by ~ the hints and rumours were fairly thick> - *The Economist*  
**nowadays** /'naʊə'deɪz/ *adv* in these modern times, today [ME *now a dayes*, fr *now* + *a dayes* during the day]  
**now and a'gain** *adv* at occasional intervals, from time to time  
**now and 'then** *adv* NOW AND AGAIN  
**noway** /'naʊ,weɪ/, **noways** *adv* in no way whatever, not at all - *fml*  
**'no 'way** *interj*, chiefly *NAm* - used to express forceful refusal, *infml*  
**'nowhere** /'noʊ,weə/ *adv* **1** not anywhere **2** to no purpose or result <this will get us ~>  
**'nowhere** *n* a nonexistent place  
**nowhere 'near** *adv* not nearly  
**'nowise** /-'wɪz/ *adv* noway  
**nowt** /'naʊt/ *n*, *N Eng* nothing, naught [var of *naught*]  
**noxious** /'nɒkʃəs/ *adj* **1** harmful to living things <~ industrial wastes> **2** having a harmful moral influence, unwholesome [L *noxius*, fr *nox* harm, akin to L *nocere* to harm, *nec-*, *nex* violent death, Gk *nekros* dead body] - **noxiously** *adv*, **noxiousness** *n*  
**nozzle** /'nɒzl/ *n* a projecting part with an opening that usu serves as an outlet, esp a short tube with a taper or constriction used on a hose, pipe, etc to speed up or direct a flow of fluid [dim of *nose*]  
**-n't** /-nt/ *comb form* not <isn't>  
**nth** /entθ/ *adj* **1** of or having an unspecified or indefinitely large number **2** extreme, utmost <to the ~ degree> [n + -th]  
**'n-type** *adj*, of a semiconductor having an excess of electrons - compare *p-TYPE* ➔ **COMPUTER** [negative-type]  
**nu** /nyoo/ *n* the 13th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *ny*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *nun*, 14th letter of the Heb alphabet]  
**nuance** /'nyooʊəns (Fr n y a ns)/ *n* a subtle distinction or gradation; a shade [F, fr MF, shade of colour, fr *nuer* to make shades of colour, fr *nue* cloud, fr L *nubes*, akin to Gk *nythos* dark] - **nuanced** *adj*  
**nub** /nʌb/ *n* **1** a knob, lump <a ~ of coal> **2** the gist or crux [alter of E dial *knub*, prob fr LG *knubbe*]  
**nubble** /'nʌbl/ *n* a small knob or lump [dim. of *nub*] - **nubbly** *adj*

**nubile** /n(y)oo'hbiəl/ *adj.* of a girl of marriageable age; *esp* young and sexually attractive – often humor [F, fr L *nubilus*, fr *nubere* to marry – more at *NUPTIAL*] – *nubility* /-'biliti/ *n*

**nuchal** /nyoo'hk(ə)/ *adj* of or in (the region of) the nape of the neck [ML *nucha* nape, fr Ar *nukha* 'spinal marrow']

**nucle-**, **nucleo-** *comb form* 1 nucleus (nucleon) 2 related to nucleic acid <nucleoprotein> [F *nuclé*, *nucleo-*, fr NL *nucleus*]

**nuclear** /nyoo'hkli-ə/ *adj* 1 of or constituting a nucleus 2 of, using, or being the atomic nucleus, atomic energy, the atom bomb, or atomic power

 **ENERGY**

**nuclear disarmament** *n* the reduction or giving up of a country's nuclear weapons

**nuclear family** *n* a family unit that consists of husband, wife, and children – compare *EXTENDED FAMILY*

**nuclear magnetic resonance** *n* the magnetic resonance of an atomic nucleus

**nuclease** /nyoo'hkliayz, -ays/ *n* any of various enzymes that promote the breakdown of nucleic acids

**nucleate** /nyoo'hkliayt, -ət/ *vb* to form (into) a nucleus, to cluster [LL *nucleatus*, pp of *nucleare* to become stony, fr L *nucleus*] – **nucleator** *n*, **nucleation** /-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*

**nucleated**, **nucleate** /-ət, -ayt/ *adj* having a nucleus or nuclei (~ *cells*) [L *nucleatus*, fr *nucleus* kernel]

**nucleic acid** /nyoo'hklayik, -'kleə/ *n* RNA, DNA, or another acid composed of a chain of nucleotide molecules linked to each other

**nuclein** /nyoo'hkli:n/ *n* a nucleoprotein

**nucleolus** /nyoo'hklee-ələs, -nyoo'hkli'ohləs/ *n*, *pl* **nucleoli** /-'lie, -li/ a spherical body in the nucleus of a cell that is prob the site of the synthesis of ribosomes [NL, fr L, dim. of *nucleus*] – **nucleolar** *adj*

**nucleon** /nyoo'hkli:n/ *n* a proton or neutron, *esp* when in the atomic nucleus [ISV] – **nucleonic** /-'onik/ *adj*

**nucleonics** /nyoo'hkli'oniks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the physics and technical applications of nucleons, the atomic nucleus, or nuclear energy

**nucleophile** /nyoo'hkli-əfiəl/ *n* a substance (e.g. a negative ion) with an affinity for atomic nuclei – **nucleophilic** /-'filiik/ *adj*, **nucleophilicity** /-'fili'siti/ *n*

**nucleoprotein** /nyoo'hkli'prohteən/ *n* a compound of a protein (e.g. a histone) with a nucleic acid (e.g. DNA), forming the major constituent of chromosomes [ISV]

**nucleoside** /nyoo'hkli-əsid/ *n* any of several compounds (e.g. adenosine) consisting of a purine or pyrimidine base combined with deoxyribose or ribose and occurring *esp* as a constituent of nucleotides [ISV *nucle-* + *-ose* + *-ide*]

**nucleotide** /nyoo'hkli-ətid/ *n* any of several compounds that form the structural units of RNA and DNA and consist of a nucleoside combined with a phosphate group [ISV, irreg fr *nucle-* + *-ide*]

**nucleus** /nyoo'hkli-əs/ *n*, *pl* **nuclei** /-'kli:ə, -kli-/ *also* **nucleuses** 1 a small bright and dense part of a galaxy or head of a comet 2 a central point, mass, etc about which gathering, concentration, etc takes place. e.g. a usu round membrane-surrounded cellular organelle containing the chromosomes b a (discrete) mass of nerve cells in the brain or spinal cord c the positively charged central part of an atom that accounts for nearly all of the atomic mass and consists of protons and usu neutrons [NL, fr L, kernel, dim. of *nuc-*, *nux* nut – more at *NUT*]

**nuclide** /nyoo'hkliəd/ *n* an atom with a particular number of protons and neutrons in its nucleus [nucleus + Gk *eidos* form, species – more at *ISOT*] – **nuclidic** /-'klidik/ *adj*

**nude** /n(y)oo'hd/ *adj* 1 lacking sth essential to legal validity <a ~ contract> 2a without clothing; naked b without natural covering or adornment; bare [L *nudus* naked – more at *NAKED*] – **nudely** *adv*, **nudeness**, **nudity** *n*

**nude** *n* 1a a representation of a nude human figure b a nude person 2 the state of being nude (<in the ~>)

**nudge** /nuj/ *vt* 1 to touch or push gently; *esp* to catch the attention of by a push of the elbow 2 to move (as if) by pushing gently or slowly [perh of Scand origin; akin to ON *gnaga* to gnaw; akin to OE *gnagan* to gnaw] – **nudge** *n*

**nudibranch** /n(y)oo'hdibrangk/ *n* any of various related shell-less marine gastropod molluscs [deriv of L *nudus* + *branchia* gill – more at *BRANCHIA*] – **nudibranch** *adj*, **nudibranchiate** /-'brangi-ət, -ayt/ *adj* or *n*

**nudism** /nooh'diz(ə)m, 'nyoo'h-/ *n* the cult or practice of going nude as much as possible – **nudist** *adj* or *n*

**nugatory** /nyoo'hgət(ə)ri/ *adj* 1 trifling, inconsequential 2 inoperative

*USE* fml [L *nugatorius*, fr *nugatus*, pp of *nugari* to trifle, fr *nugae* trifles]

**nugget** /nugat/ *n* a solid lump, esp of a precious metal in its natural state [perh dim of E dial. *nug* (lump, block)]

**nuisance** /nyoo'h(ə)ns/ *n* 1 (legally actionable) harm or injury 2 an annoying or troublesome person or thing [ME *nusaunce*, fr AF, fr OF *nusir* to harm, fr L *nocere* – more at *NOXIOUS*]

**nuke** /nyoo'hk/ *vt* or *n* (to destroy with) a nuclear weapon – slang [by shortening & alter]

**null** /nul/ *adj* 1 having no force in law – *esp* in *null and void* 2 amounting to nothing; nil 3 without character or distinction 4 of an instrument indicating (e.g. by a zero reading on a scale) when current or voltage is zero 5 of or being a method of measurement that uses a null instrument [MF *nul*, lit., not any, fr L *nullus*, fr *ne-* not + *ullus* any; akin to L *unus* one – more at *NO, ONE*]

**null** *n* 1 ZERO 3 2 a minimum or zero value of an electric current or of a radio signal

**nulla** /'nula/ *n* a zero, nought – used in printing [alter. of 'null]

**nullah** /'nula/ *n*, *Ind* a gully, ravine [Hindi *nala*]

**null and void** *adj* completely invalid

**nulla-nulla** /'nula, 'nula/ *n* a hardwood club used by Australian aborigines [native name in Australia]

**null hypothesis** *n* a statistical hypothesis to be tested and accepted or rejected in favour of an alternative

**nullification** /'nulifikaysh(ə)n/ *n* nullifying or being nullified


**nullify** /'nulifik/ *vt* 1 to make (legally) null 2 to make worthless, unimportant, or ineffective [LL *nullificare*, fr L *nullus*]

**nullipara** /'nulipara/ *n* a female that has not borne offspring [NL, fr L *nullus* none + *-para*] – **nulliparous** *adj*

**nullity** /'nuliti/ *n* 1 (an act or document characterized by) legal invalidity 2 sth null ['NULL + *-ITY*]


**numb** /num/ *adj* 1 devoid of sensation, *esp* as a result of cold or anaesthesia 2 devoid of emotion [ME *nomen*, fr pp of *numen* to take, fr OE *niman* – more at *NIMBLE*] – **numb** *vt*, **numbingly** /'numingi/ *adv*, **numbly** /'numli/ *adv*, **numbness** /'numnis/ *n*

**number** /'numba/ *n* 1a(1) a total (2) *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an indefinite, usu large, total <a ~ of members were absent> (3) *pl* a numerous group, many, *also* an instance of numerical superiority <there is safety in ~s> b(1) any of an ordered set of standard names or symbols (e.g. 2, 5, 27th) used in counting or in assigning a position in an order, *esp* NATURAL

NUMBER  (2) an element (e.g. 6, -3, ¾, √7) belonging to an arithmetical system based on or analogous to the numbers used in counting and subject to specific rules of addition, subtraction, and multiplication – compare *INTEGRL*, *RATIONAL NUMBER*, *COMPLEX NUMBER* c *pl* arithmetic <teach children their ~s> 2 a distinction of word form denoting reference to singular or plural *also* a set of forms so distinguished 3a a word, symbol, letter, or combination of symbols representing a number b one or more numerals or digits used to identify or designate <a car ~> <a telephone ~> 4a a member of a sequence or collection designated by *esp* consecutive numbers, *also* an individual or item (e.g. a single act in a variety show or an issue of a periodical) singled out from a group b a position in a numbered sequence 5 a group of individuals <he is not of our ~> 6 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a form of US lottery in which bets are made on the appearance of a certain combination of 3 digits in sets of numbers regularly published in newspapers (e.g. the stock-market receipts) 7a sth viewed in terms of the advantage or enjoyment obtained from it <her job is a really cushy ~> <drives round in a fast little ~> b an article of *esp* women's clothing <wearing a chic little black ~> c a person or individual, *esp* an attractive girl <who's the blonde ~ over there?> 8 insight into a person's motives or character <soon had his ~> *USE* (7&8) infml [ME *nombre*, fr OF, fr L *numerus* – more at *NIMBLE*] – **without number** innumerable

**number** *vt* 1 to count 2 to include as part of a whole or total <prout to ~ her among my friends> 3 to restrict to a definite number; limit – usu pass <knew his days were ~ed> 4 to assign a number to <~ed the team members 1 to 10> <a ~ed road> 5 to comprise in number; total <the inhabitants ~ed 150,000> ~ *vi* 1 to be part of a total number <~s among my closest friends> 2 to call off numbers in sequence – **numberable** *adj*

**Number '10** *n* the British government – infml [Number 10, Downing Street, official residence in London of the British Prime Minister]

**number '8** *n* the player positioned in the back row of scrum in rugby union  **SPORT**

**numberless** /-'lis/ *adj* innumerable, countless

**number one** *n* 1 sth that is first in rank, order, or importance <~ in

## Cardinal numbers

NAME <sup>1</sup>	SYMBOL <sup>2</sup>	
	Arabic	Roman <sup>2</sup>
zero or nought	0	
one	1	I
two	2	II
three	3	III
four	4	IV
five	5	V
six	6	VI
seven	7	VII
eight	8	VIII
nine	9	IX
ten	10	X
eleven	11	XI
twelve	12	XII
thirteen	13	XIII
fourteen	14	XIV
fifteen	15	XV
sixteen	16	XVI
seventeen	17	XVII
eighteen	18	XVIII
nineteen	19	XIX
twenty	20	XX
twenty one	21	XXI
twenty two	22	XXII
twenty three	23	XXIII
twenty four	24	XXIV
twenty five	25	XXV
twenty six	26	XXVI
twenty seven	27	XXVII
twenty eight	28	XXVIII
twenty nine	29	XXIX
thirty	30	XXX
thirty one	31	XXXI
thirty two etc	32	XXXII
forty	40	XL
forty one etc	41	XLI
fifty	50	L
sixty	60	LX
seventy	70	LXX
eighty	80	LXXX
ninety	90	XC
one hundred	100	C
one hundred and one	101	CI
one hundred one		
one hundred and two		
etc	102	CII
two hundred	200	CC
three hundred	300	CCC
four hundred	400	CD
five hundred	500	D
six hundred	600	DC
seven hundred	700	DCC
eight hundred	800	DCCC
nine hundred	900	CM
one thousand or		
ten hundred etc	1,000 or 1 000	M
two thousand etc	2,000 or 2 000	MM
five thousand	5,000 or 5 000	V
ten thousand	10,000 or 10 000	X
one hundred thousand		
100,000 or 100 000		C
one million	1,000 000 or 1 000 000	M
one gillion		
British system 10 <sup>9</sup> or one thousand million		
one billion		
Old British system 10 <sup>12</sup> or one million million		
American system <sup>†</sup> 10 <sup>9</sup> or one thousand million		
one trillion		
British system 10 <sup>14</sup> or one million million million		
American system 10 <sup>12</sup> or one million million		
one quadrillion		
British system 10 <sup>16</sup> or one million million million million		
American system 10 <sup>15</sup> or one thousand million million		

<sup>†</sup> The American system is now replacing the British in this case

1 The Arabic numerals from 1,000 to 9,999 are often written without commas or spaces (1000, 9999). Year numbers are always written without commas (1783).

2 The Roman numerals are written either in capitals or in lower case letters (VIII or viii).

3 The Arabic symbols for the cardinal numbers may be read as ordinals in certain contexts (January 1 - January first, 2 Samuel - Second Samuel). The Roman numerals are sometimes read as ordinals (Henry IV - Henry the Fourth), sometimes they are written with the ordinal suffixes (XIXth dynasty).

## Ordinal numbers

NAME	SYMBOL <sup>3</sup>
first	1st
second	2d or 2nd
third	3d or 3rd
fourth	4th
fifth	5th
sixth	6th
seventh	7th
eighth	8th
ninth	9th
tenth	10th
eleventh	11th
twelfth	12th
thirteenth	13th
fourteenth	14th
fifteenth	15th
sixteenth	16th
seventeenth	17th
eighteenth	18th
nineteenth	19th
twentieth	20th
twenty first	21st
twenty second	22d or 22nd
twenty third	23d or 23rd
twenty fourth	24th
twenty fifth	25th
twenty six	26th
twenty seventh	27th
twenty eighth	28th
twenty ninth	29th
thirtieth	30th
thirty first	31st
thirty second etc	32d or 32nd
fortieth	40th
forty first	41st
forty second etc	42d or 42nd
fiftieth	50th
sixtieth	60th
seventieth	70th
eightieth	80th
ninetieth	90th
hundredth or one hundredth	100th
hundred and first or	101st
one hundred and first	
hundred and second etc	102d or 102nd
two hundredth	200th
three hundredth	300th
four hundredth	400th
five hundredth	500th
six hundredth	600th
seven hundredth	700th
eight hundredth	800th
nine hundredth	900th
thousandth or one thousandth	1,000th or 1 000th
two thousandth etc	2,000th or 2 000th
ten thousandth	10,000th or 10 000th
hundred thousandth or one hundred thousandth	100,000th or 100 000th
millionth or one millionth	1,000,000th or 1 000 000th

## Magic squares

In a magic square the numbers in each row, column, and diagonal add up to the same total; 15 for the smaller square and 34 for the larger one. In the larger magic square, any smaller 2 by 2 square contains 4 numbers that also add up to 34.

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

6	3	10	15
9	16	5	4
7	2	11	14
12	13	8	1

**Prime numbers** (2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, ...)

A prime number is one that only gives a whole number when divided by 1 or itself but leaves a remainder when divided by any other number.

**Rational numbers** (all the whole numbers and fractions such as  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ).

A rational number is any number produced by dividing any whole number by any other whole number.

**Irrational numbers** ( $\sqrt{2}$ ,  $\sqrt{3}$ ,  $\pi$ , ...)

An irrational number is a number that is not a rational number, it cannot be produced by dividing one whole number by another.

**Transcendental numbers** (eg  $\pi$ ).

A transcendental number is an irrational number that is not the answer to any equation.

**Complex numbers**

A complex number is a number that contains the square root of -1 (i) and has the general form  $x + iy$  where  $x$  and  $y$  can be any sort of number except for a complex number.

**Fibonacci sequence** (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, ...)

Each number in the sequence is produced by adding together the two previous numbers. All the numbers in the sequence are called Fibonacci numbers. There are many examples of these numbers in nature, for example the arrangement of leaves in a spiral up a stem is usually such that the number of leaves between two positions where a leaf lies exactly above another on the stem is a Fibonacci number.

## Numbers

These are examples of ancient systems of numerals of which only the Chinese and Arabic are still in limited use. The numerals now usually used in Western Europe and all over the world were derived from the Arabic system which was one of the first systems to include a symbol for zero.

Babylon												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	60	600
Mayan												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	20	400
Egyptian												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	100	1000
Greek	$\alpha'$	$\beta'$	$\gamma'$	$\delta'$	$\epsilon'$	$\zeta'$	$\eta'$	$\theta'$	$\iota'$			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Chinese	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	百	千
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	100	1000
Arabic	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0		

- her list of priorities* > 2 one's own interests or welfare – infml <always thinking of ~> 3 an act of urinating – euph, used by or to children
- number, plate** /-ˌpleɪt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a rectangular identifying plate fastened to a vehicle and bearing the vehicle's registration number
- Numbers** *n pl but sing in constr* the mainly narrative 4th book of the Old Testament
- number, theory** *n* a branch of mathematics dealing with integers and their properties
- number, two** *n* 1 a second-in-command 2 an act of defecating – euph, used by or to children
- numbles** /ˈnʌmbəlz/ *n*, archaic the umbles [ME *numbles*, *nombles* – more at **UMBLES**]
- numbskull** /ˈnʌm,skʊl/ *n* a numskull
- numen** /ˈnyooɦmən/ *n*, *pl* *numina* /-ˈmɪnə/ a divine force associated with a place or natural object [L, *nod*, divine will, *numen*; akin to L *nuere* to nod, Gk *neuein*]
- numerable** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəbl/ *adj* capable of being counted – not used technically
- numeracy** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəsi/ *n*, *Br* the quality or state of being numerate
- numeral** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəl/ *adj* of or expressing numbers [MF, fr LL *numeralis*, fr L *numerus*] – **numerally** *adv*
- numeral** *n* a conventional symbol that represents a natural number or zero
- numerate** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rət/ *adj* understanding basic mathematics, able to use numbers in calculation [L *numerus* number + E *-ate* (as in *iterate*)]
- numeration** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a counting **b** designating by a number 2 expressing in words numbers written as numerals 3 a system of numbering or counting [ME *numeration*, fr L *numeration-*, *numratio*, fr *numerus*, pp of *numerare* to count] – **numerate** /-ˌrəɪt/ *vt*
- numerator** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəɪtə/ *n* the part of a fraction that is above the line and signifies the number of parts of the denominator that is shown by the fraction
- numerical** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rɪkəl/ *numeric adj* of, expressed in, or involving numbers or a number system <the ~ superiority of the enemy> <~ standing in a class> <a ~ code> [L *numerus*] – **numerically** *adv*
- numerology** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of the occult significance of numbers [L *numerus* + E *-o-* + *-logy*] – **numerologist** *n*, **numerological** /-ˌrɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj*
- numerous** /ˈnyooɦm(ə)rəs/ *adj* consisting of many units or individuals, [MF *numereux*, fr L *numerosus*, fr *numerus*] – **numerously** *adv*, **numerosousness** *n*
- numinous** /ˈnyooɦmɪnəs/ *adj* 1 awe-inspiring, mysterious 2 filled with a sense of the presence of divinity [L *numin-*, *numen* numen]
- numismatics** /ˈnyooɦmɪˈmætɪks/ *n pl but sing in constr* the study or collection of coinage, coins, paper money, medals, tokens, etc [F *numismatique*, fr *numismatique*, *adj*, fr L *numisma*, *nomisma* coin, fr Gk, custom, coin, akin to Gk *nomos* custom, law] – **numismatic** *adj*, **numismatically** *adv*, **numismatist** /ˈnyooɦmɪzˈmætɪst/ *n*
- numnah** /ˈnʌnmə/ *n* a piece of leather, sheepskin, etc placed under a horse's saddle to prevent chafing [Hindi *namda*, fr Per *namad* carpet, rug]
- numskull, numbskull** /ˈnʌm,skʊl/ *n* a dull or stupid person [*numb* + *skull*]
- nun** /nʌn/ *n* a female member of a religious order living in a convent under vows of chastity, poverty, etc and often engaged in educational or nursing work [ME, fr OE *nunne*, fr LI *nonna*]
- Nunc Dimittis** /ˈnoʊŋk dɪˈmɪtɪs, ˈnʌŋk/ *n* a canticle based on the prayer of Simeon in Luke 2 29–32 [L, now lettest thou depart, fr the first words of the canticle]
- nunciature** /ˈnʌns(h)ˌtʃə/ *n* the (term of) office of a papal nuncio [It *nunciatura*, fr *nuncio*]
- nuncio** /ˈnʌns(h)hoh/ *n pl* **nuncios** a papal ambassador to a civil government [It, fr L *nuntius* messenger, message]
- nunnery** /ˈnʌnəri/ *n* a convent of nuns
- Nupe** /ˈnoʊpə/ *n pl* **Nupes**, esp collectively **Nupe** a member, or the Kwa language, of a Negro people of W central Nigeria
- nuptial** /ˈnʌp(h)ʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of marriage 2 characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season <a ~ flight> [L *nuptialis*, fr *nuptiae*, *pl*, wedding, fr *nuptus*, pp of *nubere* to marry, akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph]
- nuptial** *n* a wedding – usu *pl*
- nuptial plumage** *n* the brilliantly coloured plumage developed in the males of many birds prior to the start of the breeding season – compare **ECLIPSE PLUMAGE**
- nurse** /nɜːs/ *n* 1a **WET NURSE** **b** a woman employed to take care of a young child 2 sby skilled or trained in caring for the sick or infirm, esp under the supervision of a physician <she and her brother are both ~s> 3 a member of the worker caste in an ant, bee, etc society, that cares for the young [ME, fr OF *nurice*, fr LL *nutricia*, fr L, fem of *nutricius* nourishing – more at **NUTRITIOUS**]
- nurse** *vt* 1 to suckle 2a to rear, nurture **b** to encourage the development of, foster <carefully ~d his tomatoes> 3a to attempt to cure (e.g. an illness or injury) by appropriate treatment **b** to care for and wait on (e.g. a sick person) 4 to hold in one's mind; harbour <~ a grievance> 5 to handle carefully in order to conserve or prolong 6 to hold (e.g. a baby) lovingly or caressingly ~ *vi* 1a to suckle an offspring **b** to suck at the breast 2 to act or serve as a nurse [ME *nurshen* to nourish, contr of *nurshen*]
- nurse, maid** /-ˌmeɪd/ *n* a girl or woman employed to look after children
- nursery** /ˈnɜːs(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a child's bedroom or playroom 2a a place where small children are looked after in their parents' absence **b** **NURSERY SCHOOL** 3 a place where young animals (e.g. fish) grow or are cared for 4 an area where plants, trees, etc are grown for propagation, sale, or transplanting
- nurseryman** /-ˌmən, -ˌman/ *n* one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants, usu for sale
- nursery rhyme** *n* a short traditional story in rhyme for children
- nursery school** *n* a school for children aged usu from 2 to 5
- nursery slope** *n* a usu gentle ski slope for beginners
- nursing home** /ˈnɜːsɪŋ/ *n* a usu private hospital or home (where care is provided for the aged, chronically ill, etc)
- nursing officer** *n* a nurse of the next rank below a senior nursing officer
- nursling** /ˈnɜːslɪŋ/ *n* a child under the care of a nurse, esp in former times [*nurse* + *-ling*]
- nurture** /ˈnɜːtʃə/ *n* 1 training, upbringing 2 food, nourishment 3 all the environmental influences that affect the innate genetic potentialities of an organism [ME, fr MF *nutriture*, fr LL *nutritura* act of nursing, fr L *nutritus*, pp of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish – more at **NOURISH**]
- nurture** *vt* 1 to give care and nourishment to 2 to educate or develop
- nut** /nʌt/ *n* 1 (the often edible kernel of) a dry fruit or seed with a hard separable rind or shell 2 a difficult person, problem, or undertaking <a tough ~> 3 a typically hexagonal usu metal block that has a central hole with an internal screw thread cut on it, and can be screwed onto a piece, esp a bolt, with an external thread to tighten or secure sthg 4 the ridge in a stringed instrument (e.g. a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 a small piece or lump <a ~ of butter> 6 *pl* nonsense – often used interjectionally 7 a person's head 8a an insane or wildly eccentric person **b** an ardent enthusiast **USE** (6, 7, & 8) infml [ME *nute*, *note*, fr OE *hnutu*, akin to OHG *nuz* nut, L *nux*] – **nutlike** *adj*
- nut** *vi* -tt- to gather or seek nuts – chiefly in *go nutting*
- nutration** /ˈnyooɦˈtʃaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a small oscillation of the earth's axis like) the nodding oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (e.g. a top) 2 a spontaneous (spiral) movement of a growing plant part 3 nodding the head – fml [L *nutration-*, *nutatio*, fr *nutatus*, pp of *nutare* to nod, rock, freq of *nuere* to nod – more at **NUMEN**] – **nutational** *adj*, **nutate** /ˈnyooɦˈtʃaɪt, -ˌ-/ *vi*
- nut-brown** *adj* or *n* (of) the colour of a ripe hazelnut
- nutcase** /-ˌkeɪs/ *n* a nut, lunatic – infml
- nutcracker** /-ˌkræk/ *n* an implement for cracking nuts, usu consisting of 2 hinged metal arms between which the nut is held and compressed – often *pl* with sing. meaning
- nutchatch** /-ˌhætʃ/ *n* a Eurasian tree-climbing bird with bluish grey upper parts and a black stripe through the eye region [ME *notchache*, fr *note* nut + *hache* axe, fr OF, battle-axe – more at **HASH**]
- nut-house** /-ˌhaʊs/ *n* a madhouse – slang; humor
- nutmeg** /ˈnʌtmeg/ *n* (an Indonesian tree that produces) an aromatic seed used as a spice [ME *notemuge*, deriv of OProv *noz muscada*, fr *noz* nut (fr L *nuc-*, *nux*) + *muscada*, fem of *muscat* musky – more at **MUSCAT**]
- nutria** /ˈnyooɦtri-ə/ *n* 1 a coypu 2 the fur of the coypu [Sp, modif of L *lutra* otter; akin to OE *oter* otter]
- nutrient** /ˈnyooɦtri-ənt/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that provides nourishment [L *nutrient-*, *nutriens*, pp of *nutrire* to nourish – more at **NOURISH**]
- nutriment** /ˈnyooɦtri-mənt/ *n* sthg that nourishes or promotes growth [L *nutrimentum*, fr *nutrire*]
- nutrition** /ˈnyooɦˈtriʃ(ə)n/ *n* nourishing or being nourished; specif all the processes by which an organism takes in and uses food [MF, fr LL

**nutrition-**, *nutritio*, fr L *nutritus*, pp of *nutrire*] – **nutritional** *adj*, **nutritionally** *adv*, **nutritionist** *n*

**nutritious** /nyoo'htrshəs/ *adj* nourishing [L *nutricius*, fr *nutre-*, *nutrix* nurse, akin to L *nutrire* to nourish] – **nutritiously** *adv*, **nutritiousness** *n*

**nutritive** /nyoohtntiv/ *adj* 1 of nutrition 2 nourishing – **nutritively** *adv*

**nuts** /nuts/ *adj* 1 passionately keen or enthusiastic <he's ~ on ice-hockey> 2 crazy, mad *USE* infml [fr pl of 'nut]

**nuts and 'bolts** *n* 1 the working parts or elements 2 the practical workings (e.g. of a business or enterprise) *USE* infml

**'nutshell** /-shel/ *n* the hard outside covering enclosing the kernel of a nut – in a **nutshell** in a brief accurate account

**nutter** /'nuta/ *n*, chiefly Br a nut, maniac – infml ['nut + '-er]

**nutty** /'nuti/ *adj* 1 having or producing nuts 2 having a flavour like that of nuts 3 eccentric, silly, also **NUTS** 2 – infml – **nutteness** *n*

**nux vomica** /nuks'vomika/ *n*, pl **nux vomica** (an Asian tree that bears) a poisonous seed containing strychnine and other alkaloids [NL, lit. emetic nut]

**nuzzle** /'nu:z/ *vb* **nuzzling** /'nu:zɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to push or rub sthg with the nose 2 to lie close or snug, nestle ~ vt to root or rub (as if) with the nose [ME *noselen* to bring the nose towards the ground, fr *nose*]

**nyala** /en'yahla/ *n*, pl **nyalas**, esp collectively **nyala** a S African antelope with vertical white stripes on its sides [of Bantu origin; akin to Venda *nyala nyala*, Zulu *inxala*]

**nyctalopia** /nikts'lohpi:/ *n* NIGHT BLINDNESS [LL, deriv of Gk *nykt-*, *nyx* night + *alops* blind + *ops* eye]

**nyctitropic** /nikti'tropik, -'trohpik/ *n* of or being a movement of a plant part at nightfall (e.g. the closing of a flower) [ISV *nyct-* (fr L, fr Gk *nykt-*, *nyx* night) + *-trop-* + *-tropic*] – **nyctitropism** /nik'titropiz(ə)m, nikti'troh-piz(ə)m/ *n*

**nylon** /'nelon/ *n* 1 any of numerous strong tough elastic synthetic polyamide materials fashioned into fibres, sheets, etc and used esp in textiles and plastics 2 pl stockings made of nylon [coined word]

**nymph** /nimf/ *n* 1 any of the minor female divinities of nature in classical mythology 2 any of various immature insects, esp a larva of a dragonfly or other insect with incomplete metamorphosis – *see* LIFE CYCLE 3 a girl – poetic [ME *nimphe*, fr MF, fr L *Nympha* bride, nymph, fr Gk *nymphē* – more at **NUPTIAL**] – **nymphal** /nimf(ə)l/ *adj*

**nymphet** /nimfit/ *n* a sexually desirable girl in early adolescence [obs *nymphet* (young nymph), fr MF *nymphette*, dim. of *nymphē* nymph]

**nympho** /nimfoh/ *n* a nymphomaniac – infml

**nympholepsy** /nimfə'lepsi/ *n* a frenzy of emotion, usu inspired by sthg unattainable [*nympholept* fr Gk *nympholeptos* frenzied, lit. caught by nymphs, fr *nymphē* + *lambanein* to seize] – **nympholept** /-lept/ *n*, **nympholeptic** /-leptik/ *adj*

**nymphomania** /nimfə'mayniə/ *n* excessive sexual desire in a female – compare **SATYRIASIS** [NL, fr *nymphae* inner lips of the vulva (fr L, pl of *nympha*) + LL *mania*] – **nymphomaniac** /-niak/ *n* or *adj*, **nymphomaniacal** /nimfə'mni:əkəl/ *adj*

**Nynorsk** /n(y)oo'h'na:sk/ *n* a literary form of Norwegian based on the spoken dialects of Norway – compare **BOKMÅL** [Norw, lit. new Norwegian]

**nystagmus** /ni'stagməs/ *n* a rapid involuntary oscillation of the eyeballs (e.g. from dizziness) [NL, fr Gk *nystagmos* drowsiness, fr *nystazein* to doze, akin to Lith *snusti* to doze] – **nystagmic** /-mik/ *adj*

## O

**o** /oh/ *n*, pl **o's**, **os** often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 15th letter of the English alphabet 2 sthg shaped like the letter O; esp zero

**O** /oh/ *interj* or *n* oh

**o-**, **oo-** *comb form* egg <ology>, specif ovum <oogonium> [Gk *ov-*, *oio-*, fr *ōion* – more at 'EGG]

**o-** – used as a connective vowel to join word elements of Greek and other origin <milometer> <elastomer> [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, thematic vowel of many nouns & adjectives in combination]

**'o-** /oh/ *suffix* (– *n* or *adj*) (sby or sthg) that is, has the qualities of, or is associated with <cheapo> <wino> <beano> – infml [perfr 'oh]

**²o-** /oh/ *suffix* (– *interj*) – in interjections formed from other parts of speech <cheerio> <righto>, infml [prob fr 'oh]

**o'** also **o** /ə/ *prep* 1 of <one o'clock> 2 chiefly *dial* on [ME *o*, *o-*, contr of *on* & *of*]

**oaf** /ohf/ *n* a clumsy slow-witted person [of Scand origin, akin to ON *alfri* elf – more at **ELI**] – **oafish** *adj*, **oafishly** *adv*, **oafishness** *n*

**oak** /ohk/ *n*, pl **oaks**, **oak** (the tough hard durable wood of) any of various trees or shrubs of the beech family, usu having lobed leaves and producing acorns as fruits [ME *oak*, fr OE *ac*, akin to OHG *eh* oak, Gk *aiglops*, a kind of oak] – **oaken** /'ohk(ə)n/ *adj*

**'oak apple** *n* a large round gall produced on oak stems or leaves by a gall wasp

**oakum** /'ohkəm/ *n* hemp or jute fibre impregnated with tar or a tar derivative and used in packing joints and stopping up gaps between the planks of a ship [ME *okum*, fr OE *acumba* tow, fr *a-* (separative & perfective prefix) + *-cumba* (akin to OE *camb* comb)]

**'oar** /aw/ *n* 1 a long usu wooden shaft with a broad blade at one end used for propelling or steering a boat 2 an oarsman [ME *oor*, fr OE *ar*; akin to ON *ar* oar] – **oared** *adj*

**²oar** *vb* 'row – poetic

**'oarfish** /-fish/ *n* any of several very long and thin soft-bodied sea fishes

**'oarlock** /-lok/ *n*, chiefly NAm a rowlock

**oarsman** /'awzmən/ *n* one who rows a boat, esp in a racing crew – **oarsmanship** *n*

**oasis** /oh'aysis/ *n*, pl **oases** /-se:z/ 1 a fertile or green area in a dry region 2 sthg providing relaxation or relief [LL, fr Gk]

**Oasis** *trademark* – used for a highly water-absorbent material into which cut flowers and other plants may be stuck for display

**'oast house** /ohst/ *n* a usu circular building housing a kiln for drying hops or malting barley [oast fr ME *ost*, fr OE *āst*, akin to MD *east* kiln, L *aestus* heat, *aestas* summer – more at **EDIFY**]

**oat** /oh/ *n* 1a (any of various wild grasses related to) a widely cultivated cereal grass – usu pl **b** pl a crop or plot of oats 2 an oat seed [ME *ote*, fr OE *ate*] – **oaten** /-tɪn/ *adj*

**'oat cake** *n* a usu crisp unleavened biscuit or bread made of oatmeal

**'oat grass** *n* WILD OAT 1

**oath** /ohth/ *n*, pl **oaths** /ohðz/ 1a a solemn calling upon God or a revered person or thing to witness to the true or binding nature of one's declaration **b** sthg (e.g. a promise) formally confirmed by an oath (<an ~ of allegiance>) **c** a form of expression used in taking an oath 2 an irreverent use of a sacred name, broadly a swearword [ME *oath*, fr OE *ath*, akin to OHG *eid* oath] – **on/under oath** bound by a solemn promise to tell the truth

**'oatmeal** /-meel, -miəl/ *n* 1 meal made from oats, used esp in porridge 2 a greyish beige colour

**ob-**, **oc-**, **of-**, **op-** *prefix* 1 out, forth <obtrude> <offer>, exposed <obverse> 2 so as to involve compliance <obey> <observe> 3 against, in opposition to <obloquy> <opponent>, resisting <obstinate> 4 in the way of, hindering <obstacle> <obstruct> 5 hidden; concealed <obfuscatory> <occult> 6 inversely <obovate> [ME, fr OF, fr L, in the way, against, towards, fr *ob* in the way of, on account of – more at **EPI-**, (b) NL, prob fr *obverse* obversely]

**Obadiah** /'ohbə'di:ə/ *n* a prophetic book of the Old Testament [Heb 'Obhadyah]

**'obligato** /'oblɪ'ga:toh/ *adj* not to be omitted – used in music [It, obligatory, fr pp of *obligare* to oblige, fr L *obligare*]

**²obligato** *n*, pl **obligatos** also **obligati** /-ti/ *n* an elaborate, esp melodic, accompaniment, usu played by a single instrument

**obdurate** /'obdyoo:rat, -joo-/ *adj* 1 stubbornly persistent in wrong doing 2 inflexible, unyielding [ME, fr L *obduratus*, pp of *obdurare* to harden, fr *ob-* against + *durus* hard – more at **OB-**, **DURING**] – **obdurately** *adv*, **obdurateness**, **obduracy** *n*


**obeah** /'ohbi:/ *n*, often *cap* sorcery and magic ritual as practised among Negroes, esp of the British W Indies [of African origin, akin to Twi *a'bi'a*, a creeper used in making charms]

**'obeahman** /-mən/ *n* a man who is expert in the practice of obeah


**obedience** /ə'beedi:əns, oh-/ *n* 1a an act of obeying **b** the quality or state of being obedient 2 a sphere of esp ecclesiastical jurisdiction

**obedient** /ə'beedi:ənt, oh-/ *adj* submissive to the will or authority of a superior, willing to obey [ME, fr OF, fr L *obedient-*, *obediens*, fr prp of *obedire* to obey – more at **OBLY**] – **obediently** *adv*

**obesance** /oh'bay(i)səns, -'bec-/ *n* 1 a movement or gesture made as a sign of respect or submission 2 deference, homage [ME *obeissance*

- obedience, obeisance, fr MF *obeissance*, fr *obeissant*, prp of *obeir* to obey] – **obeisant** *adj*, **obeisantly** *adv*
- obelisk** /'obelisk/ *n* 1 an upright 4-sided usu monolithic pillar that gradually tapers towards the top and terminates in a pyramid 2 DAGGER 2 [MF *obelisque*, fr L *obeliscus*, fr Gk *obeliskos*, fr dim. of *obelos* spit, pointed pillar]
- obese** /oh'bees/ *adj* excessively fat [L *obesus*, fr pp of *obedere* to eat up, fr *ob-* against + *edere* to eat – more at *OB-*, *EAT*] – **obesity** *n*
- obey** /ə'bay, oh'bay/ *vi* 1 to submit to the commands or guidance of <~s the teacher> <~ed a whim> 2 to comply with, execute <~ed instructions> ~ *vi* to act obediently [ME *obeien*, fr OF *obeir*, fr L *oboeire*, fr *ob-* towards + *oeire* (akin to *audire* to hear) – more at *OB-*, *AUDIBLE*]
- obfuscate** /'obfus,kayt/ *vt* 1 to make obscure or difficult to understand 2 to confuse, bewilder [LL *obfuscatus*, pp of *obfuscare*, fr L *ob-* in the way + *fuscus* dark brown – more at *OB-*, *DUSK*] – **obfuscation** /-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **obfuscatory** /-'kayt(ə)n/ *adj*
- 'obi** /ohbi/ *n* a broad sash worn with a Japanese kimono [Jap]
- 'obi** *n* obeah
- obit** /'obit, 'oh-/ *n* a memorial service held on the anniversary of the death of a founder or benefactor [ME, fr MF, fr L *obitus* death, fr *obitus*, pp of *obire* to go to meet, die, fr *ob-* in the way + *ire* to go – more at *ISSUE*]
- obiter dictum** /'obitə'diktəm/ *n*, *pl obiter dicta* /'dikta/ 1 an incidental observation made by a judge which is not material to his judgment and therefore not binding 2 an incidental remark or observation [LL, lit. something said in passing]
- obituary** /'bityoo(ə)n/ *n* a notice of a person's death, usu with a short biography [ML *obituarium*, fr L *obitus* death] – **obituary** *adj*
- 'object** /'objekt/ *n* 1 sthg that is (capable of) being sensed physically or examined mentally <an ~ of study> 2a sthg or sby that arouses an emotion or provokes a reaction or response <an ~ of derision> b sby or sthg that is ridiculous, outlandish, or pathetic in appearance <looked a real ~> 3 an end towards which effort, action, etc is directed, a goal <what's the ~ of the exercise?> 4 a noun or noun equivalent appearing in a prepositional phrase or representing the goal or the result of the action of its verb (e.g. *house in we built a house*) 5 sthg of paramount concern <if money's no ~ then buy it> [ME, fr ML *objectum*, fr L, neut of *obicere* to throw in the way, present, hinder, fr *ob-* in the way + *jacere* to throw – more at *OB-*, *'JET*] – **objectless** *adj*
- 'object** /'objekt/ *vi* 1 to oppose sthg with words or arguments 2 to feel dislike or disapproval <I ~ to his condescending manner> ~ *vi* to offer in opposition or objection [ME *objecten*, fr L *objectus*, pp of *obicere* to throw in the way, object] – **objector** *n*
- 'object**, **ball** *n* the ball (first) struck by the cue ball in snooker, billiards, etc
- objectify** /'objekt,fiə/ *vt* 1a to cause to become an object of perception b to make objective 2 EXTERNALIZE 2 – **objectification** /-'fi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- objection** /ə'bjeksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a reason or argument presented in opposition 2 a feeling or statement of dislike, disapproval, or opposition [OBJECT + -ION]
- objectionable** /ə'bjeksh(ə)nəbl/ *adj* unpleasant or offensive – **objectionableness** *n*, **objectionably** *adv*
- 'objective** /'objektiv/ *adj* 1a constituting an object: e.g. (1) existing independently of the mind (2) belonging to the external world and observable or verifiable (3) of a symptom of disease perceptible to other people as well as the affected individual b concerned with or expressing the nature of external reality rather than personal feelings or beliefs c dealing with facts without distortion by personal feelings or prejudices 2 of or in the case that follows a preposition or a transitive verb – **objectively** *adv*, **objectiveness**, **objectivity** /'objektivəti/ *n*
- 'objective** *n* 1 sthg towards which efforts are directed; a goal 2 sthg to be attained or achieved by a military operation 3 (a word in) the objective case 4 a lens or system of lenses that forms an image of an object
- objectivism** /'objekt,viz(ə)m/ *n* a theory stressing objective reality, esp as distinguished from subjective experience or appearance – **objectivist** *n*, **objectivistic** /-'vistik/ *adj*
- 'object**, **lesson** *n* 1 a lesson that takes a material object as its basis 2 sthg that serves as a concrete illustration of a principle
- objet d'art** /'objɛt 'dah (Fr ɔbjɛ dar)/ *n*, *pl objets d'art* /~/ a usu small article of some artistic value [F, lit., art object]
- objet trouvé** /'troovay, trooh'vay (Fr truve)/ *n*, *pl objets trouvés* /~/ a natural or man-made object displayed as having artistic value [F, lit., found object]
- oblast** /'oblahst/ *n*, *pl oblasts* also **oblasti** /-ti/ an administrative subdivision of a constituent republic of the USSR [Russ *oblast'*]
- 'oblade** /'oblayt/ *adj* flattened or depressed at the poles <an ~ spheroid> – compare *PROLATE* [prob fr NL *oblatus*, fr *ob-* + *-latus* (as in *prolatus* prolate)] – **oblateness** *n*
- 'oblade** *n* a (lay) member of any of several Roman Catholic communities [ML *oblatus*, lit., one offered up, fr L, pp of *offerre*]
- oblation** /ə'blaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 *cap* the act of offering to God the bread and wine used at Communion 2 an offering made for religious purposes [ME *oblacioun*, fr MF *oblation*, fr LL *oblation-*, *oblatio*, fr L *oblatus*, pp of *offerre* to offer]
- 'obligate** /'obligayt, -gət/ *adj* 1 restricted to 1 characteristic mode of life <an ~ parasite> 2 always happening irrespective of environmental conditions <~ parasitism> – compare *FACULTATIVE* – **obligately** *adv*
- 'obligate** /'obligayt/ *vt* to constrain legally or morally [L *obligatus*, pp of *obligare*]
- obligation** /'obligaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a contract or promise) that binds one to a course of action 2 (the amount of) a financial commitment <the company was unable to meet its financial ~s> 3 sthg one is bound to do, a duty 4 (indebtedness for) a service or favour <her kindness has put me under an ~ to her> [OBLIGATE + -ION]
- obligatory** /ə'bligat(ə)n/ *adj* 1 binding in law or conscience 2 relating to or enforcing an obligation <a writ ~> 3 mandatory, compulsory 4 obligate – **obligatorily** *adv*
- oblige** /ə'blie/ *vt* 1 to constrain by force or circumstance 2a to put in one's debt by a favour or service – usu pass <we're much ~d to you for all your help> b to do a favour for <~d the assembled company with a song> ~ *vi* to do sthg as a favour, be of service <always ready to ~> [ME *obligen*, fr OF *obliger*, fr L *obligare*, lit. to bind to, fr *ob-* towards + *ligare* to bind – more at *LIGATURE*]
- obligee** /'oblitjee/ *n* sby to whom another is obligated
- obliging** /ə'bliejiŋ/ *adj* eager to help, accommodating – **obligingly** *adv*, **obligingness** *n*
- obligor** /'obligaw/ *n* one who places himself under a legal obligation
- oblique** /ə'bleek/ *adj* 1a neither perpendicular nor parallel, inclined b having the axis not perpendicular to the base <an ~ cone> c having no right angle <an ~ triangle> d of an angle greater than but not a multiple of 90° 2 not straightforward or explicit, indirect <~ references to financial difficulties> 3 of a muscle situated obliquely with 1 end not attached to bone [ME *oblique*, fr L *obliquus*, fr *ob-* towards + *-liquus* (akin to *ulna* elbow)] – **oblique** *n*, **obliquely** *adv*, **obliqueness** *n*
- oblique case** *n* any grammatical case other than the nominative or vocative
- obliquity** /ə'blɪkwəti/ *n* (the amount of) deviation from being parallel or perpendicular
- obliterate** /ə'blɪtərayt/ *vi* 1 to make illegible or imperceptible 2 to destroy all trace or indication of 3 to cause (e.g. a blood vessel or other body part) to collapse or disappear 4 CANCEL 5 [L *oblitteratus*, pp of *oblitterare*, fr *ob* in the way of + *littera* letter] – **obliterative** /-rə'tiv/ *adj*, **obliterator** /-'raytə/ *n*, **obliteration** /-'raysh(ə)n/ *n*
- oblivion** /ə'blɪvɪ-ən/ *n* 1 the state of forgetting or being oblivious 2 the state of being forgotten 3 official disregarding of offences [ME, fr MF, fr L *oblivio*, *oblivio*, fr *oblivisci* to forget, perh fr *ob-* in the way + *levis* smooth – more at *OB-*, *'LIME*]
- oblivious** /ə'blɪvɪ-əs/ *adj* lacking conscious knowledge, completely unaware – usu + *of* or *to* – **obliviously** *adv*, **obliviousness** *n*
- oblong** /'oblong/ *adj* deviating from a square by being longer, esp rectangular with adjacent sides unequal [ME, fr L *oblongus*, fr *ob-* towards + *longus* long] – **oblong** *n*
- obloquy** /'obləkwɪ/ *n* 1 strongly-worded condemnation 2 discredit, disgrace [LL *obloquium*, fr *obloqui* to speak against, fr *ob-* against + *loqui* to speak – more at *OB-*]
- obnoxious** /ə'bɒksɦəs/ *adj* highly offensive or repugnant [L *obnoxius*, fr *ob* in the way of, exposed to + *noxa* harm – more at *OB-*, *NOXIOUS*] – **obnoxiously** *adv*, **obnoxiousness** *n*
- oboe** /oh'boh/ *n* a double-reed woodwind instrument with a conical tube and a usual range from B flat below middle C upwards for about 2½ octaves [It, fr F *hautbois* – more at *HAUTOBOY*] – **obol** *n*
- obol** /'ɒbəl/ *n* an ancient Greek coin or weight equal to 1/4, drachma [L *obolus*, fr Gk *obolos*, akin to Gk *obelos* spit]
- obovate** /ə'bohvayt/ *adj*, of a leaf ovate with the narrower end nearest the stalk  PLANT
- obscene** /ə'bseɪn/ *adj* 1 offending standards of esp sexual propriety or decency; specif inciting sexual depravity <confiscated various ~ publica-



- tions* 2 (morally) repugnant [MF, fr L *obscenus, obscenus*] – obscenely *adv*
- obscenity** /əb'senəti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being obscene 2 an obscene act or utterance
- obscurantism** /əb'skyoo'rəntɪz(ə)m/ *n* opposition to the advance of knowledge [F *obscurantisme*, fr *obscurant* obscuring] – *obscurantist n or adj*
- obscure** /əb'skyoo/ *adj* 1 hard to understand; abstruse 2 not well-known or widely acclaimed 3 faint, indistinct 4 constituting or representing the unstressed vowel /ə/ [ME, fr MF *obscur*, fr L *obscurus*, fr *ob-* in the way + *-scurus* (akin to Gk *keuthen* to conceal) – more at *ob-*, *hide*] – *obscurely adv*, *obscureness n*
- obscure** *vt* 1 to conceal (as if) by covering 2 to make indistinct or unintelligible – *obscuration* /əb'skyoo'rəʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- obscurity** /əb'skyoo'rəti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being obscure 2 an obscure person or thing
- obsequious** /əb'seekwi-əs/ *adj* showing a servile willingness to oblige [ME, fr L *obsequiosus* compliant, fr *obsequium* compliance, fr *obsequi* to comply, fr *ob-* towards + *sequi* to follow – more at *ob-*, *sue*] – *obsequiously adv*, *obsequiousness n*
- obsequy** /əb'sikwi/ *n* a funeral ceremony usu pl with sing meaning [ME *obsequie*, fr MF, fr ML *obsequiae* (pl), alter of L *exsequiae* – more at *EXSEQUY*]
- observable** /əb'zuhvəbl/ *adj* capable of being observed, discernible – *observable n*, *observably adv*
- observance** /əb'zuhv(ə)s/ *n* 1a a customary practice, rite, or ceremony – often pl **b** a rule governing members of a religious order 2 an act of complying with a custom, rule, or law [OBSERVE + *-ANCE*]
- observant** /əb'zuhv(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 paying close attention, watchful 2 careful to observe, mindful – *of* 3 quick to notice, alert – *observantly adv*
- observation** /əbzə'veyʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or the faculty of observing 2 the gathering of information by noting facts or occurrences (<weather ~s>) 3 a remark, comment 4 the condition of sb or sth that is observed (<under ~ at the hospital>) [MF, fr L *observatio*, fr *observatus*, pp of *observare*] – *observational adj*
- observation car** *n*, *NAM* a railway carriage with large windows and often a partly transparent roof that affords passengers a broad view
- observatory** /əb'zuhvət(ə)n/ *n* a building or institution for the observation and interpretation of natural phenomena, esp in astronomy [prob fr NL *observatorium*, fr L *observatus*]
- observe** /əb'zuhv/ *vt* 1a to act in due conformity with (<always ~d the law>) (<careful to ~ local customs>) **b** to celebrate or perform (e.g. a ceremony or festival) according to a prescribed or traditional form (<~d the fast of Ramadan>) 2 to perceive or take note of, esp by concentrated attention 3 to utter as a comment (<~d that things weren't what they used to be>) 4 to make a scientific observation on or of [ME *observen*, fr MF *observer*, fr L *observare* to guard, watch, observe, fr *ob-* in the way, towards + *servare* to keep – more at *ob-*, *conserve*]
- observer** /əb'zuhvə/ *n* 1 sb sent to observe but not participate officially in a gathering 2 sb who accompanies the pilot of an aircraft to make observations [OBSERVE + *-ER*]
- obsess** /əb'ses/ *vt* to preoccupy intensely or abnormally [L *obsessus*, pp of *obsidere* to besiege, beset, fr *ob-* against + *sedere* to sit – more at *ob-*, *sit*] – *obsessive* /-siv/ *adj or n*, *obsessively adv*, *obsessiveness n*
- obsession** /əb'sesh(ə)n/ *n* a persistent (disturbing) preoccupation with an often unreasonable idea, also an idea causing such a preoccupation – *obsessional adj*, *obsessionally adv*
- obsidian** /əb'sidi-ən/ *n* a usu black volcanic glass which splits to give a convex surface [NL *obsidianus*, fr L *obsidianus lapis*, false M. ~ading for *obsidianus lapis*, lit, stone of Obsius, fr *Obsius*, a Roman traveller named by Pliny as its supposed discoverer]
- obsolescent** /əbzə'shes(ə)nt/ *adj* going out of use, becoming obsolete [L *obsolescent*, *obsolescens*, prp of *obsolescere*] – *obsolescence n*
- obsolete** /əbzə'leet/ *adj* 1 no longer in use 2 outdated, outmoded [L *obsoletus*, fr pp of *obsolescere* to grow old, become disused] – *obsolescence n*, *obsoletism n*, *-ly adv*
- obstacle** /əbstəkl/ *n* sth that hinders or obstructs [ME, fr MF, fr L *obstaculum*, fr *obstare* to stand in the way, fr *ob-* in the way + *stare* to stand – more at *ob-*, *stand*]
- obstetric** /əb'steɪnk, ob-/ *adj* of or associated with childbirth or obstetrics [prob fr (assumed) NL *obstetricus*, fr L *obstetric*, *obstrix* midwife, fr *obstare* to stand in the way, stand in front of] – *obsterically adv*
- obstetrics** *n pl but sing or pl in constr* a branch of medicine dealing with the care and treatment of women before, during, and after childbirth – *obstetrician* /əb'steɪtrɪʃ(ə)n, -sta-/ *n*
- obstinate** /əbstɪnət/ *adj* 1 clinging stubbornly to an opinion or course of action; not yielding to arguments or persuasion 2 not easily subdued, remedied, or removed (<an ~ fever>) [ME, fr L *obstinatus*, pp of *obstinare* to be resolved, fr *ob-* in the way + *-stinare* (akin to *stare* to stand)] – *obstinately adv*, *obstinancy* /-si/ *n*
- obstreperous** /əb'strep(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 aggressively noisy, clamorous 2 vociferously defiant; unruly [L *obstreperus*, fr *obstreperare* to clamour against, fr *ob-* against + *strepere* to make a noise; akin to OE *thraeft* discord] – *obstreperously adv*, *obstreperousness n*
- obstruct** /əb'strukt/ *vt* 1 to block or close up by an obstacle (<the road is ~ed by a landslide>) (<the fence ~s the view>) 2 to hinder, impede [L *obstructus*, pp of *obstruere*, fr *ob-* in the way + *struere* to build – more at *ob-*, *structure*] – *obstructive adj or n*, *obstructiveness n*, *obstructively adv*, *obstructor n*
- obstruction** /əb'strukʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a condition of being clogged or blocked 2 an attempted delay of business in a deliberative body (e.g. Parliament) 3 sth that obstructs [OBSSTRUCT + *-ION*]
- obstructionism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* deliberate interference with (legislative) business – *obstructionist n*, *obstructionistic* /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- obtain** /əb'tayn/ *vt* to acquire or attain ~ *vi* to be generally accepted or practised – *fml* [ME *obteinen*, fr MF & L, MF *obtenir*, fr L *obtinere* to hold on to, possess, obtain, fr *ob-* in the way + *tenere* to hold – more at *ob-*, *thin*] – *obtainable adj*, *obtainer n*, *obtainment n*, *obtainability* /-nə'bɪləti/ *n*
- obtest** /əb'test, əb-/ *vb*, *archaic* to beseech, supplicate [MF *obtester*, fr L *obtestari* to call to witness, beseech, fr *ob-* towards + *testis* witness – more at *ob-*, *testament*] – *obtestation* /əbzə'teɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- obtrude** /əb'truhd/ *vt* 1 to thrust out 2 to assert without warrant or request ~ *vi* to thrust oneself forward with unwarranted assertiveness [L *obtrudere* to thrust at, fr *ob-* in the way + *trudere* to thrust – more at *ob-*, *threat*] – *obtruder n*, *obtrusion* /-ʒh(ə)n/ *n*
- obtrusive** /əb'truʃsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* 1 forward in manner; pushing 2 unduly noticeable [L *obtrusus*, pp of *obtrudere*] – *obtrusively adv*, *obtrusiveness n*
- obtund** /əb'tund/ *vt* to reduce the edge or violence of, dull (<~ed reflexes>) [ME *obtunden*, fr L *obtundere*]
- oburate** /əb'tyoo(ə)raɪt/ *vt* to obstruct or close (an opening, esp the breach of a gun) [L *obturatus*, pp of *obturare*, fr *ob-* in the way + *-turare* (akin to *tumere* to swell) – more at *ob-*, *thumb*] – *oburator n*, *oburation* /-raɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- obtuse** /əb'tyooʃh/ *adj* 1 lacking sensitivity or mental alertness 2a being or forming an angle greater than 90° but less than 180° **b** having an obtuse angle (<an ~ triangle>) *c* not pointed or acute 3 of a leaf rounded at the end furthest from the stalk  *PLANT* [L *obtus* blunt, dull, fr pp of *obtundere* to beat against, blunt, fr *ob-* against + *tundere* to beat – more at *ob-*, *stutter*] – *obtusely adv*, *obtuseness n*
- obverse** /əbvɜrs/ *adj* 1 facing the observer or opponent 2 with the base narrower than the top (<an ~ leaf>) 3 constituting a counterpart or complement [L *obversus*, fr pp of *obvertere* to turn towards, fr *ob-* towards + *vertere* to turn – more at *ob-*, *worth*] – *obversely adv*
- obverse** *n* 1a the side of a coin, medal, or currency note that bears the principal device and lettering; broadly a front or principal surface – compare REVERSE 4a **b** the more conspicuous of 2 possible sides or aspects 2 a counterpart to a fact or truth
- obviate** /əbviəɪt/ *vt* 1 to anticipate and dispose of in advance 2 to make unnecessary [L *obviatus*, pp of *obviare* to meet, withstand, fr L *obviare* in the way] – *obviation* /-əvɪəʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- obvious** /əbvi-əs/ *adj* 1 evident to the senses or understanding 2 unsubtle (<the symbolism of the novel was rather ~>) [L *obvius*, fr *obviare* in the way, fr *ob* in the way of + *viam*, acc of *via* way – more at *ob-*, *vial*] – *obviously adv*, *obviousness n*
- OC** – see *OB*
- ocarina** /ə'kɑ'renə/ *n* a simple wind instrument with an oval body [It, fr *oca* goose, fr LL *auca*, deriv of L *avis* bird – more at *AVIARY*]
- Occam's razor**, **Ockham's razor** /'ɒkəmz/ *n* an esp philosophical principle that explanations should include as little reference as possible to unknown phenomena [William of Occam (or Ockham) †1349? E scholastic philosopher]
- 'occasion** /s'kayzh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a suitable opportunity or circumstance (<this is hardly the ~ for laughter>) 2 a state of affairs that provides a reason or grounds (<you have no ~ to be annoyed>) 3 the immediate or incidental cause 4 a time at which sth occurs (<on the ~ of his daughter's marriage>) 5 a special event or ceremony (<the wedding was a real ~>) [ME, fr MF

- or L, MF, fr L *occasion-*, *occasio*, fr *oculus*, pp of *occidere* to fall, fall down, fr *ob-* towards + *cadere* to fall – more at *OB-*, *CHANCE*] – on *occasion* from time to time
- occasion** *vt* to bring about; cause – *fmI*
- occasional** /ə'kayzh(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of a particular occasion 2 composed for a particular occasion (< ~ *verse*) 3 occurring at irregular or infrequent intervals 4 acting in a specified capacity from time to time (<an ~ *golfer*) 5 designed for use as the occasion demands (<an ~ *table*)
- occasionally** /ə'kayzh(ə)nli, ə'kayzhnəli/ *adv* NOW AND AGAIN
- Occident** /'oksid(ə)nt/ *n* WEST 2a [ME, fr MF, fr L *occident-*, *occidens*, fr prp of *occidere* to fall, set (of the sun)]
- occidental** /'oksi'dentl/ *adj*, often *cap* of or situated in the Occident, western – **occidentalism** *n*, often *cap*, **occidentalize** *vt*, often *cap*, **occidentally** *adv*, often *cap*
- Occidental** *n* a member of any of the indigenous peoples of the Occident
- occipital** /'ok'sipitl/ *adj* of, situated near, or being the back part of the head or skull – **occipital** *n*, **occipitally** *adv*
- occiput** /'ok'sipət/ *n*, *pl* **occiputs**, **occipita** /'ok'sipitə/ the back part of the head [L *occipit-*, *occiput*, fr *ob-* against + *capit-*, *caput* head – more at *OB-HEAD*]
- occlude** /ə'kloo'd/ *vt* 1 to stop up, block 2 to obstruct, hinder 3 to sorb ~ *vi* 1 of *teeth* to fit together with the cusps of the opposing teeth when the mouth is closed (<his *teeth* do not ~ properly>) 2 to become occluded [L *occludere*, fr *ob-* in the way + *cludere* to shut, close – more at *OB-*, *CLOSE*] – **occludent** *adj*, **occlusive** /-siv-, -ziv/ *adj*
- occluded front** *n* OCCUSION 3
- occlusion** /ə'kloo'zh(ə)n/ *n* 1 occluding or being occluded 2 the complete obstruction of the breath passage in the articulation of a speech sound 3 the meteorological front formed by a cold front overtaking a warm front and lifting the warm air above the earth's surface [prob fr (assumed) NL *occlusion-*, *occlusio*, fr L *occlusus*, pp of *occludere*]
- occult** /'okult, -/ *vt* to conceal by occultation [L *occultare*, fr *occultus*, pp]
- occult** *adj* 1 secret, esp esoteric 2 not easily understood, abstruse 3 involving (secret knowledge of) supernatural powers 4 not present, manifest, or detectable by the unaided eye (< ~ *blood loss*) [L *occultus*, fr pp of *occulere* to cover up, fr *ob-* in the way + *-culere* (akin to *celare* to conceal) – more at *OB-*, *HELL*] – **occult** *n*, **occultly** *adv*
- occultation** /'okult'taysh(ə)n/ *n* the eclipsing of one celestial body by another, usu much larger, one
- occultism** /'okult,tiz(ə)m/ *n* belief in or study of the action or influence of supernatural powers – **occultist** *n*
- occupancy** /'okyoopənsi/ *n* 1 the act of taking and holding possession of land, a property, etc 2 becoming or being an occupant, also being occupied
- occupant** /'okyoopənt/ *n* 1 one who acquires title by occupancy 2 a resident
- occupation** /'okyoopə'paysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a an activity in which one engages b an activity by which one earns a living 2a the occupancy of land b tenure 3a the act of taking possession or the holding and control of a place or area, esp by a foreign military force b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a military force occupying a country c the period of time for which a place or area is occupied [ME *occupacioun*, fr MF *occupation*, fr L *occupation-*, *occupatio*, fr *occupatus*, pp of *occupare*]
- occupational** /'okyoopə'paysh(ə)nəl/ *adj* of or resulting from a particular occupation (< ~ *hazards*) – **occupationally** *adv*
- occupational therapy** *n* creative activity used as therapy for promoting recovery or rehabilitation – **occupational therapist** *n*
- occupy** /'okyoopie/ *vt* 1 to engage the attention or energies of 2 to fill up (a portion of space or time) 3 to take or maintain possession of 4 to reside in or use as an owner or tenant [ME *occupien* to take possession of, occupy, modif of MF *occupare*, fr L *occupare*, fr *ob-* towards + *-cupare* (akin to *capere* to take) – more at *OB-*, *HEAVE*] – **occupier** *n*
- occur** /ə'kuh/ *vi* -rr- 1 to be found, exist 2 to become the case, happen 3 to come to mind (<it ~s to me that I haven't posted the letter>) [L *occurrere*, fr *ob-* in the way + *currere* to run]
- occurrence** /ə'kʊrəns/ *n* 1 sthg that takes place; an event 2 the action or process of occurring
- ocean** /'ohsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (any of the large expanses that together constitute) the whole body of salt water that covers nearly ¾ of the surface of the globe 2 *pl* a huge amount – *fmI* (<no need to hurry, we've got ~s of time>) [ME *oceanus*, fr L *oceanus*, fr Gk *Okeanos*, a river believed to encircle the earth, ocean]
- oceanarium** /'ohsh(ə)n'ɔəriəm/ *n*, *pl* **oceanariums**, **oceanaria** /-ri-ə/ a large marine aquarium
- ocean-going** /-goh-ing/ *adj* of or designed for travel on the ocean
- oceanic** /'ohsh'ənik/ *adj* of, produced by, or occurring in the ocean, esp the open sea
- oceanography** /'ohsh(ə)n'ɒgrəfi/ *n* the science dealing with oceans and their form, biology, and resources [ISV] – **oceanographer** *n*, **oceanographic** /-ə'grəfik/ *also* **oceanographical** *adj*, **oceanographically** *adv*
- ocellus** /'oh'selas, -o-/ *n*, *pl* **ocelli** /-he/ a minute simple eye or eyespot of an invertebrate animal (e.g. an insect)  ANATOMY [NL, fr L, dim of *oculus* eye – more at *EYE*] – **ocellar** *adj*, **ocellate** /'oslayt/, **ocellated** *adj*, **ocellation** /'ohse'laysh(ə)n, -o-/ *n*
- ocelot** /'osə'lot/ *n* a medium-sized American wildcat with a yellow or greyish coat dotted and striped with black [F, fr Nahuatl *ocelotl* jaguar]
- och** /'okh/ *interj*, *Scot* & *Irish* – used to express surprise, impatience, or regret [ScGael & IrGael]
- oche** /'oki/ *n* the line behind which a player must stand when throwing darts at a dartboard, broadly the place where a dart player stands when throwing [prob fr (assumed) ME *oche* groove, notch, fr MF]
- ochre**, *NAm chiefly* **ocher** /'ohkə/ *n* 1 the colour of esp yellow ochre 2 an earthy usu red or yellow (impure) iron ore used as a pigment [ME *oker*, fr MF *ocre*, fr L *ochra*, fr Gk *ochra*, fr fem of *ochros* yellow] – **ochreous** /'ohkri-əs/ *adj*
- ock** /-ək/ *suffix* (– *n*) small or young kind of (<bullock> (<bullock>)) [ME -oc, fr OE]
- ocker** /'oka/ *n*, often *cap*, *Austr* & *NZ* an Australian – *fmI* [origin unknown]
- Ockham's razor** /'okəmz/ *n* OCCAM'S RAZOR
- o'clock** /ə'klok/ *adv* 1 according to the clock – used in specifying the exact hour (<the time is 3 ~>) 2 – used for indicating position or direction as if on a clock dial that is oriented vertically or horizontally (<an aircraft approaching at 6 ~> [confr of the clock])
- octa-** /'ektə-/ *octo-* *also* *oct-* *comb form* 1 eight (<octane>) (<octoroon>) 2 containing 8 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure [Gk *okta-*, *okto-*, *okt-* (fr *okto*) & L *octo-*, *oct-*, fr *octo* – more at *FIGHT*]
- octad** /'oktəd/ *n* a group or series of 8 [Gk *oktad-*, *oktas* number 8, body of 8 men, fr *okto*]
- octagon** /'oktəgon, -gən/ *n* a polygon of 8 angles and 8 sides  MATHEMATICS [L *octagonum*, fr Gk *oktagonon*, fr *okta-* + *-gonon* -gon] – **octagonal** /'oktəgonəl/ *adj*, **octagonally** *adv*
- octahedral** /'oktə'hi:dərəl/ *adj* 1 having 8 plane faces 2 of or formed in octahedrons – **octahedrally** *adv*
- octahedron** /'oktə'hi:dron, -drən/ *n*, *pl* **octahedrons**, **octahedra** /-drə/ a polyhedron of 8 faces [Gk *oktaedron*, fr *okta-* + *-edron* -hedron]
- octal** /'okt(ə)l/ *adj* of, being, or belonging to a number system having 8 as its base
- octameter** /'ok'təmitə/ *n* a line of verse consisting of 8 metrical feet [LL, having 8 feet, fr LGk *oktmetros*, fr *okta-* + *metron* measure – more at *MEASURE*]
- octane** /'oktayn/ *n* a liquid hydrocarbon of the alkane series that occurs esp in petroleum [ISV]
- octane number** *n* a number that is used to measure or indicate the antiknock properties of a liquid motor fuel and that increases as the probability of knocking decreases
- octane rating** *n* OCTANE NUMBER
- octant** /'oktənt/ *n* 1a the position or aspect of a celestial body when distant from another body by 45° b an instrument for measuring altitudes of a celestial body from a ship or aircraft 2 any of the 8 parts into which a space is divided by 3 coordinate planes [L *octant-*, *octans* eighth of a circle, fr *octo*]
- octave** /'oktəv, 'oktayv/ *n* 1 a group of 8 lines of verse, esp the first 8 of a sonnet 2a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 8 diatonic degrees b a note separated from a lower note by this interval c the whole series of notes or piano, organ, etc keys within this interval that form the unit of the modern scale 3 a group of 8 [ME, fr ML *octava*, fr L, fem of *octavus* eighth, fr *octo* eight – more at *EIGHT*]
- octavo** /'ok'tayvoh/ *n*, *pl* **octavos** (a book or page in) the size of a piece of paper cut 8 from a sheet [L, abl of *octavus* eighth]
- octet** /'ok'tet/ *n* 1 (a musical composition for) 8 instruments, voices, or performers 2 OCTAVE 1
- octo-** – see *OCTA-*
- October** /'ok'tohbə/ *n* the 10th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME

- Octobre**, fr OF, fr L *October* (8th month of the Roman calendar), fr *octo*
- octodecimo** /okto'h'desimoh/ *n* eighteenmo [L, abl of *octodecimus* eighteenth, fr *octodecim* eighteen, fr *octo* eight + *decem* ten – more at TEN]
- octogenarian** /okta'ʒeəri-ən/ *n* a person between 80 and 89 years old [L *octogenarius* containing eighty, fr *octogeni* eighty each, fr *octoginta* eighty, fr *octo* eight + *-ginta* (akin to *viginti* twenty) – more at VIGESIMAL] – **octogenarian** *adj*
- octopod** /'okta,pod/ *n* an octopus or related cephalopod mollusc with 8 arms [deriv of Gk *oktopod-*, *oktopous* scorpion, fr *okto* octa- + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT] – **octopod** *adj*, **octopodan** /'ok'topədən, also /'okta'pohdən/ *adj* or *n*, **octopodous** *adj*
- octopus** /'oktəpəs/ *n*, *pl* **octopuses**, **octopi** /-pi/ 1 any of a genus of molluscs related to the squids and cuttlefishes with 8 muscular arms equipped with 2 rows of suckers 2 sthg having many radiating branches, or far-reaching controlling influence [NL *Octopod-*, *Octopus*, genus name, fr Gk *oktopous*]
- otoroon** /'okta,rohn/ *n* a person of ¼ Negro ancestry [*octa-* + *-roon* (as in *quadroon*)]
- octosyllable** /'oktoh,siləbəl, -tə-/ *n* a word or line of 8 syllables – **octosyllabic** /-sɪ'ləbɪk/ *adj*
- ocul**, **oculo-** *comb form* eye (and) <oculomotor> <oculist> [L *ocul-*, fr *oculus* – more at EYE]
- 'ocular** /'okyoolə/ *adj* 1 performed or perceived with the eyes 2 of the eye (< ~ muscles> [LL *ocularis* of eyes, fr L *oculus* eye])
- ocular** *n* an eyepiece
- oculist** /'okyoolɪst/ *n* an ophthalmologist or optician [F *oculiste*, fr L *oculus*]
- od** /od, ohd/ *n* a mysterious force formerly believed to pervade the universe [G (coined by Baron Karl von Reichenbach †1869 G natural philosopher)]
- odalisque** /'ohd(ə)lɪsk/ *n* a female slave or concubine in a harem [F, fr Turk *odalık*]
- odd** /od/ *adj* 1a left over when others are paired or grouped b not matching (< ~ socks> 2 not divisible by 2 without leaving a remainder <1,3,5 are ~ numbers> 3 somewhat more than the specified number – usu in combination <300-odd pages> 4 not regular or planned; casual, occasional (< ~ jobs> <at ~ moments> 5 different from the usual or conventional, strange [ME *odde*, fr ON *oddi* point of land, triangle, odd number; akin to OE *ord* point of a weapon] – **oddy** *adv*, **oddness** *n*
- 'oddball** /-,bawl/ *n* an eccentric or peculiar person – *informal* – **oddball** *adj*
- oddy** /'oddi/ *n* 1 an odd person, thing, event, or trait 2 oddness, strangeness
- odd man 'out** *n* sby or sthg that differs in some respect from all the others in a set or group
- oddmoment** /'odmɒnt/ *n* 1 sthg left over, a remnant 2 *pl* ODDS AND ENDS
- odds** /odz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1a an amount by which one thing exceeds or falls short of another <won the election against considerable ~> b a difference in terms of advantage or disadvantage <it makes no ~> <what's the ~?> 2 the probability (expressed as a ratio) that one thing will happen rather than another <the ~ are that he will be dismissed> <the ~ are 50 to 1 against the newcomer> 3 disagreement, variance <was at ~ with management> 4 the ratio between the amount to be paid off for a winning bet and the amount of the bet <gave ~ of 3 to 1> – **STATISTICS**
- odds and 'ends** *n pl* miscellaneous items or remnants
- odds-on** *adj* 1 (viewed as) having a better than even chance to win <the ~ favourite> 2 not involving much risk <an ~ bet>
- odd trick** *n* each trick in excess of 6 won by the declarer's side at bridge – compare BOOK 6
- ode** /ohd/ *n* a lyric poem, often addressed to a particular subject, marked by a usu exalted tone and varying meter and length of line [MF or LL, MF, fr LL, fr Gk *oîdē*, lit., song, fr *aoidēin*, *aoiden* to sing, akin to Gk *aude* voice, OHG *farwāzan* to deny]
- ode** /-ohd/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 way, path <electrode> 2 electrode <diode> [Gk *-odos*, fr *hodos* road, way]
- odeum** /oh'dee-əm, 'ohdi-əm/ *n*, *pl* **odea** /-ə/ a small roofed theatre of ancient Greece and Rome [L & Gk; L, fr Gk *oideion*, fr *oîdē* song]
- odious** /oh'di-əs/ *adj* arousing hatred or revulsion <an ~ crime> [ME, fr MF *odius*, fr L *odiosus*, fr *odium*] – **odiously** *adv*, **odiousness** *n*
- odium** /oh'di-əm/ *n* general condemnation or disgrace associated with a despicable act – *fml* [L, hatred, fr *odisse* to hate, akin to OE *atol* terrible, Gk *odyssasthai* to be angry]
- odometer** /oh'domitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the distance travelled (e.g. by a vehicle) [F *odometre*, fr Gk *hodomētron*, fr *hodos* way, road + *metron* measure – more at MEASURE]
- odont-**, **odonto-** *comb form* tooth <odontitis> [F, fr Gk *odont-*, *odous* – more at TOOTH]
- odont** /-ə,dont/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having teeth of a (specified) nature <mesodont> [Gk *odont-*, *odous* tooth]
- odontoglossum** /oh,dontə'glosəm, ə-, o-/ *n* any of a genus of tropical American orchids with showy flowers [NL, genus name, fr *odont-* + Gk *glossa* tongue – more at GLOSS]
- odontoid 'process** /oh'dontɔɪd, ə, o-/ *n* a toothlike projection from the front end of the second vertebra in the neck on which the first vertebra and the head rotate
- odontology** /,ohdon'toləʒi, o-/ *n* the science dealing with the (structure, development, and diseases of the) teeth [F *odontologie*, fr *odont-* + *-logie* -logy] – **odontologist** *n*, **odontological** /-tə'lɒjɪkəl/ *adj*
- odoriferous** /,ohdərɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj* yielding a scent or odour – **odoriferously** *adv*
- odorous** /'ohd(ə)rəs/ *adj* having a scent or odour – **odorously** *adv*
- odour**, *NAM chiefly* **odor** /'ohdə/ *n* 1 (the sensation resulting from) a quality of sthg that stimulates the sense of smell 2 repute, favour <in bad ~> – *fml* 3 a characteristic quality, a savour – **chiefly derog** <an ~ of sanctity> [ME *odour*, fr OF, fr L *odor*, akin to L *olere* to smell, Gk *ozein* to smell, *osmē* smell, odour] – **odourless** *adj*
- odyssey** /'odəsi/ *n* a long wandering or quest [the *Odyssey*, epic poem by Homer recounting the long wanderings of Odysseus]
- oecumenical** /,ekyoo'menɪkəl, 'ekyoo-/ *adj* ecumenical
- oedema**, *NAM chiefly* **edema** /'i:demə/ *n* abnormal accumulation of liquid derived from serum causing abnormal swelling of the tissues [NL, fr Gk *oîdema* swelling, fr *oîdein* to swell; akin to OE *ator* pus]
- Oedipus complex** /'eɪdɪpəs, 'edɪpəs/ *n* (an adult personality disorder resulting from) the sexual attraction developed by a child towards the parent of the opposite sex with accompanying jealousy of the parent of the same sex [Oedipus, figure in Gk mythology who unknowingly killed his father and married his mother] – **Oedipal** *adj*
- oeillade** /u'hɪyɑd (Fr *œjad*)/ *n* (amorous or provocative) glance [F, fr MF, fr *œil* eye, fr L *oculus* – more at EYE]
- oenology**, *NAM chiefly* **enology** /ee'noləʒi/ *n* the science of wine and winemaking [Gk *oinos* wine + *-logy*] – **oenologist** *n*
- oenophile**, *NAM chiefly* **enophile** /'enoh.fiel/ *n* a wine connoisseur
- o'er** /əw, 'oh ə/ *adv* or *prep* over – poetic
- oersted** /'u:stəd/ *n* the cgs unit of magnetic field strength [Hans Christian Oersted †1851 Dan physicist]
- oesophag-**, **oesophago-**, *NAM chiefly* **esophag-**, **esophago-** *comb form 1 oesophagus <oesophageal> 2 oesophageal and <oesophagogastric>*
- oesophagus** /ee'sofəʒs/ *n*, *pl* **oesophagi** /-gic/ the muscular tube leading from the back of the mouth to the stomach – **DIGESTION** [ME *ysofagus*, fr Gk *oisophagos*, fr *oîsein* to be going to carry + *phagēin* to eat] – **oesophageal** /ee'sofə'ʒee əl, -'ɔ:--/
- oestr-**, **oestro-**, *NAM chiefly* **estr-**, **estro-** *comb form* (promoting) oestrus <oestrogen>
- oestradiol** /,eestɹə'diə,ol, 'estɹə-/ *n* the major oestrogenic steroid sex hormone in human females, used in treating abnormal absence of menstruation and menopausal symptoms [ISV *oestra-* (fr *oestron*, an oestrogenic hormone) + *di-* + *-ol*]
- oestriol** /'estɹɪ,ol, 'estɹ,ol/ *n* an oestrogenic steroid hormone used esp in the treatment of menopausal symptoms [oestrin + *tri-* + *-ol*]
- oestrogen** /'estɹəʒ(ə)n, 'estɹə-/ *n* a substance, esp a sex hormone, that stimulates the development of secondary sex characteristics in female vertebrates and promotes oestrus in lower mammals [NL *oestrus* + ISV *-o-* + *-gen*] – **oestrogenic** /-ʒenɪk/ *adj*, **oestrogenically** *adv*
- oestrone** /'estɹohn, 'estɹohn/ *n* an oestrogenic steroid hormone that is a derivative of oestradiol and has similar actions and uses [ISV, fr *oestron* (an oestrogenic hormone)]
- oestrus** /'estɹəs, 'estɹəs/ *n* a regularly recurrent state of sexual excitability in the female of most lower mammals when she will copulate with the male [NL, fr L *oestrus* gadfly, frenzy, fr Gk *oistros* – more at IRE] – **oestral**, **oestrous** *adj*
- 'oestrus, cycle** *n* the series of changes in a female mammal occurring from one period of oestrus to the next
- oeuvre** /u'hvə (Fr *œvr*)/ *n pl* **oeuvres** /~/ the life's work of a writer, artist, or composer [F *œuvre*, lit., work, fr L *opera* – more at OPERA]
- of** /əv; strong ov/ *prep* 1a – used to indicate origin or derivation <a man

~ noble birth) <they expect it ~ me> b - used to indicate cause, motive, or reason <died ~ pneumonia> <did it ~ her own free will> c proceeding from; on the part of <the approval ~ the minister> <the buzzing ~ the bees> <very kind ~ him> d BY 4a(2) <the plays ~ Shaw> 2a(1) composed or made from <a crown ~ gold> <a staff ~ teachers> <a family ~ 5> (2) using as a material <what did he make the crown ~?> <made the dress ~ silk rather than cotton> b containing <cup ~ water> c - used to indicate the mass noun or class that includes the part denoted by the previous word <an inch ~ rain> <a blade ~ grass> d from among <most ~ the army> <one ~ his last poems> <the fattest ~ the girls> <members ~ the team> <she, ~ all people> <the elder ~ the two> 3a belonging to, related to <the leg ~ the chair> <the colour ~ her dress> <the relatives ~ those who were killed> <the wife ~ the managing director> <the hat ~ the old gentleman> b that is or are - used before possessive forms <a friend ~ John's> <that nose ~ his> c characterized by, with, having <a man ~ courage> <an area ~ hills> <a woman ~ no importance> <suicases ~ a suitable size> d connected with <the king ~ England> <a teacher ~ French> <a smell ~ mice> <the time ~ arrival> e existing or happening in or on <the battle ~ Blenheim> <my letter ~ the 19th> 4a relating to (a topic), concerning <stories ~ his travels> <dreamed ~ home> <what ~ it?> b in respect to <slow ~ speech> <north ~ the lake> <have hopes ~ him> <fond ~ chocolate> <guilty ~ murder> c directed towards <love ~ nature> <care ~ guinea pigs> <the shooting ~ seals> <ask a question ~ him> d - used to show separation or removal <ceased ~ pain> <cured him ~ mumps> <cheated him ~ his rights> e - used as a function word to indicate a whole or quantity from which a part is removed or expended <gave ~ his time> 5 - used to indicate apposition <the city ~ Rome> <the age ~ 8> <the art ~ painting> 6 NAM to (a specified hour) <a quarter ~ four> 7 in, during <died ~ a Monday> <go there ~ an evening> - infml [ME, off, of, fr OE, adv & prep; akin to OHG aba off, away, L ab from, away, Gk apo] - of a - like <that palace of a house> <that brute of a dog> - used after expressions of strong feeling

of - see OF

**ofay** /'oh,fay/, -/ n a white person - derog [origin unknown]

**off** /'of/ adv 1a(1) from a place or position <march ~> <frigten them ~>, specif away from land <ship stood ~ to sea> (2) away in space or ahead in time <stood 10 paces ~> <Christmas is a week ~> b from a course; aside <turned ~ into a lay-by>; specif away from the wind c into sleep or unconsciousness <dozed ~> 2a so as to be not supported <rolled to the edge of the table and ~>, not in close contact <took his coat ~>, or not attached <handle came ~> b so as to be divided <surface marked ~ into squares> <a corner screened ~> 3a to or in a state of discontinuance or suspension <shut ~ an engine> <game was rained ~> <the radio is ~> b so as to be completely finished or no longer existent <finish it ~> <kill them ~> <walk it ~> <sleep it ~> c in or into a state of putrefaction <cream's gone ~> d (as if) by heart <know it ~ pat> 4 away from an activity or function <the night shift went ~> <take time ~ for lunch> 5 offstage <noises ~> 6 to a sexual climax <brought him ~> - slang [ME of, fr OE - more at OF]

**off prep** 1a - used to indicate physical separation or distance from <take it ~ the table> <jumped ~ his bicycle> <wear it ~ the shoulder> b to seaward of <2 miles ~ shore> c lying or turning aside from; adjacent to <a shop just ~ the high street> d (slightly) away from - often in combination <a week ~ work> <completely ~ the point> <off-target> <off-centre> 2 - used to indicate the source from which sth derives or is obtained <dined ~ oysters> <bought it ~ a friend> <claim it ~ tax> 3a not occupied in (~ duty) b tired of; no longer interested in or using <he's ~ drugs> <I've gone ~ science fiction> c below the usual standard or level of (~ his game)

**off adj** 1a FAR 3 b seaward c being the right-hand one of a pair <the ~ wheel of a cart> d situated to one side; adjoining <bedroom with dressing room ~> 2a started on the way (~ on a spree) b not taking place or staying in effect; cancelled <the match is ~> c of a dish on a menu no longer being served 3a not up to standard; unsatisfactory in terms of achievement <an ~ day> b slack (~ season) 4 affected (as if) with putrefaction <this fish is ~> 5 provided <well ~> <how are you ~ for socks?> 6a in, on, through, or towards the off side of a cricket field b esp of a ball bowled in cricket moving or tending to move in the direction of the leg side (~ break) 7 of behaviour not what one has a right to expect; esp rather unkind or dishonest <it was a bit ~ to leave without a word of thanks!> - infml

**off vi** to go away; leave

**off n** the start or outset; also a starting signal <ready for the ~>

**offal** /'ofl/ n 1 the by-products of milling used esp for animal feeds 2

the liver, heart, kidney, etc of a butchered animal used as food 3 refuse [ME, fr of off + fall]

**off and on** adv FROM TIME TO TIME

**offbeat** /-beet/ adj unusual, esp unconventional - infml

**off Broadway** /'brawdweɪ/ adj or n often cap O (of) a part of the New York professional theatre that is located outside the theatrical Broadway area and stresses fundamental and artistic values

**off-chance** n a remote possibility - on the off chance just in case <came on the off chance of seeing you>

**off-colour** adj 1 unwell <feeling a bit ~> 2 chiefly NAM somewhat indecent; risqué

**offcut** /-kut/ n a piece (e.g. of paper or wood) that is left after the original piece required has been cut

**offence**, **NAM chiefly offense** /'ɔ:fens/ n 1 sth that occasions a sense of outrage 2 (an) attack, assault 3 displeasure, resentment 4a a sin or misdeed b an illegal act, a crime 5 chiefly NAM ATTACK 6 [ME, fr MF, fr L *offensa*, fr *offensus*, pp of *offendere*] - **offenceless** adj

**offend** /'ɔ:fend/ vi 1 to break a moral or divine law - often + **against** 2 to cause displeasure, difficulty, or discomfort ~ vt 1 to cause pain or displeasure to, hurt <colours that ~ the eye> 2 to cause to feel indignation or disgust [ME *offenden*, fr MF *offendre*, fr L *offendere* to strike against, offend, fr *ob-* against + *-fendere* to strike - more at *OB-*, *DEFFND*] - **offender** n

**offensive** /'ɔ:fensiv/ adj 1a aggressive, attacking b of or designed for attack (~ weapons) 2 arousing physical disgust, repellent 3 causing indignation or outrage - **offensively** adv, **offensiveness** n

**offensive** n 1 the position or attitude of an attacking party <took the ~> 2 an esp military attack on a large scale

**offer** /'ofə/ vt 1 to present (e.g. a prayer or sacrifice) in an act of worship or devotion - often + **up** 2a to present for acceptance, rejection, or consideration b to present in order to satisfy a requirement <candidates may ~ Welsh as one of their foreign languages> 3 to declare one's willingness <~ed to help me> 4 to put up <~ed stubborn resistance> 5a to make available, afford <the hotel ~s a full range of facilities> b to present (goods) for sale 6 to present in performance or exhibition 7 to tender as payment, bid ~ vi 1 to make an offer for consideration, acceptance, etc 2 to present itself, occur [(vt 1) ME *offren*, fr OE *offran*, fr LL *offerre*, fr L, to present, tender, fr *ob-* towards + *ferre* to carry, (2-7 & vi) ME *offren*, fr OF *offrnr*, fr L *offerre* "more at *OB-*, *BLAR*]

**offer n** 1a a proposal, specif a proposal of marriage b an undertaking to do or give sth on a specific condition 2 a price named by a prospective buyer - **on offer** being offered, **specif** for sale, esp at a reduced price - **under offer** sold subject to the signing of contracts - used in connection with sales of real estate

**offering** /'of(ə)rɪŋ/ n 1 the act of one who offers 2 sth offered, esp a sacrifice ceremonially offered as a part of worship 3 a contribution to the support of a church or other religious organization

**offertory** /'ɔ:fət(ə)rɪ/ n 1 often cap (a text said or sung during) the offering of the Communion bread and wine to God before consecration 2 (the collection and presentation of) the offerings of the congregation at public worship [ML *offertorium*, fr *offerus*, pp of LL *offerre*]

**offhand** /,of'hand/ adv or adj 1 without forethought or preparation 2 without proper attention or respect - **offhanded** adj, **offhandedly** adv, **offhandedness** n

**office** /'ɒfɪs/ n 1 an esp beneficial service or action carried out for another <through her good ~s I recovered my belongings> 2a a position giving authority to exercise a public function <the ~ of Prime Minister> b a position with special duties or responsibilities 3 a prescribed form or service of worship; esp, cap **DIVINE OFFICE** 4a a place, esp a large building, where the business of a particular organization is carried out b (a group of people sharing) a room in which the administrative, clerical, or professional work of an organization is performed c a place, esp a small room, where a particular service is provided <the lost property ~> 5a cap a major administrative unit in some governments <the Foreign Office> b a subdivision of some government departments [ME, fr OF, fr L *officium* service, duty, office, fr *opus* work + *facere* to make, do - more at *OPERATE*, *DO*]

**office boy**, **fem** **office girl** n a young person employed to run errands in an office

**officer** /'ɒfɪsə/ n 1 a policeman 2 one who holds a position with special duties or responsibilities (e.g. in a government or business) 3a one who holds a position of authority or command in the armed forces; specif a commissioned officer b a master or any of the mates of a merchant or passenger ship [ME, fr MF *officier*, fr ML *officiarius*, fr L *officium*]

- officer** *vt* 1 to supply with officers 2 to command or direct as an officer
- officer of arms** *n* any of the officers of a monarch or government responsible for creating and granting heraldic arms
- official** /'ɒfɪʃ(ə)l/ *n* one who holds an esp public office <government ~s> - **officialdom** /-d(ə)m/ *n*, **officialise** /-'eɪz/ *n*
- official** *adj* 1 of an office and its duties 2 holding an office 3a authoritative, authorized b prescribed or recognized as authorized, esp by a pharmacopoeia 4 suitable for or characteristic of a person in office, formal - **officially** *adv*
- officialism** /-'ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the lack of flexibility and excessive adherence to routine held to characterize the behaviour of esp government officials
- Official Receiver** *n* a public official appointed to administer a bankrupt's property
- officiate** /'ɒfɪʃiənt/ *vi* 1 to perform an esp religious ceremony, function, or duty <~ at a wedding> 2 to act as an official or in an official capacity - **officiant** /-ənt/ *n*, **officiation** /-'aɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- official** /'ɒfɪʃiəl/ *adj* 1 kept ready-prepared at a pharmacy <~ medicine>, also **OFFICIAL** 3b 2 medicinal <~ herbs> [ML *officinalis* of a storeroom, fr *officina* storeroom, fr L, workshop, fr *opific-*, *opifex* workman, fr *opus* work + *facere* to do] - **official** *n*, **officially** *adv*
- officialious** /'ɒfɪʃiəs/ *adj* 1 given to or marked by overzealousness in exercising authority or carrying out duties 2 esp of a diplomatic agreement informal, unofficial [L *officiosus*, fr *officium* service, office] - **officialously** *adv*, **officialiousness** *n*
- offing** /'ɒfɪŋ/ *n* the part of the deep sea visible from the shore ['off] - in the offing likely to happen in the near future <thought more unemployment was in the offing>
- offish** /'ɒfɪʃ/ *adj* inclined to be aloof or distant - *infrml* ['off] - **offishly** *adv*, **offishness** *n*
- off-key** *adj* varying in pitch from the proper tone of a melody
- off-licence** *n*, *Br* a shop, part of a public house, etc licensed to sell alcoholic drinks to be consumed off the premises, also the licence permitting such sale - **off-licencee** /-tʃi-/ *n*
- off-limits** *adv* or *adj*, chiefly *NAm & Austr* out-of-bounds
- off-line** *adj* not controlled directly by a computer <~ equipment> - compare **ON-LINE** - **off-line** *adv*
- off-load** *vt* UNLOAD 1, 2
- off-off-Broadway** *adj* or *n* (of) avant-garde theatrical productions in New York
- off-peak** *adj* (used) at a time of less than the maximum demand or activity <~ electricity> <~ travel>
- off-print** /-prɪnt/ *n* a separately printed excerpt (e.g. an article from a magazine) - **offprint** *vt*
- off-putting** *adj*, chiefly *Br* disagreeable, disconcerting - *infrml*
- off-sales** *n pl*, *Br* drinks and food sold, esp by a public house, for consumption off the premises
- off-scouring** /-'skɔʊərɪŋ/ *n* refuse, dregs - often *pl* with sing. meaning
- offscreen** /-'skriːn/ *adv* or *adj* out of sight of the film or television viewer
- off-season** *n* a time of suspended or reduced activity
- off-set** /-set/ *n* 1 a short shoot or bulb growing out to the side from the base of a plant 2a an offshoot, esp of a family or race b a spur in a range of hills 3 an abrupt bend in an object by which one part is turned aside out of line 4 sthg that serves to compensate for sthg else 5 a printing process in which an inked impression from a plate is first made on a rubber surface and then transferred to paper
- off-set** *vt* -*it*; **offset** 1a to balance <credits ~ debits> b to compensate or make up for 2 to print (e.g. a book) by using the offset process
- offset litho** *n* offset printing from photolithographic plates
- off-shoot** /-'shuːt/ *n* 1 a branch of a plant's main stem 2a a lateral branch (e.g. of a mountain range) b a subsidiary branch, descendant, or member
- off-shore** /-'ʃɔː/ *adj* or *adv* 1 (coming or moving) away from the shore 2 at a distance from the shore
- offshore fund** *n* a form of unit trust that is registered abroad, usu in countries offering tax advantages
- off-side** /-'sɪd/ *adv* or *adj* illegally in advance of the ball or puck in a team game
- off-side** *n* 1 the part of a cricket field on the opposite side of a line joining the middle stumps to that in which the batsman stands when playing a ball - compare **LEG SIDE** - **SPORT** 2 chiefly *Br* the right side of a horse, vehicle, etc
- offspring** /-'sprɪŋ/ *n, pl* **offspring** the progeny of a person, animal, or plant, young [ME *ofspring*, fr OE, fr *of* off + *sprangan* to spring]
- offstage** /-'steɪ/ *adv* or *adj* 1 on a part of the stage not visible to the audience 2 behind the scenes; away from the public gaze
- off-the-cuff** *adj* or *adv* impromptu - *infrml*
- off-the-peg** *adj*, chiefly *Br* (of or dealing in clothes) made beforehand to fit standard sizes - compare **MADE-TO-MEASURE** - **off-the-peg** *adv*
- off-the-record** *adj* or *adv* (given or made) unofficially or in confidence
- off-white** *n* or *adj* (a) yellowish or greyish white
- oft** /ɒft/ *adv* often - poetic [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *ofto* often]
- often** /'ɒft(ə)n/ *adv* 1 (at) many times 2 in many cases <they ~ die young> [ME, alter of *oft*]
- ogee** /'oʊʒeɪ/ *n* 1 (a moulding in the form of) a shallow S-shaped curve 2 **ogee arch**, **ogee** a pointed arch with shallow S-shaped sides **USE** ARCHITECTURE [obs *ogee* (ogive), fr the use of such mouldings in ogives]
- ogham**, **ogam** /'oɡəm, 'oʊ-əm/ *n* a 20-character Old Irish alphabet that used notches for vowels and lines that met at or cut across a straight line (e.g. the edge of a stone) for consonants [IrGael *ogham*, fr *MLr* *ogom*, *ogum*] - **oghamic** /'oɡəmɪk, 'oʊ-əmɪk/ *adj*
- ogival** /'oʊʒiəl/ *adj* (having the form of) an ogive or an ogee
- ogive** /'oʊʒiəv/ *n* a diagonal arch or rib across a Gothic vault [F]
- ogle** /'oʊɡl/ *vb* **ogling** /'oʊɡlɪŋ/ to glance or stare with esp sexual interest (at) [prob fr LG *oegeln*, fr *oog* eye, akin to OHG *ouga* eye - more at **EYE**] - **ogle** *n*, **ogler** *n*
- ogre** /'oʊɡr/ *ferm* **ogress** /'oʊɡrɪs/ *n* 1 a hideous giant of folklore believed to feed on human beings 2 a dreaded person or thing - compare **SPECTRE** 2 [F] - **ogreish** *adj*
- oh**, **O** /oh/ *interj* - used to express surprise, pain, disappointment, etc [ME *o*]
- oh**, **O** *n* nought [o, fr the similarity of the symbol for nought (0) to the letter O]
- ohm** /ohm/ *n* the derived SI unit of electrical resistance equal to the resistance between 2 points of a conductor when a constant potential difference of 1 volt applied to these points produces a current of 1 ampere **PHYSICS** [Georg Simon *Ohm* †1854 G physicist] - **ohmic** *adj*, **ohmically** *adv*
- ohmmeter** /'ohm,miːtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring electrical resistance [ISV]
- oho** /'oh'hoh/ *interj* - used to express amused surprise, exultation, etc [ME]
- oi** /ɔɪ/ *n* a style of music popular among some young white people in the early 1980s, characterized by a strong jerky rhythm and lyrics often advocating racism and violence <*an ~ band*> <~ music> [prob fr *oi*, *oy*, *interj* used to attract attention, express warning, etc]
- oic** /-'ɔɪk/ *suffix* (-*adj*) containing a (derivative of a) carboxyl group <L *zoic acid*> [-*o-* + -*ic*]
- oid** /-'ɔɪd/ *suffix* (-*n*) sthg resembling (a specified object) or having (a specified quality) <*globoid*> <*asteroid*>
- oid** *suffix* (-*n, adj*) 1 resembling, having the form or appearance of <*petaloid*> <*anthropoid*> 2 bearing an imperfect resemblance to <*humanoid*> [MF & L, MF *-oide*, fr L *-oides*, fr Gk *-oidēs*, fr *-ō-* + *eidos* appearance, form - more at **WISE**]
- oidium** /'ɔɪdi-əm/ *n, pl* **oidia** /-'di-ə/ 1 any of (the small asexual spores borne in chains by) various fungi many of which are the spore-bearing stages of powdery mildews 2 a powdery mildew, esp on grapes, caused by an oidium [NL, fr *o-* + -*idium*]
- oil** /ɔɪl/ *n* 1 any of numerous smooth greasy combustible liquids or low melting-point solids that are insoluble in water but dissolve in organic solvents 2 a substance (e.g. a cosmetic preparation) of oily consistency 3a **OIL PAINT** <a portrait done in ~s> b **OIL PAINTING** 4 petroleum **ENERGY** [ME *oile*, fr OF, fr L *oleum* olive oil, fr Gk *elaion*, fr *elaia* olive] - **oil** *adj*
- oil** *vt* to treat or lubricate with oil ~ *vi* to change from a solid fat into an oil by melting - **oilier** *n* - **oil the wheels** to help things run smoothly
- oilbird** /-'buːd/ *n* a nocturnal bird of S America and Trinidad valued because oil can be extracted from the fat of its young and used as a substitute for butter
- oil cake** *n* the solid residue left after extracting the oil from seeds (e.g. of cotton)
- oilcan** /-'kan/ *n* a vessel with a nozzle designed to release oil in a controlled flow (e.g. for lubricating machinery)
- oilcloth** /-'kloʊθ/ *n* cloth treated with oil or paint and used for table and shelf coverings



**'oil, colour** *n* OIL PAINT

**'oil, field** *n* a region rich in petroleum deposits, esp one producing petroleum in commercial quantities

**'oil, gland** *n* a gland that secretes oil, esp UROPHYAL GLAND

**'oil, paint** *n* paint consisting of ground pigment mixed with oil

**'oil, painting** *n* (a product of) the art of painting with oil paints

**'oil, palm** *n* an African palm with fruit that yields palm oil

**'oil, seed** */-seed/ n* a seed or crop (e.g. rape) grown largely for oil

**'oil, shale** *n* shale from which oil can be distilled

**'oil, skin** */-skin/ n* 1 an oiled waterproof cloth used for coverings and garments 2 an oilskin or plastic raincoat 3 *pl* an oilskin or plastic suit of coat and trousers

**'oil, slick** *n* a film of oil floating on water

**'oil, stone** */-stohn/ n* a sharpening stone used with a surface coating of oil

**'oil, well** *n* a well drilled in the earth from which petroleum is obtained

**oily** */oyli/ adj* 1 of, resembling, containing, or covered with oil 2 unctuous, ingratiating – *oilyly adv*, *oiliness n*

**oink** */oyngk/ n* the grunt of a pig – *humor* [imit] – *oink vi*

**ointment** */oyntmənt/ n* a soothing or healing salve for application to the skin [ME, alter of *oignement*, fr OF, modif of L *unguentum*, fr *ungere* to anoint, akin to OHG *ancho* butter, Skt *anjati* he salves]

**Ojibwa, Ojibway** */ohjibway/ n, pl Ojibwas, Ojibways, esp collectively Ojibwa, Ojibway* a member, or the Algonquian language, of an American Indian people orig of Michigan [Ojibwa *ojib-ubway*, a kind of moccasin worn by the Ojibwa]

**'OK, okay** */oh'kay, '-/-/ adv, adj, or interj* ALL RIGHT [perh abbr of *oil korrek*, alter of *all correct*]

**OK, okay** */oh'kay/ vt or n* OK's; OK'ing; OK'd (to give) approval or authorization (of), sanction

**okapi** */oh'kahpi/ n* an African mammal closely related to the giraffe but with a shorter neck and black and cream rings on the upper parts of the legs [native name in Africa]

**okeyoake** */ohki'dohk/, okeydokey /-'dohki/ interj* – used to express assent [redupl of OK]

**okra** */ohkra, 'okra/ n* 1 a tall annual plant of the mallow family, cultivated for its mucilaginous green pods used as a vegetable, esp in soups and stews, also the pods of this plant 2 GUMBO 1 [of African origin, akin to Twi *ŋ'ku'rū'mā'* okra]

**-ol** *suffix* (→ *n*) chemical compound containing a hydroxyl group, alcohol [*glycerol*] [*phenol*] [*ethanol*] [ISV, fr *alcohol*]

**'old** */ohld/ adj* 1a dating from the esp remote past (< *traditions*) b persisting from an earlier time (< *an ~ ailment*) c of long standing (< *an ~ friend*) 2 *cap* constituting an early period in the development of a language [Old Irish] 3 having existed for a specified period of time (< 3 years ~) 4 advanced in years or age 5 experienced (< *an ~ hand*) 6 former 7a made long ago, esp worn with time or use b no longer in use, discarded 8a long familiar (< *the same ~ story*) b – used as an intensive (< *a high ~ time*) (< *any ~ time*) [ME, fr OF *eald*; akin to OHG *alt* old, L *alere* to nourish, *alescere* to grow, *altus* high, deep] – *oldish adj*, *oldness n*

**'old** *n* 1 old or earlier time (< *men of ~*) 2 one of a specified age – *usu* in combination (< *a 3-year-old*)

**old Adam** */ˈɑdəm/ n* the sinful nature inherent in man [Adam, the first man & first sinner, according to the Bible (Gen 2.7-3.24)]

**old age** *n* the final stage of the normal life span

**old age pension** *n* a state pension paid to retired people *old age pensioner n*

**old boy, fem, old girl** *n, chiefly Br* 1 a former pupil of a particular, esp public, school 2 a fellow or friend – often used as an informal term of address


**old boy network** *n, chiefly Br* the system of favouritism operating among people of a similar privileged background, esp among former pupils of public schools

**Old Church Slavonic** *n* a Slavonic language surviving as the liturgical language of the Orthodox church

**old contemptibles** *n pl, often cap O&C* the British expeditionary force in France in 1914 – *infrml* [fr the alleged description of it by the Emperor of Germany as a 'contemptible little army']

**'old, country** *n* an immigrant's country of origin

**olden** */ohldn/ adj* of a bygone era – *poetic*

**Old English** *n* the English language of the 7th to 11th c 

LANGUAGE

**Old English sheepdog** *n* (any of) an English breed of medium-sized sheepdogs with a very long shaggy coat

**old-world** */ohld 'wuhld; often ohldi 'wuhldi/ adj* (excessively or falsely) old-world [by alter (pseudo-antique spelling)]

**old-fashioned** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a past era; outdated 2 clinging to customs of a past era – *old-fashionedly adv*

**old-fashioned look** *n* a knowing or disapproving look

**Old French** *n* the French language from the 9th to approximately the late 14th c

**old gold** *n or adj* (a) dull brownish yellow

**old guard** *n sing or pl in constr, often cap O&G* the (original) conservative members of a group or party

**old hand** *n* VETERAN 1

**old hat** *adj* 1 old-fashioned 2 hackneyed, trite

**Old High German** *n* High German before the 12th c

**oldie** */ohldi/ n* sby or sthg old; esp a popular song from the past

**old lady** *n* one's wife or mother – *infrml*

**old maid** *n* 1 SPINSTER 2 2 a simple card game in which each player tries to avoid holding a designated unpaired card at the end 3 a prim fussy person – *infrml* – *old-maidish adj*

**old man** *n* 1 one's husband or father 2 one in authority (e.g. one's employer, manager, or commander) – + *the USE* *infrml*

**old-man's beard** *n* TRAVELLER'S JOY

**old master** *n* (a work by) a distinguished European painter of the 16th to early 18th c

**Old Nick** */nik/ n* – used as an informal or humorous name for the devil [Nick, nickname for Nicholas]

**Old North French** *n* the northern dialects of Old French, esp of Normandy and Picardy

**old penny** *n* PENNY 1a(1)

**Old Prussian** *n* a Baltic language of E Prussia until the 17th c

**old school** *n* adherents of traditional ideas and practices

**old school tie** *n* 1 a tie displaying the colours of an English public school, worn by former pupils 2 the conservatism and upper-class solidarity traditionally attributed to former members of British public schools

**old stager** */ˈstæjə/ n* VETERAN 1

**oldster** */ohldstə/ n, chiefly NAM* an old or elderly person – *infrml*

**Old Style** *adj or adv* according to the Julian calendar

**Old Testament** *n* a collection of writings forming the Jewish canon of Scripture and the first part of the Christian Bible

**old-time** *adj* (characteristic) of an earlier period

**old-timer** *n* 1 VETERAN 1 2 *chiefly NAM* an old man

**old wives' tale** *n* a traditional superstitious notion

**old woman** *n* 1 one's wife or mother 2 a timid, prim, or fussy person, esp a man – *derog USE* *infrml*

**old-world** *adj* 1 of the E hemisphere 2 reminiscent of a past age, esp quaintly charming

**Old World** *n* the E Hemisphere, specif Europe, Asia, and Africa

**oleo-** *oleo-* *comb form* oil (< *oleic*) [F *olé-*, *oléo-*, fr L *ole-*, fr *oleum* – more at OIL]

**olé** */oh'lay/ interj* – used as a cry of approval or success, esp at bullfights [Sp *ole*, *olé*, fr Ar *wa-llah*, fr *wa-* and + *allah* God]

**oleaginous** */ohli'ajinas/ adj* resembling, containing, or producing oil; only [MF *oleagineux*, fr L *oleagineus* of an olive tree, fr *olea* olive tree, fr Gk *elaia*] – *oleagiously adv*, *oleaginousness n*

**oleander** */ohli'anda/ n* a poisonous evergreen shrub of the periwinkle family with fragrant white, pink, or red flowers [ML]

**oleaster** */ohli'asta/ n* any of several large shrubs or small trees having yellow flowers and planted esp to provide shelter in dry windy regions [L, fr *olea*]

**olefin, olefine** */ohli,fin, -feen/ n* an alkene [ISV, fr F (gaz) *oléfiant* ethylene, fr L *oleum*] – *olefinic /-'finik/ adj*

**oleic** */oh'lee-ik/ adj* 1 relating to, derived from, or contained in oil 2 of oleic acid – *oleate* */ohliayt/ n*

**oleic acid** *n* an unsaturated fatty acid found as glycerides in natural fats and oils

**oleograph** */ohli-ə,grafi-, -graf/ n* a chromolithograph printed on cloth to resemble an oil painting [ISV *ole-* + *-graph*] – *oleographic /-'grafik/ adj*, *oleography /-'ografi/ n*

**oleoresin** */ohlioh'rezin/ n* a solution of resin in oil occurring naturally as a plant product (e.g. turpentine) or made synthetically [ISV] – *oleoresinous adj*

**oleum** */ohli-əm/ n* a heavy oily strongly corrosive solution of sulphur trioxide in sulphuric acid [L – more at OIL]



**'O level** *n* ORDINARY LEVEL

**olfaction** /ol'fakʃ(ə)n/ *n* smelling or the sense of smell [L *olfactus*, pp of *olfacere* to smell, fr *olere* to smell + *facere* to do – more at ODOUR, DO] – **olfactive** /-tɪv/, **olfactory** /-t(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**olig-** /olɪg-, **oligo-** *comb form* few (oligarchy) [ML, fr Gk, fr *oligos*, akin to Arm *alkat* scant]

**oligarch** /olɪgɑ:k/ *n* a member of an oligarchy [Gk *oligarches*, fr *olig-* + *-archēs* -arch]

**oligarchy** /olɪgɑ:khi/ *n* 1 government by a small group 2 a state or organization in which a small group exercises control, esp for its own interests 3 a small group exercising such control – **oligarchic** /-gɑ:khi/, **oligarchical** *adj*

**Oligocene** /olɪgə'si:n/, 'olɪgə'si:n/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an epoch of the Tertiary between the Eocene and Miocene → EVOLUTION [ISV]

**oligochaete** /olɪgə'keɪtə, 'olɪgə'keɪtə, -keɪt, 'olɪgə'keɪt(ə)/ *n* or *adj* (any) of a class of freshwater and ground-living annelid worms (e.g. the earthworm) with relatively few bristles along the body – compare POLYCHAETE [NL *Oligochaeta*, class or order name, fr Gk *olig-* + *chaete* long hair]

**oligoclase** /olɪgə'klaɪs, 'olɪgə'klaɪs/ *n* a common feldspar mineral of the plagioclase series found in many rocks (e.g. granite) [G *oligoklas*, fr *olig-* + Gk *klas* breaking, fr *klan* to break – more at HALT]

**oligomer** /olɪgə'mə/ *n* (an intermediate in the synthesis of) a polymer containing relatively few structural units [*olig-* + *-mer* (as in *polymer*)] – **oligomeric** /-mə'ri:k/ *adj*, **oligomerization** /-mə'reɪzə'sh(ə)n/ *n*

**oligopoly** /olɪgə'pɒli/ *n* a market situation in which each of a few producers affects but does not control the market [*olig-* + *monopoly*] – **oligopolist** *n*, **oligopolistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**olivaceous** /olɪ'veɪʃəs/ *adj* olive

**'olive** /'ɒlv, *n* 1 (an Old World evergreen tree that grows esp around the Mediterranean and bears) a small stone fruit used as a food and a source of oil 2 olive, olive green a dull yellowish green colour resembling that of an unripe olive [ME, fr OF, fr L *oliva*, fr Gk *elaia*]

**'olive**, **olive** 'green *adj* of the colour olive

**olive branch** *n* an offer or gesture of conciliation or goodwill

**olivine** /'ɒlvi:n/, -'vɪ-/ *n* a usu greenish mineral that is a silicate of magnesium and iron [G *olivin*, fr L *oliva*] – **olivinic** /-vɪ'nɪk/ *adj*, **olivinitic** /-vɪ'nɪtɪk/ *adj*

**olm** /oʊlm, olm/ *n* a European cave-dwelling aquatic salamander with nonfunctional eyes [G, fr OHG]

**ology** /'ɒləʒi/ *n* SCIENCE 1a, c – humor [-ology (as in *geology*, *psychology*)]

**oloroso** /'ɒlə'rɒʃəʊ, 'ɒlə-/ *n*, *pl* **olorosos** a golden full-bodied sweet 'sherry [Sp, fr *oloroso* fragrant, fr *olor* odour, fr L, fr *olere* to smell]

**olympiad** /'ɒlɪmpɪəd/ *n*, often *cap* 1 any of the 4-year intervals between Olympic games by which time was reckoned in ancient Greece 2 OLYMPIC GAMES [MF *Olympiade*, fr L *Olympiad-*, *Olympias*, fr Gk, fr *Olympia*, site in Greece of ancient Olympic games]

**'Olympian** /'ɒlɪmpɪ-ən/ *adj* of the ancient Greek region of Olympia

**'Olympian** *n*, chiefly NAM a participant in the Olympic Games

**'Olympian** *adj* 1 of Mount Olympus in Thessaly 2 lofty, detached

**'Olympian** *n* 1 an inhabitant of the ancient Greek region of Olympia 2 any of the ancient Greek deities dwelling on Olympus 3 a lofty detached or superior person

**Olympian 'Games** *n pl* a festival held every 4th year by the ancient Greek states and consisting of contests of sports, music, and literature

**Olympic** /'ɒlɪmpɪk/ *adj* 1 OLYMPIAN 2 of or executed in the Olympic Games

**Olympic 'Games** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *pl* Olympic Games an international sports meeting that is a modified revival of the Olympic games and is held once every 4 years in a different host country

**Olympics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, *pl* Olympics OLYMPIC GAMES

**-oma** /-'ɒmə/ *suffix* (– *n*), *pl* **-omas**, **-omata** /-'ɒmətə, -'mətə/ tumour (adenoma) (fibroma) [L *-oma*, *-oma*, fr Gk *-omat-*, *-oma*, fr *-o-* (stem of causative verbs in *-oun*) + *-mat-*, *-ma*, suffix denoting result – more at -MENT]

**omasum** /oh'mays(ə)m/ *n*, *pl* **omasa** /-sə/ the third stomach of a ruminant mammal, lying between the reticulum and the abomasum [NL, fr L, tripe of a bullock]

**ombre** /'ɒmbə/ *n* a 3-handed card game popular in Europe in the 17th and 18th c [F or Sp; F *hombre*, fr Sp, lit., man]

**ombré** /'ɒmbreɪ/ *adj*, esp of fabrics graduated in colour from light to dark [F, pp of *ombrer* to shade, fr It *ombrare*, fr *ombra* shade, fr L *umbra* – more at UMBRAGE]

**ombudsman** /'ɒmbudzsmən/ *n* a government official appointed to

investigate complaints made by individuals against government or public bodies [Sw, lit., representative, fr ON *umboðsmathr*, fr *umboð* commission + *mathr* man]

**-ome** /-ɒm/ *suffix* (– *n*) part (rhizome) – esp in botanical names [NL *-oma*, fr L, *-oma*]

**omega** /'ɒhmɪgə/ *n* 1 the 24th and last letter of the Greek alphabet 2 the last one in a series, order, etc – compare ALPHA 2 [Gk *omega*, lit., large o]

**omelette**, NAM chiefly omelet /'ɒmlɪt/ *n* a mixture of beaten eggs cooked until set in a shallow pan and often served folded in half over a filling – compare SPANISH OMELITE [F *omelette*, alter of MF *alumelle*, lit., knife blade, modif of L *lamella*, dim of *lamina* thin plate]

**omen** /'ɒhmən/ *n* an event or phenomenon believed to be a sign of some future occurrence [L *omen*, *omen*]

**omentum** /oh'mentəm/ *n*, *pl* **omenta** /-tə/, **omentums** a fold of peritoneum connecting or supporting the stomach and other abdominal structures [L, fr *o-* (akin to *-uere* to put on) – more at EXUVIAE] – **omental** /-tɪl/ *adj*

**omicron** /oh'miəkrən/ *n* the 15th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *o mikron*, lit., small o]

**ominous** /'ɒmɪnəs/ *adj* portentous, esp foreboding evil or disaster [L *ominosus*, fr *omin-*, *omen* omen] – **ominously** *adv*, **ominousness** *n*

**omission** /oh'mɪʃ(ə)n, ə-/ *n* 1 omitting or being omitted (sins of ~) 2 sth neglected or left undone [ME *omission*, fr LL *omission-*, *omissio*, fr L *omissus*, pp of *omittere*]

**omit** /oh'mɪt, ə-/ *vt* -tt- 1 to leave out or unmentioned 2 to fail to do or perform [ME *omitten*, fr L *omittere*, fr *ob-* towards + *nittere* to let go, send – more at OB-, SMITE] – **omissible** /oh'mɪsəbl, ə-/ *adj*

**ommatidium** /'ɒmə'tɪdɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **ommatidia** /-dɪ-ə/ any of the many parts of an arthropod's compound eye, each corresponding to a simple eye [NL, fr Gk *ommat-*, *omma* eye] – **ommatidial** *adj*

**omni-** /'ɒmni-/ *comb form* all, universally (omnidirectional) [L, fr *omnis*]

**'omnibus** /'ɒmnɪbəs/ *n* 1 a book containing reprints of a number of works, usu by 1 author (an ~ edition) 2 BUS 1 – fml [F, bus, fr L, for all, dat pl of *omnis*]

**'omnibus** *adj* of, containing, or providing for many things at once

**omnidirectional** /'ɒmndɪ'rekʃ(ə)nəl, -dɪ-ə/ *adj* present or (capable of) moving in all directions, esp receiving or transmitting radio waves equally well in all directions

**omnipotent** /'ɒmnɪpə't(ə)nt/ *adj* having unlimited or very great power or influence, specif, often *cap* ALMIGHTY 1 [ME, fr MF, fr L *omnipotent-*, *omnipotens*, fr *omni-* + *potens*, *potens* potent] – **omnipotence** *n*, **omnipotently** *adv*

**Omnipotent** *n* GOD 1

**omnipresent** /'ɒmnɪ'prez(ə)nt/ *adj* present in all places at all times – **omnipresence** *n*

**omniscient** /'ɒmnɪ'si-ənt, 'ɒmnɪ'sh(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 having infinite awareness or understanding 2 possessed of complete knowledge; all-knowing [NL *omniscient*, *omnisciens*, back-formation fr ML *omniscientia* omniscience, fr L *omni-* + *scientia* science] – **omniscience** *n*, **omnisciently** *adv*

**omnivorous** /'ɒmnɪvərəs/ *adj* 1 feeding on both animal and vegetable substances 2 avidly taking in, and esp reading, everything [L *omnivorus*, fr *omni-* + *-vorus* -vorous] – **omnivorously** *adv*, **omnivorousness** *n*, **omnivore** /'ɒmnɪvəw/ *n*

**'on** /'ɒn/ *prep* 1a(1) in contact with or supported from below by (a fly ~ the ceiling) (stand ~ 1 foot) (a book ~ the table) (2) attached or fastened to (a dog ~ a lead) (3) carried on the person of (have you a match ~ you?) (4) very near to, esp along an edge or border (towns ~ the frontier) (Walton ~ Thames) (5) within the limits of a usu specified area (~ the steppes) (~ page 17) b at the usual standard or level of (~ form) c(1) in the direction of (~ the right) (crept up ~ him) (2) into contact with (jumped ~ the horse) (3) with regard to; concerning (keen ~ sports) (unfair ~ me) (evidence ~ the matter) (4) with a specified person or thing as object (try it out ~ her) (5) having as a topic; about (a book ~ India) (6) staked on the success of (put £5 ~ a horse) (7) doing or carrying out a specified action or activity (here ~ business) (went ~ an errand) (8) working for, supporting, or belonging to (~ a committee) (~ their side) (9) working at, in charge of (the man ~ the gate) 2a having as a basis or source (e.g. of knowledge or comparison) (have it ~ good authority) (swear ~ the Bible) (prices are down ~ last year) b at the expense of (got it ~ the National Health) (drinks are ~ the house) 3a in the state or process of (~ fire) (~ strike) (~ holiday) (~ offer) (~ the increase) b in the

specified manner (< *the cheap*) **c** using as a medium (< *played it ~ the clarinet*); **esp** OVER 4b (< *talking ~ the telephone*) **d** using by way of transport (< *arrived ~ foot*) (< *left ~ the early train*) **e** sustained or powered by (< *live ~ vegetables*) (< *car runs ~ petrol*) (< *people ~ low incomes*) (< *dined out ~ the story*) **f** regularly taking (< *Valium*) **4** through contact with (< *cut himself ~ a piece of glass*) **5a** at the time of (< *came ~ Monday*) (< *every hour ~ the hour*) (< *cash ~ delivery*) **b** on the occasion of or immediately after and usu in consequence of (< *shot ~ sight*) (< *fainted ~ hearing the news*) **c** in the course of (< *a journey*) (< *tour*) (< *my way*) **d** AFTER 2b (< *blow ~ blow*) [ME *an*, *on*, prep & adv, fr OE; akin to OHG *ana* *on*, Gk *ana* *up*, *on*]

**on** *adv* 1 so as to be supported from below (< *put the top ~*), in close contact (< *has new shoes ~*), or attached (< *sew the buttons ~*) **2a** ahead or forwards in space or time (< *went ~ home*) (< *do it later ~*) (< *40 years ~*) (< *getting ~ for 5*) **b** with the specified part forward (< *cars crashed head ~*) **c** without interruption (< *chattered ~ and ~*) **d** in continuance or succession (< *and so ~*) **3a** in or into (a state permitting) operation (< *switch the light ~*) (< *get the potatoes ~*) (< *put a record ~*) – compare **TURN ON** **b** in or into an activity or function (< *the night shift came ~*)

**on** *adj* 1a LEG 2 (< *drive*) **SPORT** **b** taking place (< *the game is ~*) **c** performing or broadcasting (< *we're ~ in 10 minutes*) **d** intended, planned (< *has nothing ~ for tonight*) **e** worn as clothing (< *went out with just a cardigan ~*) **2a** committed to a bet **b** in favour of a win (< *the odds are 2 to 1 ~*) **3** chiefly *Br* possible, practicable – usu neg (< *you can't refuse, it's just not ~*) **4a** chiefly *Br* nagging (< *she's always ~ at him about his hair*) **b** talking dully, excessively, or incomprehensibly (< *what's he ~ about?*) **USE** (3&4) *infrm*

**on** /-on/, -on/ *suffix* (→ *n*) chemical compound (< *parathion*) (< *interferon*) [ISV, alter of -one]

**on** /-on/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 elementary particle (< *electron*) (< *baryon*) **2a** unit, quantum (< *photon*) (< *magneton*) **b** basic operational unit of the genetic material (< *cistron*) (< *operon*) [fr -on (in *ion*)]

**on** /-on/ *suffix* (→ *n*) inert gas (< *neon*) [NL, fr -on (in *argon*)]

**onager** /'onəʒə/ *n* 1 a small Asian wild ass with a broad stripe on its back **2** a heavy catapult-like machine used in ancient and medieval times for hurling rocks in battle [(1) ME, wild ass, fr L, fr Gk *onagros*, fr *onos* ass + *agros* field – more at **ACRE**; (2) LL, fr L]

**on and off** *adv* FROM TIME TO TIME

**onanism** /'ohnə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 COITUS INTERRUPTUS **2** masturbation [prob fr NL *onanismus*, fr *Onan*, son of Judah (Gen 38.9)] – **onanistic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*

**once** /wʊnz/ *adv* 1 one time and no more (< *met only ~*) (< *shaves ~ a week*) **2** even 1 time, ever (< *if ~ we lose the key*) **3** at some indefinite time in the past, formerly (< *there ~ lived a king*) **4** by 1 degree of relationship (< *2nd cousin ~ removed*) [ME *ones*, fr gen of *on* one] – **once again/more** 1 now again as before (< *back home once again*) **2** for 1 more time

**once** *n* one single time (< *is enough*) (< *just this ~*) – **all at once** 1 all at the same time **2** ALL of a SUDDEN – **at once** 1 at the same time, simultaneously (< *both spoke at once*) **2** IMMEDIATELY **2** – **once and for all**, **once for all** for the final or only time, conclusively

**once** *conj* from the moment when, as soon as (< *he arrives we can start*) (< *over the wall we're safe*)

**once-over** *n* a swift appraising glance – *infrm* (< *gave him the ~*)

**oncer** /'wʊnsə/ *n*, *Br* a £1 note – *infrm* [1 *once* + 'er]

**oncogenic** /'ɒŋkə'jenɪk/, **oncogenous** /-jə'nəs/ *adj* of or tending to cause tumour formation [Gk *onkos* mass + *E -genic* or *-genous*] – **oncogenesis** /-jə'nəsɪs/ *n*, **oncogenically** *adv*, **oncogenicity** /-jə'nɪsɪti/ *n* **oncology** /'ɒŋkə'lɒʒi/ *n* the study and treatment of cancer and malignant tumours [Gk *onkos* mass + ISV -logy] – **oncologist** *n*, **oncological** /-kə'lɒʒɪkəl/ *also* **oncologic** *adj*

**oncoming** /'ɒŋkʊmɪŋ/ *adj* coming nearer in time or space, advancing

**on dit** /ɒn 'di/ (Fr ɔ̃ di)/ *n*, *pl* **on dits** /dɛɪz/ (Fr ~)/ a piece of gossip, a rumour [F, lit., they say, it is said]

**one** /wʊn/ *adj* 1a being a single unit or thing (< *day at a time*) **b** being the first – used after the noun modified (< *on page ~*) **2** being a particular but unspecified instance (< *saw her early ~ morning*) **3a** (1) the same; identical (< *both of ~ mind*) (< *it's all ~ to me where we go*) (2) constituting a unified entity (< *all shouted with ~ voice*) (< *the combined elements form ~ substance*) **b** being in a state of agreement; united (< *I am ~ with the rest of you in this matter*) **4** being some unspecified instance – used esp of future time (< *will see you ~ day soon*) (< *we might try it ~ weekend*) **5a** being a particular object or person (< *close first ~ eye then the other*)

**b** being the only individual of an indicated or implied kind (< *the ~ and only person she wanted to marry*) [ME *on*, fr OE *ān*; akin to OHG *ein* one, L *unus* (OL *oinos*), Skt *eka*] – **one and the same** the very same

**one** *pron*, *pl ones* 1 a single member or specimen of a usu specified class or group (< *saw ~ of his friends*) **2** an indefinitely indicated person; anybody at all (< *has a duty to ~'s public*) (< *never knows*) **3** – used to refer to a noun or noun phrase previously mentioned or understood (< *2 grey shirts and 3 red ~s*) (< *if you want a book about bees, try this ~*) (< *the question is ~ of great importance*) **USE** used as a subject or object; no *pl* for senses 2 and 3

**one** *n* 1 **NUMBER** **2** the number denoting unity **3** the first in a set or series (< *takes a ~ in shoes*) **4a** a single person or thing **b** a unified entity (< *is secretary and treasurer in ~*) (< *they all rose up as ~ and clamoured for more pay*) **c** a particular example or instance (< *~ of the coldest nights this year*) **d** a certain specified person (< *George Hopkins*) **5a** a person with a liking or interest for a specified thing, an enthusiast (< *he's rather a ~ for baroque music*) **b** a bold, amusing, or remarkable character (< *oh! you are a ~*) **6a** a blow, stroke (< *socked him ~ on the jaw*) **b** a drink (< *just time for a quick ~*) **c** a remark, esp a joke (< *have you heard this ~?*) **7** sthg having a denomination of 1 (< *I'll take the money in ~s*) – **at one** in harmony, in a state of agreement – **for one** even if alone, not to mention others – **one by one** singly, successively

**one** /-ohn/ *suffix* (→ *n*) (compound related or analogous to a) ketone (< *acetone*) (< *oestrone*) [ISV, alter of -ene]

**one and 'all** *pron pl* in *constr* everyone individually and collectively

**one another** *pron* each other

**one-armed 'bandit** *n* FRUIT MACHINE [fr the handle pulled to make the wheels spin]

**one-dimensional** *adj* lacking depth, superficial – **one-dimensionality** *n*

**one-horse** *adj* of little importance or interest – *infrm* (< *a ~ town*)

**oneiric** /'oh'nɪrɪk/ *adj* of or relating to dreams; dreamy [Gk *oneiros* dream, akin to Arm *anur* dream]

**one-man** *adj* 1 consisting of only 1 person **2** done or produced by only 1 person

**oneness** /'wʊn-nɪs/ *n* 1 singleness **2** integrity, wholeness **3** sameness, identity **4** unity, union ['ONF + -NESS]

**one-night 'stand** *n* 1 a performance given only once in any particular locality **2** (a person with whom one has) a sexual relationship lasting only 1 night

**one-off** *adj* or *n*, chiefly *Br* (made or intended as) a single and unrepeatable item or occurrence (< *a ~ job*)

**one-piece** *adj* consisting of or made in a single undivided piece (< *a ~ swimming costume*)

**onerous** /'ɒnərəs/, -on/ *adj* burdensome, troublesome [ME, fr MF *onereus*, fr L *onerous*, fr *oner*-, *onus* burden; akin to Skt *anas* cart] – **onerously** *adv*, **onerousness** *n*

**oneself** /wʊn'self/ *pron* 1 a person's self, one's own self – used reflexively (< *one should wash ~*) or for emphasis (< *to do it ~*) **2** one's normal self (< *not feeling quite ~*) – compare **MYSELF** – **be oneself** to behave in a normal, unconstrained, or unpretentious manner – **by oneself** ON ONE'S OWN – **to oneself** for one's exclusive use or knowledge

**one-sided** *adj* 1a having or occurring on 1 side only **b** having 1 side prominent or more developed **2** partial, biased – **one-sidedly** *adv*, **one-sidedness** *n*

**one-step** *n* (a piece of music used for) a ballroom dance marked by quick walking steps – **one-step** *vi*

**one,time** /-tiem/ *adj* former, sometime

**one-to-one** *adj* pairing each element of a set uniquely with an element of another set

**one-track** *adj* interested or absorbed in 1 thing only (< *a ~ mind*)

**one-two** *n* 1 a combination of 2 quick blows in boxing, usu with different hands and in rapid succession **2** a pass in soccer whereby one player kicks the ball to another and runs forward immediately to receive the return


**one 'up** *adj* in a position of advantage

**one-upmanship** /'ʌpmənʃɪp/ *n* the art of gaining a psychological advantage over others by professing social or professional superiority

**one-way** *adj* 1 that moves in or allows movement in only 1 direction (< *traffic*) **2** one-sided, unilateral

**ongoing** /'ɒŋgə'ɪŋ/ *adj* 1 actually in progress **2** growing, developing

**onion** /'ʊniən/ *n* (the pungent edible bulb, eaten as a vegetable, of) an

- Asian plant of the lily family or any of various related plants [ME, fr MF *oignon*, fr L *unio*-, *unio*, perh fr *unus* one]
- on-line** *adj* controlled directly by, or in direct communication with a computer (< *equipment*) - compare OFF-LINE  SYMBOL - on-line *adv*
- onlooker** /'on,lookə/ *n* a passive spectator - **onlooking** *adj*
- only** /'ohnli/ *adj* 1 unquestionably the best (< *flying is the ~ way to travel*) 2 alone in its class or kind, sole (< *an ~ child*) (< *the ~ detergent that contains fabric softener*) [ME, fr OE *ānlic*, fr *an* one - more at ONE]
- only** *adv* 1a nothing more than, merely (< *a little one*) (< *if it would ~ rain*) b solely, exclusively (< *known ~ to him*) 2 nothing other than (< *it was ~ too true*) 3a in the final outcome (< *will ~ make you sick*) b with nevertheless the final result (< *won the battle, ~ to lose the war*) 4 no earlier than (< *last week*) (< *has ~ just left*)
- only** *conj* 1 but, however (< *they look very nice, ~ we can't use them*) 2 were it not for the fact that (< *I'd tell you, ~ you'll just spread it around*) USE infml
- on-off** *adj* occurring or existing from time to time, intermittent (< *an ~ relationship*)
- onomastic** /,onə'mastik/ *adj* (consisting) of a name [Gk *onomastikos*, fr *onomazein* to name, fr *onomia* name - more at NAME]
- onomatopoeia** /,onə'matə'pēə/ *n* the formation or use of words intended to be a vocal imitation of the sound associated with the thing or action designated (e.g. in *buzz*, *cuckoo*) [LL, fr Gk *onomatopoiia*, fr *onomatē*, *onomia* name + *poiein* to make - more at POET] - **onomatopoeic** /- 'pēə-ik/ *adj*, **onomatopoeically** *adv*
- onrush** /'on,rush/ *n* a forceful rushing forwards
- onset** /'on,set/ *n* 1 an attack, assault 2 a beginning, commencement
- onshore** /'ʃəw/ *adj* or *adv* 1 (moving) towards the shore 2 on or near the shore
- on'side** /- 'sīd/ *adv* or *adj* not offside
- onslaught** /'on,slawt/ *n* a fierce attack [modif of D *aanslag* act of striking, akin to OE *an* on & *slēan* to strike - more at SLAY]
- on-stream** *adj* or *adv* in or into production (< *more oil fields are soon due to come ~*)
- ont-** /-nt-, onto- *comb form* 1 being, existence (< *ontology*) 2 organism (< *ontology*) [NL, fr LGk, fr Gk *ont-*, *ōn*, prp of *einai* to be - more at IS]
- ont-** /-nt-/ *comb form* (→ *n*) cell, organism (< *diplo*nt) [Gk *ont-*, *ōn*, prp]
- on-the-job** *adj* of or being sthg learnt, gained, or done while working in a job
- onto**, on to /'ontə/ *strong* /'ontəh/ *prep* 1 to a position on 2 in or into a state of awareness about (< *put the police ~ him*) 3 - used as a function word to indicate a mathematical set, each element of which is the image of at least 1 element of another set (< *a function mapping the set S ~ the set T*) 4 chiefly Br in or into contact with (< *been ~ him about the drains*), esp on at, nagging
- ontogenesis** /,ontə'jēnəs/ *n* ontogeny [NL] - **ontogenetic** /-jə'netik/ *adj*, **ontogenetically** *adv*
- ontogeny** /'ontə'jēni/ *n* the (course of) development of an individual organism [ISV]
- ontological** /,ontə'ləjɪk/ *adj* 1 of ontology 2 relating to or based on being or existence - **ontologically** *adv*
- ontology** /'ontə'ləjɪ/ *n* a branch of philosophy concerned with the nature of being [NL *ontologia*, fr *ont-* + *-logia* -logy] - **ontologist** *n*
- onus** /'ohnəs/ *n* 1a duty, responsibility b blame 2 BURDEN OF PROOF [(1) L - more at ONEOUS, (2) NL]
- onward** /'onwəd/ *adj* directed or moving onwards, forwards
- onwards**, **award** *adv* towards or at a point lying ahead in space or time, forwards (< *from his childhood ~*)
- onym** /-nim/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 name (< *pseudonym*) 2 word (< *antonym*) [ME, fr L *-onymum*, fr Gk *-onymon*, fr *onyma* - more at NAME]
- onyx** /'oniks/ *n* 1 a translucent variety of quartz with layers of different colours, typically green and white, or black or brown and white 2 onyx, **onyx marble** a translucent or semitranslucent calcium carbonate mineral, usu calcite, with marble-like bands of colour [ME *onix*, fr OF & L; OF, fr L *onych-*, *onyx*, fr Gk, lit., claw, nail - more at NAIL]
- oo-** - see o-
- oocyte** /'oh-ə'si:t/ *n* an egg before maturation or division to form female gametes [ISV]
- oodles** /'oo:dlz/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr a great quantity; a lot - infml [perh alter. of 'huddle]
- oogamete** /'oh-ə'gə'me:t, -'gəme:t/ *n* a relatively large immobile female gamete
- oogamous** /'oh-ə'gəməs/ *adj* having or involving a small mobile male gamete and a large immobile female gamete - **oogamy** *n*
- oogenesis** /'oh-ə'jēnəs/ *n* the formation and maturation of eggs or ova [NL] - **oogenetic** /-jə'netik/ *adj*
- ooh** /'ooh/ *interj* - used to express amazement or pleased surprise - **ooh** *vi*
- oolite** /'oh-ə'li:t/ *n* a rock, esp limestone, consisting of small round grains, esp of calcium carbonate [prob fr F *oolithe*, fr *o-* + *-lite* -lite] - **oolitic** /- 'li:tik/ *adj*
- oology** /'oh-ə'ləjɪ/ *n* the study or collecting of birds' eggs - **oological** /'oh-ə'ləjɪk/ *also* **oologic** *adj*, **oologically** *adv*, **oologist** /'oh-ə'ləjɪst/ *n*
- oolong** /'oo:long/ *n* a dark china tea that is partially fermented before drying [Chin (Pek) *wu' lung'*, lit., black dragon]
- oompah** /'oompah/ *n* the deep, often rhythmical, sound of a tuba, euphonium, or similar brass band instrument [imit]
- oomph** /'oom(p)l/ *n* vitality, enthusiasm - humor [imit]
- oops** /'oops, 'oo:ps/ *interj* - used to express apology or surprise
- oosperm** /'oh-ə'spərm/ *n* a zygote
- oospore** /'oh-ə'spəw/ *n* a fertilized plant spore that grows into the phase of a plant producing sexual spores - compare ZYGOSPORE [ISV]
- 'ooze** /'oo:z/ *n* 1 a soft deposit of mud, slime, debris, etc on the bottom of a body of water 2 (the muddy ground of) a marsh or bog [ME *wose*, fr OE *wase* mire, akin to L *virus* slime - more at VIRUS] - **oozy** *adj*
- 'ooze** *n* 1 an infusion of vegetable material (e.g. bark) used for tanning leather 2 sthg that oozes [ME *wose* sap, juice, fr OE *wos*, akin to OHG *waso* damp, Gk *hearon* ewer] - **oozy** *adj*
- 'ooze** *vi* 1a to pass or flow slowly through small openings b to diminish gradually, dwindle away 2 to exude moisture ~ vt 1 to emit or give out slowly 2 to display in abundance (< *positively ~ d vitality*)
- op** /'op/ *n* OPERATION 3, 5 - infml
- op-** - see ob-
- opacity** /'oh'pə'səti/ *n* 1 opaqueness 2 obscurity of meaning, unintelligibility 3 an opaque spot on a normally transparent structure (e.g. the lens of the eye) [F *opacité* shadiness, fr L *opacitat-*, *opacitas*, fr *opacus* shaded, dark]
- opah** /'ohpa/ *n* a large brilliantly coloured marine fish with rich oily red flesh [Ibo *úbá*]
- opal** /'ohp(ə)l/ *n* a transparent to translucent mineral consisting of a hydrated silica and used in its opalescent forms as a gem [L *opalus*, fr Skt *upala* stone, jewel]
- opalescent** /,ohp'les(ə)nt, 'ohpə'les(ə)nt/ *adj* reflecting a milky iridescent light - **opalescence** *n*
- opaline** /'ohp(ə)li:n/ *adj* resembling opal, opalescent
- opaque** /'oh'payk/ *adj* 1 not transmitting radiant energy, esp light, not 'transparent 2 hard to understand; unintelligible [L *opacus*] - **opaquely** *adv*, **opaqueness** *n*
- op 'art** /'op/ *n* OPTICAL ART - **op artist** *n*
- 'open** /'ohp(ə)n/ *adj* 1 having no enclosing or confining barrier (< *the ~ hillside*) 2 allowing passage, not shut or locked 3a exposed to general view or knowledge; public (< *regarded him with ~ hatred*) b vulnerable to attack or question, liable (< *to ~ doubt*) 4a not covered or protected (< *an ~ boat*) (< *an ~ wound*) b not fastened or sealed 5 not restricted to a particular category of participants, *specif* contested by both amateurs and professionals 6 presenting no obstacle to passage or view 7 having the parts or surfaces spread out or unfolded 8 articulated with the tongue low in the mouth (< *an ~ vowel*) 9a available (< *the only course ~ to us*) b not taken up with duties or engagements (< *keep an hour ~ on Friday*) c not finally decided or settled (< *an ~ question*) d available for a qualified applicant, vacant e remaining available for use or filling until cancelled (< *an ~ order for more items*) 10a(1) willing to consider new ideas; unprejudiced (< *an ~ mind*) (2) willing to receive and consider (< *always ~ to suggestions*) b candid, frank 11a containing many small openings or spaces; *specif* porous b having relatively wide spacing between words or lines (< *~ type*) c of a compound having the elements separated by a space in writing or printing (e.g. in *ski lift*) 12a of a string on a musical instrument not stopped by the finger b of a note produced on a musical instrument without fingering the strings, valves, slides, or keys 13 in operation; esp ready for business or use (< *the shop is ~ from 9 to 5*) (< *the new motorway will be ~ next week*) 14 free from checks or restraints (< *an ~ economy*) 15 of a mathematical set containing a neighbourhood of every element (< *the interior of a sphere is an ~ set*) 16 Br, of a cheque payable in cash to the person, organization, etc named on it; not crossed

[ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *offan* open; both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc word akin to OE *up* up] – **open** *adv*, **openness** *n*

**open** *vt* **1a** to change or move from a closed position **b** to permit entry into or passage through **c** to gain access to the contents of (<~ a parcel>)  
**2a** to make available for or active in a particular use or function, *specif* to establish (<~ed a new shop>) **b** to declare available for use, esp ceremonially **c** to make the necessary arrangements for (e.g. a bank account), esp by depositing money **3a** to disclose, reveal – often + *up* **b** to make more responsive or enlightened **4a** to make 1 or more openings in **b** to loosen and make less compact (<~ the soil>) **5** to spread out, unfold **6** to begin, commence (<~ed the meeting>) **7** to begin (e.g. the bidding, betting, or play) in a card game **8a** to initiate (a side's innings) as one of the 2 first batsmen **b** to initiate (a side's bowling attack) by bowling one of the first 2 overs of an innings ~ *vi* **1** to become open **2** to commence, start (<~ed with a prayer>) **3** to give access – usu + *into* or *onto* **4** to extend, unfold – usu + *out* (<the view ~ed out in front of us>) – **openable** *adj*, **openability** /-əˈbɪləbɪlɪ/ *n*

**open** *n* **1** OUTDOORS **2** *often cap* an open contest, competition, or tournament – *bring into/be in the open* to (cause to) be generally known

**open-air** *adj* outdoor

**open air** *n* OUTDOORS **2**

**open-and-shut** *adj* easily settled (<an ~ case>)

**open/cast** /-ˈkɑːst/ *adj*, of a mine or mining worked from or carried out on the earth's surface by removing material covering the mineral mined for

**open/circuit** *adj* of or being television in which programmes are broadcast so that they are available to any receivers within range

**open circuit** *n* an incomplete circuit of electrical components through which current cannot flow – **open-circuit**, **open-circuited** *adj*

**open court** *n* a court or trial to which the public are admitted

**open day** *n* a day on which an institution is open to the public

**open door** *n* a policy of equal commercial relations with all nations – **open-door** *adj*

**open-ended** *adj* without any definite limits or restrictions (e.g. of time or purpose) set in advance – **open-endedness** *n*

**opener** /ˈoʊp(ə)nə/ *n* **1a** an instrument that opens sth – usu in combination (<a bottle ~>) **b** one who opens, *specif* an opening batsman **2 pl** cards of sufficient value for a player to open the betting in a poker game **3** the first item or event in a series

**open-handed** /-ˈhændɪd/ *adj* generous in giving – **openhandedly** *adv*, **openhandedness** *n*

**open-heart** *adj* of or performed on a heart surgically opened whilst its function is temporarily taken over by a heart-lung machine (<~ surgery>)

**openhearted** /-ˈhɑːtɪd/ *adj* **1** candidly straightforward **2** kind, generous – **openheartedly** *adv*, **openheartedness** *n*

**open-hearth** *adj* of, produced by, or used in the open-hearth steel-making process

**open-hearth process** *n* a process of making steel from pig iron in a reverberatory furnace

**open house** *n* ready and usu informal hospitality for all comers – esp in *keep open house*

**opening** /ˈoʊp(ə)nɪŋ/ *n* **1** an act of making or becoming open **2** a breach, aperture **3a** an often standard series of moves made at the beginning of a game of chess or draughts – compare **END GAME**, **MIDDLE GAME** **b** a first performance **4a** a favourable opportunity; a chance **b** an opportunity for employment, a vacancy

**opening time** *n* the time at which a business, shop, etc opens; *specif* the statutory time at which a public house may open for the sale of alcohol

**open letter** *n* a letter, esp of protest, appeal, or explanation, usu addressed to an individual but intended for the general public, and published in a newspaper, periodical, etc

**openly** /-li/ *adv* in an open and frank manner

**open market** *n* a market based on free competition and an unrestricted flow of goods (e.g. between countries)

**open-minded** *adj* receptive to new arguments or ideas – **open-mindedly** *adv*, **open-mindedness** *n*

**openmouthed** /-ˈmoʊðd/ *adj* having the mouth open, esp in surprise

**open order** *n* a military formation in which the units are widely separated

**open out** *vi* to speak more freely and confidently

**open-plan** *adj* having no or few internal dividing walls (<an ~ house>)

**open prison** *n* a prison that has less restrictive security than a conventional one, to which criminals considered unlikely to attempt escape may be sent

**open sandwich** *n* a sandwich without a top slice of bread

**open season** *n* a period during which it is legal to kill or catch game or fish protected at other times by law

**open secret** *n* a supposed secret that is in fact widely known

**open sesame** /ˈsezəmi, ˈsesəmi/ *n* a means of gaining access to sth otherwise inaccessible [*open sesame*, the magical command used by Ali Baba to open the door of the robbers' den in the Ar folk tale *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*]

**open shop** *n* an establishment in which eligibility for employment is not dependent on membership of a trade union – compare **CLOSED SHOP**

**Open University** *n* the nonresidential British university that caters mainly for adults studying part-time, has no formal entrance requirements, and operates mainly through correspondence and broadcasting  
**open up** *vi* **1** to commence firing **2** **OPEN OUT** **3** to open a door (<open up, it's the police!>) **4** of a game, competition, etc to become more interesting, esp because more closely contested ~ *vt* to make available or accessible (<the deal opened up important new possibilities for trade>)

**open verdict** *n* a verdict at an inquest that records a death but does not state its cause

**open work** /-ˈwʊk/ *n* work (e.g. in fabric or metal) that is perforated or pierced – **open-worked** *adj*

**opera** /ˈop(ə)rə/ *pl* of **OPUS**

**opera** /ˈop(ə)rə/ *n* **1** (the performance of or score for) a drama set to music and made up of vocal pieces with orchestral accompaniment and usu other orchestral music (e.g. an overture) **2** the branch of the arts concerned with such works **3** a company performing operas [It. *work*, *opera*, fr L. *work*, *pains*, akin to L. *oper-*, *opus*] – **operatic** /ˈop(ə)ˈrætɪk/ *adj*, **operatically** *adv*

**operable** /ˈop(ə)rəbəl/ *adj* suitable for surgical treatment (<an ~ cancer>)  
[**OPERATE** + **-ABLE**] – **operably** *adv*, **operability** /-bɪləbɪlɪ/ *n*

**opera bouffe** /ˈop(ə)rə ˈboʊf/ (*Fr* *opera buffe*) / *n* **OPERA** **BUFFA** [F, fr It *opera buffa*]

**opera buffa** /ˈboʊfə/ *n* a farcical or satirical opera, esp of a form popular in the 18th c [It. *lit.*, comic opera]

**opéra comique** /ˈkɒmɪk/ (*Fr* *comique*) / *n* **COMIC OPERA** [F]

**opera glass** *n* small binoculars suitable for use at the opera or theatre – often pl with *sing.* meaning

**opera hat** *n* a man's collapsible top hat 𐀀 **CLOTHING**

**opera house** *n* a theatre designed for the performance of opera

**operand** /ˈop(ə)rənd/ *n* sth, esp a quantity, on which an operation is performed (e.g. in mathematics) [L. *operandum*, neut. of *gerundive* of *operari*]

**operant** /ˈop(ə)rənt/ *adj* effective, functioning

**operant** *n* behaviour (e.g. bar pressing by a rat to obtain food) that operates on the environment to produce rewarding effects

**opera seria** /ˈsɪəriə/ *n* an 18th-c opera with a heroic or legendary subject [It. *lit.*, serious opera]

**operate** /ˈop(ə)rəɪt/ *vi* **1** to exert power or influence; act (<factors operating against our success>) **2** to produce a desired effect **3a** to work, function **b** to perform surgery – usu + *on* **c** to carry on a military or naval action or mission **4** to be in action, *specif* to carry out trade or business ~ *vt* **1** to effect; **BRING ABOUT** **2a** to cause to function, work **b** to put or keep in operation; manage [L. *operatus*, pp of *operari* to work, fr *oper-*, *opus* work, akin to OE *efnan* to perform, Skt *apas* work]

**operating table** /ˈop(ə)rəɪtɪŋ/ *n* a high table on which a patient lies while undergoing surgery

**operating theatre** *n*, *Br* a room, usu in a hospital, where surgical operations are carried out

**operation** /ˈop(ə)rəʃən/ *n* **1a** the act, method, or process of operating **b** sth (to be) done; an activity **2** the state of being functional or operative (<the plant is now in ~>) **3** a procedure carried out on a living body with special instruments, usu for the repair of damage or the restoration of health **4** any of various mathematical or logical processes (e.g. addition) carried out to derive one expression from others according to a rule **5** a usu military action, mission, or manoeuvre and its planning **6** a business or financial transaction **7** a single step performed by a computer in the execution of a program

**operational** /ˈop(ə)rəʃənəl/ *adj* **1** of or based on operations **2a** of, involved in, or used for the execution of commercial, military, or naval operations **b** (capable of) functioning – **operationally** *adv*

**operational research** *n*, chiefly *Br* the application of scientific, esp mathematical, methods to the study and analysis of problems involving complex systems (e.g. business management, economic planning, and the waging of war)


**operations research** *n*, chiefly *NAm* OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

**operations room** *n* a room from which esp military operations are controlled

**operative** /'op(ə)rativ/ *adj* **1a** producing an appropriate effect, efficacious **b** significant, relevant (*I might come, but might is the ~ word*) **2** in force or operation **3** based on, consisting of, or using an esp surgical operation ~ **operatively** *adv*, **operativeness** *n*

**operative** *n* an operator e.g. **a** a workman **b** *NAm* PRIVATE DETECTIVE

**operator** /'opə,raytə/ *n* **1a** one who operates a machine or device **b** one who owns or runs a business, organization, etc. (*a tour ~*) **c** one who is in charge of a telephone switchboard **2** a mathematical or logical symbol denoting an operation to be performed **3** a shrewd and skilful manipulator - *infrm*

**operculum** /'opuhkyooləm/ *n*, *pl* **opercula** /-lə/ also **operculus** **1** a lid or covering flap (e.g. of a moss capsule or the gills of a fish)  **2** a hard plate at the end of the foot in many gastropod molluscs that closes the shell when the animal is retracted [NL, fr L, cover, fr *operre* to shut, cover - more at *WEIR*] - **opercular**, **operculate** /-lət, -ləyt/, **operculated** /-ləytd/ *adj*

**opératta** /'opə'retə/ *n* a usu romantic comic opera that includes dancing [It, dim of *opera*] - **opérettist** *n*

**operon** /'opə,ron/ *n* a set of genes on a chromosome that function together as a unit [operator + -on]

**ophidian** /'ofidi:əl/ *adj* of or resembling snakes [derv of Gk *ophis*] - **ophidian** *n*

**ophite** /'ofiet/ *n* any of various usu green and often mottled rocks (e.g. serpentine) [L, fr Gk *ophites* (*lithos*), lit. serpentine (stone), fr *ophites* snakelike, fr *ophis* snake, akin to L *anguis* snake, *anguilla* eel, Gk *enchelys* eel, *echidna* viper, *echinos* hedgehog, OE *igil*]

**ophitic** /'ofituk/ *adj* having or being a texture characteristic of rocks in which lath-shaped feldspar crystals are embedded in pyroxene

**ophthalmic**, **ophthalmo-** *comb form* eye <[ophthalmology]>, also eyeball <[ophthalmus]> [Gk, fr *ophthalmos*]

**ophthalmia** /'ofthalmiə/ also *op-* *n* inflammation of the conjunctiva or the eyeball [ME *obtalmia*, fr LL *ophthalmia*, fr Gk, fr *ophthalmos* eye, akin to Gk *ops* eye - more at *LYE*]

**ophthalmic** /'ofthalmik/ also *op-* *adj* of or situated near the eye

**ophthalmic optician** *n* an optician qualified to test eyesight and prescribe correctional lenses

**ophthalmologist** /'ofthal'moləjst/ also *op-* *n* a physician who specializes in ophthalmology - compare **OPTICIAN**

**ophthalmology** /'ofthalmə'ləʒi/ also *op-* *n* the branch of medical science dealing with the structure, functions, and diseases of the eye - **ophthalmological** /-mə'lojɪkl/ also **ophthalmologic** *adj*, **ophthalmologically** *adv*

**ophthalmoscope** /'ofthalmə'skəp/ also *op-* *n* an instrument used to view the retina and other structures inside the eye [ISV] - **ophthalmoscopic** /-mə'skəpɪk/ *adj*, **ophthalmoscopy** /-mə'skəpi/ *n*

**-opia** /-'ohpi:ə/ *comb form* (- *n*) condition of having (a specified visual defect) <[diplopia] <[myopia]> [NL, fr Gk -*opia*, fr *ops* eye]

**opiate** /'ohpi:ət, -əyt/ *adj* **1** containing or mixed with opium **2** inducing sleep; narcotic

**opiate** *n* **1a** a preparation or derivative of opium, broadly a narcotic **2** sth that induces inaction or calm

**opine** /'ohpi:n/ *vt* to state as an opinion - *fm* [MF *opiner*, fr L *opinari* to have an opinion]

**opinion** /ə'pɪnjən/ *n* **1a** a view or judgment formed about a particular matter **b** an esp favourable estimation (*I have no great ~ of his work*) **2a** a belief unsupported by positive knowledge **b** a generally held view **3a** a formal expression by an expert of his/her professional judgment or advice, esp a barrister's written advice to a client **b** chiefly *NAm* a formal expression of the principles on which a legal decision is based [ME, fr MF, fr L *opinion-*, *opinio*; akin to L *opinari*]

**opinionated** /ə'pɪnjə'neɪtɪd/ *adj* stubbornly sticking to one's own opinions - **opinionately** *adv*, **opinionativeness** *n*

**opium** /'ohpi:əm/ *n* the dried juice of the unripe seed capsules of the opium poppy, containing morphine and other addictive narcotic alkaloids [ME, fr L, fr Gk *opion*, fr dim. of *opos* sap]

**opium den** *n* a place where opium can be bought and smoked

**opium poppy** *n* an annual Eurasian poppy cultivated as the source of opium or for its edible seeds or showy flowers

**opossum** /ə'pɒsəm/ *n*, *pl* **opossums** also *esp* collectively **opossum** any of various American (tree-dwelling) marsupial mammals, also any of several Australian phalangids resembling this [*âpasûm* (lit. white animal) in some Algonquian language of Virginia]

**opponent** /ə'pəʊnənt/ *n* one who takes the opposite side in a contest, conflict, etc [L *opponent-*, *opponens*, *prp* of *opponere*]

**opponent** *adj* OPPOSITE **2**

**opportune** /'opə'tyʊəhn, '--/ *adj* **1** suitable or convenient for a particular occurrence <[an ~ moment]> **2** occurring at an appropriate time [ME, fr MF *opportun*, fr L *opportunus*, fr *ob-* towards + *portus* port, harbour - more at *OB-*] - **opportunately** *adv*, **opportuneness** *n*

**opportunism** /'opə'tyʊəh'nɪz(ə)m/ *n* the taking advantage of opportunities or circumstances, esp with little regard for principles or consequences - **opportunist** *n* or *adj*, **opportunistic** /-'nɪstɪk/ *adj*


**opportunity** /'opə'tyʊəh'nəti/ *n* **1** a favourable set of circumstances **2** a chance for advancement or progress

**opposable** /ə'pəʊzəbl/ *adj* **1** capable of being opposed or resisted **2** of a thumb or other digit capable of being placed opposite and against **1** or more of the remaining digits

**oppose** /ə'pəʊz/ *vi* **1** to place opposite or against sth so as to provide counterbalance, contrast, etc **2** to offer resistance to [F *opposer*, fr L *opponere* (perf. indic. *opposui*), fr *ob-* against + *ponere* to place - more at *OB-*, POSITION] - **opposer** *n*

**opposed** *adj* set in opposition, contrary


**opposite** /'opəzɪt/ *n* **1** sth or sby opposed or contrary **2** an antonym

**opposite** *adj* **1a** set over against sth that is at the other end or side of an intervening line or space <[~ ends of a diameter]> **b** of plant parts situated in pairs at the same level on opposite sides of an axis <[~ leaves]> - compare ALTERNATE **2a**  PLANT **2a** occupying an opposing position <[~ sides of the question]> **b** diametrically different; contrary **3** being the other of a matching or contrasting pair <[the ~ sex]> [ME, fr MF, fr L *oppositus*, *pp* of *opponere*] - **oppositely** *adv*, **oppositeness** *n*

**opposite** *adv* on or to an opposite side

**opposite** *prep* **1** across from and usu facing <[sat ~ each other]> **2** in a role complementary to <[played ~ the leading lady]>

**opposite number** *n* a counterpart

**opposition** /'opə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** an opposite position of 2 celestial bodies in which their longitude differs by 180 degrees - compare CONJUNCTION **3**  SYMBOL **2** the relation between 2 propositions having the same subject and predicate but differing in quantity or quality or both **3** placing *oppos-* or being so placed **4** hostile or contrary action **5** *sing* or *pl* in *consti* a the body of people opposing sth **b** often *cap* a political party opposing the party in power - **oppositional** *adj*

**oppress** /ə'pres/ *vi* **1** to crush by harsh or authoritarian rule **2** to weigh heavily on the mind or spirit of [ME *oppressen*, fr MF *oppresser*, fr ML *oppressare*, fr L *oppressus*, *pp* of *opprimere*, fr *ob-* against + *primere* to press - more at *OB-*, PRESS] - **oppressor** *n*

**oppression** /ə'presʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** unjust or harsh exercise of authority or power **2** a sense of being weighed down in body or mind [OPPRESS + -ION]

**oppressive** /ə'presɪv/ *adj* **1** unreasonably harsh or severe **2** tyrannical **3** physically or mentally depressing or overpowering - **oppressively** *adv*, **oppressiveness** *n*

**opprobrious** /ə'prɒbrɪəs/ *adj* scurrilous and abusive <[~ language]> - *fm* [L, fr *opprobriously* *adv*]

**opprobrium** /ə'prɒbrɪəm/ *n* (a cause of) public infamy or disgrace - *fm* [L, fr *opprobriare* to reproach, fr *ob* in the way of + *probrum* reproach, fr *prober* guilty, akin to L *pro* forwards, *ferre* to carry, bring - more at *OB-*, FOR, BEAR]

**-opsis** /-'ɒpsɪs/ *comb form*, *pl* **-opeses** /-'ɒpsɛz/, **-opsides** /-'ɒpsɪdeɪz/ (- *n*) thing (e.g. a plant part) resembling <[karyopsis]> [NL, fr Gk, fr *opsis* appearance, vision]

**opsonin** /'ɒpsənɪn/ *n* an antibody in blood serum that makes foreign cells more susceptible to the action of phagocytes [L *opsonium* relish (fr Gk *opsonion* victuals, fr *opsōnein* to purchase victuals, fr *opson* food + *onēsthai* to buy) + E -in] - **opsonic** /'ɒpsənɪk/ *adj*

**-opsy** /-ɒpsɪ, -ɒpsɪ/ *comb form* (- *n*) examination <[necropsy] <[autopsy]> [Gk -*opsis*, fr *opsis*]

**opt** /opt/ *vi* to decide in favour of sth **USE** - *usu* + *for* [F *opter*, fr L *optare* - more at *OPTION*]

**optative** /'ɒptatɪv/ *adj* of or belonging to a grammatical mood (e.g. in Greek) expressing wish or desire - **optative** *n*




**'optic** /'optik/ *adj* of vision or the eye [MF *optique*, fr ML *opticus*, fr Gk *optikos*, fr *opsesthai* to be going to see; akin to Gk *opsis* appearance, *ops* eye – more at **EYE**]

**²optic** *n* 1 the eye 2 any of the lenses, prisms, or mirrors of an optical instrument

**optical** /'optikl/ *adj* 1 of optics 2a visual <an ~ *illusion*> b visible <an ~ *galaxy*> c designed to aid vision <an ~ *instrument*> 3 of or using light <~ *microscopy*> – **optically** *adv*

**optical activity** *n* the ability (of some solutions) to rotate the plane of vibration of polarized light

**optical art** *n* abstract art that uses linear or geometric patterns to create an optical illusion

**optical fibre** *n* a very thin glass or plastic fibre used in fibreoptics to transmit light  TELECOMMUNICATION

**optical glass** *n* a high-quality glass used esp for making lenses

**optical illusion** *n* ILLUSION 2a(1)

**optic axis** *n* a line in a doubly refracting medium along which double refraction does not occur

**optician** /'optiʃ(ə)n/ *n* one who prescribes correctional lenses for eye defects or supplies (lenses for) spectacles on prescription – compare OPHTHALMOLOGIST

**optics** /'optiks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl in constr* 1 the science of the nature, properties, and uses of (radiation or particles that behave like) light 2 optical properties or components

**optimal** /'optiml/ *adj* most satisfactory, optimum – **optimally** *adv*

**optimism** /'optimiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the doctrine that this world is the best possible world 2 a tendency to emphasize favourable aspects of situations or events or to expect the best possible outcome [F *optimisme*, fr L *optimus*, *n*, best, fr neut of *optimus* best, akin to L *ops* power – more at **OPULENT**] – **optimist** *n*, **optimistic** /-'mɪstɪk/ *adj*, **optimistically** *adv*

**optimum** /'optɪməm/ *n*, *pl optima* /-'mɪz/ also *optimums* (the amount or degree of) sthg that is most favourable to a particular end [L] – **optimum** *adj*, **optimize** /'optɪmɪz/ *vt*

**'option** /'ɒpʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of choosing 2a the power or right to choose b (a contract conveying) a right to buy or sell designated securities or commodities at a specified price during a stipulated period 3a an alternative course of action b an item offered in addition to or in place of standard equipment [F, fr L *optio*-, *optio* free choice, akin to L *optare* to choose, Gk *epipsesthai* to be going to choose]

**²option** *vt* to grant or take an option on

**optional** /'ɒpʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* not compulsory, available as a choice – **optionally** *adv*

**optometry** /'ɒptətri/ *n* the art or profession of examining the eye for defects and prescribing correctional lenses or exercises but not drugs or surgery [Gk *optas* (verbal of *opsesthai* to be going to see) + ISV -*metry* – more at **OPTIC**] – **optometrist** *n*, **optometric** /'ɒptə'metrik/ *adj*

**opt out** *vi* to choose not to participate in sthg – often + *of*

**opulent** /'ɒpyʊlənt/ *adj* 1 wealthy, rich 2 abundant, profuse [L *opulentus*, fr *ops* power, wealth, help, akin to L *opus* work, Gk *ompne* food, prosperity, Skt *apnas* possession, property] – **opulence** *n*, **opulently** *adv*

**opuntia** /'ɒpʊnʃ(ə)yə/ *n* PRICKLY PEAR [NL, fr L, a plant, fr fem of *opuntius* of Opus, fr *Opunt*-, *Opus* Opus, ancient city in Greece]

**opus** /'ɒhpʊs/ *n*, *pl opus* /'ɒp(ə)rə/ also *opuses* WORK 7, specif a musical composition or set of compositions, usu numbered in the order of issue [L *oper*-, *opus* – more at **OPERATE**]

**opusculum** /'ɒpʊskʊlə/ *n* a small or minor work (e.g. of literature) [F, fr L *opusculum*, dim of *opus*]

**'or** /ɔ/, strong *aw/* *conj* 1a -- used to join 2 sentence elements of the same class or function and often introduced by *either* to indicate that what immediately follows is another or a final alternative <either *sink* ~ *swim*> <*red*, *blue*, ~ *green*> <*coffee* ~ *tea* ~ *whisky*> <*whether* you like it ~ *not*> b – used before the second and later of several suggestions to indicate approximation or uncertainty <*five* ~ *six days*> <a place such as *Venice* ~ *Florence* ~ *somewhere like that* – *SEU* *S*> – compare **OR** 2 and **not** – used after a neg <*never drinks* ~ *smokes*> 3 that is – used to indicate equivalence or elucidate meaning <*Jessen* ~ *abate*> <a heifer ~ *young cow*> 4 – used to indicate the result of rejecting a preceding choice <*hurry* ~ *you'll be late*> 5 – used to introduce an afterthought <*e=mc²* ~ *am I boring you?*> [ME *other*, or, fr OE *oððe*; akin to OHG *eddo* or, ON *etva*] – or *so* – used to indicate an approximation or conjecture <*I've known him 20 years* or so>

**²or** /aw/ *n* a gold colour; also yellow – used in heraldry [MF, gold, fr L *aurum* – more at **ORIOLE**]


**'or** /-ə/ *suffix* (→ *n*) one that performs (a specified action) <*vendor*> [ME,

fr OF -*eur*, -*eor* & L -*or*; OF -*eur*, fr L -*or*; OF -*eor*, fr L -*ator* -*or*, fr -*atus*, pp suffix + -*or* – more at **'ATE**]

**²or** /-ə/ *suffix* (→ *n*) quality, condition, or state of <*horror*> <*tremor*>; also instance of (a specified quality or state) <*an error*> [ME, fr OF -*eur*, fr L -*or*]

**orache**, **orach** /'ɒrɪʃ/ *n* a plant of the goosefoot family cultivated and eaten like spinach, also any of various related plants that occur as weeds [ME *orage*, fr MF *arrache*, fr (assumed) VL *atrapi-*, *atrapiex*, fr Gk *atrapiaxys*]

**oracle** /'ɒrəkl/ *n* 1a an often cryptic answer to some question, usu regarding the future, purporting to come from a deity b (a shrine housing) a priest or priestess who delivers oracles 2 (a statement by) a person giving wise or authoritative decisions [ME, fr MF, fr L *oraculum*, fr *orare* to speak – more at **ORATION**]

**Oracle trademark** – used for a service provided by ITV which transmits information (e.g. the weather or sports results) on usu special channels  TELEVISION

**oracular** /'ɒrəkʊlə/ *adj* 1 of or being an oracle 2 resembling an oracle (e.g. in solemnity or obscurity of expression) [L *oraculum*] – **oracularly** *adv*

**'oral** /'ɔrəl/, 'o-/ *adj* 1a uttered in words, spoken b using speech 2a of, given through, or affecting the mouth <~ *contraceptive*> b of or characterized by (passive dependency, aggressiveness, or other personality traits typical of) the first stage of sexual development in which gratification is derived from eating, sucking, and later by biting – compare **ANAL**, **GENITAL** [L *or*-, *os* mouth, akin to OE *ora* border, shore, L *ora* edge, border, Skt *ās* mouth] – **orally** *adv*, **orality** /'ɔrələti/, 'o-/ *n*

**²oral** *n* an oral examination

**'orange** /'ɒrɪŋ/ *n* 1a (a small evergreen tree of the rue family with hard yellow wood and fragrant white flowers that bears) a spherical fruit with a reddish yellow leathery aromatic rind and sweet juicy edible pulp 2 any of several trees or fruits resembling the orange 3 a colour whose hue resembles that of the orange and lies between red and yellow in the spectrum [ME, fr MF, fr OProv *auranja* fr Ar *naraj*, fr Per *narang*, fr Skt *naranga* orange tree, of Dravidian origin, akin to Tamil *naṇṇu* fragrant]

**²orange** *adj* of the colour orange

**Orange** *adj* of Orangemen <an ~ *lodge*> – **Orangeism** *n*

**'Orangeman** /-'mən/ *n*, *pl Orangemen* /-mən/ 1 a member of a Protestant loyalist society in the north of Ireland 2 a Protestant Irishman, esp of Ulster [William III of England, Prince of Orange (fr *Orange*, city in France) †1702 Protestant ruler who deposed the Roman Catholic James II]

**'orange, peel** *n* a pitted surface (e.g. on porcelain) like that of an orange

**orangery** /'ɒrɪŋ(ə)rɪ/ *n* a protected place (e.g. a greenhouse) for growing oranges in cool climates

**'orange-stick** *n* a thin usu orangewood stick with a pointed end used in manicuring

**'orange-wood** /-,wood/ *n* the wood of the orange tree used esp for turning and carving

**orangish** /'ɒrɪŋɪʃ/ *adj* rather orange

**orangutan**, **orangutan** /aw.rang-(y)oo'h'tan/ *n* a largely plant-eating tree-dwelling anthropoid ape of Borneo and Sumatra with brown skin and hair and very long arms [Malay *orang hutan*, fr *orang* man + *hutan* forest]

**orangy**, **orangey** /'ɒrɪŋj/ *adj* resembling an orange, esp in taste or colour

**orate** /aw'reɪt/ *vi* to speak in an elevated and often pompous manner [back-formation fr *oration*]

**oration** /aw'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a speech delivered in a formal and dignified manner [L *oration*-, *oratio* speech, oration, fr *oratus*, pp of *orare* to plead, speak, pray, akin to Russ *orat* 'to yell, Gk *ara*, *are* prayer]





**orator** /'ɒrətə/ *n* 1 one who delivers an oration 2 a skilled public speaker [ME *orateur*, fr MF or L, MF *orateur*, fr L *orator*, fr *oratus*, pp]

**Oratorian** /'ɒrətəwɪən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of the Congregation of the Oratory, a Roman Catholic preaching order founded by St Philip Neri in 1564

**oratorio** /'ɒrətəwɪə/ *n*, *pl oratorios* a choral work based usu on a religious subject and composed chiefly of recitatives, arias, and choruses without action or scenery [It, fr the *Oratorio* di San Filippo Neri (Oratory of St Philip Neri) in Rome, where musical religious services were held in the 16th c]

**'oratory** /'ɒrət(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a place of prayer; esp a private or institutional



- chapel 2 *cap* an Oratorian congregation, house, or church [ME *oratorie*, fr LL *oratorium*, fr L *oratus*, pp]
- oratory** /*ˈɔːrətəri*/ *n* 1 the art of public speaking 2 public speaking characterized by (excessive) eloquence [L *oratoria*, fr fem of *oratorius* oratorical, fr *oratus*, pp]
- orb** /*awb/* *n* 1 a spherical body; esp a celestial sphere 2 a sphere surmounted by a cross symbolizing royal power and justice [MF *orbe*, fr L *orbis* circle, disc, orb; akin to L *orbita* track, rut]
- orbicular** /*aw'bikyoʊlə/* *adj* 1 spherical 2 circular (< leaves)  PLANT [ME *orbicular*, fr MF or LL; MF *orbiculaire*, fr LL *orbicularis*, fr L *orbiculus*, dim of *orbis*] – **orbicularly** *adv*, **orbicularity** /*ˈlɑːrətɪ/* *n*, **orbiculate** /*ˈlɑːt/* *adj*
- 'orbit** /*awbɪt/* *n* 1 the bony socket of the eye 2 (1 complete passage of) a path described by one body in its revolution round another (e.g. that of the earth round the sun)  SPACE 3 a sphere of influence 4 the eye – poetic [L *orbita*] – **orbital** *adj*
- 'orbit** *vt* 1 to revolve in an orbit round 2 to send up and make revolve in an orbit ~ *vi* to travel in circles
- orbital** /*awbɪt/* *n* an area round an atom or molecule inside which there is a high probability of finding 1 or 2 of the electrons that orbit round the atomic nuclei
- orbiter** /*awbɪtə/* *n* a spacecraft designed to orbit a celestial body without landing on its surface [ORBIT + *ˌER*]
- Orkadian** /*aw'kaydiən/* *n* a native or inhabitant of the Orkney islands [L *Orcae* Orkney islands] – **Orkadian** *adj*
- orchard** /*aw'ʃɑːd/* *n* a usu enclosed area in which fruit trees are planted [ME, fr OE *ortgeard*, prob fr L *hortus* garden + OE *geard* yard – more at *'YARD*]
- orchestra** /*ˈɔːkwɪstrə/* *n* 1 the circular space used by the chorus in front of the stage in an ancient Greek theatre 2 the space in front of the stage in a modern theatre that is used by an orchestra 3 a group of musicians including esp string players organized to perform ensemble music [L, fr Gk *orchestra*, fr *orchēsthai* to dance, akin to Skt *ṛghayati* he raves]
- orchestral** /*aw'kestrəl/* *adj* of or composed for an orchestra – **orchestrally** *adv*
- orchestrate** /*aw'kɪstrəɪt/* *vt* 1 to compose or arrange (music) for an orchestra 2 to provide with orchestration (< a *ballet*) – **orchestrator** *n*
- orchestration** /*aw'kɪstrəʃən/* *n* (the style of) the arrangement of music for performance by an orchestra
- orchid** /*aw'kɪd/* *n* a plant or flower of a large family of plants related to the grasses and lilies and usu having striking 3-petalled flowers with an enlarged lip-like middle petal  ENDANGERED [irreg fr NL *Orchis*]
- orchidectomy** /*aw'kɪdektəmi/* *n* the surgical removal of 1 or both testicles [irreg fr Gk *orchis* testicle + E *-ectomy*]
- orchil** /*aw'ʃɪl/*, *aw'kɪl/* *n* a violet dye obtained from certain lichens [ME *orchell*, fr OF *orchel*, perh deriv of L *herba urceolaris* plant for polishing glass pitchers, fr *urceolus*, dim of *urceus* pitcher]
- orchis** /*aw'kɪs/* *n* an orchid, esp of a genus having fleshy roots and a spurred lip [NL, genus name, fr L, orchid, fr Gk, testicle, orchid; akin to Mlr *urgge* testicle; fr the shape of the tubers]
- orchitis** /*aw'kɪtɪs/* *n* inflammation of the testicles [NL, fr Gk *orchis* testicle]
- ordain** /*aw'dayn/* *vt* 1 to invest officially with priestly authority (e.g. by the laying on of hands) 2a to order by appointment, decree, or law, enact b to destine, foreordain [ME *ordeinen*, fr OF *ordener*, fr LL *ordinare*, fr L, to put in order, appoint, fr *ordin-*, *ordo* order] – **ordination** *n*
- ordain** /*aw'deɪn/* *n* 1 a method formerly used to determine guilt or innocence by submitting the accused to dangerous or painful tests whose outcome was believed to depend on divine or supernatural intervention (< ~ by fire) 2 a severe or testing experience [ME *ordal*, fr OE *ordal*; akin to OHG *urteil* judgment; both from a prehistoric WGmc compound derived fr a compound verb represented by OHG *irteilen* to judge, distribute, fr *ir-*, perfective prefix + *teilen* to divide, render a verdict, akin to OHG *teil* part – more at *DEAL*]
- 'order** /*awdə/* *n* 1a a religious body or community living under a specific rule and often required to take vows of renunciation of earthly things b a military decoration 2a any of the several grades of the Christian ministry b pl the office of a person in the Christian ministry 3a a rank or group in a community b a category in the classification of living things ranking above the family and below the class 4a(1) a rank or level (2) a category or kind b arrangement of objects or events according to sequence in space, time, value, importance, etc c DEGREE 7a d the number of times mathematical differentiation is applied successively (< *derivatives of higher* ~) e the number of columns or rows in a square
- matrix f the number of elements in a finite mathematical group 5a (a sphere of) a sociopolitical system (< *the present economic* ~) b regular or harmonious arrangement 6a customary procedure, esp in debate (< *point of* ~) b a prescribed form of a religious service 7a the rule of law or proper authority (< *law and* ~) b a specific rule, regulation, or authoritative direction 8a a style of building, esp any of the classical styles of building (< *the Doric* ~) b a column and entablature proportioned and decorated according to one of the classical styles 9 a proper, orderly, or functioning condition (< *telephone is out of* ~) 10a a written direction to pay money to sb b a direction to purchase, sell, or supply goods or to carry out work c goods bought or sold d an assigned undertaking – chiefly in a *tall order* 11 the style of dress and equipment for a specified purpose (< *troops in full marching* ~) [MF *ordre*, fr ML & L; ML *ordin-*, *ordo* ecclesiastical order, fr L, arrangement, group, class, akin to L *ordini* to lay the warp, begin] – **in order** that THAT 2a(1) – **in order** to for the purpose of – **in the order** of about as much or as many as, approximately – **on order** having been ordered – **to order** according to the specifications of an order (< *furniture made to order*)
- 'order** *vt* 1 to put in order, arrange 2a to give an order to, command b to command to go or come to a specified place c to place an order for (< ~ a *meal*) ~ *vi* to give or place an order
- order** *arms* *n* a drill position in which the rifle is held vertically beside the right leg with the butt resting on the ground [fr the command *order arms*]
- 'ordered** *adj* 1 well regulated or ordered 2a having elements succeeding or arranged according to rule b having a specified first element (< a *set of* ~ *pairs*)
- order** in *'council* *n*, often *cap* O&C an order made by the British sovereign on the advice of the privy council, giving the force of law to administrative regulations  LAW
- 'orderly** /*aw'dəli/* *adj* 1a arranged in order, neat, tidy b liking or exhibiting order; methodical 2 well behaved, peaceful – **orderliness** *n*
- 'orderly** *n* 1 a soldier assigned to carry messages, relay orders, etc for a superior officer 2 a hospital attendant who does routine or heavy work (e.g. carrying supplies or moving patients)
- order** of *'magnitude* *n* a range of magnitude extending from a particular value to 10 times that value
- order** of the *'day* *n* 1 an agenda 2 the characteristic or dominant feature or activity
- 'order** *paper* *n* a programme of the day's business in a legislative assembly
- 'ordinal** /*aw'dɪnəl/* *n* 1a *cap* (a book containing) the forms of service for ordination b a book containing the Roman Catholic services proper to every day of the year 2 ORDINAL NUMBER [(1) ME, fr ML *ordinale*, fr LL, neut of *ordinalis*, *adj*, (2) LL *ordinalis*, fr *ordinalis*, *adj*]
- 'ordinal** *adj* of a specified order or rank in a series [LL *ordinalis*, fr L *ordin-*, *ordo*]
- ordinal number** *n* a number designating the place (e.g. first, second, or third) occupied by an item in an ordered set – compare **CARDINAL NUMBER**  NUMBER
- ordinance** /*aw'dɪnəns/* *n* 1 an authoritative decree, esp a municipal regulation 2 a prescribed usage, practice, or ceremony [ME, fr MF & ML; MF *ordenance*, lit. act of arranging, fr ML *ordinantia*, fr L *ordinant-*, *ordinans*, prp of *ordinare* to put in order – more at *ORDAIN*]
- ordinand** /*aw'dɪnənd/* *n* a candidate for ordination [LL *ordinandus*, gerundive of *ordinare* to ordain]
- 'ordinary** /*aw'dn(ə)rɪ/*, *aw'd(ə)n(ə)rɪ/* *n* 1 often *cap* the invariable parts of the Mass – compare **PROPER** 2 2 the regular or customary state of affairs – chiefly in *out of the ordinary* 3 any of the simplest heraldic charges bounded by straight lines (e.g. a chevron) [ME *ordinarie*, fr AF & ML; AF, fr ML *ordinarius*, fr L *ordinarius*, *adj*]
- 'ordinary** *adj* 1 routine, usual 2 not exceptional; commonplace [ME *ordinarie*, fr L *ordinarius*, fr *ordin-*, *ordo* order] – **ordinarily** /*ˌɔːrɪnəˈrɪli/*, *aw'd(ə)n(ə)rɪli/* *adv*, **ordinariness** *n*
- Ordinary level** *n*, often *cap* L an examination that is the lowest of the 3 levels of the British General Certificate of Education
- ordinary** *'seaman* *n*  RANK
- ordinary share** *n* a share which has a claim on dividends or assets only after the claims of preference shares have been met – compare **PREFERENCE SHARE**, **DEFERRED SHARE**
- ordinate** /*aw'dɪnət/* *n* the coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the y-axis – compare **ABSCISSA** [NL (*linea*) *ordinate* (*applicata*), lit., line applied in an orderly manner]

**ordination** /ˈɔːdnəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (an) ordaining; being ordained  
**ordnance** /ˈɔːdnəns/ *n* 1 (a branch of government service dealing with) military supplies 2 cannon, artillery [ME *ordinaunce*, fr MF *ordenance*, lit., act of arranging]  
**'ordnance datum** *n* a standard mean sea level used by the Ordnance Survey  
**'Ordnance Survey** *n* (a British or Irish government organization that produces) a survey of Great Britain or Ireland published as a series of detailed maps  
**ordonnance** /ˈɔːdnəns/ (Fr *ordnāns*) *n* arrangement of parts (e.g. of a literary composition) [F, alter. of MF *ordenance*]  
**Ordovician** /ˈɔːdəvɪʃyən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the period of the Palaeozoic era between the Cambrian and the Silurian → **EVOLUTION** [L *Ordovices*, ancient people in N Wales]  
**ordure** /ˈɔːdwɪə/ *n* excrement [ME, fr MF, fr *ord* filthy, fr L *horridus* horrid]  
**ore** /ɔː/ *n* a mineral containing a metal or other valuable constituent for which it is mined [ME *or*, fr OE *ār*; akin to OHG *ēr* bronze, L *aes* copper, bronze, Skt *ayas* metal, iron]  
**øre** /ˈuːrə/ *n*, pl *øre* → Denmark, Norway, Sweden at NATIONALITY [Sw *öre* & Dan & Norw *øre*, fr L *aureus*, a gold coin]  
**oregano** /ˈɔːrɪˈɡənoʊ/ *n* a bushy plant of the mint family whose leaves are used as a herb in cooking [AmerSp *orégano*, fr Sp, wild marjoram, fr L *organum*, fr Gk *organon*]  
**'Oregon pine** /ˈɔːrɪˈɡən/ *n* DOUGLAS FIR [Oregon, state of the USA]  
**organ** /ˈɔːɡən/ *n* 1a a wind instrument consisting of sets of pipes made to sound by compressed air and controlled by keyboards; also an electronic keyboard instrument producing a sound approximating to that of an organ b REED ORGAN c any of various similar cruder instruments 2 a differentiated structure (e.g. the heart or a leaf) consisting of cells and tissues and performing some specific function in an organism 3 a subordinate organization that performs specialized functions (<the various ~s of government>) 4 a periodical [ME, partly fr OE *organa*, fr L *organum*, fr Gk *organon*, lit., tool, instrument; partly fr OF *organe*, fr L *organum*; akin to Gk *ergon* work – more at 'work] – **organist** *n*  
**organ-, organo-** *comb form* 1 organ; organs (<organogenesis>) 2 organic (<organomercurial>) [ME, fr ML, fr L *organum*]  
**organdie, organdy** /ˈɔːɡændi/ *n* a very fine transparent muslin with a stiff finish [F *organdi*]  
**organelle** /ˈɔːɡəˈnel/ *n* a part of a cell (e.g. a mitochondrion) that has a specialized structure and usu a specific function [NL *organella*, fr L *organum*]  
**'organ-grinder** *n* an itinerant street musician who operates a barrel organ  
**organic** /ˈɔːɡənɪk/ *adj* 1a of or arising in a bodily organ b affecting the structure of the organism (<an ~ disease>) – compare FUNCTIONAL 1b 2a of or derived from living organisms b of or being food produced using fertilizer solely of plant or animal origin without the aid of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc (<~ farming>) 3a forming an integral element of a whole b having systematic coordination of parts c containing carbon compounds, esp those occurring in living organisms, also of or being the branch of chemistry dealing with these d resembling or developing in the manner of an organism 4 of or constituting the law by which a government exists – **organically** *adv*  
**organism** /ˈɔːɡənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a complex structure of interdependent and subordinate elements 2 a living being – **organismic** /ˈɔːnɪz(ə)mɪk/ *adj*, **organismal** /ˈɔːnɪz(ə)məl/ *adj*  
**organ-ization, -ization** /ˈɔːɡənɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a organizing or being organized b the condition or manner of being organized 2a an association, society b an administrative and functional body – **organizational** *adj*  
**organ-ize, -ise** /ˈɔːɡənɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause to develop an organic structure 2 to arrange or form into a complete or functioning whole 3a to set up an administrative structure for b to persuade to associate in an organization; esp to unionize (<~d labour>) 4 to arrange by systematic planning and effort ~vi 1 to arrange elements into a whole 2 to form an organization, esp a trade union – **organizer** *n*  
**organoleptic** /ˈɔːɡənɒˈleptɪk, ˈɔːɡənə-/ *adj* 1 involving or using 1 or more of the sense organs (<~ evaluation of foods>) 2 being, affecting, or relating to qualities (e.g. taste and smell) that stimulate the sense organs [F *organoleptique*, fr *organ-* + Gk *leptikos* disposed to take, fr *lambanein* to take – more at LATCH]  
**organon** /ˈɔːɡənɒn/ *n* an instrument for acquiring or ordering knowledge [Gk, lit., tool – more at ORGAN]

**organophosphate** /ˈɔːɡənəˈfɒsfeɪt/ *n* an organic compound, esp a war gas or pesticide, containing phosphorus – **organophosphate** *adj*  
**organum** /ˈɔːɡənəm/ *n* an organ [ML, fr L, organ]  
**organza** /ˈɔːɡənza/ *n* a sheer dress fabric resembling organdie, usu made of silk, rayon, or nylon [prob alter. of *Lorganza*, a trademark]  
**organsine** /ˈɔːɡənˌziːn/ *n* a raw silk yarn used for warp threads in fine fabrics [F or It, F *organsin*, fr It *organzino*, prob fr *Urgench*, town in USSR, where it was first manufactured]  
**orgasm** /ˈɔːɡəz(ə)m/ *n* intense or paroxysmal emotional excitement; esp (an instance of) the climax of sexual excitement, occurring typically as the culmination of sexual intercourse [NL *orgasmus*, fr Gk *orgasmos*, fr *organ* to grow ripe, be lustful; akin to Skt *urjā* sap, strength] – **orgasmic** /ˈɔːɡəz(ə)mɪk/ *adj*, **orgastic** /ˈɔːɡəstɪk/ *adj*  
**orgeat** /ˈɔːzəh/ (Fr *orça*) *n* a sweet syrup or drink made with almonds and usu flower water and used esp as a cocktail ingredient [F, fr MF, fr *orge* barley, fr L *hordeum*, akin to OHG *gersta* barley, Gk *κῆρ*]  
**orgy** /ˈɔːrɡi/ *n* 1 the secret rites of an ancient Greek or Roman deity, often accompanied by ecstatic singing and dancing 2a drunken revelry b a wild party characterized by sexual promiscuity 3 an excessive or frantic indulgence in a specified activity (<an ~ of destruction>) [MF *orgie*, fr L *orgia*, pl, fr Gk, akin to Gk *ergon* work – more at 'work] – **orgiastic** /ˈɔːstɪk/ *adj*  
**-oria** /ˈɔːwri-ə/ *pl* of -ORIUM  
**-orial** /ˈɔːwri-əl/ *suffix* (→ *adj*) of, belonging to, or connected with (<sensorial>) [ME, fr L *-orius* -ory + ME *-al*]  
**oribi** /ˈɔːrɪbi, ˈɔːw-/ *n*, pl *oribis* a small graceful tan-coloured antelope of S and E Africa [Afrik]  
**oriel window** /ˈɔːwri-əl/ *n* a bay window projecting from an upper storey and supported by a corbel or bracket [ME *oriel* porch, oriel window, fr MF *oriel* porch]  
**'orient** /ˈɔːwri-ənt, ˈo-/ *n* 1 *cap* EAST 2 2 a pearl of great lustre [ME, fr MF, fr L *orient-*, *oriens*, fr *prp* of *ori* to rise – more at RISE]  
**'orient** *adj* 1 lustrous, sparkling (<~ gems>) 2 archaic ORIENTAL 1  
**'orient** /ˈɔːwri-ənt, ˈo-/ *vt* 1a to cause to face or point towards the east, *specific* to build (a church or temple) with the longitudinal axis pointing eastwards b to set in a definite position, esp in relation to the points of the compass c to ascertain the bearings of 2a to adjust to an environment or a situation b to acquaint (oneself) with the existing situation or environment [F *orienter*, fr MF, fr *orient*]  
**oriental** /ˈɔːwri-əntl, ˈo-/ *adj* 1 *often cap* relating to or characteristic of the Orient 2a of a pearl or other precious stone of superior grade, lustre, or value b being corundum but simulating another specified gem in colour (<~ amethyst>) 3 *often cap* relating to or having the characteristics of Orientals 4 *cap* of or being the biogeographic region that includes Asia S and SE of the Himalayas and part of the Malay archipelago  
**Oriental** *n* a member of any of the indigenous peoples of the Orient  
**orientalist** /ˈɔːwri-əntl-ɪst, ˈo-/ *n*, *often cap* a specialist in oriental subjects  
**orientate** /ˈɔːwri-əntˌeɪt, ˈo-/ *vt*, chiefly Br to orient ~vi to face east  
**orientation** /ˈɔːwri-əntˌeɪʃ(ə)n, ˈo-/ *n* 1a orienting or being oriented b an arrangement or alignment 2 a lasting tendency of thought, inclination, or interest 3 change of position by (a part of) an organism in response to an external stimulus – **orientational** *adj*  
**orienteering** /ˈɔːwri-əntˌeɪərɪŋ, ˈo-/ *n* a sport in which contestants traverse a usu difficult unfamiliar course using a map and compass to navigate their way between checkpoints [modif (influenced by -eer) of Sw *orientering*, fr *orientera* to orient] – **orienteer** *vi*  
**orifice** /ˈɔːrɪfɪs/ *n* an opening (e.g. a vent or mouth) through which sth may pass [MF, fr LL *orificium*, fr L *or-*, *os* mouth + *-ficium* (fr *-ficus* -fic) – more at ORAL] – **orificial** /ˈɔːrɪfɪ(ə)l/ *adj*  
**origami** /ˈɔːrɪˈɡəmi/ *n* the (traditional Japanese) art or process of folding paper into complex shapes [Jap]  
**origanum** /ˈɔːrɪˈɡənəm, ˈɔːrɪˈɡənm/ *n* oregano; also marjoram [ME, fr L, wild marjoram, fr Gk *organon*]  
**origin** /ˈɔːrɪjən/ *n* 1 ancestry, parentage 2 a source or starting-point 3 the more fixed, central, or large attachment or part of a muscle 4 the intersection of coordinate axes [ME *origine*, prob fr MF, fr L *origin-*, *origo*, fr *oriri* to rise – more at RISE]  
**'original** /ˈɔːrɪjənəl/ *n* 1 that from which a copy, reproduction, or translation is made 2 an eccentric person  
**'original** *adj* 1 initial, earliest 2a not secondary, derivative, or imitative b being the first instance or source of a copy, reproduction, or translation 3 inventive, creative – **originally** *adv*  
**originality** /ˈɔːrɪjənəlɪti/ *n* 1 freshness, novelty 2 the power of imaginative and independent thought or creation [ORIGINAL + -ITY]

**original** /'sɪn/ *n* (the doctrine of) man's innate sinfulness resulting from Adam's fall


**originate** /ə'ɪnʃə, nɪl/ *vb* to (cause to) begin or come into existence – **originator** *n*, **origination** /-nəɪʃən/ *n*

**orinaseal** /əwɪ'nayzəl, -ɔ-/ *adj* **NASAL** 2b [L *or*, *os* mouth + E *nasal*]


**oriole** /'awɪə, oʊl, -əl/ *n* any of a family of birds with black and either orange or yellow plumage [F *oriol*, fr L *aureolus*, dim of *aureus* golden, fr *aurum* gold, akin to Lith *auksas* gold]

**orison** /'ɒrɪz(ə)n/ *n*, *archaic* a prayer [ME, fr OF, fr LL *oration*-, *oratio*, fr L, *oration*]

**-orium** /-əwɪə-əm/ *suffix pl* **-oriums**, **-oria** /-əwɪə-ə/ (+ *n*) **-ORY** <crematorium> [L, fr neut of *-orius* -ory]

**Oriya** /o'tree(y)ə/ *n* the language of Orissa in India  **LANGUAGE**

**Orlon** /'awlon/ *trademark* – used for an acrylic fibre


**'orlop, deck** /'awlop/ *n* the lowest deck in a ship that has 4 or more decks  **SHIP** [ME *overlop* deck of a single-decker, fr MLG *overlop*, lit, something that overlaps]

**ormer** /'awmə/ *n* an abalone [F dial, prob deriv of L *auris maris* ear of the sea]

**ormolu** /awmə, looh/ *n* gilded brass or bronze used to decorate furniture, ornaments, etc [F or *moulu*, lit, ground gold]

**'ornament** /'awnəmənt/ *n* 1 sthg that lends grace or beauty, (a) decoration or embellishment 2 a person who adds honour or importance to sthg 3 an embellishing note not belonging to the essential harmony or melody [ME, fr OF *ornement*, fr L *ornamentum* equipment, decoration, fr *ornare*]

**ornament** /'awnə, mənt/ *vt* to add ornament to, embellish

**ornamental** /'awnəməntəl/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a decorative object, esp a plant *cukivateč*  *its* beauty – **ornamentally** *adv*

**ornamentation** /'awnəməntə'teɪʃən/ *n* 1 ornamenting or being ornamented 2 sthg that ornaments; an embellishment

**ornate** /aw'nayt/ *adj* 1 rhetorical or florid in style 2 elaborately or excessively decorated [ME *ornat*, fr L *ornatus*, pp of *ornare* to furnish, embellish; akin to L *ordinare* to order – more at **ORDAIN**] – **ornately** *adv*, **ornateness** *n*

**ornery** /'awnəri/ *adj*, **NAM** cantankerous – *infrm* [alter. of *ordinary*] – **ornerness** *n*

**ornith-**, **ornitho-** *comb form* bird <ornithology> [L, fr Gk, fr *ornith-*, *ornis*]

**ornithology** /aw'nə'thɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of zoology dealing with birds [NL *ornithologia*, fr *ornith-* + *-logia* -logy] – **ornithologist** *n*, **ornithological** /-tʰə'lədʒɪkəl/ *adj*

**'oro-** *comb form* mountain <orology> <orogeny> [Gk *oros*]

**'oro-** *comb form* mouth <oropharynx> [L *or*-, *os* – more at **ORAL**]

**orography** /'ɒrəgrəfi/ *n* a branch of physical geography that deals with mountains [ISV *'oro-* + *geography*] – **orographic** /-ɒrə'grəfɪk/, **orographical** *adj*


**orotund** /'ɒrə'tʌnd, 'ɒrəh-/ *adj* 1 marked by fullness of sound, sonorous 2 pompous, bombastic [modif of L *ore rotundo*, lit, with round mouth] – **orotundity** /-ɒrə'tʌndɪti, 'ɒrəh-/ *n*

**'orphan** /'awf(ə)n/ *n* 1 a child 1 or both of whose parents are dead 2 a young animal that has lost its mother [LL *orphanus*, fr Gk *orphanos*, akin to OHG *erbi* inheritance, L *orbus* orphaned] – **orphanhood** *n*

**'orphan** *vt* to cause to be an orphan

**orphange** /'awf(ə)n-ɪ/ *n* an institution for the care of orphans

**orphic** /'awfɪk/ *adj* 1 cap of Orpheus or the rites or doctrines ascribed to him 2 mystic, oracular [L *Orphicus*, fr Gk *Orphikos*, fr *Orpheus*, poet & musician in Gk mythology]

**Orphism** /'awfɪz(ə)m/ *n* an ancient Greek mystery religion  *Orpheus*, its reputed founder]

**orphrey** /'awfrɪ/ *n* an ornamental border or band, esp on an ecclesiastical vestment [ME *orfrey*, fr MF *ortreus*, fr ML *aurifrigium*, fr L *aurum* gold + *Phrygius* Phrygian – more at **ORIOLE**]

**orpiment** /'awpɪmənt/ *n* arsenic trisulphide occurring as an orange to lemon yellow mineral and formerly used as a pigment [ME, fr MF, fr L *auripigmentum*, fr *aurum* + *pigmentum* pigment]

**orpine** /'awpɪn/ *n* a plant with fleshy leaves and pink or purple flowers [ME *orpin*, fr MF, fr *orpiment*]

**Orpington** /'awpɪŋt(ə)n/ *n* (any of) an English breed of large deep-chested domestic fowls [Orpington, town in Kent, England]

**orrery** /'ɒrəri/ *n* a clockwork apparatus showing the relative positions and motions of bodies in the solar system [Charles Boyle †1731 4th Earl of Orrery, for whom one was made]

**orris** /'ɒrɪs/ *n* (a European iris with) a fragrant rootstock used esp in

perfume and perfumed sachets [prob alter of ME *ireos*, fr ML, alter. of L *iris*]

**'orris, root** /-rooht/ *n* the fragrant rootstock of orris or another iris

**orth-**, **ortho-** *comb form* 1 straight, upright, vertical <orthorhombic> 2 correct, corrective <orthodontics> 3 containing the highest possible number of hydroxyl groups or molecules of water <orthophosphate> 4 **ortho-** also **orth-** involving substitution at 2 neighbouring positions in the benzene ring <ortho-xylene> – compare **META-**, **PARA-** [ME, fr MF, straight, right, true, fr L, fr Gk, fr *orthos* – more at **ARDUOUS**]

**orthocephalic** /aw'thɒs'i'fælik/, **orthocephalous** /-s'efələs/ *adj* having a medium ratio of the height to the length or breadth of the skull [NL *orthocephalus* orthocephalic person, fr *orth-* + Gk *kephale* head – more at **CEPHALIC**] – **orthocephaly** /-s'efəli/ *n*

**orthochromatic** /aw'thə'krɒmætɪk, -tʰoʊ-, -krə-/ *adj* 1 of or producing natural tone values of light and shade in a photograph 2 sensitive to all colours except red <~ film> [ISV]

**orthoclase** /aw'thə'klaɪz, -klaɪs/ *n* a common feldspar consisting of potassium aluminium silicate [G *orthoklas*, fr *orth-* + Gk *klasis* breaking, fr *klan* to break – more at **'HALT**]

**orthodontia** /aw'thɒh'dɒnʃɪə, -tʰə-/ *n* orthodontics [NL]

**orthodontics** /aw'thə'dɒntɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* dentistry dealing with (the correction of) irregularities of the teeth – **orthodontic** /-tɪk/ *adj*, **orthodontist** *n*

**orthodox** /aw'thə'dɒks/ *adj* 1a conforming to established, dominant, or official doctrine (e.g. in religion) b conventional 2a *cap* (consisting) of the Eastern churches headed by the patriarch of Constantinople which separated from the Western church in the 9th c and have characteristic and separate doctrines, liturgy, and forms of organization b *cap* relating to Judaism that keeps to strict and conservative interpretation of the Torah and rabbinic tradition [MF or LL, MF *orthodoxe*, fr LL *orthodoxus*, fr LGk *orthodoxos*, fr Gk *orth-* + *doxa* opinion – more at **DOXOLOGY**] – **orthodoxly** *adv*


**orthodoxy** /aw'thə'dɒksɪ/ *n* 1 being orthodox 2 an orthodox belief or practice

**orthoepy** /aw'thə'epɪ/ *n* the study of (correct) pronunciation [NL *orthoepia*, fr Gk *orthoepia*, fr *orth-* + *epos* word – more at **VOICE**] – **orthoepic** /-epɪk/ *adj*, **orthoepist** *n*

**orthogenesis** /aw'thə'jənəsɪs/ *n* the theory that social evolution takes place through the same stages in every culture [NL] – **orthogenetic** /-jə'netɪk/ *adj*

**orthogonal** /aw'thə'gɒnl/ *adj*, of lines, planes, axes, etc perpendicular to one another [MF, fr L *orthogonus*, fr Gk *orthogonios*, fr *orth-* + *gōnia* angle – more at **-GON**] – **orthogonally** *adv*

**orthographic** /aw'thə'græfɪk/ also **orthographical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 characterized by perpendicular lines or right angles 2 of orthography – **orthographically** *adv*

**orthography** /aw'thə'græfi/ *n* 1 correct spelling 2 the manner of spelling  **ALPHABET** [ME *ortografie*, fr MF, fr L *orthographia*, fr Gk, fr *orth-* + *graphein* to write – more at **CARVE**]

**orthopaedics**, **NAM** chiefly **orthopedics** /aw'thə'pi:diiks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the correction or prevention of skeletal and muscular deformities, esp by surgery [F *orthopédique*, *adj*, fr *orthopédie* orthopedics, fr *ortho-* + Gk *paid-*, *pais* child] – **orthopaedic** *adj*, **orthopaedist** *n*

**orthopteran**, **orthoptera** /aw'thɒptərən/ *n*, *pl* **orthoptera**, **orthoptera** /-rə/ any of an order of large insects (e.g. crickets and grasshoppers) with biting mouthparts and either no wings or 2 pairs of wings [NL *Orthoptera*, group name, fr *orth-* + Gk *pteron* wing – more at **FEATHER**] – **orthopteran** *adj*, **orthopterous** *adj*

**orthorhombic** /aw'thə'rɒmbɪk/ *adj* of or constituting a system of crystal structure characterized by 3 unequal axes at right angles to each other [ISV]


**orthoscopic** /aw'thə'skɒpɪk, -tʰoʊ-/ *adj* 1 giving an image in correct and normal proportions 2 giving a flat field of view [ISV *orth-* + *-scopic* (as in *microscopic*)]

**ortolan** /'awtələn, 'awtlən/ *n* a brown and greyish-green European bunting [F or It; F, fr lt *ortolano*, lit., gardener, fr L *hortulanus*, fr *hortulus*, dim. of *hortus* garden – more at **'YARD**]

**'ory** /-(ə)rɪ/ *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 place of or for <observatory> <refectory> 2 sthg that serves for <directory> [ME *-orie*, fr L *-orium*, fr neut of *-orius*, *adj* suffix]

**'ory** *suffix* (→ *adj*) 1 of or involving <gustatory> <compulsory> 2 serving for or producing <justificatory> [ME *-orie*, fr MF & L; MF, fr L *-orius*]

**oryx** /'ɒnks/ *n*, *pl* **oryxes**, *esp* collectively **oryx** any of a genus of large

- straight-horned African antelopes [NL, genus name, fr L, a gazelle, fr Gk, pickaxe, antelope, fr *oryssein* to dig -- more at **ROUGH**]
- Oscan** /'oskən/ *n* (the language of) a member of a people of ancient Italy inhabiting Campania [L *Oscus*] - **Oscan** *adj*
- Oscar** /'oskə/ *n* a statuette awarded annually by a US professional organization for outstanding achievement in the cinema [Oscar Pierce, 20th-c US wheat and fruit grower]
- Oscar** - a communications code word for the letter *o*
- oscillate** /'osi,ləit/ *vi* 1a to swing backwards and forwards like a pendulum b to move or travel back and forth between 2 points 2 to vary between opposing beliefs, feelings, or courses of action [L *oscillatus*, pp of *oscillare* to swing, fr *oscillum* swing] - **oscillatory** /'osilət(ə)ri/ *adj*
- oscillation** /'osi,ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 oscillating 2 a variation, fluctuation 3 a flow of electricity periodically changing direction 4 a single swing (e.g. of sth oscillating) from one extreme limit to the other
- oscillator** /'osi,ləɪtə/ *n* 1 sb or sth that oscillates 2 a device for producing alternating current, esp a radio-frequency or audio-frequency signal generator
- oscillograph** /'sɪlə,grəf/, -grəf/ *n* an instrument for recording (electrical) oscillations [F *oscillographe*, fr L *oscillare* + F *-graphie* -graph] - **oscillographic** /-grəfɪk/ *adj*, **oscillography** /'osilə'grəfi/ *n*
- oscilloscope** /'sɪlə'skəʊp/ *n* an instrument in which electrical oscillations register as a temporary visible wave form on the fluorescent screen of a cathode-ray tube [L *oscillare* + ISV *-scope*] - **oscilloscopic** /-'skəʊpɪk/ *adj*
- osine** /'osien/ *adj* of or being a suborder of passerine birds with vocal cords specialized for singing [L *oscin-*, *oscin* bird used in divination, fr *obs-* in front of + *canere* to sing - more at **OSTENSIBLE**, **CHANT**] - **osine** *n*
- osculate** /'oskyoo,ləɪt/ *vi* to kiss - humor or fml [L *osculatus*, pp of *osculari*, fr *osculum* kiss, fr dim of *os* mouth - more at **ORAL**] - **osculation** /-'ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- osculum** /'oskyoo,ləm/ *n* an opening in a sponge from which a current of water flows out [NL, fr L, dim of *os* mouth]
- ose** /-ohs; also -ohz/ *suffix* (- *adj*) 1 full of, possessing the quality of <verbose> <bellicose> 2 having, consisting of, resembling <frondose> <ramose> <globose> [ME, fr L *-osus*] - **-osity** /-'osəti/ *suffix* (- *n*)
- ose** /-ohz, -ohs/ *suffix* (- *n*) 1 carbohydrate <amylose>, esp sugar <fructose> 2 primary product of hydrolytic breakdown <protease> <peptose> [F, fr *glucose*]
- osier** /'ohzə/ *n* 1 any of various willows whose pliable twigs are used for furniture and basketry 2 a willow rod used in basketry - compare **WITHY** [ME, fr MF, fr ML *auseria* osier bed]
- osis** /-'ohsɪs/ *suffix*, pl **-oses** /-'ohseɪz/, **-osises** /-'ohsiseɪz/ (- *n*) 1a action, process, or condition of <hynosis> <metamorphosis> b abnormal or pathological condition of <thrombosis> 2 increase or formation of <leucocytosis> [ME, fr L, fr Gk *-ōsis*, fr *-ō-* (stem of causative verbs in *-oun*) + *-sis*] - **-otic** /-'otɪk/ *adj*, **-otically** *adv*
- Osmanli** /'ozmənli/ *n* 1 a member of the W branch of the Turkish peoples 2 Turkish [Turk *osmanlı*, fr *Osman* †1326 founder of the Ottoman Empire]
- osmiridium** /'ozmɪ'rɪdɪ-əm, -os-/ *n* a hard naturally occurring alloy that consists chiefly of iridium and osmium and is used esp for pen nibs [Gk *osmē* + NL *iridium*]
- osmium** /'ozmi-əm/ *n* a hard grey to black polyvalent metallic element of the platinum group that is the heaviest metal known  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Gk *osme* smell] - **osmic** /'ozmɪk/ *adj*
- osmometer** /'ozmɒmɪtə, -os-/ *n* an apparatus for measuring osmotic pressure [osmosis + *-meter*] - **osmometric** /-'mə'trɪk/ *adj*, **osmometry** /-'mɒmɪtri/ *n*
- osmoregulation** /'ozmoh,regyoo'ləɪʃ(ə)n, -os-/ *n* the usu automatic regulation of osmotic pressure, esp in the body of an organism [osmosis + *regulation*]
- osmose** /'ozmohs, -mohz, -os-/ *vi* to diffuse by osmosis [back-formation fr *osmosis*]
- osmosis** /'ozmohsɪs, -os-/ *n* 1 movement of a solvent through a semi-permeable membrane (e.g. of a living cell) into a solution of higher concentration that tends to equalize the concentrations on the 2 sides of the membrane 2 a process of absorption or diffusion suggestive of osmosis [NL, short for *endosmosis*] - **osmotic** /-'mɒtɪk/ *adj*
- osmotic pressure** /'ozmɒtɪk, -os-/ *n* the pressure produced by or associated with osmosis and dependent on concentration and temperature
- osmunda** /'oz'munda/ *n* any of a genus of large ferns [NL, genus name, fr ML, *osmunda*, fr OF *osmonde*]
- osprey** /'ospreɪ, -pri-/ *n* 1 a large fish-eating hawk with dark brown and white plumage 2 a feather trimming used for millinery [ME *osprey*, fr (assumed) MF *osfraie*, fr L *ossifraga*]
- osse** /'osi-/ *n* the collagen of bones [ISV, fr L *oss-*, *os*]
- osseous** /'osi-əs/ *adj* BONY 1 [L *osseus*, fr *oss-*, *os* bone; akin to Gk *osteon* bone, Skt *asthi*]
- ossicle** /'osɪkl/ *n* a small bone or bony structure (e.g. in the middle ear) [L *ossiculum*, dim of *oss-*, *os*] - **ossicular** /'osɪkyoolə/ *adj*
- ossifrage** /'osɪfrij, -fray/ *n* a lammergeier [L *ossifraga* sea eagle, fr fem of *ossifragus* bone-breaking, fr *oss-*, *os* + *frangere* to break - more at **BREAK**]
- ossify** /'osɪ,fi-/ *vi* 1 to become bone 2 to become unfeeling, unimaginative, or rigid ~ *vt* to change (e.g. cartilage) into bone [prob fr (assumed) NL *ossificare*, fr I. *oss-*, *os*] - **ossification** /-'fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- ossuary** /'osyoʊəri/ *n* a container for the bones of the dead [LL *ossuarium*, fr L, neut of *ossuarius* of bones, fr OL *ossua*, pl of *oss-*, *os*]
- oste-**, **osteo-** *comb form* bone <osteal> <osteomyelitis> [NL, fr Gk, fr *osteon* - more at **OSSEOUS**]
- ostensible** /'ostensəbl/ *adj* being such in appearance rather than reality; professed, declared [F, fr L *ostensus*, pp of *ostendere* to show, fr *obs-* in front of (akin to *ob-* in the way) + *tendere* to stretch - more at **OB-**, **THIN**] - **ostensibly** *adv*
- ostensive** /'ostensɪv/ *adj* of or being definition by means of displaying or pointing to the thing or quality being defined - **ostensively** *adv*
- ostentation** /'ostentə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* unnecessary display of wealth, knowledge, etc designed to impress or attract attention [ME *ostentacioun*, fr MF *ostentation*, fr L *ostentation-*, *ostentatio*, fr *ostentatus*, pp of *ostentare* to display ostentatiously, fr *ostentus*, pp of *ostendere*] - **ostentatious** /-'shəs/ *adj*, **ostentatiously** *adv*, **ostentatiousness** *n*
- osteoarthritis** /'ostiohə'thri:tɪs/ *n* degenerative arthritis [NL] - **osteoarthritic** /-'θrɪtɪk/ *adj*
- osteomalacia** /'ostiohmə'ləɪʃ(ə)yə/ *n* softening of the bones, esp in elderly people, equivalent to rickets in young people [NL, fr *oste-* + Gk *malakia* softness, fr *malakos* soft - more at **MALAC**]
- osteomyelitis** /'ostiohmie-'aɪtɪs/ *n* an infectious inflammatory disease of bone (marrow) [NL]
- osteopathy** /'osti'ɒpəθi/ *n* a system of treatment of diseases based on the theory that they can be cured by manipulation of bones [NL *osteopathia*, fr *oste-* + L *-pathia* -pathy] - **osteopath** /'osti-ə'pəθ/ *n*, **osteopathic** /-'pəθɪk/ *adj*
- osteophyte** /'osti-ə'fi:t/ *n* an abnormal outgrowth from a bone [ISV] - **osteophytic** /-'fɪtɪk/ *adj*
- ostinato** /'osti'naɪtoh/ *n*, pl **ostinatos** a musical figure repeated persistently at the same pitch throughout a composition - compare **IMITATION** 3, **SEQUENCE** 1b [It, obstinate, fr L *obstinatus*]
- ostler**, chiefly NAm **hostler** /'oslə/ *n* a groom or stableman at an inn [ME *osteler*, *hosteler* innkeeper, *ostler*, fr *hostel*]
- Ostmark** /'ost,məh,k, 'əwst-/ *n*  Germany (Democratic Republic) at NATIONALITY [G, lit., East mark]
- ostosis** /-'ostohsɪs/ *comb form*, pl **-ostoses** /-'seɪz/, **-ostoses** /-'sæseɪz/ (- *n*) conversion into bone of (a specified part) or to (a specified degree) <hyperostosis> [NL, fr Gk *-ostosis*, fr *osteon* bone - more at **OSSEOUS**]
- ostracism** /'ostrə'sɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 temporary banishment by popular vote as practised in ancient Greece 2 exclusion by general consent from common privileges or social acceptance
- ostracize**, **-ise** /'ostrə'si:z/ *vt* to exile or exclude by ostracism [Gk *ostrakizein* to banish by voting with potsherds, fr *ostrakon* shell, potsherd - more at **OYSTER**]
- ostrich** /'ostrɪk, also 'ostrij/ *n* 1 a swift-footed 2-toed flightless bird that has valuable wing and tail plumes and is the largest of existing birds 2 one who refuses to face up to unpleasant realities [ME, fr OF *ostruce*, fr (assumed) VL *avis struthio*, fr L *avis* bird + LL *struthio* ostrich, irreg fr Gk *strouthos*; (2) fr the belief that the ostrich when pursued hides its head in the sand and believes itself to be unseen]
- Ostrogoth** /'ostrə'goθ/ *n* a member of the E branch of the Goths [LL *Ostrogothi*, pl, of Gmc origin] - **Ostrogothic** /-'goθɪk/ *adj*
- ot-**, **oto-** *comb form* ear <otitis>; ear and <otolaryngology> [Gk *ōt-*, *ōto-*, fr *ōt-*, *ous* - more at **EAR**]
- other** /'uðə/ *adj* 1a being the 1 left of 2 or more <held on with 1 hand and waved with the ~ one> b being the ones distinct from that or those first mentioned <taller than the ~ boys> c SECOND 2 <every ~ day> 2a not the same; different <schools ~ than her own> b far, opposite <lives

*the ~ side of town*) 3 additional, further (*John and 2 ~ boys*) 4 recently past (*the ~ evening*) [ME, fr OE *other*; akin to OHG *andar* other, Skt *antara*]

**other** *pron, pl others also other* 1 the remaining or opposite one (*went from one side to the ~*) (*the ~s came later*) 2 a different or additional one (*some film or ~*) (*some left, but many ~s stayed*) – compare ANOTHER, ONE ANOTHER

**other** *adv* otherwise – + *than* (*can't get there ~ than by swimming*) **other-directed** *adj* directed in thought and action primarily by external influences rather than by one's own values

**otherness** /-nis/ *n* the state of being other or different

**other rank** *n*, chiefly Br a military person not holding commissioned rank

**otherwise** /-wizez/ *adv* 1 in a different way 2 in different circumstances (*might ~ have left*) 3 in other respects (*an ~ excellent dinner*) 4 if not, or else (*do what I say, ~ you'll be sorry*) 5 not – used to express the opposite (*mothers, whether married or ~*) (*guilty unless proved ~*) 6 alias (*Chee Soo, ~ Cliff Gibbs – Sportsworld*) [ME, fr OE (on) *othre wisan* in another manner]

**otherwise** *adj* of a different kind (*how can I be ~ than grateful*) **otherworldly** *adj* concerned with spiritual or intellectual matters rather than the material world – **otherworldliness** *n*

**otic** /'othik/ *adj* of or located in the region of the ear [Gk *otikos*, fr *ot-*, *ous* ear – more at *'EAR*]


**-otic** /'othik/ *comb form* (– *adj*) having (a specified relationship to) the ear (<*periotic*>) [Gk *otikos*]

**otiose** /'ohshi:os, 'othi-/ *adj* 1 at leisure, idle 2 futile, pointless *USE* fml [*L otiosus*, fr *otium* leisure] – **otiosely** *adv*, **otioseness** *n*

**oto-** – see *OT-*

**otolith** /'ohtoh,lith/ *n* any of many minute lumps of calcite and protein in the internal ear that are receptors for the sense of balance [F *otolithe*, fr *ot-* + *-lith* *-lith*] – **otolithic** /'lithik/ *adj*

**Otomac** /'otha'makh, 'mak/ *n* a member, or the language, of an extinct people of S Venezuela

**ottava** /'oh'tahva/ *adv or adj* at an octave higher or lower than written – used in music  *MUSIC* [It, octave, fr ML *octava*]

**ottava** 'rima /'reema/ *n, pl ottava rima* a stanza of 8 lines of 10 syllables each in English or 11 in Italian with a rhyme scheme of *abababcc* [It, lit, eighth rhyme]

**otter** /'ota/ *n, pl otters*, esp collectively *otter* 1 (the dark brown fur or pelt of) any of several aquatic fish-eating mammals with webbed and clawed feet, related to the weasels 2a an otterboard b a paravane [ME *oter*, fr OE *otor*; akin to OHG *ottar* otter, Gk *hydros* water snake, *hydor* water – more at *WATER*]


**otterboard** /-bawd/ *n* either of 2 boards that keep the mouth of a trawl net open

**otto** /'otoh/ *n* attar [by alter]

**ottoman** /'otoman/ *n* 1 cap a Turk 2a a usu heavily upholstered box or seat without a back or arms b a cushioned stool for the feet [(2) F *ottomane*, fr fem of *ottoman*, *adj*]

**Ottoman** *adj* TURKISH 1 [F, *adj* & *n*, prob fr It *ottomano*, fr Ar *'othmani*, fr *'Othmān* Othman (Osman) †1326 founder of the Ottoman Empire]

**ouabain** /'wah'bah-in, 'wahbah:en/ *n* a glycoside obtained from several African shrubs or trees of the periwinkle family and used medically like digitalis [ISV, fr F *ouabaio*, an African tree, fr Somali *waba yo*]

**oubliette** /'oohbli:et/ *n* a dungeon with an opening only at the top  CHURCH [F, fr MF, fr *oublier* to forget, fr L *oblitus*, pp of *oblivisci* – more at *OBIVION*]

**ouch** /owch/ *n*, archaic a setting for a precious stone [ME alter. (by incorrect division of a *nouche* of *nouche*, fr MF, of Gmc orig., akin to OHG *nusca* clasp; akin to OE *net* net]

**ouch** *interj* – used esp to express sudden sharp pain [origin unknown]



**ought** /awt/ *verbal auxiliary* – used to express moral obligation (< *to pay our debts*), advisability (< *to be boiled for 10 minutes*), enthusiastic recommendation (*you ~ to hear her sing*), natural expectation (< *to have arrived by now*), or logical consequence (*the result ~ to be infinity*); used in the negative to express moral condemnation of an action (*you ~ not to treat him like that*); often used with the perfect infinitive to express unfulfilled obligation (< *never to have been allowed*) [ME *oughte* (1 & 3 sing. pres indic), fr *oughte*, 1 & 3 sing. past indic & subj of *owen* to own, owe – more at *OWE*]

**ought** *n or adj* (a) zero [var of *ought*]

**oughtn't** /'awnt/ *ought not*

**oughly** /'ooh'gea/ *n*  Mauritania at NATIONALITY [of Ar orig]

**Ouija** /'weeja, -ji/ *trademark* – used for a board with the alphabet and other signs on it that is used to produce automatic writing in spiritualistic seances

**ounce** /owns/ *n* 1a  UNIT b a small amount (*an ~ of common sense*) 2 FLUID OUNCE  UNIT [ME, fr MF *unce*, fr L *uncia* twelfth part, ounce, fr *unus* one – more at *ONE*]

**ounce** *n* SNOW LEOPARD [ME *unce*, *once*, fr OF *once*, alter. of *lonce*, fr (assumed) VL *lyncea*, fr L *lynx*, *lynx* lynx – more at *LYNX*]

**our** /'owa, ah/ *adj* of us, ourself, or ourselves, esp as possessors or possessor (< *throne*), agents or agent (< *discovery*), or objects or object of an action (< *being chosen*), of everybody (< *Saviour*) [ME *oure*, fr OE *ure*; akin to OHG *unser* our, OE *us* us]

**Our Father** *n* LORD'S PRAYER [fr its opening words]

**Our Lady** *n* VIRGIN MARY

**ours** /'owəz, ahz/ *pron, pl ours* that which or the one who belongs to us – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *our*; compare PHRASES at *MINE*

**ourself** /-'self/ *pron* myself – referring to the single-person subject when we is used instead of *I* (e.g. by a sovereign)

**ourselves** /-'selvz/ *pron, pl in constr* 1 those identical people that are we – used reflexively (< *we're doing it solely for ~*) or for emphasis (< *we ~ will never go*), compare *ONESELF* 2 our normal selves (< *not feeling quite ~*)

**-ous** /-əs/ *suffix* (– *adj*) 1 full of, characterized by; possessing the quality of (< *clamorous*) (< *envious*) 2 having a valency relatively lower than in (specified compounds or ions named with an adjective ending in *-ic*) (< *ferrous*) (< *mercurous*) [ME, partly fr OF *-ous*, *-eus*, *-eux*, fr L *-osus*; partly fr L *-us*, nom sing masc ending of many adjectives] – **-ously** *suffix* (– *adv*)

**ousel** /'oohzl/ *n* an ouzel

**oust** /owst/ *vt* 1 to remove from or dispossess of property or position 2 to take the place of, supplant [AF *ouster*, fr OF *oster*, fr LL *obstare* to ward off, fr L, to stand against, fr *ob-* against + *stare* to stand – more at *OB*, *STAND*]

**ouster** /'owsta/ *n* illegal dispossession [AF, to *oust*]

**out** /owt/ *adv* 1a away from the inside or centre (< *went ~ into the garden*) b from among other things (< *separate ~ the bad apples*) c away from the shore, the city, or one's homeland (< *at sea*) (< *go ~ to Africa*) (< *live ~ in the country*) d away from a particular place, esp of one's home or business (< *for lunch*) (< *on strike*) (< *move ~ into lodgings*) – compare *OUTSIDE* e(1) clearly in or into view (< *when the sun's ~*) – compare *COME OUT* (2) of a flower in or into full bloom 2a(1) out of the ; ioper place (< *left a word ~*) (< *put his shoulder ~*) (2) amiss in reckoning (< *more than 4 lb ~*) – *Punch* b in all directions from a central point of control (< *lent ~ money*) c from political power (< *voted them ~*) d into shares or portions (< *parcelled ~ the farm*) e out of vogue or fashion 3a to or in a state of extinction or exhaustion (< *burn ~*) (< *before the year is ~*) – compare *RUN OUT* b to the fullest extent or degree; completely (< *all decked ~*) (< *hear me ~*) (< *clean ~ the attic*) c in or into a state of determined effort (< *to fight pollution*) 4a aloud (< *cried ~*) (< *with it*) b in existence; ever – with a superlative, infml (< *the funniest thing ~*) 5 so as to be put out of a game (< *bowled ~*) 6 – used on a 2-way radio circuit to indicate that a message is complete and no reply is expected [ME, fr OE *ūt*, akin to OHG *uz* out, Gk *hysteros* later, *hybris* arrogance, Skt *ud* up, out]

**out** *v* to become publicly known

**out** *adj* 1 located outside, external 2 located at a distance; outlying (< *the ~ islands*) 3 not being in operation or power (< *the fire's ~*) 4 directed or serving to direct outwards (< *the ~ tray*) 5 not allowed to continue battling 6 out of the question (< *your suggestion's definitely ~*)

**out** *prep* OUT OF 1a(1)

**out** *n* a way of escaping from an embarrassing or difficult situation **out-** *prefix* 1 forth (< *outcry*) (< *outrush*) (< *outrush*) 2 result, product (< *output*) (< *outcome*) 3 in a manner that goes beyond, surpasses, or excels (< *outmanoeuvre*) (< *outrstrip*) [*'out*]

**outage** /'outij/ *n* a period of nonoperation (e.g. of a power supply)

**out-and-out** *adj* being completely as specified at all times or from every point of view (< *an ~ liar*) – **out-and-outer** *n*

**outback** /-bak/ *n* isolated rural (Australian) country

**outbalance** /-'balans/ *vt* to outweigh in value or importance

**outbid** /-'bid/ *vt* outbid; *-dd* to make a higher bid than

**outboard** /-bawd/ *adj* 1 situated outboard 2 having, using, or limited to the use of an outboard motor

**outboard** *adv* 1 in a lateral direction from the hull of a ship or the



- fuselage of an aircraft 2 in a position closer or closest to either of the wing tips of an aeroplane or of the sides of a motor vehicle
- outboard** *n* 1 outboard, outboard motor a motor, propeller, and rudder attached as a unit to the stern of a small boat 2 a boat with an outboard
- outbreak** */-brayk/ n* 1a a sudden or violent breaking out <the ~ of war> b a sudden increase in numbers of a harmful organism or in sufferers from a disease within a particular area <an ~ of locusts> <an ~ of measles> 2 an insurrection, revolt
- outbreeding** */-breeding/ n* interbreeding of relatively unrelated animals or plants – **outbreed** */-/-/ vt*
- outbuilding** */-bilding/ n* a smaller building (e.g. a stable or a woodshed) separate from but belonging to a main building
- outburst** */-buhst/ n* 1 a violent expression of feeling 2 a surge of activity or growth
- outcast** */-kahst/ n* one who is cast out by society – **outcast** *adj*
- outcaste** */-kahst/ n* 1 a Hindu who has been ejected from his/her caste 2 one who has no caste
- outclass** */-kiah/ vt* to excel, surpass
- outcome** */-kum/ n* a result, consequence
- outcrop** */-krop/ n* 1 (the emergence of) the part of a rock formation that appears at the surface of the ground 2 an outbreak
- outcrop** *vt -pp-* to project as an outcrop
- outcry** */-kne/ n* 1 a loud cry; a clamour 2 a public expression of anger or disapproval
- outdated** */-daytid/ adj* outmoded
- outdistance** */-dist(ə)ns/ vt* to go far ahead of (e.g. in a race)
- outdo** */-doo/ vt* outdoes */-duz/*; outdid */-did/*, outdone */-dun/* to surpass in action or performance
- outdoor** */-daw/ also, outdoors adj* 1 of or performed outdoors 2 not enclosed; without a roof <an ~ restaurant> [out (of) door, out (of) doors]
- outdoors** *adv* outside a building, in or into the open air
- outdoors** *n pl* but *sing* in constr 1 the open air 2 the world remote from human habitation <the great ~>
- outer** */-owta/ adj* 1 existing independently of the mind; objective 2a situated farther out <the ~ limits> b away from a centre <the ~ planets> c situated or belonging on the outside <the ~ covering> [ME, fr *out* + *-er*, compar suffix] – **outermost** */-mohst/ adj*
- outer ear** *n* the outer visible part of the ear together with the canal through which sound waves reach the eardrum  NERVE
- outer space** *n* space outside the earth's atmosphere
- outface** */-fays/ vt* 1 to cause to waver or submit (as if) by staring 2 to confront unflinchingly; defy
- outfall** */-faw/ n* the outlet for a river, lake, drain, sewer, etc
- outfield** */-feeld/ n* the part of a cricket field beyond the prepared section on which wickets are laid out or of a baseball field furthest from the bases – **outfielder** *n*
- outfit** */-fit/ n* 1a a complete set of equipment needed for a particular purpose b a set of garments worn together, often for a specified occasion or activity 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a group that works as a team – *informal*
- outfit** *vt -tt-* to equip with an outfit
- outfitter** */-fita/ n* one who supplies an outfit or equipment; *esp* a retailer in men's clothing
- outflank** */-flangk/ vt* 1 to go round or extend beyond the flank of (an opposing force) 2 to gain an advantage over by doing sth unexpected
- outflow** */-floh/ n* 1 a flowing out 2 sth that flows out – **outflow** *vi*
- outgeneral** */-jen(ə)rəl/ vt -ll-* (NAM -l-) to surpass in generalship
- outgo** */-goh/ n, pl* outgoes NAM expenditure
- outgoing** */-goh-ing/ adj* 1a going away; departing b retiring or withdrawing from a position <the ~ president> 2 friendly, sociable – **outgoingness** *n*
- outgoings** *n pl* expenditures, *esp* overheads
- outgrow** */-groh/ vt* outgrew */-grooh/*; outgrown */-grohn/* 1 to grow or increase faster than 2 to grow too large or too old for
- outgrowth** */-grohth/ n* 1 a process or product of growing out <an ~ of hair> 2 a consequence, by-product
- out-Herod** */-herəd/ vt* to outdo in violence, extravagance, etc – chiefly in *out-Herod Herod* [out- + *Herod* Antipas, fl 4 bc ruler of Judaea, depicted in medieval mystery plays as a blustering tyrant]
- outhouse** */-hows/ n* an outbuilding; *esp*, chiefly NAM PRIVY 1
- outing** */-owting/ n* a short pleasure trip
- outlandish** */ow'tlandish/ adj* strikingly unusual; bizarre [ME, foreign, fr OE *ūtlendisc*, fr *utland* outlying land, foreign country] – **outlandishly** *adv*
- outlast** */-lahst/ vt* to last longer than
- outlaw** */-law/ n* 1 sby excluded from the protection of the law 2 a fugitive from the law [ME *outlaw*, fr OE *ūtlaga*, fr ON *utlaga*, fr *ut* out (akin to OE *ut* out) + *lag*, *log* law – more at OUT, LAW] – **outlaw** *adj*
- outlaw** *vt* 1 to deprive of the protection of law 2 to make illegal – **outlawry** */-ri/ n*
- outlay** */-lay/ n* expenditure, payment
- outlet** */-owlit, -let/ n* 1a an exit or vent b a means of release or satisfaction for an emotion or drive 2 an agency (e.g. a shop or dealer) through which a product is marketed 3 chiefly NAM POWER POINT [out + *let*, vb]
- outlier** */-lieə/ n* sth, esp part of a rock formation, separated or lying away from a main or related body
- outline** */-lien/ n* 1a a line bounding the outer limits of sth b SHAPE 1, 2 2(a) drawing with no shading 3a a condensed treatment of a subject b a summary of a written work 4 a preliminary account of a project
- outline** */-ri, -ri-/ vt* 1 to draw the outline of 2 to indicate the principal features of
- outlive** */-liv/ vt* 1 to live longer than 2 to survive the effects of
- outlook** */-look/ n* 1 a view from a particular place <house with a pleasant ~> 2 an attitude; POINT OF VIEW 3 a prospect for the future
- out loud** *adv* aloud
- outlying** */-lie-ing/ adj* remote from a centre or main point
- outmanoeuvre**, **NAM outmaneuver** */-ma'noohva/ vt* to defeat by more skilful manoeuvring
- outmatch** */-mach/ vt* to surpass, outdo
- outmoded** */-mohdid/ adj* 1 no longer in fashion 2 no longer acceptable or usable; obsolete
- outnumber** */-numba/ vt* to exceed in number
- out of** *prep* 1a(1) from within to the outside of <walked ~ the room> (2) – used to indicate a change in quality, state, or form <woke up ~ a deep sleep> b(1) beyond the range or limits of <~ sight> <lived a mile ~ the town> (2) – used to indicate a position or state away from a qualification or circumstance <~ practice> <~ perspective> 2a used to indicate origin or cause <came ~ fear> <did well ~ the war> <what do I get ~ it?> b using as a material <built ~ old timber> c having as a mother – used esp of horses <a colt ~ an ordinary mare>, compare BY 4b(1) 3 – used to indicate exclusion from or deprivation of <~ breath> <we're right ~ soap> <cheated him ~ his savings> 4 from among, also IN 5 <one ~ 4 survived> – out of it 1 not part of a group, activity, or fashion 2 hence, away <get off out of it>
- out-of-bounds** *adv* or *adj* outside the prescribed boundaries or limits
- out-of-date** *adj* outmoded, obsolete
- out-of-pocket** *adj* 1 requiring an outlay of cash <~ expenses> 2 having spent or lost more money than one can afford <that shopping spree has left me ~>
- out-of-the-way** *adj* 1 off the beaten track, remote 2 unusual
- outpatient** */-paysh(ə)nt/ n* a patient who is not an inmate of a hospital but visits it for diagnosis or treatment – compare INPATIENT
- outplay** */-play/ vt* to defeat or play better than in a game <~ ed his rival>
- outpoint** */-poynt/ vt* to score more points than (and so defeat)
- outpost** */-pohst/ n* 1 a post or detachment established at a distance from a main body of troops, esp to protect it from surprise attack 2a an outlying or frontier settlement b an outlying branch of a main organization or body
- outpouring** */-pawring/ n* an effusive expression (e.g. of emotion) – *usu pl* with *sing.* meaning
- output** */-poot/ n* 1 mineral, agricultural, or industrial production <steel ~> 2 mental or artistic production 3 the amount produced by sby in a given time 4a sth (e.g. energy, material, or data) produced by a machine or system b the terminal for the output on an electrical device
- output** *vt -tt-* output to produce as output
- outrage** */-rayj/ n* 1 an act of violence or brutality 2 an act that violates accepted standards of behaviour or taste [ME, fr OF, excess, outrage, fr *outr* beyond, in excess, fr L *ultra* – more at ULTRA-]
- outrage** *vt* 1 to violate the standards or principles of 2 to rape – *euph*
- outrageous** */ow'trayjəs/ adj* 1 not conventional or moderate; extravagant 2 going beyond all standards of propriety, decency, or taste; shocking, offensive – **outrageously** *adv*, **outrageousness** *n*
- outrank** */-rangk/ vt* to rank higher than



**outré** /'oohtray/ (Fr *outré*) / *adj* violating convention or propriety; bizarre [F, fr pp of *outrer* to carry to excess]

**1.outréach** /-'reech/ *vt* 1 to surpass in reach 2 to exceed

**2.outréach** *n* communication with and education of other people, esp in order to convert to a particular religion <Christian ~>

**outride** /-'ried/ *vt* **outrode** /-'rohd/; **outridden** /-'rid(a)n/ to ride out (a storm)

**outrider** /-'redə/ *n* a mounted attendant or motorcyclist who rides ahead of or beside a carriage or car as an escort

**outrigger** /-'rigə/ *n* 1 a spar, beam, or framework run out or projecting from a ship's side (e.g. to help secure a mast or support a float or rowlock) 2 a member projecting from a main structure to provide additional stability or support sthg

**1.outright** /-'triet/ *adv* 1 completely 2 instantaneously, ON THE SPOT 2

**2.outright** *adj* being completely or exactly what is stated <an ~ lie>

**outrun** /-'run/ *vt* **outran** /-'ran/; **outrun**; -*nn*- 1 to run faster than 2 to exceed, surpass

**outscore** /-'skaw/ *vt* to make a larger score than

**outsell** /-'sel/ *vt* **outsold** /-'sohld/ to surpass in selling, salesmanship, or numbers sold

**outset** /-'set/ *n* the beginning, start

**outshine** /-'shien/ *vb* **outshone** /-'shon/; **outshined** *vt* 1 to shine brighter than 2 to outdo or excel (in splendour)

**1.outside** /'owt'sied, '-/-/ *n* 1a an external part, the region beyond a boundary b the area farthest from a point of reference: e.g. (1) the section of a playing area towards the sidelines, also a corner (2) the side of a pavement nearer the traffic 2 an outer side or surface 3 an outer manifestation, an appearance 4 the extreme limit of an estimation or guess; a map marked 'the crowd numbered 10,000 at the ~>

**2.outside** *adj* 1a of or being on, near, or towards the outside <an ~ lavatory> <an ~ telephone line> b of or being the outer side of a curve or near the middle of the road <driving on the ~ lane> 2 maximum 3a originating elsewhere <an ~ broadcast> <~ agitators> b not belonging to one's regular occupation or duties <~ interests> 4 barely possible, remote <an ~ chance>

**3.outside** *adv* 1 on or to the outside <wait ~ in the passage> - compare *out* 1d 2 outdoors 3 chiefly Br not in - slang

**4.outside** /-'-, '-/-/ *prep* 1 on or to the outside of <live a mile ~ Cambridge> 2 beyond the limits of <~ my experience> 3 except, besides <few interests ~ her children>

**outside-left** *n* an attacking player on the left wing in a traditional soccer lineup ~ SPORT

**outside** *of prep*, chiefly NAm *outside*

**outsider** /'owt'siedə/ *n* 1 sby who does not belong to a particular group 2 a competitor who has only an outside chance of winning

**outside-right** *n* an attacking player on the right wing in a traditional soccer lineup ~ SPORT

**outsized** /'owt,siez/ *adj* or *n* (of) an unusual or above standard size

**outskirt** /-'skuht/ *n* an outer area, esp of a town or city - usu pl with sing. meaning

**outsmart** /-'smaht/ *vt* to get the better of, outwit

**outspoken** /-'spohkən/ *adj* direct and open in speech or expression, frank - *outspokenly* *adv*, *outspokenness* *n*

**outstanding** /-'standing/ *adj* 1a unpaid <left several bills ~> b continuing, unresolved 2a standing out from a group; conspicuous b marked by eminence and distinction - *outstandingly* *adv*

**outstare** /-'steə/ *vt* **OUTFACE** 1

**outstation** /-'staysh(a)n/ *n* a remote or outlying station

**outstay** /-'stay/ *vt* 1 to overstay <~ed his welcome> 2 to surpass in staying power

**outstretch** /-'stretch/ *vt* to stretch out, extend

**outstrip** /-'stri:p/ *vt* -*pp*- 1 to go faster or farther than 2 to get ahead of; leave behind <out- + obs *strip* (to move fast)>

**outswing** /-'swing/ *n* the swing of a bowled cricket ball from the leg to the off side - compare *INSWING* - *outwinger* *n*

**outvote** /-'voht/ *vt* to defeat by a majority of votes

**1.outward** /-'wood/ *adj* 1a situated at or directed towards the outside b being or going away from home <the ~ voyage> 2 of the body or external appearances <~ calm>

**2.outward** *n* external form, appearance, or reality

**outward-bound** *adj* bound in an outward direction (e.g. away from a home port)

**outwardly** /-'li/ *adv* in outward appearance; superficially

**outwards** *adv* towards the outside

**outwear** /-'weə/ *vt* **outwore** /-'waw/, **outworn** /-'wawn/ to last longer than

**outweigh** /-'way/ *vt* to exceed in weight, value, or importance

**outwit** /-'wit/ *vt* -*tt*- to get the better of by superior cleverness

**outwork** /-'wuhk/ *n* 1 a minor defensive position constructed outside a fortified area 2 work done for a business or organization off its premises usu by employees based at home - *outworker* *n*

**outworn** /-'wawn/ *adj* no longer useful or acceptable, outmoded

**ouzel**, **ousel** /'oozh/ *n* 1 RING OUZEL 2 a dipper [ME *ousel*, fr OE *ōsle* blackbird]

**ouzo** /'oozhə/ *n* an unsweetened Greek spirit flavoured with aniseed that is usu drunk with water [NGk *ouzon*, *ouzo*]

**ov-, ovi-, ovo-** *comb form* egg (oviform); ovum (oviduct) [L *ov-, ovi-, fr ovum* - more at 'EGG]

**ova** /'ohvə/ *pl* of OVUM

**1.oval** /'ohvl/ *adj* having the shape of an egg, also exactly or approximately elliptical [ML *ovalis*, fr LL, of an egg, fr L *ovum*] - *ovally* *adv*, *ovalness* *n*

**2.oval** *n* an oval figure or object

**ovariectomy** /'oh,veəri'ektəmi, '-vəri-/ *n* the surgical removal of an ovary [NL *ovariectomy*]

**ovary** /'ohvəri/ *n* 1 the typically paired female reproductive organ that produces eggs and female sex hormones ~ REPRODUCTION 2 the enlarged rounded usu basal female part of a flowering plant that bears the ovules and consists of 1 or more carpels ~ PLANT [NL *ovarium*, fr L *ovum* egg] - *ovarian* /'oh,veəri-ən, '-və-/ *adj*, *ovaritis* /'oh,və'netis/ *n*

**ovate** /'ohvayt/ *adj* (having an outline) shaped like (a longitudinal section of) an egg <an ~ leaf> ~ PLANT

**ovation** /'oh,vaysh(a)n/ *n* an expression of popular acclaim [L *ovation-*, *ovatio*, fr *ovatus*, pp of *ovare* to exult, akin to Gk *euoi*, interjection used in bacchic revels]

**oven** /'uv(ə)n/ *n* a chamber used for baking, heating, or drying [ME, fr OE *ofen*, akin to OHG *ofan* oven, Gk *ipnos*, L *aula*, *olla* pot]

**ovenbird** /-'buhd/ *n* any of various small S American birds that build globular nests of mud [fr the shape of its nest]

**ovenware** /-'weə/ *n* heat-resistant dishes (e.g. casseroles) in which food can be cooked in an oven

**1.over** /'ohvə/ *adv* 1a across a barrier (<climb ~>) b across an intervening space <went ~ to the States>, also ROUND 5 <ask them ~ for drinks> c downwards from an upright position <fell ~> <knoocked him ~> d across the brim or brink <soup boiled ~> e so as to bring the underside up <turned his cards ~> <rolled ~ and ~> f so as to be reversed or folded <change the 2 pictures ~> <bend it ~> g from one person or side to another <hand it ~> <won them ~> <went ~ to the enemy> h across 3 <got his point ~> 2a(1) beyond some quantity or limit <£10 or ~> <show ran a minute ~> (2) excessively, inordinately - often in combination <over-optimistic> <overvalue> (3) in excess, remaining <there wasn't much ~> <3 into 7 goes twice and 1 ~> b till a later time <stay ~ till Monday> 3 so as to cover the whole surface <windows boarded ~> 4a at an end <the day is ~> b - used on a two-way radio circuit to indicate that a message is complete and a reply is expected 5a - used to show repetition <10 times ~> <told you ~ and ~ again> b chiefly NAm once more <do one's sums ~> [ME, *adv* & *prep*, fr OE *ofer*, akin to OHG *ubar* (prep) above, beyond, over, L *super*, Gk *hyper*]

**2.over** *prep* 1a higher than, above <towered ~ his mother> b vertically above but not touching <lamp hung ~ the table> c - used to indicate movement down upon <hit him ~ the head> or down across the edge of <fell ~ the cliff> d across 1 <climbed ~ the gate> <flew ~ the lake> e so as to cover <laid a blanket ~ the child> <curtains drawn ~ the windows> f divided by <6 ~ 2 is 3> 2a with authority, power, or jurisdiction in relation to <respected those ~ him> b - used to indicate superiority, advantage, or preference <a big lead ~ the others> 3 more than <cost ~ £5> - compare OVER AND ABOVE 4a all through or throughout <showed me all ~ the house> <went ~ his notes> b by means of (a medium or channel of communication) <~ the radio> <~ the phone> 5a in the course of, during <~ the past 25 years> <wrote it ~ the weekend> b until the end of <stay ~ Sunday> c past, beyond <we're ~ the worst> 6a - used to indicate an object of solicitude or reference <the Lord watches ~ them> <laughed ~ the incident> b - used to indicate an object of occupation or activity <sitting ~ their wine> <spent an hour ~ cards>

**3.over** *adj* 1 upper, higher <overlord> 2 outer, covering <overcoat> 3 excessive <overimagination> <overconfidence> USE often in combination

**4.over** *n* any of the divisions of an innings in cricket during which 1 bowler

- bowls 6 or 8 balls from the same end of the pitch [fr the umpire's cry of *over* (i.e. change to the other end) after the 6th or 8th ball]
- overabundance** /-ə'bʌnd(ə)ns/ *n* an excess, surfeit – **overabundant** *adj*
- overact** /-ˈækt/ *vb* to perform (a part) with undue exaggeration
- over** **against** *prep* as opposed to; in contrast with
- overall** /ˈohvəˈraʊl/ *adv* 1 as a whole, in toto 2 from end to end, esp of a ship
- overall** /ˈohvəˈraʊl/ *n* 1 *pl* a protective garment resembling a boiler suit or dungarees 2 *chiefly* *Br* a usu loose-fitting protective coat worn over other clothing
- overall** *adj* including everything
- over** and **above** *prep* besides – compare **OVER** 3
- over** and **over** *adv* repeatedly
- overarm** /ˈohvəˈraɪm/ *adj* or *adv* overhand
- overawe** /-ˈɔː/ *vt* to fill with respect or fear
- overbalance** /-ˈbæləns/ *vt* to cause to lose balance ~ *vi* *chiefly* *Br* to lose one's balance
- overbear** /-ˈbeɪ/ *vt* overbore /-ˈbaw/, **overborne** also **overborn** /-ˈbawn/ 1 to bring down by superior weight or force 2a to domineer over *b* to surpass in importance or cogency, outweigh
- overbearing** /-ˈbeərɪŋ/ *adj* harshly masterful or domineering – **overbearingly** *adv*
- overbid** /-ˈbɪd/ *vb* **overbid**; **-dd-** *vi* 1 to bid in excess of value 2 to bid more than the scoring capacity of a hand at cards ~ *vt* to bid in excess of, esp to bid more than the value of (one's hand at cards) – **overbid** /-ˈbiːd/ *n*
- overblown** /-ˈbloʊn/ *adj* inflated, pretentious ['blow]
- overblown** *adj* past the prime of bloom (~ roses) ['blow]
- overboard** /-ˈbawd/ *adv* 1 over the side of a ship or boat into the water 2 to extremes of enthusiasm (<went ~ for the plan>) 3 aside (<threw the plan ~>)
- overbook** /-ˈbʊk/ *vt* to issue bookings for (e.g. a hotel) in excess of the space available ~ *vi* to issue bookings in excess of the space available
- overbuild** /-ˈbɪld/ *vb* **overbuilt** /-ˈbɪlt/ to build (houses) in excess of demand
- overburden** /-ˈbuɪd(ə)n/ *vt* to place an excessive burden on
- overburden** *n* soil, rock, etc overlying a useful deposit (e.g. of coal)
- overcall** /-ˈkɔːl/ *vb* to make a higher bid than (the previous bid or player) in a card game – **overcall** /-ˈkɔːl/ *n*
- overcapitalize**, **-ise** /-ˈkæpɪtɪz/ *vt* to put a nominal value on the capital of (a company) higher than actual cost or fair market value – **overcapitalization** /-ˈzæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- overcast** /ˈohvəˈkæst/, /-ˈkæst/ *adj* being, having, or characterized by a cloudy sky
- overcasting** /-ˈkæstɪŋ/ *n* the act of stitching a raw edge of fabric to prevent unravelling, also the stitching so done
- overcharge** /-ˈtʃɑːʒ/ *vt* 1 to charge too much or too fully 2 to fill too full 3 to exaggerate ~ *vi* to make an excessive charge – **overcharge** /-ˈtʃɑːʒ/ *n*
- overcloud** /-ˈkloʊd/ *vt* to cover with clouds
- overcoat** /-ˈkoʊt/ *n* 1 a warm usu thick coat for wearing outdoors over other clothing 2 a protective coat (e.g. of paint)
- overcome** /-ˈkʊm/ *vb* **overcame** /-ˈkaym/, **overcome** *vt* 1 to get the better of, surmount (~ difficulties) 2 to overpower, overwhelm ~ *vi* to gain superiority; win [ME *overcomen*, fr OE *ofercuman*, fr *ofer* over + *cuman* to come]
- overcompensation** /-ˌkɒmpenˈsəʃ(ə)n/, -ˌpən-/ *n* excessive reaction to feelings of inferiority, guilt, inadequacy, etc
- overcrowd** /-ˈkroʊd/ *vb* to (cause to) be too crowded
- overdo** /-ˈdoʊ/ *vt* **overdoes** /-ˈduːz/, **overdid** /-ˈdɪd/, **overdone** /-ˈdʌn/ 1a to do or use in excess *b* to exaggerate 2 to cook too much
- overdose** /ˈohvəˈdoʊz/, /-ˈdoʊz/ *vb* or *n* (to give or take) too great a dose of drugs, medicine, etc
- overdraft** /-ˈdraʊt/ *n* an act of overdrawing at a bank; the state of being overdrawn, also the sum overdrawn
- overdraw** /-ˈdraʊ/ *vb* **overdrew** /-ˈdroʊh/, **overdrawn** /-ˈdraʊn/ *vt* 1 to draw cheques on (a bank account) for more than the balance (<his account was overdrawn>) 2 to exaggerate, overstate ~ *vi* to make an overdraft
- overdrawn** /-ˈdraʊn/ *adj* having an overdrawn account
- overdress** /-ˈdres/ *vb* to dress (oneself) too elaborately or formally
- overdress** *n* a dress worn over another, or over a jumper, blouse, etc
- overdrive** /-ˈdriːv/ *n* a transmission gear in a motor vehicle that provides a ratio higher than the normal top gear and that drives the propeller shaft at a speed greater than the engine speed
- overdue** /-ˈdyoo/ *adj* 1a unpaid when due *b* delayed beyond an appointed time 2 more than ready or ripe
- overeat** /-ˈeet/ *vi* **overate** /-ˈet/, /-ˈayt/; **overeaten** /-ˈeet(ə)n/ to eat to excess
- overestimate** /-ˈestɪmət/ *vt* 1 to estimate as being more than the actual amount or size 2 to place too high a value on, overrate – **overestimate** /-ˈmæt/ *n*, **overestimation** /-ˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- overextend** /-ˈɪkˈstend/ *vt* to extend or expand beyond a safe or reasonable point
- overfeed** /-ˈfeed/ *vb* **overfed** /-ˈfed/ to feed to excess
- overfish** /-ˈfɪʃ/ *vt* to fish excessively to the detriment of (a fishing ground) or to the depletion of (a kind of organism)
- overflight** /-ˈfliːt/ *n* a passage over an area in an aircraft
- overflow** /-ˈfloh/ *vt* 1 to cover (as if) with water, inundate 2 to flow over the brim, edge, or limit of ~ *vi* to flow over or beyond a brim, edge, or limit
- overflow** *n* 1 a flowing over, an inundation 2 sth that flows over; also, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the excess members of a group 3 an outlet or receptacle for surplus liquid
- overfly** /-ˈfliː/ *vt* **overflew** /-ˈfloʊh/, **overflown** /-ˈflohn/ to fly over, esp in an aircraft
- overfold** /-ˈfoʊld/ *n* a geological fold that has the form of an overturned anticline ~  GEOGRAPHY
- overground** /-ˈɡroʊnd/ *adj* or *adv* on the surface, not underground (<~ railway>)
- overgrow** /-ˈɡroʊ/ *vb* **overgrew** /-ˈɡroʊh/, **overgrown** /-ˈɡrohn/ *vt* 1 to grow over so as to cover with vegetation 2 to grow beyond, to outgrow ~ *vi* 1 to grow excessively 2 to become overgrown – **overgrowth** /ˈohvəˈɡroʊθ/ *n*
- overgrown** /-ˈɡrohn/ *adj* 1 grown over or choked with vegetation 2 grown too large
- overhand** /-ˈhand/ *adj* or *adv* with the hand brought forwards and down from above shoulder level
- overhand knot** *n* a type of simple knot often used to prevent the end of a cord from fraying
- overhang** /-ˈhang/ *vb* **overhung** /-ˈhʌŋ/ *vt* 1 to project over 2 to threaten ~ *vi* to project so as to be over sth
- overhang** *n* 1 sth that overhangs, also the extent by which sth overhangs 2 a projection of the roof or upper storey of a building beyond the wall of the lower part
- overhaul** /-ˈhaw/ *vt* 1 to examine thoroughly and carry out necessary repairs 2 to overtake (<over + haul; orig sense, to slacken (a rope), release (a tackle)>) – **overhaul** /-ˈhaw/ *n*
- overhead** /-ˈhed/ *adv* above one's head
- overhead** *adj* 1 operating, lying, or coming from above 2 of overhead expenses
- overhead** *n* 1 a business expense (e.g. rent, insurance, or heating) not chargeable to a particular part of the work or product – often *pl* with *sing* meaning 2 a stroke in squash, tennis, etc made above head height, a smash
- overhead projector** *n* a projector that projects a magnified image of a horizontal transparency onto a screen via a mirror
- overhear** /-ˈhiə/ *vb* **overheard** /-ˈhuɪd/ to hear (sby or sth) without the speaker's knowledge or intention
- overheat** /-ˈheet/ *vt* 1 to heat to excess 2 to stimulate or excite unduly (<~ing the economy>) ~ *vi* to become overheated
- overissue** /-ˈɪʃ(y)oʊh/, /-ˈɪsyoʊh/ *n* an issue exceeding the limit of capital, credit, or authority – **overissue** *vt*
- overjoyed** /-ˈjoɪd/ *adj* extremely pleased; elated
- overkill** /-ˈkɪl/ *vt* to obliterate (a target) with more nuclear force than required
- overkill** *n* 1 the capability of destroying an enemy or target with a force, esp nuclear, larger than is required 2 an excess of sth beyond what is required or suitable for a particular purpose
- overlaid** /-ˈləɪd/ *adj* (having sth) laid or lying on top
- overland** /-ˈlənd/ *adv* or *adj* by, upon, or across land rather than sea or air
- overland** *vb*, *Austr* to drive (stock) overland for long distances – **overlander** *n*
- overlap** /-ˈlæp/ *vb* **-pp-** *vt* to extend over and cover a part of ~ *vi* to coincide partly; have sth in common – **overlap** /-ˈlæp/ *n*
- overlay** /-ˈleɪ/ *vt* **overlaid** /-ˈləɪd/ to lay or spread over or across



- \*over, lay** *n* sth (designed to be) laid over sth else, esp a transparent sheet containing graphic matter to be superimposed on another sheet
- overleaf** /-ˈleɪf/ *adv* on the other side of the page (*continued* ~)
- overlie** /-ˈliː/ *vt* overlay /-ˈleɪ/; **overlain** /-ˈleɪn/ to lie or be situated over
- overload** /-ˈloʊd/ *vt* overloaded, **overladen** /-ˈleɪdn/ to load to excess – **overload** /-ˈloʊd/ *n*
- overlocking** /-ˈlɒkɪŋ/ *n* the act or occupation of oversewing a raw edge of fabric cut to a pattern using a small machine stitch to prevent unravelling – **overlocker** *n*
- overlong** /-ˈlɒŋ/ *adj* or *adv* too long
- overlook** /-ˈlʊk/ *vt* 1 to have or provide a view of from above 2a to fail to notice; miss **b** to ignore **c** to excuse
- overlord** /-ˈlɔːd/ *n* 1 a lord who is superior to other lords 2 an absolute or supreme ruler – **overlordship** *n*
- overly** /-ˈli/ *adv*, chiefly *NAm & Scot* to an excessive degree [ME, fr *over* + *-ly*]
- overman** /-ˈmæn/ *vt* -nn- to have or provide too many workers for (< ~ a ship)
- overmantel** /-ˈmæntl/ *n* an ornamental often shelved structure above a mantelpiece
- overmaster** /-ˈmɑːstə/ *vt* to overpower, subdue
- overmighty** /-ˈmiːti/ *adj* exercising or claiming undue (political) power
- overmuch** /-ˈmʊʃ/ *adj* or *adv* too much
- overnight** /-ˈniːt/ *adv* 1 during or throughout the evening or night 2 suddenly – **overnight** /-ˈniːt/ *adj*
- overpass** /-ˈpɑːs/ *n* a flyover, also the crossing of 2 roads, paths, railways, or communications of these
- overpay** /-ˈpeɪ/ *vt* to give excessively high payment to or for
- overpitch** /-ˈpɪʃ/ *vb* to bowl (a ball) in cricket so as to bounce nearer the batsman's wicket than intended and be easily hit
- overplay** /-ˈpleɪ/ *vt* 1 to exaggerate (e.g. a dramatic role) 2 to give too much emphasis to – **overplay one's hand** to overestimate one's capacities
- overplus** /-ˈplʊs/ *n* a surplus [ME, part trans of MF *surplus*]
- overpopulation** /-ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the condition of having too dense a population, so that the quality of life is impaired – **overpopulated** /-ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪtəd/ *adj*
- overpower** /-ˈpəʊə/ *vt* 1 to overcome by superior force 2 to overwhelm – **overpoweringly** *adv*
- overprint** /-ˈprɪnt/ *n* a printed marking added to a postage stamp to alter the original or to commemorate a special event – **overprint** /-ˈprɪnt/ *vt*
- overproduce** /-ˌprɒˈdʊʊs/ *vb* to produce beyond demand, need, or allocation – **overproduction** /-ˌprɒˈdʊʊʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- overproof** /-ˈpruːf/ *adj* containing more alcohol than proof spirit does
- overrate** /-ˈreɪt/ *vt* to rate too highly
- overreach** /-ˈriːtʃ/ *vt* to defeat (oneself) by trying to do or gain too much ~ *vi*, of a horse to strike the hind foot against the forefoot
- overreact** /-ˈriːkt/ *vi* to show an excessive or exaggerated reaction – **overreaction** /-ˌakʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- override** /-ˈriːd/ *vt* overrode /-ˈroʊd/, **overridden** /-ˈrɪd(ə)n/ 1a to prevail over; dominate (<an overriding consideration>) **b** to set aside or annul; esp to neutralize the action of (e.g. an automatic control) 2 to overlap
- \*over, ride** *n* a device or system used to override a control
- over-rider** *n*, *Br* a vertical attachment to a motor vehicle bumper to prevent the locking of bumpers with other cars
- overripe** /-ˈriːp/ *adj* passed beyond maturity or ripeness towards decay
- overrule** /-ˈroʊl/ *vt* to rule against or set aside, esp by virtue of superior authority
- overrun** /-ˈrʊn/ *vt* overran /-ˈrʌn/; -nn- 1a to defeat decisively and occupy the positions of **b** to swarm over; infest 2a to run or go beyond or past **b** to readjust (set type) by shifting letters or words from one line into another 3 to flow over – **overrun** /-ˈrʊn/ *n*
- \*over, seas** /-ˈseɪz/, **oversea** /-ˈseɪ/ *adv* beyond or across the seas (<travelled ~>)
- \*over, seas, oversea** *adj* 1 of transport across the seas 2 of, from, or in (foreign) places across the seas (< ~ markets> (< ~ students here in London>)
- oversee** /-ˈseɪ/ *vt* oversaw /-ˈsaw/; **overseen** /-ˈsiːn/ to supervise
- overseer** /-ˈseɪə/ *n* a supervisor
- oversell** /-ˈsel/ *vt* oversold /-ˈsoʊld/ 1 to sell too much of 2 to make excessive claims for – **oversell** /-ˈsel/ *n*
- oversensitive** /-ˈsensətɪv/ *adj* unduly or extremely sensitive – **oversensitiveness** *n*
- overset** /-ˈset/ *vt* overset; -tt- to tip over, overturn – **overset** /-ˈset/ *n*
- over, sew** /-ˈsoʊ/ *vt* oversewed /-ˈsoʊd/, **oversewn** /-ˈsoʊn/, **oversewed** to sew over (an edge or 2 edges placed together), esp with small closely worked stitches, to neaten or make a firm seam
- oversexed** /-ˈseks/ *adj* with an abnormally strong sexual drive
- overshadow** /-ˈʃadəʊ/ *vt* 1 to cast a shadow over 2 to exceed in importance, outweigh
- overshoe** /-ˈʃuː/ *n* a usu rubber shoe worn over another as protection (e.g. from rain or snow)
- overshoot** /-ˈʃuːt/ *vt* overshoot /-ˈʃuːt/ to shoot or pass over or beyond, esp so as to miss – **overshoot** /-ˈʃuːt/ *n*
- overshot** /-ˈʃɒt/ *adj* 1 (having the upper jaw) projecting beyond the lower jaw (e.g. in some dogs) 2 operated by the weight of water passing over and flowing from above (<an ~ waterwheel>)
- oversight** /-ˈsɪt/ *n* 1 supervision 2 an inadvertent omission or error
- oversimplify** /-ˈsɪmplɪˈfaɪ/ *vb* to simplify (sth) to such an extent as to cause distortion or error – **oversimplification** /-ˈfɪˈkəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- oversize** /ˌɒvəˈsaɪz/, -ˈsɪz/, **oversized** *adj* of above average or normal size
- oversleep** /-ˈsliːp/ *vi* overslept /-ˈslept/ to sleep beyond the intended time
- overspend** /-ˈspend/ *vi* overspent /-ˈspent/ *vt* to exceed in expenditure ~ *vi* to spend beyond one's means – **overspender** *n*
- over, spill** /-ˈspɪl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* people who have moved away from crowded urban areas (< ~ towns>), also the movement of such people
- overstate** /-ˈsteɪt/ *vt* to state in too strong terms, exaggerate – **overstatement** *n*
- overstay** /-ˈsteɪ/ *vt* to stay beyond the time or the limits of
- oversteer** /-ˈstiː/ *n* the tendency of a motor vehicle to steer into a sharper turn than the driver intends – **oversteer** /-ˈstiː/ *vb*
- overstep** /-ˈstep/ *vt* -pp- to exceed, transgress – esp in *overstep the mark*
- overstrung** /-ˈstrʊŋ/ *adj* too highly strung; too sensitive
- overstuff** /-ˈstʊf/ *vt* to cover (e.g. a chair) thickly with upholstery
- oversubscribe** /-ˌsəʊˈskriːb/ *vt* to subscribe for more of than is offered for sale – **oversubscription** /-ˌsəʊˈskriːps(ə)n/ *n*
- overt** /ˈɒvɪt/, -ˈt/ *adj* public, manifest [ME, fr MF *ouvert*, *overt*, fr pp of *ouvrir* to open, fr (assumed) VL *openire*, alter of L *aperire* – more at *WEIR*] – **overtly** *adv*
- overtake** /-ˈteɪk/ *vb* overtook /-ˈtoʊk/, **overtaken** /-ˈteɪkən/ *vt* 1a to catch up with **b** to catch up with and pass beyond 2 to come upon suddenly ~ *vi*, chiefly *Br* to catch up with and pass by another vehicle going in the same direction [ME *overtaken*, fr *over* + *taken* to take]
- overtax** /-ˈtaks/ *vt* 1 to tax too heavily 2 to put too great a burden or strain on
- \*overthrow** /-ˈθroʊ/ *vt* overthrew /-ˈθruː/; **overthrown** /-ˈθroʊn/ 1 to overturn, upset 2 to cause the downfall of, defeat
- \*over, throw** *n* (a further run scored from) a return of the ball from a fielder in cricket that eludes the fielders near the wickets
- overtime** /-ˈtiːm/ *n* 1 time in excess of a set limit, esp working time in excess of a standard working day or week 2 the wage paid for overtime – **overtime** *adv*
- overtone** /-ˈtoʊn/ *n* 1a any of the higher harmonics produced simultaneously with the fundamental in a complex musical note **b** HARMONIC 2 a secondary effect, quality, or meaning, a suggestion – often pl with sing. meaning
- overtop** /-ˈtɒp/ *vt* -pp- 1 to rise above the top of 2 to surpass
- overtrain** /-ˈtreɪn/ *vb* to train more than is desirable for maximum efficiency
- over, trick** /-ˈtrɪk/ *n* a card trick won in excess of the number bid
- overtrump** /-ˈtrʌmp/ *vb* to trump with a higher trump card than the highest previously played on the same trick
- overture** /ˌɒvətʃʊə-, -tʃə/ *n* 1a an initiative towards agreement or action – often pl with sing. meaning **b** sth introductory; a prelude 2a the orchestral introduction to a musical dramatic work **b** an orchestral concert piece written esp as a single movement [ME, lit., opening, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *apertura*, alter of L *apertura* – more at *APERTURE*]
- overturn** /-ˈtuːn/ *vt* 1 to cause to turn over; upset 2 to overthrow; BRING DOWN 1 ~ *vi* TURN OVER 1 – **overturn** /-ˈtuːn/ *n*

**'over,view** /-vyoo/ *n* a usu brief general survey  
**overweening** /-weening/ *adj* 1 arrogant, presumptuous 2 immoderate, exaggerated [ME *overwening*, prp of *overwenen* to be arrogant, fr *over* + *wenen* to imagine, fr OE *wenan*]  
**'over,weight** /-wayt/ *n* weight above what is normal, average, or required  
**overweight** *vt* 1 to give too much weight or consideration to 2 to weight excessively 3 to exceed in weight  
**overweight** *adj* exceeding the expected, normal, or proper (bodily) weight  
**overwhelm** /-wel'm/ *vt* 1 to cover over completely, submerge 2 to overcome by superior force or numbers 3 to overpower with emotion [ME *overwhelmen*, fr *over* + *whelmen* to turn over, cover up] - **overwhelmingly** *adv*  
**overwind** /-wiend/ *vt* **overwound** /-wound/ to wind more than is proper  
**overwinter** /-wintə/ *vi* to survive or spend the winter  
**over with** *adj* finished, completed  
**overwork** /-wuhk/ *vt* 1 to cause to work too hard or too long 2 to make excessive use of ~ *vi* to work too much or too long - **overwork** *n*  
**overwrite** /-riet/ *vb* **overwrote** /-roht/, **overwritten** /-ritn/ to write too much or pretentiously  
**overwrought** /-rawt/ *adj* extremely excited, agitated [pp of *overwork*]  
**ovl-** - see **ov-**  
**oviduct** /'ohvi,dukt/ *n* the tube that serves for the passage of eggs from an ovary, esp before laying [NL *oviductus*, fr *ov-* + *ductus* duct] - **oviductal** /-duktl/ *adj*  
**ovine** /'ohvien/ *adj* of or resembling sheep [LL *ovinus*, fr L *ovis* sheep - more at **EWE**] - **ovine** *n*  
**oviparous** /'oh'vipərəs/ *adj* involving or producing eggs that develop and hatch outside the mother's body → **LIFE CYCLE** [L *oviparus*, fr *ov-* + *-parus* -parous] - **oviparously** *adv*, **oviparousness** *n*, **oviparity** /-v'parəti/ *n*  
**oviposit** /'ohvi'pozit/ *vi*, esp of an insect to lay eggs [prob back-formation fr *ovipositor*] - **oviposition** /-pə'zish(ə)n/ *n*  
**ovipositor** /'ohvi'pozitə/ *n* a specialized organ, esp of an insect, for depositing eggs [NL, fr L *ov-* + *positor* sby or sth that places, fr *positus*, pp of *ponere* to place - more at **POSITION**]  
**ovo-** - see **ov-**  
**ovoid** /'ohvoyd/, **ovoidal** /'oh'voydl/ *adj* shaped like an egg [F *ovoïde*, fr L *ovum* egg - more at **EGG**] - **ovoid** *n*  
**ovolo** /'ohvəlo/ *n*, *pl* **ovoloes** a rounded convex moulding → **ARCHITECTURE** [It, dim. of *ovo*, *ovo* egg, fr L *ovum*]  
**ovotestis** /'ohvoh'testis/ *n* a hermaphrodite gonad (e.g. in some snails) [NL]  
**ovoviviparous** /'ohvohvi'vipərəs/ *adj* producing eggs that develop and usu hatch within the mother's body → **LIFE CYCLE** [prob fr (assumed) NL *ovoviviparus*, fr L *ov-* + *viviparus* viviparous] - **ovoviviparity** /-vivi'parəti/ *n*  
**ovulate** /'ovyoo,ləyt/ *vi* to produce eggs or discharge them from an ovary - **ovulation** /-ləytsh(ə)n/ *n*, **ovulatory** /-lət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*  
**ovule** /'ovyooəl, 'oh-/ *n* 1 an outgrowth of the ovary of a seed plant that develops into a seed after fertilization of the egg cell it contains → **PLANT** 2 a small egg, esp one in an early stage of growth [NL *ovulum*, dim. of L *ovum*] - **ovular** /'ovyooələ/ *adj*  
**ovum** /'ohvəm/ *n*, *pl* **ova** /'ohvə/ an animal's female gamete that when fertilized can develop into a new individual → **REPRODUCTION** [NL, fr L, egg - more at **EGG**]  
**ow** /ow/ *interj* - used esp to express sudden mild pain [ME]  
**owe** /oh/ *vt* 1a to be under obligation to pay or render b to be indebted to 2 to have or enjoy as a result of the action or existence of sth or sby else (<~s his fame to luck>) ~ *vi* to be in debt [ME *owen* to possess, own, owe, fr OE *agan*; akin to OHG *eigan* (1 & 3 pl pres indic) possess, Skt *īde* be possesses)  
**'owing** to /'oh-ing/ *prep* **BECAUSE OF** 1 <delayed ~ a crash>  
**owl** /owl/ *n* any of an order of chiefly nocturnal birds of prey with large head and eyes and a short hooked bill [ME *owle*, fr OE *ūle*; akin to OHG *uwila* owl, ON *ugla*]  
**owlet** /'owli/ *n* a small or young owl  
**owlsh** /'owlsh/ *adj* having a round face or a wide-eyed stare [OWL + -ish] - **owlshly** *adv*  
**'own** /ohn/ *adj* belonging to, for, or relating to oneself or itself - usu after

a possessive pronoun <cooked his ~ dinner> [ME *owen*, fr OE *agen*; akin to OHG *eigan* own, ON *eignn*, OE *agan* to possess - more at **owe**]  
**own** *vt* 1 to have or hold as property; possess 2 to acknowledge, admit ~ *vi* to acknowledge sth to be true or valid - + *to* - **owner** *n*, **ownership** *n*  
**'own** *pron*, *pl* **own** one belonging to oneself or itself - usu after a possessive pronoun <a country with oil of its ~> - **on one's own** 1 in solitude, alone <live on one's own> 2 without assistance or control  
**own-brand** *adj* of or being goods offered for sale under the label or trade name of the retail distributor (e.g. a chain store)  
**owner-occupier** *n* sby who owns the house he/she lives in  
**own goal** *n* a goal, esp in soccer, scored by a player against his own team  
**own up** *vi* to confess a fault frankly  
**owt** /owt/ *pron*, *N* Eng anything, aught [var of *ought*]  
**ox** /oks/ *n*, *pl* **oxen** /'oks(ə)n/ also *ox* 1 a (domestic species of) bovine mammal 2 an adult castrated male domestic ox [ME, fr OE *oxa*; akin to OHG *ohso* ox, Gk *hygros* wet - more at **HUMOUR**]  
**ox-, oxo-** *comb form* containing a carbonyl group in the molecular structure, ketone <oxoacetic acid> [F, fr *oxygène*]  
**oxalate** /'oksə,ləyt/ *n* a salt or ester of oxalic acid  
**oxalic acid** /'oksə'lik/ *n* a poisonous strong acid that occurs in various plants and is used esp as a bleach and in making dyes [trans of F (*acide oxalique*, fr L *oxalis* wood sorrel)]  
**oxbow** /'oks,bəh/ *n* 1 a U-shaped collar round a draught ox's neck for supporting the yoke 2 a U-shaped river bend or lake formed from this → **GEOGRAPHY** - **oxbow** *adj*  
**Oxbridge** /'oks,bri/ *adj* or *n* (of) the universities of Oxford and Cambridge [Oxford + Cambridge]  
**oxer** /'oksə/ *n* an obstacle for horses to jump consisting of a hedge, rails, and sometimes a ditch [oxer (hedge or fence to restrain cattle), fr *ox* + -er]  
**oxeye** /'oks,eɪ/ *n* any of several composite plants whose heads have both disc and ray flowers, esp **OXEYE DAISY**  
**oxeye daisy** *n* a leafy-stemmed European composite plant with long white ray florets  
**Oxford 'bags** /'oksəd/ *n* *pl* in *constr.* *pl* Oxford bags wide-legged trousers [Oxford, city in England]  
**'Oxford movement** *n* a Victorian High Church movement within the Church of England  
**oxidant** /'oksid(ə)nt/ *n* an oxidizing agent - **oxidant** *adj*  
**oxidative phosphorylation** /'oksidə'tiv/ *n* the synthesis in mitochondria of ATP from ADP using energy obtained from the oxidation of substances formed during the Krebs cycle  
**oxide** /'oksied/ *n* a compound of oxygen with an element or radical [F *oxide*, *oxyde*, fr *ox-* (fr *oxygène* oxygen) + *-ide* (fr *acide* acid)] - **oxidic** /'oksidik/ *adj*  
**oxidize, -ise** /'oksid,diəz/ *vt* 1 to combine with oxygen 2 to remove hydrogen or 1 or more electrons from (e.g. an atom, ion, or molecule) ~ *vi* to become oxidized [oxidize + -ize] - **oxidizable** *adj*, **oxidizer** *n*, **oxidation** /-də'zesh(ə)n/ *n*, **oxidative** /-də'tiv/ *adj*  
**oxlip** /'oks,lip/ *n* a Eurasian primula similar to the cowslip [(assumed) ME *oxeslippe*, fr OE *oxanslyppe*, lit., ox dung, fr *oxa* ox + *slyppe*, *slyppe* paste - more at **'SLIP**]  
**oxo-** - see **ox-**  
**Oxonian** /'ok'sohnyən, -ni-ən/ *n* a student or graduate of Oxford University [ML *Oxonia* Oxford] - **Oxonian** *adj*  
**oxtail** /'oks,tayl/ *n* the tail of cattle (skinned and used for food, esp in soup)  
**'ox tongue** /-tʌŋ/ *n* a bugloss or other plant with rough tongue-shaped leaves  
**oxy** /'oksi/ *adj* containing or using (additional) oxygen - often in combination <oxyhaemoglobin> <oxyhydrogen> [F, fr *oxygène* oxygen]  
**oxycetylene** /'oksi-ə'set(ə)lin, -leen/ *adj* of or using a mixture of oxygen and acetylene, esp for producing a hot flame <an ~ torch> [ISV]  
**oxygen** /'oksij(ə)n/ *n* a bivalent gaseous chemical element that forms about 21 per cent by volume of the atmosphere, is found combined in water, most minerals, and many organic compounds, is required for most burning processes, and is essential for the life of all plants and animals → **PERIODIC TABLE** [F *oxygène*, fr Gk *oxys*, *adj*, acid, lit., sharp + F *-gène* -gen; akin to L *acer* sharp - more at **EDGE**] - **oxygeal** /-jenik/ *adj*  
**oxygenate** /'oksijənəyt/ *vt* to impregnate, combine, or supply (e.g. blood) with oxygen - **oxygenator** *n*, **oxygenation** /-nə'zesh(ə)n/ *n*

- 'oxygen, debt** *n* a cumulative oxygen lack that develops during intense activity and must be made up when the body returns to rest
- 'oxygen, mask** *n* a device worn over the nose and mouth through which oxygen is supplied from a storage tank
- 'oxygen, tent** *n* a canopy placed over sb in bed to maintain a flow of oxygen-enriched air
- oxyhaemoglobin** /,oksɪ,heə'm'gləʊbɪn/ *n* haemoglobin loosely combined with oxygen that it releases to the tissues [ISV]
- oxymoron** /,oksɪ'mawrən/ *n*, *pl* **oxymora** /-rə/ a combination of contradictory or incongruous words (e.g. *cruel kindness*) [LGk *oxymoron*, fr neut of *oxymoros* pointedly foolish, fr Gk *oxys* sharp, keen + *moros* foolish – more at **MORON**]
- oxytocin** /-'toʊsɪn/ *n* a polypeptide hormone secreted by the back lobe of the pituitary gland that stimulates the contraction of uterine muscle (e.g. during childbirth) and the ejection of milk [ISV, fr Gk *oxys* + *tokos* childbirth, fr *tuktein* to bear, beget] - **oxytocic** /-'toʊsɪk/ *adj*
- oy, oye** /oy/ *n*, *Scot* a grandchild [ME (Sc) *o*, of Celt origin, akin to OIr *aue* grandson – more at **UNCLE**]
- oyer and terminer** /,ɔɪər and /'tʊmɪnər/ *n* a commission authorizing a British judge to hear and decide a criminal case [ME, part trans of AF *oyer et terminer*, lit, to hear and determine]
- oyez** /oh'yay, -yes/ *vb* *imper* – uttered by a court official or public crier to gain attention [ME, fr AF, hear ye, *imper* pl of *oir* to hear, fr L *audire* – more at **AUDIBLE**]
- oyster** /'ɔɪstər/ *n* 1 any of various (edible) marine bivalve molluscs with a rough irregular shell 2 a small mass of muscle on each side of the back of a fowl [ME *ostre*, fr MF, fr L *ostrea*, fr Gk *ostreon*, akin to Gk *ostrakon* shell, *ostreon* bone – more at **OSSEOUS**]
- 'oyster, bed** *n* a place where oysters grow or are cultivated
- 'oyster, catcher** /-kætʃər/ *n* any of a genus of usu black-and-white stout-legged wading birds
- 'oyster, farm** *n* a stretch of sea bottom where oysters are bred for food
- 'oyster, plant** *n* salsify
- ozokerite** /,ohzoh'kɪərɪt/, **ozokerite** /,ohzoh'kɪərɪt/ *n* a waxy mineral that is a mixture of hydrocarbons that is white when pure, is often of unpleasant smell, and is used esp in making candles, insulating, etc [G *ozokerit*, fr Gk *ozein* to smell + *keros* wax – more at **CERUMEN**]
- ozon-, ozono-** *comb form* ozone (<*ozone*>) [ISV, fr *ozone*]
- ozone** /'oh,zohn/ *n* 1 a form of oxygen with 3 atoms in each molecule that is a bluish irritating gas with a pungent smell and occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere where it is formed by the action of ultraviolet solar radiation on normal oxygen 2 pure and refreshing air [G *ozon*, fr Gk *ozon*, prp of *ozein* to smell – more at **ODOUR**] – **ozoneous** *adj*, **ozoneize** *vt*, **ozoneic** /oh'zohnɪk, -'zo-/ *adj*, **ozoneiferous** /-'nɪfərəs/ *adj*

# P

- p** /pek/ *n*, *pl* **p's**, **ps** *often cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 16th letter of the English alphabet 2 a grade rating a student's work as passing [(2) *pass*]
- pa** /pah/ *n* father – *infrml* [short for *papa*]
- pa'anga** /pah'ang(g)a/ *n*  *Tonga* at **NATIONALITY** [Tongan, lit, seed]
- pabulum** /'pabyooləm/ *n* 1 food 2 intellectual sustenance [I food, fodder; akin to L *pascere* to feed – more at **FOOD**]
- paca** /'paka, 'pakhə/ *n* any of a genus of large (spotted) S and Central American rodents [Pg & Sp, fr Tupi *paca*]
- 'pace** /pays/ *n* 1a rate of movement b parallel rate of growth or development (<*wages do not keep ~ with inflation*>) c rate or manner of doing sthg 2 a manner of walking 3a **STEP** 2a(1) b the distance covered by a single step in walking, usu taken to be about 0.75m (about 30in)  **UNIT** 4a **GAIT** 2, esp a fast 2-beat gait of a horse in which the legs move in lateral pairs b *pl* an exhibition of skills or abilities (<*put him through his ~s*>) [ME *pas*, fr OF, step, fr L *passus*, fr *passus*, pp of *pandere* to spread – more at **FATHOM**]
- 'pace** *vi* 1 to walk with a slow or measured tread 2 esp of a horse to go at a pace ~ *vt* 1a to measure by pacing – often + *out* or *off* b to traverse at a walk 2 of a horse to cover (a course) by pacing 3 to set or regulate the pace of, *specif* to go ahead of (e.g. a runner) as a pacemaker – **pacer** *n*
- 'pace** /pays/ *prep* with due respect to [L, abl of *pac-*, *pax* peace, permission]
- pace bowler** /pays/ *n* shy who bowls the ball fast and without spin in cricket
- 'pace, car** *n* a motor car that leads the field of competitors through a warm-up lap but does not participate in the race
- 'pace, maker** /-,maykə/ *n* 1 shy or sthg that sets the pace for another (e.g. in a race) 2 (a device for applying regular electric shocks to the heart that reproduces the function of) a part of the heart that maintains rhythmic (coordinated) contractions – **pacemaking** *n*
- 'pace, setter** /-,setə/ *n* **PACEMAKER** 1
- pachisi** /pə'cheɪzi, pah-/ *n* an ancient board game played with dice and counters on a cross-shaped board [Hindi *pachisi*]
- pachyderm** /'pakɪdʊhm/ *n* an elephant, rhinoceros, pig, or other usu thick-skinned (hoofed) nonruminant mammal [F *pachyderme*, fr Gk *pachydermos* thick-skinned, fr *pachys* thick (akin to ON *bingr* heap, Skt *bahu* dense, much) + *derma* skin – more at **DERM-**] – **pachydermal** /-'dʊhml/ *adj*, **pachydermatous** /-'dʊhmətəs/ *adj*
- pachytene** /'pakɪteen/ *n* the stage of the prophase of meiotic cell division in which the paired chromosomes become thickened and divided into chromatids [ISV *pachy-* (fr Gk *pachys*) + *-tene*]
- pacific** /'pə'sɪfɪk/ *adj* 1 tending to bring about peace, conciliatory 2 having a mild peaceable nature 3 *cap* of (the region round) the Pacific ocean [ME *pacifique*, fr L *pacificus*, fr *pac-*, *pax* peace + *-fic-* + *-ficus* -fic – more at **PLACE**] – **pacifically** *adv*
- pacificatory** /'pə'sɪfɪkət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* **PACIFIC** 1
- pacifism** /'pə'sɪfɪz(ə)m/ *n* opposition to war as a means of settling disputes, *specif* refusal to bear arms on moral or religious grounds [F *pacifisme*, fr *pacifique* pacific] – **pacifist** *n*
- pacify** /'pə'sɪfi/ *vt* 1 to allay the anger or agitation of 2a to restore to a peaceful state, subdue b to reduce to submission [ME *pacifen*, fr L *pacificare*, fr *pac-*, *pax* peace] – **pacifiable** *adj*, **pacifier** /-'fɪə-/ *n*, **pacification** /-'fɪkəʃən/ *n*
- 'pack** /pak/ *n* 1 a bundle or bag of things carried on the shoulders or back, *specif* a knapsack 2a a large amount or number (<a ~ of lies>) b a full set of playing cards 3 a method of packing (<vacuum ~>) 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a group of people with a common characteristic (<a ~ of thieves>) b an organized troop (e.g. of cub scouts) 5 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the forwards in a rugby team, esp when acting together 6 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a group of domesticated animals trained to hunt or run together (<a ~ of hounds>) b a group of (predatory) animals of the same kind (<a wolf ~>) 7 a concentrated mass, *specif* **PACK ICE** 8 wet absorbent material for application to the body as treatment (e.g. for a bruise) 9 chiefly *NAM* a packet [MF, of LG or D origin, akin to MLG & MD *pak* pack, MFlem *pac*]
- 'pack** *vt* 1a to stow (as if) in a container, esp for transport or storage b to cover, fill, or surround with protective material 2a to crowd together so as to fill, cram b to force into a smaller volume, compress 3 to bring to an end, finish – + *up* or *in* (<he's ~ing up his job next year>) 4 to gather into a pack 5 to cover or surround with a pack 6 to cause or be capable of making (an impact) (<a book that ~s quite a punch>) ~ *vt* 1 to stow goods or equipment for transporting – often + *up* 2 to crowd together 3 to become compacted in a layer or mass **packable** *adj*, **packer** *n*, **packability** /'paka'bɪləti/ *n* – **pack** it in to stop doing it; give it up – *infrml*
- 'pack** *vt* to influence the composition of (e.g. a jury) so as to bring about a desired result {*jobs pack* (to make a secret agreement), *perh* alter of *pack*}
- 'package** /'pækɪ/ *n* 1a a small or medium-sized pack, a parcel b sthg wrapped or sealed 2 a wrapper or container in which sthg is packed 3 **PACKAGE DEAL** ['PACk + -AGE]
- 'package** *vt* to make into or enclose in a package – **packager** *n*
- 'package, deal** *n* an offer or agreement involving a number of related items and making acceptance of one item dependent on the acceptance of all, *also* the items so offered
- packed** /'pækt/ *adj* 1a that is crowded or stuffed – often in combination (<an action-packed story>) b compressed (<hard-packed snow>) 2 filled to capacity (<played to a ~ house>)
- packet** /'pækt/ *n* 1 a small pack or parcel (<a ~ of biscuits>) 2 a passenger boat carrying mail and cargo on a regular schedule 3 *Br* a large sum of money (<cost a ~>) – *infrml* [AF *pacquet*, dim. of *pack*; (2) short for *packet-boat*]
- packhorse** /'pak,haws/ *n* a horse used for carrying packs
- 'pack, ice** *n* sea ice crushed together into a large floating mass

**packing** /'pækɪŋ/ *n* 1 the action, process, or method of packing sth 2 material used to pack

**'packing case** *n* a usu wooden crate in which goods are packed for storage or transport

**pack off** *vt* to send away, esp abruptly or unceremoniously – *infml* <pack the kids off to school>

**'pack saddle** /-sædl/ *n* a saddle designed to support a pack on an animal's back

**'pack, thread** /-θred/ *n* strong thread or thin twine used for sewing or tying packages

**pack up** *vi* 1 to finish work 2 to cease to function <the engine packed up> *USE infml*

**pect** /'pækt/ *n* an agreement, treaty [ME, fr MF, fr L *pactum*, fr neut of *pactus*, pp of *pacisci* to agree, contract; akin to OE *fōn* to seize, L *pangere* to fix, fasten, Gk *pegnynai*]

**'pad** /'pæd/ *n* 1 a thin flat mat or cushion: e.g. a padding used to shape an article of clothing **b** a padded guard worn to shield body parts, esp the legs of a batsman, against impact **c** a piece of absorbent material used as a surgical dressing or protective covering **2a** the foot of an animal **b** the cushioned thickening of the underside of the toes of cats, dogs, etc **3** a large floating leaf of a water plant **4** a number of sheets of paper (e.g. for writing or drawing on) fastened together at 1 edge **5a** a flat surface for a vertical takeoff or landing **b** LAUNCHING PAD **6** living quarters – *infml* [origin unknown]

**'pad** *vt* -dd- 1 to provide with a pad or padding 2 to expand or fill out (speech or writing) with superfluous matter – often + *out*

**'pad** *vb* -dd- *vt* to go along on foot ~ *vi* to walk with a muffled step [perh fr MD *paden* to follow a path, fr *pad* path – more at *PATH*]

**padding** /'pædɪŋ/ *n* material used to pad

**'paddle** /'pædl/ *n* **1a** a usu wooden implement similar to but smaller than an oar, used to propel and steer a small craft (e.g. a canoe) **b** an implement with a short handle and broad flat blade used for stirring, mixing, hitting, etc **2** any of the broad boards at the circumference of a paddle wheel or waterwheel [ME *padell*]

**'paddle** *vb* paddling /'pædlɪŋ/ *vi* to go on or through water (as if) by means of paddling a craft ~ *vt* to propel (as if) by a paddle – *pad-dler n*

**'paddle** *vi* to walk, play, or wade in shallow water [prob freq of 'pad] – *paddler n*, *paddler n*

**'paddle steamer** *n* a vessel propelled by a pair of paddle wheels mounted amidships or by a single paddle wheel at the stern

**'paddle wheel** *n* a power-driven wheel with paddles, floats, or boards round its circumference used to propel a boat

**padlock** /'pædɒk/ *n* **1** a small usu enclosed field, esp for pasturing or exercising animals, esp one where racehorses are saddled and paraded before a race **2** an area at a motor-racing track where cars, motorcycles, etc are parked and worked on before a race [alter. of ME *parrok*, fr OE *pearroc*; akin to OHG *pfarrn* enclosure; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *parricus*]

**paddy** /'pædi/ *n* **1** (threshed unmilled) rice **2** a paddyfield [Malay *padi*]

**Paddy** *n* an Irishman – chiefly derog [*Paddy*, common Irish nickname for *Patrick*]

**'paddyfield** /-fi:ld/ *n* a field of wet land in which rice is grown

**padlock** /'pædlɒk/ *n* a portable lock with a shackle that can be passed through a staple or link and then secured [ME *padlok*, fr *pad-* (of unknown origin) + *lok* lock] – *padlock vt*

**padre** /'pædrə/ *n* **1** a Christian priest **2** a military chaplain [Sp or It or Pg, lit., father, fr L *pater* – more at *FATHER*]

**paean** /'pee-ən/ *n* a joyously exultant song or hymn of praise, tribute, thanksgiving, or triumph [L, hymn of thanksgiving esp addressed to Apollo, fr Gk *paian*, *paion*, fr *Paian*, *Paion*, epithet of Apollo in the hymn]

**paed-** /pe(ɛ)d-/ , **paedo-**, *NAm chiefly* **ped-**, **pedo-** *comb form* child <paediatrics> [Gk *paed-*, *paido-*, fr *paed-*, *paus* child, boy – more at *FEW*]

**paediatrics** /'peɛdi'ætrɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* medicine dealing with the development, care, and diseases of children – *paediatric adj*, *paediatrician* /'peɛdi-ə'triʃiən/ *n*

**paedophilia** /'peɛdoh'fɪli-ə-, -dɔ-/ *n* sexual desire directed towards children [NL] – *paedophile* /-fi:əl/ *n*

**paella** /'pie'ela/ *n* a saffron-flavoured Spanish dish containing rice, meat, seafood, and vegetables [Catal, lit., pot, pan, fr MF *paelle*, fr L *patella* small pan – more at *PATELLA*]

**paean** /'pee-ən/ *n* a metrical foot of 4 syllables with 1 long or stressed

and 3 short or unstressed syllables [L, fr Gk *paion*, fr *paian*, *paion* paean]

**paean** /'pee-ən/ *n* a peony

**pagan** /'pæɡən/ *n* **1** a follower of a polytheistic religion **2** an irreligious person [ME, fr LL *paganus*, fr L, country dweller, fr *pagus* country district; akin to L *pangere* to fix – more at *PACT*] – *pagan adj*, *paganish adj*, *paganism n*, *paganize vt*

**'page** /'peɪj/ *n* **1a(1)** a youth being trained for the medieval rank of knight and in the personal service of a knight **(2)** a youth attending on a person of rank **b** a boy serving as an honorary attendant at a formal function (e.g. a wedding) **2** sby employed to deliver messages or run errands [ME, fr OF, fr It *paggio*]

**'page** *vt* 1 to summon by repeatedly calling out the name of (e.g. over a public-address system) **2** to summon by a coded signal emitted esp by a short-range radio transmitter

**'page** *n* **1** (a single side of) a leaf of a book, magazine, etc **2** sth worth being recorded in writing <the brightest ~ of her career> **3** a sizable subdivision of computer memory used chiefly for convenience of reference in programming [MF, fr L *pagina*, akin to L *pangere* to fix, fasten]

**'page** *vt* to paginate

**pageant** /'peɪ(ə)nt/ *n* **1** an ostentatious display **2a** a show, exhibition, esp a colourful spectacle with a series of tableaux, dramatic presentations, or a procession, expressing a common theme **3** PAGEENTRY 1 [ME *pagyn*, *padgeant*, lit., scene of a play, fr ML *pagina*, fr L, page]

**pageantry** /'peɪ(ə)ntri/ *n* **1** pageants and the presentation of pageants **2** colourful or splendid display, spectacle

**'page boy** *n* **1** a boy serving as a page **2** a usu shoulder-length woman's hairstyle in which the ends of the hair are turned under in a smooth roll

**paginate** /'peɪnəɪt/ *vt* to number the sides of the leaves of (e.g. a book) in a sequence – compare *FOLIATE* **2** [L *pagina* page] – *pagination* /-nəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**pagoda** /'pə'ɡɒdə/ *n* a many-storied usu polygonal tower with upturned projecting roofs at the division of each storey and erected esp as a temple or memorial in the Far East [Pg *pagode* oriental idol, temple]

**pah** /'pɑh/ *interj* – used esp to express contempt or disgust

**pahlavi** /'pɑhlevi/ *n, pl* *pahlavi*, *pahlavis* (a coin representing) a money unit of Iran worth 100 rials [Per *pahlawi*, fr Riza Shah *Pahlawi* †1944 Shah of Iran]

**Pahlavi** *n* the language of Sassanian Persia [Per *pahlawi*, fr *Pahlav* Parthia, fr OPer *Parthava-*]

**paid** /'peɪd/ *past* of *PAY*

**'paid-up** *adj* having paid the necessary fees to be a full member of a group or organization, broadly showing the characteristic attitudes and behaviour of a specified group to a marked degree (<a ~ member of the awkward squad>)

**paill** /'peɪl/ *n* (the contents of or quantity contained in) an esp wooden or metal bucket [ME *payle*, *paille*, prob fr OE *paegel*, a small measure of liquid; akin to MD *pegel* gauge, scale] – *paillful n*

**paillassé** /'palɪəs, 'paljəs/ *n* a paillassé

**paillette** /'paljət/ *n* a small shiny object (e.g. a spangle) used to decorate clothing [F, fr *paille* straw – more at 'PAILLET]

**'pain** /'peɪn/ *n* **1a** a basic bodily sensation induced by a noxious stimulus or physical disorder and characterized by physical discomfort (e.g. pricking, throbbing, or aching) **b** acute mental or emotional distress **2 pl** the throes of childbirth **3 pl** trouble or care taken **4** sby or sth that annoys or is a nuisance – *infml* <she's a real ~> [ME, fr OF *peine*, fr L *poena*, fr Gk *poine* payment, penalty; akin to Gk *timen* to pay, *timesthai* to punish, *time* price, value, honour] – *painless adj*, *painlessly adv*, *painlessness n* – on/under *pain* of subject to penalty or punishment of <ordered to leave the country on pain of death> – *pain in the neck* a source of annoyance; a nuisance – *infml*

**'pain** *vt* to make suffer or cause distress to; hurt ~ *vi* to give or have a sensation of pain

**painful** /'peɪn(ə)l/ *adj* -ll- **1a** feeling or giving pain **b** irksome, annoying **2** requiring effort or exertion <a long ~ trip> – *painfully adv*, *painfulness n*

**'painkiller** /-kɪlə/ *n* sth, esp a drug (e.g. morphine or aspirin), that relieves pain – *painkilling adj*

**painstaking** /'peɪn.steɪkɪŋ/ *adj* showing diligent care and effort – *painstakingly adv*

**'paint** /'peɪnt/ *vt* **1a** to apply colour, pigment, paint, or cosmetics to **b** to apply with a movement resembling that used in painting **2a** to represent in colours on a surface by applying pigments **b** to decorate by painting **c** to produce or evoke as if by painting <her novel ~s glowing



- pictures of rural life* 3 to depict as having specified or implied characteristics <not as black as he's ~ ed> ~ *vi* to practise the art of painting [ME *painten*, fr OF *peint*, pp of *peindre*, fr L *pingere* to tattoo, embroider, paint; akin to OE *fah* variegated, Gk *poikilos* variegated, *pikros* sharp, bitter]
- paint** /paɪnt/ *n* 1a(1) a mixture of a pigment and a suitable liquid which forms a closely adherent coating when spread on a surface (2) pigment, esp in compressed form *b* an applied coat of paint <wet ~> 2 (coloured) make-up ~ *infml* - *painty adj*
- paintbrush** /-brʊʃ/ *n* a brush for applying paint
- painted lady** *n* a migratory butterfly with wings mottled in brown, orange, red, and white
- painter** /paɪntə/ *n* 1 an artist who paints 2 sby who applies paint (e.g. to a building), esp as an occupation [PAINT + -ER]
- painter** *n* a line used for securing or towing a boat [ME *paynter*, prob fr MF *pendoir*, *pendoir* clothesline, fr *pendre* to hang - more at *PLEN* DANT]
- painterly** /-li/ *adj* artistic, also, of a painter or a painting showing an interest in pigment and the qualities of paint as a material rather than in draughtsmanship [PAINTER + -LY] - *painterliness n*
- painting** /paɪntɪŋ/ *n* 1 a product of painting, esp a painted work of art 2 the art or occupation of painting
- paint, work** /-wʊk/ *n* paint that has been applied to a surface, also a painted surface <damaged the ~ of the car>
- pair** /peə/ *n* sing or pl in constr, pl pairs also pair 1a(1) two corresponding things usu used together <a ~ of shoes> (2) two corresponding bodily parts <a beautiful ~ of legs> *b* a single thing made up of 2 connected corresponding pieces <a ~ of trousers> 2a two similar or associated things e.g. (1) a couple in love, engaged, or married <were a devoted ~> (2) two playing cards of the same value in a hand (3) two horses harnessed side by side (4) two mated animals *b* a partnership between 2 people, esp in a contest against another partnership *c* two members from opposite sides of a deliberative body who agree not to vote on a specific issue during a time agreed on *d* a failure to score runs in either innings of a match by a batsman in cricket [ME *paire*, fr OF, fr L *paria* equal things, fr neut pl of *par* equal]
- pair** *vt* 1 to arrange a voting pair between 2 to arrange in pairs <she succeeded in ~ing the socks>
- pair of compasses** *n* COMPASS 2b
- pair off** *vb* to (cause to) form pairs, esp male and female <the anxious mothers are trying to pair off their children> <they paired off for the next dance>
- pair production** *n* the transformation of a quantum of radiant energy into an electron and a positron
- paisa** /'paɪsə/ *n*, pl *paise* /-sə/, *paissa*, *paissas* - ʔ *Bangladesh, India, Pakistan* at NATIONALITY [Hindi *paisa*]
- paisley** /'paɪzli/ *adj*, often *cap* of a fabric or garment made usu of soft wool and woven or printed with colourful abstract teardrop-shaped figures [Parsley, town in Scotland] - *paisley n*
- pajamas** /pə'dʒɑːməz/ *n* pl in constr, pl pajamas chiefly NAm pyjamas - *pajama adj*
- pakeha** /'pɑːkə, hah, pɑː'keɪə/ *n*, pl *pakehas*, esp collectively *pakeha* NZ one who is not a Maori, broadly a white person [Maori]
- paki** /'pɑːki/ *n*, often not *cap*. Br a Pakistani - chiefly derog
- Pakistani** /pɑːkɪ'stɑːni, -pɑː-/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Pakistan 2 a descendant of Pakistanis [Hindustani *Pakistani*, fr *Pakistan* Pakistan, country in S Asia] - *Pakistani adj*
- pal** /pəl/ *n* 1 a close friend 2 - used as a familiar form of address, esp to a stranger *USE* *infml* [Romany *phral*, *phal* brother, friend fr Skt *bhratr* brother, akin to OE *brothor* brother]
- palace** /'pælɪs/ *n* 1 the official residence of a ruler (e.g. a sovereign or bishop) 2a a large stately house *b* a large public building *c* a large and often ornate place of public entertainment <a picture ~> [ME *palais*, fr OF, fr L *palatium*, fr *Palatium*, the Palatine Hill in Rome where the emperors' residences were built]
- palace** *adj* 1 of a palace 2 of or involving the intimates of a chief executive <a ~ revolution> <~ politics>
- paladin** /pə'lɑːdɪn/ *n* a champion of a medieval prince [F, fr It *paladino*, fr ML *palatinus* courtier, fr L, *palace* official - more at *PALATINE*]
- palae-** /pə-/ , **palaeo-**, chiefly NAm **pale-**, **paleo-** *comb form* 1 involving or dealing with ancient (e.g. fossil) forms or conditions (palaeobotany) 2 early; primitive; archaic (Palaeolithic) [Gk *palai-*, *palaio-* ancient, fr *palaíos*, fr *palai* long ago, akin to Gk *tele* far-off, Skt *carama* last]
- Palaeartic** /pə'laɪhɪk/ *adj* of or being a biogeographic region that includes Europe and N Asia, Arabia, and Africa
- palaeobotany** /pə'laɪə'botəni/ *n* a branch of botany dealing with fossil plants [ISV] - **palaeobotanist** *n*, **palaeobotanic** /-bə'tænɪk/, **palaeobotanical** *adj*, **palaeobotanically** *adv*
- Palaeocene** /pə'laɪə'siːn/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earliest epoch of the Tertiary period *EVOLUTION*
- palaeoclimatology** /pə'laɪə'kliːmə'tɒlədʒi/ *n* a science dealing with the climate of past ages [ISV]
- palaeography** /pə'laɪə'grəfi/ *n* the study of ancient writings and inscriptions [NL *palaeographia*, fr Gk *palai-* + *-graphia* -graphy] - **palaeographer** *n*
- Palaeolithic** /pə'laɪə'lɪθɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the 2nd era of the Stone Age characterized by rough or chipped stone implements [ISV]
- palaeomagnetism** /pə'laɪə'magnə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the study of) the intensity and direction of residual magnetization in ancient rocks
- palaeontology** /pə'laɪə'tɒlədʒi/ *n* a science dealing with the life of past geological periods as inferred from fossil remains [F *paléontologie*, fr *palé-* palae- + Gk *onta* living things (fr neut pl of *ont*, *on*, prp of *einai* to be) + F *-logie* -logy] - **palaeontologist** *n*, **palaeontological** /-ɒntə'lɒjɪk/ *adj*
- Palaeozoic** /pə'laɪə'zɔɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an era of geological history that extends from the beginning of the Cambrian to the close of the Permian *EVOLUTION*
- palais** /paːlɪ, 'paɪlɪ, paːlɪs de dɑːns/ *n* a public dance hall - chiefly *infml* [F *palais de danse*, lit, dance palace]
- palanquin** /pə'lænkiːn/ *n* a litter formerly used in eastern Asia, esp for 1 person, and usu hung from poles borne on the bearers' shoulders [Pg *palanquin*, fr Jav *pelanki*]
- palatable** /pə'lətəbəl/ *adj* 1 pleasant to the taste 2 acceptable to the mind [*palate* + -able] - **palatableness** *n*, **palatably** *adv*, **palatability** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*
- palatal** /pə'lətəl/ *adj* 1 of the palate 2 of a speech sound (e.g. /y/) formed with the front of the tongue near or touching the hard palate - **palatal** *n*, **palatalize** *vt*, **palatally** /pə'lətəlɪ/ *adv*, **palatalization** /-tɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n*
- palate** /pə'læt/ *n* 1 the roof of the mouth, separating it from the nasal cavity *NERVE* 2a the sense of taste *b* a usu intellectual taste or liking [ME, fr L *palatum*]
- palatial** /pə'læɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or being a palace 2 suitable to a palace, magnificent [L *palatium* palace] - **palatially** *adv*, **palatialness** *n*
- palatinate** /pə'lætɪnət/ *n* the territory of a palatine
- palatine** /pə'lætɪn/ *n* a feudal lord (e.g. a count or bishop) with sovereign power [L *palatinus*, fr *palatinus*, *adj*, fr *palatium*]
- palatine** *adj* of or lying near the palate
- palaver** /pə'ləvə/ *n* 1 a long parley or discussion 2 idle talk [Pg *palavra* word, speech, fr LL *parabola* parable, speech] - **palaver** *vi*
- palazzo** /pə'lætsoʊ, -sə, -lædzoʊ, -zə/ *n*, pl **palazzi** /-sɪ/ a large imposing building in Italy [It, fr L *palatium* palace]
- pale** /peɪl/ *adj* 1 deficient in (intensity of) colour 2 not bright or brilliant, dim <a ~ sun shining through the fog> 3 feeble, faint <a ~ imitation> 4 of a colour not intense <a ~ pink> [ME, fr MF, fr L *pallidus*, fr *pallere* to pale - more at *FALLOW*] - **pale** *vb*, **palish** *adj*, **palely** *adv*, **paleness** *n*
- pale** *n* 1 **PICKLE** 1 2 a territory under a particular jurisdiction [ME, fr MF *pal* stake, fr L *palus* - more at *POLF*] - **beyond the pale** in violation of good manners, social convention etc
- pale** *n* a *palca*
- paleo-**, **paleo-** *comb form*, chiefly NAm **palae-**, **palaeo-**
- palea** /'paɪljə/ *n*, pl **palaeae** /'paɪljə, eɪ/ a chaffy scale or bract, esp the upper bract of the flower of a grass [NL, fr L, chaff - more at *PALLET*] - **paleal** /'paɪljə/ *adj*
- paleface** /'paɪljəfə/ *n* a white person, esp as distinguished from an American Indian
- palette** /paɪlt/ *n* 1 a thin board held in the hand on which an artist mixes pigments 2 a particular range, quality, or use of colour; esp that of an individual artist [F, fr MF, dim of *pale* spade, shovel, fr L *pala*]
- palette, knife** *n* a knife with a flexible steel blade and no cutting edge, used esp in cooking or by artists for mixing and applying paints
- palfrey** /'pɑːflri/ *n*, archaic a saddle horse other than a war-horse, esp for a woman [ME, fr OF *palefrei*, fr ML *palaifredus*, fr LL *paraveredus* post-horse for secondary roads, fr Gk *para-* beside, subsidiary + L *veredus* post-horse, fr a Gaulish word akin to W *gorwydd* horse; akin to OIr *riadaim* I ride - more at *PARA-, RIDE*]
- Pali** /pə'li/ *n* the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism [Skt *pālī* row, series of Buddhist sacred texts]
- palimpsest** /pə'lɪmpsest/ *n* writing material (e.g. a parchment or tablet)

- reused after earlier writing has been erased [L *palimpsestus*, fr Gk *palimpsestos* scraped again, fr *palin* + *psen* to rub, scrape – more at SAND]
- palindrome** /palindroh/ *n* a word, sentence, etc that reads the same backwards or forwards [Gk *palindromos* running back again, fr *palin* back, again (akin to Gk *polos* axis, pole) + *dramein* to run – more at POLE, DROMEDARY] – **palindromic** /-drohmik/ *adj*
- palling** /paylɪŋ/ *n* (a fence of) stakes or pickets [*'pale* + *-ing*]
- palingenetic** /palɪnjo'netɪk/ *adj* of or being biological features (e.g. the gill slits in a human embryo) that are derivations from distant ancestral forms [*palinogenesis*, *n*, fr Gk *palin* + *L genesis* birth]
- palinode** /palɪnoʊd/ *n* a poem in which sth is recanted or retracted [Gk *palinoidia*, fr *palin* back + *aidein* to sing – more at ODE]
- palisade** /paɪ'saɪd/ *n* 1 a fence of stakes, esp for defence 2 a long strong stake pointed at the top and set close with others as a defence [F *palissade*, deriv of *L palus* stake – more at POLE]
- palisade** *vt* to surround or fortify with palisades
- palisade layer** *n* a layer of cells containing many chloroplasts lying beneath the upper skin of green leaves
- pell** /paw/ *n* 1 PALLIUM lb 2a a square of linen used to cover the chalice containing the wine used at Communion b a heavy cloth draped over a coffin or tomb 3 sth heavy or dark that covers or conceals (< a ~ of thick black smoke) [ME, cloak, mantle, fr OE *pell*, fr *L pallium*]
- pell** *vi* to cease to be interesting or attractive [ME *pallen* to become weak or stale, short for *appallen* to become pale – more at APPAL]
- Palladian** /pə'leɪdi-ən/ *adj* of a neoclassic style of architecture based on the works of Andrea Palladio [Andrea Palladio †1580 It architect] – **Palladianism** *n*
- pelladium** /pə'leɪdi-əm/ *n* a soft silver-white metallic element of the platinum group used esp in electrical contacts and as a catalyst [PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *Pallad-*, *Pallas*, an asteroid] – **pelladous** /pə'leɪdəs/ *adj*
- pellbearer** /paw'beərə/ *n* a person who helps to carry the coffin at a funeral or is part of its immediate escort
- pallet** /paɪlt/ *n* 1 a straw-filled mattress 2 a small hard often makeshift bed [ME *pallet*, fr (assumed) MF *paillet*, fr *paille* straw, fr *L palea* chaff, straw; akin to Skt *palāva* chaff]
- pallet** *n* 1 a flat-bladed wooden tool used esp by potters for shaping clay 2 a lever or surface in a timepiece that receives an impulse from the escapement wheel and imparts motion to a balance or pendulum 3 a portable platform intended for handling, storing, or moving materials and packages [MF *palette*, lit., small shovel – more at PALETTE]
- palletize, -ise** /paɪltiəz/ *vt* to place on, transport, or store by means of pallets – **palletizer** *n*, **palletization** /-tɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n*
- pallassae, pallassae** /palɪəs, palɪ'as/ *n* a thin straw mattress [pallassae modif of F *pallassae*, fr *paille* straw]
- pallete** /paɪliet/ *vt* 1 to lessen the unpleasantness of (e.g. a disease) without removing the cause 2 to disguise the gravity of (a fault or offence) by excuses or apologies; extenuate 3 to moderate the intensity of (*trying to ~ the boredom*) [LL *palliatu*s, pp of *palliare* to cloak, conceal, fr *pallium* cloak] – **palliator** *n*, **palliative** /paɪlɪə'tɪv/ *n* or *adj*, **palliation** /paɪ'leɪʃən/ *n*
- palld** /paɪld/ *adj* 1 lacking colour; wan 2 lacking sparkle or liveliness, dull [L *pallidus* – more at PALE] – **palldly** *adv*, **palldness** *n*
- pallium** /paɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **pallia** /-li-ə/, **palliums** 1a a draped rectangular cloth worn as a cloak, esp by men of ancient Rome b a white woollen band in the shape of 2 Y's that meet on the shoulders, worn esp by a pope or archbishop [GARMENT 2 the mantle of a mollusc, bird, etc [L] – **pallial** *adj*]
- pallor** /paɪ-ə/ *n* deficiency of (facial) colour; paleness [L, fr *pallere* to be pale – more at FALLOW]
- pally** /paɪ-ə/ *adj* friendly (< *he was very ~ with the local vicar*) – infml [*pal* + *-y*]
- palm** /pahm; NAm pah(l)m/ *n* 1 any of a family of tropical or subtropical trees, shrubs, or climbing plants related to the lilies, grasses, and orchids and usu having a simple stem and a crown of large leaves 2 a leaf of the palm as a symbol of victory, distinction, or rejoicing; also a branch (e.g. of laurel) similarly used 3 a symbol of triumph or distinction; also a victory, triumph [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *palma* palm tree; both fr a prehistoric Nōmc-WGmc word borrowed fr *L palma* palm of the hand, palm tree; fr the resemblance of the tree's leaves to the outstretched hand] – **palmlike** *adj*, **palmaceous** /pah'mayʃəs/ *adj*
- palm** *n* 1 the concave part of the human hand between the bases of the fingers and the wrist 2 a unit of measurement based on the length (e.g. about 200mm or 8in) or breadth (e.g. about 100mm or 4in) of the human hand [UNIT [ME *paume*, fr MF, fr *L palma*; akin to OE *flōr* floor]
- palm** *vt* 1a to conceal in or with the hand b to pick up stealthily 2 to impose by fraud
- palmar** /palma, 'pahma/ *adj* of or involving the palm of the hand
- palmate** /palmaɪt, -mət/ also **palmed** /-maɪtɪd/ *adj* (having lobes radiating from a common point) resembling a hand with the fingers spread [PLANT – **palately** *adv*, **palimation** /-məɪʃən/ *n*]
- palm civet** *n* any of various tree-dwelling African or Asian civets
- palmer** /palma, 'pahma/ *n* a pilgrim wearing 2 crossed palm leaves as a sign of a visit to the Holy Land
- palmetto** /pal'metoh/ *n*, *pl* **palmettos**, **palmettoes** any of several usu low-growing fan-leaved palms [modif of Sp *palmito*, fr *palma* palm, fr L]
- palistry** /pahmɪstri/ *n* reading a person's character or future from the markings on his/her palms [ME *pawmestry*, prob fr *paume* palm + *mastre* mastery] – **palmist** *n*
- palmitate** /palmitaɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of palmitic acid
- palmitic acid** /pal'mɪtɪk/ *n* a waxy fatty acid occurring (as glycerides) in most fats and fatty oils [ISV, fr *palmitin* (an ester of glycerol & palmitic acid), fr F *palmitine*, prob fr *palmit* pith of the palm tree, fr Sp *palmito*]
- palm off** *vt* to get rid of (sth unwanted or inferior) by deceiving sb into taking it – often + *on*
- palm oil** *n* an edible fat obtained from the fruit of several palms and used esp in soap and candles
- Palm Sunday** *n* the Sunday before Easter celebrated in commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem [fr the palm branches strewn in Christ's path]
- palmy** /pahmi, 'pahmi/ *adj* marked by prosperity, flourishing (< *days*) [*'PALM* + *-y*]
- palmyra** /pal'mɪ-ərə/ *n* a tall fan-leaved palm cultivated in Asia for its hard wood, fibre, and sugar-rich sap [Pg *palmeira*, fr *palma* palm, fr L]
- palolo** /pə'lohloh/ *n*, *pl* **palolos** an edible marine worm that burrows in the coral reefs of various Pacific islands and forms periodic breeding swarms [Samoan & Tongan]
- palomino** /pə'lmeɪnoh/ *n*, *pl* **palominos** a light tan or cream usu slender-legged horse [AmerSp, fr Sp, like a dove, fr *L palumbinus*, fr *palumbes* ringdove, akin to Gk *peleia* dove, *L pallere* to be pale – more at FALLOW]
- palp** /palp/ *n* a segmented (touch- or taste-sensitive) feeler on the mouthparts of an insect or other arthropod [ANATOMY [NL *palpus*, fr L, caress, soft palm of the hand; akin to *L palpare*] – **palpal** *adj*]
- palpable** /palpəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being touched or felt, tangible 2 easily perceptible by the mind, manifest (< *a ~ falsehood*) [ME, fr LL *palpabilis*, fr *L palpare* to stroke, caress – more at FEEL] – **palpably** *adv*, **palpability** /palpə'bɪləti/ *n*
- palpate** /palpaɪt/ *vt* to examine, esp medically, by touch [prob back-formation fr *palpation*, fr *L palpation-*, *palpatio*, fr *palpatu*s, pp of *palpare*] – **palpation** /pal'paɪʃən/ *n*
- palpebral** /palpɪbrəl/ *adj* of or near the eyelids [LL *palpebralis*, fr *L palpebra* eyelid, akin to *L palpare*]
- palpitant** /palpɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* marked by trembling or throbbing
- palpitate** /palpɪtaɪt/ *vi* to beat rapidly and strongly; throb (< *a palpitating heart*) [L *palpitatus*, pp of *palpitare*, freq of *palpare* to stroke] – **palpitation** /-təɪʃən/ *n*
- palpus** /palpos/ *n*, *pl* **palpi** /palpie, -pi/ a palp
- palstave** /pawlstayv/ *n* a type of Bronze age axe designed to fit into a split wooden handle [Dan *pålstav*, fr ON *pålstav*, a heavy missile, prob fr *pal* spade, hoe + *staf* staff]
- palsy** /pawli, 'polzi/ *n* paralysis or uncontrollable tremor of (a part of) the body [ME *parlesie*, fr MF *paralysie*, fr *L paralysis*]
- palsy** *vt* to affect (as if) with palsy
- palter** /pawltə, 'poltə/ *vi* 1 to act insincerely or deceitfully; equivocate 2 to haggle – + *with* [origin unknown] – **palterer** *n*
- paltry** /pawltr/ *adj* 1 mean, despicable (< *a ~ trick*) 2 trivial (< *a ~ sum*) [obs *paltry* (trash), fr E dial. *palt*, *pelt*] – **paltriness** *n*
- paludal** /pal'yooʊdəl, 'pal'yoodl/ *adj* of marshes or fens [L *palud-*, *palus* marsh; akin to Skt *palāva* pond]
- palynology** /paɪ'nɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of botany dealing with pollen and spores [Gk *palynen* to sprinkle, fr *pale* fine meal – more at POLLEN] – **palynologist** *n*, **palynological**, **palynologic** /paɪ'nɒlədʒɪk/ *adj*, **palynologically** *adv*
- pampa** /pampa/ *n* an extensive (grass-covered) plain of temperate S

America east of the Andes – usu pl with sing meaning but sing or pl in constr → **PIANT** [AmerSp, fr Quechua & Aymara, plain]

**pampas grass** /pampəz/ *n* a tall S American grass with large silky flower heads frequently cultivated as an ornamental plant [pampas fr AmerSp, pl of *pampa*]

**pamper** /pampə/ *vi* to treat with extreme or excessive care and attention (<ed their guests> [ME *pamperen*, prob of D origin, akin to Flem *pamperen* to pamper])

**pampero** /pam'peərə/ *n*, *pl* **pamperos** a strong cold wind from the W or SW that blows over the pampas [AmerSp, fr *pampa*]

**pamphlet** /pamflit/ *n* a usu small unbound printed publication with a paper cover, often dealing with topical matters (<a ~ on nuclear disarmament> [ME *pamflit* unbound booklet, fr *Pamphilus seu De Amore Pamphilus* or *On Love*, popular 12th-c Latin love poem])

**pamphleteer** /pamflitiə/ *n* a writer of (political) pamphlets attacking sthg or urging a cause

**pan** /pan/ *n* **1a** any of various usu broad shallow open receptacles e.g. (1) **WARMING PAN** (2) a dustpan (3) a hedpan (4) a metal or plastic dish in a pair of scales (5) a round metal container or vessel usu with a long handle, used to heat or cook food – compare **SAUCEPAN** **b** any of various similar usu metal receptacles e.g. (1) the hollow part of the gunlock in old guns or pistols for receiving the priming (2) a vessel in which gold or a similar metal is separated from waste by washing **2** a hollow or depression in land (<a salt ~> **3** hardpan **4a** chiefly *Br* the bowl of a toilet *b* chiefly *NAm* **11N** **2b** [ME *panne*, fr OE, akin to OHG *phanna* pan, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr *L patina*, fr Gk *patane*, akin to *L patere* to be open – more at **FATHOM**])

**pan** *vb* -*nn* -*vi* **1** to wash earth, gravel, etc in a pan in search of metal (e.g. gold) **2** to yield precious metal in panning – *vt* **1a** to wash (earth, gravel, etc) in a pan **b** to separate (e.g. gold) by panning **2** to criticize severely [infrml]

**pan** /pahn/ *n* (a substance for chewing consisting of betel nut and various spices etc wrapped in) a betel leaf [Hindi *pan*, fr Skt *purna* wing, leaf – more at **FRN**]

**pan** /pan/ *vb* -*nn* -*vi* **1** to rotate a film or television camera horizontally so as to keep a moving object in view or obtain a panoramic effect **2** of a camera to undergo panning – *vt* to cause (a camera) to pan [panorama]

**pan** /pan/ *n* the act or process of panning a camera, the movement of the camera in a panning shot

**pan-** /pan-/ *comb form* **1** all completely (<panchromatic> **2a** of all of (a specified group) (<Pan-American>) **b** advocating or involving the union of (a specified group) (<Pan-Asian>) **3** whole, general (<pandemic>) [Gk, fr *pan*, neut of *pan-*, *pas* all, every, akin to Skt *savva* all, every, *svayati* he swells]

**panacea** /pan'see-ə/ *n* a remedy for all ills or difficulties [L, fr Gk *panaketa*, fr *pan-* + *akeisthai* to heal, fr *akos* remedy] – **panacean** *adj*

**panache** /pə'nash, pa-/ *n* **1** an ornamental tuft (e.g. of feathers), esp on a helmet **2** dash or flamboyance in style and action, verve [MF *pennache*, fr OIt *pennacchio*, fr LL *pinnaculum* small wing – more at **PINNACLE**]

**panada** /pə'nahdə/ *n* a thick paste of flour or breadcrumbs used as a base for a sauce or as a binder for forcemeat [Sp, fr *pan* bread, fr *L panis* – more at **FOOD**]

**panama** /panə'mah/ *n*, often *cap* a lightweight hat of plaited straw [AmerSp *panamá*, fr *Panama*, country in Central America]

**panatela**, **panatella** /panə'tela/ *n* a long slender straight-sided cigar rounded off at the sealed mouth end [Sp, fr AmerSp, a long thin biscuit, deriv of *L panis* bread]

**pancake** /pan'kayk/ *n* **1** a flat cake made from thin batter and cooked on both sides usu in a frying pan **2** make-up compressed into a flat cake or stick form

**Pancake Day** *n* Shrove Tuesday as marked by the eating of pancakes

**pancake landing** *n* a landing in which an aircraft descends in an approximately horizontal position with little forward motion

**panchromatic** /pan'krəh'matik, -krə-/ *adj* sensitive to light of all colours in the visible spectrum (<film> [ISV])

**pancreas** /'pangkri-əs/ *n* a large compound gland in vertebrates that secretes digestive enzymes into the intestines and the hormones insulin and glucagon into the blood → **DIGESTION** [NL, fr Gk *pankreas*, fr *pan-* + *kreas* flesh, meat – more at **RAW**] – **pancreatic** /-kri'atik/ *adj*

**pancreat-** /'pangkri-ət-, **pancreato-** *comb form* pancreas (<pancreatic>) [NL, fr Gk *pankreat-*, *pankreas*]

**pancreatic juice** /'pangkri'atik/ *n* the secretion of pancreatic digestive enzymes that is poured into the duodenum

**pancreatin** /pan'kree-atin, 'pangkri-ə-tin/ *n* (a preparation containing) a mixture of enzymes from the pancreatic juice

**panda** /panda/ *n* **1** a long-tailed Himalayan flesh-eating mammal resembling the American raccoon and having long chestnut fur spotted with black **2** a large black-and-white plant-eating mammal of western China resembling a bear but related to the raccoons → **ENDANGERED** [F, fr native name in Nepal]

**panda car** *n*, *Br* a small car used by police patrols, esp in urban areas [fr its orig having black-and-white bodywork]

**pandemic** /pan'demik/ *n* or *adj* (a disease) occurring over a wide area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population [adj LL *pandemus*, fr Gk *pandemos* of all the people, fr *pan-* + *demos* people – more at **DEMOGOGUE**, *n* fr *adj*]

**pandemonium** /pandi'mohnyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a wild uproar; a tumult [NL, abode of all demons, hell, fr Gk *pan-* + *daemon* evil spirit]

**pander** /panda/ *n* **1** a pimp **2** sby who encourages or exploits the weaknesses or vices of others [ME *Pandare* Pandarus, mythical Gk procurer, fr *L Pandarus*, fr Gk *Pandaros*]

**pander** *vi* to act as a pander, esp to provide gratification for others' desires – *usu* + *to*

**pandit** /pundit/ *n* a wise or learned man in India – often used as an honorary title [Hindi *pandit*, fr Skt *pandita*]

**Pandora's box** /pan'dawrz/ *n* a prolific source of troubles [fr the Gk myth of a box sent by the gods to Pandora, the first woman, which contained all the ills of mankind]

**pane** /payn/ *n* **1** a piece, section, or side of sthg, esp a framed sheet of glass in a window or door **2** any of the sections into which a sheet of postage stamps is cut for distribution [ME *pan*, *pane* strip of cloth, *pane*, fr MF *pan*, fr *L pannus* cloth, rag – more at **VANF**]

**panegyric** /pan'i:jnik/ *n* a eulogistic oration or piece of writing, also formal or elaborate praise [L *panegyricus*, fr Gk *panegyrikos*, fr *panēgyri-kos* of or for a festival assembly, fr *panegyris* festival assembly, fr *pan-* + *agyns* assembly, akin to Gk *ageirein* to gather – more at **GREGARIOUS**] – **panegyric** *adj*, **panegyrically** *adv*, **panegyrist** /pan'i:jrist, -'jie-ə/ *n*

**panel** /panl/ *n* **1a** (1) a list of people summoned for jury service (2) the jury so summoned **b** (1) a group of people selected to perform some service (e.g. investigation or arbitration) (<a ~ of experts>) (2) a group of people who discuss before an audience topics of usu political or social interest (3) a group of entertainers who appear as contestants in a quiz or guessing game on radio or television **2** a separate or distinct part of a surface: e.g. **a** (1) a thin usu rectangular board set in a frame (e.g. in a door) → **ARCHITECTURE** (2) a usu sunken or raised section of a surface set off by a margin **b** a vertical section of fabric (<skirt made with 8 ~s>) **3** a thin flat piece of wood on which a picture is painted **4a** a flat often insulated support (e.g. for parts of an electrical device) usu with controls on 1 face **b** a usu vertical mount for controls or dials (e.g. in a car or aircraft) **USE** (**1a**) (**2**) (**1b**) sing or pl in constr [ME, piece of cloth, slip of parchment, jury schedule, fr MF, piece of cloth, piece, prob fr (assumed) VL *pannellus*, dim. of *L pannus* cloth]

**panel** *vt* -*ll* (*NAm* -*l*, -*ll*), /pan'lɪŋ/ to furnish or decorate with panels (<led the living room>)

**panel heating** *n* space heating of rooms by means of panels containing a heat source

**panellist** /panl-ist/ *n* a member of a discussion or advisory panel or of a radio or television panel

**panel pin** *n* a short slender nail used for woodwork

**pang** /pang/ *n* **1** a brief piercing spasm of pain **2** a sharp attack of mental anguish (<s of remorse>) [origin unknown]

**panga** /'pang-gə/ *n* a large broad-bladed African knife [native name in E Africa]

**pangolin** /'pang'gohlin/ *n* any of several Asian and African anteaters with a body covered with large overlapping horny scales [Malay *pengguling*]

**panhandle** /pan'handl/ *vb*, *NAm* to beg (from) in the street **USE** – infrml [back-formation fr *panhandler*, prob fr *panhandle*, *n*; fr the extended forearm] – **panhandler** /-,handlə/ *n*


**panic** /panik/ *n* **1** a sudden overpowering fright, esp a sudden unreasoning terror that spreads rapidly through a group **2** a sudden widespread fright concerning financial affairs and resulting in a depression in values [F *panique*, *adj*, of fright caused by Pan, Gk god of woods, fr Gk *panikos*, fr *Pan*] – **panic** *adj*, **panicky** *adj*

**panic** *vb* -*ck-* to (cause) to be affected with panic

**panic button** *n* sthg setting off a precipitous emergency response

**panic grass** *n* any of various (forage or cereal) grasses [ME *panik*, fr

MF or L; MF *panic* foxtail millet, fr L *panicum*, fr *panus* swelling, ear of millet]

**panicle** /'pʌnɪkl/ *n* a (pyramidal) loosely branched flower cluster or compound inflorescence  PLANT [L *panicula*, fr dim. of *panus* swelling] – **panicked** *adj*, **paniculate** /pə'nɪkyoolət, -ləyt/ *adj*

**'panic-stricken** *adj* overcome with panic

**Panjabi** /poɒn'jɑbi/ *n* or *adj* (a) Punjabi

**panjandrum** /pən'jɑndrəm/ *n*, *pl* **panjandrum**s also **panjandra** /-drə/ *a* powerful personage or self-important official – humor [Grand *Panjandrum*, burlesque title of an imaginary personage in some nonsense lines by Samuel Foote †1777 E actor & dramatist]

**panleucopenia** /pən'looɪkə'peɪniə/ *n* an acute usu fatal epidemic virus disease of cats [NL]

**panne** /pʌn/ *n* a silk or rayon velvet with lustrous pile flattened in 1 direction [F, fr OF *penne*, *panne* fur used for lining, fr L *pinna* feather, wing – more at 'PEN]

**pannier**, **panier** /'pʌniə, 'pʌni-ə/ *n* 1 a large basket, esp either of a pair carried on the back of an animal 2 a hoop petticoat or overskirt that gives extra width to the sides of a skirt at hip level 3 chiefly Br either of a pair of bags or boxes fixed on either side of the rear wheel of a bicycle or motorcycle [ME *panier*, fr MF, fr L *panarium*, fr *panis* bread – more at FOOD]

**panoply** /'pʌnəpli/ *n* 1a a full suit of armour b ceremonial dress 2 a magnificent or impressive array (<the full ~ of a military funeral>) [Gk *panoplia*, fr *pan-* + *hopla* arms, armour, pl of *hoplon* tool, weapon – more at HOPLITE] – **panoplied** *adj*

**panorama** /pə'nɒrəmə/ *n* 1a a large pictorial representation encircling the spectator b a picture exhibited by being unrolled before the spectator 2a an unobstructed or complete view of a landscape or area b a comprehensive presentation or survey of a series of events [*pan-* + Gk *horama* sight, fr *horan* to see – more at WARY] – **panoramic** /-ˈræmɪk/ *adj*, **panoramically** *adv*

**pan out** *vi* to turn out as specified; esp to succeed ['pan]

**'pan,pipe** /'pʌn,pɪp, -ˈ-/ *n* a primitive wind instrument consisting of a graduated series of short vertical pipes bound together with the mouth-pieces in an even row – often pl with sing. meaning [*Pan*, Gk god of woods, its alleged inventor]

**pansy** /'pʌnzi/ *n* 1 (a flower of) a garden plant derived from wild violets 2 an effeminate male or male homosexual – derog [MF *pensée*, fr *pensee* thought, fr fem of *pensé*, pp of *penser* to think, fr L *pensare* to ponder – more at PENSIVE]

**'pant** /pʌnt/ *vi* 1a to breathe quickly, spasmodically, or in a laboured manner b to run panting (<ing along beside the bicycle>) c to make a puffing sound 2 to long eagerly, yearn 3 to throb, pulsate ~ *vi* to utter with panting, gasp (<~ed his apologies for arriving so late>) [ME *panten*, fr MF *pantaisier*, fr (assumed) VL *phantasiare* to have hallucinations, fr Gk *phantasioun*, fr *phantasia* appearance, imagination – more at FANCY]

**²pant** *n* 1 a panting breath 2 a puffing sound

**pan-** /pʌnt-, *pan-* *comb form* all <pan(s)ocracy> [MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *pan-*, *pas* – more at PAN-]

**pantaleta**, **pantalettes** /pəntə'lets/ *n* *pl* a trouser-like undergarment with a ruffle at the bottom of each leg, worn esp by women and children in the early 19th c [*pantaloon*s]

**pantaloon** /pəntə'looɪn/ *n* 1 a stock character in the commedia dell'arte who is a skinny old dotard wearing pantaloons 2 *pl* any of several kinds of men's breeches or trousers, esp close-fitting trousers fastened under the calf or instep and worn in the 18th and 19th c [MF & OIt; MF *Pantalón*, fr OIt *Pantaleone*, *Pantalone*]

**panotechnicon** /pəntek'nɪkən/ *n*, *Br* a large van, esp for transporting household possessions, furniture, etc [short for *panotechnicon van*, fr *panotechnicon* (storage warehouse)]


**pantheism** /pənthee-iz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of nature 2 the indiscriminate worship of all the gods of different religions and cults; also toleration of such worship (e.g. at certain periods of the Roman empire) [F *panthéisme*, fr *panthéiste* pantheist, fr E *pantheist*, fr *pan-* + *-theist*] – **pantheist** *n*, **pantheistic** /-ˈɪstɪk/, **pantheistical** *adj*, **pantheistically** *adv*

**pantheon** /pənti-ən, pən'thee-ən/ *n* 1 a building serving as the burial place of or containing memorials to famous dead 2 the gods of a people; esp the officially recognized gods [ME *Panteon*, a temple at Rome, fr L *Pantheon*, fr Gk *pantheon* temple of all the gods, fr neut of *pantheios* of all gods, fr *pan-* + *theos* god]

**panther** /'pʌntə/ *n*, *pl* **panthers** also esp collectively **panther** 1 a

leopard, esp of the black colour phase 2 *NAm* a puma [ME *pantere*, fr OF, fr L *panthera*, fr Gk *panthēr*]

**panties** /'pʌntɪz/ *n* *pl* pants for women or children, also knickers

**pantile** /'pʌntɪl/ *n* a roofing tile whose transverse section is a flattened S-shape  BUILDING ['pan] – **pantiled** *adj*

**panto** /'pʌntə/ *n*, *Br* PANTOMIME 1b – *infinl*

**pantograph** /'pʌntəgrəf, -grʌf/ *n* 1 an instrument for copying sth (e.g. a map) on a predetermined scale consisting of 4 light rigid bars jointed in parallelogram form, also any of various extensible devices of similar construction 2 a collapsible and adjustable framework mounted on an electric vehicle (e.g. a railway locomotive) for collecting current from an overhead wire [F *pantographe*, fr *pan-* + *-graphie* -graph] – **pantographic** /-ˈgræfɪk/ *adj*

**pantomime** /'pʌntəmiəm/ *n* 1a any of various dramatic or dancing performances in which a story is told by bodily or facial movements b a British theatrical and musical entertainment of the Christmas season based on a nursery tale with stock roles and topical jokes 2 conveyance of a story by bodily or facial movements, esp in drama or dance [L *pantomimus*, fr *panti-* + *mimus* mime] – **pantomimic** /-ˈmɪmɪk/ *adj*

**pantothenic 'acid** /pəntə'thenɪk/ *n* a vitamin of the vitamin B complex [Gk *pantothen* from all sides, fr *pan-*, *pas* all – more at PAN]

**pantry** /'pʌntri/ *n* 1 a room or cupboard used for storing provisions or tableware 2 a room (e.g. in a hotel or hospital) for preparation of cold food; to order [ME *panetrie*, fr MF *paneterie*, fr OF, fr *panetier* servant in charge of the pantry, irreg fr *pan* bread, fr L *panis* – more at FOOD]

**pants** /pʌnts/ *n* *pl* 1 chiefly Br an undergarment that covers the crotch and hips and that may extend to the waist and partly down each leg 2 chiefly *NAm* trousers [short for *pantaloon*s]

**'pants,suit** *n*, chiefly *NAm* TROUSER SUIT

**'panty,hose** /'pʌnti-/ *n* *pl*, chiefly *NAm* tights

**'panzer** /'pʌnzə/ *adj* of, carried out by, or being a (WW II German) armoured unit [G *panzer*, fr *panzer* coat of mail, armour, fr OF *pancière*, fr *pance*, *panche* belly – more at PAUNCH]

**²panzer** *n* TANK 2, esp a German tank of WW II

**'pap** /pʌp/ *n*, chiefly *dial* a nipple, teat [ME *pappe*]

**²pap** *n* 1 a soft food for infants or invalids 2 sth lacking solid value or substance [ME]


**'papa** /pə'pɑ/ *n*, chiefly Br father – formerly used formally, esp in address [F (baby talk)]

**²papa** /'pʌpə/ *n* daddy – used informally and by children

**papacy** /'pʌpəsi/ *n* 1 the (term of) office of pope 2 *cap* the system of government of the Roman Catholic church of which the pope is the supreme head [ME *papacie*, fr ML *papatus*, fr LL *papa* pope – more at POPE]

**papain** /pə'paɪn, pə'piːn, 'pʌpə-ɪn/ *n* an enzyme in the juice of unripe papaya, used to tenderize meat [ISV, fr *papaya*]

**papal** /'pʌpəl/ *adj* of a pope or the Roman Catholic church [ME, fr MF, fr ML *papalis*, fr LL *papa*] – **papally** /'pʌpəl-ɪ/ *adv*

**papal cross** *n* a cross having a long upright shaft and 3 crossbars of successively shorter length  SYMBOL

**papaw** /pə'paw, 2'pawpaw, 'pəh-/ *n* 1 papaya 2 (a N American tree that bears purple flowers and) a yellow edible fruit [prob modif of Sp *papaya*]

**papaya** /pə'piː-ə/ *n* (a tropical American tree that bears) a large oblong yellow edible fruit [Sp, of AmerInd origin, akin to Otomac *papai*]

**'paper** /'pʌpə/ *n* 1a a sheet of closely compacted vegetable fibres (e.g. of wood or cloth) b a piece of paper 2a a piece of paper containing a written or printed statement, a document (<naturalization ~s>); specif a document carried as proof of identity or status – often *pl* b a piece of paper containing writing or print c a formal written composition d the question set or answers written in an examination in 1 subject 3 a paper container or wrapper (<a sweet ~>) 4 a newspaper 5 the negotiable notes or instruments of commerce 6 wallpaper [ME *papir*, fr MF *papier*, fr L *papyrus* papyrus, paper, fr Gk *papyros* papyrus] – on *paper* in theory, hypothetically

**²paper** *vt* 1 to cover or line with paper; esp to apply wallpaper to 2 to give out free tickets for (<~ the theatre for the opening night>) ~ *vi* to hang wallpaper – **paperer** *n*

**²paper** *adj* 1a made of paper, thin cardboard, or papier-mâché b papery 2 of clerical work or written communication 3 existing only in theory; nominal 4 issued as paper money 5 finished with a crisp smooth surface like that of paper (<~ taffeta>)

**'paper,back** /-bak/ *n* a book with a flexible paper binding – compare **HARDBACK** – **paperback** *adj*

**'paper,boy** /-boy/, *fem* **'paper,girl** *n* a boy who delivers or sells newspapers

**paper chase** *n* a game in which some of the players scatter bits of paper as a trail which others follow to find and catch them

**paper clip** *n* a small clip made from 2 loops of wire, used for holding sheets of paper together

**'paper,hanger** /-hang-ə/ *n* sby who applies wallpaper to walls

**'paper,hanging** /-hang-ing/ *n* the act of applying wallpaper

**paper knife** *n* a knife for slitting envelopes or uncut pages

**paper money** *n* bank notes

**paper mulberry** *n* an Asian variety of mulberry, the bark of which was formerly used in papermaking, esp in Japan

**paper nautilus** *n* a mollusc related to the octopuses and squids, the female of which has a delicate papery shell

**paper over** *vt* 1 to gloss over, explain away, or patch up (e.g. major differences), esp in order to maintain a semblance of unity 2 to hide, conceal

**paper tiger** *n* sby or sth outwardly powerful or dangerous but inwardly weak or ineffectual [*had to show that the military commitment was not a ~*]

**'paper,weight** /-wayt/ *n* a usu small heavy object used to hold down loose papers (e.g. on a desk)

**'paper,work** /-wuhk/ *n* routine clerical or record-keeping work, often incidental to a more important task

**papery** /'payp(ə)n/ *adj* resembling paper in thinness or consistency /~ leaves/ (~ silk) – **paperiness** *n*

**papier-mâché** /ˌpiːəˈmɑːʃ/ *n* a light strong moulding material made of paper pulped with glue that is used for making boxes, trays, etc [F, lit., chewed paper] – **papier-mâché** *adj*

**papilionaceous** /ˌpæpiːlɪˈneɪʃəs/ *adj*, of a (leguminous) flower having an irregular butterfly-shaped corolla [L. *papilion-*, *papilio* butterfly – more at **PAVILION**]

**papilla** /ˈpæpɪlə/ *n*, *pl* **papillae** /-li/ a small projecting nipple-shaped body part e.g. a piece of connective tissue extending into and nourishing the root of a hair, feather, etc b any of the protuberances of the dermal layer of the skin extending into the epidermal layer c any of the protuberances on the upper surface of the tongue [L., nipple, akin to L. *papula* pimple, Lith. *papas* nipple] – **papillary** /ˈpæpɪlərɪ/ *adj*, **papillate** /ˈpæpɪlət/ *adj*, **papillose** /ˈpæpɪləs/ *adj*

**papilloma** /ˌpæpɪˈlɒmə/ *n*, *pl* **papillomas**, **papillomata** /-mətə/ a benign tumour (e.g. a wart) due to overgrowth of epithelial tissue [NL] – **papillomatous** *adj*

**papillon** /ˈpæpɪlən/ *n* (any of) a breed of small slender toy spaniels with large butterfly-shaped ears [F, lit., butterfly, fr. L. *papilion-*, *papilio*]

**papist** /ˈpæpɪst/ *n*, often *cap* a Roman Catholic – chiefly derog [MF or NL, MF *papiste*, fr. *pape* pope, NL *papista*, fr. LL *papa* pope] – **papist** *adj*, **papistry** *n*

**papoose** /ˈpæpoʊs/ *n* a young N. American Indian child [Narraganset *papōōs*]

**pappus** /ˈpæpəs/ *n*, *pl* **pappi** /ˈpæpi/ a (tuft of) usu hairy appendages crowning the ovary or fruit in various plants (e.g. the dandelion) [L, fr. Gk *pappos*] – **pappose** *adj*

**paprika** /ˈpæprɪkə/, *pl* **paprikas** /-kə/ *n* (a mild to hot red condiment consisting of the finely ground dried pods of) any of various cultivated sweet peppers – compare **CAYENNE PEPPER** [Hung, fr. Serb, fr. *papar* pepper, fr. Gk *peperi*]

**Pap smear** /ˈpæp/ *n* a method for the early detection of cancer in which cells (e.g. from mucous membrane) are scraped off and examined under the microscope [George N. Papanicolaou †1962 US medical scientist]

**papule** /ˈpæpyoʊl/ *n* a small solid usu conical projection from the skin [L. *papula*] – **papular** *adj*

**papyrus** /ˈpæpiəs-/ *n*, *pl* **papyrus**, **papyri** /-ri/ 1 a tall sedge of the Nile valley 2 the pith of the papyrus plant, esp when made into a material for writing on 3 a usu ancient manuscript written on papyrus [ME, fr. L. – more at **PAPER**]

**par** /pɑː/ *n* 1a the established value of the monetary unit of one country expressed in terms of the monetary unit of another country b the money value assigned to each share of stock in the charter of a company 2 a common level; equality – esp in *on a par with* 3a an amount taken as an average or norm b an accepted standard; *specif* a usual standard of physical condition or health 4 the standard score (of a good player) for each hole of a golf course [L., one that is equal, fr. *par* equal] – **par** *adj*

**'para** /ˈpɑːrə/ *n*, *pl* **paras**, **para** ➞ Yugoslavia at **NATIONALITY** [Turk, fr. Per *parah*, lit., piece]

**'para** /ˈpɑːrə/ *n*, *pl* **paras** a paratrooper

**'para-** /ˈpɑːrə-, *par-* prefix 1a beside, alongside (<parathyroid> (<parallel> b beyond (<paranormal> (<paradox> 2 involving substitution at 2 opposite positions in the benzene ring that are separated by 2 carbon atoms (<paradichlorobenzene> – compare **META-**, **ORTHO-** 3a faulty, abnormal (<paraesthesia> (<paranoia> b associated in a subsidiary or auxiliary capacity (<paramedical> c closely resembling or related to (<paratyphoid> [ME, fr. MF, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. *para*, akin to Gk *pro* before – more at **FOR**]

**'para-** *comb form* parachute (<paratrooper>)

**-para-** /-p(ə)rə/ *comb form* (→ *n*), *pl* **-paras**, **-parae** /-n/ woman delivered of (so many) children (<tripara> [L, fr. *parere* to give birth to – more at **PARF**]

**para-aminobenzoic 'acid** /ˈpɑːrə ˌamɪnəbenˈzɔɪk, əˌmiːnoh-/ *n* the form of aminobenzoic acid that is a growth factor of the vitamin B complex [ISV]

**parabiosis** /ˌpærəbiˈɒsɪs/ *n* anatomical and physiological union of 2 organisms [NL] – **parabiotic** /-biˈɒtɪk/ *adj*, **parabiotically** *adv*

**parable** /ˈpærəbl/ *n* a usu short allegorical story illustrating a moral or religious principle [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *parabola*, fr. Gk *parabole*, fr. *paraballein* to compare, fr. *para-* + *ballein* to throw – more at **DEVEL**]

**parabola** /ˈpærəbɒlə/ *n* a plane curve generated by a point moving so that its distance from a fixed point is equal to its distance from a fixed line, the intersection of a right circular cone with a plane parallel to a straight line in the surface of the cone – compare **ELLIPSE**, **HYPERBOLA** ➞ MATHEMATICS [NL, fr. Gk *parabole*, lit., comparison]

**parabolic** /ˌpærəˈbɒlɪk/ *adj* 1 expressed by or being a parabola 2 of or having the form of a parabola (<motion in a ~ curve>) [(1) LL *parabola* parable, (2) NL *parabola*] – **parabolically** *adv*

**paraboloid** /ˈpærəbɒləɪd/ *n* a surface some plane sections of which are parabolas – compare **ELLIPSOID**, **HYPERBOLOID** – **paraboloidal** /-ləɪd/ *adj*

**paracetamol** /ˈpærəˈsetəˌmɒl, -ˈsetə-/ *n* a derivative of acetanilide widely used as a painkiller and as an intermediate in chemical synthesis [*'para-* + *acet-* + *amin-* + *-ol*]

**'parachute** /ˈpærəˌʃuːt/ *n* a folding device of light fabric used esp for ensuring a safe descent of a person or object from a great height (e.g. from a aeroplane) [F, fr. *para-* (as in *parasol*) + *chute* fall – more at **CHUTE**] – **parachutist** *n*

**'parachute** *vi* to descend by means of a parachute

**Paraclete** /ˈpærəkleeɪt/ *n* HOLY SPIRIT [ME *Parachit*, fr. MF *Paraclet*, fr. LL *Paracletus*, fr. Gk *Parakletos*, lit., advocate, intercessor, fr. *parakalein* to invoke, fr. *para-* + *kalein* to call – more at **'LOW**]

**'parade** /ˈpærədeɪd/ *n* 1 an ostentatious show, an exhibition (<made a ~ of his superior knowledge> 2 the (ceremonial) ordered assembly of a body of troops before a superior officer 3 a public procession 4 chiefly Br a row of shops, esp with a service road [F, fr. MF, fr. *parer* to prepare – more at **PARF**]

**'parade** *vt* 1 to cause to manoeuvre or march 2 to exhibit ostentatiously ~ *vi* 1 to march in a procession 2 to promenade 3a **SHOW OFF** b to masquerade (<myths which ~ as modern science> – M. R. Cohen) – **parader** *n*

**paradichlorobenzene** /ˌpærədiˌklaʊrəhˈbenziːn/ *n* a white chlorinated benzene compound used chiefly as a fumigant against clothes moths [ISV]

**paradigm** /ˈpærədiəm/ *n* 1 an example or pattern 2 an example of a conjugation or declension showing a word in all its inflectional forms [LL *paradigma*, fr. Gk *paradeigma*, fr. *paradeiknynai* to show side by side, fr. *para-* + *deiknynai* to show – more at **DICTION**] – **paradigmatic** /ˌpærədiˈɡmatɪk/ *adj*

**paradise** /ˈpærədiːs/ *n* 1 often *cap* a the garden of Eden b Heaven 2 a place of bliss, felicity, or delight [ME *paradis*, fr. OF, fr. LL *paradisus*, fr. Gk *paradosos*, lit., enclosed park, of Iranian origin, akin to Av *pairi-daeza-* enclosure, akin to Gk *peri* around, & to Gk *teichos* wall – more at **PERI-**, **DOUGH**] – **paradisaical** /ˌpærədiˈsiːəl, -diː-/ *adj*

**parados** /ˈpærədos/ *n* a bank of earth behind a fortified place or trench [F, fr. *para-* (as in *parasol*) + *dos* back, fr. L. *dorsum*]

**paradox** /ˈpærəˌdɒks/ *n* 1 a tenet contrary to received opinion 2a a statement that is apparently contradictory or absurd and yet might be true b a self-contradictory statement that at first seems true 3 sth (e.g. a person, condition, or act) with seemingly contradictory qualities or phases [L. *paradoxum*, fr. Gk *paradoxon*, fr. neut. of *paradoxos* contrary to expectation, fr. *para-* + *dokēin* to think, seem – more at **DECENT**]




**paradoxical** /ˌpɑːdɒksɪkl/ *adj* 1 constituting a paradox 2 not being the normal or usual kind (< ~ pulse) – **paradoxically** *adv*, **paradoxicalness** *n*

**paradoxical sleep** *n* a state of sleep that is characterized esp by dreaming, rapid eye movements, and vascular congestion of the sex organs

**paraesthesia**, *NAm chiefly paresthesia* /ˌpærɛsˈθiːziə, -zə(y)ə/ *n* a sensation of prickling or tingling on the skin with no physical cause [NL]

**paraffin** /ˈpærəfɪn, -ˈ-/ *n* 1 a usu waxy inflammable mixture of hydrocarbons obtained from distillates of wood, coal, petroleum, etc and used chiefly in candles, chemical synthesis, and cosmetics 2 an alkane 3 an inflammable liquid hydrocarbon obtained by distillation of petroleum and used esp as a fuel [G, fr L *parum* too little + *affinis* bordering on, akin to L *paucus* few – more at FEW, AFFINITY] – **paraffinic** /-ˈfɪnɪk/ *adj*



**paragon** /ˈpærəɡɒn/ *n* a model of excellence or perfection [MF, fr OIt *paragone*, lit., touchstone, fr *paragonare* to test on a touchstone, fr Gk *parakonan* to sharpen, fr *para-* + *akone* whetstone, fr *ake* point; akin to Gk *akmé* point – more at EDGE]




**paragraph** /ˈpærəɡraːf, -ˈgrɑːf/ *n* 1a a usu indented division of a written composition that develops a single point or idea b a composition or news item that is complete in 1 paragraph 2 a sign (e.g. ¶) used as a reference mark or to indicate the beginning of a paragraph  SYMBOL [MF & ML; MF *paragraphe*, fr ML *paragraphus* sign marking a paragraph, fr Gk *paragraphe* line used to mark change of persons in a dialogue, fr *paragraphein* to write alongside, fr *para-* + *graphein* to write – more at CARVE] – **paragraph** *vt*, **paragraphic** /-ˈɡrafɪk/ *adj*

**parakeet**, *NAm also parrakeet* /ˌpærəˈkiːt, -ˈ-/ *n* any of numerous usu small slender long-tailed parrots [Sp & MF, Sp *periquito*, fr MF *perroquet* parrot]

**paraldehyde** /ˌpɑːrəldɪˈhɛd/ *n* a synthetic drug used esp as a sedative and hypnotic to control convulsions

**parallax** /ˈpærəlæks/ *n* the apparent displacement or the difference in apparent direction of an object as seen from 2 different points not on the same straight line [MF *parallaxe*, fr Gk *parallaxis*, fr *parallassein* to change, fr *para-* + *allassein* to change, fr *allos* other – more at ELSE] – **parallaxic** /-ˈlæktɪk/ *adj*

**parallel** /ˈpærəl/ *adj* 1a extending in the same direction, everywhere equidistant, and not meeting (< ~ rows of trees)  SYMBOL b everywhere equally distant (*concentric spheres are ~*)  SYMBOL 2 being or relating to an electrical circuit having a number of conductors in parallel 3 analogous, comparable [L *parallelus*, fr Gk *parallelos*, fr *para* beside + *allelon* of one another, fr *allos* allos one another, fr *allos* other – more at PARA-, ELSE]

**parallel** *n* 1a a parallel line, curve, or surface  MATHEMATICS, SYMBOL b a circle or line of latitude on (a globe or map of) the earth  SYMBOL c a sign || used as a reference mark – often pl with sing. meaning  SYMBOL 2 sb or sth equal or similar in all essential particulars; a counterpart, analogue 3 a comparison to show resemblance (*drew a ~ between the 2 states*) 4a the state of being physically parallel b the arrangement of 2-terminal electrical devices in which one terminal of each device is joined to one conductor and the others are joined to another conductor – compare SERIES 7


**parallel** *vt* 1 to compare 2a to equal, match (*no one has ~ ed my success in business*) b to correspond to

**parallel** *adv* in a parallel manner

**parallel bars** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (a men's gymnastic event using) a pair of bars supported horizontally 1.7m (5ft 7in) above the floor usu by a common base

**parallelepiped** /ˌpærəˈleɪˈpiːpɛd, -ˈleɪˈpiːpɛd/ *n* a polyhedron whose faces are parallelograms [Gk *parallelēpipedon*, fr *parallelos* + *epipedon* plane surface, fr neut of *epipedos* flat, fr *epi-* + *pedon* ground, akin to L *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at FOOT]

**parallelism** /ˌpærəˈleɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being parallel 2 a resemblance, correspondence

**parallelogram** /ˌpærəˈleɪɡrəm/ *n* a quadrilateral with opposite sides parallel and equal  MATHEMATICS [LL or Gk; LL *parallelogrammum*, fr Gk *parallelogrammon*, fr neut of *parallelogrammos* bounded by parallel lines, fr *parallelōs* + *grammē* line, fr *graphein* to write – more at CARVE]

**paralysis** /ˌpɑːrəˈleɪsɪs/ *n, pl paralyses* /-ˈseɪz/ 1 (partial) loss of function, esp when involving motion or sensation in a part of the body 2 loss of the ability to move 3 a state of powerlessness or incapacity to act [L, fr Gk, fr *paralyein* to loosen, disable, fr *para-* + *lyein* to loosen – more at LOSE] – **paralyse**, *NAm paralyze* *vt*, **paralysisation** /-ˈzəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**paralytic** /ˌpærəˈleɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 of, resembling, or affected with paralysis 2 chiefly Br very drunk – *infml*

**paralytic** *n* one suffering from paralysis

**paramagnetic** /ˌpærəˈmæɡˌnetɪk/ *adj* of or being a substance that in a magnetic field is (slightly) attracted towards points of higher field intensity [ISV] – **paramagnetically** *adv*, **paramagnetism** /-ˈmæɡˌnɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**paramedical** /ˌpærəˈmedɪkl/ *also* **para-medical** /-ˈmedɪk/ *adj* concerned with supplementing the work of medical doctors (< ~ technicians)

**parameter** /ˌpærəˈmɪtə/ *n* 1 an arbitrary constant whose value characterizes a member of a system (e.g. a family of curves) 2 a characteristic, factor (*political dissent as a ~ of modern life*) [NL, fr *para-* + Gk *metron* measure – more at MEASURE] – **parametric** /ˌpærəˈmetrɪk/ *also* **parametric** *adj*, **parametrically** *adv*

**parameterize**, *-ise*, **parametrise**, *-ise* /ˌpærəˈmɪt(ə)neɪz/ *vt* to express in terms of parameters – **parameterization**, **parametrization** /-ˈzəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**paramilitary** /ˌpærəˈmɪlɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj* formed on a military pattern (as a potential auxiliary military force) (< ~ border patrol)

**paramnesia** /ˌpærəˈmniːziə, -ˈh(ɪ)zə, -ˈram-/ *n* DEJA VU 1 [NL, fr *para-* + *-mnēsia* (as in *amnesia*)]


**paramount** /ˌpærəˈmaʊnt/ *adj* superior to all others, supreme [AF *paramont*, fr OF *par by* (fr L *per*) + *amont* above, fr *a* to (fr L *ad*) + *mont* mountain – more at TOP, MOUNTAIN]

**paramour** /ˌpærəˈmoʊə/ *n* an illicit lover, esp a mistress [ME, fr *par amour* by way of love, fr OF]

**parang** /ˈpærəŋ/ *n* a heavy Malaysian or Indonesian knife [Malay]

**paranoia** /ˌpærəˈnoɪə/ *n* 1 a mental disorder characterized by delusions of persecution or grandeur 2 a tendency towards excessive or irrational suspiciousness and distrustfulness of others [NL, fr Gk, madness, fr *paranous* demented, fr *para-* + *nous* mind] – **paranoiac** *adj* or *n*, **paranoid** *adj* or *n*

**paranormal** /ˌpærəˈnɔːml/ *adj* not scientifically explainable, supernatural – **paranormally** *adv*, **paranormality** /-ˈnɔːməlɪti/ *n*

**parapet** /ˈpærəpɪt, -ˈpet-/ *n* 1 a wall, rampart, or elevation of earth or stone to protect soldiers 2 a low wall or balustrade to protect the edge of a platform, roof, or bridge  ARCHITECTURE, CHURCH [It *parapetto*, fr *parare* to shield (fr L, to prepare) + *petto* chest, fr L *pectus* – more at PARE] – **parapeted** *adj*

**paraph** /ˈpærəf/ *n* a flourish at the end of a signature [MF, fr L *paraphrasis* paraphrase]

**paraphernalia** /ˌpærəˈfɛrnəliə/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 personal belongings 2a articles of equipment b accessory items [ML, personal property of a married woman, deriv of Gk *parapherna* goods a bride brings in addition to the dowry, fr *para-* + *phernē* dowry, fr *pherein* to bear – more at BEAR]

**paraphrase** /ˌpærəˈfrayz/ *n* a restatement of a text, passage, or work giving the meaning in another form [MF, fr L *paraphrasis*, fr Gk, fr *paraphrazein* to paraphrase, fr *para-* + *phrazein* to point out]

**paraphrase** *vb* to make a paraphrase (of) – **paraphrasable** *adj*, **paraphraser** *n*

**paraphrastic** /ˌpærəˈfræstɪk/ *adj* explaining or translating more clearly and amply; having the nature of a paraphrase [F *paraphrastique*, fr Gk *paraphrastikos*, fr *paraphrazein*] – **paraphrastically** *adv*

**paraplegia** /ˌpærəˈpleɪʒə/ *n* paralysis of the lower half of the body including the legs [NL, fr Gk *paraplegie* hemiplegia, fr *para-* + *-plēgia* -plegia] – **paraplegic** /-ˈdʒɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**parapsychology** /-ˈsɪkəˈlədʒi/ *n* the investigation of evidence for the occurrence of psychic phenomena (e.g. telepathy and clairvoyance) [ISV] – **parapsychologist** *n*, **parapsychological** /-ˈdʒɪkəˈlədʒɪkl/ *adj*

**paraquat** /ˌpærəˈkwɒt, -ˈkwat/ *n* a very poisonous herbicide used esp as a weedkiller [*para-* + *quaternary* salt of an organic compound]

**paraselenē** /ˌpærəˈseːleɪni/ *n, pl paraselenae* /-ˈni, -ˈnie/ a bright spot like a parhelion seen on lunar haloes [NL, fr *para-* + Gk *selenē* moon – more at SELENIUM] – **paraselenic** /-ˈlemɪk/ *adj*

**parashah** /ˌpærəˈʃɑːh/ *n* a section of the Torah assigned for weekly reading in synagogue worship [Heb *parashah*, lit., explanation]

**parasite** /ˈpærəsɪt/ *n* 1 an organism living in or on another organism in parasitism 2 sth resembling a biological parasite in dependence on sth else for existence or support without making a useful or adequate return [MF, fr L *parasitus*, fr Gk *parasitos*, fr *para-* + *sitos* grain, food]



– **parasitic** /ˈsɪtɪk/ *also parasitical adj, parasitically adv, parasitology* /ˌsɪtɪˈɒlədʒi/ *n, parasitologist n*

**parasitism** /ˈpærəsi,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* an intimate association between organisms of 2 or more kinds in which a parasite benefits at the expense of a host – **parasitize** *vt*

**parasol** /ˈpærəsəl/ *n* a lightweight umbrella used, esp by women, as a protection from the sun [F, fr OIt *parasole*, fr *parare* to shield + *sole* sun, fr L *sol* – more at *PARAPHT*, *SOLAR*]

**parasympathetic** /ˌpærəˈsɪmpəˈθetɪk/ *adj* of, being, mediated by, or acting on (the nerves of) the parasympathetic nervous system [ISV]

**parasympathetic nervous system** *n* the part of the autonomic nervous system that contains nerve fibres in which the neurotransmitter is acetylcholine and whose activity tends to contract smooth muscle and cause the dilation of blood vessels – compare *SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM*

**parasympathomimetic** /ˌpærəˈsɪmpəˈθoʊmɪˈmetɪk, -mɪ-/ *adj* simulating parasympathetic nervous action in physiological effect [ISV]

**parataxis** /ˌpærəˈtæksɪs/ *n* the placing of clauses or phrases one after another without coordinating or subordinating forms [NL, fr Gk, act of placing side by side, fr *paratassein* to place side by side, fr *para-* + *tassein* to arrange – more at *TACTICS*] – **paratactic** /-tɪk/ *adj*

**parathion** /ˌpærəˈθiːən/ *n* a very poisonous insecticide used esp in farming [*para-* + *thiophosphate* + *-on*]

**parathyroid** /ˌpærəˈθiːɔɪd/ *parathyroid gland n* any of 4 small endocrine glands near the thyroid gland that produce a hormone – *parathyroid* [ISV] **parathyroid** *adj*

**paratroops** /ˌpærəˈtroʊps/ *n pl* troops trained and equipped to parachute from an aeroplane [*para-* – **paratrooper** *n*

**paratyphoid** /ˌpærəˈtɪfoɪd/ *n* a disease caused by salmonella that resembles typhoid fever and is commonly contracted by eating contaminated food [ISV] – **paratyphoid** *adj*

**paravane** /ˌpærəˈvaɪn/ *n* a torpedo-shaped device towed underwater by a ship to sever the moorings of mines

**parboil** /ˈpɑːboɪl/ *vt* to boil briefly as a preliminary or incomplete cooking procedure [ME *parboulen*, fr *parboulen* to boil thoroughly, fr MF *parboillir*, fr LL *perbullire*, fr L *per-* thoroughly (fr *per* through) + *tullire* to boil, fr *bulla* bubble]

**parbuckle** /ˈpɑːbʊkl/ *n* a sling of rope fastened overhead that is used for hoisting or lowering a cylindrical object (e.g. a cask) [origin unknown]

**parbuckle** *vt* to raise or lower by means of a parbuckle

**parcel** /ˈpɑːsl/ *n* 1 a plot of land 2 **PACK** 2a 3 a wrapped bundle, a package [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *particella*, fr L *particula* small part – more at *PARTICLE*]

**parcel** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈpɑːsl ɪŋ/ 1 to divide into parts, distribute – often + *out* 2 to make up into a parcel, wrap – often + *up* 3 to cover (e.g. a rope) with strips of canvas

**parch** /ˈpɑːtʃ/ *vt* 1 to roast (e.g. peas) slightly in a dry heat 2 to make dry or scorched ~ *vi* to become dry or scorched [ME *parchen*]

**parchment** /ˈpɑːtʃmənt/ *n* 1 the skin of an animal, esp of a sheep or goat, prepared for writing on 2 strong paper made to resemble parchment 3 a parchment manuscript [ME *parchenin*, fr OF, modif of L *pergamena*, fr Gk *pergamene*, fr fem of *Pergamēnos* of Pergamum, fr *Pergamon* Pergamum, ancient city in Asia Minor]

**parclose screen** /ˈpɑːkloʊz/ *n* a screen separating a side chapel from the main body of the church – *parclose* [ME *parclose*, fr MF enclosure, end, fr fem of *parclois*, pp of *parcloire* to enclose]

**pard** /pɑːd/ *n, archaic* a leopard [ME *parde*, fr OF, fr L *pardus*, fr Gk *pardos*]

**pardner** /ˈpɑːdnə/ *n, chiefly NAM* a partner, chum [alter. of *partner*]

**pardon** /ˈpɑːdn/ *n* 1 INDULGENCE 1 2 a release from legal penalties 3 excuse or forgiveness for a fault, offence, or discourtesy

**pardon** *vt* 1 to absolve from the consequences of a fault or crime 2 to allow (an offence) to pass without punishment [ME *pardonen*, fr MF *pardonore*, fr LL *perdonare* to grant freely, fr L *per-* thoroughly + *donare* to give – more at *DONATION*] – **pardonable** /ˈpɑːdnəbl/ *adj, pardonably adv*

**pardoner** /ˈpɑːdnə/ *n* a medieval preacher delegated to raise money by granting indulgences [*PARDON* + *-ER*]

**pare** /peə/ *vt* 1 to cut or shave off a (an outer surface) (< ~ the skin from an apple) b the outer surface of (< ~ an apple) 2 to diminish gradually (as if) by paring (< ~ expenses) [ME *paren*, fr MF *parer* to prepare, trim, fr L *parare* to prepare, acquire; akin to OE *fearn* bull, ox, L *parere* to give birth to, produce] – **parer** *n*

**paregoric** /ˌpærɪˈɡorɪk/ *n* a camphorated tincture of opium used esp to relieve pain and coughing [F *paregorique* relieving pain, fr LL *paregoricus*, fr Gk *paregorikos*, fr *paregorein* to talk over, soothe, fr *para-* + *agora* assembly – more at *GREGARIOUS*]

**parenchyma** /ˌpærɪŋkɪmə/ *n* 1 a fleshy tissue of the leaves, fruits, stems, etc of higher plants that consists of thin-walled living cells – compare *COLLEFNCHYMA*, *SCLERENCHYMA* 2 the essential and distinctive tissue of an organ or an abnormal growth, as distinguished from its supportive framework [NL, fr Gk, visceral flesh, fr *parenchein* to pour in beside, fr *para-* + *en-* + *chein* to pour – more at *FOUND*] – **parenchymatous** /ˌpærənˈkɪmətəs, -kɪ-/ *adj*

**parent** /ˈpeərənt/ *n* 1 sby who begets or brings forth offspring, a father or mother 2a an animal or plant regarded in relation to its offspring b the material or source from which sth is derived [ME, fr MF, fr L *parent-*, *parens*, fr prp of *parere* to give birth to] – **parent** *adj, parenthood* *n, parental* /ˌpærəntl/ *adj, parentally adv*

**parent** *vt* to be or act as the parent of, originate, produce

**parentage** /ˈpeərəntɪ/ *n* descent from parents or ancestors, lineage (< a woman of noble ~) [*PARENT* + *-AGE*]

**parenteral** /ˌpærəntərəl/ *adj* situated, occurring, or administered outside the intestines [ISV *para-* + *enteral*] – **parenterally** /-lɪ(ə)rəli/ *adv*

**parenthesis** /ˌpærənˈθɪsɪs/ *n, pl parentheses* /-ˈsiːz/ 1a an amplifying or explanatory word or phrase inserted in a passage from which, in writing, it is usu set off by punctuation b either or both of the curved marks ( ) used in writing and printing to enclose a parenthesis or to group a symbolic unit in a logical or mathematical expression 2 an interlude, interval [LL, fr Gk, lit. act of inserting, fr *parentithenai* to insert, fr *para-* + *en-* + *tithenai* to place – more at *DO*] – **parenthetic** /ˌpærənˈθetɪk/, **parenthetical** *adj, parenthetically adv*

**parenthesize**, **-ize** /ˌpærənˈθaɪz/ *vt* to make a parenthesis of ~ *vi* to digress

**parent-teacher association** *n sing or pl in constr* an organization of teachers at a school and the parents of their pupils, that works for the improvement of the school

**parergon** /ˌpærəˈrɡon/ *n, pl parerga* /-gə/ supplementary or subsidiary work, work undertaken apart from one's regular employment [L, fr Gk, fr *par-* *para-* + *ergon* work]

**paresis** /ˌpærəsiːs, ˈpærəsɪs/ *n, pl pareses* /-ˈsiːz/ slight or partial paralysis [NL, fr Gk, fr *parainai* to let fall, fr *para-* + *hienai* to let go, send – more at *HERI*] – **paretic** /ˌpærɪtɪk/ *adj or n*

**par excellence** /ˌpɑːrɛks(ə)ləns (Fr par ɛksləˈlɑːs)/ *adj* being the best example of a kind, without equal – used postpositively (< the dictionary ~ >) [F, lit. by excellence]

**parfait** ˈɑːfay/ *n* a frozen flavoured dessert that resembles custard and contains whipped cream and eggs [F, lit. sth perfect, fr *parfait* perfect, fr L *perfectus*]

**parget** /ˈpɑːhɪt/ *vt* to coat with plaster, esp ornamentally – *parget* [ME *pargetten*, fr MF *parjeter* to throw on top of, fr *par-* thoroughly (fr L *per-*) + *jeter* to throw – more at *PIET*]

**parget** *n* plasterwork, esp in raised ornamental figures on walls – *parget* BUILDING

**parhelic circle** /ˌpɑːhɛˈlɪk/ *n* a luminous circle or halo parallel to the horizon at the altitude of the sun

**parhelion** /ˌpɑːhɛˈliːən/ *n, pl parhelia* /-liːə/ any one of several bright spots that often appear on the parhelic circle [L *parelion*, fr Gk *parelion*, fr *para-* + *helios* sun – more at *SOLAR*] – **parhelic** /-ˈhɛˈlɪk/ *adj*

**pariah** /ˈpɑːriə-, ˈpɑːri-ə/ *n* 1 a member of a low caste of S India and Burma 2 an outcast [Tamil *paraiyan*, lit. drummer]

**Parian ware** ˈpeəri-ən/ *n* a fine-grained white porcelain usu used for making unglazed classical figures, esp nudes [Paros, Gk island, source of marble used in classical sculpture]

**parietal** /ˌpɑːri-ətəl/ *adj* 1 of the walls of an anatomical part or cavity 2 of or forming the upper rear wall of the skull [MF, fr NL *pariet-*, *paries* wall of a cavity or hollow organ, fr L, wall]

**parietal bone** *n* either of a pair of bones of the top and side of the skull

**pari-mutuel** /ˌpærɪˈmyuʊtʃuəl/ *n* 1 a betting pool in which those who bet on the winners of the first 3 places share the total amount bet, minus a percentage for the management 2 NAM a totalizator [F *pari mutuel*, lit., mutual stake]

**paring** /ˈpeərɪŋ/ *n* 1 the act of cutting away an edge or surface 2 sth pared off (< apple ~s >)

**Paris green** /ˈpærɪs/ *n* a very poisonous bright green powder that is used as an insecticide and pigment [Paris, capital city of France]

**parish** /ˈpærɪʃ/ *n* 1 the subdivision of a diocese served by a single church

- or clergyman 2 a unit of local government in rural England, often coinciding with an original ecclesiastical parish [ME *parisshe*, fr MF *parroche*, fr LL *parochia*, fr LGk *paroikia*, fr *paroikos* Christian, fr Gk, stranger, fr *para-* + *oikos* house – more at VICINITY]
- parishioner** /pəˈrɪʃ(ə)nə/ *n* a member or inhabitant of a parish [ME *parissshoner*, prob modif of MF *parrochien*, fr *parroche*]
- parish register** *n* a book containing records of baptisms, marriages, and burials in a parish
- parity** /pəˈrɪti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being equal or equivalent 2 equivalence of a commodity price expressed in one currency to its price expressed in another 3a the property of an integer with respect to being odd or even <3 and 7 have the same ~> b(1) the state of being odd or even that is the basis of a method of detecting errors in binary-coded data (2) PARITY BIT 4 the property whereby a quantity (e.g. the charge of an elementary particle) changes from positive to negative or vice versa or remains unaltered during a particular interaction or reaction [L *paritas*, fr *par* equal]
- parity** *n* the state or fact of having borne offspring, also the number of children previously borne [-*parous*]
- parity bit** *n* a bit added to a group of bits (e.g. on magnetic tape) to correct the length of the information unit to odd or even so that a parity check can be made
- parity check** *n* a check made on computer data by which errors are detected
- park** /pɑːk/ *n* 1 an enclosed area of lawns, woodland, pasture, etc. attached to a country house and used as a game reserve or for recreation 2a an area of land for recreation in or near a city or town b an area maintained in its natural state as a public property 3 an assigned space for military animals, vehicles, or materials 4a *Br* a pitch where professional soccer is played b *NAm* an arena or stadium used for ball games [ME, fr OF *parc* enclosure, fr (assumed) VL *parncus*]
- park** *vt* 1a to leave or place (a vehicle) for a time, esp at the roadside or in a car park or garage b to land or leave (e.g. an aeroplane) c to establish (e.g. a satellite) in orbit 2 to assemble (e.g. equipment or stores) in a military dump or park 3 to set and leave temporarily – *infrml* <~ed her boyfriend at the bar> ~ *vi* to park a vehicle – *parker n*
- parka** /pɑːkə/ *n* 1 a hooded fur garment for wearing in the arctic 2 an anorak [Aleut, skin, outer garment, fr Russ, pelt, fr Yurak]
- parkin** /pɑːkɪn/ *n* a thick heavy ginger cake made with oatmeal and treacle [origin unknown]
- parking lot** *n*, *NAm* an outdoor car park
- parking meter** *n* a coin-operated device which registers the payment and displays the time allowed for parking a motor vehicle
- Parkinsonism** /pɑːkɪns(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ *n* PARKINSON'S DISEASE
- Parkinson's disease** /pɑːkɪns(ə)nɪz/ *n* tremor, weakness of resting muscles, and a peculiar gait occurring in later life as a progressive nervous disease [James Parkinson †1824 E physician] – *parkinsonian* /-ˈsoʊnɪən/ *adj*
- Parkinson's Law** *n* an observation in office organization: work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion [C Northcote Parkinson b1909 E historian]
- parkland** /pɑːkˌlænd/ *n* land with clumps of trees and shrubs in cultivated condition suitable for use as a park
- parkway** /-ˌweɪ/ *n*, *NAm* a broad landscaped road or highway
- parky** /pɑːki/ *adj*, *Br* CHILLY 1 – *infrml* [prob fr *park* + *-y*]
- parlance** /pɑːlɒns/ *n* manner of speech and esp choice of words <*in legal* ~> [MF, fr OF, fr *parler*]
- parlay** /pɑːli/ *vt*, *NAm* to bet in a parlay [F *paroli*, *n*, parlay, fr It dial., pl of *parolo*, fr *parlo* equal, fr L *par*]
- parlay** *n*, *NAm* ACCUMULATOR 3
- parley** /pɑːli/ *vi* to speak with another; confer; specif to discuss terms with an enemy [MF *parler* to speak, fr ML *parabolare*, fr LL *parabola* speech, parable – more at PARABLE]
- parley** *n* a conference for discussion of points in dispute; specif a conference under truce to discuss terms with an enemy
- parliament** /ˈpɑːləmənt, also -lɪə-/ *n* 1 a formal conference for the discussion of public affairs 2 often *cap* the supreme legislative body of the UK that consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords and is called together and dissolved by the sovereign; also a similar body in another nation or state  LAW [ME, fr OF *parlement*, fr *parler*]
- parliamentarian** /ˈpɑːləməntəri-ən, -men-, also -lɪə-/ *n* 1 often *cap* an adherent of the parliament during the Civil War 2 an expert in parliamentary rules and practice 3 *Br* a Member of Parliament
- parliamentary** /ˈpɑːləment(ə)ri, also -lɪə-/ *adj* 1 of, appropriate to, or enacted by a parliament 2 of or supporting the parliament during the Civil War
- Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration** *n* the ombudsman in the UK
- parlour**, *NAm* **parlor** /ˈpɑːlə/ *n* 1a a room in a private house for the entertainment of guests b a room in an inn, hotel, or club for conversation or semiprivate uses 2 any of various business places <a funeral ~> <a beauty ~> 3 a place for milking cows [ME *parlour*, fr OF, fr *parler*]
- parlour** *adj* fostered or advocated in comfortable seclusion without consequent action or application to affairs
- parlour game** *n* an indoor word game, board game, etc
- parlous** /ˈpɑːləs/ *adj* full of uncertainty and danger – *infrml* or humor [ME, alter. of *perilous*]
- Parmesan** /ˈpɑːmiˈzæn, -ˈzæn/ *n* a very hard dry strongly flavoured cheese that is often used grated [F *parmesan* of Parma, fr *Parma*, city in Italy]
- parochial** /pəˈrɒki-əl/ *adj* 1 of a (church) parish 2 limited in range or scope (e.g. to a narrow area or region), provincial, narrow [ME *parochiall*, fr MF *parochial*, fr LL *parochialis*, fr *parochia* parish – more at PARISH] – *parochially* *adv*
- parochial church council** *n* a predominantly lay body administering the affairs of a Church of England parish
- parochialism** /pəˈrɒki-əlɪz(ə)m/ *n* selfish pettiness or narrowness (e.g. of interests, opinions, or views) [PAROCHIAL + -ISM]
- parody** /ˈpɑːrədi/ *n* 1 a literary or musical work in which the style of an author is imitated for comic or satirical effect 2 a feeble or ridiculous imitation [L *parodia*, fr Gk *parodia*, fr *para-* + *aidein* to sing – more at ODE] – *parodic* /ˈpɑːrədɪk/ *adj*, *parodist* /ˈpɑːrədɪst/ *n*
- parody** *vt* to compose a parody on (~ a poem)
- parol** /ˈpɑːrəl/ *adj* given by word of mouth (<~ evidence>) – used in law [MF *parole*]
- parole** /pəˈrɒl/ *n* 1 a pledge of one's honour, esp the promise of a prisoner of war to fulfil stated conditions in consideration of release or the granting of privileges 2 a password given only to officers of the guard and of the day 3 a conditional release of a prisoner 4 linguistic behaviour – compare *LANGUAGE*, *PERFORMANCE* 6 [F, speech, parole, fr MF, fr LL *parabola* speech – more at PARABLE]
- parole** *vt* to put on parole – *parolee* /pəˈrɒlˈlee/ *n*
- paronomasia** /ˌpɑːrənəˈmɑːsɪə/ *n* a play on words, a pun [L, fr Gk, fr *paronomazein* to call with a slight change of name, fr *para-* + *onoma* name – more at NAME] – *paronomastic* /-ˈmɑːstɪk/ *adj*
- paronymous** /ˌpɑːrɒnɪˈmɪs/ *adj* 1 CONJUGATE 2 2 formed from a word in another language [Gk *paronymos*, fr *para-* + *-onymos* (as in *homonymos* homonymous)] – *paronym* /ˈpɑːrɒnɪm/ *n*
- parotid gland** /pəˈrɒtɪd/ *n* either of a pair of large salivary glands below and in front of the ear [NL *parotid*, *parotis*, fr L, tumour near the ear, fr Gk *parotid*, *parotis*, fr *para-* + *ot-*, *ous* ear – more at EAR] – *parotid* *adj*
- parotitis** /ˌpɑːrɪˈtɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the parotid glands, also mumps [NL]
- parous** /-(ə)rəs/ *comb form* (<~ *adj*) giving birth to, producing (such or so many) offspring (<*biparous*> <*viviparous*>) [L *-parus*, fr *parere* to give birth to, produce]
- paroxysm** /ˈpɑːrɒksɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a fit, attack, or sudden increase or recurrence of (disease) symptoms, a convulsion <a ~ of coughing> 2 a sudden violent emotion or action <a ~ of rage> [F & ML; F *paroxysme*, fr ML *paroxysmus*, fr Gk *paroxysmos*, fr *paroxyssein* to stimulate, fr *para-* + *oxyssein* to provoke, fr *oxys* sharp – more at OXYGEN] – *paroxysmal* /ˈpɑːrɒksɪz(ə)məl/ *adj*
- parquet** /ˈpɑːkɪ, -ki/ *vt* *parquetted* /ˈpɑːkɪd/, *parqueting* /ˈpɑːkɪŋ/ to furnish with a floor of parquetry
- parquet** *n* parquetry [F, fr MF, small enclosure, fr *parc* park]
- parquetry** /ˈpɑːkɪtri/ *n* work in the form of usu geometrically patterned wood laid or inlaid esp for floors
- parr** /pɑː/ *n*, *pl* *parr* also *parra* a young salmon actively feeding in fresh water [origin unknown]
- parakeet** /ˈpɑːrˈkiːt, -ˈkeɪ-/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a parakeet
- parrel** /ˈpɑːrəl/ *n* a rope loop or sliding collar by which a yard or spar is held to a mast in such a way that it may be hoisted or lowered  SHIP [ME *perell*, fr alter. of *parail* apparel, short for *apparaill*, fr MF *apareil*, fr *appareillier* to prepare – more at APPAREL]
- parricide** /ˈpɑːrɪsɪd/ *n* (the act of) sby who murders his/her father, mother, or a close relative [L *parricida* & *parricidium*, fr *parri-* (akin to Gk *péōs* kinsman by marriage) + *-cida* & *-cidium* – more at -CIDE] – *parricidal* /-ˈsɪdɪl/ *adj*

- 'parrot** /pəˈrɒt/ *n* 1 any of numerous chiefly tropical birds that have a distinctive stout hooked bill, are often crested and brightly variegated, and are excellent mimics 2 a person who parrots another's words [prob irreg fr MF *perroquet*]
- 'parrot** *vt* to repeat or imitate (e.g. another's words) without understanding or thought
- 'parrot** *fish* *n* any of numerous spiny-finned sea fishes with the teeth fused into a cutting plate like a beak
- parry** /ˈpəri/ *vi* to ward off a weapon or blow ~ *vt* 1 to ward off (e.g. a blow) 2 to evade, esp by an adroit answer <~ an embarrassing question> [prob fr F *parer*, imper of *parer* to parry, fr OProv *parar*, fr L *parare* to prepare – more at **PARRE**] – **parry** *n*
- parse** /pɑːz/ *vt* 1 to resolve (e.g. a sentence) into component parts of speech and describe them grammatically 2 to describe grammatically by stating the part of speech and the inflectional and syntactic relationships [L *pars orationis* part of speech]
- parsec** /ˈpɑːsek/ *n* a unit of distance for use in astronomy equal to about 3¼ light-years ➔ **PHYSICS, UNIT** [parallax + second]
- Parsi, Parsee** /ˈpɑːsi, ˈpɑːsi/ *n* 1 a Zoroastrian descended from Persian refugees settled principally in Bombay 2 Pahlavi [Per *parsi*, fr *Par* Persia] – **Parsiism** *n*
- parsimonious** /ˈpɑːsɪˈmɒniəs/ *adj* frugal to the point of stinginess, niggardly – **parsimoniously** *adv*
- parsimony** /ˈpɑːsɪməni/ *n* 1 the quality of being careful with money or resources, thrift 2 the quality or state of being niggardly, stinginess [ME *parcimony*, fr L *parcimonia*, fr *parcus*, pp of *parcere* to spare]
- parsley** /ˈpɑːsli/ *n* an ong S European plant of the carrot family widely cultivated for its leaves used as a herb or garnish in cooking [ME *persely*, fr OE *perselle*, fr (assumed) VL *petroselinum*, alter of L *petroselinum*, fr Gk *petroselinon*, fr *petros* stone + *selinon* celery]
- parsnip** /ˈpɑːsnɪp/ *n* (the long edible tapering root of) a European plant of the carrot family with large leaves and yellow flowers [ME *pasnepe*, modif of MF *pasnaie*, fr L *pastinaca*, fr *pastinum* 2-pronged dibble]
- parson** /ˈpɑːs(ə)n/ *n* 1 the incumbent of a parish 2 a clergyman [ME *persone*, fr OF, fr ML *pervona*, lit. person, fr L]
- parsonage** /ˈpɑːsənɪ/ *n* the house provided by a church for its parson
- parson's nose** /ˈpɑːs(ə)nz/ *n* the fatty extension of the rump of a cooked fowl
- 'part** /pɑːt/ *n* 1a(1) any of the often indefinite or unequal subdivisions into which sth is (regarded as) divided and which together constitute the whole (2) an essential portion or integral element b an amount equal to another amount <mix 1 ~ of the powder with 3 ~s of water> c(1) an organ, member, or other constituent element of a plant or animal body (2) *pl* PRIVATE PARTS d a division of a literary work e(1) a vocal or instrumental line or melody in concerted music or in harmony (2) (the score for) a particular voice or instrument in concerted music f a constituent member of an apparatus (e.g. a machine), also SPARE PART 2 sth falling to one in a division or apportionment, a share 3 any of the opposing sides in a conflict or dispute <took his son's ~ in the argument> 4 a portion of an unspecified territorial area <took off for unknown ~s> 5 a function or course of action performed <the government's ~ in the strike> <did you take ~ in the fighting?> 6a an actor's lines in a play b ROLE 1b 7 a constituent of character or capacity, a talent <a man of many ~s> 8 *NAM* 'PARTING 2 [ME, fr OF & OE, both fr L *part*, *pars*; akin to L *parare* to prepare – more at **PARRE**] – **for the most part** in most cases or respects, mainly – **in part** in some degree, partly – **on the part of** with regard to the one specified
- 'part** *vi* 1a to separate from or take leave of sb 2 to take leave of one another 2 to become separated into parts <the clouds ~ed and ~e sun appeared> 3 to become separated, detached, or broken <the strands of the rope ~ed> 4 to relinquish possession or control, esp reluctantly <hated to ~ with her money> ~ *vt* 1a to divide into parts b to separate (the hair) by combing on each side of a line 2a to remove from contact or association; separate <till death do us ~> b to hold (e.g. combatants) apart [ME *parten*, fr OF *partir*, fr L *partire* to divide, fr *part*, *pars*]
- 'part** *adv* partly <a centaur is ~ man ~ horse>
- 'part** *adj* PARTIAL 3
- partake** /pɑːˈteɪk/ *vi* partook /-ˈtʊk/, partaken /-ˈteɪkən/ to take a part or share; participate – usu + *in* or *of*, fml [back-formation fr *partaker*, alter. of *part taker*] – **partaker** *n*
- part and parcel** *n* an essential part or element
- parterre** /pɑːˈteɪ/ *n* an ornamental garden with paths between the beds [F, fr MF, fr *par terre* on the ground]
- part-exchange** *n* a method of paying for sth whereby part of the payment takes the form of goods, the balance being made up in money
- parthenogenesis** /ˈpɑːθɪnəˈdʒenəsɪs/ *n* reproduction by development of an unfertilized gamete that occurs esp among lower plants and invertebrate animals [NL, fr Gk *parthenos* virgin + L *genesis* birth] – **parthenogenetic** /-ˈdʒenetik/ *adj*
- Parthian** /ˈpɑːθiən/ *adj* (characteristic) of ancient Parthia [Parthia, ancient country of SW Asia] – **Parthian** *n*
- 'partial** /ˈpɑːʃh(ə)l/ *adj* 1 inclined to favour one party more than the other, biased 2 markedly fond of sb or sth – + *to* <~ to beans> 3 of a part rather than the whole, not general or total <a ~ solution> [ME *parcial*, fr MF *partial*, fr ML *partialis*, fr LL, of a part, fr L *part*, *pars* part] – **partially** *adv*
- 'partial** *n* OVERTONE 1a
- partial derivative** *n* the derivative of a function of several variables with respect to any one of them and with the remaining variables treated as constants
- partial differentiation** *n* the process of finding a partial derivative
- partial fraction** *n* any of the simpler fractions into which another fraction may be separated and that when summed are equivalent to that fraction
- partiality** /ˈpɑːʃh(ə)lɪti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being partial, a bias 2 a special taste or liking
- partial pressure** *n* the pressure exerted by a specified gas in a mixture of gases
- partible** /ˈpɑːtɪbl/ *adj* capable of being divided up <bequeathed a ~ estate>
- participate** /pɑːˈtɪsɪpeɪt/ *vi* 1 TAKE PART 2 to have a part or share in sth [L *participatus*, pp of *participare*, fr *particip*, *particeps* participant, fr *part*, *pars* part + *capere* to take – more at **HEAVE**] – **participator** *n*, **participant** /-ˈpɑːnt/ *n*, **participation** /-ˈpeɪʃən/ *n*, **participatory** /pɑːˈtɪsɪpeɪtəri/ *adj*
- participle** /ˈpɑːtɪsɪpl, pɑːˈtɪsɪpl/ *n* a verbal form (e.g. *singing* or *sung*) that has the function of an adjective and at the same time can be used in compound verb forms [ME, fr MF, modif of L *participium*, fr *particip*, *particeps*] – **participial** /ˈpɑːtɪsɪpiəl/ *adj*
- particle** /ˈpɑːtɪkl/ *n* 1 a minute subdivision of matter (e.g. an electron, atom or molecule) – compare ELEMENTARY PARTICLE 2 a minute quantity or fragment 3a a minor unit of speech including all uninflected words or all words except nouns and verbs; esp FUNCTION WORD b AFFIX 1 [ME, fr L *particula*, fr dim of *part*, *pars*]
- parti-coloured** /ˈpɑːtɪ/ *adj* showing different colours or tints <~ threads> [part- fr obs *party* (variegated), fr ME, fr MF *parti* striped, fr OF, fr *part*, pp of *partir* to divide]
- 'particular** /pɑːˈtɪkjʊlə/ *adj* 1 of or being a single person or thing, specific <the ~ person I had in mind> 2 detailed, exact 3 worthy of notice, special, unusual <there was nothing in the letter of ~ importance> 4 of a proposition in logic predicating a term of some but not all members of a specified class 5a concerned over or attentive to details, meticulous b hard to please, exacting [ME *particular*, fr MF, fr LL *particularis*, fr L *particula* small part] – **particularity** /pɑːˈtɪkjʊləˈrɪti/ *n*
- 'particular** *n* an individual fact, point, circumstance, or detail <complete in every ~> – **in particular** particularly, especially
- particularism** /pɑːˈtɪkjʊləˈrɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 exclusive or special devotion to a particular interest 2 a political theory that each political group has a right to promote its own interests without regard to those of larger groups
- particularist** *n*, **particularistic** /-ˈrɪstɪk/ *adj*
- particularize** /-ˈleɪz/ /pɑːˈtɪkjʊləˈneɪz/ *vt* to state in detail; specify ~ *vi* to go into details **particularization** /-ˈneɪzəʃən/ *n*
- particularly** /pɑːˈtɪkjʊləˈrɪ/ *adv* 1 in a particular manner; IN DETAIL 2 to an unusual degree
- particulate** /pɑːˈtɪkjʊlət/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) consisting of minute separate particles [L *particula*]
- 'parting** /ˈpɑːtɪŋ/ *n* 1 a place or point where a division or separation occurs 2 **parting**, *NAM* **part** the line where the hair is parted
- 'parting** *adj* given, taken, or performed at parting <a ~ kiss>
- parti pris** /ˈpɑːti ˈpreɪ/ *n*, *pl* **partis pris** /-/ a preconceived opinion; a prejudice, bias [F, lit. side taken]
- 'partisan, partizan** /ˈpɑːtɪzən/ *n* 1 a firm adherent to a party, faction, cause, or person; esp one exhibiting blind, prejudiced, and unreasoning allegiance 2 a guerrilla [MF *partisan*, fr OIt *partigiano*, fr *parte* part, *party*, fr L *part*, *pars* part] – **partisan** *adj*, **partisanish** *n*
- 'partisan, partizan** *n* a weapon of the 16th and 17th c consisting of a broad blade mounted on a long shaft [MF *partisane*, fr OIt *partigiano*, fem of *partigiano*]

**partite** /pɑh'teetə/ *n* a musical suite [It, fr *partire* to divide, fr L – more at 'PART]

**partite** /pɑhtiet/ *adj* 1 divided into a usu specified number of parts – usu in combination (<tripartite>) 2 cleft nearly to the base (<a ~ leaf> [L *partitus*, fr pp of *partire*])

**'partition** /pɑh'tiʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1a division into parts b separation of a class or whole into constituent elements 2 sthg that divides; esp a light interior dividing wall 3 a part or section of a whole – *partitionist* *n*

**'partition** *vt* 1 to divide into parts or shares 2 to divide or separate off by a partition <can we ~ off part of the room to use as an office?>

**partitive** /pɑhtativ/ *adj* of or denoting a part of a whole – *partitively* *adv*

**partly** /pɑhtli/ *adv* in some measure or degree; partially

**'partner** /pɑhtnə/ *n* 1a either of a couple who dance together b sby who plays with 1 or more others in a game against an opposing side c a person with whom one is having a sexual relationship; a spouse, lover, etc 2 a member of a partnership [ME *partener*, alter of *parcener*, fr AF – more at COPARCENER]

**'partner** *vt* 1 to act as a partner to 2 to provide with a partner  
**'partnership** /-ʃip/ *n* 1 the state of being a partner, association 2 (a legal relation between) 2 or more joint principals in a business 3 an association involving close cooperation

**part of speech** *n* a class of words distinguished according to the kind of idea denoted and the function performed in a sentence

**partridge** /pɑhtri/ *n, pl* partridges, esp collectively *partridge* any of various typically medium-sized stout-bodied Old World game birds with variegated plumage [ME *partrich*, modif of OF *perdris*, modif of L *perdic*, *perdix*, fr Gk *perdik*, *perdix*]

**'part-song** *n* a usu unaccompanied song consisting of 2 or more voice parts with 1 part carrying the melody

**part-time** *adj* involving or working less than customary or standard hours (<a ~ job> <~ students>) – *part-time* *adv*, *part-timer* *n*

**parturient** /pɑh'tyooənt/ *adj* 1 about to bring forth young 2 about to produce sthg (e.g. an idea, discovery, or literary work) – *fml* [L *parturiens*, *parturiens*, prp of *parturire* to be in labour, fr *parere* to produce – more at PARE]

**parturition** /pɑh'tyoo'riʃh(ə)n/ *n* the action or process of giving birth to offspring [LL *parturition*, *parturition*, fr L *parturiens*, pp of *parturire*]

**partway** /pɑht'weɪ/ *adv*, chiefly NAm to some extent, partially, partly

**part work** *n, Br* a regularly published series of magazines devoted to 1 subject that is designed to be bound together (e.g. in book form) (<publishing a new ~ on military history>)

**party** /pɑhti/ *n* 1a a person or group taking 1 side of a question, dispute, or contest b *sing* or *pl constr* a group of people organized to carry out an activity or fulfil a function together (<sent out a search ~>) 2 *sing* or *pl in constr* a group organized for political involvement 3 one who is involved; a participant – usu + to (<a ~ to the transaction>) 4 a (festive) social gathering 5 sby who is concerned in an action or activity – chiefly *fml* (<a third ~ was involved> <is this the guilty ~?>) 6 a particular individual – *infrm* (<a shameless old ~>) [ME *partie* part, party, fr OF, fr *partir* to divide – more at 'PART]

**party line** *n* 1 a single telephone line connecting 2 or more subscribers with an exchange 2 the official principles of a political party

**party wall** *n* a wall which divides 2 adjoining properties and in which each owner has a joint interest

**parvenu** /pɑhvənyoo/ *n* a person of low social position who has recently or suddenly acquired wealth or power; an upstart [F, fr pp of *parvenir* to arrive, fr L *pervenire*, fr *per* through + *venire* to come – more at FOR, COME] – *parvenu*, *parvenue* *adj*

**parvis** also **parvisse** /pɑh'vis/ *n* an enclosed space in front of a church CHURCH [ME *parris*, fr MF, modif of LL *paradisus* enclosed park – more at PARADISE]

**pas** /pɑh/ *n, pl* pas /~, pɑh/ a dance step or combination of steps [F, fr L *passus* step – more at 'PACE]

**pascal** /pɑ'skɑl/ *n* the SI unit of pressure equal to the pressure produced by a force of 1N applied uniformly over an area of 1m<sup>2</sup> PHYSICS, UNIT [Blaise Pascal †1662 F mathematician & philosopher]

**PASCAL** /pɑskl/ *n* a high-level computer language suitable esp for minicomputers [Blaise Pascal]

**Pascal's triangle** /pɑ'skɑlz/ *n* a set of numbers arranged in a triangle, each of which is obtained by adding together the numbers above it, and which is used to determine the coefficients of the terms in an expansion made using the binomial theorem [Blaise Pascal]

**Pasch** /pɑsk/ *n* the Passover [ME *pasche* Passover, Easter, fr OF, fr LL *pascha*, fr LGk, fr Gk, Passover, fr Heb *pesah*]

**paschal** /pɑskl/ *adj* 1 of the Passover 2 of or appropriate to Easter

**pas de deux** /pɑh də 'duh/ *n, pl* pas de deux /~, duhz/ a dance or set of dance steps for 2 performers [F, lit, step for two]

**pass** /pɑsh/ *n*, chiefly Br a hero-worshipping adolescent infatuation; a crush – *infrm* (<a silly schoolgirl hero-pass on him – John Fowles> [by shortening & alter fr *passion*])

**passa** /pɑshə, 'pɑshə/ *n* a man of high rank or office (e.g. in Turkey or N Africa) (<Glubb Pasha> [Turk *paşa*])

**Pashto** /pooshtoh/ *n* the language of the Pathan people LAN- GUAGE [Per *pashtu*, fr *Pashto*]

**passo doble** /pasoh 'dohblay/ *n* (the music for) a ballroom dance in 2 time based on a Latin American march step [Sp, lit, double step]

**pasqueflower** /pɑsk'fləʊə/ *n* any of several low-growing plants of the buttercup family with large, usu white or purple, early spring flowers [modif of MF *passelleur*, fr *passer* to pass + *fleur* flower, fr L *flor*, *flos* – more at 'BLOW]

**pasquinade** /pɑskwi'naɪd/ *n* a lampoon posted in a public place [MF, fr It *pasquinata*, fr *Pasquino*, name given to a statue in Rome on which lampoons were posted] – *pasquinade* *vt*

**'pass** /pɑhs/ *vi* 1 to move, proceed 2a to go away (<the panic ~ed very quickly> – often + off (<his headache had ~ed off by lunchtime>) b to die – often + on or away, euph 3a to go by, move past (<waved from the car window as she ~ed>) b of time to elapse (<4 years ~ed before we met again>) c to overtake another vehicle (<we can ~ once we're round this bend>) 4a to go across, over, or through (<allow no one to ~>) b to go uncensored or unchallenged (<let her remark ~>) 5 to go from one quality, state, or form to another (<~es from a liquid to a gaseous state>) 6a to pronounce a judgment b to be legally pronounced 7 to go from the control or possession of one person or group to that of another (<the throne ~ed to the king's daughter>) 8 to take place as a mutual exchange or transaction (<angry words ~ed between them>) 9a to become approved by a body (e.g. a legislature) (<the proposal ~ed>) b to undergo an inspection, test, or examination successfully 10a to be accepted or regarded as adequate or fitting (<it's only a quick repair but it will ~>) b to resemble or act the part of so well as to be accepted – usu + for 11 to kick, throw, or hit a ball or puck to a teammate 12 to decline to bid, bet, or play in a card game ~ *vt* 1 to go beyond e.g. a to surpass, exceed (<~es all expectations>) b to advance or develop beyond (<societies that have ~ed the feudal stage>) c to go by, move past 2a to go across, over, or through (<~ a barrier>) b to spend (time) (<~ed the holidays at her sister's home>) 3a to secure the approval of (e.g. a legislative body) b to succeed in satisfying the requirements of (a test, inspection, or examination) 4a to cause or permit to win approval or sanction (<~ a law>) b to accept (sby or sthg) after examination (<I can't ~ this bad piece of work!>) 5a to put in circulation (<~ bad cheques>) b to transfer from one person to another (<please ~ the salt>) c to move or place, esp in or for a short time (<~ed his hand across his brow>) (<~ a rope round a tree>) d to throw, hit, or kick (a ball or puck), esp to a teammate 6a to pronounce judicially (<~ sentence>) b to utter – esp in *pass a comment*, *pass a remark* 7a to cause or permit to go past or through a barrier b to cause to march or go by in order (<~ the troops in review>) 8 to emit or discharge from a bodily part, esp the bowels or bladder 9 to hit a ball past (an opponent), esp in tennis [ME *passen*, fr OF *passer*, fr (assumed) VL *passare*, fr L *passus* step – more at 'PACE] – in *passing* as a relevant digression, parenthetically – *pass* muster to be found adequate, esp in passing an inspection or examination – *pass the buck* to shift a responsibility to sby else – *past* the time of day to give or exchange friendly greetings – *pass water* to urinate – euph

**'pass** *n* a narrow passage over low ground in a mountain range [ME, fr OF *pas*, fr L *passus* step]

**'pass** *n* 1 a usu distressing or bad state of affairs – often in *come to a pretty pass* 2a a written permission to move about freely in a place or to leave or enter it b a written leave of absence from a military post or station for a brief period c a permit or ticket allowing free transport or free admission 3 a movement of the hands over or along sthg 4 the passing of an examination (<2 A-level ~es>) 5 a single complete mechanical operation (e.g. in manufacturing or data processing) 6a an act of passing in cards, soccer, rugby, etc; also a ball or puck passed b a ball hit to the side and out of reach of an opponent, esp in tennis 7 a single passage or movement of a man-made object (e.g. an aircraft) over a place or towards a target 8 a sexually inviting gesture or approach – usu in *make a pass at* [partly fr ME *passee*, fr MF, fr *passer* to pass; partly fr 'pass]

**passable** /'pɑ:sləbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being passed, crossed, or travelled on (< ~ roads) 2 barely good enough, tolerable – **passably** *adv*

**passacaglia** /,pasə'kahljə/ *n* an instrumental musical composition in moderately slow triple time consisting of variations usu on a ground bass [modif of Sp *pasacalle*]

**passage** /'pasɪ/ *n* 1 the action or process of passing from one place or condition to another 2a a way of exit or entrance, a road, path, channel, or course by which sth passes b a corridor or lobby giving access to the different rooms or parts of a building or apartment 3a(1) a specified act of travelling or passing, esp by sea or air <a rough ~> (2) a right to be conveyed as a passenger <secured a ~ to France> b the passing of a legislative measure 4 a right, liberty, or permission to pass 5a a brief noteworthy portion of a written work or speech b a phrase or short section of a musical composition 6 passing sth or undergoing a passing 7 incubation of a pathogen (e.g. a virus) in culture, a living organism, or a developing egg

**'passage,way** /-,weɪ/ *n* a corridor

**passant** /'pas(ə)nt/ *adj*, of a heraldic animal walking with the farther forepaw raised – used postpositively <leopard ~> [MF, fr prp of *passer* to pass]

**pass away** *vi* 1 to go out of existence 2 to die – euph

**'pass,band** /-,bænd/ *n* a band of frequencies (e.g. in an electronic circuit or a light filter) that is transmitted with maximum efficiency

**'pass,book** /-,bʊk/ *n* 1 a (building society) account-holder's book in which deposits and withdrawals are recorded 2 SA fr a compass

**'pass de,gree** *n* a bachelor's degree without honours

**passé** /'pɑ:seɪ, 'pasɪ/ *adj* 1 outmoded 2 behind the times [F, fr pp of *passer*]

**'passed,pawn** *n* a chess pawn that has no enemy pawn in front of it on its own or an adjacent file

**passementerie** /'pas'ment(ə)rɪ/ *n* a fancy edging or trimming made of braid, beading, metallic thread, etc [F, fr *passement* ornamental braid, fr *passer*]

**passenger** /'pasɪŋjə, -(s)ən/ *n* 1 sby who travels in, but does not operate, a public or private conveyance 2 chiefly Br a member of a group who contributes little or nothing to the functioning or productivity of the group [ME *passager*, fr MF, fr *passager*, *adj*, passing, fr *passage* act of passing, fr OF, fr *passer*]

**'passenger,pigeon** *n* an extinct but formerly abundant N American migratory pigeon

**passé-partout** /'pɑ:spɑ:'tu:ʊh/ *n* 1 MASTER KEY 2 a strong paper gummed on 1 side and used for mounting pictures [F, fr *passé-partout* pass everywhere]

**passerby** /'pɑ:spə'bi:/ *n*, pl **passersby** /'pɑ:spəz-/ a person who happens by chance to pass by a particular place

**passerine** /'pasə'ri:n/ *adj* of the largest order of birds that consists chiefly of perching songbirds (e.g. finches, warblers, and thrushes) [L *passerinus* of sparrows, fr *passer* sparrow] – **passerine** *n*

**passim** /'pasɪm/ *adv* HERE and THERE 1 [L, fr *passus* scattered, fr pp of *pandere* to spread – more at FATHOM]

**passing** /'pɑ:siŋ/ *adj* 1 going by or past <a ~ pedestrian> 2 having a brief duration <a ~ whim> 3 superficial 4 of or used in or for passing <a ~ place in a road>

**passing note** *n* a melodic but discordant note interposed between essential notes of adjacent chords

**passion** /'pɑ:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 often *cap* a the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death b a musical setting of a gospel account of the Passion story 2a intense, driving, or uncontrollable feeling b an outbreak of anger 3a ardent affection; love b (the object of) a strong liking, devotion, or interest c strong sexual desire [ME, fr OF fr LL *passion-*, *passio* suffering, being acted on, fr L *passus*, pp of *pati* to suffer – more at PATIENT] – **passional** *adj*

**passionate** /'pɑ:ʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 easily aroused to anger 2a capable of, affected by, or expressing intense feeling, esp love, hatred, or anger b extremely enthusiastic; keen <a ~ interest in sport> – **passionately** *adv*, **passionateness** *n*

**'passion,flower** /-,fləʊə/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly tropical plants with usu showy flowers and pulpy often edible berries [fr the fancied resemblance of parts of the flower to the instruments of Christ's crucifixion]

**'passion,fruit** /-,fʁu:ht/ *n* an edible fruit from any of various passion flowers; a granadilla

**'passion,play** *n*, often *cap* 1st P a dramatic representation of the passion and crucifixion of Christ

**'Passion,Sunday** *n* the fifth Sunday in Lent

**'Passion,tide** /-,ti:əd/ *n* the last 2 weeks of Lent

**'Passion,Week** *n* the second week before Easter

**passivate** /'pasɪvaɪt/ *vi* to protect or make inactive or less reactive, esp by coating (< ~ the surface of steel>) – **passivation** /-'vʌɪz(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'passive** /'pasɪv/ *adj* 1a acted on, receptive to, or influenced by external forces or impressions b of a verb form or voice expressing an action that is done to the grammatical subject of a sentence (e.g. *he was hit* in 'the ball was hit') c esp of an animal placid d of a person lacking in energy, will, or initiative, meekly accepting 2a not active or operative, inert b of or characterized by chemical inactivity, esp resistant to corrosion c not involving expenditure of chemical energy (< ~ transport across a cell membrane>) d relating to or being an electronic component (e.g. a capacitor or resistor) or network of components whose characteristics cannot be controlled electronically and which show no gain e operating solely by means of the power of an input signal <a ~ communication satellite that reflects radio waves> f operating by intercepting signals emitted from a target <a ~ homing missile> 3 offering no resistance; submissive (< ~ surrender to fate>) [ME, fr L *passivus*, fr *passus*, pp] – **passively** *adv*, **passiveness** *n*, **passivity** /'pasɪvəti/ *n*

**'passive** *n* the passive voice of a verb

**passive resistance** *n* resistance characterized by nonviolent noncooperation

**passkey** /'pɑ:skɪ/ *n* MASTER KEY

**'pass,law** *n* any of several S African laws restricting the movements of nonwhites, enforcing their domicile in certain areas and requiring them to carry identification at all times – compare DOMPASS

**pass off** *vi* 1 to present with intent to deceive 2 to give a false identity or character to <passed herself off as a millionaire> ~ *vi* to take place and be completed <his stay in France passed off smoothly> – TTS

**pass out** *vi* 1 to lose consciousness 2 chiefly Br to finish a period of (military) training

**Passover** /'pɑ:shəʊvə/ *n* the Jewish celebration of the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt [fr the exemption of the Israelites from the slaughter of the first-born in Egypt (Exod 12 23-27)]

**pass over** *vi* 1 to ignore in passing <I will pass over this aspect of the book in silence> 2 to pay no attention to the claims of, disregard <was passed over for the chairmanship>

**passport** /'pɑ:spɑ:wt/ *n* 1 an official document issued by a government a as proof of identity and nationality to one of its citizens for use when leaving or reentering the country and affording some protection when abroad b as a safe-conduct to a foreign citizen passing through its territory 2a a permission or authorization to go somewhere b sth that secures admission or acceptance <education as a ~ to success> [MF *passerport*, fr *passer* to pass + *port* port, fr L *portus* – more at FORD]

**pass up** *vi* to decline, reject

**'pass,word** /-,wɜ:hd/ *n* 1 a word or phrase that must be spoken by a person before being allowed to pass a guard 2 WATCHWORD 1

**'past** /'pɑ:st/ *adj* 1a just gone or elapsed (<for the ~ few months>) b having gone by, earlier (< ~ generations>) <in years ~> 2 finished, ended <winter is ~> 3 of or constituting the past tense expressing elapsed time 4 preceding, former (< ~ president>) [ME, fr pp of *passen* to pass]

**'past,prep** 1a beyond the age of or for (<he's ~ 80>) (< ~ playing with dolls>) b subsequent to in time <half ~ 2> 2a at the farther side of, beyond b up to and then beyond (<drove ~ the house>) 3 beyond the capacity, range, or sphere of (< ~ belief>) <wouldn't put it ~ her to cheat> – **past** it no longer effective or in one's prime – *infinl*

**'past** *n* 1a time gone by b sth that happened or was done in the past <~ regret the ~> 2 the past tense of a language 3 a past life, history, or course of action, esp one that is kept secret <she has a ~, you know>

**'past** *adv* so as to pass by the speaker <children ran ~> <days crawled ~>

**'pasta** /'pɑ:stə/ *n* any of several (egg or oil enriched) flour and water doughs that are usu shaped and used fresh or dried (e.g. as spaghetti) [It, fr LL]

**'paste** /'peɪst/ *n* 1a a fat-enriched dough used esp for pastry b a usu sweet doughy confection <almond ~> c a smooth preparation of meat, fish, etc used as a spread 2 a soft plastic mixture or composition e.g. a preparation of flour or starch and water used as an adhesive b clay or a clay mixture used in making pottery or porcelain 3 a brilliant glass used in making imitation gems [ME, fr MF, fr LL *pasta* dough, paste]

**'paste** *vi* 1 to stick with paste 2 to cover with sth pasted on

**'paste,board** /-,bɔ:rd/ *n* board made by pasting together sheets of paper


**'pasteboard** *adj* 1 made of pasteboard 2 sham, insubstantial

**'pastel** /'pɑ:stl, NAm 'pɑ:stl/ *n* 1 (a crayon made of) a paste of powdered pigment mixed with gum 2 a drawing in pastel 3 any of various pale or



light colours [F, fr It *pastello*, fr LL *pastellus* woad, fr dim. of *pasta*] – **pastellist** *n*

**pastel** *adj* pale and light in colour

**pastern** /'pastuhn/ *n* (a part of an animal's leg corresponding to) a part of a horse's foot extending from the fetlock to the hoof  ANATOMY [MF *pasturon*, fr *pasture* pasture, tether attached to a horse's foot]

**paste-up** *n* 1 a piece of copy for photographic reproduction consisting of text and artwork in the proper positions 2 DUMMY 4

**pasteurization**, -isation /'pahstyoorie'zaysh(ə)n, pa-, -stəne-/ *n* partial sterilization of a substance, esp a liquid (e.g. milk), by heating for a short period [Louis Pasteur †1895 F chemist] – **pasteurize** *vt*

**pastiche** /'pa'steesh/ *n* 1 a literary, artistic, or musical work that imitates the style of a previous work 2 a musical, literary, or artistic composition made up of elements borrowed from various sources [F, fr It *pasticcio*, lit., pasty, fr ML *pasticius*, fr LL *pasta*]

**pasties** /'paystiz/ *n pl* small round coverings for a woman's nipples, worn esp by strippers ['paste]

**pastille** also **pastil** /'past(ə)l, -stil, -steel/ *n* 1 a small cone of aromatic paste, burned to fumigate or scent a room 2 an aromatic or medicated lozenge [F *pastille*, fr L *pastillus* small loaf, lozenge; akin to L *panis* bread – more at FOOD]

**pastime** /'pahst,tiem/ *n* sthg (e.g. a hobby, game, etc) that amuses and serves to make time pass agreeably

**pasting** /'paystɪŋ/ *n* a beating, trouncing – *infrm* [gerund of *paste*, alter of *baste*]

**pastis** /'pa'stees/ *n* an alcoholic drink flavoured with aniseed [F]

**past** 'master *n* one who is expert or experienced (in a particular activity) [alter. of *passed master*]

**pastor** /'pahstə/ *n* one having responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group (e.g. a congregation) [ME *pastour*, fr OF, fr L *pastor* herdsman, fr *pastus*, pp of *pascere* to feed – more at FOOD] – **pastorate** *n*, **pastorship** *n*

**pastoral** /'pahst(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1a(1) (composed) of shepherds or herdsmen (2) used for or based on livestock rearing b of the countryside; not urban c portraying rural life, esp in an idealized and conventionalized manner < poetry > d pleasingly peaceful and innocent, idyllic 2a of or providing spiritual care or guidance, esp of a church congregation b of the pastor of a church [ME, fr L *pastoralis*, fr *pastor* herdsman] – **pastoralism** *n*, **pastorally** *adv*

**pastoral** *n* 1 **pastoral**, **pastoral** letter a letter addressed by a bishop to his diocese 2a a pastoral literary work b an (idealized) depiction of country life c a **pastorale**

**pastorale** /'past(ə)'rahl/ *n* an instrumental composition or opera with a pastoral theme [It, fr *pastorale* of herdsmen, fr L *pastoralis*]

**pastoralist** /'pahst(ə)rə,lɪst/ *n*, Austr a farmer who keeps grazing animals (e.g. cattle or sheep)

**past participle** *n* a participle with *past*, perfect, or passive meaning **past perfect** *adj* of or constituting a verb tense (e.g. *had finished*) that expresses completion of an action at or before a past time – **past perfect** *n*

**pastrami** /'pa'strahmi/ *n* a highly seasoned smoked beef [Yiddish, fr Romanian *pastramă*]

**pastry** /'paystri/ *n* 1 PASTE 1a; esp paste when baked (e.g. for piecrust) 2 (an article of) usu sweet food made with pastry ['paste]

**pasturage** /'pastyoori/, 'pahschəri/ *n* pasture

**pasture** /'pahschə/ *n* 1 plants (e.g. grass) grown for feeding (grazing) animals 2 (a plot of) land used for grazing 3 the feeding of livestock; grazing [ME, fr MF, fr LL *pastura*, fr L *pastus*, pp of *pascere* to feed – more at FOOD]

**pasture** *vi* to graze on pasture ~ *vt* to feed (e.g. cattle) on pasture

**pasty** /'pasti/ *n* a small filled usu savoury pie or pastry case baked without a container [ME *pastee*, fr MF *pasté*, fr *paste* dough, paste]


**pasty** /'paysti/ *adj* resembling paste; esp pallid and unhealthy in appearance – **pastiness** *n*

**pat** /pat/ *n* 1 a light tap, esp with the hand or a flat instrument 2 a light tapping sound 3 a small mass of sthg (e.g. butter) shaped (as if) by patting [ME *patte*, prob of imit origin]

**pat** *vt* -ti- 1 to strike lightly with the open hand or some other flat surface 2 to flatten, smooth, or put into place or shape with light blows (< he ~ ted his hair into place >) 3 to tap or stroke gently with the hand to soothe, caress, or show approval

**pat** *adv* in a pat manner, aptly, promptly

**pat** *adj* 1 prompt, immediate 2 suspiciously appropriate; contrived (< a ~ answer >) 3 learned, mastered, or memorized exactly

**pataca** /'patahka/ *n*  Macao at NATIONALITY [Pg]

**patagium** /'pə'tayj-əm/ *n*, *pl patagia* /-ji-/ a wing membrane; esp the fold of skin connecting the forelimbs and hind limbs of a gliding animal (e.g. a flying squirrel) [NL, fr L, gold edging on a tunic]

**pat-ball** *n* slow or feeble play (e.g. in cricket or tennis)

**patch** /'pach/ *n* 1 a piece of material used to mend or cover a hole or reinforce a weak spot 2 a tiny piece of black silk worn on the face, esp by women in the 17th and 18th c, to set off the complexion 3a a cover (e.g. a piece of adhesive plaster) applied to a wound b a shield worn over the socket of an injured or missing eye 4a a small piece; a scrap b a small area distinct from its surroundings (< damp ~ es on the wall >) c a small piece of land usu used for growing vegetables (< a cabbage ~ >) 5 a piece of cloth sewn on a garment as an ornament or insignia 6 a temporary connection in a communications system 7 a temporary correction in a faulty computer program 8 chiefly Br a usu specified period (< poetry is going through a bad ~ - Cyril Connolly >) 9 chiefly Br an area for which a particular individual or unit (e.g. of police) has responsibility [ME *pacche*, perh fr MF *pece*, *piece*, *pieche* piece] – **not a patch on** not nearly as good as

**patch** *vt* 1 to mend or cover (a hole) with a patch 2 to provide with a patch (< a ~ ed pair of trousers >) 3a to make from patchwork b to mend or put together, esp in a hasty or shabby fashion – usu ~ *up* c to make a patch in (a computer program), also to make a change in (data stored on a computer) without following the standard routine for this procedure 4 to connect (e.g. circuits) by a patch cord

**patchboard** /-bawd/ *n* a board which has sets of linked sockets for making temporary circuit connections by means of patch cords

**patch cord** *n* a wire with a plug at each end that is used to link sockets on a patchboard

**patchouli**, **patchouly** /'pachooli, 'pachooli/ *n* 1 an E Indian shrubby plant of the mint family that yields a fragrant essential oil 2 a heavy perfume made from patchouli [Tamil *pacculi*]

**patch pocket** *n* a flat pocket attached to the outside of a garment


**patch up** *vt* to bring (a quarrel, dispute, etc) to an end

**patchwork** /-wuhk/ *n* 1 sthg composed of miscellaneous or incongruous parts 2 work consisting of pieces of cloth of various colours and shapes sewn together

**patchy** /'pachi/ *adj* 1 uneven in quality, incomplete (< my knowledge of French is ~ >) 2 of certain types of weather appearing in patches (< fog >) – **patchily** *adv*, **patchiness** *n*

**pate** /'payt/ *n* (the crown of) the head [ME] – **pated** *adj*

**pâté** /'patay/ *n* a rich savoury paste of seasoned and spiced meat, fish, etc [F, fr OF *paste*, fr *paste*]

**patella** /'pə'telə/ *n*, *pl patellae* /-li/, *patellas* the kneecap  ANATOMY [L, fr dim of *patina* shallow dish] – **patellar** *adj*

**paten** /'pat(ə)n/ *n* 1 a plate holding the bread used at Communion 2 a thin circular metal disc [ME, fr OF *patene*, fr ML & L, ML *patina*, fr L, shallow dish, fr Gk *patane*; akin to L *patere*]

**patent** /'payt(ə)nt, 'pat(ə)nt, sense 5 'payt(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a secured by or made under a patent (< ~ locks >) b proprietary (< ~ drugs >) 2a of patents (< a ~ lawyer >) b made of patent leather (< ~ shoes >) 3 original and ingenious as if protected by patent (< a ~ way of picking onions >) 4 affording free passage, unobstructed (< a ~ opening >) 5 readily visible or intelligible, not hidden or obscure [ME, fr MF, fr L *patent-*, *patens*, fr prp of *patere* to be open – more at FATHOM] – **patency** /'payt(ə)nɪs/ *n*, **patently** /'pay-/ *adv*

**patent** /'payt(ə)nt, 'pat(ə)nt/ *n* 1 LETTERS PATENT 2a (a formal document securing to an inventor) the exclusive right to make or sell an invention b a patented invention 3 a privilege, licence

**patent** *vt* to obtain a patent for (an invention) – **patentable** *adj*

**patentee** /'payt(ə)n'tee, pa-/ *n* sby to whom a grant is made or a privilege secured by patent

**patent leather** /'payt(ə)nt/ *n* a leather with a hard smooth glossy surface

**patent medicine** /'payt(ə)nt/ *n* a medicine that is made and marketed under a patent, trademark, etc

**patent office** /'payt(ə)nt, 'pat(ə)nt/ *n* a government office for granting patents

**pater** /'paytə/ *n*, chiefly Br a father – now usu humor [L]

**paterfamilias** /'paytəfə'milɪəs/ *n*, *pl paterfamilias* /'pahtrəfə-/ the male head of a household [L, fr *pater* father + *familias*, archaic gen of *familia* household – more at FATHER, FAMILY]

**paternal** /'pə'tuɪnl/ *adj* 1 fatherly (< ~ benevolence >) 2 received or inherited from one's male parent 3 related through one's father (< ~ grandfather >) [L *paternus*, fr *pater*] – **paternally** *adv*

**paternalism** /-iz(ə)m/ *n* a system under which a government or



organization deals with its subjects or employees in an authoritarian but benevolent way, esp by supplying all their needs and regulating their conduct – **paternalist** *n* or *adj*, **paternalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**paternity** /pə'tu:nəti/ *n* 1 being a father 2 origin or descent from a father

**paternity test** *n* the comparison of the genetic attributes (e.g. blood groups) of a mother, child, and man to determine whether the man could be the child's father

**paternoster** /pə'tɒnstə, -pə-/ *n*, often *cap* LORD'S PRAYER [ME, fr ML, fr L *pater noster* our father]

**path** /pa:θ/ *n*, *pl* **paths** /pa:θz/ 1 a track formed by the frequent passage of people or animals 2 a track specially constructed for a particular use (garden ~s) – compare BRIDLE PATH 3a a course, route (the ~ of a planet) b a way of life, conduct, or thought (his ~ through life was difficult) 4 the continuous series of positions or configurations that can be assumed in any motion or process of change by a moving or varying system [ME, fr OE *paeth*, akin to MD & MLG *pad* path, OHG *pfad*]

**path-, patho-** *comb form* pathological state, disease (<pathogen>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *pathos*, lit, suffering – more at PATHOS]

**-path** /-pa:θ/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 practitioner of (a specified system of medicine) (<naturopath>) 2 sufferer from disorder of (such a part or system) (<psychopath>) [(1) G, back-formation fr *-pathie* -pathy, (2) ISV, fr Gk *pathos* (adj) suffering, fr *pathos*]

**Pathan** /pə'ta:hn/ *n* a member of the principal ethnic group of Afghanistan (Hindi *Pathan*)

**pathetic** /pə'tetɪk/ *adj* 1a PITHFUL 1 (< a lost child>) b PITHFUL 2 (< a ~ performance>) (< ~ attempts to learn German>) 2 marked by sorrow or melancholy, sad [ɪ:ɪ or LL, MF *pathetique*, fr LL *patheticus*, fr Gk *pathetikos* capable of feeling, *pathetic*, fr *paschein* to experience, suffer – more at PATHOS] – **pathetically** *adv*

**pathetic fallacy** *n* the attribution of human characteristics or feelings to inanimate nature (e.g. in *cruel sea*)

**pathfinder** /'pa:θfɪndə/ *n* 1 shy or sthg that explores unexplored regions to mark out a new route 2 shy who discovers new ways of doing things – **pathfinding** *n* or *adj*

**pathless** /'pa:θlis/ *adj* untrod, trackless

**pathogen** /'pəθə(ə)n, -jen/ *n* a bacterium, virus, or other disease-causing agent [ISV] – **pathogenic** /-jenɪk/ *adj*, **pathogenically** *adv*, **pathogenicity** /-jə'nɪsəti/ *n*

**pathogenesis** /'pəθə'jɛnəsɪs/ *n* the origination and development of a disease [NL] – **pathogenetic** /-jə'netɪk/ *adj*

**pathologist** /'pəθələdʒɪst/ *n* one who studies pathology, specif one who conducts postmortems to determine the cause of death

**pathology** /'pəθələdʒi/ *n* 1 the study of (the structure and functional changes produced by) diseases 2 sthg abnormal a the anatomical and physiological abnormalities that constitute or characterize (a particular) disease b deviation from an assumed normal state of mentality or morality [NL *pathologia* & MF *pathologie*, fr Gk *pathologia* study of the emotions, fr *pathos* + *-logia* -logy] – **pathological** /'pəθə'lɒdʒɪk/, **pathologic** *adj*, **pathologically** *adv*

**pathos** /'paɪθos/ *n* 1 a quality in experience or in artistic representation evoking pity or compassion 2 an emotion of sympathetic pity [Gk, suffering, experience, emotion, fr *paschein* to experience, suffer, akin to Lith *kęsti* to suffer]

**pathway** /'pa:θweɪ/ *n* 1 a path, course 2 the sequence of enzyme-catalysed reactions by which a substance is synthesized or an energy-yielding substance is used by living tissue (*metabolic* ~s)

**-pathy** /-pa:θi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 feeling, being act. upon (<empathy>) (<telepathy>) 2 disorder of (such a part or system) (<neuropathy>) 3 system of medicine based on (such a factor) (<osteopathy>) [L *-pathia*, fr Gk *-pathia*, fr *-pathos* suffering, fr *pathos*]

**patience** /'paɪʃ(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the capacity, habit, or fact of being patient 2 chiefly Br any of various card games that can be played by 1 person and usu involve the arranging of cards into a prescribed pattern

**patient** /'paɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint 2 manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain 3 not hasty or impetuous 4 steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity [ME *patient*, fr MF, fr L *patient-*, *patiens*, fr prp of *pater* to suffer; akin to L *paene* almost, *penuria* need, Gk *pema* suffering] – **patiently** *adv*

**patient** *n* an individual awaiting or under medical care

**patina** /'patɪnə/ *n*, *pl* **patinas**, **patinae** /-ni/ 1 a (decorative) usu green film formed on copper and bronze by (simulated) weathering and valued as aesthetically pleasing 2 a surface appearance of sthg (e.g. polished

wood) that has grown more beautiful esp with age or use [NL, fr L, shallow dish – more at PATEN]

**patio** /'pæti-oh/ *n*, *pl* **patios** a usu paved area adjoining a dwelling [Sp]

**patisserie** /pə'teesəri, -ti-/ *n* 1 PASTRY 2 2 an establishment where patisserie is made and sold [F *pâtisserie*, fr MF *pastiserie* pastry, deriv of LL *pasta* dough, *paste*]

**Patna rice** /'patnə/ *n* a long-grained rice suitable for use in savoury dishes [Patna, city in India]

**patois** /'patwəh/ *n*, *pl* **patois** /'patwəh/ 1 a provincial dialect other than the standard or literary dialect 2 JARGON 2 [F]

**patr-, patri-, patro-** *comb form* father (<patronymic>) [*patr-*, *patri-* fr L, fr *pater*, *pater*, *patr-*, *patro-* fr Gk, fr *pater*, *pater* – more at FATHER]

**patrial** /'paɪtriəl/ *n* sby who has a legal right to reside in the UK because one of his/her parents or grandparents was born there [ML *patrialis* (adj) of one's fatherland, fr L *patria* fatherland – more at EXPATRIATE] – **patrial** *adj*, **patriality** /'paɪtriəli/ *n*

**patriarch** /'paɪtriərk, -pat-/ *n* 1a any of the biblical fathers of the human race or of the Hebrew people b a man who is father or founder (e.g. of a race, science, religion, or class of people) c(1) the oldest member or representative of a group (2) a venerable old man d a man who is head of a patriarchy 2a any of the bishops of the ancient or Orthodox sees of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem b the head of any of various Eastern churches [ME *patriarche*, fr OF, fr L *patriarcha*, fr Gk *patriarches*, fr *patria* lineage (fr *patr-*, *pater* father) + *-arches* -arch – more at FATHER] – **patriarchal** /-'a:rkəl/ *adj*

**patriarchal cross** *n* a cross having two horizontal crossbars, the lower crossbar being longer than the upper, and intersecting the upright at or above its middle – 𐀓 SYMBOL

**patriarchate** /'paɪtriərkət, -kayt, -patr/ *n* the (duration of) office or jurisdiction of a patriarch

**patriarchy** /'paɪtriərkɪ, -patr-/ *n* a system or an instance of social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in the clan or family, the legal dependence of wives and children, and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line

**patrician** /'pə'triʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a member of any of the original citizen families of ancient Rome 2a sby of high birth, an aristocrat b sby of breeding and cultivation [ME *patricion*, fr MF *patricien*, fr L *patricius*, fr *patres* senators, fr *pl* of *pater* father – more at FATHER] – **patrician** *adj*

**patrician** /'pə'triʃiən, -ayt/ *n* sing or *pl* in *constr* a patrician class

**patricide** /'pə'triʃiəd/ *n* (the act of) sby who kills his/her father [L *patricida* & *patricidium*, fr *patr-* + *-cida* & *-cidium* – more at -CIDE] – **patricide** /'sɪdɪl/ *adj*

**patrilineal** /'pə'tri:li:nl/ *adj* relating to or tracing descent through the paternal line

**patrimony** /'pə'trɪmɒni/ *n* 1a property inherited from one's father or ancestor b sthg derived from one's father or ancestors, a heritage 2 an estate or endowment belonging to a church [ME *patrimoine*, fr MF, fr L *patrimonium*, fr *patr-*, *pater* father] – **patrimonial** /-'mɒniəl/ *adj*

**patriot** /'paɪtriət, -patr-/ *n* one who loves and zealously supports his/her country [MF *patriote*, fr LL *patriota*, fr Gk *patriōtes*, fr *patros* of one's father, fr *patr-*, *pater* father] – **patriotism** *n*, **patriotic** /-'ɒtɪk/ *adj*, **patriotically** *adv*

**patriotic** /'pə'trɪstɪk/, **patristical** /-kl/ *adj* of the church fathers or their writings

**patrol** /'pə'trɒhl/ *n* 1a traversing a district or beat or going the rounds of a garrison or camp for observation or the maintenance of security b sing or *pl* in *constr* a detachment of men employed for reconnaissance, security, or combat 2 sing or *pl* in *constr* a subdivision of a scout troop or guide company that has 6 to 8 members

**patrol** *vb* -ll- to carry out a patrol (of) [F *patrouiller*, fr MF, to tramp round in the mud, fr *pate* paw – more at PATTEN] – **patroller** *n*

**patrol car** *n* a usu high-performance car used by police to patrol esp motorways

**patrolman** /-'mən/ *n*, *NAM* a policeman assigned to a beat

**patrol wagon** *n*, *NAM* an enclosed van used by police to carry prisoners

**patron** /'paɪtrən; sense 6 'pə'trɒn/ *fem* **patroness** /'paɪtrənəs, -nes/ *n* 1a sby chosen, named, or honoured as a special guardian, protector, or supporter b a wealthy or influential supporter of an artist or writer 2 sby who uses his/her wealth or influence to help an individual, institution, or cause 3 CUSTOMER 1 4 the holder of the right of presentation to an English ecclesiastical benefice 5 a master in ancient times who freed his slave but retained some rights over him/her 6 the proprietor of an

- establishment (e.g. an inn), esp in France [ME, fr MF, fr ML & L; ML *patronus* patron saint, patron of a benefice, pattern, fr L, defender, fr *patr-*, *pater*; (6) F, fr MF]
- patronage** /'patrənɪ/ *n* 1 advowson 2 the support or influence of a patron 3 the granting of favours in a condescending way 4 business or activity provided by patrons 5 the power to appoint to government jobs
- patron-ize**, -ise /'patrənɪz/ *vt* 1 to act as patron of 2 to adopt an air of condescension towards 3 to be a patron of – *patronizingly* *adv*
- patron** 'saɪnt *n* a saint regarded as having a particular person, group, church, etc under his/her special care and protection
- patronymic** /'patrənɪmɪk/ *n* a name derived from that of the father or a paternal ancestor, usu by the addition of an affix [LL *patronymicus*, fr neut of *patronymicus* of a patronymic, fr Gk *patronymikos*, fr *patronymia* patronymic, fr *patr-* + *onyma* name – more at NAME] – *patronymic* *adj*
- paty** /'patsi/ *n*, *NAm* one who is duped or victimized, a sucker – *infml* [perh fr It *pazzo* fool]
- patten** /'patn/ *n* a sandal or overshoe set on a wooden sole or metal device to elevate the foot [ME *patin*, fr MF, fr *patte* paw, hoof, fr (assumed) VL *patta*, of imit origin]
- 'patter** /'pats/ *vb* to say or talk glibly and volubly [ME *patren*, fr *paternoster*] – *patterer* *n*
- \*patter** *n* 1 cant 2 the sales talk of a street hawker 3 empty chattering talk 4a the rapid-fire talk of a comedian b the talk with which an entertainer accompanies his/her routine
- \*patter** *vt* 1 to strike or tap rapidly and repeatedly <rain ~ ed against the window pane> 2 to run with quick light-sounding steps ~ *vt* to cause to patter [freq of 'pat] – *patter* *n*
- 'pattern** /'pat(ə)n/ *n* 1 a form or model proposed for imitation; an example 2 a design, model, or set of instructions for making things <a dress ~> 3 a model for making a mould into which molten metal is poured to form a casting 4 a specimen, sample 5 a usu repeated decorative design (e.g. on fabric) 6 a natural or chance configuration <a frost ~> <the ~ of events> 7 the grouping on a target by bullets, bombs, etc 8 the flight path prescribed for an aircraft coming in for a landing [ME *patron*, fr MF, fr ML *patronus*]
- \*pattern** *vt* 1 to make or model according to a pattern 2 to decorate with a design
- patty** /'patsi/ *n* 1 a little pie or pasty 2 *NAm* a small flat cake of chopped food <a hamburger ~> [F *pâté*]
- patulous** /'patjuələs/ *adj* spreading widely from a centre <a tree with ~ branches> [L *patulus*, fr *patere* to be open – more at FATHOM] – *patulously* *adv*, *patulousness* *n*
- paucity** /'pawzəti/ *n* 1 smallness of number 2 smallness of quantity; scarcity *USE* *fml* [ME *paucite*, fr MF or L, MF *paucité*, fr L *paucitas*, *paucitas*, fr *paucus* little – more at FEW]
- Pauli exclusion principle** /'pəʊli/ *n* EXCLUSION PRINCIPLE [Wolfgang Pauli †1958 US (Austrian-born) physicist]
- Pauline** /'pawliən/ *adj* of the apostle Paul, his epistles, or their doctrines or theology [ML *paulinus*, fr L *Paulus* Paul † ab 67 Christian apostle, fr Gk *Paulos*]
- Paul Jones** /'pawl 'joɦnz/ *n* a dance during which the couples change partners [prob fr John Paul Jones †1792 US naval officer]
- paulownia** /'paw'loɦni-ə/ *n* a Chinese tree of the figwort family with fragrant violet flowers [NL, genus name, fr Anna Paulovna †1865 Russ princess]
- paunch** /'paʊnʃ/ *n* 1a the belly b a potbelly 2 the rumen [ME, fr MF *panche*, fr L *pantic*, *pantex*]
- paunchy** /'paʊnʃi/ *adj* having a potbelly
- pauper** /'pawpə/ *n* a very poor person; *specif* sby supported by charity or from public funds [L, poor – more at FEW] – *pauperism* *n*
- pauper-ize**, -ise /'pawpə'ri:z/ *vt* to reduce to poverty or destitution
- 'pause** /'pawz/ *n* 1 a temporary stop 2 a caesura 3 temporary inaction, esp as caused by uncertainty; hesitation 4 the sign denoting a fermata ~ *3* MUSIC [ME, fr L *pausa*, fr Gk *pausis*, fr *pauein* to stop; akin to Gk *paula* rest]
- \*pause** *vi* 1 to stop temporarily 2 to linger for a time
- pavane** also *pavan* /'pə'væn, pə'væn, 'pavən/ *n* (music for or having the slow duple rhythm of) a stately court dance by couples [MF *pavane*, fr OSP *pavana*, fr OIt]
- pave** /'payv/ *vt* 1 to lay or cover with material (e.g. stone or concrete) to form a firm level surface for walking or travelling on 2 to serve as a covering or pavement of <palaces ~ d with marble> [ME *paven*, fr MF *paver*, fr L *pavire* to strike, stamp; akin to OHG *arfūrian* to castrate, L
- putare* to prune, reckon, think, Gk *pauein* to strike] – *paver* *n* – *pave* the way to prepare a smooth easy way; facilitate development
- pavé** /'pavay/ *n* or *adj* (a setting in which jewels are) set closely together to conceal a metal base [n F, fr pp of *paver* to pave; *adj* fr n]
- paved** /'payvd/ *adj* covered with a pavement
- pavement** /'payvmənt/ *n* a paved surface: e.g. a chiefly Br a surfaced walk for pedestrians at the side of a road b *NAm* the artificially covered surface of a road [ME, fr OF, fr L *pavimentum*, fr *pavire*]
- 'pavement**, *artist* *n* sby who draws coloured pictures on the pavement in the hope that passersby will give him/her money
- \*pavilion** /'pə'vɪljən, -li-ən/ *n* 1 a large often sumptuous tent 2 a part of a building projecting from the rest 3a a light sometimes ornamental structure in a garden, park, etc b a temporary structure erected at an exhibition by an individual exhibitor 4 the lower faceted part of a cut gem below the girdle 5 chiefly Br a permanent building on a sports ground, specif a cricket ground, containing changing rooms and often also seats for spectators [ME *pavilon*, fr OF *paveillon*, fr L *papilion*-, *papilio* butterfly, akin to OHG *fifaltra* butterfly, Lith *peteliške* flighty]
- \*pavilion** *vt* to provide with or put in a pavilion
- 'paving**, *stone* /'payvɪŋ/ *n* a thin rectangular stone or concrete block used for paving
- pavior**, *paviour* /'payvɪə/ *n*, Br a person or machine that paves [ME *pavier*, fr *paven* to pave]
- 'paw** /'paw/ *n* 1 the (clawed) foot of a lion, dog, or other (quadruped) animal 2 a human hand – *infml*, chiefly humor [ME, fr MF *poue*]
- \*paw** *vt* 1 to feel or touch clumsily, rudely, or indecently 2 to touch or strike at with a paw 3 to scrape or strike (as if) with a hoof ~ *vi* 1 to beat or scrape sthg (as if) with a hoof 2 to touch or strike with a paw
- pawky** /'pawki/ *adj*, chiefly Br artfully shrewd, esp in a humorous way, canny [obs E dial *pawk* (trick)]
- pawl** /'pawl/ *n* a pivoted tongue or sliding bolt on one part of a machine that is adapted to fall into notches on another part (e.g. a ratchet wheel) so as to permit motion in only 1 direction [perh modif of D *pawl* pawl]
- 'pawn** /'pawɪn/ *n* 1 sthg delivered to or deposited with another as a pledge or security (e.g. for a loan) 2 the state of being pledged – *usu* + *in* [ME *paun*, modif of MF *pan*]
- \*pawn** *vt* to deposit in pledge or as security
- \*pawn** *n* 1 any of the 8 chessmen of each colour of least value that have the power to move only forwards usu 1 square at a time and to capture only diagonally forwards, and that may be promoted to any piece except a king upon reaching the opposite side of the board 2 sby or sthg that can be used to further the purposes of another [ME *pawn*, fr MF *poon*, fr ML *pedon*-, *pedo* foot soldier, fr LL, one with broad feet, fr L *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at FOOT]
- 'pawnbroker** /-brɒkə/ *n* one who lends money on the security of personal property pledged in his/her keeping – *pawnbroking* *n*
- 'pawnshop** /-ʃɒp/ *n* a pawnbroker's shop
- pawpaw** /'paw.paw/ *n* PAPAWE 2
- pax** /'paks/ *n* 1 a tablet decorated with a sacred figure (e.g. of Christ), ceremonially kissed by participants at mass 2 KISS OF PEACE 3 peace [ME, fr ML, fr L, peace – more at PEACE]
- 'pay** /'pay/ *vb* paid, (7) paid also *payed* /'payd/ *vt* 1a to make due return to for services done or property received b to engage for money, hire <you couldn't ~ me to do that> 2a to give in return for goods or service <~ wages> b to discharge indebtedness for; settle <~ a bill> c to make a disposal or transfer of (money) <~ money into the bank> 3 to give or forfeit in reparation or retribution <~ the penalty> 4a to make compensation for b to requite according to what is deserved <~ him back> <~ her out> 5 to give, offer, or make willingly or as fitting <~ attention> <~ heed> 6a to be profitable to; be worth the expense or effort to <it ~ s shopkeepers to stay open late> b to bring in as a return <an investment ~ing 5 per cent> 7 to slacken (e.g. a rope) and allow to run out – *usu* + *out* ~ *vi* 1 to discharge a debt or obligation 2 to be worth the expense or effort <it ~ s to advertise> [ME *payen*, fr OF *paier*, fr L *pacare* to pacify, fr *pac-*, *pax* peace] – *payer* *n*, *payee* /'pay'ee/ *n*
- \*pay** *n* 1 the status of being paid by an employer; employ <was in the ~ of the enemy> 2 sthg paid as a salary or wage
- \*pay** *adj* 1 containing or leading to sthg valuable 2 equipped with a coin slot for receiving a fee for use <a ~ phone> 3 requiring payment
- \*pay** *vt* *payed* also *paid* to coat with a waterproof composition [obs F *pieir*, fr L *picare*, fr *pic-*, *pix* pitch]
- payable** /'payəbl/ *adj* that may, can, or must be paid
- pay-as-you-earn** *n* a system of deducting income tax from pay before an employee receives it

**'pay,bed** /-bed/ *n* a hospital bed the use of which is paid for by the occupant rather than by the state

**'pay,day** /-day/ *n* a regular day on which wages are paid

**'pay,load** /-lohd/ *n* 1 the revenue-producing load that a vehicle of transport can carry 2 the explosive charge carried in the warhead of a missile 3 the load (e.g. instruments) carried in a spacecraft relating directly to the purpose of the flight as opposed to the load (e.g. fuel) necessary for operation

**'pay,master** /-mahsta/ *n* an officer or agent whose duty it is to pay salaries or wages

**'paymaster** **'general** *n*, often *cap* *P&G* a British government minister who is often made a member of the cabinet and entrusted with special functions

**'payment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 the act of paying 2 sth that is paid 3 a recompense (e.g. a reward or punishment)

**'pay,off** /-of/ *n* 1 a profit or reward, esp received by a player in a game 2 a decisive fact or factor resolving a situation or bringing about a definitive conclusion 3 the climax of an incident or chain of events, *specif*, chiefly *NAm* the denouement of a narrative – *infml*

**pay off** *vt* 1 to give all due wages to, esp to pay in full and discharge (an employee) 2 to pay (a debt or a creditor) in full ~ *vi* to yield returns <it was a risk but it paid off>

**payola** /pay'ohla/ *n* an undercover or indirect payment for unofficial promotion of a commercial product [prob *alter*. of *payoff*]

**'pay,out** *n* (the act of making) a usu large payment of money – *infml*

**'pay,packet** *n*, *Br* (an envelope containing) sb's wages

**'pay,roll** /-rohl/ *n* 1 a list of those entitled to be paid and of the amounts due to each 2 the sum necessary to pay those on a payroll 3 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* the people on a payroll

**'pay,slip** /-slɪp/ *n*, *Br* a written statement of one's gross pay, allowances, deductions, and net pay

**pay up** *vb* to pay in full

**PCB** *n* POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL

**P.Celtic** *n* the division of the Celtic languages that includes Welsh, Cornish, and Breton [fr the development in these languages of the phoneme *p* from Indo-European *qu*]

**pea** /pe/ *n*, *pl* *peas* also *pease* /peez/; also *pees*/ 1a (a leguminous climbing plant that bears) an edible rounded protein-rich green seed *b pl* the immature pods of the pea with their seeds 2 any of various leguminous plants related to or resembling the pea – usu with a qualifying term <*chick-pea*> <*sweet* ~> [back-formation fr *pease* (taken as a *pl*), fr *ME* *pece*, fr *OE* *pise*, fr *L* *pisa*, *pl* of *pisum*, fr *Gk* *pison*]

**peace** /pees/ *n* 1 a state of tranquillity or quiet e.g. a freedom from civil disturbance *b* public order and security maintained by law or custom <a breach of the ~> 2 freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions <~ of mind> 3 harmony in personal relations 4a mutual concord between countries *b* an agreement to end hostilities 5 – used interjectionally as a command or request for silence or calm or as a greeting or farewell [ME *pees*, fr *OF* *pais*, fr *L* *pax*, *pax*, akin to *L* *pacisci* to agree – more at *PACT*] – at *peace* in a state of concord or tranquillity

**peaceable** /peesəbl/ *adj* 1a disposed to peace, not inclined to dispute or quarrel *b* quietly behaved 2 free from strife or disorder – *peaceableness* *n*, *peaceably* *adv*

**'peace** **,corps** *n* a body of trained volunteer personnel sent by the US government to assist developing nations

**'peaceful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 *PEACEABLE* 1 2 untroubled by conflict, agitation, or commotion; quiet, tranquil 3 of a state or time of peace – *peacefully* *adv*, *peacefulness* *n*

**peaceful coexistence** *n* a state in which countries with different ideologies live together in peace rather than in constant hostility

**'peace** **,offering** *n* sth given or done to produce peace or reconciliation

**'peace** **,pipe** *n* a calumet

**'peace** **,sign** *n* a sign made by holding the palm outwards and forming a V with the index and middle fingers, used to indicate the desire for peace – compare *V SIGN*

**'peace,time** /-tiem/ *n* a time when a nation is not at war

**'peach** /peech/ *n* 1 (a low spreading tree of the rose family that grows in temperate areas, has stalkless usu pink spring flowers, and bears) an edible fruit with a large stone, thin downy skin, and sweet white or yellow flesh 2 light yellowish pink 3 a particularly excellent person or thing; *specif* an unusually attractive girl or young woman – *infml* [ME *peche*, fr *MF* (the fruit), fr *LL* *persica*, fr *L* *persicum*, fr neut of *persicus* Persian, fr *Persia*]

**'peach** *vi* to turn informer <~ ed on his accomplices> [ME *pechen*, short for *apechen* to accuse, fr (assumed) *AF* *apecher*, fr *LL* *impedicare* to fetter, entangle – more at *IMPEACH*]

**peacock** /'pekok/ *n* a male peafowl with very large tail feathers that are usu tipped with eyeline spots and can be erected and spread in a fan shimmering with iridescent colour; *broadly* a peafowl [ME *pecok*, fr *pe*- (fr *OE* *pea* peafowl) + *cok* cock; akin to *OHG* *pfāwo* peacock, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr *L* *pavon*-, *pavo* peacock]

**peacock** **'blue** *n* lustrous greenish blue

**peacock** **butterfly** *n* a butterfly with large eyespots on the wings

**'pea,fowl** /-fowl/ *n* a very large ornamental ground-living pheasant of SE Asia and the E Indies [*pea*- (as in *peacock*) + *fowl*]

**pea** **'green** *n* light yellowish green

**'pea,hen** /-hen/ *n* a female peafowl [ME *pehenne*, fr *pe*- + *henne* hen]

**'pea** **jacket** *n* a heavy woollen double-breasted jacket worn esp by sailors [by folk etymology fr *D* *pyjeker*, fr *py*, a kind of cloth + *jekker* jacket]

**'peak** /peek/ *vi* to grow thin or sickly [origin unknown]

**'peak** *n* 1 a projecting part on the front of a cap or hood 2 a sharp or pointed end 3a (the top of) a hill or mountain ending in a point *b* GEOGRAPHY sth resembling a mountain peak 4a the upper aftermost corner of a 4-cornered fore-and-aft sail *b* SHIP the narrow part of a ship's bow or stern 5a the highest level or greatest degree *b* a high point in a course of development, esp as represented on a graph [perh *alter*. of *pike*]

**'peak** *vi* to reach a maximum

**'peak** *adj* at or reaching the maximum of capacity, value, or activity <the factory reached ~ productivity> <~ traffic hours>

**'peaked** /peekt/ *adj* having a peak, pointed – *peakedness* *n*

**'peaked** *adj* peaky

**peak load** *n* maximum demand or density (e.g. of electricity or traffic)

**peak time** *n* the time of greatest demand for some service (e.g. television programmes)

**peaky** /'peeki/ *adj* looking pale and wan, sickly ['*peak* + '*y*]

**'peal** /peel/ *n* 1a a complete set of changes on a given number of bells *b* a set of bells tuned to the notes of the major scale for change ringing 2 a loud prolonged sound <~s of laughter> [ME, appeal, summons to church, short for *appel* appeal, fr *appelen* to appeal]

**'peal** *vi* to give out peals ~ *vt* to utter or give forth loudly

**peanut** /'peenut/ *n* 1 (the pod or oily edible seed of) a low-branched widely cultivated leguminous plant with showy yellow flowers and pods containing 1 to 3 seeds that ripen in the earth 2 *pl* a trifling amount – *infml*

**pear** /peə/ *n* (a tree of the rose family that bears) a large fleshy edible fruit wider at the end furthest from the stalk [ME *pere*, fr *OE* *peru*, fr *L* *pirum*]

**'pearl** /puhl/ *n* 1a a dense usu milky white lustrous mass of mother-of-pearl layers, formed as an abnormal growth in the shell of some molluscs, esp oysters, and used as a gem *b* mother-of-pearl 2 sb or sth very rare or precious [ME *perle*, fr *MF*, fr (assumed) *VL* *pernula*, dim. of *L* *perna* haunch, sea mussel; akin to *OE* *fiersa* heel, *Gk* *pterne*]

**'pearl** *vt* 1 to set or adorn (as if) with pearls 2 to form into small round grains ~ *vi* 1 to form drops or beads like pearls 2 to fish or search for pearls – *pearler* *n*

**'pearl** *adj* 1a of or resembling pearl *b* made of or adorned with pearls 2 having medium-sized grains <~ barley>

**'pearl** /puhl/ *vt* or *n*, *Br* (to) picot [alter of *purf*]

**pearl millet** *n* a tall cereal grass grown in Africa, Asia, and S USA for its edible seeds and for forage


**'pearl,wort** /-wuht/ *n* any of several very small plants of the pink family with usu minute white or green flowers


**'pearly** /'puhli/ *adj* resembling, containing, or decorated with pearls or mother-of-pearl

**'pearly** *n*, *Br* 1 a button made of mother-of-pearl 2 a member of certain cockney families who are traditionally costermongers and entitled to wear a special costume covered with pearls

**pearmain** /'peə,main/ *n* any of various eating apples [ME *permayn*, a type of pear, fr *OF* *permain*, perh fr *L* *Parmensis* of Parma, city in Italy]

uneducated person of low social status [ME *paissaunt*, fr *MF* *paisant*, fr *OF*, fr *pais* country, fr *LL* *pagensis* inhabitant of a district, fr *L* *pagus* district – more at *PAGAN*] – *peasantry* /-tri/ *n* *sing* or *pl* *in constr*

**pease** /peez/; also *pees*/n, chiefly Br **PEA** 1a – archaic except in attributive use (< ~ *pudding*)  
**peasecod**, **peascod** /'peezkɒd/ n a pea pod [ME *pesecod*, fr *pese* *pease* + *cod* bag, husk – more at **CODPIECE**]  
**'pea-shooter** /-shoohtə/ n a toy blowpipe for shooting peas  
**'pea-souper** /'soohpə/ also *pea soup* n a heavy fog  
**peat** /peɪt/ n (a piece of) partially carbonized vegetable tissue formed by partial decomposition in water of various plants (e.g. mosses), found in large bogs, and used esp. as a fuel for domestic heating and as a fertilizer [ME *pete*, fr ML *petra*] – **peaty** *adj*  
**'peat, moss** n sphagnum  
**peavey**, **peavy** /'peevi/ n, **NAM** CANT HOOK [prob fr the name *Peavey*]  
**'pebble** /'pebl/ n 1 a small usu rounded stone, often worn smooth by the action of water 2 rock crystal [ME *pobble*, fr OE *papolstan*, fr *papol-* (prob imit.) + *stān* stone] – **pebbly** *adj*  
**'pebble, dash** /-dash/ n a finish for exterior walls consisting of small pebbles embedded in a stucco base  
**pecan** /pi'kən, 'pekan/ n (the smooth oblong thin-shelled edible nut of) a large hickory tree with roughish bark and hard but brittle wood [of Algonquian origin; akin to Ojibwa *pagan*, a hard-shelled nut]  
**peccable** /'pekəbl/ *adj* prone to sin [MF, fr L *peccare*]  
**peccadillo** /'pekə'diloh/ n, pl *peccadillos*, *peccadillos* a slight or trifling offence [Sp *peccadillo*, dim. of *peccado* sin, fr L *peccatum*, fr neut. of *peccatus*, pp of *peccare*]  
**peccant** /'pekənt/ *adj* guilty, sinning [L *peccant-*, *peccans*, prp of *peccare* to stumble, sin] – **peccancy** n, **peccantly** *adv*  
**peccary** /'pekəri/ n either of 2 largely nocturnal social American mammals resembling the related pigs [of Cariban origin, akin to Chaima *paquera* peccary]  
**'peck** /pek/ n a unit of volume or capacity equal to 2 gall (about 9 l) ~  UNIT [ME *pek*, fr OF]  
**'peck** *vt* 1a to strike or pierce (repeatedly) with the beak or a pointed tool b to make by pecking (< ~ a hole) c to kiss perfunctorily 2 to pick up with the beak ~ *vi* 1 to strike, pierce, or pick up sthg (as if) with the beak 2 to eat reluctantly and in small bites (< ~ at food) [ME *pecken*, alter. of *piken* to pierce – more at **'PICK**]  
**'peck** n 1 an impression or hole made by pecking 2 a quick sharp stroke 3 a quick perfunctory kiss  
**'peck** *vi*, of a horse to stumble on landing from a jump [alter. of *'pick* (to pitch)]  
**pecker** /'peka/ n 1 chiefly Br courage – in *keep one's pecker up*; infml 2 **NAM** a penis – *vulg* [¹PECK + ¹ER]  
**'pecking, order** /'peking/, *peck order* n 1 the natural hierarchy within a flock of birds, esp. poultry, in which each bird pecks another lower in the scale without fear of retaliation 2 a social hierarchy  
**peckish** /'pekish/ *adj*, chiefly Br agreeably hungry – infml [¹peck + -ish]  
**pecten** /'pekt(ə)n/ n, pl (1) *pectines* /-eez/, *pectens*, (2) *pectens* 1 a comblike body part 2 **SCALLOP** 1 [NL *pectin-*, *pecten*, fr L, comb, scallop]  
**pectin** /'pektin/ n any of various water-soluble substances that bind adjacent cell walls in plant tissues and yield a gel which acts as a setting agent in jams and fruit jellies [F *pectine*, fr *pectique* *pectic*, fr Gk *pektikos* coagulating, fr *pegnynai* to fix, coagulate – more at **PACT**] – **pectic** *adj*  
**pectinate** /'pektinayt/, **pectinated** *adj* having narrow parallel projections or divisions suggestive of the teeth of a comb (< ~ *antennae*) [L *pectinatus*, fr *pectin-*, *pecten* comb; akin to Gk *kten-*, *kteis* comb, L *pectere* to comb – more at **FEE**] – **pectination** /-'naysh(ə)n/ n  
**pectoral** /'pekt(ə)rəl/ *adj* of, situated in or on, or worn on the chest [MF or L; MF, fr L *pectoralis*, fr *pector-*, *pectus* breast]  
**pectoral cross** n a cross worn on the chest, esp. by a prelate  
**pectoral fin** n either of the fins of a fish that correspond to the forelimbs of a quadruped  
**pectoral girdle** n the bony or cartilaginous arch that supports the forelimbs of a vertebrate  
**peculate** /'pekyoolayt/ *vi* to embezzle [L *peculatus*, pp of *peculari*, fr *peculium*] – **peculator** n, **peculation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ n  
**'peculiar** /'pi'kyoohli-ə-, -lys/ *adj* 1 belonging exclusively to 1 person or group 2 distinctive 3 different from the usual or normal, strange, curious [ME *peculier*, fr L *peculiaris* of private property, special, fr *peculium* private property, fr *pecu* cattle; akin to L *pecus* cattle – more at **FEE**] – **peculiarly** *adv*

**'peculiar** n sthg exempt from ordinary jurisdiction; esp. a church or parish independent of the diocese in which it is situated  
**peculiarity** /'pi'kyoohli-arəti/ n a distinguishing characteristic [¹PECULIAR + -ITY]  
**pecuniary** /'pi'kyoohnyəri/ *adj* of or measured in money – fml [L *pecuniarius*, fr *pecunia* money – more at **FEE**] – **pecuniarily** *adv*  
**ped** /ped/ n a natural soil aggregate [Gk *pedon* ground, akin to L *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**]  
**ped-**, **pedo-** *comb form*, chiefly **NAM** *paed-*, *paedo-*  
**-ped** /-ped/, also *-pad-*, *-pede* /-peed/ *comb form* (→ n) foot (<quadruped> <centipede>) [L *ped-*, *pes*]  
**pedagogics** /'pedə'gɒjiks, -'goh-/ n pl *but sing in constr* pedagogy  
**pedagogic**, **pedagogical** *adj*, **pedagogically** *adv*  
**pedagogue** /'pedəgog/ n a teacher, schoolmaster – now chiefly derog [ME *pedagoge*, fr MF, fr L *paedagogus*, fr Gk *paidagogos*, slave who escorted children to school, fr *paid-* *paed-* + *agōgos* leader, fr *agein* to lead – more at **AGENT**]  
**pedagogy** /'pedəgɒji, -gɒgi, -goh-/ n the science of teaching  
**'pedal** /'pedl/ n 1 a lever pressed by the foot in playing a musical instrument 2 a foot lever or treadle by which a part is activated in a mechanism [MF *pedale*, fr It, fr L *pedalis*, *adj*]  
**'pedal** *adj* of the foot [L *pedalis*, fr *ped-*, *pes*]  
**'pedal** *vb* -ll- (**NAM** -l- also -ll-), /-pedl-ɪŋ, 'pedl-ɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to use or work a pedal or pedals 2 to ride a bicycle ~ *vt* to work the pedals of  
**pedalo** /'pedəloh/ n, pl *pedalos*, *pedalos* a small pleasure boat that is propelled by paddles turned by pedals  
**'pedal, pushers** n pl women's and girls' calf-length trousers  
**pedant** /'ped(ə)nt/ n one who is unimaginative or unnecessarily concerned with detail, esp. in academic matters [MF, fr It *pedante*] – **pedantic** /'pɪdantɪk/ *adj*, **pedantry** /'ped(ə)ntri/ n  
**peddle** /'pedl/ *vb* **peddling** /'pedl-ɪŋ, 'pedl-ɪŋ/ *vi* to sell goods as a pedlar ~ *vt* 1 to sell as a pedlar 2 to deal out or seek to disseminate (e.g. ideas or opinions) [back-formation fr *peddler*, *pedlar*]  
**peddler** /'pedlə/ n 1 one who peddles dangerous or illicit drugs, a pusher 2 **NAM** a pedlar  
**-pede** /-peed/ – see **-PED**  
**pederast**, **paederast** /'pedə,rast, 'pee-/ n one who practices anal intercourse, esp. with a boy [Gk *paiderastes*, lit., lover of boys, fr *paid-* *paed-* + *erastes* lover, fr *erasthai* to love – more at **FROS**] – **pederasty** n, **pederastic** /-'rastɪk/ *adj*  
**pedestal** /'pedɪstəl/ n 1a a base supporting a late classic or neoclassic column  **ARCHITECTURE** b the base of an upright structure (e.g. a statue) 2 a base, foundation 3 a position of esteem or idealized respect [MF *pedestal*, fr OIt *pedestallo*, fr *pie di stallo* foot of a stall]  
**'pedestrian** /'pedɪstri-ən/ *adj* 1 commonplace, unimaginative 2a going or performed on foot b of or designed for walking (< a ~ *precinct*) [L *pedestr-*, *pedester*, lit., going on foot, fr *pedes* sby going on foot, fr *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**] – **pedestrianism** n  
**'pedestrian** n sby going on foot, a walker  
**pedestrian 'crossing** n a usu marked stretch of road on which pedestrians crossing the road have priority over the traffic in certain circumstances  
**pedestrian-ize, -ise** /'pedɪstri-ə,nɪz/ *vi* to convert (an existing vehicular highway) to a usu paved area for pedestrians only – **pedestrianization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ n  
**pedicel** /'pedɪsəl/ n 1 a plant stalk that supports a fruiting or spore-bearing organ 2 a narrow basal attachment of an animal organ or part [NL *pedicellus*, dim. of L *pediculus*] – **pedicellate** /-'selət/ *adj*  
**pedicle** /'pedɪkl/ n a pedicel [L *pediculus*, fr dim. of *ped-*, *pes*] – **pedicled** *adj*  
**pediculosis** /'pɪ,dɪkyoo'lohsɪs/ n infestation with lice [NL, fr L *pediculus* louse] – **pediculous** /'pɪ,dɪkyooləs/ *adj*  
**pedicure** /'pedɪkyooə/ n 1 one who practises chiropody 2 (a) treatment for the care of the feet and toenails [F *pedicure*, fr L *ped-*, *pes* foot + *curare* to take care, fr *cura* care – more at **CURE**]  
**'pedigree** /'pedɪgree/ n 1 a register recording a line of ancestors 2a an esp. distinguished ancestral line, a lineage b the origin and history of sthg 3 the recorded purity of breed of an individual or strain [ME *pedegru*, fr MF *pie de grue* crane's foot; fr the shape made by the lines of a genealogical chart] – **pedigreed** *adj*  
**'pedigree** *adj* of, being, or producing pedigree animals  
**pediment** /'pedɪmənt/ n the triangular gable of a 2-pitched roof in classic architecture [alter. of obs *periment*, prob. alter. of *pyramid*] – **pedimental** /-'mentl/ *adj*  
**pedipalp** /'pedɪpəlp/ n either of the second pair of appendages of an

- arachnid (e.g. a spider) that are near the mouth and are often modified for a special (e.g. sensory) function [NL *pedipalpus*, fr *ped-*, *pes* foot + *palpus*]
- pedlar**, *NAm chiefly peddler* /'pedlɑ/ *n* 1 one who travels about offering small wares for sale 2 one who deals in or promotes sthg intangible [ME *pedlere*, alter. of *peddere*, fr *ped* wicker basket] – **pedlary** *n*
- pedology** /pɪ'dɒləʒi/ *n* SOIL SCIENCE [Gk *pedon* earth + ISV *-logy*] – **pedologist** *n*, **pedologic** /'pedɒlə'jɒjɪk/, **pedological** *adj*
- pedometer** /pɪ'dɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument that records the distance a walker covers by responding to body motion at each step [F *pédomètre*, fr L *ped-*, *pes* foot + F *-mètre* -meter – more at **FOOT**]
- peduncle** /pɪ'dʌŋkl/ *n* 1 a stalk bearing a flower, flower cluster, or fruit 2 a narrow stalklike part by which some larger part of the whole body of an organism is attached [NL *pedunculus*, dim. of L *ped-*, *pes*] – **peduncled** *adj*, **peduncular** /-kyoolə/ *adj*, **pedunculate** /-lət-, -ləyt/, **pedunculated** *adj*
- 'pee** /pe:/ *vi* to urinate – euph [piss]
- pee** *n* 1 an act of urinating 2 urine **USE** euph
- pee** *n*, *pl* **pees** *Br* PENNY 1a(2) – infml [penny]
- peek** /peek/ *vi* 1 to look furtively – often + *in* or *out* 2 to take a brief look; glance [ME *piken*] – **peek** *n*
- 'peekaboo** /'peka.booh/ *n* a game for amusing a baby in which one repeatedly hides and comes back into view, typically exclaiming 'Peekaboo' [peek + 'boo]
- 'peekaboo** *adj* trimmed with eyelet embroidery <a ~ blouse>
- 'peel** /peel/ *vi* 1 to strip off an outer layer of <~ an orange> 2 to remove by stripping <~ the label off the can> – *vi* 1a to come off in sheets or scales b to lose an outer layer (e.g. of skin) <his face is ~ing> 2 to take off one's clothes – *usu* + *off*; infml <they ~ed off and dived into the water> [ME *peien*, fr MF *peler*, fr L *pilare* to remove the hair from, fr *pilus* hair – more at 'PILE] – **peeler** *n*
- peel** *n* the skin or rind of a fruit
- 'peel** also **pele** /peel/ *n* a small fortified tower built in the 16th c along the Scottish-English border [ME *pel* stockade, stake, fr AF, stockade & MF, stake, fr L *pilus* stake – more at 'POLL]
- 'peel** *n* a usu long-handled (baker's) shovel for getting bread, pie etc into or out of an oven [ME *pele*, fr MF, fr L *pala*]
- peeler** /'peela/ *n*, *archaic Br* a policeman [Sir Robert Peel †1850 E statesman who founded the Irish constabulary]
- peeling** /'peeling/ *n* a strip of skin, rind, etc that has been stripped off
- peel off** *vi* 1 to veer away from an aircraft formation, esp when diving or landing 2 to break away from a group or formation (e.g. of marchers or ships in a convoy)
- 'peen** /peen/ *vi* to draw, bend, or flatten (as if) by hammering with a peen
- peen**, **pein** /peen/ *n* a usu hemispherical or wedge-shaped end of the head of a hammer that is opposite the face and is used esp for bending, shaping, or cutting the material struck [prob of Scand origin, akin to Norw *penn* peen]
- 'peep** /peep/ *vi* 1 to utter a feeble shrill sound characteristic of a newly hatched bird, cheep 2 to utter a slight sound [ME *pepen*, of imit origin]
- 'peep** *n* 1 a cheep 2 a slight sound, esp spoken – infml <don't let me hear another ~ out of you>
- 'peep** *vi* 1 to look cautiously or slyly, esp through an aperture, peek 2 to begin to emerge (as if) from concealment, show slightly [ME *pepen*, perh alter. of *piken* to peek]
- 'peep** *n* 1 the first faint appearance <at the ~ of dawn> 2 a brief or furtive look; a glance
- peeper** /'peepə/ *n* 1 a voyeur 2 an eye – infml ['PEEP + '-ER]
- 'peep.hole** /-hohl/ *n* a hole or crevice to peep through
- Peeping Tom**, *peeping 'tom* *n*, *often not cap P* a voyeur [Peeping Tom, legendary 11th-c figure who peeped at Lady Godiva as she rode naked through Coventry]
- 'peep show** *n* an entertainment (e.g. a film) or object (e.g. a small painting) viewed through a small opening or a magnifying glass
- 'peep.sight** *n* a rear sight for a gun having an adjustable metal piece pierced with a small hole to peep through in aiming
- 'peer** /piə/ *n* 1 sby who is of equal standing with another 2 a duke, marquess, earl, viscount, or baron of the British peerage [ME, fr OF *per*, fr *per*, *adj*, equal, fr L *par*]
- 'peer** *adj* belonging to the same age, grade, or status group <a ~ group of adolescents>
- 'peer** *vi* to look narrowly or curiously; esp to look searchingly at sthg difficult to discern [peih by shortening & alter fr *appear*]
- peerage** /'piəri/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in constr the body of peers 2 the rank or dignity of a peer
- peeress** /'piəriəs/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of a peer 2 a woman having in her own right the rank of a peer
- 'peerless** /-lis/ *adj* matchless, incomparable – **peerlessly** *adv*, **peerlessness** *n*
- peeve** /peev/ *vt* to make peevish or resentful, annoy – infml [back-formation fr *peevish*]
- peevish** /'peevɪʃ/ *adj* querulous in temperament or mood, fretful [ME *pevish* spiteful] – **peevishly** *adv*, **peevishness** *n*
- peewit**, **pewit** /'peewɪt/ *n* a lapwing [imit]
- 'peg** /peg/ *n* 1 a small usu cylindrical pointed or tapered piece of wood, metal, or plastic used to pin down or fasten things or to fit into or close holes, a pin <they secured the guy ropes with tent ~s> 2a a projecting piece used to hold or support <he hung his hat on the ~ in the hall> b sthg (e.g. a fact or opinion) used as a support, pretext, or reason <the strike was simply a ~ for their prejudices> 3a any of the wooden pins set in the head of a stringed instrument and turned to regulate the pitch of the strings b a step or degree, esp in estimation – esp in *take sb down a peg (or two)* 4 *Br* a clothes peg 5 *Br* a drink, esp of spirits <poured himself out a stiff ~ ~ Dorothy Sayers> [ME *pegge*, prob fr MD] – **off the peg** mass-produced, READY-MADE 1 <men over 7 feet have difficulty in finding clothes off the peg to fit>
- 'peg** *vt* -gg- 1 to put a peg into 2 to pin down, restrict 3 to fix or hold (e.g. prices) at a predetermined level 4 *Br* to fasten (e.g. washing) to a clothesline with a clothes peg – often + *out*
- peg away** *vi*, *chiefly Br* to work hard and steadily – often + *at*
- 'peg.board** /-bɔ:d/ *n* a material pierced at regular intervals with holes into which hooks or pegs may be inserted for the storage or display of articles
- .peg 'leg** *n* (one who wears) an artificial leg
- pegmatite** /'pegmætɪt/ *n* (a formation resembling) a coarse variety of granite occurring as dykes or veins [F, fr Gk *pegmat-*, *pegma* sthg fastened together, fr *pegynai* to fasten together – more at **PACT**] – **pegmatitic** /-tɪtɪk/ *adj*
- peg out** *vi* 1 to finish a game in croquet by hitting the peg with the ball 2 *chiefly Br* DIE 1 – infml – *vt* to mark by pegs <peg out the boundaries of an estate>
- Pehlevi** /'peɪləvi/ *n* Pahlavi
- peignoir** /'peɪnwəh, -'ɔ:/ *n* a woman's loose negligee or dressing gown [F, lit. garment worn while combing the hair, fr MF, fr *peigner* to comb the hair, fr L *pectinare*, fr *pectin-*, *pecten* comb – more at **PECTINATE**]
- peir** /peɪn/ *n* a peen
- pejorative** /pə'jɔrətɪv, also 'peɪ(j)ərətɪv/ *adj* depreciatory, disparaging [LL *pejoratus*, pp of *pejorare* to make or become worse, fr L *pejor* worse; akin to L *pesimus* worst, Gk *pedon* ground – more at **PARALLELEPIPED**] – **pejorative** *n*, **pejoratively** *adv*
- peke** /peek/ *n*, *often cap* PEKINGESE 2 – infml [by shortening & alter]
- Pekingese**, **Pekinese** /'peki'neez, -'pe:/ *n*, *pl* **Pekingese**, **Pekinese** 1a a native or inhabitant of Peking b Mandarin 2 (any of) a Chinese breed of small short-legged dogs with a broad flat face and a long thick soft coat [Peking, Pekin, city in NE China]
- Peking man** /'pekiŋ/ *n* an extinct Pleistocene man known from skeletal and cultural remains at Choukoutien in China
- pekoe** /'pekoʊ/ *n* a black tea of superior quality [Chin (Amoy) *pek-ho*]
- pelage** /'peli/ *n* the hairy covering of a mammal [F, fr MF, fr *poil* hair, fr L *pilus* – more at 'PILE]
- Pelagian** /'peləʒi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (one) following Pelagius in denying original sin and thus holding that man's salvation depends on his own efforts rather than divine grace [Pelagius † ab 420 Br monk & theologian] – **Pelagianism** *n*
- pelagic** /'peləʒɪk/ *adj* of, occurring, or living (at or above moderate depths) in the open sea – compare **DEMERSAL** [L *pelagicus*, fr Gk *pelagikos*, fr *pelagos* sea – more at 'FLAKE]
- pelargonium** /'pelə'gɒniəm, -'ni-əm/ *n* any of a genus of plants (e.g. a garden geranium) of the geranium family with showy red, pink, or white flowers [NL, genus name, irreg fr Gk *pelargos* stork]
- Pelasgian** /'peləʒi-ən, -'gi-ən/ *n* a member of an ancient people inhabiting Greece and the E islands of the Mediterranean [Gk *pelasgiōs*, *adj*, Pelasgian, fr *Pelasgos* Pelasgians] – **Pelasgian** *adj*, **Pelagic** /-jɪk, -'gɪk/ *adj*



**pele** /peel/ *n* 'PEEL

**pelerine** /pelə'reɪn/ *n* a woman's long cape usu with ends hanging down in front [jobs F, neckerchief, fr F *pelerine*, fem of *pèlerin* pilgrim, fr LL *pelegrinus* – more at **PILGRIM**]

**pelf** /pelf/ *n* money, riches [ME, fr MF *peltrie* booty]

**pelican** /pelɪkən/ *n* any of a genus of large web-footed birds with a very large bill containing a pouch in which fish are kept [ME, fr OE *pellican*, fr LL *pelecanus*, fr Gk *pelēkan*]

**pelican crossing** *n* a crossing in the UK at which the movement of vehicles and pedestrians is controlled by pedestrian-operated traffic lights [irreg fr *pedestrian light controlled crossing*]

**pelisse** /peles/ *n* 1 a long cloak or coat made, lined, or trimmed with fur; esp one that is part of a hussar's uniform 2 a woman's loose cloak with wide collar and fur trimming [F, fr LL *pellicia*, fr fem of *pellicius* made of skin, fr L *pellis* skin]

**pellagra** /pə'laɪgrə, -'la-/ *n* dermatitis and nervous symptoms associated with a deficiency of nicotinic acid and protein in the diet [It, fr *pelle* skin (fr L *pellis*) + *-agra* (as in *podagra*, fr L)] – **pellagrous** *adj*

**pellet** /pelɪt/ *n* 1 a usu small rounded or spherical body (e.g. of food or medicine) 2 a piece of small shot [ME *pelote*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *pilota*, dim. of L *pila* ball – more at 'PILE] – **pelletal** *adj*, **pelletize** *vt*  
**pellicle** /pelɪkl/ *n* a thin skin or film [MF *pellicule*, fr ML *pellicula*, fr L, dim. of *pellis*]

**pellitory** /pelɪt(ə)ri/, **pellitory-of-Spain** *n* a composite plant resembling yarrow [ME *peletre*, fr MF *piretre*, fr L *pyrethrum*]

**pellitory, pellitory-of-the-wall** *n* any of a genus of plants of the nettle family with inconspicuous flowers, *specif* one that grows in cracks in walls and rocks [ME *pantorie*, fr MF *paritaire*, fr LL *parietaria*, fr fem of *parietarius* of a wall, fr L *pariet-*, *paries* wall]

**pell-mell** /pel'mel/ *adv* 1 in confusion or disorder 2 in confused haste [MF *pelemele*, fr OF *pesle mesle*, redupl of *mesle*-, stem of *mesler* to mix, mingle] – **pell-mell** *adj* or *n*

**pellucid** /pɪ'lyʊəsɪd/ *adj* 1 transparent 2 easy to understand *USE* fml or poetic [L *pellucidus*, fr *per* through + *lucidus* lucid – more at **FOR**] – **pellucidly** *adv*, **pellucidity** /-'sɪdɪti/ *n*

**pelmet** /pelmt/ *n*, chiefly Br a length of board or fabric placed above a window to conceal curtain fixtures [prob modif of F *palmette* palm-leaf design, fr *palme* palm, fr L *palma*]


**pelorus** /pə'lawrəs/ *n* a navigational instrument having 2 sight vanes mounted on a rotatable ring by which bearings are taken [origin unknown]

**pelota** /pə'tɒlə/ *n* any of various Spanish or Latin-American court games, *specif* JAI ALAI [Sp, fr OF *pelote* little ball – more at **PELLET**]

**pelt** /pelt/ *n* 1 a usu undressed skin with its hair, wool, or fur 2 a skin stripped of hair or wool before tanning [ME]


**pelt** *vt* 1 to strike with a succession of blows or missiles <~ed him with stones> 2 to hurl, throw 3 to beat or dash repeatedly against <rain ~ing the windows> ~ *vi* 1 of rain to fall heavily and continuously 2 to move rapidly and vigorously, hurry <the children ~ed down the road> [ME *pelten*]

**pelt** *n* – at full pelt as fast as possible

**peltate** /peltayt/ *adj* shaped like a shield; *specif*, of a leaf having the stem or support attached to the lower surface instead of at the base or margin  **PLANT** [prob fr (assumed) NL *peltatus*, fr L *pelta* small shield, fr Gk *pelte*]

**peltry** /peltri/ *n* pelts [ME, fr AF *peltrie*]

**pelvic girdle** /pelvɪk/ *n* the bony or cartilaginous arch that supports the hind limbs of a vertebrate

**pelvis** /pelvɪs/ *n*, pl *pelvices*, *pelves* /-veez/ 1 (the cavity of) a basin-shaped structure in the skeleton of many vertebrates that is formed by the pelvic girdle and adjoining bones of the spine  **ANATOMY** 2 the funnel-shaped cavity of the kidney into which urine is discharged [NL, fr L, basin; akin to OE & ON *full* cup, Gk *pella* wooden bowl] – **pelvic** *adj*

**Pembroke table** /pembrohk-, -brook/ *n* a small 4-legged table with a drawer and drop leaves [Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, county of Wales]

**pemmican** also **pemican** /pemɪkən/ *n* a concentrated food of lean dried pounded meat mixed with melted fat traditionally made by N American Indians; also a similar preparation usu of beef and dried fruits used for emergency rations [Cree *pimikān*]

**pemphigus** /pemfɪgəs, pem'fiegəs/ *n* a disease characterized by large blisters on the skin and mucous membranes often accompanied by itching [NL, fr Gk *pemphig-*, *pemphix* breath, pustule]

**pen** /pen/ *n* 1 a small enclosure for animals 2 a small place of

confinement or storage 3 a (heavily fortified) dock or slip for a submarine [ME, fr OE *penn*]

**pen** *vt* -nn- to shut in a pen

**pen** *n* 1 an implement for writing or drawing with fluid (e.g. ink): e.g. a quill b a penholder fitted with a nib c **FOUNTAIN PEN** d a ballpoint 2a a writing instrument as a means of expression <the ~ is mightier than the sword> b a writer – fml [ME *pennē*, fr MF, feather, pen, fr L *penna*, pinna feather, akin to Gk *pteron* wing – more at **FEATHER**]


**pen** *vt* -nn- to write – fml (< a letter)

**pen** *n* a female swan [origin unknown]

**penal** /penl/ *adj* 1 of punishment 2 liable to punishment <a ~ offence> 3 used as a place of punishment <a ~ colony> [ME, fr MF, fr L *poenalis*, fr *poena* punishment – more at **PAIN**] – **penally** *adv*

**penalize, -ise** /penl-izez/ *vt* 1 to inflict a penalty on 2 to put at a serious disadvantage – **penalization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*


**penalty** /pen(ə)lti/ *n* 1 a punishment legally imposed or incurred 2 a forfeiture to which a person agrees to be subject if conditions are not fulfilled 3a disadvantage, loss, or suffering due to some action <paid the ~ for his heavy drinking> b a disadvantage imposed for violation of the rules of a sport 4 **PENALTY KICK** [ML *poenaltas*, fr L *poenalis*]

**penalty area** *n* a rectangular area 44yd (about 40m) wide and 18yd (about 16m) deep in front of each goal on a soccer pitch  **SPORT**

**penalty box** *n* 1 **PENALTY AREA** 2 an area alongside an ice hockey rink to which penalized players are confined

**penalty kick** *n* 1 a free kick in rugby 2 a free kick at the goal in soccer awarded for a serious offence committed in the penalty area and taken from a point 12yd (about 11m) in front of the goal with only the goalkeeper to defend it

**penalty shot** *n* a shot at the goal awarded to a team for serious offences (e.g. in ice hockey)

**penalty spot** *n* a spot 11m (12yd) in front of the goal on a soccer pitch, from which penalty kicks are taken  **SPORT**

**penance** /penəns/ *n* an act of self-abasement or devotion performed to show repentance for sin, also a sacramental rite of the Roman, Orthodox, and some Anglican churches involving confession and a penance directed by the confessor [ME, fr OF, fr ML *poenitentia* penitence]

**penannular** /pen'anyoola/ *adj* ring-shaped with a small break in the circumference [L *paene*, *pene* almost + E *annular*]

**Penates** /pə'naɪtez, -'nay-/ *n pl* the Roman gods of the household [L – more at **PENETRATE**]

**pence** /pens/ *pl* of **PENNY**

**penchant** /penchant, 'pɒn(h)shɒh (Fr pɑ̃ʃɑ̃)/ *n* a strong leaning, a liking [F, fr prp of *pencher* to incline, fr (assumed) VL *pendicare*, fr L *pendere* to weigh]

**pencil** /pensl/ *n* 1a an implement for writing, drawing, or marking consisting of or containing a slender cylinder or strip of a solid marking substance (e.g. graphite) b a small medicated or cosmetic roll or stick for local applications 2 a set of light rays, esp when diverging from or converging to a point 3 sthg long and thin like a pencil [ME *pensel* paintbrush, fr MF *pincel*, fr (assumed) VL *penicellus*, fr L *penicillus*, lit., little tail, fr dim. of *penis* tail, penis]

**pencil** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /pensl-ɪŋ/ to draw, write, or mark with a pencil – **penciller** *n*

**pendant** also **pendent** /pend(ə)nt/ *n* 1 sthg suspended (e.g. an ornament allowed to hang free) 2 a companion piece or supplement 3 chiefly Br a pennant [ME *pendaunt*, fr MF *pendant*, fr prp of *pendre* to hang, fr (assumed) VL *pendere*, fr L *pendere*; akin to L *pendere* to weigh, estimate, pay, *pondus* weight – more at **SPAN**]

**pendent, pendant** /pend(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 suspended 2 jutting or leaning over; overhanging <a ~ cliff> 3 remaining undetermined; pending [ME *pendaunt*]

**pending** /pendɪŋ/ *prep* until – fml [F *pendant*, fr prp of *pendre*]

**pending** *adj* 1 not yet decided or dealt with 2 imminent, impending – **pendency** *n* /pend(ə)nsi/

**pendulous** /pendyooləs/ *adj* suspended, inclined, or hanging downwards <~ jowls> [L *pendulus*, fr *pendere* to weigh] – **pendulously** *adv*

**pendulum** /pendyooləm/ *n* a body suspended from a fixed point so as to swing freely periodically under the action of gravity and commonly used to regulate movements (e.g. of clockwork) [NL, fr L, neut of *pendulus*]

**penplain** also **peneplane** /peeniplayn, -'ni-/ *n* a large almost flat land surface shaped by erosion [L *paene*, *pene* almost + E *plain* or *plane* – more at **PATIENT**]

**penetralia** /penɪ'treɪliə-, -lyə/ *n pl* the innermost or most secret and



hidden parts of a place or thing [L, neut pl of *penetralis* inner, fr *penetrare* to penetrate]

**penetrate** /'penɪtrayt/ *vt* 1a to pass into or through b to enter, esp by overcoming resistance; pierce 2 to see into or through, discern 3 to diffuse through or into ~ *vi* to be absorbed by the mind, be understood <I heard what he said, but it didn't ~> [L *penetratus*, pp of *penetrare*; akin to L *penitus* inward, *Penates* household gods, Lith *penėti* to nourish] – **penetrable** /-trəbl/ *adj*, **penetrability** /-trə'biləti/ *n*, **penetrative** /-trə'tiv/ *adj*

**penetrating** /'penɪtraytɪŋ/ *adj* 1 having the power of entering, piercing, or pervading <a ~ shriek> <the cold is ~> 2 acute, discerning <~ insights into life> – **penetratingly** *adv*

**penetration** /'penɪtrəʃən/ *n* 1a the entering of a country so that influence is established b the process of successfully introducing or increasing sales of a product in an existing market 2a the depth to which sthg penetrates b the ability to discern deeply and acutely <a critic gifted with great powers of ~> [PENETRATE + -ION]

**penetrometer** /'penɪtrəmitə/ *n* an instrument for measuring firmness or consistency [L *penetrare* + ISV -meter]

**pen-friend** *n* a person, esp one in another country, with whom a friendship is made through correspondence

**penguin** /'pɛŋɡwɪn/ *n* any of various erect short-legged flightless aquatic birds of the southern hemisphere [perh fr W *pen gwyn* white head]

**pen-holder** /-,hohldə/ *n* 1 a holder or handle for a pen nib 2 a method of gripping a table-tennis bat in which the handle is held like a pen with the blade downwards


**penicillate** /'penɪsɪlət-,ləyt/ *adj* having a tuft of fine filaments <a ~ stigma> [prob fr 'assumed] NL *penicillatus*, fr L *penicillus* brush – more at **PENCIL**]

**penicillin** /'penɪsɪlɪn/ *n* (a salt, ester, or mixture of salts and esters of) any of several antibiotics or antibacterial drugs orig obtained from moulds, that act by interfering with the synthesis of bacterial cell walls and are active against a wide range of bacteria [NL *Penicillium*, genus name of fungi, fr L *penicillus*]

**penile** /'peɪniəl/ *adj* of or affecting the penis

**peninsula** /'pɛnɪnsyoʊlə/ *n* a piece of land jutting out into or almost surrounded by water, esp one connected to the mainland by an isthmus [L *paeninsula*, fr *paene* almost + *insula* island – more at **PATIENT**]

**peninsular** /'pɛnɪnsyoʊlə/ *adj* of a peninsula, *specif*, often cap of Spain and Portugal

**penis** /'penɪs/ *n*, *pl penes* /-neɪz/, **penises** the male organ of copulation by which semen is introduced into the female during coitus  REPRODUCTION [L, penis, tail, akin to OHG *faselt* penis, Gk *peos*]

**penis envy** *n* the unconscious desire to be a male that in psychoanalytic theory is attributed to the female

**penitent** /'penɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* feeling or expressing sorrow for sins or offences [ME, fr MF, fr L *paenitent*, *paenitens*, fr prp of *paenitere* to be sorry; akin to L *paene* almost – more at **PATIENT**] – **penitence** *n*, **penitently** *adv*

**penitent** *n* 1 sby who repents of sin 2 sby under church censure but admitted to penance, esp under the direction of a confessor

**penitential** /'penɪtəns(ə)l/ *adj* of penitence or penance – **penitentially** *adv*

**penitentiary** /'penɪtəns(ə)ri/ *n* a prison in the USA [ME *penitentiary* officer dealing with penitents, fr ML *poenitentarius*, fr *poenitentia*]

**penitentiary** *adj*, *NAm* of or incurring confinement in a penitentiary


**penknife** /'pen,nɪf/ *n* a small pocketknife [fr its original use for mending quill pens]

**penman** /-mən/ *n* sby with a specified quality or style of handwriting <a poor ~>

**penmanship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* 1 the art or practice of writing with the pen 2 quality or style of handwriting

**pen name** *n* an author's pseudonym

**pennant** /'penənt/ *n* 1 any of various nautical flags used for identification or signalling 2 a flag that tapers to a point or has a swallowtail [alter of *pendant*]


**penni** /'peni/ *n*, *pl pennia* /-ni-ə/, **pennia**  Finland at NATIONALITY [Finn]

**penniless** /'penɪlɪs/ *adj* lacking money; poor

**pennon** /'penən/ *n* a long usu triangular or swallow-tailed streamer typically attached to the head of a lance as a knight's personal flag [ME, fr MF *penon*, aug of *penne* feather – more at 'PEN]

**Pennsylvania** 'Dutch /'pens(ə)'vaɪnyə-, -ni-ə/ *n* a people descended

from 18th-c German immigrants to E Pennsylvania [*Pennsylvania*, state of the USA] – **Pennsylvania Dutchman** *n*

**penny** /'peni/ *n*, *pl pennies*, **pence** /'pens/, (3) **pennies** 1a (a usu bronze coin representing) (1) a former British money unit worth £1/100 (2) a British money unit in use since 1971 that is worth £1/100 b  Irish Republic, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands at NATIONALITY 2 a denarius 3 *NAm* a cent [ME, fr OE *penning*, *penig*; akin to OHG *pfennig*, a coin] – the penny drops the true meaning finally dawns


**-penny** /-p(ə)ni, -sɪns/ *since decimalization also* -peni/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) costing (so many) pence <ninepenny>

**penny dreadful** *n* a novel of violent adventure or crime orig costing a penny

**penny-farthing** *n*, *Br* an early type of bicycle having 1 small and 1 large wheel [fr the relative sizes of the old penny and farthing coins]

**penny-pinching** *adj* mean, niggardly, stingy – **penny pincher** *n*, **penny-pinching** *n*

**pennyroyal** /-'royəl/ *n* 1 a European mint with small aromatic leaves 2 an aromatic American plant of the mint family [prob by folk etymology fr MF *pouilleul*, modif of L *pulegium*]

**pennyweight** /-,weɪt/ *n* a unit of troy weight equal to 24oz (about 1.56g)  UNIT

**penny-wise** *adj* prudent only in dealing with small sums or matters – esp in *penny-wise* and *pound-foolish*

**pennywort** /-'wuɪt/ *n* any of various round-leaved plants

**pennyworth** /'penəθ, 'penɪwəθ, -,wuhθ/ *n*, *pl pennyworth*, **peanny-worths** 1 a penny's worth 2 value for the money spent, a bargain <got a good ~> 3 a small quantity, a modicum

**penology** /'peɪnəloʒi/ *n* criminology dealing with prison management and the treatment of offenders [Gk *poine* penalty + E -logy – more at **PAIN**] – **penologist** *n*, **penological** /'peɪnə'lojɪkəl/ *adj*

**pen pal** *n* a pen-friend – *infrm*

**pen pusher** *n* one whose work involves usu boring or repetitive writing at a desk, *specif* CLERK 2a

**penile** /'pensəl/ *adj* pendent, hanging <the ~ nests of some birds> [L *penilis*, fr *penis*, pp of *pendere* to hang]

**pension** /'pensh(ə)n, -sɛnz/ *sense* 2 'ponshyɒn (Fr pɔ̃sjɔ̃)/ *n* 1 a fixed sum paid regularly to a person (e.g. following retirement or as compensation for a wage-earner's death) <a widow's ~> 2 (bed and board provided by) a hotel or boardinghouse, esp in continental Europe [ME, fr MF, fr L *pensio*-, *pensio*, fr *penis*, pp of *pendere* to pay – more at **PENDANT**] – **pensionless** *adj*

**pension** /'pensh(ə)n/ *vt* to grant or pay a pension to

**pensionable** /'pensh(ə)nəbl/ *adj* (that makes sby) entitled to receive a pension ~ *employment* <a ~ employee>

**pensioner** /'pensh(ə)nə/ *n* one who receives or lives on an esp old-age pension

**pension off** *vt* 1 to dismiss or retire from service with a pension <pensioned off his faithful old servant> 2 to set aside or dispense with after long use – *infrm* <pensioned off his old trousers>


**pensive** /'pensɪv/ *adj* sadly or dreamily thoughtful [ME *pensif*, fr MF, fr *penser* to think, fr L *pensare* to ponder, fr *penis*, pp of *pendere* to weigh – more at **PENDANT**] – **pensively** *adv*, **pensiveness** *n*

**penstock** /'pen,stɒk/ *n* 1 a valve, sluice, or gate for regulating a flow (e.g. of water) 2 chiefly *NAm* a conduit or pipe for conducting water [pen + stock]

**penta-**, **pent-** *comb form* 1 five <pentahedron> <pentavalent> <pentode> 2 containing 5 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure <pentahydrate> [ME, fr Gk, fr *pente* – more at **FIVE**]

**pentacle** /'pentəkl/ *n* a pentagram [(assumed) ML *pentaculum*, fr Gk *pente*]

**pentad** /'pentəd/ *n* a group or series of 5 [Gk *pentad*-, *pentas*, fr *pente*]

**pentagon** /'pentəɡən, -ɡɒn/ *n* a polygon of 5 angles and 5 sides  MATHEMATICS [Gk *pentagōnon*, fr neut of *pentagōnos* pentagonal, fr *penta-* + *gōnia* angle – more at -GON] – **pentagonal** /'pen'təɡənəl/ *adj*, **pentagonally** *adv*

**Pentagon** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the US military establishment [the Pentagon building, headquarters of the US Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia]

**pentagram** /'pentəɡrəm/ *n* a 5-pointed star used as a magical symbol [Gk *pentagrammon*, fr *penta-* + -grammon (akin to *gramma* letter) – more at 'GRAM]

**pentamerous** /'pentəməɹəs/ *adj* divided into or consisting of 5 parts; *specif*, of a flower having each whorl of petals, sepals, stamens, etc

- consisting of (a multiple of) 5 members [NL *pentamerus*, fr *penta-* (fr Gk) + *-merus* *-merous*]
- pentameter** /pen'tamita/ *n* a line of verse consisting of 5 metrical feet [L, fr Gk *pentamētros* having 5 metrical feet, fr *penta-* + *metron* measure – more at MEASURE]
- pentane** /pentayn/ *n* a liquid hydrocarbon of the alkane series obtained from petroleum [ISV]
- pentangle** /pen.tangl/ *n* a pentagram
- pentaprism** *n* a 5-sided prism, esp in a camera, which gives a constant deviation of 90° to light from any direction
- Pentateuch** /penta.tyoohk/ *n* the first 5 books of the Old Testament [LL *Pentateuchus*, fr Gk *Pentateuchos*, fr *penta-* + *teuchos* tool, vessel, book; akin to Gk *teuchēin* to make – more at DOUGHTY] – **pentateuchal** /-tyoohkl/ *adj*
- pentathlete** /pen'tathleet/ *n* sby who competes in the pentathlon
- pentathlon** /pen'tathlon/ *n* 1 a (women's) athletic contest in which all contestants compete in the 100m hurdles, shot put, high jump, long jump, and 200m sprint 2 MODERN PENTATHLON [Gk, athletic contest involving 5 events, fr *penta-* + *athlon* contest]
- pentatonic** /penta'tonik/ *adj* of, in, or being a musical scale consisting of 5 tones (< a ~ tune)
- Pentecost** /pentikost/ *n* (a Christian festival on the 7th Sunday after Easter commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at) the Jewish festival of Shabuoth [ME, fr OE *pentecosten*, fr LL *pentecoste*, fr Gk *pentēkostē*, lit., fiftieth day, fr *pentekostos* fiftieth, fr *pentekonta* fifty, fr *penta-* + *-konta* (akin to L *viginti* twenty) – more at VIGESIMAL]
- Pentecostal** /-tl/ *adj* of or being (a member of) any of various fundamentalist evangelical Christian bodies laying particular emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit (e.g. speaking in tongues and healing) – **Pentecostalism** *n*, **Pentecostalist** *n*
- penthouse** /pent.hows/ *n* 1 a structure (e.g. a shed or roof) attached to and sloping from a wall or building 2 a structure or dwelling built on the roof of a (tall) building (< a ~ flat) [by folk etymology fr ME *pentis*, fr MF *appentis*, prob fr ML *appenticium* appendage, fr L *appendic-*, *appen:*ix – more at APPENDIX]
- pentimento** /pent'i'mento/ *n*, *pl* **pentimenti** /-ti/ a reappearance in a painting of underlying work which has been painted over [It, repentance, correction, fr *pentire* to repent, fr L *paenitere*]
- pentobarbitone** /penta'babbito/ *n*, *Br* a barbiturate used, esp formerly, in sleeping pills and as an anticonvulsant [*penta-* + *-o-* + *barbitone* (barbital)]
- pentose** /pentohs, -tohz/ *n* any of various monosaccharide sugars (e.g. ribose) that contain 5 carbon atoms in the molecule [ISV]
- Pentothal** /penta.thol/ *trademark* – used for thiopentone
- pentstemon** /pent'steemən, -stēmən/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly American plants of the figwort family with showy blue, purple, red, yellow, or white flowers [NL *pentstemon*, alter. of *Penstemon*, genus name, fr Gk *penta-* + *stemon* thread – more at STAMEN]
- pent-up** /pent/ *adj* confined, held in check (< ~ emotions) [*pent*, pp of obs *pend* (to confine), prob alter. of *'pen*]
- penult** /pi'nult, pe-/ *n* the next to the last (syllable of a word) [L *paenultima*, fr fem of *paenultimus* almost last, fr *paene* almost + *ultimus* last]
- penultimate** /pi'nultimat, pe-/ *adj* next to the last (< the ~ chapter of a book) – **penultimately** *adv*
- penultimate** *n* a penult
- penumbra** /pi'numbra/ *n*, *pl* **penumbras** /-bri/, **penumbras** 1 a region of partial darkness (e.g. in an eclipse) in a shadow surrounding the umbra 2 a less dark region surrounding the dark centre of a sunspot [NL, fr L *paene* almost + *umbra* shadow – more at PATIENT, UMBRAGE] – **penumbral** *adj*
- penurious** /pi'nyoori:əs/ *adj* marked by or suffering from penury – *fml* – **penuriously** *adv*, **penuriousness** *n*
- penury** /penyoor/ *n* a cramping and oppressive lack of resources, esp money; esp severe poverty – *fml* [ME, fr L *penuria* want – more at PATIENT]
- peon** /pee-on/ *n*, *pl* **peons**, **peones** /pay'ohneez/, (3) **peons** 1 an Indian or Sri Lankan infantryman, orderly, or other worker 2 an agricultural labourer in Spanish America 3 a drudge, menial [Pg *peão* & F *pion*, fr ML *pedon*, *pedo* foot soldier – more at PAWN]
- peonage** /pee-onij/ *n* 1 the condition of a peon 2 the use of labourers bound in servitude because of debt or under a convict lease system
- peony**, **peony** /pee-oni/ *n* any of a genus of plants with very large usu double showy red, pink, or white flowers [ME *piony*, fr MF *pionie*, fr L
- paconia*, fr Gk *paionia*, fr *Paion* Paeon, mythical physician of the gods]
- people** /'peep/ *n* *pl* in constr. (5) *sing* or *pl* in constr. 1 human beings in general 2 a group of persons considered collectively (< poor ~ >) 3 the members of a family or kinship (< his ~ have been farmers for generations >) 4 the mass of a community (< disputes between the ~ and the nobles >) 5 a body of persons that are united by a common culture and that often constitute a politically organized group (< the Jewish ~ >) 6 the citizens of a state who are qualified to vote [ME *peple*, fr OF *peuple*, fr L *populus*] – of all people – used to show surprise (< the Archbishop of all people said that? >)
- people** *vt* 1 to supply or fill with people 2 to dwell in; inhabit [MF *peupler*, fr OF, fr *peuple*]
- pep** /pep/ *vt* or *n* **-pp-** (to liven up or instil with) brisk energy or initiative and high spirits [in short for *pepper*; vb fr *n*] – **peppy** *adj*, **peppiness** *n*
- peplos** also **peplus** /'peplos/ *n* a robe or shawl worn by women of ancient Greece [L *peplus*, fr Gk *peplos*]
- peplum** /'pepləm/ *n* a short skirt or flounce attached to the waistline of a blouse, jacket, or dress [L, fr Gk *peplos*]
- pepo** /'pepoh/ *n*, *pl* **pepos** a fleshy many-seeded berry (e.g. a pumpkin, melon, or cucumber) with a hard rind [L, a melon – more at PUMPKIN]
- pepper** /'pepə/ *n* 1a(1) BLACK PEPPER (2) WHITE PEPPER **b** any of a genus of tropical mostly climbing shrubs with aromatic leaves, esp one with red berries from which black pepper and white pepper are prepared 2 any of various products similar to pepper, esp a pungent condiment obtained from capscums – used with a qualifying term (< cayenne ~ >) 3 (the usu red or green fruit of) a capsicum whose fruits are hot peppers or sweet peppers [ME *peper*, fr OE *pipor*; akin to OHG *pfēffar* pepper, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr L *piper* pepper, fr Gk *peperi*] – **pepper** *adj*
- pepper** *vt* 1a to sprinkle, season, or cover (as if) with pepper **b** to shower with shot or other missiles 2 to sprinkle (< ed his report with statistics >)
- pepper-and-salt** *adj*, of a fabric or garment having black and white or dark and light colour intermingled in small flecks
- pepper, corn** /-kawn/ *n* a dried berry of the pepper plant
- peppercorn**, **rent** *n* a very small amount of money paid as a nominal rent
- pepper, mint** /-mint/ *n* 1 (an aromatic essential oil obtained from) a mint with dark green tapering leaves and whorls of small pink flowers 2 a sweet flavoured with peppermint oil – **pepperminty** *adj*
- pepper, pot** *n*, *Br* a small usu cylindrical container with a perforated top used for sprinkling ground pepper on food
- peppery** /'pepəri/ *adj* 1 hot, pungent 2 hot-tempered, touchy (< a ~ old man >) 3 fiery, stinging (< a ~ speech >) ['PEPPER + '-y]
- pep, pill** *n* a tablet of a stimulant drug
- pepsin** /'pepsin/ *n* an enzyme of the stomach that breaks down most proteins in an acid environment [G, fr Gk *pepsis* digestion, fr *pessein*]
- pep, talk** *n* a usu brief, high-pressure, and emotional talk designed esp to encourage an audience (e.g. a sports team)
- peptic** /'peptik/ *adj* 1 of or promoting digestion 2 connected with or resulting from the action of digestive juices (< a ~ ulcer >) [L *pepticus*, fr Gk *peptikos*, fr *peptos* cooked, fr *peptein*, *pessein* to cook, digest – more at COOK]
- peptide** /'peptid/ *n* a short chain of 2 or more amino acids joined by peptide bonds [ISV, fr *peptone*] – **peptidic** /-'tidik/ *adj*
- peptide bond** *n* the chemical bond between the carbon of one amino acid and the nitrogen of another that links amino acids in peptides and proteins
- peptone** /'peptohn/ *n* any of various water-soluble products of protein breakdown [G *pepton*, fr Gk, neut of *peptos*] – **peptonize** /'peptoniez/ *vt*
- per** /pə, strong puh/ *prep* 1 by the means or agency of; through (< send it ~ rail >) 2 with respect to every; for each (< £30 ~ head ~ week >) 3 ACCORDING TO 1 (< ~ list price >) [L, through, by means of, by – more at FOR]
- per-** *prefix* 1a through, throughout (< perambulate >) (< pervade >) **b** thoroughly; very (< perfervid >) (< perfect >) 2 to the bad; to destruction (< perjure >) (< perdition >) 3 containing an atom in a high oxidation state in its molecular structure (< perchloric acid >) (< perchlorate >) [L, through, throughout, thoroughly, to destruction, fr *per*]
- peradventure** /pə-rəd'venchə, -puh/ *adv*, *archaic* perhaps, possibly [ME *per aventure*, fr OF, by chance]
- perambulate** /pə'rambyooley/ *vt* to travel over or through on foot;

traverse ~ *vi* to stroll *USE* fml [L *perambulator*, pp of *perambulare*, fr *per-* through + *ambulare* to walk] - *perambulation* /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*, *perambulatory* /-'læt(ə)n/ *adj*

**perambulator** /pə'rambyoolaytə/ *n*, chiefly Br a pram [PERAMBULATE + '-OR]

**per annum** /pə'ænəm/ *adv* in or for each year [ML]

**percale** /pə'kayl, pə'kahl, -puh-/ *n* a closely woven cotton cloth variously finished for clothing, sheeting, and industrial uses [Per *pargalah*]

**percaline** /'puhkəlin, -puhkə'leen/ *n* a lightweight cotton fabric; esp a glossy fabric used for bookbindings [F, fr *percale*]

**per capita** /'kapitə/ *adv* or *adj* per unit of population, by or for each person <the highest income ~ of any European country> [ML, by heads]

**perceive** /pə'seɪv/ *vi* 1 to understand, realize 2 to become aware of through the senses, esp to see, observe [ME *perceiven*, fr OF *perceivre*, fr L *percipere*, fr *per-* thoroughly + *capere* to take - more at *PER-*, *HEAVE*] - *perceivable* *adj*, *perceivably* *adv*, *perceiver* *n*

**per cent** /pə'sent/ *adv* in or for each 100 <50 ~ of our workers are married> [per + L *centum* hundred - more at *HUNDRED*]

**per cent n, pl per cent** 1 one part in a 100 <gave half a ~ of her income to charity> *SYMBOL* 2 a percentage <a large ~ of the total>

**per cent adj** 1 reckoned on the basis of a whole divided into 100 parts <a 10 ~ increase> 2 of bonds, securities, etc paying interest at a specified per cent

**percentage** /pə'sentʃi/ *n* 1 a proportion (expressed as per cent of a whole) <what ~ of the population own their own houses?> <the ~ of car owners has increased to 50> 2 a share of winnings or profits <they did him out of his ~> 3 an advantage, profit - *infrm*

**percentile** /pə'sentɪəl/ *n* a statistical measure (e.g. used in educational and psychological testing) that expresses a value as a percentage of all the values that are lower than or equal to it *STATISTICS* [prob fr *per cent* + *-ile* (as in *quartile*, *n*)]

**per cents** *n pl*, Br stocks that bear a specified rate of interest <took out some 10 ~>

**per centum** /'sentəm/ *n* *PER CENT*

**percept** /pə'hsept/ *n* a mental impression of a perceived object [back-formation fr *perception*]

**perceptible** /pə'septəbl/ *adj* capable of being perceived, esp by the senses <a ~ change in her tone> <the light became increasingly ~> - *perceptibly* *adv*, *perceptibility* /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**perception** /pə'sepʃən/ *n* 1a a result of perceiving, an observation b a mental image, a concept 2 the mental interpretation of physical sensations produced by stimuli from the external world 3 intuitive discernment, insight, understanding <has little ~ of what is required> [L *perceptionem*, *perceptio* act of perceiving, fr *perceptus*, pp of *percipere*] - *perceptual* *adj*, *perceptual* /-tʃooəl/ *adj*

**perceptive** /pə'septɪv/ *adj* 1 capable of or exhibiting (keen) perception; observant, discerning <a ~ scholar> 2 characterized by sympathetic understanding or insight - *perceptively* *adv*, *perceptiveness* *n*, *perceptivity* /-'tɪvəti/ *n*

**perch** /pu:h/ *n* 1 a roost for a bird 2 chiefly Br *ROD* 2 *UNIT* 3a a resting place or vantage point, a seat b a prominent position <his new ~ as president> *USE* (3) *infrm* [ME *perche*, fr OF, fr L *pertica* pole]

**perch** *vi* to place on a perch, height, or precarious spot ~ *vi* to alight, settle, or rest, esp briefly or precariously

**perch n, pl perches**, esp collectively *perch* a small European freshwater spiny-finned fish [ME *perche*, fr MF, fr L *perca*, fr Gk *perke*; akin to OHG *faro* coloured, L *porcus*, a spiny fish]

**perchance** /pə'chahns/ *adv* perhaps, possibly - usu poetic or humor [ME *per chance*, fr MF, by chance]

**Percheron** /'pu:hʃərən/ *n* any of a breed of powerful rugged draught horses that originated in the Perche region of France [F, fr *Perche*, region of N France]

**percipient** /pə'sɪpi-ənt/ *adj* perceptive, discerning - *fml* [L *percipient-*, *percipiens*, prp of *percipere* to perceive] - *percipient* *n*

**percolate** /'pu:hkeləɪt/ *vi* 1a to cause (esp a liquid) to pass through a permeable substance, esp for extracting a soluble constituent b to prepare (coffee) in a percolator 2 to be diffused through; permeate ~ *vi* 1 to ooze or filter through a permeable substance; seep 2 to become percolated 3 to become diffused <sunlight ~ d into the room> [L *percolatus*, pp of *percolare*, fr *per-* through + *colare* to sieve - more at *PER-*, *COLANDER*] - *percolation* /-'ləɪʃən/ *n*

**percolator** /'pu:hkeləɪtə/ *n* a coffee pot in which boiling water rising through a tube is repeatedly deflected downwards through a perforated basket containing ground coffee beans [PERCOLATE + '-OR]

**per contra** /'kɒntrə/ *adv* ON THE CONTRARY [It, by the opposite side (of the ledger)]

**percuss** /pə'kus/ *vi* to perform percussion on (esp a body surface) [L *percussus*]

**percussion** /pə'kʊʃən/ *n* 1a the beating or striking of a musical instrument b the tapping of the surface of a body part (e.g. the chest) to learn the condition of the parts beneath (e.g. the lungs) by the resultant sound 2 the striking of sound on the ear 3 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* percussion instruments that form a section of a band or orchestra [L *percussion-*, *percussio*, fr *percussus*, pp of *percute* to beat, fr *per-* thoroughly + *quātere* to shake - more at *PER-*, *QUASH*] - *percussion* *adj*, *percussive* /-'sɪv/ *adj*

**percussion** *cap* *n* CAP 6

**percussion instrument** *n* a musical instrument (e.g. a drum or xylophone) sounded by striking, shaking, or scraping

**percussionist** /pə'kʊʃ(ə)nɪst/ *n* one who plays percussion instruments

**percutaneous** /'pu:hkyoo'taynyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* done or performed through the skin - *percutaneously* *adv*

**per diem** /'deɪ-em, 'di-ɛm/ *adj* or *adv* (paid) by the day or for each day [ML]

**per diem n, pl per diems** a daily allowance or fee

**perdition** /pə'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* eternal damnation; Hell [ME *perdicion*, fr LL *perdition-*, *perditio*, fr L *perditus*, pp of *perdere* to destroy, fr *per-* to destruction + *dare* to give - more at *PER-*, 'DATE]

**peregrination** /'pɛgrɪ'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a long and wandering journey, esp in a foreign country - humor [MF or L, MF, fr L *peregrination-*, *peregrinatio*, fr *peregrinatus*, pp of *peregrinari* to travel abroad, fr *peregrinus* foreigner, fr *peregrinus* foreign - more at *PILGRIM*] - *peregrinate* /'pɛgrɪ'naɪt/ *vb*

**peregrine** /'pɛgrɪn/, *peregrine* *falcon* *n* a smallish swift widely occurring falcon formerly much used in falconry [*peregrine*, *adj* (wandering, widely distributed), fr ML *peregrinus*, fr L, foreign]

**peremptory** /pə'rempt(ə)n/ *adj* 1 admitting no contradiction or refusal <a ~ conclusion> <a ~ command> 2 expressive of urgency or command <a ~ call> 3 (having an attitude or nature) characterized by imperious or arrogant self-assurance <a ~ disregard for safety measures> <a ~ tone> [LL & L: L.L. *peremptorius*, fr L, destructive, fr *peremptus*, pp of *perimere* to take entirely, destroy, fr *per-* to destruction + *emere* to take - more at *REDEEM*] - *peremptorily* *adv*, *peremptoriness* *n*

**perennial** /pə'renyəl, -ni-əl/ *adj* 1 present at all seasons of the year 2 of a plant living for several years, usu with new herbaceous growth each year 3 lasting for a long time or forever; constant <politics provide a ~ topic of argument> [L *perennis*, fr *per-* throughout + *annus* year - more at *PER-*, *ANNUAL*] - *perennial* *n*, *perennially* *adv*

**perfect** /'pʊhft/ *adj* 1 expert, proficient <practice makes ~> 2a entirely without fault or defect; flawless <a ~ gemstone> b satisfactory in every respect <the holiday was ~> c corresponding to an ideal standard or abstract concept <a ~ gentleman> 3a accurate, exact <~ pitch> <a ~ circle> b lacking in no essential detail, complete c absolute, utter <I felt a ~ fool> 4 of or constituting a verb tense or form that expresses an action or state completed at the time of speaking or at a time spoken of 5a of the musical intervals fourth, fifth, and octave having a character that is retained when inverted; not augmented or diminished b of a cadence passing from a dominant or subdominant to a tonic chord 6 having the stamens and carpels in the same flower [ME *parfit*, fr OF, fr L *perfectus*, fr pp of *perficere* to carry out, perfect, fr *per-* thoroughly + *facere* to make, do - more at 'DO] - *perfectness* *n*

**perfect** /pə'fekt/ *vi* 1 to make perfect, improve, refine 2 to bring to final form - *perfecter* *n*, *perfectible* *adj*, *perfectibility* /-'tɪbɪləti/ *n*

**perfection** /pə'fɛkʃən/ *n* 1a making or being perfect b freedom from (moral) fault or defect c full development; maturity <Greek civilization slowly flowered to ~> 2 (an example of) unsurpassable accuracy or excellence <the cake was ~>

**perfectionism** /pə'fɛkʃənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the theological doctrine that a state of freedom from sin is attainable on earth 2 a disposition to regard anything short of perfection, esp in one's own work, as unacceptable - *perfectionist* *adj* or *n*

**perfective** /pə'fektɪv/ *adj*, of a form of a verb expressing action as complete - compare *IMPERFECTIVE* - *perfective* *n*, *perfectively* *adv*, *perfectivity* /-'tɪvəti/ *n*

**perfectly** /'pʊhftli/ *adv* to an adequate extent; quite <your dress will be ~ suitable for the party> ['PERFECT + '-LY]

**perfect number** *n* an integer (e.g. 6 or 28) that is equal to the sum of all its possible integral factors including 1 but excluding itself

**perfecto** /pə'fektəh/ *n, pl perfectos* a thick cigar that tapers almost to a point at each end [Sp, perfect, fr L *perfectus*]

**perfect participle** *n* PAST PARTICIPLE

**perfect 'pitch** *n* ABSOLUTE PITCH 2

**perfervid** /pə'fəvɪd/ *adj* excessively fervid [NL *perfervidus*, fr L *per-* thoroughly + *fervidus* fervid]

**perfidy** /pə'fɪdɪ/ *n* being faithless or disloyal; treachery [L *perfidia*, fr *perfidus* faithless, fr *per* *fidem* *decipere* to betray, lit., to deceive by trust] ~ **perfidious** /pə'fɪdɪ-əs/ *adj*, **perfidiously** *adv*, **perfidiousness** *n*

**perforate** /pə'fɒrəteɪt/ *vt* 1 to make a hole through, *specific* to make a line of holes in or between (e.g. rows of postage stamps in a sheet) to make separation easier 2 to pass through or into (as if) by making a hole ~ *vi* to penetrate or make a hole in a surface [L *perforatus*, pp of *perforare* to bore through, fr *per-* through + *forare* to bore ~ more at **BORE**] ~ **perforator** *n*, **perforate** /-rət/ *adj*, **perforation** /-rə'sh(ə)n/ *n*

**perforce** /pə'fɔːs/ *adv* by force of circumstances ~ *fml* [ME *par force*, fr MF, by force]

**perform** /pə'fɔːm/ *vt* 1 to do, CARRY OUT (~ *ed* a small service) 2a to do in a formal manner or according to prescribed ritual (~ *ed* a marriage ceremony) b to give a rendering of, present (~ *ed* a new play) ~ *vi* 1 to carry out an action or pattern of behaviour; act, function 2 to give a performance [ME *performen*, fr AF *performer*, alter. of OF *perfourir*, fr *per-* thoroughly (fr L) + *fournir* to complete ~ more at **FURNISH**] ~ **performable** *adj*, **performer** *n*

**performance** /pə'fɔːmənəs/ *n* 1a the execution of an action b sth accomplished, a deed, feat 2 the fulfilment of a claim, promise, etc 3 a presentation to an audience of a (character in a) play, a piece of music, etc (~ *s* a night) (~ *gave a brilliant ~ in the title rôle*) 4 the ability to perform or work (efficiently or well) (*good engine ~ requires good tuning*) 5 manner of reacting to stimuli, behaviour (~ *of the stock market*) 6 language as manifested in actual speech and writing ~ compare COMPETENCE 2, PAROLE 4 7a a lengthy or troublesome process or activity (~ *going through the customs was such a ~*) b a display of bad behaviour USE (7) *infrml*

**performing art** /pə'fɔːmɪŋ/ *n* an art (e.g. music or drama) requiring public performance

**perfume** /pə'fjuːm/ *n* 1 a sweet or pleasant smell, a fragrance 2 a pleasant-smelling (liquid) preparation (e.g. of floral essences) [MF *perfum*, prob fr OPProv, fr *perfumar* to perfume, fr *per-* thoroughly (fr L) + *fumar* to smoke, fr L *fumare*]

**perfume** /pə'fjuːm/ *vt* to fill or imbue with a sweet smell

**perfumery** /pə'fjuːm(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 (the manufacture of) perfumes 2 a place where perfumes are made or sold ~ **perfumer** *n*

**perfunctory** /pə'fʌŋkt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* characterized by routine or superficiality, mechanical, cursory (~ *smile*) [LL *perfunctorius*, fr L *perfunctus*, pp of *perfungi* to accomplish, get through with, fr *per-* through + *fungi* to perform ~ more at **PER-**, **FUNCTION**] ~ **perfunctorily** *adv*, **perfunctoriness** *n*

**perfuse** /pə'fjuːz/ *vt* 1 to suffuse 2 to force a fluid through (an organ or tissue), esp by way of the blood vessels [L *perfusus*, pp of *perfundere* to pour over, fr *per-* through + *fundere* to pour ~ more at **FOUND**] ~ **perfusion** /-zh(ə)n/ *n*, **perfusive** /-sɪv-, -zɪv/ *adj*

**pergola** /pə'gɒlə/ *n* (an arbour made by training plants over) a support for climbing plants [It, fr L *pergula* projecting roof]

**perhaps** /pə'hæps, p(ə)rəps/ *adv* possibly but not certainly, maybe (~ *I'm mistaken*) (~ *you would open it?*) [*per* + *hap* (chance) ~ more at **HAPPEN**]

**peri-** /peri-/ *prefix* 1 all; round; about (<periscope> <peripatetic>) 2 near (<perihelion> <perigee>) 3 enclosing; surrounding (<perimeter> <peritoneum>) (<peristyle> [L, fr Gk, round, in excess, fr *peri*, akin to Gk *peran* to pass through])

**perianth** /peri'ænθ/ *n* the external envelope of a flower, esp when not differentiated into petals and sepals [NL *perianthium*, fr *peri-* + Gk *anthos* flower ~ more at **ANTHOLOGY**]

**pericardium** /-kə'di-əm-, dyəm/ *n, pl pericardia* the membranous sac that surrounds the heart of vertebrates [NL, fr Gk *perikardion*, neut of *perikardios* round the heart, fr *peri-* + *kardia* heart ~ more at **HEART**] ~ **pericardial** *adj*, **pericarditis** /-kə'di'etɪs/ *n*

**pericarp** /-kərp/ *n* the ripened wall of a plant ovary [NL *pericarpium*, fr Gk *perikarpon* pod, fr *peri-* + *karpion* -carp]

**perichondrium** /-kondri-əm/ *n, pl perichondria* /-dri-ə/ the membrane of fibrous connective tissue that surrounds cartilage except at joints [NL, fr *peri-* + Gk *chondros* grain, cartilage ~ more at **GRIND**] ~ **perichondrial** *adj*

**pericranium** /-'kraiɪnɪəm-, -ni-əm/ *n, pl pericrania* /-ni-ə/ the external membrane of the skull [NL, fr Gk *perikranion*, neut of *perikranios* round the skull, fr *peri-* + *kranion* skull] ~ **pericranial** *adj*

**pericycle** /-'sɪkl/ *n* a thin layer of cells that surrounds the central vascular part of many stems and roots [F *pericycle*, fr Gk *perikyklōs* spherical, fr *peri-* + *kyklōs* circle ~ more at **WHEEL**] ~ **pericyclic** /-'sɪklɪk-, -sɪe-/ *adj*

**periderm** /-'duhm/ *n* a thick outer protective tissue layer of woody roots and stems that consists of cork and adjacent tissues [NL *peridermis*, fr *peri-* + *dermis*] ~ **peridermal** /-'duhm/ *adj*, **peridermic** /-'duhmɪk/ *adj*

**peridot** /'perɪdɒt-, -doh/ *n* a deep yellowish green transparent gem consisting of silicates of iron and magnesium [F *péridot*, fr OF *peridot*]

**perigee** /-'jee/ *n* the point in an orbit round the earth that is nearest the centre of the earth ~ compare APOGEE 1 [MF & NL, MF, fr NL *perigaeum*, *perigeum*, fr Gk *perigeion*, fr neut of *perigeios* near the earth, fr *peri-* + *ge* earth] ~ **perigean** /-'jee-ən/ *adj*

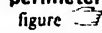
**perigynous** /pə'riːjɪnəs/ *adj* (having floral organs) borne on a ring or cup of the receptacle surrounding an ovule ~ compare EPIGYNOUS, HYPOGYNOUS [NL *perigynus*, fr *peri-* + *-gynus* -gynous] ~ **perigyny** /-'ni/ *n*

**perihelion** /peri'hiːliən-, -li-ən/ *n, pl perihelia* /-'li-ə/ the point in the path of a planet, comet, etc that is nearest to the sun ~ compare APHELION [NL, fr *peri-* + Gk *hēlios* sun ~ more at **SOLAR**] ~ **perihelic** /-'hiːlɪk/ *adj*

**peril** /'perəl-, -nɪ/ *n* 1 exposure to the risk of being injured, destroyed, or lost, danger (~ *fire put the city in ~*) 2 sth that imperils, a risk [ME, fr OF, fr L *periculum* ~ more at **FEAR**] ~ **perilous** *adj*, **perilously** *adv*, **perilousness** *n*

**perilune** /peri'looɪn/ *n* the point in the path of a body orbiting the moon that is nearest the centre of the moon ~ compare APOLUNE [*peri-* + L *luna* moon ~ more at **LUNAR**]

**perilymph** /-'liːmf/ *n* the liquid inside the labyrinth of the inner ear [ISV]

**perimeter** /pə'rɪmɪtə/ *n* 1 (the length of) the boundary of a closed plane figure  MATHEMATICS 2 a line, strip, fence, etc bounding or protecting an area (~ *a fence*) 3 the outer edge or limits of sth [F *périmètre*, fr L *perimetros*, fr Gk, fr *peri-* + *metron* measure ~ more at **MEASURE**]

**perinatal** /peri'naytl/ *adj* (occurring) at about the time of birth

**perineum** /-'nee-əm/ *n* the area between the anus and the back part of the genitals, esp in the female [NL, fr I.L. *perinaion*, fr Gk, fr *peri-* + *inein* to empty out, akin to L *ira* ire] ~ **perineal** *adj*

**period** /'piəriəd/ *n* 1 a well-proportioned sentence of several clauses 2a the full pause at the end of a sentence, *also*, *chiefly* NAM FULL STOP b a stop, end 3a a portion of time b the (interval of) time that elapses before a cyclic motion or phenomenon begins to repeat itself, the reciprocal of the frequency c (a single cyclic occurrence of) menstruation 4a a chronological division, a stage (of history) b a division of geological time longer than an epoch and included in an era 5 any of the divisions of a school day b the playing time of a game [MF *periode*, fr ML, L, & Gk; ML *periodus* period of time, punctuation mark, fr L & Gk, L, rhetorical period, fr Gk *periodos* circuit, period of time, rhetorical period, fr *peri-* + *hodos* way ~ more at **CEDE**]


**period** *adj*, of representing, or typical of a particular historical period (~ *furniture*)

**periodic** /piəri'ɒdɪk/ *adj* 1 recurring at regular intervals 2 consisting of or containing a series of repeated stages (~ *decimals*) (~ *a ~ vibration*) ~ **periodicity** /-'sɪdɪtɪ/ *n*

**periodical** /piəri'ɒdɪkl/ *adj* 1 PERIODIC 1 2 of a magazine or journal published at fixed intervals (e.g. weekly or quarterly) ~ **periodically** *adv*

**periodical** *n* a periodical publication

**periodic function** *n* a mathematical function (e.g. a sine or cosine) whose possible values all recur at regular intervals

**periodic table** *n* an arrangement of chemical elements in the order of their atomic numbers, that shows a periodic variation in their properties 

**periodontal** /peri-oh'dɒntl/ *adj* (of or affecting tissues) surrounding a tooth ~ **periodontally** *adv*

**periodontics** /-'dɒntɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr dentistry that deals with (diseases of) the supporting structures of the teeth [NL *periodontium*, fr *peri-* + Gk *odont-*, *odontos*, *odon* tooth ~ more at **TOOTH**] ~ **periodontist** *n*

**periodontology** /don'tɒləː/ *n* periodontics

Periodic table of the elements

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	12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**'period, piece** *n* a piece (e.g. of fiction, art, furniture, or music) whose special value lies in its evocation of a historical period

**periosteum** /ˌpɛrɪˈɒsti-əm/ *n*, *pl* **periosteas** /-sti-ə/ the membrane of connective tissue that closely surrounds all bones except at the joints [NL, fr LL *periosteum*, fr Gk, neut of *periosteos* round the bone, fr *peri-* + *osteon* bone – more at *osseous*] – **periosteal** *adj*, **periostitis** /-stetɪs/ *n*

**'peripatetic** /ˌpɛrɪpəˈtɛtɪk/ *n* sby, esp a teacher unattached to a particular school, or sthg that travels about from place to place (on business)

**\*peripatetic** *adj* itinerant [MF *peripateticus*, fr Gk *peripatētikos*, fr *peripatein* to walk up and down, discourse while pacing, fr *peri-* + *patein* to tread; akin to Skt *patha* path – more at *FIND*] – **peripatetically** *adv*

**peripatus** /pəˈpɪtəs/ *n* any of a class of primitive tropical arthropods that in some respects are intermediate between annelid worms and typical arthropods [NL, genus name, fr Gk *peripatos* act of walking about, fr *peri-* + *patein* to tread]

**peripeteia** /ˌpɛrɪˈpiːtɪ-ə, -ˈtɛtɪ-ə/ *n* a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation [Gk, fr *peripetein* to fall round, change suddenly, fr *peri-* + *peitein* to fall – more at *FEATHER*]

**'peripheral** /ˌpɛrɪf(ə)ˈrəl/ *adj* 1 of, involving, or forming a periphery (< ~ *nerves*); also of minor significance 2 located away from a centre or central portion; external 3 of, using, or being the outer part of the field of vision (<good ~ *vision*) 4 auxiliary or supplementary (< ~ *equipment*) – **peripherally** *adv*

**\*peripheral** *n* a device (e.g. a VDU) connected to a computer to provide communication (e.g. input and output) or auxiliary functions (e.g. additional storage)

**periphery** /pəˈrɪf(ə)ri/ *n* 1 the perimeter of a closed curve (e.g. a circle or polygon) 2 the external boundary or surface of a (person's) body, esp as distinguished from its internal regions or centre [MF *peripherie*, fr LL *peripheria*, fr Gk *periphēreia*, fr *peripherein* to carry round, fr *peri-* + *pherein* to carry – more at *'BEAR*]

**periphrasis** /pəˈrɪfrəsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **periphrases** /-seɪz/ (a) circumlocution [L, fr Gk, fr *periphrasein* to express periphrastically, fr *peri-* + *phrassein* to point out]

**periphrastic** /ˌpɛrɪˈfrastɪk/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by periphrasis 2 formed by the use of function words or auxiliaries instead of by inflection (e.g. *more fair* as contrasted with *fairer*) – **periphrastically** *adv*

**perique** /pəˈriːk/ *n* a rich-flavoured aromatic Louisiana tobacco [LAF *perique*]

**periscope** /ˌpɛrɪˈskəʊp/ *n* a tubular optical instrument containing lenses, mirrors, or prisms for seeing objects not in the direct line of sight [ISV]

**periscopic** /ˌskɒpɪk/ *adj* 1 providing a view all round or on all sides (< ~ *lens*) 2 of a periscope

**periselenic** /ˌsɪˈleɪni/ *n* the perlune [ISV *peri-* + Gk *selene* moon – more at *SELENIUM*]

**perish** /ˈpɛrɪʃ/ *vi* 1a to be destroyed or ruined (< ~ *the thought!*) b to die, esp in a terrible or sudden way – poetic or journ 2 chiefly *Br* to deteriorate, spoil (< *the rubber had begun to ~*) ~ *vt*, of cold or exposure to weaken, numb (< *we were ~ ed with cold*) [ME *perissen*, fr OF *periss-*, stem of *perir*, fr L *perire*, fr *per-* to destruction + *ire* to go – more at *PER-*, *ISSUE*]

**perishable** /ˌpɛrɪʃəbəl/ *n* or *adj* (sthg, esp food) liable to spoil or decay (< *such ~ products as fruit, fish, butter, and eggs*) – **perishability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**perisher** /ˈpɛrɪʃə/ *n*, *Br* an annoying or troublesome person or thing, esp a mischievous child – *infrm*

**perishing** /ˈpɛrɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* 1 freezingly cold 2 damnable, confounded – **perishingly** *adv*

**peristalsis** /ˌpɛrɪˈstælsɪs/ *n* successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of a hollow muscular structure, esp the intestine, and forcing the contents onwards [NL, fr Gk *peristaltikos* peristaltic, fr *peristellein* to wrap round, fr *peri-* + *stellein* to place – more at *'STALL*] – **peristaltic** /-tɪk/ *adj*, **peristaltically** *adv*

**'peristyle** /ˌstɪl/ *n* a colonnade surrounding a building or court [F *peristyle*, fr L *peristylum*, fr Gk *peristylon*, fr neut of *peristyllos* surrounded by a colonnade, fr *peri-* + *stylos* pillar – more at *'STEER*]

**peritoneum** /ˌpɛrɪtəˈniː-əm/ *n*, *pl* **peritoneums**, **peritonaeas** /-ˈniː-ə/ the smooth transparent membrane that lines the cavity of the mammalian abdomen [LL, fr Gk *peritoneion*, neut of *peritoneios* stretched round, fr *peri-* + *teinein* to stretch – more at *THIN*] – **peritoneal** *adj*, **peritoneally** *adv*

**peritonitis** /ˌpɛrɪtəˈnɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the peritoneum [NL]

**periwig** /ˌpɛrɪˈwɪɡ/ *n* a peruke [modif of MF *perruque*] – **periwigged** /-wɪɡd/ *adj*

**'periwinkle** /ˌpɛrɪˈwɪŋkl/ *n* any of several trailing evergreen plants with blue or white flowers [ME *perwinke*, fr OE *perwince*, fr L *pervinca*]

**\*periwinkle** *n* any of various (related) edible marine snails [(assumed) ME, alter of OE *pinewinkle*, fr L *pina*, a kind of mussel (fr Gk) + OE *-wincle* (akin to Dan *vincl* snail shell)]

**perjure** /ˈpuːdʒə/ *vi* to make (oneself) guilty of perjury [MF *perjurer*, fr L *perjurare*, fr *per-* to destruction, to the bad + *jurare* to swear – more at *PER-*, *'JURY*] – **perjurer** *n*

**perjury** /ˈpuːdʒ(ə)rɪ/ *n* the voluntary violation of an oath, esp by a witness

**'perk** /puːk/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a privilege, gain, or profit incidental to regular salary or wages [by shortening & alter fr *perquisite*]

**\*perk** *vi*, of coffee to percolate [by shortening & alter]

**perk up** *vb* to (cause to) recover one's vigour or cheerfulness, esp after a period of weakness or depression (< *she perked up when the letter arrived*) (< *a drink will perk him up*) [*perk* (to thrust up the head, stuck up jauntily), fr ME *perken*, perh fr ONF *perquer* to perch, fr *perque* perch, fr L *pertica* pole]

**perky** /ˈpuːkɪ/ *adj* 1 briskly self-assured, cocky (< ~ *salesman*) 2 jauntily – **perkily** *adv*, **perkiness** *n*

**perlite** /ˈpuːlɪt/ *n* volcanic glass that has a concentric structure and when expanded by heat forms a lightweight aggregate used esp in concrete and plaster [F, fr *perle* pearl] – **perlitic** /-tɪtɪk/ *adj*

**'perm** /puːm/ *n* a long-lasting wave set in the hair by chemicals [short for *permanent (wave)*]

**\*perm** *vi*, *Br* to give a perm to

**perm** *vi*, *Br* to permute, specif to pick out and combine (a specified number of teams in a football pool) in all the possible permutations (< ~ *any 8 from 11*) – **perm** *n*

**permafrost** /ˌpuːməˈfrɒst/ *n* a layer of permanently frozen ground in frigid regions ~ *PIANT* [*permanent* + *frost*]

**Permalloy** /ˌpuːməˈlɔɪ/ *trademark* - used for an easily magnetized and demagnetized alloy of about 80 per cent nickel and 20 per cent iron

**\*permanent** /ˌpuːmənənt/ *adj* 1 continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change, lasting, stable 2 not subject to replacement according to political circumstances ~ *undersecretary at the Home Office* [ME, fr MF, fr L *permanent-*, *permanens*, prp of *permanere* to endure, fr *per-* throughout + *manere* to remain – more at *PER-*, *MANSION*] – **permanence**, **permanency** *n*, **permanently** *adv*

**\*permanent** *n*, *NAM* *'PIRM*

**permanent magnet** *n* a magnet that retains its magnetism after removal of the magnetizing force

**permanent press** *n* (material subjected to) a treatment for fabric in which a chemical and heat are used for setting the shape and aiding wrinkle resistance

**permanent tooth** *n* any of the second set of teeth of a mammal that follow the milk teeth and typically last into old age

**permanent wave** *n* *'PERM*

**permanent way** *n*, *Br* the rails, sleepers, and ballast that make up the track of a railway system

**permanganate** /pəˈmang-ɡəˌnæt, -ˌnæt/ *n* a usu dark purple salt containing manganese

**permeability** /ˌpuːmɪˈæbɪləti/ *n* 1 being permeable 2 the property of a magnetizable substance that determines the effect it has on the magnetic flux in the region it occupies

**permeable** /ˌpuːmɪˈæbəl/ *adj* capable of being permeated, esp having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through (< ~ *membrane*) – **permeableness** *n*, **permeably** *adv*

**permeate** /ˌpuːmɪˈeɪt/ *vi* to diffuse through or penetrate sthg ~ *vt* 1 to spread or diffuse through (< *a room ~ d with tobacco smoke*) 2 to pass through the pores, gaps, cracks, etc of [L *permeatus*, pp of *permeare*, fr *per-* through + *meare* to go, pass, akin to MW *myet* to go] – **permeance** /-mɪˈæns/ *n*, **permeant** *adj* or *n*, **permeation** /-ˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Permian** /ˌpuːmɪˈæn/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the last period of the Palaeozoic era ~ *EVOLUTION* [*Perm*, region in E Russia]

**permissible** /pəˈmɪsəbəl/ *adj* allowable [ME, fr ML *permissibilis*, fr L *permissus*, pp] – **permissibly** *adv*, **permissibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**permission** /pəˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* formal consent; authorization [ME, fr MF, fr L *permissio-*, *permissio*, fr *permissus*, pp of *permittere*]

**permissive** /pəˈmɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 tolerant; esp accepting a relaxed social or sexual morality (< *the ~ age*) 2 allowing (but not enforcing) (< ~ *legislation*) [F *permissif*, fr L *permissus*, pp] – **permissively** *adv*, **permissiveness** *n*



**'permit** /pə'mit/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1 to consent to, usu expressly or formally (< ~ access to records> 2 to give leave; authorize 3 to make possible ~ *vi* to give an opportunity; allow (< if time ~ s> <weather ~ ting> [L *permittere* to let through, permit, fr *per-* through + *mittere* to let go, send - more at *PER-*, *SMITE*] - **permitter** *n*

**'permit** /pə'mit/ *n* a written warrant allowing the holder to do or keep sthg (< a gun ~>)

**permittivity** /pə'mɪtɪvəti/ *n* (a measure of) the ability of a dielectric material to store electrical potential energy under the influence of an electric field [*'permit* + *-ive* + *-ity*]

**permutation** /pə'mjuːtə'sh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a variation or change (e.g. in character or condition) brought about by rearrangement of existing elements 2 (the changing from one to another of) any of the various possible ordered arrangements of a set of objects, numbers, letters, etc [ME *permutacioun* exchange, transformation, fr MF *permutation*, fr L *permutatio*-, *permutatio*, fr *permutatus*, pp of *permutare*] - **permutational** *adj*

**permute** /pə'mjuːt/ *vt* to change the order or arrangement of; *esp* to arrange successively in all possible ways [ME *permuten*, fr MF or L, MF *permuter*, fr L *permutare*, fr *per-* + *mutare* to change - more at *'MISS*]

**pernicious** /pə'nɪʃəs, pə'n-/ *adj* highly injurious or destructive, deadly [MF *pernicius*, fr L *perniciosus*, fr *perniciēs* destruction, fr *per-* + *nec-*, *nec* violent death - more at *NOXIOUS*] - **perniciously** *adv*, **perniciousness** *n*

**pernicious anaemia** *n* anaemia marked by a decrease in the number of red blood cells which is caused by a reduced ability to absorb vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

**pernickety** /pə'nɪkəti/ *adj* 1 fussy about small details, fastidious (< a ~ teacher> 2 requiring precision and care (< a ~ job> [perh alter of *particular*]

**peroneal** /pə'ree-əl/ *adj* of or near the fibula [NL *peroneus*, fr *perone* fibula, fr Gk *perone*, lit. pin; akin to L *per* through - more at *IOR*]

**peroration** /pə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the concluding part of a discourse, in which the main points are summed up 2 a highly rhetorical speech [ME *peroracyon*, fr L *peroration*-, *peroratio*, fr *peroratus*, pp of *perorare* to speak at length, finish speaking, fr *per-* through + *orare* to speak - more at *PER-*, *ORATION*] - **perorational** *adj*, **perorate** /pə'reɪt/ *vi*

**'peroxide** /pə'roksɪd/ *n* 1 an oxide containing a high proportion of oxygen, esp a compound containing the peroxy radical 2 HYDROGEN PEROXIDE [ISV] - **peroxidic** /-sɪdɪk/ *adj*

**'peroxide** *vt* to bleach (hair) with hydrogen peroxide - **peroxidation** /-sɪ'daɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**peroxy** /pə'roksi/ *n* the bivalent chemical radical -O-O- - usu in combination [ISV *per-* + *oxy-*]

**'perpendicular** /pə'pɛndɪkjuːlə/ *adj* 1 being or standing at right angles to the plane of the horizon or a given line or plane 2 extremely steep, precipitous 3 *cap* of, being, or built in a late Gothic style of architecture prevalent in England from the 15th to the 16th c characterized by large windows, fan vaults, and an emphasis on vertical lines → CHURCH [ME *perpendicular*, fr MF, fr L *perpendicularis*, fr *perpendicular* plumb line, fr *per-* + *pendere* to hang - more at *PENDANT*] - **perpendicularly** *adv*, **perpendicularity** /-lə'reɪti/ *n*

**'perpendicular** *n* a line, plane, or surface at right angles to the plane of the horizon or to another line or surface

**perpetrate** /pə'pɛtɹeɪt/ *vt* to be guilty of performing or doing; commit (< ~ a fraud> (< ~ a blunder> [L *perpetratus*, pp of *perpetrare*, fr *per-* through + *patrare* to accomplish] - **perpetrator** *n*, **perpetration** /-tɹeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**perpetual** /pə'petju(ə)l, -cho(ə)l/ *adj* 1a continuing or val... forever, everlasting *b* holding sthg (e.g. an office) for life or for an unlimited time 2 occurring continually; constant (< a ~ complaint> 3 of a plant blooming continuously throughout the season [ME *perpetuel*, fr MF, fr L *perpetuus*, fr *per-* through + *petere* to go to - more at *FEATHER*] - **perpetually** *adv*

**perpetual check** *n* an endless succession of checks in chess which results in a draw

**perpetuate** /pə'petjuə, aɪt, -choə, aɪt/ *vt* to make perpetual; cause to last indefinitely (< ~ the species> [L *perpetuatus*, pp of *perpetuare*, fr *perpetuus*] - **perpetuator** *n*, **perpetuation** /-tɹeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**perpetuity** /pə'petjuə-ti/ *n* (the quality or state of) sthg that is perpetual, eternity (< bequeathed to them in ~> [ME *perpetuite*, fr MF *perpetuité*, fr L *perpetuitas*-, *perpetuitas*, fr *perpetuus*]

**perplex** /pə'pleks/ *vt* 1 to puzzle, confuse (< her attitude ~ es me>) (< a ~ ing problem> 2 to complicate [obs *perplex*, *adj* (involved, perplexed),

fr L *perplexus*, fr *per-* thoroughly + *plexus* involved, fr pp of *plectere* to braid, twine - more at *PER-*, *'PLY*] - **perplexedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*, **perplexingly** *adv*

**perplexity** /pə'pleksəti/ *n* (sthg that causes) the state of being perplexed or bewildered [ME *perplexite*, fr OF *perplexite*, fr LL *perplexitas*-, *perplexitas*, fr L *perplexus*]

**perquisite** /pə'kwɪzɪt/ *n* 1 sthg held or claimed as an exclusive right or possession 2 a perk - *fml* [ME, property acquired by other means than inheritance, fr ML *perquisitum*, fr neut of *perquisitus*, pp of *perquirere* to purchase, acquire, fr L, to search for thoroughly, fr *per-* thoroughly + *quaerere* to seek]

**perry** /pəri/ *n* an alcoholic drink made from fermented pear juice [ME *perre*, fr MF *peré*, fr (assumed) VL *piratum*, fr L *pirum* pear]

**perse** /pə'se/ *adj* or *n* dark greyish blue [adj ME *pers*, fr MF, fr ML *persus*, prob fr L *Persa* Persian, *n* fr *adj*]

**per se** /pə 'sə/ *adv* by, of, or in itself; intrinsically [L]

**persecute** /pə'seɪkjuːt/ *vt* 1 to harass in a manner designed to injure or afflict; *specif* to cause to suffer because of race, religion, political beliefs, etc 2 to annoy with persistent or urgent approaches, attacks, pleas, etc, pester [MF *persecuter*, back-formation fr *persecuteur* persecutor, fr LL *persecutor*, fr *persecutus*, pp of *persequi* to persecute, fr L, to pursue, fr *per-* through + *sequi* to follow - more at *SUE*] - **persecutor** *n*, **persecution** /-kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **persecutory** /-kjuːt(ə)n/ *adj*

**perseverance** /pə'seɪvərəns/ *n* 1 persevering, steadfastness 2 continuance in a state of grace

**perseveration** /pə'seɪvə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* continuation of sthg (e.g. repetition of a word) usu to an excessive or exceptional degree [L *perseveratio*-, *perseveratio*, fr *perseveratus*, pp of *perseverare*] - **perseverate** /-seɪvə'reɪt/ *vi*

**persevere** /pə'seɪvə/ *vi* to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of adverse influences, opposition, or discouragement [ME *perseveren*, fr MF *perseverer*, fr L *perseverare*, fr *per-* through + *severus* severe]

**Persian** /pə'ʃiːn/ *n*, also -zh(ə)n/ *n* or *adj* (a native, inhabitant, or language) of ancient Persia or modern Iran [*Persia* (now Iran), country in SW Asia]

**Persian cat** *n* a short-nosed domestic cat with long silky fur

**Persian lamb** *n* (the pelt, characterized by very silky tightly curled fur, of) the young of the karakul sheep

**periffage** /pə'ʃiːfləʒh/ *n* frivolous bantering talk [F, fr *persifler* to banter, fr *per-* thoroughly + *siffler* to whistle, hiss, boo, fr L *sibilare*, of imit origin]

**persimmon** /pə'sɪmən/ *n* (the orange several-seeded globular fruit of) any of a genus of American and Asian trees of the ebony family with hard fine woody [of Algonquian origin, akin to Cree *pasimman* dried fruit]

**persist** /pə'sɪst/ *vi* 1 to go on resolutely or stubbornly in spite of opposition or warning 2 to be insistent in the repetition or pressing of an utterance (e.g. a question or opinion) 3 to continue to exist, esp past a usual, expected, or normal time [MF *persistere*, fr L *persistere*, fr *per-* + *sistere* to take a stand, stand firm, akin to L *stare* to stand - more at *STAND*] - **persist** *n*

**persistent** /pə'sɪst(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 continuing to exist in spite of interference or treatment (< a ~ cough> 2a remaining (1) beyond the usual period (< a ~ leaf> (2) without change in function or structure (< ~ gills> *b* of a chemical substance broken down only slowly in the environment (< ~ pesticides> [L *persistens*-, *persistens*, prp of *persistere*] - **persistence**, **persistency** *n*, **persistently** *adv*

**pernickety** /pə'nɪkəti/ *adj*, *NAM* 1 pernickety 2 snobbish [alter. of *pernickety*]

**person** /pə'sɒn/ *n* 1 a human being (considered as having a character of his/her own, or as being different from all others) (< you're just the ~ I wanted to see> 2 any of the 3 modes of being in the Trinity as understood by Christians 3 a living human body or its outward appearance (< she was small and neat of ~> (< insured against damage to ~ and property> 4 an individual, corporation, etc with recognized legal rights and duties 5 any of 3 forms of verb or pronoun that indicate reference to the speaker, to one spoken to, or to sby or sthg spoken of [ME, fr OF *persone*, fr L *persona* actor's mask, character in a play, person, prob fr Etruscan *phersu* mask] - *in person* in one's own bodily presence (< he appeared in person last time>)

**persona** /pə'səʊnə/ *n*, *pl* (1) *personae* /-ni/, (2) *personas* 1 *pl* the characters in a fictional work 2 an individual's social facade that, esp in Jungian psychology, reflects the role that the individual is playing in life - compare *ANIMA* [L]

**personable** /puhs(ə)nəbl/ *adj* pleasing in person; attractive – **personableness** *n*

**personage** /puhs(ə)nɪj/ *n* 1 a person of rank, note, or distinction; esp one distinguished in presence and personal power 2 a dramatic, fictional, or historical character 3 a human individual, a person – **fml**

**personal** /puhs(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of or affecting a person; private <done purely for ~ financial gain> 2a done in person without the intervention of another; also proceeding from a single person b carried on between individuals directly <a ~ interview> 3 of the person or body 4 of or referring to (the character, conduct, motives, or private affairs of) an individual, often in an offensive manner <don't make ~ remarks> 5 of personal property <a ~ estate> 6 denoting grammatical person [ME, fr MF, fr LL *personalis*, fr L *persona*]

**personal equation** *n* (a correction made for) variation (e.g. in astronomical observation) due to a person's individual peculiarities

**personality** /puhs(ə)nəli/ *n* 1 *pl* reference, esp critical, to a particular person <let's keep personalities out of this debate> 2 the totality of an individual's behavioural and emotional tendencies, broadly a distinguishing complex of individual or group characteristics 3a (sby having) distinction or excellence of personal and social traits b a person of importance, prominence, renown, or notoriety <a well-known stage ~> [ME *personalite*, fr LL *personalitas*, *personalitas*, fr *personalis*]

**personality cult** *n* the officially encouraged slavish admiration of a leader

**personalize**, -ise /puhs(ə)nəliːz/ *vt* 1 PERSONIFY 1 2 to make personal or individual, *specif* to mark as the property of a particular person <~d stationery> – **personalization** /ˈzəʃəz(ə)n/ *n*

**personally** /puhs(ə)nəli/ *adv* 1 IN PERSON <attend to the matter ~> 2 as a person; in personality <~ attractive but not very trustworthy> 3 for oneself; as far as oneself is concerned <~, I don't think much of it> 4 as directed against oneself in a personal way <don't take my remarks about your plan ~>

**personal pronoun** *n* a pronoun (e.g. *I*, *you*, or *they*) that expresses a distinction of person

**personal property** *n* all property other than freehold estates and interests in land

**personality** /puhs(ə)nəli/ *n* PERSONAL PROPERTY [AF *personalité*, fr LL *personalitas*, *personalitas* personality]

**persona non grata** /puhs.səhnə.nɒnˈɡraʊtə/ *adj* personally unacceptable or unwelcome [NL, person not acceptable]

**personate** /puhs(ə)nəɪt/ *vt* 1 to impersonate, represent 2 to assume (some character or capacity) with fraudulent intent – **personator** *n*, **personative** /-ətɪv/ *adj*, **personation** /ˈzəʃəz(ə)n/ *n*

**personification** /pə.sənɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* 1 the personifying of an abstract quality or thing 2 an embodiment, incarnation

**personify** /pə.sənɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to conceive of or represent as having human qualities or form 2 to be the embodiment of in human form, incarnate <he was kindness personified> – **personifier** *n*

**personnel** /puhs(ə)nəl/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of people employed (e.g. in a factory, office, or organization) or engaged on a project 2 a division of an organization concerned with the employees and their welfare at work [F, fr G *personale*, *personal*, fr ML *personale*, fr LL, neut of *personalis* personal]

**perspective** /pə.spektɪv/ *adj* of, using, or seen in perspective <a ~ drawing> – **perspectively** *adv*

**perspective** *n* 1a (the technique of accurately representing on a flat or curved surface) the visual appearance of solid objects with respect to their relative distance and position b LINEAR PERSPECTIVE 2a the aspect of an object of thought from a particular standpoint <try to get a different ~ on your problem> b (the capacity to discern) the true relationship or relative importance of things <get things in ~> 3 a picture or view giving a distinctive impression of distance; a vista [MF, fr ML *perspectiva*, fr fem of *perspectivus* of sight, optical, fr L *perspectus*, pp of *perspicere* to look through, see clearly, fr *per-* through + *specere* to look – more at *PER-*, *SPY*]

**Perspex** /puh.spek/ *trademark* – used for a transparent acrylic plastic

**perspicacious** /puhspiˈkeɪʃəs/ *adj* of acute mental vision or discernment; keen 3a – **fml** [L *perspicax*, *perspicax*, fr *perspicere*] – **perspicaciously** *adv*, **perspicaciousness** *n*, **perspicacity** /-ˈkæsəti/ *n*

**perspicuous** /pə.spiˈkyoo.əs/ *adj* plain to the understanding, esp because of clarity and precision of presentation <a ~ argument> – **fml** [L *perspicuus* transparent, perspicuous, fr *perspicere*] – **perspicuously** *adv*, **perspicuousness** *n*, **perspicuity** /puhspiˈkyoo.əti/ *n*

**perspiration** /puhsprɪˈreɪʃən/ *n* 1 sweating 2 SWEAT 1 – **perspiratory** /pə.spiəˈrət(ə)ri/ *adj*

**perspire** /pə.spiə/ *vi* SWEAT 1 [F *perspirer*, fr MF, fr L *per-* through + *spirare* to blow, breathe – more at *PER-*, *SPIRIT*]

**persuade** /pə.sweɪd/ *vt* 1 to move by argument, reasoning, or entreaty to a belief, position, or course of action 2 to cause to feel certain; convince <the icy roads ~d him of the need to drive carefully> 3 to get (sthg) with difficulty out of or from <finally ~d an answer out of her> [L *persuadere*, fr *per-* thoroughly + *suadere* to advise, urge] – **persuadable** *adj*, **persuader** *n*

**persuasive** /pə.sweɪsəv/, -zəv/ *adj* persuadable [MF, fr L *persuasibilis* persuasive, fr *persuasus*]

**persuasion** /pə.sweɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1a persuading or being persuaded b persuasiveness <she has great powers of ~> 2a an opinion held with complete assurance b (a group adhering to) a particular system of religious beliefs 3 a kind, sort <people of the same ~> [ME *persuasioun*, fr MF or L; MF *persuasion*, fr L *persuasion-*, *persuasio*, fr *persuasus*, pp of *persuadere*]

**persuasive** /pə.sweɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj* tending or able to persuade – **persuasively** *adv*, **persuasiveness** *n*

**pert** /puht/ *adj* 1 impudent and forward, saucy 2 trim and chic, jaunty <a ~ little hat> [ME, open, bold, forward, modif of OF *apert*, fr L *apertus* open, fr pp of *aperire* to open] – **pertly** *adv*, **pertness** *n*

**pertain** /pəˈteɪn/ *vi* 1a to belong to as a part, attribute, feature, function, or right <the destruction and havoc ~ing to war> b to be appropriate to sthg <the criteria that ~ elsewhere do not apply here> 2 to have reference to <books ~ing to birds> [ME *perteinen*, fr MF *partenir*, fr L *pertinere* to reach to, belong, fr *per-* through + *tenere* to hold]

**pertinacious** /puhtɪˈneɪʃəs/ *adj* clinging resolutely to an opinion, purpose, or design, often to the point of stubbornness – **fml** [L *pertinax*, *pertinax*, fr *per-* thoroughly + *tenac*, *tenax* tenacious, fr *tenere*] – **pertinaciously** *adv*, **pertinaciousness** *n, **pertinacity** /-ˈnæsəti/ *n**

**pertinent** /puhtɪnənt/ *adj* clearly relevant (to the matter in hand) <~ details> [ME, fr MF, fr L *pertinent-*, *pertinens*, prp of *pertinere*] – **pertinence**, **pertinency** *n*, **pertinently** *adv*

**perturb** /pəˈturb, puh-/ *vt* 1 to disturb greatly in mind, disquiet 2 to throw into confusion, disorder 3 to cause (a moving object, celestial body, etc) to deviate from a theoretically regular (orbital) motion [ME *perturben*, fr MF *perturber*, fr L *perturbare* to throw into confusion, fr *per-* + *turbare* to disturb – more at *TURBID*] – **perturbable** *adj*, **perturbation** /puhtəˈbeɪʃən/ *n*, **perturbational** *adj*

**pertussis** /pəˈtʊsɪs/ *n* WHOOPING COUGH [NL, fr L *per-* thoroughly + *tussis* cough]

**peruke** /pəˈrook/ *n* a long curly wig worn by men in the 17th and 18th c [MF *perruque*, fr OIt *parrucca*, *perrucca* hair, wig]

**peruse** /pəˈrooz/ *vt* 1 to examine or consider with attention and in detail, study – **fml** 2 to look over the contents of (e.g. a book) – often humor [ME *perusen*, prob fr L *per-* thoroughly + ME *usen* to use] – **perusal** *n*, **peruser** *n*

**pervade** /pəˈvayd, puh-/ *vt* to become diffused throughout every part of [L *pervadere* to go through, pervade, fr *per-* through + *vadere* to go – more at *PER-*, *WADE*] – **pervasion** /-zh(ə)n/ *n*, **pervasive** /-sɪv, -zɪv/ *adj*, **pervasively** *adv*, **pervasiveness** *n*

**perverse** /pəˈvuhs, puh-/ *adj* 1a obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable, or accepted, wrongheaded b arising from or indicative of stubbornness or obstinacy 2 unreasonably opposed to the wishes of others; uncooperative, contrary [ME, fr L *perversus*, fr pp of *pervertere*] – **perversely** *adv*, **perversity**, **perverseness** *n*

**perversion** /pəˈvuhs(ə)n, puh-/ *n* 1 perverting or being perverted 2 sthg perverted; esp abnormal sexual behaviour – **pervasive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**pervert** /pəˈvuht/ *vt* 1 to cause to turn aside or away from what is good, true, or morally right; corrupt 2a to divert to a wrong end or purpose; misuse b to twist the meaning or sense of; misinterpret [ME *perverten*, fr MF *pervertir*, fr L *pervertere* to overturn, corrupt, pervert, fr *per-* thoroughly + *vertere* to turn – more at *PER-*, *WORTH*] – **perverter** *n*

**pervert** /puhvuht/ *n* a perverted person; *specif* one given to some form of sexual perversion

**perverted** /pəˈvuhtɪd, puh-/ *adj* 1 CORRUPT 1 2 marked by perversion – **pervertedly** *adv*, **pervertedness** *n*


**pervious** /puhviːəs, -vʏəs/ *adj* 1 permeable <~ soil> 2 accessible to <~ to reason> – **fml** [L *pervius*, fr *per-* through + *via* way – more at *PER*, *VIA*] – **perviousness** *n*

**pesante** /peˈzant/ *adv* in a heavy manner – used as a direction in music [It, fr prp of *pesare* to weigh, fr L *pensare* to ponder – more at *PENSIVE*]

**peseta** /pə'seeta, pə'sayta/ *n*  Spain at NATIONALITY [Sp, dim of *peso*]

**pesewa** /pɪ'saywah/ *n*, *pl* **pesewas**  Ghana at NATIONALITY [Fante]

**pesky** /'peski/ *adj*, NAm troublesome, vexatious – infml [prob irreg fr *pest* + *-y*]

**peso** /'paysoh/ *n*, *pl* **pesos** 1 a former silver coin of Spain and Spanish America worth 8 reals 2 (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of certain Spanish-speaking South and Latin American countries (e.g. Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay) and the Philippines  NATIONALITY [Sp, lit., weight, fr L *pensum* – more at *'poise*]

**pessary** /'pesəri/ *n* 1 a vaginal suppository 2 a device worn in the vagina to support the uterus or prevent conception [ME *pessare*, fr LL *pessarum*, fr *pessus*, *pessum*, fr Gk *pessos* oval stone for playing draughts, *pessary*]

**pessimism** /'pesɪmɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a tendency to stress the adverse aspects of a situation or event or to expect the worst possible outcome 2 the doctrine that this is the worst of all possible worlds [F *pessimisme*, fr L *pessimus* worst – more at *PEJORATIVE*] – *pessimist n*, *pessimistic /-mɪstɪk/ adj*, *pessimistically adv*

**pest** /pest/ *n* 1 a pestilence 2 a plant or animal capable of causing damage or carrying disease 3 bly or sth that pesters or annoys, a nuisance [MF *peste*, fr L *pestis*]

**pester** /'pesta/ *vt* to harass with petty irritations, annoy [modif of MF *empestrer* to hobble, embarrass, fr (assumed) VL *impastorare*, fr L *in-* + (assumed) VL *pastoria* hobble, fr L *pastor* herdsman – more at *PASTOR*]

**pesticide** /'pestɪsɪd/ *n* a chemical used to destroy insects and other pests of crops, domestic animals, etc

**pestiferous** /'peɪsɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 dangerous to society, pernicious 2 carrying or propagating infection [ME, fr L *pestifer* pestilential, noxious, fr *pestis* + *-fer-ferous*] – *pestiferously adv*

**pestilence** /'pestɪləns/ *n* a virulent and devastating epidemic disease, *specif* BUBONIC PLAGUE

**pestilent** /'pestɪlənt/ *adj* 1 destructive of life, deadly 2 morally harmful, pernicious 3 causing displeasure or annoyance, irritating [MF fr L *pestilent-*, *pestilens* pestilential, fr *pestis*] – *pestilently adv*

**pestilential** /'pestɪləns(ə)l/ *adj* pestilent – *pestilentially adv*


**pestle** /pest/ *n* 1 a usu club-shaped implement for pounding substances in a mortar 2 any of various devices for pounding, stamping, or pressing [ME *pestel*, fr MF, fr L *pistillum*, akin to MLG *visel* pestle, L *pulum* pestle, javelin, *pisere* to pound, crush]


**pebble** *vb* to pound or pulverize (as if) with a pestle

**pet** /pet/ *n* 1 a domesticated animal kept for companionship rather than work or food 2 bly who is treated with unusual kindness or consideration, a favourite 3 chiefly Br DARLING 1 – used chiefly by women as an affectionate form of address [perh back-formation fr ME *pety* small – more at *PETTY*]

**pet adj** 1a kept or treated as a pet b for pet animals <a ~ shop> 2 expressing fondness or endearment <a ~ name> 3 favourite <his ~ project>

**pet vb** *tt-vt* 1 to stroke in a gentle or loving manner 2 to treat with unusual kindness and consideration, pamper ~ *vi* to engage in amorous embracing, caressing, etc – *petter n*

**pet** *n* a fit of peevishness, sulkiness, or anger [origin unknown]  
**peta-** *comb form* thousand billion (10<sup>15</sup>)  PHYSICS [ISV, perh fr Gk *peta-* (in *petannynai* to spread out, *petasma* sth spread out)]

**petal** /petəl/ *n* any of the modified often brightly coloured leaves of the corolla of a flower  PLANT [NL *petalum*, fr Gk *petalon*; akin to Gk *petannynai* to spread out – more at *FATHOM*] – *petaled adj*, *petallike adj*, *petaloid /-ɔɪd/ adj*

**petalious** /'peti-əs/ *adj* having (such or so many) petals – usu in combination (*polypetalous*)

**petard** /'petəhd, pi-/ *n* 1 a case containing an explosive for military demolitions 2 a firework that explodes with a loud report [MF, fr *peter* to break wind, fr *pet* expulsion of wind, fr L *petitum*, fr neut of *petitus*, pp of *pedere* to break wind; akin to Gk *bdein* to break wind]

**peter** /'peeta/ *vi* to diminish gradually and come to an end; give out – usu + *out* [origin unknown]

**Peter** *n* (either of 2 New Testament epistles attributed to) a fisherman of Galilee and one of the 12 apostles [LL *Petrus*, fr Gk *Petros*, fr *petra* rock]

**Peter Pan** /'pan/ *n* a male who seems never to age [*Peter Pan*, hero of the play *Peter Pan*, or the boy who wouldn't grow up by Sir James Barrie †1937 Sc novelist & dramatist]

**Peter Pan collar** *n* a usu small flat collar attached to a round neck and with rounded ends that meet in front

**petersham** /'petəʃəm/ *n* 1 (a coat made of) a rough nubby woollen cloth 2 a heavy corded ribbon used for belts and put round hats [Charles Stanhope, Lord *Petersham* †1851 E colonel]

**Peter's pence** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* an annual tribute of a penny formerly paid by each household in England to the papal see [fr the tradition that St Peter founded the papal see]

**pethidine** /'pethideɪn, -dɪn/ *n* a synthetic narcotic drug with actions and uses similar to those of morphine but with less sedative effect [perh blend of *piperidine* and *ethyl*]

**petillant** /'petɪjəh (Fr *petjā*)/ *adj*, of wine mildly effervescent [F  *pétillant*, prp of *pétiller* to effervesce with a crackling sound, fr MF *petiller* to crackle, fr *peter* to break wind – more at *PETARD*]

**petiole** /'peti-ohl/ *n* the usu slender stalk by which a leaf is attached to a stem [NL *petiolus*, fr L, small foot, fruit stalk, alter. of *pediculus*, dim. of *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at *FOOT*] – *petiolated adj*, *petioled*, *petiolate /-ləɪt, -lət/ adj*, *petiolar /'peti-ohlə/ adj*

**petit bourgeois** /'peti 'bɔʊəʒ-wah (Fr *peti bɔʁʒwa*)/ *n*, *pl* **petits bourgeois** /~/ a member of the petite bourgeoisie [F, lit, small bourgeois] – *petit bourgeois adj*

**petite** /'pə'teɪt/ *adj*, esp of a woman having a small trim figure [F, fem of *petit* small]

**petite bourgeoisie** /'pə'teɪt bɔʊəʒ wah'zeɪ (Fr *petit bɔʁʒwazi*)/ *n sing* or *pl* in *constr* the lower middle class [F, lit., small bourgeoisie]

**petit four** /'peti 'faw (Fr *peti fur*)/ *n*, *pl* **petits fours**, *petit fours* /'fawz (Fr ~)/ a small fancy cake or biscuit [F, lit, small oven]

**'petition** /'pɪtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an earnest request, an entreaty 2 (a document embodying) a formal written request to a superior 3 sthg asked or requested [ME, fr MF, fr L *petition-*, *petitio*, fr *petitus*, pp of *petere* to seek, request – more at *FEATHER*] – *petitionary adj*

**'petition vb** to make an esp formal written request (to or for) – *petitioner n*

**petitio principii** /'pɪtɪʃi-oh prɪn'kɪpi-ɪ/ *n* a logical fallacy in which a premise is assumed to be true without justification [ML, lit., postulation of the beginning, begging the question]

**petit mal** /'peti 'mal/ *n* (an attack of) mild epilepsy – compare *GRAND MAL* [F, lit, small illness]

**petit point** /'peti 'pɔɪnt (Fr *peti pwā*)/ *n* TENT STITCH, also needlepoint embroidery worked on canvas across single threads in tent stitch – compare *GROS POINT* [F, lit, small point]

**petit pois** /'peti 'pwah, 'pɔ:teɪ- (Fr *peti pwa*)/ *n*, *pl* **petits pois** /'pwah(z) (Fr ~)/ a small young slightly sweet green pea [F, small pea]

**petr-** *petra-*, **petro-** *comb form* stone; rock (<petrology> [NL, fr Gk *petra-*, *petro-*, *petros* stone & *petra* rock])

**Petrarchan sonnet** /'pɪtrəhkan, pe-, pee-/ *n* a sonnet consisting of an octave rhyming *abba abba* and a sestet rhyming in any of various patterns (e.g. *cde cde* or *cdc cdc*) [Petrarch (Francesco *Petrarca*) †1374 It poet]

**petrel** /'petrəl/ *n* any of numerous seabirds, esp any of the smaller long-winged birds (e.g. a storm petrel) that fly far from land [alter. of earlier *pittoral*]

**petri dish** /'petri/ *n* a small shallow glass or plastic dish with a loose cover used esp for cultures of microorganisms (e.g. bacteria) [Julius *Petri* †1921 G bacteriologist]

**petrification** /'petri'fakʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the process of petrifying; being petrified 2 sthg petrified

**petrification** /'petri'fakʃ(ə)n/ *n* petrification

**petrify** /'petrɪfɪ-/ *vt* 1 to convert (as if) into stone or a stony substance 2a to make lifeless or inactive; deaden b to confound with fear, amazement, or awe; paralyse (< petrified of talking in public – Alan Frank> ~ *vi* to become stone or of stony hardness or rigidity [MF *petrifier*, fr *petr-* + *-ifier* -ify])

**Petrine** /'petrɪn/ *adj* 1 of (the doctrines associated with) the apostle Peter 2 of Peter the Great [LL *Petrus* Peter]

**petrochemical** /'petrə'hkemɪkl, -trə-/ *n* a chemical obtained from petroleum or natural gas (petroleum + *chemical*) – *petrochemical adj*, *petrochemistry /-kemɪstri/ n*

**'petrodollar** /-dɒlə/ *n* a unit of foreign exchange obtained by a petroleum-exporting country by sales abroad [petroleum + *dollar*]

**petrography** /'petrəgrəfi/ *n* the description and systematic classification of rocks [NL *petrographia*, fr *petr-* + L *-graphia* -graphy] – *petrographer n*, *petrographic /'petrə'græfɪk/*, *petrographically adj*, *petrographically adv*

**petrol** /'petrəl/ *n*, chiefly Br a volatile inflammable liquid hydrocarbon

mixture refined from petroleum and used as a fuel for internal-combustion engines → CAR [F *essence de pétrole*, lit. essence of petroleum]

**petrolatum** /ˈpetrəˈlajtəm/ *n* PETROLIUM JELLY [NL, fr ML *petroleum*]

**petroleum** /ˈpetrəʊliəm, -liəm/ *n* an oily inflammable usu dark liquid composed of a mixture of hydrocarbons, widely occurring in the upper strata of the earth, and refined for use as petrol, naphtha, etc → ENERGY [ML, fr L *petr-* + *oleum* oil more at OIL]

**petroleum jelly** *n* a semisolid mixture of hydrocarbons obtained from petroleum and used esp as the basis of ointments

**petrology** /ˈpetrəʊlədʒi/ *n* a science that deals with the origin, structure, composition, etc of rocks [ISV] – **petrologist** *n*, **petrologic** /ˈpetrəˈlɒjɪk/, **petrological** *adj*, **petrologically** *adv*

**petrol station** *n*, *Br* FILLING STATION

**petrous** /ˈpetrəs, -pee-/ *adj* resembling stone, esp in hardness *specif* of or being the hard dense part of the human temporal bone that contains the internal hearing organs [MF *petreux*, fr L *petrosus*, fr *petra* rock, fr Gk]

**petticoat** /ˈpetiˌkoʊt/ *n* 1 an outer skirt formerly worn by women and small children 2 a skirt designed to be worn as an undergarment [MF *petycote* short tunic, *petticoat*, fr *pety* small + *cote* coat] – **petticoated** *adj*

**petticoat** *adj* of or exercised by women, female (< ~ government) – chiefly humor or derog

**pettifog** /ˈpetiˌfɒɡ/ *vi* – **pettifog** 1 to engage in legal chicanery 2 to quibble over insignificant details [back-formation fr *pettifogger*, prob fr *petty* + obs *E fogger* (perh fr *Fugger*, 15th & 16th-c G family of financiers & merchants)] **pettifogger** *n*, **pettifoggery** *n*

**pettitoes** /ˈpetiˌtoʊz/ *n pl* the feet of a pig used as food [pl of obs *pettytoe* (offal), fr MF *petite oye* small goose, goose gibles]

**petty** /ˈpeti/ *adj* 1 having secondary rank or importance *also* trivial 2 small-minded [ME *pety* small, minor, alter of *petit*, fr MF] – **pettiness** *n*, **pettily** *adv*

**petty bourgeois** *n* PETIT BOURGEOIS

**petty cash** *n* cash kept on hand for payment of minor items

**petty larceny** *n*, *NAm* larceny involving property below a value specified by law – no longer used technically in the UK

**petty officer** *n* – compare NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER → RANK

**petty officer first class** *n* → RANK

**petty officer second class** *n* → RANK

**petty officer third class** *n* → RANK

**petulant** /ˈpetjuələnt/ *adj* characterized by temporary or capricious ill humour, peevish [L or MF, MF, fr L *petulant*, *petulans*, akin to L *petere* to go to, attack, seek – more at FEATHER] – **petulance** *n*, **petulantly** *adv*

**petunia** /ˈpiˌtjuʊniə, -niə/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the nightshade family with large brightly coloured funnel-shaped flowers [NL, genus name, fr obs *F petun* tobacco, fr Tupi *petyn*]

**pew** /pyoo/ *n* 1 a bench fixed in a row for the use of the congregation in a church, *also* a high compartment with such benches for the accommodation of a group (e.g. a family) 2 *Br* a seat (< take a ~ >) – infml [ME *pewe*, fr MF *puie* balustrade, fr L *podia*, pl of *podium* parapet, podium, fr Gk *podion* base, dim of *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT]

**pewit** /ˈpeeˌwɪt/ *n* a pewit

**pewter** /ˈpyoohtə/ *n* (utensils, vessels, etc made of) any of various tin-containing alloys, esp one of tin and lead [ME, fr MF *peutre*, akin to It *petro* pewter] – **pewter** *adj*

**pewterer** /ˈpyooht(ə)rə/ *n* one who works with pewter (and makes utensils or vessels)

**peyote** /ˈpayˌoʊti, -pi-/ *n* 1 any of several American cacti, esp MESCAL 1 2 MESCAL BUTTON, *also* mescaline [Mex Sp, fr Nahuatl *peyotl*]

**peyotl** /ˈpayˌoʊtl/ *n* peyote

**pfennig** /ˈ(p)fɛnɪɡ, -nikh (Ger ˈpfɛnɪɡ)/ *n*, *pl* pfennigs, pfennige /-nɪɡə (Ger -nɪɡə)/ *often* *cap* → Germany (Federal Republic), Germany (Democratic Republic) at NATIONALITY [G, fr OHG *pfenning* – more at PENNY]

**pH** /ˈpeeˌaɪch/ *n* the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion concentration in moles per litre, used to express the acidity or alkalinity of a solution on a scale of 0 to 14 with 7 representing neutrality [G, fr *potenz* power + *H*, symbol for hydrogen]

**phaeton** /ˈfaɪt(ə)m/ *n* a light open 4-wheeled carriage [Phaethon, character in Gk legend who attempted to drive the chariot of the sun]

**phag-**, **phago-** *comb form* eating, devouring (phagocyte) [Gk, fr *phagein* to eat – more at BAKSHESH]

**phage** /ˈfaɪ/ *n* a bacteriophage [by shortening]

**-phagia** /-ˈfaɪjə/ *comb form* (< ~ *n*) eating (a specified amount) (< dysphagia> eating (a specified substance) (< microphagia> [NL, fr Gk, fr *phagein* to eat]) – **-phagous** /-ˈfəɡəs/ *comb form* (< ~ *adj*)

**phagocyte** /ˈfəɡəsiət/ *n* a macrophage, white blood cell, etc that characteristically engulfs foreign material (e.g. bacteria) and consumes debris (e.g. from tissue injury) [ISV, fr Gk *phagein* + NL *-cyte* -cyte] – **phagocyte** *adj*, **phagocytic** /ˈfəɡəˈsɪtɪk/ *adj*, **phagocytically** *adv*

**phagocytosis** /ˈfəɡəsiˈtoʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* phagocytoses /-sɪz/ the uptake and usu destruction of extracellular solid matter by phagocytes – compare PINOCYTOSIS [NL] – **phagocytotic** /ˈtɒtɪk/ *adj*, **phagocytotically** *adv*, **phagocytose** /ˈfəɡəsiˌtoʊz/ *vt*, **phagocytize** /ˈtiːz/ *vt*

**-phagy** /-ˈfaɪ/ *comb form* (< ~ *n*) phagia [Gk *-phagia*, fr *phagein*]

**phalanger** /ˈfəˈlɑːŋə/ *n* any of various Australian marsupial mammals ranging in size from a mouse to a large cat [NL, fr Gk *phalang-*, *phalanx*]

**phalanstery** /ˈfalanst(ə)rɪ/ *n* a Fourierist cooperative community [F *phalanstère* dwelling of a Fourierist community, fr L *phalang-*, *phalanx* + F *-stère* (as in *monastère* monastery)]

**phalanx** /ˈfalæŋks/ *n pl* phalanxes /ˈfəˈlæŋjɪz/ **phalanxes** 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of troops, esp those of ancient Greece, in close array 2 any of the digital bones of the hand or foot of a vertebrate → ANATOMY 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a massed arrangement of people, animals, or things, esp a body of people organized for a common purpose [L *phalang-*, *phalanx*, fr Gk, battle line, digital bone, lit., log – more at BALK]

**phalarope** /ˈfalaˌrəʊp/ *n*, *pl* phalaropes, esp collectively **phalarope** any of various small wading birds that have lobed toes and are good swimmers [F fr NL *phalaropus*, *phalaropus*, fr Gk *phalaris* coot (akin to Gk *phalios* having a white spot) + *pod* *pous* foot more at BALD FOOT]

**phallic** /ˈfælik/ *adj* of or resembling a phallus – **phallically** *adv*

**phallus** /ˈfæləs/ *n*, *pl* phalli /ˈliː/ phalluses (a symbol or representation of) the penis [L, fr Gk *phallos* penis, representation of the penis – more at BLOW]

**phanerogam** /ˈfænəˌrəʊɡəm/ *n* a spermatophyte [F *phanerogame* deriv of Gk *phaneros* visible (fr *phainein* to show) + *gamos* marriage more at BIGAMY] – **phanerogamic** /ˈfænəˌrəʊɡamɪk/ *adj*, **phanerogamous** /ˈrəʊɡəməs/ *adj*

**phantasm** /ˈfænz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an illusion 2a a ghost, spectre b a figment of the imagination, a fantasy [MF *fantasma*, fr OF fr L *phantasma*, fr Gk, fr *phantazein* to present to the mind more at FANCY] **phantasmal** /ˈfænz(ə)m/ *adj*, **phantasmic** /ˈfænz(ə)mɪk/ *adj*

**phantasmagoria** /ˈfænzəˈmɑːɡɔːriə/ *n* 1 an optical effect by which figures on a screen appear to dwindle into the distance or to rush towards the observer with enormous increase of size 2 a constantly shifting confused succession of things seen or imagined (e.g. in a dreaming or feverish state) [F *phantasmagorie*, fr *phantasme* phantasm (fr OF *fantasme*) + *agore* (prob fr Gk *agerrein* to assemble, collect) more at GREGARIOUS] – **phantasmagoric** /ˈmɑːɡɔːrɪk/ *adj*

**phantasy** /ˈfæntəsi/ *vb* or *n* (to) fantasy

**phantom** /ˈfæntəm/ *n* 1a sthg (e.g. a ghost) apparent to the senses but with no substantial existence b sthg elusive or unreal a will o' the wisp c sthg existing only in the imagination (*his dreams troubled by ~s of the past*) 2 sthg existing in appearance only, a form without substance [ME *fantasme*, *fantome*, fr MF *fantasme*, modif of L *phantasma*] – **phantom-like** *adv* or *adj*

**phantom** *adj* 1 of the nature of, suggesting, or being a phantom 2 fictitious, dummy (< ~ voters)

**pharaoh** /ˈfeəroʊ/ *n*, *often* *cap* a ruler of ancient Egypt [LL *pharaon-*, *pharao*, fr Gk *pharao*, fr Heb *par'oh*, fr Egypt *pr-* ''] – **pharaonic** /ˈfeəroʊnɪk/ *adj*, *often* *cap*

**pharaoh ant** *n* a small red ant that is a household and greenhouse pest

**pharisaic** /ˈfærɪˈsaɪk/, **pharisaical** /ˈkl-/ *adj* 1 *cap* of the Pharisees 2 marked by hypocritical self-righteousness [LL *pharisaicus*, fr LGk *pharisaikos*, fr Gk *pharisaïos* Pharisee] – **pharisaism** /ˈfærɪsaɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**pharisee** /ˈfærɪˈsiː/ *n* 1 *cap* a member of a Jewish party noted for strict adherence to (their own oral traditions interpreting) the Torah 2 a pharisaic person [ME *pharise*, fr OE *farise*, fr LL *pharisaicus*, fr Gk *pharisaïos*, fr Aram *perishayya*, pl of *pêriša*, lit., separated]

**pharmaceutical** /ˈfɑːməˈsiyoʊtɪkl/ *also* **pharmaceutic** *adj* of or engaged in pharmacy or in the manufacture of medicinal substances [LL *pharmaceuticus*, fr Gk *pharmakeutikos*, fr *pharmakeuein* to administer drugs – more at PHARMACY] – **pharmaceutically** *adv*

**pharmaceutical** *n* a medicinal drug

**pharma'ceutics** /-ˈtɪks/ *n pl* *but* *sing* in *constr* PHARMACY 1

**pharmaco-** *comb form* medicine; drug [pharmacology] [Gk *pharmako-*, fr *pharmakon*]

**pharmacology** /ˈfahmˌkɒlədʒi/ *n* 1 the science of drugs and their effect on living things 2 the properties and effects of a usu specified drug (*the ~ of morphine*) – **pharmacologist** *n*, **pharmacologic** /-kəˈlɒjɪk/, **pharmacological** *adj*, **pharmacologically** *adv*

**pharmacopoeia** /ˈfahmˌkɒˈpiːə/ *n* 1 an (official) book describing drugs, chemicals, and medicinal preparations 2 a stock of drugs [NL, fr LGk *pharmakopoeia* preparation of drugs, fr Gk *pharmako-* + *poinē* to make – more at POET] – **pharmacopoeial** /-ˈpiːə/ *adj*

**pharmacy** /ˈfahməsi/ *n* 1 the preparation, compounding, and dispensing of drugs 2a a place where medicines are compounded or dispensed b CHEMIST 2 [LL *pharmacia* administration of drugs, fr Gk *pharmakeia*, fr *pharmakeuō* to administer drugs, fr *pharmakon* magic charm, poison, drug, akin to Lith *burti* to practise magic] – **pharmacist** *n*

**pharyng-**, **pharyngo-** *comb form* pharynx [pharyngitis] <pharyngeal> [Gk, fr *pharyng-*, *pharynx*]

**pharynx** /ˈfærɪŋks/ *n*, *pl* **pharynges** /ˈfærɪŋjez/ *also* **pharynxes** the part of the vertebrate alimentary canal between the mouth cavity and the oesophagus [NL *pharyng-*, *pharynx*, fr Gk, throat, pharynx, akin to ON *bark* throat, L *forare* to bore – more at BORE] – **pharyngeal** /ˈfærɪŋjeəl/ *adj*, **pharyngitis** /ˈfærɪŋjeɪtəs/ *n*

**phase** /fayz/ *n* 1 a particular appearance or state in a regularly recurring cycle of changes (<~s of the moon>) 2a a discernable part or stage in a course, development, or cycle (*the early ~s of his career*) b an aspect or part (e.g. of a problem) under consideration 3 a stage of progress in a regularly recurring motion or cyclic process (e.g. an alternating electric current) with respect to a starting point or standard position 4 a homogeneous and mechanically separable portion of matter present in a complex mixture [NL *phasis*, fr Gk, appearance of a star, phase of the moon, fr *phainēin* to show – more at FANCY] – **phasic** /ˈfayzɪk/ *adj*

**phase** *vt* 1 to conduct or carry out by planned phases 2 to schedule (e.g. operations) or contract for (e.g. goods or services) to be performed or supplied as required (<~ a development programme>)

**phase-contrast** *adj* of, employing, or produced by the phase-contrast microscope

**phase-contrast microscope** *n* a microscope that changes differences in the phase of the light transmitted through or reflected by the object into differences of intensity in the image and is used esp for examining biological specimens that have not been stained

**phase in** *vt* to introduce the practice, production, or use of in gradual stages (*phase in a new model*)

**phase out** *vt* to discontinue the practice, production, or use of in gradual stages (*phase out the old machinery*) – **phaseout** *n*

**-phasia** /-ˈfayziə, -z(ə)/ *comb form* (<-n>) speech disorder <dysphasia> [NL, fr Gk, speech, fr *phasis* utterance, fr *phanai* to speak, say – more at BAN]

**phasor** /ˈfayzə/ *n* a regularly alternating quantity (e.g. current or voltage) that is represented graphically by a directed line segment whose length represents the magnitude and whose direction represents the phase – compare VECTOR 1a [*phase* + *vector*]

**phatic** /ˈfætɪk/ *adj*, of speech expressing feelings or establishing an atmosphere of sociability rather than communicating ideas [Gk *phatos*, verbal of *phanai* to speak] – **phatically** *adv*

**pheasant** /ˈfeɪz(ə)nt/ *n*, *pl* **pheasants**, *esp* collectively pheasant any of numerous large often long-tailed and brightly coloured Old World (game) birds [ME *fesaunt*, fr AF, fr OF *fesan*, fr L *phasianus*, fr Gk *phasianos*, fr *phasianos* of the Phasis river, fr *Phasis*, river in Colchis, ancient country in Asia]

**phellem** /ˈfeləm/ *n* an outer layer of cork cells produced in the roots or stems of woody plants by phellogen [Gk *phellos* cork + E *-em* (as in *phloem*)]

**phelloderm** /ˈfeləˌduhm/ *n* a layer of (parenchyma) cells produced inwardly in the roots or stems of woody plants by phellogen [Gk *phellos* + ISV *-derm*]

**phellogen** /ˈfeləˌdʒɒn/ *n* a single row of cells in the outer layer of a woody plant stem or root that divides to form phellem to the outside and phelloderm to the inside [Gk *phellos* + ISV *-gen*]

**phen-**, **pheno-** *comb form* of or derived from benzene <phenanthrene>, containing phenyl [phenobarbital] <phenol> [obs *phene* (benzene), fr F *phène*, fr Gk *phainēin* to show – more at FANCY; fr its occurrence in illuminating gas]

**phenacetin** /ˈfiːnəsɪtɪn/ *n* a compound related to acetanilide and formerly used as a painkiller [ISV]

**phenobarbitone** /ˈfiːnəˌbɑːbiːtoʊn/ *NAM* chiefly **phenobarbital**

/-bɪt(ə)/ *n*, chiefly Br a barbiturate used esp as a sedative and anticonvulsant in the treatment of epilepsy

**phenocryst** /ˈfenaˌkrɪst, ˈfee-/ *n* any of the prominent embedded crystals of a porphyry rock [F *phénocryste*, fr Gk *phainēin* to show + *krystallos* crystal – more at FANCY] – **phenocrystic** /ˈfenaˌkrɪstɪk, ˈfee-/ *adj*

**phenol** /ˈfiːnɒl/ *n* (any of various derivatives of benzene containing a hydroxyl group and analogous to) a caustic poisonous hydroxy benzene used in dilute solution as a disinfectant [ISV *phen-* + *-ol*] – **phenolic** /ˈfiːnɒlɪk/ *adj*

**phenolphthalein** /ˈfiːnɒlfˈthaɪlɪn, -liːen/ *n* a synthetic compound used in medicine as a purgative and in chemical analysis as an indicator that is brilliant red in alkaline solutions [ISV]

**phenomenal** /ˈfiːnɒmɪnəl/ *adj* relating to or being a phenomenon: e.g. a known through the senses rather than through thought or intuition b concerned with phenomena rather than with hypotheses c extraordinary, remarkable (<a ~ success>) – **phenomenally** *adv*

**phenomenal,ism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory which holds that knowledge is limited to phenomena – **phenomenalist** *n*, **phenomenalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*, **phenomenalistically** *adv*

**phenomenological** /ˈfiːnɒmɪnəlˈɒjɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of phenomenology or phenomenism 2 PHENOMENAL a, b – **phenomenologically** *adv*

**phenomenology** /ˈfiːnɒmɪˈnɒlədʒi/ *n* 1 the description of the formal structure of the objects of awareness and of awareness itself in abstraction from any causal connections with the external world 2a the classification of a related group of phenomena (<the ~ of religion>) b an analysis produced by phenomenological investigation [G *phänomenologie*, fr *phänomenon* phenomenon + *-logie* -logy] – **phenomenologist** *n*

**phenomenon** /ˈfiːnɒmɪnən/ *n*, *pl* **phenomena** /-nə/ *also* **phenomenons** 1 an observable fact or event 2a an object of sense perception rather than of thought or intuition b a fact or event that can be scientifically described and explained 3a a rare or significant fact or event (<vandalism is a social ~>) b an exceptional, unusual, or abnormal person, thing, or event, a prodigy [LL *phaenomenon*, fr Gk *phainōmenon*, fr neut of *phainōmenos*, prp of *phainesthai* to appear, fr *phainēin* to show – more at FANCY]

**phenothiazine** /ˈfiːnəʊˈθiːziːn/ *n* 1 a synthetic compound used in chemical synthesis and in veterinary medicine against parasitic worms 2 any of various phenothiazine derivatives (e.g. chlorpromazine) used as tranquilizing agents, esp in the treatment of schizophrenia [ISV]

**phenotype** /ˈfiːnəʊˈtiːp/ *n* the visible characteristics of an organism that are produced by the interaction of the organism's genes and the environment [G *phänotypus*, fr Gk *phainēin* to show + *typos* type] – **phenotypic** /ˈfiːnəʊˈtɪpɪk/ *also* **phenotypically** *adj*, **phenotypically** *adv*

**phenyl** /ˈfiːnɪl, ˈfiːnɪl, -niːl, -nɪl/ *n* a univalent radical C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> that is derived from benzene by removal of 1 hydrogen atom – often in combination [ISV] **phenylic** /ˈfiːnɪlɪk, ˈfee-/ *adj*

**phenylalanine** /ˈfiːnɪlˈæləniːn/ *n* an amino acid found in most proteins that is essential for human metabolism [ISV]

**phenylbutazone** /ˈfiːnɪlˈbjuːəʊz(ə)ˌzəʊn, ˈfee-/ *n* a synthetic drug used esp to treat the pain and inflammation of arthritis and gout [*phenyl* + *butyric acid* + *pyrazolone* (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O)]

**phenylketonuria** /ˈfiːnɪlˈkeɪtəˈnyooːəriə, ˈfee-/ *n* an inherited metabolic disease in human beings that results in severe mental deficiency if untreated from birth [*phenyl* + *ketone* + *-uria*] – **phenylketonuric** /-nɪk/ *adj* or *n*

**phenylthiocarbamide** /ˈfiːnɪlˈθiːəˈkɑːbəˌmɪd, ˈfee-/ *n* **phenylthiourea**

**phenylthiourea** /ˈfiːnɪlˈθiːəˈhyooːree-ə, ˈfee-/ *n* an extremely bitter compound that can be tasted only by people with a particular dominant gene

**pheromone** /ˈferəˌmoʊn/ *n* a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and stimulates 1 or more behavioural responses in other individuals of the same species [ISV *phero-* (fr Gk *pherein* to carry) + *-mone* (as in *hormone*) – more at BEAR] – **pheromonal** /ˈferəˌmɒnəl/ *adj*

**phew** /fyooʊ/ *interj* – used to express shock, relief, or exhaustion

**phi** /fiː/ *n* the 21st letter of the Greek alphabet [MGk, fr Gk *phē*]

**phial** /ˈfiːəl/ *n* a small closed or closable vessel, esp for holding liquid medicine [ME, fr L *phiala*, fr Gk *phiale*]

**Phi Beta Kappa** /ˈfiːˌbeɪtəˈkɑːpə/ *n* (a member of) an American college fraternity whose membership is based on academic distinction [*Phi Beta Kappa* (Society), fr *phi* + *beta* + *kappa*, initials of the society's Gk motto *philosophia biou kybernetēs* philosophy the guide of life]

**phil-**, **philo-** *comb form* loving (philogynist); having an affinity for <philoprogenitive> [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *philos* dear, friendly]

**philadelphus** /ˈfɪləˈdelfəs/ *n* any of a genus of ornamental shrubs of the hydrangea family, esp MOCK ORANGE [NL, genus name, fr Gk *philadelphos*]



**phos** brotherly, fr *phil-* + *adelphos* brother, fr *ha-*, *a-* (akin to *homos* same) + *delphe* womb – more at SAME, DOLPHIN]

**philander** /'fɪləndə/ *vi* 1 of a man to flirt 2 to have many casual love affairs [obs *philander* (lover, philanderer), prob fr *Philander*, stock name for a lover in early romances, fr Gk *philos* + *andr-*, *aner* man] – **philanderer** *n*

**philanthropic** /fɪlən'thrɒpɪk/ also **philanthropical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by philanthropy, humanitarian 2 dispensing or receiving aid from funds set aside for humanitarian purposes (<a ~ institution> – **philanthropically** *adv*

**philanthropy** /fɪlən'thrəpi/ *n* 1 goodwill to one's fellow men, esp active effort to promote the welfare of others 2 a philanthropic act or gift [LL *philanthropia*, fr Gk *philanthropia*, fr *philanthropos* loving mankind, fr *phil-* + *anthropos* man] – **philanthropist** *n*

**philately** /fɪ'lətəli/ *n* the study and collection of (postage) stamps [F *philatelic*, fr *phil-* + Gk *ateleia* tax exemption, fr *ateles* free from tax, fr *a-* + *telos* tax, akin to Gk *telein* to pay, *tlenai* to bear – more at TOLERATE] – **philatelist** *n*, **philatelic** /fɪ'lətɪk/ *adj*, **philatelically** *adv*

**-phile** /-fiəl/, **-phil** /-fɪl/ *comb form* (– *n*) one having a fondness or liking for (<Francophile>), also one having a chemical affinity for (<neutrophil> [F *-phile*, fr Gk *-philos*, fr *philos*] – **-phile** *comb form* (– *adj*)

**Philemon** /fɪ'eɪlɛmən/ *n* a letter written by St Paul to a Christian living in the area of Colossae urging him to forgive his runaway slave, which is included as a book in the New Testament [Gk *Philemon*]

**Philharmonic** /fɪ'lə'mɒnɪk, fɪl(h)'hɑ-/ *n* SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA [F *philharmonique*, lit, loving harmony, fr It *filarmónico*, fr *fil* phil + *armonia* harmony, fr L *harmonia*]

**-philia** /-fɪli ə/ *comb form* (– *n*) abnormal appetite or liking for (<necrophilia> [NL, fr Gk *philia* friendship, fr *philos* dear] – **-philiac** *comb form* (– *adj*)

**philibeg** /fɪli'beg/ *n* a filibeg

**-philic** /-fɪlɪk/ *comb form* (– *adj*) having (chemical) affinity for, liking (<photophilic> – compare **-phoric** [Gk *philos* -philous])

**Philippians** /fɪ'lɪpi ənz, əlso, fɪ'lɪ'pi ənz/ *n pl* but sing in constr a letter written by St Paul to the Christians of Philippi, included as a book in the New Testament

**philippic** /fɪ'lɪpɪk/ *n* a speech or declamation full of bitter invective [MF *philippique*, fr L & Gk, L *philippica*, *orationes philippicae*, speeches of Cicero 43 bc against Mark Antony, trans of Gk *philippikoi logoi*, speeches of Demosthenes 322 bc against Philip II of Macedon lit speeches relating to Philip]

**philistine** /fɪ'lɪstɪən/ *n* 1 *cap* a native or inhabitant of ancient Philistia 2 *often cap* a person who professes indifference or opposition to intellectual or aesthetic values [Philistia, ancient country in SW Palestine] – **philistine** *adj*, **philistinism** *n*

**philologist** /fɪ'lɒlədʒɪst/ *n* one who collects books of matches or matchbox labels [*phil-* + L *lumen* light – more at LUMINARY]

**philodendron** /fɪ'lə'dendrən/ *n, pl* **philodendrons**, **philodendra** /-drə/ any of various plants of the arum family cultivated for their showy foliage [NL, fr Gk, neut of *philodendros* loving trees, fr *phil* + *dendron* tree – more at DENDR-]

**philogyny** /fɪ'lɒjɪni/ *n* fondness for women [Gk *philogynia*, fr *phil-* + *gynē* woman – more at QUEEN]

**philology** /fɪ'lɒlədʒi/ *n* (historical and comparative) linguistics [F *philologie*, fr L *philologia* love of learning and literature, fr Gk, fr *philologos* fond of learning and literature, fr *phil-* + *logos* word, speech – more at LEGEND] – **philologist** *n*, **philological** /fɪ'lɒlədʒɪk/ *adj*, **philologically** *adv*

**philosopher** /fɪ'lɒsəfə/ *n* 1a a scholar, thinker b a specialist in philosophy 2 a person whose philosophical viewpoint enables him/her to meet trouble with equanimity [ME, modif of MF *philosophe*, fr L *philosophus*, fr Gk *philosophos*, fr *phil-* + *sophia* wisdom, fr *sophos* wise]

**philosophers' stone** *n* a substance believed by alchemists to have the power of transmuting base metals into gold

**philosophical** /fɪ'lə'sɒfɪk/ *adj* 1 of philosophers or philosophy 2 calm in the face of trouble

**philosophize**, **-ise** /fɪ'lə'səfɪz/ *vi* 1 to engage in philosophical reasoning 2 to expand a trite or superficial philosophy

**philosophy** /fɪ'lɒsəfi/ *n* 1a the pursuit of wisdom b the study of the nature of knowledge and existence and the principles of moral and aesthetic value 2 the philosophical principles or teachings of a specified individual, group, or period (<Kantian ~>) 3a the sum of beliefs and attitudes of a specified individual, group, or period (<the vegetarian ~>) b equanimity in the face of trouble or stress [ME *philosophie*, fr OF, fr L *philosophia*, fr Gk, fr *philosophos* philosopher]

**-philous** /-fɪləs/ *comb form* (– *adj*) **-philic** (<helophilous> [Gk *-philos*, fr *philos* dear, friendly])

**philtre**, *NAM chiefly philter* /fɪltə/ *n* a potion or drug reputed to have the power to arouse sexual passion [MF *philtre*, fr L *philtrum*, fr Gk *philttron*, akin to Gk *philos* dear]

**phizog** /fɪzɒg/ *n* FACE 1 –informal or humor [by shortening & alter fr *physiognomy*]

**phleb-, phlebo-** *comb form* vein (<phlebitis> [ME *flebe-*, fr MF, fr LL *phlebo-*, fr Gk *phleb-*, *phlebo-*, fr *phleb-*, *phleps*, akin to L *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID])

**phlebitis** /fɪ'bɪetɪs/ *n* inflammation of a vein [NL]

**phlebotomy** /fɪ'bɒtəmi/ *n* the letting or taking of blood in the treatment or diagnosis of disease [ME *flebotomie*, fr MF *flebotomie*, fr LL *phlebotomia*, fr Gk, fr *phleb-* + *tomia* tomy] **phlebotomize** *vb*, **phlebotomist** *n*

**phlegm** /flem/ *n* 1 that one of the 4 humours in medieval physiology that was considered to be cold and moist and to cause sluggishness 2 thick mucus secreted in abnormal quantities in the respiratory passages 3a dull or apathetic coldness or indifference b intrepid coolness, composure [ME *fleume*, fr MF, fr LL *phlegmat-*, *phlegma*, fr Gk, flame, inflammation, *phlegm*, fr *phlegain* to burn – more at BLACK] – **phlegmy** *adj*

**phlegmatic** /fleg'matɪk/ *adj* 1 resembling, consisting of, or producing phlegm 2 having or showing a slow and stolid temperament – **phlegmatically** *adv*

**phloem** /floh'em/ *n* a complex vascular tissue of higher plants that functions chiefly in the conduction of soluble food substances (e.g. sugars) – compare XYLEM [G, fr Gk *phloios*, *phloos* bark, akin to Gk *phallos* penis – more at BLOW]

**phlogistic** /flogɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 of phlogiston 2 of inflammations and fevers [(1) NL *phlogiston* (2) Gk *phlogistos*]

**phlogiston** /flogɪst(ə)n/ *n* the supposed essence of fire formerly regarded as a material substance [NL, fr Gk, neut of *phlogistos* inflammable, fr *phlogizein* to set on fire, fr *phlog*, *phlox* flame fr *phlegain*]

**phlox** /flok/ *n pl* **phlox**, esp for different types **phloxes** any of a genus of American plants with red, purple, white or variegated flowers [NI, genus name fr L, a flower fr Gk flame wallflower]

**-phobe** /-fohb/ *comb form* (– *n*) one afraid of or averse to (<Franco-phobe> [Gk *-phobos* fearing] – **-phobe** *comb form* (– *adj*)

**phobia** /'fohbɪ ə, baɪ/ *n* an exaggerated and illogical fear of sth [NL, fr LL *phobia* fr Gk, fr *-phobos* fearing, fr *phobos* fear, flight, akin to Gk *phobesthai* to flee, be frightened, 1 ith *begin* to flee]

**-phobia** /'fohbɪ ə, baɪ/ *comb form* (– *n*) abnormal fear or dislike of (<claustrophobia>)

**phobic** /'fohbɪk/ *adj* 1 of or being a phobia 2 motivated by or based on withdrawal from an unpleasant stimulus (<a ~ response to light>)

**-phobic** /-fohbɪk/, **-phobous** *comb form* (– *adj*) lacking (chemical) affinity for (<hydrophobic>), having an aversion for (<Anglophobic>), compare **-PHILIC** [**-phobic** fr F **-phobique**, fr IL *phobus*, fr Gk *-phobikos*, fr *phobia* -phobous fr IL *-phobus*, fr Gk *-phobos*]

**Phoenician** /fə'neesh(ə)n, -shyan, ni/ *n* (the language of) a native or inhabitant of ancient Phoenicia ~ ALPHABET [Phoenicia, ancient country in SW Asia] – **Phoenician** *adj*

**phoenix** /'feenɪks/ *n* a mythical bird believed to live for 500 years, burn itself on a pyre, and rise alive from the ashes to live another cycle [ME *fenix*, fr OE, fr L *phoenix*, fr Gk *phoinix* purple, crimson, Phoenician, phoenix, date palm, fr *phoinos* bloodred, akin to Gk *phoinos* murder, *theinein* to strike – more at DELIND] – **phoenixlike** *adj*

**phon** /fɒn/ *n* the unit of loudness relative to a 1kHz tone measured on a scale corresponding to the decibel scale of sound intensity [ISV, fr Gk *phone* voice, sound]

**phon-, phono-** *comb form* sound, voice speech (<phonate> <phonograph> [L, fr Gk *phon*, *phono-*, fr *phone* – more at BAN])

**phonate** /foh'nayt/ *vi* to produce vocal, esp speech, sounds – **phonation** /foh'naysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'phone** /fohn/ *n* 1 an earphone 2 a telephone [by shortening]

**'phone** *vb* to telephone – often + *up*

**'phone** *n* a simple speech sound [Gk *phone*]

**-phone** /-fohn/ *comb form* (– *n*) 1 sound (<homophone> – often in names of musical instruments and sound-transmitting devices (<radiophone> <xylophone>) 2 speaker of (a specified language) (<Anglo-phone>) [Gk *-phonos* sounding, fr *phone*]

**'phone book** *n* TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

**'phone-in** *n* a broadcast programme in which viewers or listeners can participate by telephone

**phonematic** /fohn'matɪk/ *adj* phonemic – **phonematically** *adv*



**phoneme** /'fohneem/ *n* the smallest unit of speech that can be used to differentiate the meanings of words – compare **ALLOPHONE** **ALPHABET** [F *phonème*, fr Gk *phōnemátē*, *phōnemá* speech sound, utterance, fr *phōnēin* to sound]

**phonemic** /'fə'neemik/ *adj* 1 of phonemes 2 linguistically distinctive – **phonemically** *adv*

**phonemics** *n pl* but *sing* in constr 1 the study of phonemes 2 the phonemic system of a language

**phonetic** /'fə'netik/, **phonetical** /-kl/ *adj* 1a of spoken language or speech sounds **b** of the study of phonetics 2 representing speech sounds by symbols that each have 1 value only [NL *phoneticus*, fr Gk *phōnetikos*, fr *phōnēin* to sound with the voice, fr *phōné* voice] – **phonetically** *adv*

**phonetics** *n pl* 1 *sing* in constr the study and classification of speech sounds 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr the system of speech sounds of a language **ALPHABET** – **phonetician** /'fohnetish(ə)n/, *fo-/ n*

**phony**, *NAm chiefly phony* /'fohni/ *adj* not genuine or real *e.g.* a intended to deceive, mislead, or defraud, counterfeit **b** false, sham (< a ~ name>) (< ~ pearls>) *c* of a person pretentious [origin unknown] – **phony** *n*

**-phonia** /-'fohnyə, -ni ə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 -phony 2 -phasia (< dysphonia>)

**phonic** /'fonik/ *adj* 1 of or producing sound, acoustic 2a of speech sounds **b** of phonics – **phonically** *adv*

**'phonics** *n pl* but *sing* in constr a method of teaching reading and pronunciation through the phonetic value of letters, syllables, etc

**phonogram** /'fohna'gram/ *n* a character used (*e.g.* in shorthand) to represent a spoken sound [ISV] – **phonogrammic**, **phonogramic** /'fohna'gramik/ *adj*, **phonogrammically**, **phonogrammically** *adv*

**phonograph** /'fohna'grahf, -graf/ *n* 1 an early device for recording or reproducing sound in which a stylus cuts or follows a groove on a cylinder 2 a gramophone – now chiefly *NAm* or humor

**phonographic** /'fohna'grafik/ *adj* 1 of phonography 2 of a phonograph – **phonographically** *adv*

**phonography** /'fohno'grafi/ *n* a spelling system, esp shorthand, based on pronunciation

**phonology** /'fə'noləʒi/ *n* 1 the science of speech sounds 2 the phonetics and phonemics of a language at a particular time – **phonologist** *n*, **phonological** /'fohna'ləʒikl/ *also* **phonologic** *adj*

**phonon** /'fohnon/ *n* a quantum of energy in the form of vibrations (*e.g.* sound) [*phon-* + *-on*]

**phony** /'fohni/ *adj*, chiefly *NAm* **phony**

**-phony** /-'faui/ *also* **-phonia** /-'fohnyə, -ni ə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 sound (< telephony>) (< euphony>) 2 -phasia (< dysphonia>) [ME *-phone*, fr GF, fr L *-phonia*, fr Gk *-phōnia*, fr *-phōnos* sounding – more at **-PHONE**]

**phooey** /'fooh-i/ *interj* – used to express scorn or incredulity, infml

**-phore** /-'faw/ *comb form* (→ *n*) bearer, carrier (< gametophore>) (< semaphore>) [NL *-phorus*, fr Gk *-phoros*, fr *-phoros* (*adj* comb form) carrying, fr *pherein* to carry – more at **'BEAR**] – **-phorous** *comb form* (→ *adj*)

**-phoresis** /-'fə'resis/ *comb form* (→ *n*), *pl* **-phoreses** /-'seez/ *transmission* (< electrophoresis>) [NL, fr Gk *phoresis* act of carrying, fr *pherein* to carry, wear, freq of *pherein*]

**phosgene** /'fozjeen/ *n* a very poisonous colourless gas that is a severe respiratory irritant and was formerly used as a war gas [Gk *phos* light + E *-gen-*, *-gene-*, fr its having been obtained originally by the action of sunlight upon equal volumes of chlorine & carbon monoxide]

**phosph-**, **phospho-** *comb form* 1 phosphorus (< phosphide>) 2 phosphate (< phosphoprotein>) (< phospholipid>) [*phosphorus*]

**phosphate** /'fosfəit/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of a phosphoric acid 2 *v* of several phosphates used as fertilizers [F, fr *acide phosphorique* phosphoric acid] – **phosphatic** /'fosfatik/ *adj*

**phosphene** /'fosfeen/ *n* an impression of light due to excitation of the retina caused by pressure on the eyeball [Gk *phos* light + *phainein* to show – more at **FANCY**]

**phosphide** /'fosfied/ *n* a binary compound of phosphorus with an element or radical [ISV]

**phosphor** *also* **phosphore** /'fosfə/ *n* a substance showing phosphorescence **TELEVISION** [L *phosphorus*, fr Gk *phosphoros*, lit, light bringer, fr *phosphoros* light-bearing, fr *phos-* + *pherein* to carry, bring – more at **'BEAR**]

**phosphor-**, **phospho-** *comb form* **phosph-** (< phosphorolysis>)

**phosphor bronze** *n* a hard elastic bronze containing a small amount of phosphorus

**phosphorescence** /'fosfə'res(ə)ns/ *n* 1 light emission that is caused by

the absorption of radiations and continues for a noticeable time after these radiations have stopped 2 lasting emission of light without noticeable heat – **phosphorescent** *adj*, **phosphoresce** /-'res/ *vi*

**phosphoric** /'fosforik/ *adj* of or containing (high valency) phosphorus

**phosphoric 'acid** *n* (any of several hydrated forms of) a syrupy acid used esp in preparing phosphates (*e.g.* for fertilizers), in rustproofing metals, and as a flavouring in soft drinks

**phosphorite** /'fosfərit/ *n* calcium phosphate occurring as a noncrystalline apatite – **phosphoritic** /'fosfə'ntik/ *adj*

**phosphorous** /'fosf(ə)rəs/ *adj* of or containing (low valency) phosphorus

**phosphorus** /'fosf(ə)rəs/ *n* 1 a nonmetallic trivalent or pentavalent element of the nitrogen family that occurs widely, esp as phosphates, 1 form of which ignites readily in warm moist air **PERIODIC TABLE** 2 a phosphorescent substance or body; esp one that shines or glows in the dark [NL, fr Gk *phosphoros* light-bearing – more at **PHOSPHOR**]

**phosphorylation** /'fosfori'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the combining of an organic compound with an inorganic phosphate group; esp the conversion of carbohydrates (*e.g.* glucose) into their phosphates in metabolic processes [*phosphoryl* (the radical PO) + *-ation*] – **phosphorylate** /-'fori,layt/ *vt*, **phosphorylative** /-'fori,laytiv/ *adj*

**phot-**, **photo-** *comb form* 1 light; radiant energy (< photography>) (< photophilic>) (< phototaxis>) 2 photograph; photographic (< photoengraving>) 3 photoelectric (< photocell>) [Gk *phōt-*, *phōto-*, fr *phōtē*, *phōs* – more at **FANCY**]

**photic** /'fohtik/ *adj* 1 of or involving light, esp in its effect on living organisms 2 penetrated by (the sun's) light (< zone of the ocean>) – **photically** *adv*

**'photo** /'fohtoh/ *vb* or *n* **photos**; **photoing**; **photoed**; *pl* **photos** (to) photograph

**'photo** *adj* **PHOTOGRAPHIC** 1

**'photo,call** /-'kaw/ *n* a session at which a person is photographed, typically for the purpose of publicity (*e.g.* in the press)

**'photo,cell** /-'sel/ *n* **PHOTOELECTRIC CELL** [ISV]

**photo'chemistry** /-'kemistri/ *n* (chemistry that deals with) the effect of radiant energy in producing chemical changes – **photochemical** /-'kemikl/ *adj*, **photochemically** *adv*, **photochemist** /-'kemist/ *n*

**photochromic** /'fohta'krohmik/ *adj* (of or using a substance) capable of changing colour on exposure to radiant energy (*e.g.* light) (< ~ glass>) [*phot-* + *chrom-* + *-ic*] – **photochromism** /'fohta'krohmiz(ə)m/ *n*

**photo,composition** /-'kompozish(ə)n/ *n* composition of reading matter directly on film or photosensitive paper for reproduction – **photocompose** /-'kə'pohz/ *vi*, **photocomposer** *n*

**photo,conductivity** /-'konduktiviti/ *n* electrical conductivity that is affected by exposure to radiation, esp light – **photoconductive** /-'kən duktiv/ *adj*

**'photocopy** /'fohta,kopi, -toh-/ *n* a photographic reproduction of graphic matter [ISV]

**'photocopy** *vb* to make a photocopy (of) – **photocopier** *n*

**photoelectric** /'fohtoh i'lektrik/ *adj* involving, relating to, or using any of various electrical effects due to the interaction of radiation (*e.g.* light) with matter [ISV] – **photoelectrically** *adv*

**photoelectric cell** *n* a cell whose electrical properties are modified by the action of light

**photoe'lectron** /-'i'lektron/ *n* an electron released in photoemission [ISV] – **photoelectronic** /-'lek'tronik/ *adj*

**photoe'mission** /-'i'mish(ə)n/ *n* the release of electrons from a metal by radiation, esp light – **photoemissive** /-'misiv/ *adj*

**photoen'graving** /-'ingrayvng/ *n* (a plate made by) a process for making line and halftone blocks by photographing an image on a metal plate and then etching – **photoengrave** *vt*, **photoengraver** *n*

**photo finish** 1 a race finish so close that the winner is only revealed (as if) by a photograph of the contestants as they cross the finishing line 2 a close contest

**'photo,fit** *n*, *often cap* (a means of constructing) a likeness of a person's face from photographs, esp for identification – compare **'IDENTIKIT**

**'photo,flood** /-'flud/ *n* an electric lamp using excess voltage to give intense sustained illumination for taking photographs

**photogenic** /'fohta'jenik, -jeenik/ *adj* 1 producing or generating light; luminescent (< ~ bacteria>) 2 suitable for being photographed – **photogenically** *adv*

**photogrammetry** /'fohtoh'gramitri/ *n* the use of esp aerial photographs to obtain reliable measurements [ISV *photogram* photograph (fr

*phot-* + *-gram*) + *-metry*] – **photogrammetrist** *n*, **photogrammetric** /-grə'metrik/ *adj*

**photograph** /'fohtə'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* a picture or likeness obtained by photography

**photograph** *vt* to take a photograph of ~ *vi* 1 to take a photograph 2 to undergo being photographed – **photographer** /'fə'togrəfə/ *n*

**photographic** /'fohtə'grəfik/ *adj* 1 relating to, obtained by, or used in photography 2 capable of retaining vivid impressions; *esp* eidetic (<~*memory*) – **photographically** *adv*

**photography** /'fə'togrəfi/ *n* the art or process of producing images on a sensitized surface (e.g. a film) by the action of radiant energy, *esp* light → **CAMERA**

**photogravure** /'fohtə'grəvʊə/ *n* (a picture produced by) a process for making prints from an intaglio plate prepared by photographic methods [F, fr *phot-* + *gravure*]

**photoheliograph** /'fohtə'heli-ə'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* a telescope adapted for photographing the sun

**photolithography** /'fohtə'liθə'grəfi/ *n* lithography in which photographically prepared plates are used [ISV] – **photolithographer** *n*, **photolithograph** /-'liθə'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* or *vt*, **photolithographic** /-'liθə'grəfik/ *adj*, **photolithographically** *adv*

**photolysis** /'fohtə'laɪsɪs/ *n* chemical decomposition by the action of radiant energy, *esp* light [NL] – **photolyse** /'fohtə'laɪz/ *vb*, **photolytic** /'fohtə'laɪtɪk/ *adj*, **photolytically** *adv*

**photometer** /'fohtə'mɒtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring light intensity, illumination, or brightness [NL *photometrum*, fr *phot-* + *-metrum* -meter] – **photometry** *n*, **photometric** /'fohtə'metrik/ *adj*, **photometrically** *adv*

**photomicrograph** /'fohtə'miəkrə'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* a photograph of an object magnified under a microscope [*phot-* + *micr-* + *-graph*] – **photomicrograph** *vt*, **photomicrography** /-'miə'krogrəfi/ *n*, **photomicrographic** /-'miəkrə'grəfik/ *also* **photomicrographical** *adj*

**photo-multiplier** /-'mʌlti'plai-ə/ *n* a device that increases the brightness of an electronic image (e.g. a television picture) by multiplying the number of electrons released by photoelectric emission

**photon** /'fohtən/ *n* a quantum of electromagnetic radiation [*phot-* + *-on*] – **photonic** /'fohtə'nik/ *adj*

**photo-offset** /'ofset/ *n* offset printing from photolithographic plates

**photo-period** /-'piəri-əd/ *n* the relative lengths of alternating periods of lightness and darkness as they affect the growth and maturity of an organism – **photoperiodism** *n*, **photoperiodic** /-'piəri'odɪk/ *adj*, **photoperiodically** *adv*

**photo-phobia** /-'fəʊbi-ə, -bi-ə/ *n* painful sensitiveness to strong light [NL] – **photophobic** /-'fəʊbɪk/ *adj*

**photo-phore** /-'fəʊ/ *n* a light-emitting organ; *esp* any of the luminous spots on various marine mostly deep-sea fishes [ISV]

**photophosphorylation** /'fohtə'fos'fɔri'leɪʃən/ *n* the synthesis of ATP from ADP and phosphate that occurs in a plant using radiant energy absorbed during photosynthesis [*phot-* + *phosphorylation*]

**photopic** /'fohtə'pɪk, -tɒpɪk/ *adj* of or being vision in bright light with light-adapted eyes – compare **SCOTOPIC** [NL *photopia*, fr *phot-* + *-opia*] – **photopia** /-'tɒpi-ə/ *n*

**photo-polymer** /-'pɒli-mə/ *n* a photosensitive plastic used for making printing plates

**photoreceptor** /-'ri'septa/ *n* a receptor for light stimuli – **photoreception** /-'septa(ə)n/ *n*, **photoreceptive** /-'septɪv/ *adj*

**photo-sensitive** /-'sensətɪv/ *adj* sensitive or sensitized to radiant energy, *esp* light – **photosensitivity** /-'sensətɪvətɪ/ *n*

**photo-sensitize**, -ise /-'sensɪtɪz/ *vt* to make (abnormally) sensitive to the influence of radiant energy, *esp* light – **photosensitive** *adj*, **photosensitization** /-'sensətɪzaɪʃən/ *n*

**photo-setting** /-'setɪŋ/ *n* photocomposition – **photosetter** *n*

**photosphere** /'fohtə'sfiə/ *n* the luminous surface layer of the sun or other star – **photospheric** /'fohtə'sferɪk/ *adj*

**photostat** /'fohtə'stat/ *vt* to copy on a Photostat device; *broadly* to photocopy – **photostat** *n*, **photostatic** /'fohtə'statɪk/ *adj*

**Photostat trademark** – used for a device for making a photographic copy of graphic matter

**photosynthesis** /'fohtə'sɪnθəsɪs/ *n* the synthesis of organic chemical compounds from carbon dioxide using radiant energy, *esp* light; *esp* the formation of carbohydrates in the chlorophyll-containing tissues of plants exposed to light → **ENERGY**, **FOOD** [NL] – **photosynthesize** /-'sɪz/ *vi*, **photosynthetic** /-'sɪnθetɪk/ *adj*, **photosynthetically** *adv*

**phototropism** /'fohtə'trɒpɪz(ə)m/ *n* a tropism in which light is the

orienting factor [ISV] – **phototropic** /'fohtə'trɒpɪk, -tɒhpɪk/ *adj*, **phototropically** *adv*

**phototypography** /-'tiə'pɒgrəfi/ *n* photocomposition [ISV] – **phototypographic** /-'tiə'pə'grəfik/ *adj*

**photovoltaic** /-'vɒltə'vɪk/ *adj* of or using the generation of an electromotive force when radiant energy falls on the boundary between dissimilar substances [ISV]

**phrasal** /'frayz/ *adj* (consisting) of a phrase – **phrasally** *adv*

**phrase** /'frayz/ *n* 1 a mode or form of speech, diction 2 a brief usual idiomatic or pithy expression; *esp* a catchphrase (<good at turning a ~>) 3 a group of musical notes forming a natural unit of melody that is usually 3 or 4 bars in length 4 a group of 2 or more grammatically related words that do not form a clause; *esp* a preposition with the words it governs [L *phrasis*, fr Gk, fr *phrazein* to point out, explain, tell]

**phrase** *vt* 1 to express in words or in appropriate or telling terms (<a *politely* ~d *rejection*>) 2 to divide into melodic phrases

**phrase-book** *n* a book containing words and idiomatic expressions of a foreign language and their translation

**phraseogram** /'frayzi-ə'grəm/ *n* a symbol for a phrase in some shorthand systems [*phraseo-* (as in *phraseology*) + *-gram*]

**phraseograph** /-'grəf/, -grəf/ *n* a phrase for which a phraseogram is used

**phraseology** /'frayzi'ɒləʒi/ *n* 1 a mode of organization of words and phrases into longer elements, a style 2 choice of words [NL *phraseologia*, fr Gk *phrase-*, *phrasis* + *-logia* -logy] – **phraseological** /-'nɒləʒɪkl/ *adj*, **phraseologically** *adv*

**phrasing** /'frayzɪŋ/ *n* 1 a style of expression, phraseology 2 the art, act, method, or result of grouping notes into musical phrases

**phratry** /'fraytri/ *n* a tribal subdivision [Gk *phratra*, fr *phratēr* member of the same clan, member of a phratry – more at **BROTHER**]

**phreatic** /'fri:tɪk/ *adj* of or being water in the earth [Gk *phreat-*, *phrear* well]

**phren-** /'frɪn-, fren-/ *comb form* 1 mind (<*phrenology*>) 2 diaphragm (<*phrenic*>) [Gk, fr *phren-*, *phren* diaphragm, mind]

**phrenetic** /'fri:netɪk/ *adj* frenetic

**phrenic** /'frenɪk/ *adj* of the diaphragm [NL *phrenicus*, fr *phren-*]

**phrenology** /'frɪnə'lɒʒi/ *n* the study of the conformation of the skull as a supposed indicator of mental faculties and character – **phrenologist** *n*, **phrenological** /'frenə'lɒʒɪkl, -free-/ *adj*, **phrenologically** *adv*

**Phrygian** /'fri:ʒi-ən/ *n* a native or inhabitant of ancient Phrygia [*Phrygia*, ancient country of Asia Minor] – **Phrygian** *adj*

**phthalic acid** /'f(θ)əlɪk/ *n* an acid obtained by oxidation of various benzene derivatives [ISV, short for obs *naphthalic acid*, fr *naphthalene*]

**phthisis** /'θɪsɪs/ *n*, **pl phthises** /-'sɛz/ a progressive wasting condition, *esp* lung tuberculosis [L, fr Gk, fr *phthinein* to waste away, akin to Skt *kṣipoti* he destroys]

**phut** /fut/ *n* a dull sound as of sth bursting [imit]

**phut** *adv*, chiefly *Br* **WRONG** 4 – chiefly in *go phut*; *infm* [*steam iron went ~*]

**phyl-** /'fil-/ *comb form* tribe; race, phylum (<*phylogeny*>) [L, fr Gk, fr *phyle*, *phylon*; akin to Gk *phyein* to bring forth – more at **BE**]

**phylactery** /'fɪlakt(ə)n/ *n* either of 2 small square leather boxes containing passages from scripture, traditionally worn on the left arm and forehead by Jewish men during morning weekday prayers [ME *philaterie*, fr ML *philaterium*, alter. of LL *phylacterium*, fr Gk *phylaktērion* amulet, phylactery, fr *phylassein* to guard, fr *phylak-*, *phylax* guard]

**phyll-** /'fil-/ *comb form* leaf (<*phyllod*>) (<*phyllophagous*>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *phyllon* – more at **BLADE**]

**phyllode** /'fɪlohəd/ *n* a flat expanded leaf stalk that resembles the blade of a foliage leaf and fulfils the same functions [NL *phyllodium*, fr Gk *phyllodēs* like a leaf, fr *phyllon* leaf]

**phyllpod** /'fɪloh.pɒd/ *n* any of a group of crustaceans that typically have leaflike swimming appendages that also serve as gills [deriv of Gk *phyllon* leaf + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at **FOOT**] – **phyllpod** *adj*, **phyllpodan** /'fɪlopəd(ə)n/ *adj* or *n*, **phyllpodous** /'fɪlopədəs/ *adj*

**phyllotaxy** /'fɪloh.tak.sɪ/ *also* **phyllotaxis** /'fɪloh.tak.sɪs/ *n* (the study of) the arrangement of leaves on a stem [NL *phyllotaxis*, fr *phyll-* + *-taxis*] – **phyllotactic** /'fɪloh.taktɪk/ *adj*

**phyloxera** /'fɪlɒk'sɪərə/ *n* any of various plant lice that are destructive to many plants (e.g. grapevines) [NL, genus name, fr *phyll-* + Gk *xeros* dry – more at **SERENE**] – **phyloxeran** *adj* or *n*

**phylogenesis** /'fɪlə'ʒenəsɪs/ *n* phylogeny [NL, fr *phyl-* + L *genesis*] – **phylogenetic** /-'jɪ'netɪk/ *adj*, **phylogenetically** *adv*

**phylogeny** /'fɪlə'ʒɒni/ *n* (the history of) the evolution of a genetically

related group of organisms (e.g. a race or species) [ISV] – **phylogenetic** /fɪləh'jenɪk/ *adj*

**phylum** /fɪləm/ *n*, *pl* **phyla** /-lə/ a major group of related species in the classification of plants and animals [NL, fr Gk *phylon* tribe, race – more at **PHYL**]

**-phyre** /-fiə-/ *comb form* (→ *n*) porphyritic rock <*granophyre*> [F, fr *porphyre* porphyry, fr ML *porphyrum* – more at **PORPHYRY**]

**physi-**, **physio-** *comb form* 1 nature <*physiography*> 2 physical <*physiotherapy*> [L, fr Gk, fr *physis* – more at **PHYSICS**]

**physic** /'fizɪk/ *n* a medicinal preparation (e.g. a drug), esp. a purgative [ME *physik*, *phisc* natural science, art of medicine, fr OF *fisque*, fr L *physica* (sing.) natural science, fr Gk *physike*, fr fem. of *physikos* – more at **PHYSICS**]

**physic** *vt* -ck- *archaic* to administer medicine to, esp. to purge [ME *phisen*, fr *phisk*]

**physical** /'fizɪkəl/ *adj* 1a having material existence, perceptible, esp. through the senses, and subject to the laws of nature b of material things 2a of natural science b of or involving physics (< *chemistry*) 3a of the body (< *education*) b concerned or preoccupied with the body and its needs, as opposed to spiritual matters [ME, fr ML *physicalis*, fr L *physica* physics] – **physically** *adv*

**physical geography** *n* geography that deals with the exterior physical features and changes of the earth

**physicality** /fɪzɪ'kæləti/ *n* intensely physical orientation, predominance of the physical, usu. at the expense of the mental, spiritual, or social

**physical 'jerks** *n* bodily exercises – *informal*

**physical 'science** *n* the natural sciences (e.g. physics, astronomy, etc.) that deal primarily with nonliving materials – **physical scientist** *n*

**physician** /fɪ'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a person skilled in the art of healing, specif. a doctor of medicine [ML *fiscien*, fr OF, fr *fisque* medicine]

**physico-** /fɪzɪkə-/ *comb form* 1 physical <*physicogeographical*> 2 physical and <*physicochemical*> [NL, fr L *physicus*, fr Gk *physikos*]

**physics** /'fizɪks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.* 1 a science that deals with (the properties and interactions of) matter and energy in such fields as mechanics, heat, electricity, magnetism, atomic structure, etc. 2 the physical properties and phenomena of a particular system [L *phýsika*, *pl.* natural science, fr Gk *physika*, fr neut. *pl.* of *physikos* of nature, fr *physis* growth, nature, fr *phyein* to bring forth – more at **BE**] – **physicist** /'fizɪsɪst/ *n*

**Physiocrat** /fɪzɪ'ɒh,kraɪt/ *n* a member of a school of political economists of 18th-c. France, who believed in allowing the operation of natural economic laws [F *physocrate*, fr *physi-* + *-crate* -crate] – **physiocratic** /fɪzɪ'ɒkratik/ *adj*, often *cap*

**physiognomy** /fɪzɪ'ɒnəmi/ *n* 1 the art of judging character: from outward appearance 2 the facial features, esp. when revealing qualities of mind or character 3 an external aspect, also inner character or quality revealed outwardly (the ~ of a political party) [ME *phisonomie*, fr MF, fr L.L. *physiognomonía*, *physiognomía*, fr Gk *physiognomonía*, fr *physiognomon* judging character by the features, fr *physis* nature, physique, appearance + *gnomon* interpreter – more at **GNOMON**] – **physiognomic** /fɪzɪ'ɒnɒmɪk/, **physiognomical** *adj*, **physiognomically** *adv*

**physiography** /fɪzɪ'ɒgrəfi/ *n* 1 a description of nature or natural phenomena 2 physical geography [prob. fr (assumed) NL *physiographia*, fr NL *physi-* + L *-graphia* -graphy] – **physiographer** *n*, **physiographic** /-zɪ'ɒgrəfɪk/ *also* **physiographical** *adj*

**physiological** /fɪzɪ'ɒləjɪkəl/, **physiologic** *adj* 1 of physiology 2 characteristic of or appropriate to an organism's healthy or normal functioning (< the ~ level of a substance in the blood >) – **physiologically** *adv*

**physiological saline** *n* a solution of a salt or salts that is similar in concentration to tissue fluids or blood

**physiology** /fɪzɪ'ɒləj/ *n* 1 biology that deals with the functions and activities of life or of living matter (e.g. organs, tissues, or cells) and the physical and chemical phenomena involved – compare **ANATOMY** 2 the physiological activities of (part of) an organism or a particular bodily function (< the ~ of sex >) [L *physiologia* natural science, fr Gk, fr *physis* + *-logia* -logy] – **physiologist** *n*

**physiotherapy** /fɪzɪ'ɒh'therəpi/ *n* the treatment of disease by physical and mechanical means (e.g. massage and regulated exercise) [NL *physiotherapia*, fr *physi-* + *therapia* therapy] – **physiotherapist** *n*

**physique** /fɪ'ziːk/ *n* the form or structure of a person's body [F, fr *physique* physical, bodily, fr L *physicus* of nature, fr Gk *physikos*]

**phyt-** /-fiət-, **phyto-** | *comb form* plant <*phytochemistry*> <*phytopathology*> [NL, fr Gk, fr *phyton*, fr *phyein* to bring forth – more at **BE**]

**-phyte** /-fiət-/ *comb form* (→ *n*) 1 plant having (a specified characteristic

or habitat) <*saprophyte*> 2 pathological growth <*osteophyte*> [ISV, fr Gk *phyton* plant] – **-phytic** /-fiːtɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*)

**photography** /fɪ'etɒgrəfi/ *n* descriptive botany, sometimes including plant taxonomy [NL *photographia*, fr *phyt-* + L *-graphia* -graphy]

**phytophagous** /fɪ'etɒfəɡəs/ *adj*, esp. of an insect feeding on plants – **phytophagy** *n*

**phytoplankton** /fɪ'etɒh'plæŋktən/ *n* planktonic plant life – compare **ZOOPLANKTON** [ISV] – **phytoplanktonic** /-plæŋk'tɒnɪk/ *adj*

**phyto'toxic** /-tɒksɪk/ *adj* poisonous to plants – **phytotoxicity** /-tɒk'sɪsəti/ *n*

**pi** /pi/ *n*, *pl* **pis** /piːz/ 1 the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet 2 (the symbol  $\pi$  denoting) the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter with a value, to 8 decimal places, of 3.14159265... SYMBOL [MGk, fr Gk *pei*, of Sem. origin; akin to Heb. *pē*, 17th letter of the Heb. alphabet]

**pi** *vt* **pies**; **pieing**, **pieing**; **pled** chiefly *NAM* 'PIE

**pi** *adj*, *Br* *pious* – derog. [by shortening]

**piaffe** /pi'af/ *vi*, of a horse to move at a slow trot [F *piaffer*, lit., to strut]

**piaffer** /pi'afə/ *n* the action or an instance of *piaffing*

**pia mater** /piə'ə'maɪtə/, *mayta* *n* the thin membrane that envelops the brain and spinal cord and is internal to the dura mater [ME, fr ML, fr L, tender mother]

**pianissimo** /,peɪə'nɪsɪmoh/ *adv* or *adj* very soft – used in music [It, superl. of *piano* softly]

**pianist** /'peɪə'nɪst/ *n* a skilled or professional performer on the piano **pianistic** /,peɪə'nɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 of or characteristic of the piano 2 skilled in or well adapted to piano playing – **pianistically** *adv*

**piano** /pi'ahnəh/, *pyah* *adv* or *adj* in a soft or quiet manner – used in music [It, fr L.L. *planus* smooth, fr L, level – more at **FLOOR**]

**piano** /pi'ahnəh/ *n*, *pl* **pianos** a stringed instrument having steel wire strings that sound when struck by felt-covered hammers operated from a keyboard [It, short for *pianoforte*, fr *piano* *e* *forte* soft and loud]

**pianoforte** /,pyahnə'hawti, piəh-, piə-/ *n* a piano [It]

**piano hinge** *n* a hinge that extends along the full length of the parts to be joined

**Pianola** /,peɪə'nɒlə/ *trademark* – used for a mechanical piano operated by the pressure of air through perforations in a paper roll

**piassava** /piə'sahvə/ *n* any of several stiff coarse fibres obtained from palms and used esp. in making ropes or brushes [Pg *piassaba*, fr Tupi *piacaba*]

**piastre**, *NAM* **piaster** /pi'astə/ *n* (a note or coin representing) a unit worth 1/100 of the basic money unit of certain Middle Eastern countries (e.g. Egypt, Syria) NATIONALITY [F *piastre*, fr It *piastra* thin metal plate, *piastro*]

**piazza** /pi'atʃə, pi'adzə/ *n*, *pl* **piazas**, **piazze** /-sɪ/ 1 an open square, esp. in an Italian town 2 *NAM* a veranda [It, fr L *platea* broad street – more at **PLACE**]

**pibroch** /'peɪbrok(h)/ *n* a set of martial or mournful variations for the Scottish Highland bagpipe [ScGael *piobaireachd* pipe-music]

**pic** /pɪk/ *n*, *pl* **pics**, **pix** /pɪks/ a photograph – *informal* [short for *picture*]

**pica** /'piːkə/ *n* 1 a unit of 4.23 mm (about 1/4 in) used in measuring typographical material 2 a typewriter type providing 10 characters to the linear inch [prob. fr ML, collection of church rules]

**pica** *n* the pathological craving for and eating of inappropriate substances (e.g. chalk or ashes) [NL, fr L, magpie – more at **PIE**]

**picador** /pɪkə'daw/, *n*, *pl* **picadors**, **picadores** /-daw,rayz/ a horseman who in a bullfight prods the bull with a lance to weaken its neck and shoulder muscles [Sp, fr *picar* to prick, fr (assumed) VL *piccare* – more at **PIKE**]

**picaresque** /pɪkə'resk/ *adj* of or being fiction narrating in loosely linked episodes the adventures of a rogue [Sp *picaresco*, fr *picaro* rogue]

**picayune** /pɪkə'yoʊn/ *adj*, *NAM* of little value, paltry, also petty, small-minded [F *picailon* halfpenny, fr Prov *picaroun*, fr *picar* money, fr *pica* to prick, jingle, fr (assumed) VL *piccare*] – **picayune** *n*, **picayunish** *adj*

**piccalilli** /pɪkə'liːli/ *n* a hot relish of chopped vegetables, mustard, and spices [prob. alter of *pickle*]

**piccaninny**, chiefly *NAM* **picanianny**, **pickaninny** /pɪkə'nɪni, -ni-/ *n* a small Negro child – chiefly derog. [prob. modif. of Pg *pequeno* very little, fr *pequeno* small]

**piccolo** /pɪkə'loh/ *n*, *pl* **piccolos** a small shrill flute whose range is an octave higher than that of an ordinary flute [It, short for *piccolo flauto* small flute] – **piccolist** *n*

Base SI units

unit	symbol	concept
ampere	A	electric current
candela	cd	luminous intensity
kelvin	K	thermodynamic temperature
kilogram	kg	mass
metre	m	length
mole	mol	amount of substance
second	s	time

Derived SI units with names

coulomb	C	electric charge
farad	F	capacitance
henry	H	inductance
hertz	Hz	frequency
joule	J	work or energy
lumen	lm	luminous flux
lux	lx	illumination
newton	N	force
ohm	$\Omega$	electric resistance
pascal	Pa	pressure
tesla	T	magnetic flux density
volt	V	electric potential (difference)
watt	W	power
weber	Wb	magnetic flux

Supplementary SI units

radian	rad	plane angle
steradian	sr	solid angle

Fundamental constants

constant	symbol	value
velocity of light in a vacuum	c	$2\,998 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
charge on electron	e	$1\,602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
rest mass of an electron	$m_e$	$9\,110 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of a proton	$m_p$	$1\,673 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
rest mass of a neutron	$m_n$	$1\,675 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Avogadro's constant	$L, N_A$	$6\,022 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
standard atmospheric pressure		1 013 Pa
acceleration due to gravity	g	$9\,807 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
velocity of sound at sea level at 0°C		$331\,46 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
magnetic constant (permeability of free space)	$\mu_0$	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
electric constant (permittivity of free space)	$\epsilon_0 = \mu_0^{-1} c^2$	$8\,854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
Planck's constant	h	$6\,626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
Boltzmann's constant	$k = \frac{R}{L}$	$1\,381 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
universal gas constant	$R = Lk$	$8\,314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Faraday constant	$F = Ne$	$9\,649 \times 10^4 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$
gravitational constant	G	$6\,673 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$

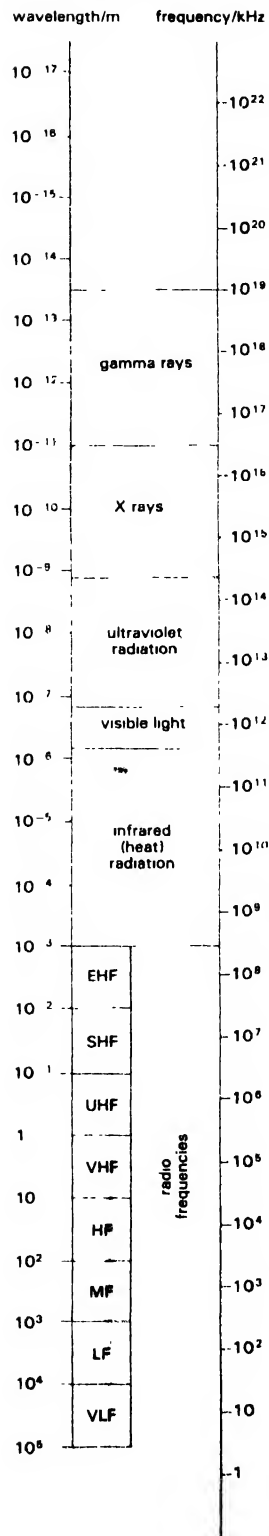
Other units used with SI (in specialized fields)

unit	symbol	value	concept
ångström	Å	$10^{-10} \text{ m}$	length
astronomical unit	AU	149,600,000 km	length
degree celsius	°C	1 K	temperature
electron volt	eV	$1\,60219 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$	energy
parsec	pc	$30857 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}$	length

Metric prefixes

exa	E	$10^{18}$	1 000 000 000 000 000 000
peta	P	$10^{15}$	1 000 000 000 000 000
tera	T	$10^{12}$	1 000 000 000 000
giga	G	$10^9$	1 000 000 000
mega	M	$10^6$	1 000 000
kilo	k	$10^3$	1 000
hecto	h	$10^2$	100
deca	da	$10^1$	10
deci	d	$10^{-1}$	0.1
centi	c	$10^{-2}$	0.01
milli	m	$10^{-3}$	0.001
micro	$\mu$	$10^{-6}$	0.000 001
nano	n	$10^{-9}$	0.000 000 001
pico	p	$10^{-12}$	0.000 000 000 001
femto	f	$10^{-15}$	0.000 000 000 000 001
atto	a	$10^{-18}$	0.000 000 000 000 000 001

Spectrum of electromagnetic radiation



**pice** /pi:s/ *n*, *pl* pice a paisa [Hindi *paisa*]

**piceous** /'pi:s-əs, 'pi:/ *adj* of or resembling pitch, esp in colour [L *piceus*, fr *pic*, *pix* pitch – more at *PITCH*]

**pick** /pik/ *vt* 1 to pierce, penetrate, or break up with a pointed instrument (<ed the hard clay>) 2a to remove bit by bit (< meat from bones>) b to remove covering or clinging matter from (<ed the bones clean>) 3a to gather by plucking (<ed flowers>) b to choose, select (<tried to ~ the shortest route>) (<she ~ed out the most expensive dress>) 4 to pilfer from, rob (<~ pockets>) 5 to provoke (< a quarrel>) 6a to dig into, esp in order to remove unwanted matter, probe (< his teeth>) (< his nose>) b to pluck with a plectrum or with the fingers (< a guitar>) c to loosen or pull apart with a sharp point (< wool>) 7 to unlock with a device (e.g. a wire) other than the key (< a lock>) 8 to make (one's way) carefully on foot – *vi* to gather or harvest sthg by plucking [ME *piken*, partly fr (assumed) OE *pician* (akin to MD *picken* to prick), partly fr MF *piquer* to prick – more at *'PIKE*] – **pick and choose** to select with care and deliberation – **pick at** 1 to find fault with, esp in a petty way 2 to eat sparingly and with little interest, toy with – **pick on** 1 to single out for unpleasant treatment or an unpleasant task 2 to single out for a particular purpose or for special attention – **pick someone's brains** to obtain ideas or information from sb – **pick someone/something to pieces** to subject to systematic adverse criticism

**\*pick *n*** 1 the act or privilege of choosing or selecting, a choice (<take your ~> 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr the best or choicest (<the ~ of the herd>) 3 the portion of a crop gathered at 1 time (<the first ~ of grapes>)

**\*pick *vt*** to throw (a shuttle) across the loom [ME *pykken*, alter of *picchen* to pitch]

**\*pick *n*** 1 a throw of the shuttle across a loom 2 one weft thread taken as a unit of fineness of fabric – compare *COUNT* 5

**\*pick *n*** 1 a heavy wooden-handled iron or steel tool with a head that is pointed at one or both ends – compare *MATTOCK* 2 a toothpick 3 a plectrum [ME *pik*]

**pickaback** /'pika,bak/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj* (a) piggyback

**pickaninny** /'pika,nini, -ni-/ *n*, chiefly NAm a piccaninny

**pickaxe** /'pik,aks/ *n* **\*pick** 1 [alter of ME *pikas*, *pikers*, fr OF *picois*, fr *pic* pick, fr L *picus* woodpecker – more at *'PIE*]

**picked *adj*** choice, prime

**picker** /'pika/ *n* 1 a person or machine that picks sthg, esp crops 2 a person or the part of the loom that threads the shuttle

**pickerel** /'pik(a)rəl/ *n*, *pl* pickerels, esp collectively pickerel *dial* chiefly Br a young or small pike [ME *pikerel*, dim of *pike*]

**\*picket** /'pikit/ *n* 1 a pointed or sharpened stake, post, or pale 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a a small body of troops detached to guard an army from surprise attack b a detachment kept ready in camp for such duty 3 a person posted by a trade union at a place of work affected by a strike, also a person posted for a demonstration or protest [F *piquet*, fr MF, fr *piquer* to prick – more at *'PIKE*]

**\*picket *vt*** 1 to enclose, fence, or fortify with pickets 2 to tether 3 to guard with or post as a picket 4a to post pickets at b to walk or stand in front of as a picket ~ *vi* to serve as a picket – **picketer *n***

**\*picket, line *n*** a line of people picketing a business, organization, etc

**pickings** /'pikingz/ *n pl* sthg picked (up) e.g. a gleanable or eatable fragments, scraps b yield or return for effort expended, esp rewards obtained by dishonest or dubious means

**\*pickle** /'pikl/ *n* 1 a solution or bath for preserving or cleaning e.g. a a brine or vinegar solution in which meat, fish, vegetables, etc are preserved b an acidic solution for cleaning metal 2 (an article of) food preserved in a pickle, also chutney – often pl 3 a difficult situation – infml (<I could see no way out of the ~ I was in – R L Stevenson>) 4 Br a mischievous or troublesome child – infml [ME *pekille*, prob fr MD *pekel*, *j...el*]

**\*pickle *vt*** **pickling** /'pikling/ to treat, preserve, or clean in or with a pickle

**\*pickle *n***, Scot a small quantity [perh fr Sc *pickle* (to trifle, pilfer), fr ME *pikelen*, fr *piken* to pick]

**\*pickled *adj*** DRUNK 1 – infml

**\*pick-me-up *n*** sthg that stimulates or restores; a tonic

**pick off *vt*** to shoot or bring down one by one (<the sniper picked off the enemy troops>)

**pick out *vt*** 1 to make clearly visible, esp as distinguished from a background (<the fences were picked out in red>) 2 to play the notes of by ear or one by one (<learned to pick out tunes on the piano>)

**pick over *vt*** to examine in order to select the best or discard the unwanted (<picked over the berries>)

**\*pick.pocket** /-pokit/ *n* one who steals from pockets or bags

**pickup** /-up/ *n* 1 the act or process of picking up 2 sb or sthg picked

up: e.g. a a hitchhiker who is given a lift b a temporary casual acquaintance, esp one made with the intention of having sex 3 a device (e.g. on a record player) that converts mechanical movements into electrical signals 4 a device (e.g. a microphone or a television camera) for converting sound or an image into electrical signals 5 interference (e.g. to reception) from an adjacent electrical circuit or system 6 a light motor truck having an open body with low sides and tailboard

**pick up *vt*** 1a to take hold of and lift up (<picked up the pencil>) b to gather together; collect (<picked up all the pieces>) 2 to take (passengers or freight) into a vehicle 3a to acquire casually or by chance (<picked up a valuable antique at a jumble sale>) (<picked up some money doing odd jobs>) b to acquire by study or experience, learn (<picking up a great deal of information in the process>) c to collect (<picked up his clothes at the cleaners>) d to accept for the purpose of paying (<the government should pick up the bill for the damaged ship>) 4 to enter informally into conversation or companionship with (a previously unknown person), usu with the intention of having sex 5a to take into custody b to discover and follow (<picked up the outlaw's trail>) c to bring within range of sight, hearing, or a sensor (<picked up the planes on the radar>) 6 to revive 7 to resume after a break; continue 8 chiefly NAm to clean up, tidy ~ *vi* 1 to recover speed, vigour, or activity, improve (<after the strike, business picked up>) 2 to put things in order, tidy

**Pickwickian** /'pik'wɪk-i-ən, -kɪ-ən/ *adj*, of a word or expression intended or taken in a sense other than the obvious or literal one [Samuel Pickwick, character in the novel *Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens †1870 E novelist]

**picky** /'piki/ *adj*, chiefly NAm fussy, choosy (<a ~ eater>)

**\*picnic** /'pɪknɪk/ *n* 1 (the food eaten at) an outing that includes an informal meal, usu lunch, eaten in the open 2 a pleasant or amusingly carefree experience (<don't expect marriage to be a ~>), also an easily accomplished task or feat – infml [G or F; G *picknick*, fr F *picque-nique*] – **picnicky *adj***

**\*picnic *vi*** -ck- to go on a picnic – **picnicker *n***

**pico-** /'peeko-, 'peeka-/ *comb form* one million millionth (10<sup>-12</sup>) part of (a specified unit) (<picogram>) – *PHYSICS* [ISV, perh fr It *piccolo* small]

**picot** /'peeko/ *vt* or *n* (to finish with an edging of) any of a series of small ornamental loops on ribbon or lace [n F, lit, small point, fr MF, fr *pic* prick, fr *piquer* to prick – more at *'PIKE*, vb fr n]

**picotee** /'pika'tee/ *n* a flower (e.g. some carnations or tulips) having 1 basic colour with a margin of another colour [F *picoté* pointed, fr *picoter* to mark with points, fr *picot*]

**picr-**, **picr-** *comb form* bitter (<picric acid>) (<picrotoxin>) [F, fr Gk *pikr-*, *pikro-*, f. *phkros* – more at *PAINT*]

**picric 'acid** /'pɪkrɪk/ *n* an explosive yellow strong acid used esp in powerful explosives and as an antiseptic [ISV]

**Pict**, **pikt** /*n* a member of a possibly non-Celtic people who once occupied Britain and later became amalgamated with the Scots [ME *Pictes*, pl. Picts, fr LL *Picti*, perh fr L *picti* painted people, fr *pictus*, pp of *pingere* to paint] – **Pictish *adj***

**Pictish *n*** the language of the Picts

**pictograph** /'pɪkta,grəf/, -grəf/, **pictogram** /-grəm/ *n* 1 an ancient or prehistoric drawing or painting on a rock wall 2 any of the symbols used in a system of picture writing – compare *IDEOGRAM*, *LOGOGRAM* 3 a diagram representing statistical data by pictorial forms [L *pictus* + E -o- *graph*] – **pictography** /-tɒgrəfi/ *n*, **pictographic** /'pɪkta'grəfɪk/ *adj*

**pictorial** /'pɪk'tɔ:ri-əl/ *adj* 1 of (a) painting or drawing (<~ perspective>) 2 consisting of or illustrated by pictures (<~ records>) 3 suggesting or conveying visual images [LL *pictorius*, fr L *pictor* painter, fr *pictus*, pp] – **pictorially *adv***, **pictorialness *n***

**\*picture** /'pɪkʃə/ *n* 1 a design or representation made by painting, drawing, etc 2a a description so vivid or graphic as to suggest a mental image or give an accurate idea of sthg (<the painted a vivid ~ of life in Victorian England>) b a presentation of the relevant or characteristic facts concerning a problem or situation (<drew an alarming ~ of the economic future>) 3a an image, copy (<he was the ~ of his father>) b the perfect example (<he looked the ~ of health>) c a striking or picturesque sight (<his face was a ~ when he heard the news>) 4a a transitory visible image or reproduction (<adjusted the television for a brighter ~>) b FILM 3a, b *c pl*, chiefly Br CINEMA 1b, 2 – infml (<what's on at the ~s?>) 5 a situation (<a look at the overall political ~>) [ME, fr L *pictura*, fr *pictus*, pp of *pingere* to paint – more at *PAINT*] – **in the picture** fully informed and up to date

**\*picture *vt*** 1 to paint or draw a representation, image, or visual concep-

tion of; depict 2 to describe graphically in words 3 to form a mental image of; imagine

**picture hat** *n* a woman's usu decorated hat with a broad brim 

**picture-postcard** *adj* picturesque (~ villages)

**picturesque** /ˈpɪktʃəˈresk/ *adj* 1 quaint, charming 2 evoking striking mental images; vivid (~ language) [F & It; F *pittoresco*, fr It *pittore-sco*, fr *pittore* painter, fr L *pictor*, fr *pictus*, pp] – **picturesquely** *adv*, **picturesqueness** *n*

**picture window** *n* a large esp single-paned window usu facing an attractive view

**'piddle** /ˈpɪdl/ *vi* **piddling** /ˈpɪdlɪŋ/ 1 to act or work in an idle or trifling manner 2 to urinate **USE** *infrm* [origin unknown]

**'piddle** *n* 1 urine 2 an act of urinating **USE** *infrm*

**piddling** /ˈpɪdlɪŋ/ *adj* trivial, paltry – *infrm*

**pidcock** /ˈpɪdɒk/ *n* a bivalve mollusc that bores holes in wood, clay, and rocks [origin unknown]

**pidgin** /ˈpɪdʒɪn/ *n* a language based on 2 or more languages and used esp for trade between people with different native languages – compare CREOLE 4 [*Pidgin English*, oriental modif of *business English*] – **pidginize** *vt*

**'pie** /pi:/ *n* 1 **MAGPIE** 1 2 a variegated animal [ME, fr OF, fr L *pica*, akin to L *picus* woodpecker, OHG *speh*]

**'pie** *n* a dish consisting of a sweet or savoury filling covered or encased by pastry and baked in a container [ME]

**'pie**, chiefly **NAM** *pl vt* to spill or throw (type or typeset matter) into disorder [origin unknown] – **pie** *n*

**'piebald** /ˈpi:bawld/ *adj* 1 esp of a horse of different colours, specif spotted or blotched with different colours, esp black and white 2 composed of incongruous parts; heterogeneous [*'pie* + *bald* (streaked with white)]

**'piebald** *n* a piebald horse or other animal

**'piece** /pi:es/ *n* 1a a part of a whole, esp a part detached, cut, or broken from a whole (~ of string) b a portion marked off (<bought a ~ of land>) 2 a) object or individual regarded as a unit of a kind or class, an example (<fine teak tables copied from antique ~s>) 3 a standard quantity (e.g. of length, weight, or size) in which sthg is made or sold 4a a literary, artistic, dramatic, or musical work b a passage to be recited 5 a coin, esp of a specified value (<a 5-pence ~>) 6 a man used in playing a board game, esp a chessman of rank superior to a pawn 7 a gun used for a specified purpose (<an artillery ~>) 8 a person, esp a woman – slang [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *pettia*, of Gaulish origin, akin to Bret *pez* piece] – **piece of one's mind** a severe scolding – **of a piece** alike, consistent – **to pieces** 1 into fragments 2 out of control (<went to pieces from shock>)

**'piece** *vt* 1 to repair, renew, or complete by adding pieces; patch – often + *up* 2 to join into a whole – often + *together* (<he ~d the story together from the accounts of witnesses>) – **piecer** *n*

**piece by 'piece** *adv* by degrees; piecemeal

**pièce de résistance** /ˌpɛs də ʀəzɪstɑ̃s/ *n*, *pl* **pièces de résistance** /~/ 1 the chief dish of a meal 2 an outstanding item; a showpiece [F, lit., piece of resistance]

**'piece, dye** *vt* to dye after weaving or knitting

**'piece, goods** *n pl* 1 fabrics made and sold in standard lengths 2 chiefly **NAM** fabrics sold from the bolt by the retailer in lengths specified by the customer

**'piece, meal** /-meel/ *adv* 1 one piece at a time, gradually 2 in pieces or fragments; apart

**'piecemeal** *adj* done, made, or accomplished piece by piece or in a fragmentary way

**piece of 'cake** *n* sthg easily accomplished – *infrm*

**piece of 'eight** *n* a peso

**'piece, rate** *n* a system whereby wages are calculated according to a set rate per unit produced

**'piece, work** /-wuhk/ *n* work that is paid for at a set rate per unit – **pieceworker** *n*

**piecrust** /ˈpi:krust/ *n* the baked pastry covering of a pie


**pled** /ˈpi:dl/ *adj* having patches of 2 or more colours

**pled-à-terre** /ˌpyɑ də ˈtɛ/ (*Fr* *piéd-à-terre*; *n*, *pl* **piéds-à-terre** /~/ a temporary or second lodging (e.g. a flat in a city kept by sby who lives in the country) [F, lit., foot to the ground]

**pled 'piper** /ˈpi:dl/ *n*, often *cap* both *Ps* one who offers strong but delusive enticement [*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, title & hero of a poem by Robert Browning †1889 E poet]

**'pie-eyed** *adj* **DAUNK** 1 – *infrm* [prob fr *'pie*]

**'pie in the 'sky** *n* a prospect or promise of deferred and often illusory happiness or prosperity – *infrm*

**pier** /piə/ *n* 1 an intermediate support for the adjacent ends of 2 bridge spans 2 a structure extending into navigable water for use as a landing place, promenade, etc 3 a vertical structural support (e.g. for a wall)  **CHURCH** [ME *per*, fr OE, fr ML *pera*]

**Pierce** /piəs/ *vt* 1 to enter or thrust into sharply or painfully; stab (<the thorn ~d his finger>) 2 to make a hole in or through, perforate 3 to force or make a way into or through (<a light ~d the darkness>) 4 to penetrate with the eye or mind, discern 5 to move or affect the emotions of, esp sharply or painfully (<grief ~d his heart when he heard of his son's death>) 6 to sound sharply through (<a shriek ~d the stillness of the evening>) 7 of cold to penetrate (<the cold ~d them to the bone>) ~ *vi* to force a way into or through sthg [ME *percen*, fr OF *percer*, perh fr (assumed) VL *pertusiare*, fr L *pertusus*, pp of *pertundere* to pierce, fr *per* through + *tundere* to beat, pound]

**pierced** *adj* having holes, esp decorated with perforations

**piercing** /ˈpiəriŋ/ *adj* penetrating. e.g. a loud, shrill (<cries>) b perceptive (<~ eyes>) c penetratingly cold, biting (<a ~ winter wind>) d cutting, incisive (<~ sarcasm>) – **piercingly** *adv*

**'pier, glass** *n* a tall mirror, esp one designed to occupy the wall space between 2 windows

**Pierrot** /ˈpi:roʊ/ *n* a stock comic character of old French pantomime usu having a whitened face [F, dim of *Pierre* Peter]

**pietà** /ˌpi:ə ˈaiˈləh, ˈpyɑ:/ *n*, often *cap* a representation of the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Christ [It, lit., pity, fr L *pietati*, *pietas*]

**pietism** /ˈpi:ə,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 *cap* a religious movement originating in 17th-c Germany stressing Bible study and personal religious experience 2a emphasis on personal devotional experience rather than theology b exaggerated religious sentiment – **pietist** *n*, often *cap*, **pietistic** /ˌpi:əˈtɪstɪk/, **pietistical** *adj*, **pietistically** *adv*

**piety** /ˈpi:əti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being pious, devoutness 2 dutifulness, esp to parents (<inspired by filial ~>) 3 an act inspired by piety [F *piété* piety, pity, fr L *pietati*, *pietas*, fr *pius* dutiful – more at *pious*]

**piezo-** *comb form* pressure (<*piezometer*>) (<*piezoelectric*>) [Gk *piezein* to press, akin to Skt *pidayati* he squeezes]

**piezoelectricity** /ˌpi:eezohlekˈtrɪsɪti, ˌeetlek/ *n* electricity or electric polarity due to pressure, esp in a crystalline substance (e.g. quartz) [ISV] – **piezoelectric** /-iˈlektrɪk/ *adj*


**piezometer** /ˌpi:ˈzomɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring pressure or compressibility – **piezometry** *n*, **piezometric** /ˌpi:eezəˈmetrɪk/ *adj*

**piffle** /ˈpɪfl/ *n* trivial nonsense – *infrm* [prob *imit*]

**piffing** /ˈpɪflɪŋ/ *adj* trivial, densory – *infrm*

**'pig** /pɪg/ *n* 1a chiefly **Br** any of various (domesticated) stout-bodied short-legged omnivorous mammals with a thick bristly skin and a long mobile snout b **NAM** a young pig 2 pork 3 sby like or suggestive of a pig in habits or behaviour (e.g. in dirtiness, greed, or selfishness) (<a male chauvinist ~>) (<made a ~ of himself by eating all the cake>) 4 an animal related to or resembling the pig – usu in combination (<guinea ~>) 5 a shaped mass of cast crude metal, esp iron 6 a policeman – slang; derog [ME *pigge*] – **piglet** /-lɪt/ *n*

**'pig vb -gg-** *vi* 1 to farrow 2 to live like a pig – + *it* ~ *vt* 1 to farrow (piglets) 2a to eat (food) greedily (<~ged all the cream cakes>) b to overindulge (oneself) (<~ged himself on cream cakes>) **USE** (*vt* 2) *infrm*

**pigeon** /ˈpij(ə)n/ *n* 1 any of a family of birds with a stout body and smooth and compact plumage, many of which are domesticated or live in urban areas  **ANATOMY** 2 a matter of special concern; business – *infrm* (<that's not my ~, someone else can deal with it>) [ME, fr MF *pyon*, fr LL *pipion*, *pupio* young bird, fr L *pipire* to chirp; (2) alter of *pidgin*]

**'pigeonhole** /-hohl/ *n* 1 a small open compartment (e.g. in a desk or cabinet) for letters or documents 2 a neat category which usu fails to reflect actual complexities (<a psychological ~ for every misfit>)

**'pigeonhole** *vt* 1a to place (as if) in the pigeonhole of a desk b to lay aside; shelve 2 to assign to a category; classify

**'pigeon-toed** *adj* having the toes turned in

**piggery** /ˈpɪg(ə)ri/ *n* 1 a place where pigs are kept 2 dirty or nasty behaviour (<male chauvinist ~>)

**piggish** /ˈpɪɡɪʃ/, **piggy** /ˈpɪɡi/ *adj* of or resembling a pig, esp in being dirty, greedy, or ill-mannered (<embarrassed by his ~ eating habits>) – **piggishly** *adv*, **piggishness** *n*

**piggy** /ˈpɪɡi/ *n* a pig; esp a little pig – used esp by or to children



- 'piggyback** /-bak/ *adv* up on the back and shoulders <carried the child ~ up the stairs> [alter of earlier a *pick back*, a *pick pack*, of unknown origin]
- 'piggyback** *n* a ride on the back and shoulders of another <gave his injured friend a ~>
- 'piggyback** *adj* 1 being up on the shoulders and back <children love ~ rides> 2 being or relating to sthg carried as an extra load on the back of a vehicle (e.g. an aircraft)
- 'piggy bank** *n* a coin bank often in the shape of a pig
- pigheaded** /pig'hedid/ *adj* obstinate, stubborn – **pigheadedness** *n*
- pig in a poke** *n* sthg offered in such a way as to obscure its real nature or worth [E dial *poke* (sack, bag), fr ME, fr ONF – more at **POCKET**]
- 'pig iron** *n* crude iron from the blast furnace before refining
- 'pig lead** *n* lead cast in pigs
- 'pigment** /'pigmənt/ *n* 1 a substance that colours other materials, esp a powdered substance that is mixed with a liquid in which it is relatively insoluble and is used to colour paints, inks, plastics, etc. 2 (a colourless substance related to) any of various colouring matters in animals and plants [L *pigmentum*, fr *pingere* to paint – more at **PAINT**] – **pigmentary** /-i(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- 'pigment** /'pigmənt/ *vt* to colour (as if) with pigment
- pigmentation** /,pigməntə'sh(ə)n/ *n* (excessive) coloration with, or deposition of, (bodily) pigment
- pigmy** /'pigmi/ *n* a pygmy
- pignut** /'pignu/ *n* a common plant of the carrot family
- 'pigpen** /-pen/ *n*, *NAm* a pigsty
- 'pigskin** /-skɪn/ *n* (leather made from) the skin of a pig
- 'pigsticking** /,stɪkɪŋ/ *n* the hunting of wild boar on horseback with a spear
- 'pigsty** /-stɪ/ *n* 1 an enclosure with a covered shed for pigs 2 a dirty, untidy, or neglected place
- 'pigtail** /-tɛɪl/ *n* 1 a tight plait of hair, esp when worn singly at the back of the head 2 either of 2 bunches of hair worn loose or plaited at either side of the head by young girls – **pigtailed** *adj*
- pika** /'peɪkə, 'pi:kə/ *n* any of various short-eared small Asian and N American mammals related to the rabbits [Tungusic *pika*]
- 'pike** /'pi:k/ *n*, *Br* a mountain or hill, esp in the Lake District, with a peaked summit [ME, perh of Scand origin, akin to Norw dial *pik* pointed mountain]
- 'pike n**, *pl pike*, esp for different types pikes (any of various fishes related to or resembling) a large long-nouted fish-eating bony fish widely distributed in cooler parts of the N hemisphere [ME, fr *pike* pikestaff, spike, fr the shape of its head]
- 'pike n** a weapon consisting of a long wooden shaft with a pointed steel head that was used by foot soldiers until superseded by the bayonet [MF *pique*, fr *piquer* to prick, fr (assumed) VL *piccare*, fr *piccus* woodpecker, fr L *picus* – more at **'PIE**] – **pike vt**
- 'pike n** a body position (e.g. in diving) in which the hands touch the toes or clasp the legs at the knees, the hips are bent forwards, and the knees are straight [prob fr *'pike*]
- picket** /'pɪkɪt/ *n*, *dial Br* a crummet [by shortening & alter fr earlier *bara-picklet*, fr W *bara* *pyglyd* pitchy bread]
- pikestaff** /-stɑ:f/ *n* 1 a spiked staff for use on slippery ground 2 the staff of a foot soldier's pike
- pil-** /'pi:l-, 'pɪli-, 'pɪlo- *comb form* hair <pileous> <piliferous> [L *pilus* – more at **'PIE**]
- pilaf, pilaff** /'pee,laf, 'pi-/ *n* a dish of seasoned rice and often meat [Per & Turk *pilau*]
- pilaster** /'pɪlɑ:stə/ *n* an upright rectangular column that is usu e. added in a wall [MF *pilastre*, fr It *pilastro*]
- pilau** /'pi:ləw, 'pee,ləw/ *n* (a) pilaf
- pilchard** /'pɪlchəd/ *n* (any of several sardines related to) a fish of the herring family that occurs in great schools along the coasts of Europe [origin unknown]
- 'pile** /'pi:l/ *n* a beam of timber, steel, reinforced concrete, etc driven into the ground to carry a vertical load [ME, *dart*, stake, fr OE *pil*, akin to OHG *pfil* dart, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *pilum* javelin – more at **PFSTICK**]
- 'pile vt** to drive piles into
- 'pile n** 1a a quantity of things heaped together b a heap of wood for burning a corpse or a sacrifice c a large quantity, number, or amount <a ~ of stuff still to be read> <~s of friends> 2 a large building or group of buildings 3 a great amount of money; a fortune <now that he has made his ~, he can live in luxury> 4 a vertical series of alternate discs of 2 dissimilar metals (e.g. copper and zinc) separated by discs of cloth or paper moistened with an electrolyte for producing an electric current 5 **RFAC** 10R 2 [ME, fr MF, fr L *pila* pillar]
- 'pile vt** 1 to lay or place in a pile; stack – often + *up* 2 to heap in abundance, load <~d potatoes on his plate> ~ *vi* to move or press forwards (as if) in a mass, crowd <~d into the car> – **pile it on** to exaggerate
- 'pile n** 1 soft hair, down, fur, or wool 2 a soft raised surface on a fabric or carpet consisting of cut threads or loops [ME, fr L *pilus* hair, akin to L *pila* ball, *pilleus*, *pileus* felt cap, Gk *pilos*] – **piled** *adj*
- 'pile n** a haemorrhoid – usu *pl* [ME, fr L *pila* ball]
- 'pile driver** *n* a machine for driving piles into the ground
- 'pile up** /-ʌp/ *n* a collision involving usu several motor vehicles and causing damage or injury
- pile up vi** 1 to accumulate <his work piled up over the holidays> 2 to become involved in a pileup of vehicles
- pileus** /'pi:li-əs/ *n*, *pl pilei* /-li:/ the (umbrella-shaped) fruiting body of many fungi (e.g. mushrooms) [NL, fr L] – **pilate** /-li:t-, -əɪt/ *adj*
- pilfer** /'pɪlfə/ *vb* to steal stealthily in small amounts or to small value [MF *pelfer*, fr *pelfre* booty] – **pilferage n**, **pilferer n**
- pilgrim** /'pɪlgrɪm/ *n* a person making a pilgrimage [ME, fr OF *pèlgrin*, fr L *peregrinus*, alter of L *peregrinus* foreigner, fr *peregrinus* foreign, fr *peregre* being abroad, fr *per* through + *ager*, *ager* land – more at **FOR**, **ACRF**]
- pilgrimage** /'pɪlgrɪmɪ/ *n* 1 a journey to a shrine or sacred place as an act of devotion, in order to acquire spiritual merit, or as a penance 2 the course of life on earth
- Pilgrim Fathers** *n pl* the English colonists who settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620
- pili-** – see **PII-**
- Pilipino** /'pi:lɪ'pi:niəh, -pee-/ *n* the Tagalog-based official language of the Philippines [Pilipino, fr Sp *Filipino* Philippine]
- pill** /'pɪl/ *n* 1a a small rounded solid mass of medicine to be swallowed whole b an oral contraceptive in the form of an (oestrogen- and progesterone-containing) pill taken daily by a woman over a monthly cycle – + *the* 2 sthg repugnant or unpleasant that must be accepted or endured <the loss of salary was a bitter ~ to swallow> 3 sthg resembling a pill in size or shape 4 a disagreeable or tiresome person – *infrm* [L *pilula*, fr *dim* of *pila* ball]
- 'pillage** /'pɪlj/ *n* 1 the act of looting or plundering, esp in war 2 sthg taken as booty [ME, fr MF, fr *piller* to plunder, fr *peille* rag, fr L *pilleum*, *pilleus* felt cap]
- 'pillage vb** to plunder ruthlessly, loot – **pillager n**
- 'pillar** /'pi:lə/ *n* 1a a firm upright support for a superstructure b a usu ornamented column or shaft 2 a chief supporter, a prop <a ~ of the Establishment> 3 a solid mass of coal, ore, etc left standing to support a mine roof [ME *pilar*, fr OF, fr ML *pilare*, fr L *pila*] – **from pillar to post** from one place or one situation to another
- 'pillar vt** to support or decorate (as if) with pillars
- 'pillar box** *n* a red pillar-shaped public letter box
- 'pillar-box** 'red *adj* or *n* vivid scarlet
- 'pillbox** /'pɪlbɒks/ *n* 1 a box for pills; esp a shallow round box made of pasteboard 2 a small low concrete weapon emplacement 3 a small round brimless hat with a flat crown and straight sides, worn esp by women  **GARMENT**
- 'pillion** /'pɪljən/ *n* a saddle or seat for a passenger on a motorcycle or motor scooter <a ~ passenger> [ScGael *pilleàn* or IrGael *píllín*, *dim* of *peall* covering, couch, orig sense in E, light saddle]
- 'pillion adv** (as if) on a pillion <ride ~>
- 'pillory** /'pɪləri/ *n* 1 a device for publicly punishing offenders consisting of a wooden frame with holes for the head and hands 2 a means for exposing one to public scorn or ridicule [ME, fr OF *pilor*]
- 'pillory vt** 1 to put in a pillory 2 to expose to public contempt, ridicule, or scorn
- 'pillow** /'pɪləw/ *n* 1 a usu rectangular cloth bag (e.g. of cotton) filled with soft material (e.g. down) and used to support the head of a reclining person 2 sthg resembling a pillow, esp in form [ME *pylew*, fr OE *pyle*, akin to OHG *pfūhw* pillow, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *pulvinus* pillow]
- 'pillow vt** 1 to rest or lay (as if) on a pillow 2 to serve as a pillow for
- 'pillowcase** /-keɪs/ *n* a removable washable cover, esp of cotton or nylon, for a pillow
- 'pillow lace** *n* lace worked with bobbins over a padded support – compare **NEEDLEPOINT 1**, **POINT 8**
- 'pillow lava** *n* lava solidified in rounded masses

- 'pillow slip** *n* a pillowcase  
**pilo-** - see **PIL-**  
**pilose** /'pi:loʊs/ *adj* covered with (soft) hair [L *pilosus*, fr *pilus* hair - more at **PILE**] - **pilosity** /'pi:losəti/ *n*  
**'pilot** /'pi:lət/ *n* 1 sby qualified and usu licensed to conduct a ship into and out of a port or in specified waters 2 a guide, leader 3 sby who handles or is qualified to handle the controls of an aircraft or spacecraft 4 a piece that guides a tool or machine part [MF *pilote*, fr It *pilota*, alter of *pedota*, fr (assumed) MGk *pedotes*, fr Gk *peda* steering oars, pl of *pedon* oar, akin to Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot - more at **FOOT**] - **pilotage** *n*, **pilotless** *adj*  
**'pilot** *vt* 1 to act as a guide to; lead or conduct over a usu difficult course 2a to direct the course of (< ~ a ship>) b to act as pilot of (< ~ a plane>)  
**'pilot** *adj* serving as a guide, activator, or trial (< ~ holes> (< ~ lamps> (< ~ scheme>)  
**'pilot cloth** *n* a thick blue woollen cloth used esp for seamen's coats  
**pilot engine** *n* a locomotive going in advance of a train to make sure that the way is clear  
**'pilot fish** *n* an oceanic fish that often swims in company with a shark  
**'pilot lamp** *n* **PILOT LIGHT** 1  
**'pilot light** *n* 1 an indicator light showing whether power is on or where a switch or circuit breaker is located 2 a small permanent flame used to ignite gas at a burner  
**pilot officer** *n*  **RANK**  
**pilsner** /'pilznə/ *n* a light beer with a strong flavour of hops [G, lit, of Pilsen (now Plzen), city in Czechoslovakia]  
**'Pitdown man** /'pɪt,daʊn/ *n* a supposedly very early primitive modern man based on skull fragments uncovered in a gravel pit at Pitdown [Pitdown, site in East Sussex, England]  
**pilule** /'pi:lu:əl/ *n* a little pill [MF, fr L *pilula* pill, dim of *pila* ball] - **pilular** /'pi:lu:lə/ *adj*  
**pilus** /'pi:ləs/ *n*, pl **pili** /-lie-, -li/ (a structure resembling) a hair [L - more at **PILE**]  
**pimento** /'pi:məntoh/ *n*, pl **pimentos**, **pimento** 1 a pimento 2 allspice [Sp *pimienta* allspice, pepper, fr LL *pimenta*, pl of *pimentum* plant juice, fr L, *piment* - more at **PIGMENT**]  
**pimiento** /'pi:mjəntoh/ *n*, pl **pimientos** any of various sweet peppers with a mild sweet flavour that are used esp as a garnish and as a stuffing for olives [Sp, fr *pimentia*]  
**pimp** /pɪmp/ *n* a man who solicits clients for a prostitute or brothel [origin unknown] - **pimp** *vi*  
**pimpernel** /'pɪmpə,nel/ *n* any of several plants of the primrose family e.g. a SCARLET PIMPERNEL b YELLOW PIMPERNEL [ME *pimpernele*, fr MF *pimpernelle*, fr LL *pimpinella*, a medicinal herb, perh deriv of L *piper* pepper]  
**pimple** /'pɪmpl/ *n* (a swelling or protuberance like) a small solid inflamed (pus-containing) elevation of the skin [ME *pinple*] - **pimpled** *adj*, **pimplly** *adj*  
**'pin** /pi:n/ *n* 1a a piece of solid material (e.g. wood or metal) used esp for fastening separate articles together or as a support b sthg resembling a pin, esp in slender elongated form 2a a small thin pointed piece of metal with a head used esp for fastening cloth, paper, etc b sthg of small value; a trifle (< doesn't care a ~ for anyone>) c an ornament or badge fastened to clothing with a pin d SAFETY PIN 3a any of the wooden pieces constituting the target in various games (e.g. skittles and tenpin bowling) b the peg at which a quoit is pitched c the staff of the flag marking a hole on a golf course 4 a projecting metal bar on a plug which is inserted into a socket 5 **PEG** 3a 6 a leg - infml, usu pl (< wobbly on his ~s>) [ME, fr OE *pin*; akin to OHG *pfinn* peg] - **pinned** *adj*  
**'pin** *vt* - **pin** 1a to fasten, join, or secure with a pin b to hold fast or immobile (< ~ned him against the wall>) 2a to attach, hang (< ~ned his hopes on a miracle>) b to assign the blame or responsibility for (< ~ the robbery on a night watchman>) 3 to make (a chess opponent's piece) unable to move without exposing the king to check or a valuable piece to capture  
**pinafare** /'pi:nə,fəw/ *n* 1 an apron, usu with a bib 2 also **pinafare dress** a sleeveless usu low-necked dress designed to be worn over another garment (e.g. a blouse)  **GARMENT** [*pin* + *afare*]  
**pinball** /'pi:n,bɔ:l/ *n* a game in which a ball is propelled across a sloping surface at pins and targets that score points if hit  
**'pinball machine** *n* an amusement device for playing pinball and automatically recording the score  
**pince-nez** /'pɑ:ns ,nəz, 'pi:ns- (Fr pēs ne)/ *n*, pl **pince-nez** /~/ glasses clipped to the nose by a spring [F, fr *pincer* to pinch + *nez* nose, fr L *nasus* - more at **NOSE**]  
**pincer** /'pi:nsə/ *n* 1a pl an instrument having 2 short handles and 2 grasping jaws working on a pivot and used for gripping things b a claw (e.g. of a lobster) resembling a pair of pincers 2 either part of a double military envelopment of an enemy position [ME *pinceour*, prob deriv of MF *pinzier* to pinch] - **pincerlike** *adj*  
**'pinch** /'pi:nʃ/ *vt* 1a to squeeze or compress painfully (e.g. between the finger and thumb or between the jaws of an instrument) b to prune the tip of (a plant or shoot), usu to induce branching - + *out* or *back* c to cause to appear thin or shrunken (< faces ~ed with hunger and fatigue>) 2 to subject to strict economy or want, straiten 3 to sail (a ship) too close to the wind 4a **STEAL** 1 - slang b **ARREST** 2 - slang ~ *vi* 1 to compress, squeeze 2 to press painfully (< my new shoes ~>) 3 of a ship to sail too close to the wind [ME *pinchen*, fr (assumed) ONF *pincher*] - **pincher** *n*  
**'pinch** *n* 1a a critical juncture, an emergency (< when it comes to the ~, he'll let you down>) b(1) pressure, stress (< when the ~ of foreign competition came at last - G M Trevelyan>) (2) hardship, privation (< after a year of sanctions, they began to feel the ~>) 2a an act of pinching, a squeeze b as much as may be taken between the finger and thumb (< a ~ of snuff>) - **at a pinch** in an emergency - **with a pinch** of salt with reservations as to the validity of sthg  
**pinchbeck** /'pi:nʃ,bek/ *n* an alloy of copper and zinc used esp to imitate gold in jewellery [Christopher Pinchbeck †1732 E watchmaker] - **pinchbeck** *adj*  
**pin cushion** /'pi:n,kooʃ(ə)n/ *n* a small cushion in which pins are stuck ready for use, esp in sewing  
**Pindaric** /'pi:n'da:rik/ *adj* of or written in a style characteristic of the poet Pindar [L *pindarus*, fr Gk *pindarikos*, fr Pindaros Pindar †443 BC Gk lyric poet]  
**Pindarics** *n* pl Pindaric verse  
**pin down** *vt* 1 to force (sby) to state his/her position or make a decision 2 to define precisely (< a vague feeling of unease that she couldn't quite pin down>) 3 to fasten down, prevent from moving  
**'pine** /pi:n/ *vi* 1 to lose vigour or health (e.g. through grief), languish - often + *away* 2 to yearn intensely and persistently, esp for sthg unattainable, long (< pining for her lost youth>) [ME *pinen*, fr OE *pinian*, fr (assumed) OE *pin* punishment, fr L *poena* - more at **PAIN**]  
**'pine** *n* 1 (any of various trees related to) any of a genus of coniferous evergreen trees which have slender elongated needles 2 the straight-grained white or yellow usu durable and resinous wood of a pine [ME, fr OE *pin*, fr L *pinus*, akin to Gk *pitys* pine, L *opimus* fat - more at **FAT**] - **pinny**, **pinney** *adj*  
**pineal body** /'pi:n-i:əl/ *n* **PINEAL GLAND**  
**pineal gland** *n* a small appendage of the brain of most vertebrates that has the structure of an eye in a few reptiles, and that secretes melatonin and other hormones [*pineal* fr F *pinéal*, fr MF, fr L *pinex* pinecone, fr fem of *pineus* of pine, fr *pinus*] - **pineal** *adj*  
**pineapple** /'pi:nəpl/ *n* 1 (the large oval edible succulent yellow-fleshed fruit of) a tropical plant related to the grasses, lilies, and orchids, with rigid spiny leaves and a dense head of small flowers 2 a hand grenade - slang [ME *pinappel* pinecone, fr *pin*, *pine* pine + *appel* apple, fruit]  
**'pineapple weed** *n* a composite plant with a small rounded head of yellow flowers that smell of pineapple when crushed  
**'pine cone** /'pi:n,koh:n/ *n* a cone of a pine tree  
**'pine marten** *n* a slender Eurasian marten with a yellow patch on the chest and throat  
**'pine nut** *n* the edible seed of any of several chiefly western N American pines  
**'pine tar** *n* tar obtained by destructive distillation of the wood of the pine tree and used esp in roofing and soaps, and in the treatment of skin diseases  
**pinetum** /'pi:n'etəm/ *n*, pl **pineta** /-tə/ a plantation of pine trees; also a scientific collection of living coniferous trees [L, fr *pinus*]  
**pinfall** /'pi:n,fɔ:l/ *n* FALL 8a  
**'pin fold** /-,fo:ld/ *n* 'ROUND 1 [ME, fr OE *pundfald*, fr *pund-* enclosure + *fald* fold] - **pinfold** *vt*  
**ping** /pi:ŋ/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a sharp ringing sound [imit]  
**Ping-Pong** /'pi:ŋ ,pɒŋ/ *trademark* - used for table tennis  
**pinhead** /'pi:n,hed/ *n* 1 sthg very small or insignificant 2 a very dull or stupid person; a fool - infml  
**'pinheaded** /-'hedid/ *adj* lacking intelligence or understanding; dull, stupid - infml - **pinheadedness** *n*

- pinhole camera** /ˈpin,hohl/ *n* a photographic camera having a minute aperture and no lens
- 'pinion** /ˈpinyən/ *n* 1 (the end section of) a bird's wing 2 a bird's feather, a quill [ME, fr MF *pignon*] – **pinioned** *adj*
- \*pinion** *vt* 1 to restrain (a bird) from flight, esp by cutting off the pinion of a wing 2a to disable or restrain by binding the arms b to bind fast, shackle
- \*pinion** *n* a gear with a small number of teeth designed to mesh with a larger gear wheel or rack [F *pignon*, fr MF *peignon*, fr *peigne* comb, fr L *pecten* – more at PECTINATE]
- 'pink** /ˈpɪŋk/ *vt* 1 to pierce slightly; stab 2a to perforate in an ornamental pattern b to cut a zigzag or saw-toothed edge on [ME *pinken*]
- \*pink** *n* 1 a sailing vessel with a narrow overhanging stern [ME, fr MD *pinke*]
- \*pink** *n* any of a genus of plants related to the carnation and widely grown for their white, pink, red, or variegated flowers [origin unknown] – in the **pink** in the best of health – **infml**
- \*pink** *adj* 1 of the colour pink 2 holding moderately radical political views – **pinkish** *adj*, **pinkness** *n*
- \*pink** *n* 1 any of various shades of pale red 2 (the scarlet colour of) a fox hunter's coat
- \*pink** *adv* to a high degree, enormously – in **tinkled pink**, **infml**
- 'pink** *vi*, *Br*, of an internal-combustion engine to make a series of sharp popping noises because of faulty combustion of the fuel-air mixture [imit]
- pink** **'elephants** *n pl* any of various hallucinations arising esp from heavy drinking or use of drugs – **infml**
- 'pink,eye** /ˌˈiː/ *n* a highly contagious conjunctivitis of human beings and various domestic animals
- pink** **'gin** *n* a drink consisting of gin flavoured with angostura bitters
- pinkie, pinky** /ˈpɪŋki/ *n*, *NAM & dial Br* LITTLE FINGER [prob fr D *pinkje*, dim of *pink* little finger]
- pinkings, shears** /ˈpɪŋkɪŋ/ *n pl* shears with a saw-toothed inner edge on the blades, used in sewing for making a zigzag cut in cloth to prevent fraying [*pink*]
- pinko** /ˈpɪŋkəʊ/ *n*, *pl pinkos*, **pinkoes** *sby* who holds moderately radical political views – chiefly derog [*pink* 2 + -o]
- pin**, **money** *n* 1a extra money earned by sby, esp a married woman (e.g. in a part-time job) b money set aside for the purchase of incidentals 2 a trivial amount of money
- pinna** /ˈpɪnə/ *n*, *pl pinnae* /-ni/, **pinnae** 1 a leaflet or primary division of a pinnate leaf or frond 2 the largely cartilaginous projecting portion of the outer ear [NL, fr L, feather, wing – more at PERN] – **pinnal** *adj*
- pinnacle** /ˈpɪnəs/ *n* any of various ship's boats [MF *pinace*, prob fr OSP *pinaza*, fr *pino* pine, fr L *pinus*]
- 'pinnacle** /ˈpɪnəkl/ *n* 1 an architectural ornament resembling a small spire and used esp to crown a buttress CHURCH 2 a structure or formation suggesting a pinnacle; *specif* a lofty mountain 3 the highest point of development or achievement [ME *pinacle*, fr MF, fr LL *pinaculum* gable, fr dim of L *pinna* wing, battlement]
- \*pinnacle** *vt* to raise (as if) on a pinnacle
- pinnate** /ˈpɪnaɪt/ *adj* resembling a feather, esp in having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of an axis like the barbs on the shaft of a feather (a ~ leaf) PLANT [NL *pinnatus*, fr L, feathered, fr *pinna*] – **pinnately** *adv*, **pinnation** /ˈpɪnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- pinnaule** /ˈpɪnyoʊl/ *n* 1 any of the secondary branches of a pinnate leaf or organ 2 a small fish fin separated from a major fin [NL *pinnula*] – **pinnulate** /-lət/, -ləɪt/, **pinnulated** /-ləɪtɪd/ *adj*
- pinny** /ˈpɪni/ *n* PINAFORE 1 – **infml** [by shortening & alter.]
- pinocchio** /ˈpiːnoʊki/ *n* (the combination of the queen of spades and jack of diamonds in) a card game similar to bezique played with a 48-card pack containing 2 each of the ace, king, queen, jack, ten, and nine in each suit [prob modif of G dial. *binokel*, a game resembling bezique, fr F dial *binocle*]
- pinocytosis** /ˌpiːnoʊsiˈtoʊsɪs/, *pin-/* *n*, *pl pinocytoses* /-seɪz/ the uptake of extracellular fluid by a cell by invagination of the cell membrane and formation of a fluid-filled sac inside the cell – compare PHAGOCYTOSIS, EXOCYTOSIS [NL, fr Gk *pinen* to drink + NL *cyt-* + *-osis* – more at POTABLE] – **pinocytic** /-ˈsiːtɪk/, -ˈsɪtɪk/ *adj*, **pinocytically** *adv*, **pinocytotic** /-ˈtɒtɪk/ *adj*, **pinocytotically** *adv*, **pinocytose** /-ˈsiːtoʊz/ *vb*
- pinole** /ˈpiːnoʊli/ *n* (any of various flours resembling) a finely ground flour made from parched corn and used (sweetened) esp in Mexico and SW USA [AmerSp, fr Nahuatl *pinolli*]
- pinon** /ˈpɪnoʊn/, *pinyən*, *pin'yohn* / *n* (the edible nut-like seed of) any of various low-growing pines [AmerSp *piñón*, fr Sp, pine nut, fr *piña* pinecone, fr L *pinex*]
- 'pinpoint** /ˈpɪn,pɔɪnt/ *vt* 1 to fix, determine, or identify with precision 2 to cause to stand out conspicuously; highlight
- \*pinpoint** *adj* 1 extremely small, fine, or precise (a ~ target) 2 located, fixed, or directed with extreme precision
- \*pinpoint** *n* a very small point or area (saw a ~ of light at the end of the tube)
- 'pin,prick** /-ˈprɪk/ *n* 1 a small puncture made (as if) by a pin 2 a petty irritation or annoyance
- pins and needles** *n pl* a pricking tingling sensation in a limb recovering from numbness
- 'pin,stripe** /-ˈstriːp/ *n* 1 a very thin stripe, esp on a fabric 2 a suit or trousers with pinstripes – often *pl* with *sing* meaning – **pin-striped** *adj*
- pint** /ˈpiːnt/ *n* 1 either of 2 units of liquid capacity equal to 1/8 gal. UNIT a a British unit of about 0.568l UNIT b a US unit of about 0.473l UNIT 2 a pint of liquid, esp milk or beer [ME *pinte*, fr MF, fr ML *pincta*, fr (assumed) VL, fem of *pinctus*, pp of L *pingere* to paint – more at PAINT]
- 'pin,table** /-ˈtaɪbl/ *n* PINBALL MACHINE
- 'pin,tail** /-ˈtaɪl/ *n*, *pl pintails*, *esp collectively* pintail a bird with elongated central tail feathers e.g. a slender grey and white dabbling duck b any of several grouse
- pintle** /ˈpɪntl/ *n* a usu uprigh pivot on which another part turns [ME *pintel*, lit, penis, fr OE, akin to MLG *pint* penis, OE *pinn* pin]
- pinto** /ˈpɪntəʊ/ *n*, *pl pintos* also **pintoes** *NAM* a spotted or blotched horse or pony [AmerSp, fr *pinto* spotted, fr obs Sp, fr (assumed) VL *pinctus*]
- 'pint-size**, **'pint-sized** *adj* small – chiefly derog
- 'pin,tuck** *n* a very narrow usu ornamental tuck in a garment
- pinup** /ˈpɪn,ʌp/ *n* (a person whose glamorous qualities make him/her a suitable subject of) a photograph pinned up on an admirer's wall – **pinup** *adj*
- 'pin,wheel** /-ˈweɪl/ *n* 1 CATHERINE WHEEL 2 *NAM* WINDMILL 2
- 'pin,worm** /-ˈwʊhm/ *n* a threadworm
- piolet** /ˈpiːlə/ (Fr *pijole*) *n* an ice axe [F]
- pion** /ˈpiːən/ *n* any of several positive, negative, or neutral unstable elementary particles of the meson family responsible for the force between nucleons [contr of *pi-meson*] – **pionic** /ˈpiːənɪk/ *adj*
- 'pioneer** /ˈpiːəˈniə/ *n* 1 a member of a military unit (e.g. engineers) engaging in light construction and defensive works 2a a person or group that originates or helps open up a new line of thought or activity or a new method or technical development b any of the first people to settle in a territory [MF *pionier*, fr OF *peonier* foot soldier, fr *peon* foot soldier, fr ML *pedon-*, *pedo-* – more at PAWN]
- \*pioneer** *adj* 1 original, earliest 2 (characteristic) of early settlers or their time
- \*pioneer** *vi* to act as a pioneer ~ *vt* 1 to open or prepare for others to follow, esp to settle 2 to originate or take part in the development of
- pious** /ˈpiːəs/ *adj* 1 devout 2 sacred or devotional as distinct from the profane or secular 3 dutiful 4 marked by sham or hypocritical virtue; sanctimonious [L *pius*, akin to L *piare* to appease] – **piously** *adv*, **piousness** *n*
- 'pip** /ˈpɪp/ *n* 1 (a disorder marked by formation of) a scale or crust on a bird's tongue 2 a fit of irritation, low spirits, or disgust – chiefly **infml**; esp *in* to give one the **pip** [ME *pippe*, fr MD, akin to OHG *pfiffiz* pip, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *pipita*, alter of L *pituita* phlegm, pip]
- \*pip** *n* 1a any of the dots on dice and dominoes that indicate numerical value b SPOT 2c 2 a star worn, esp on the shoulder, to indicate an army officer's rank [origin unknown]
- \*pip** *vt* -*pp-* to beat by a narrow margin – **infml** – **pip at the post** to beat at the very last minute (e.g. in a race or competition)
- \*pip** *n* a small fruit seed of an apple, orange, etc [short for *pippin*]
- \*pip** *vt* -*pp-* to remove the pips from (a fruit)
- \*pip** *n* a short high-pitched tone, esp broadcast in a series as a time signal [imit]
- pipai** /ˈpeɪpi/ *n* a large long-lived Indian fig tree [Hindi *pipal*, fr Skt *pippala*]
- 'pipe** /ˈpiːp/ *n* 1a a tubular wind instrument, *specif* a small fipple flute held in and played with one hand, esp while a tabor is played with the other b(1) FLUE PIPE (2) REED PIPE c a bagpipe – usu *pl* with *sing*, meaning 2 a long tube or hollow body for conducting a liquid, gas, etc 3a a tubular or cylindrical object, part, or passage b a roughly cylindrical body of ore

- 4** a large cask used esp for wine (e.g. port) and oil **5** (tobacco or other plant material held by the bowl of) a wood, clay, etc tube with a mouthpiece at one end, and at the other a small bowl in which plant material, esp tobacco, is burned for smoking (*he lit his ~*) [ME, fr OE *pipa*; akin to OHG *pfifa* pipe; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *pipa* pipe, fr L *pipare* to cheep, of imit origin]
- 'pipe** *vi* **1a** to play on a pipe **b** to convey orders or direct by signals on a boatswain's pipe **2a** to speak in a high or shrill voice **b** to make a shrill sound **~ vt** **1a** to play (a tune) on a pipe **b** to utter in the shrill tone of a pipe **2** to lead, accompany, or announce ceremonially **3a** to trim with piping **b** to force (e.g. cream or icing) through a piping tube or nozzle in order to achieve a decorative effect **4** to supply or equip with pipes **5** to convey (as if) by pipes; *specif* to transmit by wire or coaxial cable
- 'pipe-clay** *vt* to whiten or clean with pipe clay
- 'pipe-clay** *n* a fine white clay used esp for making tobacco pipes and for whitening leather
- 'pipe-cleaner** *n* a piece of flexible wire covered with tufted fabric which is used to clean the stem of a tobacco pipe
- 'piped** *'music* /pipt/ *n* recorded background music in public places
- pipe down** *vt* to stop talking or making noise – *infrml* [*'pipe*]
- 'pipe-dream** *n* an illusory or fantastic plan, hope, or story [fr the fantasies brought about by the smoking of opium]
- 'pipe-fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of various long slender fishes that are related to the sea horses and have a tube-shaped snout
- 'pipe-line** /-liːn/ *n* **1** a line of pipe with pumps, valves, and control devices for conveying liquids, gases, etc **2a** the processes through which supplies pass from source to user **b** sth considered as a continuous set of processes which the individual must go through or be subjected to (*children in the educational ~*) (*the housing ~*) **3** *NAm* a direct channel for information
- 'pipe-major** *n* the principal player in a band of bagpipes
- 'pipe of peace** *n* a calumet
- 'pipe-organ** *n* ORGAN **1a**
- piper** /'piːpə/ *n* **1** one who or that which plays on a pipe **2** a maker, layer, or repairer of pipes
- piperidine** /'piːpəˌdiːn/ *n* a liquid heterocyclic organic compound with a peppery smell like that of ammonia [ISV, blend of *peripine* (an alkaloid; fr L *piper* pepper) and *-ide*]
- pipette**, *NAm* pipet /'piːpət/ *n* a narrow tube into which fluid is drawn (e.g. for dispensing or measuring) by suction and retained by closing the upper end [F *pipette*, dim. of *pipe* pipe, cask, fr (assumed) VL *pipa*, *pipa*, *pipe*]
- pipe up** *vi* to begin to play or to sing or speak, esp unexpectedly
- piping** /'piːpɪŋ/ *n* **1a** the music of a pipe **b** a sound, note, or call like that of a pipe **2** a quantity or system of pipes **3a** a narrow trimming consisting of a folded strip of cloth often enclosing a cord, used to decorate upholstery, garments, etc **b** a thin cordlike line of icing piped onto a cake
- 'piping-bag** *n* a conical usu polythene bag with a hole at the narrow end through which nozzles are fitted, that is used in cookery to pipe esp icing
- 'piping-hot** *adj* so hot as to sizzle or hiss; *broadly* very hot
- pipistrelle** /'piːpɪstrel/ *n* any of a genus of insect-eating bats [F, fr It *pipistrello*, alter. of *vispistrello*, fr L *vesperilio* bat]
- pipit** /'piːpɪt/ *n* any of various small birds resembling larks [imit]
- pipplin** /'piːplɪn/ *n* any of numerous apples with usu yellow skins strongly flushed with red [ME *pepin*, fr OF]
- 'pip-pip** *interj*, *Br* goodbye – now chiefly humor [origin unknown]
- 'pip-squeak** *n* a small or insignificant person – *infrml*
- piquant** /'piːkənt/ *adj* **1** agreeably stimulating to the palate; savoury **2** pleasantly stimulating to the mind [MF, fr prp of *piquer*] – *piquancy* *n*, *piquantly* *adv*, *piquantesse* *n*
- 'pique** /'piːk/ *n* (a fit of) resentment resulting from wounded vanity
- 'pique** *vt* **1** to arouse anger or resentment in; *specif* to offend by slighting **2a** to excite or arouse by a provocation, challenge, or rebuff **b** to pride or congratulate (oneself), esp in respect of a particular accomplishment (*he ~s himself on his skill as a cook*) [F *piquer*, lit., to prick – more at *'PIKE*]
- piqué**, *pique* /'piːkə/ *n* a durable ribbed fabric of cotton, rayon, or silk [F *piqué*, fr pp of *piquer* to prick, quilt]
- piquet** /'piːkət/ *n* **1** a 2-handed card game played with a 32-card pack with no cards below the 7 **2** PICKET **2** [F]
- piracy** /'piːrəsi/ *n* **1** robbery or illegal violence on the high seas; *also* a similar act (e.g. hijacking) against an aircraft in flight **2** the infringement of a copyright, patent, etc **3** an act (as if) of piracy [ML *piratia*, fr LGk *peirasteia*, fr Gk *peirastēs* pirate]
- piranha** /'piːrənh(ə)/ *n* a small S American fish capable of attacking and (fatally) wounding human beings and large animals [Pg, fr Tupi]
- 'pirate** /'piːrət/ *n* **1** (a ship used by) sby who commits piracy **2** an unauthorized radio station; *esp* one located on a ship in international waters (*a ~ radio station*) [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *pirata*, fr Gk *peirates*, fr *peiran* to attempt – more at *FEAR*] – *piratical* /'piːrətɪkəl/ *adj*, *piratically* *adv*
- 'pirate** *vt* **1** to commit piracy on **2** to take or appropriate by piracy **3** to reproduce without authorization **~ vt** to commit or practise piracy
- pirouette** /'piːroʊet/ *n* a rapid whirling about of the body; *specif* a full turn on the toe or ball of one foot in ballet [F, lit., teetotum] – *pirouette* *vi*
- pis** /'piːz/ *pl* of *PI*
- pis aller** /'piːz ə'leɪ/ *n*, *pl* *pis allers* /-leɪ(z)/ a last resource or device; an expedient [F, lit., to go worst]
- pisce**, *pisce-* *comb form* fish (pisciculture) (piscivorous) [L *pisci-*, fr *piscis* fish]
- piscary** /'pɪskəri/ *n* **1** the right of fishing in waters belonging to another **2** FISHERY **2** [(1) ME *piscarie*, fr ML *piscaria*, fr L, neut pl of *piscarius* of fish, fr *piscis*, (2) ML *piscaria*, fr L, fem of *piscarius*]
- piscatory** /'pɪskət(ə)ri/ *n*, *pl* *piscatorial* /'pɪskə'tawri-əl/ *adj* of or dependent on fishermen or fishing [L *piscatorius*, fr *piscatus*, pp of *piscari* to fish, fr *piscis*]
- Pisces** /'piːseɪz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in constr (sby born under) the 12th sign of the zodiac in astrology, which is pictured as 2 fishes  SYMBOL [ME, fr L, fr pl of *piscis* fish – more at *'FISH*] – *Piscean* /'piːsi-ən/ *adj* or *n*
- piscina** /'piːsiːnə/ *n* a basin with a drain for disposing of water from liturgical ablutions  CHURCH [ML, fr L, fishpond, fr *piscis*]
- piscine** /'piːsiːn/ *adj* (characteristic) of fish [L *piscinus*, fr *piscis*]
- fish** /'fɪʃ/ *interj* – used to express disdain or contempt [origin unknown]
- pisiform** /'piːsiːfɔːm/ *adj* pea-shaped [L *pisum* pea + *E* *-iform* – more at *PEA*]
- pisiform bone** *n* a bone of the wrist or carpus on the side of the little finger or ulna in most mammals
- plamire** /'piːsmiə/ *n*, *dial* an ant [ME *pisse-mire*, fr *pisse* urine + *mire* ant, of Scand origin; akin to ON *maurr* ant, akin to L *formica* ant, Gk *myrmex*]
- 'pis** /'piːs/ *vi* **1** to urinate **2** to rain heavily – often with *down* **~ vt** **1** to urinate in or on (*~ the bed*) **2** to discharge (as if) as urine (*to ~ blood*) *USE* vulg [ME *pissen*, fr OF *pissier*, fr (assumed) VL *pissiare*, of imit origin]
- 'piss** *n* **1** urine **2** an act of urinating *USE* vulg
- pissed** *adj*, *Br* drunk – slang
- piss off** *vb*, *Br* *vi* to go away **~ vt** to cause to be annoyed or fed up *USE* vulg
- pissoir** /'piːswɑː/ *n*, *pl* *pissoirs* a public urinal in the street in some European countries [F, fr MF, fr *pisser* to urinate, fr OF *pissier*]
- 'piss-up** *n*, chiefly *Br* a heavy drinking session – vulg
- pistachio** /'piːstæʃi-oh/ *n*, *pl* *pistachios* **1** (the green edible nut of) a small tree of the sumach family **2** the vivid green colour of the pistachio nut [It *pistacchio*, fr L *pistacium* pistachio nut, fr Gk *pistakion*, fr *pistake* pistachio tree, fr Per *pistah*]
- piste** /'piːst/ **1** a prepared slope for skiing **2** a rectangular area 14m (about 46ft) by 2m (about 6ft 7in) on which a fencing bout takes place [F, lit., trail, track, fr MF, fr Olt *pista*, fr *pistare* to trample down, pound – more at *PISTON*]
- plstil** /'piːstɪl/ *n* a carpel [NL *pestillum*, fr L, pestle – more at *PESTLE*]
- pestillate** /'piːstɪlət/ *adj* having pistils but no stamens
- pistol** /'piːstl/ *n* a short firearm intended to be aimed and fired with 1 hand [MF *pistole*, fr G, fr MHG dial. *pischulle*, fr Czech *púšťal*, lit., pipe; akin to Russ *pischal* arquebus]
- pistoie** /'piːstɔɪ/ *n* any of several former European, esp Spanish, gold coins [ME]
- pistoleer** /'piːstə'liə/ *n* a person armed with a pistol
- 'pistol** *grip* *n* a grip on a shotgun, rifle, tool, etc shaped like a pistol stock
- 'pistol-whip** *vt* to beat with a pistol; *broadly* to assail violently and intemperately
- piston** /'piːst(ə)n/ *n* **1** a sliding disc or short cylinder fitting within a cylindrical vessel along which it moves back and forth by or against fluid pressure  CAR **2a** a sliding valve in a cylinder in a brass instrument that is used to lower its pitch **b** a button on an organ console for bringing

- in a preselected registration [F, fr It *pistone*, fr *pistare* to pound, fr ML, fr L *pistus*, pp of *pinsere* to crush – more at PESTLE]
- 'piston, ring** *n* a springy split metal ring for sealing the gap between a piston and a cylinder wall
- 'piston, rod** *n* a rod by which a piston is moved or communicates motion
- 'pit** /pit/ *n* **1a** (1) a hole, shaft, or cavity in the ground (2) a mine **b** (1) an area often sunken or depressed below the adjacent floor area (2) ORCHESTRA 2 **2** Hell – + the **3** a hollow or indentation, esp in the surface of a living plant or animal: e.g. **a** a natural hollow in the surface of the body **b** any of the indented scars left in the skin by a pustular disease (e.g. smallpox) **4** any of the areas alongside a motor-racing track used for refuelling and repairing the vehicles during a race – usu pl with sing meaning; + the **5** chiefly Br the floor of a theatre auditorium, esp the area between the stalls and the stage [ME, fr OE *pytt*, akin to OHG *pfuzzi* well]
- 'pit** vb -tt- *vt* **1** to make pits in, esp to scar or mark with pits **2a** to set (e.g. fighting cocks) to fight (as if) in a cockpit – often + *against* **b** to set into opposition or rivalry, oppose ~ *vi* to become marked with pits, esp to preserve for a time an indentation made by pressure
- 'pit** *n*, NAM STONE 2 [D, fr MD – more at PITH]
- 'pit** *vt* -tt- chiefly NAM to remove the pit from (a fruit)
- 'pit-a-pat** *n* pitter-patter [imit] – **pit-a-pat** *adv* or *adj*
- 'pitch** /pich/ *n* **1** (any of various bituminous substances similar to) a black or dark viscous substance obtained as a residue in the distillation of organic materials, esp tars **2** resin obtained from various conifers [ME: *pitch*, fr OE *pic*, fr L *pic-*, *pix*, akin to L *opimus* fat]
- 'pitch** *vt* to cover, smear, or treat (as if) with pitch
- 'pitch** *vi* **1** to erect and fix firmly in place (~ *a tent*) **2** to throw, fling (~ *hay onto a wagon*) (~ *ed a couple of drunks out of the party*) **e** **a** to throw (a baseball) to a batter **b** to toss (e.g. coins) so as to fall at or near a mark **3a** (1) to cause to be at a particular level or of a particular quality (2) to set in a particular musical pitch or key **b** to cause to be set at a particular angle, slope (~ *ed roof*) ARCHITECTURE **4** to hit (a golf ball) in a high arc with backspin **5** to bowl (a ball) in cricket to a specified place or in a specified manner ~ *vi* **1a** to fall precipitately or headlong **b** (1) of a ship to move so that the bow is alternately rising and falling (2) of an aircraft to turn about a lateral axis so that the nose rises or falls in relation to the tail **c** BUCK 1 **2** to encamp **3** to incline downwards, slope **4** to pitch a baseball or golf ball **5** of a ball, esp a bowled cricket ball to bounce [ME *pichen*]
- 'pitch** *n* **1** pitching, esp an up-and-down movement – compare YAW **2a** a slope, also the degree of slope **b** (1) distance between one point on a gear tooth and the corresponding point on the next tooth (2) distance from any point on the thread of a screw to the corresponding point on an adjacent thread measured parallel to the axis **c** the distance advanced by a propeller in 1 revolution **d** the number of teeth on a gear or of threads on a screw per unit distance **e** the degree to which a blade of a propeller is slanted in relation to the axis of rotation **3a** the relative level, intensity, or extent of some quality or state (~ *were at a high ~ of excitement*) **b** (1) the property of a sound, esp a musical note, that is determined by the frequency of the waves producing it, highness or lowness of sound (2) a standard frequency for tuning instruments **4** an often high-pressure sales talk or advertisement **5** WICKET 4b **6** chiefly Br **a** a usu specially marked area used for playing soccer, rugby, hockey, etc **b** an area or place, esp in a street, to which a person lays unofficial claim for carrying out business or activities – **pitched** *adj*
- 'pitch-black** *adj* intensely dark or black
- 'pitchblende** /pich,blend/ *n* a radium-containing uranium oxide occurring as a brown to black lustrous mineral [part trans of G *pechblende*, fr *pech* pitch + *blende*]
- 'pitched 'battle** *n* an intense battle; *specif* one fought on previously chosen ground
- 'pitcher** /picha/ *n* **1** a large deep usu earthenware vessel with a wide lip and a handle or 2 ear-shaped handles, for holding and pouring liquids, broadly a large jug **2** a modified leaf of a pitcher plant in which the hollowed stalk and base of the blade form an elongated receptacle [ME *picher*, fr OF *pichier*, fr ML *bicarius* goblet, fr Gk *bikos* earthen jug]
- 'pitcher** *n* the player who pitches in a baseball game [PITCH + -ER]
- 'pitcher, plant** *n* a plant with leaves modified into pitchers containing liquids in which insects are trapped and digested
- 'pitchfork** /pich,fawk/ *n* a long-handled fork with 2 or 3 long curved prongs used for pitching hay [ME *pkfork*, fr *pk* pick + *fork*]
- 'pitchfork** *vi* **1** to lift and toss (as if) with a pitchfork (~ *ed the hay into the wagon*) **2** to thrust (sby) into a position, office, etc suddenly or without preparation
- 'pitch in** *vi* **1** to begin to work **2** to contribute to a common endeavour
- 'pitch, pipe** *n* a small instrument of 1 or more reed or fine pipes blown to establish the pitch in singing or in tuning an instrument
- 'piteous** /'piti-as/ *adj* causing or deserving pity or compassion – **piteously** *adv*, **piteousness** *n*
- 'pitfall** /'pit,fawl/ *n* **1** a trap or snare, *specif* a camouflaged pit used to capture animals **2** a hidden or not easily recognized danger or difficulty
- 'pith** /pith/ *n* **1a** (continuous) central area of spongy tissue in the stems of most vascular plants **b** the white tissue surrounding the flesh and directly below the skin of a citrus fruit **2a** the essential part, the core (~ *individuality, which was the very ~ of liberty* – H J Laski) **b** substantial quality (e.g. of meaning) (~ *made a speech that lacked ~*) [ME, fr OE *piþa*, akin to MD & MLG *pit* pith, *pit*]
- 'pith** *vt* **1** to destroy the spinal cord or central nervous system of (e.g. cattle or a frog) **2** to remove the pith from (a plant part)
- 'pithead** /'pit,hed, in mining communities usu 'pit'hed/ *n* (the ground and buildings adjacent to) the top of a mining pit
- 'pithecanthropus** /'pithikan'thropos, 'pithi'kanthrops/ *n*, pl **'pithecanthropi** /-pie/ any of the primitive extinct men known from skeletal remains from Javanese Pliocene gravels compare JAVA MAN [NL, fr Gk *pithekos* ape + *anthrōpos* human being] – **'pithecanthropoid** /-kanthra'poid/ *adj*
- 'pithy** /'pithi/ *adj* **1** consisting of or having much pith **2** tersely cogent – **pithily** *adv*, **pithiness** *n*
- 'pitiable** /'piti-əbl/ *adj* deserving or exciting pity or contempt, esp because of inadequacy (~ *an excuse*) – **pitiableness** *n*, **pitiously** *adv*
- 'pitiful** /'pitf(ə)l/ *adj* **1** deserving or arousing pity or commiseration **2** exciting pitying contempt (e.g. by meanness or inadequacy) – **pitifully** *adv*, **pitifulness** *n*
- 'pitiless** /'pitilis/ *adj* devoid of pity, merciless – **pitilessly** *adv*, **pitilessness** *n*
- 'pitman** /-mən/ *n*, pl (1) **pitmen** /-mən/, (2) **pitmans** **1** a male mine worker **2** NAM CONNECTING ROD
- 'piton** /'pit(ə)n(h) (Fr 'pitə)/ *n* a spike or peg that is driven into a rock or ice surface as a support, esp for a rope, in mountaineering [F]
- 'Pitot, tube** /'pietoh/ *n* a tube with a short right-angled bend that is used with a manometer to measure the velocity of fluid flow [F (*tube de Pitot*, fr Henri Pitot †1771 F physicist)]
- 'pit, saw** *n* a handsaw worked by 2 men, one of whom stands on or above the log being sawn and the other below it, usu in a pit
- 'pitta bread** /'pita/ *n* slightly leavened bread, typically flat and oval in shape, with a hollow in the centre [MGk *pitta* cake, pie fr Gk, *pitch*]
- 'pittance** /'pit(ə)ns/ *n* a small amount or allowance, *specif* a meagre wage or remuneration [ME *pitance*, fr OF, *piety*, *piety*, fr ML *pietantia*, fr *pietant-*, *pietans*, prp of *pietari* to be charitable, fr L *pietas*]
- 'pitter-patter** /'pita/ *n* a rapid succession of light sounds [imit] – **pitter-patter** *adv* or *adj*, **pitter-patter** *vi*
- 'pituitary** /'pi'tyoo it(ə)ri/ *adj* or *n* (of) the pituitary gland [L *pituita* phlegm; fr the former belief that the pituitary gland secreted phlegm]
- 'pituitary, gland** *n* a small endocrine organ attached to the brain that consists of a front lobe and a rear lobe that secrete many important hormones controlling growth, metabolism, etc DIGESTION
- 'pit, viper** *n* any of various mostly New World venomous snakes with a sensory pit on each side of the head and hollow perforated fangs
- 'pity** /'piti/ *n* **1a** (the capacity to feel) sympathetic sorrow for one suffering, distressed, or unhappy **b** a contemptuous feeling of regret aroused by the inferiority or inadequacy of another **2** sthg to be regretted (~ *it's a ~ you can't go*) [ME *pite*, fr OF *pitē*, fr L *pietati-*, *pietas* *piety*, *piety*, fr *pius* pious]
- 'pity** vb to feel pity (for) – **pitier** *n*, **pitiingly** *adv*
- 'pityriasis** /'pit'rie-asis/ *n* dry scaly or scurfy patches of skin in human beings or domesticated animals [NL, fr Gk, fr *pityron* scurf]
- 'piupiu** /'pecooh,pecooh/ *n*, pl **piupius** NZ a traditional Maori skirt made of rolled strips of flax and worn by men and women [Maori]
- 'pivot** /'pivət/ *n* **1** a shaft or pin on which sthg turns **2a** a person, thing, or factor having a major or central role, function, or effect (~ *as if the ~ and pole of his life ... was his Mother* – D H Lawrence) **b** a key player or position, *specif* POST 2b [F]
- 'pivot** *vi* to turn (as if) on a pivot ~ *vi* **1** to provide with, mount on, or attach by a pivot **2** to cause to pivot – **pivotable** *adj*
- 'pivot** *adj* **1** turning (as if) on a pivot **2** pivotal

**'pivotal** /-tɪl/ *adj* 1 of or constituting a pivot 2 vitally important; crucial  
– **pivotaly** *adv*

**pix** /piks/ *pl* of **PIC**

**pixie**, **pixy** /'piksɪ/ *n* a (mischievous) fairy [origin unknown] – **pixieish** *adj*

**pixilated** /'piksɪlətɪd/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* 1 somewhat unbalanced mentally, also bemused 2 drunk [irreg fr **pixie**] – **pixilation** /'piksɪləʃən/ *n*

**pizza** /'pietsə/ *n* a round thin cake of baked bread dough spread with a mixture of tomatoes, cheese, herbs, etc [It, fr (assumed) VL *picea*, fr L, fem of *piceus* of pitch, fr *pice-*, *pix* pitch]

**pizzeria** /'pietsə'riə/ *n* an establishment where pizzas are made or sold [It, fr **pizza**]

**pizzicato** /'pɪtsɪ'kaɪtoʊ/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, *pl pizzicati* /-tɪ/ (a note or passage played) by means of plucking instead of bowing – used in music [It, pp of **pizzicare** to pinch, pluck]

**'placard** /'plakɑːd/ *n* a notice for display or advertising purposes, usu printed on or fixed to a stiff backing material [ME *placquart*, a formal document, fr MF, fr *plaquer* to plate – more at **PLAQUE**]

**'placard** *vt* 1 to cover (as if) with placards 2 to give public notice of by means of placards

**placate** /'pləkəɪt/ *vt* to soothe or mollify, esp by concessions; appease [L *placatus*, pp of *placare* – more at **PLEASE**] – **placation** /'pləkəɪʃən/ *n*, **placative** /'pləkəɪtɪv/, **'placativ** *adj*, **placatory** /'pləkəɪt(ə)rɪ, 'pləkət(ə)n/ *adj*

**'place** /pleɪs/ *n* 1a physical environment; a space b physical surroundings; atmosphere 2a an indefinite region or expanse; an area b a building or locality used for a usu specified purpose (a ~ of amusement) (a ~ of worship) 3a a particular region or centre of population b a house, dwelling (invited them to his ~ for the evening) 4 a particular part of a surface or body, a spot 5 relative position in a scale or series, e.g. a a particular part in a piece of writing; esp the point at which a reader has temporarily stopped b an important or valued position (there was never much of a ~ in his life for women) c degree of prestige (put her in her ~ d a (numbered) point in an argument, explanation, etc (in the first ~, you're wrong) 6 a leading place, esp second or third, in a competition 7a a proper or designated niche (thought that a woman's ~ was in the home) (put it back in its ~) b an appropriate moment or point (this is not the ~ to discuss legal liability) 8a an available seat or accommodation b **PLACE SETTING** (lay another ~ for our guest) 9 the position of a figure in relation to others of a row or series; esp the position of a digit within a numeral (in 316 the figure 1 is in the tens ~) 10a remunerative employment; a job; esp public office b prestige accorded to one of high rank; status (an endless quest for preferment and ~ – Time) c a duty accompanying a position of responsibility (it was not his ~ to sack the employee) 11 a public square 12 chiefly *Br* an available vacancy (got a university ~) [ME, fr MF, open space, fr L *platea* broad street, fr Gk *plateia* (hodos), fr fem of *platys* broad, flat, akin to Skt *prthu* broad, L *planta* sole of the foot] – **in place** of so as to replace

**'place** *vt* 1 to distribute in an orderly manner, arrange (< these documents in their correct order) 2a to put in, direct to, or assign to a particular place (< d her on the right of the host) (< could always ~ the dart exactly where he wanted to) b to put in a particular state (< a performer under contract) 3 to appoint to a position (< d him in charge of the class) 4 to find employment or a home for 5a to assign to a position in a series or category b to estimate (< d the value of the estate too high) c to identify by connecting with an associated context (< couldn't quite ~ her face) d to put, lay (< the teacher ~s a great deal of stress on correct spelling) 6a to give (an order) to a supplier b to give an order for (< a bet) – **placeable** *adj*, **placement** *n*

**placebo** /'plə'seɪboʊ/ *n*, *pl* **placebos** 1 the Roman Catholic vespers for the dead 2a(1) a medication that has no physiological effect and is prescribed more for the mental relief of the patient (2) an inert substance against which an active substance (e.g. a drug) is tested in a controlled trial b sthg tending to soothe or gratify [(1) ME, fr L, I shall please, fr *placere* to please; (2) L]

**placebo effect** *n* improvement in the condition of a sick person that occurs in response to treatment but is prob more connected with mental factors than with the specific treatment

**'place card** *n* a card indicating the place a guest is to occupy at table during a formal dinner

**placed** *adj*, chiefly *Br* in a leading place, esp second or third, at the end of a competition, horse race, etc

**'placekick** /-kɪk/ *vt* or *n* (to kick or score by means of) a kick at a ball

(e.g. in rugby) placed or held in a stationary position on the ground – **placekicker** *n*

**'placeman** /-mən/ *n* a political appointee to a public office, esp in 18th-c Britain

**'place.name** *n* the name of a geographical locality

**placenta** /'plə'sentə/ *n*, *pl* **placentas**, **placentae** /-ti/ 1 the organ in all higher mammals that unites the foetus to the maternal uterus and provides for the nourishment of the foetus and the elimination of waste

REPRODUCTION 2 the part of a flowering plant to which the ovules are attached PLANT [NL, fr L, flat cake, fr Gk *plakount-*, *plakous*, fr *plak-*, *plax* flat surface – more at **PLEASE**] – **placental** *adj* or *n*

**placentation** /'pləsən'taɪʃən/ *n* 1 the development of the placenta and attachment of the foetus to the uterus during pregnancy 2 the particular type of form and structure of a mammalian or plant placenta

**placer** /'plɑːs/ *n* an alluvial or glacial deposit containing particles of valuable minerals, esp gold [Sp, fr Catal, submarine plain, fr **plaza** place, fr L *platea* broad street – more at **PLACE**]

**'place setting** *n* a table service for 1 person

**placid** /'plæsɪd/ *adj* serenely free of interruption or disturbance (< ~ summer skies) (< a ~ disposition) [L *placidus*, fr *placere* to please – more at **PLEASE**] – **placidly** *adv*, **placidness**, **placidity** /'plæsɪdɪti/ *n*

**placket** /'plækɪt/ *n* a slit in a garment, esp a skirt, for a fastening or pocket [origin unknown]

**placoid** /'pləkɔɪd/ *adj* of or being a scale with an enamel-tipped spine characteristic of cartilaginous fishes [Gk *plak-*, *plax* flat surface]

**plagal** /'pleɪɡl/ *adj* 1 of a church mode having the keynote on the 4th scale step 2 of a cadence passing from a subdominant to a tonic chord [ML *plagalus*, deriv of Gk *plagios* oblique, sideways, fr *plagos* side; akin to L *plaga* net, region, Gk *pelagos* sea – more at **'FLAKE**]

**plage** /'plæʒh/ *n* a bright region on the sun caused by light from gas clouds and often associated with a sunspot [F, beach, luminous surface, fr It *piaggia* beach, fr LL *plagia*, fr Gk *plagios* oblique]

**plagiarism** /'pleɪj(ə)rɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 plagiarizing 2 sthg plagiarized – **plagiarist** *n*, **plagiaristic** /'pleɪj(ə)rɪstɪk/ *adj*

**plagiarize**, **-ise** /'pleɪj(ə)rɪz, 'neɪz/ *vt* to appropriate and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own ~ *vi* to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source [plagiar (one who plagiarizes, plagiarism), fr L *plagiarius*, lit., plunderer, fr *plagium* hunting net, fr *plaga* net] – **plagiarizer** *n*

**plagioclase** /'pleɪj-ə'kleɪs, -'kleɪz/ *n* a triclinic feldspar; esp one containing calcium or sodium [Gk *plagios* + *klasis* breaking, fr *klan* to break – more at **'HALT**]

**'plague** /'pleɪɡ/ *n* 1a a disastrous evil or affliction, a calamity b a large destructive influx (< a ~ of locusts) 2 any of several epidemic virulent diseases that cause many deaths; esp a fever caused by a bacterium that occurs in several forms 3a a cause of irritation, a nuisance b a sudden unwelcome outbreak (< a ~ of burglaries) [ME *plage*, fr MF, fr LL *plaga*, fr L, blow, akin to L *plangere* to strike – more at **PLAIN**]

**'plague** *vt* 1 to infest or afflict (as if) with disease, calamity, etc 2a to cause worry or distress to b to disturb or annoy persistently – **plaguer** *n*

**plaguey**, **plaguy** /'pleɪɡi/ *adj* causing irritation or annoyance; troublesome – *infrm*

**plaice** /pleɪs/ *n*, *pl* **plaice** any of various flatfishes, esp a large European flounder [ME, fr OF *plais*, fr LL *platenus*, prob fr Gk *platys* broad, flat]

**plaid** /plad/ *n* 1 a rectangular length of tartan worn over the left shoulder as part of Highland dress 2 a usu twilled woollen fabric with a tartan pattern 3 a tartan [ScGael *plaid*] – **plaid** *adj*, **plaided** *adj*

**'plain** /pleɪn/ *n* 1a an extensive area of level or rolling treeless country b a broad unbroken expanse 2 **'KNIT** [M], fr OF, fr L *planum*, fr neut of *planus* flat, plain – more at **FLOOR**]

**'plain** *adj* 1 lacking ornament; undecorated 2 free of added substances; pure 3 free of impediments to view; unobstructed 4a evident to the mind or senses; obvious (it's perfectly ~ that they will resist) b clear (made his intentions ~) 5 free from decency or subtlety; candid 6 lacking special distinction or affectation; ordinary 7a characterized by simplicity; not complicated (< ~ home cooking) b not rich or elaborately prepared or decorated 8 unremarkable either for physical beauty or for ugliness 9 of flour not containing a raising agent – **plainly** *adv*, **plainness** *n*

**'plain** *adv* in a plain manner; clearly, simply; also totally, utterly (< it's just ~ daff)

**'plainchant** /-ˌchɑːnt/ *n* plain song [F *plain-chant*, lit., plain song]



**plain** 'clothes *n* ordinary civilian dress as opposed to (police) uniform – often attrib in *plain-clothes man*

**plain** 'dealing *n* straightforward honesty <a businessman noted for his ~>

**plain** 'sailing *n* easy progress along an unobstructed course (e.g. of action)

**'plain, song** /-song/ *n* 1 the nonmetrical monophonic music of the medieval church; esp GREGORIAN CHANT 2 a liturgical chant of any of various Christian rites

**plain** 'spoken /-'spohkən/ *adj* candid, frank – **plainspokenness** *n*

**'plain, stitch** *n* 'KNIT

**plaint** /playnt/ *n* a protest [ME, lamentation, protest, fr MF, fr L *placatus*, fr *placatus*, pp of *plangere* to strike, beat one's breast, lament; akin to OHG *fluokhon* to curse, Gk *plessein* to strike]

**plain, text** /-tekst/ *n* the intelligible form (e.g. the original form) of an encoded text


**plaintiff** /playntif/ *n* sby who commences a civil legal action – compare DEFENDANT [ME *plaintif*, fr MF, fr *plaintif*, *adj*]

**plaintive** /playntiv/ *adj* expressive of suffering or woe, melancholy, mournful [ME *plaintif*, fr MF, fr *plaint*] – **plaintively** *adv*, **plaintiveness** *n*

**plain weave** *n* a simple weave in which the weft yarns pass alternatively over and under the warp yarns – **plain-weave** *adj*, **plain-woven** *adj*

**'pleat** also **plat** /plat/ *n* 1 a pleat 2 a length of pleated material, esp hair [ME *pleit*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *plicatus*, fr *plicatus*, pp of L *plicare* to fold – more at 'PIVY]

**'pleat** also **plat** *vt* 1 to pleat 2a to interweave the strands of *b* to make by plaiting – **plaiter** *n*

**'plan** /plan/ *n* 1 a drawing or diagram drawn on a plane e.g. a a top or horizontal view of an object  BUILDING *b* a large-scale map of a small area 2a a method for achieving an end *b* an often customary method of doing sthg, a procedure (the usual ~ is to both arrive and leave early) *c* a detailed formulation of a programme of action *d* a goal, aim (his ~ was to get a degree in engineering) [F, plane, foundation, ground plan, partly fr L *planum* level ground, fr neut of *planus* level, partly fr F *planter* to plant, fix in place, fr LL *plantare* – more at FLOOR, 'PLANT] – **planless** *adj*, **planlessly** *adv*

**'plan** *vb* -nn- *vt* 1 to design 2 to arrange in advance 3 to have in mind, intend ~ *vi* to make plans – **planner** *n*

**plan-, plano-** *comb form* 1 flat <planosol>, flat and <plano-concave> 2 flatly <planospiral> [L *planus*]

**planar** /playna-, -nah/ *adj* of, being, or lying in a plane – **planarity** /play'narəti/ *n*

**planarian** /plə'neariən/ *n* any of several related small cilia-bearing and mostly aquatic flatworms [NL *Planaria*, type genus of the family]

**planchet** /plahnchit/ *n* a plain metal disc before stamping as a coin [dim of *planch* (flat plate)]

**'plane** /playn/ *vt* 1 to make flat or even with a plane <~d the sides of the door> 2 to remove by planing – often + *away* or *down* [ME *planen*, fr MF *planer*, fr LL *planare*, fr L *planus* level – more at FLOOR] – **planer** *n*


**'plane, plane, tree** *n* any of a genus of trees with large deeply cut lobed leaves and flowers in spherical heads [ME, fr MF, fr L *platanus*, fr Gk *platanos*, akin to Gk *platys* broad – more at PLATE]

**'plane** *n* a tool with a sharp blade protruding from the base of a flat metal or wooden stock for smoothing or shaping a wood surface [ME, fr MF, fr LL *plana*, fr *planare*]

**'plane** *n* 1a a surface such that any 2 included points can be joined by a straight line lying wholly within the surface *b* a flat or level physical surface 2 a level of existence, consciousness, or development 'on the intellectual ~> 3a any of the main supporting surfaces of an aeroplane *b* an aeroplane [L *planum*, fr neut of *planus* level; (3B) by shortening]

**'plane** *adj* 1 having no elevations or depressions; flat 2a of or dealing with geometric planes *b* lying in a plane (<~ curve> [L *planus*])

**'plane** *vi* 1 to fly keeping the wings motionless 2 to skim across the surface of the water [F *planer*, fr *plan* plane; fr the plane formed by the wings of a soaring bird]

**planet** /planit/ *n* 1 any of the bodies, except a comet, meteor, or satellite, that revolve round a star, esp the sun in our solar system, specif Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto  ASTRONOMY 2 STAR 2a(1) [ME *planete*, fr OF, fr LL *planeta*, modif of Gk *planētē*, *planes*, lit, wanderer, fr *planasthai* to wander; akin to ON *flana* to rush around]

**plane table** *n* a field surveying instrument that consists essentially of a drawing board on a tripod together with an alidade

**planetarium** /plani'teəriəm/ *n*, *pl* **planetariums**, **planetaria** /-ri-ə/ 1 a model of the solar system 2 (a building or room housing) an optical projector for projecting images of celestial bodies and effects as seen in the night sky

**planetary** /planit(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1a of or being a planet *b* having a motion like that of a planet (<~ electrons> 2 of or belonging to the earth; terrestrial 3 erratic, wandering – poetic

**planetesimal** /plani'tesim(ə)l/ *n* any of numerous small solid celestial bodies that may have aggregated to form the planets of the solar system [planet + -esimal (as in infinitesimal)]

**planetoid** /planitoɪd/ *n* an asteroid – **planetoidal** /plani'toɪdl/ *adj*

**planform** /plan,fawm/ *n* a view of an object (e.g. an aircraft) from above

**plangent** /planj(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 loudly reverberating 2 having an expressive, esp plaintive, quality [L *plangent*, *plangens*, prp of *plangere* to strike, lament] – **plangency** /-si/ *n*, **plangently** *adv*

**planimeter** /plə'nimɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the area of a plane figure by tracing its boundary line [F *planimètre*, fr L *planum* plane + F -mètre -meter] – **planimetric** /plani'metrik/ *adj*

**planish** /planish/ *vt* to toughen and finish (metal) by hammering [MF *planiss-*, stem of *planir* to make smooth, fr *plan* level, fr L *planus*] – **planisher** *adj*

**planisphere** /plə'nɪsfiə/ *n* a polar projection of the celestial sphere and the stars on a plane to show celestial phenomena at any given time [ML *planisphaerum*, fr L *planum* plane + *sphaera* sphere] – **planispheric** /plə'nɪsferik/ *adj*

**'plank** /plangk/ *n* 1a a long thick piece of wood, specif one 2 to 4in (about 50 to 100mm) thick and at least 8in (about 200mm) wide 2a an article in a political platform *b* a (principal) item of a policy or programme [ME, fr ONF *planke*, fr L *planca*]

**'plank** *vt* to cover or floor with planks

**plankton** /plangkton/ *n* the floating or weakly swimming minute animal and plant organisms of a body of water [G, fr Gk, neut of *planktos* drifting, fr *plazesthai* to wander, drift, passive of *plazein* to drive astray; akin to L *plangere* to strike – more at PLANT] – **planktonic** /plangk'tonik/ *adj*


**planning** /planɪŋ/ *n* the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit <town ~>

**plano-concave** /playnoh/ *adj* flat on one side and concave on the other

**plano-convex** *adj* flat on one side and convex on the other

**planography** /plə'nɒɡrəfi/ *n* a process (e.g. lithography) for printing from a plane surface – **planographic** /playnə'ɡrafik/ *adj*

**'plant** /plənt/ *vt* 1a to put in the ground, soil, etc for growth (<~ seeds> *b* to set ~ *c* sow (land) with seeds or plants *c* to implant 2a to establish, institute *b* to place (animals) in a new locality *c* to stock with animals 3 to place firmly or forcibly (<~ ed a hard blow on his chin> 4 to position secretly, specif to conceal in order to observe or deceive (the spy ~ ed a microphone in the hotel room) ~ *vi* to plant sthg [ME *planen*, fr OE *plantian*, fr LL *plantare* to plant, fix in place, fr L, to plant, fr *planta* plant] – **plantable** *adj*

**'plant** *n* 1a a tree, vine, etc that is or can be planted, esp a small herbaceous plant *b* any of a kingdom of living things (e.g. a green alga, moss, fern, conifer, or flowering plant) typically lacking locomotive movement or obvious nervous or sensory organs  2a the buildings, machinery, etc employed in carrying on a trade or an industrial business *b* a factory or workshop for the manufacture of a particular product 3 an act of planting 4 sthg or sby planted (left muddy footprints as a ~ to confuse the police) [ME *plante*, fr OE, fr L *planta*] – **plantlike** *adj*

**Plantagenet** /planti'taɪn(ə)nt/ *adj* of the English royal house that ruled from 1154 to 1399 [Plantagenet, nickname of the family adopted as surname] – **Plantagenet** *n*

**'plantain** /plantayn-, -tɪn/ *n* any of a genus of short-stemmed plants bearing dense spikes of minute greenish or brownish flowers  PLANT

[ME, fr OF, fr L *plantagin-*, *plantago*, fr *planta* sole of the foot – more at PLACE, fr its broad leaves]

**'plantain** *n* (the angular greenish starchy fruit of) a type of banana plant [Sp *plátano* plantain tree, banana tree, fr ML *plantanus* plantain tree, alter. of L *platanus* – more at 'PLANE]

**planter** /planta/ *adj* of the sole of the foot [L *plantaris*, fr *planta* sole – more at PLACE]

**plantation** /plahn'taysh(ə)n-, plan-/ *n* 1 (a place with) a usu large group of plants, esp trees, under cultivation 2 a settlement in a new country or region, a colony 3 an agricultural estate, usu worked by resident labour

# Place-name elements in Britain and Ireland

The etymology of place names is often complex or uncertain, and this list should be taken only as a brief guide.

G = Gaelic OE = Old English W = Welsh L = Latin ON = Old Norse

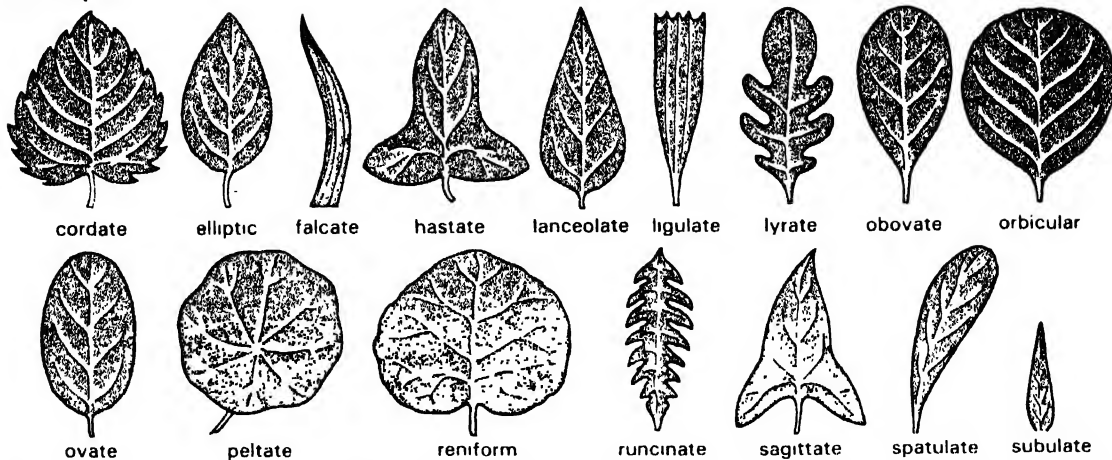
modern forms	explanation	source
Aber-	confluence; place at the mouth of a river	W <i>aber</i>
Ach-, Auch- (Scotland) Agh-, Augh-, -agha-, -agh (Ireland)	field	G <i>achadh</i>
Ard-, -ard	high	G <i>ard</i>
Ath-, Agh-, Augh-, -agh, -ah	ford	G <i>ath</i>
Achter-	upper part, summit, high field	G <i>uachdar</i>
Bal-, Ball-, Bally-	village; farmhouse	G <i>baile</i>
Beath-, -beath, -beith	birch tree	G <i>beath, beith</i>
Bleir	a plain	G <i>blar</i>
-borough, -burgh, -bury	fortified place	OE <i>burgh</i>
Brock-, Brough-, -broke, -brook	brook, stream	OE <i>broc</i>
Burn-, -borne, -bourne, -burn	stream, spring	OE <i>burna</i>
-by	farmstead, village	ON <i>by</i>
Caer-, Car-	fort, castle	W <i>caer</i>
Carrick-	rock	G <i>carraic, carraig craig, creag</i>
Chester-, -caster, -cester, -chester	Roman town, ancient fort	OE <i>ceaster</i>
Clon-, Cloon-	meadow	G <i>cluain</i>
Comb-, Comp-, -combe, -coombe	valley	OE <i>cumb</i>
-cot, cote	cottage, shelter	OE <i>cot</i>
Craig-, -craig	rock, crag	G <i>carraic, carraig craig, creag</i>
Dal-	field	G <i>dail</i>
Dan-, -dean, -den	valley	OE <i>denu</i>
-den	(chiefly in Kent & Sussex) pasture	OE <i>denn</i>
Derri-, -derry	an oak wood	G <i>doire, daire</i>
Drum-, Drom-, -drum	back; ridge	G <i>druim</i>
Dun-, Don-, Doon-, Doon	castle, fort; hill	G <i>dùn</i>
-ea, -ey, -y	land between streams, island	OE <i>eg, ieg</i>
Ennis-, Inis-, Inish-, Inch-, Inch	island; flat part of a meadow by a river	G <i>inis</i>
Ford-, -ford, forth	ford	OE <i>ford</i>
-gill	ravine, deep valley	ON <i>gil</i>
Glen-, -glen	glen	G <i>gleann</i>
-hall, -ale, -all	remote valley; water meadow	OE <i>halh, healh</i>
Ham-, -ham	village; homestead, manor	OE <i>ham</i>
Hampstead, -hampstead, -hamstead	homestead	OE <i>hamstede</i>
Hampton, -hampton	home farm	OE <i>hamtun</i>
Head-, -head	headland, bluff	OE <i>heafod</i>
Holt-, -holt	wood	OE <i>holt</i>
Hop-, -hope	small valley	OE <i>hop</i>
Hill, Hil-, Hill-, -hill, -hull	hill	OE <i>hyll</i>
-hurst, -hirst	wood; hillock	OE <i>hyrst</i>
-ington	used to denote association of a settlement with a particular individual	OE <i>ing + tun</i>

modern forms	explanation	source
Inver-, Inner-	mouth of a river; confluence	G <i>inbhir</i>
Kil- (Scotland) Kil-, Kill-, Cal-, Kilty-, Keel, -keel, -kyle (Ireland)	1 hermit's cell, church	G <i>cill, ceall</i>
Kin- (Scotland) Kin-, Ken, Can- (Ireland)	2 wood	G <i>coille</i>
	head, promontary	G <i>ceann, cinn</i>
Kir-, Kirk-, -kirk	church	ON <i>kirkja</i>
Leigh-, -leigh, -ley	glade, clearing, wood, forest	OE <i>leah</i>
Lis-	fort	G <i>lios</i>
Llan-	church	W <i>llan</i>
-low	hill, mound	OE <i>hlaw</i>
Maghera, Maghera-, Machery	a plain	G <i>machaire</i>
-mer-, -mere	lake, mere	OE <i>mere</i>
-minster	monastery, church	OE <i>mynster</i>
Mor-, More-, -moor	moor, waste, fen	OE <i>mor</i>
-mouth		OE <i>muþ</i>
-ness, -nes, Nas-,	headland, cape	OE <i>naess, ness</i>
Nass-, Naz-	projecting ridge	ON <i>nes</i>
Pen-, Pem-	head	W <i>penn</i>
Pont-	bridge	W <i>pont</i> from L <i>pons</i>
Poole, Pool-, -pole, pool	pool, tidal stream	OE <i>pol</i>
Port-, -port	harbour, market town	OE <i>port</i> from L <i>portus</i>
Pwll-	pool	W <i>pwll</i>
Rhos-	moor	W <i>rhos</i>
Ros-	cape, headland (Scotland and N Ireland) wood (S Ireland)	G <i>ros</i>
Roth-	fort	G <i>rath</i>
-shot	strip of land	OE <i>sceat</i>
Stan-, Stone-, -ston, -stone	stone (eg a boundary stone)	OE <i>ston</i>
-stead, -sted	place, site	OE <i>stede, styde</i>
Stoke, Stock-, Stoke-, -stock, -stoke	place, outlying farm or hamlet, monastery	OE <i>stoc</i>
Stow, Stowe, -stoe, -stow, -stowe	place – esp a religious site	OE <i>stow</i>
Strat-, Streat-, Stret-, -street	Roman road	OE <i>straet, stret</i>
Stra-, Strath-	valley	G <i>srath</i>
Thorpe, thorpe	outlying farm or hamlet	Old Danish <i>þorp</i>
-thwaite	meadow, clearing	ON <i>þveit</i>
-toft	site of a house	Old Danish <i>toft</i>
Ton-, -ton, -tone	homestead, village	OE <i>tun</i>
Tra-, tray	strand	G <i>traigh, tracht</i>
Tre-	homestead, village, town	W <i>tre, tref</i>
-treu, -try	tree	OE <i>treow</i>
-wald, wold	high forest land	OE <i>wald, weald</i>
-wark	fortification	OE <i>weorc</i>
-wich, -wick	dwelling-place; dairy farm	OE <i>wic</i>
-worth, -worthy	homestead	OE <i>worþ, worþig</i>

The places marked on this map illustrate some of the commonest place-name elements in Britain and Ireland. These are printed in bold type and are listed, with their meanings, in alphabetical order on the page opposite.

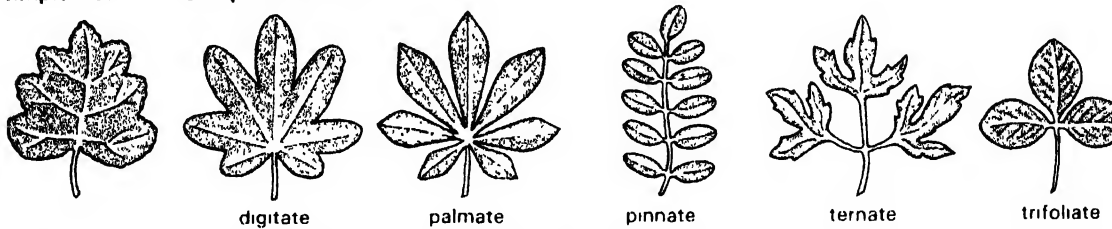


# Leaf shapes

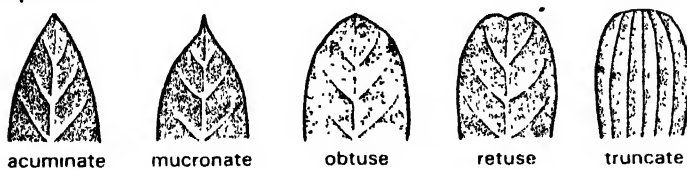


## Simple leaf

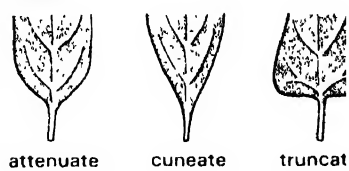
## Compound leaves



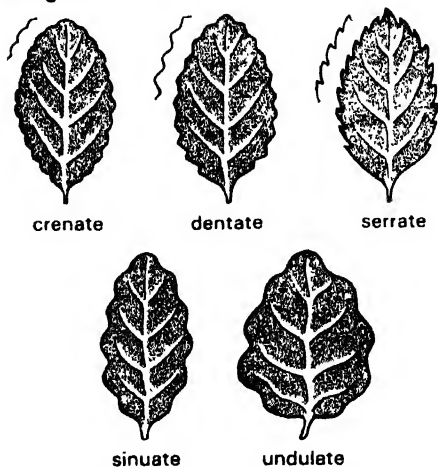
## Apexes



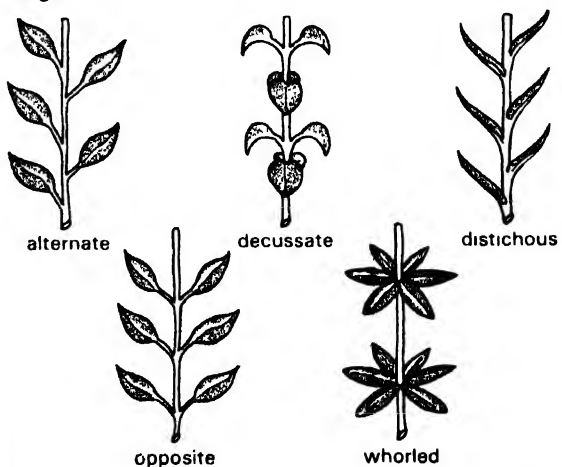
## Bases



## Margins

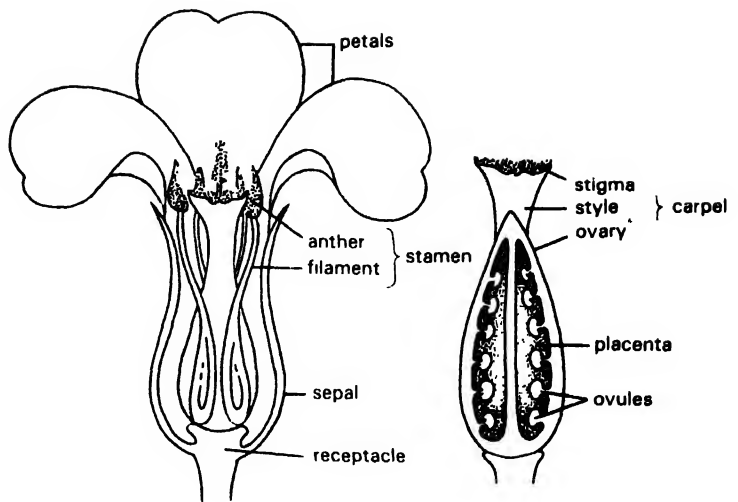


## Arrangement

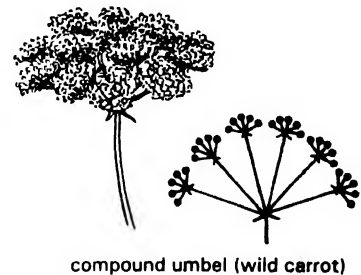
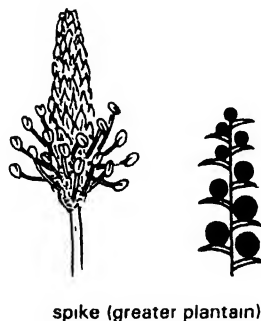
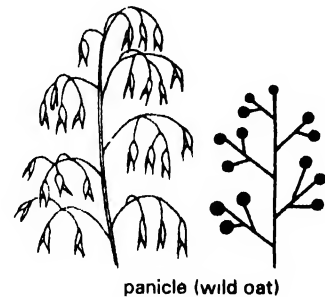
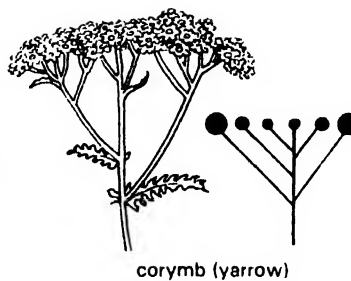
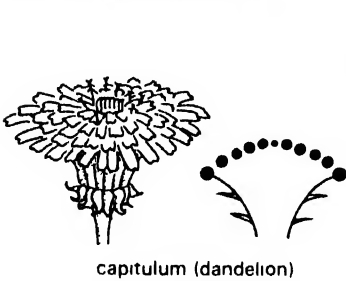


### Structure and function of a typical flower

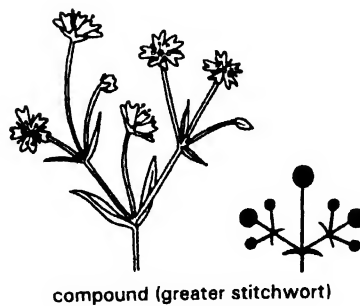
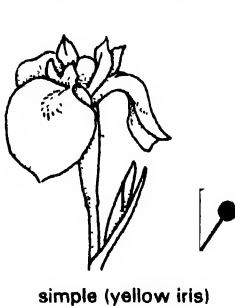
A flower is a specialized reproductive shoot producing seeds which give rise to the next generation. The flower parts are attached to the receptacle in rings, or whorls. The innermost whorl of one or more carpels is encircled by a whorl of stamens. In most flowers, these reproductive organs are surrounded by a whorl of petals. Coloured, scented petals with a nectary at the base attract insects which, as they collect nectar, bring about cross-pollination by transferring pollen from the anthers of one flower to the stigma of another. An outer whorl of leaflike sepals encloses and protects the other flower parts as they develop at the bud stage.



### Racemose inflorescences

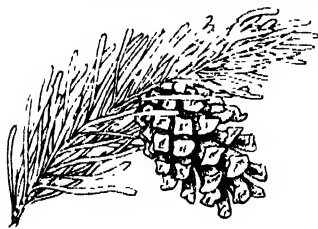
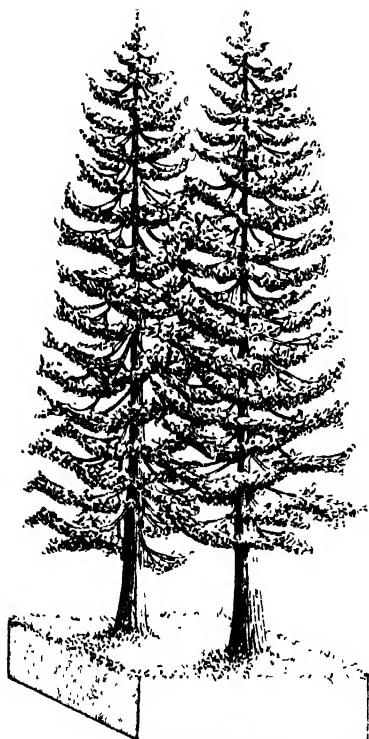


### Cymose inflorescences



### Mixed inflorescence

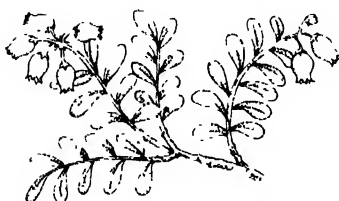
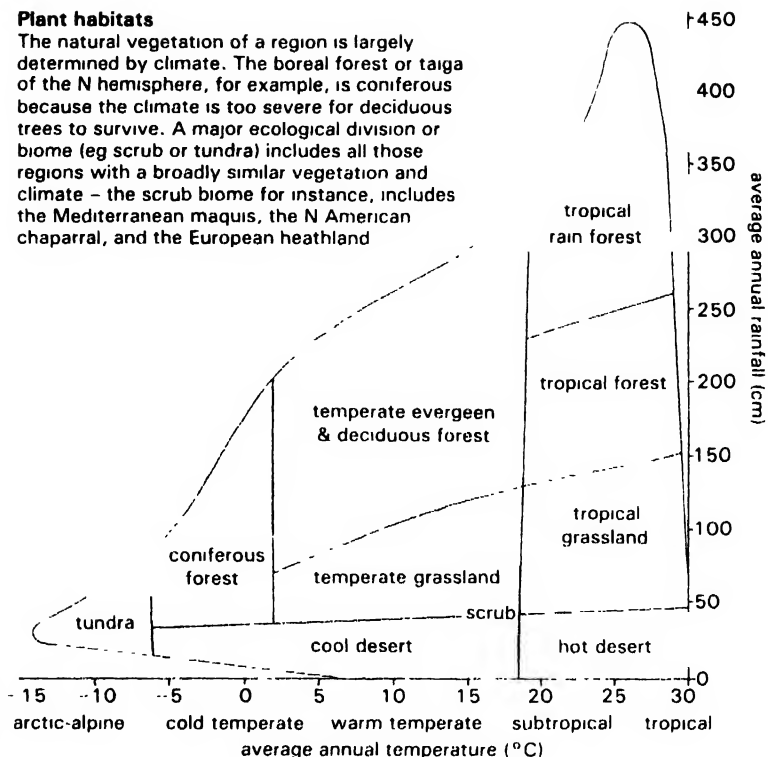




Most **coniferous forests** are in cold northern regions. The conical shape of the trees both supports snow and sheds it rapidly when it thaws. The evergreen needlelike leaves are resistant to freezing and their waxy surface reduces water loss in areas where frozen ground makes little water available to the tree

### Plant habitats

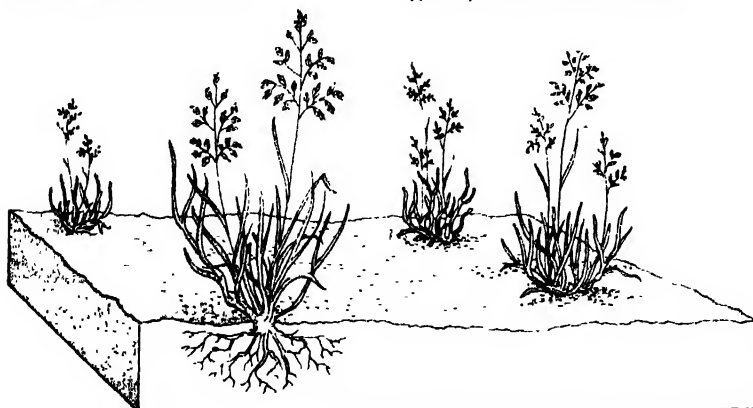
The natural vegetation of a region is largely determined by climate. The boreal forest or taiga of the N hemisphere, for example, is coniferous because the climate is too severe for deciduous trees to survive. A major ecological division or biome (eg scrub or tundra) includes all those regions with a broadly similar vegetation and climate – the scrub biome for instance, includes the Mediterranean maquis, the N American chaparral, and the European heathland



**Tundra** Plants of this region are supported by a thin layer of usually waterlogged soil above the permanently frozen subsoil (permafrost). Berry-bearing woody shrubs (eg cranberry and bilberry), mosses and lichens, and forests of dwarf birch and willow grow here, typically in dense low cushions.

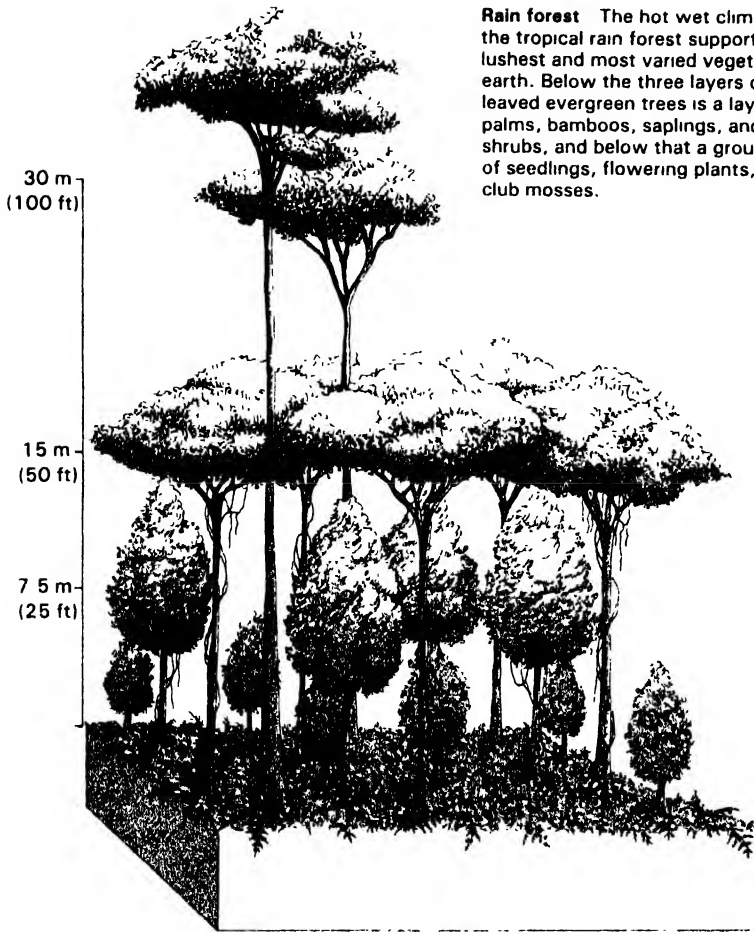


**Alpine zone** The vegetation that grows between the tree line and the snow line of mountains is similar to that of the Arctic tundra. In summer, both areas are briefly covered with low-growing, brightly coloured flowers such as saxifrages and cranesbills.

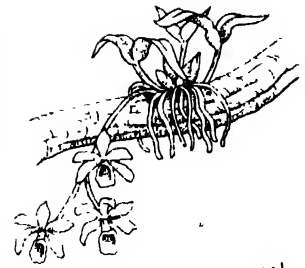


**Grassland** The N American prairie, Eurasian steppe, S American pampa, S African veld, and the tropical savanna are the major areas of the 45 million km<sup>2</sup> (18 million mi<sup>2</sup>) grassland biome. Grasses grow successfully where other plants cannot survive, chiefly because their growing point is near the base of the plant. This allows them to grow back rapidly after grazing by animals, cutting, or fire.



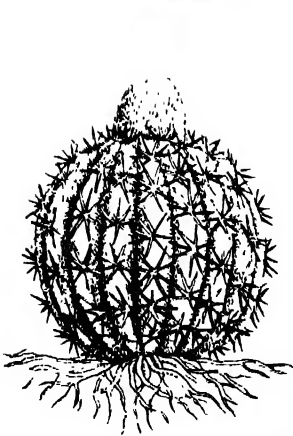
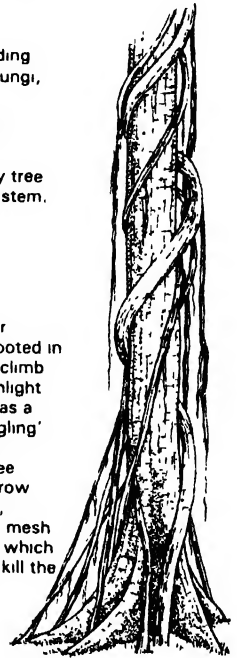


**Rain forest** The hot wet climate of the tropical rain forest supports the lushest and most varied vegetation on earth. Below the three layers of broad-leaved evergreen trees is a layer of palms, bamboos, saplings, and woody shrubs, and below that a ground layer of seedlings, flowering plants, and club mosses.



Epiphytes including ferns, lichens, fungi, orchids, and bromeliads live attached to and supported by practically every tree trunk and plant stem.

Lianas and other woody plants rooted in the forest floor climb towards the sunlight using the trees as a support. 'Strangling' plants begin as epiphytes on tree branches and grow down the trunk, enclosing it in a mesh of woody roots which may eventually kill the tree.

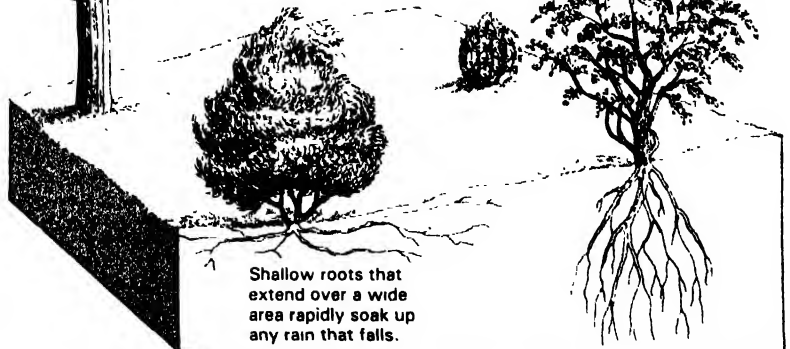


**Desert** Plants adapted to withstand long periods of drought (xerophytes) are often leafless and spherical or cylindrical in shape, so that the surface area from which water can evaporate is small by comparison with the plant's volume.



Cacti and other succulents store water in their fleshy stems or leaves which are often covered with sharp spines to protect the plant from animals.

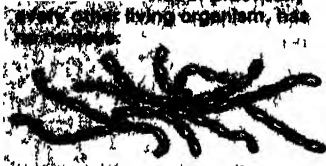
Mesquites have roots that grow to a depth of 15 m (50 ft) to tap underground water resources.



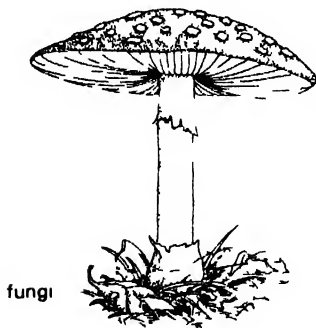
## Plant divisions

The plant kingdom can be divided into higher or seed-bearing plants and lower (non seed bearing) plants. More detailed classification particularly of the lower plants, varies considerably and in many systems bacteria, fungi and algae are excluded from both the plant and animal kingdoms.

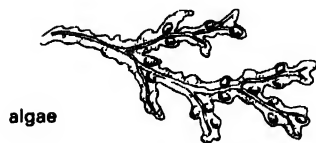
Seaweed and blue-green algae live in water environments. Although blue-green algae can be photosynthetic and most bacteria cannot, they are classed together because of the similarity of their simple cell structure. That of practically every other living organism, has a nucleus.



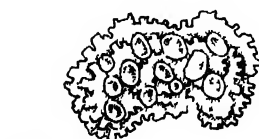
**Thallophytes** have a plant body not differentiated into leaves, stems, and roots. This diverse group of organisms includes the yeasts, moulds, mushrooms and toadstools which live as parasites or saprophytes wherever organic matter is available, and algae ranging from minute single celled varieties to giant seaweeds up to 100 m (328 ft) long.



fungi

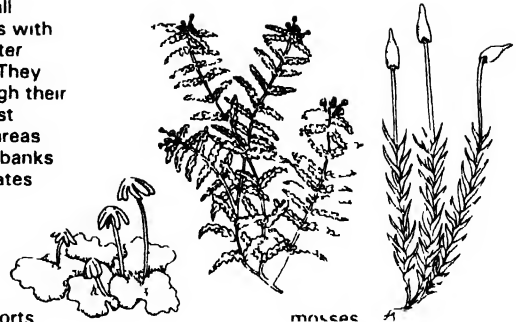


algae



lichens

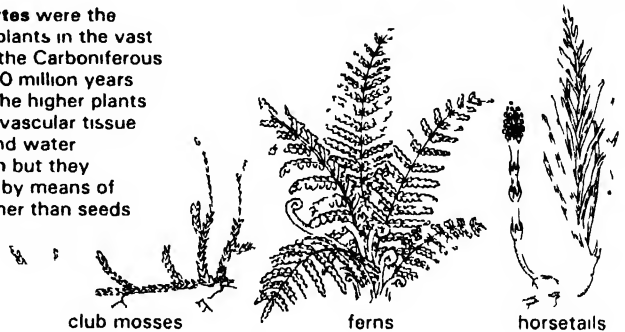
**Bryophytes** are small primitive land plants with no true roots or water conducting tissue. They absorb water through their surface and are most abundant in damp areas such as bogs, river banks and in tropical climates.



liverworts

mosses

**Pteridophytes** were the dominant plants in the vast forests of the Carboniferous period 300 million years ago. Like the higher plants they have vascular tissue for food and water conduction but they reproduce by means of spores rather than seeds.



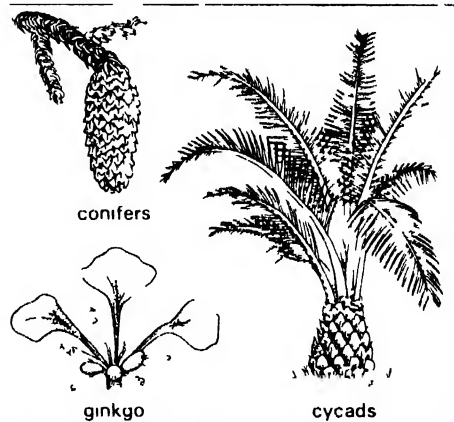
club mosses

ferns

horsetails

**Spermatophytes** are seed bearing plants and include the Gymnosperms and Angiosperms.

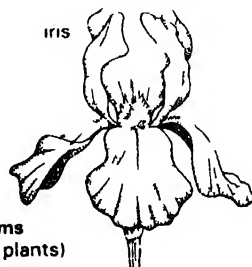
**Gymnosperms** are the oldest group of seed bearing plants. Included in this group of woody, mostly evergreen trees and shrubs are the yews, the tropical palmlike cycads, the ginkgo or maidenhair tree, now practically extinct, and the conifers which bear the seeds on scales arranged in cones.



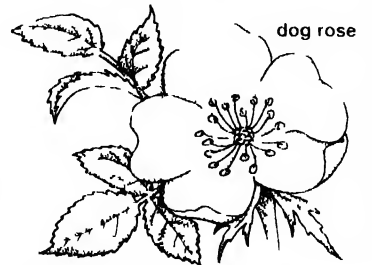
conifers

ginkgo

cycads



iris



dog rose

**Angiosperms** (flowering plants)

**Monocotyledons** typically have long narrow leaves with parallel veins. All the grasses, the rushes, palms, and the highly evolved lilies, orchids, and irises belong to this group.

**Dicotyledons** are usually broad leaved plants. Most garden plants and flowering trees are included in this category which contains over threequarters of all flowering plants.

**planter** /ˈplɑːntə/ *n* 1 one who owns or operates a plantation (< a tea ~) 2 one who settles or founds a new colony 3 a container in which ornamental plants are grown 4 a planting machine [ˈPLANT + -ER]  
**plantigrade** /ˈplɑːntɪˌɡraɪd/ *adj* (designed for) walking on the sole with the heel touching the ground (< human beings are ~ animals) – compare DIGITIGRADE [F, fr L *planta* sole + F -grade] – **plantigrade** *n*  
**plant kingdom** *n* the one of the 3 basic groups of natural objects that includes all living and extinct plants – compare ANIMAL KINGDOM, MINERAL KINGDOM  
**plant louse** *n* an aphid or other small insect parasitic on plants  
**plantocracy** /ˈplɑːntɒˈkrəsi/ *n* a controlling class of plantation owners [planter + -o- + -cracy]  
**plant out** *vb* to transplant (e.g. seedlings or a house plant) from a pot, seed tray, etc. into open ground  
**plaque** /ˈplɑːk, ˈplɑːk/ *n* 1a an ornamental brooch; esp. the badge of an honorary order **b** a commemorative or decorative inscribed tablet of ceramic, wood, metal, etc. 2a a localized abnormal patch on a body part or surface **b** a film of mucus on a tooth that harbours bacteria – compare TARTAR 2 [F, fr MF, metal sheet, fr *plaquer* to plate, fr MD *placken* to piece, patch; akin to MD *placke* piece, MHG *placke* patch]  
**plash** /ˈplɑːʃ/ *n* a shallow or muddy pool [ME *plache*, fr OE *plæsc*, akin to MD *plash*, *plas* pool]  
**plash** *vt* to interweave (branches and twigs) to form a hedge; also to form (a hedge) thus [ME *plashen*, fr MF *plaisier*, fr OF, fr *plais* hedge]  
**plash** *vi* to break the surface of (water); splash – *vi* to cause a splashing or splattering effect [perh fr D *plassen*, fr MD, of imit origin] – **plash** *n*  
**plashy** /ˈplɑːʃi/ *adj* marshy, boggy [ˈplash]  
**plashy** *adj*, *plashy*, *plashing* [ˈplash]  
**-plasia** /-ˈplɑːziə, -ˈzhi(ə)/, **-plasy** /-ˈplɑːzi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) development; formation (<hyperplasia) [NL -*plasia*, fr Gk *plasis* moulding, fr *plassein*] – **-plastic** /-ˈplɑːstɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*)  
**plasm** /ˈplɑːz(ə)m/ *n* plasma [LL *plasma* something moulded]  
**plasm-**, **plasm-** *comb form* plasma, cytoplasm (<plasma-*medium*) (<plasmolysis) [F, fr NL *plasma*]  
**-plasm** /-ˈplɑːz(ə)m/ *comb form* (→ *n*) structural material of a living organism (e.g. a cell or tissue) (<endoplasm) [G -*plasma*, fr NL *plasma*]  
**plasma** /ˈplɑːzmə/ *n* 1 the fluid part of blood, lymph, or milk as distinguished from suspended material 2 protoplasm 3 a highly ionized gas (e.g. in the atmospheres of stars) containing approximately equal numbers of positive ions and electrons [G, fr LL, something moulded, fr Gk, fr *plassein* to mould – more at PLASTER] – **plasmatic** /ˈplɑːˈmætɪk/ *adj*  
**plasmalemma** /ˈplɑːzməˈlemə/ *n* PLASMA MEMBRANE 1 [NL, fr *plasma* + Gk *lemma* husk, fr *lepein* to peel]  
**plasma membrane** *n* 1 the semipermeable surface bounding a cell 2 the tonoplast  
**plasma torch** *n* a device that heats a gas by electrical means to form a plasma for high-temperature operations (e.g. melting metal)  
**plasmid** /ˈplɑːzmɪd/ *n* a piece of DNA or RNA in some cells, esp. bacteria, that exists and reproduces independently of the cell's chromosomes [plasma + -id]  
**plasmin** /ˈplɑːzɪmɪn/ *n* an enzyme that breaks down the fibrin of blood clots  
**plasminogen** /ˈplɑːzɪmɪnəʒən/ *n* the substance found in blood plasma and serum from which plasmin is formed  
**plasmodesma** /ˈplɑːzməˈdezmə/ also **plasmodesm** /ˈplɑːzməˈdez(ə)m/ *n*, *pl. plasmodesmata* /-ˈdezmətə, -ˈdezˈmætə/, **plasmodesmas** ... of the strands of cytoplasm that provide living bridges between some plant cells [NL *plasmodesma*, fr *plasma* + Gk *desmat-*, *desma* bond, fr *dein* to bind – more at DIADYM]  
**plasmodium** /ˈplɑːzɪˈmoʊdiəm/ *n*, *pl. plasmodia* /-ˈdi-ə/ 1 (an organism consisting of) a (mobile) mass of living matter containing many nuclei and resulting from fusion of amoeba-like cells 2 an individual malaria parasite [NL, fr *plasm-* + -odum thing resembling, fr Gk -*oidēs* like]  
**plasmolysis** /ˈplɑːzɪˈmɒlɪsɪs/ *n* shrinking of the cytoplasm away from the wall of a living (plant) cell due to water loss by exosmosis [NL] – **plasmolyse** /ˈplɑːzməˈliːz/ *vb*, **plasmolytic** /ˈplɑːzməˈlɪtɪk/ *adj*, **plasmolytically** *adv*  
**-plast** /-ˈplɑːst, ˈplɑːst/ *comb form* (→ *n*) organized particle or subcellular granule; cell (<protoplast) [MF -*plaste* thing moulded, fr LL -*plastus*, fr Gk -*plastos*, fr *plastos* moulded, fr *plassein*]  
**plaster** /ˈplɑːstə/ *n* 1 a medicated or protective dressing consisting of a film of cloth, plastic, etc. often spread with a medicated substance,

STICKING PLASTER 2 a pastelike mixture (e.g. of lime, water, and sand) that hardens on drying and is used esp. for coating walls, ceilings, and partitions → BUILDING 3 **plaster**, **plaster cast** a rigid dressing of gauze impregnated with plaster of Paris for immobilizing a diseased or broken body part [ME, fr OE, fr L *emplastrum*, fr Gk *emplastron*, fr *emplastsein* to plaster on, fr *en-* + *plassein* to mould, plaster; akin to L *planus* level, flat] – **plastery** *adj*

**plaster** *vt* 1 to overlay or cover with plaster 2 to apply a plaster to 3a to cover over or conceal as if with a coat of plaster **b** to smear (sthg) thickly (on); coat (<he ~ed butter on his bread> (<she ~ed her face with make-up> **c** to cause to lie flat or stick to another surface (<~ed his hair down> (<the rain ~ed his shirt to his body>) 4 to fasten (sthg) (to) or place (sthg) (on), esp. conspicuously or in quantity (<walls ~ed with posters> (<~ed posters all over the walls>) 5 to inflict heavy damage, injury, or casualties on, esp. by a concentrated or unremitting attack – *infrml* ~ *vi* to apply plaster – **plasterer** *n*

**plasterboard** /-ˈbɔːrd/ *n* a board with a plaster core used esp. as a substitute for plaster on walls

**plastered** *adj* drunk – *infrml*

**plastering** /ˈplɑːst(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* 1 a coating (as if) of plaster 2 a decisive defeat – *infrml*

**plaster of Paris** /ˈpɑːrɪs/ *n*, often *cap* 2nd *P* a white powdery plaster made from gypsum that when mixed with water forms a quicksetting paste used chiefly for casts and moulds [Paris, capital city of France]

**plasterwork** /-ˈwɜːk/ *n* plastering applied as a finish on architectural constructions → BUILDING

**plastic** /ˈplɑːstɪk, ˈplɑːstɪk/ *adj* 1 formative, creative (<~ forces in nature>) 2a capable of being moulded or modelled (<~ clay>) **b** supple, pliant 3 sculptural 4 made or consisting of a plastic 5 capable of being bent or stretched continuously and permanently in any direction without breaking 6 of, involving, or being plastic surgery 7 formed by or adapted to an artificial or conventional standard; synthetic – chiefly derog (<takes a positive effort of will... to avoid ~ food, ~ living, and ~ entertainment – L. E. Sissman>) [L *plasticus* of moulding, fr Gk *plastikos*, fr *plassein* to mould, form] – **plastically** *adv*, **plasticize** /-ˈtiːziə/ *vt*, **plasticization** /ˈplɑːstɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*

**plastic** *n* any of numerous (synthetic) organic polymers that can be moulded, cast, extruded, etc. into objects, films, or filaments

**-plastic** /-ˈplɑːstɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) of sthg designated by a term ending in -*plasm*, -*plast*, -*plasty*, or -*plasy* (<homoplastic>) (<neoplastic>) [Gk -*plastikos*, fr *plassein*]

**plastic art** *n* art concerned with modelling or representing three-dimensional things; *specif* any of the visual arts (e.g. painting, sculpture, or film)

**plasticine** /ˈplɑːstɪˌsiːn/ also **plahs-** / *trademark* – used for a modelling substance that remains plastic for a long period

**plasticity** /ˈplɑːstɪsɪti, ˈplɑːs-/ *n* 1 being plastic; esp. capacity for being moulded or altered 2 the ability to retain a shape produced by pressure deformation

**plasticizer**, **-iser** /ˈplɑːstɪˌziːzə, ˈplɑːs-/ *n* a chemical added to rubbers and plastics, esp. to give flexibility [PLASTICIZE + -ER]

**plastic surgery** *n* surgery concerned with the repair, restoration, or cosmetic improvement of parts of the body chiefly by the grafting of tissue – **plastic surgeon** *n*

**plastid** /ˈplɑːstɪd/ *n* any of various organelles of plant cells that function as centres of photosynthesis, store starch, oil, etc., or contain pigment [G, fr Gk *plastos* moulded] – **plastidial** /ˈplɑːstɪˈdiːəl/ *adj*

**plastron** /ˈplɑːstrən/ *n* 1a a metal breastplate **b** a quilted pad worn in fencing to protect the chest, waist, and sides 2 the lower part of the shell of a tortoise or turtle [MF, fr OIt *piastrone*, aug. of *piastra* thin metal plate] – **plastral** *adj*

**-plasty** /-ˈplɑːsti/ *comb form* (→ *n*) replacement or formation of (sthg specified) by means of plastic surgery (<osteoplasty>) (<rhinoplasty>) [F -*plastic*, fr LGk -*plastia* moulding, fr Gk -*plastēs* moulder, fr *plassein*]

**plat** /ˈplɑːt/ *vt* or *n* -*tt-* (to) plat

**platan** /ˈplɑːtən/ *n* a plane tree [ME, fr L *Platanus*]

**plat du jour** /ˈplɑːdʊˈdʒɔːr/ (Fr *plɑː dy ʒur*) *n*, *pl. plats du jour* /-/ a dish featured by a restaurant on a particular day [F, lit., plate of the day]

**plate** /ˈpleɪt/ *n* 1a a smooth flat thin usu. rigid piece of material **b** a very thin layer of metal deposited on a surface of a base metal by plating **c** (armour of) broad metal plates **d** an (external) scale or rigid layer of bone, horn, etc. forming part of an animal body **e** any of the huge movable segments into which the earth's crust is divided → GEOGRAPHY 2a domestic utensils and tableware made of or plated with gold, silver, or

base metals **b** a shallow usu circular vessel, made esp of china, from which food is eaten or served **c** a plateful **3a** a prepared surface from which printing is done **b** a sheet of material (e.g. glass) coated with a light-sensitive photographic emulsion **c** an electrode in an accumulator **4** a flat piece or surface bearing letters or a design **5** a horizontal structural member (e.g. a timber) that provides bearing and anchorage, esp for rafters or joists **6** the part of a denture that fits to the mouth; *broadly* a denture **7** a full-page book illustration, often on different paper from the text pages **8** *NAM* a complete main course served on a plate **b** food and service supplied to 1 person (*a dinner at £5 a ~*) **9** *NAM* the anode of an electron tube [ME, fr OF, fr *plate*, fem of *plat* flat, fr (assumed) VL *plattus*, prob fr Gk *platys* broad, flat – more at *PLACE*] – *platelike* *adj* – on a plate so as not to require effort – *infrm*

**plate** *vt* **1** to cover or equip with plate: e.g. **a** to arm with armour plate **b** to cover permanently with an adherent layer, esp of metal; *also* to deposit (e.g. a layer) on a surface **2** to fix or secure with a plate – *plater* *n*

**plateau** /'platoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **plateaus**, **plateaux** /-toʊz/ **1** a usu extensive relatively flat land area raised sharply above adjacent land on at least 1 side **2** a relatively stable level, period, or condition (*a price ~ interrupting an inflationary spiral*) [F, fr MF, *platter*, fr *plat* flat]

**'plateful** /-f(ə)l/ *n* as much or as many as a plate will hold

**plate** **'glass** *n* rolled, ground, and polished sheet glass

**'plate-layer** /-ləjə/ *n*, *Br* a person who lays and maintains railway track



**'platelet** /-lit/ *n* **BLOOD PLATELET**  **ANATOMY**

**'plate-mark** *n* a hallmark

**platen** /'plat(ə)n/ *n* **1** a flat plate that exerts pressure, esp in a printing press **2** the roller of a typewriter [MF *platine*, fr *plate*]

**platesque** /'platrɛsk/ *adj*, often *cap* of or being a 16th-c Spanish architectural style suggestive of silverplate [Sp *plateresco*, fr *platero* silversmith, fr *plata* silver]

**plate tectonics** *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* the study of the formation of the major structures of the earth's surface by the movement and interaction of the plates of the earth's crust – *plate tectonic* /-tɛk-/ *adj*, *plate tectonically* /-tɛk-/ *adv*

**platform** /'platafm/ *n* **1** a declaration of (political) principles and policies **2a** a horizontal flat surface, usu higher than the adjoining area, esp. *Br* a raised surface at a railway station to facilitate access to trains **b** a raised flooring (e.g. for speakers) **c** a raised metal structure secured to the sea bed by posts and serving as a base for the extraction of oil  **ENERGY** **3** a place or opportunity for public discussion **4** (a shoe with) a thick sole  **GARMENT** **5** chiefly *Br* the area next to the entrance or exit of a bus [MF *plate-forme* diagram, map, lit, flat form]


**platin-, platino-** *comb form* platinum (<platinum< [NL *platinum*])

**plating** /'plætɪŋ/ *n* **1** a coating of metal plates **2** a thin coating of metal

**platinic** /plə'tɪnɪk/ *adj* of or containing (tetravalent) platinum

**platin-ize-, -ise** /'plætɪnɪz/ *vt* to cover, treat, or combine with (a compound of) platinum

**platinous** /plə'tɪnəs/ *adj* of or containing (bivalent) platinum

**platinum** /'plætɪnəm/ *n* a heavy precious greyish white noncorroding metallic element used esp as a catalyst and for jewellery  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Sp *platina*, fr dim. of *plata* silver, fr (assumed) VL *plattus* flat – more at *PLATE*]

**platinum 'black** *n* a soft dull black powder of platinum used as a catalyst

**platinum 'blonde** *n* (sby having hair of) a pale silvery blond colour: usu produced in human hair by bleach and bluish rinse

**platitude** /'plætɪtjuːd/ *n* a banal, trite, or stale remark, esp when presented as if it were original and significant [F, fr *plat* flat, dull]

**plattudin-ize-, -ise** /'plætɪtjuːdɪnɪz/ *vi* to utter platitudes [*plattitudinous*]

**plattitudinous** /-nəs/ *adj* having the characteristics of a platitude; full of platitudes (< *remarks*) [*platitude* + *-inous* (as in *multitudinous*)] – *plattitudinously* *adv*

**platonic** /'plə'tɒnɪk/ *adj* **1** *cap* (characteristic) of Plato or Platonism **2a** of or being a close relationship between 2 people in which sexual desire is absent or has been repressed or sublimated **b** nominal, theoretical [L *platonicus*, fr Gk *platonikos*, fr *Platōn* Plato †349 bc Gk philosopher] – *platonically* *adv*

**Platonism** /'plætə'nɪz(ə)m/ *n* the philosophy of Plato stressing that actual things and ideas (e.g. of truth or beauty) are copies of transcendent ideas which are the objects of true knowledge – *Platonist* *n*, *Platonistic* *adj* – *plætə'nɪstɪk/adj*

**platoon** /'plə'tuːn/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* **1** a subdivision of a military company normally consisting of 2 or more sections or squads **2** a group of people sharing a common characteristic or activity (< *a ~ of waiters*) [F *peloton* small detachment, lit., ball, fr *pelote* little ball – more at *PELLET*]

**Plattdeutsch** /'platdɔɪtʃ, -pləht-/ *n* a colloquial language of N Germany [G, fr D *Plautdeutsch*, lit., Low German, fr *plat* flat, low + *deutsch* German]

**platteland** /'plata,lunt/ *n*, *S Afr* the backveld [Afrk, fr D, lit., flat-land]

**platter** /'plata/ *n* **1** a large often oval plate used esp for serving meat **2** *NAM* a gramophone record [ME *plater*, fr AF, fr MF *plat* plate] – *platterful* *n*

**platyhelminth** /'plætɪ'helminθ/ *n* any of a phylum of soft-bodied flattened worms (e.g. the planarians, flukes, and tapeworms) [deriv of Gk *platys* broad, flat + *helminth-, helmis* helminth] – *platyhelminthic* /-hel'mɪnθɪk/ *adj*

**platypus** /'plætɪpəs/ *n*, *pl* **platypuses** *also* *platypi* /-pi/ a small aquatic Australian and Tasmanian primitive mammal that lays eggs and has a fleshy bill resembling that of a duck, webbed feet, and a broad flattened tail [NL, fr Gk *platypous* flat-footed, fr *platys* broad, flat + *pous* foot – more at *PLACE, FOOT*]

**plaudit** /'plawdɪt/ *n* enthusiastic approval – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning (< *received the ~s of the critics*) [L *plaudite* applaud, *pl* imper of *plaudere* to applaud]

**plausible** /'plawzəbl/ *adj* **1** apparently fair, reasonable, or valid but often specious (< *a ~ pretext*) **2** of a person persuasive but deceptive [L *plausibilis* worthy of applause, fr *plausus*, pp of *plaudere*] – *plausibleness* *n*, *plausibly* *adv*, *plausibility* /'plawzə'bɪləti/ *n*

**'play** /pleɪ/ *n* **1** the conduct, course, or (a particular) action in or of a game **2a** (children's spontaneous) recreational activity **b** the absence of serious or harmful intent; jest (< *said it in ~*) **c** a playing on words or speech sounds **d** gaming, gambling **3a** operation, activity (< *bringing other forces into ~*) **b** light, quick, transitory, or fitful movement (< *the ~ of sunlight and shadows through the trees*) **c** free or unimpeded motion (e.g. of a part of a machine) **d** scope or opportunity for action **4a** the dramatized representation of an action or story on stage **b** a dramatic composition (for presentation in a theatre) **5** chiefly *NAM* an act or manoeuvre, esp in a game **b** a move or series of moves calculated to arouse friendly feelings – usu + *make* (< *made a big ~ for the blonde*) [ME, fr OE *plega*, akin to OE *plegan* to play, MD *pleyen*] – *in/into play* **1** *in/into* condition or position to be legitimately played **2** *in/into* operation or consideration – *out of play* not in play

**\*play** *vi* **1a** to engage in sport or recreation **b(1)** to behave aimlessly, toy, trifle (< *don't ~ with your food*) **(2)** to deal or behave frivolously, mockingly, or playfully – often + *around* or *about* **(3)** to deal in a light speculative manner (< *liked to ~ with ideas*) **(4)** to make use of double meaning or of the similarity of sound of 2 words for stylistic or humorous effect – usu *in play* on words **2a** to take advantage (< *ing on fears*) **b** to move or operate in a lively, irregular, or intermittent manner (< *watch the light ~ ing on the water*) (< *a faint smile ~ s on her lips*) **c** to move or function freely within prescribed limits (< *a piston rod ~ s within cylinders*) **d** to discharge repeatedly or in a stream (< *hoses ~ ing on a fire*) **3a(1)** to perform music **(2)** to sound in performance (< *the organ is ~ ing*) **(3)** to reproduce or emit sounds (< *his radio is ~ ing*) **b(1)** to act in a dramatic production **(2)** to be presented at a place of entertainment (e.g. a theatre) **c** to act with special consideration so as to gain favour, approval, or sympathy – usu + *up to* **4a** to engage, take part, or make a move in a game **b** to perform (e.g. in a sport) in a specified position or manner (< *the fullbacks are ~ ing deep*) **c** to gamble **d(1)** to behave (or conduct oneself) in a specified way (< *safe*) (< *the pitch will ~ well*) **(2)** to feign a specified state or quality (< *dead*) **(3)** to take part in or assent to some activity; cooperate (< *along with his scheme*) **5** to have (promiscuous or illicit) sexual relations – euph; usu *in play* around – *vt* **1a(1)** to engage in or occupy oneself with (< *football*) **(2)** to deal with, handle, or manage (< *decided to ~ the dispute another way*) – often + *it* (< *trying to ~ it cool*) **(3)** to exploit, manipulate (< *the stock market*) **b** to pretend to engage in (< *children ~ ing cops and robbers*) **c(1)** to perform or execute for amusement or to deceive or mock (< *a trick*) **(2)** to wreak (< *havoc*) **2a(1)** to put on a performance of (a play) **(2)** to act in the character or part of **(3)** to act or perform in (< *ed leading theatres*) **b** to perform or act the part of (< *the fool*) **3a(1)** to contend against in a game **(2)** to use as a contestant in a game (< *the selectors did not ~ him*) **(3)** to perform the duties associated with (a certain position) (< *ed fullback*) **b(1)** to make bets on (< *the horses*) **(2)** to operate on the basis

of (< ~ a hunch) c to put into action in a game (< ~ the ace) (< ~ the knight) d to direct the course of (e.g. a ball); hit 4a to perform (music) on an instrument (< ~ a waltz) b to perform music on (< ~ the violin) c to perform music of (a specified composer) d to reproduce sounds, esp music, on (an apparatus) (< ~s her radio all day long) (< ~ us your favourite record) 5a to aim and fire or set off with continuous effect (< ~ ed the hose on the burning building) b to cause to move or operate lightly and irregularly or intermittently (< ~ ed his torch along the fence) c to allow (a hooked fish) to become exhausted by pulling against a line – **playable** *adj*, **player** *n*, **playability** /ˌpleɪəˈbɪləti/ *n* – **play ball** to cooperate – **play by ear** to deal with from moment to moment rather than making plans in advance – **play fast and loose** to act in a reckless, irresponsible, or craftily deceitful way – **play into the hands of** to act so as to prove advantageous to (an opponent) – **play second fiddle** to take a subordinate position – **play the field** to have a number of boyfriends or girl friends rather than committing oneself exclusively to one person – **play the game** to act according to a code or set of standards – **play with oneself** to masturbate – **to play with** at one's disposal (< a lot of funds to play with)

**playa** /ˈpləh-yə/ *n* the flat bottom of an undrained desert basin that becomes at times a shallow lake [Sp, lit, beach]

**playact** /ˈpleɪ.əkt/ *vi* 1 to make believe 2 to behave in a misleading or insincere manner ~ *vt* ACT OUT 1a [back-formation fr *playacting*]

**playback** /ˈbæk/ *n* (a device that provides for) the reproduction of recorded sound or pictures

**play back** *vt* to listen to or look at material on (a usu recently recorded disc or tape)

**playboy** /ˈboɪ/ *n* a man who lives a life devoted chiefly to the pursuit of pleasure

**play down** *n* to cause to seem less important; minimize

**played out** *adj* worn or tired out

**player piano** /ˈpleɪə/ *n* a piano containing a mechanical device that operates the keys automatically

**playfellow** /ˈfeloh/ *n* a playmate

**playful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 full of fun; frolicsome (< a ~ kitten) 2 humorous, lighthearted (< the ~ tone of her voice) – **playfully** *adv*, **playfulness** *n*

**playground** /ˈground/ *n* 1 a piece of land for children to play on 2 an area favoured for recreation or amusement (< that town was a gambler's ~)

**playgroup** /-groʊp/ *n*, chiefly Br a supervised group of children below school age who play together regularly

**playhouse** /-həʊs/ *n* 1 a theatre 2 chiefly NAm WENDY HOUSE

**playing card** /ˈpleɪɪŋ/ *n* any of a set of usu 52 thin rectangular pieces, usu of cardboard, marked on one side to show one of 13 ranks in one of 4 suits and used in playing any of numerous games

**playing field** *n* a field used for playing organized games and often divided into several separate pitches – often pl with sing. meaning

**playmate** /-meɪt/ *n* a companion in play

**play-off** *n* a final contest to determine a winner

**play off** *vt* 1 to decide the winner of (a competition) or break (a tie) by a play-off 2 to set in opposition for one's own gain (< survived by playing his enemies off against each other)

**play on words** *n* a pun

**play out** *vt* 1 to finish; USE UP 2 to unreel, unfold

**playpen** /-pen/ *n* a portable usu collapsible enclosure in which a baby or young child may play

**playsuit** /-sɪj(ə)h/ *n* a garment, esp dungarees, for children to play in

**plaything** /-θɪŋ/ *n* a toy

**play up** *vt* 1 to give special emphasis or prominence to (< the press played up the divorce story) 2 Br to cause pain or distress to (< my corns have been playing me up again) ~ *vi* to behave in a disobedient or annoying manner; ACT UP

**playwright** /-rɪt/ *n* one who writes plays ['play + obs *wright* (maker), fr ME, fr OE *wryhta* – more at *WRIGHT*]

**plaza** /ˈplæzə/ *n* a public square in a city or town [Sp, fr L *plates* broad street – more at *PLACE*]

**plea** /pleɪ/ *n* 1 an allegation made by a party in support of his/her case 2 an accused person's answer to an indictment (< a ~ of guilty) 3 sth offered by way of excuse or justification 4 an earnest entreaty; an appeal [ME *plaid*, *plai*, fr OF *plait*, *plaid*, fr ML *placitum*, fr L, decision, decree, fr neut of *placitus*, pp of *placere* to please, be decided – more at *PLEASE*]

**plea bargaining** *n* pleading guilty to a lesser charge in order to avoid standing trial for a more serious one

**pleach** /pleech/ *vt* to interlace, plash [ME *plechen*, fr ONF *plechier*, fr L *plexus*, pp of *plectere* to braid – more at *'PLY*]

**plead** /pleəd/ *vb* **pleaded**, **pled** /pled/ *vi* 1 to argue a case as an advocate in a court 2 to make or answer an allegation in a legal proceeding 3 to make a specified plea (< ~ not guilty) 4a to urge reasons for or against sth b to entreat or appeal earnestly; implore ~ *vt* 1 to maintain (e.g. a case) in a court 2 to offer as a (legal) plea (< to ~ ignorance) [ME *plaiden* to institute a lawsuit, fr OF *plaidir*, fr *plaid* plea] – **pleadable** *adj*, **pleader** *n*, **pleadingly** *adv*

**pleading** /ˈpleɪdɪŋ/ *n* 1 advocacy of a case in a court 2 any of the formal usu written allegations made alternately by the parties in a legal action

**pleasant** /ˈplez(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 having qualities that tend to give pleasure; agreeable (< a ~ day) 2 of a person likable, friendly [ME *pleasant*, fr MF *plaisant*, fr prp of *plaisir*] – **pleasantly** *adv*, **pleasantness** *n*

**pleasantry** /ˈplez(ə)ntri/ *n* 1 an agreeable remark (made in order to be polite) 2 a humorous act or remark; a joke

**please** /pleez/ *vi* 1 to afford or give pleasure or satisfaction 2 to like, wish (< do as you ~) 3 to be willing – usu used in the imperative (1) to express a polite request (< coffee, ~) (< ~ come in) (2) to make polite a request for attention (< ~, Sir, I don't understand) (3) to express polite acceptance (< Coffee? Please!) (4) to turn an apparent question into a request (< can you shut it, ~?) ~ *vt* 1 to give pleasure to; gratify 2 to be the will or pleasure of (< may it ~ your Majesty) – fml [ME *plesen*, fr MF *plaisir*, fr L *placere*; akin to L *placare* to placate, OE *floh* flat stone, Gk *plak-*, *plax* flat surface] – **pleasingly** *adv*

**pleasurable** /ˈplez(ə)rəbl/ *adj* pleasant, enjoyable – **pleasurableness** *n*, **pleasurably** *adv*, **pleasurability** /ˈplez(ə)rəbɪləti/ *n*

**pleasure** /ˈplez(ə)r/ *n* 1 a state of gratification 2a sensual gratification (< he abandoned the monastery for a life of ~) b enjoyment, recreation (< are you here on business or for ~?) 3 a source of delight or joy (< it's always a ~ to talk to her) 4 a wish, desire – fml [ME *pleasure*, alter. of *plesir*, fr MF *plaisir*, fr *plaisir* to please]

**pleasure** *vt*, archaic to give (sexual) pleasure to

**pleat** /pleet/ *vt* to fold; esp to arrange in pleats (< ~ a skirt) [ME *pletten*, fr *plet*, *plete* plait] – **pleater** *n*

**pleat** *n* a fold in cloth made by doubling material over on itself; also sth resembling such a fold [ME *plete*] – **pleated** *adj*, **pleatless** *adj*

**pleb** /pleb/ *n* a plebeian – chiefly derog

**plebby** /ˈplebi/ *adj*, chiefly Br plebeian – derog

**plebeian** /ˈpliːbiən/ *n* a member of the (Roman) common people [L *plebeius* of the common people, fr *plebs* common people; akin to Gk *plēthos* throng, *plēthein* to be full] – **plebeianism** *n*

**plebeian** *adj* 1 of plebeians 2 crude or coarse in manner or style; common – **plebeianly** *adv*

**plebiscite** /ˈplebɪsɪt/ *n* a vote by the people of an entire country or district for or against a proposal, esp on a choice of government or ruler [L *plebis scitum* law voted by the comitia, lit., decree of the common people] – **plebiscitary** /ˈplebɪsɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**plectrum** /ˈplektrəm/ *n*, pl *plectra* /-trə/, *plectrums* a small thin piece of plastic, metal, etc used to pluck the strings of a stringed instrument [L, fr Gk *plektron*, fr *pleksein* to strike – more at *PLAIN*]

**pled** /pled/ *past* of *PLEAD*

**pledge** /pleɪ/ *n* 1 a chattel delivered as security for an obligation (e.g. a debt) or for the performance of an act 2 the state of being held as a security (< his watch is in ~) 3 a token, sign, or earnest of sth else 4 TOAST 3 5 a binding promise to do or forbear [ME, security, fr MF *plege*, fr LL *plebium*, fr (assumed) LL *plebere* to pledge]

**pledge** *vt* 1 to make a pledge of; specif to deposit as security for fulfilment of a contract or obligation 2 to drink the health of 3 to bind by a pledge 4 to give a promise of (< ~ allegiance to the flag) – **pledger**, **pledgor** /ˈpleɪjəw/ *n*

**pledgee** /ˈpleɪdʒi/ *n* one to whom a pledge is given

**pledget** /ˈpleɪdʒɪt/ *n* a compress or pad used to apply medication or absorb discharges (e.g. from a wound) [origin unknown]

**-plegia** /-ˈpleɪdʒiə/ *comb form* (~ *n*) paralysis (< hemiplegia) [NL, fr Gk *-plegia*, fr *plēssēin* to strike – more at *PLAIN*]

**Pleides** /ˈpleɪ-əˈdeɪz/ *n* pl a conspicuous cluster of stars in the constellation Taurus [L, fr Gk]

**plein air** /ˈpleɪn/ *adj* of (impressionist) painting done out of doors which attempts to capture the atmospheric effects of outdoor daylight [F, open air] – **pleinairist** *n*

**pleio-, pleo-, plio-** *comb form* more (< *pleonasm*) [Gk *pleiōn*, *pleōn* – more at *PLUS*]

**Pleistocene** /ˈpliːstəːsɪn, -stoh-/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earlier epoch



- of the Quaternary  EVOLUTION, GEOGRAPHY [Gk *pleistos* most + ISV *-cene*; akin to Gk *pleion* more]
- plenary** /'plenəri/ *adj* 1 absolute, unqualified (< ~ power) 2 attended by all entitled to be present (< ~ session) [LL *plenarius*, fr L *plenus* full – more at 'FULL]
- plenipotentiary** /'plenipə'tens(ə)n/ *n* or *adj* (sby, esp a diplomatic agent) invested with full power to transact business [ML *plenipotentarius*, *adj* & *n*, deriv of LL *plenipotent-*, *plenipotens*, *adj*, fr L *plenus* + *potent-*, *potens* powerful]
- plenitude** /'plenitju:hd/ *n* 1 fullness, completeness 2 abundance *USE* fml [ME *plenitude*, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *plenitudo*, fr *plenus* full]
- plenteous** /'plentyəs/ *adj* plentiful – fml or poetic [ME *plenteuous*, *plenteous*, fr OF *plentiveus*, fr *plentif* abundant, fr *plenté* plenty] – *plenteously* *adv*, *plenteousness* *n*
- plentiful** /'plentif(ə)l/ *adj* 1 containing or yielding plenty (< ~ land) 2 characterized by, constituting, or existing in plenty – *plentifully* *adv*, *plentifulness* *n*
- 'plenty** /'plenti/ *n* 1a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a full or more than adequate amount or supply (< had ~ of time to finish the job) (< there's ~ more) b a large number or amount (< he's in ~ of trouble) 2 copiousness, plentifulness (< years of ~) [ME *plente*, fr OF *plenté*, fr LL *plenitatis*, *plentitas*, fr L, fullness, fr *plenus* full]
- 'plenty** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* ample (< ~ work to be done – Time)
- 'plenty** *adv* 1 quite, abundantly (< ~ warm enough) 2 chiefly *NAM* to a considerable or extreme degree; very (< ~ hungry) *USE* infml
- pleochroism** /'pleə'kro:hiz(ə)m/ *n* the property of a crystal of showing different colours when viewed by light from different angles [ISV *pleochroic* (fr *pleio-* + Gk *chrōs* skin, colour) + *-ism* – more at GRIT] – *pleochroic* /'pleə'kro:hik/ *adj*
- pleomorphism** /'pleə-oh'maw,fiz(ə)m/ *n* the having, assumption, or occurrence of more than 1 distinct form [ISV] – *pleomorphic* /-fik/ *adj*
- pleonasm** /'pleə-ə,naz(ə)m/ *n* the use of more words than are necessary to convey the intended sense [LL *pleonasmus*, fr Gk *pleonasmos*, fr *pleonazein* to be excessive, fr *pleion*, *pleōn* more – more at PLUS] – *pleonastic* /'pleə-ə'nastik/ *adj*, *pleonastically* *adv*
- plesiosaur** /'pleəsi-ə,saw/ *n* a Mesozoic marine reptile with a flattened body and limbs modified into paddles [deriv of Gk *plēsios* close (fr *pelas* near) + *sauros* lizard]
- plethora** /'pleθərə/ *n* 1 an abnormal excess of blood in the body – not now used technically 2 a superfluity, excess (< ~ of regulations) [ML, fr Gk *plēthōra*, lit., fullness, fr *plēthein* to be full – more at 'FULL] – *plethoric* /'pleθonik/ *adj*
- pleur-** /'ploor-/ , **pleuro-** *comb form* 1a *pleura* (<pleuropneumonia>), *pleura* and (<pleuroperitoneum>) b *pleural* and (<pleurocerebral>) 2 *side*, lateral (<pleuron>) [(1) NL, fr *pleura*; (2) Gk, fr *pleura*]
- pleura** /'ploora/ *n*, *pl* *pleurae* /-ri/, *pleuras* the delicate membrane that lines each half of the thorax of mammals and surrounds the lung of the same side [Gk, rib, side] – *pleural* *adj*
- pleurisy** /'ploorəsi/ *n* inflammation of the pleura, usu with fever, painful breathing, and oozing of liquid into the pleural cavity [ME *pluresie*, fr MF *pleuresie*, fr LL *pleuritis*, alter of L *pleuritis*, fr Gk, fr *pleura* side] – *pleuritic* /'ploor'itik/ *adj*
- pleuron** /'plooron/ *n* a side part of the middle segment of an insect [NL, fr Gk, rib, side]
- pleuropneumonia** /'ploorohnyoo'h'mohnyə-, -ni-ə/ *n* combined inflammation of the pleura and lungs, esp in cattle [NL]
- pleuston** /'ploohstən-, -stən/ *n* floating living organisms forming a layer on or near the surface of a body of fresh water ((assumed) Gk *pleustos* (verbal of *plein* to sail, float) + ISV *-on* (as in *plankton*)) – *pleustonic* /'plooh'stonik/ *adj*
- Plexiglas** /'pleksɪgləhs/ *trademark* – used for acrylic plastic sheets and moulding powders
- plexus** /'pleksəs/ *n* 1 a network of interlacing blood vessels or nerves 2 a network of parts or elements in a structure or system [NL, fr L, braid, network, fr *plexus*, pp of *plectere* to braid – more at 'PLY] – *plexiform* /'pleksɪfərm/ *adj*
- pliable** /'pleɪəbl/ *adj* 1 easily bent without breaking; flexible 2 yielding readily to others; compliant [ME, fr MF, fr *plier* to bend, fold – more at 'PLY] – *pliability* *n*, *pliablely* *adv*, *pliability* /'pleɪ-ə'biliti/ *n*
- pliant** /'pleɪ-ənt/ *adj* PLIABLE 1 – *pliantly* *adv*, *plianthood*, *pliancy* /-si/ *n*
- plicate** /'pleikayt/ also *plicated* /'pleikaytid/ *adj* folded lengthways like a fan; pleated, ridged (< ~ leaf) [L *plicatus*, pp of *plicare* to fold] – *plicately* *adv*, *plicateness* *n*
- plication** /'pli'kaysh(ə)n, pleɪ-/ *n* 1 folding 2 a fold or being folded
- plie** /'pleɪ-/ *n* the action in ballet of bending the knees outwards while holding the back straight [F, fr pp of *plier* to bend]
- pliers** /'plie-əz/ *n* *pl* *pliers* a pair of pincers with long jaws for holding small objects or for bending and cutting wire ['ply + *-er* + *-s*]
- 'plight** /'pli:t/ *vt* to put or give in pledge, engage (< ~ one's troth) [ME *plighen*, fr OE *plihtan* to endanger, fr *pliht* danger; akin to OHG *pflegan* to take care of]
- 'plight** *n* an (unpleasant or difficult) state, a predicament [ME *plht*, fr AF, fr (assumed) VL *plictus* fold – more at PLAIT]
- plimsoll** /'plɪms(ə)l-, -sol-, -sohl/ *n*, *Br* a shoe with a rubber sole and canvas top worn esp for sports [prob fr the supposed resemblance of the upper edge of the rubber to the Plimsoll line on a ship]
- Plimsoll line** *n* a set of markings indicating the draught levels to which a vessel may legally be loaded in various seasons and waters [Samuel Plimsoll †1898 E leader of shipping reform]
- Plimsoll mark** *n* PLIMSOLL LINE
- plinth** /'plɪnθ/ *n* 1 a usu square block serving as a base (e g of a pedestal) 2 a part of a structure forming a continuous foundation or base *USE*  ARCHITECTURE [L *plinthus*, fr Gk *plinthos*]
- plio-** *comb form* pleio-
- Pliocene** /'pleɪ-oh'seen/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the latest epoch of the Tertiary  EVOLUTION
- plissé**, *plisse* /'pleesay/ *n* (a fabric with) a permanently puckered finish [F *plissé*, fr pp of *plisser* to pleat, fr MF, fr *pli* fold, fr *plier* to fold – more at 'PLY]
- plod** /'plɒd/ *vb* -dd- *vi* 1a to walk heavily or slowly, trudge b to proceed slowly or tediously (< the film just ~s along) 2 to work laboriously and monotonously (< ~ding through stacks of unanswered letters) ~ *vt* to tread slowly or heavily along or over (< ~ed the streets all day, looking for work) [imit] – *plod* *n*, *plodder* *n*, *ploddingly* *adv*
- ploid** /-ploid/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having a chromosome number that bears (such) a relationship to or is (so many) times the haploid number (<polyploid>) – compare *-somic* [ISV, fr *diploid* & *haploid*] – *-ploid* *comb form* (→ *n*)
- ploidy** /'plɔɪdi/ *n* degree of repetition of the haploid number of chromosomes [fr such words as *diploidy*, *hexaploidy*]
- 'plonk** /'plɒŋk/ *vt* PLUNK 2
- 'plonk** *n*, chiefly *Br* cheap or inferior wine – infml [short for earlier *plink-plonk*, perh modif of F *vin blanc* white wine]
- plop** /'plɒp/ *vb* -pp- *vi* 1 to drop or move suddenly with a sound suggestive of sth dropping into water 2 to allow the body to drop heavily (< ~ped into a chair) ~ *vt* to set, drop, or throw heavily [imit] – *plop* *n*
- plosion** /'ploʊzh(ə)n/ *n* the release of obstructed breath that occurs in the articulation of stop consonants [fr *explosion*, *implosion*] – *plosive* /'plɒsɪv-, -zɪv/ *adj* or *n*
- 'plot** /'plɒt/ *n* 1 a small piece of land, esp one used or designated for a specific purpose (< a vegetable ~) 2 the plan or main story of a literary work 3 a secret plan for accomplishing a usu evil or unlawful end, an intrigue 4 a chart or other graphic representation 5 *NAM* GROUND PLAN [ME, fr OE] – *plotless* *adj*, *plotlessness* *n*
- 'plot** *vb* -tt- *vi* 1a to make a plot, map, or plan of b to mark or note (as if) on a map or chart 2 to lay out in plots 3a to assign a position to (a point) by means of coordinates b to draw (a curve) by means of plotted points c to represent (an equation) by means of a curve so constructed 4 to plan or contrive, esp secretly (< ~ed his revenge) 5 to invent or devise the plot of (a literary work) ~ *vi* to form a plot, scheme – *plotter* *n*
- 'plough**, *NAM* *plow* /'pləʊ/ *n* 1 (any of various devices operating like) an implement used to cut, lift, and turn over soil, esp in preparing ground for sowing 2 ploughed land 3 *cap* URSA MAJOR – + *the* [ME, fr OE *plōh* hide of land; akin to OHG *pluog* plough]
- 'plough**, *NAM* *plow* *vi* 1a to use a plough b to bear or undergo ploughing 2 to force a way, esp violently (< the car ~ed into a group of spectators) 3 to proceed steadily and laboriously, plod (< had to ~ through a summer reading list) ~ *vt* 1a to turn, break up, or work (as if) with a plough b to make (e g a furrow) with a plough 2 to cut into, open, or make furrows or ridges in (as if) with a plough – often + *up* – *ploughable* *adj*, *plougher* *n*
- plough back** *vi* to reinvest (profits) in an industry
- 'ploughman** /-mən/ *n* one who guides a plough; broadly a farm labourer
- ploughman's 'lunch** /-mən-z/ *n* a cold lunch of bread, cheese, and usu pickled onions often served in a public house
- 'ploughshare** /-sheə/ *n* the part of a mouldboard plough that cuts the furrow [ME, fr *plough* + *schare* ploughshare – more at 'SHARE]



**plover** /'pluva/ *n*, *pl* plovers, *esp* collectively plover any of numerous wading birds with a short beak and usu a stout compact build [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *pluvianus*, fr L *pluvia* rain – more at PLUVIAL]

**ploy** /ploɪ/ *n* sth devised or contrived, *esp* to embarrass or frustrate an opponent [prob fr *employ*]

**pluck** /plʌk/ *vt* 1 to pull or pick off or out (<she ~ed out a grey hair> 2 to remove sth from (as if) by plucking, *esp* to remove the feathers from (e.g. a chicken) 3 to pick, pull, or grasp at, also to play (an instrument) in this manner ~ *vi* to tug at (<~ed at the folds of her skirt>) [ME *plucken*, fr OE *pluccian*, akin to MHG *pflucken* to pluck] – *pluck* *n*

**pluck** *n* 1 an act or instance of plucking or pulling 2 the heart, liver, and lungs of a slaughtered animal, *esp* as food 3 courage and determination

**plucky** /'plʌki/ *adj* marked by courage, spirited – *pluckily* *adv*, *pluckiness* *n*

**plug** /plʌg/ *n* 1a a piece used to fill a hole, a stopper b an obtruding or obstructing mass of material resembling a stopper (<a volcanic ~> 2 a flat compressed cake of (chewing) tobacco; also a piece cut from this for chewing 3 a small core or segment removed from a larger object 4 a fire hydrant 5a any of various devices resembling or functioning like an electrical plug b a device having usu 3 pins projecting from an insulated case for making electrical connection with a suitable socket, also the electrical socket 6 a piece of favourable publicity (e.g. for a commercial product) usu incorporated in general matter – *in*fm [D, fr MD *plugge*; akin to MHG *pfluc* plug]

**plug** *vb* -gg- *vt* 1 to block, close, or secure (as if) by inserting a plug 2 to hit with a bullet, shoot 2a 3 to advertise or publicize insistently ~ *vi* to work doggedly and persistently (<~ged away at his homework>) – *plugging* *n*

**plug** *in* *vt* to establish an electric circuit by inserting a plug ~ *vt* to attach or connect to a power point

**plum** /plʌm/ *n* 1 (any of numerous trees and shrubs of the rose family, that bear) an edible globular to oval smooth-skinned fruit with an oblong seed 2 a raisin when used in a pudding, cake, etc (<~ cake> 3 sth excellent or superior, *esp* an opportunity or position offering exceptional advantages (<a ~ job> 4 a dark reddish purple [ME, fr OE *plume*, akin to OHG *pflumo* plum tree, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *prunum* plum, fr Gk *proumonon*] – *plum* *adj*, *plumlike* *adj*

**plumage** /'plʊmɪdʒ/ *n* the entire covering of feathers of a bird [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *plume* feather – more at PLUMF] – *plumaged* *adj*

**plumb** /plʌm/ *n* 1 a lead weight attached to a cord and used to indicate a vertical line 2 any of various weights (e.g. a sinker for a fishing line or a lead for sounding) [ME, fr (assumed) OF *plomb*, fr OF *plon* lead, fr L *plumbum*]

**plumb** *adv* 1 straight down or up, vertically 2 exactly, precisely (<his house is ~ in the middle of the island>) 3 chiefly dial NAm completely, absolutely USE (2&3) chiefly *in*fm

**plumb** *vt* 1 to measure the depth of with a plumb 2 to examine minutely and critically, *esp* so as to achieve complete understanding (<~ing the book's complexities>) 3 to adjust or test by a plumb line 4 to supply with or install as plumbing – often + *in* [(4) back-formation fr *plumber*]

**plumb** *adj* 1 exactly vertical or true 2 of a cricket wicket flat and allowing little or no horizontal or vertical deviation of the bowled ball 3 downright, complete – *in*fm

**plumb-, plumbo-** *comb* form lead (<plumbism>) [L *plumb-*, fr *plumbum*]

**plumbaginous** /plʌm'bajɪnəs/ *adj* resembling, consisting of, or containing graphite

**plumbago** /plʌm'bəgo/ *n*, *pl* plumbagos 1 graphite 2 any of a genus of plants of the thrift family with spikes of showy flowers [L *plumbagin-*, *plumbago* galena, leadwort, fr *plumbum*]

**plumb bob** *n* the metal bob of a plumb line

**plumbeous** /'plʌmbiəs/ *adj* consisting of or resembling lead [L *plumbeus*, fr *plumbum*]

**plumber** /'plʌmə/ *n* 1 sby who installs, repairs, and maintains water piping and fittings 2 *obs* a dealer or worker in lead [ME, dealer or worker in lead, fr MF *plombier*, fr L *plumbarius*, fr *plumbarius*, *adj*, of or relating to lead, fr *plumbum*]

**plumbic** /'plʌmbɪk/ *adj* of or containing (tetravalent) lead

**plumbing** /'plʌmɪŋ/ *n* 1 a plumber's occupation or trade 2 the apparatus (e.g. pipes and fixtures) concerned in the distribution and use of water in a building

**plumbism** /'plʌmbɪz(ə)m/ *n* (chronic) lead poisoning

**plumb line** *n* a line that has a weight at one end and is used *esp* to determine verticality ➔ BUILDING

**plumbous** /'plʌmbəs/ *adj* of or containing (bivalent) lead

**'plume** /'plʊhm/ *n* 1a a (large showy) bird's feather b a cluster of distinctive feathers 2 a usu large feather or cluster of feathers worn *esp* as an ornament 3 sth resembling a feather (e.g. in shape, appearance, or lightness): e.g. a feathery or feather like animal or plant part; *esp* a full bushy tail b a trail of smoke, blowing snow, etc [ME, fr MF, fr L *pluma* small soft feather] – *plumed* *adj*

**plume** *vt* 1 to provide or deck with plumes 2 to pride or congratulate (oneself) on or upon 3a of a bird to preen and arrange the feathers of (itself) b to preen and arrange (feathers)

**'plummet** /'plʊmɪt/ *n* a plumb (line) [ME *plomet*, fr MF *plombet* ball of lead, fr *plomb* lead, fr (assumed) OF – more at 'PLUMB]

**'plummet** *vi* to fall sharply and abruptly (<prices ~ed>)

**plummy** /'plʊmi/ *adj* 1 of the voice rich and mellow, often to the point of affectation 2 choice, desirable (<got a ~ role in the film>) – *in*fm [PLUM + -y]

**plumose** /'plʊhmɔhs/ *adj* 1 having feathers or plumes 2 feathery 3 having a main shaft bearing small filaments (<the ~ antennae of an insect>) – *plumose* *adv*

**'plump** /plʌmp/ *vi* to drop or sink suddenly or heavily (<~ed down in the chair>) ~ *vt* to drop, cast, or place suddenly or heavily [ME *plumpen*, of imit origin] – *plump* for to decide on out of several choices or courses of action (<plumped for beer rather than wine>)

**'plump** *adv* 1 with a sudden or heavy drop 2 without qualification; directly

**'plump** *n* (the sound of) a sudden plunge, fall, or blow

**'plump** *adj* having a full rounded form; slightly fat [ME, dull, blunt] – *plumpish* *adj*, *plumply* *adv*, *plumpness* *n*

**'plump** *vb* to make or become plump – often + *up* or *out*

**'plum** 'pudding *n* a rich boiled or steamed pudding containing dried fruits (e.g. raisins) and spices

**plump up** *vt* to cause to fill or swell out (<plumped up the pillows when she made the bed>)

**plumule** /'plʊmjuh/ *n* the primary bud of a plant embryo [NL *plumula*, fr L, dim. of *pluma*] – *plumulose* /'plʊhmjuh/ *adj*

**'plunder** /'plʌndə/ *vt* 1 to pillage, sack 2 to take, *esp* by force (e.g. in war); steal ~ *vi* to commit robbery or looting [G *plundern*, fr MHG *plundern*, fr *plunder* household goods, clothes] – *plunderer* *n*

**'plunder** *n* 1 an act of plundering, pillaging 2 sth taken by force, theft, or fraud, loot

**'plunge** /plʌnʒ/ *vt* 1a to cause to penetrate quickly and forcibly b to sink (a potted plant) in the ground 2 to cause to enter a thing, state, or course of action usu suddenly, unexpectedly, or violently ~ *vi* 1 to thrust or cast oneself (<as if>) into water 2a to be thrown headlong or violently forwards and downwards (<the car stopped abruptly and he ~d through the windscreen>), also to move oneself in such a manner b to act with reckless haste, enter suddenly or unexpectedly (<the firm ~d into debt>) 3 to descend or dip suddenly 4 to bet or gamble heavily and recklessly – *in*fm [ME *plungen*, fr MF *plonger*, fr (assumed) VL *plumbicare*, fr L *plumbum* lead]

**'plunge** *n* a dive; also a swim

**plunger** /'plʌnʒə/ *n* 1a a device (e.g. a piston in a pump) that acts with a plunging or thrusting motion b a rubber suction cup on a handle used to free plumbing from blockages 2 a reckless gambler or speculator – chiefly *in*fm ['PLUNGE + -ER]

**plunging fire** /'plʌnʒɪŋ/ *n* direct fire from a superior elevation resulting in the fires striking the target at a steep angle

**plunk** /plʌŋk/ *vt* 1 to pluck so as to produce a hollow, metallic, or harsh sound 2 to set down suddenly, plump – chiefly *in*fm [imit] – *plunk* *n*, *plunker* *n*

**plunk down** *vi* to drop abruptly; settle into position ~ *vt* 1 to put down usu firmly or abruptly (<plunked his money down on the counter>) 2 to settle (oneself) into position (<plunked himself down on the bench>) USE chiefly *in*fm

**pluperfect** /'plʊh'pʊhkt/ *adj* PAST PERFECT [modif of LL *plusquamperfectus*, lit., more than perfect] – *pluperfect* *n*

**plural** /'plʊərəl/ *adj* 1 of or being a word form (e.g. *we*, *houses*, *cattle*) denoting more than 1, or in some languages more than 2 or 3, persons, things, or instances 2 consisting of or containing more than 1 (kind or class) (<a ~ society>) [ME, fr MF & L; MF *plurel*, fr L *pluralis*, fr *plur-*, plus more – more at PLUS] – *plural* *n*, *plurally* *adv*, *pluralize* *vt*

**pluralism** /'plʊərəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the holding of 2 or more offices or positions (e.g. benefices) at the same time 2 a state of society in which members of diverse social groups develop their traditional cultures or

special interests within a common civilization [PLURAL + -ISM] - pluralist  
*adj* or *n*, pluralistic /-'listik/ *adj*, pluralistically *adv*  
**plurality** /plooh'ralati/ *n* 1a the state of being plural or numerous b a large number or quantity 2 (a benefice held by) pluralism  
**pluri-** /plooh'ri-/ *comb form* having or being more than 1; several; multi- (<plurixia/) [L, fr *plur-*, *plus*]  
**plus** /plus/ *prep* 1 increased by; with the addition of (<4 ~ 5> <the debt ~ interest>) [SYMBOL 2 and also <the job needs experience ~ patience>] [L, *adv*, more, fr neut of *plur-*, *plus*, *adj*, more; akin to Gk *pleion* more, L *plenus* full - more at <sup>1</sup>FULL]  
**plus** *n*, *pl* - also -ss- 1 an added quantity 2 a positive factor, quantity, or quality 3 a surplus  
**plus** *adj* 1 algebraically or electrically positive 2 additional and welcome (<a ~ factor is its nearness to the shops>) 3 greater than that specified (<had a B ~ for his essay>)  
**plus** *conj* and moreover (<~ he has to watch what he says - Punch>)  
**plus** /'fours *n* *pl* loose wide trousers gathered on a band and finishing just below the knee [fr the extra 4 inches of length allowed for looseness]  
**plush** /'plush/ *n* a fabric with an even pile longer and less dense than that of velvet [MF *peluche*]  
**plush** *adj* 1 (made) of or resembling plush 2 PLUSHY 2 - *plushly* *adv*, *plushness* *n*  
**plushy** /'plushi/ *adj* 1 having the texture of or covered with plush 2 luxurious, showy - *plushiness* *n*  
**plus** *sign* *n* a sign + denoting addition or a positive quantity [SYMBOL]  
**Pluto** /plooh'toh/ *n* the planet furthest from the sun [ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [NL, fr L *Pluton-*, *Pluto*, god of the underworld, fr Gk *Ploutōn*]  
**plutocracy** /plooh'tokrasi/ *n* (government by) a controlling class of wealthy people [Gk *ploutokratia*, fr *ploutos* wealth] - *plutocrat* /plooh'tokrat/ *n*, *plutocratic* /plooh'tokratik/ *adj*, *plutocratically* *adv*  
**pluton** /plooh'ton/ *n* a typically large (exposed) body of plutonic rock [prob back-formation fr *plutonic*]  
**plutonian** /plooh'tohnyan, -ni-ən/ *adj*, often *cap* infernal [L *plutonium*, fr Gk *ploutōnios*, fr *Ploutōn*]  
**plutonic** /plooh'tonik/ *adj*, of igneous rock formed by solidification of a molten magma deep within the earth [L *Pluton-*, *Pluto*]  
**plutonium** /plooh'tonyəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a radioactive metallic element similar to uranium that is formed in atomic reactors and is used in weapons and as a fuel for atomic reactors [ENERGY, PERIODIC TABLE - [NL, fr *Pluton-*, *Pluto*, the planet Pluto]  
**pluvial** /plooh'vi-əl/ *adj* 1 of or caused by rain 2 characterized by abundant rainfall [L *pluvialis*, fr *pluvia* rain, fr fem of *pluvius* rainy, fr *pluere* to rain - more at FLOW]  
**pluvial** *n* a prolonged geological period of wet climate  
**ply** /plie/ *vt* to twist together (<2 single yarns>) [ME *plien* to fold, fr MF *plier*, fr L *plicare*, akin to OHG *flehtan* to braid, L *plectere*, Gk *plekein*]  
**ply** *n* 1a a strand in a yarn, wool, etc b any of several layers (e.g. of cloth) usu sewn or laminated together 2a (any of the veneer sheets forming) plywood b a layer of paper or paperboard  
**ply** *vt* 1a to use or wield diligently (<busily ~ing his axe>) b to practise or perform diligently (<~ing his trade>) 2 to keep furnishing or supplying sth to (<plied them with drinks>) 3 to go or travel over or on regularly ~ *vi* 1 to apply oneself steadily 2 of a boatman, taxi driver, etc to wait regularly in a particular place for custom - esp in *ply for hire* 3 to go or travel regularly (<a steamer ~ing between opposite shores of the lake>) [ME *plien*, short for *applied* to apply]  
**Plymouth Brethren** /'plimath-/ *n* *pl* a strongly puritanical Christian religious body founded about 1830 in Plymouth  
**Plymouth Rock** *n* any of an American breed of medium-sized domestic fowls [Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts, USA, on which the Pilgrim Fathers are supposed to have landed in 1620]  
**plywood** /'plie,wood/ *n* a light structural material of thin sheets of wood glued or cemented together with the grains of adjacent layers arranged crosswise usu at right angles  
**-pnea** /-pnee-ə/ *comb form* (<~ *n*), chiefly NAm -PNOEA  
**pneum-** /nyoohm-/ *comb form* 1 air, gas (<pneumothorax>) 2a lung (<pneumectomy>) b pulmonary and (<pneumogastric>) 3 respiration (<pneumograph>) 4 pneumonia (<pneumococcus>) [NL; partly fr Gk *pneum-* (fr *pneuma*), partly fr Gk *pneumōn* lung]  
**pneumat-** /nyoohma-, nyoohma-/ *comb form* 1 spirit (<pneumatology>) 2 air; vapour; gas (<pneumatics>) 3 respiration (<pneumatometer>) [Gk, fr *pneumat-*, *pneuma*]

**pneumatic** /nyoo'h'matik/ *adj* of or using gas (e.g. air or wind): a moved or worked by air pressure b adapted for holding or inflated with compressed air c having air-filled cavities [L *pneumaticus*, fr Gk *pneumatikos*, fr *pneumat-*, *pneuma* air, breath, spirit, fr *pnein* to breathe - more at SNEEZE] - *pneumatically* *adv*  
**pneumatic drill** *n* a machine in which air causes a tool (e.g. a chisel) for breaking up road surfaces) to strike repeatedly  
**pneumaticity** /nyoohma'tisati/ *n* a condition marked by the presence of air cavities (<~ of bird bones>)  
**pneumatics** *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a science that deals with the mechanical properties of gases  
**pneumatophore** /nyoohma'tohfaw, nyoo'matohfaw, -tə-/ *n* a muscular gas-containing sac that serves as a float on a hydrozoan colony [ISV] - *pneumatophoric* /nyoohma'toh'forik, nyoo'mata'forik, nyoo'mata-'forik/ *adj*  
**pneumococcus** /nyoohmoh'kokas/ *n*, *pl* *pneumococci* /-'kok(s)ie/ a bacterium that causes acute pneumonia [NL] - *pneumococcal* /-ki/ *also* *pneumococcic* /-kok(s)ik/ *adj*  
**pneumoconiosis** /-kon'i'ohsis/ *n*, *pl* *pneumoconioses* /-siez/ a crippling disease of the lungs, esp of miners, caused by the habitual inhalation of irritant mineral or metallic particles - compare SILICOSIS [NL, fr *pneum-* + Gk *kōnis* dust - more at INCINERATE]  
**pneumogastric** /-'gastrik/ *adj* 1 of the lungs and stomach 2 vagal  
**pneumectomy** /-'nektəmi/ *n* excision of (1 or more lobes of) a lung [Gk *pneumōn* + ISV -ectomy]  
**pneumonia** /nyoo'h'mohnya, -ni-ə/ *n* localized or widespread inflammation of the lungs with change from an air-filled to a solid consistency, caused by infection or irritants [NL, fr Gk, fr *pneumōn* lung, alter of *pleumon* - more at PULMONARY]  
**pneumonic** /nyoo'h'monik/ *adj* 1 of the lungs 2 of or affected with pneumonia [NL *pneumonicus*, fr Gk *pneumonikos*, fr *pneumon*]  
**pneumothorax** /nyoohmoh'thawraks/ *n* the presence of gas, esp air, in the pleural cavity occurring esp as a result of disease or injury [NL]  
**-pnoea**, NAm chiefly -**pnea** /-pnee-ə/ *comb form* breath; breathing (<apnoea>) [NL, fr Gk -*pnoia*, fr *pnoia*, fr *pnein* to breathe]  
**po** /poh/ *n*, *pl* *pos* Br CHAMBER POT - *infml* [F *pot* (de chambre)]  
**poach** /pohch/ *vt* to cook (e.g. fish or an egg) in simmering liquid [ME *pochen*, fr MF *pocher*, fr OF *pochier*, lit., to put into a bag, fr *poche* bag, pocket, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *pocca* bag]  
**poach** *vt* 1 to trample or cut up (e.g. turf) (as if) with hoofs 2a to trespass on (<a field ~ed too frequently by the amateur - TLS>) b to take (game or fish) illegally c to take or acquire by unfair or underhand means ~ *vi* 1 of land to become soft or muddy when trampled on 2a to (trespass while attempting to) take game or fish illegally b to trespass on or upon (<what happens to a poet when he ~es upon a novelist's preserves - Virginia Woolf>) [MF *pocher*, of Gmc origin, akin to ME *poken* to poke] - *poacher* *n*  
**pockard** /'pohchəd/ *n* any of numerous rather heavy-bodied diving ducks, esp a common Old World duck the male of which has a chestnut head and grey upper parts [origin unknown]  
**pock** /pok/ *n* (a spot resembling) a pustule in an eruptive disease (e.g. smallpox) [ME *pokke*, fr OE *pocce*; akin to MLG & MD *pocke* pock, L *bucca* cheek, mouth] - *pock* *vt*, *pocky* *adj*  
**pocket** /'pokit/ *n* 1 a small bag that is sewn or inserted in a garment so that it is open at the top or side 2 a supply of money; means (<has houses to suit all ~s>) 3a a receptacle, container b any of several openings at the corners or sides of a billiard table into which balls are propelled 4a a small isolated area or group (<s of unemployment>) b a cavity (e.g. in the earth) containing a deposit (e.g. of gold or water) c AIR POCKET 5 chiefly SAfr (the amount contained in) a bag [ME *poket*, fr ONF *pokete*, dim. of *poke* bag, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *pocca* bag] - *pocketful* *n* - in *pocket* in the position of having made a profit - out of pocket having suffered a financial loss  
**pocket** *vt* 1a to put or enclose (as if) in one's pocket (<~ed his change>) b to appropriate to one's own use; steal (<~ed the money she had collected for charity>) 2 to accept; PUT UP WITH (<~ an insult>) 3 to set aside, suppress (<~ed his pride>) 4 to drive (a ball) into a pocket of a billiard table  
**pocket** *adj* 1 small enough to be carried in the pocket (<a ~ camera>) 2 small, miniature (<a ~ submarine>)  
**pocket battleship** *n* a small battleship built so as to come within treaty limitations of tonnage and armament  
**pocketbook** /-book/ *n* 1 a pocket-size container for (paper) money

and personal papers 2 *NAm* a small, esp paperback, book that can be carried in the pocket b a purse c a strapless handbag

**pocket borough** *n* an English constituency controlled before parliamentary reform by 1 person or family

**'pocket edition** *n* a miniature form of sthg

**'pocket-handkerchief** *n* a handkerchief

**'pocket-knife** /-nief/ *n* a knife that has 1 or more blades that fold into the handle so that it can be carried in the pocket

**'pocket money** *n* money for small personal expenses, esp as given to a child

**'pocket-size, 'pocket-sized** *adj* 'POCKET 1

**pockmark** /'pɒk,mɑ:k/ *n* a mark or pit (like that) caused by smallpox – **pockmarked** *adj*

**poco** /'pɒkəʊ/ *adv* slightly, somewhat – used in music (< *allegro*) [It, little, fr L *paucus* – more at FEW]

**poco a poco** /'ah/ *adv* gradually – used in music [It]

**'pod** /pɒd/ *n* 1 a long seed vessel or fruit, esp of the pea, bean, or other leguminous plant 2 an egg case of a locust or similar insect 3 a streamlined compartment under the wings or fuselage of an aircraft used as a container (e.g. for fuel) 4 a detachable compartment on a spacecraft or aircraft [prob alter. of *cod* bag – more at CODPIECE]

**\*pod vb** -dd- *vi* to produce pods ~ *vt* to remove (e.g. peas) from the pod

**'pod n** a small group of animals (e.g. seals) close together [origin unknown]

**-pod** /-pɒd/ *comb form* (→ *n*) foot, part resembling a foot (< *pleopod*) [Gk *-podos*, fr *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT]

**podagra** /'pɒd,grə/ *n* GOUT 1 [ME, fr L, fr Gk, fr *pod-*, *pous* + *agra* hunt, catch; akin to L *agere* to drive – more at AGENT] – **podagral** *adj*

**podge** /pɒj/ *n*, chiefly Br a fatty – infml [prob alter. of *pudge*, of unknown origin]

**podgy** /'pɒj/ *adj* short and plump; chubby

**podiatry** /'pɒdi:ətri/ *n*, *NAm* chiropody [Gk *pod-*, *pous* + E *-iatry*] – **podiatrist** *n*, **podiatric** /'pɒdi:ətrik/ *adj*

**podium** /'pɒdi:əm/ *n*, *pl* podiums, **podia** /-di:ə/ 1 a low wall serving as a foundation or terrace wall e.g. a one round the arena of an ancient amphitheatre b the stone base supporting the columns of a classical structure 2 a small raised platform (for an orchestral conductor) [L – more at FEW]

**-podium** /-pɒdi:əm/ *comb form* (→ *n*), *pl* -podia /-di:ə/ -pod (< *pseudo-podium*) [NL, fr Gk *podion*, dim. of *pod-*, *pous* foot]

**podophyllin** /'pɒdɒf'fɪlɪn, 'pɒdɒf'fɪlɪn, -doh-/ *n* a bitter resin from the underground stem of the mayapple, used esp as a purgative [ISV, fr NL *Podophyllum*, genus of herbs including the mayapple]

**podzol** /'pɒdzɒl/ *n* podzol

**podzol** /'pɒdzɒl/ *n* any of a group of soils that have a grey upper layer from which humus and iron and aluminium compounds have leached to enrich the layer below [Russ] – **podzolize** /'pɒdzɒlɪz/ *vb*, **podzolic** /'pɒdzɒlɪk/ *adj*, **podzollization** /'pɒdzɒlɪz'eɪʃən/ *n*

**poem** /'pɒɪm/ *n* 1 an individual work of poetry 2 a creation, experience, or object suggesting a poem (*the interior was a ~ of chinoiserie*) [MF *poeme*, fr L *poema*, fr Gk *poiēma*, fr *poiein*]

**poesy** /'pɒɪzi, -si/ *n* 1 a poem or body of poems 2 the art or composition of poetry [ME *poesie*, fr MF, fr L *poesis*, fr Gk *poësis*, lit, creation, fr *poiein*]

**poet** /'pɒɪt/, *fem* poetess /'pɒɪt-es, 'pɒɪt-es/ *n* 1 one who writes poetry 2 a creative artist with special sensitivity to his/her medium (< *a ~ of the piano*) [ME, fr OF *poete*, fr L *poeta*, fr Gk *poietes* maker, poet, fr *poiein* to make, create; akin to Skt *cinoti* he heaps up]

**poetaster** /'pɒɪt-'astə/ *n* an inferior poet [NL, fr L *poeta* + *-aster* -aster]

**poetic** /'pɒɪtɪk/, **poetical** /-kl/ *adj* 1a (characteristic) of poets or poetry b having the qualities associated with poetry 2 written in verse – **poetically** *adv*, **poeticism** /'pɒɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**poetic-ize, -ise** /'pɒɪtɪsɪz/ *vt* to give a poetic quality to

**poetic justice** *n* an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded in an (ironically) appropriate manner

**po'etics** /'pɒɪtɪks/ *n*, *pl* poetics 1 a treatise on poetry or aesthetics 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr poetic theory or practice

**poet-ize, -ise** /'pɒɪtɪz/ *vi* to compose poetry ~ *vt* to poeticize – **poetizer** *n*

**poet laureate** *n*, *pl* poets laureate, poet laureates 1 a distinguished poet honoured for achievement in his/her art 2 a poet appointed for life by the sovereign as a member of the British royal household and expected to compose poems for state occasions

**poetry** /'pɒɪtri/ *n* 1a metrical writing; verse b a poet's compositions;

poems 2 writing that is arranged to formulate a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience through meaning, sound, and rhythm 3 a quality of beauty, grace, and great feeling (< *in motion*)

**po-faced** /'pɒ/ *adj*, Br having a foolishly solemn or humourless expression – chiefly infml [po + *-faced*]

**pogey** /'pɒgi/ *n*, *Can* DOLE 2 – infml [origin unknown]

**'pogo stick** /'pɒgoh/ *n* a pole with a spring at the bottom and 2 footrests on which sby stands and can move along with a series of jumps [fr *Pogo*, a trademark]

**pogrom** /'pɒgrəm/ *n* an organized massacre, esp of Jews [Yiddish, fr Russ, lit, devastation]

**pohutukawa** /'pɒ'hoohtə,kah-wə/ *n* an evergreen New Zealand tree of the myrtle family with brilliant red flowers [Maori]

**-poiesis** /-pɔɪ'eɪsɪs/ *comb form* (→ *n*), *pl* -poieses /-seɪz/ production; formation (< *erythropoiesis*) (< *mythopoiesis*) [NL, fr Gk *poïesis* creation – more at POESY] – **-poietic** *comb form* (→ *adj*)


**poignant** /'pɔɪnjənt/ *adj* 1a painfully affecting the feelings; distressing b deeply affecting, touching 2 designed to make an impression; cutting (< *sature*) [ME *poinaunt*, fr MF *poignant*, prp of *poudre* to prick, sting, fr L *pungere* – more at PUNCT] – **poignancy** *n*, **poignantly** *adv*

**poikilotherm** /'pɔɪ'kiləthuhm/ *n* a living organism (e.g. a frog) with a variable body temperature usu slightly higher than the temperature of its environment, a cold-blooded organism [Gk *poikilos* variegated + ISV *-therm*, akin to L *pungere* to paint – more at PAINT] – **poikilothermic** /-kilə'thuhmɪk/ *adj*, **poikilothermism** /-tuhmɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**poilu** /'pɒwloh/ *n* a French private soldier (in the front line during WW I) [F, fr *poilu* hairy, fr MF, fr *poil* hair, fr L *pilus* – more at 'PILE]

**poinciana** /'pɔɪns:'ahna/ *n* any of a genus of ornamental tropical leguminous trees or shrubs with bright orange or red flowers [NL, genus name, fr De *Poinci*, 17th-c governor of part of the French W Indies]

**poinsettia** /'pɔɪn'seti:ə/ *n* any of various spurge-bearing flower clusters opposite brightly coloured bracts [NL, fr Joel R Poinsett †1851 US diplomat]

**'point** /pɔɪnt/ *n* 1a(1) an individual detail, an item (2) a distinguishing detail (< *fact is one of her strong* ~s) b the most important essential in a discussion or matter (< *missed the whole ~ of the joke*) 2 an end or object to be achieved, a purpose (< *did not see what ~ there was in continuing the discussion*) 3a(1) a geometric element that has a position but no extent or magnitude (2) a geometric element determined by an ordered set of coordinates b (a narrowly localized place having) a precisely indicated position (< *walked to a ~ 50 yards north of the building*) c(1) an exact moment (< *at this ~ he was interrupted*) (2) a time interval immediately before sthg indicated, the verge (< *at the ~ of death*) d(1) a particular step, stage, or degree in development (< *had reached the ~ where nothing seemed to matter anymore*) (2) a definite position in a scale (< *boiling ~*) 4a the sharp or narrowly rounded end of sthg, a tip b the tip of the toes – used in ballet; usu *pl* c *pl* a contact breaker 5a a projecting usu tapering piece of land b(1) the tip of a projecting body part (2) TINE 2 (3) *pl* (the markings of) the extremities of an animal, esp when of a different colour from the rest of the body 6a a very small mark b(1) PUNCTUATION MARK; esp FULL STOP (2) DECIMAL POINT 7 any of the 32 evenly spaced compass directions, also the 11' 15' interval between 2 successive points 8a lace worked with a needle; NEEDLEPOINT 1 b lace imitating needlepoint worked with bobbins; PILLOW LACE 9a a unit of counting in the scoring of a game or contest b a unit used in evaluating the strength of a bridge hand c a unit used in quoting prices (e.g. of shares, bonds, and commodities) d a unit of 0.351mm (about 1/316) used to measure the body size of printing type 10a the action of pointing b the rigidly intent attitude of a gundog when marking game for a hunter 11 (the position of) a defensive player in lacrosse 12 a fielding position in cricket near to the batsman and on a direct line with the popping crease on the off side  SPORT 13 *pl*, Br a device made of usu 2 movable rails and necessary connections and designed to turn a locomotive or train from one track to another [ME; partly fr OF, puncture, small spot, point in time or space, fr L *punctum*, fr neut of *punctus*, pp of *pungere* to prick; partly fr OF *pointe* sharp end, fr (assumed) VL *puncta*, fr L, fem of *punctus*, pp – more at PUNCT] – **beside the point** irrelevant – to the point relevant, pertinent (< *a suggestion that was to the point*)

**\*point vt** 1a to provide with a point; sharpen (< *ing a pencil with a knife*) b to give added force, emphasis, or piquancy to (< *up a remark*) 2 to scratch out the old mortar from the joints of (e.g. a brick wall) and fill in with new material 3a to punctuate b to mark signs or points in (e.g. psalms or Hebrew words) 4 of a gundog to indicate the presence and place of (game) for a hunter by a point 5 to cause to be turned in a particular

a particular direction (< ~ a gun) (< ~ ed the boat upstream) ~ vi 1a to indicate the fact or probability of sth specified (< everything ~ s to a bright future) b to indicate the position or direction of sth, esp by extending a finger (< ~ at the map) c to point game (< a dog that ~ s well) 2 to lie extended, aimed, or turned in a particular direction (< the signpost ~ ed north)

**point-blank** *adj* 1 so close to a target that a missile fired will travel in a straight line to the mark 2 direct, blunt (< a ~ refusal) – **point-blank** *adv*

**point d'appui** /pwahŋ da'pweɪ (Fr pwē dap ɥi) / *n*, *pl* **points d'appui** /~/ a base, esp for a military operation [F, lit., point of support]

**'point-duty** *n* traffic regulation carried out usu by a policeman stationed at a particular point

**pointe** /pwant (Fr pwē:t) / *n* a ballet position in which the body is balanced on the extreme tip of the toe [F, lit., point]

**pointed** /pɔɪntɪd/ *adj* 1 having a point 2a pertinent; TO THE POINT b aimed at a particular person or group 3 conspicuous, marked (< ~ indifference) – **pointedly** *adv*, **pointedness** *n*

**pointer** /pɔɪntə/ *n* 1 a rod used to direct attention 2 a large strong slender smooth-haired gundog that hunts by scent and indicates the presence of game by pointing 3 a useful suggestion or hint, a tip ['POINT + ^-ER]

**Pointers** *n pl* the 2 stars in Ursa Major which are in line with and are therefore used to locate the Pole Star

**pointillism** /'pwanti,liz(ə)m, 'pɔɪn-, -ti,jiz(ə)m/ *n* the technique in art of applying small strokes or dots of pure colour to a surface so that from a distance they blend together [F *pointillisme*, fr *pointiller* to stipple, fr *point* spot – more at POINT] – **pointillist** *also* **pointilliste** /-list, -'yeɪst/ *n* or *adj*

**point lace** *n* POINT 8; *esp* NEEDLEPOINT 1

**'pointless** /-lis/ *adj* devoid of meaning, relevance, or purpose, senseless (< ~ remark) – **pointlessly** *adv*, **pointlessness** *n*

**point of honour** *n* a matter which one considers to have a serious effect on one's honour or reputation

**point of no return** *n* 1 the point in a long-distance journey after which return to the starting point is impossible 2 a critical point (e.g. in a course of action) at which turning back or reversal is not possible

**point of order** *n* a question relating to procedure in an official meeting

**point-of-sale** *adj* of or being advertising or promotional material accompanying a product at its place of distribution, esp in a retail shop

**point of view** *n* a position from which sth is considered or evaluated

**point out** *vt* to direct sb's attention to (< point out a mistake)

**pointman** /'pɔɪntsmən/ *n* 1 a policeman on point-duty 2 Br a person in charge of railway points

**point source** *n* a source of radiation (e.g. light) that is concentrated at a point and considered to have no spatial extension


**point-to-point** *n* a usu cross-country steeplechase for amateur riders – **point-to-point** *n*

**'poise** /'pɔɪz/ *vt* 1a to balance; *esp* to hold or carry in equilibrium (< walked along gracefully with a water jar ~ d on her head) b to hold supported or suspended without motion in a steady position 2 to hold or carry in a particular way 3 to put into readiness; brace ~ vi to hang (as if) suspended; hover [ME *poisen* to weigh, ponder, fr MF *pois-*, stem of *peser*, fr L *pensare* – more at PENSIVE]

**'poise** *n* 1 a stably balanced state (< ~ between widely divergent impulses – FR Leavis) 2a easy self-possessed assurance of manner b a particular way of carrying oneself [ME *poysse* weight, heaviness, fr MF *pois*, fr L *pensum*, fr neut of *pensus*, pp of *pendere* to weigh – more at PENDANT]

**'poise** /pwahz/ *n* a cgs unit of dynamic viscosity [F, fr Jean Louis Marie Poiseuille †1869 F physician & anatomist]

**poised** /'pɔɪzd/ *adj* 1 marked by balance or equilibrium or by easy composure of manner 2 in readiness (< ~ for flight) (< ~ for action)

**'poison** /'pɔɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1a a substance that through its chemical action kills, injures, or impairs an organism  *SYMBOL* b sth destructive or harmful 2 a substance that inhibits the activity of another substance or the course of a reaction or process (< a catalyst ~) [ME, fr OF, drink, poisonous drink, poison, fr L *potio*-, *potio* drink – more at POTION] – **poison** *adj*

**\*poison** *vt* 1a to injure or kill with poison b to treat, taint, or impregnate with poison 2 to exert a harmful influence on; corrupt (< ~ ed their minds) 3 to inhibit the activity, course, or occurrence of – **poisoner** *n*

**poison gas** *n* a poisonous gas or a liquid or solid giving off poisonous vapours designed to kill, injure, or disable by inhalation or contact

**'poison ivy** *n* (any of several plants related to) a N American climbing plant of the sumach family that has greenish flowers and white berries and produces an oil that causes an intensely itching skin rash


**poisonous** /'pɔɪz(ə)nəs/ *adj* having the properties or effects of poison – **poisonously** *adv*

**'poison-pen** *adj* written with malice and spite and usu anonymously (< ~ letter)

**'poke** /pohk/ *n*, chiefly dial NAm a bag, sack [ME, fr ONF – more at POCKET]

**\*poke** *vt* 1a(1) to prod, jab (< ~ d him in the ribs and grinned broadly) (2) to stir the coals or logs of (a fire) so as to promote burning b to produce by piercing, stabbing, or jabbing (< ~ a hole) 2 to cause to project (< ~ d her head out of the window) 3 to hit, punch (< ~ d him in the nose) – *infrm* 4 of a man to have sexual intercourse with – *vulg* ~ vi 1 to make a prodding, jabbing, or thrusting movement, esp repeatedly 2a to look about or through sth without system; rummage (< found it while poking around in the attic) b to meddle 3 to move or act slowly or aimlessly, potter (< just ~ d about at home and didn't accomplish much) 4 to become stuck out or forwards; protrude 5 of a man to have sexual intercourse – *vulg* [ME *poken*; akin to MD *poken* to poke] – **poke fun** at to mock – **poke one's nose** into to meddle in or interfere with (esp sth that does not concern one)

**\*poke** *n* 1 a quick thrust, a jab 2 a punch – *infrm* 3 an act of sexual intercourse – *vulg*

**'poke bonnet** *n* a woman's bonnet with a projecting brim at the front  *GARMENT*

**'poker** /pohkə/ *n* a metal rod for poking a fire ['POKE + ^-ER]

**'poker** *n* any of several card games in which a player bets that the value of his/her hand is greater than that of the hands held by others and in which each subsequent player must either equal or raise the last bet or drop out [prob modif of F *poque*, a card game similar to poker]

**'poker dice** *n* (any of) a set of usu 5 dice, each carrying the representation of the 6 highest playing cards

**'poker face** *n* an inscrutable face that reveals no hint of a person's thoughts or feelings ['poker, fr the need of the poker player to conceal the true quality of his/her hand] – **poker-faced** /-fə-/ *adj*

**'pokerwork** /-wuhk/ *n* (the art of doing) decorative work burnt into a material by a heated instrument

**pokeweed** /pohk,weəd/ *n* a coarse American plant with white flowers, dark purple juicy berries, and a poisonous root [*poke* (pokeweed), modif of *puccoon*, a plant used in dyeing, of Algonquian origin]

**pokey** /'pohki/ *n*, NAm a jail – *slang* [origin unknown]

**poky** *also* **pokey** /'pohki/ *adj* small and cramped – *infrm* ['poke] – **pokily** *adv*, **pokiness** *n*

**Polack** /'pohlak/ *n*, *archaic* or NAm a Pole – now derog [Pol *Polak*]

**polar** /'pohlə/ *adj* 1a of, coming from, or characteristic of (the region round) a geographical pole b *esp* of an orbit passing over a planet's N and S poles 2 of 1 or more poles (e.g. of a magnet) 3 diametrically opposite 4 exhibiting polarity; *esp* having (molecules with) groups with opposing properties at opposite ends (< a ~ molecule) (< a ~ solvent) 5 resembling a pole or axis round which all else revolves, pivotal 6 of or expressed in polar coordinates (< ~ equations); *also* of a polar coordinate system [NL *polaris*, fr L *polus* pole]

**polar bear** *n* a large creamy-white bear that inhabits arctic regions

**polar circle** *n* either the Arctic or Antarctic circle

**polar co-ordinate** *n* either of 2 numbers that locate a point in a plane by its distance along a line from a fixed point and the angle this line makes with a fixed line

**polarimeter** /'pohlə'nɪmɪtə/ *n* 1 an instrument for determining the amount of polarization of light 2 an instrument for measuring the amount of optical rotation (e.g. of a sugar solution) [ISV, fr *polarization*] – **polarimetry** *n*, **polarimetric** /-rɪ'metrɪk/ *adj*

**Polaris** /'pə'lɑ:ris, poh-/ *n* POLE STAR [NL, fr *polaris* polar]

**polariscope** /'poh'lɑ:ri'skəp/ *n* 1 an instrument for studying the properties of or examining substances in polarized light 2 POLARIMETER 2 [ISV, fr *polarization*] – **polariscope** /-lɑ:ri'skəpɪk/ *adj*

**polarity** /'pə'lɑ:ri, poh-/ *n* 1 the quality or condition of a body that has opposite or contrasted properties or powers in opposite directions 2 attraction towards a particular object or in a specific direction 3 the particular electrical state of being either positive or negative 4 (an instance of) diametric opposition

**polarize, -ise** /'pohləraɪz/ *vt* 1a to affect (radiation, esp light) so that the vibrations of the wave assume a definite form (e.g. restriction to vibration

- in 1 plane) **b** to give electrical or magnetic polarity to 2 to divide into opposing factions or groupings ~ *vi* to become polarized [F *polariser*, fr NL *polaris* polar] – **polarizable** *adj.* **polarizability** /pohlə'reɪzə'bɪləti/ *n*, **polarization** /pohlə'reɪzə'shən/ *n*
- Polaroid** /pohlə'roɪd/ *trademark* – used esp for a light-polarizing material used esp in glasses to prevent glare and in various optical devices
- polder** /poldə, pohl-/ *n* an area of low land reclaimed from a body of water, esp in the Netherlands [D]
- 'pole** /poh/ *n* **1a** a long slender usu cylindrical object (e.g. a length of wood) **b** a shaft which extends from the front axle of a wagon between the draught animals **2** ROD **2**  **UNIT 3** the most favourable front-row position on the starting line of a (motor) race [ME, fr OE *pāl* stake, pole, fr L *pālus* stake; akin to L *pangere* to fix – more at **PACT**]
- 'pole** *vb* to push or propel (oneself or sthg) with poles
- 'pole** *n* 1 either extremity of an axis of (a body, esp the earth, resembling) a sphere **2a** either of 2 related opposites **b** a point of guidance or attraction **3a** either of the 2 terminals of an electric cell, battery, or dynamo **b** any of 2 or more regions in a magnetized body at which the magnetic flux density is concentrated **4** either of the anatomically or physiologically differentiated areas at opposite ends of an axis in an organism or cell [ME *pōol*, fr L *pōlus*, fr Gk *pōlos* pivot, pole, akin to Gk *kyklos* wheel – more at **WHEEL**]
- Pole** *n* a native or inhabitant of Poland [G, of Slav origin, akin to Pol *Polak* Pole]
- 'poleaxe** /poh'laks/ *n* **1** a battle-axe with a short handle and often a hook or spike opposite the blade **2** an axe used, esp formerly, in slaughtering cattle [ME *polax*, *pollax*, fr *pol*, *polle* poll + *ax* axe]
- 'poleaxe** *vt* to attack, strike, or fell (as if) with a poleaxe
- polectat** /poh'lkat/, *pl polectats*, *esp collectively polectat* **1** a European flesh-eating mammal of which the ferret is considered a domesticated variety **2** NAM SKUNK **1** [ME *polcat*, prob fr MF *poul*, *pol* cock + ME *cat*, prob fr its preying on poultry – more at **PULLET**]
- polemic** /pə'lemɪk, pō-, poh-, -'lec-/ *n* **1** an aggressive attack on or refutation of the opinions or principles of another **2** the art or practice of disputation or controversy – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning both *sing* or *pl* in constr [F *polémique*, fr MF, fr *polemique* controversial, fr Gk *polemikos* warlike, hostile, fr *polemos* war, akin to OE *cafele* baleful, Gk *pallem* to brandish] – **polemic**, **polemical** *adj.* **polemicist** /-mɪsɪst/ *n*
- polemicize**, -ise /-mɪ'siəz/ *vi* to polemicize
- polemize**, -ise /-pə'lemɪz/ *vi* to engage in controversy, dispute aggressively – **polemist** *n*
- polenta** /pə'lenta, poh-, pō-/ *n* a porridge made with maize meal or semolina [It]
- polestar** /poh'lstɑh/ *n* **1** a directing principle, a guide **2** a centre of attraction
- Pole Star** *n* the star in the constellation Ursa Minor that lies very close to the N celestial pole
- 'pole-vault** *n* (an athletic field event consisting of) a jump for height over a crossbar with the aid of a pole – **pole-vault** *vi*, **pole-vaulter** *n*
- 'police** /pə'liːs/ *n* **1** the department of government concerned with maintenance of public order and enforcement of laws **2a** *sing* or *pl* in constr POLICE FORCE **b** *pl* in constr policemen **3** *sing* or *pl* in constr an organized body having similar functions to a police force within a more restricted sphere (railway ~) [MF, government, fr LL *politia*, fr Gk *politeia*, fr *politeuein* to be a citizen, engage in political activity, fr *politis* citizen, fr *polis* city, state, akin to Skt *pur* city]
- 'police** *vt* **1** to control by use of police **2** to put in order **3** to supervise the operation of
- police dog** *n* a dog trained to assist the police (e.g. in tracking criminals or detecting drugs)
- police force** *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr a body of trained people entrusted by a government with maintenance of public order and enforcement of laws
- policeman** /-mən/, *fem* **police woman** *n* a member of a police force
- police state** *n* a political unit characterized by repressive governmental control of political, economic, and social life, usu enforced by (secret) police
- police station** *n* the headquarters of a local police force
- 'policy** /pə'lsi/ *n* **1** procedure based primarily on material interest, wisdom (it's bad ~ to smoke) **2a** a definite course of action selected from among alternatives to guide and determine present and future decisions **b** an overall plan embracing general goals and procedures, esp of a governmental body [ME *policie* government, policy, fr MF, government, regulation, fr LL *politia*]
- 'policy** *n* (a document embodying) a contract of insurance [alter. of earlier *police*, fr MF, certificate, fr OIt *polizza*, modif of ML *apodixa* receipt, fr MGk *apodeixis*, fr Gk, proof, fr *apodeiknynai* to demonstrate – more at **APODICTIC**]
- pol'icy,holder** /-,hohldə/ *n* a person granted an insurance policy
- polio** /pohli-oh/ *n* poliomyelitis
- poliomyelitis** /pohli-oh,mie-'lietɪs/ *n* an infectious virus disease, esp of children, characterized by inflammation of the nerve cells of the spinal cord, paralysis of the motor nerves, and atrophy of skeletal muscles often with permanent disability and deformity [NL, fr Gk *polios* grey + *myelos* marrow – more at 'FALLOW, MYEL-] – **poliomyelitic** /-'liŋk/ *adj*
- polis** /-pɒlɪs/ *comb form* (→ *n*) city (Megalopolis) [LL, fr Gk, fr *polis*]
- 'polish** /pə'liʃ/ *vt* **1** to make smooth and glossy, usu by friction **2** to refine in manners or condition **3** to bring to a highly developed, finished, or refined state, perfect – often + *up* ~ *vi* to become smooth or glossy (as if) by friction [ME *polissen*, fr OF *poliss-*, stem of *polir*, fr L *polire*] – **polisher** *n*
- 'polish** *n* **1a** a smooth glossy surface **b** freedom from rudeness or coarseness **2** the action or process of polishing (give the table a ~) **3** a preparation used to produce a gloss and often a colour for the protection and decoration of a surface (furniture ~) (nail ~)
- 'Polish** /pə'liʃ/ *adj* (characteristic) of Poland [Pole]
- 'Polish** *n* the language of the Poles  **LANGUAGE**
- polish off** *vt* to dispose of rapidly or completely
- politburo** /pə'lɪt,bjuːroʊ, -'rɔ:/ *n* the principal committee of a Communist party [Russ *politbyuro*, fr *politicheskoye byuro* political bureau]
- polite** /pə'liːt/ *adj* **1** showing or characterized by correct social usage; refined **2** marked by an appearance of consideration and deference; courteous [L *politus*, fr *pp* of *polire*] – **politely** *adv*, **politeness** *n*
- politic** /pə'liːtɪk/ *adj* **1** of a person shrewd and sagacious in managing, contriving, or dealing **2** of a policy expedient [ME *politik*, fr MF *politique*, fr L *politicus*, fr Gk *politikos*, fr *politis* citizen – more at **POLICE**]
- political** /pə'liːtɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of government **2a** of (party) politics **b** sensitive to politics (highly ~ students) **3** involving or charged with acts against a government (~ criminals) [L *politicus*] – **politically** *adv*
- political economy** *n* a social science dealing with the interrelationship of political and economic processes – **political economist** *n*
- political levy** *n* a levy that trade-union members may pay and that is used for political purposes, esp affiliation to the Labour party
- political science** *n* a social science concerned chiefly with political institutions and processes – **political scientist** *n*
- politician** /pə'lɪtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a person experienced or engaged in politics
- politicize**, -ise /pə'lɪtɪsɪəz/ *vi* to discuss politics ~ *vt* to give a political tone to – **politicization** /pə'lɪtɪsɪə'zeɪʃən/ *n*
- politico** /pə'lɪtɪkəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **politicos** also **politicoes** a politician – *infml* [It *politico* or Sp *político*, derivs of L *politicus* political]
- politico-** *comb form* political and (politico-diplomatic) [L *politicus*]
- politics** /pə'lɪtɪks/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr **1a** the art or science of government **b** POLITICAL SCIENCE **2a** political affairs; special competition between interest groups in a government **b** political life as a profession **3** sb's political sympathies **4** the total complex of relations between human beings in society [Gk *politika*, fr neut *pl* of *politikos* political]
- polity** /'pɒləti/ *n* (the form of) a politically organized unit [LL *politia* – more at **POLICE**]
- polka** /pɒlkə/ *n* (music for or in the rhythm of) a vivacious dance of Bohemian origin in duple time [F & G, fr Czech *půlka* half-step, fr *půl* half] – **polka** *vi*
- 'polka dot** *n* any of many regularly distributed dots in a textile design – **polka-dot**, **polka-dotted** *adj*
- 'poll** /poh/ *n* **1** (the hairy top or back of) the head **2** the broad or flat end of the head of a striking tool (e.g. a hammer) **3a** the casting of votes **b** the place where votes are cast – usu *pl* with *sing*, meaning (at the ~s) **c** the number of votes recorded (a heavy ~) **4** a survey conducted by the questioning of people selected at random or by quota – compare GALLUP POLL [ME *pol*, *polle*, fr MLG; (3, 4) fr the idea of counting heads and hence votes]
- 'poll** *vt* **1** to cut off or cut short **a** the hair or wool of **b** the horns of (a cow) **c** (e.g. wool) **2** to remove the top of (e.g. a tree); *specif* to pollard **3** to receive and record the votes of **4** to receive (votes) **5** to question in a poll ~ *vi* to cast one's vote – **poller** /poh'lee/ *n*, **poller** *n*
- 'poll** *n* a polled animal [prob fr obs *poll*, *adj*, naturally hornless, short for *polled*]



**pollack** /'pɒlək/ *n*, *pl* **pollack** a N Atlantic food fish related to and resembling the cods but darker; also a coley [Sc *podlok*, of unknown origin]

**'pollard** /'pɒləd/ *n* 1 a hornless animal of a usu horned kind 2 a tree cut back to the main stem to promote the growth of a dense head of foliage [*'poll*]

**<sup>2</sup>pollard** *vt* to make a pollard of (a tree)

**pollard** /'pɒləd/ *adj* hornless

**pollen** /'pɒlən/ *n* (a fine dust of) the minute granular spores discharged from the anther of the flower of a flowering plant that serve to fertilize the ovules [NL *pollin-*, *pollen*, fr L, fine flour; akin to L *pulvis* dust, Gk *palē* fine meal] – **pollinic** /'pɒlɪnɪk/ *adj*

**'pollen basket** *n* a smooth area on each hind leg of a bee that serves to collect and transport pollen

**'pollen count** *n* a figure representing the amount of pollen in the air, available as a warning to people allergic to pollen

**'pollen tube** *n* a tube formed by a pollen grain in contact with the stigma of a flowering plant that conveys the sperm to the ovary

**pollux** /'pɒləks/ *n*, *pl* **polluces** /-lɪsɛz/ the first digit of the forelimb; the thumb [NL *polluc-*, *pollux*, fr L, thumb, big toe] – **pollical** /-lɪkəl/ *adj*

**pollin-** /'pɒlən-/ *pollinai-* *comb form* pollen <pollinate> [NL *pollin-*, *pollen*]

**pollinate** /'pɒlənaɪt/ *vt* to place pollen on the stigma of and so fertilize – **pollinator** *n*, **pollination** /'pɒlənaɪʃən/ *n*

**polliniferous** /'pɒlənɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj* producing or (adapted for) bearing pollen

**pollinium** /'pɒlɪniəm/ *n*, *pl* **pollinia** /-niə/ a coherent mass of pollen grains, often with a stalk bearing an adhesive disc that clings to insects [NL, fr *pollin-*]

**pollinosis**, **pollenosis** /'pɒlənoʊsɪs/ *n* hay fever caused by allergic sensitivity to specific pollens [NL *pollinosis*, fr *pollin-*]

**polliwog**, **pollywog** /'pɒliwɒg/ *n*, *NAm & dial Br* a tadpole [alter. of ME *polwygle*, prob fr *pol* poll + *wiglen* to wiggle]

**pollock** /'pɒlək/ *n*, *pl* **pollock** a pollack

**pollster** /'pɒlɪstə/ *n* one who conducts a poll or compiles data obtained by a poll

**'poll tax** *n* a tax of a fixed amount per person levied on adults


**pollute** /'pɒləʊt/ *vt* 1 to make morally impure; defile 2 to make physically impure or unclean; esp to contaminate (an environment), esp with man-made waste [ME *polluten*, fr L *pollutus*, pp of *polluere*, fr *por-* (akin to L *per* through) + *-luere* (akin to L *lutum* mud, Gk *lyma* dirt, defilement)] – **pollutant** *n*, **polluter** *n*, **pollutive** *adj*


**pollution** /'pɒləʊʃən/ *n* 1 polluting or being polluted 2 material that pollutes

**Pollyanna** /'pɒliˈænə/ *n* an irrepressible optimist [*Pollyanna*, heroine of the novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter †1920 US fiction-writer] – **Pollyannaish**, **Pollyannish** /-ˈænɪʃ/ *adj*

**polo** /'pɒləʊ/ *n* a game of oriental origin played by teams of usu 4 players on ponies or canoes, bicycles, etc using mallets with long flexible handles to drive a wooden ball into the opponent's goal [Balti, ball]

**polonaise** /'pɒləˈneɪz/ *n* 1 a short-sleeved elaborate dress with a fitted waist and panners at the sides and back drawn up on cords 2 (music in moderate  $\frac{3}{4}$  time for) a stately Polish processional dance [F, fr fem of *polonais* Polish, fr *Pologne* Poland, fr ML *Polonia*]

**polo neck** *n*, chiefly *Br* (a jumper with) a very high closely fitting collar worn folded over  **GARMENT**

**polonium** /'pɒləniəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a radioactive metallic element that occurs esp in pitchblende  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr ML *Polonia* Poland]

**polony** /'pɒləni/ *n* a dry sausage of partly cooked meat, esp pork; also a cooked sausage made from soya and meat and eaten cold [alter. of *bologna* (sausage)]

**poitergelst** /'pɒlɪˌɡɛst/ *n* a noisy mischievous ghost believed to be responsible for unexplained noises and physical damage [G, fr *poitern* to knock + *geist* spirit, fr OHG – more at **GHOST**]

**poitroon** /'pɒlɪˌtrɒn/ *n* a spiritless coward [MF *poultron*, fr Olt *poltrone*, fr aug of *poltro* colt, deriv of L *pullus* young of an animal – more at **FOAL**]

**poly** /'pɒli/ *n*, *pl* **polys** *Br* a polytechnic – *infrm*

**poly-** *comb form* 1a many; several; much; multi- <poly-*phonic*> <poly-*gyny*> b excessive; abnormally great; hyper- <poly-*phagia*> 2a containing 2 or more (specified ions or radicals) in the molecular structure <poly-*sulphide*> b polymeric; polymer of (a specified monomer) <poly-*ethylene*> <poly-*nucleotide*> [ME, fr L, fr Gk, fr *polys*; akin to OE *full* full]

**polyamide** /'pɒliˈæmɪd, -mɪd/ *n* a (polymeric) compound characterized by more than 1 amide group [ISV]

**polyandrous** /-ˈændrəs/ *adj* 1 having many usu free stamens 2 of or practising polyandry [(1) *poly-* + *-androus* (2) *polyandry* + *-ous*]

**polyandry** /'pɒliˌændrɪ/ *n* 1 having more than 1 husband at a time – compare **POLYGAMY**, **POLYGyny** 2 the state of being polyandrous [Gk *polyandria* having many men, populousness, fr *polyandros*, *adj*, having many men or many husbands, fr *poly-* + *andr-*, *anēr* man, husband – more at **ANDR-**]

**polyanthus** /-ˈanthəs/ *n*, *pl* **polyanthuses**, **polyanths** /-θiə/ any of various cultivated hybrid primroses [NL, fr Gk *polyanthos* blooming, fr *poly-* + *anthos* flower – more at **ANTHOLOGY**]

**'polychaete** /-ˈkeet/ *n* or *adj* (any) of a class of chiefly sea-living annelid worms with many bristles, usu arranged in pairs, along the body – compare **OLIGOCHAETE** [deriv of Gk *polychaîtes* having much hair, fr *poly-* + *chaîte* long hair] – **polychaetous** /-ˈkeetas/ *adj*

**polychlorinated biphenyl** /'pɒliˌklaɪnɪˌnaɪtɪd/ *n* any of several compounds (e.g. dieldrin) that are hydrocarbons with some hydrogen atoms replaced by chlorine and are poisonous environmental pollutants which tend to accumulate in animal tissues

**polychromatic** /-ˌkrɒhˈmætɪk/ *adj* 1 showing a variety or a change of colours; multicoloured 2 of or being radiation composed of more than 1 wavelength [Gk *polychromatos*, fr *poly-* + *chromat-*, *chrōma* colour – more at **CHROMATIC**]

**'polychrome** /-ˌkrɒhm/ *adj* relating to, made with, or decorated in several colours (< *pottery*) [Gk *polychromos*, fr *poly-* + *chroma*] – **polychromy** *n*

**polycrystalline** /-ˌkrɪstɪˈliːn/ *adj* composed of several (variously oriented) crystals – **polycrystal** /-ˌkrɪstəl/ *n*

**polycythaemia** /-sɪˈθiːmiːə/ *n* a condition marked by an abnormal increase in the number of circulating red blood cells [NL, fr *poly-* + *cyt-* + *-haemia*] – **polycythaemic** /-ˈθiːmiːk/ *adj*

**polydactyl** /-ˈdaktɪl/ *polydactylous* /-ləs/ *adj* having more digits than normal [Gk *polydaktylos*, fr *poly-* + *daktylos* digit] – **polydactyl** *n*

**polyene** /'pɒliˌeɪn/ *n* an organic compound containing many double bonds, esp in a long aliphatic chain [ISV] – **polyenic** /-ˈeɪnɪk/ *adj*

**polyester** /-ˈeɪstə/ *n* a polymer containing ester groups used esp in making fibres, resins, or plastics [ISV] – **polyesterification** /'pɒliˌeɪstrɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n*

**polyethylene** /-ˈeθɪˌliːn/ *n* polythene


**polygamous** /'pɒliˌɡəməs/ *polygamic* /'pɒliˌɡəmiːk/ *adj* 1a of or practising polygamy b having more than 1 mate at a time (< *baboons are ~*) 2 bearing both hermaphrodite and unisexual flowers on the same plant [Gk *polygamos*, fr *poly-* + *-gamos* -gamous] – **polygamously** *adv*

**polygamy** /'pɒliˌɡəmi/ *n* 1 being married to more than 1 person at a time, esp marriage to more than 1 wife – compare **POLYANDRY**, **POLYGyny** 2 the state of being polygamous [MF *polygamie*, fr LL *polygamia*, fr Gk, fr *poly-* + *-gamia* -gamy] – **polygamist** *n*, **polygamize** *vi*

**polygenesis** /-ˈjɛnəsɪs/ *n* origin from more than 1 ancestral line or stock [NL] – **polygenesist** *n*, **polygenetic** /-ˌjɒˈnetɪk/ *adj*, **polygenetically** *adv*

**"polyglot** /-ˌɡlɒt/ *n* 1 one who is polyglot 2 *cap* a book, esp a bible, containing versions of the same text in several languages 3 a mixture or confusion of languages [Gk *polyglōttos*, *adj*, polyglot, fr *poly-* + *glōtta* language – more at **GLOSS**] – **polyglottal** /-ˌɡlɒtəl/ *adj*


**<sup>2</sup>polyglot** *adj* 1 MULTILINGUAL 2 2 containing matter in several languages (< *a ~ sign*)

**polygon** /'pɒlɪɡən, -ɡɒn/ *n* a closed plane figure bounded by straight lines  **MATHEMATICS** [LL *polygonum*, fr Gk *polygonon*, fr neut of *polygōnos* polygonal, fr *poly-* + *gonia* angle – more at **-GON**] – **polygonal** /'pɒliˌɡɒnəl/ *adj*, **polygonally** *adv*

**'polygraph** /-ˌɡraɪf, -ˌɡraf/ *n* an instrument for recording variations of the pulse, blood pressure, etc simultaneously; broadly **LIE DETECTOR** – **polygraphic** /-ˌɡraɪfɪk/ *adj*

**polygynous** /'pɒliˌɡɪnəs/ *adj* 1 of or practising polygyny 2 of a plant having many ovaries

**polygyny** /'pɒliˌɡɪni/ *n* having more than 1 wife at a time – compare **POLYANDRY**, **POLYGAMY**

**polyhedron** /'pɒliˌhiːdrən/ *n*, *pl* **polyhedrons**, **polyhedra** /-ˈdra/ *a* solid formed by plane faces  **MATHEMATICS** [NL] – **polyhedral** *adj*

**Polyhymnia** /-ˈhɪmɪniːə/ *n* the Greek Muse of sacred song [L, fr Gk *Polyhymnia*]

**'polymath** /-ˌmæθ/ *n* one who has a wide range of learning or accomplishments [Gk *polymathēs* very learned, fr *poly-* + *manthanein* to learn



– more at MATHEMATICAL] – **polymath** *adj*, **polymathic** /ˈpɒlɪˈmæθɪk/ *adj*, **polymathy** /ˈpɒlɪˈmæθi/ *n*

**polymer** /ˈpɒlɪmər/ *n* a chemical compound or mixture of compounds containing repeating structural units and formed by chemical combination of many small molecules [ISV, back-formation fr *polymeric*, fr Gk *polýmeris* having many parts, fr *poly-* + *meros* part – more at MERIT] – **polymerize** /ˈpɒlɪməraɪz/, **polimerize** /ˈpɒlɪməraɪz/ *vb*, **polymerization** *n*, **polymeric** /ˈpɒlɪˈmerɪk/ *adj*, **polymerically** *adv*

**polymorphic** /ˈpɒlɪˈmɔːfɪk/, **polymorphous** /ˈfɒs/ *adj* having, assuming, or occurring in various forms, characters, or styles [Gk *polymorphos*, fr *poly-* + *-morphos* -morphous] – **polymorphically**, **polymorphously** *adv*, **polymorphism** *n*

**polymorphonuclear leucocyte** /ˌpɒlɪˌmawfohˈnyooɪkli-ə/ *n* a granulocyte

**Polynesian** /ˌpɒlɪˈneɪz(h)jən, -s(h)jən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Polynesia 2 a group of languages spoken in Polynesia [Polynesia, island group in central and south Pacific, fr *poly-* + Gk *nesos* island] – **Polynesian** *adj*

**polyneuritis** /ˈnɪyoʊˈneɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation or degeneration of several nerves at the same time caused by poisons, vitamin deficiency, etc [NL]

**polynomial** /ˈnɒhmjəl/ *n* an algebraic expression of 2 or more terms <a + bx + cx<sup>2</sup> is a ~> [*poly-* + *-nomial* (as in *binomial*)]

**polynomial** *adj* (composed) of or expressed as 1 or more polynomials <~ functions>

**polynucleotide** /ˈnɪyoʊɪkli-ətiəd/ *n* a polymeric nucleotide chain (e.g. a nucleic acid) [ISV]

**polyp** /ˈpɒlɪp/ *n* 1 a coelenterate with a hollow cylindrical body attached at one end and having a central mouth surrounded by tentacles at the other 2 a projecting mass of tissue (e.g. a tumour) [MF *polype* octopus, nasal tumour, fr L *polypus*, fr Gk *polypous*, fr *poly-* + *pous* foot – more at FOOT] – **polypoid** *adj*, **polypous** *adj*

**polypary** /ˈpɒlɪp(ə)rɪ/ *n* the common structure or tissue in which the polyps of compound coelenterates (e.g. corals) are embedded

**polypeptide** /ˈpeptɪd/ *n* a long chain of amino acids joined by peptide bonds [ISV] – **polypeptidic** /ˈpeptɪdɪk/ *adj*

**polyphagia** /ˈfajjə/ *n* pathologically excessive appetite or eating [Gk fr *polyphagos*]

**polyphagous** /ˈpɒlɪfəɡəs/ *adj* feeding on many kinds of food [Gk *polyphagos* eating too much, fr *poly-* + *-phagos* -phagous] – **polyphagy** *n*

**polyphase** /ˈpɒlɪˌfayz/, **polyphasic** /ˈpɒlɪˌfayzɪk/ *adj* having, using, or producing 2 or more phases of alternating current <a ~ machine> [ISV]

**polyphonic** /ˈfɒnɪk/, **polyphonous** /ˈpɒlɪfəˈnəs/ *adj* of or marked by polyphony – compare HOMOPHONIC – **polyphonically** *adv*, **polyphonously** *adv*

**polyphony** /ˈpɒlɪfəni/ *n* a style of musical composition in which 2 or more independent but organically related voice parts sound against one another [Gk *polyphonia* variety of tones, fr *polyphonus* having many tones or voices, fr *poly-* + *phōne* voice – more at 'BAN]

**polyphyletic** /ˌpɒlɪˈfɪletɪk/ *adj* derived from more than 1 ancestral line or more than 1 stock [ISV, fr Gk *polyphyllos* of many tribes, fr *poly-* + *phylē* tribe – more at PHYL-] – **polyphyletically** *adv*, **polyphyleticism** /ˌˈletɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**polyploid** /ˈpɒlɪpɔɪd/ *adj* having or being a chromosome number that is a multiple greater than 2 of the haploid number – compare HAPLOID, DIPLOID [ISV] – **polyploid** *n*, **polyploidy** *n*

**polypody** /ˈpɒlɪpədi/ *n* a widely distributed fern that has a 'ping rootstock' [ME *polypodie*, fr L *polypodium*, fr Gk *polypodion*, fr *poly-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at FOOT]

**polypropylene** /ˌpɒlɪˈprɒpɪleɪn/ *n* any of various plastics or fibres that are polymers of propylene

**polyrhythm** /ˈrɪð(h)əm/ *n* the simultaneous combination of contrasting rhythms in a musical composition – **polyrhythmic** /ˌpɒlɪˈrɪðmɪk/ *adj*, **polyrhythmically** *adv*

**polysaccharide** /ˈsakarɪəd/ *n* a carbohydrate (e.g. cellulose or starch) consisting of chains of monosaccharide molecules [ISV]

**polysemous** /ˌpɒlɪˈseɪməs, ˌpɒlɪˈsɪməs/ *adj* having many meanings [LL *polysemus*, fr Gk *polysemos*, fr *poly-* + *sēma* sign] – **polysemy** /ˈseɪmi, -ˈlɪsəmi/ *n*

**polystyrene** /ˈstɪeːriːn/ *n* a rigid transparent polymer of styrene used esp. in moulded products, foams, and sheet materials

**polysyllabic** /ˈsɪˌlæbɪk/, **polysyllabical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 having more than 3

syllables 2 characterized by polysyllables [ML *polysyllabus*, fr Gk *polysyllabos*, fr *poly-* + *syllabē* syllable] – **polysyllabically** *adv*  
**polysyllable** /ˈsɪˌlæbəl/ *n* a polysyllabic word [modif of ML *polysyllaba*, fr fem of *polysyllabus*]

**polytechnic** /ˈteknɪk/ *adj* relating to or devoted to instruction in many technical arts or applied sciences [F *polytechnique*, fr Gk *polytechnos* skilled in many arts, fr *poly-* + *technē* art – more at TECHNICAL]

**polytechnic** *n* a polytechnic school; specif any of a number of British institutions offering full-time, sandwich, and part-time courses in various subjects but with a bias towards the vocational

**polytetrafluoroethylene** /-ˌtetraˌfloʊəroʊˈethɪleɪn/ *n* a tough translucent fluorine-containing plastic used esp. for moulding articles and for nonstick coatings (e.g. in cooking utensils)

**polytheism** /-ˌθiːz(ə)m/ *n* belief in or worship of 2 or more gods [F *polythéisme*, fr LGk *polytheos* polytheistic, fr Gk, of many gods, fr *poly-* + *theos* god] – **polytheist** *adj* or *n*, **polytheistic** /-ˈɪstɪk/ *adj*

**polythene** /-ˌθiːn/ *n* any of various lightweight ethylene polymers used esp. for packaging and bowls, buckets, etc [contr of *polyethylene*]

**polytonality** /-ˌtoʊˈnælɪti/ *n* the simultaneous use of 2 or more musical keys – **polytonal** /-ˌtoʊˈnəl/ *adj*, **polytonally** *adv*

**polyunsaturated** /-ˌʊnˈsachooratɪd/ *adj*, of a fat or oil rich in unsaturated chemical bonds

**polyurethane** /-ˌyoʊəˈneɪn/ *n* any of various polymers used esp. in foams and paints [ISV]

**polyvalent** /-ˌvælənt/ *adj* 1 having a valency greater usu. than 2 2 having more than 1 valency [ISV] – **polyvalence** *n*

**polyvinyl chloride** /-ˌviːnl/ *n* a plastic used esp. as a rubber substitute (e.g. for raincoats and insulation for wires) [ISV *polyvinyl* + E *chloride*]

**polyzoan** /-ˌzoh-ən/ *n* a bryozoan [NL *Polyzoa*, phylum name, fr *poly-* + *-zoa*] – **polyzoan** *adj*

**pom** /pɒm/ *n*, often *cap* 1 a Pomeranian 2 a Pommy *USE* infml

**pomace** /ˈpʊmɪs/ *n* sth (e.g. apples) crushed to a pulpy mass (e.g. to extract juice for cider-making) [prob fr ML *pomacium* cider, fr LL *pomum* apple, fr L, fruit]

**pomade** /ˈpəˌmaɪd, -pə-/ *n* a perfumed ointment for the hair or scalp [MF *pommade* ointment formerly made from apples, fr It *pomata*, fr *pomo* apple, fr LL *pomum*] – **pomade** *vt*

**pomander** /ˈpəˌmɑːndə, -pə-/ *n* a mixture of aromatic substances enclosed in a perforated bag or box and used to scent clothes or linen or formerly carried as a guard against infection [ME, modif of MF *pome d'ambre*, lit. apple or ball of amber]

**pome** /ˈpohm/ *n* a fruit (e.g. an apple) with an outer thickened fleshy layer and a central core with the seeds enclosed in a capsule [ME, fr MF *pome*, *pomme* apple, pome, ball, fr LL *pomum*]

**pomegranate** /ˈpɒmɪˌɡrænət/ *n* (an Old World tree that bears) a thick-skinned reddish fruit about the size of an orange that contains many seeds each surrounded by a tart edible crimson pulp [ME *poumgarnet*, fr MF *pomme grenate*, lit., seedy apple]

**Pomeranian** /ˌpɒməˈreɪnjən, -ni-ən/ *n* (any of) a breed of very small compact long-haired dogs [Pomeranian, *adj*, fr *Pomerania*, region of N Europe]

**Pomfret cake** /ˈpʊmfɹɪt, ˈpɒm-/ *n* PONTEFRAC TCAKE [Pomfret, earlier form of *Pontefract*]

**pomiferous** /ˈpɒmɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj* bearing pomes [L *pomifer* fruitbearing, fr *pomum* + *-fer* -ferous]

**pommel** /ˈpʊməl, ˈpɒ-/ *n* 1 the knob on the hilt of a sword 2 the protuberance at the front and top of a saddle 3 either of the pair of removable handles on the top of a pommel horse [ME *pomel*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *pomellum* ball, knob, fr dim. of LL *pomum* apple]

**pommel** /ˈpʊməl/ *vt* -ll (NAM -l-, -ll-), /pʊmɪ-ɪŋ/ to pommel [ˈpɒmɪl]

**pommel horse** *n* (a men's gymnastic event using) a leather-covered horizontal rectangular or cylindrical form with 2 handles on the top that is supported above the ground and is used for swinging and balancing feats

**Pommy, Pommie** /ˈpɒmi/ *n*, often *not cap*, Austr & NZ a British person; esp. a British immigrant [prob short for *pomegranate*, prob alter. (fr the redness of the fruit and British complexions) of rhyming slang *Jimmy Grant* immigrant] – **Pommy, Pommie** *adj*

**pomology** /ˈpɒməˌlɔːji, ˈpɒh-/ *n* fruit growing [NL *pomologia*, fr L *pomum* fruit + *-logia* -logy] – **pomological** /ˌpɒməˌlɔːjɪkl/ *adj*, **pomologically** *adv*, **pomologist** /ˌpɒməˌlɔːjɪst/ *n*

**pomp** /pɒmp/ *n* 1 a show of magnificence; splendour 2 ostentatious or

- specious display [ME, fr MF *pompe*, fr L *pompa* procession, pomp, fr Gk *pompe* act of sending, escort, procession, pomp]
- pompadour** /'pompə,dooə/, -daw/ *n* a woman's hairstyle in which the hair is turned back into a loose full roll round the face [Marquise de Pompadour †1764 mistress of Louis XV of France]
- 'pom-pom** /'pɒm, 'pɒm/ *n* an automatic gun mounted on ships in pairs, fours, or eights [imit]
- \*pom-pom** *n* an ornamental ball or tuft used esp on clothing, hats, etc [alter. of *pompon*]
- pompon** /'pɒmpən(h)/ *n* a chrysanthemum or dahlia with small rounded flower heads [F, fr MF *pompe* tuft of ribbons]
- pomposity** /'pɒm'pɒsəti/ *n* 1 pompous demeanour, speech, or behaviour 2 a pompous gesture, habit, or act
- pompous** /'pɒmpəs/ *adj* 1 self-important, pretentious (< a ~ politician) 2 excessively elevated or ornate (< ~ rhetoric) [POMP + -OUS] - **pompously** *adv*, **pompousness** *n*
- 'ponce** /'pɒns/ *n*, *Br* 1 a pimp 2 a man who behaves in an effeminate manner - *infrm* [perh fr *pounce* (talon of bird of prey, act of pouncing)]
- \*ponce** *vi*, *Br* 1 to pimp 2 to act in a frivolous, showy, or effeminate manner - *usu* + *around* or *about*; *infrm*
- poncho** /'pɒntʃə/ *n*, *pl* **ponchos** a cloak resembling a blanket with a slit in the middle for the head  GARMENT [AmerSp, fr Araucanian *pontho* woollen fabric]
- poncy**, **poncey** /'pɒnsi/ *adj*, *Br* (characteristic) of a ponce - *infrm*
- pond** /'pɒnd/ *n* a body of (fresh) water usu smaller than a lake [ME *ponde* artificially confined body of water, alter. of *pound* enclosure - more at *'pound*]
- ponder** /'pɒndə/ *vi* 1 to weigh in the mind, assess 2 to review mentally, think over (< ~ed the events of the day) ~ *vi* to think or consider, esp quietly, soberly, and deeply [ME *ponderen*, fr MF *ponderer*, fr L *ponderare* to weigh, ponder, fr *ponder-*, *pondus* weight - more at *PENDANT*] - **ponderer** *n*
- ponderosa pine** /'pɒndə'roʊsə/ *n* (the strong reddish wood of) a tall N American pine with long needles [NL *ponderosa*, specific epithet of *Pinus ponderosa*, species name, fr L, fem of *ponderosus* ponderous]
- ponderous** /'pɒnd(ə)'rɒs/ *adj* 1 unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size 2 oppressively or unpleasantly dull, pedestrian (< ~ prose) [ME, fr MF *pondereux*, fr L *ponderosus*, fr *ponder-*, *pondus*] - **ponderously** *adv*, **ponderousness** *n*
- pond skater** *n* any of various long-legged insects that move about on the surface of the water
- 'pondweed** /-weəd/ *n* any of a genus of aquatic plants with jointed stems, floating or submerged leaves, and spikes of greenish flowers
- pong** /'pɒŋ/ *vi* or *n*, *Br* (to emit) an unpleasant smell, stink - *infrm* [origin unknown]
- pongee** /'pɒŋdʒ/ *n* a thin silk beige or tan fabric of Chinese origin, also an imitation of this fabric in cotton or rayon [Chin (Pek) *pen' chi'*, fr *pen'* own + *chi'* loom]
- poniard** /'pɒniəd/ *n* a small dagger [MF *poignard*, fr *poing* fist, fr L *pugnus* - more at *PUNGENT*]
- pons** /'pɒnz/ *n*, *pl* **pontes** /'pɒnteɪz/ a broad mass of nerve fibres on the lower front surface of the brain  NERVE [NL, short for *pons Varolii*]
- pons Varolii** /və'roʊli-ɪ/ *n* the pons [NL, lit., bridge of Varoli, fr Costanzo Varoli †1575 It surgeon & anatomist]
- Pontefract cake** /'pɒntɪfrækt/ *n* a small flat circular liquorice sweet [Pontefract, town in Yorkshire, England, place of its manufacture]
- pontifex** /'pɒntɪfeks/ *n*, *pl* **pontifices** /'pɒntɪfɪsɪz/ a member of the council of priests in ancient Rome [L *pontific-*, *pontifex*, prob fr *pont-*, *pons* bridge + *facere* to make - more at *FIND*, *'do*]
- pontifex maximus** /'mæksɪməs/ *n* the pope [L, greatest pontiff]
- pontiff** /'pɒntɪf/ *n* a bishop; *specif* the pope [F *pontife*, fr L *pontific-*, *pontifex*]
- 'pontifical** /'pɒntɪfɪkl/ *adj* 1 of a pontiff or pontifex 2 pretentiously dogmatic [L *pontificalis*, fr *pontific-*, *pontifex*] - **pontifically** *adv*
- \*pontifical** *n* 1 episcopal dress; *specif* the full vestments of bishophood worn by a prelate when celebrating a pontifical mass - *usu* *pl* with sing meaning 2 a book containing the forms for sacraments and rites performed by a bishop
- pontifical mass** *n* the solemn celebration of the mass by a bishop
- 'pontificate** /'pɒntɪfɪkət/ *n* the state, office, or term of office of the pope [L *pontificatus*, fr *pontific-*, *pontifex*]
- \*pontificate** /'pɒntɪfɪkayt/ *vi* 1 to officiate as a pontiff 2 to deliver oracular utterances or dogmatic opinions [ML *pontificatus*, pp of *pontificare*, fr L *pontific-*, *pontifex*] - **pontificator** *n*, **pontification** /-kaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- pontine** /'pɒntiən/ *adj* of the pons [ISV *pont-* (fr NL *pont-*, *pons*) + -ine]
- 'pontoon** /'pɒntuːn/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat or portable float (used in building a floating temporary bridge) [F *ponton* floating bridge, punt, fr L *ponton-*, *ponto*, fr *pont-*, *pons* bridge]
- \*pontoon** *n* a gambling card game in which the object is to be dealt cards scoring more than those of the dealer up to but not exceeding 21 [prob alter. of *vingt-et-un*]
- pony** /'pɒni/ *n* 1 a small horse; *esp* a member of any of several breeds of very small stocky horses under 14 2 hands in height 2 a racehorse - *usu* *pl*; slang 3 *Br* the sum of £25 - slang [prob fr obs F *poulenet*, dim. of F *poulain* colt, fr ML *pullanus*, fr L *pullus* young of an animal, foal - more at *FOAL*]
- 'ponytail** /-tayl/ *n* a hairstyle in which the hair is drawn back tightly and tied high at the back of the head
- 'pony trekking** *n* the pastime of riding ponies long distances across country in a group
- pooh** /'puːh/ *n* DOG 1a - slang [origin unknown]
- poodle** /'puːdl/ *n* (any of) a breed of active intelligent dogs with a thick curly coat which is of 1 colour only [G *pudel*, short for *pudelhund*, fr *pudeln* to splash (fr *pudel* puddle, fr LG) + *hund* dog (fr OHG *hunt*) - more at *PUDDLE*, *HOUND*]
- poof**, **pouf** /'puːf/ *n*, *Br* an effeminate man or male homosexual - chiefly derog [perh fr *poof* (interj used to express contempt)]
- poofier** /'puːfiə/ *n*, *Br* a poof - chiefly derog [irreg fr *poof*]
- pooh** /'puːh/ *interj* - used to express contempt, disapproval, or distaste at an unpleasant smell [imit]
- 'pooh-bah** /'baːh/ *n*, *often* *cap* *P&B* a person holding many public or private offices [Pooh-Bah, character bearing the title Lord-High-Everything-Else in the comic opera *The Mikado* by W S Gilbert †1911 E librettist & poet]
- pooh-pooh** *vb* to express contempt (for) [pooh]
- 'pool** /'puːl/ *n* 1a a small and relatively deep body of usu fresh water (e.g. a still place in a stream or river) b sth resembling a pool (e.g. in depth or shape) (< ~s of light) 2 a small body of standing liquid, a puddle (< lay in a ~ of blood) 3 *SWIMMING POOL* [ME, fr OE *pol*, akin to OHG *pfuol* pool]
- \*pool** *n* 1 an aggregate stake to which each player of a game has contributed 2 any of various games played on a billiard table with 6 pockets and often 15 numbered balls 3 a combination of the interests or property of different parties that subjects each party to the same controls and a common liability 4 a readily available supply, *esp* the whole quantity of a particular material present in the body and available for metabolism 5 a facility, service, or group of people providing a service for a number of people (e.g. the members of a business organization) (< a typing ~) 6 *pl* *FOOTBALL POOLS* [F *poule*, lit., hen, fr OF, fem of *poul* cock - more at *PULLET*, perh fr a hen being set as the target and prize in a game]
- 'pool** *vi* to contribute to a common stock (e.g. of resources or effort)
- 'poop** /'puːp/ *n* an enclosed superstructure at the stern of a ship above the main deck  SHIP [MF *poupe*, fr L *puppis*]
- \*poop** *vt* 1 to break over the stern of 2 to receive (a sea or wave) over the stern
- \*poop** *vb*, chiefly *NAM* *vi* to put out of breath, also to tire out ~ *vi* to become exhausted *USE* (*vi* & *vi*) *usu* + *out*, *infrm* [origin unknown]
- poor** /'puːə, 'paʊ/ *adj* 1a lacking material possessions b of or characterized by poverty 2 less than adequate, meagre (< a ~ harvest) 3 exciting pity (< ~ old soul) 4 inferior in quality, value, or workmanship (< in ~ health) (< a ~ essay) 5 humble, unpretentious (< in my ~ opinion) 6 of land barren, unproductive [ME *povre*, fr OF *povre*, fr L *pauper*; akin to L *paucus* little and to L *parere* to produce, *parare* to acquire - more at *FEW*, *FARE*] - **poorish** *adj*, **poorly** *adv*, **poorness** *n*
- 'poor box** *n* a box (e.g. in a church) into which money for the poor can be put
- 'Poor Clare** /kleə/ *n* a member of an austere order of nuns founded by St Clare in 1212
- 'poorhouse** /-həʊs/ *n* WORKHOUSE 1
- 'poor law** *n* a law that in former times provided for the relief of the poor
- poorly** /'puːəli/ *adj* somewhat ill
- 'poor-spirited** *adj* lacking zest, confidence, or courage - **poor-spiritedly** *adv*, **poor-spiritedness** *n*

**poor white** *n* a member of an inferior or underprivileged white social group – chiefly derog

**poove** /poohv/ *n*, *Br* a poof – chiefly derog [by alter]

**pop** /pop/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to strike or knock sharply, hit (<~ped him one on the jaw>) 2 to push, put, or thrust suddenly (<~ped a sweet into his mouth>) 3 to cause to explode or burst open 4 to shoot at 5 to take (drugs) orally or by injection (<he ~ped pills>) 6 *Br* to pawn ~ *vi* 1a to go, come, or enter suddenly or quickly (<just ~ped out to do some shopping>) b to escape or break away from sthg (e.g. a point of attachment) usu suddenly or unexpectedly 2 to make or burst with a sharp explosive sound 3 to protrude from the sockets (<eyes ~ping in amazement>) **USE** (*vt* & *vi*) *infrml* [ME *poppen*, of *imit* origin] – **pop** the question to propose marriage – *infrml*

**pop** *n* 1 a popping sound 2 a flavoured carbonated beverage 3 *Br* PAWN 2 **USE** (1 & 3) *infrml* ['pop; (2) fr the sound made by pulling a cork from a bottle]

**pop** *adv* like or with a pop; suddenly – *infrml*

**pop** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a father – *infrml* [short for *poppa*]

**pop** *adj* popular: e.g. a of pop music (<~ singer>) b of or constituting a mass culture widely disseminated through the mass media (<~ society>)

**pop** *n* POP MUSIC

**pop art** *n*, often *cap P&A* art that incorporates everyday objects from popular culture and the mass media (e.g. comic strips) – **pop artist** *n*

**popcorn** /-kawn/ *n* (the popped kernels of) a maize whose kernels burst open when heated to form a white starchy mass

**pope** /pohp/ *n* 1 often *cap* the prelate who as bishop of Rome is the head of the Roman Catholic church 2 a priest of an Eastern church 3 'RU' + [ME, fr OE *papa*, fr LL *papa*, fr Gk *pappas*, *papas*, title of bishops, lit., *papa*, (2) Russ *pop*, fr OSlav *popŭ*, fr (assumed) WGrmc *papo*, fr Gk *pappas*, *papas*]

**poper** /pohp(ə)n/ *n* ROMAN CATHOLICISM – chiefly derog

**pop-eyed** *adj* having staring or bulging eyes (e.g. as a result of surprise or excitement)

**popgun** /-gun/ *n* a toy gun that shoots a cork or pellet and produces a popping sound, also an inadequate or inefficient firearm

**popinjay** /popin.jay/ *n* a strutting supercilious person [ME *papejay*, parrot, fr MF *papegai*, *papejai*, fr Ar *babghā*]

**popish** /pohpish/ *adj* of popery – chiefly derog [*pop*] – **popishly** *adv*

**poplar** /'popla/ *n* 1 (the wood of) any of a genus of slender quick-growing trees (e.g. an aspen) of the willow family 2 TULIP TREE [ME *poplere*, fr MF *pouplier*, fr *pouple* poplar, fr L *populus*]

**poplin** /'poplin/ *n* a strong usu cotton fabric in plain weave with crosswise ribs [F *papeline*]

**popliteal** /'popliti-əl, 'popli-tee-əl/ *adj* of the back part of the leg behind the knee joint [NL *popliteus*, fr L *poplit-*, *poples* ham of the knee]

**pop music** *n* modern commercially promoted popular music that is usu short and simple and has a strong beat

**pop off** *vi* 1 to leave suddenly 2 to die unexpectedly **USE** *infrml*

**poppa** /'popa/ *n*, *NAM* a father – *infrml* [alter of *papa*]

**poppadom** /'popədəm/ *n* a crisp wafer-thin pancake of deep-fried dough eaten chiefly with Indian food [Tamil-Malayalam *pappatam*]

**popper** /'popa/ *n*, chiefly *Br* PRESS-STUD ['POP + -ER]

**poppet** /'popit/ *n* 1 a valve that rises up and down from its seat 2 chiefly *Br* a lovable or enchanting person or animal – *infrml* [ME *popet* doll, puppet – more at PUPPET]

**poppie** /'popi/ *n*, *SAfr* GIRLFRIEND – *infrml* [Afrk, fr *pop* doll + -ie, *dim* suffix]

**popping crease** /'popɪŋ/ *n* either of the lines drawn perpendicularly across a cricket pitch 4ft (about 1.22m) in front of each wicket and behind which the batsman must have a foot or his/her bat on the ground to avoid being run out or stumped – compare BOWLING CREASE → SPORT

**poppy** /'popi/ *n* any of several genera of plants with showy flowers and capsular fruits including the opium poppy and several other plants cultivated for their ornamental value [ME *popi*, fr OE *popæg*, *popig*, modif of L *papaver*]

**poppycock** /-kɒk/ *n* empty talk; nonsense – *infrml* [D dial. *pappekak*, lit., soft dung, fr D *pap* pap + *kak* dung]

**posy** /'posi/ *n*, *Br* GIRLFRIEND – *infrml*, often derog [*pop* (short for *poppet*) + -s + -y]

**populace** /'popjulas/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the (common) people; the masses [MF, fr It *popolaccio* rabble, pejorative of *popolo* the people, fr L *populus*]

**popular** /'popjula/ *adj* 1 of the general public 2 suited to the needs, means, tastes, or understanding of the general public (<a ~ history of the

war>) 3 having general currency 4 commonly liked or approved (<a very ~ girl>) [L *popularis* of the people, fr *populus* the people, a people] – **popularly** *adv*, **popularity** /'popjula'rati/ *n*

**popular front** *n*, often *cap P&F* a coalition of left-wing political parties against a common opponent

**popularize**, -ise /'popjula'raɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause to be liked or esteemed 2 to present in a generally understandable or interesting form – **popularizer** *n*, **popularization** /-ne'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**populate** /'popjulaɪt/ *vt* 1 to have a place in, occupy, inhabit 2 to supply or provide with inhabitants; people [ML *populatus*, pp of *populare* to people, fr L *populus* people]

**population** /'popjulaɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of people or individuals having a quality or characteristic in common (<a floating ~ of drifters>) 3 all the particles in a particular energy level – used esp with reference to atoms in a laser 4 the group of organisms inhabiting a particular area 5 a set (e.g. of individual people or items) from which samples are taken for statistical measurement [LL *populatio*-, *populatio*, fr L *populus*]

**population explosion** *n* a vast usu rapid increase in the size of a living population

**populist** /'popjulaɪst/ *n* 1 a member of a political party claiming to represent the common people 2 a believer in the rights, wisdom, or virtues of the common people [L *populus* the people] – **populism** *n*, **populist** also **populistic** /-'lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**populous** /'popjulas/ *adj* densely populated [L *populosus*, fr *populus* people] – **populously** *adv*, **populousness** *n*

**pop-up** *adj* of or having a device that causes its contents to spring up or stand out in relief (<a ~ toaster>) (<a ~ book>)

**pop up** *vi* to arise suddenly or unexpectedly; **CROP UP** – *infrml*

**porbeagle** /'paw,beɪgl/ *n* a small shark of the N Atlantic and Pacific oceans with a pointed nose and crescent-shaped tail [Corn *porgh-bugef*]

**porcelain** /'paw(s)əlɪn/ *n* 1a a type of hard nonporous translucent white ceramic ware made from a mixture of kaolin, quartz, and feldspar fired at a high temperature b a type of translucent ceramic ware made from a mixture of refined clay and ground glass fired at a low temperature 2 porcelain ware [MF *porcelaine* cowrie shell, porcelain (fr the resemblance of its finish to the surface of the shell), fr It *porcellana*, fr *porcello* vulva, lit., little pig, fr L *porcellus*, *dim* of *porcus* pig, vulva, fr the shape of the shell] – **porcelaneous**, **porcellaneous** /'paw(s)'ləɪnɪəs, -nɪ-əs/ *adj*

**porch** /'pawtʃ/ *n* 1 a covered usu projecting entrance to a building → CHURCH 2 *NAM* a veranda [ME *porche*, fr OF, fr L *porticus* portico, fr *porta* gate – more at PORT]

**porcine** /'pawsiən/ *adj* of or like pigs; esp obese [L *porcinus*, fr *porcus* pig – more at TALLOW]

**porcupine** /'pawkyoʊpiən/ *n* any of various ground-living or tree-dwelling relatively large rodents with stiff sharp erectile bristles mingled with the hair [ME *porkepin*, fr MF *porc espin*, fr OIt *porcospino*, fr L *porcus* pig + *spina* spine, prickles]

**pore** /'paw/ *vi* 1 to study closely or attentively 2 to reflect or meditate steadily **USE** usu + *on*, *over*, or *upon* [ME *pouren*]

**pore** *n* a minute opening, esp one (e.g. in a membrane, esp the skin, or between soil particles) through which fluids pass or are absorbed → NERVE [ME, fr MF, fr L *porus*, fr Gk *poros* passage, pore – more at PARI] – **pored** *adj*

**porgy** /'pawgi/ *n*, *pl* *porgies*, esp collectively *porgy* (any of various fishes related to) a blue-spotted crimson spiny-finned food fish of the coasts of Europe and America [partly fr earlier *pargo* (porgy); partly fr earlier *scuppaug* (porgy)]

**poriferan** /'paw'nɪf(ə)rən/ *n* SPONGE 1b [deriv of L *porus* pore + -fer -ferous] – **poriferan**, **poriferal** *adj*

**pork** /'pawk/ *n* the flesh of a pig used as food → MEAT [ME, fr OF, pig, fr L *porcus*]

**porker** /'pawka/ *n* FIG 1a, esp a young pig fattened for food

**porkpie** /'hæt /'pawk'pi:/ *n* a man's hat with a low crown, flat top, and usu a turned-up brim [fr its shape]

**porky** /'pawki/ *adj* fat, fleshy (<a ~ young man>) – *infrml* [PORK + -y]

**porn** /'paw'n/ *n* pornography – *infrml*

**pornographer** /'paw'nɒgrəfə/ *n* one who produces or deals in pornography

**pornography** /'paw'nɒgrəfi/ *n* (books, photographs, films, etc containing) the depiction of erotic behaviour intended to cause sexual excitement [Gk *pornographos*, *adj*, writing of prostitutes, fr *porne* prostitute +

- graphein* to write; akin to Gk *pernanai* to sell, *poros* journey – more at *'FARE, CARVE*] – **pornographic** /ˈpɔːnəˈɡræfɪk/ *adj.* pornographically *adv.*
- porous** /ˈpɔːrəs/ *adj.* 1 having or full of pores or spaces 2 permeable to liquids – **porously** *adv.*, **porousness** *n.*, **porosity** /ˈpɔːrɒsəti/ *n.*
- porphyria** /ˈpɔːfiri-ə/ *n.* any of various usu hereditary abnormalities of porphyrin metabolism characterized esp by discoloured, usu red, urine, extreme sensitivity to light, and phases of mental derangement [NL, fr ISV *porphyrin*]
- porphyrin** /ˈpɔːfiri-n/ *n.* any of various compounds from which others, esp of chlorophyll or haemoglobin, are formed [ISV, fr Gk *porphyra* purple]
- porphyry** /ˈpɔːfiri/ *n.* an igneous rock consisting of crystals (e.g. of feldspar) embedded in a compact mass of surrounding rock [ME *porfure*, fr ML *porphyrum*, alter. of L *porphyrites*, fr Gk *porphyrites* (*lithos*), lit., stone like Tyrian purple, fr *porphyra* purple] – **porphyritic** /ˈpɔːfiriˈtɪk/ *adj.*
- porpoise** /ˈpɔːpɔɪs/ *n.* (any of several small gregarious toothed whales related to) a blunt-snouted usu largely black whale about 2m (6ft) long [ME *porpoys*, fr MF *porpois*, fr ML *porcopiscis*, fr L *porcus* pig + *piscis* fish – more at *FARROW, 'FISH*]
- porrect** /ˈpɔːrekt/ *adj.* extended forwards (an insect with ~ antennae) [L *porrectus*, pp of *porrigere* to stretch out, fr *por-* forwards + *regere* to direct – more at *PORTEND, 'RIGHT*]
- porridge** /ˈpɔːrɪdʒ/ *n.* 1 (sthg with the consistency of) a soft food made by boiling a cereal product, esp oatmeal, in milk or water until thick 2 *Br* time spent in prison – slang [alter. of *pottage*]
- porringer** /ˈpɔːrɪŋə/ *n.* a small bowl from which esp soft or liquid foods (e.g. porridge) are eaten [alter. of ME *poteger*, *potinger*, fr AF *potageer*, fr MF *potager* of *pottage*, fr *pottage* *pottage*]
- 'port** /pawt/ *n.* 1 a town or city with a harbour where ships, hovercraft, etc may take on or discharge cargo or passengers 2 a place where goods and people may be permitted to pass into or out of a country [ME, fr OE & OF, fr L *portus* – more at *FORK*]
- ²port** *n.* 1 an opening (e.g. in machinery) for intake or exhaust of a fluid 2 an opening in a ship's side to admit light or air or to load cargo 3 a hole in an armoured vehicle or fortification through which guns may be fired [ME *porte*, fr MF, gate, door, fr L *porta* passage, gate; akin to L *portus* *port*]
- ³port** *n.* the position in which a military weapon is carried at the command *port arms* [ME, deportment, bearing, fr MF, fr *porter* to carry, fr L *portare*]
- ⁴port** *adj* or *n.* (of or at) the left side of a ship or aircraft looking forwards – compare *STARBOARD*  *SHIP* [prob fr 'port or 'port]
- 'port** *vi* to turn or put (a helm) to the left – used chiefly as a command
- ⁵port** *n.* a fortified sweet wine of rich taste and aroma made in Portugal [*Oporto*, seaport in Portugal]
- portable** /ˈpɔːtəbl/ *n* or *adj.* (sthg) capable of being carried or moved about (a ~ typewriter) (a ~ sawmill) [*adj.* ME, fr MF, fr LL *portabilis*, fr L *portare* to carry – more at 'FARE; *n* fr *adj.*] – **portably** *adv.*, **portability** /ˈpɔːtəbɪləti/ *n.*
- 'portage** /ˈpawti-/ *n.* 1 the carrying of boats or goods overland from one body of water to another 2 the route followed in portage; also a place where such a transfer is necessary [ME, fr MF, fr *porter* to carry]
- ²portage** *vi* to carry over a portage ~ *vi* to move gear over a portage
- 'portal** /ˈpawti/ *n.* 1 a (grand or imposing) door or entrance 2 the point at which sthg (e.g. a disease-causing agent) enters the body [ME, fr MF, fr ML *portale* city gate, porch, fr neut of *portalis* of a gate, fr L *porta* gate – more at 'PORT]
- ⁴portal** *adj.* 1 of the transverse fissure on the underside of the liver where most of the vessels enter 2 of or being a portal vein [NL *porta* transverse fissure of the liver, fr L, gate]
- portal vein** *n.* a vein that transfers blood from one part of the body to another without passing through the heart; esp the vein carrying blood from the digestive organs and spleen to the liver
- portamento** /ˈpawtəˈmentoh/ *n.* *pl* **portamenti** /-ti/ a continuous gliding movement from one note to another by the voice, a trombone, or a bowed stringed instrument [It, lit., act of carrying, fr *portare* to carry, fr L]
- portcullis** /ˈpawtiˈkulis/ *n.* a usu iron or wood grating that can prevent entry through the gateway of a fortified place by sliding down between grooves [ME *port colice*, fr MF *porte coleice*, lit., sliding door]
- port de bras** /ˈpaw də ˈbrah/ *n.* the technique and practice of arm movement in ballet [F, lit., carriage of the arm]
- Porte** /pawt/ *n.* the government of the Ottoman empire [F, short for *Sublime Porte*, lit., sublime gate, fr the gate of the sultan's palace where justice was administered]
- portend** /ˈpawtend/ *vt* 1 to give an omen or anticipatory sign of; bode 2 to indicate, signify [ME *portenden*, fr L *portendere*, fr *por-* forwards (akin to *per* through) + *tendere* to stretch – more at *FOR, THIN*]
- portent** /ˈpawt(ə)nt-, -tent/ *n.* 1 sthg foreshadowing a coming event; an omen 2 prophetic indication or significance [L *portentum*, fr neut of *portentus*, pp of *portendere*]
- portentious** /ˈpawˈtentəs/ *adj.* 1 eliciting amazement or wonder; prodigious 2 self-consciously weighty, pompous – **portentously** *adv.*, **portentiousness** *n.*
- 'porter** /pawtə/, *fem* **portress** /-tris/ *n.* chiefly *Br* a gatekeeper or doorkeeper, esp of a large building, who usu regulates entry and answers enquiries [ME, fr OF *portier*, fr LL *portarius*, fr L *porta* gate – more at 'PORT]
- ²porter** *n.* 1 sby who carries burdens, *specif* sby employed to carry luggage (e.g. in a hotel or railway station) 2 a heavy dark brown beer 3 *NAm* a sleeping car attendant [ME *portour*, fr MF *porteur*, fr LL *portator*, fr L *portatus*, pp of *portare* to carry – more at 'FARE; (2) short for *porter's beer*]
- portage** /ˈpawt(ə)ri/ *n.* (the charge made for) the work performed by a porter
- 'porterhouse** /-ˈhows/ *n.* a large steak cut from the back end of the sirloin above the ribs and containing part of the fillet  *MEAT* [arch *porterhouse* (house where porter and other liquors were sold, and where such steaks were served)]
- portfolio** /ˈpawtiˈfohli-oh/ *n.* *pl* **portfolios** 1 a hinged cover or flexible case for carrying loose papers, pictures, etc 2 the office of a government minister or member of a cabinet (<the defence ~>) 3 the securities held by an investor [It *portafoglio*, fr *portare* to carry (fr L) + *foglio* leaf, sheet, fr L *folium* – more at *BLADE*, (2) fr the use of such a case to carry documents of state]
- porthole** /ˈpawthoh/ *n.* 1 a usu glazed opening, esp in the side of a ship or aircraft 2 'PORT 2 ['PORT]
- portico** /ˈpawtikoh/ *n.* *pl* **porticoes**, **porticos** a colonnade or covered veranda, usu at the entrance of a building and characteristic of classical architecture [It, fr L *porticus* – more at *PORCH*]
- portière** /ˈpawti-er/ *n.* a curtain hanging across a doorway [F *portière*, fr OF, *fem* of *portier* porter, doorkeeper]
- 'portion** /ˈpawsh(ə)n/ *n.* 1 a part or share of sthg e.g. a helping of food *b* archaic a dowry 2 an individual's lot or fate [ME, fr OF, fr L *portio*-, *portio*, akin to L *part-*, *pars* *part*]
- ²portion** *vi* to divide into portions, distribute – often + *out*
- 'portionless** /-lis/ *adj.* having no portion, esp having no dowry or inheritance
- portland cement** /ˈpawtlənd/ *n.* a hydraulic cement made from lime and clay [fr its resemblance to portland stone]
- portland stone** *n.* a limestone much used in building [Isle of *Portland*, peninsula in Dorset, England, where the limestone is found]
- portly** /ˈpawth/ *adj.* rotund, stout ['*port* (deportment, bearing) + 'ly, orig sense, of dignified bearing] – **portliness** *n.*
- 'portmanteau** /ˈpawtˈmantoh/ *n.* *pl* **portmanteaus**, **portmanteaux** /-tohz/ a trunk for a traveller's belongings that opens into 2 equal parts [MF *portemanteau*, fr *porter* to carry (fr L *portare*) + *manteau* mantle, fr L *mantellum*]
- ⁴portmanteau** *adj.* combining more than 1 use or quality
- portmanteau word** *n.* BLEND 2
- 'port of call** *n.* 1 a port where ships customarily stop during a voyage 2 a stop included in an itinerary
- portrait** /ˈpawtri-, -trayt/ *n.* 1 a pictorial likeness of a person 2 a verbal portrayal or representation [MF, fr pp of *portraire*] – **portraiture** *n.*
- portraiture** /ˈpawtrichə/ *n.* the art of making portraits
- portray** /ˈpawtray/ *vt* 1 to make a picture of; depict 2a to describe in words *b* to play the role of [ME *portraien*, fr MF *portraire*, fr L *protrahere* to draw forth, reveal, expose, fr *pro-* forth + *trahere* to draw – more at 'PRO-, DRAW] – **portray** *n.*
- portrayal** /ˈpawtray(ə)l/ *n.* 1 the act or process of portraying; representation 2 a portrait
- portress** /ˈpawtris/ *n.* a female porter
- Port Salut** /ˈpaw səˈlooh (Fr por səly)/ *n.* a pale yellow mild-flavoured cheese [F *port-du-salut*, *port-salut*, fr *Port du Salut*, Trappist abbey in NW France]
- Portuguese** /ˈpawchooˈgeez, ˈpawtyooˈgeez/ *n.* *pl* **Portuguese** 1 a native or inhabitant of Portugal 2 the language of esp Portugal and Brazil 

LANGUAGE [Pg. *português*, adj & n, fr *Portugal*, country in SW Europe, fr *Portus Cale* Oporto, seaport in NW Portugal] – Portuguese *adj*

**Portuguese man-of-war** *n* any of several large floating jellyfishes with very long stinging tentacles

**'pose** /pohz/ *vt* 1 to place (e.g. a model) in a studied attitude 2 to put or set forth, offer (<this attitude ~s a threat to our hopes for peace>) 3 to present for attention or consideration (<let me ~ a question>) ~ *vi* 1 to assume a posture or attitude, usu. for artistic purposes 2 to affect an attitude or character, posture (<~d as an honest man>) [ME *posen*, fr MF *poser*, fr (assumed) VL *pausare* (influenced in meaning by L *pos-*, perfect stem of *ponere* to put, place), fr LL, to stop, rest, pause, fr L *pausa* pause]

**'pose** *n* 1 a sustained posture, esp. one assumed for artistic purposes 2 an assumed attitude of mind or mode of behaviour

**'poser** /'pohzə/ *n* a puzzling or baffling question [*pose* (to puzzle, baffle), short for earlier *appose*, fr ME *apposen*, alter. of *opposen* to oppose, fr MF *opposer* – more at *OPPOSE*]

**'poseur** *n* a poseur ['POSE + -ER]

**poseur** /poh'zuh/ *n* an affected or insincere person [F, lit., *poser*, fr *poser* to pose]

**'posh** /posh/ *adj* 1 very fine, splendid (<a ~ new car>) 2 socially exclusive or fashionable, broadly upper-class (<a ~ Knightsbridge address>) – often derog. *USE* infml [perh. fr obs. *posh*, *n* (money, dandy)]

**'posh** *adv* in a posh accent – infml (<talk ~>)

**posit** /'pozit/ *vt* to assume or affirm the existence of, postulate [L *positus*, pp]

**'position** /pə'zish(ə)n/ *n* 1 the statement of a proposition or thesis 2 an opinion, POINT OF VIEW (<made her ~ on the issue clear>) 3 a market commitment in securities or commodities, also the inventory of a market trader 4a the place occupied by sb or sth (<house in an attractive ~ overlooking the sea>), also the proper place (<the cars are now in the starting ~>) b a disposition or attitude of (a part of) the body (<rose to a standing ~>) 5a a condition, situation (<is now in a ~ to make important decisions on his own>) b social or official rank or status c a situation that confers advantage or preference (<jockeying for ~>) 6 the disposition of the notes of a chord 7 a post, job – fml [MF, fr L *positio*-, *positio*, fr *positus*, pp of *ponere* to lay down, put, place, fr (assumed) OL *posinere*, fr *po-* away (akin to Gk *apo-*) + L *sinere* to lay, leave – more at *SITE*]

**'position** *vt* to put in a proper or specified position

**positional** /pə'zish(ə)nəl/ *adj* of or fixed by position (<~ astronomy>)

**'positive** /'pozətɪv/ *adj* 1a expressed clearly or peremptorily (<her answer was a ~ no>) b fully assured, confident (<~ that he is right>) 2 of or constituting the simple form of an adjective or adverb that express no degree of comparison 3 incontestable (<~ proof>) 4 utter (<a ~ disgrace>) 5 real, active (<a ~ influence for good in the community>) 6a capable of being constructively applied, helpful (<~ advice>) b concentrating on what is good or beneficial, optimistic (<has a ~ attitude towards his illness>) 7a having or expressing actual existence or quality as distinguished from deficiency b not speculative, empirical 8 having the light and dark parts similar in tone to those of the original photographic subject 9a in a direction arbitrarily or customarily taken as that of increase or progression (<~ angles>) b directed or moving towards a source of stimulation (<a ~ response to light>) 10 numerically greater than zero (<1.2 is a ~ integer>) 11a of being, or charged with electricity as a result of a deficiency of electrons b having higher electric potential and constituting the part from which the current flows to the external circuit 12a marked by or indicating acceptance, approval, or affirmation b showing the presence of sth sought or suspected to be present (<a ~ test for blood>) 13 of a lens converging light rays and forming a real inverted image [ME, formally laid down, fr OF *positif*, fr L *positivus*, fr *positus*] – **positively** *adv*, **positiveness** *n*

**'positive** *n* sth positive: e.g. a the positive degree or form of an adjective or adverb b sth about which an affirmation can be made; reality c a positive photograph or a print from a negative

**positivism** /'pɒzɪtɪvɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a theory rejecting theology and metaphysics in favour of knowledge based on the scientific observation of natural phenomena 2 LOGICAL POSITIVISM [F *positivisme*, fr *positif* positive + *-isme* -ism] – **positivist** *adj* or *n*, **positivistic** /-vɪstɪk/ *adj*

**positron** /'pɒzɪtrɒn/ *n* a positively charged elementary particle that has the same mass and magnitude of charge as the electron and is the antiparticle of the electron [*positive* + *-tron* (as in *electron*)]

**positronium** /'pɒzɪtrɒnjəm-, -ni-əm/ *n* a short-lived system that consists of a positron and an electron bound together [*positron* + *-ium*]

**posse** /'posi/ *n* sing or pl in constr. 1 a body of people summoned by a sheriff, esp. in N America, to assist in preserving the public peace, usu. in

an emergency 2 a large group, often with a common interest [ML *posse comitatus*, lit., power or authority of the county]

**possess** /'pəzɪz/ *vt* 1a to make the owner or holder – + *of* or *with* b to have possession of 2a to have and hold as property, own b to have as an attribute, knowledge, or skill 3a to take into one's possession b to influence so strongly as to direct the actions (<whatever ~ed her to act like that?>), also, of a demon, evil spirit, etc. to enter into and control [ME *possessen*, fr MF *possessor* to have possession of, take possession of, fr L *possessus*, pp of *possidere*, fr *potis* able, in power + *sedere* to sit – more at *POTIENT*, *SIT*] – **possessor** *n*

**possessed** *adj* 1 influenced or controlled by sth (e.g. an evil spirit or a passion) 2 mad, crazed – **possessedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*, **possessedness** /-sɪdnɪs/ *n*

**possession** /pə'zesh(ə)n/ *n* 1a the act of having or taking into control b ownership, also control or occupancy (e.g. of property) without regard to ownership 2a sth owned, occupied, or controlled b pl wealth, property 3 domination by sth (e.g. an evil spirit or passion) – **possessional** *adj*

**'possessive** /pə'zɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 manifesting possession or the desire to own or dominate (<a ~ mother>) 2 of or being the grammatical possessive – **possessively** *adv*, **possessiveness** *n*

**'possessive** *n* (a form in) a grammatical case expressing ownership or a similar relation – compare *GENITIVE*

**possessory** /pə'zɪs(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of or having possession (<a ~ interest>)

**posset** /'pɒsɪt/ *n* a comforting hot beverage of sweetened and spiced milk curdled with ale or wine, also a dessert made with cream, eggs, sugar and usu. lemon [ME *poshet*, *posoit*]

**possibility** /pə'sə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 the condition or fact of being possible 2 sth possible 3 potential or prospective value – usu. pl with sing. meaning (<the house had great possibilities>)

**'possible** /'pɒsəbl/ *adj* 1 within the limits of ability, capacity, or realization 2 capable of being done or occurring according to nature, custom, or manners 3 that may or may not occur (<it is ~ but not probable that he will win>) 4 having a specified potential use, quality, etc. (<a ~ housing site>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *possibilis*, fr *posse* to be able, fr *potis*, *pote* able + *esse* to be – more at *POTIENT*, *IS*]

**'possible** *n* 1 sth possible (<politics is the art of the ~>) 2 sb or sth that may be selected for a specified role, task, etc. (<a ~ for the post of Chancellor>)

**possibly** /'pɒsəbl/ *adv* 1 it is possible that; maybe (<~ there is life on Mars>) (<he may ~ have caught a later train>) 2 – used as an intensifier with *can* or *could* (<you can't ~ eat all that cake>) (<I'll do all I ~ can to have it ~ ready on time>)

**possum** /'pɒs(ə)m/ *n* an opossum – not used technically

**'post** /pohst/ *n* 1 a piece of timber, metal, etc. fixed firmly in an upright position, esp. as a stay or support 2 a pole marking the starting or finishing point of a horse race 3 a goalpost [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *pfosto* post, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *postus*; akin to Gk *pro* before & to Gk *histanthai* to stand – more at *FOR*, *STAND*]

**'post** *vt* 1 to fasten to a wall, board, etc. in order to make public – often + *up* 2 to publish, announce, or advertise (as if) by use of a placard

**'post** *n* 1 (a single despatch or delivery of) the mail handled by a postal system 2 chiefly Br a postal system or means of posting 3 archaic (the distance between) any of a series of stations for keeping horses for relays [MF *poste* relay station, courier, fr OIt *posta* relay station, fr fem of *postio*, pp of *porre* to place, fr L *ponere* – more at *POSITION*]

**'post** *vt* 1 to send by post (<~ a letter>) 2a to transfer or carry from a book of original entry to a ledger b to make transfer entries in 3 to provide with the latest news; inform (<kept her ~ed on the latest gossip>)

**'post** *adv* with post-horses, express

**'post** *n* 1a the place at which a soldier is stationed b a station or task to which one is assigned c the place at which a body of troops is stationed 2a an office or position to which a person is appointed b (the position of) a player in basketball who provides the focal point of the attack 3 a trading post, settlement 4 Br either of 2 bugle calls giving notice of the hour for retiring at night [MF *poste*, fr OIt *posto*, fr pp of *porre* to place]

**'post** *vt* 1 to station (<guards were ~ed at the doors>) 2 chiefly Br to assign to a unit or location

**post-** *prefix* 1a after, subsequent, later (<postdate>) b posterior; following after (<postscript>) (<postconsonantal>) 2a subsequent to; later than (<postoperative>) (<post-Pleistocene>) b situated behind (<postorbital>) [ME, fr L, fr *post*, *adv* & prep; akin to Skt *pasca* behind, after, Gk *apo* away from – more at *OF*]



- postage** /'pəʊstɪ/ *n* (markings or stamps representing) the fee for a postal service
- postage meter** *n*, *NAM* a franking machine
- postage stamp** *n* an adhesive or imprinted stamp used as evidence of prepayment of postage
- postal** /'pəʊstl/ *adj* 1 of or being a system for the conveyance of written material, parcels, etc between a large number of users 2 conducted by post (< ~ chess) – **postally** *adv*
- postal order** *n*, *Br* an order issued by a post office for payment of a specified sum of money usu at another post office
- postbag** /-/bag/ *n*, *Br* 1 a mailbag 2 a single batch of mail usu delivered to 1 address
- postbox** /-/bɒks/ *n* a secure receptacle for the posting of outgoing mail
- postboy** /-/bɔɪ/ *n* 1 a postilion 2 chiefly *Br* a boy or man who deals with post
- postcard** /-/kɑːd/ *n* a card that can be posted without an enclosing envelope
- post chaise** /ʃaɪz/ *n* a usu closed 4-wheeled carriage seating 2 to 4 people ['post]
- postclassical** /-/kɪlɑːsɪkəl/, **postclassic** *adj* of or being a period (e.g. in art, literature, or civilization) following a classical one
- postcode** /-/kəʊd/ *n* a combination of letters and numbers that is used in the postal address of a place in the UK to assist sorting – compare ZIP CODE
- postdate** /-/daɪt/ *vt* 1a to date with a date later than that of execution (< ~ a cheque) b to assign (an event) to a date subsequent to that of actual occurrence – compare BACKDATE 2 to follow in time
- poster** /'pəʊstə/ *n* a (decorative) bill or placard for display often in a public place ['post]
- poste restante** /'pəʊst 'restɒnt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* mail that is intended for collection from a post office [F, lit., waiting mail] – **poste restante** *adv*
- posterior** /'pəʊstɪəri-/ *adj* 1 later in time, subsequent 2 situated behind or towards the back e.g. a of an animal part near the tail, caudal b of the human body or its parts dorsal 3 of a plant part (on the side) facing towards the stem or axis; also SUPERIOR 5a USE compare ANTERIOR [L, compar of *posterus* coming after, fr *post* after – more at POST-] – **posteriorly** *adv*, **posteriority** /'pəʊstɪəriəti/ *n*
- posterior** *n* the buttocks
- posterity** /'pəʊstɪəri-/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in constr all the descendants of 1 ancestor 2 all future generations [ME *posterite*, fr MF *posterité*, fr L *posteritas*, fr *posterus* coming after]
- postern** /'pəʊstɜːn/, 'pəʊ-/ *n* a back door or gate [ME *posterne*, fr OF, alter of *posterle*, fr LL *posterula*, dim of *postera* back door, fr L, fem of *posterus*] – **postern** *adj*
- poster** *paint* *n* an opaque watercolour paint containing gum
- post-free** *adv*, chiefly *Br* postpaid
- postgraduate** /-/grædʒu-ət/ *n* a student continuing higher education after completing a first degree – **postgraduate** *adj*
- posthaste** /-/haɪst/ *adv* with all possible speed ['post (courier) + haste]
- post horn** *n* a simple wind instrument with cupped mouthpiece used esp by postilions in the 18th and 19th c
- post-horse** *n* a horse formerly kept for use by couriers or mail carriers
- posthumous** /'pəʊstjʊməs/ *adj* 1 born after the death of the father 2 published after the death of the author or composer 3 following or occurring after death (< ~ fame) [L *posthumus*, alter. (influenced by *humus* ground) of *postumus* late-born, posthumous, fr superl of *posterus* coming after – more at POSTERIOR] – **posthumously** *adv*, **posthumousness** *n*
- posthypnotic suggestion** /'pəʊst-hɪp'nɒtɪk/ *n* the giving of instructions or suggestions to a hypnotized person which he/she will act on when no longer in a trance
- postiche** /'pəʊstɪʃ/ *n* a wig; esp a toupee [F, fr Sp *postizo*]
- postie** /'pəʊsti/ *n* a postal worker – infml ['post (courier, postman) + -ie]
- postilion**, **postillion** /'pəʊstɪljən/ *n* sby who rides as a guide on the near horse of one of the pairs attached to a coach or post chaise, esp without a coachman [MF *postillon* mail carrier using post-horses, fr It *postiglione*, fr *posta* post]
- Postimpressionism** /'pəʊstɪm'preʃənɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory or practice in art that reacted against impressionism by stressing the formal or subjective elements in a painting [F *postimpressionisme*, fr *post-* + *impressionisme* impressionism] – **Postimpressionist** *adj* or *n*, **Postimpressionistic** /-/preʃənɪstɪk/ *adj*
- posting** /'pəʊstɪŋ/ *n* the act of transferring an entry to the proper account in a ledger; also the resultant entry ['post]
- posting** *n* an appointment to a post or a command ['post]
- postman** /-/mæn/, *fem* 'postwoman *n* sby who delivers the post
- postman's knock** *n* a children's game in which a kiss is the reward for the pretended delivery of a letter
- postmark** /-/mɑːk/ *vt* or *n* (to mark with) a cancellation mark showing the post office and date of posting of a piece of mail
- postmaster** /-/mɑːstə/, *fem* 'postmistress *n* sby who has charge of a post office – **postmastership** *n*
- postmaster general** *n*, *pl* **postmasters general** an official in charge of a national post office
- post meridiem** /'mɑːrɪdɪ-əm/ *adj* being after noon – abbr **pm** [L]
- postmillennial** /-/mɪlɪni-əl/ *adj* coming after or relating to the period after the millennium
- postmortem** /-/mɔːtəm/ *adj* 1 occurring after death 2 following the event (< a ~ appraisal of the game) [L *post mortem* after death]
- postmortem** *n* 1 also **postmortem examination** an examination of a body after death for determining the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease 2 an examination of a plan or event that failed, in order to discover the cause of failure
- postnatal** /-/naɪtəl/ *adj* subsequent to birth, also of or relating to a newborn child [ISV] – **postnatally** *adv*
- postnuptial** /-/nʌpʃ(ə)l/ *adj* made or occurring after marriage or mating – **postnuptially** *adv*
- post-obit** /-/ɒbɪt/, 'ɒbɪt/ *adj* occurring or taking effect after death [L *post obitum* after death]
- post office** *n* 1 a national usu governmental organization that runs a postal system, specif, cap **P&O** the corporation that fulfils this function in the UK 2 a local branch of a national post office 3 *NAM* **POSTMAN'S KNOCK**
- postoperative** /-/ɒp(ə)rətɪv/ *adj* following a surgical operation [ISV] – **postoperatively** *adv*
- postpaid** /-/paɪd/ *adv* with the postage paid by the sender and not chargeable to the receiver
- postpartum** /-/pɑːtəm/ *adj* following birth (< ~ period) [NL *post partum* after birth] – **postpartum** *adv*
- postpone** /'pəʊspəʊn/, 'pəʊs(ɪ)'pəʊn/ *vt* to hold back to a later time, defer [L *postponere* to place after, postpone, fr *post-* + *ponere* to place – more at POSITION] – **postponable** *adj*, **postponement** *n*, **postponer** *n*
- postpositive** /-/pəʊzɪtɪv/ *adj* placed after or at the end of another word [LL *postpositivus*, fr L *positus*, pp of *postponere*] – **postpositively** *adv*
- postprandial** /-/pɒndrɪ-əl/ *adj* following a meal – fml or humor
- postscript** /'pəʊs(ɪ)'skrɪpt/ *n* 1 a note or series of notes appended to a completed article, a book, or esp a letter 2 a subordinate or supplementary part [NL *postscriptum*, fr L, neut of *postscriptus*, pp of *postscribere* to write after, fr *post-* + *scribere* to write – more at 'SCRIBE]
- post-structuralism** /'strʌktʃ(ə)rəlɪzəm, -ɪzəm/ *n* a critical approach that is a reaction against structuralism, that draws on Freudian psychoanalytic theories, and that regards a text (e.g. in literature or history) as being autonomous and as yielding an indeterminate number of possible interpretations – **post-structuralist** *n* or *adj*
- postsynaptic** /-/sɪ'næptɪk/ *adj* situated or occurring just after a nerve synapse – **postsynaptically** *adv*
- postulant** /'pəʊstjʊlənt/ *n* a person seeking admission to a religious order [F, petitioner, candidate, postulant, fr MF, fr prp of *postuler* to demand, solicit, fr L *postulare*] – **postulancy** *n*
- postulate** /'pəʊstjʊləɪt/ *vt* 1 to assume or claim as true 2 to assume as a postulate or axiom [L *postulatus*, pp of *postulare*, fr (assumed) *posui*, pp of L *poscere* to ask; akin to OHG *forasca* question, Skt *pricchatī* he asks] – **postulation** /-/ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **postulational** *adj*
- postulate** /'pəʊstjʊləɪt/ *n* 1 a hypothesis advanced as a premise in a train of reasoning 2 **AXIOM** 2a [ML *postulatum*, fr neut of *postulatus*, pp of *postulare* to assume, fr L, to demand]
- posture** /'pəʊʃə/ *n* 1 the position or bearing of (relative parts of) the body 2 a state or condition, esp in relation to other people or things (< put the country in a ~ of defence) 3 a frame of mind; an attitude (< his ~ of moral superiority) [F, fr It *postura*, fr L *positura*, fr *positus*, pp of *ponere* to place – more at POSITION] – **postural** *adj*
- posture** *vi* 1 to assume a posture; esp to strike a pose for effect 2 to assume an artificial or insincere attitude; attitudinize – **posturer** *n*



**postwar** /ˈpɒstˈwɔː/ *adj* of or being the period after a war, esp WW I or II

**posy** /ˈpɒzi/ *n* a small bouquet of flowers; a nosegay [alter of *poesy*]

**pot** /pɒt/ *n* **1a** any of various usu rounded vessels (e.g. of metal or earthenware) used for holding liquids or solids, esp in cooking **b** a potful <*a ~ of coffee*> 2 an enclosed framework for catching fish or lobsters **3** a drinking vessel (e.g. of pewter) used esp for beer **4** the total of the bets at stake at 1 time **5 Br** a shot in billiards or snooker in which an object ball is pocketed **6 NAm** the common fund of a group **7** a large amount (of money) – usu pl with sing. meaning; infml **8** a potbelly – infml **9** cannabis; *specif* marijuana – slang [ME, fr OE *pot*; akin to MLG *pot* pot]

**pot** *vb* -tt- *vt* **1a** to place in a pot **b** to preserve in a sealed pot, jar, or can <*~ed chicken*> **2** to shoot (e.g. an animal) for food **3** to make or shape (earthenware) as a potter **4** to embed (e.g. electronic components) in a container with an insulating or protective material (e.g. plastic) **5** to sit (a young child) on a potty ~ *vi* to take a potshot

**potable** /ˈpɒtəbl/ *adj* suitable for drinking [LL *potabilis*, fr L *potare* to drink; akin to L *bibere* to drink, Gk *pinein*] – **potableness** *n*, **potability** /ˈpɒtəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**potage** /ˈpɒtəʒh/ *n* a thick soup – compare **POTTAGE** [MF, fr OF, *potage*]

**potash** /ˈpɒtəʃ/ *n* **1a** potassium carbonate, esp from wood ashes **b** potassium hydroxide **2** potassium or a potassium compound, esp as used in agriculture or industry [earlier *pot ashes*, trans of obs D *potaschen*, fr its being orig obtained by leaching wood ashes & evaporating the lye in iron pots]

**potassium** /ˈpɒtəʃjəm, -i-əm/ *n* a soft light univalent metallic element of the alkali metal group that occurs abundantly in nature, esp combined in minerals ⚗ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *potassa* potash, fr E *potash*] – **potassic** *adj*

**potassium chlorate** *n* a salt that is used as an oxidizing agent in matches, fireworks, and explosives

**potassium cyanide** *n* a very poisonous salt used esp in electroplating

**potassium nitrate** *n* a salt that occurs as a product of nitrification in arable soils, is a strong oxidizer, and is used esp in making gunpowder and in preserving meat

**potassium permanganate** *n* a dark purple salt used as an oxidizer and disinfectant

**potassium sodium tartrate** *n* ROCHELLE SALT

**potation** /ˈpɒtəʃən/ *n* an act or instance of drinking, *also* a usu alcoholic drink – fml or humor [ME *potacioun*, fr MF *potation*, fr L *potation*, *potatio* act of drinking, fr *potatus*, pp of *potare*]

**potato** /ˈpɒtətoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **potatoes** **1** SWEET POTATO **2** a plant of the nightshade family widely cultivated in temperate regions for its edible starchy tubers; *also* a potato tuber eaten as a vegetable [Sp *batata*, fr Taino]

**potato chip** *n* **1 chiefly Br** CHIP **6a** **2 NAm** a crisp

**potato crisp** *n*, *chiefly Br* a crisp

**potbelly** /-ˈbɛli/ *n* an enlarged, swollen, or protruding abdomen – **potbellied** *adj*

**pot, boiler** /-ˈboɪlə/ *n* a usu inferior work (e.g. of art or literature) produced chiefly to make money

**pot-bound** *adj*, of a *potted plant* having roots so densely matted as to allow little or no space for further growth

**pot, boy** /-ˈbɔɪ/ *n* a boy who serves drinks in a tavern

**poteen**, **potheen** /ˈpɒtʃiən, ˈpɒtʃiən/ *n* Irish whiskey illicitly distilled; *broadly* any distilled alcoholic drink made at home [IrGael *poitin*, dim of *pot* pot, fr E *pot*]

**potent** /ˈpɒt(ə)nt/ *adj* **1** having or wielding force, authority, or influence; powerful <*~ arguments*> **2** achieving or bringing about a particular result; effective **3** chemically or medicinally effective <*a ~ vaccine*> **4** producing an esp unexpectedly powerful reaction; strong <*this whisky is ~ stuff*> **5 esp of a male** able to have sexual intercourse [ME (Sc), fr L *potent-*, *potens*, fr prp of (assumed) L *potēre* to be powerful, fr L *potis*, *potē* able; akin to Goth *brūthfaths* bridegroom, Gk *posis* husband, Skt *pati* master] – **potently** *adv*, **potence** /-t(ə)ns/ *n*, **potency** *n*

**potentate** /ˈpɒt(ə)ntəti/ *n* one who wields controlling power

**potential** /ˈpɒtəntʃ(ə)l/ *adj* **1** existing in possibility; capable of being made real <*~ benefits*> **2** of or constituting a verb phrase expressing possibility [ME, fr LL *potentialis*, fr *potentia* potentiality, fr L, power, fr *potent-*, *potens*] – **potentially** *adv*

**potential** *n* **1** sth that can develop or become actual; possible capacity

or value <*a ~ for violence*> **2 potential**, **potential difference** the difference between the voltages at 2 points (e.g. in an electrical circuit or in an electrical field) ⚡ PHYSICS

**potential energy** *n* the energy that sth has because of its position or because of the arrangement of parts

**potentiality** /ˈpɒtəntʃiˈæləti/ *n* **POTENTIAL** **1**

**potentiate** /ˈpɒtəntʃiˈeɪt/ *vt* to make effective or more effective, *specif* to act on (a drug or its effects) so as to produce a greater overall effect – **potentiator** *n*, **potentiation** /-ˈeɪʃən/ *n*

**potentilla** /ˈpɒt(ə)nˈtɪlə/ *n* any of a large genus of herbaceous plants and shrubs (e.g. a cinquefoil) of the rose family [NL, genus name, fr ML, garden heliotrope, fr L *potent-*, *potens*]

**potentiometer** /ˈpɒtəntʃiˈɒmɪtə/ *n* **1** an instrument for measuring electromotive force **2** a resistor that can be tapped at any point to provide a range of potential differences from a single power source [ISV *potential* + -o- + -meter] – **potentiometric** /-ʃiˈəːmɛtrɪk/ *adj*, **potentiometrically** *adv*

**potful** /-(f)əl/ *n* as much or as many as a pot will hold

**potheen** /ˈpɒtʃiən, ˈpɒtʃiən/ *n* **POTEEEN**

**pothier** /ˈpɒðə/ *n* **1** a noisy disturbance, a commotion **2** needless agitation over a trivial matter, fuss [origin unknown]

**pothier** *vb* to put into or be in a pothier

**pothierb** /ˈpɒtˌhɪə/ *n* a herb whose leaves or stems are cooked for use as greens, *also* one (e.g. parsley) used to season food

**pot, hole** /-ˈhɒl/ *n* **1** a circular hole worn in the rocky bed of a river by stones or gravel whirled round by the water **2** a natural vertically descending hole in the ground or in the floor of a cave; *also* a system of these usu linked by caves **3** an unwanted hole in a road surface – **potholed** *adj*

**pothole** *vi* to explore pothole systems – **potholer** *n*

**pot, hook** /-ˈhʊk/ *n* **1** a curved, esp S-shaped, hook for hanging or lifting pots and kettles **2** a written character resembling a pothook

**pot, hunter** /-ˈhʌntə/ *n* sby who shoots animals indiscriminately rather than as a sport – **pothunting** *n*

**potion** /ˈpɒʃən/ *n* a mixed drink, esp of medicine, often intended to produce a specified effect <*a love ~*> [ME *pocioun*, fr MF *potion*, fr L *potio*-, *potio* drink, *potio*, fr *potus*, pp of *potare* to drink – more at **POTABLE**]

**potlatch** /ˈpɒtˌlætʃ/ *n* a ceremonial feast of N American Indians marked by the giving and receiving of lavish gifts [Chinook Jargon, fr Nootka *patshatl* giving] – **potlatch** *vb*

**pot, luck** /-ˈlʊk/ *n* **1** food that is available without special preparations being made **2** whatever luck or chance brings – esp in *take potluck*

**potoroo** /ˈpɒtəˈroʊ/ *n*, *pl* **potoroos** RAT KANGAROO [native name in New South Wales, Australia]

**pot, plant** *n* a plant grown in a pot, usu for ornament (e.g. in a house)

**potpourri** /ˈpɒpˌpʊəri, ˈpɒˈpʊəri/ *n* **1** a mixture of dried flowers, herbs, and spices, usu kept in a jar for its fragrance **2** a miscellaneous collection; a medley [F *pot pourri*, lit. rotten pot]

**pot, roast** *n* a joint of meat cooked by braising, usu on the top of a cooker – **pot-roast** *vt*

**pot, sherd** /-ˈʃʊhd/ *n* a pottery fragment [ME *pot-sherd*, fr *pot* + *sherd* sherd]

**pot, shot** /-ˈʃɒt/ *n* **1** a shot taken in a casual manner or at an easy target **2** a critical remark made in a careless manner [fr the notion that such a shot is unsportsmanlike and worthy only of sby wishing to fill a cooking pot]

**pottage** /ˈpɒti/ *n* a thick soup of vegetables (and meat) – compare **POTAGE** [ME *potage*, fr OF, fr *pot* pot, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *pot* pot]

**potted** /ˈpɒtəd/ *adj* **1** planted or grown in a pot **2 chiefly Br** abridged or summarized, usu in a simplified or popular form <*~ biographies*>

**potter** /ˈpɒtə/ *n* one who makes pottery [ME *pottere*, fr OE, fr *pot* pot]

**potter** *vi* **1** to spend time in aimless or unproductive activity – often + *around* or *about* <*loves to ~ around at home*> **2** to move or travel in a leisurely or random fashion <*avoided the motorways and ~ed along country lanes*> [prob freq of E dial. *pote* (to poke), fr ME *poten*, fr OE *potian*]

**potter's field** *n* a public burial place for paupers, unknown people, and criminals [fr the mention in Mt 27.7 of the purchase of a potter's field for use as a graveyard]

**potter's wheel** *n* a horizontal disc revolving on a vertical spindle, on which clay is shaped by a potter

- pottery** /'pɒt(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a place where ceramic ware is made and fired 2a the art or craft of the potter b the manufacture of pottery 3 articles of fired clay; esp coarse or hand-made ceramic ware
- potto** /'pɒtəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **potto**s any of several African primates; esp a W African primate that has a vestigial index finger and tail [of Niger-Congo origin; akin to Wolof *pata*, a tailless monkey]
- 'potty** /'pɒti/ *adj*, chiefly Br 1 slightly crazy (*that noise is driving me ~*) 2 foolish, silly (*a ~ idea*) 3 having a great interest or liking (*~ about her new boyfriend*) **USE** infml [prob fr 'poɪ] - **pottiness** *n*
- 'potty** *n* a chamber pot, esp for a small child ['pɒt + '-y]
- 'pouch** /'pəʊtʃ/ *n* 1 a small drawstring bag carried on the person 2 a bag of small or moderate size for storing or transporting goods; *specif* a lockable bag for mail or diplomatic dispatches 3 an anatomical structure resembling a pouch: e.g. a pocket of skin in the abdomen of marsupials for carrying their young b a pocket of skin in the cheeks of some rodents used for storing food c a loose fold of skin under the eyes 4 an arrangement of cloth (e.g. a pocket) resembling a pouch [ME *pouche*, fr MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *pocca* bag] - **pouched** *adj*
- 'pouch** *vt* 1 to put (as if) into a pouch 2 to form (as if) into a pouch (*his face was ~ed and lined from fatigue*) ~ *vi* to form a pouch
- poof** /'pʊf/, **poohf** /'n/ *n* a poof
- poouff**, **poof** /'pʊʊf/ *n* a large stuffed cushion that serves as a low seat or footrest [F *pouf* sth inflated, of imit origin]
- Poujadism** /'puʊdʒəzɪz(ə)m/ *n* advocacy of the political rights and interests of the petite bourgeoisie [Pierre Poujade b 1920 F politician] - **Poujadist** *adj* or *n*
- 'poult** /'pʊlt/ *n* a young turkey or other fowl [ME *polet*, *pulte* young fowl - more at **PULLET**]
- 'poult** *n* a plain-weave silk fabric with slight crosswise ribs [short for *poult-de-soie*, fr F *pou-de-soie*, *poult-de-soie*]
- poultterer** /'pʊlt(ə)r/ *n* one who deals in poultry, poultry products, or game [alter. of *ME pultre*, fr MF *pouletier*]
- 'poultice** /'pʊltɪs/ *n* a soft usu heated and sometimes medicated mass spread on cloth and applied to inflamed or injured parts (e.g. sores) [ML *pultes* pap, fr L, pl of *pult*, *puls* porridge - more at **PULSE**]
- 'poultice** *vt* to apply a poultice to
- poultry** /'pʊltʃrɪ/ *n* domesticated birds (e.g. chickens) kept for eggs or meat [ME *pultre*, fr MF *pouleterie*, fr OF, fr *pouletier* poulterer, fr *polet* - more at **PULLET**]
- 'pounce** /'paʊns/ *vi* 1 to swoop on and seize sth (as if) with talons 2 to make a sudden assault or approach [ME *pounce* talon, sting, prob by shortening & alter. fr *punson* pointed tool, dagger, fr MF *poinçon* - more at **PUNCH**]
- 'pounce** *n* the act of pouncing
- 'pounce** *n* 1 a fine powder formerly used to prevent ink from blotting 2 a fine powder for making stencilled patterns [F *ponce* pumice, fr LL *pomic*, *pomex*, alter. of L *pumice*, *pumex* - more at **FOAM**]
- 'pound** /'paʊnd/ *n*, *pl* **pounds** also **pond** 1 a unit of mass and weight equal to 16oz avoirdupois (about 0.453kg) **UNIT** 2 the basic money unit of the UK and many other countries **NATIONALITY** [ME, fr OE *pund*; akin to ON *pund* pound; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *pondo* pound; akin to L *pondus* weight - more at **PENDANT**; (2) fr its being orig a pound weight of silver]
- 'pound** *vt* 1 to reduce to powder or pulp by beating or crushing (*~ the meat to a paste*) 2 to strike heavily or repeatedly (*~ed the door with his fists*) 3 to move or run along with heavy steps (*the policeman ~s his bear*) ~ *vi* 1 to strike heavy repeated blows (*~ing angrily on the table*) 2 to move with or make a dull repetitive sound (*his heart was ~ing with fear*) [alter. of ME *pounen*, fr OE *pūnian*]
- 'pound** *n* an act or sound of pounding
- 'pound** *n* 1 an enclosure for animals; esp a public enclosure for stray or unlicensed animals 2 a place for holding personal property until redeemed by the owner (*a car ~*) [ME, enclosure, fr OE *pund*]
- 'poundage** /'paʊndɪdʒ/ *n* 1 a charge per pound of weight 2 weight in pounds
- 'poundage** *n* impounding or being impounded
- poundal** /'paʊndl/ *n* a unit of force that gives to a mass of one pound an acceleration of one foot per second per second **UNIT** [pound + -al (as in *quintal*)]
- pounder** /'paʊndə/ *n* 1 one having a usu specified weight or value in pounds - *usu* in combination (*caught a 9-pounder with his new fly rod*) 2 a gun firing a projectile of a specified weight - in combination (*the artillery were using 25-pounders*)
- pound out** *vt* to produce (as if) by striking repeated heavy blows (*pounded out a story on the typewriter*)
- 'pound sterling** *n* the pound used as the money unit of the UK
- 'pour** /'paʊ/ *vt* 1 to cause to flow in a stream (*~ the dirty water down the sink*) 2 to dispense (a drink) into a container (*~ me a whisky*) 3 to supply or produce freely or copiously (*she ~ed money into the firm*) ~ *vi* 1 to move or issue with a continuous flow and in large quantities; stream (*people ~ed out of the offices at the end of the day*) 2 to rain hard - often + *down* [ME *pouren*] - **pourable** *adj*, **pourer** *n*, **pouringly** *adv* - *pour* cold water on to be critical or unenthusiastic about (*he poured cold water on all their proposals*) - *pour* oil on troubled waters to calm or defuse a heated situation
- 'pour** *n* sth that is poured (*a ~ of concrete*)
- 'pour out** *vt* to speak or express volubly or at length (*poured out his woes*)
- pourparler** /'puʊpə'pɑːlə/ *n* an informal discussion preliminary to negotiations [F]
- poussin** /'puʊsɪn/ (*Fr* *pusɛ̃*) *n* a young chicken that has been reared esp for food [F, fr LL *pulicenus* young table fowl, dim. of L *pullus* young bird, young of an animal - more at **FOAL**]
- 'pout** /'paʊt/ *n*, *pl* **pout**, esp for different types **pouts** any of several large-headed fishes (e.g. a bullhead or celpout) [prob fr (assumed) ME *poute*, a fish with a large head, fr OE *-pute*; akin to ME *pouten* to pout, Skt *budbuda* bubble]
- 'pout** *vi* 1a to show displeasure by thrusting out the lips or wearing a sullen expression b to sulk 2 of lips to protrude ~ *vt* to cause to protrude, *usu* in displeasure (*~ed her lips*) [ME *pouten*]
- 'pout** *n* 1 an act of pouting 2 pl a fit of pique - *usu* + *the*
- 'pouter** /'paʊtə/ *n* a domestic pigeon of a breed characterized by erect carriage and a distensible crop [**'POUT** + **-ER**]
- poverty** /'pɒvəti/ *n* 1a the lack of sufficient money or material possessions b the renunciation of individual property by a person entering a religious order 2a a scarcity, dearth (*a ~ of ideas and images*) b the condition of lacking desirable elements, deficiency (*the ~ of our critical vocabulary*) **USE** (2) fml [ME *poverté*, fr OF *poverté*, fr L *paupertas*, *paupertas*, fr *pauper* poor - more at **POOR**]
- 'poverty-stricken** *adj* very poor; destitute
- 'poverty trap** *n* a situation in which the total income of a poor family is reduced due to the loss of social security and other benefits when its earned income increases above a certain level
- 'powder** /'paʊdə/ *n* 1 matter reduced to a state of dry loose particles (e.g. by crushing or grinding) 2a a preparation in the form of fine particles, esp for medicinal or cosmetic use b fine dry light snow 3 any of various solid explosives used chiefly in gunnery and blasting [ME *poudre*, fr OF, fr L *pulver*, *pulvis* dust - more at **POLLEN**] - **powdery** *adj*
- 'powder** *vt* 1 to sprinkle or cover (as if) with powder 2 to reduce or convert to powder ~ *vi* to become powder - **powderer** *n*
- 'powder blue** *adj* or *n* pale blue [fr its being orig composed of powdered smalt]
- 'powder horn** *n* a flask (made from horn) for carrying gunpowder
- 'powder keg** *n* an explosive place or situation (*the problem of race is a potential ~*)
- powder metallurgy** *n* the production of (metallic objects from) powdered metals
- 'powder monkey** *n* sby who carries or has charge of explosives (e.g. in blasting operations) [perh fr the small size and agility of the boys known as powder monkeys employed to carry gunpowder to the guns on warships]
- 'powder puff** *n* a small (fluffy) pad for applying powder to the skin
- 'powder room** *n* a public toilet for women in a hotel, department store, etc
- 'power** /'paʊə/ *n* 1a possession of control, authority, or influence over others b a sovereign state c a controlling group - often in the *powers that be* 2a ability to act or produce or undergo an effect b legal or official authority or capacity (*the police had no ~ to intervene*) 3a physical might b mental or moral efficacy; vigour (*the ~ and insight of his analysis*) c political control or influence (*the balance of ~*) 4a the number of times, as indicated by an exponent, that a number has been multiplied by itself (*2 to the ~ 3 is 2³ = 2x2x2*) b **EXPONENT** 1 5a a source or means of supplying energy; *specif* electricity b the rate at which work is done or energy emitted or transferred 6 **MAGNIFICATION** 2 **7** a large amount of - infml (*the walk did him a ~ of good*) **USE** (5) **PHYSICS** [ME, fr OF *poer*, fr *poer* to be able, fr (assumed) L *potere* to be powerful - more at **POTENT**]
- 'power** *vt* 1 to supply with esp motive power 2 to make (one's way) in a powerful and vigorous manner (*~ed her way to the top*) ~ *vi* to move in a powerful and rigorous manner (*~ing down the back straight*)

**\*power** *adj* driven by a motor (< a ~ saw > (< a ~ mower >)

**'power** *cut* *n* a failure in or reduction of the supply of electric power to an area

**'power** *dive* *n* a dive of an aircraft accelerated by the power of the engine – **power-dive** *vi*

**'powerful** /-(ə)/ *adj* having great power, prestige, or influence – **powerfully** *adv*

**'power** *house* /-həʊz/ *n* 1 POWER STATION 2 a dynamic individual of great physical or mental force

**'powerless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 devoid of strength or resources; helpless 2 lacking the authority or capacity to act (< the police were ~ to intervene >) – **powerlessly** *adv*, **powerlessness** *n*

**power of attorney** *n* a legal document authorizing one to act as the agent of the grantor

**'power** *pack* *n* a unit for converting a power supply (e.g. mains electricity) to a voltage suitable for an electronic circuit

**'power** *plant* *n* 1 POWER STATION 2 an engine and related parts supplying the motive power of a self-propelled object

**'power** *point* *n*, *Br* a set of terminals that are connected to the electric mains and to which an electrical device may be connected

**power politics** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* international politics characterized by attempts to advance national interests by force

**power series** *n* an infinite series whose terms are successive integral powers of a variable multiplied by constants

**'power** *station* *n* an electricity generating station ➡ ENERGY

**power take-off** *n* a supplementary mechanism enabling the engine power to be used to operate a separate apparatus

**'powwow** /'pəʊwəʊ/ *n* 1 a N American Indian medicine man 2 a N American Indian ceremony 3 a meeting for discussion – *infrm* [of Algonquian origin; akin to Natick *pauwau* conjurer]

**\*powwow** *vi* to hold a powwow

**pox** /pɒks/ *n*, *pl* *pox*, *poxes* 1 a virus disease (e.g. chicken pox) characterized by eruptive spots 2 syphilis – *infrm* 3 *archaic* smallpox 4 *archaic* a disastrous evil, a plague (< a ~ on him >) [alter. of *pocks*, *pl* of *pock*] **poxy** /'pɒksi/ *adj* awful, disgusting – *slang* [POX + 'Y]

**pozzolana** /'pɒtsə'ləhnə/ *n* volcanic ash used in making hydraulic cement [It *pozz(u)olana*, fr *pozz(u)olana*, fem. of *pozz(u)olano* of Pozzuoli, fr *Pozzuoli*, town near Naples in Italy] – **pozzolanite** /-'lənik/ *adj*

**pozzuolana** /'pɒtsə'ləhnə/ *n* pozzolana

**pram** /'prɑːm, 'prɑːm/ *n* 'PRAM

**'practicable** /'præktɪkəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being carried out; feasible 2 usable (< the road was ~ despite the weather conditions >) [modif. of *F* *practicable*, fr MF, fr *pratique* to practise, put into practice] – **practicability** *n*, **practicably** *adv*, **practicability** /'præktɪkə'bɪləti/ *n*

**'practical** /'præktɪkl/ *adj* 1a of or manifested in practice or action (< for all ~ purposes >) b being such in practice or effect, virtual (< a ~ failure >) 2 capable of being put to use or account; useful (< he had a ~ knowledge of French >) 3 suitable for use (< a table of ~ design >) 4a disposed to or capable of positive action as opposed to speculation, also prosaic b qualified by practice or practical training (< a good ~ mechanic >) [LL *practicus*, fr Gk *praktikos*, fr *prassein* to pass over, fare, do, akin to Gk *peran* to pass through – more at 'FARE] – **practicalness** *n*, **practicality** /'præktɪ'kæləti/ *n*

**\*practical** *n* a practical examination or lesson

**'practical** *joke* *n* a trick or prank played on sb to derive amusement from his/her discomfiture – **practical** *joker* *n*

**practically** /'præktɪkl/ *adv* almost, nearly (< ~ everyone went to the party >) [PRACTICAL + 'LY]

**practice**, *NAm* also **practise** /'præktɪs/ *n* 1a actual performance or application (< ready to carry out in ~ what he advocated in principle >) b a repeated or customary action; a habit (< he made a ~ of going to bed early >) c the usual way of doing sthg (< it's wise to conform to local ~s >) d the established method of conducting legal proceedings e dealings, conduct – esp in *sharp practice* 2 (an instance of) regular or repeated exercise in order to acquire proficiency; also proficiency or experience gained in this way (< must get back into ~ >) 3a the continuous exercise of a profession, esp law or medicine b a professional business [fr *practise*, vb (by analogy to *advise* : *advise*)]

**practise**, *NAm* chiefly **practice** /'præktɪs/ *vt* 1 to perform or work at repeatedly so as to become proficient (< ~ d the drums every day >) 2a to apply; CARRY OUT 1 (< ~ what he preaches >) b to make a habit or practice of c to be professionally engaged in (< ~ medicine >) ~ *vi* 1 to exercise repeatedly so as to achieve proficiency 2 to pursue a profession actively (< ~s as a lawyer >) [ME *practisen*, fr MF *practiser*, fr *pratique*, *pratique*

*practice*, fr LL *practice*, fr Gk *praktike*, fr fem. of *praktikos*] – **practiser** *n*

**'practised**, *NAm* chiefly **practiced** *adj* 1 experienced, skilled 2 learned by practice – often derog (< a ~ smile >)

**practitioner** /'præktɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 one who practises a profession, esp law or medicine (< a legal ~ >) 2 one who practises a skill or art – sometimes derog (< a ~ of fiction >) [alter. of earlier *practician*, fr ME (Sc) *pratician*, fr MF *practicien*, fr *pratique*]

**praedial**, **predial** /'preɪdiəl/ *adj* of land or its products – *fml* [ML *praedialis*, fr L *praedium* landed property, fr *praed-*, *praes* bondsman]

**praemunire** /'preemyoo'niə-ən/ *n* an offence against the Crown originally committed by asserting papal supremacy in England [ME *praemunire facias*, fr ML, that you cause to warn, fr prominent words in the writ]

**praesidium** /'priːsɪdi-əm, 'zɪdi-/ *n* a presidium

**praetor**, chiefly *NAm* **pretor** /'preɪtə/ *n* an ancient Roman magistrate ranking below a consul [ME *pretor*, fr L *praetor*] – **praetorship** *n*, **praetorial** /'preɪtəʊriəl/ *adj*

**praetorian** /'preɪtəʊriən/ *adj*, often *cap* of the Roman imperial bodyguard – **praetorian** *n*, often *cap*

**pragmatic** /'præɡmætɪk/ *adj* concerned with practicalities or expediency rather than theory or dogma; realistic [L *pragmaticus* skilled in law or business, fr Gk *pragmatikos*, fr *pragmat-*, *pragma* deed, fr *prassein* to do – more at PRACTICAL] – **pragmatically** *adv*

**pragmatic sanction** *n* a solemn decree of a sovereign on a matter of primary importance (e.g. the regulation of the succession) that has the force of fundamental law

**pragmatism** /'præɡmætɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a practical approach to problems and affairs (< tried to strike a balance between principles and ~ >) 2 an American philosophical movement asserting that the meaning or truth of a concept depends on its practical consequences – **pragmatist** *adj* or *n*, **pragmatistic** /'præɡmætɪstɪk/ *adj*

**prairie** /'preəri/ *n* an extensive area of level or rolling (practically) treeless grassland, esp in N America ➡ PLANT [F, fr (assumed) VL *prataria*, fr L *pratium* meadow, akin to L *praeus* crooked, MLr *raith* earthworks]

**prairie oyster** *n* a raw egg (yolk) beaten with seasonings and swallowed whole, esp as a remedy for an alcoholic hangover

**'praise** /praɪz/ *vt* 1 to express a favourable judgment of; commend 2 to glorify or extol (e.g. God or a god) [ME *praisen*, fr MF *preisier* to prize, praise, fr LL *pretiare* to prize, fr L *pretium* price – more at PRICE] – **praiser** *n*

**\*praise** *n* 1 expression of approval, commendation (< won high ~ for her efforts >) 2 worship

**'praise**, **worthy** /-wʊðdi/ *adj* laudable, commendable – **praiseworthy** *adv*, **praiseworthiness** *n*

**Prakrit** /'prækrɪt/ *n* any of the ancient or modern Indic languages or dialects other than Sanskrit [Skt *prākṛta*, fr *prākṛta* natural]

**praline** /'prəleɪn/ *n* (sthg., esp. a powder or paste, made from) a confection of nuts, esp almonds, caramelized in boiling sugar [F, fr Count Plessis-Praslin †1675 F soldier, whose cook invented it]

**'pram** /'prɑːm, 'prɑːm/ *n* a small lightweight nearly flat-bottomed boat with a broad transom and usu squared-off bow [D *pram*; akin to MLG *prām* *pram*]

**\*pram** /'prɑːm/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a usu 4-wheeled carriage for 1 or 2 babies that is pushed by a person on foot [by shortening & alter. fr *perambulator*]

**'prance** /'praɪns/ *vi* 1 esp of a horse to spring from the hind legs or move by so doing 2 to walk or move in a gay, lively, or haughty manner [ME *prancen*] – **prancer** *n*, **prancingly** *adv*

**\*prance** *n* a prancing movement

**prandial** /'prændiəl/ *adj* of a meal [L *prandium* late breakfast, luncheon]

**prang** /'praŋg/ *vt* to crash or damage a vehicle or aircraft – *slang*; no longer in vogue [imit] – **prang** *n*

**prank** /'praŋk/ *n* a mildly mischievous act; a trick [obs *prank* (to play tricks)]

**prankster** /'praŋkstə/ *n* one who plays pranks

**prase** /praɪz/ *n* a translucent leek-green gem-quartz [F, fr L *prasius*, fr Gk *prasios*, fr *prasios*, *adj*, leek green, fr *prason* leek; akin to L *porrum* leek]

**praseodymium** /'praɪzə-oh'diːmi-əm/ *n* a trivalent metallic element of the rare-earth group ➡ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, alter. of *praseodidymium*, irreg fr Gk *prasios*, *adj* + NL *didymium*]

**prat** /'praɪt/ *n*, *Br* a foolish or contemptible person – *slang* [prob fr *prat* (buttocks)]

**prate** /praɪt/ *vi* to talk foolishly and excessively about; chatter <he ~d on about his new car> [ME *praten*, fr MD, akin to MLG *pratten* to pout] – **prater** *n*, **pratingly** *adv*

**prattle** /praɪtli/ *n*, chiefly Irish a potato [by alter]

**pratincole** /ˈprætɪŋ.koʊl/ *n* any of a genus of Old World wading birds [deriv of L *pratium* meadow + *incola* inhabitant, fr *in-* + *colere* to cultivate – more at **PRAIRIE**, **WHEEL**]

**pratique** /ˈprateɪk/ *n* clearance given to an incoming ship by the health authority of a port [F, lit, practice – more at **PRACTISE**]

**prattle** /ˈpratl/ *vi* **prattling** /ˈprætɪŋ/ to chatter in an artless or childish manner [LG *pratele*; akin to MD *praten* to prate] – **prattler** *n*, **prattlingly** *adv*

**prattle** *n* idle or childish talk

**prau** /prou/ *n* a proa

**prawn** /praʊn/ *n* any of numerous widely distributed edible 10-legged crustaceans that resemble large shrimps [ME *prane*]

**praxis** /ˈpræksɪs/ *n*, *pl* **praxes** /-sɛz/ 1 exercise or practice of an art, science, or skill, as opposed to theory 2 customary practice or conduct – fml [ML, fr Gk, doing, action, fr *prassein* to pass through, practise – more at **PRACTICAL**]

**pray** /praɪ/ *vt* to entreat, implore – often used to introduce a question, request, or plea, fml <~ tell me> ~ *vi* 1 to request earnestly or humbly 2 to address prayers to God or a god [ME *prayen*, fr OF *preier*, fr L *precari*, fr *prec-*, *prex* request, prayer, akin to OHG *fragen* to ask, Skt *prachati* he asks] – **prayer** /praɪə/ *n*

**prayer** /praɪə/ *n* 1a(1) an address to God or a god in word or thought, with a petition, confession, thanksgiving, etc (2) a set order of words used in praying **b** an earnest request 2 the act or practice of praying 3 a religious service consisting chiefly of prayers – often pl with sing. meaning 4 sthg prayed for 5 a slight chance <tried hard but didn't have a ~> – infml [ME, fr OF *preiere*, fr ML *precaria*, fr L, fem of *precarus* obtained by entreaty, fr *prec-*, *prex*] – **prayerful** *adj*

**prayer book** *n* a book containing directions for worship, *specif*, often cap **P&B** the official service book of the Anglican church

**prayer mat** *n* a small Oriental rug used by Muslims to kneel on when praying

**prayer shawl** *n* a tallith

**prayer wheel** *n* a revolving cylinder to which written prayers may be attached, used by Tibetan Buddhists

**praying mantis** /ˈpraɪɪŋ/ *n* a (large green) mantis [fr its posture, with forelimbs extended as if in prayer]

**pre-** /pre-, pri-/ *prefix* 1a(1) earlier than; prior to <Pre-Cambrian> <prehistoric>; *specif* immediately preceding <preadolescence> (2) preparatory or prerequisite to <premedical> **b** in advance; beforehand <precancel> <prefabricate> 2 situated in front of; anterior to <preaxial> <premolar> [ME, fr OF & L; OF, fr L *prae-*, fr *prae* in front of, before – more at **FOR**]

**preach** /preɪtʃ/ *vi* 1 to deliver a sermon 2 to urge acceptance or abandonment of an idea or course of action, esp in an officious manner ~ *vi* 1 to set forth in a sermon 2 to advocate earnestly <~ed revolution> 3 to deliver (e.g. a sermon) publicly [ME *prechen*, fr OF *prechier*, fr LL *praedicare*, fr L, to proclaim publicly, fr *prae-* pre- + *dicare* to proclaim – more at **DICTION**] – **preacher** *n*, **preachingly** *adv*

**preamble** /ˈpreəmbəl/ *n* 1 an introductory statement; *specif* that of a constitution or statute 2 an introductory or preliminary fact or circumstance [ME, fr MF *preambule*, fr ML *preambulum*, fr LL, neut of *praemambulus* walking in front of, fr L *prae-* + *ambulare* to walk]

**pre-amplifier** /-ˈamplɪfə-/ *n* an amplifier used to amplify and often to equalize a relatively weak signal (e.g. from a microphone or gramophone pick-up) before feeding it to the main amplifier

**pre-arrange** /-ˈɹeɪn/ *vt* to arrange beforehand <at a ~d signal> – **prearrangement** *n*

**pre-atomic** /-ˈɒtəmɪk/ *adj* of a time before the use of the atom bomb and atomic energy

**prebend** /ˈprebəd/ *n* (a clergyman receiving) a stipend furnished by a cathedral or collegiate church to a member of its chapter [ME *prebende*, fr MF, fr ML *praebenda*, fr LL, subsistence allowance granted by the state, fr L, fem of *praebendus*, gerundive of *praebere* to offer, fr *prae-* + *habere* to hold – more at **GIVE**] – **prebendal** /ˈpriːbendl/ *adj*

**prebendary** /ˈprebəd(ə)rɪ/ *n* a canon in a cathedral chapter, often in receipt of a prebend

**prebiological** /ˌpreɪbi-ˈɒlədʒɪk/ *adj* of or being chemical or environmental precursors of the origin of life <~ molecules>

**prebiotic** /ˌpreɪˈɒtɪk/ *adj* prebiological

**Pre-Cambrian** /ˌkæmbri-ən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earliest era of

geological history equivalent to the Archaeozoic and Proterozoic eras – **EVOLUTION**

**precarious** /ˈpriːkəri-əs/ *adj* 1 dependent on chance or uncertain circumstances, doubtful 2 characterized by a lack of security or stability, dangerous [L *precarus* obtained by entreaty, uncertain – more at **PRAYER**] – **precariously** *adv*, **precariousness** *n*

**precast** /ˈpreɪkɑːst/ *adj* being concrete that is cast in the form of a panel, beam, etc before being placed in final position

**precative** /ˈprekətɪv/ *adj* of or being a verb form expressing a wish [LL *precativus* precatory, beseeching, fr L *precatus*, pp of *precari* to pray – more at **PRAY**]

**precatory** /ˈprekət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* expressing a wish – fml [LL *precatorius*, fr *precatus*, pp]

**precaution** /ˈpriːkəʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 care taken in advance; foresight <warned of the need for ~> 2 a measure taken beforehand to avoid possible harmful or undesirable consequences, a safeguard [F *précaution*, fr LL *praecautio*-, *praecautio*, fr L *praecautus*, pp of *praecavere* to guard against, fr *prae-* + *cavere* to be on one's guard – more at **HEAR**] – **precautionary** *adj*

**precede** /ˈpriːsɛd/ *vt* 1 to surpass in rank, dignity, or importance 2 to be, go, or come ahead or in front of 3 to be earlier than 4 to cause to be preceded, preface <he ~d his address with a welcome to the visitors> ~ *vi* to go or come before [ME *preceden*, fr MF *preceder*, fr L *praecedere*, fr *prae-* pre- + *cedere* to go – more at **CED**] – **preceding** *adj*

**precedence** /ˈpresɪd(ə)ns/ *also* **precedency** /-d(ə)nsɪ/ *n* 1 the fact of preceding in time 2 the right to superior honour on a ceremonial or formal occasion 3 priority of importance, preference

**precedent** /ˈpriːsɛd(ə)nt/ *also* **precedency** /-d(ə)ntɪ/ *adj* prior in time, order, arrangement, or significance [ME, fr MF, fr L *praecedent-*, *praecedens*, prp of *praecedere*]

**precedent** /ˈpresɪd(ə)nt/ *n* 1 an earlier occurrence of sthg similar 2 sthg done or said that may serve as an example or rule to justify a similar subsequent act or statement; *specif* a judicial decision that serves as a rule for subsequent similar cases

**precentor** /ˈpriːsɛntə/ *n* 1 a leader of the singing of a choir or congregation 2 the officer of a church, esp a cathedral, who directs choral services [LL *praecentor*, fr L *praecentus*, pp of *praecinere* to sing before, fr *prae-* + *canere* to sing – more at **HANT**] – **precentorship** *n*, **precentorial** /ˌpreɪsɛntəˈɔːrɪəl/ *adj*

**precept** /ˈpresept/ *n* a command or principle intended as a general rule of conduct [ME, fr L *praecceptum*, fr neut of *praecceptus*, pp of *praecipere* to take beforehand, instruct, fr *prae-* + *capere* to take – more at **HEAVE**] – **preceptive** /ˈpriːseptɪv/ *adj*

**preceptor** /ˈpriːseptɪ/, *fem* **preceptress** /-trɪs/ *n* a teacher, tutor – **preceptorial** /ˌpreɪsɛptəˈɔːrɪəl/ *adj*

**precess** /ˈpriːsɪs/ *vb* to (cause to) progress with a movement of precession [back-formation fr *precession*]

**precession** /ˈpriːsɛʃ(ə)n/ *n* a slow movement of the axis of rotation of a spinning body about another line intersecting it caused by the application of a turning force tending to change the direction of the axis of rotation [NL *praecessio*-, *praecessio*, fr ML, act of preceding, fr L *praecessus*, pp of *praecedere* to precede] – **precessional** *adj*

**precession of the equinoxes** *n* the slow westward motion of the equinoctial points along the ecliptic causing the earlier occurrence of the equinoxes in each successive sidereal year

**pre-Christian** *adj* before the beginning of the Christian era

**precinct** /ˈpreɪsɪŋkt/ *n* 1a an enclosure bounded by the walls of a building – often pl with sing. meaning **b** pl the region immediately surrounding a place, environs **c** the boundary – often pl with sing. meaning <a ruined tower within the ~s of the squire's grounds> – T L Peacock 2 an area of a town or city containing a shopping centre and not allowing access to traffic <a shopping ~> 3 NAm an administrative district for election purposes or police control [ME, fr ML *praecinctum*, fr L, neut of *praecinctus*, pp of *praecingere* to gird about, fr *prae-* pre- + *cingere* to gird – more at **CINCTURE**]

**preciosity** /ˌpres(h)ɪˈɒsɪti/ *n* (an instance of) fastidious or excessive refinement (e.g. in language)

**precious** /ˈpreʃəs/ *adj* 1 of great value or high price <~ stone> 2 highly esteemed or cherished; dear <his friendship was ~ to her> 3 excessively refined; affected 4 highly valued but worthless – used as an intensive <you can keep your ~ Costa Brava: I prefer Blackpool!> [ME, fr OF *precios*, fr L *pretiosus*, fr *pretium* price – more at **PRICE**] – **preciously** *adv*, **preciousness** *n*

**precious** *adv* very, extremely <has ~ little to say>

**precious** *n* a dear one; darling <my ~>

**precipice** /ˈpresɪpɪs/ *n* 1 a very steep, perpendicular, or overhanging surface (e.g. of a rock or mountain) 2 the brink of disaster [MF, fr L *praecipitum*, fr *praecipit-*, *praeceps* headlong, fr *prae-* + *caput* head – more at **HEAD**]

**precipitant** /ˈprɪsɪpɪt(ə)nt/ *adj* unduly hasty or sudden; precipitate [F *précipitant*, fr L *praecipitans*, *praecipitans*, pp of *praecipitare*] – **precipitation** *n*, **precipitancy** *n*, **precipitantly** *adv*, **precipitance** *n*

**precipitate** /ˈprɪsɪpɪtəɪ/ *vt* 1 to throw violently; hurl 2 to bring about suddenly, unexpectedly, or too soon (<the failure of government policy ~d a general election>) 3a to cause to separate from solution or suspension b to cause (vapour) to condense and fall as rain, snow, etc ~ *vi* 1 to separate from solution or suspension 2 to fall as rain, snow, etc [L *praecipitatus*, pp of *praecipitare*, fr *praecipit-*, *praeceps*] – **precipitable** *adj*, **precipitator** *n*, **precipitative** /-təv/ *adj*

**precipitate** /ˈprɪsɪpɪt/ *n* a substance separated from a solution or suspension by chemical or physical change, usu as an insoluble amorphous or crystalline solid [NL *praecipitatum*, fr L, neut of *praecipitatus*]

**precipitate** /ˈprɪsɪpɪt/ *adj* 1 exhibiting violent or undue haste (<a ~ departure>) 2 lacking due care or consideration, rash – **precipitately** *adv*, **precipitateness** *n*

**precipitation** /ˈprɪsɪpɪtəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a precipitating or the forming of a precipitate 2 (the amount of) a deposit of rain, snow, hail, etc on the earth 3 a precipitate

**precipitous** /ˈprɪsɪpɪtəs/ *adj* 1 **PRECIPITATE** 1 2 resembling a precipice, esp in being dangerously steep or perpendicular [F *précipiteux*, fr MF, fr L *praecipitum* precipice] – **precipitously** *adv*, **precipitousness** *n*

**précis** /ˈpreɪs/ *n*, *pl* **précis** a concise summary of essential points, facts, etc [F, fr *précis* precise]

**précis** *vt* **précising** /ˈpreɪsɪŋ/, **précised** /ˈpreɪsɪd/ to make a **précis** of, summarize

**precise** /ˈpreɪs/ *adj* 1 exactly or sharply defined or stated (<~ images>) 2 highly exact (<~ timing>) 3 strictly conforming to a rule, convention, etc, punctilious 4 distinguished from every other; very (<at that ~ moment>) [MF *precis*, fr L *praecisus*, pp of *praecidere* to cut off, fr *prae-* + *caedere* to cut – more at **CONCISE**] – **precisely** *adv*, **preciseness** *n*

**precision** /ˈpreɪsɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 being precise, exactness 2 the degree of refinement with which an operation is performed or a measurement stated – **precisionist** *n*

**precision** *adj* 1 adapted for extremely accurate measurement or operation (<~ instruments>) 2 marked by precision of execution (<~ bombing>)

**preclinical** /ˈpreɪkliːnɪkl/ *adj* 1 of a period before symptoms appear 2 of or being a medical student's period of theoretical study before patients are encountered – **preclinical** *n*

**preclude** /ˈpriːklooɪd/ *vt* 1 to make ineffectual or impracticable, exclude 2 to make impossible, prevent [L *praeccludere*, fr *prae-* + *claudere* to close – more at **CLOSE**] – **preclusion** /ˈklooʒh(ə)n/ *n*, **preclusive** /ˈklooʒsɪv/ *adj*, **preclusively** *adv*

**precocial** /ˈpriːkəʃ(ə)l/ *adj*, of a bird (having young) capable of a high degree of independent activity from birth (<ducklings are ~>) – compare **ALTRICIAL** [NL *praecoces* precocial birds, fr L, pl of *praecox*, *praecox*]

**precocious** /ˈpriːkəʃəs/ *adj* 1 exceptionally early in development or occurrence 2 exhibiting mature qualities at an unusually early age [I *praecox*, *praecox* early ripening, precocious, fr *prae-* + *coquere* to cook – more at **COOK**] – **precociously** *adv*, **precociousness** *n*, **precocity** /ˈpriːkəsəti/ *n*

**precognition** /ˈpreɪkəʒnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* clairvoyance relating to a future event [LL *praecognitio*, *praecognitio*, fr L *praecognitus*, pp of *praecognoscere* to know beforehand, fr *prae-* + *cognoscere* to know – more at **COGNITION**] – **precognitive** /ˈkɒɡnɪv/ *adj*

**preconceive** /ˈkənˈseɪv/ *vt* to form (e.g. an opinion) prior to actual knowledge or experience

**preconception** /ˈkənˈseɪpʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a preconceived idea 2 a prejudice

**preconcert** /ˈkənˈsuːt/ *vt* to organize beforehand, prearrange (<her little plans and ~ed speeches had all left her – George Eliot>)

**precondition** /ˈkənˈdɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a prerequisite

**preconscious** /ˈkənˈʃəs/ *adj* not present in consciousness but capable of being readily recalled – **preconsciously** *adv*

**precursor** /ˈpriːkʊrsə/ *n* 1a sby or sth that precedes and signals the approach of sby or sth else; a forerunner b a predecessor 2 a substance from which another substance is formed [L *praecursor*, fr *praecursus*, pp

of *praecurrere* to run before, fr *prae-* pre- + *currere* to run – more at **CAR**]

**precursory** /ˈpriːkʊs(ə)n/ *adj* having the character of a precursor; preliminary

**predacious**, **predaceous** /ˈpreɪdəʃəs/ *adj* living by preying on other animals; predatory [L *praedari* to prey upon (fr *praeda* prey) + E -aceous or -acious (as in *rapacious*)]

**predate** /ˈpreɪdeɪt/ *vt* to antedate

**predation** /ˈpreɪdəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of preying or plundering; depredation 2 a mode of life of certain animals in which food is primarily obtained by the killing and consuming of other animals → **FOOD** [L *praedation*, *praedatio*, fr *praedatus*, pp of *praedari*] – **predator** /ˈpreɪdətə/ *n*

**predatory** /ˈpreɪdət(ə)n/ *adj* 1a of or carrying out plunder or robbery b showing a disposition to injure or exploit others for one's own gain 2 living by predation, predacious, also adapted to predation – **predatorily** *adv*

**predecease** /ˈpreɪdiːseɪs/ *vt* to die before (another person) – **predecease** *n*

**predecessor** /ˈpreɪdiːsə/ *n* 1 the previous occupant of a position or office to which another has succeeded 2 an ancestor [ME *predecessour*, fr MF *predecesseur*, fr LL *praedecessor*, fr L *prae-* pre- + *decessor* retiring governor, fr *decessus*, pp of *decidere* to depart, retire from office – more at **DECEASE**]

**predestinarian** /ˈdestɪˈneəri-ən/ *n* a person who believes in predestination [predestination + -arian] – **predestinarian** *adj*, **predestinarianism** *n*

**predestinate** /ˈdestɪnəɪt/ *adj* destined or determined beforehand [ME, fr L *praedestinatus*, pp of *praedestinare*]

**predestinate** /ˈdestɪnəɪt/ *vt* to predestine [ME *predestinaten*, fr L *praedestinatus*, pp] – **predestinator** *n*

**predestination** /ˈdestɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the doctrine of God's foreknowledge of all events, esp the doctrine that salvation or damnation is foreordained

**predestine** /ˈdestɪn/ *vt* to destine or determine (e.g. damnation or salvation) beforehand [ME *predestinen*, fr MF or L; MF *predestiner*, fr L *praedestinare*, fr *prae-* + *destinare* to determine – more at **DESTINE**]

**predetermine** /ˈdiːtərmɪn/ *vt* 1 to determine or arrange beforehand (<at a ~d signal>) 2 to impose a direction or tendency on beforehand [LL *praedeterminare*, fr L *prae-* + *determinare* to determine] – **predetermination** /ˈdiːtərmɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**predeterminer** /ˈdiːtərmɪnə/ *n* a limiting noun modifier (e.g. both or twice) occurring before the determiner in a noun phrase

**predial** /ˈpreɪdɪəl/ *adj* praedial

**predicable** /ˈpreɪdɪkəbl/ *adj* capable of being asserted [ML *praedicabilis*, fr LL *praedicare* to predicate]

**predicament** /ˈprɪdɪkəmənt/ *n* a (difficult, perplexing, or trying) situation [ME, category of predication, fr LL *praedicamentum*, fr *praedicare*]

**predicate** /ˈpreɪdɪkət/ *n* 1 sth that is stated or denied of the subject in a logical proposition 2 the part of a sentence or clause that expresses what is said of the subject [LL *praedicatum*, fr neut of *praedicatus*]

**predicate** /ˈpreɪdɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to affirm, declare 2 to assert to be a quality or property (<~s intelligence of man>) 3 to imply 4 chiefly NAm BASE 2 – usu + on or upon (<his theory is ~d on recent findings>) USE chiefly fml [LL *praedicatus*, pp of *praedicare* to assert, predicate logically, preach, fr L, to proclaim publicly, assert – more at **PREACH**]

**predication** /ˈpreɪdɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the expression of action, state, or quality by a grammatical predicate 2 the affirmation of a predicate in logic [PREDICATE + -ION]

**predicative** /ˈprɪdɪkətv/ *adj* 1 of a predicate 2 joined to a modified noun by a copula (e.g. red in the dress is red) – compare **ATTRIBUTIVE** – **predicatively** *adv*

**predict** /ˈprɪdɪkt/ *vt* to declare in advance; esp to foretell (sthg) on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason [L *praedictus*, pp of *praedicere*, fr *prae-* pre- + *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**] – **predictable** *adj*, **predictably** *adv*, **predictor** *n*, **predictability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*

**prediction** /ˈprɪdɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* sth that is predicted, a forecast [PREDICT + -ION] – **predictive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **predictively** *adv*

**predigest** /ˈpreɪdɪˈdʒest, -die-/ *vt* to prepare (e.g. food or a book) in an easier form (for consumption) – **predigestion** /-tʃən/ *n*

**predilection** /ˈpreɪdɪˈlekʃ(ə)n, -pre-/ *n* a liking, preference (<has a ~ for classical music>) [F *prédilection*, fr ML *praedilectus*, pp of *praediligere* to love more, prefer, fr L *prae-* + *diligere* to love – more at **DILIGENT**]

**predispose** /ˈdiːspəʊz/ *vt* 1 to incline, esp in advance (<a good teacher



~s children to learn> 2 to make susceptible to - **predisposition** /-dispo'zish(ə)n/ *n*

**prednisolone** /pred'niso,lohn/ *n* a synthetic steroid drug that is a glucocorticoid and is used to reduce inflammation and inhibit the action of the immune system, esp in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis [blend of *prednisone* and -ol]

**prednisone** /pred'niso,hn/ *n* a synthetic drug that has similar uses to prednisolone [prob fr *pregnane* (a saturated steroid hydrocarbon) + *dione* (compound containing 2 double bonds) + *cortisone*]

**predominant** /pri'dominant/ *adj* having superior strength, influence, or authority; prevailing [MF, fr ML *praedominant-*, *praedominans*, prp of *praedominari* to predominate, fr L *prae-* + *dominari* to rule, govern - more at *DOMINATE*] - **predominance** *n*, **predominantly** *adv*

**predominate** /pri'dominayt/ *vi* 1 to exert controlling power or influence; prevail 2 to hold advantage in numbers or quantity [ML *praedominatus*, pp of *praedominari*] - **predomination** /-naysh(ə)n/ *n*

**pre-eclampsia** /e'klampsi-ə/ *n* a serious abnormal condition that develops in late pregnancy and is characterized by a sudden rise in blood pressure and generalized oedema

**preeminent** /pri'eminant/ *adj* excelling all others, paramount [LL *praecipiens*-, *praecipiens*, fr L, prp of *praecipere* to be outstanding, fr *prae-* + *eminere* to stand out - more at *EMINENT*] - **preeminence** *n*, **preeminently** *adj*

**preempt** /pri'empt/ *vt* 1 to acquire by preemption 2 to seize on to the exclusion of others; appropriate <the movement was then ~ed by a lunatic fringe> 3 to take the place of; replace 4 to invalidate or render useless by taking action or appearing in advance <the government decision to build an airport ~ed the council's plans> ~*vi* to make a preemptive bid in bridge [back-formation fr *preemption*] - **preemptor** *n*

**preemption** /pri'empsh(ə)n/ *n* 1a the right of purchasing before others b a purchase under this right 2 a prior seizure or appropriation [ML *praemptus*, pp of *praecipere* to buy before, fr L *prae-* + *emere* to buy - more at *REDEEM*]

**preemptive** /pri'emptiv/ *adj* 1 (capable) of preemption 2 of or being a bid in bridge high enough to shut out bids by the opponents 3 carried out in order to forestall intended action by others <a ~ attack that disabled the enemy> - **preemptively** *adv*

**preen** /preen/ *vt* 1 to trim or dress (as if) with a beak 2 to dress or smarten (oneself) up 3 to pride or congratulate (oneself) on ~*vi* 1 to smarten oneself, esp in a vain way <~ing in front of the mirror> 2 to appear to be congratulating oneself, gloat <couldn't help ~ing after his campaign victory> 3 of a bird to trim and arrange the feathers [ME *preincen*] - **preener** *n*

**preexistence** /pre'eig'zist(ə)n/ *n* existence in a former state or previous to sthg else; esp existence of the soul before incarnation - **preexist** *vi*, **preexistent** *adj*

**prefab** /'prefab/ *n* a prefabricated structure or building - **prefab** *adj*

**prefabricate** /'prɛfabrɪkayt/ *vt* 1 to fabricate the parts of (e.g. a building) at a factory ready for assembly elsewhere 2 to produce artificially - **prefabricator** *n*, **prefabrication** /-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**preface** /'prefas/ *n* 1 an introduction to a book, speech, etc 2 sthg that precedes or heralds; a preliminary [ME, fr MF, fr ML *præfatia*, alter. of L *præfatio*-, *præfatio* foreword, fr *præfatus*, pp of *præfari* to say beforehand, fr *prae-* + *fari* to say - more at *'BAN*]

**preface** *vt* 1 to introduce by or provide with a preface 2 to be a preliminary or preface to - **prefacer** *n*

**prefatory** /'prefət(ə)ri/ *adj* of or constituting a preface; introductory [L *præfatus*, pp] - **prefatorily** /-(ə)riəl/ *adv*

**prefect** /'prefekt/ *n* 1 any of various high officials or magistrates in ancient Rome 2 a chief officer or chief magistrate (e.g. in France or Italy) 3 a monitor in a secondary school, usu with some authority over other pupils [ME, fr MF, fr L *praefectus*, fr pp of *praeficere* to place at the head of, fr *prae-* + *facere* to make - more at *'DO*]

**prefecture** /'prefektʃə/ *n* the office or official residence of a prefect - **prefectural** /-'fektʃoo(ə)rəl/ *adj*

**prefer** /'pri:fuh/ *vt* -rr- 1 to choose or esteem above another; like better <~s sports to reading> 2 to give (a creditor) priority 3 to bring against sb <won't ~ charges> 4 to bring forward or submit for consideration [ME *preferren*, fr MF *preferer*, fr L *praeferre* to put before, *prefer*, fr *prae-* + *ferre* to carry - more at *'BEAR*] - **preferer** *n*, **preferable** /'pref(ə)rəbəl/ *adj*, **preferably** *adv*

**preference** /'pref(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 the power or opportunity of choosing <gave him first ~> 2 sb or sthg preferred; a choice <which is your ~?> 3 special favour or consideration <give ~ to those with qualifications> 4 priority in the settlement of an obligation [F *préférence*, fr ML *praefere-*

*entia*, fr L *praefere*-, *praefere*ns, prp of *praeferre*] - **preferential** /'prefə'rensh(ə)l/ *adj*, **preferentially** *adv* - for preference as being the more desirable; preferably <use red wine for preference>

**preference share** *n* a share guaranteed priority over ordinary shares in the payment of dividends and usu in the distribution of assets - compare **DEFERRED SHARE**, **ORDINARY SHARE**

**preferment** /'pri:fuhmant/ *n* (an esp ecclesiastical appointment affording) advancement or promotion in rank, station, etc [PREFER + -MENT]

**prefigure** /'preefɪgə/ *vt* 1 to represent or suggest in advance; foreshadow 2 to picture or imagine beforehand, foresee [ME *prefiguren*, fr LL *praefigurare*, fr L *prae-* + *figurare* to shape, picture, fr *figura* figure] - **prefigurement** *n*, **prefigurative** /-'figrətɪv/ *adj*, **prefiguration** /-figə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**prefix** /'preefiks/ *vt* 1 to attach as a prefix 2 to add to the beginning <~ed a brief introduction to the article> [partly fr ME *prefixen* to fix or appoint beforehand, fr MF *prefixer*, fr *pre-* + *fixer* to fix, fr *fix* fixed, fr L *fixus* - more at *FIX*; partly *'prefix*]

**prefix** *n* 1 an affix (e.g. *un* in *unhappy*) placed at the beginning of a word or before a root - compare **INFIX**, **SUFFIX** 2 a title used before a person's name [NL *praefixum*, fr L, neut. of *praefixus*, pp of *praefigere* to fasten before, fr *prae-* + *figere* to fasten] - **prefixal** /'pre:fiksəl/ *adj*, **prefixally** *adv*

**preform** /'pre:fawm/ *vt* to form or shape beforehand [L *praeformare*, fr *prae-* + *formare* to form, fr *forma* form] - **preform** *n*, **preformation** /'pre:faw'maysh(ə)n/ *n*

**preggers** /'pregəz/ *adj*, *Br* **PREGNANT** 3 - *infrm* [by alter.]

**pregnancy** /'pregnənsi/ *n* 1 the condition or quality of being pregnant 2 REPRODUCTION 2 fertility of mind, inventiveness

**pregnant** /'pregnənt/ *adj* 1 full of ideas or resourcefulness, inventive 2 rich in significance or implication, meaningful <a ~ pause> 3 containing unborn young within the body 4 showing signs of the future, portentous <the ~ years of the prewar era> 5 full, teeming - usu + *with* <nature ~ with life> [ME, fr L *praegnant-*, *praegnans*, alter. of *praegnas*, fr *prae-* + *-gnas* (akin to *gignere* to produce) - more at *KIN*] - **pregnantly** *adv*

**prehensile** /'pri:hensil/ *adj* adapted for seizing or grasping, esp by wrapping round <a ~ tail> [F *préhensile*, fr L *prehensilis*, pp of *prehendere* to grasp, fr *prae-* + *-hendere* (akin to *ON* *geta* to get) - more at *GET*] - **prehensibility** /'pre:hensɪləti/ *n*

**prehension** /'pri:hensh(ə)n/ *n* the act of taking hold, seizing, or grasping

**prehistoric** /'pre:hɪstɔrɪk/, **prehistorical** /-kl/ *adj* of or existing in times antedating written history - **prehistorically** *adv*

**prehistory** /-'hɪstəri/ *n* (the study of) the prehistoric period of human beings' evolution - **prehistorian** /-hɪ'stawri-ən/ *n*

**preignition** /-'ɪɡnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the premature detonation of the explosive charge in the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine

**prejudge** /-'juːdʒ/ *vt* to pass judgment on prematurely or before a full and proper examination [MF *prejurer*, fr L *praedjudicare*, fr *prae-* + *iudicare* to judge - more at *JUDGE*] - **prejudge** *n*, **prejudgment** *n*

**prejudice** /'prejudɪs/, -jə- *n* 1 disadvantage resulting from disregard of one's (legal) rights 2a (an instance of) a preconceived judgment or opinion; esp a biased and unfavourable one formed without sufficient reason or knowledge b an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, group, or race [ME, fr OF, fr L *praedjudicium* previous judgment, damage, fr *prae-* + *iudicium* judgment - more at *JUDICIAL*]

**prejudice** *vt* 1 to injure by some judgment or action 2 to cause (sb) to have an unreasonable bias

**prejudiced** *adj* having a prejudice or bias in favour of or esp against **prejudicial** /'preʃu'dɪʃ(ə)l/, **prejudicious** /-'dɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 detrimental 2 leading to prejudiced judgments - **prejudicially** *adv*, **prejudicialness** *n*, **prejudiciously** *adv*

**prelacy** /'prelæsi/ *n* 1 the office of a prelate 2 episcopal church government

**prelate** /'prelat/ *n* an ecclesiastic (e.g. a bishop or abbot) of high rank [ME *prelat*, fr OF, fr ML *praelatus*, lit., one receiving preferment, fr L (pp of *praeferre* to prefer), fr *prae-* + *latu*, pp of *ferre* to carry - more at *TOLERATE*, *'BEAR*]

**prelibation** /'preli'eibaysh(ə)n/ *n* a foretaste - *fml* [L *praelibation-*, *praelibatus*, pp of *praelibare* to taste beforehand, fr *prae-* + *libare* to pour as an offering, taste - more at *LIBATION*]

**prelim** /'prelim/ *n* a preliminary

**preliminary** /'pri:limɪn(ə)ri/ *n* sthg that precedes or is introductory or preparatory: e.g. a preliminary scholastic examination b *pl*, *Br* matter



- (e.g. a list of contents) preceding the main text of a book [F *préliminaires*, pl, fr ML *praeliminaris*, adj, preliminary, fr L *prae-* + *limin-*, *limen* threshold – more at LIMB]
- preliminary** *adj* preceding and preparing for what is to follow; introductory – *preliminarily* *adv*
- preliterate** /pre'litərat/ *adj* not yet employing writing – *preliterate* *n*
- prelude** /prelyoohd/ *n* 1 an introductory or preliminary performance, action, or event; an introduction 2a a musical section or movement introducing the theme or chief subject or serving as an introduction (e.g. to an opera) b a short separate concert piece, usu. for piano or orchestra [MF, fr ML *praeludium*, fr *praeludere* to play beforehand, fr *prae-* + *ludere* to play – more at LUDICROUS] – *preludial* /pre'l(y)oohdi-əl, pri-/ *adj*
- prelude** *vt* to serve as prelude to, foreshadow – *preluder* /prelyoohdə/ *n*
- prelusive** /pri'l(y)oohsiv/, **prelusive** /pri'l(y)oohzən/ *adj* constituting or having the form of a prelude, introductory – *fml* [L *praelusus*, pp of *praeludere*] – *prelusive* *adv*
- preman** /pre'man, '-:/ *n* a primate (e.g. Peking man) that is a direct ancestor of man
- premature** /pre'machə, pre'matyooə, 'pre'matyooə/ *adj* happening, arriving, existing, or performed before the proper or usual time, esp. of a human born after a gestation period of less than 37 weeks [L *praematurus* too early, fr *prae-* + *maturus* ripe, mature] – *prematureness* *n*, *prematurely* *adv*, *prematurity* /-tyooə(r)əti/ *n*
- premeditate** /pri'meditayt, pre-/ *vi* to think over and plan beforehand (<~d murder) [L *praemeditatus*, pp of *praemeditari*, fr *prae-* + *meditari* to meditate] – *premeditator* *n*, *premeditative* /-tativ/ *adj*
- premeditation** /pri'meditaysh(ə)n/ *n* planning of an act beforehand, as evidence of intent to commit that act [PREMEDITATE + -ION]
- premenstrual** /pre'menstruəl/ *adj* of or occurring in the period just before menstruation (<~ tension) – *premenstrually* *adv*
- premier** /premyə, 'premi-/ *adj* 1 first in position, rank, or importance, principal 2 first in time; earliest [ME *premier*, fr MF *premier* first, chief, fr L *primarius* of the first rank – more at PRIMARY]
- premier** *n* PRIME MINISTER [F, fr *premier*, *adj*] – *premiership* *n*
- premiere** /premyeə, 'premi-/ *n* a first public performance or showing (<the ~ of a play) [F *première*, fr fem of *premier* first] – *premiere* *vt*
- premillennial** /pre'milɪni-əl/ *adj* coming before a millennium [pre- + *millennium*] – *premillennially* *adv*
- premise** /premis/ *n* 1 *Br* also *premiss* a proposition taken as a basis of argument or inference; *specif* either of the first 2 propositions of a syllogism 2 *pl*, *Br* also *premiss* matters previously stated, *specif* the preliminary and explanatory part of a deed 3 *pl* a piece of land with the buildings on it b (part of) a building [(1) ME *premissa*, fr MF, fr ML *praemissa*, fr L, fem of *praemissus*, pp of *praemittere* to place ahead, fr *prae-* + *mittere* to send – more at SMITE, (2, 3) ME *premisses*, fr ML *praemissa*, fr L, neut pl of *praemissus*, (3) fr its being identified in the premises of the deed]
- premise** *vt* 1 to state as a premise or introduction 2 to presuppose, postulate
- premium** /preemyəm, -mi-əm/ *n* 1a a reward or recompense for a particular act b a sum above a fixed price or remuneration, paid chiefly as an incentive; a bonus (<willing to pay a ~ for immediate delivery) c a sum in advance of or in addition to the nominal value of sthg 2 the sum paid for a contract of insurance 3 a high value or a value in excess of that normally expected (<put a ~ on accuracy) [L *praemium* booty, profit, reward, fr *prae-* + *emere* to take, buy – more at REDEEM] – *at a premium* valuable because rare or difficult to obtain (<flats in London are at a premium)
- premium** *adj*, chiefly *NAm* of exceptional quality or amount (<wine made from ~ grapes)
- premium bond** *n* a government bond that is issued in units of £1 and which instead of earning interest is entered into a monthly draw for money prizes
- premolar** /pre'mohlə/ *n* or *adj* (a tooth) situated in front of the true molar teeth → DIGESTION
- premonition** /prema'nish(ə)n, pre-/ *n* 1 a previous notice or warning, a forewarning (<a ~ of the troubles that lay in store) 2 an anticipation of an event without conscious reason; a presentiment (<felt a ~ of danger) [MF, fr LL *praemonition-*, *praemonitio*, fr L *praemonitus*, pp of *praemovere* to warn in advance, fr *prae-* + *monere* to warn – more at MIND] – *premonitory* /pri'monit(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- Premonstratensian** /pre,monstrə'tensh(ə)n/ *n* a member of a religious order founded by St Norbert at Prémontré in France in 1120 [ML *praemonstratensis*, fr *praemonstratensis* of Prémontré, fr *Praemonstratus* Prémontré, abbey in N France]
- premonse** /pri'maws/ *adj* having an abrupt and ragged end as if bitten off (<a ~ root) [L *praemorsus*, fr pp of *praemordere* to bite off in front, fr *prae-* + *mordere* to bite – more at SMART]
- prenatal** /pre'natl/ *adj* occurring or being in a stage before birth – *prenatally* *adv*
- pre'notion** /-nohsh(ə)n/ *n* a preconception [L *praenotio-*, *praenotio* preconception, fr *prae-* + *notio* idea, conception – more at NOTION]
- pre'occupation** /pri,okyo'o'paysh(ə)n, pre-/ *n* (sthg that causes) complete mental absorption [L *praecooccupation-*, *praecooccupatio* act of seizing beforehand, fr *praecooccupatus*, pp of *praecooccupare* to seize beforehand, fr *prae-* + *occupare* to seize, occupy]
- pre'occupied** /-okyoopied/ *adj* lost in thought; engrossed
- pre'occupy** /-okyoopie/ *vt* 1 to engage or engross the attention of to the exclusion of other things 2 to take possession of or occupy in advance or before another [pre- + *occupy*]
- pre'operative** /-op(ə)rətiv/ *adj* occurring in the period preceding a surgical operation – *preoperatively* *adv*
- preor'dain** /-aw'dayn/ *vt* to decree or determine in advance – *preordainment* *n*, *preordination* /-aw'dinaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- prep** /prep/ *n*, *Br* homework done at or away from school [short for *preparation*]
- prepackage** /pre'e'pakij/ *vt* to package (e.g. food) before offering for sale to the consumer
- preparation** /pre'paraysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 preparing 2 a state of being prepared, readiness 3 a preparatory act or measure – usu pl (<made his ~s for the journey) 4 sthg prepared, esp a medicine (<a ~ for colds) [ME *preparacion*, fr MF *preparation*, fr L *praeparation-*, *praeparatio*, fr *praeparatus*, pp of *praeparare*]
- preparative** /pri'parətiv/ *n* sthg that prepares the way for or serves as a preliminary to sthg else
- preparatory** /pri'parət(ə)n/, *preparative* /-tiv/ *adj* preparing or serving to prepare for sthg, introductory – *preparatorily* *adv*
- preparatory** *adv* by way of preparation; in a preparatory manner – usu <took a deep breath ~ to drinking>
- preparatory school** *n* a private school preparing pupils a *Br* for public schools b *NAm* for college
- prepare** /pri'peə/ *vt* 1a to make ready beforehand for some purpose, use, or activity (<~ food for dinner) b to put into a suitable frame of mind for sthg (<~d her gradually for the shocking news) 2 to work out the details of; plan in advance (<preparing his strategy for the coming campaign) 3a to put together (<a prescription) b to draw up in written form (<a report) – *vi* to get ready, make preparations (<preparing for a career in teaching) [ME *preparen*, fr MF *preparer*, fr L *praeparare*, fr *prae-* + *parare* to procure, prepare – more at PARE] – *preparer* *n*
- prepared** *adj* subjected to a special process or treatment
- preparedness** /pri'peə(r)dnis/ *n* adequate preparation (in case of war) [PREPARED + -NESS]
- prepay** /pre'e'pay/ *vt* prepaid to pay or pay the charge on in advance (<carriage prepaid) – *prepayment* *n*
- preponderant** /pri'pond(ə)rənt/ also *preponderate* /-rət/ *adj* 1 having superior weight, force, or influence; predominant 2 occurring in greater number or quantity – *preponderance* *n*, *preponderantly* *adv*
- preponderate** /pri'pondərayt/ *vt* 1 to predominate in influence, power, or importance 2 to predominate in number or frequency [L *praeponderatus*, pp of *praeponderare*, fr *prae-* + *ponder-*, *pondus* weight – more at PENDANT] – *preponderation* /-raysh(ə)n/ *n*
- preposition** /pre'pozish(ə)n/ *n* a linguistic form (e.g. *by*, *of*, *for*) that combines with a noun, pronoun, or noun equivalent to form a phrase with a relation to some other word [ME *preposicion*, fr L *praeposition-*, *praepositio*, fr *praepositus*, pp of *praepondere* to put in front, fr *prae-* + *ponere* to put – more at POSITION] – *prepositional* *adj*, *prepositionally* *adv*
- prepositive** /pri'pozətiv/ *adj* prefixed [LL *praepositivus* put before, fr L *praepositus*] – *prepositively* *adv*
- prepossession** /pre'pezes/ *vt* to prejudice, esp in favour of sb or sthg
- prepossessioning** /-pə'zesh(ə)n/ *adj* tending to create a favourable impression; attractive – *prepossessioningly* *adv*, *prepossessioningness* *n*
- prepossession** /-pə'zesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 an opinion or impression formed beforehand; a prejudice 2 an exclusive concern with 1 idea or object; a preoccupation
- preposterous** /pri'pöst(ə)rəs/ *adj* contrary to nature or reason; absurd; also ridiculous (<look at that ~ outfit) [L *praeposterus*, lit., with the

hindsides in front, fr *prae-* + *posterus* hinder, following – more at **POSTERIOR**] – **preposterously** *adv.* **preposterousness** *n*  
**prepotent** /ˈpreːpɒt(ə)nt/ *adj* having great or the most power, authority, or influence; preeminent – *fml* [ME, fr L *praepotent-, praepotens*, fr *prae-* + *potens* powerful – more at **POTENT**] – **prepotency** *n*, **prepotently** *adv*  
**preprandial** /ˈpreɪndiəl/ *adj* of or suitable for the time just before a meal (< *a drink*)  
**preprint** /ˈpreɪnt/ *n* a printing of a speech or paper before its formal publication or delivery  
**prep school** /prep/ *n* **PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
**prepuce** /ˈpreːpyoʊs/ *n* the foreskin; also a similar fold surrounding the clitoris [ME, fr MF, fr L *praeputium*, fr *prae-* + *-putium* (akin to Belorussian *potka* penis)] – **preputial** /ˈpyoʊsh(ə)l/ *adj*  
**Pre-Raphaelite** /ˈpreːˈrɑːfəliet, -fya-/ *adj* or *n* (of or relating to) a member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood – **Pre-Raphaelitism** /ˈrɑːf(ə)lɪtɪz(ə)m, -fya-/ *n*  
**Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood** *n* a group of English artists formed in 1848 which aimed to restore the artistic principles and practices of the early Renaissance and whose work is characterized by richness of colour and detail and religious and legendary subjects painted from nature [*Raphael* (Raffaello Santi) †1520 It painter]  
**prerecord** /ˈpreɪnˈkɔːd/ *vt* to record (e.g. a radio or television programme) in advance of presentation or use  
**pre-release** /ˈpreːrɪleɪs/ *vt* to release (e.g. a film or record) before the official date – **pre-release** *adj*  
**pre-release** *n* sthg pre-released; also a public showing of a film before its official date of release  
**prerequisite** /ˈpriːrɛkwɪzɪt/ *n* a requirement that must be satisfied in advance – **prerequisite** *adj*  
**prerogative** /ˈpriːrɒɡəˈtɪv/ *n* 1 an exclusive or special right or privilege belonging esp. to a person or group of people by virtue of rank or status 2 the discretionary power inhering in the Crown [ME, fr MF & L, MF, fr L *praerogativa*, Roman century voting first in one of the public assemblies, privilege, fr fem of *praerogativus* voting first, fr *praerogatus*, pp of *praerogare* to ask for an opinion before another, fr *prae-* + *rogare* to ask – more at **RIGHT**] – **prerogative** *adj*  
**presage** /ˈpreɪsɪj/ *n* 1 sthg that foreshadows or portends a future event, an omen 2 an intuition of what is going to happen in the future; a presentiment [ME, fr L *praesagium*, fr *praesagire* to forebode, fr *prae-* + *sagire* to perceive keenly – more at **SEEK**] – **presageful** *adj*  
**presage** /ˈpreɪsɪj, ˈpreɪsɪj/ *vt* 1 to give an omen or warning of, portend 2 to forecast, predict 3 to have a presentiment of ~ *vt* to make or utter a prediction  
**presby-** /ˈprezbɪ-, ˈprezbo-/ *comb form* old age (< *presbyopia*) [NL, fr Gk *presby-* elder, fr *presbys* old man]  
**presbyopia** /ˈprezbɪˈɒpiə/ *n* a visual condition of old age in which loss of elasticity of the lens of the eye causes defective accommodation and inability to focus sharply for near vision [NL] – **presbyopic** /-bɪˈɒpɪk/ *adj* or *n*  
**presbyter** /ˈprezbɪtə/ *n* 1 a member of the governing body of an early Christian church 2 **ELDER** 3 [LL, elder, priest – more at **PRIEST**] – **presbyterate** /-bɪtərət/ *n*  
**presbyterial** /ˈprezbɪˈtɪəriəl/ *adj* of presbyters or a presbytery  
**Presbyterian** /ˈprezbɪˈtɪəriən/ *adj* of or constituting a Christian church governed by elected representative bodies and traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine – **Presbyterianism** *n*  
**Presbyterian** *n* a member of a Presbyterian church  
**presbytery** /ˈprezbɪ(ə)ri/ *n* 1 the part of a church (e.g. the E end of the chancel) reserved for the officiating clergy 2 a local ruling body in Presbyterian churches 3 the house of a Roman Catholic parish priest [ME & LL; ME *presbytery* part of church reserved for clergy, fr LL *presbyterium* group of presbyters, part of church reserved for clergy, fr Gk *presbyterion* group of presbyters, fr *presbyteros* elder, priest – more at **PRIEST**]  
**preschool** /ˈpreːskoʊl/ *adj* of the period from infancy to first attendance at primary school  
**prescience** /ˈpreɪsi-əns, -sh(ə)ns, -shi-əns/ *n* foreknowledge of events; also foresight [ME, fr LL *praescientia*, fr L *praescient-, praesciens*, prp of *praescire* to know beforehand, fr *prae-* + *scire* to know – more at **SCIENCE**] – **prescient** *adj*, **presciently** *adv*  
**prescind** /ˈpriːsɪnd/ *vt* to separate in the mind; abstract ~ *vt* to withdraw one's attention *USE* usu + *from*; *fml* [L *praescindere* to cut off in front, fr *prae-* + *scindere* to cut – more at **SHED**]  
**prescribe** /ˈpriːskriːb/ *vi* 1 to claim a title to sthg by right of prescription

2 to lay down a rule; dictate 3 to write or give medical prescriptions ~ *vt* 1a to ordain; 1 *lay down* 2b to specify with authority 2 to designate or order the use of as a remedy [L *praescribere* to write at the beginning, dictate, order, fr *prae-* + *scribere* to write – more at **SCRIBE**; (vi 1) ME *prescriben*, fr ML *praescribere*, fr L, to write at the beginning] – **prescriber** *n*

**prescript** /ˈpriːskript, ˈpreːskript/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) prescribed as a rule [ME, fr L *praescriptus*, pp]

**prescription** /ˈpriːskɪn(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the establishment of a claim to sthg by use and enjoyment of it over a long period 2 the action of laying down authoritative rules or directions 3 a written direction or order for the preparation and use of a medicine; also the medicine prescribed 4 (a claim founded on) ancient or long-standing custom [partly fr ME *prescripcion* establishment of a claim, fr MF *prescription*, fr LL *praescriptio-, praescriptio*, fr L, act of writing at the beginning, order, limitation of subject matter, fr *praescriptus*, pp of *praescribere*, partly fr L *praescription-, praescriptio* order]

**prescriptive** /ˈpriːskriptɪv/ *adj* 1 serving to prescribe 2 established by, founded on, or arising from prescription or long-standing custom 3 authoritarian as regards language use – **prescriptively** *adv*

**preselector** /ˈpreɪsɪˈlektə/ *n* a system of gears (e.g. of a motor vehicle transmission) that can be selected in advance of use

**presence** /ˈprez(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the fact or condition of being present (< *requested his ~ at the meeting*) 2a the immediate vicinity of a specified person (< *never looked at ease in my ~*) b the vicinity of one of superior, esp royal, rank (< *bowled before withdrawing from the ~*) 3a sb or sthg present, also a spirit felt to be present b a body of people from a specified place (e.g. a country), present and playing an influential role in another organization or nation (< *the withdrawal of the American ~ in Vietnam*) 4a a personal magnetism that attracts and holds the attention of others b a usu dignified or stately bearing or appearance 5 a quality of poise or distinction that enables a person, esp a performer, to impress, or have a strong effect on, others (< *she had great stage ~*)

**presence chamber** *n* the room where a great personage receives those entitled to come into his/her presence

**presence of mind** *n* the ability to retain one's self-possession and act calmly in emergencies or difficult situations

**present** /ˈprez(ə)nt/ *n* sthg presented, a gift [ME, fr OF, fr *presenter*]

**present** /ˈprez(ə)nt/ *vt* 1a to introduce (sby) esp to another of higher rank b to bring (e.g. a play) before the public 2 to make a gift to 3 to give or bestow formally 4 to lay (e.g. a charge) before a court 5 to nominate (a clergyman) to a benefice 6a to offer for show, exhibit (< *a bedraggled appearance*) b to offer for approval or consideration (< *this report again next week in greater detail*) 7 to act as a presenter of (e.g. a television or radio programme) 8 to act the part of 9 to level or aim (e.g. a weapon) ~ *vi* to come to notice or into view (< *the patient ~ed with abdominal pain*) [ME *presenten*, fr OF *presenter*, fr L *praesentare*, fr *praesent-, praesens*, *adj*]

**present** /ˈprez(ə)nt/ *n* **PRESENT ARMS** (< *his gun held at the ~*)

**present** /ˈprez(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 now existing or in progress (< *under the ~ system of government*) 2a in or at a usu specified place (< *he wasn't ~ at the meeting*) b existing in sthg mentioned or understood (< *methane and air had to be ~ in the right quantities for combustion to take place*) c vividly felt, remembered, or imagined – usu + *to* or *in* (< *the events of a decade ago are still ~ to our minds*) 3 being discussed, dealt with, or considered (< *as far as the ~ writer is concerned*) 4 of or being a verb tense that expresses present time or the time of speaking [ME, fr OF, fr L *praesent-, praesens*, fr prp of *praesese* to be before one, fr *prae-* + *esse* to be – more at **IS**] – **presentness** *n*

**present** /ˈprez(ə)nt/ *n* 1 (a verb form in) the present tense of a language 2 the present time 3 *pl* the present words or statements – *fml*

**presentable** /ˈprez(ə)ntəbəl/ *adj* 1 fit to be seen or inspected 2 fit (e.g. in dress or manners) to appear in company (< *must make myself ~ for dinner*) [*PRESENT* + *-ABLE*] – **presentableness** *n*, **presentably** *adv*, **presentability** /ˈtəːbɪləti/ *n*

**present arms** /ˈprez(ə)nts/ *n* a saluting position in which the firearm is held vertically in front of the body [fr the command *present arms*]

**presentation** /ˈprez(ə)ntəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a sthg offered or given; a gift b sthg put forward for consideration or notice c a descriptive or persuasive account (e.g. by a salesman of a product) 2a the manner in which sthg is set forth, laid out, or presented (< *his ~ of the argument was masterly*) (< *~ of the final dish is important in cookery*) b the position in which the foetus lies in the uterus in labour with respect to the mouth

of the uterus 3 an immediate object of perception, cognition, or memory [PRESENT + -ATION] – **presentational** *adj*

**presentationism** /ˌɪz(ə)m/ *n* the theory that the mind is directly aware of items in the external world – compare REPRESENTATIONALISM

**presentative** /ˌprez(ə)tətv/ *adj* known or capable of being known directly rather than through cognition

**present-day** /ˌprez(ə)nt/ *adj* now existing or occurring

**presenter** /ˌprez(ə)ntə/ *n* one who presents; *specif* a broadcaster who introduces and provides comments on broadcast material during a programme

**presentiment** /ˌprez(ə)s(ə)nt, -tɪ-ənt, -zen-/ *adj* having a presentiment – *fm* [L *praesentiment-, praesentens*, *prp* of *praesentire*]

**presentiment** /ˌprez(ə)ntɪmənt/ *n* a feeling that sth will or is about to happen, a premonition [F *presentiment*, fr MF, fr *praesentir* to have a presentiment, fr L *praesentire* to feel beforehand, fr *prae-* + *sentire* to feel – more at SENSE] – **presentimental** /-ˈmentl/ *adj*

**presently** /ˌprez(ə)ntli/ *adv* 1 before long, soon 2 chiefly NAM & Scot at the present time, now

**presentation** /ˌprez(ə)ntɪmənt/ *n* 1 the act of presenting a formal statement to an authority, *specif* a statement made on oath by a jury of a matter of fact within their own knowledge 2 an act of offering a document that calls for acceptance or payment

**present participle** /ˌprez(ə)nt/ *n* a participle (e.g. *dancing, being*) with present or active meaning

**present perfect** *adj* or *n* (of or being) a verb tense (e.g. *have finished*) that expresses completion of an action at or before the time of speaking

**preservationist** /ˌprezəˈveɪʃ(ə)nɪst/ *n* a conservationist

**preservative** /ˌprez(ə)ˈveɪtɪv/ *n* or *adj* (sthg) that preserves or has the power to preserve, *specif* (sthg) used to protect against decay, discoloration, or spoilage

**preserve** /ˌprez(ə)ˈveɪv/ *vt* 1 to keep safe from harm or destruction, protect 2a to keep alive, intact, or free from decay b to maintain (< ~s her habitual calm at all times>) 3a to keep or save from decomposition b to can, pickle, or similarly prepare (a perishable food) for future use c to make a preserve of (fruit) 4 to keep and protect (e.g. land or game) for private, esp sporting, use ~ *vi* 1 to make preserves 2 to withstand preserving (e.g. by canning) <some fruits do not ~ well> [ME *preserven*, fr MF *preserver*, fr ML *praeservare*, fr LL, to observe beforehand, fr L *prae-* + *servare* to keep, guard, observe – more at CONSERVE] – **preservable** *adj*, **preserver** *n*, **preservation** /ˌprezəˈveɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**preserve** *n* 1 a preparation (e.g. a jam or jelly) consisting of fruit preserved by cooking whole or in pieces with sugar 2 an area restricted for the preservation of natural resources (e.g. animals or trees), esp one used for regulated hunting or fishing 3 sthg (e.g. a sphere of activity) reserved for certain people

**preset** /ˌpreɪˈset/ *vt* -tt-; *pres* to set beforehand – **preset** *adj*, **presettable** *adj*

**pre-shrunk** /-ʃrʌŋk/ *adj* of or being material subjected to a process during manufacture designed to reduce later shrinking

**preside** /ˌprez(ə)ɪd/ *vi* 1 to occupy the place of authority 2 to exercise guidance, authority, or control over 3 to perform as featured or chief instrumentalist – *usu* + *at* (< ~d at the organ>) 4 to be prominent <the presiding genius of the company> [L *praesidere* to guard, preside over, lit, to sit in front of, sit at the head of, fr *prae-* + *sedere* to sit – more at SIT] – **presider** *n*

**presidency** /ˌprez(ə)ɪd(ə)n(ə)s(ə)/ *n* 1 the office of president 2 the term during which a president holds office 3 the action or function of one who presides; superintendence

**president** /ˌprez(ə)ɪd(ə)n(ə)t/ *n* 1 an official chosen to preside over a meeting or assembly 2 an elected head of state in a republic 3 chiefly NAM the chief officer of an organization (e.g. a business corporation or university) [ME, fr MF, fr L *praesident-, praesidens*, fr *prp* of *praesidere*] – **presidential** /-ˈdɛnʃ(ə)l/ *adj*, **presidentially** *adv*

**presidium** /ˌprez(ə)ɪd(ə)ɪ-əm, -ˈzɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **presidia** /-dɪ-ə/, **presidiums** a permanent executive committee in a Communist country [Russ *prezidium*, fr L *praesidium* garrison]

**pre-Socratic** /ˌpre-/ *adj* of or being Greek philosophers before Socrates – **pre-Socratic** *n*

**press** /pres/ *n* 1 a crowd of people; a throng; also crowding 2 an apparatus or machine by which pressure is applied (e.g. for shaping material, extracting liquid, or compressing sthg) 3 a cupboard; esp one for books or clothes 4 an action of pressing or pushing; pressure 5a PRINTING PRESS b the act or process of printing c (a building containing)

a publishing house or printing firm 6a *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, often *cap* (1) the newspapers and magazines collectively (2) the journalists collectively b comment or notice in newspapers and magazines [ME *presse*, fr OF, fr *presser* to press]

**press** *vt* 1 to push firmly and steadily against 2 to assail, harass – *esp* in *hard-pressed* 3a to squeeze out the juice or contents of (e.g. citrus fruits) b to squeeze with apparatus or instruments to a desired density, smoothness, or shape (< ~ed flowers>) c IRON 1 (< ~ed his trousers>) 4a to exert influence on; constrain b to try hard to persuade, entreat 5 to move by means of pressure (< ~ this button>) 6 to lay emphasis or insist on <continued to ~ his point> 7 to follow through (a course of action) (< ~ed his claim>) 8 to clasp in affection or courtesy (< ~ed his hand>) 9 to make (a gramophone record) from a matrix ~ *vi* 1 to crowd closely, mass 2 to force or push one's way (< ~ing through the crowd>) 3 to seek urgently, contend (< ~ing for salary increases>) 4 to require haste or speed in action <time is ~ing> 5 to exert pressure 6 to come to a desired condition, esp of smoothness, by being pressed [ME *pressen*, fr MF *presser*, fr L *pressare*, fr *pressus*, *pp* of *premere* to press, akin to L *prelumi* press, & perh to Russ *peret* 'to press'] – **presser** *n*

**press** *vt* 1 to force into military service, esp in an army or navy 2a to take by authority, esp for public use, commandeering b to take and force into any, usu temporary, service [alter of obs *prest* (to enlist by giving pay in advance), fr *prest* (loan of money, advance on wages), fr ME, fr MF, deriv of L *praed-, praes* surety, bondsman]

**press** *n* impressment into service, esp in a navy

**press agent** *n* an agent employed to establish and maintain good public relations through publicity [ˈpress]

**press button** *n* PUSH BUTTON

**press conference** *n* an interview given by a public figure to journalists by appointment

**press cutting** *n*, *Br* a paragraph or article cut from a newspaper or magazine

**press-gang** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr.* a detachment empowered to press men into military or naval service [ˈpress]

**press gang** *vt* to force into service (as if) by a press-gang <was press-ganged into playing cricket in a charity match>

**pressing** /ˈpres(ə)ŋ/ *adj* 1 very important, critical 2 earnest, insistent (< a ~ invitation>) – **pressingly** *adv*

**pressing** *n* one or more gramophone records produced from a single matrix

**pressman** /-ˈmən, sense 2 or -ˈman/, *fem* **presswoman** *n* 1 the operator of a printing press 2 *Br* a newspaper reporter

**press mark** /-ˈmɑːk/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a combination of characters assigned to a book to indicate its place in a library [ˈpress 3]

**press on** *vi* 1 to continue on one's way <press on along the Blackpool road> 2 to proceed in an urgent or resolute manner <the firm is pressing on with its plans for expansion>

**press-stud** *n*, *Br* a metal fastener consisting of 2 parts joined by pressing

**press-up** *n* an exercise performed in a prone position by raising and lowering the body with the arms while supporting it only on the hands and toes

**pressure** /ˈpreʃə/ *n* 1a the burden of physical or mental distress (<the ~ of family anxieties>) b trouble or difficulty resulting from social or economic constraints <under severe financial ~> 2 the application of force to sthg by sthg else in direct contact with it, compression 3a the action of a force against an opposing force b the force or thrust exerted over a surface divided by its area 4 the stress of urgent matters <people who work well under ~> 5a influence or compulsion directed towards achieving a particular end <the unions put ~ on the government to increase wages> b repeated persistent attack, harassment <the English batsmen were under ~ from the Australian bowlers> 6 the atmospheric pressure USE (2&3) ⇨ PHYSICS [L *pressura* action of pressing, pressure, fr *pressus*, *pp* of *premere* to press; (1) ME, fr LL *pressura*, fr L]

**pressure** *vt* 1 to apply pressure to 2 chiefly NAM to pressurize

**pressure cooker** *n* a metal vessel with an airtight lid in which superheated steam under pressure produces a very high temperature, used for cooking food quickly – **pressure-cook** *vb*

**pressure gauge** *n* a gauge for indicating the pressure of a fluid

**pressure group** *n* an interest group organized to influence public, esp governmental, policy

**pressure point** *n* a point where a blood vessel may be compressed against a bone (e.g. to check bleeding)

**'pressure suit** *n* an inflatable suit to protect the body from low pressure  
**pressure-ize**, **-ize** /'preshəriz/ *vt* 1 to maintain near-normal atmospheric pressure in (e.g. an aircraft cabin) 2 to apply pressure to <the team ~d the opponents' goal and eventually scored>; *specif* to coerce <the prisoner's hunger strike ~d the authorities into action> 3 to design to withstand pressure – **pressurizer** *n*, **pressurization** *n* /-'zaysh(ə)n/  
**Prestel** /pre'stel/ *trademark* – used for a service provided by British Telecom which transmits information (e.g. the weather or sports results) on a television screen to subscribers who call it up by means of a special push-button telephone → TELECOMMUNICATION, TELEVISION  
**prestidigitation** /pre'stidi'taysh(ə)n/ *n* conjuring; SLEIGHT OF HAND [F, fr *prestidigitateur* prestidigitator, fr *preste* nimble, quick (fr *It presto*) + *L. digitus* finger – more at TOE] – **prestidigitator** /-'diji,taytə/ *n*  
**prestige** /pre'steɪʒ, -'steɪʒ/ *n* 1 high standing or esteem in the eyes of others 2 superiority or desirability in the eyes of society resulting from associations of social rank or material success <a ~ executive suite> [F, fr MF, conjuror's trick, illusion, fr LL *praestigium*, fr L *praestigiae*, pl. conjuror's tricks, irreg fr *praestringere* to tie up, blindfold, fr *prae-* + *stringere* to bind tight – more at 'STRAIN]  
**pre'stigious** /-(f(ə))/ *adj* prestigious  
**prestigious** /pre'stiʃəs/ *adj* having or conferring prestige [L *praestigiosus* full of tricks, deceitful, fr *praestigiae* – **prestigiously** *adv*, **prestigiousness** *n*  
**'presto** /pre'stoh/ *n, adv, or adj, pl prestos* (a musical passage or movement played) at a rapid tempo – used in music [It, quick, quickly, fr L *praestus* ready, fr *praesto*, *adv*, on hand; akin to L *prae* before – more at FOR]  
**'presto** *interj* HEY PRESTO  
**prestress** /pre'stres/ *vt* to introduce internal stresses into (e.g. a structural beam) to counteract stresses that will result from an applied load – **prestress** *n*  
**presume** /pri'zyooɦm/ *vt* 1 to undertake without leave or justification, dare <I wouldn't ~ to tell you how to do your job> 2 to suppose or assume, esp with some degree of certainty 3 to take for granted, imply – *vi* 1 to act or proceed on a presumption, take sth for granted 2 to take liberties 3 to take advantage, esp in an unscrupulous manner – *usu* + *on* or *upon* <don't ~ on his kindness> [ME *presumen*, fr LL & MF; LL *praesumere* to dare, fr L, to anticipate, assume, fr *prae-* + *sumere* to take; MF *presumer* to assume, fr L *praesumere* – more at CONSUME] – **presumable** *adj*, **presumably** *adv*, **presumer** *n*  
**presuming** /pri'zyooɦmɪŋ/ *adj* presumptuous – **presumably** *adv*  
**presumption** /pri'zʌmpʃh(ə)n, pri'zʌmsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 presumptuous attitude or conduct; effrontery 2a an attitude or belief based on reasonable evidence or grounds; an assumption b a ground or reason for presuming sth 3 a legal inference as to the existence or truth of a fact [ME *presumpcioun*, fr OF *presumption*, fr LL & L; LL *praesumption*, *praesumptio* presumptuous attitude, fr L, assumption, fr *praesumptus*, pp of *praesumere*]  
**presumptive** /pri'zʌm(p)tɪv/ *adj* 1 giving grounds for reasonable opinion or belief <~ evidence> 2 based on probability or presumption <heir ~> – **presumptively** *adv*  
**presumptuous** /pri'zʌm(p)ʃoo-əs, -tyoo-əs/ *adj* overstepping due bounds; forward [ME, fr MF *presumptueux*, fr LL *praesumptuosus*, irreg fr *praesumptio*] – **presumptuously** *adv*, **presumptuousness** *n*  
**presuppose** /pre'sə'pəʊz/ *vt* 1 to suppose beforehand 2 to require as an antecedent in logic or fact [ME *presupposen*, fr MF *presupposer*, fr ML *praesupponere* (perf indic *praesupposui*), fr L *prae-* + ML *supponere* to suppose – more at SUPPOSE] – **presupposition** /-sə'pəʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**presynaptic** /-sɪ'næptɪk/ *adj* situated or occurring just before a nerve synapse – **presynaptically** *adv*  
**pret-a-porter** /pret əh 'pawtə/ *adj*, of a garment off-the-peg [F *prêt à porter* ready to wear]  
**pretax** /pre'taks/ *adj* existing before provision for taxes  
**pretence**, *NAm chiefly pretense* /pri'tens/ *n* 1 a claim made or implied; esp one not supported by fact <made no ~ to learning> 2a mere ostentation; pretentiousness <a man entirely free of pomp and ~> b a false or feigning act or assertion 3 an outward and often insincere or inadequate show; a semblance <struggling to maintain some ~ of order in the meeting> 4 a professed rather than a real intention or purpose; a pretext – esp in false pretences [ME, fr MF *pretensse*, fr (assumed) ML *praetensa*, fr LL, fem of *praetensus*, pp of L *praetendere*]  
**'pretend** /pri'tend/ *vt* 1 to give a false appearance of; feign <he ~ed deafness> 2 to claim or assert falsely; profess <~ing an emotion he could not really feel> <~ed affection> ~ *vi* 1 to feign an action, part, or role

(as if) in play 2 to lay claim <did not ~ to high office> [ME *pretenden*, fr L *praetendere* to allege as an excuse, lit., to stretch in front of like a curtain, fr *prae-* + *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **pretended** *adj*, **pretendedly** *adv*  
**'pretend** *adj* make-believe – used esp by children  
**pretender** /pri'tenda/ *n* 1 sby who lays claim to sth; *specif* a (false) claimant to a throne 2 sby who makes a false or hypocritical show <a ~ to spirituality> ['PRETEND + -ER]  
**pretension** /pri'tensh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an effort to establish) an esp unjustified claim <have no ~ to be a great writer> 2 vanity, pretentiousness [ML *praetension*-, *praetensio*, fr LL *praetensus*, pp] – **pretensionless** *adj*  
**pretentious** /pri'tenshəs/ *adj* making usu unjustified or excessive claims (e.g. of value or standing) [F *prétentieux*, fr *prétention* pretension, fr ML *praetention*-, *praetentio*, fr L *praetentus*, pp of *praetendere*] – **pretentiously** *adv*, **pretentiousness** *n*  
**preterite**, chiefly *NAm preterit* /pretərɪt/ *adj* of or constituting a verb tense that expresses action in the past without reference to duration, continuance, or repetition [ME *preterit*, fr MF, fr L *praeteritus*, fr pp of *praeterire* to go by, pass, fr *praeter* beyond, past, by (fr compar of *prae* before) + *ire* to go – more at FOR, ISSUE] – **preterite** *n*  
**preternatural** /pre'tsə'nachərəl/ *adj* 1 exceeding what is natural or regular; extraordinary 2 lying beyond or outside normal experience *USE* fml [ML *praeternaturalis*, fr L *praeter naturam* beyond nature] – **preternaturally** *adv*, **preternaturalness** *n*  
**pretext** /pre'tektst/ *n* a false reason given to disguise the real one; an excuse [L *praetextus*, fr *praetextus*, pp of *praetextere* to assign as a pretext, lit., to weave in front, fr *prae-* + *texere* to weave – more at TECHNICAL]  
**pretor** /pre'tə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a praetor – **pretorian** /pri'təwɪn-ən/ *adj*  
**prettify** /'prɪtɪfɪ/ *vt* to make pretty or depict prettily, esp in an inappropriate way, also to palliate <attempts to ~ criminal violence> – **prettification** /-fɪ'keɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*  
**'pretty** /'prɪti/ *adj* 1a attractive or aesthetically pleasing, esp because of delicacy or grace, but less than beautiful <a ~ girl> b outwardly pleasant but lacking strength, purpose, or intensity <~ words that make no sense – Elizabeth Barrett Browning> 2 miserable, terrible <a ~ mess you've got us into> 3 moderately large, considerable <a very ~ profit> 4 of a man having delicate features, *specif* effeminate – *derog* [ME *praty*, pretty artful, dainty, fr OE *praetig* tricky, fr *praet* trick, akin to ON *prettr* trick] – **prettily** *adv*, **prettiness** *n*, **prettyish** *adj*  
**'pretty** *adv* 1a in some degree, moderately (< ~ comfortable>), esp somewhat excessively <felt ~ sick> b very – used to emphasize much or nearly <~ nearly ready> 2 in a pretty manner, prettily – *infrm*  
**'pretty** *n*, *archaic* a dear or pretty child or young woman – in *my pretty*  
**'pretty penny** *n* a considerable amount of money <could be worth a ~ one of these days> – *infrm*  
**'pretty-pretty** *adj* excessively pretty, esp in an insipid or inappropriate way [redupl of 'pretty]  
**pretty up** *vt* to make pretty – *infrm* <curtains to pretty up the room>  
**'pretty well** *adv* very nearly, almost  
**pretzel** /pre'tsəl/ *n* a brittle glazed and salted biscuit typically having the form of a loose knot [G *brezel*, deriv of L *brachiatu* having branches like arms, fr *brachium*, *brachium* arm – more at BRACE]  
**prevail** /pri'veɪl/ *vi* 1 to gain ascendancy through strength or superiority; triumph – often + *against* or *over* 2 to persuade successfully – + *on*, *upon*, or *with* <~ed on him to sing> 3 to be frequent, predominate <the west winds that ~ in the mountains> 4 to be or continue in use or fashion; persist <a custom that still ~s> [ME *prevailen*, fr L *praevalere*, fr *prae-* + *valere* to be strong – more at WIELD] – **prevailing** *adj*, **prevallingly** *adv*  
**prevalence** /pre'valəns/ *n* 1 being prevalent 2 the degree to which sth is prevalent  
**prevalent** /pre'vələnt/ *adj* generally or widely occurring or existing; widespread [L *praevalens*-, *praevalens* very powerful, fr prp of *praevalere*] – **prevalently** *adv*  
**prevaricate** /pri'veɪkəɪt/ *vi* to speak or act evasively so as to hide the truth; equivocate [L *praevaticatus*, pp of *praevaticari* to walk crookedly, fr *prae-* + *varicare* to straddle, fr *varicus* having the feet spread apart, fr *varus* bent, knock-kneed; prob akin to OE *wōh* crooked, L *vacillare* to sway, *vagus* wandering] – **prevaricator** *n*, **prevarication** /-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**prevenient** /pri'veɪniənt, -ni-ənt/ *adj* antecedent, anticipatory – *fml* [L *praevēniens*-, *praevēniens*, prp of *praevēnire*] – **preveniently** *adv*  
**prevent** /pri'vent/ *vt* 1 to keep from happening or existing <steps to ~

- war** *vt* 2 to hold or keep back; stop – often + *from* [ME *prewenten* to anticipate, fr L *praeventus*, pp of *praevire* to come before, anticipate, forestall, fr *prae-* + *venire* to come – more at COME] – **preventable** *also* **preventible** *adj*, **preventer** *n*, **prevention** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, **preventability** /-tə'biliti/ *n*
- 'preventive** /pɪ'ventiv/, **preventative** /-tativ/ *n* sth that prevents (dis-ease)
- 'preventive, preventative** *adj* 1 intended or serving to prevent; precautionary 2 undertaken to forestall anticipated hostile action (< *war*) – **preventively** *adv*, **preventiveness** *n*
- preventive detention** *n*, *Br* a term of imprisonment for habitual criminals over 30
- 'preview** /'pre:vju:/ *vt* to see beforehand, *specif* to view or show in advance of public presentation
- 'preview** *n* 1 an advance showing or performance (e.g. of a film or play) 2 a brief view or foretaste of sth that is to come 3 *also* *prevue* *chiefly* *NAm* a film or television trailer
- previous** /'pre:vjəs, -vi-əs/ *adj* 1 going before in time or order 2 acting too soon, premature (< *she was a bit ~ when she said she'd got the job*) – *informal* [L *praevius* leading the way, fr *prae-* + *via* way – more at VIA] – **previously** *adv*, **previousness** *n*
- previous question** *n* a parliamentary motion that the pending question be put to an immediate vote, which if defeated has the effect of closing the debate
- 'previous to** *prep* before; *PRIOR TO*
- prevision** /'pre:vɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 foreknowledge, prescience 2 a forecast, prognostication [L *praevision-*, *praevision*, fr L *praevius*, pp of *praevire* to foresee, fr *prae-* + *videre* to see – more at WIT] – **previsional** *adj*, **previsionary** *adj*
- 'pre-war** /-'waw/ *adj* of or being the period preceding a war, esp WW I or II
- 'prey** /prej/ *n* 1a an animal taken by a predator as food b shy or sth helpless or unable to resist attack, a victim 2 the act or habit of preying [ME *preie* booty, *prey*, fr OF, fr L *praeda*, akin to L *prehendere* to grasp, seize – more at PREHENSILE]
- 'prey** *vi* 1 to make raids for booty (< *pirates ~ ed on the coast*) 2a to seize and devour prey – often + *on* or *upon* (< *kestrels ~ upon mice*) b to live by extortion, deceit, or exerting undue influence (< *confidence tricksters ~ ing on elderly women*) 3 to have continuously oppressive or distressing effect (< *problems that ~ on one's mind*) [ME *preyen*, fr OF *preier*, fr L *praedari*, fr *praeda*] – **preyer** /'prejə/ *n*
- prispic** /'pre:əpɪk, -əpɪk/ *adj* phallic [L *priapus* lecher, fr *Priapus*, god of male generative power, fr Gk *Prapos*]
- 'price** /'prɪs/ *n* 1 the money, or amount of goods or services, that is exchanged or demanded in barter or sale 2 the terms for the sake of which sth is done or undertaken e.g. a an amount sufficient to bribe sb (< *believed every man had his ~*) b a reward for the catching or killing of sb (< *a man with a ~ on his head*) 3 the cost at which sth is done or obtained (< *the ~ of his carelessness was a broken window*) 4 *archaic* value, worth (< *her ~ is far above rubies* – Prov 31 10(AV)) [ME *pris*, fr OF, fr L *pretium* price, money, akin to Skt *prati-* against, in return – more at PROS-]
- 'price** *vt* 1 to set a price on 2 to find out the price of – **pricer** *n*
- priced** /-prɪst/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) set at (such) a price (< *low-priced merchandise*)
- 'priceless** /-'lɪs/ *adj* 1 having a worth beyond any price, invaluable 2 particularly amusing or absurd (< *told me this ~ story*) – *informal*
- 'price-ring** *n* a group of traders acting in agreement to maintain prices
- 'price tag** *n* 1 a label on merchandise showing the price at which it is offered for sale 2 price, cost (< *the council was asked to put a ~ on the new nursery school*)
- 'price war** *n* a period of commercial competition characterized by the repeated cutting of prices below those of competitors
- pricely** *also* **pricy** /'prɪsɪ/ *adj*, *chiefly* *Br* expensive – *informal*
- 'prick** /'prɪk/ *n* 1 a mark or shallow hole made by a pointed instrument 2 a pointed instrument, weapon, etc 3 an instance of pricking or the sensation of being pricked: e.g. a a nagging or sharp feeling of sorrow or remorse b a sharp localized pain (< *the ~ of a needle*) 4 the penis – *vulg* 5 a disagreeable person – *chiefly* *vulg* [ME *prikke*, fr OE *prica*, akin to MD *pric* prick]
- 'prick** *vt* 1 to pierce slightly with a sharp point 2 to affect with sorrow or remorse (< *his conscience began to ~ him*) 3 to mark, distinguish, or note by means of a small mark 4 to trace or outline with punctures 5 to cause to be or stand erect (< *a dog ~ ing his ears*) – often + *up* ~ *vi* 1 to prick sth or cause a pricking sensation 2 to feel discomfort as if from being pricked – **pricker** *n* – **prick up one's ears** to start to listen intently
- pricket** /'prɪkɪt/ *n* 1 (a candlestick with) a spike on which a candle is stuck 2 a buck, esp a male fallow deer, 2 years old – compare BROCKET [ME *priket*, fr *prikke*; (2) prob fr the straightness of its horns]
- 'prickle** /'prɪkl/ *n* 1 a sharp pointed spike arising from the skin or bark of a plant 2 a prickling sensation [ME *prickle*, fr OE *pricla*; akin to OE *prica* prick]
- 'prickle** *vb* **prickling** /'prɪklɪŋ, 'prɪkl-ɪŋ/ *vt* to prick slightly ~ *vi* to cause or feel a prickling or stinging sensation, tingle
- prickly** /'prɪk(ə)li/ *adj* 1 full of or covered with prickles 2 marked by prickling, stinging (< *a ~ sensation*) 3a troublesome, vexatious (< *~ issues*) b easily irritated (< *had a ~ disposition*) – **prickliness** *n*
- prickly heat** *n* a skin eruption of red spots with intense itching and tingling caused by inflammation round the sweat ducts
- prickly pear** *n* (the pulpy pear-shaped edible fruit of) any of a genus of cacti having yellow flowers and bearing spines or prickly hairs
- prickly poppy** *n* any of a genus of plants of the poppy family with prickly leaves and white or yellow flowers
- prick out** *vt* to transplant (seedlings) from the place of germination to a more permanent position (e.g. in a flower bed)
- pricy** /'prɪsɪ/ *adj* *pricy*
- 'pride** /'prɪd/ *n* 1a inordinate self-esteem, conceit b a reasonable or justifiable self-respect c delight or satisfaction arising from some act, possession, or relationship (< *parental ~*) 2 a source of pride, esp, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the best in a group or class (< *this pup is the ~ of the litter*) 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of lions [ME, fr OE *pryde*, fr *prūd* proud – more at PROUD]
- 'pride** *vt* to be proud of (oneself) – + *on* or *upon* (< *he ~ d himself on his generosity*)
- 'pride of place** *n* the highest or first position (< *gave ~ on the mantel-piece to a photograph of his granddaughter*)
- prie-dieu** /'pre:dyu:/ *n*, *pl* **prie-dieux** /~/ 1 a kneeling bench with a raised shelf, designed for use by a person at prayer 2 a low armless upholstered chair with a high straight back [F, lit., pray God]
- prier** /'pre:ə/ *n* an inquisitive person ['PRY + -ER]
- priest** /'prest/ *n* a person authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, *specif* a clergyman ranking below a bishop and above a deacon (e.g. in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches) [ME *preist*, fr OE *preost*, modif of LL *presbyter*, fr Gk *presbyteros* elder, *priest*, compar of *presbys* old man] – **priestly** *adj*, **priestliness** *n*, **priesthood** /-'hood/ *n*
- priestess** /'pre:stəs, 'prestɪs/ *n* a female priest of a non-Christian religion
- prig** /'prɪg/ *n* one who is excessively self-righteous or affectingly precise about the observance of proprieties (e.g. of speech or manners) [prob fr *prig* (thief) fr *prig* (to steal)] – **priggish** *adj*, **priggishly** *adv*, **priggishness** *n*, **priggery** /-'gəri/ *n*
- prim** /'prɪm/ *adj* -*mm-* 1 stiffly formal and proper, decorous 2 prudish [perh deriv of OF *prin*, *prime* excellent, fr L *primus* first] – **primly** *adv*, **primness** *n*
- prima ballerina** /'premə/ *n* the principal female dancer in a ballet company [It, leading ballerina]
- primacy** /'prɪməsi/ *n* 1 the office or rank of an ecclesiastical primate 2 the state of being first (e.g. in importance, order, or rank); preeminence – *fml*
- prima donna** /'premə 'dona/ *n*, *pl* **prima donnas** 1 a principal female singer (e.g. in an opera company) 2 an extremely sensitive or temperamental person [It, lit., first lady]
- primeval** /'prɪmeɪvl/ *adj*, *chiefly* *Br* primeval
- 'prima facie** /'prɪmə 'faɪʃi/ *adv* at first view, on the first appearance (< *his arguments appear ~ true*) [L]
- 'prima facie** *adj* true, valid, or sufficient at first impression; apparent (< *the theory offers a ~ solution*)
- primal** /'prɪm(ə)l/ *adj* 1 original, primitive (< *village life continues in its ~ innocence* – Van Wyck Brooks) 2 first in importance; fundamental (< *our ~ concern*) [ML *primalis*, fr L *primus* first – more at 'PRIME] – **primality** /-'malɪti/ *n*
- primarily** /'prɪm(ə)rəli, əlso 'prɪməərəli/ *adv* 1 for the most part, chiefly 2 in the first place; originally
- 'primary** /'prɪm(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1a first in order of time or development; primitive b of or being formations of the Palaeozoic and earlier periods 2a of first rank, importance, or value; principal b basic, fundamental c of Latin, Greek, or Sanskrit tense expressing present or future time d of or constituting the strongest degree of stress in speech 3a direct, firsthand



<~ sources of information> b not derivable from other colours, odours, or tastes c preparatory to sth else in a continuing process; elementary <~ instruction> d of or at a primary school <~ education> e belonging to the first group or order in successive divisions, combinations, or ramifications <~ nerves> f of or being the inducing current or its circuit in an induction coil or transformer g of or being the amino acid sequence in proteins <~ protein structure> 4 of, involving, or derived directly from plant-forming tissue, specif meristem, at a growing point <~ tissue> <~ growth> 5 of or being an industry that produces raw materials <mining is a ~ industry> – compare SECONDARY, TERTIARY [LL *primarius* basic, primary, fr L, principal, fr *primus*]

**primary** *n* 1 sth that stands first in rank, importance, or value; a fundamental – usu pl 2 any of the usu 9 or 10 strong feathers on the joint of a bird's wing furthest from the body → ANATOMY 3 PRIMARY COLOUR 4 a caucus 5 PRIMARY SCHOOL

**primary cell** *n* a cell that converts chemical energy into electrical energy by irreversible chemical reactions

**primary colour** *n* 1 any of the 3 spectral bands red, green, and bluish violet from which all other colours can be obtained by suitable combinations 2 any of the 3 coloured pigments red, yellow, and blue that cannot be matched by mixing other pigments

**primary consumer** *n* a herbivore – compare SECONDARY CONSUMER, TERTIARY CONSUMER → FOOD

**primary school** *n* a school usu for pupils from 5 to 11, but sometimes also including nursery school

**primary syphilis** *n* the first stage of syphilis which is marked by the development of a deep ulcer and the spread of the causative bacterium in the tissues of the body

**primate** /'pri:meɪt/ (esp in sense 1) -mət/ *n* 1 often cap a bishop having precedence (e.g. in a nation) 2 any of an order of mammals including human beings, the apes, monkeys, and related forms (e.g. lemurs and tarsiers) [ME *primat*, fr OF, fr ML *primat-*, *primas* archbishop, fr L, leader, fr *primus*] – primateship *n*, primatial /-'mayʃ(ə)l/ *adj*, primatology /-'mə'tɒləʒi/ *n*, primatologist *n*, primatological /-'mə'tɒləjɪkəl/ *adj*

**'prime** /'pri:m/ *n* 1 often cap the second of the canonical hours, orig fixed for 6 am 2 the most active, thriving, or successful stage or period (in the ~ of his life) 3 the chief or best individual or part; the pick <~ of the flock, and choicest of the stall – Alexander Pope> 4 prime, prime number a positive integer that has no factor except itself and 1 → NUMBER 5 the symbol ' used in mathematics as a distinguishing mark (e.g. in denoting derivatives of a function) [ME, fr OE *prim*, fr L *prima* hora first hour]

**prime** *adj* 1 first in time; original 2 having no factor except itself and 1 (<3 is a ~ number>) 3a first in rank, authority, or significance; principal *b* of meat, esp beef of the highest grade or best quality regularly marketed 4 not deriving from sth else; primary [ME, fr MF, fem of *prim* first, fr L *primus*; akin to L *prior*] – primely *adv*, primeness *n*

**prime** *vt* 1 to fill, load; esp to fill or ply (a person) with liquor 2 to prepare (a firearm or charge) for firing by supplying with priming or a primer 3 to apply a first coat (e.g. of paint or oil) to (a surface), esp in preparation for painting 4 to put into working order by filling or charging with sth, esp a liquid <~ a pump with water> 5 to instruct beforehand, prepare <~d the witness> [prob fr 'prime]

**prime meridian** *n* the meridian (at Greenwich) of 0° longitude from which other longitudes E and W are reckoned

**prime minister** *n* 1 the chief minister of a ruler or state 2 the chief executive of a parliamentary government – prime ministership *n*, prime ministry *n*

**prime mover** *n* 1 God as the creator of (motion in) the physical universe 2a an initial source of motive power (e.g. a windmill, water wheel, turbine, or internal-combustion engine) b a powerful tractor or lorry 3 the original or most influential force in a development or undertaking <he was a ~ of the constitutional reform> [trans of ML *primus motor*]

**'primer** /'pri:mə/ *n* a small book for teaching children to read [ME, fr ML *primarium*, fr LL, neut of *primarius* primary]

**primer** *n* 1 a device (e.g. a percussion cap) used for igniting a charge 2 material used in priming a surface ['PRIME + -ER]

**prime rate, prime interest rate** *n* an interest rate at which preferred customers can borrow from banks and which is the lowest commercial interest rate available at a particular time and place

**prime time** *n* the peak television viewing time, for which the highest rates are charged to advertisers

**primeval**, *fr* also **primæval** /'pri:meevəl/ *adj* 1 of the earliest age or ages 2 existing in or persisting from the beginning (e.g. of a universe) [L

*primævus*, fr *primus* first + *ævum* age – more at 'AVE] – primevally *adv*

**priming** /'pri:miŋg/ *n* the explosive used for igniting a charge ['PRIME + -ING]

**primipara** /'pri:mpərə/ *n*, pl **primiparas**, **primiparae** /-ri/ 1 a woman bearing a first child 2 a woman who has borne only 1 child [L, fr *primus* first + -para] – primiparity /-'mip(ə)rəti/ *n*, primiparous *adj*

**'primitive** /'prɪmətɪv/ *adj* 1 original, primary 2a of the earliest age or period; primeval b belonging to or characteristic of an early stage of development or evolution <~ technology> 3a elemental, natural b of or produced by a relatively simple people or culture <~ art> c lacking in sophistication or subtlety, crude, also uncivilized d(1) self-taught, untutored (2) produced by a self-taught artist [ME *primitif*, fr L *primitivus*, fr *primus* originally, fr *primus* first – more at 'PRIME] – primitively *adv*, primitiveness *n*, primitivism *n*, primitivist *n*, primitivistic /-'vɪstɪk/ *adj*, primitivity /-'tɪvəti/ *n*

**'primitive** *n* 1a a primitive concept, term, or proposition b a root word 2a(1) an artist of an early, esp pre-Renaissance, period (2) a later imitator of such an artist b an artist, esp self-taught, whose work is marked by directness and naiveté c a primitive work of art 3a a member of a primitive people b an unsophisticated person

**primo** /'premoʊ/ *n*, pl **primos** /-moʊz/ the first or leading part (e.g. in a duet or trio) [It, fr *primo* first, fr L *primus*]

**primogenitor** /'pri:məʊ'jenətə/ *n* an ancestor, forefather [LL, fr L *primus* + *genitor* begetter, fr *genitus*, pp of *gignere* to beget – more at KIN]

**primogeniture** /-'jenɪtʃə/ *n* 1 the state or fact of being the firstborn of the children of the same parents 2 the principle by which right of inheritance belongs to the eldest son [LL *primogenitura*, fr L *primus* + *genitura* birth, fr *genitus*, pp]

**primordial** /'pri:məwɔɪəl/ *adj* 1a existing from or at the beginning, primeval b earliest formed in the development of an individual or structure 2 fundamental, primary [ME, fr LL *primordialis*, fr L *primordium* origin, fr neut of *primordius* original, fr *primus* first + *ordin* to begin – more at 'PRIME, ORDER] – primordially *adv*

**primordium** /'pri:məwɔɪəm/ *n*, pl **primordia** /-diə/ the earliest stage in the development of a part or organ [NL, fr L]

**primp** /'prɪmp/ *vt* to dress, adorn, or arrange in a careful or fastidious manner ~vi to dress or groom oneself carefully [perh alter of 'prim]

**primrose** /'prɪmroʊz/ *n* 1 any of a genus of perennial plants with showy, esp yellow, flowers → ENDANGERED 2 pale yellow [ME *primrose*, fr MF, fr ML *prima* rosa, lit, first (early) rose]

**primrose path** *n* a path of ease or pleasure; esp one leading to disaster

**primula** /'prɪmyoola/ *n* PRIMROSE 1 [ML, fr *primula* veris, lit, firstling of spring]

**primum mobile** /'pri:moo'm'ɒhɪbli/ *n*, pl **primum mobiles** /-leez/ the outermost concentric sphere conceived in medieval astronomy as carrying the spheres of the fixed stars and the planets in its daily revolution [ME, fr ML, lit, first moving thing]

**Primus** /'pri:məs/ *trademark* – used for a portable oil-burning stove used chiefly for cooking (e.g. when camping)

**primus inter pares** /'pri:məs ɪntə 'peərəz/ *n* first among equals [L]

**prince** /'prɪns/ *n* 1 a sovereign ruler, esp of a principality 2 a foreign nobleman of varying rank and status 3 a person of high rank or standing in his class or profession (<a ~ among poets>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *princip-*, *principes*, lit., one who takes the first part, fr *primus* first + *capere* to take – more at HEAVE] – princedom *n*, principship *n*

**prince charming** *n* an ideal suitor [*Prince Charming*, hero of the fairy tale *Cinderella*, trans by Robert Samber fl 1729 E writer of *Cendrillon* by Charles Perrault fl 1703 F writer]

**prince consort** *n*, pl **princes consort** the husband of a reigning female sovereign – used only after the title has been specif conferred by the sovereign

**'princeling** /-'lɪŋ/ *n* a petty or insignificant prince

**'princely** /-'li/ *adj* 1 of a prince 2 befitting a prince; noble <~ manners> 3 magnificent, lavish (<a ~ sum>) – princely *adv*, princeliness *n*

**Prince of Wales** /'waɪlz/ *n* the male heir apparent to the British throne – used only after the title has been specif conferred by the sovereign

**prince-a-feather** *n* a showy annual plant of the amaranth family often cultivated for its dense usu red flower spikes

**'princess** /'prɪn'ses/ *n* an ordinary word, usu 'prɪnses or 'prɪnsəs before a name/ *n* 1 a female member of a royal family; esp a daughter of a



sovereign 2 the wife or widow of a prince 3 a woman having in her own right the rank of a prince 4 a woman, or sth personified as female, that is outstanding in a specified respect

**princess, princess** /prɪn'ses, 'prɪnses/ *adj* closely fitting at the top, flared from the hips to the hemline, and having gores or panels <dress with ~ line> [F *princesse* princess, fr *prince*]

**principal** /prɪnsɪpl/ *adj* most important, consequential, or influential, chief [ME, fr OF, fr L *principalis*, fr *princip-*, *princeps*] – **principally** *adv*

**principal** *n* 1 a person who has controlling authority or is in a leading position e.g. a the head of an educational institution b one who employs another to act for him/her c the chief or an actual participant in a crime – no longer used technically d the person ultimately liable on a legal obligation e a leading performer 2 a matter or thing of primary importance e.g. a a capital sum placed at interest, due as a debt, or used as a fund b a main rafter of a roof – **principalship** *n*

**principal boy** *n* the role of the hero in British pantomime traditionally played by a girl

**principality** /prɪnsɪ'pæləti/ *n* the office or territory of a prince

**principal parts** *n pl* that series of verb forms from which all the other forms of a verb can be derived

**principle** /prɪnsɪpl/ *n* 1a a universal and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption b(1) a rule or code of conduct (2) habitual devotion to right principles <a man of ~> (3) a fundamental implication <he objects to the ~ of the thing, not the method> c the laws or facts of nature underlying the working of an artificial device 2 a primary source, a fundamental element <the ancients emphasized the opposing ~s of heat and cold> 3 an underlying faculty or endowment <such ~s of human nature as greed and curiosity> 4 an ingredient (e.g. a chemical) that exhibits or imparts a characteristic quality [ME, modif of MF *principe*, fr L *principium* beginning, fr *princip-*, *princeps* one taking the first part – more at PRINCE] in principle with respect to fundamentals <prepared to accept the proposition in principle>

**principled** *adj* exhibiting, based on, or characterized by principle – often used in combination <high-principled>

**prink** /prɪŋk/ *vb* to primp [prob alter of 'prank (to dress or adorn showily), prob fr D *pronken* to strut] – **prinker** *n*

**print** /prɪnt/ *n* 1a a mark made by pressure, an impression b sth impressed with a print or formed in a mould 2 printed state or form 3 printed matter or letters – compare SMALL PRINT 4a(1) a copy made by printing (e.g. from a photographic negative) (2) a reproduction of an original work of art (e.g. a painting) (3) an original work of art (e.g. a woodcut or lithograph) intended for graphic reproduction b (an article made from) cloth with a pattern applied by printing c a photographic copy, esp from a negative [ME *preinte*, fr OF, fr *preint*, pp of *preindre* to press, fr L *premere* – more at 'PRESS] – in print obtainable from the publisher – out of print not obtainable from the publisher

**print** *vt* 1 to stamp (e.g. a mark or design) in or on sth 2a to make a copy of by impressing paper against an inked printing surface b to impress with a design or pattern c to publish in print 3 to write each letter of separately, not joined together 4 to make (a positive picture) on sensitized photographic surface from a negative or a positive ~ *vi* 1 to form a printed image 2a to work as a printer b to produce printed matter 3 to produce sth by printing 4 to use unjoined letters like those of roman type

**printable** /prɪntəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being printed or of being printed from or on 2 considered fit to publish – **printability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**printed circuit** *n* a circuit for electronic apparatus consisting of conductive material in thin continuous paths from terminal to terminal on an insulating surface

**printer** /prɪntə/ *n* 1 a person engaged in printing 2 a machine for printing from photographic negatives 3 a device (e.g. a line printer) that produces printout ['PRINT + -ER]

**printing** /prɪntɪŋ/ *n* 1 reproduction in printed form 2 the art, practice, or business of a printer 3 IMPRESSION 4c

**printing press** *n* a machine that produces printed copies

**printout** /-ɔwt/ *n* a printed record produced automatically (e.g. by a computer) – COMPUTER – **print out** *vt*

**prior** /prɪə-/ *n* 1 the deputy head of a monastery ranking next below the abbot 2 the head (of a house) of any of various religious communities [ME, fr OE & MF, fr ML, fr LL, administrator, fr L, former, superior] – **priorate** /-rət/ *n*, **priorship** *n*

**prior** *adj* 1 earlier in time or order 2 taking precedence (e.g. in importance) [L, former, superior, compar of OL *pri* before; akin to L *priscus* ancient, *prae* before – more at FOR] – **priorly** *adv*

**prioress** /prɪə-rɪs, -res/ *n* a nun corresponding in rank to a prior **priority** /prɪə'rɪəti/ *n* 1a being prior b(1) superiority in rank (2) legal precedence in exercise of rights 2 sth meriting prior attention

**prior to** *prep* before in time, in advance of fml

**priory** /prɪə-ri/ *n* (the church of) a religious house under a prior or prioress

**prise** /prɪz/ *vt*, chiefly Br 'PRIZE

**prism** /prɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a polyhedron whose ends are similar, equal, and parallel polygons and whose faces are parallelograms 2 a transparent body that is bounded in part by 2 nonparallel plane faces and is used to deviate or disperse a beam of light [LL *prisma-*, *prisma*, fr Gk, lit, anything sawn, fr *prein* to saw]

**prismatic** /prɪz'matɪk/ *adj* 1 of, like, or being a prism 2 formed, dispersed, or refracted (as if) by a prism <~ effects> <~ colours> – **prismatically** *adv*

**prison** /prɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 a state of confinement or captivity 2 a place of enforced confinement, specif a building in which people are confined for safe custody while on trial or for punishment after conviction [ME, fr OF, fr L *prehension-*, *prehensio* act of seizing, fr *prehensus*, pp of *prehendere* to seize – more at PREHENSILE] – **prison** *vt*

**prisoner** /prɪz(ə)nə/ *n* sb kept under involuntary confinement; esp sb on trial or in prison

**prisoner of war** *n* a person captured in war

**prisoner's base** *n* a game in which players on each of 2 teams try to tag and imprison players of the other team who have ventured out of their home territory

**prissy** /prɪsi/ *adj* prim and over-precise, finicky [prob blend of *prim* and *sniff*] – **prissily** *adv*, **prissiness** *n*

**pristine** /prɪsteɪn, -tiən/ *adj* 1 belonging to the earliest period or state 2 free from impurity or decay, fresh and clean as if new [L *pristinus*, akin to L *prior*] – **pristinely** *adv*

**prithce** /prɪdhee/ *interj*, archaic – used to express a wish or request [alter of (I) *pray thee*]

**privacy** /prɪveɪsi, pri-/ *n* 1 being apart from the company or observation of others, seclusion 2 freedom from undesirable intrusions and esp publicity [ME *privacie*, fr *privat* private]

**private** /prɪveɪt/ *adj* 1a intended for or restricted to the use of a particular person, group, etc <a ~ park> b belonging to or concerning an individual person, company, or interest <a ~ house> c(1) restricted to the individual or arising independently of others <my ~ opinion is that the whole scheme's ridiculous> (2) independent of the usual institutions <~ study> d not general in effect <a ~ statute> e of or receiving medical treatment in Britain for which fees are charged and in which the patient has more privileges than a patient being treated under the National Health Service f of or administered by a private individual or organization as opposed to a governmental institution or agency <a ~ pension scheme> 2a(1) not holding public office or employment <a ~ citizen> (2) not related to one's official position, personal <~ correspondence> b having the rank of a private <a ~ soldier> 3a(1) withdrawn from company or observation, sequestered (2) not seeking or having the companionship of others <she was a very ~ person> b not (intended to be) known publicly; secret [ME *privat*, fr L *privatus*, fr pp of *privare* to deprive, release, fr *privus* private, set apart, akin to L *pro* for – more at FOR] – **privately** *adv*, **privateness** *n*

**private** *n* RANK – in private not openly or in public

**private company** *n* a company that has a limited number of shareholders and whose shares are not offered to the general public – compare PUBLIC COMPANY

**private detective** *n* a person concerned with the maintenance of legal conduct or the investigation of crime either as a regular employee of a private interest (e.g. a hotel) or as a contractor for fees

**private enterprise** *n* FREE ENTERPRISE

**privateer** /prɪveɪ'ɪə/ *n* 1 an armed private ship commissioned to cruise against the commerce or warships of an enemy 2 the commander or any of the crew of a privateer – **privateer** *vt*

**private eye** *n* PRIVATE DETECTIVE

**private first class** *n* RANK

**private law** *n* a branch of law concerned with private people and property

**private member's bill** *n* a bill that is not part of the government's legislative programme

**private parts** *n pl* the external genital and excretory organs

**private practice** *n* the practice of a doctor or dentist outside the National Health Service

**private school** *n* an independent school that is not a British public school

**private sector** *n* the part of the economy that is not owned or directly controlled by the state – compare PUBLIC SECTOR

**private treaty** *n* a sale of property on terms determined by negotiation between the seller and buyer – compare AUCTION

**privation** /prɪˈveɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act or instance of depriving; deprivation 2 being deprived; esp lack of the usual necessities of life [ME *privacion*, fr MF *privation*, fr L *privation-*, *privatio*, fr *privatus*, pp of *privare* to deprive – more at PRIVATE]

**privative** /prɪvətɪv/ *adj* constituting or predicating lack or absence of a quality (< *un-*, and *non-* are ~ prefixes) – **privative** *n*

**privatization, -isation** /prɪveɪtɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ 1 the avoiding of involvement in anything beyond one's immediate interests 2 the restoration of a nationalized body to private ownership – **privatize** /prɪveɪˈteɪz/ *vt*

**privet** /prɪvɪt/ *n* an ornamental shrub with half-evergreen leaves widely planted for hedges [origin unknown]

**'privilege** /prɪv(ɪ)lj/ *n* a right, immunity, or advantage granted exclusively to a particular person, class, or group, a prerogative; esp such an advantage attached to a position or office [ME, fr OF, fr L *privilegium* law for or against a private person, fr *privus* private + *leg-*, *lex* law]

**'privilege** *vt* to grant a privilege to

**'privileged** *adj* 1 having or enjoying 1 or more privileges (< ~ classes) 2 not subject to disclosure in court (< a ~ communication)

**privity** /prɪvɪti/ *n* 1 joint, usu secret, knowledge of a private matter 2 the relation between people who have a legal interest in the same transaction [ME *privite*, fr OF, fr ML *privatus*, *privitas*, fr L *privus* private – more at PRIVATE]

**'privy** /prɪvi/ *adj* 1 sharing in a secret – + to < ~ to the conspiracy> 2 archaic secret, private [ME *prive*, fr OF *privé*, fr L *privatus* private] – **privily** *adv*

**'privy** *n* 1 a small building containing a bench with a hole in it used as a toilet 2 NAM TOILET 2b

**Privy Council** *n* an advisory council nominally chosen by the British monarch and usu functioning through its committees – **Privy Counsellor** *n*

**privy purse** *n*, often *cap* both *Ps* an allowance for the monarch's private expenses

**'prize** /prɪz/ *n* 1 sthg offered or striven for in competition or in a contest of chance 2 sthg exceptionally desirable or precious [ME *pris* prize, price – more at PRICE]

**'prize** *adj* 1a awarded or worthy of a prize (< a ~ pupil> b awarded as a prize (< a ~ medal> 2 outstanding of a kind (< a ~ idiot>)

**'prize** *vt* 1 to estimate the value of; rate 2 to value highly, esteem [ME *prisen*, fr MF *prisier*, fr LL *pretiare*, fr L *pretium* price, value – more at PRICE]

**'prize** *n* property or shipping lawfully captured at sea in time of war [ME *prise* booty, fr OF, act of taking, fr *prendre* to take, fr L *prehendere* – more at PREHENSILE]

**'prize**, *Br* also **prize** /prɪz/ *vt* 1 to press, force, or move with a lever 2 to open, obtain, or remove with difficulty (< tried to ~ information out of him> ['prize (lever)]

**'prizefighting** /-ˈfɪtɪŋ/ *n* boxing – **prizefight** *n*, **prizefighter** *n*

**'prize money** *n* 1 a part of the proceeds of a captured ship formerly divided among the officers and men taking the prize 2 money offered as a prize

**'prize-winning** /-ˈwɪnɪŋ/ *adj* having won or of a quality to win a prize (< a ~ design>)

**'pro** /prəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **pros** 1 an argument or piece of evidence in favour of a particular proposition or view (< an appraisal of the ~s and cons> 2 one who favours or supports a particular proposition or view [ME, fr L, prep, for – more at FOR]

**'pro** *adv* in favour or affirmation (< much has been written ~ and con> [pro-])

**'pro** *prep* for; IN FAVOUR OF 1 [L]

**'pro** *n* or *adj*, *pl* **pros** (a) professional – *informal*

**'pro** *n*, *pl* **pros** a prostitute – *slang*

**'pro-** *prefix* 1a earlier than; prior to; before (< prologue> b rudimentary; prot- (< pronucleus> 2 projecting (< prognathous> [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, before, forwards, forth, for, fr *pro* – more at FOR]

**'pro-** /prəʊ-/ *prefix* 1 taking the place of; substituting for (< pro-cathedral> (< pro-proctor> 2 favouring; supporting; championing (< pro-American> 3 onwards; forwards (< progress> (< propel> [L *pro* in front of, before, for – more at FOR]

**proa** /prəʊ-ə/ *n* a fast Malay boat shaped like a canoe and equipped with oars, a large triangular sail, and an outrigger [Malay *pérahu*]

**pro-am** /prəʊ ˈam/ *n* an esp golf competition in which amateurs play professionals [*professional* + *amateur*]

**probabilistic** /prəbəˈbɪlɪstɪk/ *adj* of or based on probability

**probability** /prəbəˈbɪləti/ *n* 1 being probable 2 sthg (e.g. an occurrence or circumstance) probable 3 a measure of the likelihood that a given event will occur, usu expressed as the ratio of the number of times it occurs in a test series to the total number of trials in the series → STATISTICS

**probability function** *n* a function of a discrete random variable that gives the probability that a specified value will occur

**'probable** /prəbəl/ *adj* 1 supported by evidence strong enough to establish likelihood but not proof 2 likely to be or become true or real (< ~ events> [ME, fr MF, fr L *probabilis*, fr *probare* to test, approve, prove – more at PROVE] – **probably** *adv*

**'probable** *n* sby or sthg probable; esp sby who will probably be selected (< she's a ~ for the new post>)

**proband** /prəʊˈbænd/ *n* SUBJECT 3b(1) [L *probandus*, gerundive of *probare*]

**probang** /prəʊˈbɑŋ/ *n* a slender flexible rod with a sponge on one end used esp for removing obstructions from the oesophagus [alter (prob influenced by 'probe) of earlier *provang* (so named by the inventor), of unknown origin]

**'probate** /prəˈbeɪt/ *n* the judicial determination of the validity of a will, also an official copy of a will certified as valid [ME *probat*, fr L *probatum*, neut of *probatus*, pp of *probare*]

**'probate** *vt*, *NAM* to establish (a will) by probate

**probation** /prəˈbeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a subjection of an individual to a period of testing to ascertain fitness b a method of dealing with (young) offenders by which sentence is suspended subject to regular supervision by a probation officer 2 the state or a period of being subject to probation – **probational** *adj*, **probationally** *adv*, **probationary** *adj*

**probationer** /prəˈbeɪʃ(ə)nə/ *n* 1 one (e.g. a newly admitted student nurse) whose fitness for a post is being tested during a trial period 2 an offender on probation

**'probation officer** *n* an officer appointed to supervise the conduct of offenders on probation

**probative** /prəˈbɒtɪv/ *adj* serving to prove, substantiating – *formal*

**'probe** /prəʊb/ *n* 1 a slender surgical instrument for examining a cavity 2a a slender pointed metal conductor (e.g. of electricity or sound) that is temporarily connected to or inserted in the monitored device or quantity b a device used to investigate or send back information, esp from interplanetary space → SPACE 3a the action of probing b a tentative exploratory survey c a penetrating or critical investigation, an inquiry – *journal* [ML *proba* examination, fr L *probare*]

**'probe** *vt* 1 to examine (as if) with a probe 2 to investigate thoroughly – *journal* ~ *vi* to make an exploratory investigation – **prober** *n*

**probit** /prəʊbɪt/ *n* a unit of measurement of probability based on deviations from the mean of a normal distribution [*probability unit*]

**probity** /prəˈbɪti/ *n* adherence to the highest principles and ideals; uprightness – *formal* [MF *probité*, fr L *probitas*, *probitas*, fr *probus* honest – more at PROVE]

**'problem** /ˈprɒbləm/ *n* 1a a question raised for inquiry, consideration, or solution b a proposition in mathematics or physics stating sthg to be done 2a a situation or question that is difficult to understand or resolve b sby who is difficult to deal with or understand [ME *probleme*, fr MF, fr L *problema*, fr Gk *problema*, lit., something thrown forwards, fr *proballain* to throw forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *ballain* to throw – more at 'PRO-, DEVIL]

**'problem** *adj* 1 dealing with a social or human problem (< a ~ play> 2 difficult to deal with; presenting a problem (< a ~ child>)

**problematic** /prəbˈlətɪk/, **problematical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 difficult to solve or decide; puzzling 2 open to question or debate; questionable 3 of a proposition in logic asserted as possible – **problematically** *adv*

**proboscidean, proboscidian** /prəbɒˈsɪdi-ən/ *n* any of an order of large mammals comprising the elephants and extinct related forms [deriv of L *proboscis*, *proboscis*] – **proboscidean** *adj*

**proboscis** /prəˈbɒsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **proboscises** also **proboscides** /-ˈdeɪz/ 1 a long flexible snout (e.g. the trunk of an elephant) 2 any of various elongated or extendable tubular parts (e.g. the sucking organ of a mosquito) of an invertebrate → ANATOMY 3 the human nose – *informal*; humor [L, fr Gk *proboskis*, fr *pro-* + *boskein* to feed; akin to Lith *gauja* herd]

**proboscis monkey** *n* a large monkey of Borneo with a long fleshy nose

**procaryote** /ˈprɒkəriːoʊt/ *n* a prokaryote - **procaryotic** /ˈɒtɪk/ *adj*  
**procedural** /ˈprəːsɪ(ə)rəl, -dyoʊrəl, -dya-/ *adj* of procedure - **procedurally** *adv*

**procedure** /prəˈsiːjə, prɒh-/ *n* 1 a particular way of acting or accomplishing sthg 2 a series of ordered steps <legal ~> 3 an established method of doing things <a stickler for ~> [F *procédure*, fr MF, fr *proceder*]

**proceed** /prəˈsiːd, prɒh-/ *vi* 1 to arise from a source, originate <this trouble ~ed from a misunderstanding> 2 to continue after a pause or interruption 3 to begin and carry on an action, process, or movement 4 to move along a course; advance [ME *proceden*, fr MF *proceder*, fr L *procedere*, fr *pro-* forwards + *cedere* to go - more at *PRO-*, *CEDE*]

**proceeding** /prəˈsiːdɪŋ, prɒh-/ *n* 1 a procedure 2 *pl* events, goings-on 3 *pl* legal action <divorce ~s> 4 *pl* an official record of things said or done 5 (an) affair, transaction - *fml* in sing, usu *pl* with sing meaning

**proceeds** /ˈprɒsiːdz/ *n pl* 1 the total amount brought in <the ~ of a sale> 2 the net amount received [*pl* of obs *proceed* (proceeds)]

**process** /ˈprɒses/ *n* 1a a moving forwards, esp as part of a progression or development <the historical ~> b sthg going on, a proceeding 2a a natural phenomenon marked by gradual changes that lead towards a particular result <the ~ of growth> b a series of actions or operations designed to achieve an end, esp a continuous operation or treatment (e.g. in manufacture) 3a a whole course of legal proceedings b a summons, writ 4 a prominent or projecting part of a living organism or an anatomical structure <a bone ~> [ME *proces*, fr MF, fr L *processus*, fr *processus*, pp of *procedere*]

**process** *vt* 1 to subject to a special process or treatment (e.g. in the course of manufacture) 2 to take appropriate action on <~ an insurance claim> - **processable**, **processable** *adj*

**process** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to move in a procession [back-formation fr *procession*]

**procession** /prəˈsesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a group of individuals moving along in an orderly way, esp as part of a ceremony or demonstration 2 a succession, sequence

**processional** /prəˈsesh(ə)nəl/ *n* a musical composition (e.g. a hymn) designed for a procession

**processional** *adj* of or moving in a procession - **processionally** *adv*

**processor** /ˈprɒsesə/ *n* 1a a computer b the part of a computer system that operates on data 2 a computer program that puts data into a form acceptable to the computer *USE*  $\rightarrow$  COMPUTER [PROCESS + -OR]

**process-verbal** /prɒˈsɛs vɜːbəl/ (Fr *procès verbal*) *n, pl* *procès-verbaux* /vuhˈboʊ (Fr *vi ro*) a written statement in support of a charge in French law [F, lit, verbal trial]

**proclaim** /prəˈkleɪm, prɒh-/ *vt* 1 to declare publicly and usu officially, announce 2 to give outward indication of, show [ME *proclamen*, fr MF or L, MF *proclamer*, fr L *proclamare*, fr *pro-* before + *clamare* to cry out - more at *PRO-*, *CLAIM*] - **proclaimer** *n*

**proclamation** /ˈprɒkləˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 proclaiming or being proclaimed 2 an official public announcement [ME *proclamacion*, fr MF *proclamation*, fr L *proclamation-*, *proclamatio*, fr *proclamatus*, pp of *proclamare*]

**proclitic** /prɒˈkliːtɪk/ *adj*, of a word (e.g. *at* in *at home*) being without independent accent and pronounced with the following word as a phonetic unit [NL *procliticus*, fr Gk *pro-* + LL *-cliticus* (as in *encliticus* enclitic)] - **proclitic** *n*

**proclivity** /prɒˈklɪvəti, prɒh-/ *n* an inclination or predisposition towards sthg, esp sthg reprehensible - often *pl* with sing meaning [L *proclivitas*, fr *proclivis* sloping, prone, fr *pro-* forwards + *clivus* hill - more at *PRO-*, *DECLIVITY*]

**proconsul** /prɒˈkɒnsəl/ *n* 1 a governor or military commander - an ancient Roman province 2 an administrator in a modern dependency or occupied area [ME, fr L, fr *pro consule* for a consul] - **proconsulship** *n*, **proconsular** /ˈkɒnsjoolə/ *adj*, **proconsulate** /ˈsjoolət/ *n*

**procrastinate** /prɒˈkræstɪnəɪt, prɒh-/ *vi* to delay intentionally and reprehensibly in doing sthg necessary - *fml* [L *procrastinatus*, pp of *procrastinare*, fr *pro-* forwards + *crastinus* of tomorrow, fr *cras* tomorrow] - **procrastinator** *n*, **procrastination** /ˈnæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**procreate** /ˈprɒkriːəɪt/ *vb* to beget or bring forth (young) [L *procreatus*, pp of *procreare*, fr *pro-* forth + *creare* to create] - **procreative** *adj*, **procreate** *n*, **procreation** /ˈˌaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**procrustean** /prɒˈkrʊstiən, -tiːən/ *adj*, often *cap* seeking to enforce or establish conformity (e.g. to a policy or doctrine) by arbitrary and often violent means [Procrustes, mythical robber of ancient Greece who forced his victims to fit a certain bed by stretching them or lopping off their legs, fr L, fr Gk *Prokroustes*, lit., stretcher]

**proctology** /prɒkˈtɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of medicine dealing with the structure and diseases of the anus, rectum, and lower part of the large intestine [Gk *proktos* anus + E *-logy*] - **proctologist** *n*, **proctologic** /ˈtɒlədʒɪk/, **proctological** *adj*

**proctor** /ˈprɒktə/ *n* a supervisor, monitor; *specif* one appointed to maintain student discipline at Oxford or Cambridge [ME *procutor* procurator, proctor, alter of *procurator*] - **proctorship** *n*, **proctorial** /ˈtɒrɪəl/ *adj*

**procumbent** /prɒhˈkʌmbənt/ *adj* being or having stems that trail along the ground without rooting [L *procumbent-*, *procumbens*, prp of *procumbere* to fall or lean forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *-cumbere* to lie down - more at *RLCUMBENT*]

**procuration** /ˈprɒkyooˈraɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the authority vested in an attorney 2 the action of obtaining sthg (e.g. supplies), procurement - *fml* [ME *procuratioun*, fr MF *procuracion*, fr L *procuracion-*, *procuratio*, fr *procuratus*, pp of *procurare*]

**procurator** /ˈprɒkyooˈraɪtə/ *n* 1 an agent 2 an administrator of the Roman empire entrusted with the financial management of a province - **procuratorial** /ˈtɒrɪəl/ *adj*

**procurator-fiscal** *n*, often *cap* P&F a local public prosecutor in Scotland

**procure** /prəˈkyoo/ *vi* 1 to get and provide (esp. women) to act as prostitutes 2 to obtain, esp. by particular care and effort 3 to achieve, BRING ABOUT ~ *vi* to procure women *USE* (vt 2&3) *fml* [ME *procuren* to contrive, obtain, fr LL *procurare*, fr L, to take care of, fr *pro-* for + *cura* care] - **procurable** *adj*, **procurement** *n*, **procurement** *n*

**procurer** /ˈprɒkyooərə/, *fem* **procress** /ˈrɪs/ *n* sb who procures women for prostitution [PROCURE + -ER]

**prod** /prɒd/ *vb* -*dd-* *vi* 1 to poke or jab (as if) with a pointed instrument 2 to incite to action, stir ~ *vi* to make a prodding or jabbing movement, esp repeatedly [perh. alter. of E dial. *brod* (to goad), fr. or akin to ON *broddr* spike] - **prodder** *n*

**prod** *n* 1 a pointed instrument 2 a prodding action, a jab 3 an incitement to act

**prodigal** /ˈprɒdɪɡl/ *adj* 1 recklessly extravagant or wasteful 2 yielding abundantly, lavishly <~ of new ideas> - *fml* [L *prodigus*, fr *prodigere* to drive away, squander, fr *pro-*, *prod-* forth + *agere* to drive - more at *PRO-*, *AGENT*] - **prodigally** *adv*, **prodigality** /ˈɡæləti/ *n*

**prodigal** *n* 1 a repentant sinner or reformed wastrel 2 one who spends or gives lavishly and foolishly

**prodigious** /prəˈdɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 exciting amazement or wonder 2 extraordinary in bulk, quantity, or degree, enormous - **prodigiously** *adv*, **prodigiousness** *n*

**prodigy** /ˈprɒdɪdʒi/ *n* 1a sthg extraordinary, inexplicable, or marvellous b an exceptional and wonderful example <a ~ of patience> 2 a person, esp. a child, with extraordinary talents [L *prodigium* omen, monster, fr *pro-*, *prod-* + *-igium* (akin to *aio* I say) - more at *ADAGE*]

**produce** /prəˈdyooʃs/ *vi* 1 to offer to view or notice, exhibit 2 to give birth or rise to 3 to extend in length, area, or volume <~ a side of a triangle> 4 to act as a producer of 5 to give being, form, or shape to, make, esp. to manufacture 6 to (cause to) accumulate ~ *vi* to bear, make, or yield sthg [ME (Sc) *producen*, fr L *producere*, fr *pro-* forwards + *ducere* to lead - more at *DUCE*] - **producible** *adj*

**produce** /ˈprɒdyooʃs/ *n* agricultural products, esp. fresh fruits and vegetables as distinguished from grain and other staple crops

**producer** /prəˈdyooʃəs/ *n* 1 an individual or entity that grows agricultural products or manufactures articles 2a sb who has responsibility for the administrative aspects of the production of a film (e.g. casting, schedules, and esp. finance) b *Br* DIRECTOR 3 3 an organism, usu. a photosynthetic green plant, that can synthesize organic matter from inorganic materials and that often serves as food for other organisms - compare CONSUMER  $\rightarrow$  FOOD [PRODUCE + -ER]

**producer gas** *n* a manufactured fuel gas consisting chiefly of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and nitrogen

**product** /ˈprɒdʌkt, -dukt/ *n* 1 the result of the multiplying together of 2 or more numbers or expressions 2 sthg produced by a natural or artificial process; *specif* a result of a combination of incidental causes or conditions <a typical ~ of an arts education> 3 a salable or marketable commodity <tourism should be regarded as a ~> [(1) ME, fr ML *productum*, fr L, sthg produced, fr neut. of *producus*, pp of *producere*, (2, 3) L *productum*]

**production** /prəˈdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a sthg produced; a product b(1) a literary or artistic work (2) a work presented on the stage or screen or over the air 2a the act or process of producing b the creation of utility;

*esp* the making of goods available for human wants 3 total output, *esp* of a commodity or an industry – **productional** *adj*

**production line** *n* LINE 5h

**productive** /prə'duktɪv/ *adj* 1 having the quality or power of producing, *esp* in abundance (< *~ fishing waters*) 2 effective in bringing about; being the cause of 3a yielding or furnishing results or benefits (< *a ~ programme of education*) b yielding or devoted to the satisfaction of wants or the creation of utilities – **productively** *adv*, **productiveness** *n*, **productivity** /prə'duktɪvəti/ *n*

**proem** /proh-em/ *n* 1 a preface or introduction, *esp* to a book or speech 2 a prelude [ME *proheme*, fr MF, fr L *prooemium*, fr Gk *proimion*, fr *pro-* + *oimē* song] – **proemial** /-ˈeɪmi-əl/ *adj*

**proenzyme** /proh-ˈenzim/ *n* a zymogen [ISV]

**prof** /prof/ *n* a professor – *slang*

**profanation** /ˈprɒfəˈnæʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a) profaning

**profane** /prəˈfaɪn/ *vt* 1 to treat (sthg sacred) with abuse, irreverence, or contempt; desecrate 2 to debase by an unworthy or improper use – **profaner** *n*

**profane** *adj* 1 not concerned with religion or religious purposes 2 debasing or defiling what is holy, irreverent 3a not among the initiated b not possessing esoteric or expert knowledge [ME *prophane*, fr MF, fr L *profanus*, fr *pro-* before + *fanum* temple – more at *PRO-*, *FEAST*] – **profanely** *adv*, **profaneity** *n*

**profanity** /prəˈfænəti/ *n* 1a being profane b (the use of) profane language 2 a profane utterance

**profess** /ˈprɒfɛs/ *vt* 1 to receive formally into a religious community 2a to declare or admit openly or freely; affirm b to declare falsely, pretend 3 to confess one's faith in or allegiance to 4 to be a professor of (an academic discipline) ~ *vi* to make a profession or avowal [(1) ME *professen*, fr *profes*, *adj*, having professed one's vows, fr OF, fr LL *professus*, fr L, pp of *profiteri* to profess, confess, fr *pro-* before + *fatēri* to acknowledge, (2-4 & vi) L *professus*, pp – more at *CONFESS*]

**professed** *adj* 1 openly and freely admitted or declared (< *a ~ atheist*) 2 professing to be qualified (< *a ~ solicitor*) 3 pretended, feigned (< *misery*) – **professedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*

**profession** /prəˈfɛʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of taking the vows of a religious community 2 an act of openly declaring or claiming a faith, opinion, etc; a protestation 3 an avowed religious faith 4a a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation b a principal calling, vocation, or employment *c sing or pl in constr* the whole body of people engaged in a particular calling

**professional** /prəˈfɛʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1a (characteristic) of a profession b engaged in 1 of the learned professions c(1) characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession (< *conduct*) (2) characterized by conscientious workmanship (< *a sound ~ novel*) (< *did a really ~ job on the garden*) 2a engaging for gain or livelihood in an activity or field of endeavour often engaged in by amateurs b engaged in by professionals (< *football*) 3 following a line of conduct as though it were a profession (< *a ~ agitator*) – *derog* 4 of a breaking of rules, *esp* in sport intentional – *euph* – **professionalize** *vt*, **professionally** *adv*

**professional** *n* 1 one who engages in a pursuit or activity professionally 2 one with sufficient experience or skill in an occupation or activity to resemble a professional (< *a real ~ when it comes to mending cars*) – *infml*

**professionalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the *esp* high and consistent conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize a profession or a professional person 2 the following for gain or livelihood of an activity often engaged in by amateurs

**professor** /prəˈfɛsə/ *n* 1 sby who professes or declares sthg (e.g. a faith or opinion) 2a a staff member of the highest academic rank at a university; *esp* the head of a university department b sby who teaches or professes special knowledge of an art, sport, or occupation requiring skill *c NAM* a teacher at a university, college, or sometimes secondary school – **professorship** *n*, **professorate** /-rət/ *n*, **professorial** /ˌprɒfəsˈawri-əl/ *adj*

**professoriate**, **professoriat** /ˌprɒfəsəˈwri-ət/ *n* 1 the body of professors 2 a professorship [modif of F *professorat*, fr *professeur* professor, fr L *professor*, fr *professus*]

**proffer** /ˈprɒfə/ *vt* to present for acceptance; tender [ME *profren*, fr AF *profrer*, fr OF *poroffrir*, fr *por-* forth (fr L *pro-*) + *offrir* to offer – more at *PRO-*]

**proficient** /prəˈfɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adj* well advanced or expert in an art, skill, branch of knowledge, etc [L *proficient-*, *proficiens*, pp of *proficere* to go forwards, accomplish, fr *pro-* forwards + *facere* to make – more at *PRO-*, *DO-*] – **proficiency** *n*, **proficient** *n*, **proficiently** *adv*

**profile** /ˈprɒfiəl/ *n* 1 a side view, *esp* of the human face 2 an outline seen or represented in sharp relief; a contour 3 a side or sectional elevation: e.g. a a drawing showing a vertical section of the ground b a vertical section of a soil from the ground surface to the underlying material 4 a concise written or spoken biographical sketch [It *profilo*, fr *profilare* to draw in outline, fr *pro-* forwards (fr L) + *filare* to spin, fr LL – more at *FILE*]

**profile** *vt* 1 to represent in profile or by a profile; produce a profile of (e.g. by drawing or writing) 2 to shape the outline of by passing a cutter round – **profiler** *n*

**profit** /ˈprɒfɪt/ *n* 1 a valuable return, a gain 2 the excess of returns over expenditure 3 compensation for the assumption of risk in business enterprise, as distinguished from wages or rent [ME, fr MF, fr L *profectus* advance, profit, fr *profectus*, pp of *proficere*] – **profitless** *adj*

**profit** *vi* to derive benefit; gain – *usu* + *from* or *by* (< *~ed greatly from these lessons*) ~ *vt* to be of service to; benefit (< *it will not ~ you to start an argument*)

**profitable** /ˈprɒfɪtəbl/ *adj* affording financial or other gains or profits – **profitableness** *n*, **profitability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*

**profiteer** /ˈprɒfɪtɪə/ *n* one who makes an unreasonable profit, *esp* on the sale of scarce and essential goods – **profiteer** *vi*

**profiterole** /ˈprɒfɪtəˌroʊl, -rɔɪ-, ˈprɒfɪtəˌroʊl/ *n* a small hollow ball of cooked choux pastry that is filled with a sweet or savoury preparation, *esp* one filled with whipped cream and covered with a chocolate sauce [F, fr *profiter* to profit]

**profit sharing** *n* a system or process under which employees receive a part of the profits of an industrial or commercial enterprise

**profligate** /ˈprɒflɪɡət/ *adj* 1 utterly dissolute, immoral 2 wildly extravagant, prodigal [L *profligatus*, fr pp of *profligare* to strike down, fr *pro-* forwards, down + *-fligare* (akin to *fligere* to strike), akin to Gk *thlibein* to squeeze] – **profligacy** *n*, **profligately** *adv*

**profligate** *n* a person given to wildly extravagant and *usu* grossly self-indulgent expenditure

**pro forma** /ˌprɒh ˈfawmɑ/ *adj* 1 made or carried out in a perfunctory manner or as a formality 2 provided in advance to prescribe form or describe items (< *invoice*) [L]

**profound** /prəˈfəʊnd/ *adj* 1a having intellectual depth and insight b difficult to fathom or understand 2a extending far below the surface b coming from, reaching to, or situated at a depth, deep-seated (< *a ~ sigh*) 3a characterized by intensity of feeling or quality b all encompassing, complete (< *sleep*) [ME, fr MF *profond* deep, fr L *profundus*, fr *pro-* before + *fundus* bottom – more at *PRO-*, *BOTTOM*] – **profoundly** *adv*, **profoundness** *n*

**profundity** /prəˈfʊndəti/ *n* 1a intellectual depth b sthg profound or abstruse 2 being profound or deep [ME *profundite*, fr MF *profundite*, fr L *profunditas*, *profunditas* depth, fr *profundus*]

**profuse** /prəˈfjuːs/ *adj* 1 liberal, extravagant (< *in their thanks*) 2 greatly abundant; bountiful (< *a ~ harvest*) [ME, fr L *profusus*, pp of *profundere* to pour forth, fr *pro-* forth + *fundere* to pour – more at *FOUND*] – **profusely** *adv*, **profuseness** *n*

**profusion** /prəˈfjuːʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1 being profuse 2 a large or lavish amount

**progenitor** /ˌprɒdʒɪˈnɪtə/ *n* 1a a direct ancestor; a forefather b a biologically ancestral form 2 a precursor, originator [ME, fr MF *progeniteur*, fr L *progenitor*, fr *progenitus*, pp of *prognere* to beget, fr *pro-* forth + *gnere* to beget – more at *KIN*]

**progeny** /ˈprɒdʒɪni/ *n* 1 *sing or pl in constr* a descendants, children b offspring of animals or plants 2 an outcome, product – *fml* [ME *progenie*, fr OF, fr L *progenies*, fr *prognere*]

**gestational** /ˌprɒdʒɪˈstæʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* preceding pregnancy or gestation; *esp* associated with ovulation

**progesterone** /ˌprɒdʒɪˈstəˌroʊn/ *n* a steroid gestational hormone [progesterin + *-sterol* + *-one*]

**progesterin** /ˌprɒdʒɪˈstɪn/ *n* a gestational hormone, *esp* progesterone [*pro-* + *gestation* + *-in*]

**progestogen** /ˌprɒdʒɪˈstɔːdʒɪn/ *n* any of several gestational steroids (e.g. progesterone) [progestational + *-ogen* (as in *oestrogen*)]

**proglottid** /ˌprɒdʒlɒˈtɪd/ *n* a segment of a tapeworm containing both male and female reproductive organs [NL *proglottid-*, *proglottis*, fr Gk *proglottis* tip of the tongue, fr *pro-* + *glotta* tongue – more at *GLOSS*; fr its shape] – **proglottidean** /-ˌglɒtɪˈdiːən, -ˌglɒtɪˈdi-ən/ *adj*

**proglottis** /-ˌglɒtɪs/ *n*, *pl* **proglottides** /-tɪˈdeɪz/ a proglottid

**prognathic** /ˌprɒdʒˈnæθɪk/ *adj* prognathous

**prognathous** /ˌprɒdʒˈnæθəs/ *adj* having the jaws projecting beyond the upper part of the face

**prognosis** /ˈprɒɡnoʊsɪs/ *n, pl prognoses* /-seɪz/ 1 the prospect of recovery as anticipated from the usual course of disease or peculiarities of a particular case 2 a forecast, prognostication – fml [LL, fr Gk *prognōsis*, lit., foreknowledge, fr *prognōskein* to know before, fr *pro-* + *gnōskein* to know – more at **KNOW**]

**prognostic** /ˈprɒɡnɒstɪk/ *n* 1 sthg that foretells, a portent 2 prognostication, prophecy *USE* fml [ME *prognostique*, fr MF, fr L *prognosticum*, fr Gk *prognostikon*, fr neut of *prognōstikos* foretelling, fr *prognōskein*] – **prognostic** *adj*

**prognosticate** /ˈprɒɡnɒstɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to foretell from signs or symptoms, predict 2 to indicate in advance; presage *USE* fml – **prognosticator** *n*, **prognosticative** /-kəɪtɪv/ *adj*, **prognostication** /-kəɪtʃən/ *n*

**prograde** /ˈprɒhˌɡreɪd/ *adj*, of orbital or rotational movement in the same direction as neighbouring celestial bodies – compare **RETROGRADE** [L *pro-* forwards + *gradī* to go – more at **PRO-**, **GRADE**]

**program** /ˈprɒɡræm/ *n* 1a a plan for the programming of a mechanism (e.g. a computer) – *COMPUTER* b a sequence of coded instructions that can be inserted into a mechanism (e.g. a computer) or that is part of an organism 2 chiefly *NAm* a programme

**program** *vt* -mm- (*NAm* -mm-, -m-) 1 to work out a sequence of operations to be performed by (a computer or similar mechanism), provide with a program 2 chiefly *NAm* to programme **programmable** *adj*, **programmability** /-məˈbɪləti/ *n*

**programmatic** /ˈprɒɡræmætɪk/ *adj* 1 of programme music 2 of, resembling, or having a programme – **programmatically** *adv*

**programme**, *NAm* chiefly **program** /ˈprɒɡræm/ *n* 1a a brief usu printed (pamphlet containing a) list of the features to be presented, the people participating, etc (e.g. in a public performance or entertainment) b the performance of a programme c a radio or television broadcast characterized by some feature (e.g. a presenter, a purpose, or a theme) giving it coherence and continuity – *TELEVISION* 2 a systematic plan of action (a *rehousing* ~) 3 a curriculum 4 a prospectus, syllabus 5 matter for programmed instruction [F *programme* agenda, public notice, fr Gk *programma*, fr *prographein* to write before, fr *pro-* before + *graphein* to write]

**programme**, *NAm* chiefly **program** *vt* 1a to arrange or provide a programme of or for b to enter in a programme 2 to cause to conform to a pattern (e.g. of thought or behaviour), condition (our *visions of marriage* have been ~d by *Hollywood*) – **programmable** *adj*, **programming** *n*, **programmability** /-məˈbɪləti/ *n*

**programmed**, *NAm* also **programed** *adj* (in the form) of programmed instruction

**programmed instruction** *n* instruction given in small steps with each requiring a correct response by the learner before going on to the next step

**programme music** *n* music intended to suggest a sequence of images or incidents

**programmer**, *NAm* also **programer** /ˈprɒɡræmə/ *n* 1 a person or device that prepares and tests programs for mechanisms 2 a person or device that programs a mechanism (e.g. a computer) 3 one who prepares educational programmes [ˈPROGRAM, ˈPROGRAMME + -ER]

**progress** /ˈprɒɡres/ *n* 1a a ceremonial journey, esp a monarch's tour of his/her dominions b an expedition, journey, or march 2 a forward or onward movement (e.g. to an objective or goal), an advance 3 gradual improvement; esp the progressive development of mankind [ME, fr L *progressus* advance, fr *progressus*, pp of *progredi* to go forth, fr *pro-* forwards + *gradī* to go – more at **PRO-**, **GRADE**] – *In* **progress** occurring, going on

**progress** /ˈprɒɡres/ *vi* 1 to move forwards, proceed 2 to develop, + a higher, better, or more advanced stage – *vi* 1 to oversee and ensure the satisfactory progress or running of (e.g. a project) (the *editor must ~ articles from conception to publication*) 2 to ascertain and attempt to bring forward the delivery or completion date of (~ *these orders*)

**progression** /ˈprɒɡreʃən/ *n* 1 a sequence of numbers in which each term is related to its predecessor by a uniform law 2a progressing, advance b a continuous and connected series, a sequence 3 succession of musical notes or chords – **progressional** *adj*

**progressive** /ˈprɒɡresɪv/ *adj* 1a of or characterized by progress or progression b making use of or interested in new ideas, findings, or opportunities c of or being an educational theory marked by emphasis on the individual, informality, and self-expression 2 moving forwards continuously or in stages; advancing 3 increasing in extent or severity (a ~ *disease*) 4 of or constituting a verb form (e.g. *am working*) that expresses action in progress 5 increasing in rate as the base increases (a ~ *tax*) –

**progressively** *adv*, **progressiveness** *n*, **progressivism** *n*, **progressivist** *n* or *adj*, **progressivistic** /-vɪstɪk/ *adj*

**progressive** *n* 1 sby or sthg progressive 2 sby believing in moderate political change, esp social improvement, esp. *cap* a member of a political party that advocates these beliefs

**prohibit** /ˈprɒhɪbɪt/ *vt* 1 to forbid by authority 2a to prevent from doing sthg b to preclude [ME *prohibiten*, fr L *prohibitus*, pp of *prohibere* to hold away, fr *pro-* forwards + *habere* to hold]

**prohibition** /ˈprɒhɪbɪʃən/ *n* 1 the act of prohibiting by authority 2 an order to restrain or stop 3 often *cap* the forbidding by law of the manufacture and sale of alcohol 4 a judicial writ prohibiting a lower court from proceeding in a case beyond its jurisdiction – **prohibitionist** *n*

**prohibitive** /ˈprɒhɪbɪtɪv/ *adj*, **prohibitory** /-t(ə)n/ *adj* 1 tending to prohibit or restrain 2 tending to preclude the use or acquisition of sthg (the *running expenses seemed ~*) – **prohibitively** *adv*, **prohibitiveness** *n*

**project** /ˈprɒjekt/ *also* *proh-/* *n* 1 a specific plan or design, a scheme 2 a planned undertaking e.g. a definitely formulated piece of research b a large undertaking, esp a public works scheme c a task or problem engaged in usu by a group of pupils, esp to supplement and apply classroom studies [ME *proiecte*, modif of MF *proujet*, fr *proujeter* to throw out, spy, plan, fr *pour-* (fr L *porro* forwards) + *jeter* to throw, akin to Gk *pro* forwards – more at **PRO-**, **JET**]

**project** /ˈprɒjekt/ *vt* 1a to devise in the mind, design b to plan, figure, or estimate for the future 2 to throw forwards or upwards, esp by mechanical means 3 to present or transport in imagination (a *book that tries to ~ how the world will look in 2100*) 4 to cause to protrude 5 to cause (light or an image) to fall into space or on a surface 6 to reproduce (e.g. a point, line, or area) on a surface by motion in a prescribed direction 7a to cause (one's voice) to be heard at a distance b to communicate vividly, esp to an audience c to present or express (oneself) in a manner that wins approval (must *learn to ~ yourself better if you want the job*) 8 to attribute (sthg in one's own mind) to a person, group, or object (a *nation is an entity on which one can ~ many of the worst of one's instincts* – *TLS*) – *vi* 1 to jut out, protrude 2 to attribute sthg in one's own mind to a person, group, or object [partly modif of MF *proujeter*, partly fr L *proiectus*, pp of *proicere* to throw forwards, fr *pro-* + *iacere* to throw – more at **JET**] – **projectable** *adj*

**projectile** /ˈprɒjektɪl/ *n* 1 a body projected by external force and continuing in motion by its own inertia, esp a missile (e.g. a bullet, shell, or grenade) fired from a weapon 2 a self-propelling weapon (e.g. a rocket)

**projective** *adj* 1 projecting or impelling 2 capable of being thrust forwards

**projection**, /ˈprɒjekʃən/ *n* 1a a systematic representation on a flat surface of latitude and longitude from the curved surface of the earth, celestial sphere, etc b (a graphic reproduction formed by) the process of reproducing a spatial object on a surface by projecting its points 2 the act of throwing or shooting forward, ejection 3a a jutting out b a part that juts out 4 the act of perceiving a subjective mental image as objective 5 the attribution of one's own ideas, feelings, or attitudes to other people or to objects, esp as a defence against feelings of guilt or inadequacy 6 the display of films or slides by projecting an image from them onto a screen 7 an estimate of future possibilities based on a current trend – **projectional** *adj*

**projectionist** /ˈprɒjekʃənɪst/ *n* the operator of a film projector or television equipment

**projective** /ˈprɒjektɪv/ *adj* of, produced by, or involving projection – **projectively** *adv*

**projector** /ˈprɒjektə/ *n* an apparatus for projecting films or pictures onto a surface – *TELEVISION* [ˈPROJECT + -OR]

**prokaryote**, *procaryote* /ˈprɒkəˌrɪəʊt/ *n* an organism (e.g. a bacterium or a blue-green alga) that does not have a distinct nucleus – compare **EUKARYOTE** [*pro-* + *karyo-* + *-ote* (as in *zygote*)] – **prokaryotic** /-ɒtɪk/ *adj*

**prolactin** /ˈprɒlaktɪn/ *n* a pituitary hormone that causes milk production in some mammals [*pro-* + *lact-* + *-in*]

**prolapse** /ˈprɒlæps/ *n* the falling down or slipping of a body part (e.g. the uterus) from its usual position or relations [NL *prolapsus*, fr LL, fall, fr L *prolapsus*, pp of *prolabi* to fall or slide forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *labi* to slide – more at **PRO-**, **SLEPP**] – **prolapse** *vi*

**prolate** /ˈprɒlət/ *adj* elongated in the direction of a line joining the poles (a ~ *spheroid*) – compare **OBULATE** [L *prolatus* (pp of *proferre* to bring forwards, extend), fr *pro-* forwards + *latus*, pp of *ferre* to carry]

**prole** /prɒhl/ *n* or *adj* (a) proletarian – derog



**proleg** /ˈprɒl.ɛɡ/ *n* a fleshy leg on an abdominal segment of some insect larva → **ANATOMY**

**prolegomenon** /ˈprɒli.ɡəˈmɪn.ən, -prɒ-/ *n*, *pl* **prolegomena** /-ˈmɪnə/ an introductory section, esp to a learned work [Gk, neut prp passive of *prolegōin* to say beforehand, fr *pro-* before + *legein* to say] – **prolegomenous** *adj*

**prolepsis** /ˈprɒli.ɛpsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **prolepses** /-ˈsɛz/ anticipation; esp the representation of a future act or development as already existing or accomplished – fml [Gk *prolepsis*, fr *prolambanein* to take beforehand, fr *pro-* before + *lambanein* to take – more at **LATCH**] – **proleptic** /-ˈleptɪk/ *adj*

**proletarian** /ˈprɒli.ɪˈtɛəri.ən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of the proletariat [n L *proletarius*, member of the lowest social class who served the state by producing offspring, fr *proles* progeny, fr *pro-* forth + *-olescere* (fr *alescere* to grow) – more at **OLD**; *adj* fr n] – **proletarianize** *vt*, **proletarianization** /-ˈzayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**proletariat** /ˈprɒli.ɪˈtɛəri.ət/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the lowest class of a community 2 **WORKING CLASS**; esp those workers who lack their own means of production and hence sell their labour to live [F *prolétariat*, fr L *proletarius*]

**proliferate** /ˈprɒlɪˈfəreɪt/ *vi* to grow or increase (as if) by rapid production of new parts, cells, buds, etc [back-formation fr *proliferation*, fr F *proliferation*, fr *proliferer* to proliferate, fr *prolifere* proliferous, fr L *proles* + *-fer* -ferous] – **proliferative** /-lɪf(ə)ˈrætɪv/ *adj*, **proliferatively** *adv*, **proliferation** /-ˈræɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**proliferate** /ˈprɒlɪf(ə)ˈreɪt/ *adj* increased in number or quantity [back-formation fr *proliferation*]

**proliferous** /ˈprɒlɪf(ə)ˈrəs/ *adj* undergoing proliferation, specif, of a plant reproducing by putting out runners, side shoots, etc – **proliferously** *adv*

**prolific** /ˈprɒlɪfɪk/ *adj* 1 producing young or fruit (freely) 2 marked by abundant inventiveness or productivity (a ~ writer) [F *prolique*, fr L *proles* progeny] – **prolificacy** /-kəsi/ *n*, **prolifically** *adv*, **prolificness** *n*, **prolificity** /-lɪfɪsɪti/ *n*

**prolix** /ˈprɒlɪks/ *adj* 1 unduly prolonged or repetitious (a ~ speech) 2 given to verbosity in speaking or writing, long-winded [ME, fr MF & L; MF *prolix*, fr L *prolixus* extended, fr *pro-* forwards + *liquere* to be fluid – more at **LIQUID**] – **prolixity** /-ˈlɪksɪti/ *n*, **prolixly** *adv*

**prologue**, *NAM* also **prolog** /ˈprɒlɒɡ/ *n* 1 the preface or introduction to a literary work 2 (the actor delivering) a speech, often in verse, addressed to the audience at the beginning of a play 3 an introductory or preceding event or development [ME *prolog*, fr OF *prologue*, fr L *prologus* preface to a play, fr Gk *prologos* part of a Greek play preceding the entry of the chorus, fr *pro-* before + *legein* to speak – more at **PRO**, **LEGEND**]

**prolong** /ˈprɒlɒŋɡ/ *vt* 1 to lengthen in time, continue 2 to lengthen in space (to ~ a line) [ME *prolongen*, fr MF *prolonguer*, fr LL *prolongare*, fr L *pro-* forwards + *longus* long] – **prolonger** /-ˈlɒŋɡ-ə, -ˈlɒŋɡ-ə, -ˈlɒŋɡ-/ *n*, **prolongation** /ˈprɒlɒŋɡ(ə)ˈtʃ(ə)n, -ˈprɒ-/ *n*

**prom** /prɒm/ *n* 1 **PROMENADE CONCERT** 2 *Br* **PROMENADE** 2

**promenade** /ˈprɒməˌnaɪd, -ˈ-/ *n* 1 a leisurely stroll or ride taken for pleasure, usu in a public place and often as a social custom 2 a place for strolling; esp, *Br* a paved walk along the seafront at a resort [F, fr *promener* to take for a walk, fr L *prominare* to drive forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *minare* to drive – more at **AMENABLE**]

**promenade** *vi* to take or go on a promenade ~ *vt* 1 to walk about in or on 2 to display (as if) by promenading around ( ~ *d his new bicycle in front of his friends*)

**promenade concert** *n* a concert at which some of the audience stand or can walk about

**promenade deck** *n* an upper deck or an area on a deck of a passenger ship where passengers may stroll

**promenader** /ˈprɒməˌnaɪdər/ *n* sby attending a promenade concert [**PROMENADE** + *-ER*]

**Promethean** /ˈprɒˌmiːθiən/ *adj* daringly original or creative [*Prometheus*, demigod of Greek myth who stole fire from Zeus & gave it to man, fr L, fr Gk *Promētheus*]

**promethium** /ˈprɒˌmiːθɪəm/ *n* a metallic element of the rare-earth group obtained as a fission product of uranium → **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr L *Prometheus*]

**prominence** /ˈprɒmɪnəns/ *n* 1 being prominent or conspicuous 2 sthg prominent; a projection (a rocky ~) 3 a large mass of gas arising from the lower solar atmosphere

**prominent** /ˈprɒmɪnənt/ *adj* 1 projecting beyond a surface or line; protuberant 2a readily noticeable; conspicuous b widely and popularly

known; leading [L *prominent-*, *prominens*, fr prp of *prominere* to jut forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *-minere* (akin to *mont-*, *mons* mountain) – more at **'MOUNT**] – **prominently** *adv*

**promiscuity** /ˈprɒmɪsˌkjuːəti/ *n* 1 a miscellaneous mixture or mingling of people or things 2 promiscuous sexual behaviour

**promiscuous** /ˈprɒmɪsˌkjuːəs/ *adj* 1 composed of a mixture of people or things 2 not restricted to 1 class or person, indiscriminate, esp not restricted to 1 sexual partner 3 casual, irregular ( ~ *eating habits*) [L *promiscuus*, fr *pro-* forth + *miscere* to mix – more at **PRO-**, **MIX**] – **promiscuously** *adv*, **promiscuousness** *n*

**promise** /ˈprɒmɪs/ *n* 1a a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing sthg specified b a legally binding declaration 2 grounds for expectation usu of success, improvement, or excellence (show ~) 3 sthg promised [ME *promis*, fr L *promissum*, fr neut of *promissus*, pp of *promittere* to send forth, promise, fr *pro-* forth + *mittere* to send – more at **PRO-**, **SMITE**]

**promise** *vt* 1 to pledge oneself to do, bring about, or provide (sthg for) ( ~ *aid*) (but you ~ *d me*) 2 to assure (it can be done, I ~ *you*) 3 to betroth 4 to suggest beforehand; indicate (dark clouds ~ *rain*) ~ *vi* 1 to make a promise 2 to give grounds for expectation, esp of sthg good **promised land** *n* a place or condition believed to promise final satisfaction or realization of hopes [fr God's promise to Abram (Abraham) in Gen 12:7]

**promisee** /ˈprɒmɪˈsiː/ *n* sby to whom a promise is made

**promising** /ˈprɒmɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* full of promise, likely to succeed or to yield good results – **promisingly** *adv*

**promisor** /ˈprɒmɪˈsɔː, -ˈprɒmɪsə/ *n* one who makes a (legally binding) promise

**promissory** /ˈprɒmɪs(ə)ri/ *adj* containing or conveying a promise [ML *promissorius*, fr L *promissus*, pp]

**promissory note** *n* a written promise to pay, either on demand or at a fixed or determinable future time, a sum of money to a specified individual or to the bearer

**promo** /ˈprɒmoh/ *n*, *pl* **promos** chiefly *Austr* an advertising promotion – *infml* [short for *promotion*]

**promontory** /ˈprɒmənt(ə)ri/ *n* 1 **HEADLAND** 2 2 a bodily prominence [L *promunturum*, *promonturum*; prob akin to *prominere* to jut forth – more at **PROMINENT**]

**promote** /ˈprɒmoʊt/ *vt* 1a to advance in station, rank, or honour, raise b to change (a pawn) into a more valuable piece in chess by moving to the 8th rank c to assign to a higher division of a sporting competition (e.g. a football league) – compare **REFUGATE** 2a to contribute to the growth or prosperity of, further ( ~ *international understanding*) b to help bring (e.g. an enterprise) into being; launch c to present (e.g. merchandise) for public acceptance through advertising and publicity [L *promotus*, pp of *promovere*, lit. to move forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *movere* to move] – **promoter** *n*, **promotive** *adj*

**promotion** /ˈprɒˌmoʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or fact of being raised in position or rank; preferment 2a the act of furthering the growth or development of sthg, esp sales or public awareness b sthg (e.g. a price reduction or free sample) intended to promote esp sales of merchandise – **promotional** *adj*

**prompt** /ˈprɒmpt/ *vt* 1 to move to action; incite (curiosity ~ *ed him to ask the question*) 2 to assist (sby acting or reciting) by saying the next words of sthg forgotten or imperfectly learnt 3 to serve as the inciting cause of, urge ( ~ *s serious anxiety about unemployment*) [ME *prompten*, fr ML *promptare*, fr L *promptus* prompt] – **prompter** *n*

**prompt** *adj* of or for prompting actors

**prompt** *adj* 1a ready and quick to act as occasion demands b **PUNCTUAL** 2 2 performed readily or immediately ( ~ *assistance*) [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *promptus* ready, prompt, fr pp of *promere* to bring forth, fr *pro-* forth + *emere* to take – more at **REDELM**] – **promptly** *adv*, **promptness** *n*

**prompt** *n* 1 the act or an instance of prompting; a reminder 2 (the contract fixing) a limit of time given for payment of an account for goods purchased

**promptitude** /ˈprɒmptɪˌtuːd/ *n* the quality or habit of being prompt; promptness – *fml* [ME, fr MF or LL; MF, fr LL *promptitudo*, fr L *promptus*]

**promulgate** /ˈprɒm(ə)ˌɡaɪt/ *vt* to make known by open declaration; proclaim – *fml* [L *promulgatus*, pp of *promulgare* to proclaim] – **promulgator** *n*, **promulgation** /-ˈɡaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**prone** /ˈprɒˌnaɪt/ *vt* to rotate (the hand or forearm) so that the palm faces downwards or backwards [LL *pronus*, pp of *pronus* to bend forwards, fr L *pronus*] – **pronation** /-ˈnaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*



**prone** /prohn/ *adj* 1 having a tendency or inclination, disposed to 2 having the front or ventral surface downwards; prostrate – compare **SUPINE** 1a [ME, fr L *pronus* bent forwards, tending; akin to L *pro* forwards – more at **FOR**] – **prone** *adv*, **prone** *adv*, **prone** *n*

**prong** /prɒŋ/ *n* 1 any of the slender sharp-pointed parts of a fork 2 a subdivision of an argument, attacking force, etc [ME *pronge*, *prange* fork, perh akin to MHG *pfrenge* to press, Lith *branktas* whiffletree]

**prong** *vt* to stab, pierce, or break up (as if) with a prong

**pronged** *adj* having or divided into prongs, esp having more than 1 attacking force, each coming from a different direction – usu in combination <a 3-pronged attack>

**pronghorn** /-hawn/ *n*, *pl* **pronghorns**, esp collectively **pronghorn** a ruminant mammal of treeless parts of western N America that resembles an antelope

**pronominal** /prɒnɒmɪnəl, prə-/ *adj* of, resembling, or constituting a pronoun [LL *pronominalis*, fr L *pronomin-*, *pronomēn*] – **pronominally** *adv*

**pronoun** /prɒnʊn/ *n* a word used as a substitute for a noun or noun equivalent and referring to a previously named or understood person or thing [ME *pronoun*, fr L *pronomin-*, *pronomēn*, tr *pro-* for + *nomīn-*, *nomen* name – more at **PRO-**, **NAM-**]


**pronounce** /prəˈnaʊns/ *vt* 1 to declare officially or ceremoniously <the priest ~d them man and wife> 2 to declare authoritatively or as an opinion <doctors ~d him fit to resume duties> 3 to utter the sounds of, esp to say correctly ~ *vi* 1 to pass judgment, declare one's opinion definitely or authoritatively – often + *on* or *upon* 2 to produce speech sounds <she ~s abominably> [ME *pronouncen*, fr MF *prononcier*, fr L *pronuntiāre*, fr *pro-* forth + *nuntiāre* to report, fr *nuntius* messenger – more at **PRO-**] – **pronounceable** *adj*, **pronouncer** *n*

**pronounced** *adj* strongly marked, decided – **pronouncedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*

**pronouncement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 a usu formal declaration of opinion 2 an authoritative announcement

**pronto** /prɒntoh/ *adv* without delay, quickly – *infrml* [Sp, fr L *promptus* prompt]

**pronunciamento** /prəˈnʊnsiəˈmentoh/ *n*, *pl* **pronunciamentos**, **pronunciamentos** a declaration, esp one made by the leaders of a revolt announcing a change of government [Sp *pronunciamento*, fr *pronunciar* to pronounce, fr L *pronuntiāre*]

**pronunciation** /prəˈnʊnsiəˈʃən/ *n* the act or manner of pronouncing sthg ~  **ALPHABET** [ME *pronunciacion*, fr MF *prononciation*, fr L *pronuntiatio-*, *pronuntiatio*, fr *pronuntiatus*, pp of *pronuntiāre*] – **pronunciational** *adj*

**pro-oestrus** /prɒh ˈeɪstrəs/ *n* a period immediately preceding oestrus characterized by preparatory physiological changes [NL]

**proof** /pruːf/ *n* 1 the cogency of evidence that compels acceptance of a truth or a fact 2 an act, effort, or operation designed to establish or discover a fact or the truth; a test 3 legal evidence 4a an impression (e.g. from type) taken for examination or correction b a proof impression of an engraving, lithograph, etc c a test photographic print 5 a test of the quality of an article or substance 6 the alcoholic content of a beverage compared with the standard for proof spirit [ME, alter of *prove*, fr OF *preuve*, fr LL *proba*, fr L *probare* to prove – more at **PROVE**]

**proof** *adj* 1 designed for or successful in resisting or repelling, impervious – often in combination <waterproof> <soundproof> 2 used in proving or testing or as a standard of comparison 3 of standard strength or quality or alcoholic content

**proof** *vt* 1 to make or take a proof of 2 to give a resistant quality to, make (sthg) **proof against** – **proofer** *n*

**proofread** /-riːd/ *vt* to read and mark corrections on (a proof) [back-formation fr *proofreader*] – **proofreader** *n*

**proof spirit** *n* a mixture of alcohol and water containing a standard amount of alcohol, in Britain 57.1% by volume

**prop** /prop/ *n* 1 a rigid usu auxiliary vertical support (e.g. a pole) <pit ~> 2a a source of strength or support <his son was his chief ~ in his old age> 3 **PROP FORWARD** [ME *proppe*, fr MD, stopper; akin to MLG *proppe* stopper]

**prop** *vt* -**pp-** 1 to support by placing sthg under or against 2 to support by placing against sthg **USE** often + *up*; compare **PROP UP**

**prop** /prop/ *n* any article or object used in a play or film other than painted scenery or costumes [short for *property*]

**prop** /prop/ *n* a propeller

**propaganda** /ˌprɒpəˈɡɑːndə/ *n* 1 *cap* a division of the Roman curia having jurisdiction over missionary territories and related institutions 2 (the usu organized spreading of) ideas, information, or rumour designed

to promote or damage an institution, movement, person, etc [NL, fr *Congregatio de propaganda fide* Congregation for propagating the faith, organization established by Pope Gregory XV †1623]

**propagandize**, -*ise* /ˌprɒpəˈɡændiːz/ *vb* to subject to or carry on propaganda – **propagandism** *n*, **propagandist** *n* or *adj*, **propagandistic** /-dɪstɪk/ *adj*, **propagandistically** *adv*

**propagate** /ˌprɒpəˈɡeɪt/ *vi* 1 to reproduce or increase by sexual or asexual reproduction 2 to pass down (e.g. a characteristic) to offspring 3a to cause to spread out and affect a greater number or area, disseminate b to publicize <~ the Gospel> c to transmit ~ *vi* 1 to multiply sexually or asexually 2 to increase, extend [L *propagatus*, pp of *propagare* to set slips, propagate, fr *propages* slip, offspring, fr *pro-* before + *pagere* to fasten – more at **PRO-**, **PACT-**] – **propagator** *n*, **propagable** /ˌprɒpəˈɡəbl/ *adj*, **propagative** /-gətɪv/ *adj*

**propagation** /ˌprɒpəˈɡeɪʃən/ *n* 1 an increase (e.g. of a type of organism) in numbers 2 the spreading of sthg (e.g. a belief) abroad or into new regions 3 an enlargement or extension (e.g. of a crack) in a solid body [PROPAGATE + -ION] – **propagational** *adj*

**propane** /ˈprɒpəɪn/ *n* a hydrocarbon of the alkane series used as a fuel [ISV, fr *propionic (acid)* + -ane]

**propel** /prəˈpel/ *vt* -*ll-* 1 to drive forwards by means of a force that imparts motion 2 to urge on, motivate [ME *propellen*, fr L *propellere*, fr *pro-* before + *pellere* to drive – more at **PELL-**]

**propellant** *also* **propellent** /prəˈpelənt/ *n* sthg that propels: e.g. a fuel for propelling projectiles b fuel plus oxidizer used by a rocket engine c a gas in a pressurized container for expelling the contents when the pressure is released

**propellent**, **propellant** /prəˈpelənt/ *adj* capable of propelling

**propeller** *also* **propellor** /prəˈpela/ *n* SCREW PROPELLER [PROPEL + -ER, -OR]

**propeller shaft** *n* a shaft that transmits mechanical power, esp from an engine  **CAR**

**propelling pencil** /prəˈpeliŋ/ *n*, *Br* a usu metal or plastic pencil whose lead can be extended by a screw device

**propensity** /prəˈpensɪti/ *n* a natural inclination or tendency – *infrml* [arch *propense* (leaning towards, disposed), fr L *propensus*, pp of *propendere* to lean or incline towards, fr *pro-* before + *pendere* to hang – more at **PENDANT**]

**proper** /ˈprɒpə/ *adj* 1 suitable, appropriate 2 appointed for the liturgy of a particular day 3 belonging to one, own 4 represented heraldically in natural colour 5 belonging characteristically to a species or individual, peculiar 6 being strictly so-called <the borough is not part of the city ~> 7a strictly a. curate, correct b strictly decorous, genteel <a very prim and ~ gentleman> 8 chiefly Br thorough, complete <I felt a ~ Charlie> [ME *propre* proper, own, fr OF, fr L *proprius* own, special] – **properness** *n*

**proper** *n* the parts of the mass that vary according to the liturgical calendar

**proper** *adv*, chiefly *dial* in a thorough manner, completely

**proper fraction** *n* a fraction in which the numerator is less or of lower degree than the denominator


**properly** /-li/ *adv* 1 in a fit manner, suitably 2 strictly in accordance with fact, correctly <~ speaking> 3 chiefly Br to the full extent, completely

**proper name** *n* **PROPER NOUN**

**proper noun** *n* a noun that designates a particular being or thing and is usu capitalized (e.g. *Janet*, *London*)

**propertied** /ˈprɒpətɪd/ *adj* possessing property, esp land

**property** /ˈprɒpətɪ/ *n* 1a a quality, attribute, or power inherent in sthg b an attribute common to all members of a class 2a sthg owned or possessed, specif a piece of real estate b ownership c sthg to which a person has a legal title 3 **PROP** [ME *proprieté*, fr MF *propreté*, *propriété*, fr L *proprietas*, *proprietas*, fr *proprius* own, characteristic] – **propertyless** *adj*

**prop forward** *n* (the position of) either of the 2 players in rugby on either side of the hooker in the front row of the scrum  **SPORT** [ˈprop]

**prophase** /ˈprɒfəɪz/ *n* 1 the initial phase of mitosis in which chromosomes are condensed from the resting form and split into paired chromatids 2 the initial stage of meiosis in which the chromosomes become visible as paired chromatids and the nuclear membrane disappears [ISV] – **prophasic** /-ˈfayzɪk/ *adj*

**prophecy** /ˈprɒfɪsi/ *n* 1 the function or vocation of a prophet, (the capacity to utter) an inspired declaration of divine will and purpose 2 a prediction of an event [ME *prophecie*, fr OF, fr LL *prophetia*, fr Gk *propheteia*, fr *prophētēs* prophet]

**prophecy** /ˈproʃiː/ *vt* 1 to utter (as if) by divine inspiration 2 to predict with assurance or on the basis of mystic knowledge ~ *vt* 1 to speak as if divinely inspired 2 to make a prediction [ME *prophesien*, fr MF *prophesier*, fr OF, fr *prophetic* ~ *prophesier* /-sɪə/ *n*

**prophet** /ˈprɒfɪt/, *fem* *prophetess* /-tes, -tɪs/ *n* 1 a person who utters divinely inspired revelations; *specif*, often *cap* the writer of any of the prophetic books of the Old Testament 2 one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight 3 one who foretells future events; a predictor 4 a spokesman for a doctrine, movement, etc (< *a* ~ of socialism) [ME *prophete*, fr OF, fr L *propheta*, fr Gk *prophētēs*, fr *pro* for + *phanai* to speak ~ more at FOR, 'BAN]

**prophetic** /ˈprɒfɪtɪk/, *prophetic* /-kl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a prophet or prophecy 2 foretelling events; predictive ~ *prophetically* *adv*

**Prophets** /ˈprɒfɪts/ *n pl* the second part of the Jewish scriptures

**prophylactic** /ˈprɒfɪlaktɪk/ *adj* 1 guarding or protecting from or preventing disease 2 tending to prevent or ward off; preventive ~ *fml* [Gk *prophylaktikos*, fr *prophylassein* to keep guard before, fr *pro-* before + *phylassein* to guard, fr *phylak-*, *phylax* guard] ~ *prophylactic* *n*, *prophylactically* *adv*

**prophylaxis** /ˈprɒfɪlaksɪs/ *n, pl* *prophylaxes* /-laksɪz/ measures designed to preserve health and prevent the spread of disease [NL, fr Gk *prophylaktikos*]

**propinquity** /ˈprɒŋkwɪtɪ/ *n* 1 nearness of blood; kinship 2 nearness in place or time; proximity *USE fml* [ME *propinquitte*, fr L *propinquitat*, *propinquitat* kinship, proximity, fr *propinquus* near, akin, fr *prope* near ~ more at APPROACH]

**propionate** /ˈprɒpiːənt/ *n* a salt or ester of propionic acid [ISV]

**propionic acid** /ˈprɒpiːɒnɪk/ *n* a rancid-smelling fatty acid found in milk and distillates of wood, coal, and petroleum and used esp in making flavourings and perfumes [ISV *pro-* + Gk *piōn* fat; akin to L *optimus* fat ~ more at FAT]

**propitiate** /ˈprɒpɪʃiːə/ *vt* to gain or regain the favour or goodwill of, appease [L *propitiatus*, pp of *propitiare*, fr *propitius* propitious] ~ *propitiator* *n*, *propitiable* *adj*, *propitiatory* /-ɪt(ə)n/ *adj*, *propitiation* /-ɪʃən/ *n*

**propitious** /ˈprɒpɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 favourably disposed, benevolent 2 boding well; auspicious 3 tending to favour; opportune (< *a* ~ *moment* for the revolt to break out) [ME *propicius*, fr L *propitius*, fr *pro-* for + *petere* to seek ~ more at PRO-, FEATHER] ~ *propitiously* *adv*, *propitiousness* *n*


**propjet** /ˈprɒpjet/ *n* a turboprop ['*prop* + *jet*]

**propolis** /ˈprɒpəlɪs/ *n* a brownish resinous material of waxy consistency collected by bees from the buds of trees and used as a cement [L, fr Gk, suburb, bee-glue, fr *pro-* for + *polis* city ~ more at PRO-, POLICE]

**proponent** /ˈprɒpɒnənt/ *n* one who argues in favour of sthg; an advocate [L *proponent-*, *proponens*, prp of *proponere* to propound]

**proportion** /ˈprɒpəʊʃən/ *n* 1 the relation of one part to another or to the whole with respect to magnitude, quantity, or degree 2 harmonious relation of parts to each other or to the whole; balance 3 a statement of equality of 2 ratios (e.g. in 4/2 = 10/5) 4a proper or equal share (< *each did his ~ of the work*) b a quota, percentage 5 *pl* size, dimension [ME *proportion*, fr MF *proportion*, fr L *proportion-*, *proportio*, fr *pro* for + *portio-*, *portio* portion ~ more at FOR]

**proportion** *vt* 1 to adjust (a part or thing) in proportion to other parts or things 2 to make the parts of harmonious or symmetrical

**proportional** /ˈprɒpəʊʃənəl/ *adj* 1a proportionate ~ *usu* + *to* (< *a* is ~ *to* *b*) b having the same or a constant ratio 2 regulated or determined in proportionate amount or degree *USE* (I)  SYMBOL ~ *proportionally* *adv*, *proportionality* /-ləti/ *n*

**proportional** *n* a number or quantity in a proportion

**proportional representation** *n* an electoral system designed to represent in a legislative body each political group in proportion to its voting strength in the electorate

**proportionate** /ˈprɒpəʊʃənəl/ *adj* being in due proportion ~ *proportionately* *adv*

**proportionate** /ˈprɒpəʊʃənəl/ *vt* to make proportionate; proportion

**proposal** /ˈprɒpəʊzəl/ *n* 1 an act of putting forward or stating sthg for consideration 2a a proposed idea or plan of action; a suggestion b an offer of marriage 3 an application for insurance

**propose** /ˈprɒpəʊz/ *vi* 1 to form or put forward a plan or intention (< *man* ~ *s*, *but God disposes*) 2 to make an offer of marriage ~ *vt* 1a to present for consideration or adoption (< *d* *terms* for peace) b to establish as an aim; intend (< *d* *to spend the summer in study*) 2a to recommend to fill a place or vacancy; nominate b to nominate (oneself) for an insurance

policy *c* to offer as a toast (< *~ the health of the bridesmaids*) [ME *proposen*, fr MF *proposer*, fr L *proponere* (perf indic *proposui*) ~ more at PROFOUND] ~ *proposer* *n*

**proposition** /ˈprɒpəʊzɪʃən/ *n* 1a sthg offered for consideration or acceptance; *specif* a proposal of sexual intercourse b a formal mathematical statement to be proved 2 an expression, in language or signs, of sthg that can be either true or false 3 a project, situation, or individual requiring to be dealt with (< *the firm is not a paying ~*) ~ *propositional* *adj*

**proposition** *vt* to make a proposal to, *specif* to propose sexual intercourse to

**propound** /ˈprɒpaʊnd/ *vt* to offer for discussion or consideration ~ *fml* [alter. of earlier *propone*, fr ME (Sc) *proponen*, fr L *proponere* to display, propound, fr *pro-* before + *ponere* to put, place ~ more at PRO-, POSITION] ~ *propounder* *n*

**propranolol** /ˈprɒprənəlɒl/ *n* a synthetic drug that blocks the action of adrenalin on beta-receptors and is used esp in the treatment of abnormal heart rhythms and to lower high blood pressure [prob alter. of earlier *propanolol*, fr *propanol* (propyl alcohol) + *-ol*]

**proprietary** /ˈprɒprɪə-t(ə)n/ *n* a body of proprietors [ME *propietarie* owner, fr LL *propietarius*, fr *propietarius*, *adj*]

**proprietary** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a proprietor (< *rights*) 2 made and marketed under a patent, trademark, etc (< *a* ~ *process*) 3 privately owned and managed (< *a* ~ *clinic*) [LL *propietarius*, fr L *propietas* property ~ more at PROPERTY]

**proprietary colony** *n* a colony granted to a proprietor with full prerogatives of government

**proprietor** /ˈprɒprɪə-tɔː/, *fem* *proprietress* /-trɪs/ *n* 1 an owner 2 sby having an interest less than absolute right [alter. of 'proprietary'] ~ *proprietorship* *n*, *proprietorial* /-tɔːrɪəl/ *adj*

**propriety** /ˈprɒprɪ-əti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being proper, fitness 2 the standard of what is socially or morally acceptable in conduct or speech, esp between the sexes, decorum 3 *pl* the conventions and manners of polite society *USE fml* [ME *proprie*, fr MF *propiété* property, quality of a person or thing ~ more at PROPERTY]

**proprioception** /ˈprɒprɪ-ə'sepʃən/ *n* the reception of stimuli produced within the organism [L *proprius* own + E *-ception* (as in *reception*)] ~ *proprioceptive* /-septɪv/ *adj*

**proprioceptor** /ˈprɒprɪ-ə'septɔː/ *n* a sensory receptor excited by proprioceptive stimuli

**proptosis** /ˈprɒptəʊsɪs/ *n* forward projection or displacement, esp of the eyeball [NL, fr LL, falling forwards, fr Gk *proptosis*, fr *proptein* to fall forwards, fr *pro-* + *ptein* to fall ~ more at PRO-, FEATHER]

**propulsion** /ˈprɒpʊlʃən/ *n* 1 the action or process of propelling 2 sthg that propels [L *propulsus*, pp of *propellere* to propel]

**propulsive** /ˈprɒpʊlsɪv/ *adj* having power to or tending to propel [L *propulsus*]

**prop up** *vt* to give nonmaterial (e.g. moral or financial) support to (< *government propping up ailing industries*)

**propyl** /ˈprɒpɪl, -piəl/ *n* a univalent hydrocarbon radical C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, derived from propane [ISV, fr *propionic* (acid) + *-yl*] ~ *propyllic* /-pɪlɪk/ *adj*

**propylene** /ˈprɒpiːlɪn/ *n* a hydrocarbon of the alkene series used chiefly in organic synthesis

**pro rata** /ˈprɒ 'raɪtə/ *adv* proportionately according to an exactly calculable factor [L] ~ *pro rata* *adj*

**prorate** /ˈprɒ'reɪt, -, / *vt* to divide, distribute, or assess proportionately ~ *vi* to make a *pro rata* distribution [*pro rata*] ~ *proration* /-reɪʃən/ *n*

**prorogue** /ˈprɒ'roʊg, -prɒh-/ *vt* to terminate a session of (e.g. a parliament) by royal prerogative ~ *vi* to suspend a legislative session [ME *prorogen*, fr MF *proroguer*, fr L *prorogare*, fr *pro-* before + *rogare* to ask ~ more at PRO-, 'RIGHT] ~ *prorogation* /ˈprɒrə'gæʃən/ *n*

**pros** /prɒz/ *pl* of PRO

**pros-** /prɒs/ *prefix* 1 near; towards (< *proselyte*) 2 replacement; substitute (< *prosthesis*) [LL, fr Gk, fr *proti*, *pros* face to face with, towards, in addition to, near; akin to Skt *prati-* near, towards, against, in return, Gk *pro* before ~ more at FOR]

**prosaic** /ˈprɒ'zæɪk, -prɒ-/ *adj* 1a characteristic of prose as distinguished from poetry b dull, unimaginative 2 belonging to the everyday world; commonplace [LL *prosaicus*, fr L *prosa* prose] ~ *prosaically* *adv*

**prosaism** /ˈprɒzæɪz(ə)m, 'prɒzi-/ *n* 1 a prosaic manner, style, or quality 2 a prosaic expression ~ *usu pl* *USE fml*

**prosalat** /ˈprɒ'zæɪst/ *n* a prosaic person ~ *fml* [L *prosa* prose]

**proscenium** /ˈprɒ'seɪniəm, -prɒ-, -ni-əm/ *n* the stage of an ancient

Greek or Roman theatre [L, fr Gk *proskēnion*, fr *pro-* + *skēnē* building forming the background for a dramatic performance – more at SCENE]  
**proscenium arch** *n* the arch in a conventional theatre through which the spectator sees the stage

**prosciutto** /prə'shootoh/ *n*, *pl* **prosciutti** /-tɪ/, **prosciuttos** /-tohz/ smoked spiced Italian ham [It, alter. of obs *presciutto*, fr *pre-* + *-sciutto*, fr L *exsuctus* dried up, sucked out, pp of *exsugere* to suck out]

**proscribe** /prə'hskneɪb/ *vt* **1a** to put outside the protection of the law b to outlaw, exile, *specific*, in *ancient Rome* to outlaw by publishing the name of (a person) **2** to condemn or forbid as harmful, prohibit [L *proscribere* to publish, *proscribere*, fr *pro-* before + *scribere* to write – more at SCRIBE] – **proscriber** *n*

**proscription** /prə'skripʃ(ə)n, prəh-/ *n* **1** proscribing or being proscribed **2a** an imposed restraint or restriction, a prohibition [ME *proscripcion*, fr L *proscriptio*-, *proscriptio*, fr *proscriptus*, pp of *proscribere*] – **proscriptive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **proscriptively** *adv*

**prose** /prohz/ *n* **1a** ordinary nonmetrical language **b** a literary medium distinguished from poetry esp by its closer correspondence to the patterns of everyday speech **2** a commonplace quality or character, ordinariness [ME, fr MF, fr L *prosa*, fr fem of *prosus*, *prosus* straightforward, being in prose, contr of *proversus*, pp of *provertere* to turn forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *vertere* to turn – more at PRO-, WORIN] – **prose** *adj*

**prosecute** /prə'si:kju:t/ *vt* **1a** to institute and pursue criminal proceedings against **b** to institute legal proceedings with reference to ~ *a claim* **2** to follow through, pursue (<determined to ~ the investigation> **3** CAPRY OUT **1** ~ *vi* to institute and carry on a prosecution *USE* (2&3) fml [ME *prosecuten* fr L *prosecutus*, pp of *prosequi* to pursue – more at PURSUE]

**prosecution** /prə'si:kju:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** prosecuting, *specific* the formal institution of a criminal charge **2** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the party by whom criminal proceedings are instituted or conducted

**prosecutor** /prə'si:kju:tə/ *n* sby who institutes or conducts an official prosecution

**proselyte** /prə'si:liet/ *n* a new convert, esp to Judaism [ME *proselite*, fr LL *proselitus* proselyte, alien resident, fr Gk *proselutos*, fr *pros* near + *-elytos* (akin to *elthein* to go), akin to Gk *elaínein* to drive – more at PROS-, ELASTIC]

**proselyte** *vb*, chiefly *NAM* to proselytize

**proselytism** /prə'si:li:t(ə)m/ *n* religious conversion

**proselytize**, -ise /prə'si:li:t(ə)z/ *vt* to convert (sby), esp to a new religion ~ *vi* to (try to) make converts, esp to a new religion – **proselytizer** *n*, **proselytization** /-zayz(ə)n/ *n*

**prose poem** *n* a work in prose that has some of the qualities of a poem – **prose poet** *n*

**prosit** /prə'hizt/, **prost** /prə'hst/ *interj* – used to wish sby good health, esp before drinking [G, fr L *prosit* may it be beneficial, fr *prodesse* to be useful – more at PROUD]

**prosody** /prə'sədi/ *n* the study of versification and esp of metrical structure [ME, fr L *prosodia* accent of a syllable, fr Gk *prosōidia* song sung to instrumental music, accent, fr *pros* in addition to + *oide* song – more at PROS-, ODE] **prosodist** *n*, **prosodic** /prə'sədik/ *adj*

**prosopopoeia** /prə'səpə'pə:ə/ *n* a figure of speech in which an imaginary or absent person is represented as speaking or acting, esp PERSONIFICATION **1** [L, fr Gk *prosopopoeia*, fr *prosopon* mask, person (fr *pros-* + *ops* face) + *poiein* to make – more at EYE, POET]

**prospect** /prə'spekt/ *n* **1** an extensive view, a scene **2a** a mental picture of sthg to come (<doesn't like the ~ of more examinations> **b** expectation, possibility (<has a fine career in ~> **c** *pl* (1) financial and social expectations (2) chances, esp of success **3a** a place showing signs of containing a mineral deposit **b** a partly developed mine **c** the mineral yield of a tested sample of ore or gravel **4** a potential client, candidate, etc [ME, fr L *prospectus* view, prospect, fr *prospectus*, pp of *prospicere* to look forwards, exercise foresight, fr *pro-* forwards + *specere* to look – more at PRO-, SPY]

**prospect** /prə'spekt/ *vb* to explore (an area), esp for mineral deposits – **prospector** *n*

**prospective** /prə'spektɪv/ *adj* **1** likely to come about, expected **2** likely to be or become (<a ~ mother>) – **prospectively** *adv*

**prospectus** /prə'spektəs/ *n* a printed statement, brochure, etc describing an organization or enterprise and distributed to prospective buyers, investors, or participants [L, prospect]


**prosper** /prə'spə/ *vi* to succeed, thrive; *specific* to achieve economic success ~ *vt* to cause to succeed or thrive (<may the gods ~ our city>) [ME

*prosperen*, fr MF *prosperer*, fr L *prosperare* to cause to succeed, fr *prosperus* favourable]

**prosperity** /prə'sperəti/, *prə-/* *n* the condition of being successful or thriving, esp economic well-being

**prosperous** /prə'sp(ə)rəs/ *adj* marked by esp financial success [ME, fr MF *prosperoux*, fr *prosperer* to prosper + *-eux* -ous] – **prosperously** *adv*

**prostaglandin** /prə'stə'gləndɪn/ *n* any of various cyclic fatty acids that are important locally acting hormones in humans and animals and of which one is widely used to induce abortions [*prostate gland* + *-in*, fr its occurrence in the sexual glands of animals]

**prostate** /prə'stəɪt/, **prostate gland** *n* a partly muscular, partly glandular body situated around the base of the male mammalian urethra that secretes a major constituent of the ejaculatory fluid  REPRODUCTION [NL *prostata*, fr Gk *prostates*, fr *proistanai* to put in front, fr *pro-* before + *istanai* to cause to stand – more at PRO-, STAND]

**prostate** also **prostatic** /prə'statɪk/, *prə-/* *adj* of or being the prostate gland

**prosthesis** /prə'sθə:sis, sense 1 or -'θee-/ *n*, *pl* **protheses** /-seɪz/ **1** an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body **2** prothesis [NL, fr Gk, addition, fr *prostithenai* to add to, fr *pros-* in addition to + *tithenai* to put – more at PROS-, DO]

**prosthetic** /prə'sθetɪk/ *adj* of a prosthesis or prosthetics – **prosthetically** *adv*

**prosthetics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the surgical and dental specialties concerned with the artificial replacement of missing parts

**prostitute** /prə'sti:tju:t/ *vt* **1** to make a prostitute of **2** to devote to corrupt or unworthy purposes, debase (<one's talents>) [L *prostituere*, pp of *prostituere*, fr *pro-* before + *statuere* to station – more at PRO-, STATUTE] – **prostitution** /-tju:ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**prostitute** *n* a person, esp a woman, who engages in sexual practices for money


**prostomium** /prə'hstə'miəm, -mɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **prostomia** /-mi-ə, -mɪ-ə/ the portion of the head of various worms and molluscs that is situated in front of the mouth [NL, fr Gk *pro-* + *stoma* mouth – more at STOMACH] – **prostomial** *adj*

**prostrate** /prə'straɪt/ *adj* **1** lying full-length face downwards, esp in adoration or submission **2a** physically and emotionally weak, overcome (<with grief> **b** physically exhausted **3** of a plant trailing on the ground [ME *prostrat*, fr L *prostratus*, pp of *prostrare*, fr *pro-* before + *sternere* to spread out, throw down – more at STREW]

**prostrate** /prə'straɪt/ *vt* **1** to throw or put into a prostrate position **2** to put (oneself) in a humble and submissive posture or state **3** to reduce to submission, helplessness, or exhaustion; overcome – **prostration** /prə'straɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**prosy** /prə'hzi/ *adj* dull, commonplace, esp tedious in speech or manner [*prose* + *-y*] – **prosilily** *adv*

**prot-**, **proto-** *comb form* **1** first in time; earliest, original (<protolithic>) (<prototype>) **2** first-formed, primary (<protaxylem>) **3** cap of or constituting the recorded or assumed language that is ancestral to (a specified language or group of related languages or dialects) (<Proto-Indo-European>) [ME *protho-*, fr MF, fr LL *proto-*, fr Gk *prot-*, *proto-*, fr *pro-* + *tos*; akin to Gk *pro* before – more at FOR]

**protactinium** /prə'taktɪ'ni-əm/ *n* an artificially produced metallic radioactive element of relatively short life  PERIODIC TABLE [NL]

**protagonist** /prə'h'təɡənɪst, prə-/ *n* **1** one who takes the leading part in a drama, novel, or story **2** a leader or notable supporter of a cause [Gk *protagonistes*, fr *prot-* + *agonistes* competitor at games, actor, fr *agonizesthai* to compete, fr *agon* contest, competition at games – more at AGONY]



**protamine** /prə'təmeɪn, -mɪn/ *n* any of various simple proteins that are strong chemical bases, are associated with nucleic acids, and typically contain much arginine [ISV *prot-* + *amine*]

**prothesis** /prə'thə:sis/, *pl* **protheses** /-seɪz/ the subordinate clause of a conditional sentence – compare APODOSIS [LL, fr Gk, premise of a syllogism, conditional clause, fr *protennein* to stretch out before, put forwards, fr *pro-* + *teinein* to stretch – more at THIN] – **protatic** /prə'h'tatɪk, prə-/ *adj*

**prote-**, **proteo-** *comb form* protein (<proteolysis>) [ISV, fr F *protéine*]

**protea** /prə'ti:ə/ *n* any of a genus of evergreen shrubs of the S hemisphere grown for their dense flower heads [NL, genus name, fr L *Protea* Proteus]

**protean** /prə'h'tee-ən/ *adj* **1** readily assuming different shapes or roles **2** displaying great diversity or variety [*Proteus*, mythological sea god with the power of assuming different shapes, fr L, fr Gk *Proteus*]

- protect** /prə'tekt/ *vt* 1 to cover or shield from injury or destruction, guard against 2 to shield or foster (a home industry) by a protective tariff [NL *protectus*, pp of *protegere*, fr *pro-* in front + *tegere* to cover – more at *PRO-*, *THATCH*] – **protectant** *n*, **protective** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **protectively** *adv*, **protectiveness** *n*
- protection** /prə'tekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 protecting or being protected 2 sthg that protects 3 the shielding of the producers of a country from foreign competition by import tariffs 4a immunity from threatened violence, often purchased under duress b money extorted by racketeers posing as a protective association 5 **COVERAGE** 3a
- protectionist** /-ɪst/ *n* an advocate of government economic protection – **protectionism** *n*, **protectionist** *adj*
- protective custody** *n* detention of sb (allegedly) for his/her own safety
- protector** /prə'tektə/, *fem* **protectress** /-trɪs/ *n* 1a a guardian b a device used to prevent injury; a guard 2 often *cap* the executive head of the Commonwealth from 1653 to 1659 [PROTECT + *-OR*] – **protectorship** *n*
- protectorate** /prə'tekt(ə)rəl/ *n* 1a government by a protector b often *cap* the government of the Commonwealth from 1653 to 1659 c the rank or (period of) rule of a protector 2a the relationship of one state over another dependent state which it partly controls but has not annexed b the dependent political unit in such a relationship
- protectory** /prə'tekt(ə)rɪ/ *n* an institution for the care usu of homeless or delinquent children
- protégé, fem protégée** /prə'təʒeɪ, 'prɒ-, -tə-/ (*Fr* *protéger*) *n* a person under the protection, guidance, or patronage of sb influential [F, fr pp of *protéger* to protect, fr L *protegere*]
- protein** /prə'tiːn/ *n* any of numerous genetically specified naturally occurring extremely complex combinations of amino acids linked by peptide bonds that are essential constituents of all living cells and are an essential part of the diet of animals and humans [F *protéine*, fr LGk *prōteios* primary, fr Gk *prōtos* first – more at *PROT-*] – **proteinaceous** /prə'tiːnəʃəs/ *adj*
- proteinase** /prə'tiːnəz/, -nays/ *n* an enzyme that breaks down proteins, esp into peptides [ISV]
- pro tem** /prə'h 'tem/ *adv* for the time being [short for *pro tempore*, fr L]
- proteo-** – see *PROTE-*
- proteolysis** /prə'tiːolɪsɪs/ *n* the breakdown of proteins or peptides resulting in the formation of simpler (soluble) products [NL] – **proteolytic** /-ə'lɪtɪk/ *adj*
- Proterozoic** /prə'terə'zəʊ-ɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) an era of geological history between the Archaeozoic and the Palaeozoic  **EVOLUTION** [Gk *proteros* former, earlier (fr *pro* before) + ISV *-zoic* – more at *FOR*]
- 'protest** /prə'test/ *n* 1a a sworn declaration that a note or bill has been duly presented and that payment has been refused b a formal declaration of dissent from an act of esp a legislature c a formal declaration of disapproval (*repeated in response to international ~s*) 2 protesting, esp an organized public demonstration of disapproval 3 an objection or display of unwillingness (*went to the dentist under ~*)
- ²protest** /prə'test/ *vt* 1 to make formal or solemn declaration or affirmation of 2 to execute or have executed a formal protest against (e.g. a bill or note) 3 *NAM* to make a formal protest against 4 *NAM* to remonstrate against (*unwilling to ~ the cost of her ticket*) ~ *vi* 1 to make a protestation 2 to enter a protest [ME *protesten*, fr MF *protester*, fr L *protestari*, fr *pro-* forth + *testari* to call to witness – more at *PRO-*, *TESTAMENT*] – **protester**, **protestor** *n*
- protestant** /prə'testənt/ *n* 1 *cap* a any of a group who protested against an edict of the Diet of Spire in 1529 intended to suppress the Lutheran movement b a Christian who denies the universal authority of the pope and affirms the principles of the Reformation 2 one who makes or enters a protest [MF, fr L *protestant-*, *protestans*, prp of *protestari*] – **Protestantism** *n*
- Protestant** *adj*, of Protestants, their churches, or their religion
- protestation** /prə'testəʃ(ə)n, -tɪ-/ *n* 1 an act of protesting 2 a solemn declaration or avowal
- prothalamion** /prə'thə'leɪmɪ-ən/, **prothalamium** /-mɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **prothalamia** /-mɪ-ə/ a song or poem in celebration of a forthcoming marriage [NL, fr Gk *pro-* + *-thalamion* (as in *epithalamion* epithalamium)]
- prothallium** /prə'thali-əm, -li-əm/ *n*, *pl* **prothallia** /-li-ə/ (a tiny structure of a flowering plant corresponding to) the gamete-producing form of a fern or related plant [NL, fr *pro-* + *thallus*] – **prothallial** *adj*
- prothallus** /prə'thə-ləs/ *n* the prothallium [NL, fr *pro-* + *thallus*]
- prosthesis** /prə'theɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **protheses** /-seɪz/ the addition of a sound to the beginning of a word [LL, alter. of *prosthesis*, fr Gk, lit., addition – more at *PROSTHESIS*] – **prothetic** /prə'thetɪk, prə-/ *adj*
- prothorax** /prə'thɔːrəks/ *n* the front segment of the thorax of an insect [NL *prothorac-*, *prothorax*, fr '*pro-* + *thorax*] – **prothoracic** /-rəsɪk, -prə-/ *adj*
- prothrombin** /prə'thɒmbɪn/ *n* a plasma protein produced in the liver \*in the presence of vitamin K and converted into thrombin in the clotting of blood [ISV]
- protist** /prə'tɪst/ *n* any of a major group of usu single-celled organisms including bacteria, protozoans, and various algae and fungi [derv of Gk *protistos* very first, primal, fr superl of *prōtos* first – more at *PROT-*] – **protistan** *adj* or *n*
- protium** /prə'tiːəm/ *n* the ordinary light hydrogen isotope of atomic mass 1 – compare *DEUTERIUM*, *TRITIUM* [NL, fr Gk *protos* first]
- proto-** – see *PROT-*
- protochordate** /prə'təʊ'həʊ'dəɪt/ *n* any of a major division of chordate animals that do not have a vertebral column and include the hemichordates, lancelets, and tunicates [NL *Protochordata*, division name]
- protocol** /prə'tɒkəl/ *n* 1 an original draft or record of a document or transaction 2 a preliminary memorandum often formulated and signed by diplomatic negotiators as a basis for a final treaty 3 a code of correct etiquette and precedence 4 *NAM* the plan of a scientific experiment or treatment [MF *protocole*, fr ML *protocollum*, fr LGk *protokollon* first sheet of a papyrus roll bearing date of manufacture, fr Gk *prot-* + *kollan* to glue together, fr *kolla* glue, akin to MD *helen* to glue]
- proton** /prə'tɒn/ *n* an elementary particle that is identical with the nucleus of the hydrogen atom, that along with neutrons is a constituent of all other atomic nuclei, that carries a positive charge numerically equal to the charge of an electron, that has a mass of  $1.672 \times 10^{-27}$  kg, and that is classified as a baryon  **PHYSICS** [Gk *proton*, neut of *protos* first – more at *PROT-*] – **protonic** /prə'tɒnɪk, prə-/ *adj*
- protonotary** /prə'tɒnə'tɔːrɪ, prə'tɒnə'tɔːrɪ/, **prothonotary** /-t(h)ə-, -t(h)ə-/ *n* a chief clerk of any of various courts of law [ME *prothonotarie*, fr LL *protonotarius*, fr *prot-* + L *notarius* notary]
- protoplasm** /prə'tɒpləz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the organized complex of organic and inorganic substances (e.g. proteins and salts in solution) that constitutes the living nucleus, cytoplasm, plastids, and mitochondria of the cell 2 cytoplasm [G *protoplasma*, fr *prot-* + NL *plasma*] – **protoplasmic** /-pləzˈmɪk/ *adj*
- protoplast** /prə'tɒpləst/ *n* the nucleus, cytoplasm, and plasma membrane of a cell as distinguished from nonliving walls and inclusions (e.g. vacuoles) [MF *protoplaste*, fr LL *protoplastus* first man, fr Gk *protoplastos* first formed, fr *prot-* + *plastos* formed, fr *plassein* to mould – more at *PLASTER*] – **protoplastic** /-pləstɪk/ *adj*
- prototrophic** /prə'tɒt'rɒfɪk/ *adj* deriving nutriment from inorganic sources [ISV] – **prototroph** /prə'tɒt'rɒf/ *n*, **prototrophy** /prə'tɒt'rɒfɪ/ *n*
- prototype** /prə'taɪp, -tə-/ *n* 1 an original model on which sthg is based; an archetype 2 sb or sthg that has the essential features of a later type (*the battle chariot is the ~ of the modern tank*) 3 sb or sthg that exemplifies the essential or typical features of a type (*mathematics is the ~ of logical thinking*) 4 a first full-scale and usu operational form of a new type or design of a construction (e.g. an aeroplane) [F, fr Gk *prototypon*, fr neut of *prototypos* archetypal, fr *prot-* + *typos* type] – **prototypical** /-tɪpɪk/ *adj*
- protozoan** /prə'təʊ'zəʊ-ən/ *n* any of a phylum or subkingdom of minute single-celled animals which have varied structure and physiology and often complex life cycles [NL *Protozoa*, phylum name, fr *prot-* + *-zoa*] – **protozoal** *adj*, **protozoan** *adj*, **protozoic** /-ɪk/ *adj*
- protozoology** /prə'təʊ'zəʊ-ələɪ, -zə-, -tə-/ *n* a branch of zoology dealing with protozoans [NL *Protozoa* + ISV *-logy*] – **protozoologist** *n*, **protozoological** /-lə'ɒləjɪk/ *adj*
- protozoon** /prə'təʊ'zəʊ-ən/ *n*, *pl* **protozoa** /-zəʊ-ə/ a protozoan [NL, fr sing of *Protozoa*]
- protract** /prə'trækt/ *vt* 1 to prolong in time or space 2 to lay down the lines and angles of with scale and protractor 3 to extend forwards or outwards [L *protractus*, pp of *protrahere*, lit., to draw forwards, fr *pro-* forwards + *trahere* to draw – more at *PRO-*, *DRAW*] – **protraction** /-trækʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **protractive** /-tɪv/ *adj*
- protractile** /prə'træktɪl/ *adj* capable of being thrust out (*~ jaws*) [L *protractus*]
- protractor** /prə'træktə/ *n* 1 a muscle that extends a body part – compare

**RETRACTOR** 2 an instrument that is used for marking out or measuring angles in drawing [PROTRACT + <sup>1</sup>-OR]

**protrude** /prə'truːd/ *vb* to (cause to) jut out from the surrounding surface or place [L *protrudere*, fr *pro-* + *trudere* to thrust – more at **THREAT**] – **protrusion** /-tʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **protrusive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**protuberant** /prə'tuːəb(ə)r(ə)nt/ *adj* thrusting or projecting out from a surrounding or adjacent surface [LL *protuberant-*, *protuberans*, prp of *protuberare* to bulge out, fr L *pro-* forwards + *tuber* hump, swelling] – **protuberance** *n*

**proud** /praʊd/ *adj* 1a having or displaying excessive self-esteem **b** much pleased; exultant **c** having proper self-respect 2a stately, magnificent **b** giving reason for pride, glorious (<the ~ est moment of her life>) 3 projecting slightly from a surrounding surface [ME, fr OE *prūd*, prob fr OF *prod*, *prud*, *prou* capable, good, valiant, fr LL *prode* advantage, advantageous, back-formation fr L *prodesse* to be advantageous, fr *pro-* for, in favour + *esse* to be – more at **PRO-**, **IS**] – **proudly** *adv*

**prove** /pruːv/ *vb* **proved**, **proven** /'pruːv(ə)n/ *vt* 1a to test the quality of; try out (<the exception ~ s the rule>) **b** to subject to a testing process 2a to establish the truth or validity of by evidence or demonstration **b** to check the correctness of (e.g. an arithmetical operation) 3a to verify the genuineness of; *specif* to obtain probate of **b** **PROVE** 1 4 to allow (bread dough) to rise and become light before baking ~ *vi* 1 to turn out, esp after trial (<the new drug ~ d to be effective>) 2 of bread dough to rise and become aerated through the action of yeast [ME *proven*, fr OF *prover*, fr L *probare* to test, approve, prove, fr *probus* good, honest, fr *pro-* for, in favour + *-bus* (akin to OE *beon* to be)]

**provenance** /'prɒvənəns/ *n* an origin, source – used esp with reference to works of art or literature [F, fr *provenir* to come forth, originate, fr L *provenire*, fr *pro-* forth + *venire* to come – more at **PRO-**, **COME**]

**Provençal** /'prɒvɒnʃəl/ (Fr *provençal*) *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Provence 2 a Romance language of SE France [MF, fr *provençal* of Provence, fr *Provence*, region of SE France] – **Provençal** *adj*

**provender** /'prɒvɪdə/ *n* 1 dry food for domestic animals 2 food, provisions – humor [ME, fr MF *provende*, *provendre*, fr ML *provenda*, alter. of *praebenda* prebend]

**proventriculus** /'prɒvɛn'trɪkʊləs/ *n*, *pl* **proventriculi** /-li/, /-li/ a pouch of the digestive tract (e.g. of an insect), esp the glandular stomach of a bird situated between the crop and gizzard [NL]

**proverb** /'prɒvɜːb/ *n* a brief popular epigram or maxim, an adage [ME *proverbe*, fr MF, fr L *proverbium*, fr *pro-* + *verbum* word – more at **WORD**]

**proverbial** /'prɒvɜːbiəl/, /-biəl/ *adj* 1 of or like a proverb 2 that has become a proverb or byword, commonly spoken of – **proverbially** *adv*

**Proverbs** /'prɒvɜːbz/ *n* *pl* *but sing in constr* a collection of moral sayings forming a book of the Old Testament

**provide** /prə'vɪd/ *vi* 1 to take precautionary measures (<~ against future loss>) 2 to make a proviso or stipulation (<the regulations ~ for 2 directors>) 3 to supply what is needed for sustenance or support (<~ for a large family>) ~ *vt* 1a to furnish, equip with (<the children with new shoes>) **b** to supply, afford (<curtains ~ privacy>) 2 to stipulate [ME *providen*, fr L *providere*, lit. to see ahead, fr *pro-* forwards + *videre* to see – more at **PRO-**, **WIT**]

**pro'vided** *conj* providing [pp of *provide*]

**providence** /'prɒvɪd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 *cap* God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny 2 being provident [ME, fr MF, fr L *providentia*, fr *provident-*, *providens*]

**provident** /'prɒvɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* making provision for the future, esp by saving [L *provident-*, *providens*, fr prp of *providere*] – **providently** *adv*

**providential** /'prɒvɪd(ə)nt(ə)l/ *adj* of or determined (as if) by Providence, lucky – **providentially** *adv*

**'provident society** *n* FRIENDLY SOCIETY

**provider** /prə'vɪdə/ *n* one who provides for his/her family [PROVIDE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**providing** /prə'vɪdɪŋ/ *conj* on condition; if and only if (<may come ~ that you pay for yourself>) [prp of *provide*]

**province** /'prɒvɪns/ *n* 1a an administrative district of a country **b** *pl* all of a country except the metropolis – *usu* + *the* 2 a territorial unit of religious administration 3a proper or appropriate function or scope; sphere **b** a field of knowledge or activity [F, fr L *provincia*]

**'provincial** /prə'vɪnʃ(ə)l/ *n* 1 the head of a province of a Roman Catholic religious order 2 one living in or coming from a province 3a a person with a narrow outlook **b** a person lacking polish or refinement

**²provincial** *adj* 1 of or coming from a province 2a limited in outlook;

narrow **b** lacking polish, unsophisticated – **provincialism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **provincialize** /-ɪz/ *vt*

**'proving ground** /'pruːvɪŋ/ *n* 1 a place designed for or used in scientific experimentation or testing; *esp* a place for testing vehicles 2 a place where sthg new is tried out

**'provision** /prə'vɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1a providing **b** a measure taken beforehand, a preparation (<no ~ made for replacements>) 2 *pl* a stock of food or other necessary goods 3 a proviso, stipulation [ME, fr MF, fr LL & L, LL *provisio-*, *provisio* act of providing, fr L, foresight, fr *provisus*, pp of *providere* to see ahead]

**²provision** *vt* to supply with provisions

**provisional** /prə'vɪz(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj* serving for the time being, temporary, *specif* requiring later confirmation (<gave her ~ consent>) – **provisionally** *adv*

**Provisional** *adj* of or being the secret terrorist wing of the IRA – **Provisional** *n*

**proviso** /prə'vɪz(ə)h/ *n*, *pl* **provisos**, **provisoes** 1 a clause that introduces a condition 2 a conditional stipulation [ME, fr ML *proviso quod* provide that]

**provisory** /prə'vɪz(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 conditional 2 provisional

**provitamin** /prə'hvɪtə'mɪn/, /-vɪ-/ *n* a substance convertible in the body into a specific vitamin

**¹Provo** /'prɒvoh/ *n* a member of a militant Dutch antiestablishment group [D, short for *provocateur*, fr F, fr *provocuer*]

**²Provo** /'prɒvoh/ *n* a member of the Provisional wing of the IRA – *informal* [by shortening & alter. fr *provisional*]

**provocation** /prə'vɒkə's(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of provoking, incitement 2 sthg that provokes or arouses [ME *provocacioun*, fr MF *provocation*, fr L *provocatio-*, *provocatio*, fr *provocatus*, pp of *provocare*]

**provocative** /prə'vɒkətɪv/ *adj* serving or tending to provoke or arouse to indignation, sexual desire, etc – **provocatively** *adv*, **provocative-** *n*

**provoke** /prə'vɒhk/ *vt* 1 to incite to anger, incense 2a to call forth, evoke **b** to stir up on purpose, induce (<always trying to ~ an argument>) [ME *provoken*, fr MF *provocuer*, fr L *provocare*, fr *pro-* forth + *vocare* to call – more at **PRO-**, **VOICE**]

**provoking** /prə'vɒhkiŋ/ *adj* causing mild anger, annoying – **provokingly** *adv*

**provost** /'prɒvɒst/ *n* 1 the head of a collegiate or cathedral chapter, *specif* one who is also the incumbent of a parish of which the cathedral is the church 2 the chief magistrate of a Scottish burgh 3 the head of certain colleges at Oxford, Cambridge, etc [ME, fr OE *profast* & OF *provost*, fr ML *propositus*, alter. of *praepositus*, fr L, one in charge, director, fr *pp* of *praeposere* to place at the head – more at **PRÆPOSITION**]

**provost 'marshal** /prə'vɒh/ *n* an officer who supervises the military police of a command

**prow** /praʊ/ *n* 1 the bow of a ship 2 a pointed projecting front part [MF *proue*, prob fr Old dial *prua*, fr L *prora*, fr Gk *proira*]

**prowess** /'praʊs/ *n* 1 outstanding (military) valour and skill 2 outstanding ability [ME *prouesse*, fr OF *proesse*, fr *prou* valiant – more at **PROUD**]

**'prowl** /praʊl/ *vb* to move about (in) or roam (over) in a stealthy or predatory manner [ME *prollen*] – **prowler** *n*

**²prowl** *n* an act or instance of prowling

**proximal** /'prɒksɪm(ə)l/ *adj*, *esp* of an anatomical part next to or nearest the point of attachment or origin – compare **DISTAL** [L *proximus*] – **proximally** *adv*

**proximate** /'prɒksɪmət/ *adj* 1a very near, close **b** forthcoming; imminent 2 next preceding or following, *specif* next in a chain of cause and effect *USE* *fm* [L *proximatus*, pp of *proximare* to approach, fr *proximus* nearest, next, superl of *prope* near – more at **APPROACH**] – **proximately** *adv*, **proximateness** *n*

**proximity** /'prɒksɪmətɪ/ *n* being close in space, time, or association, *esp* nearness – *fm* [MF *proximité*, fr L *proximitas*, *proximitas*, fr *proximus*]

**proximity fuse** *n* a fuse that detonates a projectile within effective range of the target

**proximo** /'prɒksɪmoh/ *adj* of or occurring in the next month after the present – compare **ULTIMO** [L *proximo mense* in the next month]

**proxy** /'prɒksi/ *n* 1 (the agency, function, or office of) a deputy authorized to act as a substitute for another (<marriage by ~>) 2 (a document giving) authority to act or vote for another [ME *procucie*, contr of *procuracie*, fr AF, fr ML *procuratus*, alter. of L *procuratio* procurator] – **proxy** *adj*




**prude** /'pru:hd/ *n* one who shows or affects extreme modesty or propriety, esp in sexual matters [F, good woman, prudish woman, short for *prudefemme* good woman, fr OF *prode femme*]  
**prudence** /'pru:hd(ə)ns/ *n* 1 discretion or shrewdness in the management of affairs 2 skill and good judgment in the use of resources, frugality 3 caution or circumspection with regard to danger or risk <conservative from ~ - T S Eliot>  
**prudent** /'pru:hd(ə)nt/ *adj* characterized by, arising from, or showing prudence [ME, fr MF, fr L *prudens*, *prudens*, contr of *providens*, *providens* - more at *PROVIDENT*] - **prudently** *adv*  
**prudential** /'pru:hd(ə)nt(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or proceeding from prudence 2 exercising prudence, esp in business matters - **prudentially** *adv*  
**prudery** /'pru:hd(ə)ri/ *n* 1 the quality of being a prude 2 a prudish act or remark  
**prudish** /'pru:hd(ə)sh/ *adj* marked by prudery, priggish - **prudishly** *adv*, **prudishness** *n*  
**pruinose** /'pru:hd(ə)no:z/ *adj* covered with whitish dust or bloom <~ stems> [L *pruinus* covered with hoarfrost, fr *pruna* hoarfrost]  
**prune** /'pru:n/ *n* a plum dried or capable of drying without fermentation [ME, fr MF, plum, fr L *prunum* - more at *PLUM*]  
**prune** *vt* 1 to cut off the dead or unwanted parts of (a usu woody plant or shrub) 2a to reduce by eliminating superfluous matter <~d the text> b to remove as superfluous <~ away all ornamentation> ~ *vi* to cut away what is unwanted [ME *prouynen*, fr MF *proignier*, prob alter of *provigner* to layer, fr *provin* layer, fr L *propagare*, *propago*, fr *pro* forwards + *pangere* to fix - more at *PRO*, *PACT*]  
**prurient** /'pru:ri:ənt/ *adj* inclined to, having, or arousing an excessive or unhealthy interest in sexual matters [L *prurient*, *prurians*, prp of *prurire* to itch, crave, be wanton, akin to L *pruna* glowing coal, Skt *plosati* he sines] - **prurience** *n*  
**prurigo** /'pru:(ə)'ri:go/ *n* a chronic inflammatory skin disease marked by raised itching spots [NL, fr L, itch, fr *prurire*] - **pruriginous** /-'rj:ŋəs/ *adj*  
**pruritic** /'pru:(ə)'nɪk/ *adj* of or marked by itching  
**pruritus** /'ru:(ə)'nɪtəs/ *n* ITCH 1 [L, fr *pruritus*, pp of *prurire*]  
**Prussian blue** /'pru:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 any of numerous blue iron pigments 2 a dark blue hydrated salt of iron and cyanide used as a test for ferric iron 3 a strong greenish blue colour [Prussia, former kingdom & state of N Germany]  
**prussianize, -ise** /-'i:z/ *vt*, often *cap* to make Prussian in character (e.g. by imposing authoritarian control or rigid discipline) - **prussianization** /-'zə:ʃ(ə)n/ *n*, often *cap*  
**prussic acid** /'pru:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* HYDROCYANIC ACID [part trans of F *acide prussique*, fr *acide* acid + *prussique* of Prussian blue]  
**prutah, pruta** /'pru:ʃ(ə)h/ *n*, pl *prutoth, prutot* /-to:th(h)/ (a coin representing) a former money unit of Israel equivalent to 1/1000 pound [NHeb *perutah*, fr LHeb, a small coin]  
**pry** /'pri:/ *vi* 1 to inquire in an overinquisitive or impertinent manner into 2 to look closely or inquisitively at sb's possessions, actions, etc <~ ing neighbours> [ME *prien*]  
**pry** *vt*, chiefly *NAM* 'PRIZE [by alter.]  
**Przewalski's horse** /'pʊ:zə'vəlskɪz/ *n* a primitive wild horse of Central Asia that is prob the ancestor of the domesticated horse and has a dun-coloured coat with a brown upright mane [Nikolai Przewalski †1888 Russ soldier & explorer]  
**psalm** /'sahm/ *n*, often *cap* any of the sacred songs attributed to King David and collected in the Book of Psalms [ME, fr OE *psalm*, fr LL *psalmus*, fr Gk *psalmos*, lit., twanging of a harp, fr *psallein* to pluck, play, a stringed instrument]  
**psalmody** /'sahmɪdi/, 'sahmɪdi/ *n* 1 (the practice or art of) singing psalms in worship 2 a collection of psalms [ME *psalmodia*, fr LL *psalmodia*, fr LGk *psalmōidia*, lit., singing to the harp, fr *psalmos* + *aidōn* to sing - more at *ODE*]  
**Psalms** /'sahmz/ *n* pl *but sing in constr* a collection of 150 sacred poems forming a book of the Old Testament  
**Psalter** /'sawltə/ *n* a book containing a collection of Psalms for liturgical or devotional use [ME, fr OE *psalter* & OF *psalter*, fr LL *psalterium*, fr LGk *psalterion*, fr Gk, *psalter*]  
**psaltery** also **psaltry** /'sawlt(ə)ri/ *n* an ancient stringed musical instrument similar to the dulcimer but plucked [ME *psalteric*, fr MF, fr L *psalterium*, fr Gk *psalterion*, fr *psallein* to play on a stringed instrument]  
**p's and q's** /'pez ənd(ə) 'kyoo:z/ *n* pl sthg, esp manners or language, that one should be mindful of <mind your ~ in front of your great-aunt> - *infrml* [fr the phrase *mind one's p's and q's*, prob alluding to the

difficulty a child learning to write may have in distinguishing between *p* and *q*]  
**psophology** /'se'folə:ʒi/ *n* the scientific study of elections [Gk *psēphos* pebble, ballot, vote; fr the use of pebbles by the ancient Greeks in voting] - **psophologist** *n*, **psophological** /-'fə'lojɪk/ *adj*  
**pseudo** /'s(y)u:hd/ *n*, chiefly *Br* an intellectually or socially pretentious person - *infrml* [*pseudo*] - **pseud** *adj*, **pseudly** *adj*  
**pseudo** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)h/ *adj* apparent rather than actual, spurious <distinction between true and ~ freedom> [ME, fr *pseudo*]  
**pseudo-**, **pseud-** *comb form* false, sham, spurious <pseudo-science> <pseudaxis> <pseudo-intellectual> [ME, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *pseudēs*]  
**pseudocyesis** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)h'si:es/ *n* FALSE PREGNANCY [NL, fr *pseud-* + *cyesis* pregnancy, fr Gk *kyēsis*, fr *kyein* to be pregnant - more at 'CAVE]  
**pseudomorph** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)mawf/, -doh-/ *n* a mineral having the outward form of another mineral type [prob fr F *pseudomorphe*, fr *pseud-* + *-morphe* -morph] - **pseudomorphic** /-'mawfɪk/ *adj*, **pseudomorphism** /-'fɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **pseudomorphous** /-'fəs/ *adj*  
**pseudonym** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)nɪm/ *n* a fictitious name; esp one used by an author [F *pseudonyme*, fr Gk *pseudonymos* bearing a false name]  
**pseudonymous** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)nɪməs/ *adj* bearing, using, or being a pseudonym [Gk *pseudonymos*, fr *pseud-* + *onoma*, *onyma* name] - **pseudonymously** *adv*  
**pseudopod** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)pod/ *n* a pseudopodium [NL *pseudopodium*]  
**pseudopodium** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)pod(ə)m/ *n*, pl *pseudopodia* /-'di:ə/ a temporary protrusion of a cell (e.g. an amoeba) that serves to take in food, move the cell, etc [NL]  
**pseudopregnancy** /'s(y)u:hd(ə)pregnənsi/ *n* 1 FALSE PREGNANCY 2 a state resembling pregnancy that occurs in various mammals usu after an infertile copulation and during which oestrus does not occur - **pseudopregnant** *adj*  
**shaw** /'p(ə)shaw/ *interj* - used to express irritation, disapproval, or disbelief  
**psi** /'psɪ/ *n* the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet [LGk, fr Gk *psē*]  
**psilocybin** /'sɪlə'si:bi:n/ *n* a hallucinogenic organic compound obtained from a mushroom [NL *Psilocybe*, genus name + *-in*]  
**psittacine** /'psɪtə'si:ən, -sɪn/ *adj* of the parrots [L *psittacinus*, fr *psittacus* parrot, fr Gk *psittakos*] - **psittacine** *n*  
**psittacosis** /'psɪtə'kəʊsɪs/ *n* a severe infectious disease of birds caused by a rickettsia that causes a serious pneumonia when transmitted to human beings [NL, fr L *psittacus*] - **psittacotic** /-'kəʊtɪk/ *adj*  
**psoriasis** /'psəʊ'ri:əsɪs, (p)sə-/ *n* a chronic skin condition characterized by distinct red patches covered by white scales [NL, fr Gk *psōriasis*, fr *psōria* to have the itch, fr *psōra* itch, akin to Gk *psēn* to rub] - **psoriatic** /'psɒrɪ'atɪk/ *adj* or *n*  
**psych, psyche** /'sɪk/ *vt* 1 *NAM* to psychoanalyse 2 chiefly *NAM* a to anticipate correctly the intentions or actions of, outguess b to analyse or work out (e.g. a problem or course of action) <I ~ed it all out by myself> 3 chiefly *NAM* a to make psychologically uneasy; intimidate - often + *out* b to make (oneself) psychologically ready for some action, test, etc - *usu* + *up* <~ed herself up for the race> *USE* *infrml* [by shortening]  
**psych-** /'sɪk-/ *psycho-* *comb form* 1 *psychē* <psychognosis> 2a mind, mental processes <psychoactive> <psychology> b using psychoanalytical methods <psychotherapy> c brain <psychosurgery> d mental and <psychosomatic> [Gk, fr *psychē* breath, principle of life, life, soul, akin to Gk *psychein* to breathe, blow, cool, Skt *babhasi* he blows]  
**psyche** /'sɪki/ *n* 1 the soul, self 2 the mind [Gk *psychē*]  
**psychedelic** /'sɪkə'delɪk/ *adj* 1a of drugs capable of producing altered states of consciousness that involve changed mental and sensory awareness, hallucinations, etc b produced by or associated with the use of psychedelic drugs 2a imitating or reproducing effects (e.g. distorted or bizarre images or sounds) resembling those produced by psychedelic drugs <a ~ light show> b of colours fluorescent [Gk *psychē* soul + *delōun* to show]  
**psychiatry** /'sɪkɪə'tri/ *n* a branch of medicine that deals with mental, emotional, or behavioural disorders [prob fr (assumed) NL *psychiatria*, fr *psych-* + *-atria* -iatry] - **psychiatrist** *n*, **psychiatric** /-kɪ'atɪk/ *adj*, **psychiatrically** *adv*  
**psychic** /'sɪkɪk/ also **psychical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of or originating in the psyche 2 lying outside the sphere of physical science or knowledge 3 of a person sensitive to nonphysical or supernatural forces and influences [Gk *psychikos* of the soul, fr *psychē*] - **psychically** *adv*  
**psychic** *n* 1 a psychic person 2 MEDIUM 2e



**psycho** /'siekoh/ *n*, *pl psychos* a psychopath, psychotic – infml – **psycho** *adj*  
**psychoactive** /-'aktiv/ *adj* affecting the mind or behaviour (< ~ drugs)  
**psychoanalyse** /-'analiz/ *vt* to treat by means of psychoanalysis  
**psychoanalysis** /-'analisis/ *n* a method of analysing unconscious mental processes and treating mental disorders, esp by allowing the patient to talk freely about early childhood experiences, dreams, etc [ISV] – **psychoanalyst** /-'analist/ *n*, **psychoanalytic** /-'ana'litik/, **psychoanalytical** *adj*  
**psychodynamics** /-'die'namiks/ *n* the psychology of mental or emotional forces or processes and their effects on behaviour and mental states, also explanation or interpretation (e.g. of behaviour) in terms of these forces – **psychodynamic** *adj*  
**psychogenic** /'siekoh'jenik, -kə-/ *adj* originating in the mind or in mental or emotional conflict  
**psychokinesis** /'siekoh'kinees/ *n* apparent movement in physical objects produced by the power of the mind without physical contact [NL, fr *psych-* + Gk *kinesis* motion, fr *kinein* to move] **psychokinetic** /-'netik/ *adj*  
**psycholinguistics** /-'ling'gwistiks/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr the study of the interrelation between linguistic behaviour and the minds of speaker and hearer (e.g. the production and comprehension of speech) – **psycholinguistic** *adj*, **psycholinguist** /-'ling'gwist/ *n*  
**psychological** /'siekoh'lojikal/ *adj* **1a** of psychology **b** mental **2** directed towards or intended to affect the will or mind (< ~ warfare) – **psychologically** *adv*  
**psychological moment** *n* the occasion when conditions are most conducive to achieving a particular effect  
**psychologize** /-'sie'koləjiz/ *vb* to explain or interpret (sthg) in psychological terms  
**psychology** /'sie'koləj/ *n* **1** the science or study of mind and behaviour **2** the mental or behavioural characteristics of an individual or group [NL *psychologia*, fr *psych-* + *-logia* -logy] – **psychologist** *n*  
**psychometrics** /'siekoh'metiks/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr psychometry  
**psychometry** /'sie'komətri/ *n* **1** divination of facts concerning an object or its owner through physical contact or proximity **2** the psychological theory and technique of the measurement of mental capacities and attributes **psychometrist** *n*, **psychometric** /'siekoh'metrik/ *adj*  
**psychomotor** /'siekoh'mohtə/ *adj* relating to motor action directly proceeding from mental activity (< ~ seizure) [ISV]  
**psychoneurosis** /-'nyoo(ə)'rohsis/ *n* a neurosis (based on emotional conflict) [NL] – **psychoneurotic** /-'rotik/ *adj* or *n*  
**psychopath** /'siekopəθ/ *n* a person suffering from a severe emotional and behavioural disorder characterized by antisocial tendencies and usu the pursuit of immediate gratification through often violent acts, broadly a dangerously violent mentally ill person [ISV] – **psychopathic** /-'patθik/ *adj*, **psychopathy** /'sie'kopəθi/ *n*  
**psychopathology** /'siekohpə'tholəj/ *n* (the study of) psychological and behavioural aberrations occurring in mental disorder [ISV *psych-* + *pathology*] – **psychopathologist** *n*, **psychopathological** /-'patθə'lojikal/ *adj*  
**psychopharmacology** /-'fahmə'koləj/ *n* the study of the effect of drugs on the mind and behaviour – **psychopharmacologist** *n*, **psychopharmacological** /-'kə'lojikal/ *adj*  
**psychophysics** /-'fiziks/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr a branch of psychology that deals with the relationship between the physical attributes of a stimulus and the characteristics of the resulting sensation or perception [ISV] – **psychophysical** /-'fizikal/ *adj*  
**psychosexual** /-'seksy(o)l, -sh(ə)l/ *adj* of the emotional, mental, or behavioural aspects of sex – **psychosexuality** /-'aləti/ *n*  
**psychosis** /'sie'kəhsis/ *n*, *pl psychoses* /-'seez/ severe mental derangement (e.g. schizophrenia) that results in the impairment or loss of contact with reality [NL] – **psychotic** /-'kotik/ *adj* or *n*, **psychotically** *adv*  
**psycho-social** /-'soʃsh(ə)l/ *adj* relating social conditions to mental health (< ~ medicine)  
**psychosomatic** /-'sə'matik/ *adj* of or resulting from the interaction of psychological and somatic factors, esp the production of physical symptoms by mental processes (< ~ medicine) [ISV]  
**psycho-surgery** /-'suhjəri/ *n* brain surgery used to treat mental disorder – **psychosurgical** /-'jikal/ *adj*  
**psychotherapy** /-'terapi/ *n* treatment by psychological methods for mental, emotional, or psychosomatic disorders [ISV] – **psychotherapist** *n*

**psychotropic** /'sieka'trohpik/ *adj* psychoactive  
**psychro-** *comb form* cold (psychrometer) [Gk, fr *psychros*, fr *psychein* to cool – more at PSYCH-]  
**psychrometer** /'sie'kromita/ *n* a hygrometer consisting of 2 similar thermometers with the bulb of 1 being kept wet so that the resulting cooling provides a measure of the dryness of the atmosphere [ISV] – **psychrometric** /-'kroh'metrik/ *adj*, **psychrometry** /-'kromətri/ *n*  
**ptarmigan** /'təhmigan/ *n*, *pl ptarmigans*, esp collectively **ptarmigan** any of various grouse of northern regions whose plumage turns white in winter – **ptarmigan** [modif of ScGael *tarmachan*]  
**P.T. boat** *n*, **NAM** MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT [patrol torpedo]  
**PTC** *n* phenylthiocarbamide [phenylthiocarbamide]  
**pter-**, **ptero-** *comb form* wing (<pteroactyl>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *pteron* wing, feather – more at FEATHER]  
**pterid-**, **pterido-** *comb form* fern (<ptendoid>) (<ptendology>) [Gk *pterid-*, *ptēris*, akin to Gk *pteron* wing, feather]  
**pteridology** /'teridəloj/ *n* the study of ferns – **pteridologist** *n*, **pteridological** /-'dɒləj(ə)l/ *adj*  
**pteridophyte** /'tendoh'fi:t, -də-/ *n* any of a group of ferns or other vascular plants that have roots, stems, and leaves but no flowers or seeds – **pteridophyte** [deriv of Gk *pterid-*, *ptēris* + *phyton* plant – more at PHYT-]  
**pteridophytic** /-'fitik/, **pteridophytous** /-'dofitis/ *adj*  
**pteroactyl** /'terə'daktɪl/ *n* any of an order of extinct flying reptiles without feathers [NL *Pterodactylus*, genus of reptiles, fr Gk *pteron* + *daktylos* finger]  
**pteropod** /'terə'pɒd/ *n* SEA BUTTERFLY [NL *Pteropoda*, group name, fr Gk *pteron* + NL *-poda*] – **pteropod** *adj*, **pteropodan** /-'pɒdn/ *adj* or *n*  
**pterosaur** /'terə'saw/ *n* a pterodactyl [deriv of Gk *pteron* + *sauros* lizard]  
**pterygoid** /'tengoyd/ *adj* of or lying in the region of the lower part of the wedge-shaped bone at the base of the vertebrate skull [NL *pterygo-*, fr Gk *pterygoeides*, lit. shaped like a wing, fr *pteryg-*, *pteryx* wing; akin to Gk *pteron* wing]  
**PTFE** *n* polytetrafluoroethylene [polytetrafluoroethylene]  
**Ptolemaic system** /'tolə'mayik/ *n* the system of planetary motions according to which the sun, moon, and planets revolve round a stationary earth [Ptolemy (Claudius Ptolemaeus) + ab 168 Egyptian astronomer & geographer] – **Ptolemaist** *n*  
**ptomaine** /'tohməyn/ *n* any of various often very poisonous organic compounds formed by the action of putrefactive bacteria on nitrogen-containing matter [It *ptomaina*, fr Gk *ptoma* fall, fallen body, corpse, fr *ptipten* to fall – more at FEATHER]  
**ptomaine poisoning** *n* food poisoning caused by (substances formed by) bacteria  
**ptosis** /'tohsis/ *n*, *pl ptoses* /-'seez/ a drooping of the upper eyelid [NL, fr Gk *ptōsis* act of falling, fr *ptipten*]  
**ptyalin** /'ti:ə'lin/ *n* an enzyme found in the saliva of many animals that breaks down starch into sugar [Gk *ptyalon* saliva, fr *ptyein* to spit – more at SPYEW]  
**p-type** *adj*, of a semiconductor having an excess of positively charged current carriers – compare N-TYPE  COMPUTER [positive-type]  
**pub** /pub/ *n* an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed, esp, chiefly Br PUBLIC HOUSE [short for *public (house)*]  
**pubby** /'pubi/ *adj* having the (informal and friendly) atmosphere of a pub  
**'pub crawl** *n*, chiefly Br a visit to a series of pubs, usu involving at least 1 drink at each – infml  
**puberty** /'pyooəbətɪ/ *n* **1** the condition of being or the period of becoming capable of reproducing sexually **2** the age at which puberty occurs [ME *puberte*, fr L *pubertas*, fr *puber* pubescent] – **pubertal** *adj*  
**pubes** /'pyooəbeez/ *n*, *pl pubes* the pubic region or hair [NL, fr L, manhood, body hair, pubic region, akin to L *puber* pubescent]  
**pubescence** /'pyooə'bes(ə)ns/ *n* **1** being pubescent **2** a pubescent covering or surface  
**pubescent** /'pyooə'bes(ə)nt/ *adj* **1** arriving at or having reached puberty **2** covered with fine soft short hairs – compare HISPID [L *pubescent-*, *pubescens*, prp of *pubescere* to reach puberty, become covered as with hair, fr *pubes*]  
**public** /'pyooəbɪk/ *adj* of or situated in or near the region of the pubis or the pubic hair  
**public hair** *n* the hair that appears at puberty round the genitals  
**pubis** /'pyooəbɪs/ *n*, *pl pubes* /-'beez/ the bottom front of the 3 principal bones that form either half of the pelvis [NL *os pubis*, lit., bone of the pubic region]

**'public** /'publik/ *adj* **1a** of or affecting all the people or the whole area of a nation or state (< ~ law) **b** of or being in the service of the community (< ~ affairs) **2** general, popular (<increasing ~ awareness) **3** of national or community concerns as opposed to private affairs; social **4a** accessible to or shared by all members of the community (< ~ park) **b** capitalized in shares that can be freely traded on the open market (<the company has gone ~) **5a** exposed to general view; open (< ~ quarrel) **b** well-known, prominent (< ~ figures) [ME *publique*, fr MF, fr L *publicus*, prob alter of *poplicus*, fr *populus* the people]

**²public** *n* **1** the people as a whole, the populace **2** a group or section of people having common interests or characteristics (<the motoring ~) - **in public** in the presence, sight, or hearing of strangers

**public-address system** *n* an apparatus including a microphone and loudspeakers used to address a large audience

**publican** /'publikən/ *n* **1** a Jewish tax collector for the ancient Romans **2** chiefly Br the licensee of a public house [ME, fr MF, fr L *publicanus* tax farmer, fr *publicum* public revenue, fr neut of *publicus*]

**publication** /,publi'keɪʃən/ *n* **1** the act or process of publishing **2** a published work [ME *publicacioun*, fr MF *publication*, fr LL *publicatio*-, *publicatio*, fr L *publicatus*, pp of *publicare* to make public, publish]

**public 'bar** *n*, *Br* a plainly furnished and often relatively cheap bar in a public house - compare SALOON BAR

**public 'company** *n* a company whose shares are offered to the general public - compare PRIVATE COMPANY

**public 'convenience** *n*, *Br* public toilet facilities provided by local government

**public 'corporation** *n* a corporation responsible for running a nationalized service or industry

**public 'domain** *n* the status in law of property rights that are unprotected by copyright or patent and are subject to appropriation by anyone

**public 'enemy** *n* sby, esp a notorious wanted criminal, who is a danger to the public

**public 'health** *n* (the theory and practice of) the protection and improvement of community health, esp sanitation, by government regulation and community effort

**public 'house** *n*, chiefly Br an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold to be drunk on the premises

**publicist** /'publisɪst/ *n* an expert or commentator on public affairs

**publicity** /'publisɪti/ *n* **1a** information with news value issued as a means of gaining public attention or support **b** paid advertising **c** the dissemination of information or promotional material **2** public attention or acclaim **3** being public (<the ~ of an open court) - *fml*

**publicize** /'publɪsaɪz/ *vt* to give publicity to

**public 'law** *n* a branch of law regulating the relations of individuals with the government and the organization and conduct of the government itself

**public 'lending 'right** *n*, often *cap P, L, & R* the right of authors to a royalty on issues of their books from public libraries

**publicly** /'publikli/ *adv* **1** in a manner observable by or in a place accessible to the public; openly **2a** by the people generally, communally **b** by a government (< ~ provided medical care)

**public 'prosecutor** *n* an official who conducts criminal prosecutions on behalf of the state

**public 'relations** *n pl* *but usu sing in constr* the business of inducing the public to have understanding for and goodwill towards a person, organization, or institution, also the degree of understanding and goodwill, achieved

**public 'sale** *n* AUCTION **1**

**public 'school** *n* **1** an endowed independent usu single-sex school in Britain, typically a large boarding school preparing pupils for higher education **2** *NAM & Scot* STATE SCHOOL

**public sector** *n* the part of the economy owned or controlled by the state - compare PRIVATE SECTOR

**public 'servant** *n* a government employee

**public 'service** *n* **1** the business of supplying electricity, transport, etc to a community **2** a service rendered in the public interest **3** government employment

**public 'speaking** *n* **1** making speeches in public **2** the art or science of effective oral communication with an audience (<took a course in ~)

**public-'spirited** *adj* motivated by concern for the general welfare

**public 'works** *n pl* schools, roads, etc constructed for public use, esp by the government

**publish** /'publɪʃ/ *vt* **1a** to make generally known **b** to announce publicly **2a** to produce or release for publication, *specif* to print **b** to issue the work of (an author) ~ *vi* to put out an edition (e.g. of a newspaper) [ME *publishen*, modif of MF *publier*, fr L *publicare*, fr *publicus* public] - **publishing** *n*

**publisher** /'publɪʃə/ *n* a person or company whose business is publishing [PUBLISH + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**puce** /'pyoʊh/ *adj* or *n* brownish purple [n F, lit, flea, fr L *puic*-, *pulex*; *adj* fr n]

**'puck** /'pʊk/ *n* a mischievous sprite [ME *puke*, fr OE *pūca*, akin to ON *pūki* devil]

**'puck** *n* a vulcanized rubber disc used in ice hockey [E dial *puck* (to poke, hit), alter. of E 'poke]

**'pucker** /'pʊkə/ *vb* to (cause to) become wrinkled or irregularly creased [prob irreg fr 'poke]

**²pucker** *n* a crease or wrinkle in a normally even surface

**puckish** /'pʊkɪʃ/ *adj* impish, whimsical ['puck]

**pud** /'puːd/ *n*, *Br* a pudding - *infrm*

**pudding** /'puːdɪŋ/ *n* **1** BLACK PUDDING **2** WHITE PUDDING **3a** any of various sweet or savoury dishes of a soft to spongy or fairly firm consistency that are made from rice, tapioca, flour, etc and are cooked by boiling, steaming, or baking (*sponge* ~) (<steak and kidney ~) **b** dessert **4** a small podgy person - *infrm* [ME]

**'pudding, stone** *n* (a) conglomerate rock

**'puddle** /'puːdl/ *n* **1** a small pool of liquid; esp one of usu muddy rainwater **2** a mixture (e.g. of clay, sand, and gravel) used as a waterproof covering [ME *puḡel*, akin to LG *puḡel* puddle, OE *pudd* ditch]

**²puddle** *vt* **puddling** /'puːdlɪŋ/ **1** to work (a wet mixture of earth or concrete) into a dense impervious mass **2** to subject (iron) to puddling - **puddler** *n*

**puddling** /'puːdlɪŋ/ *n* the conversion of pig iron into wrought iron by heating and stirring with oxidizing substances

**puḡendum** /'pyoʊh'ɛndəm/ *n*, *pl* **puḡenda** /-də/ the external genital organs of a (female) human being - usu *pl* with *sing* meaning [NL, sing of L *puḡenda*, fr neut *pl* of *puḡendus*, gerundive of *puḡere* to be ashamed] - **puḡendal** *adj*

**podgy** /'puːdʒi/ *adj* podgy [origin unknown] - **podginess** *n*

**pueblo** /'pweɪbloʊ, poʊ'ebloʊ/ *n*, *pl* **pueblos** the communal dwelling of an American Indian village of Arizona or New Mexico, consisting of adjoining flat-roofed stone or adobe houses [Sp, village, lit, people, fr L 'populus]

**puerile** /'pyoʊəriəl/ *adj* **1** juvenile **2** not befitting an adult, childish (< ~ remarks) [F or L, F *puéril*, fr L *puerilis*, fr *puer* boy, child, akin to Gk *país* boy, child - more at *PEW*] - **puerilism** /-'rɪ,lɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **puerility** /-'rɪlɪti/ *n*

**puerperal** /'pyoʊh'up(ə)rəl/ *adj* of or occurring during (the period immediately following) childbirth [L *puerpera* woman in childbirth, fr *puer* child + *parere* to give birth to - more at *PARE*]

**puerperal fever** *n* an often serious condition caused by infection of the placental site following childbirth or abortion

**'puff** /'pʊf/ *vi* **1a**(1) to blow in short gusts (2) to exhale or blow forcibly (< ~ ed into a blowpipe to shape the molten glass) **b** to breathe hard and quickly; pant **c** to emit small whiffs or clouds (e.g. of smoke or steam) **2** to become distended, swell - *usu* + *up* ~ *vi* **1a** to emit, propel, or blow (as if) by puffs; waft **b** to draw on (a pipe, cigarette, etc) with intermittent exhalations of smoke **2a** to distend (as if) with air or gas; inflate **b** to make proud or conceited (<extravagant praise ~ ed up his ego) **c** to praise extravagantly and usu exaggeratedly, also to advertise by this means **3** to make (one's way) emitting puffs of breath or smoke (< ~ ed her way up the hill) *USE (2a&b)* *usu* + *up* [ME *puffen*, fr OE *pyffan*, of imit origin]

**²puff** *n* **1a** an act or instance of puffing **b** a slight explosive sound accompanying a puff **c** a small cloud (e.g. of smoke) emitted in a puff **d** DRAW **1a** **2** a light round hollow pastry made of puff paste **3** a highly favourable notice or review, esp one that publicizes sth or sby **4** chiefly Br BREATH **2a** (<sat down until she got her ~ back) - *infrm* **5** *NAM* a quilted bed cover; an eiderdown **6** a poof - *slang* - **puffy** *adj*, **puffiness** *n*

**'puff, adder** *n* a large venomous African viper that inflates its body and hisses loudly when disturbed  LIFE CYCLE

**'puff,ball** /-'baw/ *n* any of various spherical and often edible fungi

**puffed** /'puft/ *adj*, chiefly Br out of breath - *infrm*

**puffer** /'puːfə/ *n* a globefish ['PUFF + <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**puffin** /'puːfɪn/ *n* any of several seabirds that have a short neck and a deep grooved multicoloured bill [ME *pophyn*]



- pulpit** /'pu:lpt/ *n* 1 a raised platform or high reading desk in church from which a sermon is preached  CHURCH 2 the clergy as a profession [ME, fr LL *pulpitum*, fr L, staging, platform]
- pulpwood** /-wud/ *n* a wood (e.g. hemlock, pine, or spruce) used in making pulp for paper
- pulsar** /'pul:sə/ *n* a celestial source, prob a rotating neutron star, of uniformly pulsating radio waves [*pulse* + *-ar* (as in *quasar*)]
- pulsate** /'pul:seɪt/ *vi* 1 to beat with a pulse 2 to throb or move rhythmically, vibrate [L *pulsatus*, pp of *pulsare*, fr *pulsus*, pp of *pellere*] – **pulsatory** /'pulsə(ɔ)n/, 'pul:sə(ɔ)r/ *adj*
- pulsation** /'pul:səʃ(ə)n/ *n* rhythmic throbbing or vibrating (e.g. of an artery); also a single beat or throb – **pulsatile** /'pulsətiəl/ *adj*
- pulsator** /'pul:səɪtə/ *n* a device that works with a throbbing movement
- pulse** /puls/ *n* the edible seeds of any of various leguminous crops (e.g. peas, beans, or lentils); also the plant yielding these [ME *puls*, fr OF *pouls* porridge, fr L *pult-*, *puls*, akin to L *pollen* fine flour – more at **POLLEN**]
- pulse** /puls/ *n* 1a a regular throbbing caused in the arteries by the contractions of the heart; also a single movement of such throbbing **b** the number of beats of a pulse in a specific period of time 2a (an indication of) underlying sentiment or opinion (<felt the political ~ of the nation at Westminster>) **b** a feeling of liveliness, vitality 3a rhythmical vibrating or sounding **b** a single beat or throb 4a a short-lived variation of electrical current, voltage, etc whose value is normally constant **b** an electromagnetic wave or sound wave of brief duration [ME *puls*, fr MF *pouls*, fr L *pulsus*, lit, beating, fr *pulsus*, pp of *pellere* to drive, push, beat – more at **FELT**]
- pulse** *vi* to pulsate, throb ~ *vt* 1 to drive (as if) by a pulsation 2 to cause to pulsate 3 to produce or modulate (e.g. electromagnetic waves) in the form of pulses (<~d waves>) – **pulser** *n*
- pulsimeter** /'pul:sɪmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring esp the force and rate of the pulse
- pulverize** /-ɪz/ 'pulvəraɪz/ *vt* 1 to reduce (e.g. by crushing or grinding) to very small particles 2 to annihilate, demolish ~ *vi* to become pulverized [MF *pulveriser*, fr LL *pulverizare*, fr L *pulver-*, *pulvis* dust, powder – more at **POLLEN**] – **pulverizable** *adj*, **pulverizer** *n*, **pulverization** /-'zəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- pulverulent** /pul'verɪ'jʊələnt/ *adj* 1 consisting of or reducible to fine powder 2 being or looking dusty – fml [L *pulverulentus* dusty, fr *pulver-*, *pulvis*]
- puma** /'pyooʊmə/ *n*, *pl* *pumas*, esp collectively *puma* a powerful tawny big cat formerly widespread in the Americas but now extinct in many areas [Sp, fr Quechua]
- pumice** /'pumɪs/ *n* a light porous volcanic rock used esp as an abrasive and for polishing [ME *pomis*, fr MF, fr L *pumic-*, *pumex* – more at **FOAM**] – **pumiceous** /'pyoo'mɪʃəs/ *adj*
- pumice** *vt* to dress or polish with pumice
- pummel** /'pu:ml/ *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /'pu:ml-ɪŋ/ to pound or strike repeatedly, esp with the fists [alter. of *pommel*]
- pump** /pʌmp/ *n* 1a a device that raises, transfers, or compresses fluids or that reduces the density of gases, esp by suction or pressure or both **b** a mechanism (e.g. the sodium pump) for pumping atoms, ions, or molecules 2 the heart 3 an act or the process of pumping [ME *pumpe*, *pompe*, fr MLG *pumpe* or MD *pompe*, prob fr Sp *bomba*, of imit origin]
- pump** *vt* 1a to raise (e.g. water) with a pump **b** to draw fluid from with a pump – often + *out* 2 to pour out or inject (as if) with a pump (<~ed money into the economy>) 3 to question persistently (<~ed her for information>) 4 to move (sthg) rapidly up and down as if working a pump handle (<~ed her hand warmly>) 5a to inflate by means of a pump or bellows – usu + *up* **b** to supply with air by means of a pump or bellows (<~ an organ>) ~ *vi* 1 to work a pump, raise or move a fluid with a pump 2 to move in a manner resembling the action of a pump handle 3 to spurt out intermittently
- pump** *n* 1 a low shoe without fastenings that grips the foot chiefly at the toe and heel 2 *Br* a plimsoll [origin unknown]
- pumpnickel** /'pʌmpnɪkl/, 'poom-/ *n* a dark coarse slightly sour-tasting bread made from wholemeal rye [G]
- pumpkin** /'pʌmp(ɪ)kɪn/ *n* (a usu hairy prickly plant that bears) a very large usu round fruit with a deep yellow to orange rind and edible flesh [alter. of earlier *pumpion*, modif of F *popon*, *pompon* melon, pumpkin, fr L *pepon-*, *pepo*, fr Gk *pepón*, fr *pepon* ripened; akin to Gk *pessin* to cook, ripen – more at **COOK**]
- pump** *room* *n* a room at a spa in which the water is distributed and drunk
- pun** /pʌn/ *vt* to consolidate (e.g. earth, concrete, or hardcore) by repeated ramming or pounding [ME *pounen* to pound]
- pun** *n* a humorous use of a word with more than 1 meaning or of words with (nearly) the same sound but different meanings [prob short for obs *punnet*, *pundigrion*, perh alter. of It *puntiglio* fine point, quibble – more at **PUNCTILIO**]
- pun** *vi* -nn- to make puns
- puna** /'puohnə/ *n* a windswept tableland in the higher Andes [AmerSp, fr Quechua]
- punch** /'pʌntʃ/ *vt* 1 to strike, esp with a hard and quick thrust of the fist 2 to drive or push forcibly (as if) by a punch 3 to hit (a ball) with less than a full swing of a bat, racket, etc 4 to emboss, cut, or make (as if) with a punch ~ *vi* to punch sthg [ME *punchen*, fr MF *poinçonner* to prick, stamp, fr *poinçon* puncheon (pointed tool), fr (assumed) VL *punction-*, *punctio*, fr *punctiare* to prick, fr L *punctus*, pp of *pungere* to prick – more at **PUNGENT**] – **puncher** *n*
- punch** *n* 1 a blow (as if) with the fist 2 effective energy or forcefulness (<an opening paragraph that packs a lot of ~>)
- punch** *n* 1 a tool, usu in the form of a short steel rod, used esp for perforating, embossing, cutting, or driving the heads of nails below a surface 2 a device for cutting holes or notches in paper or cardboard [prob short for *puncheon* (pointed tool)]
- punch** *n* a hot or cold drink usu made from wine or spirits mixed with fruit, spices, water, and occas tea – compare **CUP** 6 [perh fr Hindi *pāc* five, fr Skt *pañca*, akin to Gk *pentē* five, fr the number of ingredients]
- punch-bag** *n* 1 an inflated or stuffed bag punched with the fists as a form of exercise or training 2 *sb* who serves as a stooge or butt
- punch** *ball* *n*, *Br* a punch-bag
- punch** *bow* *n* a large bowl in which a beverage, esp punch, is mixed and served
- punch-drunk** *adj* 1 suffering brain damage as a result of repeated punches or blows to the head 2 behaving as if punch-drunk, dazed
- punched card**, **punch card** *n* a card used in data processing in which a pattern of holes or notches has been cut to represent information or instructions  **SYMBOL**
- punched tape** *n* a strip of paper having rows of typically 8 holes punched across it which represent information or instructions used in computers and other machines  **SYMBOL**
- puncheon** /'pʌntʃ(ə)n/ *n* a large cask of varying capacity [ME *poucon*, fr MF *poucon*, *poinçon*, of unknown origin]
- punchinello** /'pʌntʃɪ'neloh/ *n* a short fat humpbacked clown or buffoon in Italian puppet shows [modif of It dial *polecenella*]
- punching bag** /'pʌntʃɪŋ/ *n*, *NAM* a punch-bag
- punch** *line* *n* a sentence or phrase, esp a joke, that forms the climax to a speech or dialogue
- punch-up** *n*, chiefly *Br* a usu spontaneous fight, esp with the bare fists – *infml*
- punchy** /'pʌntʃi/ *adj* having punch, forceful
- punctate** /'pʌŋ(k)təɪt/ *adj* marked with minute spots or depressions (<a ~ leaf> [NL *punctatus*, fr L *punctum* point – more at **POINT**] – **punctation** /-'təʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- punctilio** /'pʌŋ(k)'tɪlioh/ *n*, *pl* *punctillos* 1 a minute detail of ceremony or observance 2 careful observance of forms (e.g. in social conduct) [It & Sp, It *puntiglio* point of honour, scruple, fr Sp *puntillo*, fr dim. of *punto* point, fr L *punctum*]
- punctilious** /'pʌŋ(k)'tɪli-əs/ *adj* strict or precise in observing codes of conduct or conventions – **punctiliously** *adv*, **punctiliousness** *n*
- punctual** /'pʌŋ(k)'tʃooəl, -tyoo-/ *adj* 1 relating to or having the nature of a point 2 (habitually) arriving, happening, performing, etc at the exact or agreed time [ML *punctualis*, fr L *punctus* pricking, point, fr *punctus*, pp of *pungere* to prick – more at **PUNGENT**] – **punctually** *adv*, **punctuality** /-'ləti/ *n*
- punctuate** /'pʌŋ(k)'tʃoo:əɪt, -tyoo-/ *vt* 1 to mark or divide with punctuation marks 2 to break into or interrupt at intervals ~ *vi* to use punctuation marks [ML *punctuatus*, pp of *punctuare* to point, provide with punctuation marks, fr L *punctus* point] – **punctuator** *n*
- punctuation** /'pʌŋ(k)'tʃoo:əɪʃ(ə)n, -tyoo-/ *n* the dividing of writing with marks to clarify meaning; also a system of punctuation [PUNCTUATE + *-ION*]
- punctuation mark** *n* a standardized mark or sign used in punctuation
- puncture** /'pʌŋ(k)'tʃə/ *n* a perforation (e.g. a hole or narrow wound)



**purfle** /puhfl/ *vt* to ornament the border or edges of [ME *purfilen*, fr MF *porfiler*] – **purfle** *n*

**purgation** /puh'gaysh(ə)n/ *n* the act or result of purging

**purgative** /puh'gativ/ *n* or *adj* (a medicine) causing evacuation of the bowels

**purgatory** /puhgət(ə)n/ *n* 1 a place or state of punishment in which, according to Roman Catholic doctrine, the souls of those who die in God's grace may make amends for past sins and so become fit for heaven 2 a place or state of temporary suffering or misery – *infml* <the return trip was absolute ~> [ME, fr AF or ML, AF *purgatorie*, fr ML *purgatorium*, fr LL, neut of *purgatorius* purging, fr L *purgatus*, pp of *purgare*] – **purgatorial** /-tawri-əl/ *adj*

**purge** /puh/ *vt* 1a to clear of guilt b to free from moral or physical impurity 2a to cause evacuation from (e.g. the bowels) b(1) to rid (e.g. a nation or party) of unwanted or undesirable members, often summarily or by force (2) to get rid of (e.g. undesirable people) by means of a purge [ME *purgen*, fr OF *purger*, fr L *purgare*, *purgare* to purify, purge, fr *purus* pure + *-igare* (akin to *agere* to drive, do) – more at AUFENT]

**purge** *n* 1 an (esp political) act of purging 2 a purgative

**purificatory** /pyoo(ə)nfi'kaytən, -tən/ *adj* serving, tending, or intended to purify

**purify** /pyooənfi/ *vt* 1 to free of physical or moral impurity or imperfection 2 to free from undesirable elements ~ *vi* to grow or become pure or clean [ME *purifien*, fr MF *purifier*, fr L *purificare*, fr L *purus* + *-ficare* -ify] – **purifier** *n*, **purificator** /-fi,kaytə/ *n*, **purification** /-fi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**purine** /pyooəreen, -rɪn/ *n* (either of the bases adenine or guanine that are constituents of DNA and RNA and are derivatives of) a compound from which uric acid and related compounds are made in the body [G *purin*, fr L *purus* pure + NL *uncus* unc, fr E *unc*]

**purist** /pyooənɪst/ *n* one who keeps strictly and often excessively to established or traditional usage, esp in language – **purism** *n*

**puritan** /pyooənɪt(ə)n/ *n* 1 *cap* a member of a 16th- and 17th-c mainly Calvinist Protestant group in England and New England which wished to purify the Church of England of all very ceremonial worship 2 one who practises or preaches a rigorous or severe moral code [prob fr LL *purtas* purity] – **puritan** *adj*, *often cap*

**puritanical** /pyooənɪtanɪkəl/ *adj* 1 puritan 2 of or characterized by a rigid morality, strict

**puritanism** /pyooənɪtənɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 *cap* the beliefs and practices of the Puritans 2 strictness and austerity, esp in matters of religion or conduct

**purity** /pyooəɪti/ *n* 1 pureness 2 SATURATION 1 [ME *purete*, fr OF *pureté*, fr LL *purtat-*, *puritas*, fr L *purus* pure]

**purl** /puhl/ *n* 1 a thread of twisted gold or silver wire used for embroidering or edging 2 **purl**, **purl stitch** a basic knitting stitch made by inserting the needle into the back of a stitch that produces a raised pattern on the back of the work – compare KNIT STITCH 3 **Br** an ornamental edging of small loops or picots on lace, ribbon, or braid [obs *purl* (to twist), of unknown origin]


**purl** *vt* 1a to decorate, edge, or border with gold or silver thread b to edge with loops, picot 2 to knit in purl stitch ~ *vi* to do knitting in purl stitch

**purl** *n* a gentle murmur or movement (e.g. of water) [perh of Scand origin, akin to Norw *purla* to ripple]

**purl** *vi*, of a stream, brook, etc to flow in eddies with a soft murmuring sound

**purler** /puhlə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a heavy headlong fall – *infml* [purl (to whirl, capsize, upset), alter of obs *purl* (to twist)]

**purleus** /puhlyoozh/ *n pl* 1 environs, neighbourhood 2 confines, bounds – *fml* [ME *purlewe* land severed from an English royal forest by perambulation, fr AF *purale* perambulation, fr OF *puraler* to go through, fr *pur-* for, through + *aler* to go – more at PURCHASE, 'ALLEY]

**purlin** /puhlin/ *n* a horizontal beam in a roof supporting the rafters  ARCHITECTURE [origin unknown]

**purloin** /puh'loyn, pə-/ *vt* to take dishonestly; steal – *fml* [ME *purloinen* to put away, render ineffectual, fr AF *purloigner*, fr OF *porloigner* to put off, delay, fr *por-* forwards + *loing* at a distance, fr L *longe*, fr *longus* long]

**purple** /puhpl/ *adj* 1 of the colour purple 2 highly rhetorical; ornate <~ prose> [ME *purpel*, alter. of *purper*, fr OE *purpuran*, gen of *purpure* purple colour, fr L *purpura*, fr Gk *porphyra*]

**purple** *n* 1a a colour falling about midway between red and blue in hue b cloth dyed purple; also a purple robe worn as an emblem of rank or authority c(1) a mollusc yielding a purple dye, esp the Tyrian purple of

ancient times (2) a pigment or dye that colours purple 2 imperial, regal, or very high rank <born to the ~>

**purple** *vb* to make or become purple

**purple heart** *n* a light blue tablet containing the drug phenobarbitone and formerly prescribed as a hypnotic or sedative

**purple passage** *n* a piece of obtrusively ornate writing [trans of L *pannus purpureus* purple patch, fr the traditional splendour of purple cloth in contrast with more shabby materials]

**purplish** /puhplɪsh/ *adj* rather purple

**purport** /puhpawt, -pət/ *n* professed or implied meaning, import; also substance – *fml* [ME, fr AF, content, tenor, fr *purporter* to contain, fr OF *porporter* to convey, fr *por-* forwards + *porter* to carry – more at PURCHASE, 'PORT]

**purport** /pə'pawt, puh'pawt, 'puhpət/ *vt* to (be intended to) seem, profess <a book that ~s to be an objective analysis>

**purpose** /puhpəs/ *n* 1 the object for which sth exists or is done, the intention 2 resolution, determination [ME *purpos*, fr OF, fr *purposer* to purpose, fr L *proponere* (perf indie *proposui*) to propose – more at PROPOSE] – **purposeless** *adj* – **on purpose** with intent, intentionally

**purpose** *vt* to have as one's intention – *fml*

**purpose-built** *n*, chiefly *Br* designed to meet a specific need <a ~ conference centre>

**purposeful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 full of determination 2 having a purpose or aim <~ activities> – **purposefully** *adv*, **purposefulness** *n*

**purposely** /-li/ *adv* with a deliberate or express purpose

**purposive** /puhpəsiv/ *adj* 1 serving or effecting a useful function though not necessarily as a result of deliberate intention 2 having or tending to fulfil a conscious purpose, purposeful *USE fml* – **purposively** *adv*, **purposiveness** *n*

**purpura** /puhpyooə/ *n* any of several states characterized by patches of purplish discoloration on the skin and mucous membranes and caused by abnormalities in the blood [NL, fr L, purple colour] **purpuric** /-pyooənik/ *adj*

**purpure** /puhpyooə/ *n* purple – used in heraldry [MF, fr OE, purple]

**purr** /puh/ *vi* 1 to make the low vibratory murmur of a contented cat 2 to make a sound resembling a purr [imit] – **purr** *n*

**purse** /puhs/ *n* 1 a small flattish bag for money, esp a wallet with a compartment for holding change 2a resources, funds b a sum of money offered as a prize or present, also the total amount of money offered in prizes for a given event 3 *NAM* a handbag [ME *purs*, fr OE, modif of ML *bursa*, fr LL, oxhide, fr Gk *bursa*]

**purse** *vt* to pucker, knit

**purser** /puhsə/ *n* an officer on a ship responsible for documents and accounts and on a passenger ship also for the comfort and welfare of passengers [ME, fr 'purse + '-er]

**purse strings** *n pl* control over expenditure <she holds the ~>

**purshane** /puhshɪn/ *n* a fleshy-leaved trailing plant with tiny yellow flowers [ME, fr MF *porcelaine*, fr LL *porcellagin-*, *porcellago*, alter of L *porcellaca*, alter of *portulaca*]

**pursuance** /pə'syooə-əns/ *n* a carrying out or into effect (e.g. of a plan or order), prosecution <in ~ of her duties> – *fml* [PURSUE + -ANCE]

**pursue** /pə'syooə/ *vt* 1 to follow in order to overtake, capture, kill, or defeat 2 to find or employ measures to obtain or accomplish <~ a goal> 3 to proceed along <~s a northern course> 4a to engage in <~ a hobby> b to follow up <~ an argument> 5 to continue to afflict, haunt <was ~d by horrible memories> ~ *vi* to go in pursuit [ME *pursuen*, fr AF *pursuer*, fr OF *poursuir*, fr L *prosequi*, fr *pro-* forwards + *sequi* to follow – more at PRO-, SUE]

**pursuer** /pə'syooə/ *n*, *Scot* 1 a plaintiff 2 a prosecutor [PURSUE + '-ER]

**pursuit** /pə'syooht/ *n* 1 an act of pursuing 2 an activity that one regularly engages in (e.g. as a pastime or profession) [ME, fr OF *poursuite*, fr *poursuir*]

**pursuivant** /puhsiv(ə)nt, also -swi-/ *n* an officer of arms ranking below a herald [ME *pursevant* attendant of a herald, fr MF *poursuivant*, lit, follower, fr *prp* of *poursuir*, *poursuivre* to pursue]

**pursey** /puhsə/ *adj* (short-winded, esp because) corpulent [ME *pursy*, fr AF *pursif*, alter. of MF *polsif*, fr *poulser*, *polsen* to beat, push, pant – more at PUSH] – **purisness** *n*

**purulent** /pyooərlənt/ *adj* 1 containing, consisting of, or being pus <a ~ discharge> 2 accompanied by suppuration [L *purulentus*, fr *pur-*, pus pus] – **purulence** *n*

**purvey** /pə'vey, puh-/ *vt* to supply (e.g. provisions), esp in the course of



business [ME *purveien*, fr MF *porveier*, fr L *providere* to provide] – *purveyance* *n*

**purveyor** /pə'veɪə/, puh-/ *n* a victualler or caterer [PURVEY + <sup>1</sup>-OR]  
**purview** /puh,vyooh/ *n* 1 the body or enacting part of a statute 2 the range or limit of authority, responsibility, or concern 3 the range of vision or understanding *USE* (2&3) fml [ME *purveu*, fr AF *purveu* *est* it is provided (opening phrase of a statute)]

**pus** /pus/ *n* thick opaque usu yellowish white fluid matter formed by suppuration (e.g. in an abscess) [L *pur-*, *pus* – more at FOUL]

**'push** /poosh/ *vt* 1a to apply a force to (sthg) in order to cause movement away from the person or thing applying the force *b* to move (sthg) away or forwards by applying such a force (<to ~ a car uphill>) 2 to cause (sthg) to change in quantity or extent as if under pressure (<scarcity of labour ~ ed up wages>) 3a to develop (e.g. an idea or argument), esp to an extreme degree *b* to urge or press the advancement, adoption, or practice of, *specif* to make aggressive efforts to sell (<a drive to ~ tinned foods>) *c* to press or urge (sby) to sthg; pressurize (<keeps ~ ing me to give her a rise>) 4 to force towards or beyond the limits of capacity or endurance (<poverty ~ ed them to breaking point>) 5 to hit (a ball) towards the right from a right-handed swing or towards the left from a left-handed swing 6 to approach in age or number (<the old man was ~ ing 75>) – *in*fm 7 to engage in the illicit sale of (drugs) – *slang* – *vi* 1 to press against sthg with steady force (as if) in order to move it away 2 to press forwards energetically against obstacles or opposition (<explorers ~ ed out into the Antarctic>) 3 to exert oneself continuously or vigorously to achieve an end (<unions ~ ing for higher wages>) [ME *pushen*, fr OF *pousser* to beat, push, fr L *pulsare*, fr *pulsus*, pp of *pellere* to drive, strike – more at FET] – *push one's luck* to take an increasing risk

**²push** *n* 1a a vigorous effort to attain an end, a drive *b* a military assault or offensive *c* an advance that overcomes obstacles 2a an act or action of pushing *b* a nonphysical pressure, an urge (<the ~ and pull of conflicting emotions>) *c* vigorous enterprise or energy (<she'll need a lot of ~ to get to the top>) 3a an exertion of influence to promote another's interests (<his father's ~ took him to the top>) *b* stimulation to activity, an impetus 4 a time for action, an emergency (<when it came to the ~ I forgot my lines>) 5 *Br* dismissal – *esp* in *get/give the push* (<he'll get the ~ if he's late again>) *USE* (4&5) *in*fm – at a *push* chiefly *Br* if really necessary, if forced by special conditions

**push around** *vi* to order about; bully

**'push-bike** *n*, *Br* a pedal bicycle

**'push-button** *adj* 1 operated by means of a push button 2 characterized by the use of long-range weapons rather than physical combat (<~ warfare>)

**'push button** *n* a small button or knob that when pushed operates or triggers sthg, esp by closing an electric circuit

**'pushchair** /-tʃeə/ *n*, *Br* a light folding chair on wheels in which young children may be pushed

**pushed** /poosh/ *adj* having difficulty in finding enough time, money, etc (<you'll be ~ to finish that by tonight>) – *in*fm

**pusher** /'pooshə/ *n* 1 a utensil used by a child for pushing food onto a spoon or fork 2 one who sells drugs illegally – *slang* [PUSH + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**push in** *vi* to join a queue at a point in front of others already waiting, esp by pushing or jostling

**pushing** /'pooshɪŋ/ *adj* aggressively ambitious and self-assertive

**push off** *vi* to go away, esp hastily or abruptly – *in*fm

**push on** *vi* to continue on one's way, esp despite obstacles or difficulties

**'pushover** /-ohvə/ *n* 1 an opponent who is easy to defeat or a victim who is incapable of effective resistance 2 sby unable to resist a usu specified attraction, a sucker (<he's a ~ for blondes>) 3 sthg accomplished without difficulty; a cinch *USE* *in*fm

**push-pull** *adj* of or being an arrangement of 2 thermionic valves or transistors in which an alternating input causes alternate valves or transistors to drive the load – *push-pull* *n*

**'pushrod** /-rod/ *n* a rod put into action by a cam to open or close a valve in an internal-combustion engine

**Pushtu** /'pushtooh/ *n* Pashto

**pushty** /'pooshi/ *adj* self-assertive often to an objectionable degree, forward – *in*fm – *pushty* *adv*, *pushtiness* *n*

**pusillanimous** /'pyoohs'laniməs/ *adj* lacking courage and resolution, contemptibly timid – fml [LL *pusillanimis*, fr L *pusillus* very small (dim of *pusus* small child) + *animus* spirit; akin to L *puer* child – more at Puerile, ANIMATE] – *pusillanimity* /-lə'niməti/ *n*

**puss** /'poos/ *n* 1 a cat – used chiefly as a pet name or calling name 2 a girl (<a saucy little ~>) *USE* *in*fm [origin unknown]

**'puss, moth** *n* a large grey and white moth

**'pussy** /'poosi/ *n* 1 a catkin of the pussy willow 2 a cat – *in*fm, used chiefly as a pet name

**²pussy** *n* the vulva – *vulg* [earlier *puss* (perh of LG or Scand origin) + *-y*; akin to ON *puss* pocket, pouch, LG *puse* vulva, OE *pusa* bag, Gk *byein* to stuff, plug]

**'pussycat** /-kat/ *n* a cat – used chiefly by or to children

**'pussyfoot** /-foot/ *vi* 1 to tread or move warily or stealthily 2 to avoid committing oneself (e.g. to a course of action)

**'pussy willow** *n* any of various willows having grey silky catkins

**pustulant** /'pustyoələnt/ *n* or *adj* (sthg, esp a chemical, for) inducing the formation of pustules

**pustular** /'pustyoələ/ *adj* of, resembling, or covered with pustules

**pustulation** /'pustyoələ'sh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the producing of pustules; being covered with pustules 2 a pustule

**pustule** /'pustyooh/ *n* 1 a small raised spot on the skin having an inflamed base and containing pus 2 a small raised area like a blister or pimple [ME, fr L *pustula* – more at FROG]

**'put** /'put/ *vb* *put*; -tt- *vt* 1a to place in or move into a specified position or relationship (<~ the book on the table>) (<~ a child to bed>) *b* to thrust (e.g. a weapon) into or through sthg *c* to throw (a shot, weight, etc) with a put, esp in the shot put *d* to bring into a specified condition (<~ a rule into effect>) (<~ the matter right>) 2a to cause to endure or undergo; subject (<~ me to a lot of expense>) *b* to impose, establish (<~ a tax on luxuries>) 3a to formulate for judgment or decision (<~ the question>) (<~ the motion>) *b* to express, state (<~ ting it mildly>) 4a to turn into language or literary form (<~ her feelings into words>) *b* to adapt, set (<lyrics ~ to music>) 5a to devote, apply (<~ his mind to the problem>) *b* to cause to perform an action, urge (<~ the horse at the fence>) *c* to impel, incite (<~ them into a frenzy>) 6a to repose, rest (<~ his faith in reason>) *b* to invest (<~ his money into steel>) 7 to give as an estimate (<~ her age at about 40>), also to imagine as being (<~ yourself in my place>) 8 to write, inscribe (<~ their names to what they wrote – Virginia Woolf>) 9 to bet, wager (<~ £5 on the favourite>) – *vi*, of a ship to take a specified course (<~ back to port>) [ME *putten*, akin to OE *putung* instigation, MD *poten* to plant] – *put a foot wrong* to make the slightest mistake – *put a good/bold face on* to represent (a matter) or confront (an ordeal) as if all were well – *put a sock in it* *Br* to stop talking, SHUT UP – *slang* – *put a spoke in someone's wheel* to thwart sby's plans – *put forth* 1a to assert, propose *b* to make public, issue 2 to bring into action, exert 3 to produce or send out by growth (<put forth leaves>) – *put in mind* to remind – often + *of* – *put it across someone* *Br* to deceive sby into believing or doing sthg – *compare* PUT ACROSS – *put it past someone* to think sby at all incapable or unlikely (<wouldn't put it past him to cheat>) – *put it there* – used as an invitation to shake hands – *put one's best foot forward* to make every effort – *put one's finger on* to identify (<put his finger on the cause of the trouble>) – *put one's foot down* to take a firm stand – *put one's foot in it* to make an embarrassing blunder – *put one's shirt on* to risk all one's money on – *put one's shoulder to the wheel* to make an effort, esp a cooperative effort – *put on the map* to cause to be considered important – *put paid* *Br* to ruin, FINISH 1a (<St George putting paid to the dragon – Scottish Field>) – *put someone's nose out of joint* to supplant sby distressingly – *put the lid on chiefly* *Br* to be the culminating misfortune of (a series) – *put the wind up* *Br* to scare, frighten – *in*fm – *put to bed* to make the final preparations for printing (e.g. a newspaper) – *put together* to create as a united whole, construct – *put to it* to give difficulty to; press hard (<had been put to it to keep up>) – *put to shame* to disgrace by comparison (<their garden puts ours to shame>) – *put two and two together* to draw the proper conclusion from given premises – *put wise* to inform, enlighten – *in*fm

**²put** *n* a throw made with an overhead pushing motion, *specif* the act or an instance of putting the shot

**³put** *adj* in the same position, condition, or situation – *in stay put*

**put about** *vi*, of a ship to change direction – *vi* to cause (a ship) to put about

**put across** *vt* to convey (the meaning or significance of sthg) effectively

**putative** /'pyoohtətiv/ *adj* 1 commonly accepted or supposed 2 assumed to exist or to have existed *USE* fml [ME, fr LL *putativus*, fr L *putatus*, pp of *putare* to think – more at PAVE] – *putatively* *adv*

**put away** *vt* 1 to discard, renounce 2a to place for storage when not in use (<put the knives away in the drawer>) *b* to save (money) for future use 3a to confine, esp in an asylum *b* to kill; *esp* PUT DOWN 2 4 to eat or drink up, consume (<used to put away a bottle without blinking>) – *in*fm

**put by** *vi* PUT AWAY 2

**'put-down** *n* a humiliating remark, a snub – *infml*

**put down** *vt* 1 to bring to an end, suppress <put down a riot> 2 to kill (e.g. a sick or injured animal) painlessly 3a to put in writing <put it down on paper> b to enter in a list (e.g. of subscribers) <put me down for £5>

4 to pay as a deposit 5a to place in a category <I put him down as an eccentric> b to attribute <put it down to inexperience> 6 to store or set aside (e.g. bottles of wine) for future use 7a to disparage, belittle b to humiliate, snub ~ *vi*, *of an aircraft* or *pilot* to land **USE** (7) *infml*

**put forward** *vt* 1 to propose (e.g. a theory) 2 to bring into prominence <have no wish to put myself forward>

**put in** *vi* 1 to make a formal offer or declaration of <put in a plea of guilty> 2 to come in with, interpose <put in a word for her brother> 3 to spend (time) at an occupation or job <put in 6 hours at the office> ~ *vi* 1 to call at or enter a place, harbour, etc. 2 to make an application, request, or offer for <decided to put in for a pension>

**putlog** /'put,log/ *n* a piece of timber between a wall and the uprights of a scaffold that supports scaffolding planks [prob alter. of earlier *putlock*, perh. fr. 'put + lock]

**put off** *vt* 1 to disconcert, distract 2a to postpone <decided to put off their departure> b to get rid of or persuade to wait, esp. by means of excuses or evasions <put his creditors off for another few days> 3a to repel, discourage b to dissuade <so keen it was impossible to put her off> 4 to take off, rid oneself of

**'put-on** *adj* pretended, assumed

**'put-on** *n* an instance of deliberately misleading sb., also, chiefly *NAm* a parody, spoof

**put on** *vi* 1a to dress oneself in, don b to make part of one's appearance or behaviour c to feign, assume <put on a saintly manner> 2 to cause to act or operate, apply <put on more speed> 3 to come to have an increased amount of <put on weight> 4 to stage, produce (e.g. a play) 5 to bet (a sum of money) 6 to bring to or cause to speak on the telephone <is your father there? Put him on, then> 7 to mislead deliberately, esp. for amusement – *infml*

**Putonghwa** /,poohtong'hwah/ *n* a modern language of China based on Mandarin as spoken in Peking – used in place of Mandarin as the name for the official language of China [Chin *p'u-t'ung-hua* common language]

**put out** *vt* 1 to extinguish <put the fire out> 2 to publish, issue 3 to produce for sale 4a to disconcert, confuse b to annoy, irritate c to inconvenience <don't put yourself out for us> 5 to cause to be out (in baseball, cricket, etc.) 6 to give or offer (a job of work) to be done by another outside the premises ~ *vi* 1 to set out from shore 2 to make an effort

**put over** *vi* PUT ACROSS

**putrefaction** /,pyoohtn'faksh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the decomposition of organic matter; esp. the breakdown of proteins by bacteria and fungi, typically in the absence of oxygen, with the formation of foul-smelling incompletely oxidized products 2 being putrefied, corruption [ME *putrefacciō*, fr. LL *putrefactiō*-, *putrefactio*, fr. L *putrefactus*, pp of *putrefacere*] **putrefactive** /-tɪv/ *adj*

**putrefy** /,pyoohtɹɪf/ *vb* to make or become putrid [ME *putrefien*, fr. MF & L, MF *putrefier*, fr. L *putrefacere*, fr. *putrēre* to be rotten + *facere* to make – more at 'do]

**putrescent** /,pyooht'res(ə)nt/ *adj* of or undergoing putrefaction [L *putrescent*-, *putrescens*, prp of *putrescere* to grow rotten, fr. *putrere*] – **putrescence** *n*

**putrid** /,pyoohtɹɪd/ *adj* 1a in a state of putrefaction b (characteristic of) putrefaction; esp. foul-smelling 2 very unpleasant – slang [L *putridus*, fr. *putrēre* to be rotten, fr. *putr*, *putris* rotten; akin to L *putere* to stink] – **putridness** *n*, **putridity** /-tɹɪdɪti/ *n*

**putsch** /'pooch/ *n* a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government [G]

**putt** /'put/ *n* a gentle golf stroke made to roll the ball towards or into the hole on a putting green [alter. of 'put] – **putt** *vb*

**puttee** /'puti, pu'tee/ *n* 1 a long cloth strip wrapped spirally round the leg from ankle to knee, esp. as part of an army uniform 2 *NAm* a usu. leather legging secured by a strap or catch or by laces [Hindi *putti* strip of cloth, fr. Skt *paṭṭika*]

**'putter** /'puta/ *n* a golf club used for putting [PUTT + -ER]

**'putter** /'puta/ *vi*, *NAm* to potter [by alter.]

**put through** *vt* 1 to carry into effect or to a successful conclusion 2a to make a telephone connection for b to obtain a connection for (a telephone call)

**'putting green** /'putɪŋ/ *n* a smooth grassy area at the end of a golf fairway containing the hole into which the ball must be played

**putto** /'pootoh/ *n*, *pl* **putti** /-tɪ/ a figure of a Cupid-like boy, esp. in Renaissance painting [It., lit., boy, fr. L *putus*, akin to Skt *putra* son – more at *few*]

**'putty** /'puti/ *n* 1 a pasty substance consisting of hydrated lime and water 2 a dough-like cement, usu. made of whiting and boiled linseed oil, used esp. in fixing glass in sashes and stopping crevices in woodwork [F *potée*, lit. potful, fr. OF, fr. *pot* – more at *potage*]

**'putty** *vi* to use putty on or apply putty to

**'put-up** *adj* contrived secretly beforehand <the vote was obviously a ~ job> – *infml*

**put up** *vt* 1 to sheathe (a sword) 2 to flush (game) from cover 3 to nominate for election 4 to offer up (e.g. a prayer) 5 to offer for public sale <put her possessions up for auction> 6 to give food and shelter to, accommodate 7 to build, erect 8a to make a display of, show <desperate as she was, she put up a brave front> b (ARRY ON 2) <put up a struggle against considerable odds> 9a to contribute, pay b to offer as a prize or stake 10 to increase the amount of, raise ~ *vi* 1 to shelter, lodge <we'll put up here for the night> 2 to present oneself as a candidate in an election – usu. + *for* – **put someone's back up** to annoy or irritate sb. – **put up to** to urge on, instigate <they put him up to playing the prank> – **put up with** to endure or tolerate without complaint or protest

**'put-upon** *adj* imposed upon, taken advantage of

**puv** /'puwe/ *n* a hill of volcanic origin, esp. in the Auvergne in France [F, fr. L *podium* balcony – more at *plw*]

**'puzzle** /'puzl/ **puzzling** /'puzlɪŋ, 'puzlɪŋ/ *vi* to offer or represent a problem difficult to solve or a situation difficult to resolve, perplex, also to exert (e.g. oneself) over such a problem or situation <they ~d their brains to find a solution> ~ *vi* to be uncertain as to action, choice, or meaning – usu. + *over* or *about* [origin unknown] – **puzzlement** *n*, **puzzler** *n*

**'puzzle** *n* 1 being puzzled, perplexity 2a sth. that puzzles b a problem, contrivance, etc. designed for testing one's ingenuity

**puzzle out** *vi* to find (a solution or meaning) by means of mental effort

**PVC** *n* POLYVINYL CHLORIDE [polyvinyl chloride]

**py-** /pie-/ **pyo-** *comb. form* pus <pyaemia> <pyorrhagia> [Gk, fr. *pyon* pus, more at *fool*]

**pya** /pyah, pi'ah/ *n* **Burma** at **NATIONALITY** (Burmese)

**pyaemia** /pie'eemia, -mi/ *n* blood poisoning accompanied by multiple abscesses [NL]

**'pye-dog** /pie-/ *n* a half-wild dog common in and around Asian villages [prob by shortening & alter. fr. *pariah* dog]

**pyel-**, **pyelo-** *comb. form* renal pelvis <pyelography> [NL, pelvis, fr. Gk *pyelos* trough, akin to Gk *plein* to sail – more at *flow*]

**pyelitis** /pie-ə'lietɪs/ *n* inflammation of the lining of the renal pelvis [NL]

**pygidium** /pie'jɪdi-əm, -'gɪdi-/ *n*, *pl* **pygidia** /-di/ the end structure (e.g. a tail) or end part of the body of various invertebrates [NL, fr. Gk *pygidion*, dim. of *pyge* rump, akin to L *pustula* pustule] – **pygidial** *adj*

**pygmy** /'pɪgmɪ/ *n* 1 a cap a member of a people of equatorial Africa under 1.5m (about 5ft) in height 2 a very short person, a dwarf 3 one who is insignificant or inferior in a specified sphere or manner <a political ~> [ME *pigmei*, fr. L *pygmaeus* of a pygmy, dwarfish, fr. Gk *pygmaios*, fr. *pygme* fist, measure of length – more at *pungent*] – **pygmoid** /-mɔɪd/ *adj*

**pyjamas**, *NAm* chiefly **pajamas** /pə'jahmaɪz/ *n*, *pl* chiefly *Br* 1 loose lightweight trousers traditionally worn in the East 2 a suit of loose lightweight jacket and trousers for sleeping in [Hindi *pajama*, fr. Per *pa* leg + *jama* garment] – **pyjama** *adj*

**pyknic** /'pɪknɪk/ *adj* characterized by short stature and stocky build [ISV, fr. Gk *pyknos* dense, stocky] – **pyknic** *n*

**pylon** /'pi-lon, -lən/ *n* 1 either of 2 towers with sloping sides flanking the entrance to an ancient Egyptian temple 2 a tower for supporting either end of a wire, esp. electricity power cables, over a long span 3 a rigid structure on the outside of an aircraft for supporting sth. [Gk *pylon*, fr. *pyle* gate]

**pylorus** /pie'ləwras/ *n*, *pl* **pylori** /-rie, -ri/ the opening from the vertebrate stomach into the intestine [LL, fr. Gk *pylóros*, lit., gatekeeper, fr. *pyle*] – **pyloric** *adj*

**pyo-** – see *py-*

**pyogenic** /pie-ə'jenɪk/ *adj* producing pus [ISV]

**pyorrhoea** /pie-ə'riə/ *n* an inflammation of the sockets of the teeth leading usu. to loosening of the teeth [NL]

**pyr-, pyro-** *comb form* 1 fire, heat <pyrometer> <pyromania> 2 produced (as if) by the action of heat <pyroelectricity> [ME, fr MF, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *pyr* – more at FIRE]

**pyracantha** /ˌpɪərəˈkɑːntə/ *n* any of a genus of Eurasian thorny shrubs of the rose family with white flowers and red or orange berries [NL, genus name, fr Gk *pyrakantha*, a tree, fr *pyr-* + *akantha* thorn]

**pyramid** /ˈpɪrəˌmɪd/ *n* 1a an ancient massive structure having typically a square ground plan and tapering smooth or stepped walls that meet at the top b a structure or object of similar form 2 a polyhedron having for its base a polygon and for faces triangles with a common vertex 3 a nonphysical structure or system (e.g. a social or organizational hierarchy) having a broad supporting base and narrowing gradually to an apex [L *pyramis*, *pyramis*, fr Gk] – **pyramidal** /ˈpɪrəˌmɪdəl/ *adj*

**'pyramid-selling** *n* a fraudulent financial system whereby agents for the sale of a product are induced to recruit further agents on ever-dwindling commissions

**pyre** /ˈpɪə-/ *n* a heap of combustible material for burning a dead body as part of a funeral rite, *broadly* a pile of material to be burned [L *pyra*, fr Gk, fr *pyr* fire – more at FIRE]

**pyrenoid** /ˈpɪəriˌnoɪd/ *n* any of the protein bodies that act as centres for starch deposition in some algae and other lower organisms [ISV, fr NL *pyrena* stone of a fruit, fr Gk *pyren*]

**pyrethrin** /ˈpɪəriˌθrɪn/ *n* either of 2 oily liquid insecticides that occur esp in pyrethrum flowers [ISV, fr L *pyrethrum*]

**pyrethrum** /ˈpɪəriˌθrəm/ *n* 1 any of several chrysanthemums with finely divided often aromatic leaves 2 an insecticide consisting of the dried heads of any of several Old World chrysanthemums [L, pellitory, fr Gk *pyrethron*, fr *pyr* fire]

**pyretic** /ˈpɪəriˌtɪk/ *adj* 1 fever [NL *pyreticus*, fr Gk *pyretikos*, fr *pyretos* fever, fr *pyr*]

**Pyrex** /ˈpɪrɛks/ *trademark* – used for glass and glassware that is resistant to heat, chemicals, and electricity

**pyrexia** /ˈpɪrɛksɪ-ə/ *n* abnormal elevation of body temperature [NL, fr Gk *pyressein* to be feverish, fr *pyretos*] – **pyrexial** *adj*, **pyrexia** /-sɪk/ *adj*

**pyrheliometer** /ˌpɪəriˌhɛliˈɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the radiant energy from the sun that is received at the earth [ISV] – **pyrheliometric** /ˌpɪəriˌhɛliˈɒmɪtrɪk/ *adj*

**pyridine** /ˈpɪrɪdiːn/ *n* a pungent liquid that is an organic chemical base, is obtained from coal, and is used as a solvent and in the manufacture of medicines and waterproofing substances [*pyr-* + *-id* + *-ine*]

**pyridoxine** *also* **pyridoxin** /ˈpɪrɪˌdɒksɪn/ *n* a vitamin B<sub>6</sub> found esp in cereal foods and convertible in the body into phosphate compounds that are important coenzymes [*pyridine* + *ox-* + *-ine*]

**pyrimidine** /ˈpɪrɪmɪdiːn/ *n* any of the bases cytosine, thymine, or uracil that are constituents of DNA and RNA [ISV, alter of *pyridine*]

**pyrite** /ˈpɪəriˌtɪt/ *n* IRON PYRITES [L *pyrites*]

**pyrites** /ˈpɪəriˌtɪt/ *n*, *pl* **pyrites** any of various metallic-looking sulphide minerals, esp IRON PYRITES [L, flint, fr Gk *pyrites* of or in fire, fr *pyr* fire] – **pyritic** /-ˈrɪtɪk/ *adj*

**pyro-** – see **PYR-**

**pyrocatechol** /ˌpɪəriˌkɑːtəˌkɒl/ *n*, *-ra-* *n* a phenol, usu made synthetically, used esp as a photographic developer and in organic synthesis [ISV *pyr-* + *catechol*, fr *catechu* + *-ol*]

**pyroclastic** /ˌpɪəriˌklastɪk/ *n*, *-ra-* *adj* formed from fragments resulting from volcanic action

**pyrogallol** /ˌpɪəriˌɡæləl/ *n* a phenol with weak acid properties that is used esp in photographic developers and in dye manufacture [ISV *pyrogallic* (acid) + *-ol*]

**pyrogen** /ˈpɪəriˌdʒen/ *n*, *-ra-* *n* a fever-producing substance [ISV]

**pyrogenic** /ˌpɪəriˌdʒenɪk/ *adj* 1 producing or produced by heat or fever 2 IGNEOUS 2 [ISV] – **pyrogenicity** /-dʒɪˈnɪsəti/ *n*

**pyroigneous** /ˌpɪəriˌɡniːəs/ *adj* obtained by destructive distillation of wood [F *pyroigneux*, fr *pyr-* + *igneux* woody, fr L *lignosus*, fr *lignum* wood – more at LIGN-]

**pyrolyse**, *NAm chiefly* **pyrolyze** /ˈpɪəriˌleɪz/ *vt* to subject to pyrolysis **pyrolysis** /ˈpɪəriˌləsɪs/ *n* chemical change brought about by the action of heat [NL] – **pyrolytic** /ˈpɪəriˌlɪtɪk/ *adj*

**pyromania** /ˌpɪəriˌmaɪni-ə/ *n* a compulsive urge to start fires [NL] – **pyromaniac** /ˌmaɪni-ək/ *n*, **pyromaniacal** /-məˌni-əkəl/ *adj*

**pyrometer** /ˈpɪəriˌmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring temperatures, esp when beyond the range of mercury thermometers [ISV] – **pyrometry** /-mətri/ *n*, **pyrometric** /-məˌtrɪk/ *adj*

**pyrope** /ˈpɪəriˌp/ *n* a deep red magnesium-aluminium garnet commonly

used as a gem [ME *pirope*, a red gem, fr MF, fr L *pyropus*, a red bronze, fr Gk *pyropos*, lit., fiery-eyed, fr *pyr-* + *op-*, *ops* eye – more at EYE]

**pyrophoric** /ˌpɪəriˌfɒrɪk/ *adj* 1 igniting spontaneously 2 of an alloy emitting sparks when scratched or struck, esp with steel [NL *pyrophorus*, fr Gk *pyrophoros* fire-bearing, fr *pyr-* + *-phoros* -phorous]

**pyrotechnic** /ˌpɪəriˌteknɪk/ *n* 1 a firework 2 pl a brilliant or spectacular display (e.g. of oratory or extreme virtuosity) <his verbal ~s are entertaining – TLS> [*pyrotechnic*, *adj*, fr F *pyrotechnique*, fr Gk *pyr* fire + *techne* art] – **pyrotechnic** *adj*, **pyrotechnist** *n*

**pyroxene** /ˈpɪəriˌksen/ *n* any of a group of silicate minerals that commonly contain calcium, magnesium, or iron and are chief constituents of many igneous rocks [F *pyroxène*, fr Gk *pyr-* + *xenos* stranger] – **pyroxenoid** /ˈpɪəriˌksɪnoɪd/ *adj* or *n*

**pyroxenite** /ˈpɪəriˌksɪnɪt/ *n* a coarse-grained igneous rock composed mainly of pyroxene – **pyroxenitic** /-ˈnɪtɪk/ *adj*

**pyroxilin** /ˈpɪəriˌksɪlɪn/ *n* an inflammable mixture of cellulose nitrates that is used esp in making plastics and coatings [ISV *pyr-* + Gk *xylon* wood]

**pyrrhic** /ˈpɪrɪk/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 2 short or unaccented syllables [L *pyrrhichius*, fr Gk (*pous*) *pyrrhichios*, fr *pyrrhichē*, a kind of dance] – **pyrrhic** *adj*

**Pyrrhic victory** *n* a victory won at excessive cost [Pyrrhus †272 bc. King of Epirus who sustained heavy losses in defeating the Romans]

**pyruvate** /ˈpɪəriˌruːvæt/ *n* a salt or ester of pyruvic acid

**pyruvic acid** /ˈpɪəriˌruːvɪk/ *n* a liquid organic acid that smells like acetic acid and is an important intermediate compound in metabolism and fermentation [ISV *pyr-* + L *uva* grape, fr its importance in fermentation – more at UVULA]

**Pythagoras' theorem** /ˈpɪθəˌɡɒrəs(ɪz)/ *n*, *chiefly Br* a theorem in geometry the square of the length of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle equals the sum of the squares of the lengths of the other 2 sides [Pythagoras †ab 500 bc. Gk philosopher & mathematician]

**Pythagorean** /ˌpɪθəˌɡɒr-ee-ən, -pi-/ *adj* of or associated with the philosophy of Pythagoras and his followers asserting the mystical significance of numbers and the transmigration of souls

**Pythian** /ˈpɪθi-ən/ *adj* of Delphi or its oracle [L *pythius* of Delphi, fr Gk *pythios*, fr *Pytho* Pytho, former name of Delphi, town in Greece]

**python** /ˈpɪθ(ə)n/ *n* a large boa or other constrictor, esp any of a genus that includes the largest living snakes [L, monstrous serpent killed by Apollo, fr Gk *Python*] – **pythone** /-ˌni-ən/ *n*, *-neen/* *adj*

**pythoness** /ˈpɪθəˌnes, -is, -es/ *n* an oracular priestess of Apollo [ME *Pythonesse*, fr MF *pythouisse*, fr LL *pythouissa*, fr Gk *Pythōn*, spirit of divination, fr *Pytho*, seat of the Delphic oracle] – **pythonic** /-ˈθɒnɪk/ *adj*

**pyuria** /ˈpɪəriˌjʊəri-ə/ *n* (a condition characterized by) pus in the urine [NL]

**pyx** /ˈpɪks/ *n* 1 a container in which the bread used at Communion is kept, esp one used for carrying the Eucharist to the sick 2 a box in a mint for deposit of sample coins reserved for testing [ME, fr ML *pyxis*, fr L, box, fr Gk – more at 'BOX]

**pyxidium** /ˈpɪksɪˌdɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **pyxidia** /-dɪ-ə/ a capsular fruit that opens at maturity with the upper part falling off like a cap [NL, fr Gk *pyxidion*, dim. of *pyxis*]

**pyxis** /ˈpɪksɪs/ *n*, *pl* **pyxides** /ˈpɪksɪˌdiːz/ a pyxidium [NL, fr L, box]

## Q

**q** /kyoʊh/ *n*, *pl* **q's**, **qs** *often cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 17th letter of the English alphabet

**Q** *n* a source posited by biblical critics for the material common to the gospels of Matthew and Luke that is not derived from that of Mark [fr initial letter of *Q* *quelle* source]

**qādi** /ˈkɑːdi, ˈkɑːdi/ *n* a Muslim judge who administers the religious law [Ar *qādi*]

**'Q**, **fever** *n* a mild disease characterized by high fever, chills, and muscular pains that is caused by a rickettsia and is transmitted by raw milk, by contact, or by ticks [query; fr its cause being orig unknown]

**qindār** /ˈkɪndɑːh/, **qintār** /ˈkɪntɑːh/ *n*, *pl* **qindarka** /ˈkɪndɑːkɑː/ *Albania* at NATIONALITY [Alb]

**'Q-ship** *n* an armed ship disguised as a merchant or fishing vessel and

used chiefly in WW I to decoy enemy submarines into gun range [query]

**QSO** *n* a quasar [quasi-stellar object]

**qua** /kwa/, kwah/ *prep* in the capacity or character of, as [L, which way, as, fr abl sing fem of *qui* who – more at *who*]

**quack** /kwak/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the characteristic cry of a duck [imit]

**quack** *n* 1 one who has or pretends to have medical skill 2 **CHARITAN** 2 *USE* infml [short for *quacksalver* (charlatan), fr obs D (now *kwak-zalver*)] – *quackery* *n*, *quackish* *adj*

**quack** *adj* (characteristic) of a quack (< ~ medicines)

**quadr** /kwod/ *n* a quadrangle

**quadr** *n* a type-metal space that is 1 or more ems in width [short for *quadrat*]

**quadr** *n* a quadruplet

**quadr** *adj* quadraphonic

**quadr** – see **QUADRI**

**Quadragesima** /kwodrə'jesimə/ *n* the first Sunday in Lent [LL, fr L, fem of *quadragesimus* fortieth, fr *quadraginta* forty, fr *quadra* (akin to L *quattuor* four) – *ginta* – more at **QUINQUAGESIMA**]

**quadrangle** /kwodrəngl/ *n* 1 a quadrilateral 2 a 4-sided enclosure surrounded by buildings [ME, fr MF, fr LL *quadrangulum*, fr L, neut of *quadrangulus* quadrangular, fr *quadri* + *angulus* angle] – *quadrangular* /kwodrəng'gyoolə/ *adj*

**quadrant** /kwodrənt/ *n* 1a an instrument for measuring angles, consisting commonly of a graduated arc of 90° b a device or mechanical part shaped like or suggestive of the quadrant of a circle 2 (the area of 1 quarter of a circle that is bounded by) an arc of a circle containing an angle of 90° 3 any of the 4 quarters into which sth is divided by 2 real or imaginary lines that intersect each other at right angles [ME, fr L *quadrant*, *quadrans* fourth part, akin to L *quattuor* four – more at **FOUR**] – *quadrantal* /kwodrəntl/ *adj*


**quadraphonic** /kwodrə'fɒnik/ *adj* of or being an audio system that uses 4 signal channels by which the signal is conveyed from its source to its final point of use [irreg fr *quadri* + *phonic*] – *quadraphonics* *n*, *quadraphony* /kwodrə'fɒni/ *n*

**quadrat** /kwodrət, 'kwodrət/ *n* **QUAD** [alter of 'quadrare]

**quadrare** /kwodrət, 'kwodrayt/ *adj* 1 (approximately) square 2 of or being a bony or cartilaginous part on each side of the skull to which the lower jaw is hinged in most lower vertebrates [ME, fr L *quadratus*, pp of *quadrare* to make square, fit, akin to L *quattuor*]

**quadrare** *n* 1 an approximately square or cubical area, space, or body 2 a quadrare bone

**quadratic** /kwodrətrik/ *n* or *adj* (an equation or expression) of or involving (terms of) the second power or order – *quadratically* *adv*

**quadrature** /kwodrə'tʃə/ *n* 1 the process of finding a square equal in area to a given area 2 a configuration in which 2 celestial bodies have a separation of 90°  *SYMBOL* 3 a phase difference of 1 quarter cycle (e.g. between the currents in a 2-phase power distribution system) [L *quadratura* square, act of squaring, fr *quadrare*]

**quadrennial** /kwodrəniəl/ *adj* 1 consisting of or lasting for 4 years 2 occurring every 4 years – *quadrennial* *n*, *quadrennially* *adv*

**quadrennium** /kwodrəniəm/ *n*, *pl* *quadrenniums*, *quadrennia* /-niə/ a period of 4 years [L *quadrennium*, fr *quadri* + *annus* year – more at **ANNUAL**]

**quadri**-, **quadr**-, **quadru**- *comb form* 1 four (<quadrilateral>) <quadrivalent> 2 square (<quadrice>) 3 fourth (<quadracentennial>) (<quadrone>) [ME, fr L, akin to L *quattuor* four]


**quadrice** /kwodrɪk/ *adj* quadratic (< ~ surface>) – used where there are more than 2 variables [ISV] – *quadrice* *n*

**quadracentennial** /kwodrɪsɛn'teniəl/ *adj* or *n* (of) a quatercentenary

**quadriceps** /kwodrɪ'seɪps/ *n* the large muscle at the front of the thigh that acts to straighten the leg at the knee joint [NL *quadriceps*, *quadriceps*, fr *quadri* + *-cipit*-, *-ceps* (as in *bicipit*-, *biceps* biceps)]

**quadrilateral** /kwodrɪ'læt(ə)rəl/ *n* or *adj* (a polygon) having 4 sides [prob fr (assumed) NL *quadrilateralis*, fr L *quadrilaterus*, fr *quadri* + *later*-, *latus* side]

**quadrille** /kwə'drɪl/ *n* 1 a 4-handed variant of ombre played with a pack of 40 cards and popular esp in the 18th c 2 (the music for) a square dance for 4 couples made up of 5 or 6 figures [F, group of knights engaged in a carousel, variant of ombre, fr Sp *cuadrilla* troop, fr It *quadriglia* band, troop, company, fr *cuadra*, *quadra* square]

**quadrillion** /kwodrɪljən/ *n* 1 *Br* a million million million millions (10<sup>24</sup>) 2 chiefly *NAM* a thousand million millions (10<sup>15</sup>) *USE*  *NUMBER* [F,

fr MF, fr *quadri* + *-illion* (as in *million*)] – *quadrillion* *adj*, *quadrillionth* *adj* or *n*

**quadrupartite** /kwodrɪ'pɑrtɪt/ *adj* 1 consisting of or divided into 4 parts 2 shared or participated in by 4 parties or people (< ~ agreement>) [ME, fr L *quadrupartitus*, fr *quadri* + *partitus*, pp of *partire* to divide, fr *part*-, *pars* part]

**quadriplegic** /kwodrɪ'pleɪk/ *n* affected with paralysis of both arms and both legs [*quadriplegia*, fr NL] – *quadriplegia* /-(y)ə/ *n*

**quadrivium** /kwodrɪvɪəm/ *n* arithmetic, music, geometry, and astronomy, forming the division of the 7 liberal arts studied after the trivium in medieval universities – compare **TRIVIUM** [LL, fr L, crossroads, fr *quadri* + *via* way – more at **VIA**]

**quadroon** /kwodrə'roʊn/ *n* sby of one-quarter Negro ancestry [modif of Sp *cuarterón*, fr *cuarto* fourth, fr L *quartus*, akin to L *quattuor* four]

**quadru** – see **QUADRI**

**quadrumana** /kwodrə'roʊmənə/ *n* *pl* primates, excluding human beings, considered as a group distinguished by hand-shaped feet [NL, fr *quadri* + L *manus* hand – more at **MANUAL**] – *quadrumanal*, *quadrumanos* /-mə'nəs/ *adj*, *quadrumane* /kwodrə'roʊmən/ *adj* or *n*

**quadruped** /kwodrə'ped/ *n* an animal having 4 feet [L *quadruped*-, *quadrupes*, fr *quadruped*-, *quadrupes*, *adj*, having 4 feet, fr *quadri* + *ped*-, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**] – *quadruped*, *quadrupedal* /kwodrə'roʊpɪd/ *adj*

**quadruple** /kwodrə'pl, kwodrə'pl/ *vb* to make or become 4 times as great or as many

**quadruple** *n* a sum 4 times as great as another

**quadruple** *adj* 1 having 4 units or members 2 being 4 times as great or as many 3 marked by 4 beats per bar (< ~ time>) [MF or L, MF, fr L *quadruplus*, fr *quadri* + *-plus* multiplied by – more at **DOUBLE**] – *quadruply* /-pli/ *adv*

**quadruplet** /kwodrə'plɪt, kwodrə'plɪt/ *n* 1 any of 4 offspring born at 1 birth 2 a combination of 4 of a kind 3 a group of 4 musical notes performed in the time of 3 notes of the same value [fr 'quadruple, by analogy to *double* *doublet*]

**quadruplicate** /kwodrə'plɪkət/ *adj* 1 consisting of or existing in 4 corresponding or identical parts or examples (< ~ invoices>) 2 being the fourth of 4 things exactly alike [L *quadruplicatus*, pp of *quadruplicare* to quadruple, fr *quadruplicare*, *quadruplex* fourfold, fr *quadri* + *-plic*-, *-plex* fold – more at **SIMPLE**]

**quadruplicate** /kwodrə'plɪkət/ *vt* 1 to make quadruple or fourfold 2 to prepare in quadruplicate – *quadruplication* /-kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**quadruplicate** /kwodrə'plɪkət/ *n* 1 any of 4 identical copies 2 4 copies all alike – + *in* (<typed in ~>)

**quadruplicity** /kwodrə'plɪsɪti/ *n* the state of being quadruple or quadruplicate

**quadrupole** /kwodrə'pohl/ *n* a system composed of 2 electric, magnetic, etc dipoles of equal but oppositely directed moment [ISV *quadri* + *pole*] – *quadrupolar* /-pohlə/ *adj*

**quaestor** /kweɪstə/ *n* any of numerous ancient Roman officials concerned chiefly with financial administration [ME *questor*, fr L *quaestor*, fr *quaestus*, pp of *quaerere* to seek, ask]

**quaff** /kwɒf, kwahf/ *vb* to drink (a beverage) deeply in long draughts (< ~ed his ale>) [origin unknown] – *quaffer* *n*

**quag** /kwag, kwɒg/ *n* a marsh, bog [origin unknown] – *quaggy* *adj*

**quagga** /kwagə/ *n* a recently extinct wild zebra of southern Africa [obs Afrik (now *kwagga*), prob of Bantu origin]

**quagmire** /kwag'mɪə, 'kwɒg-/ *n* 1 soft miry land that shakes or yields under the foot 2 a predicament from which it is difficult to extricate oneself

**quail** /kwajk, kwayk/, *kwaykh*/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* a small shallow drinking cup with 2 handles [ScGael *cuach*]

**quail** /kwajl/ *n*, *pl* *qualls*, esp collectively *quail* 1 a migratory Old World game bird 2 any of various small American game birds [ME *quaille*, fr MF, fr ML *quacula*, of imit origin]

**quail** *vi* to shrink back in fear; cower (<the strongest ~ before financial ruin – Samuel Butler †1902>) [ME *quailen* to curdle, fr MF *quailier*, fr L *coagulare* – more at **COAGULATE**]

**quaint** /kwaɪnt/ *adj* 1 unusual or different in character or appearance; odd 2 pleasantly or strikingly old-fashioned or unfamiliar [ME *cointe* skilled, elegant, fastidious, strange, fr OF, fr L *cognitus*, pp of *cognoscere* to know – more at **COGNITION**] – *quaintly* *adv*, *quaintness* *n*

**quake** /kwayk/ *vi* 1 to shake or vibrate, usu from shock or instability 2 to tremble or shudder, esp inwardly from fear [ME *quaken*, fr OE *cwacian*; akin to OE *cweccan* to shake, vibrate]

**quake** *n* 1 a quaking 2 an earthquake – infml

**Quaker** /'kwækə/ *n* a member of a pacifist Christian sect that stresses Inner Light and rejects sacraments and an ordained ministry [<sup>1</sup>QUAKE + <sup>1</sup>-ER] – **Quakerish** *adj*, **Quakerism** *n*, **Quakerly** *adj*

**qualifiable** /'kwɒlɪfɪəbəl/ *adj* capable of being qualified or modified

**qualification** /'kwɒlɪfɪkəʃən/ *n* 1 a restriction in meaning or application; a limiting modification 2a a quality or skill that fits a person (e.g. for a particular task or appointment) (*the applicant with the best ~*) b a condition that must be complied with (e.g. for the attainment of a privilege) (*a ~ for membership*) [ML *qualification-*, *qualificatio*, fr *qualificatus*, pp of *qualificare*]

**qualified** /'kwɒlɪfɪd/ *adj* 1a fitted (e.g. by training or experience) for a usu specified purpose; competent b complying with the specific requirements or conditions (e.g. for appointment to an office), eligible 2 limited or modified in some way (*~ approval*)

**qualifier** /'kwɒlɪfɪə/ *n* one who or that which qualifies e.g. a sby or sthg that satisfies requirements or meets a specified standard b a grammatical modifier c a preliminary heat or contest

**qualify** /'kwɒlɪfɪ/ *vt* 1a to reduce from a general to a particular or restricted form, modify b to make less harsh or strict, moderate c MODIFY 2 to characterize or describe as (*cannot ~ it as either glad or sad*) 3a to fit by training, skill, or ability for a special purpose b to render legally capable or entitled *~ vi* 1 to be fit (e.g. for an office) (*qualifies for the job by virtue of his greater experience*) 2 to reach an accredited level of competence (*has just qualified as a lawyer*) 3 to exhibit a required degree of ability or achievement in a preliminary contest [MF *qualifier*, fr ML *qualificare*, fr L *qualis* of what kind]

**qualitative** /'kwɒlɪtətɪv/ *adj* of or involving quality or kind – **qualitatively** *adv*

**qualitative analysis** *n* chemical analysis designed to identify the components of a substance or mixture

**quality** /'kwɒlətɪ/ *n* 1a peculiar and essential character, nature b an inherent feature, a property 2a degree of excellence, grade (*a decline in the ~ of applicants*) b superiority in kind (*proclaimed the ~ of his wife* – Compton Mackenzie) 3 high social position (*a man of ~*) 4 a distinguishing attribute, a characteristic (*listed all her good qualities*) 5 the identifying character of a vowel sound 6 archaic a capacity, role (*in the ~ of reader and companion* – Joseph Conrad) [ME *qualite*, fr OF *qualite*, fr L *qualitat-*, *qualitas*, fr *qualis* of what kind, akin to L *qui* who – more at WHO]

**quality** *adj* 1 concerned with or displaying excellence (*~ control*) (*~ goods*) 2 of a newspaper aiming to appeal to an educated readership (*the ~ Sundays*)

**quail** /kwəlm, kwəwm/ *n* 1 a sudden and brief attack of illness, faintness, or nausea 2 a sudden feeling of anxiety or apprehension 3 a scruple or feeling of uneasiness, esp about a point of conscience or honour [origin unknown] – **quailish** *adj*

**quandary** /'kwɒnd(ə)rɪ/ *n* a state of perplexity or doubt [origin unknown]

**quango** /'kwang-goh/ *n*, *pl* **quangos** Br an autonomous body (e.g. the Race Relations Board) set up by the British government and having statutory powers in a specific field [quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization]

**quantify** /'kwɒntɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to specify the logical quantity of 2 to determine, express, or measure the quantity of [ML *quantificare*, fr L *quantus* how much] – **quantifier** *n*, **quantifiable** *adj*, **quantification** /-fɪ'kəʃən/ *n*

**quantitative** /'kwɒntɪtətɪv/ *adj* 1 (expressible in terms) of quantity 2 of or involving the measurement of quantity or amount 3 of classical vers- based on the relative duration of sequences of sounds – compare ACCENTUAL – **quantitatively** *adv*, **quantitativeness** *n*

**quantitative analysis** *n* chemical analysis designed to determine the amounts or proportions of the components of a substance

**quantity** /'kwɒntəti/ *n* 1a an indefinite amount or number b a known, measured or estimated amount (*precise quantities of 4 ingredients*) c the total amount or number d a considerable amount or number – often pl with sing. meaning (*wept like anything to see such quantities of sand* – Lewis Carroll) 2a the aspect in which a thing is measurable in terms of degree of magnitude b the number, value, etc. subjected to a mathematical operation c sby or sthg to take into account or be reckoned with (*an unknown ~ as military leader*) 3 the relative duration of a speech sound or sound sequence, specif a prosodic syllable 4 the character of a logical proposition as universal, particular, or singular [ME *quantite*, fr OF *quantité*, fr L *quantitat-*, *quantitas*, fr *quantus* how much, how large; akin to L *quam* how, as, *quando* when, *qui* who – more at WHO]

**quantity surveyor** *n* sby who estimates or measures quantities (e.g. for builders) – **quantity surveying** *n*

**quantize, -ise** /'kwɒntɪz/ *vt* 1 to subdivide (e.g. energy) into quanta 2 to calculate or express in terms of quantum mechanics [*quantum* + *-ize*] – **quantizer** *n*, **quantization** /-tɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n*, *-tɪ-/ n*

**quantum** /'kwɒntəm/ *n*, *pl* **quanta** /-tə/ 1a a quantity, amount b a portion, part 2 any of the very small parcels or parts into which many forms of energy are subdivided and which cannot be further subdivided **USE** (1) fml [L, neut of *quantus* how much]

**quantum mechanics** *n* *pl* but sing or *pl* in constr the mathematical description of the interactions of matter and radiation in terms of the quantum theory – **quantum mechanical** *adj*, **quantum mechanically** *adv*

**quantum number** *n* any of a set of integers or odd half integers that indicate the magnitude of various discrete quantities (e.g. electric charge) of a particle or system and that serve to define its state

**quantum theory** *n* a theory in physics based on the acceptance of the idea that all energy can be divided into quanta

**quarantine** /'kwɒrəntɪn/ *n* 1 (the period of) a restraint on the activities or communication of people or the transport of goods or animals, designed to prevent the spread of disease or pests 2 a place in which people, animals, vehicles, etc. under quarantine are kept 3 a state of enforced isolation [It *quarantina* period of forty days, fr MF *quarantaine*, fr OF, fr *quarante* forty, fr L *quadraginta*, fr *quadra-* (akin to *quattuor* four) + *-ginta* (akin to *viginti* twenty) – more at FOUR, VIGESIMAL]

**quarantine** *vt* 1 to detain in or exclude by quarantine 2 to isolate from normal relations or communication

**quark** /'kwɒrk/ *n* a hypothetical particle that carries a fractional electric charge and is held to be a constituent of known elementary particles [coined by Murray Gell-Mann b 1929 US physicist]

**quarrel** /'kwɒrəl/ *n* a short heavy square-headed arrow or bolt, esp for a crossbow [ME, fr MF & OF; MF, square of glass, fr OF, square-headed arrow, building stone, fr (assumed) VL *quadrellum*, dim of L *quadrum* square, akin to L *quattuor* four – more at FOUR]

**quarrel** *n* 1 a reason for dispute or complaint (*have no ~ with his reasoning*) 2 a usu verbal conflict between antagonists, a dispute [ME *querelle*, fr MF, complaint, fr L *querela*, fr *queri* to complain – more at WHFEZE]

**quarrel** *vi* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) 1 to find fault with (*the teacher invariably found something to ~ with in her essays*) 2 to contend or dispute actively; argue – **quarreller** *n*


**quarrelsome** /'kwɒrəl-səm/ *adj* inclined or quick to quarrel, esp in a petty manner – **quarrelsomely** *adv*, **quarrelsomeness** *n*

**quarry** /'kwɒrɪ/ *n* the prey or game of a predator, esp a hawk, or of a hunter [ME *querre* entrails of game given to the hounds, fr MF *cuiree*, fr OF, prob alter (influenced by *cur* leather & *curer* to disembowel) of coree entrails, fr LL *corata* (pl), fr L *cor* heart]


**quarry** *n* 1 an open excavation from which building materials (e.g. stone, slate, and sand) are obtained 2 a source from which useful material, esp information, may be extracted [ME *quarrye*, alter of *quarriere*, fr MF *quarriere*, fr (assumed) OF *quarre* squared stone, fr L *quadrum* square]

**quarry** *vt* 1 to obtain (as if) from a quarry 2 to make a quarry in ~ *vi* to dig (as if) in a quarry – **quarrier** *n*

**quarry** *tile* *n* an unglazed floor tile

**quart** /'kwɒrt/ *n* either of 2 units of liquid capacity equal to 2pt. a a British unit equal to about 1.136l b a US unit equal to about 0.946l **USE**  UNIT [ME, one quarter of a gallon, fr MF *quarte*, fr OF, fr fem of *quart*, *adj*, fourth, fr L *quartus*; akin to L *quattuor* four – more at FOUR]

**quartan** /'kwɒrtən/ *n* an intermittent fever, esp malaria, that recurs at approximately 72-hour intervals [ME *quarteyne*, fr OF (*fièvre*) *quartaine*, fr L (*febris*) *quartana*, fr *quartanus* of the fourth, fr *quartus*] – **quartan** *adj*

**quarter** /'kwɒrtə/ *n* 1 any of 4 equal parts into which sthg is divisible 2 any of various units equal to or derived from a fourth of some larger unit; specif a quarter of either an American or British hundredweight  UNIT 3 a fourth of a measure of time: e.g. any of 4 3-month divisions of a year b a quarter of an hour – used in designation of time (*~ past four*) 4 (a coin worth) a quarter of a (US) dollar 5 a limb of a 4-limbed animal or carcass together with the adjacent parts; esp a hindquarter 6a (the direction of or region round) a (cardinal) compass point b a person, group, direction, or place not specifically identified (*had financial help from many ~s*) (*did little trade in that ~*) 7 a division or district of a



town or city <the Chinese ~> **8a** an assigned station or post – usu pl <battle ~s> **b** pl living accommodation; lodgings; esp accommodation for military personnel or their families **9** merciful consideration of an opponent; specif the clemency of not killing a defeated enemy <gave him no ~> **10** a fourth part of the moon's periodic cycle **11** any of the 4 or more parts of a heraldic shield that are marked off by horizontal and vertical lines **12** the part of a ship's side towards the stern, also any direction to the rear of a beam and from a specified side <light on the port ~> **13** any of the 4 equal periods into which the playing time of some games is divided [ME, fr OF *quartier*, fr L *quartarius*, fr *quartus* fourth]


**²quarter** *vt* **1** to divide into 4 (almost) equal parts, broadly to divide into parts **2** to provide with lodgings or shelter; esp to assign (a member of the armed forces) to accommodation <~ed his men on the villagers> **3** esp of a gun dog to crisscross (an area) in many directions in search of game, or in order to pick up an animal's scent **4a** to arrange or bear (e.g. different coats of arms) in heraldic quarters on 1 shield **b** to add (a coat of arms) to others on 1 heraldic shield **c** to divide (a heraldic shield) into 4 or more sections **5** archaic to divide (esp a traitor's body) into 4 parts, usu after hanging ~ *vi* **1** to lodge, dwell **2** to strike on a ship's quarter <the wind was ~ing>

**³quarter** *adj* consisting of or equal to a quarter

**quarterage** /'kwawt(ə)rj/ *n* a quarterly payment, tax, wage, or allowance

**quarter-bound** *adj*, of a book bound in 2 materials with the better material on the spine only – **quarter binding** *n*

**quarter, day** *n* a day which begins a quarter of the year and on which a quarterly payment often falls due

**quarter, deck** /-dek/ *n* **1** the stern area of a ship's upper deck  **SHIP** **2** sing or pl in constr, chiefly Br the officers of a ship or navy – compare LOWER DECK

**quarter, final** /-fi:nl/ *n* a match whose winner goes through to the semifinals of a knockout tournament, also, pl a round made up of such matches – **quarterfinal** *adj*, **quarterfinalist** *n*

**quarter, horse** *n*, *NAM* a muscular horse capable of high speed for short distances [fr its high speed over distances up to a quarter of a mile]

**quartering** /'kwawt(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* the division of a heraldic shield into 4 or more heraldic quarters; also any of the heraldic quarters so formed or the coat of arms it bears

**quarter, light** *n*, Br a small usu triangular panel in a motor vehicle side window that can be opened for ventilation

**quarterly** /'kwawtli/ *n* a periodical published at 3-monthly intervals

**²quarterly** *adj* **1** computed for or payable at 3-monthly intervals <a ~ premium> **2** recurring, issued, or spaced at 3-monthly intervals – **quarterly** *adv*

**quarter, master** /-mahstə/ *n* **1** a petty officer or seaman who attends to a ship's compass, tiller or wheel, and signals **2** an army officer who provides clothing, subsistence, and quarters for a body of troops

**quartern** /'kwawtən/ *n* a quarter, esp of a pint [ME *quateron*, fr OF, quarter of a pound, quarter of a hundred, fr *quartier* quarter]

**quarter, note** *n*, *NAM* a crotchet


**quarter, sessions** *n* pl, often cap Q&S a former English local court with limited criminal and civil jurisdiction, held quarterly

**quarter, staff** /-stahf/ *n*, pl **quarterstaves** /-stayvz, -stahvz/ a long stout staff formerly used as a weapon

**quarter, tone** *n* a musical interval of ½ a semitone

**quartet** also **quartette** /'kwawt(ə)t/ *n* **1** (a musical composition for) a group of 4 instruments, voices, or performers **2** sing or pl in constr a group or set of 4 [It *quartetto*, fr *quarto* fourth, fr L *quartus* – more at QUART]

**quartic** /'kwawtik/ *n* or *adj* (an equation or expression) of or involving (terms of) the fourth power or order [L *quartus* fourth]

**quartile** /'kwawtl/ *n* any of 3 numbers that divide a frequency distribution into 4 equal intervals  **STATISTICS** [ISV, fr L *quartus*]


**quarto** /'kwawtoh/ *n*, pl **quartos** **1** (a book or page of) the size of a piece of paper cut 4 from a sheet **2** Br a size of paper usu 10 × 8 in (about 25 × 20 cm) – not used technically [L, abl of *quartus* fourth]

**quartz** /'kwawts/ *n* a mineral consisting of a silicon dioxide occurring in colourless and transparent or coloured hexagonal crystals or in crystalline masses [G *quarz*, fr MHG] – **quartzose** /-ohs, -ohz/ *adj*

**²quartz** *adj* controlled by the oscillations of a quartz crystal <a ~ watch>

**quartz, glass** *n* a glass made of high purity silica prepared from quartz and noted for its transparency to ultraviolet radiation

**quartzite** /'kwawtsiet/ *n* a compact granular quartz rock derived from sandstone [ISV] – **quartzitic** /-'sɪtɪk/ *adj*

**quasar** /'kwaysəh/ *n* any of various unusually bright very distant star-like celestial objects that have spectra with large red shifts  **ASTRONOMY** [quasi-stellar radio source]

**quash** /'kwosh/ *vt* **1a** to nullify (by judicial action) **b** to reject (a legal document) as invalid **2** to suppress or extinguish summarily and completely; subdue [ME *quassen*, fr MF *casser*, *quasser* to annul, fr LL *cassare*, fr L *cassus* void, without effect, akin to L *carere* to be without – more at CASTE, (2) partly fr ME *quashen* to smash, fr MF *quasser*, *casser*, fr L *quassare*, to shake violently, shatter, fr *quassus*, pp of *quater* to shake; akin to OE *hudenian* to shake]


**quasi** /'kwahzi, 'kwayzie, -sie/ *adj* having some resemblance to <a ~ corporation>

**quasi-** *comb* form to some degree, partly, seemingly <quasi-officially> <quasi-stellar object> [L *quasi* as if, as it were, approximately, fr *quam* as + *si* if – more at QUANTITY, SO]

**quasi-stellar object** *n* a quasar

**quassia** /'kwoshə/ *n* a drug obtained from the heartwood of various tropical trees, used esp as a bitter tonic and remedy for roundworms in children, and as an insecticide [NL, genus name, fr *Quassi*, 18th-c Surinam Negro slave who discovered its medicinal value]

**quatercentenary** /'kwatəsen'tenəri, -'tenəri/ *n* (the celebration of) a 400th anniversary [L *quater* four times + E *centenary*]


**⁴quaternary** /'kwə'tu:hnəri/ *adj* **1** of or consisting of four (parts) **2** cap of or being the geological period from the end of the Tertiary to the present time  **EVOLUTION** **3** characterized by or resulting from the substitution of 4 atoms or groups in a molecule, esp being or containing an atom united by 4 bonds to carbon atoms [L *quaternarius*, fr *quaterni* four each]

**²quaternary** *n* **1** a member of a group of 4 things **2** cap the Quaternary period or system of rocks

**quaternion** /'kwə'tu:hnən, -nɪ-ən/ *n* **1** a set of 4 parts, things, or people **2** a generalized complex number that depends on 1 real and 3 imaginary units [ME *quaternyoun*, fr LL *quaternion*-, *quaternion*, fr L *quaterni* four each, fr *quater* four times, akin to L *quattuor* four – more at FOUR]


**quaternity** /'kwə'tu:hnəti/ *n* a group or set of 4 [LL *quaternitas*, fr L *quaterni* four each]

**quatrain** /'kwotrən/ *n* a stanza of 4 lines [F, fr MF, fr *quatre* four, fr L *quattuor*]

**quatrefoil** /'katrə'fɔɪl/ *n* **1** a stylized figure or ornament in the form of a 4-lobed leaf or flower  **ARCHITECTURE** **2** a design enclosed by 4 joined foils [ME *quaterfoil* set of four leaves, fr MF *quatre* + ME *-foil* (as in *trefoil*)]

**quattrocento** /'kwatroh'tʃentoh/ *n*, often cap the 15th c in Italy, esp with reference to its literature and art [It, lit, four hundred, fr *quattro* four (fr L *quattuor*) + *cento* hundred, fr L *centum* – more at HUNDRED]

**quaver** /'kwavə/ *vi* **1** esp of the voice to tremble, shake **2** to speak or sing in a trembling voice ~ *vi* to utter in a quavering voice [ME *quaveren*, freq of *quaven* to tremble] – **quaveringly** *adv*, **quavery** *adj*

**²quaver** *n* **1** a musical note with the time value of ½ that of a crotchet  **MUSIC** **2** a tremulous sound

**quay** /kee/ *n* an artificial landing place beside navigable water for loading and unloading ships [alter of earlier *key*, fr ME, fr MF *cai*, fr OF *kay*, of Celt origin; akin to Corn *ke* hedge, fence, akin to OE *hecg* hedge] – **quayage** /'kee-ɪj/ *n*

**quay, side** /-sɪd/ *n* land forming or bordering a quay

**quean** /kween/ *n*, chiefly Scot a woman; esp one who is young or unmarried [ME *quene*, fr OE *cwene*; akin to OE *cwen* woman, queen]

**queasy** also **queazy** /'kweezi/ *adj* **1** causing or suffering from nausea **2** causing or feeling anxiety or uneasiness [ME *cōysy*, *qwesye*] – **queasily** *adv*, **queasiness** *n*




**Quebec** /'kwɪ'bɛk/ – a communications code word for the letter *q* [Quebec, city in Canada]


**Quebecois**, **Québécois** /'kwɪbɛ'kwah, -ki-/ *n*, pl **Quebecois**, **Québécois** a (French-speaking) native or inhabitant of Quebec [F *Québécois*, fr *Québec* Quebec]

**quebracho** /kay'brahchoh/ *n* (the wood of) a S American tree of the periwinkle family whose dried bark was formerly used in the treatment of asthma [AmerSp, alter. of *quiebracha*, fr Sp *quebra* it breaks + *hacha* axe]

**Quechua** /'kechwa/ *n*, pl **Quechuas**, esp collectively **Quechua** **1** a member of an American Indian people of central Peru **2** the language of



- the Quechua people; also the language family to which this belongs  **LANGUAGE** [Sp, fr Quechua *kkechúwa* plunderer, robber] – **Quechuan** *adj* or *n*
- queen** /kween/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of a king 2 a female monarch 3 (sthg personified as) a woman who is preeminent in a specified respect (*a beauty ~*) (*Paris, ~ of cities*) 4 the most powerful piece of each colour in a set of chessmen, which has the power to move any number of squares in any direction 5 a playing card marked with a stylized figure of a queen and ranking usu below the king 6 the fertile fully developed female in a colony of bees, ants, or termites 7 a mature female cat 8 an aging male homosexual – used esp by male homosexuals [ME *queene*, fr OE *cwen* woman, wife, queen, akin to Goth *gens* wife, Gk *gynē* woman, wife, Skt *jani*]
- queen** *vi*, of a pawn to become a queen in chess ~ *vi* to promote (a pawn) to a queen in chess – **queen** it to put on airs
- Queen 'Anne** /an/ *adj* (having the characteristics) of a style of furniture prevalent in Britain esp during Queen Anne's reign (the first half of the 18th c), marked by extensive use of upholstery, marquetry, and Oriental fabrics b a style of English building of the early 18th c characterized by restrained classic detail and the use of red brickwork [Queen Anne of Britain †1714]
- queen 'consort** *n*, *pl* **queens consort** the wife of a reigning king
- queen 'mother** *n* a woman who is the widow of a king and the mother of the reigning sovereign
- queen 'post** *n* either of 2 vertical posts connecting the principal rafters of a timber roof truss with the tie beam – compare **KING POST**  **ARCHITECTURE**
- Queen's 'Bench, Queen's Bench Division** *n* a division of the High Court hearing both civil and criminal cases – used when the British monarch is a queen  **LAW**
- Queen's 'Counsel** *n* a barrister who has been appointed by the Crown to a senior rank with special privileges – used when the British monarch is a queen
- Queen's 'English** *n* – used instead of *King's English* when the British monarch is a queen
- queen 'substance** *n* a pheromone secreted by queen bees that is consumed by worker bees and inhibits the development of their ovaries
- queen truss** *n* a truss in a timber roof that is framed with queen posts
- queer** /kwia/ *adj* 1a eccentric, unconventional b mildly insane 2 questionable, suspicious (< ~ *goings-on*) 3 not quite well, queasy – infml 4 homosexual – derog [perh fr G *quer* athwart, oblique, perverse] – **queerish** *adj*, **queerly** *adv*, **queerness** *n*
- queer** *vi* to spoil the effect or success of (< ~ *one's plans*) – **queer someone's pitch** to prejudice or ruin sb's chances in advance
- queer** *n* a usu male homosexual – derog
- queer 'street** *n*, often cap **Q&S** a condition of financial embarrassment
- quell** /kwel/ *vt* 1 to overwhelm thoroughly and reduce to submission or passivity 2 to quiet, pacify (< ~ *fears*) [ME *quellen* to kill, quell, fr OE *cwellan* to kill, akin to OHG *quellen* to torture, kill, *quala* torment, Gk *belone* needle] – **queller** *n*
- quench** /kwench/ *vt* 1a to put out (the light or fire of) (< ~ *ed the fire by throwing on sand*) (< ~ *ed the glowing coals*) b to cool (e.g. hot metal) suddenly by immersion in oil, water, etc, broadly to cause to lose heat or warmth 2a to bring (sthg immaterial) to an end, esp by satisfying, damping, or decreasing (*the praise that ~ es all desire to read the book* – T.S. Eliot) b to terminate (as if) by destroying; eliminate (< ~ *a rebellion*) c to relieve or satisfy with liquid (< ~ *ed his thirst at a wayside spring*) [ME *quenchen*, fr OE *cwencan*, akin to OE *cwincan* to vanish, OFris *quinka*] – **quenchable** *adj*, **quencher** *n*, **quenchless** *adj*
- quenelle** /ka'nel/ *n* a small ball of a seasoned meat or fish mixture (e.g. of pike) [Fr, fr G *knödel* dumpling, fr MHG, dim of *knode* knot, fr OHG *knodo*, *knoto* – more at **KNOT**]
- quern** /kwu:n/ *n* a primitive hand mill for grinding grain [ME, fr OE *cweorn*; akin to OHG *quirn* mill, Oslav *žrŭny*]
- querulous** /kwɛr(y)ʊləs/ *adj* habitually complaining; fretful, peevish [L *querulus*, fr *queri* to complain] – **querulously** *adv*, **querulousness** *n*
- query** /kwɪəri/ 1 a question, esp expressing doubt or uncertainty 2 **QUESTION MARK**, esp one used to question the accuracy of a text [alter of earlier *quere*, fr L *quere*, imper of *quaerere* to ask]
- query** *vi* 1 to put as a question (< *'what's wrong?' she queried*) 2 to question the accuracy of (e.g. a statement) 3 to mark with a query 4 chiefly **NAm** to ask questions of – **querier** *n*

- 'quest** /kwɛst/ *n* 1 (the object of) a pursuit or search (< *went in ~ of gold*) 2 an adventurous journey undertaken by a knight in medieval romance [ME, search, pursuit, investigation, inquest, fr MF *queste* search, pursuit, fr (assumed) VL *quaesta*, fr L, fem of *quaestus*]
- quest** *vi* 1 of a dog to search for a trail or game 2 to go on a quest (< ~ *ing after gold*) ~ *vi* to search for – chiefly poetic
- 'question** /kwɛsch(ə)n/ *n* 1a a command or an interrogative expression used to elicit information or test knowledge (< *unable to answer the exam ~*) b an interrogative sentence or clause 2 an act or instance of asking, an inquiry 3a a subject or concern that is uncertain or in dispute, an issue (< *the abortion ~*), broadly a problem, matter (< *it's only a ~ of time*) b a subject or point of debate or a proposition to be voted on in a meeting (< *the ~ before the House*) c the specific point at issue 4a (room for) doubt or objection (< *her integrity is beyond ~*) (< *called into ~ the veracity of his statement*) b chance, possibility (< *no ~ of escape*) [ME, fr MF, fr L *quaestio*-, *quaestus*, fr *quaestus*, pp of *quaerere* to seek, ask] – in **question** under discussion – out of the **question** preposterous, impossible
- question** *vt* 1a to ask a question of b to interrogate (< ~ *ed her as to her whereabouts*); 2 to doubt, dispute (< ~ *ed the wisdom of his decision*) 3 to subject (facts or phenomena) to analysis, examine ~ *vi* to ask questions, inquire – **questioner** *n*
- questionable** /kwɛschənəbəl/ *adj* 1 open to doubt or challenge, not certain or exact 2 of doubtful morality or propriety, shady – **questionableness** *n*, **questionably** *adv*
- 'question mark** *n* a punctuation mark ? used in writing and printing at the end of a sentence to indicate a direct question
- 'question-master** *n* one who puts questions during a quiz
- questionnaire** /kwɛschə'neɪ, also /kɛs-/ *n* (a form having) a set of questions to be asked of a number of people to obtain statistically useful information [Fr, fr *questionner* to question, fr MF, fr *question*, *n*]
- 'question time** *n* a period during which members of a parliamentary body may put questions to a minister
- quetzal** /kɛtsl/ *n*, *pl* **quetzals**, **quetzales** /kɛt'sahlayz/ 1 a Central American bird that has brilliant plumage and the male of which has very long upper tail feathers 2  **Guatemala** at **NATIONALITY** [AmerSp, fr Nahuatl *quetzaltōtli*, fr *quetzalli* brilliant tail feather + *tōtōli* bird]
- Quetzalcoatl** /kɛtskə'atl, kɛts'kwahl/ *n* a chief Toltec and Aztec god identified with the wind and air and represented by means of a plumed serpent [Nahuatl]
- 'queue** /kyooh/ *n* 1 a pigtail 2a a waiting line, esp of people or vehicles b **WAITING LIST** (< *a housing ~*) [Fr, lit, tail, fr L *cauda*, *coda*]
- 'queue** *vi* **queueing**, **queueing** to line up or wait in a queue – **queuer** *n*
- 'queue-jump** *vi* to join a queue at a point in front of (some of) those already waiting, **PUSH IN** – **queue-jumper** *n*
- 'quibble** /kwɪbl/ *n* a minor objection or criticism, esp used as an equivocation [prob dim of obs *quib* (quibble), prob fr L *quibus*, dat & abl pl of *qui* who, which]
- 'quibble** *vi* **quibbling** /kwɪblɪŋ, 'kwɪblɪŋ/ 1 to equivocate 2 to bicker – **quibbler** *n*
- quiche** /keesh/ *n* a pastry shell filled with a rich savoury egg and cream custard and various other ingredients (e.g. ham, cheese, or vegetables) – compare **FLAN** [Fr, fr G dial (Lorraine) *kuche*, dim of *kuchen* cake, fr OHG *kuocho* – more at **CAKE**]
- 'quick** /kwɪk/ *adj* 1a fast in understanding, thinking, or learning; mentally agile (< *a ~ mind*) (< ~ *thinking*) b reacting with speed and keen sensitivity 2a fast in development or occurrence (< *a ~ succession of events*) b done or taking place with rapidity (< *gave them a ~ look*) c marked by speed, readiness, or promptness of physical movement (< *walked with ~ steps*) d inclined to hastiness (e.g. in action or response) (< *to find fault*) e capable of being easily and speedily prepared (< *a ~ and tasty dinner*) 3 archaic alive [ME *quik*, fr OE *cwic* alive; akin to ON *kvikr* living, L *vivus* living, *vivere* to live, Gk *bios*, *zōē* life] – **quickly** *adv*, **quickness** *n*
- 'quick** *adv* in a quick manner
- 'quick** *n* 1 painfully sensitive flesh, esp under a fingernail, toenail, etc 2 the inmost sensibilities (< *cut to the ~ by the remark*) [prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *kvika* sensitive flesh, fr *kvikr* living]
- quicken** /kwɪkən/ *vt* 1 to enliven, stimulate 2 to make more rapid; accelerate (< ~ *ed her steps*) ~ *vi* 1 to come to life 2 to reach the stage of gestation at which foetal motion is felt 3 to become more rapid (< *her pulse ~ ed at the sight*) – **quicken** *n*
- 'quick fire** /-fɪə/ *adj* coming or operating quickly, esp coming in quick succession (< *the ~ patter of the auctioneer*)
- quick-freeze** *vt* **quick-froze**; **quick-frozen** to freeze (food) for preser-

vation so rapidly that the natural juices and flavour are preserved intact

**quickie** /'kwɪki/ *n* sth done or made in a hurry – *infml*

**quicklime** /-liem/ *n* LIME 2a

**quicksand** /-sænd/ *n* (a deep mass of) loose sand, esp mixed with water, into which heavy objects readily sink

**quicksæt** /-set/ *n*, chiefly *Br* plant cuttings, esp hawthorn, set in the ground to grow into a hedgerow, also a hedge formed in this way

**quicksilver** /-silvə/ *n* MERCURY 1 – **quicksilver** *adj*

**quickstep** /-step/ *n* (a piece of music composed for) a fast fox-trot characterized by a combination of short rapid steps

**quick-tempered** *adj* easily angered, irascible

**quickthorn** /-θawn/ *n* the hawthorn

**quick, time** *n* a rate of marching of about 120 steps in a minute

**quick-witted** *adj* quick in understanding, mentally alert – **quick-wittedly** *adv*, **quick-wittedness** *n*

**quid** /kwɪd/ *n*, *pl* **quid** also **quids** *Br* the sum of £1 – *infml* [perh fr L *quid* what, anything, something] – **quids in** in the state of having made a usu large profit – *infml* [*if we sell them at £5 each, we'll be quids in*]

**quid** *n* a wad of sth, esp tobacco, for chewing [E dial, *cud*, fr MF *quide*, fr OE *cwudu*, *cwudu* – more at *CUD*]

**quiddity** /kwɪdɪti/ *n* that which makes sth what it is, essence – *fml* [ML *quidditas* essence, lit, whatness, fr L *quid* what, neut of *quis* who – more at *WHO*]

**quid pro quo** /kwɪd prɒh 'kwɒh/ *n* sth given or received in exchange for sth else [L, something for something]

**quiescent** /kwɪ'es(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 causing no trouble 2 at rest, inactive – *fml* [L *quiescent*-, *quiescens*, *pp* of *quiescere* to become quiet, rest, fr *quies*] – **quiescence** *n*, **quiescently** *adv*

**quiet** /kwɪ'eɪt/ *n* being quiet, tranquillity [ME, fr L *quiet*-, *quies* rest, quiet – more at *WHILE*] – **on the quiet** without telling anyone, discreetly, secretly

**quiet** *adj* 1a marked by little or no motion or activity; calm <a ~ day at the off. ce> [business had been very ~ recently] b free from noise or uproar; still <a ~ little village in the Cotswolds> c secluded <a ~ nook> d enjoyed in peace and relaxation, undisturbed <a ~ cup of tea> e informal and usu involving small numbers of people <a ~ wedding> 2a gentle, reserved <a ~ temperament> b unobtrusive, conservative <~ clothes> 3 private, discreet <can I have a ~ word with you?> [ME, fr MF, fr L *quietus*, fr *pp* of *quiescere*] – **quietly** *adv*, **quietness** *n*

**quiet** *adv* in a quiet manner

**quiet** *vt* to calm, soothe <did nothing to ~ her fears> ~ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to become quiet – *usu* ~ *down* – **quieter** *n*


**quieten** /kwɪ'eɪn/ *vb*, chiefly *Br* to make or become quiet – *often* ~ *down*

**quietism** /'kwɪ'eɪz(ə)m/ *n* (a system of religious mysticism teaching) a passive withdrawn attitude or policy towards the world or worldly affairs – **quietist** *adj* or *n*

**quietude** /'kwɪ'eɪtjʊd/ *n* being quiet, repose – *fml* [MF, fr LL *quietudo*, fr L *quietus*]

**quietus** /kwɪ'eɪtəs, -'aɪtəs/ *n* removal from activity, esp death [ME *quietus* est, fr ML, he is quit, formula of discharge from obligation]

**quiff** /kwɪf/ *n*, *Br* a lock of hair brushed so as to stand up over the forehead [origin unknown]

**quill** /kwɪl/ *n* 1a a bobbin, spool, or spindle on which yarn is wound b a hollow shaft often surrounding another shaft and used in various mechanical devices c a roll of dried bark (cinnamon ~s) 2a the hollow horny barrel of a feather  *ANATOMY* b any of the large stiff feathers of a bird's wing or tail c any of the hollow sharp spines of a porcupine, hedgehog, etc 3 sth made from or resembling the quill of a feather; esp a pen for writing 4 a float for a fishing line [ME *quill* hollow reed, bobbin; akin to MHG *kil* large feather]

**quill** *vi* to wind (thread or yarn) on a quill

**quilt** /kwɪlt/ *n* 1 a thick warm top cover for a bed consisting of padding held in place between 2 layers of cloth by lines of stitching – compare EIDERDOWN, DUVET 2 a usu thinish cover for a bed; a bedspread [ME *quilt* mattress, quilt, fr OF *culte*, fr L *culcita* mattress]

**quilt** *vt* 1a to fill, pad, or line like a quilt <a ~ed jacket> b to fasten between 2 pieces of material 2 to stitch or sew together in layers with padding in between ~ *vi* to make quilts or quilted work – **quilter** *n*, **quilting** *n*

**quim** /kwɪm/ *n* the female genitals – *vulg* [origin unknown]

**quin** /kwɪn/ *n*, *Br* a quintuplet

**quin-** /kwɪn-/ , **quino-** *comb form* cinchona (bark) <quinine> [Sp *quina* – more at *QUININE*]

**quince** /kwɪns/ *n* (a central Asian tree of the rose family that bears) a fruit resembling a hard-fleshed yellow apple, used for marmalade, jelly, and preserves [ME *quynce* quinces, *pl* of *coyn*, *quyn* quince, fr MF *coin*, fr L *cotoneum*, *cydoneum* (*malum*) Cydonian (apple), fr Gk *kydonion*, fr *kydonia* Cydonia, ancient city in Crete]

**quincenary** /kwɪnsen'tenəri, -'tenəri/ *n* (the celebration of) a 500th anniversary [L *quinque* five + E *centenary*]

**quincunx** /'kwɪn,kʊŋks/ *n* an arrangement of 5 things (e.g. marks on a playing card) with 1 at each corner and 1 in the middle of a square or rectangle [L *quincunx*-, *quincunx*, lit, five-twelfths, fr *quinque* five + *uncia* twelfth part – more at *FIVE*, *OUNCE*] – **quincuncial** /-'kʊŋkʃ(ə)l/ *adj*

**quinine** /'kwɪneɪn, -'ɪ-/ *n* an alkaloid with a bitter taste that is obtained from cinchona bark, is used as a tonic, and was formerly the major drug in the treatment of malaria [Sp *quina* cinchona, short for *quinaquina*, fr Quechua]

**quinone** /kwɪ'noʊn, -'ɪ-/ *n* 1 a chemical compound that is a derivative of benzene and is used as an oxidizing agent in photography 2 any of various related compounds including several that are biologically important as coenzymes, hydrogen acceptors, or vitamins [ISV *quimne* + *-one*]

**Quinquagesima** /kwɪŋkwə'jesɪmə/ *n* the Sunday before Lent [ML, fr L, fem of *quinquagesimus* fiftieth, fr *quinquaginta* fifty, fr *quinque* + *-ginta* (akin to *viginti* twenty – more at *VIGESIMAI*)]

**quinque-**, **quinqu-** *comb form* five <quinquennium> [L, fr *quinque* – more at *FIVE*]

**quinnennial** /kwɪŋ'kwɛniəl, kwɪn-/ *adj* 1 consisting of or lasting for 5 years 2 occurring or being done every 5 years – **quinnennial** *n*, **quinnennially** *adv*

**quinnennium** /kwɪŋ'kwɛniəm, kwɪn-/ *n*, *pl* **quinnenniums**, **quinnennia** /-ni-ə/ a period of 5 years [L, fr *quinque* + *annus* year – more at *ANNUAL*]

**quinsy** /kwɪnz/ *n* a severe inflammation of the throat or adjacent parts with swelling and fever [ME *quinesie*, fr MF *quancie*, fr LL *cynanche*, fr Gk *kynanche*, fr *kyn*-, *kyon* dog + *anchein* to strangle – more at *HOUND ANGER*]

**quint** /kwɪnt/ *n*, *NAM* a quintuplet

**quintain** /kwɪntɪn/ *n* (the exercise of tilting at) a post having a revolving crosspiece with a target at one end and a sandbag at the other end providing jousting practice, esp in medieval times [ME *quintaine*, fr MF, fr L *quintana* street in a Roman camp separating the fifth maniple from the sixth where military exercises were performed, fr fem of *quintanus* fifth in rank, fr *quintus* fifth]

**quintal** /kwɪntl/ *n* 1 a hundredweight 2 a metric unit of weight equal to 100kg (about 220 lb) [ME, fr MF, fr ML *quintale*, fr Ar *quntar*, fr L GK *centenarius*, fr LL *centenarium*, fr L, neut of *centenarius* consisting of a hundred – more at *CENTENARY*]

**quintessence** /kwɪnt'es(ə)ns/ *n* 1 the pure and concentrated essence of sth, the most significant or typical element in a whole 2 the most typical example or representative (e.g. of a quality or class) <the ~ of pride> [ME, fr MF *quinte* essence, fr ML *quinta essentia*, lit, fifth essence] – **quintessential** /kwɪntɪ'sensh(ə)l/ *adj*, **quintessentially** *adv*

**quintet** also **quintette** /kwɪnt'et/ *n* 1 (a musical composition for) a group of 5 instruments, voices, or performers 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group or set of 5 [quintet fr It *quintetto*, fr *quinto* fifth, fr L *quintus*, *quintette* fr F, fr It *quintetto*]

**quintuple** /kwɪntjʊpl, kwɪntjʊhpl/ *adj* 1 having 5 units or members 2 being 5 times as great or as many [MF, fr LL *quintuplex*, fr L *quintus* fifth + *-plex* -fold; akin to L *quinque* five – more at *FIVE*, *SIMPLE*] – **quintuple** *n*

**quintuple** *vb* to make or become 5 times as great or as many **quintuplet** /kwɪntjʊplɪt, kwɪntjʊhplɪt/ *n* 1 a combination of 5 of a kind 2 any of 5 offspring born at 1 birth 3 a group of 5 equal musical notes performed in the time given to 3, 4, etc of the same value [fr *quintuple*, by analogy to *double* + *doublet*]

**quintuplicate** /kwɪntjʊhplɪkət/ *adj* 1 consisting of or existing in 5 corresponding or identical parts or examples <~ invoices> 2 being the fifth of 5 things exactly alike [L *quintuplicatus*, *pp* of *quintuplicare* to quintuple, fr *quintuplex*-, *quintuplex* quintuple]

**quintuplicate** *n* 1 any of 5 identical copies 2 5 copies all alike – + *in* (typed in ~)

**quintuplicate** /-kayt/ *vt* 1 to make quintuple or fivefold 2 to prepare in quintuplicate

**quip** /kwɪp/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a clever, witty, or sarcastic observation or response [n earlier *quippy*, perh fr L *quippe* indeed, to be sure (often ironical), fr *quid* what, neut of *quis* who; vb fr n] – **quipsater** /-sɪə/ *n*  
**'quire** /kwɪə-/ *n* 1 twenty-four sheets of paper of the same size and quality 2 a set of folded sheets (e.g. of a book) fitting one within another [ME *quair* 4 sheets of paper folded once, collection of sheets, fr MF *quaer*, fr (assumed) VL *quadernum*, alter. of L *quaterni* 4 each, set of 4 – more at QUATERNION]

**'quire** *n*, archaic a choir ➤ CHURCH

**quirk** /kwɪrk/ 1 an odd or peculiar trait, an idiosyncrasy 2 an accident, vagary <by some ~ of fate> 3 a groove separating a bead or other moulding from adjoining members [origin unknown] – **quirky** *adj*  
**quirt** /kwɪrt/ *vi* or *n* (to strike or drive with) a riding whip with a short handle and a leather lash [n MexSp *cuarta*, vb fr n]

**quisling** /kwɪzɪŋ/ *n* a traitor who collaborates with invaders [Vidkun Quisling †1945 Norw politician who collaborated with the Germans in WW II]

**'quit** /kwɪt/ *adj* released from obligation, charge, or penalty – + of [ME *quite*, *quit*, fr OF *quite*]

**'quit** *vb* -tt; **quitted** (NAM chiefly *quit*) *vi* 1 to leave, depart from (a person or place) <~ ted her without a backward glance> <ready to ~ the building at a moment's notice> 2 to relinquish (e.g. a way of thinking or acting); stop <~ moaning!> 3 to give up (e.g. an activity or employment) <he ~ his job> 4 archaic to conduct (oneself) in a usu specified way <~ themselves with great courage> ~ *vi* 1 to cease doing sthg, specif to give up one's job 2 of a tenant to vacate occupied premises <the landlord gave them notice to ~> 3 to admit defeat, GIVE UP – *infrm* [ME *quiten*, *quitten*, fr MF *quiter* *quitter*, fr OF, fr *quite* free of, released, lit., at rest, fr L *quietus* quiet, at rest]

**quitch** /kwɪtʃ/, **quitch grass** /-/:/ *n* COUCH GRASS [(assumed) ME *quicche*, fr OE *cwice*; akin to OHG *quecca* couch grass, OE *cwic* living – more at 'QUICK]

**quitchclaim** /kwɪtˌklaɪm/ *n* a legal instrument by which one person renounces his/her right in favour of another [ME *quite-claim*, fr MF *quiteclame*, fr *quiteclamer*, lit., to declare free, fr OF, fr *quite* 'quit + *clamer* to declare, claim – more at CLAIM]

**quite** /kwɪt/ *adv* or *adj* 1a wholly, completely <not ~ all> <~ sure> b positively, certainly <~ the best I've seen> 2 more than usually, rather <took ~ a while> <that was ~ some party> 3 chiefly Br to only a moderate degree <~ good but not perfect> [ME, fr *quite*, *adj*, *quit*] – quite so just so 2

**quittrent** /kwɪtˌrent/ *n* a fixed rent payable to a feudal superior in place of the performing of services [ME *quiterent*, fr *quite*, *quit* 'quit + *rent*]

**quits** /kwɪts/ *adj* on even terms as a result of repaying a debt or retaliating for an injury [ME, *quit*, prob fr ML *quittus*, alter. of L *quietus* at rest]

**quittance** /kwɪtˌ(ə)ns/ *n* (a document giving proof of) discharge from a debt

**quitter** /kwɪtə/ *n* one who gives up too easily, a defeatist ['QUIT + -ER]

**'quiver** /kwɪvə/ *n* a case for carrying or holding arrows [ME, fr OF *quivre*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *cocer* quiver, OHG *kohhar*]

**'quiver** *vi* to shake or move with a slight trembling motion [ME *quiveren*, prob fr *quiver* agile, quick, fr (assumed) OE *cwifer*] – **quiver** *n*  
**qui vive** /ˌkœˈveɪv/ *n* the alert, lookout – in on the *qui vive* [F *qui-vive*, fr *qui vive*? long live who?, challenge of a French sentry]

**'quixotic** /kwɪksɪtɪk/, **quixotical** /-kl/ *adj* idealistic or chivalrous in a rash or impractical way [Don Quixote, hero of the novel *Don Quixote de la Mancha* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra †1616 Sp novelist] – **quixotically** *adv*

**'quiz** /kwɪz/ *n* -zz- 1 a public test of (general) knowledge, esp as a television or radio entertainment <a ~ programme> 2 NAM an informal test given by a teacher to a student or class [origin unknown]

**'quiz** *vi* -zz- 1 to question closely – *journ* 2 NAM to test (a student or class) informally – **quizzier** *n*

**quizzical** /kwɪzɪkl/ *adj* 1 gently mocking; teasing 2 indicating a state of puzzlement; questioning <a ~ glance> – **quizzically** *adv*, **quizzicality** /-kəlɪti/ *n*

**'quoin** /kɔɪn/; also *kwɔɪn*/ *n* (any of the distinguishing blocks forming) a solid exterior angle of a building [alter. of 'coin]

**'quoin** *vi* to provide with quoins <~ ed walls>

**'quoit** /kɔɪt/; also *kwɔɪt*/ *n* 1 a ring (e.g. of rubber or iron) used in a throwing game 2 *pl* but *sing* in constr a game in which quoits are thrown

at an upright pin in an attempt to ring the pin or come as near to it as possible [ME *coite*]

**quondam** /kwɒndəm, -dəm/ *adj* former, sometime <a ~ friend> – *fm* [L, at one time, formerly, fr *quom*, *cum* when, akin to L *qui* who – more at WHO]

**Quonset** /kwɒnsɪt/ *trademark*, NAM – used for a prefabricated shelter similar to a Nissen hut

**quorate** /kwɒrət/ -rayt/ *adj* having a quorum <is this meeting ~?>

**quorum** /kwɒrwɒm/ *n* the number of members of a body that when duly assembled is constitutionally competent to transact business [ME, quorum of justices of the peace, fr L, of whom, gen pl of *qui* who; fr the wording of the commission formerly issued to justices of the peace]

**quota** /kwɒtə/ *n* 1 a proportional part or share; esp the share or proportion to be either contributed or received by an individual or body <most factories fulfilled their production ~> 2 the number or amount constituting a proportional share 3 a numerical limit set on some class of people or things <an immigration ~> [ML, fr L *quota pars* how great a part]

**quotable** /kwɒtəbl/ *adj* 1 fit for or worth quoting 2 made with permission for publication (e.g. in a newspaper) <were the Minister's remarks ~ or off the record?>

**quotation** /kwɒtˌeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sthg quoted, esp a passage or phrase quoted from printed literature 2 quoting 3a (the naming or publishing of) current bids and offers for or prices of shares, securities, commodities, etc b ESTIMATE 4

**quotation mark** *n* either of a pair of punctuation marks " or " used to indicate the beginning and end of a direct quotation

**'quote** /kwɒt/ *vi* 1a to repeat (a passage or phrase previously said or written, esp by another) in writing or speech, usu with an acknowledgment b to repeat a passage or phrase from, esp in substantiation or illustration <to ~ the Scriptures> 2 to cite in illustration <~ cases> 3a to name (the current or recent buying or selling price) of a commodity, stock, share, etc b to make an estimate of or give exact information on (e.g. the price of a commodity or service) 4 to set off by quotation marks ~ *vi* 1 to repeat sthg previously said or written <the Prime Minister said, and I ~, 'We have beaten inflation'> 2 to name one's price [ML *quotare* to mark the number of, number references, fr L *quotus* of what number or quantity, fr *quot* how many, (as) many as, akin to L *qui* who – more at WHO]

**²quote** *n* 1 a quotation 2 QUOTATION MARK – often used orally to indicate the beginning of a direct quotation

**quoth** /kwɒθ/ *vb* past, archaic said – chiefly in the 1st and 3rd persons with a subject following <~ he> [ME, past of *quethen* to say, fr OE *cwethan*, akin to OHG *qedan* to say]

**quotidian** /kwɒtɪdɪən/ *adj* 1 occurring or recurring every day <~ fever> 2 commonplace, ordinary – *fm* [ME *cotidian*, fr MF, fr L *quotidianus*, *cotidianus*, fr *quotidie* every day, fr *quot* (as) many as + *dies* day – more at DAILY]

**quotient** /kwɒʃh(ə)nt/ *n* 1 the result of the division of one number or expression by another 2 the ratio, usu multiplied by 100, between a test score and a measurement on which that score might be expected largely to depend – compare INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT 3 a quota, share – nonstandard [ME *quocient*, modif of L *quotiens* how many times, fr *quot* how many]

**Quran**, Qur'an /koo'rahn, -'ran/ *n* the Koran

**qursh** /kooʃh/ *n*, *pl* *qursh* ➤ Saudi Arabia at NATIONALITY [Ar *qirsh*]



## R


**r** /ʃh/ *n*, *pl* *r*'s, *rs* often *cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 18th letter of the English alphabet

**¹r** *suffix* – used to form the comparative degree of adjectives and adverbs of 1 syllable, and of some adjectives and adverbs of 2 or more syllables, that end in *e* <truer> <freer>; compare ¹-ER

**²r** *suffix* ¹-ER – used with nouns that end in *e* <old-timer> <teenager> <diner>

**'rabbet** /rəbɪt/ *n* a channel, groove, or recess cut out of an edge or surface; specif one intended to receive another piece (e.g. a panel) [ME *rabet*, fr MF *rabat* act of beating down, fr OF *rabatre* to beat down, reduce – more at 'REBATE]

- rabbit** *vt* 1 to cut a rabbit in 2 to unite the rabbeted edges of
- rabbi** /'rabie/ *n* 1 a Jew qualified to expound and apply Jewish law 2 a Jew trained and ordained for professional religious leadership; *specif* the official leader of a Jewish congregation [LL, fr Gk *rhābbi*, fr Heb *rabbi* my master, fr *rabh* master + -i] *my*
- rabbinate** /'rabinat/ *n* 1 the office or tenure of a rabbi 2 the whole body of rabbis [rabbin (rabbi), fr F]
- rabbinic** /rə'binik/, **rabbinal** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of rabbis or their writings 2 of or preparing for the rabbinate - **rabbinally** *adv*
- rabbit** /'rabɪ/ *n, pl rabbits*, (1) *esp collectively* rabbit 1 (the fur of) a small long-eared mammal that is related to the hares but differs from them in producing naked young and in its burrowing habits  LIFE CYCLE 2 *Br* an unskilled player (e.g. in golf, cricket, or tennis) [ME *rabet*, prob fr Walloon *robett*, *robete*, fr MD *robbe*] - **rabbity** *adj*
- rabbit** *vi* 1 to hunt rabbits 2 *Br* to talk aimlessly or inconsequentially - *infrm*; often + *on* [(2) rhyming slang *rabbit (and pork) talk*] - **rabbiter** *n*
- rabbit punch** *n* a short chopping blow delivered to the back of the neck [fr the manner in which a rabbit is stunned before being killed]
- rabble** /'rabl/ *n* 1 a disorganized or disorderly crowd of people, a mob 2 the common people, the lowest class of society - *derog* [ME *rabel* pack of animals]
- rabble-rouser** *n* one who stirs up the common people (e.g. to hatred or violence); a demagogue
- Rabelaisian** /rəbi'ləizjən, -zh(y)ən/ *adj* marked by the robust humour, extravagant caricature, or bold naturalism characteristic of Rabelais or his works [François Rabelais 1532 F humorist & satirist]
- rabid** /'rabid/ *sense 2 also* /'raybid/ *adj* 1 unreasoning or fanatical in an opinion or feeling (a ~ *racialist*) 2 affected with rabies [L *rabidus* mad, fr *rabere*] - **rabidly** *adv*, **rabidness**, **rabidity** /rə'bidəti/ *n*
- rabies** /'raybeɪz, -biz/ *n, pl rabies* a fatal short-lasting virus disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals, transmitted esp through the bite of an affected animal, and characterized by extreme fear of water and convulsions [NL, fr L, madness, fr *rabere* to rave - more at RAGE]
- raccoon**, **racoona** /rə'kooɦn/ *n, pl raccoons*, *esp collectively* raccoon (the fur of) a small flesh-eating mammal of N America that has a bushy ringed tail and lives chiefly in trees [ārākhun (in some Algonquian language of Virginia, USA)]
- race** /rays/ *n* 1a a strong or rapid current of water in the sea, a river, etc b (the current flowing in) a watercourse used industrially (e.g. to turn the wheel of a mill) 2a a contest of speed (e.g. in running or riding) b *pl* a meeting in which several races (e.g. for horses) are run c a contest or rivalry for an ultimate prize or position (<the ~ for the league championship>) 3 a track or channel in which sth rolls or slides, *specif* a groove for the balls in a ball bearing 4 *archaic* the course of life [ME *ras*, fr ON *rās*; akin to OE *ræs* rush, L *rorarii* skirmishers, Gk *eroe* rush]
- race** *vi* 1 to compete in a race 2 to go or move at top speed or out of control (<his pulse was racing>) 3 of a motor, engine, etc to revolve too fast under a diminished load ~ *vt* 1 to have a race with (<d her brother to the garden gate>) 2a to enter in a race (<always ~s his horses at Chepstow>) b to drive at high speed c to transport or propel at maximum speed 3 to accelerate (e.g. an engine) without a working load or with the transmission disengaged - **racer** *n*
- race** *n* 1 a family, tribe, people, or nation belonging to the same stock 2 an actually or potentially interbreeding group within a species, *also* a category (e.g. a subspecies) in classification representing such a group 3a a division of mankind having traits that are transmissible by descent and sufficient to characterize it as a distinct human type b human beings, collectively (<the human ~>) 4 the division of mankind into races (<the brotherhood of man independent of colour, creed, or ~>) [MF, generation, fr OIt *razza*]
- racecourse** /-kaws/ *n* a place where or the track on which races, esp horse races, are held
- racemate** /ray'seeməti, rə-, 'rasi-/ *n* a racemic compound or mixture
- raceme** /ray'seem, rə-/ *n* a simple stalk of flowers (e.g. that of the lily of the valley) in which the flowers are borne on short side-stalks of about equal length along an elongated main stem  PLANT [L *racemus* bunch of grapes]
- racemic** /rə'seemik, -'se-/ *adj* of or being a compound or mixture that is composed of equal amounts of dextrorotatory and laevorotatory forms of the same compound, and is optically inactive [F *racémique*, fr L *racemus*]
- racemization**, **-isation** /rasimie'zaysh(ə)n/ *n* the action or process of changing from an optically active compound into a racemic compound or mixture - **racemize** /-i-/ *vb*


- racemose** /'rasimohs/ *adj* having or growing in the form of a raceme  PLANT [L *racemosus* full of clusters, fr *racemus*]
- racemose gland** *n* a compound gland of freely branching ducts
- race riot** *n* a riot caused by racial dissensions
- rachi**, **rachlo** - *comb form* spine (<rachitic>) [Gk *rhachī*-, fr *rhachis*; akin to Gk *rhachos* thorn, Lith *ražas* stubble]
- rachis** /raykis/ *n, pl rachises also rachides* /'rakideɪz, 'ray-/ 1 SPINAL COLUMN 2 an axial structure e.g. a(1) the main stem of a plant's inflorescence (2) an extension of the stalk of a compound leaf that bears the leaflets b the part of the shaft of a feather that bears the barbs [NL *rachid*-, *rachis*, modif of Gk *rhachis*]
- rachitis** /rə'kiətəs/ *n* rickets [NL, fr Gk *rhachitis* disease of the spine, fr *rhachis*] - **rachitic** /rə'kitik/ *adj*
- Rachmanism** /'rakməniz(ə)m/ *n, Br* the unscrupulous exploitation of poor tenants by corrupt landlords [Peter Rachman fl 1960 E landlord]
- racial** /'rayʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or based on a race 2 existing or occurring between (human) races (<strive for ~ harmony>), *also* directed towards a particular race (< ~ discrimination>) - **racially** *adv*
- racialism** /'rayʃəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 racial prejudice or discrimination 2 RACISM 1 - **racialist** *n* or *adj*, **racialistic** /-'listik/ *adj*
- racism** /'reɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a belief that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race 2 RACIALISM 1 - **racist** *n* or *adj*
- rack** /rak/ *n* a wind-driven mass of high often broken clouds [ME *rak*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw dial *rak* wreck, akin to OE *wreccan* to drive - more at WRECK]
- rack** *vi*, of clouds to fly or scud in high wind
- rack** *n* 1 a framework for holding fodder for livestock 2 an instrument of torture on which the victim's body is stretched - *usu* + *the* 3 a framework, stand, or grating on or in which articles are placed (<a luggage ~>) 4 a bar with teeth on 1 face for meshing with a pinion or worm gear (< ~ and pinion>) [ME, prob fr MD *rec* framework, akin to OE *reccan* to stretch, Gk *oregein* - more at 'RIGHT] - on the rack under great mental or emotional stress
- rack** *vt* 1 to torture on the rack 2 to cause to suffer torture, pain, or anguish (< ~ed by headaches>) 3a to stretch or strain considerably (< ~ed his brains>) b to raise (rents) oppressively 4 to place in a rack
- rack** *vi* to draw off (e.g. wine) from the lees [ME *racken*, fr OProv *arraca*, fr *raca* stems and husks of grapes after pressing]
- rack** *n* the front rib section of lamb used for chops or as a roast [perh fr 'rack]
- rack** *n* destruction - chiefly in *rack and ruin* [var of wrack]
- racket** *also* **racquet** /'rakit/ *n* 1 a lightweight implement that consists of a netting stretched in an open frame with a handle attached and that is used for striking the ball or shuttle in any of various games (e.g. tennis, squash, or badminton) 2 *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a game for 2 or 4 players played with a ball and rackets on a 4-walled court [MF *raquette*, fr It *rachetta*, fr Ar *raḥah* palm of the hand]
- racket** *n* 1 a loud and confused noise, a din 2a a fraudulent enterprise made workable esp by bribery or intimidation b an easy and lucrative means of livelihood - *infrm* c a *usu* specified occupation or business - *slang* (<he's in the publicity ~>) [prob imit]
- racket** *vi* 1 to engage in an active, esp a dissipated, social life - *usu* + *about* or *round* 2 to move with or make a racket
- racketeer** /'raki'tiə/ *n* one who extorts money or advantages by threats, blackmail, etc - **racketeer** *vi*
- rack railway** *n* a railway having between its running rails a rack that meshes with a gear wheel or pinion on a locomotive
- rack rent** *vt* or *n* (to subject to) an excessive or unreasonably high rent ['rack]
- rack-renter** *n* sby who pays or exacts rack rent
- raconteur** /'rəkon'tuː/ *n* one who excels in telling anecdotes [F, fr MF, fr *raconter* to tell, fr OF, fr *re-* + *aconter*, *acompter* to tell, count - more at ACCOUNT]
- raccoon** /rə'kooɦn/ *n* a raccoon
- raçy** /'raysi/ *adj* 1 full of zest or vigour 2 having a strongly marked quality; piquant (<a ~ flavour>) 3 risqué, suggestive ['*race* (characteristic flavour or quality)] - **racily** *adv*, **raciness** *n*
- rad** /rad/ *n* a unit of absorbed dose of ionizing radiation (e.g. X-rays) [short for *radiation*]
- radar** /'raydah/ *n* an electronic device that generates high-frequency radio waves and locates objects in the vicinity by analysis of the radio waves reflected back from them [radio detection and ranging]

**raddle** /'radl/ *n* red ochre [prob alter of *ruddle*, fr arch *rud* (red colour), fr ME *rude*, fr OE *rudu*]

**raddled** /'radl/ *adj* broken down; dilapidated; esp haggard with age or dissipation [origin unknown]


**radi-** see **RADIO-**

**'radial** /'raydiəl/ *adj* 1 (having parts) arranged like rays or radii from a central point or axis 2a relating to, placed like, or moving along a radius b characterized by divergence from a centre 3 of or situated near a radius bone (e.g. in the human forearm) [ML *radialis*, fr L *radius* ray] – **radially** *adv*

**²radial** *n* 1 any line in a system of radial lines 2 a radial body part (e.g. an artery) 3 **radial**, **radial tyre** a pneumatic tyre in which the ply cords are laid at a right angle to the centre line of the tread  **CAR**

**radial engine** *n* a usu. internal-combustion engine with cylinders arranged radially round the crankshaft

**radial symmetry** *n* the condition of having similar parts symmetrically arranged around a central axis – **radially symmetrical** *adj*

**radian** /'raydiən/ *n* a unit of angular measurement that is equal to the angle at the centre of a circle subtended by a part of the circumference equal in length to the radius  **PHYSICS** [*radius* + *-an*]

**'radiant** /'raydiənt/ *adj* 1a radiating rays or reflecting beams of light b vividly bright and shining, glowing 2 marked by or expressive of love, confidence, or happiness (a ~ smile) 3a emitted or transmitted by radiation (~ energy) b of or emitting radiant heat [ME, fr L *radiant-*, *radians*, prp of *radiare*] – **radiance**, **radiancy** *n*, **radiantly** *adv*

**²radiant** *n* 1 the apparent point of origin of a meteor shower 2 a point or object from which light or heat emanates, *specif* the part of a gas or electric heater that becomes incandescent [*RADIATE* + *-ANT*]

**radiant energy** *n* enɜːdʒi in the form of electromagnetic waves (e.g. heat, light, or radio waves)

**radiant flux** *n* the rate of emission or transmission of radiant energy

**radiant heat** *n* heat transmitted by radiation rather than by conduction or convection

**'radiate** /'raydi,əyt/ *vi* 1 to send out rays of light, heat, or any other form of radiation 2 to issue in rays 3 to proceed in a direct line from or towards a centre ~ *vi* 1a to send out in rays b to show or display clearly (~ *s health and vitality*) 2 to disseminate (as if) from a centre [L *radiatus*, pp of *radiare*, fr *radius* ray]

**²radiate** /-ət/ *adj* having rays or radial parts, *specif* having radial symmetry – **radiately** *adv*

**radiation** /'raydi'əyʃn(a)n/ *n* 1 the action or process of radiating, esp the process of emitting radiant energy in the form of waves or particles 2 energy radiated in the form of waves or particles, esp electromagnetic radiation (e.g. light) or emission from radioactive sources (e.g. alpha rays) 3 a radial arrangement – **radiational** *adj*

**radiation sickness** *n* sickness that results from overexposure to ionizing radiation (e.g. X-rays), commonly marked by fatigue, nausea, vomiting, loss of teeth and hair, and, in more severe cases, leukaemia

**radiator** /'raydi,əyət/ *n* 1 a room heater (with a large surface area for radiating heat), *specif* one through which hot water or steam circulates as part of a central-heating system 2 a device with a large surface area used for cooling an internal-combustion engine by means of water circulating through it [*RADIATE* + *-OR*]

**'radical** /'radɪkl/ *adj* 1a of or growing from the root or the base of a stem – compare **CAULINE** b of or constituting a linguistic root c of or involving a mathematical root d designed to remove the root of a disease or all diseased tissue (~ *surgery*) 2 essential, fundamental 3a departing from the usual or traditional; extreme b affecting or involving the basic composition or nature of sth; thoroughgoing (~ *changes*) c tending or disposed to make extreme changes in existing views, conditions, institutions, etc d of or constituting a political group advocating extreme measures (<the ~ right>) [ME, fr LL *radicalis*, fr L *radic-*, *radix* root – more at *'root*] – **radicalism** *n*, **radicalize** *vi*, **radically** *adv*, **radicalness** *n*, **radicalization** /-i'eɪzəʃn(a)n/ *n*

**²radical** *n* 1 **ROOT 6** 2 sby who is a member of a radical party or who holds radical views 3 a group of atoms that is replaceable in a molecule by a single atom and is capable of remaining unchanged during a series of reactions 4a **radical**, **radical expression** a mathematical expression involving radical signs b **RADICAL SIGN**

**radical chic** *n*, often *cap* **R&C** fashionable and usu superficial left-wing radicalism – *derog*

**'radical sign** *n* the sign √ placed before an expression to denote that the square root, or some other root corresponding to an index number placed over the sign, is to be calculated

**radices** /'raydi,seɪz/ *pl* of **RADIX**

**radicle** /'radɪkl/ *n* 1 the lower part of the axis of a plant embryo or seedling, including the embryonic root 2 the rootlike beginning of an anatomical vessel or part 3 a radical [L *radicula*, dim of *radic-*, *radix*] – **radicular** /'rædɪkjuːlə/ *adj*


**radii** /'raydi,i/ *pl* of **RADIUS**

**'radio** /'raydi,oh/ *n*, *pl* **radios** 1 (the use of) the system of wireless transmission and reception of signals by means of electromagnetic waves 2 a radio receiver 3a a radio transmitter (e.g. in an aircraft) b a radio broadcasting organization or station (<Radio London>) c the radio broadcasting industry d the medium of radio communication [short for *radiotelegraphy*]

**²radio** *adj* 1 of electric currents or phenomena of frequencies between about 15,000 and 10<sup>11</sup> Hz 2a of, used in, or transmitted or received by a radio b making or participating in radio broadcasts c controlled or directed by or using radio

**²radio vb** **radio**; **radioing**; **radioed** *vt* 1 to send or communicate by radio 2 to send a radio message to ~ *vi* to send or communicate sth by radio

**radio-, radi-** *comb form* 1 radial (<*radiosymmetrical*>) 2a **radiant energy**, **radiation** (<*radiodermatitis*>) b **radioactive** (<*radioelement*> (<*radionuclide*>)) c using ionizing radiation (<*radiotherapy*>) d **radioactive isotopes** of (a specified element) (<*radiocarbon*>) e **radio** (<*radiotelegraphy*>) [F, fr L *radius* ray]


**radioactivity** /'raydiəh-ak'tɪvəti/ *n* the property possessed by some elements (e.g. uranium) of spontaneously emitting alpha or beta rays and sometimes also gamma rays by the disintegration of the nuclei of atoms  **ENRGY**, **SYMBOL** [ISV] – **radioactive** *adj*, **radioactively** *adv*

**radio astronomy** *n* astronomy using radio telescopes

**radio carbon** /-'kɑːbən/ *n* radioactive carbon, esp **CARBON 14** [ISV]

**radiochemistry** /-'kemɪstri/ *n* a branch of chemistry dealing with radioactive substances and phenomena, and including the use of radioactive tracers – **radiochemical** *adj*, **radiochemically** *adv*, **radiochemist** *n*

**radioelement** /-'eləmənt/ *n* a radioactive element [ISV]

**'radio frequency** *n* a frequency (e.g. of electromagnetic waves) intermediate between audio frequencies and infrared frequencies and used esp in radio and television transmission  **PHYSICS**

**radio'genic** /-'jenɪk/ *adj* produced by radioactivity

**radiogram** /'raydi,əgram, -dɪəh/ *n* 1 a radiograph 2 Br a combined radio receiver and record player

**radiograph** /'raydi,əgrəf, -grəf, -dɪəh/ *n* a picture produced on a sensitive surface by a form of radiation other than light, *specif* an X-ray or gamma-ray photograph – **radiograph** *vi*, **radiographic** /-'græfɪk/ *adj*, **radiographically** *adv*, **radiographer** /'raydi,əgrəfə/ *n*

**radioisotope** /'raydiəh'iesətohp/ *n* a radioactive isotope [ISV] – **radioisotopic** /-'iesə'tɒpɪk, -'toh/ *adj*, **radioisotopically** *adv*

**radiolarian** /'raydiəh'leəri-ən/ *n* any of a large order of marine protozoans with a skeleton made of silica and radiating threadlike pseudopodia [NL *Radiolaria*, order name, fr LL *radiolus* small sunbeam, fr dim of L *radius* ray]

**radiology** /'raydi'ɒlədʒi/ *n* the study and use of radioactive substances and high-energy radiations; esp the use of radiant energy (e.g. X rays and gamma rays) in the diagnosis and treatment of disease – **radiologist** *n*, **radiological** /'raydi,ɒ'lɒdʒɪkl/ *adj*

**radiometer** /'raydi'ɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the intensity of radiant or sound energy – **radiometry** /-'mɛtri/ *n*

**radiomimetic** /'raydiəh'mɪ'metɪk, -mɪe-/ *adj*, esp of *chemical compounds* producing effects on living tissue similar to those of ionizing radiation (e.g. X rays) [ISV]

**radiopaque** /'raydiəh'pəyk/ *adj* (almost) opaque to various forms of radiation (e.g. X rays)

**radiophonic** /'raydi,ə'fɒnɪk, -dɪəh/ *adj* of, being, or creating sounds that are electronically produced (<the BBC Radiophonic Workshop>) – **radiophonically** *adv*

**radioscopy** /'raydi'ɒskəpi/ *n* observation of objects opaque to light, esp by means of X rays [ISV] – **radioscopic** /'raydi,ɒ'skɒpɪk/ *adj*

**radiosonde** /'raydiəh'sɒnd/ *n* a miniature radio transmitter carried (e.g. by an unmanned balloon) into the atmosphere together with instruments for broadcasting back details of humidity, temperature, air pressure, etc [ISV]

**radiotelegraphy** /'raydiəhts'legrəfi/ *n* telegraphy carried out by means of radio waves [ISV] – **radiotelegraphic** /-'teli'græfɪk/ *adj*

**radiotelephone** /-'teli'fəhn/ *n* an apparatus for enabling telephone messages to be sent by radio (e.g. from a moving vehicle) [ISV] – **radiotelephony** /-'tɛləfəni/ *n*



- radio telescope** *n* a radio receiver connected to a large often dish-shaped aerial for recording and measuring radio waves from celestial bodies
- radiotherapy** /-ˈθerəpi/ *n* the treatment of disease (e.g. cancer) by means of X rays or radiation from radioactive substances [ISV] – **radiotherapist** *n*
- radio-ulna** *n* a bone in the forelimb of an amphibian (e.g. a frog) that represents the fused radius and ulna of less primitive vertebrate animals (e.g. mammals) [NL]
- radio wave** *n* an electromagnetic wave of radio frequency
- radish** /ˈrædɪʃ/ *n* (a plant of the mustard family with) a pungent fleshy typically dark red root, eaten raw as a salad vegetable [ME, alter. of OE *radic*, fr. L *radix*, root, radish – more at **ROOT**]
- radium** /ˈreɪdɪəm/ *n* an intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute quantities in pitchblende and some other minerals and is used chiefly in luminous materials and in the treatment of cancer  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr. L *radius* ray]
- radium, therapy** *n* radiotherapy using radium
- radius** /ˈreɪdi-əs/ *n*, *pl* **radii** /-dɪ-ə/ also **radiuses** 1 the bone on the thumb side of the human forearm; also a corresponding part in forms of vertebrate animals higher than fishes  ANATOMY 2 (the length of) a straight line extending from the centre of a circle or sphere to the circumference or surface  MATHEMATICS 3a the circular area defined by a stated radius b a bounded or circumscribed area (*alerted all police cars within a 2 mile ~*) 4 a radial part (e.g. a spoke of a wheel) [L, ray, radius]
- radius** *vt* to give a rounded edge to (e.g. a machine part)
- radius, vector** *n* 1 the length of a line segment from a fixed point (e.g. the origin in a polar coordinate system) to a variable point 2 an imaginary straight line joining the centre of an attracting body with a body in orbit round it
- radix** /ˈreɪdɪks/ *n*, *pl* **radices** /-ˈsiːz/, **radixes** 1 BASE 4d(1) 2 a root or rootlike part [L, root]
- radome** /ˈreɪ,dohm/ *n* a housing sheltering a radar antenna, esp. on an aircraft [*radar dome*]
- radon** /ˈreɪdn/ *n* a radioactive noble gaseous element formed by disintegration of radium  PERIODIC TABLE [ISV, fr. *radium*]
- radula** /ˈrædjuːlə/ *n*, *pl* **radulae** /-li/ also **radulas** a horny band covered with minute teeth found in some molluscs (e.g. snails) and used to tear up food and draw it into the mouth [NL, fr. L *scrap*, fr. *radere* to scrape – more at **RAT**] – **radular** *adj*
- raffia, raphia** /ˈræfi-ə/ *n* the fibre of the raffia palm used esp. for making baskets, hats, and table mats [Malagasy *rafia*]
- raffia, palm** *n* a palm of Madagascar with enormous fan-shaped leaves
- raffish** /ˈræfɪʃ/ *adj* marked by careless unconventionality, rakish [raff (jumble, rubbish, disreputable person), fr. ME *raf*, perh. fr. MF *raffe*, *raffe* act of snatching, sweeping] – **raffishly** *adv*, **raffishness** *n*
- raffle** /ˈræfl/ *vt* or *n* **raffling** /ˈræflɪŋ/ (to dispose of by means of) a lottery in which the prizes are usually goods (<~ a turkey>) [n. ME, kind of game with dice, fr. MF, vb. fr. n]
- raft** /ˈræft/ *n* 1a a collection of logs or timber fastened together for transport by water b a flat usu. wooden structure designed to float on water and used as a platform or vessel 2 a foundation slab for a building, usu. made of reinforced concrete [ME *rafter* rafter, raft, fr. ON *raptr* rafter]
- raft** *vt* 1a to transport in the form of or by means of a raft b to cross (e.g. a lake or river) by raft 2 to make into a raft ~ *vi* to travel by raft
- raft** *n*, chiefly **NAM** a large collection or quantity (*assembled a ~ of facts and figures* – *New Yorker*) [alter. (influenced by *raft*) of *raff* (jumble)]
- rafter** /ˈræftə/ *n* any of the parallel beams that form the framework of a roof  ARCHITECTURE [ME, fr. OE *rafter*; akin to ON *raptr*]
- rafter** *n* one who manoeuvres logs into position and binds them into rafts [*ˈraff*]
- rag** /rag/ *n* 1a (a waste piece of) worn cloth b *pl* clothes, esp. when in poor or ragged condition 2 a scrap or unevenly shaped fragment of sth (<a ~ of cloud>) 3 a usu. sensational or poorly written newspaper [ME *rag*, fr. (assumed) OE *ragg*, fr. ON *rōgg* tuft, shagginess – more at **RUG**]
- rag** *n* any of various hard rocks used in building [origin unknown]
- rag** *vb* -gg- *vt* to torment, tease ~ *vi* to engage in horseplay [origin unknown]
- rag** *n*, chiefly **Br** 1 an outburst of boisterous fun; a prank 2 a series of processions and stunts organized by students to raise money for charity (<~ week>)
- rag** *n* (a composition or dance in) ragtime [short for *ragtime*]
- raga** /ˈræɡə/ *n* (an improvisation based on) any of the ancient traditional melodic patterns or modes in Indian music [Skt *raga*, lit., colour, tone]
- ragamuffin** /ˈræɡə,mufɪn/ *n* a ragged often disreputable person, esp. a child [*Ragamoffyn*, a demon in the poem *Piers Plowman* by William Langland †1400 E poet]
- rag-and-bone** *man* *n*, chiefly **Br** a usu. itinerant dealer in old clothes, furniture, etc.
- ragbag** /ˈræɡ,bæg/ *n* 1 a dishevelled or slovenly person 2 a miscellaneous collection (<a ~ of prejudices>) **USE** infml
- rag, bolt** *n* a bolt that has barbs on its shank to grip the material in which it is set [*rag* (jagged projection on cast metal)]
- rag** *doll* *n* a stuffed cloth doll
- rage** /reɪ/ *n* 1 (a fit or bout of) violent and uncontrolled anger 2 violent action (e.g. of the wind or sea) 3 an intense feeling, passion 4 (an object of) fashionable and temporary enthusiasm (<enormous hats were all the ~> – infml) [ME, fr. MF, fr. LL *rabia*, fr. L *rabies* rage, madness, fr. *rabere* to be mad, akin to Skt *rahhas* violence]
- rage** *vi* 1 to be in a rage 2 to be violently stirred up or in tumult (<the wind ~d outside>) 3 to be unchecked in violence or effect (<the controversy still ~s>)
- ragged** /ˈræɡɪd/ *adj* 1 having an irregular edge or outline 2 torn or worn to tatters 3 wearing tattered clothes 4a straggly b showing irregularities, uneven – **raggedly** *adv*, **raggedness** *n*
- ragged robin** *n* a perennial Eurasian plant of the pink family with ragged pink flowers
- raggle-taggle** /ˈræɡl,tæɡl/ *adj* motley, unkempt [*irreg* fr. *ragtag* (ragged, unkempt), fr. *rag* + *tag*]
- ragi, raggee** /ˈræɡeɪ, ˈræ-/ *n* (the seeds of) an E. Indian cereal grass forming a staple food crop in the Orient [Hindi *ragi*]
- raglan** /ˈræɡlən/ *n* a loose overcoat with raglan sleeves [F J H Somerset, Baron *Raglan* †1855 E. field-marshal]
- raglan sleeve** *n* a sleeve that extends to the neckline with slanted seams from the underarm to the neck
- ragout** /ˈræɡuːh, -/ *n* a well-seasoned stew, esp. of meat and vegetables, cooked in a thick sauce [F *ragoût*, fr. *ragoutier* to revive the taste, fr. *re-* a- ad- (fr. L *ad-*) + *goût* taste, fr. L *gustus*, akin to L *gustare* to taste – more at **CHOOSE**]
- ragtime** /ˈræɡtiəm/ *n* (music having) rhythm characterized by strong syncopation in the melody with a regularly accented accompaniment [prob. fr. *ragged* + *time*]
- rag, trade** *n* the clothing trade – infml
- ragweed** /ˈræɡ,wiːd/ *n* any of various chiefly N. American composite plants whose pollen is a major cause of hay fever
- ragworm** /ˈræɡ,wuːm/ *n* any of various marine annelid worms used esp. as bait
- ragwort** /ˈræɡ,wuːt/ *n* any of several yellow-flowered composite plants that have deeply cut leaves and are common weeds
- rah** also **ra** /rah/ *interj*, chiefly **NAM** hurrah
- raid** /reɪd/ *n* 1a a usu. hostile incursion made in order to seize sth or sthg (<a cattle ~>) b a surprise attack by a small force 2 a sudden invasion by the police (e.g. in search of criminals or stolen goods) 3 an attempt to depress share prices by concerted selling 4 an act of robbery [Sc. dial., fr. OE *rad* ride, raid – more at **ROAD**]
- raid** *vt* to make a raid on ~ *vi* to take part in a raid – **raider** *n*
- rail** /reɪl/ *n* 1a an esp. horizontal bar, usu. supported by posts, which may serve as a barrier (e.g. across a balcony) or as a support on or from which sthg (e.g. a curtain) may be hung b a horizontal structural support (e.g. in a door)  ARCHITECTURE 2a **RAILING** 1 b either of the fences on each side of a horse-racing track – usu. *pl* with *sing.* meaning 3a either of a pair of lengths of rolled steel forming a guide and running surface (e.g. a railway) for wheeled vehicles b the railway (<always travels by ~>) [ME *raile*, fr. MF *reille* ruler, bar, fr. L *regula* ruler, fr. *regere* to keep straight, direct, rule – more at **RIGHT**] – **off the rails** 1 away from the proper or normal course; awry 2 mad, crazy
- rail** *vt* to enclose or separate with a rail or rails – often + **off**
- rail** *n*, *pl* **rails**, esp. collectively *rail* any of numerous wading birds of small or medium size, usu. having very long toes which enable them to run on soft wet ground [ME *raile*, fr. MF *raale*]
- rail** *vi* to utter angry complaints or abuse – often + **against** or **at** [ME *railen*, fr. MF *railler* to mock, fr. OProv *raillar* to babble, joke, fr. (assumed) VL *ragulare* to bray, fr. LL *ragere* to neigh] – **raller** *n*



**railcar** /ˈraɪl,kɑː/ *n* a self-propelled railway carriage  
**railhead** /ˈraɪl,hed/ *n* the farthest point reached by a railway; also the point at which goods are transferred to or from road transport  
**railing** /ˈraɪlɪŋ/ *n* 1 a usu vertical rail in a fence or similar barrier 2 (material for making) rails  
**railery** /ˈraɪl(ə)rɪ/ *n* (a piece of) good-humoured teasing [F *raillerie*, fr MF, fr *railler* to mock]  
**railroad** /ˈraɪl,roʊd/ *n*, *NAM* a railway  
**railroad** *vt* 1a to push through hastily or without due consideration b to hustle into taking action or making a decision 2 *NAM* to transport by rail 3 *NAM* to convict with undue haste or by unjust means – **rail-roader** *n*  
**railway** /ˈraɪl,weɪ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 1 a line of track usu having 2 parallel lines or rails fixed to sleepers on which vehicles run to transport goods and passengers, also such a track and its assets (e.g. rolling stock and buildings) constituting a single property 2 an organization which runs a railway network <works as a clerk on the ~>  
**railwayman** /ˈraɪlweɪmən/ *n*, *pl* railwaymen /~/ *Br* a railway worker  
**raiment** /ˈraɪmənt/ *n* garments, clothing – poetic <the heroine garbed in flowing ~ ~ New York Times> [ME *rayment*, short for *arrayment*, fr *arrayen* to array]  
**rain** /reɪn/ *n* 1a (a descent of) water falling in drops condensed from vapour in the atmosphere ☼ WEATHER b rainwater 2 *pl* the rainy season 3 rainy weather 4 a dense flow or fall of sth <a steady ~ of fire from the helicopters> <greeted him with a ~ of abuse> [ME *reyn*, fr OE *regn*, *ren*, akin to OHG *regan* rain]  
**rain** *vi* 1 of rain to fall in drops from the clouds 2 to fall in profusion ~ *vt* 1 to cause to fall, پاشان or send down 2 to bestow abundantly – **rain cats and dogs** to rain heavily  
**rainbow** /ˈraɪnbəʊ/ *n* 1 an arch in the sky consisting of a series of concentric arcs of the colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, formed esp opposite the sun by the refraction, reflection, and interference of light rays in raindrops, spray, etc 2 an array of bright colours  
**rainbow-coloured** *adj* of many colours  
**rainbow trout** *n* a large stout-bodied trout of Europe and western N America  
**raincoat** /ˈreɪnkəʊt/ *n* a coat made from waterproof or water-resistant material  
**rainfall** /ˈreɪnfɔːl/ *n* 1 a fall of rain, a shower 2 the amount of rain that has fallen in a given area during a given time, usu measured by depth  
**rain forest** *n* a dense tropical woodland with an annual rainfall of at least 2500mm (about 100in) and containing lofty broad-leaved evergreen trees forming a continuous canopy ☼ PLANT  
**rain gauge** *n* an instrument for measuring rainfall  
**rain off** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to interrupt or prevent (e.g. a sporting fixture) by rain – usu *pass*  
**rainproof** /ˈreɪnpʊʊf/ *vt* or *adj* (to make) impervious to rain  
**rain shadow** *n* an area of relatively light rainfall in the lee of a mountain range  
**rainwater** /ˈreɪnwɔːtə/ *n* water that has fallen as rain and is therefore usu soft  
**rainy** /ˈreɪni/ *adj* 1 having or characterized by heavy rainfall 2 wet with rain <~ streets>  
**rainy day** *n* a future period of usu financial want or need <keep it for a ~>  
**raise** /reɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause or help to rise to an upright or standing position 2a to awaken, arouse b to stir up, incite c to recall (as if) from death d to establish radio communication with 3a to build, erect b to lift up c to place higher in rank or dignity d to invigorate <~ the spirits> e to end the operation of <~ a siege> 4a to levy, obtain <~ funds> b to assemble, collect <~ an army> 5a to grow, cultivate b to rear (e.g. a child) 6a to give rise to; provoke <~ a laugh> b to give voice or expression to <~ a cheer> 7 to bring up for consideration or debate <~ an issue> 8a to increase the strength, intensity, degree, or pitch of <~ the temperature> b to cause to rise in level or amount <~ the rent> c(1) to increase the amount of (a poker bet) (2) to bet more than (a previous bet) 9 to make light and porous, esp by adding yeast <~ dough> 10 to multiply (a quantity) by the same quantity a number of times so as to produce a specified power <2 ~d to the power 3 equals 8> 11 to bring in sight on the horizon by approaching <~ land> 12a to bring up the nap of (cloth), esp by brushing b to bring (e.g. a design) into relief c to cause (e.g. a blister) to form on the skin 13 to pronounce (a vowel sound) with the tongue unusually near the roof of the mouth 14 chiefly *NAM* to increase

the nominal value of fraudulently <~ a cheque> [ME *raisin*, fr ON *reisa* – more at **rear**] – **raiser** *n* – **raise** *Calm/hell/the roof* to create a usu angry and noisy disturbance; *esp* to complain vehemently – *infrml* – **raise** *an eyebrow/eyebrows* to cause surprise, doubt, or disapproval <his ideas would raise eyebrows in political circles>  
**raise** *n* 1 an act of raising or lifting 2a an increase of a bet or bid b chiefly *NAM* rise 4b  
**raisin** /ˈreɪz(ə)n/ *n* a dried grape [ME, fr MF, grape, fr L *racemus* cluster of grapes or berries]  
**raising agent** /ˈreɪzɪŋ/ *n* LEAVEN 1  
**raison d'être** /ˈreɪzən(h) 'deɪtrə/ (Fr *rezə deɪtrə*) *n* a reason or justification for existence [F]  
**raj** /rɑːj/ *n* RULF 3, *specific*, cap British rule in India [Hindi *raj*, fr Skt *rajya*, akin to Skt *rajan* king]  
**rajah, raja** /ˈrɑːjə/ *n* 1 an Indian or Malay prince or chief 2 a person bearing a Hindu title of nobility [Hindi *rāja*, fr Skt *rajan* king – more at **ROYAL**]  
**Rajput, Rajpoot** /ˈrɑːjpʊt/ *n* a member of a landowning military Indo-Aryan caste of N India [Hindi *rajput*, fr Skt *rajaputra* king's son, fr *rajan* king + *putra* son – more at **FEW**]  
**rake** /reɪk/ *n* 1 a long-handled implement with a head on which a row of projecting prongs is fixed for gathering hay, grass, etc or for loosening or levelling the surface of the ground, also any of several implements similar in shape or use (e.g. a tool used to draw together the money or chips on a gaming table) 2 a mechanical implement, usu with rotating pronged wheels, used for gathering hay [ME, fr OE *racu*, akin to OHG *rehho* rake]  
**rake** *vi* 1 to gather, loosen, or level (as if) with a rake 2 to search through, *esp* in a haphazard manner – often + *through* or *among* 3 to sweep the length of, *esp* with gunfire – **raker** *n*  
**rake** *vb* to (cause to) incline from the perpendicular [origin unknown]  
**rake** *n* 1 inclination from the perpendicular, *esp* the overhang of a ship's bow or stern 2 the angle of inclination or slope, *esp* of a stage in a theatre  
**rake** *n* a dissolute man, *esp* in fashionable society [short for arch *rakehell* (dissolute person), fr *'rake* + *hell*]  
**rake in** *vt* to earn or gain (money) rapidly or in abundance – *infrml*  
**rake-off** *n* a share of usu dishonestly gained profits – *infrml* [*'rake* + *off*, fr the use of a rake by a croupier to collect the operator's profits in a gambling casino]  
**rake up** *vt* 1 to uncover, revive <raked up an old grievance> 2 to find or collect, *esp* with difficulty <managed to rake up enough money for the rent>  
**rakish** /ˈreɪkɪʃ/ *adj* dissolute, licentious [*'RAKE* + *-ish*]  
**rakish** *adj* 1 of a ship, boat, etc having a smart stylish appearance suggestive of speed 2 dashing, jaunty <with her hat at a ~ angle> [prob fr *'rake*; fr the raking masts of pirate ships] – **rakishly** *adv*, **rakish-ness** *n*  
**râle** /rɑːl/ *n* an abnormal wheezing sound that accompanies breathing, due esp to liquid in the lungs [F *râle*, fr *râler* to rattle]  
**rallentando** /ˌrælən'tandoh/ *n*, *adj*, or *adv*, *pl* **rallentandos**, **rallentandi** /-di/ (a passage performed) with a gradual decrease in tempo – used in music [It, lit., slowing down, fr *rallentare* to slow down again, fr *re-* + *allentare* to slow down, fr LL, fr L *al-* ad- + *lentus* slow, pliant]  
**rally** /ˈrɑːli/ *vt* 1 to bring together for a common cause 2a to arouse for or recall to order or action <rallied his wits to face the problem> b to rouse from depression or weakness <rallied his strength> ~ *vi* 1 to join in a common cause <thousands will ~ to the new party> 2 to come together again to renew an effort <the troops rallied and drove back the enemy> 3 to recover, revive <began to ~ after his long illness> [F *rallier*, fr OF *ralier*, fr *re-* + *alier* to unite – more at **ALLY**]  
**rally** *n* 1a a mustering of scattered forces to renew an effort b a recovery of strength or courage after weakness or dejection c an increase in price after a decline 2 a mass meeting of people sharing a common interest or supporting a common, usu political, cause 3 a series of strokes interchanged between players (e.g. in tennis) before a point is won 4 also **rallye** a motor race, usu over public roads, designed to test both speed and navigational skills [(4) F *rallye*, fr E *'rally*]  
**rallycross** /ˈrɑːli,kros/ *n* a motor sport in which specially adapted saloon cars race round a 1-mile circuit [*'rally* + *-cross* (as in *cyclocross*)]  
**ram** /rɑːm/ *n* 1 an uncastrated male sheep 2a **BATTERING RAM** b a heavy beak on the prow of a warship for piercing enemy vessels; also a warship equipped with a ram 3a the plunger of a hydrostatic press or force pump b the weight that strikes the blow in a pile driver [ME, fr OE *ramm*; akin to OHG *ram*]

**ram** vb -mm- vi to strike with violence (*her car ~ med into a tree*) ~ vt 1 to force down or in by driving, pressing, or pushing (<~ med his hat down over his ears> 2 to force passage or acceptance of (<~ home an idea> 3 to strike against violently and usu head-on - *rammer* n - *ram* something down someone's throat to force sby to accept or listen to sthg, esp by constant repetition

**Ramadan**, *Ramadhan* /'ramadən, -dahn, -'-/ n the 9th month of the Muslim year, during which fasting is practised daily from dawn to sunset [Ar *Ramaḍān*]

**ramble** /rambl/ vi *rambling* /'ramblɪŋ, 'ramblɪŋ/ 1 to walk for pleasure, esp without a planned route 2 to talk or write in a disconnected long-winded fashion 3 to grow or extend irregularly (<a rambling old house> [perh fr ME *romblen*, freq of *romen* to roam] - *rambly* adv

**ramble** n a leisurely walk taken for pleasure and often without a planned route

**rambler** /'ramblə/ n any of various climbing roses with small, often double, flowers in large clusters [RAMBL + -ER]

**rambunctious** /'rambʊŋkʃəs/ adj, NAm rumbustious, unruly - *infrml* [prob alter. of *rumbustious*] - *rambunctiously* adv, *rambunctiousness* n

**rambutan** /'ram'boʊtən/ n (a tree that bears) a bright red spiny Malayan fruit closely related to the litchi [Malay, fr *rambut* hair]

**ramekin**, *ramequin* /'ram(ɪ)kɪn/ n 1 a preparation of cheese with breadcrumbs, puff pastry, or eggs baked in an individual mould 2 an individual baking and serving dish [F *ramequin*, fr LG *ramken*, dim. of *ram* cream, fr MLG *rom*]

**ramification** /'ramɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ n 1a the act or process of branching out b the arrangement of branches (e.g. on a plant) 2a a branch, subdivision b a branched structure 3 a usu extended or complicated consequence (<the ~s of a problem>)

**ramiform** /'ramɪfɔrm/ adj resembling or constituting branches [L *ramus* + E -iform]

**ramify** /'ramɪfɪ/ vb to (cause to) separate or split up into branches, divisions or constituent parts [MF *ramifier*, fr ML *ramificare*, fr L *ramus* branch; akin to L *radix* root - more at *root*]

**ramjet** /'ramjet/ n a jet engine that uses the flow of compressed air produced by the forward movement of the aeroplane, rocket, etc to burn the fuel [*'ram* + *jet*]

**ramose** /'raɪmoʊs/ adj consisting of or having branches [L *ramosus*, fr *ramus* branch] - *ramosely* adv

**ramp** /ramp/ n 1 a sloping floor, walk, or roadway leading from one level to another 2 a stairway for entering or leaving an aircraft [F *rampe*, fr *ramper* to crawl, rear, of Gmc origin, akin to MLG *ramp* cramp, OHG *rimpan* to wrinkle]

**rampage** /'rampəɪ/ vi to rush about wildly or violently [Sc, perh irreg fr *ramp* (to rear, rage, climb), fr ME *rampen*, fr OF *ramper*]

**rampage** /'rampəɪ/ n - on the *rampage* engaged in violent or uncontrolled behaviour

**rampant** /'rampənt/ adj 1 of a heraldic animal rearing upon the hind legs with forelegs extended - used postpositively 2a characterized by wildness or absence of restraint (e.g. of opinion or action) (<a ~ *militarist*>) b spreading or growing unchecked (<a ~ *crime wave*>) [ME, fr MF, prp of *ramper*] - *rampancy* n, *rampantly* adv

**rampart** /'rampɑrt/ n 1 a broad embankment raised as a fortification (e.g. around a fort or city) and usu surmounted by a parapet [CHURCH 2 a protective barrier; a bulwark [MF *rampart*, *rempart*, fr *ramper*, *remparer* to fortify, strengthen, fr *re-* + *emparer* to defend, protect, deriv of L *ante* before + *parare* to prepare]

**rampon** /'rampɒn/ n a European plant that is related to the harebell and whose tuberous root is sometimes eaten in salads [prob modif of MF *raiponce*, fr OIt *raponzo*, prob fr *rapa*, *rapo* turnip, fr L *rapa*, *rapum* rape, turnip]

**ramrod** /'ram,rod/ n 1 a rod for ramming home the charge in a muzzle-loading firearm 2 a rod for cleaning the barrels of rifles and other small arms

**ramshackle** /'ramʃakl/ adj badly constructed or needing repair; rickety [alter. of earlier *ransackled*, fr pp of obs *ransackle*, freq of *ransack*]

**ramsons** /'ramsɒnz, -zanz/ n pl but sing in constr (the root, eaten as a relish, of) a broad-leaved garlic [ME *ramsyn*, fr OE *hramsan*, pl of *hramsa* wild garlic]

**ran** /ran/ past of *RUN*

**ranh** /'ranh/ n 1 a large farm for raising livestock esp in N America and Australia 2 chiefly NAm a farm or area devoted to raising a

particular crop or animal (<a poultry ~> [MexSp *rancho* small ranch, fr Sp, camp, hut & Sp dial, small farm, fr OSp *ranchar* (sc) to take up quarters, fr MF (sc) *ranger* to take up a position, fr *ranger* to set in a row - more at 'RANGE]

**ranch** vi to own, work, or live on a ranch - *rancher* n

**rancid** /'ransɪd/ adj (smelling or tasting) rank [L *rancidus*, fr *rancere* to be rancid] - *rancidness*, *rancidity* /'ransɪdɪti/ n

**rancour**, NAm *rancor* /'rangka/ n bitter and deep-seated ill will or hatred [ME *rancour*, fr MF *rancœur*, fr LL *rancor* rancidity, rancour, fr L *rancere*] - *rancorous* adj

**rand** /'rand/ n, pl *rand* 𐀀 South Africa at NATIONALITY [the *Rand*, gold-mining district of S Africa]

**random** /'randəm/ n [ME, impetuosity, fr MF *randon*, fr OF, fr *randir* to run, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *rinnan* to run - more at *RUN*] - *at random* without definite aim, direction, rule, or method

**random** adj 1 lacking a definite plan, purpose, or pattern 2 (of, consisting of, or being events, parts, etc) having or relating to a probability of occurring equal to that of all similar parts, events, etc - *randomly* adv, *randomness* n

**random-access** adj permitting access to stored data in any order the user desires (<a ~ computer memory>) 𐀀 COMPUTER

**randomize**, -ise /'randəmɪz/ vt to arrange (e.g. samples) so as to simulate a chance distribution and yield unbiased statistical data

**randomizer** n

**random walk** n a process (e.g. the random movement of molecules or genetic drift) consisting of a sequence of steps, each of whose characteristics (e.g. magnitude and direction) are determined by chance

**randy** /'randi/ adj sexually aroused; lustful - *infrml* [prob fr obs *rand* (to rant), fr obs D *randen*, *ranten*]

**rang** /rang/ past of *RING*

**range** /'raɪŋ/ n 1a a series of mountains b a number of objects or products forming a distinct class or series c a variety, cross-section (<a good ~ of people here> 2 a usu solid-fuel fired cooking stove with 1 or more ovens, a flat metal top, and 1 or more areas for heating pans 3a an open region over which livestock may roam and feed, esp in N America b the region throughout which a kind of living organism or ecological community naturally lives or occurs 4a(1) the distance to which a projectile can be propelled (2) the distance between a weapon and the target b the maximum distance a vehicle can travel without refuelling c a place where shooting (e.g. with guns or missiles) is practised 5a the space or extent included, covered, or used b the extent of pitch within a melody or within the capacity of a voice or instrument 6a a sequence, series, or scale between limits (<a wide ~ of patterns>) b (the difference between) the least and greatest values of an attribute or series 𐀀 STATISTICS 7 the set of values a function may take, esp the values that a dependent variable may have 8 LINE 9 [ME, row of persons, fr OF *range*, fr *rengier* to range]

**range** vi 1a to set in a row or in the proper order (<troops were ~d on either side>) b to place among others in a specified position or situation (<~d himself with the radicals in the party>) 2 to roam over or through 3 to determine or give the elevation necessary for (a gun) to propel a projectile to a given distance ~ vi 1 to roam at large or freely (<the talk ~d over current topics>) 2 esp of printing type to align 3 to extend in a usu specified direction 4 of a gun or projectile to have a usu specified range 5 to change or differ within limits (<their ages ~d from 5 to 65>) 6 to live, occur in, or be native to, a specified region [ME *rangien*, fr MF *ranger*, fr OF *rengier*, fr *renc*, *reng* line, place, row - more at 'RANK]

**range finder** n a device for indicating or measuring the distance between a gun and a target or a camera and an object















































































**ranger** /'raɪŋjə/ n 1a the keeper of a British royal park or forest b an officer who patrols a N American national park or forest 2a a member of any of several bodies of armed men in N America who range over a usu specified region, esp to enforce the law b a soldier in the US army specially trained in close-range fighting and raiding tactics 3 often *cap* a private in an Irish line regiment 4 *cap* a senior member of the British Guide movement aged from 14 to 19 [RANGE + -ER]

**ranging rod** /'raɪŋjɪŋ/ n a rod, usu painted with alternate red and white stripes, used in surveying to mark a straight line

**rangy** /'raɪŋji/ adj 1 of an animal long-limbed and long-bodied 2 of a person tall and slender [𐀀 range + -y] - *ranginess* n

**rani**, *raanee* /'rah'nee, -'-/ n a Hindu queen or princess; esp the wife of a rajah [Hindi *rani*, fr Skt *rajñī*, fem of *rajan* king - more at *ROYAL*]

**rank** /'rangk/ adj 1 (covered with vegetation which is) excessively vigorous and often coarse in growth 2 offensively gross or coarse 3a shockingly conspicuous; flagrant (<lecture him on his ~ disloyalty>) b

Royal Navy	US Navy	Army	US Army	RAF	USAF	Royal Marines	US Marines
 admiral of the fleet	 fleet admiral	 field marshal	 general of the army	 marshal of the RAF	 general of the air force		
 admiral	 admiral	 general	★★★★★ general	 air chief marshal	★★★★★ general	 general	★★★★★ general
 vice admiral	 vice admiral	 lieutenant general	★★★ lieutenant general	 air marshal	★★★ lieutenant general	 lieutenant general	★★★ lieutenant general
 rear admiral	 rear admiral	 major general	★★ major general	 air vice marshal	★★ major general	 major general	★★ major general
 commodore	 commodore	 brigadier	★ brigadier general	 air commodore	★ brigadier general	 brigadier	★ brigadier general
 captain	 captain	 colonel	 colonel	 group captain	 colonel	 colonel	 colonel
 commander	 commander	 lieutenant colonel	 lieutenant colonel	 wing commander	 lieutenant colonel	 lieutenant colonel	 lieutenant colonel
 lieutenant commander	 lieutenant commander	 major	 major	 squadron leader	 major	 major	 major
 lieutenant	 lieutenant	 captain	 captain	 flight lieutenant	 captain	 captain	 captain
 sub lieutenant	 lieutenant junior grade	 lieutenant	 1st lieutenant	 flying officer	 1st lieutenant	 lieutenant	 1st lieutenant
 midshipman	 ensign	 2nd lieutenant	 2nd lieutenant	 pilot officer	 2nd lieutenant	 2nd lieutenant	 2nd lieutenant
	chief warrant officer	warrant officer 1st class	chief warrant officer	warrant officer master aircrew	chief warrant officer	warrant officer 1st class	chief warrant officer
fleet chief petty officer	master chief petty officer	warrant officer 2nd class	warrant officer specialist 9	flight sergeant	chief master sergeant	warrant officer 2nd class	sergeant major
	senior chief petty officer	staff sergeant	sergeant major specialist 9	flight sergeant aircrew	senior master sergeant		master gunnery sergeant
chief petty officer	chief petty officer	 sergeant	1st sergeant		master sergeant		master sergeant
petty officer	petty officer 1st class	 sergeant specialist 8	sergeant specialist 8	chief technician	technical sergeant		gunnery sergeant
	petty officer 2nd class	 sergeant specialist 7	sergeant specialist 7	sergeant	staff sergeant	colour sergeant	staff sergeant
leading seaman	seaman	 corporal	staff sergeant specialist 6	corporal	airman 1st class	sergeant corporal	sergeant corporal
able seaman	seaman		sergeant specialist 5	junior technician			
ordinary seaman	seaman apprentice		corporal specialist 4	senior aircraftman	airman 2nd class	lance corporal	lance corporal
junior seaman	seaman recruit	lance corporal	private 1st class	leading aircraftman	airman 3rd class	marine	private 1st class
		private	private	aircraftman	airman basic		private

complete – used as an intensive (< a ~ outsider) 4 offensive in odour or flavour [ME, fr OE *ranc* overbearing, strong, akin to OE *rht* right – more at **RIGHT**] – **rankly** *adv*, **rankness** *n*

**rank** *n* 1a a row, line, or series of people or things b (1) *sing or pl in constr* a line of soldiers ranged side by side in close order (2) *pl* RANK AND FILE e any of the 8 rows of squares that extend across a chessboard perpendicular to the files 2 an esp military formation – often *pl* with *sing* meaning <to break ~s> 3a a degree or position in a hierarchy or order; *specif* an official position in the armed forces b (high) social position <the privileges of ~> 4 the number of rows in a mathematical matrix 5 Br a place where taxis wait to pick up passengers [MF *renc*, *reng*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *hring* ring – more at **RING**]

**rank** *vi* 1 to arrange in lines or in a regular formation 2 to determine the relative position of; rate 3 *NAM* to outrank ~ *vi* to take or have a position in relation to others

**rank** and **file** *n sing or pl in constr* 1 the body of members of an armed force as distinguished from the officers 2 the individuals constituting the body of an organization, society, or nation as distinguished from the leading or principal members <~ members of the orchestra> – **rank** and **filer** *n*

**ranker** /'rangka/ *n* one who serves or has served in the ranks, esp a commissioned officer promoted from the ranks

**ranking** /'rangking/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* having a high or the highest position

**rankle** /'rangkl/ *vi* **rankling** /'rangkling, 'rangkl-ing/ to cause continuing anger, irritation, or bitterness [ME *ranclen* to fester, fr MF *rancler*, fr OF *draoncler*, *raoncler*, fr *draoncle*, *raoncle* festering sore, fr (assumed) VL *dracunculus*, fr L, dim of *draco* serpent – more at **DRAGON**]

**ransack** /'ransak/ *vi* 1 to search in a disordered but thorough manner 2 to rob, plunder [ME *ransaken*, fr ON *rannsaka*, fr *rann* house + *-saka* (akin to OE *secan* to seek)] – **ransacker** *n*

**ransom** /'ransəm/ *n* 1 a price paid or demanded for the release of a captured or kidnapped person 2 the act of ransoming [ME *ransoun*, fr OF *raçon*, fr L *redemptio*-, *redemptio* – more at **REDEMPTION**]

**ransom** *v* 1 to deliver or redeem, esp from sin or its consequences 2 to free from captivity or punishment by paying a ransom – **ransomer** *n*

**rant** /'rant/ *vi* to talk in a noisy, excited, or declamatory manner ~ *vt* to declaim bombastically [obs D *ranten*, *randen*] – **ranter** *n*, **rantingly** *adv*

**rant** *n* (a) bombastic extravagant speech

**ranunculus** /'rʌnʌŋkjuələs/ *n*, *pl* **ranunculuses**, **ranunculi** /-li-/ any of a large widely distributed genus of plants of the buttercup family including the buttercups and crowfoots [NL, genus name, fr L, tadpole, crowfoot, dim of *rana* frog]

**rap** /'rap/ *n* 1 (the sound made by) a sharp blow or knock 2 blame, punishment – *infrm* (<I ended up taking the ~>) [ME *rappe*, prob of imit origin]

**rap** *vb -pp-* *vt* 1 to strike with a sharp blow 2 to utter (e.g. a command) abruptly and forcibly – *usu* + *out* 3 to express or communicate (e.g. a message) by means of raps – *usu* + *out* 4 to criticize sharply – *journ* <judge ~s police> ~ *vi* to strike a quick sharp blow – (a) **rap over the knuckles** (to give) a scolding

**rap** *n* the least bit (e.g. of care or consideration) – *infrm* (<doesn't care a ~>) [arch *rap* (counterfeit coin in Ireland, smallest coin), prob fr IrGael *roaire*]

**rap** *n*, chiefly *NAM* talk, conversation – slang [perh by shortening & alter fr *repartee*]

**rap** *vi -pp-* chiefly *NAM* to talk freely and frankly – slang

**rapacious** /'rəpəʃəs/ *adj* 1 excessively grasping or covetous 2 of an animal living on prey [L *rapax*-, *rapax*, fr *rapere* to seize] – **rapaciously** *adv*, **rapaciousness**, **rapacity** /'rəpəsɪti/ *n*

**rape** /'raɪp/ *n* a European plant of the mustard family grown as a forage crop and for its seeds which yield rapeseed oil [ME, fr L *rapa*, *rapum* turnip, *rape*; akin to OHG *rāba* turnip, *rape*, Gk *rhapys* turnip]

**rape** *vi* 1 to despoil 2 to commit rape on [ME *rapen* to take by force, fr L *rapere*] – **rapist** *n*

**rape** *n* 1 an act or instance of robbing or despoiling <the ~ of the countryside> 2 (an instance of) the crime of forcing sb, esp a woman, to have sexual intercourse against his/her will 3 an outrageous violation <a ~ of Justice>

**rapeseed** /'raɪpseed/ *n* the seed of the rape plant

**rapeseed oil** *n* an oil obtained from rapeseed and turnip seed and used chiefly as a cooking oil and lubricant


**raphe**, **raphie** /'raɪfee/ *n* a seam or ridge (e.g. at the union of the 2 halves

of a part or organ of the body or on a seed) [NL, fr Gk *raphē* seam, fr *rhaptein* to sew – more at **RHAPSODY**]

**raphia** /'rafi-/ *n* raffia

**raphide** /'rafid/ *n*, *pl* **raphides** /'rafidēz/ any of the needle-shaped crystals, usu of calcium oxalate, that develop in some plant cells [F & NL, F *raphide*, fr NL *raphides*, *pl*, modif of Gk *raphides*, *pl* of *rhapid*-, *rhapidis* needle, fr *rhaptein*]

**rapid** /'rapɪd/ *adj* moving, acting, or occurring with speed; swift [L *rapidus* seizing, sweeping, rapid, fr *rapere* to seize, sweep away, akin to OE *refsan* to blame] – **rapidly** *adv*, **rapidity**, **rapidity** /'rəpɪdɪti/ *n*

**rapid** *n* a part of a river where the water flows swiftly over a steep usu rocky slope in the river bed – *usu* *pl* with *sing* meaning  **GEOGRAPHY**

**rapid 'eye movement** *n* rapid movement of the eyes that occurs during the phases of sleep when dreaming is taking place

**rapid-fire** *adj* 1 (adapted for) firing shots in rapid succession 2 *esp* of speech proceeding with or characterized by rapidity, liveliness, or sharpness <~ interrogation>

**rapid transit** *n*, *NAM* fast passenger transport (e.g. by underground) in urban areas


**rapier** /'raɪpi-/ *n* a straight 2-edged sword with a narrow pointed blade [MF (espee) *rapiere*]

**rapine** /'raɪpi-/ *n* pillage, plunder [ME *rapyne*, fr L *rapina*, fr *rapere* to seize, rob]

**raparee** /'rapa'ree/ *n* a 17th-c Irish irregular soldier or bandit [IrGael *rapaire*]

**rappee** /'ra'pee/ *n* a pungent snuff [F (*tabac*) *râpé*, lit. 'grated tobacco, fr *tabac* tobacco + *râpe*, pp of *râper* to grate]

**rappe** /'ra'pel/ *vi* to absail [F, lit. 'recall, fr OF *rapel*, fr *rapeler* to recall, fr *re-* + *apeler* to appeal, call – more at **APPEAL**] – **rappe** *n*

**rappen** /'rahpən, 'ra-/ *n*, *pl* **rappen** /~/ the Swiss centime  Switzerland at **NATIONALITY** [G, lit. 'raven, akin to OHG *hraban* raven – more at **RAVIN**]

**rapport** /'rapaw/ *n* a sympathetic or harmonious relationship [F, fr *rapporter* to bring back, refer, fr OF *raporter* to bring back, fr *re-* + *aporter* to bring, fr L *apportare*, fr *ad-* + *portare* to carry – more at **LAKE**]

**rapporteur** /'rapaw'tu:/ *n* a person responsible for preparing and presenting reports (e.g. from a committee to a higher body) [F, fr *rapporter* to bring back, report]

**rapprochement** /'rəprəʃmən/ *n* the reestablishment of cordial relations, esp between nations [F, fr *rapprocher* to bring together, fr MF, fr *re-* + *approcher* to approach, fr OF *aprochier*]

**rascalion** /'rap'skəliən/ *n* a rascal [alter of earlier *rascallion*, fr 'rascal]

**rapt** /'rapt/ *adj* 1 enraptured 2 wholly absorbed [ME, fr L *raptus*, pp of *rapere* to seize – more at **RAPID**] – **rapily** *adv*, **raptness** *n*

**raptor** /'raptə/ *n* a bird of prey [deriv of L *raptor* plunderer, fr *raptus*]

**raptorial** /'rap'tɔriəl/ *adj* 1 *esp* of a bird **PREDATORY** 2 of birds' feet adapted for seizing prey 3 of or being a bird of prey

**rapture** /'rapʃə/ *n* 1a a state or experience of being carried away by overwhelming emotion b a mystical experience in which the spirit is exalted to a knowledge of divine things 2 an expression or manifestation of ecstasy or extreme delight <went into ~s over the new car> [L *raptus*] – **rapturous** *adj*, **rapturously** *adv*, **rapturousness** *n*

**rare avis** /'rahrə 'ayvɪs, 'reərə/ *n*, *pl* **rare avises**, **raree aves** /'rahrə 'ayveez, 'reərə/ a rare person or thing [L, rare bird]

**rare** /'reə/ *adj*, of meat cooked so that the inside is still red [alter of earlier *rere*, fr ME, fr OE *hrere* boiled lightly, akin to OE *hreran* to stir, OHG *hrueren*]

**rare** *adj* 1 lacking in density; thin (<a ~ atmosphere>) 2 marked by unusual quality, merit, or appeal <to show ~ talent> 3 seldom occurring or found <a ~ moth> 4 superlative or extreme – *infrm* (<gave her a ~ fright>) [ME, fr L *rarus*] – **rarely** *adv*, **rareness** *n*

**rare 'earth** *n* (an oxide of) any of a series of metallic elements that includes the elements with atomic numbers from 58 to 71, usu lanthanum, and sometimes yttrium and scandium – **rare-earth** *adj*

**rarefaction** /'reərə'fækʃən/ *n* 1 rarefying or being rarefied 2 a state or region of minimum pressure in a medium through which longitudinal waves (e.g. sound waves) pass [F or ML; F *rarefaction*, fr ML *rarefactio*-, *rarefactio*, fr L *rarefactus*, pp of *rarefacere* to rarefy] – **rarefactional**, **rarefactive** /'ræktɪv/ *adj*

**rarefied** also **rarified** /'reənfiəd/ *adj* 1 esoteric, abstruse 2 very high or exalted (e.g. in rank) <moved in ~ political circles>

**rarefy** also **rarity** /ˈreəri/ *vt* 1 to make rare, porous, or less dense 2 to make more spiritual, refined, or abstruse ~ *vi* to become less dense [ME *rarefien*, *rarifien*, fr MF *rarefier*, modif of L *rarefacere*, fr *rarus* rare + *facere* to make – more at *do*]

**raring** /ˈreəriŋ/ *adj* full of enthusiasm or eagerness (< ~ to go) [fr prp of E dial *rare* (to rear), alter of E *rear*]

**rarity** /ˈreəri/ *n* 1 the quality, state, or fact of being rare 2 sby or sth rare


**rascal** /ˈrɑːsk(ə)/ *n* 1 an unprincipled or dishonest person 2 a mischievous person or animal – usu humor or affectionate [ME *rascaile* rabble, one of the rabble, prob fr ONF *rasque* mud] – **rascally** *adj* or *adv*

**raschel** /ˈrɑːʃel/ *n* a type of warp-knitted fabric usu with openwork patterns – compare *tricot* [Raschel (*machine*), a kind of loom, fr G *Raschelmachine*, fr Rachel (Elisa Félix) †1858 F actress]

**rash** /ˈraʃ/ *vt* to raze

**ˈrash** /ˈraʃ/ *adj* acting with, characterized by, or proceeding from undue haste or impetuosity [ME (northern) *rasch* quick, akin to OHG *rasc* fast] – **rashly** *adv*, **rashness** *n*

**ˈrash** *n* 1 an outbreak of spots on the body 2 a large number of instances of a specified thing during a short period (< a ~ of arrests) [obs F *rache* scurf, fr OF *rasche*, fr (assumed) VL *rasica*, fr *rasicare* to scratch, fr L *rasus*, pp of *radere* to scrape]

**ˈrasher** /ˈræʃə/ *n* a thin slice of bacon or ham  MEAT [perh fr obs *rash* (to cut), fr ME *raschen*]

**ˈrasp** /ˈrɑːsp/ *vt* 1 to rub with sth rough, *specif* to abrade with a rasp 2 to grate upon, irritate 3 to utter in a grating tone ~ *vi* to produce a grating sound [ME *raspen*, fr (assumed) MF *rasper*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *raspon* to scrape together] – **rasper** *n*, **raspingly** *adv*

**ˈrasp** *n* a coarse rib with rows of cutting teeth  
**raspberry** /ˈræzb(ə)ri/ *n* 1 (a widely grown shrub that bears) any of various usu red edible berries 2 a rude sound made by sticking the tongue out and blowing noisily – slang [F dial *rasp* (raspberry) + E *berry*, (2) rhyming slang *raspberry* (tart) fart]

**Rasta** /ˈrɑːstə/ *n* or *adj* (a) Rastafarian

**Rastafarian** /ˈrɑːstəˈfæriən/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of a puritanical religious and political movement among black W Indians which believes the former Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, to be God, and looks for the redemption of the black race and the establishment of a homeland in Ethiopia [Ras Tafari, Haile Selassie †1974 Emperor of Ethiopia] – **Rastafarianism** *n*

**Rastaman** /ˈrɑːstəˈmæn/ *n* a Rastafarian

**ˈraster** /ˈrɑːstə/ *n* a pattern of parallel lines whose intensity is controlled to form an image on a television screen [G, fr L *raster*, *rastrum* rake, fr *radere* to scrape]

**ˈrat** /ˈræt/ *n* 1 any of numerous rodents that are considerably larger than the related mice 2a a contemptible or wretched person, *specif* one who betrays or deserts his party, friends, or associates b a blackleg **USE** (2) infml [ME, fr OE *ræt*, akin to OHG *ratta* rat, L *rodere* to gnaw, *radere* to scrape, shave] – **ratlike** *adj*

**ˈrat** *vi* -*ti* 1 to betray, desert, or inform on one's associates – usu + *on* 2 to catch or hunt rats 3 to work as a blackleg

**ˈrata** /ˈrɑːtə/ *n* either of 2 New Zealand trees of the myrtle family that bear bright red flowers and yield a hard dark red wood [Maori]

**ˈratable** /ˈrɑːtəbl/ *adj* rateable – **ratably** *adv*

**ˈratatia** /ˈrɑːtəˈtiə/ *n* a small sweet almond-flavoured biscuit or cake compare *macaroon* [F, liqueur flavoured with almonds]

**ˈratat** /ˈrɑːtət/ *n* the amount on which rates are assessed

**ˈrataplan** /ˈrɑːtəˈplæn/, -ˈ-/ *n* the sound of drumming [F, of imit origin]

**ˈrat-a-tat** /ˈræt ə ˈtæt/, **ˈrat-a-tat-tat** /ˈræt ə ˈtæt ˈtæt/ *n* a sharp repeated knocking or tapping sound [imit]

**ˈratatouille** /ˈrɑːtəˈtuːi/ (Fr *ratatouille*) *n* a dish containing vegetables (e.g. tomatoes, aubergines, etc) stewed slowly in a vegetable stock until most of the liquid has evaporated [F, fr *touiller* to stir, fr L *tudiculare*, fr *tudes* hammer]

**ˈratbag** /ˈrætˌbæg/ *n* an unpleasant or disagreeable person – slang

**ˈratchet** /ˈrætʃɪt/ *n* 1 a mechanism that consists of a bar or wheel having inclined teeth into which a pawl drops so that motion is allowed in 1 direction only 2 also **ratchet wheel** a toothed wheel held in position or turned by a pawl [alter. of earlier *rochet*, fr F, alter. of MF *rocquet* lance head, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *rocko* distaff, ON *rokk* distaff, OHG *roc* coat]

**ˈrate** /ˈreɪt/ *vt*, *archaic* to scold angrily [ME *raten*]

**ˈrate** *n* 1 valuation [appraised him at a low ~] 2a a fixed ratio between 2 things b a charge, payment, or price fixed according to a ratio, scale,

or standard (< ~ of exchange) (< ~ of interest) c Br a tax levied by a local authority – usu pl with sing meaning 3 a quantity, amount, or degree of sth measured per unit of sth else [ME, fr MF, fr ML *rata*, fr L (*pro*) *rata* (*parte*) according to a fixed proportion] – **at any rate** in any case; anyway

**ˈrate** *vi* 1 to consider to be, value as <was ~d an excellent pianist> 2 to determine or assign the relative rank or class of 3 to assign a rate to 4 to be worthy of, deserve <now ~s his own show> 5 to think highly of; consider to be good – infml <doesn't ~ Spurs' chances of avoiding relegation> ~ *vi* to be estimated at a specified level (<~s as the best show ever staged in London>)

**-rate** /-reɪt/ *comb form* of the specified level of quality (<fifth-rate>)

**ˈrateable**, **ˈratable** /ˈreɪtəbl/ *adj* capable of or susceptible to being rated, estimated, or apportioned

**ˈrateable value** *n* the estimated value of a property on which annual rate payments are calculated


**ˈratel** /ˈreɪtl/, -tel/ *n* an African or Asiatic nocturnal flesh-eating mammal resembling the badger [Afrik, lit, rattle, fr MD – more at *RATTLE*]

**ˈratepayer** /ˈreɪtˌpeɪə/ *n* a taxpayer, also, Br a person liable to pay rates

**ˈrath** /ˈrɑːθ/ *n* a usu circular earthwork serving as the stronghold or residence of an ancient Irish chieftain [IrGael *rath*]

**ˈrather** /ˈrædhə/ *adv* or *adj* 1 more readily or willingly, sooner <left ~ than cause trouble> (<I'd ~ not go>) – often used interjectionally, esp by British speakers, to express enthusiastic affirmation <will you come? "Rather!"> 2 more properly, reasonably, or truly <my father, or ~ my stepfather> 3 to some degree, somewhat (<it's ~ warm>) (<~ too big>) (<I ~ thought so>), esp somewhat excessively (<it's ~ far for me>) 4 on the contrary <was nothing bettered, but ~ grew worse – Mk 5 26 (AV)> [MF, fr OE *hrathor*, compar of *hrathe* quickly, akin to OHG *rado* quickly, OE *hred* quick]

**ˈratify** /ˈrætiʃi/ *vt* to approve or confirm formally [ME *ratifien*, fr MF *ratifier*, fr ML *ratificare*, fr L *ratus* determined, fr pp of *ren* to think, calculate – more at *REASON*] – **ˈratification** /-fɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n*

**ˈrating** /ˈreɪtɪŋ/ *n* 1 a classification according to grade 2 relative estimate or evaluation 3 pl any of various indexes which list television programmes, new records, etc in order of popularity – usu + *the* 4 chiefly Br ORDINARY SEAMAN  RANK

**ˈratio** /ˈreɪʃio/ *n*, pl **ˈratios** 1 the indicated division of one mathematical expression by another 2 the relationship in quantity, number, or degree between things or between one thing and another thing [L, computation, reason – more at *REASON*]

**ˈratiocinate** /ˈreɪʃiəneɪt/ *vi* to reason logically or formally – fml [L *ratio* *cognitivus*, pp of *ratio* *cognari* to reckon, fr *ratio*] – **ˈratiocinator** *n*, **ˈratiocinative** /-nətiʃi/ *adj*, **ˈratiocination** /-neɪʃən/ *n*

**ˈration** /ˈræʃən/ *n* a share or amount (e.g. of food) which one permits oneself or which one is permitted <the petrol ~> [F, fr L *ration-*, *ratio* computation, reason]

**ˈration** *vi* 1 to distribute or divide (e.g. commodities in short supply) in fixed quantities – often + *out* 2a to limit (a person or commodity) to a fixed ration <sugar was strictly ~ed> b to use sparingly

**ˈrational** /ˈræʃənəl/ *adj* 1 having, based on, or compatible with reason; reasonable (< ~ behaviour>) 2 of, involving, or being (a mathematical expression containing) 1 or more rational numbers [ME *racional*, fr L *rationalis*, fr *ratio-*, *ratio*] – **ˈrationally** *adv*, **ˈrationalness**, **ˈrationality** /ˈræʃənəli/ *n*


**ˈrational** *n* sth rational, *specif* RATIONAL NUMBER

**ˈrationale** /ˈræʃənəli/ *n* 1 an explanation of controlling principles of opinion, belief, practice, or phenomena 2 an underlying reason, basis [L, neut of *rationalis*]

**ˈrationalism** /ˈræʃənəˌlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 reliance on reason for the establishment of religious truth 2 a theory that reason is a source of knowledge superior to and independent of sense perception – **ˈrationalist** *n*, **ˈrationalist**, **ˈrationalistic** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*, **ˈrationally** *adv*


**ˈrationalize**, -ise /ˈræʃənəˌlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to free (a mathematical expression) from irrational parts (< ~ a denominator>) 2 to bring into accord with reason or cause to seem reasonable, *specif* to attribute (e.g. one's actions) to rational and creditable motives without analysis of true, esp unconscious, motives in order to provide plausible but untrue reasons for conduct 3 to increase the efficiency of (e.g. an industry) by more effective organization ~ *vi* to provide plausible but untrue reasons for one's actions, opinions, etc – **ˈrationalizer** *n*, **ˈrationalization** /-ˈzeɪʃən/ *n*

**ˈrational number** *n* a number (e.g. 2,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-\frac{1}{3}$ ) that can be expressed

as the result of dividing one integer by another – compare <sup>1</sup>IRRATIONAL, <sup>2</sup>SURD  NUMBER

**ratite** /'raɪet/ *n* or *adj* (a bird, esp an ostrich, emu, moa, or kiwi) having a flat breastbone [adj deriv of *L* *ratitus* marked with the figure of a raft, fr *rat* *raft*; *n* fr *adj*]

**rat kangaroo** *n* any of various small ratlike kangaroos

**ratline** /'raɪlɪn/ *n* any of the short transverse ropes attached to the shrouds of a ship to form rungs  SHIP [origin unknown]

**raton** /'raʊn/ *n* a new shoot that develops from the root of the sugarcane or other perennial plant after cropping [Sp *retoño*, fr *retoñar* to sprout, fr *re-* (fr *L*) + *otoñar* to grow in autumn, fr *otoño* autumn, fr *L* *autumnus*]

**raton** *vi* to sprout from the root

**rat** *n* a fiercely competitive and wearsome activity; *specif* the struggle to maintain one's position in a career or survive the pressures of modern urban life

**ratsbane** /'rats,bayn/ *n*, *archaic* sth poisonous to rats

**rattan** /'rʌtən/ *n* 1 a climbing palm with very long tough stems 2 a part of the stem of a rattan used esp for walking sticks and wickerwork [Malay *rotan*]

**rattle** /'rʌtl/ *vb* rattling /'rʌtlɪŋ, 'rʌtlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to make a rapid succession of short sharp sounds 2 to chatter incessantly and aimlessly – often + *on* 3 to move with a clatter or rattle ~ *vt* 1 to say or perform in a brisk lively fashion – often + *off* (< *d off a long list of examples*) 2 to cause to make a rattling sound 3 to upset to the point of loss of poise and composure (*he looked severely ~d*) – *infrm* [ME *ratelen*; akin to MD *ratel* rattle, OE *hratlan* to rush – more at CARDINAL]

**rattle** *n* 1 a rattling sound 2a a child's toy consisting of loose pellets in a hollow container that rattles when shaken b a device that consists of a springy tongue in contact with a revolving ratchet wheel which is rotated or shaken to produce a loud noise 3 the sound-producing organ on a rattlesnake's tail 4 a throat noise caused by air passing through mucus and heard esp at the approach of death

**rattler** /'rʌtlə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a rattlesnake ['RATTLE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**rattlesnake** /-'snaɪk/ *n* any of various American poisonous snakes with horny interlocking joints at the end of the tail that rattle when shaken

**rattling** /'rʌtlɪŋ/ *adj* lively, brisk (< *moved at a ~ pace*) – not now in vogue – *rattlingly* *adv*

**rattling** *adv* to an extreme degree; very – chiefly in *rattling good*, *infrm*

**ratty** /'rʌti/ *adj* irritable – *infrm* ['RAT + <sup>1</sup>-Y]

**raucous** /'raʊkəs/ *adj* disagreeably harsh or strident, noisy [L *raucus* hoarse; akin to OE *reōn* to lament – more at RUMOUR] – *raucously* *adv*, *raucousness* *n*

**raunchy** /'raʊnchi/ *adj* earthy, gutsy (< *a group with a confident ~ sound*) – *infrm* [origin unknown] – *raunchily* *adv*, *raunchiness* *n*

**ravage** /'rʌvi/ *n* damage resulting from ravaging – *usu* pl with sing meaning (< *the ~s of time*) [F, fr MF, fr *ravir* to ravish – more at RAVISH]

**ravage** *vb* to wreak havoc (on); cause (violent) destruction (to) – *ravagement* *n*, *ravager* *n*

**rave** /'rʌv/ *vi* 1 to talk irrationally (as if) in delirium; *broadly* to rage, storm 2 to talk with extreme or passionate enthusiasm (< *d about her beauty*) [ME *raven*]

**rave** *n* 1 a raving 2 an extravagantly favourable review (< *the play opened to ~ notices*) 3 a wild exciting period, experience, or event – *slang* (< *the party was a real ~*)

**ravel** /'rʌvl/ *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), /'rʌvlɪŋ, 'rʌvlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to unravel, disentangle – *usu* + *out* 2 to entangle, confuse ~ *vi* to fray [D *rafelen*, fr *rafel* loose thread; akin to OE *ræfter* rafter]

**ravel** *n* 1 a tangle or tangled mass 2 a loose thread

**ravellin** /'rʌv(ə)lɪn/ *n* a (detached) triangular temporary fortification, *usu* situated between 2 bastions [MF, fr OIt *ravellino*, alter. of *rivellino*, dim. of *riva* bank, fr *L* *ripa*]

**raven** /'rʌv(ə)n/ *n* a very large glossy black bird of the crow family [ME, fr OE *hrafen*; akin to OHG *hraban* raven, L *corvus*, Gk *korax*, L *crepare* to rattle, crack]

**raven** *adj* glossy black (< *hair*)

**raven** /'rʌv(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to devour greedily 2 to despoil (< *men. ~ the earth, destroying its resources* – *New Yorker*) ~ *vi* 1 to (seek after) prey 2 to plunder [MF *raviner* to rush, take by force, fr *ravine* rapine] – *ravener* /'rʌv(ə)nə/ *n*

**ravenous** /'rʌv(ə)məs/ *adj* 1 urgently seeking satisfaction, gratification,

etc, grasping, insatiable 2 fiercely eager for food, famished – *ravenously* *adv*, *ravenousness* *n*

**raver** /'rʌvə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* an energetic and uninhibited person who enjoys a hectic social life; *also* a sexually uninhibited or promiscuous person – *slang* ['RAVE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**rave-up** *n*, chiefly *Br* a wild party – *slang*

**ravine** /'rʌveɪn/ *n* a narrow steep-sided valley smaller than a canyon and *usu* worn by running water [F, fr MF, *rapine*, rush, fr *L* *rapina* rapine]

**raving** /'rʌvɪŋ/ *n* irrational, incoherent, wild, or extravagant utterance or declamation – *usu* pl with sing meaning

**raving** *adj* extreme, marked (< *a ~ beauty*) – *infrm*

**ravioli** /'rʌvi'ohli/ *n* little cases of pasta containing meat, cheese, etc [It, fr It dial, pl of *raviolo*, lit, little turnip, dim. of *rava* turnip, fr *L* *rapa* – more at 'RAPE']

**ravish** /'rʌvɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to overcome with joy, delight, etc (< *ed by the beauty of the scene*) 2 to rape, violate [ME *ravissen*, fr MF *raviss-*, stem of *ravir*, fr (assumed) VL *rapire*, alter. of *L* *rapere* to seize – more at RAPID] – *ravisher* *n*, *ravishment* *n*

**ravishing** /'rʌvɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* unusually attractive or pleasing – *ravishingly* *adv*

**raw** /'rɔː/ *adj* 1 not cooked 2a(1) not processed or purified, in the natural state (< *fibres*) (< *sewage*) (2) not diluted or blended (< *spirits*) b not in a polished, finished, or processed form (< *data*) (< *hem this ~ edge to stop it fraying*) 3 having the surface abraded or chafed (< *skin*) 4 lacking experience, training, etc, new (< *a ~ recruit*) 5 disagreeably damp or cold [ME, fr OE *hraw*, akin to OHG *hro* raw, L *crudus* raw, *crurus* blood, Gk *kreas* flesh] – *rawly* *adv*, *rawness* *n*

**raw** *n* a sensitive place or state (< *touched her on the ~*) – in the *raw* 1 in the natural or crude state (< *life in the raw*) 2 naked (< *slept in the raw*)

**,rawboned** /-'bɒnd/ *adj* having a heavy or clumsy frame that seems inadequately covered with flesh

**,raw deal** *n* an instance of unfair treatment

**,rawhide** /-'hɪd/ *n* (a whip of) untanned hide

**,raw material** *n* material that can be converted by manufacture, treatment, etc into a new and useful product

**,raw umber** *n* (the dark yellowish brown colour of) umber that has not been calcined – compare BURNT UMBER

**ray** /'reɪ/ *n* any of numerous fishes having the eyes on the upper surface of a flattened body and a long narrow tail [ME *raye*, fr MF *raie*, fr *L* *raia*]

**ray** *n* 1a any of the lines of light that appear to radiate from a bright object b a narrow beam of radiant energy (e.g. light or X rays) c a stream of (radioactive) particles travelling in the same line – compare ALPHA RAY, BETA RAY, COSMIC RAY 2a a thin line suggesting a ray b any of a group of lines diverging from a common centre 3a any of the bony rods that support the fin of a fish b any of the radiating parts of the body of a radially symmetrical animal (e.g. a starfish) 4 RAY FLOWER 5 a slight manifestation or trace (e.g. of intelligence or hope) [ME, fr MF *rai*, fr *L* *radius* rod, ray] – *rayed* *adj*, *rayless* *adj*

**ray** *vi* 1 to shine (as if) in rays 2 to radiate from a centre ~ *vi* to emit in rays, radiate

**,ray, flower** *n* any of the strap-shaped florets forming a the outer ring of the head of a composite plant (e.g. an aster or daisy) having central disc florets b the entire flower head of a composite plant (e.g. a dandelion) lacking disc florets

**rayon** /'reɪən, -ɔːn/ *n* (a fabric made from) a yarn or fibre produced by forcing and drawing cellulose through minute holes [irreg fr 'ray]

**raze, rase** /'reɪz/ *vt* to destroy or erase completely. *specif* to lay (e.g. a town or building) level with the ground [ME *rasen*, fr MF *raser*, fr (assumed) VL *rasare*, fr *L* *rasus*, pp of *radere* to scrape, shave]

**razor** /'reɪzə/ *n* a sharp-edged cutting implement for shaving or cutting (facial) hair [ME *rasour*, fr OF *raser*, fr *raser*] – *razor* *vt*

**,razor-backed, ,razorback** *adj* having a sharp narrow back (< *a ~ whale*)

**,razorbill** /-'bɪl/ *n* a N Atlantic auk with a flattened sharp-edged bill

**,razor, shell** *n* any of numerous marine bivalve molluscs having a long narrow curved thin shell

**razz** /'rʌz/ *vt*, *NAM* to heckle, deride (< *the fans ~ed the visiting players*) – *infrm* [short for *razzberry* (sound of contempt), alter. of *raspberry*]

**razzle** /'rʌzl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a spree, binge – *usu* in *on the razzle*, *slang* [short for *razzle-dazzle*]

**razzle-dazzle** /-'dʌz-, '-dʌz-/ *n* razzmatazz – *infrm* [irreg redupl of *dazzle*]



**razzmatazz** /ˈræzmæˌtæz, -ˌtæz/ *n* noisy, colourful, and often gaudily showy atmosphere or activity (*the ~ of professional sport*) – *infml* [prob. alter. of *razzle-dazzle*]

**re** /ray, re/ *n* the 2nd note of the diatonic scale in solmization [ML – more at GAMUT]

**re** /ree/ *prep* WITH REGARD TO, CONCERNING [L, abl of *res* thing – more at 'REAL]

**re-** *prefix* **1a** again, anew (<reborn> <reprint>) **b(1)** again in a new, altered, or improved way (<rehash> <rewrite> <rehouse>) **(2)** repeated, new, or improved version of (<retread> <rebroadcast> <remake>) **2** back, backwards (<recall> <retract>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *re-*, *red-* back, again, against]

**re** /ə/ *vb* are (<you're right>)

**reach** /reech/ *vt* **1** to stretch out (<~ out your hand to her>) **2a** to touch or grasp by extending a part of the body (e.g. a hand) or an object (<couldn't ~ the apple>) **b** to pick up and draw towards one, pass (<~ me my hat, will you?>) **c(1)** to extend to (<the shadow ~ed the wall>) **(2)** to get up to or as far as, arrive at (<took 2 days to ~ the mountains>) (<they hoped to ~ an agreement>) **d** to contact or communicate with (<~ed her by phone at the office>) **~vi** **1a** to make a stretch (as if) with one's hand (<~ed towards the book on the top shelf>) **b** to strain after sthg (<~ing for the unattainable>) **2a** to project, extend (<her land ~es to the river>) **b** to arrive at or come to sthg (<as far as the eye could ~>) **3** to sail on a reach [ME *rechen*, fr OE *ræcan*, akin to OHG *reichen* to reach, Lith *raizyti* to stretch oneself repeatedly] – *reachable adj*

**reach** *n* **1a** the action or an act of reaching **b** the distance or extent of reaching or of ability to reach **c** a range, specif comprehension (<an idea well beyond his ~>) **2** a continuous stretch or expanse, esp a straight uninterrupted j. of a river or canal **3** the tack sailed by a vessel with the wind blowing more or less from the side **4 pl** groups or levels in a usu specified activity or occupation, echelons (<the higher ~es of academic life>)

**reach-me-down** *n* or *adj*, chiefly Br (sthg) passed on from another (<~ clothes>) – *infml*

**react** /riˈækt/ *vi* **1** to exert a reciprocal or counteracting force or influence – often + *on* or *upon* **2** to respond to a stimulus **3** to act in opposition to a force or influence – usu + *against* **4** to undergo chemical reaction **~vi** to cause to react chemically [NL *reactus*, pp of *reagere*, fr L *re-* + *agere* to act – more at AGENT]

**reactance** /riˈækt(ə)ns/ *n* the part of the impedance of an alternating-current circuit that is due to capacitance and/or inductance and that is expressed in ohms

**reactant** /riˈækt(ə)nt/ *n* a substance that reacts chemically with another

**reaction** /riˈækʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1a** a reacting **b** tendency towards a former and usu outmoded (political or social) order or policy **2** bodily response to or activity aroused by a stimulus e.g. **a** the response of tissues to a foreign substance (e.g. an antigen or infective agent) **b** a mental or emotional response to circumstances **3** the force that sthg subjected to the action of a force exerts equally in the opposite direction **4a** a chemical transformation or change, an action between atoms, molecules, etc to form 1 or more new substances **b** a process involving change in atomic nuclei resulting from interaction with a particle or another nucleus

**reactionary** /riˈækʃən(ə)rɪ/ *also reactionist* *n* or *adj* (a person) opposing radical social change or favouring a return to a former (political) order

**reaction engine** *n* an engine (e.g. jet engine) that develops thrust by expelling a jet of fluid or a stream of particles

**reactivate** /riˈæktɪvaɪt/ *vb* to make or become active again – *reactivation* /riˈvæʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reactive** /riˈæktɪv/ *adj* **1** of or marked by reaction or reactance **2** tending to or liable to react (<highly ~ chemicals>) – *reactively adv*, *reactiveness*, *reactivity* /riˈtɪvəti/ *n*

**reactor** /riˈæktə/ *n* **1** a vat for an industrial chemical reaction **2** an apparatus in which a chain reaction of fissile material (e.g. uranium or plutonium) is started and controlled, esp for the production of nuclear power or elementary particles [E] ENERGY [REACT + 'OR]

**read** /reed/ *vb* **read** /red/ *vi* **1a(1)** to look at or otherwise sense (e.g. letters, symbols, or words) with mental assimilation of the communication represented (<can't ~ his handwriting>) (<to ~ a book>) (<~ music>) (<~ braille>) **(2)** to look at, interpret, and understand (signs, communicative movements, etc) (<~ lips>) (<~ semaphore>) **(3)** to utter aloud (interpretatively) the printed or written words of (<~ them a story>) – often + *out* **b** to learn or get to know by reading (<~ that he had died>) **c(1)** to study (a subject), esp for a degree (<~ law>) **(2)** to read (the) works of (an author

or type of literature) (<~ science fiction mainly>) **d** to receive and understand (a message) by radio **2a** to understand, comprehend (<can ~ you like a book>) (<~ his thoughts>) **b** to interpret the meaning or significance of (<~s dreams>) (<can ~ the situation in 2 ways>) **c** to interpret the action of or in so as to anticipate what will happen or what needs doing (<in football the sweeper must be able to ~ the game>) **d** to attribute (a meaning) to sthg read or considered (<~ a nonexistent meaning into her words>) **3** to use as a substitute for or in preference to another written or printed word, character, etc (<~ hurry for harry>) **4** to indicate (<the thermometer ~s zero>) **5a** to sense the meaning of (information stored or recorded on punched cards, in a computer memory, etc) **b** esp of a computer to take (information) from storage **~vi** **1a** to perform the act of reading, read sthg **b(1)** to learn about sthg by reading – usu + *up* (<~ing up on astronomy>) **(2)** to study a subject in order to qualify for (<to ~ for the Bar>) **2** to yield a (particular) meaning or impression when read (<Hebrew ~s from right to left>) (<the poem ~s rather badly>) [ME *reden* to advise, interpret, read, fr OE *readan*, akin to OHG *ratān* to advise, Gk *araiskein* to fit – more at 'ARM]

**read** /reed/ *n* **1** sthg to read with reference to the interest, enjoyment, etc it provides (<the book is a terrific ~>) **2** chiefly Br a period of reading (<had a ~ and went to bed early>)

**read** /red/ *adj* instructed by or informed through reading (<well-read>) (<widely ~ in contemporary literature>)

**readable** /ˈriːdəbl/ *adj* **1** legible **2** pleasurable or interesting to read – *readably adv*, *readability* /ˈrɪdəbəlɪ/, *readableness* *n*

**reader** /ˈriːdə/ *n* **1a** one appointed to read to others, esp LAY READER **b(1)** one who reads and corrects proofs **(2)** one who evaluates manuscripts **2** a member of a British university staff between the ranks of lecturer and professor **3** a device that reads or displays coded information on a tape, microfilm, punched cards, etc **4** a usu instructive (introductory) book or anthology [ˈriːd + 'ER]

**readership** /ˈriːdəʃɪp/ *n* **1** the office, duties, or position of a (university) reader **2** *sing* or *pl* in constr a collective body of readers, esp the readers of a particular publication or author [READER + 'SHIP]

**readily** /ˈriːdli/ *adv* **1** without hesitating (<he ~ accepted advice>) **2** without much difficulty (<for reasons that anyone could ~ understand>) [ˈriːdli + 'LY]

**reading** /ˈriːdɪŋ/ *n* **1a** material read or for reading (<his biography makes fine ~>) **b** the extent to which a person has read (<a man of wide ~>) **c** an event at which a play, poetry, etc is read to an audience **d** an act of formally reading a bill that constitutes any of 3 successive stages of approval by a legislature, specif Parliament [ˈtɔːlɔː] **2a** a form or version of a particular (passage in a) text (<the generally accepted ~>) **b** the value indicated or data produced by an instrument (<examined the thermometer ~>) **3a** a particular interpretation (<what is your ~ of the situation?>) **b** a particular performance of sthg (e.g. a musical work)

**reading desk** *n* a desk designed to support a book in a convenient position for a (standing) reader

**reading room** *n* a room in a library, club, etc with facilities for reading or study

**readout** /ˈriːəʊt/ *n* (a device used for) the removal of information from storage (e.g. in a computer memory or on magnetic tape) for display in an understandable form (e.g. as a printout), also the information displayed

**ready** /ˈredi/ *adj* **1a** prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action **b** prepared or available for immediate use (<dinner is ~>) (<had little ~ cash>) **2a(1)** willingly disposed (<~ to agree to his proposal>) **(2)** likely or about to do the specified thing (<~ to cry with vexation>) **b** spontaneously prompt (<always has a ~ answer>) (<a ~ wit>) **c** (presumptuously) eager (<he is very ~ with his criticism>) (<~ acceptance>) [ME *redi*, akin to OHG *reiti* ready, Goth *garaihs* arrayed, Gk *araiskein* to fit – more at 'ARM] – *readiness* *n*

**ready** *vi* to make ready

**ready** *n* (ready) money – sometimes *pl* with *sing.* meaning, *infml* – *at/to the ready* **1** of a gun prepared and in the position for immediate aiming and firing **2** 'READY *lb*

**ready** *adv* in advance (<food that is bought ~ cooked>)

**ready-made** *adj* **1** made beforehand, esp for general sale or use rather than to individual specifications (<~ suits>) **2** lacking originality or individuality (<~ opinions>) **3** readily available (<her illness provided a ~ excuse>)

**ready reckoner** *n*, Br an arithmetical table (e.g. a list of numbers multiplied by a fixed per cent) or set of tables for aid in calculating

**ready-to-wear** *adj*, *per cent* of a garment off-the-peg

**reafforest** /ˌriːəˈfɒrɪst/ *vi*, chiefly Br to renew the forest cover of by seeding or planting – *reafforestation* /ˌriːəˈfɒrɪst(ə)n/ *n*

**reagent** /n'ayj(ə)nt/ *n* a substance that takes part in or brings about a particular chemical reaction, used esp to detect sthg [NL *reagent*, *reagens*, prp of *reagent* to react – more at REACT]

**'real** /ri:əl, rēəl/ *adj* 1 of or being fixed or immovable property (e.g. land or buildings) 2a not artificial, fraudulent, illusory, fictional, etc., also being precisely what the name implies, genuine b of practical or everyday concerns or activities <left university to live in the ~ world> c belonging to or concerned with the set of real numbers <the ~ roots of an equation> d formed by light rays converging at a point <a ~ image> – compare VIRTUAL 2 e measured by purchasing power rather than the paper value of money <~ income> f complete, great – used chiefly for emphasis <a ~ surprise> [ME, *real*, relating to things (in law), fr MF, fr ML & LL, ML *realis* relating to things (in law), fr LL, *real*, fr L *res* thing, fact, akin to Skt *ra* property] – **realness** *n*

**'real** *n* – for *real* in earnest, seriously <they were fighting for real>

**'real** *adv*, chiefly NAM & Scot *very*

**'real** /raɪ'ahl/ *n*, pl *reals*, *reales* /-lays/ (a coin representing) a former money unit of Spain and Spanish colonies [Sp, fr *real* royal, fr L *regalis* – more at ROYAL]

**'real estate** *n* property in buildings and land

**realgar** /ri'algə/ *n* an orange-red mineral consisting of arsenic sulphide [ME, fr ML, fr Catal, fr Ar *rahy al-ghar* powder of the mine]

**realism** /ree-'alien/ *vt* to reorganize or make new groupings of [RL + ALIGN] – **realignment** *n*

**realism** /ree,hiz(ə)m, 'ri:-/ *n* 1 concern for fact or reality and rejection of the impractical and visionary 2 the belief that objects of sense perception have real existence independent of the mind 3 fidelity in art, literature, etc. to nature and to accurate representation without idealization – **realist** *adj* or *n*, **realistic** /-'histik/ *adj*, **realistically** *adv*

**reality** /n'æləti/ *n* 1 being real 2a a real event, entity, or state of affairs <his dream became a ~> b the totality of real things and events <trying to escape from ~> – in reality AS A MATTER OF FACT

**real-ize, -ise** /ree'liez, 'ri:-/ *vt* 1a to convert into actual fact, accomplish <finally ~d his goal> b to cause to seem real <a book in which the character are carefully ~d> 2a to convert into actual money <~ his assets> b to bring or get by sale, investment, or effort <the painting will ~ several thousand pounds> 3 to be fully aware of <she did not ~ the risk he was taking> 4 to play or write (music) in full (e.g. from a figured bass) [F *réaliser*, fr MF *réaliser*, fr *real* real] – **realizable** *adj*, **realization** /-'zayz(ə)n/ *n*

**really** /ri:eli, 'rēli/ *adv* 1a in reality, actually <did he ~ say that?> <not very difficult ~> b without question, thoroughly <~ cold weather> <~ hates him> 2 more correctly – used to give force to an injunction <you should ~ have asked me first> 3 – expressing surprise or indignation <she wants to marry him 'Really?'> <~, you're being ridiculous>

**realm** /reɪlm/ *n* 1 a kingdom 2 a sphere, domain – often pl with sing. meaning <within the ~s of possibility> [ME *realme*, fr OF, modif. of L. *regimen* rule – more at REGIMEN]

**'real number** *n* a number (e.g. a square root of a positive number, an integer, or pi) that does not include a part that is a multiple of the square root of minus one – compare COMPLEX NUMBER

**realpolitik** /raɪ'ahlpɒlɪteɪk, raɪ'ahl-/ *n* politics based on practical factors rather than on moral objectives [G, fr *real* practical + *politik* politics]

**'real presence** *n*, often cap R&P the doctrine that Christ's body and blood are actually present in the Eucharist – compare TRANSUBSTANTIATION

**'real tennis** *n* a game played with a racket and ball in an irregularly-shaped indoor court divided by a net

**'real-time** *adj* being or involving the almost instantaneous processing, presentation, or use of data by a computer

**realtor** /ree'lta-, -taw, 'ri:-/ *n*, NAM a real estate agent, esp a member of the National Association of Real Estate Boards

**reality** /ree'lti, 'ri:-/ *n* REAL ESTATE [real + -ty (as in property)]

**'ream** /reem/ *n* 1 a quantity of paper equal to 20 quires or variously 480, 500, or 516 sheets 2 a great amount (e.g. of sthg written or printed) – usu pl with sing. meaning <composed ~s of poetry> [ME *reme*, fr MF *raime*, fr Ar *rizmāh*, lit., bundle]

**'ream** *vt* 1 to enlarge or widen (a hole) with a reamer 2 NAM to press the juice from (a citrus fruit) [perh fr (assumed) ME dial *remen* to open up, fr OE dial. *reman*; akin to OE *ryman* to open up, *rūm* room – more at ROOM]

**reamer** /reema/ *n* 1 a rotating finishing tool with cutting edges used to enlarge or shape a hole 2 NAM LEMON SQUEEZER [REAM + -ER]

**reap** /reep/ *vt* 1a to cut (a crop) with a sickle, scythe, or reaping machine; also to harvest thus b to clear (e.g. a field) of a crop by reaping 2 to obtain

or win, esp as the reward for effort <to ~ lasting benefits from study> ~ *vi* to reap sthg [ME *repen*, fr OE *reopan*, akin to OE *raw*, *new* row – more at 'ROW] – **reaper** *n*

**'rear** /ri:-/ *vt* 1 to build or construct 2 to raise upright 3a to breed and tend (an animal) or grow (e.g. a crop) for use or sale b BRING UP 1 ~ *vi* 1 to rise to a height 2 of a horse to rise up on the hind legs [ME *rerēn*, fr OE *ræran*, akin to ON *reisa* to raise, OE *risan* to rise] – **rearer** *n*

**'rear** *n* 1 the back part of sthg e.g. a the part (e.g. of an army) away from the enemy b the part of sthg located opposite its front <the ~ of a house> c the buttocks 2 the space or position at the back <moved to the ~> [prob fr *rear* – (in such terms as *rear guard*)]

**'rear** *adj* at the back <a ~ window> – **rearmost** *adj*

**'rear** 'admiral *n* RANK

**'rear guard** /-'gahd/ *adj* of vigorous resistance in the face of defeat <a ~ action>

**'rear guard** *n* a military detachment for guarding the rear of a main body or force, esp during a retreat [ME *reregarde*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *rere* backward, behind (fr L *retro*) + *garde* guard – more at REIRON-]

**rearm** /ree'ahm/ *vt* to arm (e.g. a nation or military force) again, esp with new or better weapons ~ *vi* to become armed again – **rearmament** /-'māmənt/ *n*

**'rearview** 'mirror /-'vyoooh/ *n* a mirror (e.g. in a motor car) that gives a view of the area behind a vehicle

**'rearward** /-'wood/ *n* the rear, esp the rear division (e.g. of an army) <to ~ of the main column> [ME *rerewardē*, fr AF, akin to OF *reregarde* rear guard]

**'rearward** /-'wood/ *adj* located at or directed towards the rear ['rear + -ward]

**'rearwards** /-'woodz/ *also rearward* *adv* at or towards the rear, backwards

**'reason** /reez(ə)n/ *n* 1a (a statement offered as) an explanation or justification b a rational ground or motive <a good ~ to act soon> c that which makes some phenomenon intelligible, cause <wanted to know the ~ for earthquakes> 2a(1) the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking, esp in orderly rational ways, intelligence (2) proper exercise of the mind b sanity <lost his ~> [ME *resoun*, fr OF *raison*, fr L *ratio*-, *ratio* reason, computation, akin to Goth *garathjan* to count, L *rerī* to calculate, think, Gk *aranskein* to fit – more at 'ARM] – **within reason** within reasonable limits – **with reason** with good cause

**'reason** *vi* 1 to use the faculty of reason so as to arrive at conclusions 2 ~ to talk or argue with another so as to influence his/her actions or opinions <can't ~ with them> ~ *vt* 1 to persuade or influence by the use of reason <~ed myself out of such fears> 2 to formulate, assume, analyse, or conclude by the use of reason – often + *out* <to ~ out a plan> – **reasoner** *n*

**reasonable** /reez(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1a in accord with reason <a ~ theory> b not extreme or excessive <~ requests> c moderate, fair <a ~ boss> <~ weather> d inexpensive 2a having the faculty of reason, rational b sensible – **reasonableness** *n*, **reasonably** *adv*

**reasoning** /reez(ə)niŋ/ *n* the drawing of inferences or conclusions through the use of reason

**reassure** /ree-'shooə-, -shaw/ *vt* 1 to assure anew <~d him that the work was satisfactory> 2 to restore confidence to <I was ~d by his promise> – **reassurance** *n*, **reassuringly** *adv*

**rebarbative** /n'bahbətɪv/ *adj* repellent, unattractive – fml [F *rébarbatif*, fr MF, fr *rebarber* to be repellent, fr *re* + *barbe* beard, fr L *barba* – more at BEARD]

**'rebate** /reebayt/ *n* 1 a return of part of a payment <tax ~> 2 a deduction from a sum before payment, a discount <10% ~> [F *rabat*, fr MF *rabatre* to beat down again, reduce, fr OF, fr *re* + *abatre* to beat down, fr *a*– (fr L *ad*) + *batre* to beat, fr L *battuere* – more at BATTLE]

**'rebat** /'rabit, 'reehayt/ *vt* or *n* (to) rabbit [by alter]

**rebec**, **rebeck** /reebek/ *n* a medieval pear-shaped usu 3-stringed musical instrument played with a bow [MF *rebec*, alter. of OF *rebebe*, fr OProv *rebeb*, fr Ar *rebab*]

**'rebel** /'rebi-/ *adj* 1 in rebellion 2 of rebels <the ~ camp> [ME, fr OF *rebelle*, fr L *rebellis*, fr *re* + *bellum* war, fr OL *duellum* – more at DUEL]

**'rebel** *n* one who rebels against a government, authority, convention, etc

**'rebel** /ri'bel/ *vt* -ll- 1a to oppose or disobey (one in) authority or control b to resist by force the authority of one's government 2a to act in or show opposition <~led against the conventions of polite society> b to feel or exhibit anger or revulsion <~led at the injustice of life>

**rebellion** /ri'belyən/ *n* 1 opposition to (one in) authority or dominance 2 (an instance of) open armed resistance to an established government  
**rebellious** /ri'belyəs/ *adj* 1a in rebellion (< ~ troops) b (characteristic of or inclined towards rebellion (< a ~ speech) (< a ~ people) 2 REFRATORY 1 – rebelliously *adv*, rebelliousness *n*

**rebirth** /ri'bu:θ/ *n* 1a a new or second birth b spiritual regeneration 2 a renaissance, revival (< ~ of nationalism)

**rebore** /ri'beɔw/ *vt* to enlarge and renew the bore of a cylinder (in an internal-combustion engine) – rebore /'ri:/ *n*

**reborn** /ri'beɔn/ *adj* born again; regenerated, specif spiritually renewed

**rebound** /ri'baʊnd/ *vt* 1 to spring back (as if) on collision or impact with another body 2 to return with an adverse effect to a source or starting point (< their hatred ~ ed on themselves) [ME *rebounden*, fr MF *rebondir*, fr OF, fr *re- + bondir* to bound – more at 'BOUND]

**rebound** /ri'baʊnd, also ri'baʊnd/ *n* 1a a rebounding, recoil b a recovery (< a sharp ~ in prices) 2 a shot (e.g. in basketball or soccer) that rebounds – on the rebound (whilst) in an unsettled or emotional state resulting from setback, frustration, or crisis (< on the rebound from an unhappy love affair)

**rebuff** /ri'bu:f/ *vt* or *n* (to) snub [vb MF *rebuffer*, fr OIt *ribuffare* to reprimand, *n* fr vb]

**rebuke** /ri'byu:hk/ *vt* or *n* (to) reprimand [vb ME *rebuken*, fr ONF *rebuker*, *n* fr vb]

**rebus** /ri'beɪs/ *n* (a riddle using) a representation of words or syllables by pictures that suggest the same sound [L, by things, abl pl of *res* thing – more at 'REAL]

**rebut** /ri'bu:t/ *vt* tr- 1 to drive back, repel 2 to disprove or expose the falsity of, refute [ME *rebuten*, fr OF *rebater*, fr *re- + bator* to butt – more at 'BUTT] – rebuttable *adj*, rebuttal *n*

**rebutter** /ri'bu:tə/ *n* a defendant's answer to a plaintiff's surrejoinder [AF *rebutter*, fr OF *rebater* to rebut]

**rebutter** *n* a refutation [RFBUT + 'I-ER]

**recalcitrant** /ri'kalsitrənt/ *adj* 1 obstinately defiant of authority or restraint 2 difficult to handle or control [LL *recalcitrant-*, *recalcitrans*, prp of *recalcitrare* to be stubbornly disobedient, fr L, to kick back, fr *re- + calcitrare* to kick, fr *calc-*, *calx* heel] – recalcitrance *n*, recalcitrant *n*

**recall** /ri'kaw/ *vt* 1a to call or summon back (< ~ ed their ambassador) b to bring back to mind (< ~ s his early years) 2 to cancel, revoke – recallable *adj*

**recall** /ri'kaw/, 'ree,kaw/ *n* 1 a call or summons to return (< a ~ of workers after a layoff) 2 remembrance of what has been learned or experienced (< had almost perfect visual ~) 3 the act of revoking or the possibility of being revoked 4 the ability (e.g. of an information retrieval system) to retrieve stored material

**recant** /ri'kant/ *vt* to withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly, renounce – *vi* to make an open confession of error, esp to disavow a religious or political opinion or belief [L *recantare*, fr *re- + cantare* to sing – more at 'CHANT] – recantation /'taɪsh(ə)n/ *n*

**recap** /ri'kep/ *vt* -pp- *NAM* to partially retread (a worn pneumatic tyre) [re- + 'cap] – recappable /'kəpəbl/ *adj*

**recap** /ri'kep, ri'kap/ *vb* -pp- to recapitulate [by shortening] – recap /'ri:/ *n*

**recapitulate** /ri'kepi'tyoolayt/ *vb* to repeat the principal points or stages of (e.g. an argument or discourse) in summing up [LL *recapitulatus*, prp of *recapitulare* to restate by heads, sum up, fr L *re- + capitulum* division of a book]

**recapitulation** /ri'kepi'tyoolaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 recapping; a concise summary 2 the supposed occurrence in the development of an embryo of successive stages resembling the series of ancestral types from which the organism has evolved 3 a modified repetition of the main themes forming the third section of a musical movement written in sonata form

**recapture** /ri'keɪpʃə/ *vt* 1a to capture again b to experience again (< to ~ the atmosphere of the past) 2 *NAM* to take (excess earnings or profits) by law – recapture *n*

**recast** /ri'keɪst/ *vt* recast to cast again (< ~ a gun) (< ~ a play), also to remodel, refashion (< ~ s his political image to fit the times) – recast /'ri:/ *n*

**recede** /ri'keɪ/ *n* a reconnaissance – infml [by shortening & alter.]

**recede** *vb* *recede*; *receded*, *receded* to reconnoitre – infml [by shortening & alter.]

**recede** /ri'keɪd/ *vt* 1a to move back or away; withdraw b to slant backwards (< a receding chin) 2 to grow less, smaller, or more distant;

diminish (< fears that demand will ~) (< hope ~ d) [L *recedere* to go back, fr *re- + cedere* to go – more at 'CEDE]

**recede** /ri'keɪd/ *vt* to cede (e.g. land) back to a former possessor [re- + 'cede]


**receipt** /ri'seɪt/ *n* 1 the act or process of receiving (< please acknowledge ~ of the goods) 2 sth (e.g. goods or money) received – usu pl with sing. meaning (< took the days' ~ s to the bank) 3 a written acknowledgment of having received goods or money [ME *receite*, fr ONF, fr ML *recepta*, prob fr L, neut pl of *receptus*, pp of *recipere* to receive]

**receipt** *vt* to give a receipt for or acknowledge, esp in writing, the receiving of


**receive** /ri'si:v/ *vt* 1a to (willingly) come into possession of or be provided with b to accept for consideration, give attention to (< had to ~ their unwanted attentions) (< ~ a petition) 2a to act as a receptacle or container for, also to take (an impression, mark, etc) b to assimilate through the mind or senses (< ~ new ideas) 3a to permit to enter; admit (< ~ d into the priesthood) b to welcome, greet, also to entertain c to act in response to (< how did she ~ the offer?) (< well ~ d on his tour) 4 to accept as authoritative or true (< ~ d wisdom) 5a to take the force or pressure of (< these pillars ~ the weight of the roof) b to suffer the hurt or injury of (< ~ a broken nose) 6 to be the player who returns (the service of his/her opponent) in tennis, squash, etc 7 to convert (an incoming signal, esp radio waves) into a form suitable for human perception ~ *vi* to be a recipient e.g. a to be at home to visitors b to accept stolen goods [ME *receiven*, fr ONF *receivre*, fr L *recipere*, fr *re- + capere* to take – more at 'REAVE] – receivable *adj*


**Received Pronunciation** *n* a form of nonlocal British English pronunciation used by many educated British people, esp those who have attended public schools, and usu by the BBC

**Received 'Standard** *n*, chiefly *NAM* RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

**receiver** /ri'si:və/ *n* 1 a person appointed to hold in trust and administer property of a bankrupt or insane person or property under litigation – compare OFFICIAL RECEIVER 2 one who receives stolen goods 3a a radio, television, or other part of a communications system that receives the signal  TELEVISION b the part of a telephone that contains the mouthpiece and earpiece [RECEIVE + 'I-ER] – receivership *n*

**recension** /ri'senʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a critical revision of a text 2 a revised text [L *recensio-*, *recensio* enumeration, fr *recensere* to review, fr *re- + censere* to assess, tax]

**recent** /ri'sent/ *adj* 1a of a time not long past (< the ~ election) b having lately come into existence (< the ~ snow) 2 cap of or being the present or post-Pleistocene geological epoch  EVOLUTION [MF or L; MF, fr 1 *recent-*, *recens*, akin to Gk *kainos* new] – recency /-si/, recentness *n*, recently *adv*

**receptacle** /ri'septəkl/ *n* 1 an object that receives and contains sth 2 the end of the flower stalk of a flowering plant upon which the floral organs are borne  PLANT [L *receptaculum*, fr *receptare* to receive, fr *receptus*, pp of *recipere* to receive]

**reception** /ri'sepʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 receiving or being received e.g. a an admission (< his ~ into the church) b a response, reaction (< the play met with a mixed ~) c the receiving of a radio or television broadcast 2 a formal social gathering during which guests are received 3 *Br* an office or desk where visitors or clients (e.g. to an office, factory, or hotel) are received on arrival [ME *reception*, fr MF or L, MF *reception*, fr L *reception-*, *receptio*, fr *receptus*, pp of *recipere*]

**receptionist** /ri'sepʃənɪst/ *n* one employed to greet and assist callers or clients

**reception room** *n* 1 a waiting room for dental or medical patients 2 a room used primarily for the reception of guests or visitors

**receptive** /ri'septiv/ *adj* 1 open and responsive to ideas, impressions, or suggestions 2 able to receive and transmit stimuli; sensory – receptively *adv*, receptiveness *n*, receptivity /ri'septɪvəti/ *n*

**receptor** /ri'septa/ *n* 1 a cell or group of cells that receives stimuli; SENSE ORGAN 2 a molecule or group of molecules, esp on the surface of a cell, that have an affinity for a particular chemical (e.g. a neurotransmitter)

**recess** /ri'ses, 'rees/ *n* 1 a hidden, secret, or secluded place – usu pl (< illuminating the ~ es of American politics – TLS) 2a an indentation or cleft (e.g. in an anatomical or geological structure) b an alcove (< a pleasant ~ lined with books) 3 a suspension of business or activity, usu for a period of rest or relaxation (< Parliament is in ~), specif, *NAM* a break between school classes [L *recessus*, fr *recessus*, pp of *recedere* to recede]

**recess** /ri'ses/ *vt* 1 to put in a recess (< ~ ed lighting) 2 to make a recess in 3 chiefly *NAM* to interrupt for a recess ~ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to take a

**recession** /ri'sesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a withdrawal 2 the withdrawal of clergy and choir at the end of a church service 3 a period of reduced economic activity – *recessional*, *recessionary adj*  
**recessional** /ri'sesh(ə)n/ *n* a hymn or musical piece at the conclusion of a church service  
**recessive** /ri'sesiv/ *adj* 1 receding or tending to recede 2 being the one of a pair of genes determining contrasting inherited characteristics that is suppressed if a dominant gene is present – compare **DOMINANT** 4 – *recessively adv*  
**recharge** /ree'chahj/ *vt* to charge again, esp to renew the active materials in (a storage battery) – *recharge* /'–/ *n*, *rechargeable adj*  
**rechauffé** /ray'shohfay (Fr re'jofe)/ *n* 1 a warmed-up dish of food 2 a rehash [F]  
**recherche** /rə'sheəʃay (Fr rə'ʃerʃe)/ *adj* 1 exotic, rare <discusses all manner of words – common, ~, and slang – New Yorker> 2 precious, affected <his ~ highbrow talk> [F]  
**recidivist** /ri'sidivist/ *n* one who relapses, specif into criminal behaviour [F *récidiviste*, fr *récidiver* to relapse, fr ML *recidivare*, fr L *recidivus* recurring, fr *recidere* to fall back, fr *re-* + *cadere* to fall – more at **CHANCE**] – *recidivism n*, *recidivist*, *recidivistic* /-'vistik/ *adj*  
**recipe** /'resipi/ *n* 1 PRESCRIPTION 3 2 a list of ingredients and instructions for making sthg, specif a food dish 3 a procedure for doing or attaining sthg <a ~ for success> [L, take, imper of *recipere* to take, receive – more at **RECEIVE**]  
**recipient** /ri'sipi-ənt/ *n* sby who or sthg that receives [L *recipient-*, *recipiens*, prp of *recipere* – *recipient adj*]  
**reciprocal** /ri'siprəkəl/ *adj* 1 esp of mathematical functions inversely related 2 shared, felt, or shown by both sides <~ love> 3 consisting of or functioning as a return in kind <did not expect ~ benefit> 4 mutually corresponding, equivalent <~ trade agreements> [L *reciprocus* returning the same way, alternating, irreg fr *re-* + *pro-*] – *reciprocally adv*  
**reciprocal** *n* 1 either of a pair of numbers (e.g.  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{4}{3}$ ) that when multiplied together equal 1 <the ~ of 2 is 0.5> 2 the inverse of a number under multiplication  
**reciprocal pronoun** *n* a pronoun (e.g. *each other*) used to denote mutual action or relationship  
**reciprocate** /ri'siprəkayt/ *vt* 1 to give and take mutually 2 to return in kind or degree <~ a compliment gracefully> ~ *vi* 1 to make a return for sthg <we hope to ~ for your kindness> 2 to move forwards and backwards alternately <a reciprocating valve> – *reciprocator n*, *reciprocative* /-'kativ/ *adj*, *reciprocation* /-'kayʃ(ə)n/ *adj*  
**reciprocating engine** /ri'siprəkaytiŋ/ *n* an engine in which the to-and-fro motion of a piston is transformed into circular motion of the crankshaft  
**reciprocity** /resi'prosəti/ *n* 1 mutual dependence, action, or influence 2 a mutual exchange of privileges, specif between countries or institutions [RECIPOCAL + -ITY]  
**recital** /ri'sietl/ *n* 1a a reciting b a detailed account <a ~ of her troubles> c a discourse, narration 2 a concert or public performance given by a musician, small group of musicians, or dancer – *recitalist n*  
**recitative** /resi'teiv/ *n* (a passage delivered in) a rhythmically free declamatory style for singing a narrative text [It *recitativo*, fr *recitare* to recite, fr L] – *recitative* /ri'sietativ/ *adj*  
**recite** /ri'siet/ *vt* 1 to repeat from memory or read aloud, esp before an audience 2 to relate in detail, enumerate <~d a catalogue of offences> ~ *vi* to repeat or read aloud sthg memorized or prepared [ME *reciten* to state formally, fr MF or L, MF *reciter* to recite, fr L *recitare*, fr *re-* + *citare* to summon – more at **CITE**] – *reciter n*, *recitation* /resi'tayʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**reck** /rek/ *vt* 1 to take account of <he little ~ed what the outcome might be> 2 to matter to; concern <what ~s it me that I shall die tomorrow?> *USE* archaic or poetic [ME *recken* to take heed, fr OE *reccan*; akin to OHG *ruohhen* to take heed]  
**reckless** /'rekliʃ/ *adj* marked by lack of proper caution, careless of consequences <~ driving> <~ courage> – *recklessly adv*, *recklessness n*  
**reckon** /'rekan/ *vt* 1a to count – usu + *up* b to estimate, compute <~ the height of a building> c to determine by reference to a fixed basis <the Gregorian calendar is ~ed from the birth of Christ> 2 to consider or think of in a specified way <she is ~ed the leading expert> 3 to suppose, think <I ~ they're not coming> 4 to esteem highly <the boys ~ him because he's one of the lads> – infml ~ *vi* 1 to settle accounts 2 to make a calculation 3 to place reliance <I'm ~ing on your support> [ME *rekenen*, fr OE *-recenian* (as in *gerecenian* to narrate); akin to OE *reccan*]

– *reckon with* to take into account, esp because formidable – *reckon without* to fail to consider; ignore  
**reckoning** /'rekəniŋ/ *n* 1a a calculation or counting b an account, bill 2 a settling of accounts <day of ~> 3 an appraisal  
**reclaim** /ri'klaym/ *vt* 1 to rescue or convert from an undesirable state, reform 2 to make available for human use by changing natural conditions <~ed marshland> 3 to obtain from a waste product [ME *reclamen*, fr OF *reclamer* to call back, fr L *reclamare* to cry out against, fr *re-* + *clamare* to cry out – more at **CLAIM**] – *reclaimable adj*, *reclamation* /reklə'mayʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *reclamator* /reklə'maytə, ri'klamətə/ *n*  
**réclame** /ray'klaɦm (Fr rekla:m)/ *n* public acclaim [F, advertising, fr *réclamer* to appeal, fr OF *reclamer*]  
**recline** /ri'klen/ *vb* 1 (to cause or permit) to incline backwards <~d the seat a little> 2 to place or be in a recumbent position; lean, repose <~s her head on the pillow> [ME *reclinare*, fr MF or L; MF *reclinare*, fr L *reclinare*, fr *re-* + *clinare* to bend – more at **LEAN**]  
**recluse** /ri'klooʃ/ *n* or *adj* (sby) leading a secluded or solitary life [adj ME, fr OF *reclus*, lit., shut up, fr LL *reclusus*, pp of *recludere* to shut up, fr L *re-* + *cludere* to close – more at **CLOSE**, *n* fr adj] – *reclusive adj*, *reclusion* /-zh(ə)n/ *n*  
**recognition** /rekə'gɪnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 recognizing or being recognized c g a (formal) acknowledgment (e.g. of a government or claim) b perception of sthg as identical with sthg already known in fact or by description <~ of a former friend> <~ of a fine claret> 2 special notice or attention <a writer who has received much ~> 3 the sensing and coding of printed or written data by a machine <optical character ~> <machine ~ of handwritten characters> [L *recognitio*-, *recognitio*, fr *recognitus*, pp of *recognoscere*]  
**recognizance** /ri'kɒgnɪz(ə)ns/ *n* (the sum pledged as a guarantee for) a bond entered into before a court or magistrate that requires a person to do sthg (e.g. pay a debt or appear in court at a later date) [alter of ME *reconnaissance*, fr MF *reconnaissance* recognition, fr *reconnoistre* to recognize]  
**recognize**, -ise /'rekəgnɪz/ *vt* 1a to perceive to be sthg or sby previously known or encountered <~d the word> b to perceive clearly <~d his own inadequacy> 2a to show appreciation of (e.g. by praise or reward) b to acknowledge acquaintance with <~ an old crony with a nod> c to admit the fact of <~s his obligation> 3a to admit as being of a particular status or having validity <~d her as legitimate representative> b to allow to speak in a meeting [modif of MF *reconnoiss-*, stem of *reconnoistre*, fr L *recognoscere*, fr *re-* + *cognoscere* to know – more at **COGNITION**] – *recognizable adj*, *recognizably adv*, *recognizability* /-'zɪləbɪlɪ/ *n*  
**recoil** /ri'kɔɪl/ *vt* 1 to shrink back physically or emotionally (e.g. in horror, fear, or disgust) 2 to spring back, rebound e.g. a to fly back into an uncompressed position <the spring ~ed> b esp of a firearm to move backwards sharply when fired 3 REBOUND 2 [ME *reculen*, fr OF *recluer*, fr *re-* + *cul* backside, fr L *culus*]  
**recoil** /ree'kɔɪl, ri'kɔɪl/ *n* recoiling, esp the backwards movement of a gun on firing  
**recollect** /'rekə'lekt/ *vt* 1 to bring back to the level of conscious awareness, remember, recall 2 to bring (oneself) back to a state of composure or concentration ~ *vi* to call sthg to mind [ML *recollectus*, pp of *recolligere*, fr L, to gather again] – *recollection* /-'lekʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *recollective* /-'tɪv/ *adj*  
**recombinant** /ree'kombɪnənt/ *adj* 1 exhibiting genetic recombination <~ progeny> 2 of or being DNA prepared in the laboratory by combining pieces of DNA from several different species of organisms – *recombinant n*  
**recombination** /reekombɪ'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the formation of new combinations of genes in progeny that did not occur in the parents – *recombinational adj*  
**recommend** /'reka'mend/ *vt* 1a to declare to be worthy of acceptance or trial <~ed the restaurant> b to endorse as fit, worthy, or competent <~s her for the position> 2 to make acceptable <has other points to ~ it> 3 to advise <~ that the matter be dropped> 4 archaic to entrust, commit <~d his soul to God> [ME *recomenden* to praise, fr ML *recommendarē*, fr L *re-* + *commendare* to commend] – *recommendable adj*, *recommendation* /-'daɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, *recommendatory* /-'mendə(ə)ri/ *adj*  
**recompense** /'rekəmpens/ *vt* 1 to give sthg to by way of compensation <~d him for his losses> 2 to make or amount to an equivalent or compensation for <a pleasure that ~s our trouble> [ME *recompensen*, fr MF *recompenser*, fr LL *recompensare*, fr L *re-* + *compensare* to compensate]

**²recompense** *n* an equivalent or a return for sthg done, suffered, or given *<offered in ~ for injuries>*

**reconcile** /ˈrɒkənsiəl/ *vt* **1a** to restore to friendship or harmony **b** to settle, resolve *<~ differences>* **2** to make consistent or congruous *<~ an ideal with reality>* **3** to cause to submit to or accept *<was ~d to hardship>* [ME *reconcilen*, fr MF or L, MF *reconciler*, fr L *reconciliare*, fr *re-* + *conciliare* to conciliate] – **reconcilable** *adj*, **reconciler** *n*, **reconciliation** /ˌrɪˈkɒnsiə(ə)ʃən/ *n*, **reconciliatory** /ˌrɪˈkɒnsiə(ə)t(ə)ri/ *adj*

**recondite** /ˈrɪˈkɒndiət, ˈrekan-/ *adj* (of or dealing with sthg) little known, abstruse, or obscure *<(the ~ literature of the Middle Ages)>* *<a ~ subject>* [L *reconditus*, pp of *recondere* to conceal, fr *re-* + *condere* to store up, fr *com-* + *-dere* to put – more at *DO*] – **reconditely** *adv*, **reconditeness** *n*

**recondition** /ˌriːkənˈdɪʃ(ə)n/ *vt* to restore to good (working) condition (e.g. by replacing parts)

**reconnaissance** /ˈrɪˈkɒnəʃ(ə)ns/ *n* a preliminary survey to gain information, esp an exploratory military survey of enemy territory or positions [F, lit., recognition, fr MF *reconnaissance*]

**reconnoître**, *NAm* **reconnoiter** /ˌreˈkɒnoɪtə/ *vb* to make a reconnaissance (of) [obs F *reconnoître*, lit., to recognize, fr MF *reconnoître* – more at *RECOGNIZE*]

**reconsider** /ˌriːkənˈsɪdə/ *vb* to consider (sthg) again with a view to change, revision, or revocation – **reconsideration** /ˌˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reconstitute** /ˌreːˈkɒnstɪtjuːt, -ˌchoot/ *vt* to constitute again or anew, esp to restore to a former condition by adding water *<~ powdered milk>* – **reconstitution** /ˌˈrɪoʊsh(ə)n/ *n*

**reconstruct** /ˌriːkənˈstrʊkt/ *vt* **1a** to restore to a previous condition **b** *RECREATE* **2** *<~ ing a dinosaur from its bones>* **2** to reorganize, reestablish *<~ ing society during the postwar period>* **3** to build up a mental image or physical representation of (e.g. a crime or a battle) from the available evidence – **reconstructible** *adj*, **reconstruction** /ˌˈstrʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**¹record** /ˈrɪˈkɔːd/ *vt* **1a** to commit to writing so as to supply written evidence **b** to state or indicate (as if) for a record *<said he wanted to ~ certain reservations>* **c** (1) to register permanently by mechanical or other means *<earthquake shocks ~ ed by a seismograph>* (2) to indicate, read **2** to give evidence of, show **3** to convert (e.g. sound) into a permanent form fit for reproduction *<~ vt to record sthg [ME *recorden*, lit., to recall, fr OF *recorder*, fr L *recordari*, fr *re-* + *cord-*, *cor* heart – more at *HEART*] – recordable *adj**

**²record** /ˈrekɔːd, ˈrekəd/ *n* **1** the state or fact of being recorded **2a** sthg recorded or on which information, evidence, etc. has been registered **b** sthg that recalls, relates, or commemorates past events or facts **c** an authentic official document **d** the official copy of the papers used in a law case **3a** (1) a body of known or recorded facts regarding sthg or sby (2) a list of previous criminal convictions **b** a performance, occurrence, or condition that goes beyond or is extraordinary among others of its kind, *specif* the best recorded performance in a competitive sport **4** (the sound recorded on) a flat usu plastic disc with a spiral groove whose undulations represent recorded sound for reproduction on a gramophone – **off the record** *not for publication <remarks that were off the record>* – **on record** *in or into the status of being known, published, or documented <he is on record as saying this>*

**³record, deck** *n* the apparatus including a turntable and stylus on which a gramophone record is played

**re,recorded delivery** *adv* or *n* (by) a postal service available in the UK in which the delivery of a posted item is recorded

**recorder** /ˈrɪˈkɔːdər/ *n* **1** *often cap* a magistrate formerly presiding over the court of quarter sessions **2** any of a group of wind instruments consisting of a slightly tapering tube with usu 8 finger holes and a mouthpiece like a whistle [¹*RECORD* + ²*ER*; (2) arch *record* (to practise a tune)]

**recording** /ˈrɪˈkɔːdɪŋ/ *n* sthg (e.g. sound or a television programme) that has been recorded electronically

**recordingist** /ˈrɪˈkɔːdɪst/ *n* one who records sound (e.g. on magnetic tape)

**¹record player** /ˈrekɔːd, -kəd/ *n* an electronically-operated system for playing records; a gramophone

**¹recount** /ˈrɪˈkəʊnt/ *vt* to relate in detail [ME *recounten*, fr MF *reconter*, fr *re-* + *comter*, *compter* to count, relate – more at ¹*COUNT*]

**²recount** /ˌˈreːˈkəʊnt/ *vt* to count again [re- + ¹*COUNT*]

**³recount** /ˌˈreːˈkəʊnt/ *n* a recounting, esp of votes

**recoup** /ˈrɪˈkəʊp/ *vt* **1** to rightfully withhold part of (a sum due) **2a** to get an equivalent for (e.g. losses) **b** to pay (a person, organization, etc) back; compensate **3** to regain *<an attempt to ~ his fortune>* ~ *vi* to make

up for sthg lost [F *recouper* to cut back, fr OF, fr *re-* + *couper* to cut – more at ¹*COPE*] – **recoupable** *adj*

**recourse** /ˈrɪˈkɔːs/ *n* **1** (a turning or resorting to) a source of help, strength, or protection *<to have ~ to the law>* **2** the right to demand payment [ME *recours*, fr MF, fr LL *recursus*, fr L, act of running back, fr *recursus*, pp of *recurere* to run back – more at *RECUR*]

**recover** /ˈrɪˈkʊvə/ *vt* **1** to get back e.g. **a** to regain possession or use of *<quickly ~ ed his senses>* **b** *RECLAIM* **2** to bring back to a normal position or condition *<stumbled, then ~ ed himself>* **3a** to make up for *<~ one's costs>* **b** to obtain by legal action *<~ damages>* **4** to obtain from an ore, waste product, or by-product ~ *vi* to regain a normal or stable position or condition (e.g. of health) *<~ ing from a cold>* [ME *recoveren*, fr MF *recoverer*, fr L *recuperare*, akin to L *recipere* to receive – more at *RECEIVE*] – **recoverable** *adj*, **recoverability** /-rəˈbɪlətɪ/ *n*

**recovery** /ˈrɪˈkʊv(ə)ri/ *n* a recovering e.g. **a** a return to normal health **b** a regaining of balance or control (e.g. after a stumble or mistake) **c** an economic upturn (e.g. after a depression)

**recruant** /ˈrekriːənt/ *adj* **1** cowardly **2** unfaithful to duty or allegiance *USE* fml or poetic [ME, fr MF, fr prp of *recroire* to renounce one's cause in a trial by battle, fr *re-* + *croire* to believe, fr L *credere* – more at *CREED*] – **recrulant** *n*

**recreate** /ˌriːkriːˈeɪt/ *vt* to create again e.g. **a** to reproduce so as to resemble exactly *<~ d an old frontier town for the film>* **b** to visualize or create again in the imagination – **recreatable** *adj*, **recreation** /ˌˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**recreation** /ˌrekriːˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a means of) pleasurable activity, diversion, etc *<his favourite ~ was spying on his neighbours>* [ME *recreacion*, fr MF *recreation*, fr L *recreation-*, *recreatio* restoration to health, fr *recreatus*, pp of *recreare* to create anew, restore, refresh, fr *re-* + *creare* to create] – **recreational** *adj*

**recriminate** /ˈrɪˈkrɪmɪˌneɪt/ *vt* to indulge in bitter mutual accusations [ML *recriminatus*, pp of *recriminare*, fr L *re-* + *crimīnari* to accuse – more at *CRIMINATE*] – **recriminative** /-nətɪv/, **recriminatory** /-nət(ə)ri/ *adj*, **recrimination** /ˌˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**recrudescence** /ˌriːkruːˈdes/ *n*, *pl* of *sthg undesirable, esp a disease* to break out or become active again – fml [L *recrudescere* to become raw again, fr *re-* + *crudescere* to become raw, fr *crudus* raw – more at *RAW*] – **recrudescence** *n*, **recrudescent** *adj*

**¹recruit** /ˈrɪˈkruːt/ *n* a newcomer to a field or activity, *specif* a newly enlisted member of the armed forces [F *recrute*, *recrue* fresh growth, new levy of soldiers, fr MF, fr *recroistre* to grow up again, fr L *recrescere*, fr *re-* + *crevere* to grow – more at *CRESCENT*]

**²recruit** *vt* **1a** (1) to enlist recruits for (e.g. an army, regiment, or society) (2) to enlist (a person) as a recruit **b** to secure the services of, hire **2** to replenish, renew ~ *vi* to enlist new members – **recruiter** *n*, **recruitment** *n*

**rect-, recto-** *comb form* rectum *<rectal>* [NL *rectum*]

**rectal** /ˈrekt(ə)l/ *adj* of, affecting, or near the rectum – **rectally** *adv*

**rectangle** /ˈrektangl/ *n* a parallelogram all of whose angles are right angles, *esp* one that is not a square – **MATHEMATICS** [ML *rectangulus* having a right angle, fr L *rectus* right + *angulus* angle – more at *RIGHT*, ¹*ANGLE*]

**rectangular** /ˌrekˈtɒŋɡjʊlə/ *adj* **1** shaped like a rectangle *<a ~ area>* **2a** crossing, lying, or meeting at a right angle *<~ axes>* **b** having faces or surfaces shaped like rectangles *<volume of a ~ solid>* *<~ blocks>* – **rectangularly** *adv*, **rectangularity** /-lənɪtɪ/ *n*

**rectangular co'ordinate** *n* a coordinate in a Cartesian system having axes perpendicular to each other

**rectifier** /ˈrektɪfɪeɪ/ *n* a device for converting alternating current into direct current [RECTIFY + ¹*ER*]

**rectify** /ˈrektɪfɪeɪ/ *vt* **1** to set right, remedy *<to ~ mistakes>* **2** to purify (e.g. alcohol), esp by repeated or fractional distillation **3** to correct by removing errors *<~ the calendar>* **4** to convert (alternating current) to direct current [ME *rectifien*, fr MF *rectifier*, fr ML *rectificare*, fr L *rectus* right] – **rectifiable** *adj*, **rectification** /-fɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rectilinear** /ˌrektɪˈlɪniːə/ *adj* **1** (moving) in or forming a straight line *<~ motion>* **2** characterized by straight lines [LL *rectilineus*, fr L *rectus* + *linea* line] – **rectilinearly** *adv*

**rectitude** /ˌrektɪˈtjuːd/ *n* **1** moral integrity **2** correctness in judgment or procedure [ME, fr MF, fr LL *rectitudo*, fr L *rectus* straight, right]

**recto** /ˈrektə/ *n*, *pl* *rectos* a right-hand page – compare *VERSO* [NL *recto* (folio) the page being straight]


**recto-** – see *RECT-*

**rector** /ˈrektə/ *n* **1a** a clergyman in charge of a parish; *specif* one in a Church of England parish where the tithes were formerly paid to the

incumbent **b** a Roman Catholic priest directing a church with no pastor or one whose pastor has other duties **2** the head of a university or college [L, director, fr *rectus*, pp of *regere* to direct – more at **'RIGHT**] – **rectorship** *n*, **rectorate** /'rekt(ə)rət/, **rectorial** /rek'tawri-əl/ *adj*

**rectory** /'rekt(ə)rɪ/ *n* a rector's residence or benefice

**rectrix** /'rektɪks/ *n*, *pl* **rectrices** /-seɪz/ any of a bird's tail feathers that are important in controlling flight direction [NL, fr L, fem of *rector* director]

**rectum** /'rektəm/ *n*, *pl* **rectums**, **recta** /-tə/ the last part of the intestine of a vertebrate, ending at the anus  **DIGESTION** [NL, fr *rectum intestinum*, lit, straight intestine]

**rectus** /'rektəs/ *n*, *pl* **recti** /-ti/ any of several straight abdominal muscles [NL, fr *rectus musculus* straight muscle]

**recumbent** /'nʌmbənt/ *adj* **1** in an attitude suggestive of repose <comfortably ~ against a tree> **2** lying down [L *recumbens*, *recumbens*, pp of *recumbere* to lie down, fr *re-* + *-cumbere* to lie down (akin to L *cubare* to lie, recline) – more at **'HIP**] – **recumbency** /-sɪ/ *n*, **recumbently** *adv*

**recuperate** /'rɪk(y)ʊəpə,rayt/ *vt* to regain <~ financial losses> ~ *vi* to regain a former (healthy) state or condition [L *recuperatus*, pp of *recuperare* – more at **RECOVER**] – **recuperation** /-raysh(ə)n/ *n*, **recuperative** /-p(ə)rətɪv/ *adj*

**recur** /'nʌkʊh/ *vi* **-rr-** to occur again, esp repeatedly or after an interval **e** to come up again for consideration <knew the difficulties would only ~> **b** to come again to mind <~ rning thoughts> [ME *recurren* to return, fr L *recurere*, lit., to run back, fr *re-* + *currere* to run – more at **CAR**] – **recurrence** /'nʌkʊrəns/ *n*

**recurrent** /'nʌkʊrənt/ *adj* **1** esp of nerves and anatomical vessels running or turning back in a direction opposite to a former course **2** returning or happening repeatedly or periodically <~ complaints> [L *recurrent*, *recurrens*, pp of *recurrere*] – **recurrently** *adv*

**recurring decimal** /'nʌkʊhɪŋ/ *n* a decimal in which a particular digit or sequence of digits repeats itself indefinitely at some stage after the decimal point

**recursion** /'nʌkʊsh(ə)n/ *n* **1** a return **2** the repeated application of a particular mathematical procedure to the previous result to determine either a sequence of numbers or a more accurate approximation to a square root, fraction, etc [LL *recursion*-, *recursio*, fr *recursus*, pp of *recurrere* to run back] – **recursive** /-sɪv/ *adj*, **recursively** *adv*

**recurved** /'nʌkʊvd/ *adj* curved backwards or inwards

**recusancy** /'rekjuʊz(ə)nsɪ/, **recusance** *n* refusal to accept or obey established authority, *specif* the refusal of Roman Catholics to attend services of the Church of England, a statutory offence from about 1570 until 1791 [recusant, *n*, fr L *recusant*-, *recusans*, pp of *recusare* to refuse, fr *re-* + *causari* to give a reason, fr *causa* cause, reason] – **recusant** *n* or *adj*

**recycle** /,ree'sɪkl/ *vt* to pass through a series of changes or treatments so as to return to a previous stage in a cyclic process, *specif* to process (sewage, waste paper, glass, etc) for conversion back into a useful product ~ *vi* esp of an electronic device to return to an original condition so that operation can begin again – **recyclable** *adj*, **recycler** *n*

**'red** /red/ *adj* **-dd-** **1** of the colour red **2a** flushed, esp with anger or embarrassment **b** bloodshot <eyes ~ from crying> **c** of hair or the coat of an animal in the colour range between a medium orange and russet or bay **d** tinged with or rather red <a ~ sky> **3** cap of a communist country, esp the Soviet Union **4** failing to show a profit <a ~ financial statement> – compare **BLACK 8** **5a** inciting or endorsing radical social or political change, esp by force **b** often cap communist **USE (5)** infml or derog [ME, fr OE *read*; akin to OHG *rōt* red, L *ruber* & *rufus*, Gk *erythros*] – **reddish** *adj*, **reddishness** *n*, **redly** *adv*, **redness** *n*

**'red n** **1** a colour whose hue resembles that of blood or of the ruby or is that of the long-wave extreme of the visible spectrum **2** sthg that is of or gives a red or reddish colour **3** the condition of being financially in debt or of showing a loss – usu in *in/out of the red*, compare **BLACK 7** **4** a red traffic light meaning 'stop' **5a** a revolutionary radical **b** cap a communist **USE (5)** chiefly derog

**redact** /'rɪdʌkt/ *vt* to prepare for publication; edit [back-formation fr *redaction*, fr F *redaction*, fr LL *redaction*-, *redactio* act of reducing, compressing, fr L *redactus*, pp of *redigere* to bring back, reduce, fr *re-*, *red-* + *agere* to lead – more at **AGENT**] – **redaction** /'rɪdʌksh(ə)n/ *n*, **redactor** *n*

**red admiral** *n* a common N American and European butterfly that has broad orange-red bands on the fore wings and feeds on nettles in the larval stage

**red alga** *n* any of many algae that are seaweeds with a predominantly red colour

**red blood cell**, **red cell** *n* any of the haemoglobin-containing cells that carry oxygen to the tissues and are responsible for the red colour of vertebrate blood – compare **WHITE BLOOD CELL**

**red blood corpuscle**, **red corpuscle** *n* **RED BLOOD CELL**

**red-blooded** *adj* full of vigour, virile

**red breast** /-brest/ *n* a robin

**red brick** /-brɪk/ *n* or *adj* (an English university) founded between 1800 and WW II [fr the common use of red brick in the buildings of recently-founded universities]

**red campion** *n* a red-flowered Eurasian plant of the pink family

**red cap** /-kəp/ *n* **1** Br a military policeman **2** NAM a (railway) porter

**red carpet** *n* a greeting or reception marked by ceremonial courtesy – usu in *roll out the red carpet* – **red-carpet** *adj*

**red cedar** *n* (the wood of) an American juniper

**red cent** *n*, chiefly NAM a trivial amount, a whit <not worth a ~>

**red coat** /-koʊt/ *n* a British soldier, esp formerly when scarlet jackets were worn

**red currant** /-kʌrənt/ *n* (the small red edible fruit of) a widely cultivated European currant bush

**redd** /red/ *vt* **redded**, **redd** chiefly NAM & Scot to set in order, make tidy [ME *redde* to clear, prob alter of *ridden* – more at **RID**]

**redde** /red(ə)n/ *vt* to make red or reddish ~ *vi* to become red, esp to blush

**redeem** /n'di:em/ *vt* **1a** to repurchase (e.g sthg pledged or lodged as security against a sum of money) <to ~ a pawned ring> **b** to get or win back <~ed his losses of the previous night's gambling> **2** to free from what distresses or harms e.g **a** to free from captivity by payment of ransom **b** to release from blame or debt <hoped to ~ himself by these heroics> **c** to free from the consequences of sin **3a** to eliminate another's right to (sthg) by payment of a debt **b(1)** to remove the obligation of (e.g a bond) by making a stipulated payment <the government ~ savings bonds on demand>, *specif* to convert (paper money) into money in coin (2) to convert (trading stamps, tokens, etc) into money or goods **c** to make good, fulfil <~ed his promise> **4a** to atone for <to ~ an error> **b(1)** to offset the bad effect of <flashes of wit ~ed a dreary speech> (2) to make worthwhile, retrieve <no efforts of hers could ~ such a hopeless undertaking> [ME *redemen*, modif of MF *redimer*, fr L *redimere*, fr *re-*, *red-* + *emere* to take, buy, akin to Lith *imti* to take] – **redeemable** *adj*

**Redeemer** /'rɪdi:ma/ *n* Jesus [RDEELM + 'FR]

**redemption** /'redempʃ(ə)n, 'dɛmʃ(ə)n/ *n* redeeming or being redeemed, also sthg that redeems [ME *redempcioun*, fr MF *redemption*, fr L *redemption*-, *redemptio*, fr *redemptus*, pp of *redimere* to redeem] – **redemptive** /-tɪv/ *adj*

**rededeploy** /,redɪ'ploɪ/ *vb* to transfer (e.g troops or workers) from one area or activity to another – **rededeployment** *n*

**rededvelop** /,redɪ'veləp/ *vt* to design, develop, or build again, *specif* to renovate (a deteriorating or depressed urban area) – **rededveloper** *n*, **rededvelopment** *n*

**red giant** *n* a star that has a low surface temperature and a large diameter relative to the sun

**Red Guard** *n* a member of a militant youth organization in China formed to preserve popular enthusiasm for the communist regime

**red gum** *n* (the hard reddish wood of or the reddish brown gum yielded by) any of several Australian eucalyptus trees

**red-handed** *adv* or *adj* in the act of committing a crime or misdeed <caught ~>

**red head** /-hed/ *n* a person with red hair – **redheaded** *adj*

**red heat** *n* being red-hot, also the temperature at which a substance is red-hot

**red herring** *n* **1** a herring cured by salting and slow smoking to a dark brown colour **2** sthg irrelevant that distracts attention from the real issue [(2) fr the practice of drawing a red herring across a trail to confuse hunting dogs]

**red-hot** *adj* **1** glowing with heat, extremely hot **2a** ardent, passionate <~ anger> **b** sensational; *specif* salacious <this ~ story of a Regency love affair> **c** full of energy, vigour, or enterprise <a ~ band> **d** arousing enthusiasm, currently extolled <a ~ favourite for the National> **3** new, topical <~ news>

**red-hot poker** *n* any of various S African plants of the lily family with tall erect spikes of yellow flowers changing to bright red towards the top

**redia** /'redɪ-ə/ *n*, *pl* **rediae** /-di:ee/ also **redias** a larva of any of various



parasitic trematode worms that either produces another generation of rediae or develops into a cercaria [NL, fr Francesco Redi †1697 lt naturalist]

**Red Indian** *n* a N American Indian

**redingote** /ˈredɪŋɡoʊt/ *n* 1 an overcoat with a large collar worn, esp by men, in the 18th and 19th c 2 a woman's lightweight coat with a cut-away front below the waist [F, modif of E *riding coat*]

**redirect** /ˈredɪˈrekt/, -diˈrekt/ *vt* to change the course or direction of – **redirection** /-ˈrekʃən/ *n*

**red lead** /led/ *n* an orange-red to brick-red lead oxide used in storage battery plates, in glass and ceramics, and as a paint pigment

**red-letter** *adj* of special (happy) significance [fr the practice of marking holy days in red letters in church calendars]

**red light** *n* 1 a red warning light, esp on a road or railway commanding traffic to stop 2 a cautionary sign < saw her warning as a ~ to potential troublemakers >

**red-light district** *n* a district having many brothels

**red man** *n* a N American Indian – chiefly derog

**red meat** *n* dark-coloured meat (e.g. beef or lamb) – compare **WHITE MEAT**

**red mullet** *n* MULLET *b*

**redo** /ˈredoʊ/ *vt* redoes; redoing; redid; redone 1 to do over again 2 to decorate (a room or interior of a building) anew

**red ochre** *n* a red earthy haematite used as a pigment

**redolent** /ˈredələnt/ *adj* 1 full of a specified fragrance < air ~ of seaweed > 2 evocative, suggestive < a city ~ of antiquity > [ME, fr MF, fr L *redolent-*, *redolens*, prp of *redolere* to emit a scent, fr *re-*, *red-* + *olere* to smell – more at **ODOUR**] – **redolence** *n*, **redolently** *adv*

**redouble** /ˈrɪdʊbl, sense 2, ˈree-/ *vb* **redoubling** /-ˈdʊblɪŋ/ 1 to make or become greater more numerous, or more intense < to ~ our efforts > 2 to double (an opponent's double) in bridge – **redouble** *n*

**redoubt** /ˈrɪdaʊt/ *n* 1 a small usu temporary enclosed defensive fortified structure 2 a secure place, a stronghold [F *redoute*, fr It *ridotto*, fr ML *reductus* secret place, fr L, withdrawn, fr pp of *reducere* to lead back – more at **REDUCE**]

**redoubtable** /ˈrɪdaʊtəbl/ *adj* 1 formidable < a ~ adversary > 2 inspiring or worthy of awe or reverence [ME *redoutable*, fr MF, fr *redouter* to dread, fr *re-* + *douter* to doubt] – **redoubtably** *adv*

**redound** /ˈrɪdaʊnd/ *vi* 1 to have a direct effect, lead or contribute to < can only ~ to our advantage > 2 to rebound on or upon < the President's behaviour ~s on his Party > **USE** fml [ME *redounden* to overflow, fr MF *redonder*, fr L *redundare*, fr *re-*, *red-* + *unda* wave – more at **WATER**]

**redox** /ˈree,doks/ *adj* of or involving both oxidation and reduction < a ~ reaction > [reduction + oxidation]

**red pepper** *n* CAYENNE PEPPER

**redpoll** /ˈpɒl/ *n* any of several small finches that resemble and are closely related to the linnet ['*poll*]

**redpoll** *n*, often cap *R&P* any of a British breed of large red hornless dairy and beef cattle ['*poll*]

**redress** /ˈrɪdres/ *vt* 1a to set right < to ~ social wrongs > *b* to make or exact reparation for 2 to adjust evenly, make stable or equal again < to ~ the balance of power > [ME *redressen*, fr MF *redresser*, fr OF *redreier*, fr *re-* + *dreier* to make straight – more at **DRESS**]

**redress** *n* 1 compensation for wrong or loss 2 the (means or possibility of) putting right what is wrong

**red salmon** *n* a sockeye

**redshank** /-ˌʃaŋk/ *n* a common Old World wading bird with pale red legs and feet

**red shift** *n* a displacement of the spectrum of a celestial body towards longer wavelengths, that is a consequence of the Doppler effect or the gravitational field of the source

**red skin** /-ˌskɪn/ *n* a N American Indian – chiefly derog

**red snow** *n* snow coloured red by airborne dusts or by a growth of red-coloured algae

**red spider** *n* any of several small mites that attack crop plants

**red squirrel** *n* a reddish brown Eurasian squirrel native to British woodlands that is gradually being replaced by the grey squirrel

**redstart** /-ˌstɑ:t/ *n* a small Old World bird with chestnut tail and underparts [red + obs *start* (handle, tail), fr ME *stert*, fr OE *steort*]

**red tape** *n* excessively complex bureaucratic routine that results in delay [fr the red tape formerly used to bind legal documents in Britain]

**red tide** *n* sea water discoloured and made toxic by the presence of large numbers of red-coloured protozoans

**reduce** /ˈrɪdjuːs/ *vt* 1 to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number,

make less < ~ taxes > < ~ the likelihood of war > 2 to bring or force to a specified state or condition < was ~d to tears of frustration > 3 to force to capitulate < ~d Alexandria after a lengthy siege > 4 to bring to a systematic form or character < ~ natural events to laws > 5 to correct (e.g. a fracture) by bringing displaced or broken parts back into normal position 6 to lower in grade, rank, status, or condition < ~d to the ranks > < living in ~d circumstances > 7a to diminish in strength, density, or value *b* to lower the price of < shoes ~d in the sale > 8 to change the denominations or form of without changing the value < ~ fractions to a common denominator > 9 to break down by crushing, grinding, etc 10a to convert (e.g. an ore) to a metal by removing nonmetallic elements *b* to combine with or subject to the action of hydrogen *c* to change (an atom, molecule, ion, etc) from a higher to a lower oxidation state, esp by adding electrons ~ *vi* 1 to become diminished or lessened, esp to lose weight by dieting 2 to become reduced < ferric iron ~s to ferrous iron > [ME *reducen* to lead back, fr L *reducere*, fr *re-* + *ducere* to lead – more at **TOW**] – **reducer** *n*, **reducible** *adj*, **reducibility** /-səˈbɪləti/ *n*

**reducing agent** /ˈrɪdjuːsɪŋ/ *n* a substance that reduces a chemical compound, usu by donating electrons

**reductant** /ˈrɪdʊktənt/ *n* REDUCING AGENT

**reductio ad absurdum** /ˈrɪdʊktɪ-oh ad əbˈsʊdəm/ *n* proof of the falsity of a proposition by revealing the absurdity of its logical consequences [LL, lit., reduction to the absurd]

**reduction** /ˈrɪdʊkʃən/ *n* 1 a reducing or being reduced 2a sth made by reducing, esp a reproduction (e.g. of a picture) in a smaller size *b* the amount by which sth is reduced [ME *reduccon* restoration, fr MF *reduction*, fr LL & L, LL *reduction-*, *reductio* reduction (in a syllogism), fr L, restoration, fr *reductus*, pp of *reducere*] – **reductive** /-tɪv/ *adj*

**reduction division** *n* (the first division of) meiosis of cells

**reductionism** /ˈrɪdʊkʃənɪz(ə)m/ *n* a procedure or theory that reduces complex data or phenomena to simple terms, esp oversimplification – **reductionist** *n* or *adj*, **reductionistic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*

**redundancy** /ˈrɪdʊndənsi/ *n* 1 being redundant 2 the part of a message that can be eliminated without loss of essential information 3 chiefly Br dismissal from a job

**redundant** /ˈrɪdʊndənt/ *adj* 1a superfluous *b* characterized by or containing an excess, specif excessively verbose < a ~ literary style > 2 serving as a backup so as to prevent failure of an entire system (e.g. a spacecraft) in the event of failure of a single component 3 chiefly Br unnecessary, unfit, or no longer required for a job [L *redundant-*, *redundans*, prp of *redundare* to overflow – more at **REBOUND**] – **redundantly** *adv*

**reduplication** /ˈree,djuːkəlɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* 1 a doubling or reiterating 2 the doubling of (part of) a word with or without partial modification (e.g. in *hocus pocus* or *dilly-dally*) – **reduplicate** /-ˌkeɪt/ *vt* or /-ˌkeɪt/ *adj*, **reduplicative** /-ˌkeɪtɪv/ *adj*

**red wine** *n* a wine with a predominantly red colour derived during fermentation from the natural pigment in the skins of dark-coloured grapes

**redwing** /-ˌwɪŋ/ *n* a Eurasian thrush with red patches beneath its wings

**redwood** /-ˌwʊd/ *n* (the wood of) a commercially important Californian timber tree of the pine family that often reaches a height of 100m (about 300ft)

**reecho** /ˈreeˈekoh/ *vb* **reechoes**; **reechoing**; **reechoed** *vi* to repeat or return an echo ~ *vt* to echo back; repeat

**reed** /reed/ *n* 1a (the slender, often prominently jointed, stem of) any of various tall grasses that grow esp in wet areas *b* a person or thing too weak to rely on 2 a growth or mass of reeds, specif reeds for thatching 3a a thin elastic tongue or flattened tube (e.g. of cane or plastic) fastened over an air opening in a musical instrument (e.g. an organ or clarinet) and set in vibration by an air current *b* a woodwind instrument having a reed < the ~s of an orchestra > 4 a device on a loom resembling a comb, used to space warp yarns evenly 5 a semicircular convex moulding that is usu 1 of several set parallel [ME *rede*, fr OE *hreed*; akin to OHG *hriot* reed, Lith *kruteti* to stir]

**reed bunting** *n* a common Eurasian bunting that frequents marshy places

**reed mace** /-ˌmeɪs/ *n* any of a genus of tall reedy marsh plants with broad furry fruiting spikes


**reed organ** *n* a keyboard wind instrument in which the wind acts on a set of reeds

**reed pipe** *n* an organ pipe producing its tone by vibration of a beating reed in an air current

**reeducate** /ˈreːdyooˌkayt/, -ˈejoo-/ *vt* to rehabilitate through education  
 – **reeducative** /-ˈkaytɪv/ *adj*, **reeducation** /-ˈkaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**reed**, **warbler** *n* any of several Eurasian warblers that frequent marshy places

**reedy** /ˈreɪdi/ *adj* 1 full of, covered with, or made of reeds 2 slender, frail 3 having the tonal quality of a reed instrument, *esp* thin and high

**reef** /ˈriːf/ *n* a part of a sail taken in or let out to regulate the area exposed to the wind  **SHIP** [ME *rif*, fr ON *ri*]

**reef** *vt* to reduce the area of (a sail) exposed to the wind by rolling up or taking in a portion

**reef** *n* 1 a ridge of rocks or sand at or near the surface of water 2 a lode [D *ri*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *ri* 'reef of a sail'] – **reefy** *adj*

**reefer** /ˈriːfə/, -ˈreɪfə/ *n* a close-fitting usu double-breasted jacket of thick cloth [ˈREEF + -ER]

**reefer** *n* JOINT 4 [prob fr 'reef' (sthg rolled up) + -er]

**reef**, **knot** *n* a symmetrical knot made of 2 half-knots tied in opposite directions and commonly used for joining 2 pieces of material

**reek** /ˈriːk/ *n* 1 a strong or disagreeable smell 2 chiefly *Scot & N Eng* smoke, vapour [ME *rek* smoke, fr OE *rec*; akin to OHG *rouh* 'smoke'] – **reeky** *adj*

**reek** *vi* 1 to emit smoke or vapour 2a to give off or become permeated with a strong or offensive smell b to give a strong impression (of some usu undesirable quality or feature) – + of or with <an area that ~s of poverty> <man who ~s of charm>

**reel** /ˈriːl, riːl/ *n* a revolvable device on which sthg flexible is wound e.g. a small wheel at the butt of a fishing rod for winding the line b a flanged spool for photographic film, magnetic tape, etc c chiefly *Br* a small spool for sewing thread [ME, fr OE *hroel*; akin to ON *hræll* 'weaver's reed, Gk *krekein* to weave]


**reel** *vt* 1 to wind (as if) on a reel 2 to draw by reeling a line <~ a fish in>

**reel** *vi* 1 to be giddy, be in a whirl <his mind was ~ing> 2 to waver or fall back (e.g. from a blow) <~ed back in horror> 3 to walk or (appear to) move unsteadily (e.g. from dizziness or intoxication) [ME *relen*, prob fr *reel*, *n*]

**reel** *n* a reeling motion

**reel** *n* (the music for) a lively *esp* Scottish-Highland or Irish dance in which 2 or more couples perform a series of circular figures and winding movements [prob fr 'reef']

**reel off** *vt* 1 to tell or repeat readily and without pause <reeled off all the facts and figures> 2 to chalk up, usu as a series <to reel off 6 wins in succession>

**reel-to-reel** *adj* of or utilizing magnetic tape passing between 2 reels that are unconnected and not in a cassette or cartridge <a ~ tape recorder>  **COMPUTER**

**reentrant** /ˈreːentrənt/ *n* or *adj* (an angle, point, etc) directed or pointing inwards

**reentry** /ˈreːentri/ *n* 1 the retaking of possession 2 a second or new entry <a ~ visa>; *esp* the return to and entry of the earth's atmosphere by a space vehicle – **reenter** /-ˈentə/ *vb*

**reeve** /ˈriːv/ *n* a medieval English manor officer [ME *reve*, fr OE *gerefa*, fr *ge-* (associative prefix) + *-refa* (akin to OE *-rof* 'number, OHG *ruova*)]

**reeve** *vt* **rove** /rohv/, **reeved** 1 to pass (e.g. a rope) through a hole or opening 2 to fasten by passing through a hole or round sthg 3 to pass a rope through (e.g. a block) [origin unknown]

**reeve** *n* the female of the ruff [prob alter. of ruff]

**ref** /ˈref/ *n* REFEREE 2 – *infml*

**refection** /ˈriːfekʃ(ə)n/ *n* (the taking of) a light meal – *fml* [ME *refecioun*, fr MF *refection*, fr L *refectio*-, *refectio*, fr *refectus*, pp of *reficere* to restore, fr *re-* + *facere* to make – more at DO]

**refectory** /ˈriːfekt(ə)rɪ/ *n* a dining hall in an institution (e.g. a monastery or college) [LL *refectorium*, fr L *refectus*]

**refectory table** *n* a long narrow dining table with heavy legs

**refer** /ˈriːfə/ *vb* -rr- *vt* 1a to explain in terms of a general cause <~s their depression to the weather> b to allot to a specified place, stage, period, or category <to ~ the fall of Rome to 410 AD> c to experience (e.g. pain) as coming from or located in a different area from its source <the pain in appendicitis may be ~ed to any area of the abdomen> 2 to send or direct for treatment, aid, information, testimony, or decision <to ~ a patient to a specialist> <~s students to her other works> ~ *vi* 1a to relate to sthg b to direct attention (by clear and specific mention); allude <the numbers ~ to footnotes> <no one ~ed to yesterday's quarrel> 2 to have recourse; glance briefly for information <~red frequently to his notes

while speaking> [ME *referren*, fr L *referre* to bring back, report, refer, fr *re-* + *ferre* to carry – more at 'FEAR'] – **referable** *adj*, **referral** *n*

**referee** /ˈreɪfəˈriː/ *n* 1 a person to whom sthg is referred: e.g. a one to whom a legal matter is referred for investigation or settlement b one who reviews a (technical) paper before publication c REFERENCE 4a 2 an official who supervises the play and enforces the laws in any of several sports (e.g. football and boxing)

**referee** *vb* to act as a referee (in or for)

**reference** /ˈref(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 referring or consulting <a manual designed for ready ~> 2 (a) bearing on or connection with a matter – often in *in/with reference to* 3 sthg that refers e.g. a an allusion, mention b sthg that refers a reader or consultant to another source of information (e.g. a book or passage) 4 one referred to or consulted e.g. a a person to whom inquiries as to character or ability can be made b a statement of the qualifications of a person seeking employment or appointment given by sb; familiar with him/her c a source of information (e.g. a book or passage) to which a reader or inquirer is referred d a standard for measuring, evaluating, etc [REFER + -ENCE] – **referential** /ˈreɪfərəns(ə)l/ *adj*

**reference** *vt* to provide (e.g. a book) with references to authorities and sources of information

**reference book** *n* a book (e.g. a dictionary, encyclopedia, or atlas) intended primarily for consultation rather than for consecutive reading

**reference group** *n* a group to which sb aspires or belongs that influences his/her attitudes and behaviour by providing a source of comparison

**reference mark** *n* a conventional sign (e.g. \* or †) to direct the reader's attention, *esp* to a footnote

**referendum** /ˈreɪfərəndəm/, *pl* referendums also *referenda* /-də/ *the* submitting to popular vote of a measure proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative, also a vote on a measure so submitted [NL, fr L, neut of *referendus*, gerundive of *referre* to refer]

**referent** /ˈref(ə)rənt/ *n* the thing that a symbol (e.g. a word or sign) stands for [L *referent*-, *referens*, pp of *referre*]

**refill** /ˈriːfɪl/ *n* a fresh or replacement supply (for a device) <a ~ for a ballpoint pen> – **refill** /ˈriːfɪl/ *vb*, **refillable** /-ˈfɪləbl/ *adj*

**refine** /ˈriːfiːn/ *vt* 1 to free from impurities <~ sugar> 2 to improve or perfect by pruning or polishing <~ a poetic style> 3 to free from imperfection, *esp* from what is coarse, vulgar, or uncouth ~ *vi* 1 to become pure or perfected 2 to make improvement by introducing subtleties or distinctions – **refiner** *n*

**refined** *adj* 1 fastidious, cultivated 2 *esp* of food processed to the extent that desirable ingredients may be lost in addition to impurities or imperfections

**refinement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 refining or being refined 2a a (highly) refined feature, method, or distinction <pursued the delicate art of suggestion to its furthest ~s – Maurice Bowra> b a contrivance or device intended to improve or perfect <a new model of car with many ~s>

**refinery** /ˈriːfiːn(ə)rɪ/ *n* a plant where raw materials (e.g. metals, oil, or sugar) are refined or purified

**refit** /ˈriːfɪt/ *vt* -ti- to fit out or supply again, *esp* to renovate and modernize (e.g. a ship) – **refit** /-ˈfɪt/ *n*

**reflation** /ˈreɪˈflaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* an expansion in the volume of available money and credit or in the economy, *esp* as a result of government policy [re- + -flation (as in *deflation*)] – **reflationary** /-ʃən(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, **reflate** /-ˈflaɪt/ *vb*

**reflect** /ˈriːflekt/ *vi* 1 to send or throw (light, sound, etc) back or at an angle <a mirror ~s light> 2 to show as an image or likeness, mirror <the clouds were ~ed in the water> 3 to make manifest or apparent; give an idea of <the pulse ~s the condition of the heart> 4 to consider ~ *vi* 1 to throw back light or sound 2 to think quietly and calmly 3a to tend to bring reproach or discredit – *usu* + *on* or *upon* <an investigation that ~s on all the members of the department> b to tend to bring about a specified appearance or impression – *usu* + *on* <an act which ~s favourably on her> [ME *reflecten*, fr L *reflectere* to bend back, fr *re-* + *flectere* to bend]

**reflecting telescope** /ˈriːflekʃ(ə)n/ *n* REFLECTOR 2

**reflection**, *Br* also **reflexion** /ˈriːflekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a reflecting of light, sound, etc 2 sthg produced by reflecting: e.g. a an image given back (as if) by a reflecting surface b an effect produced by or related to a specified influence or cause <a high crime rate is a ~ of an unstable society> 3 an often obscure or indirect criticism 4 (a thought, opinion, etc formed by) consideration of some subject matter, idea, or purpose <on ~ it didn't seem such a good plan> 5 a transformation of a figure with respect to a reference line producing a mirror image of the figure [ME, alter. of

- reflexion**, fr LL *reflexio*-, *reflexio* act of bending back, fr L *reflexus*, pp of *reflectere* – **reflectional** *adj*
- reflective** /n'flekʃɪv/ *adj* 1 capable of reflecting light, images, or sound waves 2 thoughtful, deliberative 3 of or caused by reflection (<the ~ glare of the snow> – **reflectively** *adv*, **reflectiveness**, **reflectivity** /-tɪvəti/ *n*)
- reflector** /n'flekʃə/ *n* 1 a polished surface for reflecting radiation, esp light 2 a telescope in which the principal focussing element is a mirror [REFLECT + -OR]
- reflex** /'refleks/ *n* 1a reflected heat, light, or colour b a mirrored image c a reproduction or reflection that corresponds to some usu specified original, *specif* a word (element) in a form determined by development from an earlier stage of the language 2a an automatic response to a stimulus that does not reach the level of consciousness  *NERVE* b pl the power of acting or responding with adequate speed c an (automatic) way of behaving or responding (<lying became a natural ~ for him> [L *reflexus*, pp of *reflectere* to reflect])
- reflex** *adj* 1 bent, turned, or directed back (<a stem with ~ leaves> 2 directed back upon the mind or its operations, introspective 3 occurring as an (automatic) response 4 of an angle greater than 180° but less than 360° 5 of, being, or produced by a reflex without intervention of consciousness [L *reflexus*] – **reflexly** *adv*
- reflex arc** *n* the complete nervous path involved in a reflex
- reflex camera** *n* a camera in which the image formed by the lens is reflected onto a ground-glass screen or is seen through the viewfinder for focussing and composition
- reflexed** /'reflektst, 'n'flekst/ *adj* bent or curved backwards or downwards (<~ petals> [L *reflexus* + E -ed])
- reflexive** /n'fleksɪv/ *adj* 1 directed or turned back on itself 2 of, denoting, or being an action (e.g. in *he perjured himself*) directed back upon the agent *vi* the grammatical subject [ML *reflexivus*, fr L *reflexus*] – **reflexively** *adv*
- reflexive** *n* a reflexive verb or pronoun
- reflux** /n'fluks, 'reefluks/ *vb* to (cause to) flow back or return, esp (to heat so as) to form vapours that condense and return to be heated again – **reflux** *n*
- reform** /n'fawm/ *vt* 1 to amend or alter for the better 2 to put an end to (an evil) by enforcing or introducing a better method or course of action 3 to induce or cause to abandon evil ways (<~ a drunkard>) *vi* to become changed for the better [ME *reformen*, fr MF *reformare*, fr L *reformare*, fr *re-* + *formare* to form] – **reformable** *adj*, **reformative** /-mətɪv/ *adj*, **reformatory** /-mət(ə)n(ə)/ *adj*
- reform** *n* 1 amendment of what is defective or corrupt (<educational ~> 2 a measure intended to effect) a removal or correction of an abuse, a wrong, or errors
- reformation** /,refə'mayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 reforming or being reformed 2 cap the 16th-c religious movement marked ultimately by the rejection of papal authority and some Roman Catholic doctrines and practices, and the establishment of the Protestant churches – **reformational** *adj*
- reformatory** /n'fawm(ə)t(ə)rɪ/ *n*, chiefly NAm a penal institution to which young or first offenders or women are sent for reform – no longer used technically in Br
- Reformed** /n'fawmɪd/ *adj* Protestant, *specif* of the Calvinist Protestant churches
- reformer** /n'fawmə/ *n* 1 one who works for or urges reform 2 cap a leader of the Protestant Reformation
- reformism** /n'fawmɪz(ə)m/ *n* a doctrine, policy, or movement of reform – **reformist** *n*
- Reform Judaism** /n'fawm/ *n* a liberalizing and modernizing branch of Judaism
- re'form school** *n*, chiefly NAm a reformatory for young offenders – no longer used technically in Br
- refract** /n'frakt/ *vt* 1 to deflect (light or another wave motion) from one straight path to another when passing from one medium (e.g. glass) to another (e.g. air) in which the velocity is different 2 to determine the refracting power of [L *refractus*, pp of *refringere* to break open, break up, refract, fr *re-* + *frangere* to break – more at **BREAK**] – **refraction** /-n'frakʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **refractive** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **refractivity** /-tɪvəti/ *n*
- refracting telescope** /n'fraktɪŋ/ *n* a refractor
- refractive index** /n'fraktɪv/ *n* the ratio of the velocity of a radiation (e.g. light) in 2 adjacent mediums
- refractometer** /,refrakt'ɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring refractive indexes [ISV] – **refractometric** /n'fraktə'metrɪk/ *adj*, **refractometry** /,refrakt'ɒmətri/ *n*
- refractor** /n'fraktə/ *n* a telescope whose principal focussing element is usu an achromatic lens
- 'refractory** /n'frakt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 resisting control or authority, stubborn, unmanageable 2a resistant to treatment or cure (<a ~ cough> b immune (<after recovery they were ~ to infection>) 3 difficult to fuse, corrode, or draw out, esp capable of enduring high temperatures [alter of *refractory*, fr L *refractorius*, irreg fr *refragari* to oppose, fr *re-* + *-fragari* (as in *suffragari* to support with one's vote)] – **refractorily** *adv*, **refractoriness** *n*
- refractory** *n* a heat-resisting ceramic material
- 'refrain** /n'freɪn/ *vi* to keep oneself from doing, feeling, or indulging in sthg, esp from following a passing impulse – usu + *from* [ME *refreynen*, fr MF *refraindre*, fr L *refringere* to break up, destroy, check – more at **REFRACT**]
- refrain** *n* (the musical setting of) a regularly recurring phrase or verse, esp at the end of each stanza or division of a poem or song, a chorus [ME *refreyn*, fr MF *refrain*, fr *refraindre* to resound, fr L *refringere* to break up, refract]
- refrangible** /n'franjəbl/ *adj* capable of being refracted [irreg fr L *refringere* to refract] – **refrangibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*
- refresh** /n'refrɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to restore strength or vigour to, revive (e.g. by food or rest) 2 to restore or maintain by renewing supply, replenish (<the waiter ~ed our glasses> 3 to arouse, stimulate (e.g. the memory) [ME *refresshen*, fr MF *refreschir*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *freis* fresh – more at **FRESH**]
- refresher** /n'frefʃə/ *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a drink) that refreshes 2 **refresher**, **refresher course** a course of instruction designed to keep one abreast of developments in one's professional field
- refreshing** /n'frefʃɪŋ/ *adj* agreeably stimulating because of freshness or newness – **refreshingly** *adv*
- refreshment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 refreshing or being refreshed 2a sthg (e.g. food or drink) that refreshes b assorted foods, esp for a light meal – usu pl with sing. meaning
- refrigerate** /n'frɪdʒəreɪt/ *vb* to make or keep cold or cool, *specif* to freeze or chill (e.g. food) or remain frozen for preservation [L *refrigeratus*, pp of *refrigerare*, fr *re-* + *frigerare* to cool, fr *frigor*-, *frigus* cold – more at **RIGID**] – **refrigerant** *n* or *adj*, **refrigeration** /-reɪʃ(ə)n(ə)/ *n*
- refrigerator** /n'frɪdʒəreɪtə/ *n* an insulated cabinet or room for keeping food, drink, etc cool [REFRIGERATE + -OR]
- refrigent** /n'frɪŋj(ə)nt/ *adj* refractive, refracting [L *refringent*-, *refringens*, prp of *refringere* to refract] – **refringence**, **refringency** *n*
- refuel** /,ref'fyoʊəl/ *vb* -ll- (NAm -l-, -ll-) to provide with or take on additional fuel
- refuge** /'refjuːh/ *n* 1 (a place that provides) shelter or protection from danger or distress (<to seek ~ in flight> <a mountain ~>) 2 a person, thing, or course of action that offers protection or is resorted to in difficulties (<patricism is the last ~ of a scoundrel> – Samuel Johnson) [ME, fr MF, fr L *refugium*, fr *refugere* to escape, fr *re-* + *fugere* to flee – more at **FUGITIVE**]
- refugee** /,refjuː'jee/ *n* one who flees for safety, esp to a foreign country to escape danger or avoid political, religious, or racial persecution [F *refuge*, pp of (se) *refuger* to take refuge, fr L *refugum*]
- refulgence** /n'fʊlʃ(ə)ns/ *n* radiance, brilliance – fml [L *refulgentia*, fr *refulgent*-, *refulgens*, prp of *refulgere* to shine brightly, fr *re-* + *fulgere* to shine – more at **FULGUR**] – **refulgent** *adj*, **refulgently** *adv*
- 'refund** /n'fʊnd/ *vt* 1 to return (money) in restitution, repayment, or balancing of accounts 2 to pay (sb) back [ME *refunden*, fr MF & L, MF *refundere*, fr L *refundere*, lit. to pour back, fr *re-* + *fundere* to pour – more at **FOUND**] – **refundable** *adj*
- refund** /,ree'fʊnd/ *n* 1 a refunding 2 a sum refunded
- 'refund** /,ree'fʊnd/ *vt* to fund (a debt) again [*re-* + *fund*]
- refurbish** /,ree'fʊbɪʃ/ *vt* to renovate – **refurbishment** *n*
- refusal** /n'fʊʊəl/ *n* 1 a refusing, denying, or being refused 2 the right or option of refusing or accepting sthg before others
- 'refuse** /n'fʊʊəz/ *vt* 1 to express oneself as unwilling to accept 2a to show or express unwillingness to do or comply with (<the engine ~d to start>) b to deny (<they were ~d admittance to the game>) 3 to decline to jump over – used esp of a horse (<~d the water jump>) ~vi 1 to withhold acceptance, compliance, or permission 2 of a horse to decline to jump a fence, wall, etc (<~d at the third fence>) [ME *refusen*, fr MF *refuser*, fr (assumed) VL *refusare*, fr L *refusus*, pp of *refundere* to pour back] – **refusable** *adj*, **refuser** *n*
- 'refuse** /n'fʊʊəz/ *n* worthless or useless stuff, rubbish, garbage [ME, fr MF *refus* rejection, fr OF, fr *refuser*]
- refute** /n'fʊʊt/ *vt* 1 to prove wrong by argument or evidence 2 to deny the truth or accuracy of [L *refutare*, fr *re-* + *-futare* to beat – more at

**refutable** /ˈrefyootəbl/, n'fyooh-/ *adj.* *refutably adv.* *refutation* /ˈrefyootəʃən/ *n*

**regain** /ˈrɛɡɪn/, ˈree-/ *vt* to gain or reach again, recover

**regal** /ˈreɪɡl/ *adj* 1 of or suitable for a king or queen 2 stately, splendid [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *regalis* – more at **ROYAL**] – *regally adv.* *regality* /ˈreɪɡəlɪti/ *n*

**regale** /ˈrɛɡəl/ *vt* 1 to entertain sumptuously 2 to give pleasure or amusement to (< *d us with stories of her exploits*) [F *régaler*, fr MF, fr *regale*, *n*]

**regalia** /ˈrɛɡəlɪə/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 (the) ceremonial emblems or symbols indicative of royalty 2 special dress, esp official finery [ML, fr L, neut pl of *regalis*]

**regard** /ˈrɛɡərd/ *n* 1 a gaze, look 2a attention, consideration (< *due ~ should be given to all facets of the question*) b a protective interest (< *ought to have more ~ for his health*) 3a a feeling of respect and affection (< *her hard work won her the ~ of her colleagues*) b pl friendly greetings (< *give him my ~s*) 4 an aspect to be taken into consideration (< *is a small school, and is fortunate in this ~*) [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *regarder*] – *regardful adj* – *in/with regard* to with reference to, on the subject of

**regard** *vt* 1 to pay attention to, take into consideration or account 2 to look steadily at 3 to relate to, concern 4 to consider and appraise in a specified way or from a specified point of view (< *he is highly ~ed as a mechanic*) [ME *regarden*, fr MF *regarder* to look back at, regard, fr OF, fr *re-* + *garder* to guard, look at] – *as regards* WITH REGARD TO

**regarding** /ˈrɛɡərdɪŋ/ *prep* WITH REGARD TO

**regardless** /-lɪs/ *adj* heedless, careless – *regardlessly adv.* *regardlessness n*

**regardless** *adv* despite everything (< *went ahead with their plans ~*)

**regardless** *prep* IN SPITE OF (< *regardless of our mistakes*)

**regatta** /ˈrɛɡatə/ *n* a series of rowing, speedboat, or sailing races. [It]

**regulation** /ˈreɪjələʃən/ *n* the freezing again of water, derived from ice that has melted under high pressure, when the pressure is relieved – *regulate* /ˈreɪjələt/ *vi*

**regency** /ˈreɪjənəsi/ *n* 1 the office, period of rule, or government of a regent or regents 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of regents

**Regency** *adj* of or resembling the styles (e.g. of furniture or dress) prevalent during the time of the Prince Regent [fr the regency (1811-20) of George, Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) †1830]

**regenerate** /ˈrɛjənəreɪt/ *adj* 1 formed or created again 2 spiritually reborn or converted 3 restored to a better, higher, or more worthy state [ME *regenerat*, fr L *regeneratus*, pp of *regenerare* to regenerate, fr *re-* + *generare* to beget – more at **GENFRAT**] – *regenerate n.* *regeneracy* /-si/ *n*

**regenerate** /ˈrɛjənəreɪt/ *vi* 1 to become regenerate or regenerated 2 of a body or body part to undergo renewal or regrowth (e.g. after injury) – *vt* 1a to subject to spiritual or moral renewal or revival b to change radically and for the better 2a to generate or produce anew, esp to replace (a body part) by a new growth of tissue b to produce from a derivative or modified form, esp by chemical treatment (< *d cellulose*) 3 to restore to original strength or properties – *regenerator n.* *regenerable* /-rəbl/ *adj.* *regenerative* /-tɪv/ *adj.* *regeneration* /-reɪʃən/ *n*

**regent** /ˈreɪjənt/ *n* one who governs a kingdom in the minority, absence, or disability of the sovereign [ME, fr MF or ML, MF, fr ML *regent*-, *regens*, fr L, prp of *regere* to rule – more at **'RIGHT**] – *regent adj*

**reggae** /ˈreɪɡə/ *n* popular music of West Indian origin that is characterized by a strongly accented subsidiary beat [Jamaican E, fr *rege* rag]

**regicide** /ˈreɪjɪsɪd/ *n* (the act of) one who kills a king [prob fr (assumed) NL *regicida* & *regcidium*, fr L *reg-*, *rex* king + *-cida* & *-cidium* – more at **ROYAL**, **-CIDE**] – *regicidal* /-sɪdɪl/ *adj*

**regime** also *régime* /ˈreɪʒiːm/ *n* 1a a regimen b a regular pattern of occurrence or action (e.g. of seasonal rainfall) 2a a form of management or government (< *a socialist ~*) b a government in power [F *régime*, fr L *regimin-*, *regimen*]

**regimen** /ˈreɪmən/ *n* a systematic plan (e.g. of diet, exercise, or medical treatment) adopted esp to achieve some end [ME, fr L *regimin-*, *regimen* rule, fr *regere*]

**regiment** /ˈreɪmənt/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a permanent military unit consisting usu. of a number of companies, troops, batteries, or sometimes battalions 2 a large number or group [ME, government, area governed, fr MF, fr LL *regimentum*, fr L *regere*] – *regimental* /-məntl/ *adj.* *regimentally adv*

**regiment** /ˈreɪmənt/ *vt* 1 to form into a regiment 2 to subject to strict and multiplying organization or control (< *an entire country*) – *regimentation* /-təʃən/ *n*

**regimentals** /ˈreɪməntəlz/ *n pl* 1 the uniform of a regiment 2 military dress

**Regina** /ˈrɪjənə/ *n* CROWN 5a – used when a queen is ruling [L, queen, fem of *reg-*, *rex* king]

**region** /ˈreɪjən/ *n* 1 an administrative area 2a an indefinite area of the world or universe b a broadly uniform geographical or ecological area (< *desert ~s*) 3 an indefinite area surrounding a specified body part (< *the abdominal ~*) 4 a sphere of activity of interest (< *the abstract ~ of higher mathematics*) 5 any of the zones into which the atmosphere is divided according to height or the sea according to depth [ME, fr MF, fr L *regio-*, *regio*, fr *regere* to rule] – *in the region* of approximating to, MORE OR LESS

**regional** /ˈreɪjənəl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a region 2 affecting a particular region; localized *regionally adv*

**regionalism** /ˈreɪjənəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 loyalty to a region 2 development of an administrative system based on areas – *regionalist n* or *adj*

**regionalize**, -ise /ˈreɪjənlaɪz/ *vt* to arrange in (administrative) regions – *regionalization* /-laɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**regisseur**, *régisseur* /ˈreɪʒiːsʊr/ (Fr *regisseur*) *n* a director responsible for staging a theatrical work (e.g. a ballet) [F *regisseur*, fr *regir* to direct, rule, fr L *regere*]

**register** /ˈreɪjstə/ *n* 1 a written record containing (official) entries of items, names, transactions, etc. 2a a roster of qualified or available individuals (< *the electoral ~*) b a school attendance record 3a an organ stop b (a part of) the range of a human voice or a musical instrument 4 the language style and vocabulary appropriate to a particular subject matter 5 a device regulating admission of air, esp to solid fuel 6 REGISTRATION 1 7 an automatic device registering a number or a quantity 8 a condition of correct alignment or proper relative position (e.g. of the plates used in colour printing) – often in *in/out of register* 9 a device (e.g. in a computer) for storing and working on small amounts of data [MF *registre*, fr MF, fr ML *registrum*, alter of LL *regesta*, pl, register, fr L, neut pl of *regestus*, pp of *regerere* to bring back, fr *re-* + *gerere* to bear – more at **CAST**]

**register** *vt* 1a to make or secure official entry of in a register – *~ed* *the birth of their daughter* b to enrol formally c to record automatically, indicate (< *this dial ~s speed*) d to make a (mental) record of, note 2 to secure special protection for (a piece of mail) by prepayment of a fee 3 to convey an impression of (< *~ed surprise at the telegram*) 4 to achieve, win (< *~ed an impressive victory*) – *vi* 1a to put one's name in a register (< *~ed at the hotel*) b to enrol formally (as a student) 2 to make or convey an impression (< *the name didn't ~*) – *registrable* /ˈreɪjstrəbl/ *adj*

**registered** *adj* qualified formally or officially

**register office** *n* REGISTRY OFFICE

**register ton** *n* a unit of internal capacity for ships equal to 100ft<sup>3</sup> (about 2.83m<sup>3</sup>)

**registrar** /ˈreɪjstrəh/, ˈ-,/ *n* 1 an official recorder or keeper of records, e.g. a senior administrative officer of a university b a court official who deals with administrative and interlocutory matters and acts as a subordinate judge [F *~* 1AW 2] (the post, senior to that of a senior house officer, of) a British hospital doctor in training [alter of ME *registrer*, fr MF *registreur*, fr *registrer* to register, fr ML *registrare*, fr *registrum*]

**registration** /ˈreɪjstrəʃən/ *n* 1 registering or being registered 2 an entry in a register

**registration document** *n*, chiefly *Br* a document kept with a motor vehicle that gives the registration number, make, engine size, etc and details of the current ownership

**registration mark** *n*, *Br* an identifying combination of letters and numbers assigned to a motor vehicle

**registry** /ˈreɪjstri/ *n* 1 REGISTRATION 1 2 a place of registration, *specif* a registry office

**registry office** *n*, *Br* a place where births, marriages, and deaths are recorded and civil marriages conducted

**regius professor** /ˈreɪjəs/ *n* a holder of a professorship founded by royal subsidy at a British university [NL, royal professor]

**regnal** /ˈreɪgnəl/ *adj* of a reign, *specif* calculated from a monarch's accession (< *ir his 8th ~ year*) [ML *regnalis*, fr L *regnum* reign – more at **RFIGN**]

**regnant** /ˈreɪgnənt/ *adj* reigning (< *a queen ~*) [L *regnant-*, *regnans*, prp of *regnare* to reign, fr *regnum*]

**regress** /ˈreeɡres/ *n* 1 REGRESSION 2a 2 an act of going or coming back – *fml* [ME, fr L *regressus*, fr *regressus*, pp of *regredi* to go back, fr *re-* + *gradi* to go – more at **GRADE**]

**regress** /ˈnɪɡres/ *vi* 1 to undergo or exhibit backwards movement, esp

to an earlier state 2 to tend to approach or revert to a mean ~ vt to induce, esp by hypnosis, a state of psychological regression in

**regression** /ri'gresh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of regressing; esp (a) retrograde movement 2a a trend or shift towards a lower, less perfect, or earlier state or condition b reversion to an earlier mental or behavioural level 3 the statistical analysis of the association between 2 or more variables, esp so that predictions (e.g. of sales over a future period of time) can be made - **regressive** /-siv/ *adj*, **regressively** *adv*

**regret** /ri'gret/ *vt* -tt- 1 to mourn the loss or death of 2 to be very sorry about (< ~s his mistakes) [ME *regretten*, fr MF *regreter*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *-greter* (of Scand origin; akin to ON *grata* to weep) - more at **GREFT**] - **regrettable** *adj*

**regret** *n* 1 (an expression of) the emotion arising from a wish that some matter or situation could be other than what it is, esp grief or sorrow tinged esp with disappointment, longing, or remorse 2 *pl* a conventional expression of disappointment, esp on declining an invitation (< couldn't come to tea, and sent her ~s) - **regretful** *adj*, **regretfully** *adv*, **regretfulness** *n*

**regrettably** /ri'gretəbli/ *adv* 1 in a regrettable manner, to a regrettable extent (< a ~ steep decline in wages) 2 it is regrettable that (< ~, we had failed to consider alternatives)

**regular** /'regyoolə/ *adj* 1 belonging to a religious order - compare **SECULAR** 2 *2a* formed, built, arranged, or ordered according to some rule, principle, or type (< a ~ curve) *b* (1) both equilateral and equiangular (< a ~ polygon) (2) having faces that are identical regular polygons with identical angles between them (< a ~ polyhedron) (< a ~ solid) *c* perfectly (radially) symmetrical or even 3a steady or uniform in course, practice, or occurrence, habitual, usual, or constant (< ~ habits) *b* recurring or functioning at fixed or uniform intervals (< a ~ income) *c* defecating or having menstrual periods at normal intervals 4a constituted, conducted, or done in conformity with established or prescribed usages, rules, or discipline *b* real, absolute (< the office seemed like a ~ madhouse) *c* inflecting normally, *specif* **WEAK** 7 5 of or being a permanent standing army 6 chiefly *NAM* thinking or behaving in an acceptable manner (< wanted to prove he was a ~ guy) - *infrm* **USE** (2b) - **MATHEMATICS** [ME *reguler*, fr MF, fr LL *regularis* regular, fr L, of a bar, fr *regula* rule - more at **RULE**] - **regularly** *adv*, **regularize** /-neɪz/ *vt*, **regularization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*, **regularity** /-'lærəti/ *n*

**regular** *n* 1a a member of the regular clergy *b* a soldier in a regular army 2 one who is usu present or participating, esp one who habitually visits a particular place

**regulate** /'regyooləy/ *vt* 1 to govern or direct according to rule 2 to bring order, method, or uniformity to (< ~ one's habits) 3 to fix or adjust the time, amount, degree, or rate of (< ~ the pressure of a tyre) [LL *regulatus*, pp of *regulare*, fr L *regula*] - **regulative** /-'lətɪv/ *adj*, **regulatory** /-'(t)əri, -'ləy-/ *adj*, **regulator** /-'ləytə/ *n*

**regulation** /'regyooləyʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 regulating or being regulated 2a an authoritative rule dealing with details or procedure (< safety ~s in a factory) *b* a rule or order having the force of law (< EEC ~s)

**regulation** *adj* conforming to regulations, official (< ~ uniform)

**regulo** /'regyooloh/ *n*, chiefly *Br* the temperature in a gas oven expressed as a specified number (< meat cooked on ~ 4) [fr *Regulo*, a trademark]

**regulus** /'regyooləs/ *n*, *pl* **reguluses**, **reguli** /-lie/ the impure metallic mass formed in smelting ores [ML, metallic antimony, fr L, petty king, fr *reg-*, *rex* king - more at **ROYAL**]

**regurgitate** /ri'gʊhɪtəɪt/ *vb* to vomit or pour back or out (as if) from a cavity [ML *regurgitatus*, pp of *regurgitare*, fr L *re-* + LL *gurgitare* to engulf, fr L *gurgit-*, *gurgis* whirlpool - more at **VORACIOUS**] - **regurgitation** /-'təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rehabilitate** /'ree(h)ˈbɪlətəɪt/ *vt* 1 to reestablish the good name of 2a to restore to a former capacity or state (e.g. of efficiency, sound condition, or solvency) (< ~ slum areas) *b* to restore to a condition of health or useful and constructive activity (e.g. after illness or imprisonment) [ML *rehabilitatus*, pp of *rehabilitare*, fr L *re-* + LL *habilitare* to qualify, fr L *habilitas* ability - more at **ABILITY**] - **rehabilitative** /-'tətɪv/ *adj*, **rehabilitation** /-'təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rehash** /'reeˈhæʃ/ *vt* to present or use again in another form without substantial change or improvement

**rehash** /'reeˈhæʃ, -'h-/ *n* sth presented in a new form without change of substance

**rehear** /-'hɪə/ *vt* **reheard** /-'hʊhd/ to hear (a trial or lawsuit) over again - **rehearing** *n*

**rehearsal** /ri'hʊhsl/ *n* 1 a rehearsing 2 a practice session, esp of a play, concert, etc preparatory to a public appearance

**rehearse** /ri'hʊhs/ *vt* 1 to present an account of (again) (< ~ a familiar story) 2 to recount in order (< had ~d their grievances in a letter to the governor) 3a to give a rehearsal of, practice *b* to train or make proficient by rehearsal ~ *vi* to engage in a rehearsal of a play, concert, etc [ME *reheresen*, fr MF *rehercier*, lit, to harrow again, fr *re-* + *hercier* to harrow, fr *herce* harrow - more at **HEARSE**] - **rehearser** *n*

**reheat** /'reeˈhi:t/ *n* the injection of fuel into the tailpipe of a turbojet engine to obtain extra thrust by combustion with uncombined air in the exhaust gases

**rehouse** /,ree'howz, -'hows/ *vt* to establish in new or better-quality housing

**rehydrate** /,ree'hɪdɹəɪt, -'h-/ *vt* to restore fluid lost in dehydration to - **rehydration** /-'draɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reify** /'ree-ɪfɪ-/ *vt* to regard (sth abstract) as a material thing [L *res* thing - more at **REAL**] - **reification** /-'fɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reign** /reɪn/ *n* 1a royal authority, sovereignty *b* the dominion, sway, or influence of one resembling or likened to a monarch (< the ~ of the military dictators) 2 the time during which sb or sth reigns [ME *regne*, fr OF, fr L *regnum*, fr *reg-*, *rex* king - more at **ROYAL**]

**reign** *vi* 1a **RULE** 1a *b* to hold office as head of state although possessing little governing power (< the queen ~s but does not rule) 2 to be predominant or prevalent (< chaos ~ed in the classroom)

**reign of terror** *n* a period of ruthless violence committed by those in power [Reign of Terror, a period of the French Revolution that was conspicuous for mass executions of political suspects]

**reimburse** /,ree-ɪmˈbuːrs/ *vt* 1 to pay back to sb (< ~ travel expenses) 2 to make restoration or payment to (< ~ you) [*re-* + obs *imburs* (to put in the pocket, pay)] - **reimbursable** *adj*, **reimbursement** *n*

**rein** /reɪn/ *n* 1 a long line fastened usu to both sides of a bit, by which a rider or driver controls an animal 2a a restraining influence *b* controlling or guiding power (< the ~s of government) *c* opportunity for unhampered activity or use (< gave free ~ to his emotions) **USE** (1 & 2b) usu *pl* with *sing* meaning [ME *reine*, fr MF *rene*, fr (assumed) VL *retina*, fr L *retinere* to restrain - more at **RETAIN**]

**rein** *vi* to check or stop (as if) by pulling on reins often + *in* (< ~ed in his horse) (< couldn't ~ his impatience)

**reincarnate** /,ree-ɪnkəˈnaɪt, -'n-/ *vt* 1 to incarnate again, give a new form or fresh embodiment to 2 to cause (a person or his/her soul) to be reborn in another (human) body after death - usu in pass, compare **TRANSMIGRATE** - **reincarnate** /-'kɑːnət/ *adj*, **reincarnation** /-'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **reincarnationist** *n*

**reindeer** /'reɪn,dɪə/ *n* any of several deer that inhabit N Europe, Asia, and America, have antlers in both sexes, and are often domesticated [ME *reindere*, fr ON *hreinn* reindeer + ME *deer*]

**reindeer moss** *n* a grey lichen that constitutes a large part of the food of reindeer

**reinforce** /,ree-ɪnˈfɔːs/ *vt* 1 to strengthen by additional assistance, material, or support, make stronger or more pronounced 2 to strengthen or increase (e.g. an army) by fresh additions 3 to stimulate (an experimental subject) with a reward following a correct or desired performance, also to encourage (a response) with a reward [*re-* + *inforce*, alter of *enforce*] - **reinforceable** *adj*, **reinforcement** *n*, **reinforcer** *n*

**reinforced concrete** /,ree-ɪnˈfɔːst, -'n-/ *n* concrete in which metal is embedded for strengthening

**reinstale** /,ree-ɪnˈstəɪt/ *vt* 1 to place again (e.g. in possession or in a former position) 2 to restore to a previous effective state or condition - **reinstatement** *n*

**reinsurance** /,ree-ɪnˈʃʊərəns, -'ʃaw-/ *n* insurance by another insurer of all or a part of a risk previously assumed by an insurance company

**reinsure** /,ree-ɪnˈʃʊə, -'ʃaw-/ *vt* to insure (a risk or person) by reinsurance - **reinsurer** *n*

**reinvent** /,ree-ɪnˈvent/ *vt* to remake or redo completely (and unnecessarily) - **reinvention** /-'venʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reinvest** /,ree-ɪnˈvest/ *vt* to invest (e.g. earnings or investment income) rather than take or distribute the surplus as dividends or profits - **reinvestment** *n*

**reissue** /,ree-ɪʃ(y)ʊh, -'ɪsyʊh/ *vt* to issue again, esp to cause to become available again - **reissue** *n*

**reiterate** /,ree-ɪˈtəɪtəɪt/ *vt* to say or do over again or repeatedly, sometimes with wearying effect [L *reiteratus*, pp of *reiterare* to repeat, fr *re-* + *iterare* to iterate] - **reiteration** /-'təɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **reiterative** /-'tətɪv/ *adj*, **reiteratively** *adv*

**Reiter's syndrome** /'reɪtəz/ *n* a disease of uncertain cause that is characterized by arthritis, conjunctivitis, and urethritis [Hans Reiter b 1881 G physician]

**reject** /rɪˈdʒekt/ *vt* **1a** to refuse to accept, consider, submit to, or use **b** to refuse to accept or admit (*<the underprivileged feel ~ed by society>*) **2** to eject, esp VOMIT **1** **3** to fail to accept (e.g. a skin graft or transplanted organ) as part of the organism because of immunological differences [ME *rejection*, fr L *rejection*, pp of *reicere*, fr *re-* + *jacere* to throw – more at *JECT*] – *rejection*, *rejector* *n*, *rejection* /-ʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rejected** /rɪˈdʒekt/ *n* a rejected person or thing, esp a substandard article of merchandise

**rejoin** /rɪˈdʒɔɪn/ *vt* **1** to rearrange or reequip (e.g. a factory) so as to perform different work; broadly to adjust, reorganize (*<recommended ~ging the timetable – TES>*)

**rejoice** /rɪˈdʒɔɪs/ *vt* to give joy to; gladden ~ *vi* to feel or express joy or great delight [ME *rejoicen*, fr MF *rejoiss-*, stem of *rejoir*, fr *re-* + *joir* to rejoice, fr L *gaudere* – more at *JOY*] – *rejoicer* *n*, *rejoicingly* *adv*

**rejoin** /rɪˈdʒɔɪn/ *vt* to say (sharply or critically) in response [ME *rejoine* to answer to a legal charge, fr MF *rejoin-*, stem of *rejoindre*, fr *re-* + *joindre* to join – more at *JOIN*]

**rejoinder** /rɪˈdʒɔɪndə/ *n* (an answer to) a reply [ME *rejoine*, fr MF *rejoindre* to rejoin]

**rejuvenate** /rɪˈdʒuʊvəˌneɪt/ *vt* **1** to make young or youthful again **2** to restore to an original or new state (*<~ old cars>*) ~ *vi* to cause or undergo rejuvenation [*re-* + L *juvenis* young – more at *YOUNG*] – *rejuvenator* *n*, *rejuvenation* /-ˌneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rejuvenescence** /rɪˈdʒuʊvəˌnes(ə)ns/ *n* a renewal of youthfulness or vigour; rejuvenation [ML *rejuvenescere* to become young again, fr L *re-* + *juvenescere* to become young, fr *juvenis*] – *rejuvenescent* *adj*, *rejuvenescence* *vb*

**relapse** /rɪˈlæps/ *n* a relapsing or backsliding; esp a recurrence of symptoms of a disease after a period of improvement [L *relapsus*, pp of *relabi* to slide back, fr *re-* + *labi* to slide – more at *STEEP*]

**relapse** /rɪˈlæps/ *vi* **1** to slip or fall back into a former worse state **2** to sink, subside (*<~ into deep thought>*)

**relapsing fever** /rɪˈlæpsɪŋ/ *n* a bacterial disease transmitted by lice and ticks that is marked by recurring high fever

**relate** /rɪˈleɪt/ *vt* **1** to give an account of, tell **2** to show or establish logical or causal connection between ~ *vi* **1** to have relationship or connection **2** to respond, esp favourably (*<can't ~ to that kind of music>*) **USE** (*vi*) often + *to* [L *relatus* (pp of *referre* to carry back), fr *re-* + *latus*, pp of *ferre* to carry – more at *TOLERATE*, *BEAR*] – *relatable* *adj*, *relater* *n*

**related** *adj* **1** connected by reason of an established or discoverable relation **2** connected by common ancestry or sometimes by marriage – *relatedness* *n*

**relation** /rɪˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** the act of telling or recounting **2** an aspect or quality (e.g. resemblance) that connects **2** or more things as belonging or working together or as being of the same kind **3a** RELATIVE **3a** *b* kinship **4** reference, respect, or connection (*<in ~ to>*) **5** the interaction between **2** or more people or groups – usu pl with sing. meaning (*<race ~s>*) **6** *pl* *a* dealings, affairs (*<foreign ~s>*) *b* communication, contact (*<broke off all ~ with her family>*) *c* sexual intercourse – euph – *relational* *adj*

**relationship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* **1** the state or character of being related or interrelated (*<show the ~ between 2 things>*) **2** (a specific instance or type of) kinship **3** a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings (*<had a good ~ with his family>*)

**relative** /rɪˈleɪv/ *n* **1** a word referring grammatically to an antecedent **2** sthg having or a term expressing a relation to, connection with, or necessary dependence on another thing **3a** a person connected with another by blood relationship or marriage *b* an animal or plant related to another by common descent

**relative** *adj* **1** introducing a subordinate clause qualifying an expressed or implied antecedent (*<a ~ pronoun>*); also introduced by such a connective (*<a ~ clause>*) **2** relevant, pertinent (*<matters ~ to world peace>*) **3a** not absolute or independent; comparative (*<the ~ isolation of life in the country>*) *b* expressing, having, or existing in connection with or reference to sthg else (e.g. a standard) (*<~ density>*) (*<supply is ~ to demand>*) **4** of *major* and *minor* keys and scales having the same key signature – *relatively* *adv*, *relativeness* *n*

**relative humidity** *n* the ratio of the actual water vapour pressure in the air to that when the air is saturated with water vapour at the same temperature

**relative to** *prep* WITH REGARD TO

**relativism** /rɪˈleɪvɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory that knowledge and moral principles are relative and have no objective standard – *relativist* *n*

**relativistic** /rɪˈleɪvɪstɪk/ *adj* **1** of or characterized by relativity or

relativism **2** moving at or being a velocity that causes a significant change in properties (e.g. mass) in accordance with the theory of relativity (*<a ~ electron>*) – *relativistically* *adv*

**relativity** /rɪˈleɪvətɪ/ *n* **1** being relative **2a** also special theory of relativity a theory (based on the **2** postulates (1) that the speed of light in a vacuum is constant and independent of the source or observer and (2) that all motion is relative) that leads to the assertion that mass and energy are equivalent and that mass, dimension, and time will change with increased velocity *b* also general theory of relativity an extension of this theory to include gravitation and related acceleration phenomena

**relator** /rɪˈleɪtə/ *n* one on whose suggestion or information a legal action is commenced [RELIATE + *-OR*]

**relax** /rɪˈlæks/ *vt* **1** to make less tense or rigid (*<~ed her muscles>*) **2** to make less severe or stringent (*<~ immigration laws>*) **3** to lessen the force, intensity, or strength of (*<~ing his concentration>*) **4** to relieve from nervous tension ~ *vi* **1** to become lax, weak, or loose **2** to become less intense or severe **3** to cast off inhibition, nervous tension, or anxiety (*<couldn't ~ in crowds>*) **4** to seek rest or recreation [ME *relaxen* to make less compact, fr L *relaxare*, fr *re-* + *laxare* to loosen, fr *laxus* loose – more at *'SLACK*] – *relaxant* *adj* or *n*, *relaxer* *n*

**relaxation** /rɪˈlæksəˌʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** relaxing or being relaxed **2** a relaxing or recreational state, activity, or pastime **3** the attainment of an equilibrium state following the abrupt removal of some influence (e.g. light, high temperature, or stress)

**relaxed** *adj* easy of manner, informal – *relaxedly* /-sɪdli/ *adv*

**relaxin** /rɪˈlæksɪn/ *n* a hormone produced by the corpus luteum in the ovary of a pregnant mammal that makes birth easier by causing relaxation of the pelvic ligaments

**relay** /rɪˈleɪ/ *n* **1a** a fresh supply (e.g. of horses) arranged beforehand for successive use *b* a number of people who relieve others in some work (*<worked in ~s around the clock>*) **2** a race between teams in which each team member successively covers a specified portion of the course **3** a device set in operation by variation in an electric circuit and operating other devices in turn **4** the act of passing sthg along by stages, also such a stage **5** sthg, esp a message, relayed

**relay** /rɪˈleɪ/ *vt* **1** to provide with relays **2** to pass along by relays (*<news was ~ed to distant points>*) [ME *relayen*, fr MF *relaier*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *laier* to leave – more at *DEPART*]

**release** /rɪˈliːs/ *vt* **1** to set free from restraint, confinement, or servitude **2** to relieve from sthg that confines, burdens, or oppresses (*<was ~d from her promise>*) **3** to relinquish (e.g. a claim or right) in favour of another **4** to give permission for publication, performance, exhibition, or sale of, on but not before a specified date, also to publish, issue (*<the commission ~d its findings>*) [ME *relesen*, fr OF *relessier*, fr L *relaxare* to relax]

**release** *n* **1** relief or deliverance from sorrow, suffering, or trouble **2a** discharge from obligation or responsibility *b* (a document effecting) relinquishment or conveyance of a (legal) right or claim **3** freeing or being freed; liberation (e.g. from jail) **4** a device adapted to release a mechanism as required **5a** (the act of permitting) performance or publication *b* the matter released e.g. (1) a statement prepared for the press (2) a (newly issued) gramophone record – *releaser* *n*

**relegate** /rɪˈleɪɡeɪt/ *vt* **1** to assign to a place of insignificance or oblivion, put out of sight or mind, specif to demote to a lower division of a sporting competition (e.g. a football league) – compare PROMOTE *1c* **2a** to assign to an appropriate place or situation on the basis of classification or appraisal *b* to submit or refer to sb or sthg for appropriate action [L *relegatus*, pp of *relegare*, fr *re-* + *legare* to send with a commission – more at *LEGATE*] – *relegation* /-ˌɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**relent** /rɪˈlent/ *vi* **1** to become less severe, harsh, or strict, usu from reasons of humanity **2** to slacken; LFT UP [ME *relenten* to melt, dissolve, fr (assumed) ML *relentare* to soften, fr L *re-* + *lentare* to bend, fr *lentus* flexible, slow]

**relentless** /-lɪs/ *adj* persistent, unrelenting – *relentlessly* *adv*, *relentlessness* *n*

**relevant** /rɪˈlev(ə)nt/ *adj* **1** having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand **2** having practical application, esp to the real world [ML *relevant-*, *relevans*, fr L, prp of *relevare* to raise up – more at *RELIEVE*] – *relevance*, *relevancy* *n*, *relevantly* *adv*

**reliable** /rɪˈliːəbəl/ *adj* suitable or fit to be relied on; dependable – *reliableness* *n*, *reliably* /-bli/ *adv*, *reliability* /-bɪləti/ *n*

**reliance** /rɪˈliːəns/ *n* **1** the act of relying, the condition or attitude of one who relies (*<~ on military power to achieve political ends>*) **2** sthg or sb relied on – *reliant* *adj*, *reliantly* *adv*

**relic** /rɪˈlɪk/ *n* **1** a part of the body of or some object associated with a saint or martyr, that is preserved as an object of reverence **2** sthg left



behind after decay, disintegration, or disappearance (< ~s of ancient cities>  
 3 a trace of sthg past, esp an outmoded custom, belief, or practice 4 *pl*,  
*archaic* remains, corpse [ME *relik*, fr OF *relique*, fr ML *reliquia*, fr LL  
*reliquiae*, *pl*, remains of a martyr, fr L *relictus*, *pp* of *relinquere* to leave  
 behind – more at *RELINQUISH*]

**relict** /'relikt/ *n* 1 a (type of) plant or animal that is a remnant of an  
 otherwise extinct flora, fauna, or kind of organism 2 a geological or  
 geographical feature (e.g. a lake or mountain) or a rock remaining after  
 other parts have disappeared or substantially altered 3 *archaic* a widow  
 [(1, 2) *relict*, *adj* (residual), fr L *relictus*, *pp* of *relinquere*; (3) LL *relicta*,  
 fr L, *fem* of *relictus*]

**relief** /'nli:f/ *n* 1a removal or lightening of sthg oppressive, painful, or  
 distressing (< *sought ~ from asthma by moving to the coast*) b aid in the  
 form of money or necessities, esp for the poor (< a ~ organization> c  
 military assistance to an endangered or surrounded post or force d a  
 means of breaking or avoiding monotony or boredom (< *studied medieval  
 theology for light ~*) 2 (release from a post or duty by) one who takes  
 over the post or duty of another (< a ~ teacher>) 3 legal compensation or  
 amends 4 (a method of) sculpture in which the design stands out from  
 the surrounding surface – compare *bas-relief*, *high-relief* 5 sharpness  
 of outline due to contrast (< a roof in bold ~ against the sky>) 6 the  
 differences in elevation of a land surface [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *relevier*;  
 (4) F]

**relief map** *n* a map representing topographical relief a graphically by  
 shading, hachures, etc b by means of a three-dimensional scale model  
**relief printing** *n* LETTERPRESS 1

**relieve** /'ri:lev/ *vt* 1a to free from a burden, give aid or help to b to set  
 free from an obligation, condition, or restriction + *often* + *of* 2 to bring  
 about the removal or alleviation of 3 to release from a post, station, or  
 duty 4 to remove or lessen, the monotony of 5 to raise in relief 6 to give  
 relief to (oneself) by urinating or defecating ~ *vi* to bring or give relief  
 [ME *relevan*, fr MF *relevier* to raise, relieve, fr L *relevare*, fr *re-* + *levare*  
 to raise – more at *LEVER*] – *relievable* *adj*

**relieved** *adj* experiencing or showing relief esp from anxiety or pent-up  
 emotions – *relievedly* /-vidli/ *adv*

**religio-** *comb form* religion (< *religio*centric), religion and (< *religiophilo-*  
*sophical*)

**religion** /'nli:(ə)n/ *n* 1a(1) the (organized) service and worship of a god,  
 gods, or the supernatural (2) personal commitment or devotion to  
 religious faith or observance b the state of a member of a religious order  
 2 a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardour and faith, sthg  
 considered to be of supreme importance [ME *religioun*, fr L *religio*-,  
*religio* reverence, religion, prob fr *religare* to tie back – more at *REVE*]

**religionist** /'nli:janist/ *n* a person adhering (zealously) to a religion –  
*religionism* *n*

**religiose** /'nli:jo:hs/ *adj* excessively, obtrusively, or sentimentally relig-  
 ious – *religiosity* /-osəti/ *n*

**religious** /'ri:ljəs/ *adj* 1 of or manifesting faithful devotion to an  
 acknowledged ultimate reality or deity (< a ~ man>) 2 of, being, or devoted  
 to the beliefs or observances of a religion 3 scrupulously and conscient-  
 iously faithful (< ~ in his observance of rules of health>) [ME, fr OF  
*religius*, fr L *religiosus*, fr *religio*] – *religiously* *adv*, *religiousness* *n*

**religious** *n*, *pl* *religious* a member of a religious order under monastic  
 vows [ME, fr OF *religius*, fr *religius*, *adj*]

**relinquish** /'ri:ŋkwɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to renounce or abandon; GIVE UP 3b 2a  
 to stop holding physically (< ~ed his grip>) b to give over possession or  
 control of (< *few leaders willingly ~ power*) [ME *relinquishen*, fr MF  
*relinquiss-*, stem of *relinquir*, fr L *relinquere* to leave behind, fr *re-* +  
*linquere* to leave – more at *LOAN*] – *relinquishment* *n*

**reliquary** /'relikwəri/ *n* a container or shrine in which sacred relics a  
 kept [F *reliquaire*, fr ML *reliquarium*, fr *reliquia* relic – more at  
*RELIC*]

**reliquiae** /'ri:likwɪ:ee/ *n* *pl* remains of the dead; esp relics [L – more at  
*RELIC*]

**relish** /'reliʃ/ *n* 1 characteristic, pleasing, or piquant flavour or quality  
 2 enjoyment of or delight in sthg (that satisfies one's tastes, inclinations,  
 or desires) (< *eat with ~*) (< *little ~ for sports*) 3 sthg that adds an  
 appetizing or savoury flavour, esp a highly seasoned sauce (e.g. of pickles  
 or mustard) eaten with plainer food [alter. of ME *reles* taste, fr OF,  
 something left behind, release, fr *relessier* to release]

**relish** *vt* 1 to add relish to 2 to enjoy; have pleasure from – *relishable*  
*adj*

**relive** /'ree'liv/ *vt* to live over again; esp to experience again in the  
 imagination

**reluctance** /'ri:lʌktəns/ *n* 1 being reluctant 2 the opposition offered by

a magnetic substance to magnetic flux, *specif* the ratio of the magnetic  
 potential difference to the corresponding flux

**reluctant** /'ri:lʌktənt/ *adj* holding back, unwilling (< ~ to condemn him>  
 [L *reluctant-*, *reluctans*, *prp* of *reluctari* to struggle against, fr *re-* + *luctari*  
 to struggle – more at *LOXK*] – *reluctantly* *adv*

**rely** /'ri:li/ *vi* 1 to have confidence based on experience (< *her husband was  
 a man she could ~ on*) 2 to be dependent (< *they ~ on a spring for their  
 water*) USE + *on* or *upon* [ME *relien* to rally, fr MF *relier* to connect,  
 rally, fr L *religare* to tie back, fr *re-* + *ligare* to tie – more at *LIGA*  
*TURE*]

**rem** /rem/ *n* a unit of ionizing radiation equal to the dosage that will cause  
 the same biological effect as one roentgen of X-ray or gamma-ray radiation  
 [roentgen equivalent man]

**REM** *n* RAPID EYE MOVEMENT

**remain** /'ri:meɪn/ *vi* 1a to be sthg or a part not destroyed, taken, or used  
 up (< *only a few ruins ~*) b to be sthg yet to be shown, done, or treated  
 (< *it ~s to be seen*) 2 to stay in the same place or with the same person  
 or group, *specif* to stay behind 3 to continue to be (< ~ faithfully>) [ME  
*remanen*, fr MF *remanindre*, fr L *remanere*, fr *re-* + *manere* to remain –  
 more at *MANSION*]

**remainder** /'ri:meɪndə/ *n* 1 a future interest in property that is depend-  
 ent upon the termination of a previous interest created at the same time  
 2a a remaining group, part, or trace b(1) the number left after a  
 subtraction (2) the final undivided part after division, that is less than the  
 divisor 3 a book sold at a reduced price by the publisher after sales have  
 fallen off [ME, fr AF, fr MF *remanindre*]

**remainder** *vt* to dispose of (copies of a book) as remainders

**remains** /'ri:meɪnz/ *n* 1 a remaining part or trace (< *threw away the ~  
 of the meal*) 2 writings left unpublished at a writer's death (< *literary ~*)  
 3 a dead body

**remake** /'ree'meyk/ *vt* *remade* to make anew or in a different form

**re-make** *n* a new version of a film

**remand** /'n:mənd/ *vt* 1 to adjourn (a case) for further enquiries 2 to  
 return to custody [ME *remaunden*, fr MF *remander*, fr LL *remandare*  
 to send back word, fr L *re-* + *mandare* to order – more at *MANDATE*] –  
*remand* *n*

**re'mand, home** *n*, *Br* a temporary centre for (juvenile) offenders – not  
 now in technical use, compare *COMMUNITY HOME*

**remanence** /'remanəns/ *n* the magnetic induction remaining in a  
 magnetized substance when the magnetizing force has become zero

**remanent** /'remanənt/ *adj* 1 of, being, or characterized by remanence  
 2 residual, remaining – *fml* [ME, fr L *remanens*, *remanens*, *prp* of  
*remanere* to remain]

**remark** /'ri:mərk/ *vt* 1 to express as an observation or comment 2 to  
 take notice of observe – chiefly *fml* ~ *vi* to notice sthg and make a  
 comment or observation on or upon [F *remarquer*, fr MF, fr *re-* +  
*marquer* to mark – more at *MARQUE*]

**remark** *n* 1 mention or notice of that which deserves attention (< *would  
 merit ~ in any political history*) 2 a casual expression of an opinion or  
 judgment (< *heartily sick of his snide ~s*)

**remarkable** /'ri:məkbəl/ *adj* worthy of being or likely to be noticed, esp  
 as being uncommon or extraordinary – *remarkableness* *n*, *remarkably*  
*adv*

**remedial** /'ri:meɪdi-əl, -dyəl/ *adj* 1 intended as a remedy (< ~ treatment>  
 2 concerned with the correction of faulty study habits (< ~ reading  
 courses>) – *remedially* *adv*

**remedy** /'remədi/ *n* 1 a medicine, application, or treatment that relieves  
 or cures a disease 2 sthg that corrects or counteracts an evil or deficiency  
 (< *the firing squad made a simple ~ for discontent*) 3 (legal) compensation  
 or amends [ME *remedie*, fr AF, fr L *remedium*, fr *re-* + *mederi* to heal  
 – more at *MEDICAL*]

**remedy** *vt* to provide or serve as a remedy for – *remediable* /'ri:meɪdi-əbl,  
 -dyəbl/ *adj*

**remember** /'ri:membə/ *vt* 1 to bring to mind or think of again (for  
 attention or consideration) (< ~s the old days>) (< ~ me in your prayers>  
 2 to give or leave (sb) a present, tip, etc (< *was ~ed in the will*) 3 to retain  
 in the memory (< ~ the facts until the test is over>) 4 to convey greetings  
 from (< ~ me to your mother>) 5 to commemorate ~ *vi* 1 to exercise or  
 have the power of memory 2 to have a recollection or remembrance [ME  
*remembren*, fr MF *remember*, fr LL *rememorari*, fr L *re-* + *LI*  
*memorari* to be mindful of, fr L *memor* mindful – more at *MEMORY*]

**remembrance** /'ri:membərəns/ *n* 1 the state of bearing in mind 2 the  
 period over which one's memory extends 3 an act of recalling to mind  
 (< ~ of the offence angered him all over again>) 4 a memory of a person,  
 thing, or event (< *had only a dim ~ of that night*) 5a sthg that serves to

- keep in or bring to mind **b** a commemoration, memorial **c** a greeting or gift recalling or expressing friendship or affection
- remembrancer** /rɪ'membərəns/ *n* one who or that which reminds; esp. *cap any of several English officials having orig the duty of bringing a matter to the attention of the proper authority*
- Remembrance Sunday** *n* the Sunday closest to November 11, set aside in commemoration of fallen Allied servicemen and of the end of hostilities in 1918 and 1945 – compare **VETERANS DAY**
- remind** /rɪ'miend/ *vt* to put in mind of sthg, cause to remember – **reminder** *n*
- reminisce** /rɪ'mɪnɪs/ *vi* to indulge in reminiscence [back-formation fr *reminiscence*]
- reminiscence** /rɪ'mɪnɪs(ə)ns/ *n* **1** the process or practice of thinking or telling about past experiences **2a** a remembered experience **b** an account of a memorable experience – often pl (*published the ~s of the old settler*) **3** sthg that recalls or is suggestive of sthg else [LL *reminiscentia*, fr L *reminiscent*, *reminiscens*, prp of *reminisci* to remember, fr *re-* + *minisci* (akin to L *ment-*, *mens* mind) – more at **MIND**]
- reminiscent** /rɪ'mɪnɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* **1** of (the character of) reminiscence **2** marked by or given to reminiscence **3** tending to remind one (e.g. of sthg seen or known before) (*a technology ~ of the Stone Age*)
- remiss** /rɪ'mɪs/ *adj* **1** negligent in the performance of work or duty **2** showing neglect or inattention (*service was ~ in most of the hotels*) [ME, fr L *remissus*, fr pp of *remittere* to send back, relax] – **remissly** *adv*, **remissness** *n*
- remission** /rɪ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** the act or process of remitting **2** a state or period during which sthg (e.g. the symptoms of a disease) is remitted **3** reduction of a prison sentence
- remit** /rɪ'mɪt/ *vb* **tt-vt** *vt* **1a** to release sb from the guilt or penalty of (sin) **b** to refrain from inflicting or exacting (< ~ a tax) (< ~ the penalty of loss of pay) **c** to give relief from (suffering) **2a** to desist from (an activity) **b** to let (e.g. attention or diligence) slacken **3** to refer for consideration, *specif* to return (a case) to a lower court **4** to put back **5** to postpone, defer **6** to send (money) to a person or place ~ *vi* **1a** to moderate *b* of a disease or abnormality to become less severe for a period **2** to send money (e.g. in payment) [ME *remitten*, fr L *remittere* to send back, fr *re-* + *mittere* to send – more at **SMITE**] – **remittance** *n*, **remittable** *adj*, **remitter** *n*
- remit** *n* **1** an act of remitting **2** sthg remitted to another person or authority for consideration or judgment
- remittal** /rɪ'mɪtl/ *n* a remission
- remittance** /rɪ'mɪt(ə)ns/ *n* **1a** a sum of money remitted **b** a document by which money is remitted **2** remittance of money
- remittent** /rɪ'mɪt(ə)nt/ *adj*, of a disease marked by alternating periods of abatement and increase of symptoms [L *remittent*, *remittens*, prp of *remittere*] – **remittently** *adv*
- remnant** /rɪ'mnənt/ *n* **1a** a usu small part or trace remaining **b** a small surviving group – often pl **2** an unsold or unused end of fabric [ME, contr of *remenant*, fr MF, fr prp of *remanoir* to remain, fr L *remanere* – more at **REMAIN**]
- remodel** /ree'modl/ *vt* to reconstruct
- remonetize**, **-ise** /ree'munɪ,tɪz/ *vt* to restore to use as legal tender [*re-* + *monetize* (to coin money, establish as legal tender), fr L *moneta* mint, money] – **remonetization** /-ˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- remonstrance** /rɪ'monstrəns/ *n* an act or instance of remonstrating
- remonstrate** /rɪ'monstrəɪt/ *vt* to say or plead in protest, reproof, or opposition ~ *vi* to present and urge reasons in opposition – often + *with* [ML *remonstratus*, pp of *remonstrare* to demonstrate, fr L *re-* + *monstrare* to show – more at **MUSTER**] – **remonstration** /rɪ'monstrəʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **remonstrative** /rɪ'monstratɪv/ *adj*, **remonstratively** *adv*, **remonstrator** /rɪ'monstrəɪtə/ *n*
- remora** /rɪ'mɔrə/ *n* any of several fishes that have a sucking disc on the head by means of which they cling to other fishes and to ships [L, lit, delay, fr *remorari* to delay, fr *re-* + *morari* to delay – more at **MORATORIUM**; fr a former belief that it held ships back]
- remorse** /rɪ'mɔrs/ *n* a deep and bitter distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs [ME, fr MF *remors*, fr ML *remorsus*, fr LL, act of biting again, fr L *remorsus*, pp of *remordere* to bite again, fr *re-* + *mordere* to bite – more at **SMART**] – **remorseful** *adj*, **remorsefully** *adv*
- remorseless** /-ls/ *adj* **1** merciless (< ~ cruelty) **2** persistent, indefatigable – **remorselessly** *adv*, **remorselessness** *n*
- remote** /rɪ'moʊt/ *adj* **1** far removed in space, time, or relation (*the ~ past*) **2** comments ~ *from the truth* **3** out-of-the-way, secluded **3** acting on or controlling indirectly or from a distance (< ~ computer operation)
- 4** small in degree (< ~ possibility) **5** distant in manner [L *remotus*, fr pp of *removere* to remove] – **remotely** *adv*, **remoteness** *n*
- remote control** *n* control over an operation (e.g. of a machine or weapon) exercised from a distance usu by means of an electrical circuit or radio waves [TELEVISION]
- remould** /ree'mohld/ *vt* to refashion the tread of (a worn tyre)
- remould** /ree'mohld/ *n* a remoulded tyre
- remount** /ree'maʊnt/ *vt* **1** to mount again (< ~ a picture) **2** to provide (e.g. a unit of cavalry) with remounts ~ *vi* to mount again [ME *remounten*, partly fr *re-* + *mounten* to mount, partly fr MF *remonter*, fr *re-* + *monter* to mount]
- remount** /ree'maʊnt/ *n* **1** a fresh riding horse, esp one used as a replacement for one which is exhausted
- removable** /rɪ'muʊvəbl/ *adj* capable of being removed – **removability** *n*, **removably** *adv*, **removability** /-bɪləti/ *n*
- removal** /rɪ'muʊvl/ *n* **1** Br the moving of household goods from one residence to another **2** removing or being removed, *specif* *move* **2c** – fml (*our ~ to Hampton Wick*)
- remove** /rɪ'muʊv/ *vt* **1** to change the location, position, station, or residence of (< ~ soldiers to the front) **2** to move by lifting, pushing aside, or taking away or off (< ~ his hat in church) **3** to get rid of (< ~ a tumour surgically) ~ *vi* to change location, station, or residence – fml (*removing from the city to the suburbs*) [ME *removen*, fr OF *remouvoir*, fr L *removere*, fr *re-* + *movere* to move] – **remover** *n*
- remove** *n* **1a** a distance or interval separating one person or thing from another (*poems that work best at a slight ~ from the persona*) **b** a degree or stage of separation (*a repetition, at many ~s, of the theme of her first book*) **2** a form intermediate between **2** others in some British schools
- removed** *adj* **1a** distant in degree of relationship **b** of a younger or older generation (*a second cousin's child is a second cousin once ~*) **2** separate or remote in space, time, or character
- remunerate** /rɪ'mjuːnəreɪt/ *vt* **1** to pay an equivalent for **2** to recompense [L *remuneratus*, pp of *remunerare* to recompense, fr *re-* + *munerare* to give, fr *muner*, *munus* gift – more at **MTAN**] – **remunerator** *n*, **remuneration** /-ˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **remunerative** /-ˈrətɪv/ *adj*
- renaissance** /rɪ'nays(ə)ns, rɪ'nesəns/ *n* **1** *cap* the (period of the) humanistic revival of classical influence in Europe from the 14th c to the 17th c, expressed in a flowering of the arts and literature and by the beginnings of modern science **2** often *cap* a movement or period of vigorous artistic and intellectual activity **3** a rebirth, revival [F, fr MF, rebirth, fr *renaistre* to be born again, fr L *renasci*, fr *re-* + *nasci* to be born – more at **NATION**]
- Renaissance man** *n* a person of wide interests and expertise, *specif* a person equally at home in the arts and sciences
- renal** /roʊnl/ *adj* relating to, involving, or located in the region of the kidneys [F or L.L., F *rénal*, fr LL *renalis*, fr L *renes* kidneys]
- renascence** /rɪ'nays(ə)ns/ *n* a renaissance
- renascent** /rɪ'nays(ə)nt/ *adj* rising again into being or vigour – fml [L *renascent*, *renascens*, prp of *renasci*]
- rend** /rend/ *vb* **rent** /rent/ *vt* **1** to wrest, split, or tear apart or in pieces (as if) by violence **2** to tear (the hair or clothing) as a sign of anger, grief, or despair **3a** to lacerate mentally or emotionally **b** to pierce with sound ~ *vi* to become torn or split [ME *renden*, fr OE *rendan*, akin to OFris *renda* to tear, Skt *randhra* hole]
- render** /rendə/ *vt* **1a** to melt down, extract by melting (< ~ lard) **b** to treat so as to convert into industrial fats and oils or fertilizer **2a** to yield, *GIVE UP* **1** **b** to deliver for consideration, approval, or information **3a** to give in return or retribution **b** to restore, *GIVE BACK* **c** to give in acknowledgment of dependence or obligation **d** to do (a service) for another **4a** to cause to be or become (*enough rain to ~ irrigation unnecessary*) **b(1)** to reproduce or represent by artistic or verbal means **(2)** to give a performance of **c** to translate **5** to direct the execution of, administer (< ~ justice) **6** to apply a coat of plaster or cement directly to [ME *renden*, fr MF *rendre* to give back, yield, fr (assumed) VL *rendere*, alter. of L *reddere*, partly fr *re-* + *dare* to give & partly fr *re-* + *dere* to put – more at **DATE**, **DO**]
- rendering** /rend(ə)nrɪŋ/ *n* a covering material, usu of cement, sand, and a small percentage of lime, applied to exterior walls
- rendezvous** /rɒndiːvuː, -ˈdeɪ-, -ˈrɒnh-/ *n*, *pl* **rendezvous** **1** a place (appointed) for assembling or meeting **2** a meeting at an appointed place and time [MF, fr *rendez vous* present yourselves] – **rendezvous** *vi*
- rendition** /rendɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or result of rendering: e.g. a translation **b** a performance, interpretation [jobs F, fr MF, alter. of *reddition*, fr LL *reddition*, *reditio*, fr L *redditus*, pp of *reddere*]

**renegade** /ˈreniˌɡayd/ *n* 1 a deserter from one faith, cause, or allegiance to another 2 an individual who rejects lawful or conventional behaviour [Sp *renegado*, fr ML *renegatus*, fr pp of *renegare* to deny, fr L *re-* + *negare* to deny – more at NEGATE] – **renegade** *adj*

**renege** /ˈnɛɡeɪ, ˈriˌnɛɪ/ *vi* to go back on a promise or commitment (< *d on her contract*) [ML *renegare*] – **renege** *n*

**renew** /riˈnuːh/ *vt* 1 to restore to freshness, vigour, or perfection (< *as we ~ our strength in sleep*) 2 to make new spiritually, regenerate 3a to revive b to make changes in, rebuild 4 to make or do again 5 to begin again; resume 6 to replace, replenish (< *water in a tank*) 7a to grant or obtain an extension of or on (e.g. a subscription, lease, or licence) b to grant or obtain a further loan of (< *a library book*) ~ *vi* to make a renewal (e.g. of a lease) – **renewable** *adj*, **renewably** *adv*, **renewal** *n*, **renewer** *n*, **renewability** /-ˈbɪləti/ *n*

**reni-**, **reno-** *comb form* kidney [L *renes* kidneys]

**reniform** /ˈreniˌfawm, ˈree-/ *adj* kidney-shaped – **PLANT** [NL *reni-formis*, fr *reni-* + *-formis* -form]

**renin** /ˈreenin, ˈrenin/ *n* an enzyme of the kidney that plays a major role in the release of angiotensin [ISV, fr L *renes*]

**rennet** /ˈrenɪt/ *n* 1a the contents of the stomach of an unweaned animal, esp a calf b (a preparation from) the lining membrane of a stomach (e.g. the fourth of a ruminant) used for curdling milk 2 (a substitute for) rennin [ME, fr (assumed) ME *rennen* to cause to coagulate, fr OE *gerennan*, fr *ge-* together + (assumed) OE *rennan* to cause to run, akin to OHG *rennen* to cause to run, OE *rinnan* to run]

**rennin** /ˈrenin/ *n* any of several enzymes that coagulate milk and are used in making cheese and junkets, esp one from the mucous membrane of the stomach of a calf [rennet + -in]

**renounce** /ˈrɪnəʊns/ *vt* 1 to give up, refuse, or resign, usu by formal declaration (< *his errors*) 2 to refuse to follow, obey, or recognize any further 3 to fail to follow with a card from (the suit led) in a card game [ME *renouncen*, fr MF *renoncer*, fr L *renuntiare*, fr *re-* + *nuntiare* to report, fr *nuntius* messenger] – **renouncement** *n*, **renouncer** *n*

**renovate** /ˈrenəˌvaɪt/ *vt* 1 to restore to life, vigour, or activity 2 to restore to a former or improved state (e.g. by cleaning, repairing, or rebuilding) [L *renovatus*, pp of *renovare*, fr *re-* + *novare* to make new, fr *novus* new – more at NEW] – **renovator** *n*, **renovation** /-ˈvayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**renown** /ˈrɪnəʊn/ *n* a state of being widely acclaimed, fame [ME, fr MF *renon*, fr OF, fr *renomer* to celebrate, fr *re-* + *nomer* to name, fr I *nominare*, fr *nomi-*, *nomina* name – more at NAME]

**renowned** *adj* celebrated, famous

**rent** /rent/ *n* 1a a usu fixed periodical return made by a tenant or occupant of property or user of goods to the owner for the possession and use thereof b an amount paid or collected as rent 2 the portion of the income of an economy (e.g. of a nation) attributable to land as a factor of production in addition to capital and labour [ME *rente*, fr OF, income from a property, fr (assumed) VL *rendita*, fr fem of *renditus*, pp of *rendere* to yield – more at REND]

**rent** *vt* 1 to take and hold under an agreement to pay rent 2 to grant the possession and use of for rent ~ *vi* 1 to obtain the possession and use of a place or article for rent 2 to allow the possession and use of property for rent – **rentable** *adj*, **rentability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*

**rent** *past* of REND

**rent** *n* 1 an opening or split made (as if) by rending 2 an act or instance of rending [E dial *rent* (to rend), var of *rend*]

**rental** /ˈrentl/ *n* 1 an amount paid or collected as rent 2 an act of renting 3 *NAm* sthg (e.g. a house) that is rented

**rental** *adj* of or relating to rent or renting

**renter** /ˈrentə/ *n* the lessee or tenant of property [ˈRENT + -ER]

**rentier** /ˈrɒntɪə, ˈrɒn- (Fr rōtiē)/ *n* one who receives a fixed income (e.g. from land or shares) [F, fr OF, fr *rente*]

**rent strike** *n* a refusal by a group of tenants to pay rent

**renumber** /ˈreeˌnʌmbə/ *vt* to number again or differently  
**renunciation** /ˌrɪˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or practice of renouncing, *specif* self-denial practised for religious reasons [ME, fr L *renuntiation*, *renuntatio*, fr *renuntiare*, pp of *renuntiare*] – **renunciative** /ˌrɪˌnʌnsi-ə-tɪv-, -sɪ-/ *adj*, **renunciatory** /-sɪ-ə-t(ə)rɪ-, -sɪ-/ *adj*

**reoffer** /ˈreeˌɒfə/ *vt* to offer (a security issue) for public sale

**reopen** /ˈreeˌɒp(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to open again 2 to resume (discussion or consideration of) (< *a contract*) 3 to begin again ~ *vi* to open again (< *school ~s in September*)

**reorder** /ˈreeˌɔːdə/ *vt* to arrange in a different way

**rep, repp** /rep/ *n* a plain-weave fabric with raised crosswise ribs [F *reps*, modif of E *ribs*, pl of *rib*]

**rep** *n* a representative, *specif*, chiefly Br SALES REPRESENTATIVE – *infrm*

**rep** *n* REPERTORY 2b, c – *infrm*

**repair** /riˈpeə/ *vi* to betake oneself, go (< *ed to his home*) – *frm* [ME *reparen*, fr MF *reparier* to go back to one's country, fr LL *repariare*, fr L *re-* + *patria* native country – more at EXPATRIATE]

**repair** *vi* 1 to restore by replacing a part or putting together what is torn or broken 2 to restore to a sound or healthy state 3 to remedy [ME *reparen*, fr MF *reparer*, fr L *reparare*, fr *re-* + *parare* to prepare – more at PARE] – **repairer** *n*, **repairable** *adj*, **repairability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*

**repair** *n* 1 an instance or the act or process of repairing 2 relative condition with respect to soundness or need of repairing (< *the car is in reasonably good ~*)

**reparable** /ˈrep(ə)rəbl/ *adj* capable of being repaired

**reparation** /ˌrepəˈraɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury b sthg done or given as amends or satisfaction 2 damages, *specif* compensation payable by a defeated nation for war damages – usu pl with sing meaning [ME, fr MF, fr LL *reparation*, *reparatio*, fr L *reparatus*, pp of *reparare*] – **reparative** /ˌrɪˈpɑːtɪv/ *adj*

**repatee** /ˌrepahˈtee/ *n* 1 a quick and witty reply 2 (skill in) amusing and usu light sparring with words [F *repartie*, fr *repartir* to retort, fr MF, fr *re-* + *partir* to divide – more at PART]

**repass** /ˌreeˈpɑːs/ *vi* to pass again, esp in the opposite direction ~ *vt* to pass through, over, or by again (< *the house*) [ME *repassen*, fr MF *repasser*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *passer* to pass] – **repassage** /ˌreeˈpɑːsɪ/ *n*  
**repast** /ˈnɪpɑːst/ *n* 1 MEAL – *frm* [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *repasire* to feed, fr *re-* + *pasire* to feed, fr L *pascere* – more at FOOD]

**repatriate** /ˌreeˈpɑːtriəɪt, ˌriˈ-ˈpɑː-/ *vt* to restore to the country of origin [LL *repatratus*, pp of *repatrari* to go back to one's country – more at REPAIR] – **repatriate** /-ˌtri-ə-t/ *n*, **repatriation** /-ˌpaɪəˈtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**repay** /ˈriˌpeɪ, ˌree-/ *vt* **repaid** /-ˌpeɪd/ 1a to pay back (< *a loan*) b to give or inflict in return or requital (< *evil for evil*) 2 to compensate, requite 3 to recompense (< *a company which ~s hard work*) – **repayable** *adj*, **repayment** *n*

**repeal** /ˈriˌpeəl/ *vt* to revoke (a law) [ME *repelen*, fr MF *repeler*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *apeler* to appeal, call] – **repeal** *n*, **repealable** *adj*

**repeat** /riˈpiet/ *vt* 1a to say or state again b to say through from memory c to say after another (< *these words after me*) 2a to make, do, perform, present, or broadcast again (< *an experiment*) b to experience again 3 to express or present (oneself or itself) again in the same words, terms, or form ~ *vi* 1 to say, do, or accomplish sthg again 2 of food to continue to be tasted intermittently after being swallowed – often + *on* [ME *repeten*, fr MF *repeter*, fr L *repeterē*, fr *re-* + *peterē* to go to, seek – more at LEATHER] – **repeatable** *adj*, **repeatability** /-təˈbɪləti/ *n*

**repeat** *n* 1 the act of repeating 2a sthg repeated, *specif* a television or radio programme that has previously been broadcast at least once b (a sign placed before or after) a musical passage to be repeated in performance – **MUSIC**

**repeated** *adj* 1 renewed or recurring again and again (< *changes of plan*) 2 said, done, or presented again

**repeatedly** /ˌriˌpietɪdli/ *adv* again and again

**repeater** /ˈriˌpietə/ *n* 1 a watch that strikes the time when a catch is pressed 2 a firearm that fires several times without having to be reloaded [ˈREPEAT + -ER]

**repeating decimal** /ˌriˌpietɪŋ/ *n* RECURRING DECIMAL

**repechage** /ˌrepɪˈʃahzɪ, ˌrɛ-/ *n* a heat (e.g. in rowing) in which losers from earlier heats are given another chance to qualify for the finals [F *repêchage* second chance, reexamination for a candidate who has failed, fr *repêcher* to fish out, rescue, fr *re-* + *pêcher* to fish, fr L *piscari* – more at PISCATORY]

**repel** /riˈpel/ *vt* -ll- 1 to drive back; repulse 2a to drive away b to be incapable of sticking to, mixing with, taking up, or holding (< *a fabric that ~s moisture*) c to (tend to) force away or apart by mutual action at a distance (< *like electric charges ~ one another*) 3 to cause aversion in; disgust [ME *repellen*, fr L *repellere*, fr *re-* + *pellere* to drive]

**repellent** also **repellant** /ˌrepələnt/ *adj* 1 serving or tending to drive away or ward off 2 repulsive [L *repellent*, *repellens*, prp of *repellere*] – **repellently** *adv*

**repellent** also **repellant** *n* sthg that repels, esp a substance used to prevent insect attacks

**repent** /ˈriˌpent/ *vi* 1 to turn from sin and amend one's life 2 to feel regret or contrition ~ *vt* to feel sorrow, regret, or contrition for [ME *repenten*, fr OF *repentir*, fr *re-* + *pentir* to be sorry, fr L *paenitere* – more at PENITENT] – **repentance** *n*, **repentant** *adj*, **repenter** *n*

- repent** /ˈreɪpənt/ *adj.* of a plant part creeping, prostrate [L *repent-*, *repens*, pp of *repere* to creep – more at **REPTILE**]
- repercussion** /ˌreɪpəˈkʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an echo, reverberation 2a an action or effect given or exerted in return b a widespread, indirect, or unforeseen effect of an act, action, or event [L *repercussio-*, *repercussio*, fr *repercussus*, pp of *repercutere* to drive back, fr *re-* + *percutere* to beat – more at **PERCUSSION**] – **repercussive** /-sɪv/ *adj*
- repertoire** /ˈrepɔɪtwɑː/ *n* 1a a list or supply of dramas, operas, pieces, or parts that a company or person is prepared to perform b a range of skills, techniques, or expedients 2a the complete list or range of skills, techniques, or ingredients used in a particular field, occupation, or practice b a list or stock of capabilities (<the instruction ~ of a computer>) [F *répertoire*, fr LL *repertorium*]
- repertory** /ˈrepət(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a repository 2a a repertoire b (a theatre housing) a company that presents several different plays in the course of a season at one theatre c the production and presentation of plays by a repertory company (<acting in ~> [LL *repertorium* list, fr L *repertus*, pp of *reperire* to find, fr *re-* + *parere* to produce – more at **PERE**])
- répétiteur** /ˌrɛpiˈtiːtʊr/ *n* sby who coaches opera singers [F, fr L *repetitus*, pp]
- repetition** /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 repeating or being repeated 2 a reproduction, copy [L *repetition-*, *repetitio*, fr *repetitus*, pp of *repere* to repeat] – **repetitional** *adj*
- repetitious** /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃəs/ *adj* characterized or marked by repetition, esp tediously repeating – **repetitiously** *adv*, **repetitiousness** *n*
- repetitive** /ˌrɛpɪˈtɪv/ *adj* repetitious – **repetitively** *adv*, **repetitiveness** *n*
- repine** /ˈrɛpiːn/ *vi* to feel or express dejection or discontent –fml – **repiner** *n*
- replace** /ˈrɪpleɪs/ *vt* 1 to restore to a former place or position (< ~ cards in a file>) 2 to take the place of, esp as a substitute or successor 3 to put sthg new in the place of (< ~ a worn carpet>) – **replaceable** *adj*, **replacer** *n*
- replacement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 replacing or being replaced 2 sthg or sby that replaces another
- replant** /ˌreɪˈplɑːnt/ *vt* 1 to plant again or anew 2 to provide with new plants
- replay** /ˈreeˌpleɪ/ *vt* to play again
- replay** /ˈreepleɪ/ *n* 1a an act or instance of replaying b the playing of a tape (e.g. a videotape) 2 a repetition, reenactment (<don't want a ~ of our old mistakes>) 3 a match played to resolve a tie in an earlier match
- replenish** /ˈrɪplənɪʃ/ *vt* to stock or fill up again (< ~ ed his glass>) [ME *replenissen*, fr MF *repleniss-*, stem of *replenir* to fill, fr OF, fr *re-* + *plein* full, fr L *plenus* – more at **FULL**] – **replenishment** *n*
- replete** /ˈrɪpleɪt/ *adj* 1 fully or abundantly provided or filled 2 abundantly fed; sated [ME, fr MF & L, MF *replet*, fr L *repletus*, pp of *replere* to fill up, fr *re-* + *plere* to fill] – **repleteness** *n*, **repletion** /ˈrɪpleʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- replevin** /ˈrɪplevɪn/ *n* the recovery of goods detained, upon security being given to try the matter in court [ME, fr AF *replevine*, fr *replevir* to give security, fr OF, fr *re-* + *plevir* to pledge, fr (assumed) LL *plebere*]
- replevy** /ˈrɪplevi/ *vt* to get back by replevin [AF *replevir*]
- replica** /ˈreplɪkə/ *n* 1 a close reproduction or facsimile, esp by the maker of the original 2 a copy, duplicate [It, repetition, fr *replicare* to repeat, fr LL, fr L, to fold back]
- replicate** /ˈreplɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to duplicate, repeat (< ~ a statistical experiment>) 2 to fold or bend back ~ *vi* to produce a replica of itself (<replicating virus particles>) [LL *replicatus*, pp of *replicare*, (2) L *replīcatu*] – **replicable** /ˈreplɪkəbəl/ *adj*, **replicative** /-kətɪv/, **replicative** /-kətɪv/ *adj*, **replicability** /-kəˈbɪlətɪ/ *n*
- replication** /ˌreplɪˈkəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a an answer (to a reply), a rejoinder b a plaintiff's reply to a defendant 2 the action or process of reproducing
- reply** /ˈrɪplɪ/ *vi* 1a to respond in words or writing b to make a legal replication 2 to do sthg in response ~ *vt* to give as an answer [ME *replien*, fr MF *replier* to fold again, fr L *replicare* to fold back, fr *re-* + *plīcare* to fold – more at **PLV**]
- reply** *n* sthg said, written, or done in answer or response
- report** /ˈrɪpɔːt/ *n* 1a (an account spread by) common talk b character or reputation (<a man of good ~>) 2a a usu detailed account or statement (<a news ~>) b an account of a judicial opinion or decision c a usu formal record of the proceedings of a meeting or inquiry d a statement of a pupil's performance at school usu issued every term to the pupil's parents
- or guardian 3 a loud explosive noise [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *reporter* to report, fr L *reportare*, fr *re-* + *portare* to carry – more at **FARE**]
- report** *vt* 1 to give information about; relate 2a to convey news of b to relate the words or sense of (sthg said) c to make a written record or summary of d to present the newsworthy aspects or developments of in writing or for broadcasting 3a to announce or relate (as the result of examination or investigation) (< ~ ed no sign of disease>) b to make known to the relevant authorities (< ~ a fire>) c to make a charge of misconduct against ~ *vi* 1a to give an account b to present oneself (< ~ at the main entrance>) c to account for oneself as specified (< ~ ed sick on Friday>) 2 to make, issue, or submit a report 3 to act in the capacity of a news reporter – **reportable** *adj*
- reportage** /ˌrepawˈtɑːʒ/ *n* 1 the act or process of reporting news 2 writing intended to give a usu factual account of events [F, fr *reporter* to report]
- reportedly** /ˌrɪpɔːtɪdli/ *adv* reputedly
- reported speech** /ˌrɪpɔːtɪd/ *n* the report of one utterance grammatically adapted for inclusion in another
- reporter** /ˈrɪpɔːtə/ *n* sby who or sthg that reports e.g. a one who makes a shorthand record of a proceeding b a journalist who writes news stories c one who gathers and broadcasts news
- re'port stage** *n* the stage in the British legislative process before the third reading of a bill [F, LAW]
- repose** /ˈrɪpəʊz/ *vi* to lay at rest (< ~ her head on the cushion>) ~ *vi* 1a to lie resting b to lie dead (<reposing in state>) 2 to take rest 3 to rest for support chiefly fml (<a bowl reposing on the table>) [ME *reposen*, fr MF *reposer*, fr OF, fr LL *repasare*, fr L *re-* + LL *pausare* to stop, fr I. *pausa* pause – more at **PAUSE**]
- repose** *n* 1 a place or state of rest or resting, esp rest in sleep 2a calm, tranquility b a restful effect (e.g. of a painting or colour scheme) 3 cessation or absence of activity, movement, or animation (<the appearance of his face in ~>) 4 composure of manner – **reposeful** *adj*
- repository** /ˌrɪpəzɪ(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 a place, room, or container where sthg is deposited or stored 2 sby who or sthg that holds or stores sthg nonmaterial (e.g. knowledge) 3 sby to whom sthg is confided or entrusted [L *repositorium*, fr *repositus*, pp of *reponere* to replace, fr *re-* + *ponere* to place – more at **POSITION**]
- repossess** /ˌreɪpəˈzes/ *vt* 1 to regain possession of 2 to resume possession of in default of the payment of instalments due – **repossession** /-ˈzesh(ə)n/ *n*
- repoussé** /rəˈpuʊsɪ/ *n* or *adj* (metalwork) decorated with patterns in relief made by hammering on the reverse side [adj F, pp of *repousser* to press back, fr MF, fr *re-* + *pousser* to push, thrust, fr OF *poulsar* – more at **PUSH**, *n* fr adj]
- repp** /rep/ *n* 'REP
- reprehend** /ˌreɪprɪˈhɛnd/ *vt* to voice disapproval of, censure [ME *reprehenden*, fr L *reprehendere*, lit, to hold back, fr *re-* + *prehendere* to grasp – more at **PREHENSILE**]
- reprehensible** /ˌreɪprɪˈhɛnsəbl/ *adj* deserving censure, culpable [ME, fr LL *reprehensibilis*, fr *reprehensus*, pp of *reprehendere*] – **reprehensibleness** *n*, **reprehensibly** *adv*, **reprehensibility** /-ˈbɪlətɪ/ *n*
- represent** /ˌreɪprɪˈzent/ *vt* 1 to convey a mental impression of (<a book which ~s the character of Tudor England>) 2 to serve as a sign or symbol of (<the snake ~s Satan>) 3 to portray or exhibit in art; depict 4a(1) to take the place of in some respect; stand in for (2) to act in the place of b to serve, esp in a legislative body, by delegated authority 5 to attribute a specified character or identity to (< ~s himself as a friend of the workingman>) 6 to serve as a specimen, exemplar, or instance of 7 to form a mental impression of [ME *representen*, fr MF *representer*, fr L *repraesentare*, fr *re-* + *praesentare* to present] – **representable** *adj*, **representer** *n*
- representation** /ˌreɪprɪzənˈtʃaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 sby who or sthg that represents e.g. a an artistic likeness or image b a statement made to influence opinion – usu pl with sing. meaning c a usu formal protest (<a ~ in parliament>) 2 representing or being represented e.g. a the action or fact of one person standing in place of another so as to have the rights and obligations of the person represented b representing or being represented on or in some formal, esp legislative, body 3 the people representing a constituency – **representational** *adj*
- representational** /ˌreɪprɪzənˈtʃaɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of representation 2 of realistic depiction of esp physical objects or appearances in the graphic or plastic arts
- representationalism** /ˌreɪprɪzənˈtʃaɪʃn-lɪz(ə)m/ *n* the theory that the perceived object is an idea in the mind that represents an item in the external world – compare **PRESENTATIONISM** – **representationalist** *n*

**'representative** /ˌrepɪzɪntatɪv/ *adj* 1 serving to represent <a painting ~ of strife> 2a standing or acting for another, esp through delegated authority b of or based on representation of the people in government by election 3 serving as a typical or characteristic example <a ~ area> 4 of representation - **representatively** *adv*, **representativeness** *n*

**\*representative** *n* 1 a typical example of a group, class, or quality 2 one who represents another or others. e.g. a(1) one who represents a constituency (2) a member of a House of Representatives or of a US state legislature b a deputy, delegate c one who represents a business organization; esp SALES REPRESENTATIVE d one who represents another as successor or heir

**repress** /rɪˈpres/ *vt* 1a to curb <injustice was ~ed> b to put down by force <~ an insurrection> 2a to hold in or prevent the expression of, by self-control <~ ed a laugh> b to exclude (e.g. a feeling) from consciousness by psychological repression - compare SUPPRESS 3a [ME *repressen*, fr L *repressus*, pp of *reprimere* to check, fr *re-* + *primere* to press - more at PRESS] - **repressible** *adj*, **repressive** /-sɪv/ *adj*, **repressor** *n*

**repression** /rɪˈpresh(ə)n/ *n* 1a repressing or being repressed <~ of unpopular opinions> b an instance of repressing <racial ~s> 2 a psychological process by which unacceptable desires or impulses are excluded from conscious awareness

**'reprieve** /rɪˈpri:v/ *vt* 1 to delay or remit the punishment of (e.g. a condemned prisoner) 2 to give temporary relief or rest to [perh fr MF *repris*, pp of *reprendre* to take back]

**\*reprieve** *n* 1a reprieving or being reprieved b (a warrant for) a suspension or remission of (a death) sentence 2 a temporary remission (e.g. from pain or trouble)

**'reprimand** /ˌreɪˌmaɪnd/ *n* a severe (and formal) reproof [F *reprimande*, fr L *reprimenda* fem of *reprimendus*, gerundive of *reprimere* to check]

**\*reprimand** /-ˌmaɪnd/ *vt* to criticize sharply or formally censure, usu from a position of authority

**reprint** /ˈreeˌprɪnt/ *n* 1 a subsequent impression of a book previously published in the same form 2 matter (e.g. an article) that has appeared in print before - **reprint** /ˈreeˌprɪnt/ *vt*

**reprisal** /rɪˈpri:əl/ *n* 1 (a) retaliation by force short of war 2 the use forcible retaking of sth (e.g. territory) 3 a retaliatory act [ME *reprisail*, fr MF *reprisaile*, fr OIt *ripresaglia*, fr *ripreso*, pp of *riprendere* to take back, fr *ri-* *re-* (fr L *re-*) + *prendere* to take, fr L *prehendere* - more at PREHENSILE]

**reprise** /rɪˈpri:z, sense 1 also rɪˈpri:z/ *n* 1 a deduction or charge made yearly out of a manor or estate - usu pl 2 a repetition of a musical passage, theme, or performance [ME, fr MF, lit., action of taking back, fr OF, fr *reprendre* to take back, fr *re-* + *prendre* to take, fr L *prehendere*]

**'reproach** /rɪˈprəʊtʃ/ *n* 1 (a cause or occasion of) discredit or disgrace <the poverty of millions is a constant ~> 2 the act or action of reproaching or disapproving <was beyond ~> 3 an expression of rebuke or disapproval [ME *reproche*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *reprochier* to reproach, fr (assumed) VL *repropiare*, fr L *re-* + *prope* near - more at APPROACH] - **reproachful** *adj*, **reproachfully** *adv*, **reproachfulness** *n*

**\*reproach** *vt* to express disappointment and displeasure with (a person) for conduct that is blameworthy or in need of amendment - **reproachable** *adj*, **reproacher** *n*, **reproachingly** *adv*

**'reprobate** /ˌreɪˌbrəʊt/ *vt* 1 to condemn strongly as unworthy, unacceptable, or evil 2 to predestine to damnation [MF *reprobaten*, fr LL *reprobatus*, pp of *reprobare* - more at REPROVE] - **reprobation** /-ˌbrəʊʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **reprobative** /ˌreɪˌbrəʊtɪv/ *adj*, **reprobatory** /-t(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**\*reprobate** /ˌreɪˌbrəʊt/ *adj* 1 predestined to damnation 2 morally dissolute, unprincipled - **reprobate** *n*

**reproduce** /ˌreɪˌprəˈduːs/ *vt* 1 to produce (new living things of the same kind) by a sexual or asexual process 2 to cause to exist again or anew 3 to imitate closely <sound-effects that ~ the sound of thunder> 4 to make an image or copy of 5 to translate (a recording) into sound or an image - *vi* 1 to undergo reproduction in a usu specified manner <the picture ~s well> 2 to produce offspring [RE- + 'PRODUCT] - **reproducer** *n*, **reproducible** *adj*, **reproducibility** /-səˈbɪlətɪ/ *n*

**reproduction** /ˌreɪˌprəˈdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of reproducing, specif the sexual or asexual process by which plants and animals give rise to offspring 2 sth (e.g. a painting) that is reproduced - **reproductive** /-ˌdʌktɪv/ *adj*

**reprography** /rɪˈprɒɡrəfi/ *n* the science or practice of reproducing graphic matter (e.g. by photocopying) [reproduction + -graphy] - **reprographic** /ˌreɪˌprɒˈɡræfɪk/ *adj*

**reproof** /rɪˈpruːf/ *n* criticism for a fault [ME *reproff*, fr MF *reprove*, fr OF, fr *reprover*]

**reprove** /rɪˈpruːv/ *vt* 1 to call attention to the remissness of <~ a child's bad manners> 2 to express disapproval of, censure <~ a child for her bad manners> [ME *reproven*, fr MF *reprover*, fr LL *reprobare* to disapprove, condemn, fr L *re-* + *probare* to test, approve - more at PROVE] - **reprover** *n*, **reprovingly** *adv*

**reptile** /ˈreptɪl/ *n* 1 any of a class of air-breathing vertebrates that include the alligators and crocodiles, lizards, snakes, turtles, and extinct related forms (e.g. the dinosaurs) and have a bony skeleton and a body usu covered with scales or bony plates 2 a grovelling or despicable person [ME *reptil*, fr MF or LL, MF *reptile* (fem), fr LL *reptile* (neut), fr neut of *reptilis* creeping, fr L *reptus*, pp of *repere* to creep; akin to OHG *reba* tendri]

**'reptilian** /ˌrepˈtɪliən/ *adj* 1 resembling or having the characteristics of a reptile 2 of the reptiles

**\*reptilian** *n* REPTILE 1

**republic** /rɪˈpʌblɪk/ *n* 1a a state whose head is not a monarch b a state in which supreme power resides in the people and is exercised by their elected representatives governing according to law c a (specified) republican government <the French Fourth Republic> 2 a body of people freely and equally engaged in a common activity <the ~ of letters> 3 a constituent political and territorial unit of the USSR or Yugoslavia [F *république*, fr MF *republique*, fr L *respublica*, fr *res* thing, wealth + *publica*, fem of *publicus* public - more at 'REAL, PUBLIC]

**'republican** /rɪˈpʌblɪkən/ *adj* 1a of or like a republic b advocating a republic 2 cap of or constituting a political party of the USA that is usu primarily associated with business, financial, and some agricultural interests and is held to favour a restricted governmental role in social and economic life - **republicanism** *n*

**\*republican** *n* 1 one who favours republican government 2 cap a member of the US Republican party

**repudiate** /rɪˈpyuːdiəˌteɪt/ *vt* 1 to refuse to have anything to do with, disown 2a to refuse to accept, esp to reject as unauthorized or as having no binding force b to reject as untrue or unjust <~ a charge> 3 to refuse to acknowledge or pay <~ a debt> [L *repudiatus*, pp of *repudiare*, fr *repudium* divorce] - **repudiation** /-ˌaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**repugnance** /rɪˈpʌɡnəns/ *n* 1 the quality or fact or an instance of being contradictory or incompatible 2 strong dislike, aversion, or antipathy

**repugnant** /rɪˈpʌɡnənt/ *adj* 1 incompatible, inconsistent 2 arousing strong dislike or aversion [ME, opposed, contradictory, incompatible, fr MF, fr L *repugnans*, prp of *repugnare* to fight against, fr *re-* + *pugnare* to fight - more at PUGNEN] - **repugnantly** *adv*

**'repulse** /rɪˈpʌls/ *vt* 1 to drive or beat back <~ the invading army> 2 to repel by discourtesy, coldness, or denial 3 to cause repulsion in [L *repulsus*, pp of *repellere* to repel]

**\*repulse** *n* 1 a rebuff, rejection 2 repelling an assailant or being repelled

**repulsion** /rɪˈpʌlʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 repulsing or being repulsed 2 a force (e.g. between like electric charges or like magnetic poles) tending to produce separation 3 a feeling of strong aversion

**repulsive** /rɪˈpʌlsɪv/ *adj* 1 tending to repel or reject, forbidding 2 serving or able to repulse 3 arousing strong aversion or disgust - **repulsively** *adv*, **repulsiveness** *n*

**reputable** /ˌrepyuːtəbəl/ *adj* held in good repute, well regarded - **reputably** *adv*, **reputability** /ˌrepyuːtəˈbɪlətɪ/ *n*

**reputation** /ˌrepyuːtəˈʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a overall quality or character as seen or judged by others b recognition by other people of some characteristic or ability <has the ~ of being clever> 2 a place in public esteem or regard; good name

**'repute** /rɪˈpyuːt/ *vt* to believe, consider <~d to be the oldest specimen> <~d honest> [ME *reputen*, fr MF *reputer*, fr L *reputare* to reckon up, think over, fr *re-* + *putare* to reckon - more at PAVE]

**\*repute** *n* 1 the character, quality, or status commonly ascribed 2 the state of being favourably known or spoken of **reputed** *adj* being such according to general or popular belief <the ~ father of the child> - **reputedly** *adv*

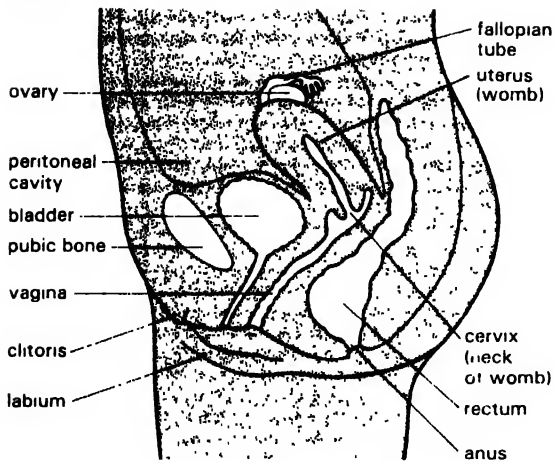
**'request** /rɪˈkwest/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of asking for sth 2 sth asked for 3 the condition or fact of being requested <available on ~> 4 the state of being sought after <a book in great ~> [ME *requeste*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *requaesta*, fr fem of *requaestus*, pp of *requaerere* to require]

**\*request** *vt* 1 to make a request to or of <~ ed her to write a paper> 2 to ask as a favour or privilege <he ~s to be excused> 3 to ask for <~ ed a brief delay>

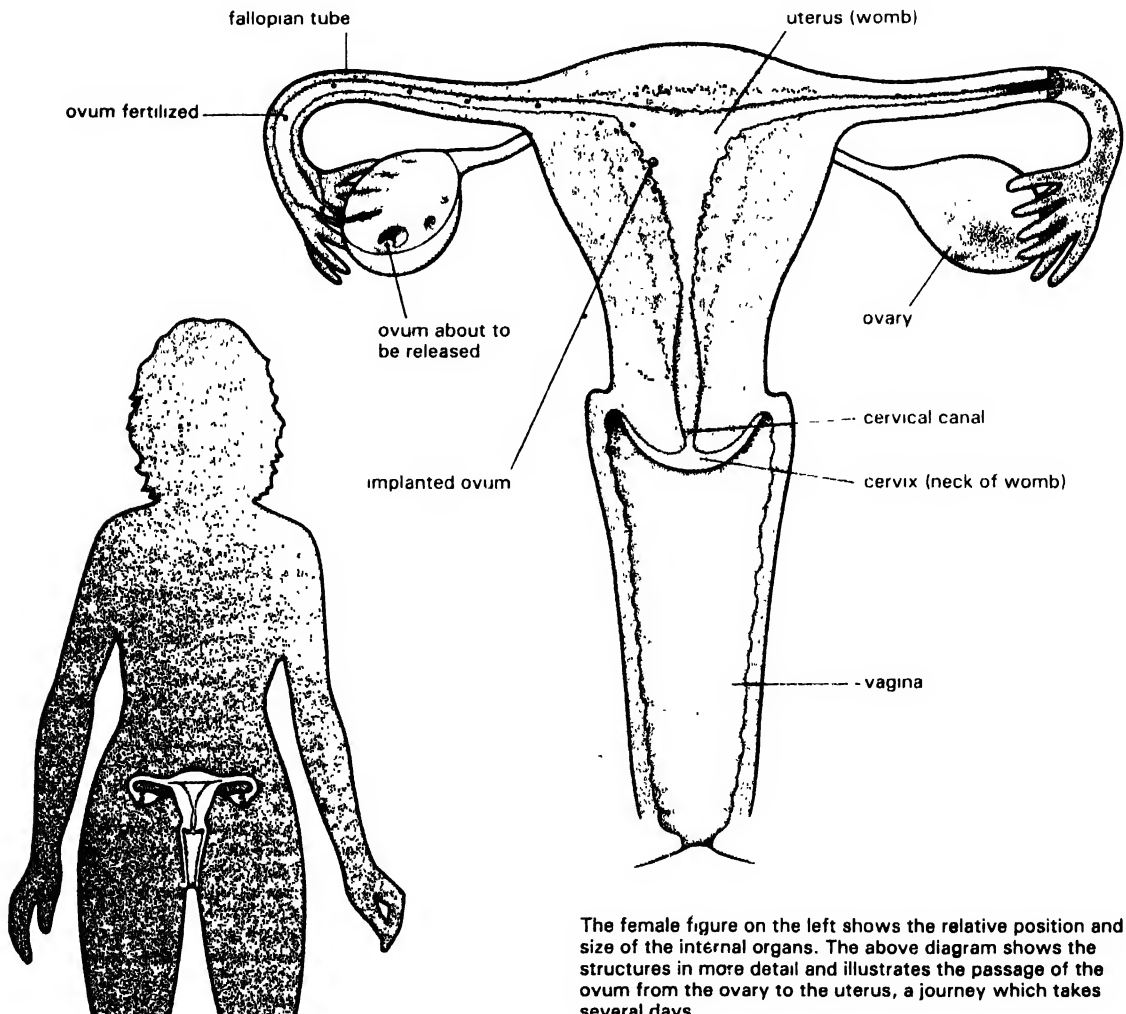
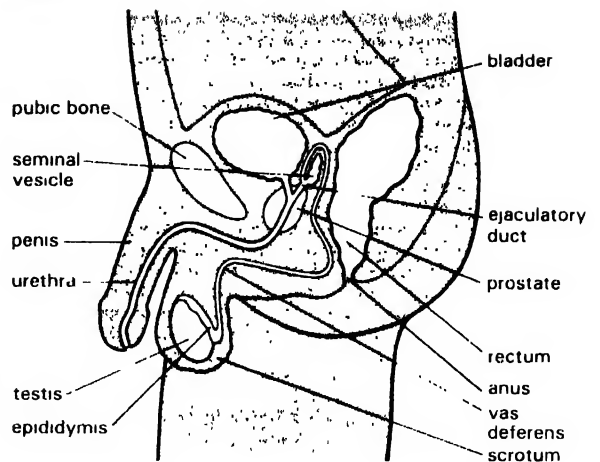
**requiem** /ˈrekwiːəm, -em/ *n* 1 a mass for the dead 2 sth that resembles a solemn funeral chant in tone or function <'Requiem for a Nun' -

**The reproductive system**

**female**

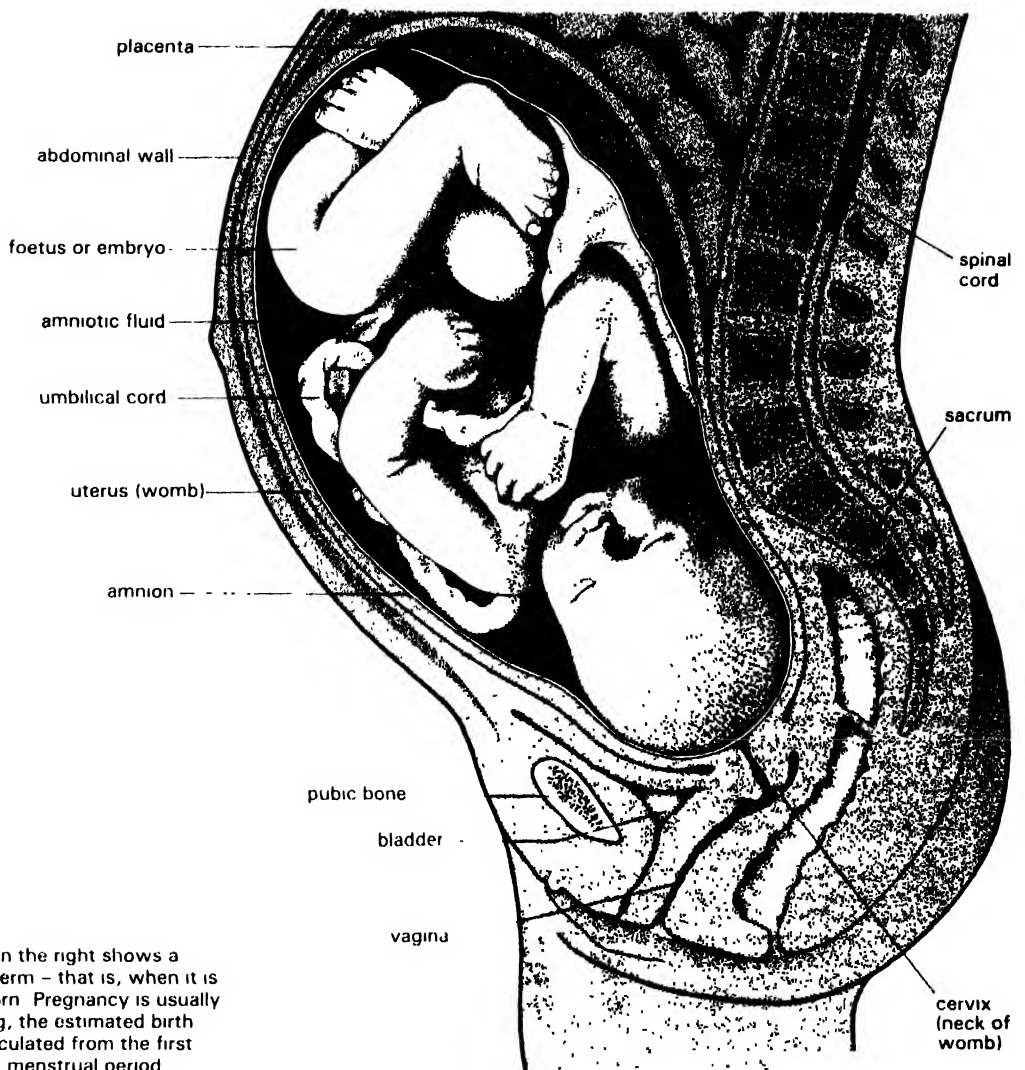


**male**



The female figure on the left shows the relative position and size of the internal organs. The above diagram shows the structures in more detail and illustrates the passage of the ovum from the ovary to the uterus, a journey which takes several days.



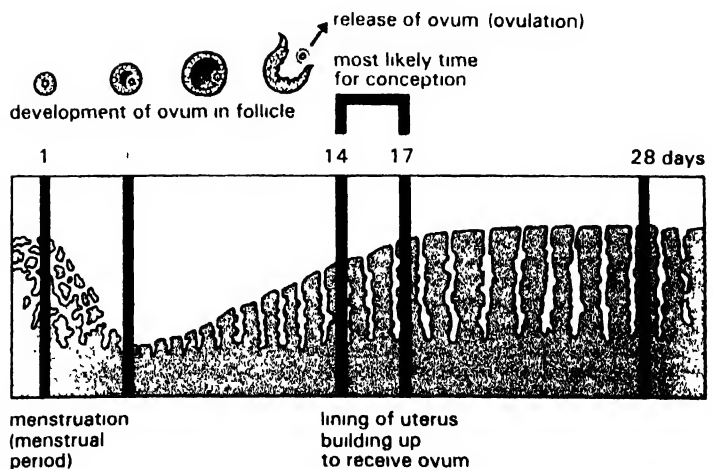


### Pregnancy

The diagram on the right shows a foetus at full term – that is, when it is ready to be born. Pregnancy is usually 40 weeks long, the estimated birth date being calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period.

### Menstrual cycle

The menstrual cycle is, on average, 28 days long though it is frequently shorter or longer than this. The day on which menstruation begins is counted as the first day of the cycle, and at the same time an ovum begins to develop in a follicle in the ovary. This ovum is released on or about the fourteenth day. It then passes down the fallopian tube to the uterus where, if the ovum has been fertilized, it embeds itself in the lining and starts to develop. If the ovum has not been fertilized it passes out of the uterus with the menstrual flow.



William Faulkner) 3 *often cap* **a** a musical setting of the mass for the dead **b** a musical composition in honour of the dead [ME, fr L (first word of the introit of the requiem mass), acc of *requies* rest, fr *re-* + *quies* quiet, rest – more at **WHILE**]

**require** /rɪ'kwaɪə/ *vt* 1 to claim or demand by right and authority 2a to call for as suitable or appropriate (<the occasion ~s formal dress>) **b** to call for as necessary or essential, have a compelling need for (<all living beings ~ food>) 3 to impose an obligation or command on, compel [ME *requeren*, fr MF *requerre*, fr (assumed) VL *requarere* to seek for, need, require, alter. of L *requirere*, fr *re-* + *quaerere* to seek, ask] – **requirement** *n*

**requisite** /rɪ'kwɪzɪt/ *adj* necessary, required (<make the ~ payment>) [ME, fr L *requisitus*, pp of *requirere*] –  **requisite** *n*,  **requisite** *n*

**requisition** /rɪ'kwɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of formally requesting sb to perform an action 2a the act of requiring sthg to be supplied **b** a formal and authoritative (written) demand or application (<~ for army supplies>) [MF or ML; MF, fr ML *requisition-*, *requisitio*, fr L, act of searching, fr *requisitus*] –  **requisition** *vt*

**requite** /rɪ'kwɪt/ *vt* 1 to make retaliation for 2a to make suitable return to (for a benefit or service) **b** to compensate sufficiently for (an injury) [*re-* + obs *quite* (to quit, pay), fr ME *quiten* – more at **'QUIT**] –  **requital** /rɪ'kwɪtl/ *n*

**reredos** /rɪ'dɒs, 'rɛrɪdɒs, 'rɛrə-/ *n* a usu ornamental wood or stone screen or partition wall behind an altar [ME, fr AF *areredos*, fr MF *arriere* behind + *dos* back, fr L *dorsum* – more at **ARREAR**]

**rerun** /rɪ'eʁ, rʊn/ *n* a presentation of a film or television programme after its first run –  **rerun** /rɪ'eʁ, rʊn/ *vt*

**rescind** /rɪ'sɪnd/ *vt* 1 to annul, TAKE BACK (<refused to ~ her harsh order>) 2 to repeal, revoke (e.g. a law, custom, etc) [L *rescindere*, fr *re-* + *scindere* to cut – more at **'SHED**] –  **rescinder** *n*,  **rescindment** *n*,  **rescission** /rɪ'sɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rescript** /rɪ'skrɪpt/ *n* 1 a written answer (e.g. of a pope) to a legal inquiry or petition 2 an act or instance of rewriting [L *rescriptum*, fr neut of *rescriptus*, pp of *scribere* to write in reply, fr *re-* + *scribere* to write – more at **'SCRIBE**]

**rescue** /rɪ'skjuː/ *vt* to free from confinement, danger, or evil [ME *rescuen*, fr MF *rescurre*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *escurre* to shake out, fr L *excutare*, fr *ex-* + *quater* to shake – more at **QUASH**] –  **rescue** *n*,  **rescuer** *n*

**research** /rɪ'sʊtʃ, 'resʊtʃ/ *n* 1 careful or diligent search 2 scientific or scholarly inquiry, esp study or experiment aimed at the discovery, interpretation, reinterpretation, or application of (new) facts, theories, or laws [MF *recherche*, fr *recherchier* to investigate thoroughly, fr OF, fr *re-* + *cerchier* to search – more at **SEARCH**]

**research** *vt* 1 to search or investigate thoroughly (<~ a problem>) 2 to engage in research on or for (<~ a book>) (<~ the life of Chaucer>) ~ *vi* to perform research –  **researchable** /rɪ'sʊtʃəbl/ *adj*,  **researcher** /rɪ'sʊtʃə, 'rɛtʃ-/ *n*

**resect** /rɪ'sekt/ *vt* to remove surgically a part of (an organ or structure) [L *resectus*, pp of *resecare* to cut off, fr *re-* + *secare* to cut – more at **'SAW**] –  **resectable** *adj*,  **resectability** /-tə'bɪləti/ *n*,  **resection** /rɪ'sekʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reseda** /rɪ'sɪdə/ *n* any of a genus of Old World plants (e.g. mignonette) [NL, genus name, fr L, a plant used to reduce tumours]

**resemble** /rɪ'zembəl/ *vt* **resembling** /rɪ'zembəlɪŋ/, ~ *zembəl-ɪŋ* to be like or similar to [ME *resemblen*, fr MF *resembler*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *sembler* to be like, seem, fr L *similare* to copy, fr *similis* like – more at **SAME**] –  **resemblance** /rɪ'zembəlsən/ *n*

**resent** /rɪ'zent/ *vt* to harbour or express ill will or bitterness at [F *ressentir* to feel strongly about, fr OF, fr *re-* + *sentir* to feel, fr L *sentire* – more at **SENSE**] –  **resentful** *adj*,  **resentfully** *adv*,  **resentfulness** *n*,  **resentment** *n*

**reserpine** /rɪ'sɛpɪn/ *n* an alkaloid extracted esp from the root of a tropical shrub of the periwinkle family and sometimes used in the treatment of mildly raised blood pressure [G *reserpin*, prob irreg fr NL *Rauwolfia serpentina*, a shrub of the genus *Rauwolfia*]

**reservation** /rɪ'zɜːvəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of reserving sthg, esp (a promise, guarantee, or record of) an arrangement to have sthg (e.g. a hotel room) held for one's use 2 a tract of land set aside; *specif* one designated for the use of American Indians by treaty 3a (the specifying of) a limiting condition (<agreed, but with ~s>) **b** a specific doubt or objection (<had ~s about the results>) 4 a strip of land separating carageways 5 chiefly NAm an area in which hunting is not permitted; esp one set aside as a secure breeding place [**'RESERVE** + **-ATION**]

**reserve** /rɪ'zɜːv/ *vt* 1 to hold in reserve; keep back (<~ grain for seed>) 2 to set aside (part of the consecrated elements) at the Eucharist for future

use 3 to defer (<~ one's judgment on a plan>) [ME *reserven*, fr MF *reserver*, fr L *reservare*, lit. to keep back, fr *re-* + *servare* to keep – more at **CONSERVE**]

**reserve** *n* 1 sthg retained for future use or need 2 sthg reserved or set aside for a particular use or reason. e.g. **a** (1) a military force withheld from action for later use – usu pl with sing meaning (2) the military forces of a country not part of the regular services, *also* a reservist **b** chiefly Br a tract (e.g. of public land) set apart for the conservation of natural resources or (rare) flora and fauna (<a nature ~>), *also* one used for regulated hunting or fishing (<a game ~>) 3 an act of reserving (<accepted without ~>) 4 restraint, closeness, or caution in one's words and actions 5 money, gold, foreign exchange, etc kept in hand or set apart usu to meet liabilities – often pl with sing. meaning 6 a player or participant who has been selected to substitute for another if the need should arise – in **reserve** held back ready for use if needed

**reserved** *adj* 1 restrained in speech and behaviour 2 kept or set apart or aside for future or special use –  **reservedly** /-vɪdli/ *adv*,  **reservedness** /-vɪdnɪs/ *n*

**reserve price** *n* a price announced at an auction as the lowest that will be considered

**reservist** /rɪ'zɜːvɪst/ *n* a member of a military reserve

**reservoir** /rɪ'zɜːvɔː/ *n* 1 a place where sthg is kept in store. e.g. **a** an artificial lake where water is collected and kept in quantity for use **b** a part of an apparatus in which a liquid is held 2 an available but unused extra source or supply (<an untapped ~ of ideas>) [F *reservoir*, fr MF, fr *reserver*]

**reset** /rɪ'set/ *vt* -tt-; *reset* 1 to set again or anew (<~ type>) 2 to change the reading of (<~ a meter>) –  **resettable** *adj*

**res gestae** /rɪ'zɛz 'gesteɪ/ *n* pl facts relevant to legal proceedings and admissible as evidence [L, things done]

**reshape** /rɪ'sheɪp/ *vt* to give a new form or orientation to –  **reshapen** *n*

**reshuffle** /rɪ'shʊfl/ *vt* to reorganize by the redistribution of (existing) elements (<the cabinet was ~d by the Prime Minister>) –  **reshuffle** *n*

**reside** /rɪ'zɪd/ *vi* 1a to dwell permanently or continuously, occupy a place as one's legal domicile **b** to make one's home for a time (<the King ~d at Lincoln>) 2a to be present as an element or quality **b** to be vested as a right [ME *residen*, fr MF or L, MF *resider*, fr L *residere* to sit back, remain, abide, fr *re-* + *sedere* to sit – more at **SIT**]

**residence** /rɪ'zɪd(ə)ns/ *n* 1a the act or fact of dwelling in a place **b** the act or fact of living in or regularly attending some place for the discharge of a duty or the enjoyment of a benefit 2a (large or impressive) dwelling 3a the period of abode in a place (<after a ~ of 30 years>) **b** a period of study, teaching, etc at a college or university 4 chiefly NAm housing or a unit of housing provided for students  **residency** *n* - in **residence** 1 serving in a regular capacity 2 actually living in a usu specified place (<the Queen is in residence at Windsor>)

**resident** /rɪ'zɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a living in a place, esp for some length of time **b** serving in a regular or full-time capacity (<the ~ engineer for a highway department>), *also* being in residence 2 present, inherent 3 of an animal not migratory [ME, fr L *resident-*, *residents*, prp of *residere*]

**resident** *n* one who resides in a place

**residential** /rɪ'zɪdɛnʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1a used as a residence or by residents (<~ accommodation>) **b** entailing residence (<a ~ course>) 2 given over to private housing as distinct from industry or commerce (<a ~ neighbourhood>) 3 of residence or residences –  **residentially** *adv*

**residual** /rɪ'zɪdɪʊəl/ *adj* of or constituting a residue [L *residuum* residue] –  **residually** *adv*

**residual** *n* sthg left over; a remainder, residue; e.g. **a** the difference between (1) results obtained by observation and by computation from a formula (2) the mean of several observations and any one of them **b** a residual product or substance

**residuary legate** /rɪ'zɪdɪʊəl/ *n* sby who inherits a residue

**residue** /rɪ'zɪdɪʊəl/ *n* sthg that remains after a part is taken, separated, or designated, a remnant, remainder. e.g. **a** that part of a testator's estate remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and the payment of all bequests **b** a constituent structural unit of a usu complex molecule (e.g. a protein or nucleic acid) [ME, fr MF *residu*, fr L *residuum*, fr neut of *residuus* left over, fr *residere* to remain]

**residuum** /rɪ'zɪdɪʊəm/ *n*, *pl* **residua** /-dɪʊə/ sthg residual. e.g. **a** RESIDUAF **b** a residual product (e.g. left after the distillation of petroleum) [L]

**resign** /rɪ'zɪn/ *vt* 1 to renounce voluntarily; esp to relinquish (e.g. a right or position) by a formal act 2 to reconcile, consign, esp to give (oneself) over without resistance (<~ed herself to her fate>) ~ *vi* to give up one's

office or position [ME *resignen*, fr MF *resigner*, fr L *resignare*, lit. to unseal, cancel, fr *re-* + *signare* to sign, seal – more at *'SIGN*] – **resigner** *n*

**resignation** /ˌreɪzɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1a** an act or instance of resigning sthg **b** a formal notification of resigning (*handed in her ~*) **2** the quality or state of being resigned

**resigned** *adj* marked by or expressing submission to sthg regarded as inevitable (*a ~ look on his face*) – **resignedly** /ˌreɪzɪndli/ *adv*, **resignedness** /-nɪdnɪs/ *n*

**resilience** /ˌnɪzɪljəns/, **resiliency** /-sɪ/ *n* **1** the ability of a body to recover its original form after deformation (e.g. due to stretching or applying pressure) **2** an ability to recover quickly from or adjust easily to misfortune, change, or disturbance

**resilient** /ˌnɪzɪljənt/ *adj* characterized or marked by resilience, esp. capable of withstanding shock without permanent deformation or rupture [L *resiliens*, prp of *resilire* to jump back, recoil, fr *re-* + *salire* to leap – more at *SALLY*] – **resiliently** *adv*

**resin** /ˈreɪzɪn/ *n* (a synthetic polymer or plastic with some of the characteristics of) any of various solid or semisolid yellowish to brown inflammable natural plant secretions (e.g. amber) that are insoluble in water and are used esp. in varnishes, sizes, inks, and plastics [ME, fr MF *resine*, fr L *resina*, fr Gk *rhétine* pine resin] – **resinoid** /-noɪd/ *adj* or *n*, **resinous** *adj*

**resin** *vt* to treat with resin

**resist** /ˈrɪzɪst/ *vt* **1** to withstand the force or effect of **2** to strive against (*~ ed the enemy valiantly*) **3** to refrain from (*could never ~ a joke*) *~ vi* to exert force in opposition [ME *resisten*, fr MF or I, MF *resister*, fr L *resistere*, fr *re-* + *sistere* to take a stand, akin to I. *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*] – **resistible** *adj*, **resistibility** /-əˈbɪləbɪlɪ/ *n*

**resist** *n* sthg (e.g. a protective coating) applied to a surface to cause it to resist or prevent the action of a particular agent (e.g. an acid or dye)

**resistance** /ˈrɪzɪst(ə)ns/ *n* **1** an act or instance of resisting **2** the ability to resist **3** an opposing or retarding force **4a** the opposition offered to the passage of a steady electric current through a substance, usu. measured in ohms **b** a resistor **5** often cap an underground organization of a conquered country engaging in sabotage *USE (4)* *→ PHYSICS*

**resistant** /ˈrɪzɪst(ə)nt/ *adj* capable of or offering resistance – often in combination (*heat-resistant paint*)

**resister** /ˈrɪzɪstə/ *n*, chiefly NAM one who actively opposes the policies of a government [*'Rɪzɪst* + *-ɪst*] *→ FR*

**resistive** /ˈrɪzɪstɪv/ *adj* resistant – **resistively** *adv*, **resistiveness** *n*

**resistivity** /ˌreɪzɪˈtɪvɪti/ *n* **1** (electrical) resistance **2** the longitudinal electrical resistance of a uniform rod of a specified substance of unit length and unit cross-sectional area

**resistless** /ˈrɪzɪstlɪs/ *adj* **1** irresistible **2** unable to resist – **resistlessly** *adv*, **resistlessness** *n*

**resistor** /ˈrɪzɪstə/ *n* a component included in an electrical circuit to provide resistance

**resolute** /ˈrezəlj(ə)ʊt/ *adj* **1** firmly resolved, determined **2** bold, unwavering [L *resolutus*, pp of *resolvere*] – **resolutely** *adv*, **resoluteness** *n*

**resolution** /ˌrezaˈluʃh(ə)n, -ˈlʊʃh(ə)n/ *n* **1** the act or process of reducing to simpler form e.g. **a** the act of making a firm decision **b** the act of finding out sthg (e.g. the answer to a problem), solving **c** the passing of a voice part from a dissonant to a consonant note or the progression of a chord from dissonance to consonance **d** the separating of a chemical compound or mixture into its constituents **e** the analysis of a vector into **2** or more vectors of which it is the sum **f** the process or capability (e.g. of a microscope) of making individual parts or closely adjacent images distinguishable **2** the subsidence of inflammation, esp. in a lung **3a** ~ that is resolved **b** firmness of resolve **4** a formal expression of opinion, will, or intent voted by a body or group

**resolve** /ˈrɪzɒlv/ *vt* **1a** to break up or separate into constituent parts **b** to reduce by analysis (*~ the problem into simple elements*) **2** to cause or produce the resolution of **3a** to deal with successfully (*~ doubts*) (*~ a dispute*) **b** to find an answer to **c** to find a mathematical solution of **d** to express (e.g. a vector) as the sum of **2** or more components **4** to reach a firm decision about (*~ disputed points in a text*) **5** to declare or decide by a formal resolution and vote **6** to make (e.g. voice parts) progress from dissonance to consonance *~ vi* **1** to become separated into constituent parts; also to become reduced by dissolving or analysis **2** to form a resolution; determine (*he ~ d against overeating at Christmas*) **3** to progress from dissonance to consonance [L *resolvere* to unloose, dissolve, fr *re-* + *solvere* to loosen, release – more at *SOLVE*] – **resolvable** *adj*, **resolver** *n*

**resolve** *n* **1** sthg that is resolved **2** fixity of purpose **3** a legal or official decision, esp. a formal resolution

**resolvent** /ˈrɪzɒlv(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (sthg, esp. a drug) capable of reducing inflammation [adj L *resolvens*, *resolvens*, prp of *resolvere*; *n* fr *adj*]

**resolving power** /ˈrɪzɒlvɪŋ/ *n* the ability of an (optical) system to form distinct images of objects separated by small distances

**resonance** /ˈrezənəns/ *n* **1a** the quality or state of being resonant **b** (the state of adjustment that produces) strong vibration in a mechanical or electrical system caused by the stimulus of a relatively small vibration of (nearly) the same frequency as that of the natural vibration of the system **2a** the intensification and enrichment of a musical tone by supplementary vibration **b** a quality imparted to voiced sounds by a buildup esp. of vibrations in the vocal tract **3** the possession by a molecule, radical, etc. of **2** or more possible structures differing only in the distribution of electrons

**resonant** /ˈrezənənt/ *adj* **1** continuing to sound **2a** capable of inducing resonance **b** relating to or exhibiting resonance **3** intensified and enriched by resonance – **resonant** *n*, **resonantly** *adv*

**resonate** /ˈreznayt/ *vi* to produce or exhibit resonance *~ vt* to make resonant [L *resonatus*, pp of *resonare* to resound – more at *RESOUND*]

**resonator** /ˈrezənəɪtə/ *n* sthg that resounds or resonates e.g. **a** a device that responds to and can be used to detect a particular frequency **b** a device for increasing the resonance or amplifying the sound of a musical instrument

**resorb** /ˈrɪsɔwb/ *vt* to swallow, suck in, or absorb again *~ vi* to undergo resorption [L *resorbere*, fr *re-* + *sorbere* to suck up – more at *ABSORB*]

**resorcin** /ˈrɪzɔwsɪn/, **resorcinol** /-nɒl/ *n* a synthetic phenol used in making dyes, medicines, and resins [ISV *res-* (fr L *resina* resin) + *orcin* (a natural or synthetic phenol)]

**resorption** /ˈrɪsɔwpʃh(ə)n/ *n* resorbing, esp. of distinct tissues in the body, or being resorbed [L *resorptus*, pp of *resorbere*] – **resorptive** /-tɪv/ *adj*

**resort** /ˈrɪzɔwt/ *n* **1a** sb who or sthg that is looked to for help, a refuge (*saw her as a last ~*) **b** recourse (*have ~ to force*) **2a** frequent, habitual, or general visiting (*a place of popular ~*) **b** a frequently visited place (e.g. a village or town), esp. providing accommodation and recreation for holidaymakers [ME, fr MF, *resource*, recourse, fr *resortir* to rebound, resort, fr OF, fr *re-* + *sortir* to escape, sally]

**resort** *vi* **1** to go, esp. frequently or in large numbers **2** to have recourse (*~ to force*)

**resound** /ˈrɪzɔwnd/ *vi* **1** to become filled with sound **2** to produce a sonorous or echoing sound **3** to become renowned *~ vt* to extol loudly or widely [M? *resounen*, fr MF *resoner*, fr L *resonare*, fr *re-* + *sonare* to sound, akin to I. *sonus* sound – more at *'SOUND*]

**resounding** /ˈrɪzɔwɪndɪŋ/ *adj* **1a** resonating **b** impressively sonorous **2** vigorously emphatic, unequivocal (*a ~ success*) – **resoundingly** *adv*

**resource** /ˈrɪzɔws, ˈrɪsɔws/ *n* **1a** an available means of support or provision **b** a natural source of wealth or revenue *→ ENERGY* **c** computable wealth **d** a source of information or expertise **2a** a means of occupying one's spare time **3** the ability to deal with a difficult situation, resourcefulness *USE (1a, b, c)* usu pl [F *ressource*, fr OF *ressource* relief, resource, fr *ressoudre* to relieve, lit. to rise again, fr L *resurgere* – more at *RESURRECTION*]

**resourceful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* skilful in handling situations, capable of devising expedients – **resourcefully** *adv*, **resourcefulness** *n*

**respect** /ˈrɪspekt/ *n* **1a** a relation to or concern with sthg usu. specified, reference – in *with/in respect to* (*with ~ to your last letter*) **2a** high or special regard; esteem **b** the quality or state of being esteemed (*achieving ~ among connoisseurs*) **c** pl expressions of respect or deference (*paid his ~s*) **3** an aspect, detail (*a good plan in some ~s*) [ME, fr L *respectus*, lit. act of looking back, fr *respectus*, pp of *respicere* to look back, regard, fr *re-* + *specere* to look – more at *SPY*] – in **respect of** **1** from the point of view of **2** in payment of

**respect** *vi* **1a** to consider worthy of high regard **b** to refrain from interfering with (*~ the sovereignty of a state*) **c** to show consideration for (*~ a person's privacy*) **2** to have reference to – **respector** *n*

**respectability** /ˌnɪspektəˈbɪləti/ *n* the quality or state of being socially respectable

**respectable** /ˌnɪspektəbl/ *adj* **1** worthy of respect **2** decent or conventional in character or conduct **3a** acceptable in size or quantity (*~ amount*) **b** fairly good, tolerable **4** presentable (*~ clothes*) – **respectability** *n*, **respectably** *adv*

**respectful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* marked by or showing respect or deference – **respectfully** *adv*, **respectfulness** *n*

**respecting** /n'spekŋŋ/ *prep* with regard to, concerning  
**respective** /ri'spektiv/ *adj* of or relating to each; particular, separate <their ~ homes> – **respectiveness** *n*  
**respectively** /-li/ *adv* 1 in particular; separately 2 in the order given <Mary and Anne were 12 and 16 years old ~>  
**respell** /re'spel/ *vt* to spell again or in another way and esp according to a phonetic system  
**respirable** /'respiəbl/ *adj* fit for breathing, also capable of being taken in by breathing <~ particles of ash>  
**respiration** /'respi'reiʃn/ *n* 1a the process by which air or dissolved gases are brought into intimate contact with the circulating medium of a multicellular organism (e.g. by breathing) b (a single complete act of) breathing 2 the processes by which an organism supplies its cells with the oxygen needed for metabolism and removes the carbon dioxide formed in energy-producing reactions 3 any of various energy-yielding reactions involving oxidation that occur in living cells – **respirational** *adj*, **respiratory** /'respi'rei(ə)n/ *n*, *n* 'spirət(ə)n/ *n*, *n* 'spie-ə/ *adj*  
**respirator** /'respi'rei(ə)t/ *n* 1a a device worn over the mouth or nose to prevent the breathing of poisonous gases, harmful dusts, etc 2 a device for maintaining artificial respiration  
**respiratory pigment** /'respi'rei(ə)n/ *n*, *n* 'spirət(ə)n/ *n*, *n* 'spie-ə(ə)t(ə)n/ *n* any of various proteins that function in the transfer of oxygen in cellular respiration  
**respire** /n'spie-ə/ *vi* 1 to breathe 2 of a cell or tissue to take up oxygen and produce carbon dioxide during respiration ~ *vt* to breathe [ME *respiren*, fr L *respirare*, fr *re-* + *spirare* to blow, breathe – more at SPIRIT]  
**respite** /'respiet/ *n* 1 a period of temporary delay, esp REPRIEVE 1B 2 an interval of rest or relief [ME *respit*, fr OF, fr ML *respectus*, fr L, act of looking back – more at RESPECT]  
**resplendent** /ri'splend(ə)nt/ *adj* characterized by splendour <the Queen sat ~ on her throne> [L *resplendent*, *resplendens*, *pp* of *resplendere* to shine back, fr *re-* + *splendere* to shine – more at SPLENDID] – **resplendently** *adv*, **resplendence** *n*  
**respond** /ri'spond/ *vi* 1 to write or speak in reply, make an answer <~ to the appeal for aid> 2a to react in response <~ to a stimulus> b to show favourable reaction <~ to surgery> ~ *vt* to reply [MF *respondre*, fr L *respondere* to promise in return, answer, fr *re-* + *spondere* to promise – more at SPOUSE] – **responder** *n*  
**respond** *n* an engaged pillar or pier supporting an arch or terminating a colonnade or arcade  
**respondent** /ri'spond(ə)nt/ *n* one who responds e.g. a defendant, esp in an appeal or divorce case b a person who replies to a poll [L *respondent*, *respondens*, *pp* of *respondere*]  
**respondent** *adj* making response  
**response** /ri'spɒns/ *n* 1 an act of responding 2 sth constituting a reply or reaction: e.g. a sth (e.g. a verse) sung or said by the people or choir after or in reply to the officiant in a liturgical service – SYMBOL b a change in the behaviour of an organism resulting from stimulation c the output of a transducer or detecting device that results from a given input and is often considered as a function of some variable (e.g. frequency) [ME & L; ME *response*, fr MF *respons*, fr L *responsum* reply, fr neut of *respondere*, *pp* of *respondere*]  
**responsibility** /ri'spɒnsə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being responsible: e.g. a moral or legal obligation b reliability, trustworthiness 2 sth or sby that one is responsible for  
**responsible** /ri'spɒnsəbl/ *adj* 1a liable to be required to justify b(1) liable to be called to account as the agent or primary cause <the woman ~ for the job> (2) being the reason or cause <mechanical defects were ~ for the accident> 2a able to answer for one's own conduct b able to discriminate between right and wrong 3 marked by or involving responsibility or liability <~ financial policies> <a ~ job> 4 esp of the British cabinet required to submit to the electorate if defeated by the legislature – **responsibility** *n*, **responsibly** *adv*  
**responsive** /ri'spɒnsiv/ *adj* 1 giving response; constituting a response <a ~ glance> <~ aggression> 2 quick to respond or react appropriately or sympathetically – **responsively** *adv*, **responsiveness** *n*  
**responsory** /ri'spɒns(ə)ri/ *n* a set of phrases and responses sung or said after a reading in church  
**responsum** /ri'spɒnsəm/ *n*, *pl* *responsa* /-sə/ a written decision from a rabbinic authority in response to a submitted question or problem [NL, fr L, reply, formal opinion of a jurist]  
**rest** /rest/ *n* 1 repose, sleep 2a freedom or a break from activity or labour b a state of motionlessness or inactivity c the repose of death 3 a place for resting, lodging, or taking refreshment <sailor's ~> 4 peace of mind

or spirit 5a (a character representing) a silence in music of a specified duration – MUSIC b a brief pause in reading 6 sth (e.g. an armrest) used for support [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *rusta* rest, *ruowa* calm, Gk *erōe* respite] – at rest resting or reposing, esp in sleep or death  
**rest** *vi* 1a to relax by lying down, esp to sleep b to lie dead <~ in peace> 2 to cease from action or motion, desist from labour or exertion 3 to be free from anxiety or disturbance 4 to be set or lie fixed or supported <a column ~s on its pedestal> 5 to be based or founded <the verdict ~ed on several sound precedents> 6 to depend for action or accomplishment <the answer ~s with him> 7 of farmland to remain idle or uncropped 8 to stop introducing evidence in a law case ~ *vt* 1 to give rest to 2 to set at rest 3 to place on or against a support 4a to cause to be firmly based or founded <~ed all hope in his son> b to stop presenting evidence pertinent to (a case at law) – **rester** *n*  
**restate** /ri'steɪt/ *vt* to state again or in a different way (e.g. more emphatically) – **restatement** *n*  
**restaurant** /'rest(ə)rɒn(ə)nt/ *n* a place where refreshments, esp meals, are sold usu to be eaten on the premises [F, fr *pp* of *restaurer* to restore, fr L *restaurare*]  
**restaurant** *car* *n* DINING CAR  
**restaurateur** /'rest(ə)rɒn(ə)nt/ *n* a restaurateur [modif of F *restaurateur*]  
**restaurateur** /'rest(ə)rɒn(ə)nt/ *n* the manager or proprietor of a restaurant [F, fr LL *restaurator* restorer, fr L *restauratus*, *pp* of *restaurare*]  
**restful** /'restf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 marked by, affording, or suggesting rest and repose <a ~ colour scheme> 2 quiet, tranquil – **restfully** *adv*, **restfulness** *n*  
**restitution** /'restɪ'tjuʊʃn(ə)n/ *n* 1 restoration e.g. a the returning of sth (e.g. property) to its rightful owner b the making good of or giving a compensation for an injury 2 a legal action serving to cause restoration of a previous state [ME, fr OF, fr L *restitution*, *restitutio*, fr *restitutus*, *pp* of *restituere* to restore, fr *re-* + *statuere* to set up – more at STATUTE]  
**restive** /'restiv/ *adj* 1 stubbornly resisting control 2 restless, uneasy [ME *restif* (of animals) refusing to move, fr MF, fr *rester* to stop behind, remain] – **restively** *adv*, **restiveness** *n*  
**restless** /'restl(ə)s/ *adj* 1 affording no rest <a ~ night> 2 continuously agitated <the ~ ocean> 3 characterized by or manifesting unrest, esp of mind <~ pacing>, also changeful, discontented – **restlessly** *adv*, **restlessness** *n*  
**rest, mass** *n* the mass of a body when it is at rest  
**restoration** /'rest(ə)rəʃn(ə)n/ *n* 1 restoring or being restored e.g. a a reinstatement b a handing back of sth 2 a representation or reconstruction of the original form (e.g. of a fossil or building) 3 cap the reestablishment of the monarchy in England in 1660 under Charles II, also the reign of Charles II <Restoration drama>  
**restorative** /n'stɔ:w(ə)ti-, 'stɔ:/ *n* or *adj* (sth capable of) restoring esp health or vigour – **restoratively** *adv*  
**restore** /n'stɔ:w/ *vt* 1 to give back <~ the book to its owner> 2 to bring back into existence or use 3 to bring back to or put back into a former or original (unimpaired) state <to ~ a painting> 4 to put again in possession of sth <newly ~d to health> [ME *restoren*, fr OF *restorer*, fr L *restaurare* to renew, rebuild, alter of *instaurare* to renew – more at STORE] – **restorable** *adj*, **restorer** *n*  
**restrain** /n'streɪn/ *vt* 1a to prevent from doing sth <~ed the boy from jumping> b to limit, repress, or keep under control <she found it hard to ~ her anger> 2 to deprive of liberty; esp to place under arrest [ME *restraynen*, fr MF *restrandre*, fr L *restringere* to restrain, restrict, fr *re-* + *stringere* to bind tight – more at STRAIN] – **restrainable** *adj*, **restrainer** *n*  
**restrained** *adj* characterized by restraint; being without excess or extravagance – **restrainedly** /-ndli/ *adv*  
**restraint** /n'streɪnt/ *n* 1a restraining or being restrained b a means of restraining, a restraining force or influence 2 moderation of one's behaviour; self-restraint [ME, fr MF *restrainte*, fr *restrandre*]  
**restrict** /n'strɪkt/ *vt* 1 to confine within bounds 2 to regulate or limit as to use or distribution [L *restrictus*, *pp* of *restringere*]  
**restricted** *adj* 1a not general; limited b available only to particular groups or for a particular purpose c subject to control, esp by law d not intended for general circulation <a ~ document> 2 narrow, confined – **restrictedly** *adv*

**restriction** /n'strɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a regulation that restricts or restrains <~s for motorists> 2 restricting or being restricted

**restrictive** /rɪ'strɪktɪv/ *adj* 1 restricting or tending to restrict <~ regulations> 2 identifying rather than describing a modified word or phrase (a ~ clause) – **restrictively** *adv*, **restrictiveness** *n*

**restrictive practice** *n* 1 a practice by the members of a trade union that limits the flexibility of management 2 an antisocial trading agreement (e.g. as to conditions of sale or quantities to be manufactured)

**rest room** *n*, *NAm* public toilet facilities in a public building (e.g. a restaurant)

**restructure** /,re'strʌktʃə/ *vt* to change the make-up, organization, or pattern of <~ local government>

**result** /rɪ'zʌlt/ *vi* 1 to proceed or arise as a consequence, effect, or conclusion, usu from sthg specified <injuries ~ing from skiing> 2 to have a usu specified outcome or end <errors that ~ in tragedy> [ME *resulter*, fr ML *resultare*, fr L, to rebound, fr *re-* + *saltare* to leap – more at *SALTIRE*]

**result** *n* 1 sthg that results as a (hoped for or required) consequence, outcome, or conclusion 2 sthg obtained by calculation or investigation <showed us the ~ of the calculations> 3a a win or tie as the conclusion of a cricket match b a win (e.g. in soccer)

**resultant** /rɪ'zʌlt(ə)nt/ *adj* derived or resulting from sthg else, esp as the total effect of many causes – **resultantly** *adv*

**resultant** *n* the single vector that is the sum of a given set of vectors

**resume** /rɪ'zʊəhm/ *vt* 1 to take or assume again <~d his seat by the fire – Thomas Hardy> 2 to return to or begin again after interruption ~ *vi* to begin again after an interruption <the meeting will ~ after lunch> [ME *resumen*, fr MF or L, MF *resumer*, fr L *resumere*, fr *re-* + *sumere* to take up, take – more at *CONSUME*] – **resumption** /rɪ'zʌmpʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**résumé**, **resume** *also* **resume** /'rezʊə,maɪ/ *n* a summary e.g. a a summing up of sthg (e.g. a speech or narrative) b *NAm* CURRICULUM VITAE [F *résumé*, fr pp of *resumer* to resume, summarize]

**resupinate** /rɪ'sʊəpɪnət/ *adj* (appearing to be) upside down [L *resupinatus*, pp of *resupinare* to bend back to a supine position, fr *re-* + *supinus* supine] – **resupination** /-'naɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**resurgence** /rɪ'sʊɪʃ(ə)ns/ *n* a rising again into life, activity, or influence [resurgent fr L *resurgens*, *resurgens*, prp of *resurgere* to rise again] – **resurge** *vi*, **resurgent** *adj*

**resurrect** /,re'zɜ'rekt/ *vt* 1 to bring back to life from the dead 2 to bring back into use or view [back-formation fr *resurrection*]

**resurrection** /,re'zɜ'rekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a *cap* the rising of Christ from the dead b *often cap* the rising again to life of all the human dead before the last judgment 2a resurgence, revival, or restoration [ME, fr LL *resurrection*, *resurrectio* act of rising from the dead, fr *resurrectus*, pp of *resurgere* to rise from the dead, fr L, to rise again, fr *re-* + *surgere* to rise – more at *SURGE*] – **resurrectional** *adj*

**resurrectionist** /,re'zɜ'rekʃ(ə)nɪst/ *n* BODY SNATCHER

**resuscitate** /rɪ'sʌsə'taɪt/ *vt* to revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness, *also* to revitalize ~ *vi* to revive, COME TO [L *resuscitatus*, pp of *resuscitare*, lit., to stir up again, fr *re-* + *suscitare* to stir up, fr *sub-*, *sus-* up + *citare* to put in motion, stir – more at *SUB-, CITE*] – **resuscitation** /-'tʌɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **resuscitative** /-'tʌɪv/ *adj*, **resuscitator** /-'tʌɪtə/ *n*

**ret** /ret/ *vt* -tt- to soak (e.g. flax) so that the fibres are loosened from the woody tissue [ME *reten*, fr MD]

**retail** /'reɪtəl, sense 2 *often* n'tayl/ *vt* 1 to sell (goods) in carrying on a retail business 2 'RECOUNT ~ *vi* to be sold at retail <tomatoes ~ at a higher price> [ME *retailen*, fr MF *retailier* to cut back, divide into pieces, fr OF, fr *re-* + *tallier* to cut – more at *TAILOR*] – **retailer** /'reɪtəlaɪə/ *n*

**retail** /'reɪtəl/ *adj*, *adv*, or *n* (of, being, or concerned with) the sale of commodities or goods in small quantities to final consumers who will not resell them – compare *WHOLESALE*

**retail price index** *n* a price index showing the cost of living in Britain that is revised every month

**retain** /rɪ'teɪn/ *vt* 1a to keep in possession or use b to engage by paying a retainer <~ a lawyer> c to keep in mind or memory 2 to hold secure or intact; contain in place <lead ~s heat> [ME *reteinen*, *retainen*, fr MF *retenir*, fr L *retinere* to hold back, keep, restrain, fr *re-* + *tenere* to hold – more at *THIN*] – **retainable** *adj*

**retainer** /rɪ'teɪnə/ *n* a fee paid to a lawyer or professional adviser for services [ME *retainer* act of withholding, fr *reteinen* + AF -er (as in *weyver* waiver)]

**retainer** *n* an old and trusted domestic servant [RETAIN + 'ER]

**retaining wall** /rɪ'teɪnɪŋ/ *n* a wall built to withstand a mass of earth, water, etc

**retake** /'reɪtəɪk/ *vt* **retook** /,re'tʊk/, **retaken** /,re'tayk(ə)n/ 1 to recapture 2 to photograph again

**retake** /'reɪtəɪk/ *n* a second photographing or photograph

**retaliate** /n'tali,əɪt/ *vi* to return like for like, esp to get revenge [LL *retaliatus*, pp of *retalare*, fr *re-* + *talio* legal retaliation] – **retaliation** /-'tʌɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **retaliative** /rɪ'taliə'tɪv/, **retaliatory** /-(ə)ri/ *adj*

**retard** /n'taɪd/ *vt* to slow down or delay, esp by preventing or hindering advance or accomplishment [L *retardare*, fr *re-* + *tardus* slow] – **retardant** *adj* or *n*, **retardation** /,re'taɪdaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**retarded** /n'taɪhɪd/ *adj* slow in intellectual or emotional development or academic progress

**retch** /reʃ/ *vb* to (make an effort to) vomit [(assumed) ME *rechen* to spit, retch, fr OE *hræcan* to spit, hawk, akin to L *crepare* to rattle – more at *RAVEN*] – **retch** *n*

**retention** /rɪ'tenʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a retaining or being retained b abnormal retaining of a fluid (e.g. urine) in a body cavity 2 retentiveness [ME *retencioun*, fr L *retention*-, *retentio*, fr *retentus*, pp of *retinere* to retain – more at *RETAIN*]

**retentive** /rɪ'tentɪv/ *adj* able or tending to retain, esp retaining knowledge easily <a ~ mind> – **retentively** *adv*, **retentiveness** *n*

**rethink** /,re'thɪŋk/ *vb* **rethought** /,re'thawt/ to think (about) again, esp to reconsider (a plan, attitude, etc) with a view to changing – **rethinker** *n*, **rethink** /-:/ *n*

**reticent** /rɪ'tɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 inclined to be silent or reluctant to speak 2 restrained in expression, presentation, or appearance [L *reticent*-, *reticens*, prp of *reticere* to keep silent, fr *re-* + *tacere* to be silent – more at *TACIT*] – **reticence** *n*, **reticently** *adv*

**reticle** /'retɪkl/ *n* a graticule visible in the eyepiece of an optical instrument [L *reticulum* network]

**reticulate** /n'tɪkyʊələt/, **reticular** /-'lə/ *also* **reticulate** /-'ləʊs, -ləʊz/ *adj* resembling a net, esp having veins, fibres, or lines crossing [L *reticulatus*, fr *reticulum*] – **reticulately** *adv*

**reticulate** /n'tɪkyʊəlaɪt/ *vb* to divide, mark, or arrange (sthg) so as to form a network [back-formation fr *reticulated*, *adj* (reticulate)] – **reticulation** /-'tʌɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reticule** /'retɪkyʊəl/ *n* 1 a reticle 2 a decorative drawstring bag used as a handbag by women in the 18th and 19th c [F *réticule*, fr L *reticulum* network, network bag, fr dim. of *rete* net]

**reticulocyte** /n'tɪkyʊələsɪt, -lə/ *n* a young non-nucleated red blood cell [NL *reticulum* + ISV -cyte] – **reticulocytic** /-'sɪtɪk/ *adj*

**reticulum** /n'tɪkyʊələm/ *n* 1 the second stomach of a ruminant mammal in which folds of the lining form hexagonal cells 2 a reticulate formation, a network [NL, fr L, network]

**retiform** /'reɪtɪfɔrm, 're-/ *adj* reticulate [NL *retiformis*, fr L *rete* + -iformis -iform]

**retin-** /retɪn-, **retino-** *comb form* retina <retinitis> (retinopathy) [retina]

**retina** /'retɪnə/ *n*, *pl* **retinas**, **retinae** /-ni/ the sensory membrane at the back of the eye that receives the image formed by the lens and is connected with the brain by the optic nerve ~ NERVE [ME *rethina*, fr ML *retina*, prob fr L *rete* net, akin to Gk *erēmos* lonely, solitary, Lith *retis* sieve] – **retinal** *adj*

**retinal** /'retɪnəl/ *n* a derivative of vitamin A that in combination with proteins forms the visual pigments of the retinal rods and cones [retin- + -al]

**retinol** /'retɪnɒl/ *n* the chief and typical vitamin A [retin- + -ol, fr its being the source of retinal]

**retinue** /'reɪ,niʊh/ *n* a group of retainers or attendants accompanying an important personage (e.g. a head of state) [ME *retenue*, fr MF, fr fem of *retenu*, pp of *retenir* to retain]

**retire** /n'tɪə-/ *vi* 1 to withdraw from a action or danger <~ from the scene of the crime> b for rest or seclusion, go to bed 2 to recede; FALL BACK 3 to give up one's position or occupation; conclude one's working or professional career <has ~d from the civil service> ~ *vt* 1a to order (a military force) to withdraw b to withdraw (e.g. currency or shares) from circulation 2 to cause to retire from a position or occupation [MF *retirer*, fr *re-* + *tirer* to draw, fr OF – more at *TIRAD*] – **retirement** *n*

**retired** *adj* 1 remote from the world, secluded 2 having concluded one's career 3 received or due in retirement <~ pay>

**retiring** /n'tɪə-rɪŋ/ *adj* reserved, shy – **retiringly** *adv*

**retool** /,re'tʊʊh/ *vt* to equip (esp a factory) with new tools

**retort** /rɪ'tɔ:t/ *vt* 1 to fling back or return aggressively 2 to say or exclaim in reply or as a counter argument 3 to answer (e.g. an argument)

by a counter argument ~ *vi* to answer back sharply or tersely, retaliate [L *retortus*, pp of *retorquere*, lit., to twist back, hurl back, fr *re-* + *torquere* to twist – more at *TORTURE*]

**retort** *n* a terse, witty, or cutting reply; esp one that turns the first speaker's words against him/her

**retort** *vt* or *n* (to treat by heating in) a vessel in which substances are distilled or decomposed by heat [in MF *retorte*, fr ML *retorta*, fr L, fem of *retortus*, pp, fr its bent shape, vb fr *n*]

**retouch** /ˈreɪtʃ/ *vt* 1 TOUCH UP 2 to alter (e.g. a photographic negative) to produce a more acceptable appearance ~ *vi* to retouch sthg [F *retoucher*, fr MF, fr *re-* + *toucher* to touch] – *retouch* /-/: *n*, *retoucher* *n*

**retrace** /ˈreɪtreɪs/ *vi* to trace again or back (< *~d her footsteps*) [F *retracer*, fr MF *retracer*, fr *re-* + *tracier* to trace]

**retract** /ˈnɪtrakt/ *vt* 1 to draw back or in (< *cats can ~ their claws*) 2a to withdraw; TAKE BACK (< *a confession*) b to refuse to admit or abide by ~ *vi* 1 to draw back 2 to recant or disavow sthg [ME *retracten*, fr L *retractus*, pp of *retrahere*] – *retractable* *adj*

**retractile** /ˈnɪtraktiəl/ *adj* capable of being retracted – *retractility* /ˈreɪtraktɪləti/ *n*

**retraction** /ˈnɪtrækʃ(ə)n/ *n* an act of recanting, *specif* a statement made by one retracting [RETRACT + -ION]

**retractor** /ˈnɪtraktə/ *n* 1 a surgical instrument for holding open the edges of a wound 2 a muscle that draws in a body part – compare *PROTRACTOR* [RETRACT + -OR]

**retranslate** /ˈreɪtrænsˈleɪt, -trænz-, -trænz-/ *vt* to translate (a translation) into another language, esp the original one *retranslation* /-ˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**retread** /ˈreɪtred/ *vt* to replace and vulcanize the tread of (a worn tyre)

**retread** /ˈreɪtred/ *n* (a tyre with) a new tread

**retreat** /ˈnɪtreet/ *n* 1a an act or process of withdrawing, esp from what is difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable, *specif* (a signal for) the forced withdrawal of troops from an enemy or position b the process of receding from a position or state attained (< *the ~ of a glacier*) c a bugle call sounded ~ about sunset 2 a place of privacy or safety, a refuge 3 a period of usu group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, and study [ME *retret*, fr MF *retrait*, fr pp of *retraire* to withdraw, fr L *retrahere*, lit., to draw back, fr *re-* + *trahere* to draw – more at *DRAW*]

**retreat** *vi* 1 to make a retreat, withdraw 2 RECEED 1b ~ *vi* to draw or lead back, *specif* to move (a piece) back in chess – *retreater* *n*

**retrench** /ˈnɪtrench/ *vt* 1 to reduce (< *company expenditure*) 2a to cut out, excise (< *offending paragraphs from an article*) b Austr & WI to make (a worker) redundant ~ *vi* to make reductions, esp in expenses, economize [obs F *retrencher* (now *retrancher*), fr MF *retrenchier*, fr *re-* + *trenchier* to cut] – *retrenchment* *n*

**retribution** /ˈreɪnbɪʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 requital for an insult or injury 2 (the dispensing or receiving of reward or) punishment – used esp with reference to divine judgment [ME *retribuoun*, fr MF *retribution*, fr LL *retributio*, *retributio*, fr L *retributus*, pp of *tribuere* to pay back, fr *re-* + *tribuere* to pay – more at *TRIBUTE*] – *retributively* *adv*, *retributive* /ˈnɪnbɪʊtɪv/, *retributory* /ˈnɪnbɪʊt(ə)ri/ *adj*

**retrieval** /ˈnɪtreɪvl/ *n* a retrieving

**retrieve** /ˈnɪtreɪv/ *vt* 1 to discover and bring in (killed or wounded game) 2 to call to mind again 3a to get back again, recover (and bring back) (< *~d the keys he left on the bus*) b to rescue, save (< *~ him from moral ruin*) 4 to return (e.g. a ball that is difficult to reach) successfully 5 to remedy the ill effects of (< *the situation*) 6 to recover (e.g. information) from storage, esp in a computer memory ~ *vi*, esp of a dog to retrieve game, also to bring back an object thrown by a person [ME *retriven*, modif of MF *retrouver* to find again, fr *re-* + *trouver* to find, prob fr (assumed) VL *tropane* to compose, fr L *tropane* trope] – *retrievable* *adj*, *retrievability* /-vəˈbɪləti/ *n*, *retrievably* *adv*

**retriever** /ˈnɪtreɪvə/ *n* a medium-sized dog with water-resistant coat used esp for retrieving game [RETRIEVE + -ER]

**retro-** *prefix* 1a back towards the past (< *retrospect*) (< *retrograde*) b backwards (< *retrocede*) (< *retroflex*) 2 situated behind (< *retrochoir*) (< *retrostermal*) [ME, fr L, fr *retro*, fr *re-* + *-tro* (as in *intro* within) – more at *INTRO-*]

**retroaction** /ˈretroʊˈækʃ(ə)n/ *n* a reciprocal action, a reaction **retroactive** /-ˈaktɪv/ *adj* extending in scope or effect to a prior time (< *a ~ tax*) [F *retroactif*, fr L *retroactus*, pp of *retroagere* to drive back, reverse, fr *retro-* + *agere* to drive – more at *AGENT*] – *retroactively* *adv*, *retroactivity* /-tɪvəti/ *n*

**retrofit** /-ˈfɪt/ *vt* -*tt-* to provide with new parts or equipment not available at the time of manufacture – *retrofit* /ˈretroʊˈfɪt/ *n*

**retroflex** /ˈretroʊˈfleks/, **retroflexed** *adj* articulated with the tongue tip turned up or curled back just under the hard palate (< *a ~ vowel*) [ISV, fr NL *retroflexus*, fr L *retro-* + *flexus*, pp of *flectere* to bend] – *retroflexion*, *retroflexion* /-ˈfleks(ə)n/ *n*

**retrograde** /ˈretroʊˈɡreɪd/ *adj* 1a of orbital or rotational movement in a direction contrary to neighbouring celestial bodies – compare *PROGRADE* b moving or directed backwards c ordered in a manner that is opposite to normal (< *a ~ alphabet*) 2 tending towards or resulting in a worse or less advanced or specialized state [ME, fr L *retrogradus*, fr *retro-* + *gradi* to go] – *retrogradely* *adv*

**retrograde** *vi* 1 to move back; recede (< *a glacier ~s*) 2 to undergo retrogression [L *retrogradi*, fr *retro-* + *gradi* to go – more at *GRADE*] – *retrogradation* /-grəˈdaɪʃ(ə)n, -ɡreɪ-/ *n*

**retrogress** /ˈretroʊˈɡres/ *vi* to revert, regress or decline from a better to a worse state [L *retrogressus*, pp of *retrogradi*] *retrogressive* *adj*, *retrogressively* *adv*

**retrogression** /ˈretroʊˈɡresh(ə)n/ *n* 1 REGRESSION 3 2 a reversal in development or condition, esp a return to a less advanced or specialized state during the development of an organism

**retro-rocket** /ˈretroʊˈrɒkɪt/ *n* a rocket on an aircraft, spacecraft, etc that produces thrust in a direction opposite to or at an angle to its motion for slowing it down or changing its direction

**retorse** /ˈnɪtraʊs/ *adj* bent backwards or downwards [L *retorsus*, contr of *retroversus*] – *retorsely* *adv*

**retrospect** /ˈretroʊˈspekt/ *n* a survey or consideration of past events [*retro-* + *-spect* (as in *prospect*)] – *in retrospect* in considering the past or a past event

**retrospection** /ˈretroʊˈspekʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or process or an instance of surveying the past [L *retrospectus*, pp of *retrospicere* to look back at, fr *retro-* + *specere* to look – more at *SPY*]

**retrospective** /ˈretroʊˈspektɪv/ *adj* 1a of, being, or given to retrospection b based on memory (< *a ~ report*) 2 relating to or affecting things past, *retroactive* *retrospectively* *adv*

**retrospective** *n* an exhibition showing the evolution of an artist's work over a period of years

**retroussé** /ˈrəˈtroʊsɪ/ *adj*, esp of a nose turned up (at the end) [F, fr pp of *retrousser* to tuck up, fr MF, fr *re-* + *trousser* to truss, tuck up]

**retroversion** /ˈretroʊˈvɜːʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act or process of turning back or regressing [L *retroversus* turned backwards, fr *retro-* + *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at *WORTH*]

**retsina** /ˈretˈsiːnə/ *n* a white resin-flavoured Greek wine [NGk, perh fr It *resina* resin, fr L]


**return** /ˈnɪtuːn/ *vi* 1a to go back or come back again (< *~ed home*) b to go back to in thought, conversation, or practice (< *soon ~ed to her old habits*) 2 to pass back to an earlier possessor (< *the estate ~ed to a distant branch of the family*) 3 to reply, retort – *fml* ~ *vi* 1a to state officially, esp in answer to a formal demand (< *~ed details of her income*) b to elect (a candidate) c to bring in (a verdict) 2 to restore to a former or proper place, position, or state (< *~ the book to the shelf*) 3 to retort (< *she ~ed a pretty sharp answer*) 4 to bring in (e.g. a profit) 5a to repay (< *I cannot ~ the compliment*) b to give or send back, esp to an owner 6 to lead (a card) or a card of (a suit) in response to one's partner's earlier action, esp in bridge 7 to play (a ball or shuttlecock) hit, esp served, by an opponent [ME *retournen*, fr MF *retourner*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *tourner* to turn – more at *TURN*] – *returnable* *adj*, *returner* *n*

**return** *n* 1 the act or process of coming back to or from a place or condition 2a a (financial) account or formal report b a report or declaration of the results of an election – *usu* pl with *sing.* meaning 3a the continuation, usu at a right angle, of the facade of a building or of a moulding b a means for conveying sthg (e.g. water) back to its starting point 4 the profit from labour, investment, or business – *often* pl with *sing.* meaning 5a the act of returning sthg, esp to a former place, condition, or owner b sthg returned, esp, pl unsold newspapers, magazines, etc returned to the publisher for a refund 6 the returning of a ball (e.g. in tennis) or shuttlecock 7 *Br* a ticket bought for a trip to a place and back again – compare *SINGLE* 5 – *by return (of post)* by the next returning post – *in return* in compensation or repayment


**return** *adj* 1 doubled back on itself (< *a ~ flue*) 2 played, delivered, or given in return; taking place for the second time (< *a ~ match*) 3 used or followed on returning (< *the ~ road*) 4 permitting return (< *a ~ valve*) 5 of or causing a return to a place or condition

**return crease** *n* any of the 4 lines on a cricket pitch at right angles to



the bowling and popping creases from inside which the ball must be bowled  **SPORT**

**returning officer** /rɪ'tuɪnɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* an official who presides over an election count and declares the result

**retuse** /rɪ'tyoohs/ *adj*, of a leaf having a rounded and notched end  **PLANT** [L *retusus* blunted, fr pp of *retundere* to pound back, blunt, fr *re-* + *tundere* to beat, pound – more at **TINT**]

**reunion** /ree'yooɪnyən/ *n* 1 reuniting or being reunited 2 a gathering of people (e.g. relatives or associates) after a period of separation

**reunite** /reeyoo'ni:t/ *vb* to come or bring together again <the child was ~d with its parents> [ML *reunitus*, pp of *reunire*, fr L *re-* + LL *unire* to unite – more at **UNITE**]

**reuse** /ree'yoozh/ *vt* to use again, esp after reclaiming or reprocessing <the need to ~ scarce resources> – **reusable** *adj*, **reuser** *n*

**rev** /rev/ *n* a revolution of a motor [short for *revolution*]


**rev** *vb* -*vv* -*vt* to increase the number of revolutions per minute of (esp an engine) – often + *up* ~ *vi* to operate at an increased speed of revolution – *usu* + *up*

**revalue** /ri'velyoo/ *vt* 1 to change, specif to increase, the exchange rate of (a currency) 2 to reappraise

**revamp** /ree'vamp/ *vt* 1 to renovate, reconstruct 2 to revise without fundamental alteration – **revamp** *n*

**revanche** /ri'vahnsh/ *n* a policy designed to recover lost territory or status [F, fr MF, alter of *revanche* – more at **REVENGE**] – **revanchism** *n*, **revanchist** *n* or *adj*

**reveal** /ri'veel/ *vt* 1 to make known through divine inspiration 2 to make known (sthg secret or hidden) <~ a secret> 3 to open up to view <the uncurtained window ~ed a gloomy room> [ME *revelen*, fr MF *reveler*, fr L *revelare* to uncover, reveal, fr *re-* + *velare* to cover, veil, fr *velum* veil] – **revealing** *adj*, **revealer** *n*, **revelation** *n*

**reveal** *n* the side of an opening (e.g. for a window) between a frame and the outer surface of a wall, also a jamb  **ARCHITECTURE** [alter of earlier *revale*, fr ME *revalen* to lower, fr MF *revaler*, fr *re-* + *val* valley more at **VALE**]

**revealing** /ri'veeling/ *adj* exposing sthg usu intended to be concealed <a ~ dress> <the answer was ~>

**veille** /ri'vɛli, -ve-/ *n* a call or signal to get up in the morning, specif a military bugle call [modif of F *reveillez*, imper pl of *veiller* to awaken, fr *re-* + *veiller* to awaken, fr (assumed) VL *exvigilare*, fr L *ex-* + *vigilare* to keep watch, stay awake, fr *vigil* awake]

**revel** /revl/ *vi* -*ll-* (NA *m* -*l-*, -*ll-*), **revelling** /revlɪŋ/ 1 to take part in a revel 2 to take intense satisfaction in <~led in his discomfiture> [ME *revelen*, fr MF *reveler*, lit., to rebel, fr L *rebellare*] – **reveller** *n*

**revel** *n* a usu riotous party or celebration – often pl with sing meaning

**revelation** /revə'laysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (the communicating of) a divine truth revealed by God to man 2 *cap* a prophetic book of the New Testament – often pl with sing meaning but sing in constr 3 a revealing or sthg revealed, esp a sudden and illuminating disclosure [ME, fr MF, fr LL *revelatio*-, *revelatio*, fr L *revelatus*, pp of *revelare* to reveal]

**revelatory** /revəlat(ə)n, -revə'layt(ə)n/ *adj* serving to reveal sthg

**revelry** /revln/ *n* exuberant festivity or merrymaking

**revenant** /revɪnənt/ *n* one who returns from the dead or after a long absence [F, fr prp of *revenir* to return] – **revenant** *adj*

**revenge** /ri'venʃ/ *vt* 1 to inflict injury in return for (an insult, slight, etc) 2 to avenge (e.g. oneself) usu by retaliating in kind or degree [ME *revengen*, fr MF *revengier*, fr OF, fr *re-* + *vengier* to avenge – more at **VENGANCE**] – **revenger** *n*

**revenge** *n* 1 (a desire for) retaliating in order to get even <exacte ~ for the insult> <saw ~ in her eyes> 2 an opportunity for getting satisfaction or requital [MF *revenge*, *revueche*, fr *revengier*, *revenchier* to revenge]

**revenue** /revənyoo/ *n* 1 the total yield of income; esp the income of a national treasury 2 a government department concerned with the collection of revenue [ME, fr MF, fr *revenir* to return, fr L *revenire*, fr *re-* + *venire* to come]

**reverb** /ri'vuhb, -ree'vuhb/ *n* (a) usu electronic device for producing an artificial echo effect in recorded music [short for *reverberation*]

**reverberate** /ri'vuhbə'reɪt/ *vi* 1a to be reflected b to continue (as if) in a series of echoes 2 to produce a continuing strong effect <the scandal ~d round Whitehall> ~ *vi* to reflect or return (light, heat, sound, etc) [L *reverberatus*, pp of *reverberare* to strike back, fr *re-* + *verberare* to lash, fr *verber* rod – more at **VERVAIN**] – **reverberator** *n*, **reverberant**, **reverberative** /-rə'tɪv/, **reverberatory** /-b(ə)rə'trɪ/ *adj*, **reverberation** /-rə'zəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**reverberatory** /ri'vuhb(ə)rə'trɪ/, **reverberatory furnace** *n* a furnace or kiln in which heat is reflected from the curved roof onto the material treated

**revere** /ri'vɪə/ *vt* to regard with deep and devoted or esp religious respect [L *revereri*, fr *re-* + *vereri* to fear, respect – more at **WARY**]

**reverence** /rev(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 honour or respect felt or shown; esp profound respect accorded to sthg sacred 2 a gesture (e.g. a bow) denoting respect 3 being revered <we hold her in ~> 4 – used as a title for a clergyman – **reverential** /revə'rensh(ə)l/ *adj*, **reverentially** *adv*

**reverence** *vt* to regard or treat with reverence – **reverencer** *n*

**reverend** /rev(ə)rənd/ *adj* 1 revered 2 *cap* being a member of the clergy – used as a title, usu preceded by *the* <the Reverend David Brown> <the Reverend Mr Brown> [ME, fr MF, fr L *reverendus*, gerundive of *revereri*]

**Reverend** *n* a member of the clergy – *informal*

**Reverend Mother** *n* the Mother Superior of a convent – used esp as a term of address

**reverent** /rev(ə)rənt/ *adj* expressing or characterized by reverence [ME, fr L *reverent-*, *reverens*, prp of *revereri*] – **reverently** *adv*

**reverie**, **revery** /revəri/ *n* 1 a daydream 2 the condition of being lost in thought or dreamlike fantasy [F *rêverie*, fr MF, *delirium*, fr *resver*, *rever* to wander, be delirious]

**revers** /ri'vɪə/ *n*, *pl* **revers** /ri'vɪəz/ a wide turned-back or applied facing along each of the front edges of a garment, specif a lapel, esp on a woman's garment [F, lit., reverse, fr MF, fr *revers*, *adj*]

**reversal** /ri'vʊhsl/ *n* 1 reversing 2 a conversion of a photographic positive into a negative or vice versa 3 a change for the worse <his condition suffered a ~>

**reverse** /ri'vʊhs/ *adj* 1a (acting, operating, or arranged in a manner) opposite or contrary to a previous, normal, or usual condition <put them in ~ order> b having the front turned away from an observer or opponent 2 effecting reverse movement <the ~ gear> [ME *revers*, fr MF, fr L *reversus*, pp of *revertere* to turn back – more at **REVERT**] – **reversely** *adv*

**reverse** *vt* 1a to turn or change completely about in position or direction ~ *the order of the words* b to turn upside down 2a to overthrow (a legal decision) b to change (e.g. a policy) to the contrary 3 to cause (e.g. a motor car) to go backwards or in the opposite direction ~ *vi* 1 to turn or move in the opposite direction 2 to go or drive in reverse – **reverse** *n* – **reverse the charges** *Br* to arrange for the recipient of a telephone call to pay for it

**reverse** *n* 1 the opposite of sthg 2 reversing or being reversed 3 a misfortune, **REVERSAL** 3a the side of a coin, medal, or currency note that does not bear the principal device – compare **OBVERSE** 1a b the back part of sthg, esp the back cover of a book 5 a gear that reverses sthg – in *reverse* backwards

**reversible** /ri'vʊhsəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of going through a sequence (e.g. of changes) either backwards or forwards <a ~ chemical reaction> 2a having 2 finished sides <~ fabric> b of clothing designed to be worn with either side outwards [REVERSE + -IBLE] – **reversibly** *adv*, **reversibility** /-sə'bɪləti/ *n*

**reversible** *n* a reversible cloth or article of clothing

**reversion** /ri'vʊhsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an owner's future interest in) property temporarily granted to another 2 the right of future possession or enjoyment 3a the process of reverting b (an organism showing) a return to an ancestral type or reappearance of an ancestral character [ME, fr MF, fr L *reversion-*, *reversio* act of returning, fr *reversus*, pp] – **reversionary** /-n(ə)rɪ/ *adj*

**reversioner** /ri'vʊhsh(ə)nə/ *n* the beneficiary of a reversion

**revert** /ri'vʊt/ *vi* 1a to return, esp to a lower, worse, or more primitive condition or to an ancestral type b to go back in thought or conversation <~ed to the subject of finance> 2 esp of property to return to (the heirs of) the original owner after an interest granted away has expired [ME *reverten*, fr MF *revertir*, fr L *revertere*, *vi*, to turn back & *reverti*, *vi*, to return, come back, fr *re-* + *vertere*, *verti* to turn – more at **WORTH**] – **reverter** *n*, **revertible** *adj*

**revet** /ri'vet/ *vt* -*tt* -*to* to face (an embankment, wall, etc) esp with masonry [F *revêtir*, lit., to clothe again, dress up, fr L *revestire*, fr *re-* + *vestire* to clothe – more at **VEST**]

**revetment** /-mənt/ *n* 1 a facing of stone, concrete, etc to retain an embankment 2 **RETAINING WALL**

**review** /ri'vyoo/ *n* 1 **REVISION** 1 <prices are subject to ~> 2 a formal military or naval inspection 3a a general survey (e.g. of current affairs) b a retrospective view or survey (e.g. of one's life) 4 an act of inspecting or examining 5 judicial reexamination of a case 6a a critical evaluation

of a book, play, etc **b** (a part of) a magazine or newspaper devoted chiefly to reviews and essays [MF *revue*, fr *revoir* to look over, fr OF, fr *re-* + *voir* to see – more at **VIEW**]

**review** *vt* 1 to take a retrospective view of (< *the past year*) 2a to go over (again) or examine critically or thoughtfully (< *ed the results of the study*) **b** to give a review of (a book, play, etc) 3 to hold a review of (troops, ships, etc)

**reviewer** /n'vjuoh-ə/ *n* a writer of critical reviews [REVIEW + -ER]

**revile** /n'vɪl/ *vt* to subject to harsh verbal abuse [ME *revilen*, fr MF *reviler* to despise, fr *re-* + *vil* vile] – **revilement** *n*, **reviler** *n*

**revise** /n'vɪz/ *vt* 1 to look over again in order to correct or improve 2 to make an amended, improved, or up-to-date version of (< *a dictionary*) 3 *Br* to refresh knowledge of (e.g. a subject), esp before an exam (< *busy revising her physics*) ~ *vi*, *Br* to refresh one's knowledge of a subject, esp in preparation for an exam [F *réviser*, fr L *revisere* to look at again, fr *revisus*, pp of *revidere* to see again, fr *re-* + *videre* to see – more at **WIR**] – **revisable** *adj*, **reviser**, **revisor** *n*

**Revised Standard Version** *n* a revised English translation of the Bible derived from the Revised Version and published in the USA in 1946 and 1952

**Revised Version** *n* a British revision of the Authorized Version of the Bible published in 1881 and 1885

**revision** /n'vɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 the action or an act of revising (< *of a manuscript*) (< *for an examination*) 2 a revised version – **revisionary** /-n(ə)n/ *adj*

**revisionism** /n'vɪz(ə)nɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 advocacy of revision (e.g. of a doctrine) 2 a movement in Marxist socialism favouring an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary transition to socialism – chiefly derog – **revisionist** *adj* or *n*

**revital-ize**, **-ise** /,rɛe'vɪetlɪz/ *vt* to impart new life or vigour to (< *urban development*) – **revitalization** /-ɪe'zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**revival** /n'vɪvəl/ *n* reviving or being revived. e.g. **a** renewed attention to or interest in sthg **b** a new presentation or production (e.g. of a play) **c** a period of renewed religious fervour **d** an often emotional evangelistic meeting or series of meetings **e** restoration of an earlier fashion, style, or practice

**revivalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the spirit or evangelistic methods characteristic of religious revivals – **revivalist** *n* or *adj*, **revivalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**revive** /n'vɪv/ *vb* to return to consciousness, life, health, (vigorous) activity, or current use, esp from a depressed, inactive, or unused state (< *she soon ~ d in the fresh air*) (< *d an old musical*) (< *d memories of the war*) [ME *reviven*, fr MF *revivre*, fr L *revivere* to live again, fr *re-* + *vivere* to live – more at **QUICK**] – **revivable** *adj*, **reviver** *n*

**revivify** /,rɛe'vɪvɪf/ *vt* to revive [F *réviver*, fr LL *revivificare*, fr L *re-* + LL *vivificare* to vivify] – **revivification** /-fɪ'kəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**revoke** /n'vɒk/ *vt* to annul, rescind, or withdraw (< *a will*) ~ *vi* to fail to follow suit when able in a card game, in violation of the rules [ME *revoken*, fr MF *revoker*, fr L *revocare*, fr *re-* + *vocare* to call – more at **VOICE**] – **revoker** *n*, **revocable** /'revəkəbl/ also **revokable** /n'vɒkəbl/ *adj*, **revocation** /,rɛvə'kəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**revoke** *n* an act or instance of revoking in a card game

**revolt** /n'vɒlt/ *vi* 1 to renounce allegiance or submission to a government, employer, etc; rebel 2 to experience or recoil from disgust or abhorrence (< *at their behaviour*) ~ *vt* to cause to recoil with disgust or loathing, nauseate [MF *revolter*, fr OIt *rivoltare* to overthrow, fr (assumed) VL *revolutare*, freq of L *revolvere* to revolve, roll back] – **revolter** *n*

**revolt** *n* 1 a (determined armed) rebellion 2 a movement or expression of vigorous opposition

**revolting** /n'vɒltɪŋ/ *adj* extremely offensive, nauseating

**revolute** /'revɒl(y)uht/ *adj* rolled backwards or downwards (< *a leaf with ~ margins*) [L *revolutus*, pp]

**revolute** *vi* to undertake social or political revolution – slang [back-formation fr **revolution**]

**revolution** /,rɛvə'luʊʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the action of or time taken by a celestial body in going round in an orbit **b** (a single recurrence of) a cyclic process or succession of related events **c** the motion of a figure or object about a centre or axis, ROTATION 1a, b (< 33 1/3 ~ s per minute) 2a a sudden or far-reaching change **b** a fundamental (political) change; esp (activity supporting) the overthrow of one government and the substitution of another by the governed [ME *revolucon*, fr MF *revolution*, fr LL *revolutio*-, *revolutio*, fr L *revolutus*, pp of *revolvere*] – **of revolution** of a solid shape formed by the rotation of a plane figure or curve about an axis (< *a cone of revolution*)

**revolutionary** /,rɛvə'luʊʃən(ə)n/ *adj* 1a of or being a revolution (< ~

*war*) **b** promoting or engaging in revolution (< *a ~ speech*), also extremist (< *a ~ outlook*) 2 completely new and different – **revolutionarily** *adv*, **revolutionariness** *n*

**revolutionary** *n* sby who advocates or is engaged in a revolution

**Revolutionary calendar** *n* the calendar of the first French republic adopted in 1793, dated from September 22, 1792, and divided into 12 months of 30 days with 5 extra days in a regular year

**revolutionist** /-ɪst/ *n*, *NAM* a revolutionary

**revolution-ize**, **-ise** /-ɪz/ *vt* to cause a revolution in, change fundamentally or completely (< *an idea that has ~ d the steel industry*)

**revolve** /n'vɒlv/ *vi* 1 to ponder (< *d a scheme in his mind*) 2 to cause to turn round (as if) on an axis ~ *vi* 1 to recur (< *the seasons ~ d*) 2 to be considered in turn (< *all sorts of ideas ~ d in her head*) 3 to move in a curved path round (and round) a centre or axis, turn round (as if) on an axis 4 to be centred on a specified theme or main point (< *the dispute ~ d around wages*) [ME *revolver*, fr L *revolvere* to roll back, cause to return, fr *re-* + *volvere* to roll – more at **VOULVE**] – **revolvable** *adj*

**revolve** *n*, *Br* a device used on a stage to allow a piece of scenery to be rotated

**revolver** /n'vɒlvə/ *n* a handgun with a revolving cylinder of several chambers each holding 1 cartridge and allowing several shots to be fired without reloading [REVOLVE + -ER]

**revue** /n'vjuʊh/ *n* a theatrical production consisting typically of brief loosely connected often satirical sketches, songs, and dances [F, fr MF, review – more at **REVIEW**]

**revulsion** /n'vʊlʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a sudden or violent reaction or change 2 a feeling of utter distaste or repugnance [L *revulsio*-, *revulsio* act of tearing away, fr *revulsus*, pp of *revellere* to pluck away, fr *re-* + *vellere* to pluck – more at **VULNERABLE**] – **revulsive** *adj*

**reward** /n'wɔːd/ *vt* 1 to give a reward to or for 2 to recompense [ME *rewarden*, fr ONF *rewarder* to regard, reward, fr *re-* + *warder* to watch, guard, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *warten* to watch – more at **WARD OFF**] – **rewardable** *adj*, **rewarder** *n*, **rewardless** *adj*

**reward** *n* sthg that is given in return for good or evil done or received, esp sthg offered or given for some service, effort, or achievement

**rewarding** /n'wɔːdɪŋ/ *adj* yielding a reward, personally satisfying (< *a very ~ experience*)

**rewind** /,rɛe'wɪnd/ *vt* rethread /,rɛe'wɒnd/ to wind (film, tape, etc) back onto a spool – **rewind** /-ɪ-/ *n*

**rewire** /,rɛe'wɪə-/ *vt* to provide (e.g. a house) with new electric wiring

**reword** /,rɛe'wɜːd/ *vt* to alter the wording of, also to restate in different words

**rework** /,rɛe'wɜːk/ *vt* to treat again or anew e.g. **a** to revise (< *a musical composition*) **b** to reprocess (e.g. used material) for further use

**rewrite** /,rɛe'ri:t/ *vb* **rewrote** /,rɛe'roʊt/, **rewritten** /,rɛe'ri:tɪn/ to revise (sthg previously written) **rewriter** /,rɛe'ri:tə, -ɪ-/ *n*

**rewrite** /,rɛe'ri:t/ *n* (the result, esp a rewritten news story, of) rewriting

**reynard** /'renəd, 'ray-, -nəhd/ *n*, often *cap* a fox – used esp in stories as a name for the fox [ME *Renard*, name of the fox who is hero of the 13th-c F poem *Roman de Renart*, fr MF *Renart*, *Renard*]

**rhadamanthine** /rə'də'mænθiən/ *adj*, often *cap* rigorously just or uncompromising [*Rhadamanthus*, mythical judge of souls in the underworld, fr L, fr Gk *Rhadamanthos*]


**Rhaeto-Romanic** /,rɛetəʊ 'rɒh'manɪk/ *n* any of a group of Romance languages of E Switzerland and the Tyrol, including Romansh [L *Rhaetia* of Rhaetia, ancient Roman province + E *Romanic*]

**rhaps** /ray,fee/ *n* a rhaps

**rhapsod-ize**, **-ise** /'rəpsədiəz/ *vi* to speak or write rhapsodically or emotionally – **rhapsodist** *n*

**rhapsody** /'rəpsədi/ *n* 1 a part of an epic poem suitable for recitation 2a a highly rapturous or emotional utterance or literary composition **b** rapture, ecstasy 3 a musical composition of irregular form suggesting improvisation [L *rhapsodia*, fr Gk *rhapsōidia* recitation of selections from epic poetry, rhapsody, fr *rhaptein* to sew, stitch together (akin to OHG *worf* scythe handle, Gk *rhepein* to bend, incline) + *aidain* to sing – more at **ODE**] – **rhapsodic** /'rəpsədɪk/, **rhapsodical** *adj*, **rhapsodically** *adv*

**rhea** /'ri-/ *n* any of several large tall flightless S American birds like but smaller than the ostrich [NL, genus of birds, prob fr L *Rhea*, mother of Zeus in mythology, fr Gk]

**rhénium** /'reɪniəm, 'reɪni-əm/ *n* a hard metallic element similar to manganese and used esp in catalysts and thermocouples  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Rhenus* Rhine river]

**rheo-** *comb form* flow; current < *rheostat* > [Gk *rhein* to flow – more at *STREAM*]

**rheology** /ri'oləʒi/ *n* a science dealing with the deformation and flow of matter [ISV] – **rheologist** *n*, **rheological** /ree-ə'lojɪk/ *adj*, **rheologically** *adv*

**rheostat** /ri'stat/ *n* an adjustable resistor for regulating an electric current – **rheostatic** /-'statɪk/ *adj*

**'rhesus factor** /reesəs/ *n* any of several antigens in red blood cells that can induce intense allergic reactions [fr its being first detected in rhesus monkeys]

**rhesus monkey** *n* a pale brown E Indian monkey [NL *Rhesus*, genus of monkeys, fr L, a mythical king of Thrace, fr Gk *Rhēsos*]

**rhesus 'negative** *adj* lacking rhesus factor in the red blood cells

**rhesus 'positive** *adj* containing rhesus factor in the red blood cells

**rhetoric** /retə'nik/ *n* 1 the art of speaking or writing effectively, *specif* (the study of) the principles and rules of composition 2a skill in the effective use of speech b insincere or exaggerated language (that is calculated to produce an effect) [ME *rethorik*, fr MF *rethorique*, fr L *rethorica*, fr Gk *rhetorikē*, lit, art of oratory, fr fem of *rhetorikos* of an orator, fr *rhetōr* orator, rhetorician, fr *erein* to say, speak – more at *WORD*]

**rhetorical** /ri'tɒnɪkl/ *adj* 1 employed (merely) for rhetorical effect 2 given to rhetoric, grandiloquent – **rhetorically** *adv*

**rhetorical 'question** *n* a question asked merely for effect with no answer expected

**rhetorician** /retə'riʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 rhetorician, **rhetor** *a* a master or teacher of rhetoric b an orator 2 an eloquent or grandiloquent writer or speaker

**rheum** /roohm/ *n* a watery discharge from the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, etc [ME *reume*, fr MF, fr L *rheuma*, fr Gk, lit, flow, flux, fr *rhein* to flow] – **rheumy** *adj*

**'rheumatic** /rooh'matɪk, roo-/ *adj* of, being, characteristic of, or suffering from rheumatism [ME *rewmatik* subject to rheum, fr L *rheumaticus*, fr Gk *rheumatikos*, fr *rheumat-*, *rheuma*] – **rheumatically** *adv*

**²rheumatic** *n* shy suffering from rheumatism

**rheumatic 'fever** *n* inflammation and pain in the joints, pericardium, and heart valves, occurring together with fever as a short-lasting disease, esp in children

**rheumatically** /rooh'matɪki, roo-/ *adj* rheumatic – not used technically

**rheumatics** *n pl* rheumatism – not used technically

**rheumatism** /roohma,tɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 any of various conditions characterized by inflammation and pain in muscles, joints, or fibrous tissue 2 RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS [L *rheumatismus* flux, rheum, fr Gk *rheumatismos*, fr *rheumatizesthai* to suffer from a flux, fr *rheumat-*, *rheuma* flux]

**rheumatoid** /roohma,tɔɪd/ *adj* characteristic of or affected with rheumatism or rheumatoid arthritis [ISV, fr *rheumatism*]

**rheumatoid arthritis** *n* painful inflammation and swelling of joint structures occurring as a progressively worsening disease of unknown cause

**rheumatology** /roohma'tɒləʒi/ *n* a branch of medicine dealing with rheumatic diseases – **rheumatologist** /-'tɒləʒɪst/ *n*

**rhin-, rhino-** *comb form* nose < (rhinoceros) < (rhinal), nose and < (rhinology) > [NL, fr Gk, fr *rhin-*, *rhis*]

**rhinal** /'rɛni/ *adj* nasal

**rhine** /ri:n/ *n*, *dial Br* a wide drainage ditch or watercourse [earlier *royne*, prob alter of ME *rune* watercourse, fr OE *ryne* flow, watercourse, akin to OFrs *rene* flow]

**'rhinestone** /-stəʊn/ *n* a lustrous imitation gem made of glass, paste, quartz, etc [Rhine, river in W Europe]

**rhinitis** /ri'ni:tɪs/ *n* inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose [NL]

**rhino** /'ri:nəh/ *n*, *pl rhinos*, *esp collectively rhino* a rhinoceros – *infrm*

**rhinoceros** /ri'nos(ə)rəs/ *n*, *pl rhinoceroses* /-sɪz/, *esp collectively rhinoceros* any of various large plant-eating very thick-skinned hoofed African or Asian mammals with 1 or 2 horns on the snout [ME *rinoceros*, fr L *rhinocerot-*, *rhinoceros*, fr Gk *rhinokerōt-*, *rhinokerōs*, fr *rhin-* + *keras* horn – more at *HORN*]

**rhiz-/nez-, rhizo-** *comb form* root < (rhizocarpous) < (rhizogenic) > [NL, fr Gk, fr *rhiza* – more at *ROOT*]

**-rhiza-, -rhiz-** /-neza/ *comb form* (+ *n*), *pl -rhizae* /-si/, *-rhizas* (part resembling or connected with a) root < (mycorrhiza) > [NL, fr Gk *rhiza*]

**rhizocarp** /'nezo'h'kaɪpɪk/ *n* a plant with perennial underground parts but annual stems and foliage [ISV] – **rhizocarpic**, **rhizocarpous** *adj*

**rhizome** /'riezəhm/ *n* an elongated (thickened and horizontal) underground plant stem distinguished from a true root in having buds and usu scalelike leaves [NL *rhizomat-*, *rhizoma*, fr Gk *rhizomat-*, *rhizōma* mass of roots, fr *rhizōon* to cause to take root, fr *rhiza* root – more at *ROOT*] – **rhizomic** /-'zəhmɪk, -'zomɪk/, **rhizomatous** /'riezə'h'maɪtəs, -'zəhmə'təs/ *adj*

**rhizopod** /'riezəhpəd/ *n* any of various related protozoans (e.g. an amoeba) with lobed rootlike pseudopodia [deriv of Gk *rhiza* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at *FOOT*] – **rhizopodal** /'rie'zəpədl, 'riezə'pəhdl/, **rhizopodous** /'rie'zəpədəs, 'riezə'pəhdəs/, **rhizopodan** /'riezə'pədən, 'riezə'pəhdən/ *adj*

**rho** /roh/ *n* the 17th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *rho*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *resh*, 20th letter of the Heb alphabet]

**rhod-, rhodo-** *comb form* rose; rose-red < (rhodrum) < (rhodolite) > [NL, fr L, fr Gk, fr *rhodon* rose]

**rhodamine** /'rohdəmeɪn, -mɪn/ *n* any of a group of (brilliant) yellowish red to blue fluorescent dyes [ISV]

**Rhode Island Red** *n* (any of) an American breed of brownish red domestic fowls [*Rhode Island*, state of the USA]

**'Rhodes scholar** *n* the holder of any of numerous scholarships founded by Cecil Rhodes that can be used at Oxford university by candidates from the Commonwealth and the USA [Cecil Rhodes †1902 E statesman & financier in S Africa]

**rhodium** /'rohdɪəm/ *n* a white hard usu trivalent metallic element similar to and used in alloys with platinum ⚗ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Gk *rhodon* rose]

**rhododendron** /'rohdə'dendrən/ *n* any of a genus of showy-flowered shrubs and trees of the heath family, esp one with leathery evergreen leaves [NL, genus name, fr L, rosebay, fr Gk, fr *rhod-* + *dendron* tree – more at *DENDR*]

**rhodolite** /'rohdəli:t/ *n* a pink or purple garnet used as a gem

**rhodonite** /'rohdəni:t/ *n* a pale red ornamental mineral consisting mainly of manganese silicate [G *rhodoni*, fr Gk *rhodon* rose]

**rhodopsin** /'roh'dɒpsɪn/ *n* a light-sensitive pigment in the retinal rods of marine fishes and most higher vertebrates whose presence determines the sensitivity of the rods to differing intensities of illumination – compare *iodopsin* [ISV *rhod-* + Gk *opsis* sight, vision + ISV *-in* – more at *OPTIC*]

**rhomb** /rom/ *n* 1 a rhombus 2 a rhombohedron [MF *rombe*, fr L *rhombus*]

**rhomb-, rhombo-** *comb form* rhombus < (rhombohedron) > [MF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *rhombos*]

**rhombic** /'rɒmbɪk/ *adj* 1 shaped like a rhombus 2 orthorhombic **rhombohedron** /'rɒmbə'hedrən/ *n*, *pl rhombohedrons*, **rhombobedra** /-drə/ *a f* sided solid whose faces are rhombuses [NL] – **rhombobedral** *adj*

**'rhomboid** /'rɒmboɪd/ *n* a parallelogram that is neither a rhombus nor a square [MF *rhombode*, fr L *rhomboides*, fr Gk *rhomboides* resembling a rhombus, fr *rhombos*]

**²rhomboid, rhomboidal** /'rɒmboɪdl/ *adj* shaped like a rhombus or rhomboid

**rhombus** /'rɒmbəs/ *n*, *pl rhombuses*, **rhombi** /-bi/, a parallelogram with equal sides but unequal angles, a diamond-shaped figure ⚡ MATHEMATICS [1 fr Gk *rhombos*]

**hubarb** /'roohbɑ:b/ *n* 1 (the thick succulent stems, edible when cooked, of) any of several plants of the dock family 2 chiefly *Br* – used by actors to suggest the sound of (many) people talking in the background 3 chiefly *Br* nonsense, rubbish – slang or humor 4 chiefly *NAM* a heated or noisy dispute – slang [ME *rubarbe*, fr MF *reubarbe*, fr ML *reubarbarum*, alter. of *rha barbarum*, lit, foreign rubarb]

**rhumb** /rum/ *n* any of the 32 points of the mariner's compass [Sp *rumbo* rhumb, rhumb line]

**rhumba** /'rumba/ *n* a rumba

**rhumb line** *n* a line that makes equal oblique angles with all meridians and that is the course sailed by a ship following a single compass direction

**'rhyme** /riem/ *n* 1a correspondence in the sound of (the last syllable of) words, esp those at the end of lines of verse b a word that provides a rhyme for another 2 (a) rhyming verse [alter. of ME *rime*, fr OF, prob deriv of L *rhythmus* rhythm] – **rhymeless** *adj*

**²rhyme** *vi* 1 to make rhymes; also to compose rhyming verse 2a of a word or (line of) verse to end in syllables that rhyme b to constitute a rhyme

<date ~s with fate> ~vt 1 to put into rhyme 2 to cause to rhyme; use as (a) rhyme – **rhymers** *n*

**rhyme or reason** *n* good sense, reasonableness – esp in *without rhyme or reason*

**rhyme, scheme** *n* the pattern of rhymes in a stanza or poem

**rhymester** /'rhemstə/ *n* a poetaster

**rhyming slang** *n* slang in which the word actually meant is replaced by a rhyming phrase of which only the first element is usu pronounced (e.g. 'head' becomes 'loaf of bread' and then 'loaf')


**ryholite** /'rie-əliet/ *n* a fine-grained acid volcanic rock similar to granite but formed from lava [G *ryholite*, fr Gk *ryhax* stream, stream of lava (fr *rhen*) + G *-lith* -lite] – **ryholitic** /-'litik/ *adj*

**rhythm** /'ndh(ə)m/ *n* 1a the pattern of recurrent alternation of strong and weak elements in the flow of sound and silence in speech b **MFRE** 1 2a (the aspect of music concerning) the regular recurrence of a pattern of stress and length of notes b a characteristic rhythmic pattern <music in *rumba* ~>, also **MFRE** 2 c **rhythm, rhythm section** *sing or pl* in constr the group of instruments in a band (e.g. the drums, piano, and bass) supplying the rhythm 3 movement or fluctuation marked by a regular recurrence of elements (e.g. pauses or emphases) 4 a regularly recurrent change in a biological process or state (e.g. with night and day) 5 the effect created by the interaction of the elements in a play, film, or novel that relate to the development of the action 6 **rhythm, rhythm method** birth control by abstinence from sexual intercourse during the period when ovulation is most likely to occur [MF & L, MF *rhythme*, fr L *rhythmus*, fr Gk *rhythmos*, fr *rhein* to flow – more at **SIREAM**]




**rhyming and blues** *n* popular music with elements of blues and Negro folk music

**rhythmic** /'ndhmik/, **rhythmical** /-'kl/ *adj* 1 of or involving rhythm 2 moving or progressing with a pronounced or flowing rhythm 3 regularly recurring – **rhythmically** *adv*, **rhythmicity** /'ndhmisəti/ *n*

**ria** /'riə/ *n* a narrow inlet caused by the submergence of (part of) a river valley [Sp *ría*, fr *rio* river, fr L *rivus*]

**rial** /'ri:əl/, **rie-əl** /'ri:əl/ *n*  Iran, Oman at NATIONALITY [Per, fr Ar *riyal* rial]

**rial** /'re:əwl/, **ahl** /'ahl/ *n* a rial

**rib** /'ri:b/ *n* 1a any of the paired curved rods of bone or cartilage that stiffen the body walls of most vertebrates and protect the heart, lungs, etc.  ANATOMY b a cut of meat including a rib  MEAT 2 sth resembling a rib in shape or function e.g. a transverse member of the frame of a ship that runs from keel to deck b any of the stiff strips supporting an umbrella's fabric c an arched support or ornamental band in Romanesque and Gothic vaulting  CHURCH 3 an elongated ridge e.g. a vein of a leaf or insect's wing b any of the ridges in a knitted or woven fabric, also ribbing [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *rippi* rib, Gk *erephein* to roof over]

**rib vt -bb-** 1 to provide or enclose with ribs (<~bed *vaulting*) 2 to form a pattern of vertical ridges in by alternating knit stitches and purl stitches

**rib vt -bb-** to tease – infml [prob fr 'rib, fr the tickling of the ribs to cause laughter]

**ribald** /'ri:b(ə)ld/, **rie,bawld** /'rie,bawld/ *adj* 1 crude, offensive (<~ *language*) 2 characterized by coarse or indecent humour (<~ *youth*) [ME, menial retainer, rascal, fr OF *ribaut*, *ribaud* wanton, rascal, fr *riber* to be wanton, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *riban* to be wanton, lit. to twist, akin to Gk *rhipein* to throw] – **ribaldry** /'ri:bəldri/ *n*

**riband** /'ri:bənd/ *n* a ribbon used esp as a decoration [ME, alter of *riban*]

**ribbing** /'ri:nbɪŋ/ *n* an arrangement of ribs, esp a knitted pattern of ribs

**ribbon** /'ri:bən/ *n* 1a (length of a) narrow band of decorative fabric used for ornamentation (e.g. of hair), fastening, tying parcels, etc b a piece of usu multicoloured ribbon worn as a military decoration or in place of a medal 2 a long narrow ribbonlike strip; esp a strip of inked fabric or plastic used in a typewriter 3 pl tatters, shreds <her coat was in ~s> [ME *riban*, fr MF *riban*, *ruban*] – **ribbonlike** *adj*

**ribbon development** *n* haphazard development of buildings and settlements along main roads

**ribbonfish** /-'fi:ʃ/ *n* any of various long thin fishes

**ribbon, worm** *n* a nemertean

**rib, cage** *n* the enclosing wall of the chest consisting chiefly of the ribs and their connections

**ribgrass** /'ri:bgræs/ *n*, chiefly NAm **ribwort**

**riboflavin, riboflavine** /'ri:bəh'flayvɪn/ *n* a yellow vitamin of the vitamin

B complex occurring esp in milk and liver [ISV *ribose* + L *flavus* yellow – more at **BLUF**]

**ribonucleic acid** /'ri:bəhnyoo'h'klei:ɪk, -'klayɪk/ *n* RNA [*ribose* + *nucleic acid*]

**ribonucleotide** /'ri:bəh'nyoo'h'kli:əti:ɪd/ *n* a nucleotide containing ribose rather than deoxyribose and occurring esp as a constituent of RNA [*ribose* + *nucleotide*]

**ribose** /'ri:bəʊs, -bəʊz/ *n* a pentose sugar occurring esp in ribonucleotides [ISV, deriv of *arabinose* (a sugar obtained from gums), fr (*gum*) *arabic*]

**ribosome** /'ri:bəsohm/ *n* any of the minute granules containing RNA and protein that occur in cells and are the sites where proteins are synthesized [*ribonucleic (acid)* + *-some*] – **ribosomal** /-'sohm/ *adj*

**ribwort** /'ri:b,wu:lt/ *n* an Old World plantain with long narrow ribbed leaves

**rice** /'res/ *n* (the seed, important as a food, of) a cereal grass widely cultivated in warm climates [ME *rys*, fr OF *ris*, fr OIt *riso*, fr Gk *oryza*, *oryzon*]

**rice, paper** *n* a very thin edible paper made from rice [fr its resemblance to paper made of rice straw]

**rice, polishings** *n pl* the inner bran layer of rice when rubbed off in milling

**rich** /'rɪch/ *adj* 1 having abundant possessions, esp material and financial wealth 2a having high worth, value, or quality (<~ *crop*) b well supplied or endowed – often + *in* (<~ *in natural talent*) 3 sumptuous 4a vivid and deep in colour (<~ *red*) b full and mellow in tone and quality (<~ *voice*) c pungent (<~ *odours*) 5 highly productive or remunerative, giving a high yield (<~ *farmland*) 6a of soil having abundant plant nutrients b (of food that is) highly seasoned, fatty, oily, or sweet (<~ *diet*) c esp of mixtures of fuel with air high in the combustible component, containing more petrol than normal 7a highly amusing, also laughable – infml b full of import (<~ *allusions*) [ME *riche*, fr OE *rice*, akin to OHG *rihi* rich, OE *rice* kingdom, OHG *rihi*, all fr prehistoric Gmc words borrowed fr Celt words akin to OIr *ri* (gen *rig*) king – more at **ROYAL**] – **richen** *vt*, **richness** *n*

**riches** /'rɪtʃɪz/ *n pl* (great) wealth [ME, sing or pl, fr *richesse*, lit., richness, fr OF, fr *riche* rich, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *rice* rich]

**richly** /'rɪtʃli/ *adv* in full measure, amply <praise ~ *deserved*> [RICH + *-ly*]

**Richter, scale** /'nktɪ, 'nktɪ/ *n* a logarithmic scale for expressing the magnitude of a seismic disturbance (e.g. an earthquake) [Charles Richter b 1900 US seismologist]

**rick** /'rɪk/ *n* a stack (e.g. of hay) in the open air [ME *reek*, fr OE *hrec*, akin to ON *hraukr* rick]

**rick vt** to pile (e.g. hay) in ricks

**rick vt**, chiefly Br to wrench or sprain (e.g. one's neck) [perh fr ME *wricken* to move unsteadily]

**ricketts** /'rɪktɪs/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr soft and deformed bones in children caused by failure to assimilate and use calcium and phosphorus, normally due to a lack of sunlight or vitamin D [origin unknown]

**rickettsia** /'rɪktɪsi:/ *n, pl rickettsias, rickettsiae* /-'si:ee/ any of a family of microorganisms similar to bacteria that are intracellular parasites and cause various diseases (e.g. typhus) [NL, genus of microorganisms, fr Howard T Ricketts †1910 US pathologist] – **rickettsial** *adj*

**rickety** /'rɪktɪ/ *adj* 1 suffering from rickets 2a feeble in the joints (<~ *old man*) b shaky, unsound (<~ *stairs*)

**rickrack, rickrac** /'rɪk,rak/ *n* a flat braid woven to form zigzags and used esp as trimming on clothing [redupl of 'rack]

**rickshaw, ricksha** /'rɪk,ʃaw/ *n* a small covered 2-wheeled vehicle pulled by 1 or more people [modif of Jap *jinrikisha*, fr *jin* man + *riki* strength + *sha* vehicle]

**ricochet** /'rɪkəʃet/ *n* the glancing rebound of a projectile (e.g. a bullet) off a hard or flat surface [F]

**ricochet vt** **ricocheting** /-'ʃaɪɪŋ/, **ricocheted** /-'ʃaɪɪd/: **ricochetting** /-'ʃetɪŋ/, **ricocheted** /-'ʃetɪd/ to proceed (as if) with glancing rebounds

**ricotta** /'rɪkəʊtə/ *n* a soft white bland Italian cheese made from the whey of sheep's milk [It, fr fem of pp of *ricuocere* to cook again, fr L *recoquere*, fr *re-* + *coquere* to cook – more at **COOK**]

**riCTOR** /'rɪktəs/ *n* 1 the (gap of a bird's) mouth 2 an unnatural gaping grin or grimace [NL, fr L, open mouth, fr *riCTOR*, pp of *ringi* to open the mouth; akin to OSlav *regnoti* to gape] – **riCTOR** *adj*

**rid** /'rɪd/ *vt -dd*; **rid** also **riddled** to relieve, disencumber (<~ *himself of his troubles*) [ME *riden* to clear, fr ON *rythja*; akin to L *ruere* to dig up – more at **RUG**]

**riddance** /rɪd(ə)ns/ *n* deliverance, relief – often in *good riddance* [RID + -ANCE]

**-ridden** /rɪd(ə)n/ *comb form* (– *adj*) 1 afflicted or excessively concerned with <conscience-ridden> 2 excessively full of or supplied with <slum-ridden> [fr pp of 'ride]

**riddle** /rɪdl/ *n* 1 a short and esp humorous verbal puzzle 2 a mystifying problem or fact <the ~ of her disappearance> 3 sthg or sby difficult to understand [ME *redels*, *ridel*, fr OE *rædelse* opinion, conjecture, riddle, akin to OE *rædan* to interpret – more at READ]

**riddle** *vi* **riddling** /rɪdl-ɪŋ/ to speak in or propound riddles – *riddler n*

**riddle** *n* a coarse sieve (e.g. for sifting grain or gravel) [ME *riddil*, fr OE *hriddel*, akin to L *crubrum* sieve, *cernere* to sift – more at CERTAIN]

**riddle** *vt* 1 to separate (e.g. grain from chaff) with a riddle, sift 2 to cover with holes <~d with bullets> 3 to spread through, esp as an affliction <the state ~ way ~d with poverty – Thomas Wood>

**ride** /rɪd/ *vb* *rode* /rɒd/, *ridden* /rɪd(ə)n/ *vi* 1a to sit and travel mounted on and usu controlling an animal b to travel on or in a vehicle 2 to be sustained <rode on a wave of popularity> 3a to lie moored or anchored b to appear to float <the moon rode in the sky> 4 to become supported on a point or surface 5 to continue without interference <let it ~> 6 to be contingent, depend <everything ~s on her initial success> 7 to work up the body <shorts that ~ up> 8 to be bet <his money is riding on the favourite> 9 to move from a correct or usual position <the screwdriver tends to ~ out of the slot> 10 of a racetrack to be in a usu specified condition for horse riding ~ *vt* 1a to travel mounted on and in control of <~ a bike> b to move with or float on <~ the waves> 2a to traverse by car, horse, etc b to ride a horse in <~ a race> 3 to survive without great damage or loss, last out <rode out the gale> 4 esp of a male animal to mount in cup <he ~d her> 5 to obsess, oppress <ridden by anxiety> 6 to give with (a punch) to soften the impact 7 *NAm* to harass persistently [ME *riden*, fr OE *ridan*, akin to OHG *ritan* to ride, OIr *riadam* I ride, travel] – *ride* *high* to experience success – *ride* *roughshod* over to disregard in a high-handed or arrogant way

**ride** *n* 1 a trip on horseback or by vehicle 2 a usu straight road or path in a wood, forest, etc used for riding, access, or as a firebreak 3 any of various mechanical devices (e.g. at a funfair) for riding on 4 the quality of travel comfort in a vehicle <gives a rough ~> 5 chiefly *NAm* a trip on which gangsters take a victim to murder him/her – *euph*

**riders** /rɪdə/ *n* 1 sby who rides, *specif* sby who rides a horse 2 sthg added by way of qualification or amendment 3 sthg used to overlie another or to move along on another piece

**ridge** /rɪdʒ/ *n* 1a a range of hills or mountains b an elongated elevation of land – *see* GEOGRAPHY 2 the line along which 2 upward-sloping surfaces meet, *specif* the top of a roof at the intersection of 2 opposite slopes – *see* ARCHITECTURE 3 an elongated part that is raised above a surrounding surface (e.g. the raised part between furrows on ploughed ground) [ME *rigge*, fr OE *hrycg*, akin to OHG *hrucki* ridge, back, L *cruc-*, *crux* cross, *curvus* curved – more at 'crown] – *ridge* *vt*, *ridged* *adj*, *ridger n*

**ridge, piece** /-ˈpiːs/ *n* a horizontal beam in a roof that supports the upper ends of the rafters

**ridge, pole** /-ˈpəʊl/ *n* the horizontal pole at the top of a tent

**ridge, way** /-ˈweɪ/ *n*, *Br* a path or road along the ridge of a hill

**ridicule** /rɪdɪkjuːl/ *n* exposure to laughter [F or L, fr L *ridiculum* jest]

**ridicule** *vt* to mock, MAKE FUN OF

**ridiculous** /rɪdɪkjuːləs/ *adj* arousing or deserving ridicule [L *ridiculosus* (fr *ridiculum* jest, fr neut of *ridiculus*) or *ridiculus*, lit., laughable, fr *ridere* to laugh, akin to Skt *vridate* he is ashamed] – *ridiculously* *adv*, *ridiculousness n*

**riding** /rɪdɪŋ/ *n* 1 any of the 3 former administrative jurisdictions of Yorkshire 2 an administrative or electoral district of a Commonwealth dominion [ME, alter of (assumed) OE *thriding*, fr ON *thrinþjunga* third part, fr *thrinþi* third, akin to OE *thrida* third – more at THIRD]

**riem** /reɪm/ *n*, *SAfr* a soft pliable thong [Afrik, lit., strap, belt, fr MD *rieme*]

**riempie** /reɪmpɪ/ *n*, *SAfr* a narrow riem used esp in furniture construction [Afrik *nempje*, dim of *riem*]

**Riesling** /ˈreɪzlɪŋ/ *n* a typically medium-dry white table wine, also the grape variety from which this is made [G]

**rife** /rɪf/ *adj* 1 prevalent, esp to a rapidly increasing degree <fear was ~ in the city> 2 abundant, common 3 abundantly supplied – *usu* + *with* <~ with rumours> [ME *ryfe*, fr OE *ryfe*, akin to ON *rifr* abundant]

**riff** /rɪf/ *n* (a piece based on) a constantly repeated phrase in jazz or rock

music, typically played as a background to a solo improvisation (prob by shortening & alter fr *refrain*) – *riff* *vi*

**riffle** /rɪfl/ *n* 1 (the sound made while) shuffling sthg (e.g. cards) 2 *NAm* a shallow stretch of rough water in a stream 3 *NAm* RIFFLE 1 [perh alter of *ruffle*]

**riffle** *vb* **ruffling** /rɪflɪŋ/ *vi* to leaf cursorily <~ through files> ~ *vt* 1 to ruffle slightly <the wind ~d the waters> 2a to leaf through rapidly; *specif* to leaf through (e.g. a pile of papers) by running a thumb along the edge of the leaves b to shuffle (playing cards) by separating the deck into 2 parts and riffling with the thumbs so the cards become mixed together

**riffle** *n* 1 any of a series of blocks, rails, etc laid on the bottom of a sluice to make grooves to catch and retain a mineral (e.g. gold) 2 a groove so formed [prob fr 'riffle]

**riffruff** /rɪfˌrʌf/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 disreputable people 2 rabble [ME *riffe* *raffe*, fr *rif* and *raf* every single one, fr MF *rif* et *raf* completely, fr *rifler* to plunder + *raffe* act of sweeping]

**rifle** /rɪfl/ *vi* **rifling** /rɪflɪŋ/ to search through, esp in order to steal and carry away sthg [ME *riflen*, fr MF *rifler* to scratch, file, plunder, of Gmc origin, akin to obs D *ryffelen* to scrape] – *rifler n*

**rifle** *vt* to cut spiral grooves into the bore of (a rifle, cannon, etc) [F *rifler* to scratch, file]

**rifle** *n* 1 a shoulder weapon with a rifled bore 2 *pl* a body of soldiers armed with rifles – *rifleman* /-ˈmən/ *n*

**rifle** *vt* to propel (e.g. a ball) with great force or speed ['rifle]

**rift** /rɪft/ *n* 1 a fissure or crack, esp in the earth 2 an opening made by tearing or splitting apart 3 an estrangement [ME, of Scand origin, akin to Dan & Norw *rift* fissure, ON *rifa* to rive – more at RIVE]

**rift** *vt* to tear apart, split

**rift valley** *n* a valley formed by the subsidence of the earth's crust between at least 2 faults – *see* GEOGRAPHY

**rig** /rɪɡ/ *vt* -*gg-* 1 to fit out (e.g. a ship) with rigging 2 to clothe, dress up – *usu* + *out* 3 to supply with special gear 4 to put together, esp for temporary use – *usu* + *up* [ME *riggen*]

**rig** *n* 1 the distinctive shape, number, and arrangement of sails and masts of a ship 2 an outfit of clothing worn for an often specified occasion or activity <in ceremonial ~> 3 tackle, equipment, or machinery fitted for a specified purpose

**rig** *vt* -*gg-* to manipulate, influence, or control for dishonest purposes <~ the election> [rg, *n* (ridicule, trick, swindle), of unknown origin]

**rigatoni** /rɪɡəˈtoʊni/ *n* pasta in the form of short, ridged, and sometimes curved tubes [It, pl, fr *rigato* furrowed, fluted, fr pp of *rigare* to furrow, flute, fr *riga* line, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *riga* line – more at ROW]

**rigger** /rɪɡər/ *n* a ship of a specified rig <square-rigger> ['RIG + -ER]

**rigging** /rɪɡɪŋ/ *n* 1 lines and chains used aboard a ship, esp for controlling sails and supporting masts and spars – *see* SHIP 2 a network similar to ship's rigging used (e.g. in theatrical scenery) for support and manipulation


**right** /rɪt/ *adj* 1 in accordance with what is morally good, just, or proper 2 conforming to facts or truth 3 suitable, appropriate <the ~ woman for the job> 4 straight <a ~ line> 5a of, situated on, or being the side of the body that is away from the heart b located nearer to the right hand than to the left, esp located on the right hand when facing in the same direction as an observer <stage ~> c located on the right when facing downstream <the ~ bank of a river> d being the side of a fabric that should show or be seen when made up 6 having its axis perpendicular to the base <~ cone> 7 of or being the principal or more prominent side of an object 8 acting or judging in accordance with truth or fact, not mistaken 9 in a correct, proper, or healthy state <not in his ~ mind> 10 conforming to or influencing what is socially favoured or acceptable 11 often *cap* of the Right, esp in politics 12 chiefly *Br* real, utter – *informal* [ME, fr OE *riht*; akin to OHG *reht* right, L *rectus* straight, right, *regere* to lead straight, direct, rule, *rogare* to ask, Gk *oregin* to stretch out] – *rightness n*

**right** *n* 1 qualities (e.g. adherence to duty) that together constitute the ideal of moral conduct or merit moral approval 2a a power, privilege, interest, etc to which one has a just claim b a property interest in sthg – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning <mineral ~s> 3 sthg one may legitimately claim as due 4 the cause of truth or justice <trust that ~ may prevail> 5a (a blow struck with) the right hand b the location or direction of the right side c the part on the right side 6 the quality or state of being factually or morally correct 7 *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, often *cap* the members of a European legislative body occupying the right of a legislative chamber as a result of holding more conservative political views than other members 8a *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, *cap* those professing conservative

political views **b** often *cap* a conservative position [ME, fr OE *riht*, fr *riht*, adj] – **by rights** with reason or justice; properly – **in one's own right** by virtue of one's own qualifications or properties – **to rights** into proper order


**\*right** *adv* 1 in a right, proper, or correct manner <guessed ~> <knew he wasn't doing it ~> 2 in the exact location or position <~ in the middle of the floor> 3 in a direct line or course; straight <go ~ home> 4 all the way; completely <blew ~ out of the window> 5a without delay; straight <~ after lunch> b immediately <~ now> 6 to the full <entertained ~ royally> – often in British titles 7 on or to the right <looked left and ~>

**\*right** *vt* 1 to avenge 2a to adjust or restore to the proper state or condition, correct b to bring or restore (e.g. a boat) to an upright position – **righter** *n*

**'right, angle** *n* the angle bounded by 2 lines perpendicular to each other, an angle of 90°  MATHEMATICS, SYMBOL – **right-angled**, **right-angle** *adj*

**right atrioventricular valve** /ˌaɪntroʊvɛntrɪkjuːlə/ *n* TRICUSPID VALVE

**right a'way** *adv* without delay or hesitation

**'right, back** *n* a fullback playing on the right side of the pitch in a traditional soccer lineup  SPORT

**righteous** /ˈriːtʃəs/ *adj* 1 acting in accord with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin 2a morally right or justified b arising from an outraged sense of justice [alter of earlier *rihtuous*, alter. of ME *rightwise*, *rightwos*, fr OE *rihtwis*, fr *riht*, *n*, right + *wis* wise] – **righteously** *adv*, **righteousness** *n*

**rightful** /ˈreɪt(f)əl/ *adj* 1 just, equitable 2a having a just claim <(the ~ owner)> b held by right <~ authority> – **rightfully** *adv*, **rightfulness** *n*

**right-half** *n* a halfback playing on the right side of the pitch in a traditional soccer lineup  SPORT

**right-hand** *adj* 1 situated on the right 2 right-handed 3 chiefly or constantly relied on

**right-hand** *n* 1a the hand on the right-hand side of the body b a reliable or indispensable person 2a the right side b a place of honour

**right-handed** *adj* 1 using the right hand habitually or more easily than the left, also swinging from right to left <a ~ batsman> 2 relating to, designed for, or done with the right hand 3 clockwise – used of a twist, rotary motion, or spiral curve as viewed from a given direction with respect to the axis of rotation – **right-handed** *adv*, **right-handedly** *adv*, **right-handedness** *n*

**right-hander** /ˈhændə/ *n* 1 a blow struck with the right hand 2 a right-handed person

**right honourable** *adj* entitled to great honour – used as a title for privy councillors

**rightism** /ˈriːtɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* (advocacy of) the doctrines of the Right – **rightist** *n* or *adj*, often *cap*

**rightly** /ˈreɪtli/ *adv* 1 in accordance with right conduct; fairly 2 in the right manner; properly 3 according to truth or fact 4 with certainty <(I can't ~ say)>

**right-minded** *adj* thinking and acting by just or honest principles – **right-mindedness** *n*

**righto** /ˈriːtəʊ/ *interj*, chiefly Br – used to express agreement

**right 'off** *adv* RIGHT AWAY, AT ONCE – *infml*

**right of 'search** *n* the right to stop and search a merchant vessel on the high seas to ascertain whether it is liable to seizure

**right of 'way** *n*, *pl* **rights of way** 1 a legal right of passage over another person's property 2a the course along which a right of way exists b the strip of land over which a public road is built c the land occupied by a railway for its tracks 3 a precedence in passing accorded to one vehicle over another by custom, decision, or statute

**right 'on** *interj* – used to express agreement or approval; slang

**'right 'Reverend** *adj* – used as a title for high ecclesiastical officials

**'rights, issue** *n* an issue of new shares available to existing shareholders only

**rightward** /ˈriːtwood/ *adj* being towards or on the right

**'rightwards** /-woodz/, chiefly NAm **rightward** *adv* towards or on the right

**'right, whale** *n* any of several large whalebone whales with no dorsal fin, very long whalebone, and a large head [fr its being formerly considered the right whale to hunt]

**right 'wing** *n* *sing* or *pl* *in constr*, often *cap* R&W the more conservative division of a group or party – **right-wing** *adv*, **rightwinger** *n*

**rigid** /ˈrɪd/ *adj* 1a deficient in or devoid of flexibility b fixed in

appearance <(her face ~ with pain)> 2a inflexibly set in opinions or habits b strictly maintained <(a ~ schedule)> 3 firmly inflexible rather than lax or indulgent 4 precise and accurate in procedure 5a having the gas containers enclosed within compartments of a fixed fabric-covered framework <(a ~ airship)> b having the outer shape maintained by a fixed framework [MF or L; MF *rigide*, fr L *rigidus*, fr *rigere* to be stiff] – **rigidly** *adv*, **rigidness** *n*, **rigidity** /ˈrɪdɪfɪ/ *vb*, **rigidity** /ˈrɪdɪti/ *n*

**rigmarole** /ˈrɪgmɑːrəʊl/ *n* 1 confused or nonsensical talk 2 an absurd and complex procedure [alter of obs *ragman roll* (long list, catalogue)]

**rigor** /ˈrɪɡə/ *n* 1 a tremor caused by a chill 2 rigidity or insensitivity of organs or tissue 3 NAm *rigour* [(1, 2) NL, fr L]

**'rigor 'mortis** /ˈmawtɪs/ *n* the temporary rigidity of muscles that occurs after death [NL, stiffness of death]

**rigorous** /ˈrɪɡərə/ *adj* 1 manifesting, exercising, or favouring rigour, very strict <~ standards of hygiene> 2 harsh, severe 3 scrupulously accurate – **rigorously** *adv*


**rigour** /ˈrɪɡə/ *n* 1a(1) harsh inflexibility in opinion, temper, or judgment (2) the quality of being unyielding or inflexible (3) severity of life, austerity b an act or instance of strictness or severity – often *pl* 2 a condition that makes life difficult, challenging, or painful, esp extremity of cold – often *pl* 3 strict precision <(logical ~)> [ME, fr MF *rigueur*, fr L *rigor*, lit., stiffness, fr *rigere*]

**rigout** /ˈrɪɡəʊt/ *n* a complete outfit of clothing – *infml*

**rile** /ˈriːl/ *vt* 1 to make angry or resentful 2 NAm *roil* 1 [alter of *roil*]

**'rill** /ˈrɪl/ *n* a small brook – chiefly poetic [D *ri* or LG *ri*le, akin to OE *ri*th rivulet]

**'rille**, **rille** /ˈrɪl/ *n* any of several long narrow valleys on the moon's surface [G *ri*le, lit., channel made by a small stream, fr LG, *rill*]

**'rim** /ˈrɪm/ *n* 1 an outer usu curved edge or border 2 the outer ring of a wheel not including the tyre  CAR [ME, fr OE *rima*, akin to ON *rimu* strip of land, Gk *ērema* gently, Lith *remti* to support]

**\*rim** *vt* -mm- to serve as a rim for; border

**'rime** /ˈrɪm/ *n* 1 FROST 1b 2 an accumulation of granular ice tufts on the

windward sides of exposed objects at low temperatures [ME *rim*, fr OE *hrim*; akin to ON *hrim* frost, Latvian *kreims* cream] – **rimy** *adj*

**\*rime** *vt* to cover (as if) with rime

**rimmed** /ˈrɪmd/ *adj* having a rim – *usu* in combination <dark-rimmed glasses>

**rimu** /ˈrɪe,moʊh/ *n* (the wood of) a large coniferous New Zealand tree [Maori]

**'rind** /ˈrɛnd/ 1 the bark of a tree 2a *usu* hard or tough outer layer of fruit, cheese, bacon, etc [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *rinda* bark, OE *rendan* to rend]

**\*rind** *vt* to remove the rind or bark from

**rinderpest** /ˈrɪndə,pest/ *n* an infectious fever, esp of cattle [G, fr *rinder*, *pl*, cattle + *pest* pestilence]


**'ring** /ˈrɪŋ/ *n* 1 a circular band for holding, connecting, hanging, moving, fastening, etc or for identification 2 a circlet usu of precious metal, worn on the finger 3a a circular line, figure, or object b an encircling arrangement c a circular or spiral course 4a an often circular space, esp for exhibitions or competitions, esp such a space at a circus b a square enclosure in which boxers or wrestlers contest 5 any of the concentric bands that revolve round some planets (e.g. Saturn or Uranus) 6 ANNUAL RING 7 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* an exclusive association of people for a selfish and often corrupt purpose <(a drug ~)> 8 a closed chain of atoms in a molecule 9 a set of elements closed under 2 binary operations (e.g. addition and multiplication) which is a commutative group under the first operation and in which the second operation is associative and is distributive relative to the first 10 boxing as a profession <(retired after 9 years in the ~)> 11 an electric element or gas burner [in the shape of a circle, get into the top of a cooker, stove, etc, which provides a source of heat for cooking – compare GAS RING [ME, fr OE *hring*; akin to OHG *hring* ring, L *curvus* curved – more at 'crown] – **ringlike** *adj*

**\*ring** *vt* **ringed** 1 to place or form a ring round; encircle 2 to attach a ring to <~ migrating geese> 3 GIRDLE 3 4 to throw a ring over (the peg) in a game (e.g. quoits)

**\*ring** *vb* **rang** /ˈræŋ/; **rung** /ˈrʌŋ/ *vi* 1 to sound resonantly <(the doorbell rang)> <(cheers rang out)> 2a to be filled with resonant sound; resound b to have the sensation of a continuous humming sound 3 to sound a bell as a summons 4a to be filled with talk or report b to sound repeatedly <(praise rang in her ears)> 5 chiefly Br to telephone – often + *up* ~ *vt* 1 to cause to ring, esp by striking 2 to sound (as if) by ringing a bell 3 to announce (as if) by ringing – often + *in* or *out* 4 chiefly Br to telephone



- usu + up [ME *ringen*, fr OE *hringan*; akin to MD *ringen* to ring, Lith *krankti* to croak] - **ring a bell** to sound familiar - **ring the changes** to run through the range of possible variations - **ring true** to appear to be true or authentic
- 'ring n** 1 a set of bells 2 a clear resonant sound made by vibrating metal, also a similar sound 3 resonant tone 4 a loud sound continued, repeated, or reverberated 5 a sound or character suggestive of a particular quality or feeling 6a an act or instance of ringing b a telephone call - usu in *give somebody a ring*
- ringbark** /'rɪŋ.bɑ:k/ *vt* GIRDLE 1d
- ring binder n** a loose-leaf binder in which split metal rings attached to a metal back hold perforated sheets of paper in place
- 'ringbolt** /-bo:lt/ *n* an eyebolt with a ring through its loop
- 'ringbone** /-bo:n/ *n* a bony outgrowth on a horse's pastern bones, usu causing lameness - **ringboned** *adj*
- 'ringdove** /-du:v/ *n* a woodpigeon [fr the white patch on each side of its neck]
- ringed** /rɪŋd/ *adj* encircled or marked (as if) with rings
- ringer** /'rɪŋ-ə/ *n* 1 sby who rings bells 2 *NAm* sby or sth that strongly resembles another - often + *dead* <she's a dead ~ for the senator> 3 a horse entered in a race under false representations, broadly an impostor - *infrml* ['RING + -ER]
- 'ring finger** *n* the third finger, esp of the left hand, counting the index finger as the first
- ringgit** /'rɪŋ-ɡɪt/ *n*  *Malaysia* at NATIONALITY [Malay]
- ringhals** /'rɪŋ.hɑ:lz/ *n* a poisonous African snake that spits its venom at the eyes of its victim [Afrk *rinkals* (formerly *ringhals*), fr *ring* ring + *hals* neck]
- ringing** /'rɪŋ-ɪŋ/ *adj* 1 resounding 2 vigorously unequivocal <a ~ condemnation> - **ringingly** *adv*
- 'ringleader** /-li:deə/ *n* a leader of a group that engages in objectionable activities
- ringlet** /'rɪŋ-lɪt/ *n* 1 a small ring or circle 2 a long lock of hair curled in a spiral
- 'ring, main** *n*, *Br* a domestic wiring circuit in which a number of power points are connected to supply cables which form a closed loop
- 'ringmaster** /-mɑ:stə/ *n* one in charge of performances in a ring (e.g. of a circus)
- 'ringneck** /-nek/ *adj* ring-necked - **ringneck** *n*
- ring-necked** *adj* having a ring of colour about the neck
- ring off** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to terminate a telephone conversation
- 'ring, ouzel** /'ooz(ə)l/ *n* an Old World thrush, the male of which is black with a broad white bar across the breast
- 'ring-pull** *n* a built-in device for opening a tin consisting of a ring that, when pulled, removes a hermetically sealed tab or lid
- 'ring, road** *n*, *Br* a road round a town or town centre designed to relieve traffic congestion
- 'ringside** /-sɪd/ *n* 1 the area surrounding a ring, esp providing a close view of a contest 2 a place that gives a close view
- 2 ringside** *adj* or *adv* at the ringside
- 'ring-tailed** *adj* having a tail marked with rings of differing colours
- ring up** *vt* 1 to record by means of a cash register 2 to record, achieve [fr the bell that rings when a sum is recorded by a cash register]
- ringworm** /'rɪŋ.wu:m/ *n* any of several contagious fungous diseases of the skin, hair, or nails in which ring-shaped discoloured blister-covered patches form on the skin
- rink** /rɪŋk/ *n* 1a (a building containing) a surface of ice for ice-skating b an enclosure for roller-skating 2 part of a bowling green being used for a match [ME (Sc) *rinc* area in which a contest takes place, fr MF *renc* place, row - more at 'RANK]
- 'rinse** /rɪns/ *vt* 1 to cleanse (e.g. from soap) with liquid (e.g. clean water) - often + *out* 2 to remove (dirt or impurities) by washing lightly [ME *rinçen*, fr MF *rinçer*, fr OF *recincier*, perh fr (assumed) VL *recentiare*, fr L *recent-*, *recens* fresh, recent] - **rinser** *n*
- 2rinse** *n* 1 (a) rinsing 2a liquid used for rinsing b a solution that temporarily tints the hair
- riot** /'rɪə-t/ *n* 1 unrestrained revelry 2 (a) violent public disorder; *specif* a disturbance of the peace by 3 or more people 3 a profuse and random display <the woods were a ~ of colour> 4 sby or sth wildly funny [ME, fr OF, dispute] - **riot** *vi*, **rioter** *n*
- 'riot gun** *n* a small firearm used to disperse rioters rather than to inflict serious injury
- riotous** /'rɪə-təs/ *adj* 1 participating in a riot 2a wild and disorderly b exciting, exuberant <the party was a ~ success> - **riotously** *adv*, **riotousness** *n*
- 'rip** /rɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vi* 1 to become ripped; *rend* 2 to rush along <~ped past the finishing post> 3 to start or proceed without restraint <let it ~> ~ *vt* 1a to tear or split apart, esp in a violent manner b to saw or split (wood) along the grain 2 to slit roughly (as if) with a sharp blade 3 to remove by force - + *out* or *off* [prob fr Flem *ripen* to strip off roughly] - **ripper** *n*
- 2rip** *n* a rough or violent tear
- 3rip** *n* a body of rough water formed a by the meeting of opposing currents, winds, etc b by passing over ridges [perh fr 'rip]
- 4rip** *n* 1 a worn-out worthless horse 2 a mischievous usu young person [perh by shortening & alter fr *reprobate*]
- riparian** /'rɪpeəri-ən/ *adj* of or occurring on the bank of a body of water, esp a river [L *riparius* - more at RIVER]
- 'rip, cord** *n* a cord or wire for releasing a parachute from its pack
- 'rip, current** *n* a riptide
- ripe** /nep/ *adj* 1 fully grown and developed, mature 2 mature in knowledge, understanding, or judgment 3 of advanced years 4a fully arrived, propitious <the time seemed ~ for the experiment> b fully prepared, ready for 5 brought by aging to full flavour or the best state, mellow <~ cheese> 6 ruddy, plump, or full like ripened fruit 7 smutty, indecent - euph [ME, fr OE *ripe*; akin to OE *ripan*, *reopan* to reap - more at REAP] - **ripely** *adv*, **ripen** *vb*, **ripen** *n*, **ripeness** *n*
- ripieno** /'rɪpiənoh/ *n*, *pl* *ripieni* /-ni/, *ripienos* a supplementary or accompanying group of instruments or musical parts, esp all the instruments or musical parts except the soloist [It, lit., filled up]
- 'rip-off** *n* 1 an act or instance of stealing 2 an instance of financial exploitation, esp the charging of an exorbitant price *USE* *infrml*
- rip off** *vt* 1 to rob, also to steal 2 to defraud *USE* *infrml*
- riposte** /'rɪpəst-, -post/ *n* 1 a fencer's quick return thrust following a parry 2 a piece of retaliatory banter 3 a usu rapid retaliatory manoeuvre or measure [F, modif of It *riposta*, lit., answer, fr *rispondere* to respond, fr L *respondere*] - **riposte** *vi*
- 'ripple** /'rɪpl/ *vb* **rippling** /'rɪplɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to become covered with small waves b to flow in small waves or undulations 2 to flow with a light rise and fall of sound or inflection 3 to proceed with an undulating motion (so as to cause ripples) 4 to spread irregularly outwards, esp from a central point ~ *vt* 1 to stir up small waves on 2 to impart a wavy motion or appearance to <rippling his muscles> [perh freq of 'rip] - **ripler** *n*
- 2ripple** *n* 1 a small wave or succession of small waves 2a **RIPPLE MARK** b a sound like that of rippling water <a ~ of laughter> 3 *NAm* RIFFLE 1
- 'ripple, mark** *n* any of a series of small ridges produced, esp on sand, by wind or water
- riprap** /'rɪp.rəp/ *n*, *NAm* (stone used for) a foundation or sustaining wall of loose stones [obs *riprap* (sound of rapping), redupl of 'rap] - **riprap** *vi*
- 'rip, roaring** *adj* noisily excited or exciting, exuberant
- ripsaw** /'rɪp.səw/ *n*, a coarse-toothed saw having teeth only slightly bent to alternate sides that is designed to cut wood in the direction of the grain - compare CROSSCUT SAW
- riptide** /'rɪptɪd/ *n* a strong surface current flowing outwards from a shore
- Ripuarian** /'rɪpyoʊəri-ən/ *adj* of or constituting a group of Franks who settled in the 4th c on the Rhine near Cologne [ML *Ripuarus*]
- 'rise** /neɪz/ *vi* **rose** /roʊz/, **rises** /'rɪz(ə)n/ 1a to assume an upright position, esp from lying, kneeling, or sitting b to get up from sleep or from one's bed 2 to return from death 3 to take up arms 4a to respond warmly or readily, applaud - usu + *to* b to respond to nasty words or behaviour, esp by annoyance or anger <despite the innuendos, he didn't ~> 5 to end a session, adjourn b to appear above the horizon 7a to move upwards, ascend b to increase in height or volume 8 to extend above other objects or people 9a to become cheered or encouraged b to increase in fervour or intensity 10a to attain a higher office or rank b to increase in amount or number 11a to occur; TAKE PLACE b to come into being; originate 12 to show oneself equal to a challenge [ME *risen*, fr OE *risan*, akin to OHG *risan* to rise, L *orn* to rise, *rivus* stream, Gk *ornynai* to rouse]
- 2rise** *n* 1 rising or being risen: e.g. a movement upwards b emergence (e.g. of the sun) above the horizon c the upward movement of a fish to seize food or bait 2 origin <behaviour that gave ~ to much speculation> 3 the vertical height of sth, *specif* the vertical height of a step 4a an increase, esp in amount, number, or intensity b an increase in price, value, rate, or sum, *specif*, chiefly *Br* an increase in pay 5a an upward slope or gradient b a spot higher than surrounding ground 6 a rising-pitch intonation in speech - **get/take a rise** out of to provoke to annoyance by teasing

**riser** /'riezə/ *n* the upright part between 2 consecutive stair treads  ARCHITECTURE [ˈRIːz + ˌER]

**risible** /'rizəbl/ *adj* 1 inclined or susceptible to laughter 2 arousing or provoking laughter 3 associated with or used in laughter [LL *risibilis*, fr L *risus*, pp of *ridere* to laugh – more at RIDICULOUS] – risibility /'bɪlətɪ/ *n*

**rising** /'riːzɪŋ/ *n* an insurrection, uprising

**rising** *adv* approaching a specified age

**risk** /rɪsk/ *n* 1 possibility of loss, injury, or damage 2 a dangerous element or factor; hazard 3a the chance of loss or the dangers to that which is insured in an insurance contract b sby who or sth that is a specified hazard to an insurer (a poor ~ for insurance) c an insurance hazard from a specified cause (war ~) [F *risque*, fr It *risco*] – risky *adj*, riskily *adv*, riskiness *n* – at risk in danger (e.g. of infection or of behaving in ways which are considered antisocial) – on risk of an insurer having assumed and accepting liability for a risk

**risk** *vt* 1 to expose to hazard or danger 2 to incur the risk or danger of

**risorgimento** /rɪˌsɔːrɡɪ'mentoh/ *n*, *pl risorgimentos* a time of renewal or revival; specif. often *cap* the 19th-c movement for Italian political unity [It, fr *risorgere* to rise again, fr L *resurgere* – more at RESURRECTION]

**risotto** /rɪˈzotoh/, /-so-/ *n*, *pl risottos* an Italian dish of rice cooked in meat stock with onion, green pepper, etc [It, fr *riso* rice]

**risqué** /'reeskay/, /rɪ-/ *adj* verging on impropriety or indecency [F, fr pp of *risquer* to risk, fr *risque*]

**rissole** /'rɪsɒl/ *n* a small fried cake or ball of cooked minced food, esp meat [F, fr MF *rissole*, fr (assumed) VL *russeola*, fr L *russeus* reddish, fr *russeus* red]

**ritardando** /rɪˌtɑːdʌndoh/ *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, *pl ritardandos* (with) a gradual slackening in musical tempo [It, fr L *retardandum*, gerund of *retardare* to retard]

**rite** /rɪt/ *n* 1 (a prescribed form of words or actions for) a ceremonial act or action 2 the characteristic liturgy of a church or group of churches [ME, fr L *ritus*; akin to OE *rim* number, Gk *arithmos* number – more at ARITHMETIC]

**ritenuto** /ˌreɪtɪn(y)oohtoh/, /rɪˌtɛn(y)oohtoh/ *adv*, *adj*, or *n* *pl ritenutos* (with) an immediate slackening of musical tempo [It, pp of *ritenere* to hold back, retain, fr L *retinere*]

**rite of passage** *n* a ritual associated with a change of status (e.g. assuming adult status and responsibilities) in the life of an individual [trans of F *rite de passage*]

**ritornello** /rɪˌtɔːnɛloh/ *n*, *pl ritornelli* /-li/, *ritornellos* 1 a short recurrent instrumental passage in a vocal composition 2 a tutti passage in a concerto or rondo refrain [It, dim. of *ritorno* return, fr *ritornare* to return]

**ritual** /'rɪtʃuəl, -tyoo-/ *adj* 1 of rites or a ritual; ceremonial (a ~ dance) 2 according to religious law or social custom – ritually *adv*

**ritual** *n* 1 the form or order of words prescribed for a religious ceremony 2 (a) ritual observance; broadly any formal and customary act or series of acts

**ritualism** /'rɪtʃuəlɪz(ə)m, -tyoo-/ *n* (excessive devotion to) the use of ritual – ritualist *n*, ritualistic /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**ritualize**, /-ɪz/ /'rɪtʃuəlɪz, -tyoo-/ *vi* to practise ritualism ~ *vt* to convert into a ritual – ritualization /-ˌzayʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**ritzy** /'rɪtsɪ/ *adj* ostentatiously smart – infml [Ritz hotels, noted for their opulence] – ritzy *n*

**rival** /'rɪvəl/ *n* 1a any of 2 or more competing for a single goal b sby who tries to compete with and be superior to another 2 sby who or sth that equals another in desirable qualities [MF or L; MF, fr L *rivalis* one using the same stream as another, rival in love, fr *rivalis* of a stream, fr *rivus* stream – more at RISE] – rivalry /-rɪ-/ *n*

**rival** *adj* having comparable pretensions or claims

**rival** *vt* -ll (NAm -ll-, /-rɪvəl-/ *vi* to be in competition with; contend with 2 to strive to equal or excel 3 to possess qualities that approach or equal (those of another)

**rive** /rɪv/ *vb* *rived*; *riven* /rɪv(ə)n/ *also* *rived* *vt* 1a to wrench open or tear apart or to pieces b to split with force or violence; cleave 2 to rend with distress or dispute ~ *vi* to become split [ME *riven*, fr ON *rifa*; akin to L *ripa* shore, Gk *ereipein* to tear down, OE *rāw* row]

**river** /rɪvə/ *n* 1 a natural stream of water of considerable volume  GEOGRAPHY 2a a flow that matches a river in volume (a ~ of lava) b *pl* a copious or overwhelming quality [ME *rivere*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *riparia*, fr L, fem of *riparius* riparian, fr *ripa*]


**riverine** /rɪˌvəriən/ *adj* 1 of, formed by, or resembling a river 2 living or situated on the banks of a river

**rivet** /'rɪvɪt/ *n* a headed metal pin used to unite 2 or more pieces by passing the shank through a hole in each piece and then beating or pressing down the plain end so as to make a second head [ME *rivette*, fr MF *river* to be attached]

**rivet** *vt* 1 to fasten (as if) with rivets 2 to hammer or flatten the end or point of (e.g. a metal pin, rod, or bolt) so as to form a head 3 to fix firmly 4 to attract and hold (e.g. the attention) completely – riveter *n*

**riviera** /rɪˌvɪərə/ *n*, often *cap* a coastal region, usu with a mild climate, frequented as a resort [the Riviera, region in SE France and NW Italy]

**rivulet** /'rɪvjuːlɪt/ *n* a small stream [It *rioletto*, dim of *riolo*, fr L *rivulus*, dim of *rivus* stream – more at RISE]

**riyāl** /rɪˈyɑːl/ *n*  Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic at NATIONALITY [Ar *riyāl*, fr Sp *real* real]

**riyāl** *n* a rial

**RNA** *n* any of various nucleic acids similar to DNA that contain ribose and uracil as structural components instead of deoxyribose and thymine, and are associated with the control of cellular chemical activities [ribonucleic acid]

**roach** /rəʊtʃ/ *n*, *pl roach* also *roaches* a silver-white European freshwater fish of the carp family [ME *roche*, fr MF]

**roach** *n* a concave or convex curvature in the edge of a sail [origin unknown]

**roach** *n*, NAm 1 a cockroach 2 the butt of a marijuana cigarette – slang

**road** /roʊd/ *n* 1 a relatively sheltered stretch of water near the shore where ships may ride at anchor – often *pl* with sing. meaning 2a an open usu paved way for the passage of vehicles, people, and animals b the part of a paved surface used by vehicles 3 a route or path [ME *rode*, fr OE *rad* ride, journey, raid; akin to OE *ridan* to ride] – roadless *adj* – off the road of a vehicle not roadworthy – on the road travelling or touring on business

**roadbed** /-bed/ *n* 1 the bed on which the sleepers, rails, and ballast of a railway rest 2a the earth foundation of a road prepared for surfacing b NAm ROAD 2b

**roadblock** /-blok/ *n* 1 a road barricade set up by an army, the police, etc 2 an obstruction in a road 3 chiefly NAm an obstacle to progress or success

**roadhog** *n* a driver of a motor vehicle who obstructs or intimidates others

**roadholding** /-hohldɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly Br the ability of a moving vehicle to remain stable

**roadhouse** /-hows/ *n* an inn situated usu on a main road in a country area

**roadie** /'roʊdi/ *n* sby who looks after the transport, setting up, etc. of the equipment of entertainers, esp a rock group

**roadman** /'roʊdmən, -man/ *n* one who mends or builds roads

**road metal** *n* broken stone used in making and repairing roads or ballasting railways

**roadrunner** /-rʌnə/ *n* a largely ground-living fast-running American bird of the cuckoo family

**road show** *n* a theatrical performance given by a troupe on tour

**roadside** /-sɪd/ *n* the strip of land beside a road, the side of a road

**roadster** /'roʊdstə/ *n* 1 a horse for riding or driving on roads 2a an open sports car that seats usu 2 people b Br a sturdy bicycle for ordinary use on common roads

**road test** *n* a test of a vehicle taken under practical operating conditions on the road – road test *vt*

**roadway** /-weɪ/ *n* a road

**roadwork** /-wʊk/ *n* 1 conditioning for an athletic contest (e.g. a boxing match) consisting mainly of long runs 2 *pl*, Br (the site of) the repair or construction of roads

**roadworthy** /-wʊdhɪ/ *adj*, of a vehicle in a fit condition to be used on the roads; in proper working order – roadworthiness *n*

**roam** /roʊm/ *vi* 1 to go aimlessly from place to place, wander 2 to travel unhindered through a wide area ~ *vt* to range or wander over [ME *romen*] – roamer *n*, roamer *n*






**roan** /roʊn/ *adj*, esp of horses and cattle having a coat of a usu reddish brown base colour that is muted and lightened by some white hairs [MF, fr OSp *roano*]

**roan** *n* (the colour of) an animal (e.g. a horse) with a roan, specif a bay roan, coat

**roar** /raʊ/ *vi* 1a to give a roar b to sing or shout with full force 2a to make or emit loud reverberations b to laugh loudly and deeply 3 to be boisterous or disorderly – usu + about 4 of a horse suffering from roaring

- to make a loud noise in breathing ~ *vt* to utter with a roar [ME *roren*, fr OE *rāran*, akin to OHG *reren* to bleat, Skt *rāyati* he barks]
- roar** *n* 1 the deep prolonged cry characteristic of a wild animal 2 a loud cry, call, etc (e.g. of pain, anger, or laughter) 3 a loud continuous confused sound <(the ~ of the waves)>
- roaring** /'raʊnɪŋ/ *n* noisy breathing in a horse occurring during exertion and caused by muscular paralysis
- roaring** *adj* 1 making or characterized by a sound resembling a roar 2 marked by energetic or successful activity <(did a ~ trade)>
- roaring** *adv* extremely, thoroughly - infml <(went and got ~ drunk)>
- roaring 'forties** *n pl* either of 2 areas of stormy westerly winds between latitudes 40° and 50° N and S
- roast** /roʊst/ *vt* 1a to cook by exposing to dry heat (e.g. in an oven) or by surrounding with hot embers b to dry and brown slightly by exposure to heat <(~ coffee)> <(~ chestnuts)> 2 to heat (ore or other inorganic material) with air to cause the removal of volatile material, oxidation, etc 3 to heat to excess 4 chiefly *NAM* to criticize severely ~ *vi* 1 to cook food by roasting 2 to be subject to roasting [ME *rosten*, fr OF *rostit*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *rosten* to roast]
- roast** *n* 1 a piece of meat roasted or suitable for roasting 2 *NAM* a party at which food is roasted, esp in the open air
- roasted** *adj* roasted <(~ beef)>
- roaster** /'roʊstə/ *n* 1 a device for roasting 2 a pig, fowl, vegetable, etc suitable for roasting ['ROAST + ~ER]
- rob** /rɒb/ *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to steal sth from (a person or place), esp by violence or threat 2 to deprive of sth due, expected, or desired ~ *vi* to commit robbery [ME *robben*, fr OF *rober*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *rouhōn* to rob - more at *BERAVE*] - **robber** *n*
- robbery** /'rɒbəri/ *n* the act of robbing, *specif* theft accompanied by violence or threat
- robe** /roʊb/ *n* 1 a long flowing outer garment, esp one used for ceremonial occasions or as a symbol of office or profession - sometimes *pl* with sing meaning 2 *NAM* a woman's dressing gown [ME, fr OF, *robe*, booty, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *roubon* to rob]
- robe** *vt* to clothe or cover (as if) with a robe ~ *vi* to put on a robe, *broadly* DRFS 1a
- robin** /'roʊbɪn/, *robin* 'red,breast /'red,brest/ *n* 1 a small brownish European thrush resembling a warbler and having an orange red throat and breast 2 a large N American thrush with a dull reddish breast and underparts [ME *robin* *redbreast*, fr *Robin*, nickname for Robert]
- robot** /'rɒbɒt/ *n* 1a a (fictional) humanoid machine that walks and talks b sby efficient or clever who lacks human warmth or sensitivity 2 an automatic apparatus or device that performs functions ordinarily ascribed to human beings or operates with what appears to be almost human intelligence 3 sth guided by automatic controls [Czech, fr *robota* work, akin to OHG *arabēt* trouble, L *orbis* orphaned]
- robotics** /'rɒbɒtɪks, rə-/ *n pl* but sing in constr a field of interest concerned with the construction, maintenance, and behaviour of robots <(~ is a major science-fiction theme)>
- robust** /'rɒbʊst, -'r-/ *adj* 1a having or exhibiting vigorous health or stamina b firm in purpose or outlook c strongly formed or constructed 2 earthy, rude 3 requiring strenuous exertion 4 full-bodied <(a ~ red wine)> [L *robustus* oaken, strong, fr *robor*-, *robur* oak, strength] - **robustly** *adv*, **robustness** *n*
- roc** /rɒk/ *n* a mythical bird of great size and strength [Ar *rukḥḥk*]
- rocamboles** /'rɒkəmbɒl/ *n* a European leek used for flavouring [F, fr G *rockenbolle*, fr *rocken*, *roggen* rye + *bolle* bulb]
- Rochelle salt** /'rɒʃel/ *n* sodium potassium tartrate, used esp in baking powders and in piezoelectric crystals [La *Rochelle*, city in W France]
- roche moutonnée** /'rɒʃ məʊntə'neɪ/ *n, pl* *roches moutonnées* / a long ice-sculptured rock mound [F, lit, fleecy rock]
- rochet** /'rɒʃɪt/ *n* a white ceremonial vestment resembling a surplice, worn esp by bishops [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr (assumed) OF *roc* coat, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *roc* coat]
- rock** /rɒk/ *vt* 1 to move gently back and forth (as if) in a cradle 2a to cause to sway back and forth b(1) to daze or stun (2) to disturb, upset ~ *vi* 1 to become moved rapidly or violently backwards and forwards (e.g. under impact) 2 to move rhythmically back and forth [ME *rokken*, fr OE *roccian*; akin to OHG *rucken* to cause to move] - **rock the boat** to disturb the equilibrium of a situation <(even though you're right you can't afford to rock the boat)>
- rock, rock and roll, rock 'n' roll** /rɒk (ə)n 'rɒhl/ *n* popular music, usu played on electronically amplified instruments and characterized by a persistent heavily accented beat, much repetition of simple phrases, and often country, folk, and blues elements
- rock** *n* 1 a large mass of stone forming a cliff, promontory, or peak 2 a large concreted mass of stony material 3 consolidated or unconsolidated solid mineral matter 4a sth like a rock in firmness; a firm or solid foundation or support b sth that threatens or causes disaster - often *pl* with sing meaning 5 a coloured and flavoured sweet produced in the form of a usu cylindrical stick 6 **ROCK SALMON** - used esp by fishmongers 7 *NAM* a small stone 8 a gem, esp a diamond - slang [ME *rokke*, fr ONF *roque*, fr (assumed) VL *rocca*] - **rock** *adj*, **rocklike** *adj* - **on the rocks** 1 in or into a state of destruction or wreckage <(their marriage was on the rocks)> 2 on ice cubes <(Scotch on the rocks)>
- rock-bottom** *adj* being the lowest possible
- rock-bottom** *n* the lowest or most fundamental part or level
- rock-bound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* surrounded or strewn with rocks, rocky
- rock crystal** *n* transparent colourless quartz
- rock dove** *n* a bluish grey Old World wild pigeon that is the ancestor of the domestic pigeons
- rockers** /'rɒkə/ *n* 1a either of the 2 curved pieces of wood or metal on which an object (e.g. a cradle) rocks b sth mounted on rockers, *specif* ROCKING CHAIR c any object (with parts) resembling a rocker (e.g. a skate with a curved blade) 2 a device that works with a rocking motion 3 a member of a group of aggressive leather-jacketed young British motorcyclists in the 1960s who waged war on the mods - compare **HELL'S ANGEL** ['ROCK + ~ER] - **off one's rockers** crazy, mad - infml
- rockery** /'rɒkəri/ *n* a bank of rocks and earth where rock plants are grown
- rocket** /'rɒkɪt/ *n* any of numerous plants of the mustard family [MF *roquette*, fr OIt *rochetta*, dim. of *ruca* garden rocket, fr L *crucis*]
- rocket** *n* 1a a firework consisting of a long case filled with a combustible material fastened to a guiding stick and projected through the air by the rearward discharge of gases released in combustion b such a device used as an incendiary weapon or as a propelling unit (e.g. for a lifesaving line or whaling harpoon) 2 a jet engine that carries with it everything necessary for its operation and is thus independent of the oxygen in the air 3 a rocket-propelled bomb, missile, or projectile ~ SPACE 4 chiefly *Br* a sharp reprimand - infml [It *rochetta*, lit, small distaff, fr dim. of *rocca* distaff, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *rocko* distaff] - **rocketeer** /-tiə/ *n*
- rocket** *vi* 1 to rise or increase rapidly or spectacularly 2 to travel with the speed of a rocket
- rocketry** /'rɒkɪtri/ *n* the study of, experimentation with, or use of rockets
- rockfish** /'rɒk,fɪʃ/ *n* any of various fishes that live among rocks or on rocky bottoms
- rock garden** *n* a garden containing 1 or more rockeries, *also* a rockery
- rocking chair** /'rɒkɪŋ/ *n* a chair mounted on rockers
- rocking horse** *n* a toy horse mounted on rockers
- rockling** /'rɒkɪŋ/ *n* any of several rather small elongated marine fishes of the cod family
- rock lobster** *n* SPINY LOBSTER
- rock 'n' roll** /rɒk (ə)n 'rɒhl/ *n* 'ROCK
- rock oil** *n* petroleum
- rock plant** *n* a small esp alpine plant that grows among rocks or in rockeries
- rock rose** /-rɒz/ *n* any of various showy-flowered woody plants or shrubs
- rock salmon** *n* a dogfish - not now used technically
- rock salt** *n* common salt occurring as a solid mineral
- rock shaft** /-ʃaɪt/ *n* a shaft (e.g. in a steam engine) that rocks on its bearings instead of revolving
- rock wool** *n* mineral wool made from limestone or siliceous rock
- rocky** /'rɒki/ *adj* 1 full of or consisting of rocks 2 filled with obstacles; difficult ['rock] - **rockiness** *n*
- rocky** *adj* unsteady, tottering ['rock] - **rockiness** *n*
- rococo** /'rɒkəkoʊ, rə-/ *adj* 1a (typical) of a style of architecture and decoration in 18th-c Europe characterized by elaborate curved forms and shell motifs b of an 18th-c musical style marked by light gay ornamentation 2 excessively ornate or florid [F, irreg fr *rocaille* rock-work, fr *roc*, alter. of MF *roche*, fr (assumed) VL *rocca*]
- rococo** *n* rococo work or style
- rod** /rɒd/ *n* 1a(1) a straight slender stick (2) a stick or bundle of twigs used for punishment (3) a pole with a line for fishing b(1) a slender bar (e.g. of wood or metal) (2) a wand or staff carried as a sign of office, power, or authority 2 a unit of length equal to 5½ yd (about 5m) ~ UNIT 3 any of the relatively long rod-shaped light receptors in the retina that are

- sensitive to faint light – compare **CONE 3a** **4** an angler [ME, fr OE *rodd*, akin to ON *rudda* club] – **rodless** *adj*, **rodlike** *adj*
- rode** /rohd/ *past* of **RIDE**
- rodent** /rohd(ə)nt/ *n* any of an order of relatively small gnawing mammals including the mice, rats, squirrels, and beavers [deriv of L *rodent-*, *rodens*, pp of *rodere* to gnaw – more at **RAT**] – **rodent** *adj*, **rodenticide** /roh'dentisid/ *n*
- rodent ulcer** *n* a skin cancer that appears as an ulcer of exposed skin, esp on the face, and spreads slowly outwards destroying other tissue [L *rodent-*, *rodens* gnawing]
- rodeo** /roh'dayoh, 'rohdi,oh/ *n*, *pl* **rodeos** **1** a roundup **2** a public performance featuring the riding skills of cowboys [Sp. fr *rodear* to surround, fr *rueda* wheel, fr L *rota* – more at **ROLL**]
- rodomontade** /,rohdə'montayd, -'tahd/ *n* **1** a bragging speech **2** vain boasting or bluster, bombast [MF, fr It *Rodomonte*, character in *Orlando Innamorato* by Matteo Boiardo †1494 lt poet] – **rodomontade** *adj*
- roe** /roh/ *n* **1** the eggs of a female fish, esp when still enclosed in a membrane, or the corresponding part of a male fish **2** the eggs or ovaries of an invertebrate (e.g. a lobster) [ME *roof*, akin to OHG *rogo* roe, Lith *kurkulai* frog's eggs]
- roe buck** /roh,buk/ *n*, *pl* **roe buck**, **roe bucks** a (male) roe deer
- roe deer** *n* a small Eurasian deer with erect cylindrical antlers that is noted for its nimbleness and grace [roe (roe deer), fr ME *ro*, fr OE *ra*, akin to OHG *reh* roe deer, OIr *riabach* dappled]
- roentgen** /'rontgən, 'rentgən, -jən (*Ger* rɛntgən)/ *n* a roentgen
- roentgenogram** /ront'gənə,gram, rent-, -'je-/ *n* a roentgenogram
- roentgenograph** /-,grəhf, -,grəf/ *n* a roentgenograph
- Rogation Day** /roh'gaysh(ə)n/ *n* any of the days of prayer, esp for the harvest, observed on the 3 days before Ascension Day and by Roman Catholics also on April 25 [ME *rogacioun* litany, supplication, fr L *rogation-*, *rogatio*, fr *rogatus*, pp of *rogare* to ask, beg – more at **RIGHT**]
- roger** /rojə/ *vt* to have sexual intercourse with – slang [obs *roger* (penis), fr the name *Roger*]
- roger** *interj* – used esp in radio and signalling to indicate that a message has been received and understood [*Roger*, former communications code-word for the letter *r*]
- rogue** /roh/g/ *n* **1** a wilfully dishonest or corrupt person **2** a mischievous person; a scamp **3** sby or sthg that displays a chance variation making it inferior to others [perh fr obs *roger* (beggar), perh fr L *rogare* to ask] – **roguish** *adj*, **roguishly** *adv*, **roguishness** *n*
- rogue** *vb* **roguing**, **rogueing** to weed out inferior, diseased, etc plants (from *vb*)
- rogue** *adj*, of an animal (roaming alone and) vicious and destructive (< a ~ elephant>)
- roguey** /'roh/g(ə)ri/ *n* an act characteristic of a rogue
- rogues' gallery** *n* a collection of pictures of people arrested as criminals
- roll** /royl/ *vt* **1a** to make muddy or opaque by stirring up the sediment of **b** to stir up **2** to annoy, rile [origin unknown]
- rolister** /'roystə/ *vi* to engage in noisy revelry [arch *rolister* (roisterer), fr MF *rustre* boor, ruffian, fr *ruste* rude, rough, fr L *rusticus* rustic] – **rolisterer** *n*
- role**, **rôle** /roh/l/ *n* **1a(1)** a character assigned or assumed **(2)** a socially expected behaviour pattern, usu determined by an individual's status in a particular society **b** a part played by an actor or singer **2** a function [F *rôle*, lit., roll, fr OF *rolle*]
- role playing** *n* behaving in a way typical of another or of a stereotype, often for therapeutic or educational purposes
- roll** /roh/l/ *n* **1a** a written document that may be rolled up, *specific* one bearing an official or formal record **b** a list of names or related items; a catalogue **c** an official list of people (e.g. members of a school or of a legislative body) **2** sthg rolled up to resemble a cylinder or ball; **e** **g** **a** a quantity (e.g. of fabric or paper) rolled up to form a single package **b** any of various food preparations rolled up for cooking or serving; esp a small piece of baked yeast dough **3** **ROLLER 1a(1)** **4** *NAM* paper money folded or rolled into a wad [ME *rolle*, fr OF, fr L *rotula*, dim. of *rota* wheel; akin to OHG *rad* wheel, Skt *ratha* wagon]
- roll** *vt* **1a** to propel forwards by causing to turn over and over on a surface **b** to cause (sthg fixed) to revolve (as if) on an axis **c** to cause to move in a circular manner **d** to form into a mass by revolving and compressing **e** to carry forwards with an easy continuous motion (<the river ~s its waters to the sea> **2a** to put a wrapping round **b** to wrap round on itself; shape into a ball or roll – often + *up* **3a** to press, spread, or level with a roller; make thin, even, or compact **b** to spread out (<~ out the red carpet> **4** to move as specified on rollers or wheels **5a** to sound with a full reverberating tone **b** to make a continuous beating sound on (<~ ed their drums> **c** to utter with a trill **6** *NAM* to rob (sby sleeping or unconscious) – *infrml* (<~ a drunk> ~ *vt* **1a** to travel along a surface with a rotary motion **b(1)** to turn over and over **(2)** to luxuriate in an abundant supply, wallow **2a** to move onwards in a regular cycle or succession **b** to shift the gaze continually and erratically (<eyes ~ ing in terror> **c** to revolve on an axis **3a** to flow with an undulating motion **b** to flow in an abundant stream, pour **c** to extend in broad undulations (<~ ing hills> **4a** to become carried on a stream **b** to move on wheels **5** to make a deep reverberating sound (<the thunder ~ s> **6a** to rock from side to side **b** to walk with a swinging gait **c** to move so as to reduce the impact of a blow – + *with* (<~ ed with the punch> **7** to take the form of a cylinder or ball – often + *up* **8a** to begin to move or operate (<let the cameras ~> **b** to move forwards, develop and maintain impetus
- roll** *n* **1a** a sound produced by rapid strokes on a drum **b** a rhythmic sonorous flow (of speech) **c** a reverberating sound **2** (an action or process involving) a rolling movement **e** **g** **a** a swaying movement of the body (e.g. in walking or dancing) **b** a side-to-side movement (e.g. of a ship) **c** a flight manoeuvre in which a complete revolution about the longitudinal axis of an aircraft is made with the horizontal direction of flight being approximately maintained
- roll back** *vt* to cause to retreat or withdraw, push back
- roll call** *n* the calling out of a list of names (e.g. for checking attendance)
- roller** /'rohla/ *n* **1a(1)** a revolving cylinder over or on which sthg is moved or which is used to press, shape, or apply sthg **(2)** a hair curler **b** a cylinder or rod on which sthg (e.g. a blind) is rolled up **2** a long heavy wave ['ROLL + -ER]
- roller** *n* **1** any of a group of mostly brightly coloured Old World birds noted for performing aerial rolls in their nuptial display **2** a canary that has a song in which the notes are soft and run together [G, fr *rollen* to roll, reverberate, fr MF *roller*, fr (assumed) VL *rotulare*, fr L *rotula*]
- roller bearing** *n* a bearing in which the rotating part turns on rollers held in a cylindrical housing
- roller coaster** *n* an elevated railway (e.g. in a funfair) constructed with curves and inclines on which the cars roll
- roller skate** *n* (a shoe fitted with) a metal frame holding usu 4 small wheels that allows the wearer to glide over hard surfaces – **roller-skate** *vi*, **roller-skater** *n*
- roller towel** *n* a continuous towel hung from a roller
- rollicking** /'roliking/ *adj* boisterously carefree [rollick (to romp), perh blend of *romp* and *frolic*]
- rollicking** *n*, *Br* a severe scolding – *infrml* [prob alter of *bollocking*]
- roll in** *vi* to come or arrive in large quantities
- rolling mill** /'rohling/ *n* an establishment or machine in which metal is rolled into plates and bars
- rolling pin** *n* a long usu wooden cylinder for rolling out dough
- rolling stock** *n* **1** the vehicles owned and used by a railway **2** *NAM* the road vehicles owned and used by a company
- rolling stone** *n* one who leads a wandering or unsettled life
- rollmop** /'roh,mop/ *n* a herring fillet rolled up and pickled by being marinated in spiced vinegar or brine [back-formation fr *rollmops*, pl of *rollmops* (rolled herring fillet), fr G, fr *rollen* to roll + *mops* simpton, pugnosed dog, fr LG]
- roll neck** *n* a loose high collar, esp on a jumper, worn rolled over
- roll-on** *n* **1** a woman's elasticated girdle without fastenings **2** a liquid preparation (e.g. deodorant) applied to the skin by means of a rolling ball in the neck of the container
- roll on** *interj*, *Br* – used to urge on a desired event (<~ summer>)
- roll-on roll-off** *adj* allowing vehicles to drive on or off (<a ~ ship>)
- rollout** /'roh,lowt/ *n* the public introduction or unveiling of a new aircraft
- rolltop desk** /'roh,lop/ *n* a writing desk with a sliding cover often of parallel slats fastened to a flexible backing
- roll-up** *n*, *Br* a hand-rolled cigarette – *infrml*
- roll up** *vi* **1** to arrive in a vehicle **2** to turn up at a destination, esp unhurriedly
- roly-poly** /'rohli 'pohli/ *n* a dish, esp a pudding, consisting of pastry spread with a filling (e.g. jam), rolled, and baked or steamed [redupl of *roly*, fr 'roll + -y]
- roly-poly** *adj* short and plump – *infrml*
- Romaic** /roh'mayik/ *n* the modern Greek vernacular [NGk *Rhomaikos*, fr Gk *Rhomaikos* Roman, fr *Rhome* Rome, capital city of Italy] – **Romaic** *adj*

- 'Roman** /'rɒmən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of (ancient) Rome 2 ROMAN CATHOLIC 3 *not cap* roman letters or type [partly fr ME, fr OE, fr L *Romanus*, adj & *n*, fr *Roma* Rome; partly fr ME *Romain*, fr OF, fr L *Romanus*]
- 'Roman** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Rome or the (ancient) Romans 2 *not cap*, of numbers and letters not slanted, perpendicular  ALPHABET 3 of the see of Rome or the Roman Catholic church
- roman à clef** /rɒm,ə'kle/ *n* (Fr *romā a kle*) / *n*, *pl* romans à clef /~/ a novel in which real people or actual events are fictionally disguised [F, lit., novel with a key]
- 'Roman candle** *n* a cylindrical firework that discharges balls or stars of fire at intervals
- 'Roman Catholic** *n* a member of the Roman Catholic church
- 'Roman Catholic** *adj* of the body of Christians headed by the pope, with a hierarchy of priests and bishops under the pope, a liturgy centred on the Mass, and a body of dogma formulated by the church as the infallible interpreter of revealed truth, *specif* of the Western rite of this church marked by a formerly Latin liturgy – **Roman Catholicism** *n*
- 'romance** /rɒ'mɑːns, rə-/ *n* 1a(1) a medieval usu verse tale dealing with chivalric love and adventure (2) a prose narrative dealing with imaginary characters involved in usu heroic, adventurous, or mysterious events that are remote in time or place (3) a love story **b** such literature as a class 2 *sth* lacking any basis in fact 3 an emotional aura attaching to an enthralling era, adventure, or pursuit 4 LOVE AFFAIR [ME *romans*, fr OF *romans* French, something written in French, fr L *romance* in the Roman manner, fr *romanicus* Roman, fr *Romanus*]
- 'romance** *vi* 1 to exaggerate or invent detail or incident 2 to entertain romantic thoughts or ideas
- 'romance** *n* a short instrumental piece of music in ballad style [F, fr Sp, fr OSp, Spanish *romanza* written in Spanish, fr L *romance*]
- Romance** *adj* of or constituting the languages developed from Latin
- romancer** /rə'mɑːnsə, rɒ-/ *n* 1 a writer of romance 2 *sb* prone to romancing
- 'Roman collar** *n* CLERICAL COLLAR, *specif* one worn by Roman Catholic clergy
- Romanesque** /rɒh'mæːnɪk/ *adj* of a style of architecture developed in Italy and western Europe and characterized after 1000 AD by the use of the round arch and vault, decorative arcading, and elaborate mouldings – compare NORMAN **Romanesque** *n*
- roman-fleuve** /rɒm,ə'fluːv, (Fr *romā flœv*) / *n*, *pl* romans-fleuves /~/ a novel in the form of a long and leisurely chronicle of a family or community [F, lit., river novel]
- 'Roman holiday** *n* an entertainment at the expense of others' suffering [fr the bloody combats staged as entertainment in ancient Rome]
- Romanian**, **Rumanian** also **Roumanian** /rɒ'maɪniən, rɒ-, rə-, -niən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Romania 2 the Romance language of the Romanians  LANGUAGE [Romania (Rumania, Roumania), country in E Europe] – **Romanian** *adj*
- Romanic** /rɒ'manɪk/ *adj* 1 Romance 2 descended or derived from the Romans – **Romanic** *n*
- Romanism** /rɒh'mæːnɪz(ə)m/ *n* ROMAN CATHOLICISM
- Romanist** /rɒ'manɪst/ *n* 1 ROMAN CATHOLIC 2 a specialist in the language, culture, or law of ancient Rome – **Romanist**, **Romanistic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*
- roman-ize**, **-ise** /rɒh'mæːnɪz/ *vt* 1 *often cap* to make Roman, Latinize 2 to write or print (e.g. a language) in the roman alphabet – **romanization** /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*, *often cap*
- 'roman law** *n*, *often cap R* the legal system of the ancient Romans which forms the basis of many modern legal codes
- 'Roman nose** *n* a nose with a prominent slightly aquiline bridge
- 'Roman numeral** *n* a numeral in a system of notation based on the ancient Roman system using the symbols i, v, x, l, c, d, m  NUMBER
- Romans** /rɒh'mɑːnz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a letter on doctrine written by St Paul to the Christians at Rome and included as a book in the New Testament
- Romansh**, **Romansch** /rɒh'mɑːnsh/ *n* the Rhaeto-Romanic dialects spoken in parts of Switzerland and Italy  LANGUAGE [Romansh *romansch*]
- 'romantic** /rə'mæntɪk, rɒ-/ *adj* 1 consisting of or like a romance 2 having no basis in real life 3 impractical or fantastic in conception or plan 4a marked by the imaginative appeal of the heroic, remote, or mysterious **b** *often cap* (having the characteristics) of romanticism **c** of or being (a composer of) 19th-c music characterized by an emphasis on subjective emotional qualities and freedom of form 5a having an inclination for romance **b** marked by or constituting strong feeling, esp love [F *romantique*, fr obs F *romant* romance, fr OF *romans*] – **romantically** *adv*
- 'romantic** *n* 1 a romantic person 2 *cap* a romantic writer, artist, or composer
- romanticism** /rɒh'mæntɪsɪz(ə)m, rə-/ *n*, *often cap* (adherence to) a chiefly late 18th- and early 19th-c literary, artistic, and philosophical movement that reacted against neoclassicism by emphasizing individual aspirations, nature, the emotions, and the remote and exotic – **romanticist** *n*, *often cap*
- romantic-ize**, **-ise** /rɒh'mæntɪsɪz, rə-/ *vt* to give a romantic character to ~ *vi* 1 to hold romantic ideas 2 to present incidents or people in a (misleadingly) romantic way – **romanticization** /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- Romany** /rɒ'mɑːni/ *n* 1 GIPSY 1 2 the Indic language of the Gypsies [Romany *romani*, adj, gypsy, fr *rom* gypsy man, fr Skt *domba* man of a low caste of musicians] – **Romany** *adj*
- 'Romeo** /rɒh'miː, -mɪj/ *n*, *pl* Romeos a romantic male lover [Romeo, hero of the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare †1616 E poet & dramatist]
- 'Romeo** – a communications code word for the letter *r*
- Romish** /rɒh'mɪʃ/ *adj* ROMAN CATHOLIC – chiefly derog
- 'romp** /rɒmp/ *n* 1 boisterous or bawdy entertainment or play 2 an effortless winning pace [partly alter of 'ramp (act of rearing or raging), partly alter of *ramp* (bold woman), fr ME *rampe*, perh fr *rampen* to ramp, rage]
- 'romp** *vi* 1 to play in a boisterous manner 2 to win easily [alter of *ramp* (to rear, rage, climb) – more at RAMPAGE]
- romper** /rɒmpə/, 'romper, *suit* *n* a 1-piece child's garment combining a top or bib and short trousers – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning [ROMP -ER]
- rondavel** /rɒndaːvel, rɒndahvəl/ *n*, SAfr a circular 1-roomed hut in the grounds of a house, used as a guest room or for storage [Afrik *rondavel*]
- rondeau** /rɒndoh/ *n*, *pl* rondeaux /rɒndoh(z)/ (a poem in) a form of verse using only 2 rhymes, in which the opening words of the first line are used as a refrain [MF *rondel*, *rondeau*]
- rondel** /rɒndl/ *n* 1 (a poem in) a particular form of rondeau 2 RONDELLE 1 [ME *rondel*, *rondelle*, fr OF, lit., small circle – more at ROUNDEL]
- rondelle** /rɒndel/ *n* 1 a circular object 2 RONDEL 1
- rondo** /rɒndoh/ *n*, *pl* rondos an instrumental composition, esp a movement in a concerto or sonata, typically having a refrain or recurring theme [It *rondo*, fr MF *rondeau*]
- Roneo** /rɒh'nɪoh/ *trademark* – used for a duplicating machine that uses stencils
- röntgen**, **roentgen**, **rontgen** /rɒntˈɡen, 'rentˈɡen, -jən (Ger *röntgen*) / *n* a unit of ionizing radiation equal to the amount that produces ions of 1 sign carrying a charge of 2.58x10<sup>4</sup> coulomb in 1 kg of air [ISV, fr Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen †1923 G chemist]
- rontgenogram**, **roentgenogram**, **rontgenogram** /rɒntˈɡenɒɡrəm, rent-, -jə-/ *n* an X-ray photograph [ISV]
- röntgenograph**, **roentgenograph**, **rontgenograph** /-ˈɡraːf, -ˈɡraf/ *n* a rontgenogram – **rontgenographic** /-ˈɡrafɪk/ *adj*, **rontgenographically** *adv*, **rontgenography** /-ˈnɒɡrəfi/ *n*
- röntgenology**, **roentgenology**, **rontgenology** /rɒntˈɡenɒləːdʒi, rent-, -jə-/ *n* radiology dealing with the use of X rays for diagnosis or treatment of disease [ISV] – **rontgenologic** /-nɒˈləːdʒɪk/, **rontgenological** *adj*, **rontgenologically** *adv*, **rontgenologist** /-nɒləːdʒɪst/ *n*
- roo** /rooh/ *n*, *pl* roos, esp collectively roo Austr a kangaroo – *infmt*
- rood** /roohd/ *n* 1 a cross, crucifix, *specif* a large crucifix on a beam or screen at the entrance to the chancel of a medieval church  CHURCH 2 a British unit of land area equal to ¼ acre (about 1011m<sup>2</sup>)  UNIT [ME, fr OE *rod* rod, rood, akin to OHG *ruota* rod, OSlav *ratšite* shaft of a lance]
- 'roof** /roohf/ *n*, *pl* roofs also rooves /roohvz/ 1a the upper usu rigid cover of a building  ARCHITECTURE **b** a dwelling, home *<why not... share the same ~ - Virginia Woolf>* 2a the highest point or level **b** sthg resembling a roof in form or function 3 the vaulted or covering part of the mouth, skull, etc [ME, fr OE *hrof*; akin to ON *hrof* roof of a boathouse, OSlav *stropŭ* roof] – **roofed** *adj*, **roofless** *adj*, **rooflike** *adj*, **roofing** *n*
- 'roof** *vt* 1 to cover (as if) with a roof 2 to serve as a roof over
- 'roof, top** /-ˌtɒp/ *n* the outer surface of a usu flat roof
- 'roof, tree** /-ˌtriː/ *n* a ridgepiece
- 'rook** /rook/ *n* a common Old World social bird similar to the related

carion crow but having a bare grey face [ME, fr OE *hrōc*; akin to OE *hræfn* raven – more at **RAVEN**]

**\*rook** *vt* to defraud by cheating (e.g. at cards) – *infrml* [rook, *n* (cheat, swindler), fr *'rook*]

**\*rook** *n* either of 2 pieces of each colour in a set of chessmen having the power to move along the ranks or files across any number of consecutive unoccupied squares [ME *rok*, fr MF *roc*, fr Ar *rukhh*, fr Per]

**rookery** /'rookəri/ *n* 1a (the nests, usu built in the upper branches of trees, of) a colony of rooks b (a breeding ground or haunt of) a colony of penguins, seals, etc 2 a crowded dilapidated tenement or maze of dwellings

**rookie** /'rooki/ *n* a recruit, also, chiefly *NAM* a novice [alter of *recruit*]

**\*room** /'roohm, room/ *n* 1 an extent of space occupied by, or sufficient or available for, sthg 2a a partitioned part of the inside of a building b such a part used as a separate lodging – often pl 3 suitable or fit occasion, opportunity + *for* (< *for improvement*) [ME, fr OE *rūm*, akin to OHG *rūm* room, L *rus*, *rus* open land]

**\*room** /'roohm/ *vt* to accommodate with lodgings ~ *vi*, *NAM* to occupy a room; lodge

**roomed** /'roohmd, roomd/ *adj* containing rooms – usu in combination (< a 6-roomed house)

**roomer** /'roohmɔ/ *n*, *NAM* a lodger

**roommate** /'roohm, mayt, 'room-/ *n* any of 2 or more people sharing the same room (e.g. in a university hall)

**\*room service** *n* the facility by which a hotel guest can have food, drinks, etc brought to his/her room

**roomy** /'roohmi/ *adj* spacious – *roominess* *n*

**\*roost** /'roohst/ *n* 1 a support or place where birds roost 2 a group of birds roosting together [ME, fr OE *hrōst*, akin to MD *roest* roost, OSlav *krada* pile of wood]

**\*roost** *vi*, esp of a bird to settle down for rest or sleep; perch

**rooster** /'roohstɔ/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* cock 1a

**\*root** /'rooh/ *n* 1a the (underground) part of a flowering plant that usu anchors and supports it and absorbs and stores food b a (fleshy and edible) root, bulb, tuber, or other underground plant part 2a the end of a nerve i.e. the brain and spinal cord b the part of a tooth, hair, the tongue, etc by which it is attached to the body 3a sthg that is an underlying cause or basis (e.g. of a condition or quality) b one or more progenitors of a group of descendants c the essential core, the heart d *pl* a feeling of belonging established through close familiarity or family ties with a particular place (< *the need for ~s*) (< *~s in Scotland*) 4a a number which produces a given number when taken an indicated number of times as a factor (< *2 is a fourth ~ of 16*) ~ *SYMBOL* b a number that reduces an equation to an identity when it is substituted for 1 variable 5a the lower part; the base b the part by which an object is attached to or embedded in sthg else 6 the basis from which a word is derived 7 the tone from whose overtones a chord is composed, the lowest note of a chord in normal position [ME, fr OE *rot*, fr ON; akin to OE *wyr* root, L *radix*, Gk *rhiza*] – *rooted* *adj*, *rootedness* *n*, *rootless* *adj*, *rootlet* *n*, *rootlike* *adj*, *rooty* *adj*

**\*root** *vt* 1 to give or enable to develop roots 2 to fix or implant (as if) by roots ~ *vi* 1 to grow roots or take root 2 to have an origin or base

**\*root** *vi* 1 esp of a pig to dig with the snout 2 to poke or dig about in, search (unsystematically) for sthg [ME *wroten*, fr OE *wrōtan*; akin to OHG *ruozzan* to root]

**\*root** *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to lend vociferous or enthusiastic support to sb or sthg – + *for* [perh alter. of *roul* (to bellow), fr ME *rowten*, fr ON *rauta*] – *rooter* *n*

**rootage** /'roothi/ *n* a developed system of roots

**root and branch** *adv* so as to leave no remnant; completely – *root-and-branch* *adj*

**\*root cap** *n* a protective cap of cells that covers the growing point at the end of most root tips

**\*root crop** *n* a crop (e.g. turnips or sugar beet) grown for its enlarged roots

**rootle** /'roohlt/ *vi* *rootling* /'roohltɪŋ/ *Br* 'root [freq of 'root]

**root-mean-square** *n* the square root of the arithmetic mean of the squares of a set of numbers

**root out** *vt* 1 to discover or cause to emerge by rooting 2 to get rid of or destroy completely

**\*rootstock** /-stɒk/ *n* 1 an underground plant part formed from several stems 2 a stock for grafting consisting of (a piece of) root; broadly stock 2b, 4

**\*rope** /'rohp/ *n* 1a a strong thick cord composed of strands of fibres or wire twisted or braided together b a long slender strip of material (used) like rope c a hangman's noose 2 a row or string consisting of things united (as if) by braiding, twining, or threading 3 *pl* special methods or procedures [ME, fr OE *rāp*; akin to OHG *raif* hoop]

**\*rope** *vi* 1a to bind, fasten, or tie with a rope b to enclose, separate, or divide by a rope c to connect (a party of climbers) with a rope 2 to enlist (sb) reluctant in a group or activity 3 *NAM* to lasso ~ *vi* to put on a rope for climbing; also to climb down or up – *roper* *n*

**\*rope dancer** /-,dahnsɔ/ *n* one who dances, walks, or performs acrobatic feats on a rope high in the air – *ropedancing* *n*

**rope ladder** *n* a ladder having rope sides and rope, wood, or metal rungs

**\*rope walk** /-,wawk/ *n* a long covered area where ropes are made

**\*rope walker** /-,wawkɔ/ *n* an acrobat who walks along a rope high in the air

**\*rope way** /-,way/ *n* an endless aerial cable moved by a stationary engine and used to transport goods (e.g. logs and ore)

**ropy**, **ropey** /'rohpɪ/ *adj* 1a capable of being drawn out into a thread b gelatinous or slimy from bacterial or fungal contamination (< *milk*) (< *flour*) 2 like rope in texture or appearance 3 *Br* a of poor quality, shoddy b somewhat unwell *USE* (3) *infrml* – *ropiness* *n*

**Roquefort** /'rɒk(ə)faw, (Fr *rɔkfɔr*) / *trademark* – used for a strong-flavoured crumbly French cheese with bluish green veins, made from the curds of ewes' milk

**\*roquet** /'rohkɪ/ *vt*, of a croquet ball or the player who strikes it to hit (another ball) [prob alter of *croquet*]

**\*roquet** *n* an act or instance of roqueting

**rorqual** /'rɔkwəl/ *n* any of a genus of large whalebone whales (e.g. a fin whale) having the skin of the throat marked with deep longitudinal furrows [F, fr Norw *rørhval*, fr ON *reytharhvalr*, fr *reythr* rorqual + *hvalr* whale]

**Rorschach** /'rɔʃ,shahk/ *adj* of, used in connection with, or resulting from the Rorschach test

**\*Rorschach test** *n* a personality test based on the interpretation of sb's reactions to a set of standard inkblot designs [Hermann Rorschach †1922 Swiss psychiatrist]

**rosaceous** /'rɒh'zayʃəs/ *adj* of or belonging to the rose family [deriv of L *rosa*]

**rosaniline** /'rɒh'zanɪlɪn, -lɪn, -leen/ *n* 1 an organic chemical compound from which many dyes are derived 2 fuchsine [L *rosa* rose + ISV *aniline*]

**rosary** /'rɒh'z(ə)rɪ/ *n* a string of beads used in counting prayers [ML *rosarium*, fr L, rose garden, fr neut of *rosarius* of roses, fr *rosa* rose]

**\*rose** /'rɒh'z/ *past* of *rise*

**\*rose** *n* 1 (the showy often double flower of) any of a genus of widely cultivated usu prickly shrubs 2a COMPASS CARD b (the form of) a gem, esp a diamond, with a flat base and triangular facets rising to a point c a perforated outlet for water (e.g. from a shower or watering can) d an electrical fitting that anchors the flex of a suspended light bulb to a ceiling 3 a pale to dark pinkish colour [ME, fr OE, fr L *rosa*] – *roselike* *adj*

**\*rose** *adj* 1a of, containing, or used for roses b flavoured, sweetly scented, or coloured with or like roses 2 of the colour rose

**rosé** /'rɒh'zɪ, -/ *n* a light pink table wine made from red grapes by removing the skins after fermentation has begun [F, fr *rosé* pink, fr OF, fr *rose* rose, fr L *rosa*]

**roseate** /'rɒh'zɪ-ət/ *adj* 1 resembling a rose, esp in colour 2 marked by unrealistic optimism [L *roseus* rosy, fr *rosa*] – *roseately* *adv*

**roseate** *tern* *n* a graceful tern with a deeply forked tail

**rosebay willowherb** /'rɒh'zbay 'wɪləh,huhb/ *a* a tall Eurasian and N American perennial plant of the evening primrose family with long spikes of pinkish purple flowers

**rosebud** /'rɒh'z,bud/ *n* the bud of a rose

**\*rose bush** /-,boosh/ *n* a shrubby rose plant

**\*rose chafer** /'tʃayfɔ/ *n* a metallic green European beetle that feeds on (rose) leaves and flowers as an adult

**\*rose-coloured** *adj* representing a person, situation, etc in an overoptimistic light

**rosella** /'rɒh'zela/ *n* 1 any of several brightly coloured parakeets 2 *Austr* a sheep that has shed most of its wool [irreg fr *Rosehill*, district of SE Australia]

**rose mallow** *n* 1 any of several hibiscuses with large rose-coloured flowers 2 a hollyhock

**rosemary** /'rɒh'zməri/ *n* a fragrant shrubby Eurasian plant used as a



- cooking herb [ME *rosmarine*, fr L *rosmarinus*, fr *ror-*, *ros* dew + *marinus* of the sea – more at MARINE]
- roseola** /roh'zee-ala/ *n* (German measles or a similar virus disease, esp of children, accompanied by) a rash of pink spots [NL, fr L *roseus* rosy, fr *rosa* rose] – **roseolar** *adj*
- rosette** /roh'zet, rə-/ *n* 1 an ornament usu made of material gathered so as to resemble a rose and worn as a badge, trophy, or trimming 2 a stylized carved or moulded rose used as a decorative motif in architecture 3 a rosette-shaped structure or marking on an animal 4 a cluster of leaves, in crowded circles or spirals (e.g. in the dandelion) [F, lit., small rose, fr OF, fr *rose*, fr L *rosa*]
- rose window** *n* a circular window filled with tracery radiating from its centre  ARCHITECTURE
- 'rosewood** /-,wood/ *n* (any of various esp leguminous tropical trees yielding) a valuable dark red or purplish wood, streaked and variegated with black
- Rosh Hashanah** /rosh ha'shahna, -'sha-/ *n* the Jewish New Year [LHeb *rosh hashshanan*, lit., beginning of the year]
- Rosicrucian** /,rohzi'kroohsh(y)ən/ *n* an adherent or member of an organization held to derive from a 17th- and 18th-c movement devoted to occult or esoteric wisdom [Christian *Rosenkreutz* (NL *Rosa Crucis*) reputed 15th-c founder of the movement] – **Rosicrucianism** *n*
- 'rosin** /'rozin/ *n* a translucent resin that is the residue from the distillation of turpentine and is used esp in making varnish and soldering flux and for rubbing on violin bows [ME, modif of MF *resine* resin]
- 'rosin** *vt* to rub or treat (e.g. the bow of a violin) with rosin
- rostellum** /ro'steləm/ *n* a small beaklike body part, a small rostrum [NL, fr L, dim. of *rostrum* beak] – **rostellar** *adj*
- roster** /'rosta/ *n* 1 a list or register giving the order in which personnel are to perform a duty, go on leave, etc 2 an itemized list [D *rooster*, lit., gridiron, fr the parallel lines]
- rostrum** /'rostrəm/ *n*, *pl* **rostrums**, **rostra** /'rostra/ 1a a stage for public speaking b a raised platform (on a stage) 2 a body part (e.g. an insect's snout or beak) shaped like a bird's bill [L, beak, ship's beak, fr *rodere* to gnaw – more at RAT, (1) L *Rostra* (pl), a stage in Rome ornamented with paws of captured ships] – **rostral** *adj*
- rosy** /'rozi/ *adj* 1a ROSE 2b having a rosy complexion – often in combination (rosy-cheeked youngsters) 2 characterized by or encouraging optimism – **rosily** *adv*, **rosiness** *n*
- 'rot** /rot/ *vb* -*tt*-*vi* 1a to undergo decomposition, esp from the action of bacteria or fungi – often + *down* b to become unsound or weak (e.g. from chemical or water action) 2a to go to ruin b to become morally corrupt ~ *vt* to cause to decompose or deteriorate [ME *roten*, fr OE *rotian*, akin to OHG *rozzen* to rot, L *rudus* rubble – more at RUDE]
- 'rot** *n* 1 (sthg) rotting or being rotten, decay 2 any of several plant or animal diseases, esp of sheep, with breakdown and death of tissues 3 nonsense, rubbish – often used interjectionally
- rota** /'rohta/ *n*, chiefly **Br** 1 a list specifying a fixed order of rotation (e.g. of people or duties) 2 an ordered succession [L, wheel – more at ROT]
- Rotarian** /roh'teəriən/ *n* a member of a Rotary Club
- 'rotary** /'roht(a)ri/ *adj* 1a turning on an axis like a wheel b proceeding about an axis (~ *motion*) 2a having a principal part that turns on an axis 3 characterized by rotation 4 of or being a printing press using a rotating curved printing surface [ML *rotarius*, fr L *rota* wheel]
- 'rotary** *n* 1a rotary machine 2 **NAm** a roundabout
- 'Rotary Club** *n* an organization of business and professional men devoted to serving the community and advancing world peace
- rotary 'cultivator** *n* a machine with rapidly revolving blades or claws for tilling or breaking up the soil
- 'rotate** /'rohtayt/ *adj*, of a flower with petals or sepals radiating like the spokes of a wheel [L *rota*]
- 'rotate** /roh'tayt/ *vi* 1 to turn about an axis or a centre; revolve 2a to take turns at performing an act or operation b to perform an ordered series of actions or functions ~ *vt* 1 to cause to turn about an axis or centre 2 to order in a recurring sequence [L *rotatus*, pp of *rotare*, fr *rota* wheel – more at ROLL] – **rotatable** *adj*, **rotative** /'rohtativ/ *adj*, **rotatory** /'rohtat(a)ri, roh'tayt(a)ri/ *adj*
- rotation** /roh'taysh(a)n/ *n* 1a(1) a rotating or being rotated (as if) on an axis or centre (2) the act or an instance of rotating sthg b one complete turn; the angular displacement required to return a rotating body or figure to its original orientation 2a recurrence in a regular series b the growing of different crops in succession in 1 field, usu in a regular sequence 3 the turning of a limb about its long axis – **rotational** *adj*
- rote** /roht/ *n* the mechanical use of the memory [ME]
- rotgut** /'rotgut/ *n* spirits of low quality – **infrml**
- roti** /'rohti/ *n*, *pl* **roti** a flat cake of unleavened bread [Hindi]
- rotifer** /'rohtifa/ *n* any of a class or phylum of minute aquatic invertebrate animals with circles of cilia at the front that look like rapidly revolving wheels [deriv of L *rota* + *-fer*]
- rotisserie** /roh'tisəri, -'tee-/ *n* 1 a restaurant specializing in roast and barbecued meats 2 an appliance fitted with a spit on which food is cooked [F *rôtisserie*, fr MF *rostisserie*, fr *rostr* to roast – more at ROAST]
- rotor** /'rohta/ *n* 1 a part that revolves in a machine; esp the rotating member of an electrical machine 2 a complete system of more or less horizontal blades that supplies (nearly) all the force supporting an aircraft (e.g. a helicopter) in flight [contr of *rotator*, fr 'rotate + *-or*]
- rotovator** /'rohta,vaya/ *n* ROTARY CULTIVATOR [alter. of *rotavator*, fr *rotary* cultivator] – **rotovate** /-,vayt/ *vb*
- rotten** /'rot(a)n/ *adj* 1 having rotted, putrid 2 morally or politically corrupt 3 extremely unpleasant or inferior 4 marked by illness, discomfort, or unsoundness **USE** (3, 4) **infrml** [ME *roten*, fr ON *rotunn*; akin to OE *rotian* to rot] – **rottenly** *adv*, **rotteness** *n*
- rotten borough** *n* an election district with very few voters – used esp of certain English constituencies before 1832
- 'rotten,stone** /-,stəhn/ *n* a much weathered limestone rich in silica, used for polishing
- rotter** /'rota/ *n* a thoroughly objectionable person – often humor
- rotund** /roh'tund/ *adj* 1 rounded 2 high-flown or sonorous 3 markedly plump [L *rotundus* – more at ROUND] – **rotundity** /-diti/ *n*, **rotundly** *adv*, **rotundness** *n*
- rotunda** /roh'tunda/ *n* a round building, esp one covered by a dome [It *rotonda*, fr L *rotunda*, fem of *rotundus*]
- roturier** /roh'tyooəri,ay/ *n* a member of the common people [MF]
- rouble**, **ruble** /'roohbl/ *n*  Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at NATIONALITY [Russ *rubl*]
- roué** /'rooh ay/ *n* a debauched man, esp one past his prime [F, lit., broken on the wheel, fr pp of *rouer* to break on the wheel, fr ML *rotare*, fr L, to rotate, fr an implication that such a person deserves this punishment]
- 'rouge** /'roohzh/ *n* 1 a red cosmetic, esp for the cheeks 2 ferric oxide as a red powder, used as a pigment and in polishing glass, metal, or gems [F, fr MF, fr *rouge* red, fr L *rubeus* reddish – more at RUBY]
- 'rouge** *vi* to apply rouge to
- 'rough** /ruf/ *adj* 1 having an irregular or uneven surface e.g. a not smooth b covered with or made up of coarse hair c covered with boulders, bushes, etc 2a turbulent, stormy b(1) harsh, violent (2) requiring strenuous effort (<had a ~ day>) (3) unfortunate and hard to bear – often + *on* (<it's rather ~ on his wife>) 3 coarse or rugged in character or appearance e.g. a harsh to the ear b crude in style or expression c ill-mannered, uncouth 4a crude, unfinished b executed hastily or approximately (<a ~ draft>) 5 **Br** poorly or exhausted, esp through lack of sleep or heavy drinking – **infrml** [ME, fr OE *rūh*, akin to L *ruga* wrinkle, Gk *oryssein* to dig, ON *rogg* tuft – more at RUG] – **roughish** *adj*, **roughness** *n*
- 'rough** *n* 1 uneven ground covered with high grass, brush, and stones, specif such ground bordering a golf fairway 2 the rugged or disagreeable side or aspect 3a sthg, esp written or illustrated, in a crude or preliminary state b broad outline c a quick preliminary drawing or layout 4 a hooligan, ruffian
- 'rough** *adv*, chiefly **Br** in want of material comforts, without proper lodging – esp in *live/sleep rough*
- 'rough** *vt* to roughen – **rough** *it* to live in uncomfortable or primitive conditions
- roughage** /'rufij/ *n* coarse bulky food (e.g. bran) that is relatively high in fibre and low in digestible nutrients and that by its bulk stimulates intestinal peristalsis
- rough-and-ready** *adj* crudely or hastily constructed or conceived, makeshift
- rough-and-tumble** *n* disorderly unrestrained fighting or struggling – **rough-and-tumble** *adj*
- 'roughcast** /'ruf,kahst/ *n* a plaster of lime mixed with shells or pebbles used for covering buildings
- 'roughcast** *vt* **roughcast** to plaster with roughcast
- rough 'diamond** *n* sby without social graces but of an upright or amiable nature
- rough-dry** *vt* to dry (laundry) without ironing or pressing – **rough-dry** *adj*
- roughen** /'ruf(a)n/ *vb* to make or become (more) rough
- rough-hew** *vt* **rough-hewn** 1 to hew (e.g. timber) coarsely without smoothing or finishing 2 to form crudely

**rough-hewn** *adj* 1 in a rough or unfinished state 2 lacking refinement

**roughhouse** /ˈrʊf.həʊz/ *n* an instance of brawling or excessively boisterous play – *infrml* – **roughhouse** *vi*

**roughly** /ˈrʊfli/ *adv* 1a with insolence or violence b in primitive fashion, crudely 2 without claim to completeness or exactness [ˈrʊf.həʊ + ɪ-ly]

**roughneck** /ˈrʊf.nek/ *n* 1 a worker who handles the heavy drilling equipment of an oil rig 2 *NAm* a ruffian, tough

**rough out** *vt* 1 to shape or plan in a preliminary way 2 to outline

**roughshod** /ˈrʊf.shod, ɪ-/ *adv* forcefully and without justice or consideration

**rough shooting** *n* the sport of shooting game (e.g. pigeons or rabbits) on unprepared ground with no beaters

**rough stuff** *n* violent behaviour, violence – *infrml*

**rough up** *vt* to beat up – *infrml*

**roulade** /ˈrʊə.ləhd/ *n* an elaborate vocal embellishment sung to 1 syllable [F, lit., act. of rolling]

**rouleau** /ˈrʊə.loʊ, n, pl **rouleaux** /ˈrʊə.loʊ(z)/ 1 a little roll; esp a roll of coins in paper 2 a decorative piping or rolled strip used esp as a trimming [F]

**rouleau** *adj* made from or provided with a rouleau

**roulette** /ˈrʊə.let, roo-/ *n* 1 a gambling game in which players bet on which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball will come to rest in 2 any of various toothed wheels or discs (e.g. for producing rows of dots on engraved plates or for perforating paper) [F, lit., small wheel, fr OF *rolete*, dim. of *rocle* small wheel, fr LL *rotella*, dim. of L *rota* wheel more at **ROLL**]

**Romanian** /roʊˈmaɪ.nən, ro-, rə-, -ni-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a) Romanian

**round** /raʊnd/ *adj* 1a(1) having every part of the surface or circumference equidistant from the centre (2) cylindrical <a ~ peg> b approximately round <a ~ face> 2 well filled out, plump <~ cheeks> 3a complete, full <a ~ dozen> b approximately correct, esp exact only to a specific decimal c substantial in amount <a good ~ sum> 4 direct in expression <a ~ oath> 5a moving in or forming a ring or circle b following a roughly circular route <a ~ tour of the Cotswolds> 6 presented with lifelike fullness 7a having full resonance or tone b pronounced with rounded lips, labialized 8 of handwriting not angular, curved [ME, fr OF *roont*, fr L *rotundus*; akin to L *rota* wheel – more at **ROLL**] – **roundness** *n*

**round** *adv* 1a in a circular or curved path b with revolving or rotating motion <wheels go ~> c in circumference <a tree 5 feet ~> d in, along, or through a circuitous or indirect route <the road goes ~ by the lake> e in an encircling position <a field with a fence all ~> 2a in close from all sides so as to surround <the children crowded ~> b near, about c here and there in various places 3a in rotation or recurrence <your birthday will soon be ~ again> b from beginning to end, through <all the year ~> c(1) in or to the other or a specified direction <turn ~> <talk her ~> (2) to 4 (3) in the specified order or relationship <got the story the wrong way ~> 4 about, approximately <~ 1900> 5 to a particular person or place <invite them ~ for drinks> – **round about** 1 approximately; MORE OR LESS 2 in a ring round; on all sides of

**round** *prep* 1a so as to revolve or progress about (a centre) b so as to encircle or enclose <seated ~ the table> c so as to avoid or get past, beyond the obstacle of <got ~ his objections> <lives just ~ the corner> d near to; about 2a in all directions outwards from <looked ~ her> b here and there in or throughout <travel ~ Europe> 3 so as to have a centre or basis in <a movement organized ~ the idea of service> 4 continuously during; throughout

**round** *n* 1a sth round (e.g. a circle, curve, or ring) b a circle of people or things 2 a musical canon sung in unison in which each part is continuously repeated 3 a rung of a ladder or chair 4a a circling or circuitous path or course b motion in a circle or a curving path 5a a route or assigned territory habitually traversed (e.g. by a milkman or policeman) b a series of visits made by (1) a general practitioner to patients in their homes (2) a hospital doctor to the patients under his/her care c a series of customary social calls <doing the ~s of her friends> 6 a set of usu alcoholic drinks served at 1 time to each person in a group 7 a recurring sequence of actions or events <a ~ of talks> 8 a period of time that recurs in fixed succession <the daily ~> 9 a unit of ammunition consisting of the parts necessary to fire 1 shot 10a any of a series of units of action in a game or sport (e.g. covering a prescribed time) b a division of a tournament in which each contestant plays 1 other 11 a prolonged burst (e.g. of applause) 12a a cut of beef between the rump and the lower leg MEAT b a single slice of bread or toast; also a sandwich made with

2 whole slices of bread 13 a rounded or curved part *USE* (5b, c) usu pl with sing. meaning – in the **round** 1 in full sculptured form unattached to a background 2 with a centre stage surrounded by an audience <theatre in the round>

**round** *vt* 1a to make round or rounded b(1) to make (the lips) round and protruded (2) to produce (e.g. the vowel /ooʊ/) with rounded lips, labialize 2 to go round (e.g. a bend, corner) <the ship ~ ed the headland> 3 to encircle, encompass 4 to bring to completion or perfection – often + *off* or *out* 5 to express as a round number – often + *off*, *up*, or *down* <11 3572 ~ ed off to 3 decimal places becomes 11 357> ~ *vi* 1a to become round, plump, or smooth in outline b to reach fullness or completion – usu + *off* or *out* 2 to follow a winding or circular course <~ ing into the home stretch> – **round on** to turn against and attack, esp to suddenly scold

**roundabout** /ˈraʊn.də.bəʊt/ *n*, *Br* 1 a merry-go-round, also a rotatable platform that is an amusement in a children's playground 2 a road junction formed round a central island about which traffic moves in 1 direction only, also a paved or planted circle in the middle of this

**roundabout** *adj* circuitous, indirect – **roundaboutness** *n*

**round bracket** *n*, chiefly *Br* PARENTHESIS 1b

**round dance** *n* 1 a folk dance in which participants form a ring 2 a ballroom dance in which couples progress round the room

**rounded** /ˈraʊndɪd/ *adj* 1 made round, smoothly curved 2 fully developed, mature – **roundedness** *n*

**roundel** /ˈraʊndl/ *n* 1 a round figure or object e.g. a circular panel, window, etc b a circular mark identifying the nationality of an aircraft, esp a warplane 2 (an English modification of) the rondeau [ME, fr OF *rondelet*, fr *roont* round – more at **ROUND**]

**roundelay** /ˈraʊndɪ.ləɪ/ *n* 1 a simple song with a refrain 2 a poem with a refrain recurring frequently or at fixed intervals [modif. of MF *rondelet*, dim. of *rondelet*]

**rounder** /ˈraʊndə/ *n* 1 pl *but sing. in constr.* a game with bat and ball that resembles baseball 2 a boxing or wrestling match lasting a specified number of rounds <a 10-rounder> [ˈraʊnd + -er]

**Roundhead** /ˈraʊnd.hed/ *n* an adherent of Parliament in its contest with Charles I [fr the short-cropped hair of some of the Parliamentarians]

**roundheaded** /ˈraʊndˈhedɪd/ *adj* brachycephalic

**roundhouse** /ˈraʊnd.həʊz/ *n* 1 a cabin or apartment on the after part of a quarterdeck 2 chiefly *NAm* a circular building for housing and repairing locomotives

**roundly** /ˈraʊndli/ *adv* 1 in a round or circular form or manner 2 in a blunt or severe manner <~ rebuked him>

**round robin** *n* 1 a written petition or protest, esp one on which the signatures are arranged in a circle so that no name heads the list 2 a tournament in which every contestant plays every other contestant in turn [prob fr the name *Robin*]

**round-shouldered** *adj* having stooping or rounded shoulders

**roundsman** /ˈraʊndz.mən/ *n* sby (e.g. a milkman) who takes, orders, sells, or delivers goods on an assigned route

**round table** *n* a meeting or conference of several people on equal terms – **round-table** *adj*

**round-the-clock** *adj* lasting or continuing 24 hours a day; constant

**round trip** *n* a trip to a place and back, usu over the same route

**round up** /-ʊp/ *n* 1a the collecting in of cattle by riding round them and driving them b a gathering in of scattered people or things 2 a summary of information (e.g. from news bulletins)

**round up** *vt* 1 to collect (cattle) by a roundup 2 to gather in or bring together from various quarters

**roundworm** /-ˌwɜːm/ *n* a nematode

**roup** /roʊhp/ *n* a virus disease of poultry in which soft whitish lesions form on the mouth, throat, and eyes [origin unknown]

**rouse** /raʊz/ *vi* 1 to become aroused 2 to become stirred ~ *vt* 1 to stir up; provoke 2 to arouse from sleep or apathy [ME *rousen*]

**rousing** /ˈraʊzɪŋ/ *adj* giving rise to enthusiasm; stirring

**roustabout** /ˈraʊstə.bəʊt/ *n*, *Br* 1 a deck hand or docker 2 an unskilled or semiskilled labourer, esp in an oil field or refinery [roust (to rouse roughly), alter. of *rouse*]

**route** /raʊt/ *n* 1 a disorderly crowd of people; a mob 2 archaic a fashionable social gathering [ME *route*, fr MF, troop, defeat, fr (assumed) VL *rupta*, fr L, fem. of *ruptus*, pp of *rumpere* to break – more at **BEHAVE**]

**route vi** *ROOT* 1 ~ *vt* to gouge out or make a furrow in [alter. of 'root']

- ³rout** *n* 1 a state of wild confusion, *specif* a confused retreat; headlong flight 2 a disastrous defeat [MF *route* troop, defeat]
- ⁴route** *vt* 1 to disorganize completely, wreak havoc among 2 to put to headlong flight 3 to defeat decisively or disastrously
- ¹route** /roʊt/ *n* 1a a regularly travelled way (<the trunk ~ north>) b a means of access 2 a line of travel 3 an itinerary [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *rupta* (via), lit, broken way, fr L *rupta*, fem of *ruptus*, pp]
- ²route** *vt* 1 to send by a selected route; direct 2 to divert in a specified direction
- ¹route,man** /-ˌman/ *n*, *NAm* a roundsman
- ¹route, march** *n* a usu long and tiring march, esp as military training
- ¹routine** /roʊtˈiːn/ *n* 1a a regular course of procedure b habitual or mechanical performance of an established procedure 2 a fixed piece of entertainment often repeated <a dance ~> 3 a particular sequence of computer instructions for carrying out a given task [F, fr MF, fr *route* travelled way]
- ²routine** *adj* 1 commonplace or repetitious in character 2 of or in accordance with established procedure – *routinely* *adv*
- route out** /roʊt/ *vt* ROOT OUT
- roux** /roʊ/ *n*, *pl* **roux** /roʊ(z)/ a cooked mixture of fat and flour used as a thickening agent in a sauce [F, fr (*beurre*) *roux* browned (butter)]
- ¹rove** /roʊv/ *vb* to wander aimlessly or idly (through or over) [ME *roven* to shoot at rovers (random targets in archery)]
- ²rove** *past* of RIEVE
- ²rove** *vt* to join (textile fibres) with a slight twist and draw out into roving [origin unknown]
- ¹rove** *n* roving
- ¹rove, beetle** *n* an; -f numerous often predatory long-bodied beetles [perh fr 'rove]
- ¹rover** /roʊvə/ *n* a pirate [ME, fr MD, fr *roven* to rob, akin to OE *reafian* to plunder]
- ²rover** *n* a wanderer [ME, random target in archery, wanderer, fr *roven* to shoot at random, wander]
- ¹roving** /roʊvɪŋ/ *adj* 1 not restricted as to location or area of concern 2 inclined to ramble or stray <a ~ fancy> ['rove]
- ²roving** *n* a slightly twisted roll or strand of textile fibres ['rove]
- ¹roving, eye** *n* promiscuous sexual interests ['roving]
- ¹row** /roʊ/ *vi* 1 to propel a boat by means of oars 2 to move (as if) by the propulsion of oars ~ *vt* 1a to propel (as if) with oars b to compete against in rowing 2 to transport in a boat propelled by oars 3 to occupy a specified position in a rowing crew [ME *rowen*, fr OE *rowan*, akin to MHG *rueten* to row, L *remus* oar] – *rower* *n*
- ²row** /roʊ/ *n* an act of rowing a boat
- ¹row** /roʊ/ *n* 1 a number of objects arranged in a (straight) line, *also* the line along which such objects are arranged 2 a way, street [MF *rawe*, akin to OE *reaw* row, OHG *riga* line, L *rima* slit] in a row one after another, successively
- ¹row** /roʊ/ *n* 1 a noisy quarrel or stormy dispute 2 excessive or unpleasant noise [origin unknown]
- ¹row** /roʊ/ *vi* to engage in quarrelling
- rowan** /roʊˈæn/ *n* (the red berry of) a small Eurasian tree of the rose family that bears flat clusters of white flowers [of Scand origin, akin to ON *reynir* rowan, akin to OE *read* red – more at RED]
- rowboat** /roʊˌboʊt/ *n* ROWING BOAT
- rowdy** /roʊdɪ/ *n* or *adj* (sby) coarse or boisterous [perh irreg fr 'row] – *rowdily* *adv*, *rowdiness* *n*, *rowdism* *n*
- rowel** /roʊˈəl/ *n* a revolving disc with sharp marginal points at the end of a spur [ME *rowelle*, fr MF *rouelle* small wheel, fr OF *roele* – more at ROULETTE]
- ¹rowing, boat** /roʊ-ɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* a small boat designed to be rowed
- rowlock** /roʊˈlɒk, *also* (not tech) 'roʊˌlɒk/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a device for holding an oar in place and providing a fulcrum for its action [prob alter -of oarlock]
- ¹royal** /roɪ(ə)/ *adj* 1a of monarchical ancestry (<the ~ family>) b of the crown (<the ~ estates>) c in the crown's service (Royal Air Force) 2 suitable for royalty; regal, magnificent 3 of superior size, magnitude, or quality 4 of or being a part of the rigging of a sailing ship next above the topgallant [ME *roial*, fr MF, fr L *regalis*, fr *reg-*, rex king; akin to OIr *ri* (gen *rig*) king, Skt *rajan*, L *regere* to rule – more at 'RIGHT] – *royally* *adv*
- ²royal** *n* 1 a stag of 8 years or more having antlers with at least 12 points 2 a royal sail or mast 3 a size of paper usu 25 x 20in (635 x 508mm) 4 sby of royal blood – *infml*
- ¹Royal Assent** *n* the formal ratification of a parliamentary bill by a British sovereign  1AW
- royal blue** *adj* or *n* rich purplish blue
- ¹Royal Commission** *n* a committee of inquiry appointed by the Crown
- royal flush** *n* a straight flush having an ace as the highest card
- royalist** /roɪəlɪst/ *n*, *often cap* a supporter of a king or of monarchical government (e.g. a Cavalier) – *royalism* *n*, *royalist* *adj*
- royal jelly** *n* a highly nutritious secretion of the honeybee that is fed to the very young larvae and to all larvae that will develop into queens
- royal prerogative** *n* the constitutional rights of the monarch
- royal road** *n* the most direct way to a condition or object of study
- royalty** /roɪəlti/ *n* 1a royal sovereignty b a monetary benefit received by a sovereign (e.g. a percentage of minerals) 2 regal character or bearing 3a people of royal blood b a privileged class of a specified type 4 a right of jurisdiction granted by a sovereign 5a a share of the product or profit reserved by one who grants esp an oil or mining lease b a payment made to an author, composer, or inventor for each copy or example of his/her work sold [ME *roialte*, fr MF *roialté*, fr OF, fr *roial*]
- rozzier** /ˈroʊzɪə/ *n*, *Br* a policeman – slang [origin unknown]
- rrhagia** /-ˈræv(j)ə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) abnormal or excessive discharge or flow (<menorrhagia>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *rhegnynai* to break, burst, akin to OSlav *rězati* to cut]
- rrhiza** /-ˈrɪzə/ – see -RHIZA
- rrhoea**, chiefly *NAm* **rrhea** /-ˈrɪə/ *comb form* (→ *n*) flow, discharge (<leucorrhoea>) [ME -*ria*, fr LL -*rrhoea*, fr Gk -*rrhoia*, fr *rhoia*, fr *rhein* to flow – more at STREAM]
- ¹rub** /rʌb/ *vb* -bb- *vi* to move along a surface with pressure and friction ~ *vt* 1 to subject to pressure and friction, esp with a back-and-forth motion 2a to cause (a body) to move with pressure and friction along a surface b to treat in any of various ways by rubbing 3 to bring into reciprocal back-and-forth or rotary contact [ME *rubben*, akin to Icel *rubba* to scrape] – *rub shoulders* to associate closely, mingle socially – *rub the wrong way* to arouse the antagonism or displeasure of, irritate
- ²rub** *n* 1a an obstacle, difficulty – usu - *the* b sth grating to the feelings (e.g. a gibe or harsh criticism) 2 the application of friction and pressure
- rub along** *vi* 1 to continue coping in a trying situation 2 to remain on friendly terms
- rubato** /roʊˈbɑːtoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **rubatos** expressive fluctuation of speed within a musical phrase [It, pp of *rubare* to rob, of Gmc origin]
- ¹rubber** /rʌbə/ *n* 1a an instrument or object used in rubbing, polishing, or cleaning b *Br* a small piece of rubber or plastic used for rubbing out esp pencil marks on paper, card, etc 2 (any of various synthetic substances like) an elastic substance obtained by coagulating the milky juice of the rubber tree or other plant that is essentially a polymer of isoprene and is used, esp when toughened by chemical treatment, in car tyres, waterproof materials, etc 3 sth like or made of rubber e.g. a *NAm* a galosh b *NAm* a condom ['rʌb + -ER, (2) fr its use in erasers] – *rubber* *adj*, *rubbery* *adj*
- ²rubber** *n* a contest consisting of an odd number of games won by the side that takes a majority [origin unknown]
- rubber band** *n* a continuous band of rubber used for holding small objects together
- rubberize, -ise** /rʌbə-ɪz/ *vi* to coat or impregnate with (a solution of) rubber
- ¹rubberneck** /rʌbəˌnek/ *also* **rubbernecker** /-ˌneka/ *n*, *NAm* 1 an overinquisitive person 2 a tourist, sightseer; esp one on a guided tour *USE* derog
- ²rubberneck** *vi*, *NAm* 1 to show exaggerated curiosity – *infml* 2 to engage in sightseeing – *derog*
- ¹rubber, plant** *n* a tall Asian tree of the fig family frequently dwarfed and grown as an ornamental plant
- rubber-stamp** *vi* 1 to imprint with a rubber stamp 2 to approve, endorse, or dispose of as a matter of routine or at the dictate of another
- rubber stamp** *n* 1 a stamp of rubber for making imprints 2 sby who unthinkingly assents to the actions or policies of others 3 a routine endorsement or approval
- ¹rubber, tree** *n* a S American tree of the spurge family that is cultivated in plantations and is the chief source of rubber
- rubbing** /rʌbɪŋ/ *n* an image of a raised surface obtained by placing paper over it and rubbing the paper with charcoal, chalk, etc <a brass ~>
- ¹rubbish** /rʌbɪʃ/ *n* 1 worthless or rejected articles, trash 2 sth

worthless; NONSENSE 1a, b – often used interjectionally [ME *robys*] – *rubbiſhly* *adj*

<sup>1</sup>**rubbish** *vt* 1 to condemn as rubbish 2 to litter with rubbish  
**rubble** /'rubl/ *n* 1 broken fragments of building material (e.g. brick, stone, etc.) 2 rough broken stones or bricks used in coarse masonry or in filling courses of walls 3 rough stone from the quarry [ME *robyl*]

**rubdown** /'rub,daʊn/ *n* a brisk rubbing of the body

**rubefacient** /'roʊbɪ'fayʃ(ə)nt/ *n* a substance for external application that produces redness of the skin [L *rubefaciens*, *prp* of *rubefacere* to make red, *fr* *rubescere* reddish + *facere* to make – more at RUBY, DO] – *rubefacient* *adj*

**rubella** /'roʊbɪ'lə/ *n* GERMAN MEASLES [NL, *fr* L, fem of *rubellus* reddish, *fr* *rubens* red – more at RED]

**rubellite** /'roʊbɪ'lɪt/ *n* a pink-red tourmaline used as a gem [L *rubellus*]

**rubéola** /'roʊbɪ'leɪə/ *n* measles [NL, *fr* neut pl of (assumed) NL *rubellus* reddish, *fr* L *rubescere* – more at RUBY]

**Rubicon** /'roʊbɪkən/ *n* a bounding or limiting line, esp one that when crossed commits sby irrevocably [L *Rubicon*-, *Rubico*, river of N Italy, forming part of the boundary between Cisalpine Gaul and Italy, whose crossing by Julius Caesar in 49 BC began a civil war]

**rubicund** /'roʊbɪkənd/ *adj* ruddy [L *rubicundus*, *fr* *rubere* to be red, *akin* to L *rubescere*] – *rubicundity* /'kʌndəti/ *n*

**rubidium** /'roʊbɪdɪəm/ *n* a soft metallic element of the alkali metal group PERIODIC TABLE [NL, *fr* L *rubidus* red, *fr* *rubere*]

**rubiginous** /'roʊbɪjɪnəs/ *adj* rust-coloured [L *rubiginosus*, *rubiginosus* rusty, *fr* *robigin*-, *robigo* rust; *akin* to L *rubere*]

**Rubik's cube**, **Rubik cube** /'roʊbɪk/ *n* a puzzle consisting of a cube plastic cube having each face divided into nine small coloured or distinctively marked square segments and rotatable about a central square, that must be restored to an initial condition in which each face shows nine identical squares [Erno Rubik b 1944 Hung designer]

**rub in** *vt* to harp on (e.g. sth unpleasant or embarrassing)

**ruble** /'roʊbəl/ *n* a rouble

**rub off** *vi* 1 to disappear as the result of rubbing 2 to exert an influence through contact or example

**rub out** *vt* 1 to remove (e.g. pencil marks) with a rubber; *broadly* to obliterate 2 *chiefly* NAm to kill, murder – slang

**rubric** /'roʊbɪk/ *n* 1 a heading (e.g. in a book or manuscript) written or printed in a distinctive colour (e.g. red) or style 2a a heading under which sth is classed b an authoritative rule, esp a rule for the conduct of church ceremonial c an explanatory or introductory commentary [ME *rubrike* red ochre, heading in red letters of part of a book, *fr* MF *rubrique*, *fr* L *rubrica*, *fr* *rubra*-, *rubens* red] – *rubric*, *rubrical* *adj*

**rubricate** /'roʊbɪkə'teɪt/ *vt* to write or print as a rubric – *rubricator* *n*, *rubrication* /'kayʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**rub up** *vt* to revive or refresh knowledge of; revise

<sup>1</sup>**ruby** /'roʊbi/ *n* 1a a red corundum used as a gem 2a the dark red colour of the ruby b sth like a ruby in colour [ME, *fr* MF *rubis*, *rubis*, irreg *fr* L *rubescere* reddish; *akin* to L *rubens* red – more at RED]

<sup>2</sup>**ruby** *adj* of or marking a 40th anniversary (< wedding)

**ruche** /'roʊʃh/, **ruching** /'roʊʃhɪŋ/ *n* a pleated or gathered strip of fabric used for trimming [F *ruche*, *fr* ML *rusca* bark of a tree, of Celt origin] – *ruched* *adj*

<sup>1</sup>**ruck** /'ruk/ *n* 1a an indistinguishable mass b the usual run of people or things 2a a situation in Rugby in which 1 or more players from each team close round the ball when it is on the ground and try to kick the ball out to their own team – compare MAUL 1 [ME *ruke* pile of combustible material, of Scand origin; *akin* to ON *hrukr* rick – more at 'RICK]

<sup>2</sup>**ruck** *vb* to wrinkle, crease – often + *up* [ruck, *n* (wrinkle), of Scand origin; *akin* to ON *hrukka* wrinkle]

**rucksack** /'ruk,sæk/ *n* a lightweight bag carried on the back and fastened by straps over the shoulders, used esp by walkers and climbers [G, *fr* *rucken* (alter. of *rucken* back) + *sack* bag]

**ruckus** /'rukəs/ *n*, *chiefly* NAm a row or disturbance – *infrm* [prob blend of *ruktion* and *rumpus*]

**ruccion** /'rukʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a violent dispute 2a a disturbance, uproar USE *infrm* [perh by shortening & alter. *fr* *insurrection*]

**rudbeckia** /'rʌd'bekiə/ *n* any of a genus of N American composite plants with showy yellow flower heads [NL, genus name, *fr* Olof Rudbeck † 1702 Sw scientist]

**rudd** /'rud/ *n* a freshwater European fish of the carp family resembling the roach [prob *fr* *rud* (redness, red ochre), *fr* ME *rude*, *fr* OE *rudu* – more at RUDDY]

**rudder** /'rʌdə/ *n* 1 a flat piece or structure of wood or metal hinged

vertically to a ship's stern for changing course with 2a a movable auxiliary aerofoil, usu attached to the fin, that serves to control direction of flight of an aircraft in the horizontal plane FLIGHT [ME *rother*, *fr* OE *rother* paddle, *akin* to OE *rowan* to row] – *rudderless* *adj*

**ruddock** /'rudək/ *n* ROBIN 1 [ME *ruddok*, *fr* OE *rudduc*; *akin* to OE *rudu*]

**ruddy** /'rʌdi/ *adj* 1 having a healthy reddish colour 2 red, reddish 3 Br BLOODY 4 – euph [ME *rudi*, *fr* OE *rudig*, *fr* *rudu* redness; *akin* to OE *read* red – more at RED] – *ruddily* /'rʌdli/ *adv*, *ruddiness* *n*

**rude** /'roʊd/ *adj* 1a in a rough or unfinished state b primitive, undeveloped c simple, elemental 2 lacking refinement or propriety: e.g. a discourteous b vulgar, indecent c uncivilized d ignorant, unlearned 3 showing or suggesting lack of training or skill 4 robust, vigorous – esp in *rude health* 5 sudden and unpleasant, abrupt (< a ~ awakening) [ME, *fr* MF, *fr* L *rudis*, *akin* to L *rudus* rubble, *ruere* to fall – more at RUG] – *rudely* *adv*, *rudeness* *n*, *rudery* /'roʊd(ə)rɪ/ *n*

**rudiment** /'roʊdɪmənt/ *n* 1 a basic principle or element or a fundamental skill 2a sth as yet unformed or undeveloped b(1) a deficiently developed body part or organ, VESTIGE 2 (2) a primordium USE usu pl with sing. meaning [L *rudimentum* beginning, *fr* *rudis* raw, *rude*] – *rudimental* /'mentl/ *adj*

**rudimentary** /'roʊdɪ'ment(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 basic, fundamental 2 of a primitive kind, crude 3 very poorly developed or represented only by a vestige (< the ~ tail of a hyrax) – *rudimentarily* *adv*

<sup>1</sup>**rue** /'roʊh/ *vt* to feel penitence or bitter regret for [ME *ruen*, *fr* OF *hrowan*, *akin* to OHG *hruwan* to regret]

<sup>2</sup>**rue** *n* a strong-scented woody plant with bitter leaves formerly used in medicine [ME, *fr* MF, *fr* L *ruta*, *fr* Gk *rhyte*]

**rueful** /'roʊf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 arousing pity or compassion 2 mournful, regretful, also feigning sorrow – *ruefully* *adv*, *ruefulness* *n*

**rufescent** /'roʊfəs(ə)nt/ *adj* reddish [L *rufescens*-, *rufescens*, *prp* of *rufescere* to become reddish, *fr* *rufus* red – more at RED]

<sup>1</sup>**ruff**, **ruffe** /'ruf/ *n* a small freshwater European perch [ME *ruf*]

<sup>2</sup>**ruff** *n* 1 a broad starched collar of fluted linen or muslin worn in the late 16th and early 17th c GARMENT 2 a fringe or frill of long hairs or feathers growing round the neck 3 *fr* reeve a Eurasian sandpiper the male of which has a large ruff of erectile feathers during the breeding season [prob back-formation *fr* *ruffle*] – *ruffed* *adj*

<sup>3</sup>**ruff** *vi* TRUMP 1 [ruff, *n* (former card-game, kind of trump), *fr* MF *roffle*, *ronfle*] – *ruff* *n*

**ruffian** /'rʌfɪən/ *n* a brutal and lawless person [MF *rufian*] – *ruffianism* *n*, *ruffianly* *adj*

<sup>1</sup>**ruffle** /'rufl/ *vb* **ruffling** /'ruflɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to disturb the smoothness of b to trouble, vex (< d his composure) 2 to erect (e.g. feathers) (as if) in a ruff 3 to make into a ruffle – *vi* to become ruffled [ME *ruffelen*, *akin* to LG *ruffelen* to crumple]

<sup>2</sup>**ruffle** *n* 1a a disturbance of surface evenness (e.g. a ripple or crumple) 2a a strip of fabric gathered or pleated on 1 edge b 'RUFF 2

**rufous** /'roʊfəs/ *adj*, esp of an animal reddish brown [L *rufus* red – more at RED]

**rug** /'rug/ *n* 1 a heavy mat, usu smaller than a carpet and with a thick pile, which is used as a floor covering 2a a woollen blanket, often with fringes on 2 opposite edges, used as a wrap esp when travelling b a blanket for an animal (e.g. a horse) (assumed) ME, rag, tuft, of Scand origin, *akin* to ON *rōgg* tuft, *akin* to L *ruere* to rush, fall, dig up. Skt *ruvate* he breaks up]

**rugby** /'rugbi/ *n*, often *cap* a football game that is played with an oval football, that features kicking, lateral hand-to-hand passing, and tackling, and in which forward passing is prohibited SPORT [Rugby School, in Warwickshire, England]

**Rugby League** *n* the 1 of the 2 forms of rugby that is played by teams of 13 players each, features a 6-man scrum, and permits professionals to play

**Rugby Union** *n* the 1 of the 2 forms of rugby that is played by teams of 15 players each, features an 8-man scrum, and is restricted to amateurs

**rugged** /'rʌɡɪd/ *adj* 1 having a rough uneven surface or outline (< mountains, 2 seamed with wrinkles and furrows (< a ~ face) 3 austere, stern; also uncompromising (< individualism) 4a strongly built or constituted; sturdy b presenting a severe test of ability or stamina [ME, *fr* (assumed) ME *rug*] – *ruggedly* *adv*, *ruggedness* *n*

**rugger** /'rʌɡə/ *n*, Br rugby – *infrm* [by alter.]

**rugose** /'roʊgəʊs/ *adj* wrinkled, ridged (< leaves) [L *rugosus*, *fr* *rugare* to wrinkle – more at ROUGH] – *rugosity* *adv*, *rugosity* /'roʊgəʊsəti/ *n*

<sup>1</sup>**ruin** /'roʊɪn/ *n* 1 physical, moral, economic, or social collapse 2a the

- state of being wrecked or decayed <the city lay in ~s> b the remains of sthg destroyed - usu pl with sing. meaning 3 (a cause of) destruction or downfall <whisky was his ~> <the ~ of modern drama - T S Eliot> 4 a ruined person or structure [ME *ruine*, fr MF, fr L *ruina*, akin to L *ruere* to fall - more at *rug*] - **ruination** /-ˈnaɪʃən/ *n*
- ruin** *vt* 1 to reduce to ruins 2a to damage irreparably, spoil b to reduce to financial ruin - **ruiner** *n*
- ruinous** /ˈroʊh-ɪnəs/ *adj* 1 dilapidated, ruined 2 causing (the likelihood of) ruin <~ sales performance> - **ruinously** *adv*, **ruinousness** *n*
- rule** /roʊl/ *n* 1a a prescriptive specification of conduct or action b the laws or regulations prescribed by the founder of a religious order for observance by its members c an established procedure, custom, or habit d a legal precept or doctrine 2a(1) a usu valid generalization (2) a generally prevailing quality, state, or form b a standard of judgment c a regulating principle, esp of a system <the ~s of grammar> 3 the exercise or a period of dominion 4 a strip or set of jointed strips of material marked off in units and used for measuring or marking off lengths [ME *reule*, fr OF, fr L *regula* straightedge, rule, fr *regere* to lead straight - more at *right*] - **as a rule** generally, FOR THE MOST PART
- rule** *vt* 1a to exert control, direction, or influence on b to exercise control over, esp by restraining <~d her appetites firmly> 2a to exercise power or firm authority over b to be preeminent in, dominate <an actor who ~s the stage> 3 to lay down authoritatively, esp judicially 4a to mark with lines drawn (as if) along the straight edge of a ruler b to mark (a line) on sthg with a ruler - *vi* 1 to exercise supreme authority 2 to make a judicial decision
- rule of thumb** *n* a rough practical or common-sense method rather than a precise or technical one
- rule out** *vt* 1a to exclude, eliminate b to deny the possibility of <rule out further discussion> 2 to make impossible, prevent
- ruler** /ˈroʊlə/ *n* 1 sby, specif a sovereign, who rules 2 a smooth-edged strip of material that is usu marked off in units (e.g. centimetres) and is used for guiding a pen or pencil in drawing lines, for measuring, or for marking off lengths - **rule-ship** *n*
- ruling** /ˈroʊlɪŋ/ *n* an official or authoritative decision
- ruling** *adj* 1 exerting power or authority 2 chief, predominant
- rum** /rʌm/ *adj* -mm- chiefly Br queer, strange <she's a ~ customer> - *infrm* [earlier *rome*, perh fr Romyan rom gypsy man]
- rum** *n* a spirit distilled from a fermented cane product (e.g. molasses) [prob short for obs *rumbullion* (rum), of unknown origin]
- Rumanian** /ˈroʊhˈmaɪniən, -roʊ-, -rə-, -ni-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a) Romanian
- rumba**, **rumba** /ˈrʌmbə/ *n* (the music for) a ballroom dance of Cuban Negro origin marked by steps with a delayed transfer of weight and pronounced hip movements [AmerSp *rumba*]
- rumble** /ˈrʌmbəl/ *vb* **rumbling** /ˈrʌmbəlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to make a low heavy rolling sound 2 NAm to engage in a street fight - *infrm* - *vi* 1 to utter or emit with a low rolling sound 2 to reveal or discover the true character of - *infrm* [ME *rumblen*, akin to MHG *rummeln* to rumble] - **rumbler** *n*
- rumble** *n* 1a a rumbling sound b low-frequency noise from a record deck caused by the vibrations of the turntable 2 NAm a street fight, esp between gangs - *infrm*
- rumbustious** /ˈrʌmbʊʃəs/ *adj*, chiefly Br irrepressibly or coarsely exuberant [alter of *robustious*, fr *robust*] - **rumbustiousness** *n*
- rumen** /ˈroʊmən/ *n*, pl **rumina** /-ˈmɪnə/, **rumens** the large first compartment of the stomach of a ruminant mammal in which cellulose is broken down, esp by the action of symbiotic bacteria [NL *rumen*, *rumen*, fr L, gullet]
- ruminant** /ˈroʊmɪnənt/ *n* a ruminant mammal
- ruminant** *adj* 1a that chews the cud b of or being (a member of) a gr. of hoofed mammals including the cattle, sheep, giraffes, and camels that chew the cud and have a complex 3- or 4-chambered stomach 2 meditative
- ruminate** /ˈroʊmɪˌneɪt/ *vb* 1 to chew again (what has been chewed slightly and swallowed) 2 to engage in contemplation (of) [L *ruminatus*, pp of *ruminari* to chew the cud, muse upon, fr *rumin*-, *rumen* gullet, akin to Skt *romantha* ruminant] - **ruminator** *n*, **ruminative** /-ˈnə-tɪv/ *adj*, **ruminatively** *adv*, **rumination** /-ˈnaɪʃən/ *n*
- rummage** /ˈrʌmɪdʒ/ *n* 1 a thorough search, esp among a jumbled assortment of objects 2a chiefly NAm JUMBLE 2 b NAm a miscellaneous or confused accumulation [obs *rummage* (act of packing cargo), modif of MF *arrimage*]
- rummage** *vt* 1 to make a thorough search of (an untidy or congested place) 2 to uncover by searching - usu + *out* - *vi* to engage in a haphazard search - **rummager** *n*
- rummage, sale** *n*, chiefly NAm JUMBLE SALE
- rummer** /ˈrʌmə/ *n* a tall often elaborately engraved drinking glass, used esp for wine [G or D; G *romer*, fr D *roemer*]
- rummy** /ˈrʌmi/ *n* any of several card games for 2 or more players in which each player tries to assemble combinations of 3 or more related cards and to be the first to turn all his/her cards into such combinations [perh fr *rummy* (queer, strange), fr 'rum + -y]
- rumour**, NAm chiefly **rumor** /ˈroʊmə/ *n* 1 a statement or report circulated without confirmation of its truth 2 talk or opinion widely disseminated but with no identifiable source [ME *rumour*, fr MF, fr L *rumor*; akin to OE *rēon* to lament, Gk *oryesthai* to howl]
- rumour**, NAm chiefly **rumor** *vt* to tell or spread by rumour
- rump** /rʌmp/ *n* 1 the rear part of a quadruped mammal, bird, etc; the buttocks 2 a cut of beef between the loin and round MEAT 3 a small or inferior remnant of a larger group (e.g. a parliament) [ME, of Scand origin, akin to Icel *rumpr* rump, akin to MHG *rumph* torso]
- rumple** /ˈrʌmpəl/ *n* a fold, wrinkle
- rumple** *vb* **rumpling** /ˈrʌmpəlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to wrinkle, crumple 2 to make unkempt, tousle - *vi* to become rumpled [D *rompelen*, akin to OHG *rimfan* to wrinkle, L *curvus* curved]
- rumput** /ˈrʌmpʊt/ *n* a usu noisy commotion [perh alter. of *rumble*]
- run** /rʌn/ *vb* -nn-; **ran** /rən/, **run** *vi* 1a to go faster than a walk, specif to go steadily by springing steps so that both feet leave the ground for an instant in each step b of a horse to move at a fast gallop c to flee, escape <dropped his gun and ran> 2a to go without restraint <let his chickens ~ loose> <~ about barefoot> b to sail before the wind as distinct from reaching or sailing close-hauled - compare REACH 3, BEAT 4 3a to hasten with a specified often distressing purpose <~ and fetch the doctor> b to make a quick, easy, or casual trip or visit <~ up to town for the day> 4 to contend in a race, also to finish a race in the specified place <ran third> 5a to move (as if) on wheels <a chair that ~s on castors> b to pass or slide freely or cursorily <a thought ran through my mind> 6 to sing or play quickly <~ up the scale> 7a to go back and forth, ply <made the trains ~ on time>, b of fish to migrate or move in schools, esp to ascend a river to spawn 8 to function, operate <don't touch the engine while it's ~ning> <the engine ~s on petrol> <everything's ~ning smoothly at the office> 9a to continue in force <the lease has 2 more years to ~> b to continue to accumulate or become payable <interest on the loan ~s from July 1st> 10 to pass, esp by negligence or indulgence, into a specified state <~ to waste> <money ran low> 11a(1) to flow, course <~ning water> (2) to become by flowing <the water ran cold> (3) to discharge liquid <made my nose ~> <left the tap ~ning> (4) to reach a specified state by discharging liquid <the well ran dry> b MELT 1 <butter started to ~> c to spread, d ~ve <colours guaranteed not to ~> d to discharge pus or serum <a ~ning sore> 12a to develop rapidly in some specific direction; esp to throw out an elongated shoot b to have a tendency, be prone <they ~ to big noses in that family> 13a to lie or extend in a specified position, direction, or relation to sthg <the road ~s through a tunnel> b to extend in a continuous range <shades ~ from white to dark grey> c to be in a certain form or expression <the letter ~s as follows> 14a to occur persistently <a note of despair ~s through the narrative> b to continue to be as specified <profits were ~ning high> c to play or be featured continuously (e.g. in a theatre or newspaper) <the musical ran for 6 months> 15 to spread quickly from point to point <chills ran up his spine> 16 to ladder 17 chiefly NAm STAND 10 <~ for President> - *vt* 1a to bring to a specified condition (as if) by running <ran himself to death> b to go in pursuit of, hunt <dogs that ~ deer> <ran the rumour to its source> c to drive, chase <~ him out of town> d to enter, register, or enrol as a contestant in a race e to put forward as a candidate for office 2a to drive (livestock), esp to a grazing place b to provide pasture for (livestock) 3a to cover, accomplish, or perform (as if) by running <ran 10 miles> <~ errands for his mother> <ran the whole gamut of emotions> b to slip through or past <~ a blockade> 4a to cause or allow to penetrate or enter <ran a splinter into his toe> b to stitch c to cause to lie or extend in a specified position or direction <~ a wire in from the aerial> d to cause to collide <ran his head into a post> e to smuggle <~ guns> 5 to cause to pass lightly, freely, or cursorily <ran a comb through her hair> 6a(1) to cause or allow (a vehicle or vessel) to go <~ his car off the road> <~ the ship aground> (2) to cause to ply or travel along a regular route <~ an extra train on Saturdays> (3) to own and drive <she ~s an old banger> (4) to convey in a vehicle <can I ~ you home?> b to operate <~ a lathe> <~ your razor off the mains> c to carry on, manage, or control <~ a factory> 7 to be full of; flow with <streets ran blood> 8a to cause to move or flow in a specified way or into a specified position b(1) to cause to pour out liquid <~ the hot tap> (2) to fill from a tap <~



*a hot bath* 9a to melt and cast in a mould b to subject to a treatment or process (< *a problem through a computer*) 10 to make oneself liable to (< *risks*) 11 to permit (e.g. charges) to accumulate before settling (< *an account at the grocer's*) 12a RUN OFF 1b < *a book to be ~ on lightweight paper* > b to carry in a printed medium; print [ME *ronnen*, alter. of *rinnen*, vi (fr OE *riennan*, *rinnan* & ON *rinna*) & of *rennen*, vt, fr ON *renna*; akin to OHG *rinnan*, vi, to run, OE *risan* to rise] – run across to meet with or discover by chance – run after to pursue, chase; esp to seek the company of – run a temperature to be feverish – run foul of 1 to collide with (< *run foul of a hidden reef*) 2 to come into conflict with (< *run foul of the law*) – run into 1a to merge with b to mount up to (< *income often runs into five figures*) 2a to collide with b to encounter, meet (< *run into an old friend the other day*) – run into the ground to tire out or use up with heavy work – run it fine to leave only the irreducible margin – run on to be concerned with; dwell on (< *her mind keeps running on the past*) – run rings round to show marked superiority over; defeat decisively – run riot 1 to act or function wildly or without restraint (< *let one's imagination run riot*) 2 to grow or occur in profusion – run short 1 to become insufficient 2 to come near the end of available supplies (< *we ran short of tea*) – run somebody off his/her feet 1 to tire sb out with running 2 to keep sb very busy – run through 1 to squander 2a RUN THROUGH vt 2 (< *run through it quickly*) b to deal with rapidly and usu. perfunctorily – run to 1 to extend to (< *the book runs to 500 pages*) 2a to afford b of money to be enough for (< *his salary won't run to a car*) – run to earth/ground to find after protracted search

**run** *n* 1a an act or the activity of running; continued rapid movement b a quickened gallop, broadly the gait of a runner c (a school of fish) migrating or ascending a river to spawn d a running race (< *a mile ~*) 2a the direction in which sth (e.g. a vein of ore or the grain of wood) lies b general tendency or direction (< *watching the ~ of the stock market*) 3 a continuous series or unbroken course, esp of identical or similar things (< *a ~ of bad luck*): e.g. a rapid passage up or down a musical scale b a number of rapid small dance steps executed in even tempo c an unbroken course of performances or showings d a set of consecutive measurements, readings, or observations e a persistent and heavy commercial or financial demand (< *a ~ on gilt-edged securities*) f three or more playing cards usu. of the same suit in consecutive order of rank 4 the quantity of work turned out in a continuous operation 5 the average or prevailing kind or class (< *the general ~ of students*) 6a the distance covered in a period of continuous journeying b(1) a regularly travelled course or route (< *ships on the Far East ~*) (2) a short excursion in a car (< *went for a Sunday ~*) c the distance a golf ball travels after touching the ground d freedom of movement in or access to a place (< *has the ~ of the house*) 7a a way, track, etc frequented by animals b an enclosure for domestic animals where they may feed or exercise c an inclined passageway 8a an inclined course (e.g. for skiing) b a support or channel (e.g. a track, pipe, or trough) along which sth runs 9 a unit of scoring in cricket made typically by each batsman running the full length of the wicket 10 LADDER 2b – runless *adj* – on the run 1 in haste, without pausing 2 in hiding or running away, esp from lawful authority – run for one's money the profit or enjoyment to which one is legitimately entitled

**runabout** /ˈrʌnəˌbəʊt/ *n* a light motor car, aeroplane, or motorboat

**run along** *vi* to go away; depart – often used as an order or request


**runaround** /ˈrʌnəˌraʊnd/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* delaying action, esp in response to a request

**runaway** /ˈrʌnəˌweɪ/ *n* 1 a fugitive 2 sth (e.g. a horse) that is running out of control

**runaway** *adj* 1 fugitive 2 accomplished as a result of running away (< *a ~ marriage*) 3 won by a long lead; decisive (< *a ~ victory*) 4 out of control (< *~ inflation*)

**run away** *vi* 1a to take to flight b to flee from home; esp to elope 2 to run out of control; stampede, bolt – run away with 1 to take away in haste or secretly; esp to steal 2 to believe too easily (< *don't run away with the idea that you needn't go*) 3 to carry beyond reasonable limits (< *his imagination ran away with him*)

**runcible spoon** /ˈrʌnsəbl/ *n* a sharp-edged fork with 3 broad curved prongs [coined with indefinite meaning by Edward Lear †1888 E writer & painter]

**runcinate** /ˈrʌnsɪnət, -ˌnaɪt/ *adj*, of a leaf having large downward-pointing teeth (< *the ~ leaves of the dandelion*)  PLANT [L *runcinatus*, pp of *runcinare* to plane off, fr *runcina* plane]

**rundown** /ˈrʌnˌdaʊn/ *n* 1 the running down of sth (< *the ~ of the steel industry*) 2 an item-by-item report; a résumé

**run-down** *adj* 1 in a state of disrepair 2 in poor health 3 *NAM* completely unwound (< *a ~ clock*)

**run down** *vt* 1a to knock down, esp with a motor vehicle b to run against and cause to sink 2a to chase to exhaustion or until captured b to find by searching (< *run down a book in the library*) 3 to disparage (< *don't run him down; he's an honest fellow*) 4 to allow the gradual decline or closure of (< *the lead mines are being gradually run down*) ~ *vi* 1 to cease to operate because of the exhaustion of motive power (< *that battery ran down weeks ago*) 2 to decline in physical condition

**run** /roʊn/ *n* 1 any of the characters of an alphabet prob derived from Latin and Greek and used in medieval times, esp in carved inscriptions, by the Germanic peoples 2 a magical or cryptic utterance or inscription [ON & OE *run* mystery, runic character, writing, akin to OHG *runa* secret discussion] – runic /ˈroʊnmɪk/ *adj*

**run** /rʌŋ/ *past part* of RING

**rung** *n* 1a a rounded part placed as a crosspiece between the legs of a chair b any of the crosspieces of a ladder 2 a level or stage in sth that can be ascended (< *the bottom ~ of the social scale*) [ME, fr OE *hrung*; akin to OE *hring* ring – more at RING]

**run-in** *n* 1 the final part of a race(track) 2 *NAM* a quarrel

**run in** *vt* 1 to make (typeset matter) continuous without a paragraph or other break 2 to use (e.g. a motor car) cautiously for an initial period 3 to arrest, esp for a minor offence – *infr*

**runnel** /ˈrʌnl/ *n* a small stream; a brook [alter. of ME *rinel*, fr OE *rynec*; akin to OE *rinnan* to run – more at RUN]

**runner** /ˈrʌnə/ *n* 1 an entrant for a race who actually competes in it 2a a bank or stockbroker's messenger b sb who smuggles or distributes illicit or contraband goods – usu in combination (< *a dope-runner*) 3 a straight piece on which sth slides e.g. a longitudinal piece on which a sledge or ice skate slides b a groove or bar along which sth (e.g. a drawer or sliding door) slides 4 a stolon 5a a long narrow carpet (e.g. for a hall or staircase) b a narrow decorative cloth for a table or dresser top 6 RUNNER BEAN 7 a player who runs in place of an injured batsman in cricket [RʌN + -FR]

**runner bean** *n*, chiefly *Br* (the long green edible pod of) a widely cultivated orig. tropical American high-climbing bean with large usu. bright red flowers

**runner-up** *n*, *pl runners-up* also *runner-ups* a competitor other than the outright winner whose attainment still merits a prize

**running** /ˈrʌnɪŋ/ *n* 1 the state of competing, esp with a good chance of winning – in in/out of the running 2 management, operation (< *the ~ of a small business*) (< *the ~ of a company car*)

**running** *adj* 1 runny 2a having stages that follow in rapid succession (< *a ~ battle*) b made during the course of a process or activity (< *a ~ commentary*) (< *repairs*) 3 being part of a continuous length (< *cost of timber per ~ metre*) 4 cursive, flowing 5 designed or used for races on foot (< *a ~ track*)

**running** *adv* in succession (< *for 3 days ~*)

**running board** *n* a footboard, esp at the side of a motor car

**running gear** *n* the working parts of a machine (e.g. a locomotive)

**running head** *n* a headline repeated on consecutive pages

**running knot** *n* a knot that slips along the rope or line round which it is tied

**running light** *n* any of the lights carried by a moving ship, aeroplane, car, etc esp at night, that indicate size, position, and direction of movement

**running mate** *n* a candidate standing for a subordinate place in a US election

**running shed** *n*, *Br* a building for housing and repairing railway rolling stock

**running stitch** *n* a small even sewing stitch run in and out of cloth (e.g. for gathering)

**runny** /ˈrʌni/ *adj* tending to run (< *a ~ nose*)

**runoff** /ˈrʌnˌɒf/ *n* a final decisive race, contest, or election

**run off** *vt* 1a to compose rapidly or glibly b to produce with a printing press or copier (< *run off a few copies*) c to decide (e.g. a race) by a runoff 2 to drain off (a liquid) 3 *NAM* to steal (e.g. cattle) by driving away ~ *vi* RUN AWAY 1 – run off with RUN AWAY WITH 1

**run-of-the-mill** *adj* average, commonplace

**run-on** *n* sth (e.g. a dictionary entry) run on

**run on** *vi* 1 to keep going without interruption (< *the opera ran on for 4 hours*) 2 to talk or narrate at length ~ *vt* 1 to continue (written material) without a break or a new paragraph 2 to place or add (e.g. an entry in a dictionary) at the end of a paragraphed item

**run out** *vi* 1a to come to an end (< *time ran out*) b to become exhausted



or used up (<the petrol ran out> 2 to finish a course or contest in the specified position (ran out the winner) 3 of a horse to evade a fence by turning aside ~ vt 1 to dismiss (a batsman who is outside his crease and attempting a run) by breaking the wicket with the ball 2 chiefly NAM to compel to leave (run him out of town) - run out of to use up the available supply of - run out on 'DESERT

**runover** /ˈrʌn,əʊvə/ *n* typeset matter that exceeds the allotted space  
**run over** *vi* 1 to overflow 2 to exceed a limit (meetings that run over into the next day) ~ vt 1 to glance over, repeat, or rehearse quickly 2 to injure or kill with a motor vehicle (ran the dog over)

**runt** /rʌnt/ *n* 1 an animal unusually small of its kind, esp the smallest of a litter of pigs 2 a puny person [origin unknown] - runty *adj*

**'run-through** *n* 1 a cursory reading, summary, or rehearsal 2 a sequence of actions performed for practice

**run through** *vi* 1 to pierce with a weapon (e.g. a sword) 2 to perform, esp for practice or instruction

**'run-up** *n* 1 (the track or area provided for) an approach run to provide momentum (e.g. for a jump or throw) 2 *Br* a period that immediately precedes an action or event (the ~ to the last election)

**run up** *vt* 1 to make (esp a garment) quickly 2a to erect hastily *b* to hoist (a flag) 3 to accumulate or incur (debts) - run up against to encounter (e.g. a difficulty)

**runway** /ˈrʌn,weɪ/ *n* 1 a (beaten) path made by or for animals 2 an artificially surfaced strip of ground on an airfield for the landing and takeoff of aeroplanes

**rupee** /ˈroʊpiː/ *n* (a note or coin representing) the basic money unit of various countries of the Indian subcontinent and the Indian Ocean (e.g. India, Pakistan, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka) - NATIONALITY [Hindi *rupaiya*, fr Skt *rupya* coined silver]

**rupiah** /ˈroʊpiːə, ˈroʊpiːə/ *n, pl rupiah, rupiahs* - INDONESIA at NATIONALITY [Hindi *rupaiya*]

**'rupture** /ˈrʌpʃə/ *n* 1 breach of peace or concord, specif open hostility between nations 2a the tearing apart of a tissue, esp muscle *b* a hernia 3a a breaking apart or bursting *b* the state of being broken apart or burst [ME *ruptur*, fr MF or L, MF *ruptura* fracture, fr L *ruptus*, pp of *rupere* to break - more at BIRFAVE]

**rupture** *vi* 1a to part by violence, break, burst *b* to create a breach of 2 to produce a rupture in ~ *vi* to have or undergo a rupture

**rural** /ˈroʊrəl/ *adj* of the country, country people or life, or agriculture [ME, fr MF, fr L *ruralis*, fr *rur-*, *rus* open land - more at ROOM] - *rurally* *adv*

**rural 'dean** *n* a priest supervising 1 district of a diocese

**Ruritania** /ˈroʊrɪˈtæniə, -ni-ən/ *adj* (characteristic) of an imaginary Central European country used as a setting for contemporary cloak-and-dagger court intrigues [Ruritania, fictional kingdom in the novel *The Prisoner of Zenda* by Anthony Hope (Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins) †1933 E writer]

**ruse** /ˈroʊz/ *n* a wily subterfuge [F, fr MF, fr *ruser* to dodge, deceive]

**'rush** /rʌʃ/ *n* any of various often tufted marsh plants with cylindrical (hollow) leaves, used for the seats of chairs and for plaiting mats [ME, fr OE *rise*, akin to MHG *rusch* rush, L *restis* rope] - *rushy* *adj*

**rush** *vi* to move forwards, progress, or act quickly or eagerly or without preparation ~ *vt* 1 to push or impel forwards with speed or violence 2 to perform or finish in a short time or at high speed (<ed his breakfast> 3 to urge to an excessive speed 4 to run against in attack, often with an element of surprise, charge [ME *russhen*, fr MF *ruser* to put to flight, repel, deceive, fr L *recusare* to refuse - more at RECUSANCY] - *rusher* *n*

**rush** *n* 1a a rapid and violent forward motion *b* a sudden onset of emotion (<a quick ~ of sympathy> 2a a surge of activity; also busy or hurried activity (<the bank holiday ~> *b* a burst of productivity or speed 3 a great movement of people, esp in search of wealth 4 the unedited print of a film scene processed directly after shooting - usu pl 5 'FLASH 9

**'rush** *adj* requiring or marked by special speed or urgency

**rush candle** *n* a rushlight

**'rush, hour** *n* a period of the day when traffic is at a peak

**rushlight** /rʌʃ,li:t/ *n* a candle that consists of the pith of a rush dipped in grease

**rusk** /rʌsk/ *n* (a light dry biscuit similar to) a piece of sliced bread baked again until dry and crisp [modif of Sp & Pg *rosca* coil, twisted roll]

**russet** /rʌsɪt/ *n* 1 a reddish to yellowish brown 2 any of various russet-coloured winter eating apples [ME, fr OF *rousset*, fr *rousset*, *adj*, russet, fr *rous* russet, fr L *russeus* red; akin to L *ruber* red - more at RED] - *russet* *adj*

**Russian** /rʌʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Russia, broadly a native or inhabitant of the USSR 2 a Slavonic language of the Russians - ALPHABET, LANGUAGE - *Russian* *adj*

**Russian roulette** *n* an act of bravado consisting of spinning the cylinder of a revolver loaded with 1 cartridge, pointing the muzzle at one's own head, and pulling the trigger

**Russian salad** *n* a salad of cold diced cooked vegetables (e.g. carrot and potato) in mayonnaise

**Russki** also **Russky** /rʌski/ *n* or *adj* (a) Russian - derog [Russ *Russki*, *adj* & *n*, fr *Rus'*, old name for Russia]

**Russo-** /rʌsoh-/ *comb form* 1 Russian nation, people, or culture (<Russophobia> 2 Russian, Russian and (<Russo-Japanese> [Russia & Russian])

**'rust** /rʌst/ *n* 1a brittle reddish hydrated ferric oxide that forms as a coating on iron, esp iron chemically attacked by moist air *b* a comparable coating produced on another metal *c* sthg like rust 2 corrosive or injurious influence or effect 3 (a fungus causing) any of numerous destructive diseases of plants in which reddish brown pustular lesions form 4 a reddish brown to orange colour [ME, fr OE *rust*, akin to OE *read* red - more at RED]

**rust** *vi* 1 to form rust; become oxidized (<iron ~s>) 2 to degenerate, esp through lack of use or advancing age 3 to become reddish brown as if with rust 4 to be affected with a rust fungus ~ *vt* to cause (a metal) to form rust

**'rustic** /rʌstɪk/ *adj* 1 of or suitable for the country 2a made of the rough limbs of trees (< ~ furniture> *b* finished by rusticating (<a ~ joint in masonry> 3 characteristic of country people [ME *rustik*, fr MF *rustique*, fr L *rusticus*, fr *rus* open land - more at ROOM] - *rustically* *adv*, *rusticity* /rʌstɪsɪti/ *n*

**'rustic** *n* an unsophisticated rural person

**rusticate** /ˈrʌstɪkəɪt/ *vi* 1 to suspend (a student) from college or university 2 to bevel or cut a groove, channel etc in (e.g. the edges of stone blocks) to make the joints conspicuous (<a ~ d stone wall> - ARCHITECTURE 3 to impart a rustic character to - *rusticator* *n*, *rustication* /ˈkaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'rustle** /rʌsl/ *vb* **rustling** /ˈrʌslɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to make or cause a rustle *b* to move with a rustling sound 2 chiefly NAM to steal cattle or horses ~ *vt* chiefly NAM to steal (e.g. cattle) [ME *rustelen*, of imit origin] - *rustler* /ˈrʌslə/ *n*

**'rustle** *n* a quick succession or confusion of faint sounds

**rustproof** /ˈrʌst,pruːf/ *adj* able to resist rust

**rusty** /rʌsti/ *adj* 1 affected (as if) by rust, esp stiff (as if) with rust (<the creaking of ~ hinges> 2 inept and slow through lack of practice or advanced age 3a of the colour rust *b* dulled in colour by age and use, shabby (<a ~ old suit of clothes>) - *rustily* *adv*, *rustiness* *n*

**'rut** /rut/ *n* 1 an annually recurrent state of readiness to copulate, in the male deer or other mammal, also oestrus, heat 2 the period during which rut normally occurs - often + the [ME *rutte*, fr MF *rut* rut, fr LL *rugitus*, fr L *rugitus*, pp of *rugire* to roar, akin to OE *reoc* wild, Mlt *rucht* roar]

**'rut** *n* 1 a track worn by habitual passage, esp of wheels on soft or uneven ground 2 an established practice, esp a tedious routine (<get into a ~> [perh modif of MF *route* way, route]

**'rut** *vi* -*tt*- to make a rut in

**rutabaga** /ˈroʊtəˈbægə, -roo-, -ˈbægə/ *n*, NAM **SWED** 2 [Sw dial *rotabagge*, fr *rot* root + *bagge* bag]

**Ruth** /roʊθ/ *n* (a short narrative book of the Old Testament telling of) a Moabite woman who left her own country to return with her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem, where she married Boaz and became the ancestress of David [Heb *Ruth*]

**ruthenium** /ˈroʊθiˈniəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a polyvalent rare metallic element of the platinum group used in hardening platinum alloys - PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr ML *Ruthenia* Russia] - *ruthenic* /-ˈnik/ *adj*, *ruthenous* *adj*

**ruthless** /ˈroʊθlɪs/ *adj* showing no pity or compassion [ruth (compassion), fr ME *ruthe*, fr *ruen* to rue] - *ruthlessly* *adv*, *ruthlessness* *n*  
**rutile** /ˈroʊtiːl, -tiːl/ *n* a use reddish brown lustrous mineral consisting of titanium dioxide [G *rutil*, fr L *rutilus* reddish, akin to L *ruber* red - more at RED]

**ruttish** /ˈrʌtɪʃ/ *adj* lustful ['rut + -ish] - *ruttishly* *adv*, *ruttishness* *n*  
**-ry** /-ri/ - see -FRY (<citizenry>) (<wizardry>) [ME -*rie*, fr OF, short for -*erie* -ery]

**rye** /riː/ *n* (the seeds, from which a wholemeal flour is made, of) a hardy grass widely grown for grain [ME, fr OE *ryge*; akin to OHG *rocko* rye, Lith *rugys*]

**ryegrass** /'ric,grahs/ *n* any of several grasses used esp for pasture [alter of obs *raygrass*, fr obs *ray* (darnel)]

**rye 'whisky** *n* a whisky distilled from rye or from rye and malt

# S

**s** /es/ *n*, *pl* *s's*, *ss* /esiz/ *often cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 19th letter of the English alphabet

**1** *-s* after voiceless consonant sounds other than *s*, *sh*, *ch*, *z* after vowel sounds & voiced consonant sounds other than *z*, *zh*, *j*, *iz* after *s*, *sh*, *ch*, *z*, *zh*, *j* *suffix* (→ *n pl*) **1a** – used to form the plural of most nouns that do not end in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch*, or postconsonantal *y* <*cats*> <*heads*> <*books*> <*boys*> <*beliefs*>, compare *1-es* **1b** – used with or without a preceding apostrophe to form the plural of abbreviations, numbers, letters, and symbols used as nouns <*MCs*> <*4s*> <*the 1940's*> <*£s*>, compare *1-es* **2** *chiefly NAM* – used to form adverbs denoting usual or repeated action or state <*always at home Sundays*> <*mornings he stops by the newsstand*> [(1) ME *-es*, *-s*, fr OE *-as*, nom & acc pl ending of some masc nouns, akin to OS *-os*; (2) ME *-es*, *-s*, pl ending of nouns, fr *-es*, gen sing ending of nouns (functioning adverbially), fr OE *-es*]

**2** *a suffix* (→ *vb*) – used to form the third person singular present of most verbs that do not end in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch*, or postconsonantal *y* <*falls*> <*takes*> <*plays*>; compare *1-es* [ME (Northern & N Midland) *-es*, fr OE (Northumbrian) *-es*, *-as*, prob fr OE *-es*, *-as*, 2 sing pres indic ending]

**3** *a* /like *1-s*/ *vb* **1** is <*she's here*> **2** has <*he's seen them*> **3** does – in questions <*what's he want?*>

**2** *a* pron *us* – *let* <*let's*>

**3** *a suffix* (→ *n or pron*) – used to form the possessive of singular nouns <*boy's*>, of plural nouns not ending in *s* <*children's*>, of some pronouns <*anyone's*>, and of word groups functioning as nouns <*the man in the corner's hat*> or pronouns <*someone else's*> [ME *-es*, *-s*, gen sing ending, fr OE *-es*; akin to OHG *-es*, gen sing ending, Gk *-ouo*, *-ou*, Skt *-asya*]

**sabadilla** /səbə'dila/ *n* (the seeds, used as a source of the drug veratrine, of) a Mexican plant of the lily family [Sp *cebadilla*]

**Sabaoth** /sə'bayoth/ *n pl* armed hosts – used in the biblical title *Lord of Sabaoth* for God [LL, fr Gk *Sabaoth*, fr Heb *sēbā'ōth*, pl of *saba* army]

**sabbat** /səbət, -bat/ *n*, *often cap* a midnight assembly of witches held to renew allegiance to the devil [F, lit., sabbath, fr L *sabbatum*]

**Sabbatarian** /səbə'teəriən/ *n* 1 a person who observes the Sabbath on Saturday in strict conformity with the 4th commandment **2** an adherent of Sabbatarianism [L *sabbatarius*, fr *sabbatum* sabbath] – **Sabbatarian** *adj*

**Sabbatarianism** /səbə'teəriəniz(ə)m/ *n* the avoidance of work and suppression of enjoyment on the Sabbath

**sabbath** /səbəθ/ *n* **1** *often cap* the 7th day of the week observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening as a day of rest and worship by Jews **2** *often cap* Sunday observed among Christians as a day of rest and worship **3** a sabbat [ME *sabat*, fr OF & OE, fr L *sabbatum*, fr Gk *sabbaton*, fr Heb *shabbath*, lit., rest]

**sabbatical** /sə'batikl/, *sabbatic* *adj* **1** of the sabbath <~ *laws*> **2** of or being a sabbatical [LL *sabbaticus*, fr Gk *sabbatikos*, fr *sabbaton*]

**sabbatical** *n* a leave, often with pay, granted *usu* every 7th year (e.g. to a university teacher)

**sabbatical year** *n*, *often cap* *S* a year of rest for the land observed every 7th year in ancient Judaea

**Sabine** /səbiən/ *n* a member of an ancient people of the Apennines NE of Latium [ME *Sabin*, fr L *Sabinus*] – **Sabine** *adj*

**sable** /səbl/, *n pl* *sables*, (*1*) *sables*, *esp collectively* **sable** **1** (the valuable dark brown fur of) a N Asian and European flesh-eating mammal related to the martens **2** BLACK **2** – poetic or used technically in heraldry [ME, *sable* or its fur, the heraldic colour black, black, fr MF, *sable* or its fur, the heraldic colour black, fr MLG *sabel* *sable* or its fur, fr MHG *zobel*, of Slav origin; akin to Russ *sobol'* *sable* or its fur]

**sable** *adj* of the colour *sable*

**sabot** /səboh/ *n* **1** a wooden shoe worn in various European countries **2** a thrust-transmitting carrier that positions a smaller projectile in a larger gun barrel or launching tube and that prevents the escape of gas ahead of the missile so as to increase the muzzle velocity of the projectile [F]

**sabotage** /səbə'tahzh/ *n* **1** destructive or obstructive action carried on by a civilian or enemy agent, intended to hinder military activity **2** deliberate subversion (e.g. of a plan or project) [F, fr *saboter* to clatter with sabots, botch, sabotage, fr *sabot*]

**sabotage** *vt* to practise sabotage on

**saboteur** /səbə'tu:/ *n* one who commits sabotage [F, fr *saboter*]

**sabra** /səbrə/ *n*, *often cap* a native-born Israeli [NHeb *sabrah*]

**sabre**, *NAM chiefly* **saber** /sə'bra/ *n* **1** a cavalry sword with a curved blade, thick back, and guard **2** a light fencing or duelling sword having an arched guard that covers the back of the hand and a tapering flexible blade with a full cutting edge along one side – compare *EPEE*, *FOIL* [F *sabre*, modif of G dial *sabel*, fr MHG, of Slav origin; akin to Russ *sablya* *sabre*]

**sabre**, *NAM chiefly* **saber** *vt* to strike or kill with a sabre

**sabre-rattling** *n* blustering display of military power

**sabretache** /səbə'taʃ, 'sə-/ *n* a flat leather case worn suspended on the left from a waist belt by men of some cavalry regiments [F, fr G *sabeltasche*, fr *sabel* *sabre* + *tasche* pocket]

**sabre-toothed 'tiger** *n* an extinct big cat with long curved upper canines

**sabreur** /sə'bru:/ *n* one who carries or fences with a sabre [F, fr *sabrer* to strike with a sabre, fr *sabre*]

**sac** /sək/ *n* a (fluid-filled) pouch within an animal or plant [F, lit., bag, fr L *saccus* – more at 'sack] – **sac-like** *adj*

**saccade** /sə'kaɪd/ *n* a small rapid jerky movement of the eye, esp as it jumps from fixation on one point to another (e.g. in reading) [F, twitch, jerk, fr MF, fr *saquer* to pull, draw] – **saccadic** /sə'kaɪdɪk/ *adj*

**saccate** /sə'kaɪt, -kət/ *adj* having the form of a sac or pouch <*a* ~ *corolla*> [NL *saccatus*, fr L *saccus*]

**sacchar-**, **sacchari-**, **saccharo-** *comb form* sugar <*saccharide*> [I *saccharum*, fr Gk *sakcharon*, fr Pali *sakkhara*, fr Skt *sarkara* gravel, sugar]

**saccharide** /sə'kærɪd/ *n* SUGAR **1b**

**saccharin** /sə'k(ə)rɪn/ *n* a compound containing no calories that is several hundred times sweeter than cane sugar and is used as a sugar substitute (e.g. in low-calorie diets) [ISV]

**saccharine** /sə'k(ə)rɪn, -reen/ *adj* **1** of, like, or containing sugar <~ *taste*> **2** excessively sweet, mawkish <~ *sentiment*> [L *saccharum*] – **saccharinity** /-rɪnəti/ *n*

**saccharometer** /sə'k(ə)rɪmɪtə/ *n* a device for measuring the amount of sugar in a solution

**saccharose** /sə'kærəʊs, -roh-z/ *n* sucrose

**saccular** /sə'kyoolə/ *adj* resembling a sac

**sacculate** /sə'kyoolət, -ləyt/, **sacculated** /-ləytɪd/ *adj* having or formed of a series of sac-like expansions – **sacculation** /-ləyʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**saccule** /sə'kyool/ *n* a little sac, specif the smaller chamber of the membranous labyrinth of the ear 𐤱𐤥𐤊𐤍 NERVI [NL *sacculus*, fr L, dim of *saccus* bag – more at 'sack]

**sacculus** /sə'kyooləs/ *n*, *pl* *sacculi* /-li, -lie/ a saccule [NL]

**sacerdotal** /sə'sə'dohl/ *adj* of priests or a priesthood [ME, fr MF, fr L *sacerdotalis*, fr *sacerdot-*, *sacerdos* priest, fr *sacer* sacred + *-dot-*, *-dos* (akin to *facere* to make) – more at SACRED, DO] – **sacerdotally** *adv*

**sacerdotalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* religious belief emphasizing the role of priests as essential mediators between God and human beings – **sacerdotalist** *n*

**sachem** /sə'ch(ə)m, 'sach(ə)m/ *n* a N American Indian chief [Narraganset & Pequot *sachimal*] – **sachemic** /sə'chemɪk/ *adj*

**sachet** /sə'ʃay/ *n* **1** a small usu plastic bag or packet; esp one holding just enough of sth (e.g. shampoo or sugar) for use at 1 time **2** a small bag containing a perfumed powder used to scent clothes and linens [F, fr OF, dim. of *sac* bag – more at SAC] – **sacheted** /sə'ʃayd/ *adj*

**sack** /sək/ *n* **1** a usu rectangular large bag (e.g. of paper or canvas) **2** the amount contained in a sack **3** a garment without shaping. e.g. **a** a loosely fitting dress **b** a loose coat or jacket, esp one worn by men in the 19th c **4** dismissal from employment – *usu* *1 get or give + the*; *infrm* [ME *sak* bag, sackcloth, fr OE *sacc*; akin to OHG *sac* bag; both fr a prehistoric Gmc word borrowed fr L *saccus* bag & LL *saccus* sackcloth, both fr Gk *sakkos* bag, sackcloth, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *saq* bag, sackcloth] – **sackful** *n*

**sack** *vt* **1** to place in a sack **2** to dismiss from a job – *infrm* – **sacker** *n*

**sack** *n* any of various dry white wines formerly imported to England from S Europe [modif of MF *sec* dry, fr L *saccus*; akin to OHG *sihan* to filter, Gk *hikmas* moisture]

- \*sack** *n* the plundering of a place captured in war [MF *sac*, fr OIt *sacco*, lit., bag, fr L *saccus*]
- \*sack** *vt* 1 to plunder (e.g. a town) after capture 2 to strip (a place) of valuables – **sacker** *n*
- sackbut** /ˈsæk.bʊt/ *n* the renaissance trombone [MF *saqueboute*, lit., hooked lance, fr OF, fr *saquer* to pull + *bouter*, *boter* to push – more at BUTT]
- sackcloth** /ˈsæk.klɒθ/ *n* 1 sacking 2 a garment of sackcloth worn as a sign of mourning or penitence [ˈsæk]
- sacking** /ˈsækɪŋ/ *n* material for sacks; esp a coarse fabric (e.g.essian)
- \*sack, race** *n* a jumping race in which each contestant has his/her legs enclosed in a sack
- \*sacr-, sacro-** *comb form* sacred, holy (<*sacrosanct*>) [ME *sacr-*, fr MF & L; MF, fr L, fr *sacr-*, *sacer* – more at SACRED]
- \*sacr-, sacro-** *comb form* 1 *sacrum* (<*sacra*>) 2 *sacral* and (<*sacroiliac*>) [NL, fr *sacrum*, fr L, neut of *sacr-*, *sacer* sacred]
- \*sacral** /ˈsæk.rəl/ *adj* of or lying near the sacrum
- \*sacral** *adj* holy, sacred [L *sacr-*, *sacer*]
- sacrament** /ˈsækrə.mənt/ *n* 1 a formal religious act (e.g. baptism) functioning as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality 2 *cap* the bread and wine used at Communion, *specif* the consecrated Host [ME *sacrament*, *sacrament*, fr OF & LL; OF, fr LL *sacramentum*, fr L, oath of allegiance, obligation, fr *sacrare* to consecrate]
- sacramental** /ˈsækrə.men.təl/ *adj* (having the character) of a sacrament – **sacramentally** *adv*
- sacramentalism** /ˌsækrə.men.təl.ɪz(ə)m/ *n* belief in or use of sacramental rites, acts, or objects, *specif* belief that the sacraments are inherently efficacious and necessary for salvation
- sacred** /ˈseɪ.krɪd/ *adj* 1a dedicated or set apart for the service or worship of a god or gods b dedicated as a memorial (<~ to his memory>) 2a worthy of religious veneration b commanding reverence and respect 3 of religion, not secular or profane [ME, fr pp of *sacren* to consecrate, fr OF *sacer*, fr L *sacrare*, fr *sacr-*, *sacer* holy, cursed; akin to L *sancire* to make sacred, Hitt *saklars* rite] – **sacredly** *adv*, **sacredness** *n*
- sacred ba'boon** *n* HAMADRYAD 2b [fr its veneration by the ancient Egyptians]
- sacred cow** *n* sby or sth granted unreasonable immunity from criticism [fr the veneration of the cow by the Hindus]
- \*sacrifice** /ˈsækrɪfɪs/ *n* 1 an act of offering to a deity; esp the killing of a victim on an altar 2 sth offered in sacrifice 3a destruction or surrender of one thing for the sake of another of greater worth or importance b sth given up or lost (<the ~s made by parents>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *sacrificium*, fr *sacr-*, *sacer* + *facere* to make – more at DO]
- \*sacrifice** *vt* 1 to offer as a sacrifice 2 to give up or lose for the sake of an ideal or end – *vi* to offer up or perform rites of a sacrifice – **sacrificer** *n*
- sacrificial** /ˈsækrɪˈfɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* of or involving sacrifice – **sacrificially** *adv*
- sacrilege** /ˈsækrɪli/ *n* 1 a technical violation of what is sacred 2 gross irreverence toward sby or sth sacred [ME, fr OF, fr L *sacrilegium*, fr *sacrilegus* one who steals sacred things, fr *sacr-*, *sacer* + *legere* to gather, steal – more at LEGEND] – **sacrilegious** /ˈsækrɪˈleɪʃ(ə)s/ *adj*, **sacrilegiously** *adv*, **sacrilegiousness** *n*
- sacristan** /ˈsækrɪstən/ *n* a person in charge of the sacristy and ceremonial equipment, *also* a sexton [ME, fr ML *sacristanus*, fr *sacrista*]
- sacristy** /ˈsækrɪsti/ *n* a room in a church where sacred vessels and vestments are kept and where the clergy put on their vestments [ML *sacristia*, fr *sacrista* sacristan, fr L *sacr-*, *sacer*]
- sacro-** – see **SACR-**
- sacrosanct** /ˈsækrəsæŋkt/ *adj* accorded the highest reverence and respect; *also* regarded with unwarranted reverence [L *sacrosanctus*, prob fr *sacro sanctus* hallowed by a sacred rite] – **sacrosanctity** /ˈsæŋktɪtɪ/ *n*
- sacrum** /ˈsækrəm/ *n*, *pl* *sacra* /ˈsækrə/ the part of the vertebral column that is directly connected with or forms part of the pelvis and in humans consists of 5 united vertebrae  ANATOMY [NL, fr LL *os sacrum* last bone of the spine, lit., holy bone]
- sad** /səd/ *adj* -dd- 1a affected with or expressing unhappiness b(1) causing or associated with unhappiness (2) deplorable, regrettable (<a ~ decline in standards>) 2 of a dull sombre colour 3 of baked goods 'HEAVY 9b [ME, fr OE *sæd* sated, akin to OHG *sāt* sated, L *satis* enough] – **sadly** *adv*, **sadness** *n*
- sadden** /sədn/ *vb* to make or become sad
- saddhu** /ˈsəh.dooh/ *n* a sadhu
- \*saddle** /ˈsædl/ *n* 1a(1) a usu padded and leather-covered seat secured to the back of a horse, donkey, etc for the rider to sit on (2) a part of a harness for a draught animal (e.g. a horse pulling a carriage) comparable to a saddle that is used to keep in place the strap that passes under the animal's tail b a seat in certain types of vehicles (e.g. a bicycle or agricultural tractor) 2 sth like a saddle in shape, position, or function 3 a ridge connecting 2 peaks 4a a large cut of meat from a sheep, hare, rabbit, deer, etc consisting of both sides of the unsplit back including both loins  MEAT b the rear part of a male fowl's back extending to the tail 5 a saddle-shaped marking on the back of an animal [ME *sadel*, fr OF *sadol*, akin to OHG *satul* saddle] – **saddleless** *adj* – *in the saddle* *in control*
- \*saddle** *vt* **saddling** /ˈsædlɪŋ/ 1 to put a saddle on 2 to encumber (<got ~d with the paperwork>)
- \*saddle,back** /ˌbæk/ *n* any of several animals with saddle-shaped markings on the back, esp a medium-sized black pig with a white band crossing the back
- \*saddle,bag** /ˌbæg/ *n* a pouch or bag on the back of a horse behind the saddle, or either of a pair laid across behind the saddle or hanging over the rear wheel of a bicycle or motorcycle
- \*saddle,blanket** *n* a saddlecloth
- \*saddle,bow** /ˌboh/ *n* the arch in or the pieces forming the front of a saddle
- \*saddle,cloth** /ˌkloth/ *n* a piece of cloth, leather, etc placed under a horse's saddle to prevent rubbing
- \*saddle,horse** /ˌhɔːs/ *n* a horse suited or trained for riding
- saddler** /ˈsædlə/ *n* one who makes, repairs, or sells furnishings (e.g. saddles) for horses
- saddlery** /ˈsædləri/ *n* 1 the trade, articles of trade, or shop of a saddler 2 a set of the equipment used for sitting on and controlling a riding horse
- \*saddle,soap** *n* a mild oily soap used for cleansing and conditioning leather
- \*saddle,stitched** *adj* fastened by staples through the fold (<a ~ magazine>)
- \*saddle,tree** /ˌtriː/ *n* the frame of a saddle
- saddhu, saddhu** /ˈsəh.dooh/ *n* an Indian ascetic usu mendicant holy man [Skt *sadhu*]
- sadiron** /ˈsæd.i.ən/ *n* a flatiron that is pointed at both ends [*sad* (compact, heavy) + *iron*]
- sadism** /ˈseɪ.dɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a sexual perversion in which pleasure is obtained by inflicting physical or mental pain on others – compare **MASOCHISM** 2 delight in inflicting pain [ISV, fr Marquis (really Count) de Sade †1814 F writer] – **sadist** *adj* or *n*, **sadistic** /ˈsædɪstɪk/ *adj*, **sadistically** *adv*
- sadomasochism** /ˌseɪdohˈmæsəkɪz(ə)m/ *n* sadism and masochism occurring together in the same person [ISV *sadism* + -o- + *masochism*] – **sadomasochist** *n*, **sadomasochistic** /ˌmæsəˈkɪstɪk/ *adj*
- sad sack** *n*, **NAM** an inept person – *infm*
- sae** /ˌes.əˈiː/ *n* a stamped addressed envelope
- \*safari** /ˈsəˈfɑːri/ *n* (the caravan and equipment of) a hunting or scientific expedition, esp in E Africa [Ar *safari* of a trip] – **safari** *vi*
- \*safari** *adj* made of lightweight material, esp cotton, and typically having 2 breast pockets and a belt  GARMENT
- safari,park** *n* a park stocked with usu big game animals (e.g. lions) so that visitors can observe them in natural-appearing surroundings
- \*safe** /seɪf/ *adj* 1 freed from harm or risk 2 secure from threat of danger, harm, or loss 3 affording safety from danger 4a not threatening or entailing danger (<is your dog ~?>) b unlikely to cause controversy (<keeping to ~ subjects>) 5a not liable to take risks b trustworthy, reliable 6 being a constituency where the MP was elected with a large majority – compare **MARGINAL** [ME *sauf*, fr OF, fr L *salvus* safe, healthy, akin to L *salus* health, safety, *salubris* healthful, *solidus* solid, Gk *holos* whole, safe] – **safe** *adv*, **safely** *adv*, **safeness** *n*
- \*safe** *n* 1 a room or receptacle for the safe storage of valuables 2 a receptacle, esp a cupboard, for the temporary storage of fresh and cooked foods that typically has at least 1 side of wire mesh to allow ventilation while preventing flies from entering
- \*safe,blower** /ˌbloʊ.ə/ *n* a safecracker who uses explosives – **safeblowing** *n*
- \*safe,breaker** /ˌbreɪ.kə/ *n* a safecracker – **safebreaking** *n*
- safe-conduct** *n* (a document authorizing) protection given to a person passing through a military zone or occupied area [ME *sauf conduit*, fr OF, safe conduct]

- 'safe,cracker** /-krakə/ *n* one who breaks open safes to steal – **safe-cracking** *n*
- 'safe,guard** /-gahd/ *n* 1 a pass, safe-conduct 2 a precautionary measure or stipulation [ME *saufgarde*, fr MF *saufgarde*, fr OF, fr *sauf* safe + *garde* guard]
- 'safeguard** *vt* 1 to provide a safeguard for 2 to make safe; protect
- 'safe,keeping** /-keeping/ *n* keeping safe or being kept safe
- 'safe,light** /-liet/ *n* a darkroom lamp with a filter to screen out rays that are harmful to photographic film or paper
- 'safe,period** *n* the time during or near the menstrual period when conception is least likely to occur
- safety** /'sæfti/ *n* 1 the condition of being safe from causing or suffering hurt, injury, or loss 2 **SAFETY CATCH** 3 a billiard shot made with no attempt to score or so as to leave the balls in an unfavourable position for the opponent [ME *saufte*, fr MF *sauvete*, fr OF, fr *sauf*, fem of *sauf* safe]
- 'safety,belt** *n* a belt fastening a person to an object to prevent falling or injury
- 'safety,catch** *n* a device (e.g. on a gun or machine) designed to prevent accidental use
- 'safety,curtain** *n* a fireproof curtain which can isolate the stage from the auditorium in case of fire
- 'safety,glass** *n* glass strengthened by tempering so that when broken, it shatters into relatively safe rounded granules
- 'safety,lamp** *n* a miner's lamp constructed to avoid ignition of inflammable gas, usu by enclosing the flame in wire gauze
- 'safety,match** *n* a match capable of being ignited only on a specially prepared surface
- 'safety,pin** *n* a pin in the form of a clasp with a guard covering its point when fastened
- 'safety,razor** *n* a razor with a guard for the blade
- 'safety, valve** *n* 1 an automatic escape or relief valve (e.g. for a steam boiler) 2 an outlet for pent-up energy or emotion (< *a ~ for life's frustrations*)
- safflower** /'sæfləʊ/ *n* (a red dye prepared from the large orange or red flower heads of) an Old World composite plant [MF *saffleur*, fr Olt *saffiore*, fr Ar *asfar* a yellow plant]
- saffron** /'sæfrən/ *n* 1 (the deep orange aromatic pungent dried stigmas, used to colour and flavour foods, of) a purple-flowered crocus 2 orange-yellow [ME, fr OF *safran*, fr ML *safranum*, fr Ar *za'faran*]
- safranine** /'sæfrəniːn, -neen/, *safranin* /-nin/ *n* 1 a usu red synthetic dye 2 any of various mixtures of safranine salts used in dyeing and for staining specimens for microscopy [ISV, fr F or G *safran* saffron]
- 'sag** /sag/ *vi* -gg- 1 to droop, sink, or settle (as if) from weight, pressure, or loss of tautness 2 to lose firmness or vigour (< *spirits ~ ging from overwork*) 3 to fail to stimulate or retain interest (< *ged a bit in the last act*) [ME *saggen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *sacka* to sag]
- 'sag** *n* 1 a sagging part (< *the ~ in a rope*) 2 an instance or amount of sagging (< *is inevitable in a heavy unsupported span*)
- saga** /'sæɡə/ *n* 1 (a modern heroic narrative resembling) a medieval Icelandic narrative dealing with historic or legendary figures and events 2 a long detailed account 3 a roman-fleuve [ON – more at 'saw]
- sagacious** /sə'ɡæʃəs/ *adj* 1 of keen and farsighted judgment (< *judge of character*) 2 prompted by or indicating acute discernment (< *purchase of stock*) [L *sagax*, *sagax*, akin to L *sagire* to perceive keenly – more at SEEK] – **sagaciously** *adv*, **sagaciousness**, **sagacity** /sə'ɡæsəti/ *n*
- 'sage** /səɪ/ *adj* 1 wise on account of reflection and experience 2 proceeding from or indicating wisdom and sound judgment (< *counsel*) [ME, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *sapius*, fr L *sapere* to taste, have good taste, be wise, akin to OE *sefa* mind, Oscan *sipus* knowing] – **sagely** *adv*, **sageness** *n*
- 'sage** *n* 1 sby (e.g. a great philosopher) renowned for wise teachings 2 a venerable man of sound judgment
- 'sage** *n* 1 a plant of the mint family whose greyish green aromatic leaves are used esp in flavouring meat 2 sagebrush [ME, fr MF *sauge*, fr L *salvia*, fr *salvus* healthy – more at SAFE; fr its use as a medicinal herb]
- 'sage,brush** /-brʊʃ/ *n* any of several composite undershrubs that cover large areas of plains in the W USA
- sage cheese** *n* a cheese (e.g. Derby) flecked with green and flavoured with sage
- 'sage,green** *adj* or *n* greyish green
- sagger** /'sæɡə/ *n* a box made of fireclay in which delicate ceramic pieces are fired [prob alter. of *safeguard*]
- sagittal** /'sædʒɪtəl/ *adj* 1 of the join between the parietal bones that stretches from the front to the back of the top of the skull 2 of, situated in, or being (a plane parallel to) the middle plane or midline of the body [L *sagitta* arrow] – **sagittally** *adv*
- Sagittarius** /sə'dʒɪtəriːəs/ *n* (sby born under) the 9th sign of the zodiac in astrology, pictured as a centaur shooting an arrow ☞ **SYMBOL** [L, lit, archer, fr *sagitta*] – **Sagittarian** /-rɪ-ən/ *adj* or *n*
- sagittate** /'sædʒɪtət/ *adj*, of a plant or animal part, esp a leaf shaped like an arrowhead ☞ **PIANT** [L *sagitta*]
- sago** /'sæɡəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **sagos** a dry powdered starch prepared from the pith of a sago palm and used esp as a food (e.g. in a milk pudding) [Malay *sagu* sago palm]
- 'sago,palm** *n* any of various tall Indian and Malaysian palms that yield sago
- saguaro** /sə'ɡwəhroʊ/ *n*, *pl* **saguaros** a treehike cactus of N American and Mexican deserts with a tall (sparsely branched) trunk, white flowers, and an edible fruit [MexSp]
- saheb** /'sah-(h)ɪb/ *n* sir, master – used, esp among Hindus and Muslims in colonial India, when addressing or speaking of a European of some social or official status [Hindi *saheb*, fr Ar]
- said** /sed/ *adj* aforementioned [pp of say]
- saiga** /'seɪɡə/ *n* an antelope of the Asian plains that has a swollen snout [Russ *saiga*]
- 'sail** /səɪl/ *n*, *pl* **sails**, (*lb*) **sail** also **sails** 1a an expanse of fabric which is spread to catch or deflect the wind as a means of propelling a ship, sand yacht, etc. b (a ship equipped with) sails 2 sthg like a sail in function or form (< *the ~s of a windmill*) 3 a voyage by ship (< *a 5-day ~ from the nearest port*) [ME, fr OE *segl*, akin to OHG *segal* sail, L *secare* to cut more at 'saw] – **sailed** *adj* – **sail** *under sail* in motion with sails set
- 'sail** *vi* 1a to travel in a boat or ship b to make journeys in or manage a sailing boat for pleasure 2a to travel on water, esp by the action of wind on sails b to move without visible effort or in a stately manner (< *ed gracefully into the room* – L C Douglas) 3 to begin a journey by water (< *with the tide*) ~ *vt* 1 to travel over (a body of water) in a ship (< *the 7 seas*) 2 to direct or manage the operation of (a ship or boat) – **sailable** *adj* – **sail into** to attack vigorously or sharply (< *sailed into his dinner*) (< *sailed into me for being late*) – **sail close to the wind** 1 to sail as nearly as possible against the main force of the wind 2 to be near to dishonesty or improper behaviour
- 'sail,board** /-hawd/ *n* a flat buoyant board that is equipped with a sail, centre board, and rudder and is used in the sport of wind-surfing
- 'sail,boat** /-boht/ *n*, chiefly **NAM** **SAILING BOAT**
- 'sail,cloth** /-kloth/ *n* a heavy canvas used for sails, tents, or upholstery, also a lightweight canvas used for clothing
- 'sail,fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of a genus of large marine fishes related to the swordfish but having a very large dorsal fin
- 'sailing,boat** /'sæɪlɪŋ/ *n* a boat fitted with sails for propulsion
- 'sailing,ship** *n* a ship fitted with sails for propulsion
- sailor** /'seɪlə/ *n* 1a a seaman, mariner b a member of a ship's crew other than an officer 2 a traveller by water, esp one considered with reference to any tendency to seasickness (< *a bad ~*) [alter. of *sailer*, fr 'sail + -er]
- 'sailor,collar** *n* a broad collar that has a square flap across the back and tapers to a V in the front
- sailplane** /'seɪlˌpleɪn/ *n* a glider designed to rise in an upward air current – **sailplane** *vi*, **sailplaner** *n*
- sainfoin** /'sanˌfoɪn/ *n* a Eurasian red or pink-flowered leguminous plant widely grown for forage [F, fr MF, fr *sain* healthy (fr L *sanus*) + *foin* hay, fr L *fenum*]
- saint** /sæɪnt/ *before a name usu* s(a)nt/ *n* 1 a person officially recognized through canonization as being outstandingly holy and so worthy of veneration 2a any of the spirits of the departed in heaven b ANGEL 1 (< *Saint Michael the Archangel*) 3 any (of various Christian groups regarding themselves as) of God's chosen people 4 a person of outstanding piety or virtue [ME, fr MF, fr LL *sanctus*, fr L, sacred, fr pp of *sancire* to make sacred – more at SACRED] – **sainthood** /-hood/ *n*, **saintlike** *adj*, **saintly** *adj*, **saintliness** *n*
- Saint Agnes** 'Eve /s(a)nt 'æɡnɪs(ɪz)/ *n* the night of January 20, when a girl is traditionally held to see her future husband in a dream [St Agnes †304 virgin martyr]
- Saint Andrew's cross** /'ændrəʊz/ *n* a cross consisting of 2 intersecting diagonal bars ☞ **SYMBOL** [St Andrew † ab AD 60, 1 of the 12 apostles]
- Saint Andrew's Day** *n* November 30 observed in honour of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland
- Saint Anthony's fire** /'æntənɪz/ *also* 'anth-/ *n* any of several inflam-

mations or gangrenous conditions (e.g. erysipelas or ergotism) of the skin [St Anthony †356 Egyptian monk]

**Saint Bernard** /'buhnd/ *n* (any of) a Swiss alpine breed of tall powerful working dogs used, esp. formerly, in aiding lost travellers [the hospice of Grand St Bernard, Switzerland, where such dogs were first bred]

**Saint David's Day** /'dayvidz/ *n* March 1 observed in honour of St David, the patron saint of Wales [St David †601 W bishop]

**Saint Elmo's fire** /'elmohz/ *n* a flame-like electrical discharge sometimes seen in stormy weather at prominent points (e.g. on an aeroplane, ship, or building) [St Elmo (Erasmus) †303 It bishop & patron saint of sailors]

**Saint George's Day** /'jaujiz/ *n* April 23 observed in honour of St George, the patron saint of England [St George †ab 303 Christian martyr]

**Saint John's wort** /'jonz/ *n* any of a genus of plants and shrubs with often showy yellow flowers [St John the Baptist †ab 27 prophet]

**Saint Patrick's Day** /'patricks/ *n* March 17 observed in honour of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland [St Patrick †ab 461 Christian missionary]

**'saint's day** /'saynts/ *n* a day in a church calendar on which a saint is commemorated

**Saint Swithin's Day** /'swidh(ə)nz/ July 15 that traditionally indicates 40 days of rain if rainy or 40 dry days if dry [St Swithin †862 E bishop]

**Saint Valentine's Day** /'valəntiənz/ *n* February 14 observed in honour of St Valentine and as a time for sending valentines [St Valentine †ab 270 It priest]

**Saint Vitus's dance** /'viətəs(iz)/ *n* chorea [St Vitus, 3rd-c Christian child martyr]

**saithe** /seth, sayth/ *archaic pres 3 sing of say*

**saithe** /'ayth/ *n, pl saithe* a coley [of Scand origin, akin to ON *sethr* coalfish]

**'sake** /sayk/ *n* [ME, dispute, guilt, purpose, fr OE *sacu* guilt, action at law, akin to OHG *sahha* action at law, cause, OE *secan* to seek – more at *SFEK*] – *for the sake of*, *for someone's/something's sake* 1 for the purpose of (for the sake of argument) 2 so as to get, keep, or improve (for conscience sake) (study Latin for its own sake) 3 so as to help, please, or honour (to go to the sea for the sake of the children) (for old times' sake) – *for God's/goodness/Heaven's/pity's sake* – used in protest or supplication

**²sake, saki** /'sahki/ *n* a Japanese alcoholic drink of fermented rice [Jap *sake*]

**saker** /'sayka/ *n* a large Old World falcon used in falconry [ME *sagr*, fr MF *sacre*, fr Ar *sagr*]

**saki** /'sahki/ *n* any of several S American long-tailed monkeys [F, fr Tupi *sagui*]

**Sakti** /s(h)ahkti/ *n* Shakti – Saktism /-tiz(ə)m/ *n*

**sal** /səl/ *n* (the wood of) an E Indian timber tree [Hindi *sal*, fr Skt *śala*]

**'salaam** /sə'lahm/ *n* 1 a ceremonial greeting in E countries 2 an obeisance made by bowing low and placing the right palm on the forehead [Ar *salam*, lit., peace]

**²salaam** *vb* to perform a salaam (to)


**salable, saleable** /'sayləbl/ *adj* capable of being or fit to be sold – *salability* /'bɪləti/ *n*

**salacious** /sə'layshəs/ *adj* 1 arousing or appealing to sexual desire 2 lecherous, lustful [L *salac-*, *salax* fond of leaping, lustful, fr *salire* to leap – more at *SALLY*] – *salaciously* *adv*, *salaciousness* *n*

**salad** /sə'ləd/ *n* 1a (mixed) raw vegetables (e.g. lettuce, watercress, tomato) often served with a dressing b a dish of raw or (cold) cooked foods often cut into small pieces and combined with a dressing (fruit ~) 2 a vegetable or herb eaten raw (in salad), esp. lettuce [ME *salade*, fr MF, fr OProv *salada*, fr *salare* to salt, fr *sal* salt, fr L – more at *SAL 1*]

**'salad days** *n pl* time of youthful inexperience or indiscretion (my ~ when I was green in judgment – Shak)

**'saled oil** *n* an edible vegetable oil (e.g. olive oil) used in salad dressings

**salamander** /sə'lə'məndə, -mænd-/ *n* 1 a mythical animal with the power to endure fire without harm 2 any of numerous scaleless amphibians superficially resembling lizards  DEFENCE [ME *salamandre*, fr MF, fr L *salamandra*, fr Gk] – *salamandrine* /-drɪn/ *adj*

**salami** /sə'lahmi/ *n, pl salamis* a highly seasoned, esp. pork, sausage often containing garlic [It, pl of *salame* salami, fr *salare* to salt, fr *sale* salt, fr L *sal* – more at *SALT*]

**salary** /'salarɪ/ *n* a fixed usu. monthly payment for regular services, esp. of a nonmanual kind – compare *WAGE* [ME *salare*, fr L *salarium* salt money, pension, salary, fr neut. of *salarius* of salt, fr *sal* salt – more at *SALT*] – *salariad* *adj*

**salbutamol** /səl'byuəltə,mol/ *n* a synthetic drug used in the treatment of asthma to relax the muscles of the bronchioles of the lungs and make breathing easier [*sal* (salt, fr L) + *butyl* + *amin-* + *-ol*]

**salchow** /'salkow/ *n* a jump in ice-skating with a turn in the air [Ulrich Salchow 20th-c Sw skating champion]

**sale** /sayl/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of selling, *specif* the transfer of ownership of and title to property or goods from one person to another for a price 2a opportunity of selling or being sold (counting on a large ~ for the new product) b quantity sold – often pl with sing. meaning (total ~s rose last year) 3 an event at which goods are offered for sale (an antiques ~) 4 public disposal to the highest bidder 5 a selling of goods at bargain prices 6a pl operations and activities involved in promoting and selling goods or services (manager in charge of ~s) b gross receipts obtained from selling [ME, fr OE *sala*, fr ON – more at *SFL*] – *on/for sale* available for purchase

**saleable** /'sayləbl/ *adj* salable

**salep** /'sələp/ *n* the starchy dried tubers of various Old World orchids used for food [F or Sp, fr Ar dial. *sahlab*, alter. of Ar (*khusy ath-*) *tha'lab*, lit., testicles of the fox]

**saleratus** /sə'lə'raɪtəs/ *n, NAm* a raising agent consisting of potassium or sodium bicarbonate [NL *sal aeratus* aerated salt]

**saleroom** /'saylroohm, -room/ *n, chiefly Br* a place where goods are displayed for sale, esp. by auction

**sales** /saylz/ *adj* of, engaged in, or used in selling

**'sales, clerk** /-,klahk; *NAm* -,kluhk/ *n* SHOP ASSISTANT

**'sales, girl** /-,guh/ *n* a female shop assistant

**'sales, lady** /-,lədi/ *n* a female shop assistant

**'salesman** /-mən/, *fem* 'sales, woman *n, pl* salesmen /-mən/, *fem* 'sales-, women a salesperson – *salesmanship* *n*

**'sales, person** /-puh(ə)n/ *n* sby employed to sell goods or a service (e.g. in a shop or within an assigned territory)

**'sales representative** *n* a person who travels, usu. in an assigned territory, to win orders for his/her firm's goods

**salic comb form salt** <saliferous> [L, fr *sal* – more at *SALT*]

**Salic** /'saylik, 'salik/ *adj* of or being a Frankish people that settled on the IJssel river early in the 4th c [MF or ML, MF *salique*, fr ML *Salicus*, fr LL *Salū* Salic Franks]

**salicin** /'səlisɪn/ *n* a bitter glucoside obtained from the bark and leaves of any of several willows and used in medicine like salicylic acid [F *salicine*, fr I *salic-*, *salix* willow – more at *SALLOW*]

**Salic law** /-,ləik/ *n* the legal code of the Salic Franks, also a rule held to derive from this code excluding females from succession to a throne

**salicylate** /sə'sɪsɪlət/ *n* a salt or ester of salicylic acid

**salicylic acid** /sə'sɪsɪlɪk/ *n* an acid whose derivatives (e.g. aspirin) are used to relieve pain and fever [ISV, fr the radical *salicyl*]

**'salient** /'sayliənt, -li-ənt/ *adj* 1 pointing upwards or outwards (a ~ angle) 2a projecting beyond a line or level b standing out conspicuously (characteristics) [L *salient-*, *salien-*, prp of *salire* to leap – more at *SATV*] – *saliently* *adv*, *salience* /-əns/, *salience* *n*


**²salient** *n* an outwardly projecting part of a fortification, trench system, or line of defence

**salientian** /'sayli-əns(ə)n/ *n* any of an order of amphibians including the frogs and toads, that lack a tail as adults and have long hind limbs suited to leaping and swimming [deriv of L *salient-*, *salien-*] – *salientian* *adj*, *salient* /'sayliənt, -li-ənt/ *adj*

**saline** /sə'liənə/ *n* a salt marsh, lake, spring, etc [Sp, fr L *salinae* saltworks, fr fem pl of *salinus*]

**'saline** /'say,liən/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of, containing, or resembling salt (a ~ solution) 2 esp of a purgative containing salts of potassium, sodium, or magnesium [ME, fr L *salinus*, fr *sal* salt – more at *SALT*] – *salinity* /sə'linəti/ *n*

**²saline** *n* 1 a purgative salt of potassium, sodium, or magnesium 2 a saline solution (similar in concentration to body fluids)

**Salish** /'saylɪʃ/ *n* a language stock of the Mosan phylum  LAN- GUAGE – *Salishan* *adj*

**saliva** /sə'liəvə/ *n* a slightly alkaline mixture of water, protein, salts, and often enzymes that is secreted into the mouth by glands, and that lubricates ingested food and often begins the breakdown of starches [L – more at *SALLOW*] – *salivary* /'səliəv(ə)n/ *adj*

**salivate** /'səliəvə/ *vi* to have an (excessive) flow of saliva – *salivation* /-vəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Salik vaccine** /sawik/ *n* a vaccine against polio [Jonas *Salik* b 1914 US physician]

**sallet** /səlit/ *n* a light 15th-c helmet with a projection over the neck [ME, fr MF *sallade*]

**salle** /səli/ *n*, chiefly dial a willow [by alter]

**sallow** /səloh/ *n* any of various Old World broad-leaved willows some of which are important sources of charcoal [ME, fr OE *sealh*; akin to OHG *salha* willow, L *salix* willow]

**sallow** *adj* of a sickly yellowish colour [ME *salowe*, fr OE *salu*, akin to OHG *salo* murky, L *saliva* spittle] – **sallowish** *adj*, **sallowness** *n*

**sally** /səli/ *adj*, chiefly dial willow

**sally** *n* 1 a rushing forth; esp a sortie of troops from a besieged position 2a a brief outbreak (< a ~ of rage) b a witty or penetrating remark 3 a short excursion; a jaunt [MF *sallie*, fr OF, fr *saillir* to rush forwards, fr L *salire* to leap; akin to Gk *hallesthai* to leap]

**sally** *vi* 1 to rush out or issue forth suddenly 2 to set out (e.g. on a journey) – **usu + forth**

**salmagundi** /səlmə'gundi/ *n* 1 a dish of chopped meats, anchovies, eggs, and vegetables often arranged in rows for contrast 2 a mixture composed of many usu unrelated elements [F *salmingondis*]

**salmi** /səlmɪ/ *n* a ragout of partly roasted game stewed in a rich wine sauce [F *salimis*, short for *salmingondis*]

**salmon** /səmən/ *n*, pl **salmon**, esp for different types salmon 1 (any of various fishes related to) a large soft-finned game and food fish of the N Atlantic that is highly valued for its pink flesh 2 orangy-pink [ME *salmon*, fr MF, fr L *salmon-*, *salmo*] – **salmonoid** /səlmə'noɪd/ *adj*

**salmonella** /səlmə'nelə/ *n*, pl **salmonellae** /-li/, **salmonellas**, **salmonella** any of a genus of bacteria that cause diseases, esp food poisoning, in warm-blooded animals [NL, genus name, fr Daniel E *Salmon* †1914 US veterinarian] – **salmonellosis** /səlmə'neləʊsɪs/ *n*

**salmon trout** *n* SEA TROUT

**salon** /səlonh/ *n* 1 an elegant reception room or living room 2 a gathering of literary figures, statesmen, etc held at the home of a prominent person and common in the 17th and 18th c 3 *cap* an exhibition esp in France, of works of art by living artists 4 a stylish business establishment or shop (< a beauty ~) [F]

**saloon** /sə'loʊhn/ *n* 1 a public apartment or hall (e.g. a ballroom, exhibition room, or shipboard social area) 2 a railway carriage with no compartments 3 *Br* an enclosed motor car having no partition between the driver and passengers 4a *Br* SALOON BAR b *NAm* a room or establishment in which alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed [F *salon*, fr It *salone*, aug of *sala* hall, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *sal* hall; akin to Lith *sala* village]

**saloon bar** *n*, *Br* a comfortable, well-furnished, and often relatively expensive bar in a public house – compare PUBLIC BAR

**Salopian** /sə'loʊpi-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant) of Shropshire [*Salop*, alternative name of Shropshire]

**salping-**, **salpingo-** *comb form* **salpinx** <salpingitis> <salpingectomy> [NL, fr *salping-*, *salpinx*]

**salpinx** /sə'pɪŋks/ *n*, pl **salpinges** /sə'pɪŋjez/ 1 EUSTACHIAN TUBE 2 FALLOPIAN TUBE [NL *salping-*, *salpinx*, fr Gk, trumpet]

**salsify** /sə'sɪfɪ-, -fi-/ *n* (the long tapering edible root of) a European composite plant [F *salsifis*, modif of It *sassefrica*, fr LL *saxifrica*, any of various herbs, fr L *saxum* rock + *fricare* to rub – more at SAXIFRAGE, FRICTION]

**salt** /sawlt, solt/ *n* 1a sodium chloride, occurring naturally esp as a mineral deposit and dissolved in sea water, and used esp for seasoning or preserving b any of numerous compounds resulting from replacement of (part of) the hydrogen ion of an acid by a (radical acting like a) metal c *pl* (1) a mixture of the salts of alkali metals or magnesium (e.g. Epsom salts) used as a purgative (2) SMELLING SALTS 2a an ingredient that imparts savour, piquancy, or zest b sharpness of wit 3 an experienced sailor (< a tale worthy of an old ~) 4 a saltcellar [ME, fr OE *sealt*; akin to OHG *salz* salt, L *sal*, Gk *hals* salt, sea] – **saltlike** *adj* – **above/below the salt placed**, *seated*, in a socially advantageous/disadvantageous position – **worth one's salt** worthy of respect; competent, effective

**salt** *vt* 1 to treat, provide, season, or preserve with common salt or brine 2 to give flavour or piquancy to (e.g. a story) 3 to enrich (e.g. a mine) fraudulently by adding valuable matter, esp mineral ores 4 to sprinkle (as if) with a salt (<ing clouds with silver iodide) – **salter** *n*

**salt** *adj* 1a saline, salty b being or inducing a taste similar to that of common salt that is one of the 4 basic taste sensations – compare BITTER, SOUR, SWEET 2 cured or seasoned with salt; salted (< ~ pork) 3 containing, overflowed by, or growing in salt water (< a ~ marsh) 4 sharp, pungent (< a ~ wit – John Buchan) – **saltiness** *n*

**saltarello** /saltə'reloh/ *n*, pl **saltarellos** an Italian dance with a lively hop step beginning each measure [It, fr *saltare* to leap, fr L]

**salt away** *vt* to put by in reserve, save (<salted his money away>)

**saltbush** /-,boosh/ *n* an orache, esp one that is an important grazing plant in dry regions

**saltcellar** /-,səlo/ *n* a cruet for salt [ME *salt saler*, fr *salt* + *saler* salt cellar, fr MF, fr L *salarius* of salt – more at SALARY]

**salt dome** *n* a dome-shaped arch in sedimentary rock that has a mass of rock salt as its core

**saltern** /sawltən, 'soltən/ *n* a place where salt is made (e.g. by boiling sea water) [OE *scaltern*, fr *sealt* salt + *ærn* house, akin to ON *rann* house]

**saltling** /sawltɪŋ, 'soltɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a marshy area flooded regularly by tides – **usu pl** with sing. meaning [fr gerund of 'salt]

**saltire** /səltɪə/ *n* a diagonal heraldic cross [ME *sautire*, fr MF *saultoir* X-shaped animal barricade that can be jumped over by people, saltire, fr *sautier* to jump, fr L *saltare*, fr *salut*, pp of *salire* to leap, jump]

**salt lick** *n* LICK 3

**salt marsh** *n* flat land frequently flooded by seawater

**salt of the earth** *n* an individual or group exhibiting essential human qualities (e.g. honesty or humour) [fr reference in Matt 5 13]

**salt out** *vb* to precipitate or separate (a dissolved substance) from a solution by the addition of salt

**salt pan** /-,pan/ *n* a depression (e.g. made in rock) or vessel for evaporating brine

**saltpetre**, *NAm* **salt peter** /-'peetə/ *n* POTASSIUM NITRATE [alter of earlier *salt peter*, fr ME, fr MF *salpetre*, fr ML *sal petrae*, lit., salt of the rock]

**saltwater** /-'wawtə/ *adj* of, living in, or being salt water

**saltwort** /-,wuht/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the goosefoot family that grow esp in salty habitats

**salty** /sawltɪ, 'soltɪ/ *adj* 1 of, seasoned with, or containing salt 2 having a taste of (too much) salt 3a piquant, witty b earthy, coarse – **saltily** *adv*, **saltiness** *n*

**salubrious** /sə'l(y)oo'hbrɪ-əs/ *adj* 1 favourable to health or well-being (< a ~ climate) 2 RESPECTABLE 2 (<not a very ~ district) [L *salubris* – more at SAFE] – **salubriously** *adv*, **salubriousness**, **salubrity** /sə'loo'hbrɪtɪ/ *n*

**saluki** /sə'loo'hki/ *n* (any of) a N African and Asian breed of tall slender keen-eyed silky-coated hunting dogs [Ar *saluqi* of Saluq, fr *Saluq* Saluq, ancient city in Arabia]

**salutary** /səlyoot(ə)n/ *adj* having a beneficial or edifying effect [MF *salutaire*, fr L *salutaris*, fr *salut-*, *salus* health] – **salutariness** *n*, **salutarily** /-trəli/ *adv*

**salutation** /səlyoo'taysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a an expression of greeting or courtesy by word or gesture b *pl* regards 2 the word or phrase of greeting (e.g. *Dear Sir*) that conventionally comes immediately before the body of a letter or speech [SALUTE + -ATION] – **salutational**, **salutatory** /sə'l(y)oohtət(ə)n/ *adj*

**salute** /sə'l(y)ooht/ *vt* 1 to address with expressions of greeting, goodwill, or respect 2a to honour by a conventional military or naval ceremony b to show respect and recognition to (a military superior) by assuming a prescribed position c to praise (< ~d her courage>) 3 *archaic* to become apparent to (one of the senses) – *vi* to make a salute [ME *saluten*, fr L *salutare*, fr *salut-*, *salus* health, safety, greeting – more at SAFE] – **saluter** *n*

**salute** *n* 1 a greeting, salutation 2a a sign or ceremony expressing goodwill or respect (<the festival was a ~ to the arts>) b an act of saluting a military superior, also the position (e.g. of the hand or weapon) or the entire attitude of a person saluting a superior

**salvage** /səlvɪdʒ/ *n* 1a compensation paid to those who save property from loss or damage; esp compensation paid for saving a ship from wreckage or capture b the act of saving or rescuing a ship or its cargo c the act of saving or rescuing property in danger (e.g. from fire) 2a property saved from a calamity (e.g. a wreck or fire) b sth of use or value extracted from waste material [F, fr MF, fr *salver* to save – more at 'SAVE]

**salvage** *vt* to rescue or save (e.g. from wreckage or ruin) – **salvager** *n*, **salvageable** *adj*, **salvageability** /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**salvation** /səlvəʃən/ *n* 1 (an agent or means which effects) deliverance from the power and effects of sin 2 deliverance from danger, difficulty, or destruction [ME, fr OF, fr LL *salvation-*, *salvatio*, fr *salvatus*, pp of *salvare* to save – more at 'SAVE] – **salvational** *adj*

**Salvation Army** *n* an international Christian group organized on military lines and founded in 1865 by William Booth for evangelizing and performing social work among the poor



**salvationism** /sal'vayshə, nɪz(ə)m/ *n* religious teaching emphasizing the saving of the soul

**Salvationist** /sal'vayshənɪst/ *n* a member of the Salvation Army – **salvationist** *adj.* *often cap*

**salve** /səlv, səlv/ *n* 1 an ointment for application to wounds or sores 2 a soothing influence or agency (< a ~ to their hurt feelings> [ME, fr OE *sealf*, akin to OHG *salba* *salve*, Gk *olpe* oil flask]

**salve** *vt* 1 to remedy (as if) with a salve 2 to ease (< ~ a troubled conscience>)

**salver** /'səlvə/ *n* a tray; *esp* an ornamental tray (e.g. of silver) on which food or beverages are served or letters and visiting cards are presented [modif of F *salve*, fr Sp *salva* sampling of food to detect poison, tray, fr *salvar* to save, sample food to detect poison, fr LL *salvare* to save – more at *SAVE*]

**salvia** /'səlvɪə/ *n* any of a genus of herbs or shrubs of the mint family, *esp* one grown for its scarlet or purple flowers [NL, genus name, fr L, sage – more at *SAIGE*]

**salvo** /'səlvə/ *n, pl salvos, salvoes* 1a a simultaneous discharge of 2 or more guns or missiles in military or naval action or as a salute b the release at one moment of several bombs or missiles from an aircraft 2 a sudden or emphatic burst (e.g. of cheering or approbation) [It *salva*, fr F *salve*, fr L, hail, imper of *salvere* to be healthy, fr *salvus* healthy – more at *SAFE*]

**sal volatile** /sal və'latɪl/ *n* an aromatic solution of ammonium carbonate in alcohol or ammonia water used as smelling salts [NL, lit, volatile salt]

**salvor** /'səlvə/ *n* a person or ship making a salvage at sea [salvage + -or]

**samara** /'səməɾə/ *n* KRY 9 [NL, fr L seed of the elm]

**Samaritan** /sə'mərɪt(ə)n/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of ancient Samaria 2a *often not cap* one who selflessly gives aid to those in distress b a member of an organization that offers help to those in despair [ME, fr LL *samaritanus*, *n* & *adj*, fr Gk *samarites* inhabitant of Samaria, fr *Samaria*, district & city of ancient Palestine, (2) fr the parable of the good Samaritan, Lk 10 30–37] – **samaritan** *adj.* *often cap*

**samarium** /sə'meəriəm/ *n* a metallic transition element used *esp* in alloys that form permanent magnets – *see* PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr F *samarските* a mineral, fr Colonel von *SamarSKI* 19th-c Russ mine official]

**samba** /'sambə/ *n* (the music for) a Brazilian dance of African origin characterized by a dip and spring upwards at each beat of the music [Pg] – **samba** *vi*

**sambar, sambur** /'səmbə, 'səmb-/ *n* a large Asian deer with 3-pointed antlers and long coarse hair on the throat [Hindi *sābar*, fr Skt *sambara*]

**sambo** /'səmbə/ *n, often cap* 1 sby of 'a Negro ancestry 2 a Negro – *derog* [AmerSp *zambo* Negro, mulatto]

**same** /səym/ *adj* 1 being 1 single thing, person, or group, identical (< wear the ~ shoes for a week> – *often* as an intensive (< born in this very ~ house>) 2 being the specified one or ones – *as* or *that* (< made the ~ mistake as last time>) 3 corresponding so closely as to be indistinguishable (< 2 brothers have the ~ nose>) [ME, fr ON *samr*, akin to OHG *sama* same, L *similis* like, *simul* together, at the same time, *sem-* one, Gk *homos* same, *hama* together, *hen-, heis* one] – *at the same time* for all that, nevertheless

**same** *pron, pl same* 1 the same thing, person, or group (< do the ~ for you>) (< happy Christmas! Same to you!> 2 sth previously mentioned (< ordered a drink and refused to pay for ~>)

**same** *adv* in the same manner – *as* the (< 2 words spelt the ~>)

**sameness** /sə'mnɪs/ *n* 1 identity, similarity 2 monotony, uniform – [SAME + -NESS]

**samisen** /sə'mɪsən/ *n* a 3-stringed Japanese musical instrument resembling a banjo [Jap]

**samizdat** /sə'mɪzɪt/ *n* a system in the USSR by which literature suppressed by the government is clandestinely printed and distributed, *also* such literature [Russ, lit, self-publishing]

**samlet** /sə'mlɪt/ *n* a parr [irreg fr *salmon* + -let]

**Samoa** /sə'məʊə/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Samoa 2 the Polynesian language of the Samoans – *see* LANGUAGE [Samoa, group of islands in the Pacific Ocean] – **Samoa** *adj*

**samovar** /sə'məvə, -sə-/ *n* a metal urn with a tap at its base and an interior heating tube, that is used, *esp* in Russia, to boil water for tea [Russ, fr *samo-* self + *varit* to boil]

**Samoyed** *also* **Samoyede** /sə'mə'ed, sə'mə'yed/ *sense* 2 sə'mə'yed/ *n* 1 a member of a people of the coastal regions of the N USSR and NW

Siberia 2 (any of) a Siberian breed of deep-chested thick coated white or cream sledge dogs. [Russ *samoced*] – **Samoyed** *adj, Samoyedic* /sə'mə'yedɪk, sə'mə'yedɪk/ *adj*

**samp** /səmp/ *n, NAM* (a boiled porridge made from) coarsely ground maize [Narrangaset *nassump* corn mush]

**sampan** /sə'mpən/ *n* a small flat-bottomed boat used in rivers and harbours in the Far East [Chin (Pek) *san'pan*, fr *san* three + *pan* board, plank]

**samphire** /sə'mfɪə/ *n* 1 a European seacoast rock plant of the carrot family whose fleshy leaves are sometimes eaten boiled and pickled 2 glasswort [alter of earlier *sampiere*, fr MF (*herbe de*) *Saint Pierre*, lit, St Peter's herb]

**sample** /səmpl/ *n* 1 an item serving to show the character or quality of a larger whole or group 2 a part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole [ME, fr MF *essample*, fr L *exemplum* – more at *EXAMPLE*]

**sample** *vt* **sampling** /sə'mplɪŋ, 'səmplɪŋ/ to take a sample of or from, *esp* to test the quality of by a sample (< d his output for defects>)

**sample** *adj* intended as an example

**sampler** /sə'mplə/ *n* a decorative piece of needlework typically having letters or verses embroidered on it in various stitches as an example of skill

**sampler** *n* 1 sby or sth that collects, prepares, or examines samples 2 *NAM* a collection of representative specimens (< a ~ of 18 poets>)

**sampling** /sə'mplɪŋ/ *n* 1 a small (statistical) sample 2 the act, process, or technique of selecting a suitable sample

**samsara** /sə'm'səɾə/ *n* the Hindu cycle of indefinitely repeated reincarnation [Skt *samsara*, lit, passing through]

**samsoe** /sə'mzə/ *n* a Danish cheese with a firm texture, mild slightly sweet flavour, and a few medium-sized holes [Samsø, island in Denmark]

**Samuel** /səmyəl, 'səmyooəl/ *n* (either of 2 narrative and historical books of the Old Testament telling of) the early Hebrew judge who anointed first Saul, then David as king [LL, fr Gk *Samouel*, fr Heb *Shemu'el*]

**samurai** /sə'm(yoo,ri:/ *n, pl samurai* 1 a military retainer of a Japanese feudal baron 2 the warrior aristocracy of Japan [Jap]

**sanative** /sə'nə'tɪv/ *adj* having the power to heal – *fml* [ME *sanatīf*, fr MF, fr LL *sanativus*, fr L *sanatus*, pp of *sanare* to cure, fr *sanus* healthy]

**sanatorium** /sə'nə'tɔːrɪəm/ *n, pl sanatoria, sanatoria* /-rɪə/ an establishment that provides therapy, rest, or recuperation for convalescents, the chronically ill, etc [NL, fr LL, neut of *sanatorius* curative, fr *sanatus*]

**sanctify** /səŋk'tɪfɪə/ *vt* 1 to set apart for a sacred purpose or for religious use 2 to free from sin 3 to give moral or social sanction to 4 to make productive of holiness or piety (< keep the sabbath day to ~ it – Deut 5 12 (AV)> [ME *sanctifier*, fr MF *sanctifier*, fr LL *sanctificare*, fr L *sanctus* sacred – more at *SAIN*] – **sanctification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* **sanctimonious** /səŋk'tɪ'mə'nɪəs, -nɪəs/ *adj* self-righteous [L *sanctimonia* devoutness, fr *sanctus*] – **sanctimoniously** *adv*, **sanctimoniousness** *n*


**sanction** /səŋk'sh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a formal ecclesiastical decree 2 sth that makes an oath or moral precept binding 3 a penalty annexed to an offence 4a a consideration that determines moral action or judgment b a mechanism of social control (e.g. shame) for enforcing a society's standards c official permission or authoritative ratification 5 an economic or military coercive measure adopted to force a nation to conform to international law [MF or L; MF, fr L *sanction-*, *sanctio*, fr *sanctus*, pp of *sancire* to make holy – more at *SACRED*]

**sanction** *vt* 1 to make valid, ratify 2 to give authoritative consent to **sanctity** /səŋk'tɪtɪ/ *n* 1 holiness of life and character 2 the quality or state of being holy or sacred [ME *saunctite*, fr MF *sauncteté*, fr L *sanctitas*, *sanctitas*, fr *sanctus* sacred]

**sanctuary** /səŋk'tyoo(ə)n, -chən/ *n* 1 a consecrated place. e.g. a the ancient temple at Jerusalem or its holy of holies b the most sacred part of a religious building, *esp* the part of a Christian church in which the altar is placed c a place (e.g. a church or a temple) for worship 2a(1) a place of refuge and protection (2) a refuge for (endangered) wildlife where predators are controlled and hunting is illegal (< a bird ~>) b the immunity from law attached to a sanctuary [ME *sanctuarie*, fr MF *sanctuarie*, fr LL *sanctuarium*, fr L *sanctus*]

**sanctum** /səŋk'təm/ *n, pl sanctums* *also* **sancta** /-tə/ a place of total privacy and security (e.g. a study) [LL, fr L, neut of *sanctus* sacred]

- sanctum sanctorum** /sankt'tawrm/ *n* 1 HOLY OF HOLIES 2 a sanctum – humor [LL]
- Sanctus** /sangk'tas/ *n* a hymn of adoration sung or said before the prayer of consecration in the celebration of the Eucharist [ME, fr LL *Sanctus*, *sanctus*, *sanctus* Holy, holy, holy, opening of a hymn sung by the angels in Isa 6 3]
- Sanctus bell** *n* a bell rung by the server at important points during the Mass
- sand** /sænd/ *n* 1 loose granular particles smaller than gravel and coarser than silt that result from the disintegration of (silica-rich) rocks 2 an area of sand; a beach – usu pl with sing. meaning 3 moments of time measured (as if) with an hourglass – usu pl with sing. meaning <the ~s of this government run out very rapidly> – H J Laski 4 yellowish grey [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *sant* sand, L *sabulum*, Gk *psammos* & *ammos* sand, *psēn* to rub]
- sand** *vt* 1 to sprinkle (as if) with sand 2 to cover or choke with sand – usu + *up* 3 to smooth or dress by grinding or rubbing with an abrasive (e.g. sandpaper) – often + *down* – *sander* *n*
- sandal** /sændl/ *n* a shoe consisting of a sole held on to the foot by straps or thongs [ME *sandalic*, fr L *sandalium*, fr Gk *sandalion*, dim of *sandalon* sandal]
- sandalwood** /-,wood/ *n* 1 (the compact close-grained fragrant yellowish heartwood, used in ornamental carving and cabinetwork, of) an Indo-Malayan tree 2 (any of various trees yielding) fragrant wood similar to true sandalwood [*sandal* (sandalwood) (fr ME, fr MF, fr ML *sandalum*, fr LGk *santalōn*, deriv of Skt *candana*, of Dravidian origin, akin to Tamil *cantu* sandalwood tree) + *wood*]
- sandalwood oil** *n* any of several essential oils obtained from sandalwoods and used esp in perfumes and soaps
- sandarac** /sanda,rak/ *n* a resin obtained esp from an African tree of the pine family and used chiefly in making varnish and as incense [L *sandaraca* red colouring, fr Gk *sandarake* realgar, red pigment from realgar]
- sandbag** /sænd,bag/ *n* a bag filled with sand and used in usu temporary fortifications or constructions, as ballast, or as a weapon
- sandbag** *vt* -gg- to barricade, stop up, or weight with sandbags
- sandbank** /-,bank/ *n* a large deposit of sand, esp in a river or coastal waters
- sandbar** /-,bah/ *n* a sandbank
- sandblast** /-,blahst/ *vt* or *n* (to treat with) a high-speed jet of sand propelled by air or steam (e.g. for cutting or cleaning glass or stone) – *sandblaster* *n*
- sand-blind** *adj*, *archaic* having poor eyesight; purblind [ME, prob fr (assumed) ME *samblind*, fr OE *sam-* half + *blind*; akin to OHG *sami-* half – more at SEMI-]
- sandboy** /-,boy/ *n* sby who is cheerfully absorbed or engrossed – chiefly in *happy as a sandboy* (*sandboy* (pedlar of sand))
- sandcastle** /-,kahsl/ *n* a model of a castle made in damp sand, esp at the seaside
- sand crack** *n* a fissure in the wall of a horse's hoof often causing lameness
- sand dollar** *n* any of numerous flat circular sea urchins that live chiefly in shallow water on sandy bottoms
- sand eel** *n* any of various silvery eel-like sea fishes
- sanderling** /sænd'ling/ *n* a small sandpiper with largely grey-and-white plumage [perh irreg fr *sand* + *-ling*]
- sand flea** *n* a sandhopper
- sand fly** *n* any of various small biting two-winged flies
- sandhi** /sændi/ *n* modification of a speech sound according to context (e.g. the pronunciation of *-ed* as /d/ in *glazed* and as /t/ in *paced*) [Skt *sandhi*, lit., placing together]
- sandhopper** /sænd,hopə/ *n* any of numerous crustaceans that live on beaches and leap like fleas
- sand martin** *n* a small martin of the N hemisphere that usu nests in colonies in holes in banks of sand
- sandpaper** /-,paypə/ *n* paper to which a thin layer of sand has been glued for use as an abrasive; broadly any abrasive paper (e.g. glasspaper) – *sandpaper* *adj*
- sandpaper** *vt* to rub (as if) with sandpaper
- sandpiper** /-,piepə/ *n* any of numerous small wading birds with longer bills than the plovers
- sandpit** /-,pit/ *n* an enclosure containing sand for children to play in
- sandshoe** /-,shooh/ *n*, chiefly Br a plimsoll
- sandstone** /-,stohn/ *n* a sedimentary rock consisting of cemented (quartz) sand
- sandstorm** /-,stawm/ *n* a storm driving clouds of sand, esp in a desert
- sandwich** /sænd(w)wɪ/, -wɪch/ *n* 1a two slices of usu buttered bread containing a layer of any of various sweet or savoury foods (e.g. meat, cheese, or jam); also a bread roll stuffed with a filling b a sponge cake containing a filling 2 sthg like a sandwich in having a layered or banded arrangement [John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich †1792 E diplomat]
- sandwich** *vt* 1 to insert between 2 things of a different quality or character 2 to create room or time for – often + *in* or *between*
- sandwich** *adj* 1 of or used for sandwiches (<~ bread>) 2 Br of a sandwich course
- sandwich board** *n* either of 2 boards hung at the front of and behind the body by straps from the shoulders and used esp for advertising
- sandwich course** *n* a British vocational course consisting of alternate periods of some months' duration in college and in employment
- sandwich man** *n* sby who advertises a business by wearing sandwich boards
- sandwort** /sænd,wuht/ *n* any of several usu short tufted plants of the pink family that grow usu in dry sandy regions
- sandy** /sændi/ *adj* 1 consisting of, containing, or sprinkled with sand 2 resembling sand in colour or texture – *sandiness* *n*
- sand yacht** *n* a light wheeled vehicle that is propelled by sails and is used for recreation and racing on sand
- sane** /səyn/ *adj* (produced by a mind that is) mentally sound, able to anticipate and appraise the effect of one's actions [L *sanus* healthy, sane] – *sanely* *adv*, *saneness* *n*
- sang** /səŋ/ *past* of SING
- sangfroid** /səŋ'frɔɪ/ *n* imperturbability, esp under strain [F *sang-froid*, lit., cold blood]
- sangria** /səŋ'griə/, *sangria* /səŋ'grɪə/, ~ / *n* a usu cold punch made of red wine, fruit juice, and soda water [Sp]
- sanguinary** /səŋ'gwɪn(ə)n/ *adj* 1 bloodthirsty, murderous 2 accompanied by bloodshed 3 readily punishing with death *USE* fml [L *sanguinarius*, fr *sanguin-*, *sanguis* blood] – *sanguinarily* /-gwɪnrəli/ *adv*
- sanguine** /səŋ'gwɪn/ *adj* 1 (having the bodily conformation and temperament marked by) sturdiness, high colour, and cheerfulness held to be characteristic of (sby) having blood as the predominating bodily humour – used in medieval physiology 2 confident, optimistic 3a *SANGUINARY* 1 b ruddy *USE* (3) fml [ME *sanguin*, fr MF, fr L *sanguineus*, fr *sanguin-*, *sanguis*] – *sanguinity* /-gwɪnəti/ *n*
- sanguineous** /səŋ'gwɪn(ə)s/ *adj* of or containing blood [L *sanguineus*]
- Sanhedrin** /sənidrɪn, sən'heɪdrɪn, -'hedrɪn/ *n* the supreme council and tribunal of the Jews before 70 AD headed by the High Priest and having religious, civil, and criminal jurisdiction [LHeb *sanhedrin* *gēdholah* great council]
- sanicle** /sənikl/ *n* any of several plants of the carrot family whose roots were formerly used in medicine [ME, fr MF, fr ML *sanicula*]
- sanitary** /sənit(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 of or promoting health (<~ measures>) 2 free from danger to health [F *sanitaire*, fr L *sanitas*]
- sanitary belt** *n* a narrow belt which is worn to hold a sanitary towel in place
- sanitary towel** *n* a disposable absorbent pad worn after childbirth or during menstruation to absorb the flow from the womb
- sanitary ware** *n* ceramic plumbing fixtures (e.g. sinks or toilet bowls)
- sanitation** /sənitə'ʃeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (the promotion of) hygiene and prevention of disease by maintenance or improvement of sanitary conditions – *sanitate* /sənitə'ti/ *vt*
- sanitize, -ise** /sənitə'z/ *vt* 1 to make sanitary by cleaning, sterilizing, etc 2 to make more acceptable by removing objectionable features [L *sanitas*] – *sanitization* /-zə'taɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- sanity** /səni'ti/ *n* being sane, esp soundness of health of mind [ME *sanite*, fr L *sanitat-*, *sanitas* health, sanity, fr *sanus* healthy, sane]
- sank** /səŋk/ *past* of SINK
- sans** /sənz/ *prep*, *archaic* without (<my love to thee is sound, ~ crack or flaw> – Shak) [ME *saun*, *sans*, fr MF *san*, *sans*, modif of L *sine* without – more at SUNDER]
- sansculotte** /sənzkyo'tot (Fr sɔ̃kyɔ'tot)/ *n* 1 an extreme radical republican of Revolutionary France 2 a violent political extremist [F *sans-culotte*, lit., without breeches] – *sansculottic* /-lɔ'tik/ *adj*, *sansculottish* *adj*, *sansculottism* *n*
- Sanskrit** /sənskrɪt/ *n* an ancient sacred Indic language of India and of

Hinduism  ALPHABET [Skt *sanskṛita*, lit., perfected, fr *saṃ* together + *karoti* he makes] – **Sanskrit** *adj*

**sans serif, sanserif** /ˈsɑːn ˈserɪf/ *n* a letter or typeface with no serifs [prob fr *sans* + *serif*]

**Santa Claus** /ˈsɑːntə ˈklaʊz/, -ˈ-/ *n* FATHER CHRISTMAS [modif of D *Sinterklaas*, alter. of *Sint Nikolaas* Saint Nicholas fl 4th c, bishop of Myra in Asia Minor and patron saint of children]

**santolina** /ˈsɑːntəˈleɪnə/ *n* any of a genus of aromatic Mediterranean composite undershrubs [NL, genus name, alter. of L. *santonica*]

**sap** /sɑːp/ *n* 1a a watery solution that circulates through a plant's vascular system **b** (a fluid essential to life or) bodily health and vigour 2 a foolish gullible person – *infrm* [ME, fr OE *sæp*; akin to OHG *saf* sap]

**sap** *vt* -*pp*- to drain or deprive of sap

**sap** *n* the extension of a trench from within the trench itself to a point near an enemy's fortifications [MF & OIt, MF *sappe* hoe, fr OIt *zappa*]

**sap** *vb* -*pp*- *vi* to proceed by or dig a sap ~ *vt* 1 to destroy (as if) by undermining (< *ped the morale of their troops*) 2 to weaken or exhaust gradually 3 to operate against or pierce by a sap

**sapajou** /səˈpəʊ/ *n* CAPUCHIN 3 [F, fr Tupi]

**sapele** /səˈpeɪl/ *n* (the lightweight pinkish to deep reddish brown cedar-scented mahogany obtained from) any of several African trees [native name in W Africa]

**sapid** /ˈsæpɪd/ having (a strong agreeable) flavour [L *sapidus* tasty, fr *sapere* to taste – more at *'SAGE*] – **sapidity** /ˈsæpɪdɪti/ *n*

**sapient** /ˈsæpiənt/ *adj* possessing or expressing great wisdom or discernment – *fml* [ME, fr MF, fr L *sapient-*, *sapiens*, fr *prp* of *sapere* to taste, be wise] – **sapience** *n*, **sapiently** *adv*

**sapless** /ˈsæplɪs/ *adj* feeble, lacking vigour [ˈsɑːp + *-LESS*] – **saplessness** *n*

**sapling** /ˈsæplɪŋ/ *n* 1 a young tree 2 YOUTH 2a [ME, fr *'sap* + *-ling*]

**sapodilla** /səˈpɒdɪlə/ *n* (the rough-skinned brownish edible fruit of) a tropical evergreen tree with hard reddish wood and latex that yields chicle [Sp *zapotillo*, dim. of *zapote* sapodilla, fr Nahuatl *tzapotl*]

**saponaceous** /səˈpɒnəʃəs/ *adj* like or containing soap [NL *saponaceus*, fr L *sapon-*, *sapo* soap, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *sape* soap]

**saponify** /səˈpɒnɪfaɪ/ *vt* to convert (e.g. fat) into soap and glycerol by decomposition with alkali, *broadly* to decompose (an ester) into an acid and alcohol ~ *vi* to undergo saponifying [F *saponifier*, fr L *sapon-*, *sapo*] – **saponifier** *n*, **saponifiable** /-fɪeɪbəl/ *adj*, **saponification** /-fɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n*

**saponin** /səˈpɒnɪn/ *n* any of various compounds obtained from plants, that produce a soapy lather and are used esp in detergents and foaming agents [F *saponine*, fr L *sapon-*, *sapo*]

**sapor** /ˈsæpɔː/ *n* savour or flavour [ME, fr L – more at *SAVOUR*] – **saporous** /ˈsæpərəs/ *adj*

**sappanwood** /səˈpænˌwɒd/ *n* (an E Indian tree related to the laburnum that has) a red wood from which a dye can be obtained [Malay *sapang* heartwood of sappanwood + E wood]

**sapper** /ˈsæpə/ *n* a (private) soldier of the Royal Engineers [ˈsɑːp + *-ER*]

**sapphic** /ˈsæfɪk/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of a 4-line stanza made up of chiefly trochaic and dactylic feet 2 lesbian [Sappho fl ab 600 BC Gk poetess & reputed homosexual]

**sapphic** *n* a verse in sapphic stanzas

**sapphire** /ˈsæfɪə/ *n* 1 a semitransparent corundum of a colour other than red, used as a gem, esp a transparent rich blue sapphire 2 deep purplish blue [ME *safir*, fr OF, fr L *sapphirus*, fr Gk *sappheiros*, fr Heb *sappir*, fr Skt *śāṇipriya*, lit., dear to the planet Saturn, fr *Śani* Saturn + *priya* dear] – **sapphire** *adj*

**sapphirine** /səˈfɪrɪn/ *adj* 1 made of sapphire 2 resembling a sapphire, esp in colour


**sapphism** /ˈsæfɪz(ə)m/ *n* lesbianism [Sappho + *-ism*] – **sapphist** *n*

**sappy** /ˈsæpi/ *adj* 1 resembling or consisting largely of sapwood 2 NAm *soppy* 2 – **sappiness** *n*

**sapr-**, **sapro-** *comb form* dead or decaying organic matter (<saprophyte> [Gk, fr *sapros* rotten])

**saprogenic** /səˈprɒdʒənɪk/, **sapra-** *adj* of, causing, or resulting from putrefaction – **saprogenicity** /səˈprɒdʒənɪsɪti/ *n*

**saprophagous** /səˈprɒfəɡəs/, **sa-** *adj* feeding on decaying matter [NL *saprophagus*, fr *sapr-* + *-phagus* -phagous]

**saprophytic** /səˈprɒfɪtɪk/, **sapra-** *adj*, esp of a plant obtaining food by absorbing the products of organic breakdown and decay or other dissolved organic material  **FOOD** [ISV] – **saprophytically** *adv*, **saprophyte** /səˈprɒfɪt/ *n*

**sapwood** /ˈsæpˌwɒd/ *n* the younger softer usu lighter-coloured living outer part of wood that lies between the bark and the heartwood

**saraband, sarabande** /səˈræbænd/, -ˈ-/ *n* 1 a stately court dance resembling the minuet 2 a musical composition or movement in slow triple time with the accent on the second beat [F *sarabande*, fr Sp *zarabanda*]

**Saracen** /ˈsærəs(ə)n/ *n* a member of a nomadic people of the desert area between Syria and Arabia; *broadly* a Muslim at the time of the Crusades [ME, fr LL *Saracenus*, fr LGk *Sarakenos*] – **Saracen** *adj*, **Saracenic** /-ˈsenɪk/ *adj*

**Saran** /səˈræn/ *trademark* – used for a tough flexible thermoplastic that can be formed into fibres, moulded articles, protective coatings, etc

**sarc-**, **sarco-** *comb form* 1 flesh (<sarcophagous> 2 striated muscle (<sarcoplasmic> [Gk *sark-*, *sarko-*, fr *sark-*, *sarx*]

**sarcasm** /ˈsɑːkəz(ə)m/ *n* (the use of) caustic and often ironic language to express contempt or bitterness, esp towards an individual [F *sarcastisme*, fr LL *sarcasmos*, fr Gk *sarkasmos*, fr *sarkazein* to tear flesh, bite the lips in rage, sneer, fr *sark-*, *sarx* flesh; akin to Av *thwaras* to cut] – **sarcastic** /-ˈkæstɪk/ *adj*, **sarcastically** *adv*

**sarcoma** /səˈkɒmə/ *n*, *pl* **sarcomas**, **sarcomata** /səˈkɒmətə/ a cancer arising in connective tissue, bone, or muscle [NL, fr Gk *sarkōmat-*, *sarkoma* fleshy growth, fr *sarkoun* to grow flesh, fr *sark-*, *sarx*] – **sarcomatous** /-kɒmətəs/ *adj*

**sarcophagus** /səˈkɒfəɡəs/ *n*, *pl* **sarcophagi** /-ɡi/ *also* **sarcophaguses** a stone coffin [L *sarcophagus* (*lapis*) limestone used for coffins, fr Gk (*lithos*) *sarkophagos*, lit., flesh-eating stone, fr *sark-* *sarc-* + *phagein* to eat]

**sarcoplasm** /səˈkɒləˌplæz(ə)m/, **sahko-** *n* the cytoplasm of a striated muscle fibre [NL *sarcoplasma*] – **sarcoplasmic** /-ˌplæzmɪk/ *adj*

**sard** /sɑːd/ *n* a deep orange-red variety of quartz used as a gemstone [F *sarde*, fr L *sarda*]

**sardine** /səˈdɪn/ *n*, *pl* **sardines** *also* **sardine** the young of the European pilchard, or another small or immature fish, when of a size suitable for preserving for food [ME *sardene*, fr MF *sardine*, fr L *sardina*]

**Sardinian** /səˈdɪniən/, -ni-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Sardinia 2 the Romance language of Sardinia [Sardinia, island in the Mediterranean] – **Sardinian** *adj*


**sardonic** /səˈdɒnɪk/ *adj* disdainfully or cynically humorous; derisively mocking [F *sardonique*, fr Gk *sardonios*] – **sardonically** *adv*

**sardonyx** /səˈdɒnɪks/ *n* a quartz mineral consisting of parallel layers of orange-red sard and milky-white chalcedony and used as a gemstone [ME *sardonix*, fr L *sardonyx*, fr Gk]

**sargasso** /səˈgæsəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **sargassos** a large mass of floating vegetation, esp sargassums, in the sea [Pg *sargaso*]

**sargassum** /səˈgæsəm/ *n* any of a genus of floating seaweeds that have air bladders [NL, genus name, fr ISV *sargasso*]

**sarge** /sɑːdʒ/ *n* a sergeant – *infrm* [by shortening & alter.]

**sari** *also* **saree** /səˈriː/ *n* a garment worn by Hindu women that consists of a length of lightweight cloth draped so that one end forms a skirt and the other a head or shoulder covering  **GARMENT** [Hindi *sāri*, fr Skt *sārī*]

**sarking** /ˈsɑːkɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* boards or felt fixed between rafters and roofing material [ME (Sc), fr *serken* to clothe in a shirt, sheathe, fr *serk* shirt, fr OE *serc*]

**sarky** /ˈsɑːki/ *adj*, *Br* sarcastic – *infrm* [by shortening & alter.]

**sarod** /səˈrɒhd/ *n* a lute of N India [Hindi, fr Per] – **sarodist** *n*

**sarong** /səˈrɒŋ/, *sahrong* /-ˈruː/ *n* 1 a loose skirt made of a long strip of cloth wrapped round the body and traditionally worn by men and women in Malaysia and the Pacific islands 2 cloth for sarongs [Malay *kain sarong* cloth sheath]

**saros** /ˈsæros/ *n* a cycle of about 6,585 days during which a particular sequence of eclipses occurs and after which the centres of the sun and moon return to the same relative positions [Gk, fr Assy-Bab *šāru*]

**sarrusophone** /səˈruːzəfəʊn/, -ˈruː/ *n* a double-reed woodwind instrument that is made of metal [Sarrus, 19th-c F bandmaster + *-o-* + *-phone*]

**sarsaparilla** /səˈsəˌpəˌrɪlə/ *n* 1 (the dried roots, used esp as a flavouring, of) any of various tropical American trailing plants of the hily family 2 chiefly NAm a sweetened fizzy drink flavoured with birch oil and sassafras [Sp *zarzaparrilla*, fr *zarza* bush + *parrilla*, dim. of *perra* vine]

**sarsen** /səˈsən/ *n* a large mass of stone left after the erosion of a continuous bed or layer [short for *sarsen stone*, prob alter. of *Saracen stone*, i.e. a pagan stone or monument]

**sartorial** /səˈtɔːriəl/ *adj* with regard to clothing (< *elegance*) – *fml*;

- humor; used esp with reference to men [L *sartor* tailor] – **sartorially** *adv*
- sartorius** /sah'tawr-i-əs/ *n*, *pl* **sartorii** /-r-i-ē/ a long muscle that crosses the front of the thigh obliquely [NL, fr L *sartor* tailor, fr *sartus*, pp of *sarcire* to mend – more at EXERCISE]
- sash** /sash/ *n* a band of cloth worn round the waist or over 1 shoulder as a dress accessory or as the emblem of an honorary or military order [Ar *shāsh* muslin] – **sashed** *adj*
- sash** *n*, *pl* **sashes** also **sashes** the framework in which panes of glass are set in a window or door; also such a framework together with its panes forming a usu sliding part of a window  ARCHITECTURE [prob modif of F *châssis* chassis (taken as pl)]
- sashay** /sa'shay/ *vi*, *NAM* 1a to saunter b to strut ostentatiously 2 to proceed in a zigzag manner *USE* *infrml* [alter of *chassé*]
- sash** *cord* *n* a cord used to connect a sash weight to a window sash
- sash** *weight* *n* either of 2 counterweights for balancing a window sash in a desired position
- sash** *window* *n* a window having 2 sashes that slide vertically in a frame  ARCHITECTURE
- Sasquatch** /saskwach/ *n* a hairy manlike animal reported as existing in W Canada [native name]
- sassafras** /sasə'fras/ *n* (the dried root bark, used esp as a flavouring, of) a tall N American tree of the laurel family with mucilage-containing twigs and leaves [Sp *sasafrás*]
- Sassanian**, **Sasanian** /sə'saynyən, -ni-ən/ *n* a Sassanid
- Sassanid** /sə'sonid/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a dynasty of Persian kings of the 3rd to the 7th c AD [NL *Sassanidae* Sassanids, fr *Sassan*, founder of the dynasty]
- Sassenach** /sə'sənək/ *n*, *Scot & Irish* an English person – chiefly derog [IrGael *Sasanach*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *Seaxan* Saxons]
- sat** /sat/ *past* of **SIT**
- Satan** /sayt(ə)m/ *n* the adversary of God and lord of evil in Judaism and Christianity [ME, fr OE, fr LL, fr Gk, fr Heb *śātan* adversary, plotter]
- satanic** /sə'tanik/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Satan or satanism (<~ pride> (<~ rites>) 2 extremely cruel or malevolent – **satantically** *adv*
- satanism** /sayt(ə)m(ə)z(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* 1 diabolism 2 obsession with or affinity to evil; specif the worship of Satan marked by the travesty of Christian rites – **sataniist** *n*, often *cap*
- satchel** /sachəl/ *n* a usu stiff bag often with a shoulder strap, esp one carried by schoolchildren [ME *sachel*, fr MF, fr L *sacellus*, dim. of *saccus* bag – more at 'SACK] – **satchelful** *n*
- sate** /sayt/ *vt* 1 to surfeit with sthg 2 to satisfy (e.g. a thirst) by indulging to the full [prob by shortening & alter fr *satiare*]
- sateen** /sa'teen/ *n* a smooth durable lustrous fabric in which the weft predominates on the face [alter of *satén*]
- satellite** /sə'ti-net/ *n* 1 an obsequious follower 2a a celestial body orbiting another of larger size  ASTRONOMY b a man-made object or vehicle intended to orbit a celestial body  SPACE, TELECOMMUNICATION, TELEVISION, WEATHER 3 sby or sthg attendant or dependent, esp a country subject to another more powerful country 4 an urban community that is physically separate from an adjacent city but dependent on it [MF, fr L *satellit-*, *satelles* attendant] – **satellite** *adj*
- satieable** /saysh(y)əbl/ *adj* capable of being satisfied – *fm*
- satiare** /saysh(y)ət/ *vt* to satisfy (e.g. a need or desire) to the point of excess [L *satiatus*, pp of *satiare*, fr *satis* enough – more at SAD] – **satiation** /-sə'z(ə)n/ *n*
- satiety** /sə'ti-ə-ti, 'sayshyət/ *n* 1 being fed or gratified to or beyond capacity 2 the aversion caused by overindulgence [MF *satiété*, fr L *satietas*, *satietas*, fr *satis*]
- satén** /sə'tin/ *n* a fabric (e.g. of silk) in satin weave with lustrous face and dull back [ME, fr MF, prob fr Ar *zaytūn*, fr *Zaytūn* (now Tseutung), seaport in China]
- satén** *adj* 1 made of satin 2 like satin, esp in lustrous appearance or smoothness – **satény** *adj*
- satinet** /sə'ti-net/ *n* 1 a thin silk satin or imitation satin 2 a variation of satin weave used in making satinet
- satén** *stitch* *n* a long embroidery stitch nearly alike on both sides and worked in straight parallel lines so closely as to resemble satin
- satén** *weave* *n* a weave in which warp threads predominate on the surface to produce a smooth-faced fabric
- satinwood** /sə'tin,wood/ *n* (the lustrous yellowish brown wood of) an E Indian tree of the mahogany family or any of various trees with similar wood
- satire** /sə'ti-ə/ *n* 1 a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn; also the genre of such literature 2 biting wit, irony, or sarcasm intended to expose foolishness or vice [MF, fr L *satira*, *satira*, fr (*lanx*) *satira* full plate, medley, fr fem of *satir* sated; akin to L *satis* enough – more at SAD] – **satirical** /sə'tirikl/ *adj*
- satirist** /sə'tirist/ *n* one who satirizes, esp a writer of satires
- satirize**, **-ize** /sə'tirize/ *vi* to utter or write satire ~ *vt* to censure or ridicule by means of satire
- satisfaction** /sə'tisfək(ə)n/ *n* 1a the payment through penance of the temporal punishment incurred by a sin b reparation for sin and fulfilment of the demands of divine justice, achieved for mankind by the death of Christ 2a fulfilment of a need or want b being satisfied c a source of pleasure or fulfilment 3a compensation for a loss, insult, or injury b the discharge of a legal claim c vindication of one's honour, esp through a duel 4 full assurance or certainty [ME, fr MF, fr LL *satisfactio*, *satisfactio*, fr L, reparation, amends, fr *satisfactus*, pp of *satisfacere* to satisfy]
- satisfactory** /sə'tisfəkt(ə)r/ *adj* satisfying needs or requirements, adequate – **satisfactorily** *adv*, **satisfactoriness** *n*
- satisfy** /sə'tisfai/ *vt* 1a to discharge, CARRY OUT b to meet a financial obligation to 2a to make content b to gratify to the full c to meet the requirements of (<~ the examiners>) 3a to convince b to put an end to (<~ every objection>) 4a to conform to (e.g. criteria) b to make valid by fulfilling a condition ~ *vi* to be adequate, suffice, also to please (<a taste that satisfies>) [ME *satisfien*, fr MF *satisfier*, modif of L *satisfacere*, fr *satis* enough + *facere* to do, make – more at SAD, DO] – **satisfyingly** *adv*, **satisfiable** /-fai-ə-bl/ *adj*
- satori** /sə'tawri/ *n* a state of intuitive illumination sought in Zen Buddhism [Jap]
- satsuma** /sə'tsoohmə/ *n* a sweet seedless type of mandarin orange [Satsuma, former province of Japan]
- saturate** /sə'choorayt/ *vt* 1 to treat or provide with sthg to the point where no more can be absorbed, dissolved, or retained (<water ~d with salt>) 2a to fill completely with sthg that permeates or pervades (<moon-glow... ~s an empty sky> – Henry Miller) b to fill to capacity 3 to cause to combine chemically until there is no further tendency to combine [L *saturatus*, pp of *saturare*, fr *satur* sated – more at SATIRE] – **saturant** *adj* or *n*, **saturator** *n*
- saturated** *adj* 1 full of moisture, thoroughly soaked 2a of a solution of the highest possible concentration b of an organic compound, esp a fat containing no double or triple bonds
- saturation** /sə'tchooraysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the chromatic purity of a colour, freedom from dilution with white 2 the point at which a market is supplied with all the goods it will absorb 3 an overwhelming concentration of military forces or firepower [SATURATE + -ION]
- Saturday** /sə'tədi, -di/ *n* the day of the week following Friday  SYMBOL [ME *saterday*, fr OE *sæterdæg*, akin to OFris *saterdei*, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose first component was borrowed fr L *Saturnus* Saturn and whose second is represented by OE *dæg* day] – **Saturdays** *adv*
- Saturn** /sə'tɒn, 'sə'tuɪn/ *n* the planet 6th in order from the sun and conspicuous for its rings  ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [L *Saturnus*, fr *Saturnus* Saturn, god of agriculture]
- saturnalia** /sə'tə'nayliə/ *n*, *pl* **saturnalias** also **saturnalia** 1 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the festival of Saturn in ancient Rome beginning on December 17, observed as a time of general and unrestrained merry-making 2 an unrestrained (licentious) celebration [L, fr neut pl of *saturnalis* of Saturn, fr *Saturnus*] – **saturnalian** *adj*
- Saturnian** /sə'tuɪnyən/ *adj* of or influenced by the planet Saturn
- saturniid** /sə'tuɪni-id/ *n* any of a large family of moths with stout bodies and strong, usu brightly coloured, wings [deriv of NL *Saturnia*, genus of moths, fr L, daughter of the god Saturn] – **saturniid** *adj*
- saturnine** /sə'tə,niən/ *adj* 1 gloomy 2 sullen 3 of or being lead poisoning [(1,2) ME, lit., born under or influenced by the planet Saturn, fr MF *saturnin*, fr (assumed) ML *saturninus*, fr L *Saturnus*, (3) arch *saturn* (lead), fr ME *saturne*, fr ML *saturnus*, fr L *Saturnus*] – **saturninely** *adv*
- satyagraha** /sə'tyə,grə'hə, su'tyəgrə'hə/ *n* friendly passive resistance as practised by Mahatma Gandhi [Skt *satyagraha*, lit., insistence on truth]
- satyr** /sə'tə/ *n* 1 often *cap* a Greek minor woodland deity having certain characteristics of a horse or goat and associated with Dionysian revelry 2 a lecherous man (having satyriasis) [ME, fr L *satyrus*, fr Gk *satyros*] – **satyric** /sə'tirik/ *adj*
- satyriasis** /sə'ti're-ə-sis/ *n* excessive sexual desire in a male – compare NYMPHOMANIA [LL, fr Gk, fr *satyros*]

**satyrid** /sə'ti:ənd/ *n* any of a family of usu brownish butterflies [NL *Satyrinae*, group name, deriv of Gk *satyros*] – **satyrid** *adj*

**'saucē** /sawz/ *n* 1a a liquid or soft preparation used as a relish, dressing, or accompaniment to food (<tomato ~> b *NAM* stewed or tinned fruit eaten as a dessert 2 sthg adding zest or piquancy 3 *CHLEK* 3 – *infml* [ME, fr MF, fr L *salsa*, fem of *salsus* salted, fr pp of *salire* to salt, fr *sal* salt – more at *SALT*]

**'saucē** *vt* 1 to dress or prepare with a sauce or seasoning 2 to be impudent to – *infml*

**'saucē,box** /-boks/ *n* a saucy impudent person – *infml*

**saucepan** /sawspan/ *n* a deep usu cylindrical cooking pan typically having a long handle and a lid

**saucer** /sawsa/ *n* 1 a small usu circular shallow dish with a central depression in which a cup is set 2 sthg like a saucer, esp *FLYING SAUCER* [ME, plate containing sauce, fr MF *saussier*, fr *sauvise*, *sauce*] – **saucerlike** *adj*

**saucy** /sawsi/ *adj* 1a disrespectfully bold and impudent b engagingly forward and flippant 2 smart, trim (a ~ ship) – **saucily** *adv*, **sauciness** *n*

**sauerkraut** /sowə,krowt/ *n* finely cut cabbage fermented in a brine made from its juice – compare *COLESLAW* [G, fr *sauer* sour + *kraut* cabbage]

**sauna** /sawna/ *n* (a room or building for) a Finnish steam bath in which water is thrown on hot stones [Finn]

**saunter** /sawntə/ *vi* to walk about in a casual manner [prob fr ME *saunter* to muse] – **saunter** *n*, **saunterer** *n*

**saurian** /sawriən/ *n* any of a group of reptiles including the lizards and formerly the crocodiles and dinosaurs [deriv of Gk *sauros* horse mackerel, lizard, akin to Gk *psauein* to touch, graze] – **saurian** *adj*

**saury** /sawri/ *n* a slender long-beaked Atlantic fish [NL *saurus* lizard, fr Gk *sauros*]

**sausage** /sosi/; *NAM* 'saw-/ *n* (sthg shaped like) a fresh, precooked, or dried cylindrical mass of seasoned minced pork or other meat often mixed with a filler (e.g. bread) and enclosed in a casing usu of prepared animal intestine [ME *sausage*, fr ONF *saussiche*, fr LL *salsicia*, fr L *salsus* salted – more at *SAUCE*]

**'sausage roll** *n* a small pastry-encased roll or oblong of sausage meat


**sauté** /sawtay, 'soh-/ *vt* **sautéing**, **sautéed**, **sautéd** /-tayd/ to fry in a small amount of fat [F, pp of *sauter* to jump, fr L *salutare*] – **sauté** *n* or *adj*

**Sauternes**, *NAM* **Sauterne** /soh'tuhn, '-/ *n* a usu sweet golden-coloured Bordeaux made in the commune of Sauternes in France

**'savage** /savi/ *adj* 1a not domesticated or under human control, untamed b lacking in social or moral restraints 2 rugged, rough 3 boorish, rude 4 lacking a developed culture – now usu taken to be offensive [ME *savage*, fr MF, fr ML *salvaticus*, alter. of L *salvaticus* of the woods, wild, fr *silva* wood, forest] – **savagely** *adv*, **savageness**, **savagery** /-j(ə)n/ *n*

**'savage** *n* 1 a member of a primitive society 2 a brutal, rude, or unmannerly person

**'savage** *vt* to attack or treat brutally, esp to maul

**savanna**, **savannah** /sə'vənə/ *n* a tropical or subtropical grassland with scattered trees  **FOOD, PLANT** [Sp *zavana*, fr Taino *zabana*]

**savant** /sə'vɑnt/ *n* one who has exceptional knowledge of a particular field (e.g. science or literature) [F, fr pp of *savoir* to know, fr L *sapere* to be wise – more at *'SAGE*]

**savarin** /sə'vɑrin/ *n* a rich yeast-leavened cake baked in a ring mould and soaked with a liqueur-flavoured syrup, also the mould for a savarin [F, fr Anthelme Brillat-Savarin †1826 F politician & gourmet]

**savate** /sə'vat/ *n* a form of boxing in which blows are delivered with either hands or feet [F, lit., old shoe]

**'save** /say/ *vt* 1a to deliver from sin b to rescue from danger or harm c to preserve from injury, destruction, or loss 2a to put aside as a store b to put aside for a particular use c to keep from being spent, wasted, or lost (<~d time by taking a short cut> d to economize in the use of, conserve 3a to make unnecessary (<~s me going into town>) b to prevent an opponent from scoring, winning, or scoring with (<~d the goal>) (<~d the shot>) 4 to maintain (<~ appearances>) ~ *vi* 1 to rescue sby (e.g. from danger) 2a to put aside money – often + *up* b to be economical in use or expenditure 3 to make a save [ME *saven*, fr OF *salver*, fr LL *salvare*, fr L *salvus* safe – more at *SAFE*] – **saveable**, **saveable** *adj*, **saver** *n*

**'save** *n* an action (e.g. by a goalkeeper) that prevents an opponent from scoring

**'save** *prep* BUT 1a – chiefly *fml* [ME *sauf*, fr OF, fr *sauf*, *adj*, safe – more at *SAFE*]

**'save** *conj* were it not, only (<would have protested ~ that he was a friend> – chiefly *fml*)

**save-as-you-earn** *n* a savings scheme whereby a person undertakes to contribute a particular amount from his/her pay each week or month

**saveley** /sə'vəli/ *n* a precooked highly seasoned dry sausage [modif of F *cervelas*, deriv of L *cerebellum*, dim. of *cerebrum* brain]

**savin** /sə'vin/ *n* 1 a Eurasian juniper with dark foliage and small yellowish green berries 2 *RED CEDAR* [ME, fr MF *savine*, fr L *sabina*]

**'saving** /sə'vɪŋ/ *n* 1 preservation from danger or destruction 2 sthg saved (<a ~ of 40 per cent> 3a *pl* money put by over a period of time b the excess of income over expenditures – often *pl* [gerund of *save*]

**'saving** *prep* 1 except, save 2 without disrespect to [prp of *save*]

**'saving** *grace* *n* a redeeming quality or feature

**'savings, stamp** *n* a stamp which is bought and saved and which may be cashed when required or used in payment of a bill

**saviour**, *NAM* chiefly **savior** /sə'vɪə/ *n* 1 one who brings salvation, *specif.* cap Jesus 2 one who saves sby or sthg from danger or destruction [ME *saveour*, fr MF, fr LL *salvator*, fr *salvatus*, pp of *salvare* to save]

**savoir faire** /sə'və'fɛə/ *n* polished self-assurance in social behaviour [F *savoir-faire*, lit., knowing how to do]

**savory** /sə'vɪ(ə)n/ *n* any of several aromatic plants of the mint family used as herbs in cooking [ME *savery*]

**'savour**, *NAM* chiefly **savor** /sə'vɪə/ *n* 1 the characteristic taste or smell of sthg 2 a particular flavour or smell 3 a (pleasantly stimulating) distinctive quality (<felt that argument added ~ to conversation>) [ME, fr OF, fr L *sapor*, akin to L *sapere* to taste – more at *'SAGE*]

**'savour**, *NAM* chiefly **savor** *vi* to have a specified smell or quality, smack (<arguments that ~ of cynicism>) ~ *vt* 1 to taste or smell with pleasure, relish 2a to have (pleasurable) experience of, esp at length b to delight in, enjoy

**'savoury**, *NAM* chiefly **savory** /sə'vɪ(ə)n/ *adj* 1 piquantly pleasant to the mind 2 morally wholesome 3a pleasing to the palate b salty, spicy, meaty, etc, rather than sweet [SAVOUR + '-y]

**'savoury**, *NAM* chiefly **savory** *n* a dish of piquant or stimulating flavour served usu at the end of a main meal but sometimes as an appetizer

**savoy**, **savoy cabbage** /sə'vɔɪ, often 'savoy when attrib/ *n* a hardy cabbage with compact heads of wrinkled and curled leaves [trans of F (*chou de*) *Savoie* (cabbage of) Savoy, fr Savoy, region of SE France]

**'savvy** /sə'vi/ *vb* to know, understand – slang [modif of Sp *sabe* he knows, fr *saber* to know, fr L *sapere* to be wise – more at *'SAGE*]

**'savvy** *n* practical know-how, shrewd judgment – slang – **savvy** *adj*

**'saw** /saw/ *past* of *SEE*

**'saw** *n* a hand or power tool with a toothed part (e.g. a blade or disc) used

to cut wood, metal, bone, etc [ME *sawe*, fr OE *sagu*; akin to OHG *sega* saw, L *secare* to cut, *secula* sickle] – **sawlike** *adj*

**'saw** *vb* **sawed**, **sawn** /saw'n/ *vt* 1 to cut with a saw 2 to shape by cutting with a saw 3 to cut through as though with a saw ~ *vi* 1a to use a saw b to cut (as if) with a saw 2 to make motions as though using a saw – **sawer** *n*

**'saw** *n* a maxim, proverb [ME *sawe*, fr OE *sagu* discourse, akin to OHG & ON *saga* tale, OE *secan* to say – more at *'SAY*]

**sawbill** /saw,bil/ *n* a merganser or related fish-eating duck with a serrated slender beak

**'saw,bones** /-bohnz/ *n* a doctor, *specif.* a surgeon – humor

**'saw,dust** /-dʌst/ *n* fine particles of wood produced in sawing

**'saw,edged** *adj* having a toothed or jagged edge

**'sawed-off** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* **sawn-off**

**'saw,fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of a family of large elongated rays with a long flattened serrated snout

**'saw,fly** /-flɪ-/ *n* any of numerous insects whose female usu has a pair of serrated blades in her egg-laying organ and whose larva resembles a plant-feeding caterpillar

**'saw,horse** /-haws/ *n* a rack on which wood is laid for sawing

**'saw,mill** /-mɪl/ *n* a factory or machine that cuts wood

**sawney** /sawni/ *n* a simpleton – *infml* [prob alter of *zany*] – **sawney** *adj*

**'saw'n-off** *adj* having the end removed by sawing; *specif.* of a shotgun having the end of the barrel sawn off

**'saw-off** *n*, *Can* a trade-off

**'saw-pit** *n* the pit in which the lower sawyer stands while timber is being cut with a pit saw

**'saw, set** *n* an instrument used to set the teeth of saws

**'saw, tooth, saw-toothed** *adj* (having parts) arranged like the teeth of a saw < a ~ roof >

**sawyer** /'sawya/ *n* sby employed to saw timber

**sax** /saks/ *n* a saxophone

**'saxhorn** /-hawn/ *n* any of a group of valved brass instruments with a conical tube, oval shape, and cup-shaped mouthpiece [(Antoine Joseph) Adolphe Sax + 1894 Belgian maker of musical instruments + *E horn*]

**saxicolous** /saks'ikoləs/, **saxicoline** /-lien/ *adj* inhabiting or growing among rocks < ~ lichens > [L *saxum* rock + *-cola* inhabitant, akin to L *colere* to inhabit – more at *WHEEL*]

**saxifrage** /saksifri/, -fray/ *n* any of a genus of usu showy-flowered plants often with tufted leaves, many of which are grown in rock gardens [ME, fr MF, fr LL *saxifraga*, fr L, fem of *saxifragus* breaking rocks, fr *saxum* rock (akin to OE *sæx* knife, *sagu* saw) + *frangere* to break – more at *'SAW*, *BREAK*]

**Saxon** /saks(ə)n/ *n* **1a** (1) a member of a Germanic people that invaded England along with the Angles and Jutes in the 5th c AD and merged with them to form the Anglo-Saxon people (2) an Englishman or Lowlander as distinguished from a Welshman, Irishman, or Highlander **b** a native or inhabitant of Saxony **2** the Germanic language or dialect of any of the Saxon peoples [ME, fr LL *Saxones* Saxons, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *Seaxan* Saxons] – **Saxon** *adj*

**saxony** /saksəni/ *n*, often *cap* **1** a fine soft woollen fabric **2** a fine closely twisted knitting yarn [Saxony, region of Germany]

**saxophone** /saksəfohn/ *n* any of a group of single-reed woodwind instruments having a conical metal tube and finger keys and used esp in jazz and popular music [F, fr Adolphe Sax + *-phone*] **saxophonist** /saksəfohnɪst/ *n*

**'say** /say/ *vb* **says** /sez/, **said** /sed/ *vt* **1a** to state in spoken words **b** to form an opinion as to < can't ~ when I met him > **2a** to utter, pronounce < can't ~ her 'h's > **b** to recite, repeat < said his prayers > **3a** to indicate, show < the clock ~s 12 > **b** to give expression to, communicate < I said to myself 'That's funny' > (it ~s press button A) **4a** to suppose, assume **b** to allege – usu pass < the house is said to be 300 years old >, compare **SAID** ~ *vi* **1** to speak, declare < I'd rather not ~ > **2** *NAM* **1** *say* – used interjectionally [ME *sayen*, fr OE *secgan*, akin to OHG *sagen* to say, Gk *emnepein* to speak, tell] – **sayer** *n* – **1** *say* chiefly *Br* – used as a weak expression of surprise or to attract attention – not to **say** and indeed, or perhaps even < impolite, not to say rude > – **say** *boo* to a goose to brave even trivial dangers – usu neg – **say fairer** *Br* to express oneself any more generously < you can't say fairer than that > – **say when** to tell sby when to stop, esp when pouring a drink – that is to **say** **1** in other words, IN EFFECT **2** or at least < he's coming, that is to say he promised to > – to **say** *nothing* of without even considering, not to mention

**\*say** *n* **1** an expression of opinion – esp in *have one's say* **2** a right or power to influence action or decisions, esp the authority to make final decisions

**saying** *n* a maxim, proverb

**'say-so** *n* **1** one's unsupported assertion **2** the right of final decision

**'scab** /skab/ *n* **1** scabies of domestic animals **2** a crust of hardened blood and serum over a wound **3a** a contemptible person **b** BLACKLEG **3** **4** any of various plant diseases characterized by crusted spots, also any of these spots [ME, of Scand origin, akin to OSw *skabbr* scab, akin to OE *scabb* scab, L *scabies* mange, *scabere* to scratch, shave – more at *SHAVE*] – **scabby** *adj*

**\*scab** *vi* -bb- **1** to become covered with a scab **2** to act as a scab

**scabbard** /skabəd/ *n* a sheath for a sword, dagger, or bayonet [ME *scabbert*, fr AF *escaubers*]

**scabies** /skaybiz/ *n*, pl *scabies* a skin disease, esp contagious itch or mange, caused by a parasitic mite and usu characterized by oozing scabs [L] – **scabietic** /skaybi'etik/ *adj*

**'scabious** /skaybiəs/ *n* any of a genus of plants with flowers in dense heads at the end of usu long stalks [ME *scabiose*, fr ML *scabiosa*, fr L, fem of *scabiosus*, *adj*]

**\*scabious** *adj* **1** scabby **2** of or resembling scabies [L *scabiosus*, fr *scabies*]

**scabrous** /skaybrəs/ *adj* **1** rough to the touch with scales, scabs, raised patches, etc **2** dealing with indecent or offensive themes **3** intractable, knotty *USE* (2 & 3) fml [L *scabr-*, *scaber* rough, scurly, akin to L *scabies* mange – more at *SCAB*] – **scabrously** *adv*, **scabrousness** *n*

**scad** /skad/ *n*, pl *scad*, esp for different types *scads* any of several spiny-finned fishes like mackerels [origin unknown]

**scaffold** /skafəhɒld-, -f(ə)d/ *n* **1a** a temporary platform for workmen to stand or sit on when working at a height above the floor or ground **b** a platform on which a criminal is executed **c** a platform above ground or

floor level **2** a supporting framework [ME, fr ONF *escalfaut*, modif of (assumed) VL *cataphalcum* – more at *CATAFALQUE*]

**scaffolding** /skafəldɪŋ/ *n* **1** material used in scaffolds **2** *SCAF* FOLD **1a**, **2**

**scagliola** /skal'yohlə/ *n* imitation marble consisting of finely ground gypsum mixed with glue [It, lit, little chip]

**'scalar** /'skaylə/ *adj* **1** having a continuous series of steps < ~ chain of authority > **2a** capable of being represented by a point on a scale < a ~ quantity > **b** of a scalar or scalar product < ~ multiplication > [L *scalaris*, fr *scalae* stairs, ladder – more at *'SCAIR*]

**\*scalar** *n* **1** a real number rather than a vector **2** a quantity (e.g. mass or time) that has a magnitude describable by a real number, and no direction – compare *VECTOR*

**'scalar** *product* *n* a real number obtained by multiplying together the lengths of 2 vectors and the cosine of their included angle

**scallowag** /skəlowag/ *n*, *NAM* a scallywag

**'scald** /skawld/ *vt* **1** to burn (as if) with hot liquid or steam **2a** to subject to boiling water or steam **b** to heat to just short of boiling < ~ milk > [ME *scalden*, fr ONF *escaldere*, fr I L *excaldare* to wash in warm water, fr L *ex-* + *calida*, *caldā* warm water, fr fem of *caldus* warm – more at *CAUT* DRON]

**\*scald** *n* an injury to the body caused by scalding

**scalding** /skawldɪŋ/ *adj* **1** boiling hot **2** biting, scathing

**'scale** /skayl/ *n* **1a** either pan of a balance **b** a beam that is supported freely in the centre and has 2 pans of equal weight suspended from its ends **2** an instrument or machine for weighing *USE* (1b, 2) usu pl with sing meaning [ME, bowl, scale of a balance, fr ON *skal*, akin to ON *skel* shell – more at *SHELL*]

**\*scale** *vi* to have a specified weight on scales

**'scale** *n* **1** (a small thin plate resembling) a small flattened rigid plate forming part of the external body covering of a fish, reptile, etc ... *f* ANATOMY **2** a small thin dry flake shed from the skin **3** a thin coating, layer, or incrustation **a** (a black scaly) coating of oxide forming on the surface of metals, esp iron when heated **b** a hard incrustation usu of calcium sulphate or carbonate that is deposited on the inside of a kettle, boiler, etc by the evaporation or constant passage of hard water **4** a usu thin, membranous, chaffy, or woody modified leaf **5** infestation with or disease caused by scale insects [ME, fr MF *escala*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *scalu* shell, husk – more at *SHELL*] – **scaled** *adj*, **scaleless** *adj*

**'scale** *vt* **1** to remove scale or scales from (e.g. by scraping) **2** to remove in thin layers or scales < ~ paint from a wall > **3** to cover with scale < hard water ~s a boiler > ~ *vi* **1** to shed or separate or come off in scales, flake **2** to become encrusted with scale – **scaler** *n*

**'scale** *n* **1** a graduated series of musical notes ascending or descending in order of pitch according to a specified scheme of their intervals **2** sth graduated, esp when used as a measure or rule e.g. **a** a linear region divided by lines into a series of spaces and used to register or record sth (e.g. the height of mercury in a barometer) **b** a graduated line on a map or chart indicating the length used to represent a larger unit of measure **c** an instrument having a scale for measuring or marking off distances or dimensions **3** a graduated system < a ~ of taxation > **4** a proportion between 2 sets of dimensions (e.g. between those of a drawing and its original) **5** a graded series of tests [ME, fr LL *scala* ladder, staircase, fr L *scalae*, pl, stairs, rungs, ladder, akin to L *scandere* to climb – more at *SCAN*] – **scale** *adj* – to **scale** according to the proportions of an established scale of measurement < floor plans drawn to scale >

**\*scale** *vt* **1** to climb up or reach (as if) by means of a ladder **2a** to change the scale of **b** to pattern, make, regulate, set, or estimate according to some rate or standard < a production schedule ~d to actual need > < ~ down imports > *USE* (2) often + up or down – **scaler** *n*

**scale armour** *n* armour of small metallic scales fastened on leather or cloth

**scale insect** *n* any of numerous small insects with scale-like females attached to the host plant and young that suck plant juices

**scale leaf** *n* a modified usu small and scaly leaf (e.g. of a cypress)



**scalene** /skayleen/ *adj*, of a triangle having the 3 sides of unequal length [LL *scalēnus*, fr Gk *skalēnos*, lit., uneven, akin to Gk *skolios* crooked – more at *CYLINDER*]

**'scale, pan** /,pan/ *n* a pan of a scale for weighing

**scall** /skawl/ *n* scurf or a scabby disorder (e.g. of the scalp) [ME, fr ON *skalli* bald head]

**scallion** /skalyən/ *n* **1** a leek **2** an onion forming a thick basal part without a bulb; also SPRING ONION **3** chiefly *NAM* a shallot [ME *scalloun*, fr AF *scalun*, fr (assumed) VL *escalonia*, fr L *ascalonia* (*caepa*)



- onion of Ascalon, fr fem of *ascalonius* of Ascalon, fr *Ascalon-*, *Ascalo* Ascalon, seaport in southern Palestine]
- scallop** /'skolɒp/ *n* 1 (a large muscle, used as food, of) any of various marine bivalve molluscs that have a shell consisting of 2 wavy-edged halves each with a fan-shaped pattern of ridges and that swim by opening and closing the halves of the shell 2 a scallop shell or a similarly shaped dish used for baking esp seafood 3 any of a continuous series of circle segments or angular projections forming a border [ME *scalop*, fr MF *escalope* shell, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *schelpe* shell]
- scallop** *vt* 1 to bake in a scallop shell or shallow baking dish, usu with a sauce covered with breadcrumbs 2a to shape, cut, or finish (e.g. an edge or border) in scallops **b** to form scallops in
- scallywag** /'skali,wag/, *NAm chiefly scalawag* /'skalawag/ *n* a trouble-making or dishonest person; a rascal [origin unknown]
- scalp** /skalp/ *n* 1 (the part of a lower mammal corresponding to) the skin of the human head, usu covered with hair in both sexes 2a a part of the human scalp with attached hair cut or torn from an enemy as a trophy, esp formerly by N American Indian warriors **b** a trophy of victory 3 *chiefly Scot* a projecting rocky mound [ME, of Scand origin, akin to ON *skalpr* sheath, akin to MD *schelpe* shell]
- scalp** *vt* 1 to remove the scalp of 2 *NAm* a to buy and sell to make small quick profits **b** to obtain speculatively and resell at greatly increased prices (< ~ *theatre tickets*) USE (2) *infr* – **scalper** *n*
- scalpel** /skæpl/ *n* a small very sharp straight thin-bladed knife used esp in surgery [L *scalpellus*, *scalpellum*, dim of *scalper*, *scalprum* chisel, knife, fr *scalpere* to carve – more at **SHELF**]
- scalp lock** *n* a long tuft of hair left on the crown of the shaved head of a N American Indian warrior
- scaly** /'skayli/ *adj* 1 covered with or composed of scale or scales 2 flaky – **scaliness** *n*
- scaly ant eater** *n* a pangolin
- scammony** /'skaməni/ *n* (the large thick root, formerly used as a purgative, of) an Asian convolvulus [ME *scammonie*, fr L *scammonia*, fr Gk *skammonia*]
- scamp** /skæmp/ *n* an impish or playful young person [obs *scamp* (to roam about idly)] – **scampish** *adj*
- scamp** *vt* to perform in a hasty, careless, or haphazard manner [perh of Scand origin, akin to ON *skammr* short – more at **SCANT**]
- scamper** /'skæmpə/ *vi* to run about nimbly and playfully [prob fr obs D *schempen* to flee, fr MF *escamper*, fr It *scampare*, fr (assumed) VL *excampare* to decamp, fr L *ex-* + *campus* field – more at **'CAMP**]
- scamper** *n* a playful scurry
- scampi** /'skæmpi/ *n*, *pl scampi* a (large) prawn (often prepared with a batter coating) [It, pl of *scampo*, a European lobster]
- scan** /skæn/ *vb* -nn- *vt* 1 to read or mark (a piece of text) so as to show metrical structure 2a to subject to critical examination **b** to examine all parts of in a systematic order **c** to check or read hastily or casually (< ~ *the small ads*) 3a to traverse (a region) with a controlled beam: e.g. (1) to observe (a region) using a radar scanner (2) to translate (an image) into an electrical signal by moving an electron beam across it according to a predetermined pattern (e.g. for television transmission), *also* to reproduce (an image) from such a signal (3) to make a detailed examination of (e.g. the human body) using any of a variety of sensing devices (e.g. ones using ultrasonics, thermal radiation, X-rays, or radiation from radioactive materials) **b** to examine (a computer data source, e.g. a punched card) for the presence of recorded data ~ *vi*, *of verse* to conform to a metrical pattern [ME *scannen*, fr LL *scandere*, fr L, to climb, akin to Gk *skandalon* trap, stumbling block, offence, Skt *skandati* he leaps]
- scan** *n* 1 a scanning 2 a radar or television trace
- scandal** /'skændl/ *n* 1 loss of reputation caused by (alleged) breach of moral or social propriety 2 a circumstance or action that causes general offence or indignation or that disgraces those associated with it 3 malicious or defamatory gossip 4 indignation, chagrin, or bewilderment brought about by a flagrant violation of propriety or religious opinion [LL *scandalum* stumbling block, offence, fr Gk *skandalon*]
- scandalize**, -ise /'skændl,izez/ *vt* to offend the moral sense of – **scandalizer** *n*, **scandalization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- scandal monger** /-,mʌŋg-ɡə/ *n* sbv who circulates scandal
- scandalous** /'skændl-əs/ *adj* 1 libellous, defamatory 2 offensive to propriety – **scandalously** *adv*, **scandalousness** *n*
- Scandinavian** /'skændi'nayviən, -vi-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Scandinavia 2 NORTH GERMANIC – **Scandinavian** *adj*
- scandium** /'skændi-əm/ *n* a trivalent metallic transition element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Scandia*, ancient name of southern Scandinavian peninsula]
- scanner** /'skanə/ *n* 1 a device that automatically monitors a system or process 2 a device for sensing recorded data 3 the rotating aerial of a radar set ['SCAN + -ER]
- scansion** /'skæns(ə)n/ *n* (the analysis of) the way in which a piece of verse scans [LL *scansion-*, *scansio*, fr L, act of climbing, fr (assumed) L *scansus*, pp of L *scandere*]
- scant** /skænt/ *adj* 1a barely sufficient, inadequate **b** lacking in quantity 2 having a small or insufficient supply [ME, fr ON *skamt*, neut of *skammr* short, akin to Gk *koptein* to cut] – **scantly** *adv*, **scantness** *n*
- scant** *vt* to restrict or withhold the supply of
- scantling** /'skæntliŋ/ *n* 1a the dimensions of timber and stone used in building **b** the dimensions of a frame or strake used in shipbuilding 2 a small piece of timber (e.g. an upright piece in house framing) [alter. of ME *scantlon*, lit., mason's or carpenter's gauge, fr ONF *escantillon*]
- scanty** /'skænti/ *adj* scant, esp deficient in coverage [E dial. *scant* (scanty supply), fr ME, fr ON *skant*, fr neut of *skammr* short] – **scantly** *adv*, **scantiness** *n*
- scape** /skæip/ *n* 1 a leafless flower stalk arising directly from the root of a plant (e.g. in the dandelion) 2 the shaft of an animal part (e.g. an antenna or feather) [L *scapus* shaft, stalk – more at **SHAFT**]
- scape** /-skæip/ *comb form* (· *n*) view of (a specified type of scene); *also* pictorial representation of (such a scene) <scascape> [landscape]
- 'scapegoat** /-goht/ *n* 1 a goat on whose head are symbolically placed the sins of the people after which he is sent into the wilderness in the biblical ceremony for Yom Kippur 2 sbv or sthg made to bear the blame for others' faults [scape (short for escape), intended as trans of Heb 'azazel (prob name of a demon), as if 'ez 'ōzel goat that departs, Lev 16 8] – **scapegoat** *vt*
- 'scapegrace** /-græis/ *n* an incorrigible rascal [scape (short for escape)]
- 'scaphoid** /'skæfɔid/ *adj* navicular [NL *scaphoides*, fr Gk *skapheoides*, fr *skaphe* boat]
- 'scaphoid** *n* the navicular of the carpus or tarsus
- scaphopod** /'skæfə.pɒd/ *n* TOOTH SHELL [deriv of Gk *skaphe* boat + *pod-*, *pous* foot]
- scapula** /'skæpyoola/ *n*, *pl scapulae* /-li/, *scapulas* a large flat triangular bone at the upper part of each side of the back forming most of each half of the shoulder girdle; **SHOULDER BLADE**  ANATOMY [NL, fr L, shoulder blade, shoulder]
- 'scapular** /'skæpyoola/ *n* 1a a long wide band of cloth with an opening for the head worn front and back over the shoulders as part of a monastic habit **b** a pair of small cloth squares joined by shoulder tapes and worn under the clothing on the chest and back as a sacramental and often also as a badge of a third order or confraternity 2 any of the feathers covering the base of a bird's wing [ME *scapulare*, fr LL, fr L *scapula* shoulder]
- 'scapular** *adj* of the shoulder, the shoulder blade, or scapular feathers [NL *scapularis*, fr *scapula*]
- 'scar** /skɑh/ *n* a steep rocky place on a mountainside [ME *skere*, fr ON *sker* skerry, akin to ON *skera* to cut – more at **SHEAR**]
- 'scar** *n* 1 a mark left (e.g. on the skin) by the healing of injured tissue 2 CICATRIX 2 3 a mark of damage or wear 4 a lasting moral or emotional injury [MF *escare*, *scar*, fr MF *escare* scab, fr LL *eschara*, fr Gk, hearth, scab] – **scarless** *adj*
- 'scar** *vb* -rr- *vt* 1 to mark with a scar 2 to do lasting injury to ~ *vi* 1 to form a scar 2 to become scarred
- scarab** /'skarab/ *n* 1 a scarabaeus or other scarabaeid beetle 2 a representation of a beetle, usu made of stone or glazed earthenware, used in ancient Egypt esp as a talisman [MF *scarabee*, fr L *scarabaeus*]
- scarabaeid** /'skærə'bee-id/ *n* any of a family of stout-bodied beetles including the dung beetles and the Goliath and Hercules beetles [deriv of L *scarabaeus*] – **scarabaeid** *adj*
- scarabaeus** /'skærə'bee-əs/ *n* 1 a large (nearly) black dung beetle 2 SCARAB 2 [L]
- Scaramouch**, **Scaramouche** /'skærə,mooʃh, -mowch/ *n* a stock character in the commedia dell'arte characterized by boastfulness and cowardice [F *Scaramouche*, fr It *Scaramuccia*]
- 'scarce** /'skeɪs/ *adj* 1 not plentiful or abundant 2 few in number; rare [ME *scars*, fr ONF *escars*, fr (assumed) VL *excarpsus*, lit., plucked out, pp of L *excerpere* to pluck out – more at **EXCERPT**] – **scarceless** *n*, **scarcity** *n*
- 'scarce** *adv*, *archaic* scarcely, hardly
- 'scarcely** /-li/ *adv* 1a by a narrow margin, only just (<had ~ finished eating>) **b** almost not (<~ ever went to parties>) (<could ~ have been better

- qualified* 2 not without unpleasantness or discourtesy <could ~ interfere in a private dispute>
- scare** /skeə/ *vt* 1 to frighten suddenly 2 to drive off by frightening ~ *vi* to become scared [ME *skarren*, fr ON *skirra*, fr *skjarr* shy, timid] – **scarer** *n*
- scare** *n* 1 a sudden or unwarranted fright 2 a widespread state of alarm or panic <a bomb ~> – **scare** *adj*
- scarecrow** /-kroʊ/ *n* 1 an object usu suggesting a human figure, set up to frighten birds away from crops 2 a skinny or ragged person – *infrm*
- scaremonger** /-mʌŋ-gə/ *n* sby who (needlessly) encourages panic – **scaremongering** *n*
- scarey** /'skeəri/ *adj* scary
- scarf** /skahf/ *n, pl scarves* /'skahvz/, **scarfs** a strip or square of cloth worn round the shoulders or neck or over the head for decoration or warmth [ONF *escarpe* sash, sling]
- scarf** *n, pl scarfs* 1 either of the chamfered or cut away ends that fit together to form a scarf joint 2 **scarf**, **scarf** joint a joint made by chamfering, halving, or notching 2 pieces to correspond and lapping and bolting them [ME *skarfe*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *skarfe* scarf, akin to Gk *skorpios* scorpion]
- scarf, scarf** /skahf/ *vt* 1 to unite by a scarf joint 2 to form a scarf on
- scarf, skin** /-skin/ *n* the epidermis, esp that forming the cuticle of a nail [**scarf**]
- scarify** /'skeəriʃ/, 'skari-/ *vt* 1 to make scratches or small cuts in (e.g. the skin) 2 to wound the feelings of (e.g. by harsh criticism) 3 to break up and loosen the surface of (e.g. a field or road) [MF *scarifier*, fr LL *scarificare*, alter of L *scarifare*, fr Gk *skarphesthai* to scratch an outline, sketch – more at **scribble**] – **scarifier** *n*, **scarification** /-fikaɪʃh(ə)n/ *n*
- scarious** /'skeəriəs/ *adj* dry and membranous in texture <a ~ bract> [NL *scariosus*]
- scarlatina** /'skahl'teena/ *n* **SCARLET FEVER** [NL, fr ML *scarlata* scarlet] – **scarlatinal** *adj*
- scarlet** /'skahlət/ *adj* or *n* (of) a vivid red colour tinged with orange [ME *scarlat*, *scarlet*, fr OF or ML, OF *escarlata*, fr ML *scarlata*, fr Per *saqalat*, a kind of rich cloth]
- scarlet fever** *n* an infectious fever caused by a streptococcus in which there is a red rash and inflammation of the nose, throat, and mouth
- scarlet pimpernel** *n* a common pimpernel with usu red flowers that close in cloudy weather
- scarlet runner** *n* **RUNNER BEAN**
- scarlet woman** *n* a prostitute – *euph* [fr description of 'the great whore' in Rev 17:1-6]
- scarph** /skahp/ *n* 1 the inner side of a ditch below the parapet of a fortification 2 a steep slope, esp a cliff face, produced by faulting or erosion [It *scarpa*]
- scarph** *vt* to cut down to form a vertical or steep slope
- scarper** /'skahpə/ *vi, Br* to run away (e.g. from creditors) – *infrm* [perh fr It *scappare*, fr (assumed) VL *escappare* – more at **ESCAPE**]
- scarp** /skahf/ *vt* to scarf
- scary, scarey** /'skeəri/ *adj* 1 causing fright, alarming 2 easily scared, timid *USE* *infrm*
- scat** /skat/ *vi-tt* to depart rapidly – *infrm* [*scat* (interj) used to drive away a cat], perh short for *scatter*]
- scat** *n* jazz singing with nonsense syllables [perh *imit*] – **scat** *vi*
- scathe** /skaydh/ *n, archaic* harm, injury [ME *skathe*, fr ON *skathi*, akin to OE *sceatha* injury, Gk *askethos* unharmed] – **scatheless** *adj*
- scathe** *vt* to do harm to; *specif* to scorch or sear – *poetic*
- scathing** /'skaydhɪŋ/ *adj* bitterly severe <a ~ condemnation> – **scathingly** *adv*
- scatology** /ska'tɒləʒi/ *n* 1 the biologically oriented study of excrement (e.g. for the determination of diet) 2 (literature characterized by) interest in or treatment of obscene matters [*scat* (excrement), fr Gk *skat-, skor*] – **scatological** /skata'lɒjɪk/ *adj*
- scatter** /'skata/ *vt* 1 to cause (a group or collection) to separate widely 2a to distribute at irregular intervals b to distribute recklessly and at random 3 to sow (seed) by casting in all directions 4 to reflect or disperse (e.g. a beam of radiation or particles) irregularly and diffusely ~ *vi* to separate and go in various directions [ME *scateren*] – **scatterer** *n*, **scatteringly** *adv*
- scatter** *n* 1 the act of scattering 2 a small supply or number irregularly distributed 3 the state or extent of being scattered
- scatter, brain** /-braɪn/ *n* sby incapable of concentration – **scatter-brained** *adj*
- scatter-gun** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a shotgun
- scattering** /'skat(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* 1 an act or process in which sthg scatters or is scattered 2 a small number or quantity interspersed here and there <a ~ of visitors>
- scatter rug** *n* a small rug used, esp with others, in a room (e.g. to fill a vacant area of floor)
- scatty** /'skati/ *adj, Br* scatterbrained – *infrm* [prob fr *scatterbrain* + -y]
- scaup** /'skawp/ *n, pl scaups*, esp collectively **scaup** any of several diving ducks [perh alter of *scalp* (bed of shellfish), fr its fondness for shellfish]
- scavenge** /'skavɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to salvage from discarded or refuse material, also to salvage usable material from 2 to feed on (carrion or refuse) 3a to remove (burnt gases) from the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine after a working stroke b to remove (e.g. an undesirable constituent) by chemical or physical means c to clean and purify (molten metal) by making foreign elements from chemical compounds ~ *vi* 1 to search for reusable material 2 to obtain food by scavenging <dogs scavenging on kitchen waste> [back-formation fr *scavenger*]
- scavenger** /'skavɪŋə/ *n* 1 a refuse collector 2 a chemical used to remove or make innocuous an undesirable substance 3 an organism that feeds on refuse or carrion ㄟ ㄟ ㄟ **FOOD** [alter of earlier *scavager*, fr ME *skawager* collector of a toll on goods sold by nonresident merchants, fr *skawage* toll on goods sold by nonresident merchants, fr ONF *escauware* inspection]
- scenario** /sɪ'naɪrɪ-oh, -'nea-/ *n, pl scenarios* 1 an outline or synopsis of a dramatic work 2a a screenplay b a shooting script 3 an account or synopsis of a projected course of action [It, fr L *scenarium*, fr *scena* stage]
- scend** /'send/ *vi* to rise upwards on a wave [alter of *send*]
- scend** *n* the lifting motion of a wave
- scene** /'sen/ *n* 1 any of the smaller subdivisions of a dramatic work e.g. a division of an act presenting continuous action in 1 place b an episode, sequence, or unit of dialogue in a play, film, or television programme 2 a vista suggesting a stage setting 3 the place of an occurrence or action <~ of the crime> 4 an exhibition of unrestrained feeling <make a ~> 5 a sphere of activity or interest – *slang* <the drug ~> <philosophy is not my ~> [MF, stage, fr L *scena*, *scena* stage, scene, fr Gk *skene* temporary shelter, tent, building forming the background for a dramatic performance, stage, akin to Gk *skia* shadow – more at **SHINE**] – **behind the scenes** out of the public view, *IN SECRET*
- scene dock** *n* a space near the stage in a theatre where scenery is stored
- scenery** /'seen(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 the painted scenes or hangings and accessories used on a theatre stage 2 landscape, esp when considered attractive
- scene, shifter** /-ʃɪftə/ *n* a worker who moves the scenery in a theatre
- scenic** /'seenɪk/ also **scenical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of the stage, a stage setting, or stage representation 2 of or displaying (fine) natural scenery 3 representing graphically an action or event – **scenically** *adv*
- scent** /'sent/ *vi* 1a to perceive by the sense of smell b to get or have an inkling of 2 to fill with a usu pleasant smell ~ *vi* to use the nose in seeking or tracking prey [ME *senten*, fr MF *sentir* to feel, smell, fr L *sentire* to perceive, feel – more at **SENSE**]
- scent** *n* 1 odour e.g. a smell left by an animal on a surface it passes over <hounds followed the ~ of the fox> b a characteristic or particular, esp agreeable, smell c **PERFUMED** 2 a power of smelling, the sense of smell <a keen ~> b power of detection, a nose <a ~ for heresy> 3 a course of pursuit or discovery <threw him off the ~> 4 a hint, suggestion <a ~ of trouble> – **scentless** *adj*
- scented** *adj* having scent, esp having a perfumed smell
- scepsis** /'skepsɪs/ *n* philosophical doubt or scepticism [NL, fr Gk *skepsis* examination, doubt, sceptical philosophy, fr *skeptesthai*]
- sceptic** /'skeptɪk/ *n* a person disposed to scepticism, esp regarding religion or religious principles [L or Gk; L *scepticus*, fr Gk *skeptikos*, fr *skeptikos* thoughtful, fr *skeptesthai* to look, consider – more at **SPY**]
- sceptical** /'skeptɪkəl/ *adj* relating to, characteristic of, or marked by scepticism
- scepticism** /'skeptɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 doubt concerning basic religious principles (e.g. immortality, providence, or revelation) 2 the doctrine that certain knowledge is unattainable either generally or in a particular sphere 3 an attitude of doubt, esp associated with implied criticism
- sceptre, NAM chiefly scepter** /'septa/ *n* 1 a staff borne by a ruler as an emblem of sovereignty 2 royal or imperial authority [ME *sceptre*, fr OF *ceptre*, fr L *sceptrum*, fr Gk *skeptron* staff, sceptre – more at **SHAFT**]

**schadenfreude** /ˈʃaɪdn,froɪdə/ *n* enjoyment obtained from contemplation of others' misfortunes [G, fr *schaden* damage + *freude* joy]

**'schedule** /ˈʃedyuːl, -jəl; also, esp NAm /ˈskedyuːl, -jəl/ *n* 1 a statement of supplementary details appended to a document 2 a list, catalogue, or inventory 3 (the times fixed in) a timetable 4 a programme, proposal 5 a body of items to be dealt with [ME *cedule*, fr MF, slip of paper, note, fr LL *schedula* slip of paper, dim. of L *scheda*, *scida* sheet of papyrus, fr (assumed) Gk *schidē*, akin to Gk *schizein* to split – more at 'SHED]

**'schedule** *vt* 1a to place on a schedule b to make a schedule of 2 to appoint or designate for a fixed time 3 Br to place on a list of buildings or historical remains protected by state legislation – **scheduler** *n*

**scheelite** /ˈʃeeliət/ *n* calcium tungstate occurring as a mineral [G *scheelit*, fr Karl Scheele †1786 Sw chemist]

**schema** /ˈskeɪmə/ *n*, *pl* **schemata** /-mətə/ a diagrammatic representation, a plan [Gk *schemat-*, *schema*]

**schematic** /ˈskiːmætɪk/ *adj* of a scheme or schema; diagrammatic [NL *schematicus*, fr Gk *schemat-*, *schema*] – **schematically** *adv*

**schematize**, **-ise** /ˈskeɪməˌtaɪz/ *vt* 1 to form into a systematic arrangement 2 to express or depict schematically [Gk *schematizein*, fr *schemat-*, *schema*] – **schematization** /-ˌzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**'scheme** /skeɪm/ *n* 1 a concise statement or table 2 a plan or programme of action; a project (a *hydroelectric* ~) 3 a crafty or secret strategy 4 a systematic arrangement of parts or elements [L *schemat-*, *schema* arrangement, figure, fr Gk *schemat-*, *schema*, fr *echein* to have, hold, be in (such) a condition, akin to OE *sige* victory, Skt *sahate* he prevails]


**'scheme** *vi* to form a scheme for ~ *vi* to make plans, also to plot, intrigue – **schemer** *n*

**scheming** /ˈskeɪmɪŋ/ *adj* shrewdly devious and intriguing

**schemozzle** /ˈʃiːmɒzl/ *n* a schemozzle

**scherzando** /ˈʃɛːtʃəˈsændʊh/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, *pl* **scherzandos** (a passage or movement played) in a sprightly or playful manner – used in music [It, fr verbal of *scherzare* to joke, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *scherzen* to leap for joy, joke; akin to Gk *skairēin* to gambol – more at CARDINAL]

**scherzo** /ˈʃkeɪtsoh/ *n*, *pl* **scherzos**, **scherzi** /-tʃi/ a lively instrumental musical composition or movement in quick usu triple time [It, lit, joke, fr *scherzare*]

**schilling** /ˈʃɪlɪŋ/ *n*  Austria at NATIONALITY [G, fr OHG *skilling*, a gold coin – more at SHILLING]

**schipperke** /ˈʃɪpəki/ *n* (any of) a breed of small tailless usu black dogs with erect triangular ears [Flem, dim. of *schipper* skipper, fr its use as a watchdog on boats]

**schism** /ˈsɪz(ə)m, ˈskɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 separation into opposed factions 2a formal division in or separation from a religious body b the offence of promoting schism [ME *scisme*, fr MF *cisme*, fr LL *schismat-*, *schisma*, fr Gk, cleft, division, fr *schizein* to split]

**'schismatic** /ˈsɪzˌmætɪk, ˈskɪz-/ *n* a person who creates or takes part in schism

**'schismatic** also **schismatical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 (having the character) of schism 2 guilty of schism – **schismatically** *adv*

**schismatize**, **-ise** /ˈsɪzˌmætɪz, ˈskɪz-/ *vi* to take part in schism, esp to make a breach of union (e.g. in the church)

**schist** /ˈʃɪst/ *n* a metamorphic crystalline rock composed of thin layers of minerals and splitting along approx parallel planes [F *schiste*, fr L *schistos* (*lapis*), lit, fissile stone, fr Gk *schistos* that may be split, fr *schizein*] – **schistose** /ˈʃɪstəʊs/ *adj*

**schistosome** /ˈʃɪstəˌsoʊm/ *n* any of a family of elongated worms that parasitize the blood vessels of birds and mammals [NL *Schistosoma*, genus name, fr Gk *schistos* + *soma* body – more at 'SOMA] – **schistosome** *adj*, **schistosomal** /-ˈsoʊm/ *adj*

**schistosomiasis** /ˈʃɪstəˌsoʊˈmiːəˌsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **schistosomiasises** /-ˌseɪ-/ a severe endemic disease of human beings in much of Asia, Africa, and S America marked esp by blood loss and tissue damage [NL, fr *Schistosoma*]

**schiz-** /skɪts-, **schizo-** *comb form* 1 split; cleft (<*schizocarp*) 2 characterized by or involving cleavage (<*schizogenesis*) [NL, fr Gk *schizo-*, fr *schizein* to split]

**schizo** /skɪtsoh/ *n*, *pl* **schizos** a schizophrenic person – *infml* – **schizo** *adj*

**schizocarp** /ˈskɪtsoh,kɑhp/ *n* a dry compound fruit that splits into several indehiscent single-seeded parts [ISV]

**schizoid** /ˈskɪtsoɪd/ *adj* characterized by, resulting from, tending towards, or suggestive of schizophrenia [ISV] – **schizoid** *n*

**schizomycete** /ˈskɪtsohˌmiːseɪt, -miːseɪt/ *n* a bacterium [deriv of Gk *schizo-* *schiz-* + *myket-*, *mykēs* fungus – more at MYC-] – **schizomycetous** /-miːseɪtəs/ *adj*

**schizophrenia** /ˈskɪtsəˈfriːniə/ *n* a mental disorder characterized by loss of contact with reality and disintegration of personality, usu with hallucinations and disorder of feeling, behaviour, etc [NL] – **schizophrenic** /-ˈfrenɪk/ *adj* or *n*, **schizophrenically** *adv*

**schizothymia** /ˈskɪtsohˌθiːmiə/ *n* a tendency towards an introverted temperament that while remaining within the bounds of normality somewhat resembles schizophrenia [NL] – **schizothymic** /-mɪk/ *n* or *adj*

**schlep**, **schlepp** /ˈʃlep/ *vi*, chiefly NAm to drag, haul [Yiddish *shleppen*, fr MHG *shleppen*, fr MLG *shlepen*]

**schlieren** /ˈʃliːərən/ *n* *pl* regions of varying refractive index in a transparent medium caused by differences in pressure, concentration, etc and detected esp by photographing the passage of a beam of light [G] – **schlieric** /-nɪk/ *adj*

**schlock** /ˈʃlɒk/ *adj*, chiefly NAm of low quality or value (<*churn out* ~ TV series – Clive James) [Yiddish *shlak*, fr *shlak* curse, cheap merchandise, lit, blow, fr MHG *slag*, *slac*, fr OHG *slag*, fr *slahan* to strike – more at SLAY] – **schlock** *n*

**schmaltz**, **schmalz** /ˈʃmaltz/ *n* excessive sentimentalism, esp in music or art [Yiddish *shmalts*, lit, rendered fat, fr MHG *smalz*, akin to OHG *smelzan* to melt – more at 'SMFLT] – **schmaltzy** *adj*

**schnapps** /ˈʃnaps/ *n*, *pl* **schnapps** strong gin as orig made in the Netherlands [G *schnaps*, lit., dram of liquor, fr LG, fr *snappen* to snap]

**schnauzer** /ˈʃnɒwzə, ˈʃnɒwɪtsə/ *n* (any of) an orig German breed of dog with a long head and a wiry coat [G, fr *schnauze* snout – more at 'NOUT]

**schnitzel** /ˈʃnɪts(ə)/ *n* a veal escalope [G, lit, shaving, chip, fr MHG, dim. of *sniz* slice, akin to OHG *snidan* to cut, OE *snithan*, Czech *snět* bough]

**snorkel** /ˈs(h)naʊk/ *vi* or *n* (to) snorkel

**scholar** /ˈskɒlə/ *n* 1 one who attends a school or studies under a teacher 2 one who has done advanced study 3 the holder of a scholarship [ME *scoler*, fr OE *scolere* & OF *escoler*, fr ML *scholaris*, fr LL, of a school, fr L *schola* school]

**'scholarly** /-li/ *adj* learned, academic

**'scholarship** /-ʃɪp/ *n* 1 a grant of money to a student 2 the character, methods, or attainments of a scholar, learning 3 a fund of knowledge and learning

**Scholarship level** *n*, often *cap* L an examination that is the highest of the 3 levels of the British General Certificate of Education and is a partial qualification for university entrance

**scholastic** /ˈskɒləstɪk/ *adj* 1a often *cap* of Scholasticism b suggestive or characteristic of a scholar or pedant, esp in specious subtlety or dryness 2 of schools <~ scholars [ML & L; ML *scholasticus* of the schoolmen, fr L, of a school < Gk *scholastikos*, fr *scholazein* to keep a school, fr *scholē* school] – **scholastically** *adv*

**scholasticism** /ˈskɒləstɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 *cap* a chiefly late medieval philosophical movement that applied Aristotelian concepts and principles to the interpretation of religious dogma 2 pedantic adherence to the traditional teachings or methods of a school

**scholiast** /ˈskɒliːəst/ *n* a maker of scholia; an annotator [MGk *scholastes*, fr *scholazein* to write scholia on, fr Gk *scholion*] – **scholastic** /-ˈastɪk/ *adj*

**scholium** /ˈskɒliyəm/ *n*, *pl* **scholia** /-yə/, **scholia** a marginal annotation or comment, esp made by an early grammarian [NL, fr Gk *scholion* comment, scholium, fr dim. of *scholē* lecture]

**'school** sk.uhl/ *n* 1a an institution for the teaching of children b(1) any of the 4 faculties of a medieval university (2) a part of a university (<*the ~ of engineering*) c an establishment offering specialized instruction (<*driving* ~) d *pl*, *cap* the final honours examination for the Oxford BA e NAm a college, university 2a(1) the process of teaching or learning, esp at a school (2) a session of a school b a school building 3a people with a common doctrine or teacher (e.g. in philosophy or theology) (<*the Frankfurt* ~) b a group of artists under a common stylistic influence 4 a body of people with similar opinions (<a ~ of thought) [ME *scule*, fr OE *scōl*, fr L *schola*, fr Gk *scholē* leisure, discussion, lecture, school, akin to Gk *echein* to hold – more at SCHEME]

**'school** *vt* 1 to educate in an institution of learning 2a to teach or drill in a specific knowledge or skill (< a horse) b to discipline or habituate to sthg

**'school** *n* a large number of fish or aquatic animals of 1 kind swimming together [ME *scule*, fr MD *schole*, akin to OE *scolu* multitude, *scylan* to separate – more at SKILL]

**'school** *vi* to swim or feed in a school

**school age** *n* the age at which children are legally required to start

- attending school, *also* the period of life during which such attendance is required
- 'schoolboy** /-boy/, *fem* **'schoolgirl** *n* a schoolchild
- 'schoolchild** /-tʃild/ *n* a child attending school
- 'schoolfellow** /-feloh/ *n* a schoolmate
- 'schoolhouse** /-həʊs/ *n* a building used as a school, esp a country primary school
- 'schooling** /'sku:liŋ/ *n* **1a** instruction in school **b** training or guidance from practical experience **2** the cost of instruction and maintenance at school **3** the training of a horse to service; esp the teaching and exercising of horse and rider in the formal techniques of horse riding
- 'schoolkid** /-kid/ *n* a schoolchild - *infml*
- 'school-leaver** *n*, *Br* a pupil who is about to leave or has recently left school
- 'schoolmarm, schoolma'am** /-mahm/ *n* **1** a prim censorious woman **2** chiefly *NAM* a female schoolteacher, esp a rural or small-town schoolmistress [*school* + *marm*, alter of *ma'am*]
- 'schoolmaster** /-mahstə/, *fem* **'schoolmistress** *n* a schoolteacher
- 'schoolmate** /-mayt/ *n* a companion at school
- 'schoolroom** /-ru:m/ *n* a room where children are taught
- Schools Council** *n* the official British body that conducts inquiries into school curricula
- 'schoolteacher** /-ti:tʃə/ *n* a person who teaches in a school
- 'schoolwork** /-wʊk/ *n* lessons
- 'schooner** /'sku:nə/ *n* **1** a fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel having 2 or more masts **2a** *Br* (1) a relatively tall narrow glass used esp for a large measure of sherry or port (2) the capacity of a schooner used as a measure (e.g. for sherry) **b** chiefly *NAM & Austr* a large tall drinking glass, esp for beer [origin unknown]
- schori** /shaw/ *n* (black) tourmaline [*G* *schorl*] - **schorlaceous** /shaw'layshəs/ *adj*
- schottische** /'ʃo:teesh/ *n* (music for) a round dance in duple time resembling a slow polka [*G*, fr *schottisch* Scottish, fr *Schotte* Scot, akin to OE *Scottas* Scots]
- schuss** /'ʃu:ʃs/ *vi* or *n* (to ski down) a straight high-speed ski run [*n* *G*, lit, 'shot, 'r OHG *scuz* - more at *SHOT*, vb fr *n*]
- schwa** /'hwa/ *n* (the symbol /ə/ used for) an unstressed vowel that is the usual sound of the first and last vowels of *banana* [*G*, fr *Heb* *shēwā*]
- Schwann cell** /'ʃvan/ *n* a cell whose plasma membrane forms the myelin sheath of a nerve fibre [Theodor Schwann †1882 *G* naturalist]
- sciagram** /'sie:gram/ *n* a figure formed by shading in the outline of a shadow [ISV *scia*- (fr *Gk* *skia* shadow) + *-gram* - more at *SHINE*]
- sciatic** /'sie:atik/ *adj* **1** of or situated near the hip **2** of or caused by sciatica (~ *pains*) [*MF* *sciaticus*, fr *LL* *sciaticus*, alter of *L* *ischiadicus* of sciatica, fr *Gk* *ischiadikos*, fr *ischiad-*, *ischias* sciatica, fr *ischion* ischium]
- sciatica** /'sie:atika/ *n* pain in the back of the thigh, buttocks, and lower back caused esp by pressure on the sciatic nerve [*ME*, fr *ML*, fr *LL*, *fem* of *sciaticus*]
- sciatic nerve** *n* either of the 2 largest nerves in the body that pass out of the pelvis and down the back of the thigh, one on each side of the body, and supply the pelvic region and leg
- science** /'sie:əns/ *n* **1a** a department of systematized knowledge (*the ~ of theology*) **b** sthg (e.g. a skill) that may be learned systematically (*the ~ of boxing*) **c** any of the natural sciences **2a** coordinated knowledge of the operation of general laws, esp as obtained and tested through scientific method **b** such knowledge of the physical world and its phenomena; *NATURAL SCIENCE* **3** a system or method (purporting to be) based on scientific principles [*ME*, fr *MF*, fr *L* *scientia*, fr *scient-*, *sciens* having knowledge, fr *pp* of *scire* to know; akin to *L* *scindere* to cut - more at *'SHED*]
- 'science fiction** *n* fiction of a type orig set in the future and dealing principally with the impact of science on society or individuals, but now including also works of literary fantasy
- 'scientific** /'sie:ntifik/ *adj* of or exhibiting the methods of science [*ML* *scientificus* producing knowledge, fr *L* *scient-*, *sciens* + *-i-* + *-ficus* -*fic*] - **scientifically** *adv*
- scientific notation** *n* a system in which numbers are expressed as products consisting of a number between 1 and 10 multiplied by a power of 10
- 'scientism** /'sie:nt,iz(ə)m/ *n* **1** methods and attitudes (held to be) typical of the natural scientist **2** an exaggerated trust in the efficacy of scientific methods for explaining social or psychological phenomena or problems
- scientist** /'sie:ntist/ *n* an expert in a science, esp natural science; a scientific investigator [*L* *scientia*]
- scientology** /'sie:ntələdʒi/ *n*, *often cap* a religious and psychotherapeutic movement begun in 1952 by L Ron Hubbard [*L* *scientia* + *E* *-logy*]
- sci-fi** /'sie:fi/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) science fiction
- scilicet** /'si:li,et/ *adv* namely; TO WIT - used to introduce a word (e.g. in clarification or reiteration) [*ME*, fr *L*, surely, to wit, fr *scire* to know + *licet* it is permitted, fr *licere* to be permitted - more at *LICENCE*]
- scilla** /'sila/ *n* any of a genus of Old World bulb-forming plants of the lily family with clusters of pink, blue, or white flowers [*NL*, genus name, fr *L*, squill - more at *SQUILL*]
- scimitar** /'simitə-, -təh/ *n* a chiefly Middle Eastern sword having a curved blade which narrows towards the hilt and is sharpened on the convex side [*It* *scimitarra*, perh fr *Per* *shimshir*]
- scintigraphy** /'sint'igrafi/ *n* the production of a two-dimensional picture of a body part by detection of the emitted radiation after administration of a radioisotope [*scintillation* + *-graphy*; fr the scintillation counter used to record radiation on the picture] - **scintigraphic** /'sint'igrafi/ *adj*
- scintilla** /'sint'ila/ *n* an iota, trace [*L*]
- scintillate** /'sint'ilaɪt/ *vi* **1** to emit sparks **2** to emit flashes as if throwing off sparks, *also* to sparkle, twinkle **3** to be brilliant or animated [*scintillating* *wit*] [*L* *scintillatus*, *pp* of *scintillare* to sparkle, fr *scintilla* spark] - **scintillant** *adj*
- scintillation** /'sint'ilaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** the twinkling of a celestial body **2a** a spark or flash emitted in scintillating **b** a flash of light produced when a substance capable of phosphorescence is hit by a single electron, alpha particle, photon, etc **3** a dazzling outburst (e.g. of wit) [*SCINTILLATE* + *-ion*]
- scintillation counter** *n* a device for measuring the amount of radioactivity in a sample by detecting and counting the flashes of light in a crystal or phosphor that result from the emission of radioactive particles from the sample
- scion** /'sie:ən/ *n* **1** a detached living part of a plant joined to a stock in grafting and usu supplying parts above ground of the resulting graft **2a** (male) descendant or offspring [*ME*, fr *MF* *cion*, of *Gmc* origin, akin to OHG *chinan* to sprout, split open, OE *cinan* to gape]
- sirocco** /'ʃi:roko/ *n* a sirocco
- scirrhus** /'sɪrəs/ *n*, *pl* **scirrh** /'sɪrə/ a hard slow-growing malignant tumour, esp in the breast, consisting mostly of fibrous tissue [*NL*, fr *Gk* *skiros*, *skirrhos*, fr *skiros* hard] - **scirrhous** /'sɪrəs/ *adj*
- scissile** /'sɪsəl/ *adj* capable of being cut smoothly or split easily [*F*, fr *L* *scissilis*, fr *scissus*, *pp* of *scindere* to split - more at *'SHED*]
- scission** /'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* cutting, splitting, etc or a cut, split, etc [*F*, fr *LL* *scission-*, *scissio*, fr *L* *scissus*, *pp*]
- scissor** /'sɪzə/ *vt* to cut (out) (as if) with scissors
- scissors** /'sɪzə/ *n* *pl* **1** a cutting instrument with 2 blades pivoted so that their cutting edges slide past each other **2** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a gymnastic feat in which the leg movements suggest the opening and closing of scissors [*ME* *sisoure*, fr *MF* *cisore*, fr *LL* *cisorum* cutting instrument, irreg fr *L* *caesus*, *pp* of *caedere* to cut - more at *CONCISE*] - **scissor** *adj*
- scissors kick** *n* a swimming kick in which the legs move from the hip and come together like scissor blades
- scler-** /'skli-/ *sclero-* *comb form* hard (*sclera*) (*scleroderma*) [*NL*, fr *Gk* *skler-*, *sklero-*, fr *skleros* - more at *SKELETON*]
- sclera** /'skliərə/ *n* the opaque white outer coat enclosing the eyeball except for the part covered by the cornea  NERVE [*NL*, fr *Gk* *skleros* hard] - **scleral** /'skliərəl, 'sklərəl/ *adj*
- sclerenchyma** /'skli'reŋkɪmə/ *n* a supporting tissue in higher plants composed of cells with thickened and woody walls - compare COLLECHYMA, PARENCHYMA [*NL*] - **sclerenchymatous** /'skli'reŋ'kɪmətəs/ *adj*
- sclerosis** /'skli'rəʊsɪs/ *n* **1** (a disease characterized by) abnormal hardening of tissue, esp from overgrowth of fibrous tissue **2** the natural hardening of plant cell walls usu by the formation of lignin [*ME* *schrosis*, fr *ML*, fr *Gk* *sklērosis* hardening, fr *skleroun* to harden, fr *skleros*] - **sclerose** /'skləroʊs, -roʊz/ *vb*
- 'sclerotic** /'sklə'rəʊtɪk/ *adj* **1** being or relating to the sclera **2** of or affected with sclerosis
- ²sclerotic** *n* the sclera [*ML* *sclerotica*, fr (assumed) *Gk* *sklērotos*, verbal of *Gk* *sklēroun* to harden]
- sclerotium** /'sklə'rəʊtɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **sclerotia** /-tɪə/ a compact mass of hardened fungal mycelium that becomes detached and remains dormant

- until a favourable opportunity for growth occurs [NL, fr (assumed) Gk *sklerōtos*] – **sclerotial** /-sh(ə)l/ *adj*
- scold** /skɒl/ *n* an expression of scorn, derision, or contempt [ME *scolf*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *skolf* jest; akin to OFris *skolf* mockery]
- scold** *vi* to show contempt by derisive acts or language – often + *at* (~ *at conventional wisdom*) – **scolder** *n*
- scold** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to eat, esp greedily, rapidly, or in an ill-mannered way – infml [prob alter. of earlier *scalf*, of unknown origin]
- scold** /skɒld/ *n* a woman who habitually nags or quarrels [ME *scald*, *scold*, prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *skáld* poet, *skald*, Icel *skalda* to make scurrilous verse]
- scold** *vi* to find fault noisily and at length ~ *vt* to reprove sharply – **scolder** *n*
- scollex** /'skɒləks/ *n*, *pl scolices* /sko'lee,seez/ the head of a tapeworm [NL *scolic*-, *scoler*-, fr Gk *skōlēk*-, *skolēx* worm, akin to Gk *skelos* leg – more at CYLINDER]
- scoliois** /skoli'ohis/ *n*, *pl scolioses* /-seez/ a sideways curvature of the spine – compare KYPHOSIS, LORDOSIS [NL, fr Gk *skoliōsis* crookedness of a bodily part, fr *skolios* crooked – more at CYLINDER] – **scoliotic** /-tik/ *adj*
- scallop** /'skɒləp/ *n* a scallop [by alter.]
- scombroid** /'skɒmbroɪd/ *n* any of a suborder of spiny-finned sea fishes (e.g. the mackerel) used for food [deriv of Gk *skombros* mackerel] – **scombroid** *adj*
- sconce** /sɒns/ *n* a bracket candlestick or group of candlesticks; also an electric light fixture patterned on a candle sconce [ME, fr MF *esconce* screened lantern, fr OF, fr fem of *escons*, pp of *escondre* to hide, fr L *abscondere* – more at ABSCOND]
- sconce** *n* a detached defensive work (e.g. a fort or mound) [D *schans*, fr G *chanze*]
- sconce** *n*, *Br* (the mug used for) a forfeit formerly common at Oxford and Cambridge universities that involves drinking or supplying drink (e.g. beer) [perh fr archaic *sconce* (head)] – **sconce** *vt*
- scone** /skɒn/, or *skon* / *n* any of several small light cakes made from a dough or batter containing a raising agent and baked in a hot oven or on a griddle [perh fr D *schoonbrood* fine white bread, fr *schoon* pure, clean + *brood* bread]
- scoop** /skɒhp/ *n* 1a a large ladle for taking up or skimming liquids b a deep shovel for lifting and moving granular material (e.g. corn or sand) c a handled utensil of shovel shape or with a hemispherical bowl for spooning out soft food (e.g. ice cream) d a small spoon-shaped utensil for cutting or gouging (e.g. in surgical operations) 2a an act or the action of scooping b the amount held by a scoop (~ *of sugar*) 3 a cavity 4 material for publication or broadcast, esp when obtained ahead of or to the exclusion of competitors [ME *scope*, fr MD *schope*; akin to OHG *skepfen* to shape – more at SHAPE] – **scoopful** *n*
- scoop** *vi* 1 to take out or up (as if) with a scoop 2 to empty by scooping 3 to make hollow; dig out 4 to obtain a news story in advance or to the exclusion of (a competitor) 5 to obtain by swift action or sudden good fortune – chiefly infml (~ *the lion's share of an aid programme*)
- scoot** /skooht/ *vi* to go suddenly and swiftly – infml [prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *skjóta* to shoot – more at 'SHOOT] – **scoot** *n*
- scooter** /'skoohtə/ *n* 1 a child's foot-operated vehicle consisting of a narrow board with usu 1 wheel at each end and an upright steering handle 2 MOTOR SCOOTER
- scope** /skɒhp/ *n* 1 space or opportunity for unhampered action, thought, or development 2a extent of treatment, activity, or influence b extent of understanding or perception [It *scopo* purpose, goal, fr Gk *skopos*, akin to Gk *skēpesthai* to watch, look at – more at SPY]
- scope** *n* a periscope, telescope, or other optical instrument – infml [-*scope*]
- scope** /-skɒhp/ *comb form* (~ *n*) instrument for viewing or observing (<microscope> [NL -*scopium*, fr Gk -*skopion*, akin to Gk *skēpesthai*])
- scopolamine** /skɒh'pɒləmeɪn, -mɪn/ *n* hyoscyamine [G *scopolanin*, fr NL *Scopolia*, genus of plants + G *amin* amine]
- scopy** /-skəpi/ *comb form* (~ *n*) viewing; observation (<radioscopy> [Gk -*skopia*, fr *skēpesthai*])
- scorbutic** /skaw'byoohtik/ *adj*, of, resembling, or diseased with scurvy [NL *scorbuticus*, fr *scorbutus* scurvy, prob of Gmc origin; akin to OE *scurf*] – **scorbutically** *adv*
- scorch** /skawch/ *vt* 1 to burn so as to produce a change in colour and texture 2a to parch (as if) with intense heat b to criticize or deride bitterly 3 to devastate completely, esp before abandoning – used in *scorched earth*, of property of possible use to an enemy ~ *vi* 1 to become scorched 2 to travel at (excessive) speed [ME *scorchen*, *scorchen*, prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *skorpn*a to shrivel up – more at SHRIMP] – **scorchingly** *adv*
- scorch** *n* a mark resulting from scorching
- scorcher** /'skawcha/ *n* a very hot day – infml ['SCORCH + '-ER]
- score** /skɒw/ *n*, *pl scores*, (1a, b) **scores**, **score** 1a twenty b a group of 20 things – used in combination with a cardinal number (<fivescore>) c *pl* an indefinite large number 2a a line (e.g. a scratch or incision) made (as if) with a sharp instrument b a notch used for keeping a tally 3a an account or reckoning kept by making incisions b an account of debts c an amount due 4 a grudge (<settle an old ~>) 5a a reason, ground (<complain on the ~ of maltreatment>) b a subject, topic (<have no doubts on that ~>) 6a the copy of a musical composition in written or printed notation b the music for a film or theatrical production c a complete description of a dance composition in choreographic notation 7a a number that expresses accomplishment (e.g. in a game or test) b an act (e.g. a goal, run, or try) in any of various games or contests that increases such a number 8 the inescapable facts of a situation (<knows the ~>) [ME *scor*, fr ON *skor* notch, tally, twenty, akin to OE *scieran* to cut – more at SHEAR]
- score** *vt* 1a to record (as if) by notches on a tally b to enter (a debt) in an account – usu + *to* or *against* c to cancel or strike out (e.g. record of a debt) with a line or notch – often + *out* 2 to mark with grooves, scratches, or notches 3a(1) to gain (e.g. points) in a game or contest (~ *d 8 runs*) (2) to have as a value in a game or contest (<a try ~s 4 points>) b to gain, win (~ *d a success with his latest novel*) 4a to write or arrange (music) for specific voice or instrumental parts b to orchestrate c to compose a score for (e.g. a film) ~ *vi* 1 to record the scores or make a score in a game or contest 2 to obtain a rating or grade (~ *high in intelligence tests*) 3a to gain or have an advantage or a success b to obtain illicit drugs – slang c to achieve a sexual success – slang – **scorer** *n* – **score off** *someone* *Br* to get the better of sb in debate or argument
- scoreboard** /-bawd/ *n* a usu large board for displaying the state of play (e.g. the score) in a game or match
- scoria** /'skɒwɪə/ *n*, *pl scoriae* /-nee/ 1 the refuse from smelting ores or melting metals 2 rough cindery lava [ME, fr L, fr Gk *skōra*, fr *skōr* excrement, akin to OE *searn* dung, L *muscerda* mouse dropping] – **scoriaceous** /'skɒwɪə'shəs/ *adj*
- scorn** /skɒwn/ *n* 1 vigorous contempt, disdain 2 an expression of extreme contempt 3 an object of extreme disdain or derision [ME, fr OF *escarn*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *scern* jest, akin to Gk *skairēn* to gambol] – **scornful** *adj*
- scorn** *vt* to reject with outspoken contempt – **scorner** *n*
- Scorpio** /'skɒwpiə/ *n* (sby born under) the 8th sign of the zodiac in astrology, wh. h is pictured as a scorpion ⚡ SYMBOL [L, fr Gk *Skorpios*, lit., scorpion] – **Scorpiian** *adj* or *n*
- scorpioid** /'skɒwpiɔɪd/ *adj* curved at the end like a scorpion's tail (<a ~ inflorescence> [Gk *skorpioeides* resembling a scorpion, fr *skorpios*])
- scorpion** /'skɒwpiən/ *n* 1 any of an order of arachnids having an elongated body and a narrow tail bearing a venomous sting at the tip 2 a whip studded with metal spikes [ME, fr OF, fr L *scorpion*-, *scorpio*, fr Gk *skorpios*, akin to OE *scieran* to cut – more at SHEAR]
- scorpion**, fish *n* any of several spiny-finned sea fishes; esp one with a venomous spine on the dorsal fin
- scorpion**, fly *n* any of a family of flesh-eating insects that have cylindrical bodies and the male genitalia enlarged into a swollen bulb
- scorzonera** /'skɒwzɒ'nɪərə/ *n* (a European composite plant with) a black edible root similar to that of salsify [NL, genus name, fr It]
- Scot** /skɒt/ *n* 1 a member of a Gaelic people orig of N Ireland that settled in Scotland about AD 500 2 a native or inhabitant of Scotland [ME *Scottes* Scots, fr OE *Scottas* Irishmen, Scots, fr LL *Scotus* Irishman]
- scotch** /skɒch/ *vt* 1a to stamp out, crush b to hinder, thwart (~ *schemes for sponsorship*) 2 to repudiate by exhibiting as false (~ *rumours*) [ME *scocchen* to gash]
- scotch** *n* a slight cut
- Scotch** *adj* Scottish [contr of *Scottish*]
- Scotch** *n* 1 Scots 2 *pl in constr* the Scots 3 often not cap SCOTCH WHISKY; broadly (a) whisky
- Scotch** 'broth *n* soup made from beef or mutton, vegetables, and barley
- Scotch** 'egg *n* a hard-boiled egg covered with sausage meat, coated with breadcrumbs, and deep-fried
- Scotch** 'pine *n* SCOTS PINE
- Scotch** 'tape *trademark* – used for any of numerous adhesive tapes
- Scotch** 'terrier *n* SCOTTISH TERRIER



- Scotch 'whisky** *n* whisky distilled in Scotland, esp from malted barley
- Scotch 'woodcock** *n* buttered toast spread with anchovy paste and scrambled egg
- scoter** /skoʊtə/ *n*, *pl* *scoters*, esp collectively *scoter* any of several mostly black sea ducks [origin unknown]
- scot-free** *adj* without any penalty, payment, or injury [scot (payment, tax), fr ME, fr ON *skot* shot, contribution – more at SHOT]
- scotia** /skoʊʃə/ *n* a deep concave moulding, esp on the base of a column ➤ **ARCHITECTURE** [L, fr Gk *skotia*, fr fem of *skotios* dark, shadowy, fr *skotos* darkness – more at SHADE]
- Scotland 'Yard** /'skotland/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the criminal investigation department of the London metropolitan police force [Scotland Yard, street in London formerly the headquarters of the metropolitan police]
- scotoma** /ska'tohmə/ *n*, *pl* *scotomas*, *scotomata* /-mətə/ a blind or dark spot in the visual field [NL *scotomat-*, *scotoma*, fr ML, dimness of vision, fr Gk *skotōmat-*, *skotoma*, fr *skotoun* to darken, fr *skotos*] – *scotomatous* /-tōmətəs/ *adj*
- scotopic** /ska'topik/, -'toh-/ *adj* relating to or being vision in dim light with eyes adapted to the dark – compare PHOTOPIC [NL *scotopia* scotopic vision, fr Gk *skotos* darkness + NL *-opia*] – *scotopia* /-pi-ə/ *n*
- 'Scots** /skɒts/ *adj* Scottish – used esp of the people and language or in legal context [ME *Scottis*, alter. of *Scottish*] – *Scotsman* *n*
- 'Scots** *n* the English language of Scotland
- Scots 'pine** *n* a N European and Asian pine with spreading branches, short twisted needles, and hard yellow wood that provides valuable timber
- Scotticism** /skɒt,sɪz(ə)m/ *n* a characteristic feature of Scottish English, esp as contrasted with standard English [LL *scotticus* of the ancient Scots, fr *Scottus* Scot]
- scottie** /'skɒti/ *n* 1 *cap* a (male) Scot – used esp as a nickname 2 SCOTTISH TERRIER [Scot + -ie]
- 'Scottish** /'skɒtɪʃ/ *adj* (characteristic) of Scotland [ME, fr *Scottes* Scots] – *Scottishness* *n*
- 'Scottish** *n* Scots
- Scottish 'terrier** *n* (any of) a Scottish breed of terrier with short legs and a very wiry coat of usu black hair
- scoundrel** /'skɒndrəl/ *n* a wicked or dishonest fellow [origin unknown] – *scoundrelly* *adj*
- 'scour** /'skɔʊə/ *vt* 1 to move through or range over usu swiftly 2 to make a rapid but thorough search of [ME *scuren*, prob of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skura* to rush]
- 'scour** *vt* 1a to rub vigorously in order to cleanse b to remove by rubbing, esp with rough or abrasive material 2 to clean out by purging 3 to free from impurities (as if) by washing 4 to clear, excavate, or remove (as if) by a powerful current of water ~ *vi* 1 to undertake scouring 2 esp of cattle to suffer from diarrhoea or dysentery 3 to become clean and bright by being rubbed [ME *scouren*] – *scourer* /'skɔʊə(r)/ *n*
- 'scour** *n* 1 scouring action (e.g. of a glacier) 2 diarrhoea or dysentery, esp in cattle – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning but *sing.* or *pl* in *constr*
- 'scourge** /'skuɪʃ/ *n* 1 a whip used to inflict punishment 2a a means of vengeance or criticism b a cause of affliction [ME, fr AF *escorge*, fr (assumed) OF *escorgier* to whip, fr OF *es-* ex- + L *corrigia* whip]
- 'scourge** *vt* 1 to flog 2a to punish severely b to subject to affliction, devastate c to subject to scathing criticism – *scourger* *n*
- scouring** /'skɔʊə(r)ɪŋ/ *n* material removed by scouring or cleaning
- scouring rush** *n* a plant with stems containing hard granules of silica formerly used for scouring; *specif* a horsetail
- Scouse** /'skɔʊs/ *n* or *adj* (a native or inhabitant or the dialect) of Merseyside – chiefly infml [short for *lobscouse*; fr the popularity of lobscouse in Merseyside]
- 'scout** /'skəʊt/ *vi* to make an advance survey (e.g. to obtain military information) ~ *vt* 1 to observe or explore in order to obtain information 2 to find by making a search – often + *out* or *up* [ME *scouten*, fr MF *escouter* to listen, fr L *auscultare* – more at AUSCULTATION]
- 'scout** *n* 1 the act or an instance of scouting 2a sby or sth sent to obtain (military) information b TALENT SCOUT 3 an Oxford university college servant – compare BEDDER, GYP 4 often *cap* a member of a worldwide movement of boys and young men that was founded with the aim of developing leadership and comradeship and that lays stress on outdoor activities; *specif* a British boy member aged from 11 to 15
- 'scout, car** *n* a fast armoured military reconnaissance vehicle
- Scouter** /'skəʊtə/ *n* an adult leader in the Scout movement
- Scouting** /'skəʊtɪŋ/ *n* the activities of the Scout movement
- 'scoutmaster** /-,mɑːstə/ *n* the adult leader of a troop of scouts – no longer used technically
- scow** /'skəʊ/ *n* a large flat-bottomed usu unpowered boat used chiefly for transporting ore, sand, refuse, etc [D *schouw*; akin to OHG *scalta* punt pole]
- 'scowl** /'skəʊl/ *vi* 1 to frown or wrinkle the brows in expression of displeasure 2 to exhibit a gloomy or threatening aspect [ME *skoulen*, prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *skule* to scowl] – *scowler* *n*
- 'scowl** *n* an angry frown
- 'scrabble** /'skræbl/ *vi* *scrabbling* /'skræblɪŋ/ 1 to scratch or scrape about 2a to scramble, clamber b to struggle frantically (<urchins scrabbling for leftovers>) **USE** infml [D *schrabbeln* to scratch] – *scrabbler* *n*
- 'scrabble** *n* 1 a persistent scratching or clawing 2 a scramble **USE** infml
- Scrabble trademark** – used for a board game of word-building from individual letters ➤ **WORD**
- 'scrag** /'skræg/ *n* 1 a scraggy person or animal 2 (the bony end nearest the head of) a neck of mutton or veal ➤ **MEAT** [perh alter. of 'crag]
- 'scrag** *vi* -gg- 1 to kill or execute by hanging, garrotting, or wringing the neck of 2 to attack in anger – infml
- scraggly** /'skræɡli/ *adj*, *NAM* irregular, also ragged, unkempt – infml
- scraggy** /'skræɡi/ *adj* lean and lanky in growth or build
- scram** /'skram/ *vi* -mm- to go away at once – infml [short for *scramble*]
- 'scramble** /'skræmbəl/ *vb* *scrabbling* /'skræmbəlɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to move or climb using hands and feet, esp hastily b to move with urgency or panic 2 to struggle eagerly or chaotically for possession of sthg 3a to spread or grow irregularly b of a plant to climb over a support 4 esp of an aircraft or its crew to take off quickly in response to an alert ~ *vt* 1 to collect by scrambling – + *up* or *together* (<~d up a hasty supper>) 2a to toss or mix together b to prepare (eggs) in a pan by stirring during cooking 3 to cause or order (an aircraft) to scramble 4 to encode (the elements of a telecommunications transmission) in order to make unintelligible on unmodified receivers [perh alter of 'scramble]
- 'scramble** *n* 1 a scrambling movement or struggle 2 a disordered mess, a jumble 3 a rapid emergency takeoff of aircraft 4 a motorcycle race over very rough ground
- scrabbling** /'skræblɪŋ/ *n* moto-cross
- 'scrap** /'skræp/ *n* 1 *pl* fragments of discarded or leftover food 2a a small detached fragment b an excerpt from sthg written or printed c the smallest piece 3 *pl* the remains of animal fat after rendering, cracklings 4a the residue from a manufacturing process b manufactured articles or parts, esp of metal, rejected or discarded and useful only for reprocessing [ME, fr ON *skrap* scraps, akin to ON *skrapa* to scrape]
- 'scrap** *vi* -pp- 1 to convert into scrap (<~ a battleship>) 2 to abandon or get rid of, as without further use (<~ outworn methods>)
- 'scrap** *vi* or *n* -pp- (to engage in) a minor fight or dispute – infml [origin unknown]
- 'scrapbook** /-,bʊk/ *n* a blank book in which miscellaneous items (e.g. newspaper cuttings or postcards) may be pasted
- 'scrape** /'skreɪp/ *vt* 1a to remove (clinging matter) from a surface by usu repeated strokes of an edged instrument b to make (a surface) smooth or clean with strokes of an edged or rough instrument 2a to grate harshly over or against b to damage or injure by contact with a rough surface c to draw roughly or noisily over a surface 3 to collect or procure (as if) by scraping – often + *up* or *together* (<~ up the price of a pint>) ~ *vi* 1 to move in sliding contact with a rough or abrasive surface 2 to accumulate money by small but difficult economies (<scraping and saving to educate their children>) 3 to draw back the foot along the ground in making a bow – chiefly in *bow* and *scrape* 4 to get by with difficulty or succeed by a narrow margin – often + *in*, *through*, or *by* (<the candidate ~d through with a majority of 6>) [ME *scrapen*, fr ON *skrapa*; akin to OE *scrapian* to scrape, L *scrobis* ditch, Gk *keirein* to cut – more at SHEAR] – *scraper* *n*
- 'scrape** *n* 1a an act, process, or result of scraping b the sound of scraping 2 a disagreeable predicament, esp as a result of foolish behaviour – infml
- scraperboard** /'skreɪpə,bɔːd/ *n* prepared cardboard on which a design may be produced by scraping away parts of a black surface
- 'scrap, heap** *n* 1 a pile of discarded materials, esp metal 2 the place to which useless things are consigned
- scrapie** /'skreɪpi/ *n* a usu fatal virus disease of sheep characterized by twitching, intense itching, emaciation, and finally paralysis ['scrape]
- scrappy** /'skræpi/ *adj* consisting of scraps (<a ~ education>)



**'scrap, yard** /-yahd/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a yard where scrap (metal) is collected or processed

**'scratch** /skrach/ *vt* 1 to scrape or dig with the claws or nails 2 to tear, mark, or cut the surface of with sth sharp or jagged 3 to scrape or rub lightly (e.g. to relieve itching) 4 to scrape together (< ~ a precarious living - *Punch*) 5 to write or draw on a surface (< ~ed his initials on the desk) 6a to cancel or erase (as if) by drawing a line through b to withdraw (an entry) from competition ~ *vi* 1 to use the claws or nails in digging, tearing, or wounding 2 to scrape or rub oneself (e.g. to relieve itching) 3 to acquire money by hard work and saving 4 to make a thin grating sound (< this pen ~es) [blend of *E dial* *scrat* (to scratch) and *obs E* *cratch* (to scratch)] - **scratcher** *n*

**'scratch** *n* 1 a mark, injury, or slight wound (produced by scratching) 2 the sound of scratching 3 the most rudimentary beginning - in *from scratch* 4 standard or satisfactory condition or performance (< not up to ~)

**'scratch** *adj* 1 made or done by chance and not as intended (< a ~ shot) 2 arranged or put together haphazardly or hastily (< a ~ team) 3 without handicap or allowance (< a ~ golfer)

**'scratchy** /'skrachi/ *adj* 1 tending to scratch or irritate (< ~ wool) 2 making a scratching noise (< a ~ pen) 3 made (as if) with scratches (< ~ drawing) 4 uneven in quality 5 irritable, fractious - **scratchiness** *n*


**'scrawl** /skrawl/ *vb* to write or draw awkwardly, hastily, or carelessly [origin unknown] - **scrawl** *n*, **scrawler** *n*, **scrawly** *adj*

**'scrawny** /'skrawn/ *adj* exceptionally thin and slight (< ~ cattle) [origin unknown] - **scrawniness** *n*

**'scream** /skreem/ *vi* 1a(1) to voice a sudden piercing cry, esp in alarm or pain (2) to produce harsh high tones b to move with or make a shrill noise like a scream 2 to speak or write violently or hysterically (< a ~ing headline) 3 to produce a vivid or startling effect (< a ~ing red) ~ *vt* 1 to utter (as if) with a scream or screams 2 to bring to a specified state by screaming (< ~ oneself hoarse) [ME *scremen*, akin to OHG *scrian* to scream] - **screamer** *n*

**'scream** *n* 1 a shrill penetrating cry or noise 2 sby or sth that provokes screams of laughter (< he's a ~ after a drink or 2) - *infm*

**'screamingly** /'skreemingly/ *adv* extremely (< ~ funny)


**'scree** /skree/ *n* (a mountain slope covered with) loose stones or rocky debris  *GEOGRAPHY* [of Scand origin; akin to ON *skriða* landslide, fr *skriða* to creep, akin to OHG *scrian* to go, Lith *skrytis* rim of a wheel]

**'screech** /skreech/ *vi* 1 to utter a shrill piercing cry, cry out, esp in terror or pain 2 to make a sound like a screech (< the car ~ed to a halt) [alter of earlier *scritch*, fr ME *scrichen*, akin to ON *skrækja* to screech] - **screecher** *n*

**'screech** *n* a shrill sound or cry

**'screech owl** *n* a barn owl or other owl with a harsh shrill cry

**'screed** /skreed/ *n* 1 an overlong usu dull piece of writing 2 a strip (e.g. of plaster) serving as a guide to the thickness of a subsequent coat 3 a levelling device drawn over freshly poured concrete [ME *screde* fragment, fr OE *screade* - more at *SHRUB*]

**'screen** /skreen/ *n* 1a a usu movable piece of furniture that gives protection from heat or draughts or is used as an ornament (< fire ~) b an ornamental partition 2a sth that shelters, protects, or conceals (< a ~ of light infantry) b a shield for secret usu illicit practices 3a a sieve or perforated material set in a frame used to separate coarser from finer parts b a device that shields from interference (e.g. by electrical or magnetic fields) c a frame holding a netting used esp in a window or door to exclude mosquitoes and other pests 4a a surface on which images are projected or reflected b the surface on which the image appears in a television or radar receiver  *TELEVISION* c a ruled glass plate through which an image is photographed in making a halftone 5a the film industry; films (< a star of stage and ~) b the medium of television [ME *scene*, fr MF *escrén*, fr MD *scherm*, akin to OHG *skirm* screen, L *corium* skin - more at *CUIRASS*]

**'screen** *vt* 1 to guard from injury, danger, or punishment 2a to separate (as if) with a screen b to provide with a screen to keep out pests (e.g. insects) 3a to pass (e.g. coal, gravel, or ashes) through a screen to separate the fine part from the coarse; also to remove (as if) by a screen b(1) to examine systematically so as to separate into different groups (< ~ visa applications) (2) to test or check by a screening process 4a to show or broadcast (a film or television programme) b to present in a film or on television - **screenable** *adj*, **screen** *n*

**'screening** /'skreening/ *n* 1 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* material (e.g. waste or fine coal) separated out by a screen 2 metal or plastic mesh (e.g. for window screens) 3 a showing of a film or television programme

**'screen, play** /-play/ *n* the script of a film including description of characters, details of scenes and settings, dialogue, and stage directions

**'screen printing** *n* SILK SCREEN - **screen-printed** *adj*

**'screen, writer** /-rieta/ *n* a writer of screenplays

**'screw** /skrooh/ *n* 1 a simple machine of the inclined plane type in which the applied force acts along a spiral path about a cylinder while the resisting force acts along the axis of the cylinder 2a a usu pointed tapering metal rod having a raised thread along all or part of its length and a usu slotted head which may be driven into a body by rotating (e.g. with a screwdriver) b a screw-bolt that can be turned by a screwdriver 3a sth like a screw in form or function, a spiral b a turn of a screw, also a twist resembling such a turn 4 SCREW PROPELLER 5 a thumbscrew 6 backspin, esp when given to a cue ball in billiards, snooker, etc 7 chiefly *Br* a small twisted paper packet (e.g. of tobacco) 8 sby who drives a hard bargain - slang 9 a prison guard - slang 10 an act of sexual intercourse - vulg. [ME, fr MF *escrue* female screw, nut, fr ML *scrofa*, fr L, sow] - **screwlike** *adj*

**'screw** *vt* 1a(1) to attach, close, operate, adjust, etc by means of a screw (2) to unite or separate by means of a screw or a twisting motion (< ~ the 2 pieces together) b to cause to rotate spirally about an axis 2a(1) to contort (the face) or narrow (the eyes) (e.g. with effort or an emotion) - often + *up* (2) to crush into irregular folds b to make a spiral groove or ridge in 3 to increase the intensity, quantity, or effectiveness of (< ~ *up one's courage*) 4 to give backwards spin to (a ball) 5a to make oppressive demands on (< ~ed him for every penny he'd got) b to extract by pressure or threat - usu + *from* or *out of* 6 to copulate with ~ *vi* 1a to rotate like or as a screw b to become secured (as if) by screwing - usu + *on* or *up* (< panels that ~ *on*) 2 to turn or move with a twisting motion 3 to copulate *USE* (*vt* 2a(2), 3) usu + *up*, (*vt* 5) slang, (*vt* 6, *vi* 3) vulg. - **screwer** *n*

**'screw, ball** /-bawl/ *n* or *adj*, chiefly *NAM* (sby) crazily eccentric or whimsical - *infm*

**'screw, bolt** *n* a blunt-tipped metal rod or pin for fastening objects together that has a head at one end and a screw thread at the other for screwing into a threaded hole (e.g. on a nut)

**'screw, driver** /-drieva/ *n* a tool for turning screws

**'screwed** *adj* drunk - *infm* [fr pp of 'screw]

**'screw eye** *n* a device with a pointed threaded shaft and a head in the form of a loop

**'screw pine** *n* any of a genus of tropical plants with slender palmlike stems and crowns of swordlike leaves

**'screw propeller** *n* a device that consists of a central hub with radiating blades and is used to propel a vehicle (e.g. a ship or aeroplane)

**'screw thread** *n* the projecting spiral rib of a screw

**'screw top** *n* (an opening designed to take) a cover secured by twisting

**'screw up** *vt* 1 to fasten or lock (as if) by a screw 2 to bung, botch 3 to cause to become anxious or neurotic *USE* (2, 3) slang

**'screwy** /skrooh-i/ *adj* crazily absurd, eccentric, or unusual, also mad - *infm* - **screwiness** *n*

**'scribble** /'skribl/ *vb* scribbling /'skribling/ to write or draw without regard for legibility or coherence [ME *scriblen*, fr ML *scribillare*, fr L *scribere* to write] - **scribble** *n*

**'scribbler** /'skribla/ *n* a minor or worthless author [SCRIBBLE + -ER]

**'scribe** /skrieb/ *n* 1 a member of a learned class of lay jurists in ancient Israel up to New Testament times 2 a copier of manuscripts 3 an author, specif a journalist - chiefly humor [ME, fr L *scriba* official writer, fr *scribere* to write, akin to GK *skriphasthai* to scratch an outline, *keirein* to cut - more at *SHEAR*] - **scribal** *adj*

**'scribe** *vt* 1 to mark a line on by scoring with a pointed instrument 2 to make (e.g. a line) by scratching or gouging [prob short for *describe*]




**'scriber** /'skrieba/ *n* a sharp-pointed tool for making marks, esp on material (e.g. metal) to be cut




**'scrimmage** /'skrimj/ *vi* or *n* (to take part in) a a confused fight or minor battle; a mêlée b the interplay between 2 American football teams that begins with the passing back of the ball from the ground and continues until the ball is dead [alter. of 'skirmish]

**'scrimp** /skrimp/ *vi* to be frugal or niggardly - esp in *scrimp and save* ~ *vt* to be niggardly in providing (for) (< ~ provisions) (< ~s his family) [perh of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skrympa* to shrink, ON *skorpa* to shrivel up - more at *SHRIMP*] - **scrimpy** *adj*





**'scrimshank** /'skrim,shangk/ *vi*, *Br* to avoid duties or obligations - *infm* [origin unknown] - **scrimshanker** *n*

**'scrimshaw** /'skrimshaw/ *n* carved or coloured work made esp by sailors from ivory or whalebone [origin unknown] - **scrimshaw** *vb*

- scrip** /skrip/ *n* any of various documents used as evidence that the holder or bearer is entitled to receive sthg [short for *script*]
- script** /skript/ *n* 1a sthg written; text <handed him several pages of ~> b an original document c the written text of a stage play, film, or broadcast (used in production or performance) d an examination candidate's written answers <a pile of ~s to mark> 2a (printed lettering resembling) handwriting b the characters used in the alphabet of a particular language <unable to decipher Cyrillic ~>  ALPHABET [L *scriptum* thing written, fr neut of *scriptus*, pp of *scribere* to write – more at 'SCRIBE]
- script** *vt* to prepare a script for or from
- scriptural** /ˈskripʃərəl/ *adj* of, contained in, or according to a sacred writing, esp biblical – *scripturally* *adv*
- scripture** /ˈskripʃə/ *n* 1a often cap the sacred writings of a religion, esp the Bible – often pl with sing meaning b a passage from the Bible 2 an authoritative body of writings [ME, fr LL *scriptura*, fr L, act or product of writing, fr *scriptus*]
- scriptwriter** /ˈskriptɹi:tə/ *n* one who writes screenplays or radio or television programmes
- scrivener** /ˈskri:vənə/ *n* a notary [ME *scrivener*, alter of *scrivein*, fr MF *escribein*, fr (assumed) VL *scriban-*, *scriba*, alter of L *scriba* scribe]
- scrod** /skrod/ *n*, *NAM* a young cod, haddock, or other fish [perh fr obs D *schrood* shred, akin to OE *scraede* shred – more at SHRED]
- scrofula** /ˈskroʊfələ/ *n* tuberculosis of lymph glands, esp in the neck [ML, fr LL *scrofula*, pl, swellings of the lymph glands of the neck, fr pl of *scrofula*, dim of L *scrofa* breeding sow]
- scrofulous** /ˈskroʊfələs/ *adj* of or affected (as if) with scrofula or a similar disease
- scroll** /skroʊl/ *n* 1 a written document in the form of a roll 2 a stylized ornamental design imitating the spiral curves of a scroll [ME *scrowle*, alter. of *scrowe*, fr MF *escroue* scrap, scroll, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *scraede* shred] – *scrolled* *adj*
- scroll** *saw* *n* a thin handsaw for cutting curves or irregular designs
- scrooge** /skroʊdʒ/ *n*, often cap a miserly person – infml [Ebenezer Scrooge, character in *A Christmas Carol*, story by Charles Dickens †1870 E writer]
- scrotum** /ˈskroʊtəm/ *n*, pl *scrota* /-tə/, *scrotums* the external pouch of most male mammals that contains the testes  REPRODUCTION [L, akin to L *scrupus* sharp stone – more at SHRED] – *scrotal* *adj*
- scrounge** /skrown/ *vt* to beg, wheedle <can I ~ a cigarette off you?> ~ *vi* 1 to hunt around 2 to wheedle [alter. of E dial. *scrunge* (to wander about idly)] – *scrounger* *n*
- scrounge** *n* – on the scrounge attempting to obtain sthg by wheedling or cajoling
- scrub** /skrub/ *n* 1 (an area covered with) vegetation consisting chiefly of stunted trees or shrubs <~ land> <~ vegetation>  PLANT 2a a usu inferior type of domestic animal of mixed or unknown parentage, a mongrel b a small or insignificant person, a runt 3 *NAM* a player not in the first team, also a team composed of such players [ME, alter of *schrobbe* shrub – more at SHRUB]
- scrub** *vb* -bb- *vt* 1a to clean by rubbing, esp with a stiff brush b to remove by scrubbing 2 WASH 6b 3 to abolish, DO AWAY WITH <let's ~ that idea> – infml ~ *vi* to use hard rubbing in cleaning [of LG or Scand origin, akin to MLG & MD *scrubben* to scrub, Sw *skrubba*]
- scrubber** /skrubə/ *n* 1 an apparatus for removing impurities, esp from gases 2 *Br* a girl who is readily available for casual sex; also a prostitute 3 *Br* a coarse or unattractive person USE (2, 3) slang ['SCRUB + <sup>2</sup>-FR]
- scrubbing brush** /ˈskrubɪŋ/, *NAM* scrub brush *n* a brush with hard bristles used for heavy cleaning, esp washing floors
- scrubby** /ˈskrubɪ/ *adj* 1 inferior in size or quality, stunted <~ cattle> 2 covered with or consisting of scrub 3 lacking distinction, trashy – infml ['scrub]
- scrub pine** *n* a small or inferior pine tree
- scrub up** *vi*, of a surgeon, nurse, etc to clean the hands and arms thoroughly by scrubbing before an operation
- scruff** /skruf/ *n* the back of the neck; the nape [alter. of earlier *scuff*, of unknown origin]
- scruff** *n* an untidily dressed or grubby person – infml [E dial. *scruff* (dandruff, sthg worthless), alter of *scurl*]
- scruffy** /ˈskruʃi/ *adj* 1 seedy, disreputable <a ~ neighbourhood> 2 slovenly and untidy, esp in appearance – *scruffiness* *n*
- scrum** /skrum/ *n* 1 a set piece in rugby in which the forwards of each side crouch in a tight formation with the 2 front rows of each team meeting shoulder to shoulder so that the ball can be put in play between

- them  SPORT 2 a disorderly struggle – chiefly humor <the morning ~ to board the bus> [short for *scrummage*]
- scrum down** *vi* to form a scrum
- scrum-half** *n* the player in rugby who puts the ball into the scrum  SPORT
- scrummage** /ˈskrumɪdʒ/ *vi* or *n* (to take part in) a scrum [alter. of *scrummage*]
- scrump** /skrump/ *vt*, *Br* to pilfer (e.g. apples) from an orchard – infml [perh alter of *scrimp*]
- scrumptious** /ˈskrup(ə)ʃəs/ *adj*, esp of food delicious – infml [prob alter. of *sumptuous*] – *scrumptiously* *adv*, *scrumptiousness* *n*
- scrumpy** /ˈskrupmi/ *n*, *Br* dry rough cider [E dial. *scrump* (sthg shrivelled, shrivelled apple)]
- scrunch** /skrunch/ *vt* 1 to crunch, crush 2 to crumple – often + *up* <~ up a sheet of cardboard> ~ *vi* 1 to move making a crunching sound <her boots ~ed in the snow> 2 *NAM* to hunch up [alter of 'crunch] – *scrunch* *n*
- scruple** /ˈskroʊhpl/ *n* 1  UNIT 2 *archaic* a minute part or quantity [ME *scrpule*, fr L *scrupulus* a unit of weight, fr *scrupulus* small sharp stone]
- scruple** *n* a moral consideration that inhibits action [MF *scrupule*, fr L *scrupulus* small sharp stone, cause of mental discomfort, scruple, dim of *scrupus* sharp stone – more at SHRED]
- scruple** *vi* to be reluctant on grounds of conscience
- scrupulous** /ˈskroʊpjuːləs/ *adj* 1 inclined to have moral scruples 2 painstakingly exact <working with ~ care> [ME, fr L *scrupulosus*, fr *scrupulus*] – *scrupulously* *adv*, *scrupulousness* *n*, *scrupulosity* /-ləsəti/ *n*
- scrutineer** /ˈskroʊtiːniə/ *n*, *Br* shy who examines or observes sthg, esp the counting of votes at an election
- scrutinize, -ise** /ˈskroʊtiːniːz/ *vt* to examine painstakingly – *scrutinizer* *n*
- scrutiny** /ˈskroʊtiːni/ *n* 1 a searching study, inquiry, or inspection 2 a searching or critical look 3 close watch <keep prisoners under ~> [L *scrutinium*, fr *scrutari* to search, examine, fr *scruta* rubbish]
- scry** /skri/ *vi* to divine by crystal gazing [short for *descry*]
- scuba** /ˈsk(y)ʊəbə/ *n* an aqualung <~ diving> [self-contained underwater breathing apparatus]
- scud** /skud/ *vi* -dd- 1 to move or run swiftly, esp as if swept along <clouds ~ding along> 2 of a ship to run before a gale [prob of Scand origin; akin to Norw *skudda* to push, akin to L *quatere* to shake]
- scud** *n* 1a a sudden slight shower b ocean spray or loose vaporizing clouds driven swiftly by the wind 2 a gust of wind
- scuff** /skuf/ *vi* 1 to slouch along without lifting the feet 2 to become scratched or roughened by wear <patent leather soon ~s> ~ *vt* 1 to shuffle (the feet) along while walking or back and forth while standing 2 to scratch, chip, or abrade the surface of [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *skuffa* to push]
- scuff** *n* 1 (a blemish or injury caused by) scuffing 2 *NAM* a noise (as if) of scuffing
- scuffle** /ˈskuf/ *vi* *scuffling* /ˈskufɪŋ/ 1 to struggle confusedly and at close quarters 2 to move (hurdledly) about with a shuffling gait [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *skuffa* to push]
- scuffle** *n* a confused impromptu usu brief fight
- scull** /skul/ *n* 1 an oar worked to and fro over the stern of a boat as a means of propulsion 2 either of a pair of light oars used by a single rower [ME *sculle*]
- scull** *vt* to propel (a boat) by sculls or by a large oar worked to and fro over the stern ~ *vi* to scull a boat – *sculler* *n*
- scullery** /ˈskul(ə)rɪ/ *n* a room for menial kitchen work (e.g. washing dishes and preparing vegetables) [ME, department of household in charge of dishes, fr MF *escuelerie*, fr *escuelle* bowl, fr L *scutella* drinking bowl – more at 'SCUTTLE]
- scullion** /ˈskulyən/ *n*, *archaic* a kitchen servant [ME *sculion*, fr MF *escouillon* dishcloth, alter of *escouvillon*, fr *escove* broom, fr L *scopa*, lit, twig, akin to L *scapus* stalk – more at SHAFT]
- sculpin** /ˈskulpɪn/ *n*, pl *sculpins* also *sculpin* any of a family of spiny large-headed broad-mouthed usu scaleless fishes [origin unknown]
- sculpt** /skulpt/ *vt* to sculpture [F *sculpter*, alter of obs *sculper*, fr L *sculpere*]
- sculptor** /ˈskulptə/, *fem* *sculptress* /-trɪs/ *n* an artist who sculpts [L, fr *sculptus*, pp of *sculpere*]
- sculpture** /ˈskulpʃə/ *n* 1a the art of creating three-dimensional works of art out of mouldable or hard materials by carving, modelling, casting, etc b (a piece of) work produced by sculpture 2 (a pattern of) impressed

- or raised marks, esp on a plant or animal part [ME, fr L *sculptura*, fr *sculptus*, pp of *sculper* to carve, alter of *scalpere* – more at *SHELF*] – **sculptural** *adj*, **sculpturally** *adv*, **sculpturesque** /-ˈresk/ *adj*
- sculpture** *vt* 1a to represent in sculpture b to form (e.g. wood or stone) into a sculpture 2 to shape by erosion or other natural processes 3 to shape (as if) by carving or moulding
- scum** /skum/ *n* 1 pollutants or impurities risen to or collected on the surface of a liquid 2 *pl* in *constr* the lowest class, the dregs (<the ~ of the earth> [ME, fr MD *schum*; akin to OHG *scum* foam] – **scummy** *adj*
- scum** *vi* -mm- to become covered (as if) with scum
- scumble** /ˈskʌmbl/ *vt* **scumbling** /ˈskʌmblɪŋ/ to soften the lines or colours of a (a drawing) by rubbing lightly b (a painting) by covering with a thin opaque coat of colour [freq of ‘scum’]
- scumble** *n* 1 the effect of scumbling 2 a material used for scumbling
- scungy** /ˈskʌnj/ *adj*, *Austr* grotty [perh fr Sc *scunge* a sly or vicious person]
- scunner** /ˈskʌnə/ *n*, *Scot* (the object of) an unreasonable dislike or prejudice (<took a ~ at him> [ME (Sc) *skunniren* to be annoyed])
- scunnered** *adj*, *Scot* extremely fed up or exasperated
- scupper** /ˈskʌpə/ *n* an opening in a ship’s side for draining water from the deck [ME *skopper*]
- scupper** *vt*, *Br* to wreck, PUT PAID TO (<~ed our plans for a reunion> infml [origin unknown])
- scurf** /skʌf/ *n* thin dry scales detached from the skin, specif dandruff [ME, of Scand origin, akin to Icel *skurfa* scurf, akin to OHG *scorff* scurf, L *carpere* to pluck – more at HARVEST] – **scurfy** *adj*
- scurrilous** /ˈskʌrɪləs/ *adj* 1a using or given to coarse language b wicked and unscrupulous in behaviour (<~ impostors who rob poor people> 2 containing obscenities or coarse abuse [L *scurrilis* jeering, fr *scurra* buffoon, jester] – **scurrilously** *adv*, **scurrilousness** *n*, **scurrility** /ˈskʌrɪləti/ *n*
- scurry** /ˈskʌrɪ/ *vi* to move briskly, esp with short hurried steps, and often in some agitation or confusion, scamper [short for *hurry-scurry*, redupl of *hurry*] – **scurry** *n*
- scurvy** /ˈskʌrvɪ/ *adj* disgustingly mean or contemptible (<a ~ trick> [scurf] – **scurvily** *adv*, **scurviness** *n*
- scurvy** *n* a deficiency disease caused by a lack of vitamin C and marked by spongy gums, loosening of the teeth, and bleeding under the skin
- scurvy** *grass* *n* any of several small plants of the mustard family whose leaves were formerly eaten to prevent scurvy
- scut** /skʌt/ *n* a short erect tail (e.g. of a hare) [origin unknown]
- scutage** /ˈskjuːtʃ/ *n* a tax levied on a tenant of a knight’s estate in place of military service [ME, fr ML *scutagium*, fr L *scutum* shield – more at ESQUIRE]
- scutch** /skʌtʃ/ *vi* to separate the woody fibre from (flax or hemp) by beating [(assumed) F *escoucher* to beat, fr (assumed) VL *excuticare* to beat out, fr L *excutere*, fr *ex-* + *quater* to shake, strike]
- scute** /ˈskjuːt/ *n* an external hard plate or large scale (e.g. on the belly of a snake) [NL *scutum*, fr L, shield – more at ESQUIRE]
- scutellum** /ˈskjuːlətʃ/ *n*, *pl* **scutella** /-lə/ any of several small usu hard (shield-shaped) plates or scales on a plant or animal (e.g. on the feet of a bird) [NL, dim. of L *scutum* shield] – **scutellar** *adj*, **scutellate** /ˈskjuːlətʃ, -lət/, **scutellated** *adj*
- scutter** /ˈskʌtə/ *vi*, chiefly *Br* ‘SCUTTLE [by alter.]
- scuttle** /ˈskʌtl/ *n* a vessel that resembles a bucket and is used for storing, carrying, and dispensing coal indoors [ME *scutel*, fr L *scutella* drinking bowl, tray, dim. of *scutra* platter]
- scuttle** *n* 1 a small opening or hatchway with a movable lid in the deck of a ship 2 *Br* the top part of a motor-car body forward of the 2 front doors, to which the windscreen and instrument panel are attached [ME *skottell*]
- scuttle** *vt* **scuttling** /ˈskʌtlɪŋ/ 1 to sink (a ship) by making holes in the hull or opening the sea-cocks 2 to destroy, wreck (<~ attempts to reach agreement>)
- scuttle** *vi* to scurry, scamper [prob blend of *scud* and *shuttle*]
- scuttle** *n* 1 a quick shuffling pace 2 a short swift dash, esp a swift departure
- scuttlebutt** /-ˌbʌt/ *n* 1 a cask on a ship’s deck containing fresh water 2 *NAm* GOSSIP 2a – infml [‘scuttle’]
- scutum** /ˈskjuːtəm/ *n*, *pl* **scuta** /-tə/ a scute [NL, fr L, shield – more at ESQUIRE]
- scythe** /ˈsɪdθ/ *n* a long curving blade fastened at an angle to a long handle for cutting standing plants, esp grass [ME *sithe*, fr OE *sither*; akin to OE *sagu* saw – more at SAW]
- scythe** *vt* to cut (as if) with a scythe
- Scythian** /ˈsɪði-ən/ *n* 1 a member of an ancient nomadic people inhabiting Scythia 2 the Iranian language of the Scythians [L *Scythia*, fr Gk *Skýthēs*] – **Seythian** *adj*
- sea** /see/ *n* 1a OCEAN 1, broadly the waters of the earth as distinguished from the land and air – often *pl* with sing meaning b a large (partially) landlocked or inland body of salt water c a freshwater lake (<the Sea of Galilee> 2 (the direction of) surface motion caused by the wind on a large body of water, also a heavy swell or wave 3 sthg vast or overwhelming likened to the sea (<a ~ of faces> 4 the seafaring life (<to run away to ~> 5 MARE [ME *see*, fr OE *see*; akin to OS & OHG *see* sea] – at **sea** 1 on the sea, specif on a sea voyage 2 unable to understand; bewildered (<he was all at sea, having never done such work before>)
- sea** *anchor* *n* a device, typically of canvas, thrown overboard to slow the drifting of a ship or seaplane and to keep its head to the wind
- sea** *anemone* *n* any of numerous usu solitary and brightly coloured polyps with a cluster of tentacles superficially resembling a flower 
- DIFFENCE
- sea** *bas* /bas/ *n* any of numerous marine fishes related to the group-ers
- sea** *bird* /-,buhd/ *n* a bird (e.g. a gull or albatross) frequenting the open sea
- sea** *board* /-,bawd/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* (the land near) a seashore – **seaboard** *adj*
- sea** *borne* /-,bawn/ *adj* conveyed on or over the sea (<~ trade>)
- sea** *bream* *n* any of numerous marine spiny-finned food fishes
- sea** *breeze* *n* a cool breeze blowing usu during the day inland from the sea
- sea** *butterfly* *n* any of a group of small marine gastropod molluscs with the foot expanded into broad winglike swimming organs
- sea** *captain* *n* the master of a (merchant) vessel
- sea** *change* *n* a complete transformation
- sea** *chest* *n* a sailor’s personal storage chest
- sea** *coal* *n*, *archaic* mineral coal as opposed to charcoal
- sea** *cock* *n* a valve in the hull of a vessel through which water may be admitted
- sea** *cow* *n* 1 a dugong 2 a manatee
- sea** *cucumber* *n* a holothurian, esp one whose body is cucumber-shaped
- sea** *dog* /-,dog/ *n* a fogbow
- sea** *dog* *n* a veteran sailor
- sea** *ear* *n* an abalone
- sea** *elephant* *n* ELEPHANT SEAL
- sea** *fan* *n* a polyp with a fan-shaped skeleton
- sea** *farer* /-,fearə/ *n* a sailor [sea + ‘fare’ + ‘-er’]
- sea** *faring* /-,fearɪŋ/ *n* travel by sea, esp the occupation of a sailor – **seafaring** *adj*
- sea** *food* /-,foohd/ *n* edible marine fish, shellfish, crustaceans, etc
- sea** *front* /-,frʌnt/ *n* the waterfront of a seaside town
- sea** *girt* /-,guht/ *adj* surrounded by the sea – poetic (<this ~ isle>)
- sea** *going* /-,goh-ɪŋ/ *adj* of or designed for travel on the sea
- sea** *gooseberry* *n* a ctenophore
- sea** *green* *adj* or *n* bluish or yellowish green
- sea** *gull* *n* GULL
- sea** *hare* *n* any of various large shell-less molluscs with tentacles that project like ears
- sea** *holly* *n* a European coastal plant of the carrot family with bluish spiny leaves and pale blue flowers
- sea** *horse* *n* 1 a mythical creature half horse and half fish 2 any of numerous small fishes whose head and body are shaped like the head and neck of a horse
- sea** *kale* /-,kayl/ *n* 1 a fleshy European plant of the mustard family used as a herb in cooking 2 also **seakale** beet chard
- sea** /see/ *n*, *pl* **seals**, esp collectively **seal** 1 any of numerous marine flesh-eating mammals chiefly of cold regions with limbs modified into webbed flippers for swimming 2 sealskin [ME *sele*, fr OE *seolh*, akin to OHG *selah* seal]
- seal** *vi* to hunt seal
- seal** *n* 1a sthg that confirms, ratifies, or makes secure b(1) an emblem or word impressed or stamped on a document as a mark of authenticity (2) an article used to impress such a word or emblem (e.g. on wax); also a disc, esp of wax, bearing such an impression 2a a closure (e.g. a wax seal on a document or a strip of paper over the cork of a bottle) that must be broken in order to give access, and so guarantees that the item so closed has not been tampered with b a tight and effective closure (e.g. against gas

or liquid) [ME *seel*, fr OF, fr L *sigillum* seal, fr dim. of *signum* sign, seal]  
 – under seal with an authenticating seal attached  
**seal** *vt* 1 to confirm or make secure (as if) by a seal (< ~ed the agreement with a handshake>) 2a to attach an authenticating seal to; also to authenticate, ratify b to mark with a stamp or seal (e.g. as evidence of size, accuracy, or quality) 3a to fasten (as if) with a seal, esp to prevent or disclose interference b to close or make secure against access, leakage, or passage by a fastening or coating; esp to make airtight c to fix in position or close breaks in with a filling (e.g. of plaster) 4 to determine irrevocably (< that answer ~ed our fate>)  
**sea-lane** *n* an established sea route  
**sealant** /seelənt/ *n* a sealing agent (< radiator ~>)  
**sea lavender** *n* any of a genus of mostly coastal plants with bluish-purple flowers  
**sealed-beam** /seeld/ *adj* of or being an electric light in which a reflector is an integral part of the bulb  
**sea legs** *n pl* bodily adjustment to the motion of a ship, indicated esp by ability to walk steadily and by freedom from seasickness  
**sea leopard** *n* a spotted antarctic seal  
**sealer** /seela/ *n* 1 a coat (e.g. of size) applied to prevent subsequent coats of paint or varnish from being too readily absorbed 2 chiefly NAm an official who certifies conformity to a standard of correctness ['seal']  
**sealer** *n* a person or ship engaged in hunting seals ['seal']  
**sea level** *n* the mean level of the surface of the sea midway between high and low tide  
**sea lily** *n* a (stalked) crinoid  
**sealing wax** /seelɪŋ/ *n* a resinous composition that becomes soft when heated and is used for sealing letters, parcels, etc  
**sea lion** *n* any of several large Pacific seals  
**sea loch** *n* a loch connecting with the sea  
**seal off** *vt* to close securely, esp in order to prevent passage (< troops sealed off the airport>)  
**sea-lord** *n*, often *cap* either of 2 members of the Admiralty Board of the Ministry of Defence who are also serving naval officers  
**sealskin** /skin/ *n* 1 (leather made from) the skin of a seal 2 a garment of sealskin - sealskin *adj*  
**Sealyham terrier** /seeli-əm/ *n* (any of) a breed of short-legged wirehaired chiefly white Welsh terriers [Sealyham, estate in Pembrokeshire, Wales]  
**seam** /seem/ *n* 1 a line of stitching joining 2 separate pieces of fabric, esp along their edges 2 the space between adjacent planks or strakes of a ship 3a a line, groove, or ridge formed at the meeting of 2 edges b a layer or stratum of coal, rock, etc c a line left by a cut or wound, also a wrinkle [ME *seem*, fr OE *seam*; akin to OE *siwian* to sew – more at *sew*] – seamless *adj*  
**seam** *vt* 1 to join (as if) by sewing 2 to mark with a seam, furrow, or scar  
**seaman** /seeman/ *n* 1 a sailor, mariner 2  RANK – seamanlike *adj*, seamanly *adj*, seamanship *n*  
**seaman apprentice** *n*  RANK  
**seaman recruit** *n*  RANK  
**sea mark** /-mahk/ *n* a conspicuous object serving as a guide for navigators  
**seam bowling** *n* usu faster bowling in cricket in which the ball is made to bounce on its seam and thereby deviate from a straight line  
**seamer** /seema/ *n* (a delivery bowled by) a bowler of seam bowling ['SEAM + -ER]  
**sea mew** *n* 'GULL  
**sea mile** *n* NAUTICAL MILE  
**sea mount** /-mownt/ *n* an underwater mountain  
**sea mouse** *n* a large broad marine worm covered with hairlike bristles  
**seamstress** /seemstres/ *n* a woman whose occupation is sewing [fem of *seamster* one who sews, fr ME *semeister*, *semster*, fr OE *seamestre* seamstress, tailor, fr *seam* seam]  
**seamy** /seemi/ *adj* unpleasant, sordid (< the ~ side of the building trade>) [seam + -y; orig sense, having the rough side of the seam showing] – seaminess *n*  
**séance** /say-on(h)s/ *n* a meeting at which spiritualists attempt to communicate with the dead [F, fr *seoir* to sit, fr L *sedere* – more at *sit*]  
**sea otter** *n* a rare large marine otter of N Pacific coasts that feeds largely on shellfish  ENDANGERED  
**sea pen** *n* any of numerous sea invertebrates related to the corals and living in large social groups that have a feathery form

**sea-pink** *n* a thrift with dense pink or white flower heads that grows esp on the seashore  
**sea plane** /-playn/ *n* an aeroplane designed to take off from and land on the water  
**sea port** /-pawt/ *n* a port, harbour, or town accessible to seagoing ships  
**sea power** *n* (a nation that commands) naval strength  
**sea purse** *n* the horny egg case of skates and some sharks  
**seaquake** /-kwayk/ *n* an underwater earthquake [sea + -quake (as in earthquake)]  
**sear** /sia/ *adj* sere  
**sear** *vt* 1 to make withered and dried up 2 to burn, scorch, or injure (as if) with a sudden application of intense heat 3 to mark (as if) with a branding iron (< a sight which was ~ed on my memory>) [ME *seren*, fr OE *searian* to become sere, fr *sear* sere] – searingly *adv*  
**sear** *n* a mark or scar left by searing  
**sear** *n* the catch that holds the hammer of a gunlock at cock or half cock [prob fr MF *serre* grasp, fr *serre* to press, grasp, fr LL *serare* to bolt, latch, fr L *sera* bar for fastening a door]  
**search** /suhch/ *vt* 1a to look through or over carefully or thoroughly in order to find or discover sthg (< ~ed the horizon>) (< ~ed the house for clues>) b to examine (a person) for concealed articles (e.g. weapons or drugs) c to scrutinize, esp in order to discover intention or nature (< ~ed her heart>) 2 to uncover or ascertain by investigation – usu + out (< ~ out the relevant facts>) 3 to cover (an area) with gunfire ~ *vi* 1 to look or inquire carefully or thoroughly (< ~ed for the papers>) 2 to make painstaking investigation or examination (< ~ed into the matter very thoroughly>) [ME *cerchen*, fr MF *cerchier* to go about, survey, search, fr LL *circare* to go about, fr L *circum* round about] – searchable *adj*, searcher *n* – search me – used to express ignorance of an answer  
**search** *n* 1 an act or process of searching, esp an organized act of searching (< the ~ for the escaped convicts is still in progress>) (< a ~ party>) 2 an exercise of the right of search  
**searching** /suhching/ *adj* piercing, penetrating /a ~ gaze/ – searchingly *adv*  
**searchlight** /-liet/ *n* (an apparatus for projecting) a movable beam of light  
**search warrant** *n* a warrant authorizing a search of premises for unlawful possessions  
**sea room** *n* room for a ship to manoeuvre at sea  
**sea rover** *n*, archaic a pirate  
**sea scape** /-skaip/ *n* (a picture representing) a view of the sea  
**sea scout** *n*, often *cap* a member of a Scout troop that specializes in sea and water activities  
**sea serpent** *n* a large monster resembling a serpent often reported to have been seen but never proved to exist  
**sea shell** /-shel/ *n* the shell of a sea animal, esp a mollusc  
**sea shore** /-shaw/ *n* land (between high and low water marks) next to the sea  
**sea sick** /-sik/ *adj* suffering from the motion sickness associated with travelling by boat or hovercraft – seasickness *n*  
**sea side** /-sied/ *n* (a holiday resort or beach on) land bordering the sea  
**sea slug** *n* a shell-less marine gastropod mollusc  
**sea snail** *n* 1 a creeping spiral-shelled marine gastropod mollusc (e.g. a whelk) 2 any of numerous small slimy fishes usu with the pelvic fins modified to form a sucker  
**sea snake** *n* 1 SEA SERPENT 2 any of various highly poisonous aquatic snakes of the Pacific regions with a tail shaped like an oar  
**season** /seez(ə)n/ *n* 1a any of the 4 quarters into which the year is commonly divided b a period characterized by a particular kind of weather (< the dry ~>) c a period of the year characterized by or associated with a particular activity or phenomenon (< the holiday ~>) (< the hunting ~>) (< an animal's mating ~>) d the time of year when a place is most frequented (< difficult to find accommodation there at the height of the ~>) e the time of a major holiday; specif the Christmas season (< send the ~'s greetings>) 2 archaic an indefinite length of time [ME, fr OF *saison*, fr L *latio*-, *satio* action of sowing, fr *salus*, pp of *serere* to sow – more at *sow*] – in season 1 of food readily available and in the best condition for eating 2 of game legally available to be hunted or caught 3 of an animal on heat (< the bitch is in season>) 4 esp of advice given when most needed or most welcome (< a word in season>) – out of season not in season  
**season** *vt* 1a to give (food) more flavour by adding seasoning or savoury ingredients b to make less harsh or unpleasant; relieve c to enliven (< conversation ~ed with wit>) 2a to treat or expose (e.g. timber) over a

period so as to prepare for use **b** to make fit or expert by experience (a ~ ed veteran) [ME *sesounen*, fr MF *assaisonner* to ripen, season, fr OF, fr *a-* (fr L *ad-*) + *saison* season] - **seasoner** *n*

**seasonable** /'si:z(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1 occurring in good or proper time, opportune 2 suitable to the season or circumstances - **seasonableness** *n*, **seasonably** *adv*

**seasonal** /'si:z(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of, occurring, or produced at a particular season (< rainfall) 2 determined by seasonal need or availability (< employment) (< industries) - **seasonally** *adv*

**seasoning** /'si:z(ə)niŋ/ *n* a condiment, spice, herb, etc added to food primarily for the savour that it imparts

**season ticket** *n*, **Br** a ticket sold, usu at a reduced price, for an unlimited number of trips over the same route during a limited period

**sea squirt** *n* any of various tunicate sea animals that are permanently attached to a surface for all their adult lives

**seat** /'si:t/ *n* 1a a piece of furniture (e.g. a chair, stool, or bench) for sitting in or on **b** the part of sthg on which one rests when sitting (< the ~ of a chair) (< trouser ~), also the buttocks **c** a place for sitting (< took his ~ next to her) **d** a unit of seating accommodation (< a ~ for the game) 2a a special chair (e.g. a throne) of sby in authority, also the status symbolized by it **b** a right of sitting (< lost her ~ in the Commons) **c** a large country mansion 3a a place where sthg is established or practised (< an ancient ~ of learning) **b** a place from which authority is exercised (< the ~ of government) 4 a bodily part in which a particular function, disease, etc. is centred 5 posture in or a way of sitting on horseback 6a a part at or forming the base of sthg **b** a part or surface on or in which another part or surface rests (< a valve ~) [ME *sete*, fr ON *sætt*, akin to OF *sittan* to sit]

**seat** *vt* 1a to cause to sit or assist in finding a seat (< ~ ed her next to the door) **b** to provide seats for (< a theatre ~ ing 1000 people) **c** to put (e.g. oneself) in a sitting position 2 to fit correctly on a seat 3 to fit to or with a seat (< ~ a valve) ~ *vi*, of a garment to become baggy in the area covering the buttocks (< your woollen dress has ~ ed badly) - **seater** *n*

**seat belt** *n* an arrangement of straps designed to secure a person in a seat in an aeroplane, vehicle, etc

**seating** /'si:tiŋ/ *n* 1a the act of providing with seats **b** the arrangement of seats (e.g. in a theatre) 2a material for upholstering seats **b** a base on or in which sthg rests (< a valve ~)

**sea trout** *n* a European and N African fish related to the salmon that migrates into fresh water to spawn

**sea urchin** *n* any of a class of echinoderms usu with a thin shell covered with movable spines

**sea wall** /'sɔ:wl/ *n* a wall or embankment to protect the shore from erosion or to act as a breakwater

**sea way** /'sɔ:weɪ/ *n* 1 a ship's headway 2 the sea as a route for travel 3 a deep inland waterway that admits ocean shipping

**sea weed** /'si:wi:d/ *n* (an abundant growth of) a plant, specif. an alga, growing in the sea, typically having thick shiny fronds

**sea worthy** /'sɔ:wi:ðɪ/ *adj* fit or safe for a sea voyage (< a ~ ship) - **seaworthiness** *n*

**seax** /saks/ *n* a heraldic sword resembling the scimitar but having a semicircular notch on the concave edge [ME *sexe* knife, short sword, fr OE *seax*, *sax*, akin to ON *sax* knife, sword]

**sebaceous** /sɪ'beɪʃəs/ *adj*, of, secreting, or being sebum or other fatty material ~ *nerve* [L *sebaceus* made of tallow, fr *sebum* tallow - more at SOAP]

**seborrhoea** /seba'riə/ *n* excessive discharge of sebum (e.g. on the scalp) [NL, fr L *sebum* + NL *-rrhoea*]

**sebum** /'si:bəm/ *n* fatty lubricant matter secreted by sebaceous glands of the skin [L, tallow, grease]

**sec** /sek/ *n*, **Br** a second, moment - *informal* (< hang on a ~ ~)

**sec** *adj*, of wine not sweet, dry [F, lit., dry - more at 'sack]

**secant** /'sekənt/ *n* 1 a straight line cutting a curve at 2 or more points - compare 'chord 2 the trigonometric function that is the reciprocal of the cosine [NL *secant*, *secans*, fr L, prp of *secare* to cut - more at 'saw]

**secateur** /'seka:tʊh, -'t-/ *n*, chiefly **Br** a pair of pruning shears - usu pl with sing meaning [F *sécateur*, fr L *secare* to cut]

**secco** /'seko/ *n* FRESCO SECCO [It, fr *secco* dry, fr L *seccus* - more at 'sack]

**secede** /sɪ'si:ed/ *vi* to withdraw from an organization (e.g. a church or federation) [L *secedere*, fr *sed-*, *se-* apart (fr *sed*, *se* without) + *cedere* to go - more at IDIOT, CFDE] - **seceder** *n*

**secession** /sɪ'sesh(ə)n/ *n* an act of seceding [L *secession-*, *secessio*, fr *secessus*, pp of *secedere*] - **secessionism** *n*, **secessionist** *n*

**seclude** /sɪ'klooðd/ *vt* to remove or separate from contact with others [ME *secluden* to keep away, fr L *secludere* to separate, seclude, fr *se-* apart + *cludere* to close - more at SECDEF, 'CLOSE]

**secluded** *adj* 1 screened or hidden from view 2 living in seclusion - **secludedly** *adv*, **secludedness** *n*

**seclusion** /sɪ'klooðz(ə)n/ *n* 1 secluding or being secluded 2 a secluded or isolated place [ML *seclusion-*, *seclusio*, fr L *seclusus*, pp of *secludere*] - **seclusive** *adj*, **seclusively** *adv*, **seclusiveness** *n*

**second** /'sekənd/ *adj* 1a next to the first in place or time (< was ~ in line) **b** (1) next to the first in value, quality, or degree (2) inferior, subordinate (< was ~ to none) **c** standing next below the top in authority or importance (< ~ mate) 2 alternate, other (< elects a mayor every ~ year) 3 resembling or suggesting a prototype (< a ~ Napoleon) 4 being the forward gear or speed 1 higher than first in a motor vehicle 5 relating to or having a part typically subordinate to or lower in pitch than the first part in concerted or ensemble music [ME, fr OF, fr L *secundus* second, following, favourable, fr *sequi* to follow - more at SUT] - **second**, **secondly** *adv* - **at second hand** from or through an intermediary (< heard the news at second hand)

**second** *n* 1a ~ NUMBER **b** sthg that is next after the first in rank, position, authority, or precedence (< the ~ in line) 2 sby who aids, supports, or stands in for another, esp the assistant of a duellist or boxer 3a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 2 diatonic degrees **b** the supertonic 4 a slightly flawed or inferior article (e.g. of merchandise) 5a a place next below the first in a contest **b** also **second class** often *cap* the second level of British honours degree 6 the second forward gear or speed of a motor vehicle 7 *pl* a second helping of food - *informal*

**second** *n* 1a a 60th part of a minute of time or of a minute of angular measure **b** the SI unit of time equal to the duration of a certain number of periods of vibration of a specific radiation of a particular caesium isotope ~ PHYSICS 2 a moment (< wait a ~ will you) [ME *secunde*, fr ML *secunda*, fr L, fem of *secundus* second, fr its being the second sexagesimal division of a unit, as a minute is the first]

**second** *vt* 1 to give support or encouragement to 2 to endorse (a motion or nomination) [L *secundare*, fr *secundus* second, favourable] - **second** *n*

**second** /sɪ'kɒnd/ *vt*, chiefly **Br** to release (e.g. a teacher, businessman, or military officer) from a regularly assigned position for temporary duty with another organization [F *second*, *n*, second position (in the phrase *en second* in second place, subordinate), fr *second*, *adj*] - **secondment** *n*

**secondary** /'sekənd(ə)n/ *adj* 1a of second rank or importance (< ~ streams) **b** of or constituting the second strongest degree of stress in speech 2a immediately derived from sthg primary or basic, derivative (< ~ sources) **b** of or being the induced current or its circuit in an induction coil or transformer (< a ~ coil) (< ~ voltage) 3a not first in order of occurrence or development **b** of the second order or stage in a series or sequence **c** produced away from a growing point by the activity of plant formative tissue, esp cambium (< ~ growth) (< ~ phloem) (< ~ thickening) **d** of or being the (feathers growing on the) second segment of the wing of a bird **e** of a secondary school 4 of or being a manufacturing industry - compare PRIMARY, TERTIARY - **secondarily** *adv*, **secondariness** *n*

**secondary** *n* 1 a secondary electrical circuit or coil 2 a secondary feather ~ ANATOMY 3 SECONDARY SCHOOL

**secondary cell** *n* an electric cell that converts chemical energy into electrical energy by reversible chemical reactions and that may be recharged by the passing of an appropriate current - compare ACCUMULATOR

**secondary colour** *n* a colour formed by mixing primary colours in equal or equivalent quantities

**secondary consumer** *n* a carnivore that eats herbivores - compare PRIMARY CONSUMER, TERTIARY CONSUMER ~ FOOD

**secondary modern, secondary modern school** *n* a secondary school formerly providing a practical rather than academic type of education

**secondary school** *n* a school intermediate between primary school and higher education

**secondary sex characteristic** *n* a physical or mental attribute characteristic of a particular sex (e.g. the breasts of a female mammal) that appears at puberty or in the breeding season, and is not directly concerned with reproduction

**secondary syphilis** *n* the second stage of syphilis, from 2 to 6 months after infection, in which a long-lasting skin rash appears

**second-best** *adj* next after the best

**second best** *n* sby or sthg that comes after the best in quality or worth

**second childhood** *n* dotage

- 'second-class** *adj* 1 of a second class (< a ~ honours degree> 2 inferior, mediocre, also socially, politically, or economically deprived (< ~ citizens>)
- 'second-class** *adv* 1 in accommodation next below the best (< travel ~> 2 by second-class mail (< send the letters ~>)
- second class** *n* the second and usu next to highest group in a classification
- Second Coming** *n* the return of Christ to judge the world on the last day
- second-degree burn** *n* a burn characterized by blistering and surface destruction of the skin – compare FIRST-DEGREE BURN, THIRD-DEGREE BURN
- Second Empire** *adj* (characteristic) of a style (e.g. of furniture) popular in mid-19th-c France and marked by heavy ornate modification of Empire styles
- 'second-hand** /-hænd/ *adj* 1a received from or through an intermediary (< ~ information> b not original, derivative 2a acquired after being owned by another (< a ~ car> b dealing in secondhand goods (< a ~ bookshop>)
- 'secondhand** *adv* indirectly, AT SECOND HAND
- 'second-in-command** *n* one who is immediately subordinate to a commander, a deputy commander
- second lieutenant** *n*  RANK
- second man** *n*, Br a train driver's assistant
- 'second nature** *n* an action or ability that practice has made instinctive
- secondo** /se'kondoh/ *n*, pl **secondi** /-di/ the second, usu lower, part in a concerted piece or duet [It, fr *secondo*, *adj*, second, fr L *secundus*]
- second person** *n* (any of) a set of linguistic forms referring to the person or thing addressed (e.g. 'you')
- 'second-rate** *adj* of inferior quality or value – **second-rateness** *n*, **second-rater** *n*
- second reading** *n* 1 the stage in the British legislative process providing for debate on the principal features of a bill  LAW 2 the stage in the US legislative process that occurs when a bill has been reported back from committee and that provides an opportunity for full debate and amendment
- 'second sight** *n* clairvoyance, precognition
- second-story man** *n*, NAm CAT BURGLAR
- 'second-string** *adj*, chiefly NAm being a substitute as distinguished from a regular player (e.g. in a football team), broadly substitute [fr the reserve bowstring carried by an archer in case the first breaks]
- 'second thoughts** *n* pl a reconsideration of a previous decision (< began to have ~>)
- 'second wind** /wind/ *n* renewed energy or endurance after a period of severe exertion – esp in get one's second wind
- secrecy** /'sekreſi/ *n* 1 the habit or practice of keeping secrets or maintaining privacy or concealment 2 the condition of being hidden or concealed (< complete ~ surrounded the conference> [alter. of earlier *secretie*, fr ME *secretee*, fr *secre* secret, fr MF *secre*, fr L *secretus*])
- 'secret** /'sekrɪt/ *adj* 1a kept or hidden from knowledge or view (< determined to keep his mission ~> b marked by the practice of discretion, secretive c conducted in secret (< ~ negotiations> 2 retired, secluded 3 revealed only to the initiated, esoteric (< ~ rites> 4 containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could endanger national security – compare RESTRICTED, TOP SECRET [ME, fr MF, fr L *secretus*, fr pp of *secrere* to separate, distinguish, fr *se-* apart + *cernere* to sift – more at SECLDE, CERTAIN] – **secretly** *adv*
- 'secret** *n* 1a sthg kept hidden or unexplained b a fact concealed from others or shared confidentially with a few (< a trade ~> 2 sthg taken to be the means of attaining a desired end (< the ~ of longevity>) – in secret in a private place or manner; in secrecy
- secret agent** *n* a spy
- secretaire** /se'kre'teə/ *n* a writing desk with a top section for books [F *secretaire* *escritoire*, secretary (person), fr MF *secretaire* secretary (person), fr ML *secretarius*]
- secretariat** /se'kre'təri-ət/ *n* 1 the office of secretary 2 the clerical staff of an organization 3 a government administrative department [F *secrétariat*, fr ML *secretarius*, fr *secretarius*]
- secretary** /'sekrətri, -teri/ *n* 1 sby employed to handle correspondence and manage routine work for a superior 2a COMPANY SECRETARY b an officer of an organization or society responsible for its records and correspondence 3 an officer of state who superintends a government administrative department [ME *secretarie*, fr ML *secretarius* confidential employee, secretary, fr L *secretum* secret, fr neut of *secretus*, pp] – **secretaryship** *n*, **secretarial** /se'kre'tiəri-əl/ *adj*
- 'secretary bird** *n* a large long-legged African bird of prey that feeds largely on reptiles [prob fr the resemblance of its crest to a bunch of quill pens stuck behind the ear]
- 'secretary-general** *n*, pl **secretaries-general** a principal administrative officer (e.g. of the United Nations)
- secret ballot** *n* an official ballot that is marked in secret
- 'secrete** /s'i'kreet/ *vt* to form and give off (a secretion) [back-formation fr *secretion*] – **secretory** /-təri/ *adj*
- 'secrete** *vt* to deposit in a hidden place (< ~ opium about his person> [alter. of obs *secret*, fr 'secret])
- secretion** /s'i'kreesh(ə)n/ *n* 1 (a product formed by) the bodily process of making and releasing some material either functionally specialized (e.g. a hormone, saliva, latex, or resin) or isolated for excretion (e.g. urine) 2 the act of hiding sthg [(1) F *secretion*, fr L *secretio*-, *secretio* separation, fr *secretus*, pp of *secrere* to separate – more at SECRET, (2) 'secrete] – **secretory** *adj*
- secretive** /'sekrətiv/ *adj* inclined to secrecy, not open or outgoing in speech or behaviour [back-formation fr *secretiveness*, part trans of F *secretivité*] – **secretively** *adv*, **secretiveness** *n*
- 'secret police** *n* a police organization operating largely in secrecy, esp for political purposes
- secret service** *n* a (secret) governmental agency concerned with national security, esp, cap both Ss a British government intelligence department
- 'secret society** *n* a society whose members keep their activities secret from others
- sect** /sekt/ *n* 1a (heretical) dissenting or schismatic religious body 2a a group maintaining strict allegiance to a doctrine or leader b a party, esp a faction 3a denomination – chiefly derog [ME *secte*, fr MF & LL & L, MF, group, sect, fr LL *secta* organized ecclesiastical body, fr L, way of life, class of persons, fr *sequi* to follow]
- sect** /-sekt/ *comb form* (→ vb) cut, divide (< bisection> [L *sectus*, pp of *secare* to cut – more at 'saw])
- 'sectarian** /se'kre'tiəri-ən/ *n* 1a (fanatical) adherent of a sect 2a a bigoted person
- 'sectarian** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a sect or sectarian 2 limited in character or scope, parochial – **sectarianism** *n*, **sectarianize** *vb*
- 'section** /'sekʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the action or an instance of (separating by) cutting, esp the action of dividing sthg (e.g. tissues) surgically (< caesarean ~> b a part separated (as if) by cutting 2 a distinct part or portion of sthg written, esp a subdivision of a chapter 3 the profile of sthg as it would appear if cut through by an intersecting plane –  BUILDING 4 a sign § used in printing as a mark for the beginning of a section 5 a distinct part of an area, community, or group 6 a part when considered in isolation (< the northern ~ of the route>) 7 sing or pl in constr a subdivision of a platoon, troop, or battery that is the smallest tactical military unit 8 a very thin slice (e.g. of tissue) suitable for microscopic examination 9 any of several component parts that may be separated and reassembled (< a bookcase in ~s>) 10 a division of an orchestra composed of 1 class of instruments 11 a printed sheet that is folded to form part (e.g. 8 leaves) of a book [L *section-*, *sectio*, fr *sectus*]
- 'section** *vt* 1 to cut or separate into sections 2 to represent in sections (e.g. by a drawing)
- sectional** /'sekʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 restricted to a particular group or locality (< ~ interests> 2 composed of or divided into sections (< ~ furniture>) – **sectionalize** *vt*, **sectionally** *adv*
- sectionalism** /'sekʃ(ə)nəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* an excessive concern for the interests of a region or group
- sector** /sektə/ *n* 1 a part of a circle consisting of 2 radii and the portion of the circumference between them – compare SEGMENT 2a  MATH. EMATICS 2a a portion of a military area of operation b a part of a field of activity, esp of business, trade, etc (< employment in the public and private ~s> [LL, fr L, cutter, fr *sectus*])
- 'sectorial** /se'ktoəri-əl/ *adj* (having the shape) of a sector of a circle
- 'secular** /se'kyoolə/ *adj* 1a of this world rather than the heavenly or spiritual b not overtly or specifically religious 2 not bound by monastic vows or rules, specif. of or being clergy not belonging to a particular religious order 3a taking place once in an age or a century b surviving or recurring through ages or centuries [ME, fr OF *secular*, fr LL *saecularis*, fr L, coming once in an age, fr *saeculum* breed, generation, akin to L *serere* to sow – more at 'sow] – **secularly** *adv*, **secularity** /se'kyooləriti/ *n*
- 'secular** *n*, pl **seculars**, **secular** a layman



**secularism** /ˈsekjuːləriz(ə)m/ *n* disregard for or rejection of religious beliefs and practices – **secularist** *n* or *adj.* **secularistic** /-ˈrɪstɪk/ *adj.*  
**secularize**, -ise /ˈsekjuːləraɪz/ *vt* 1 to transfer (e.g. property) from ecclesiastical to civil use 2 to release from monastic vows 3 to convert to or imbue with secularism – **secularizer** *n.* **secularization** /-ˈzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**secure** /sɪˈkjʊərə/ *adj.* **1a** calm in mind **b** confident in opinion or hope **2a** free from danger **b** free from risk of loss (< ~ employment) **c** affording safety (< a ~ hideaway) **d** firm, dependable; esp firmly fastened (< ~ foundation) **3** assured, certain (< when the reinforcements arrived, victory was ~) **4** archaic overconfident [L *securus* safe, secure, fr *se* without + *cura* care – more at IDIOT, CURE] – **securely** *adv.* **secureness** *n*

**secure** *vt* **1a** to make safe from risk or danger (< ~d the lid with a padlock) **b** to guarantee against loss or denial (< a bill to ~ the rights of strikers) **c** to give pledge of payment to (a creditor) or of (an obligation) (< ~ a note by a pledge of collateral) **2** to make fast, shut tightly (< ~ a door) **3** to obtain or bring about, esp as the result of effort (< ~d a cabin for the voyage home) (< spared no effort to ~ his ends) – **securement** *n.* **securer** *n*

**security** /sɪˈkjʊərəti/ *n* 1 being secure e.g. a freedom from danger, fear, or anxiety **b** stability, dependability **2a** sthg pledged to guarantee the fulfilment of an obligation **b** a surety **3** an evidence of debt or of ownership (e.g. a stock certificate) **4a** protection **b(1)** measures taken to protect against esp espionage or sabotage **(2)** *sing* or *pl* in constr an organization whose task is to maintain security

**Security Council** *n* a permanent council of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of peace and security

**sedan** /ˈsɪdən/ *n.* **NAM & Austr** SALOON 3

**sedan chair** *n* a portable often enclosed chair, esp of the 17th and 18th c, designed to seat 1 person and be carried on poles by 2 people [sedan perh deriv of L *sella* saddle]

**sedate** /sɪˈdeɪt/ *adj* calm and even in temper or pace [L *sedatus*, fr pp of *sedare* to calm, akin to *sedere* to sit – more at SIT] – **sedately** *adv.* **sedateness** *n*

**sedate** *vt* to give a sedative to [back-formation fr *sedative*]

**sedation** /sɪˈdeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (the induction, esp with a sedative, of) a relaxed easy state


**sedative** /ˈsedətɪv/ *n* or *adj* (sthg, esp a drug) tending to calm or to tranquilize nervousness or excitement

**sedentary** /ˈsed(ə)ntri/ *adj* 1 esp of birds not migratory 2 doing or involving much sitting (< a ~ occupation) 3 permanently attached (< barnacles) [MF *sedentaire*, fr L *sedentarius*, fr *sedent-*, *sedens*, prp of *sedere* to sit]

**seder** /ˈsaɪdə/ *n.* often *cap* a Jewish domestic ceremonial dinner held on the first evening of the Passover in commemoration of the exodus from Egypt [Heb *sedher* order]

**sedge** /sej/ *n* any of a family of usu tufted marsh plants differing from the related grasses esp in having solid stems [ME *segge*, fr OE *segg*, akin to MHG *segge* sedge, OE *sagu* saw – more at SAW] – **sedgy** *adj*

**sedge warbler** *n* a small Old World warbler that breeds in marshy places

**sedilia** /sɪˈdɪliə/ *n* seats of masonry on the south side of the chancel for the celebrant, deacon, and subdeacon  CHURCH [L, pl of *sedile* seat, fr *sedere*]

**sediment** /ˈsedɪmənt/ *n* 1 the matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid 2 material deposited by water, wind, or glaciers [MF, fr L *sedimentum* settling, fr *sedere* to sit, sink down] – **sediment** /-mənt/ *vb*

**sedimentary** /ˈsedɪmənt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 of or containing sediment (< ~ deposits) 2 formed by or from deposits of sediment (< ~ rock)

**sedimentation** /ˈsedɪməntaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the forming or depositing of sediment

**sedition** /sɪˈdɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* incitement to defy or rise up against lawful authority [ME, fr MF, fr L *sedition-*, *seditio*, lit., separation, fr *se-* apart + *itōn-*, *itio* act of going, fr *itus*, pp of *ire* to go – more at SECEDE, ISSUE] – **seditionary** *adj*

**seditious** /sɪˈdɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 tending to arouse or take part in sedition, guilty of sedition 2 of or constituting sedition – **seditiously** *adv.* **seditiousness** *n*

**seduce** /sɪˈdjuːs/ *vt* 1 to incite to disobedience or disloyalty 2 to lead astray, esp by false promises 3 to effect the physical seduction of [LL *seducere*, fr L, to lead away, fr *se-* apart + *ducere* to lead – more at TROW] – **seducer** *n*

**seduction** /sɪˈdʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of seducing to wrong; specif enticement to sexual intercourse 2 a thing or quality that attracts by its

charm (< the ~ of riches) (< the ~s of articles in shop windows) [MF, fr LL *seduction-*, *seductio*, fr L, act of leading aside, fr *seductus*, pp of *seducere*]

**seductive** /sɪˈdʊktɪv/ *adj* tending to seduce, alluring (< a ~ woman) – **seductively** *adv.* **seductiveness** *n*

**seductress** /sɪˈdʊktrɪs/ *n* a female seducer [obs *seductor* (male seducer), fr LL, fr *seductus*, pp of *seducere* to seduce]

**sedulous** /ˈsedjuːləs/ *adj* 1 involving or accomplished with steady perseverance (< ~ craftsmanship) 2 diligent in application or pursuit (< a ~ student) **USE** fml [L *sedulus*, fr *sedulo* sincerely, diligently, fr *se* without + *dolus* guile – more at TALE] – **sedulously** *adv.* **sedulousness** *n*

**sedum** /ˈsedəm/ *n* a stonecrop or related fleshy plant [NL, genus name, fr L, houseleek]

**see** /se/ *vb* **saw** /saw/, **seen** /seen/ *vt* **1a** to perceive by the eye (< looked for her but couldn't ~ her in the crowd) (< saw that she was in difficulties) **b** to look at, inspect (< can I ~ your ticket please?) **2a** to have experience of, undergo (< ~ army service) (< shoes that ~ a lot of wear) (< a coat that has ~n better days) **b** to (try to) find out or determine (< ~ if you can mend it) **3a** to form a mental picture of, imagine, envisage (< can't ~ him objecting) **b** to regard (< couldn't ~ him as a crook) **4** to perceive the meaning or importance of, understand (< I ~ what you mean) (< failed to ~ that it was important) (< couldn't ~ the point of it) **5a** to observe, watch (< want to ~ how he handles the problem) **b** to be a witness of (< can't ~ her neglected) **c(1)** to read (< ~ page 17) **(2)** to read of (< saw it in the paper) **d** to attend as a spectator (< ~ a play) **6** to ensure; **MAKE CERTAIN** 2 (< ~ that order is kept) **7a** to prefer to have (< I'll ~ him hanged first) **b** to find acceptable or attractive (< can't understand what he ~s in her) **8** of a period of time to be marked by (< the 5th century saw the collapse of the Western Roman Empire) **9a** to call on, visit (< ~ the dentist) **b(1)** to keep company with (< they've been ~ing each other regularly for some time) **(2)** to meet to a specified extent (< haven't ~n much of her lately) **c** to grant an interview to (< the president will ~ you) **d** to accompany, escort (< ~ the girls home) **10** to meet (a bet) in poker or equal the bet of (a player) – **vi** **1a** to have the power of sight **b** to apprehend objects by sight (< too dark to ~) **2a** to give or pay attention (< ~ here!) **b** to look about (< come to the window and ~) **3** to have knowledge (< ~ into the future) **4** to make investigation or inquiry, consider, deliberate (< let me ~) [ME *seen*, fr OE *seon*, akin to OHG *sehan* to see, OE *secan* to say – more at SAY] – **see about** 1 to deal with 2 to consider further (< we'll see about that) – **see eye to eye** to have a common viewpoint, agree – **see fit** to consider proper or advisable (< saw fit to warn him of his impending dismissal) – **see one's way** to feel capable of – **see red** to become suddenly enraged – **see someone right** to protect and reward (a protégé) – **see someone through** to provide for, support, or help sb until the end of (a time of difficulty) (< enough supplies to see us through the winter) (< saw him through his divorce) – **see the light** **1a** to be born **b** to be published 2 to undergo conversion – **see the wood for the trees** to grasp the total picture without being confused by detail – **see through** to grasp the true nature of, penetrate (< saw through his deceptions) – **see to** to attend to, care for

**see** *n* a bishopric [ME *se*, fr OF, fr L *sedes* seat, akin to L *sedere* to sit – more at SIT]

**seed** /sed/ *n*, *pl* seeds, esp collectively **seed** **1a(1)** the grains or ripened ovules of plants used for sowing **(2)** the fertilized ripened ovule of a (flowering) plant that contains an embryo and is capable of germination to produce a new plant **b** semen or milt **c** SPAT 2 **d** the condition or stage of bearing seed (< in ~) **2** a source of development or growth (< sowed the ~s of discord) **3** sthg (e.g. a tiny particle) that resembles a seed in shape or size **4** a competitor who has been seeded in a tournament **5** archaic progeny [ME, fr OE *sed*, akin to OHG *sat* seed, OE *sāwan* to sow – more at SOW] – **seed** *adj.* **seeded** *adj.* **seedless** *adj.* **seedlike** *adj.* – **go/run to seed** 1 to develop seed 2 to decay, also to become unattractive by being shabby or careless about appearance

**seed** *vi* 1 to sow seed 2 of a plant to produce or shed seeds – **vt** **1a** to plant seeds in, sow 1 (< ~ land to grass) **b** PLANT 1a 2 to treat with solid particles to stimulate crystallization, condensation, etc, esp to treat (a cloud) in this way to produce rain, snow, etc 3 to extract the seeds from (e.g. raisins) 4 to schedule (tournament players or teams) so that superior ones will not meet in early rounds

**seedbed** /-bed/ *n* a place where sthg specified develops (< the ~ of revolution)

**seedcake** /-ˌkayk/ *n* a sweet cake containing aromatic seeds (e.g. caraway seeds)

**'seed, eater** /-eetə/ *n* a bird (e.g. a finch) whose diet consists basically of seeds  
**seeder** /'si:da/ *n* sby who or sth that seeds clouds to produce precipitation [SEED + -ER]  
**'seed, leaf** *n* COTYLEDON 2  
**seedling** /'si:dlɪŋ/ *n* 1 a plant grown from seed rather than from a cutting 2 a young plant, esp a nursery plant before permanent transplantation – **seedling** *adj*  
**seed oyster** *n* a young oyster, esp of a size suitable for transferring to another bed to start a new colony  
**seed pearl** *n* a very small often imperfect pearl  
**seedman** /'si:dmən/ *n* sby who sows or deals in seeds  
**'seed, time** /-ti:m/ *n* the sowing season  
**seed vessel** *n* a pericarp  
**seedy** /'si:di/ *adj* 1 containing or full of seeds (< a ~ fruit> 2a shabby, grubby (< ~ clothes> b somewhat disreputable; run-down (< a ~ district> c slightly unwell – infml <felt ~ and went home early> – **seedly** *adv*, **seediness** *n*  
**seeing** /'si:ɪŋ/ *conj* in view of the fact; since – often + *that* or, in nonstandard use, as *how* [fr prp of *see*]  
**seeing eye** *n* GUIDE DOG  
**seek** /'si:k/ *vb* sought /sawt/ *vt* 1 to resort to; go to (< ~ the shade on a hot day> 2a to go in search of – often + *out* b to try to discover (< ~ a solution to the problem> 3 to ask for (< ~ s advice> 4 to try to acquire or gain (< ~ fame> 5 to make an effort; aim – + infinitive (< ~ to cater for every taste> ~ *vi* to make a search or inquiry [ME *seken*, fr OE *sēcan*; akin to OHG *suohhen* to seek, L *sagire* to perceive keenly, Gk *hēgeisthai* to lead] – **seeker** *n*  
**seem** /'si:m/ *vi* 1 to give the impression of being (< he ~ s unhappy> < she ~ s a bore> 2 to appear to the observation or understanding (< I ~ to have caught a cold> < it ~ s he lost his passport> 3 to give evidence of existing (< there ~ s no reason> [ME *semen*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *sōma* to besem, befit, *samr* same – more at SAME] – **not seem** somehow not (< I don't seem to feel hungry> < he can't seem to lift it> – **would seem** to seem to one (< it would seem to be raining>)  
**seeming** /'si:mɪŋ/ *adj* apparent rather than real [fr prp of *seem*]  
**'seemingly** /-li/ *adv* 1 so far as can be seen or judged 2 to outward appearance only  
**seemly** /'si:mli/ *adj* in accord with good taste or propriety [ME *semely*, fr ON *semligr*, fr *semlr* becoming, akin to ON *sōma* to besem] – **seemliness** *n*  
**see off** *vt* 1 to be present at the departure of (< saw his parents off on holiday> 2 to avert, repel  
**see out** *vt* 1 to escort to the outside (e.g. of a room, office, or house) 2 to last until the end of (< enough fuel to see the winter out>)  
**seep** /'si:p/ *vi* to pass slowly (as if) through fine pores or small openings (< water ~ ed in through a crack> [alter of earlier *sipe*, fr ME *sipen*, fr OE *sipian*; akin to MLG *sipen* to seep] – **seepage** *n*  
**seer** /'si:ə/ *n* 1a sby who predicts future events b sby credited with exceptional moral and spiritual insight 2 sby who practises divination [SEE + -ER]  
**seersucker** /'si:suka/ *n* a light slightly puckered fabric of linen, cotton, or rayon [Hindi *śīrśakar*, fr Per *shīr-o-shakar*, lit., milk and sugar]  
**'seesaw** /'si:saw/ *n* 1 an alternating up-and-down or backwards-and-forwards movement; also anything (e.g. a process or movement) that alternates (< a ~ of shame and defiance> 2 (a game in which 2 or more children ride on opposite ends of) a plank balanced in the middle so that one end goes up as the other goes down [prob redupl of 'saw] – **seesaw** *adj* or *adv*  
**'seesaw** *vi* 1a to move backwards and forwards or up and down b to play at seesaw 2a to alternate b to vacillate ~ *vt* to cause to move with a seesaw motion  
**seethe** /'si:ð/ *vi* 1a to be in a state of agitated usu confused movement b to churn or foam as if boiling 2 to feel or express violent emotion (< he ~ d with rage> [ME *sethen*, fr OE *seōthan*; akin to OHG *siodan* to seethe, Lith *siasti* to rage]  
**seething** /'si:ðɪŋ/ *adj* 1 intensely hot (< a ~ inferno> 2 constantly moving or active  
**'see-through** *adj* transparent  
**see through** *vt* to undergo or endure to the end (< bravely saw the fight through>)  
**'segment** /'segmēt/ *n* 1a a separated piece of sth (< chop the stalks into short ~ s> b any of the constituent parts into which a body, entity, or quantity is divided or marked off (< all ~ s of the population agree> 2 a portion cut off from a geometrical figure by 1 or more points, lines, or

planes e.g. a part of a circular area bounded by a chord of that circle and the arc subtended by it – compare **SECTOR** 1 b a part of a sphere cut off by a plane or included between 2 parallel planes c the part of a line between 2 points in the line **USE** (2) ~ **MATHEMATICS** [L *segmentum*, fr *secare* to cut – more at 'saw] – **segmentary** /-m(ə)nt/ *adj*, **segmental** /-mentl/ *adj*  
**'segment** /'segmēt/ *vi* to separate into segments  
**segmentation** /'segm(ə)ntaɪʃ(ə)n, -men-/ *n* the formation of many cells from a single cell (e.g. in a developing egg) [SEGMENT + -ATION]  
**segno** /'senjoh/ *n*, pl **segno** the sign that marks the beginning or end of a musical repeat ~ **MUSIC** [It, sign, fr L *signum*]  
**segregate** /'segrɪgayt/ *vt* 1 to separate or set apart 2 to cause or force separation of (e.g. criminals from society) or in (e.g. a community) ~ *vi* 1 to withdraw 2 to undergo (genetic) segregation [L *segregatus*, pp of *segregare*, fr *se-* apart + *greg-*, *greg* herd – more at **SECLD**, **GREGARIOUS**] – **segregative** /-gaytɪv/ *adj*  
**'segregated** *adj* 1 set apart from others of the same kind 2 administered separately for different groups or races (< ~ education>)  
**segregation** /'segrɪgayʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group b the separation for special treatment or observation of individuals or items from a larger group (< the ~ of political prisoners from common criminals> 2 the separation of pairs of genes controlling the same hereditary characteristic, that occurs during meiotic cell division [SEGREGATE + -ION] – **segregationist** *n*  
**seguidilla** /'segiðilyə, -deɪ-/ *n* a Spanish dance in triple time [Sp, dim of *seguida* sequence, fr *seguir* to follow, fr L *sequi*]  
**seiche** /'sayʃ/ *n* an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea [F]  
**'Seidlitz powder** /'si:dlɪts/ *n* a mild purgative consisting of one powder of sodium bicarbonate and sodium potassium tartrate and another of tartaric acid that are mixed in water and drunk while effervescent [Seidlitz (Sedlčany), village in Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, fr the similarity of its effect to that of the water of the village]  
**seigneur** /'sɛɪnjəh/ *n* a feudal lord [MF, fr ML *senior*, fr L *adj*, elder – more at **SENIOR**]  
**seignury** /'sɛɪnjəri/ *n* the territory or authority of a feudal lord  
**seigniorage, seignorage** /'sɛɪnjərɪʃ/ *n* a government revenue from the manufacture of coins calculated as being the difference between the face value and the metal value of the coins [ME *seigneunage*, fr MF, right of the lord (esp to coin money), fr *seigneur*]  
**seine** /'sɛɪn/ *vb* or *n* (to catch with, fish in with, or use) a large net with weights on one edge and floats on the other that hangs vertically in the water and is used to enclose fish when its ends are pulled together or drawn ashore [n ME, fr OE *segne*; akin to OHG *segina* seine, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *sagena* seine, fr Gk *sagene*; vb fr n]  
**seism-, seismo-** *comb form* earthquake, vibration (< **seismometer**) [Gk, fr *seismos*]  
**seismic** /'si:zmɪk/, **seismal** /-ml/ *adj* 1 of or caused by an earth vibration, specif an earthquake 2 of a vibration on the moon or other celestial body comparable to a seismic event on earth [Gk *seismos* shock, earthquake, fr *seism* to shake, akin to Ski *tesati* he is violently moved] – **seismicity** /-mɪsɪti/ *n*  
**seismogram** /'si:zmə,gram/ *n* a record made by a seismograph [ISV]  
**'seismograph** /-grəf, -graf/ *n* an apparatus to measure and record earth tremors [ISV] – **seismographer** /-mɒgrəfə/ *n*, **seismography** /-mɒgrəfi/ *n*, **seismographic** /-mɒgrəfɪk/ *adj*  
**seismology** /'si:zmɒlədʒi/ *n* a science that deals with earth vibrations, esp earthquakes [ISV] – **seismologist** *n*, **seismological** /-mɒlədʒɪkl/ *adj*  
**seismometry** /'si:zmomɪtri/ *n* the scientific study and measurement of earthquakes [ISV]  
**'seif, whale** /say/ *n* a common and widely distributed small white-spotted rorqual [part trans of Norw *seiwhal*, fr *sei* coalfish + *hval* whale, fr its habit of following the coalfish in search of food]  
**seize** /'si:z/ *vt* 1 also **seise** /-/ to put in possession of 2 to confiscate, esp by legal authority 3a to take possession of by force b to take prisoner 4 to take hold of abruptly or eagerly (< d his arm and pulled him clear of the fire> 5a to attack or afflict physically (< d with an attack of arthritis> b to possess (the mind) completely or overwhelmingly 6 to bind or fasten together with a lashing of cord or twine ~ *vi* 1 to lay hold of sth suddenly, forcibly, or eagerly – usu + *on* or *upon* (< d on her idea for a new TV series> 2a to become jammed through excessive pressure, temperature, or friction – often + *up* b of an engine to fail to operate owing to the seizing of a part [ME *saisen*, fr OF *saisir* to put in possession

of, fr ML *sacire*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *sezzen* to set – more at **'set**]

**seizure** /'sɛzʃə/ *n* 1 the taking possession of sb or sth by legal process 2 a sudden attack (e.g. of disease) [**SEIZ** + **-URE**]

**selachian** /sɪ'lækɪən/ *n* any of a group of cartilaginous fishes usu considered to include the sharks and dogfishes and sometimes the rays [deriv of Gk *selachos* cartilaginous phosphorescent fish, akin to Gk *selas* brightness – more at **SELINIUM**] – **selachian** *adj*

**seldom** /seldəm/ *adv* in few instances; rarely, infrequently [ME, fr OE *seldan*, akin to OHG *seltan* seldom, L *sed*, *se* without – more at **IDIOT**]

**seldom** *adj* rare, infrequent

**select** /sɪ'lekt/ *adj* 1 picked out in preference to others 2a of special value or quality b exclusively or fastidiously chosen, esp on the basis of social characteristics (<a ~ membership>) 3 judicious in choice (<~ appreciation>) [L *selectus*, pp of *selegere* to select, fr *se-* apart (fr *sed*, *se* without) + *legere* to gather, select – more at **LIGEND**] – **selectness** *n*

**select** *vt* to take according to preference from among a number, pick out ~ *vi* to make a selection or choice

**select committee** *n* a temporary committee of a legislative body, established to examine 1 particular matter

**selectee** /sɪ'lekt'iː/ *n*, *NAm* a conscript

**selection** /sɪ'lektʃən/ *n* 1 sb or sth selected; also a collection of selected items 2 a range of things from which to choose 3 a natural or artificially imposed process that results in the survival and propagation only of organisms with desired or suitable attributes so that their heritable characteristics only are perpetuated in succeeding generations – compare **NATURAL SELECTION** [**SELECT** + **-ION**]

**selective** /sɪ'lektɪv/ *adj* of or characterized by selection; selecting or tending to select – **selectively** *adv*, **selectiveness** *n*, **selectivity** /sɪ'lektɪvəti/ *n*

**selective service** *n*, *NAm* a system under which people are called up for military service

**selector** /sɪ'lektə/ *n*, *Br* sb who chooses the members of a sports team [**SELECT** + **-OR**]

**selen-, seleno-** *comb form* moon <selenography> [L *selen-*, fr Gk *selēn-*, fr *selene* – more at **SELENIUM**]

**selen-, seleni-, seleno-** *comb form* selenium <selenide> <selenic> [Sw, fr NL *selenium*]

**selenite** /sɛ'lɪnɪt/ *n* calcium sulphate occurring in transparent crystals or crystalline masses [L *selenites*, fr Gk *selēntes* (*lithos*), lit. 'stone of the moon, fr *selene*, fr the belief that it waxed and waned with the moon]

**selenium** /sɪ'leemɪəm/ *n* a nonmetallic solid element resembling sulphur and tellurium chemically, 1 form of which varies in electrical conductivity under the influence of light and is used in electronic devices (e.g. solar cells) 𐤃𐤍 PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Gk *selene* moon, akin to Gk *selas* brightness, L *sol* sun – more at **SOLAR**] – **selenic** /-nɪk/ *adj*

**selenium cell** *n* a strip of selenium used as a light-sensitive element in a photoelectric cell

**selenocentric** /sɪ'leənəh'sentɪk/ *adj* of or seen from the centre of the moon [ISV]

**selenography** /sɛ'lɪ'nɒɡrəfi/ *n* (the study of) the physical features of the moon – **selenographer** *n*, **selenographic** /-nɒh'ɡrəfɪk/ *adj*

**selenology** /sɛ'lɪ'nɒləʒi/ *n* a branch of astronomy dealing with the moon – **selenologist** *n*, **selenological** /-nɒh'lənɒkl/ *adj*

**Seleucid** /sɪ'luʊsɪd/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of a 3rd-c BC Syrian and W Asian dynasty under which Greek language and culture were introduced into Syria [n NL *seleucides*, fr *Seleucus I* †280 BC Macedonian general & founder of Seleucid dynasty + L *-ides*, masc patronymic suffix, -ɪʒ fr *n*]

**self** /self/ *pron* myself, himself, herself [ME (intensive pron), fr OE, akin to OHG *selb*, intensive pron, L *sui* (reflexive pron) of oneself – more at **SUICIDE**]

**self** *adj* identical throughout, esp in colour

**self** *n*, *pl selves* /selvz/ 1 the entire being of an individual 2 a (part or aspect of a) person's individual character (<his true ~ was revealed>) 3 the body, emotions, thoughts, sensations, etc that constitute the individuality and identity of a person 4 personal interest, advantage, or welfare (<took no thought of ~>)

**self-** *comb form* 1a oneself, itself <self-supporting> b of oneself or itself <self-abasement> c by oneself or itself <self-propelled> <self-made> <self-starting> 2a to, with, for, or in oneself or itself <self-confident> <self-addressed> <self-love> b of or in oneself or itself inherently <self-evident> <self-explanatory> [ME, fr OE, fr *sel*]

**self-abandonment** *n* 1 a surrender of selfish interests or desires 2 a lack of self-restraint

**self-abasement** *n* humiliation of oneself, esp in response to a sense of guilt

**self-abnegating** *adj* self-denying – **self-abnegation** *n*

**self-absorbed** *adj* preoccupied with one's own thoughts, activities, or welfare – **self-absorption** *n*

**self-abuse** *n* masturbation

**self-addressed** *adj* addressed for return to the sender (<a ~ envelope>)

**self-adjusting** *adj* adjusting by itself

**self-aggrandizing** *adj* acting or seeking to enhance one's power or status – **self-aggrandizement** *n*

**self-annihilation** *n* annihilation of self-awareness (e.g. in mystical contemplation of God)

**self-approbation** *n* (excessive) satisfaction with one's own actions and achievements

**self-assertion** *n* the act of asserting oneself or one's own rights, claims, or opinions, esp aggressively or conceitedly – **self-assertive** *adj*

**self-assurance** *n* self-confidence

**self-binder** *n* a harvesting machine that cuts grain and binds it into bundles

**self-catering** *adj* provided with lodging and kitchen facilities but not meals (<a ~ holiday>) (<~ chalets>)

**self-centred** *adj* concerned excessively with one's own desires or needs

**self-cocking** *adj* cocked by the operation of some part of the mechanism (<~ on closing the bolt>)

**self-collected** *adj* self-possessed

**self-coloured** *adj* of a single colour (<a ~ flower>)

**self-command** *n* self-control

**self-composed** *adj* having or showing mental or spiritual composure

**self-concept** *n* a self-image

**self-confessed** *adj* openly acknowledged (<a ~ debauchee>)

**self-confidence** *n* confidence in oneself and one's powers and abilities – **self-confident** *adj*

**self-congratulation** *n* a complacent acknowledgment of one's own superiority or good fortune – **self-congratulatory** *adj*

**self-conscious** *adj* 1a conscious of oneself as a possessor of mental states and originator of actions b intensely aware of oneself 2 uncomfortably conscious of oneself as an object of notice, ill at ease – **self-consciously** *adv*, **self-consciousness** *n*

**self-consistent** *adj* having each element logically consistent with the rest, internally consistent (<a ~ set of proofs>) – **self-consistency** *n*

**self-contained** *adj* 1 complete in itself (<a ~ flat>) 2a showing self-possession b formal and reserved in manner – **self-containedly** /-ndli/ *adv*

**self-content** *n* a feeling or expression of self-satisfaction – **self-contentment** *n*

**self-contradiction** *n* 1 contradiction of oneself 2 a statement that contains 2 contradictory elements or ideas – **self-contradictory** *adj*

**self-control** *n* restraint of one's own impulses or emotions – **self-controlled** *adj*

**self-critical** *adj* 1 unduly critical of oneself 2 able to judge one's own motives or actions impartially

**self-criticism** *n* the act of or capacity for criticizing one's own faults or shortcomings

**self-deception** *n* the act of deceiving oneself, the state of being deceived by oneself (e.g. about one's character or motives)

**self-defeating** *adj* having the effect of preventing its own success

**self-defence** *n* 1 the act of defending or justifying oneself 2 the legal right to defend oneself with reasonable force – **self-defensive** *adj*

**self-delusion** *n* self-deception

**self-denial** *n* the restraint or limitation of one's desires or their gratification

**self-denying** *adj* showing self-denial

**self-deprecating** *adj* given to self-deprecation

**self-depreciation** *n* disparagement or understatement of oneself

**self-destruct** *vi*, chiefly *NAm* to destroy itself

**self-destruction** *n* destruction of oneself or itself, esp suicide – **self-destructive** *adj*

**self-determination** *n* 1 free choice of one's own actions or states without outside influence 2 determination by a territorial unit of its own political status – **self-determined** *adj*, **self-determining** *adj*

**self-discipline** *n* the act of disciplining or power to discipline one's thoughts and actions, usu for the sake of improvement – **self-disciplined** *adj*  
**self-doubt** *n* a lack of confidence in oneself, diffidence – **self-doubting** *adj*  
**self-drive** *adj*, chiefly Br, of a hired vehicle intended to be driven by the hirer  
**self-effacement** *n* the act of making oneself inconspicuous, esp because of modesty, humility – **self-effacing** *adj*, **self-effacingly** *adv*  
**self-employed** *adj* earning income directly from one's own business, trade, or profession rather than as salary or wages from an employer – **self-employment** *n*  
**self-enrichment** *n* the act or process of increasing one's intellectual or spiritual resources  
**self-esteem** *n* 1 confidence and satisfaction in oneself, self-respect 2 vanity  
**self-evident** *adj* requiring no proof, obvious – **self-evidence** *n*, **self-evidently** *adv*  
**self-examination** *n* the analysis of one's conduct, motives, etc  
**self-executing** *adj* taking effect immediately without prior legislative procedures (< a ~ treaty)  
**self-existent** *adj* existing independently of any cause or agency – **self-existence** *n*  
**self-explanatory** *adj* capable of being understood without explanation  
**self-expression** *n* 1 the expression of one's individual characteristics (e.g. through painting or poetry) 2 the assertion of one's own character through uninhibited behaviour – **self-expressive** *adj*  
**self-feeder** *n* a device for feeding animals that automatically provides the food required  
**self-fertilization** *n* fertilization by the union of ova with pollen or sperm from the same individual – compare CROSS-FERTILIZATION – **self-fertile** *adj*, **self-fertility** *n*, **self-fertilized** *adj*, **self-fertilizing** *adj*  
**self-fulfilling** *adj* 1 marked by or achieving self-fulfilment 2 attaining fulfilment by virtue of having been asserted or assumed beforehand (< a ~ prophecy)  
**self-fulfilment** *n* fulfilment of oneself or itself  
**self-generated** *adj* generated or originated from within oneself (< ~ humour)  
**self-giving** *adj* self-sacrificing, unselfish  
**self-governed** *adj* not influenced or controlled by others  
**self-governing** *adj* having control over oneself, *specif* having self-government  
**self-government** *n* control of one's own (political) affairs – compare HOME RULE  
**self-hate** *n* self-hatred  
**self-hatred** *n* hatred of oneself, *specif* hatred redirected towards oneself in frustration or despair – **self-hating** *adj*  
**self-heal** *n* a small violet-flowered plant of the mint family or other plant held to possess healing properties  
**self-help** *n* the bettering or helping of oneself without dependence on others  
**selfhood** /-hood/ *n* 1a the state of existing as a unique individual b personality 2 selfishness  
**self-image** *n* one's conception of oneself or of one's role  
**self-importance** *n* 1 an exaggerated sense of one's own importance 2 arrogant or pompous behaviour – **self-important** *adj*  
**self-induced** *adj* induced by oneself or itself  
**self-inductance** *n* inductance due to self-induction  
**self-induction** *n* induction of an electromotive force in a circuit by a varying current in the same circuit  
**self-indulgence** *n* excessive or unrestrained gratification of one's own appetites, desires, or whims – **self-indulgent** *adj*  
**self-interest** *n* (a concern for) one's own advantage and well-being (< acted out of ~ and fear) – **self-interested** *adj*  
**selfish** /selfish/ *adj* concerned with or directed towards one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others [*self* + -ish] – **selfishly** *adv*, **selfishness** *n*  
**self-justification** *n* the making of excuses for oneself – **self-justificatory** *adj*  
**self-justifying** *adj* automatically justifying its existence or occurrence (< ~ extravagance)  
**self-knowledge** *n* knowledge or understanding of one's own capabilities, character, feelings, or motives

**selfless** /-lis/ *adj* having no concern for self; unselfish – **selflessly** *adv*, **selflessness** *n*  
**self-loading** *adj*, of a firearm semiautomatic  
**self-love** *n* 1 conceit, narcissism 2 an esp selfish concern for one's own happiness or advantage – **self-loving** *adj*  
**self-made** *adj* raised from poverty or obscurity by one's own efforts (< a ~ man)  
**self-mastery** *n* self-control  
**self-opinionated** *adj* 1 conceited 2 stubbornly holding to one's own opinion; opinionated  
**self-perception** *n* an appraisal of oneself, esp a self-image  
**self-perpetuating** *adj* capable of continuing or renewing oneself or itself indefinitely (< ~ board of trustees)  
**self-pity** *n* a self-indulgent dwelling on one's own sorrows or misfortunes – **self-pitying** *adj*  
**self-pollination** *n* the transfer of pollen from the anther of a flower to the stigma of the same or a genetically identical flower – compare CROSS-POLLINATION  
**self-portrait** *n* 1 a portrait of an artist done by him-/herself 2 a description of one's character or personality given by oneself  
**self-possessed** *adj* having or showing self-possession, composed in mind or manner, calm – **self-possessedly** /-sɪdli/ *adv*  
**self-possession** *n* control of one's emotions or behaviour, esp when under stress, composure  
**self-preservation** *n* an instinctive tendency to act so as to safeguard one's own existence  
**self-proclaimed** *adj* self-styled  
**self-propelled** *adj* 1 propelled by one's or its own power, *specif* containing within itself the means for its own propulsion (< a ~ vehicle) 2 mounted on a vehicle rather than towed (< a ~ artillery piece)  
**self-questioning** *n* examination of one's own actions and motives  
**self-raising flour** *n* a commercially prepared mixture of flour containing a raising agent  
**self-realization** *n* fulfilment by oneself of the possibilities inherent in one's nature  
**self-recording** *adj*, of an instrument making an automatic record  
**self-regard** *n* 1 concern or consideration for oneself or one's own interests 2 self-respect – **self-regarding** *adj*  
**self-registering** *adj* registering automatically (< a ~ barometer)  
**self-regulating** *adj* regulating itself, esp automatic (< a ~ mechanism)  
**self-reliance** *n* reliance on one's own efforts and abilities, independence – **self-reliant** *adj*  
**self-renunciation** *n* renunciation of one's own desires or ambitions, esp for the sake of others  
**self-reproach** *n* the act of blaming or censuring oneself – **self-reproachful** *adj*, **self-reproaching** *adj*  
**self-respect** *n* a proper respect for one's human dignity  
**self-respecting** *adj* having or characterized by self-respect or integrity  
**self-restraint** *n* restraint imposed on oneself, esp on the expression of one's feeling  
**self-righteous** *adj* assured of one's own righteousness, esp in contrast with the actions and beliefs of others, narrow-mindedly moralistic – **self-righteously** *adv*, **self-righteousness** *n*  
**self-righting** *adj* capable of righting itself when capsized (< a ~ boat)  
**self-sacrifice** *n* sacrifice of oneself or one's well-being for the sake of an ideal or for the benefit of others – **self-sacrificing** *adj*  
**self-same** *adj* precisely the same, identical (< he left the ~ day)  
**self-satisfaction** *n* a smug satisfaction with oneself or one's position or achievements  
**self-satisfied** *adj* feeling or showing self-satisfaction (< a ~ smile)  
**self-sealing** *adj* capable of sealing itself (e.g. after puncture) (< a ~ fuel tank)  
**self-seeker** *n* sby self-seeking  
**self-seeking** *adj* seeking only to safeguard or further one's own interests, selfish – **self-seeking** *n*  
**self-service** *n* the serving of oneself (e.g. in a cafeteria or supermarket) with things to be paid for at a cashier's desk, usu upon leaving – **self-service** *adj*  
**self-serving** *adj* serving one's own interests, esp at the expense of honesty or the welfare of others  
**self-sow** /soh/ *vi* self-sown /sohn/, **self-sowed** /sohd/ of a plant to grow from seeds spread naturally (e.g. by wind or water)

**self-starter** *n* an electric motor used to start an internal-combustion engine

**self-starting** *adj* capable of starting by oneself or itself

**self-sterile** *adj* not self-fertile – **self-sterility** *n*

**self-styled** *adj* called by oneself, esp without justification – *experts*

**self-sufficient** *adj* 1 able to maintain oneself or itself without outside aid, capable of providing for one's own needs (*a community ~ in dairy products*) 2 having unwarranted assurance of one's own ability or worth – **self-sufficiency** *n*

**self-sufficing** *adj* self-sufficient – **self-sufficingly** *adv*

**self-supporting** *adj* 1 meeting one's needs by one's own labour or income 2 supporting itself or its own weight (*a ~ wall*)

**self-sustained** *adj* self-sustaining

**self-sustaining** *adj* 1 maintaining or able to maintain oneself by independent effort 2 maintaining or able to maintain itself once started (*a ~ nuclear reaction*)

**self-will** *n* stubborn or wilful adherence to one's own desires or ideas, obstinacy – **self-willed** *adj*

**self-winding** /wi:ndiŋ/ *adj* not needing to be wound by hand (*a ~ watch*)

**sell** /sel/ *vb* sold /so:ld/ *vt* 1 to deliver or give up in violation of duty, trust, or loyalty, betray – often + *out* 2a(1) to give up (property) in exchange, esp for money (2) to offer for sale (<~s insurance>) b to give up or dispose of foolishly or dishonourably (in return for sth else) *juries who sold the verdicts* 3 to cause or promote the sale of (*advertising ~s newspapers*) 4 to achieve a sale of (*a book which sold a million copies*) 5a to make acceptable, believable, or desirable by persuasion (<~ an idea b to persuade to accept or enjoy sth – usu + *on*, infml (<~ children on reading>) 6 to deceive, cheat – usu pass, infml (*we've been sold*) ~ *vi* 1 to transfer sth to another's ownership by sale 2 to achieve a sale, also to achieve satisfactory sales (*hoped that the new line would ~*) 3 to have a specified price ~ *at or for* [ME *sellen*, fr OE *sellan*, akin to OHG *sellen* to sell, ON *sala* sale, Gk *helein* to take] – **sellable** *adj* – **sell down** the river to betray the faith of

**sell** *n* 1 the act or an instance of selling 2 a deliberate deception, a hoax – infml

**seller** /ˈselə/ *n* a product offered for sale and selling well, to a specified extent, or in a specified manner (*a million-copy ~*) (<a poor ~> [SE11 + -ER]

**seller's market** *n* a market in which demand exceeds supply – compare **BUYER'S MARKET**

**selling plate** /ˈselɪŋ/ *n* a race in which the winning horse is auctioned [*plate* (a race for which the prize is a gold or silver cup or similar trophy), fr *plate*]

**selling plater** /ˈplaytə/ *n* 1 a horse that runs chiefly in selling plates 2 an inferior racehorse

**sell off** *vt* to dispose of completely by selling, esp at a reduced price

**sellotape** /ˈseləˌtæp/ *vt* to fix (as if) with Sellotape

**Sellotape** *trademark* used for a usu transparent adhesive tape

**sell-out** *n* 1 a performance, exhibition, or contest for which all tickets or seats are sold 2 a betrayal – infml

**sell out** *vt* 1 to dispose of entirely by sale 2 to betray or be unfaithful to (e.g. one's cause or associates), esp for the sake of money ~ *vi* 1 SF11 UP 2 to betray one's cause or associates – usu + *on*

**sell up** *vb*, chiefly *Br* to sell (e.g. one's house or business) in a conclusive or forced transaction (<old up and emigrated to Australia>)

**seltzer** /ˈseltsə/ *n* a natural or artificially prepared mineral water containing carbon dioxide [modif of G *Selterser* (wasser) water of Selters, fr *Niederselters*, village in Hesse, Germany]

**selvage, selvedge** /ˈselvi/ *n* 1a the edge on either side of a (woven) fabric, so finished as to prevent unravelling; *specif* a narrow border often of different or heavier threads than the fabric and sometimes in a different weave b an edge (e.g. of wallpaper) meant to be cut off and discarded 2 a border, edge [ME *selvage*, prob fr MFlam *selvegge*, *selvage*, fr *selv* self + *egge* edge, akin to OE *self* and to OE *ecg* edge – more at **EDGE**]

**selves** /ˈselvz/ *pl* of **SELF**

**semantic** /sɪˈmæntɪk/ *adj* of meaning in language [Gk *semantikos* significant, fr *semainein* to signify, mean, fr *sema* sign, token, akin to Skt *dhyayati* he thinks] – **semantically** *adv*

**semantics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the branch of linguistics concerned with meaning 2 a branch of semiotics dealing with the relation between signs and the objects they refer to – **semanticist** /-sɪst/ *n*

**semaphore** /ˈsemaˌfəʊ/ *n* 1 an apparatus for conveying information by visual signals (e.g. by the position of 1 or more pivoted arms) 2 a system

of visual signalling by 2 flags held 1 in each hand [Gk *sema* sign, signal + ISV *-phore*]

**semaphore** *vt* to convey (information) (as if) by semaphore ~ *vi* to send signals (as if) by semaphore

**sematic** /sɪˈmætɪk/ *adj*, of a poisonous or unpleasant animal's (bright) colours warning of danger (<the ~ coloration of the skunk>) [Gk *semat-*, *sema* sign]

**semblance** /ˈsemləns/ *n* outward and often deceptive appearance, a show (*wrapped in a ~ of euphoria*) [ME, fr MF, fr OF *sembler* to be like, seem – more at **RESEMBLE**]

**semeiology** /ˈsemlɔləʒi/ *see* / *n* semeiology

**semen** /ˈseemən/ *n* a suspension of spermatozoa produced by the male reproductive glands that is conveyed to the female reproductive tract during coitus [NL, fr L, seed, akin to OHG *samo* seed, L *serere* to sow – more at **SOW**]


**semester** /sɪˈmestə/ *n* an academic term lasting half a year, esp in America and Germany [G, fr L *sesternis* half-yearly, fr *sex* six + *mensis* month – more at **SIX, MOON**]

**semi** /ˈseml/ *n*, *Br* a semidetached house – infml

**semi-** /ˈseml-/ *prefix* 1a precisely half of b forming a bisection of <semellipse> <semioval> c occurring halfway through (a specified period of time) <semiannual> <semicentenary> – compare **BI-** 2 to some extent, partly, incompletely <semicivilized> <semi-independent> <semidry> <semiacid> – compare **DEMI-**, **HEMI-** 3a partial, incomplete <semiconsciousness> <semidarkness> b having some of the characteristics of <semiporcelain> <semimetal> c quasi <semijudicial> <semigovernmental> <semimonastic> [ME, fr L, akin to OHG *sami*-half, Gk *hemi*-]

**semiannual** /ˈsɛniˌnjuː(ə)l/ *adj* occurring every 6 months or twice a year – compare **BIANNUAL** – **semiannually** *adv*


**semiautomatic** /-awtəˈmætɪk/ *adj* not fully automatic – **semiautomatic** *n*, **semiautomatically** *adv*

**semibreve** /-breɪv/ *n* a musical note with the time value of 2 minims or 4 crotchets  **MUSIC**

**semicentenary** /-senˈtɛnəri, -ˈtɛnəri/ *n* (the celebration of) a 50th anniversary – **semicentenary** *adj*

**semicentennial** /-senˈtɛniˌəl/ *n* a semicentenary – **semicentennial** *adj*

**semicircle** /-suhk(ə)l/ *n* (an object or arrangement in the form of) a half circle [L *semicirculus*, fr *semi-* + *circulus* circle] – **semicircular** *adj*

**semicircular canal** /ˌsemlˈsuhk(ə)kənl/ *n* any of the 3 loop-shaped tubular parts of the inner ear that together constitute a sensory organ associated with the maintenance of bodily equilibrium  **NERVE**

**semiclassical** /-ˈklæsɪk(ə)l/ *adj* having some of the characteristics of the classical

**semicolon** /-ˈkəʊlən/ *n* a punctuation mark, used chiefly to coordinate major sentence elements where there is no conjunction

**semiconducting** /-kənˈdʌktɪŋ/ *adj* (having the characteristics) of a semiconductor

**semiconductor** /-kənˈdʌktə/ *n* a substance (e.g. silicon) whose electrical conductivity at room temperature is between that of a conductor and that of an insulator

**semiconscious** /-ˈkɒnʃəs/ *adj* not fully aware or responsive – **semiconsciously** *adv*, **semiconsciousness** *n*

**semicylindrical** /-sɪˈlɪndrɪk(ə)l/ *adj* having the shape of a longitudinal half of a cylinder

**semidarkness** /-ˈdɑːknɪs/ *n* partial darkness, shade

**semidetached** /-dɪˈtætʃt/ *adj* forming 1 of a pair of residences joined into 1 building by a common wall – **semidetached** *n*

**semidiameter** /-diˈeɪmɪtə/ *n* a radius, *specif* the apparent radius of a generally spherical celestial body

**semidiurnal** /-diˈeɪn(ə)l/ *adj* 1 relating to, lasting, or accomplished in half a day 2 occurring twice a day

**semidocumentary** /-ˌdɒkjʊˈment(ə)ri/ *n* a film or television programme that incorporates factual material in presenting a fictional story – **semidocumentary** *adj*

**semi-dome** /-ˌdohm/ *n* a half dome covering a semicircular structure or recess – **semidomed** *adj*

**semi-drying** /-ˌdneɪɪŋ/ *adj* that dries imperfectly or slowly (*cottonseed oil is a ~ oil*)

**semi-final** /-ˌfiːnl/ *adj* 1 next to the last in a knockout competition 2 of or participating in a semifinal

**semifinal** /-ˌfiːnəl/ *n* a semifinal match or round – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning – **semifinalist** /-ˌfiːnəlɪst/ *n*

**semi-fitted** /-ˌfɪtɪd/ *adj* conforming roughly to the lines of the body

- semi'fluid** /-'flooh-ɪd/ *adj* having qualities intermediate between those of a liquid and a solid, viscous – **semifluid** *n*
- semi'formal** /-'fawml/ *adj* being or suitable for an occasion of moderate formality (< a ~ dinner>) (< ~ gowns>)
- semi'liquid** /-'likwɪd/ *adj* semifluid – **semiliquid** *n*
- semi'lunar** /-'looʊnə/ *adj* crescent-shaped [NL *semilunaris*, fr L *semi-* + *lunaris* lunar]
- semilunar 'valve** *n* (any of the crescent-shaped cusps that occur in) the aortic valve or the pulmonary valve
- semi'metal** /-'metl/ *n* an element (e.g. arsenic) with some metallic properties – **semimetallic** /-'mɪtəlɪk/ *adj*
- semi'monthly** /-'mʌnθli/ *adv* twice a month
- seminal** /'seminl/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of, storing, or conveying seed or semen (< ~ duct>) (< ~ vesicle>) 2 containing or contributing the seeds of future development, original and influential (< a ~ book>) (< one of the most ~ of the great poets>) [ME, fr MF, fr L *seminalis*, fr *semin-*, *semen* seed – more at SEMEN] – **seminally** *adv*
- seminar** /'seminə/ *n* 1 an advanced or graduate class often featuring informality and discussion 2 a meeting for exchanging and discussing information [G, fr L *seminarium* seminary]
- seminarian** /'seminəri-ən/ *n* a student in a seminary, esp. of the Roman Catholic church
- seminarist** /'seminərɪst/ *n* a seminarian
- seminary** /'semin(ə)rɪ/ *n* 1 an institution of education 2 an institution for the training of candidates for the (Roman Catholic) priesthood [ME, seedbed, nursery, seminary, fr L *seminarium*, fr *semin-*, *semen* seed]
- seminiferous** /'seminɪf(ə)rəs, see-/ *adj* producing or bearing seed or semen [L *semin-*, *semen* seed + E -iferous]
- semio'fficial** /-'əʃiəl/ *adj* having some official authority or standing (< a ~ statement>) – **semiofficially** *adv*
- semiology, semeiology** /'semi'oləʒi, see-/ *n* the study of signs, esp. semiotics [Gk *semeion* sign] – **semiological** /-'əʒiəlɪk/ *adj*
- semiotics** /'semi'otiks, see-/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a general philosophical theory of signs and symbols that includes syntactics and semantics [Gk *semeiotikos* observant of signs, fr *semeiousthai* to interpret signs, fr *semeion* sign, akin to Gk *sema* sign – more at SEMANTIC] – **semiotic** *adj*
- semi'permanent** /-'puhmanənt/ *adj* 1 lasting or intended to last for a long time but not permanent 2 having the characteristics of sthg permanent but subject to change or review (< a ~ agreement>) – **semipermanently** *adv*
- semi'permeable** /'puhmi-əbl/ *adj* permeable to small molecules but not to larger ones – **semipermeability** /-'əbɪləti/ *n*
- semi'plastic** /-'plastɪk, also 'plah-/ *adj* not fully plastic
- semi'precious** /-'preʃəs/ *adj*, of a gemstone of less commercial value than a precious stone
- semi'pro** /-'proh/ *n* or *adj* (a) semiprofessional – *infm*
- semiprofessional** /-'prə'fesh(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 engaging in an activity for pay or gain but not as a full-time occupation (< a ~ dance band>) 2 engaged in by semiprofessional players – **semiprofessionally** *adv*
- semiprofessional** *n* one who engages in an activity (e.g. a sport) semiprofessionally
- semi'quaver** /-'kwayvə/ *n* a musical note with time value of 1/4 of a quaver
- semi'rigid** /-'rɪjd/ *adj* having a flexible cylindrical gas container with an attached stiffening keel that carries the load (< a ~ airship>)
- semi'skilled** /-'skɪld/ *adj* of, being, or requiring workers who have less training than skilled workers and more than unskilled workers
- semi'soft** /-'soft/ *adj* firm but easily cut (< ~ cheese>)
- semi'solid** /-'sɒlɪd/ *adj* having the qualities of both a solid and a liquid, highly viscous – **semisolid** *n*
- semisyn'thetic** /-'sɪn'thetɪk/ *adj* produced by chemical alteration of a natural starting material (< ~ penicillins>)
- Semite** /'semit/ *n* a member of any of a group of peoples of SW Asia chiefly represented now by the Jews and Arabs [F *sémite*, fr *Sem* Shem, eldest son of Noah, fr LL, fr Gk *Sem*, fr Heb *Shem*]
- Semitic** /'si'mɪtɪk/ *adj* 1 of or characteristic of the Semites; *specif* Jewish 2 of a branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family that includes Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, and Ethiopic
- Semitic** *n* (any of) the Semitic languages
- Semitism** /'semitɪz(ə)m/ *n* a policy favourable to Jews; predisposition in favour of Jews
- semi'tone** /-'toʊn/ *n* the musical interval (e.g. E–F or F–F#) equal to the interval between 2 adjacent keys on a keyboard instrument – **semitonic** /-'tonɪk/ *adj*
- semi'trailer** /-'traɪlə/ *n* a trailer having rear wheels but supported by a towing tractor at the front
- semi'tropical** /-'trɒpɪkl/ *adj* subtropical
- semi'vowel** /-'vəʊl/ *n* (a letter representing) a speech sound (e.g. /y/ or /w/) intermediate between vowel and consonant
- semi'weekly** /-'weekli/ *adv* or *adj* appearing or taking place twice a week (< a ~ news bulletin>)
- semolina** /'semə'leɪnə/ *n* the purified hard parts left after milling of (hard) wheat used for pasta and in milk puddings [It *semolino*, dim of *semola* bran, fr L *simila* finest wheat flour]
- sempiternal** /'sempɪ'tuːnl/ *adj* everlasting, eternal – chiefly poetic [ME, fr LL *sempiternalis*, fr L *sempiternus*, fr *semper* ever, always, fr *se-*, one, same (akin to ON *samr* same) + *per* through – more at SAME, FOR] – **sempiternally** *adv*
- sempre** /'sempri; also 'semprə/ *adv* always – used in music (< ~ legato>) [It, fr L *semper*]
- sempstress** /'sem(p)stɪs/ *n* a seamstress [fem of *sempster*, var of *seamster* – more at SLAMSTRESS]
- sen** /sen/ *n, pl sen* Indonesia, Malaysia at NATIONALITY [Indonesian *sen*, prob fr E *cent*, Malaysian prob fr Indonesian]
- senary** /'seen(ə)rɪ/ *adj* of, based on, or characterized by 6, compounded of 6 things or parts (< ~ scale>) (< ~ division>) [L *senarius* consisting of six]
- senate** /'senɪt/ *n sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1a the supreme council of the ancient Roman republic and empire b the 2nd chamber in some legislatures that consist of 2 houses 2 the governing body of some universities [ME *senat*, fr OF, fr L *senatus*, lit., council of elders, fr *sen-*, *senex* old, old man – more at SENIOR]
- senator** /'senətə/ *n* a member of a senate [ME *senatour*, fr OF *senateur*, fr L *senator*, fr *senatus*] – **senatorial** /-'tawriəl/ *adj*, **senatorship** *n*
- 'send** /send/ *vb sent* /'sent/ *vt* 1 to direct or cause to go in a specified direction, esp. violently (< sent a blow to his chin>) (< the crash sent them scuttling out of their houses>) 2 of God, fate, etc. to cause to be, grant, BRING ABOUT (< ~ her victorious>) 3 to dispatch by a means of communication (< ~ a telegram>) 4a to cause, direct, order, or request to go (< sent her to buy some milk>) b to dismiss (< was sent home>) 5 to cause to assume a specified state (< sent him into a rage>) 6 to cause to issue, e.g. a to pour out, discharge (< clouds ~ing forth rain>) b to utter (< ~ forth a cry>) c to emit (< sent out waves of perfume>) d to grow out (pflts) in the course of development (< a plant ~ing forth shoots>) 7 to consign to a destination (e.g. death or a place of imprisonment) 8 to delight, thrill – *infm* (< that music really ~s me>) ~ *vi* 1a to dispatch sb to convey a message or do an errand (< ~ out for coffee>) b to dispatch a request or order (< have to ~ to Germany for spares>) 2 to send 3 to transmit [ME *senden*, fr OE *sendan*, akin to OHG *sendan* to send, OF *sth* road, journey, OIr *seil* sender *n* – **send for** to request by message to come, summon – **send packing** to dismiss roughly or in disgrace]
- 'send** *n* a send
- send down** *vt, Br* 1 to suspend or expel from a university 2 to send to jail – *infm*
- send in** *vt* 1 to cause to be delivered to an authority, group, or organization (< send in a letter of complaint>) 2 to assign with a view to tackling a crisis or difficulty (< send a receiver in to deal with the bankruptcy>)
- 'send-off** *n* a usu. enthusiastic demonstration of goodwill at the beginning of a venture (e.g. a trip)
- send off** *vt* 1 to dispatch 2 to attend to the departure of – compare *ST OFF*
- send on** *vt* 1 to dispatch (e.g. luggage) in advance 2 to forward (readdressed mail)
- send out** *vt* 1 to issue for circulation (< had sent the invitations out>) 2 to dispatch (e.g. an order) from a shop or place of storage
- send round** *vt* to circulate (< a notice is being sent round>)
- 'send-up** *n, Br* a satirical imitation, esp. on stage or television, a parody
- send up** *vt* 1 chiefly *Br* to make an object of mockery or laughter, ridicule 2 chiefly *NAM* SEND DOWN 2
- señe** /'saynay/ *n* Western Samoa at NATIONALITY [Samoa, fr E *cent*]
- senectitude** /'sɪnektɪ'tyoʊd/ *n* old age – *fml* [ML *senectitudo*, alter of L *senectus* old age, fr *sen-*, *senic-*, *senex* old, old man – more at SENIOR]
- senescence** /'sɪnes(ə)n(ə)s/ *n* being or becoming old or withered [senescent fr L *senescens*-, *senescens*, *ppr* of *senescere* to grow old, fr *sen-*, *senex* old] – **senesce** *vi*, **senescent** *adj*



**seneschal** /ˈsenɪʃ(ə)/ *n* the agent or bailiff of a feudal lord's estate [ME, fr MF, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *sineigs* old, OHG *scalc* servant – more at <sup>1</sup>SENIOR]

**sengi** /ˈsɛŋɡi-/, *n*, *pl* **sengi**  *Zaire* at NATIONALITY [native name in Zaire]

**senhor** /seˈnyaw/ *n*, *pl* **senhōrs**, **senhores** /-rees, -reez/ a Portuguese or Brazilian gentleman – used as a title equivalent to *Mr* or as a generalized term of direct address [Pg, fr ML *senior* superior, lord, fr L, adj, elder]

**senhora** /seˈnyawrə/ *n* a married Portuguese or Brazilian woman – used as a title equivalent to *Mrs* or as a generalized term of direct address [Pg, fem of *senhor*]

**senhorita** /ˈsenjəˈreeta/ *n* an unmarried Portuguese or Brazilian girl or woman – used as a title equivalent to *Miss* [Pg, fr dim of *senhora*]

**senile** /ˈseɪniəl/ *adj* of, exhibiting, or characteristic of (the mental or physical weakness associated with) old age [L *senilis*, fr *sen-*, *senex* old, old man] – *senility* /ˈsiːnɪləti/ *n*

<sup>1</sup>**senior** /ˈsiːniə, ˈseɪni-ə/ *n* 1 sby who is older than another (<5 years his ~) 2a sby of higher standing or rank b *NAm* a student in the final year before graduation from school, university, etc [ME, fr L, fr *senior*, *adj*]

<sup>2</sup>**senior** *adj* 1 elder – used, chiefly in the USA, to distinguish a father with the same name as his son 2 higher in standing or rank (~ *officers*) [ME, fr L, older, elder, compar of *sen-*, *senex* old, akin to Goth *sineigs* old, Gk *henos*]

**senior aircraftman** *n*  RANK

**senior chief petty officer** *n*  RANK

**senior citizen** *n* sby beyond the usual age of retirement – euph

**Senior Common Room** *n* a staff sitting room in a college

**senior house officer** *n* (a doctor holding) the training grade of British hospital doctor senior to houseman


**seniority** /ˈseɪniəriəti/ *n* a privileged status attained by length of continuous service (e.g. in a company) [<sup>1</sup>SENIOR + -ITY]

**senior master sergeant** *n*  RANK

**senior nursing officer** *n* sby who is in charge of the nursing staff in a British hospital

**senior registrar** *n* (one holding) the grade of British hospital doctor senior to registrar

**senior wrangler** *n* the winner of the highest mark in the first class of the Cambridge mathematical tripos

**seniti** /ˈseɪni/ *n*, *pl* **seniti**  *Tonga* at NATIONALITY [Tongan, modif of *E cent*]

**senna** /ˈseɪnə/ *n* (the dried leaflets or pods, used as a purgative, of) any of a genus of leguminous plants, shrubs, and trees of warm regions [NL, fr Ar *sana*]

**senet** /ˈseɪt/ *n* a signal call on a trumpet or cornet for entrance or exit on the stage [prob alter. of obs *signet* (signal)]

**sennit** /ˈseɪnɪt/ *n* a braided cord or fabric (e.g. of plaited rope yarns) [perh fr F *cousinnet*, dim of *cousin* cushion, fr its use to protect cables from fraying]

**senor**, **señor** /seˈnyaw/ *n*, *pl* **senōrs**, **señores** /-rays/ a Spanish-speaking man – used as a title equivalent to *Mr* or as a generalized term of direct address [Sp *senior*, fr ML *senior* superior, lord, fr L, adj, elder]

**senora**, **señora** /seˈnyawrə/ *n* a married Spanish-speaking woman – used as a title equivalent to *Mrs* or as a generalized term of direct address [Sp *señora*, fem of *señor*]

**senorita**, **señorita** /ˈsenjəˈreeta/ *n* an unmarried Spanish-speaking girl or woman – used as a title equivalent to *Miss* [Sp *señorita*, fr dim of *señora*]

<sup>1</sup>**sensate** /ˈsensayt/ *adj* endowed with bodily senses (<a ~ *being*) – fml [LL *sensatus*, fr L *sensus* sense]

<sup>2</sup>**sensate** *adj* relating to or apprehended through the senses [ML *sensatus*, fr LL, endowed with sense, fr L *sensus* sense] – *sensately* *adv*

**sensation** /ˈsensaysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a a mental process (e.g. seeing or hearing) resulting from stimulation of a sense organ b a state of awareness of a usually specified type resulting from internal bodily conditions or external factors, a feeling or sense (~s of *fatigue*) 2a a surge of intense interest or excitement (<their elopement caused a ~>) b a cause of such excitement; esp sby or sth in some respect remarkable or outstanding [ML *sensation-*, *sensatio*, fr LL *sensatus* endowed with sense]

**sensational** /ˈsensaysh(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 arousing an immediate, intense, and usu superficial interest or emotional reaction 2 exceptionally or unexpectedly excellent or impressive – fml [SENSATION + -IAL] – *sensationally* *adv*

**sensationalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the use of sensational subject matter or style – *sensationalist* *n*

<sup>1</sup>**sense** /sens/ *n* 1 a meaning conveyed or intended, esp any of a range of meanings a word or phrase may bear, esp as isolated in a dictionary entry 2 (the faculty of perceiving the external world or internal bodily conditions by means of) any of the senses of feeling, hearing, sight, smell, taste, etc 3 soundness of mind or judgment – usu pl with sing meaning (<when he came to his ~s he was shocked to hear what he had done>) 4a an ability to use the senses for a specified purpose (<a good ~ of *balance*>) b a definite but often vague awareness or impression (<felt a ~ of *insecurity*>) c an awareness that motivates action or judgment (<done out of a ~ of *justice*>) d a capacity for discernment and appreciation (<her ~ of *humour*>) (<a highly-developed critical ~>) 5 the prevailing view; a consensus (<the ~ of the *meeting*>) 6 an ability to put the mind to effective use, practical intelligence 7 either of 2 opposite directions (of motion) [MF or L, MF *sens* sensation, feeling, mechanism of perception, meaning, fr L *sensus*, fr *sensus*, pp of *sentire* to perceive, feel, akin to OHG *sin* mind, sense, OE *sith* journey – more at *SEND*]

<sup>2</sup>**sense** *vt* 1a to perceive by the senses b to be or become conscious of (<~ *danger*>) 2 to grasp, comprehend (<~ the import of a *remark*>) 3 to detect (e.g. a symbol or radiation) automatically

**senseless** /-lɪs/ *adj* deprived of, deficient in, or contrary to sense. e.g. a unconscious (<knocked ~>) b foolish, stupid (<it was some ~ *practical joke* – A Conan Doyle) c meaningless, purposeless (<a ~ *murder*>) – *senselessly* *adv*, *senselessness* *n*

**sense organ** *n* a bodily structure that responds to a stimulus (e.g. heat or sound waves) by initiating impulses in nerves that convey them to the central nervous system where they are interpreted as sensations

**sensibility** /ˌsensəˈbɪləti/ *n* 1 ability to have sensations (<*tactile* ~>) 2 heightened susceptibility to feelings of pleasure or pain (e.g. in response to praise or blame) – often pl with sing meaning (<a *man of strong sensibilities*>) 3 the ability to discern and respond freely to sthg (e.g. emotion in another) 4 (exaggerated) sensitiveness in feelings and tastes

**sensible** /ˈsensəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of sensing (<~ to *pain*>) 2 having, containing, or indicative of good sense or sound reason (<~ *men*>) (<made a ~ *answer*>) 3a perceptible to the senses or to understanding (<his *distress* was ~ from his *manner*>) b large enough to be observed or noticed, considerable (<a ~ *decrease*>) 4 aware, conscious of *USE* (3 & 4) fml [ME, fr MF, fr L *sensibilis*, fr *sensus*, pp] – *sensibleness* *n*, *sensibly* *adv*

**sensitive** /ˈsensətɪv/ *adj* 1 capable of being stimulated or excited by external agents (e.g. light, gravity, or contact) (<a *photographic emulsion* ~ to *red light*>) 2 highly responsive or susceptible: e.g. (a1) easily provoked or hurt emotionally (2) finely aware of the attitudes and feelings of others or of the subtleties of a work of art b hypersensitive (<~ to *egg protein*>) c capable of registering minute differences; delicate (<~ *scales*>) d readily affected or changed by external agents (e.g. light or chemical stimulation) e of a *radio receiving set* highly responsive to incoming waves 3 concerned with highly classified information (<a ~ *document*>) [ME, fr MF *sensitif*, fr ML *sensitivus*, irreg fr L *sensus*] – *sensitively* *adv*, *sensitiveness* *n*, *sensitivity* /-tɪvəti/ *n*

**sensitive plant** *n* any of several mimosas or other plants with leaves that fold or droop when touched

**sensitize**, **-ise** /ˌsensətaɪz/ *vb* to make or become sensitive or hypersensitive [*sensitive* + -ize, -ise] – *sensitizer* *n*, *sensitization* /-ˈzaɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**sensor** /ˈsensə-, -saw/ *n* a device that responds to heat, light, sound, pressure, magnetism, etc and transmits a resulting impulse (e.g. for measurement or operating a control) [L *sensus*, pp of *sentire* to perceive – more at *SENSE*]


**sensorial** /ˈsensawri-əl/ *adj* sensory

**sensorium** /ˈsensawri-əm/ *n*, *pl* **sensoria**, **sensoria** /-ri-ə/ (the parts of the brain or the mind concerned with the reception and interpretation of stimuli from) all the sensory apparatus [LL, sense organ, fr L *sensus* sense]

**sensory** /sens(ə)ri/ *adj* of sensation or the senses  NERVE

**sensual** /ˈsensyoo-əl-, -shoo-/ *adj* 1 sensory 2 relating to or consisting in the gratification of the senses or the indulgence of appetites 3a devoted to or preoccupied with the senses or appetites, rather than the intellect or spirit b voluptuous [ME, fr LL *sensualis*, fr L *sensus* sense + -alis -al] – *sensualism* *n*, *sensualist* *n*, *sensualize* *vt*, *sensually* *adv*, *sensuality* /-ˈaləti/ *n*

**sensuous** /ˈsensyoo-əs-, -shoo-əs/ *adj* 1a of (objects perceived by) the senses b providing or characterized by gratification of the senses; appealing strongly to the senses (<~ *pleasure*>) 2 suggesting or producing rich imagery or sense impressions (<~ *verse*>) 3 readily influenced by sense

- perception [L *sensus* sense + E -ous] – *sensuously* *adv.*, *sensuousness* *n.*, *sensuosity* /-osəti/ *n.*
- Sensurround** /sens(yə)raʊnd/ *trademark* – used for a sound-reproducing system developed for use in films that employs low frequencies to heighten the spectators' sense of physical involvement with the action depicted on the screen
- sent** /sent/ *past* of **SEND**
- 'sentence** /ˈsentəns/ *n.* **1a** a judgment formally pronounced by a court and specifying a punishment **b** the punishment so imposed <serve a ~> **2** a grammatically self-contained speech unit that expresses an assertion, a question, a command, a wish, or an exclamation and is usu shown in writing with a capital letter at the beginning and with appropriate punctuation at the end [ME, fr OF, fr L *sententia*, lit., feeling, opinion, fr (assumed) *sentent-*, *sentens*, irreg prp of *sentire* to feel – more at **SENSE**] – *sentential* /-təns(ə)l/ *adj.*
- 'sentence** *vt.* **1** to impose a judicial sentence on **2** to consign to a usu unpleasant fate <development that ~s rural industries to extinction>
- sententia** /ˈsentənʃə/ *n.*, *pl* *sententiae* /-ʃiːe/ an aphorism – usu *pl.*, *fml* [L, lit., feeling, opinion – more at **SENTENCE**]
- sententious** /senˈtənʃəs/ *adj.* **1** terse, pithy **2** given to or full of a terse or pithy sayings **b** pompous, moralizing [ME, fr L *sententiosus*, fr *sententia* sentence, maxim] – *sententiously* *adv.*, *sententiousness* *n.*
- sentience** /ˈsɛnʃ(ə)ns/ *n.* **1** a sentient quality or state **2** rudimentary feeling and perception as distinguished from thought and the higher emotions *USE* chiefly *fml*
- sentient** /ˈsɛnʃ(ə)nt/ *adj.* **1** capable of perceiving through the senses, conscious **2** keenly sensitive in perception or feeling *USE* chiefly *fml* [L *sentient-*, *sentiens*, prp of *sentire* to perceive, feel] – *sentiently* *adv.*
- sentiment** /ˈsentɪmənt/ *n.* **1a** (an attitude, thought, or judgment prompted or coloured by) feeling or emotion **b** a specific view or attitude, an opinion – usu *pl* with sing meaning <held similar ~s on the matter> **2a** sensitive feeling; refined sensibility, esp as expressed in a work of art **b** indulgently romantic or nostalgic feeling **3** the emotional significance of a communication as distinguished from its overt meaning <the ~ is admirable, though it is clumsily expressed> [F or ML, F, fr ML *sentimentum*, fr L *sentire*]
- sentimental** /ˈsentɪməntl/ *adj.* **1** resulting from feeling rather than reason <kept the gift for its ~ value> **2** having an excess of superficial sentiment – *sentimentalism* *n.*, *sentimentalist* *n.*, *sentimentalize* *vb.*, *sentimentally* *adv.*, *sentimentality* /-ləti/ *n.*
- 'sentinel** /ˈsentɪnl/ *n.* sby who or sthg that keeps guard [MF *sentinelle*, fr OIt *sentinella*, fr *sentina* vigilance, fr *sentire* to perceive, fr L]
- 'sentinel** *vi* -li- (NAM -li-, -ll-) **1** to watch over as a sentinel **2** to post as a sentinel
- sentry** /ˈsɛntri/ *n.* a guard, watch, esp a soldier standing guard at a gate, door, etc [perh fr obs *sentry* (sanctuary, watch tower), alter of ME *senturiar* sanctuary]
- 'sentry, box** *n.* a shelter for a standing sentry
- 'sentry, go** *n.* duty as a sentry [fr the phrase *Sentry, go!*]
- senza** /ˈsɛntsə/ *prep* without – used in music directions <~ sordini> [it]
- sepal** /ˈsepl/ *n.* any of the modified leaves comprising the calyx of a flower  PLANT [NL *sepalum*, fr *sepa-* (fr Gk *skepe* covering) + *-lum* (as in *petalum* petal); akin to Lith *kepure* head covering] – *sepaloid* /ˈseplɔɪd/ *adj.*
- sepalous** /-ˈsepaləs/ *comb form* (→ *adj.*) having (such or so many) sepals <gamosepalous> [sepal]
- separable** /ˈsep(ə)rəbl/ *adj.* capable of being separated or dissociated [ME, fr L *separabilis*, fr *separare* to separate] – *separableness* *n.*, *separably* *adv.*, *separability* /-bɪləti/ *n.*
- 'separate** /ˈseparəti/ *vt.* **1a** to set or keep apart; detach, divide **b** to make a distinction between; distinguish <~ religion from magic> **c** to disperse in space or time; scatter <widely ~d hamlets> **2** to part (a married couple) by separation **3** to isolate, segregate **4a** to isolate from a mixture or compound <~ cream from milk> **b** to divide into constituent parts or types **5** NAM to discharge <was ~d from the army> ~ *vi* **1** to become divided or detached; draw or come apart **2a** to sever an association; withdraw <~ from a federation> **b** to cease to live together as man and wife, esp by formal arrangement **3** to go in different directions **4** to become isolated from a mixture *USE* (vi 4; vi 4) often + *out* [ME *separaten*, fr L *separatus*, pp of *separare*, fr *se-* apart + *parare* to prepare, procure – more at **SECEDE, PART**] – *separative* /ˈsep(ə)rətɪv/ *adj.*
- 'separate** /ˈsep(ə)rət/ *1 set* or kept apart; detached, separated **2** not shared with another; individual <~ rooms> **3a** existing independently;
- autonomous **b** different in kind, distinct <6 ~ ways of cooking an egg> – *separately* *adv.*, *separateness* *n.*
- separates** /ˈsep(ə)rəts/ *n.* *pl* garments (e.g. skirts, shirts, and trousers) that are designed to be worn together to form an interchangeable outfit
- separation** /ˈsepəreɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* **1a** a point, line, or means of division **b** an intervening space; a gap, break **2** cessation of cohabitation between husband and wife by mutual agreement or judicial decree [ˈSEPARATE + -ION]
- separatism** /ˈsep(ə)rəˈtɪz(ə)m/ *n.* a belief or movement advocating separation (e.g. schism, secession, or segregation)
- 'separatist** /-tɪst/ *n.* one who favours separatism e.g. a *cap* any of a group of 16th- and 17th-c English Protestants preferring to separate from the Church of England rather than reform it **b** an advocate of racial or cultural separation – *separatist* *adj.*, *often cap*
- separator** /ˈsepəreɪtə/ *n.* a device for separating liquids of different specific gravities (e.g. cream from milk) or liquids from solids [ˈSEPARATE + -OR]
- Sephardi** /sɪˈfɑːdi/ *n.*, *pl* *Sephardim* /-dɪm/ a member or descendant of the non-Yiddish-speaking branch of European Jews that settled in Spain and Portugal – compare *ASHKENAZI* [LHeb *səpharadhi*, fr *səpharadh* Spain, fr Heb, region where Jews were once exiled (Obad 1 20)] – *Sephardic* /-dɪk/ *adj.*
- 'sepia** /ˈsepiə/ *n.* **1** (a brown melanin-containing pigment from) the inky secretion of cuttlefishes **2** rich dark brown [NL, genus comprising cuttlefish, fr L, cuttlefish, fr Gk *sepiā*, akin to Gk *sepein* to make putrid, *sapros* rotten]
- 'sepia** *adj.* **1** of the colour sepia **2** made of or done in sepia <a ~ print>
- sepoi** /ˈsepoi/ *n.* an Indian soldier employed by a European power, esp Britain [Pg *sipai*, fr Hindi *sipahi*, fr Per, cavalryman]
- sepsis** /ˈsepsɪs/ *n.*, *pl* *sepses* /-seɪz/ the spread of bacteria from a focus of infection, esp septicæmia [NL, fr Gk *sepsis* decay, fr *sepein* to make putrid]
- septate** /ˈseptəti/ *adj.* divided by or having a septum
- September** /ˈsepˌtembə, -sə-/ *n.* the 9th month of the Gregorian calendar [ME *Septembre*, fr OF, fr L *September* (seventh month of ancient Roman calendar), fr *septem* seven – more at **SEVEN**]
- septennial** /ˈseptɪniəl/ *adj.* **1** consisting of or lasting for 7 years **2** occurring or performed every 7 years [LL *septennium* period of seven years, fr L *septem* + *-ennium* (as in *biennium*)] – *septennially* *adv.*
- septet** /ˈseptet/ *n.* **1** a musical composition for 7 instruments, voices, or performers **2** sing or *pl* in constr a group or set of 7, esp the performers of a septet [G, fr L *septem*]
- septic** /ˈseptɪk/ *adj.* **1** putrefactive **2** relating to, involving, or characteristic of sepsis [L *septicus*, fr Gk *septikos*, fr *sepein* to make putrid – more at **SEPIA**]
- septicæmia** /ˈseptiˈseɪmiə, -mi-/ *n.* invasion of the bloodstream by microorganisms from a focus of infection with chills, fever, etc [NL, fr L *septicus* + NL *-æmia*]
- 'septic tank** *n.* a tank in which the solid matter of continuously flowing sewage is disintegrated by bacteria
- septuagenarian** /ˈsepʃuəʒənɪən, -seɪtʃuə-/ *n.* sby between 70 and 79 years old [LL *septuagenarius* 70 years old, fr L, of or containing 70, fr *septuageni* 70 each, fr *septuaginta*] – *septuagenarian* *adj.*
- Septuagesima** /ˈsepʃuəʒɪsɪmə, -seɪtʃuə-/ *n.* the third Sunday before Lent [ME, fr LL, fr L, fem of *septuagesimus* 70th, fr *septuaginta* seventy; fr its being the 70th day before Easter]
- Septuagint** /ˈsepʃuəʒɪnt, -seɪtʃuə-/ *n.* a pre-Christian Greek version of the Jewish Scriptures arranged and edited by Jewish scholars about 300 BC [LL *Septuaginta*, fr L, seventy, irreg fr *septem* seven + *-ginta* (akin to L *viginti* twenty); fr the approximate number of its translators – more at **SEVEN, VIGESIMAL**]
- septum** /ˈseptəm/ *n.*, *pl* *septa* /-tə/ a dividing wall or membrane, esp between bodily spaces or masses of soft tissue [NL, fr L *sæptum* enclosure, fence, wall, fr *sæpere* to fence in, fr *sæpes* fence, hedge; akin to Gk *haimasia* stone wall] – *septal* *adj.*
- sepulchral** /sɪˈpʊlk(ə)rəl/ *adj.* **1** of the burial of the dead **2** suited to or suggestive of a tomb; funereal <a ~ whisper> – *sepulchrally* *adv.*
- sepulchre**, *NAM* chiefly *sepulcher* /ˈsep(ə)lkə/ *n.* **1** a place of burial; a tomb **2** a receptacle (in an altar) for religious relics [ME *sepulcre*, fr OF, fr L *sepulcrum*, *sepulchrum*, fr *sepelire* to bury; akin to Gk *hepein* to care for, Skt *saparyati* he pays homage, *sapati* he serves]
- sepulture** /ˈsep(ə)ljə/ *n.* burial, interment – *fml* [ME, fr OF, fr L *sepultura*, fr *sepultus*, pp of *sepelire*]

**sequel** /ˈsiːkwəl/ *n* 1 a consequence, result 2a subsequent development or course of events b a play, film, or literary work continuing the course of a narrative begun in a preceding one [ME, fr MF *sequelle*, fr L *sequela*, fr *sequi* to follow – more at *SUE*]

**sequela** /ˈsiːkwela/ *n*, *pl* *sequelae* /-lee/ an aftereffect of disease or injury [NL, fr L, *sequel*]

**sequence** /ˈsiːkwəns/ *n* 1 a continuous or connected series: e.g. a an extended series of poems united by theme (< a sonnet ~ >) b RUN 3f c a succession of repetitions of a melodic phrase or harmonic pattern each in a new position – compare IMITATION 3, OSTINATO d a set of elements following the same order as the natural numbers e an episode, esp in a film 2a order of succession b the order of amino acids in a protein, nucleotide bases in DNA or RNA, etc 3 a subsequent but not resultant occurrence or course 4 a continuous progression [ME, fr ML *sequentia*, fr LL, *sequel*, lit., act of following, fr L *sequens*, *sequens*, prp of *sequi*]

**sequence** *vt* 1 to place in ordered sequence 2 to determine the amino acid sequence of (a protein), nucleotide sequence of (a nucleic acid), etc – *sequencer* *n*

**sequent** /ˈsiːkwənt/ *adj* 1 consecutive, succeeding 2 consequent, resultant *USE* fml [L *sequens*, *sequens*, prp]

**sequential** /ˈsiːkwəntʃəl/ *adj* 1 of or arranged in a sequence, serial (< ~ file systems) 2 following in sequence – *sequentially* *adv*

**sequester** /ˈsiːkwɛstə/ *vt* 1a to set apart, segregate b to seclude, withdraw (< ~ oneself from urban life) (< a quiet ~ ed spot) 2 to seize (e.g. a debtor's property) judicially 3 to chelate [ME *sequestren*, fr MF *sequester*, fr LL *sequestrare* to surrender for safekeeping, set apart, fr L *sequester* agent, depository, bailie, akin to L *sequi* to follow]

**sequester** /ˈsiːkwɛstə/ *vt* *SEQUESTER* 2 [LL *sequestratus*, pp of *sequestrare*] – *sequestration* /ˈsiːkwɛstəˈreɪʃən/ *n*

**sequin** /ˈsiːkwɪn/ *n* 1 a former gold coin of Italy and Turkey 2 a very small disc of shining metal or plastic used for ornamentation, esp on clothing [F, fr It *zecchino*, fr *zecca* mint, fr Ar *sikkah* die, coin]

**sequoia** /ˈsiːkwɔɪə/ *n* either of 2 huge coniferous Californian trees: a BIG TRFF b a redwood [NL, genus name, fr *Sequoia* (George Guess) †1843 AmerInd scholar]

**sera** /ˈsɪərə/ *pl* of *SERUM*

**serac** /ˈsɛrək/ *n* a pinnacle, sharp ridge, or block of ice among the crevasses of a glacier [F *serac*, lit., a kind of white cheese, fr ML *seracium* whey, fr L *serum* whey – more at *SERUM*]

**seraglio** /ˈsɛrəliː-oh, -lyoh/ *n*, *pl* *seraglios* HAREM 1a [It *serraglio* enclosure, *seraglio*, partly fr ML *serraculum* bar of a door, bolt, fr LL *serare* to bolt, partly fr Turk *saray* palace – more at *SEAR*]

**serai** /ˈsɛrɪ/ *n* a caravanserai [Turk & Per, Turk *saray* mansion, palace, fr Per *sarai* mansion, inn]

**serang** /ˈsɑːrɑŋ/ *n* a boatswain [Per *sarhang* commander, boatswain, fr *sar* chief + *hang* authority]

**seraph** /ˈsɛrəf/ *n*, *pl* *seraphim* /-fɪm/, *seraphs* any of the 6-winged angels standing in the presence of God [LL *seraphim*, *pl*, *seraphs*, fr Heb *šeraphim*] – *seraphic* /ˈsɛrəfɪk/ *adj*

**Serb** /sɜːb/, *Serbian* /ˈsɜːbiən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Serbia 2 the Serbo-Croatian language as spoken in Serbia – compare CROATIAN *LANGUAGE* [Serb, fr Serb *Srb*; *Serbian*, fr *Serbia*, former Balkan kingdom, now a republic of Yugoslavia, fr Serb *Srbija*] – *Serb*, *Serbian* *adj*

**Serbo-Croatian** /ˈsɜːboh kroʊˈaɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the Slavonic language of the Serbs and Croats 2 one whose native language is Serbo-Croatian – *Serbo-Croatian* *adj*

**sear** /sɪə/ *adj* shrivelled, withered – chiefly poetic [ME, fr OF *sear* dry, akin to OHG *sōren* to wither, Gk *hausos* dry]

**serie** *n* a series of successive ecological communities established in 1 area [L *series* series] – *seral* /ˈsɪərəl/ *adj*

**serenade** /ˈsɛrənayd/ *n* 1 a complimentary vocal or instrumental performance (given outdoors at night for a woman) 2 an instrumental composition in several movements written for a small ensemble [F *sérénade*, fr It *serenata*, fr *sereno* clear, calm (of weather), fr L *serenus*]

**serenade** *vb* to perform a serenade (in honour of) – *serenader* *n*

**serendipity** /ˈsɛrənˈdɪpɪti/ *n* the faculty of discovering pleasing or valuable things by chance [fr its possession by the heroes of the Per fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*; *Serendip*, ancient name for Sri Lanka, fr Ar *Sarandīb* Sri Lanka, deriv of Sk *Sīmahālanām* *Dvīpāḥ*, lit., island of the Sinhalese] – *serendipitous* /-ˈdɪpɪtəs/ *adj*

**serene** /ˈsɛrɪn/ *adj* 1 free of storms or adverse changes, clear, fine (< ~ skies) (< ~ weather) 2 having or showing tranquillity and peace of mind

(< a ~ smile) [L *serenus*, akin to OHG *serawen* to become dry, Gk *xeros* dry] – *serenely* *adv*, *serenity* *n*, *serenity* /ˈsɛrənɪti/ *n*

**serf** /sɜːf/ *n* a member of a class of agricultural labourers in a feudal society, bound in service to a lord, and esp transferred with the land they worked if its ownership changed hands [F, fr L *servus* slave, servant, serf – more at *SERVE*] – *serfage* *n*, *serfdom* *n*

**serge** /sɜːdʒ/ *n* a durable twilled fabric having a smooth clear face and a pronounced diagonal rib on the front and the back [ME *sarge*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *sarica*, fr L *serica*, fem of *sericus* silken – more at *SERICEOUS*]

**sergeant** /ˈsɑːdʒ(ə)nt/ *n* 1 a police officer ranking in Britain between constable and inspector 2 ~ RANK [ME, servant, attendant, *vergeant*, fr OF *sergent*, *serjant*, fr L *servient*, *serviens*, prp of *servire* to serve]

**sergeant aircrew** *n* ~ RANK

**sergeant-at-arms** *n*, *pl* *sergeants-at-arms* often *cap* S&A an officer attending the British Speaker or Lord Chancellor, also a similar officer in other legislatures

**sergeant first class** *n* ~ RANK

**sergeant major** *n*, *pl* *sergeant majors*, *sergeants major* 1 ~ RANK 2 a warrant officer in the British army or Royal Marines

**serial** /ˈsɪəriəl/ *adj* 1 of or constituting a series, rank, or row (< ~ order) 2 appearing in successive instalments (< a ~ story) 3 of or being music based on a series of notes in an arbitrary but fixed order without regard for traditional tonality (< ~ technique) – *serially* *adv*

**serial** *n* 1 a work appearing (e.g. in a magazine or on television) in parts at regular intervals 2 a publication issued as 1 of a consecutively numbered continuing series – *serialist* *n*

**serialism** /ˈsɪəriəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the theory or practice of composing) serial music

**serialize**, *-ise* /-lɪz/ *vt* to arrange or publish in serial form – *serialization* /-ˈzɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**serial number** *n* a number used as a means of identification that indicates position in a series

**seriate** /ˈsɪəriət/ *vt* or *adj* (to cause to be) arranged in a series – fml [adj fr (assumed) NL *seriatus*, fr L *series*, *vb* fr *adj*]

**seriatim** /ˈsɪəriətɪm/ *adv* or *adj* in regular order [adv ML, fr L *series*; *adj* fr *adv*]

**sericeous** /ˈsɪrɪʃəs/ *adj* finely hairy (< a ~ leaf) [LL *sericeus* silken, fr L *sericum* silk garment, silk, fr neut of *sericus* silken, fr Gk *serikos*, fr *Seres*, an eastern Asiatic people producing silk in ancient times]

**sericulture** /ˈsɛrɪkʊltʃə/ *n* the production of raw silk by breeding silkworms [L *sericum* silk + E *culture*] – *sericultural* /-ˈkʊltʃərəl/ *adj*, *sericulturist* *n*

**series** /ˈsɪəri-, -reɪz/ *n*, *pl* *series* 1 a number of things or events of the same kind following one another in spatial or temporal succession (< a concert ~ >) (< the hall opened into a ~ of small rooms), broadly any group of systematically related items 2 a usu infinite mathematical sequence whose terms are to be added together 3 the coins or currency of a particular country and period 4 a succession of issues of volumes published with continuous numbering or usu related subjects or authors and format 5 a division of rock formations that is smaller than a system and comprises rocks deposited during an epoch 6 a group of chemical compounds or elements related in structure and properties 7 an arrangement of devices in an electrical circuit in which the whole current passes through each device – compare PARALLEL 4b 8 a number of games (e.g. of cricket) played between 2 teams (< a 5-match ~ between England and Australia) [L, fr *serere* to join, link together; akin to Gk *erein* to string together, *hormos* chain, necklace]

**serif** /ˈsɛrɪf/ *n* a short line stemming from the stroke of a letter *ALPHABET* [prob fr D *schreef* stroke, line, fr MD, fr *schriven* to write, fr L *scribere* – more at *SCRIBE*] – *serified* *adj*

**serigraph** /ˈsɛrɪɡrəf/, -ˈgrɑːf/ *n* a print made by a silk-screen process [L *sericum* silk + Gk *graphein* to write, draw – more at *CARVE*] – *serigrapher* /-ˈsɪɡrəfə/ *n*, *serigraphy* /-fɪ/ *n*

**serin** /ˈsɛrɪn/ *n* a small European finch related to the canary [F]

**serine** /ˈsɛrɪn, -ˈsɪ-, -rɪn/ *n* an amino acid that occurs in most proteins [ISV *sericin* a gelatinous protein that cements the 2 fibroin filaments in a silk fibre (fr L *sericum* silk) + *-ine*]

**seriocomic** /ˈsɪəriəhˈkɒmɪk/ *adj* having a mixture of the serious and the comic [*serious* + *-o-* + *comic*] – *seriocomically* *adv*

**serious** /ˈsɪəriəs/ *adj* 1 grave or thoughtful in appearance or manner; sober 2a requiring careful attention and concentration (< ~ study) b of or relating to a weighty or important matter (< a ~ play) 3a not jesting or deceiving; in earnest b deeply interested or committed (< ~ fishermen) 4 having important or dangerous consequences; critical (< a ~ injury)

[ME *seriows*, fr MF or LL; MF *serieux*, fr LL *seriosus*, alter of L *serius*] - seriousness *n*

**seriously** /-li/ *adv* 1a in a sincere manner; earnestly b to speak in a serious way <~, you should be more careful> 2 to a serious extent, severely <~ injured>

**serious-minded** *adj* having a serious outlook on life - **serious-mindedly** *adv*

**serjeant** /'sahj(ə)nt/ *n* a sergeant

**sermon** /'suhmən/ *n* 1 a religious discourse delivered in public, usu by a clergyman as a part of a religious service 2 a speech on conduct or duty, esp one that is unduly long or tedious [ME, fr OF, fr ML *sermon-*, *sermo*, fr L, speech, conversation, fr *serere* to link together - more at **SERIES**]

**sermon-ize**, -ise /'suhmə,niəz/ *vi* to give moral advice in an officious or dogmatic manner - **sermonizer** *n*

**sero-** *comb form* *serum* <serology> [L *serum*]

**serology** /'si:roləʒi/ *n* the medical study of the reactions and properties of (blood) serum [ISV] - **serologist** *n*, **serological** /,si:roləʒi/ *adj*

**serosa** /'si:roʊsə, -zə/ *n* SEROUS MEMBRANE [NL, fr fem of *serosus* serous, fr L *serum*] - **serosal** *adj*

**serotonin** /,serə'tohni:n/ *n* an amine that causes constriction of small blood vessels and occurs esp in blood platelets and as a neurotransmitter in the brain [sero- + tonic + -in]

**serous membrane** /,si:ras/ *n* a thin membrane (e.g. the peritoneum) with cells that secrete a watery liquid [serous fr MF *serieux*, fr *serum*, fr L]

**serpent** /'suhpənt/ *n* 1a (large) snake 2 the Devil 3 a wily treacherous person 4 an old-fashioned bass woodwind instrument of serpentine form [ME, fr MF, fr L *serpent-*, *serpens*, fr prp of *serpere* to creep; akin to Gk *herpein* to creep, Skt *sarpati* he creeps]

**serpentine** /'suhpənti:n/ *adj* 1 of or like a serpent (e.g. in form or movement) 2 subtly tempting, wily, artful 3 winding or turning one way and another [ME, fr MF *serpentin*, fr LL *serpentinus*, fr L *serpent-*, *serpens*]


**serpentine** *n* sth wavy or winding; *specif* a serpentine movement in dressage

**serpentine** *n* a usu dull green mottled mineral consisting mainly of hydrated magnesium silicate [ME, fr ML *serpentina*, *serpentinum*, fr LL, fem & neut of *serpentinus* resembling a serpent]

**serpiginous** /'suh'pijɪnəs/ *adj*, of an ulcer, ringworm, etc creeping, spreading [ML *serpigin-*, *serpigo* creeping skin disease, fr L *serpere* to creep]

**serranid** /'serənɪd/ *n* any of a large family of flesh-eating spiny-finned marine fishes with toothed scales [deriv of L *serra* saw] - **serranid** *adj*, **serranoid** /-noɪd/ *adj* or *n*

**serrate** /'seɪrət, sɜ-/ *vt* to mark or provide with serrations [LL *serratus*, pp of *serrare* to saw, fr L *serra*]

**serrate** /'seɪrət, -rəɪt/ *adj* notched or having (forwards-pointing) teeth on the edge (a ~ leaf)  PLANT [L *serratus*, fr *serra* saw]

**serration** /'seɪrəʃ(ə)n, sɜ-/ *n* 1 a formation resembling the teeth of a saw 2 any of the teeth of a serrated edge [**SERRATE** + -ION]

**serried** /'serɪd/ *adj* crowded or pressed together; compact <the crowd collected in a ~ mass - W S Maugham> [fr pp of arch *serry* (to press close), fr MF *serré*, pp of *serrer* to press, crowd, fr LL *serare* to bolt, latch, fr L *serra* lock, bolt]

**serum** /'si:ərəm/ *n*, pl **serums**, **sera** /'si:ərə/ the watery part of an animal liquid (remaining after coagulation): a blood serum, esp when containing specific antibodies b whey [L, whey, serum; akin to Gk *oros* whey, serum, *horme* onset, assault, Skt *sarati* it flows] - **serous** *adj*

**serum hepatitis** *n* an often fatal inflammation of the liver caused by a virus that is contracted esp by contact with an infected person's blood

**serval** /'suhv(ə)l/ *n* a long-legged long-eared African wildcat with a tawny black-spotted coat [F, fr Pg *lobo cervical* lynx, fr ML *lupus cervicalis*, lit., cervine wolf]

**servant** /'suhv(ə)nt/ *n* sby who or sth that serves others; *specif* sby employed to perform personal or domestic duties for another [ME, fr OF, fr prp of *servir*]

**serve** /'suhv/ *vi* 1a to act as a servant b to do military or naval service 2 to act as server at Mass 3a to be of use; fulfil a specified purpose - often + as b to be favourable, opportune, or convenient <told the story whenever occasion ~d> c to prove reliable or trustworthy <it was last year, if memory ~s> d to hold a post or office; discharge a duty <~ on a jury> 4 to prove adequate or satisfactory; suffice <dress that ~s for all occasions> 5 to distribute drinks or helpings of food 6 to attend to customers in a shop 7 to put the ball or shuttle in play in any of various

games (e.g. tennis or volleyball) ~ *vt* 1a to act as a servant to b to give military or naval service to <~d France in the last war> c to perform the duties of <~d his presidency> 2 to act as server at (Mass) 3a to work through or perform (a term of service) <~d his time as a mate> b to undergo (a term of imprisonment) 4 to supply (food or drink) to (guests or diners) 5a(1) to provide with sthg needed or desired <3 schools ~ the area> (2) to attend to (a customer) in a shop b to supply (sthg needed or desired) <garages refused to ~ petrol> 6 to prove adequate for, suffice <a smile would ~ him for encouragement> <this sharp stone will ~ my purposes> 7 to treat or act towards in a specified way <he ~d me ill> 8 to make legal service of (e.g. a writ or summons) or upon (a person there named) 9 of a male animal to copulate with 10 to wind yarn or wire tightly round (a rope or stay) for protection 11 to act so as to help or benefit <the citizen's duty to ~ society> 12 to put (the ball or shuttle) in play [ME *serven*, fr OF *servir*, fr L *servire* to be a slave, serve, fr *servus* slave, servant, perh of Etruscan origin] - **serve** someone right to be a deserved punishment for sby

**serve** *n* the act of putting the ball or shuttle in play in any of various games (e.g. volleyball, badminton, or tennis), also a turn to serve

**server** /'suhvə/ *n* 1 sby who serves food or drink 2 the player who serves (e.g. in tennis) 3 sthg (e.g. tongs) used in serving food or drink 4 an assistant to the celebrant of a low mass

**servery** /'suhv(ə)rɪ/ *n* a room, counter, or hatch (e.g. in a public house) from which food is served

**serve up** *vi* to provide or supply (sthg required or expected) - chiefly infml

**service** /'suhvɪs/ *n* 1a work or duty performed for sby <on active ~> b employment as a servant <entered ~ when she was 14> 2a the function performed by sby who or sthg that serves <these shoes have given me good ~> b help, use, benefit <be of ~ to them> c disposal for use or assistance <I'm always at your ~> 3a a form followed in a religious ceremony b a meeting for worship 4 the act of serving e.g. a helpful act, a favour <did him a ~> b a piece of useful work that does not produce a tangible commodity - usu pl with sing meaning <charge for professional ~> c a serve 5 a set of articles for a particular use, *specif* a set of matching tableware <a 24-piece dinner ~> 6a an administrative division <the consular ~> b any of a nation's military forces (e.g. the army or navy) 7a(1) a facility supplying some public demand <telephone ~> <bus ~> (2) pl utilities (e.g. gas, water sewage, or electricity) available or connected to a building b(1) a facility providing maintenance and repair <television ~> (2) the usu routine repair and maintenance of a machine or motor vehicle <the car is due for its 6000 mile ~> c a facility providing broadcast programmes <East European Service> 8 the bringing of a legal writ, process, or summons to notice as prescribed 9 the act of copulating with a female animal [ME, fr OF, fr L *servitium* condition of a slave, body of slaves, fr *servus* slave]


**service** *adj* 1 of the armed services 2 used in serving or delivering <tradesmen use the ~ entrance> 3 providing services <the ~ industries>

**service** *vi* to perform services for e.g. a to repair or provide maintenance for b to meet interest and sinking fund payments on (e.g. government debt) c to perform any of the business functions auxiliary to production or distribution of d of a male animal **SERVE** 9 - **servicer** *n*

**\*service, service tree** *n* an Old World tree of the rose family resembling the related mountain ashes but with larger flowers and larger edible fruits [ME *serves*, pl of *serve* serviceberry, service tree, fr OE *syrfc*, fr (assumed) VL *sorbea*, fr L *sorbus* service tree]

**serviceable** /'suhvɪsəbl/ *adj* 1 fit to use, suited for a purpose 2 wearing well in use; durable - **serviceableness** *n*, **serviceably** *adv*, **serviceability** /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**serviceberry** /-'b(ə)rɪ/ *n* any of various N American trees and shrubs of the rose family with showy white flowers and edible purple or red fruits [**SERVICE** + **BERRY**]


**service box** *n* a rectangular area 1.6m (5ft 3in) square on each side of a squash court, inside which a player must stand to serve  SPORT

**service cap** *n* a flat-topped visor cap worn as part of a military uniform - compare **GARRISON CAP**

**service car** *n*, NZ a coach, bus

**service charge** *n* a proportion of a bill added onto the total bill to pay for service, usu instead of tips

**service flat** *n*, Br a flat of which the rent includes a charge for certain services (e.g. cleaning)

**service line** *n* a line marked on a court in various games (e.g. tennis) to mark a boundary which must not be overstepped in serving  SPORT

**'serviceman** /-mən/, *fem* **'service,woman** *n* 1 a member of the armed forces 2 chiefly *NAM* sby employed to repair or maintain equipment  
**'service,mark** *n* a mark or device used in the USA to identify a commercial service  
**'service,road** *n* a road that provides access for local traffic only  
**'service,station** *n* a retail station for servicing motor vehicles, esp with oil and petrol  
**'service,tree** *n* **'SLRVICE**  
**serviette** /,suhvi'et/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a table napkin [F, fr MF, fr *servir* to serve]  
**servile** /'suhviəl/ *adj* 1 of or befitting a slave or a menial position (< a ~ task) 2 slavishly or unctuously submissive, abject, obsequious [ME, fr L *servilis*, fr *servus* slave – more at **SERVE**] – **servilely** *adv*, **servility** /-'viliti/ *n*  
**serving** /'suhviŋ/ *n* a single portion of food or drink, a helping  
**servitude** /'suhvityuəd/ *n* 1 lack of liberty, bondage (< **penal** ~) 2 a right by which sthg owned by one person is subject to a specified use or enjoyment by another [ME, fr MF, fr L *servitudo* slavery, fr *servus* slave]  
**servo** /'suhvoh/ *n*, *pl* **servos** a servomotor or servomechanism  
**servomechanism** /'suhvoh,mekənu(ə)m/ *n* an automatic device for controlling large amounts of power by means of very small amounts of power and automatically correcting performance of a mechanism [*servo*- (as in *servomotor*) + *mechanism*]  
**servomotor** /'suhvoh,mohɪtə/ *n* a power-driven mechanism that supplements a primary control operated by a comparatively feeble force (e.g. in a servomechanism) [F *servo-moteur*, fr L *servus* slave, servant + F-*o*-*motor* motor, fr L *motor* mover – more at **MOTOR**]  
**-ses** /-sɛs/ *pl* of **six**  
**sesame** /'sesəmi/ *n* (an E Indian plant with) small flattish seeds used as a source of oil and as a flavouring agent [alter of earlier *sesam*, *sesama*, fr L *sesamum*, *sesama*, fr Gk *sesamon*, *sesame*, of Sem origin, akin to Assy *šamašamu* sesame, Ar *simsim*]  
**sesamoid** /'sesəmoɪd/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a small round mass of bone or cartilage in a tendon, esp at a joint or bony prominence [Gk *sesamoides*, lit., resembling sesame seed, fr *sesamon*]  
**sesqui-** /'seskwɪ-/ *comb form* 1 one and a half times (< *sesquicentennial*) 2 containing 3 atoms or equivalents of a specified element or radical, esp combined with 2 of another (< *sesquioxide*) [L, one and a half, half again, lit., and a half, fr *semis* half (fr *semi*-) + *-que* (enclitic) and, akin to Gk *τε* and, Skt *ca*, Goth *-h*, *-uh*]  
**sesquicentenary** /'seskwɪsɪn'teɪnəri, -'tɛnəri/ *n* a sesquicentennial  
**sesquicentennial** /'sen'tɛni əl/ *n* (the celebration of) a 150th anniversary – **sesquicentennial** *adj*  
**sesquipedalian** /-pə'deɪljən/ *adj* many-syllabled [L *sesquipedalis*, lit., a foot and a half long, fr *sesqui*- + *ped*-, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**]  
**sessile** /'sesiəl/ *adj* 1 attached directly by the base without a stalk (< a ~ leaf) 2 permanently attached or established and not free to move about (< ~ *polyps*) [L *sessilis* of or fit for sitting, low, dwarf (of plants), fr *sessus*, pp] – **sessility** /'sesɪləti/ *n*  
**sessile** *'oak* *n* a durmast  
**session** /'sesʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a meeting or series of meetings of a body (e.g. a court or council) for the transaction of business, a sitting 2 the period between the meeting of a legislative or judicial body and the final adjournment of that meeting 3 the period in which a school conducts classes 4 a period devoted to a particular activity, esp by a group of people (< a *recording* ~) [ME, fr MF, fr L *sessio*-, *sessio*, lit., act of sitting, fr *sessus*, pp of *sedere* to sit – more at **SIT**] – **sessional** *adj*  
**sesterce** /'sestɜ:ʃ/ *n* an ancient Roman coin worth ¼ denarius [L *sestertius*, fr *sestertius* two and a half times as great (fr its being equal originally to two and a half asses), fr *semis* half (fr *semi*-) + *tertius* third – more at **THIRD**]  
**sestertium** /'sestɜ:ʃtɪəm/ *n*, *pl* **sestertia** /-tɪ-ə/ a money unit in ancient Rome worth 1000 sesterces [L, fr gen pl of *sestertius* (in the phrase *milta sestertia* thousands of sesterces)]  
**sestertia** /-tɪ-əs/ *n*, *pl* **sestertii** /-tɪ-ɪ-ə/ a sesterce  
**sestet** /'ses'tet/ *n* a poem or stanza of 6 lines, *specif* the last 6 lines of an Italian sonnet [It *sestetto*, fr *sesto* sixth, fr L *sextus* – more at **SIXT**]  
**sestina** /'sesteɪnə/ *n* a lyrical poem form consisting of 6 6-line stanzas and a 3-line envoy with an elaborate scheme of repeated words [It, fr *sesto* sixth]  
**'set** /set/ *vb* -tt-, *set*, (*vt* 10) **set** *vt* 1 to cause to sit; place in or on a seat 2a to place with care or deliberate purpose and with relative stability (< a *ladder against the wall*) b **TRANSPLANT** 1 (< *seedlings*) c to make (e.g. a trap) ready to catch prey 3 to cause to assume a specified condition

(< *the room to rights*) < *she ~ my mind at rest* 4a to appoint or assign to an office or duty (< *him over them as foreman*) b to post, station (< *sentries*) 5a to place in a specified relation or position (< *a dish to ~ before a king*) b to place in a specified setting (< *the story is ~ in 17th-c Spain*) 6a to fasten b to apply (< *pen to paper*) (< *a match to the fire*) 7 to fix or decide on as a time, limit, or regulation, prescribe (< *a wedding day*) 8a to establish as the most extreme, esp the highest, level (< *a new record*) b to provide as a pattern or model (< *an example*) (< *a fashion*) c to allot as or compose for a task (< *the children some homework*) 9a to adjust (a device, esp a measuring device) to a desired position (< *the alarm for 7:00*) b to restore to normal position or connection after dislocation or fracturing (< *a broken bone*), also **REDUCE** 5 (< *a fracture*) c to spread to the wind (< *the sails*) 10a to divide (an age-group of pupils) into sets b to teach (a school subject) by dividing the pupils into sets (< *maths and science are ~ted*) 11a to make ready for use (< *the stage*) (< *another place for dinner*) b to provide music or instrumentation for (a text) c(1) to arrange (type) for printing (2) to put into type or its equivalent (e.g. on film) 12a to put a fine edge on by grinding or honing (< *a razor*) b to bend slightly the alternate teeth of (a saw) in opposite directions c to sink (the head of a nail) below the surface 13 to fix in a desired position 14 to fix (the hair) in a desired style by waving, curling, or arranging, usu while wet 15a to adorn or surround with sthg attached or embedded, stud, dot (< *river all ~ about with fever trees* – Rudyard Kipling) b to fix (e.g. a gem) in a metal setting 16a to fix at a specified amount (< *bail at £500*) b to value, rate (< *his promises were ~ at naught*) c to place as an estimate of worth (< *a high value on life*) 17 to place in relation for comparison (< *her beside Michelangelo*), also to offset (< *our gains against our losses*) 18a to direct to action (< *her to write a report*) b to put into activity or motion (< *the clock going*) (< *it ~ me wondering*) c to incite to attack or antagonism (< *war ~s brother against brother*) 19 of a *gundog* to point out the position of (game) by holding a fixed attitude 20 to defeat (an opponent or his/her contract) in bridge 21 to fix firmly, give rigid form to (< *his jaw in determination*) 22 to cause to become firm or solid (< *jelly by adding gelatin*) 23 to cause (e.g. fruit) to develop – *vi* 1 – used as an interjection to command runners to put themselves into the starting position before a race 2 of a *plant part* to undergo development, usu as a result of pollination 3 to pass below the horizon, go down (< *the sun ~s*) 4 to make an attack – + *on* or *upon* 5 to have a specified direction in motion, flow, tend (< *the wind was ~ting south*) 6 to apply oneself to some activity (< *to work*) 7 of a *gundog* to indicate the position of game by crouching or pointing 8 to dance face to face with another in a square dance (< *to ~ with partner*) 9a to become solid or thickened by chemical or physical action (< *the cement ~s rapidly*) b of a *broken bone* to become whole by knitting together c of metal to acquire a permanent twist or bend from strain 10 chiefly *dial* to sit [ME *setten*, fr OE *settan*, akin to OHG *sezzen* to set, OE *sittan* to sit] – **set about** 1 to begin to do (< *how to set about losing weight*) 2 to attack (< *about the intruder with a rolling pin*) – **set foot** to pass over the threshold, enter – + *in*, *on*, or *inside* – **set in motion** to get (sthg) started, initiate (< *an inquiry in motion*) – **set on** to cause to attack or pursue (< *set the dog on the trespassers*) – **set one's face against** to oppose staunchly – **set one's hand** to become engaged in – **set one's heart** to resolve, *also* to want (sthg) very much – + *on* or *upon* (< *she set her heart on succeeding*) – **set one's house in order** to introduce necessary reforms – **set one's sights** to focus one's concentration or intentions; aim – **set one's teeth on edge** to give one an unpleasant sensation (e.g. that caused by an acid flavour or squeaky noise) – **set sail** to begin a voyage (< *set sail for America*) – **set store by** to consider valuable, trustworthy, or worthwhile, esp to the specified degree (< *don't set much store by his advice*) – **set the scene** to provide necessary background information – **set to work** to apply oneself; begin (< *he set to work to undermine their confidence*)  
**\*set** *adj* 1 intent, determined (< *on going*) 2 fixed by authority or binding decision, prescribed, specified (< *there are 3 ~ books for the examination*) 3 of a *meal* consisting of a specified combination of dishes available at a fixed price 4 reluctant to change, fixed by habit (< *in his ways*) 5 immovable, rigid (< *a ~ frown*) 6 ready, prepared (< *all ~ for an early morning start*) 7 conventional, stereotyped (< *her speech was full of ~ phrases*) [ME *sett*, fr pp of *setten* to set]  
**\*set** *n* 1 setting or being set 2a a mental inclination, tendency, or habit b predisposition to act in a certain way in response to an anticipated stimulus or situation 3 a number of things, usu of the same kind, that belong or are used together or that form a unit (< *a chess ~*) (< *a ~ of Dickens*) (< *a good ~ of teeth*) 4 direction of flow (< *the ~ of the wind*) 5 the form or carriage of the body or of its parts (< *the graceful ~ of his*



**head** 6 the amount of deviation from a straight line; *specif* the degree to which the teeth of a saw have been set 7 permanent change of form due to repeated or excessive stress 8 the arrangement of the hair by curling or waving 9a a young plant or rooted cutting ready for transplanting b a small bulb, corm, or (piece of) tuber used for propagation (*onion* ~s) 10 an artificial setting for a scene of a theatrical or film production 11 a division of a tennis match won by the side that wins at least 6 games beating the opponent by 2 games or that wins a tie breaker 12 the basic formation in a country dance or square dance 13 (the music played at) a session of music (e.g. jazz or rock music), usu. followed by an intermission 14 *sing or pl in constr* a group of people associated by common interests (*the smart* ~) 15 a collection of mathematical elements (e.g. numbers or points) 16 an apparatus of electronic components assembled so as to function as a unit (*a radio* ~) 17 *sing or pl in constr* a group of pupils of roughly equal ability in a particular subject who are taught together – compare **STREAM** 18 a sett

**seta** /seta/ *n*, *pl setae* /-ti/ a slender bristle or similar part of an animal or plant [NL, fr L *seta*, *seta* bristle – more at **SINEW**] – **setaceous** /sɪ'taɪʃəs/ *adj*, **setaceously** *adv*, **setal** /setl/ *adj*

**set apart** *vt* 1 SET **ASIDE** 2 2 to make noticeable or outstanding (*his height sets him apart*)

**set aside** *vt* 1 to put to one side, discard 2 to reserve for a particular purpose; save 3 to reject from consideration 4 to annul or overrule (a sentence, verdict, etc)

**'setback** /-bak/ *n* 1 an arresting of or hindrance in progress 2 a defeat, reverse

**set back** *vt* 1 to prevent or hinder the progress of; impede, delay 2 to cost (*a new suit set him back a full week's wages*) – *infrm* ['set + 'back]

**set by** *vt* to put aside for future use, reserve

**set down** *vt* 1 to place at rest on a surface or on the ground, deposit 2 to cause or allow (a passenger) to alight from a vehicle 3 to land (an aircraft) on the ground or water 4 to put in writing 5a to regard, consider (*set him down as a liar*) b to attribute, ascribe (*set her success down to sheer perseverance*)

**'set-in** *adj* cut separately and stitched in (~ *sleeves*)

**set in** *vt* to insert, *esp* to stitch (a small part) into a larger article (*set in a sleeve of a dress*) ~ *vi* 1 to become established (*the rot has set in*) 2 to blow or flow towards the shore (*the wind was beginning to set in*)

**'setline** /-lien/ *n*, *NAm* a long heavy fishing line to which several hooks are attached in series

**'set-off** *n* 1 sthg set off against another thing: a a decoration, adornment b a counterbalance, compensation 2 the discharge of a debt by setting against it a sum owed by the creditor to the debtor

**set off** *vt* 1a to put in relief; show up by contrast b to adorn, embellish c to make distinct or outstanding; enhance 2 to treat as a compensating item (*set off the 3 totals against one another*) 3a to set in motion; cause to begin b to cause to explode; detonate 4 chiefly *NAm* to compensate for; offset ~ *vi* to start out on a course or journey (*set off for home*)

**set out** *vt* 1 to state or describe at length; expound (*a pamphlet setting out his ideas in full*) 2a to arrange and present graphically or systematically b to mark out (e.g. a design) c to create or construct according to a plan or design (*set gardens out on waste ground*) 3 to begin with a definite purpose or goal; intend, undertake (*you set out deliberately to annoy me*) ~ *vi* to start out on a course, journey, or career

**set piece** *n* 1 (a part of) a work of art, literature, etc with a formal pattern or style 2 an arrangement of fireworks that forms a pattern while burning 3 any of various moves in soccer or rugby (e.g. a corner kick or free kick) by which the ball is put back into play after a stoppage

**set point** *n* a situation (e.g. in tennis) in which one player will win the set by winning the next point

**'setcrew** /-skrooh/ *n* 1 a screw that is tightened to prevent relative movement between parts (e.g. of a machine) and keep them in a set position 2 a screw that serves to adjust a machine

**set square** *n*, chiefly *Br* a flat triangular instrument with 1 right angle and 2 other precisely known angles, used to mark out or test angles

**sett**, **set** /set/ *n* 1 the burrow of a badger 2 a usu rectangular block of stone or wood formerly used for paving streets [alter. of 'set]

**settee** /se'tee/ *n* a long often upholstered seat with a back and usu arms for seating more than 1 person; broadly a sofa [alter. of 'settle]

**setter** /seta/ *n* a large gundog trained to point on finding game; *specif* **IRISH SETTER** ['set + -er]

**set theory** *n* a branch of mathematics or of symbolic logic that deals with the nature and relations of sets

**setting** /setɪŋ/ *n* 1 the manner, position, or direction in which sthg (e.g.

a dial) is set 2 the (style of) frame in which a gem is mounted 3a the background, surroundings b the time and place of the action of a literary, dramatic, or cinematic work c the scenery used in a theatrical or film production 4 the music composed for a text (e.g. a poem) 5 **PLACE SETTING**

**'settle** /setl/ *n* a wooden bench with arms, a high solid back, and an enclosed base which can be used as a chest [ME, place for sitting, seat, chair, fr OE *setl*, akin to OHG *sezal* seat, L *sella* seat, chair, saddle, OE *sittan* to sit]

**'settle** *vb* **settling** /setlɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to place firmly or comfortably (~ *d herself in an armchair*) 2a to establish in residence (~ *refugees on farmland*) b to supply with inhabitants, colonize 3a to cause to sink and become compacted (*rain ~d the dust*) b to clarify by causing the sediment to sink (*put eggshells in the coffee to ~ it*) 4a to free from pain, discomfort, disorder, or disturbance (*took a drink to ~ his nerves*) b to make subdued or well-behaved (*one word from the referee ~d him*) 5 to fix or resolve conclusively (~ *the question*) 6a to bestow legally for life – usu + *on* (~ *d her estate on her son*) b to arrange for or make a final disposition of (~ *d her affairs*) 7 to pay (a bill or money claimed) ~ *vi* 1 to come to rest (*a sparrow ~d on the windowsill*) 2a to sink gradually to the bottom; subside (*let the dust ~ before applying paint*) b to become clearer by the deposit of sediment or scum c of a building, the ground, etc to sink slowly to a lower level; subside 3a to become fixed or permanent (*his mood ~d into apathy*) b to establish a residence or colony (~ *d in Canada for a few years*) 4a to become calm or orderly – often + *down* b to adopt an ordered or stable life-style – usu + *down* (*marry and ~ down*) 5a to adjust differences or accounts – often + *with* or *up* b to end a legal dispute by the agreement of both parties, without court action (~ *d out of court*) [ME *setten* to seat, bring to rest, come to rest, fr OE *setlan*, fr *setl* seat] – **settle for** to be content with, accept

**settle in** *vi* to become comfortably established (*children quickly settle in at a new school*) ~ *vi* to assist in becoming comfortably established

**'settlement** /-mənt/ *n* 1 settling 2a an act of bestowing possession under legal sanction b an estate, income, etc legally bestowed on sb 3a a newly settled place or region b a small, esp isolated, village 4 an organization providing various community services in an underprivileged area 5 an agreement resolving differences (*reached a ~ on the strike*)

**settler** /setlə/ *n* one who settles sthg (e.g. a new region)

**'settling** /setlɪŋ/ *n* sediment, dregs – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning


**'settlor** /setlə/ *n* one who makes a legal settlement

**'set-to** *n*, *pl set-tos* a usu brief and vigorous conflict – chiefly *infrm*


**set to** *vi* 1 to make an eager or determined start on a job or activity 2 to begin fighting


**'set-up** *n* 1 an arrangement, also an organization 2 chiefly *NAm* carriage of the body, bearing 3 chiefly *NAm* a task or contest with a prearranged or artificially easy course – chiefly *infrm*

**set up** *vt* 1a to raise into position, erect (*set up a statue*) (*set up road blocks*) b to put forward (e.g. a theory) for acceptance, propound 2a to assemble and prepare for use or operation (*set up a printing press*) b to put (a machine) in readiness or adjustment for operation 3a to give voice to, esp loudly, raise (*set up a din*) b to create; **BRING ABOUT** (*issues that set up personal tensions*) 4 to place in a high office or powerful position (*set up the general as dictator*) 5 to claim (oneself) to be a specified thing (*sets herself up as an authority*) 6a to found, institute (*set up a fund for orphans*) b to install oneself in (*set up house together*) 7a to provide with an independent livelihood (*set her up in business*) b to provide with what is necessary or useful – usu + *with* or *for* (*we're well set up with tools for the winter*) 8 to bring or restore to health or success (*a drink will set you up*) 9 to prepare detailed plans for (*set up a bank robbery*) ~ *vi* to start business (*set up as a house agent*) – **set up shop** to establish one's business

**seven** /sev(ə)n/ *n* 1  **NUMBER** 2 the seventh in a set or series (~ *of diamonds*) 3 sthg having 7 parts or members or a denomination of 7 4 *pl but sing or pl in constr* a rugby game played with teams of 7 players each [ME, fr *seven*, *adj*, fr OE *seofon*; akin to OHG *sibun* seven, L *septem*, Gk *hepta*] – *seven adj or pron*, *sevenfold adj or adv*


**seven seas** *n pl* all the oceans of the world


**seventeen** /sev(ə)n'teen/ *n* 1  **NUMBER** [seventeen, *adj*, fr ME *seventene*, fr OE *seofontene*; akin to OE *tien* ten] – *seventeen adj or pron*, *seventeenth adj or n*

**seventh** /sev(ə)nθ/ *n* 1  **NUMBER** 2a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 7 diatonic degrees b **LEADING NOTE** – *seventh adj or adv*



**Seventh-Day 'Adventist** *n* a member of a group of Adventist Christians who advocate or observe Saturday as the Christian Sabbath  
**seventh heaven** *n* a state of supreme rapture or bliss (*she was in the ~ with her new train set*) [fr the seventh being the highest of the 7 heavens of Muslim and cabalist doctrine]

**seventy** /'sev(ə)nti/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 pl the numbers 70 to 79; specif a range of temperatures, ages, or dates within a century characterized by those numbers [seventy, adj, fr ME, fr OE *seofontig*, short for *hund-seofontig*, fr *hundseofontig*, *n*, group of seventy, fr *hund* hundred + *seofon* seven + *-tig* group of ten – more at HUNDRED, 'TY] – **seventieth** *adj* or *n*, **seventy** *adj* or *pron*

**seventy-eight** *n* 1  NUMBER 2 a gramophone record that plays at 78 revolutions per minute – usu written 78 – **seventy-eight** *adj* or *pron*

**seven-year 'itch** *n* marital discontent allegedly leading to infidelity after about 7 years of marriage

**sever** /sevə/ *vt* 1 to put or keep apart, separate, esp to remove (a major part or portion) (as if) by cutting 2 to break off, terminate (< *economic links*) ~ *vi* to become separated [ME *severen*, fr MF *severer*, fr L *separare* – more at SEPARATE] – **severable** *adj*, **severance** *n*

**several** /'sev(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 more than 2 but fewer than many (< *~ hundred times*) 2 separate or distinct from one another, respective (< *specialists in their ~ fields*) – chiefly fml [ME, separate, different, fr AF, fr ML *separalis*, fr L *separ* separate, back-formation fr *separare* to separate]

**several** *pron*, *pl* in constr an indefinite number more than 2 and fewer than many (< *~ of the guests*) – **severalfold** *adj* or *adv*

**severally** /'sev(ə)rəli/ *adv* each by itself or him-/herself, separately – chiefly fml

**severalty** /-ti/ *n* 1 possession by a single person only (< *tenants in ~*) 2 the quality or state of being several or distinct – fml [MF *severalte*, fr AF *severalte*, fr *several*]

**severance** *pay* *n* an amount payable to an employee on termination of employment

**severe** /si'viə/ *adj* 1 having a stern expression or character; austere 2 rigorous in judgment, requirements, or punishment, stringent (< *penalties*) (< *legislation*) 3 strongly critical or condemnatory, censorious (< *a ~ critic*) 4 sober or restrained in decoration or manner, plain 5 marked by harsh or extreme conditions (< *winters*) 6 requiring much effort, arduous (< *a ~ test*) 7 serious, grave (< *depression*) (< *an illness*) [MF or L, MF, fr L *severus*] – **severely** *adv*, **severity** /si'verəti/ *n*

**Seville orange** /'sevl/, 'sevl/ *n* (an orange tree that bears) a reddish-orange fruit with bitter rind and sour flesh, used esp for making marmalade [Seville, province & city in SW Spain]

**Sèvres** /'sevrə/ *n* an elaborately decorated fine porcelain [Sèvres, town in France]

**sew** /soh/ *vb* **sewed** /sohd/: **sewn** /sohn/, **sewed** *vt* 1 to unite, fasten, or attach by stitches made with a needle and thread 2 to close or enclose by sewing (< *the money in a bag*) 3 to make or mend by sewing ~ *vi* to practise or engage in sewing [ME *siwien*, akin to OHG *siuwen* to sew, L *suere*] – **sewer** *n*

**sewage** /'s(y)oooh-, 's(y)oo-ij/ *n* waste matter carried off by sewers [sewer]

**sewer** /'s(y)ooə/ *n* an artificial usu underground conduit used to carry off waste matter, esp excrement, from houses, schools, towns, etc and surface water from roads and paved areas [ME, fr MF *esseeur*, *seweur*, fr *esseeur* to drain, fr (assumed) VL *exaquare*, fr L *ex-* + *aqua* water – more at ISLAND]

**sewerage** /'s(y)ooəri-/ *n* 1 sewage 2 the removal and disposal of surface water by sewers 3 a system of sewers

**sewing** /'soh-ɪŋ/ *n* 1 the act, action, or work of one who sews 2 *what* that has been or is to be sewn

**sew up** *vt* 1 to mend, close (e.g. a hole), or enclose by sewing 2 to bring to a successful or satisfactory conclusion (*sew up pay negotiations*) – chiefly infml

**sex** /seks/ *n* 1 either of 2 divisions of organisms distinguished as male or female 2 the structural, functional, and behavioural characteristics that are involved in reproduction and that distinguish males and females 3 SEXUAL INTERCOURSE [ME, fr L *sexus*]

**sex** *vi* to identify the sex of (< *~ chicks*)

**sex-, sexi-** *comb form* six (< *sexivalent*) (< *sexpartite*) [L *sex* – more at SIX]

**sexagenarian** /'seksəʒi'neəri-ən/ *n* a person between 60 and 69 years old [L *sexagenarius* of or containing 60, 60 years old, fr *sexageni* 60 each, fr *sexaginta* sixty, irreg fr *sex* six + *-ginta* (akin to L *viginti* twenty) – more at SIX, VIGESIMAL] – **sexagenarian** *adj*

**Sexagesima** /'seksə'jesimə/ *n* the second Sunday before Lent [LL, fr L, fem of *sexagesimus* sixtieth; fr its being approximately 60 days before Easter]

**sexagesimal** /-'jesiməl/ *adj* of or based on the number 60 [L *sexagesimus* sixtieth, fr *sexaginta* sixty]

**sex appeal** *n* physical attractiveness for members of the opposite sex

**sex chromosome** *n* a chromosome concerned directly with the inheritance of male or female sex

**sexed** /'seks/ *adj* having sex, sex appeal, or sexual instincts, esp to a specified degree (< *highly ~*) (< *under ~*)

**sexism** /'seks, siz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a belief that sex determines intrinsic capacities and role in society and that sexual differences produce an inherent superiority of one sex, usu the male 2 discrimination on the basis of sex; esp prejudice against women on the part of men [*'sex* + *-ism* (as in *racism*)] – **sexist** *adj* or *n*

**sex kitten** *n* a woman who makes a display of her sex appeal – infml

**sexless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 lacking sexuality or sexual intercourse (< *marriage*) 2 lacking sex appeal

**sex-linked** *adj* (determined by a gene) located in a sex chromosome (< *a ~ gene*) (< *a ~ characteristic*) – **sex-linkage** *n*

**sexology** /'sek'soləʒi/ *n* the study of (human) sexual behaviour

**exploitation** /'seksplɔɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the employment of sex for commercial gain, esp in films and publications [blend of *sex* and *exploitation*]

**sex.pot** /-pɒt/ *n* SEX KITTEN – humor

**sext** /seks/ *n*, often *cap* the fourth of the canonical hours, orig fixed for 12 noon [ME *sext*, fr LL *sexta*, fr L, sixth hour of the day, fr fem of *sextus* sixth, fr *sex* six]

**sextant** /'seksənt/ *n* an instrument for measuring angles that is used, esp in navigation, to observe the altitudes of celestial bodies and so determine the observer's position on the earth's surface [NL *sextant*, *sextans* sixth part of a circle, fr L, sixth part, fr *sextus* sixth]

**sextet** /'seks'tet/ *n* 1 (a musical composition for) a group of 6 instruments, voices, or performers 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a group or set of 6 [alter of *sester*]

**sexton** /'seks'tən/ *n* a church officer who takes care of the church property and is often also the gravedigger [ME *secresteyn*, *sexteyn*, fr MF *secrestain*, fr ML *sacristianus* – more at SACRISTAN]

**sextuple** /'seks'tju:pəl/ *adj* 1 having 6 units or members 2 being 6 times as great or as many [prob fr ML *sextuplus*, fr L *sextus* sixth + *-plus* multiplied by – more at DOUBLE] – **sextuple** *n*

**sextuple** *vb* to make or become 6 times as much or as many

**sextuplet** /'seks'tju:pəl/ *n* 1 a combination of 6 of a kind 2 any of 6 offspring born at 1 birth 3 a group of 6 equal musical notes performed in the time ordinarily given to 4 of the same value

**sexual** /'seksju:(ə)l, -sh(ə)l/ *adj* 1 of or associated with sex or the sexes (< *~ conflict*) 2 having or involving sex (< *reproduction*) [LL *sexualis*, fr L *sexus* sex] – **sexually** *adv*, **sexuality** /-'æləti/ *n*

**sexual intercourse** *n* intercourse with genital contact a involving penetration of the vagina by the penis, coitus b other than penetration of the vagina by the penis

**sexualize, -ise** /'seksju:(ə)liez, -shə'liez/ *vt* to make sexual, endow with a sexual character or significance

**sexy** /'seksi/ *adj* sexually suggestive or stimulating, erotic – **sexily** *adv*, **sexiness** *n*

**Seyfert galaxy** /'seɪfət, 'sɪəfət/ *n* any of a class of spiral galaxies that have small compact bright nuclei that send out radio waves [Carl K. Seyfert †1960 US astronomer]

**sforzando** /'sfaw'tsəndoh/ *n*, *adj*, or *adv*, *pl* **sforzandos**, **sforzandi** /-di/ (a note or chord played) with prominent stress or accent – used in music [It, gerund & prp of *sforzare* to force]

**sgraffito** /'sgra'fi:təh/ *n*, *pl* **sgraffiti** /-ti/ decoration in which parts of a surface layer (e.g. of plaster) are cut or scratched away to expose a different coloured background [It, fr pp of *sgraffire* to scratch, produce sgraffito]

**sh** /ʃ/ *interj* – used often in prolonged or reduplicated form to urge or command silence [alter. of *hush*]

**Shabbat** /sha'baht, 'shahbət/ *n*, *pl* **Shabbatim** /shə'bahtim, -'bawsm/ the Jewish Sabbath [Heb *shabbath*]

**shabby** /'shabi/ *adj* 1a threadbare or faded from wear (< *a ~ sofa*) b dilapidated, run-down (< *a ~ district*) 2 dressed in worn or grubby clothes; seedy (< *a ~ tramp*) 3 shameful, despicable (< *what a ~ trick*,

*driving off and leaving me to walk home!* [obs *shab* (scab, a low fellow), fr ME] – *shabbily* *adv*, *shabbiness* *n*

**shabraqe**, **shabrak** /'shabrak/ *n* a type of saddlecloth used esp by historical European light cavalry regiments [F *schabraque*, fr G *scharbracke*, fr Hung *csáprág*, fr Turk *çaprak*]

**Shabuoth** /'shah'vooth-, -s/ *n* a Jewish holiday observed in commemoration of the revelation of the Ten Commandments at Mt Sinai [Heb *shabbu'oth*, lit, weeks]

**shack** /'shak/ *n* a small crudely built dwelling or shelter [perh back-formation fr E dial. *shackly* (rickety)]

**shackle** /'shakl/ *n* 1 (a metal ring like) a manacle or handcuff 2 sthg that restricts or prevents free action or expression – usu pl with sing meaning 3 a U-shaped piece of metal with a pin or bolt to close the opening [ME *shakel*, fr OE *scaecul*; akin to ON *skokull* pole of a cart]

**shackle** *vt* 1a to bind with shackles, fetter b to make fast with shackles 2 to deprive of freedom of thought or action by means of restrictions or handicaps; impede

**shack up** *vi* to live with and have a sexual relationship with sb; also to spend the night as a partner in sexual intercourse – usu + *together* or *with*; infml

**shad** /'shad/ *n*, *pl shad* any of several fishes of the herring family that have a relatively deep body and are important food fishes of Europe and N America [(assumed) ME, fr OE *scaedd*, akin to L *scatere* to bubble]

**shaddock** /'shadok/ *n* (a tree that bears) a very large usu pear-shaped citrus fruit closely related to the grapefruit but often with coarse dry pulp [Captain *Shaddock*, 17th-c E ship commander]

**shade** /'shayd/ *n* 1a partial darkness caused by the interception of rays of light b relative obscurity or insignificance 2 a place sheltered (e.g. by foliage) from the direct heat and glare of the sun 3 a transitory or illusory appearance 4 *pl* the shadows that gather as night falls 5 GHOST 2 6 sthg that intercepts or diffuses light or heat: e.g. a lampshade b chiefly NAM (1) *pl* sunglasses – infml (2) a window blind 7 the reproduction of shade in a picture 8a a colour produced by a pigment mixed with some black b a particular level of depth or brightness of a colour (a ~ of pink) 9 a minute difference or amount (the ~s of meaning in a poem) [ME, fr OE *scaedu*; akin to OHG *scato* shadow, Gk *skotos* darkness] – a shade a tiny bit; somewhat (a shade too much salt) – shades of – used intersectionally to indicate that one is reminded of or struck by a resemblance to a specified person or thing

**shade** *vt* 1a to shelter or screen by intercepting radiated light or heat b to cover with a shade 2 to darken or obscure (as if) with a shadow 3a to represent the effect of shade on b to mark with shading or gradations of colour 4 to change by gradual transition ~ *vi* to pass by slight changes or imperceptible degrees – usu + *into* or *off into*

**shade, tree** *n* a tree grown primarily to produce shade

**shading** /'shayding/ *n* an area of filled-in outlines to suggest three-dimensionality, shadow, or degrees of light and dark in a picture

**shadow** /'shadoh/ *n* 1a partial darkness caused by an opaque body interposed so as to cut off rays from a light source (the thieves lurked in the ~ of the house) b a dark area resembling shadow (~s under his eyes from fatigue) 2a a faint representation or suggestion (~s of future difficulties) b a mere semblance or imitation of sthg (she wore herself to a ~ by studying too hard) 3 a dark figure cast on a surface by a body intercepting light rays (the trees cast their ~s on the wall) 4 a phantom 5 *pl* darkness 6 a shaded or darker portion of a picture 7 an attenuated form; a vestige (after his illness he was only a ~ of his former self) 8a an inseparable companion or follower b one (e.g. a spy or detective) who shadows 9 a small degree or portion; a trace (without a ~ of doubt) 10 a source of gloom or disquiet (her death cast a ~ on the festivities) 11 a pervasive and often disabling influence (governed under the ~ of his predecessor) [ME *shadwe*, fr OE *scaeduw*, *scaedu* shade, shadow]

**shadow** *vi* 1 to cast a shadow over 2 to follow (a person) secretly; keep under surveillance 3 to shade

**shadow** *adj* 1 identical with another in form but without the other's power or status (a ~ government in exile); specif of or constituting the probable cabinet when the opposition party is returned to power (the ~ spokesman on employment) 2a having an indistinct pattern (~ *plaid*) b having darker sections of design (~ *lace*) 3 shown by throwing the shadows of performers or puppets on a screen (a ~ dance)

**shadow-box** *vi* to box with an imaginary opponent, esp as a form of training [back-formation fr *shadow-boxing*] – *shadow-boxing* *n*

**shadowy** /'shadoh-i/ *adj* 1a of the nature of or resembling a shadow; insubstantial b scarcely perceptible; indistinct 2 lying in or obscured by shadow (deep ~ interiors) – *shadowiness* *n*

**shady** /'shaydi/ *adj* 1 producing or affording shade (a ~ tree) 2 sheltered from the direct heat or light of the sun (a ~ spot) 3a of questionable merit; uncertain, unreliable (a ~ deal) b of doubtful integrity, disreputable (she's a ~ character) – chiefly infml – *shadily* *adv*, *shadiness* *n*

**shaft** /'shaft/ *n* 1a (the long handle of) a spear, lance, or similar weapon b a pole; specif either of 2 poles between which a horse is hitched to a vehicle c an arrow, esp for a longbow 2 a sharply delineated beam of light shining from an opening 3 sthg resembling the shaft of a spear, lance, etc, esp in having a long slender cylindrical form. e.g. a the trunk of a tree b the cylindrical pillar between the capital and the base of a column ARCHITECTURE c the handle of a tool or implement (e.g. a hammer or golf club) d a usu cylindrical bar used to support rotating pieces or to transmit power or motion by rotation e a man-made vertical or inclined opening leading underground to a mine, well, etc f a vertical opening or passage through the floors of a building (a lift ~) g the central stem of a feather ANATOMY 4 a scornful, satirical, or pitifully critical remark; a barb [ME, fr OE *scaft*, akin to OHG *scaft* shaft, L *scapus* shaft, stalk, Gk *skēptron* staff]

**shaft** *vt*, *NAM* to treat unfairly or harshly – slang

**shafting** /'shahfting/ *n* (material for) shafts

**shag** /'shag/ *n* 1a an unkempt or uneven tangled mass or covering (e.g. of hair) b long coarse or matted fibre or nap 2 a strong coarse tobacco cut into fine shreds 3 a European bird smaller than the closely related cormorant [(assumed) ME *shagge*, fr OE *scaega*, akin to ON *skegg* beard, Oslav *skokū* leap] – *shaggy* *adj*, *shaggily* *adv*

**shag** *vt* -gg- 1 to fuck, screw – vulg 2 *Br* to make utterly exhausted – usu + *out*, slang [origin unknown]

**shag** *n* an act of sexual intercourse – vulg

**shagbark** /'shag,bahk/ *n* (the wood of) a N American hickory with a grey shaggy outer bark that peels off in long strips

**shaggy-dog story** /'shagi/ *n* a protracted and inconsequential funny story whose humour lies in the pointlessness or irrelevance of the conclusion

**shagreen** /'sha'green/ *n* 1 an untanned leather covered with small round granulations and usu dyed green 2 the rough skin of various sharks and rays [by folk etymology fr F *chagrin*, fr Turk *çagri*] – *shagreen* *adj*

**shah** /'shah/ *n*, often *cap* a sovereign of Iran [Per. *shah* king – more at CHECK] – *shahdom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**shake** /'shayk/ *vb* *shook* /'shook/; *shaken* /'shaykən/ *vi* 1 to move to and fro with rapid usu irregular motion 2 to vibrate, esp from the impact of a blow or shock 3 to tremble as a result of physical or emotional disturbance 4 to shake hands (if you've agreed then ~ on it) ~ *vt* 1 to brandish, wave, or flourish, esp in a threatening manner 2 to cause to move with a rapidly alternating motion 3 to cause to quake, quiver, or tremble 4 to cause to waver; weaken (~ one's faith) 5 to put in a specified state by repeated quick jerky movements (shook himself free from the woman's grasp) 6 to dislodge or eject by quick jerky movements of the support or container (shook the dust from the cloth) 7 to clasp (hands) in greeting or farewell or to convey goodwill or agreement 8 to agitate the feelings of; upset (the news shook him) [ME *shaken*, fr OE *sceacan*; akin to ON *skaka* to shake, Skt *khajati* he agitates] – *shakable*, *shakeable* *adj* – shake a leg to hurry up, hasten – infml – shake one's head to move one's head from side to side to indicate disagreement, denial, disapproval, etc

**shake** *n* 1 an act of shaking (indicated her disapproval with a ~ of the head) 2 *pl* a condition of trembling (e.g. from chill or fever); specif DELIRIUM TREMENS 3 a wavering, vibrating, or alternating motion caused by a blow or shock 4 TRILL 1 MUSIC 5 chiefly NAM MILK SHAKE 6 chiefly NAM an earthquake 7 a moment (I'll be round in 2 ~s) USE (6&7) infml

**shake, down** /-down/ *n* 1 a makeshift bed (e.g. one made up on the floor) 2 NAM an act or instance of shaking sb down; esp extortion 3 NAM a thorough search USE (2&3) infml

**shakedown** *adj* designed to test a new ship, aircraft, etc and allow the crew to become familiar with it (a ~ cruise) [*shakedown* (period or process of adjustment)]

**shake down** *vi* 1 to stay the night or sleep, esp in a makeshift bed 2 to become comfortably established, esp in a new place or occupation ~ *vt* 1 to settle (as if) by shaking 2 to give a shakedown test to 3 NAM to obtain money from in a dishonest or illegal manner 4 NAM to make a thorough search of (a person); frisk USE (3&4) infml

**shake off** *vt* to free oneself from (shook off a heavy cold)

**shaker** /'shayka/ *n* 1 a container or utensil used to sprinkle or mix a substance by shaking (a flour ~) (a cocktail ~) 2 *cap* a member of an

American sect practising celibacy and a self-denying communal life, and looking forward to the millennium [<sup>1</sup>SHAKE + <sup>2</sup>FR, (2) fr a dance with shaking movements performed as part of worship] – **Shaker** *adj*, **Shakerism** *n*

**Shakespearean**, **Shakespearian** *also* **Shakspearean**, **Shaksperian** /ˈʃeɪkspɪəriən/ *n* or *adj* (an authority on or devotee) of Shakespeare [William Shakespeare 1616 E dramatist & poet] – **Shakespeareana**, **Shakespeariana** /-rɪˈnɑːnə/ *n* *pl*

**Shakespearean sonnet** *n* a sonnet consisting of 3 quatrains and a couplet with a rhyme scheme of *abab cdcd efef gg*

**'shake-up** *n* an act or instance of shaking up, *specif* an extensive and often drastic reorganization (e.g. of a company) – *infrm*

**shake up** *vt* 1 to jar (as if) by a physical shock (<the collision shook up both drivers>) 2 to reorganize by extensive and often drastic measures – *infrm*

**shako** /ˈʃahkoh, 'shakoh/ *n*, *pl* **shakos**, **shakoos** a stiff military hat with a high crown and plume [F, fr Hung *csako*]

**Shakta** /ˈʃukta/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of Shaktism [Skt *śakta*, fr *Sakti*]

**Shakti** /ˈʃukti/ *n* the dynamic energy of a Hindu god personified as his female consort, broadly cosmic energy as conceived in Hindu thought [Skt *Sakti*]

**Shaktism** /ˈʃuk.tɪz(ə)m/ *n* a Hindu cult of devotion to the female principle, often celebrated with magical rites and orgies

**shaky** /ˈʃeɪki/ *adj* 1a lacking stability, precarious /a ~ coalition/ b lacking in firmness (e.g. of beliefs or principles) 2a unsound in health, poorly b characterized by or affected with shaking 3 likely to give way or break down, rickety /a ~ chair/ – **shakily** *adv*, **shakiness** *n*

**shale** /ˈʃeɪl/ *n* a fine- to stratified or laminated rock formed by the consolidation of clay, mud, or silt [ME, *shell*, *scale*, fr OE *scælu* more at *SHUT*]

**shale oil** *n* a crude dark oil obtained from oil shale by heating

**shall** /ʃəl, strong ʃəl/ *verbal auxiliary, pres sing & pl shall; past should* /ʃəd, strong shoʊd/ 1 – used to urge or command /you ~ go/ or denote what is legally mandatory /it ~ be unlawful to carry firearms/ 2a – used to express what is inevitable or seems likely to happen in the future /we ~ have to be ready/ /we ~ see/ b – used in the question form to express simple futurity /when ~ we expect you?/, or with the force of an offer or suggestion /~ I open the window?/ 3 – used to express determination /they ~ not pass/ [ME *shal* (1 & 3 sing pres indic), fr OE *scenl*, akin to OHG *scal* (1 & 3 sing pres indic) ought to, must, Lith *skola* debt]

**shallot** /ˈʃəlɒt/ *n* (any of the small clusters of bulbs, used esp for pickling and in seasoning, produced by) a perennial plant that resembles the related onion [modif of F *échalote*, deriv of (assumed) VL *escalonum* – more at *SCALLION*]

**'shallow** /ˈʃaloh/ *adj* 1 having little depth /~ water/ 2 superficial in knowledge, thought, or feeling 3 not marked or accentuated /the plane went into a ~ dive/ /a ~ curve/ [ME *schalowe*] – **shallowly** *adv*, **shallowness** *n*

**²shallow** *vi* to become shallow

**³shallow** *n* a shallow place in a body of water – *usu* *pl* with sing meaning but sing or *pl* in constr

**shalom** /ʃəˈlohm, ʃəˈlom/ *interj* – used as a Jewish greeting and farewell [Heb *shalom* peace]

**shalom aleichem** /əˈleɪk(h)əm/ *interj* – used as a traditional Jewish greeting [Heb *shalom aleichem* peace unto you]

**shalt** /ʃalt/ *archaic* pres 2 sing of *SHALT*

**'sham** /ʃəm/ *n* 1 cheap falseness, hypocrisy /the ~ ... of the empty pageant – Oscar Wilde/ 2 an imitation or counterfeit purporting to be genuine 3 a person who shams [perh fr E dial *sham* (shame), alter of E *shame*] – **sham** *adj*

**²sham** *vb* -mm- *vt* to act so as to counterfeit /I ~ med a headache to get away/ ~ *vi* to create a deliberately false impression

**shaman** /ˈʃahmən, 'ʃay-/ *n* a priest believed to exercise magic power (e.g. for healing and divination), esp through ecstatic trances [Russ or Tungus, Russ, fr Tungus *šaman*] – **shamanism** *n*, **shamanist** *n*

**shamateur** /ˈʃhamiə, 'ʃhaməˈtu:/ *n* a sports player who is officially classed as amateur but who takes payment – *derog* [blend of *sham* and *amateur*] – **shamateurism** /-tuhnz(ə)m/ *n*

**'shamble** /ˈʃambəl/ *vi* **shambling** /ˈʃambliŋ/ (to walk awkwardly with dragging feet, shuffle [*shamble* (bowed, malformed)])

**²shamble** *n* a shambling gait

**shambles** /ˈʃambəlz/ *n*, *pl* **shambles** 1 a slaughterhouse 2a a place of carnage b a scene or a state of great destruction, chaos, or confusion, a mess /the place was left a ~ by hooligans/ [*shamble* (meat market) &

obs *shamble* (table for exhibition of meat for sale), fr ME *shamel*, fr OE *scamul*, *scamul* stool, table]

**shambolic** /ˈʃambˈbɒlɪk/ *adj*, *Br* utterly chaotic or confused – *infrm* [irreg fr *shambles*]

**'shame** /ʃeɪm/ *n* 1a a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcomings, impropriety, or disgrace b susceptibility to such emotion /was not upset because she had no ~/ 2 humiliating disgrace or disrepute; ignominy 3 sthg bringing regret or disgrace /it's a ~ you weren't there/ [ME, fr OE *scamu*, akin to OHG *scama* shame]

**²shame** *vt* 1 to bring shame to, disgrace 2 to put to shame by outdoing 3 to fill with a sense of shame 4 to compel by causing to feel guilty /~d into confessing/

**'shamefaced** /-ˈfeɪst/ *adj* 1 showing modesty, bashful 2 showing shame, ashamed [alter of arch *shamefast* (bound by shame), fr ME, fr OE *scamfast*, fr *scamu* + *fast* fixed, fast] – **shamefacedly** /-ˈfeɪsɪdli/ *adv*, **shamefacedness** /-ˈfeɪsɪdnɪs/ *n*

**'shameful** /-(f)əl/ *adj* 1 bringing disrepute or ignominy, disgraceful 2 arousing the feeling of shame – **shamefully** *adv*, **shamefulness** *n*

**'shameless** /-lɪs/ *adj* 1 insensitive to disgrace 2 showing lack of shame, disgraceful – **shamelessly** *adv*

**shammy** /ˈʃami/ *n* CHAMOIS 2 [by alter]

**'shampoo** /ˈʃamˈpoʊ/ *vt* **shampoo**; **shampooing**; **shampooed** 1 to clean (esp the hair or a carpet) with shampoo 2 to wash the hair of [Hindi *capo*, imper of *cāpna* to press, shampoo] – **shampooist** *n*

**²shampoo** *n*, *pl* **shampoos** 1 a washing of the hair esp by a hairdresser 2 a soap, detergent, etc used for shampooing

**shamrock** /ˈʃam,rok/ *n* any of several plants (e.g. a wood sorrel or some clovers) whose leaves have 3 leaflets and are used as a floral emblem by the Irish [Ir Gael *seamrog*]

**shandy** /ˈʃandi/ *n* a drink consisting of beer mixed with lemonade or ginger beer [short for *shandygaff*, of unknown origin]

**shanghai** /ˈʃangˈhie/ *vt* **shanghai**; **shanghaiing**; **shanghai'd** /-hied/ 1 to compel to join a ship's crew, esp by the help of drink or drugs – compare *PRIS-GANG* 2 to put into an awkward or unpleasant position by trickery [Shanghai, seaport in E. China, fr the formerly widespread use of this method to procure sailors for voyages to the Orient]

**Shangri-la** /ˈʃang grɪˈlɑː/ *n* a remote imaginary place where life approaches perfection [Shangri-La, imaginary land depicted in the novel *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton ~1954 E novelist]

**shank** /ˈʃaŋk/ *n* 1a a leg, *specif* the part of the leg between the knee and the ankle in human beings or the corresponding part in various other vertebrates b a cut of beef, veal, mutton, or lamb from the upper or the lower part of the leg 2 a straight narrow usu vital part of an object e.g. a the straight part of a nail or pin b the stem or stalk of a plant c the part of an anchor between the ring and the crown d the part of a fishhook between the eye and the bend e the part of a key between the handle and the bit f the narrow part of the sole of a shoe beneath the instep 3 a part of an object by which it can be attached to sthg else e.g. a(1) a projection on the back of a solid button (2) a short stem of thread that holds a sewn button away from the cloth b the end (e.g. of a drill bit) that is gripped in a chuck [ME *shanke*, fr OE *scanca* akin to ON *skakkr* crooked, Gk *skazein* to limp]

**shanks's mare** /ˈʃaŋksɪz/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* SHANKS'S PONY

**shanks's pony** *n* one's own feet or legs considered as a means of transport /went home by ~/ humor [shanks, *pl* of *shank*]

**shanny** /ˈʃani/ *n* a small European blenny [origin unknown]

**shan't** /ˈʃahnt/ shall not

**shantung** /ˈʃanˈtʊŋ/ *n* a silk fabric in plain weave with a slightly irregular surface [Shantung, province in NE China]

**'shanty** /ˈʃanti/ *n* a small crudely built or dilapidated dwelling or shelter, a shack [CanF *chanter*, fr F, gantry, fr L *cantherius* trellis]

**²shanty** *n* a song sung by sailors in rhythm with their work [modif of F *chanter* to sing – more at *CHANT*]

**'shanty,town** /-ˈtown/ *n* (part of) a town consisting mainly of shanties

**'shape** /ʃeɪp/ *vt* 1 to form, create, esp to give a particular form or shape to /~d the clay into a cube/ 2 to adapt in shape so as to fit neatly and closely /a dress ~d to fit/ 3 to guide or mould into a particular state or condition /shaping her plans for the future/ 4a to determine or direct the course of (e.g. a person's life) b to cause to take a particular form or course /~ the course of history/ [ME *shapen*, alter of OE *scieppan*, akin to OHG *scieffen* to shape] – **shapable**, **shapeable** *adj*, **shaper** *n*

**²shape** *n* 1a the visible or tactile form of a particular (kind of) item b(1) spatial form /all solids have ~/ (2) a circle, square, or other standard geometrical form 2 the contour of the body, esp of the trunk; the figure

- 3a** a phantom, apparition **b** an assumed appearance; a guise (*the devil in the ~ of a serpent*) **4** definite form (e.g. in thought or words) (*the plan slowly took ~*) **5** a general structure or plan (*the final ~ of society*) **6** sth made in a particular form (*a ~ for moulding jellies*) **7a** the condition of a person or thing, esp at a particular time (*in excellent ~ for his age*) **b** a fit or ordered condition (*got the car into ~*) – **shaped** *adj*
- 'shapeless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** having no definite shape **2** deprived of usual or proper shape; misshapen (*a ~ old hat*) – **shapelessly** *adv*, **shapelessness** *n*
- 'shapely** /-li-/ *adj* having a pleasing shape; well-proportioned – **shapeliness** *n*
- shape up** *vi* to (begin to) behave or perform satisfactorily
- 'shard** /'shahd/ *n* **1** a piece or fragment of sth brittle (e.g. earthenware) **2** SHERD **2** [ME, fr OE *scæard*; akin to OE *scieran* to cut – more at SHEAR]
- 'share** /'sheə/ *n* **1a** a portion belonging to, due to, or contributed by an individual **b** a full or fair portion (*she's had her ~ of fun*) **2a** the part allotted or belonging to a number owning property or interest together **b** any of the equal portions into which property or invested capital is divided *c pl*, chiefly *Br* the proprietorship element in a company, usu represented by transferable certificates [ME, fr OE *scæaru* cutting, tansure; akin to OE *scieran* to cut – more at SHEAR]
- 'share** *vt* **1** to divide and distribute in shares; apportion – *usu* + *out* **2** to partake of, use, experience, or enjoy with others ~ *vi* to have a share or part – often + *in* – **shareable**, **shareable** *adj*, **sharer** *n*
- 'share** *n* a ploughshare [ME *share*, fr OE *scæar*; akin to OHG *scaro* ploughshare, OE *scieran* to cut]
- 'sharecropper** /-'kropə/ *n*, *NAM* a tenant farmer, esp in the southern USA, who lives on credit provided by the landlord and receives an agreed share of the value of the crop – **sharecrop** *vb*
- 'shareholder** /-'hohldə/ *n* the holder or owner of a share in property
- 'sharemilking** /-'milkɪŋ/ *n*, *NZ* the system of helping an owner of dairy cattle with milking in exchange for a share in the profits – **sharemilker** *n*
- 'sharepusher** *n*, *Br* a dealer who sells shares other than through the usual channels and often fraudulently
- 'sharif** /'sha'reef/ *n* a descendant of the prophet Muhammad through his daughter Fatima; broadly one of noble ancestry or political preeminence in a predominantly Islamic country [Ar *sharif*, lit., illustrious] – **sharifian** /'sha'reefi-ən/ *adj*
- 'shark** /'shahk/ *n* any of numerous mostly large typically grey marine fishes that are mostly active, voracious, and predators and have gill slits at the sides and a mouth on the under part of the body [origin unknown]
- 'shark** *n* **1** a greedy unscrupulous person who exploits others by usury, extortion, or trickery **2** *NAM* one who excels greatly, esp in a specified field – *infml* [prob modif (influenced in form & meaning by 'shark) of G *schurke* scoundrel]
- 'sharkskin** /-'skɪn/ *n* (leather from) the hide of a shark **2** a smooth stiff durable fabric in twill or basket weave with small woven designs
- 'sharp** /'shəp/ *adj* **1** (adapted to) cutting or piercing, e.g. a having a thin keen edge or fine point **b** biting cold, icy (*a ~ wind*) **2a** keen in intellect, perception, attention, etc (*~ sight*) (*keep a ~ lookout*) **b** paying shrewd usu selfish attention to personal gain (*a ~ trader*) **3a** brisk, vigorous (*a ~ trot*) **b** capable of acting or reacting strongly, esp caustic (*a ~ soap*) **4** severe, harsh, e.g. a marked by irritability or anger; fiery (*a ~ temper*) **b** causing intense usu sudden anguish (*a ~ pain*) **c** cutting in language or implication (*a ~ rebuke*) **5** affecting the senses or sense organs intensely: e.g. *a* (1) pungent, tart, or acid, esp in flavour (2) acid **b** shrill, piercing *c* issuing in a brilliant burst of light (*a ~ flash*) **6a** characterized by hard lines and angles (*~ features*) **b** involving an abrupt change in direction (*a ~ turn*) *c* clear in outline or detail; distinct (*a ~ image*) *d* conspicuously clear (*~ contrast*) **7** of a musical note raised a semitone in pitch **8** stylish, dressy – *infml* [ME, fr OE *scæarp*; akin to OE *scieran* to cut – more at SHEAR] – **sharply** *adv*, **sharpness** *n*
- 'sharp** *adv* **1** in an abrupt manner (*the car pulled up ~*) (*turn ~ right*) **2** exactly, precisely (*4 o'clock ~*) **3** above the proper musical pitch (*they're playing ~*)
- 'sharp** *n* **1a** a musical note 1 semitone higher than another indicated or previously specified note **b** a character on the musical staff indicating a raising in pitch of a semitone  **MUSIC** **2** a relatively long needle with a sharp point and a small rounded eye for use in general sewing **3** chiefly *NAM* a swindler, sharper
- 'sharpen** /'shahpən/ *vb* to make or become sharp or sharper – **sharpen** *n*
- 'sharpening stone** *n* WHETSTONE **1**
- 'sharper** /'shahpə/ *n* a cheat, swindler, esp a gambler who habitually cheats ['sharp + -er]
- 'sharpish** /'shahpɪʃ/ *adv*, *Br* with haste, somewhat quickly – *infml* (*we'd better move ~ to get some tea*)
- 'sharp practice** *n* dealing in which advantage is taken or sought unscrupulously
- 'sharpshooter** /-'shoohtə/ *n* a good marksman – **sharpshooting** *n*
- 'sharp-tongued** *adj* cutting or sarcastic in speech, quick to rebuke
- 'shat** /'shat/ *past* of SHIT
- 'shatter** /'shatə/ *vt* **1a** to break into pieces (e.g. by a sudden blow) **b** to cause to break down, impair, disable (*his nerves were ~ed*) **2** to have a forceful or violent effect on the feelings of (*she was absolutely ~ed by the news*) **3** to cause to be utterly exhausted (*felt ~ed by the long train journey*) ~ *vi* to break suddenly apart, disintegrate *USE* (*vt 2&3*) *infml* [ME *schateren*] – **shatteringly** *adv*
- 'shave** /'shayv/ *vb* **shaved**, **shaven** /'shayv(ə)n/ *vt* **1a** to remove in thin layers or shreds – often + *off* (*~ off a thin slice of cheese*) **b** to cut off thin layers or shreds from *c* to cut or trim closely (*a closely ~d lawn*) **2a** to remove the hair from by cutting close to the roots **b** to cut off (hair or beard) close to the skin **3** to come very close to or brush against in passing ~ *vi* to cut off hair or beard close to the skin [ME *shaven*, fr OE *scāfan*, akin to L *scabere* to shave, *capo capon*]
- 'shave** *n* **1** a tool or machine for shaving **2** an act or process of shaving
- 'shavehook** /-'hook/ *n* a tool for scraping that has a usu triangular blade set at right angles to a shaft
- 'shaver** /'shayvə/ *n* **1** an electric-powered razor **2** a boy, youngster – *infml* ['SHAVE + -ER]
- 'shave tail** /-'tayl/ *n*, *NAM* a (newly broken in) pack mule [fr the practice of shaving the tails of newly broken mules to distinguish them from untrained ones]
- Shavian** /'shayvyan/ *n* or *adj* (an admirer or devotee) of G B Shaw, his writings, or his social and political theories [NL *Shavius*, latinized form of George Bernard Shaw †1950 *Br* (Ir-born) author & socialist]
- 'shaving** /'shayvɪŋ/ *n* sth shaved off – *usu pl* (*wood ~s*)
- 'shaw** /'shaw/ *n*, chiefly *Br* the stalks and leaves of a cultivated crop (e.g. potatoes or turnips) [prob alter of *show*]
- 'shawl** /'shawl/ *n* a usu decorative square, oblong, or triangular piece of fabric that is worn to cover the head or shoulders [Per *shāl*]
- 'shawl collar** *n* a collar that is rolled back and follows a continuous line round the neck and down the front edges of a garment  **CARMENT**
- 'shawm** /'shawm/ *n* an early double-reed woodwind instrument [ME *schalme*, fr MF *chalemie*, modif of LL *calamellus*, dim. of L *calamus* reed, fr Gk *kalamos* – more at HAULM]
- 'Shawnee** /'shawnee/ *n*, *pl Shawnees*, esp collectively *Shawnee* (the Algonquian language of) a member of a N American Indian people orig of the central Ohio valley [back-formation fr obs *E Shawnese*, fr Shawnee *Shawwanwaaki*, lit., those in the south]
- 'she** /'shi, strong shee/ *pron* **1** that female person or creature who is neither speaker nor hearer (*~ is my mother*) **2** – used to refer to sth regarded as feminine (e.g. by personification) (*~ was a fine ship*) [ME, prob alter. of *hyc*, alter. of OE *heo she* – more at HE]
- 'she** /'shee/ *n* a female person or creature (*is the baby a he or a ~*) – often in combination (*she-cat*)
- 'shea butter** /'shiə/ *n* a pale solid fat from the seeds of the shea tree used in food, soap, and candles
- 'sheaf** /'sheef/ *n*, *pl sheaves* /'sheevz/ **1** a quantity of plant material, esp the stalks and ears of a cereal grain, bound together **2** a collection of items laid out or tied together (*a ~ of papers*) [ME *sheef*, fr OE *scēaf*; akin to OHG *scoub* sheaf, Russ *chub* forelock]
- 'shear** /'shiə/ *vb* **sheared**, **shorn** /'shaw/ *vt* **1a** to cut off the hair from (*with shorn scalp*) **b** to cut or clip (hair, wool, a fleece, etc) from sb or sth; also to cut sth from (*~ a lawn*) *c* to cut (as if) with shears (*~ a metal shoe in 2*) **2** to cut with sth sharp **3** to deprive of sth as if by cutting off – *usu passive* + *of* (*has been shorn of her authority*) **4** to subject to a shear force ~ *vi* **1** to become divided or separated under the action of a shear force (*the bolt may ~ off*) **2** chiefly *Scot* to reap crops with a sickle [ME *sheren*, fr OE *scieran*; akin to ON *skera* to cut, L *curtus* shortened, Gk *keirein* to cut, shear] – **shearer** *n*, **shearing** *n*

**shear** *n* 1a a cutting implement similar to a pair of scissors but typically larger **b** any of various cutting tools or machines operating by the action of opposed cutting edges of metal **c** also *sheer* a sheerlegs – usu pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr 2 an action or force that causes or tends to cause 2 parts of a body to slide on each other in a direction parallel to their plane of contact **USE** (1a, b) usu pl with sing meaning

**shearing** /-lɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a sheep after its first shearing

**shearwater** /-ˈwɔːtə/ *n* any of numerous seabirds that usu skim close to the waves in flight

**sheathfish** /ˈsheɪt.fɪʃ/ *n* a wels [alter. of *sheathfish*, fr *sheath* + *fish*]

**sheath** /sheɪθ/ *n*, pl *sheaths* /sheɪðz/ 1 a case or cover for a blade (e.g. of a knife or sword) 2 a cover or case of a (part of a) plant or animal body (<the leaves of grasses form a ~ round the main stalk>) 3 a cover or support (applied) like the sheath of a blade 4 a condom [ME *shethe*, fr OE *sceath*, akin to OHG *sceida* sheath, L *scindere* to cut – more at **SHED**]

**sheathe** /sheɪð/ *vt* 1 to put into or provide with a sheath (<~d her dagger>) 2 to withdraw (a claw) into a sheath 3 to encase or cover with sthg protective (e.g. thin boards or sheets of metal) [ME *shethen*, fr *shethe* sheath]

**sheath knife** *n* a knife that has a fixed blade and is carried in a sheath

**shea tree** /ˈʃiːə/ *n* a tropical African tree of the sapodilla family with fatty nuts that yield shea butter [Bambara *si*]

**sheave** /sheɪv/ *n* a grooved wheel (e.g. in a pulley block) [ME *sheve*; akin to OE *sceath* sheath]

**sheave** *vt* to gather and bind into a sheaf [*sheaf*]

**shebang** /ˈʃiːbæŋ/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* an affair, business (<she's head of the whole ~>) – infml [perh alter. of *shebeen*]

**shebeen** /ˈʃiːbeɪn/ *n*, chiefly *Irish* an unlicensed or illegally operated drinking establishment [IrGael *sibín* little mug, bad ale]

**shed** /ʃed/ *vb* -dd-; *shed* *vt* 1 to be incapable of holding or absorbing, repel (<a duck's plumage ~s water>) 2a to cause (blood) to flow by wounding or killing **b** to pour forth, let flow (<~ tears>) **c** to give off or out, cast (<the book ~s some light on this subject>) 3 to cast off or let fall (a natural covering) ~ *vi* to cast off hairs, threads etc, moult (<the dog is ~ding>) [ME *sheden* to divide, separate, fr OE *sceadan*; akin to OHG *skeidan* to separate, L *scindere* to cut, split, Gk *schizein* to split]

**shed** *n* WATERSHED 1

**shed** *n* a usu single-storied building for shelter, storage, etc, esp with 1 or more sides open [alter. of earlier *shadde*, prob fr ME *shade* shade]

**she'd** /ʃɪd/, *strong* *sheed*/ *she* had, *she* would

**sheen** /sheɪn/ *n* 1 a bright or shining quality or condition, brightness, lustre 2 a subdued shininess or glitter of a surface 3 a lustrous surface imparted to textiles through finishing processes or use of shiny yarns [ME *shene* beautiful, bright, fr OE *sciene*; akin to OE *sceawian* to look – more at **SNOW**] – *sheeny* *adj*

**sheeny** /ˈsheɪni/ *n* a Jew – derog [origin unknown]

**sheep** /sheep/ *n*, pl *sheep* 1 any of numerous ruminant mammals related to the goats but stockier and lacking a beard in the male, *specif* one domesticated, esp for its flesh and wool 2 an inane or docile person, esp one easily influenced or led [ME, fr OE *sceap*; akin to OHG *scāf* sheep]

**sheep,cote** /-ˌkɒt-, -ˌkoʊt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a sheepfold

**sheep,dip** *n* a liquid preparation into which sheep are plunged, esp to destroy parasites

**sheep,dog** /-ˌdɒɡ/ *n* a dog used to tend, drive, or guard sheep; *esp* BORDER COLLIE

**sheep,fold** /-ˌfɒld/ *n* a pen or shelter for sheep

**sheep,herder** /-ˌhɜːdər/ *n*, *NAm* a shepherd

**sheepish** /ˈsheɪpɪʃ/ *adj* embarrassed by consciousness of a fault (<a ~ look>) [SHEEP + -ISH] – *sheepishly* *adv*, *sheepishness* *n*

**sheep,ked** /ˌkeɪd/ *n* a wingless bloodsucking fly that feeds chiefly on sheep (<sheep + ked (sheep ked)>), of unknown origin]

**sheep's eyes** *n* pl wistful amorous glances (<making ~ at her>)

**sheep's fescue** /ˈfeskjuː/ *n* a hardy European grass with very thin leaves

**sheep,shank** /-ˌʃæŋk/ *n* a knot for shortening a rope

**sheep,shearing** /-ˌʃɪərɪŋ/ *n* (the time for or a festival at) the shearing of sheep – *sheepshearer* *n*

**sheep,skin** /-ˌskɪn/ *n* 1 (leather from) the skin of a sheep 2 the skin of a sheep dressed with the wool on (<a ~ coat>)

**sheep tick** *n* a bloodsucking tick whose young cling to bushes and readily attach themselves to passing animals

**sheep walk** *n*, chiefly *Br* a tract of land on which sheep are pastured

**sheer** /ʃɪə/ *adj* 1 transparently fine, diaphanous (<~ tights>) 2a unqualified, utter (<~ ignorance>) **b** not mixed or mingled with anything else; pure, unadulterated 3 marked by great and unbroken steepness; precipitous (<a ~ cliff>) [ME *schere* freed from guilt, prob alter. of *skere*, fr ON *skær* pure; akin to OE *scinan* to shine]

**sheer** *adv* 1 altogether, completely (<his name went ~ out of my head>) 2 straight up or down without a break (<rugged cliffs rose ~ out of the sea>)

**sheer** *vb* to (cause to) deviate from a course [perh alter. of *shēar*]

**sheer** *n* a turn, deviation, or change in a course (e.g. of a ship)

**sheer** *n* the curvature from front to rear of a ship's deck as observed when looking from the side [perh alter. of *shear*]

**sheer** *n* SHEAR 1c – usu pl with sing meaning but sing. or pl in constr


**sheer,legs** /-ˌleɪɡz/ *n* sing or pl in constr, pl *sheerlegs* a hoisting apparatus consisting of 2 or more upright beams fastened together at their upper ends and having tackle for lifting heavy loads (e.g. masts or guns)

**sheer off** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to depart or turn away abruptly, esp in order to evade

**sheet** /sheet/ *n* 1 a broad piece of cloth, *specif* a rectangle of cloth (e.g. of linen or cotton) used as an article of bed linen 2a a usu rectangular piece of paper **b** a printed section for a book, esp before it has been folded, cut, or bound – usu pl **c** the unseparated postage stamps printed by 1 impression of a plate on a single piece of paper 3 a broad usu flat expanse (<a ~ of ice>) 4 a suspended or moving expanse (<a ~ of flame>) (<~s of rain>) 5a a piece of sthg that is thin in comparison to its length and breadth **b** a flat metal baking utensil [ME *shete*, fr OE *scyte*; akin to OE *sceotan* to shoot – more at **SHOOT**]

**sheet** *vt* to form into, provide with, or cover with a sheet or sheets ~ *vi* to come down in sheets (<the rain ~ed against the windows>)

**sheet** *adj* rolled into or spread out in a sheet (<~ steel>)

**sheet** *n* 1 a rope that regulates the angle at which a sail is set in relation to the wind  SHIP 2 pl the spaces at either end of an open boat [ME *shete*, fr OE *sceata* lower corner of a sail; akin to OE *scyte* sheet]

**sheet anchor** *n* 1 an emergency anchor formerly carried in the broadest part of a ship 2 a principal support or dependence, esp in danger; a mainstay [alter. (prob influenced by *sheet*) of earlier *shoot anchor*, fr ME *shute anker*]

**sheet bend** *n* a knot or hitch used for temporarily fastening one rope to a loop in another

**sheet glass** *n* glass made in large sheets directly from the furnace

**sheeting** /ˈsheetɪŋ/ *n* (material suitable for making into) sheets


**sheet lightning** *n* lightning in diffused or sheet form due to reflection and diffusion by clouds

**sheet metal** *n* metal in the form of a thin sheet

**sheet music** *n* music printed on large unbound sheets of paper

**sheikh**, *sheik* /ˈʃeɪk/, *sheek*/ *n* 1 an Arab chief 2 *sheik*, *sheikh* a romantically attractive or dashing man [Ar *shaykh*] – *sheikhdom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**sheila**, *sheilah* /ˈʃiːlə/ *n*, *Austr*, *NZ*, & *S Afr* a young woman; a girl – infml [alter. (influenced by girl's name *Sheila*) of E dial. *shaler*]

**shekel** /ˈʃekl/ *n* 1 an ancient Hebrew gold or silver coin 2  ISRAEL at NATIONALITY 3 pl money – infml [Heb *sheqel*]

**sheldrake** /ˈʃeldrəɪk/ *n* a shelduck [ME, fr *sheld-* (akin to MD *schillede* parti-coloured) + *drake*]

**shelduck** /ˈʃeldʊk/ *n* any of various Old World ducks; esp a common mostly black and white duck slightly larger than the mallard [*shel-* (as in *sheldrake*) + *duck*]

**shelf** /shelf/ *n*, pl *shelves* /shelfz/ 1 a thin flat usu long and narrow piece of material (e.g. wood) fastened horizontally (e.g. on a wall or in a cupboard, bookcase, etc) at a distance from the floor to hold objects 2 sthg resembling a shelf in form or position e.g. a (partially submerged) sandbank or ledge of rocks **b** a flat projecting layer of rock **c** CONTINENTAL SHELF [ME, prob fr OE *scylfe*; akin to L *scalpere*, *sculpere* to carve, OE *scell* shell] – off the shelf 1 available from stock 2 OFF THE PEG – on the shelf 1 in a state of inactivity or uselessness 2 of a single woman considered as unlikely to marry, esp because too old

**shelf-life** *n* the length of time for which a product (e.g. a tinned or packaged food) may be stored or displayed without serious deterioration

**shell** /shel/ *n* 1a a hard rigid often largely calcium-containing covering of an animal (e.g. a turtle, oyster, or beetle) **b** a seashell **c** the hard or



tough outer covering of an egg, esp a bird's egg 2 the covering or outside part of a fruit or seed, esp when hard or fibrous 3 shell material or shells <an ornament made of ~> 4 sth like a shell e.g. a framework or exterior structure, esp the outer frame of a building that is unfinished or has been destroyed (e.g. by fire) b a hollow form devoid of substance <mere effigies and ~s of men - Thomas Carlyle> c an edible case for holding a filling <a pastry ~> 5 a cold and reserved attitude that conceals the presence or absence of feeling <wish she'd come out of her ~> 6 a narrow light racing rowing boat propelled by 1 or more rowers 7 any of various spherical regions surrounding the nucleus of an atom at various distances from it and each occupied by a group of electrons of approximately equal energy 8a a projectile for a cannon containing an explosive bursting charge b a metal or paper case which holds the charge in cartridges, fireworks, etc. [ME, fr OE *scell*, akin to OE *secal* shell, ON *skel*, L *silex* pebble, flint, Gk *skallein* to hoe] - *shelly* adj

**shell** *vt* 1 to take out of a natural enclosing cover (e.g. a shell, husk, pod, or capsule) <~ peanuts> 2 to fire shells at, on, or into ~ *vi* 1 to fall or scale off in thin pieces 2 to fall out of the pod or husk <nuts which ~ on falling from the tree>

**she'll** /ʃhi/, *strong* *sheel*/ she will; she shall

**shellac** /ʃhelak/ *n* the purified form of a resin produced by various insects, usu obtained as yellow or orange flakes, also a solution of this in alcohol used esp in making varnish [ʃʰell + lac, trans of F *laque en écailles* lac in thin flakes]

**shellac** *vt* -ck- to treat, esp by coating, with shellac

**shelled** *adj* 1 having a shell, esp of a specified kind - often in combination <pink-shelled> <thick-shelled> 2a having the shell removed <~ oysters> <~ nuts> b removed from the pod or cob <~ peas>

**shellfish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* an aquatic invertebrate animal with a shell, esp an edible mollusc or crustacean

**shell jacket** *n* a short tight military jacket worn buttoned up the front

**shell out** *vb* to pay (money) - *infrml*

**shell pink** *n* or *adj* (a) light yellowish pink

**shellproof** /-pruʊf/ *adj* constructed so as to resist attack by shells or bombs

**shell shock** *n* a mental disorder characterized by neurotic and often hysterical symptoms that occurs under conditions (e.g. wartime combat) that cause intense stress - *shell-shock* *vi*

**Shelta** /ʃelʔa/ *n* a secret jargon of Irish vagrants [origin unknown]

**shelter** /ʃelʔa/ *n* 1 sth, esp a structure, affording cover or protection <an air-raid ~> 2 the state of being covered and protected, refuge <took ~> [perh fr obs *sheltron* (phalanx), fr OE *scieldtruma*, fr *scield* shield + *truma* troop]

**shelter** *vt* 1 to serve as a shelter for; protect <a thick hedge ~ed the orchard> 2 to keep concealed or protected <~ed her family in a mountain cave> ~ *vi* to take shelter

**sheltie**, **sheltie** /ʃelʔi/ *n* a Shetland pony or sheepdog [prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *Hjalti* Shetlander]

**shelve** /ʃelv/ *vt* 1 to provide with shelves 2 to place on a shelf 3a to remove from active service; dismiss b to put off or aside <~ a project> ~ *vi* to slope gently [*shelf*]

**shelving** /ʃelʃvɪŋ/ *n* (material for constructing) shelves

**Shema** /ʃə'mə/ *n* the Jewish confession of faith beginning 'Hear, O Israel...' [Heb *shēma* 'hear, first word of Deut 6.4]

**shemuzzle** /ʃi'mozl/ *n* a source or scene of confusion or dispute, a to-do, mix-up - *infrml* [modif of Yiddish *shlimazel* bad luck, difficulty, misfortune, fr *shlim* bad, ill + *mazel* luck]

**shenanigan** /ʃi'nə'nɪɡən/ *n* 1 deliberate deception, trickery 2 boisterous mischief; high jinks - usu pl with sing meaning *USE* *infrml* [origin unknown]

**Sheol** /ʃee,ohl, -'ɔ:/ *n* the abode of the dead in early Hebrew thought [Heb *Shē'ōl*]

**shepherd** /ʃepəd/ *n* 1 *fm* *shepherdess* /-des/ one who tends sheep 2 a pastor [ME *shepherde*, fr OE *scæpyrde*, fr *scæp* sheep + *hierde* herdsman; akin to OE *heord* herd]

**shepherd** *vt* 1 to tend as a shepherd 2 to guide, marshal, or conduct (people) like sheep <~ed the children onto the train>

**shepherd dog** *n* a sheepdog

**shepherd's pie** *n* a hot dish of minced meat, esp lamb, with a mashed potato topping - compare *COTTAGE PIE*

**shepherd's purse** *n* a white-flowered annual plant of the mustard family that has small flat heart-shaped seed pods and is a common weed

**sherardize**, -ise /ʃerədiez/ *vt* to coat (e.g. iron or steel) with zinc by heating with zinc dust [Sherard Cowper-Coles †1936 E inventor]

**Sheraton** /ʃerə(t)ən/ *adj* of or being a style of furniture that originated in England around 1800 and is characterized by straight lines and graceful proportions [Thomas Sheraton †1806 E furniture designer]

**sherbet** /ʃuhbat/ *n* 1 (a drink made with) a sweet powder that effervesces in liquid and is eaten dry or used to make fizzy drinks 2 a water ice with egg white, gelatin, or sometimes milk added [Turk & Per, Turk *şerbet*, fr Per *sharbat*, fr Ar *sharbah* drink]

**sherd** /ʃuhd, shahd/ *n* 1 *SHARD* 2 fragments of pottery vessels

**sheriff** /ʃerɪf/ *n* 1 the honorary chief executive officer of the Crown in each English county who has mainly judicial and ceremonial duties 2 the chief judge of a Scottish county or district 3 a county law enforcement officer in the USA [ME *shirreve*, fr OE *scirgerefa*, fr *scir* shire + *gerefa* reeve - more at 'REEVE'] - *sheriffdom* /-d(ə)m/ *n*

**Sheriff court** *n* the main inferior court in Scotland, dealing with both civil and criminal cases, and having appeal to the High Court of Justiciary

*LAW*

**Sherpa** /ʃuhpə/ *n* a member of a Tibetan people living on the high southern slopes of the Himalayas

**sherry** /ʃeri/ *n* a blended fortified wine from S Spain that varies in colour from very light to dark brown [alter of earlier *sherris* (taken as pl), fr *Xeres* (now *Jerez*), city in Spain]

**she's** /ʃi:z, strong *sheez*/ she is, she has

**Shetland** /ʃetlənd/ *n* 1 a Shetland pony or sheepdog 2 *often not cap* (a garment made from) a lightweight loosely twisted yarn of Shetland wool used for knitting and weaving [Shetland Islands off N Scotland]

**Shetland pony** *n* (any of) a breed of small stocky shaggy hardy ponies that originated in the Shetland islands

**Shetland sheepdog** *n* any of a breed of small dogs that resemble miniature collies

**Shetland wool** *n* (yarn spun from) fine wool from sheep raised in the Shetland islands

**Shevuoth** /ʃe'vooθ-oth/ *n* Shabuoth

**shew** /show/ *vb*, *archaic* *Br* to show

**shewbread**, **showbread** /ʃohbred/ *n* consecrated unleavened bread ritually placed by the Jewish priests of ancient Israel on a table in the sanctuary of the Tabernacle on the Sabbath [trans of G *schaubrot*]

**Shia** /ʃee-ə/ *n* pl *in constr* the members of the *major* branch of Islam deriving authority from Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law Ali and his appointed successors, the Imams - compare *SUNNI* 1 [Ar *shī'ah* sect]

**shibboleth** /ʃɪbə,leθ/ *n* 1a a catchword, slogan b a use of language that distinguishes a group of people c a commonplace belief or saying <the ~ that crime does not pay> 2 a custom that characterizes members of a particular group [Heb *shibboleth* stream, fr the use of this word as a test to distinguish Gileadites from Ephraimites, who pronounced it *sibboleth*]

**shickered** /ʃɪkəd/ *adj*, *Austr & NZ* drunk - *infrml* [Yiddish *shiker*, fr Heb *shikkôr*, fr *shikhar* to be drunk]

**shield** /ʃi:ld/ *n* 1 a piece of armour (e.g. of wood, metal, or leather) carried on the arm or in the hand and used esp for warding off blows 2 sby or sth that protects or defends, a defence 3 a piece of material or a pad attached inside a garment (e.g. a dress) at the armpit to protect the garment from perspiration 4 sth designed to protect people from injury from moving parts of machinery, live electrical conductors, etc 5 a defined area, the surface of which constitutes a heraldic field, on which heraldic arms are displayed; esp one that is wide at the top and rounds to a point at the bottom 6 an armoured screen protecting an otherwise exposed gun 7 a protective structure (e.g. a carapace, scale, or plate) of some animals 8 the Precambrian central rock mass of a continent 9 sth resembling a shield e.g. a trophy awarded in recognition of achievement (e.g. in a sporting event) b a decorative or identifying emblem [ME *shield*, fr OE *scield*, akin to OE *scell* shell]

**shield** *vt* 1 to protect (as if) with a shield; provide with a protective cover or shelter 2 to cut off from observation, hide <accomplices who ~ a thief>

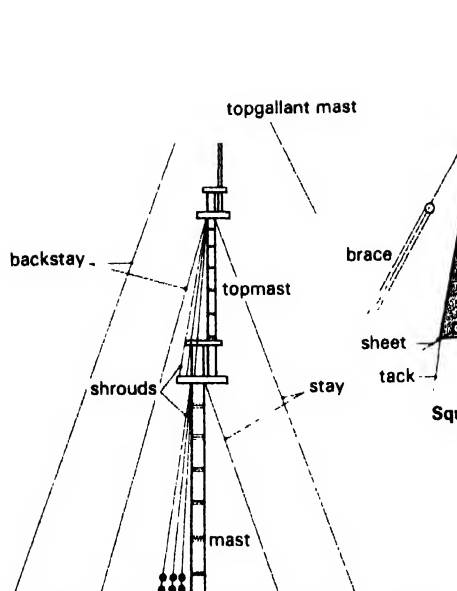
**shield bug** /-bug/ *n* any of various true bugs that emit a disagreeable odour [fr the shield-like shape of its scutellum]

**shieling** /ʃi:liŋ, -lən/ *n*, *dial* *Br* 1 a mountain hut used as a shelter by shepherds 2 a summer pasture in the mountains [Sc *shiel* (shed, hut), fr ME (northern) *shele*, *shale*]

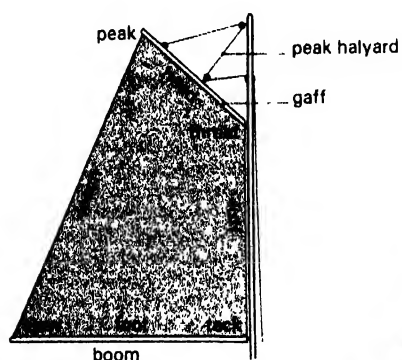
**shift** /ʃɪft/ *vt* 1 'o exchange for or replace by another, change <the traitor ~ed his allegiance> 2 to change the place, position, or direction of, move <I can't ~ the grand piano> 3 to get rid of, dispose of - *infrml* ~ *vi* 1 to change place, position, or direction <~ing uneasily in his



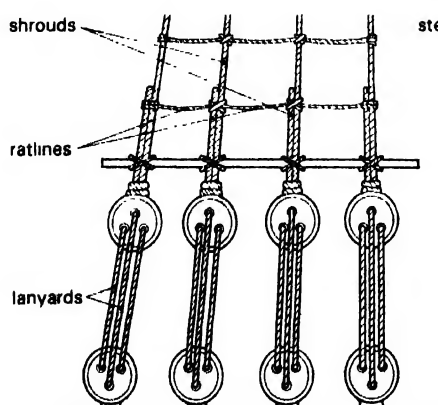
- chair* <(the wind ~ ed)> **2a** to assume responsibility <(had to ~ for herself)> **b** to resort to expedients, GET BY **3** *NAM* to change gear in a motor vehicle [ME *shiften*, fr OE *scifian* to divide, arrange, akin to OE *scendan* to divide – more at *SUILD*]
- shift** *n* **1a** a deceitful or underhand scheme or method, a subterfuge, dodge **b** an expedient tried in difficult circumstances – usu pl **2** a loose unfitted slip or dress **3a** a change in direction <(a ~ in the wind)> **b** a change in emphasis, judgment, or attitude **4a** *sing or pl in constr* a group who work (e.g. in a factory) in alternation with other groups **b** a scheduled period of work or duty <(on the night ~)> **5** a change in place or position e.g. **a** the relative displacement of rock masses on opposite sides of a fault **b** a change in position of a line or band in a spectrum – compare DOPPLER EFFECT **6** systematic sound change as a language evolves **7** *NAM* the gear change in a motor vehicle
- shift, key** *n* a key on a keyboard (e.g. of a typewriter) that when held down permits a different set of characters, esp the capitals, to be printed
- shiftless** /-lɪs/ *adj* **1** lacking resourcefulness, inefficient **2** lacking ambition or motivation, lazy [*shift* (resourcefulness)] – **shiftlessly** *adv*, **shiftlessness** *n*
- shifty** /-tɪ/ *adj* **1** given to deception, evasion, or fraud, slippery **2** indicative of a fickle or devious nature <(~ eyes)> – **shiftily** *adv*, **shiftiness** *n*
- shigella** /ʃiˈɡɛlə/ *n*, pl *shigellae* /-li/ also *shigellas* any of a genus of bacteria that cause dysentery in animals, esp human beings [NL, genus name, fr Kiyoshi Shiga †1957 Jap bacteriologist]
- Shiite** /ˈʃiːiət/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of Islam as taught by the Shia – **Shiism** *n*
- shillelagh** /ʃɪˈleɪh/ *n* an Irish cudgel [*Shillelagh*, town in County Wicklow, Eire, famed for its oak trees]
- shilling** /ˈʃɪlɪŋ/ *n* **1a** (a coin representing) a former money unit of the UK worth 12 old pence or £1/20 **b** a money unit equal to £1/20 of any of various other countries (formerly) in the Commonwealth **2** (a coin or note representing) the basic money unit of certain E African countries 𐞏 Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda at NATIONALITY [ME, fr OE *scilling*, akin to OHG *skilling*, a gold coin, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound represented by OE *sceld* shield and by OE *-ling*]
- shilly-shally** /ˈʃɪli ˈʃali/ *vi* to show hesitation or lack of decisiveness [*shilly-shally*, *adv*, irreg redupl of *shall* 𐞏] – **shilly-shally** *n*
- shim** /ʃɪm/ *n* a thin piece of wood, metal, etc used to fill in the space between things (e.g. for support or adjustment of fit) [origin unknown]
- shim** *vt* -mm- to fill out or level up by the use of 1 or more shims
- shimmer** /ˈʃɪmə/ *vi* **1** to shine with a softly tremulous or wavering light, glimmer **2** to (cause sthg to) appear in a fluctuating wavy form <(the ~ing heat from the pavement)> [ME *schimeren*, fr OE *scimerian*, akin to OE *scman* to shine – more at *SHINE*]
- shimmer** *n* **1** a shimmering light **2** a wavering and distortion of the visual image of a far object usu resulting from heat-induced changes in atmospheric refraction – **shimmerly** *adj*
- shimmy** /ˈʃɪmi/ *n* **1** a chemise **2** a jazz dance characterized by a shaking of the body from the shoulders downwards [(1) by alter. (2) short for *shimmy-shake* & *shimmy-shiver*]
- shimmy** *vi* to shake, quiver, or tremble (as if) in dancing a shimmy
- shin** /ʃɪn/ *n* the front part of the leg of a vertebrate animal below the knee, also a cut of meat from this part, esp from the front leg of a quadruped <(a ~ of beef)> 𐞏 MEAT [ME *shine*, fr OE *scinu*, akin to OHG *scina* shin, OE *scedan* to divide – more at *SHED*]
- shin** *vb* -na- *vi* to climb by gripping with the hands or arms and the legs and hauling oneself up or lowering oneself down <(~ ned up the tree)> ~ *vt* **1** to kick on the shins **2** to climb by shinning
- shin, bone** /-boʊn/ *n* TIBIA 1 𐞏 ANATOMY
- shindig** /ˈʃɪndɪɡ/ *n* a usu boisterous social gathering – infml [prob alter of *shindy*]
- shindy** /ˈʃɪndi/ *n*, pl *shindys*, *shindies* a quarrel, brawl – infml [prob alter of *shinny* – more at *SHINTY*]
- shine** /ʃɪn/ *vb* *shone* /ʃon/, (vt 2) *shined* *vi* **1** to emit light **2** to be bright with reflected light **3** to be outstanding or distinguished <(she always ~s in mathematics)> **4** to have a radiant or lively appearance <(his face shone with enthusiasm)> ~ *vt* **1a** to cause to emit light **b** to direct the light of <(shone her torch into the corner)> **2** to make bright by polishing <(~ d his shoes)> [ME *shinen*, fr OE *scinan*, akin to OHG *skinan* to shine, Gk *skia* shadow]
- shine** *n* **1** brightness caused by the emission or reflection of light **2** brilliance, splendour <(pageantry that has kept its ~ over the centuries)>
- 3** fine weather, sunshine <(come rain, come ~)> **4** an act of polishing shoes
- 5** chiefly *NAM* a fancy, crush – esp in *take a shine to*, infml
- shiner** /ˈʃɪnə/ *n* BLACK EYE slang [ˈSHINE + -ER]
- shingle** /ˈʃɪŋɡl/ *n* **1** a small thin piece of building material for laying in overlapping rows as a covering for the roof or sides of a building **2** a woman's short haircut in which the hair is shaped into the nape of the neck [ME *schingel*]
- shingle** *vt* **1** to cover (as if) with shingles **2** to cut (hair) in a shingle
- shingle** *n* (a place, esp a seashore, strewn with) small rounded pebbles [prob of Scand origin, akin to Norw *singel* coarse gravel] – **shingly** /ˈʃɪŋɡ(ə)li/ *adj*
- shingles** /ˈʃɪŋɡlɪz/ *n* pl but *sing* in *constr* severe short-lasting inflammation of certain ganglia of the nerves that leave the brain and spinal cord, caused by a virus and associated with a rash of blisters and often intense neuralgic pain [ME *schingles*, by folk etymology fr ML *cingulus*, fr L *cingulum* girdle, fr *cingere* to gird – more at *INCURTURE*]
- shining** /ˈʃɪnɪŋ/ *adj* **1** emitting or reflecting light, bright **2** possessing a distinguished quality, outstanding <(a ~ example of bravery)>
- Shinto** /ˈʃɪntoʊ/ *n* the indigenous animistic religion of Japan, including the veneration of the Emperor as a descendant of the sun-goddess [Jap *shintō*] – **Shinto** *adj*, **Shintoism** *n*, **Shintoist** *n* or *adj*, **Shintoistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- shinty** /ˈʃɪnti/ *n* a variation of hurling played in Scotland [alter of *shimny* (kind of hockey), perh fr *shin* + -y]
- shiny** /ˈʃɪni/ *adj* **1** bright or glossy in appearance, lustrous, polished <(~ new shoes)> **2** of material, clothes, etc rubbed or worn to a smooth surface that reflects light **shininess** *n*
- ship** /ʃɪp/ *n* **1a** a large seagoing vessel **b** a square-rigged sailing vessel having a bowsprit and usu 3 masts ② **2** a boat (propelled by power or sail) **3** *sing or pl in constr* a ship's crew **4** an airship, aircraft, or spacecraft [ME, fr OE *scip*, akin to OHG *skif* ship, OE *scedan* to divide – more at *SUILD*] – **when one's ship comes in** when one becomes rich
- ship** *vb* -pp- *vt* **1** to place or receive on board a ship for transportation **2** to put in place for use <(~ the tiller)> **3** to take into a ship or boat <(~ the gangplank)> **4** to engage for service on a ship **5** to cause to be transported or sent away <(~ ped him off to boarding school)> – infml ~ *vi* **1** to embark on a ship **2** to go or travel by ship **3** to engage to serve on shipboard – **shippable** *adj*
- ship** /-ʃɪp/ *suffix* (*n* – *n*) **1** state, condition, or quality of <(friendship)> **2a** office, status, or profession of <(professorship)> **b** period during which (a specified office or position) is held <(during his dictatorship)> **3** art or skill of <(horsemanship)> <(scholarship)> **4** *sing or pl in constr* whole group or body sharing (a specified clan or state) <(readership)> <(membership)> **5** one entitled to (a specified rank, title, or appellation) <(his Lordship)> [ME, fr OF *-scep*, akin to OHG *-scap* -ship, OE *scieppan* to shape – more at *SHAPE*]
- ship biscuit** *n* SHIP'S BISCUIT
- ship, board** /-bawd/ *n* – **on shipboard** on board ship
- shipboard** *adj* existing or taking place on board a ship
- ship, builder** /-bɪldə/ *n* a person or company that designs or constructs ships – **shipbuilding** *n*
- ship canal** *n* a canal large enough to allow the passage of sea-going vessels
- ship, load** /-ləʊd/ *n* as much or as many as a ship will carry
- ship, mate** /-məɪt/ *n* a fellow sailor
- shipment** /-mənt/ *n* **1** the act or process of shipping **2** the quantity of goods shipped <(a ~ of oranges)>
- ship of the line** *n* a ship of war large enough to have a place in the line of battle
- ship, owner** /-əʊnə/ *n* the owner of (a share in) a ship
- shipper** /ˈʃɪpə/ *n* a person or company that ships goods
- shipping** /ˈʃɪpɪŋ/ *n* **1** ships (in 1 place or belonging to 1 port or country) **2** the act or business of a shipper
- ship-rigged** /-ˈrɪɡd/ *adj* square-rigged
- ship's biscuit** *n*, chiefly *Br* a type of hard biscuit orig for eating on board ship
- ship, shape** /-ˈʃaɪp/ *adj* trim, tidy [short for earlier *shipshapen*, fr *ship* + *shapen*, archaic pp of *shape*]
- ship, way** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* the structure on which a ship is built and from which it is launched
- ship, worm** /-ˈwʊm/ *n* any of various elongated marine clams that resemble worms and burrow in submerged wood
- ship, wreck** /-ˈrek/ *n* **1** a wrecked ship or its remains **2** the destruction or loss of a ship **3** an irrevocable collapse or destruction <(suffered the ~ of his fortune)> [alter of earlier *shipwrack*, fr ME *schipwrak*, fr OE



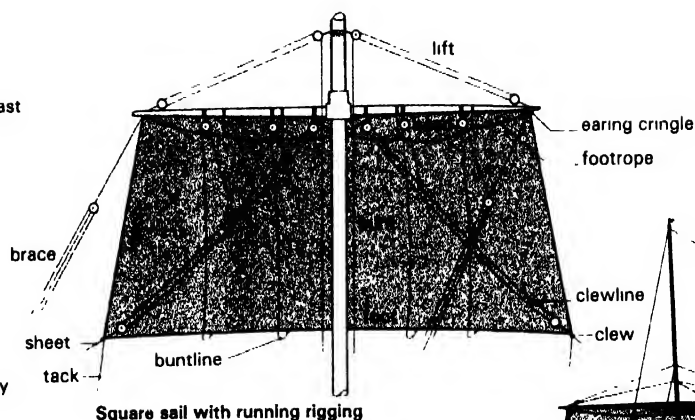
Parts of a mast and its standing rigging



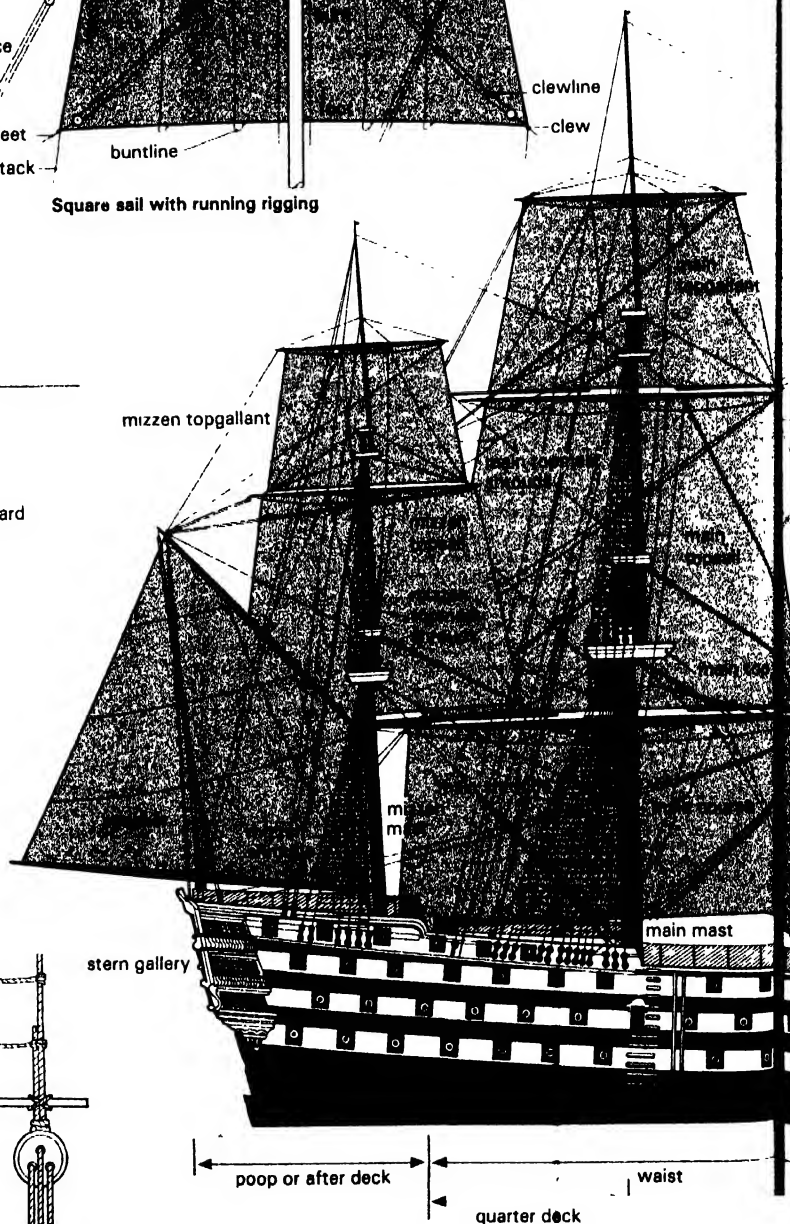
Parts of a 4-sided fore and aft sail (eg a spanker)



Shrouds



Square sail with running rigging



HMS Victory  
a 3-masted square-rigged ship of the late 18th century



- scipwrec*, fr *scip* ship + *wrec* sthg driven by the sea – more at WRACK]
- shipwreck** *vt* 1 to cause to undergo shipwreck 2 to ruin
- shipwright** /-ˌnɛt/ *n* a carpenter skilled in ship construction and repair
- shire** /ʃiə-/ *n* 1a an administrative subdivision, *specif* an English county, esp one with a name ending in *-shire* *b pl* the English fox-hunting district consisting chiefly of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire 2 any of a British breed of large heavy draught horses [ME, fr OE *scir* office, shire; akin to OHG *scira* care]
- shirk** /ʃuɪk/ *vt* to evade or dodge (a duty, responsibility, etc) [origin unknown] – *shirker* *n*
- Shirley poppy** /ʃuɪli/ *n* a variable annual garden poppy with bright solitary single or double flowers [Shirley vicarage, near Croydon, Surrey, where first developed]
- shirr** /ʃuɪr/ *vt*, chiefly *NAM* to bake (eggs removed from the shell) in a small dish until set [origin unknown]
- shirring** /ʃuɪrɪŋ/ *n* a decorative gathering, esp in cloth, made by drawing up the material along 2 or more parallel lines of stitching or by stitching in rows of elastic thread or an elastic webbing [*shirr* (to draw cloth together with parallel threads), of unknown origin]
- shirt** /ʃuɪt/ *n* an (esp man's) garment for the upper body, esp one that opens the full length of the centre front and has sleeves and a collar [GARMENT] [ME *shirte*, fr OE *scyrte*; akin to ON *skyrt*a shirt, OE *scort* short]
- shirting** /ʃuɪtɪŋ/ *n* fabric suitable for shirts
- shirt-sleeve** *also* **shirt-sleeves**, **shirt-sleeved** *adj* 1 (having members) without a jacket (a ~ audience) 2 marked by informality and directness (< ~ diplomacy)
- shirtwaister** /-ˌweɪstə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a fitted dress that fastens down the centre front to just below the waist or to the hem
- shirty** /ʃuɪti/ *adj* bad-tempered, fractious – *infml* [fr the phrase to get someone's shirt out to cause sby to lose his/her temper]
- shish kebab** /ˌʃɪʃ kɪˈbæb/ *n* kebab cooked on skewers [Arm *shish kabab*]
- shit** /ʃɪt/ ˌvɪ-tt; **shitted**, **shit**, **shat** /ʃat/ *vb* to defecate (in) *vulg* [alter. (influenced by *shit* and the past and pp forms) of earlier *shite*, fr ME *shiten*, fr OE *scitan*; akin to MLG & MD *schiten* to defecate, OHG *scizan*, ON *skita* to defecate, OE *sceadan* to divide, separate – more at SHED]
- shit** *n* 1 faeces 2 an act of defecation 3a nonsense, foolishness *b* a despicable person *USE* *vulg* [fr (assumed) ME, fr OE *scite* (attested only in place names); akin to MD *schit*, *schitte* excrement, OE *scitan* to defecate]
- shite** /ʃɪt/ *vb* or *n*, *Br* (to) *shit* – *vulg* [ME *shiten*]
- shitty** /ʃɪti/ *adj* nasty, unpleasant *vulg*
- Shiva** /ˈʃiːvə/ *n* Siva
- shiver** /ʃɪvə/ *n* any of the small pieces that result from the shattering of sthg brittle [ME, akin to OE *sceadan* to divide – more at SHED]
- shiver** *vb* to break into many small fragments, shatter
- shiver** *vi* to tremble, esp with cold or fever [ME *shiveren*, alter. of *chiveren*]
- shiver** *n* an instance of shivering, a tremor – *shivery* *adj*
- shivoo** /ʃiˈvoo/ *n*, *Austr* a party, spree – *infml* [perh modif of *F* *chez vous* at your house]
- shoal** /ʃoʊl/ *n* 1 a shallow 2 an underwater sandbank, esp one exposed at low tide [alter. of earlier *shold*, *shoald*, fr ME *shold*, fr *shold* (adj) shallow, fr OE *sceald* – more at SKELETON]
- shoal** *vi* to become shallow or less deep ~ *vt* to come to a shallow or less deep part of
- shoal** *n* a large group (e.g. of fish) [(assumed) ME *shole*, fr OE *scolu* multitude – more at SCHOOL]
- shock** /ʃok/ *n* a pile of sheaves of grain or stalks of maize set upright in a field [ME, akin to MHG *schoc* heap, OE *heah* high – more at HIGH] – **shock** *vt*
- shock** *n* 1 a violent shaking or jarring (an earthquake ~) 2a(1) a disturbance in the equilibrium or permanence of sthg (e.g. a system) (2) a sudden or violent disturbance of thoughts or emotions *b* sthg causing such disturbance (the news came as a terrible ~) 3 a state of serious depression of most bodily functions associated with reduced blood volume and pressure and caused usually by severe injuries, bleeding, or burns 4 sudden stimulation of the nerves and convulsive contraction of the muscles caused by the passage of electricity through the body [MF *choc*, fr *choquer* to strike against, fr OF *choquier*, prob. of Gmc origin; akin to MD *schocken* to jolt]
- shock** *vt* 1a to cause to feel sudden surprise, terror, horror, or offence *b* to cause to undergo a physical or nervous shock 2 to cause (e.g. an animal) to experience an electric shock 3 to impel (as if) by a shock (< ~ed her into realizing her selfishness)
- shock** *n* a thick bushy mass, usu. of hair [perh fr *shock*]
- shock absorber** *n* any of various devices for absorbing the energy of sudden impulses or shocks in machinery, vehicles, etc
- shocker** /ˈʃokə/ *n* 1 sthg horrifying or offensive (e.g. a sensational work of fiction or drama) 2 an incorrigible or naughty person (e.g. a child) – *infml* ['SHOCK + -ER]
- shock-headed** *adj* having a thick bushy mass of hair
- shocking** /ˈʃokɪŋ/ *adj* 1 giving cause for indignation or offence 2 very bad (had a ~ cold) – *infml* – *shockingly* *adv*
- shocking** 'pink *adj* or *n* striking, vivid, bright, or intense pink
- shockproof** /-ˌpruːf/ *adj* resistant to shock, constructed so as to absorb shock without damage (a ~ watch)
- shock**, **therapy** *n* a treatment for some serious mental disorders that involves artificially inducing a coma or convulsions
- shock**, **treatment** *n* SHOCK THERAPY
- shock**, **troops** *n pl* troops trained and selected for assault
- shock wave** *n* 1 BLAST 5 2 a compressional wave formed whenever the speed of a body (e.g. an aircraft) relative to a medium (e.g. the air) exceeds that at which the medium can transmit sound 3 a violent disturbance or reaction [GEOGRAPHY]
- shod** /ʃod/ *adj* 1a wearing shoes, boots, etc *b* equipped with (a specified type of) tyre 2 furnished or equipped with a shoe – often in combination [ME, fr pp of *shoen* to shoe, fr OE *scogan*, fr *scōh* shoe]
- shoddy** /ˈʃɒdi/ *n* 1 a wool of better quality and longer fibre length than mungo, reclaimed from materials that are not felted 2 a fabric often of inferior quality manufactured wholly or partly from reclaimed wool [origin unknown]
- shoddy** *adj* 1 made wholly or partly of shoddy 2a cheaply imitative, vulgarly pretentious *b* hastily or poorly done, inferior *c* shabby – *shoddily* *adv*, *shoddiness* *n*
- shoe** /ʃuː/ *n* 1a an outer covering for the human foot that does not extend above the ankle and has a thick or stiff sole and often an attached heel [GARMENT] *b* a metal plate or rim for the hoof of an animal 2 sthg resembling a shoe in shape or function 3 *pl* a situation, position, also a predicament (I wouldn't be in the president's ~s for anything) 4 the part of a vehicle braking system that presses on the brake drum [ME *shoo*, fr OE *scōh*, akin to OHG *scuoh* shoe, OE *hyd* hide]
- shoe** *vt* **shoeing**; **shod** /ʃod/ *also* **shoed** /ʃuːhd/ 1 to fit (e.g. a horse) with a shoe 2 to protect or reinforce with a usu. metal shoe
- shoe**, **horn** /-ˌhɔːn/ *n* a curved piece of metal, plastic, etc used to ease the heel into the back of a shoe
- shoe**, **horn** *vt* to force into a limited space (soon be ~ing passengers into the trains – *The Guardian*)
- shoe**, **lace** /-ˌleɪs/ *n* a lace or string for fastening a shoe
- shoe**, **maker** /-ˌmeɪkə/ *n* sby whose occupation is making or repairing footwear
- shoe**, **string** /-ˌstrɪŋ/ *n* 1 a shoelace 2 an amount of money inadequate or barely adequate to meet one's needs (run a business on a ~) [(2)fr shoestrings being a typical item sold by pedlars]
- shoestring** *adj* operating on, accomplished with, or consisting of, a small amount of money (a ~ budget)
- shofar** /ˈʃɒfəh, -ˌfə/ *n*, *pl* **shofroth** /-ˌfrɒt(h), -ˌfrɒs/ a ram's-horn trumpet used in synagogues before and during Rosh Hashanah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur [Heb *shophar*]
- shogun** /ˈʃɒɡʊn/ *n* any of a line of Japanese military governors ruling before the revolution of 1867–68 [Jap *shogun* general] – *shogunate* /-ˌnəːt, -ˌnaɪt/ *n*
- shone** /ʃon/ *past* of SHINE
- shoo** /ʃuː/ *interj* used in frightening away an (esp domestic) animal [ME *schowe*]
- shoo** *vt* to drive away (as if) by crying 'Shoo!'
- shoo**, *in* *n*, *NAM* one (e.g. a contestant) who is a certain and easy winner – *infml*
- shook** /ʃuːk/ *past & chiefly dial past part* of SHAKE
- shook** *n* 1 'SHOCK 2 *NAM* a set of wooden staves and end pieces for making a hoghead, cask, or barrel [origin unknown]
- shook**, **up** *adj*, *chiefly* *NAM* upset, shaken (I'm all ~) – *infml* ['shook]
- shoon** /ʃuːhn, ʃoːhn/ *chiefly dial pl* of SHOE
- shoot** /ʃuːt/ *vb* **shot** /ʃɒt/ *shot* /ʃɒt/ *vt* 1a to eject or impel or cause to be ejected or impelled by a sudden release of tension (e.g. of a bowstring or

by a flick of a finger) < ~ an arrow > < ~ a marble > **b** to drive forth or cause to be driven forth (1) by an explosion (e.g. of a powder charge in a firearm or of ignited fuel in a rocket) (2) by a sudden release of gas or air < ~ darts from a blowpipe > **c** to drive (e.g. a ball) forth or away by striking or pushing with the arm, hand, or foot or with an implement **d**(1) to utter (e.g. words or sounds) rapidly, suddenly, or violently < ~ out a stream of invective > (2) to emit (e.g. light or flame) suddenly and rapidly (3) to send forth with suddenness or intensity < shot a look of anger at her > **e** to discharge or empty (e.g. rubbish) from a container **2a** to strike and esp. wound or kill with a bullet, arrow, shell, etc. shot from a gun, bow, etc. **b** to remove or destroy by use of firearms, also to wreck, explode **3a** to push or slide (a bolt) in order to fasten or unfasten a door **b** to pass (a shuttle) through the warp threads in weaving **c** to push or thrust forwards, stick out - usu. + out < toads ~ing out their tongues > **d** to put forth in growing - usu. + out **4a** to engage in (a sport, game, or part of a game that involves shooting), play < ~ pool > **b** to score by shooting < ~ a basket > **5** to hunt over with a firearm or bow < ~ a tract of woodland > **6a** to cause to move suddenly or swiftly forwards < shot the car onto the highway > **b** to send or carry quickly, dispatch **7** to pass swiftly by, over, or along < ~ing rapids > **8** to plane (e.g. the edge of a board) straight or true **9** to take a picture or series of pictures or television images of, film, also to make (a film, videotape, etc.) **10** to pass through (a road junction or traffic lights) without slowing down or stopping - infml **11** to take (a drug) by hypodermic needle - slang ~ **vi** **1a** to go or pass rapidly or violently < sparks ~ing up > **b** to move ahead by superior speed, force, momentum, etc. **c** to stream out suddenly; spurt < blood shot from the wound > **d** to dart (as if) in rays from a source of light **e** to dart with a piercing sensation < pain shot up his arm > **2a** to cause a weapon or other device to discharge a missile **b** to use a firearm or bow, esp. for sport **3** to propel a missile < guns fire ~ many miles > **4** to protrude, project - often + out < a mountain-range ~ing out into the sea > **5** to grow or sprout (as if) by putting forth shoots **6a** to propel an object (e.g. a ball) in a particular way **b** to drive the ball or puck in football, hockey, etc. towards a goal **7** to slide into or out of a fastening < a bolt that ~s in either direction > **8a** to record a series of visual images (e.g. on cinefilm or videotape), make a film or videotape **b** to operate a camera or set cameras in operation [ME *sheten*, *shuten*, fr OE *sceotan*, akin to ON *skjota* to shoot, Lith *skudrus* quick] **shoot a line** to invent romantic or boastful detail - infml - **shoot one's bolt** to exhaust one's capabilities and resources - **shoot one's mouth off** to talk foolishly or indiscreetly

**shoot** *n* **1a** a stem or branch with its leaves, buds, etc., esp. when not yet mature **b** an offshoot **2a** a shooting trip or party **b** (land over which is held) the right to shoot game **c** a shooting match **3** a sudden or rapid advance **4** (a rush of water down) a descent in a stream **5** chiefly *NAM* a momentary darting sensation, a twinge [(4) prob. by folk etymology fr *F* *chute* - more at CHUTE.]

**shoot down** *vi* to assert or show the invalidity of, also to veto - infml

**shooter** /'shoʊtə/ *n* a repeating pistol - usu. in combination < six-shooter > [SHOOT + -ER]

**shooting** /'shoʊtɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly *BR* SHOOT **2**

**shooting brake** *n*, *BR* ESTATE CAR

**shooting gallery** *n* a usu. covered range equipped with targets for practice in shooting with firearms

**shooting iron** *n*, *NAM* a firearm - slang

**shooting match** *n* an affair, matter - chiefly in the whole shooting match, infml

**shooting star** *n* a meteor appearing as a temporary streak of light in the night sky

**shooting stick** *n* a spiked stick with a handle that opens out into a seat

**shoot-out** *n* a usu. decisive battle fought with handguns or rifles

**shoot through** *vi*, *Austr & NZ* to leave; specif. to make a hasty departure < a well-known absconder, shooting through at the slightest opportunity - The Age (Melbourne) >

**shoot up** *vi* **1** to grow or increase rapidly < house prices have shot up in recent months > **2** to inject a narcotic drug into a vein - slang

**shop** /ʃɒp/ *n* **1** a building or room for the retail sale of merchandise or for the sale of services **2** a place or part of a factory where a particular manufacturing or repair process takes place **3** the jargon or subject matter peculiar to an occupation or sphere of interest - chiefly in *talk shop* [ME *shoppe*, fr OE *sceoppa* booth; akin to OHG *scof* shed]

**shop vb -pp-** *vi* **1** to visit a shop with intent to purchase goods **2** to make a search, hunt < ~ for winning designs > ~ **vt** to inform on; betray < the

robber who changed sides and ~ped his mates - Daily Mirror > - slang - **shopper** *n*

**shop around** *vi* to investigate a market or situation in search of the best buy or alternative

**shop assistant** *n*, *Br* one employed to sell goods in a retail shop

**shop floor** /'flɔː/ *n* the area in which machinery or workbenches are located in a factory or mill, esp. considered as a place of work; also, *sing* or *pl* in constr. the workers in an establishment as distinct from the management

**shop front** /-frʌnt/ *n* the front side of a shop (building) facing the street

**shopkeeper** /-kiːpə/ *n* one who runs a retail shop

**shoplift** /-lɪft/ *vb* to steal from a shop [back-formation fr *shoplifter*] - **shoplifter** *n*, **shoplifting** *n*

**shopping** /'ʃɒpɪŋ/ *n* goods purchased on a shopping trip

**shopping centre** *n* a group of retail shops and service establishments of different types, often designed to serve a community or neighbourhood

**shop-soiled** /-sɔɪld/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* **1** deteriorated (e.g. soiled or faded) through excessive handling or display in a shop **2** no longer fresh or effective, clichéd < the ~ slogans of fascism >

**shop steward** *n* a union member elected to represent usu. manual workers

**shopwalker** /-wɔːkə/ *n*, *Br* shy employed in a large shop to oversee the shop assistants and aid customers

**shop window** /-wɪndəʊ/ *n* **1** a usu. large window in which a shop displays merchandise **2** SHOWCASE **2**

**shopworn** /-wɔːn/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* shopsoiled

**shoran** /'ʃaʊrən/ *n* a system of short-range aircraft navigation in which radar signals are sent out and returned by **2** ground stations of known position [short-range navigation]

**shore** /'ʃaʊ/ *n* **1** the land bordering the sea or another (large) body of water **2** land as distinguished from the sea [ME, fr. (assumed) OE *scor*; akin to OE *scieran* to cut - more at SHAR]

**shore** *vi* **1** to support with shores, prop. **2** to give support to, brace, sustain - usu. + up < ~ up farm prices > [ME *shoren*, akin to ON *skortha* to prop]

**shore** *n* a prop for preventing sinking or sagging

**shore leave** *n* time granted to members of a ship's crew to go ashore

**shorewards** /-wɔːdz/ *adv* towards the shore

**shoring** /'ʃaʊrɪŋ/ *n* **1** the act of supporting (as if) with shores **2** a system or quantity of shores

**shorn** /'ʃaʊn/ *past part* of SHAVE

**short** /'ʃɔːt/ *adj* **1** having little or insufficient length or height **2a** not extended in time; brief < a ~ vacation > **b** of the memory not retentive **c** quick, expeditious < made ~ work of the problem > **d** seeming to pass quickly < made great progress in just a few ~ years > **3a** of a speech sound having a relatively short duration **b** of a syllable in prosody (1) of relatively brief duration (2) unstressed **4** limited in distance < a ~ walk > **5a** not coming up to a measure or requirement < in ~ supply > < the throw was ~ by 5 metres > **b** insufficiently supplied < ~ of cash > **6a** abrupt, curt **b** quickly provoked < a ~ temper > **7** SHORT-TERM **2** **8a** of pastry, biscuits, etc. crisp and easily broken owing to the presence of fat **b** of metal brittle **9** made briefer, abbreviated < Sue is ~ for Susan > **10** being or relating to a sale of securities or commodities that the seller does not possess at the time of the sale < ~ sale > **11a** of or occupying a fielding position in cricket near the batsman ~ **3** **b** of a bowled ball bouncing relatively far from the batsman [ME, fr. OE *scort*] - **shortness** *n* - **by the short hairs**, **by the short and curly** totally at one's mercy < if he signs, we've got him by the short hairs > - **in the short run** for the immediate future - compare IN THE LONG RUN

**short** *adv* **1** curtly < tends to talk ~ with people when he's busy > **2** for or during a brief time < short-lasting > **3** in an abrupt manner, suddenly < the car stopped ~ > **4** at a point or degree before a specified or intended goal or limit < the shells fell ~ > < stopped ~ of murder > - **be taken/caught short** *Br* to feel a sudden embarrassing need to defecate or urinate

**short** *n* **1** a short sound or signal **2** *pl* a by-product of wheat milling that includes the germ, bran, and some flour **3** *pl* knee-length or less than knee-length trousers **4** *pl* short-term bonds **5** SHORT CIRCUIT **6** a brief often documentary or educational film **7** *Br* a drink of spirits - **for short** as an abbreviation - **in short** by way of summary; briefly

**short** *vt* to short-circuit

**shortage** /'ʃɔːtɪdʒ/ *n* a lack, deficit

**short back and sides** *n* a man's hairstyle in which the hair round the ears and at the neck is cut very short

**'shortbread** /-bred/ *n* a thick biscuit made from flour, sugar, and fat

**'shortcake** /-kayk/ *n* 1 shortbread 2 a thick short cake resembling biscuit that is usu sandwiched with a layer of fruit and cream and eaten as a dessert

**'shortchange** /-'chaynj/ *vt* 1 to give less than the correct amount of change to 2 to cheat – *infrm*

**'short-circuit** *vt* 1 to apply a short circuit to or cause a short circuit in (so as to render inoperative) 2 to bypass, circumvent

**'short-circuit** *n* the accidental or deliberate joining by a conductor of 2 parts of an electric circuit

**'shortcoming** /-kumɪŋ/ *n* a deficiency, defect <felt his ~s made him unsuited to management>

**shortcrust pastry** /-krust/ *n* a basic pastry used for pies, flans, and tarts and made with half as much fat as flour

**'shortcut** /-kut/ *n* a route or procedure quicker and more direct than one customarily followed

**shorten** /'shawt(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to make short or shorter 2 to add fat to (e.g. pastry dough) 3 to reduce the area or amount of (sail that is set)

**shortening** /'shawt(ə)n-ɪŋ/ *n* an edible fat (e.g. butter or lard) used to shorten pastry, biscuits, etc [SHORTEN + -ING]

**'shortfall** /-fawl/ *n* (the degree or amount of) a deficit

**'shorthand** /-hand/ *n* 1 a method of rapid writing that substitutes symbols and abbreviations for letters, words, or phrases – *ALPHABET* 2 a system or instance of rapid or abbreviated communication <verbal ~> – *shorthand adj*

**'shorthanded** /-handɪd/ *adj* short of the usual or requisite number of staff; undermanned

**'shorthand typist** *n* sby who takes shorthand notes, esp from dictation, then transcribes them using a typewriter

**'shorthorn** /-hawn/ *n*, often *cap* any of a breed of beef cattle originating in the N of England and including good milk-producing strains

**shortie** /'shawti/ *n* or *adj* (a) shorty – *infrm*

**short line** *n* a line from side to side of the floor of a squash court, halfway between the front and back walls, behind which the player must stand when serving – *SPORT*

**'short-list** *vt*, *Br* to place on a short list

**'short-list** *n*, *Br* a list of selected candidates (e.g. for a job) from whom a final choice must be made

**'short-lived** *adj* not living or lasting long

**'shortly** /-li/ *adv* 1a in a few words, briefly b in an abrupt manner 2a in a short time <we will be there ~> b at a short interval <~ after sunset>

**short order** *n*, *NAm* an order for food that can be quickly cooked – in *short order* quickly

**'short-range** *adj* 1 SHORT-TERM 1 2 relating to, suitable for, or capable of travelling (only) short distances (a ~ missile)

**short shrift** *n* 1 a brief respite for confession before execution 2 summary or inconsiderate treatment [shrift (confession), fr ME, fr OE *scrift*, fr *scrifa* to shrive – more at SHRIVE]

**'short-sight** *n* myopia

**'short-sighted** /-'sɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 able to see near objects more clearly than distant objects; myopic 2 lacking foresight – *shortsightedly adv*, *short-sightedness n*

**'short-story** *n* a piece of prose fiction usu dealing with a few characters and often concentrating on mood rather than plot

**'short-tempered** *adj* having a quick temper

**'short-term** *adj* 1 involving a relatively short period of time <~ plans> 2 of or constituting a financial operation or obligation based on a brief term, esp one of less than a year

**short time** *n* reduced working hours because of a lack of work

**short ton** /tʌn/ *n* a US unit of weight that is equal to 2000lb (about 746.48kg)

**'short-waisted** *adj* unusually short from the shoulders to the waist

**'shortwave** /-weɪv/ *n* a band of radio waves having wavelengths between about 120m and 20m and typically used for amateur transmissions or long-range broadcasting – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning

**'short-winded** *adj* 1 affected with or characterized by shortness of breath 2 brief or concise in speaking or writing

**shorty, shortie** /'shawti/ *n* or *adj* (sby or sthg) short – *infrm*

**'shoot** /shot/ *n* 1a an action of shooting b a directed propelling of a missile; *specif* a directed discharge of a firearm c a stroke or throw in a game (e.g. tennis, cricket, or basketball); *also* an attempt to kick the ball into the goal

in soccer d a hypodermic injection 2a(1) small lead or steel pellets (for a shotgun) (2) a single (nonexplosive) projectile for a gun or cannon b(1) a metal sphere that is thrown for distance as an athletic field event (2) this event 3 the distance that a missile is or can be projected 4 one who shoots; *esp* a marksman 5a an attempt, try <had a ~ at mending the puncture> b a guess, conjecture 6a a single photographic exposure b an image or series of images in a film or a television programme shot by 1 camera from 1 angle without interruption 7 a charge of explosives 8 a small amount applied at one time; a dose <a dramatist could inject a ~ of colloquialism into a tragic aria – Kenneth Tynan> – *infrm* [ME, fr OE *scot*; akin to ON *skot* shot, OHG *scuz*, OE *sceotan* to shoot – more at SHOOT] – like a shot very rapidly – shot in the arm a stimulus, boost – shot in the dark a wild guess

**'shot adj** 1a of a fabric having contrasting and changeable colour effects; iridescent <~ silk> b suffused or streaked with (a different) colour <hair ~ with grey> c infused or permeated with a quality or element <~ through with wit> 2 utterly exhausted or ruined <her nerves are ~> – *infrm* – be/get shot of chiefly *Br* GET RID OF – *infrm*

**'shotgun** /-gun/ *n* an often double-barrelled smoothbore shoulder weapon for firing quantities of metal shot at short ranges

**'shotgun** *adj* enforced <a ~ merger> <a ~ wedding>

**'shot.put** /'put/ *n* SHOT 2b – shot-putter *n*, shot-putting *n*

**'shotten** /'shot(ə)n/ *adj*, of a fish having ejected the spawn and so of inferior food value [ME *shotyn*, fr *pp* of *shuten* to shoot]

**should** /ʃəd, strong shoʊd/ *past* of SHALL 1 – used (e.g. in the main clause of a conditional sentence) to introduce a contingent fact, possibility, or presumption <I ~ be surprised if he wrote> <it's odd that you ~ mention that> 2 ought to <you ~ brush your teeth after every meal> 3 – used in reported speech to represent shall or will <she banged on the door and said we ~ be late – Punch> 4 will probably <with an early start, they ~ be here by noon> 5 – used to soften direct statement <I ~ have thought it was colder than that> <who ~ open the door but Fred> [ME *sholde*, fr OE *sceolde* owed, was obliged to, akin to OHG *scolta* owed, was obliged to]

**'shoulder** /'sholdə/ *n* 1a the part of the human body formed of bones, joints, and muscles that connects the arm to the trunk b a corresponding part of a lower vertebrate 2 *pl* a the 2 shoulders and the upper part of the back <shrugged his ~s> b capacity for bearing a burden (e.g. of blame or responsibility) <placed the guilt squarely on his ~s> 3 a cut of meat including the upper joint of the foreleg and adjacent parts – *MEAT* 4 an area adjacent to a higher, more prominent, or more important part e.g. (1) the slope of a mountain near the top (2) a lateral protrusion of a mountain b that part of a road to the side of the surface on which vehicles travel 5 a rounded or sloping part (e.g. of a stringed instrument or a bottle) where the neck joins the body [ME *sholder*, fr OE *sculder*; akin to OHG *scultra* shoulder, OE *sciell* shell – more at SHELL] – *shouldered adj*

**'shoulder** *vt* 1 to push or thrust (as if) with the shoulder <~ed his way through the crowd> 2a to place or carry on the shoulder <~ed his rucksack> b to assume the burden or responsibility of <~ the costs> ~ *vi* to push aggressively with the shoulders, jostle

**'shoulder bag** *n* a bag that has a strap attached at each side of sufficient length for the bag to be hung over the shoulder

**'shoulder blade** *n* the scapula – *ANATOMY*

**'shoulder strap** *n* a strap that passes across the shoulder and holds up a garment

**shouldest** /'shoodɪst/, **shouldst** /'shoodst/ *archaic past 2 sing* of SHALL

**shouldn't** /'shoodnt/ *should not*

**'shout** /showt/ *vi* 1 to utter a sudden loud cry 2 *Austr* & *NZ* to buy a round of drinks ~ *vt* 1 to utter in a loud voice 2 *Austr* & *NZ* a to buy sthg, esp a drink, for (another person) b to buy (sthg, esp a drink) for sby <dropped in to see if you'd ~ an old friend a drink – The Sun (Melbourne)> *USE* (vi 2, vt 2) *infrm* [ME *shouten*] – *shouter n*

**'shout** *n* 1 a loud cry or call 2 'ROUND 6 – *infrm*

**'shout down** *vt* to drown the words of (a speaker) by shouting

**shove** /shuv/ *vt* 1 to push along with steady force 2 to push in a rough, careless, or hasty manner, thrust <~d the book into his coat pocket> ~ *vi* 1 to force a way forwards <bargain hunters shoving up to the counter> 2 to move sthg by pushing <you pull and I'll ~> [ME *shoven*, fr OE *scūfan* to thrust away; akin to OHG *scioban* to push, OSslav *skubati* to tear] – *shove n*, *shover* /'shuvə/ *n*

**'shove-halfpenny** *n* a game played on a special flat board on which players shove discs (e.g. coins) into marked scoring areas

**'shovel** /'shuvl/ *n* 1a(1) an implement consisting of a broad scoop or a dish blade with a handle, used to lift and throw loose material (2) (a



- similar part on) a digging or earth-moving machine **b** sth like a shovel  
**2** a shovelful [ME, fr OE *scoff*; akin to OHG *scūfla* shovel, OE *scufan* to thrust away]
- shovel** *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /'shu:v-lɪŋ, 'shuv-lɪŋ/ *vt* **1** to dig, clear, or shift with a shovel **2** to convey clumsily or in a mass as if with a shovel (<~led his food into his mouth>) ~ *vi* to use a shovel
- shovelful** /-f(ə)l/ *n, pl* **shovelfuls** also **shovelful** as much as a shovel will hold
- shoveller** /'shu:v-lə, 'shuv-lə/ *n* any of several dabbling ducks that have a large and very broad beak [<sup>1</sup>SHOVEL + <sup>2</sup>-ER]
- shove off** *vi* to go away; leave - *infrm*
- show** /shoh-/ *vb* **shown** /shohn/, **showed** *vt* **1** to cause or permit to be seen; exhibit **2** to present as a public spectacle **3** to reveal by one's condition, nature, or behaviour <was reluctant to ~ his feelings> **4** to demonstrate by one's achievements (<~ed herself to be a fine pianist>) **5a** to point out to sb (<~ed him where she lived>) **b** to conduct, usher (<~ed me to an aisle seat>) **6** to accord, grant (<~ respect to one's elders>) **7a** to make evident; indicate <a letter that ~ed his true feelings> **b** to have as an attribute; manifest <trade figures ~ed a large deficit> <the patient is ~ing some improvement> **8a** to establish or make clear by argument or reasoning (<~ a plan to be faulty>) **b** to inform, instruct (<~ed me how to solve the problem>) **9** to present (an animal) for judging in a show ~ *vi* **1** to be or come in view, be noticeable <he has a tear in his coat but it doesn't ~> **2** to appear in a specified way (<~ to good advantage>) **3** to be staged or presented **4** chiefly NAM **SHOW UP** **2** <failed to ~ for the award> [ME *shewen*, *shopen*, fr OE *scēawian* to look, look at, see, akin to OHG *scouwen* to look, look at, L *cavere* to be on one's guard] - **show** /'shoh-ə/ *n* - **show one's hand** to declare one's intentions or reveal one's resources - **show one's true colours** to show one's real nature or opinions - **show over** chiefly Br to take on a tour or inspection of <prospective buyers were shown over the new house> - **show someone the door** to tell sb to get out
- show** *n* **1** a display <a ~ of hands> - often + *on* <all antiques on ~ are genuine> **2a** a false semblance, a pretence <he made a ~ of friendship> **b** a more or less true appearance of sthg; a sign <a ~ of reason> **c** an impressive display <a ~ of strength> **d** ostentation **3** sthg exhibited, esp for wonder or ridicule, a spectacle **4a** a large display or exhibition arranged to arouse interest or stimulate sales **b** a competitive exhibition of animals, plants, etc to demonstrate quality in breeding, growing, etc **5** a public presentation e.g. a theatrical presentation **b** a radio or television programme **6** an enterprise, affair <he ran the whole ~> **7** chiefly NAM a chance - esp in *give someone a show* **USE** (6&7) *infrm*
- show biz** /biz/ *n* **SHOW BUSINESS** - *infrm* [by shortening & alter]
- showbread** /-bred/ *n* **shewbread**
- show business** *n* the arts, occupations, and businesses (e.g. theatre, films, and television) that comprise the entertainment industry
- showcase** /-kays/ *n* **1** a case, box, or cabinet with a transparent usu glass front or top used for displaying and protecting articles in a shop or museum **2** a setting or surround for exhibiting sthg to best advantage
- showdown** /-down/ *n* the final settlement of a contested issue or the confrontation by which it is settled
- shower** /'showə/ *n* **1** a fall of rain, snow, etc of short duration  **WEATHER** **2** sthg like a rain shower <a ~ of tears> <~s of sparks from a bonfire> **3** an apparatus that provides a stream of water for spraying on the body; also an act of washing oneself using such an apparatus **4** *sing or pl in constr.* Br a motley or inferior collection of people - *infrm* [ME *shour*, fr OE *scūr*; akin to OHG *scur* shower, L *caurus* northwest wind] - **showery** *adj*
- shower** *vi* **1** to descend (as if) in a shower <letters ~ed on him in praise and protest> **2** to take a shower ~ *vt* **1a** to wet copiously (e.g. with water) in a spray, fine stream, or drops **b** to cause to fall in a shower <factory chimneys ~ed soot on the neighbourhood>; also to cover (as if) with a shower **2** to bestow or present in abundance (<~ed him with honours>)
- showerproof** /-proohf/ *adj*, of a fabric or garment treated so as to give protection from a slight wetting
- showgirl** /'shoh,guhl/ *n* a young woman who dances or sings in the chorus of a theatrical production, broadly a female stage performer whose presence is purely decorative
- showing** /'shoh-ɪŋ/ *n* **1** an act of putting sthg on view; a display, exhibition **2** performance in competition <made a good ~ in the finals> **3** a statement or presentation of a case; evidence
- showjumping** /-jumpɪŋ/ *n* the competitive riding of horses **1** at a time over a set course of obstacles in which the winner is judged according to ability and speed - **showjumper** *n*
- showman** /-mən/ *n* **1** one who presents a theatrical show; also the manager of a circus or fairground **2** a person with a flair for dramatically effective presentation - **showmanship** *n*
- show-off** *n* one who shows off, an exhibitionist
- show off** *vt* to exhibit proudly <wanted to show his new car off> ~ *vi* to seek attention or admiration by conspicuous behaviour <boys showing off on their bicycles>
- showpiece** /-pees/ *n* a prime or outstanding example used for exhibition
- showplace** /-plays/ *n* a place (e.g. an estate or building) regarded as an example of beauty or excellence
- showroom** /-roohm/ *n* a room where (samples of) goods for sale are displayed
- show up** *vt* **1** to expose (e.g. a defect, deception, or impostor) **2** to embarrass ~ *vi* **1a** to be plainly evident; **STAND OUT** **b** to appear in a specified light or manner <showed up badly in the semifinals> **2** to arrive <showed up late for his own wedding> **USE** (vt 2, vi 2) *infrm*
- showy** /'shoh-i/ *adj* **1** making an attractive show, striking (<~ blossoms>) **2** given to or marked by pretentious display, gaudy - **showily** *adv*, **showiness** *n*
- shrank** /'shrangk/ *past of SHRINK*
- shrapnel** /'shrapnəl/ *n, pl* **shrapnel** **1** a hollow projectile that contains bullets or pieces of metal and that is exploded by a bursting charge to produce a shower of fragments **2** bomb, mine, or shell fragments thrown out during explosion [Henry Shrapnel †1842 E artillery officer]
- shred** /'shred/ *n* a narrow strip cut or torn off, also a fragment, scrap [ME *shrede*, fr OE *scraeda*, akin to OHG *scrot* piece cut off, L *scrupus* sharp stone, OE *scieran* to cut - more at *SHEAR*]
- shred** *vb* -dd- *vt* to cut or tear into shreds ~ *vi* to come apart in or be reduced to shreds - **shredder** *n*
- shrew** /'shrooh/ *n* **1** any of numerous small chiefly nocturnal mammals having a long pointed snout, very small eyes, and velvety fur **2** an ill-tempered nagging woman, a scold [ME *shrewe* evil or scolding person, fr OE *scraewa* shrewmouse]
- shrewd** /'shroohd/ *adj* **1** marked by keen discernment and hardheaded practicality (<~ common sense>) **2** wily, artful <a ~ operator> [ME *shrewed* wicked, mischievous, fr *shrewe* + <ed>] - **shrewdly** *adv*, **shrewdness** *n*
- shrewish** /'shrooh-ish/ *adj* ill-tempered, intractable - **shrewishly** *adv*, **shrewishness** *n*
- shrewmouse** /-mows/ *n* **SHREW** **1**
- shriek** /'shreek/ *vi* to utter or make a shrill piercing cry; screech (<~ with laughter>) ~ *vt* to utter with a shriek or sharply and shrilly - often + *out* [prob irreg fr ME *shriken* to shriek, akin to ME *scremen* to scream]
- shriek** *n* (a sound similar to) a shrill usu wild cry
- shrieval** /'shreev/ *adj* of a sheriff [obs *shreve* (sheriff), fr ME *shurreve* - more at *SHERIFF*]
- shrievalty** /'shreev(ə)lti/ *n*, chiefly Br the (term of) office or jurisdiction of a sheriff
- shrike** /'shriek/ *n* any of numerous usu largely grey or brownish birds that often impale their (insect) prey on thorns [perh fr (assumed) ME *shrik*, fr OE *seric* thrush, akin to ME *shriken* to shriek]
- shrill** /'shrɪl/ *vi* to utter or emit a high-pitched piercing sound <alarm bells ~ed as the robbers raced away> ~ *vt* to scream [ME *shrillen*]
- shrill** *adj* having, making, or being a sharp high-pitched sound - **shrillness** *n*, **shrilly** *adv*
- shrimp** /'shrimp/ *n, pl* **shrimps**, (/) **shrimps**, esp collectively **shrimp** **1** any of numerous mostly small marine 10-legged crustacean animals with a long slender body, compressed abdomen, and long legs **2** a very small or puny person - *infrm*; humor [ME *shrimpe*; akin to ON *skorpa* to shrivel up, L *curvus* curved - more at 'CROWN] - **shrimpy** *adj*
- shrimp** *vi* to fish for or catch shrimps - *usu in go shrimping*
- shrine** /'shri:n/ *n* **1a** a receptacle for sacred relics **b** a place in which devotion is paid to a saint or deity **2** a receptacle (e.g. a tomb) for the dead **3** a place or object hallowed by its history or associations <Oxford is a ~ of learning> [ME, fr OE *scrin*, fr L *scrinium* case, chest] - **shrine** *vt*
- shrink** /'shriŋk/ *vb* **shrank** /'shrangk/ also **shrunk** /'shruŋk/; **shrunk**, **shrunk** /'shruŋk/ *vi* **1** to draw back or cower away (e.g. from sthg painful or horrible) **2** to contract to a smaller volume or extent (e.g. as a result of heat or moisture) **3** to show reluctance (e.g. before a difficult or unpleasant duty); recoil ~ *vt* to cause to contract; *specif* to compact (cloth) by a treatment (e.g. with water or steam) that results in contraction [ME *shrinken*, fr OE *scrincan*; akin to MD *schrinken* to draw back, L

- curvus* curved – more at 'CROWN' – *shrinkable* *adj.*, *shrinkage* *n.*, *shrinker* *n.*
- shrink** *n.* 1 shrinkage 2 a psychoanalyst or psychiatrist – humor [(2) short for *headshrinker*]
- shrink-wrap** *vt* -pp- to wrap (e.g. a book or meat) in tough clear plastic film that is then shrunk (e.g. by heating) to form a tightly fitting package
- shrive** /shriv/ *vt* *shrived*, *shrove* /shrohv/, *shriven* /shriv(ə)n/, *shrived* *archaic* to hear the confession of and absolve [ME *shriven*, fr OE *scrifan* to shrive, prescribe; akin to OHG *scriban* to write; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *scribere* to write – more at 'SCRIBE']
- shrive** /shriv/ *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /shriv-ing/ to (cause to) contract into wrinkles, esp through loss of moisture [perh of Scand origin; prob akin to Sw dial. *skryvla* to wrinkle]
- shroud** /shroud/ *n.* 1 a burial garment (e.g. a winding-sheet) 2 sth that covers, conceals, or guards 3 any of the ropes or wires giving support, usu in pairs, to a ship's mast  SHIP [ME, fr OE *scrud*; akin to OE *scraede* shred – more at SHRED]
- shroud** *vt* 1a to envelop and conceal <trees ~ ed by a thick mist> b to obscure, disguise 2 to dress for burial
- shroud-laid** *adj.* of a rope having 4 strands and a core
- Shrovetide** /shrovhtid/ *n* the period immediately before Ash Wednesday [ME *schroftide*, fr *schrof* (fr *shriven* to shrive) + *tide*]
- Shrove Tuesday** *n* the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday; PANCAKE DAY [ME *schroftewesday*, fr *schrof* (as in *schroftide*) + *tewesday* Tuesday]
- shrub** /shrub/ *n* a low-growing usu several-stemmed woody plant [ME *schrobbe*, fr OE *scrybb* brushwood, akin to Norw *skrubbe* a cornel of a dwarf species] – *shrubby* *adj.*
- shrubby** /shrub(ə)n/ *n* a planting or growth of shrubs
- shrug** /shrug/ *vb* -gg- to lift and contract (the shoulders), esp to express aloofness, aversion, or doubt [ME *schruggen*] – *shrug* *n.*
- shrug off** *vt* to brush aside; disregard, belittle <shrugs the problem off>
- shrunk** /shrunk/ *past & past part* of SHRINK
- shrunk** /shrunk/ *past part* of SHRINK
- shtetl** also *shetel* /shetl/ *n*, pl *shetlach* /lahkh/ a small Jewish town or village formerly found in E Europe [Yiddish, fr MHG *stetel*, dim. of *stet* place, town, city, fr OHG, place – more at STEAD]
- shuck** /shuk/ *n* 1 a pod, husk 2 *NAM* sth of no value – usu pl with *ing*, meaning <not worth ~s> 3 *pl* – used interjectionally to express mild annoyance or disappointment; infml [origin unknown]
- shuck** *vt*, *NAM* 1 to strip of shucks 2 to remove or dispose of like a shuck – often + *off* <~ off clothing> <~ off bad habits> – *shucker* *n.*
- shudder** /shudə/ *vi* 1 to tremble with a sudden brief convulsive movement 2 to quiver, vibrate [ME *shodden*; akin to OHG *skuten* to shake, Lith *kuti* to shake up] – *shudder* *n.*
- shuffle** /shuf/ *vb* *shuffling* /shufling/, *shuft-ing* /vt/ 1 to mix together in a confused mass; jumble 2 to rearrange (e.g. playing cards or dominoes) to produce a random order 3 to move (the feet) by sliding clumsily along or back and forth without lifting ~ *vi* 1 to act or speak in a shifty or evasive manner 2a to move or walk by sliding or dragging the feet b to dance in a lazy nonchalant manner with scraping and tapping motions of the feet 3 to mix playing cards by shuffling [perh irreg fr *shove*] – *shuffler* *n.*
- shuffle** *n* 1a shuffling (e.g. of cards) b a right or turn to shuffle <it's your ~> 2 (a dance characterized by) a dragging sliding movement
- shuffleboard** /-bawd/ *n* a game in which players use long-handled cues to shove wooden discs into scoring areas of a diagram marked on a smooth surface [alter. of obs *shove-board*]
- shuft** /shuft/ *n*, *Br* a look, glance <have a ~ at the radar screen> – infml [perh of Ar origin; akin to Ar dial. *shaufa* sight, view]
- shul** /shool/ *n* a synagogue [Yiddish, fr MHG *schul*, lit., school]
- shun** /shun/ *vt* -nn- to avoid deliberately, esp habitually <actors who ~ publicity> [ME *shunnen*, fr OE *scunian*] – *shunner* *n.*
- shunt** /shunt/ *vt* 1a to move (e.g. a train) from one track to another b *Br* to move (railway vehicles) to different positions on the same track within terminal areas 2 to provide with or divert by means of an electrical shunt 3 to divert (blood) by means of a surgical shunt ~ *vi* 1 to move into a side track 2 to travel back and forth <~ ed between the 2 towns> [ME *shunten* to flinch] – *shunter* *n.*
- shunt** *n* 1 a means or mechanism for turning or thrusting aside: e.g. a conductor joining 2 points in an electrical circuit so as to form a parallel path through which a portion of the current may pass b a surgical passage created between 2 blood vessels to divert blood from one part to another c chiefly *Br* a siding 2 a usu minor collision of motor vehicles – infml
- shush** /sh, shush/ *n* 1 – used interjectionally to demand silence 2 peace and quiet; silence – infml <quiet, please, children! Let's have a bit of ~!> [imit]
- shush** *vt* to tell to be quiet, esp by saying 'Shush!' – infml
- shut** /shut/ *vb* -tt-, *shut* *vt* 1 to place in position to close an opening <~ the lid> <~ the door> 2 to confine (as if) by enclosure <~ him in the cupboard> 3 to fasten with a lock or bolt 4 to close by bringing enclosing or covering parts together <~ the eyes> 5 to cause to cease or suspend operation <~ up shop> ~ *vi* 1 to become closed <flowers that ~ at night> 2 to cease or suspend operation *USE* (vi 5; vi 2) often + *up* or *down* [ME *shutten*, fr OE *scytan*; akin to OE *sceotan* to shoot – more at 'SHOOT']
- shut away** *vt* to remove or isolate from others <governments that shut dissidents away>
- shutdown** /-down/ *n* the cessation or suspension of an activity (e.g. work in a mine or factory)
- shut-eye** *n* sleep – infml
- shutoff** /-of/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a stoppage, interruption
- shut off** *vt* 1a to cut off, stop <shut the water off> b to stop the operation of (e.g. a machine) <shut the motor off> 2 to isolate, separate – usu + *from* <a village shut off from the rest of the world> ~ *vi* to cease operating, stop <the heater shuts off automatically>
- shut out** *vt* 1 to exclude 2 chiefly *NAM* to prevent (an opponent) from scoring in a game or contest
- shutter** /'shutə/ *n* 1a a usu hinged outside cover for a window, often fitted as one of a pair b a usu movable cover or screen (e.g. over a door or as part of stage scenery) 2 a device that opens and closes the lens aperture of a camera  CAMERA 3 the movable slots in the box enclosing the swell organ part of a pipe organ, which are opened to increase the volume of the sound [SHUT + -ER] – *shutterless* *adj.*
- shutter** *vt* to provide or close with shutters
- shuttering** /'shut(ə)ning/ *n* a temporary mould placed to support concrete while setting
- shuttle** /'shutl/ *n* 1a a usu spindle-shaped device that holds a bobbin and is used in weaving for passing the thread of the weft between the threads of the warp b a spindle-shaped device holding the thread in tatting, knotting, or netting c a sliding thread holder that carries the lower thread in a sewing machine through a loop of the upper thread to make a stitch 2 a lightweight conical object with a rounded nose that is hit as the object of play in badminton and consists of (a moulded plastic imitation of) a cork with feathers stuck in it 3a (a route or vehicle for) a regular going back and forth over a usu short route b a reusable space vehicle for use esp between earth and outer space [ME *shuttle*, prob fr OE *scytel* bar, bolt, akin to ON *skutill* bolt, OE *sceotan* to shoot – more at 'SHOOT']
- shuttle** *vb* *shuttling* /'shutling/, *shutling* /1 to (cause to) move to and fro rapidly 2 to transport or be transported (as if) in or by a shuttle – *shuttler* *n.*
- shuttlecock** /-kok/ *n* SHUTTLE 2 ['shuttle + cock (bird)]
- shuttle diplomacy** *n* diplomacy carried out by an intermediary who travels frequently between the countries concerned
- shut up** *vt* to cause (sby) to be silent, esp to force (a speaker) to stop talking ~ *vi* to become silent, esp to stop talking *USE* infml
- shy** /shic/ *adj* *shier*, *shyer*; *shiest*, *shyest* 1 easily alarmed; timid, distrustful – often in combination <camera-shy> 2 wary of <~ of disclosing his age> 3 sensitively reserved or retiring; bashful; also expressive of such a state or nature <spoke in a ~ voice> 4 chiefly *NAM* lacking, short <we're 3 points ~ of what we need to win> – infml [ME *schey*, fr OE *scēob*; akin to OHG *scuhen* to frighten off, OSlav *ščuti* to chase] – *shyly* *adv.*, *shyness* *n.*
- shy** *vi* 1 to start suddenly aside in fright or alarm; recoil 2 to move or dodge to evade a person or thing – usu + *away* or *from* <they shied away from buying the flat when they learnt the full price> – *shy* *n.*
- shy** *vt* to throw (e.g. a stone) with a jerking movement; fling ~ *vi* to make a sudden throw *USE* infml [perh fr 'shy]
- shy** *n* 1 a toss, throw 2 a verbal sally <took a few shies at the integrity of his opponent> 3 a stall (e.g. at a fairground) in which people throw balls at targets (e.g. coconuts) in order to knock them down 4 an attempt *USE* (1, 2, & 4) infml
- shylock** /'shielok/ *n* an extortionate moneylender [Shylock, evil moneylender in *The Merchant of Venice*, play by William Shakespeare †1616 E dramatist & poet]
- shyster** /'shiesta/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* *sby* (esp a lawyer) who is professionally unscrupulous [prob fr *Scheuster* †1840 US attorney frequently rebuked in a New York court for pettifoggery]

**si** /see/ *n* ti [It]

**SI** *n* a system of units whose basic units are the metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, candela, and mole and which uses prefixes (e.g. micro-, kilo-, and mega-) to indicate multiples or fractions of 10 – compare METRIC [F *Système International d'Unités* international system of units]

**sial** /sɪə'l/ *n* the outer layers of the earth, composed chiefly of relatively light rock rich in silica and alumina [ISV, fr *silica* + *alumina*] – **sialic** /sɪə'lik/ *adj*

**sialagogue** /sɪə'ləgəg/ *n* a drug that promotes the flow of saliva [NL *sialagogus* promoting the expulsion of saliva, fr Gk *sialon* saliva + LL *-agogus* -agogue]

**Siamese** /sɪə'meez/ *adj* Thai [Siam (now Thailand), country in SE Asia]

**Siamese** *n*, *pl* Siamese 1 Thai 2 also Siamese cat any of a breed of slender blue-eyed short-haired domestic cats of oriental origin with pale fawn or grey body and darker ears, paws, tail, and face

**Siamese fighting fish** *n* a brightly coloured highly aggressive long-finned freshwater fish

**Siamese twin** *n* either of a pair of congenitally joined twins [fr Chang †1874 and Eng †1874 congenitally joined twins born in Siam]

**sib** /sɪb/ *adj* related by blood [ME, fr OE *sibb*, fr *sibb* kinship, akin to OHG *sippa* kinship, family, L *suus* one's own – more at SUICIDE]

**sib** *n* 1 a blood relation 2 a brother or sister considered irrespective of sex, broadly any plant or animal of a group sharing a degree of genetic relationship corresponding to that of human sibs

**sibilant** /sɪbəlnt/ *adj* having, containing, or producing a hissing sound (e.g. /sh, zh, s, z/) [L *sibilant-*, *sibilans*, prp of *sibilare* to hiss, whistle, of imit origin] – **sibilance**, **sibilancy** *n*, **sibilantly** *adv*

**sibilant** *n* a sibilant speech sound

**sibling** /sɪblɪŋ/ *n* sib 2, also any of 2 or more individuals having 1 parent in common

**sibyl** /sɪbəl/ *n*, often *cap* any of several female prophets credited to widely separate parts of the ancient world, broadly any female prophet [ME *sibile*, *sybylle*, fr MF & L, MF *sibile*, fr L *sybylla*, fr Gk] – **sibylline** /-liən-, -leen/, **sibyllie**, **sibyllie** /sɪ'bɪlɪk/ *adj*

**sic** /sɪk/ *adv* intentionally so written – used after a printed word or passage to indicate that it is intended exactly as printed or that it exactly reproduces an original [*said he seed* [~] *it all*] [L, so, thus – more at SO]

**siccative** /sɪkətɪv/ *n* DRIER 1 [LL *siccativus* making dry, fr L *siccatus*, pp of *siccare* to dry, fr *siccus* dry – more at 'SACK]

**sick** /sɪk/ *adj* 1a(1) ill, ailing (< a ~ child) (2) of or intended for use in illness (< ~ pay) (< a ~ ward) b queasy, nauseated, likely to vomit (< felt ~ in the car) – often in combination (< carsick) (< airsick) 2a sickened by intense emotion (e.g. shame or fear) (< with fear) (< worried ~) b disgusted or weary, esp because of surfeit (< gossip that makes one ~) (< ~ of flattery) c distressed and longing for sthg that one has lost or been parted from 3a mentally or emotionally disturbed, morbid b macabre, sadistic (< ~ jokes) 4a lacking vigour, sickly b badly outclassed (< looked ~ in the contest) – *infrml* [ME *sek*, *sik*, fr OE *seoc*, akin to OHG *sioh* sick, MLr *socht* depression] – **sickish** *adj*, **sickly** *adv* – **be sick** chiefly Br to vomit (< was sick on the rug)

**sick** *n*, Br vomit

**sick and tired** *adj* thoroughly bored or sated, FED UP (< I'm ~ of you nattering)

**sick bay** *n* a compartment or room (e.g. in a ship) used as a dispensary and hospital

**sick bed** /-bed/ *n* the bed on which one lies sick

**sick call** *n* a usu daily (army) parade at which individuals report as sick to the medical officer

**sicken** /sɪkən/ *vt* 1 to cause to feel ill or nauseous 2 to drive to the point of despair or loathing ~ *vi* to become ill; show signs of illness (< looked as if she was ~ing for a cold)

**sickening** /sɪkənɪŋ/ *adj* 1 causing sickness (< a ~ smell) 2 very horrible or repugnant (< fell to the floor with a ~ thud) – **sickeningly** *adv*

**sick headache** *n*, chiefly NAm migraine

**sickle** /sɪki/ *n*, chiefly Austr a day's absence from work claimed as sick leave – *slang*

**sickle** /sɪkl/ *n* 1 an agricultural implement for cutting plants or hedges, consisting of a curved metal blade with a short handle 2 a cutting mechanism (e.g. of a combine harvester) consisting of a bar with a series of cutting parts [ME *sikel*, fr OE *sicoh*; akin to OHG *suchla* sickle; both

fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *secula* sickle – more at 'SAW]

**sickle** *adj* having a curve resembling that of a sickle blade (< the ~ moon)

**sickle** *vt* 1 to mow, reap, or cut with a sickle 2 to form (a red blood cell) into a crescent shape ~ *vi* to become crescent-shaped (< the ability of red blood cells to ~)

**sick**, **leave** *n* absence from work because of illness

**sickle cell** *n* an abnormal red blood cell of crescent shape that occurs in the blood of people affected with sickle-cell anaemia

**sickle-cell anaemia** *n* a hereditary anaemia occurring primarily in Negroes, in which the sickling of most of the red blood cells causes recurrent short periods of fever and pain

**sickly** /sɪkli/ *adj* 1 somewhat unwell; also habitually ailing 2 associated with sickness (< a ~ complexion) 3 producing or tending to produce disease (< a ~ climate) 4 suggesting sickness: a strained, uneasy (< a ~ smile) b feeble, weak (< a ~ plant) 5a tending to produce nausea (< a ~ taste) b mawkish, saccharine (< ~ sentiment) – **sickliness** *n*

**sickness** /-nis/ *n* 1 ill health 2 a specific disease 3 nausea, queasiness

**sick pay** *n* salary or wages paid to an employee while on sick leave

**sick room** /-rooɦm-, -room/ *n* a room set aside for or occupied by sick people

**sick up** *vt*, Br to vomit – *infrml*

**siddur** /sɪdʊ-, 'sɪdoo-/ *n*, *pl* **siddurim** /sɪ'dooərɪm/ a prayer book of the Jewish daily liturgy [MHeb *siddūr*, lit., order, arrangement]

**side** /sɪd/ *n* 1a the right or left part of the wall or trunk of the body (< a pain in the ~) b the right or left half of the animal body or of a meat carcass 2 a location, region, or direction considered in relation to a centre or line of division (< the south ~ of the city) (< surrounded on all ~s) 3 a surface forming a border or face of an object 4 a slope of a hill, ridge, etc 5a a bounding line of a geometrical figure (< each ~ of a square) b FACE 5a(5) c either surface of a thin object (< one ~ of a record) (< the right ~ of the cloth) 6 company (< he never left her ~)

7a *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a person or group in competition or dispute with another b the attitude or activity of such a person or group; a part (< took my ~ of the argument) 8 a line of descent traced through a parent (< the grandfather on his mother's ~) 9 an aspect or part of sthg viewed in contrast with some other aspect or part (< the better ~ of his nature) 10 a position viewed as opposite to or contrasted with another (< 2 ~s to every question) 11 the direction of a specified tendency – + *on* (< she was somewhat on the short ~) 12 Br a television channel 13 Br sideways spin imparted to a billiard ball [ME, fr OE *side*; akin to OHG *sita* side, OE *sidd* ample, wide, *sāwan* to sow – more at 'SOW] – **on the side** 1 in addition to a principal occupation; *specif* as a dishonest or illegal secondary activity 2 NAm in addition to the main portion

**side** *adj* 1 at, from, towards, etc the side 2a incidental, subordinate (< a ~ issue) b made on the side, esp in secret (< a ~ payment) c additional to the main part or portion (< a ~ order for more rolls)

**side** *vi* to take sides, join or form sides (< d ~ with the rebels)

**side arm** *n* a weapon (e.g. a sword, revolver, or bayonet) worn at the side or in the belt

**side band** /-band/ *n* a band of frequencies resulting from modulation (e.g. of radio waves) close to but either greater than or less than the carrier frequency

**side board** /-bawd/ *n* 1 a usu flat-topped piece of dining-room furniture having compartments and shelves for holding articles of table service 2 *pl*, Br whiskers on the side of the face that extend from the hairline to below the ears

**side burns** /-buhnz/ *n* *pl* **SIDEBOARDS** 2 [alter of earlier *burnsides*, fr Ambrose Burnside †1881 US general]

**side by** 'side *adv* beside one another (< walked ~ down the aisle) – **side-by-side** *adj*

**side car** /-kɑh/ *n* a car attached to the side of a motorcycle or motor scooter for 1 or more passengers

**sided** /sɪdɪd/ *adj* having sides, usu of a specified number or kind (< one-sided) (< glass-sided) – **sidedness** *n*


**side dish** *n* any of the foods accompanying and subordinate to the main dish of a course


**side drum** *n* SNARE DRUM

**side effect** *n* a secondary and usu adverse effect (e.g. of a drug) (< forced to stop taking the drug by the ~s)

**sidekick** /-kɪk/ *n*, chiefly NAm sb closely associated with another, esp as a subordinate – *infrml*

**side light** /-liet/ *n* 1 incidental or additional information 2a the red

port light or the green starboard light carried by ships travelling at night  
**b** a light at the side of a (motor) vehicle  
**'side, line** /-li:n/ *n* 1 a line at right angles to a goal line or end line and marking a side of a court or field of play  SPORT 2a a line of goods manufactured or esp sold in addition to one's principal line **b** a business or activity pursued in addition to a full-time occupation 3 *pl* the standpoint of people not immediately participating – chiefly in *on the sidelines*  
**'side, long** /-lɒŋ/ *adv* towards the side, obliquely [alter. of *sideling* (sideways), fr ME *sidling*, fr *'side* + *-ling*]  
**'sidelong** *adj* 1 inclining or directed to one side (< ~ glances) 2 indirect rather than straightforward  
**'side, man** /-mæn/ *n* a member of a band or orchestra, esp a jazz or swing orchestra, other than the leader or featured performer  
**'side-on** *adv* with 1 side facing in a given direction, *also* in profile  
**'sider-, sidero-** *comb form* iron (siderolite) (< siderosis) [MF, fr L, fr Gk *sidēr-, sidēro-*, fr *sidēros*]  
**'sidereal** /si'diəriəl/ *adj* of or expressed in relation to stars or constellations [L *sidereus*, fr *sider-*, *sidus* star, constellation, akin to Lith *svydus* shining]  
**'sidereal day** *n* the interval between 2 successive transits of the March equinox over the upper meridian of a particular place, 23h, 56min, 4.09s of solar time  
**'sidereal time** *n* time based on the sidereal day  
**'sidereal year** *n* the time in which the earth completes 1 revolution in its orbit round the sun measured with respect to the fixed stars, 365 days, 6h, 9min, and 9.54s of solar time  
**'siderite** /'sɪdəraɪt/ *n* ferrous carbonate occurring as a mineral [G *siderit*, fr Gk *sideros* iron] – **'sideritic** /-'rɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**'siderite** *n* a nickel-iron meteorite [*sider-* + *-ite*]  
**'sidesaddle** /'sɪdəsædl/ *n* a saddle for women in which the rider sits with both legs on the same side of the horse – **'sidesaddle** *adv*  
**'side, show** /-ʃəʊ/ *n* 1a a minor show offered in addition to a main exhibition (e.g. of a circus) **b** a fairground booth or counter offering a game of luck or skill 2 an incidental diversion  
**'side, slip** /-slɪp/ *vi* **pp-** to move sideways through the air in a downward direction – **'sideslip** *n*  
**'sidesman** /'sɪdəzmæn/ *n* any of a group of people in an Anglican church who assist the churchwardens, esp in taking the collection in services  
**'side, spin** /-spɪn/ *n* rotary motion of a moving ball about a vertical axis  
**'side, splitting** /-splɪtɪŋ/ *adj* causing raucous laughter  
**'side, step** /-stɛp/ *vb* **pp-** *vi* 1 to step sideways or to one side 2 to evade an issue or decision ~ *vt* 1 to move quickly out of the way of (< ~ a blow) 2 to bypass, evade (< adept at ~ ping awkward questions)  
**'side, step** *n* 1 a step aside (e.g. in boxing to avoid a punch) 2 a step taken sideways (e.g. when climbing on skis)  
**'side, street** *n* a minor street branching off a main thoroughfare  
**'side, stroke** /-stroʊk/ *n* a swimming stroke executed while lying on one's side  
**'sideswipe** /-swɪp/ *n* an incidental deprecatory remark, allusion, or reference – *infrml*  
**'side, table** *n* a table designed to be placed against a wall or away from a main table  
**'side, track** /-træk/ *n* 1 an unimportant line of thinking that is followed instead of a more important one 2 *NAM* a siding  
**'sidetrack** *vi* to divert from a course or purpose; distract  
**'side, walk** /-wɔːk/ *n*, *NAM* a pavement  
**'sidewards** /-wɔːdz/, *NAM* chiefly *sideward* *adv* towards one side  
**'side, ways** /-weɪz/, *NAM* *also* *sideway* /-weɪ/ *adv* or *adj* 1 to or from the side (< ~ movement); *also* *askance* 2 with 1 side forward (< turn it ~) 3 to a position of equivalent rank (< he was promoted ~)  
**'side, whiskers** *n pl* (long) facial sideboards  
**'side, winder** /-wɪəndə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a heavy swinging blow from the side – *infrml*  
**'side, wise** /-weɪz/ *adv* or *adj* sideways  
**'siding** /'sɪdɪŋ/ *n* a short railway track connected with the main track  
**'sidle** /'sɪdl/ *vi* *sidling* /'sɪdlɪŋ/ 1 to move obliquely 2 to walk timidly or hesitantly; edge along – *usu* + *up* [prob back-formation fr *sideling* (sideways) – more at *sidelong*] – **'sidle** *n*  
**'siege** /seɪʒ/ *n* a military blockade of a city or fortified place to compel it to surrender; *also* the duration of or operations carried out in a siege [ME *sege*, fr OF, *sege*, blockade, fr (assumed) VL *sedicūm*, fr *sedicare* to

settle, fr L *sedere* to sit – more at *sit*] – **lay siege** to 1 to besiege militarily (< laid siege to the town) 2 to pursue diligently or persistently  
**'siemens** /'si:mənz/ *n*, *pl* *siemens* the SI unit of conductance  PHYSICS [Werner von Siemens †1892 G electrical engineer]  
**'sienna** /'si:ənə/ *n* an earthy substance containing oxides of iron and usu of manganese that is brownish yellow when raw and orange red or reddish brown when burnt and is used as a pigment [It *terra di Siena*, lit., Siena earth, fr *Siena*, *Sienna*, town in Italy]  
**'sierra** /'si:ərə/ *n* a range of mountains, esp with a serrated or irregular outline [Sp, lit., saw, fr L *serra*]  
**Sierra** – a communication code word for the letter *s*  
**'siesta** /'si:estə/ *n* an afternoon nap or rest [Sp, fr L *sexta* (hora) noon, lit., sixth hour – more at *sext*]  
**'sieva, bean** /'se:və/ *n* any of several small-seeded beans closely related to and sometimes classed as lima beans, *also* the seed of a lima bean [origin unknown]  
**'sieve** /sɪv/ *n* a device with a meshed or perforated bottom that will allow the passage of liquids or fine solids while retaining coarser material or solids [ME *sive*, fr OE *sife*, akin to OHG *sib* sieve, Serb *sipiti* to drizzle]  
**'sieve** *vt* to sift  
**'sieve cell** *n* an elongated tapering cell that is present in the phloem of conifers and lower vascular plants and is important in the conduction of nutrients through the plant  
**'sieve tube** *n* a tube consisting of an end-to-end series of thin-walled living cells that is present in plant phloem and is held to function chiefly in the conduction of nutrient solutions of organic compounds (e.g. sugars)  
**'siffleur** /sɪ'fluː, 'sɪflə/ *n* one who whistles, esp as a musical performer [F, fr *siffler* to whistle]  
**'sift** /sɪft/ *vt* 1a to put through a sieve (< ~ flour) **b** to separate (out) (as if) by passing through a sieve 2 to scatter (as if) with a sieve (< ~ sugar on a cake) [ME *siften*, fr OE *sifian*, akin to OE *sife* sieve] – **sift** through to make a close examination of (things in a mass or group)  
**'sifter** /'sɪftə/ *n* <sup>1</sup>CASTOR 2 [SIFT + <sup>2</sup>-FR]  
**'sigh** /sɪə/ *vi* 1 to take a long deep audible breath (e.g. in weariness or grief) 2 *esp* of the wind to make a sound like sighing 3 to grieve, yearn – *usu* + *for* (< ~ ing for the days of his youth) ~ *vt* to express by or with sighs [ME *sihen*, alter. of *sichen*, fr OE *sican*, akin to MD *visken* to sigh] – **'sigher** *n*  
**'sigh** *n* 1 an act of sighing, esp when expressing an emotion or feeling (e.g. weariness or relief) 2 a sound of or resembling sighing (< ~ s of the summer breeze)  
**'sight** /saɪt/ *n* 1 sthg seen, esp a spectacle (< the familiar ~ of the postman coming along the street) 2a a thing (e.g. an impressive or historic building) regarded as worth seeing – often *pl* (< see the ~ s of Paris) **b** sthg ridiculous or displeasing in appearance (< you must get some sleep, you look a ~) 3a the process, power, or function of seeing, *specif* the one of the 5 basic physical senses by which light received by the eye is interpreted by the brain as a representation of the forms, brightness, and colour of the objects of the real world **b** a manner of regarding, an opinion 4a the act of looking at or beholding sthg (< fainted at the ~ of blood) **b** a view, glimpse (< got a ~ of the Queen) **c** an observation (e.g. by a navigator) to determine direction or position 5a a perception of an object by the eye **b** the range of vision 6a a device for guiding the eye (e.g. in aiming a firearm or bomb) **b** a device with a small aperture through which objects are to be seen and by which their direction is ascertained 7 a great deal, a lot (< earned a ~ more as a freelance) – *infrml* [ME, fr OE *gsiht* faculty or act of sight, thing seen; akin to OHG *gsiht* sight, OE *seon* to see] – **'sightless** *adj*, **'sightlessness** *n* – **at first sight** when viewed without proper investigation (< at first sight the place seems very dull) – **at/on sight** as soon as presented to view – **out of sight** 1 beyond all expectation or reason (< wages have risen out of sight during the past year) 2 chiefly *NAM* marvellous, wonderful – *infrml*; no longer in vogue – **sight for sore eyes** sby or sthg whose appearance or arrival is an occasion for joy or relief  
**'sight** *vt* 1 to get or catch sight of (< several whales were ~ ed) 2 to aim (e.g. a weapon) by means of sights 3a to equip (e.g. a gun) with sights **b** to adjust the sights of ~ *vi* to take aim (e.g. in shooting) – **'sighting** *n*  
**'sighted** *adj* having sight, esp of a specified kind – often in combination (< clear-sighted)  
**'sightly** /-li/ *adj* 1 pleasing to the eye; attractive 2 chiefly *NAM* affording a fine view (< homes in a ~ location) – **'sightliness** *n*  
**'sight, read** /ri:ed/ *vb* *sight-read* /red/ *vi* to read (e.g. a foreign language) or perform (music) without previous preparation or study ~ *vi* to read at

- sight; *esp* to perform music at sight [back-formation fr *sight reader*] – **sight reader** *n*
- sight screen** *n* a screen placed on the boundary of a cricket field behind the bowler to improve the batsman's view of the ball
- sightseeing** /-see-ɪŋ/ *n* the act or pastime of touring interesting or attractive sights – often in *go sightseeing* <went on holiday ~ in Scotland> <a ~ trip> – **sightseer** /-see-ə/ *n*
- siglum** /'sɪɡlʊm/ *n*, *pl* **sigla** /-lə/ an abbreviation (e.g. a special character) used in a manuscript, coin, or seal [LL, perh fr L *sigillum* little figure, dim. of *signum*]
- sigma** /'sɪɡmə/ *n* 1 the 18th letter of the Greek alphabet 2 *also* **sigma particle** an unstable elementary particle of the baryon family about 2000 times heavier than an electron and existing in positive, negative, and neutral charge states [Gk, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *sāmekh*, 15th letter of the Heb alphabet]
- sigmoid** /'sɪɡmɔɪd/ *also* **sigmoidal** /-'mɔɪdl/ *adj* curved like the letter C or S [Gk *sigmoideos*, fr *sigma*, fr a common form of sigma shaped like the Roman letter C] – **sigmoidally** *adv*
- sign** /sɪn/ *n* 1a a motion or gesture by which a thought, command, or wish is made known **SIGNA** 1 2 a mark with a conventional meaning, used to replace or supplement words  **SYMBOL** 3 any of the 12 divisions of the zodiac 4a(1) a character (e.g. a flat or sharp) used in musical notation (2) a segno **b** a character (e.g. –) indicating a mathematical operation; *also* either of 2 characters + and – that form part of the symbol of a number and characterize it as positive or negative 5 a board or notice bearing information or advertising matter or giving warning, command, or identification 6a sthg material or external that stands for or signifies sthg spiritual **b** sthg serving to indicate the presence or existence of sth or sthg <saw no ~ of him anywhere> **c** a presage, portent <~s of an early spring> **d** objective evidence of plant or animal disease 7 a remarkable event indicating the will of a deity [ME *signe*, fr OF, fr L *signum* mark, token, sign, image, seal, prob akin to L *secare* to cut – more at *'saw*]
- sign** *vt* 1a to place a sign on **b** to indicate, represent, or express by a sign 2a to put a signature to **b** to assign formally <~ed over his property> **c**(1) to write down (one's name) (2) to write as the name of (oneself) <~ed herself 'R E Swan> 3 to warn, order, or request by a sign <~ed him to enter> 4 to engage by securing the signature of on a contract of employment <~ed a new striker from Arsenal> – often + *on* or *up* ~ *vi* 1 to write one's signature, esp in token of assent, responsibility, or obligation 2 to make a sign or signal [ME *signen*, fr MF *signer*, fr L *signare* to mark, sign, seal, fr *signum*] – **signer** *n*
- signal** /'sɪɡnəl/ *n* 1 an act, event, or watchword agreed on as the occasion of concerted action <waited for the ~ to begin the attack> 2 sthg that occasions action <his scolding was a ~ for the little girl to start crying> 3 a conventional sign (e.g. a siren or flashing light) made to give warning or command <a ~ that warns of an air raid> 4a an object used to transmit or convey information beyond the range of human voice **b** the sound or image conveyed in telegraphy, telephony, radio, radar, or television **c** the variations of a physical quantity (e.g. pressure or voltage) by which information may be transmitted e.g. (1) the wave that is used to modulate a carrier <the video ~> (2) the wave produced by the modulation of a carrier by a signal <a radio ~> [ME, fr MF, fr ML *signale*, fr LL, neut. of *signalis* of a sign, fr L *signum*]
- signal** *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) *vt* 1 to warn, order, or request by a signal <~led the fleet to turn back> 2 to communicate by signals <~led their refusal> 3 to be a sign of, mark <his resignation ~led the end of a long career> ~ *vi* to make or send a signal – **signaller**, *NAM* chiefly **signalman** *n*
- signally** *adv* 1 used in signalling <a ~ beacon> 2 distinguished from the ordinary; conspicuous <a ~ achievement> – chiefly fml [modif of F *signalé*, pp of *signaler* to distinguish, fr OIt *segnalare* to signal, distinguish, fr *segnale* signal, fr ML *signale*]
- signalbox** /-bɒks/ *n*, *Br* a raised building above a railway line from which signals and points are worked
- signalize**, -ise /'sɪgnalaɪz/ *vt* 1 chiefly *NAM* to point out carefully or distinctly; draw attention to 2 to make noteworthy; distinguish <a performance ~d by consummate artistry> – fml [*'signal*] – **signalization** /-'zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- signally** /'sɪgnəli/ *adv* in a signal manner; remarkably <a ~ tactless decision> – chiefly fml
- signalman** /-mən/ *n*, *pl* **signalmen** /-mən/ *sby* employed to operate signals (e.g. for a railway)
- signatory** /'sɪɡnət(ə)rɪ/ *n* a signer with another or others; *esp* a govern-
- ment bound with others by a signed convention [L *signatorius* of sealing, fr *signatus*, pp] – **signatory** *adj*
- signature** /'sɪɡnətʃə/ *n* 1a the name of a person written with his/her own hand **b** the act of signing one's name 2 a letter or figure placed usu at the bottom of the first page on each sheet of printed pages (e.g. of a book) as a direction to the binder in gathering the sheets; *also* the sheet itself [MF or ML, MF, fr ML *signatura*, fr L *signatus*, pp of *signare* to sign, seal]
- signature tune** *n* a melody, passage, or song used to identify a programme, entertainer, etc
- signboard** /'sɪn,bɔ:d/ *n* **SIGN** 5
- signet** /'sɪɡnɪt/ *n* 1 a personal seal used officially in lieu of signature 2 the impression made (as if) by a signet 3 a small intaglio seal (e.g. in a finger ring) [ME, fr MF, dim. of *signe* sign, seal]
- signet ring** *n* a finger ring engraved with a signet, seal, or monogram
- significance** /sɪɡ'nɪfɪkəns/ *n* 1a sthg conveyed as a meaning, often latently or indirectly **b** the quality of conveying or implying 2a the quality of being important, consequence **b** the quality of being statistically significant  **STATISTICS**
- significant** /sɪɡ'nɪfɪkənt/ *adj* 1 having meaning, *esp* expressive <the painter's task to pick out the ~ details – Herbert Read> 2 suggesting or containing a veiled or special meaning <perhaps her glance was ~> 3a having or likely to have influence or effect, important <the budget brought no ~ changes> **b** probably caused by sthg other than chance <statistically ~ correlation between vitamin deficiency and disease> **c** being any of the figures that comes before or after the decimal point of a number and is not zero or is the first figure after the decimal point that is an exact zero [L *significans*, *significans*, prp of *significare* to signify] – **significantly** *adv*
- signification** /sɪɡ'nɪfɪkə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 signifying by symbolic means (e.g. signs) 2 the meaning that a term, symbol, or character normally conveys or is intended to convey
- significant** /sɪɡ'nɪfɪkətɪv/ *adj* 1 indicative 2 significant, suggestive – **significatively** *adv*, **significativeness** *n*
- signify** /'sɪɡnɪfɪ/ *vt* 1 to mean, denote 2 to show, *esp* by a conventional token (e.g. a word, signal, or gesture) ~ *vi* to have significance; matter [ME *signifien*, fr OF *signifier*, fr L *significare* to indicate, signify, fr *signum* sign] – **signifiable** /-fɪe-əbl/ *adj*, **signifier** /-fɪe-ə/ *n*
- sign** *in vi* to record one's arrival by signing a register or punching a card ~ *vi* to record the arrival of (a person) or receipt of (an article) by signing <all deliveries must be signed in at the main gate>
- sign language** *n* 1 a system of hand gestures used for communication (e.g. by the deaf) 2 unsystematic communication chiefly by gesture between people speaking different languages
- sign manual** *n*, *pl* **signs manual** a signature, specif the sovereign's signature on a grant or charter [*'sign* + *manual*, *adj*]
- sign off** *vi* 1 to announce the end of a message, programme, or broadcast and finish broadcasting 2 to end a letter (e.g. with a signature) – **sign-off** *n*
- sign of the cross** *n* a gesture of the hand forming a cross, *esp* on forehead, shoulders, and chest, to profess Christian faith or invoke divine protection or blessing
- sign on** *vi* 1 to commit oneself to a job by signature or agreement <sign on as a member of the crew> 2 *Br* to register as unemployed, *esp* at an employment exchange
- signor** /'seɪn,jaw, -'-/ *n*, *pl* **signors**, **signori** /-rɪ/ an Italian man – used as a title equivalent to *Mr* [It *signore*, *signor*, fr ML *senior* superior, lord – more at *SENIOR*]
- signora** /'seɪn,jawɹə/ *n*, *pl* **signoras**, **signore** /-rɪ/ an Italian married woman – used as a title equivalent to *Mrs* or as a generalized term of direct address [It, fem. of *signore*, *signor*]
- signore** /'seɪn,jawɹɪ/ *n*, *pl* **signori** /-rɪ/ – used as a generalized term of direct address when speaking to an Italian man [It]
- signorina** /'seɪn,jaw'reɪnə/ *n*, *pl* **signorinas**, **signorine** /-rɪ/ an unmarried Italian girl or woman – used as a title equivalent to *Miss* [It, fr dim. of *signora*]
- sign out** *vi* to indicate one's departure by signing in a register <signed out of the hospital> ~ *vi* to record or approve the release or withdrawal of <sign books out of a library>
- signpost** /-pəʊst/ *n* a post (e.g. at a road junction) with signs on it to direct travellers
- signpost** *vt* 1 to provide with signposts or guides 2 to indicate, mark
- sign up** *vi* to join an organization or accept an obligation by signing a



- contract; *esp* to enlist in the armed services ~ *vt* to cause to sign a contract
- sika deer** /'seeks/ *n* a small deer introduced into Britain from Japan and now living wild in many areas [Jap *shika*]
- Sikh** /seeks/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of a monotheistic religion of India marked by rejection of idolatry and caste [Hindi, lit., disciple] – *Sikhism* *n*
- silage** /'sieli/ *n* fodder converted, *esp* in a silo, into succulent feed for livestock [short for *ensilage*]
- silane** /'silayn, 'sie-/ *n* any of various compounds of silicon and hydrogen that are analogous to hydrocarbons of the methane series [ISV *silcon* + methane]
- sild** /sild/ *n*, *pl silda*, *esp* collectively *sild* a young herring other than a brisling that is canned as a sardine, *esp* in Norway [Norw]
- silence** /'sielns/ *n* 1 forbearance from speech or noise; muteness – often interjectional 2 absence of sound or noise; stillness 3 failure to mention a particular thing <can't understand the government's ~ on such an important topic> 4a oblivion, obscurity <promising writers who vanish into ~> b secrecy [ME, fr OF, fr L *silentium*, fr *silent-*, *silens*]
- silence** *vt* 1 to put or reduce to silence, still 2 to restrain from expression, suppress 3 to cause (a gun, mortar, etc) to cease firing by return fire, bombing, etc
- silencer** /'sielnsə/ *n* 1 a silencing device for a small firearm 2 chiefly Br a device for deadening the noise of the exhaust gas release of an internal-combustion engine [*SILENCE* + *-ER*]
- silent** /'sielnt/ *adj* 1a making no utterance; mute, speechless b disinclined to speak; not talkative 2 free from sound or noise; still 3a endured without utterance <~ grief> b conveyed by refraining from reaction or comment; tacit <~ assent> 4 making no mention, uninformative <history is ~ about this man> 5 MUTE 3 <~ b in doubt> 6 lacking spoken dialogue <a ~ film> [L *silent-*, *silens*, fr prp of *silere* to be silent, akin to Goth *anasilan* to subside, L *sinere* to let go, lay – more at SITE] – *silently* *adv*, *silence* *n*
- silent majority** *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr a majority who do not assert their (moderate) views
- silent partner** *n*, chiefly NAm SLEEPING PARTNER
- silhouette** /'siloo'et/ *n* 1 a portrait in profile cut from dark material and mounted on a light background 2 the shape of a body as it appears against a lighter background [F, fr Étienne de *Silhouette* †1767 F controller-general of finances; prob fr his petty economies]
- silhouette** *vt* to represent by a silhouette; also to project on a background like a silhouette
- silico-**, **silico-** *comb form* silicon <silicone> [*silicon*]
- silica** /'silika/ *n* silicon dioxide occurring in many rocks and minerals (e.g. quartz, opal, and sand) [NL, fr L *silic-*, *silix* flint, quartz]
- silica gel** *n* silica resembling coarse white sand in appearance but possessing many fine pores and therefore extremely adsorbent
- silicate** /'silikat, -kayt/ *n* any of numerous insoluble often complex compounds that contain silicon and oxygen, constitute the largest class of minerals, and are used in building materials (e.g. cement, bricks, and glass) [*silicic* (acid)]
- siliceous**, **silicious** /'silishəs/ *adj* of or containing silica or a silicate [L *siliceus* of flint, fr *silic-*, *silix*]
- silicif-** *comb form* silica <siliciferous> [NL *silica*]
- silicic** /'silisik/ *adj* of or derived from silica or silicon [NL *silica* & NL *silicium* silicon (fr *silica*)]
- silicify** /'silisifi/ *vt* to convert into or impregnate with silica ~ *vi* to become silicified – *silicification* /-fi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- silicon** /'silikon/ *n* a tetravalent nonmetallic element that occurs, in combination with other elements, as the most abundant element next to oxygen in the earth's crust and is used *esp* in alloys ⚡ PERIODIC TABLE [NL *silica* + E -on (as in carbon)]
- silicon chip** *n* CHIP 4 ⚡ COMPUTER
- silicone** /'silikohn/ *n* any of various polymeric organic silicon compounds obtained as oils, greases, or plastics and used *esp* for water-resistant and heat-resistant lubricants, varnishes, and electrical insulators
- silicosis** /'silikohsis/ *n* a disease of the lungs marked by hardening of the tissue and shortness of breath and caused by prolonged inhalation of silica dusts [NL] – *silicotic* /-koti/ *adj* or *n*
- silicula** /'silikwa, -lee-/ *n* a long narrow seed capsule that is characteristic of plants of the mustard family [NL, fr L, pod, husk; akin to L *silic-*, *silix* flint]
- silique** /'si'leek/ *n* a siliqua [F, fr NL *siliqua*]
- silk** /silk/ *n* 1 a fine continuous protein fibre produced by various insect larvae, usu for cocoons; *esp* a lustrous tough elastic fibre produced by silkworms and used for textiles 2 thread, yarn, or fabric made from silk filaments 3 a King's or Queen's Counsel 4 *pl* the cap and shirt of a jockey made in the registered racing colour of his/her stable 5 a silky material or filament (e.g. that produced by a spider) [ME, fr OE *seolc*, prob of Baltic or Slav origin; akin to OPruss *silkas* silk, OSlav *shelkü*; (3) fr the silk gown worn by a King's or Queen's Counsel]
- 'silk cotton** *n* kapok or another silky or cottony seed covering
- silk** /'silkən/ *adj* 1 made of silk 2 resembling silk, *esp* in softness or lustre
- 'silk gland** *n* a gland (e.g. in an insect larva or spider) that produces a sticky fluid that is extruded in filaments and hardens into silk on exposure to air
- 'silk hat** *n* a hat with a tall cylindrical crown and a silk-plush finish worn by men as a dress hat
- 'silk moth** *n* a silkworm
- silk screen**, **silk-screen printing** *n* a stencil process in which paint or ink is forced onto the material to be printed, through the meshes of a prepared silk or organdie screen – *silk-screen* *vt*
- 'silk worm** /-wuhm/ *n* a moth whose larva spins a large amount of strong silk in constructing its cocoon
- 'silkly** /'silkli/ *adj* 1 silken 2 having or covered with fine soft hairs, plumes, or scales – *silkily* *adv*, *silkiness* *n*
- sill** /sil/ *n* 1 a horizontal piece (e.g. a timber) that forms the lowest member or one of the lowest members of a framework or supporting structure (e.g. a window frame or door frame) ⚡ ARCHITECTURE 2 a horizontal sheet of intrusive igneous rock running between strata of other rocks ⚡ GEOGRAPHY [ME *sille*, fr OE *syll*, akin to OHG *swell* beam, threshold, Gk *selis* crossbeam]
- syllabub** /'siləbub/ *n* (a) syllabub
- sillimanite** /'silimaniet/ *n* a brown, greyish, or pale green mineral consisting of an aluminium silicate [Benjamin Silliman †1864 US geologist]
- 'silly** /'sili/ *adj* 1a showing a lack of common sense or sound judgment <a very ~ mistake> b trifling, frivolous <a ~ remark> <he's just being ~> 2 stunned, dazed <scared ~> <knocked me ~> 3 of or occupying a fielding position in cricket in front of and dangerously near the batsman <~ mid-off> ⚡ SPORT [ME *sely*, *silly* happy, innocent, pitiable, feeble, fr (assumed) OE *sælig*, fr OE *sælig* happiness; akin to OHG *salig* happy, L *solaris* to console, Gk *hilaros* cheerful] – *sillily* *adv*, *silliness* *n*, *silly* *n* or *adv*
- 'silly-billy** /- 'sili, - 'sili-/ *n* sby absurd or silly – used *esp* by or to children [*silly* + *Billy*, nickname for *William*; prob fr William IV †1837 King of England]
- silo** /'sielo/ *n*, *pl silos* 1 a trench, pit, or *esp* a tall cylinder (e.g. of wood or concrete) usu sealed to exclude air and used for making and storing silage 2 an underground structure for housing a guided missile [Sp, perh of Celt origin; akin to OIr *sil* seed, OE *sāwan* to sow – more at 'sow]
- 'silt** /silt/ *n* a deposit of sediment (e.g. at the bottom of a river) [ME *cylte*, prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan *syll* salt marsh, akin to OHG *sulza* salt marsh, OE *sealt* salt] – *silty* *adj*
- 'silt** *vb* to make or become choked or obstructed with silt – often + *up* – *siltation* /-'tays(h)ə)n/ *n*
- 'siltstone** /-'stohn/ *n* a rock composed chiefly of hardened silt
- Silures** /'silyoorez/ *n* *pl* a people of ancient Britain chiefly inhabiting S Wales [L]
- Silurian** /'sie'l(y)oorn-ən/ *adj* 1 of the Silures or their dwelling-place 2 of or being the period of the Palaeozoic era between the Ordovician and Devonian ⚡ EVOLUTION [L *Silures*] – *Silurian* *n*
- silvan** /'silvən/ *adj* sylvan
- 'silver** /'silvə/ *n* 1 a white ductile and malleable metallic element that takes a very high degree of polish, is chiefly univalent in compounds, and has the highest thermal and electrical conductivity of any substance ⚡ PERIODIC TABLE 2 silver as a commodity 3 coins made of silver or cupro-nickel 4 articles, *esp* tableware, made of or plated with silver; also cutlery made of other metals 5 a whitish grey colour 6 SILVER MEDAL [ME, fr OE *seolfor*; akin to OHG *silbar* silver]
- 'silver** *adj* 1 made of silver 2a resembling silver, *esp* in having a white lustrous sheen b giving a soft, clear, ringing sound c eloquently persuasive <a ~ tongue> 3 consisting of or yielding silver <~ ore> 4 relating to or characteristic of silver 5 of or marking a 25th anniversary <~ wedding>
- 'silver** *vt* 1 to cover with (a substance resembling) silver 2 to impart a silvery lustre or whiteness to – *silverer* *n*
- 'silver birch** *n* a common Eurasian birch with a silvery-white trunk



**silver 'fir** *n* any of various firs with leaves that have a white or silvery white undersurface

**silverfish** /-fish/ *n* 1 any of various silvery fishes 2 any of various small wingless insects; esp one found in houses and sometimes injurious to sized paper (e.g. wallpaper) or starched fabrics

**silver 'foil** *n* 1 SILVER PAPER 2 tinfoil

**silver 'fox** *n* a genetically determined colour phase of the common red fox in which the pelt is black tipped with white

**silver 'grey** *adj* or *n* light lustrous grey


**silver 'lining** *n* a consoling or hopeful prospect [fr metaphorical use of the phrase *every cloud has a silver lining* (i.e. a white edge)]

**silver 'medal** *n* a medal of silver awarded to one who comes second in a competition – **silver medalist** *n*

**silver 'paper** *n* paper with a coating or lamination resembling silver

**silver 'plate** *n* 1 a plating of silver 2 tableware and cutlery of silver or a silver-plated metal

**silver 'screen** *n* the film industry

**silver'side** /-sied/ *n*, *Br* a cut of beef from the outer part of the top of the leg below the atchbone, that is boned and often salted  MEAT [fr its being considered the best cut]

**silver'smith** /-smith/ *n* sby who works in silver

**silver'ware** /-weə/ *n* SILVER PLATE 2

**silver'weed** /-weed/ *n* any of various somewhat silvery plants, esp a cinquefoil with leaves covered in a dense mat of silvery hairs on the underside

**silvery** /sɪlv(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 having a soft clear musical tone 2 having the lustre or whiteness of silver 3 containing or consisting of silver – **silveriness** *n*

**silviculture** /sɪlvɪ'kʌltʃə/ *n* a branch of forestry dealing with the development and care of forests [F, fr L *silva*, *sylvā* forest + *cultura* culture] – **silvicultural** /-kʌltʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj*, **silviculturist** *n*

**simian** /sɪ'mi:ən/ *adj* or *n* (of or resembling) a monkey or ape [L *simia* ape, perh fr *simus* snub-nosed, fr Gk *simos*]

**similar** /sɪ'mɪlə/ *adj* 1 marked by correspondence or resemblance, esp of a general kind (< but not identical) 2 alike in 1 or more essential aspects (< no 2 signatures are exactly ~ >) 3 differing in size but not in shape (< triangles) – compare CONGRUENT 2 [F *similaire*, fr L *similis* like, similar – more at SAME] – **similarly** *adv*, **similarity** /-lærəti/ *n*

**smile** /sɪ'mɪl/ *n* a figure of speech explicitly comparing 2 unlike things (e.g. in cheeks like roses) – compare METAPHOR [L, comparison, fr neut of *similis*]

**similitude** /sɪ'mɪlɪtu:dh/ *n* (an instance of) correspondence in kind, quality, or appearance – *fml* [ME, fr MF, resemblance, likeness, fr L *similitudo*, fr *similis*]

**simmer** /sɪ'mə/ *vi* 1a of a liquid to bubble gently below or just at the boiling point b of food to cook in a simmering liquid 2a to develop, ferment (< ideas ~ing in the back of his mind) b to be agitated by suppressed emotion (< with anger) ~ *vi* to cook (food) in a simmering liquid [alter of E dial *simper*, fr ME *simper*, of imit origin]

**simmer down** *vi* to become calm or less excited

**'simnel cake** /sɪ'mnəl/ *n*, *Br* a rich fruit cake traditionally filled with a layer of almond paste and baked esp for mid-Lent and Easter [ME *simenel*, fr OF, fr L *simila* fine wheat flour]

**simony** /sɪ'məni, 'sɪ-/ *n* the buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical promotion [LL *simonia*, fr *Simon* Magus 1st c AD Samaritan sorcerer (Acts 8:9–24)] – **simoniac** /sɪ'mohniək/ *adj* or *n*, **simoniacal** /sɪ'mə'ni:əkəl/ *adj*


**siroom** /sɪ'mo:hm/ *n* a hot dry violent dust-laden wind blowing from an Asian or African desert [Ar *samūm*]

**simoon** /sɪ'mo:hn/ *n* a siroom

**simp** /sɪmp/ *n*, chiefly NAm a simpleton – *infml*

**'simper** /sɪmpə/ *vi* to smile in a foolish self-conscious manner ~ *vi* to say with a simper (< ed her apologies) [perh of Scand origin; akin to Dan dial. *simper* affected, coy] – **simperer** *n*

**\*simper** *n* a foolish self-conscious smile

**'simple** /sɪmpl/ *adj* 1a free from guile or vanity, unassuming b free from elaboration or showiness; unpretentious (< wrote in a ~ style) 2 of humble birth or lowly position (< a ~ farmer) 3a lacking intelligence, esp mentally retarded b lacking sophistication; naive 4a sheer, unqualified (< the ~ truth of the matter) b free of secondary complications (< a ~ fracture) c of a sentence consisting of only 1 main clause and no subordinate clauses d composed essentially of 1 substance e not made up of many like units (< a ~ eye) 5a not subdivided into branches or leaflets  PLANT b consisting of a single carpel c of a fruit developing from a single ovary 6 not limited, unconditional (< a ~ obligation) 7 readily understood or

performed; straightforward (< a ~ task) (< the adjustment was ~ to make) [ME, fr OF, plain, uncomplicated, artless, fr L *simplicis* (fr *sem-*, *sim-* one + *-plus* multiplied by) & *simplic-*, *simplex* (fr *sem-*, *sim-* + *-plic-*, *-plex* fold), lit, single; akin to Gk *diplak-*, *diplex* double – more at SAME, DOUBLE] – **simpleness** *n*

**\*simple** *n*, *archaic* a medicinal plant [simple (uncompounded substance, medicine with only 1 ingredient), fr 'simple]

**simple fraction** *n* a fraction having whole numbers for the numerator and denominator – compare COMPLEX FRACTION

**simple harmonic motion** *n* a vibratory motion (e.g. the swing of a pendulum) in which the acceleration is proportional and opposite to the displacement of the body from an equilibrium position

**simple-hearted** *adj* having a sincere and unassuming nature; artless

**simple interest** *n* interest paid or calculated on only the original capital sum of a loan

**simple machine** *n* any of various elementary mechanisms formerly considered as the elements of which all machines are composed and including the lever, the wheel and axle, the pulley, the inclined plane, the wedge, and the screw

**simple-minded** /-miendɪd/ *adj* devoid of subtlety; unsophisticated; also mentally retarded – **simplemindedly** *adv*, **simplemindedness** *n*

**simpleton** /sɪmpt(ə)n/ *n* sby lacking common sense or intelligence [*'simple* + *-ton* (as in surnames such as *Washington*)]

**simple vow** *n* a vow taken by a member of a Roman Catholic order under which retention of individual property is permitted and marriage, though illicit, is valid under canon law – compare SOLEMN VOW

**simplex /simpleks/** *adj* 1 simple, single 2 allowing telecommunication in only 1 direction at a time [L *simplic-*, *simplex* – more at 'SIMPLE]

**simplicity** /sɪm'plɪsəti/ *n* 1 the state or quality of being simple 2 lack of subtlety or penetration, naivety 3 freedom from affectation or guile; sincerity, straightforwardness 4a directness of expression; clarity b restraint in ornamentation, austerity, plainness [ME *simplicitate*, fr MF *simplicité*, fr L *simplicitat-*, *simplicitas*, fr *simplic-*, *simplex*]

**simplify** /sɪm'plɪfə/ *vt* to make simple or simpler. e.g. a to reduce to basic essentials b to diminish in scope or complexity; streamline (< a manufacturing process) c to make more intelligible; clarify ~ *vi* to become simple or simpler [F *simplifier*, fr ML *simplificare*, fr L *simplicis* simple] – **simplifier** *n*, **simplification** /-fɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*

**simplistic** /sɪm'plɪstɪk/ *adj* deliberately or affectedly uncomplicated – **simplistically** *adv*

**simply** /sɪmpli/ *adv* 1a without ambiguity; clearly (< a ~ worded reply) b without ornamentation or show (< ~ furnished) c without affectation or subterfuge candidly 2a solely, merely (< eats ~ to keep alive) b without any question (< the concert was ~ marvellous)

**simulacrum** /sɪmjuo'laykrəm/ *n*, pl **simulacra** /-kra/ also **simulacrum** an often superficial or misleading likeness of sth, a semblance – *fml* [L, fr *simula*.c]

**simulate** /sɪmyoo'leɪt/ *vt* 1 to assume the outward qualities or appearance of, usu with the intent to deceive 2 to make a functioning model of (a system, device, or process) (e.g. by using a computer) [L *simulatus*, pp of *simulare* to copy, represent, feign, fr *similis* like – more at SAME] – **simulator** *n*, **simulation** /-ləʃən/ *n*

**simultaneous** /sɪmʊl'teynəs, -ni:əs/ *adj* 1 existing, occurring, or functioning at the same time 2 satisfied by the same values of the variables (< ~ equations) [(assumed) ML *simultaneus*, fr L *simul* at the same time – more at SAME] – **simultaneously** *adv*, **simultaneousness**, **simultaneity** /-tə'nayəti, -nee-/ *n*

**'sin** /sɪn/ *n* 1a an offence against moral or religious law or divine commandments b an action considered highly reprehensible (< it's a ~ to waste food) 2 a state of estrangement from God [ME *sinne*, fr OE *synn*; akin to OHG *sunta* sin] – **sinless** *adj*, **sinlessly** *adv*, **sinlessness** *n*

**\*sin** *vi* -nn- 1 to commit a sin 2 to commit an offence – often + *against* (writers who ~ against good taste) – **sinner** *n*

**Sinanthropus** /sɪ'nænθrəpəs/ *n* PEKING MAN [NL, fr LL *Sinae*, pl, Chinese + Gk *anthropos* man – more at SINOLOGUE]

**'sin bin** *n* 1 a brothel – euph 2 an enclosure occupied by a player (e.g. in ice hockey) who has been temporarily sent off – *infml*

**'since** /sɪns/ *adv* 1 continuously from then until now (< has stayed there ever ~) 2 before now; ago (< should have done it long ~) 3 between then and now; subsequently (< has ~ become rich) USE + tenses formed with *to have* [ME *sins*, contr of *sithens*, fr *sithen*, fr OE *suththan*, fr *sith* *tham* since that, fr *sith* *since* + *tham*, dat of *that* that; akin to OHG *sid* since, L *serus* late, OE *sāwan* to sow]

**\*since** *prep* in the period between (a specified past time) and now (< haven't

*met* ~ 1973); from (a specified past time) until now (*it's a long time ~ breakfast*) - + present tenses and tenses formed with *to have*

**since** *conj* 1 between now and the past time when (*has held 2 jobs ~ he left school*); continuously from the past time when (*ever ~ he was a child*) 2 in view of the fact that; because (*more interesting, ~ rarer*)

**sincere** /sɪn'siə/ *adj* free from deceit or hypocrisy; honest, genuine (< *interest*) [MF, fr L *sincerus*] - **sincerely** *adv*, **sincereness**, **sincerity** /sɪn'serəti/ *n*

**sinciput** /sɪnsɪput/ *n*, *pl* **sincipita**, **sincipita** /sɪnsɪpɪtə/ 1 the forehead 2 the upper half of the skull [L *sincipit*, *sinciput*, fr *semi-* + *caput* head - more at **HEAD**]

**sine** /sɪn/ *n* the trigonometric function that for an acute angle in a right-angled triangle is the ratio between the side opposite the angle and the hypotenuse → **MATHEMATICS** [ML *sinus*, fr L, curve]

**sinecure** /sɪnɪkyoo/, /sɪ- / *n* an office or position that provides an income while requiring little or no work [ML (*beneficium*) *sine cura* (benefice) without cure of souls]

**sine die** /sɪni 'dee-ə/, /die- / *adv* without any future date being designated (e.g. for resumption) (< *the meeting adjourned ~*) [L, without day]

**sine qua non** /sɪni kway 'non, kway 'nohn, /sɪni/ *n* an absolutely indispensable or essential thing [LL, without which not]

**sineu** /sɪnyoo/ *n* 1 a tendon; also one prepared for use as a cord or thread 2a solid resilient strength; vigour (< *intellectual and moral ~* - G. K. Chalmers) b the chief means of support; mainstay - usu *pl* (< *the ~ s of political stability*) [ME *sineu*, fr OE *seono*; akin to OHG *senawa* *sineu*, L *sacra* bristle] - **sineu** *adj*

**sine wave** /sɪn/ *n* a wave form that represents periodic oscillations in which the amount of vertical displacement at each point is proportional to the sine of the horizontal distance from a reference point

**sinfonia** /sɪnfə'nee-/ *n*, *pl* **sinfonie** /-nee-ay/, **sinfonias** SYMPHONY 1 [It, fr L *symphonia* symphony]

**sinfonietta** /sɪn,fɒni'etə/ *n* 1 a short or lightly-orchestrated symphony 2 a small symphony orchestra; also a small orchestra of strings only [It, dim. of *sinfonia*]

**sinful** /sɪnf(ə)l/ *adj* tainted with, marked by, or full of sin; wicked - **sinfully** *adv*, **sinfulness** *n*

**sing** /sɪŋ/ *vb* **sang** /sɑŋ/, **sung** /sʊŋ/; **sung** *vi* 1a to produce musical sounds by means of the voice b to utter words in musical notes and with musical inflections and modulations (as a trained or professional singer) 2 to make a shrill whining or whistling sound 3 to produce musical or melodious sounds 4 to buzz, ring (< *a punch that made his ears ~*) 5 to make a loud clear utterance 6 to give information or evidence - slang ~ *vt* 1 to utter with musical inflections; esp to interpret in musical notes produced by the voice 2a to relate or celebrate in verse b to express vividly or enthusiastically (< *his praises*) 3 to chant, intone (< *a requiem mass*) 4 to bring to a specified state by singing (< *s the child to sleep*) [ME *singen*, fr OE *singan*; akin to OHG *singan* to sing, Gk *omphē* voice] - **singable** *adj*, **singer** *n*

**singe** /sɪŋ/ *vt* **singeing**; **singed** to burn superficially or slightly, scorch; esp to remove the hair, down, or nap from, usu by brief exposure to a flame [ME *sengen*, fr OE *sengan*; akin to OHG *bisengan* to singe] - **singe** *n*

**Singhalese** /sɪŋ-ɡə'leez/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* **Singhalese** (a) Sinhalese

**single** /sɪŋ-ɡl/ *adj* 1a not married b of the unmarried state 2 not accompanied by others; sole (< *the ~ survivor of the disaster*) 3a consisting of or having only 1 part or feature (< *use double, not ~ thread*) b of a plant or flower having the normal number of petals or ray flowers - compare **DOUBLE** 4 consisting of a separate unique whole; individual (< *food is our most important ~ need*) 5 of combat involving only 2 people 6 of, suitable for, or involving only 1 person (< *a ~ portion of food*) [ME, fr MF, fr L *singulus* one only; akin to L *semi-* one - more at **SAME**] - **singleless** *n*, **singly** /sɪŋ-ɡli/ *adv*

**single** *n* 1a a single thing or amount; esp a single measure of spirits b a (young) unmarried adult (< *a ~ s club*) 2 a flower having the number of petals or ray flowers typical of the species 3 a single run scored in cricket 4 a gramophone record, esp of popular music, with a single short track on each side 5 *Br* a ticket bought for a trip to a place but not back again - compare **RETURN** 7

**single** *vt* to select or distinguish from a number or group - usu + *out* **single-action** *adj*, of a firearm that requires the hammer to be cocked before firing

**single bed** *n* a bed designed for 1 person to sleep in - **single-bedded** *adj*

**single-blind** *adj* of or being an experimental procedure which is

designed to eliminate false results, in which the experimenters, but not the subjects, know the make-up of the test and control groups during the actual course of the experiments - compare **DOUBLE-BLIND**

**single-breasted** *adj* having a centre fastening with 1 row of buttons (< *a ~ coat*) - compare **DOUBLE-BREASTED**

**single cream** *n* cream that is thinner and lighter than double cream, contains 18 per cent butterfat, and is suitable for pouring - compare **DOUBLE CREAM**

**single file** *n* a line (e.g. of people) moving one behind the other

**single-handed** *adj* 1 performed or achieved by 1 person or with 1 on a side 2 working or managing alone or unassisted by others - **single-handedly** *adv*, **single-handedness** *n*

**single-minded** *adj* having a single overriding purpose - **single-mindedly** *adv*, **single-mindedness** *n*

**single-phase** *adj* of or being an electrical circuit energized by a single alternating electromotive force

**single reed** *n* a thin flat cane reed attached to the mouthpiece of woodwind instruments of the clarinet family

**singles** *n*, *pl* **singles** a game (e.g. of tennis) with 1 player on each side

**single-space** *vt* to type (copy) leaving no blank lines between lines of text

**singlestick** /-stɪk/ *n* one-handed fighting or fencing with a wooden stick; also the stick used

**singlet** /sɪŋ-ɡlɪt/ *n*, chiefly *Br* **VEST** 1; also a similar garment worn by athletes [fr its having only 1 thickness of cloth]

**singleton** /sɪŋ-ɡlɪ(a)n/ *n* 1 a card that is the only one of its suit in a dealt hand 2 an individual as opposed to a pair or group, *specif* an offspring born singly [*'single* + *-ton* (as in *simpleton*)]

**singsong** /sɪŋ-sɒŋ/ *n* 1 a voice delivery characterized by a monotonous cadence or rhythm or rising and falling inflection 2 *Br* a session of group singing

**singular** /sɪŋ-ɡyooəl/ *adj* 1a of a separate person or thing, individual b of or being a word form denoting 1 person, thing, or instance 2 distinguished by superiority, exceptional (< *a man of ~ attainments*) 3 not general (< *a ~ proposition in logic*) 4 very unusual or strange, peculiar (< *the ~ events leading up to the murder*) 5 of a mathematical matrix having a determinant equal to zero [ME *singular*, fr MF, fr L *singularis*, fr *singulus* only one - more at **SINGLET**] - **singularize** *vt*, **singularly** *adv*

**singular** *n* the singular number, the inflectional form denoting it, or a word in that form

**singularity** /sɪŋ-ɡyoo'larəti/ *n* 1 sth singular e.g. a separate unit b an unusual or distinctive trait, a peculiarity 2 **BLACK HOLE** [*'SINGUI* AR + *-ITY*]

**Sinhalese** /sɪnhə'leez/ *n*, *pl* **Sinhalese** 1 a member of the predominant people that inhabit Sri Lanka 2 the Indic language of the Sinhalese → **LANGUAGE** [Skt *Sinhala* Sri Lanka (Ceylon), island in the Indian Ocean] - **Sinhalese** *adj*

**sinister** /sɪnɪstə/ *adj* 1 (darkly or insidiously) evil or productive of vice 2 threatening evil or ill fortune; ominous 3 of or situated on the left side or to the left of sth, esp in heraldry [ME *sinistre*, fr L *sinistr-*, *sinister* on the left side, unlucky, inauspicious] - **sinisterly** *adv*, **sinisterness** *n*

**sinistral** /sɪnɪstrəl/ *adj* of or inclined to the left e.g. a left-handed b of the shell of a gastropod mollusc having whorls that turn in a clockwise direction from the top to the bottom as viewed with the top towards the observer - compare **DEXTRAL** - **sinistrally** *adv*

**sinistrorse** /sɪnɪ'straʊs, -'-/ *adj* 1 of a plant twining spirally upwards round an axis from right to left - compare **DEXTRORSE** 2 **SINISTRAL** b [NL *sinistrorsus*, fr L, towards the left side, fr *sinistr-*, *sinister* + *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn - more at **WORTH**]

**sink** /sɪŋk/ *vb* **sank** /sɑŋk/, **sunk** /sʊŋk/; **sunk** *vi* 1a to go down below a surface (e.g. of water or a soft substance) 2a to fall or drop to a lower place or level (< *sank to his knees*) b to disappear from view (< *a red sun ~ ing slowly in the west*) c to take on a hollow appearance (< *my cakes always ~ in the middle*) 3 to become deeply absorbed (< *sank into a reverie*) 4 to go downwards in quality, state, condition, amount, or worth (< *sank into apathy*) (< *ing spirits*) 5 to deteriorate physically (< *the patient ~ ing fast and hadn't long to live*) ~ *vt* 1a to cause to sink (< *a battleship*) b to force down, esp into the ground c to cause (sth) to penetrate (< *sank the dagger into his chest*) 2 to engage (oneself) completely in (< *sank himself in his work*) 3 to dig or bore (a well or shaft) in the earth 4 to overwhelm, defeat (< *if we don't reach the frontier by midnight we're sunk*) 5 to pay no heed to; ignore, suppress (< *sank their differences*) 6 to invest 7 *Br* to drink down (< *sank a couple of pints*) - *infrm* [ME *sinken*, fr OE *sincan*; akin to OHG *sinkan* to sink, Arm *ankanim* I fall] - **sinkable** *adj*

- \*sink** *n* 1a a cesspool **b** a sewer **c** a basin, esp in a kitchen, connected to a drain and usu a water supply for washing up **2** a place of vice or corruption **3a** a depression in which water (e.g. from a river) collects and becomes absorbed or evaporated **b** SINKHOLE **2** **4** a body or process that stores or dissipates sthg (e.g. energy); *specif* HEAT SINK
- sinkage** /'sɪŋki/ *n* 1 the degree of sinking **2** a sunken area, a depression
- sinker** /'sɪŋkə/ *n* a weight for sinking a fishing line, seine, or sounding line ['sɪŋk + 2.ER]
- 'sink, hole** /-hohl/ *n* 1 SINK **3a** **2** a hollow, esp in a limestone region, that communicates with an underground cavern or passage
- sink** *in vi* 1 to enter a solid through the surface <don't leave the ink to sink in> **2** to become understood
- 'sinking fund** /'sɪŋkɪŋ/ *n* a fund set up and added to for paying off the original capital sum of a debt when it falls due
- 'sink, tidy** *n* 1 a small usu triangular container with a perforated base allowing wet kitchen waste to drain into the sink while retaining the solid waste for separate disposal **2** a container for washing-up implements, soap, etc kept near the sink
- Sino-** /sɪnoh-/ *comb form* 1 Chinese nation, people, or culture <Sino-*phil*> **2** Chinese and <Sino-*Tibetan*> [F, fr LL *Sinae*]
- sinologue** /sɪnɒləg/, /sɪnə-/ *n* a sinologist [F, fr LL *Sinae*, pl, Chinese (fr Gk *Sinai*, fr Ar *Sin* China) + F -*logue*]
- sinology** /sɪnɒlədʒi, sɪ-/ *n* the study of the Chinese and esp of their language, literature, history, and culture [prob fr F *sinologie*, fr *sino-* + -*logie* -*logy*] - *sinologist n*, *sinological* /-nɒlədʒɪkl/ *adj*
- Sino-Tibetan** /sɪnoh tɪbət(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) a language family comprising Tibeto-Burman and Chinese
- 'sinter** /sɪntə/ *n* a silica- or calcium-containing deposit formed by the evaporation of (hot) spring water [G, fr OHG *sinter* slag - more at CINDER]
- \*sinter** *vb* to make into or become a coherent mass by heating without melting - *sinterability* /-rəbɪləti/ *n*
- sinuate** /sɪnyooəti/ *adj*, esp of a leaf having a wavy edge with strong indentations ~ PLANT [L *sinuatus*, pp of *sinuare* to bend, fr *sinus* curve] - *sinuately adv*
- sinuous** /sɪnyooəs/ *adj* **1a** of or having a serpentine or wavy form, winding **b** lithe, supple <dancers with a ~ grace> **2** intricate, tortuous <~ argumentation> [L *sinuosus*, fr *sinus*] - *sinuously adv*, *sinuousness, sinuosity* /-osəti/ *n*
- sinus** /sɪnəs/ *n* a cavity, hollow **e.g.** **a** a narrow passage by which pus is discharged from a deep abscess or boil **b**(1) any of several cavities in the skull that usu communicate with the nostrils and contain air **(2)** a channel for blood from the veins **(3)** a wider part in a body duct or tube (e.g. a blood vessel) **c** a cleft or indentation between adjoining lobes (e.g. of a leaf) [NL, fr L, curve, fold, hollow]
- sinusitis** /sɪnə'sɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of a nasal sinus [NL]
- sinus venosus** /wɪnə'sɪs/ *n* an enlarged pouch that adjoins the heart and is the passage through which blood from the veins enters the heart in lower vertebrates and in the embryos of higher vertebrates [NL, venous sinus]
- Sion** /sɪən-/ *n* Zion
- Siouan** /sooh-ən/ *n* 1 a language stock of central and eastern N America ~ LANGUAGE **2** a Sioux - *Siouan adj*
- Sioux** /sooh/ *n*, pl *Sioux* /sooh(z)/ **a** member of any of the peoples speaking Siouan languages [F, short for *Nadowessieux*, fr Ojibwa *Nadoweisiw*]
- \*sip** /sɪp/ *vb* -pp- to drink (sthg) delicately or a little at a time [ME *sippen*, akin to LG *sippen* to sip] - *sipper n*
- \*sip** *n* (a small quantity imbibed by) sipping
- 'siphon, syphon** /sɪfən/ *n* **1a** a tube by which a liquid can be transferred up over the wall of a container to a lower level by using atmospheric pressure **b** a bottle for holding carbonated water that is driven out through a tube by the pressure of the carbon dioxide in the bottle, when a valve in the tube is opened **2** any of various tubular organs in animals, esp molluscs or arthropods [F *siphon*, fr L *siphon-*, *sipho* tube, pipe, siphon, fr Gk *siphon*]
- \*siphon, syphon** *vt* to convey, draw off, or empty (as if) by a siphon ~ *vt* to pass or become conveyed (as if) by a siphon
- siphonophore** /sɪfənəfəw/, /sɪfə-/ *n* any of an order of transparent free-swimming or floating marine invertebrate animals that live as colonies [deriv of Gk *siphon* + *pherein* to carry - more at 'BEAR]
- sippet** /sɪpɪt/ *n*, chiefly Br a small usu triangular piece of dry toast or fried bread used esp as garnish [alter. of *sop*]
- sir** /sə; strong suh/ *n* **1a** a man of rank or position **b** a man entitled to be addressed as *sir* - used as a title before the Christian name of a knight or baronet **2a** - used as a usu respectful form of address to a male **b cap** - used as a conventional form of address at the beginning of a letter [ME, fr *sire*]
- sirdar** /suh,dah, -/-/ *n* 1 sby of high rank (e.g. a hereditary noble or military chief), esp in India **2** sby holding a position of authority in India [Hindi *sardār*, fr Per]
- 'sire** /sɪə-/ *n* 1 the male parent of (a domestic) animal **2** *archaic* **a** a father **b** a male ancestor **3** a man of rank or authority, esp a lord - used formerly as a title and form of address [ME, father, master, fr OF, fr L *senior* older - more at SENIOR]
- \*sire** *vt* 1 to beget - esp with reference to a male domestic animal **2** to bring into being; originate
- siren** /sɪərən/ *n* 1 *often cap* any of a group of mythological partly human female creatures that lured mariners to destruction by their singing **2** a dangerously alluring or seductive woman, a temptress **3a** an apparatus producing musical tones by the rapid interruption of a current of air, steam, etc by a perforated rotating disc **b** a usu electrically operated device for producing a penetrating warning sound <an ambulance ~> <air-raid ~> [ME, fr MF & L; MF *sereine*, fr LL *sirena*, fr L *siren*, fr Gk *seiren*]
- sirenian** /sɪ'reenyan, -ni-ən/ *n* any of an order of aquatic plant-eating mammals including the manatee and dugong [NL *Sirenia*, order name, fr L *siren*]
- 'siren suit** *n* a one-piece garment like a boiler suit with usu a zip in the front from the crotch to the neck edge [fr its being easy to put on when an air-raid siren sounded]
- sirloin** /suh,loyn/ *n* a cut of beef from the upper part of the hind loin just in front of the rump ~ MEAT [alter. of earlier *surlon*, modif of MF *surlonge*, fr *sur* over (fr L *super*) + *loigne*, *longe* loin - more at 'OVER]
- sirocco** /sɪ'rokoh/ *n*, pl *siroccos* **1** a hot dust-laden wind from the Libyan deserts that blows onto the N Mediterranean coast **2** a warm moist oppressive southeasterly wind in the same regions [It *scioccco*, *sirocco*, fr Ar *sharq* east]
- sirrah** also *sirra* /sɪrə/ *n*, obs - used as a form of address implying inferiority in the person addressed [alter. of *sur*]
- sirree** also *siree* /sɪ'ree/ *n*, NAM *sir* - used for emphasis, usu after *yes* or *no* [by alter.]
- sirup** /sɪrəp/ *n*, NAM (a) syrup - *sirupy adj*
- sis** /sɪs/ *n*, chiefly NAM SISTER 1, 5 - *infrm*; used esp in direct address
- sis** /-sɪs/ *suffix* (- *n*), pl *-ses* /-seɪz/ *process* or action of <peristalsis> <analysis> [L, fr Gk, fem suffix of action]
- sisal** /sɪsəl/ *n* (a) widely cultivated W Indian agave plant whose leaves yield a strong white fibre used esp for ropes and twine [MexSp, fr *Sisal*, port in Yucatán, Mexico]
- siskin** /sɪskɪn/ *n* a small Old World finch chiefly greenish and yellowish related to the goldfinch [G dial. *sisschen*, dim. of MHG *zise siskin*, of Slav origin, akin to Czech *čížek siskin*]
- sissy** /sɪsi/ *n* or *adj* (a) cissy - *sissy adj*
- \*sister** /sɪstə/ *n* **1a** a female having the same parents as another person <Mary and I are ~s> **b** HALF SISTER **2** *often cap* **a** a member of a women's religious order, *specif* (the title given to) a Roman Catholic nun **b** a female fellow member of a Christian church **3** a woman related to another person by a common tie or interest (e.g. adherence to feminist principles) **4** chiefly Br a female nurse, esp one who is next in rank below a nursing officer and is in charge of a ward or a small department **5** a girl, woman - used esp in direct address; *infrm* [ME *suster*, *sister*, partly fr OE *sweostor* and partly of Scand origin; akin to ON *systir* sister; akin to L *soror* sister] - *sisterly adj*
- \*sister** *adj* related (as if) by sisterhood; essentially similar <~ ships>
- 'sisterhood** /-hood/ *n* 1 the relationship between sisters **2** a society of women bound by religious vows
- 'sister-in-law** *n*, pl *sisters-in-law* **1** the sister of one's spouse **2** the wife of one's brother
- 'sister of mercy** *n* a nun engaged in educational or charitable work
- sistrum** /sɪstrəm/ *n*, pl *sistrums*, *sistra* /sɪstrə/ *n* an ancient percussion instrument, used esp in Egypt, with metal rods or loops that jingle when shaken [ME, fr L, fr Gk *seistrōn*, fr *seiein* to shake - more at SEISMIC]
- Sisyphæan, Sisyphian** /sɪsɪ'feɪ-ən/ *adj* both endless and fruitless <a ~ task> [Sisyphus, mythical king condemned in Hades to roll uphill a heavy stone that constantly rolled down again, fr L, fr Gk *Sisyphos*]
- 'sit** /sɪt/ *vb* -tt-; *sat* /sæt/ *vi* **1a** to rest on the buttocks or haunches <~ in a chair> **b** to perch, roost **2** to occupy a place as a member of an official

body (< on the parish council) 3 to be in session for official business (< visited London when Parliament was ~ing) 4 to cover eggs for hatching 5a to take up a position for being photographed or painted b to act as a model 6 to lie or hang relative to a wearer (< the collar ~s awkwardly) 7 to lie, rest (< a kettle ~ing on the stove) 8 to be situated (< the house ~s well back from the road) 9 to remain inactive or unused (< the car just ~s in the garage all day) 10 to take an examination 11 to baby-sit ~ vt 1 to cause to be seated; place on or in a seat 2 to sit on (eggs) 3 to keep one's seat on (< a horse) 4 Br to take part in (an examination) as a candidate [ME *sitten*, fr OE *sittan*; akin to OHG *sizzen* to sit, L *sedere*, Gk *hezesthai* to sit, *hedra* seat] – sit on 1 to repress, squash 2 to delay action or decision concerning – sit on one's hands to fail to take action – sit on the fence to adopt a position of neutrality or indecision

**sit** *n* an act or period of sitting (< had a long ~ at the station between trains)

**sitar** /sɪ'tɑː/ *n* an Indian lute with a long neck and a varying number of strings [Hindi *sitar*] – sitarist *n*

**sit back** *vi* to relinquish one's efforts or responsibility (< magistrates who sit back and accept police objections – *Yorkshire Post*)

**sitcom** /sɪt'kɒm/ *n* SITUATION COMEDY [*situation comedy*]

**site** /sɪt/ *n* 1a an area of ground that was, is, or will be occupied by a structure or set of structures (e.g. a building, town, or monument) (< an archaeological ~) b an area of ground or scene of some specified activity (< caravan ~) (< battle ~) (< building ~) 2 the place, scene, or point of sth (< the ~ of the wound) [ME, place, position, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *situs*, fr *situs*, pp of *sinere* to leave, place, lay, akin to L *serere* to sow – more at *sow*]

**site** *vt* to place on a site or in position; locate

**'sit-in** *n* a continuous occupation of a building by a body of people as a protest and means towards forcing compliance with demands

**sit in** *vi* 1 to participate as a visitor or observer – usu + *on* (< sit in on a group discussion) 2 to stage a sit-in

**Sitka spruce** /sɪt'kɑː/ *n* a tall spruce native to N America [*Sitka*, town in Alaska]

**sit out** *vt* 1 to remain until the end of or the departure of (< sit the film out) 2 to refrain from participating in

**sitter** /sɪtə/ *n* 1 sby who sits (e.g. as an artist's model) 2 a baby-sitter

**'sitting** /sɪtɪŋ/ *n* 1 a single occasion of continuous sitting (e.g. for a portrait or meal) 2 a batch of eggs for incubation 3 a session ['sɪt + -ING]

**'sitting** *adj* 1 that is sitting (< a ~ hen) 2 in office or actual possession (< the ~ member for Leeds East) – sitting pretty in a highly favourable or satisfying position

**sitting 'duck** *n* an easy or defenceless target for attack, criticism, or exploitation

**'sitting room** *n* a room, esp in a private house, used for recreation and relaxation

**sitting 'target** SITTING DUCK

**sitting 'tenant** *n*, *Br* a tenant who is at the present time in occupation (e.g. of a house or flat)

**'situate** /sɪ'tʃuːə, sɪ'tʃoo-, -t/ *adj* having a site; located – fml [ML *situatus*, pp of *situare* to place, fr L *situs*]

**'situate** /sɪ'tʃuːə, sɪ'tʃoo-/ *vt* to place in a site, situation, or category; locate

**situated** /sɪ'tʃuːə, sɪ'tʃoo-/ *adj* 1 located 2 supplied to the specified extent with money or possessions (< comfortably ~) 3 being in the specified situation (< rather awkwardly ~)

**'situation** /sɪ'tʃuːə, sɪ'tʃoo-/ *n* 1a the way in which sth is placed in relation to its surroundings b a locality (< a house in a windswept ~) 2 position with respect to conditions and circumstances (< the military ~ remains obscure) 3a the circumstances at a particular moment; esp a critical or problematic state of affairs (< the ~ called for swift action) b a particular (complicated) state of affairs at a stage in the action of a narrative or drama 4 a position of employment; a post – chiefly fml (< found a ~ as a gardener) – situational *adj*

**situation comedy** *n* a radio or television comedy series that involves the same basic cast of characters in a succession of connected or unconnected episodes

**sit up** *vi* 1a to rise from a reclining to a sitting position b to sit with the back straight 2 to show interest, alertness, or surprise (< news that made him sit up) 3 to stay up after the usual time for going to bed (< sat up to watch the late film)

**situs** /sɪ'tʃuː/ *n* the place where sth exists or originates; specify the place

where sth (e.g. a right) is held to be located in law [L – more at SITE]

**Siva**, **Shiva** /sɪ'hɪvə, 's(h)eevə/ *n* the god of destruction and regeneration in the Hindu sacred triad – compare BRAHMA, VISHNU [Skt *Śiva*]

**six** /sɪks/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 the sixth in a set or series (< the ~ of spades) 3 sth having 6 parts or members or a denomination of 6. e.g. a a shot in cricket that crosses the boundary before it bounces and so scores 6 runs b the smallest unit in a cub-scout or brownie-guide pack c *pl* in constr, cap the Common Market countries before 1973 [ME, fr *six*, *adj*, fr OE *six*; akin to OHG *sehs* six, L *sex*, Gk *hex*] – six *adj* or *pron*, sixfold *adj* or *adv* – at sixes and sevens in disorder, confused, or in a muddle – for six so as to be totally wrecked or defeated (< trade balance went for six – *The Economist*)

**sixer** /sɪksə/ *n* the leader of a cub-scout or brownie-guide six

**'six-gun** *n* a 6-chambered revolver

**'six of the 'best** *n*, *Br* a severe beating

**'six-pack** *n* (a container for) 6 bottles or cans bought together

**'six-shooter** *n* a six-gun

**sixteen** /sɪk'steen/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 *pl* but *sing* in constr a book format in which a folded sheet forms 16 leaves [ME *sixtene*, fr OE *sixtyne*, *adj*, akin to OE *tiē* ten] – sixteen *adj* or *pron*, sixteenth *adj* or *n*

**sixteenth note** /sɪks'teenth/ *n*, *NAm* a semiquaver

**sixth** /sɪksθ/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2a (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 6 diatonic degrees b the submediant – sixth *adj* or *adv*, sixthly *adv*

**'sixth form** *n* the highest section of a British secondary school – sixth-former *n*

**sixth 'sense** *n* a keen intuitive power viewed as analogous to the 5 physical senses

**sixty** /sɪksti/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 *pl* the numbers 60–69, specify a range of temperatures, ages, or dates in a century characterized by those numbers [ME, fr *sixty*, *adj*, fr OE *sixtyg*, *n*, group of sixty, fr *six* six + *-tig* group of ten – more at *-ty*] – sixtieth /-iθ/ *adj* or *n*, sixty *adj* or *pron*, sixtyfold /-foʊld/ *adj* or *adv*

**'sixty-nine** *n* 1 NUMBER 2 soixante-neuf

**sizable**, **sizeable** /sɪ'zeɪbəl/ *adj* fairly large, considerable – sizableness *n*, sizably *adv*

**sizar** /sɪzə/ *n* a poor student (e.g. at Cambridge) who paid lower fees and orig acted as a servant to other students in return [*sizar* alter of *sizer*, fr *'size* (in obs sense of fixed portion of food and drink allowed esp to a university student)]

**'size** /sɪz/ *n* 1a physical magnitude, extent, or bulk; relative or proportionate dimensions b relative amount or number c bigness (< you should have seen the ~ of him) 2 any of a series of graduated measures, esp of manufactured articles (e.g. of clothing), conventionally identified by numbers or letters (< a ~ 7 hat) 3 the actual state of affairs – infml (< that's about the ~ of it) [ME *sise* assize, fr MF, fr OF, short for *assise* – more at ASSIZE]

**'size** *vt* 1 to make in a particular size (< systems ~d to fit anyone's living room) 2 to arrange or grade according to size or bulk

**'size** *n* any of various thick and sticky materials (e.g. preparations of glue, flour, varnish, or resins) used for filling the pores in surfaces (e.g. of paper, textiles, leather, or plaster) or for applying colour or metal leaf (e.g. to book edges or covers) [ME *sise*, prob fr MF, setting, fixing, fr OF, settlement, assize]

**'size** *vt* to cover, stiffen, or glaze (as if) with size

**'size** *adj* SIZED 1 – usu in combination (< a bite-size biscuit)

**sized** /sɪzd/ *adj* 1 having a specified size or bulk – usu in combination (< a small-sized house) 2 arranged or graded according to size

**size up** *vt* to form a judgment of

**sizzling** /sɪ'ziːzɪŋ/ *n* 'SIZE

**sizzle** /sɪzl/ *vi* sizzling /sɪzɪŋ, 'sɪz-ɪŋ/ to make a hissing sound (as if) in frying [perh freq of *siss* (to hiss), fr ME *sissen*, of imit origin] – sizzle *n*, sizzler *n*

**sizzling** /sɪzɪŋ, 'sɪz-ɪŋ/ *adj* full of zest or pungency; racy

**'sjambok** /ʃəmbok/ *n* a whip of rhinoceros hide used esp in S Africa [Afrik, *sambok*, *sjambok*, fr Malay *cambok* large whip, fr Hindi *cabuk*]

**skæ** /skah/ *n* popular music of W Indian origin that is the forerunner of and similar to reggae [Jamaican E, of imit origin]

**skald** /skawld, skold/ *n* a poet of ancient Scandinavia; broadly a bard [ON *skáld* – more at SCOLD] – skaldic *adj*

**'skate** /skayt/ *n*, *pl* skate, esp for different types skates any of numerous

- rays that have greatly developed pectoral fins and many of which are important food fishes [ME *scate*, fr ON *skata*]
- skate** *n* 1a ROLLER SKATE b ICE SKATE 2 a period of skating [modif of *D schaats* stilt, skate, fr (assumed) ONF *escache* stilt; akin to OF *eschace* stilt]
- skate** *vi* 1 to glide along on skates propelled by the alternate action of the legs 2 to glide or slide as if on skates 3 to proceed in a superficial manner ~ *vt* to go along or through (a place) or perform (an action) by skating - skater *n*
- skateboard** /-bawd/ *n* a narrow board about 60cm (2ft) long mounted on roller-skate wheels - skateboarder *n*, skateboarding *n*
- skedaddle** /ski'dadl/ *vi* skeddadding /ski'dadling, -'dadl-ing/ to run away, specif to disperse rapidly - often imper; infml [origin unknown]
- skeet** /skeet/ *n* trapshooting in which clay targets are hurled across the shooting range from traps on either side [modif of ON *skjota* to shoot - more at 'SHOOT]
- skein** /skayn/ *n* 1 a loosely coiled length of yarn or thread, HANK 1 2 sthg suggesting the twists or coils of a skein, a tangle <unravel the ~ of evidence> 3 a flock of wildfowl (e.g. geese) in flight [ME *skeyne*, fr MF *escaigne*]
- skeletal** /'skelɪt/ *adj* of, forming, attached to, or resembling a skeleton - skeletally /-tli/ *adv*
- skeleton** /'skelɪtn/ *n* 1 a supportive or protective usu rigid structure or framework of an organism, esp the bony or more or less cartilaginous framework supporting the soft tissues and protecting the internal organs of a vertebrate (e.g. a fish or mammal) <sup>ANATOMY</sup> 2 sthg reduced to its bare essentials 3 an emaciated person or animal 4 a basic structural framework 5 a secret cause of shame, esp in a family - often in *skeleton in the cupboard* [NL, fr Gk, neut of *skeletos* dried up, akin to Gk *skelein* to dry up, *skleros* hard, *skēdē* shallow] - skeleton *adj*, skeletonize *vt*, skeletonic /'skeli'tonik/ *adj*
- skeleton key** *n* a key, esp one with most or all of the serrations absent, that is able to open many simple locks
- skelp** /skelp/ *n*, chiefly Scot a slap, spank - chiefly infml [ME, fr *skelpen* to strike, slap, prob of imit origin] - skelp *vt*
- skep** /skɛp/ *n* 1 a farm basket used esp in mucking out stables 2 a beehive (of twisted straw) [ME *skeppe* basket, basketful, fr OE *sceppe*, fr ON *skeppa* bushel, akin to OE *sceppan* to form, create - more at SHAPE]
- skepsis** /'skepsɪs/ *n*, chiefly NAM *scepsis*
- skeptic** /'skeptɪk/ *n*, chiefly NAM a sceptic - skeptical *adj*, skeptically *adv*, skepticism /-sɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- skerry** /'skɛr/ *n* a rocky island, a reef [of Scand origin, akin to ON *sker* skerry & to ON *ey* island, akin to L *aqua* water - more at 'SCAK, ISLAND]
- sketch** /'skɛtʃ/ *n* 1 a preliminary study or draft; esp a rough often preliminary drawing representing the chief features of an object or scene 2 a brief description or outline <gave a ~ of his personality> 3a a short discursive literary composition b a short musical composition, usu for piano c a short theatrical piece having a single scene; esp a comic variety act [D *schets*, fr It *schizzo*, fr *schizzare* to splash]
- sketch** *vt* to make a sketch, rough draft, or outline of ~ *vi* to draw or paint a sketch - sketcher *n*
- sketchbook** /-blok/ *n* a sketchbook
- sketchbook** /-book/ *n* a book of usu detachable leaves of paper used for sketching
- sketchy** /'skɛtʃi/ *adj* lacking completeness, clarity, or substance: superficial, scanty ['SKETCH + -i] - sketchily *adv*, sketchiness *n*
- skew** /skyoo/ *vi* to take an oblique course, twist ~ *vt* 1 to cause to skew 2 to distort from a true value or symmetrical curve <~ ed statistical data> [ME *skewen* to escape, skew, fr ONF *escuer* to shun, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *scuhen* to frighten off - more at 'SHY]
- skew** *adj* 1 set, placed, or running obliquely 2 more developed on one side or in one direction than another; not symmetrical - skewness *n*
- skew** *n* a deviation from a straight line or symmetrical curve
- skewbald** /-bawld/ *n* or *adj* (an animal) marked with spots and patches of white and another colour, esp not black [skewed (skewbald) + bald]
- skewer** /skyoooh-/ *n* 1 a long pin of wood or metal used chiefly to fasten a piece of meat together while roasting or to hold small pieces of food for grilling (e.g. for a kebab) 2 sthg like a meat skewer in form or function [alter. of E dial. *skiver*, of unknown origin]
- skewer** *vt* to fasten or pierce (as if) with a skewer
- skew-whiff** /wɪf/ *adj*, Br *askew* - infml ['skew + whiff, vb]
- skil** /ske/ *n*, pl *skis* 1a a long narrow strip usu of wood, metal, or plastic that curves upwards in front and is typically one of a pair used esp for gliding over snow b WATER SKI 2 a runner on a vehicle [Norw, fr ON *skith* stick of wood, ski; akin to OHG *skit* stick of wood, OE *scendan* to divide - more at 'SHED]
- ski** *vb* skiling; skied to glide (over) on skis as a way of travelling or as a recreation or sport - skiable *adj*, skier *n*
- skibob** /'skeɪbɒb/ *n* a bicycle-like vehicle with short skis in place of wheels that is used for gliding downhill over snow by a rider wearing miniature skis for balance ['ski + bob (as in bobsleigh)] - skibobber *n*, skibobbing *n*
- skid** /skɪd/ *n* 1 a plank or log used to support or elevate a structure or object 2 a ship's fender 3 a device placed under a wheel to prevent its turning or used as a drag 4 the act of skidding, a slide 5 a runner used as part of the undercarriage of an aircraft 6 pl a road to defeat or downfall - in *hit the skids*, *on the skids*, infml [perh of Scand origin, akin to ON *skith* stick of wood] - skiddy *adj*
- skid** *vb* -dd- *vt* 1 to apply a brake or skid to 2 to haul along, slide, hoist, or store on skids ~ *vi* of a vehicle, wheel, driver, etc to slip or slide, esp out of control - skidder *n*
- skiddoo** /ski'doo/ *vi* skiddoo; skiddooing; skiddooed chiefly NAM to go away, leave - often imper, infml [prob alter of *skeddaddle*]
- skid-lid** *n*, Br a motorcyclist's crash helmet - infml
- skidpan** /-pan/ *n*, chiefly Br a slippery surface on which vehicle drivers may practise the control of skids
- skid row** /roh/ *n*, chiefly NAM a district frequented by down-and-outs and alcoholics [alter of *skid road* (road along which logs are skidded, part of town frequented by lumberjacks)]
- skiey** /'skieɪ/ *adj* skyeey
- skiff** /skɪf/ *n* a light rowing or sailing boat [MF or OIt, MF *esquif*, fr OIt *schifo*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *scip* ship]
- skiffle** /'skɪfl/ *n* jazz or folk music played by a group and using nonstandard instruments or noisemakers (e.g. washboards or Jew's harps) [perh imit]
- skilful**, NAM chiefly skillful /'skɪl(ə)l/ *adj* possessing or displaying skill; expert - skilfully *adv*
- ski** *lift* *n* a power-driven conveyer consisting usu of a series of bars or seats suspended from an endless overhead moving cable and used for transporting skiers or sightseers up and down a long slope or mountain-side
- skill** /skɪl/ *n* 1 the ability to utilize one's knowledge effectively and readily 2 a developed aptitude or ability in a particular field <knitted with remarkable ~> [ME *skil*, fr ON, distinction, knowledge; akin to OE *seylan* to separate, *scell* shell - more at SHELL] - skill-less *adj*
- skilled** *adj* 1 having mastery of or proficiency in sthg (e.g. a technique or trade) 2 of, being, or requiring workers with skill and training in a particular occupation or craft - compare UNSKILLED, SEMISKILLED
- skillet** /'skɪlɪt/ *n* 1 chiefly Br a small saucepan usu having 3 or 4 legs and used for cooking on the hearth 2 chiefly NAM FRYING PAN [ME *skelet*, perh fr MF *escuele* small platter, dim of *escuele* platter, deriv of L *scutella*]
- skillion** /'skɪljən/ *n*, Austr a roof (e.g. of a lean-to) that slopes in only 1 direction [alter of E dial. *skeling*, *skilling* (outbuilding attached like a lean-to to another), fr ME *skelyng*]
- skim** /skɪm/ *vb* -mm- *vt* 1a to clear (a liquid) of floating matter <~ boiling syrup> b to remove (e.g. film or scum) from the surface of a liquid c to remove cream from by skimming d(1) to remove the best or most accessible contents from (2) to remove (the choicest part or members) from sthg, cream 2 to read, study, or examine cursorily and rapidly; specif to glance through (e.g. a book) for the chief ideas or the plot 3 to throw so as to ricochet along the surface of water 4 to pass swiftly or lightly over ~ *vi* 1 to glide lightly or smoothly along or just above a surface 2 to give a cursory glance or consideration USE (vt 1b & 1d(2)) often + off [ME *skimmen*, prob alter of *scumen* to remove scum from, fr scum]
- skim** *n* 1 a thin layer, coating, or film 2 the act of skimming
- skim** *adj* having the cream removed by skimming <~ milk>
- skimmer** /'skɪmə/ *n* 1 a flat perforated scoop or spoon used for skimming 2 any of several long-winged sea birds that feed by flying with the elongated lower part of the beak immersed in the sea ['SKIM + -ER]
- skimming** /'skɪmɪŋ/ *n* that which is skimmed from a liquid - usu pl with sing. meaning
- skimp** /skɪmp/ *vi* to give insufficient or barely sufficient attention or effort to or money for ~ *vi* to save (as if) by skimping sthg [skimp (barely sufficient), perh alter. of *scrimp* (scanty)]



- skimpy** /'skɪmpɪ/ *adj* inadequate in quality, size, etc; scanty (< a ~ meal>)  
- **skimpy** *adv*, **skimpiness** *n*
- skin** /skɪn/ *n* **1a** the external covering of an animal (e.g. a fur-bearing mammal or a bird) separated from the body, usu with its hair or feathers, pelt **b(1)** the pelt of an animal prepared for use as a trimming or in a garment (<it took 40 ~s to make the coat>) - compare **'hide** **(2)** a container (e.g. for wine or water) made of animal skin **2a** the external limiting layer of an animal body, esp when forming a tough but flexible cover **↳** **NERVE** **b** any of various outer or surface layers (e.g. a rind, husk, or film) (<a sausage ~>) **3** the life or welfare of a person - esp in *save one's skin* **4** a sheathing or casing forming the outside surface of a ship, aircraft, etc [ME, fr ON *skinn*; akin to OE *scinn* skin, MHG *schint* fruit peel, W *ysgythru* to cut] - **skinless** *adj* - by the skin of one's teeth by a very narrow margin - under the skin beneath apparent or surface differences; fundamentally
- skin** *vb* -nn- *vt* **1a** to cover (as if) with skin **b** to heal over with skin **2a** to strip, scrape, or rub away an outer covering (e.g. the skin or rind) of **b** to strip or peel off like skin (<~ the insulation from the wire>) **c** to cut, graze, or damage the surface of (<fell and ~ned his knee>) **3** to strip of money or property; fleece - *in* *in* *vi* to become covered (as if) with skin - usu + *over* (<the wound had ~ned over within a week>)
- skin-deep** *adj* **1** as deep as the skin **2** superficial (<beauty is only ~>)
- skin, diving** *n* swimming under water with a face mask and flippers and sometimes with an aqualung - **skin diver** *n*
- skin effect** *n* an effect characteristic of the distribution of an electrical current in a conductor at high frequencies by virtue of which most of the current passes through the surface of the conductor rather than in its interior
- skin, flick** *n* a film characterized by nudity and explicit sexual situations - *in* *in*
- skin, flint** /-flɪnt/ *n* a miser, niggard [*skin* + *flint*]
- skin, ful** /-fʌl/ *n* an ample or satisfying quantity, esp of alcoholic drink - *in* *in*
- skin, game** *n*, *NAM* a swindling game or trick [*skin*]
- skin, graft** *n* a piece of skin that is taken from one area to replace skin in a defective or damaged area - **skin grafting** *n*
- skin, head** /-hed/ *n* **1** a person whose hair is cut very short **2** any of a group of young British people with very short hair and a distinctive way of dressing
- skink** /skɪŋk/ *n* any of a family of mostly small lizards that have small scales [L *scincus*, fr Gk *skinkos*]
- skinned** /skɪnd/ *adj* having skin, esp of a specified kind - usu in combination (<dark-skinned>)
- skinner** /skɪnz/ *n* one who deals in skins, pelts, or hides
- skinny** /skɪnt/ *adj* very thin; lean, emaciated - *in* *in* [*skin* + *-y*] - **skininess** *n*
- skint** /skɪnt/ *adj*, *Br* penniless - *in* *in* [alter of *skinned*, pp of *skin*]
- skintight** /-tɪt/ *adj* extremely closely fitted to the body (<~ jeans>)
- skip** /skɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vi* **1a(1)** to move or proceed with light leaps and bounds; gambol **(2)** to swing a rope round the body from head to toe, making a small jump each time it passes beneath the feet **b** to rebound from one point or thing after another, ricochet **2** to leave hurriedly or secretly; abscond (<~ped out without paying his bill>) **3** to pass over or omit an interval, section, or step (<the story ~s to the present day>) ~ *vt* **1** to leave out (a step in a progression or series), omit **2** to cause to ricochet across a surface; skim (<~ a stone over a pond>) **3** to fail to attend (<decided to ~ church that Sunday>) **4** chiefly *NAM* to depart from quickly and secretly (<~ped town>) - *in* *in* [ME *skippen*, perh of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial *skopa* to hop]
- skip** *n* **1** a light bounding step or gait **2** an act of omission (e.g. in reading)
- skip** *n* the captain of a side in some games (e.g. curling or bowls) [short for *'skipper*]
- skip** *n* **1** *SKEP* **2** a bucket or cage for carrying men and materials (e.g. in mining or quarrying) **3** a large open container for waste or rubble [alter. of *skep*]
- skip, jack** /-jak/ *n*, *pl* **skipjacks** CLICK BEETLE [*skip* + *jack*; fr its habit of suddenly springing into the air]
- skipper** /skɪpə/ *n* any of numerous small butterflies that differ from the typical butterflies in the arrangement of the veins in the wings and the form of the antennae [*skip* + *-er*]
- skipper** *n* **1** the master of a fishing, small trading, or pleasure boat **2** the captain or first pilot of an aircraft **3** *Br* the captain of a sports team *USE* (2&3) *in* *in* [ME, fr MD *schipper*, fr *schip* ship; akin to OE *scip* ship - more at *SHIP*]
- skipper** *vi* to act as skipper of (e.g. a boat)
- skipping-rope** /'skɪpɪŋ/ *n* a length of rope that is rotated over the head and jumped over as it passes under the feet as an exercise or game
- skirl** /skuɪl/ *vi* or *n* (to emit) the high shrill sound of a bagpipe [*vb* ME (Sc) *skirlen*, *skirlen*, of Scand origin; akin to OSw *skrælla* to rattle; akin to OE *scralletan* to sound loudly; *n* fr *vb*]
- skirmish** /'skɜːmɪʃ/ *n* **1** a minor or irregular fight in war, usu between small outlying detachments **2** a brief preliminary conflict; broadly any minor or petty dispute [ME *skyrmiss*, alter of *skarmish*, fr MF *escarmouche*, fr OIt *scaramuccia*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *skirmen* to defend]
- skirmish** *vi* to engage in a skirmish - **skirmisher** *n*
- skirr** /skuɪr/ *vi* to move rapidly, esp with a whurring or grating sound (<birds ~ed off from the bushes - D H Lawrence>) [perh alter of *'scour*]
- skirt** /skuɪt/ *n* **1a(1)** a free-hanging part of a garment (e.g. a coat) extending from the waist down **(2)** a garment or undergarment worn by women and girls that hangs from and fits closely round the waist **↳** **GARMENT** **b** either of 2 usu leather flaps on a saddle covering the bars on which the stirrups are hung **c** a flexible wall containing the air cushion of a hovercraft **2** the borders or outer edge of an area or group - often *pl* with *sing* meaning **3** a part or attachment serving as a rim, border, or edging **4** *Br* any of various usu membranous and gristly cuts of beef from the flank **5** a girl, woman - slang [ME, fr ON *skyrta* shirt, kirtle - more at *SHIRT*] - **skirted** *adj*
- skirt** *vt* **1** to extend along or form the border or edge of, border **2** to provide a skirt for **3** to go or pass round, *specif* to avoid through fear of difficulty, danger, or dispute (<~ed the minefield>) (<~ed the crucial issues>) ~ *vi* to be, lie, or move along an edge, border, or margin (<~ round the coast>) - **skirter** *n*
- skirting** /'skuɪtɪŋ/ *n* fabric suitable for skirts [*'SKIRT* + *-ING*]
- skirting, board** *n*, *Br* a board, esp with decorative moulding, that is fixed to the base of a wall and that covers the joint of the wall and floor
- 'ski, run** /skee/ *n* a slope or trail for skiing
- skit** /skɪt/ *n* a satirical or humorous story or sketch (<did a ~ on Queen Victoria>) [origin unknown]
- 'skite** /skɪet/ *vi*, *Austr* & *NZ* to brag, boast - *in* *in* [perh fr E dial *skite* (to defecate), fr ME *skyten*, fr ON *skita*]
- skitter** /skɪtə/ *vi* **1a** to glide or skip lightly or swiftly **b** to skim along a surface **2** to twitch a fishing lure or baited hook through or along the surface of water ~ *vt* to cause to skitter [prob freq of E dial *skite* (to move quickly), prob of Scand origin] - **skitter** *n*
- skittish** /'skɪtɪʃ/ *adj* **1a** lively or frisky in behaviour, capricious **b** variable, fickle **2** easily frightened; restive (<a ~ horse>) [ME] - **skittishly** *adv*, **skittishness** *n*
- skittle** /'skɪtl/ *n* **1** *pl* but *sing* in *constr* any of various bowling games played with 9 pins and wooden balls or discs **2** a pin used in skittles [perh of Scand origin; akin to ON *skutill* bolt - more at *SHUTTLE*]
- skittle out** *vt* to dismiss (a batting side in cricket) for a low score
- skive** /skɪev/ *vt* to cut off (e.g. leather or rubber) in thin layers or pieces, pare ~ *vi*, *Br* to evade one's work or duty, esp out of laziness; shirk - often + *off*; *in* *in* [of Scand origin; akin to ON *skífa* to slice; akin to OE *sceadan* to divide - more at *'SHED*]
- skiver** /'skɪevə/ *n* **1** a thin soft leather made from a split sheepskin **2** *Br* sby who skives off - *in* *in*
- 'skivvy** /'skɪvɪ/ *n*, *Br* a female domestic servant [origin unknown]
- 'skivvy** *vi*, *Br* to perform menial domestic tasks; act as a skivvy
- skoal** /skoh/ *n* cheers, health - usu used interjectionally as a toast [Dan *skaal*, lit., cup; akin to ON *skal* bowl - more at *'SCALE*]
- skolly** /'skɒli/ *n*, chiefly *S Afr* a young non-white thug [Afrk, prob fr D *schœlje* rogue, rascal]
- skua** /'skyooə-/ *n* any of several large dark-coloured seabirds of northern and southern seas that tend to harass weaker birds until they drop or disgorge the fish they have caught [NL, fr Faeroese *skúgvur*; akin to ON *skúfr* tassel, skua, OE *sceaf* sheaf - more at *'SHEAF*]
- skulduggery**, **skulduggery** /skul'dʌɡəri/ *n* devious trickery; esp underhand or unscrupulous behaviour [alter. of earlier *sculduggery* (gross or lewd conduct), of unknown origin]
- skulk** /skulk/ *vi* **1** to move in a stealthy or furtive manner; slink **2** to hide or conceal oneself, esp out of cowardice or fear or for a sinister



- purpose; lurk [ME *skulken*, of Scand origin; akin to Dan *skulke* to shirk, play truant] – **skulker** *n*
- skull** /skul/ *n* 1 the skeleton of the head of a vertebrate animal forming a bony or cartilaginous case that encloses and protects the brain and chief sense organs and supports the jaws  ANATOMY 2 the seat of understanding or intelligence; the brain – usu derog <get that fact into your thick ~> [ME *skulle*, of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skulle* skull] – **skulled** *adj*
- skull and crossbones** /kros,bohnz/ *n, pl* skulls and crossbones a representation of a human skull over crossbones, usu used as a warning of danger to life
- skullcap** /-kap/ *n* 1 a closely fitting cap; esp a light brimless cap for indoor wear 2 any of various plants having a helmet-shaped calyx
- skunk** /skungk/ *n, pl* skunks, esp collectively skunk 1a any of various common black-and-white New World mammals that have a pair of anal glands from which a foul-smelling secretion is ejected  DIFFENCE b the fur of a skunk 2 a thoroughly obnoxious person – *infrm* [of Algonquian origin, akin to Abnaki *segāk w skunk*]
- sky** /skie/ *n* 1 the upper atmosphere when seen as an apparent great vault over the earth, the firmament, heavens 2 HEAVEN 2 3a weather as manifested by the condition of the sky <a clear ~> b climate [ME, cloud, sky, fr ON *ský* cloud, akin to OE *sceo* cloud, L *cutis* skin – more at *'hide*]
- sky** *vt* skied, skyed chiefly Br to throw, toss, or hit (e.g. a ball) high in the air
- sky blue** *adj* or *n* (of) the light blue colour of the sky on a clear day
- skydiving** /-dievng/ *n* jumping from an aeroplane and executing body manoeuvres while in free-fall before pulling the rip cord of a parachute – **sky diver** *n*
- Skye terrier** /skie-/ *n* (any of) a Scottish breed of short-legged terriers [Skye, island of Inner Hebrides, Scotland]
- skye**, **skye** /skie-/ *adj* of the sky, ethereal
- sky-high** *adv* or *adj* 1a very high b to a high level or degree <prices rose ~> 2 to bits, apart – in *blow sthg sky-high*
- skyjack** /-jak/ *vt* to hijack (an aircraft) [*sky* + *-jack* (as in *hijack*)] – **skyjacker** *n*
- skylark** /-lahk/ *n* a common largely brown Old World lark noted for its song, esp as uttered in vertical flight or while hovering
- skylark** *vi* to act in a high-spirited or mischievous manner, frolic – **skylarker** *n*
- skylight** /-liet/ *n* 1 the diffused and reflected light of the sky 2 a window or group of windows in a roof or ceiling
- skyline** /-lien/ *n* 1 the apparent juncture of earth and sky, the horizon 2 an outline (e.g. of buildings or a mountain range) against the background of the sky
- skyrocket** /-rokut/ *n* **ROCKET** 1a
- skyrocket** *vi* to shoot up abruptly <shares in copper are ~ing>
- skysail** /skie,sayl/ *n* a sail set above the royal sail on a mast
- skycape** /-skayp/ *n* an expanse of sky, esp as depicted by an artist
- skyscraper** /-skrayp/ *n* a many-storeyed building, esp one containing offices
- skywards** /-woodz/ *adv* towards the sky, also upwards
- skyway** /-way/ *n* a route used by aircraft
- skywriting** /-rieting/ *n* (the formation of) writing in the sky by means of a visible substance (e.g. smoke) emitted from an aircraft
- slab** /slab/ *n* a thick flat usu large plate or slice (e.g. of stone, wood, or bread) [ME *slabbe*]
- slack** /slak/ *adj* 1 insufficiently prompt, diligent, or careful, negligent 2a characterized by slowness, indolence, or languor <a ~ pace> b of tide flowing slowly; sluggish 3a not taut; relaxed <a ~ rope> b lacking in usual or normal firmness and steadiness, lax <~ muscles> <~ supervision> 4 wanting in activity <a ~ market> [ME *slak*, fr OE *sleac*; akin to OHG *slah* slack, L *laxus* slack, loose, *languere* to languish, Gk *legein* to stop] – **slackly** *adv*, **slackness** *n*
- slack** *vt* 1a to be sluggish or negligent in performing or doing b to lessen, moderate <~ed his pace as the sun grew hot> 2 to release tension in, loosen 3a to cause to abate or moderate b SLAKE 2 ~ *vi* 1 to be or become slack <our enthusiasm ~ed off> 2 to shirk or evade work or duty – **slacker** *n*
- slack** *n* 1 cessation in movement or flow; specif SLACK WATER 2 a part of sthg (e.g. a sail or a rope) that hangs loose without strain 3 *pl* trousers, esp for casual wear 4 a lull or decrease in activity; a dull season or period
- slack** *n* the finest particles of coal produced at a mine [ME *slack*]
- slacken** /slakan/ *vb* 1 to make or become less active, rapid, or intense – often + *off* 2 to make or become slack
- slack water** *n* the period at the turn of the tide when there is no apparent tidal motion
- slag** /slag/ *n* 1 waste matter from the smelting of metal ores, dross 2 the rough cindery lava from a volcano 3 Br a dirty slovenly (immoral) woman – slang [MLG *slagge*]
- slain** /slayn/ *past part* of SLAY
- slake** /slayk/ *vt* 1 to satisfy, quench <~ your thirst> 2 to cause (e.g. lime) to heat and crumble by treatment with water [ME *slaken* to abate, allay, loosen, fr OE *slacian* to slacken, fr *sleac* slack]
- slalom** /slahlam/ *n* a skiing or canoeing race against time on a zigzag or wavy course between obstacles [Norw., lit., sloping track]
- slam** /slam/ *n* GRAND SLAM [origin unknown]
- slam** *n* a banging noise; esp one made by a door [prob of Scand origin, akin to Icel *slæma* to slam]
- slam** *vb* -mm- *vt* 1 to strike or beat vigorously, knock <~ med him about the head with a book> 2 to shut forcibly and noisily, bang 3a to put or throw down noisily and violently <~ med his books on the table and stomped out> b to force into sudden and violent action <~ on the brakes> 4 to criticize harshly – *infrm* ~ *vi* 1 to make a banging noise <the door ~ med to behind him> 2 to move violently or angrily <he ~ med out of his office> – *infrm*
- slander** /slahnda/ *n* 1 the utterance of false charges which do damage to another's reputation 2 a false defamatory oral statement – compare LIBEL [ME *sclaundre*, *slaundre*, fr OF *esclandre*, fr LL *scandalum* stumbling block, offence – more at SCANDAL] – **slandering** /slahnda(r)əs/ *adj*, **slanderously** *adv*, **slanderousness** *n*
- slander** *vt* to utter slander against – **slanderer** *n*
- slang** /slang/ *n* 1 language peculiar to a particular group e.g. an argot b JARGON 2 informal usu spoken vocabulary that is composed typically of coinages, novel senses of words, and picturesque figures of speech [origin unknown] – **slang** *adj*, **slangy** *adj*
- slang** *vt* to abuse with harsh or coarse language <the two drivers are ~ing each other – Punch> ~ *vi* to use harsh or vulgar abuse
- slanging match** /slang-ɪŋ/ *n*, chiefly Br a usu futile bout of abuse between 2 or more opposed parties – *infrm*
- slant** /slahnt/ *vi* 1 to turn or incline from a horizontal or vertical line or a level 2 to take a diagonal course, direction, or path ~ *vt* 1 to give an oblique or sloping direction to 2 to interpret or present in accord with a particular interest, bias <stones ~ ed towards youth> [ME *slenten* to fall obliquely, of Scand origin, akin to Sw *slinta* to slide, akin to OE *slidan* to slide] – **slantingly** *adv*
- slant** *n* 1 a slanting direction, line, or plane, a slope <placed the mirror at a ~> 2 SOLIDUS 2 3a a particular or personal point of view, attitude, or opinion b an unfair bias or distortion (e.g. in a piece of writing) – **slant** *adj*, **slantways** /-wayz/ *adv*, **slantwise** /-wɪz/ *adv* or *adj*
- slant height** *n* the length of a line from the perimeter of the base to the vertex of a cone
- slap** /slap/ *n* a quick sharp blow, esp with the open hand [LG *slapp*, of imit origin] – **slap** *in the face* a rebuff, insult
- slap** *vt* -pp- 1 to strike sharply (as if) with the open hand 2 to put, place, or throw with careless haste or force <~ paint on a wall>
- slap** *adv* directly, smack <landed ~ on top of a holly bush> [prob fr LG *slapp*, fr *slapp*, *n*]
- slap and tickle** *n* playful lovemaking – *infrm*; humor
- slap-bang** *adv* 1 in a highly abrupt or forceful manner 2 precisely <~ in the middle> *USE* *infrm*
- slapdash** /-dash/ *adj* haphazard, slipshod
- slap down** *vi* to restrain or quash the initiative of rudely or forcefully
- slap happy** /-hapi/ *adj* 1 punch-drunk 2 irresponsibly casual <the ~ state of our democracies – Alistair Cooke> 3 buoyantly carefree; happy-go-lucky
- slapstick** /-stɪk/ *n* 1 a wooden device that makes a loud noise when used by an actor to strike shy 2 comedy stressing farce and horseplay; knockabout comedy – **slapstick** *adj*
- slap-up** *adj*, chiefly Br marked by lavish consumption or luxury – *infrm* <a ~ Christmas nosh – Sunday Mirror>
- slash** /slash/ *vt* 1a to cut with violent usu random sweeping strokes b to make (one's way) (as if) by cutting down obstacles 2 LASH 1 <~ him with bridle reins – Sir Walter Scott> 3 to cut slits in (e.g. a garment) so as to reveal an underlying fabric or colour 4 to criticize cuttingly 5 to reduce drastically, cut ~ *vi* 1 to cut or hit recklessly or savagely 2 esp

- of rain* to fall hard and slantingly [ME *slaschen*, prob fr MF *eschier* to break] – **slasher** *n*
- slash** *n* 1 the act of slashing; also a long cut or stroke made (as if) by slashing 2 an ornamental slit in a garment 3 chiefly Br an act of urinating – **vulg**
- slashing** /'slæʃɪŋ/ *adj* 1 incisively satirical or critical 2 driving, pelting <journeyed through ~ rain> – **slashingly** *adv*
- slat** /slæt/ *n* 1 a thin narrow flat strip, esp of wood or metal (e.g. a lath, louver, or stave) 2 **slat** 1a [ME, *slate*, fr MF *esclat* splinter, fr OF, fr *esclater* to burst, splinter] – **slat** *adj*
- slat** *vt* -tt- to make or equip with slats
- slate** /sleɪt/ *n* 1 a piece of slate rock used as roofing material 2 a fine-grained metamorphic rock consisting of compressed clay, shale, etc and easily split into (thin) layers 3 a tablet of material, esp slate, used for writing on 4 dark bluish or greenish grey 5 *NAM* a list of candidates for nomination or election [ME, fr MF *esclat* splinter] – **slate** *adj*, **slatelike** *adj*, **slaty** *adj*
- slate** *vt* 1 to cover with slate (< ~ a roof>) 2 *NAM* to designate for action or appointment
- slate** *vt*, chiefly Br to criticize or censure severely – *infrm* [prob alter. of *slat* (to hurl or throw smartly), prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *slætta* to slap, throw]
- slater** /sleɪtə/ *n* 1 a woodlouse 2 any of various marine crustaceans ['slate; fr its colour]
- slather** /sleɪðə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a great quantity – *usu* pl with sing. meaning; *infrm* [origin unknown]
- slattern** /sleɪtən/ *n* an untidy slovenly woman; a slut [prob fr G *schlottern* to hang loosely, slouch; akin to D *slodderen* to hang loosely, *slodder* slut]
- slatternly** /-li/ *adj* 1 untidy and dirty through persistent neglect; also careless, disorderly 2 (characteristic) of a slut – **slatternliness** *n*
- slaughter** /sleɪwɔː/ *n* 1 the act of killing; specif the butchering of livestock for market 2 killing of many people (e.g. in battle); carnage [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *slátra* to slaughter; akin to OE *sleah* to slay, *slean* to slay – more at *SLAY*]
- slaughter** *vt* 1 to kill (animals) for food 2 to kill violently or in large numbers – **slaughterer** *n*
- slaughterhouse** /-həʊs/ *n* an establishment where animals are killed for food
- Slav** /sləv/ *n* one who speaks a Slavonic language as his/her native tongue [ME *Sclav*, fr ML *Sclavus*, fr LGk *Sklabos*, fr *Sklabenoi* Slavs, of Slav origin; akin to OSlav *Slověne*, a Slavonic people in N Greece]
- slave** /sleɪv/ *n* 1 sby held in servitude as the property of another 2 sby who is dominated by a specified thing or person (< ~ to drink>) 3 a device whose actions are controlled by and often mimic those of another 4 a drudge <women who are merely kitchen ~s> [ME *slave*, fr OF or ML; OF *esclave*, fr ML *sclavus*, fr *Sclavus* Slav; fr the reduction to slavery of many Slavonic peoples of central Europe] – **slave** *adj*
- slave** *vi* 1 to work like a slave; toil 2 to traffic in slaves
- slave driver** *n* 1 an overseer of slaves 2 a harsh taskmaster
- slaver** /sleɪvə/ *vi* to drool, slobber [ME *slaveren*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *slafra* to slaver; akin to MD *slabben* to slaver, L *labi* to slip – more at *SLEEP*]
- slaver** /sleɪvə/ *n* 1 sby engaged in the slave trade 2 a ship used in the slave trade
- slavery** /sleɪv(ə)ri/ *n* 1 drudgery, toil 2a the state of being a slave b the practice of owning slaves
- slave state** *n* a state of the USA in which Negro slavery was legal until the American Civil War
- slave trade** *n* traffic in slaves; esp the transportation of Negroes to America for profit
- Slavic** /slə'vɪk/ *adj* or *n* Slavonic – **Slavist** /-vɪsɪst/ *n*, **Slavist** *n*
- slavish** /sleɪvɪʃ/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a slave; esp abjectly servile 2 obsequiously imitative; devoid of originality 3 *archaic* despicable, base – **slavishly** *adv*, **slavishness** *n*
- Slavonian** /slə'vɒniən/, -ni-ən/ *n* SLOVENE 1b [Slavonia, region of SE Europe, fr ML *Sclavonia*, Slavonia land of the Slavs, fr *Sclavus* Slav]
- Slavonian** *adj* Slovene
- Slavonic** /slə'vɒnɪk/ *adj* (characteristic) of the Slavs [NL *slavonicus*, fr ML *Sclavonia*, Slavonia]
- Slavonic** *n* a branch of the Indo-European language family containing Byelorussian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, Russian, and Ukrainian
- slavophil** /sleɪvə'fɪl/, 'slava-/ *n*, **slavophile** /-fɪl/ *n*, often *cap* a foreign admirer of the Slavs
- slay** /sleɪ/ *vt* **slew** /slooh/; **slain** /sleɪn/ 1 to kill violently or with great bloodshed; slaughter 2 to affect overpoweringly (e.g. with awe or delight); overwhelm – *infrm* [ME *slen*, fr OE *slean* to strike, slay, akin to OHG *slahan* to strike, Mfr *slacian* I beat] – **slayer** *n*
- sleazy** /sleezi/ *adj* squalid and disreputable [origin unknown] – **sleaziness** *n*
- sled** /sled/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* **SLEDGE** [ME *sledde*, fr MD, akin to OE *slidan* to slide]
- sled** *vb* -dd- chiefly *NAM* to sledge – **sledder** *n*
- sledge** /sleɪdʒ/ *n* a sledgehammer [ME *slegge*, fr OE *slecc*; akin to ON *sleggia* sledgehammer, OE *slean* to strike – more at *SLAY*]
- sledge** *n* 1 a vehicle with runners that is pulled by reindeer, horses, dogs, etc and is used esp over snow or ice 2 Br a toboggan [D dial. *sleedse*; akin to MD *sledde* sled]
- sledge** *vb*, chiefly Br *vi* to ride or be conveyed in a sledge ~ *vt* to transport on a sledge
- sledgehammer** /-hama/ *n* a large heavy hammer that is welded with both hands ['sledge]
- sledgehammer** *adj* clumsy, heavy-handed (< ~ package of spending cuts>)
- sleek** /sleek/ *vt* to slick [ME *sleken*, alter. of *shken*]
- sleek** *adj* 1a smooth and glossy as if polished (< ~ dark hair>) b having a smooth well-groomed look (< ~ cat>) c having a well fed or flourishing appearance 2 excessively or artfully suave; ingratiating 3 elegant, stylish [alter. of 'slick] – **sleeken** *vt*, **sleekly** *adv*, **sleekness** *n*
- sleekit** /sleekɪt/ *adj*, chiefly Scot crafty, sly [Sc, fr pp of 'sleek]
- sleep** /slep/ *n* 1 the natural periodic suspension of consciousness that is essential for the physical and mental well-being of higher animals 2 a sleeplike state e.g. a torpor b a state marked by a diminution of feeling followed by tingling <his foot went to ~> c the state of an animal during hibernation d death – *euph* <put a cat to ~> 3 a period spent sleeping <need a good long ~> [ME *slepe*, fr OE *slæp*, akin to OHG *slaf* sleep, L *labi* to slip, slide] – **sleeplike** *adj*
- sleep** *vb* **slept** /slept/ *vi* 1 to rest in a state of sleep 2 to be in a state (e.g. of quiescence or death) resembling sleep 3 to have sexual relations – *with or together*; *infrm* ~ *vt* 1 to get rid of or spend in sleep (< away the hours>) (< off a headache>) 2 to provide sleeping accommodation for <the boat ~s 6> 3 to be slumbering in <slept the sleep of the dead> – poetic – **sleep on** to consider (sth) fully before discussing again the next day – **sleep rough** **SLEEP OUT** 1
- sleep around** *vi* to be sexually promiscuous – *infrm*
- sleepers** /sleɪpə/ *n* 1 a timber, concrete, or steel transverse support to which railway rails are fixed 2 **SLEEPING CAR** 3 a ring or stud worn in a pierced ear to keep the hole open 4 chiefly *NAM* sby or sth unpromising or unnoticed that suddenly attains prominence or value – *infrm* ['SLEEP + -ER]
- sleep in** *vi* 1 **LIVE IN** 2 to sleep late, either intentionally or accidentally
- sleeping bag** /sleɪpɪŋ/ *n* a large thick envelope or bag of warm material for sleeping in esp when camping
- sleeping car** *n* a railway carriage divided into compartments having berths for sleeping
- sleeping partner** *n* a partner who takes no active part or an unknown part in the running of a firm's business
- sleeping pill** *n* a drug in the form of a tablet or capsule that is taken to induce sleep
- sleeping sickness** *n* a serious disease that is prevalent in much of tropical Africa, is marked by fever and protracted lethargy, and is caused by either of 2 trypanosomes and transmitted by tsetse flies
- sleepless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 not able to sleep 2 unceasingly active – **sleeplessly** *adv*, **sleeplessness** *n*
- sleep out** *vi* 1 to sleep out of doors 2 **LIVE OUT**
- sleepwalker** /-wəʊkə/ *n* a somnambulist – **sleepwalk** *vi*
- sleepy** /sleɪpi/ *adj* 1a ready to fall asleep b (characteristic) of sleep 2 lacking alertness; sluggish, lethargic 3 sleep-inducing – **sleepily** *adv*, **sleepiness** *n*
- sleepyhead** /-hed/ *n* a sleepy person – *humor*
- sleet** /sleet/ *n* precipitation in the form of partly frozen rain, or snow and rain falling together [ME *slete*; akin to MHG *slöz* hailstone, ME *sloor* mud – more at 'SLUR] – **sleety** *adj*
- sleet** *vi* to send down sleet
- sleeve** /sleev/ *n* 1 a part of a garment covering the arm 2 a tubular machine part designed to fit over another part 3 a paper or often highly

- distinctive cardboard covering that protects a gramophone record when not in use [ME *sleve*, fr OE *slefe*; akin to OE *slefan* to slip (clothes) on, *slupan* to slip, OHG *slufan*, L *lubricus* slippery] – **sleeved** *adj*, **sleeveless** *adj* – **up one's sleeve** held secretly in reserve
- sleeving** /'sleevɪŋ/ *n* the covering of an insulated electric cable
- 'sleigh** /sleɪ/ *n* 'SLEDGE 1 [D *slee*, alter of *sled*; akin to MD *sledd* sled]
- 'sleigh** *vi* to drive or travel in a sleigh
- 'sleigh, bell** *n* any of various bells attached to (the harness of a horse drawing) a sleigh
- sleight** /sliet/ *n*, *archaic* deceitful craftiness, also a stratagem [ME, fr ON *slegr* sly, fr *slegr* sly – more at *SLY*]
- sleight of hand** *n* 1 manual skill and dexterity in conjuring or juggling 2 adroitness in deception
- slender** /'slenda/ *adj* 1a gracefully slim b small or narrow in circumference or width in proportion to length or height 2a flimsy, tenuous (< a ~ hope>) b limited or inadequate in amount, meagre (< a man of ~ means>) [ME *sclendir*, *slendre*] – **slenderly** *adv*, **slenderness** *n*
- slenth** /slooht/ *vi* or *n* (to act as) a detective – *infrml* [n short for *slenthound*, vb fr n]
- 'slenthound** /-həʊnd/ *n* 1 a bloodhound 2 a detective [ME, fr *slenth* track of an animal or person (fr ON *sloth*) + *hound*]
- 'S, level** /es/ *n* SCHOLARSHIP LEVEL
- 'slew** /sloo/ *past* of *SLAY*
- 'slew** *vt* to turn or twist (sthg) about a fixed point that is use the axis ~ *vi* 1 to turn, twist, or swing about 2 to skid [origin unknown] – **slew** *n*
- 'slew** *n*, *NAM* a large number or quantity – *infrml* [IrGael *sluagh*]
- 'slice** /sli:s/ *n* 1a a thin broad flat piece cut from a usu larger whole (< a ~ of ham>) b a wedge shaped piece (e.g. of pie or cake) 2 an implement with a broad blade used for lifting, turning, or serving food (< a fish ~>) 3 (a flight of) a ball that deviates from a straight course in the direction of the dominant hand of the player propelling it – compare *HOOK* 4a a portion, share (< a ~ of the profits>) b a part or section detached from a larger whole (< a sizable ~ of the public – Punch>) [ME, fr MF *eschice* splinter, fr OF, fr *eschicier* to splinter, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *slizan* to tear apart – more at *SUIT*]
- 'slice** *vt* 1 to cut through (as if) with a knife (< a melon in 2>) 2 to cut into slices (< d bread>) 3 to hit (a ball) so that a slice results ~ *vi* to slice sthg – **sliceable** *adj*, **slicer** *n*
- 'slick** /slik/ *vt* to make sleek or smooth [ME *shken*; akin to OHG *slihan* to glide, Gk *leios* smooth]
- 'slick** *adj* 1 superficially plausible, glib 2a characterized by suave or wily cleverness b deft, skilful (< a goal-keeping>) 3 of a tyre having no tread 4 chiefly *NAM* smooth, slippery – **slickly** *adv*, **slickness** *n*
- 'slick** *n* (a patch of water covered with) a smooth film of crude oil
- slickenside** /'sliksaɪd/ *n* a smooth often scratched or grooved surface on rock, produced by movement of one surface over another – usu pl with *sing* meaning [E dial *slicken* smooth (alter of E 'slick) + E *side*]
- 'slicker** /'sli:k/ *n*, *NAM* an artful crook; a swindler – *infrml* [*slick* (to defraud cleverly), fr 'slick]
- 'slide** /shd/ *vb* *slid* /slɪd/ *vi* 1a to move in continuous contact with a smooth surface b to glide over snow or ice (e.g. on a toboggan) 2 to slip or fall by loss of grip or footing 3 to pass quietly and unobtrusively; steal 4 to take an undirected course, drift (< let his affairs ~>) 5 to pass by smooth or imperceptible gradations (< the economy slid from recession to depression>) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to glide or slip 2 to place or introduce unobtrusively or stealthily (< slid the bill into his hand>) [ME *sliden*, fr OE *slidan*; akin to MHG *sliten* to slide, Gk *leios* smooth – more at 'LIME] – **slider** *n*
- 'slide** *n* 1a an act or instance of sliding b a portamento 2 a sliding part or mechanism: e.g. a U-shaped section of tube in the trombone that is pushed out and in to produce notes of different pitch b a moving piece of a mechanism that is guided by a part along which it slides 3 a landslide, avalanche 4a(1) a track or slope suitable for sliding or tobogganing (2) a chute with a slippery surface down which children slide in play b a channel or track down or along which sthg is slid 5a a flat piece of glass on which an object is mounted for examination using a light microscope b a photographic transparency on a small plate or film suitably mounted for projection TELEVISION 6 Br a hair-slide
- 'slide, rule** *n* an instrument consisting in its simple form of a ruler with a central slide both of which are graduated in such a way that the addition of lengths corresponds to the multiplication of numbers
- 'slide, valve** *n* a valve that opens and closes a passageway by sliding over a hole
- sliding scale** /'slɪdɪŋ/ *n* a flexible scale (e.g. of fees or subsidies) adjusted to the needs or income of individuals
- 'sight** /sli:t/ *adj* 1a having a slim or frail build b lacking strength or bulk; flimsy c trivial d not serious or involving risk; minor (< caught a ~ chill>) 2 small of its kind or in amount; scanty, meagre [ME, smooth, slight, prob fr MD *slicht*; akin to OHG *slihan* to glide – more at *SLICK*] – **slightly** *adv*, **slightness** *n*
- 'sight** *vt* 1 to treat as slight or unimportant (< ed my efforts at reform>) 2 to treat with disdain or pointed indifference; snub 3 *NAM* to perform or attend to carelessly or inadequately
- 'sight** *n* 1 an act of sighting 2 a humiliating affront
- sighting** /'sli:tɪŋ/ *adj* characterized by disregard or disrespect, disparaging (< a ~ remark>) – **slightly** *adv*
- silly** /'sɪli/ *adv* slyly
- 'slim** /slɪm/ *adj* -mm- 1 of small or narrow circumference or width, esp in proportion to length or height 2 slender in build 3 scanty, slight (< a ~ chance of success>) [D, bad, inferior, fr MD *slimp* crooked, bad; akin to MHG *slimp* away] – **slimly** *adv*, **slimness** *n*
- 'slim** *vb* -mm- *vt* to cause to be or appear slender (< a style that ~s the waist>) ~ *vi* to become thinner (e.g. by dieting)
- 'slime** /sli:m/ *n* 1 soft moist soil or clay; esp viscous mud 2 a viscous or glutinous substance, esp mucus or a mucus-like substance secreted by slugs, catfish, etc [ME, fr OE *slim*, akin to OHG *slimen* to smooth, L *lima* file – more at 'LIME]
- 'slime** *vt* to smear or cover with slime
- slime mould** *n* any of a group of living organisms usu held to be lower fungi that consist of a mobile mass of fused cells and reproduce by spores
- slimmer** /'slɪmə/ *n* a person who slims (e.g. by dieting and exercise)
- slimy** /'shɪmi/ *adj* 1 of or resembling slime, viscous; also covered with or yielding slime 2 characterized by obsequious flattery, offensively ingratiating 3 chiefly *NAM* vile, offensive USE (2&3) *infrml* – **slimly** *adv*, **sliminess** *n*
- 'sling** /slɪŋ/ *vt* *slung* /slʌŋ/ 1 to cast with a careless and usu sweeping or swirling motion, fling (< slung the coat over her shoulder>) 2 to throw (e.g. a stone) with a sling 3 Br to cast forcibly and usu abruptly (< was slung out of the team for misconduct>) – *infrml* [ME *slingen*, prob fr ON *slyngva* to hurl, akin to OE & OHG *slingan* to worm, twist, Lith *slinkti*] – **slinger** *n*
- 'sling** *n* an act of slinging or hurling a stone or other missile
- 'sling** *n* 1 a device that gives extra force to a stone or other missile thrown by hand and usu consists of a short strap that is looped round the missile, whirled round, and then released at 1 end 2a a usu looped line used to hoist, lower, or carry sthg (e.g. a rifle), esp a bandage suspended from the neck to support an arm or hand b a rope attached to a mast which supports a yard SHIP c a device (e.g. a rope net) for enclosing material to be hoisted by a tackle or crane
- 'sling** *vt* *slung* /slʌŋ/ to place in a sling for hoisting or lowering
- 'sling** *n* a drink made of whisky, brandy, or esp gin with water and sugar [origin unknown]
- 'sling, back** /-bak/ *n* a backless shoe that is held on at the heel by a strap passing round the back of the ankle GARMENT
- 'sling, shot** /-shot/ *n*, *NAM* a catapult
- 'slink** /slɪŋk/ *vb* *slunk* /slʌŋk/ also *slinked* *vi* 1 to go or move stealthily or furtively (e.g. in fear or shame); steal 2 to move in a graceful provocative manner ~ *vt* to give premature birth to – used with reference to an animal [ME *slinken*, fr OE *slincan* to creep; akin to OE *slingan* to worm, twist]
- 'slink** *n* (the flesh or skin of) the prematurely born young (e.g. a calf) of an animal
- slinky** /'slɪŋki/ *adj* 1 characterized by slinking; stealthily quiet (< ~ movements>) 2 sleek and flowing in movement or outline; esp following the lines of the body in a flowing and sensual manner (< a ~ catsuit>) – **slinkily** *adv*, **slinkiness** *n*
- 'slip** /slɪp/ *vb* -pp- *vi* 1a to move with a smooth sliding motion b to move quietly and cautiously; steal 2 of time to elapse, pass 3a to slide out of place or away from a support or one's grasp (< I didn't break the vase, it just ~ped>) b to slide on or down a slippery surface (< on the stairs>) 4 to get speedily into or out of clothing (< into his coat>) 5 to fall off from a standard or accustomed level by degrees; decline ~ *vt* 1 to cause to move easily and smoothly; slide 2a to free oneself from (< the dog ~ped his collar>) b to escape from (one's memory or notice) 3 to put (a garment) on hurriedly 4a to let loose from a restraining leash or grasp b to cause to slip open; release, undo (< a knot>) c to let go of d to detach (an anchor) instead of bringing it on board 5a to insert, place, or pass

- quietly or secretly **b** to give or pay on the sly (<~ped him a fiver> **6** to give birth to prematurely, abort – used with reference to an animal **7** to dislocate (<~ped his shoulder> **8** to transfer (a stitch) from one needle to another in knitting without working a stitch **9** to keep in partial engagement by resting a foot continuously on the pedal (<~ the clutch> [ME *slippen*, fr MD or MLG; akin to Gk *olubros* slippery, *leias* smooth – more at LIME] – *slippage* *n*
- \*slip** *n* **1** a sloping ramp extending out into the water to serve as a place for landing, repairing, or building ships **2** the act or an instance of eluding or evading (<gave his pursuer the ~> **3a** a mistake in judgment, policy, or procedure, a blunder **b** an inadvertent and trivial fault or error (<a ~ of the tongue> **4** a leash so made that it can be quickly unfastened **5a** the act or an instance of slipping (<a ~ on the ice> **b** (a movement producing) a small geological fault **c** a fall from some level or standard **6a** a women's sleeveless undergarment with shoulder straps that resembles a light dress **b** a case into which sth is slipped; *specif* a pillowcase **7** a disposition or tendency to slip easily **8** any of several fielding positions in cricket that are close to the batsman and just to the (off) side of the wicketkeeper  **SPORT**
- \*slip** *n* **1** a small shoot or twig cut for planting or grafting; a scion **2a** a long narrow strip of material (e.g. paper or wood) **b** a small piece of paper, *specif* a printed form **3** a young and slim person (<a mere ~ of a girl> [ME *slippe*, prob fr MD or MLG, split, slit, flap]
- \*slip** *vt* -pp- to take cuttings from (a plant), divide into slips
- \*slip** *n* a semifluid mixture of clay and water used by potters (e.g. for coating or decorating ware) [ME *slip* slime, fr OE *slipa* slime, paste; akin to OE *slipian* to slip – more at SLEEVE]
- slip carriage** *n* a railway carriage that can be detached without stopping the train
- \*slip,case** /-kays/ *n* a protective container with 1 open end, for 1 or more books
- slip coach** *n* SLIP CARRIAGE
- \*slip,knot** /-not/ *n* **1** RUNNING KNOT **2** a knot that can be untied by pulling
- \*slip,on** *n* a slip-on shoe
- \*slip-on** *adj*, *esp* of a garment easily slipped on or off
- slipped disc** /slipt/ *n* a protrusion of 1 of the cartilage discs that normally separate the spinal vertebrae, producing pressure on spinal nerves and usu resulting in intense pain, esp in the region of the lower back
- slipper** /slipe/ *n* a light shoe that is easily slipped on the foot, *esp* a flat-heeled shoe that is worn while resting at home [ME, fr *slippen* to slip]
- slippery** /slipe(r)/ *adj* **1a** causing or tending to cause sth to slide or fall (<~ roads> **b** tending to slip from the grasp **2** not to be trusted; shifty [alter. of ME *slipper*, fr OE *slipor*; akin to MLG *slipper* slippery, *slippen* to slip] – *slipperiness* *n*
- slippy** /slipe/ *adj* *slippy* – be/look *slippy* chiefly Br to be quick; hurry up – *infml*
- slipshod** /slipe,shod/ *adj* careless, slovenly (<~ reasoning> [‘slip + shod, orig sense, wearing loose shoes]
- \*slip, stitch** *n* **1** a concealed stitch for sewing folded edges (e.g. hems) made by alternately running the needle inside the fold and picking up a thread or **2** from the body of the article **2** an unworked stitch, *specif* a knitting stitch that is transferred from one needle to another without working it – *slipstitch* *vt*
- \*slip,stream** /-streem/ *n* **1** a stream of fluid (e.g. air or water) driven backwards by a propeller **2** an area of reduced air pressure and forward suction immediately behind a rapidly moving vehicle **3** sth that sweeps one along in its course
- \*slipstream** *vi* to drive or ride in a slipstream and so gain the advantage of reduced air resistance (e.g. in a bicycle race)
- \*slip-up** *n* a mistake, oversight
- slip up** *vi* to make a mistake; blunder
- \*slip,way** /-wey/ *n* a slip (on which ships are built)
- \*slit** /sli/ *vt* -tt-; *slit* **1** to make a slit in **2** to cut or tear into long narrow strips [ME *slitten*; akin to MHG *slitzen* to slit, OHG *slizan* to tear apart, OE *sciell* shell – more at SHELL] – *slitter* *n*
- \*slit** *n* a long narrow cut or opening – *slit* *adj*, *slitless* *adj*
- slither** /sliðə/ *vi* **1** to slide unsteadily, esp (as if) on a slippery surface **2** to slip or slide like a snake ~ *vt* to cause to slide [ME *slideren*, fr OE *slidrian*, freq of *slidan* to slide] – *slithery* *adj*
- slit trench** *n* a narrow trench, esp for shelter in battle
- \*sliver** /sli:və/ *n* a small slender piece cut, torn, or broken; a splinter [ME *slivere*, fr *sliven* to slice off, fr OE *-slifan*; akin to OE *-slæfan* to cut]
- \*sliver** *vi* to cut or break into shivers ~ *vi* to become split into shivers, splinter
- slivovitz** /sli:vəvits, ‘slee-, -vich/ *n* a dry usu colourless plum brandy [Serbo-Croatian *šljivovica*, fr *šljiva*, *sliva* plum, akin to Russ *sliva* plum – more at LIVID]
- slob** /slob/ *n* a slovenly or uncouth person – *infml* [Ir *slab* mud] – *slobbish* *adj*
- \*slobber** /slobə/ *vi* **1** to let saliva dribble from the mouth, drool **2** to express emotion effusively and esp oversentimentally – often + *over* ~ *vi* to smear (as if) with food or saliva dribbling from the mouth (<the baby ~ed his bib> [ME *sloberen*; akin to LG *slubberen* to sip, Lith *lupa* lip] – *slobberer* *n*
- \*slobber** *n* **1** saliva drooled from the mouth **2** oversentimental language or conduct – *slobbery* *adj*
- sloe** /sloh/ *n* (the small dark spherical astringent fruit of) the blackthorn [ME *slo*, fr OE *slah* – more at LIVID]
- \*sloe-eyed** *adj* **1** having soft dark bluish or purplish black eyes **2** having slanted eyes
- sloe gin** *n* a liqueur consisting of gin in which sloes have been steeped
- \*slog** /slog/ *vb* -gg- *vt* **1** to hit (e.g. a cricket ball or an opponent in boxing) hard and often wildly **2** to plod (one's way) with determination, esp in the face of difficulty ~ *vi* **1** to walk, move, or travel slowly and laboriously (<~ged through the snow> **2** to work laboriously, toil [origin unknown] – *slogger* *n*
- \*slog** *n* **1** a hard and often wild blow **2** persistent hard work **3** an arduous march or tramp
- slogan** /slohɡən/ *n* **1** a phrase used to express and esp make public a particular view, position, or aim **2** a brief catchy phrase used in advertising or promotion [alter. of earlier *slogorn*, fr ScGael *sluagh-ghairm* army cry]
- sloop** /sloohp/ *n* a fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel with 1 mast and a single foresail [D *sloop*]
- sloop of war** *n* a small warship carrying guns on 1 deck only
- sloot** /sloot/ *n*, SAfr a small watercourse or irrigation channel [Afrk, fr D, ditch, fr MD]
- \*slop** /slop/ *n* **1** thin tasteless drink or liquid food **2** liquid spilt or splashed **3a** waste food or a thin gruel fed to animals **b** liquid household refuse (e.g. dirty water or urine) **4** mawkish sentiment in speech or writing, gush USE (1&3) usu pl with sing. meaning [ME *sloppe* slush, mud, prob fr OE *\*sloppe* dung, akin to OE *slippe*, *slipa* slime, paste – more at SLIP]
- \*slop** *vb* -pp- *vt* **1a** to cause (a liquid) to spill over the side of a container **b** to splash or spill liquid on **2** to serve messily (<~ soup into a bowl> **3** to feed slops to (<~ the pigs>) ~ *vi* **1** to tramp through mud or slush **2** to become spilt or splashed **3** to show mawkish sentiment, gush **4** to slouch, flop (<spends his whole day ~ping around the house>)
- \*slop,basin** *n*, Br a bowl for receiving the dregs left in tea or coffee cups at table
- \*slop,bowl** *n*, Br SLOP BASIN
- \*slope** /slohp/ *vi* **1** to take an oblique course **2** to lie at a slant, incline ~ *vt* to cause to incline or slant [ME *slope* obliquely]
- \*slope** *n* **1** a piece of inclined ground **2** upward or downward inclination or (degree of) slant **3** GRADIENT **1**
- slope off** *vi* to go away, esp furtively, sneak off – *infml*
- slop out** *vi*, of a prisoner to empty slops from a chamber pot
- \*slop,pail** *n* a pail for household slops
- sloppy** /slopi/ *adj* **1a** wet so as to splash, slushy (<a ~ racetrack> **b** wet or smeared (as if) with sth slopped over **2** slovenly, careless (<she's a ~ dresser> **3** disagreeably effusive (<~ sentimentalism>) – *sloppily* *adv*, *sloppiness* *n*
- slops** /slops/ *n* pl articles (e.g. clothing) sold to sailors [ME *sloppe* loose smock or overall, prob fr MD *slop*; akin to OE *oferslop* surplice, overall]
- \*slosh** /slosh/ *n* **1** slush **2** the slap or splash of liquid **3** chiefly Br a heavy blow; a bash – *infml* [prob blend of *slop* and *slush*]
- \*slosh** *vi* **1** to flounder or splash through water, mud, etc. **2** to flow with a splashing motion (<water ~ed all round him>) ~ *vt* **1** to splash (sth) about in liquid **2** to splash (a liquid) about, on, or into sth **3** to make wet by splashing **4** chiefly Br to hit, beat (<~ed him on the head with a bucket>) – *infml*
- sloshed** /slosh/ *adj* drunk – *infml*
- \*slot** /slot/ *n* **1a** a narrow opening, groove, or passage; a slit **b** a passage through an aerofoil directing air rearwards from the lower to the upper surface so as to increase lift and delay stalling **2** a place or position in an

- organization or sequence; a niche [ME, the hollow of the breastbone, fr MF *esclot*, of unknown origin]
- slot** *vb* -*tt*- *vt* 1 to cut a slot in 2 to place in or assign to a slot – often + *in* or *into* (< ~ *ted some reading in as he waited*) ~ *vi* to be fitted (as if) by means of a slot or slots (< *a do-it-yourself bookcase that ~s together in seconds*)
- slot** *n*, *pl* **slot** the track of an animal (e.g. a deer) [MF *esclot* hoofprint, track, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *sloth* track]
- sloth** /sloʊθ/ *n* 1 disinclination to action or work, indolence 2 any of several slow-moving tree-dwelling mammals that inhabit tropical forests of S and Central America, hang face upwards from the branches, and feed on leaves, shoots, and fruits [ME *slouthe*, fr *slow*] – **slothful** *adj*, **slothfully** *adv*, **slothfulness** *n*
- sloth bear** *n* a common bear of India and Sri Lanka with a long snout
- slot machine** *n* 1 a machine (e.g. for selling cigarettes, chocolate, etc. or for gambling) whose operation is begun by dropping a coin or disc into a slot – compare **VENDING MACHINE** 2 chiefly *NAM* **FRUIT MACHINE**
- slouch** /sloʊʃ/ *n* 1 a lazy, incompetent, or awkward person 2 a gait or posture characterized by stooping or excessive relaxation of body muscles [origin unknown] – **slouchy** *adj*
- slouch** *vi* 1 to sit, stand, or walk with a slouch (< ~ *ed behind the wheel*) 2 to hang down limply, droop ~ *vi* to cause to droop (< ~ *ed his shoulders*), specif. to turn down one side of (a hat brim) – **sloucher** *n*
- slouch hat** *n* a soft usu. felt hat with a wide flexible brim
- slough** /sloʊ/ *n* 1a a place of deep mud or mire b a swamp 2 a state of dejection (< *a ~ of self-pity*) [ME *slogh*, fr OE *slōh*, akin to MHG *slouche* ditch]
- slough** *also* **sluff** /slɪf/ *n* 1 the cast-off skin of a snake 2 a mass of dead tissue separating from an ulcer 3 sth. that may be shed or cast off (< *when shall this ~ of sense be cast* – A. E. Housman) [ME *slughe*, akin to MHG *sluch* snakeskin, Lith *šluoži* to crawl]
- slough** *also* **sluff** /sluf/ *vi* 1 to become shed or cast off 2 to cast off a skin 3 to separate in the form of dead tissue from living tissue ~ *vt* 1 to cast off (e.g. a skin or shell) 2a to get rid of or discard as irksome or objectionable – usu. + *off* b to dispose of (a losing card in bridge) by discarding
- slough of despond** /sloʊ/ *n* a state of extreme despondency [fr the *Slough of Despond*, deep bog into which the protagonist Christian falls in the allegory *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan †1688 E preacher & writer]
- Slovak** /sloʊvæk/ *n* 1 a member of a Slavonic people of E Czechoslovakia 2 the Slavonic language of the Slovaks – **LANGUAGE** [Slovak *Slovák*, lit., Slav] – **Slovak** *adj*, **Slovakian** /sloʊvæki-ən/ *adj* or *n*
- sloven** /sloʊvən/ *n* one habitually negligent of neatness or cleanliness, esp. in personal appearance [ME *sloveyn* rascal, perh. fr Flem. *sloovin* woman of low character]
- Slovene** /sloʊveen/ *n* 1a a member of a S Slavonic people inhabiting Yugoslavia b a native or inhabitant of Slovenia 2 the Slavonic language of the Slovenes – **LANGUAGE** [G, fr Slovene *Sloven*] – **Slovene** *adj*, **Slovenian** /-veeniən, -veeni-ən/ *adj* or *n*
- slovenly** /sloʊvnlɪ, -slo-/ *adj* 1 untidy, esp. in personal appearance or habits 2 lazily slipshod; careless – **slovenliness** *n*
- slow** /sloʊ/ *adj* 1a lacking in intelligence, dull b naturally inert or sluggish (< *a ~ imagination*) 2a lacking in readiness, promptness, or willingness (< *a shop with ~ service*) b not quickly aroused or excited (< *was ~ to anger*) 3a flowing or proceeding with little or less than usual speed (< *traffic was ~*) b exhibiting or marked by retarded speed (< *he moved with ~ deliberation*) c low, feeble (< ~ *fire*) 4 requiring a long time, gradual (< *a ~ convalescence*) 5a having qualities that hinder or prevent rapid movement (< *a ~ putting green*) b (designed) for slow movement (< *learner drivers should keep to the ~ lane*) 6 registering a time earlier than the correct one (< *his clock is ~*) 7 lacking in liveliness or variety; boring [ME, fr OE *slaw*; akin to OHG *slao* dull, Skt *srāvayati* he causes to fail] – **slowish** *adj*, **slowly** *adv*, **slowness** *n*
- slow** *adv* in a slow manner; slowly
- slow** *vb* to make or become slow or slower (< *a car*) (< *production of new cars ~ed*) – often + *down* or *up*
- slowcoach** /sloʊ,kohch/ *n* one who thinks or acts slowly
- slow match** *n* a slow-burning match or fuse used esp. for firing blasting charges
- slow motion** *n* a technique in filming which allows an action to be shown as if it is taking place unnaturally slowly, which usu. involves increasing the number of frames exposed in a given time and then projecting the film at the standard speed – **slow-motion** *adj*
- slow neutron** *n* a neutron with low kinetic energy
- slowpoke** /-pohk/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a slowcoach
- slow-witted** *adj* slow in perception and understanding, mentally dull
- slowworm** /-wuhm/ *n* a legless European lizard popularly believed to be blind [ME *sloworm*, fr OE *slawyr*, fr *sla-* (akin to Sw *slä* earthworm) + *wyr* worm]
- slub** /slub/ *n* a small thickened section in a yarn or thread [origin unknown] – **slub** *adj*
- sludge** /sludʒ/ *n* 1 (a deposit of) mud or ooze 2 a slimy or slushy mass, deposit, or sediment e.g. a precipitated solid matter produced by water and sewage treatment processes b muddy sediment in a steam boiler c a precipitate from a mineral oil (e.g. in an internal combustion engine) [prob. alter. of *slush*] – **sludgy** *adj*
- slue** /sloo/ *vb*, chiefly *NAM* 'SLEW
- slue** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a slew
- slug** /slug/ *n* any of numerous slimy elongated chiefly ground-living gastropod molluscs that are found in most damp parts of the world and have no shell or only a rudimentary one [ME *slugge* slug, of Scand origin, akin to Norw. dial. *slugga* to walk sluggishly, akin to ME *sloor* mud – more at 'SLUR]
- slug** *n* 1 a lump, disc, or cylinder of material (e.g. plastic or metal) c.g. a bullet – slang b *NAM* a disc for insertion in a slot machine, esp. one used illegally instead of a coin 2a a strip of metal thicker than a printer's lead b a line of type cast as 1 piece 3 a unit of mass being equal to 32.174 lb (about 14.59 kg) – **UNIT** 4 chiefly *NAM* a quantity of spirits that can be swallowed at a single gulp – slang [prob. fr 'slug]
- slug** *n* a heavy blow, esp. with the fist – infml [prob. var. of 'slog]
- slug** *vi* -*gg*- to hit hard (as if) with the fist or a bat – infml – **slugger** *n*
- sluggard** /slugəd/ *n* a lazy person or animal [ME *sluggart*] – **sluggard** *adj*, **sluggardly** *adj*
- sluggish** /slugish/ *adj* 1 averse to activity or exertion, indolent, also torpid 2 slow to respond (e.g. to stimulation or treatment) (< *a ~ engine*) 3 markedly slow in movement, flow, or growth – **sluggishly** *adv*, **sluggishness** *n*
- sluice** /slooʃ/ *n* 1a an artificial passage for water (e.g. in a millstream) fitted with a valve or gate for stopping or regulating flow b a body of water pent up behind a floodgate 2 a dock gate 3 a stream flowing through a floodgate 4 a long inclined trough (e.g. for washing ores or gold-bearing earth) [alter. of ME *sluse*, fr MF *escluse*, fr LL *exclusa*, fr L, fem. of *exclusus*, pp of *excludere* to exclude]
- sluice** *vi* 1 to draw off by or through a sluice 2a to wash with or in water running through or from a sluice b to drench with a sudden vigorous flow, flush ~ *vi* to pour (as if) from a sluice
- sluice gate** *n* a small gate for emptying the chamber of a canal lock or regulating the amount of water passing through a channel
- sluiceway** /-weɪ/ *n* an artificial channel into which water is let by a sluice
- slum** /slʌm/ *n* 1 a poor overcrowded run-down area, esp. in a city – often pl. with sing. meaning 2 a squalid disagreeable place to live [origin unknown] – **slummy** *adj*
- slum** *vi* -*mm*- 1 to live in squalor or on very slender means – often + *it* 2 to amuse oneself by visiting a place on a much lower social level; also to affect the characteristics of a lower social class – **slummer** *n*
- slumber** /slʌmbə/ *vi* 1 to sleep 2 to be dormant or latent (< *a ~ing volcano*) [ME *slumberen*, freq. of *slumen* to doze, prob. fr *slume* slumber, fr OE *sluma*, akin to Lith *slugti* to diminish – more at 'SLUR] – **slumberer** *n*
- slumber** *n* sleep – often pl. with sing. meaning
- slumbrous**, **slumberous** /slʌmbrəs/ *adj* 1 heavy with sleep; sleepy (< ~ *eyelids*) 2 inducing sleep, soporific 3 marked by or suggestive of a state of sleep or lethargy; drowsy
- slump** /slʌmp/ *vi* 1a to fall or sink abruptly (< *morale ~ed with news of the defeat*) b to drop down suddenly and heavily, collapse (< ~ *ed to the floor*) 2 to assume a drooping posture or carriage; slouch 3 to go into a slump (< *sales ~ed*) [prob. of Scand origin, akin to Norw. *slumpa* to fall; akin to L. *labi* to slide – more at SLEEP]
- slump** *n* a marked or sustained decline, esp. in economic activity or prices
- slung** /slʌŋ/ *past* of SLING
- slunk** /slʌŋk/ *past* of SLINK
- slur** /slʌh/ *vb* -*rr*- *vi* to pass over without due mention, consideration, or emphasis (< ~ *red over certain facts*) ~ *vt* 1 to perform (successive notes of different pitch) in a smooth or connected manner 2 to run together,



omit, or pronounce unclearly (words, sounds, etc) [prob fr LG *slurm* to shuffle; akin to ME *sloor* mud]

**\*slur** *n* 1 (a curved line connecting) notes to be sung to the same syllable or performed without a break → MUSIC 2 a slurring manner of speech

**\*slur** *vb* -rr- *vt* 1 to cast aspersions on; disparage 2 to make indistinct, obscure ~ *vi* of a sheet being printed to slip so as to cause a slur [Obs E dial. *slur* (thin mud), fr ME *sloor*; akin to MHG *slir* mud, Lith *slugti* to diminish]

**\*slur** *n* 1a an insulting or disparaging remark; a slight *b* a shaming or degrading effect; a stigma 2 a blurred spot in printed matter

**slurp** /sluhp/ *vb* to eat or drink noisily or with a sucking sound [D slurpen; akin to MLG *slorpen* to slurp] - slurp *n*

**slurry** /sluri/ *n* a watery mixture of insoluble matter (e.g. mud, manure, or lime) [ME *slory*]

**slush** /slush/ *n* 1 partly melted or watery snow 2 liquid mud; mire 3 worthless and usu. over sentimental material (e.g. literature) [perh of Scand origin; akin to Norw. *slusk* slush] - slushy *adj*

**\*slush**, **fund** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a fund for bribing (public) officials or carrying on corrupting propaganda

**slut** /slut/ *n* 1 a dirty slovenly woman 2 an immoral woman, esp. a prostitute [ME *slutte*] - sluttish *adj*, sluttishly *adv*, sluttishness *n*

**slly** /slie/ *adj* *allier* also *sllyer*; *alliest* also *sllyest* 1a clever in concealing one's ends or intentions; furtive *b* lacking in integrity and candour; crafty 2 humorously mischievous; roguish [gave me a ~ glance] [ME *sh*, fr ON *slæg*; akin to OE *slæan* to strike - more at SLAY] - slily *adv*, sliness *n* - on the slly in a manner intended to avoid notice; secretly

**\*smack** /smak/ *n* (a slight hint of) a characteristic taste, flavour, or aura [ME, fr OE *smæc*; akin to OHG *smac* taste, Lith *smagurauti* to nibble]

**\*smack** *vi* - *smack* of to have a trace or suggestion of (a proposal that smacks of treason)

**\*smack** *vt* 1 to slap smartly, esp. in punishment 2 to strike or put down with the sound of a smack 3 to open (the lips) with a sudden sharp sound, esp. in anticipation of food or drink ~ *vi* to make or give a smack [akin to MD *smacken* to strike]

**\*smack** *n* 1 a sharp blow, esp. from sth flat, a slap 2 a noisy parting of the lips 3 a loud kiss 4 chiefly *NAM* heroin - slang

**\*smack** *adv* squarely and with force; directly - *infrm* [drove ~ into the car parked opposite]

**\*smack** *n* a small inshore fishing vessel [D *smak* or LG *smack*]

**smacker** /smaka/ *n*, *Br* 1 POUND 2 \*SMACK 3 *USE* *infrm* [\*SMACK + -ER]

**smacking** /smaking/ *adj* brisk, lively

**\*small** /smaul/ *adj* 1a having relatively little size or dimensions *b* immature, young (~ children) 2a little in quantity, value, amount, etc *b* made up of few individuals or units (a ~ audience) 3a lower-case *b* implying a general application rather than a specific reference, esp. to a political party (my philosophy is a liberal one, with a ~ 'I' - Reg Prentice) 4 lacking in strength (a ~ voice) 5a operating on a limited scale (a ~ farmer) *b* minor in power, influence, etc (only has a ~ say in the matter) *c* limited in degree (paid ~ heed to his warning) *d* humble, modest (a ~ beginning) 6 of little consequence; trivial (a ~ matter) 7a mean, petty *b* reduced to a humiliating position [ME *smal*, fr OE *smæl*; akin to OHG *smal* small, L *malus* bad] - smallish *adj*, smallness *n*

**\*small** *adv* 1 in or into small pieces 2 in a small manner or size (write ~)

**\*small** *n* 1 a part smaller and esp. narrower than the remainder, *specif* the narrowest part of the back 2 *pl*, *Br* small articles of underwear - *infrm*, used with reference to laundry

**\*small** *ad* /ad/ *n*, *Br* a classified advertisement

**\*small**, **arm** *n* a firearm fired while held in the hands - *usu* *pl*

**\*small**, **beer** *n* people or matters of small importance - *infrm*

**\*small**, **bore** *adj* of a relatively small calibre, esp. 5.6mm (0.22in)

**\*small**, **calorie** *n* CALORIE 1a

**\*small**, **capital** *n* a letter having the form of but smaller than a capital letter (e.g. in THESE WORDS)

**\*small**, **change** *n* coins of low denomination

**\*small**, **fry** *n* *pl* in *constr* young or insignificant people or things; *specif* children - small-fry *adj*

**\*small**, **goods** /-goodz/ *n*, *Austr* meat (e.g. bacon or sausages) sold in a form (partially) prepared for eating

**\*small**, **holding** /-hohlding/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a small agricultural farm - smallholder *n*

**small hours** *n* *pl* the hours immediately following midnight

**\*small intestine** *n* the part of the intestine that lies between the stomach and colon, consists of duodenum, jejunum, and ileum, secretes digestive enzymes, and is the chief site of the absorption of digested nutrients →

DIGESTION

**\*small-minded** *adj* 1 having narrow interests or outlook, narrow-minded (a ~ man) 2 characterized by petty meanness - small-mindedly *adv*, small-mindedness *n*

**small potatoes** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* matters of trivial importance - *infrm*

**smallpox** /smaw/poks/ *n* an acute infectious feverish virus disease characterized by skin eruption with pustules, sloughing, and scar formation

**small print** *n* sth made deliberately obscure, *specif* a part of a document (e.g. a contract) specifying restrictions and conditions that is often confusingly worded or in small type

**\*small-scale** *adj* small in scope or extent; esp. small in operation (a ~ undertaking)

**small screen** *n* TELEVISION 3b - + the

**\*small, sword** /-sawd/ *n* a light tapering sword for thrusting

**\*small, talk** *n* light or casual conversation, chitchat

**\*small-time** *adj* insignificant in operation and status, petty (~ hoodlums) - small-timer *n*

**smalt** /smault, smolt/ *n* a deep blue pigment used esp. as a colouring for glass and ceramics [MF, fr Olt *smalto*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *smelzan* to melt - more at \*SMELT]

**smarm** /smahm/ *vt* 1 to plaster, smear (~ on a thick layer of make-up) 2 to make (one's way) by obsequiousness or fawning *USE* *infrm* [origin unknown]

**smarmy** /smahmi/ *adj* marked by flattery or smugness, unctuous - *infrm*

**\*smart** /smaht/ *vi* 1 to be (the cause or seat of) a sharp pain, also to feel or have such a pain 2 to feel or endure mental distress (~ing from a rebuke) 3 to pay a heavy penalty (~ would have to ~ for this foolishness) [ME *smerten*, fr OE *smertan*, akin to OHG *smertan* to pain, L *moedere* to bite, Gk *marainein* to waste away]

**\*smart** *adj* 1 making one smart, causing a sharp sting (gave him a ~ blow with the ruler) 2 forceful, vigorous 3 brisk, spirited (walking at a ~ pace) 4a mentally alert, bright *b* clever, shrewd (a ~ investment) 5 witty, persuasive (a ~ talker) 6a neat or stylish in dress or appearance (a ~ new coat of paint) *b* characteristic of or frequented by fashionable society (a ~ restaurant) - smartly *adv*, smartness *n*

**\*smart** *adv* in a smart manner, smartly

**\*smart** *n* 1 a smarting pain, esp. a stinging local pain 2 poignant grief or remorse (was not the sort to get over ~s - Sir Winston Churchill)

**\*smart, alec, smart alek** /alik/ *n* an arrogant person with pretensions to knowledge or cleverness - derog. [Alec, nickname for Alexander] - smart-alecky, smart-alec *adj*

**smart bomb** *n* a bomb that can be guided (e.g. by a laser beam) to its target

**smarten** /smaht(a)n/ *vt* to make smart or smarter; esp. to spruce ~ *vi* to smarten oneself *USE* *usu* + *up*

**smartish** /smahtish/ *adv*, *Br* in a rapid manner, quickly (better get dressed ~) - *infrm*

**smart money** *n* (money ventured by) those having inside information or much experience (the ~ is talking of an economic recovery) [\*smart]

**\*smart, set** *n* fashionable society - + the

**smarty-pants** /smahti /pantz/ *n*, *pl* smarty-pants SMART ALEC - *infrm*

**\*smash** /smash/ *vt* 1 to break in pieces by violence, shatter 2a to drive, throw, or hit violently, esp. causing breaking or shattering; crash *b* to hit (e.g. a ball) with a forceful stroke, *specif* a smash 3 to destroy utterly; wreck - often + *up* ~ *vi* 1 to crash into; collide (~ed into a tree) 2 to become wrecked 3 to go to pieces suddenly under collision or pressure 4 to execute a smash (e.g. in tennis) [perh blend of *smack* and *dash*]

**\*smash** *n* 1a(1) a smashing blow, attack, or collision (a 5-car ~) (2) the result of smashing; esp. a wreck due to collision *b* a forceful overhand stroke (e.g. in tennis or badminton) 2 the condition of being smashed or shattered 3a the action or sound of smashing *b* utter collapse; ruin; esp. bankruptcy 4 SMASH HIT - *infrm*

**\*smash** *adv* with a resounding crash

**\*smash-and-grab** *n* or *adj*, chiefly *Br* (a robbery) committed by smashing a shop window and snatching the goods on display

**smashed** *adj* extremely drunk - *infrm*



**smasher** /ˈsmʌʃə/ *n*, chiefly Br shy or sth very fine or attractive – infml [**SMASH** + **-ER**]

**smash** *hit* *n* an outstanding success <his latest play is a ~>

**smashing** /ˈsmʌʃɪŋ/ *adj* extremely good; excellent <a ~ film> – infml – **smashingly** *adv*

**smash-up** *n* a serious accident, a crash <a 10-car ~ on the M1>

**smatter** /ˈsmʌt(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* a piecemeal or superficial knowledge of [fr gerund of *smatter* (to spatter, speak with superficial knowledge, dabble in), fr ME *smateren*]

**smaze** /smaɪz/ *n*, *NAm* a combination of haze and smoke similar to but drier than smog [smoke + haze]

**smear** /smaɪə/ *n* 1 a mark or blemish made (as if) by smearing a substance 2 material smeared on a surface; also material taken or prepared for microscopic examination by smearing on a slide <a vaginal ~> 3 a usu unsubstantiated accusation <took the article as a personal ~> [ME *smere*, fr OE *smeoru* grease, ointment, akin to OHG *smero* grease, Gk *smyrns emery*, *myron* unguent]

**smear** *vt* 1a to spread with sth sticky, greasy, or viscous, daub b to spread esp thickly over a surface 2a to stain or dirty (as if) by smearing b to sully, besmirch, *specif* to blacken the reputation of 3 to obscure or blur (as if) by smearing ~ *vi* to become smeared <don't touch the paint or it will ~> – **smearer** *n*, **smearly** *adj*

**megma** /ˈsmegmə/ *n* the secretion of a sebaceous gland; *specif* the cheesy sebaceous matter that collects between the glans penis and the foreskin or round the clitoris and labia minora [NL, fr L, detergent, soap, fr Gk *smegma*, fr *smechein* to wash off, clean]

**smell** /smel/ *vb* smelled, **smelt** /smelt/ *vi* 1 to perceive the odour of (as if) by use of the sense of smell 2 to detect or become aware of by instinct <I could ~ trouble> ~ *vi* ! *ic* exercise the sense of smell 2a(1) to have a usu specified smell <these clothes ~ damp> (2) to have a characteristic aura, be suggestive of <reports of survivors seemed to ~ of truth> b to have an offensive smell; stink [ME *smellen*, akin to MD *smolen* to scorch, Russ *smalit*] – **smeller** *n* – **smell** *a* rat to have a suspicion of sth wrong

**smell** *n* 1a the process, function, or power of smelling b the one of the 5 basic physical senses by which the qualities of gaseous or volatile substances in contact with certain sensitive areas in the nose are interpreted by the brain as characteristic odours 2 an odour 3 a pervading quality, an aura 4 an act or instance of smelling

**smelling salts** /ˈsmelɪŋ/ *n pl* but sing or *pl* in *constr* a usu scented preparation of ammonium carbonate and ammonia water sniffed as a stimulant to relieve faintness

**smell out** *vi* 1 to detect or discover (as if) by smelling <the dog smell out the criminal> 2 to fill with an esp offensive smell <the cigarettes smell out the room>

**smelly** /smeli/ *adj* having an esp unpleasant smell

**smelt** /smelt/ *n*, *pl* **smelts**, esp collectively **smelt** any of various small fishes that closely resemble the trouts in general structure and have delicate only flesh with a distinctive smell and taste [ME, fr OE, akin to Norw *smelte* whiting]

**smelt** *vt* 1 to melt (ore) to separate the metal 2 to separate (metal) by smelting [D or LG *smelten*, akin to OHG *smelzan* to melt, OE *meltan*] – **smelter** *n*, **smeltery** *n*

**smew** /smyoʊh/ *n* a sawbill duck of northern Europe and Asia, the male of which is mostly white [akin to MHG *smiehe* smew]

**smidgin**, **smidgeon**, **smidgen** /ˈsmɪdʒɪn/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a small amount, a bit [prob alter. of E dial. *smitch* (soiling mark)]

**smilax** /ˈsmɪləks/ *n* 1 SASSAPARILLA 2 a tender twining plant that is often grown for ornament [L, bindweed, yew, fr Gk]

**smile** /smɪl/ *vi* 1 to have or assume a smile 2a to look with amusement or scorn <~d at his own weakness> b to bestow approval <Heaven seemed to ~ on her labours> c to appear pleasant or agreeable <a green and smiling landscape> ~ *vt* 1 to affect with or change by smiling <~d away his embarrassment> 2 to utter or express with a smile <~d her thanks> [ME *smilen*; akin to OE *smerian* to laugh, L *mirari* to wonder, Skt *smayate* he smiles] – **smiler** *n*, **smilingly** *adv*

**smile** *n* 1 a change of facial expression in which the corners of the mouth curve slightly upwards and which expresses esp amusement, pleasure, approval, or sometimes scorn 2 a pleasant or encouraging appearance – **smiley** *adj*

**smirch** /smʊhʃ/ *vt* 1 to make dirty or stained, esp by smearing 2 to bring discredit or disgrace on <~ed his reputation> [ME *smorchen*] – **smirch** *n*

**smirk** /smʊhʃ/ *vi* to smile in a fatuous or scornful manner [ME *smirken*,

fr OE *smearcian* to smile, akin to OE *smerian* to laugh] – **smirk** *n*, **smirkingly** *adv*

**smite** /smɪt/ *vb* **smote** /smoʊt/, **smitten** /ˈsmɪt(ə)n/, **smote** *vt* 1 to strike sharply or heavily, esp with (an implement held in) the hand 2 to kill, injure, or damage by smiting 3a to attack or afflict suddenly and injuriously <smitten by disease> b to have a sudden powerful effect on, afflict <smitten with grief>, *specif* to attract strongly <smitten by her beauty> 4 to cause to strike <smote his hand against his side> ~ *vi* to beat down or come forcibly on or upon [ME *smiten*, fr OE *smitan*, akin to OHG *bismizan* to defile, & perh to L *mittere* to let go, send] – **smiter** *n*

**smith** /smɪθ/ *n* 1 a worker in metals, *specif* a blacksmith 2 a maker – often in combination <gunsmith> <songsmith> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *smid* smith, Gk *smile* wood-carving knife]

**smithereens** /ˈsmɪðəˈreɪnz/, -r-/ *n pl* fragments, bits <the house was blown to ~ by the explosion> [IrGael *smidirn*, dim of *smiodar* fragment]

**smithery** /ˈsmɪθ(ə)rɪ/ *n* the work, art, or trade of a smith

**smithy** /ˈsmɪθi/ *n* the workshop of a smith

**smock** /smɒk/ *n* a light loose garment resembling a smock frock, esp in being gathered into a yoke, also **SMOCK FROCK** [ME *smok*, fr OE *smoc*, akin to OHG *smoco* adornment]

**smock** *vt* to ornament (e.g. a garment) with smocking

**smock frock** *n* an outer garment worn chiefly by farm labourers, esp in the 18th and 19th c, and resembling a long loose shirt gathered into a yoke ~ **GARMENT**

**smocking** /ˈsmɒkɪŋ/ *n* a decorative embroidery or shirring made by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round or diamond-shaped tucks held in place with ornamental stitching

**smog** /smɒɡ/ *n* a fog made heavier and darker by smoke and chemical fumes [blend of *smoke* and *fog*] – **smoggy** *adj*, **smogless** *adj*

**smoke** /sməʊk/ *n* 1a the gaseous products of burning carbon-containing materials made visible by the presence of small particles of carbon b a suspension of particles in a gas 2 fumes or vapour resembling smoke 3 sth of little substance, permanence, or value 4 sth that obscures 5a sth (e.g. a cigarette) that is smoked b an act or spell of smoking esp tobacco [ME, fr OE *smoca*, akin to MHG *smouch* smoke, Gk *smyechein* to smoulder] – **smoke** *adj*

**smoke** *vi* 1 to emit smoke 2 to (habitually) inhale and exhale the fumes of burning plant material, esp tobacco ~ *vt* 1a to fumigate b to drive out or away by smoke <~ a fox from its den> 2 to colour or darken (as if) with smoke <~d glasses> 3 to cure (e.g. meat or fish) by exposure to smoke, traditionally from green wood or peat 4 to inhale and exhale the smoke of (e.g. cigarettes)

**smokejack** /ˈsməʊk,jæk/ *n* a device for turning a spit that is driven by rising gases in a chimney

**smokeless** /-lɪs/ *adj* 1 producing little or no smoke <~ fuel> 2 in which no smoke is allowed <a ~ zone>

**smoke out** *vt* 1 **SMOKE** 1b 2 to bring to public view or knowledge

**smoker** /ˈsməʊkə/ *n* 1 shy who regularly or habitually smokes tobacco 2 a carriage or compartment in which smoking is allowed [**SMOKER** + **-ER**]

**smoke screen** *n* 1 a screen of smoke to hinder observation 2 sth designed to conceal, confuse, or deceive

**smokestack** /-stæk/ *n* a chimney or funnel through which smoke and gases are discharged, esp from a locomotive or steamship

**smoking jacket** /ˈsməʊkɪŋ/ *n* a loosely fitting jacket formerly worn by men while smoking

**smoking room** *n* a room (e.g. in a club or hotel) set aside for smokers

**smoko**, **smoke-oh** /ˈsməʊkəʊ/ *n*, *Austr* & *NZ* a short rest period – infml [**smoke** 5b + *o*, *oh*, interj]

**smoky** also **smokey** /ˈsməʊki/ *adj* 1 emitting smoke, esp in large quantities <a ~ fire> 2a having the characteristics or appearance of smoke b suggestive of smoke, esp in flavour, smell, or colour 3a filled with smoke b made black or grimy by smoke – **smokily** *adv*, **smokiness** *n*

**smolder** /ˈsməʊldə/ *vi*, *NAm* to smoulder

**smolt** /sməʊlt/ *n* a young salmon or sea trout that is about 2 years old and is assuming the silvery colour of the adult [ME (Sc)]

**smooch** /smuːtʃ/ *vi* to kiss, caress <~ ing on the dimly lit dance floor> – infml [alter of *smouch* (to kiss loudly), of imit origin] – **smoocher** *n*, **smoochy** *adj*

**smooth** /smuːðh/ *adj* 1a having a continuous even surface b free from hair or hairlike projections c of liquid of an even consistency; free from

lumps **d** giving no resistance to sliding; frictionless **2** free from difficulties or obstructions **3** even and uninterrupted in movement or flow **4a** equable, composed (*a ~ disposition*) **b** urbane, courteous **c** excessively and often artfully suave; ingratiating (*a ~ salesman*) **5** not sharp or acid (*a ~ sherry*) [ME *smothe*, fr OE *smōth*; akin to OS *smothi* smooth] – **smooth** *adv*, **smoothly** *adv*, **smoothness** *n*

**smooth** *vt* **1** to make smooth **2** to free from what is harsh or disagreeable **3** to dispel or alleviate (e.g. enmity or perplexity) – often + *away* or *over* **4** to free from obstruction or difficulty **5** to press flat – often + *out* **6** to cause to lie evenly and in order – often + *down* (*~ ed down his hair*) **7** to free (e.g. a graph or data) from irregularities by ignoring random variations ~ *vi* to become smooth – **smoother** *n*

**smooth** *n* a smooth or agreeable side or aspect (*take the rough with the ~*)

**smoothbore** /-baw/ *adj*, of a firearm not rifled – **smoothbore** *n*

**smoothen** /smoohdh(a)n/ *vb* to make or become smooth

**smoothie**, **smoothy** /smoohdh/ *n* a person, esp a man, who behaves with suave and often excessive self-assurance – **infm**

**smooth muscle** *n* muscle that consists of fibres usu bound in thin sheets, is present in the walls of the gut, bladder, blood vessels, etc, and is not under voluntary control – compare **SRIATED MUSCLE**

**smooth-tongued** *adj* ingratiating and persuasive in speech

**smorgasbord** /smawgas,bawd/, 'smuh-/ *n* a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes (e.g. hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold meats, smoked and pickled fish, cheeses, salads, and relishes) [Sw *smörgåsbord*, fr *smörgås* open sandwich + *bord* table]

**smote** /smoht/ *past* of **SMITE**

**smother** /smudha/ *n* **1** a dense cloud of gas, smoke, dust, etc **2** a confused mass of things; a welter [ME, alter of *smother*, fr *smoren* to smother, fr OE *smoran* to suffocate; akin to MD *smoren* to suffocate] – **smothery** *adj*

**smother** *vt* **1** to overcome or kill with smoke or fumes **2a** to kill by depriving of air **b** to overcome or discomfort (as if) through lack of air **c** to suppress (a fire) by excluding oxygen **3a** to suppress expression or knowledge **b**; conceal (*~ a yawn*) **b** to prevent the growth or development of; suppress **4a** to cover thickly; blanket (*snow ~ ed the trees and hedgerows*) **b** to overwhelm (*aunts who always ~ ed him with kisses*) ~ *vi* to become smothered

**smoulder**, *NAM* chiefly **smolder** /smohlda/ *n* a smouldering fire [ME *smolder*; akin to ME *smellen* to smell]

**smoulder**, *NAM* chiefly **smolder** *vi* **1** to burn feebly with little flame and often much smoke **2** to exist in a state of suppressed ferment (*resentment ~ ed in her*) **3** to show suppressed anger, hate, jealousy, etc (*eyes ~ ing with hate*)

**smudge** /smuj/ *vt* **1** to soil (as if) with a smudge **2a** to smear, daub **b** to make indistinct, blur (*couldn't read the ~ d address*) **3 NAM** to disinfect or protect by means of smoke ~ *vi* **1** to make a smudge **2** to become smudged [ME *smogen*]

**smudge** *n* **1** a blurry spot or streak **2** an indistinct mass; a blur – **smudgily** *adv*, **smudginess** *n*, **smudgy** *adj*

**smug** /smug/ *adj* -*gg* highly self-satisfied and complacent (*~ self-righteous moralists*) [prob modif of LG *smuck* neat, fr MLG, fr *smucken* to dress; akin to OE *smoc* smock] – **smugly** *adv*, **smugness** *n*

**smuggle** /smugl/ *vb* **smuggling** /smugling/ *vt* **1** to import or export secretly contrary to the law, esp without paying duties **2** to convey or introduce surreptitiously (*~ d his notes into the examination*) ~ *vi* to import or export sth in violation of customs laws [LG *smuggeln* & D *smokkeln*; akin to OE *smoc* smock] – **smuggler** *n*

**smut** /smut/ *vb* -*tt* -*vt* **1** to stain or taint with smut **2** to affect (a crop or plant) with smut ~ *vi* to become affected by smut [prob alter. of earlier *smot* (to stain), fr ME *smotten*; akin to MHG *smutzen* to stain]

**smut** *n* **1** matter, esp a particle of soot, that soils or blackens; also a mark made by this **2** any of various destructive fungous diseases, esp of cereal grasses, marked by transformation of plant organs into dark masses of spores **3** obscene language or matter – **smuttily** *adv*, **smuttiness** *n*, **smutty** *adj*

**snack** /sna:k/ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* to eat a snack [ME *snaken* to bite, prob fr MD *snacken* to snap at, bite]

**snack** *n* a light meal; food eaten between regular meals – **snack** *adj*

**snaffle** /snafl/ *n* a simple usu jointed bit for a bridle [origin unknown]

**snaffle** *vt* **snaffling** /snafling/ to appropriate, esp by devious means; pinch – **infm** [origin unknown]

**snafu** /snafooh/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* snarled up; awry – **infm** [situation - normal all fucked up]

**snafu** *vt* or *n*, chiefly *NAM* (to bring into a state of) total confusion – **infm**

**snag** /sna:g/ *n* **1a** a stub or stump remaining after a branch has been lopped **b** a tree or branch embedded in a lake or stream bed and constituting a hazard to navigation **2a** a sharp or jagged projecting part **b** any of the secondary branches of an antler **3** a concealed or unexpected difficulty or obstacle (*the ~ is, there's no train on Sundays*) **4** an irregular tear or flaw made (as if) by catching on a snag (*a ~ in her stocking*) [of Scand origin; akin to ON *snagi* clothes peg] – **snaggy** *adj*

**snag** *vb* -*gg* -*vt* **1** to catch (as if) on a snag **2** to clear (e.g. a river) of snags **3** chiefly *NAM* to halt or impede as if by catching on a snag **4** chiefly *NAM* to catch or obtain by quick action (*~ ged a taxi*) ~ *vi* to become snagged

**snail** /snaɪl/ *n* **1** a gastropod mollusc; esp one that has an external enclosing spiral shell **2** a slow-moving or sluggish person or thing [ME, fr OE *snægl*, akin to OHG *sneco* snail, *snahhan* to creep, Lith *snake* snail] – **snaillike** *adj*

**snail-paced** /paɪst/ *adj* moving very slowly

**snake** /snaɪk/ *n* **1** any of numerous limbless scaly reptiles with a long tapering body and with salivary glands often modified to produce venom which is injected through grooved or tubular fangs **2** a sly treacherous person **3** sth long, slender, and flexible, *specif* a flexible rod for freeing clogged pipes **4** often *cap* a system in which the values of the currencies of countries in the European Economic Community are allowed to vary against each other within narrow limits [ME, fr OE *snaca*, akin to OE *snægl* snail] – **snakelike** *adj*

**snake** *vt* to wind (e.g. one's way) in the manner of a snake ~ *vi* to crawl, move, or extend silently, secretly, or windingly

**snake charmer** *n* an entertainer who exhibits the power to control venomous snakes supposedly by magic

**snake in the grass** *n* a secretly treacherous friend or associate

**snake root** /-root/ *n* any of numerous plants which have roots sometimes believed to cure snakebites

**snake's head** *n* a European fritillary plant

**snake skin** /-skin/ *n* (leather made from) the skin of a snake

**snake weed** /-weed/ *n* any of several plants associated with snakes (e.g. in appearance, habitat, or use in treatment of snakebite)

**snaky** /snaɪki/ *adj* **1** (formed) of or entwined with snakes **2** serpentine, snakelike (*the ~ arms of an octopus*) **3** slyly venomous or treacherous **4** full of snakes – **snakily** *adv*

**snap** /sna:p/ *vb* -*pp* -*vi* **1a** to make a sudden closing of the jaws, seize sth sharply with the mouth (*fish ~ ping at the bait*) **b** to grasp or snatch at sth eagerly (*~ at any chance*) **2** to utter sharp biting words, give an irritable retort (*~ ped at his pupil when she apologized for being late*) **3a** to make a sharp or cracking sound **b** to break suddenly, esp with a sharp cracking sound (*the twig ~ ped*) **c** to close or fit in place with an abrupt movement or sharp sound (*the catch ~ ped shut*) ~ *vt* **1** to seize (as if) with a snap of the jaws (*~ ped the food right out of his hand*) **2** to take possession or advantage of suddenly or eagerly – *usu* + *up* (*shoppers ~ ping up bargains*) **3** to utter curtly or abruptly (*~ ped out an answer*) **4a** to cause to make a snapping sound (*~ ped her fingers*) **b** to cause to break suddenly, esp with a sharp cracking sound (*~ ped the end off the twig*) **c** to put into or remove from a particular position with a sudden movement or sharp sound (*~ the lid shut*) **5a** to take photographically (*~ a picture*) **b** to photograph [D or LG *snappen*; akin to MHG *snappen* to snap] – **snapped** out of it to free oneself from sth (e.g. a mood) by an effort of will – **infm**

**snap** *n* **1** an abrupt closing (e.g. of the mouth in biting or of scissors in cutting) **2** an act or instance of seizing abruptly; a sudden snatch or bite **3** brief usu curt retort **4a** a sound made by snapping **b** a sudden sharp breaking of sth thin or brittle **5** a sudden spell of harsh weather (*a cold ~*) **6** a thin brittle biscuit (*ginger ~*) **7** a snapshot **8** vigour, energy **9** a card game in which each player tries to be the first to shout 'snap' when 2 cards of identical value are laid successively **10 dial NENG** a small meal or snack; esp. elevenes **b** food; esp. the food taken by a workman to eat at work **11 NAM** sth that is easy and presents no problems; a cinch – **infm**

**snap** *interj*, *Br* – used to draw attention to an identity or similarity (*~! You're reading the same book as me*)

**snap** *adv* with (the sound of) a snap

**snap adj** **1** performed suddenly, unexpectedly, or without deliberation (*a ~ judgment*) **2 NAM** very easy or simple (*a ~ course*)

**snappedragon** /sna:p,drag(a)n/ *n* any of several garden plants of the

figwort family having showy white, red, or yellow 2-lipped flowers [fr the fancied resemblance of the flowers to the face of a dragon]

**snap fastener** *n*, *NAm* a press-stud

**'snap-on** *adj* designed to snap into position and fit tightly (< ~ *cuffs*)

**snapper** /'snapa/ *n*, *pl* **snappers**, (3) **snappers**, *esp* collectively **snapper** 1 SNAPPING TURTLE 2 CLICK BEETLE 3 any of numerous flesh-eating fishes of warm seas important as food and often as sport fishes ['SNAP + '-ER]

**snapping turtle** /'snapiŋ/ *n* a large American turtle that has powerful jaws

**snappish** /'snapiʃ/ *adj* 1a given to curt irritable speech b bad-tempered, testy (< a ~ *reply*) 2 inclined to snap or bite (< a ~ *dog*) - **snappishly** *adv*, **snappishness** *n*

**snappy** /'snapi/ *adj* 1 SNAPPISH 1 2a brisk, quick (< make it ~) b lively, animated (< ~ *repartee*) c stylish, smart (< a ~ *dresser*) - **snappily** *adv*, **snappiness** *n*

**snAPSHOT** /'snap,ʃot/ *n* a casual photograph made typically by an amateur with a small hand-held camera and without regard to technique

**'snare** /sneə/ *n* 1a a trap often consisting of a noose for catching animals b sth by which one is trapped or deceived 2 any of the catgut strings or metal spirals of a snare drum which produce a rattling sound 3 a surgical instrument consisting usu of a wire loop used for removing tissue masses (e.g. tonsils) [ME, fr OE *sneare*, fr ON *snara*, akin to Gk *narke* numbness, OHG *snur* cord - more at **NARROW**]

**'snare** *vt* 1a to capture (as if) by use of a snare b to procure by artful or skilful actions (< a ~ *top job*) 2 to entangle or hold as if in a snare - **snarer** *n*

**'snare drum** *n* a small double-headed drum with 1 or more snares stretched across its lower head

**'snarl** /sna:rl/ *n* 1 a tangle, esp of hair or thread, a knot 2 a confused or complicated situation, *also*, chiefly *NAm* a snarl-up [ME *sna:rl*, prob dim of *sna:re*] - **snarly** *adj*

**'snarl** *vt* 1 to cause to become knotted and intertwined, tangle 2 to make excessively confused or complicated ~ *vt* to become snarled *USE* (vt, vi) often + *up* - **snarler** *n*

**'snarl** *vi* 1 to growl with bared teeth 2 to speak in a vicious or bad-tempered manner ~ *vi* to utter or express viciously or in a snarling manner [freq of obs *E snar* (to growl)] - **snarl** *n*, **snarler** *n*

**'snarl-up** *n* an instance of confusion, disorder, or obstruction, *specif* a traffic jam

**'snatch** /sna:tʃ/ *vi* to attempt to seize sth suddenly - often + *at* (< ~ *at a rope*) ~ *vt* 1 to take or grasp abruptly or hastily (< ~ *a quick glance*) 2 to seize or grab suddenly and usu forcibly, wrongfully, or with difficulty [ME *sna:chen* to give a sudden snap, seize, akin to MD *snacken* to snap at] - **snatcher** *n*

**'snatch** *n* 1 a snatching at or of sth 2a a brief period of time or activity (< sleep came in ~s) b sth fragmentary or hurried (< caught a brief ~ of their conversation) 3 a robbery - *infrm*

**'snatch block** *n* a block that can be opened on one side to receive a rope

**snatchy** /'sna:tʃi/ *adj* marked by breaks in continuity; spasmodic

**snazzy** /'sna:zi/ *adj* stylishly or flashily attractive - *infrm* [perh blend of **snappy** and **jazzy**]

**'sneak** /sneek/ *vb* **sneaked**, *NAm* *also* **snuck** /snuk/ *vi* 1 to go or leave stealthily or furtively, slink (< boys ~ing over the orchard wall) 2 to behave in a furtive or servile manner 3 *Br* to tell tales (< pupils never ~ on their classmates) - *infrm* ~ *vt* to put, bring, or take in a furtive or artful manner (< ~ed a glance at the report) [akin to OE *sneacan* to sneak along, OHG *sneahan* to creep - more at **SNAIL**] - **sneak up on** to approach or act on stealthily

**'sneak** *n* 1 a person who acts in a stealthy or furtive manner 2 the act or an instance of sneaking 3 *Br* a person, esp a schoolchild, who tells tales against others - *infrm* - **sneaky** *adj*

**sneaker** /'sneeka/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a plimsoll - usu *pl* ['SNEAK + '-ER]

**sneaking** /'sneekiŋ/ *adj* 1 furtive, underhand 2 mean, contemptible 3a not openly expressed; secret (< a ~ *desire for publicity*) b instinctively felt but unverified (< a ~ *suspicion*) - **sneakingly** *adv*

**'sneak, thief** *n* a thief who steals without using violence or breaking into buildings

**sneek** /snek/ *n*, *dial Br* a latch [ME *snekke*]

**'sneer** /sniə/ *vi* 1 to smile or laugh with a curl of the lips to express scorn or contempt 2 to speak or write in a scornfully jeering manner ~ *vt* to

utter with a sneer [prob akin to MHG *snerren* to chatter, gossip - more at **SNORE**] - **sneerer** *n*

**'sneer** *n* a sneering expression or remark

**sneeze** /sneeʒ/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a sudden violent involuntary audible expiration of breath [ME *snesen*, alter. of *fnesen*, fr OE *fneosan*, akin to MHG *pfneusen* to snort, sneeze, Gk *pnein* to breathe] - **sneezier** *n*, **sneezy** *adj* - **sneeze at** to make light of

**'sneeze, wort** /-,wu:lt/ *n* a strong-scented Eurasian composite perennial plant

**snell** /snel/ *adj*, chiefly *Scot* keen, piercing (< a ~ *wind smote us* - *Scotsman*) [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *snel* bold, agile]

**'snick** /snik/ *vt* 1 to cut slightly, nick 2 **EDGE** 4 [prob fr obs *snick* or *snee* to engage in cut-and-thrust fighting - more at **SNICKERSNEE**]

**'snick** *n* **EDGE** 4

**snicker** /'snika/ *vi* or *n* (to) **snigger** [imit] - **snickerer** *n*, **snickery** *adj*

**snickersnee** /,sniks'snee, '-,-/ *n* a large knife [obs *snick* or *snee* (to engage in cut-and-thrust fighting), alter. of earlier *steake* or *snye*, fr D *steken* of *snijden* to thrust or cut]

**snicket** /'snikit/ *n*, *N Eng* a narrow pathway bordered by bushes or hedges [E *dial* *snicket* (something small or insignificant)]

**snide** /sniəd/ *adj* 1 slyly disparaging; insinuating (< ~ *remarks*) 2 chiefly *NAm* mean, low (< a ~ *trick*) [origin unknown] - **snidely** *adv*, **snideness** *n*

**'sniff** /snif/ *vi* 1 to draw air audibly up the nose, esp for smelling (< ~ed at the flowers) 2 to show or express disdain or scorn at (< not to be ~ed at) ~ *vt* 1 to smell or take by inhalation through the nose 2 to utter in a haughty manner 3 to detect or become aware of (as if) by smelling [ME *sniffen*, of imit origin]

**'sniff** *n* 1 an act or sound of sniffing 2 a quantity that is sniffed (< a good ~ of sea air)

**sniffer** /'snifa/ *n* a person who illicitly takes drugs by sniffing (< a glue ~) ['SNIFF + '-ER]

**'sniffle** /'snifl/ *vi* **sniffing** /'snifliŋ/, 'snifl-iŋ/ to sniff repeatedly [freq of *sniff*] - **sniffler** *n*

**'sniffle** *n* 1 an act or sound of sniffing 2 often *pl* a head cold marked by nasal discharge (< he's got the ~s)

**sniffy** /'snifi/ *adj* having or expressing a haughty attitude, supercilious - *infrm* - **sniffily** *adv*, **sniffiness** *n*

**snifter** /'sniftə/ *n* a small drink of spirits - *infrm* [E *dial* *sniff*, snort, fr ME *sniften* to sniff, snort]

**snig** /snig/ *vt* -*gg*- *Austr* & *NZ* to drag (logs) without using a sledge [origin unknown]

**snigger** /'sniga/ *vi* to laugh in a partly suppressed often derisive manner [alter. of *snicker*] - **snigger** *n*, **sniggerer** *n*

**'snip** /snip/ *n* 1a a small piece snipped off, *also* a fragment, bit b a cut or notch made by snipping c an act or sound of snipping 2 *pl* *but sing* or *pl* in *constr* shears used esp for cutting sheet metal by hand 3 *Br* a bargain 4 *Br* **CINCH** 2a - *infrm* [fr or akin to D & LG *snip*]

**'snip** *vb* -*pp*- *vi* to cut (as if) with shears or scissors, esp with short rapid strokes ~ *vt* to make a short rapid cut (as if) with shears or scissors - **snipper** *n*

**'snipe** /sni:p/ *n*, *pl* **snipes**, *esp* collectively **snipe** any of various birds that usu have long slender straight bills, esp any of several game birds that occur esp in marshy areas and resemble the related woodcocks [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *snipa* snipe, akin to OHG *sneþa* snipe]

**'snipe** *vi* 1 to shoot at exposed individuals usu from in hiding at long range 2 to aim a snide or obliquely critical attack at [*snipe* (to shoot or hunt snipe)] - **sniper** *n*

**snippet** /'snipit/ *n* a small part, piece, or item, esp a fragment of writing or conversation ['snip + -et] - **snippety** *adj*

**snit** /snit/ *n*, *NAm*, *Austr*, & *NZ* a bad or sulky mood - chiefly in *in a snit*, *infrm* [origin unknown]

**'snitch** /snuch/ *vi* to turn informer; squeal on sb - *infrm* ~ *vt* to pilfer, pinch - *infrm* [prob fr *snitch*, *snitchel* (filip on the nose, nose); *vt* prob influenced by 'snatch] - **snitcher** *n*

**'snitch** *n* an esp petty thief - *infrm*

**snivel** /'snivl/ *vi* -*ll*- (*NAm* -*l*-, -*ll*-), /'snivl-iŋ/ 1 to run at the nose 2 to sniff mucus up the nose audibly 3 to whine, snuffle 4 to speak or act in a whining, tearful, cringing, or weakly emotional manner [ME *sniwelen*, fr (assumed) OE *snyllan*; akin to D *snuffelen* to snuffle, *snufften* to sniff, Gk *nan* to flow - more at **NOURISH**] - **snivel** *n*, **sniveller** *n*

**snob** /snob/ *n* 1 one who blatantly attempts to cultivate or imitate those he/she admires as social superiors 2a one who tends to patronize or avoid those he/she regards as inferior b one who has an air of smug superiority

in matters of knowledge or taste (< a cultural ~> [obs *snob* (member of the lower classes, vulgar or ostentatious person), fr E dial., shoemaker] – *snobbish*, *snobby* *adj*, *snobbishly* *adv*, *snobbishness* *n*, *snobism* *n*  
**snobbery** /'snob(ə)rɪ/ *n* (an instance of) snobbishness

**Sno-Cat** /'snoh.kət/ *trademark* – used for a tracklaying vehicle designed for travel on snow

**snog** /snog/ *n* *gg-Br* to kiss and cuddle – slang [perh alter of 'snug] – *snog* *n*

**snood** /snoohd/ *n* 1 a net or fabric bag, formerly worn at the back of the head by women, to hold the hair 2 *Scot* a ribbon or band for a woman's hair [(assumed) ME, fr OE *snōd*, akin to OIr *snáth* thread, OE *nēd* needle] – *snood* *vt*

**snook** /snoohk/ *n* a gesture of derision made by putting the thumb to the nose and spreading the fingers out – compare COCK A SNOOK [origin unknown]

**'snooker** /'snoohkə/ *n* 1 a variation of pool played with 15 red balls and 6 variously coloured balls 2 a position of the balls in snooker in which a direct shot would lose points [origin unknown]

**'snooker** *vt* 1 to prevent (an opponent) from making a direct shot in snooker by playing the cue ball so that another ball rests between it and the object ball 2 to present an obstacle to; thwart – *infrml* – *snookered* *adj*

**snoot** /snoohp/ *vt* to look or pry in a sneaking or interfering manner [D *snoepen* to buy or eat on the sly; akin to D *snappen* to snap] – *snoot* *n*, *snooter* *n*

**snooty** /'snoothɪ/ *adj* 1 haughty, disdainful 2 characterized by snobbish attitudes (< a ~ neighbourhood) *USE* *infrml* [obs *snoot* (nose), fr ME *snute*] – *snootily* *adv*, *snootiness* *n*

**snooze** /snoohz/ *vi* or *n* (to take) a nap – *infrml* [origin unknown] – *snoozes* *n*

**snore** /snaʊ/ *vi* or *n* (to breathe with) a rough hoarse noise due to vibration of the soft palate during sleep [vb ME *snoren*, akin to MLG *snorren* to drone, MHG *snarren* to chatter, n fr vb] – *snorer* *n*

**'snorkel** /'snaʊkl/ *n* 1 a tube housing an air intake and exhaust pipes that can be extended above the surface of the water from a submerged submarine 2 a J-shaped tube allowing a skin diver to breathe while face down in the water [G *schnorchel*]

**'snorkel** *vi* *snorkeled*; *snorkeling* /'snaʊklɪŋ/ to operate or swim submerged using a snorkel – *snorkeler* /'snaʊkla/ *n*

**'snort** /snaʊt/ *vi* 1 to force air violently through the nose with a rough harsh sound 2 to express scorn, anger, or surprise by a snort ~ *vt* 1 to utter with or express by a snort (< ~ed his contempt) 2 to take in (a drug) by inhalation (< coke) – *infrml* [ME *snorten*]

**'snort** *n* 1 an act or sound of snorting 2 a snifter – *infrml*

**snorter** /'snaʊtə/ *n* sth extremely powerful, difficult, or impressive – *infrml* ['SNORT + -ER]

**snout** /snaʊt/ *n* 1 nasal mucus 2 a snotty person – slang [ME, fr OE *gesnot*; akin to OHG *snuzza* nasal mucus, Gk *nan* to flow – more at NOURISH]

**snotty** /'snotti/ *adj* 1 soiled with nasal mucus – *infrml* 2 arrogantly or snobbishly unpleasant 3 contemptible, despicable *USE* (2&3) slang

**snout** /snaʊt/ *n* 1a(1) a long projecting nose (e.g. of a pig) (2) a forward prolongation of the head of various animals b the human nose, esp when large or grotesque 2 tobacco – slang [ME *snute*; akin to G *schnauze* snout] – *snouted* *adj*, *snoutish* *adj*, *snouty* *adj*

**'snow** /snoh/ *n* 1a (a descent of) water falling in the form of white flakes consisting of small ice crystals formed directly from vapour in the atmosphere b fallen snow 2a any of various congealed or crystallized substances resembling snow in appearance b cocaine – slang [ME, fr OE *snaʊ*; akin to OHG *snēo* snow, L *niv-*, *nix*, Gk *nipha* (acc)] – *snowless* *adj*

**'snow** *vi* to fall in or as snow ~ *vt* 1 to cause to fall like or as snow 2 to cover, shut in, or block (as if) with snow – *usu* + *in* or *up* (<found themselves ~ed in after the blizzard) 3 chiefly NAm to deceive, persuade, or charm glibly

**'snowball** /-baw/ *n* a round mass of snow pressed or rolled together for throwing

**'snowball** *vt* to throw snowballs at ~ *vi* 1 to throw snowballs 2 to increase or expand at a rapidly accelerating rate

**'snowberry** /-b(ə)rɪ/ *n* any of several white-berried (garden) shrubs

**'snow blindness** *n* inflammation and painful sensitiveness to light caused by exposure of the eyes to ultraviolet rays reflected from snow or ice – *snow-blind*, *snow-blinded* *adj*

**'snowblink** /-blɪŋk/ *n* a white glare in the sky over an expanse of snow

**'snowbound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* confined or surrounded by snow

**'snowbroth** /-broθ/ *n* newly melted snow

**snow bunting** /'bʌntɪŋ/ *n* a Eurasian and N American bunting that is a winter visitor to Europe

**'snowcap** /-kəp/ *n* a covering cap of snow (e.g. on a mountain top) – *snowcapped* *adj*

**'snowdrift** /-drɪft/ *n* a bank of drifted snow

**'snowdrop** /-drɒp/ *n* a bulbous European plant of the daffodil family bearing nodding white flowers in spring

**'snowfall** /-faw/ *n* the amount of snow falling at one time or in a given period

**'snowflake** /-flaɪk/ *n* a flake or crystal of snow

**snow goose** *n* a large white goose with black-tipped wings

**snow job** *n*, chiefly NAm an attempt to persuade or deceive by overwhelming with information or flattery ['snow 3]

**snow leopard** *n* a big cat of upland central Asia with long heavy fur that is irregularly blotched with brownish black in summer and almost pure white in winter

**snow line** *n* the lower margin of a permanent expanse of snow

**'snowman** /-mən/ *n* a pile of snow shaped to resemble a human figure

**snowmobile** /'snoʊməbiəl/ *n* any of various automotive vehicles for travel on snow ['snow + automobile]

**'snowplough** /-pləʊ/ *n* 1 any of various vehicles or devices used for clearing snow 2 a turn in skiing with the skis in the snowploughing position

**'snowplough** *vi* to force the heels of one's ski's outwards, keeping the tips together, in order to descend slowly or to stop

**'snowshoe** /-shoʊ/ *n* a light oval wooden frame that is strung with thongs and attached to the foot to enable a person to walk on soft snow without sinking

**'snowstorm** /-stəʊm/ *n* a storm of or with snow

**snow under** *vt* 1 to overwhelm, esp in excess of capacity to handle or absorb sthg (<snowed under with applications for the job) 2 NAm to defeat by a large margin

**snow-white** *adj* spotlessly white

**snowy** /'snoʊi/ *adj* 1a composed of (melted) snow b characterized by or covered with snow 2a whitened (as if) by snow (<ground ~ with fallen blossom) b snow-white – *snowily* *adv*, *snowiness* *n*

**'snowy owl** *n* a very large white round-headed arctic owl that is a winter visitor to Europe and N America

**'snub** /snub/ *vt* -bb- 1 to check or interrupt with a cutting retort, rebuke 2 to restrain (e.g. a rope) suddenly while running out, esp by wrapping round a fixed object, also to halt the motion of by snubbing a line 3 to treat with contempt, esp by deliberately ignoring [ME *snubben*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *snubba* to scold, akin to Icel *sneypa* to scold]

**'snub** *n* an act or an instance of snubbing, esp a slight

**'snub** *adj* short and stubby (< a ~ nose) ['snub (to shorten, cut off)] – *snubness* *n*

**'snub-nosed** /noʊzɪd/ *adj* 1 having a short and slightly turned-up nose 2 having a very short barrel (< a ~ revolver)

**snuck** /snuk/ NAm past of SNEAK

**'snuff** /snʌf/ *n* the charred part of a candle wick [ME *snoffe*]

**'snuff** *vi* 1 to trim the snuff of (a candle) by pinching or by the use of snuffers 2a to extinguish (a flame) by the use of snuffers b to make extinct; put an end to – *usu* + *out* (<an accident that ~ed out a life) – *snuff* it to die – *infrml*

**'snuff** *vb* or *n* (to) sniff [akin to D *snuffen* to sniff, snuff – more at SNIFF]

**'snuff** *n* a preparation of pulverized often scented tobacco inhaled *usu* through the nostrils [D *snuf*, short for *snufftabak*, fr *snuffen* to snuff + *tabak* tobacco]

**'snuffbox** /-bɒks/ *n* a small box for holding snuff, *usu* carried about the person

**snuffer** /'snʌfə/ *n* 1 an instrument resembling a pair of scissors for trimming the wick of a candle – *usu* pl but *sing* or *pl* in constr 2 an instrument consisting of a small hollow cone attached to a handle, used to extinguish candles

**snuffle** /'snʌfl/ *vb* *snuffling* /'snʌflɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to sniff, *usu* audibly and repeatedly b to draw air through an obstructed nose with a sniffing sound 2 to speak (as if) through the nose ~ *vt* to utter with much sniffing [akin to D *snuffelen* to snuffle – more at SNIFF] – *snuffle* *n*, *snuffler* *n*

**'snuffy** /'snʌfi/ *adj* 1 quick to become annoyed; huffy 2 supercilious, disdainful ['snuff]

**snuffy** *adj* 1 resembling snuff 2 addicted to the use of snuff 3 soiled with snuff [*'snʌf*]

**snug** */snʊg/ adj -gg-* 1 fitting closely and comfortably (*a ~ coat*) 2a enjoying or affording warm secure comfortable shelter **b** marked by relaxation and cordiality (*a ~ evening among friends*) 3 affording a degree of comfort and ease (*a ~ income*) [perh of Scand origin, akin to Sw *snugg* tidy, akin to ON *snoggr* shorn, bald, L *novacula* razor] – *snug adv, snugly adv, snugness n*

**snug** *vi -gg-* to snuggle

**snug** *n, Br* a small private room or compartment in a pub, also a snuggery [short for *snuggery*]

**snuggery** */snʊg(ə)r/ n, chiefly Br* a snug cosy place, esp a small room

**snuggle** */snʊgl/ vb snuggling /snʊglɪŋ/ vi* to curl up comfortably or cosily, nestle – *infrml* – *vt* to draw close, esp for comfort or in affection (*the dog ~d his muzzle under his master's arm*) – *infrml* [freq of *'snug*]

**so** */soʊ, also (occasional weak form) sə/ adv* 1a(1) in this way, thus (*since he was ~ high*) – often used as a substitute for a preceding word or word group (*do you really think ~?*) (*are you ready? if ~, let's go*) (2) most certainly, indeed (*I hope to win and ~ I shall*) **b**(1) in the same way, also (*worked hard and ~ did she*) – used after *as* to introduce a parallel (*as the French drink wine, ~ the British like their beer*) (2) as an accompaniment – after *as* (*as the wind increased, ~ the sea grew rougher*) **c** in such a way – used esp before *as* or *that*, to introduce a result (*the book is ~ written that a child could understand it*) or to introduce the idea of purpose (*hid ~ as not to get caught*) 2a to such an extreme degree (*had never been ~ happy*) – used before *as* to introduce a comparison, esp in the negative (*not ~ fast as mine*), or, esp before *as* or *that*, to introduce a result (*was ~ tired I went to bed*) **b** very (*I'm ~ glad you could come*) **c** to a definite but unspecified extent or degree (*can only do ~ much in a day*) 3 therefore, consequently (*the witness is biased and ~ unreliable*) 4 then, subsequently (*and ~ home and to bed*) 5 chiefly *dial & NAm* – used, esp by children, to counter a negative charge (*you did ~*) [ME, fr OE *swa*, akin to OHG *so* so, L *sic* so, thus, si if, Gk *hos* so, thus, L *suus* one's own – more at *SUICIDE*]

**so** */soʊ/ conj* 1 with the result that (*her diction is good, ~ every word is clear*) 2 in order that, THAT 2(1) (*be quiet ~ he can sleep*) 3a for that reason, therefore (*don't want to go, ~ I won't*) **b**(1) – used as an introductory particle (*~ here we are*) often to belittle a point under discussion (*~ what?*) (2) – used interjectionally to indicate awareness of a discovery (*~, that's who did it*) or surprised dissent

**so** */soʊ/ adj* 1 conforming with actual facts, true (*said things that were not ~*) 2 disposed in a definite order (*his books are always exactly ~*)

**so** */soʊ/ pron* such as has been specified or suggested; the same (*became chairman and remained ~*) – or *so* – used to indicate an approximation or conjecture (*I've known him 20 years or so*)

**so, sob** */soʊ/ n 'sol*

**soak** */soʊk/ vi* 1 to lie immersed in liquid (e.g. water), esp so as to become saturated or softened (*put the clothes to ~*) 2a to enter or pass through sthg (as if) by pores or small openings; permeate **b** to become fully felt or appreciated – *usu* : *in or into ~ vt* 1 to permeate so as to wet, soften, or fill thoroughly 2 to place in a surrounding element, esp liquid, to wet or permeate thoroughly 3 to extract (as if) by steeping (*~ the dirt out*) 4a to draw in (as if) by absorption (*~ed up the sunshine*) **b** to intoxicate (oneself) with alcohol – *infrml* 5 to charge an excessive amount of money – *infrml* (*~ed the taxpayers*) [ME *soken*, fr OE *socian*; akin to OE *sucan* to suck] – *soakage n, soaker n*

**soak** *n* 1a soaking or being soaked **b** that (e.g. liquid) in which sthg is soaked 2 a drunkard – *infrml*

**soaka, way** */-ə, way/ n, Br* a depression dug in permeable ground into which surface water flows and naturally drains away

**so-and-so** *n, pl so-and-soes, so-and-so's* 1 an unnamed or unspecified person or thing (*Miss So-and-so*) 2 a disliked or unpleasant person – *euph* (*the cheeky ~*)

**soap** */soʊp/ n* 1 a cleansing and emulsifying agent that lathers when rubbed in water and consists essentially of sodium or potassium salts of fatty acids 2 a salt of a fatty acid [ME *sope*, fr OE *sāpe*; akin to OHG *seifa* soap, L *sebum* tallow]

**soap** *vt* 1 to rub soap over or into 2 to flatter – often + *up*; *infrml*

**soapberry** */-b(ə)ri, -ber-/ n* any of a genus of chiefly tropical woody plants with fruits that are typically rich in saponin

**soapbox** */-bɒks/ n* an improvised platform used by an informal orator – *soapbox adj*

**soap, opera** *n* a radio or television drama characterized by stock domestic situations and melodramatic or sentimental treatment [fr its frequently being sponsored in the USA by soap manufacturers]

**soapstone** */-stəʊn/ n* a soft greyish green or brown stone having a soapy feel and composed mainly of magnesium silicate

**soapwort** */-wɜːt/ n* a European perennial plant of the pink family whose leaves yield a detergent when bruised

**soapy** */soʊpi/ adj* 1 containing or combined with soap or saponin 2a smooth and slippery **b** suave, ingratiating – *soapily adv, soapiness n*

**soar** */sɔːr/ vi* 1a to fly high in the air **b**(1) to sail or hover in the air, often at a great height (2) of a glider to fly without engine power and without loss of altitude 2 to rise rapidly or to a very high level / *temperatures ~ed into the upper 30s* 3 to rise upwards in position or status (*a ~ing reputation*) 4 to be of imposing height or stature, tower (*mountains ~ed above us*) [ME *soren*, fr MF *essorer* to air, soar, fr (assumed) VL *exaurare* to air, fr L *ex- + aura* air – more at *AURA*] – *soarer n*

**soar** *n* (the range, distance, or height attained in) soaring

**soaring** */sɔːrɪŋ/ n* the act or sport of flying a heavier-than-air craft without power by using ascending air currents

**sob** */sob/ vb -bb- vi* 1 to weep with convulsive catching of the breath 2 to make a sound like that of a sob or sobbing – *vt* 1 to bring (e.g. oneself) to a specified state by sobbing (*~bed himself to sleep*) 2 to express or utter with sobs (*~bed out her grief*) [ME *sobben*]

**sob** *n* an act or sound of sobbing; also a similar sound

**sober** */soʊbə/ adj* 1 not drunk or addicted to drink 2 gravely or earnestly thoughtful 3 calmly self-controlled, sedate 4a well balanced, realistic (*a ~ estimate*) **b** sane, rational 5 subdued in tone or colour [ME *sobre*, fr MF, fr L *sobrius*, akin to L *ebrius* drunk] – *soberly adv, soberness n*

**sober** *vb* to make or become sober – *usu* + *up*

**sober-sided** */-sɪdɪd/ adj* excessively earnest or serious-minded – *infrml*

**sober, sides** */-sɪdɪz/ n, pl sobersides* a sobersided person – *infrml*

**sobriety** */sə'brɪə-ti/ n* being sober – *fml* [ME *sobrietas*, fr MF *sobrietas*, fr L *sobrietas*, *sobrietas*, fr *sobrius*]


**sobriquet** */sə'brɪ:kə/ n* a nickname [F, fr MF *soubriquet* tap under the chin, nickname]

**sob, story** *n* a sentimental story or account intended chiefly to elicit sympathy – *infrml*

**sob, stuff** *n* material designed to have a sentimental or strongly emotional appeal – *infrml*

**socage, socage** */sə'ki/ n* a feudal tenure of land by nonmilitary service or by payment of rent [ME, fr soc *soke*] – *socager n*

**so-called** *adj* 1 commonly named, popularly so termed (*involved in ~ campus politics*) 2 falsely or improperly so named (*deceived by his ~ friend*)

**soccer** */sə'kɔː/ n* a football game that is played with a round ball between teams of 11 players each, that features the kicking and heading of the ball, and in which use of the hands and arms is prohibited except to the goalkeepers  *SPORT* [by shortening & alter fr *association (football)*]

**sociable** */sə'shaɪ(ə)bl/ adj* 1 inclined to seek or enjoy companionship; companionable 2 conducive to friendliness or cordial social relations (*spent a ~ evening at the club*) [MF or L, MF, fr L *socialis*, fr *sociare* to join, associate, fr *socius*] – *sociableness n, sociably adv, sociability /-ə'bɪləti/ n*

**social** */sə'shaɪ(ə)l/ adj* 1 involving allies or confederates (*the Social War between the Athenians and their allies*) 2a sociable **b** of or promoting companionship or friendly relations (*a ~ club*) 3a tending to form cooperative relationships, gregarious (*man is a ~ being*) **b** living and breeding in more or less organized communities (*~ insects*) **c** of a plant tending to grow in patches or clumps so as to form a pure stand 4 of human society (*~ institutions*) 5a of or based on status in a particular society (*his ~ set*) **b** (characteristic) of the upper classes (*writes a column of ~ gossip*) [L *socialis*, fr *socius* companion, ally, associate; akin to L *sequi* to follow – more at *SUE*] – *socially adv*

**social** *n* a social gathering, usu connected with a church or club

**social climber** *n* one who strives to gain a higher social position or acceptance in fashionable society – *derog* – *social climbing n*

**social contract** *n* 1 an actual or supposed agreement among individuals forming an organized society or between (part of) the community and the governing power ruler that defines and limits the rights and duties of each 2 an unwritten agreement whereby trade unions regulate wage demands in return for governmental concessions [trans of F *contrat social*]



**social de'mocracy** *n* a political movement advocating a gradual and democratic transition to socialism – **social democrat** *n*, **social democratic** *adj*

**social disease** *n* VENEREAL DISEASE

**socialism** /'soʃh(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an economic and political theory advocating, or a system based on, collective or state ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods 2 a transitional stage of society in Marxist theory distinguished by unequal distribution of goods according to work done

**socialist** /-ɪst/ *n* 1 one who advocates or practises socialism 2 *cap* a member of a socialist party or group

**socialist** *adj* 1 of socialism 2 *cap* of or constituting a party advocating socialism

**social'istic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj* of or tending towards socialism – **socialistically** *adv*

**socialist realism** *n* a Marxist aesthetic theory calling for the instructive and educational use of the arts to develop social consciousness – **social realist** *n*

**socialite** /'soʃh(ə)liet/ *n* a socially active or prominent person

**sociality** /'soʃhɪəliəti/ *n* the tendency to associate in or form social groups

**social-ize, -ise** /'soʃh(ə)liəz/ *vt* 1 to make social; *esp* to fit or train for life in society 2 to adapt to social needs or uses (< *science*) 3 to constitute on a socialist basis (< *industry*) ~ *vi* to act in a sociable manner (< *likes to ~ with his students*) – **socializer** *n*, **socialization** /-ɪə'zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**socialized medicine** *n*, *NAm* medical services administered by an organized group (e.g. a state agency) and paid for by assessments, philanthropy, or taxation

**social 'science** *n* 1 the scientific study of human society and the relationships between its members 2 a science (e.g. economics or politics) dealing with a particular aspect of human society – **social scientist** *n*

**social se'curity** *n* 1 provision by the state through pensions, unemployment benefit, sickness benefit, etc for its citizens' economic security and social welfare 2 SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

**social 'service** *n* activity designed to promote social welfare, *esp* an organized service (e.g. education or housing) provided by the state

**social work** *n* any of various professional activities concerned with the aid of the economically underprivileged and socially maladjusted – **social worker** *n*

**societal** /sə'si:ə-tl/ *adj* of society (< *forces*) – **societally** *adv*

**society** /sə'si:ə-ti/ *n* 1 companionship or association with others; company 2 *often cap* a the human race considered in terms of its structure of social institutions (< *cannot tolerate lawlessness*) b(1) a community having common traditions, institutions, and collective interests (*the Society of Friends*) (2) an organized group working together or periodically meeting because of common interests, beliefs, or profession (*the Royal Society*) 3a a clearly identifiable social circle (*literary ~*) b a fashionable leisure class (*not seen in the best ~*) 4 a natural group of plants, usu. of a single species or habit [MF *société*, fr L *societas*, *societas*, fr *socius* companion – more at **SOCIAL**]

**society** *adj* (characteristic) of fashionable society (< *a ~ wedding*)

**socio-** /soʊs(h)joh-/ *comb form* 1 society (< *sociography*) 2 social (and) (< *sociopolitical*) [F, fr L *socius* companion]

**sociobiology** /soʊs(h)johbiə'oləʒi/ *n* the scientific study of animal behaviour from the point of view that all behaviour has evolved by natural selection – **sociobiological** *adj*, **sociobiologically** *adv*, **sociobiologist** *n*

**socio'cultural** /-kʌlchərəl/ *adj* combining social and cultural factors – **socioculturally** *adv*

**socio,e'conomic** /-ekə'nɒmɪk, -eekə-/ *adj* of or involving a combination of social and economic factors

**sociolin'guistics** /-lɪŋ'ɡwɪstɪks/ *n pl but sing in constr* the study of linguistic aspects as determined by social and cultural factors – **sociolinguist** *n*, **sociolinguistically** *adv*, **sociolinguistic** *adj*

**sociology** /soʊs(h)jə'oləʒi/ *n* the science of social institutions and relationships; *specif* the study of the behaviour of organized human groups [F *sociologie*, fr *socio-* + *-logie* -logy] – **sociologist** *n*, **sociological** /-lə'jɒlɪkəl/ *adj*

**sociometry** /soʊs(h)jə'metri/ *n* the study and measurement of social relations (e.g. friendships in a small group of people) [ISV] – **sociometric** /-iə'metrɪk/ *adj*

**sock** /sɒk/ *n*, *pl socks*, *NAm* also *sox* a knitted or woven covering for the foot usu. extending above the ankle and sometimes to the knee [ME *socke*, fr OE *socc* light shoe, fr L *soccus*]

**sock** *vt* to hit or apply forcefully – *infrm* [prob of Scand origin; akin to

ON *sokkva* to cause to sink, akin to OE *sincan* to sink] – **sock** *it* to subject to vigorous or powerful attack – *infrm*

**sock** *n* a vigorous or forceful blow, a punch (< *gave him a ~ on the chin*) – *infrm*

**socket** /'sɒkɪt/ *n* an opening or hollow that forms a holder for sth (< *the eye ~*) (< *put the plug in the ~*); also an electrical plug [ME *soket*, fr AF, dim. of OF *soc* ploughshare, of Celt origin, akin to Mlr *soc* ploughshare, lit., snout of a hog, akin to OE *sugu* sow – more at 'sow]

**socket** *vt* to provide with or place in a socket

**sockeye** /'sɒk,i:/ *n* a small commercially important Pacific salmon that ascends rivers chiefly from Columbia northwards to spawn in spring [by folk etymology fr Salish dial *suk-kegh*]

**socking** /'sɒkɪŋ/ *adv*, chiefly Br extremely – *infrm*, usu. + *great* (< *a ~ great pile of bricks*)

**Socratic** /so'kratik/ *adj* of Socrates, his followers, or his philosophical method of systematic doubt and questioning [Socrates c.399 bc Gk philosopher] – **Socratically** *adv*

**Socratic irony** *n* a pretence of ignorance in order to elicit the false conceptions of another through adroit questioning

**sod** /sɒd/ *n* 1 TURF; also the grass-covered surface of the ground 2 one's native land – *infrm* [ME, fr MD or MLG *sode*; akin to OFris *sātha* sod]

**sod** *n*, Br 1 an objectionable person, *esp* male 2 a fellow (< *he's not a bad little ~* – Noel Coward) *USE* slang [short for *sodomite*]

**sod** *vt* -dd- Br to damn – *usu* used as an oath (< *~ you!*) or in the present participle as a meaningless intensive, slang

**soda** /'sɒdə/ *n* (2b) *pl sodas* 1a SODIUM CARBONATE b SODIUM BICARBONATE c SODIUM HYDROXIDE 2a SODA WATER b chiefly *NAm* a sweet drink consisting of soda water, flavouring, and often ice cream [It, barilla plant, soda, fr (assumed) ML, barilla plant]

**soda fountain** *n* 1 chiefly *NAm* an apparatus with a delivery tube and taps for drawing soda water 2 *NAm* a counter where sodas, sundaes, and ice cream are prepared and served

**sodalist** /'sɒdli-st/ *n* a member of a sodality

**sodality** /so'hɒləti/ *n* 1 a brotherhood, community 2 a devotional or charitable association of Roman Catholic laity [L *sodalitas*, *sodalitas* comradeship, club, fr *sodalis* comrade]

**soda water** *n* a beverage consisting of water highly charged with carbonic acid gas

**sodden** /sɒd(ə)n/ *adj* 1 full of moisture or water, saturated (< *the ~ ground*) 2 heavy, damp, or doughy because of imperfect cooking (< *bread*) 3 dull or expressionless, *esp* from habitual drunkenness (< *his ~ features*) [ME *soden*, fr pp of *sethen* to seethe] – **soddenly** *adv*, **soddenness** *n*

**sodium** /'sɒdi-əm, 'sɒdɪəm/ *n* a silver white soft ductile element of the alkali metal group that occurs abundantly in nature in combined form and is very active chemically [P] PERIODIC TABL [NL, fr E *soda*]

**sodium bi'carbonate** *n* a white weakly alkaline salt used *esp* in baking powders, fire extinguishers, and medicine as an antacid

**sodium 'carbonate** *n* a sodium salt of carbonic acid used *esp* in making soaps and chemicals, in water softening, in cleaning and bleaching, and in photography, also *WASHING SODA*

**sodium 'chloride** *n* SALT 1a

**sodium cromo'glycate** /krohmɒ'glekayt/ *n* a synthetic drug used to prevent and treat allergic reactions, *esp* asthma and inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose – compare **INTAL** [*cromoglycate* fr *cromoglycic acid*, fr *chrom-* + *glyc-* + *-ic*]

**sodium hy'droxide** *n* a white brittle solid that is a strong caustic alkali used *esp* in making soap, rayon, and paper

**sodium pump** *n* the process by which sodium ions are actively transported across a cell membrane

**sodium thio'sulphate** /θiə-oh'sʌlfayt/ *n* a salt used *esp* as a photographic fixing agent and a bleaching agent

**sodium vapour lamp**, **sodium lamp** *n* an electric lamp in which the discharge takes place through sodium vapour causing a characteristic yellow-orange light and which is used *esp* for street lighting

**sod 'off** /sɒd/ *vi*, Br to go away – *slang*

**sodomite** /'sɒdəmet/ *n* one who practises sodomy

**sodomy** /'sɒdəmi/ *n* a sexual act, resembling copulation, other than normal coitus e.g. a the penetration of the penis into the mouth or *esp* the anus of another, *esp* another male b sexual relations between a human being and an animal [ME, fr OF *sodomie*, fr LL *Sodoma* Sodom, city of ancient Palestine; fr the homosexual leanings of the men of that city (Gen 19:1–11)]

**soe'er** /so'h'eə/ *adv* soever – poetic




**soever** /soh'evə/ *adv* to any possible or known extent – used after an adjective preceded by *how* (*how fair ~ she may be*); poetic [*-soever* (as in *howsoever*)]

**sofa** /'sofə/ *n* a long upholstered seat with a back and 2 arms or raised ends that typically seats 2 to 4 people [*Ar suffah* long bench]

**sofa bed** *n* a bedsettee

**so far as** *conj* INsofar AS

**soffit** /'sofit/ *n* the underside of an overhang, staircase, arch, etc  ARCHITECTURE [*F soffite*, fr *It soffitto*, fr (assumed) VL *suffictus*, pp of *L suffigere* to fasten underneath – more at *SUFFIX*]

**soft** /soft/ *adj* **1a** yielding to physical pressure (*a ~ mattress*) (*~ ground*) **b** of a consistency that may be shaped, moulded, spread, or easily cut (*~ dough*) (*~ cheese*) *e* relatively lacking in hardness (*~ wood*) *d* easily magnetized and demagnetized *e* deficient in or free from salts (e.g. of calcium or magnesium) that prevent lathering of soap (*~ water*) *f* having relatively low energy (*~ X rays*) *g* intended to avoid or prevent damage on impact (*~ landing of a spacecraft on the moon*) **2a** pleasing or agreeable to the senses, bringing ease or quiet **b** having a bland or mellow taste *c* not bright or glaring, subdued (*a ~ glow*) *d*(1) quiet in pitch or volume, not harsh (2) of *c* and *g* pronounced /s/ and /f/ respectively (e.g. in *acid* and *age*) – not used technically (3) of a consonant sound articulated with or followed by /y/ (e.g. in Russian) *e*(1) of the eyes having a liquid or gentle appearance (2) having a gently curved outline (*~ hills against the horizon*) *f* smooth or delicate in texture (*~ cashmere*) *g*(1) balmy or mild in weather or temperature (2) falling or blowing with slight force or impact (*~ breezes*) **3** marked by a kindness, lenience, or moderation *e* *a*(1) not being or involving harsh or onerous terms (*~ option*) (2) demanding little effort, easy (*a ~ job*) (3) based on negotiation and *~* calculation rather than on a show of power or on threats (*look a ~ line towards the enemy*) *b*(1) mild, low-key, *specif* not of the most extreme or harmful kind (*~ porn*) (2) of a drug considered less detrimental than a hard drug; not (strongly) addictive **4a** lacking resilience or strength, esp as a result of having led a life of ease **b** not protected against enemy attack, vulnerable (*a ~ aboveground landing site*) *c* mentally deficient, feeble-minded (*~ in the head*) **5a** impressionable **b** readily influenced or imposed upon, compliant *c*(1) lacking firmness or strength of character, feeble (2) marked by a gradually declining trend, not firm (*wool prices are increasingly ~*) *d* amorously attracted, esp covertly – *i* on (*has been ~ on her for years*) **6** dealing with ideas, opinions, etc, rather than facts and figures (*the ~ sciences*) [ME, fr OE *softe*, alter of *sefte*; akin to OHG *semfti* soft] – **softish** *adj*, **softly** *adv*, **softness** *n*

**soft** *n* a soft object, material, or part (*the ~ of the thumb*)

**soft** *adv* in a soft or gentle manner, softly

**softball** /-baw/ *n* a game similar to baseball played on a smaller field with a ball larger than a baseball

**soft-boil** *vt* to boil (an egg in its shell) to the point at which the white solidifies but the yolk remains unset [back-formation fr *soft-boiled*]

**soft coal** *n* bituminous coal

**soft-core** *adj* SOFT 3b(1)

**soft-cover** *adj* bound in flexible, not hard, covers; *specif* paperback

**soft drink** *n* a drink typically based on soda water and often served chilled

**soften** /'soft(ə)n/ *vt* **1** to make soft or softer **2a** to weaken the military resistance or the morale of **b** to impair the strength or resistance of (*~ him up with compliments*) *~vi* to become soft or softer *USE* (2) often + *up* – **softener** *n*

**soft fruit** *n*, chiefly *Br* edible fruit (e.g. strawberries, raspberries, and blackcurrants) that is small, stoneless, and grows on low bushes

**soft furnishing** *n*, chiefly *Br* (the practice of furnishing with) a cloth article (e.g. a curtain or chair cover) that increases the comfort, utility, or decorativeness of a room or piece of furniture – *usu pl*

**soft goods** *n pl* textiles and textile products (e.g. clothing)

**soft-headed** /-hedid/ *adj* foolish, stupid – **soft-headedly** *adv*, **soft-headedness** *n*

**softhearted** /-hahtid/ *adj* kind, compassionate – **softheartedly** *adv*, **softheartedness** *n*

**softie** /'softi/ *n* a softy

**soft-land** *vb* to (cause to) make a soft landing on a celestial body (e.g. the moon) [back-formation fr *soft landing*] – **soft-lander** *n*

**soft palate** *n* the fold at the back of the hard palate that partially separates the mouth and pharynx

**soft-paste porcelain** *n* PORCELAIN 1b

**soft-pedal** *vb* -ll- (NAm -l-, -ll-) to attempt to minimize the importance

of (sthg), esp by talking cleverly or evasively (*~ the issue of arms sales*)

**soft pedal** *n* a foot pedal on a piano that reduces the volume of sound

**soft sell** *n* the use of suggestion or gentle persuasion in selling rather than aggressive pressure – compare *HARD SELL*

**soft-shell**, **soft-shelled** *adj* having a soft or fragile shell, esp as a result of recent shedding

**soft-shoe** *adj* of or being tap dancing done in soft-soled shoes without metal taps

**soft-soap** *vt* to persuade or mollify with flattery or smooth talk – *infrm* – **soft-soaper** *n*

**soft soap** *n* **1** a semifluid soap **2** flattery – *infrm*

**soft-spoken** *adj* having a mild or gentle voice; also *suave*

**soft spot** *n* a sentimental weakness (*has a ~ for him*)

**soft touch** *n* sby easily imposed on or taken advantage of – *infrm*

**software** /-weə/ *n* **1** the entire set of programs, procedures, and related documentation associated with a system, esp a computer system, *specif* computer programs **2** sthg contrasted with hardware; *esp* materials for use with audiovisual equipment

**softwood** /-wood/ *n* the wood of a coniferous tree – **softwood** *adj*

**softy**, **softie** /'softi/ *n* **1** an excessively sentimental or susceptible person **2** a feeble, effeminate, or foolish person *USE* *infrm*

**soggy** /'sogi/ *adj* **1a** waterlogged, soaked (*a ~ lawn*) **b** SODDEN **2** heavily dull (*~ prose*) [*E dial sog* (to soak)] – **soggily** *adv*, **sogginess** *n*

**soh** /soh/ *n* 'sol [by alter]

**soi-disant** /swah'deezonh (Fr swa dizā)/ *adj* self-styled, so-called (*a ~ artist*) [*F*]

**soigné** /'swahnyay, '-/, *fem soignée* /~/ *adj* well-groomed; also elegant [*F*, fr pp of *soigner* to take care of, fr ML *soniare*]

**soil** /soyl/ *vt* **1** to stain or make unclean, esp superficially; dirty **2** to defile morally, corrupt **3** to blacken or tarnish (e.g. a person's reputation) *~vi* to become soiled or dirty [*ME soilen*, fr OF *souiller* to wallow, soil, fr *soil* pigsty, prob fr *L suile*, fr *sus* pig – more at 'sow]

**soil** *n* **1** stain, defilement **2** sthg (e.g. refuse or sewage) that spoils or pollutes

**soil** *n* **1** firm land; earth **2a** the upper layer of earth that may be dug or ploughed and in which plants grow **b** the superficial unconsolidated and usu weathered part of the mantle of a planet, esp the earth **3** country, land (*his native ~*) **4** a medium in which sthg takes hold and develops [*ME, fr AF, fr L solum* seat; prob akin to *L sedēre* to sit – more at *sit*] – **soily** *adj*

**soilless** /-lis/ *adj* carried on without soil (*~ agriculture*)

**soil pipe** *n* a pipe for carrying off wastes from toilets

**soil science** *n* the scientific study of soils

**soiree**, **soirée** /'swahray/ *n* a party or reception held in the evening [*F* *sourée* evening period, evening party, fr MF, fr *soir* evening, fr *L sero* at a late hour, fr *serus* late – more at *SINCE*]

**soixante-neuf** /swasont 'nuhf/ *n* mutual cunnilingus and fellatio, mutual fellatio; mutual cunnilingus [*F*, lit, 69]

**sojourn** /'sojən, 'su-/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a temporary stay – *fml* [*vb* ME *sojormen*, fr OF *sojormer*, fr (assumed) VL *subdiurnare*, fr *L sub* under, during + *LL diurnum* day – more at *SUB-, JOURNEY*; *n* ME *sojorn*, fr OF, fr *sojormer*] – **sojourn** *n*

**soke** /sohk/ *n* **1** the right in Anglo-Saxon and early English law to hold a local court of justice and receive certain fees and fines **2** the district included in a soke jurisdiction [*ME soc, soke*, fr ML *soca*, fr OE *sōcan* inquiry, jurisdiction; akin to OE *sēcan* to seek]

**sol** /sol/ *n* the 5th note of the diatonic scale in solmization [*ML* – more at *GAMUT*]

**sol** /sohl/ *n*, *pl soles* /-lays/  *Peru* at NATIONALITY [*AmerSp*, fr *Sp*, sun, fr *L*]

**sol** /sol/ *n* a fluid colloidal system, esp one in which the continuous phase is a liquid [*-sol* (as in *hydrosol*), fr *solution*]

**solace** /'solas/ *n* (a source of) consolation or comfort in grief or anxiety [*ME solas*, fr OF, fr *L solacium*, fr *solari* to console – more at *SILLY*]

**solace** *vt* **1** to give solace to; console **2** to alleviate, relieve (*~ grief*) – **solacement** *n*, **solacer** *n*

**solan goose** /'sohlən/ *n* a gannet [*ME soland*, fr ON *sula* pillar, gannet + *ōnd* duck; akin to OE *syl* pillar & to OHG *anūt* duck, *L anas*]

**solanine** /'solənin, -neen/, **solanin** /-nin/ *n* a bitter poisonous alkaloid found in several plants of the nightshade family, esp tomatoes and green potatoes [*F solanine*, fr *L solanum* nightshade]

**solar** /'sohlə/ *adj* **1** of or derived from the sun, esp as affecting the earth

2 (of or reckoned by time) measured by the earth's course in relation to the sun 3 produced or operated by the action of the sun's light or heat; also using the sun's rays → **ENERGY**, **FOOD** [ME, fr L *solaris*, fr *sol* sun; akin to OE & ON *sól* sun, Gk *helios*]

**solar** *n* an upper room in a medieval house [ME, fr OE; akin to MD *solre* loft, flat roof, OHG *solar* loft; all fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *solarium* part of a house exposed to the sun]

**solar cell** *n* a photovoltaic cell or thermopile that is able to convert the energy of sunlight into electrical energy and is used as a power source → **ENERGY**, **SPACE**

**solar constant** *n* the quantity of radiant solar heat received by a given area of the earth's surface in a given time

**solar day** *n* the interval between transits of the apparent or mean sun across the meridian

**solarium** /sə'leəri-əm/ *n*, *pl* *solaria* /-ri-ə/ also *solariums* a room exposed to the sun (e.g. for relaxation or treatment of illness) [L, fr *sol*]

**solarize**, -ise /sə'leəri-əz/ *vt* 1 to expose to sunlight; *specif* to affect by the action of the sun's rays 2 to subject (photographic materials) to intense or continued exposure so as to change the relative tonal values of parts of the picture – **solarization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**solar panel** *n* a large number of solar cells grouped together (e.g. on a spacecraft) → **ENERGY**

**solar plexus** /pleksəs/ *n* 1 an interlacing network of nerves in the abdomen behind the stomach 2 the pit of the stomach [fr the radiating nerve fibres]

**solar system** *n* the sun together with the group of celestial bodies that are held by its attraction and revolve round it → **ASTRONOMY**

**solar wind** /wɪnd/ *n* the continuous flow of charged particles from the sun's surface into space

**solatium** /sə'laysh(i)əm/ *n*, *pl* *solatia* /-sh(i)ə/ a compensation (e.g. money) given as solace for suffering, loss, hurt feelings, etc [LL *solacium*, *solatium*, fr L, *solace*]

**sold** /soʊld/ *past* of **SELL**

**solder** /'soʊldə, 'sɒldə/ *n* an alloy, esp of tin and lead, used when melted to join metallic surfaces [ME *soudure*, fr MF, fr *soudier* to solder, fr L *soldare* to .nake solid, fr *solidus* solid]

**solder** *vt* 1 to unite or make whole (as if) by solder 2 to hold or join together; unite <a friendship ~ed by common interests> ~ *vi* to become united or repaired (as if) by solder – **solderer** *n*, **solderability** /-'sɒləbɪlɪ/ *n*

**soldering iron** /soʊldɪ(ə)rɪŋ, 'soʊl-/ *n* a usu electrically heated device that is used for melting and applying solder

**soldier** /'soʊljə/ *n* 1a sby engaged in military service, esp in the army b an enlisted man or woman c a person of usu specified military skill <a good ~> 2 any of a caste of ants or wingless termites having a large head and jaws [ME *soudier*, fr OF, fr *soude* pay, fr LL *solidus* solidus] – **soldierly** *adj* or *adv*, **soldiership** *n*

**soldier** *vi* 1 to serve as a soldier 2 to press doggedly forward – usu + *on* <~ed on without a windscreen>

**soldier beetle** *n* any of various brightly coloured soft-bodied beetles that is used for melting and applying solder

**soldier of fortune** *n* sby who seeks an adventurous, esp military, life wherever chance allows

**soldiery** /'soʊljəri/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 a body of soldiers 2 a set of soldiers of a specified sort <a drunken ~>

**sold-out** *adj* 1 having all available tickets or places sold, esp in advance

2 having sold the entire stock of a specified product <wanted petrol but the garage was ~>

**sole** /soʊl/ *n* 1a the undersurface of a foot b the part of a garment or article of footwear on which the sole rests 2 the usu flat bottom or lower part of sthg or the base on which sthg rests [ME, fr MF, fr L *solea* sandal, akin to L *solum* base, ground, soil] – **soled** *adj*

**sole** *vt* to provide with a sole <~ a shoe>

**sole** *n* any of several flatfish including some valued as superior food fishes [ME, fr MF, fr L *solea* sandal, a flatfish]

**sole** *adj* 1 being the only one; only <she was her mother's ~ confidante> 2 belonging or relating exclusively to 1 individual or group <~ rights of publication> 3 *esp* of a woman not married – used in law [ME, alone, fr MF *seul*, fr L *solus*] – **soleness** *n*

**solecism** /sə'lesɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a minor blunder in speech or writing 2 a deviation from what is proper or normal; esp a breach of etiquette or decorum [L *solecismus*, fr Gk *solokismos*, fr *solokos* speaking incorrectly, lit., inhabitant of Soloi, fr *Soloi*, city in ancient Cilicia where a standard form of Attic was spoken] – **solecistic** /-'sɒstɪk/ *adj*

**solely** /soʊli(j)u/ *adv* 1 without another; singly <was ~ responsible> 2 to the exclusion of all else <done ~ for money>

**solemn** /sə'lem/ *adj* 1 performed so as to be legally binding <a ~ oath> 2 marked by the observance of established form or ceremony; *specif* celebrated with full liturgical ceremony 3a conveying a deep sense of reverence or exaltation; sublime <was stirred by the ~ music> b marked by seriousness and sobriety c sombre, gloomy [ME *solemne*, fr MF, fr L *solemnis* regularly appointed, solemn] – **solemnly** *adv*, **solemnness** *n*, **solemnify** /sə'lemnɪfɪ-/ *vt*

**solemnity** /sə'lemnɪti/ *n* 1 formal or ceremonious observance of an occasion or event 2 a solemn event or occasion 3 solemn character or state <the ~ of his words>

**solemnize**, -ise /sə'lemnɪz-/ *vt* 1 to observe or honour with solemnity 2 to perform with pomp or ceremony, esp to celebrate (a marriage) with religious rites 3 to make solemn or serious; dignify – **solemnization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**solemn mass** *n* **HIGH MASS**

**solemn vow** *n* an absolute and irrevocable vow taken by a member of a Roman Catholic order, under which ownership of property is prohibited and marriage is invalid under canon law – compare **SIMPLE VOW**

**solenoid** /sə'lenɔɪd/, 'soʊl-/ *n* a coil of wire commonly in the form of a long cylinder that when carrying a current produces a magnetic field and draws in a movable usu ferrous core [F *solénoïde*, fr Gk *solenooides* pipe-shaped, fr *solen* pipe – more at **SYRINGE**] – **solenoidal** /-'nɔɪdl/ *adj*

**soleplate** /soʊl,playt/ *n* the undersurface of an iron used for pressing cloth or clothing

**solera** /soʊ'leərə/ *n* (the system of sherry and Madeira production using) a group of barrels for the gradual blending of young and mature wines [Sp, traverse beam, stone base, lees of wine, fr *suelo* ground, lees, fr L *solum* ground, base]

**sol-fa** /sə'fah/ *n* 1 also **sol-fa** syllables the syllables *do*, *re*, *mi*, etc used in singing the notes of the scale 2 solmization 3 **IONIC SOL-FA**

**solfatara** /sə'fə'tahrə/ *n* a volcanic outlet that yields only hot (sulphurous) vapours and gases [It, sulphur mine, fr *solfo* sulphur, fr L *sulfur*]

**solfège** /sə'fɛʒ/ *n* (a singing exercise or practice in sight-reading vocal music using) the application of the sol-fa syllables to a musical scale or a melody [F, fr It *solfeggio*]

**solfeggio** /sə'fɛʒ-oh/ *n* solfège [It, fr *sol-fa*]

**solicit** /sə'slɪt/ *vt* 1 to make a formal or earnest appeal or request to, entreat 2a to attempt to lure or entice, esp into evil b of a prostitute to proposition publicly 3 to try to obtain by usu urgent requests or pleas <~ military aid> 4 to require, CALL FOR <the situation ~s the closest attention> – *fml* ~ *vi* 1 to ask earnestly for; importune 2 of a prostitute to proposition sby publicly [ME *soliciten* to disturb, take charge of, fr MF *soliciter*, fr L *solicitare* to disturb, fr *solicitus* anxious, fr *sollus* whole (fr Oscan, akin to Gk *holos* whole) + *citus*, pp of *cere* to move] – **solicitant** *n*, **solicitation** /-'taysh(ə)n/ *n*

**solicitor** /sə'slɪtə/ *n* 1 a qualified lawyer who advises clients, represents them in the lower courts, and prepares cases for barristers to try in higher courts 2 the chief law officer of a US municipality, county, etc [SOLICIT + -OR] – **solicitorship** *n*

**solicitor general** *n*, *pl* **solicitors general** 1 often *cap* S&G a Crown law officer ranking after the attorney general in England 2 a federally appointed assistant to the US attorney general

**solicitous** /sə'slɪtəs/ *adj* 1 showing consideration or anxiety; concerned <~ about the future> 2 desirous of; eager to – *fml* [L *solicitus*] – **solicitously** *adv*, **solicitousness** *n*

**solicitude** /sə'slɪtɪyoʊd/ *n* 1 being solicitous, concern; also excessive care or attention 2 a cause of care or concern – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning

**solid** /sə'lid/ *adj* 1a without an internal cavity <a ~ ball of rubber> b having no opening or division <a ~ wall> c(1) set in type or printed with minimum spacing (e.g. without leads) between lines (2) joined without a hyphen <a ~ compound> 2 of uniformly close and coherent texture; compact 3 of good substantial quality or kind <~ comfort>: e.g. a well constructed from durable materials <~ furniture> b sound, cogent <~ reasons> 4a having, involving, or dealing with 3 dimensions or with solids b neither gaseous nor liquid 5a without interruption; full <waited 3 ~ hours> b unanimous <had the ~ support of his party> 6 of a single substance or character <~ rock>: e.g. a (almost) entirely of 1 metal <~ gold> b of uniform colour or tone 7a reliable, reputable, or acceptable <are his opinions ~?> b serious in character or intent <sent the President a ~ memorandum> c *The Economist* 8 chiefly NAM in staunch or intimate association <~ with his boss> – *infrm* [ME *solide*, fr MF, fr L *solidus*; akin to Gk *holos* whole – more at **SAFE**] – **solidly** *adv*, **solidness** *n*

- n*, **solidify** /sə'lidɪfə/ *vb*, **solidifier** *n*, **solidity** /sə'lidɪti/ *n*, **solidification** /sə'lidɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n*
- solid** *adv* in a solid manner <the grease had set ~>; also unanimously
- solid** *n* 1 a substance that does not flow perceptibly under moderate stress  
2 the part of a solution or suspension that when freed from solvent or suspending medium has the qualities of a solid – usu pl with sing. meaning <milk ~s>  
3 a geometrical figure (e.g. a cube or sphere) having 3 dimensions  
4 sth solid; esp a solid colour
- solid angle** *n* a 3-dimensional spread of directions from a point that is measured by the area in which lines having these directions intercept the surface of a sphere of unit radius having that point as a centre
- solidarity** /sə'lɪdərɪti/ *n* unity based on shared interests and standards [F *solidarité*, fr *solidaire* characterized by solidarity, fr L *solidum* whole sum, fr neut of *solidus* solid]
- solid geometry** *n* a branch of geometry that deals with figures of 3-dimensional space
- solid-state** *adj* 1 relating to the properties, structure, or reactivity of solid material; esp relating to the arrangement or behaviour of ions, molecules, nucleons, electrons, and holes in the crystals of a substance (e.g. a semiconductor) or to the effect of crystal imperfections on the properties of a solid substance (< ~ physics>  
2 using the electric, magnetic, or photic properties of solid materials, not using thermionic valves <a ~ stereo system> **USE** **COMPUTER**
- solidus** /sə'lɪdəs/ *n*, pl **solidi** /-di/ 1 an ancient Roman gold coin introduced by Constantine and used until the fall of the Byzantine Empire  
2 a punctuation mark / used esp to denote 'per' (e.g. in feet/second), 'or' (e.g. in straggler/deserter), or 'cum' (e.g. in restaurant/bar) or to separate shillings and pence (e.g. in 2/6 and 7/-), the terms of a fraction, or esp numbers in a list – 3 a curve, usu on a temperature and composition graph for a mixture, below which only the solid phase can exist – compare LIQUIDUS [(1) ME, fr LL, fr L, solid, (2) ML, shilling, fr LL; fr its use as a symbol for shillings, (3) L, solid]
- solifluction** /sə'lɪfʌkʃən/ *n* the slow creeping, esp of saturated soil, down a slope that usu occurs in regions of perennial frost [L *solum* soil + *-f-* + *fluctio*-, *flucto* act of flowing, fr *fluctus*, pp of *fluere* to flow – more at FLUID]
- soliloquy** /sə'lɪləkwɪ/ *n* 1 the act of talking to oneself  
2 a dramatic monologue that gives the illusion of being a series of unspoken reflections [LL *soliloquium*, fr L *solus* alone + *loqui* to speak] – **soliloquist** *n*, **soliloquize** *vi*
- solipsism** /sə'lɪpsɪz(ə)m/ *n* a theory holding that only the self exists and that the external world is merely an idea generated by the self [L *solus* alone + *ipse* self] – **solipsist** *n*, **solipsistic** /-sɪstɪk/ *adj*
- solitaire** /sə'lɪteɪə/ *n* 1 a gem, esp a diamond, set by itself  
2 a game played by 1 person in which a number of pieces are removed from a cross-shaped pattern according to certain rules  
3 chiefly NAm PATIENCE  
2 [F, fr *solitaire*, *adj*, solitary, fr L *solitarius*]
- solitary** /sə'lɪt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1a (fond of) being or living alone or without companions <a ~ disposition> b dispirited by isolation; lonely <left ~ by his wife's death>  
2 taken, spent, or performed without companions <a ~ weekend>  
3 growing or living alone; not gregarious, colonial, social, or compound  
4 being the only one, sole <the ~ example>  
5 unfrequented, remote <lived in a ~ place> [ME, fr L *solitarius*, fr *solitas* aloneness, fr *solus* alone] – **solitariness** *n*, **solitarily** /-t(ə)rəli/, -tə'rəli/ *adv*
- solitary** *n* one who habitually seeks solitude
- solitude** /sə'lɪtʃuːd/ *n* 1 being alone or remote from society; seclusion  
2 a lonely place, a fastness [ME, fr MF, fr L *solitudin*-, *solitudo*, fr *solus*]
- solmization** /sə'lmiːzə'zeɪʃən/ *n* the act, practice, or system of using syllables to denote musical notes or the degrees of a musical scale [F *solmisation*, fr *solmiser* to sol-fa, fr *sol* (fr ML) + *mi* (fr ML) + *-iser* -ize]
- solo** /sə'ləʊ/ *n*, pl **solos** 1 a (musical composition for) performance by a single voice or instrument with or without accompaniment  
2 a flight by 1 person alone in an aircraft; esp a person's first solo flight [It, fr *solo* alone, fr L *solus*] – **solo** *adj*, **soloist** *n*
- solo** *adv* without a companion; alone <fly ~>
- Solomon's seal** /sə'ləmənz/ *n* any of a genus of perennial plants of the lily family with drooping usu greenish-white flowers [prob fr the fancied resemblance of scars on the rhizome to Solomon's seal, an occult symbol of two interlinked triangles forming a 6-pointed star, fr *Solomon* † ab 933 bc King of Israel]
- so** 'long *interj* – used to express farewell; infml [prob by folk etymology fr Gael *slán*, lit 'health, security, fr OIr *slan*, prob akin to L *salvus* safe – more at SAFE]
- so** 'long *as conj* 1 during and up to the end of the time that, while  
2 provided that
- solo** *whist* *n* a game of whist in which a player attempts to win by a previously declared margin against the other players
- solstice** /sə'lɪstɪs/ *n* (the time when the sun passes) either of the 2 points on the ecliptic at which the distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the sun each year about June 22nd and December 22nd [ME, fr OF, fr L *solstitium*, fr *sol* sun + *status*, pp of *stare* to come to a stop, cause to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand – more at 'SOLAR, STAND]
- solstitial** /sə'lɪstɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* (characteristic) of or happening at a solstice [L *solstitialis*, fr *solstitium*]
- soluble** /sə'ljuːbəl/ *adj* 1a capable of being dissolved (as if) in a liquid  
b capable of being emulsified  
2 capable of being solved or explained <~ questions> [ME, fr MF, capable of being loosened or dissolved, fr LL *solubilis*, fr L *solvere* to loosen, dissolve – more at SOLVE] – **solubilize** *vt*, **solubleness** *n*, **solubly** *adv*, **solubility** /-bɪləti/ *n*
- soluble glass** *n* WATER GLASS 2
- solute** /sə'ljuːt/ *n* a dissolved substance [L *solutus*, pp]
- solution** /sə'ljuːʃən/ *n* 1a an act or the process by which a solid, liquid, or gaseous substance is uniformly mixed with a liquid or sometimes a gas or solid  
b a typically liquid uniform mixture formed by this process  
c a liquid containing a dissolved substance  
d the condition of being dissolved  
2a an action or process of solving a problem  
b an answer to a problem [ME, fr MF, fr L *solutio*-, *solutio*, fr *solutus*, pp of *solvere* to loosen, solve]
- Solutrean, Solutrian** /sə'ljuːtree-ən, sə'ljuːtri-ən/ *adj* of an Upper Palaeolithic culture characterized by finely flaked stone implements [Solutré, village in France]
- solvable** /sə'ləvəbəl/ *adj* SOLUBLE 2 – **solvability** /-və'bɪləti/ *n*
- solvate** /sə'lvaɪt/ *vb* or *n* (to make or become) a combination of a solute with a solvent or of a dispersed phase with a dispersion medium [solvent + *-ate*] – **solvation** /-vayʃən/ *n*
- solve** /səlv/ *vt* to find a solution for <~ a problem> ~ *vi* to solve sthg <substitute the known values of the constants and ~ for x> [ME *solvere* to loosen, fr L *solvere* to loosen, solve, dissolve, fr *sed-*, *se-* apart + *luere* to release – more at SECEDE, LOSE] – **solver** *n*
- solvent** /səlvənt/ *adj* 1 able to pay all legal debts, also in credit  
2 that dissolves or can dissolve <~ fluids> <~ action of water> [L *solvent*-, *solvens*, prp of *solvere* to dissolve, pay] – **solveny** *n*, **solvently** *adv*
- solvent** *n* a usu liquid substance capable of dissolving or dispersing 1 or more other substances
- solvolysis** /sə'lvolɪsɪs/ *n* a chemical reaction (e.g. hydrolysis) of a solvent and solute that results in the formation of new compounds [NL, fr E *solvent* + *-o-* + NL *-lysis*] – **solvolytic** /sə'lvolɪtɪk/ *adj*
- soma** /sə'həmə/ *n* an intoxicating plant juice used in ancient India as an offering and a drink of immortality in Vedic ritual, and itself worshipped as a deity [Skt; akin to Av *haoma*, a Zoroastrian ritual drink, Gk *hymein* to rain – more at SUCK]
- soma** *n* all of an organism except the germ cells [NL *somat*-, *soma*, fr Gk *somat*-, *soma* body, akin to L *tumēre* to swell – more at THUMB]
- Somali** /sə'mahl/, soh-/ *n*, pl **Somalis**, esp collectively **Somali** a member, or the language, of a people of Somaliland **LANGUAGE**
- so** many *adj* 1 a certain number of <read ~ chapters each night>  
2 – used as an intensive before plurals <behaved like ~ animals>
- somatic** /sə'həmatɪk, sə-/ *adj* 1 of or affecting the body, esp as distinguished from the germ cells or the mind  
2 of the wall of the body, parietal [Gk *somatikos*, fr *somat*-, *soma*] – **somatically** *adv*
- somatic cell** *n* any of the cells of the body that compose its tissues, organs, and other parts other than the germ cells
- somatoplasm** /sə'həmatə'pləz(ə)m/ *n* somatic cells as distinguished from germ cells – **somatoplastic** /-pləstɪk/ *adj*
- somatotrophic hormone** /sə'həmatə'trəʊfɪk/ *n* GROWTH HORMONE 1 [somat- + *-trophic*]
- somatotropin** /sə'həmatə'trəʊpɪn/ *n* GROWTH HORMONE 1 [somatotropic (fr *somat* + *-tropic*) + *-in*]
- somatotype** /sə'həmatə'tɪp/ *n* body type, physique – **somatotypic** /-tɪpɪk/ *adj*, **somatotypically** *adv*
- sombre**, NAm chiefly **somber** /sə'mbrə/ *adj* 1 dark, gloomy  
2 of a dull, dark, or heavy shade or colour  
3a seriously, grave  
b depressing, melancholy <~ thoughts> [F *sombre*] – **sombrely** *adv*
- sombrero** /sə'mbreɪrəʊ/ *n*, pl **sombreros** a high-crowned hat of felt or

straw with a very wide brim, worn esp in Mexico [Sp, fr *sombra* shade]

**some** /sum, senses *1c* and *1d* səm, strong sum/ *adj* **1a** being an unknown, undetermined, or unspecified unit or thing (< ~ *film* or *other*) **b** being an unspecified member of a group or part of a class (< ~ *gems are hard*) **c** being an appreciable number, part, or amount of (< ~ *consideration for others*) **d** being of an unspecified amount or number (< ~ *give me ~ water*) – used as an indefinite pl of *a* (< ~ *have ~ apples*) **2a** important, striking, or excellent (< ~ *that was ~ party*) – chiefly infml **b** no kind of (< ~ *friend you are?*) – chiefly infml [ME *som*, *adj* & *pron*, fr OE *sum*, akin to OHG *sum* some, Gk *hamē* somehow, *homos* same more at *SAME*]

**some** /sum/ *pron* **1** *sing* or *pl* in *constr* some part, quantity, or number but not all (< ~ *of my friends*) **2** chiefly *NAM* an indefinite additional amount (< ~ *ran a mile and then ~*)

**some** /sum/ *adv* **1** ABOUT **3** (< ~ *80 houses*) **2** somewhat – used in *Br English* in *some more* and *more widely* in *NAM* – *some little* a fair amount of – *some few* quite a number of

**some** /-s(ə)m/ *suffix* (→ *adj*) characterized by a (specified) thing, quality, state, or action (< ~ *awesome*) (< ~ *burdensome*) (< ~ *cuddlesome*) [ME *-som*, fr OE *-sum*, akin to OHG *-sam* -some, OE *sum* some]

**some** *suffix* (→ *n*) group of (so many) members, esp people (< ~ *foursome*) [ME (northern) *-sum*, fr ME *sum*, *pron*, one, some]

**some** /-sohm/ *comb form* (→ *n*) **1** intracellular particle (< ~ *lysosome*) **2** chromosome (< ~ *monosome*) [NL *-soma*-, *-soma*, fr Gk *somat*-, *soma* – more at *SOMA*]

**somebody** /sʊmbədi/ *pron* some indefinite or unspecified person

**somebody** *n* a person of position or importance

**somehow** /sum,how/ *adv* **1a** by some means not known or designated **b** no matter how (< ~ *got to get across ~*) **2** for some mysterious reason

**someone** /sʊmwən, -wun/ *pron* somebody

**someplace** /sum,pleys/ *adv*, chiefly *NAM* somewhere

**somersault** /sʊm,saʊlt/ *n* a leaping or rolling movement in which a person turns forwards or backwards in a complete revolution bringing the feet over the head and finally landing on the feet [MF *sombresaut* leap, deriv of *L* *super* over + *saltus* leap, fr *salut*, pp of *salire* to leap – more at *OVER, SALLY*] – *somersault* *vi*

**something** /sʊmθɪŋ/ *pron* **1a** some indeterminate or unspecified thing (< ~ *look for ~ cheaper*) – used to replace forgotten matter or to express vagueness (< ~ *he's ~ or other in the Foreign Office*) **b** some part, a certain amount (< ~ *seen ~ of her work*) **2a** a person or thing of consequence (< ~ *make ~ of one's life*) (< ~ *their daughter is quite ~*) **b** some truth or value (< ~ *there's ~ in what you say*) – *something of a* a fairly notable (< ~ *is something of a raconteur*)

**something** *adv* **1** in some degree; somewhat (< ~ *over £5*) (< ~ *shaped ~ like a funnel*) – also used to suggest approximation (< ~ *there were ~ like 1,000 people there*) **2** to an extreme degree (< ~ *swears ~ awful*) – infml

**something else** *pron* sth or sb that makes others pall in comparison – infml (< ~ *her apple strudels were ~*)

**sometime** /sum,tɪm/ *adv* **1** at some unspecified future time (< ~ *I'll do it ~*) **2** at some point of time in a specified period (< ~ *last night*) (< ~ *next week*)

**sometime** *adj* having been formerly, LATE **2b** (< ~ *chairman*)

**sometimes** *adv* at intervals; occasionally, NOW AND AGAIN

**sometimes** *adj*, archaic sometime, former

**somewhat** /sum,wɒt/ *adv* to some degree; slightly

**somewhere** /sum,weə/ *adv* **1** in, at, or to some unknown or unspecified place **2** to a place or state symbolizing positive accomplishment or progress (< ~ *at last we're getting ~*) **3** in the vicinity of; approximately (< ~ *about 9 o'clock*)

**somewhere** *n* an undetermined or unnamed place

**somic** /-sohmik/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (so many) times the haploid number of one of the chromosomes (< ~ *trisomic*) – compare *-ploid* [ISV *-some* + *-ic*] – **somy** *comb form* (→ *n*)

**somite** /sohmiet/ *n* any of the longitudinal series of body segments of a higher invertebrate or embryonic vertebrate [ISV, fr Gk *soma* body – more at *SOMA*] – **somitic** /-mɪtɪk/ *adj*

**sommelier** /sʊm,liə/ *n* a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service [F, fr MF, court official charged with transportation of supplies, pack-animal driver, fr OProv *saumalier* pack-animal driver, fr *sauma* pack animal, load of a pack animal, fr LL *sagma* pack-saddle, fr Gk]

**somnambulist** /sɒm'nambjʊlɪst/ *n* sby who walks in his/her sleep [NL *somnambulus*, fr L *somnus* sleep + *ambulare* to walk] – **somnambu-**

**lant** *adj*, **somnambulism** *n*, **somnambulate** /-laɪt/ *vi*, **somnambulist** /-lɪstɪk/ *adj*, **somnambulistically** *adv*

**somniferous** /sɒm'nɪfərəs/ *adj* soporific [L *somnifer*, fr *somnus* + *-fer* -ferous] – **somniferously** *adv*

**somnolent** /sɒm'nɒlənt/ *adj* **1** inclined to or heavy with sleep **2** tending to induce sleep (< ~ *sermon*) [ME *somnolent*, fr MF, fr L *somnolentus*, fr *somnus* sleep, akin to OE *swefn* sleep, Gk *hypnos*] – **somnolence** *n*, **somnolently** *adv*

**so much** *adv* to the degree indicated or suggested (< ~ *if they lose their way, ~ the better for us*) – compare *MUCH* **1a**(1)

**so much** *adj* **1** a certain amount of (< ~ *can spend only ~ time on it*) – compare *MUCH* **1** **2** – used as an intensive before mass nouns (< ~ *sounded like ~ nonsense*)

**so much** *pron* **1** sthg (e.g. an amount or price) unspecified or undetermined (< ~ *charge ~ a mile*) **2** all that can or need be said or done (< ~ *for the history of the case*) – compare *MUCH* **1**

**so much as** *adv* even (< ~ *can't ~ remember his name now*)

**son** /sʊn/ *n* **1a** a male offspring, esp of human beings **b** a male adopted child **c** a male descendant – often *pl* **2** *cap* the second person of the Trinity; Christ **3** a person closely associated with or deriving from a specified background, place, etc (< ~ *of the wellfare state*) [ME *son*, fr OE *sunu*, akin to OHG *sun* son, Gk *hysios*] – **sonless** *adj*, **sonship** *n*

**sonant** /sohnənt/ *adj* **1** of a speech sound voiced **2** of a consonant sound syllabic [L *sonant*-, *sonans*, prp of *sonare* to sound – more at *SOUND*] – **sonant** *n*

**sonar** /sohna/ *n* an apparatus that detects the presence and location of a submerged object (by reflected sound waves) [*sound navigation ranging*]

**sonata** /so'naɪtə/ *n* an instrumental musical composition typically for **1** or **2** players and of **3** or **4** movements in contrasting forms and keys [It, fr *sonare* to sound, fr L]

**sonata form** *n* a musical form that consists basically of an exposition, a development, and a recapitulation and that is used esp for the first movement of a sonata or symphony

**sonatina** /so'natina/ *n* a short usu simplified sonata [It, dim of *sonata*]

**sonde** /sɒnd/ *n* any of various devices for testing physical conditions (e.g. at high altitudes), esp a radiosonde [F, lit, sounding line – more at *SOUND*]

**son et lumière** /sɒn ay looh'myɛə/ *n* an entertainment held at night at a historical site (e.g. a cathedral or stately home) that uses lighting and recorded sound to present the place's history [F, lit, sound and light]

**song** /sɒŋ/ *n* **1** the act, art, or product of singing **2** poetry (< ~ *famous in ~ and story*) **3** (the melody of) a short musical composition usu with words **4** a very small sum (< ~ *sold for a ~*) [ME, fr OE *sang*, akin to OE *singan* to sing]

**song and dance** *n*, chiefly *Br* a fuss, commotion (< ~ *it's nothing to make a ~ about*) – infml

**songbird** /-buɪd/ *n* **1** a bird that utters a succession of musical tones **2** a passerine bird

**Song of Solomon** /sɒl'mən/ *n* a collection of love poems forming a book in canonical Jewish and Christian Scripture [fr the opening verse 'The song of songs, which is Solomon's']

**Song of Songs** *n* *SONG* OF SOLOMON [trans of Heb *shir hashshirim*]

**songster** /sɒŋstə/, *fem* **songstress** /-strɪs/ *n* a skilled singer

**song thrush** *n* a common Old World thrush that is largely brown above and white below

**songwriter** /-rɪɪtə/ *n* a person who composes words or music for (popular) songs – **songwriting** *n*

**sonic** /sɒnɪk/ *adj* **1** of waves and vibrations having a frequency within the audibility range of the human ear **2** using, produced by, or relating to sound waves (< ~ *altimeter*) **3** of or being the speed of sound in air at sea level (about 340 m/s or 741 mph) [L *sonus* sound – more at *SOUND*] – **sonically** *adv*

**sonic boom** *n* a sound resembling an explosion produced when a shock wave formed at the nose of an aircraft travelling at supersonic speed reaches the ground

**son-in-law** *n*, *pl* **sons-in-law** the husband of one's daughter

**sonnet** /sɒn-ɪ/ *n* (a poem in) a fixed verse form with any of various rhyming schemes, consisting typically of 14 lines of 10 syllables each [It *sonetto*, fr OProv *sonet* little song, fr *son* sound, song, fr L *sonus* sound]

**sonneteer** /sɒnɪ'tiə/ *n* a composer of sonnets, esp without high standards

**sonny** /sʊni/ *n* a young boy – usu used in address; infml [*son* + *-y*]

**sonobuoy** /sohnoh,boy/ *n* a buoy equipped for detecting underwater sounds and transmitting them by radio [L *sonus* sound + E -o- + *buoy* - more at *SOUND*]

**son of a bitch** *n*, *pl* sons of bitches BASTARD 3 - slang

**son of God** *n* 1 *cap S* MESSIAH 1 2 a person established in the love of God by divine promise

**son of man** /man/ *n*, *pl* sons of men 1 a human being - usu *pl* 2 *often cap S&M* God's messiah destined to preside over the final judgment of mankind

**sonorous** /'sonərəs, 'soh-/ *adj* 1 giving out sound (e.g. when struck) 2 pleasantly loud 3 impressive in effect or style (*made a ~ speech to the assembly*) [L *sonorus*, akin to L *sonus* sound] - **sonorously** *adv*, **sonorousness** *n*, **sonority** /sə'norəti/ *n*

**sonsy**, **sonsie** /'sunzi/ *adj*, chiefly Scot buxom, comely [Sc *sons* health, fr or akin to IrGael *sonas* good fortune]

**sool** /soohl, sool/ *vt*, Austr & NZ to incite, urge on [E dial *sool* (to pull by the ears), of unknown origin]

**'soon** /soohn/ *adv* 1 before long, without undue time lapse (< ~ after sunrise) 2 in a prompt manner, speedily (< as ~ as possible) (< the ~ er the better) 3 in agreement with one's preference, willingly - in comparisons (< I'd ~ er walk than drive) (< I'd just as ~ not) [ME *soone*, fr OE *sona*, akin to OHG *san* immediately] - **no sooner** *than* at the very moment that 'no sooner built than knocked down again'

**²soon** *adj* advanced in time, early (< the ~ est date that can be arranged - *The Times*)

**sooner or 'later** /'soohnə/ *adv* at some uncertain future time, eventually

**'soot** /soot/ *n* a fine black powder that consists chiefly of carbon and is formed by combustion, < separated from fuel during combustion [ME, fr OF *sot*, akin to OIr *suide* soot, OE *sittan* to sit]

**²soot** *vt* to coat or cover with soot

**soothe** /soohdh/ *vt* 1 to calm (as if) by showing attention or concern, placate 2 to relieve, alleviate 3 to bring comfort or reassurance to ~ *vi* to bring peace or ease [ME *sothen* to prove the truth, fr OE *sothian*, fr *soth* true, akin to OHG *sand* true, Gk *etos*, L *esse* to be] - **soother** *n*, **soothingly** *adv*

**soothsay** /'soothsəy/ *vt* to predict the future, prophesy [back-formation fr *soothsayer*, fr ME *sothseier*, fr *soth*, *sooth* truth + *seyer*, *sayer* *sayer*] - **soothsayer** *n*

**sooty** /'sooti/ *adj* 1a producing soot (< ~ fires) b dirtied with soot 2 of the colour of soot - **sootily** *adv*, **sootiness** *n*

**'sop** /sop/ *n* 1 a piece of food, esp bread, dipped, steeped, or for dipping in a liquid (e.g. soup) 2 sth offered as a concession, appeasement, or bribe [ME *soppe*, fr OE *sopp*, akin to OE *supan* to swallow - more at *SUP*]

**²sop** *vt* -pp- to soak or dip (as if) in liquid (< ~ bread in gravy) - compare *SOP UP*

**sophism** /'sofiz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an argument apparently correct but actually fallacious, esp such an argument used to deceive 2 use of sophisms, sophistry - **sophistic** /-'fistik/ *adj*, **sophistically** *adv*

**sophist** /'sofist/ *n* a faultfinding or fallacious reasoner [L *sophista*, fr Gk *sophistes*, lit. expert, wise man, fr *sophizesthai* to become wise, deceive, fr *sophos* clever, wise]

**sophisticate** /sə'fistikət/ *n* a sophisticated person

**sophisticated** /sə'fistikətaɪd/ *adj* 1a highly complicated or developed, complex (< ~ electronic devices) b worldly-wise, knowing (< a ~ adolescent) 2 intellectually subtle or refined (< a ~ novel) 3 not in a natural, pure, or original state, adulterated (< a ~ oil) [ML *sophisticatus*, pp of *sophisticare* to adulterate, corrupt, complicate, fr L *sophisticus* sophistic, fr Gk *sophistikos*, fr *sophistes* sophist] - **sophisticatedly** *adv*, **sophistication** /-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**sophistry** /'sofistri/ *n* speciously subtle reasoning or argument

**sophomore** /'sofə,maw/ *n*, NAm a student in his/her second year at college or secondary school [prob fr Gk *sophos* wise + *moros* foolish - more at *MORON*] - **sophomoric** /-'mork/ *adj*

**-sophy** /-safi/ *comb form* (- *n*) knowledge, wisdom; science (< *theosophy*) [ME *-sophie*, fr OF, fr L *-sophia*, fr Gk, fr *sophia* wisdom, fr *sophos*]

**'soporific** /sopə'nfik/ *adj* 1 causing or tending to cause sleep 2 of or marked by sleepiness or lethargy [prob fr F *sopornifique*, fr L *sopor* deep sleep, akin to L *somnus* sleep - more at *SOMNOLENT*]

**²soporific** *n* a soporific agent; specif HYPNOTIC 1

**'sopping** /sopɪŋ/ *adj* wet through; soaking [fr prp of *'sop*]

**²sopping** *adv* to an extreme degree of wetness (< ~ wet)

**soppy** /sopi/ *adj* 1 weakly sentimental, mawkish (< you get so ~ about

*couples* - *Ins Murdoch*) 2 chiefly Br silly, inane *USE* infml [*sop* + *'-y*] - **soppyly** *adv*, **soppiness** *n*

**sopranino** /sopra'neenoh/ *n*, *pl* sopraninos a musical instrument (e.g. a recorder or saxophone) higher in pitch than the soprano [It, dim of *soprano*]

**soprano** /sə'prahnoh/ *n*, *pl* sopranos 1 the highest part in 4-part harmony 2 (a person with) the highest singing voice of women, boys, or castrati 3 a member of a family of instruments having the highest range [It, *adj* & *n*, fr *sopra* above, fr L *supra* - more at *SUPRA*] - **soprano** *adj*

**sop up** /sop/ *vt* to mop up (e.g. water) so as to leave a dry surface

**'sorb** /sawb/ *n* 'SERVICE [F *serbe* fruit of the service tree, fr L *sorbum*]

**²sorb** *vt* to take up and hold by either adsorption or absorption [back-formation fr *absorb* & *adsorb*] - **sorbable** *adj*, **sorbent** *n*, **sorbability** /-bə'bɪləti/ *n*, **sorption** /sə'wɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Sorb** *n* Wendish [G *Sorbe*, fr Sorbian Serb] - **Sorbian** *adj* or *n*

**sorbet** /'sawbɪt/ *n* WATER ICE, also SHERBET 2 [MF, a fruit drink, fr OIt *serbetta*, fr Turk *şerbet* - more at *SHERBET*]

**sorcerer** /'saws(ə)rə/, fem *sorceress* /-rɪs/ *n* a person who uses magical power, esp with the aid of evil spirits; a wizard

**²sorcery** /'saws(ə)rɪ/ *n* the arts and practices of a sorcerer [ME *sorcerie*, fr OF, fr *sorcier* sorcerer, fr (assumed) VL *sortarius*, fr L *sort-*, *sors* chance, lot]

**sordid** /'sawdɪd/ *adj* 1a dirty, filthy b wretched, squalid 2 base, vile (< ~ motives) 3 meanly avaricious, niggardly 4 of a dull or muddy colour [L *sordidus*, fr *sordes* dirt - more at *SWARTHY*] - **sordidly** *adv*, **sordidness** *n*

**sordino** /saw'deenoh/ *n*, *pl* sordini /-ni/ MUTE 3 (< *con sordini*) [It, fr *sordo* silent, fr L *surdus* - more at *SURD*]

**'sore** /saw/ *adj* 1a causing pain or distress b painfully sensitive (< ~ muscles) c hurt or inflamed so as to be or seem painful (< ~ runny eyes) 2a causing irritation or offence (< overtime is a ~ point with him) b causing great difficulty or anxiety, desperate (< in ~ straits) 3 chiefly NAm angry, vexed [ME *sor*, fr OE *sar*, akin to OHG *ser* sore, L *saevus* fierce] - **soreness** *n*

**²sore** *n* 1 a localized sore spot on the body, esp one (e.g. an ulcer) with the tissues ruptured or abraded and usu infected 2 a source of pain or vexation, an affliction

**³sore** *adv*, archaic sorely

**'sorehead** /-hed/ *n*, NAm a person easily angered or disgruntled - infml - **sorehead**, **soreheaded** /-'hedɪd/ *adj*

**sorely** /'sawli/ *adv* 1 painfully, grievously 2 much, extremely (< ~ needed changes)

**sorghum** /'sawgəm/ *n* any of an economically important genus of Old World tropical grasses similar to maize in habit but with the spikelets in pairs on a hairy stalk [NL, genus name, fr It *sorgo*]

**sorority** /sə'rorəti/ *n* a club of women students usu living in the same house in some American universities - compare *FRATERNITY* [ML *sororitas* sisterhood, fr L *soror* sister - more at *SISTER*]

**'sorrel** /soral/ *n* 1 brownish orange to light brown 2 a sorrel-coloured animal, esp a sorrel-coloured horse [ME *sorelle*, fr MF *sorel*, *n* & *adj*, fr *sor* reddish brown]

**²sorrel** *n* 1 'DOCK 2 WOOD SORREL [ME *sorel*, fr MF *surele*, fr OF, fr *sur* sour, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *sur* sour - more at *SOUR*]

**'sorrow** /soroʊh/ *n* 1 deep distress and regret (e.g. over the loss of sth precious) 2 a cause or display of grief or sadness [ME *sorow*, fr OE *sorg*; akin to OHG *sorga* sorrow, Oslav *sraga* sickness]

**²sorrow** *vi* to feel or express sorrow - **sorrower** *n*

**'sorrowful** /-(ə)l/ *adj* expressive of or inducing sorrow (< a ~ tale) - **sorrowfully** *adv*, **sorrowfulness** *n*

**sorry** /sori/ *adj* 1 feeling regret, penitence, or pity (< felt ~ for the poor wretch) 2 inspiring sorrow, pity, or scorn (< looked a ~ sight in his torn clothes) [ME *sory*, fr OE *sarg*, fr *sar* sore] - **sorriness** *n*

**'sort** /sawt/ *n* 1a a group constituted on the basis of any common characteristic, a class, kind b an instance of a kind (< a ~ of herbal medicine) 2 nature, disposition (< people of an evil ~) 3 a letter or piece of type in a font 4 a person, individual - infml (< he's not a bad ~) [ME, fr MF *sorte*, prob fr ML *sort-*, *sors*, fr L, chance, lot] - **of sorts** /of a sort of an inconsequential or mediocre quality - **out of sorts** 1 somewhat ill 2 grouchy, irritable

**²sort** *vt* 1 to put in a rank or particular place according to kind, class, or quality (< the good apples from the bad) - often + *through* 2 chiefly Scot to put in working order; mend (< ~ a vacuum cleaner) - **sortable** *adj*, **sorter** *n* - **sort with** to correspond to, agree with - *fml*



**sortie** /'sawti/ *n* 1 a sudden issuing of troops from a defensive position 2 a single mission or attack by 1 aircraft 3 a brief trip to a hostile or unfamiliar place [F, fr MF, fr *sortir* to go out, escape] – **sortie** *vi*

**'sort of adv** 1 to a moderate degree; rather 2 KIND OF (~ 7 to half past – SEU S) *USE* *infrm*

**'sort-out** *n*, chiefly *Br* an act of putting things in order (<my study needs a good ~>)

**sort out** *vt* 1 to clarify or resolve, esp by thoughtful consideration (<sorting out his problems>) 2a to separate from a mass or group (<sort out the important papers and throw the rest away>) b to clear up, tidy (<will take ages to sort out this mess>) 3 to make (e.g. a person) less confused or unsettled (<hoped the doctor would sort him out>) 4 chiefly *Br* to punish, esp by violent means – *infrm*

**sorus** /'sawɹəs/ *n*, pl *sori* /-ri-/ a cluster of plant reproductive bodies of a lower plant; esp any of the dots on the underside of a fertile fern frond consisting of a cluster of spores [NL, fr Gk *soros* heap, akin to *L* *tumere* to swell – more at *THUMB*]

**SOS** /'es oh 'es/ *n* 1 an internationally recognized signal of distress which is rendered in Morse code as ······ 2 a call or request for help or rescue [letters chosen purely for being simple to transmit & recognize in Morse code]

**'so-so** /'soh soh/ *adv* moderately well, tolerably

**'so-so** *adj* neither very good nor very bad, middling

**sostenuto** /'sɒstə'nyoohtoh/ *adj* or *adv* sustained to or beyond the note's full value – used in music [It, fr pp of *sostenere* to sustain, fr *L* *sustinere*]

**sot** /sɒt/ *n* a habitual drunkard [ME, fool, fr OE *sott*] – **sottish** *adj*

**soteriology** /'soh,tɹi'ɒləj/ *n* theology dealing with salvation, esp as effected by Jesus [Gk *sōtērion* salvation, fr *sōter* saviour, fr *sozein* to save, akin to Gk *soma* body – more at *'SOMA*] – **soteriological** /-ri'ɒləjɪkl/ *adj*

**'so that** *conj* THAT 2(1)

**sotto voce** /'sɒtoh 'vohchi/ *adv* or *adj* 1 under the breath, in an undertone; also in a private manner 2 at a very low volume – used in music [It *sottovoce*, lit, under the voice]

**sou** /soʊh/ *n*, pl *sous* /soʊh(z)/ 1 any of various former French coins of low value 2 the smallest amount of money (<hadn't a ~ to his name>) [F, fr OF *sol*, fr LL *solidus* solidus]

**soubrette** /'soʊh'bret/ *n* (an actress who plays) a coquettish maid or frivolous young woman in comedies [F, fr Prov *soubrette*, fem of *soubret* coy, fr *soubra* to surmount, exceed, fr *L* *superare* – more at *INSUPERABLE*]

**soubriquet** /'soʊhbrɪ,kay/ *n* a sobriquet

**souchong** /'soʊh'chɒŋ, -'shɒŋ/ *n* a large-leaved black tea, esp from China [Chin (Pek) *hsiao' chung'*, lit, small sort]

**'soufflé** /'soʊhflay/ *n* a light fluffy baked or chilled dish made with a thick sauce into which egg yolks, stiffly beaten egg whites, and sometimes gelatin are incorporated [F, fr *soufflé*, pp of *souffler* to blow, puff up, fr *L* *sufflare*, fr *sub-* + *flare* to blow – more at *'BLOW*]

**²soufflé, souffled** /'soʊhflayd/ *adj* puffed or made light by or in cooking

**sough** /sow/ *vi* to make a sound like that of wind in the trees [ME *swoughen*, fr OE *swogan*, akin to Goth *gaswogan* to groan, Lith *svaigeti* to sound] – **sough** *n*

**sought** /sawt/ *past* of *SEEK*

**'sought-after** *adj* greatly desired or courted (<the world's most ~ concert entertainers – Saturday Review>)

**souk** /soʊhk/ *n* an often covered market in a Muslim country [Ar *sūq* market]

**'soul** /soʊl/ *n* 1 the immaterial essence or animating principle of an individual life 2 the spiritual principle embodied in human beings, all rational and spiritual beings, or the universe 3 all that constitutes a person's self 4a an active or essential part (<minorities are the very ~ of democracy>) b a moving spirit; a leader (<the ~ of the rebellion>) 5 spiritual vitality; fervour 6 a person (<she's a kind old ~>) 7 exemplification, personification (<he's the ~ of integrity>) 8a a strong positive feeling esp of intense sensitivity and emotional fervour conveyed esp by American Negro performers b negritude c music that originated in American Negro gospel singing, is closely related to rhythm and blues, and is characterized by intensity of feeling and earthiness [ME *soule*, fr OE *sāwol*; akin to OHG *scūla* soul] – **souled** *adj*

**'soul** *adj* (characteristic) of American Negroes or their culture

**'soul,brother** *n* a male Negro – used esp by other Negroes

**'soul-de,destroying** *adj* giving no chance for the mind to work; very uninteresting

**'soul,food** *n* food (e.g. chitterlings and ham hocks) traditionally eaten by southern US Negroes

**'soulful** /-(f)l/ *adj* full of or expressing esp intense or excessive feeling (<a ~ song>) – **soulfully** *adv*, **soulfulness** *n*

**'soulless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 having no soul or no warmth of feeling 2 bleak, uninviting (<a ~ room>) – **soullessly** *adv*, **soullessness** *n*

**'soul,mate** *n* either of 2 people, esp of opposite sex, having a very close affinity with one another, a lover

**'soul,searching** *n* scrutiny of one's mind and conscience, esp with regard to aims and motives

**'sound** /sownd/ *adj* 1a healthy b free from defect or decay (<~ timber>) 2 solid, firm; also stable 3a free from error, fallacy, or misapprehension (<~ reasoning>) b exhibiting or grounded in thorough knowledge and experience (<~ scholarship>) c conforming to accepted views, orthodox 4a deep and undisturbed (<a ~ sleep>) b thorough, severe (<a ~ whipping>) 5 showing integrity and good judgment [ME, fr OE *gesund*, akin to OHG *gisunt* healthy] – **soundly** *adv*, **soundness** *n*

**²sound** *adv* fully, thoroughly (<~ asleep>)

**'sound** *n* 1a the sensation perceived by the sense of hearing b a particular auditory impression or quality (<the ~ of children playing>) c mechanical radiant energy that is transmitted by longitudinal pressure waves in a material medium (e.g. air) and is the objective cause of hearing 2 a speech sound (<cher of 'teacher' and -ture of 'creature' have the same ~>) 3 ALPHABET 3 the impression conveyed by sth (<he's having a rough time by the ~ of it>) 4 hearing distance, earshot 5 a characteristic musical style (<the Liverpool ~ of the 1960s>) 6 radio broadcasting as opposed to television [ME *soun*, fr OF *son*, fr *L* *sonus*, akin to OE *swinn* melody, *L* *sonare* to sound, Skt *svanati* it sounds] – **soundless** *adj*, **soundlessly** *adv*

**'sound** *vi* 1a to make a sound b to resound c to give a summons by sound (<the bugle ~s to battle>) 2 to have a specified import when heard, seem (<his story ~s incredible>) – *vt* 1a to cause to emit sound (<a trumpet>) b to give out (a sound) (<~ an A>) 2 to put into words, voice 3a to make known; proclaim (<~ his praises far and wide>) b to order, signal, or indicate by a sound (<~ the alarm>) 4 to examine by causing to emit sounds – **soundable** *adj*

**'sound** *n* 1a a long broad sea inlet b a long passage of water connecting 2 larger bodies or separating a mainland and an island 2 the air bladder of a fish [ME, fr OE *sunð* swimming, sea & ON *sunð* swimming, strait, akin to OE *swimman* to swim]

**'sound** *vt* 1 to measure the depth of (<~ a well>) 2 to explore or examine (a body cavity) with sound – *vi* 1 to determine the depth of water, esp with a sounding line 2 of a fish or whale to dive down suddenly [ME *souden*, fr MF *sonder*, fr *sonde* sounding line, prob of Gmc origin; akin to OE *suðline* sounding line, *suð* sea]

**'sound** *n* a probe for exploring or sounding body cavities [F *sonde*, fr MF, lit, sounding line]

**'sound,barrier** *n* a sudden large increase in aerodynamic drag that occurs as an aircraft nears the speed of sound

**'sound,board** /-bawd/ *n* 1 a thin resonant board so placed in a musical instrument as to reinforce its sound by sympathetic vibration 2 SOUNDING BOARD 1a(1)

**'sound,bow** /boh/ *n* the thick part of a bell against which the clapper strikes

**'sound,box** *n* the hollow resonating chamber in the body of a musical instrument (e.g. a violin)

**'sound,effect** *n* an effect that corresponds to and esp imitates a sound required for a dramatic production (e.g. a play or radio programme) – *usu* pl

**'sounder** /'sownda/ *n* a device for making soundings [²SOUND + ¹-ER]

**'sound,hole** *n* an opening in the soundboard of a musical instrument for increasing resonance

**'sounding** /'sowndɪŋ/ *n* 1a measurement by sounding b the depth so determined 2 the measurement of atmospheric conditions 3 a probe, test, or sampling of opinion or intention – often pl [**'sound**]

**²sounding** *adj* 1 sonorous, resounding 2 making a *usu* specified sound or impression – *usu* in combination (<odd ~>) [**'sound**] – **soundingly** *adv*

**'sounding,board** *n* 1a(1) a structure behind or over a pulpit, rostrum, or platform to direct sound forwards (2) SOUNDBOARD 1 b a device or agency that helps disseminate opinions or ideas 2 sb or sth used to test reaction to new ideas, plans, etc

**'sounding,line** *n* a line or wire weighted at one end for sounding

**'sound off** *vi* 1 to voice opinions freely and vigorously 2 chiefly *NAM* to speak loudly *USE* *infrm*



**sound out** *vt* to attempt to find out the views or intentions of (sound him out about the new proposals)

**soundproof** */-proohf/ adj* impervious to sound (< ~ glass)

**soundproof** *vt* to insulate so as to obstruct the passage of sound

**sound shift** *n* SHIFT 6

**sound track** *n* the area on a film that carries the sound recording, also the recorded music accompanying a film

**soup** /soohp/ *n* 1 a liquid food typically having a meat, fish, or vegetable stock as a base and often thickened and containing pieces of solid food 2 an awkward or embarrassing predicament - *infml* <he's really in the ~ over that business last night> 3 nitroglycerine - *slang* [F *soupe* soup, soup, of Gmc origin; akin to ON *soppa* soup, OE *sopp* sop] - *soupy* *adj*

**souppcon** /sooh(p)son/, -sonh/ *n* a little bit; a dash [F, lit., suspicion, fr (assumed) VL *suspicion-*, *suspectio*, fr L *suspectus*, pp of *suspiciere* to suspect - more at SUSPECT]

**soup kitchen** *n* an establishment dispensing minimum food (e.g. soup and bread) to the needy

**soup up** *vt* 1 to increase the power of (an engine or car) 2 to make more attractive, interesting, etc *USE* *infml* [prob fr E *slang* soup (drug injected into a racehorse to stimulate it)]

**sour** /sowz/ *adj* 1 being or inducing the one of the 4 basic taste sensations that is produced chiefly by acids (< ~ pickles) - compare BITTER, SALT, SWEET 2a(1) having the acid taste or smell (as if) of fermentation (< ~ cream) (2) of or relating to fermentation b smelling or tasting of decay, rotten (< ~ breath) c wrong, awry (< a project gone ~) 3a unpleasant, distasteful b morose, bitter 4 esp of soil acid in reaction 5 esp of petroleum products containing foul-smelling sulphur compounds [ME, fr OE *sūr*; akin to OHG *sūr* sour, Lith *suras* salty] - *sourish* *adj*, *sourly* *adv*, *sourness* *n*

**sour** *n* 1 the primary taste sensation produced by sth sour 2 chiefly *NAM* a cocktail made with a usu specified spirit, lemon or lime juice, sugar, and sometimes soda water (< a whisky ~)

**sour** *vb* to make or become sour

**source** /saws/ *n* 1 the point of origin of a stream of water 2a(1) a generative force, a cause (2) a means of supply (< a secret ~ of wealth) b(1) a place of origin, a beginning (2) sb or sth that initiates (3) a person, publication, etc that supplies information, esp at firsthand 3 *archaic* a spring, fountain [ME *sours*, fr MF *sors*, *source*, fr OF, fr pp of *sourdre* to rise, spring forth, fr L *surgere* - more at SURGE] - *sourceless* *adj*

**sourdough** /sowz,doh/ *n*, *NAM* an old-timer, esp a prospector, of Alaska or NW Canada [fr the use of fermenting yeast for making bread in prospectors' camps]

**sour grapes** *n pl* disparagement of sth achieved or owned by another because unable to attain it oneself [fr the fable ascribed to Aesop of the fox who, finding himself unable to reach some grapes, disparaged them as sour]

**sour puss** */-poos/ n* a habitually gloomy or bitter person - *infml* [*sour* + *puss* (face), fr Ir/Gael *pūs* mouth, fr MIr *būs*]

**sousaphone** /soohzə,fohn/ *n* a large tuba that has a flared adjustable bell and is designed to encircle the player and rest on the left shoulder [John Philip Sousa †1932 US bandmaster & composer]

**souse** /sows/ *vt* 1 to pickle (< ~d herring) 2a to plunge in liquid, immerse b to drench, saturate 3 to make drunk, inebriate - *infml* ~ *vt* to become immersed or drenched [ME *sousen*, fr MF *souz*, *souce* pickling solution, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *sulza* brine, OE *sealt* salt]

**souse** *n* 1 an act of sousing; a wetting 2 chiefly *NAM* sth pickled; esp seasoned and chopped pork trimmings, fish, or shellfish

**soutane** /sooh'tan/ *n* a cassock [F, fr It *sottana*, lit., undergarment, fr fem of *sottano* being underneath, fr ML *subtanus*, fr L *subtus* underneath; akin to L *sub* under - more at UP]

**souter** /sooths/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* & *NEng* a shoemaker [ME, fr OE *sutere*, fr L *sutor*, fr *sutus*, pp of *suere* to sew - more at SEW]

**south** /sowth, also sowdh/ *(in names)* before words beginning with a vowel/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the south [ME, fr OE *suth*, akin to OHG *sund-* south, OE *sunne* sun]

**south** *n* 1 (the compass point corresponding to) the direction of the south terrestrial pole 2 often *cap* regions or countries lying to the south of a specified or implied point of orientation - *southward* *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, *southwards* *adv*

**South African** *n* a native or inhabitant of the Republic of South Africa - *South African* *adj*

**Southdown** /sowth,doun/ *n* any of an English breed of small hornless meat-producing sheep with medium-length wool [*South Downs*, hills in SE England]

**southeast** /-eest/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the southeast

**southeast** *n* 1 (the general direction corresponding to) the compass point midway between south and east 2 often *cap* regions or countries lying to the southeast of a specified or implied point of orientation - *southeastward* *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, *southeastwards* *adv*

**southeasterly** /-eestli/ *adj* or *adv* southeast [*southeast* + *-erly* (as in *easterly*)]

**southeasterly, southeaster** *n* a wind from the SE  
**southeastern** /-eestan/ *adj* 1 often *cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated Southeast 2 southeast [*southeast* + *-ern* (as in *eastern*)] - *southeasternmost* /-eestan,mohst/ *adj*

**southerly** /sudhali/ *adj* or *adv* south [*south* + *-erly* (as in *easterly*)]

**southerly** *n* a wind from the S

**southern** /sudhan/ *adj* 1 often *cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated South 2 south [ME *southern*, *southren*, fr OE *sutherne*; akin to OHG *sundroni* southern, OE *suth* south] - *southernmost* *adj*

**Southerner** /sudhana/ *n* a native or inhabitant of the South

**southern lights** *n pl* AURORA AUSTRALIS

**southernwood** /-wood/ *n* a shrubby fragrant European wormwood with bitter foliage

**southing** /sowdhing, -thing/ *n* 1 distance due south in latitude from the preceding point of measurement 2 southerly progress

**southpaw** /-paw/ *n* a left-hander, *specif* a boxer who leads with the right hand and guards with the left - *southpaw* *adj*

**south pole** *n* 1a often *cap* S&P the southernmost point of the rotational axis of the earth or another celestial body b the southernmost point on the celestial sphere, about which the stars seem to revolve 2 the southward-pointing pole of a magnet

**south-southeast** /-s-, esp tech /sow sow'west/ *n* a compass point midway between south and southeast

**south-southwest** /-s-, esp tech /sow sow'west/ *n* a compass point midway between south and southwest

**southwest** /sowthwest, esp tech /sow'west/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the southwest

**southwest** *n* 1 (the general direction corresponding to) the compass point midway between south and west 2 often *cap* regions or countries lying to the southwest of a specified or implied point of orientation - *southwestward* *adv*, *adj*, or *n*, *southwestwards* *adv*

**southwester** /sowthwestə, esp tech /sow'westə/ *n* a southwesterly

**southwesterly** /-li/ *adj* or *adv* southwest

**southwesterly, southwester** *n* a wind from the SW [*southwest* + *-erly* (as in *westerly*)]

**southwestern** /-westən/ *adj* 1 often *cap* (characteristic) of a region conventionally designated Southwest 2 southwest [*southwest* + *-ern* (as in *western*)] - *southwesternmost* *adj*

**souvenir** /soohvə'niə/ *n* sth that serves as a reminder (e.g. of a place or past event), a memento [F, lit., act of remembering, fr MF, fr (sc) *souvenir* to remember, fr L *subvenire* to come up, come to mind - more at SUBVENTION] - *souvenir* *adj*

**souvenir** *vt*, *Austr* to steal, pilfer - *infml*

**sou'wester** /sow'westə/ *n* 1 a southwesterly 2a a long usu oilskin waterproof coat worn esp at sea during stormy weather b a waterproof hat with a wide slanting brim longer at the back than in front - *GARMENT*

**sovereign** /sovrin/ *n* 1a one possessing sovereignty b an acknowledged leader (< the rose, ~ among flowers) 2 a former British gold coin worth 1 pound [ME *soverain*, fr OF, fr *soverain*, *adj*]

**sovereign** *adj* 1a possessing supreme (political) power (< ~ ruler) b unlimited in extent, absolute (< ~ power) c enjoying political autonomy (< a ~ state) 2a of outstanding excellence or importance (< their ~ sense of humour - Sir Winston Churchill) b of an unqualified nature, utmost (< ~ contempt) 3 (characteristic) of or befitting a sovereign [ME *soverain*, fr MF, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *superanus*, fr L *super* over, above - more at OVER] - *sovereignly* *adv*, *sovereignty* *n*

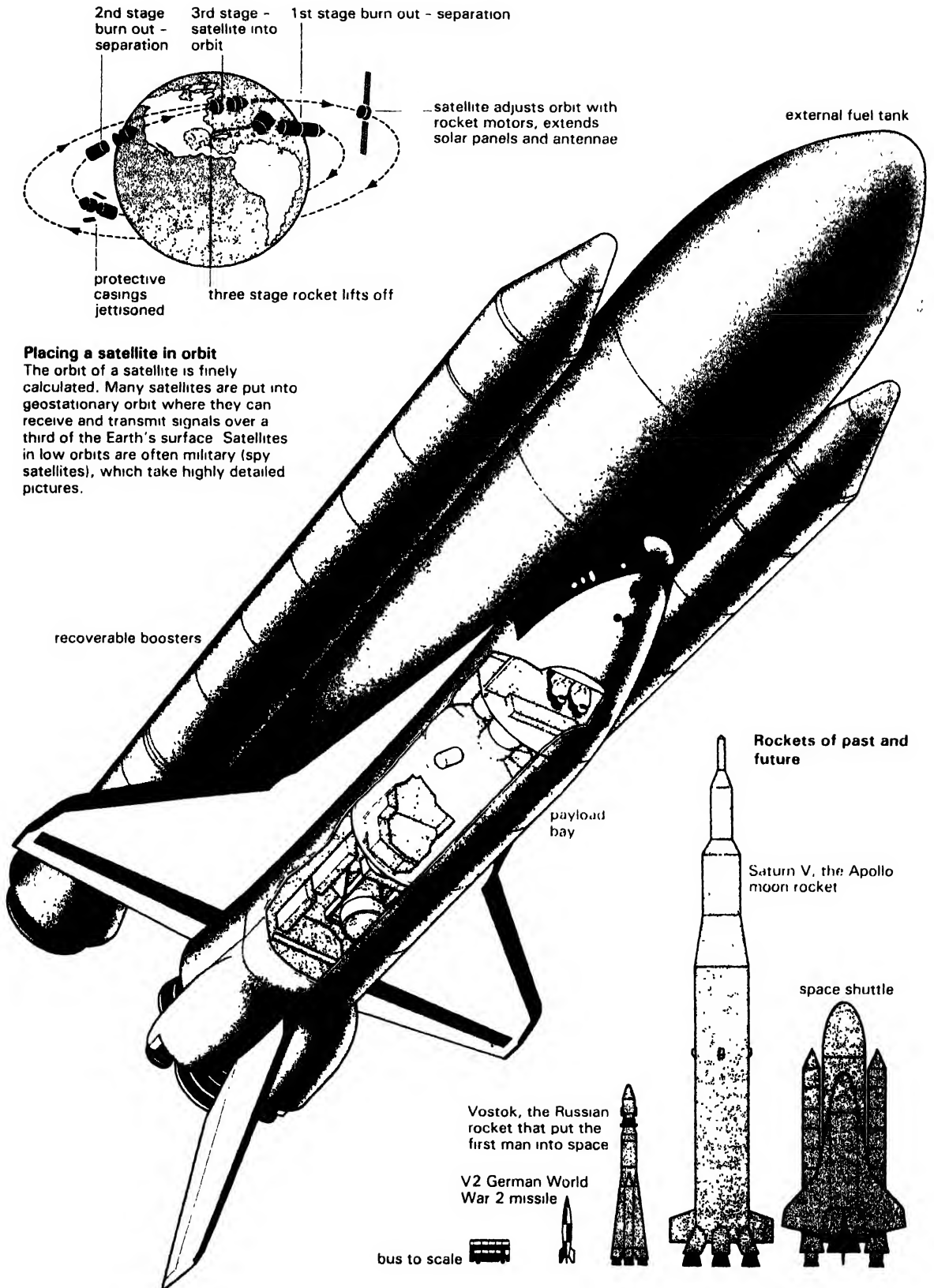
**soviet** /sohvyat, 'so-/ *n* 1 an elected council in a Communist coun'ty 2 *pl*, *cap* the people, esp the leaders, of the USSR [Russ *sover*] - *soviet* *adj*, often *cap*, *sovietism* *n*, often *cap*

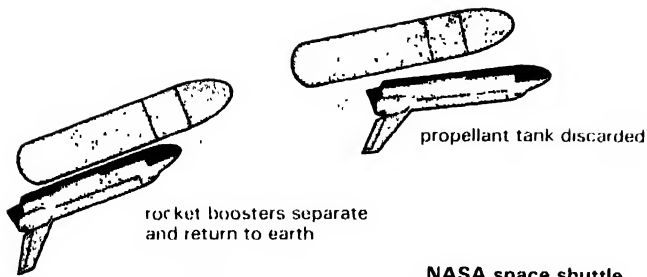
**sovrán** /sovrán/ *n* or *adj* (a) sovereign - poetic [by alter (influenced by It *sovrano*, *adj*)]

**sow** /sow/ *n* 1 an adult female pig; also the adult female of various other animals (e.g. the grizzly bear) 2 (a mass of metal solidified in) a channel that conducts molten metal, esp iron, to moulds [ME *sowe*, fr OE *sugu*; akin to OE & OHG *su* sow, L *sus* pig, swine, hog, Gk *hys*]

- <sup>2</sup>sow** /soh/ *vb* **sowed**; **sown** /sohn/, **sowed** *vi* to plant seed for growth, esp by scattering ~ *vi* **1a** to scatter (e.g. seed) on the earth for growth, **broadly PLANT 1a b** to strew (as if) with seed **c** to introduce into a selected environment **2** to implant, initiate (< ~ *suspicion*) **3** to disperse, disseminate [ME *sowen*, fr OE *sāwan*, akin to OHG *sāwen* to sow, L *serere*] – **sower** *n* – **sow one's wild oats** to indulge in youthful wildness and dissipation, usu before settling down to a steady way of life
- 'sow, thistle** /sow/ *n* any of a genus of spiny Old World composite plants widely naturalized as weeds
- soy** /soy/ *n* **1** an oriental brown liquid sauce made by subjecting soya beans to long fermentation and to digestion in brine **2** SOYA BEAN [Jap *shōyu*, fr Chin (Cant) *shī-yau*, lit., soya-bean oil]
- soya** /soya/ *n* **soy** [D *soja*, fr Jap *shōyu*]
- soya bean** *n* (the edible oil-rich and protein-rich seeds of) an annual Asiatic leguminous plant widely grown for its seed and soil improvement
- soya-bean oil** *n* a pale yellow oil that is obtained from soya beans and is used chiefly as a cooking oil, in paints, varnishes, linoleum, printing ink, and soap, and as a source of phospholipids, fatty acids, and sterols
- 'soy, bean** /-been/ *n* SOYA BEAN
- sozzled** /'soz(a)ld/ *adj*, chiefly Br drunk – slang, often humor [sozzle (to splash, souse, intoxicate)]
- spa** /spah/ *n* **1** a usu fashionable resort with mineral springs **2** a spring of mineral water [*Spa*, watering place in Belgium]
- 'space** /spays/ *n* **1** (the duration of) a period of time **2a** a limited extent in 1, 2, or 3 dimensions, distance, area, or volume **b** an amount of room set apart or available (< *parking* ~ >) **3** any of the degrees between or above or below the lines of a musical staff **4a** a boundless 3-dimensional extent in which objects and events occur and have relative position and direction **b** physical space independent of what occupies it **5** the region beyond the earth's atmosphere  ASTRONOMY **6** (a piece of type giving) a blank area separating words or lines (e.g. on a page) **7** a set of mathematical points, each defined by a set of coordinates **8** a brief interval during which a telegraph key is not causing electrical contact to be made [ME, fr OF *espace*, fr L *spatium* area, room, interval of space or time – more at SPEED] – **spaceless** *adj*
- 'space** *vt* to place at intervals or arrange with space between – **spacer** *n*
- 'space, craft** /-kraift/ *n* a device designed to travel beyond the earth's atmosphere  SPACE
- 'spaced-out** *adj* dazed or stupefied (as if) by a narcotic substance – slang
- 'space, flight** /-fliet/ *n* flight beyond the earth's atmosphere
- space heating** *n* the heating of spaces (e.g. by electricity, solar radiation, or fossil fuels), esp for human comfort, with the heater either within the space or external to it – **space heater** *n*
- 'space, man** /-man/, *fem* **'space, woman** *n* **1** one who travels outside the earth's atmosphere **2** a visitor to earth from outer space
- 'space, mark** *n* the mark #
- space platform** *n* SPACE STATION
- 'space, ship** /-ship/ *n* a manned spacecraft
- 'space, shuttle** *n* a vehicle that has usu 2 stages and is designed to serve as a reusable transport between the earth and an orbiting space station  SPACE
- 'space, station** *n* a manned artificial satellite designed for a fixed orbit about the earth and to serve as a base  SPACE
- 'space, suit** *n* a suit equipped with life supporting provisions to make life in space possible for its wearer
- space-time** *n* **1** a system of 1 temporal and 3 spatial coordinates by which any physical object or event can be located **2** (the properties characteristic of) the whole or a portion of physical reality determinable by a four-dimensional coordinate system
- 'space, walk** *n* a trip outside a spacecraft made by an astronaut in space – **space walk** *vi*, **spacewalker** *n*, **spacewalking** *n*
- spacey** /spaysi/ *adj* of or in a spaced-out state – slang (< *music with a ~ effect*)
- spacing** /spaysing/ *n* **1a** the act of providing with spaces or placing at intervals **b** an arrangement in space (< *alter the ~ of the chairs*) **2** the distance between any 2 objects in a usu regularly arranged series
- spacious** /spayshts/ *adj* **1** containing ample space; roomy **2a** broad or vast in area (< *a country of ~ plains*) **b** large in scale or space; expansive [ME, fr MF *spacieux*, fr L *spatiosus*, fr *spatium* space, room] – **spaciously** *adv*, **spaciousness** *n*
- 'spade** /spayd/ *n* a digging implement that can be pushed into the ground with the foot [ME, fr OE *spadu*, akin to Gk *spathe* blade of a sword or oar, OHG *span* chip of wood – more at SPOON] – **spade** *ful* *n*
- 'spade** *vt* to dig up, shape, or work (as if) with a spade
- 'spade** *n* **1a** a playing card marked with 1 or more black figures shaped like a spearhead **b pl** but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the suit comprising cards identified by these figures **2a** Negro – derog [It *spada* or Sp *espada* broad sword (used as a mark on playing cards), both fr L *spatha*, fr Gk *spathe* blade] – **in spades** in the extreme [fr *spades* being the highest suit in some card games]
- 'spade, work** /-wuhk/ *n* the routine preparatory work for an undertaking
- spadix** /spaydiks/ *n*, *pl* **spadices** /-di, seer/ a spike of crowded flowers (e.g. in an arum) with a fleshy or succulent axis usu enclosed in a spathe [NL *spadic-*, *spadix*, fr L, frond term from a palm tree, fr Gk *spadik-*, *spadix*, fr *span* to draw, pull – more at SPAN]
- spaghetti** /spa'getti/ *n* pasta in the form of thin often solid strings of varying widths smaller in diameter than macaroni [It, fr pl of *spaghetto*, dim. of *spago* cord, string]
- 'spahi** /spah(h)ee/ *n* **1** any of a former corps of irregular Turkish cavalry **2** any of a former corps of Algerian native cavalry in the French Army [MF, fr Turk *sipahi*, fr Per *sipahi* cavalryman]
- spake** /spayk/ *archaic past* of SPEAK
- 'spall** /spawl/ *n* a small splinter or chip, esp of stone [ME *spalle*]
- 'spall** *vt* to break up (stone, ore, etc) into fragments ~ *vi* **1** to break off fragments, chip **2** to undergo spallation – **spallable** *adj*
- spallation** /spa'laysh(a)n/ *n* a nuclear reaction resulting in several particles being ejected as the result of a collision [*'spall*]
- Spam** /spam/ *trademark* – used for a tinned pork luncheon meat
- 'span** /span/ *archaic past* of SPIN
- 'span** *n* **1** the distance from the end of the thumb to the end of the little finger of a spread hand, also a former English unit of length equal to 9in (about 0.23m)  UNIT **2** an extent, distance, or spread between 2 limits: e.g. a limited stretch (e.g. of time), esp an individual's lifetime **b** the full reach or extent (< *the remarkable ~ of his memory*) **c** the distance or extent between abutments or supports (e.g. of a bridge), also a part of a bridge between supports **d** a wingspan [ME, fr OE *spann*, akin to OHG *spanna* span, MD *spannen* to stretch, hitch up, L *pendere* to weigh, Gk *span* to draw, pull]
- 'span** *vt* -*nn-* **1** to measure (as if) by the hand with fingers and thumb extended **2a** to extend across (< *his career ~ ned 4 decades*) **b** to form an arch over (< *a small bridge ~ ned the pond*) **c** to place or construct a span over
- spandrel, spandril** /spandrəl/ *n* the space between the right or left exterior curve of an arch and an enclosing right angle [ME *spandrell*, fr AF *spandre*, fr OF *espandre* to spread out – more at SPAWN]
- 'spangle** /spang-gl/ *n* **1** a sequin **2** a small glittering object or particle (< *gold ~s of dew* – Edith Sitwell) [ME *spangel*, dim. of *spang* shiny ornament, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *spang* spangle; akin to OE *spang* buckle, MD *spannen* to stretch]
- 'spangle** *vb* **spangling** /spang gling/ *vt* to set or sprinkle (as if) with spangles ~ *vi* to glitter as if covered with spangles, sparkle
- Spaniard** /spanyəd/ *n* a native or inhabitant of Spain [ME *Spaignard*, fr MF *Espaignart*, fr *Espaigne* Spain, country in SW Europe, fr L *Hispania*]
- spaniel** /spanyol/ *n* **1** any of several breeds of small or medium-sized mostly short-legged dogs usu having long wavy hair, feathered legs and tail, and large drooping ears **2** a fawning servile person [ME *spaniell*, fr MF *espagnol*, lit., Spaniard, fr (assumed) VL *Hispaniolus*, fr L *Hispania* Spain]
- Spanish** /spanish/ *n* **1** the official Romance language of Spain and of the countries colonized by Spaniards  LANGUAGE **2 pl** in *constr* the people of Spain [*Spanish*, *adj*, fr ME *Spanish*, fr *Spain*] – **Spanish** *adj*
- 'Spanish** **'American** *n* a native or inhabitant of any of the Spanish-speaking countries of America; also a citizen of the USA of Spanish descent – **Spanish-American** *adj*
- Spanish chestnut** *n* a large widely cultivated edible chestnut
- Spanish fly** *n* **1** a green blister beetle of S Europe **2** a preparation of Spanish flies used esp as an aphrodisiac
- 'Spanish** **'omelette** *n* an omelette containing cooked chopped vegetables and usu not folded in half
- 'Spanish** **'onion** *n* a large mild-flavoured onion
- 'spank** /spangk/ *vt* to strike, esp on the buttocks, (as if) with the open hand [imit] – **spank** *n*
- 'spank** *vi* to move quickly or spiritedly (< *ing along in his new car*) [back-formation fr *spanking*]

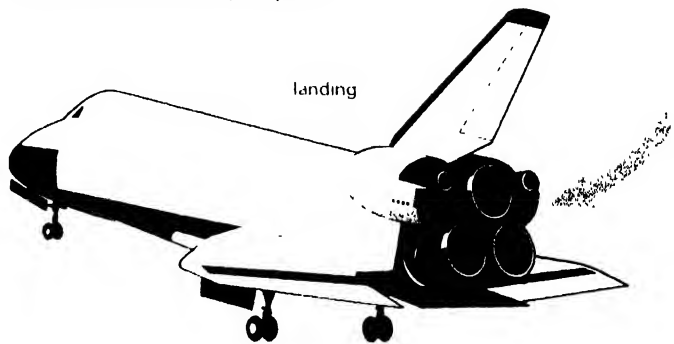
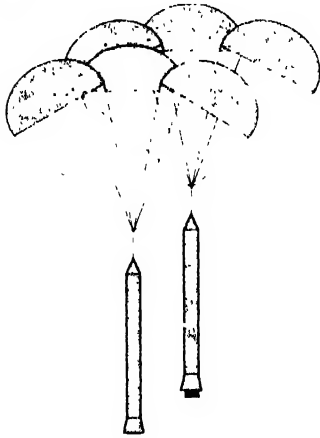
- spanker** /ˈspæŋkə/ *n* a fore-and-aft sail set on the aftermost mast of a square-rigged ship  SHIP [origin unknown]
- 'spanking** /ˈspæŋkɪŋ/ *adj* 1 remarkable of its kind, striking 2 vigorous, brisk *<rode off at a ~ pace>* [origin unknown] – **spankingly** *adv*
- 'spanking** *adv* completely and impressively *<a ~ new car>*
- spanner** /ˈspænə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a tool with 1 or 2 ends shaped for holding or turning nuts or bolts with nut-shaped heads [G, instrument for winding springs, fr *spannen* to stretch, akin to MD *spannen* to stretch – more at SPAN] – (put) **a spanner in the works** (to cause) obstruction or hindrance (e.g. to a plan or operation) – *infrml*
- 'spar** /spɑː/ *n* 1 a stout pole 2a a mast, boom, gaff, yard, etc used to support or control a sail  SHIP b any of the main longitudinal members of the wing or fuselage of an aircraft [ME *sparre*; akin to OE *spere* spear]
- 'spar** *vi* -rr- 1a 'box, esp. to gesture without landing a blow to draw one's opponent or create an opening b to engage in a practice bout of boxing 2 to skirmish, wrangle 3 FENCE 1b(2) [prob. alter. of 'spur; orig. sense, to strike with feet or spurs like a gamecock]
- 'spar** *n* any of various nonmetallic minerals which usu. split easily [LG, akin to OE *spærstán* gypsum, *spæren* of plaster]
- 'spare** /speə/ *vt* 1 to refrain from destroying, punishing, or harming 2 to refrain from using *<~ the rod, and spoil the child>* 3 to relieve of the necessity of doing, undergoing, or learning sthg *<~ yourself the trouble>* 4 to refrain from, avoid *<~d no expense>* 5 to use or dispense frugally – chiefly *neg* *<don't ~ the butter>* 6a to give up as surplus to requirements *<do you have any cash to ~?>* b to have left over, unused, or unoccupied *<time to ~>* ~ *vi* to be frugal *<some will spend and some will ~ ~ Robert Burns>* [ME *sparen*, fr OE *sparian*; akin to OHG *spārōn* to spare, OE *spær*, *adj*, *spare*] – **spareable** *adj*
- 'spare** *adj* 1 not in use, esp. reserved for use in emergency *<a ~ tyre>* 2a in excess of what is required, surplus b not taken up with work or duties, free *<~ time>* 3 sparing, concise *<a ~ prose style>* 4 healthily lean, wiry 5 not abundant, meagre – *infrml* 6 *Br* extremely angry or distraught – *infrml* *<nearly went ~ with worry>* [ME, fr OE *spær*; akin to OSlav *sporū* abundant, OE *sped* prosperity – more at SPFFD] – **sparely** *adv*, **spareness** *n*
- 'spare** *n* 1 a spare or duplicate item or part, *specif* a spare part for a motor vehicle 2 the knocking down of all 10 pins with the first 2 balls in a frame in tenpin bowling
- 'spare part** *n* a replacement for a component that may cease or has ceased to function *<went to the garage for spare parts>* *<spare-part surgery>*
- 'spare rib** /ˈrɪb/ *n* a pork rib with most of the surrounding meat removed for use as bacon  MEAT [by folk etymology fr LG *ribbesper* pickled pork ribs roasted on a spit, fr MLG, fr *ribbe* rib + *sper* spear, spit]
- 'spare tyre** *n* a roll of fat at the waist – *infrml*
- 'sparing** /ˈspeərɪŋ/ *adj* 1 not wasteful, frugal *<we must be ~ with the butter>* 2 meagre, scant – **sparingly** *adv*
- 'spark** /spɑːk/ *n* 1a a small particle of a burning substance thrown out by a body in combustion or remaining when combustion is nearly completed b a hot glowing particle struck from a larger mass *<~s flying from under a hammer>* 2 a luminous disruptive electrical discharge of very short duration between 2 conductors of opposite high potential separated by a gas (e.g. air) 3 a sparkle, flash 4 sthg that sets off or stimulates an event, development, etc 5 a trace, esp. one which may develop; a germ *<still retains a ~ of decency>* 6 *pl* but *sing* in constr. a radio operator on a ship – *infrml* [ME *spark*, fr OE *spearc*; akin to MD *spark* spark, L *spargere* to scatter, Gk *spargan* to swell]
- 'spark** *vi* to produce or give off sparks ~ *vt* 1 to cause to be suddenly active; precipitate – *usu* + *off* *<the question ~ed off a lively discussion>* 2 to stir to activity; incite *<a player can ~ his team to victory>* [ME *sparken*, fr *spark*] – **sparker** *n*
- 'spark** *n* a lively and usu. witty person – *esp* in *bright spark* [perh. of Scand origin; akin to ON *sparkr* brightly] – **sparkish** *adj*
- 'spark** *vb*, chiefly *NAm* to woo, court ['*spark* (attractive person, lover)] – **sparker** *n*
- 'spark chamber** *n* a device that is usu. used to detect the path of a high-energy particle by observable electric discharges
- 'spark coil** *n* an induction coil for producing the spark for an internal-combustion engine
- 'spark plug** /ˈspɑːkplʌg/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a part that fits into the cylinder head of an internal-combustion engine and produces the spark which ignites the explosive mixture
- 'sparkle** /ˈspɑːkl/ *vb* **sparkling** /ˈspɑːklɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to give off sparks b to give off or reflect glittering points of light; scintillate 2 to effervesce *<wine that ~s>* 3 to show brilliance or animation *<the dialogue ~s with wit>* ~ *vt* to cause to glitter or shine [ME *sparklen*, freq. of *sparken* to sparkle]
- 'sparkle** *n* 1 a little spark, a scintillation 2 sparkling 3a vivacity, gaiety b effervescence *<a wine full of ~>* [ME, dim. of *spark*]
- 'sparkler** /ˈspɑːklə/ *n* 1 a firework that throws off brilliant sparks on burning 2 a (cut and polished) diamond – *infrml* ['SPARKLE + -ER]
- 'spark plug** *n*, chiefly *NAm* SPARKING PLUG
- 'sparring partner** /ˈspɑːrɪŋ/ *n* a boxer's companion for practice in sparring during training, broadly a habitual opponent (e.g. in friendly argument)
- 'sparrow** /ˈspɑːrə/ *n* any of several small dull-coloured songbirds related to the finches, esp. HOUSE SPARROW [ME *sparow*, fr OE *spearwa*; akin to OHG *sparo* sparrow, Gk *psar* starling]
- 'sparrowgrass** /-ˈgrɑːs/ *n*, chiefly *dial* asparagus [by folk etymology fr *asparagus*]
- 'sparrow hawk** *n* a small Old World hawk
- 'sparse** /spɑːs/ *adj* of few and scattered elements, esp. not thickly grown or settled [L *sparsus* spread out, fr pp of *spargere* to scatter – more at 'SPARK] – **sparsely** *adv*, **sparseness** *n*, **sparsity** *n*
- 'Spartan** /ˈspɑːt(ə)n/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of ancient Sparta 2 a person of great courage and endurance [ME, fr L *Spartanus*, *adj* & *n*, fr *Sparta*, city in ancient Greece] – **Spartanism** *n*
- 'Spartan** *adj* 1 of Sparta in ancient Greece 2a rigorously strict, austere b having or showing courage and endurance
- 'spasm** /ˈspaz(ə)m/ *n* 1 an involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction 2 a sudden violent and brief effort or emotion *<~s of helpless mirth ~ Punch>* [ME *spasme*, fr MF, fr L *spasmus*, fr Gk *spasmos*, fr *span* to draw, pull – more at SPAN]
- 'spasmodic** /ˈspazˌmɒdɪk/ *adj* 1a relating to, being, or affected or characterized by spasm b resembling a spasm, esp. in sudden violence *<a ~ jerk>* 2 acting or proceeding fitfully; intermittent *<~ attempts at studying>* [NL *spasmodicus*, fr Gk *spasmodēs*, fr *spasmos*] – **spasmodical** *adj*, **spasmodically** *adv*
- 'spastic** /ˈspastɪk/ *adj* 1 of or characterized by spasm *<a ~ colon>* 2 suffering from spastic paralysis *<a ~ child>* [L *spasticus*, fr Gk *spastikos* drawing in, fr *span*] – **spastically** *adv*, **spasticity** /ˈspastɪsɪti/ *n*
- 'spastic** *n* 1 one who is suffering from spastic paralysis 2 an ineffectual person – *used esp* by children
- 'spastic paralysis** *n* paralysis with involuntary contraction or uncontrolled movements of the affected muscles – compare CEREBRAL PALSY
- 'spat** /spat/ *past* of SPIT
- 'spat** *n*, *pl* *spats*, esp. collectively *spat* a young oyster or other bivalve mollusc [origin unknown]
- 'spat** *n* a cloth or leather gaiter covering the instep and ankle  GARMENT [short for *spatterdash* (legging)]
- 'spat** *n* 1 'Am a light splash *<a ~ of rain>* 2 a petty argument – *infrml* [prob. imit.]
- 'spatchcock** /ˈspɑːtʃkɒk/ *vt* 1 to cook (a fowl or small game bird) by splitting along the backbone and frying or grilling 2 to insert or put together in a forced or incongruous way [prob. alter. of *spitchcock* (split and grilled eel)]
- 'spate** /spæt/ *n* 1 flood *<a river in full ~>* 2a a large number or amount, esp. occurring in a short space of time *<the recent ~ of fire bombs ~ The Guardian>* b a sudden or strong outburst; a rush *<a ~ of anger>* [ME]
- 'spathe** /ˈspædɪ/ *n* a sheathing bract or pair of bracts enclosing the inflorescence of a plant, esp. a spadix on the same axis *<the ~ of cuckoo-pint>* [NL *spatha*, fr L, broad sword – more at 'SPADE]
- 'spathic** /ˈspæθɪk/ *adj* resembling spar [G *spath*, *spat* spar; akin to OHG *span* chip – more at 'SPOON]
- 'spatial** /ˈspeɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* relating to, occupying, or occurring in space [L *spatiūm* space – more at SPEED] – **spatially** *adv*, **spatiality** /ˈspeɪʃhəlɪti/ *n*
- 'spatiotemporal** /ˈspeɪʃhɪəʊˈtemp(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 having both spatial and temporal qualities 2 of space-time [L *spatiūm* + *tempor*, *tempus* time – more at TEMPORAL] – **spatiotemporally** *adv*
- 'spatter** /ˈspætə/ *vt* 1 to splash or sprinkle (as if) with drops of liquid, also to soil in this way *<his coat was ~ed with mud>* 2 to scatter (as if) by splashing or sprinkling *<~ water>* ~ *vi* to spurt out in scattered drops *<blood ~ing everywhere>* [akin to Flem. *spetteren* to spatter]
- 'spatter** *n* 1 (the sound of) spattering 2 a drop spattered on sthg or a stain due to spattering
- 'spatula** /ˈspætjuːlə, -ˈhɒlə/ *n* a flat thin usu. metal implement used esp





### NASA space shuttle

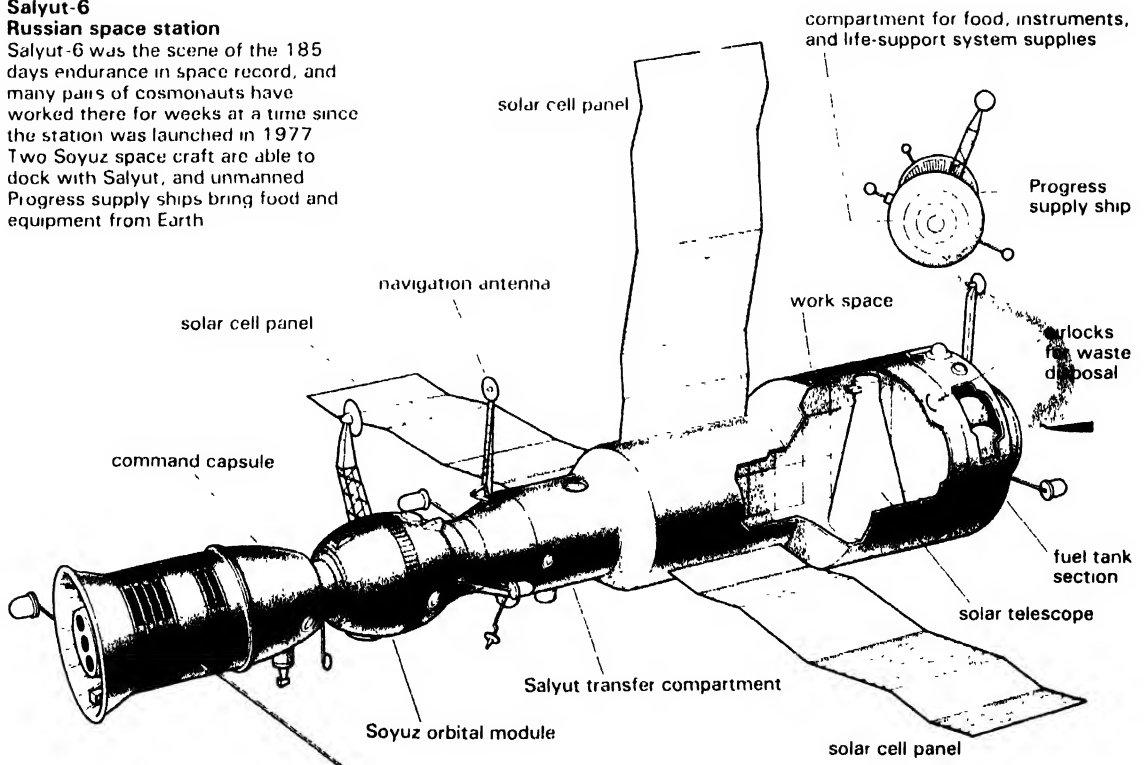
The reusable space shuttle promises to provide an economical method of placing satellites in space, performing scientific experiments under weightless conditions, and possibly repairing or retrieving 'space junk'



### Salyut-6

#### Russian space station

Salyut-6 was the scene of the 185 days endurance in space record, and many pairs of cosmonauts have worked there for weeks at a time since the station was launched in 1977. Two Soyuz space craft are able to dock with Salyut, and unmanned Progress supply ships bring food and equipment from Earth.



- for spreading, mixing, etc soft substances or powders [LL, spoon, spatula – more at *FPAULETTE*]
- spatulate** /ˈspætuːlət/, -chə-/ *adj* shaped like a spatula < ~ *spines* of a caterpillar >  PLANT
- spavin** /ˈspævɪn/ *n* a bony enlargement or soft swelling of the hock of a horse associated with strain [ME *spavaync*, fr MF *espavain*] – **spavined** /-vɪnd/ *adj*
- spawn** /spaw/ *vt* 1 of an aquatic animal to produce or deposit (eggs) 2 to bring forth, esp abundantly ~ *vi* 1 to deposit spawn 2 to produce young, esp in large numbers [ME *spawnen*, fr AF *espaundre*, fr OF *espaundre* to spread out, expand, fr L *expandere*] – **spawner** *n*
- spawn** *n* 1 the large number of eggs of frogs, oysters, fish, etc 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr (numerous) offspring 3 mycelium, esp for propagating mushrooms
- spay** /spay/ *vt* to remove the ovaries of [ME *spayen*, fr MF *espeer* to cut with a sword, fr OF, fr *espee* sword, fr L *spatha* sword – more at *SPADE*]
- speak** /spek/ *vb* *spoke* /spohk/, *spoken* /ˈspohkən/ *vi* 1a to utter words or articulate sounds with the ordinary voice; talk *b*(1) to give voice to thoughts or feelings <why don't you ~ for yourself? – H W Longfellow> (2) to be on speaking terms <still were not ~ing after the dispute> *c* to address a group <the professor spoke on his latest discoveries> 2a to express thoughts or feelings in writing <diaries that ~ of his ambition> *b* to act as spokesman for 3 to communicate by other than verbal means <actions ~ louder than words> 4 to make a claim for, reserve <5 of the 10 new houses are already spoken for> 5 to make a characteristic or natural sound <the thunder spoke> 6 to be indicative or suggestive <his battered shoes spoke of a long journey> ~ *vt* 1a to utter with the speaking voice; pronounce *b* to express orally; declare <free to ~ their minds> 2 to make known in writing 3 to (be able to) use in oral communication <~s Spanish> [ME *speken*, fr OE *speccan*, *speccan*, akin to OHG *sprehhan* to speak, Gk *spharageisthai* to crackle] – **speakable** *adj* – **so to speak** – used as an apologetic qualification for an imprecise, unusual, ambiguous, or unclear phrase <this bus service has gone downhill, so to speak> – **to speak** of worth mentioning – *usu neg*
- speakeasy** /ˈspek,eezi/ *n* a place where alcoholic drinks were illegally sold during Prohibition in the USA in the 1920's and 30's [fr the need to *speakeasy* (softly) in ordering illicit goods]
- speaker** /ˈspekə/ *n* 1a one who speaks, esp at public functions *b* one who speaks a specified language <an Italian-speaker> 2 the presiding officer of a deliberative or legislative assembly 3 a loudspeaker – **speakership** *n*
- speaking** /ˈspekɪŋ/ *adj* 1a capable of speech *b* containing chiefly native speakers of a specified language – *usu* in combination <English-speaking countries> 2 highly significant or expressive, eloquent 3 able to speak a specified language <French-speaking>
- speaking tube** *n* a pipe through which conversation may be conducted (e.g. between different parts of a building)
- speak out** *vi* 1 to speak loudly enough to be heard 2 to speak boldly, express an opinion frankly <spoke out on the issues>
- speak up** *vi* 1 to speak more loudly – often imper 2 to express an opinion boldly <spoke up for justice>
- spear** /spɪə/ *n* 1 a thrusting or throwing weapon with long shaft and sharp head or blade used esp by hunters or foot soldiers 2 a sharp-pointed instrument with barbs used in spearing fish 3 a spearman [ME *spere*, fr OE; akin to OHG *spere* spear, L *spurus*, Gk *sparos*, a marine fish]
- spear** *vt* to pierce, strike, or take hold of (as if) with a spear <~ed a sausage from the dish>
- spear** *n* a usu young blade, shoot, or sprout (e.g. of asparagus or grass) [alter of *spire*]
- spearfish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of several large powerful oceanic fishes related to the marlins and sail fishes
- spearhead** /-hed/ *n* 1 the sharp-pointed head of a spear 2 a leading element or force in a development, course of action, etc
- spearhead** *vt* to serve as leader or leading force of
- spearman** /-mən/ *n* one armed with a spear
- spear, mint** /-mɪnt/ *n* a common mint grown esp for its aromatic oil
- spear, side** *n* the male branch of a family – compare *DISTAFF*
- spec** /spek/ *n* a speculation – *infrm* <one company worth trying as a ~ – The Economist> – *on spec* *Br* as a risk or speculation <houses built on spec>; also as a risk in the hope of finding or obtaining sthg desired <the play may be sold out, but it would be worth going to the theatre on spec> – *infrm*
- special** /ˈspeʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 distinguished from others of the same category, esp because in some way superior 2 held in particular esteem <a ~ friend> 3 *SPECIFIC* 4 other than or in addition to the usual <a ~ day of thanksgiving> 5 designed, undertaken, or used for a particular purpose or need <devised a ~ method of restoring paintings> 6 established or designed for the use or education of the handicapped <a ~ school> [ME, fr OF or L; OF *especial*, fr L *specialis* individual, particular, fr *species* species] – **specially** *adv*, **specialness** *n*
- special** *n* 1 sthg that is not part of a series 2 sb or sthg reserved or produced for a particular use or occasion <caught the commuter ~ to work> 3 *Br* *SPECIAL CONSTABLE*, *esp* *n* *SPECIAL*
- special constable** *n*, *Br* sb employed as an extra policeman (e.g. in times of emergency)
- special effect** *n* an unusual visual or acoustic effect, esp one introduced into a film or prerecorded television production by special processing – *usu pl*
- specialism** /ˈspeʃ(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 specialization in an occupation or branch of knowledge 2 a field of specialization, a speciality
- specialist** /ˈspeʃ(ə)lɪst/ *n* 1a one who devotes him-/herself to a special occupation or branch of knowledge *b* a medical practitioner limiting his/her practice to a specific group of complaints <a child ~> <an ear, nose, and throat ~> 2 a rank in the US Army enabling an enlisted man/woman to draw extra pay because of technical qualifications  RANK – **specialist**, **specialistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- speciality** /ˈspeʃ(ə)lɪti/ *n* 1 (the state of having) a distinctive mark or quality 2 a product or object of particular quality <bread pudding was mother's ~> 3a a special aptitude or skill *b* a particular occupation or branch of knowledge
- specialize, -ise** /ˈspeʃ(ə)laɪz/ *vt* to apply or direct to a specific end or use ~ *vi* 1 to concentrate one's efforts in a special or limited activity or field 2 to undergo structural adaptation of a body part to a particular function or of an organism for life in a particular environment – **specialization** /-zaɪz(ə)ʃən/ *n*
- special licence** *n* a British form of marriage license permitting marriage without the publication of banns or at a time and place other than those prescribed by law
- special pleading** *n* 1 the allegation of special or new matter in a legal action, as distinguished from a direct denial of the matter pleaded by the opposite side 2 an argument that ignores the damaging or unfavourable aspects of a case
- special school** *n* a school for handicapped children
- special theory of relativity** *n* *RELATIVITY* 2a
- specialty** /ˈspeʃ(ə)lɪti/ *n* 1 a legal agreement embodied in a sealed document 2 chiefly *NAm* a speciality [ME *specialite*, fr MF *especialite*, fr LL *specialitat*, *specialitas*, fr L *specialis* special]
- special verdict** *n* a verdict that sets out the facts as proved and leaves the court to decide legal guilt or innocence
- specie** /ˈspeʃi/ *n* money in coin [fr *in specie*, fr L, in kind] – *in specie* in the same or similar form or kind <ready to return insult in specie>
- species** /ˈspeʃi/ *n*, *pl* *species* 1a a class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name *b*(1) a category in the biological classification of living things that ranks immediately below a genus, comprises related organisms or populations potentially capable of interbreeding, and is designated by a name (e.g. *Homo sapiens*) that consists of the name of a genus followed by a Latin or latinized uncapitalized noun or adjective (2) an individual or kind belonging to a biological species *c* a particular kind of atomic nucleus, atom, molecule, or ion 2 the consecrated bread and wine of the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox eucharist 3 a kind, sort – chiefly derog <a dangerous ~ of criminal> [L, appearance, kind, species – more at *SPY*]
- specific** /spəˈsɪfɪk/ *adj* 1a constituting or falling into a specifiable category *b* being or relating to those properties of sthg that allow it to be assigned to a particular category <the ~ qualities of a drug> 2a confined to a particular individual, group, or circumstance <a disease ~ to horses> *b* having a specific rather than a general influence (e.g. on a body part or a disease) <antibodies ~ for the smallpox virus> 3 free from ambiguity; explicit <~ instructions> 4 of or constituting a (biological) species 5a being any of various arbitrary physical constants, esp one relating a quantitative attribute to unit mass, volume, or area *b* imposed at a fixed rate per unit (e.g. of weight or amount) <~ import duties> – compare *AD VALOREM* [LL *specificus*, fr L *species*] – **specifically** *adv*, **specificity** /ˌspesɪˈfɪsɪti/ *n*
- specific** *n* 1 a drug or remedy having a specific effect on a disease 2a a characteristic quality or trait *b* *pl*, chiefly *NAm* particulars <haggling over the legal and financial ~s – Time>
- specification** /ˌspesɪˈfɪkəʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 specifying 2a a detailed description of sthg (e.g. a building or car), esp in the form of a plan – *usu pl* with



sing. meaning **b** a written description of an invention for which a patent is sought

**specific 'gravity** *n* the ratio of the density of a substance to the density of a substance (e.g. pure water or hydrogen) taken as a standard when both densities are obtained by weighing in air

**specific 'heat** *n* heat required to raise the temperature of a unit mass of a substance by unit temperature – usu. measured in joules per kilogram per kelvin

**specific performance** *n* performance of a legal contract according to its terms, ordered where damages would be inadequate

**specify** /ˈspesɪfɪ/ *vt* **1** to name or state explicitly or in detail **2** to include as an item in a specification (< oak flooring > [ME *specifien*, fr. OF *specifier*, fr. LL *specificare*, fr. *specificus*] – **specifiable** *adj.*, **specifier** *n*)

**specimen** /ˈspesɪmɪn/ *n* **1** an item, part, or individual typical of a group or category; an example **2** a person, individual – chiefly derog. [L, fr. *specere* to look at, look]

**speciosity** /ˈspes(h)ɪəsəti/ *n* being specious, speciousness – fml

**specious** /ˈspes(h)ɪəs/ *adj* **1** having deceptive attraction or fascination **2** superficially sound or genuine but fallacious (< reasoning > [ME, fr. L *speciosus* beautiful, plausible, fr. *species*] – **speciously** *adv.*, **speciousness** *n*)

**'speck** /spek/ *n* **1** a small spot or blemish, esp. from stain or decay **2** a small particle (< a ~ of sawdust > [ME *specke*, fr. OE *specca*])

**²speck** *vt* to mark with specks

**'speckle** /spekl/ *n* a little speck (e.g. of colour) [ME, akin to OE *specca*]

**²speckle** *vt* **speckling** /ˈspekɪŋ/, **'speckling** /ˈspekɪ-ɪŋ/ to mark (as if) with speckles (< the ~d eggs of a thrush >)

**specks** /speks/ *n pl* **1** specifications **2** GLASSES 2b(2) – **infrm** [(1) by contr., (2) contr. of *spectacles*]

**spectacle** /ˈspektəkl/ *n* **1a** sth exhibited as unusual, noteworthy, or entertaining, esp. a striking or dramatic public display or show **b** an object of scorn or ridicule, esp. due to odd appearance or behaviour (< made a ~ of himself >) **2 pl** GLASSES 2b(2) [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *spectaculum*, fr. *spectare* to watch, fr. *specus*, pp. of *specere* to look, look at – more at *spy*]

**'spectacled** *adj* having (markings suggesting) a pair of spectacles (< the ~ salamander >)

**'spectacular** /ˈspektəkjool/ *adj* of or being a spectacle, sensational (< a ~ display of fireworks > [L *spectaculum*] – **spectacularly** *adv.*)

**²spectacular** *n* sth (e.g. a stage show) that is spectacular

**spectate** /ˈspektəteɪ/, -/ *vi* to be present as a spectator (e.g. at a sports event) [back-formation fr. *spectator*]

**spectator** /ˈspektətaɪ/ *n* **1** one who attends an event or activity in order to watch **2** one who looks on without participating, an onlooker (< rescuers were hampered by ~s > [L, fr. *spectatus*, pp. of *specere* to watch] – **spectator** *adj.*)

**spectral** /ˈspektrəl/ *adj* **1** of or suggesting a spectre **2** of or made by a spectrum – **spectrally** *adv.*, **spectralness** *n*, **spectrality** /-ˈtrələti/ *n*

**spectre**, *NAm* chiefly **specter** /ˈspektə/ *n* **1** a visible ghost **2** sth that haunts or perturbs the mind, a phantasm (< the ~ of hunger >) – compare OGRE **2** [F *spectre*, fr. L *spectrum* appearance, spectre, fr. *specere* to look, look at – more at *spy*]

**spectro-** *comb. form* spectrum (< *spectroscope* > [NL *spectrum*])

**spectrogram** /ˈspektrəɡrɑːm/ *n* a photograph or diagram of a spectrum [ISV]

**'spectrograph** /-ˈɡrɑːf/, -ˈɡrɑːf/ *n* an instrument for dispersing light, sound waves, etc. into a spectrum (and recording or mapping it) [ISV] – **spectrographic** /-ˈɡrɑːfɪk/ *adj.*, **spectrographically** *adv.*, **spectrography** /ˈspekˈtrɒɡrəfi/ *n*

**spectroheliogram** /ˈspektroʰiˈheɪljəɡrɑːm/ *n* a photograph of the sun at one wavelength showing its bright regions and prominences

**spectro'heliograph** /-ˈheɪljəˈɡrɑːf/, -ˈɡrɑːf/ *n* an apparatus for making spectroheliograms [ISV] – **spectroheliography** /-ˈheɪljəˈɒɡrəfi/ *n*

**spectro'helloscope** /-ˈheɪljəˈskəʊp/ *n* **1** a spectroheliograph **2** an instrument similar to a spectroheliograph used for visual as distinguished from photographic observations [ISV]

**spectrometer** /ˈspekˈtrɒmɪtə/ *n* a spectroscopy fitted for measurements of the spectra observed with it [ISV] – **spectrometry** /-ˈmɪtri/ *n.*, **spectrometric** /ˈspekˈtrɒmɪtrɪk/ *adj.*

**spectrophotometer** /ˈspektrɒfoʰˈtɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the intensity of (a substance's absorption of) light at various wavelengths [ISV] – **spectrophotometric** /-ˈfoʰtəˈmɪtrɪk/, **spectrophotometrical** *adj.*, **spectrophotometrically** *adv.*, **spectrophotometry** /-foʰˈtɒmɪtri/ *n*

**spectroscope** /ˈspektrəˈskəʊp/ *n* an instrument for forming and exam-

ining optical spectra [ISV] – **spectroscopic** /-ˈskɒpɪk/, **spectroscopical** *adj.*, **spectroscopically** *adv.*, **spectroscopist** /ˈspekˈtrɒskəpɪst/ *n.*, **spectroscopy** *n*

**spectrum** /ˈspektrəm/ *n.*, *pl* **spectra** /-ˈtrə/, **spectrums** **1** an array of the components of an emission or wave separated and arranged in the order of some varying characteristic (e.g. wavelength, mass, or energy) e.g. **a** a series of images formed when a beam of radiant energy is subjected to dispersion and brought to focus so that the component waves are arranged in the order of their wavelengths (e.g. when a beam of sunlight that is refracted and dispersed by a prism forms a display of colours) **b** ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM **c** the range of frequencies of sound waves **2** a sequence, range (< a wide ~ of interests > [NL, fr. L, appearance – more at *SPECTRE*])

**specular** /ˈspekjool/ *adj* **1** (having the qualities) of a mirror **2** conducted with the aid of a medical speculum [L *specularis* of a mirror, fr. *speculum*] – **specularly** *adv.*, **specularity** /-ˈlærəti/ *n*

**speculate** /ˈspekjooləɪ/ *vi* **1** to meditate on or ponder about sth, reflect **2** to assume a business risk in the hope of gain, esp. to buy or sell in expectation of profiting from market fluctuations [L *speculatus*, pp. of *speculari* to spy out, examine, fr. *specula* watchtower, fr. *specere* to look, look at] – **speculator** *n.*, **speculation** /-ˈleɪʃən/ *n*

**speculative** /ˈspekjoolətɪv/ *adj* **1** involving, based on, or constituting speculation, also theoretical rather than demonstrable **2** questioning, inquiring (< a ~ glance >) – **speculatively** *adv.*

**speculum** /ˈspekjooləm/ *n.*, *pl* **specula** /-lə/ also **speculums** **1** an instrument inserted into a body passage for medical inspection or treatment **2** a reflector in an optical instrument **3** a patch of colour on the secondary feathers of many birds, esp. ducks [L, mirror, fr. *specere*]

**speech** /ˈspiːtʃ/ *n* **1a** the communication or expression of thoughts in spoken words **b** conversation **2** a public discourse, an address **3a** a language, dialect **b** an individual manner of speaking **4** the power of expressing or communicating thoughts by speaking [ME *speche*, fr. OE *spriec*, *spēc*, akin to OE *sprecan* to speak – more at *SPEAK*]

**'speech day** *n* an annual ceremonial day at a British school when prizes are presented

**speechify** /ˈspiːtʃɪfaɪ/ *vi* to speak or make a speech in a pompous manner

**'speechless** /-lɪs/ *adj* **1a** unable to speak, dumb **b** deprived of speech (e.g. through horror or rage) **2** refraining from speech, silent **3** incapable of being expressed in words (< a shape of ~ beauty – P. B. Shelley >) – **speechlessly** *adv.*, **speechlessness** *n*

**'speed** /ˈspiːd/ *n* **1a** moving swiftly, swiftness **b** rate of motion, *specif* the magnitude of a velocity irrespective of direction **2** rate of performance or execution (< tried to increase his reading ~ >) **3a** the sensitivity of a photographic film, plate, or paper expressed numerically **b** the light-gathering power of a lens or optical system **c** the duration of a photographic exposure **4** chiefly *NAm* a transmission gear in motor vehicles **5** (a drug related to) methamphetamine – slang [ME *spede* success, prosperity, swiftness, fr. OE *sped*, akin to OHG *spuot* prosperity, swiftness, L *spes* hope, *spatium* space] – **at speed** at a fast speed, while travelling rapidly

**²speed** *vb* **sped** /ˈsped/, **speeded** *vi* **1** to move or go quickly (< sped to her bedside >) **2** to travel at excessive or illegal speed (< drivers who are fined for ~ing >) ~ *vi* **1** to promote the success or development of **2** to cause to move quickly, hasten – **speeder** *n.*, **speedster** *n.*

**'speedball** /-ˈbɔːl/ *n* cocaine mixed with heroin or morphine or an amphetamine and usu. taken by injection – slang

**'speed limit** *n* the maximum speed permitted by law in a given area or under specified circumstances

**speedometer** /ˈspeɪdɒmɪtə, spi-/ *n* **1** an instrument for indicating speed; a tachometer **2** an instrument for indicating distance travelled as well as speed, also an odometer

**'speed trap** *n* a stretch of road along which police officers, radar devices, etc. are stationed so as to catch vehicles exceeding the speed limit

**'speed-up** *n* an acceleration

**speed up** *vb* to (cause to) move, work, or take place faster; accelerate

**'speedway** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* **1** a usu. oval racecourse for motorcycles **2** the sport of racing motorcycles usu. belonging to professional teams on closed cinder or dirt tracks

**'speedwell** /-ˈwel/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the figwort family that mostly have slender stems and small blue or whitish flowers

**speedy** /ˈspiːdi/ *adj* swift, quick – **speedily** *adv.*, **speediness** *n*

**speiss** /ˈspiːs/ *n* a mixture of metallic arsenic compounds produced when smelting certain ores [G *speise*, lit., food, fr. (assumed) VL *spesa*, fr. LL *expensa* expense]

- speleology** /ˌspeɪˈɒlədʒi/ *n* the scientific study of caves [L *speleum* cave (fr Gk *spelaiōn*) + ISV -ō- + -logy] - **speleologist** *n*, **speleological** /-li-ˈɒlədʒɪk/ *adj*
- spell** /spɛl/ *n* **1a** a spoken word or form of words held to have magic power **b** a state of enchantment **2a** a compelling influence or attraction [ME, talk, tale, fr OE, akin to OHG *spel* talk, tale, Gk *apeleō* boast]
- spell** *vb* **spelt** /spelt/, *NAm* chiefly **spelled** *vt* **1** to name or write the letters of (e.g. a word) in order; also, of letters to form (e.g. a word) <cast ~s cat> **2** to amount to; mean <crop failure would ~ famine for the whole region> - chiefly *v* to form words using the correct combination of letters <graduates who still can't ~> [ME *spellen*, fr OF *espeller*, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *spell* talk]
- spell** *vb* **spelled** *vt* **1** to give a brief rest to **2** chiefly *NAm* to relieve for a time; stand in for <the 2 guards ~ed each other> ~ *vi*, chiefly *Austr* to rest from work or activity for a time [ME *spelen*, fr OE *spelian*; akin to OE *spala* substitute]
- spell** *n* **1** a period spent in a job or occupation <did a ~ in catering> **2** a short or indefinite period or phase <there will be cold ~s throughout April> **3** <sup>1</sup> *fit* **1b** **4** chiefly *Austr* a period of rest from work, activity, or use
- spellbinder** /-biendə/ *n* sby or sthg that holds one spellbound, *esp* a speaker of compelling eloquence [back-formation fr *spellbound*] - **spell-binding** *adj*
- spellbound** /-bownd/ *adj* held (as if) by a spell <a ~ audience>
- speller** /ˈspɛlə/ *n* a book for teaching spelling [<sup>1</sup>SPELL + -ER]
- spelling** /ˈspɛlɪŋ/ *n* **1** the forming of or ability to form words from letters **2** the sequence of letters that make up a particular word
- spelling bee** *n* a spelling competition
- spell out** *vt* **1** to read slowly and haltingly **2** to come to understand; discern <tried in vain to spell out his meaning> **3** to explain clearly and in detail
- spelt** /spelt/ *n* a primitive wheat whose ears contain 2 light red kernels [ME, fr OE, fr LL *spelta*, of Gmc origin, akin to MHG *spelte* split piece of wood, OHG *spaltan* to split - more at SPILL]
- spelt** chiefly *Br* past of <sup>1</sup>SPELL
- spelter** /ˈspɛltə/ *n* zinc, *esp* cast in slabs for commercial use [prob modif of MD *speauter*]
- spelunker** /ˈspɪlŋkə/ *n*, *NAm* one who makes a hobby of exploring and studying caves [L *spelunca* cave, fr Gk *spelūnx*, akin to Gk *spelaiōn* cave] - **spelunking** *n*
- spend** /spend/ *vb* **spent** /spɛnt/ *vt* **1** to use up or pay out; expend <spent £90 on a new suit> **2** to wear out, exhaust <the storm gradually spent itself> **3** to cause or permit to elapse; pass <spent the summer at the beach> ~ *vi* to pay out resources, *esp* money [ME *spenden*, fr OE & OF, OE *spendan*, fr L *spendere* to expend; OF *despendere*, fr L *dispendere* to weigh out - more at DISPENSE] - **spendable** *adj*, **spender** *n* - **spend a penny** *Br* to urinate - *euph*
- spending money** *n* POCKET MONEY
- spendthrift** /-θrɪft/ *n* one who spends carelessly or wastefully - **spendthrift** *adj*
- spent** /spɛnt/ *adj* **1a** used up; consumed **b** exhausted of useful components or qualities <~ grain> <~ matches> **2** drained of energy; exhausted <~ after his nightlong vigil> **3** exhausted of spawn or sperm <a ~ salmon> [ME, fr pp of *spenden* to spend]
- sperm** /spuɪm/ *n*, *pl* **sperms**, *esp* collectively **sperm** **1a** the male fertilizing fluid; semen **b** a male gamete **2** spermaceti, oil, etc from the sperm whale [ME, fr MF *esperme*, fr LL *spermat-*, *sperma*, fr Gk, lit, seed; akin to Gk *speirein* to sow - more at SPROUT]
- sperm-** /spuɪm-/ , **spermo-**, **sperma-**, **spermi-** *comb form* seed, germ; *sperm* <*spermatheca*> <*spermicidal*> [Gk *sperm-*, *spermo-*, fr *sperma*]
- spermaceti** /ˈspuɪməˈseɪti/ *n* a waxy solid obtained from the oil of whales, *esp* sperm whales, and used in ointments, cosmetics, and candles [ME *sperma cete*, fr ML *sperma ceti* whale sperm]
- spermary** /ˈspuɪməri/ *n* an organ in which male gametes are developed [NL *spermarium*, fr Gk *sperma*]
- spermat-** /spuɪmæt-/ , **spermato-** *comb form* sperm- <*spermatid*> <*spermatocyte*> [MF, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *spermat-*, *sperma*]
- spermatheca** /ˈspuɪməˈθiːkə/ *n* a sac for sperm storage in the female reproductive tract of many lower animals [NL] - **spermathecal** *adj*
- spermatik** /ˈspuɪmˈtɪk/ *adj* relating to, resembling, carrying, or full of sperm
- spermatik cord** *n* a cord that suspends the testis within the scrotum
- spermatid** /ˈspuɪmætɪd/ *n* any of the cells that form spermatozoa
- spermatorium** /ˈspuɪməˈtɔɪəm/ , *shī-əm/ n*, *pl* **spermata** /-ti-ə/ , *shī-ə/ a* nonmotile cell functioning or held to function as a male gamete in some lower plants [NL, fr Gk *spermatōn*, dim of *spermat-*, *sperma*] - **spermatial** /-ti-əl/ , *shī-əl/ adj*
- spermatocyte** /ˈspuɪmˈtɔɪsɪt/ *n* a cell giving rise to sperm cells; *esp* a cell of the (next to) last generation preceding the spermatozoon
- spermatogenesis** /ˈspuɪmˈtɔɪsɪtɪs/ *n* the process of male gamete formation including meiotic cell division and transformation of the 4 resulting spermatids into spermatozoa [NL] - **spermatogenic** /-dʒenɪk/ *adj*, **spermatogenetic** /-dʒenɪtɪk/ *adj*
- spermatogonium** /ˈspuɪmˈtɔɪsɪtɪs/ , *ni-əm/ n*, *pl* **spermatogonia** /-ni-ə/ , *ni-ə/ a* primitive male germ cell [NL] - **spermatogonial** *adj*
- spermatophore** /ˈspuɪmˈtɔɪsɪtɪs/ *n* a capsule, packet, or mass enclosing spermatozoa produced by the male and conveyed to the female in the insemination of various invertebrates (e.g. the spider) [ISV]
- spermatophyte** /-fai/ *n* any of a group of higher plants constituting those that produce seeds ~ *PIANT* [deriv of NL *spermat-* + Gk *phyton* plant - more at PHYT-] - **spermatophytic** /-fai/ *adj*
- spermatozoid** /ˈspuɪmˈtɔɪsɪtɪs/ *n* a motile male gamete of a plant, usu produced in an antheridium [ISV, fr NL *spermatozoa*]
- spermatozoon** /ˈzoh-ən/ *n*, *pl* **spermatozoa** /-zoh-ə/ **1** a motile male gamete of an animal, usu with rounded or elongated head and a long tail-like flagellum **2** a spermatozoid [NL] - **spermatozoal** *adj*
- sperm cell** *n* a male gamete or germ cell
- spermi-** /spuɪmi-/ - *see* SPERM-
- spermicide** /ˈspuɪmɪsɪd/ *n* sthg that kills sperm - **spermicidal** /-sɪdɪl/ *adj*
- spermiogenesis** /ˈspuɪmi-ohˈjɛnəsɪs/ *n* 1 transformation of a spermatid into a spermatozoon **2** spermatogenesis [NL, fr *spermium* spermatozoon + -ō- + L *genesis*]
- spermo-** - *see* SPERM-
- sperm oil** *n* a pale yellow oil obtained from the sperm whale
- sperm whale** *n* a large toothed whale that has a vast blunt head in the front part of which is a cavity containing a fluid mixture of spermaceti and oil [short for *spermaceti whale*]
- spew** /sɪˈpjuː/ *vi* **1** to vomit **2** to come forth in a flood or gush ~ *vt* to propel or eject with violence or in great quantity <a volcano ~ing ash and lava> [ME *spewen*, fr OE *spīwan*, akin to OHG *spīwan* to spit, L *spuere*, Gk *ptyein*] - **spewer** *n*
- spew** *n* 1 vomit **2** material that gushes or is ejected from a source
- sphagnum** /ˈsfəɡnəm/ , *spəɡnəm/ n* any of a large genus of atypical mosses that grow only in wet acid areas (e.g. bogs) where their remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peat [NL, genus name, fr L *sphagnos*, a moss, fr Gk]
- sphalerite** /ˈsfælərɪt/ *n* zinc sulphide occurring as a mineral [G *sphalerit*, fr Gk *sphaleros* deceitful, fr *sphallein* to cause to fall - more at SPILL, fr its often being mistaken for galena]
- sphenodon** /ˈsfɛnədɒn/ , *sfɛnə-/ n* the tuatara [NL, deriv of Gk *sphen* wedge + *odon* tooth - more at TOOTH] - **sphenodont** /-dɒnt/ *adj*
- sphenoid** /ˈsfɛnoɪd/ *n* or *adj* (a bone at the base of the skull) shaped like a wedge [adj NL *sphenoides*, fr Gk *sphenoeidēs* wedge-shaped, fr *sphen* wedge, *n* fr *adj*] - **sphenoidal** *adj*
- spher-** /sfiə-/ , *sfer-/ , spher-* also **sphaer-**, **sphaero-** *comb form* sphere <*spherule*> <*spherometer*> [L *sphaer-*, fr Gk *sphaira*, *sphaero-*, fr *sphaira* sphere]
- sphere** /sfiə/ *n* **1a** a globe depicting the apparent surface of the heavens of which half forms the dome of the visible sky **b** any of the revolving spherical transparent shells in which, according to ancient astronomy, the celestial bodies are set **2a** a globular body; a ball **b** a planet, star *c* (a space or solid enclosed by) a surface, all points of which are equidistant from the centre **3** natural or proper place; *esp* social position or class **4** a field of action, existence, or influence [ME *sphere* globe, celestial sphere, fr MF *esphère*, fr L *sphaera*, fr Gk *sphaira*, lit, ball] - **spherical** *adj*, **spheric** /ˈsfɛrɪk/ *adj*, **sphericity** /sfiˈrɪsɪti/ *n*
- sphere** *vt* **1** to place or enclose in a sphere **2** to form into a sphere
- spherical** /ˈsfɛrɪk/ *adj* **1** having the form of (a segment of) a sphere **2** relating to or dealing with (the properties of) a sphere - **spherically** *adv*
- spherical aberration** *n* aberration that is caused by the spherical form of a lens or mirror and that gives different foci for central and marginal rays
- spherical angle** *n* the angle between 2 intersecting arcs of great circles of a sphere
- spherical coordinate** *n* any of 3 coordinates that are used to locate a point in space and that comprise 1 length and 2 angles
- spheroid** /ˈsfɛrɔɪd/ *n* a figure resembling a sphere - **spheroidal** /-ɔɪdɪl/ *adj*, **spheroidally** *adv*

**spherometer** /ˈsfɪəromɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the curvature of a surface [ISV]

**spherule** /ˈsfɪə(y)ooʊl, ˈsfɪ-/ *n* a little sphere or spherical body [LL *sphaerula*, dim of L *sphaera*]

**spherulite** /ˈsfɪə(y)ooʊlɪt, ˈsfɪ-/ *n* a spherical body of radiating crystal fibres found in some volcanic rocks - **spherulitic** /-ˈlɪtɪk/ *adj*

**sphincter** /ˈsfɪŋktə/ *n* a muscular ring, surrounding and able to contract or close a bodily opening - **digestion** [LL, fr Gk *sphinkter*, lit, band, fr *sphingēin* to bind tight] - **sphincteral** *adj*

**sphingid** /ˈsfɪŋɪd/ *n* a hawkmoth [deriv of Gk *sphing-*, *sphinx* sphinx]

**sphinx** /ˈsfɪŋks/ *n*, *pl* **sphinxes**, **sphinges** /-ˈjeɪz/ **1a** *cap* a female monster in Greek mythology, with a lion's body and a human head, that killed those who failed to answer it **b** an enigmatic or mysterious person **2** an ancient Egyptian image in the form of a recumbent lion, usu with a human head **3** a hawkmoth [L, fr Gk, akin to Gk *sphinkter* sphincter]

**sphygmomanometer** /ˈsfɪgməˈnɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring (arterial) blood pressure [Gk *sphygmios* pulse + ISV *manometer*, akin to Gk *asphyxia* stopping of the pulse - more at ASPHYXIA] - **sphygmomanometry** /-məˈnɒmətri/ *n*, **sphygmomanometric** /-məˈnɒməˈtrɪk/ *adj*, **sphygmomanometrically** *adv*

**spic**, **spick** /ˈspɪk/ *n*, *NAM* a spik

**spica** /ˈspɪkə/ *n*, *pl* **spicas** /-ˈseɪ/, **spicas** a bandage applied in successive crossing loops to immobilize a limb, esp at a joint [L, *spica* of grain more at SPIKE]

**spicate** /ˈspɪkeɪt/ *adj* pointed, spiked (a ~ *inflorescence*) [L *spicatus*, pp of *spicare* to arrange in the shape of heads of grain, fr *spica*]

**spiccato** /ˈspɪkətoʊ/ *n* or *adj*, *pl* **spiccatos** (a technique, performance, or passage) played *staccato*, 'how so that it rebounds from the string - used in music [It, pp of *spiccare* to detach, pick off]

**spice** /ˈspɪs/ *n* **1a** any of various aromatic vegetable products (e.g. pepper, ginger, or nutmeg) used to season or flavour foods **b** such products collectively **2** sth that adds zest or relish (variety's the very ~ of life - William Cowper) **3** a pungent or aromatic smell [ME, fr OF *espice*, fr LL *species* spices, fr L, *species*]

**spice** *vt* **1** to season with spice **2** to add zest or relish to (cynicism ~ d with wit)

**spicebush** /ˈboʊʃ/ *n* an aromatic N American shrub of the laurel family

**spicery** /ˈspɪs(ə)ri/ *n* spices

**spick-and-span**, **spic-and-span** /ˈspɪk and ˈspæn/ *adj* spotlessly clean and tidy, spruce [short for *spick-and-span-new*, fr obs *E. spick* (spike) + *E. and* + *span-new* (brand-new), fr ME, part trans of ON *spannyr*, fr *spann* chip of wood + *nyr* new]

**spicule** /ˈspɪkyooʊl, ˈspɪ-/ *n* **1** a minute slender pointed usu hard body, esp any of the minute bodies composed of calcium carbonate or silica that together support the tissue of various invertebrates (e.g. a sponge) **2** a jet of relatively cool gas rising through the lower atmosphere of the sun [NL & L, NL *spicula*, fr ML, arrowhead, alter of L *spiculum*, dim of *spica* spike of grain] - **spiculate** /-ˈlæt, -ˈlæt/ *adj*, **spiculiferous** /-ˈlɪfərəs/ *adj*

**spicy** /ˈspɪsi/ *adj* **1** lively, spirited (a ~ *temper*) **2** piquant, zestful **3** somewhat scandalous, risqué (~ *gossip*) [ˈspɪkɪ + ˈɪ - *spicily* *adv*, *spiciness* *n*]

**spider** /ˈspɪdə/ *n* any of an order of arachnids having a body with 2 main divisions, 4 pairs of walking legs, and 2 or more pairs of abdominal spinnerets for spinning threads of silk used for cocoons, nests, or webs [ME, alter of *spithre*, akin to OE *spinnan* to spin]

**spider crab** *n* any of numerous crabs with extremely long legs and nearly triangular bodies

**spider mite** *n* RED SPIDER

**spider monkey** *n* any of a genus of New World monkeys with long slender limbs, a rudimentary or absent thumb, and a very long prehensile tail

**spider's web** *n* the (geometrically patterned) silken web spun by most spiders and used as a resting place and a trap for small prey

**spiderweb** /-ˈweb/, *NAM* SPIDER'S WEB

**spiderwort** /-ˈwuɪt/ *n* *tradescantia*

**spidery** /ˈspɪd(ə)ri/ *adj* **1a** resembling a spider in form or manner, *specific* long, thin, and sharply angular like the legs of a spider **b** resembling a spider's web; esp composed of fine threads or lines in a weblike arrangement (~ *handwriting*) **2** infested with spiders

**spiegeleisen** /ˈʃpeɪdʒəlɪz(ə)n, ˈspee-/ *n* pig iron containing 15 to 30 per cent manganese [G, fr *spiegel* mirror + *eisen* iron]

**spiel** /ˈ(h)peɪl/ *vb*, chiefly *NAM* *vi* to talk volubly or extravagantly ~ *vt*

to utter or express volubly or extravagantly - usu + *off* *USE* *infrm* [G *spielen* to play, fr OHG *spilōn*; akin to OE *spilian* to revel] - **spieler** *n* **spiel** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a voluble talk designed to influence or persuade; patter - *infrm*

**spiffing** /ˈspɪfɪŋ/ *adj*, *Br* extremely good, excellent (auntie is a ~ *cook*) - not now in vogue [E dial *spiff* (dandified)]

**spifflicate** /ˈspɪflɪkəɪt/ *vt*, *Br* to defeat or destroy utterly; flatten - humor [origin unknown]

**spigot** /ˈspɪɡət/ *n* **1** a small plug used to stop up the vent of a cask **2** the part of a tap, esp on a barrel, which controls the flow **3** a plain end of a piece of piping or guttering that fits into an adjoining piece [ME, prob deriv of L *spica* spike of grain]

**spik**, **spic** /ˈspɪk/ *n*, *NAM* a Spanish-speaking (Latin) American - derog [alter of *spig*, short for *spigotty*, prob fr the broken E utterance *no speaka de English* ('I don't speak English'), supposed to be much used by Spanish Americans]

**spike** /ˈspɪk/ *n* **1** a very large nail **2a** any of a row of pointed iron pieces (e.g. on the top of a wall or fence) **b(1)** any of several metal projections set in the sole and heel of a shoe to improve traction **(2)** *pl* a pair of (athletic) shoes having spikes attached **3** the act or an instance of spiking in volleyball **4a** a pointed element in a graph or tracing **b** an unusually high and sharply defined maximum (e.g. of amplitude in a wave train) [ME, prob fr MD, akin to L *spina* thorn - more at SPINE]

**spike** *vt* **1** to fasten or provide with spikes (~ *the soles of climbing boots*) **2** to disable (a muzzle-loading cannon) by driving a spike into the vent **3** to pierce with or impale on a spike, *specific* to reject (newspaper copy), orig by impaling on a spike **4** to add spirits to (a nonalcoholic drink) **5** to drive (a volleyball) sharply downwards into an opponent's court **6** chiefly *NAM* to suppress or thwart completely (~ *d the rumour*) - **spiker** *n* - **spike someone's guns** to frustrate sb's opposition, foil an opponent

**spike** *n* **1** an ear of grain **2** an elongated plant inflorescence with the flowers stalkless on a single main axis - *PLANT* [ME *spik* head of grain, fr L *spica*, akin to L *spina* thorn]

**spiked** *adj* **1** having an inflorescence that is a spike **2** having a sharp projecting point

**spikelet** /ˈspɪkleɪt/ *n* a small or secondary spike, *specific* any of the small spikes that make up the compound inflorescence of a grass or sedge

**spikenard** /ˈspɪkənɑːd/ *n* (an E Indian aromatic plant of the valerian family believed to have given rise to) a fragrant ointment of the ancients [ME, fr MF or ML, MF *spicanarde*, fr ML *spica nardi*, lit, spike of nard]

**spiky** /ˈspɪki/ *adj* **1** having a sharp projecting point or points **2** caustic, aggressive (~ *rejoins*)

**spile** /ˈspɪl, ˈspɪl/ **1** *SPIGOT* **2** *NAM* a spout inserted in a tree to draw off sap [prob fr D *spyl* stake, akin to L *spina* thorn - more at SPINE]

**spile** *vt* to supply with a spile

**spill** /ˈspɪl/ *vb* **spilt** /ˈspɪlt/, *NAM* chiefly **spilled** *vt* **1** to cause (blood) to be shed **2a** to cause or allow to fall or flow out so as to be lost or wasted, esp accidentally **b** to empty, discharge (train *spilt its occupants into the platform*) **3** to empty (a sail) of wind **4** to throw off or out (his horse *spilt him*) **5** to let out, divulge (~ *a secret*) - *infrm* ~ *vi* **1a** to fall or flow out or over and become wasted, scattered, or lost **b** to cause or allow sth to spill **2** to spread profusely or beyond limits (crowds *spilt into the streets*) [ME *spillen*, fr OE *spilian* to kill, destroy, squander; akin to OHG *spaltan* to split, L *spolia* spoils, Gk *sphallein* to cause to fall] - **spillable** *adj*, **spiller** *n* - **spill the beans** to divulge information indiscreetly - *infrm*

**spill** *n* **1** a fall from a horse or vehicle **2** a quantity spilt

**spill** *n* a thin twist of paper or sliver of wood used esp for lighting a fire [ME *spille*]

**spillikin** /ˈspɪlɪkɪn/ *n* **1** any of the pieces used in spillikins **2** *pl* *but sing* in *constr* a game in which a set of thin rods or straws is allowed to fall in a heap with each player in turn trying to remove them **1** at a time without disturbing the rest [prob alter of obs D *spelleken* small peg]

**spillway** /ˈspɪlweɪ/ *n* a passage for surplus water from a dam

**spin** /ˈspɪn/ *vb* -*nn*; *spun* /ˈspʊn/ *vi* **1** to draw out and twist fibre into yarn or thread **2** *esp* of a spider or insect to form a thread by forcing out a sticky rapidly hardening fluid **3a** to revolve rapidly; whirl **b** to have the sensation of spinning, reel (my head is ~ *ning*) **4** to move swiftly, esp on wheels or in a vehicle **5** to fish with a spinning lure **6** of an aircraft to fall in a spin - *vt* **1a** to draw out and twist into yarns or threads **b** to produce (yarn or thread) by drawing out and twisting a fibrous material **2** to form (e.g. a web or cocoon) by spinning **3** to compose and tell (a usu involved or fictitious story) (is always ~ *ning yarns*) **4** to cause to revolve

rapidly (< ~ a top>); also to cause (a cricket ball) to revolve in the manner characteristic of spin bowling 5 to shape into threadlike form in manufacture, also to manufacture by a whirling process [ME *spinnen*, fr OE *spinnan*, akin to OHG *spinnan* to spin, L *sponte* voluntarily, Gk *span* to draw – more at SPAN]

**spin** *n* 1a the act or an instance of spinning sth b the whirling motion imparted (e.g. to a cricket ball) by spinning c a short excursion, esp in or on a motor vehicle 2 an aerial manoeuvre or flight condition consisting of a combination of roll and yaw with the longitudinal axis of the aircraft inclined steeply downwards and its wings in a state of (partial) stall 3 the property of an elementary particle that corresponds to intrinsic angular momentum, that can be thought of as rotation of the particle about its axis, and that is mainly responsible for magnetic properties 4 a state of mental confusion, a panic (< in a ~ >) – *infrml* – *spinless* *adj*

**spina bifida** /ˈspɪnəˈbɪfɪdə/ *n* a congenital condition in which there is a defect in the formation of the spine allowing the meninges to protrude and usu associated with disorder of the nerves supplying the lower part of the body [NL, *bifid* spinal column]


**spinach** /ˈspɪniː, -niː/ *n* (the leaves, eaten as food, of) a plant of the goosefoot family cultivated for its edible leaves [MF *espinache*, *espinage*, fr OSP *espinaca*, fr Ar *ʾisfānah*, fr Per]

**spinach beet** *n* a beet that lacks a fleshy root and is grown solely for its leaves that resemble spinach in flavour, also the leaves of spinach beet eaten as a vegetable

**spinal** /ˈspɪnəl/ *adj* 1 of or situated near the backbone 2 of or affecting the spinal cord (< ~ reflexes>) 3 of or resembling a spine – *spinally* *adv*

**spinal canal** *n* a canal that contains the spinal cord

**spinal column** *n* the skeleton running the length of the trunk and tail of a vertebrate that consists of a jointed series of vertebrae and protects the spinal cord

**spinal cord** *n* the cord of nervous tissue that extends from the brain lengthways along the back in the spinal canal, carries impulses to and from the brain, and serves as a centre for initiating and coordinating many reflex actions  *NERVE*

**spinal nerve** *n* any of the paired nerves that arise from the spinal cord, supply muscles of the trunk and limbs, and normally form 31 pairs in human beings

**spin bowling** *n* usu slower bowling in cricket in which the ball is made to spin by the bowler and so deviate from a straight line as it bounces

**spindle** /ˈspɪndl/ *n* 1a a round stick with tapered ends used to form and twist the yarn in hand spinning b the long slender pin by which the thread is twisted in a spinning wheel c any of various rods or pins holding a bobbin in a textile machine (e.g. a spinning frame) d the pin in a loom shuttle e the bar or shaft, usu of square section, that carries the knobs and actuates the latch or bolt of a lock 2 a spindle-shaped figure seen in microscopic sections of dividing cells along which the chromosomes are distributed 3a a turned often decorative piece (e.g. in a baluster) b a newel c a pin or axis about which sth turns [ME *spindel*, fr OE *spinet*; akin to OE *spinnan* to spin]


**spindle** *vi* **spindling** /ˈspɪndlɪŋ/ to grow into or have a long slender stalk – *spindler* *n*

**spindle tree** *n* any of a genus of often evergreen shrubs, small trees, or climbing plants typically having red fruits and a hard wood formerly used for spindle making

**spindly** /ˈspɪndli/ *adj* having an unnaturally tall or slender appearance, esp suggestive of physical weakness (< ~ legs>)

**spindrift** /ˈspɪndrɪft/ *n* sea spray [alter. of Sc *spendrift*, fr *spēen* to drive before a strong wind + E *drift*]

**spin-dry** *vt* to remove water from (wet laundry) by placing in a rapidly rotating drum – *spin-drier* *n*

**spine** /spɪn/ *n* 1a SPINAL COLUMN  *ANATOMY* b sth like a spinal column or constituting a central axis or chief support c the back of a book, usu lettered with the title and author's name 2 a stiff pointed plant part; esp one that is a modified leaf or leaf part 3 a sharp rigid part of an animal or fish; also a pointed prominence on a bone [ME, thorn, spinal column, fr L *spina*; akin to Latvian *spina* twig] – *spined* *adj*

**spine-chilling** *adj* causing fear or terror – *spine-chiller* *n*

**spinel** /ˈspɪnəl/ *n* any of a group of hard minerals that have a similar crystal structure and are oxides of 2 metals; esp a colourless to ruby-red or black oxide of magnesium and aluminium used as a gem [It *spinella*, dim. of *spina* thorn, fr L]

**spineless** /ˈspɪnɪləs/ *adj* 1 free from spines, thorns, or prickles 2a having no spinal column; invertebrate b lacking strength of character – *spinelessly* *adv*, *spinelessness* *n*

**spinet** /ˈspɪnɪt, ˈspɪnɪt/ *n* a small harpsichord having the strings at an angle to the keyboard [It *spinetta*, prob fr Giovanni *Spinetti* fl 1503, its reputed inventor]

**spinfex** /ˈspɪnɪfɛks/ *n* any of several Australian grasses with spiny seeds or stiff sharp leaves [NL, genus name, fr L *spina* + *facere* to make – more at 'do]

**spinnaker** /ˈspɪnəkə/ *n* a large triangular sail set forward of a yacht's mast on a long light pole and used when running before the wind [origin unknown]

**spinner** /ˈspɪnə/ *n* 1 a fisherman's lure consisting of a spoon, blade, or set of wings that revolves when drawn through the water 2 a conical fairing attached to an aircraft propeller hub and revolving with it 3 (a delivery bowled by) a bowler of spin bowling ['SPIN + -ER]

**spinneret** /ˈspɪnəˈret/ *n* 1 an organ, esp of a spider or caterpillar, for producing threads of silk from the secretion of silk glands 2 also *spinnerette* a small metal plate, thimble, or cap with fine holes through which a chemical solution (e.g. of cellulose) is forced in the spinning of man-made filaments

**spinney** /ˈspɪni/ *n*, Br a small wood with undergrowth [MF *espinaye* thorny thicket, fr *espine* thorn, fr L *spina*]

**spinning frame** /ˈspɪnɪŋ/ *n* a machine that draws, twists, and winds yarn

**spinning Jenny** /ˈdʒɛni/ *n* an early multiple-spindle machine for spinning wool or cotton [*Jenny*, nickname for *Jane*]

**spinning wheel** *n* a small domestic machine for spinning yarn or thread by means of a spindle driven by a hand- or foot-operated wheel

**spin-off** *n* a by-product <household products that are ~s of space research>, also sth which is a further development of some idea or product <a ~ from a successful TV series>

**spinose** /ˈspɪnoʊs, -noʊz/ *adj* SPINY 1 <a fly with black ~ legs> – *spinously* *adv*, *spinosity* /-ˈnosəti/ *n*

**spinous** /ˈspɪnoʊs/ *adj* 1 difficult or unpleasant to handle or meet 2 SPINY 1, 3 (< ~ appendages>) <a ~ larva>

**spin out** *vt* 1 to cause to last longer, esp by thrift <spinning out their meagre rations> 2 to extend, prolong <spin out a repair job> 3 to dismiss (a batsman in cricket) by spin bowling

**spinster** /ˈspɪnstə/ *n* 1 an unmarried woman 2 a woman who is past the usual age for marrying or who seems unlikely to marry [ME *spinnestere* woman engaged in spinning, fr *spinnen* to spin + -*stere* (-ster) – *spinsterhood* *n*, *spinsterish* *adj*]

**spintariscopes** /spɪnˈtʰanskəʊp/ *n* an instrument that consists of a fluorescent screen and a magnifying lens system for visual detection of alpha particles [Gk *spintaris* spark + E -scope]


**spinule** /ˈspɪnyoʊl/ *n* a minute spine [L *spinula*, dim of *spina* thorn – more at SPIN] – *spinulose* /-ˈyoʊloʊs/ *adj*

**spiny** /ˈspɪni/ *adj* 1 covered or armed with spines, broadly bearing spines, prickles, or thorns 2 full of difficulties or annoyances, thorny (< ~ problems>) 3 slender and pointed like a spine – *spiniess* *n*

**spiny anteater** *n* the echidna

**spiny lobster** *n* any of several edible crustaceans distinguished from the true lobster by the simple unenlarged first pair of legs and the spiny carapace

**spir-, spiri-, spiro-** *comb form* coil, twist <[*spira*] <[*spirochaete*] [LL *spir-*, fr L *spira* – more at 'SPIRE]

**spiracle** /ˈspɪərəkl, ˈspɪrəl/ *n* a breathing orifice (e.g. the blowhole of a whale or a tracheal opening in an insect)  *ANATOMY* [L *spiraculum*, fr *spirare* to breathe – more at SPIRIT] – *spiracular* /-ˈrakyoolə/ *adj*

**spiraea** /ˈspɪəriə/ *n* any of a genus of herbaceous plants or shrubs of the rose family that have small white or pink flowers in dense clusters and are commonly grown in gardens [NL, genus name, fr L, a plant, fr Gk *speiraia*, prob fr *speira* 'spire']

**spiral** /ˈspɪərəl/ *adj* 1a winding round a centre or pole and gradually approaching or receding from it (< the ~ curve of a watch spring>) b helical 2 of the advancement to higher levels through a series of cyclical movements <a ~ theory of social development> [ML *spiralis*, fr L *spira* coil] – *spirally* *adv*

**spiral** *n* 1a the path of a point in a plane moving round a central point while continuously receding from or approaching it b a 3-dimensional curve (e.g. a helix) with 1 or more turns about an axis 2 a single turn or coil in a spiral object 3a sth with a spiral form b a spiral flight 4 a continuously expanding and accelerating increase or decrease <wage ~s>

**spiral** *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-) *vi* to go, esp to rise, in a spiral course (<prices ~led>) – *vt* to cause to take a spiral form or course

**spiral binding** *n* a book or notebook binding in which a continuous

spiral wire or plastic strip is passed through holes along 1 edge

**spiral-bound** *adj*

**spiral galaxy** *n* a galaxy with a nucleus from which extend usu 2 spiral arms

**spiral nebula** *n* SPIRAL GALAXY

**spirant** /'spi:ərənt/ *n* a fricative [ISV, fr L *spirant-*, *spirans*, prp of *spirare* to breathe – more at SPIRIT] – **spirant** *adj*

**spire** /'spi:ə/ *n* 1 a slender tapering blade or stalk (e.g. of grass) 2 the upper tapering part of sth (e.g. a tree or antler) 3 a tall tapering roof or other construction on top of a tower – compare STEEPLE [ME, fr OE *spir*, akin to MD *spier* blade of grass, L *spina* thorn – more at SPINE] – **spired** *adj*, **spiry** *adj*

**spire** *vi* to taper up to a point like a spire

**spire** *n* 1 a spiral, coil 2 the inner or upper part of a spiral gastropod shell [L *spira* coil, fr Gk *spira*, akin to Gk *sparton* rope, esparto, Lith *springti* to choke in swallowing] – **spired** *adj*

**spire** *vi* to spiral

**spiri-** – see SPIR-


**spirillum** /'spi:riləm/ *n*, pl **spirilla** /-lə/ any of a genus of long curved bacteria, broadly a spirochaete or other spiral filamentous bacterium [NL, genus name, fr dim of L *spira* coil]

**spirit** /'spɪrɪt/ *n* 1 an animating or vital principle of living organisms 2 a supernatural being or essence e.g. a CAP HOY SPIRIT **b** SOUL 2 *c* a being that has no body but can become visible, specif GHOST 2 *d* a malevolent being that enters and possesses a human being 3 temper or state of mind – often pl with sing meaning <in high ~s> 4 the immaterial intelligent or conscious part of a person 5 the attitude or intention characterizing or influencing sth <undertaken in a ~ of fun> 6 liveliness, energy, also courage 7 devotion, loyalty <team ~s> 8 a person of a specified kind or character <she's such a kind ~> 9a distilled liquor of high alcoholic content – usu pl with sing meaning <a glass of ~s> **b** any of various volatile liquids obtained by distillation or cracking (e.g. of petroleum, shale, or wood) – often pl with sing meaning *c* ALCOHOL 1 10a prevailing characteristic <~ of the age> **b** the true meaning of sth (e.g. a rule or instruction) in contrast to its verbal expression 11 an alcoholic solution of a volatile substance <~ of camphor> [ME, fr OF or L, OF, fr L *spiritus*, lit., breath, akin to L *spirare* to blow, breathe, ON *fisa* to break wind] – **spiritless** *adj* – **in spirits** in a cheerful or lively frame of mind out of spirits in a gloomy or depressed frame of mind

**spirit** *vi* to carry off, esp secretly or mysteriously – usu + away or off <was ~ed away to a mountain hideout>

**spirited** *adj* 1 full of energy, animation, or courage <a ~ discussion> 2 having a specified frame of mind – often in combination <low-spirited> – **spiritedly** *adv*, **spiritedness** *n*

**spiritism** /'spi:ritɪz(ə)m/ *n* SPIRITUALISM 2 – **spiritist** *n*, **spiritistic** /-'tɪstɪk/ *adj*

**spirit level** *n* a level that uses the position of a bubble in a curved transparent tube of liquid to indicate whether a surface is level  BUILDING

**spirit of hartshorn** /'ha:ts,haw'n/, **spirits of hartshorn** *n* a solution of ammonia in water

**spiritous** /'spɪrɪtəs/ *adj* spirituous

**spirit rapping** *n* communication by raps (e.g. on a table) held to be made by the spirits of the dead

**spiritual** /'spɪrɪtʃuəl/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of spirit, incorporeal <man's ~ needs> 2a of sacred matters **b** ecclesiastical rather than lay or temporal 3 concerned with religious values 4 based on or related through sympathy of thought or feeling 5 of supernatural beings or phenomena [ME, fr MF & LL, MF *spirituel*, fr LL *spiritualis*, fr L, of breathing, of wind, fr *spiritus*] – **spiritualize** *vi*, **spiritually** *adv*, **spiritualness** *n*

**spiritual** *n* a usu emotional religious song of a kind developed esp among Negroes in the southern USA

**spiritualism** /'spɪrɪtʃuəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the doctrine that spirit is the ultimate reality 2 a belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living, esp through a medium or at a seance – **spiritualist** *n*, often *cap*, **spiritualistic** /-'tɪstɪk/ *adj*

**spirituality** /'spɪrɪtʃuəlɪti/ *n* 1 sensitivity or attachment to religious values 2 a practice of personal devotion and prayer [ME *spiritualite*, fr MF *spiritualité*, fr ML *spiritualitas*, *spiritualitas*, fr LL *spiritualis* spiritual]

**spirituel** /'spɪrɪtʃuəl/ *adj* having or marked by a refined and esp witty nature [F, lit., spiritual]

**spirituous** /'spɪrɪtʃuəs/ *adj* containing or impregnated with alcohol obtained by distillation <~ liquors> [prob fr F *spiritueux*, fr L *spiritus* spirit]

**spiro-** – see SPIR-


**spirochaete**, *NAm chiefly spirochete* /'spi:əroʊki:t/ *n* any of an order of slender spirally undulating bacteria including those causing syphilis and relapsing fever [NL *Spirochaeta*, genus of bacteria, fr L *spira* coil + Gk *chaite* long hair – more at 'SPIRE] – **spirochaetal** *adj*

**spiograph** /'spi:əgrəf/, -grəf/ *n* an instrument for recording respiratory movements [ISV] – **spiographic** /-'grəfɪk/ *adj*, **spiography** /'spi:əgrəfi/ *n*

**spirogyra** /'spi:ə'jɪ:ərə/ *n* any of a genus of freshwater green algae whose cells contain spiral chlorophyll bands [NL, genus name, fr Gk *spira* coil + *gyros* ring, circle – more at 'SPIRE, 'COWER]

**spirometer** /'spi:ə'rɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the air entering and leaving the lungs [ISV] – **spirometry** *n*, **spirometric** /-'rə'metɪk/ *adj*

**spit** /'spɪt/ *vb* or *n* 1 'SPURT

**spit** /'spɪt/ *n* 1 a slender pointed rod for holding meat over a source of heat (e.g. an open fire) 2 a small point of land, esp of sand or gravel, running into a river mouth, bay, etc  GEOGRAPHY [ME, fr OE *spitu*, akin to L *spina* thorn, spine]

**spit** *vi* -tt- to fix (as if) on a spit, impale

**spit** *vb* -tt-; **spat** /'spæt/, **spit** *vi* 1 to eject (e.g. saliva) from the mouth 2a to express (hostile or malicious feelings) (as if) by spitting <spat his contempt> **b** to utter vehemently or with a spitting sound <spat out his words> 3 to emit as if by spitting <the guns spat fire> ~ *vi* 1a to eject saliva from the mouth (as an expression of aversion or contempt) **b** to exhibit contempt 2 to rain or snow slightly or in flurries 3 to sputter [ME *spitten*, fr OE *spittan*, of imit origin] – **spit** it out to utter promptly what is in the mind

**spit** *n* 1a(1) spittle, saliva (2) the act or an instance of spitting **b** a frothy secretion exuded by some insects 2 perfect likeness – often in *spit and image* <he's the very ~ and image of his father>

**spit and polish** *n* extreme attention to cleanliness, orderliness, and ceremonial [fr the practice of cleaning objects such as shoes by spitting on them before polishing them]

**spite** /'spɪt/ *n* petty ill will or malice [ME, short for *despite*] – **spiteful** *adj*, **spitefully** *adv* – in **spite** of in defiance or contempt of <sorry in spite of himself>

**spite** *vi* to treat vindictively or annoy out of spite

**spitfire** /'spɪt,fɪə-/ *n* a quick-tempered or volatile person

**spitting cobra** /'spɪtɪŋ/ *n* either of 2 venomous African snakes that eject their venom towards the victim without striking

**spitting image** *n* 'SPIT 2 [alter of *spit and image*]

**spittle** /'spɪtl/ *n* 1 saliva (ejected from the mouth) 2 'SPIT 1b [ME *spetel*, fr OE *spæc* akin to OE *spittan*]

**spittlebug** /-'bʊg/ *n* a froghopper

**spittoon** /'spɪ'tu:hn/ *n* a receptacle for spit [*'spit* + -oon (as in *balloon*)]

**spiv** /'spɪv/ *n*, *Br* a shrewd individual who lives by sharp practice or petty fraud, specif a black marketeer operating esp after WW II [alter of E dial *spiff* (flashy dresser), fr *spiff* (dandified)] – **spivvery** *n*

**splanchnic** /'splæŋkɪk/ *adj* of the viscera [NL *splanchnicus*, fr Gk *splanchnikos*, fr *splanchna*, pl. viscera, akin to Gk *splen* spleen]

**splash** /'plæʃ/ *vi* 1a to strike and move about a liquid <~ed about in the bath> **b** to move through or into a liquid and cause it to spatter <~ through a puddle> 2a(1) to become splattered about (2) to spread or scatter in the manner of splashed liquid <sunlight ~ed over the lawn> **b** to flow, fall, or strike with a splashing sound <a brook ~ing over rocks> 3 chiefly *Br* to spend money liberally, splurge – usu + out <~ed out on a bottle of champagne> ~ *vi* 1a to dash a liquid or semiliquid substance on or against **b** to soil or stain with splashed liquid; spatter *c* to display very conspicuously <the affair was ~ed all over the local papers – Woman's Journal> 2a to cause (a liquid or semiliquid substance) to spatter about, esp with force **b** to spread or scatter in the manner of a splashed liquid <sunset ~ed its colours across the sky> [alter of *plash*] – **splasher** *n*

**splash** *n* 1a a spot or daub (as if) from splashed liquid <a mud ~ on the wing> **b** a usu vivid patch of colour or of sth coloured <~es of yellow tulips> 2a (the sound of) splashing **b** a short plunge 3 a vivid impression created esp by an ostentatious display 4 a small amount, esp of a mixer added to an alcoholic drink; a dash – **splashy** *n*

**splashback** /-'bæk/ *n* a panel or screen (e.g. behind a sink or cooker) to protect the wall from splashes

**splashdown** /-'daʊn/ *n* the landing of a spacecraft in the ocean – **splash down** *vi*



- splat** /splat/ *n* a single flat often ornamental piece of wood forming the centre of a chair back [obs *splat* (to spread flat), fr ME *splatten*]
- splatter** /splata/ *vi* to spatter ~ *vi* to scatter or fall (as if) in heavy drops <rain ~ ed against the windscreen> [prob blend of *splash* and *spatter*] – *splatterer* *n*
- play** /spla/ *vt* 1 to spread out 2 to make (e.g. the edges of an opening) slanting ~ *vi* 1 to become played 2 to slope, slant [ME *splayen*, short for *displayen* – more at *DISPLAY*]
- splay** *adj* turned outwards <~ knees>
- splayfoot** /-foot/ *n* a foot abnormally flattened and spread out – *splayfooted* /-footed/ *adj*
- spleen** /spleen/ *n* 1 a highly vascular ductless organ near the stomach or intestine of most vertebrates that is concerned with final destruction of blood cells, storage of blood, and production of lymphocytes 2 bad temper; spite 3 archaic melancholy [ME *splen*, fr MF or L, MF *esplen*, fr L *splen*, fr Gk *splēn*, akin to L *lien* spleen] – *spleeny* *adj*, *spleenful* *adj*
- spleenwort** /-wuht/ *n* any of a genus of ferns having spore clusters borne obliquely on the upper side of a leaf vein [fr the belief in its power to cure disorders of the spleen]
- splen-**, **spleno-** *comb form* spleen <splenectomy> <splenomegaly> [L, fr Gk *splēn*, *splēno-*, fr *splen*]
- splendent** /splendnt/ *adj* shining, glossy [ME, fr LL *splendens*, *splendens*, fr L, prp of *splendēre*]
- splendid** /splendid/ *adj* 1a shining, brilliant b magnificent, sumptuous 2 illustrious, distinguished 3 of the best or most enjoyable kind; excellent <a ~ picnic> [L *splendidus*, fr *splendēre* to shine, akin to Gk *splēdos* ashes, Skt *sphulinga* sparkle] – *splendidly* *adv*, *splendidness* *n*
- splendiferous** /splendif(ə)rəs/ *adj* splendid – *infrm* <his ~ eruption of eloquence – TLS> [splendour + -i- + -ferous] – *splendiferously* *adv*, *splendiferousness* *n*
- splendour**, *NAm* chiefly **splendor** /splenda/ *n* 1a great brightness or lustre; brilliance b grandeur, pomp 2 sthg splendid [ME *splendure*, fr AF *splendur*, fr L *splendor*, fr *splendēre*] – *splendorous*, *splendrous* *adj*
- splenectomy** /splɪnɛktəmi/ *n* surgical removal of the spleen [ISV] – *splenectomized* /-mɪzɪd/ *adj*
- splenetic** /splɪnɛtɪk/ *adj* 1 bad tempered, spiteful 2 archaic given to melancholy [LL *spleneticus*, fr L *splen* spleen] – *splenetic* *n*, *splenetically* *adv*
- splenic** /spleenɪk/ *adj* of or located in the spleen <~ blood flow> [L *splenicus*, fr Gk *splēnikos*, fr *splen* spleen]
- splenius** /spleenɪəs/ *n*, *pl* **splēnī** /-ni:/ a flat oblique muscle of each side of the back of the neck [NL, fr L *splenium* plaster, compress, fr Gk *splēnon*, fr *splēn*]
- splenomegaly** /spleenoh'megali/ *n* enlargement of the spleen [ISV *splen-* + Gk *megal-*, *megas* large – more at *MUCH*]
- splice** /splɪs/ *vt* 1a to join (e.g. ropes) by interweaving the strands b to unite (e.g. film, magnetic tape, or timber) by overlapping the ends or binding with adhesive tape 2 *Br* to unite in marriage; marry – *infrm* [obs D *spussen*; akin to MD *spalten* to split] – *splicer* *n*
- splice** *n* a joining or joint made by splicing
- spine** /spien/ *n* a key, ridge, or groove that prevents a shaft from turning freely in a surrounding sleeve [origin unknown] – *spined* *adj*
- splint** /splɪnt/ *n* 1 a thin strip of wood suitable for interweaving (e.g. into baskets) 2 material or a device used to protect and immobilize a body part (e.g. a broken arm) 3 a bony enlargement on the upper part of the cannon bone of a horse, usu on the inside of the leg [ME, fr MLG *splinte*, *splente*; akin to OHG *spaltan* to split – more at *SPILL*]
- splint** *vt* to support and immobilize (as if) with a splint
- splint bone** *n* either of the 2 slender rudimentary bones on either side of the cannon bone in the limbs of horses and related animals
- splinter** /splɪntə/ *n* 1 a sharp thin piece, esp of wood or glass, split or broken off lengthways 2 a small group or faction broken away from a parent body [ME, fr MD; akin to MLG *splinte* splint] – *splinter* *adj*, *splintery* *adj*
- splinter** *vt* 1 to split or rend into long thin pieces; shatter 2 to split into fragments, parts, or factions ~ *vi* to become splintered
- split** /splɪt/ *vb* -tt-, *splɪt* *vi* 1 to divide, esp lengthways 2a(1) to tear or rend apart; burst (2) to subject (an atom or atomic nucleus) to artificial disintegration, esp by fission b to affect as if by shattering or tearing apart <a roar that ~ the air> 3 to divide into parts or portions: e.g. a to divide between people; share <~ a bottle of wine at dinner> b to divide into opposing factions, parties, etc <the bill ~ the opposition> c to break down (a chemical compound) into constituents <~ a fat into glycerol and fatty acids>; also to remove by such separation d *NAm* to mark (a ballot) or cast (a vote) so as to vote for opposed candidates 4 to separate (constituent parts) by interposing sthg <~ an infinitive> ~ *vi* 1a to become split lengthways or into layers b to break apart; burst 2a to become divided up or separated off <~ into factions> b to sever relations or connections – often + *up* <~ up after 6 months' marriage> 3 to share sthg (e.g. loot or profits) with others – often + *with*, *infrm* 4 to let out a secret, act as an informer – often + *on*, slang <on the point of ~ting on the gang> – Dorothy Sayers> 5 to leave, esp hurriedly, depart – slang [D *spalten*, fr MD; akin to OHG *spaltan* to split – more at *SPILL*] – *splitter* *n* – *split hairs* to make oversubtle or trivial distinctions – *split one's sides* to laugh heartily – *split the difference* to compromise by taking the average of 2 amounts
- split** *n* 1 a narrow break made (as if) by splitting 2 a piece broken off by splitting 3 a division into divergent groups or elements, a breach <a ~ in party ranks> 4a splitting b *pl* but *sing* in *constr* the act of lowering oneself to the floor or leaping into the air with legs extended at right angles to the trunk 5 a wine bottle holding a quarter of the usual amount, also a small bottle of mineral water, tonic water, etc 6 a sweet dish composed of sliced fruit, esp a banana, ice cream, syrup, and often nuts and whipped cream
- split** *adj* 1 divided, fractured 2 prepared for use by splitting <~ bamboo> <~ hides>
- split infinitive** *n* an infinitive with a modifier between *to* and the verb
- split-level** *adj* divided so that the floor level in one part is less than a full storey higher than an adjoining part <a ~ house> – *split-level* *n*
- split pea** *n* a dried pea in which the cotyledons are usu split apart
- split personality** *n* a personality composed of 2 or more internally consistent groups of behaviour tendencies and attitudes each acting more or less independently of the other
- split pin** *n* a strip of metal folded double that can be used as a fastener by inserting it through a hole and then bending back the ends
- split ring** *n* a metal ring of 2 flat turns on which keys may be kept
- split 'second** *n* a fractional part of a second, a flash – *split-second* *adj*
- split shift** *n* a shift of working hours divided into 2 or more widely-separated working periods
- splitting** /splɪtɪŋ/ *adj* causing a piercing sensation <a ~ headache>
- sploodge** /splotʃ/ *vi* or *n*, *Br* (to) splotch – *infrm* [by alter] – *sploody* *adj*
- splosh** /splotʃ/ *vb* or *n* (to) splash – *infrm* [by alter]
- splotch** /splotʃ/ *n* a large irregular spot or smear, a blotch [per blend of *spot* and *blotch*] – *splotchy* *adj*
- splotch** *vt* to mark with a splotch or splotches
- spurge** /splɜːdʒ/ *n* 1 an ostentatious display or enterprise 2 an extravagant spending spree *USE* *infrm* [per blend of *splash* and *surge*]
- spurge** *vi* 1 to make a spurge 2 to spend money extravagantly – often + *on* <~ on a slap-up meal> ~ *vi* to spend extravagantly or ostentatiously *USE* *infrm*
- splutter** /splʌtə/ *vi* 1 to make a noise as if spitting 2 *SPUTTER* 2 ~ *vi* to utter hastily and confusedly [prob alter of *sputter*] – *splutter* *n*, *splutterer* *n*, *spluttery* *adj*
- Spode** /spohd/ *n* fine ceramic ware (e.g. bone china) made at the works established by Josiah Spode at Stoke [Josiah Spode †1827 E potter]
- spodumene** /spodyoomeen/ *n* a mineral that is a lithium aluminium silicate occurring as (very large) variously coloured crystals [prob fr F *spodumène*, fr G *spodumen*, fr Gk *spoudoumenos*, prp of *spoudousthai* to be burnt to ashes, fr *spodos* ashes]
- spoil** /spɔɪl/ *n* 1a plunder taken from an enemy in war or a victim in robbery; loot – often pl with *sing*, meaning b sthg gained by special effort or skill – usu pl with *sing*, meaning 2 earth and rock excavated or dredged [ME *spoile*, fr MF *espoille*, fr L *spolia*, pl of *spolium* – more at *SPILL*]
- spoil** *vb* **spoil** /spɔɪl/, *spoiled* *vt* 1a to damage seriously; ruin <heavy rain ~t the crops> b to impair the enjoyment of; mar <a quarrel ~t the celebration> 2a to impair the character of by overindulgence or excessive praise <~ an only child> b to treat indulgently; pamper c to cause to be unsatisfied with sthg inferior – usu + *for* <the good meals at this hotel will ~ us for canteen food> ~ *vi* 1 to lose good or useful qualities, usu as a result of decay <fruit soon ~s in warm weather> 2 to have an eager desire for – esp in *spoiling for a fight* [ME *spoilēn*, fr MF *espoillier*, fr L *spoliare*, fr *spolium*] – *spoilable* *adj*
- spoilage** /spɔɪlɪdʒ/ *n* 1 sthg spoiled or wasted 2 loss by being spoiled
- spoiler** /spɔɪlə/ *n* 1 a long narrow plate along the upper surface of an aircraft wing that may be raised for reducing lift and increasing drag



- FLIGHT 2** an air deflector at the front or rear of a motor vehicle to reduce the tendency to lift off the road at high speeds [ˈspɔɪl + ˈfɪt]
- 'spoil.sport** /-spawt/ *n* one who spoils the fun of others – *infml*
- 'spoke** /spohk/ *past & archaic past part* of **SPEAK**
- 2 spoke** *n* 1 any of the small radiating bars inserted in the hub of a wheel to support the rim 2 a rung of a ladder [ME, fr OE *spaca*, akin to MD *spike* spike]
- 3 spoke** *vt* to provide (as if) with spokes
- spoken** /spohkən/ *adj* 1a delivered by word of mouth, oral <a ~ request> b used in speaking or conversation, uttered <the ~ word> 2 characterized by speaking in a specified manner – in combination <soft-spoken> <plain-spoken> [pp of *speak*]
- 'spoke.shave** /-shayv/ *n* a plane having a blade set between 2 handles and used for shaping curved surfaces [ˈspoke]
- spokesman** /spohksmən/, *fem* **'spokes.woman** *n* one who speaks on behalf of another or others [prob irreg fr *spoke*, obs pp of *speak*]
- 'spokes.person** /-puhs(ə)n/ *n* a spokesman or spokeswoman
- spoliare** /spohli-ayt/ *vt* to despoil [L *spoliatus*, pp]
- spoliation** /spohli-aysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a the act of plundering b the state of being plundered, esp in war 2 the act of damaging or injuring, esp irreparably [ME, fr L *spoliatio*-, *spoliatio*, fr *spoliatus*, pp of *spoliare* to plunder – more at **'spoil**] – **spoliator** *n*
- sponde** /sponde/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 2 long or stressed syllables [ME *sponde*, fr MF or L; MF *sponde*, fr L *spondeum*, fr Gk *spondeios*, fr *spondeios* of a libation, fr *sponde* libation, fr its use in music accompanying libations] – **spondaic** /-ˈdayik/ *adj* or *n*
- spondulicks** /sponˈdyoohiks/ *n pl* funds, money – slang, chiefly humor [perh fr Gk *spondyliks*, *adj*, fr *spondylos* species of shell sometimes used as currency]
- spondylitis** /spondiˈlietəs/ *n* inflammation of the spinal vertebrae [NL, fr Gk *sphondylos*, *spondylos* vertebra, lit, whorl, akin to Gk *sphadazein* to jerk, *sphendone* sling]
- 'sponge** /spunj, spunzh/ *n* 1a(1) an elastic porous mass of interlacing horny fibres that forms the internal skeleton of various marine animals and is able when wetted to absorb water (2) a piece of sponge (e.g. for cleaning) (3) a porous rubber or cellulose product used similarly to a sponge b any of a phylum of aquatic lower invertebrate animals that are essentially double-walled cell colonies and permanently attached as adults 2 a sponger 3a raised dough (e.g. for yeast bread) b a sponge cake or sweet steamed pudding made from a sponge-cake mixture c a metal (e.g. platinum) in the form of a porous solid composed of fine particles [ME, fr OE, fr L *spongia*, fr Gk]
- 2 sponge** *vt* 1 to cleanse, wipe, or moisten (as if) with a sponge 2 to remove or erase by rubbing (as if) with a sponge 3 to obtain by sponging on another <~ the price of a pint> 4 to soak up (as if) with or in the manner of a sponge ~ *vi* to obtain esp financial assistance by exploiting natural generosity or organized welfare facilities – usu + *on*
- 'sponge.bag** *n, Br* a small waterproof usu plastic bag for holding toilet articles
- 'sponge.cake** *n* a light sweet cake made with (approximately) equal quantities of sugar, flour, and eggs but no shortening
- sponger** /spunja/ *n* one who lives off others, esp by exploiting natural generosity [ˈSPONGE + ˈ-ɪr]
- .sponge** **'rubber** *n* cellular rubber resembling a natural sponge in structure
- spongy** /spunj/ *adj* 1 resembling a sponge, esp in being soft, porous, absorbent, or moist 2 of a metal in the form of a sponge – **sponginess** *n*
- 'sponson** /spuns(ə)n/ *n* 1 a projection from the side of a ship or tank enabling a gun to fire forwards 2 a light air-filled structure protruding from the hull of a seaplane to steady it on water [prob by shortening & alter. fr *expansion*]
- 'sponsor** /spons/ *n* 1 sby who presents a candidate for baptism or confirmation and undertakes responsibility for his/her religious education or spiritual welfare 2 sby who assumes responsibility for some other person or thing 3 sby who or sth that pays for a project or activity [LL, fr L, guarantor, surety, fr *sponsus*, pp of *spondere* to promise – more at **SPOUSE**] – **sponsorship** *n*, **sponsorial** /-ˈsawn-ɪ-əl/ *adj*
- 2 sponsor** *vt* to be or stand as sponsor for
- spontaneous** /sponˈtaynyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj* 1 proceeding from natural feeling or innate tendency without external constraint <a ~ expression of gratitude> 2 springing from a sudden impulse <a ~ offer of help> 3 controlled and directed internally 4 developing without apparent external influence, force, cause, or treatment <~ recovery from a severe illness> 5 not contrived or manipulated, natural [LL *spontaneus*, fr L *sponte* of
- one's free will, voluntarily – more at **SPIN**] – **spontaneously** *adv*, **spontaneousness** *n*, **spontaneity** /sponˈtayni/ *n*
- spontaneous combustion** *n* self-ignition of combustible material through chemical action (e.g. oxidation) of its constituents
- spontaneous generation** *n* abiogenesis
- sponton** /sponˈtoohn/ *n* a short pike formerly borne by subordinate officers of infantry [F *sponton*, fr lt *spuntone*, fr *punta* sharp point, fr (assumed) VL *puncta* – more at **POINT**]
- 'spoof** /spooht/ *vt* 1 to deceive, hoax 2 to make good-natured fun of, lampoon *USE* *infml* [Spool, a hoaxing game invented by Arthur Roberts †1933 E comedian]
- 2 spoof** *n* 1 a hoax, deception 2 a light, humorous, but usu telling parody *USE* *infml* – **spoof** *adj*
- 'spook** /spook/ *n* a ghost, spectre – chiefly *infml* [D, akin to MLG *spok* ghost] – **spookish** *adj*
- 2 spook** *vb*, chiefly *NAM* *vt* to make frightened or frantic, esp to startle into violent activity (e.g. stampeding) <~ ed the herd of horses> ~ *vi* to become frightened
- spooky** /spooki/ *adj* causing irrational fear, esp because suggestive of supernatural presences, eerie – chiefly *infml* [ˈspook + ˈ-ɪ]
- 'spool** /spool/ *n* 1 a cylindrical device on which wire, yarn, film, etc is wound 2 (the amount of) material wound on a spool 3 chiefly *NAM* ˈRI LL C [ME *spole*, fr MF or MD, MF *espole*, fr MD *spoelle*, akin to OHG *spuola* spool]
- 2 spool** *vt* to wind on a spool
- 'spoon** /spoon/ *n* 1a an eating, cooking, or serving implement consisting of a small shallow round or oval bowl with a handle b a spoonful 2 sth curved like the bowl of a spoon (e.g. a usu metal or shell fishing lure) [ME, fr OE *spōn* splinter, chip, akin to OHG *spān* splinter, chip, Gk *sphen* wedge]
- 2 spoon** *vt* 1 to take up and usu transfer (as if) in a spoon <~ ed soup into his mouth> 2 to propel (a ball) weakly upwards ~ *vi* to indulge in caressing and amorous talk – not now in vogue [vi fr *spoon*, *n* (simpleton, doting lover, sweetheart), fr *'spoon*]
- 'spoon.bill** /-bɪl/ *n* any of several wading birds, that have the bill greatly expanded and flattened at the tip
- spoonerism** /spooɪnəˈrɪz(ə)m/ *n* a transposition of usu initial sounds of 2 or more words (e.g. in *tons of soil* for *sons of toil*) [William Spooner †1930 E clergyman & scholar]
- 'spoon.feed** *vt* 1 to feed by means of a spoon 2a to present (e.g. information or entertainment) in an easily assimilable form that precludes independent thought or critical judgment <~ political theory to students> b to present information to in this manner
- 'spoonful** /-ˈtuːl/ *n, pl* spoonfuls also **spoonsful** as much as a spoon will hold
- 'spoor** /spoor, spaw/ *n* a track, a trail, or droppings, esp of a wild animal [Afrk, fr MD, akin to OE *spor* footprint, *spurnan* to kick – more at **SPURN**]
- 2 spoor** *vb* to track (sthg) by a spoor
- spor-, spori-, sporo-** *comb form* seed, spore <sporangium> <sporocidal> [NL *spora*]
- sporadic** /spəˈradɪk, spaw-/ *adj* occurring occasionally or in scattered instances [ML *sporadicus*, fr Gk *sporadikos*, fr *sporaden* here and there, fr *sporad-*, *sporas* scattered, akin to Gk *speirein* to sow] – **sporadically** *adv*
- sporangiophore** /spəˈranjɪ-əˈfaw/ *n* a stalk or receptacle bearing sporangia
- sporangium** /spəˈranjɪ-əm/ *n, pl* sporangia /-jɪ-ə/ a case or cell within which usu asexual spores are produced [NL, fr *spor-* + Gk *angeion* vessel – more at **ANGI-**] – **sporangial** *adj*
- spore** /spaw/ *n* a primitive usu single-celled hardy reproductive body produced by plants, protozoans, bacteria, etc and capable of development into a new individual either on its own or after fusion with another spore [NL *spora* seed, spore, fr Gk, act of sowing, seed, fr *speirein* to sow – more at **SPROUT**] – **spored** *adj*, **sporiferous** /spawˈrɪfərəs, spə-/ *adj*
- sporocyst** /spawˈroʊsɪst, -rə-/ *n* a resting cell (e.g. in slime moulds and algae) that may give rise to asexual spores [ISV] – **sporocystic** /ˈsɪstɪk/ *adj*
- .sporo.genesis** /-ˈjenəsɪs/ *n* reproduction by or formation of spores [NL]
- sporo.genous** /spəˈrɔjɪnəs/ *adj* of, involving, or reproducing by sporogenesis
- sporophyte** /spawˈrɔfɪt/ *n* (a member of) the generation of a plant exhibiting alternation of generations that bears asexual spores [ISV] – **sporophytic** /-ˈfɪtɪk/ *adj*

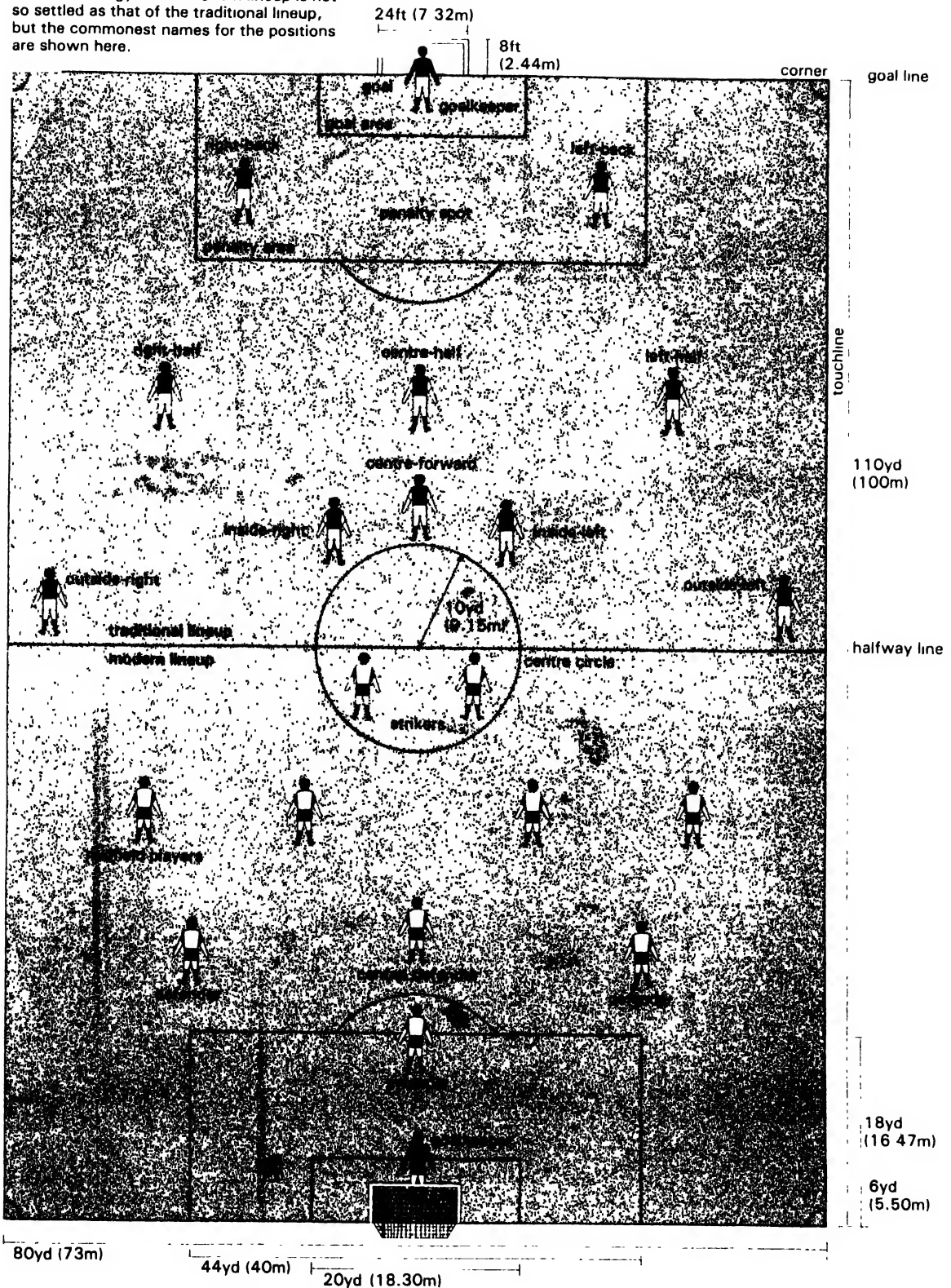
- sporous** /-sp(ə)rəs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) spores (<homosporous> [NL *spora* spore] – **-spory** *comb form* (→ *n*))
- sporozyan** /spawrə'zoh-ən/ *n* any of a large class of strictly parasitic protozoans that have a complicated life cycle usu involving both asexual and sexual generations often in different hosts and include important pathogens (e.g. malaria parasites and coccidia) [NL *Sporozoa*, class name, fr *spor-* + *-zoa*] – **sporozyan** *adj*
- sporozoite** /spawrə'zoh-iet/ *n* an infectious form of some sporozoans that is a product of sporogony and initiates an asexual cycle in the new host [NL *Sporozoa* + ISV *-ite*]
- sporran** /spɒrən/ *n* a pouch of animal skin with the hair or fur on that is worn in front of the kilt with traditional Highland dress  **GARMENT** [ScGael *sporran* purse]
- \*sport** /spawt/ *vt* 1 to exhibit for all to see; show off (< a new hat> 2 to put forth as a sport or bud variation ~ *vi* 1 to play about happily; frolic (<lamb ~ing in the meadow> 2 to speak or act in jest, trifle 3 to deviate or vary abruptly from type [ME *sporten* to divert, disport, short for *disporten*, (vt 2 & vi 3) 'sport 5]
- \*sport** *n* 1a a source of diversion or recreation; a pastime b(1) physical activity engaged in for recreation (2) a particular activity (e.g. hunting or athletics) so engaged in  2a pleasantries, jest (<only made the remark in ~> b mockery, derision 3 sby or sth manipulated by outside forces (<was made the ~ of fate> 4 sby who is fair, generous, and esp a good loser 5 an individual exhibiting a sudden deviation from type beyond the normal limits of individual variation 6 chiefly NAm a playboy 7 Austr – used in informal address, chiefly to men
- sporting** /spawtɪŋ/ *adj* 1a concerned with, used for, or suitable for sport b marked by or calling for sportsmanship c involving such risk as a sports competitor might take or encounter (<a ~ chance> d fond of or taking part in sports (<~ nations> 2 chiefly NAm of or for sports that involve betting or gambling – **sportingly** *adv*
- sportive** /spawtɪv/ *adj* frolicsome, playful – **sportively** *adv*, **sportiveness** *n*
- sports** /spawts/, NAm chiefly **sport** *adj* of or suitable for sports (<~ equipment>); esp styled in a manner suitable for casual or informal wear (<~ coats>)
- \*sports car** *n* a low fast usu 2-passenger motor car
- \*sportsman** /-mən/, *fem* **\*sportswoman** *n* 1 sby who engages in sports, esp blood sports 2 sby who is fair, a good loser, and a gracious winner – **sportsmanlike** *adj*
- \*sportsmanship** /-ship/ *n* conduct becoming to a sportsman
- sporty** /spawti/ *adj* 1 fond of sport 2a notably look or dissipated; fast (<ran around with a very ~ crowd> b flashy, showy (<~ clothes> 3 suggestive of or capable of giving good sport (<the car had a very ~ feel> **USE** infml – **sportily** *adv*, **sportiness** *n*
- sporulation** /spɔr(y)'oo'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the formation of spores; esp division into many small spores [ISV, fr NL *sporula*, dim of *spora* spore] – **sporulate** /-layt/ *vi*, **sporulative** /-lətɪv/ *adj*
- \*spot** /spot/ *n* 1 a blemish on character or reputation; a stain 2a a small usu round area different (e.g. in colour or texture) from the surrounding surface b(1) an area marked or marked (e.g. by dirt) (2) a small surface patch of diseased or decayed tissue (<the ~s that appear in measles> (<rust ~s on a leaf>); also a pimple c a conventionalized design used on playing cards to distinguish suits and indicate values 3 a small amount; a bit (<had a ~ of bother with the car> 4 a particular place or area (<a nice ~ for a picnic> 5a a particular position (e.g. in an organization or hierarchy) (<a good ~ as the director's secretary> b a place on an entertainment programme 6 **SPOTLIGHT** 1a 7 a usu difficult or embarrassing position; **FIX** 1 8 chiefly NAm an object having a specified number of spots or a specified numeral on its surface [ME; akin to MD *spotte* stain, speck, ON *spotti* small piece] – on the spot 1 in one place; without travelling away (<running on the spot> 2 at the place of action; available at the appropriate place and time 3 in an awkward or embarrassing position (<his subordinate's mistake put him on the spot>)
- \*spot** *vb* -tt- *vt* 1 to sully the character or reputation of; disgrace 2 to mark or mar (as if) with spots 3a to single out; identify b to detect, notice (<~ a mistake> c to watch for and record the sighting of (<~ a rare species of duck> 4 to locate accurately (<~ an enemy position> 5a to lie at intervals in or on b to fix in or as if in the beam of a spotlight ~ *vi* 1 to become stained or discoloured in spots 2 to cause a spot; leave a stain 3 to act as a spotter; esp to locate targets 4 chiefly Br to fall lightly in scattered drops (<it's ~ing with rain again> – **spottable** *adj*
- \*spot** *adj* 1a being, originating, or done on the spot or in or for a particular spot b available for immediate delivery after sale (<~ commodities> c(1) paid out immediately (<~ cash> (2) involving immediate cash payment
- <a ~ sale> d broadcast between scheduled programmes (<~ announcements> 2 given on the spot or restricted to a few random places or instances (<a ~ check> (<~ prizes>); also selected at random or as a sample
- spot-check** *vb* to make a quick or random sampling or investigation (of)
- \*spotless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 free from dirt or stains, immaculate (<~ kitchens> 2 pure, unblemished (<~ reputation> – **spotlessly** *adv*, **spotlessness** *n*
- \*spotlight** /-liet/ *n* 1a a projected spot of light used for brilliant illumination of a person or object on a stage b full public attention (<held the political ~> 2a a light designed to direct a narrow intense beam on a small area b sth that illuminates brightly or elucidates
- \*spotlight** *vt* to illuminate (as if) with a spotlight
- spot-on** *adj*, Br 1 absolutely correct or accurate 2 exactly right (<a shirt that looks ~ with jeans> **USE** infml – **spot-on** *adv*
- spotted** /spotɪd/ *adj* 1 marked with spots 2 sullied, tarnished (<inherited a ~ name>)
- spotted 'dick** /dik/ *n*, Br a steamed or boiled sweet suet pudding containing currants [Dick, nickname for Richard]
- spotter** /spɒtə/ *n* 1 sby or sth that makes or applies a spot (e.g. for identification) 2 sby or sth that keeps watch or observes, esp a person who watches for and notes down vehicles (e.g. aircraft or trains)
- spotty** /spoti/ *adj* 1a marked with spots b having spots, esp on the face (<a ~ youth> 2 lacking evenness or regularity, esp in quality (<~ attendance> – **spottily** *adv*, **spottiness** *n*
- spouse** /spəʊs, spəʊz/ *n* a married person, a husband or wife [ME, fr OF *espous* (masc) & *espouse* (fem), fr L *sponsus* betrothed man, groom & *sponsa* betrothed woman, bride, fr *sponsus*, pp of *spondere* to promise, betroth; akin to Gk *spendēin* to take a libation, promise, *sponde* libation (pl, treaty)]
- \*spout** /spəʊt/ *vt* 1 to eject (e.g. liquid) in a copious stream (<wells ~ing oil> 2 to speak or utter in a strident, pompous, or hackneyed manner, declaim (<~ party slogans> – infml ~ *vi* 1 to issue with force or in a jet, spurt 2 to eject material, esp liquid, in a jet 3 to declaim – infml [ME *spouten*; akin to MD *spotten* to spout, OE *spriwan* to spew] – **spouter** *n*
- \*spout** *n* 1 a projecting tube or lip through which liquid issues from a teapot, roof, kettle, etc 2 a discharge or jet of liquid (as if) from a pipe – **spouted** *adj* – up the spout 1 beyond hope of improvement, ruined infml 2 pregnant – slang
- \*sprain** /sprayn/ *n* 1 a sudden or violent twist or wrench of a joint with stretching or tearing of ligaments 2 a sprained condition [origin unknown]
- \*sprain** *vt* to subject to sprain
- sprang** /sprang/ *past of SPRING*
- sprat** /sprat/ *n* a small or young herring, also the young of a similar fish [alter. of ME *sprot*, fr OE *sprott*]
- \*sprawl** /sprawl/ *vi* 1 to lie or sit with arms and legs spread out carelessly or awkwardly 2 to spread or develop irregularly (<a town that ~s across the countryside> ~ *vt* to cause (e.g. one's limbs) to spread out [ME *sprawlen*, fr OE *spreawlan*]
- \*sprawl** *n* 1 a sprawling position 2 an irregular spreading mass or group (<a ~ of buildings>)
- \*spray** /spray/ *n* 1 a usu flowering branch or shoot 2 a decorative arrangement of flowers and foliage (e.g. on a dress) 3 sth (e.g. a jewelled pin) resembling a spray [ME]
- \*spray** *n* 1 fine droplets of water blown or falling through the air (<the ~ from the waterfall> 2a a jet of vapour or finely divided liquid b a device (e.g. an atomizer or sprayer) by which a spray is dispersed or applied c(1) an application of a spray (<give the roses a ~> (2) a substance (e.g. paint or insecticide) so applied 3 sth (e.g. a number of small flying objects) resembling a spray [obs *spray* (to sprinkle), fr MD *sprayen*; akin to Gk *speirein* to scatter – more at **SPROUT**]
- \*spray** *vt* 1 to discharge, disperse, or apply as a spray 2 to direct a spray on – **sprayer** *n*
- \*spray gun** *n* an apparatus resembling a gun for applying a substance (e.g. paint or insecticide) in the form of a spray
- \*spread** /spred/ *vb* **spread** *vi* 1a to open or extend over a larger area – often + *cut* (<~ out the map> b to stretch out; extend (<~ its wings for flight> c to form (the lips) into a long narrow slit (e.g. when pronouncing the vowel /ec/) 2a to distribute over an area (<~ manure> b to distribute over a period or among a group (<~ the work over a few weeks> c(1) to apply as a layer or covering (2) to cover or overlay with sth (<~ bread with butter> d to prepare for dining; set (<~ the table> 3a to make widely known (<~ the news> b to extend the range or incidence of (<~ a disease>

- c to diffuse, emit (*flowers ~ ing their fragrance*) 4 to force apart ~ *vt* 1a to become dispersed, distributed, or scattered (*a race that ~ across the globe*) b to become known or disseminated (*panic ~ rapidly*) 2 to cover a greater area; expand 3 to be forced apart (e.g. from pressure or weight) [ME *spreden*, fr OE *spredan*; akin to OHG *spreiten* to spread, OE *sp-rutan* to sprout – more at *SPROUT*] – *spreadable* *adj*, *spreader* *n*, *spreadability* /-də'bɪləti/ *n*
- \*spread** *n* 1 (extent of) spreading 2 sth spread out e.g. a surface area, an expanse b(1) a prominent display in a newspaper or periodical (2) (the matter occupying) 2 facing pages, usu with printed matter running across the fold c a wide obstacle for a horse to jump 3 sth spread on or over a surface: e.g. a food product suitable for spreading b a sumptuous meal, a feast c a cloth cover, esp a bedspread
- \*spread-eagle** *vb* to (cause to) stand or lie with arms and legs stretched out wide, (cause to) sprawl (*lay ~ d on the lawn*) [*spread eagle* (a representation, esp in heraldry, of an eagle with wings raised & legs extended)]
- spree** /spre/ *n* a bout of unrestrained indulgence in an activity (*went on a shopping ~*); esp a binge [perh alter of Sc *spreath* cattle raid, foray, fr ScGael *spreidh* cattle, fr L *praeda* booty – more at *PREY*]
- \*spring** /sprɪŋ/ *n* 1 a small shoot or twig 2 an ornament in the form of a sprig 3 a small headless nail 4 a young offspring, *specif* a youth – chiefly derog; infml [ME *springe*]
- \*spring** *vt* -gg- to decorate with a representation of plant sprigs
- sprightly** /sprɪtli/ *adj* marked by vitality and liveliness, spirited [obs *spright* (sprite), alter of *sprite*] – *sprightliness* *n*, *sprightly* *adv*
- \*spring** /sprɪŋ/ *vb* *sprang* /sprɪŋ/, *sprung* /sprʊŋ/, *sprung* *vi* 1a(1) to dart, shoot (2) to be resilient or elastic; also to move by elastic force (*the lid sprang shut*) b to become warped 2 to issue suddenly and copiously, pour out (*the tears sprang from her eyes*) 3a to grow as a plant b to issue by birth or descent c to come into being; arise (*the project ~ s from earlier research*) 4a to make a leap or leaps (*sprang towards the door*) b to rise or jump up suddenly (*sprang to his feet when the bell rang*) 5 to extend in height, rise (*the tower ~ s to 90 metres*) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to spring 2 to split, crack (*wind sprang the mast*) 3a to cause to operate suddenly (*~ a trap*) b to bring into a specified state by pressing or bending (*~ a bar into place*) 4 to leap over 5 to produce or disclose suddenly or unexpectedly (*~ a surprise on them*) (*sprang a leak*) 6 to release from prison – infml [ME *springen*, fr OE *springan*, akin to OHG *springan* to jump, Gk *sperechesthai* to hasten]
- \*spring** *n* 1a a source of supply, esp an issue of water from the ground b an ultimate source, esp of thought or action (*the inner ~ s of being*) 2 a time or season of growth or development, *specif* the season between winter and summer comprising, in the northern hemisphere, the months of March, April, and May 3 a mechanical part that recovers its original shape when released after deformation ~ *CAR* 4a the act or an instance of leaping up or forward, a bound b(1) capacity for springing, resilience (2) bounce, energy (*a man with ~ in his step*)
- spring balance** *n* a device using a spiral spring for measuring weight or force
- \*springboard** /-bawd/ *n* 1 a flexible board secured at one end that a diver or gymnast jumps off to gain extra height 2 sth that provides an initial stimulus or impetus
- springbok** /springbok/ *n*, *pl* *springboks*, (*l*) *springboks*, esp collectively *springbok* 1 a swift and graceful southern African gazelle noted for its habit of springing lightly and suddenly into the air 2 often *cap* a sportsman or sportswoman representing S Africa in an international match or tour abroad [Afrik, fr *spring* to jump + *bok* male goat]
- \*spring-clean** *vt* 1 to give a thorough cleaning to (e.g. a house or furnishings) 2 to put into a proper or more satisfactory order (*~ government department*) ~ *vi* to spring-clean a house [back-formation fr *spring-cleaning* (thorough cleaning), fr *\*spring* 2] – *spring-clean* *n*
- springe** /sprɪŋ/, *sprinzh* / *n* a snare for catching small animals [ME *sprenge*, *springe*; akin to OE *springan* to spring]
- springer spaniel** /spring-ɔ/ *n* a medium-sized sporting dog of either of 2 breeds that is used chiefly for finding and flushing small game [*\*spring* (to flush game)]
- \*spring 'green** *n* a young green cabbage that is picked before the heart has fully developed – usu *pl*
- \*Spring 'Holiday** *n* the last Monday in May observed as a public holiday in England, Wales, and N Ireland
- \*spring-loaded** *adj* loaded or secured by means of spring tension or compression
- \*spring 'onion** *n* an onion with a small mild-flavoured thin-skinned bulb and long shoots that is chiefly eaten raw in salads
- \*spring,tail** /-taylor/ *n* any of an order of small primitive wingless insects
- \*spring 'tide** *n* a tide of maximum height occurring at new and full moon
- \*spring,time** /-tiem/ *n* *SPRING* 2, also *YOUTH* 1
- spring up** *vi* to begin to blow (*a breeze quickly sprang up*)
- \*springy** /'sprɪŋ-ɪ/ *adj* having an elastic or bouncy quality; resilient (*walked with a ~ step*) [*\*SPRING* + *-y*] – *springily* *adv*, *springiness* *n*
- \*sprinkle** /'sprɪŋkl/ *vb* *sprinkling* /'sprɪŋklɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to scatter in fine drops or particles 2a to distribute (sth) at intervals (as if) by scattering b to occur at (random) intervals on; dot (*meadows ~ d with flowers*) c to wet lightly ~ *vi* to rain lightly in scattered drops [ME *spreklen*, *sprinclen*, akin to MHG *spreckel*, *spreken* spot, OE *spearca* spark]
- \*sprinkle** *n* 1 an instance of sprinkling, *specif* a light fall of rain 2 a sprinkling
- sprinkler** /'sprɪŋklə/ *n* a device for spraying a liquid, esp water. e.g. a fire extinguishing system that works automatically on detection of smoke or a high temperature b an apparatus for watering a lawn – *sprinklered* *adj*
- sprinkling** /'sprɪŋklɪŋ/ *n* a small quantity or number, esp falling in scattered drops or particles or distributed randomly
- \*sprint** /sprɪnt/ *vi* to run or ride a bicycle at top speed, esp for a short distance [of Scand origin, akin to Sw dial. *sprnta* to jump, hop, akin to OHG *sprinzan* to jump up, Gk *spyrtizein*] – *sprinter* *n*
- \*sprint** *n* 1 (an instance of) sprinting 2a a short fast running, swimming, or bicycle race b a burst of speed
- sprit** /sprɪt/ *n* a spar that crosses a 4-cornered fore-and-aft sail diagonally to support the peak [ME *spret*, *sprit*, fr OE *spreot* pole, spear; akin to OE *-sprutan* to sprout]
- sprite** /sprɪt/ *n* a (playful graceful) fairy [ME *sprit*, fr OF *esprit*, fr L *spiritus* spirit]
- spritsail** /sprɪts(ə)l/, -saylor/ *n* a sail extended by a sprit
- sprocket** /'sprɒkɪt/ *n* 1 a tooth or projection on the rim of a wheel, shaped so as to engage the links of a chain 2 also *sprocket wheel* a wheel or cylinder having sprockets (e.g. to engage a bicycle chain) [origin unknown]
- \*sprout** /sprəʊt/ *vi* 1 to grow, spring up, or come forth as (if) a shoot 2 to send out shoots or new growth ~ *vt* to send forth or up; cause to develop or grow [ME *sprouten*, fr OE *-sprutan*; akin to OHG *sprozzan* to sprout, Gk *speirein* to scatter, sow]
- \*sprout** *n* 1 a (young) shoot (e.g. from a seed or root) 2 BRUSSELS SPROUT
- \*spruce** /sprʊts/ *n* any of a genus of evergreen coniferous trees with a conical head of dense foliage and soft light wood [obs *Spruce* (Prussia), fr ME, alter of *Pruce*, fr OF]
- \*spruce** *adj* neat or smart in dress or appearance; trim (*his ~ black coat and his bowler hat* – W S Maugham) [perh fr obs *Spruce leather* (leather imported from Prussia)] – *sprucely* *adv*, *spruceness* *n*
- \*spruce** *vt* to make spruce ~ *vi* to make oneself spruce *USE* usu + *up*
- \*sprue** /sproʊh/ *n* a tropical long-lasting disease marked esp by diarrhoea and symptoms of food and vitamin deficiency [D *spruw*; akin to MLG *spruwe*, a kind of tumour]
- \*sprue** *n* (a waste piece moulded in) the hole through which molten metal or plastic enters a mould [origin unknown]
- spruit** /sprayt/ *n*, SAfr a small watercourse that is usu dry except in the rainy season [Afrnk, sprout, small stream, fr MD *sprute*, fr *spruten* to sprout]
- sprung** /sprʊŋ/ *adj* 1 *past* of *SPRING* 2 equipped with springs (*a ~ mattress*)
- spring rhythm** *n* a poetic rhythm designed to approximate the natural rhythm of speech
- spry** /sprɪ/ *adj* sprier, spryer, spriest, spryest vigorously active; nimble [perh of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial. *spryg* spry] – *sprily* *adv*, *spryness* *n*
- \*spud** /spʊd/ *n* 1 a small narrow spade 2 a potato – infml [ME *spudde* dagger]
- \*spud ~dd-** *vi* 1 to dig up or remove with a spud 2 to begin to drill (an oil well) ~ *vi* to begin to drill an oil well
- \*spud-bashing** *n* the peeling of potatoes, esp when done as a punishment in a military camp – infml
- spume** /spyoohm/ *vi* or *n* (to) froth, foam [n ME, fr MF, fr L *spuma* – more at *FOAM*; *vb* fr n] – *spumous*, *spummy* *adj*
- spun** /spʊn/ *past* of *SPIN*
- \*spun 'glass** *n* fibreglass

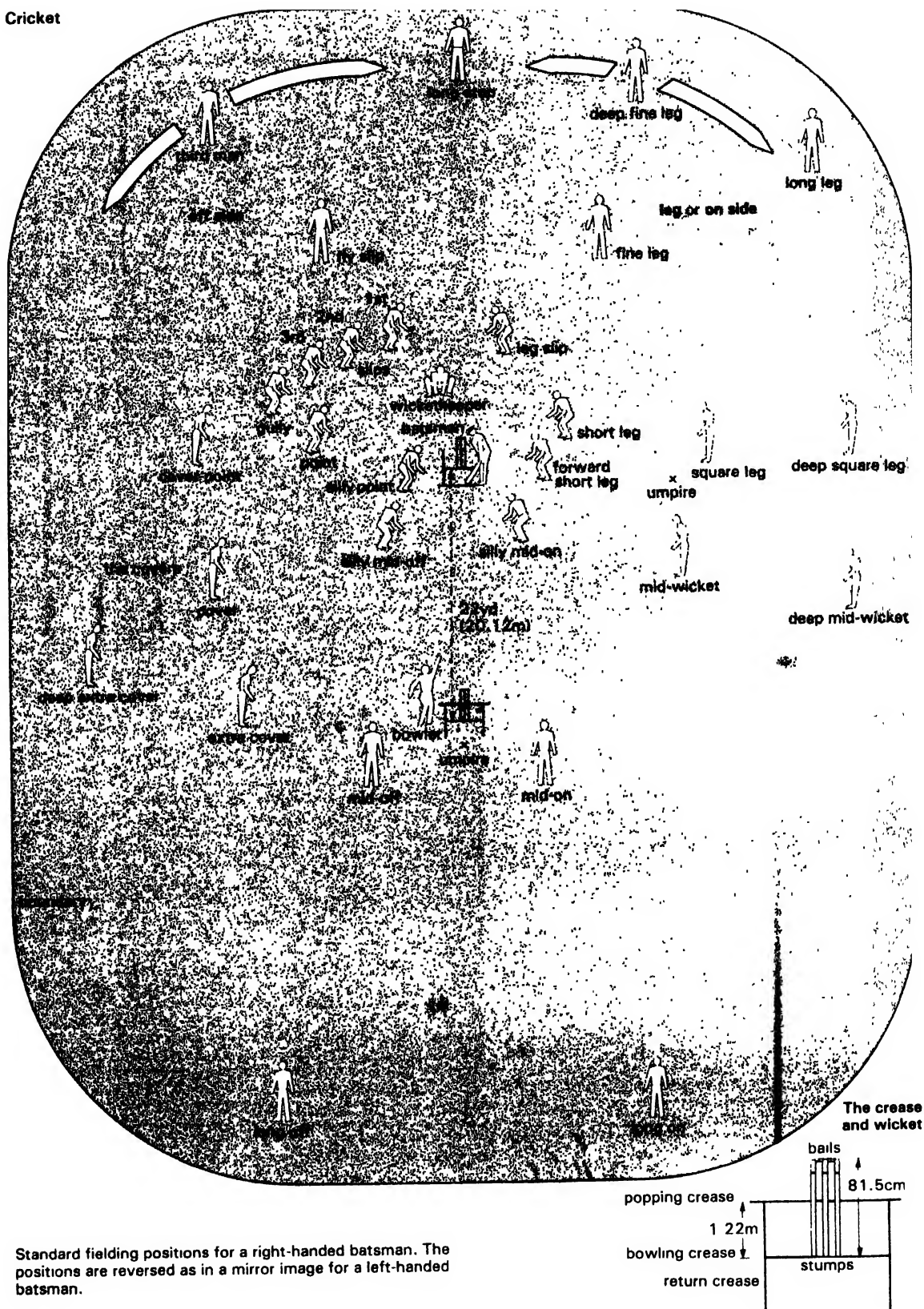


## Soccer

The terminology of the modern lineup is not so settled as that of the traditional lineup, but the commonest names for the positions are shown here.



Cricket



Standard fielding positions for a right-handed batsman. The positions are reversed as in a mirror image for a left-handed batsman.





**spunk** /spunk/ *n* 1 any of various fungi used to make tinder 2 spirit, pluck 3 *Br* semen – vulg [ScGael *spong* sponge, tinder, fr L *spongia* sponge] – **spunky** *adj*

**spun** 'silk *n* a yarn or fabric made from silk waste that has been boiled to remove the natural gum

**spun** 'sugar *n* sugar boiled until it forms long threads on cooling, then shaped and used to decorate cold desserts or heaped on a stick as a sweet – compare CANDY FLOSS

**spun** 'yarn *n* 1 a textile yarn spun from staple fibres 2 a small rope or cord formed of 2 or more rope yarns loosely twisted together

**'spur** /spu/ *n* 1a a pointed device secured to a rider's heel and used to urge on a horse b *pl* recognition and reward for achievement <won his academic ~s> 2 a goad to action; a stimulus 3 sthg projecting like or suggesting a spur: e.g. a(1) a stiff sharp spine (e.g. on the wings or legs of a bird or insect); esp one on a cock's leg (2) a metal spike fitted to a fighting cock's leg b a hollow projection from a plant's petals or sepals (e.g. in larkspur or columbine) 4 a lateral projection (e.g. a ridge) of a mountain (range) ➔ GEOGRAPHY 5 a short piece of road or railway connecting with a major route (e.g. a motorway) [ME *spure*, fr OE *spura*, akin to OE *spurnan* to kick – more at SPURN; (1b) fr the acquisition of spurs by a man gaining knighthood] – **spurred** *adj* – on the spur of the moment on impulse; suddenly

**'spur** *vb* – *rr* – *vt* 1 to urge (a horse) on with spurs 2 to incite to usu faster action or greater effort; stimulate – usu + *on* ~ *vt* to spur a horse on; ride hard

**spurge** /spu/ *n* any of various mostly shrubby plants with a bitter milky juice [ME, fr MF, *purge*, *spurge*, fr *espurger* to purge, fr L *expurgare* – more at EXPURGATE]

**spur** gear *n* a gear wheel with teeth projecting away from its axis

**spurge** laurel *n* a low-growing Eurasian shrub with oblong evergreen leaves and yellowish flowers

**spurious** /spyoʊəri-/ *adj* 1 of illegitimate birth 2 having a superficial usu deceptive resemblance or correspondence; false 3a of deliberately falsified or mistakenly attributed origin, forged b based on mistaken ideas <it would be ~ to claim special privileges> [LL & L; LL *spurius* false, fr L, of illegitimate birth, fr *spurius*, *n*, bastard] – **spuriously** *adv*, **spuriousness** *n*

**spurn** /spu/ *vt* to reject with disdain or contempt, scorn [ME *spurnen*, fr OE *spurnan*, akin to OHG *spurnan* to kick, L *spernere* to spurn, Gk *spairein* to quiver] – **spurn** *n*

**spurrey**, **spurry** /spuri/ *n* any of several small usu white-flowered plants of the pink family [D *spurre*, fr MD *sporie*, fr ML *spergula*]

**spurrier** /spuri-/ *n* one who makes spurs

**'spurt** /spu/ *vt* or *n* (to make) a sudden brief burst of increased effort, activity, or speed [origin unknown]

**'spurt** *vb* to (cause to) gush out in a jet [perh akin to MHG *spurzen* to spit, OE *-spritan* to sprout – more at SPROUT]

**'spurt** *n* a sudden forceful gush; a jet

**spurtle** /spu/ *n*, chiefly Scot a wooden stick for stirring porridge [origin unknown]

**'spur**, **wheel** *n* SPUR GEAR

**sputnik** /sputnik/, 'sputnik/ *n* SATELLITE 2b – used esp with reference to Soviet satellites [Russ, lit., travelling companion, fr *s*, so with + *put'* path; akin to Gk *hama* together & to Skt *patha* way – more at SAME, FIND]

**'sputter** /sputa/ *vt* 1 to utter hastily or explosively in confusion, anger, or excitement; splutter 2 to dislodge (atoms) from the surface of a material by collision with high energy particles (e.g. electrons); also to deposit (a metallic film) by such a process ~ *vi* 1 to eject particles of food or saliva noisily from the mouth 2 to speak in an explosive or incoherent manner 3 to make explosive popping sounds [akin to D *sputteren* to sputter, OE *-spritan* to sprout] – **sputterer** *n*

**'sputter** *n* 1 confused and excited speech 2 (the sound of) sputtering

**sputum** /spyoʊtiəm/ *n*, *pl* *sputa* /-tə/ matter, made up of discharges from the respiratory passages and saliva, that is coughed up [L, fr neut of *sputus*, pp of *sputare* to spit – more at SPEW]

**'spy** /spi/ *vt* 1 to keep under secret surveillance, usu for hostile purposes <~ out the land> 2 to catch sight of; see <spied him lurking in the bushes> 3 to search or look for intently <~ out a means of escape> ~ *vi* 1 to observe or search for sthg; look 2 to watch secretly; act as a spy – often + *on* USE (vt 1&3) usu + *out* [ME *spien*, fr OF *espier*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *spehōn* to spy; akin to L *specere* to look, look at, *species* appearance, species, Gk *skeptesthai* & *skopein* to watch, look at, consider]

**'spy** *n* 1 one who keeps secret watch on sb or sthg 2 one who attempts

to gain information secretly from a country, company, etc and communicate it to another

**'spyglass** /-glahs/ *n* a small telescope

**squab** /skwɒb/ *n*, *pl* *squabs*, (1) *squabs*, esp collectively **squab** 1 a fledgling bird, esp a pigeon 2 a thick cushion for a chair, car seat, etc [prob of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial *skvabb* anything soft and thick]

**squabble** /skwɒbl/ *vi* or *n* **squabbling** /skwɒblɪŋ/ (to engage in) a noisy or heated quarrel, esp over trifles [prob of Scand origin; akin to Sw dial *skvabbel* dispute] – **squabbler** *n*

**squad** /skwɒd/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr 1 a small group of military personnel assembled for a purpose <a drill ~> 2 a small group working as a team <a special police ~> [MF *esquade*, fr OSp & OIt; OSp *escuadra* & OIt *squadra*, derivs of (assumed) VL *exquadrare* to make square – more at SQUARE]

**'squad**, **car** *n*, chiefly NAm a police car having radio communication with headquarters

**squaddy** /skwɒdi/ *n*, *Br* a person of lowest rank in the armed forces; esp a private – infml [alter. (influenced by *squad*) of *swaddy*, fr *swad* (soldier), prob fr *swad* (bumpkin, lout)]

**squadron** /skwɒdrən/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr a unit of military organization: a a unit of cavalry or of an armoured regiment, usu consisting of 3 or more troops b a variable naval unit consisting of a number of warships on a particular operation c a unit of an air force consisting usu of between 10 and 18 aircraft [It *squadron*, aug of *squadra* *squad*]

**squadron leader** *n* ➔ RANK

**squalid** /skwɒlɪd/ *adj* 1 filthy and degraded from neglect or poverty <~ ramshackle tenements> 2 SORDID 2 [L *squalidus* – more at SQUALID] – **squalidly** *adv*, **squalidness** *n*

**'squall** /skwɒl/ *vb* to cry out raucously, scream [of Scand origin, akin to ON *skval* useless chatter] – **squall** *n*, **squaller** *n*

**'squall** *n* 1 a sudden violent wind, often with rain or snow 2 a short-lived commotion <a minor domestic ~> [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *skval* rushing water] – **squally** *adj*

**squalor** /skwɒlə/ *n* the quality or state of being squalid [L, akin to L *squalidus* squalid, *squama* scale]

**squam**, **squamo** – *comb form* scale; *squama* <squamous> [NL, fr L *squama*]

**squama** /skwaymə/, 'skwəhmə/ *n*, *pl* *squamae* /-mi/ (a structure resembling) a scale [L] – **squamate** /-mayt/ *adj*

**'squamous** /skwayməs/, 'skwəhməs/ also *squamos* /-mɒhs/ *adj* 1 covered with or consisting of scales 2 of or being a surface tissue consisting of a single layer of flat scalelike cells [L *squamosus*, fr *squama*]

**squander** /skwɒndə/ *vt* to spend extravagantly, foolishly, or wastefully, dissipate <~ed his earnings on drink> [origin unknown] – **squanderer** *n*

**'square** /skweɪ/ *n* 1 an instrument (e.g. a set square or T square) with at least 1 right angle and 2 straight edges, used to draw or test right angles or parallel lines 2 a rectangle with all 4 sides equal ➔ MATHEMATICS 3 sthg shaped like a square: e.g. a a square scarf b an area of ground for a particular purpose (e.g. military drill) c an arrangement of letters, numbers, etc in a square – compare MAGIC SQUARE 4 any of the rectangular, square, etc spaces marked out on a board used for playing games 5 the product of a number multiplied by itself 6 an open space in a town, city, etc formed at the meeting of 2 or more streets, and often laid out with grass and trees 7 a solid object or piece approximating to a cube or having a square as its principal face 8 one who is excessively conventional or conservative in tastes or outlook – infml; no longer in vogue [ME, fr MF *esquarre*, fr (assumed) VL *exquadrare*, fr *exquadrare* to square, fr L *ex* + *quadrare* to square – more at QUADRATE] – **out of square** not at an exact right angle

**'square** *adj* 1a having 4 equal sides and 4 right angles b forming a right angle <a ~ corner> 2a approximating to a cube <a ~ cabinet> b of a shape or build suggesting strength and solidity; broad in relation to length or height <~ shoulders> c square in cross section <a ~ tower> 3a of a unit of length denoting the area equal to that of a square whose edges are of the specified length <a ~ yard> b being of a specified length in each of 2 equal dimensions meeting at a right angle <10 metres ~> 4a exactly adjusted, arranged, or aligned; neat and orderly b fair, honest, or straightforward <~ in all his dealings> c leaving no balance; settled <the accounts are all ~> d even, tied 5 of, occupying, or passing through a fielding position near or on a line perpendicular to the line between the wickets and level with the batsman's wicket <~ leg> ➔ SPORT 6

- excessively conservative; dully conventional – *infrml*, no longer in vogue  
 – **squarely** *adv*, **squariness** *n*, **squarish** *adj*
- square** *vt* **1a** to make square or rectangular (< ~ a building stone) **b** to test for deviation from a right angle, straight line, or plane surface **2** to set approximately at right angles or so as to present a rectangular outline (< ~ d his shoulders) **3a** to multiply (a number) by the same number, to raise to the second power **b** to find a square equal in area to (< ~ the circle) **4a** to balance, settle (< ~ an account) **b** to even the score of (a contest) **5** to mark off into squares or rectangles **6a** to bring into agreement, reconcile (< ~ theory with practice) **b** to bribe – *infrml* ~ *vt* **1** to match or agree precisely – *usu* + *with* **2** to settle matters, esp to pay the bill – *often* + *up* – **square up to** **1** to prepare oneself to meet (a challenge) (< squared up to the situation) **2** to take a fighting stance towards (an opponent)
- square** *adv* **1** in a straightforward or honest manner (< told him ~ > **2a** so as to face or be face to face (< the house stood ~ to the road) **b** at right angles **3** DIRECTLY **1** (< hit the nail ~ on the head)
- square away** *vt*, *NAm* to put in order or readiness – *infrml*
- square-bashing** *n*, chiefly *Br* military drill, esp marching, on a barrack square
- square bracket** *n* either of 2 written or printed marks [ ] used to enclose a mathematical expression or other written or printed matter
- square dance** *n* a dance for 4 couples who form a hollow square – **square dancer** *n*, **square dancing** *n*
- square deal** *n* an honest and fair arrangement or transaction (< got a ~ on that trade-in)
- square head** /-hed/ *n*, *NAm* a German, Dutch, or Scandinavian (immigrant) – *derog*
- square meal** *n* a nutritionally balanced and satisfying meal
- square one** *n* the starting point (< our plan failed so we were back to ~ >)
- square rig** *n* a sailing ship rig in which the principal sails are square sails – *SHIP* – **square-rigged** *adj*, **square-rigger** *n*
- square root** *n* a (positive) number whose square is a *usu* specified number (< the ~ of 9 is 3 >) – *SYMBOL*
- square sail** *n* a square sail held open by a rod that is suspended at its centre – *usu* a mast
- square-shouldered** *adj* having shoulders that present a rectangular outline – compare *ROUND-SHOULDERED*
- square wave** *n* the rectangular wave form of a quantity that varies periodically and abruptly from one to the other of 2 constant values
- squash** /skwɒʃ/ *vt* **1a** to press or beat into a pulp or a flat mass, crush **b** to apply pressure to by pushing or squeezing (< got ~ ed on the crowded platform) **2** to reduce to silence or inactivity, PUT DOWN (< ~ ed her with a cutting remark) (< ~ a revolt) ~ *vt* **1** to flatten out under pressure or impact **2** to squeeze, press (< we ~ ed into the front row of spectators) [*MF* *esquasser*, fr (assumed) *VL* *exquassare*, fr *L* *ex-* + *quassare* to shake – more at *QUASH*] – **squashy** *adj*, **squashily** *adv*, **squashiness** *n*
- squash** *n* **1** the act or soft dull sound of squashing **2** a crushed mass, esp a mass of people crowded into a restricted space **3** also **squash rackets** a game played in a 4-walled court with long-handled rackets and a rubber ball that can be played off any number of walls – *SPORT* **4** *Br* a beverage made from sweetened and often concentrated citrus fruit juice, *usu* drunk diluted
- squash** *n*, *pl* **squashes**, **squash** any of various (plants of the cucumber family bearing) fruits widely cultivated as vegetables and for livestock feed – [by shortening & alter. fr earlier *isquoutersquash*, fr *Natick* & *Narragansett* *askutasquash*]
- squat** /skwɒt/ *vi* -tt- **1** to crouch close to the ground as if to escape detection (< a ~ ting hare) **2** to assume or maintain a position in which the body is supported on the feet and the knees are bent, so that the haunches rest on or near the heels **3** to occupy property as a squatter [*ME* *squatten*, fr *MF* *esquatr*, fr *es-* ex- (fr *L* *ex-*) + *quatr* to press, fr (assumed) *VL* *coacture* to press together, fr *L* *coactus*, pp of *cogere* to drive together – more at *COGENT*]
- squat** *n* **1a** squatting **b** the posture of sb or sth that **squats** **2** an empty building occupied by or available to squatters – *infrml*
- squat** *adj* -tt- **1** with the heels drawn up under the haunches **2** disproportionately short or low and broad – **squatty** *adv*, **squatness** *n*
- squatter** /skwɒtə/ *n* **1** one who occupies *usu* otherwise empty property without rights of ownership or payment of rent **2** *Austr* one who owns large tracks of grazing land [*ESQUAT* + *-ER*]
- squaw** /skwaw/ *n* a *N American Indian* (married) woman [of Algonquian origin; akin to *Natick* *squas* woman]
- squawk** /skwawk/ *vi* or *n* **1** (to utter) a harsh abrupt scream **2** (to make)
- a loud or vehement protest [prob blend of *squall* and *squeak*] – **squawker** *n*
- squaw man** *n* a white man married to a *N American Indian*
- squeak** /skweɪk/ *vi* **1** to utter or make a squeak **2** *SQUAFAL* **2a** – *infrml* ~ *vt* to utter in a squeak [*ME* *squeken*] – **squeaker** *n*
- squeak** *n* **1** a short shrill cry or noise **2** an escape – *usu* in a narrow squeak, *infrml* – **squeaky** *adj*
- squeal** /skweɪl/ *vi* **1** to utter or make a squeal **2a** to turn informer (< bribed to ~ on his boss) **b** to complain, protest ~ *vt* to utter with a squeal [*USE* (*vi* *2*) *infrml* [*ME* *squelen*] – **squealer** *n*
- squeal** *n* a shrill sharp cry or noise
- squeamish** /skweɪmɪʃ/ *adj* **1** easily nauseated **2a** excessively fastidious in manners, scruples, or convictions **b** easily shocked or offended [*ME* *squaymisch*, modif of *AF* *esquymous*] – **squeamishly** *adv*, **squeamishness** *n*
- squeegee** /skweɪdʒ/ *n* a *usu* rubber bladed tool used for spreading liquid on or removing it from a surface (e.g. a window), also a roller or other device used similarly in lithography or photography [prob imit]
- squeegee** *vt* to smooth, wipe, or treat with a squeegee
- squeeze** /skweɪz/ *vt* **1a** to apply physical pressure to; compress the (opposite) sides of **b** to extract or discharge under pressure (< ~ juice from a lemon) **c** to force, thrust, or cram (as if) by compression (< ~ clothes into a suitcase) (< ~ d his way across the room) **2a** to obtain by force or extortion (< dictators who ~ money from the poor) **b** to reduce by extortion, oppressive measures, etc (< squeezing the profits) **c** to cause (economic) hardship to **3** to fit into a limited time span or schedule – *usu* + *in* or *into* **4** to force (another player) to discard a card to his/her disadvantage, esp in bridge ~ *vi* **1** to force one's way (< ~ through a door) **2** to pass, win, or get by narrowly (< managed to ~ through the month on sick pay) [alter. of obs *quease*, fr *ME* *queysen*, fr *OE* *cwysan*, akin to *Icel* *kveisa* stomach cramps] – **squeezable** *adj*, **squeezer** *n*
- squeeze** *n* **1a** a squeezing or compressing **b** a handshake, also an embrace **2a** a quantity squeezed out from sth (< a ~ of lemon) **b** a condition of being crowded together, a crush (< it was a tight ~ with 6 in the car) **3a** a financial pressure caused by narrowing margins or by shortages **b** pressure brought to bear on sb – chiefly in *put the squeeze on*, *infrml*
- squeeze-box** *n* an accordion – *infrml*
- squelch** /skwelʃ/ *vt* **1** to fall or stamp on so as to crush **2** to suppress completely, quell, squash ~ *vi* **1** to emit a sucking sound like that of an object being withdrawn from mud **2** to walk or move, esp through slush, mud, etc, making a squelching noise [imit] – **squelch** *n*, **squelchy** *adj*
- squib** /skwɪb/ *n* **1** a small firework that burns with a fizz and finishes with a small explosion **2** a short witty or satirical speech or piece of writing [orig. unknown]
- squid** /skwɪd/ *n*, *pl* **squids**, esp collectively **squid** any of numerous 10-armed cephalopod molluscs, related to the octopus and cuttlefish, that have a long tapered body and a tail fin on each side [origin unknown]
- squidgy** /skwɪdʒi/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* soft and squashy – *infrml* [*squidge* (squelch), of imit origin]
- squiffy** /skwɪfi/ *adj* slightly drunk, tipsy – *infrml* [origin unknown]
- squiggle** /skwɪgl/ *vi* or *n* (to draw) a short wavy twist or line, esp in handwriting or drawing [blend of *squirm* and *wriggle*] – **squiggly** /skwɪglɪ/ *adj*
- squill** /skwɪl/ *n* **1** a Mediterranean plant of the lily family that reproduces by bulbs **2** a scilla **3** a squilla [*ME*, fr *L* *squilla*, *scilla* sea onion, fr *Gk* *skilla*]
- squilla** /skwɪlə/ *n*, *pl* **squillas**, **squillae** /-li/ any of various crustaceans that burrow in mud or beneath stones in shallow water along the seashore [*NL*, genus name, fr *L*, *squill*, prawn]
- squinch** /skwɪnʃ/ *n* an arch, lintel, etc placed across the interior corner of a square to support a dome [alter. of earlier *scunch* (back part of the side of an opening), deriv of *MF* *coing*, *coin* wedge, corner]
- squint** /skwɪnt/ *adj* having a squint; squinting [short for *asquint*, *adv*, fr *ME*]
- squint** *vi* **1** to have or look with a squint **2** to look or peer with eyes partly closed – **squinter** *n*, **squintingly** *adv*
- squint** *n* **1** (a visual disorder marked by) inability to direct both eyes to the same object because of imbalance of the muscles of the eyeball **2** a hagnoscope **3** a glance, look – esp in *have/take a squint at*; *infrml* – **squinty** *adj*
- squire** /skwɪə/ *n* **1** a shield-bearer or armour-bearer of a knight **2** an owner of a country estate, esp the principal local landowner **3** *Br* *PAL* **2** – *infrml* [*ME* *squier*, fr *OF* *esquer* – more at *ESQUIRE*]
- squire** *vt* to attend on or escort (a woman)

**squirearchy, squirarchy** /'skwɪə,raɪki/ *n* sing or pl in constr the gentry or landed-proprietor class – **squirearchical** /-ˈraɪkɪkl/ *adj*

**squirm** /skwɜːm/ *vi* 1 to twist about like a worm; wriggle 2 to feel or show acute discomfort at sth embarrassing, shameful, or unpleasant [perh imit] – **squirm** *n*, **squirm** *n*

**squirrel** /'skwɪrəl/ *n* (the usu grey or red fur of) any of various New or Old World small to medium-sized tree-dwelling rodents that have a long bushy tail and strong hind legs [ME *squirel*, fr MF *esquireul*, fr (assumed) VL *sciurus*, dim of *scurius*, alter. of L *sciurus*, fr Gk *skiouros*, prob fr *skia* shadow + *oura* tail; akin to OHG *ars* buttocks, OIr *err* tail – more at SHINE]

**'squirrel cage** *n* (a type of induction motor having) a rotor with cylindrically arranged metal bars [fr its resemblance to the toy treadmill often provided in the cage of a squirrel or other small animal]

**squirrel monkey** *n* a small soft-haired S American monkey with a long prehensile tail

**'squirt** /skwɜːt/ *vi* to issue in a sudden forceful stream from a narrow opening ~ *vt* 1 to cause to squirt 2 to direct a jet or stream of liquid at (<ed his sister with a water pistol) [ME *squirten*; akin to LG *swirten* to squirt]

**'squirt** *n* 1 a small rapid stream of liquid, a jet 2 a small or insignificant (impudent) person – infml

**squish** /skwɪʃ/ *vi* or *n* (to make or move with) a slight squelching or sucking sound [alter of *squash*]

**squishy** /skwɪʃi/ *adj* soft and moist – **squishiness** *n*

**SS** /es 'es/ *n* sing or pl in constr Hitler's bodyguard and special police force [G, abbr for *Schutzstaffel* elite guard]

**st** *suffix* (*adj* or *adv* → *adj* or *adv*) – used to form the superlative degree of adjectives and adverbs of 1 syllable, and of some adjectives and adverbs of 2 or more syllables, that end in *e* (<surest) (<completest), compare <sup>1</sup>-EST

**st** – see <sup>1</sup>-EST

**'stab** /stab/ *n* 1 a wound produced by a pointed weapon 2a a thrust (as if) with a pointed weapon b(1) a sharp spasm of pain (2) a pang of intense emotion [felt a ~ of remorse] 3 an attempt, try – infml [ME *stabbe*]

**'stab** *vb* -bb- *vt* 1 to pierce or wound (as if) with a pointed weapon 2 to thrust, jab (<bed his finger at the page) ~ *vi* to thrust at sb or sth (as if) with a pointed weapon – **stabber** *n*

**stable** /ˈstæbl/ *n* an abstract sculpture or construction similar to a mobile but stationary [prob fr F, fr L *stabilis* stable]

**stabilizer, -iser** /ˈstæblɪzə/ *n* 1 a chemical substance added to another substance or to a system to prevent or retard an unwanted alteration of physical state 2 a device to keep ships steady in a rough sea 3 chiefly *NAm* the horizontal tailplane of an aircraft [STABILIZE + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**'stable** /ˈstæbl/ *n* 1 a building in which domestic animals, esp horses, are sheltered and fed – often pl with sing meaning 2 sing or pl in constr a the racehorses or racing cars owned by one person or organization b a group of athletes (e.g. boxers) or performers under one management c a group, collection (<a tycoon who owns a ~ of newspapers) [ME, fr OF *estable*, fr L *stabilium*, fr *stare* to stand – more at STAND]

**'stable** *vi* to put or keep in a stable ~ *vi* to dwell (as if) in a stable

**'stable** *adj* 1a securely established; fixed (<a ~ community) b not subject to change or fluctuation; unvarying (<a ~ population) (<a ~ currency) c permanent, enduring 2 not subject to feelings of mental or emotional insecurity 3a(1) placed or constructed so as to resist forces tending to cause (change of) motion (2) that develops forces that restore the original condition of equilibrium when disturbed b(1) able to resist alteration in chemical, physical, or biological properties (2) not spontaneously radioactive (<a ~ isotope) [ME, fr OF *estable*, fr L *stabilis*, fr *stare* to stand] – **stably** *adv*, **stabilize** *vb*, **stability**, **stabilization** /-ɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n*, **stability** /stəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**'stable** /ˈstæbl/ *n* a groom in a racing stable

**stabling** /ˈstæblɪŋ/ *n* indoor accommodation for animals

**staccato** /ˈstækəto/ *n*, *adv*, or *adj*, pl **staccatos** (a manner of speaking or performing, or a piece of music performed) in a sharp, disconnected, or abrupt way → MUSIC [adj It, fr pp of *staccare* to detach, deriv of OF *destachier* – more at DETACH; *n* & *adv* fr *adj*]

**staccato mark** *n* a pointed vertical stroke or a dot placed over or under a musical note to be produced staccato

**'stack** /stæk/ *n* 1 a large usu circular or square pile of hay, straw, etc 2 an (orderly) pile or heap 3a CHIMNEY STACK b a smokestack 4 a pyramid of 3 interlocked rifles 5 a structure of shelves for compact storage of books – usu pl with sing meaning 6 a stacked group of aircraft 7 a group of loudspeakers for a public address sound system 8 a high pillar of rock rising out of the sea, that was detached from the mainland

by the erosive action of waves → GEOGRAPHY 9 a large quantity or number – often pl with sing meaning (<s of money); infml [ME *stak*, fr ON *stakkr*; akin to OE *staca* stake]

**'stack** *vi* 1 to arrange in a stack, pile 2 to arrange secretly for cheating (<the cards were ~ ed) 3 to assign (an aircraft) to a particular altitude and position within a group of aircraft circling before landing – **stackable** *adj*

**stacked** /stækt/ *adj*, of a woman shapely and having large breasts – slang

**staddle** /ˈstædl/ *n* a base or framework for a stack of hay or straw [ME *stathel* base, support, fr OE *stathol*; akin to OE *stede* place – more at STREAD]

**stadium** /ˈstædi-əm/ *n*, pl **stadiums** also **stadia** /-di-ə/ 1 any of various ancient Greek units of length, usu of about 185m 2 a sports ground surrounded by a large usu unroofed building with tiers of seats for spectators 3 a stage in a life history, esp one between successive moults in the development of an insect [ME, fr L, fr Gk *stadion*, alter. of *spadion*, fr *span* to pull – more at SPAN]

**'staff** /stɑːf/ *n*, pl **staves**, **staves** /ˈstævz/, (5) **stiffs** 1a a long stick carried in the hand for use in walking or as a weapon b a supporting rod, esp a flagstaff c sth which gives strength or sustains (<bread is the ~ of life) 2a a crosser b a rod carried as a symbol of office or authority 3 a set of usu 5 parallel horizontal lines on which music is written → MUSIC 4 any of various graduated sticks or rules used for measuring 5 sing or pl in constr a the body of people in charge of the internal operations of an institution, business, etc b a group of officers appointed to assist a military commander c the teachers at a school or university d the personnel who assist a superior [ME *staf*, fr OE *stæf*, akin to OHG *stab* staff, *stampfon* to stamp – more at STAMP]

**'staff** *vi* 1 to supply with a staff or with workers 2 to serve as a staff member of

**staffer** /ˈstɑːfə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a member of a staff (e.g. of a newspaper)

**'staff nurse** *n*, *Br* a qualified nurse in the staff of a hospital who is next in rank below a sister

**'staff officer** *n* a commissioned officer assigned to a military commander's staff

**staff sergeant** *n* → RANK

**'stag** /stæg/ *n*, pl **stags**, (1) **stags**, esp collectively **stag** 1 an adult male red deer, broadly the male of any of various deer 2 *Br* a person who buys newly issued shares in the hope of selling them to make a quick profit [ME *stagge*, fr OE *stagga*; akin to ON *andasteggi* drake, OE *stingan* to sting]

**'stag** *adj* of or intended for men only (<a ~ night) (<a ~ party)

**'stag beetle** *n* any of numerous mostly large beetles having males with long and often branched mandibles suggesting the antlers of a stag

**'stage** /ˈsteɪdʒ/ *n* 1 any of a series of positions or stations one above the other 2a(1) a raised platform (2) the area of a theatre where the acting takes place, including the wings and storage space (3) the acting profession, also the theatre as an occupation or activity b a centre of attention or scene of action 3a a scaffold for workmen b the small platform of a microscope on which an object is placed for examination 4a a place of rest formerly provided for those travelling by stagecoach b the distance between 2 stopping places on a road c a stagecoach 5a a period or step in a progress, activity, or development b any of the distinguishable periods of growth and development of a plant or animal (<the larval ~ of an insect) c any of the divisions (e.g. 1 day's riding or driving between predetermined points) of a race or rally that is spread over several days 6 a connected group of components in an electrical circuit that performs some well-defined function (e.g. amplification) and that forms part of a larger electrical circuit 7 a propulsion unit of a rocket with its own fuel and container → SPACE 8 chiefly *Br* a bus stop from or to which fares are calculated; a fare stage [ME, fr OF *estage*, fr (assumed) VL *staticum*, fr L *stare* to stand – more at STAND]

**'stage** *vi* 1 to produce (e.g. a play) on a stage 2 to produce and organize, esp for public view (<~d the event to get maximum publicity)

**'stagecoach** /-ˈkəʊtʃ/ *n* a horse-drawn passenger and mail coach that in former times ran on a regular schedule between established stops

**'stagecraft** /-ˈkrɑːft/ *n* the effective management of theatrical devices or techniques

**'stage direction** *n* a description (e.g. of a character or setting) or direction (e.g. to indicate sound effects or the movement or positioning of actors) provided in the text of a play

**'stage door** *n* the entrance to a theatre that is used by those who work there

- 'stage, fright** *n* nervousness felt at appearing before an audience
- 'stage, hand** /-hand/ *n* a theatre worker who handles scenery, props, or lights
- 'stage, left** *adv* on or to an actor's left when he/she is facing the audience
- 'stage, manage** *vt* to arrange or direct, esp from behind the scenes, so as to achieve a desired result [back-formation fr *stage manager*]
- 'stage, manager** *n* one who is in charge of the stage during a performance and supervises related matters beforehand
- 'stager** /'stayjə/ *n* an experienced person, a veteran - chiefly in old stager
- 'stage, right** *adv* on or to an actor's right when he/she is facing the audience
- 'stage, struck** /-'struk/ *adj* fascinated by the stage, esp having an ardent desire to become an actor or actress
- stage whisper** *n* 1 a loud whisper by an actor, audible to the audience, but supposedly inaudible to others on stage 2 a whisper that is deliberately made audible
- stagflation** /'stægfləʃ(ə)n/ *n* a state of affairs in which inflation in the economy is accompanied by zero growth in industrial production [blend of *stagnation* and *inflation*]
- 'stagger** /'stægə/ *vi* to reel from side to side (while moving), totter ~ *vt* 1 to dumbfound, astonish 2 to arrange in any of various alternating or overlapping positions or times (< ~ *work shifts*) [alter. of earlier *stacker*, fr ME *stakeren*, fr ON *stakra*, freq. of *staka* to push; akin to OE *staca* stake] - *staggerer* *n*
- 'stagger** *n* 1 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* an abnormal condition of domestic mammals and birds associated with damage to the brain and spinal cord and marked by lack of muscle coordination and a reeling unsteady gait 2 a reeling or unsteady walk or stance
- 'staggering** /'stæg(ə)rɪŋ/ *adj* astonishing, overwhelming - *staggeringly* *adv*
- 'staging** /'stæɪjɪŋ/ *n* 1 a scaffolding or other temporary platform 2 the business of running stagecoaches
- 'stagnant** /'stægnənt/ *adj* 1a not flowing in a current or stream, motionless (< ~ *water*) b stale (<long disuse had made the air ~ and foul - Brain Stoker) 2 dull, inactive - *stagnancy* /-sɪ/ *n*, *stagnantly* *adv*
- 'stagnate** /'stægnaɪt/ *vi* to become or remain stagnant [L *stagnatus*, pp of *stagnare*, fr *stagnum* body of standing water, akin to Gk *stazein* to drip] - *stagnation* /-'næʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- 'stage, stagey** /'stæɪj/ *adj* marked by showy pretence or artificiality, theatrical ['STAGE + -y] - *stagily* *adv*, *stageiness* *n*
- 'staid** /'stæɪd/ *adj* sedate and often primly self-restrained, sober [fr pp of 'stay] - *staidly* *adv*, *staidness* *n*
- 'stain** /'steɪn/ *vt* 1 to discolour, soil 2 to suffuse with colour 3 to taint with guilt, vice, corruption, etc, bring dishonour to 4 to colour (e.g. wood or a biological specimen) by using (chemical) processes or dyes affecting the material itself ~ *vi* 1 to become stained 2 to cause staining [ME *steynen*, partly fr MF *desteindre* to discolour (fr OF, fr *des-* dis- + *teindre* to dye, fr L *tingere* to wet, dye) & partly of Scand origin, akin to ON *steima* to paint] - *stainable* *adj*, *stainer* *n*
- 'stain** *n* 1 a soiled or discoloured spot 2 a moral taint or blemish 3a a preparation (e.g. of dye or pigment) used in staining, esp one capable of penetrating the pores of wood b a dye or mixture of dyes used in microscopy to make minute and transparent structures visible, to differentiate tissue elements, or to produce specific chemical reactions
- 'stained 'glass** /'stæɪnd/ *n* glass coloured or stained for use in windows
- 'stainless** /-'lɪs/ *adj* 1 free from stain or stigma 2 (made from materials) resistant to stain, specif rust - *stainlessly* *adv*
- 'stainless 'steel** *n* steel containing chromium and highly resistant to rusting and corrosion
- 'stair** /'steə/ *n* 1 a series of (flights of) steps for passing from one level to another - usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning ARCHITECTURE 2 any step of a stairway [ME *steir*, fr OE *stæger*, akin to OE & OHG *stigan* to rise, Gk *stechein* to walk]
- 'stair, case** /-'keɪs/ *n* 1 the structure or part of a building containing a stairway 2 a flight of stairs with the supporting framework, casing, and balusters
- 'stair, way** /-'weɪ/ *n* one or more flights of stairs, usu with intermediate landings
- 'stair, well** /-'wel/ *n* a vertical shaft in which stairs are located
- 'staithe** /'stæɪdh/ *n*, *Br* a wharf from which coal may be loaded on a vessel [ME *stathe*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *stoth* landing place, staithe, akin to OE *steth* bank, shore, OHG *stad*, *stado*]
- 'stake** /stæk/ *n* 1 a pointed piece of material (e.g. wood) for driving into the ground as a marker or support 2a a post to which sby was bound for execution by burning b execution by burning at a stake - + *the* 3a sthg, esp money, staked for gain or loss b the prize in a contest, esp a horse race - often *pl* with *sing.* meaning c an interest or share in an undertaking (e.g. a commercial venture) 4 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, often *cap* a horse race in which all the horses are evenly matched (e.g. in age and amount of weight carried) - chiefly in names of races [ME, fr OE *staca*, akin to MLG *stake*, L *tignum* beam] - at stake in jeopardy, AT ISSUE
- 'stake** *vt* 1 to mark the limits of (as if) by stakes - often + *off* or *out* 2 to tether to a stake 3 to bet, hazard 4 to fasten up or support (e.g. plants) with stakes 5 chiefly *NAm* to back financially - *stake* a/one's claim to state that sthg is one's by right
- 'stake out** *vt*, *NAm* to conduct a surveillance of (a suspected area, person, etc) - *stakeout* *n*
- Stakhanovite** /'stækənəvɪt/ *n* a Soviet industrial worker awarded recognition and privileges for outstanding productivity [Alexei G *Stakhanov* b 1905 Russ miner] - *Stakhanovism* /-'nævɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- stalactite** /'stælək.tɪt/ *n* an icicle-like deposit of calcium carbonate hanging from the roof or sides of a cavern [NL *stalactites*, fr Gk *stalaktos* dripping, fr *stalassein* to let drip] - *stalactitic* /-'tɪtɪk/ *adj*
- 'staleg** /'stahlg/ *n* a German prison camp for noncommissioned officers and lower ranks [G, short for *stamm lager* base camp, fr *stamm* base + *lager* camp]
- 'stalagmite** /'stæləɡmɪt/ *n* a deposit of calcium carbonate like an inverted stalactite formed on the floor of a cavern [NL *stalagmites*, fr Gk *stalagma* drop or *stalagmos* dripping, akin to Gk *stalassein* to let drip] - *stalagmitic* /-'mɪtɪk/ *adj*
- 'stale** /'steɪl/ *adj* 1a tasteless or unpalatable from age b of air musty, foul 2 tedious from familiarity (< ~ *jokes*) 3 impaired in legal force through lack of timely action (< a ~ *debt*) 4 impaired in vigour or effectiveness, esp from overexertion [ME, aged (of ale), akin to MD *stel* stale] - *stalely* *adv*, *staleness* *n*
- 'stale** *vb* to make or become stale
- 'stale** *vi*, to urinate [ME *stalen*, akin to MLG *stallen* to urinate]
- 'stalemate** /'steɪl.məteɪ/ *vt* or *n* (to bring into) a a drawing position in chess in which only the king can move and although not in check can move only into check b a deadlock [n obs *stale* (stalemate, fr ME, fr AF *estale*, lit., fixed position, fr OF *estal* place, position) + E *mate*; vb fr n]
- Stalinism** /'stæh.lɪnɪz(ə)m/, 'stæ-/ *n* the theory and practice of communism developed by Stalin from Marxism-Leninism and characterized esp by rigid authoritarianism [Joseph *Stalin* †1953 Russ political leader] - *Stalinist* *n*, *adj*
- 'stalk** /stawk/ *vi* 1 to pursue or approach quarry or prey stealthily 2 to walk stiffly or haughtily ~ *vt* 1 to pursue by stalking (< ~ *deer*) 2 to go through (an area) in search of prey or quarry (< ~ *the woods for deer*) [ME *stalker*, fr OE *bestalcian*, akin to OE *stealc* lofty, *stelan* to steal - more at STEAL] - *stalker* *n*
- 'stalk** *n* 1 the stalking of quarry or prey 2 a stiff or haughty walk
- 'stalk** *n* 1a the main stem of a herbaceous plant, often with its attached parts b STEM 1b 2 a slender upright supporting or connecting (animal) structure [MF *stalk*; akin to OE *stealc* lofty] - *stalked* *adj*, *stalkless* *adj*, *stalky* *adj*
- 'stalk-eyed** *adj*, esp of crustaceans having the eyes raised on stalks
- 'stalking-horse** /'stawkɪŋ/ *n* sthg used to mask a purpose; a pretext
- 'stall** /stawl/ *n* 1 any of usu several compartments for domestic animals in a stable or barn 2a a wholly or partly enclosed seat in the chancel of a church b a church pew 3a a booth, stand, or counter at which articles are displayed or offered for sale b SIDESHOW 1b 4 a protective sheath for a finger or toe 5 a small compartment (< a shower ~) 6 *Br* a seat on the main floor of an auditorium (e.g. in a theatre) [ME, fr OE *steall*, akin to OHG *stal* place, stall, L *locus* (OL *stlocus*) place, Gk *stallein* to set up, place, send]
- 'stall** *vt* 1 to put or keep in a stall 2a to bring to a standstill, block b to cause (e.g. a car engine) to stop, usu inadvertently c to cause (an aircraft or aerofoil) to go into a stall ~ *vi* 1 to come to a standstill, esp, of an engine to stop suddenly from failure 2 to experience a stall in flying
- 'stall** *n* the condition of an aerofoil or aircraft when the airflow is so obstructed (e.g. from moving forwards too slowly) that lift is lost FLIGHT
- 'stall** *vi* to play for time, delay ~ *vt* to divert or delay, esp by evasion or deception [obs *stall*, n (lure, decoy), alter. of earlier *stale*, fr ME, fr AF] - *stall* *n*

- stallholder** /-hohldə/ *n* one who runs a (market) stall
- stallion** /stalyən/ *n* an uncastrated male horse, esp one kept for breeding [ME *stalion*, fr MF *estalon*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *stal* stall]
- stalwart** /stawlwaɪ/ *adj* 1 strong in body, mind, or spirit 2 dependable, staunch [ME, alter of *stalworth*, fr OE *stælwierthe* serviceable] – *stalwartly* *adv*, *stalwartness* *n*
- stalwart** *n* a stalwart person, *specif* a staunch supporter
- stamen** /stəmə'n/ *n* the organ of a flower that produces the male gamete in the form of pollen, and consists of an anther and a filament
- ✚ PLANT [L, warp, thread, akin to Gk *stemōn* thread, *histanai* to cause to stand – more at STAND]
- stamin-** /stəmin-/ **stamini-** *comb form* stamen <staminaf> <staminiferous> [L *stamin-*, *stamen*]
- stamina** /stəminə/ *n* (capacity for) endurance [L, pl of *stamen* warp, thread of life spun by the Fates]
- staminate** /stəminət-, nəyt-/ *adj* 1 having or producing stamens 2 MALE 1a(2)
- stammer** /stəmə/ *vb* to speak or utter with involuntary stops and repetitions – compare STUTTER [ME *stameren*, fr OE *stamernan*, akin to OHG *stamalon* to stammer, Lith *stumti* to push] – *stammer* *n*, *stammerer* *n*
- stamp** /stəmp/ *vt* 1 to pound or crush (e.g. ore) with a pestle or heavy instrument 2a to strike or beat forcibly with the bottom of the foot b to bring down (the foot) forcibly 3a to impress, imprint (<~ 'paid' on the bill> <an image ~ed on his memory>) b(1) to attach a (postage) stamp to (2) to mark with an (official) impression, device, etc 4 to cut out, bend, or form with a stamp or die 5a to provide with a distinctive character (<~ed with an air of worldly wisdom>) b CHARACTERIZE 2 ~ *vi* 1 POUND 2 to strike or thrust the foot forcibly or noisily downwards [ME *stampen*, akin to OHG *stampfon* to stamp, L *temnere* to despise, Gk *stembein* to shake up] – *stamper* *n*
- stamp** *n* 1a a device or instrument for stamping 2 the impression or mark made by stamping or imprinting 3a a distinctive feature, indication, or mark (<the ~ of genius>) b a lasting imprint (<the ~ of time>) 4 the act of stamping 5a a printed or stamped piece of paper that for some restricted purpose is used as a token of credit or occasionally of debit e.g. a POSTAGE STAMP b a stamp used as evidence that tax has been paid c TRADING STAMP
- stamp duty** *n* a tax on certain legal documents
- stampede** /stəmp'ed/ *n* 1 a wild headlong rush or flight of frightened animals 2 a sudden mass movement of people [AmerSp *estampida*, fr Sp, crash, fr *estampar* to stamp, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *stampfon* to stamp]
- stampede** *vb* to (cause to) run away or rush in panic or on impulse
- stamping ground** /stəmp'ing/ *n* a favourite or habitual haunt
- stamping mill** *n* STAMP MILL
- stamp mill** *n* a mill in which ore is crushed
- stamp out** *vt* to eradicate, destroy <stamp out crime>
- stance** /stahns, stəns/ *n* 1a a way of standing or being placed b intellectual or emotional attitude (<took an anti-union ~>) 2 the position of body or feet from which a sportsman (e.g. a batsman or golfer) plays [MF *estance* position, posture, stay, fr (assumed) VL *stantia*, fr L *stant-*, *stans*, *prp* of *stare* to stand]
- stanch, staunch** /stənwɪtʃ, stənwɪtʃ/ *vt* to check or stop the flow of (<~ed her tears>); also to stop the flow of blood from (a wound) [ME *stauchen*, fr MF *estancher*, fr (assumed) VL *stancicare*, fr L *stant-*, *stans*, *prp*]
- stanchion** /stənwɪtʃ(ə)n/ *vt* or *n* (to provide with) an upright bar, post, or support (e.g. for a roof) [n ME *stanchon*, fr MF *estanchon*, fr OF, aug. of *estance* stay, *prop*; *vb* fr n]
- stand** /sænd/ *vb* stood /stoo'd/ *vi* 1a to support oneself on the feet in an erect position b to be a specified height when fully erect (<~s 6ft 2>) c to rise to or maintain an erect or upright position (<his hair stood on end>) 2a to take up or maintain a specified position or posture (<~ aside>) b to maintain one's position (<~ firm>) 3 to be in a specified state or situation (<~s accused>) 4 to sail in a specified direction (<~ing into harbour>) 5a to have or maintain a relative position (as if) in a graded scale (<~s first in his class>) b to be in a position to gain or lose because of an action taken or a commitment made (<~s to make quite a profit>) 6 to occupy a place or location (<the house ~s on a hill>) 7 to remain stationary or inactive (<the car stood in the garage for a week>) 8 to agree, accord – chiefly in *it stands to reason* 9a to exist in a definite (written or printed) form (<copy a passage exactly as it ~s>) (<that is how the situation ~s at present>) b to remain valid or effective (<the order given last week still ~s>) 10 chiefly *Br* to be a candidate in an election ~ *vt* 1a to endure or undergo (<~ trial>) (<this book will ~ the test of time>) b to tolerate, bear; PUT UP WITH

<can't ~ his boss> c to benefit from, do with (<looks as if he could ~ a good sleep>) 2 to remain firm in the face of (<~ a siege>) 3 to perform the duty of (<~ guard>) 4 to cause to stand, set upright 5 to pay the cost of, pay for (<I'll ~ you a dinner>) – *infrm* [MF *standen*, fr OE *stādan*, akin to OHG *stantan*, *stan* to stand, L *stare*, Gk *histanai* to cause to stand, set, *histanthai* to stand, be standing] *stand* a chance to have a chance – *stand* by to remain loyal or faithful to (<stand by the agreement>) – *stand for* 1 to be a symbol for, represent 2 to permit, PUT UP WITH – *stand on* to insist on (<never stands on ceremony>) – *stand one in good stead* to be of advantage or service to one – *stand one's ground* to remain firm and unyielding in the face of opposition – *stand on one's own feet* to think or act independently

**stand** *n* 1 an act, position, or place of standing (<took up a ~ near the exit>) 2a a standstill, also a halt for defence or resistance b a usu defensive effort of some length or success (<a united ~ against the plans for the new motorway> <a last-wicket ~ of 53 runs>) c a stop made by a touring theatrical company, rock group, etc to give a performance 3 a strongly or aggressively held position, esp on a debatable issue 4a a structure of tiered seats for spectators – often pl with *sing* meaning b a raised platform serving as a point of vantage or display (e.g. for a speaker or exhibit) 5 a small usu temporary and open-air stall where goods are sold or displayed (<a hot dog ~>) 6 a place where a passenger vehicle awaits hire (<a taxi ~>) 7 a frame on or in which sthg may be placed for support (<an umbrella ~>) 8 a group of plants or trees growing in a continuous area 9 *NAm* the witness-box

**standard** /stəndəd/ *n* 1 a conspicuous flag, object, etc used to mark a rallying point, esp in battle, or to serve as an emblem 2a a (long narrow tapering) flag b the personal flag of a member of a royal family or of the head of a state 3a sthg established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example a criterion b a (prescribed) degree of quality or worth c *pl* moral integrity, principles 4 sthg set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, value, or quality 5a the fineness and legally fixed weight of the metal used in coins b the basis of value in a money system 6 an upright support 7a a shrub or herbaceous plant grown with an erect main stem so that it forms or resembles a tree b a fruit tree grafted on a stock that does not induce dwarfing 8 sthg standard e.g. a a model of car supplied without optional extras b a musical composition, *specif* a popular song, that has become a part of the established repertoire [ME, fr MF *estandard* rallying point, standard, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *standan* to stand & to OE *ord* point – more at *ODD*]

**standard** *adj* 1a being or conforming to a standard, esp as established by law or custom (<~ weight>) b sound and usable but not of top quality 2a regularly and widely used, available, or supplied (<a ~ socket>) b well established and familiar (<the ~ weekend television programmes>) 3 having recognized and permanent value (<a ~ reference work>) – *standardize* *vt*, *standardization* /-die'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**standard-bearer** *n* 1 one who carries a standard or banner 2 the leader of an organization, movement, or party

**standard deviation** *n* a measure of the extent to which values of a variable are scattered about a mean value in a frequency distribution (<the larger the ~, the more widely dispersed are the values>) – *SYMBOL*

**standard error** *n* the standard deviation of the distribution of values of a statistic (e.g. the mean) obtained from a large number of samples

**standard lamp** *n* a lamp with a tall support that stands on the floor

**standard of living** *n* a level of welfare or subsistence maintained by an individual, group, or community and shown esp by the level of consumption of necessities, comforts, and luxuries

**standard time** *n* the officially established time, with reference to Greenwich Mean Time, of a region or country

**standby** /stənbɪ/, *n*, *pl* standbys /-bi:z/ *one* who or that which is held in reserve and can be relied on, made, or used in case of necessity






**standby** *adj* 1 held near at hand and ready for use (<~ equipment>) 2 relating to the act or condition of standing by (<~ duty>)

**stand by** *vi* 1 to be present but remain aloof or inactive (<calmly stood by and watched those trying to help>) 2 to wait in a state of readiness (<stand by for action>)

**stand down** *vi* 1 to leave the witness-box 2 chiefly *Br* to relinquish (candidature for) an office or position 3 chiefly *Br*, of a soldier to go off duty ~ *vt* chiefly *Br* to send (soldiers) off duty; broadly to dismiss (workers); LAY OFF

**stand-in** *n* 1 one who is employed to occupy an actor's place while lights and camera are made ready 2 a substitute – *stand in* *vi*



- 'standing** /ˈstændɪŋ/ *adj* 1 used or designed for standing in (< ~ places> 2 not yet cut or harvested (< ~ timber> (< ~ grain> 3 not flowing; stagnant (< ~ water> 4 continuing in existence or use indefinitely (< a ~ offer> 5 established by law or custom (< a ~ joke> 6 done from a standing position (< a ~ jump> (< a ~ ovation>
- 'standing** *n* 1a length of service or experience, esp as determining rank, pay, or privilege b position, status, or condition, esp in relation to a group or other individuals in a similar field, esp good reputation (< his ~ in the Labour party> 2 maintenance of position or condition, duration (< a custom of long ~>
- standing army** *n* a permanent army of paid soldiers
- standing order** *n* 1 a rule governing the procedure of an organization, which remains in force until specifically changed 2 an instruction (e.g. to a banker or newsagent) in force until specifically changed
- 'standing room** *n* space for standing, esp accommodation available for spectators or passengers after all seats are filled
- standing stone** *n* a menhir
- standing wave** *n* a vibration of a body or physical system in which the amplitude varies from point to point but is constant at any particular point
- 'stand-off** /-ɒf/ *n*, *NAm* a tie, deadlock
- 'stand-off, stand-off half** *n* the player in rugby positioned between the scrum-half and the three-quarter backs  SPORT
- stand off** *vi*, *of a horse* to take off early for a jump
- standoffish** /ˌstændɒfɪʃ/ *adj* reserved, aloof – **standoffishly** *adv*
- stand out** *vi* 1a to appear (as if) in relief; project b to be prominent or conspicuous 2 to be stubborn in resolution or resistance
- 'stand-over** /-ɒvə/ *adj* or *n*, *Austr* (of or being) a violent criminal (< a ~ gang>
- 'standpipe** /-ˌpi:p/ *n* a pipe fitted with a tap and used for outdoor water supply
- 'standpoint** /-ˌpɔɪnt/ *n* a position from which objects or principles are viewed and according to which they are compared and judged
- 'standstill** /-ˌstɪl/ *n* a state in which motion or progress is absent, a stop
- stand to** *vi* to take up a position of readiness (e.g. for action or inspection) (< ordered the men to stand to>)
- 'stand-up** *adj* 1 stiffened to stay upright without folding over (< a ~ collar> 2 performed in or requiring a standing position (< a ~ meal> 3 (having an act) consisting of jokes usu performed solo standing before an audience (< a ~ comedian>)
- stand up** *vi* 1 to rise to or maintain a standing or upright position 2 to remain sound and intact under stress, attack, or close scrutiny ~ *vi* to fail to keep an appointment with – **stand up for** to defend against attack or criticism – **stand up to** 1 to withstand efficiently or unimpaired (< a car which can stand up to rough handling> 2 to face boldly
- Stanford-Binet test** /ˌstændfɒd bɪˈneɪ/ *n* an intelligence test prepared at Stanford University as a revision of the Binet-Simon scale [Stanford University, California, USA]
- stang** /stɑŋk/ *n*  Thailand at NATIONALITY [Thai]
- stank** /stɑŋk/ *past* of STINK
- stannary** /ˈstænəri/ *n* a region containing tinworks – usu pl with sing meaning [ML *stannaria* tin mine, fr LL *stannum* tin]
- stannic** /ˈstænik/ *adj* of or containing (tetravalent) tin [prob fr F *stannique*, fr LL *stannum* tin, fr L, an alloy of silver and lead, prob of Celt origin; akin to Corn *stēn* tin]
- stannous** /ˈstænas/ *adj* of or containing (bivalent) tin [ISV, fr LL *stannum*]
- stanza** /ˈstanzə/ *n* a division of a poem consisting of a series of lines arranged together in a usu recurring pattern of metre and rhyme [It, *stāy*, abode, room, stanza, fr (assumed) VL *stantia* stay – more at STANCE] – **stanzaic** /-ˌzayɪk/ *adj*
- stapes** /ˈstapeɪz/ *n*, *pl* **stapes**, **stapedes** /ˈstəpeɪ,deɪz/ the innermost of the chain of 3 small bones in the ear of a mammal; the stirrup  NERVE [NL *staped-*, *stapes*, fr ML, stirrup, alter. of LL *stapula*]
- staph** /staf/ *n* a staphylococcus – **staph** *adj*
- staphylococcus** /ˌstæfɪləˈkɒkəs/ *n*, *pl* **staphylococci** /-ˈkɒk(s)ɪ/, -sɪ/ any of various spherical bacteria that include parasites of skin and mucous membranes and cause boils, septic infections of wounds, etc [NL, genus name, fr Gk *staphylē* bunch of grapes (akin to OE *stæf* staff) + NL *-coccus*] – **staphylococcal** /-ˈkɒkəl/ also **staphylococci** /-ˈkɒk(s)ɪk/ *adj*
- 'staple** /ˈstæpl/ *vi* or *n* (to provide with or secure by) a a U-shaped metal loop both ends of which can be driven into a surface (e.g. to secure sthg) b a small piece of wire with ends bent at right angles which can be driven through thin sheets of material, esp paper, and clinched to secure the items [n ME *stapel* post, staple, fr OE *stapol* post, akin to MD *stapel* step, heap, emporium, OE *steppan* to step, vb fr n]
- 'staple** *n* 1 a chief commodity or production of a place 2a a commodity for which the demand is constant b sthg having widespread and constant use or appeal c the sustaining or principal element, substance 3 RAW MATERIAL 4a a textile fibre (e.g. wool or rayon) of relatively short length that when spun and twisted forms a yarn rather than a filament b the length of a piece of such textile fibre as a distinguishing characteristic of the raw material [ME, trading centre, fr MD *stapel* emporium]
- 'staple** *adj* 1 used, needed, or enjoyed constantly, usu by many individuals 2 produced regularly or in large quantities (< ~ crops such as wheat and rice> 3 principal, chief
- stapler** /ˈstæplə/ *n* a small usu hand-operated device for inserting wire staples [ˈSTAPLE + -ER]
- 'star** /stɑː/ *n* 1 any natural luminous body visible in the sky, esp at night, specif any of many celestial bodies of great mass that give out light and are fuelled by nuclear fusion reactions –  ASTRONOMY 2a(1) a planet or a configuration of the planets that is held in astrology to influence a person's destiny – often pl (2) pl an astrological forecast, a horoscope b a waxing or waning fortune or fame (< her ~ was rising> 3a a figure with 5 or more points that represents a star, esp an asterisk  SYMBOL b an often star-shaped ornament or medal worn as a badge of honour, authority, or rank or as the insignia of an order c any of a group of stylized stars used to place sthg in a scale of value or quality – often in combination (< a 4-star hotel>) 4a a (highly publicized) performer in the cinema or theatre who plays leading roles b an outstandingly talented performer (< a ~ of the running track>) [ME *sterre*, fr OE *steorra*, akin to OHG *sterno* star, L *stella*, Gk *aster*, *astron*] – **starless** *adj*, **starlike** *adj*
- 'star** *vb* -rr-, *vi* 1 to sprinkle or adorn (as if) with stars 2 to mark with a star or an asterisk 3 to advertise or display prominently, feature (< the film ~s a famous stage personality> ~ *vi* to play the most prominent or important role (< now ~ rning in a West-End musical>)
- 'star** *adj* of, being, or appropriate to a star (< received ~ treatment>)
- 'star apple** *n* (the apple-shaped edible fruit of) a tropical American tree of the sapodilla family grown for ornament or fruit
- 'starboard** /ˈstɑːbɔːd/ *adj* or *n* (of or at) the right side of a ship or aircraft looking forwards – compare PORT  SHIP [ME *sterbord*, fr OE *steorbord*, fr *steor-* steering oar + *bord* ship's side – more at 'STEER, BOARD]
- 'starboard** *vi* to turn or put (a helm or rudder) to the right
- 'starch** /ˈstɑːtʃ/ *vi* to stiffen (as if) with starch [ME *sterchen*, prob fr (assumed) OE *stercan* to stiffen, akin to OE *stearc* stiff – more at STARK]
- 'starch** *n* 1 an odourless tasteless complex carbohydrate that is the chief storage form of carbohydrate in plants, is an important foodstuff, and is used also in adhesives and sizes, in laundering, and in pharmacy and medicine 2 a stiff formal manner, formality
- Star Chamber** *n* a court in England that was abolished in 1641, had both civil and criminal jurisdiction, and was noted for its arbitrary and oppressive procedures, broadly, often not cap any oppressive tribunal
- 'starchy** /ˈstɑːtʃi/ *adj* 1 of or containing (much) starch (< ~ foods> 2 marked by formality or stiffness – **starchily** *adv*, **starchiness** *n*
- 'star-crossed** *adj* not favoured by the stars, ill-fated (< a pair of ~ lovers take their life – Shak>)
- 'stardom** /-d(ə)m/ *n* the status or position of a celebrity or star (< the actress quickly reached ~>)
- 'star dust** /-ˌdʌst/ *n* a feeling or impression of romance or magic
- 'stare** /steɪ/ *vi* 1 to look fixedly, often with wide-open eyes 2 to stand out conspicuously (< the error ~ d from the page>) 3 esp of an animal's coat to appear rough and lustreless ~ *vi* to bring to a specified state by staring (< ~ d his opponent into submission>) [ME *staren*, fr OE *starian*, akin to OHG *staren* to stare, L *strenuus* strenuous, Gk *stereos* solid, Lith *starniti* to stiffen]
- 'stare** *n* a staring look
- starfish** /ˈstɑːfɪʃ/ *n* any of a class of sea animals that are echinoderms, have a body consisting of a central disc surrounded by 5 equally spaced arms, and feed largely on molluscs (e.g. oysters)
- 'star gaze** /-ˌɡeɪz/ *vi* 1 to gaze at stars 2 to gaze raptly, contemplatively, or absentmindedly, esp to daydream [back-formation fr *stargazer*]
- 'stargazer** /-ˌɡeɪzə/ *n* 1 an astrologer 2 an astronomer USE chiefly humor
- 'stark** /stɑːk/ *adj* 1 sheer, utter (< ~ nonsense>) 2a(1) barren, desolate (2) having few or no ornaments; bare (< a ~ white room>) b harsh, blunt (< the ~ reality of death>) 3 sharply delineated (< a ~ outline>) [ME, stiff, strong,


<sup>1</sup> fr OE *stearc*; akin to OHG *starc* strong, Lith *starinti* to stiffen – more at STARE] – **starkly** *adv.*, **starkness** *n*

**stark** *adv.* to an absolute or complete degree; wholly (< *raving mad*)  
**starkers** /stahkəz/ *adj.* *Br* completely naked – used predicatively, slang [*stark* + *-er* (as in *soccer*) + *-s*]

**starlet** /stahlit/ *n* a young film actress being coached and publicized for starring roles

**starling** /stahling/ *n* any of a family of usu dark social birds; esp a dark brown (or in summer, glossy greenish black) European bird that lives in large social groups [ME, fr OE *stærlic*, fr *stær* starling + *-ling*, *-linc* -ling; akin to OHG *stara* starling, L *sturnus*]

**star-of-Bethlehem** /bethlihem/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the lily family with leaves resembling those of grass and white star-shaped flowers [fr the star above the town of Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth (Matt 2:9)]

**Star of David** /dayvid/ *n* a 6-pointed star made from 2 superimposed equilateral triangles that is a symbol of Judaism and the State of Israel  **SYMBOL** [David, King of Judah in biblical accounts]

**starry** /stahri/ *adj* **1a** adorned or studded with stars **b** shining like stars, sparkling **2** (seemingly) as high as the stars (< *speculations*)

**starry-eyed** *adj* given to thinking in a dreamy, impractical, or overoptimistic manner

**Stars and Stripes** *n pl but sing in constr* the flag of the USA, having 13 alternately red and white horizontal stripes and a blue rectangle in the top left-hand corner with white stars representing the states

**star sapphire** *n* a sapphire that reflects light in the form of a star-shaped figure, esp when cut with a convex surface

**star shell** *n* a shell that on bursting releases a brilliant light for illumination and signalling

**star-spangled** *adj* studded with stars

**star-studded** *adj* full of or covered with stars (< *a ~ cast*) (< *a ~ uniform*)

**start** /staht/ *vi* **1a** to move suddenly and violently, spring (< *ed angrily to his feet*) **b** to react with a sudden brief involuntary movement (< *ed when a shot rang out*) **2a** to issue with sudden force (< *blood ~ ing from the wound*) **b** to come into being, activity, or operation (< *when does the film ~?*) **3** to (seem to) protrude (< *his eyes ~ ing from their sockets*) **4a** to begin a course or journey (< *ed out at dawn*) **b** to range from a specified initial point (< *holiday prices ~ from around £80*) **5** to begin an activity or undertaking, esp to begin work **6** to be a participant at the start of a sporting contest ~ *vt* **1** to cause to leave a place of concealment, flush (< *a rabbit*) **2** to bring into being (< *a rumour*) **3** to begin the use or employment of (< *a fresh loaf of bread*) **4a** to cause to move, act, operate, or do sthg specified (< *the noise ~ ed the baby crying*) (< *the motor*) **b** to act as starter of (e.g. a race) *c* to cause to enter or begin a game, contest, or business activity (< *only had £500 to ~ him*), broadly to put in a starting position **5** to perform or undergo the first stages or actions of, begin (< *ed studying music at the age of 5*) [ME *steren*, akin to MHG *sterzen* to stand up stiffly, move quickly, Lith *starinti* to stiffen – more at STARE] – **start something** to cause trouble – **to start with** **1** at the beginning; initially **2** taking the first point to be considered

**start** *n* **1** a sudden involuntary bodily movement or reaction (e.g. from surprise or alarm) **2** a beginning of movement, activity, or development **3a** a lead conceded at the start of a race or competition **b** an advantage, lead; HEAD START (< *gained a 3 days' ~ on the police*) (< *his background gave him a good ~ in politics*) **4** a place of beginning

**starter** /stahsta/ *n* **1** one who initiates or sets going, esp one who gives the signal to start a race **2a** one who is in the starting lineup of a race or competition **b** one who begins to engage in an activity or process **3** sb who or sthg that causes sthg to begin operating, e.g. **a** a self-starter **b** material containing microorganisms used to induce a desired fermentation **c** a compound used to start a chemical reaction **4a** sthg that is the beginning of a process, activity, or series **b** chiefly *Br* the first course of a meal – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning

**starting handle** /stahting/ *n*, *Br* a crank used to start an internal-combustion engine

**startle** /stahlit/ *vb* **startling** /stahling/ to (cause to) be suddenly frightened or surprised and usu to (cause to) make a sudden brief movement [ME *sterlen*, freq of *steren* to start] – **startling** *adj.*, **startlingly** *adv.*

**starve** /stahv/ *vi* **1a** to die from lack of food **b** to suffer or feel extreme hunger **2** to suffer or perish from deprivation (< *d for affection*) **3** *archaic* or *dial* to suffer or perish from cold ~ *vt* to cause to starve [ME *sterven* to die, fr OE *steorfan*; akin to OHG *sterban* to die, Lith *starinti* to stiffen – more at STARE] – **starvation** /-vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**starveling** /stahvling/ *n* a person or animal that is thin (as if) from lack of food

**stash** /stah/ *vt* to store in a usu secret place for future use – often + *away* [origin unknown]

**stash** *n*, chiefly *NAM* **1** a hiding place, a cache **2** sthg stored or hidden away

**stasis** /staysis/ *n*, *pl stases* /-seez/ **1** a slowing or stoppage of the normal flow of body fluids **2** a state of static balance, stagnation [NL, fr Gk, act or condition of standing, stopping, fr *histasthai* to stand – more at STAND]

**-stasis** /-staysis/ *comb form* (– *n*), *pl -stases* /-stayseez/ **1** stoppage, slowing down; inhibition (< *haemostasis*) (< *bacteriostasis*) **2** stable state (< *homeostasis*) [NL, fr Gk *stasis* standing, stopping]

**-stat** /-stat/ *comb form* (– *n*) agent or device for regulating (< *thermostat*) (< *rheostat*) [NL *-stata*, fr Gk *-states* one who or that which stops or steadies, fr *histanai* to cause to stand – more at STAND]

**state** /stayt/ *n* **1a** a mode or condition of being (with regard to circumstances, health, temperament, etc) (< *a ~ of readiness*) (< *a highly nervous ~*) **b** a condition of abnormal tension or excitement (< *don't get in a ~ about it*) **2a** a condition or stage in the physical being of sthg (< *the gaseous ~ of water*) **b** any of various conditions characterized by definite quantities (e.g. of energy, angular momentum, or magnetic moment) in which an atomic system may exist **3a** social position; esp high rank **b(1)** luxurious style of living (2) formal dignity, pomp – usu + *in* **4** ESTATE **1** **5** a politically organized (sovereign) body, usu occupying a definite territory; also its political organization **6** the operations of the government (< *matters of ~*) **7** often *cap* a constituent unit of a nation having a federal government [ME *stat*, fr OF & L, OF *estat*, fr L *status*, fr *status*, pp of *stare* to stand – more at STAND] – **statehood** *n*

**state** *vt* **1** to set, esp by regulation or authority, specify **2** to express the particulars of, esp in words, broadly to express in words – **stateable**, **stateable** *adj.*, **stated** *adj.*, **statedly** *adv.*

**state capitalism** *n* an economic system in which capitalism is modified by some state control

**statecraft** /-kraht/ *n* the art of conducting state affairs

**State Enrolled Nurse** *n* a nurse who has successfully followed a 2-year course in practical nursing in Britain

**statehouse** /-hows/ *n* the building in which a US state legislature sits

**stateless** /-lis/ *adj* having no nationality (< *a ~ person*) – **statelessness** *n*

**stately** /-li/ *adj* **1** imposing, dignified (< *language*) **2** impressive in size or proportions – **stateliness** *n*, **stately** *adv.*

**stately home** *n*, *Br* a large country residence, usu of historical or architectural interest and open to the public

**statement** /staytmənt/ *n* **1** stating orally or on paper **2** sthg stated e.g. **a** a report of facts or opinions **b** a single declaration or remark, an assertion **3** PROPOSITION **2** **4** the presentation of a theme in a musical composition **5** a summary of a financial account **6** an outward expression of thought, feeling, etc made without words (< *painted the room bright blue to make a definite ~*)

**state-of-the-art** *adj* using (the most advanced) technology available at the present time (< *a ~ aircraft design*)

**stater** /stayta/ *n* any of various ancient gold or silver coins of the Greek city-states [ME, fr LL, fr Gk *stater*, lit., a unit of weight, fr *histanai* to cause to stand, weigh – more at STAND]

**State Registered Nurse** *n* a fully qualified nurse in Britain

**stateroom** /-roohm, -room/ *n* **1** a large room in a palace or similar building for use on ceremonial occasions **2** a (large and comfortable) private cabin in a ship

**States** /stayts/ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* the USA

**state school** *n* a British school that is publicly financed and provides compulsory free education

**state's evidence** *n*, often *cap* *S* (one who gives) evidence for the prosecution in US criminal proceedings

**States General** *n pl* **1** the assembly of the 3 French estates before the Revolution **2** the legislature of the Netherlands from the 15th c to 1796

**state, side** /-sied/ *adj* or *adv* of, in, or to the USA

**statesman** /-mən/, *fem* **stateswoman** *n*, *pl* **statesmen** /-mən/, *fem* **stateswomen** **1** one versed in or esp engaged in the business of a government **2** one who exercises political leadership wisely and without narrow partisanship – **statesmanlike**, **statesmanly** *adj.*, **statesmanship** *n* **state socialism** *n* an economic system with limited socialist characteristics introduced gradually by political action

**states' rights** *n pl*, often *cap S&R* all rights not vested by the US Constitution in the federal government nor forbidden by it to the separate states

**state trial** *n* a trial for offences against the state

**\*static** /'statik/ *also* **static** /-kl/ *adj* 1 exerting force by reason of weight alone without motion (< ~ load> (< ~ pressure>) 2 of or concerned with bodies at rest or forces in equilibrium 3 characterized by a lack of movement, animation, progression, or change (< a ~ population>) 4 of, producing, or being stationary charges of electricity 5 of or caused by radio static [NL *staticus*, fr Gk *statikos* causing to stand, skilled in weighing, fr *histanai* to cause to stand, weigh - more at STAND] - **statically** *adv*

**\*static** *n* (the electrical disturbances causing) unwanted signals in a radio or television system, atmospherics [*static electricity*]

**-static** *comb form* (- *adj*) 1 causing slowing of, inhibiting (< bacteriostatic>) 2 regulating, maintaining in a steady state (< thermostatic> (< homeostatic>)

**statice** /'statisi/ *n* SFA LAVENDER [NL, genus of herbs, fr L, an astringent plant, fr Gk *statike*, fr fem of *statikos* causing to stand, astringent]

**statics** /'statiks/ *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr* a branch of mechanics dealing with the relations of forces that produce equilibrium among solid bodies

**\*station** /'steysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the place or position in which sthg or sby stands or is assigned to stand or remain 2 a stopping place, esp (the buildings at) a regular or major stopping place for trains, buses, etc 3a a post or sphere of duty or occupation b a post or area to which a military or naval force is assigned, *also*, *sing or pl in constr* the officers or society at a station c a stock farm or ranch in Australia or New Zealand 4 standing, rank < a woman of high ~> 5 a place for specialized observation and study of scientific phenomena (< a marine biology ~>) 6 a place established to provide a public service, esp POLICE STATION 7a (the equipment in) an establishment equipped for radio or television transmission or reception b CHANNEL 1F(2) [ME *stacioun*, fr MF *station*, fr L *station-*, *statio*, fr *status*, pp of *stare* to stand - more at STAND]

**\*station** *vt* to assign to or set in a station or position, post

**stationary** /'steyshən(ə)n/ *adj* 1a having a fixed position, immobile b geostationary 2 unchanging in condition

**stationary wave** *n* STANDING WAVE

**stationer** /'steyshənə/ *n* one who deals in stationery [ME *staciouner*, fr *stationarius*, fr *station-*, *statio* shop, fr L, station]

**stationery** /'steyshən(ə)n/ *n* materials (e.g. paper) for writing or typing, *specif* paper and envelopes for letter writing [*stationer*]

**\*stationmaster** /-mahstə/ *n* an official in charge of a railway station

**stations of the cross** *n pl*, often *cap S&C* (a devotion involving meditation before) a series of images or pictures, esp in a church, that represent the 14 stages of Christ's sufferings and death

**\*station wagon** *n*, chiefly *NAm* ESTATE CAR

**statism** /'steytɪz(ə)m/ *n* concentration of economic controls and planning in the hands of the state - **statist** *n or adj*

**statistic** /'stætɪstɪk/ *n* a single term or quantity in or computed from a collection of statistics, *specif* (a function used to obtain) a numerical value (e.g. the standard deviation or mean) used in describing and analysing statistics [back-formation fr *statistics*]

**statistical mechanics** /'stætɪstɪkl/ *n pl* but *sing in constr* a branch of mechanics dealing with the application of the principles of statistics to the mechanics of a system consisting of a large number of parts having motions that differ by small steps over a large range

**statistics** /'stætɪstɪks/ *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr* 1 a branch of mathematics dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data 2 a collection of quantitative data [G *statistik* study of political facts and figures, fr NL *statisticus* of politics, fr L *status* state] - **statistical** *adj*, **statistically** *adv*, **statistician** /'stætɪstɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**stator** /'stætə/ *n* a stationary part in a machine in or about which a rotor revolves [NL, fr L, one who or that which stands, fr *status*, pp of *stare* to stand - more at STAND]

**\*statuary** /'statjuəri/ *n* statues collectively

**\*statuary** *adj* of or suitable for statues (< ~ marble>)

**statue** /'statjuh/, -chooh/ *n* a likeness (e.g. of a person or animal) sculptured, cast, or modelled in a solid material (e.g. bronze or stone) [ME, fr MF, fr L *statua*, fr *statuere* to set up - more at STATUTE] - **statuette** /-et/ *n*

**\*statuesque** /-'esk/ *adj* resembling a statue, esp in dignity, shapeliness, or formal beauty - **statuesquely** *adv*, **statuesqueness** *n*

**statute** /'stachə/ *n* 1 natural height (e.g. of a person) in an upright position 2 quality or status gained by growth, development, or achievement [ME, fr OF, fr L *statuta*, fr *status*, pp of *stare* to stand - more at STAND]

**status** /'statyəs/ *n* 1 the condition of sby or sthg (in the eyes of the law) 2 (high) position or rank in relation to others or in a hierarchy [L - more at STATE]

**\*status quo** /kwoh/ *n* the existing state of affairs (< seeks to preserve the ~> [L, state in which])

**\*status symbol** *n* a possession serving to indicate high social status or wealth

**statute** /'statjuht/ *n* 1 a law passed by a legislative body and recorded 2 a rule made by a corporation or its founder, intended as permanent [ME, fr OF *statut*, fr LL *statutum* law, regulation, fr L, neut of *statutus*, pp of *statuere* to set up, station, fr *status* position, condition, state]

**statute book** *n* the whole body of legislation of a given jurisdiction

**statute law** *n* enacted written law

**statute mile** *n* MILE 1a

**statute of limitations** *n* a statute stipulating a time after which rights cannot be enforced or offences punished

**statutory** /'statjuot(ə)n/, **statutable** /-tbl/ *adj* established, regulated, or imposed by or in conformity to statute (< a ~ age limit>) - **statutorily** /-(ə)rəli/, **statutably** *adv*

**statutory instrument** *n* an official document recording any law which has been made by a minister exercising his or her delegated legislative powers and which has not gone through parliament ~ LAW

**\*staunch** /'stawnch/ *vt* to stanch

**\*staunch** *adj* steadfast in loyalty or principle [ME, fr MF *estanche*, fem of *estanc*, fr OF, fr *estancher* to stanch] - **staunchly** *adv*, **staunchness** *n*

**\*stave** /'steyv/ *n* 1 STAFF 1a, 2 2 any of the narrow strips of wood or iron placed edge to edge to form the sides, covering, or lining of a vessel (e.g. a barrel) or structure 3 a supporting bar, esp RUNG 1b 4 a stanza 5 STAFF 3 [back-formation fr *staves*, pl of *staff*]

**\*stave** *vt* staved, stove /stohv/ 1 to crush or break inwards - usu + *in* 2 to provide with staves

**stave off** *vt* to ward or fend off, esp temporarily

**staves** *pl* of STAFF

**\*stay** /'stey/ *n* a strong rope, now usu of wire, used to support a ship's mast or similar tall structure (e.g. a flagstaff) ~ SHIP [ME, fr OE *stæg*; akin to ON *stag* STAY, OE *stēle* steel]

**\*stay** *vt* to support (e.g. a chimney) (as if) with stays

**\*stay** *vi* 1 to continue in a place or condition; remain (< ~ here>) (< ~ ed awake>) 2 to take up temporary residence, lodge 3a to keep even in a contest or rivalry (< ~ with the leaders>) b of a racehorse to run well over long distances 4 *archaic* to stop going forwards, pause 5 *archaic* to stop doing sthg, cease ~ *vt* 1 to last out (e.g. a race) 2 to stop or delay the proceeding, advance, or course of, halt (< ~ an execution>) [ME *steyen*, fr MF *ester* to stand, stay, fr L *stare* - more at STAND] - **stay put** to be firmly fixed, attached, or established

**\*stay** *n* 1a stopping or being stopped b a suspension of judicial procedure (< a ~ of execution>) 2 a residence or sojourn in a place

**\*stay** *n* 1 shy who or sthg that serves as a prop; a support 2 a corset stiffened with bones - usu pl with *sing* meaning [MF *estare*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *stan* to stand - more at STAND]

**\*stay** *vt* to provide physical or moral support for; sustain

**\*stay-at-home** *n or adj* (one) preferring to remain in his/her own home, locality, or country

**stayer** /'steyə/ *n* a racehorse that habitually stays the course ['STAY + -ER]

**\*staying power** /'steyɪŋ/ *n* stamina

**staysail** /'stey.səɪl/ *tech* -səl/ *n* a fore-and-aft sail hoisted on a stay

**\*stay stitch** *n* a line of stitches sewn round an edge (e.g. a neckline) before making up a garment in order to prevent the cloth from stretching

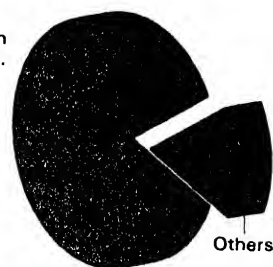
**stead** /'sted/ *n* the office, place, or function ordinarily occupied or carried out by sby or sthg else (< acted in his brother's ~>) [ME *stede* place, site, advantage, fr OE, place; akin to OHG *stat* place, *stān* to stand]

**steadfast** /'sted,fəst/, -fəst/ *adj* 1a firmly fixed in place or position (< a ~ gaze>) b not subject to change 2 firm in belief, determination, or adherence, loyal - **steadfastly** *adv*, **steadfastness** *n*

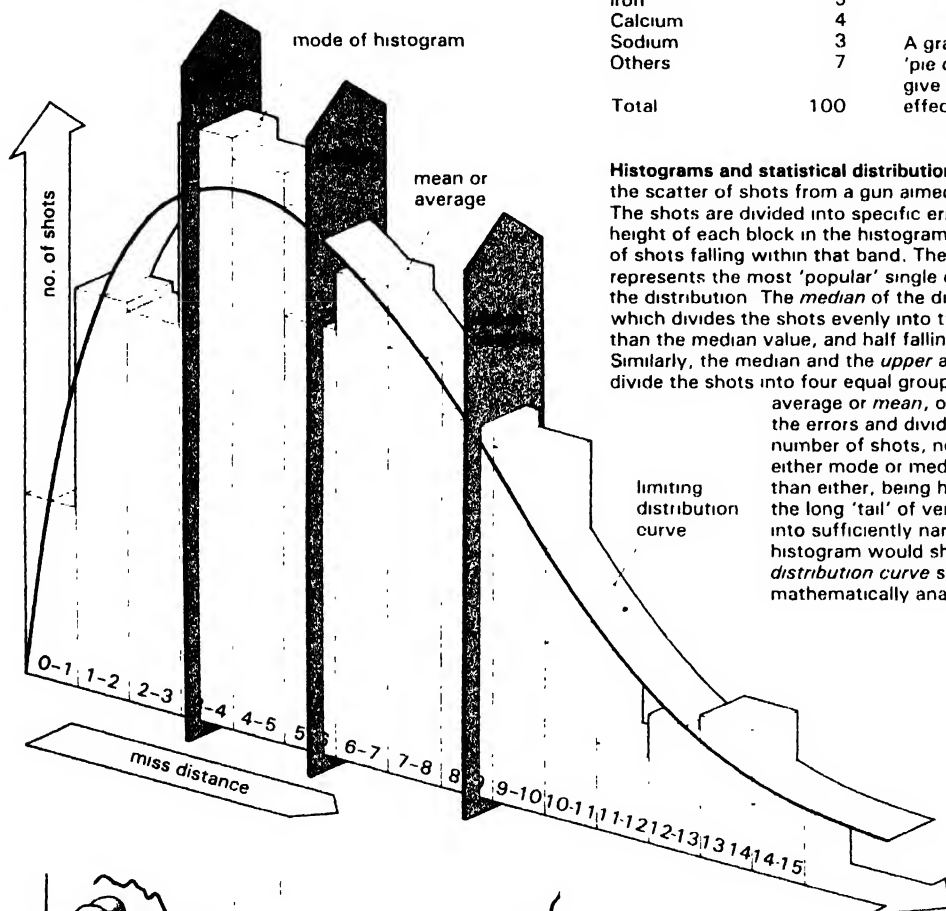
**Statistics** is the compilation, presentation and analysis of many related items of data, which as individual items are unreliable or insignificant. The word originally meant 'state arithmetic', as the first statistics were compiled for census or tax purposes. It now means (a) an assembly of related facts or (b) the mathematical technique of drawing probable conclusions from them. Thus a compilation of totals of smokers and non-smokers, showing the numbers of each who died from lung cancer over a certain period of time, is statistics in the first sense. The deduction from the figures that lung cancer is significantly correlated with smoking requires statistics in the second sense

**Statistical data** can be presented in tabular form, or in many forms of graphic display. Thus this table shows the percentage of the major elements in the earth's crust:

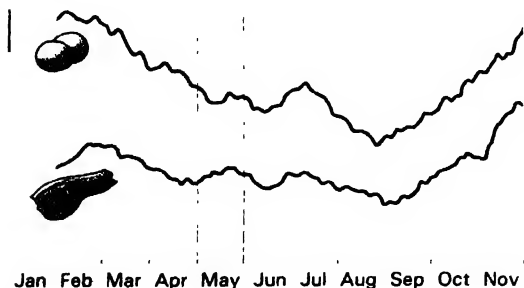
Element	%
Oxygen	46
Silicon	27
Aluminium	8
Iron	5
Calcium	4
Sodium	3
Others	7
Total	100



A graphical presentation – a 'pie chart' in this case – can give the data much more effectively



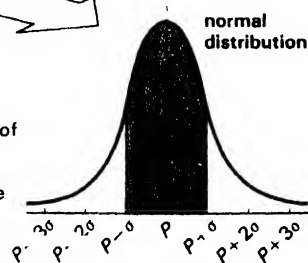
**Histograms and statistical distributions.** The diagram shows the scatter of shots from a gun aimed at a distant target. The shots are divided into specific error-bands, and the height of each block in the histogram represents the number of shots falling within that band. The tallest block represents the most 'popular' single error-band, the *mode* of the distribution. The *median* of the distribution is the value which divides the shots evenly into two, half falling nearer than the median value, and half falling further away. Similarly, the median and the *upper* and *lower quartiles* divide the shots into four equal groups. The conventional average or *mean*, obtained by adding all the errors and dividing by the total number of shots, need not coincide with either mode or median. Here it is greater than either, being heavily influenced by the long 'tail' of very wide shots. Divided into sufficiently narrow blocks, the histogram would shade into the *limiting distribution curve* shown, which could be mathematically analysed



**Correlation.** The diagram shows the (hypothetical) sales of eggs and of bacon over a year. It is clear that they tend to fluctuate together, ie are correlated to some degree, though the results for any one month (eg May) would not reveal it very convincingly. A statistical analysis would show the degree of correlation, as well as a measure of the likelihood that it had happened by chance.

**The normal distribution** is one of the most fundamental of statistical distributions. The heights of European males, the number of 'heads' in a set of penny-tossings, and the production errors in many processes are all phenomena which are 'normally distributed'.

The mean, median, and mode of the distribution all coincide at its peak,  $P$ , and its spread is defined by a single number – the *standard deviation*  $\sigma$  (sigma). 68% of a normally distributed set of values will be found within  $1\sigma$  of the mean value. And while the distribution theoretically 'tails' to infinity in both directions, only 0.26% of values are further than  $3\sigma$  from the mean.



### Probability: the educated guess



In a population of 300 people

150 have brown hair

96 have fair hair

54 have black hair

the probability of a person chosen at random having brown hair will be

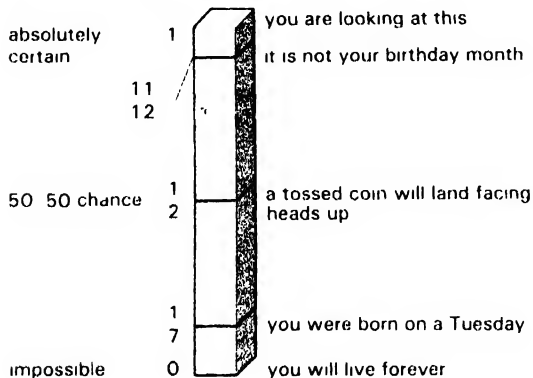
Pr (brown hair)  $\frac{\text{no with brown hair}}{\text{total}}$

$$\frac{150}{300} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ ie } 1 \text{ in } 2$$

the 'probability' is the estimated relative frequency of something happening or being true. All probabilities are greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to 1

$$0 \leq P \leq 1$$

Probabilities can be presented on a scale



There are two laws of probability.

The **multiplication law** – for events which are completely independent. If a coin is tossed, and at the same moment a die is thrown, the probability of obtaining 'heads' and a six is given by

$$\text{Pr (heads, six)} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{12}$$

ie a 1 in 12 chance

The **addition law** – for different outcomes of the same event.

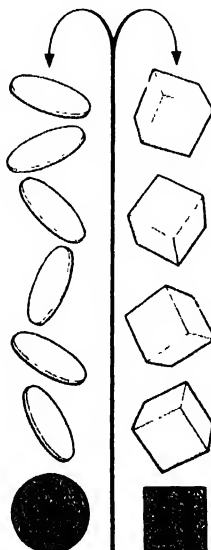
If a coin is tossed and a die thrown what is the probability of getting heads + six OR tails + five?

$$\text{Pr (heads, six)} = \frac{1}{12}$$

$$\text{Pr (tails, five)} = \frac{1}{12}$$

$$\text{Pr (heads, six; or tails, five)} = \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} = \frac{2}{12} = \frac{1}{6}$$

The laws of probability govern all forms of gambling.

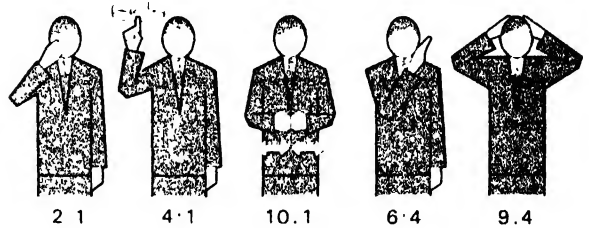


Horse racing has a 'probability language' all of its own. The odds offered by bookies are trading figures, rather than actual probabilities: odds of A:B on mean that A + B are the total chances presented, of which A are favourable (horse wins) but B are unfavourable (horse loses). If these odds represented the true probability then the chances of the

horse winning would be  $\frac{A}{A+B}$

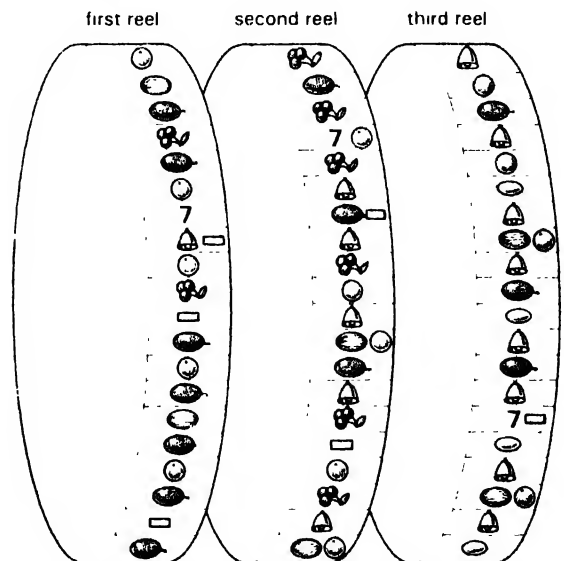
So odds of 2:1 on implies 2 chances of winning for every 1 of losing. The bookie, offered £2 on such terms, would undertake to return £3 if the horse won. But its real chance of winning must be less than  $\frac{1}{3}$ , otherwise the bookie could not make any profit.

Similarly, odds of 6:1 against means 6 chances of losing to 1 of winning. The bookie would accept a £1 bet and return £7 if the horse won.



On the racecourse itself the odds and the number of the horse are signalled to the bookies by their tic-tac men, using a code of signals that varies in detail depending on the country in which the race is taking place.

### Fruit machine theory



Each reel of this slot machine contains 7 different symbols, which means there are 343 ( $7 \times 7 \times 7$ ) possible combinations. Only twelve of these pay back any money, but some of the twelve can be made several ways on the top line. The combination of one cherry plus any two other symbols can be made with either of 2 cherries on the first reel and anything not a cherry on the second and third reel. But a line of 3 sevens, for example, can only be made one way, thus reducing the chances of a large winning.

- stead** /ˈstedɪŋ/ *n* a small farm [ME *steding* fr *stede* place farm]
- steady** /ˈstiːdi/ *adj* 1a firm in position not shaking rocking etc b direct or sure unfaltering (< a ~ hand> 2 showing or continuing with little variation or fluctuation stable uniform (< ~ prices> (< a ~ pace> 3a not easily moved or upset calm (< ~ nerves> b dependable constant c not given to dissipation sober [*stead* + *y*] - *steadily* *adv* *steadiness* *n*
- steady** *vb* to make keep or become steady *steadier* *n*
- steady** *adv* 1 in a steady manner steadily 2 on the course set - used as a direction to the helmsman of a ship
- steady** *n* a boyfriend or girl friend with whom one is going steady *infml*
- steady state** *n* a dynamically balanced state or condition of a system or process that tends to remain when once achieved
- steady state theory** *n* a theory in cosmology the universe has always existed and has always been expanding with matter being created continuously - compare BIG BANG THEORY
- steak** /ˈsteyk/ *n* 1a a slice of meat cut from a fleshy part (e.g. the rump) of a (beef) carcass and suitable for grilling or frying - MEAT b a poorer quality less tender beef cut usu from the neck and shoulder suitable for braising or stewing 2 a cross sectional slice from between the centre and tail of a large fish compare CUTLET 2 [ME *steke* fr ON *steik* akin to ON *steikja* to roast on a stake *stik* stick stake - more at 'STICK]
- steal** /ˈstiːl/ *vb* stole /ˈstohl/ stolen /ˈstohlan/ *vi* 1 to take the property of another 2 to come or go secretly or unobtrusively ~ *vt* 1a to take without leave esp secretly or by force and with intent to keep b to appropriate entirely to oneself or beyond one's proper share (< ~ the show> 2 to accomplish obtain or convey in a secretive unobserved or furtive manner (< ~ a visit> (< stole a glance at him> 3 to seize or gain by trickery or skill (< a footballer adept at ~ing the ball> [ME *stelen* fr OE *stelan* akin to OHG *stelan* to steal] *stealer* *n* steal a march to gain an advantage unobserved usu + *on* steal someone's thunder to appropriate or adapt sthg devised by another in order to take the credit due to him/her
- stealth** /ˈsteltʃ/ *n* 1 the act or action of proceeding furtively or unobtrusively 2 the state of being furtive or unobtrusive [ME *stelthe* akin to OE *stelan* to steal]
- stealthy** /ˈsteltʃi/ *adj* 1 slow deliberate and secret in action or character 2 intended to escape observation furtive *stealthily* *adv* *stealthiness* *n*
- steam** /ˈstiːm/ *n* 1 a vapour given off by a heated substance 2a the vapour into which water is converted when heated to its boiling point b the mist formed by the condensation of water vapour when cooled 3a energy or power generated (as if) by steam under pressure b driving force power (< got there under his own ~> - *infml* [ME *stem* fr OE *steam* akin to D *stoom* steam] - let/blow off steam to release pent up emotions
- steam** *vi* 1 to rise or pass off as vapour 2 to give off steam or vapour 3a to move or travel (as if) by steam power (e.g. in a steamship) b to proceed quickly 4 to become cooked by steam 5 to be angry boil (< ~ing over the insult he had received> 6 to become covered up or over with steam or condensation (< his glasses ~ed up>) ~ *vt* 1 to give out as fumes exhale 2 to apply steam to esp to expose to the action of steam (e.g. for softening or cooking)
- steam boat** /ˈboht/ *n* a boat propelled by steam power
- steam chest** *n* the chamber from which steam is distributed to a cylinder of a steam engine
- steam engine** *n* a stationary or locomotive engine driven or worked by steam
- steamer** /ˈstiːmər/ *n* 1a a device in which articles are steamed esp a vessel in which food is cooked by steam 2a a ship propelled by steam b an engine, machine, or vehicle operated or propelled by steam [ˈSTɪ-AM + ɪ-ER]
- steam iron** *n* an electric iron with a compartment holding water that is converted to steam by the iron's heat and emitted through the soleplate onto the fabric being pressed
- steam radio** *n*, *Br* radio considered as antiquated in comparison with television - humor
- steam roller** /ˈrohl/ *n* 1 a machine equipped with wide heavy rollers for compacting the surfaces of roads, pavements, etc 2 a crushing force esp when ruthlessly applied to overcome opposition
- steamroller** also **steamroll** *vt* 1 to crush (as if) with a steamroller (< ~ the opposition> 2 to force to a specified state or condition by the use of overwhelming pressure (< ~ed the bill through Parliament>) ~ *vi* to move or proceed with irresistible force
- steamship** /ˈʃip/ *n* STEAMER 2a
- steam turbine** *n* a turbine driven by the pressure of steam against the turbine blades
- steam up** *vi* to make angry or excited arouse
- steamy** /ˈstiːmi/ *adj* 1 consisting of characterized by or full of steam 2 erotic (< a ~ love scene> *steamily* *adv* *steaminess* *n*
- stearate** /ˈstiəriət/ *n* a salt or ester of stearic acid
- stearic acid** /ˈstiəriːk/ *n* a fatty acid that is obtained from hard fat (e.g. tallow) and whose salts are used in soap manufacture [*stearic* fr F *stearique* fr Gk *stear* fat]
- stearin** /ˈstiəriːn/ *n* 1 an ester of glycerol and stearic acid 2 the solid portion of a fat [F *stearine* fr Gk *stear*]
- steat** /ˈstiːt/ *steato* *comb form* fat (<steatolysis>) [Gk fr *steat* *stear* more at STONE]
- steatite** /ˈstiːtiːt/ *n* soapstone [I *steatitis* a precious stone fr Gk fr *stear*] *steatitic* /ˈtiːtiːk/ *adj*
- steatopygia** /ˈstiːtəpiːgiːə/ *n* the development of excess fat on the buttocks esp among Hottentot females [NL fr *steat* Gk *pyge* rump buttocks akin to Latvian *pauga* cushion Gk *physan* to blow more at FOG] *steatopygic*, *steatopygous* /ˈpiːgiːəs/ *adj*
- steed** /ˈstiːd/ *n* a horse esp a spirited horse for state or war chiefly poetic [ME *stede* fr OE *steda* stallion akin to OE *stod* stud more at STID]
- steel** /ˈstiːl/ *n* 1 commercial iron distinguished from cast iron by its malleability and lower carbon content 2 an instrument or implement (characteristically) of steel c a a fluted round steel rod with a handle for sharpening knives b a piece of steel for striking sparks from flint c a strip of steel used for stiffening 3 a quality (e.g. of mind or spirit) that suggests steel esp in strength or hardness (< nerves of ~> [ME *steele* fr OE *style* *steele* akin to OHG *stahal* steel Skt *stakati* he resists]
- steel** *vt* 1 to make unfeeling harden 2 to fill with resolution or determination
- steel band** *n* a band that plays tuned percussion instruments cut out of oil drums developed orig in Trinidad *steelbandsman* *n*
- steel grey** *adj* or *n* bluish dark grey
- steel guitar** *n* a usu electric instrument with steel strings that are plucked while being pressed with a movable steel bar
- steel wool** *n* long fine loosely compacted steel fibres used esp for scouring and burnishing
- steel works** /ˈwʊks/ *n* *pl* steelworks an establishment where steel is made often *pl* with sing meaning *steelworker* *n*
- steely** /ˈstiːli/ *adj* of or like (the hardness strength or colour of) steel *steeliness* *n*
- steelyard** /ˈyɑːd/ *n* a balance in which an object to be weighed is suspended from the shorter arm of a lever and the weight determined by moving a counterbalance along a graduated scale on the longer arm until equilibrium is attained [prob fr *steel* *adj* *yard* (rod)]
- steenbok** /ˈstiːnbok/ *steinbok* /ˈstiːnbok/ *n* any of a genus of small antelopes of the plains of S and E Africa [Afrnk *steenbok* akin to OE *stanbucca* ibex both fr a prehistoric WGMc compound whose elements are represented respectively by OE *stan* stone & OE *bucca* buck]
- steep** /ˈstiːp/ *adj* 1 making a large angle with the plane of the horizon almost vertical 2 being or characterized by a rapid and severe decline or increase 3 difficult to accept comply with or carry out excessive *infml* [ME *stepe* fr OE *steap* high steep deep akin to MHG *stief* steep ON *staup* lump knoll cup] *steepen* *vb* *steepish* *adj*, *steeply* *adv* *steepness* *n*
- steep** *vi* 1 to soak in a liquid at a temperature below its boiling point (e.g. for softening or bleaching) 2 to cover with or plunge into a liquid (e.g. in bathing rinsing or soaking) 3 to imbue with or subject thoroughly to usu + *in* (< ~ed in history>) ~ *vi* to undergo soaking in a liquid [ME *stepen* akin to Sw *stopa* to steep & prob to ON *staup* cup]
- steep** *n* 1 being steeped 2 a liquid in which sthg is steeped
- steeple** /ˈstiːpl/ *n* (a tower with) a tall spire on a church [ME *stapel* fr OE *stapel* tower akin to OE *steap* steep]
- steeplechase** /ˈtʃeɪs/ *n* 1a a horse race across country b a horse race over jumps *specif* one over a course longer than 2mi (about 3.2km) containing fences higher than 4ft 6in (about 1.4m) - compare FLAT RACE HURDLE 2b 2 a middle distance running race over obstacles *specif* one of 3000m over 28 hurdles and 7 water jumps [fr the use of church steeples as landmarks to guide the riders] - *steeplechaser* *n* *steeplechasing* *n*
- steeplejack** /ˈjæk/ *n* one who climbs chimneys, towers, etc to paint repair or demolish them
- steer** /ˈstiːə/ *n* a male bovine animal castrated before sexual maturity



- [ME, fr OE *steor* young ox; akin to OHG *stior* young ox, Skt *sthavira*, *sthura* stout, thick, broad]
- steer** *vt* 1 to direct the course of, esp to guide (e.g. a ship) by mechanical means (e.g. a rudder) 2 to set and hold to (a course) ~ *vi* 1 to direct the course (e.g. of a ship or motor vehicle) 2 to pursue a course of action 3 to be subject to guidance or direction < a car that ~s well > [ME *stieren*, fr OE *stieran*, akin to OE *steor*-steering oar, Gk *stauros* stake, cross, *stylos* pillar, Skt *sthavira*, *sthura* stout, thick, L *stare* to stand - more at STAND] - **steerable** *adj*, **steerer** *n* - **steer clear** to keep entirely away - often + *of*
- steerage** /'stɪərɪdʒ/ *n* 1 the act or practice of steering, *broadly* direction 2 a large section in a passenger ship for passengers paying the lowest fares [(2) fr its orig being located near the rudder]
- steerage-way** *n* a rate of motion sufficient to make a ship or boat respond to movements of the rudder
- steering column** /'stɪərɪŋ/ *n* the column that encloses the links between the steering wheel and the steering gear of a vehicle
- steering committee** *n* a committee that determines the order in which business will be taken up (e.g. in Parliament)
- steering wheel** *n* a handwheel by means of which one steers a motor vehicle, ship, etc
- steersman** /'stɪəzmən/ *n* a helmsman
- stegosaur** /'stɛɡə'sɔːr/ *n* any of a large group of dinosaurs with strongly developed bony plates along the back [NL *Stegosauria*, group name, fr *Stegosaurus*, genus name]
- stegosaur** /'stɛɡə'sɔːr/ *n* any of a genus of large armoured dinosaurs of the Upper Jurassic rocks of Colorado and Wyoming [~ EVOLUTION [NL, genus name, fr Gk *stegos* roof + *sauros* lizard - more at THATCH, SAURIAN]
- stein** /s(h)teɪn/ *n* a earthenware beer mug often with a hinged lid [prob fr G *steingut* stoneware, fr *stein* stone + *gut* goods]
- steinbok** /'stɛnbɒk, 'stɛnbɒk/ *n* a steenbok
- stèle** /'stiːl, 'stiːl/ *n* 1 a usu carved or inscribed stone slab or pillar used esp as a gravestone 2 the (cylindrical) central vascular portion of the stem of a vascular plant [Gk *stela* pillar, akin to Gk *stellen* to set up - more at STAIL] - **stelar** /'stiːlə/ *adj*
- stellar** /'stiːlə/ *adj* of or composed of (the) stars [LL *stellaris*, fr L *stella* star - more at STAR]
- stellate** /'stiːlət, -ləɪt/ *also* **stellated** /-ləɪtɪd/ *adj* resembling a star, esp in shape [L *stella*]
- stelliform** /'stiːləfɔːm/ *adj* star-shaped [NL *stelliformis*, fr L *stella* + *-iformis* -iform]
- stellular** /'stiːləjʊlə/ *adj* 1 star-shaped 2 marked with stars
- stem** /stɛm/ *n* 1a the main trunk of a plant, *specif* a primary plant axis that develops buds and shoots instead of roots b a branch, petiole, or other plant part that supports a leaf, fruit, etc 2 the bow or prow of a vessel, *specif* the principal frame member at the bow to which the sides are fixed - compare *STEM* [~ SHIP 3 a line of ancestry, esp a fundamental line from which others have arisen 4 that part of a word which has unchanged spelling when the word is inflected 5 sth that resembles a plant stem e.g. a main (vertical) stroke of a letter or musical note b the tubular part of a tobacco pipe from the bowl outwards, through which smoke is drawn c the often slender and cylindrical upright support between the base and bowl of a wineglass d a shaft of a watch used for winding [ME, fr OE *stefn*, *stemn* stem of a plant or ship, OE *stefn* akin to OE *stæf* staff, OE *stemn* akin to OE *standan* to stand] - **stemless** *adj*, **stemmed** *adj*
- stem** *vt* -mm- 1 to make headway against (e.g. an adverse tide, current, or wind) 2 to check or go counter to (sthg adverse) ['stem 2]
- stem** *vb* -mm- *vi* to originate - usu + *from* ~ *vt* to remove the stem from ['stem 1]
- stem** *vt* -mm- to stop or check (as if) by damming < ~ a flow of blood > [ME *stemmen* to dam up, fr ON *stemma*, akin to OE *stamernan* to stammer]
- stem cell** *n* an unspecialized cell (e.g. in bone marrow) that gives rise to differentiated cells (e.g. blood cells)
- stem christie**, **stem christy** /'kristi/ *n* a turn in sking in which the back end of one ski is forced outwards from the line of progress and the other ski is then brought parallel to it [*stem* (an act of slowing oneself on skis, fr 'stem') + *christie*, *christy* (a sking turn), by shortening & alter. fr *christiania*]
- stemma** /'stɛmə/ *n*, *pl* **stemmata** /-mətə/ 1 a simple eye present in some insects 2 a genealogical list [L, wreath, pedigree (fr the wreaths placed on ancestral images), fr Gk, wreath, fr *stephein* to crown, *enwreath*]
- Sten** /stɛn/, **Sten gun** *n* a lightweight British submachine gun [Major Sheppard, 20th-c E army officer + Mr Turpin, 20th-c E civil servant + England]
- sten-** /stɛn-/ , **steno-** *comb form* narrow, little <stenographer> <stenosis> [Gk, fr *stenos* narrow, close, scanty]
- stench** /stɛnʃ/ *n* a stink [ME, fr OE *stenc*, akin to OE *stincan* to emit a smell - more at STINK]
- stencil** /'stɛns(ə)l/ *n* 1 (a printing process using, or a design, pattern, etc produced by means of) an impervious material (e.g. a sheet of paper or metal) perforated with a design or lettering through which a substance (e.g. ink or paint) is forced onto the surface below 2 a sheet of strong tissue paper impregnated or coated (e.g. with paraffin or wax) for use esp in typing a stencil [ME *stanselen* to ornament with sparkling colours, fr MF *estanceler*, fr *estanceler* spark, fr (assumed) VL *stincilla*, fr L *scintilla*]
- stencil** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), **stencilling** /'stɛns(ə)lɪŋ/ 1 to produce by means of a stencil 2 to mark or paint with a stencil - **stenciller** *n*
- sténography** /stɛ'nɒɡrəfi/ *n* the writing and transcription of shorthand - **sténographer** *n*, **sténographic** /stɛ'nə'ɡrəfɪk/ *adj*, **sténographically** *adv*
- stenosis** /stɪ'noʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **stenoses** /-sɛz/ a narrowing or constriction of the diameter of a bodily passage or orifice [NL, fr Gk *stenosis* act of narrowing, fr *stenoun* to narrow, fr *stenos*] - **stenosed** /noʊzɪd, -noʊst/ *adj*, **stenotic** /stɛ'noʊtɪk/ *adj*
- sténotype** /'stɛnə'tɪp/ *trademark* - used for a small machine rather like a typewriter, used to record speech by means of phonograms (e.g. shorthand characters) - **sténotype** *vt*, **sténotypist** /-tɪpɪst/ *n*, **sténotypy** /stɛ'nə'tɪpɪ, stɛ'noʊtɪpɪ/ *n*
- stentorian** /stɛn'tɔːrɪən/ *adj* extremely loud [*Stentor*, mythical Gk herald noted for his loud voice, fr L, fr Gk *Stentor*]
- step** /stɛp/ *n* 1 a rest for the foot in ascending or descending e.g. a a single tread and riser on a stairway, a stair b a ladder rung 2a(1) (the distance or space passed over in) an advance or movement made by raising the foot and bringing it down at another point (2) a combination of foot (and body) movements constituting a unit or a repeated pattern < a dance ~ > (3) manner of walking; stride b FOOTPRINT 1 c the sound of a footstep < heard his ~s in the hall > 3 a short distance < just a ~ from the beach > 4 pl a course, way < directed his ~s towards the river > 5a a degree, grade, or rank in a scale b a stage in a process < was guided through every ~ of her career > 6 a block supporting the base of a mast 7 an action, proceeding, or measure often occurring as 1 in a series - often pl with sing meaning < is taking ~s to improve the situation > 8 a steplike offset or part, usu occurring in a series 9 pl a stepladder [ME, fr OE *steppe*; akin to OHG *stapfo* step, *stampfon* to stamp] - **steplike** *adj*, **stepped** *adj* - **in step** 1 with each foot moving to the same time as the corresponding foot of others or in time to music 2 in harmony or agreement - **out of step** not in step
- step** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1a to move by raising the foot and bringing it down at another point or by moving each foot in succession b to dance 2a to go on foot; walk b to be on one's way; leave - often + *along* 3 to press down on sthg with the foot < ~ on the brake > ~ *vi* 1 to take by moving the feet in succession < ~ 3 paces > 2 to go through the steps of, perform < ~ a minute > 3 to make (e.g. a mast) erect by fixing the lower end in a step 4 to measure by steps < ~ 50 yards > - usu + *off* or *out* 5 to construct or arrange (as if) in steps < craggy peaks with terraces ~ped up the sides - Time > - **step into** to attain or adopt (sthg) with ease < stepped into a fortune > - **step on it/the gas** to increase one's speed; hurry up - *infinl*
- step-** *comb form* related by remarriage and not by blood <steparent> <stepsister> [ME, fr OE *steop-* akin to OHG *stiof-* step-]
- step, brother** /-brʊðə/ *n* a son of one's stepparent by a former marriage
- step-by-step** *adj* marked by successive degrees, usu of limited extent; gradual
- step, child** /-tʃɪld/ *n*, *pl* **stepchildren** /-tʃɪldrən/ a child of one's wife or husband by a former marriage
- step, dance** *n* a dance in which steps are emphasized rather than gesture or posture
- step, daughter** /-dɔːtə/ *n* a daughter of one's wife or husband by a former marriage
- step down** *vt* to lower (the voltage at which an alternating current is operating) by means of a transformer ~ *vi* to retire, resign < step down as chairman > - **step-down** *adj*
- step, father** /-fɑːðə/ *n* the husband of one's mother by a subsequent marriage
- stephanotis** /stɛfə'noʊtɪs/ *n* any of a genus of Old World tropical woody climbing plants with fragrant white flowers [NL, genus name, fr

Gk *stephanotis* fit for a crown, fr *stephanos* crown, fr *stephein* to crown]

**'step.in** *adj.*, of clothes put on by being stepped into


**'step.in** *vt* 1 to make a brief informal visit 2 to intervene in an affair or dispute

**'step.ladder** /-ˈlɑdər/ *n* a portable set of steps with a hinged frame

**'step.mother** /-ˈmʌðər/ *n* the wife of one's father by a subsequent marriage

**step out** *vt* 1 to leave or go outside, usu for a short time <stepped out for a smoke> 2 to go or march at a vigorous or increased pace

**'step.parent** /-ˈpeərənt/ *n* the husband or wife of one's parent by a subsequent marriage

**steppe** /ˈstep/ *n* a vast usu level and treeless plain, esp in SE Europe or Asia  PLANT [Russ *step*]

**'stepping-stone** *n* 1 a stone on which to step (e.g. in crossing a stream) 2 a means of progress or advancement


**'step.sister** /-ˈsɪstər/ *n* a daughter of one's stepparent by a former marriage

**'step.son** /-ˈsʌn/ *n* a son of one's husband or wife by a former marriage

**step up** *vt* 1 to increase (the voltage at which an alternating current is operating) by means of a transformer 2 to increase, augment, or advance by 1 or more steps <step up production> ~ *vi* 1 to come forward <step up to the front> 2 to undergo an increase ~ **step-up** *adj*

**'step.wise** /-ˈwɪz/ *adj* marked by or proceeding in steps

**-ster** /-stər/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 sby who or sthg that does, handles, or operates <tapster> <teamster> 2 sby who or sthg that makes or uses <songster> <punster> 3 sby who or sthg that is associated with or participates in <gamester> <gangster> 4 sby who or sthg that is <youngster> [ME, fr OE *-estre* female agent; akin to MD *-ster*]

**steradian** /stəˈreɪdiən/ *n* a unit of solid angular measurement that is equal to the solid angle at the centre of a sphere subtended by an area on the surface of the sphere equal to the square of the radius of the sphere  PHYSICS [*stere* + *radian*]

**stere** /stə/ *n* a metric unit of volume equal to one cubic metre (about 1.3 cubic yd) [F *stère*, fr Gk *stereos*]

**stere-** /stəri-, stəri-/ *stereo-* *comb form* 1 solid (body) <stereotaxis> <stereometry> 2a stereoscope <stereopsis> <stereography> b having, involving, or dealing with 3 dimensions of space <stereochemistry> [NL, fr Gk, fr *stereos* solid ~ more at STARE]

**'stereo** /stəriəh-, stəriəh-/ *n, pl stereos* 1 a stereoscopic method, system, or effect 2a stereophonic reproduction b a stereophonic sound system [(1) short for *stereoscopy*, (2) short for *stereophonic*]

**\*stereo** *adj* 1 stereoscopic 2 stereophonic

**'stereo.bate** /-ˈbaɪt/ *n* a solid structure of masonry used as a foundation [F or L; F *stéréobate*, fr L *stereobata* foundation, fr Gk *stereobates*, fr *stere-* + *bainein* to step, go ~ more at COME]

**stereochemistry** /-ˈkɛmɪstri/ *n* (a branch of chemistry that deals with) the spatial arrangement of atoms and groups in molecules [ISV] ~ **stereochemical** /-ˈkɛmɪkl/ *adj*, **stereochemically** *adv*

**stereography** /stəriˈɒɡrəfi-, stəri-/ *n* the art, process, or technique of drawing solid bodies on a plane surface ~ **stereographic** /-rɪˈɒɡrəfɪk/ *adj*, **stereographically** *adv*

**stereoisomer** /stəriˈɒhɪsəmə-, stəri-/ *n* any of a group of related isomers of a molecule in which atoms are linked in the same order but differ in their spatial arrangement [ISV] ~ **stereoisomeric** /-ɪsəhˈmɛrɪk/ *adj*, **stereoisomerism** /-ɪsəməˈrɪz(ə)m/ *n*

**stereophonic** /stəriˈɒfənɪk-, stəri-/ *adj* of or being (a system for) sound reproduction in which the sound is split into and reproduced by 2 different channels to give spatial effect [ISV] ~ **stereophonically** *adv*, **stereophony** /-rɪˈɒfəni/ *n*

**stereoscope** /stəriˈɒskəp-, stəri-/ *n* an optical instrument with 2 eyepieces through which the observer views 2 pictures taken from points of view a little way apart to get the effect of a single three-dimensional picture

**stereoscopy** /stəriˈɒskəpi-, stəri-/ *n* the seeing of objects in 3 dimensions [ISV] ~ **stereoscopic** /-rɪˈɒskəpɪk/ *adj*, **stereoscopically** *adv*

**'stereo.type** /stəriˈaɪtɪp-, stəri-/ *n* 1 a plate made by making a cast, usu in type metal, from a mould of a printing surface 2 sby who or sthg that conforms to a fixed or general pattern; esp a standardized, usu oversimplified, mental picture or attitude held in common by members of a group [F *stéréotype*, fr *stéré-* *stere-* + *type*] ~ **stereotypical** /-ˈtɪpɪkl/ *also* **stereotypic** *adj*

**\*stereotype** *vt* 1 to make a stereotype from 2a to repeat without

variation, make hackneyed b to develop a mental stereotype about ~ **stereotyper** *n*

**'stereo.typed** *adj* lacking originality or individuality

**steric** /ˈstɜrk-, ˈstɜrk-/ *adj* of or involving the arrangement of atoms in space [ISV *stere-* + *-ic*] ~ **sterically** *adv*


**sterile** /ˈstɜrɪl/ *adj* 1 failing or not able to produce or bear fruit, crops, or offspring 2a deficient in ideas or originality b free from living organisms, esp microorganisms 3 bringing no rewards or results; not productive <the ~ search for jobs> [L *sterilis*, akin to Goth *stairō* sterile, Gk *stera*] ~ **sterilely** *adv*, **sterilize** /ˈstɜrɪleɪz/ *vt*, **sterilizable** *adj*, **sterilizer** *n*, **sterilant** *n*, **sterilization** /-ˈzəɪz(ə)z(ə)n/ *n*, **sterility** /stɪˈrɪləti/ *n*

**'sterling** /ˈstɜrlɪŋ/ *n* 1 British money 2 (articles of) sterling silver [ME, silver penny]


**\*sterling** *adj* 1 of or calculated in terms of British sterling 2a of silver having a fixed standard of purity, *specif* 92.5 per cent pure b made of sterling silver 3 conforming to the highest standard <~ character>

**sterling area** *n* a group of countries whose currencies are tied to British sterling

**'stern** /stɜrn/ *adj* 1a hard or severe in nature or manner; austere b expressive of severe displeasure, harsh 2 forbidding or gloomy in appearance 3 inexorable, relentless <~ necessity> 4 sturdy, firm <a ~ resolve> [ME *sterne*, fr OE *styrne*; akin to OE *starnan* to stare] ~ **sternly** *adv*, **sternness** *n*

**\*stern** *n* 1 the rear end of a ship or boat ~ compare STEW  SHIP 2 a back or rear part, the last or latter part [ME, rudder, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *stjorn* act of steering, akin to OF *stieran* to steer ~ more at 'STEER] ~ **sternmost** *adj*, **sternwards** /-ˈwɔɪd/ *adv*

**'stern.post** /-ˈpəʊst/ *n* the principal supporting structure at the stern of a ship extending from keel to deck

**sternum** /ˈstɜrnəm/ *n, pl sternums*, **sterna** /-ˈnə/ *a* bone or cartilage at the front of the body that connects the ribs, both sides of the shoulder girdle, or both, the breastbone  ANATOMY [NL, fr Gk *sternon* chest, breastbone, akin to OHG *\*stirna* forehead, L *sternere* to spread out ~ more at STREW] ~ **sternal** *adj*

**sternutation** /stɜrnjuˈtəʃən/ *n* sneezing ~ used technically [L *sternutatio*-, *sternutatio*, fr *sternutatus*, pp of *sternutare* to sneeze, fr *sternutus*, pp of *sternuere* to sneeze; akin to Gk *ptarmysthai* to sneeze] ~ **sternutatory** /stɜrnjuˈɒtəɪ(ə)ri/ *adj*

**sternutator** /stɜrnjuˈɒtəɪtər/ *n* sthg (e.g. an irritant gas) that induces sneezing and often tears and vomiting

**sternway** /ˈstɜrnweɪ/ *n* backwards movement of a ship

**stern.wheeler** *n* a steamer having a paddle wheel at the stern

**steroid** /stəriɔɪd-, ˈstɔɪd-/ *n* any of numerous compounds of similar chemical structure, including the sterols and various hormones (e.g. testosterone) and glycosides (e.g. digitalis) [ISV *sterol* + *-oid*] ~ **steroidal** /ˈstɔɪrɪdl/ *adj*

**sterol** /ˈstɜrəl/ *n* any of various solid alcohols (e.g. cholesterol) widely distributed in animal and plant fats [ISV, fr *-sterol* (as in *cholesterol*)]

**stertorous** /stɜrtərəs/ *adj* characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound [NL *stertor* act of snoring, fr L *stertere* to snore, akin to L *sternuere* to sneeze] ~ **stertorously** *adv*

**stet** /stet/ *vt* -tt- to direct retention of (a word or passage previously ordered to be deleted or omitted) by annotating, usu with the word *stet* [L, let it stand, fr *stare* to stand ~ more at STAND]

**stethoscope** /ˈstɛθəˌskəp/ *n* an instrument used to detect and study sounds produced in the body [F *stéthoscope*, fr Gk *stêthos* chest + F *-scope*] ~ **stethoscopic** /-ˈskəpɪk/ *adj*, **stethoscopically** *adv*, **stethoscopy** /stɛθəˈskəpi/ *n*

**stetson** /ˈstets(ə)n/ *n* a broad-brimmed high-crowned felt hat [fr *Stetson*, a trademark]

**'stevedore** /ˈsteevədər/ *n* a docker [Sp *estibador*, fr *estibar* to pack, fr L *stipare* to press together ~ more at STIFF]

**\*stevedore** *vb* to handle (cargo) as a stevedore; *also* to load or unload the cargo of (a ship) in port

**'stew** /styʊəh/ *n* 1a a savoury dish, usu of meat and vegetables stewed and served in the same liquid b a mixture composed of many usu unrelated parts 2 a state of excitement, worry, or confusion ~ *infrml* [ME *stu* cauldron, heated room, brothel, fr MF *estuve*, fr (assumed) VL *extufa*, fr *extufare* to stew]

**\*stew** *vt* to cook (e.g. meat or fruit) slowly by boiling gently or simmering in liquid ~ *vi* 1 to become cooked by stewing 2 to swelter, esp from confinement in a hot atmosphere 3 to become agitated or worried; fret *USE* (vi 2&3) *infrml*

**'steward** /ˈstyʊəd-/ *n* 1 one employed to look after a large household or estate 2 SHOP STEWARD 3a one who manages the provisioning of food

and attends to the needs of passengers (e.g. on an airliner, ship, or train)  
**b** one who supervises the provision and distribution of food and drink in a club, college, etc. **4** an official who actively directs affairs (e.g. at a race meeting) [ME, fr OE *steward*, fr *sti* hall, *sty* + *weard* ward] – *stewardship* *n*

**\*steward** *vb* to act as a steward (for)

**stewardess** /ˈstjuːoh-ədəs, ˈstjuːoh-ədes/ *n* a woman who performs the duties of a steward, esp *HOSPITS* **2a**

**stewed** /ˈstjuːohd/ *adj* **1** of tea bitter-tasting because allowed to infuse for too long **2** DRUNK **1** – *infml*

**stibnite** /ˈstɪbnɪt/ *n* a sulphide of antimony occurring as a lead-grey mineral [alter of obs *stibine*, fr F, fr L *stibium* antimony, fr Gk *stibi*, fr Egypt *stm*]

**\*stick** /stɪk/ *n* **1a** a (dry and dead) cut or broken branch or twig **b** a cut or broken branch or piece of wood gathered esp for fuel or construction material **2a** a long slender piece of wood e.g. **(1)** a club or staff used as a weapon **(2)** a walking stick **b** an implement used for striking an object in a game (e.g. hockey) **c** sth used to force compliance **d** a baton symbolizing an office or dignity, a rod **3** any of various implements resembling a stick in shape, origin, or use e.g. **a** COMPOSING STICK **b** a joystick **4** sth prepared (e.g. by cutting, moulding, or rolling) in a relatively long and slender often cylindrical form (a ~ of toffee), **5** a person of a specified type (a decent old ~ – Robert Graves), **6** a stick-shaped plant stalk (e.g. of rhubarb or celery) **7** several bombs, parachutists, etc. released from an aircraft in quick succession **8** *pl* the wooded or rural and usu backward districts **9** a piece of furniture **10** *Br* hostile comment or activity (gave the Local Authority plenty of ~) *USE* (**8**, **9**, & **10**) *infml* [ME *stik*, fr OE *sticca*, akin to ON *stik* stick, OE *stician* to stick]

**\*stick** *vt* to provide a stick as a support for (e.g. a plant)

**\*stick** *vb* *stick* /stʊk/ *vt* **1a** to pierce with sth pointed, stab **b** to kill by piercing (a ~ a pig) **2a** to push or thrust so as or as if to pierce **b** to fasten in position (as if) by piercing (stuck a pistol in his belt) **3** to push, thrust (stuck his head out of the window) **4** to cover or adorn (as if) by sticking things on (a crown stuck with rubies) **5** to attach (as if) by causing to adhere to a surface **6a** to halt the movement or action of **b** to baffle, stump (got stuck doing his maths homework) **7** to put or set in a specified place or position (a ~ your coat over there) **8** to refrain from granting, giving, or allowing (sth indignantly rejected by the speaker), stuff (you can ~ the job for all I care) **9** to saddle with sth disadvantageous or disagreeable (why do I always get stuck with the gardening?) **10** chiefly *Br* to bear, stand (can't ~ his voice) ~ *vi* **1a** to become fixed in place by means of a pointed end **b** to become fast (as if) by adhesion (stuck in the mud) **2a** to remain in a place, situation, or environment (don't want to ~ in this job for the rest of my life) **b** to hold fast or adhere resolutely (cling ~ to the truth) **c** to remain effective (the charge will not ~) **d** to keep close in a chase or competition (a ~ing with the leaders) **3** to become blocked, wedged, or jammed **4a** to hesitate, stop (would ~ at nothing to get what they wanted) **b** to be unable to proceed **5** to project, protrude often + *out* or *up* *USE* (*vi* **7**, **8**, **9**, & **10**) *infml* [ME *stikken*, fr OE *stician*, akin to OHG *sticken* to prick, L *instigare* to urge on, goad, Gk *stizein* to tattoo] *stick* *vb* to continue to support – *stick* one's neck out to take a risk (e.g. by saying sth unpopular) and make oneself vulnerable – *infml* – *stuck* on infatuated with (he's really stuck on her) – *infml*

**\*stick** *n* adhesive quality or substance

**stick around** *vi* to stay or wait about, linger – *infml*

**sticker** /stɪkə/ *n* **1** sby who or sth that pierces with a point **2a** sby who or sth that sticks or causes sticking **b** a slip of paper with gummed back that, when moistened, sticks to a surface

**stick figure** *n* a stylized drawing of a human being showing the body or limbs as straight lines

**sticking plaster** *n* an adhesive plaster, esp for covering superficial wounds

**sticking point** *n* an item resulting or likely to result in an impasse

**\*stick insect** *n* any of various usu wingless insects with a long thin body resembling a stick *DEFENCE*

**\*stick-in-the-mud** *n* one who dislikes and avoids change

**stickleback** /stɪkləbæk/ *n* any of numerous small scaleless fishes that have 2 or more spines in front of the dorsal fin [ME *stykylbak*, fr OE *sticel* goad (akin to OE *stician* to stick) + ME *bak* back]

**stickler** /stɪklə/ *n* one who insists on exactness or completeness in the observance of sth (a ~ for obedience) [stickle (to act as umpire, contend, scruple), fr ME *stighlen* to arrange, strive, freq of *stighlen* to arrange, fr OE *stihtan*, akin to OE *stæger* stair – more at STAIR]

**stick out** *vi* **1** to be prominent or conspicuous – often in *stick out a mile*, *stick out like a sore thumb* **2** to be persistent (e.g. in a demand or an opinion) – *usu* + *for* ~ *vt* to endure to the end – often + *it*

**stick up** *vt* to rob at gunpoint – *infml* – *stickup* *n* *stick up* for to speak or act in defence of, support

**sticky** /stɪki/ *adj* **1a** adhesive (~ *tape*), **b(1)** viscous, gluey **(2)** coated with a sticky substance (~ *hands*), **2** humid, muggy, also clammy **3a** disagreeable, unpleasant (came to a ~ end) **b** awkward, stiff (after a ~ beginning became good friends) **c** difficult, problematic (a ~ rather ~ question) – *stickily* *adv*, *stickiness* *n*

**sticky wicket** *n* **1** a cricket pitch drying after rain and therefore difficult to bat on **2** a difficult situation *infml*, often in *on a sticky wicket*

**\*stiff** /stɪf/ *adj* **1a** not easily bent, rigid **b** lacking in suppleness and often painful (~ *muscles*) **c** of a mechanism impeded in movement **d** incapable of normal alert response (scared ~) **2a** firm, unyielding **b(1)** marked by reserve or decorum, formal **(2)** lacking in ease or grace stilted **3** hard fought (a ~ match) **4a** exerting great force, forceful (a ~ wind), **b** potent (a ~ drink) **5** of a dense or glutinous consistency, thick **6a** harsh, severe (a ~ penalty) **b** arduous (a ~ climb), **7** expensive, steep (paid a ~ price) [MF *stif*, fr OE *stif*, akin to MD *stijf* stiff, L *stipare* to press together, Gk *stizein* to tread on] – *stiffen* *vb*, *stiffener* *n*, *stiffening* *n*, *stiffish* *adj*, *stiffly* *adv*, *stiffness* *n*

**\*stiff** *adv* in a stiff manner, stiffly

**\*stiff** *n* a corpse – *slang*

**stiff-necked** *adj* haughty, stubborn

**stiff upper lip** *n* the facing of misfortune impassively or without appearing perturbed

**\*stifle** /stɪfl/ *n* the joint next above the hock in the hind leg of a quadruped (e.g. a horse) corresponding to the knee in human beings [ME]

**\*stifle** *vb* *stifling* /stɪflɪŋ/ *vt* **1a** to overcome or kill by depriving of oxygen, suffocate, smother **b** to muffle (~ *noises*) **2a** to cut off (e.g. the voice or breath) **b** to prevent the development or expression of, check, suppress (~ *d his anger*) (~ *a revolt*) ~ *vi* to become suffocated (as if) by lack of oxygen [alter of ME *stiffen*] *stiflingly* *adv*

**stigma** /stɪgmə/ *n*, *pl* *stigmata* /stɪgməˈtɑː, ˈstɪgməˈtɑː/, *stigmata*, *(2)* *stigmata* **1a** a mark of shame or discredit **b** an identifying mark or characteristic, *specif* a specific diagnostic sign of a disease **2** *pl* marks resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ, believed to be impressed on the bodies of holy or saintly people **3a** a small spot, scar, or opening on a plant or animal **b** the portion of the female part of a flower which receives the pollen grains and on which they germinate *PLANT* [L *stigma*, *stigma* mark, brand, fr Gk, fr *stizein* to tattoo – more at STICK] – *stigmatic* /-ɪk/ *adj*, *stigmatically* *adv*

**stigmatic** /stɪgmətɪk/, *stigmatist* /stɪgmətɪst, stɪgməˈtɪstɪs/ *n* a person marked with the stigmata of Christ

**stigmatize**, -ise /stɪgməˈtɪz/ *vt* **1** to describe or identify in disparaging terms **2** to mark with the stigmata of Christ – *stigmatization* /-təˈzɪʃən/ *n*

**stilboestrol**, *NAm* *stilbestrol* /stɪlˈbeɪstrəl/ *n* a synthetic compound used as an oestrogenic drug [stilbene (an aromatic hydrocarbon) + oestrus + -ol]

**\*stile** /stiəl/ *n* **1** a step or set of steps for passing over a fence or wall **2** a turnstile [ME, fr OE *stigel*, akin to OE *stæger* stair – more at STAIR]

**\*stile** *n* any of the vertical members in a frame or panel into which the secondary members are fitted *ARCHITECTURE* [prob fr D *stijl* post]

**stiletto** /stiˈletoʊ/ *n*, *pl* *stilettoes*, *stilettoes* **1** a slender rodlike dagger **2** a pointed instrument for piercing holes (e.g. for eyelets) in leather, cloth, etc. **3** *Br* an extremely narrow tapering high heel on a woman's shoe [It, dim. of *stilo* stylus, dagger, fr L *stilus* stylus – more at STYLE]

**\*still** /stiːl/ *adj* **1a** devoid of or abstaining from motion (~ *water*) **b** having no effervescence, not carbonated (~ *orange*) **c** of, being, or designed for taking a static photograph as contrasted with a moving picture **2a** uttering no sound, quiet **b** low in sound, subdued **3a** calm, tranquil **b** free from noise or turbulence [ME *stille*, fr OE, akin to OHG *stili* still, OE *steall* stall] – *stillness* *n*

**\*still** *vt* **1a** to allay, calm **b** to put an end to, settle **2** to arrest the motion or noise of, quiet (~ *the wind*) ~ *vi* to become motionless or silent; quiet *USE* chiefly poetic

**\*still** *adv* **1** as before, even at this or that time (drink it while it's ~ hot) **2** in spite of that, nevertheless (very unpleasant, ~, we can't help it) **3a** EVEN **2b** (a ~ more difficult problem) **b** YET **1a**

- \*still** *n* 1 a still photograph; *specif* a photograph of actors or of a scene from a film 2 quiet, silence – chiefly poetic
- \*still** *n* an apparatus used in distillation, esp of spirits, consisting of either the chamber in which the vaporization is carried out or the entire equipment [ME *stillen* to distil, short for *distillen*]
- stillage** /ˈstɪlj/ *n* a stand or frame on which articles are kept off the floor (e.g. while drying or awaiting packing) [modif of D *stellage* scaffolding, fr MD, fr *stellen* to place]
- \*stillbirth** /-ˈbʊθ/ *n* the birth of a dead infant
- \*stillborn** /-ˈbɔːn/ *adj* 1 dead at birth 2 failing from the start, abortive – *stillborn* /-ˈbɔːn/ *n*
- \*still life** *n*, *pl* *still lifes* a picture showing an arrangement of inanimate objects (e.g. fruit or flowers)
- \*stilly** /ˈstɪl-i/ *adv* in a calm manner [ˈstɪl + -i-ly]
- \*stilly** /ˈstɪli/ *adj* still, quiet – poetic [ˈstɪl + -y]
- stilt** /stɪlt/ *n* *pl* *stilts*, (2) *stilts*, *esp* collectively *stilt* 1a either of 2 poles each with a rest or strap for the foot, that enable the user to walk along above the ground b any of a set of piles, posts, etc that support a building above ground or water level 2 any of various notably long-legged 3-toed wading birds related to the avocets [ME *stelte*; akin to OHG *stelza* stilt, OE *sreall* position, stall – more at *STALL*]
- stilted** /ˈstɪltɪd/ *adj* stiffly formal and often pompous [fr pp of *stilt* (to raise on or as if on stilts)] – *stiltedly* *adv*, *stiltedness* *n*
- Stilton** /ˈstɪlt(ə)n/ *n* a cream-enriched white cheese that has a wrinkled rind and is often blue-veined [Stilton, village in Cambridgeshire, England, where it was orig sold]
- stimulant** /ˈstɪmjʊələnt/ *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a drug) that produces a temporary increase in the functional activity or efficiency of (a part of) an organism 2 *STIMULUS* 1 – *stimulant* *adj*
- stimulate** /ˈstɪmjʊəleɪt/ *vt* 1 to excite to (greater) activity 2a to function as a physiological stimulus to b to arouse or affect by the action of a stimulant (e.g. a drug) ~ *vi* to act as a stimulant or stimulus [L *stimulus*, pp of *stimulare*, fr *stimulus* goad, akin to L *stilus* stake, stylus – more at *STYLE*] – *stimulator* *n*, *stimulative* /-lətɪv/ *adj*, *stimulation* /-ləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- stimulus** /ˈstɪmjʊləs/ *n*, *pl* *stimuli* /-li, -lie/ 1 sthg that rouses or incites to activity; an incentive 2 sthg (e.g. light) that directly influences the activity of living organisms (e.g. by exciting a sensory organ or evoking muscular contraction or glandular secretion) [L]
- \*sting** /stɪŋ/ *vb* *stung* /stʊŋ/ *vt* 1a to give an irritating or poisonous wound to, esp with a sting (<stung by a bee>) b to affect with sharp quick pain (<hail stung their faces>) 2 to cause to suffer acute mental pain (<stung with remorse>), also to incite or goad thus (<stung into action>) 3 to overcharge, cheat (<stung by a street trader>) – *infrm* ~ *vi* 1 to use a sting, have stings (<nettles ~>) 2 to feel a sharp burning pain [ME *stingen*, fr OE *stingan*, akin to ON *stinga* to sting, Gk *stachys* spike of grain, *stochos* target, aim] – *stingingly* *adv*
- \*sting** *n* 1a a stinging; *specif* the thrust of a sting into the flesh b a wound or pain caused (as if) by stinging 2 also stinger a sharp organ of a bee, scorpion, stingray, etc that is usu connected with a poison gland or otherwise adapted to wound by piercing and injecting a poisonous secretion 3 a stinging element, force, or quality (<a joke with a ~ in the tail>) – *stingless* *n*
- stingo** /ˈstɪŋɡoʊ/ *n*, chiefly Br a strong beer [irreg fr \*sting]
- \*stingray** /-ˈreɪ/ *n* any of numerous rays with a whiplike tail having 1 or more large sharp spines capable of inflicting severe wounds
- stingy** /ˈstɪŋji/ *adj* 1 mean or ungenerous in giving or spending 2 meanly scanty or small (prob fr (assumed) E dial. *stinge* (sting); akin to OE *stingan* to sting) – *stingily* *adv*, *stinginess* *n*
- \*stink** /stɪŋk/ *vi* *stank* /stæŋk/, *stunk* /stʊŋk/; *stunk* 1 to emit a strong offensive smell 2 to be offensive; also to be in bad repute or of bad quality 3 to possess sthg to an offensive degree – usu + *with* (<he ~s with money>) *USE* (except 1) *infrm* [ME *stinken*, fr OE *stincan*; akin to OHG *stinkan* to emit a smell] – *stinky* *adj*
- \*stink** *n* 1 a strong offensive smell; a stench 2 a public outcry against sthg offensive – *infrm*
- \*stink-bomb** *n*, Br a small capsule which emits a foul smell when broken
- stinker** /ˈstɪŋkə/ *n* 1 an offensive or contemptible person 2 sthg extremely difficult or unpleasant (<the examination was a real ~>) *USE* *infrm* [ˈstɪŋk + -ER]
- \*stinkhorn** /-ˈhɔːn/ *n* a fungus noted for its foul smell
- \*stinking** /ˈstɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* 1 severe and unpleasant (<a ~ cold>) – *infrm* 2 offensively drunk – *slang*
- \*stinking** *adv* to an extreme degree (<got ~ drunk>) – *infrm*
- stinking mayweed** /ˈmaɪˌweɪd/ *n* a foul-smelling Eurasian composite plant with white and yellow flowers [mayweed fr *may-* (fr ME *maythe*, a composite plant, fr OE *mæghtha*) + *weed*]
- stink out** *vt* 1 to cause to stink or be filled with a stench (<the leaking gas stank the house out>) 2 to drive out (as if) by subjecting to an offensive or suffocating smell
- \*stinkweed** /-ˈweɪd/ *n* any of various strong-scented or foetid plants
- \*stinkwood** /-ˈwɔːd/ *n* (the unpleasant-smelling wood of) a S African tree of the laurel family; or any of several similar trees
- \*stint** /stɪnt/ *vt* to restrict to a small share or allowance; be frugal with ~ *vi* to be sparing or frugal [ME *stinten* to stop, fr OE *styntan* to blunt, dull, akin to ON *stuttr* scant, L *tundere* to beat, OE *stoc* stock] – *stinter* *n*
- \*stint** *n* 1 restraint, limitation 2 a definite quantity or period of work assigned
- \*stint** *n*, *pl* *stints*, *esp* collectively *stint* any of several small sandpipers [ME *stynte*]
- stipe** /stɪp/ *n* a usu short plant stalk (e.g. supporting the cap of a fungus) [NL *stipes*, fr L, tree trunk; akin to L *stipare* to press together – more at *STIFF*] – *stiped* *adj*
- stipend** /ˈstɪpeɪnd/ *n* a fixed sum of money paid periodically (e.g. to a clergyman) as a salary or to meet expenses [alter of ME *stipendy*, fr L *stipendium*, fr *stip-*, *stips* gift + *pendere* to weigh, pay – more at *PENDANT*]
- \*stipendiary** /ˈstɪpeɪndɪəri, -stɪ-/ *adj* of or receiving a stipend
- \*stipendiary** *n* one who receives a stipend
- stipendiary magistrate** *n* a legally qualified paid magistrate
- stipes** /ˈstɪpeɪz/ *n*, *pl* *stipites* /ˈstɪpɪteɪz/ a peduncle [NL *stipit-*, *stipes*, fr L, tree trunk – more at *STIPE*] – *stipitate* /ˈstɪpɪˌtaɪt/ *adj*
- \*stipple** /stɪpl/ *vt* *stippling* /ˈstɪplɪŋ/ 1a to paint, engrave, or draw in stipple b to apply (e.g. paint) in stipple 2 to speckle, fleck [D *stippen* to spot, dot, akin to L *stipare* to press together] – *stippler* *n*
- \*stipple** *n* (the effect produced by) a method of painting using small points, dots, or strokes to represent degrees of light and shade
- stipulate** /ˈstɪpjʊəleɪt/ *vt* 1 to specify as a condition or requirement of an agreement or offer (<~ quality and quantity>) 2 to give a guarantee of in making an agreement [L *stipulatus*, pp of *stipulari* to demand some term in an agreement] – *stipulator* *n* – *stipulate* for to demand as an express term in an agreement (<we stipulated for marble>)
- stipulation** /ˈstɪpjʊəˌleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sthg (e.g. a condition) stipulated [STIPULATE + -ION] – *stipulatory* /ˈstɪpjʊələt(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- stipule** /ˈstɪpjʊəl/ *n* a small appendage at the base of the leaf in many plants [NL *stipula*, fr L, stalk; akin to L *stipes* tree trunk] – *stipular* *adj*, *stipulated*, *stipulate* /-lət, -ləɪt/ *adj*
- \*stir** /stʊh/ *vb* -rr- *vt* 1a to cause a slight movement or change of position of (<the breeze ~ red the leaves>) b to disturb the quiet of, agitate 2a to disturb the relative position of the particles or parts of (a fluid or semifluid), esp by a continued circular movement in order to make the composition homogeneous (<~ one's tea>) b to mix (as if) by stirring (<~ pigment into paint>) 3 to bestir, exert (<unable to ~ himself to wash the car>) 4a to rouse to activity; produce strong feelings in (<the news ~ red him to action>) b to provoke – often + *up* (<~ up trouble>) ~ *vi* 1a to make a slight movement b to begin to move (e.g. in waking) 2 to (begin to) be active or busy 3 to pass an implement through a substance with a circular movement [ME *stiren*, fr OE *styrian*, akin to MHG *sturn* to incite] – *stirrer* *n*
- \*stir** *n* 1a a state of disturbance, agitation, or brisk activity b widespread notice and discussion (<caused quite a ~ in the neighbourhood>) 2 a slight movement 3 a stirring movement
- \*stir** *n* prison – *slang* [origin unknown]
- \*stir-frying** *n* a Chinese method of cooking in which small pieces of food are stirred together while being rapidly fried in hot oil – *stir-fry* *vt*
- stirk** /stʊhk/ *n*, Br a young (1- to 2-year old) bull or cow [ME, fr OE *stirc*; akin to L *sterilis* sterile]
- stirps** /stʊhps/ *n*, *pl* *stirpes* /ˈstʊhpɪz/ a race, variety, etc in the biological classification of living things [L, lit., stem, stock – more at *TORPID*]
- stirring** /ˈstʊrɪŋ/ *adj* rousing, inspiring
- stirrup** /stɪrʌp/ *n* 1 STIRRUP IRON 2 the stapes  NERVE 3 a short rope by which another rope is suspended from the yard of a sailing ship for seamen to walk along  SHIP [ME *stiropp*, fr OE *stigrāp*; akin to OHG *stegareif* stirrup; both fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose first element is akin to OHG *stigan* to go up and whose second is represented by OE *rap* rope – more at *STAIR*]





- 'stokehole** /-hohl/ *n* the space in which stokers work when tending a ship's furnaces
- stoker** /'stohkə/ *n* one employed to tend a furnace, esp on a ship, and supply it with fuel [STOKER + '-ER]
- 'stole** /stohl/ *past of STEAL*
- stole** *n* 1 an ecclesiastical vestment consisting of a long usu silk band worn traditionally over both shoulders and hanging down in front by bishops and priests, and over the left shoulder by deacons → GARMENT 2 a long wide strip of material worn by women usu across the shoulders, esp with evening dress [ME, fr OE, fr L *stola*, fr Gk *stolé* equipment, robe, fr *stellen* to set up, make ready – more at 'STALL]
- stolen** /'stohlən/ *past part of STEAL*
- stolid** /'stolid/ *adj* difficult to arouse emotionally or mentally; unemotional [L *stolidus* dull, stupid, akin to OHG *stal* place – more at 'STALL] – **stolidly** *adv*, **stolidity** /'stolidəti/ *n*
- stolon** /'stohlən/ *n* a horizontal branch from the base of a plant (e.g. the strawberry) that produces new plants [NL *stolon*-, *stolo*, fr L, branch, sucker, akin to Arm *stein* branch, OHG *stal* place – more at 'STALL] – **stolonate** *adj*, **stoloniferous** /'stohlə'nɪf(ə)rəs/ *adj*
- stoma** /'stohmə/ *n*, *pl stomata* /'stohmətə, stoh'mahtə/ *also stomas* 1 any of various small simple bodily openings, esp in a lower animal 2 any of the minute openings in the epidermis of a plant organ (e.g. a leaf) through which gases pass 3 a permanent surgically made opening, esp in the abdominal wall [NL, fr Gk *stomat*-, *stoma* mouth] – **stomal** *adj*
- 'stomach** /'stʊmək/ *n* 1a (a cavity in an invertebrate animal analogous to) a saclike organ formed by a widening of the alimentary canal of a vertebrate, that is between the oesophagus at the top and the duodenum at the bottom and in which the first stages of digestion occur → DIGESTION b the part of the body that contains the stomach, belly, abdomen 2a desire for food, appetite b inclination, desire – usu neg <had no ~ for an argument> [ME *stomak*, fr MF *estomac*, fr L *stomachus* gullet, oesophagus, stomach, fr Gk *stomachos*, fr *stoma* mouth, akin to MBret *staffu* mouth, Av *staman*]
- stomach** *vt* 1 to find palatable or digestible <can't ~ rich food> 2 to bear without protest or resentment <couldn't ~ her attitude> *USE* usu neg
- stomacher** /'stʊməkə/ *n* a separate panel of richly embroidered or jewelled fabric ending in a point at or below the waist and worn on the centre front of a bodice in the 15th and 16th c
- stomachic** /stə'makɪk/ *adj* 1 of the stomach 2 stimulating the function of the stomach; improving digestion – **stomachic** *n*, **stomachically** *adv*
- 'stomach pump** *n* a suction pump with a flexible tube for removing liquids from the stomach or injecting liquids into it
- stomat-** /'stohmət-, *stomat-* *comb form* mouth, stoma <'stomatūs> [NL, fr Gk, fr *stomat*-, *stoma*]
- stomatitis** /'stohmə'ti:tɪs/ *n*, *pl stomatitides* /-tədəz/, *stomatitises* any of numerous inflammatory diseases of the mouth [NL]
- stomatology** /'stohmə'tɒlədʒi/ *n* a branch of medicine dealing with the mouth and its disorders [ISV] – **stomatologist** *n*, **stomatological** /-tə'lɒjɪkəl/ *adj*
- 'stomp** /stɒmp/ *vi* to walk or dance with a heavy step – *infrm* [alter of 'stamp]
- stomp** *n* a jazz dance characterized by heavy stamping
- 'stone** /stohn/ *n*, *pl stones*, (3) *stone* *also stones* 1 a concretion of earthy or mineral matter: a(1) a piece of this, esp one smaller than a boulder (2) rock b a piece of rock for a specified function e.g. (1) a building or paving block (2) a gem (3) a sharpening stone (4) a smooth flat surface on which a printing form is made up c CALCULUS 1a 2 the hard central portion of a fruit (e.g. a peach or date) 3 an imperial unit of weight equal to 14lb (about 6.35kg) → UNIT [ME, fr OE *stan*; akin to OHG *stein* stone, Gk *stear* hard fat]
- stone** *vt* 1 to hurl stones at; esp to kill by pelting with stones 2 to face, pave, or fortify with stones 3 to remove the stones or seeds of (a fruit) 4 to rub, scour, or polish with or on a stone
- 'stone** *adj* (made) of stone
- stone-** *comb form* completely <'stone-dead> <'stone-cold>
- 'Stone Age** *n* the first known period of prehistoric human culture characterized by the use of stone tools and weapons
- stone-broke** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* stony-broke – *infrm*
- 'stonechat** /-ˌtʃæt/ *n* (any of various birds related to) a common small Eurasian bird, the male of which has a black head and chestnut underparts
- 'stonecrop** /-ˌkrɒp/ *n* any of several plants with usu fleshy leaves that grow esp on rocks and walls; esp an evergreen creeping plant with pungent leaves
- stone curlew** *n* a large Old World and tropical American wading bird with a large head and yellow eyes
- stoned** *adj* intoxicated by alcohol or a drug (e.g. marijuana) – *infrm* [fr pp of 'stone (to make numb or insensible)]
- 'stone fly** *n* an insect with an aquatic flesh-eating larva and an adult used by anglers for bait
- 'stone fruit** *n* a fruit with a (large) stone, a drupe
- stone-ground** *adj* ground with millstones (< ~ flour>)
- 'stone lily** *n* a fossil crinoid
- 'stone's throw** *n* a short distance
- stone wall** /-ˌwɔːl/ *vi*, chiefly *Br* 1 to bat excessively defensively and cautiously in cricket, *broadly* to behave obstructively 2 to obstruct or delay parliamentary debate – **stonewaller** *n*
- 'stone wall** *n* a wall-like resistance or obstruction (e.g. in politics or public affairs)
- 'stone ware** /-ˌweɪ/ *n* opaque ceramic ware that is fired at a high temperature and is nonporous compare FATHINWARE
- 'stone work** /-ˌwʊk/ *n* masonry – **stoneworker** *n*
- 'stone wort** /-ˌwuːt/ *n* any of a family of freshwater green algae often encrusted with chalky deposits
- stony** *also stoney* /'stɒni/ *adj* 1 containing many stones or having the nature of stone 2a insensitive to pity or human feeling b showing no movement or reaction, dumb, expressionless <a ~ glance> 3 stony-broke *infrm* – **stonily** *adv*, **stoniness** *n*
- stony-broke** *adj*, *Br* completely without funds, broke *infrm*
- 'stonyhearted** /-ˌhɑːtɪd/ *adj* unfeeling, cruel – **stonyheartedness** *n*
- stood** /stʊd/ *past of STAND*
- 'stooge** /'stʊdʒ/ *n* 1 one who usu speaks the feed lines in a comedy duo 2 one who plays a subordinate or compliant role to another 3 chiefly *NAM* a nark, STOOPI PIGEON *USE* (2&3) *infrm* [origin unknown]
- stooge** *vi* 1 to act as a stooge usu + *for* 2 to move, esp fly, aimlessly to and fro or at leisure usu + *around or about* *USE* *infrm*
- stook** /stʊk/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 'SHOCK [ME *stowke*, *stouk*, akin to MLG *stuke* tree stump, pile, sleeve, OE *stoca* sleeve, *stocce* stock] – **stook** *vt*
- 'stool** /stʊl/ *n* 1a a seat usu without back or arms supported by 3 or 4 legs or a central pedestal b a low bench or portable support for the feet or for kneeling on 2 a discharge of faecal matter 3 (a shoot or growth from) a tree stump or plant crown from which shoots grow out [ME, fr OE *stol*, akin to OHG *stol* chair, OSslav *stolu* seat, throne, OE *standan* to stand]
- stool** *vi* to throw out shoots from a stump or crown
- 'stool ball** /-ˌbɔːl/ *n* a game resembling cricket that is played chiefly in S England, esp by women, and is characterized by underarm bowling
- stoole** /'stʊhli/ *n*, *NAM* a nark, STOOPI PIGEON – *infrm* [stool (pigeon) + -ie]
- 'stool pigeon** *n*, chiefly *NAM* sby acting as a decoy, esp a police informer [prob fr the early practice of fastening the decoy bird to a stool]
- 'stoop** /stʊhp/ *vi* 1a to bend the body forwards and downwards, sometimes simultaneously bending the knees b to stand or walk with a temporary or habitual forward inclination of the head, body, or shoulders 2a to condescend <the gods ~ to intervene in the affairs of men> b to lower oneself morally <~ed to spying> 3 of a bird to fly or dive down swiftly, usu to attack prey ~ *vt* to bend (a part of the body) forwards and downwards [ME *stoupen*, fr OE *stupian*, akin to OE *steap* steep, deep – more at 'STEEP]
- stoop** *n* 1a an act of bending the body forwards b a temporary or habitual forward bend of the back and shoulders 2 the descent of a bird, esp on its prey
- stoop** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a porch, platform, entrance stairway, or small veranda at a house door [D *stoep*, akin to OE *steape* step – more at STEEP]
- 'step** /stɒp/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1a to close by filling or obstructing b to hinder or prevent the passage of (< ~ the flow of blood>) 2a to close up or block off (an opening) b to make impassable, choke, obstruct c to cover over or fill in (a hole or crevice) 3a to restrain, prevent b to withhold; CUT OFF <~ped his wages> 4a to cause to cease, check, suppress b to discontinue <~ running> 5a to deduct or withhold (a sum due) b to instruct one's bank not to honour or pay <~ a cheque> 6a to arrest the progress or motion of; cause to halt <~ped the car> b to beat in a boxing match by a knockout 7 to change the pitch of a (e.g. a violin string) by pressing with the finger b (a woodwind instrument) by closing l or more finger holes c (a French horn) by putting the hand into the bell d (e.g. a trumpet) by putting a mute into the bell 8 to get in the way of, esp so as to be wounded or killed <~ped a bullet> – *infrm* ~ *vi* 1a to cease



activity or operation **b** to come to an end, esp suddenly, close, finish **2a** to cease to move on, halt **b** to pause, hesitate **3a** to break one's journey – often + *off* (< ~ *ped off at Lisbon*) **b** chiefly *Br* to remain (< ~ *at home*) **c** chiefly *NAm* to make a brief call, *DROP IN* – usu + *by* [ME *stoppen*, fr OE *-stoppan*, akin to OHG *stopfan* to stop, stuff, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *stappare* to stop with tow, fr L *stappa* tow, fr Gk *styppe*] – **stoppage** *adj*

**\*stop** *n* 1 a cessation, end (< *soon put a ~ to that*) **2a** (a switch or handle operating) a graduated set of organ pipes of similar design and tone quality **b** a corresponding set of vibrators or reeds of a reed organ **3a** sth that impedes, obstructs, or brings to a halt; an impediment, obstacle **b** (any of a series of markings, esp f-numbers, for setting the size of) the circular opening of an optical system (e.g. a camera lens) **c** **STOPPER** **2** **4** a device for arresting or limiting motion **5** stopping or being stopped **6a** a halt in a journey (< *made a brief ~ to refuel*) **b** a stopping place (< *a bus ~*) **7** a consonant in the articulation of which there is a stage (e.g. in the /p/ of *apt* or the /g/ of *tiger*) when the breath passage is completely closed – compare **CONTINUANT** **8** – used in telegrams and cables to indicate a full stop **9** chiefly *Br* any of several punctuation marks, *specific STOP*

**\*stop** *adj* serving or designed to stop (< ~ *line*) (< ~ *signal*)

**\*stop bath** *n* an acid bath used to stop photographic development of a negative or print

**\*stopcock** /-kɒk/ *n* a cock for stopping or regulating flow (e.g. of fluid through a pipe)

**stop down** *vt* to reduce the effective aperture of (a lens) by means of a diaphragm

**stope** /stɒp/ *n* a usu steplike underground excavation formed as ore is removed [prob fr LG *stope*, lit. 'step, akin to OE *stæpe* step – more at **STEP**]

**stopgap** /stɒpˌɡap/ *n* sth that serves as a temporary expedient, a makeshift

**\*stop-go** *adj* alternately active and inactive

**\*stop-off** *n* a stopover

**\*stopover** /-ɒvə/ *n* a stop at an intermediate point in a journey

**stoppage** /stɒpɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a deduction from pay **2** a concerted cessation of work by a group of employees that is usu more spontaneous and less serious than a strike [**STOP** + -AGE]

**\*stopper** /stɒpə/ *n* **1** shy or sth that brings to a halt or causes to stop operating or functioning, a check **2** shy or sth that closes, shuts, or fills up, *specific* sth (e.g. a bung or cork) used to plug an opening [**STOP** + -ER]

**\*stopper** *vt* to close or secure (as if) with a stopper

**stopping** /stɒpɪŋ/ *adj.* of a train that stops at most intermediate stations

**\*stop press** *n* (space reserved for) late news added to a newspaper after printing has begun

**\*stopwatch** /-wɒtʃ/ *n* a watch that can be started and stopped at will for exact timing

**storage** /stɔːrɪdʒ/ *n* **1a** (a) space for storing **b** **MEMORY** **4** **2a** storing or being stored (e.g. in a warehouse) **b** the price charged for keeping goods in storage

**\*storage battery** *n* **STORAGE CELL**

**\*storage cell** *n* one or a connected set of secondary cells, an accumulator

**storax** /stɔːræks/ *n* **1** a fragrant balsam obtained from the bark of an Asiatic tree of the witch-hazel family and used in perfumery **2** (any of a genus of trees or shrubs that yield) benzoin [ME, fr LL, alter of L *styrax*, fr Gk]

**\*store** /stɔːr/ *vt* **1** to supply, esp to provide with a store for the future (< ~ *a ship with provisions*) **2** to collect as a reserve supply (< ~ *vegetables for winter use*) – often + *up* or *away* **3** to place or leave in a location (e.g. a warehouse, library, or computer memory) for preservation or later use or disposal **4** to provide storage room for, hold (< *boxes for storing the surplus*) [ME *storen*, fr OF *estorer* to construct, restore, store, fr L *instaurare* to renew, restore, fr *in-* + *staurare* (akin to Gk *stauros* stake)] – **storeable** *adj*

**\*store** *n* **1a** sth stored or kept for future use **b** *pl* articles accumulated for some specific object and drawn on as needed (< *military ~s*) **c** sth accumulated **d** a source from which things may be drawn as needed, a reserve fund **2** storage – usu + *in* (< *furniture kept in ~*) **3** a large quantity, supply, or number **4** a warehouse **5a** **DEPARTMENT STORE** **b** chiefly *NAm* **SHOP** **1** **6** chiefly *Br* **MEMORY** **4** – *In store* about to happen, imminent (< *there's a nasty surprise in store for you*)

**\*store** *adj* of, kept in, or used for a store

**\*storefront** /-frʌnt/ *n*, *NAm* a shopfront

**\*storehouse** /-həʊz/ *n* **1** a warehouse **2** an abundant supply or source

**\*storekeeper** /-keɪpə/ *n* **1** shy who keeps and records stock (e.g. in a warehouse) **2** *NAm* a shopkeeper

**\*storeman** /-mən/ *n*, *Br* shy who is employed to organize and handle stored goods or parts, esp in industry

**\*storeroom** /-ruːm/, -room/ *n* a place for the storing of goods or supplies

**storey**, *NAm* chiefly **story** /stɔːrɪ/ *n* (a set of rooms occupying) a horizontal division of a building [ME *store*, fr ML *historia* picture, storey of a building, fr L, history, tale, prob fr pictures adorning the windows of medieval buildings]

**storeyed**, *NAm* chiefly **storied** /stɔːrɪd/ *adj* having a specified number of storeys (< *a 2-storeyed house*)

**storiated** /stɔːrɪəˌaɪnd/ *adj* ornamented with elaborate designs [ML *historiatus*, pp of *historare* to tell a story in pictures, fr LL, to relate, fr L *historia* history]

**storied** /stɔːrɪd/ *adj* celebrated in story or history

**stork** /stɔːrk/ *n* any of various large mostly Old World wading birds that have long stout bills and are related to the ibises and herons [ME, fr OE *storc*, akin to OHG *storch* stork, OE *stearc* stiff – more at **STARK**]

**storksbill** /stɔːrksbɪl/ *n* any of several plants of the geranium family with elongated pointed fruits

**\*storm** /stɔːrm/ *n* **1a** a violent disturbance of the weather marked by high winds, thunder and lightning, rain or snow, etc **b(1)** wind having a speed of 113 to 117km/h (64 to 72mph) **(2)** **WHOLE GALE** **2** a disturbed or agitated state, a sudden or violent commotion **3** a violent shower of objects (e.g. missiles) **4** a tumultuous outburst (< ~ *of abuse*) **5** a violent assault on a defended position [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *sturm* storm, OE *stýrnan* to stir] – *by storm* (as if) by using a bold frontal movement to capture quickly

**\*storm** *vi* **1a** of wind to blow with violence **b** to rain, hail, snow, or sleet (< *it was ~ing in the mountains*) **2** to move in a sudden assault or attack (< ~ *ed ashore at zero hour*) **3** to be in or to exhibit a violent passion; rage (< ~ing at the *unusual delay*) **4** to rush about or move impetuously, violently, or angrily (< *the mob ~ed through the streets*) ~ *vt* to attack or take (e.g. a fortified place) by storm

**\*stormbound** /-bəʊnd/ *adj* confined or delayed by a storm or its effects

**\*storm cone** *n*, *Br* a usu tarred canvas cone hoisted to determine the direction of an impending storm

**\*storm door** *n*, *NAm* a door placed outside an ordinary external door for protection against severe weather

**\*storm lantern** *n*, chiefly *Br* **HURRICANE LAMP**

**\*storm petrel** *n* a small sooty black and white petrel frequenting the N Atlantic and Mediterranean

**\*storm trooper** *n* **1** a member of a Nazi party militia **2** a member of a force of shock troops

**\*stormwater** /-wɔːtə/ *n* surface water produced by heavy rain (< ~ *drainage system*)

**stormy** /stɔːrmi/ *adj* marked by turmoil or fury (< ~ *life*) (< ~ *conference*) [**STORM** + -Y] – **stormily** *adv*, **storminess** *n*


**stormy petrel** *n* **1** **STORM PETREL** **2** shy fond of strife

**\*story** /stɔːrɪ/ *n* **1a** an account of incidents or events **b** a statement of the facts of a situation in question (< *according to their ~*) **c** an anecdote, esp an amusing one **2a** a short fictional narrative **b** the plot of a literary work **3** a widely circulated rumour **4** a lie **5** a legend, romance **6** a news article or broadcast [ME *store*, fr OF *estorie*, fr L *historia* history]

**\*story** *n*, chiefly *NAm* a *storey*

**\*storybook** /-bʊk/ *adj* fairy-tale

**\*storyteller** /-tɛlə/ *n* **1** a relator of tales or anecdotes **2** a liar

**stotinka** /stɒ'tɪŋkə, stɒh-/ *n*, *pl* **stotinki** /-ki/  *Bulgaria* at **NATIONALITY** [Bulg]

**stoup** /stɒhp/ *n* **1** a large drinking mug or glass **2** a basin for holy water at the entrance of a church [ME *stowp*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *stauþ* cup]

**\*stout** /stɒwt/ *adj* **1** firm, resolute (< ~ *resistance*) **2** physically or materially strong **a** sturdy, vigorous **b** staunch, enduring **c** solid, substantial **3** forceful (< ~ *attack*); also violent (< ~ *wind*) **4** corpulent, fat – chiefly euph [ME, fr OF *estout*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *stolz* proud] – **stoutish** *adj*, **stoutly** *adv*, **stoutness** *n*

**\*stout** *n* a dark sweet heavy-bodied beer

**\*stouthearted** /-hɑːtɪd/ *adj* courageous – **stoutheartedly** *adv*

**\*stove** /stɒhv/ *n* **1a** an enclosed appliance that burns fuel or uses

electricity to provide heat chiefly for domestic purposes **b** a cooker **2** chiefly *Br* a hothouse [ME, heated room, steam room, fr MD or MLG, akin to OHG *stuba* heated room, steam room; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *extufa*, deriv of L *ex-* + Gk *typhēin* to smoke]

**\*stove** past of STAVE

**'stovepipe** /-pi:p/ *n* (metal) piping used as a stove chimney or to connect a stove with a flue

**stow** /stoh/ *vt* **1** to put away, store **2a** to pack away in an orderly fashion in an enclosed space **b** to fill (e.g. a ship's hold) with cargo **3** to cram in (e.g. food) – *usu* + *away* (<ed away a huge dinner>), *infrml* **4** to stop, desist – *slang*; esp in *stow it* [ME *stowen* to place, fr *stowe* place, fr OE *stow*, akin to OFrs *sto* place, Gk *stylos* pillar – more at **'STIFFER**]

**stowage** /stowj/ *n* **1** goods in storage or to be stowed **2a** storage capacity **b** a place for storage **3** the state of being stored [stow + -AGE]

**'stowaway** /stoh-a-way/ *n* sby who stows away

**\*stowaway** *adj* designed to be dismantled or folded for storage (< *tables and chairs*)

**stow away** *vt* to hide oneself aboard a vehicle, esp a ship, as a means of travelling without payment or escaping from a place undetected

**STP** *n* a synthetic hallucinogenic drug chemically related to mescaline and amphetamine [fr *STP*, a trademark for a motor fuel additive]

**strabismus** /strə'bɪzmas/ *n* SQUINT **1** [NL, fr Gk *strabismos* condition of squinting, fr *strabizein* to squint, fr *strabos* squint-eyed, akin to Gk *strephēin* to twist – more at STROPHIL] – **strabismic** /-mɪk/ *adj*

**straddle** /stradl/ *vb* **straddling** /stradlɪŋ/ *vi* to stand or esp sit with the legs wide apart ~ *vt* **1** to stand, sit, or be astride (< *a horse*) **2** to bracket (a target) with missiles (e.g. shells or bombs) **3** to be on land on either side of (< *the village ~s the frontier*) [irreg fr *stride*] – **straddle** *n*, **straddler** *n*

**strafe** /sraɪf, strayf/ *vt* to rake (e.g. ground troops) with fire at close range, esp with machine-gun fire from low-flying aircraft [G *Gott strafe England* God punish England, slogan of the Germans in WW I] – **strafe** *n*, **straffer** *n*

**straggle** /stragl/ *vi* **straggling** /straglɪŋ/ *adj* **1** to lag behind or stray away from the main body of sthg, esp from a line of march **2** to move or spread untidily away from the main body of sthg (< *straggling branches*) [ME *straglen*] – **straggle** *n*, **straggler** *n*

**straggly** /straglj/ *adj* loosely spread out or scattered irregularly (< *a beard*)

**'straight** /strayt/ *adj* **1a** free from curves, bends, angles, or irregularities (< *hair*) (< *timber*) (< *a stream*) **b** generated by a point moving continuously in the same direction (< *a line*) *c* of, occupying, or passing through a fielding position in front of the batsman and near the line between the wickets or its extension behind the bowler (< *a drive*) **2** direct, uninterrupted, e.g. a holding to a direct or proper course or method (< *a thinker*) **b** candid, frank (< *gave me a ~ answer*) (< *talking*) *c* coming directly from a trustworthy source (< *a tip on the horses*) **d** consecutive (< *6 ~ wins*) *e* having the cylinders arranged in a single straight line (< *a ~ 8-cylinder engine*) **f** upright, vertical (< *the picture isn't quite ~*) **3a** honest, fair (< *dealing*) **b** properly ordered or arranged (e.g. with regard to finance) (< *be ~ after the end of the month*) (< *set us ~ on that issue*) *c* correct (< *get the facts ~*) **4** unmixed (< *gin*) **5a** not deviating from the general norm or prescribed pattern (< *preferred acting in ~ dramas to musicals or comedies*) **b** accepted as usual, normal, or proper **6** chiefly *NAM* marked by no exceptions or deviations in support of a principle or party (< *a ~ ballot*) **7a** conventional in opinions, habits, appearance etc **b** heterosexual *USE* (7) *infrml* [ME *stregh*, *straight*, fr pp of *strecchen* to stretch] – **straightish** *adj*, **straightness** *n*

**\*straight** *adv* **1** in a straight manner **2** without delay or hesitation, immediately (< *after breakfast*)

**\*straight** *n* **1** sthg straight: e.g. **a** a straight line or arrangement **b** a straight part of sthg; esp *HOME STRAIGHT* **2** a poker hand containing 5 cards in sequence but not of the same suit **3a** a conventional person **b** a heterosexual *USE* (3) *infrml*

**'straight and narrow** *n* the way of life that is morally and legally irreproachable [prob alter. of *strait and narrow*; fr the admonition of Mt 7:14, 'strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life']

**'straightaway** /-ə-way/ *adv* without hesitation or delay; immediately

**'straightbred** /-bred/ *adj* produced from a single breed, strain, or type (< *a ~ Angus heifer*) – compare **CROSSBRED** – **straightbred** *n*

**straight chain** *n* an open chain of atoms having no side chains

**'straightedge** /-eɪ/ *n* a piece of wood, metal, etc with an accurate straight edge for testing surfaces and (drawing) straight lines

**straighten** /strayt(a)n/ *vb* to make or become straight – *usu* + *up* or *out* – **straightener** *n*

**'straight face** *n* a face giving no evidence of emotion, esp amusement (< *keep a ~*) – **straight-faced** *adj*

**straight fight** *n* a contest, esp an election contest, between 2 candidates only

**'straight flush** *n* a poker hand containing 5 cards of the same suit in sequence

**'straightforward** /-faw wəd/ *adj* **1** free from evasiveness or ambiguity, direct, candid (< *a ~ account*) **2** presenting no hidden difficulties (< *a perfectly ~ problem*) **3** clear-cut, precise – **straightforwardly** *adv*, **straightforwardness** *n*

**'straightjacket** /-jakɪt/ *n* a straitjacket

**'straightlaced** /-ləyst/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* straitlaced

**'straight off** *adv* immediately, *AT ONCE*

**'straight-out** *adj*, *NAM* **1** forthright, blunt (< *gave him a ~ answer*) **2** outright, thoroughgoing (< *a ~ Democrat*)

**'straight up** *adv*, *Br* truly, honestly – *infrml*, used esp in asking or replying to a question (< *This car's worth a good £1500 'Straight up?* 'Straight up')]

**'straightway** /-way/ *adv*, *archaic* immediately, forthwith (< *the clouds began to part*)

**'strain** /strayn/ *n* **1a** a lineage, ancestry **b** a group of plants, animals, microorganisms, etc at a level lower than a species (< *a high-yielding ~ of winter wheat*) *c* a kind, sort (< *discussions of a lofty ~*) **2a** a trace, streak (< *a ~ of fanaticism*) **3** a passage of verbal or musical expression – *usu* pl with *sing* meaning **4** the tone or manner of an utterance or of a course of action or conduct (< *he continued in the same ~*) [ME *streēn* piogeny, lineage, fr OE *streōn* gain, acquisition, akin to OHG *gstrum* gain, L *struere* to heap up – more at **STRUCTURE**]

**\*strain** *vt* **1a** to draw tight (< *the bandage over the wound*) **b** to stretch to maximum extension and tautness (< *a canvas over a frame*) **2a** to exert (e.g. oneself) to the utmost **b** to injure by overuse, misuse, or excessive pressure (< *ed a muscle*) *c* to cause a change of form or size in (a body) by application of external force **3** to squeeze or clasp tightly e.g. **a** to hug **b** to compress painfully, constrict **4a** to cause to pass through a strainer, filter **b** to remove by straining (< *lumps out of the gravy*) **5** to stretch beyond a proper limit (< *that story ~s my credulity*) ~ *vi* **1a** to make (violent) efforts (< *has to ~ to reach the high notes*) **b** to sustain a strain, wrench, or distortion *c* to contract the muscles forcefully in physical exertion **2** to show great resistance, resist strongly **3** to show signs of strain, continue with considerable difficulty or effort (< *ing under the pressure of work*) [ME *strainen*, fr MF *estraindre*, fr L *stringere* to bind or draw tight, press together, akin to Gk *strang-*, *stranx* drop squeezed out, *strangale* halter]

**\*strain** *n* straining or being strained e.g. **a** (a force, influence, or factor causing) physical or mental tension **b** excessive or difficult exertion or labour *c* a wrench, twist, or similar bodily injury resulting esp from excessive stretching of muscles or ligaments **d** the deformation of a body subjected to stress

**strained** *adj* **1** done or produced with excessive effort **2** subjected to considerable tension (< *relations*)

**'strainer** /'straynə/ *n* **1** a device (e.g. a sieve) to retain solid pieces while a liquid passes through (< *tea ~*) **2** any of various devices for stretching or tightening sthg ['STRAIN + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**'strain gauge** *n* an extensometer

**'strait** /strayt/ *adj*, *archaic* narrow [ME, fr OF *estreit*, fr L *strictus* strait, strict – more at **STRICT**] – **straitly** *adv*, **straitness** *n*

**\*strait** *n* **1** a narrow passageway connecting 2 large bodies of water – often pl with *sing* meaning but *sing*. or pl in constr **2** a situation of perplexity or distress – *usu* pl with *sing* meaning (< *in dire ~s*)

**'straiten** /'strayt(a)n/ *vt* **1** to subject to severely restricting difficulties, esp of a financial kind – often in *strained circumstances* **2** *archaic* to restrict in range or scope ['STRAIT + <sup>1</sup>-EN]

**'straitjacket, straightjacket** /-jakɪt/ *n* **1** a cover or outer garment of strong material used to bind the body and esp the arms closely, in restraining a violent prisoner or patient **2** sthg that restricts or confines like a straitjacket – **straitjacket** *vt*

**'straitlaced, NAM also straightlaced** /-ləyst/ *adj* excessively strict in manners or morals

**'strake** /strayk/ *n* (the width of) a continuous band of hull planking or plates running from stem to stern on a ship [ME, akin to OE *streccan* to stretch – more at **STRETCH**]

- strand** /strand/ *n* a shore, beach [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *strond* strand, L *sternere* to spread out – more at **STREW**]
- strand** *vi* 1 to run, drive, or cause to drift onto a shore; run aground 2 to leave in a strange or unfavourable place, esp without funds or means to depart
- strand** *n* 1a any of the threads, strings, or wires twisted or laid parallel to make a cord, rope, or cable b sthg (e.g. a molecular chain) resembling a strand 2 an elongated or twisted and plaited body resembling a rope <a ~ of pearls> 3 any of the elements interwoven in a complex whole <follow the ~s of the story> [ME *strond*] – **stranded** *adj*
- strand** *vt* to break a strand of (a rope) accidentally
- strange** /strayn/ *adj* 1 not native to or naturally belonging in a place, of external origin, kind, or character 2a not known, heard, or seen before b exciting wonder or surprise 3 lacking experience or acquaintance, unaccustomed to [ME, fr OF *estrangle*, fr L *extraneus*, lit., external, fr *extra* outside – more at **EXTRA-**] – **strangely** *adv*
- strangeness** /-nis/ *n* the quantum property that explains the unexpectedly long lifetime possessed by certain elementary particles (e.g. kaons) [STRANGE + -NESS]
- strange particle** *n* an elementary particle (e.g. a kaon) with a strangeness quantum number different from zero
- stranger** /'straynjə/ *n* 1a a foreigner, alien b sby who is unknown or with whom one is unacquainted 2 one ignorant of or unacquainted with sby or sthg <a ~ to books> [ME, fr MF *estranger* foreign, foreigner, fr *estrangle*]
- strangle** /strangl/ *vb* **strangling** /'strang-gling, 'strang-gling/ *vt* 1 to choke (to death) by compressing the throat, throttle 2 to suppress or hinder the rise, expression, or growth of ~ *vi* to die (as if) from being strangled [ME *stranglen*, fr MF *strangler*, fr L *strangulare*, fr Gk *strangalan*, fr *strangale* halter – more at **STRAIN**] – **strangler** *n*
- stranglehold** /'holɪd/ *n* a force or influence that prevents free movement or expression
- strangles** /stranzl/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a contagious feverish disease of horses marked by nasal discharge, inflammation, and abscesses between the jawbones [pl of obs *strangle* (act of strangling)]
- strangulate** /'strangyoo,layt/ *vt* 1 to strangle 2 to constrict or compress (a blood vessel, loop of intestine, etc) in a way that interrupts the ability to act as a passage <a ~ d hernia> ~ *vi* to become strangulated [L *strangulatus*, pp of *strangulare*] – **strangulation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- strangury** /'strangyoor/ *n* slow and painful urination [ME, fr L *stranguria*, fr Gk *strangouria*, fr *strang-*, *stranx* drop squeezed out + *ourin* to urinate, fr *ouron* urine – more at **STRAIN**, **URINE**]
- strap** /strap/ *n* 1 a strip of metal or a flexible material, esp leather, for holding objects together or in position 2 (the use of, or punishment with) a strip of leather for flogging <gave him the ~> [alter of *strop*, fr ME, band or loop of leather or rope, fr OE, thong for securing an oar, akin to MHG *strupfe* strap, all fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *struppis* band, strap, fr Gk *strophos* twisted band, akin to Gk *strephein* to twist – more at **STROPE**] – **strapping** *n*
- strap** *vt* -pp- 1a to secure with or attach by means of a strap b to support (e.g. a sprained joint) with adhesive plaster 2 to beat with a strap
- straphanger** /-'hang-ə/ *n* a passenger in a train, bus, etc who has to hold a strap or handle for support while standing – **straphanging** *n*
- strappado** /stra'pəhdoh, -'pay-/ *n, pl* strappadoes, strappados (an instrument to inflict a former torture consisting of hoisting the victim by a rope and letting him/her fall almost to the ground [modif of It *strappata*, lit., sharp pull])
- strapping** /'strapɪŋ/ *adj* big, strong, and sturdy in build
- stress** /stras/ *n* PAST 3 [F *stras*, *strass*]
- strata** /'straɪtə/ *pl* of **STRATUM**
- stratagem** /'stratəjəm/ *n* 1 an artifice or trick for deceiving and outwitting the enemy 2 a cleverly contrived trick or scheme [It *stratagemma*, fr L *strategema*, fr Gk *strategēma*, fr *strategiein* to be a general, manoeuvre, fr *strategos* general, fr *stratos* army (akin to L *stratus*, pp of *sternere* to spread out) + *agein* to lead – more at **STREW**, **AGENT**]
- strategic** /stra'teɪjɪk/, **strategical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 of, marked by, or important in strategy <a ~ retreat> – compare **TACTICAL** 2a required for the conduct of war <~ materials> b of great importance within an integrated whole or to a planned effect 3 designed or trained to sink an enemy at the sources of its power <a ~ bomber> – **strategically** *adv*
- strategist** /'stratɪdʒɪst/ *n* one skilled in strategy
- strategy** /'stratɪdʒi/ *n* 1a(1) the science and art of employing all the resources of (a group of) nation(s) to carry out agreed policies in peace or war (2) the science and art of military command exercised to meet the enemy in combat under advantageous conditions – compare **TACTICS** b

a variety of or instance of the use of strategy 2a a clever plan or method b the art of employing plans towards achieving a goal [Gk *strategia* generalship, fr *strategos*]

**strath** /strath/ *n* a flat wide river valley, esp in Scotland [ScGael *srath*]

**strathapey** /'strath'spay/ *n* (the music for) a Scottish dance that is similar to a reel and marked by gliding steps [Strath Spey, district of Scotland]

**strati-** /'strati-/ *comb form* stratum <stratum> [NL *stratum*]


**straticulate** /'stratikyoələt, -ləyt/ *adj* having thin parallel strata [(assumed) NL *straticulum*, dim. of *stratum*]

**stratify** /'stratɪfɪ-/ *vt* to form, deposit, or arrange in strata ~ *vi* to become arranged in strata [NL *stratificare*, fr *stratum* + L *-ificare* -ify] – **stratification** /-'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**stratigraphy** /'stratɪgrəfi/ *n* (geology that deals with) the origin, distribution, and succession of strata [ISV] – **stratigraphic** /'stratɪ'grəfɪk/ *adj*

**strato-** *comb form* stratus and <stratocumulus> [NL *stratus*]

**stratocracy** /'strə'tokrəsi/ *n* a military government [Gk *stratos* army – more at **STRATAGEM**]

**stratocumulus** /'strahtoh'kyoohmyooləs, -straytoh-/ *n* stratified cumulus consisting of large dark clouds often covering the whole sky, esp in winter  **WEATHER** [NL]

**stratosphere** /'stratə'sfiə/ *n* the upper part of the atmosphere above about 11km (7mi) in which the temperature changes little and clouds are rare [F *stratosphère*, fr NL *stratum* + -o- + F *sphère* sphere, fr L *sphaera*] – **stratospheric** /'stratə'sfienk/ *adj*

**stratum** /'straɪtəm, 'straɪtəm/ *n, pl* strata /-tə/ 1 a horizontal layer or series of layers of any homogeneous material e.g. a a sheetlike mass of rock or earth deposited between beds of other rock b a layer of the sea or atmosphere c a layer of tissue d a layer in which archaeological remains are found on excavation 2 a socioeconomic level of society – often pl with sing meaning <this strata of society> [NL, fr L, spread, bed, fr neut of *stratus*, pp of *sternere* to spread out – more at **STREW**]

**stratus** /'straɪtəs, 'straɪtəs/ *n, pl* strati /-tɪ-/ a massive broad uniformly thick low cloud formation [NL, fr L, pp of *sternere*]

**straw** /straw/ *n* 1 (a single stem of) dry stalky plant residue, specif stalks of grain after threshing, used for bedding, thatching, fodder, making hats, etc 2 a dry coarse stem, esp of a cereal grass 3a sthg of small value or importance <she doesn't care a ~> b sthg too insubstantial to provide support or help <clutching at ~s> 4 a tube of paper, plastic, etc for sucking up a drink 5 pale yellow [ME, fr OE *strew*; akin to OHG *strō* straw, OE *strewian* to strew] – **strawy** *adj* – **straw in the wind** a hint or apparently insignificant fact that is an indication of a coming event

**straw** *adj* of or resembling (the colour of) straw

**straw** *vt* to cover (as if) with straw

**strawberry** /'strawb(ə)rɪ/ *n* (the juicy edible rose red fruit of) any of several white-flowered creeping plants of the rose family [prob fr the straw-] ke appearance of the achenes on the surface]

**strawberry blonde** *n* (a woman with hair of) a reddish blonde colour

**strawberry mark** *n* a sun red and elevated birthmark composed of small blood vessels

**strawberry roan** *n* a roan horse with a light red ground colour

**strawberry tree** *n* a European evergreen tree of the heath family with clustered white flowers and fruits like strawberries

**strawboard** /-'bawd/ *n* coarse cardboard made of straw pulp and used usu for boxes and book covers

**straw poll** *n* an assessment made by an unofficial vote [prob fr the phrase *a straw in the wind* – more at **STRAW**]

**straw vote** *n*, **NAM** **STRAW POLL**

**stray** /stray/ *vi* 1 to wander from a proper place, course, or line of conduct or argument 2 to roam about without fixed direction or purpose [ME *straien*, fr MF *estruier*, fr (assumed) VL *extragare*, fr L *extra* -outside + *vagari* to wander – more at **EXTRA-**, **VAGARY**]

**stray** *n* 1 a domestic animal wandering at large or lost 2 a person or animal that strays [ME, fr OF *estraié*, pp of *estraier*]

**stray** *adj* 1 having strayed; wandering, lost 2 occurring at random or sporadically <a few ~ hairs> 3 not serving any useful purpose, unwanted <~ light>

**streak** /streek/ *n* 1 a line or band of a different colour from the background 2 a sample containing microorganisms (e.g. bacteria) implanted in a line on a solid culture medium (e.g. agar jelly) for growth 3a an inherent quality; esp one which is only occasionally manifested <had a mean ~ in him> b a consecutive series <on a winning ~> [ME *streke*,

fr OE *strica*, akin to OHG *strich* line, L *striga* furrow, row – more at STRIKE]

**streak** *vt* to make streaks on or in ~ *vi* 1 to move swiftly < a jet ~ing across the sky > 2 to run through a public place while naked – *infrml* – **streaker** *n*

**streaked** *adj* marked with stripes or linear discolorations

**streaky** /'striki/ *adj* 1 marked with streaks 2 of meat, esp bacon having lines of fat and lean ~ MEAT 3 of a shot in cricket hit off the edge of the bat – **streakily** *adv*, **streakiness** *n*

**stream** /'stri:m/ *n* 1a a body of running water, esp one smaller than a river, flowing in a channel on the earth b a body of flowing liquid or gas 2a a steady succession of words, events, etc b a continuous moving procession 3 an unbroken flow (e.g. of gas or particles of matter) 4 a prevailing attitude or direction of opinion – esp in go against/with the stream 5 Br a group of pupils of the same general academic ability (the A ~) – compare SET 17 [ME *streme*, fr OE *stream*; akin to OHG *stroum* stream, Gk *rhein* to flow, Skt *sarati* it flows – more at SERUM]

**stream** *vi* 1 to flow (as if) in a stream 2 to run with a fluid < her eyes ~ing with the cold > < walls ~ing with condensation > 3 to trail out at full length < hair ~ing in the wind > 4 to pour in large numbers in the same direction 5 Br to practise the division of pupils into streams ~ *vt* 1 to emit freely or in a stream 2 Br to divide (a school or an age-group of pupils) into streams

**streamer** /'stri:ma/ *n* 1a a pennant b a strip of coloured paper used as a party decoration c BANNER 2 a long extension of the sun's corona visible only during a total eclipse [STREAM + -ER]

**streamline** /-li:n/ *n* 1 the path of a fluid (e.g. air or water) relative to a solid body past which the fluid is moving smoothly without turbulence 2 a contour given to a car, aeroplane, etc so as to minimize resistance to motion through a fluid (e.g. air)

**streamline** *vt* 1 to design or construct with a streamline 2 to make simpler, more efficient, or better integrated

**streamlined** /'stri:m,li:nd/ *adj* 1a having a streamline contour b effectively integrated; organized 2 having flowing lines

**stream of consciousness** *n* (a literary technique used to express) individual conscious experience considered as a continuous flow of reactions and experiences

**street** /'stri:t/ *n* 1a a thoroughfare, esp in a town or village, with buildings on either side < lives in a fashionable ~ > 2 the part of a street reserved for vehicles [ME *strete*, fr OE *stræt*; akin to OHG *straza* street; both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr LL *strata* paved road, fr L, fem of *stratus*, pp of *sternere* to spread out – more at STREW] – on the street idle, homeless, or out of a job – on the streets earning a living as a prostitute – up/down one's street suited to one's abilities or tastes

**street arab** *n*, often cap A ARAB 2a

**streetcar** /-kɑ:/ *n*, NAm a tram

**streets** /'stri:t/ *adv*, chiefly Br FAR AND AWAY < ~ ahead of the other girls >

**street theatre** *n* drama dealing with contemporary social and political issues and often performed out of doors

**streetwalker** /-wɑ:kə/ *n* a prostitute who solicits in the streets – compare CALL GIRL – **streetwalking** *n*

**strength** /'streŋg(k)th/ *n* 1 the quality of being strong; capacity for exertion or endurance 2 solidity, toughness 3a legal, logical, or moral force b a strong quality or inherent asset < his ~s and weaknesses > 4a degree of potency of effect or of concentration b intensity of light, colour, sound, or smell 5 force as measured in members < an army at full ~ > 6 firmness of, or a rising tendency in, prices < stock markets were displaying remarkable drive and ~ – Financial Times > 7 a basis – chiefly in on the strength of [ME *strengthe*, fr OE *strengthu*; akin to OHG *strengi* strong – more at STRONG] – **strengthless** *adj* – from strength to strength with continuing success and progress

**strengthen** /'streŋg(k)thən/ *vb* to make or become stronger – **strengthen** *n*

**strenuous** /'strenyoʊ-əs/ *adj* 1 vigorously active 2 requiring effort or stamina [L *strenuus* – more at STARE] – **strenuously** *adv*, **strenuousness**, **strenuosity** /'strenyoʊ-osi:/ *n*

**strep** /'strep/ *n* a streptococcus – *infrml* – **strep** *adj*

**strepto-** *comb form* twisted; twisted chain [streptococcus] [NL, fr Gk, fr *streptos* twisted, fr *strephēn* to twist – more at STROPHE]

**streptococcus** /'streptə'kɒkəs/ *n*, pl **streptococci** /-'kɒk(s)i:/ any of a genus of chiefly parasitic bacteria that occur in pairs or chains and include some that cause diseases in human beings and domestic animals [NL, genus name] – **streptococcal**, **streptococci** /-'kɒk(s)i:k/ *adj*

**strepto'kinase** /-'ki:nəz-, -nəz/ *n* an enzyme produced by some

streptococcal bacteria that breaks down blood clots [strepto- + kinase (an enzyme), fr *kinetic*]


**streptomycin** /-'miesin/ *n* an antibiotic obtained from a soil bacterium and used esp in the treatment of tuberculosis [NL *Streptomyces*, genus name of bacteria, fr *strepto-* + Gk *mykes* fungus]

**stress** /'stres/ *n* 1a the force per unit area producing or tending to produce deformation of a body; also the state of a body under such stress b (a physical or emotional factor that causes) bodily or mental tension c strain, pressure 2 emphasis, weight 3a intensity of utterance given to a speech sound, syllable, or word so as to produce relative loudness b relative force or prominence given to a syllable in verse c ACCENT 2b [ME *stresse* stress, distress, fr *distresse* – more at DISTRESS] – **stressful** *adj*, **stressfully** *adv*, **stressless** *adj*

**stress** *vt* 1 to subject to phonetic stress, accent 2 to subject to physical or mental stress 3 to lay stress on; emphasize – **stressor** *n*

**stretch** /'stretʃ/ *vt* 1 to extend in a reclining position – often + out < ~ed himself out on the carpet > 2 to extend to full length 3 to extend (oneself or one's limbs), esp so as to relieve muscular stiffness 4 to pull taut < canvas was ~ed on a frame > 5a to enlarge or distend, esp by force b to strain < ~ed his already thin patience > 6 to cause to reach (e.g. from one point to another or across a space) 7 to enlarge or extend beyond natural or proper limits < ~ the rules > 8 to fell (as if) with a blow – often + out; *infrml* ~ *vi* 1a to extend in space, reach < broad plains ~ing to the sea > b to extend over a period of time 2 to become extended without breaking 3a to extend one's body or limbs b to lie down at full length [ME *strecchen*, fr OE *strecan*; akin to OHG *strecchan* to stretch, OE *starian* to stare] – **stretchable** *adj*, **stretchy** *adj* – stretch a point to go beyond what is strictly warranted in making a claim or concession – stretch one's legs to take a walk in order to relieve stiffness caused by prolonged sitting

**stretch** *n* 1 an exercise of the understanding, imagination, etc beyond ordinary or normal limits 2 the extent to which sth may be stretched < at full ~ > 3 stretching or being stretched 4 a continuous expanse of time or space 5 the capacity for being stretched, elasticity 6 a term of imprisonment – *infrml*

**stretcher** /'stretʃə/ *n* 1 a mechanism for stretching or expanding sth 2a a brick or stone laid with its length parallel to the face of the wall – compare HEADER  BUILDING b a timber or rod used, esp when horizontal, as a tie (e.g. a tie-beam) in a load-bearing frame (e.g. for a building) 3 a device, consisting of a sheet of canvas or other material stretched between 2 poles, for carrying a sick, injured, or dead person 4 a rod or bar extending between 2 legs of a chair or table [STRETCH + -ER]

**strew** /'stroʊh/ *vt* strewed, strewn /'stroʊhn/ 1 to spread by scattering 2 to cover (as if) with sth scattered 3 to become dispersed over [ME *strewen*, strowen, fr OE *strewian*, *strewian*, akin to OHG *strewen* to strew, L *sternere* to spread out, Gk *sternynai*]

**strewth** /'stroʊth/ *interj* struth

**stria** /'stri:ə/ *n*, pl **striae** /'stri:ə/ 1 a minute groove on the surface of a rock, crystal, etc 2 a narrow groove, ridge, line of colours, etc, esp when one of a parallel series [L, furrow, channel – more at STRIKE] – **striate** /'stri:ət/ *vt*, **striate** /'stri:ət/, **striated** /'stri:ətaɪd/ *adj*

**striated muscle** *n* muscle that is marked by alternate light and dark bands, is made up of long fibres, and comprises the voluntary muscle of vertebrates – compare SMOOTH MUSCLE

**striation** /'stri:əʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a being striated b an arrangement of striae 2 a stria

**stricken** /'stri:kən/ *adj* afflicted or overwhelmed (as if) by disease, misfortune, or sorrow [fr pp of STRIKE]

**strickle** /'stri:kl/ *n* 1 an instrument for levelling off measures of grain 2 a tool for sharpening scythes [ME *strikel*, akin to OE *strican* to stroke – more at STRIKE]

**strickle** *vt* to smooth or form with a strickle

**strict** /'strikt/ *adj* 1a stringent in requirement or control < under ~ orders > b severe in discipline < a ~ teacher > 2a inflexibly maintained or kept to, complete < ~ secrecy > b rigorously conforming to rules or standards 3 exact, precise < in the ~ sense of the word > [L *strictus*, fr pp of *stringere* to bind tight – more at STRAIN] – **strictly** *adv*, **strictness** *n*

**stricture** /'stri:kʃə/ *n* 1 an abnormal narrowing of a bodily passage 2 sth that closely restrains or limits; a restriction 3 an unfavourable criticism; a censure USE (2&3) usu pl with sing. meaning [ME, fr LL *strictura*, fr L *strictus*, pp of *stringere* to bind tight]

**stride** /'stri:d/ *vb* strode /'stroʊd/; stridden /'stri:dn/ *vi* to walk (as if) with long steps ~ *vt* to move over or along (as if) with long steps [ME

*striden*, fr OE *stridan*, akin to MLG *striden* to straddle, OE *starran* to stare] - **strider** *n*

**stride** *n* 1 a long step 2 an advance - often pl with *sing* meaning <technology has made great ~s> 3a (the distance covered in) an act of movement completed when the feet regain the initial relative positions b a state of maximum competence or capability <get into one's ~> 4 a striding gait <her loose-limbed ~> - in one's **stride** without becoming upset <took the dangers in her stride>

**strident** /'strɪd(ə)nt/ *adj* characterized by harsh and discordant sound, also loud and obtrusive (~ *slogans*) [L *strident-*, *stridens*, prp of *stridere*, *stridere* to make a harsh noise, akin to Gk & L *strix* owl] - **stridence**, **stridency** *n*, **stridently** *adv*

**stride piano** *n* a style of jazz piano playing in which the right hand plays the melody while the left hand alternates between a single note and a chord played an octave or more higher [fr the repeated strides taken by the left hand]

**stridulate** /'strɪdʒʊlət/ *vi*, esp of crickets, grasshoppers, etc to make a shrill creaking noise by rubbing together special bodily structures [back-formation fr *stridulation*, fr F, fr L *stridulus* shrill, squeaky, fr *stridare*, *stridere*] - **stridulatory** *adj*, **stridulation** /'strɪdʒ(ə)n/ *n*

**strife** /'striːf/ *n* bitter conflict or dissension [ME *strif*, fr OF *estri*, prob fr *estriver* to contend - more at **STRIVE**] - **strifeless** *adj*

**strigose** /'striːɡəʊs/ *adj* 1 having bristles or scales lying against a surface (<a ~ leaf>) 2 marked with fine grooves (<the ~ wing cases of a beetle>) [NL *strigosus*, fr *striga* bristle, fr L, furrow]

**strike** /striːk/ *vb* **struck** /strʊk/, **struck also stricken** /'striːkən/ *vt* 1a to strike at, hit b to make an attack on c to inflict (~ *a blow*) 2a to haul down (~ *a flag*) b to dismantle (e.g. a stage set) c to take down the tents of (a camp) 3 to afflict suddenly <stricken by a heart attack> 4 to delete, cancel (~ *a name* from a list) 5a to send down or out <trees struck roots deep into the soil> b to penetrate painfully <the news struck him to the heart> 6 to indicate by sounding <the clock struck 7> 7a of light to fall on b of a sound to become audible to 8 to cause suddenly to become <struck him dead> 9 to produce by stamping (~ *a medal*) 10a to produce (fire) by striking b to cause (a match) to ignite 11a to make a mental impact on <they were struck by its speed> <how does that ~ you?> b to occur suddenly to 12 to make and ratify (a bargain) 13 to produce (as if) by playing an instrument (~ *a chord*) (~ *a gloomy note*) 14a to hook (a fish) by a sharp pull on the line b of a fish to snatch at (bait) 15 to arrive at (a balance) by computation 16 COME ACROSS (~ *gold*) 17 to assume (a pose) 18a to place (a plant cutting) in a medium for growth and rooting b to propagate (a plant) in this manner 19 to cause (an arc) to form (e.g. between electrodes of an arc lamp) 20 to play or produce on keys or strings 21 NAM to engage in a strike against (an employer) ~ *vi* 1 to take a course <struck off across the field> 2a to aim a blow b to make an attack 3 to collide forcefully 4a of the time to become indicated by a clock, bell, or chime <the hour had just struck> b to make known the time by sounding <the clock struck 7> 5 of a fish to seize bait or a lure 6 of a plant cutting to take root 7 to engage in a strike [MF *striken*, fr OF *strican* to stroke, go, akin to OHG *strihan* to stroke, L *stringere* to touch lightly, *striga*, *stria* furrow] - **strike oil** to achieve financial success

**strike n** 1 **STRIKE 1** 2 an act of striking 3 a work stoppage by a body of workers, made as a protest or to force an employer to comply with demands 4 the direction of a horizontal line formed at the angle of intersection of an upward-sloping stratum and a horizontal plane 5 a pull on a line by a fish in striking 6 a success in finding or hitting sthg, esp a discovery of a valuable mineral deposit <a lucky oil ~> 7 a pitched ball in baseball that is either missed by the batter or hit outside the foul lines and that counts against him 8 the knocking down of all 10 pins with the first bowl in a frame in tenpin bowling 9 the opportunity to receive the bowling by virtue of being the batsman at the wicket towards which the bowling is being directed 10 an (air) attack on a target

**strike bound** /'bəʊnd/ *adj* subjected to a strike

**strike breaker** /-braykə/ *n* one hired to replace a striking worker

**strike breaking** /-braykɪŋ/ *n* action designed to break up a strike


**strike down** *vt* 1 to afflict suddenly, lay low <struck down by malaria> 2 to cause to die suddenly <a young poet struck down in his prime>

**strike off** *vt* 1 to sever with a stroke 2 to forbid (sby) to continue in professional practice usu because of misconduct or incompetence <struck the doctor off for malpractice>

**strike out** *vt* to delete ~ *vi* to set out vigorously <struck out towards the coast>

**strike pay** *n* an allowance paid by a trade union to its members on a strike


**striker** /'striːkə/ *n* 1 a games player who strikes; esp a soccer player

whose main duty is to score goals  **SPORT** 2 a worker on strike ['striːkɪ + -ɪr]

**strike up** *vi* to begin to sing or play ~ *vt* 1 to cause to begin singing or playing 2 to cause to begin <strike up a conversation>

**striking** /'striːkɪŋ/ *adj* attracting attention, esp because of unusual or impressive qualities - **strikingly** *adv*

**Strine** /'striːn/ *n*, sometimes not cap Australian English - chiefly humor [alter of *Australian*]

**string** /'strɪŋ/ *n* 1 a narrow cord used to bind, fasten, or tie 2 a plant fibre (e.g. a leaf vein) 3a the gut or wire cord of a musical instrument b a stringed instrument of an orchestra - usu pl 4a a group of objects threaded on a string (<a ~ of beads>) b a set of things arranged (as if) in a sequence c a group of usu scattered business concerns (<a ~ of shops>) d the animals, esp horses, belonging to or used by sby 5 one who is selected (e.g. for a sports team) for the specified rank, also, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of players so selected <usually plays for the first ~> (<a second-string player>) 6 a succession, sequence 7a either of the inclined sides of a stair supporting the treads and risers  **ARCHITECTURE** b **STRING COURSE** 8 pl conditions or obligations attached to sthg [ME, fr OE *streng*, akin to L *stringere* to bind tight - more at **STRAIN**] - **stringed** *adj*, **stringless** *adj*

**string** *vi* **strung** /strʊŋ/ 1 to equip with strings 2a to thread (as if) on a string b to tie, hang, or fasten with string 3 to remove the strings of (~ *beats*) 4 to extend or stretch like a string

**string** *adj* made with wide meshes and usu of string (~ *vest*) (~ *bag*)

**string along** *vi* 1 to accompany sby, esp reluctantly <string along with the crowd> 2 to agree GO ALONG - usu + *with* ~ *vt* to deceive, fool <string him along with false promises> **USE** *infrml*

**string bean** *n* a French bean or runner bean with stringy fibres on the lines of separation of the pods

**string course** *n* a horizontal ornamental band (e.g. of bricks) in a building

**stringent** /'strɪŋ(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 rigorous or strict, esp with regard to rules or standards 2 marked by money scarcity and credit strictness [L *stringent-*, *stringens*, prp of *stringere* to bind tight] - **stringency** *n*, **stringently** *adv*

**stringer** /'strɪŋə/ *n* 1 a horizontal structural support 2 a longitudinal structural part (e.g. in an aircraft fuselage or wing) to reinforce the skin 3 a correspondent working esp part-time for a publication or news agency ['strɪŋ + -ɪr]

**stringhalt** /-hawlt/ *n* lameness in the hind legs of a horse caused by muscular spasms [*'string* (sinew, tendon) + *'halt*] - **stringhalted** *adj*

**string piece** /-pees/ *n* the heavy squared timber lying along the top of the piles forming a dock front or timber pier

**string tie** *n* a narrow tie

**string up** *vt* to hang, specify to kill by hanging <they strung him up from the nearest tree>

**stringy** /'strɪŋgi/ *adj* 1a containing or resembling fibrous matter or string (~ *hair*) b sinewy, wiry 2 capable of being drawn out to form a string - **stringiness** *n*

**'stringy bark** /-bakh/ *n* (the thick fibrous bark of) any of several Australian eucalyptuses

**'strip** /striːp/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1a to remove clothing, covering, or surface or extraneous matter from b to deprive of possessions, privileges, or rank 2 to remove furniture, equipment, or accessories from 3 to press the last available milk from the teats of (esp a cow) 4a to remove cured leaves from the stalks of (tobacco) b to remove the midrib from (tobacco leaves) 5 to damage the thread or teeth of (a screw, cog, etc) ~ *vi* 1 to undress 2 to perform a striptease [ME *strippen*, fr OE *-stripan*, akin to OHG *stroufen* to strip]

**'strip** *n* 1a a long narrow piece of material b a long narrow area of land or water 2 **LANDING STRIP** 3 *Br* clothes worn by a rugby or soccer team [perh fr MLG *stripe* strap]

**strip cartoon** *n* a series of drawings (e.g. in a magazine) in narrative sequence

**'strip club** *n* a club which features striptease artists

**'strip-cropping** *n* the growing of a cultivated crop (e.g. maize) in alternate strips with a turf-forming crop (e.g. hay) to minimize erosion of the land - **strip-crop** *vb*

**stripe** /'striːp/ *n* 1 a line or narrow band differing in colour or texture from the adjoining parts 2 a bar, chevron, etc of braid or embroidery worn usu on the sleeve of a uniform to indicate rank or length of service 3 chiefly *NAM* a distinct variety or sort; a type <men of the same political

~> [prob fr MD; akin to OE *strica* streak – more at STREAK] – striped *adj*, stripeless *adj*

**'strip, farming** *n* 1 the growing of crops in separate strips of land allotted to individual farmers so that good and bad land is fairly distributed 2 strip-cropping

**strip** *in vt* to insert (typeset material) into a prepared space in a photocomposed sheet

**'strip, light** *n* a fluorescent lamp

**strip lighting** *n* lighting provided by 1 or more strip lights

**stripling** /'stripling/ *n* an adolescent boy [ME]

**strip mine** *n*, chiefly NAm an opencast mine – **strip-mine** *vt*, strip miner *n*

**stripper** /'stripa/ *n* 1 sby who performs a striptease 2 a tool or solvent for removing sthg, esp paint ['STRIP + 'ER]

**strip poker** *n* a poker game in which a player pays his/her losses by removing articles of clothing

**'striptease** /-'teez/ *n* an act or entertainment in which a performer, esp a woman, undresses gradually in view of the audience – **stripteaser** *n*

**stripes** /'stri:pi/ *adj* striped

**strive** /'strev/ *vi* strove /'strohv/ also **strived**; **striven** /'strv(a)n/, **strived** 1 to struggle in opposition; contend 2 to endeavour, try hard [ME *striven*, fr OF *estriver*, of Gmc origin, akin to MHG *streben* to endeavour, OE *stridan* to stride] – **striver** *n*

**strobe** /'strohb/ *n* a stroboscope [by shortening & alter]

**strobila** /'stroh'bi:la/ *n*, pl **strobilae** /-li, -lay/ a line of similar joined animal structures (e.g. the segmented body of a tapeworm) produced by budding [NL, fr Gk *strobilē* plug of lint shaped like a pinecone, fr *strobilos* pinecone] – **strobilar** *adj*

**strobilation** /'strohb'laysh(a)n/ *n* the production of strobilae by asexual reproduction [NL *strobila*]

**strobile** /'strohbi:el/ *n* CONE 1 [NL *strobilus*]

**strobilus** /'strohbi:las/ *n*, pl **strobili** /-li, -lay/ CONE 1 [NL, fr LL, pinecone, fr Gk *strobilos* twisted object, top, pinecone, fr *strobos* action of whirling – more at STROPHE]

**stroboscope** /'strohb'sko:hp/ *n* an instrument for measuring or observing motion, esp rotation or vibration, by allowing successive views of very short duration so that the motion appears slowed or stopped e.g. a lamp that flashes intermittently at varying frequencies b a disc with marks to be viewed under intermittent light, used to set up the speed of a record player turntable [Gk *strobos* whirling + ISV *-scope*] – **stroboscopic** /'strohb'skopik/, **stro-** *adj*, **stroboscopically** *adv*

**strobe** /'strohb/ *past* of STRIDE

**stroganoff** /'stroga:nof/ *n*, often *cap* a rich dish of strips of meat (e.g. beef) cooked in a sour-cream sauce [Count Paul Stroganoff, 19th-c Russ diplomat]

**'stroke** /'strohk/ *vt* to pass the hand over gently in 1 direction [ME *stroken*, fr OE *strācian*; akin to OHG *strihan* to stroke – more at STRIKE] – **stroker** *n*

**²stroke** *n* 1 the act of striking, esp a blow with a weapon or implement 2 a single unbroken movement, esp one that is repeated 3 a striking of the ball in a game (e.g. cricket or tennis); *specif* an (attempted) striking of the ball that constitutes the scoring unit in golf 4a an action by which sthg is done, produced, or achieved (a ~ of genius) b an unexpected occurrence (a ~ of luck) 5 (an attack of) sudden usu complete loss of consciousness, sensation, and voluntary motion caused by rupture, thrombosis, etc of a brain artery 6a (the technique or mode used for) a propelling beat or movement against a resisting medium (what ~ does she swim?) (rowed a fast ~) b an oarsman who sits at the stern of a racing rowing boat and sets the pace for the rest of the crew 7 a vigorous or energetic effort (never does a ~) 8 (the distance of) the movement in either direction of a reciprocating mechanical part (e.g. a piston rod) 9 the sound of a striking clock (at the ~ of 12) 10 an act of stroking or caressing 11a a mark or dash made by a single movement of an implement b *Br* a solidus [ME; akin to OE *strican* to stroke – more at STRIKE] – at a stroke by a single action – off one's stroke in a situation where one performs below a usual standard (it put him off his stroke)

**²stroke** *vt* 1 to set the stroke for (a rowing crew) or for the crew of (a rowing boat) 2 to hit (a ball) with a controlled swinging blow ~ *vi* to row at a specified number of strokes a minute

**stroke play** *n* a golf competition scored by total number of strokes – compare MATCH PLAY

**stroll** /'strohl/ *vi* to walk in a leisurely or idle manner [prob fr G dial *strollen*] – **stroll** *n*

**stroller** /'strohla/ *n*, NAm a pushchair [STROLL + 'ER]

**strolling** /'strohling/ *adj* going from place to place, esp in search of work (~ players)

**stroma** /'strohma/ *n*, pl **stromata** /-mata/ 1 the supporting framework of an animal organ or of some cells 2a a compact mass of fungal hyphae producing a fruiting body b the colourless matrix of a chloroplast in which the chlorophyll-containing layers are embedded [NL *stromat-*, *stroma*, fr L, bed covering, fr Gk *stromat-*, *stroma*, fr *stomynai* to spread out – more at STREW] – **stromal**, **stromatal**, **stromatic** /'stroh'matik/ *adj*

**strong** /'strong/ *adj* 1 having or marked by great physical power 2 having moral or intellectual power 3 having great resources of wealth, talent, etc (a film with a ~ cast) 4 of a specified number (an army ten thousand ~) 5a striking or superior of its kind (a ~ resemblance) b effective or efficient, esp in a specified area (~ on logic) 6 forceful, cogent (~ evidence) 7a rich in some active agent (e.g. a flavour or extract) (~ tea) b of a colour intense c of an acid or base ionizing to a great extent in solution d magnifying by refracting greatly (a ~ lens) 8 moving with vigour or force (a ~ wind) 9 ardent, zealous (a ~ supporter) 10 well established, firm (~ beliefs) 11 not easily upset or nauseated (a ~ stomach) 12 having a pungent or offensive smell or flavour 13 tending to steady or higher prices (a ~ market) 14 of or being a verb that forms inflections by internal vowel change (e.g. *drunk*, *drank*, *drunk*) – compare WEAK 7 [ME, fr OE *strang*; akin to OHG *strengi* strong, L *stringere* to bind tight – more at 'STRAIN] – **strongish** *adj*, **strongly** *adv*

**'strong, arm** /-ahm/ *adj* using or involving undue force (~ tactics)

**'strong, box** /-boks/ *n* a strongly made chest for money or valuables

**strong breeze** *n* wind having a speed of 39 to 49km/h (25 to 31mph)

**strong drink** *n* intoxicating liquor

**strong gale** *n* wind having a speed of 75 to 88km/h (47 to 54mph)

**'strong, hold** /-ho:hd/ *n* 1 a fortified place 2a a place of refuge or safety b a place dominated by a specified group (a Tory ~)

**strong interaction** *n* an interaction between elementary particles that is more powerful than any other known force and is responsible for the forces that bind protons and neutrons in atomic nuclei – compare WEAK INTERACTION

**strong language** *n* offensive language, esp swearing

**'strong, man** *n* 1 a man who performs feats of muscular strength 2 an autocratic leader – *infrm*

**'strong-minded** *adj* marked by firmness and independence of judgment – **strong-mindedly** *adv*, **strong-mindedness** *n*

**'strong, point** /-poynt/ *n* a small fortified defensive position

**'strong, point** *n* sthg in which one excels

**'strong, room** *n* a (fireproof and burglarproof) room for money and valuables

**strong suit** *n* 1 a suit in a hand containing playing cards of high value 2 STRONG POINT

**strontia** /'strontya/ *n* strontium oxide [NL, fr obs E *strontian*, fr *Strontian*, village in Scotland]

**strontium** /'strontyom/ *n* a soft bivalent metallic element of the alkaline-earth group chemically similar to calcium (~ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *strontia*])

**'strontium '90** /'nient/ *n* a radioactive isotope of strontium present in the fallout from nuclear explosions and hazardous because it can replace calcium in bone

**'strop** /'strop/ *n* sthg, esp a leather band, for sharpening a razor [ME – more at STRAP]

**²strop** *vt* -pp- to sharpen on a strop

**strophanthin** /'stroh'fanti:n/ *n* any of several glycosides (e.g. ouabain) or mixtures of glycosides obtained from African plants of the periwinkle family [ISV, fr NL *Strophanthus*, genus of tropical trees or vines]

**strophe** /'strohf/ *n* 1 (the part of a chorale ode sung to accompany) a turning movement made by the classical Greek chorus 2 a rhythmic system composed of 2 or more lines repeated as a unit [Gk *strophē*, lit., act of turning, fr *strephein* to turn, twist, akin to Gk *strobos* action of whirling]

**strophic** /'strofik/, 'stroh-/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or consisting of strophes 2 using the same music for successive stanzas of a song

**strop** /'strop/ *adj*, *Br* quarrelsome, obstreperous – *infrm* [perh by shortening & alter fr *obstreperous*]

**strove** /'strohv/ *past* of STRIVE

**structural** /'strukh(a)l/ *adj* 1a of or affecting structure b used in or suitable for building structures (~ steel) c involved in or caused by



- structure, esp of the economy <~ unemployment> 2 of the physical make-up of a plant or animal body – **structurally** *adv*
- structural formula** *n* a chemical formula showing the arrangement of atoms and bonds in the molecule
- structuralism** /'strukch(ə)rə,liz(ə)m/ *n* a method or approach used in anthropology, literary criticism, linguistics, etc that seeks to analyse data in terms of the significance of underlying relationships and patterns of organization – **structuralist** *n* or *adj*
- structure** /'strukchə/ *n* 1a sth (e.g. a building) that is constructed b sth organized in a definite pattern 2 manner of construction 3a the arrangement of particles or parts in a substance or body <soil ~> <molecular ~> b arrangement or interrelation of elements <economic ~> [ME, fr L *structura*, fr *struere*, pp of *struere* to heap up, build, akin to L *sternere* to spread out – more at *strew*] – **structureless** *adj*
- structure** *vt* to form into a structure
- strudel** /'stroohdl/ *n* a pastry made from a thin sheet of dough rolled up with filling and baked <apple ~> [G, lit., whirlpool]
- struggle** /'strugl/ *vi* **struggling** /'strugling, 'strug-ling/ 1 to make violent or strenuous efforts against opposition 2 to proceed with difficulty or great effort [ME *struglen*] – **struggler** *n*
- struggle** *n* 1 a violent effort, a determined attempt in adverse circumstances 2 a hard-fought contest
- struggle for existence** *n* the competition for food, space, etc that tends to eliminate less efficient individuals of a population, thereby increasing the chance of inherited traits being passed on from the more efficient survivors – compare **NATURAL SELECTION**
- strum** /'strum/ *vb* -mm- *vt* 1 to brush the fingers lightly over the strings of (a musical instrument) in playing <~ a guitar>, also to thrum 2 to play (music) on a guitar <~ a tune> ~ *vi* to strum a stringed instrument [imit] – **strummer** *n*
- struma** /'stroohma/ *n*, *pl strumae* /-mi/, **strumas** 1 goitre 2 a swelling at the base of the capsule in many mooses 3 *archaic* scrofula [(1, 3) L – more at *strut*, (2) NL, fr L] – **strumose** /'stroohmohs/ *adj*
- strumpet** /'strampit/ *n* a prostitute [ME]
- strung** /'strung/ *past* of **STRING**
- strung-up** *adj* extremely nervous or tense
- strut** /'strut/ *vi* -ti- 1 to walk with a proud or erect gait 2 to walk with a pompous air, swagger [ME *strouten* to swell, protrude stuffily, swagger, fr OE *strutan* to exert oneself, akin to L *struma* goitre, OE *starian* to stare] – **strutter** *n*
- strut** *n* 1 a structural piece designed to resist pressure in the direction of its length  **ARCHITECTURE** 2 a pompous step or walk
- strut** *vi* -ti- to provide or stiffen with a strut
- struth**, **strewth** /'strooth/ *interj*, chiefly *Br* – used to express surprise, alarm, etc [short for *God's truth*]
- struthious** /'stroothys/ *adj* of or like the ostriches [LL *struthio* ostrich, irreg fr Gk *strouthos*]
- strychnine** /'striknien/ *n* a poisonous alkaloid obtained from nux vomica and related plants and used as a poison (e.g. for rodents) and medicinally as a stimulant to the central nervous system [F, fr NL *Strychnos*, genus name, fr L, nightshade, fr Gk]
- Stuart** /'styoo-at/ *adj* of the Scottish royal house that ruled Scotland from 1371 to 1603 and Britain from 1603 to 1649 and from 1660 to 1714 [Robert Stewart (Robert II of Scotland) †1390] – **Stuart** *n*
- stub** /'stub/ *n* 1 'STUMP 2 a short blunt part of a pencil, cigarette, etc left after a larger part has been broken off or used up 3a a small part of a leaf or page (e.g. of a chequebook) left on the spine as a record of the contents of the part torn away b the part of a ticket returned to the user after inspection [ME *stubb*, fr OE *stybb*; akin to Gk *stypos* stem, *typten* to beat]
- stub** *vi* -bb- 1a to grub up by the roots b to clear (land) by uprooting stumps 2 to extinguish (e.g. a cigarette) by crushing – usu + *out* 3 to strike (one's foot or toe) against an object
- stubble** /'stubl/ *n* 1 the stalky remnants of plants, esp cereal grasses, which remain rooted in the soil after harvest 2 a rough growth (e.g. of beard) resembling stubble [ME *stuble*, fr OF *estuble*, fr L *stipula* stalk, straw, alter. of *stipula* – more at *STIPULE*] – **stubbly** *adj*
- stubborn** /'stubən/ *adj* 1 (unreasonably) unyielding or determined 2 refractory, intractable <a ~ cold> [ME *stuborn*] – **stubbornly** *adv*, **stubbornness** *n*
- stubby** /'stubi/ *adj* short and thick like a stub
- stucco** /'stuko/ *n*, *pl stuccoes*, **stuccoes** a cement or fine plaster used in the covering and decoration of walls [It, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *stucki* piece, crust, OE *stoc* stock]
- stucco** *vt* **stuccoes**, **stuccos**; **stuccoing**; **stuccoed** to coat or decorate with stucco
- stuck** /'stuk/ *past* of **STICK**
- stuck-up** *adj* superciliously self-important or conceited – *infrml*
- stud** /'stud/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of animals, esp horses, kept primarily for breeding 2a a male animal, esp a stallion, kept for breeding b a sexually active man – *vulg* [ME *stod*, fr OE *stod*; akin to OE *standan* to stand] – *at stud* for breeding as a stud <retired racehorses standing at stud>
- stud** *n* 1 any of the smaller upright posts in the walls of a building to which panelling or laths are fastened 2a a rivet or nail with a large head used for ornament or protection b a solid button with a shank or eye on the back inserted through an eyelet in a garment as a fastener of ornament 3a a piece (e.g. a rod or pin) projecting from a machine and serving chiefly as a support or axis b a metal cleat inserted in a horseshoe or snow tyre to increase grip 4 *NAM* the height from floor to ceiling [ME *stode*, fr OE *studu*, akin to OE *stow* place – more at *stow*]
- stud** *vt* -dd- 1 to provide (e.g. a building or wall) with studs 2 to decorate, cover, or protect with studs 3 to set thickly with a number of prominent objects <sky ~ded with stars>
- studbook** /-book/ *n* an official record of the pedigree of purebred horses, dogs, etc
- studding sail** /'studing/ *n* an additional light sail set at the side of a square sail in light winds [origin unknown]
- student** /'styood(ə)nt/ *n* 1 a scholar, learner, esp one who attends a college or university 2 an attentive and systematic observer <a ~ of human nature> [ME, fr L *student-*, *studens*, fr *pp* of *studere* to study – more at *STUDY*]
- studentship** /-ship/ *n*, *Br* a grant for university study
- student's t distribution** *n*, often *cap* *S* **T DISTRIBUTION** [Student, pen name of W S Gossett †1937 Brit statistician]
- studhorse** /'stud,haws/ *n* a stallion kept esp for breeding
- studied** /'studid/ *adj* 1 carefully considered or prepared 2 deliberate, premeditated <~ indifference> – **studiedly** *adv*
- studio** /'styooohdi-oh/ *n*, *pl studios* 1a the workshop of a painter, sculptor, or photographer b a place for the study of an art (e.g. dancing, singing, or acting) 2 a place where films are made, also, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a film production company including its premises and employees 3 a room equipped for the production of radio or television programmes [It, lit., study, fr L *studium*]
- studio couch** *n* an upholstered usu backless couch that can be converted into a double bed by sliding from underneath it the frame of a single bed – compare **BEDSLITEE**
- studio flat** *n* a small flat consisting typically of a main room, kitchen, and bathroom
- studious** /'styooohdi-əs/ *adj* 1 of, concerned with, or given to study 2a marked by or suggesting serious thoughtfulness or diligence. earnest <a ~ expression on his face> b **STUDIED** 2 – **studiously** *adv*, **studiousness** *n*
- studwork** /'stud,wuk/ *n* work supported, strengthened, held together, or ornamented by studs
- study** /'studi/ *n* 1 a state of deep thought or contemplation – esp in a *brown study* 2a the application of the mind to acquiring (specific) knowledge <the ~ of Latin> b a careful examination or analysis of a subject 3 a room devoted to study 4 a branch of learning 5 a literary or artistic work intended as a preliminary or experimental interpretation 6 an étude [ME *studie*, fr OF *estudie*, fr L *studium*; akin to L *studere* to study]
- study** *vi* to engage in study ~ *vt* 1 to engage in the study of <~ medicine> 2 to consider attentively or in detail
- stuff** /'stuf/ *n* 1a materials, supplies, or equipment used in various activities <the plumber brought his ~> b personal property, possessions 2 a finished textile suitable for clothing; esp wool or worsted material 3a an unspecified material substance <sold tons of the ~> b a group of miscellaneous objects <pick that ~ up off the floor> 4 the essence of a usu abstract thing <the ~ of greatness> 5a subject matter <a teacher who knows his ~> b a task involving special knowledge or skill <the firemen were called on to do their ~> 6 worthless ideas, opinion, or writing; rubbish *USE* (5&6) *infrml* [ME, fr MF *estoffe*, fr OF, fr *estoffer* to equip, stock, prob fr MHG *stopfen* to stop up, stuff, fr OHG *stopfōn* – more at *STOP*]
- stuff** *vt* 1a to fill (as if) by packing things in; cram b to gorge (oneself) with food c to fill (e.g. meat or vegetables) with a stuffing d to fill with stuffing or padding e to fill out the skin of (an animal) for mounting f to stop up (a hole); plug 2 to choke or block up (the nasal passages) 3

- to force into a limited space; thrust 4 *Br.* of a male to have sexual intercourse with - vulg - *stuffer* *n*
- stuffed** /'stʌfəd/ *n* a smug, pompous, and usu reactionary person
- stuffing** /'stʌfɪŋ/ *n* material used to stuff sthg, esp a seasoned mixture used to stuff meat, eggs, etc
- stuffy** /'stʌfi/ *adj* 1a badly ventilated; close b stuffed up (<a ~ nose> 2 stodgy, dull 3 prim, straitlaced - *stuffy* *adv.*, *stuffiness* *n*
- stultify** /'stʌltɪfaɪ/ *vt* to make futile or absurd [LL *stultificare* to make foolish, fr L *stultus* foolish, akin to L *stolidus* stolid] - *stultification* /'stʌltɪfɪkəʃən/ *n*
- 'stumble** /'stʌmbl/ *vi* **stumbling** /'stʌmblɪŋ/ 1 to trip in walking or running 2a to walk unsteadily or clumsily b to speak or act in a hesitant or faltering manner 3 to come unexpectedly or by chance - > *upon*, *on*, or *across* [ME *stumblen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Norw dial *stumle* to stumble, akin to OE *stamernan* to stammer] - *stumbler* *n*, *stumblingly* *adv*
- 'stumble** *n* an act of stumbling
- 'stumbling block** /'stʌmblɪŋ/ *n* an obstacle to progress or understanding
- stumer** /'stjuːmər/ *n*, *Br* a sham, fraud, esp a worthless or forged coin, note, or cheque - slang [origin unknown]
- 'stump** /stʌmp/ *n* 1a the part of an arm, leg, etc remaining attached to the trunk after the rest is removed b a rudimentary or vestigial bodily part 2 the part of a plant, esp a tree, remaining in the ground attached to the root after the stem is cut 3 a remaining part, a stub 4 any of the 3 upright wooden rods that together with the balls form the wicket in cricket - *SPORT* [ME *stump*; akin to OHG *stumpf* stump, ME *stampen* to stamp]
- 'stump** *vt* 1 of a wicketkeeper to dismiss (a batsman who is outside his popping crease but not attempting to run) by breaking the wicket with the ball before it has touched another fieldsman 2 *NAM* to travel over (a region) making political speeches or supporting a cause 3 to baffle, bewilder - *infrml* <was ~ed by her question> ~ *vi* 1 to walk heavily or noisily 2 chiefly *NAM* to travel about making political speeches
- 'stump** *vi* or *n* (to treat with) a short thick roll of leather, paper, etc usu pointed at both ends and used to soften lines in a drawing [n F or Flem, F *estompe*, fr Flem *stomp*, lit, stub, fr MD, akin to OHG *stumpf* stump, vb fr n]
- stumper** /'stʌmpər/ *n* 1 a wicketkeeper 2 a puzzling question; a teaser [STUMP + -ER]
- stump up** *vb*, chiefly *Br* to pay (what is due), esp unwillingly - *infrml*
- stumpy** /'stʌmpɪ/ *adj* short and thick, stubby
- stun** /stʌn/ *vt* -*nn-* 1 to make dazed or dizzy (as if by a blow 2 to overcome, esp with astonishment or disbelief [ME *stunen*, modif of OF *estoner* - more at *ASTONISH*])
- stung** /stʌŋ/ *past* of STING
- stunk** /stʌŋk/ *past* of STINK
- stunner** /'stʌnər/ *n* an unusually beautiful or attractive person or thing - *infrml* [STUN + -ER]
- stunning** /'stʌnɪŋ/ *adj* strikingly beautiful or attractive - *infrml* - *stunningly* *adv*
- stunsail**, **stuns'l** /'stʌns(ə)l/ *n* STUDDING SAIL [by contr]
- 'stunt** /stʌnt/ *vt* to hinder or arrest the growth or development of [E dial *stunt* (stubborn, stunted, abrupt), prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *stuttr* scant - more at STINT] - *stuntedness* *n*
- 'stunt** *n* an unusual or difficult feat performed to gain publicity [prob alter. of *stump* (challenge)]
- 'stunt man**, **fem** 'stunt, **woman** *n* sby employed, esp as a substitute for an actor, to perform dangerous feats
- stupa** /'stʊpə/ *n* a Buddhist shrine in the form of an earthen or brick mound usu containing sacred relics [Skt *stūpa*]
- stupe** /'stjuːpə/ *n* a hot wet (medicated) cloth applied externally (e.g. to stimulate circulation) [ME, fr L *stuppe* coarse part of flax, tow, fr Gk *styppe*]
- stupefy** /st(j)uːpɪfaɪ/ *vt* 1 to make groggy or insensible 2 to astonish [MF *stupefier*, modif of L *stupefacere*, fr *stupere* to be astonished + *facere* to make, do - more at DO] - *stupefaction* /st(j)uːpɪfə'kʃən/ *n*
- stupendous** /'stjuːpəndəs/ *adj* of astonishing size or greatness; amazing, astounding [L *stupendus*, gerundive of *stupere*] - *stupendously* *adv.*, *stupendousness* *n*
- stupid** /'stjuːpɪd/ *adj* 1 slow-witted, obtuse 2 dulled in feeling or perception; torpid 3 annoying, exasperating - *infrml* (<this ~ torch won't work>) [MF *stupide*, fr L *stupidus*, fr *stupere* to be benumbed, be astonished; akin to Gk *typtein* to beat - more at TYPE] - *stupidly* *adv.*, *stupidness*, *stupidity* /'stjuːpɪdɪti/ *n*
- stupor** /'stjuːpə/ *n* a state of extreme apathy, torpor, or reduced sense or feeling (e.g. resulting from shock or intoxication) [ME, fr L, fr *stupere*] - *stuporous* *adj*
- sturdy** /'stʌdɪ/ *adj* 1 strongly built or constituted, stout, hardy 2a having physical strength or vigour, robust b firm, resolute [ME, fierce, brave, stubborn, fr OF *estourdi* stunned, fr pp of *estourdir* to stun, fr (assumed) VL *exturdire* to be dizzy as a thrush that is drunk from eating grapes, fr L *ex-* + *turdus* thrush - more at THRUSH] - *sturdily* *adv.*, *sturdiness* *n*
- sturgeon** /'stʊdʒ(ə)n/ *n* any of various usu large edible fishes whose roe is made into caviar [ME, fr OF *esturgeon*, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *stýra* sturgeon]
- Sturm und Drang** /stʊhm ən 'drang, ʃtʊhm/ *n* a late 18th-c German movement characterized by highly emotional literature, often dealing with the individual's revolt against society [G, fr *Sturm und Drang* (Storm and Stress), drama by Friedrich von Klinger †1831 G writer]
- 'stutter** /'stʌtə/ *vi* to speak with involuntary disruption or blocking of speech (e.g. by spasmodic repetition or prolongation of vocal sounds) ~ *vt* to say, speak, or sound (as if) with a stutter - compare STAMMER [freq of E dial *stut* to stutter, fr ME *stutten*, akin to D *stotteren* to stutter, L *tundere* to beat - more at STUN] - *stutterer* *n*
- 'stutter** *n* (a speech disorder involving) stuttering
- 'sty** /sti/ *n*, *pl sties* also *styes* a pigsty [ME, fr OE *stig*, akin to ON *-sti* sty]
- 'sty**, **stye** /~/ *n*, *pl sties*, **styes** an inflamed swelling of a sebaceous gland at the margin of an eyelid [short for obs *styan*, fr (assumed) ME, alter of OE *stigend*, fr *stigan* to go up, rise - more at STAIR]
- stygian** /'stiːjən/ *adj*, often *cap* extremely dark or gloomy - *fml* [L *stygus*, fr Gk *stygios*, fr *Styg-*, *Styx* Styx, mythical river of the under world]
- 'styl-, stylo-** *comb form* pillar <stylobate [L, fr Gk, fr *stylos* - more at STYLER]
- 'styl-, styli-, stylo-** *comb form* style, styloid structure <stylate> <styliform> <stylographic> [I *stilus* stake, stalk - more at STYLE]
- stylar** /-'stiələ-, -stiələh/ *comb form* (- *adj*) having (such or so many) pillars <amphystylar> [Gk *stylos* pillar - more at STYLER]
- 'style** /stiəl/ *n* 1a a stylus b a prolongation of a plant ovary bearing a stigma at the top - *PLANT* c a slender elongated part (e.g. a bristle) on an animal 2a a manner of expressing thought in language, esp when characteristic of an individual, period, etc b the custom or plan followed in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and typographic arrangement and display 3 mode of address, a title 4a a distinctive or characteristic manner of doing sthg b a fashionable or elegant life-style <lived in ~> c excellence or distinction in social behaviour, manners, or appearance [ME *stile*, *style*, fr L *stilus* stake, stylus, style of writing, akin to OE *stician* to stick] - *stylar* *adj*, *styleless* *adj*
- 'style** *vt* 1 to designate by an identifying term, name 2 to fashion according to a particular mode - *styler* *n*
- 'style** *n* a stile
- 'style** /-stiəl/ *comb form* (- *adj*) resembling <leather-style briefcase>
- 'style** *comb form* (- *adv*) in the style or manner of <seated on the floor Indian-style>
- stylet** /'sti:let/ *n* 1a a slender surgical probe b a thin wire inserted into a catheter to maintain rigidity or into a hollow needle to keep it clear of obstruction 2 a relatively rigid elongated organ or part (e.g. a piercing mouthpart) of an animal 3 a stiletto [F, fr MF *stilet* stiletto, fr OIt *stiletto*]
- stylish** /'sti:lish/ *adj* fashionably elegant [STYLE + -ISH] - *stylishly* *adv.*, *stylishness* *n*
- stylist** /'sti:li:st/ *n* 1 a writer who cultivates a fine literary style 2 one who develops, designs, or advises on styles
- stylistic** /'sti:li:stɪk/ *adj* of esp literary or artistic style - *stylistically* *adv*
- stylistics** /'sti:li:stɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the study of style, esp in literature
- stylize**, **-lize** /'sti:li:z/ *vt* to make (e.g. a work of art) conform to a conventional style rather than to nature - *stylization* /-'zay:ʃən/ *n*
- stylo-** - see 'STYL-
- stylograph** /'sti:lə'grəf, -grəf/ *n* a type of fountain pen that has a fine point fitted with a needle
- styloid** /'sti:ləɪd/ *adj*, style-shaped
- stylous** /-'sti:ləs/ *comb form* (- *adj*) having (such or so many) styles in the floral structure <monostylous> [style]
- stylus** /'sti:ləs/ *n*, *pl styli* /-li:/, **styluses** an instrument for writing,

marking, incising, or following a groove e.g. **a** an instrument used by the ancients for writing on clay or waxed tablets **b** a tiny piece of material (e.g. diamond) with a rounded tip used in a gramophone to follow the groove on a record [modif. of *L. stilus* stake, stylus more at *STYL*]

**stymie** /'sti:mi/ *n* a condition on a golf green where a ball nearer the hole lies in the line of play of another ball [perh fr *Sc stymie* person with poor eyesight]

**stymie** *vt* to present an obstacle to, thwart

**styptic** /'stiptik/ *adj* tending to contract, bind, or check bleeding, astringent [ME *stiptik*, fr *L. stypticus*, fr *Gk styptikos*, fr *styphein* to contract] - **styptic** *n*

**styrax** /'sti:əks/ *n* STORAX 2 [L, fr *Gk*]

**styrene** /'sti:əren/ *n* a liquid unsaturated hydrocarbon used chiefly in making rubber, plastics, etc [ISV, fr *L. styrax*]

**suable** /'s(y)ooə-əbl/ *adj* liable to be sued **suability** /'s(y)ooə-əbiliti/ *n*

**suave** /'swa:v/ *adj* smoothly though often superficially affable and polite [MF, pleasant, sweet, fr *L. suavis* - more at *SWET*] - **suavely** *adv*, **suavity** *n*

**sub** /sʌb/ *n* a substitute - *infrml*

**sub** *vb* -bb- *vt* to act as a substitute - *vt* 1 to subedit 2 to subcontract **USE** *infrml*

**sub** *n* a submarine *infrml*

**sub** *n*, *Br* 1 a small loan or advance 2 SUBSCRIPTION 2b **USE** *infrml* [(1) short for *subsistence*]

**sub** *n* a subeditor *infrml*

**sub-** /sʌb-/ *prefix* 1 under, beneath, below <*sub-* soil>, <*sub-*marine>, <*sub-*abdominal> 2a subordinate, secondary, next in rank below <*sub-*editor> **b** subdivision, portion of, subdivision of <*sub-*committee>, <*sub-*family>, <*sub-*genus>, <*sub-*phylum>, <*sub-*order>, <*sub-*kingdom> **c** repeated or further instance of (a specified action or process) <*sub-*contract>, <*sub-*let> 3 bearing an incomplete, partial, or inferior resemblance to, approximately <*sub-*dominant>, <*sub-*Victorian>, <*sub-*literature> 4a almost nearly <*sub-*erect> **b** adjacent to, bordering on <*sub-*arctic> [ME, fr *L.* under, below, secretly, from below, up, near, fr *sub* under, close to more at *UP*]

**subalpine** /'sʌlpin/ *adj* 1 of the lower slopes of the Alps 2 *cap* of or growing on high upland slopes

**subaltern** /'sʌblt(ə)n/ *adj* low in rank or status, subordinate [L *subalternus*, fr *L. sub-* + *alternus* alternate, fr *alter* other (of two) more at *ALTER*]

**subaltern** *n* sby holding a subordinate position, *specif*, *Br* a commissioned Army officer ranking below captain

**subantarctic** /-ən'tahtik/ *adj* (characteristic) of or being a region just outside the antarctic circle [ISV] - **subantarctic** *n*

**subaqua** *adj* of underwater recreations (e.g. skin diving with an aqualung)

**subaqueous** /-ə'kwɔ:tɪk, -ə'kwə-/ *adj* subaqueous [ISV]

**subaqueous** /-ə'kwɔ:tɪk/ *adj* existing, formed, or taking place in or under water

**subarctic** /-ə'hktik/ *adj* (characteristic) of or being a region just outside the arctic circle [ISV] - **subarctic** *n*

**subassembly** /-ə'sembli/ *n* an assembled unit designed to be incorporated with other units in a finished product

**subatomic** /-ə'tɒmɪk/ *adj* of the inside of an atom or of particles smaller than atoms

**subaudition** /-əw'diʃ(ə)n/ *n* the understanding or supplying of sthg not expressed - *infrml* [LL *subaudition*, *subaudito*, fr *subauditus*, pp of *subaudire* to understand, fr *L. sub-* + *audire* to hear - more at *AUD* *infrml*]

**subbasement** /-bə'seɪmənt/ *n* a basement below the true basement

**subcalibre** /-kə'libr/ *adj* of smaller calibre than the barrel used for firing

**subcellular** /-selyoo'l/ *adj* occurring inside cells, also derived from the artificial disruption of cells <~ particles>

**subclass** /-kla:ʃ/ *n* 1 a category in the biological classification of living things below a class and above an order 2 a subset

**subclavian** /-klaɪvɪən/ *adj* (of or being an artery, nerve, etc) situated under the clavicle [NL *subclavius*, fr *sub-* + *clavicula* clavicle] - **subclavian** *n*

**subclinical** /-k'lɪnɪkl/ *adj* having (practically) undetectable symptoms <a ~ infection> - **subclinically** *adv*

**subcommittee** /-kə'mɪti/ *n* a subdivision of a committee usu organized for a specific purpose

**subcompact** /-kɒmpakt/ *n*, *NAm* a small motor car

**subconscious** /-'kɒnʃəs/ *adj* 1 existing in the mind but not immediately available to consciousness <his ~ motive> 2 imperfectly or incompletely conscious <a ~ state> - **subconsciously** *adv*, **subconsciousness** *n*

**subconscious** *n* the mental activities below the threshold of consciousness

**subcontinent** /-'kɒntɪnənt/ *n* 1 a landmass (e.g. Greenland) of great size but smaller than any of the generally recognized continents 2 a vast subdivision of a continent, *specif*, often *cap* the Indian subcontinent - **subcontinental** /-'kɒntɪnəntl/ *adj*

**subcontract** /-kən'trækt/ *vt* 1 to engage a third party to perform under a subcontract all or part of (work included in an original contract) 2 to undertake (work) under a subcontract - *vi* to let out or undertake work under a subcontract - **subcontractor** *n*

**subcontract** /-'kɒn'trækt/ *n* a contract between a party to an original contract and a third party, esp one to provide all or a specified part of the work or materials required in the original contract

**subcritical** /-'krɪtɪkl/ *adj* of insufficient size to sustain a chain reaction <a ~ mass of fissile material>

**subculture** /'sʌbkʌltʃə-/ *n* 1 a culture (e.g. of bacteria) derived from another culture 2 (a group having) a shared pattern of behaviour and values distinguishable from the surrounding culture - **subculture** *vb*, **subcultural** /'sʌbkʌltʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj*

**subcutaneous** /-kyoo'h'taynyəs, -nɪ-əs/ *adj* being, living, used, or made under the skin <~ fat> [L *subcutaneus*, fr *L. sub-* + *cutis* skin - more at *'HIDE*] - **subcutaneously** *adv*

**subdeacon** /-'di:keən/ *n* a cleric ranking below a deacon [ME *subdeacon*, fr *L. sub-* + *L. diaconus* deacon]

**subdiaconate** /-di'e'kɒnɪt, -nəɪt/ *n* the office or rank of a subdeacon

**subdivide** /'sʌbdɪ'vɪd, '--/ *vt* to divide the parts of into more parts ~ *vi* to separate or become separated into subdivisions [ME *subdividen*, fr *LL. subdividere*, fr *L. sub-* + *dividere* to divide] - **subdivision** /'sʌbdɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n, '--/ *n*

**subdominant** /-'dɒmɪnənt/ *n* the fourth note of a diatonic scale - **subdominant** *adj*

**subdue** /səb'dyoo/ *vt* 1 to conquer and bring into subjection 2 to bring under control, curb <~ her fears> 3 to bring under cultivation 4 to reduce the intensity or degree of (e.g. colour) [ME *sodewen*, *subduen* (influenced in form and meaning by *L. subdere* to subject), fr *MF soduire* to seduce (influenced in meaning by *L. seducere* to seduce), fr *L. subducere* to withdraw] - **subduer** *n*

**subdued** /-dʒ/ 1 brought under control (as if) by military conquest 2 reduced or ~ king in force, intensity, or strength - **subduedly** *adv*

**subeditor** /-edɪtə/ *n* 1 an assistant editor 2 chiefly *Br* one who edits sthg (e.g. newspaper copy) in preparation for printing - **subedit** *vt*, **subeditorial** /-edɪ'tɔ:riəl/ *adj*

**suberin** /'syooəbərɪn/ *n* a complex waxy substance that is the basis of cork [F *suberine*, fr *L. suber* cork tree, cork]

**suberization**, **-isation** /'syooəbərɪ'zayʃ(ə)n/ *n* conversion of plant cell walls into corky tissue by impregnation with suberin - **suberized** /'syooəbərɪzɪd/ *adj*

**subfusc** /'sʌbfʌsk/ *n* formal academic dress for members of a university, esp Oxford University [L *subfuscus* brownish, dusky, fr *sub-* + *fuscus* dark brown more at *DUSK*]

**subhead** /-hed/, **subheading** /-hedɪŋ/ *n* a subordinate caption, title, heading, or headline

**subhuman** /-'hyooəmə'n/ *adj* less than human e.g. a below the level expected of or suited to normal human beings **b** of animals lower than humans, esp anthropoid

**subjacent** /-'dʒeɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* 1 situated under or below 2 underlying <~ causes> **USE** *infrml* [L *subjacent-*, *subjacens*, prp of *subjacere* to lie under, fr *sub-* + *jacere* to lie - more at *ADJACENT*] - **subjacency** *n*

**subject** /'sʌbjɪkt/ *n* 1a a vassal **b**(1) sby subject to a ruler and governed by his/her law (2) sby who enjoys the protection of and owes allegiance to a sovereign power or state 2a that of which a quality, attribute, or relation may be stated **b** the entity (e.g. the mind or ego) that sustains or assumes the form of thought or consciousness 3a a department of knowledge or learning **b**(1) an individual whose reactions are studied (2) a dead body for anatomical study and dissection **c**(1) sthg concerning which sthg is said or done <a ~ of dispute> (2) sby or sthg represented in a work of art **d**(1) the term of a logical proposition denoting that of which sthg is stated, denied, or predicated (2) the word or phrase in a sentence or clause denoting that of which sthg is predicated or asserted **e** the principal melodic phrase on which a musical composition or

- movement is based [ME, fr MF, fr L *subjectus* one under authority & *subjectum* subject of a proposition, fr masc & neut of *subjectus*, pp of *subicere* to subject, lit, to throw under, fr *sub-* + *jacere* to throw – more at *JET*] – **subjectless** *adj*
- subject** *adj* 1 owing obedience or allegiance to another (< ~ *nations*) (< ~ *to higher authority*) 2a liable or exposed to b having a tendency or inclination, prone to (< ~ *to colds*) 3 dependent or conditional on sthg (< *the plan is ~ to approval*) *USE* usu + *to*
- subject** /səb'jekt/ *vt* 1 to bring under control or rule 2 to make liable, expose 3 to cause to undergo sthg *USE* usu + *to* – **subjected** /-jeksh(ə)n/ *n*
- subjective** /səb'jektiv/ *adj* 1 of or being a grammatical subject 2a relating to, determined by, or arising from the mind or self (< ~ *reality*) b characteristic of or belonging to reality as perceived rather than as independent of mind, phenomenal 3a peculiar to a particular individual, personal b arising from conditions within the brain or sense organs and not directly caused by external stimuli (< ~ *sensations*) c lacking in reality or substance, illusory – **subjectively** *adv*, **subjectivize** *vt*, **subjectivity** /səb'jekt'ivəti/ *n*
- subjectivism** /səb'jektiviz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a theory that limits knowledge to conscious states and elements 2 a doctrine that individual feelings or reactions form the basis of moral or aesthetic judgments – **subjectivist** *n*
- subject, matter** *n* matter presented for consideration in speech, writing, or artistic form
- subject to** *prep* depending on, conditionally upon (< ~ *your approval*, *I will go*)
- subjoin** /səb'join/ *vt* to annex, append – *fml* [MF *subjoindre*, fr L *subungere* to join beneath, add, fr *sub-* + *ungere* to join – more at *YOKE*]
- sub** **judice** /'joohisi/ *adv* before a court, not yet judicially decided [L]
- subjugate** /səb'joogayt/ *vt* to conquer and hold in subjection [ME *subjugatēn*, fr L *subjugatus*, pp of *subjugare*, lit., to bring under the yoke, fr *sub-* + *jugum* yoke – more at *YOKE*] – **subjugator** *n*, **subjugation** /-gaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- subjective** /səb'junktiv/ *adj* of or being a grammatical mood that represents the denoted act or state not as fact but as contingent or possible or viewed emotionally (e.g. with doubt or desire) [LL *subjunctivus*, fr L *subjunctus*, pp of *subungere* to join beneath, subordinate]
- subjunctive** *n* (a verb form expressing) the subjunctive mood
- sublease** /səb'lees/ *n* a lease to a subtenant
- sublease** *vt* to make or obtain a sublease of
- sublet** /-let/ *vb* -it-; *sublet* to lease or rent (all or part of a property) to a subtenant
- sublet** *n* property for subletting
- sublieutenant** /-lef'tenant/; *NAM* -loo'h'tenant/ *n*  *RANK*
- sublimate** /səblimayt/ *vt* 1 **SUBLIME** 1 2 to divert the expression of (an instinctual desire or impulse) from a primitive form to a socially or culturally acceptable one [ML *sublimatus*, pp of *sublimare*] – **sublimation** /-maysh(ə)n/ *n*
- sublime** /səb'liem/ *vt* 1 to cause to pass from the solid to the vapour state (and recondense to the solid form) 2 to make finer or of higher worth ~ *vi* to pass directly from the solid to the vapour state [ME *sublimen*, fr MF *sublimar*, fr ML *sublimare* to refine, sublime, fr L, to elevate, fr *sublimis*]
- sublime** *adj* 1 lofty, noble, or exalted in thought, expression, or manner 2 tending to inspire awe, usu because of elevated quality 3 outstanding as such (< ~ *indifference*) [L *sublimis*, lit., to or in a high position, fr *sub* under, up to + *limen* threshold, *lintel* – more at *UP*, *LIMB*] – **sublimely** *adv*, **sublimity** /səb'liməti/ *n*
- subliminal** /səb'liminl/ *adj* 1 of a stimulus inadequate to produce a sensation or perception 2 existing, functioning, or having effects below the level of conscious awareness (< *the ~ mind*) (< ~ *advertising*) [*sub-* + L *limen*, *limen* threshold] – **subliminally** *adv*
- sublittoral** /-litarl/ *n* the region in the sea between the lowest point exposed by a very low tide and the margin of the continental shelf – **sublittoral** *adj*
- sublunary** /-loo'həri/ *also* **sublunar** /-loo'hna/ *adj* mundane, terrestrial – chiefly poetic [modif of LL *sublunaris*, fr L *sub-* + *luna* moon – more at *LUNAR*]
- submachine gun** /səbmə'sheen/ *n* an automatic or semiautomatic portable rapid-firing firearm of limited range using pistol-type ammunition
- submarine** /-mə'reen/ *adj* being, acting, or growing under water, esp in the sea (< ~ *plants*)
- submarine** /səbmə'reen, -ri-/ *n* a vessel designed for undersea operations, esp a submarine warship that is typically armed with torpedoes or missiles and uses electric, diesel, or nuclear propulsion
- submariner** /səbmə'reena, sub'marina/ *n* a crewman of a submarine
- submaxilla** /-mak'silə/ *n*, *pl* **submaxillae** /-li/ *also* **submaxillary** (the bone of) the lower jaw, specif in humans [NL] – **submaxillary** /-mak'siləri/ *adj* or *n*
- submediant** /-meedi'ənt/ *n* the sixth note of a diatonic scale
- submerge** /səb'muhy/ *vt* 1 to put under water 2 to cover (as if) with water, inundate ~ *vi* to go under water [L *submergere*, fr *sub-* + *mergere* to plunge – more at *MERGE*] – **submergence** *n*
- submerged** *adj* submerged
- submersed** /səb'muhsɪd/ *adj* 1 covered with water 2 (adapted for) growing under water (< ~ *plants*) [fr pp of *submerge* (to submerge), fr L *submersus*, pp of *submergere*] – **submersion** /səb'muhs(ə)n/ *n*
- submersible** /səb'muhsəbl/ *adj* capable of going under water
- submersible** *n* sthg submersible, esp a vessel used for undersea exploration and construction work that is either navigable or attached to a surface ship by cable
- submicroscopic** /səb'miəkrə'skɒpik/ *adj* too small to be seen in an ordinary light microscope [ISV] – **submicroscopically** *adv*
- submission** /səb'mish(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of submitting sthg for consideration, inspection, etc 2 the state of being submissive, humble, or compliant 3 an act of submitting to the authority or control of another [ME, fr MF, fr L *submission-*, *submitio* act of lowering, fr *submitus*, pp of *submittere*]
- submissive** /səb'misiv/ *adj* willing to submit to others – **submissively** *adv*, **submissiveness** *n*
- submit** /səb'mit/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1a to yield to the authority or will of another b to subject to a process or practice 2a to send or commit to another for consideration, inspection, etc b to put forward as an opinion, suggest (< *we ~ that the charge is not proved*) ~ *vi* 1 to yield oneself to the authority or will of another 2 to allow oneself to be subjected to sthg [ME *submitten*, fr L *submittere* to lower, submit, fr *sub-* + *mittere* to send]
- submucosa** /səbmyoo'h'kɒzə/ *n* a supporting layer of loose connective tissue directly under a mucous membrane [NL] – **submucosal** *adj*
- submultiple** /-multipl/ *n* an exact divisor of a number (8 is a ~ of 72)
- subnormal** /-nawmɒl/ *adj* 1 lower or smaller than normal 2 having less of sthg, esp intelligence, than is normal [ISV] – **subnormally** *adj*, **subnormality** /-naw'maləti/ *n*
- suborbital** /-awbɪtl/ *adj* 1 situated beneath the orbit of the eye 2 being or involving less than 1 complete orbit (< *a spacecraft's ~ flight*), also intended for suborbital flight (< ~ *rocket*)
- subordinate** /sə'bawd(ə)nət/ *adj* 1 occupying a lower class or rank, inferior 2 subject to or controlled by authority 3 of a clause functioning as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a complex sentence (e.g. the clause 'when he heard' in 'he laughed when he heard') [ME *subordinat*, fr ML *subordinatus*, pp of *subordinare* to subordinate, fr L *sub-* + *ordinare* to order – more at *ORDAIN*] – **subordinate** *n*, **subordinately** *adv*
- subordinate** /sə'bawd(ə)nəyt/ *vt* 1 to place in a lower order or class 2 to make subject or subservient; subdue – **subordinative** /sə'bawd(ə)nəyt/ *adj*, **subordination** /sə'bawdɪ'naysh(ə)n/ *n*
- suborn** /sə'bawn/ *vt* to induce to commit perjury or another illegal act [MF *suborner*, fr L *subornare*, fr *sub-* secretly + *ornare* to furnish, equip – more at *ORNATE*] – **suborner** *n*
- suboxide** /səb'ɒksɪd/ *n* an oxide containing a relatively small proportion of oxygen [ISV]
- subplot** /-plot/ *n* a subordinate plot in fiction or drama
- subpoena** /sə(b)'peena/ *n* a writ commanding sb to appear in court [ME *suppēna*, fr L *sub poena* under penalty (the first words of the writ)]
- subpoena** *vt* **subpoenaing**; **subpoenaed** to serve with a subpoena
- subpolar** /səb'pohlə/ *adj* subantarctic or subarctic
- subregion** /-reej(ə)n/ *n* any of the divisions of a (biogeographic) region [ISV] – **subregional** /-ri-'dʒ(ə)nəl/ *adj*
- sub rose** /'rohza/ *adv* in strict confidence; secretly [NL, lit., under the rose; fr the ancient custom of hanging a rose over the council table to indicate that all present were sworn to secrecy]
- subroutine** /-rooh'teen/ *n* a subordinate routine; esp a sequence of computer instructions that can be used repeatedly [ISV]
- subscribe** /səb'skri:b/ *vt* 1 to write (one's name) underneath 2a to sign with one's own hand b to give a written pledge to contribute ~ *vi* 1a to

give consent or approval to sthg written by signing **b** to give money (e.g. to charity) **c** to pay regularly in order to receive a periodical or service **2** to agree to purchase and pay for securities, esp. of a new issue (< ~ d for 1000 shares) **3** to feel favourably disposed to *USE* (v.i.) usu. + to [ME *subscriben*, fr L *subscribere*, lit. to write beneath, fr *sub-* + *scribere* to write – more at *'SCRIBE*]

**subscriber** /səb'skri:bə/ *n* sby who subscribes, *specif* the owner of a telephone who pays rental and call charges

**subscriber trunk dialling** *n* the system by which a telephone user can dial direct to any telephone within the system without being connected by an operator

**subscript** /səb'skript/ *n* a distinguishing symbol written or printed below another character [L *subscriptus*, pp of *subscribere*] – **subscript** *adj*

**subscription** /səb'skripʃ(ə)n/ *n* **1** a sum subscribed **2a** a purchase by prepayment for a certain number of issues (e.g. of a periodical) **b** Br membership fees paid regularly **3** a signature – fml [ME *subscriptioun* signature, fr L *subscription-*, *scriptio*, fr *subscriptus*, pp of *subscribere*]

**subsection** /səb'sekʃ(ə)n/ *n* a subdivision of a section

**subsequent** /səb'si:kwənt/ *adj* following in time or order, succeeding [ME, fr L *subsequent-*, *sequens*, prp of *sequi* to follow closely, fr *sub-* near + *sequi* to follow – more at *SUB-*, *SUE*] – **subsequently** *adv*

**subserve** /səb'suhv/ *vt* to serve as a means of furthering (e.g. a purpose or action) – fml [L *subservire* to serve, be subservient, fr *sub-* + *servire* to serve]

**subservience** /səb'suhvi:əns/ *n* obsequious servility

**subservient** /səb'suhvi:ənt/ *adj* **1** useful in an inferior capacity, subordinate **2** obsequiously submissive [L *subservient-*, *subserviens*, prp of *subservire*] – **subserviently** *adv*

**subset** /səb'set/ *n* a set each of whose elements is an element of a larger set

**'subshrub** /-ʃrʌb/ *n* an undershrub – **subshrubby** *adj*

**subside** /səb'saɪd/ *vi* **1** to sink or fall to the bottom; settle **2a** to descend, esp. to sink so as to form a depression **b** of ground to cave in, collapse **3** to sink down, settle (< ~ d into a chair) **4** to become quiet, abate [L *subsiderē*, fr *sub-* + *siderē* to sit down, sink, akin to L *sedere* to sit – more at *SIT*] – **subsidence** /səb'saɪd(ə)ns/, **'subsided** /səb'saɪd(ə)ns/ *n*

**'subsidiary** /səb'saɪdɪəri/, -'saɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj* **1** serving to assist or supplement, auxiliary **2** of secondary importance [L *subsidiarius*, fr *subsidiū* reserve troops]

**²subsidiary** *n* sby or sthg subsidiary, esp. a company wholly controlled by another – compare *HOLDING COMPANY*, *INVESTMENT COMPANY*

**subsidize**, -ize /səb'saɪdɪz/ *vi* to provide with a subsidy e.g. a to purchase the assistance of by payment of a subsidy **b** to aid or promote (e.g. a private enterprise) with public money – **subsidizer** *n*, **subsidization** /səb'saɪdɪzəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**subsidy** /səb'saɪdɪ/ *n* a grant or gift of money (e.g. by a government to a person or organization, to assist an enterprise deemed advantageous to the public) [ME, fr L *subsidiū* reserve troops, support, assistance, fr *sub-* near + *sedere* to sit – more at *SUB-*, *SIT*]

**subsist** /səb'saɪsɪt/ *vi* **1** to have or continue in existence **2** to have the bare necessities of life, be kept alive [LL *subsistere* to exist, fr L, to come to a halt, remain, fr *sub-* + *sistere* to come to a stand, akin to L *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*]

**subsistence** /səb'saɪsɪt(ə)ns/ *n* **1** the state of subsisting **2** the minimum (e.g. of food and shelter) necessary to support life [ME, fr LL *subsistentia*, fr *subsistent-*, *subsistens*, prp of *subsistere*] – **subsistent** *adj*

**subsistence farming** *n* (a system of) farming that provides (almost) all the goods required by the farm household, usu. without significant surplus for sale

**subsoil** /səb'sɔɪl/ *n* the layer of weathered material that underlies the surface soil

**'subsonic** /-sɒnɪk/ *adj* **1** of, being, moving at, or using air currents moving at, a speed less than that of sound in air **2** infrasonic [ISV] – **subsonically** *adv*

**'subspace** /-spays/ *n* a subset of a space, esp. one that has the properties (e.g. those of a vector space) of the including space

**sub specie aeternitatis** /səb'spe:ki-ay etəhni'taɪtɪs/ *adv* seen in its essential or universal form [NL, lit., under the aspect of eternity]

**subspecies** /səb'spi:ʃi:z/ *n* a category in the biological classification of living things that ranks (immediately) below a species [NL] – **subspecific** /səb'spɪsɪfɪk/ *adj*

**substance** /səb'stəns/ *n* **1a** a fundamental or essential part or import (< the ~ of his argument) **b** correspondence with reality (< the allegations

were without ~ >) **2** ultimate underlying reality **3a** (a) physical material from which sthg is made (< an oily ~ >) **b** matter of particular or definite chemical constitution **4** material possessions; property (< a man of ~ >) [ME, fr OF, fr L *substantia*, fr *substant-*, *substant-*, prp of *substare* to stand under, fr *sub-* + *stare* to stand – more at *STAND*] – in *substance* in respect to essentials

**'substandard** /-ˈstændəd/ *adj* deviating from or falling short of a standard or norm e.g. a of a quality lower than that prescribed **b** in widespread use but not accepted as linguistically correct by some – compare *NONSTANDARD*

**substantial** /səb'stəns(ə)l/ *adj* **1a** having material existence, real **b** important, essential **2** ample to satisfy and nourish (< a ~ meal) **3a** well-to-do, prosperous **b** considerable in quantity, significantly large **4** firmly constructed, solid **5** being largely but not wholly the specified thing (< a ~ lie) [ME, fr OF or LL, OF *substantiel*, fr LL *substantialis*, fr L *substantia*] – **substantial** *n*, **substantially** *adv*, **substantialize** /-ʃa,li:z/ *vb*, **substantiality** /səb'stənsi'æləti/ *n*

**substantiate** /səb'stənsi-ayt/ *vt* to establish (e.g. a statement or claim) by proof or evidence, verify – **substantiative** /-ʃi-ətɪv/ *adj*, **substantiation** /-ˌstənsi'əʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'substantive** /səb'stəntɪv/ *n* a noun, broadly a word or phrase functioning syntactically as a noun [ME *substantif*, fr MF, fr *substantif*, *adj*, having or expressing substance, fr LL *substantivus*] – **substantivize** /-tɪ,vi:z/ *vt*, **substantial** /-ˈtɪvəl/ *adj*

**²substantive** /səb'stəntɪv, səb'stəntɪv (usu səb'stəntɪv when applied to position, rank, etc)/ *adj* **1** being a totally independent entity, not inferred or derived **2a** indicating or expressing existence (< the ~ verb to be) **b** not requiring or involving a mordant (< a ~ dyeing process) **3** relating to or functioning as a noun **4** defining rights and duties (< ~ law) **5** permanent and definite rather than temporary or acting (< ~ rank of colonel) [ME, fr LL *substantivus* having substance, fr L *substantia*] – **substantively** *adv*

**substation** /səb'staɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a subsidiary station in which (the voltage of an) electric current is transformed for use

**substituent** /səb'stɪtju:ənt/ *n* an atom or group that replaces another atom or group in a molecule [L *substituent-*, *substituens*, prp of *substituere*] – **substituent** *adj*

**'substitute** /səb'stɪtju:ənt/ *n* sby or sthg that takes the place of another [ME, fr L *substitutus*, pp of *substituere* to put in place of, fr *sub-* + *statuere* to set up, place – more at *STATUTE*] – **substitute** *adj*, **substitutive** /-tju:əntɪv/ *adj*

**²substitute** *vt* **1a** to exchange for another **b** to introduce (an atom or group) as a substituent, also to alter (e.g. a compound) by introduction of a substituent (< a ~ d benzene ring) **2** to take the place of; also to introduce a substitute (< ~ < d their centre forward in the second half) ~ *vi* to serve as a substitute – **substitutable** /səb'stɪtju:əntəbəl/ *adj*, **substitution** /səb'stɪtju:ənt(ə)n/ *n*, **substitutional**, **substitutionary** *adj*

**substrate** /səb'stræt/ *n* **1** a substratum **2** the base on which an organism lives (< *jumpets live on a rocky ~*) **3** a substance acted on (e.g. by an enzyme) [ML *substratum*]

**'substratum** /-ˈstrætəm, -ˈstrætəm/ *n*, *pl* **substrata** /-tə/ *n* an underlying support, a foundation e.g. a matter considered as the enduring basis for all the qualities that can be perceived by the senses (e.g. colour) **b** a foundation, basis (< his argument has a ~ of truth) **c** the subsoil [ML, fr L, neut of *substratus*, pp of *substernere* to spread under, fr *sub-* + *sternere* to spread out – more at *STREW*]

**'substructure** /-ˈstrʌktʃə/ *n* the foundation or groundwork [*sub-* + *structure*] – **substructural** /səb'strʌktʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj*

**subsume** /səb'sju:m/ *vt* to include as a member of a group or type [NL *subsumere*, fr L *sub-* + *sumere* to take up – more at *CONSUME*] – **subsumption** /-sʌmpʃ(ə)n/, -ˈsʌmpʃ(ə)n/ *n*


**subtenant** /səb'tenənt/ *n* sby who rents from a tenant

**subtend** /səb'tend/ *vt* **1a** to define in a given context by extending from one side to the other of (< a hypotenuse ~ s a right angle) (< an arc ~ ed by a chord) **b** to fix the angular extent of with respect to a fixed point (< the angle ~ ed at the eye by an object) **2** to be lower than, esp. so as to embrace or enclose (< a bract that ~ s a flower) [L *subtendere* to stretch beneath, fr *sub-* + *tendere* to stretch – more at *THIN*]

**subterfuge** /səb'tɜ:fju:ə/ *n* **1** deception or trickery used as a means of concealment or evasion **2** a trick or ruse [LL *subterfugium*, fr L *subterfugere* to escape, evade, fr *subter-* secretly (fr *subter* underneath; akin to L *sub* under) + *fugere* to flee – more at *UP*, *FUGITIVE*]

**subterminal** /səb'tu:mɪnəl/ *adj* situated or occurring near an end (< a ~ band of colour) (< a ~ collapse)

**'subterranean** /-tə'reɪnɪən, -ni-ən/, **subterraneous** /-nyəs, -ni-əs/ *adj*

- 1 being or operating under the surface of the earth 2 hidden or out of sight [L *subterraneus*, fr *sub* under + *terra* earth – more at UP, TERRACE] – **subterraneanly** *adv*
- subtitle** /ˈsʊb.ti.tl/ *n* 1 a secondary or explanatory title 2 a printed explanation (e.g. a fragment of dialogue or a translation) that appears on the screen during a film – **subtitle** *vt*
- subtle** /ˈsʊtl/ *adj* 1a delicate, elusive (< a ~ fragrance>) b difficult to understand or distinguish 2 showing keen insight and perception 3 cleverly contrived; ingenious 4 artful, cunning [ME *sutil*, *sotil*, fr OF *soutil*, fr L *subtilis*, lit., finely woven, fr *sub-* + *tela* web; akin to L *texere* to weave – more at TECHNICAL] – **subtleness** *n*, **subtly** *adv*
- subtlety** /ˈsʊt.li.ti/ *n* 1 the quality of being subtle 2 sth subtle; esp a fine distinction [ME *sutilte*, fr OF *sutilté*, fr L *subtilitas*, *subtilitas*, fr *subtilis*]
- subtotal** /ˈsʊb.təʊ.tl/ *n* the sum of part of a series of figures
- subtotal** *vb* to determine a subtotal (for)
- subtract** /səbˈtrakt/ *vt* to take away by subtraction (< ~ 5 from 9>) ~ *vi* to perform a subtraction [L *subtrahere*, pp of *subtrahere* to draw from beneath, withdraw, fr *sub-* + *trahere* to draw – more at DRAW] – **subtractor** *n*
- subtraction** /səbˈtrækʃ(ə)n/ *n* the operation of finding for 2 given numbers a third number which when added to the first yields the second [SUBTRACT + -ION]
- subtractive** /səbˈtraktɪv/ *adj* 1 tending to subtract 2 constituting or involving subtraction
- subtrahend** /səbˈtrəhɛnd/ *n* a number that is to be subtracted from another [L *subtrahendus*, gerundive of *subtrahere*]
- subtropical** /səbˈtrɒpɪkl/ *also subtropic* *adj* of or being the regions bordering on the tropical zone [ISV] – **subtropics** *n pl*
- subulate** /ˈsʊb.ju.ə.lət/ *adj* narrow and tapering to a fine point (< a ~ leaf>)  PLANT [NL *subulatus*, fr L *subula* awl, akin to OHG *siula* awl, L *suere* to sew – more at SEW]
- subunit** /ˈsʊb.ju.ɪnɪt/ *n* a unit that forms a discrete part of a larger unit (< ~s of a protein>)
- suburb** /səbʊrb/ *n* 1 an outlying part of a city or large town 2 *pl* the residential area on the outskirts of a city or large town [ME, fr L *suburbium*, fr *sub-* near + *urbs* city – more at SUB-] – **suburban** /səbʊrbən/ *adj* or *n*, **suburbanize** /səbʊrbə.naɪz/ *vt*, **suburbanization** /səbʊrbən.aɪ.zəʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- suburbanite** /səbʊrbə.naɪt/ *n* a person who lives in the suburbs
- suburbic** /səbʊr.bɪ/ *n* (the inhabitants of) the suburbs of a city [NL, fr E *suburb* + L *-ia* -y]
- subvention** /səbˈvenʃ(ə)n/ *n* the provision of assistance or financial support: e.g. a an endowment b a subsidy [LL *subvention-*, *subventio* assistance, fr L *subventus*, pp of *subvenire* to come up, come to the rescue, fr *sub-* up + *venire* to come – more at SUB-, COME] – **subventory** *adj*
- subversion** /səbˈvɜːʃ(ə)n/ *n* a systematic attempt to overthrow or undermine a government by people working secretly within the country [ME, fr MF, fr LL *subversion-*, *subversio*, fr L *subversus*, pp of *subvertere*] – **subversory** *adj*, **subversive** /-sɪv/ *adj* or *n*, **subversively** *adv*, **subversiveness** *n*
- subvert** /səbˈvɜːt/ *vt* to overthrow or undermine the power of [ME *subverten*, fr MF *subvertir*, fr L *subvertere*, lit., to turn from beneath, fr *sub-* + *vertere* to turn – more at 'WORTH] – **subverter** *n*
- subway** /ˈsʊb.weɪ/ *n* an underground way: e.g. a a passage under a street (e.g. for pedestrians, power cables, or water or gas mains) b chiefly NAm the underground
- succeed** /səkˈsiːd/ *vi* 1a to inherit sth, esp sovereignty, rank, or title b to follow after another in order 2a to have a favourable result; turn out well b to achieve a desired object or end ~ *vt* 1 to follow (immediately) in sequence 2 to come after as heir or successor [ME *succeden*, fr L *succedere* to go up, follow after, succeed, fr *sub-* near + *cedere* to go – more at SUB-, CEDE] – **succeeder** *n*
- success** /səkˈses/ *n* 1 a favourable outcome to an undertaking 2 the attainment of wealth or fame 3 sby or sth that succeeds (< he was an overnight ~>) [L *successus* outcome, fr *successus*, pp of *succedere*]
- successful** /-f(ə)s/ *adj* 1 resulting in success (< a ~ experiment>) 2 having gained success (< a ~ banker>) – **successfully** *adv*, **successfulness** *n*
- succession** /səkˈseʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a the order or right of succeeding to a property, title, or throne b the line having such a right 2a the act of following in order; a sequence b the act or process of becoming entitled to a deceased person's property or title c the change in the composition of an ecological system as the competing organisms respond to and modify the environment 3 *sing* or *pl* in constr a number of people or things that follow each other in sequence [ME, fr MF or L, MF, fr L *successio-*, *successio*, fr *successus*, pp] – **successional** *adj*, **successionally** *adv*
- succession state** *n* any of a number of states that succeed a former state in sovereignty over a territory
- successive** /səkˈsɪsɪv/ *adj* following one after the other in succession – **successively** *adv*, **successiveness** *n*
- successor** /səkˈsesə/ *n* sby or sth that follows another, esp a person who succeeds to throne, title, or office [ME *successour*, fr OF, fr L *successor*, fr *successus*, pp]
- succinct** /səkˈsɪŋkt/ *adj* clearly expressed in few words; concise [ME, fr L *succinctus*, pp of *succingere* to gird from below, tuck up, fr *sub-* + *cingere* to gird – more at CINCTURE] – **succinctly** *adv*, **succinctness** *n*
- succinic acid** /səkˈsɪnɪk/ *n* a carboxylic acid found widely in nature and active in the Krebs cycle [F *succinique*, fr L *succinum* amber]
- succory** /sʊk(ə)rɪ/ *n* the chicory plant [alter of ME *cicoree*]
- succotash** /sʊkətəʃ/ *n* a dish of beans and green maize cooked together [of Algonquian origin; akin to Narraganset *msəkwtəʃ* succotash]
- succour**, NAm chiefly **succor** /sʊkə/ *n* relief, also aid, help [ME *succur*, fr earlier *sucurs* (taken as pl), fr OF *sucors*, fr ML *succursus*, fr L *succursus*, pp of *succurrere* to run up, run to help, fr *sub-* up + *currere* to run – more at SUB-, CARR]
- succour**, NAm chiefly **succor** *vt* to go to the aid of (sby in need or distress)
- succubus** /sʊkjuːbʊs/ *n*, *pl* **succubi** /-bi/ a female demon believed to have sexual intercourse with men in their sleep – compare INCUBUS 1 [ME, fr ML, alter of LL *succuba* prostitute, fr L *succubare* to lie under, fr *sub-* + *cubare* to lie, recline – more at 'HIP]
- succulent** /sʊkjuːlənt/ *adj* 1 full of juice, juicy 2 of a plant having juicy fleshy tissues [L *suculentus*, fr *sucus* juice, sap akin to L *sugere* to suck – more at SUCK] – **succulence** *n*, **succulently** *adv*
- succulent** *n* a succulent plant (e.g. a cactus)  PLANT
- succumb** /sʊkʊm/ *vi* 1 to yield or give in to 2 to die [F & L, F *succomber*, fr L *succumbere*, fr *sub-* + *-cumbere* to lie down, akin to L *cubare* to lie]
- such** /sʊːk/ *also (occasional weak form) sʌk/* *adj* or *adv* 1a of the kind, quality, or extent (< his habits are ~ that we rarely meet>) – used before *as* to introduce an example or comparison (< ~ trees as oak or pine>) b of the same sort (< there's no ~ place>) 2 of so extreme a degree or extraordinary a nature (< ever ~ a lot of people>) (< in ~ a hurry>) used before *as* to suggest that a name is unmentioned (< we forced down the soup, ~ as it was>) [ME, fr OE *swiċ*; akin to OHG *sulih* such, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose constituents are respectively represented by OE *swa* so & by OE *gelfic* like – more at SO, 'LIKE]
- such** *pron*, *pl* **such** 1 *pl* such people, those (< ~ as wish to leave may do so>) 2 that thing, fact, or action (< ~ was the result>) 3 *pl* similar people or things (< tin and glass and ~>) – *as* such intrinsically considered, in him-/herself, itself, or themselves (< as such the gift was worth little>)
- such and such** *adj* not named or specified – *infrm*
- suchlike** /-lɪk/ *adj* of like kind; similar
- suchlike** *pron*, *pl* **suchlike** a similar person or thing
- suck** /sʊk/ *vt* 1a to draw (e.g. liquid) into the mouth by the suction of the contracted lips and tongue b to eat by means of sucking movements of the lips and tongue c to take into the mouth as if sucking out a liquid (< ~ed his finger>) 2 to draw in or up (as if) by suction (< plants ~ing moisture from the soil>) ~ *vi* 1 to draw sth in (as if) by suction; esp to draw milk from a breast or udder with the mouth 2 to make a sound associated with suction (< ~ed at his pipe>) 3 to act in an obsequious manner – *infrm* (< ~ing up to his boss>) [ME *souken*, fr OE *sucan*; akin to OHG *sugan* to suck, L *sugere*, Gk *hyein* to rain]
- suck** *n* 1 the act of sucking 2 a sucking movement
- sucker** /sʊkə/ *n* 1a a human infant or young animal that sucks, esp at a breast or udder; a suckling b a device for creating or regulating suction (e.g. a piston or valve in a pump) c a pipe or tube through which sth is drawn by suction d a mouth (e.g. of a leech) or other animal organ adapted for sucking or sticking e a device, esp of rubber, that can cling to a surface by suction 2 a shoot from the roots or lower part of the stem of a plant 3 any of numerous freshwater fishes closely related to the carps and usu having thick soft lips 4a a glib person – *infrm* b a person irresistibly attracted by sth specified (< a ~ for chocolate>) – *infrm* [ˈsʊk + ˈ-ER]
- sucker** *vt* to remove suckers from (< ~ tobacco>) ~ *vi* to send out suckers
- sucking** /sʊkɪŋ/ *adj* not yet weaned; broadly very young



**suckle** /'sukl/ *vt* **suckling** /'suklɪŋ, 'sukl-ɪŋ/ 1 to give milk to from the breast or udder (<a mother suckling her child> 2 to draw milk from the breast or udder of <lamb sucking the ewes> [prob back-formation fr *suckling*]

**suckling** /'suklɪŋ/ *n* a young unweaned animal

**sucre** /'soʊkɹeɪ/ *n* [fr *sucre*] **Ecuador** at NATIONALITY [Sp, fr Antonio Jose de Sucre †1830 S American liberator]

**sucrose** /'s(y)ʊʊkroʊs, -kroʊz/ *n* the disaccharide sugar obtained from sugarcane and sugar beet and occurring in most plants [ISV, fr F *sucrose* sugar]

**suction** /'sʊkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of sucking 2 the action of exerting a force on a solid, liquid, or gaseous body by means of reduced air pressure over part of its surface [LL *suction-, suctio*, fr L *suctus*, pp of *sugere* to suck - more at *suck*] - **suctional** *adj*

**suction pump** *n* a pump in which liquid is raised by suction under a retreating piston

**suctorial** /'sʊk'tɔːrɪəl/ *adj* adapted for sucking up fluids or sticking by suction (<a ~ mouth> [NL *suctorius*, fr L *suctus*, pp]

**Sudanese** /'soʊhd(ə)n'eez, 'sɪ-/ *n* or *adj*, pl **Sudanese** (a native or inhabitant) of Sudan or the Sudan [Sudan, country in NE Africa, the Sudan, region in N Africa]

**sudd** /sʊd/ *n* floating vegetable matter that forms obstructive masses in the upper White Nile [Ar, lit, obstruction]

**sudden** /'sʊd(ə)n/ *adj* 1a happening or coming unexpectedly (<a ~ shower> b abrupt, steep 2 marked by or showing haste [ME *sodain*, fr MF, fr L *subitaneus*, fr *subitus* sudden, fr pp of *subire* to come up, fr *sub* up + *ire* to go - more at *sub-*, *ist-*] - **suddenly** *adv*, **suddenness** *n*

**sudden death** *n* all of a sudden sooner than was expected, suddenly **sudden death** *n* an extra period of play to break a tie (e.g. in golf) that ends the moment one side gains the lead

**sudoriferous** /'soʊhd(ə)n'f(ə)rəs, 'syʊə-/ *adj* producing or conveying sweat (< ~ glands> [LL *sudorifer*, fr L *sudor* sweat + *-ifer* -iferous - more at *sweat*]

**sudorific** /'s(y)ʊʊhd(ə)n'fɪk/ *adj* diaphoretic [NL *sudorificus*, fr L *sudor*] - **sudorific** *n*

**Sudra** /'s(y)ʊʊhdɹə/ *n* a Hindu of the lowest caste, traditionally restricted to menial occupations [Skt *sudra*] **Sudra** *adj*

**suds** /sʊdz/ *n* pl but sing or pl in *constr* (the lather on) soapy water [prob fr MD *sudhe* marsh, akin to OE *seothan* to seethe - more at *seethe*]

**sudsless** *adj*

**sudsy** /'sʊdri/ *adj* frothy, foamy

**sue** /s(y)ʊə/ *vt* to bring a legal action against ~ *vi* 1 to make a request or application - usu + *for* or *to* 2 to take legal proceedings in court [ME *suen* to follow, make legal claim to, bring legal action against, fr OF *suivre*, fr (assumed) VL *sequere*, fr L *sequi* to follow, come or go after, akin to Gk *hepesthai* to follow] - **suer** *n*

**suede**, **suede** /'swayd/ *n* leather with a napped surface [F (*gants de Suede* Swedish gloves)]

**suet** /'s(y)ʊəh-ɪt/ *n* the hard fat round the kidneys and loins in beef and mutton, that yields tallow and is used in cooking [ME *seuter*, lt (assumed) AF, dim of AF *sue*, fr L *sebum* tallow, *suet* - more at *soap*]

**suffer** /'sʊfə/ *vt* 1 to submit to or be forced to endure 2 to undergo, experience 3 to allow, permit (< ~ the little children to come unto me> ~ *vi* 1 to endure pain, distress, or death 2 to sustain loss or damage 3 to be handicapped or at a disadvantage [ME *suffren*, fr OF *souffrir*, fr (assumed) VL *sufferre*, fr L *sufferre*, fr *sub-* up + *ferre* to bear - more at *sub-*, *'bear*] - **sufferable** *adj*, **sufferably** *adv*, **sufferer** *n*

**suffrance** /'sʊf(ə)r(ə)ns/ *n* tacit permission, tolerance implied by a lack of interference or objection (<he was only there on ~>)

**suffering** /'sʊf(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* the state of one who suffers

**suffice** /'sʊfɪs/ *vi* to meet a need, be enough (<a brief note will ~> <~ it to say he has resigned>) ~ *vt* to be enough for [ME *sufficen*, fr MF *suffis-*, stem of *suffire*, fr L *sufficere*, lit, to put under, fr *sub-* + *facere* to make, do - more at *do*]

**sufficiency** /'sʊfɪʃ(ə)n(ə)s/ *n* 1 sufficient means to meet one's needs 2 the quality of being sufficient; adequacy

**sufficient** /'sʊfɪʃ(ə)n(ə)t/ *adj* enough to meet the needs of a situation [ME, fr L *sufficiens*, *sufficiens*, fr prp of *sufficere*] - **sufficiently** *adv*

**suffix** /'sʊfɪks/ *n* an affix (e.g. -ness in *happiness*) appearing at the end of a word or phrase or following a root - compare *prefix* [NL *suffixum*, fr L, neut of *suffixus*, pp of *suffigere* to fasten underneath, fr *sub-* + *figere* to fasten - more at *dyke*] - **suffixal** *adj*

**suffix** *vi* to attach as a suffix - **suffixation** /'sʊfɪksəʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**suffocate** /'sʊfə'keɪt/ *vt* 1 to stop the breathing of (e.g. by asphyxiation) 2 to deprive of oxygen 3 to make uncomfortable by want of cool fresh

air ~ *vi* to become suffocated a to die from being unable to breathe b to be uncomfortable through lack of air [L *suffocatus*, pp of *suffocare* to choke, stifle, fr *sub-* + *fauces* throat] - **suffocatingly** *adv*, **suffocative** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **suffocation** /'sʊfə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**Suffolk** /'sʊfək/ *n* 1 any of an English breed of black-faced hornless sheep 2 **Suffolk punch**, **Suffolk** any of an English breed of chestnut-coloured draught horses [Suffolk, county of England, (2) *punch* (a short stocky person or animal), prob short for *Punchinello*]

**suffragan** /'sʊfrəɡən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) 1 a diocesan bishop subordinate to a metropolitan 2 an Anglican bishop assisting a diocesan bishop and having no right of succession [n ME, fr MF, fr ML *suffraganeus*, fr *suffragium* support, prayer, *adj* fr n]

**suffrage** /'sʊfriː/ *n* 1 a vote given in favour of a question or in the choice of sb for an office 2 the right of voting [L *suffragium* vote, political support]

**suffragette** /'sʊfrə'jet/ *n* a woman who advocates suffrage for her sex

**suffragist** /'sʊfrəjst/ *n* one who advocates extension of suffrage, esp to women

**suffuse** /'sʊfyoʊz/ *vt* to spread over or through, esp with a liquid or colour, permeate [L *suffusus*, pp of *suffundere*, lit., to pour beneath, fr *sub-* + *fundere* to pour - more at *'found*] - **suffusion** /-z(ə)n/ *n*, **suffusive** /-sɪv/ *adj*

**Sufi** /'soʊhfi/ *n* a Muslim mystic [Ar *sufiy*, lit, (man) of wool] - **Sufi** *adj*, **Sufism** *n*, **Sufic** /-fɪk/ *adj*

**sugar** /'ʃʊəgə/ *n* 1a a sweet crystallizable material that consists (essentially) of sucrose, is colourless or white when pure tending to brown when less refined, is obtained commercially esp from sugarcane or sugar beet, and is important as a source of dietary carbohydrate and as a sweetener and preservative of other foods b any of a class of water-soluble carbohydrate compounds containing many hydroxyl groups that are of varying sweetness and include glucose, ribose, and sucrose 2 **DEAR** 1b [ME *sucere*, fr MF, fr ML *zuccarum*, fr Olt *zucchero*, fr Ar *sukkar*, fr Per *shakar*, fr Skt *śarkara*, akin to Skt *śarkara* pebble]

**sugar** *vt* 1 to make palatable or attractive 2 to sprinkle or mix with sugar

**sugar beet** *n* a white-rooted beet grown for the sugar in its root

**sugarcane** *n* a stout tall grass widely grown in warm regions as a source of sugar

**sugar-coated** *adj* 1 covered with a hard coat of sugar 2 having its unpleasantness concealed

**sugar daddy** *n* a usu elderly man who lavishes gifts and money on a young woman in return for sex or companionship - **infml**

**sugar maple** *n* a N American maple with a sweet sap that is the chief source of maple syrup and maple sugar

**sugarplum** /-plʊm/ *n* a small round sweet usu of flavoured and coloured boiled sugar

**sugary** /'ʃʊəg(ə)n/ *adj* 1 containing, resembling, or tasting of sugar 2 exaggeratedly or cloyingly sweet

**suggest** /'sʊʒest/ *vt* 1 to put forward as a possibility or for consideration 2a to call to mind by thought or association, evoke b to indicate the presence of (<her look ~ed irritation> [L *suggestus*, pp of *suggerere* to put under, furnish, suggest, fr *sub-* + *gerere* to carry - more at *cast*] - **suggester** *n*

**suggestible** /'sʊʒestəbl/ *adj* easily influenced by suggestion - **suggestibility** /-ʒestə'bɪləti/ *n*

**suggestion** /'sʊʒesch(ə)n/ *n* 1a the act of suggesting b sth suggested, a proposal 2a indirect means (e.g. the natural association of ideas) to evoke ideas or feeling b the impressing of an idea, attitude, desired action, etc on the mind of another 3 a slight indication, a trace


**suggestive** /'sʊʒestɪv/ *adj* 1a conveying a suggestion, indicative b conjuring up mental associations, evocative 2 suggesting sth improper or indecent, risqué - **suggestively** *adv*, **suggestiveness** *n*

**suicidal** /'s(y)ʊəh-'sɪd(ə)l/ *adj* 1 relating to or of the nature of suicide 2 marked by an impulse to commit suicide 3a dangerous, esp to life b harmful to one's own interests - **suicidally** *adv*

**suicide** /'s(y)ʊəh-'sɪd/ *n* 1a (an) act of taking one's own life intentionally b ruin of one's own interests (<political ~>) 2 one who commits or attempts suicide [L *sui* (gen) of oneself + E *-cide*, akin to OE & OHG *sin* his, L *suus* one's own, Skt *sva* oneself, one's own]

**sui generis** /'soʊh-ɪ 'jen(ə)rɪs/ *adj* unique [L, of its own kind]

**suit** /'s(y)ʊəht/ *n* 1 a legal action 2 a petition or appeal, *specif* **courtship** 3 a group of things forming a unit or constituting a collection - used chiefly with reference to armour, sails, and counters in games 4a an outer costume of 2 or more matching pieces that are designed to be worn

together  **GARMENT** **b** a costume to be worn for a specified purpose or under particular conditions **5a** all the playing cards in a pack bearing the same symbol (i.e. hearts, clubs, diamonds, or spades) **b** all the cards in a particular suit held by 1 player (<a 5-card ~>) **c** the suit led (<follow ~>) [ME *sute* act of following, retinue, sequence, set, fr OF, act of following, retinue, fr (assumed) VL *sequita*, fr fem of *sequitus*, pp of *sequere* to follow – more at **SUE**]

**suit** *vt* 1 to be appropriate or satisfactory (<these prices don't ~>) 2 to put on specially required clothing (e.g. a uniform or protective garb) – usu + *up* ~ *vt* 1 to accommodate, adapt **2a** to be good for the health or well-being of **b** to be becoming to; look right with **3** to satisfy, please (<~s me fine>) – **suit someone down to the ground** to suit sb by extremely well

**suitable** /s(y)oohtəbl/ *adj* appropriate, fitting – **suitableness** *n*, **suitably** *adv*, **suitability** /-tə'biləti/ *n*

**suitcase** /-kays/ *n* a rectangular usu rigid case with a hinged lid and a handle, used for carrying articles (e.g. clothes)

**suite** /sweet/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a retinue; esp the personal staff accompanying an official or dignitary on business **2a** a group of rooms occupied as a unit **b(1)** a 17th- and 18th-c instrumental musical form consisting of a series of dances (2) a modern instrumental composition in several movements of different character (3) an orchestral concert arrangement in suite form of material drawn from a longer work (e.g. a ballet) **c** a set of matching furniture (e.g. a settee and 2 armchairs) for a room (<a 3-piece ~>) [F, alter. of OF *suite* – more at **SURT**]

**suiting** /s(y)oohting/ *n* fabric suitable for suits

**sutor** /s(y)oohtə/ *n* one who courts a woman with a view to marriage [ME, follower, pleader, fr AF, fr L *secutor* follower, fr *secutus*, pp of *sequi* to follow – more at **SUE**]

**sukiyaki** /soohki'yaki/, -'yahku/ *n* a Japanese dish of thin slices of meat, soya-bean curd, and vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake, and sugar [Jap]

**sulcate** /sulkayt/ *adj* scored with (longitudinal) furrows (<a ~ seedpod>) [L *sulcatus*, pp of *sulcare* to furrow, fr *sulcus*]

**sulcus** /sulkəs/ *n*, *pl* **sulci** /sulsie/ a (shallow) furrow, esp on the surface of the brain between convolutions [L; akin to OE *sulh* plough, Gk *holkos* furrow, *helkein* to pull]

**sulf-, sulfo-** *comb form*, *NAm* **sulph-**, **sulpho-**

**sulfur** /sulfa/ *n*, *NAm* **sulphur** – **sulfurous** *adj*

**sulk** /sulk/ *vi* to be moodily silent [back-formation fr *sulky*]

**sulk** *n* a fit of sulking – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning

**sulky** /sulki/ *adj* sulking or given to fits of sulking {prob alter. of obs *sulke* (sluggish)} – **sulkily** *adv*, **sulkiness** *n*

**sulky** *n* a light 2-wheeled 1-horse vehicle for 1 person used esp in trotting races [prob fr *sulky*; fr its holding a solitary person]

**sulage** /sulij/ *n* 1 refuse, sewage **2** silt [prob fr MF *soiller*, *soiller* to soil – more at **SOIL**]

**sullen** /sulən/ *adj* 1 silently gloomy or resentful, ill-humoured and unsociable **2** dismal, gloomy [ME *solan* sullen, solitary, prob fr (assumed) MF, fr L *solus* alone] – **sullenly** *adv*, **sullenness** *n*

**sully** /suli/ *vt* to mar the purity of, tarnish [prob fr MF *soiller* to soil]

**sulph-, sulpha-,** *NAm* **sulf-, sulfo-** *comb form* sulphur; containing sulphur in the molecular structure (<sulphanilamide>) [F *sulf-, sulfo-*, fr L *sulphur*, *sulfur*]

**sulpha drug** /sulfa/ *n* any of various synthetic drugs chemically related to sulphanilamide that are used to kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria [*sulpha* short for *sulphanilamide*]

**sulphanilamide** /sulfə'nɪləmɪd/ *n* a sulphonamide that is the parent compound of most of the sulpha drugs [*sulphanilic* (fr ISV *sulph-* + *aniline* + *-ic*) + *amide*]

**sulphate** /sulfayt/ *n* 1 a salt or ester of sulphuric acid **2** the bivalent group or ion  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  characteristic of sulphuric acid and sulphates [modif of F *sulfate*, fr L *sulphate*, *sulfur*]

**sulphide** /sulfid/ *n* a binary compound of sulphur, usu with a more electropositive element

**sulphite** /sulfiet/ *n* a salt or ester of sulphurous acid [modif of F *sulfite*, alter. of *sulfate* sulphate]

**sulphon-** /sulfən-/ *comb form* sulphonic (<sulphonamide>)


**sulphonamide** /sulfənə'mɪd/ *n* an amide (e.g. sulphanilamide) of a sulphonic acid; also **SULPHA DRUG**

**sulphonate** /sulfənayt/ *n* a salt or ester of a sulphonic acid

**sulphonik** /sulfənɪk/, -'fəhnik/ *n* of, being, or derived from the univalent acid group  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  (<~ acid>) [*sulphone* (fr ISV *sulph-* + *-one*) + *-ic*]

**sulphonyl** /sulfəsil-, -niel/ *n* the bivalent group  $\text{SO}_2$

**sulphonylurea** /sulfənilyoo(ə)'ree-ə-, -'yoora-ə-, -niel-/ *n* any of several synthetic compounds (e.g. chlorpropamide) given orally to lower the concentration of glucose in the blood in the treatment of diabetes mellitus [NL, fr ISV *sulphonyl* + NL *urea*]

**sulphur** /sulfa/ *n* 1 a nonmetallic element chemically resembling oxygen that occurs esp as yellow crystals and is used esp in rubber vulcanization and in medicine for treating skin diseases  **PERIODIC TABLE** **2** pale greenish yellow [ME *sulphur* brimstone, fr L *sulphur*, *sulphur*, *sulfur*]

**sulphur** *vt* to treat with (a compound of) sulphur

**sulphurate** /sulfyoo'rayt/ *vt* to sulphur – **sulphurator** *n*, **sulphuration** /-raysh(ə)n/ *n*

**sulphur bottom whale** *n* **BLU** **WHALE** [fr the yellowish splotches on its belly]

**sulphur dioxide** *n* a pungent toxic gas that is a major air pollutant and is used in making sulphuric acid, in bleaching, and as a food preservative

**sulphuret** /sulfyoo'ret/ *vt* -*tt-* (*NAm* -*tt-*) to combine or impregnate with sulphur [NL *sulfuretum* sulphide, fr L *sulfur*]

**sulphuric** /sulfyooənk/ *adj* of or containing (high valency) sulphur

**sulphuric acid** *n* a corrosive oily strong acid that is a vigorous oxidizing and dehydrating agent

**sulphurize**, -ise /sulfə'rez/ *vt* to sulphur – **sulphurization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**sulphurous** /sulf(ə)rəs, sulfyooəras/ *adj* 1 of or containing (low valency) sulphur **2** resembling or coming from (burning) sulphur

**sulphurous acid** /sulfyooəras/ *n* a weak unstable acid used as a reducing and bleaching agent


**sulphydryl** /sulfhedrɪl/ *n* the highly reactive univalent group  $\text{SH}$  that is present in many biologically active compounds (e.g. coenzymes and enzyme inhibitors) [ISV *sulph-* + *hydr-* + *-yl*]


**sultan** /sult(ə)n/ *n* a sovereign of a Muslim state [MF, fr Ar *sultan*] – **sultanate** /-ət/ *n*

**sultana** /sultahnə/ *n* 1 a female member of a sultan's family, esp a sultan's wife **2** (the raisin of) a pale yellow seedless grape [It, fem of *sultano* sultan, fr Ar *sultan*]

**sultry** /sultri/ *adj* 1 oppressively hot and humid **2** (capable of) exciting strong sexual desire, sensual [obs *sulter* (to swelter), alter. of *swelter*]

**sultrily** *adv*, **sultriness** *n*


**sum** /sum/ *n* 1 a (specified) amount of money **2** the whole amount, the total **3** the gist – esp in the *sum and substance* **4a(1)** the result of adding numbers (<~ of 5 and 7 is 12>) **(2)** the limit of the sum of the first *n* terms of an infinite series as *n* increases indefinitely  **SYMBOL** **b** numbers to be added, broadly a problem in arithmetic **c** **UNION** **3** [ME *summe*, fr OF, fr L *summa*, fr fem of *summus* highest, akin to L *super* over – more at **OVER**] – **in sum** briefly

**sum** *vt* -*mm-* to calculate the sum of – compare **SUM UP**  **SYMBOL**

**sumach, sumac** /s(h)ooəmak/ *n* (the dried powdered leaves and flowers, used in tanning and dyeing, of) any of a genus of trees, shrubs, and climbing plants (e.g. poison ivy) with feathery leaves turning to brilliant colours in the autumn and red or whitish berries [ME *sumac*, fr MF, fr Ar *summaq*]

**Sumerian** /sooh'miəri-ən, -'meəri-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Sumer **2** the language of the Sumerians that has no known linguistic affinities [*Sumer*, ancient region of Babylonia] – **Sumerian** *adj*

**summerize**, -ise /'sʌməraɪz/ *vt* to express as or reduce to a summary – **summerizer** *n*, **summerization** /-zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**summary** /'sʌməri/ *adj* 1 concise but comprehensive **2a** done quickly without delay or formality **b** of or using a summary proceeding; *specif* tried or triable in a magistrates' court (<a ~ offence>)  **LAW** [ME, fr ML *summarus*, fr L *summa* sum] – **summarily** *adv*

**summary** *n* a brief account covering the main points of sthg

**summat** /'sʌmət/ *pron*, *dial* **N Eng** something [alter of *somewhat*, *pron* (something)]

**summate** /su'mayt/ *vt* **SUM UP** [back-formation fr *summation*]

**summation** /su'maysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of forming a sum **2** a total **3** cumulative action or effect **4** (a) summing up of an argument – **summational** *adj*

**summer** /'sʌmə/ *n* 1 the season between spring and autumn comprising in the northern hemisphere the months of June, July, and August **2** a period of maturity **3** a year (<a girl of 17 ~s>) – chiefly poetic [ME *sumer*, fr OE *sumor*; akin to OHG & ON *sumer* summer, Skt *sama* year, season]

**summer** *adj* sown in the spring and harvested in the same year as sown (<~ wheat>) – compare **WINTER**

- \*summer** *vi* to pass the summer ~ *vt* to provide (e.g. cattle or sheep) with pasture during the summer
- \*summer** *n* a large horizontal beam or stone used esp in building [ME, packhorse, beam, fr MF *somier*, fr (assumed) VL *sagmarius*, fr LL *sagma* pack-saddle, fr Gk]
- \*summer, house** /-həʊs/ *n* a small building in a garden designed to provide a shady place in summer
- \*summer, school** *n* a course of teaching held during the summer vacation, esp on university premises
- \*summer, time** /-ti:m/ *n* the summer season
- summery** /sʌm(ə)ri/ *adj* of, suggesting, or suitable for summer
- summing-up** /sʌmɪŋ/ *n* 1 a concluding summary 2 a survey of evidence given by a judge to the jury before it considers its verdict
- summit** /sʌmɪt/ *n* 1 a top; esp the highest point or peak  GEOGRAPHY 2 the topmost level attainable, the pinnacle 3 a conference of highest-level officials [ME *somete*, fr MF, fr OF, dim of *sum* top, fr L *summum*, neut of *summus* highest - more at *SUM*]
- summon** /sʌmən/ *vt* 1 to convene, convoke 2 to command by a summons to appear in court 3 to call upon to come; SEND FOR (~ a doctor) 4 to call up or muster (~ ed up his courage) [ME *somonen*, fr OF *somondre*, fr (assumed) VL *summonere*, alter of L *summonere* to remind secretly, fr sub- secretly + *monere* to warn - more at SUB-, MIND] - *summoner* *n*
- \*summons** /sʌmən/ *n*, *pl* *summonses* 1 a call or order by authority to appear at a particular place or to attend to sthg 2 a written notification warning sb to appear in court [ME *somouns*, fr OF *somone*, fr pp of *somondre*]
- \*summons** *vt* SUMMON 2
- sumo** /sʏʊmoh/ *n* Japanese wrestling in which a contestant loses if he is forced out of the contest area or thrown off his feet [Jap *sumo*]
- sump** /sʌmp/ *n* 1 a pit or reservoir serving as a drain or receptacle for esp waste liquids e.g. a cesspool b chiefly Br the lower section of the crankcase used as a lubricating-oil reservoir in an internal-combustion engine  CAR 2 the lowest part of a mine shaft, into which water drains [(1) ME *sompe* swamp, (2) G *sumpf*, lit, marsh, fr MHG - more at SWAMP]
- sumptuary** /sʌm(p)ʃuəri-, -tʃuəri/ *adj* designed to regulate personal expenditures and habits (~ laws) [L *sumptuarius*, fr *sumptus* expense, fr *sumptus*, pp of *sumere* to take, spend - more at CONSUME]
- sumptuous** /sʌm(p)ʃuəs-, -tʃuəri/ *adj* lavishly rich, costly, or luxurious [MF *sumptueux*, fr L *sumptuosus*, fr *sumptus*] - *sumptuously* *adv*, *sumptuousness* *n*
- sum 'total** *n* a total arrived at through the counting of sums
- sum up** *vt* 1 to summarize 2 to form or express a rapid appraisal of ~ *vi* to present a summary
- \*sun** /sʌn/ *n* 1a the star nearest to the earth, round which the earth and other planets revolve  ENERGY, SYMBOL b a star or other celestial body that emits its own light 2 the heat or light radiated from the sun USE (1) ASTRONOMY [ME *sunne*, fr OE, akin to OHG *sunna* sun, L *sol* - more at SOLAR] - *sunless* *adj* - *under the sun* in the world, ON EARTH (he was the last person under the sun I expected to see)
- \*sun** *vb* -*nn*- to expose (e.g. oneself) to the rays of the sun
- \*sun, baked** /-baɪkt/ *adj* baked hard by exposure to sunshine
- \*sun, bathe** /-baɪd/ *vi* to expose the body to the rays of the sun or a sunlamp - *sunbathe* *n*
- \*sun, beam** /-bi:m/ *n* a ray of light from the sun
- \*sun, bird** /-bu:ɪd/ *n* any of numerous small brilliantly coloured tropical Old World birds
- \*sun, blind** /-bli:nd/ *n*, chiefly Br an awning or a shade on a window (e.g. a venetian blind) that gives protection from the sun's rays
- \*sun, bonnet** /-bɒnɪt/ *n* a bonnet with a wide brim framing the face and used having a ruffle at the back to protect the neck from the sun
- \*sun, bow** /-boʊ/ *n* an arch resembling a rainbow made by the sun shining through vapour or mist
- \*sun, burn** /-bu:n/ *vb* *sunburnt* /-bu:nt/, *sunburned* to burn or tan by exposure to sunlight [back-formation fr *sunburnt*, fr *sun* + *burnt*]
- \*sunburn** *n* inflammation of the skin caused by overexposure to sunlight
- \*sun, burst** /-bu:st/ *n* an ornament or jewelled brooch representing a sun surrounded by rays
- sundae** /sʌndə/ *n* an ice cream served with a topping of fruit, nuts, syrup, etc [prob alter. of *Sunday*]
- \*sun, dance** *n* a N American Indian religious ceremony held in honour of the sun
- \*Sunday** /sʌndə/ *n* 1 the day of the week falling between Saturday
- and Monday, observed by Christians as a day of worship  SYMBOL 2 a newspaper published on Sundays (further scandal in the ~s) [ME, fr OE *sunnandæg*, akin to OHG *sunnuntag* Sunday; both fr a prehistoric W-Gmc-NGmc compound whose components are represented by OE *sunne* sun & by OE *dæg* day] - *Sundays* *adv*
- \*Sunday** *adj* 1 of or associated with Sunday 2 amateur (~ painters) - *derog*
- Sunday 'best** *n* sing or pl in constr one's best clothes - *infrml*
- \*Sunday, school** *n* a class usu of religious instruction held, esp for children, on Sundays
- sunder** /sʌndə/ *vt* to break apart or in two, sever [ME *sunderen*, fr OE *gesundrian*, *syndrian*, akin to OHG *suntaron* to sunder, L *sine* without]
- sundew** /sʌn,dyoo/ *n* any of a genus of bog plants with long glistening hairs on the leaves that attract and trap insects
- \*sundial** /-dieəl/ *n* an instrument to show the time of day by the shadow of a pointer on a graduated plate or cylindrical surface
- \*sun, dog** *n* 1 a parhelion 2 a small nearly round halo on the parhelion circle
- \*sun, down** /-daʊn/ *n* sunset
- \*sun, drenched** /-drenʃt/ *adj* exposed to much hot sunshine
- \*sundry** /sʌndri/ *adj* miscellaneous, various (~ articles) [ME, different for each, fr OE *syndrig*, akin to OHG *suntarig* sundry, OE *syndrian* to sunder, L *sine* without]
- \*sundry** *pron* pl in constr an indeterminate number - chiefly in *all and sundry*
- \*sundry** *n* 1 pl miscellaneous small articles or items 2 Austr EXTRA c
- \*sun, fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* a large marine bony fish with a nearly oval body, a length of up to 3m (about 10ft), and a weight of 2 tonnes (about 2 tons)
- \*sun, flower** /-fləʊə/ *n* any of a genus of composite plants with large yellow-rayed flower heads bearing edible seeds that are often used as animal feed and yield an edible oil
- sung** /sʌŋ/ *past* of SING
- \*sung, glasses** /-glɑ:zɪz/ *n* pl glasses to protect the eyes from the sun
- \*sung, 'mass** *n* a mass in which prescribed parts are sung by the celebrant and congregation
- \*sun, hat** /-hæt/ *n* an often large-brimmed hat worn to protect the head and face from the sun
- sunk** /sʌŋk/ *past* of SINK
- sunken** /sʌŋkən/ *adj* 1 submerged, esp lying at the bottom of a body of water 2a hollow, recessed b lying or constructed below the surrounding or normal level (~ bath) [fr obs pp of *sink*]
- sunk fence** *n* a ditch with a retaining wall or fence used to divide lands without defacing a landscape
- sunlamp** /sʌn,lɑmp/ *n* an electric lamp that emits esp ultraviolet light and is used esp for tanning the skin
- \*sun, light** /-li:t/ *n* sunshine
- \*sun, lit** /-lɪt/ *adj* lit (as if) by the sun
- \*sun, lounge** /-ləʊn/ *n*, Br a room having a large glazed area placed to admit much sunlight
- sun** /sʌn/, **sun, hemp** *n* (the hemplike fibre from the bark of) an E Indian leguminous plant with slender branches and yellow flowers [Hindi *san*, fr Skt *śana*]
- sunna** /sʊnə-, 'sʌnə/ *n*, often *cap* the body of Islamic custom and practice based on Muhammad's words and deeds [Ar *sunnah*]
- Sunni** /sʊni/ *n* 1 the Muslims of the branch of Islam that keeps to the orthodox tradition and acknowledges the first 4 caliphs as rightful successors of Muhammad - compare SHIA 2 a Sunnite [Ar *sunniy*, fr *sunnah*] - *Sunni* *adj*
- Sunniam** /sʊnɪz(ə)m/ *n* Islam as taught by the Sunni
- Sunnite** /sʊnɪt/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of Sunnism
- sunny** /sʌni/ *adj* 1 bright with sunshine 2 cheerful, optimistic (~ disposition) 3 exposed to or warmed by the sun - *sunily* *adv*, *suniness* *n*
- sunray pleats** /sʌnreɪ/ *n* pl a series of very narrow overlapping knife pleats that are usu produced in fabric commercially
- \*sun, rise** /-ri:z/ *n* (the time of) the rising of the topmost part of the sun above the horizon as a result of the rotation of the earth
- \*sun, roof** /-ru:ʊf/ *n* a motor-car roof having an opening or removable panel
- sunset** /sʌnsɪt-, -set/ *n* (the time of) the descent of the topmost part of the sun below the horizon as a result of the rotation of the earth
- \*sun, shade** /-ʃeɪd/ *n* sthg used as a protection from the sun's rays: e.g. a parasol b an awning

- 'sun, shine** /-shien/ *n* 1 the sun's light or direct rays 2 a place or surface receiving the warmth and light of the sun (<at in the ~> - **sunshiny** *adj*)
- 'sun, spot** /-spot/ *n* a transient dark marking on the visible surface of the sun caused by a relatively cooler area
- 'sun, stroke** /-strohk/ *n* heatstroke caused by direct exposure to the sun
- 'sun, tan** /-tan/ *n* a browning of the skin from exposure to the sun
- 'sun, trap** /-trap/ *n* a sheltered place that receives a large amount of sunshine
- 'sun, up** /-up/ *n* sunrise - *infrm*
- 'sun, wise** /-wiez/ *adv* clockwise
- Suomi** /'sooh-ami/ *n pl* in *constr* the Finnish people [Finn]
- 'sup** /sup/ *vb* -**pp**- chiefly *dial* to drink (liquid) in small mouthfuls [ME *suppen*, fr OE *sūpan*, *suppan*, akin to OHG *sūfan* to drink, sip, OE *sucan* to suck - more at **SUCK**]
- 'sup** *n*, chiefly *dial* a mouthful, esp of liquid, a sip
- 'sup** *vi* -**pp**- 1 to eat the evening meal 2 to make one's supper - + *on* or *off* [ME *soupen*, *suppen*, fr OF *souper*, fr *soupe* *sop*, soup - more at **SOUP**]
- 'super** /s(y)ooohpa/ *n* 1 a superfine grade or extra large size 2 a police or other superintendent - *infrm* [(1) 'super; (2) short for *superintendent*]
- 'super** *adj* - used as a general term of approval, *infrm* (< a ~ time> <it was just ~> [short for *superfine*])
- super-** /s(y)ooohpa-/ *prefix* 1a(1) higher in quantity, quality, or degree than, more than (<superhuman>) (2) in addition, extra (<supertax>) b(1) exceeding or so as to exceed a norm (<superheat>) (<supersaturate>) (2) to an excessive degree (<supersubtle>) (<supersensitive>) c surpassing all or most others of its kind (e.g. in size or power) (<supertanker>) 2 situated or placed above, on, or at the top of (<superlunary>) (<superscript>) 3 having (the specified atom or radical) present in an unusually large proportion (<superphosphate>) 4 constituting a more inclusive category of (<superfamily>) 5 superior in status, title, or position (<superpower>) [L, over, above, in addition, fr *super* over, above, on top of - more at 'OVER]
- superabundant** /soohpa:z'bund(ə)nt/, syoooh-/ *adj* more than ample; excessive [ME, fr LL *superabundant-*, *superabundans*, fr *prp* of *superabundare* to exist in more than ample quantities] - **superabundance** *n*, **superabundantly** *adv*
- superadd** /-ad/ *vt* to add over and above sthg - *fml* [ME *superadden*, fr L *superaddere*, fr *super-* + *addere* to add] - **superaddition** /-ə'dish(ə)n/ *n*
- superannuable** /-anyoo-əbl/ *adj* affording a pension on retirement (< a ~ post> [superannuation + -able])
- superannuate** /-anyooayt/ *vt* 1 to make or declare obsolete or out-of-date 2 to retire on a pension, esp because of age or infirmity [back-formation fr *superannuated*] - **superannuation** /-anyoo-'aysh(ə)n/ *n*
- superannuated** *adj* incapacitated or disqualified for work, use, or continuance by advanced age e.g. a obsolete b retired on a pension [ML *superannuatus*, *pp* of *superannuare* to be too old, fr L *super-* + *annus* year - more at **ANNUAL**]
- superb** /s(y)oooh'puhb/ *adj* 1 marked by grandeur or magnificence 2 of excellent quality (<the meal was ~> [L *superbus* excellent, proud, fr *super* above + -*bus* (akin to OE *beon* to be) - more at 'OVER, BE] - **superbly** *adv*, **superbness** *n*
- supercalender** /-'kalənda/ *vt or n* (to process in) a stack of highly polished rolls used to give a very smooth finish to paper
- 'super, cargo** /-kahgoh/ *n* an officer in a merchant ship in charge of the commercial concerns of the voyage [Sp *sobrecargo*, fr *sobre-* over (fr L *super-*) + *cargo*]
- 'super, charge** /-chahj/ *vt* 1 to charge greatly or excessively (e.g. with energy or tension) (<~d rhetoric>) 2 to supply a charge to (e.g. an engine) at a pressure higher than that of the surrounding atmosphere - **supercharge** *n*
- 'super, charger** *n* a device supplying fuel or air to an internal-combustion engine at a pressure higher than normal for greater efficiency
- 'super, cilious** /-'sili-əs/ *adj* coolly disdainful [L *superciliosus*, fr *super-* + *cilium* eyebrow, haughtiness, fr *super-* + *cilum* eyelid (akin to *celare* to hide) - more at **HELL**] - **superciliously** *adv*, **superciliousness** *n*
- 'super, conductivity** /-konduk'tivəti/ *n* a complete disappearance of electrical resistance in various metals and alloys at temperatures near absolute zero - **superconducting** /-kən'dukting/ *adj*, **superconductive** /-kən'duktiv/ *adj*, **superconductor** /-kən'dukta/ *n*
- 'super, cool** /-'koohl/ *vb* to cool below the freezing point without solidification or crystallization
- 'super, critical** /-'kritikl/ *adj*, of an *aerofoul*, esp a wing having supersonic airflow while travelling at subsonic speeds and therefore offering increased lift and speed
- 'super, ego** /-eegoh/ *n* the one of the 3 divisions of the mind in psychoanalytic theory that is only partly conscious, reflects social rules, and functions as a conscience to reward and punish - compare **EGO**, **ID**
- 'super, elevation** /-eli'veysh(ə)n/ *n* the vertical difference between the heights of the inner and outer edges of a highway, pavement, or railway track
- 'super, erogatory** /-'erogə(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 performed to an extent beyond that needed or required 2 superfluous, nonessential *USE fml* [ML *supererogatorius*, fr *supererogatus*, *pp* of *supererogare* to perform beyond the call of duty, fr LL, to expend in addition, fr L *super-* + *erogare* to expend public funds with the people's consent, fr *e-* + *rogare* to ask] **supererogation** /-erə'gaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- 'super, fetation** /-fee'taysh(ə)n/ *n* successive fertilization of 2 or more ova of different ovulations resulting in the presence of embryos of unlike ages in the same uterus [ML *superfetation-*, *superfetatus*, fr L *superfetatus*, *pp* of *superfetare* to conceive while already pregnant, fr *super-* + *fetus* act of bearing young, offspring - more at **FETUS**]
- 'super, ficial** /-'fish(ə)l/ *adj* 1a of a surface b not penetrating below the surface (< ~ wounds>) 2a not thorough or profound, shallow b apparent rather than real (< ~ differences> [ME, fr LL *superficialis*, fr L *superficies*] - **superficially** *adv*, **superficialness** *n*, **superficiality** /-'fishi'aliəti/ *n*
- 'super, fices** /-'fishee/ *n, pl* superficies 1 a surface 2 the external aspect or appearance of a thing *USE fml* [L, surface, fr *super-* + *facies* face, aspect - more at **FACE**]
- 'super, fine** /-fiən/ *adj* 1 of extremely fine size or texture (< ~ toothbrush bristles>) 2 esp of merchandise of high quality or grade
- 'super, fluity** /-'flooəti/ *n* 1 an excess, a supply exceeding what is required 2 sthg unnecessary or superfluous [ME *superfluite*, fr MF *superfluité*, fr LL *superfluitat-*, *superfluitas*, fr L *superfluitas*]
- superfluous** /s(y)oooh'puhlooəs/ *adj* exceeding what is sufficient or necessary [ME, fr L *superfluitas*, lit., running over, fr *superfluere* to overflow, fr *super-* + *fluere* to flow - more at **FLUID**]
- 'super, giant** /-jieənt/ *n* a star of very great intrinsic luminosity, enormous size, and low density
- 'super, heat** /-'heet/ *vt* 1 to heat (a liquid) above the boiling point (<without conversion into vapour> 2 to heat (a vapour) so as to cause to remain a gas without condensation (< ~ ed steam>) **superheat** *n*, **superheater** *n*
- 'super, heterodyne** /-'hetərə,diən/ *adj* of or using a form of radio or television reception in which the radio frequency signal is heterodyned with a wave of a frequency such that the resultant is a signal superimposed on an intermediate frequency carrier [supersonic + heterodyne]
- 'super, heterodyne** *n* a superheterodyne receiver
- 'super, highway** /-'hieway/ *n*, *NAm* a motorway
- 'super, human** /-'hyooohman/ *adj* 1 being above the human, divine (< ~ beings>) 2 exceeding normal human power, size, or capability (< a ~ effort>) - **superhumanly** *adv*, **superhumanness**, **superhumanity** /-'hyoooh-'manəti/ *n*
- 'super, im'pose** /-'im'pohz/ *vt* to place or lay over or above sthg - **superimposable** *adj*, **superimposition** /-'impə'zish(ə)n/ *n*
- 'super, in'cumbent** /-'in'kumbənt/ *adj* lying and usu exerting pressure on sthg else [L *superincumbent-*, *superincumbens*, *prp* of *superincumbere* to lie on top of, fr *super-* + *incumbere* to lie down on - more at **INCUMBENT**] - **superincumbently** *adv*
- 'super, in'tend** /-'in'tend/ *vt* to be in charge of, direct [LL *superintendere*, fr L *super-* + *intendere* to intend, attend, direct attention to - more at **INTEND**]
- 'super, in'tendence** /-'in'tend(ə)ns/ *n* supervision, overseeing
- 'super, in'tendency** /-'in'tend(ə)nsi/ *n* 1 the office or jurisdiction of a superintendent 2 superintendence
- 'super, in'tendent** /-'in'tend(ə)nt/ *n* 1 one who supervises or manages sthg 2 a British police officer ranking next above a chief inspector [ML *superintendent-*, *superintendens*, fr LL, *prp* of *superintendere*] - **superintendent** *adj*
- 'superior** /s(y)oooh'piəri-/ *adj* 1 situated higher up; upper 2 of higher rank or status 3 indifferent or unyielding to pain, temptation, etc 4a greater in quality, amount, or worth b excellent of its kind 5a of an animal or plant part situated above or at the top of another (corresponding) part b(1) of a calyx attached to and apparently arising from the ovary

- (2) of an ovary free from and above a floral envelope (e.g. the calyx) 6 of a planet further from the sun than the earth is 7 thinking oneself better than others; supercilious [ME, fr MF *superieur*, fr L *superior*, compar of *superus* upper, fr *super* over, above – more at 'OVER] – **superiority** /-n'ɒrɪti/ *n*
- <sup>2</sup>superior** *n* 1 a person who is above another in rank or office, esp the head of a religious house or order 2 sb or sth that surpasses another in quality or merit
- superior conjunction** *n* a conjunction in which a lesser or secondary celestial body passes farther from the observer than the primary body round which it revolves (< ~ of Saturn)
- superiority complex** *n* an exaggeratedly high opinion of oneself – compare MEGALOMANIA 2
- superiorly** /s(y)oo'h'piəri/ *adv* 1 in or to a higher position or direction 2 in a higher or better manner or degree, also in a haughty or condescending manner
- superjacent** /soohpə'jays(ə)nt/, /syooh-/ *adj* lying above or on sth – fml [L *superjacent-*, *superjacentis*, prp of *superjacere* to lie over or upon, fr *super-* + *jacere* to lie, akin to L *jacere* to throw – more at 'JET]
- superlative** /s(y)oo'h'pʊlɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 of or constituting the degree of grammatical comparison expressing an extreme or unsurpassed level or extent 2 surpassing all others, of the highest degree (<he spoke with ~ ease> [ME *superlativ*, fr MF, fr LL *superlativus*, fr L *superlatus* (pp of *superferre* to carry over, raise high), fr *super-* + *latus*, pp of *ferre* to carry – more at TOLERATE, 'FAR] – **superlatively** *adv*, **superlativeness** *n*
- superlative** *n* 1 the superlative degree or form in a language 2 an exaggerated expression, esp of praise (<talked in ~s>)
- superlunary** /s(y)oo'h'pʊlʊnəri/ *also* **superlunar** /-loohnə/ *adj* beyond the moon, celestial [L *super-* + *luna* moon – more at LUNAR]
- superman** /-man/ *n* a person of extraordinary power or achievements – fml [trans of G *übermensch*]
- supermarket** /-mahkɪt/ *n* a usual large self-service retail shop selling foods and household merchandise
- supernatant** /-nayt(ə)nt/ *n* or *adj* (a substance) floating on the surface [adj L *supernatant-*, *supernatans*, prp of *supernatare* to float, fr *super-* + *natare* to swim, *n* fr *adj*]
- supernatural** /-nəch(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1 of an order of existence or an agency (e.g. a god or spirit) not bound by normal laws of cause and effect 2a departing from what is usual or normal, esp in nature 2b attributed to an invisible agent (e.g. a ghost or spirit) [ML *supernaturalis*, fr L *super-* + *natura* nature] – **supernatural** *n*, **supernaturalism** *n*, **supernaturally** *adv*, **supernaturalness** *n*
- supernormal** /-nawm/ *adj* exceeding the normal or average – **super-normally** *adv*, **supernormality** /-naw'malɪti/ *n*
- supernova** /-nohvə/ *n* any of the rarely observed nova outbursts in which the luminosity reaches 100 million times that of the sun [NL]
- <sup>1</sup>super-numerary** /-nyoohm'rɪəri/ *adj* exceeding the usual or stated number (<a ~ tooth> [LL *supernumerarius*, fr L *super-* + *numerus* number – more at NIMBLE]
- <sup>2</sup>super-numerary** *n* 1 a person employed as an extra assistant or substitute 2 an actor employed to play a walk-on
- superordinate** /-əwɪndɪt/ *adj* superior in rank, class, or status [*super-* + *-ordinate* (as in *subordinate*)]
- superovulation** /-ovyoyn'laysh(ə)n/ *n* production of exceptional numbers of eggs at one time
- superphosphate** /-fɒsfayt/ *n* a fertilizer made from insoluble mineral phosphates by treatment with sulphuric acid
- superpose** /-pohz/ *vt* 1 to lay (e.g. a geometric figure) on another so as to make all like parts coincide 2 to place or lay over or above – fml [prob fr F *superposer*, back-formation fr *superposition*, fr LL *superpositio-*, *superpositio*, fr L *superpositus*, pp of *superponere* to superpose, fr *super-* + *ponere* to place – more at POSITION] – **superposable** *adj*, **superposition** /-pə'zɪsh(ə)n/ *n*
- superpower** /-pəʊə/ *n* an extremely powerful nation, specif any of a very few dominant states in the world
- supersaturate** /-səchoorayt/ *vt* to add to beyond the point of saturation – **supersaturation** /-səchoor'raysh(ə)n/ *n*
- superscribe** /-skneb/ *vt* 1 to write on the top or outside 2 to write sth (e.g. an address) on the outside or cover of [L *superscribere*, fr *super-* + *scribere* to write – more at 'SCRIBE]
- super-script** /-skript/ *n* a distinguishing symbol written or printed above another character [L *superscriptus*, pp of *superscribere*] – **super-script** *adj*
- super-scription** /-skripsh(ə)n/ *n* words written on the surface of, outside, or above sth else, an inscription [ME, fr MF, fr LL *superscription-*, *superscriptio*, fr L *superscriptus*]
- supersede** /-sɪd/ *vt* 1 to take the place of (esp sth inferior or outmoded) (<buses ~ d trams>) 2 to displace in favour of another, supplant [MF *supersedere* to refrain from, fr L *supersedere* to be superior to, refrain from, fr *super-* + *sedere* to sit – more at SIT] – **superseder** *n*, **supersedure** /-sɛjə/ *n*, **supersession** /-sɛsh(ə)n/ *n*
- super-sonic** /-sɒnɪk/ *adj* 1 (using, produced by, or relating to waves or vibrations) having a frequency above the upper threshold of human hearing of about 20,000Hz 2 of, being, or using speeds from 1 to 5 times the speed of sound in air 3 of supersonic aircraft or missiles (<the ~ age> [L *super-* + *sonus* sound – more at 'SOUND] – **super-sonically** *adv*
- superstition** /-stɪsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation 2 an irrational abject attitude of mind towards the supernatural, nature, or God resulting from superstition [ME *superstition-*, fr MF, fr L *superstition-*, *superstitio*, fr *superstit-*, *superstes* standing over (as witness or survivor), fr *super-* + *stare* to stand – more at STAND] – **superstitious** /-stɪshəs/ *adj*, **superstitiously** *adv*
- superstore** /-stəʊ/ *n* a large supermarket
- superstratum** *n* an overlying stratum [*super-* + *-stratum* (as in *substratum*)]
- superstructure** /-strʊktʃə/ *n* 1a the part of a building above the ground 1b the structural part of a ship above the main deck 2 an entity or complex based on a more fundamental one – **superstructural** /-strʊktʃərəl/ *adj*
- super-tanker** /-tangkə/ *n* a very large tanker
- super-tax** /-taks/ *n* a tax paid in addition to normal tax by people with high incomes
- super-tonic** /-tɒnɪk/ *n* the second note of a diatonic scale
- super-vene** /-veən/ *vt* to happen in a way that interrupts some plan or process fml [L *supervenire*, fr *super-* + *venire* to come – more at COME] – **supervenience** /-veenyəns/ *n*, **supervenient** *adj*, **supervention** /-vɛnsh(ə)n/ *n*
- supervise** /s(y)oo'h'pɪvɪz/ *vt* to superintend, oversee [ML *supervisus*, pp of *supervidere*, fr L *super-* + *videre* to see – more at WIT] – **supervisor** *n*, **supervisory** *adj*
- supervision** /-vɪzh(ə)n/ *n* a critical watching and directing (e.g. of activities of an operation) [SUPERVISE + -ION]
- supinate** /s(y)oo'h'pɪnɪt/ *vt* to rotate (the hand and forearm) so that the palm faces forwards or upwards [L *supinatus*, pp of *supinare* to lay backwards or on the back, fr *supinus*] – **supination** /-nɪnɪsh(ə)n/ *n*
- <sup>1</sup>supine** /s(y)oo'h'pien, /- / *adj* 1a lying on the back or with the face upwards – compare PRONE 2b marked by supination 2 mentally or morally lazy; lethargic [L *supinus*, akin to L *sub* under, up to – more at UP] – **supinely** *adv*, **supineness** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>supine** *n* a Latin verbal noun formed from the stem of the past participle [ME *supyn*, L *supinum*, fr L, neut of *supinus*, *adj*]
- supper** /sʊpə/ *n* 1 (the food for) a usual light evening meal or snack 2 a (fund-raising) social affair featuring a supper [ME, fr OF *souper*, fr *souper* to sup – more at 'SUP]
- supplant** /sə'plahnt/ *vt* to take the place of (another), esp by force or treachery [ME *supplanten*, fr MF *supplanter*, fr L *supplantare* to overthrow by tripping up, fr *sub-* + *planta* sole of the foot – more at PLACE] – **supplanter** *n*, **supplantation** /sʊplahn'taysh(ə)n/ *n*
- supple** /sʊpl/ *adj* 1 compliant, often to the point of obsequiousness 2a capable of easily being bent or folded, pliant 2b able to perform bending or twisting movements with ease and grace, lithe [ME *couple*, fr OF, fr L *supplic-*, *supplex* submissive, suppliant, lit., bending under, fr *sub-* + *plic-* (akin to *plicare* to fold) – more at 'PLY] – **suppleness** *n*, **supply** /sʊplɪ/, **supply** /sʊplɪ/ *adv*
- <sup>2</sup>supple** *vb* to make or become flexible or pliant
- supplement** /sʊplɪmɛnt/ *n* 1 sth that completes, adds, or makes good a deficiency, or makes an addition (<dietary ~s>) 2 a part issued to update or extend a book or periodical 3 an angle or arc that when added to a given angle or arc equals 180° [ME, fr L *supplementum*, fr *supplere* to fill up, complete – more at SUPPLY]
- <sup>2</sup>supplement** /sʊplɪmɛnt/ *vt* to add a supplement to – **supplementer** *n*, **supplementation** /sʊplɪmɛnt'eysh(ə)n/ *n*
- supplemental** /sʊplɪ'mɛntl/ *adj* serving to supplement – **supplemental** *n*
- supplementary** /sʊplɪ'mɛnt(ə)n/ *adj* 1 additional 2 being or relating to a supplement or an angle that is a supplement
- supplementary benefit** *n* British social-security benefit paid to those who do not qualify for unemployment benefit

- suppletion** /sə'pleesh(ə)n/ *n* the recurrence of unrelated forms (e.g. *went, better*) of a word (e.g. *go, good*) [ML *suppletio*-, *suppletio* act of supplementing, fr L *suppletus*, pp] – **suppletive** /sə'pleetiv/ *adj*
- suppletory** /sʊplɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adj* supplementary [L *suppletus*, pp of *supplere*]
- suppliant** /sʊpli-ənt/ *adj* humbly imploring or entreating [MF, prp of *supplier* to supplicate, fr L *supplicare*] – **suppliant** *n*, **suppliantly** *adv*
- supplicant** /sʊplɪkənt/ *n* or *adj* (a) suppliant – **supplicantly** *adv*
- supplicate** /sʊplɪkayt/ *vi* to beg humbly, esp to pray to God ~ *vt* to ask humbly and earnestly of or for [ME *supplicaten*, fr L *supplicatus*, pp of *supplicare*, fr *supplic-*, *supplex* suppliant – more at **SUPP** 1] – **supplicatory** /-kət(ə)rɪ/ *adj*, **supplication** /-kə'sh(ə)n/ *n*
- supply** /sə'plɪ-/ *vt* 1 to provide for; satisfy <supplies a long-felt need> 2 to provide, furnish [ME *supplien*, fr MF *soupleier*, fr L *supplere* to fill up, supplement, supply, fr *sub-* + *plere* to fill – more at **SUB-**, **FUI** 1] – **supplier** *n*
- supply** *n* 1a the quantity or amount needed or available <in short ~> b provisions, stores – *usu* pl with *sing* meaning 2 the act of filling a want or need <~ and demand> 3 the quantities of goods and services offered for sale at a particular time or at one price – compare **DEMAND** 4 **supply**, **supply teacher** *Br* a teacher who fills a temporary vacancy
- supply** *adj* of or for the raising of government revenue <a ~ bill>
- support** /sə'pawt/ *vt* 1 to bear, tolerate <could not ~ such behaviour> 2a(1) to promote the interests of, encourage (2) to defend as valid or right (3) to argue or vote for <~s the Labour Party> b(1) to assist, help (2) to act with (a principal actor or actress) c to substantiate, corroborate 3a to pay the costs of b to provide livelihood or subsistence for 4a to hold up or serve as a foundation or prop for <steel girders ~ the building> b to maintain (a price) at a desired level by purchases or loans, also to maintain the price of by purchases or loans [ME *supporten*, fr MF *supporter*, fr LL *supportare*, fr L, to carry, fr *sub-* + *portare* to carry – more at **FARE**] – **supportable** *adj*, **supportably** *adv*
- support** *n* 1 supporting or being supported 2 maintenance, sustenance <without visible means of ~> 3 a device that supports sth 4 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of supporters
- supporter** /sə'pawtə/ *n* 1 an adherent or advocate <a Chelsea ~> 2 either of 2 figures (e.g. of men or animals) placed one on each side of a heraldic shield as if holding or guarding it [SUPPORT + -ER]
- supporting** /sə'pawtɪŋ/ *adj* 1 that supports <a ~ wall> 2 of or being a film other than the main feature on a cinema programme
- supportive** /sə'pawtv/ *adj* providing support, esp sustaining morale
- suppose** /sə'pohz/ *vt* 1a to lay down tentatively as a hypothesis, assumption, or proposal <~ a fire broke out> <~ we wait a bit> b(1) to hold as an opinion; believe (2) to think probable or in keeping with the facts (3) to conjecture, think <when do you ~ he'll arrive?> 2 to devise for a purpose; intend <it's ~d to cure acne> 3 to presuppose 4 to allow, permit – used negatively <you're not ~d to go in there> 5 to expect because of moral, legal, or other obligations <drivers are ~d to wear seat belts> *USE* (2, 4, & 5) chiefly in *be supposed to* [ME *supposen*, fr MF *supposer*, fr ML *supponere* (perf indic *supposui*), fr L, to put under, substitute, fr *sub-* + *ponere* to put – more at **POSITION**] – **supposable** *adj*
- supposed** *adj* believed or imagined to be such <her ~ wealth> – **supposedly** /-zɪdli/ *adv*
- supposing** /sə'pohzɪŋ/ *conj* by way of hypothesis – compare **SUPPOSE** 1a
- supposition** /sʊpə'zɪsh(ə)n/ *n* a hypothesis [ME, fr LL *suppositio*-, *suppositio*, fr L, act of placing beneath, fr *suppositus*, pp of *supponere*] – **suppositional** *adj*, **suppositionally** *adv*, **suppositive** /sə'pəzɪtɪv/ *adj*, **suppositively** *adv*
- supposititious** /sə'pəzɪ'tɪʃəs/ *suppositious* /sʊpə'zɪʃəs/ *adj* 1a fraudulently substituted b of a child illegitimate 2 hypothetical, assumed [L *suppositicius*, fr *suppositus*, pp of *supponere* to substitute; (2) influenced in meaning by *supposition*] – **supposititiously** *adv*, **supposititiousness** *n*
- suppository** /sə'pəzət(ə)rɪ/ *n* a readily meltable cone or cylinder of medicated material for insertion into a bodily passage or cavity (e.g. the rectum) [ML *suppositorium*, fr LL, neut of *suppositorius* placed beneath, fr L *suppositus*, pp of *supponere* to put under]
- suppress** /sə'pres/ *vt* 1 to put down by authority or force 2 to stop the publication or revelation of 3a to (deliberately) exclude a thought, feeling, etc from consciousness – compare **REPRESS** 2b b to hold back, check <~ed his impulse to laugh> 4 to inhibit the growth or development of [ME *suppressen*, fr L *suppressus*, pp of *supprimere*, fr *sub-* + *primere* to press – more at **PRESS**] – **suppressible** *adj*, **suppression** /-sh(ə)n/ *n*, **suppressive** /-sɪv/ *adj*, **suppressively** *adv*, **suppressibility** /-presə-'bɪləti/ *n*
- suppressor** /sə'presə/ *n* an electrical component (e.g. a capacitor) added to a circuit to suppress oscillations that would otherwise cause radio interference [SUPPRESS + -OR]
- suppurate** /sʊpyoo,rayt/ *vi* to form or discharge pus [L *suppuratus*, pp of *suppurare*, fr *sub-* + *pur-*, *pus* pus – more at **TOUL**] – **suppurative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **suppuration** /-rə'ʃaɪsh(ə)n/ *n*
- supra** /s(y)oo'hprə-, prəh/ *adv* earlier in this writing; above [L]
- supra-** /s(y)oo'hprə-/ *prefix* 1 **SUPER-** 2 <supraorbital> 2 transcending <supranational> [L, fr *supra* above, beyond, earlier, akin to L *super* over – more at **OVER**]
- supra-national** /-ˈnəʃh(ə)nəl/ *adj* transcending national boundaries or interests – **supranationalism** *n*, **supranationalist** *n*
- supra-orbital** /-ˈɔːbɪtəl/ *adj* situated above the orbit of the eye [NL *supraorbitalis*, fr L *supra-* + ML *orbita* orbit]
- suprarenal** /-ˈreɪnəl/ *adj* adrenal <~ gland> [NL *suprarenalis*, fr L *supra-* + *renes* kidneys]
- supremacy** /s(y)oo'h'preməsi/ *n* the state of being supreme, supreme authority, power, or position [supreme + -acy (as in *primacy*)]
- supreme** /s(y)oo'h'preem/ *adj* 1 highest in rank or authority <the ~ commander> 2 highest in degree or quality [L *supremus*, superl of *superus* upper – more at **SUPERIOR**] – **supremely** *adv*
- Supreme Court** *n* the highest judicial tribunal in a nation or state
- Supreme Soviet** *n* the highest legislative body of the Soviet Union
- supremo** /s(y)oo'h'preemoh/ *n*, *pl* **supremos** chiefly *Br* a ruler or director with unlimited powers <England's ~> *voccer* ~ - *in*fm [Sp & It, fr *supremo*, *adj*, supreme, fr L *supremus*]
- sur-** /sʊh-, sɔ-/ *prefix* above, over, beyond <surtax> <surface> [ME, fr OF, fr L *super-*]
- sura** /sʊorə/ *n* a chapter of the Koran [Ar *surah*, lit, row]
- surcharge** /sʊh,chaɪ/ *vt* 1 to subject to an additional or excessive charge 2 to overprint or mark with a new denomination or surcharge [ME *surchargen*, fr MF *surcharger*, fr *sur-* + *charger* to charge]
- surcharge** *n* 1a an additional tax or cost b an extra fare 2 surcharging or being surcharged 3 an overprint, esp one on a stamp that alters the denomination
- surcingle** /sʊh,sɪŋ-gl/ *n* a band passing round a horse's body usu to bind a saddle, rug, or pack fast to its back [ME *surcengle*, fr MF *surcengle*, fr *sur-* + *cengle* girdle, fr L *cingulum*, fr *cingere* to gird – more at **CINCTURE**]
- surcoat** /sʊh,koʊt/ *n* an outer coat or cloak, specif a loose tunic worn over armour [ME *surcote*, fr MF, fr *sur-* + *cote* coat]
- surd** /sʊhd/ *adj*, of a speech sound voiceless [L *surdus* deaf, silent, stupid, akin to L *susurrus* hum – more at **SWARM**]
- surd** *n* 1 an irrational root (e.g.  $\sqrt{2}$ ), also an algebraic expression containing irrational roots < $\sqrt{2} + 5i$  is a ~> – compare **IRRATIONAL NUMBER**, **RATIONAL NUMBER** 2 a surd speech sound
- sure** /ʃʊooə, shaw/ *adj* 1 firm, secure 2 reliable, trustworthy 3 assured, confident <felt ~ it was right> 4 bound, certain <it's ~ to rain> [ME, fr MF *sur*, fr L *securus* secure] – **sureness** *n* for *sure* as a certainty – to be *sure* it must be acknowledged, admittedly
- sure** *adv*, chiefly *NAm* surely, certainly – *in*fm <I ~ am tired>
- sure enough** *adv* as one might confidently expect
- surefire** /-ˈfɪə-/ *adj* certain to succeed – *in*fm
- surefooted** /-ˈfʊotɪd/ *adj* not liable to stumble or fall – **surefootedly** *adv*, **surefootedness** *n*
- surely** /-li/ *adv* 1a without danger, safely <slowly but ~> b without doubt, certainly 2 it is to be believed, hoped, or expected that <~ you like beer> [SURE + -LY]
- surety** /ʃʊooərtɪ/ *n* 1 a guarantee 2 sb who assumes legal liability for the debt, default, or failure in duty (e.g. appearance in court) of another [ME *surte*, fr MF *surté*, fr L *securitat-*, *securitas* security, fr *securus*] – **suretyship** *n*
- surf** /sʊh/ *n* the foam and swell of waves breaking on the shore [origin unknown]
- surface** /sʊhfɪs/ *n* 1 the external or upper boundary or layer of an object or body 2 (a portion of) the boundary of a three-dimensional object <~ of a sphere> 3 the external or superficial aspect of sth [F, fr *sur-* + *face*] – on the *surface* to all outward appearances, superficially
- surface** *vt* to apply the surface layer to <~ a road> ~ *vi* 1 to come to the surface; emerge 2 to wake up; also *GET UP* 1a – *in*fm <he never ~s before 10> – **surfacier** *n*
- surface** *adj* 1 situated or employed on the surface, esp of the earth or sea 2 lacking depth, superficial



**surface-active** *adj* capable of lowering the surface tension at the surface of contact between (gas and liquid) phases (<soaps are typical ~ substances>)

**'surface mail** *n* mail sent by any means other than airmail

**'surface structure** *n* (the structure specified by) a formal representation of the phonetic form of a sentence

**'surface tension** *n* a property of liquids that produces an effect such that the surface of the liquid in contact with air or another gas tends to have the smallest possible area

**surfactant** /suh'fakt(ə)nt/ *n* a surface-active substance (e.g. a detergent) [surface-active + -ant] - **surfactant** *adj*

**surfboard** /suhf,bawd/ *n* a usu long narrow buoyant board used in surfing - **surfboard** *vi*, **surfboarder** *n*

**'surfboat** /-boht/ *n* a boat for use in heavy surf

**'surfeit** /suhfɪt/ *n* 1 an excessive amount 2 excessive indulgence in food, drink, etc [ME *surfait*, fr MF, fr *surfaire* to overdo, fr *sur-* + *faire* to do, fr *L. facere* - more at DO]

**'surfeit** *vt* to fill to excess, satiate - **surfeiter** *n*

**surficial** /suh'fish(ə)l/ *adj* of a surface [surface + -icial (as in *superficial*)]

**surfing** /suhfɪŋ/ *n* the activity or sport of planing on the front part of a wave, esp while standing or lying on a surfboard - **surfer** *n*

**'surge** /suh/ *vi* 1 to rise and move (as if) in waves or billows (<the crowd ~d past her>) (<felt the blood surging to her cheeks>) 2 esp of current or voltage to rise suddenly to an excessive or abnormal value [MF *sourge*, stem of *sourdre* to rise, surge, fr *L. surgere* to go straight up, rise, fr *sub-* + *regere* to lead straight - more at SUB-, 'RIGHT]

**'surge** *n* 1 the motion of swelling, rolling, or sweeping forwards like a wave 2 a large rolling wave or succession of waves 3 a short-lived sudden rise of current or voltage in an electrical circuit

**surgeon** /suhj(ə)n/ *n* a medical specialist who practises surgery [ME *surgien*, fr AH, fr OF *chirurgien*, fr *chirurgie* surgery]

**'surgeon, fish** *n* any of various tropical fishes with 1 or more sharp movable spines near the base of the tail [fr the spines suggesting a surgeon's instruments]

**surgeon's knot** *n* a reef knot with a double turn in the first loop

**surgery** /suhj(ə)n/ *n* 1 medicine that deals with diseases and conditions requiring or amenable to operative or manual procedures 2a the work done by a surgeon b OPERATION 3 3 *Br* (the hours of opening of) a doctor's, dentist's, etc room where patients are advised or treated 4 *Br* a session at which a member of a profession (e.g. a lawyer) or esp an elected representative (e.g. an MP) is available for use informal consultation [ME *surgerie*, fr OF *chirurgie*, *surgerie*, fr *L. chirurgus*, fr *Gk. cheirourgos*, fr *cheirourgos* surgeon, fr *cheirourgos* working with the hand, fr *cheir* hand + *ergon* work - more at CHIR-, 'WORK]

**surgical** /suhjɪkl/ *adj* 1a of surgeons or surgery b used in (connection with) surgery (<a ~ stocking>) 2 following or resulting from surgery [surgeon + -ical] - **surgically** *adv*

**surgical spirit** *n*, *Br* a mixture consisting mainly of methylated spirits and used esp as a skin disinfectant

**surly** /suhli/ *adj* irritably sullen and churlish [alter of ME *sirly* lordly, imperious, fr *sir*] - **surlyly** *adv*, **surliness** *n*

**'surmise** /suh'miez/ *vt* to infer on scanty evidence, guess [ME *surmisen* to accuse, fr MF *surmis*, pp of *surmettre*, fr *L. supermittere* to throw on, fr *super-* + *mittere* to send - more at SMITE] - **surmiser** *n*

**'surmise** /suh'miez/ *n* a conjecture or guess - **fmil**

**surmount** /suh'maunt/ *vt* 1 to overcome, conquer (<an obstacle>) 2 to get over or above 3 to stand or lie on the top of [ME *surmounten*, fr MF *surmonter*, fr *sur-* + *monter* to mount] - **surmountable** *adj*

**surname** /suh'naɪm/ *n* the name shared in common by members of a family - **surname** *vt*

**surpass** /suh'pɑːs/ *vt* 1 to go beyond in quality, degree, or performance, exceed 2 to transcend the reach, capacity, or powers of (<her beauty ~es description>) [MF *surpasser*, fr *sur-* + *passer* to pass] - **surpassable** *adj*

**surpassing** /suh'pɑːsɪŋ/ *adj* greatly exceeding others - **surpassingly** *adv*

**surplice** /suhplɪs/ *n* a loose white outer ecclesiastical vestment usu of knee length with large open sleeves [ME *surplis*, fr OF *surpliz*, fr ML *superpellicium*, fr *super-* + *pellicium* coat of skins, fr *L. neut. of pellicius* made of skins, fr *pellis* skin]

**surplus** /suhplʌs/ *n* 1a the amount in excess of what is used or needed b an excess of receipts over disbursements 2 the excess of a company's net worth over the par or stated value of its capital stock [ME, fr MF,

fr ML *superplus*, fr *L. super-* + *plus* more - more at PLUS] - **surplus** *adj*

**surplus value** *n* the difference in Marxist theory between the value of work done or of commodities produced and the wages paid

**'surprise** /sə'prɪz/ *n* 1 an act of taking unawares 2 sth unexpected or surprising 3 the feeling caused by an unexpected event, astonishment [ME, fr MF, fr fem of *surpris*, pp of *surprendre* to take over, surprise, fr *sur-* + *prendre* to take - more at 'PRIZE]

**'surprise** *vt* 1 to attack unexpectedly, also to capture by such action 2 to take unawares (<to ~ someone in the act>) 3 to fill with wonder or amazement - **surpriser** *n*

**surprising** /sə'prɪzɪŋ/ *adj* causing surprise, unexpected - **surprisingly** *adv*

**surra** /sʊərə/ *n* a severe Old World feverish disease of domestic animals that is caused by a trypanosome [Marathi *sura* wheezing sound]

**surreal** /sə'riəl/ *adj* 1 having a dreamlike irrational quality 2 SURREALISTIC 1 [back-formation fr *surrealism*]

**surrealism** /sə'riə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n*, often *cap* a 20th-c movement in art and literature seeking to use the incongruous images formed by the unconscious to transcend reality as perceived by the conscious mind, also surrealistic practices or atmosphere [F *surréalisme*, fr *sur-* + *réalisme* realism] - **surrealist** *n* or *adj*

**surrealistic** /sə,riə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* 1 of surrealism 2 SURREAL 1 - **surrealistically** *adv*

**surejoinder** /suh'n'joɪndə/ *n* a plaintiff's reply to a defendant's rejoinder

**'surrender** /sə'renda/ *vt* 1a to hand over to the power, control, or possession of another, esp under compulsion b to relinquish, GIVE UP 2 to abandon (oneself) to sth unrestrainedly ~ *vi* to give oneself up into the power of another, yield [ME *surrenderen*, fr MF *surrendre*, fr *sur-* + *rendre* to give back, yield - more at RENDER]

**'surrender** *n* 1 the act or an instance of surrendering oneself or sth 2 the voluntary cancellation of an insurance policy by the party insured in return for a payment

**surreptitious** /sʊrəp'tɪʃəs/ *adj* done, made, or acquired by stealth, clandestine [ME, fr *L. surrepticius*, fr *surreptus*, pp of *surripere* to snatch secretly, fr *sub-* + *rapere* to seize - more at RAPID] - **surreptitiously** *adv*, **surreptitiousness** *n*

**surrey** /sʊrɪ/ *n*, *NAm* a 4-wheeled 2-seat horse-drawn carriage [Surrey, county of England]

**surrogate** /sʊrəgət/ *n* 1a a deputy b a local judicial officer in the USA who has jurisdiction over probate and the appointment of guardians 2 sth that serves as a substitute [L *surrogatus*, pp of *surrogare* to choose in place of another, substitute, fr *sub-* + *rogare* to ask - more at 'RIGHT]

**'surround** /sə'raʊnd/ *vt* 1a to enclose on all sides b to be part of the environment of, be present round (<ed by luxury>) c to form a ring round, encircle 2 to cause to be encircled or enclosed by sth [ME *surrounden* to overflow, fr MF *suronder*, fr LL *superundare*, fr *L. super-* + *unda* wave, influenced in meaning by 'round - more at WATER]

**'surround** *n* a border or edging

**surroundings** /sə'raʊndɪŋz/ *n* pl the circumstances, conditions, or objects by which one is surrounded

**surtax** /sʊtɑːks/ *n* a graduated income tax formerly imposed in the UK in addition to the normal income tax if one's net income exceeded a specified sum

**surveillance** /suh'veɪləns, sə-/ *n* close watch kept over sb or sth [F, fr *surveiller* to watch over, fr *sur-* + *veiller* to watch, fr *L. vigilare*, fr *vigil* watchful - more at VIGIL] - **surveillant** *n*

**'survey** /suh'veɪ, '-/ *vt* 1a to look over and examine closely b to examine the condition of and often give a value for (a building) 2 to determine and portray the form, extent, and position of (e.g. a tract of land) 3 to view as a whole or from a height (<ed the panorama below him>) [ME *surveyen*, fr MF *surveier* to look over, fr *sur-* + *veier* to see - more at VIEW]

**'survey** /suh'veɪ/ *n* a surveying or being surveyed; also sth surveyed **surveyor** /sə'veɪ-ə/ *n* sb whose occupation is surveying land [SURVEY + -OR]

**survival** /sə'veɪvl/ *n* 1a the condition of living or continuing (<the ~ of the soul after death>) b the continuation of life or existence (<problems of ~ in arctic conditions>) 2 sb or sth that survives, esp after others of its kind have disappeared

**survival of the fittest** *n* NATURAL SELECTION

**survive** /sə'veɪv/ *vi* to remain alive or in existence, live on (<managed to ~ on bread and water>) ~ *vt* 1 to remain alive or in being after the death

- of <his son ~d him> 2 to continue to exist or live after <~d the earthquake> [ME *surviven*, fr MF *survivre* to outlive, fr L *supervivere*, fr *super-* + *vivere* to live – more at QUICK] – **survivable** *adj*, **survivor** *n*, **survivability** /-və'bɪləti/ *n*
- sus** /sʊs/ *n* suspicion of loitering with intent to commit a crime (<~ laws> – not used technically [short for *suspicion*])
- susceptibility** /sə'septə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 being susceptible 2 *pl* feelings, sensibilities 3 the ratio of the magnetization in a substance to the corresponding magnetizing force
- susceptible** /sə'septə'bəl/ *adj* 1 capable of submitting to an action, process, or operation 2 open, subject, or unresistant to some stimulus, influence, or agency 3 easily moved or emotionally affected; impressionable [LL *susceptibilis*, fr L *susceptus*, pp of *suscipere* to take up, admit, fr *sub-*, *sus-* up + *capere* to take – more at SUB-, HEAVE] – **susceptibility** *n*, **susceptibly** *adv*
- susceptive** /sə'septɪv/ *adj* 1 receptive 2 susceptible – **susceptiveness**, **susceptivity** /sə'septɪvə'ti/ *n*
- suslik** /sʊs'lik/ *n* any of several rather large short-tailed E European and Asian burrowing rodents [Russ]
- suspect** /sʊ'spekt/ *adj* (deserving to be) regarded with suspicion [ME, fr MF, fr L *suspectus*, fr pp of *suscipere*]
- suspect** *n* sby who is suspected
- suspect** /sʊ'spekt/ *vt* 1 to be suspicious of; distrust 2 to believe to be guilty without conclusive proof 3 to imagine to be true, likely, or probable [ME *suspecten*, fr L *suspectare*, fr *suspectus*, pp of *suscipere* to look up at, regard with awe, suspect, fr *sub-*, *sus-* up, secretly + *specere* to look at – more at SUB-, SPY]
- suspend** /sə'spend/ *vt* 1 to debar temporarily from a privilege, office, membership, or employment 2 to make temporarily inoperative (<~ the rules>) 3 to defer till later on certain conditions (<a ~ed sentence>) 4 to withhold (<~ judgment>) 5a to hang, esp so as to be free on all sides b to hold immobile in a liquid or air (<dust ~ed in the air>) [ME *suspenden*, fr OF *suspendre* to hang up, interrupt, fr L *suspendere*, fr *sub-*, *sus-* up + *pendere* to cause to hang, weigh – more at SUB-, PENDANT]
- suspending animation** /sə'spendɪŋ/ *n* temporary suspension of the vital functions (e.g. in people nearly drowned)
- suspender** /sə'spendə/ *n* 1 an elasticated band with a fastening device for holding up a sock 2 *Br* any of the fastening devices on a suspender belt 3 *NAm* BRACE 4c – usu *pl* with sing meaning [SUSPEND + -ER]
- sus'pender belt** *n*, *Br* a garment consisting of 2 pairs of short straps hanging from a belt or girdle to which are attached fastening devices for holding up a woman's stockings
- suspense** /sə'spens/ *n* a state of uncertain expectation as to a decision or outcome [ME, fr MF, fr *suspendre*] – **suspenseful** *adj*
- suspension** /sə'spensh(ə)n/ *n* 1a temporary removal from office or privileges b temporary withholding or postponement c temporary abolishing of a law or rule d (the sustaining of) 1 or more notes of a chord held over into the following chord producing a momentary discord 2a hanging or being hung b (the state of or a system consisting of) a solid that is dispersed, but not dissolved, in a solid, liquid, or gas, usu in particles of larger than colloidal size 3 the system of devices supporting the upper part of a vehicle on the axles [LL *suspensio*-, *suspensio*, fr L *suspensus*, pp of *suspendere*]
- sus'pension bridge** *n* a type of bridge that has its roadway suspended from 2 or more cables
- suspensive** /sə'spensɪv/ *adj* characterized by suspense or having the power to suspend – **suspensively** *adv*
- suspensory** /sə'spens(ə)n/ *adj* held in suspension; serving to suspend
- suspensory ligament** *n* a membrane that holds the lens of the eye in position
- suspicion** /sə'spɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a suspecting or being suspected (<arrested on ~ of spying>) b a feeling of doubt or mistrust 2 a slight touch or trace (<just a ~ of garlic>) [ME, fr L *suspicio*-, *suspicio*, fr *suscipere* to suspect – more at SUSPECT]
- suspicious** /sə'spɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 tending to arouse suspicion, dubious 2 inclined to suspect; distrustful (<~ of strangers>) 3 expressing or indicating suspicion – **suspiciously** *adv*, **suspiciousness** *n*
- suss** /sʊs/ *vt*, *Br* to uncover the truth about; detect (<soon ~ed that he was lying>) – slang [by shortening & alter. fr *suspect*]
- Sussex spaniel** /sʊ'sɪks/ *n* any of a British breed of golden-haired spaniels with a short neck and legs and a long body [Sussex, county of England]
- suss out** *vt*, *Br* to reconnoitre – slang
- sustain** /sə'steɪn/ *vt* 1 to give support or relief to 2 to provide with sustenance 3 to cause to continue; prolong 4 to support the weight of 5 to buoy up the spirits of 6a to bear up under, endure b to suffer, undergo 7 to allow as valid (<the court ~ed the motion>) [ME *sustenēn*, fr OF *sustenir*, fr L *sustinere* to hold up, sustain, fr *sub-*, *sus-* up + *tenere* to hold – more at SUB-, THIN] – **sustainable** *adj*, **sustainer** *n*
- sustenance** /sʊ'stɪnəns/ *n* 1a means of support, maintenance, or subsistence b food, provisions, also nourishment 2 sustaining [ME, fr OF, fr *sustenir*]
- sustentation** /sʊ'stɪntə'sh(ə)n/ *n* maintenance, upkeep – *fml* [ME, fr MF, fr L *sustentatio*-, *sustentatio* act of holding up, fr *sustentatus*, pp of *sustentare* to hold up, fr *sustentus*, pp of *sustinere*] – **sustentative** /sʊ'stɪntətɪv/ *adj*
- susurratio** /sʊ'oʊh'sə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a whispering or rustling sound – *fml* [ME, fr LL *susurratio*-, *susurratio*, fr L *susurratus*, pp of *susurrare* to whisper, fr *susurrus* whisper, hum – more at SWARM]
- sutler** /sʊtlə/ *n* sby who sold provisions to an army in former times [obs D *soeteler*, fr LG *suteler* sloppy worker, camp cook, akin to OE *besutan* to dirty, Gk *hycin* to rain – more at SUCK]
- sutra** /sʊ'hoʊtrə/ *n* 1 a Hindu, esp Vedic, precept, also a collection of these precepts 2 a discourse of the Buddha [Skt *sūtra* thread, string of precepts, *sūtra*, akin to L *suere* to sew – more at SEW]
- suttee** /sʊ'tee, 't-:/ *n* the custom of a Hindu widow willingly being cremated on the funeral pile of her husband, also such a widow [Skt *sati* wife who performs *suttee*, lit, good woman, fr fem of *sat* true, good, akin to OE *sōth* true – more at SOOTH]
- suture** /sʊ'oʊtʃə/ *n* 1a (a strand or fibre used in) the sewing together of parts of the living body b a stitch made with a suture 2a the solid join between 2 bones (e.g. of the skull) b a furrow at the junction of animal or plant parts [MF & L, MF, fr I *sutura* seam, suture, fr *sutus*, pp of *suere* to sew] – **sutural** *adj*, **suturally** *adv*
- suture** *vt* to unite, close, or secure with sutures (<~ a wound>)
- suzerain** /sʊ'oʊz(ə)reɪn/ *n* 1 a feudal overlord 2 a dominant state controlling the foreign relations of an internally autonomous vassal state [F, fr (assumed) MF *suzerain*, fr MF *sus* up (fr L *sursum*, fr *sub-* up + *versum* -wards, fr neut of *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn) + *-erain* (as in *sovereign* sovereign) – more at SUB-, WORTH] – **suzerainty** /-rənti/ *n*
- svedberg** /s'vedbɜːg, sved-/ *n* a unit of time equal to 10<sup>-15</sup> s that is used to measure the speed with which particles in dispersion form a precipitate in an ultracentrifuge [The *Svedberg* †1971 Sw chemist]
- svelte** /s'fɛlt, svelt/ *adj* slender, lithe [F, fr It *svelto* fr pp of *sveltere* to pluck out, modif of L *evellere*, fr *e-* + *vellere* to pluck – more at VULNERABLE] – **sveltleness** *n*
- Svengali** /s'fɛn'gəli, sven-/ *n* one who attempts, sometimes with sinister motives, to influence or mould another [Svengali, sinister hypnotist in the novel *Trilby* by George Du Maurier †1896 E artist & writer]
- swab** /swɒb/ *n* 1 a wad of absorbent material used for applying medication, cleaning wounds, taking bacterial specimens, etc 2 a specimen taken with a swab [prob fr obs D *swabbe*, akin to LG *swabber* mop]
- swab** *vt* -bb- 1 to clean (a wound) with a swab 2 to clean (a surface, esp a deck) by washing (e.g. with a mop) – often + *down* [back-formation fr *swabber* mop; akin to LG *swabber* mop, ME *swabben* to sway] – **swabber** *n*
- swaddle** /s'wɒdl/ *vt* **swaddling** /s'wɒdlɪŋ/ 1 to wrap (an infant) in swaddling clothes 2 to swathe, envelop [ME *swadelen*, *swathelen*, prob alter of *swedelen*, *swethelen*, fr *swethel* swaddling band, fr OE, akin to OE *swathan* to swathe]
- swaddling clothes** /s'wɒdlɪŋ/ *n pl* narrow strips of cloth wrapped round an infant to restrict movement
- swag** /swag/ *vt* -gg- to hang (e.g. tapestries or curtains) in heavy folds [prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *svægga* to cause to sway, akin to OHG *swingan* to swing]
- swag** *n* 1a sth (e.g. a moulded decoration) hanging in a curve between 2 points b a suspended cluster (e.g. of flowers) c an arrangement of fabric hanging in a heavy curve or fold 2 chiefly Austr a pack or roll of personal belongings 3 goods acquired, esp by unlawful means, loot – *informal*
- swage** /swaɪ/ *n* a tool for shaping metal by hammering [ME, ornamental border, fr MF *souage*]
- swage** *vt* to shape (as if) by means of a swage
- swage block** *n* a perforated cast-iron or steel block with a variety of grooved sides that is used in shaping metal (e.g. into bolts)
- swagger** /swagə/ *vt* to behave in an arrogant or pompous manner; esp to walk with an air of overbearing self-confidence or self-satisfaction [prob fr 'swag + -er (as in *chatter*)] – **swaggerer** *n*, **swaggeringly** *adv*
- swagger** *n* 1 an act or instance of swaggering 2 arrogant or conceitedly self-assured behaviour

**'swagger, stick** *n* a short light usu leather-covered stick

**swaggle** /'swagi/ *n*, *Austr & NZ* a swagman

**'swagman** /-man/ *n*, chiefly *Austr* a tramp, esp one who carries a swag

**Swahili** /swah'heeli/ *n*, *pl Swahilis*, esp collectively **Swahili** 1 a member of a Bantu-speaking people of Zanzibar and the adjacent coast 2 a Bantu language used in trade and government in E Africa and the Congo region ~ <sup>3</sup> *LANGUAGE* [Ar *sawahil*, *pl* of *sahil* coast]

**swain** /sweɪn/ *n* 1 a male admirer or suitor 2 a peasant, specif a shepherd - chiefly poetic [ME *swēin* boy, servant, fr ON *sveinn*, akin to OE *swan* swain, L *suus* one's own - more at **SUICIDE**]

**'swallow** /'swoloh/ *n* any of numerous small long-winged migratory birds noted for their graceful flight, that have a short bill, a forked tail, and feed on insects caught while flying [ME *swalowe*, fr OE *swēalwe*, akin to OHG *swalawa* swallow, Russ *solovei* nightingale]

**'swallow** *vt* 1 to take through the mouth and oesophagus into the stomach 2 to envelop, engulf (<ed up by the shadows>) 3 to accept without question or protest, also to believe naively 4 to refrain from expressing or showing 5 to utter indistinctly ~ *vi* 1 to receive sth into the body through the mouth and oesophagus 2 to perform the action of swallowing sthg, esp under emotional stress [ME *swalowen*, fr OE *swelgan*, akin to OHG *swelgan* to swallow] - **swallowable** *adj*, **swallower** *n*

**'swallow** *n* 1 an act of swallowing 2 an amount that can be swallowed at one time

**'swallow, dive** *n*, *Br* a forward dive executed with the back arched and arms spread sideways

**'swallow, hole** *n* SINK HOLE 2

**'swallow, tail** /-tayl/ *1* a deeply forked and tapering tail (e.g. of a swallow) 2 a tailcoat 3 any of various large butterflies with the hind wing lengthened to resemble a tail ~ <sup>3</sup> *TAIL CYCLE* - **swallow-tailed** *adj*

**'swallow, wort** /-wuht/ *n* 1 **CLANDINE** 2 any of several plants of the milkweed family [fr the shape of the pods]

**swam** /swam/ *past* of **SWIM**

**swami** /'swahmi/ *n* a Hindu ascetic or religious teacher - used as a title [Hindi *svami*, fr Skt *svamin* owner, lord, fr *sva* one's own - more at **SUICIDE**]

**'swamp** /swomp/ *n* (an area of) wet spongy land sometimes covered with water [alter of ME *sompe*, fr MD *somp* morass, akin to MHG *sumpf* marsh, Gk *somphos* spongy] - **swamp** *adj*, **swampy** *adj*, **swampiness** *n*

**'swamp** *vt* 1 to inundate, submerge 2 to overwhelm by an excess of work, difficulties, etc

**'swan** /swon/ *n* any of various heavy-bodied long-necked mostly pure white aquatic birds that are larger than geese and are graceful swimmers [ME, fr OE, akin to MHG *swan*, L *sonus* sound - more at **'SOUND**]

**'swan** *vi* -*nn*- to wander or travel aimlessly - *infrml*

**'swan, dive** *n*, *NAm* **SWALLOW DIVE**

**'swan, herd** /-huhd/ *n* sby who tends swans

**'swank** /swangk/ *vi* to swagger, show off - *infrml* [perh fr MHG *swanken* to sway, akin to MD *swanc* supple]

**'swank** *n* (one given to) pretentiousness or swagger - *infrml*

**swanky** /'swangk/ *adj* 1 showy, ostentatious 2 fashionably elegant, smart *USE* *infrml*

**swannery** /swon(ə)n/ *n* a place where swans are bred or kept

**swansdown** /'swonz,down/ *n* 1 the soft downy feathers of the swan used esp as trimming on articles of dress 2 a heavy cotton flannel that has a thick nap on the face

**'swan, song** *n* 1 a song said to be sung by a dying swan 2 a farewell appearance or final work or pronouncement

**'swan, upping** /-upɪŋ/ *n* the annual inspection and marking of royal swans on the River Thames [upping fr gerund of 'up (to drive up & catch)]

**'swap** /swop/ *vb* -*pp*- *vt* to give in exchange; barter ~ *vi* to make an exchange (< over to a metric system>) [ME *swappen* to strike, fr the practice of striking hands in closing a business deal] - **swapper** *n*

**'swap** *n* 1 the act of exchanging one thing for another 2 sthg exchanged for another

**swaraj** /swə'rahi/ *n* Indian self-government [Skt *svaraj* self-ruling, fr *sva* one's self + *raja* rule - more at **SUICIDE**, **RAJ**] - **swarajist** *n*

**'sward** /swawd/ *n* (a piece of ground covered with) a surface of short grass [ME, fr OE *sward*, *swearth* skin, rind; akin to MHG *swart* skin, hide, L *operire* to cover - more at **WEIR**] - **swarded** *adj*

**'swarf** /swahf, swawf/ *n* material (e.g. metallic particles and abrasive fragments) removed by a cutting or grinding tool [of Scand origin; akin

to ON *svarf* file dust, akin to OE *sweorfan* to file away - more at **SWFRVI**]

**'swarm** /swawm/ *n* 1a a colony of honeybees, esp when emigrating from a hive with a queen bee to start a new colony elsewhere b a cluster of free-floating or free-swimming zoospores or other single-celled organisms 2 *sing* or *pl* in constr a group of animate or inanimate things, esp when massing together (<~s of sightseers>) [ME, fr OE *swearm*, akin to OHG *swaram* swarm, & prob to L *susurrus* hum]

**'swarm** *vi* 1 to collect together and depart from a hive 2 to move or assemble in a crowd 3 to contain a swarm, teem (<streets ~ing with cars>) **swarmer** *n*

**'swarm** *vi* to climb, esp with the hands and feet - usu ~ *up* (< up a tree>) [origin unknown]

**'swarm, spore** *n* a zoospore or other minute mobile spore

**'swarthy** /'swawdhi/ *adj* of a dark colour, complexion, or cast [alter of obs *swarty*, fr *swart* (dark), fr ME, fr OE *swært*, akin to OHG *swartz* black, L *sordes* dirt] - **swarthy** *n*

**'swash** /'swosh/ *adj*, of a typographical letter having strokes ending in a flourish [obs *swash* (slanting)]

**'swash, buckler** /-buklə/ *n* a swaggering adventurer or daredevil [swash (to bluster, swagger, move violently & noisily, prob of imit origin) + *buckler*]

**'swash, buckling** /-buklɪŋ/ *adj* characteristic of or behaving like a swashbuckler [swashbuckler]

**swastika** /'swostika/ *n* an ancient symbol in the shape of a cross with the ends of the arms extended at right angles in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction [Skt *svastika*, fr *svasti* welfare, fr *su-* well + *asti* he is, akin to OE *is*, fr its being regarded as a good luck symbol]

**'swat** /swot/ *vt* -*tt*- to hit with a sharp slapping blow, esp to kill (an insect) with such a blow [E dial, to squat, alter of E *squat*]

**'swat** *n* 1 a quick crushing blow 2 a swatter

**'swatch** /'swotʃ/ *n* a sample piece (e.g. of fabric) [origin unknown]

**'swath** /'swaθ/ *n* 1a a row of cut grain or grass left by a scythe or mowing machine b the path cut in 1 passage (e.g. of a mower) 2 a long broad strip 3 a space cleared as if by a scythe [ME, fr OE *swæth* footstep, trace, akin to MHG *swade* swath]

**'swathe** /'swaydh/ *vt* 1 to bind or wrap (as if) with a bandage 2 to envelop [ME *swathen*, fr OE *swathan*, akin to ON *svatha* to swathe, Lith *svaigti* to become dizzy] - **swather** *n*

**'swathe** *n* a swath

**swatter** /'swotə/ *n* a flyswatter

**'sway** /sway/ *vi* 1a(1) to swing slowly and rhythmically back and forth (2) to walk in a swaying manner b to move gently from an upright to a leaning position 2 to fluctuate or alternate between one attitude or position and another ~ *vt* 1 to cause to swing, rock, or oscillate 2a to exert a controlling influence on b to change the opinions of esp by eloquence or argument 3 to hoist in place (< up a mast>) [alter of earlier *swēy* (to fail, swoon), fr ME *swēyen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *svēigja* to sway, akin to OE *swathan* to swathe] - **swayer** *n*

**'sway** *n* 1 swaying or being swayed 2a controlling influence or power (<the Church held ~>) b rule, dominion

**'sway, back** /-bak/ *n* (the abnormal condition, esp in horses, of having) a sagging back - **swaybacked** *adj*

**'swear** /swə/ *vb* *swore* /swaw/, *sworn* /swawm/ *vt* 1 to utter or take (an oath) solemnly 2a to assert as true or promise under oath (<a sworn affidavit>) b to promise emphatically or earnestly (<she swore not to be late>) 3a to administer an oath to b to bind by an oath (<swore him to secrecy>) ~ *vi* 1 to take an oath 2 to use profane or obscene language [ME *sweren*, fr OE *swerian*, akin to OHG *sweren* to swear, Russ *svara* altercation] - **swearer** *n* - **swear** *by* to place great confidence in - **swear** *to* to have any positive conviction of (<couldn't swear to his being the same man>)


**'swear in** *vt* to induct into office by administration of an oath

**'swear out** *vt*, *NAm* to procure (a warrant for arrest) by making a sworn accusation

**'sweat** /swet/ *vb* *sweated*, *NAm* chiefly *sweat* *vi* 1 to excrete sweat in visible quantities 2a to emit or exude moisture (<cheese ~s in ripening>) b to gather surface moisture as a result of condensation c esp of tobacco FERMENT 1 3 to undergo anxiety or tension ~ *vt* 1 to (seem to) emit from pores, exude 2 to get rid of (as if) by sweating (< out a fever>) 3a to cause (e.g. a patient) to sweat b to exact work from under sweatshop conditions 4 to cause to exude or lose moisture: e.g. a to subject (esp tobacco) to fermentation b to cook (e.g. vegetables) gently in melted fat until the juices run out 5 to heat (e.g. solder) so as to melt and cause to run, esp between surfaces to unite them, also to unite by such means (< a pipe joint>) [ME

- sweten*, fr OE *swētan*, fr *swat* sweat; akin to OHG *swetz* sweat, L *sudor* sweat, *sudare* to sweat] – **sweat blood** to work or worry intensely
- sweat** *n* 1 the fluid excreted from the sweat glands on the skin, perspiration 2 moisture gathering in drops on a surface 3a the state of one sweating (*in a cold* ~) b a spell of sweating 4 hard work, drudgery 5 a state of anxiety or impatience *USE* (4&5) *infrml* – no sweat not a problem or difficulty – *infrml* (*I can do that all right*, no sweat)
- sweatband** /-bænd/ *n* a band of material worn round the head or wrist or inserted in a hat or cap to absorb sweat
- sweated** *adj* of or produced under a sweatshop system (< ~ labour) (< ~ goods)
- sweater** /swetə/ *n* JUMPER 1  GARMENT ['SWEAT + -ER]
- sweat gland** *n* a tubular gland in the skin that secretes sweat through a minute pore on the surface of the skin  NERVE
- sweating sickness** *n* an epidemic fever characterized by profuse sweating and rapid death that appeared in Britain in the 15th and 16th c
- sweatlet** /swetli/ *n* a band of towelling worn round the wrist, esp in tennis, to absorb perspiration
- sweat out** *vt* to endure or wait through the course of
- sweat shirt** *n* a loose collarless pullover of heavy cotton jersey
- sweatshop** /-shop/ *n* a place of work in which workers are employed for long hours at low wages and under unhealthy conditions
- sweaty** /sweti/ *adj* 1 covered with or smelling of sweat 2 causing sweat – *sweatily* *adv*, *sweatiness* *n*
- swede** /swed/ *n* 1 *cap* a native or inhabitant of Sweden 2 a large type of turnip with edible yellow flesh [LG or obs D, (2) fr its having been introduced into Scotland from Sweden]
- Swedish** /swedish/ *n* 1 the N Germanic language spoken in Sweden and part of Finland  LANGUAGE 2 *pl in constr* the people of Sweden [Sweden, country of NW Europe] – *Swedish* *adj*
- sweep** /sweep/ *vb* **swept** /swept/ *vt* 1a to remove or clean (as if) by brushing b to destroy completely; WIPE OUT – *usu* + *away* c to remove or take with a single forceful action (< *sweep the books off the desk*) d to drive or carry along with irresistible force 2 to move through or along with overwhelming speed or violence (< *a new craze ~ing the country*) 3 to move lightly over with a rapid continuous movement 4 to cover the entire range of (< *his eyes swept the horizon*) 5 to play a sweep in cricket at ~ *vi* 1a to clean a surface (as if) by brushing b to move swiftly, forcefully, or devastatingly 2 to go with stately or sweeping movements (< *she swept out of the room*) 3 to move or extend in a wide curve (< *the hills ~ down to the sea*) 4 to play a sweep in cricket [ME *swepen*; akin to OE *swapan* to sweep – more at SWOOP] – **sweep someone off his/her feet** to gain immediate and unquestioning support, approval, or acceptance by sb; esp to cause sb to fall in love with one – **sweep the board** to win convincingly, win everything (e.g. in a contest)
- sweep** *n* 1a a long ear b a windmill sail 2 a clearing out or away (as if) with a broom 3 a military reconnaissance or attack ranging over a particular area 4a a curving course or line b the compass of a sweeping movement c a broad extent (*unbroken ~ of woodland*) 5 a sweepstake 6 obliquity with respect to a reference line 7 an attacking stroke in cricket played on one knee with a horizontal bat and designed to send the ball behind the batsman on the leg side
- sweepback** /-bak/ *n* the backward slant of an aircraft wing in which the outer portion of the wing is behind the inner portion
- sweeper** /sweepə/ *n* a defensive player in soccer who plays behind the backs as a last line of defence before the goalkeeper  SPORT ['SWEEP + -ER]
- sweeping** /sweeping/ *adj* 1 extending in a wide curve or over a wide area 2a extensive, wide-ranging (< ~ reforms) b marked by wholesale and indiscriminate inclusion – *sweepingly* *adv*, *sweepingness* *n*
- sweepings** *n pl* refuse, rubbish, etc collected by sweeping
- sweep-second hand** *n* a watch or clock hand marking seconds that is mounted with the other hands and read on the same dial
- sweepstake** /-stayk/ *n* 1 a race or contest in which the entire prize is awarded to the winner 2 a lottery *USE* often *pl* with *sing.* meaning but *sing.* or *pl* in *constr* [ME *sweepstake* one who wins all the stakes in a game, fr *sweepen* to sweep + *stake*]
- sweet** /sweet/ *adj* 1a being or inducing the one of the 4 basic taste sensations that is typically induced by sucrose – compare BITTER, SALT, SOUR b of a beverage containing a sweetening ingredient; not dry 2a delightful, charming b marked by gentle good humour or kindness c fragrant d pleasing to the ear or eye 3 much loved 4a not sour, rancid, decaying, or stale b not salt or salty; fresh (< ~ butter) (< ~ water) c free from noxious gases and smells d free from excess of acid, sulphur, or corrosive salts (< ~ petroleum) [ME *swete*, fr OE *swete*; akin to OHG *suozī* sweet, L *suavis*, Gk *hedys*] – *sweetish* *adj*, *sweetly* *adv*, *sweetness* *n*
- sweet** *n* 1 a darling or sweetheart 2 Br a dessert b a toffee, truffle, or other small piece of confectionery prepared with (flavoured or filled) chocolate or sugar; esp one made chiefly of (boiled and crystallized) sugar
- sweet-and-sour** *adj* seasoned with a sauce containing sugar and vinegar or lemon juice (< ~ pork)
- sweet basil** *n* a common basil with white flowers tinged with purple and leaves used as a herb in cooking
- sweet bay** *n* LAUREL 1
- sweetbread** /-bred/ *n* the pancreas or thymus of a young animal (e.g. a calf) used for food
- sweetbrier** /-brieə/ *n* an Old World rose with stout prickles and white to deep rosy pink flowers
- sweet cherry** *n* (the large sweet fruit of) a white-flowered Eurasian cherry that is a cultivated variety of *gean*
- sweet chestnut** *n* SPANISH CHESTNUT
- sweet cicely** *n* a European plant of the carrot family with a strong aniseed smell [*cicely* by folk etymology fr *seseli* (a genus of perennial herbs), fr NL, fr L *seselis*, fr Gk]
- sweet corn** *n* (the young kernels of) a maize with kernels that contain a high percentage of sugar and are eaten as a vegetable when young and milky
- sweeten** /sweet(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to make (more) sweet 2 to soften the mood or attitude of 3 to make less painful or trying 4 to free from sth undesirable, esp to remove sulphur compounds from (< ~ natural gas) ~ *vi* to become sweet – *sweetener* *n*
- sweetheart** /-haht/ *n* a darling, lover
- sweetie** /sweeti/ *n* 1 SWEET 1 2 Br SWEET 2b *USE* *infrml*
- sweetie pie** *n* SWEET 1 – *infrml*
- sweeting** /sweeting/ *n* a sweet apple [ME *sweting*, fr *swete* sweet + *-ing* of (such) a kind, fr OE *-ing*, *-ung*]
- sweetmeat** /-meet/ *n* a crystallized fruit, sugar-coated nut, or other sweet or delicacy rich in sugar
- sweet pea** *n* a leguminous garden plant with slender climbing stems and large fragrant flowers
- sweet pepper** *n* (a pepper plant bearing) a large mild thick-walled capsicum fruit
- sweet potato** *n* (the large sweet edible tuberous root of) a tropical climbing plant of the bindweed family with purplish flowers
- sweet-talk** *vt*, chiefly *NAm* to blandish, coax – *infrml*
- sweet talk** *n*, chiefly *NAm* flattery – *infrml*
- sweet tooth** *n* a craving or fondness for sweet food
- sweet william** *n*, often *cap W* a widely cultivated Eurasian pink with small (mottled or striped) white to deep red or purple flowers [fr the name *William*]
- swell** /swel/ *vb* **swollen** /'swoln/, **swelled** *vi* 1a to expand gradually beyond a normal or original limit b to be distended or puffed up (< *her ankle is badly swollen*) c to curve outwards or upwards; bulge 2 to become charged with emotion ~ *vi* 1 to affect with a powerful emotion 2 to increase the size, number, or intensity of [ME *swellen*, fr OE *swellan*, akin to OHG *swellan* to swell]
- swell** *n* 1 a rounded protuberance or bulge 2 a (massive) surge of water, often continuing beyond or after its cause (e.g. a gale) 3a swelling b(1) a gradual increase and decrease of the loudness of a musical sound (2) a device used in an organ for governing loudness (3) *also* **swell organ** a division of an organ in which the pipes are enclosed in a box with shutters that open or shut to regulate the volume of sound 4 a person of fashion or high social position – *infrml*
- swell** *adj*, chiefly *NAm* excellent
- swelling** /sweling/ *n* 1 sth swollen, *specif* an abnormal bodily protuberance or enlargement 2 being swollen
- swelter** /swelta/ *vi* to suffer, sweat, or be faint from heat [ME *sweltren*, freq of *swelten* to die, be overcome by heat, fr OE *sweltan* to die; akin to OHG *swelzan* to burn up, & prob to OE *swelan* to burn]
- swelter** *n* a state of oppressive heat
- sweltering** /swelt(ə)ning/ *adj* oppressively hot – *swelteringly* *adv*
- swept-back** /swept/ *adj* possessing sweepback
- swept-wing** *adj* having swept-back wings
- swerve** /swu:vh/ *vb* to (cause to) turn aside abruptly from a straight line or course [ME *swerven*, fr OE *swearfan* to wipe, file away; akin to OHG *swerban* to wipe off, Gk *syrein* to drag] – *swerve* *n*
- swift** /swift/ *adj* 1 (capable of) moving at great speed 2 occurring


- suddenly or within a very short time 3 quick to respond, ready [ME, fr OE, akin to OE *swifan* to revolve – more at *swifter*] – **swift** *adv*, **swiftly** *adv*, **swiftness** *n*
- \*swift** *n* 1 any of several lizards that run swiftly 2 any of numerous dark-coloured birds noted for their fast darting flight in pursuit of insects, that superficially resemble swallows but are related to the hummingbirds and nightjars
- 'swig** /swig/ *n* a quantity drunk in 1 draught – *infml* [origin unknown]
- \*swig** *vb* -gg- to drink (sthg) in long draughts – *infml* – **swigger** *n*
- 'swill** /swil/ *vt* 1 to wash, esp by flushing with water 2 to drink greedily – *vi* to drink or eat freely or greedily [ME *swilen*, fr OE *swillan*] – **swiller** *n*
- \*swill** *n* 1 a semiliquid food for animals (e.g. pigs) composed of edible refuse mixed with water or skimmed or sour milk 2 **RUBBISH** 1
- 'swim** /swim/ *vb* -mm-; **swam** /swam/, **swum** /swum/ *vt* 1 to propel oneself in water by bodily movements (e.g. of the limbs, fins, or tail) 2 to surmount difficulties, not go under (<sink or ~>) 3 to become immersed (as if) in a liquid (<live ~ming in gravy>) 4 to have a floating or dizzy effect or sensation – *vt* 1a to cross by swimming b to use (a stroke) in swimming 2 to cause to swim or float [MF *swimmen*, fr OE *swimman*, akin to OHG *swimman* to swim] – **swimmer** *n* – **swim against the tide** to move counter to the prevailing or popular trend
- \*swim** *n* 1 an act or period of swimming 2a an area frequented by fish b the main current of events (<be in the ~>)
- 'swim bladder** *n* the air bladder of a fish
- swimmable** /'swiməbl/ *adj* capable of being swum
- swimmeret** /'swiməret/ *n* any of a series of small unspecialized appendages under the abdomen of many crustaceans that are used for swimming or carrying eggs
- swimming** /'swimming/ *adj* capable of, adapted to, or used in or for swimming
- 'swimming bath** *n*, *Br* a usu indoor swimming pool – often pl with *ing* meaning both *ing* or pl in constr
- 'swimming costume** *n*, *chiefly Br* a close-fitting usu woman's garment for swimming
- 'swimmingly** /-li/ *adv* very well, splendidly – *infml* (<everything went ~>)
- 'swimming pool** *n* an artificial pool made for people to swim in
- 'swim suit** /-/sɪjəsuɪt/ *n* **SWIMMING COSTUME**
- 'swindle** /'swɪndl/ *vb* **swindling** /'swɪndlɪŋ/ to obtain property or take property from by fraud [back-formation fr *swindler*, fr G *schwindler* giddy person, fr *schwindeln* to be dizzy, fr OHG *swintlon*, freq of *swintan* to diminish, vanish, akin to OE *swindan* to vanish, OIr *a-sennad* finally] – **swindler** *n*
- \*swindle** *n* a fraud, deceit
- swine** /swɪn/ *n*, *pl* **swine** 1 **PIG** 1a – used esp technically or in literature 2 a contemptible person 3 sthg unpleasant (<a ~ of a job>) *USE* (2 & 3) *infml* [ME, fr OE *swin*, akin to OHG *swin* swine, L *sus* – more at 'sow] – **swinish** *adj*
- 'swine fever** *n* a highly infectious often fatal virus disease of pigs
- 'swine herd** /-/hɜrd/ *n* sby who tends pigs
- 'swing** /swing/ *vb* **swung** /swung/ *vt* 1a to cause to move vigorously through a wide arc or circle b(1) to cause to pivot or rotate (2) to cause to face or move in another direction (<the car into a side road>) c to make (a delivery of a cricket ball) swing 2 to suspend so as to allow to sway (<to ~ a hammock>) 3 to play or sing (e.g. a melody) in the style of swing music 4a to influence decisively (<a lot of votes>) b to manage, BRING ABOUT (<wasn't able to ~ that trip to Vienna>) – *vi* 1a to move freely to and fro, esp when hanging from an overhead support b of a bowled ball to deviate from a straight path while travelling through the air before reaching the batsman 2 to die by hanging 3a to turn (as if) on a hinge or pivot (<she swung on her heel>) b to convey oneself by grasping a fixed support 4 to play or sing with a lively compelling rhythm, *specif* to play swing music 5 to shift or fluctuate between 2 moods, opinions, etc 6a to move along rhythmically (<~ing down the street>) b to start up in a smooth rapid manner (<ready to ~ into action>) 7 to engage freely in sex, *specif* wife-swapping – *slang* *USE* (vt 4; vi 2) *infml* [ME *swingen* to beat, fling, hurl, rush, fr OE *swingan* to beat, fling oneself, rush, akin to OHG *swingan* to fling, rush] – **swingable** *adj*, **swinger** *n*
- \*swing** *n* 1a(1) a stroke or blow delivered with a sweeping arm movement (2) a sweeping or rhythmic movement of the body or a bodily part b the regular movement of a freely suspended object to and fro along an arc c a steady vigorous rhythm or action (<soon got into the ~ of it>) d(1) a trend towards a high or low point in a fluctuating cycle (e.g. of business activity) (2) a shift from one condition, form, position, or object of attention or favour to another 2 the progression of an activity, course (<the work is in full ~>) 3 the arc or range through which sthg swings (<a ~ of 10% to Labour>) 4 a suspended seat on which one may swing to and fro 5 jazz played usu by a large dance band and characterized by a steady lively rhythm, simple harmony, and a basic melody often submerged in improvisation – **swing** *adj*
- 'swing door** *n* a door that can be pushed open from either side and that swings closed when released
- swingeing**, **swinging** /'swɪnjɪŋ/ *adj*, *chiefly Br* severe, drastic (<~ cuts in public expenditure>) [fr *prp* of *swinge* (to beat, scourge), fr ME *swengen* to shake, fr OE *swengan*, akin to OE *swigan*]
- swinging** /'swɪnjɪŋ/ *adj* lively and up-to-date – *infml* [fr *prp* of 'swing]
- swingletree** /'swɪŋɡlɪtɹi/ *n* the pivoted swinging bar to which the traces of a harness are attached and by which a vehicle or implement (e.g. a plough) is drawn [swingle (cudgel, fr ME *swingel*, fr MD *swinghel*) + tree]
- swingometer** /'swɪŋɡə'mɪtə/ *n* a device for representing statistical movements, esp in the electoral support of a party, on a dial – *infml*
- 'swing-wing** *adj* of or being an aircraft having movable wings giving the best angles of sweepback for both low and high speeds
- 'swipe** /swi:p/ *n* a strong sweeping blow – *infml* [prob alter of 'sweep]
- \*swipe** *vi* to strike or hit out with a sweeping motion – *vt* 1 to strike or wipe with a sweeping motion 2 to steal, pilfer *USE* *infml*
- 'swirl** /swɜ:l/ *n* 1 a whirling mass or motion 2 a twisting shape, mark, or pattern [ME (Sc)] – **swirly** *adj*
- \*swirl** *vi* to move in eddies or whirls – **swirlingly** *adv*
- 'swish** /swɪʃ/ *vb* to move with (the sound of) a swish (<windscreen wipers ~ing>) /a cow ~ing its tail/; [imit] – **swisher** *n*, **swishingly** *adv*
- 'swish** *n* 1a a sound as of a whip cutting the air b a light sweeping or brushing sound 2 a swishing movement – **swishy** *adj*
- \*swish** *adj* smart, fashionable – *infml* [origin unknown]
- 'Swiss** /swɪs/ *n*, *pl* **Swiss** a native or inhabitant of Switzerland [MF *Suisse*, fr MHG *Swizer*, fr *Swiz* Switzerland, country in central Europe]
- \*Swiss** *adj* (characteristic) of Switzerland
- 'Swiss chard** *n* chard
- 'Swiss roll** *n* a thin sheet of sponge cake spread with jam and rolled up
- 'switch** /swɪtʃ/ *n* 1 a slender flexible twig or rod 2 a shift or change from one to another 3 a tuft of long hairs at the end of the tail of an animal (e.g. a cow) 4 a device for making, breaking, or changing the connections in an electrical circuit 5 a tress of hair attached to augment a hairstyle 6 *NAM* railway points [perh fr MD *swych* twig]
- \*switch** *vt* 1 to strike or beat (as if) with a switch 2 to whisk, lash 3 to shift, change 4a to shift to another electrical circuit by means of a switch b to operate an electrical switch so as to turn off or on 5 *chiefly NAM* to turn from one railway track to another – *vi* 1 to lash from side to side 2 to change, shift – **switchable** *adj*, **switcher** *n*
- 'switchback** /-/bæk/ *n* 1 a zigzag road or railway in a mountainous region 2 *chiefly Br* any of various amusement rides, esp **ROLLER COASTER**
- 'switchblade** /-/blayd/ *n*, *NAM* a flick-knife
- 'switchboard** /-/bɔ:d/ *n* an apparatus consisting of a panel or frame on which switching devices are mounted, *specif* an arrangement for the manual switching of telephone calls
- 'switched-on** *adj* alive to experience, also swinging – *infml*
- 'switchgear** /-/ɡɪə/ *n* equipment used for the switching of esp large electrical currents
- 'switchman** /-/mən/ *n* sby who works a switch (e.g. on a railway)
- 'switchover** /-/əʊvə/ *n* a conversion to a different system or method
- 'switchyard** /-/jɑ:d/ *n*, *NAM* **MARSHALLING YARD**
- 'swivel** /'swɪvl/ *n* a device joining 2 parts so that the moving part can pivot freely [ME, akin to OE *swifan* to revolve, ON *sveigja* to sway – more at *sway*]
- \*swivel** *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), /'swɪvlɪŋ/ to turn (as if) on a swivel
- swivel chair** *n* a chair that swivels on its base
- swiz** /swɪz/ *n*, *pl* -zz- *Br* sthg that does not live up to one's hopes or expectations – *infml* [prob short for *swizzle* (cheat), alter of *swindle*]
- 'swizzle stick** /'swɪzl/ *n* a thin rod used to stir mixed drinks [swizzle prob fr obs *swizzle* (to tiddle), perh fr *swig* + *guzzle*]
- swob** /swɒb/ *vt* or *n* -bb- (to) swab
- swollen** /'swəʊlən/ *past part* of **SWELL**

- 'swoon** /swoʊn/ *vi* to faint [ME *swounen*] – **swooningly** *adv*
- 'swoon** *n* a partial or total loss of consciousness
- 'swoop** /swoʊp/ *vi* to make a sudden attack or downward sweep ~ *vt* to carry off abruptly, snatch [alter of ME *swopen* to sweep, fr OE *swāpan*; akin to ON *svaþa* to swathe – more at **SWATHE**]
- 'swoop** *n* an act of swooping <arrested in a drug-squad ~>
- 'swoosh** /swoʊsh/ *vi* or *n* (to make or move with) a rushing sound [imit]
- 'swap** /swop/ *vb* or *n* -pp- (to) swap
- 'sword** /sawd/ *n* 1 a cutting or thrusting weapon having a long usu sharp-pointed and sharp-edged blade 2 the use of force <the pen is mightier than the ~ – E G Bulwer-Lytton> 3 death caused (as if) by a sword – usu + *the* 4 sthg (e.g. the beak of a swordfish) that resembles a sword [ME, fr OE *sweord*, akin to OHG *swert* sword, Av *xvara* wound] – **swordlike** *adj*
- 'sword, cane** *n* a swordstick
- 'sword, dance** *n* a dance performed over, round, or brandishing swords, esp a Scottish-Highland solo dance usu performed in the angles formed by 2 swords crossed on the ground – **sword dancer** *n*
- 'sword, fish** /-,fish/ *n* a very large oceanic food fish that has a long swordlike beak formed by the bones of the upper jaw
- 'sword, grass** *n* any of various grasses or sedges having leaves with a sharp or toothed edge
- 'sword, knot** *n* an ornamental cord or tassel tied to the hilt of a sword
- 'sword, of 'Damocles** /'daməkleɪz/ *n*, often *cap S* an impending disaster [fr the legend of the sword suspended by a single hair over the head of Damocles, a courtier of ancient Syracuse, as a reminder of the insecurity of a tyrant's happiness]
- 'sword, play** /-,play/ *n* the art, skill, or practice of wielding a sword – **swordplayer** *n*
- 'swordsmanship** /'sawdzmən/ *n* one skilled in swordplay
- 'swordsmanship** /-ship/ *n* swordplay
- 'sword, stick** /-,stik/ *n* a walking stick in which a sword blade is concealed
- 'sword, swallower** *n* a performer (e.g. at a circus) who causes or allows sword-blades to pass down his/her throat
- 'sword, tail** /-,tayl/ *n* a small brightly marked Central American topminnow often kept in tropical aquariums
- 'swore** /swaw/ *past* of **SWEAR**
- 'sworn** /swaw/ *past part* of **SWEAR**
- 'swot** /swot/ *n*, *Br* one who studies hard or excessively – *infrm* [alter of *sweat*]
- 'swot** *vb* -tt- *Br* *vi* to study hard ~ *vt* to study (a subject) intensively – usu + *up* **USE** *infrm*
- 'swum** /swum/ *past part* of **SWIM**
- 'swung** /swung/ *past* of **SWING**
- 'swung, dash** *n* a character ~ used esp to represent part or all of a previously spelt-out word
- 'sybarite** /'sɪbəraɪt/ *n*, often *cap* a voluptuary, sensualist [fr the notorious luxury of the people of the ancient city of Sybaris in Italy] – **sybaritism** /-,nɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **sybaritic** /-,nɪtɪk/ *adj*
- 'sycamore** /'sɪkəmɔːr/ *n* the mulberry [L *sycaminus*, fr Gk *sykaminos*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *shiqmah* mulberry tree, sycamore]
- 'sycamore** /'sɪkə,maw/ *n* 1 a tree of Egypt and Asia Minor that is the sycamore of Scripture and has a sweet edible fruit 2 a Eurasian maple widely planted as a shade tree 3 **NAM** 'PLANE [ME *sicamour*, fr MF *sicamor*, fr L *sycomorus*, fr Gk *sykomoros*, prob modif of a Sem word akin to Heb *shiqmah* sycamore]
- 'syce** /sɪs/ *n* a groom, esp in India [Hindi *sā'is*, fr Ar]
- 'syconium** /'sɪkəniəm/, -ni-əm/ *n*, *pl* **syconia** /-,nɪ-ə/ a multiple fleshy fruit (e.g. a fig) in which the ovaries are borne within an enlarged succulent receptacle [NL, fr Gk *sykon* fig + NL -ium]
- 'sycophant** /'sɪkə,fant/ *n* a self-seeking flatterer; a toady [L *sycophanta* informer, swindler, sycophant, fr Gk *sykophantes* informer, fr *sykon* + *phainein* to show] – **sycophancy** /-,sɪ/ *n*, **sycophant** *adj*, **sycophantic** /-,fəntɪk/ *adj*
- 'sycois** /'sɪkə'hoɪs/ *n* an inflammatory disorder of the hair follicles marked by raised spots [NL, fr Gk *sykōsis*, fr *sykon*]
- 'syenite** /'sɪ-ɪ,nɪt/ *n* an igneous rock composed chiefly of feldspar [L *Syenites* (lapidis) stone of Syene, fr *Syene*, ancient city in Egypt] – **syenitic** /-,nɪtɪk/ *adj*
- 'syli** /sɪli/ *n*  **Guinea** at **NATIONALITY** [native name in Guinea]
- 'syllabic** /sɪ'ləbɪk/ *adj* 1 constituting (the nucleus of) a syllable 2 enunciated with separation of syllables 3 of or constituting a type of verse

(e.g. some French poetry) in which the metre is based on a count of syllables [LL *syllabicus*, fr Gk *syllabikos*, fr *syllabe* syllable] – **syllabically** *adv*

**'syllabic** *n* a syllabic character or sound

**'syllabify** /sɪ'ləbɪfɪ/ *vi* to form or divide into syllables [L *syllaba* syllable] – **syllabification** /-fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**'syllable** /'sɪləb/ *n* (a letter or symbol representing) an uninterrupted unit of spoken language that usu consists of 1 vowel sound either alone or with a consonant sound preceding or following  [ME, fr MF *silabe*, fr L *syllaba*, fr Gk *syllabe*, fr *syllambanein* to gather together, fr *syn-* + *lambanein* to take – more at **ATCH**] – **syllabled** *adj*

**'syllabub, sillabub** /'sɪləbʊb/ *n* a cold dessert usu made by curdling sweetened cream or milk with wine, cider, or other acidic liquid [origin unknown]

**'syllabus** /'sɪləbəs/ *n*, *pl* **syllabi** /-bi-/ *pl*, **syllabuses** a summary of a course of study or of examination requirements [LL, alter of L *sillybus* label for a book, fr Gk *sillybos*]

**'syllepsis** /sɪ'lepsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **syllepses** /-seɪz/ 1 the use of a word to modify or govern syntactically 2 or more words with only 1 of which it formally agrees (e.g. in 'neither he nor I knows') 2 the use of a word in the same grammatical relation to 2 adjacent words but in different senses (e.g. in 'departed in tears and a taxi') [I, fr Gk *syllapsis*, fr *syllambanein*] – **sylleptic** /sɪ'leptɪk/ *adj*

**'syllogism** /'sɪlədʒɪz(ə)m/ *n* a pattern of deductive reasoning consisting of 2 premises and a conclusion (e.g. 'all men are mortal, Socrates is a man, therefore Socrates is mortal') [ME *si-logisme*, fr MF, fr L *sylogismus*, fr Gk *sylogismos*, fr *sylogizesthai* to syllogize, fr *syn-* + *logizesthai* to calculate, fr *logos* reckoning, word more at **LEGEND**] **syllogistic** /-,dʒɪstɪk/ *adj*

**'syllog-ize, -ise** /'sɪlədʒəz/ *vt* to reason by using syllogisms [ML *sylogysen*, fr LL *sylogizare*, fr Gk *sylogizesthai*]

**'sylph** /sɪlf/ *n* a slender graceful woman or girl [NL *sylyphus*] – **sylphlike** *adj*


**'sylvan, silvan** /'sɪlvən/ *adj* 1 of, located in, or characteristic of the woods or forest 2 full of woods or trees [ML *sylvanus*, *silvanus*, fr L *silva*, *sylvā* wood]

**'sym-** – see **SYN-**

**'symbiont** /'sɪmbɪ,ɒnt/ *n* an organism living in **symbiosis** [prob fr G, modif of Gk *symbiount-*, *symbion*, *prp* of *symbioun*] – **symbiotic** /-'ɒntɪk/ *adj*

**'symbiosis** /'sɪmbɪ'ɒsɪs/, -bi-/ *n*, *pl* **symbioses** /-seɪz/ the living together of 2 dissimilar organisms in intimate association (to their mutual benefit) [NL, fr G *symbiosis*, fr Gk *symbiosis* state of living together, fr *symbioun* to live together, fr *symbios* living together, fr *sym-* + *bios* life – more at **'QUICK**] – **symbiotic** /-'ɒntɪk/ *adj*

**'symbiote** /'sɪmbɪ,ɒt/, -bi-/ *n* a symbiont [F, fr Gk *symbiotes* companion, fr *symbioun* to live together]

**'symbol** /'sɪmbəl/ *n* 1 sthg that stands for or suggests sthg else by reason of association, convention, etc 2 a sign used in writing or printing to represent operations, quantities, elements, relations, or qualities in a particular field (e.g. chemistry or music)  [L *symbolum* token, sign, symbol, fr Gk *symbolon*, lit, token of identity verified by comparing its other half, fr *symballein* to throw together, compare, fr *syn-* + *ballein* to throw – more at **DEVIL**] – **symbology** /'sɪm'bɒlədʒi/ *n*

exhibiting a symbol or symbols – **symbolically** *adv*

**'symbolic logic** *n* a method of developing and representing logical principles using a formalized system of symbols

**'symbolism** /'sɪmbə,lɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the literary and artistic mode of expression of the symbolists 2 a system of symbols – **symbolistic** /-,lɪstɪk/ *adj*

**'symbolist** /'sɪmbəlɪst/ *n* 1 one who employs symbols or symbolism 2 any of a group of esp 19th-c French writers and artists who used symbols to convey a subjective view of reality and esp immaterial or intangible states or truths (e.g. by exploiting the nonliteral figurative resources of language) – **symbolist** *adj*

**'symbolize, -ise** /'sɪmbə,lɪz/ *vt* 1 to serve as a symbol of 2 to represent, express, or identify by a symbol – **symbolization** /-,zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**'symmetrical** /sɪ'metrɪkəl/, **symmetric** /sɪ'metrɪk/ *adj* 1a having the same proportions, design, shape, etc on both sides; *specif* capable of division by a longitudinal plane into similar halves *b of a flower* having the same number of members in each whorl of floral leaves 2 *of a chemical compound* having symmetry in the molecular structure [SYM METRY + -ICAL] – **symmetrically** *adv*



**symmetry** /ˈsɪmɪtri/ *n* 1 (beauty of form arising from) balanced proportions 2 the property of being symmetrical, esp correspondence in size, shape, and relative position of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line or median plane or about a centre or axis – compare BILATERAL SYMMETRY, RADIAL SYMMETRY [L *symmetria*, fr Gk, fr *symmetros* symmetrical, fr *syn-* + *metron* measure – more at MEASURE] – **symmetrize** /-tɪz/ *vt*

**sympathetic** /sɪmpəˈθetɪk/ *adj* 1 existing or operating through an affinity, interdependence, or mutual association 2 appropriate to one's mood or temperament, congenial 3 given to or arising from compassion and sensitivity to others' feelings (a ~ gesture) 4 favourably inclined (not ~ to the idea) 5 of, being, mediated by, or acting on (the nerves of) the sympathetic nervous system 6 relating to musical sounds produced, or strings sounded, by sympathetic vibration [NL *sympatheticus*, fr L *sympathia* sympathy] – **sympathetically** *adv*

**sympathetic nervous system** *n* the part of the autonomic nervous system that contains nerve fibres in which the chief neurotransmitter is noradrenalin and whose activity tends to relax smooth muscle and cause the contraction of blood vessels – compare PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

**sympathetic vibration** *n* a vibration produced in one body by vibrations of the same period in another

**sympathize**, -ise /sɪmpəˈθaɪz/ *vi* 1 to react or respond in sympathy 2 to share in distress or suffering, commiserate – **sympathizer** *n*

**sympathomimetic** /sɪmpəˈθoʊmɪˈmetɪk/ *adj* simulating sympathetic nervous action in physiological effect (a ~ drug) [ISV *sympathetic* + -o- + *mimetic*] – **sympathomimetic** *n*

**sympathy** /ˈsɪmpəθi/ *n* 1a relationship between people or things in which each is simultaneously affected in a similar way b unity or harmony in action or effect 2a inclination to think or feel alike b tendency to favour or support – often pl with sing meaning (Tory sympathies) 3 (the expression of) pity or compassion [L *sympathia*, fr Gk *sympatheia*, fr *sympatheia* having common feelings, sympathetic, fr *syn-* + *pathos* feelings, emotion, experience – more at PATHOS]

**sympetalous** /sɪmˈpetələs/ *adj* gamopetalous

**sympathetic** /sɪmˈfəʊnɪk/ *adj* relating to or having the form or character of a symphony (a ~ music) – **sympathetically** *adv*

**symphonic poem** *n* an extended orchestral composition, based on a legend, tale, etc and usu freer in form than a symphony

**symphonist** /sɪmˈfɒnɪst/ *n* a composer of symphonies

**symphony** /ˈsɪmfəni/ *n* 1a a usu long and complex sonata for symphony orchestra b a composition of similar proportions 2 sth of great harmonious complexity or variety (the room was a ~ in blue) 3 chiefly NAm SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA [ME *symphonie* harmony, fr OF, fr L *symphonia*, fr Gk *symphonia*, fr *symphonos* concordant in sound, fr *syn-* + *phone* voice, sound – more at PHON]

**symphony orchestra** *n* a large orchestra of wind instruments, strings, and percussion that plays symphonic works

**sympysis** /sɪmˈfɪsɪs/ *n*, pl **sympyses** /-seɪz/ an (almost) immovable joint between bones, esp where the surfaces are connected by fibrous cartilage without a joint membrane [NL, fr Gk, state of growing together, fr *sympyesthai* to grow together, fr *syn-* + *phyein* to make grow, bring forth – more at BE] – **sympyseal** /sɪmˈfɪzeɪəl/, **sympyseal** /sɪmˈfɪziəl/ *adj*

**sympodial** /sɪmˈpɒdiəl/ *adj* having or involving the formation of an apparent main axis (e.g of an inflorescence) from successive secondary axes [NL *sympodium* apparent main axis formed from secondary axes, fr Gk *syn-* + *podion* base – more at PODIUM]

**symposium** /sɪmˈpɒziəm/, -zi-əm/ *n*, pl **symposia** /-zi-ə/, -zi-ə/, **symposiums** 1 a party (e.g after a banquet in ancient Greece) with music and conversation 2a a formal meeting at which several specialists deliver short addresses on a topic – compare COLLOQUIUM b a published collection of opinions on a subject [L, fr Gk *symposion*, fr *symposiēn* to drink together, fr *syn-* + *pinein* to drink – more at POTABLE]

**symptom** /ˈsɪmpɒm/ *n* 1 sth giving (subjective) evidence or indication of disease or physical disturbance 2 sth that indicates the existence of sth else [LL *symptomata*, *symptomata*, fr Gk *sympnomata*, *symptomata* happening, attribute, symptom, fr *sympnētein* to happen, fr *syn-* + *pinein* to fall – more at FEATHER] – **symptomless** *adj*, **symptomatology** /-məˈtɒləʒi/ *n*

**symptomatic** /sɪmpəˈmætɪk/ *adj* 1 being a symptom of a disease 2 concerned with, affecting, or acting on symptoms (a ~ treatment for influenza) 3 characteristic, indicative – **symptomatically** *adv*

**syn-, sym-** prefix 1 with, along with; together (sympathy) (synthesis) 2

at the same time (synaesthesia) [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr Gk, fr *syn* with, together with]

**synaesthesia** /ˌsɪnɪsˈθiːz(h)ɪə/ *n* a subjective sensation or image (e.g of colour) appropriate to a sense other than the one (e.g hearing) being stimulated [NL, fr *syn-* + *aesthesia* (as in *anaesthesia*)] – **synaesthetic** /-θetɪk/ *adj*

**synagogue** /ˌsɪnəˈɡɒɡ/ *n* (the house of worship and communal centre of) a Jewish congregation [ME *synagoge*, fr OF, fr LL *synagoga*, fr Gk *synagoge* assembly, *synagoge*, fr *synagēin* to bring together, fr *syn-* + *agēin* to lead – more at AGENT] – **synagogal** /-ˈɡɒɡl/ *adj*

**synapse** /ˈsɪnəps/ *n* the point (between 2 nerves) across which a nervous impulse is transmitted [NL *synapsis*, fr Gk, juncture, fr *synaptein* to fasten together, fr *syn-* + *haptein* to fasten] – **synaptic** /sɪˈnæptɪk/ *adj*

**synapsis** /sɪˈnæpsɪs/ *n*, pl **synapses** /-seɪz/ the joining of homologous chromosomes that occurs in meiotic cell division [NL, fr Gk, juncture] – **synaptic** *adj*

**synarthrosis** /ˌsɪnəˈθroʊsɪs/ *n*, pl **synarthroses** /-seɪz/ an immovable joint between bones united by fibrous tissue [Gk *synarthrosis*, fr *syn-* + *arthrosis* arthrosis]

**sync** also **synch** /sɪŋk/ *n* synchronization, synchronism (out of ~) – *informal*

**sync** also **synch** *vt* to match film and magnetic track so that they run exactly in synchronization (are these rushes for ~ing?) – often + *up*, *informal*

**syncarpous** /sɪnˈkɑːpəs/ *adj*, of a flower, fruit, etc having the carpels united in a compound ovary **syncarpy** /sɪnˈkɑːpi/ *n*

**synchro-** comb form synchronized, synchronous (synchro-mesh) [synchro-nized & synchronous]

**synchromesh** /ˌsɪŋkrəˈmesh/ *adj* designed for effecting synchronized gear changing – **synchromesh** *n*

**synchronic** /sɪŋkˈrɒnɪk/ *adj* of or dealing with phenomena, esp of language, at 1 point in time, ignoring historical antecedents – compare DIACHRONIC – **synchronically** *adv*

**synchronism** /ˌsɪŋkrəˈnɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the quality of being synchronous, simultaneousness 2 (a table showing) chronological arrangement of historical events so as to indicate coincidence or coexistence **synchronistic** /-nɪstɪk/ *adj*

**synchronize**, -ise /ˌsɪŋkrəˈnaɪz/ *vt* to happen at the same time ~ *vt* 1 to arrange so as to indicate coincidence or coexistence 2 to make synchronous in operation (a ~ watches) 3 to make (sound) exactly simultaneous with the action in a film or a television programme – **synchronizer** *n*, **synchronization** /ˌraɪz(ə)n/ *n*

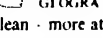
**synchronized swimming** *n* swimming in which the movements of 1 or more swimmers are synchronized with a musical accompaniment so as to form changing patterns

**synchronous** /ˌsɪŋkrəˈnəs/ *adj* 1 happening or arising at precisely the same time 2a going on or operating together at exactly the same rate b recurring together 3 involving or indicating synchronism 4 geostationary [LL *synchronos*, fr Gk, fr *syn-* + *chronos* time] – **synchronously** *adv*

**synchronous motor** *n* an electric motor having a speed strictly proportional to the frequency of the operating current

**synchro** /sɪŋkroʊ/ *n* synchronistic occurrence, arrangement, or treatment

**synchrotron** /ˌsɪŋkrəˈtrɒn/ *n* an apparatus that imparts very high speeds to charged particles by combining a high-frequency electric field and a low-frequency magnetic field

**syncline** /sɪŋkˈliːn/ *n* a trough of stratified rock in which the layers dip towards each other from either side – compare ANTICLINE  GEOGRAPHY [back-formation fr *synclinal*, fr Gk *syn-* + *klinein* to lean – more at LEAN] – **synclinal** /-ˈkliːnəl/ *adj*

**syncopate** /sɪŋkəˈpeɪt/ *vt* to modify or affect (musical rhythm) by syncopation [ML *syncopatus*, pp of *syncopare*, fr LL *syncope*] – **syncopator** *n*

**syncopation** /sɪŋkəˈpeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* (a rhythm or passage characterized by) a temporary displacement of the regular metrical accent in music caused typically by stressing the weak beat – **syncopative** /-ˈpeɪtɪv/ *adj*

**syncope** /sɪŋkəˈpi/ *n* 1 temporary loss of consciousness, fainting 2 the dropping of 1 or more sounds or letters in a word (e.g in *fo'c'sle* for *forecastle*) [LL, fr Gk *synkope*, lit, cutting short, fr *synkopēin* to cut short, fr *syn-* + *koptein* to cut – more at CAPON] – **syncopal** /sɪŋkəˈpəl/ *adj*

**syncretism** /sɪŋkriˈtɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 the combination of different forms of belief or practice, esp eclecticism 2 the fusion of 2 or more orig different inflectional forms [NL *syncretismus*, fr Gk *synkretismos* federation of

## Sign

A mark with a conventional meaning, used to replace or supplement words

## Symbol

A sign used in writing or printing to represent operations, quantities, elements, relations, or qualities in a particular field

## Accents and diacritics

- ˘ (é) acute accent
- ˘ (è) grave accent
- ˆ (ô) or ˆ or - circumflex
- ˜ (ñ) tilde
- (ô) macron
- ˘ (ü) breve
- ˘ (č) haček
- ¨ (oo) diaeresis
- ˘ (ç) cedilla
- ː (i.) colon

## Airport signs



## Astronomy

- ☉ the sun, Sunday
- ☾ or ☾ the moon, Monday
- ☾ new moon
- ☾ first quarter
- ☾ full moon
- ☾ last quarter
- ☿ Mercury, Wednesday
- ♀ Venus, Friday
- ♁ the earth
- ♂ Mars, Tuesday
- ♃ Jupiter, Thursday
- ♄ Saturn, Saturday
- ♅ Uranus
- ♆ Neptune
- ♇ Pluto
- ☄ comet
- ★ fixed star
- ♊ conjunction – of bodies having the same longitude, or right ascension
- ☐ quadrature – a difference of 90° in longitude, or right ascension
- ♊ trine – a difference of 120° in longitude, or right ascension

- ♊ opposition – a difference of 180° in longitude, or right ascension
- ♊ ascending node
- ♊ descending node

## Biology

- ♀ female
- ♂ male
- ♂ neuter
- ♂ neuter hermaphrodite
- × crossed with, hybrid
- + wild type
- F<sub>1</sub> offspring of the first generation
- F<sub>2</sub> offspring of the second generation

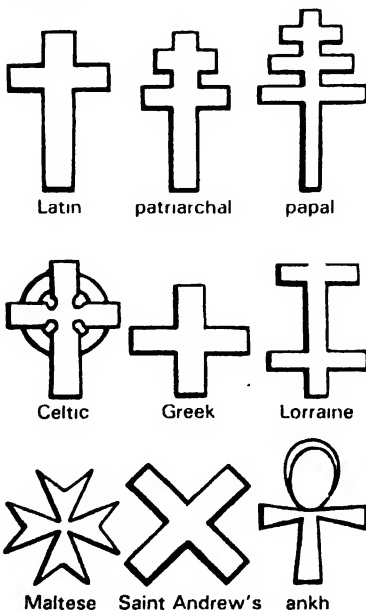
## Business

- @ at, each
- c/o care of
- % per cent
- © copyright
- ® trademark

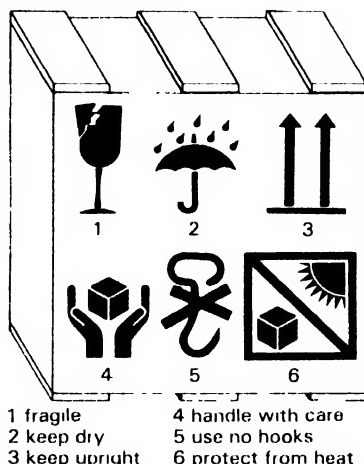
## Computer flowcharts

- process
- ▽ merge
- ▭ input/output
- magnetic tape
- on-line storage
- ◇ decision
- △ extract
- document
- punched tape
- ▽ off-line storage
- manual operation
- collate
- ◇ sort
- punched card
- magnetic disk

## Crosses



## Goods handling



## Mathematics

- +
- 
- ± plus or minus
- or / multiplied by
- = equals
- ≠ is not equal to
- > is greater than
- ≫ is much greater than
- < is less than
- ≪ is much less than
- ≥ is greater than or equal to
- ≤ is less than or equal to
- > is not greater than
- < is not less than
- ≈ is approximately equal to
- ≡ is identical to
- ≅ is equivalent, similar
- ≅ is congruent to

$\propto$	varies directly as, is proportional to
$\frac{a}{b}$	is to, the ratio of
$\infty$	therefore infinity
$\angle$	angle, the angle
$\perp$	right angle
$\parallel$	parallel, is parallel to
$\sqrt{\quad}$ or $\sqrt{\quad}$	root – used without a figure to indicate a square root (as in $\sqrt{4} = 2$ ) or with an index above the sign to indicate another degree (as in $\sqrt[3]{3}$ , $\sqrt[5]{7}$ )
$\delta$	$\delta x$ , the increment or variation of $x$
$\int$	indefinite integral ( $\int 2x dx = x^2 + C$ )
$\int_a^b$	the integral taken between the values $a$ and $b$ of the variable
$\sigma$	standard deviation of a population
$\Sigma$	sum, summation
$\mu$	arithmetic mean of a population
$\chi^2$	chi square
$\pi$	pi, the number 3.14159265..., the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter
$!$ or $\epsilon$	factorial ( $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$ )
$e$ or $\epsilon$	the number 2.7182818..., the base of the natural system of logarithms
$e$	(2) the eccentricity of a conic section
$^\circ$	degree ( $60^\circ$ )
$'$	minute, foot ( $30'$ ) – used also to distinguish between values of the same variable or between different variables (as $a'$ , $a''$ , $a'''$ , usu read $a$ prime, $a$ double prime, $a$ triple prime)
$''$	second, inch ( $30''$ )
$x^y$ , $x^z$ , etc	– used as exponents placed above and at the right of an expression to indicate that it is raised to a power whose degree is indicated by the figure ( $a^2$ , the square of $a$ )
$x^{-2}$ , $x^{-3}$ , etc	– used as exponents placed above and at the right of an expression to indicate that the reciprocal of the expression is raised to the power whose degree is indicated by the figure ( $a^{-2}$ equals $1/a^2$ )
$\sin^{-1}x$	arc sine of $x$
$\cos^{-1}x$	arc cosine of $x$
$\tan^{-1}x$	arc tangent of $x$
$\cot^{-1}x$	arc cotangent of $x$
$\sec^{-1}x$	arc secant of $x$
$\operatorname{cosec}^{-1}x$	arc cosecant of $x$
$ z $	the absolute value of $z$
$\cup$	union of two sets
$\cap$	intersection of two sets
$\subset$	is included in, is a subset of
$\subset$	contains as a subset
$\in$ or $\epsilon$	is an element of
$\notin$	is not an element of
$\emptyset$ or $\{\}$	empty set, null set

## Road signs

## Warning



Roundabout



Slippery road



Road works

## Restriction



Maximum speed limit



No entry



Width limit

## Information



One-way street



No through road



Entrance to controlled parking zone

8.30 am – 3.30 pm

## Reference marks

*	asterisk or star
†	dagger
‡	double dagger
§	section or numbered clause
$\parallel$	parallel
§ or ¶	paragraph

## Washing symbols



washable



hand wash



dry-cleanable



cool iron



medium-hot iron



hot iron



do not wash



do not iron

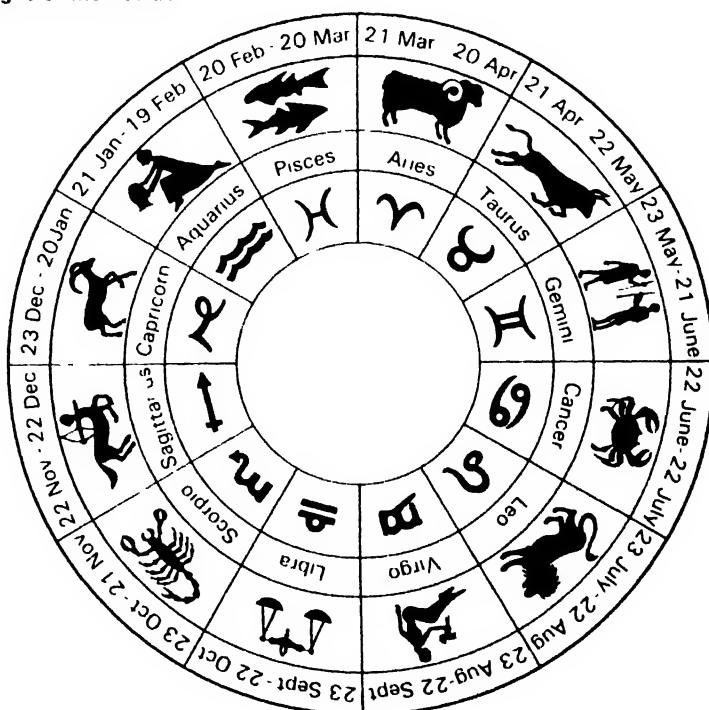


do not bleach

## Miscellaneous

&	and
/	solidus or diagonal or slant; used to mean "or" (as in and/or), "and/or" (as in dead/wounded), "per" (as in feet/second), indicates end of a line of verse, separates the figures of a date (4/4/73)
<	derived from
>	whence derived
+	and
*	assumed
†	died – used esp in genealogies
‡	Star of David
§	versicle
¶	response
⊕	peace
⊗	Kite mark British Standards Institution

## Signs of the Zodiac



- Cretan cities, fr *syn-* + *Kret-*, *Kres* Cretan] – **syncretist** *n* or *adj*, **syncretistic** /ˈsɪstɪk/ *adj*, **syncretic** /sɪŋˈkretɪk/ *adj*
- synctylum** /sɪnˈsɪtɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **synctyla** /-tɪ-ə/ (an organism consisting of) a mass of living material with many nuclei resulting from fusion of cells or repeated division of nuclei [NL, fr *syn-* + *cyt-*] – **synctyal** /-sɪʃ(y)əl/ *adj*
- syndactyly** /sɪnˈdaktɪli/, **syndactylism** /-lɪz(ə)m/ *n* a union of 2 or more digits that occurs normally (e.g. in many birds) and occurs as an inherited abnormality in human beings [NL *syndactylia*, fr *syn-* + Gk *daktylos* finger]
- syndic** /ˈsɪndɪk/ *n* an agent who transacts business for a university or corporation [F, fr LL *syndicus* representative of a corporation, fr Gk *syndikos* assistant at law, advocate, representative of a state, fr *syn-* + *dike* judgment, case at law – more at **DICTION**]
- syndicalism** /ˈsɪndɪkəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a revolutionary doctrine according to which workers should seize control of the economy and the government by direct means (e.g. a general strike) 2 a system of economic organization in which industries are owned and managed by the workers [F *syndicalisme*, fr *chambre syndicale* trade union] – **syndical** *adj*, **syndicalist** *adj* or *n*
- syndicate** /ˈsɪndɪkət/ *n* 1a the office of a syndic b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a council or body of syndics 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people or concerns who combine to carry out a particular transaction (e.g. buying or renting property) or to promote some common interest 3 a business concern that supplies material for simultaneous publication in many newspapers or periodicals [F *syndicat*, fr *syndic*]
- syndicate** /ˈsɪndɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to form into or manage as a syndicate 2 to sell (e.g. a cartoon) to a syndicate for simultaneous publication in many newspapers or periodicals – **syndicator** *n*, **syndication** /-ˈkəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- syndrome** /ˈsɪndrohm/ *n* 1 a group of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular (medical) abnormality 2 a set of concurrent emotions, actions, etc. that use form an identifiable pattern [NL, fr Gk *syndromē* combination, syndrome, fr *syn-* + *dramein* to run – more at **DROMEDARY**]
- syne** /sɪn/, *often* *adv*, chiefly *Scot* since then, ago [ME (northern), prob. fr ON *sithan*, akin to OE *siththan* since – more at **SINCE**]
- syne** *conj* or *prep*, *Scot* since
- synecdoche** /sɪˈnekdəki/ *n* a figure of speech in which a part is used to mean the whole (e.g. *50 sail* instead of *50 ships*) or the whole to mean a part (e.g. in ‘Leeds defeated Stoke’) [L, fr Gk *synecdoche*, fr *syn-* + *ekdoche* sense, interpretation, fr *ekdechesthai* to receive, understand, fr *ex* from + *dechesthai* to receive, akin to Gk *dokein* to seem good – more at **EX-**, **DECENT**]
- synecology** /sɪnɪˈkɒləʒi/ *n* ecology that deals with the structure and development of ecological communities [G *synökologie*, fr *syn-* + *ökologie* ecology]
- synergic** /sɪˈnuhɪk/ *adj* working together; cooperating [NL *synergicus*, fr *synergia*] – **synergically** *adv*
- synergism** /sɪˈnɜːdʒ(ə)m/, *sɪˈnuh-*, **synergy** /-ʒi/ *n* cooperative action between 2 or more agencies (e.g. drugs or muscles) whose combined effect is greater than the sum of their separate effects [NL *synergismus* & *synergia*, fr Gk *synergos* working together, fr *syn-* + *ergon* work – more at **WORK**] – **synergistic** /-ˈdʒɪstɪk/ *adj*
- synergist** /sɪˈnɜːdʒɪst/, *sɪˈnuh-* *n* any of the agencies that together produce synergism
- syngamy** /ˈsɪŋɡəmi/ *n* sexual reproduction by union of gametes [ISV]
- synod** /ˈsɪnəd/, *sɪˈnɒd/* *n* 1 a formal meeting to decide ecclesiastical matters 2 a church governing or advisory council 3 the ecclesiastical district governed by a synod [LL *synodus*, fr LGk *synodos*, fr Gk, meeting, assembly, fr *syn-* + *hodos* way, journey – more at **CEDE**] – **synodal** /ˈsɪnədl/, *sɪˈnɒdl/* *adj*
- synodic** /sɪˈnɒdɪk/ *also* **synodical** /-kl/ *adj* of a conjunction or the period between 2 successive conjunctions of the same celestial bodies [Gk *synodikos*, fr *synodos* meeting, conjunction]
- synonym** /ˈsɪnənim/ *n* any of 2 or more words or expressions in a language that are used with (nearly) the same meaning [ME *sinonyme*, fr L *synonymum*, fr Gk *synōnymon*, fr neut. of *synonymos* synonymous, fr *syn-* + *onyma* name – more at **NAME**] – **synonymic** /-ˈnɪmɪk/, **synonymical** *adj*, **synonymity** /sɪˈnɒnɪmɪti/ *n*
- synonymous** /sɪˈnɒnɪmə/ *adj* alike in meaning – **synonymously** *adv*
- synonymy** /sɪˈnɒnɪmi/ *n* 1a the study or distinguishing of synonyms b a list or collection of synonyms 2 being synonymous
- synopsis** /sɪˈnɒpɪs/ *n*, *pl* **synopses** /-seɪz/ a condensed statement or outline (e.g. of a narrative) [LL, fr Gk, lit., comprehensive view, fr *synopsēsthai* to be going to see together, fr *syn-* + *opsisēsthai* to be going to see – more at **OPTIC**]
- synoptic** /sɪˈnɒptɪk/ *also* **synoptical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 affording a comprehensive view of a whole 2 *often* *cap* of or being the first 3 Gospels of the New Testament 3 relating to or displaying meteorological conditions existing simultaneously over a broad area [Gk *synoptikos*, fr *synopsēsthai*] – **synoptically** *adv*
- synovia** /sɪˈnɒvi-ə, sɪ-/ *n* a transparent viscous lubricating fluid secreted by a joint or tendon membrane 𐤀𐤍𐤁𐤏𐤃 ANATOMY [NL] – **synovial** *adj*
- synovitis** /sɪˈnɒvi-ɪtəs/ *n* inflammation of a synovial membrane [NL]
- syntactic** /sɪnˈtæktɪk/, **syntactical** /-kl/ *adj* of or conforming to the rules of syntax or syntactics [NL *syntacticus*, fr Gk *syntaktikos* arranging together, fr *syntassein*] – **syntactically** *adv*
- syntactics** *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a branch of semiotics dealing with the formal relations between signs or expressions, *also* syntax
- syntax** /ˈsɪntaks/ *n* (the part of grammar dealing with) the way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences [F or LL, F *syntaxe*, fr LL *syntaxis*, fr Gk, fr *syntassein* to arrange together, fr *syn-* + *tassein* to arrange – more at **TACTICS**]
- synthesis** /sɪnˈθɛsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **syntheses** /-seɪz/ 1a the composition or combination of separate or diverse elements into a coherent whole b the artificial production of a substance by chemical reaction 2 the third and final stage of a reasoned argument, based on the thesis and antithesis [Gk, fr *synthēnai* to put together, fr *syn-* + *tithēnai* to put, place – more at **DO**] – **synthesist** *n*, **synthesize** *vt*
- synthesizer**, *-iser* /sɪnˈθɛsɪzə/ *n* an extremely versatile electronic musical instrument that produces a sound that can be altered in many ways (e.g. to mimic other instruments) and is usu. played by means of a keyboard [SYNTHESIZE + -ER]
- synthetic** /sɪnˈθetɪk/ *also* **synthetical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 asserting of a subject a predicate that is not part of the meaning of that subject – compare ANALYTIC 2 characterized by inflection rather than analysis ~ *language* 3 produced artificially, man-made (~ *dyes*) (~ *drugs*) (~ *silk*) [Gk *synthetikos* of composition, component, fr *synthēnai*] **synthetically** *adv*
- synthetic** *n* a product of (chemical) synthesis
- syphilis** /sɪˈfɪlɪs/ *n* a contagious usu. venereal and often congenital disease caused by a spirochaetal bacterium – compare PRIMARY SYPHILIS, SECONDARY SYPHILIS, TERTIARY SYPHILIS [NL, fr *Syphilus*, hero of the poem *Syphilis sive Morbus Gallicus* (Syphilis or the French disease) by Girolamo Fracastoro †1553 It. physician & poet] – **syphilitic** /-ˈlɪtɪk/ *adj* or *n*
- siphon** /ˈsɪfən/ *vb* or *n* to siphon
- Syriac** /ˈsɪrɪək/ *n* a literary and liturgical language based on Aramaic, esp. used by eastern Christian churches [L *syriacus* Syrian, fr Gk *syriakos*, fr Syria, ancient country in Asia] – **Syriac** *adj*
- syringe** /ˈsɜːrɪŋ/ *n* a device used to inject fluids into or withdraw them from sth (e.g. the body or its cavities), esp. one that consists of a hollow barrel fitted with a plunger and a hollow needle [ME *syryng*, fr ML *syrynga*, fr LL, injection, fr Gk *syrynx*, *syrynx* panpipe, tube, akin to Gk *solen* pipe, Skt *tunava* flute]
- syringe** *vt* to irrigate or spray (as if) with a syringe
- syrix** /ˈsɪrɪŋks/ *n*, *pl* **syringes** /sɪˈrɪŋdʒɪz/, **syrixes** the vocal organ of birds that is a modification of the lower trachea, bronchi, or both [NL, fr Gk, panpipe]
- syrup** /ˈsɪrəp/ *n* 1a a thick sticky solution of (flavoured, medicated, etc.) sugar and water b the concentrated juice of a fruit or plant (e.g. the sugar maple); esp. the raw sugar juice obtained from crushed sugarcane after evaporation and before crystallization in sugar manufacture 2 cloying sweetness or sentimentality [ME *sirup*, fr MF *sirap*, fr ML *syrupus*, fr Ar *sharāb*] – **syrupy** *adj*
- systatic** /sɪˈstætlɪk/, *sɪˈstæwɪtlɪk/* *adj* alternately and regularly contracting and dilating; pulsating [Gk *systaticos*, (assumed) verbal of *systellēin* to contract – more at **SYSTOLE**]
- system** /ˈsɪstəm/ *n* 1a a group of body organs that together perform 1 or more specified functions (~ *the digestive* ~) b the body considered as a functional unit c a group of interrelated and interdependent objects or units d a group of devices or an organization that serves a common purpose (~ *a telephone* ~) (~ *a heating* ~) (~ *a highway* ~) (~ *a data processing* ~) e a major division of rocks including those formed during a period or era f a form of social, economic, or political organization (~ *the capitalist* ~) 2 an organized set of doctrines or principles usu. intended to explain the arrangement or working of a systematic whole (~ *the*

*Newtonian ~ of mechanics* 3a an organized or established procedure <the touch ~ of typing> b a manner of classifying, symbolizing, or formalizing <a taxonomic ~> <the decimal ~> 4 orderly methods 5 ESTABLISHMENT 2 - + the [LL *systemat-*, *systema*, fr Gk *systemat-*, *systema*, fr *synistanai* to combine, fr *syn-* + *histanai* to cause to stand - more at STAND] - *systemless* *adj*

**systematic** /sɪs'tætɪk/ *also* **systematical** /-kl/ *adj* 1 relating to, consisting of, or presented as a system 2 methodical in procedure or plan, thorough <~ investigation> 3 of or concerned with classification, *specific* taxonomic [LL *systematicus*, fr Gk *systematikos*, fr *systemat-*, *systema*] - *systematically* *adv*

**systematics** *n pl but sing in constr* (a system of) classification or taxonomy

**systematist** /sɪs'tætɪst, sɪ'stematɪst, sɪ'stee-/ *n* 1 a maker or follower of a system 2 a taxonomist

**systematize**, -ise /sɪs'tætəz/ *vt* to arrange according to a set method, order systematically - **systematizer** *n*, **systematization** /-zə'taɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**systemic** /sɪ'stiemɪk, sɪ'stemɪk/ *adj* 1 affecting the body generally 2 of an insecticide, pesticide, etc making the organism, esp a plant, toxic to a pest by entering the tissues [SYSTM + -ic] - *systemically* *adv*

**systemic circulation** *n* the part of the blood circulation concerned with the distribution of blood to the tissues through the aorta rather than to the lungs through the pulmonary artery

**systemize**, -ise /sɪs'təməz/ *vt* to systematize - **systemization** /-zə'taɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**systems analysis** *n* the analysis of an activity (e.g. a procedure, a business, or a physiological function) typically by mathematical means in order to define its goals or purposes and to discover ways of accomplishing them efficiently, - **systems analyst** *n*

**systole** /sɪ'stəl/ *n* the recurrent contraction of the heart by which blood is forced on and the circulation kept up - compare DIASTOLE [Gk *systole*, fr *systellon* to contract, fr *syn-* + *stellon* to send - more at STALL] - **systolic** /sɪ'stɒlɪk/ *adj*

**syzygy** /sɪ'zɪdʒi/ *n* a configuration in which 3 celestial bodies (e.g. the sun, moon, and earth) lie in a straight line [LL *syzygia* conjunction, fr Gk, fr *syzygos* yoked together, fr *syn-* + *zygon* yoke - more at YOK] - **syzygial** /sɪ'zɪdʒiəl/ *adj*

# T

**t** /tee/ *n, pl t's*, is often *cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 20th letter of the English alphabet - to a **T** to perfection, exactly [short for to a title]

**t'** *definite article, NEng dial the*

**t'** *pron it*

**ta** /tah/ *n, Br thanks* - *infml* [baby talk]

**Taal** /tahl/ *n* Afrikaans - usu + *the* [Afrik, fr D, language, akin to OE *talū* talk - more at TALE]

**tab** /tab/ *n* 1a a flap, loop, etc fixed to or projecting from sth and used for gripping or suspending or to aid identification b a small auxiliary aerofoil hinged to a control surface (e.g. an aileron) 2 close surveillance, watch - usu pl with *sing* meaning <the police are keeping ~s on him> 3 a tabulator 4 *Br* TAG 2 5 chiefly *NAM* a statement of money owed, a bill - *infml* <the company will pick up the ~> [perh akin to *tag*, (2, 5) partly short for 'table, (3) by shortening]

**tab** *vi -bb-* to provide or decorate with tabs

**tabard** /'tabəd/ *n* a short loosely fitting sleeveless or short-sleeved coat or cape: e.g. a an emblazoned tunic worn by a knight over his armour b a herald's official cape or coat emblazoned with his lord's arms c a straight-hanging sleeveless outer garment, esp one with slits at the sides for part or all of its length, worn by women [ME, fr OF *tabart*]

**Tabasco** /tə'baskəh/ *trademark* - used for a pungent condiment sauce made from hot peppers

**tabby** /'tæbi/, 'tæbbi *cat n* 1 a domestic cat with a usu buff and black striped and mottled coat 2 a female domestic cat [tabby, *adj* (striped & mottled), fr *tabby* (striped silk taffeta), fr F *tabis*, fr ML *attabi*, fr Ar *'attabi*, fr Al-'Attabiya, quarter in Baghdad where it was manufactured]

**tabernacle** /'tæbə.nəkl/ *n* 1 *often cap* a tent sanctuary used by the Israelites during the Exodus 2 a receptacle for the consecrated bread and

wine used at Communion, often forming part of an altar 3 a support in which a mast is stepped and pivoted so that it can be lowered (e.g. to negotiate a bridge) [ME, fr OF, fr LI *tabernaculum*, fr L, tent, dim of *taberna* hut - more at TAVIRN] - **tabernacular** /'tæbə'nəkyoolə/ *adj*

**tabes** /'taɪbeɪz/ *n, pl tabes* wasting accompanying a chronic disease [L - more at THAW] - **tabetic** /tə'betɪk/ *adj or n*

**tabes dorsalis** /dæw'səhɪs/ *n* locomotor ataxia [NL, dorsal tabes]

**tabla** /'tæblə/ *n* a pair of small hand drums of different sizes used esp in Indian classical music [Hindi *tabla*, fr Ar *tabla*]

**tablature** /'tæbləʃə/ *n* an instrumental notation indicating the string, fret, keys, or fingering to be used instead of the note to be sounded [MF, fr ML *tabulatus* tablet, fr L *tabula*]

**table** /'taɪbl/ *n* 1a a piece of furniture consisting of a smooth flat slab (e.g. of wood) fixed on legs b the food served at a meal, fare <keeps a good ~> 2 either of the 2 leaves of a backgammon board or either half of a leaf 3 a systematic arrangement of data usu in rows and columns 4 the upper flat surface of a gem 5 sth having a flat level surface [ME, fr OE *tabule* & OF *table*, both fr I *tabula* board, tablet, list] - on the table chiefly *Br* under or put forward for discussion <so far the management have put nothing on the table> - under the table 1 into a stupor - can drink you under the table, 2 not aboveboard

**table** 2 *vt* 1 to enter in a table 2a *Br* to place on the agenda b *NAM* to remove from consideration indefinitely

**tableau** /'tæbloh/ *n, pl tableaux* *also* **tableaus** /'tæbloh(z)/ 1 a graphic representation of a group or scene 2 a depiction of a scene usu presented on a stage by silent and motionless costumed participants [F, fr MF *tableau*, dim of *table*, (2) short for *tableau vivant*, fr F, lit. living picture]

**tablecloth** /-kloθ/ *n* an often decorative cloth spread over a dining table before the places are set

**table d'hôte** /'tæblə 'doht/ *n* a meal often of several prearranged courses served to all guests at a stated hour and fixed price - compare a LA CARTE [F, lit. host's table]

**tableland** /'taɪblənd/ *n* a broad level area elevated on all sides

**table linen** *n* linen (e.g. tablecloths and napkins) for the table

**tablemat** /-mat/ *n* a small often decorative mat placed under a hot dish to protect the surface of a table from heat

**table salt** *n* fine-grained free-flowing salt suitable for use at the table and in cooking

**tablespoon** /-spuohn/ *n* 1 a large spoon used for serving 2 a tablespoonful

**tablespoonful** /-spuohnf(ə)/ *n, pl* **tablespoonfuls** *also* **tablespoonsful** as much as a tablespoon can hold - 2 ¼ tsp

**tablet** /'tæɪt/ *n* 1 a flat slab or plaque suitable for or bearing an inscription 2a a compressed block of a solid material <a ~ of soap> b a small solid shaped mass or capsule of medicinal material [ME *tablett*, fr MF *tablete*, dim of *table*]

**table tennis** *n* a game resembling lawn tennis that is played on a tabletop with bats and a small hollow plastic ball

**tableware** /-weə/ *n* utensils (e.g. glasses, dishes, plates, and cutlery) for table use

**table wine** *n* an unfortified wine usu served with food

**tabloid** /'tæbloɪd/ *n* a newspaper of which 2 pages make up 1 printing plate and which contains much photographic matter - compare BROADSHEET [fr *Tabloid*, a trademark for a concentrated form of drugs and chemicals]

**taboo** *also* **tabu** /tə'booh/ *adj* 1a too sacred or evil to be touched, named, or used b set apart as unclean or accursed 2 forbidden, esp on grounds of morality, tradition, or social usage [Tongan *tabu*]

**taboo** *also* **tabu** *n, pl* **taboos** *also* **tabus** 1 a prohibition against touching, saying, or doing sth for fear of harm from a supernatural force 2 a prohibition imposed by social custom

**taboo** *also* **tabu** *vt* 1 to set apart as taboo 2 to avoid or ban as taboo

**tabour** *also* **tabour** /'taɪbə/ *n* a small drum with 1 head of soft calfskin used to accompany a pipe or lute played by the same person [ME, fr OF]

**tabular** /'tæbyoolə/ *adj* 1a having a broad flat surface b laminar c of a crystal having 2 parallel flat faces 2a of or arranged in a table b computed by means of a table [L *tabularis* of boards, fr *tabula* board, tablet] - **tabularly** *adv*

**tabula rasa** /'tæbyoolə 'rahseə/ *n, pl* **tabulae** /'tæbyool 'rahseə/ the mind conceived of as blank or empty before receiving outside impressions [L, smoothed or erased tablet]

**tabulate** /'tæbyoolayt/ *vt* to arrange in tabular form [L *tabula* tablet] - **tabulation** /-lə'taɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**tabulator** /'tabyoʊlətə/ *n* 1 a business machine that sorts and selects information from marked or perforated cards 2 an attachment to a typewriter that is used for arranging data in columns [TABULATE + -OR]

**tacamahac** /'takəmə'hak/ *n* 1 any of several aromatic gum resins used esp for incense 2 BALSAM POPLAR [Sp *tacamahaca*, fr Nahuatl *tacamaca*]

**tacet** /'taset/ – used in music to indicate that a particular instrument is not to play during a movement or long section [L, lit, (it) is silent, fr *tacere* to be silent – more at TACIT]

**tachism** /'tashiz(ə)m/ *n*, often cap ACTION PAINTING [F *tachisme*, fr *tache* stain, spot, blob, fr MF *teche*, *tache*, of Gmc origin, akin to OS *tēkan* sign] – **tachist** *adj* or *n*, often cap

**tachistoscope** /'təksɪstə'skəʊp/ *n* an apparatus for briefly exposing visual stimuli that is used in the study of learning, attention, and perception [Gk *tachistos* (superl of *tachys* swift) + ISV -scope] – **tachistoscopic** /-'skəʊpɪk/ *adj*

**tachograph** /'taka'grəʃ/ *n* a device for automatically recording the speed and time of travel of a vehicle, esp a lorry [Gk *tachos* speed + E -graph]

**tachometer** /'təkomɪtə/ *n* a device for indicating speed of rotation (e.g. of a vehicle engine) [Gk *tachos* speed + E -meter]

**tachy-** *comb form* rapid, accelerated <tachycardia> <tachygraphy> [Gk, fr *tachys*]


**tachycardia** /'təki'kɑːdiə/ *n* normal or abnormal rapid heart action – compare BRADYCARDIA [NL]

**tachygraphy** /'təki'grəʃi/ *n* shorthand, esp as used by the ancient Greeks and Romans and in medieval Greek and Latin writing [Gk *tachygraphos* stenographer, fr *tachy-* + *graphein* to write – more at CARVE] – **tachygraphic** /'təki'grəʃɪk/ also **tachygraphical** *adj*

**tachymeter** /'təkimɪtə/ *n* a surveying instrument for determining distance, bearings, etc quickly [ISV]

**tacit** /'tasi/ *adj* implied or understood but not actually expressed [F or L; F *tacite*, fr L *tacitus* silent, fr pp of *tacere* to be silent, akin to OHG *dāgen* to be silent] – **tacitly** *adv*

**tacturn** /'tasi,tuɪn/ *adj* not communicative or talkative [F or L; F *tacturne* fr L *tacturnus*, fr *tactus*] – **tacturnity** /-'tuɪnəti/ *n*

**tack** /tak/ *n* 1 a small short sharp-pointed nail, usu with a broad flat head 2 the lower forward corner of a fore-and-aft sail  SHIP 3a the direction of a sailing vessel with respect to the direction of the wind <starboard ~, with the wind to starboard> b the run of a sailing vessel on 1 tack c a change of course from one tack to another d a course of action <off on a new ~> 4 a long loose straight stitch usu used to hold 2 or more layers of fabric together temporarily 5 a sticky or adhesive quality 6 SADDLERY 2 [ME *tak* sth that attaches, akin to MD *tac* sharp point]

**tack** *vt* 1a to fasten or attach with tacks b to sew with long loose stitches in order to join or hold in place temporarily before fine or machine sewing 2 to add as a supplement <~ a postscript on a letter> 3 to change the course of (a close-hauled sailing vessel) from one tack to the other by turning the bow to windward ~ *vi* 1a to tack a sailing vessel b of a sailing vessel to undergo being tacked 2a to follow a zigzag course b to change one's policy or attitude abruptly – **tacker** *n*

**tackle** /'takl/ *n* 1 a set of equipment used in a particular activity <fishing ~> 2a a ship's rigging b an assembly of ropes and pulleys arranged to gain mechanical advantage for hoisting and pulling 3 an act of tackling [ME *takel*; akin to MD *takel* ship's rigging]

**tackle** *vb* **tackling** /'takɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to attach or secure with or as if with tackle – often + *up* 2a to take hold of or grapple with, esp in an attempt to stop or restrain b(1) to (attempt to) take the ball from (an opposing player) in hockey or soccer (2) to seize and pull down or stop (an opposing player with the ball) in rugby or American football 3 to set about dealing with <~ the problem> ~ *vi* to tackle an opposing player – **tackler** *n*

**tacky** /'təki/ *adj* slightly sticky to the touch <~ varnish> ['tæk] – **tackiness** *n*

**tacky** *adj*, *NAM* shabby, shoddy – slang [tacky (an inferior horse or person), of unknown origin] – **tackily** *adv*, **tackiness** *n*

**tact** /təkt/ *n* a keen sense of how to handle people or affairs so as to avoid friction or giving offence [F, sense of touch, fr L *tactus*, fr *tactus*, pp of *tangere* to touch – more at TANGENT] – **tactful** *adj*, **tactfully** *adv*, **tactfulness** *n*, **tactless** *adj*, **tactlessly** *adv*, **tactlessness** *n*

**tactic** /'təktɪk/ *n* 1 a method of employing forces in combat 2 a device for achieving an end [NL *tactica*, fr Gk *taktikē*, fr fem of *taktikos*]

**tactical** /'təktɪkəl/ *adj* 1a involving operations of local importance or


brief duration b of or designed for air attack in close support of friendly ground forces 2a of small-scale actions serving a wider aim – compare STRATEGIC b characterized by adroit planning or manoeuvring to accomplish an end – **tactically** *adv*

**tactician** /'təktɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* sby skilled in tactics

**tactics** /'təktɪks/ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in constr 1a the science and art of disposing and manoeuvring forces in combat – compare STRATEGY b the art or skill of employing available means to accomplish an end 2 a system or mode of procedure [NL *tactica*, pl, fr Gk *taktika*, fr neut pl of *taktikos* of order, of tactics, fit for arranging, fr *tassein* to arrange, place in battle formation, akin to Lth *patogus* comfortable]

**tactile** /'təktɪəl/ *adj* of or perceptible by (the sense of) touch [F or L; F, fr L *tactilis*, fr *tactus*, pp of *tangere* to touch – more at TANGENT] – **tactilely** *adv*, **tactility** /-'tɪləti/ *n*

**tactual** /'təktʃuəl, -chəl/ *adj* tactile [L *tactus* sense of touch – more at TACT] – **tactually** *adv*

**tadpole** /'tədpəʊl/ *n* the larva of an amphibian, specif a frog or toad larva with a rounded body, a long tail, and external gills  LIFE CYCLE [ME *taddepol*, fr *tode* toad + *polle* head – more at POOL]

**taenia** /'teenyə, -niə/ *n*, pl **taeniae** /-'ni:ee/, **taenias** 1 a band of nervous tissue or muscle 2 any of numerous tapeworms [L, fr Gk *tainia*; akin to Gk *teinein* to stretch – more at THIN]

**taffeta** /'təfɪtə/ *n* a crisp plain-woven lustrous fabric of various fibres used esp for women's clothing [ME, fr MF *taffetas*, fr OIt *taffetta*, fr Turk *tafta*, fr Per *taftah* woven]

**taffrail** /'təfɪrəl, -rəl/ *n* a rail round the stern of a ship [modif of D *tafereel*, fr MD, picture, fr OF *tablel*, dim of *table*]

**taffy** /'təfi/ *n*, *NAM* a porous and light-coloured toffee [origin unknown]


**Taffy** *n*, *Br* a Welshman – chiefly derog [modif of W *Dafydd* David, a common Welsh forename]

**tag** /tag/ *n* 1 a loose hanging piece of torn cloth 2 a rigid binding on an end of a shoelace 3 a piece of hanging or attached material, specif a flap on a garment that carries information (e.g. washing instructions) 4a a trite quotation used for rhetorical effect b a recurrent or characteristic verbal expression c a final speech or line (e.g. in a play) usu serving to clarify a point or create a dramatic effect 5 a marker of plastic, metal, etc used for identification or classification [ME *tagge*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw *tagg* barb]

**tag** *vb* -*gg*, -*vi* 1a to provide with an identifying marker b to label, brand <had him ~ged as a chauvinist from the start> 2 to attach, append 3 LABEL 2 ~ *vi* to follow closely <~ ging along behind>

**tag** *n* a game in which one player chases others and tries to make one of them it by touching him/her [origin unknown]

**tag** *vi* -*gg*, -*vi* to touch (as if) in a game of tag


**Tagalog** /'təgə'ləg/ *n*, pl **Tagalogs**, esp collectively **Tagalog** 1 a member of a people of central Luzon in the Philippines 2 an Austronesian language of the Tagalog people  LANGUAGE

**tag day** *n*, *NAM* FLAG DAY

**tagetes** /'təjɪtəs/ *n*, pl **tagetes** the marigold [NL, genus name]

**tagliatelle** /'təljə'telɪ/ *n pl* narrow ribbons of egg-enriched pasta [It, pl of *tagliatella*, deriv of *tagliare* to cut, fr LL *taliare* – more at TAHOIR]


**tahini** /'təhi:ni/ *n* a thick oily paste made from sesame seeds [Ar *tahīna*]

**Tahitian** /'təhi:ʃiən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Tahiti 2 the Polynesian language of the Tahitians  LANGUAGE [Tahiti, island in the S Pacific] – **Tahitian** *adj*

**thar** /təh/ *n* a thar

**tahsildar** /'təhsɪldəh/ *n* a collector of revenues in India [Hindi *tahsildar*]

**Tai** /tɪ/ *n*, pl **Tai** a member of a group of peoples of SE Asia

**taiga** /'ti:ɡə/ *n* moist coniferous forest that begins where the tundra ends and is dominated by spruces and firs  PLANT [Russ *taiga*]

**tail** /tayl/ *n* 1 (an extension or prolongation of) the rear end of the body of an animal 2 sth resembling an animal's tail in shape or position <the ~ of a comet> 3 pl a tailcoat, broadly formal evening dress for men including a tailcoat and a white bow tie 4 the last, rear, or lower part of sth 5 the reverse of a coin – usu pl with sing. meaning <~s, you lose>; compare HEAD 3 6 *sing* or *pl* in constr the group of relatively inexpert batsmen who bat towards the end of a side's innings 7 the stabilizing assembly (e.g. fin, rudder, and tailplane) at the rear of an aircraft 8 sby who follows or keeps watch on sby – infml 9 the trail of a fugitive <had the police on her ~> – infml 10a women as sexual objects – vulg b *NAM* the buttocks – slang [ME, fr OE *taegel*; akin to OHG *zagal* tail, OIr *dual* lock of hair] – **tailed** *adj*, **tailless** *adj*, **taillike** *adj*



**\*tail** *vt* 1 to connect at an end or end to end **2a** to remove the tail of (an animal) **b** to remove the stalk of (e.g. a gooseberry) - compare **row** **1b** **3** to fasten an end of (a tile, brick, or timber) into a wall or other support **4** to follow for purposes of surveillance - *infrml* ~ *vi* **1** to diminish gradually in strength, volume, quantity, etc. - *usu* + *off* or *away* **2** to follow closely

**\*tail** *adj* entailed [ME. *taille*, fr AF *taille*, fr OF *taille*, pp of *tailier* to cut, limit - more at **TAILOR**]

**\*tail** *n* **ENTAIL** 1 often in *in tail*

**\*tail, back** /-bak/ *n* a long queue of motor vehicles, esp when caused by an obstruction that blocks the road

**\*tail, board** /-bawd/ *n* a hinged or removable board or gate at the rear of a vehicle

**\*tail, coat** /-koht/ *n* a coat with tails, esp a man's formal evening coat with 2 long tapering skirts at the back - *tailcoated* *adj*

**tail end** *n* **1** the back or rear end **2** the concluding period

**\*tail, ender** /-enda/ *n* a relatively inexperienced batsman who bats towards the end of a side's innings

**\*tail, gate** /-gayt/ *n* a tailboard

**\*tailgate** *vi* to drive dangerously close behind another vehicle

**tailing** /'taylɪŋ/ *n* residue separated in the preparation of grain, ore, etc. - *usu* pl with *sing* meaning

**\*tailor** /'taylə/, *fem* *tailoress* /'taylə'res, '-r-/ *n* sby whose occupation is making or altering esp men's garments [ME *tailleur*, fr OF *tailleur*, fr *tailher* to cut, fr L *taliare*, fr L *talea* twig, cutting, akin to Gk *telos* fenugreek]

**\*tailor** *vi* to do the work of a tailor ~ *vt* **1a** to make or fashion as the work of a tailor, *specif* to cut and stitch (a garment) so that it will hang and fit well **b** to make or adapt to suit a special need or purpose **2** to style with trim straight lines and finished handwork

**tailored** /'tayləd/ *adj* **1** made by a tailor **2** fashioned or fitted to resemble a tailor's work, *specif* cut so as to fit the figure well

**tailoring** /'taylɪŋ/ *n* **1** the business or occupation of a tailor **2** the work or workmanship of a tailor

**tailor-made** *adj* made or fitted for a particular use or purpose

**\*tail, piece** /-pees/ *n* **1** a piece added at the end, an appendage **2** a triangular piece from which the strings of a stringed instrument are stretched to the pegs **3** an ornament placed below the text on a page (e.g. at the end of a chapter)

**\*tail, pipe** /-piep/ *n* the part of a jet engine that carries the exhaust gases rearwards and discharges them through an outlet

**\*tail, plane** /-playn/ *n* the horizontal stabilizing surfaces of an aircraft's tail

**\*tail, spin** /-spɪn/ *n* **SPIN** **2**

**\*tail, stock** /-stɒk/ *n* an adjustable part of a lathe that holds the fixed spindle

**tail wind** *n* a wind having the same general direction as the course of an aircraft or ship

**Taino** /'tiənoh/ *n* (the language of) an extinct Arawakan people of the Antilles and Bahamas

**\*taint** /taynt/ *vt* **1** to touch or affect slightly with sthg bad <people ~ ed with prejudice> **2** to affect with putrefaction, spoil **3** to contaminate morally, corrupt ~ *vi* to become affected with putrefaction, spoil [ME *tainten* to colour & *taynten* to attain, ME *tainten*, fr AF *teinter*, fr MF *teint*, pp of *teindre*, fr L *tingere*, ME *taynten*, fr MF *ataint*, pp of *ataindre* more at **TINGE** **ATTAIN**]

**\*taint** *n* a contaminating mark or influence - *taintless* *adj*

**\*taipan** /'tiəpən/ *n* an extremely venomous snake of N Australia and the Pacific islands [native name in Australia]

**Taiping** /'tiəpɪŋ/ *n* a supporter of a rebellion (1848-65) against the Manchu dynasty [Chin (Pek) *t'ai ping* 'peaceful']

**taka** /'tʰakʰə, 'tʰakʰə/ *n* **TAKE** *Bangladesh* at **NATIONALITY** [Bengali *taka* rupee, fr Skt *tanka*, a stamped coin]

**takahe** /'tʰakʰə, hee/ *n* a rare flightless New Zealand bird related to the rails [Maori]

**\*take** /tayk/ *vb* *took* /took/, *taken* /'tʰaykən/ *vt* **1a** to seize or capture physically <took 1500 prisoners> **b** to get possession of (e.g. fish or game) by killing or capturing *c* (1) to capture and remove from play <took my pawn> (2) to win in a card game <able to ~ 12 tricks with that hand> **2** to grasp, grip <took his arm and led him across the road> **3a** to catch or attack through a sudden effect <~n ill> **b** to surprise; come upon suddenly <her death took us by surprise> *c* to attract, delight <was quite ~n with him> **4a** to receive into one's body, esp through the mouth <~ medicine> **b** to eat or drink habitually <I don't ~ milk in my tea> **5a** to bring or receive into a relationship or connection <Mr Burton took us

for French> <took her as his wife> **b** to copulate with (a passive partner) **6a** to acquire, borrow, or use without authority or right <took someone's hat by mistake> **b** (1) to pay to have (e.g. by contract or subscription) <~ a cottage for the summer> (2) to buy <the salesman persuaded him to ~ the estate car> **7a** to assume <~ shape> <took the name of Phillips> **b** to perform or conduct (e.g. a lesson) as a duty, task, or job <Miss Jones ~s Physics> *c* to commit oneself to <~ a vow> <~ a decision> **d** to involve oneself in <~ the trouble to learn Chinese> *e* to consider or adopt as a point of view <~ a more lenient view> <~ Shakespeare, now> *f* to claim as rightfully one's own <~ the credit> <~ the liberty of refusing> **8** to obtain by competition <took third place> **9** to pick out, choose <~ any card> **10** to adopt or avail oneself of for use <~ an opportunity> *e.g.* **a** to have recourse to as an instrument for doing sthg <~ a scythe to the weeds> **b** to use as a means of transport or progression <~ a plane to Paris> <~ the third turning on the right> *c* (1) to turn to for safety or refuge <~ cover> (2) to proceed to occupy or hold <~ a seat> <~ office> *d* (1) to need, require <~s a long time to dry> <that ~s some believing> <~s a size 9> (2) to govern <transitive verbs ~ an object> **11a** to derive, draw <~s its title from the name of the hero> **b** (1) to obtain or ascertain by testing, measuring, etc. <~ his temperature> (2) to record in writing, *WRITE* **DOWN** **1** <~ notes> (3) to get or record by photography <~ some slides> <~ the children in their party clothes> (4) to get by transference from one surface to another <~ fingerprints> **12** to receive or accept either willingly or reluctantly <~ a bribe> <~ a risk> *e.g.* **a** to receive when bestowed or tendered <~ a degree> **b** (1) to endure, undergo <took a terrible beating> <can't ~ it any longer> (2) to support, withstand <won't ~ my weight> <I can ~ a lot of Mozart> *c* (1) to accept as true, believe <took her word for it> <~ it from me> (2) to follow <~ my advice> (3) to respond to in a specified way <~ things as they come> <~ the news calmly> *d* to indulge in and enjoy <~ one's ease> <~ a holiday> *e* to accept in payment, compensation, or recompense <they won't ~ dollars> **13a** to accommodate <the suitcase wouldn't ~ another thing> **b** to be affected injuriously by (e.g. a disease) <~ cold> **14a** to apprehend, understand <slow to ~ his meaning> **b** to look upon, consider <~ it as settled> *c* to feel, experience <~ pleasure> **15a** to lead, carry, or remove with one to another place <~ her a cup of tea> **b** to require or cause to go <her ability will ~ her to the top> **16a** to obtain by removing <~ eggs from a nest> **b** to subtract <~ 2 from 4> **17** to undertake and make, do, or perform <~ a walk> <~ legal action> <~ one's revenge> **18a** to deal with <~ the comments one at a time> **b** to consider or view in a specified relation <~n together, the details were significant> *c* to apply oneself to the study of or undergo examination in <~ music lessons> <~ 6 subjects at O Level> *d* to succeed in passing or surmounting <the horse took the fence easily> **19** to cheat, swindle <was ~n for £500 by a con man> **20** to remove by death - *euph* <was ~n in his prime> ~ *vi* **1a** to receive property in law **b** of a fish to receive a lure or bait **2a** to have the natural or intended effect or reaction <did your vaccination ~?> <glue that ~s well on cloth> **b** to begin to grow; strike root <have the seeds ~n yet?> **3a** to be adversely affected as specified <took ill> **b** to be capable of being moved in a specified way <the table ~s apart for packing> *c* to admit of being photographed **4 chiefly dial** - used as an intensifier or redundantly with a following verb <took and ducked her in the pond> [ME *taken*, fr OE *tacan*, fr ON *taka*, akin to MD *taken* 'to take' - *taker* *n* - *take account* of **TAKE** INTO ACCOUNT - *take action* **1** to begin to act **2** to begin legal proceedings - *take advantage* of **1** to use to advantage, profit by **2** to impose upon, exploit - *take after* to resemble (an older relative) in appearance, character, or aptitudes - *take against* *chiefly Br* to take sides against, come to dislike - *take apart* **1** to disassemble, dismantle **2** to analyse, dissect **3** to treat roughly or harshly - *infrml* - *take as read* to accept as axiomatic - *take a toss* to fall off a horse - *take care* to be careful, exercise caution or prudence, be watchful - *take care of* to attend to or provide for the needs, operation, or treatment of - *take charge* to assume care, custody, command, or control - *take effect* **1** to become operative **2** to produce a result - *take exception* to object, demur <took exception to his critic's remarks> - *take five* to take a brief intermission - *infrml* - *take for* to suppose, esp mistakenly, to be - *take for a ride* to deceive willfully; hoodwink - *infrml* - *take for granted* **1** to assume as true, real, or certain to occur **2** to value too lightly - *take from* to detract from <irritations that took from their general satisfaction> - *take heart* to gain courage or confidence - *take hold* **1** to grasp, grip, seize **2** to become attached or established; **TAKE EFFECT** - *take in* *good part* to accept without offence - *take in hand* to embark on the control or reform of - *take into account* to make allowances for <took the boy's age into account> - *take into consideration* **TAKE INTO ACCOUNT**; *specif* to take account of (addi-

tional offences admitted by a defendant) so that the sentence to be imposed will preclude any chance of subsequent prosecution (*Smith asked for 21 other offences to be taken into consideration*) – **take into one's head** to conceive as a sudden notion or resolve – **take in vain** to use (a name) profanely or without proper respect – **take it upon oneself** to venture, presume – **take offence** to be offended – **take on board** *Br* to apprehend fully; grasp – *infml* – **take one all one's time** *Br* to be the utmost one can manage (*it takes me all my time to afford shoes for them all*) – **take one's leave** to bid farewell – often + *of* – **take one's time** to be leisurely about doing sthg – **take part** to join, participate, share – **take place** to happen; COME ABOUT – **take root** 1 to become rooted 2 to become fixed or established – **take silk** to become a Queen's or King's Counsel – **take someone at his/her word** to believe sby literally – **take someone out of him-/herself** to provide sby with needful diversion – **take someone to task** to rebuke or scold sby – **take stock** 1 to make an inventory 2 to make an assessment – **take the biscuit** *Br* to be the most astonishing or preposterous thing heard of or seen, esp concerning a particular issue – *infml* – **take the field** 1 to go onto the playing field 2 to enter on a military campaign – **take the floor** 1 to rise (e.g. in a meeting) to make a formal address 2 to begin dancing – **take the gilt off the gingerbread** to take away the part that makes the whole attractive – **take the law into one's own hands** to seek redress by force – **take the mickey** to behave disrespectfully; mock – *infml* – **take the wind out of someone's sails** to frustrate sby by anticipating or forestalling h-m/her – **take the words out of someone's mouth** to utter the exact words about to be used by sby – **take to** 1 to betake oneself to, esp for refuge (*take to the woods*) 2 to apply or devote oneself to (e.g. a practice, habit or occupation) (*take to begging*) 3 to adapt oneself to; respond to (*takes to water like a duck*) 4 to conceive a liking or affectionate concern for – **take to heart** to be deeply affected by – **take to one's heels** to run away; flee – **take to task** to call to account for a shortcoming – **take to the cleaners** *Br* 1 to rob, defraud – *infml* 2 to criticize harshly – *infml* – **take turns, take it in turns** to act by turns – **what it takes** the qualities or resources needed for success or for attainment of a goal

**\*take** *n* 1a the action of killing or catching sthg (e.g. game or fish) b the uninterrupted recording, filming, or televising of sthg (e.g. a gramophone record or film sequence); also the recording or scene produced 2a proceeds, takings b a share, cut (*wanted a bigger ~*) c the number or quantity (e.g. of animals or fish) taken at 1 time

**takeaway** /ˈtaɪkəweɪ/ *n, Br* 1 a cooked meal that is eaten away from the premises from which it was bought (*a Chinese ~ for supper*) 2 a shop or restaurant that sells takeaways

**take back** *vt* to retract, withdraw

**take down** *vt* 1 to pull to pieces 2 WRITE DOWN 3 to lower without removing (*took down his trousers*)

**take-home pay** *n* the part of gross salary or wages remaining after deductions (e.g. for income tax)

**take in** *vt* 1a to furl b to make (a garment) smaller (e.g. by altering the positions of the seams or making tucks) – compare LET OUT 2 to offer accommodation or shelter to 3 to receive (paid work) into one's house (*take in washing*) 4 to include (*the holiday took in Venice*) 5 to perceive, understand 6 to deceive, trick – *infml*

**taken** /ˈtækn/ *past part of TAKE*

**\*take off** /-ˌɒf/ *n* 1 an imitation; esp a caricature 2 an act of leaving or a rise from a surface (e.g. in making a jump, dive, or flight or in the launching of a rocket) 3 a starting point; a point at which one takes off

**take off** *vt* 1 to remove (*take your shoes off*) 2a to release (*take the brake off*) b to discontinue, withdraw (*took off the morning traffic*) c to deduct (*took 10 per cent off*) 3 to take or spend (a period of time) as a holiday, rest, etc 4 to mimic (*mannerisms that her critics delighted in taking off*) ~ *vi* 1 to start off or away; SET OUT (*took off without delay*) 2 to begin a leap or spring 3 to leave the surface; begin flight

**take on** *vt* 1a to agree to undertake (*took on new responsibilities*) b to contend with as an opponent (*took on the neighbourhood bully*) 2 to engage, hire 3 to assume or acquire (e.g. an appearance or quality) (*the city takes on a carnival air*) ~ *vi* to become emotional or distraught – *infml*

**take out** *vt* 1a to extract (*took the appendix out*) b to give vent to – usu + *on* (*take out their frustrations on one another*) 2 to escort or accompany in public 3a to obtain officially or formally (*take out a warrant*) b to acquire (insurance) by making the necessary payment 4 to overcall (a bridge partner) in a different suit – **take it out on** to vent anger, vexation, or frustration on – **take it out of** 1 TAKE IT OUT ON 2 to fatigue, exhaust

**\*take over** /-ˌɒvə/ *n* the action or an act of taking over, esp an act of gaining control of a business company by buying a majority of the shares – **take-over ady**

**take over** *vb* to assume control or possession (of) or responsibility (for) (*military leaders took over the government*)

**take up** *vi* 1 to remove by lifting or pulling up (*the council's taking the old tramlines up*) 2 to receive internally or on the surface and hold (*plants take up nutrients*) 3a to begin to engage in or study (*took up Greek*) (*when did he take up sailing?*) b to raise (a matter) for consideration (*took her case up with a lawyer*) 4 to occupy (e.g. space or time) entirely or exclusively (*outside activities took up too much of his time*) 5 to shorten (e.g. a garment) (*will have to take that dress up*) 6 to respond favourably to a bet, challenge, or proposal made by (*I'll take you up on that*) 7 to begin again or take over from another (*she took up the story where she left off*) ~ *vi* to begin again, resume – **take up the cudgels** to engage vigorously in a defence – **take up with** to begin to associate with, consort with

**taking** /ˈteɪkɪŋ/ *adj* attractive, captivating

**takings** /ˈteɪkɪŋz/ *n pl* receipts, esp of money

**\*tala** /ˈtɑːlə/ *n* any of the ancient traditional rhythmic patterns of Indian music [Skt *tala*, lit. hand-clapping]

**\*tala** *n* ~ *fr* Western Samoa at NATIONALITY [Samoan, fr *E dollar*]

**talc** /tɑːk/ *n* 1 a soft usu greenish or greyish mineral consisting of a magnesium silicate 2 TALCUM POWDER [MF *talc mica*, fr ML *talc*, fr Ar *talq*] – **talcose** /ˈtɒlkəʊs/ *adj*

**\*talcum powder** /ˈtɒlkəm/ *n* a powder for toilet use consisting of perfumed talc [ML *talcum mica*, alter of earlier *talk*]

**tale** /taɪl/ *n* 1 a series of events or facts told or presented, an account 2a a usu fictitious narrative, a story b a lie, a falsehood c a malicious report or piece of gossip [ME, fr OE *talū*, akin to ON *tala* talk, & prob to L *dolus* guile, deceit, Gk *dolos*]

**\*talebearer** /-ˌbeərə/ *n* a telltale, gossip **talebearing** *adj* or *n*

**talent** /ˈtælənt/ *n* 1a any of several ancient units of weight b a unit of money equal to the value of a talent of gold or silver 2a a special often creative or artistic aptitude b general ability or intelligence 3 a person or people of talent in a field or activity 4 *sing* or *pl* in constr sexually attractive members of the opposite sex (*sai eyeing up the local ~*) – slang [ME, fr OE *talente*, fr L *talenta*, pl of *talentum* unit of weight or money, fr Gk *talanton*; akin to L *tolle* to lift up – more at TOLLRATE, (2-4)] fr the parable of the talents in Mt 25:14-30] – **talented** *adj*, **talentless** *adj*

**\*talent scout** *n* a person engaged in discovering and recruiting people with talent in a specialized field of activity

**\*talent show** *n* a show consisting of a series of individual performances by amateurs who may be selected for training or professional engagements if talented

**taler** /ˈtɑːlə/ *n* any of numerous silver coins issued by various German states from the 15th to the 19th c [G – more at DOLLAR]

**talipes** /ˈtælɪpez/ *n* clubfoot [NL, fr L *talus* ankle + *pes* foot – more at FOOT]

**talipot** /ˈtælɪpɒt/ *n* a tall showy palm, found esp in India, which has huge fan-shaped leaves used as umbrellas, fans, etc [Bengali *talipot* palm leaf]

**talisman** /ˈtælɪzˌmæn/ *n, pl talismans* 1 an engraved object believed to act as a charm 2 sthg believed to produce magical or miraculous effects [F *talisman* or Sp *tahmán* or It *talismano*, fr Ar *tilsam*, fr MGk *telesma*, fr Gk, consecration, fr *telein* to initiate into the mysteries, complete, fr *telos* end – more at WHEEL] – **talismanic** /-ˌmænɪk/ *adj* **talismanically** *adv*

**\*talk** /tɔːk/ *vt* 1 to express in speech, utter (~ *nonsense*) 2 to make the subject of conversation; discuss (~ *business*) 3 to bring to a specified state by talking, esp to persuade by talking (~ *ed them into agreeing*) 4 to use (a language) for conversing or communicating (~ *French*) ~ *vi* 1 to express or exchange ideas verbally or by other means (~ *ed till daybreak*) (*they ~ ed by using sign language*) 2 to use speech, speak 3 to imitate human speech (*her budgie can ~*) 4a to gossip (*you know how people ~*) b to reveal secret or confidential information (*we have ways of making you ~*) 5 to give a talk or lecture [ME *talken*; akin to OE *talū tale*] – **talker** *n* – **talk shop** to talk about one's job, esp outside working hours – **talk through one's hat** to voice irrational, or erroneous ideas, esp in attempting to appear knowledgeable – **talk turkey** chiefly *NAm* to speak frankly or bluntly

**\*talk** *n* 1 a verbal exchange of thoughts or opinions; a conversation 2 meaningless speech; verbiage (*it's all ~*) 3 a formal discussion or exchange of views – often *pl* with *sing*, meaning 4 (the topic of) interested comment or gossip (*the ~ of the town*) 5 an often informal address or

lecture 6 communicative sounds or signs functioning as talk <baby ~>

**talkative** /'tɔːkətɪv/ *adj* given to talking – **talkatively** *adv*, **talkativeness** *n*

**talk back** *vi* to answer impertinently

**talk down** *vi* 1 to defeat or silence by argument or by loud talking 2 to radio instructions to (a pilot) to enable him/her to land when conditions are difficult ~ *vi* to speak in a condescending or oversimplified fashion to

**talkie** /'tɔːki/ *n* a film with a synchronized sound track [*talk + movie*]

**talking picture** /'tɔːkɪŋ/ *n* a talkie

**talking point** *n* a subject of conversation or argument

**talking shop** *n* a place (e.g. a parliament) where matters are discussed, often with no useful outcome

**'talking-to** *n* a reprimand, scolding

**talk out** *vi* to clarify or settle by discussion <*tried to talk out their differences*>

**talk over** *vi* to review or consider in conversation

**talk show** *n* CHAT SHOW

**tall** /tɔːl/ *adj* 1a of above average height <*a ~ woman*> / ~ *trees*> b of a specified height <*5 feet ~*> 2 of a plant of a higher growing variety or species 3 unreasonably difficult to perform <*a ~ order*> 4 highly exaggerated, incredible <*a ~ story*> [ME, prob fr OE *getæl* quick, ready, akin to OHG *gizal* quick, OE *talū* tale] – **tall** *adv*, **tallish** *adj*, **tallness** *n*

**tallboy** /'tɔːl,bɔɪ/ *n* 1 a tall chest of drawers supported on a low legged base 2 a double chest of drawers usu with the upper section slightly smaller than the lower [*tall + boy*]

**tallith** /'tɔːlɪθ, 'tɔːlɪθ, -ɪθ/ *n, pl tallithim* /'tɔːlɪθ, 'tiːm, -'tiːm/, **talesim** /'tɔːləsɪm/ a shawl with fringed corners traditionally worn over the head or shoulders by Jewish men during morning prayers [Heb *tallith* cover, cloak]

**tallow** /'tɔːləh/ *n* the solid white rendered fat of cattle and sheep used chiefly in soap, candles, and lubricants [ME *talgh*, *talow*, akin to MD *talch* tallow] – **tallowy** *adj*

**tally** /'tɔːli/ *n* 1 a device for visibly recording or accounting esp business transactions, *specif* a wooden rod notched with marks representing numbers and split lengthways through the notches so that each of 2 parties may have a record of a transaction 2a a record or account (e.g. of items or charges) <*keep a daily ~ of accidents*> b a record of the score (e.g. in a game) 3 a part or person that corresponds to an opposite or companion object or member, a counterpart [ME *talye*, fr ML *talea*, *tallia*, fr *L* *talea* twig, cutting – more at **TAILOR**]

**tally** *vt* 1a to mark (as if) on a tally, tabulate b to list or check off (e.g. a cargo) by items 2 to make a count of ~ *vi* 1a to make a tally (as if) by tabulating b to register a point in a contest 2 to correspond, match <*their stories ~*>

**tally-ho** /'tɔːli, 'hɔːh/ *n* a call of a huntsman at the sight of a fox [prob fr *F* *taiout*, a cry used to urge hounds in deer hunting]

**tallyman** /'tɔːlɪmən/ *n* 1 one who checks or keeps an account or record (e.g. of receipt of goods) 2 Br one who sells goods on credit, *also* one who calls to collect hire purchase payments

**Talmud** /'tɔːlmud, 'tɔːl-/ *n* the authoritative body of Jewish tradition comprising the Mishnah and Gemara [LHeb *talmudh*, lit., instruction] – **talmudic** /-ˈmoʊdɪk, -ˈmoʊdɪk, -ˈmudɪk/ *also* **talmudical** *adj*, *often* *cap.*, **talmudism** *n*, *often* *cap.*

**Talmudist** /'tɔːlmudɪst, 'tɔːl-/ *n* a specialist in talmudic studies

**talon** /'tɔːlən/ *n* a claw of an animal, esp a bird of prey [ME, fr MF, heel, spur, fr (assumed) VL *talōn-*, *talō*, fr *L* *talus* ankle, anklebone] – **taloned** *adj*

**'talus** /'tɔːləs/ *n* a slope; *esp* one of rock debris at the base of a cliff [F; fr *L* *talutrum* slope indicating presence of gold under the soil]

**talus** *n, pl tali* /-ˈli-/ 1 the astragalus of a vertebrate, esp a human being, the anklebone 2 the ankle joint formed from the talus, tibia, and fibula [NL, fr *L*]

**tamandua** /ˌtəməˈndʊə, ˌtəˈmændʊə-/ *n* a tree-dwelling anteater of central and S America [Pg *tamandua*, fr Tupi]

**tamarack** /ˈtəməˈræk/ *n* (the wood of) any of several N American larches [origin unknown]

**tamarin** /ˈtəməˈrɪn/ *n* any of numerous small long-tailed S American marmosets with silky fur [F, fr Galibi]

**tamarind** /ˈtəməˈrɪnd/ *n* (a tropical leguminous tree with) a fruit with an acid pulp used for preserves or in a cooling laxative drink [Sp & Pg *tamarindo*, fr Ar *tamr hindi*, lit., Indian date]

**tamarisk** /ˈtəməˈrɪsk/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly tropical or Mediterranean shrubs and trees having tiny narrow leaves and masses of minute flowers [ME *tamarisc*, fr LL *tamariscus*, fr *L* *tamaric-*, *tamarix*]

**tambala** /ˈtəmbəˈlə/ *n, pl tambala, tambalas* ↗ Malawi at **NATION**. AIIY [native name in Malawi, lit., cockerel]

**'tambour** /ˈtæmbʊə/ *n* 1 'DRUM 1 2 (embroidery made on) a frame consisting of a set of 2 interlocking hoops between which cloth is stretched before stitching 3 a rolling top or front (e.g. of a rolltop desk) consisting of narrow strips of wood glued on canvas [F, drum, fr Ar *ṭanbūr*, modif of Per *tabir*]

**²tambour** *vt* to embroider (e.g. cloth) using a tambour – **tambourer** *n* **tamboura, tambura** /ˈtæmbʊərə/ *n* an Asian stringed musical instrument used to produce a drone accompaniment to singing [Per *tambura*]

**tambourine** /ˈtæmbʊˈreen/ *n* a shallow one-headed drum with loose metallic discs at the sides that is held in the hand and played by shaking, striking with the hand, or rubbing with the thumb [MF *tambourin*, dim of *tambour*]

**'tame** /ˈtæm/ *adj* 1 changed from a state of native wildness, esp so as to be trainable and useful to human beings 2 made docile and submissive 3 lacking spirit, zest, or interest [ME, fr OE *tam*, akin to OHG *zam* tame, *L* *domare* to tame, Gk *damnanaí*] – **tamely** *adv*, **tameness** *n*

**²tame** *vt* 1a to make tame, domesticate b to subject to cultivation 2 to deprive of spirit, subdue – **tamable, tameable** *adj*, **tamer** *n*

**Tamil** /ˈtæmɪl/ *n* 1 a language of S India and Sri Lanka ↗ LANGUAGE 2 a Tamil-speaking person

**tamis** /ˈtæmɪ, 'tæmɪs/ *n* a cloth sieve [F]

**Tammany** /ˈtæməni/ *adj, chiefly NAm* of or constituting a group exercising municipal political power by corruption and autocratic control [Tammany Hall, headquarters of the Tammany Society, political organization in New York City, USA] – **Tammanyism** *n*

**tammy** /ˈtæmɪ/ *n* a tam-o'-shanter [by shortening & alter]

**tam-o'-shanter** /ˈtæm ə 'ʃʌntə/ *n* a round flat woollen or cloth cap of Scottish origin, with a tight headband, a full crown, and usu a pom-pom on top ↗ GARMENT [Tam o' Shanter, hero of the poem of that name by Robert Burns †1796 Sc poet]

**tamp** /tæmp/ *vt* 1 to fill up (a drill hole above a blasting charge) with material (e.g. clay) to confine the force of the explosion 2 to drive in or down by a succession of light or medium blows – *often + down* [prob back-formation fr obs *tampion*, *tampin* (plug), fr ME, fr MF *tapon*, *tampōn*, fr (assumed) OF *taper* to plug, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *taepa* tap] – **tamper** *n*

**tamper** /ˈtæmpə/ *vi* 1 to carry on underhand or improper negotiations (e.g. by bribery) 2 to interfere or meddle without permission <*the car lock had been ~ ed with*> USE *usu + with* [prob fr MF *temper* to temper, mix, meddle – more at **TEMPER**] – **tamperer** *n*, **tamperproof** /-ˈpruːf/ *adj*

**tampion** /ˈtæmpɪ-ən/ *n* a plug or cover for the muzzle of a gun [obs *tampion*, *tampin* (plug)]

**tampon** /ˈtæmpən/ *vt or n* (to plug with) an absorbent plug put into a cavity (e.g. the vagina) to absorb secretions, arrest bleeding, etc [n F, lit., plug – more at **TAMP**, vb fr n]

**tam-tam** /ˈtæm, ˈtæm/ *n* a gong [Hindi *tamtam*]

**'tan** /tæn/ vb-*nn*-*vt* 1 to convert (hide) into leather, esp by treatment with an infusion of tannin-rich bark 2 to make (skin) tan-coloured, esp by exposure to the sun 3 to thrash, beat – *infnl ~ vt* to get or become tanned [ME *tannen*, fr MF *tanner*, fr ML *tannare*, fr *tanum*, *tannum* tanbark] – **tan** *someone's hide or tan* the hide off someone to beat sb severely, THRASH 2a – *infnl*

**²tan** *n* 1 a brown colour given to the skin by exposure to sun or wind 2 (a) light yellowish brown [F, tanbark, fr OF, fr ML *tanum*] – **tanish** *adj*

**³tan** *adj* of the colour tan

**tanager** /ˈtænəʒ/ *n* any of numerous chiefly woodland American birds of which the males are brightly coloured [NL *tanagra*, fr Pg *tangará*, fr Tupi]

**tanbark** /ˈtæn,bærk/ *n* a bark (e.g. of an oak) rich in tannin, bruised or cut into small pieces, and used in tanning

**'tandem** /ˈtændəm/ *n* 1 (a 2-seat carriage drawn by) horses harnessed one before the other 2 a bicycle or tricycle having 2 or more seats one behind the other [L, at last, at length (taken to mean 'lengthwise'), fr *tam* so; akin to OE *thær* that] – **in tandem** 1 in a tandem arrangement 2 in partnership or conjunction

**²tandem** *adv* one behind the other <*ride ~*>

**tandoori** /ˈtændʊəri/ *n* (meat cooked, usu on a long spit, by) a N Indian

method of cooking using a large clay oven [Hindi *tanduri*, fr *tandur* oven, fr Ar *tannūr*, fr Aram *tannura*, fr Akkadian *tanūru*]

**†tang** /tɑŋ/ *n* 1 a projecting shank or tongue (e.g. on a knife, file, or sword) that connects with and is enclosed by a handle 2a a sharp distinctive flavour b a pungent or distinctive smell 3 a faint suggestion, a trace [ME, of Scand origin, akin to ON *tangi* point of land, tang] – **tanged** *adj*, **tangy** *adj*

**†tang** *n* any of various large coarse seaweeds [of Scand origin, akin to Dan & Norw *tang* seaweed]

**Tang** *n* a Chinese dynasty (AD 618 to 907) under which printing developed and poetry and art flourished [Chin (Pek) *t'ang*]

**tangelo** /tanjiloh/ *n, pl tangelos* (the fruit of) a cross between a tangerine or mandarin orange tree and a grapefruit tree [blend of *tangerine* and *pomelo* (grapefruit, deriv of *D pomelmos* shaddock)]

**†tangent** /tʌŋtənt/ *adj* 1 touching a curve or surface at only 1 point <straight line ~ to a curve> 2 having a common tangent at a point <~ curves> [L *tangent-*, *tangens*, prp of *tangere* to touch, akin to OE *thaccian* to touch gently, stroke]

**†tangent** *n* 1 the trigonometric function that for an acute angle in a right-angled triangle is the ratio between the shorter sides opposite and adjacent to the angle 2 a straight line tangent to a curve 3 an upright flat-ended metal pin at the inner end of a clavichord key that strikes the string to produce the note *USE (1&2) ~* MATHEMATICS [NL *tangent-*, *tangens*, fr *linea tangens* tangent line] – fly/go off at/on a tangent to change suddenly from one subject, course of action, etc. to another

**tangential** /tʌŋjəntʃ(ə)/ *adj* 1 of (the nature of) a tangent 2 acting along or lying in a tangent <~ forces> 3a divergent, digressive b incidental, peripheral – **tangentially** *adv*

**tangerine** /tʌnjə'reɪn/ *n* 1 (a tree that produces) any of various mandarin oranges with deep orange skin and pulp, broadly MANDARIN 3 2 (a) bright reddish orange [F *Tanger* Tangier, city & port in Morocco]

**tangible** /tʌŋjəbl/ *adj* 1a capable of being perceived, esp by the sense of touch b substantially real, material 2 capable of being appraised at an actual or approximate value <~ assets> [LL *tangibilis*, fr L *tangere* to touch] **tangibleness** *n*, **tangibly** *adv*, **tangibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**†tangle** /tʌŋ-gəl/ *vb* **tangling** /tʌŋ-gliŋ/, **tang-gli-ŋg** /vɪ/ 1 to involve so as to be trapped or hampered 2 to bring together or intertwine in disordered confusion ~ *vi* 1 to become tangled 2 to engage in conflict or argument – *usu* + *with*; *infml* [ME *tangilen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw dial *taggla* to tangle]

**†tangle** *n* 1 a confused twisted mass 2 a complicated or confused state

**tango** /tʌŋ-goh/ *n, pl tangos* (the music for) a ballroom dance of Latin-American origin in 4 time, characterized by long pauses and stylized body positions [AmerSp] – **tango** *vi*

**Tango** – a communications code word for the letter *t*

**tangram** /tʌŋ-gram, -gram/ *n* a Chinese puzzle made by cutting a square into 5 triangles, a square, and a rhomboid which can be recombined in many different figures [perh fr Chin (Pek) *t'ang* Chinese + E *-gram*]

**†tank** /tʌŋk/ *n* 1 a large receptacle for holding, transporting, or storing liquids or gas 2 an enclosed heavily armed and armoured combat vehicle that moves on caterpillar tracks [Pg *tanque*, alter. of *estancue*, fr *estancar* to stanch, fr (assumed) VL *stanticare* – more at STANCH] – **tankful** *n*

**†tank** *vi* to place, store, or treat in a tank

**tanka** /tʌŋkə/ *n* (a poem in) an unrhymed Japanese verse form of 5 lines containing 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables respectively – compare *HAIKU* [Jap]

**tankage** /tʌŋkɪj/ *n* 1 the capacity or contents of a tank 2 (fees charged for) storage in tanks

**tankard** /tʌŋkəd/ *n* a tall one-handed drinking vessel; esp a silver or pewter mug with a lid [ME]

**†tanked-up** *adj* DRUNK 1 – *infml*

**tank engine** *n* a steam locomotive that carries its own water and coal and does not have a tender

**tanker** /tʌŋkə/ *n* a ship, aircraft, or road or rail vehicle designed to carry fluid, esp liquid, in bulk (e.g. an aircraft used for transporting fuel and *usu* capable of refuelling other aircraft in flight)

**†tank, top** *n* a sleeveless pullover with a U-shaped neckline, *usu* worn over a shirt or jumper

**tanner** /tʌnə/ *n, Br* a coin worth 6 old pence – *infml* [origin unknown]

**tannery** /tʌnəri/ *n* a place where tanning is carried out

**tannic** /tʌnik/ *adj*, of, resembling, or derived from tan or a tannin [F *tannique*, fr *tannin*]

**tannic** /tʌnik/ *acid* *n* tannin

**tannin** /tʌnin/ *n* any of various soluble astringent complex phenolic substances of plant origin used esp in tanning, dyeing, and making ink [F, fr *tanner* to tan]

**tanning** /tʌnɪŋ/ *n* a beating, thrashing – *infml* [tʌn + -ɪŋɪ]

**Tannoy** /tʌnoy/ *trademark* – used for a loudspeaker apparatus that broadcasts to the public, esp throughout a large building

**tanzy** /tʌnzɪ/ *n* an aromatic composite plant with finely divided leaves that is a common weed [ME *tanecy*, fr OF *tanecie*, fr ML *athanasia*, fr Gk, immortality, fr *athanatos* immortal, fr *a-* + *thanatos* death – more at THANATOS]

**tantalite** /tʌntəlɪt/ *n* a heavy dark lustrous mineral consisting mainly of iron and tantalum oxide [Sw *tantalit*, fr NL *tantalum*]

**tantalize**, **-ise** /tʌntəlɪz/ *vi* to tease or frustrate by presenting sthg desirable that is just out of reach [Tantalus, mythical King of Phrygia condemned in Hades to stand up to his chin in water that receded whenever he stooped to drink and under branches of fruit that receded whenever he tried to eat, fr L, fr Gk *Tantalos*] – **tantalizer** *n*, **tantalizing** *adj*

**tantalum** /tʌntələm/ *n* a hard acid-resistant metallic element of the vanadium family ~ PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Tantalus*, fr its inability to absorb acid]

**†tantamount** /tʌntə'maʊnt/ *adj* equivalent in value, significance, or effect to [jobs tantamount, n (equivalent), fr AF *tant amunter* to amount to as much]

**†tantara** /tʌntərə, tʌnt'ahrə/ *n* the blare of a trumpet or horn [L *tarantantara*, of imit origin]

**tantra** /tʌntə, tʌnt'rə/ *n, often cap* 1 any of a body of later Hindu and Buddhist scriptures marked by mysticism and magic 2 the doctrine and cult deriving from the tantras, including the practice of Shaktism [Skt, lit., warp, fr *tanoti* he stretches, weaves, akin to Gk *temnō* to stretch – more at THIN] – **tantric** *adj*, *often cap*, **Tantrism** *n*, **Tantrist** *n*

**†tantrum** /tʌntɾəm/ *n* a fit of childish bad temper [origin unknown]

**†tanyard** /tʌnyɑːd/ *n* the part of a tannery which houses tanning vats

**Tao** /tow/ *n* 1 the principle of creative harmony which the Taoists believe orders the universe 2 *often not cap* the path of virtuous conduct of Confucian doctrine [Chin (Pek) *tao*, lit., way]

**Taoism** /təʊɪz(ə)m/ *n* a Chinese philosophy traditionally founded by Lao-tzu in the 6th c bc that teaches action in conformity with nature rather than striving against it, also a religion developed from this philosophy together with folk and Buddhist religion and concerned with obtaining long life and good fortune often by magical means [Tao] – **Taoist** *adj* or *n*, **Taoistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**†tap** /tʌp/ *n* 1a a plug designed to fit an opening, esp in a barrel b a device consisting of a spout and valve attached to a pipe, bowl, etc to control the flow of a fluid 2 a removal of fluid from a body cavity 3 a tool for forming an internal screw thread 4 the act or an instance of tapping a telephone, telegraph, etc, also an electronic listening device used to do this 5 a small piece of metal attached to the sole or heel of tap-dancing shoes [ME *tappe*, fr OE *tæppa*, akin to OHG *zapho* tap] – **on tap** 1 of beer on draught 2 readily available

**†tap** *vt* **-pp-** 1 to let out or cause to flow by piercing or by drawing a plug from the containing vessel 2a to pierce so as to let out or draw off a fluid (e.g. from a body cavity) b to draw from or upon <~ new sources of revenue> c to connect an electronic listening device to (e.g. a telegraph or telephone wire), esp in order to acquire secret information 3 to form an internal screw thread in (e.g. a nut) by means of a special tool 4 to get money from as a loan or gift – *infml* – **tapper** *n*

**†tap** *vb* **-pp-** 1a to strike lightly, esp with a slight sound b to produce ~ by striking in this manner – *often* + *out* <~ *ped out a tune*> 2 to give a light blow with <~ a pencil on the table> ~ *vi* to strike a light audible blow; rap [ME *tappen*, fr MF *taper* to strike with the flat of the hand, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *tape* paw, blow dealt with the paw] – **tapper** *n*

**†tap** *n* 1 (the sound of) a light blow 2 any of several *usu* rapid drumbeats on a snare drum

**tapa** /təpə/ *n* the bark of the paper mulberry [Marquesan & Tahitian]

**†tap, dance** *n* a step dance tapped out audibly by means of shoes with hard soles or soles and heels to which taps have been added – **tap-dance** *vi*, **tap dancer** *n*, **tap dancing** *n*

**†tape** /təp/ *n* 1 a narrow band of woven fabric 2 the string stretched

- above the finishing line of a race 3 a narrow flexible strip or band, esp MAGNETIC TAPE 4 a tape recording [ME, fr OE *tæppe*]
- \*tape** *vt* 1 to fasten, tie, or bind with tape 2 to record on tape, esp magnetic tape (< ~ an interview) ~ *vi* to record sthg on esp magnetic tape - have someone/something taped to have fully understood or learnt how to deal with sb/y or sthg - *infrml*
- tape deck** *n* a mechanism or self-contained unit that causes magnetic tape to move past the heads of a magnetic recording device in order to generate electrical signals or to make a recording
- tape measure** *n* a narrow strip (e.g. of a limp cloth or steel tape) marked off in units (e.g. inches or centimetres) for measuring
- taper** /'tæpə/ *n* 1a a slender candle b a long waxed wick used esp for lighting candles, fires, etc 2 gradual diminution of thickness, diameter, or width [ME, fr OE *tapor*, *taper*]
- \*taper** *vi* 1 to decrease gradually in thickness, diameter, or width towards one end 2 to diminish gradually (<his voice ~ed off) ~ *vi* to cause to taper
- tape-record** /rɪ'kɔ:d/ *vt* to make a tape recording of [back-formation fr *tape recording*]
- tape recorder** *n* a device for recording signals, esp sounds, on magnetic tape and for subsequently reproducing them
- tape recording** *n* (a) recording on magnetic tape
- tapestry** /'tæpstri/ *n* 1 a heavy handwoven textile used for hangings, curtains, and upholstery, characterized by complicated pictorial designs 2 a machine-made imitation of tapestry used chiefly for upholstery [ME *tapistry*, modif of MF *tapiserie*, fr *tapiser* to carpet, cover with tapestry, fr OF *tapis* carpet, fr Gk *tapes* rug, carpet] - **tapestried** /-stɪrɪd/ *adj*
- tapeworm** /'tæp,wu:m/ *n* any of numerous cestode worms, which when adult are parasitic in the intestine of human beings or other vertebrates [fr its shape]
- tiopoca** /'tapi'ohkə/ *n* (a milk pudding made with) a usu granular preparation of cassava starch used esp in puddings and as a thickening in liquid food [Sp & Pg, fr Tupi *typyôca*]
- tapir** /'tæpə/ *n*, *pl* **tapirs**, *esp* collectively **tapir** any of several large chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals with long snouts found in tropical America and Asia that are related to the horses and rhinoceroses [Tupi *tapira*]
- tappet** /'tæpɪt/ *n* a lever or projection moved by or moving some other piece (e.g. a cam) [irreg fr 'tap]
- taproom** /'tæp,ru:m/ *n*, *pl* **taprooms**, *-room/ n* a barroom
- taproot** /-ru:ti/ *n* a main root of a plant that grows vertically downwards and gives off small side roots ['tap]
- taps** /tæps/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, chiefly *NAm* the last bugle call at night, blown as a signal that lights are to be put out, also a similar call blown at military funerals and memorial services [prob alter of earlier *taptoo* tattoo - more at TATTOO]
- tapster** /'tæpsɪ/ *n* sb/y employed to serve drinks in a bar
- tapu** /'tæpu:/ *n*, *pl* **tapus**, *-/-/ n* or *adj*, *NZ* (a) taboo [Maori]
- \*tar** /tɑ:/ *n* 1a a dark bituminous usu strong-smelling viscous liquid obtained by heating and distilling wood, coal, peat, etc b a residue present in smoke from burning tobacco that contains resins, acids, phenols, etc 2 a sailor - *infrml* [ME *terr*, *tarr*, fr OE *teoru*, akin to OE *treow* tree - more at TREE, (2) short for *tarpaulin*]
- \*tar** *vt* -rr- to smear with tar - **tar** and **feather** to smear (a person) with tar and cover with feathers as a punishment or humiliation - **tarred** with the same brush having the same faults
- taramasalata** /,tə'rəmə'səlætə/ *n* a pinkish paste made from fish roe (e.g. grey mullet or smoked cod), olive oil, and seasoning, usu eaten as a starter [NGK *taramosalata*]
- tarantella** /,tə'ræntelə/ *n* (music suitable for) a vivacious folk dance of southern Italy in 3/4 time [It, fr *Taranto*, city & port in Italy]
- tarantism** /,tə'ræntɪz(ə)m/ *n* a nervous disease causing dancelike body movements which was prevalent in medieval Italy and popularly attributed to the bite of the tarantula [NL *tarantismus*, fr *Taranto*]
- tarantula** /,tə'ræntʊlə/ *n*, *pl* **tarantulas** also **tarantulae** /-li/ 1 a European wolf spider formerly held to be the cause of tarantism 2 any of various large hairy spiders that can bite sharply but are not significantly poisonous to human beings [ML, fr OIt *tarantola*, fr *Taranto*]
- tarboosh** also **tarbush** /tə'h'boʊʃ/ *n* a usu red hat similar to the fez worn esp by Muslim men [Ar *tarbush*]
- tardigrade** /tə'hdi,græd/ *n* or *adj* (any) of a division of microscopic arthropods that live usu in water or damp moss [deriv of L *tardigradus* slow-moving, fr *tardus* slow + *grad* to step, go - more at GRADE]
- tardy** /tə'hdi/ *adj* 1 moving or progressing slowly; sluggish 2 delayed
- beyond the expected time, late [alter of earlier *tardif*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *tardivus*, fr L *tardus*] - **tardily** *adv*, **tardiness** *n*
- \*tare** /teə/ *n* 1 any of several vetches 2 *pl* a weed found in cornfields which is usu held to be darnel - used in the Bible [ME]
- \*tare** *n* 1a the weight of the wrapping material or container in which goods are packed b a deduction from the gross weight of a substance and its container made in allowance for the weight of the container 2 the weight of an unloaded goods vehicle 3 a container used as a counterweight in calculating the net weight of goods [ME, fr MF, fr OIt *tara*, fr Ar *tarha*, lit, that which is removed]
- \*tare** *vt* to weigh in order to determine the tare
- target** /'tɑ:ɡɪt/ *n* 1 a small round shield 2a an object to fire at in practice or competition, esp one consisting of a series of concentric circles with a bull's-eye at the centre b sthg (e.g. an aircraft or installation) fired at or attacked 3a an object of ridicule, criticism, etc b a goal, objective 4 a body, surface, or material bombarded with nuclear particles or electrons, esp to produce X rays [ME, fr MF *targette*, dim of *large* light shield, of Gmc origin, akin to ON *targa* shield]
- target practice** *n* the act of shooting at a target to improve one's aim
- \*tariff** /'tærɪf/ *n* 1 a duty or schedule of duties imposed by a government on imported or in some countries exported goods 2 a schedule of rates or prices [It *tariffa*, fr Ar *ta'rif* notification]
- \*tariff** *vt* to subject to a tariff
- tarlatan** /'tɑ:lætən/ *n* a sheer cotton fabric in open plain weave usu heavily sized for stiffness [F *tarlatane*]
- \*tarmac** /'tɑ:mɑ:k/ *n* 1 tarmacadam 2 a runway, apron, or road made of tarmac
- \*tarmac** *vt* to apply tarmac to
- tarmacadam** /,tɑ:mɑ:'kædəm/ *n* a mixture of tar and aggregates used for surfacing roads
- tern** /tɜ:n/ *n* a small mountain lake 𐀓 GEOGRAPHY [ME *terne*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *tyrn* small lake, akin to OE *teran* to tear]
- \*tarnish** /'tɑ:nɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to dull the lustre of (as if) by dirt, air, etc 2a to mar, spoil b to bring discredit on ~ *vi* to become tarnished [MF *terniss*, stem of *ernir*] - **tarnishable** *adj*
- \*tarnish** *n* a film of chemically altered material on the surface of a metal (e.g. silver)
- taro** /'tɑ:ro:/ *n*, *pl* **taros** (the edible starchy tuberous rootstock of) a tropical plant of the arum family [Tahitian & Maori]
- tarot** /'tɑ:ro:/ *n* any of a set of 78 pictorial playing cards, including 22 trumps, used esp for fortune-telling [MF, fr It *tarocchi* (pl)]
- tarpan** /'tɑ:pən/ *n* an extinct wild brown horse of Central Asia [Russ]
- tarpaulin** /tə'h'pawlin/ *n* (a piece of) heavy waterproof usu tarred canvas material used for protecting objects or ground exposed to the elements [prob fr 'tar + -pauling, -pauling (fr *paill*)]
- tarragon** /'tærəɡən/ *n* (a small European wormwood with) pungent aromatic leaves used as a flavouring (e.g. in chicken dishes and vinegar) [MF *targon*, fr ML *tarchon*, fr Ar *tarkhun*]
- tarry** /'tæri/ *vi* 1 to delay or be slow in acting or doing 2 to stay in or at a place [ME *tarren*]
- tarseal** /'tæseəl/ *n*, *NZ* **tarmac** - **tarsealed** *adj*
- tarsia** /'tæhsɪ-/ *n* *intarsia* [It, fr Ar *tarsi*]
- tarsier** /'tæhsɪ-/ *n* any of several small nocturnal tree-dwelling E Indian mammals related to the lemurs [F, fr *tarse* tarsus, fr NL *tarsus*]
- tarsometatarsus** /,tæhsə'metə'tæhsɪs/ *n* (the limb segment supported by) the large compound bone of the tarsus of a bird [NL, fr *tarsus* + -o- + *metatarsus*]
- tarsus** /'tæhsəs/ *n*, *pl* **tarsi** /-sɪ-/ 1 (the small bones that support) the back part of the foot of a vertebrate that includes the ankle and heel 𐀓 ANATOMY 2 the part of the limb of an arthropod furthest from the body 𐀓 ANATOMY 3 the plate of dense connective tissue that stiffens the eyelid [NL, fr Gk *tarsos* wickerwork mat, flat of the foot, ankle, edge of the eyelid, akin to Gk *tersessthai* to become dry - more at THIRST] - **tarsal** *adj* or *n*
- \*tart** /tɑ:t/ *adj* 1 agreeably sharp or acid to the taste 2 caustic, cutting (<a ~ rejoinder) [ME, fr OE *teart* sharp, severe, akin to MHG *traz* spite] - **tartish** *adj*, **tartishly** *adv*, **tartly** *adv*, **tartness** *n*
- \*tart** *n* 1 a pastry shell or shallow pie containing a usu sweet filling (e.g. jam or fruit) 2 a prostitute; broadly a sexually promiscuous girl or woman - *infrml* [ME *tarte*, fr MF] - **tarty** *adj*, **tartiness** *n*, **tartlet** *n*
- tartan** /'tɑ:t(ə)n/ *n* (a usu twilled woollen fabric with) a plaid textile design of Scottish origin consisting of checks of varying width and colour

- usu patterned to designate a distinctive clan [prob fr MF *tiretaine* linsey-woolsey]
- \*tartar** /'ta:ta/ *n* 1 a substance consisting essentially of cream of tartar that is derived from the juice of grapes and deposited in wine casks as a reddish crust or sediment 2 an incrustation on the teeth consisting esp of calcium salts – compare PLAQUE [ME, fr ML *tartarum*]
- \*tartar** *n* 1 *cap*, *NAM chiefly* Tatar a member of a group of people found mainly in the Tartar Republic of the USSR, the north Caucasus, Crimea, and parts of Siberia 2 *cap*, *NAM chiefly* Tatar the language of the Tartars 3 an irritable, formidable, or exacting person [ME *Tartre*, fr MF *Tartare*, prob fr ML *Tartarus*, modif of Per *Tātar*, of Turkic origin; akin to Turk *Tatar*] – **Tartar** *adj*, **Tartarian** /'ta:təri-ən, -'teəri-ən/ *adj*
- tartar emetic** *n* a complex tartrate of antimony and potassium used in dyeing as a mordant and in medicine, esp in the treatment of schistosomiasis
- tartaric acid** /'ta:h'tarɪk/ *n* a strong carboxylic acid from plants that is usu obtained from tartar, and is used esp in food and medicines
- tartar sauce** /'ta:ta/, **tartare sauce** /~, 'ta:h,tah/ *n* mayonnaise with chopped pickles, olives, capers, and parsley [F *sauce tartare*]
- tart up** *vt*, *chiefly Br* to dress up, esp cheaply or gaudily – *infrml*
- Tarzan** /'ta:h(z)ən, 'ta:zən/ *n* a strong, well-built, and agile man [Tarzan, hero of adventure stories by Edgar Rice Burroughs †1950 US author]
- tash** /'tash/ *n*, *Br* a moustache – *infrml* [by shortening & alter.]
- task** /'ta:sk/ *n* 1 an assigned piece of work, a duty 2 sthg hard or unpleasant that has to be done; a chore [ME *taske*, fr ONF *tasque*, fr ML *tasca* tax or service imposed by a feudal superior, fr *taxare* to tax]
- \*task, force** *n* a temporary grouping under 1 leader for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective
- \*taskmaster** /-mə'stə/ *n* one who assigns tasks (<a hard ~>)
- Tasmanian devil** /'taz'meɪnɪən, -'ni-ən/ *n* a powerful flesh-eating burrowing Tasmanian marsupial that is about the size of a badger and has a black coat marked with white [Tasmania, island off SE Australia]
- Tasmanian wolf** *n* a flesh-eating Tasmanian marsupial that somewhat resembles a dog
- \*tassel** /'tasl/ *n* 1 a dangling ornament (e.g. for a curtain or bedspread) consisting of a bunch of cords or threads usu of even length fastened at 1 end 2 the tassel-like flower clusters of some plants, esp maize [ME, clasp, tassel, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *tassellus*, fr L *taxillus* small die, akin to L *talus* anklebone, die]
- \*tassel** *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), **tasselling** /'tasi-lɪŋ/ *vt* to decorate with tassels ~ *vi* to form tassel flower clusters
- \*taste** /'taɪst/ *vi* 1 to experience, undergo (<has ~ d defeat>) 2 to test the flavour of by taking a little into the mouth 3 to eat or drink, esp in small quantities (<the first food she has ~ d in 2 days>) 4 to perceive or recognize (as if) by the sense of taste (<could ~ the salt on his lips>) ~ *vi* 1 to test the flavour of sthg by taking a little into the mouth 2 to have perception, experience, or enjoyment – usu + of 3 to have a specified flavour – often + of (<the milk ~ s sour>) (<this drink ~ s of aniseed>) [ME *tasten* to touch, test, taste, fr OF *taster*, fr (assumed) VL *taxitare*, freq of L *taxare* to touch – more at TAX]
- \*taste** *n* 1a the act of tasting b a small amount tasted c a first acquaintance or experience of sthg (<her first ~ of success>) 2 (the quality of a dissolved substance as perceived by) the 1 of the 5 basic physical senses by which the qualities of dissolved substances in contact with taste buds on the tongue are interpreted by the brain as 1 or a combination of the 4 basic taste sensations sweet, bitter, sour, or salt 3 individual preference; inclination 4 (a manner or quality indicative of) critical judgment or discernment esp in aesthetic or social matters (<a remark in bad ~>) (<his choice in furnishing showed ~>)
- \*taste, bud** *n* any of the small organs, esp on the surface of the tongue, that receive and transmit the sensation of taste
- \*tasteful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* showing or conforming to good taste – *tastefully* *adv*, *tastefulness* *n*
- \*tasteless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 having no taste; insipid 2 showing poor taste – disapproved of by some speakers – *tastelessly* *adv*, *tastelessness* *n*
- taster** /'taɪstə/ *n* sby who tests food or drink by tasting, esp in order to assess quality ['TASTE + -ER]
- tastevin** /'taɪst,vən/ *n* a shallow metal cup used in testing wine [F *tâte-vin*, *taste-vin*, fr MF *taste vin* dunkard, cup for testing wine, fr *taster* to test, taste + *vin* wine, fr L *vinum*]
- tasty** /'taɪsti/ *adj* 1 having an appetizing flavour 2 arousing interest (<a ~ bit of gossip>) – *infrml* – *tastily* *adv*, *tastiness* *n*
- \*tat** /tət/ *vb* -tt- *vi* to work at tatting ~ *vt* to make by tatting [back-formation fr *tatting*]
- \*tat** *n*, *Br* low quality material or goods – *infrml* [back-formation fr *tatty*]
- ta-ta** /'ta:ta/ *interj*, *chiefly Br* goodbye – *infrml* [baby talk]
- Tatar** /'ta:ta/ *n* (a) Tartar [Per *Tatar*, of Turkic origin; akin to Turk *Tatar*]
- tatter** /'tata/ *n* 1 an irregular torn shred, esp of material 2 *pl* tattered clothing; rags [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *totur* tatter; akin to OHG *zotta* matted hair, tuft] – *in* **tatters** 1 torn in pieces, ragged 2 in disarray; useless
- tattered** /'tataəd/ *adj* (dressed in clothes which are) old and torn
- tattle** /'tati/ *n*, *dial* a potato [by shortening & alter.]
- tatting** /'tatiŋ/ *n* (the act or art of making) a delicate handmade lace formed usu by making loops and knots using a single cotton thread and a small shuttle [origin unknown]
- \*tattle** /'tati/ *vb* **tatting** /'tatiŋ/ *vi* to chatter, gossip ~ *vt* to disclose (e.g. secrets) by gossiping [MD *tatelen*, akin to ME *tateren* to tattle] – *tattler* *n*
- \*tattle** *n* chatter, gossip
- \*tattoo** /'ta:tu:/ *n*, *pl* **tattoos** 1a an evening drum or bugle call sounded as notice to soldiers to return to quarters b an outdoor military display given by troops as a usu evening entertainment 2 a rapid rhythmic beating or rapping [alter. of earlier *taptoo*, fr D *taptoc*, fr the phrase *tap toe! taps shut!*]
- \*tattoo** *n*, *pl* **tattoos** (an indelible mark made by) tattooing [Tahitian *tatau*]
- \*tattoo** *vt* 1 to mark (the body) by inserting pigments under the skin 2 to mark (a design) on the body by tattooing – *tattooer* *n*, *tattooist* *n*
- tatty** /'tati/ *adj* shabby, dilapidated – *infrml* [perh akin to OE *tætteca* rag, ON *totur* tatter – more at TATTER]
- tau** /tau, tow/ *n* the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *tāw*, 23rd letter of the Heb alphabet]
- taught** /taʊt/ *past* & *past part* of TEACH
- \*taunt** /taʊnt/ *vt* to provoke in a mocking way, jeer at [perh fr MF *tenter* to try, tempt – more at TEMPT] – *taunter* *n*, *tauntingly* *adv*
- \*taunt** *n* a sarcastic provocation or insult
- taupe** /tohp/ *n* or *adj* brownish grey [n F, lit, mole, fr L *talpa*, *adj* fr n]
- taurine** /'taʊnɪn/ *adj* of or resembling a bull [L *taurinus*, fr *taurus* bull, akin to Gk *tauros* bull, Mlr *tarb*]
- Taurus** /'taʊrəs/ *n* (sby born under) the 2nd sign of the zodiac in astrology which is pictured as a bull  SYMBOL [ME, fr L, lit, bull] – *Taurean* *adj* or *n*
- taut** /taʊt/ *adj* 1a tightly drawn, tensely stretched b showing anxiety, tense 2 kept in good order (<a ~ ship>) [ME *tough*] – *tautly* *adv*, *tautness* *n*
- taut-, tauto-** *comb form* same (<tautomerism>) (<tautonym>) [LL, fr Gk, fr *tauto* the same, contr of *auto*]
- tauten** /'taʊt(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become taut
- tautog** /'taʊtɒg/ *n* a N American food fish of the wrasse family [Narraganset *tautauog*, pl]
- tautology** /'taʊtəlɒgi/ *n* 1 (an instance of) needless repetition of an idea, statement, or word 2 a statement that is true by virtue of its logical form, an analytic proposition [LL *tautologia*, fr Gk, fr *tautologos* tautologous, fr *taut-* + *legein* to say – more at LEGEND] – *tautological* /'taʊtəlɒjɪkl/, *tautologous* /'taʊtɒləgəs/ *adj*, *tautologically*, *tautologously* /-gəʃli/ *adv*
- tautomer** /'taʊtəmə/ *n* any of the forms of a tautomeric compound [ISV, fr *tautomerism*]
- tautomerism** /'taʊtəmərɪz(ə)m/ *n* isomerism in which the isomers change into one another with great ease so that they ordinarily exist together in equilibrium – *tautomeric* /'taʊtəmərɪk/ *adj*
- \*tavern** /'təvən/ *n* INN 1a, b [ME *taverne*, fr OF, fr L *taberna*, lit., shed, hut, shop, fr *trabs* beam]
- \*taw** /taʊ/ *vt* to dress (skins), usu by a dry process (e.g. with alum or salt) [ME *tawen* to prepare for use, fr OE *tawian*; akin to L *bonus* good]
- \*taw** *n* the line from which players shoot at marbles [origin unknown]
- tawdry** /'tawdri/ *adj* cheap and tastelessly showy in appearance [obs *tawdry lace* (necklace), alter. of *St Audrey's Lace*, fr *St Audrey* (Etheldreda) †79 Queen of Northumbria; fr its being orig sold at a fair commemorating St Audrey] – *tawdrily* *adv*, *tawdriness* *n*
- tawny** /'taʊni/ *adj* of a warm sandy or brownish orange colour like that of well-tanned skin [ME, fr MF *tanné*, pp of *tanner* to tan] – *tawniness* *n*
- tawny owl** *n* a common brown European owl



**tawse** /tawz/ *n*, chiefly Scot a leather strap slit into strips at the end, used for beating children [prob fr *taws*, pl of obs *taw* (tawed leather)]

**tax** /taks/ *vt* 1 to assess (legal costs) 2 to levy a tax on 3 to charge, accuse with 4 to make strenuous demands on [ME *taxen* to estimate, assess, tax, fr MF *taxer*, fr ML *taxare*, fr L, to feel, estimate, censure, freq of *tangere* to touch – more at *TANGENT*] – **taxable** *adj*, **taxingly** *adv*, **taxer** *n*

**tax** *n* 1 a charge, use of money, imposed by a government on individuals, organizations, or property, esp to raise revenue 2 a heavy demand or strain – **after tax** *net* – **before tax** *gross*

**tax-**, **taxo-** also **taxi-** *comb form* arrangement (<*taxeme*> (<*taxidermy*> [Gk *taxi-*, fr *taxis*])

**taxa** /'taksə/ *pl* of *TAXON*

**taxation** /tak'saysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the action of taxing; esp the imposition of taxes 2 revenue obtained from taxes 3 the amount assessed as a tax  
**tax-free** *adj* exempted from tax

**tax**, **haven** *n* a country with a relatively low level of taxation, esp on incomes

**taxi** /'taksi/ *n*, *pl taxis* also *taxies* a taxicab

**taxi** *vb* **taxis**, **taxies**; **taxing**, **taxying**; **taxied** *vt* 1 to ride in a taxi 2 of an aircraft to go at low speed along the surface of the ground or water ~ *vt* 1 to transport by taxi 2 to cause (an aircraft) to taxi

**taxi,cab** /-kəb/ *n* a motor car that may be hired, together with its driver, to carry passengers, the fare usu being calculated by a taximeter [*taxi-* meter *cab*]

**taxidermy** /'taksi,duhmi/ *n* the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals [*tax-* + *derm-* + *-y*] – **taxidermist** *n*, **taxidermic** /-duhmik/ *adj*

**taximeter** /'taksi,meeta/ *n* a meter fitted in a taxi to calculate the charge for each journey, usu determined by the distance travelled [F *taximetre*, modif of G *taxameter*, fr ML *taxa* tax, charge (fr *taxare* to tax) + *-meter*]

**taxis** /'taksis/ *n*, *pl taxis* /-seez/ 1 the manual restoration of a displaced body part, esp a hernia, by pressure 2 (a reflex reaction involving) movement by a freely motile usu simple organism (e.g. a bacterium) towards or away from a source of stimulation (e.g. a light, or a temperature or chemical gradient) – compare *TROPISM* [Gk, lit. arrangement, order, fr *tassein* to arrange – more at *TACTIC*]

**-taxis** *comb form*, (→ *n*), *pl* **-taxes** 1 arrangement, order (<*homotaxis*> (<*parataxis*>) 2 orientation or movement towards or in relation to (a specified force or agent) (<*chemotaxis*>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *taxis*] – **tactic** *comb form* (→ *adj*)

**taxman** /'taks,man/ *n* 1 an official who collects taxes 2 *Br* the Inland Revenue personified – *infml*

**taxo-** – see *TAX-*

**taxon** /'taksən/ *n*, *pl taxa* /'taksə/ also *taxons* (the name of) a taxonomic group or entity [NL, back-formation fr ISV *taxonomy*]


**taxonomy** /tak'sonəmi/ *n* (the study of the principles of) classification, specif of plants and animals according to their presumed natural relationships [F *taxonomie*, fr *tax-* + *-onomie* -onomy] – **taxonomist** *n*, **taxonomic** /'taksənomik/ *adj*, **taxonomically** *adv*


**taxpayer** /-payə/ *n* one who pays or is liable for a tax

**tax,paying** /-payɪŋ/ *adj* of or subject to the paying of a tax

**tax**, **return** *n* a formal statement, made to the Inland Revenue, of one's income and allowable deductions for tax purposes

**TB** *n* tuberculosis [*TB* (abbr for *tubercle bacillus*)]

**T-bar** *adj* having or being 2 straps that fasten a shoe so that 1 lies along the length of the upper foot and 1 circles the ankle to form the shape of a T  *GARMENT*

**T-bone**, **T-bone steak** *n* a thick steak from the thin end of a beef sirloin containing a T-shaped bone  *MEAT*

**TCP** *trademark* – used for an aqueous antiseptic solution

**t distribution** *n* a probability density function that is used esp in testing hypotheses concerning means of normal distributions whose standard deviations are unknown

**tea** /te:/ *n* 1a a shrub cultivated esp in China, Japan, and the E Indies b the leaves of the tea plant prepared for the market, classed according to method of manufacture (e.g. green tea or oolong), and graded according to leaf size (e.g. pekoe) 2 an aromatic beverage prepared from tea leaves by infusion with boiling water 3 any of various plants somewhat resembling tea in appearance or properties; also an infusion of their leaves used medicinally or as a beverage (<*chamomile* ~) 4a refreshments including tea with sandwiches, cakes, etc served in the late afternoon b a late-afternoon or early-evening meal that is usu less substantial than the midday meal – compare *HIGH TEA* [Chin (Amoy) *t'ei*]

**tea,bag** *n* a cloth or filter paper bag holding enough tea for an individual serving when infused

**tea ball** *n* a perforated metal ball-shaped container that holds tea leaves and is used in brewing tea, esp in a cup

**tea bread** *n* any of various light often sweet breads or plain cakes

**tea cake** *n* a round yeast-leavened (sweet) bread bun that often contains currants and is usu eaten toasted with butter

**teach** /teech/ *vb* **taught** /tawt/ *vt* 1 to cause to know (how), esp by showing or instructing (<*is ~ing me to drive*>) 2 to guide the studies of 3 to impart the knowledge of (<*algebra*>) 4 to instruct by precept, example, or experience 5 to cause to suffer the usu disagreeable consequences of sth – *infml* (<*I'll ~ you to come home late*>) ~ *vi* to provide instruction [ME *techen* to show, instruct, fr OE *tæcan*; akin to OE *tācn* sign – more at *TOKEN*]

**teachable** /'teechəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being taught 2 apt and willing to learn – **teachableness** *n*, **teachably** *adv*, **teachability** /-'biləti/ *n*

**teacher** /'teechə/ *n* sby whose occupation is teaching [TEACH + '-ER]

**teacher's pet** *n* sby who ingratiates him/herself with an authority, esp a teacher

**tea chest** *n* a large square box used for exporting tea (<*stored her books in a ~*>)

**teach-in** *n* 1 an informally structured conference on a usu topical issue 2 an extended meeting for lectures, demonstrations, and discussions on a topic [*teach* + *-in* (as in *sit-in*)]

**teaching** /'teechɪŋ/ *n* 1 the profession of a teacher 2 sth taught; esp a doctrine (<*the ~s of Confucius*>)

**teaching aid** *n* a device (e.g. a record player, map, or picture) used in teaching

**teaching hospital** *n* a hospital that is affiliated to a medical school and provides medical students with the opportunity of gaining practical experience under supervision

**teaching machine** *n* any of various mechanical devices for presenting instructional material

**tea,cloth** *n* 1 a small cloth for a table or trolley on which tea is to be served 2 *TEA TOWEL*

**tea,house** /-həʊs/ *n* a restaurant, esp in China or Japan, where tea and light refreshments are served

**teak** /teek/ *n* (a tall E Indian tree of the vervain family with) hard yellowish brown wood used for furniture and shipbuilding [Pg *teca*, fr Malayalam *tēkka*]

**teal** /teel/ *n*, *pl teals*, esp collectively **teal** (any of several ducks related to) a small Old World dabbling duck the male of which has a distinctive green and chestnut head [ME *tele*; akin to MD *teeling* teal]

**team** /teem/ *n* 1a two or more draught animals harnessed together b one or more draught animals together with harness and vehicle 2 *sing* or *pl* *in constr* a group formed for work or activity: e.g. a group on 1 side (e.g. in a sporting contest or debate) b a crew, gang [ME *teme*, fr OE *team* offspring, lineage, group of draught animals; akin to OE *teon* to draw, pull]

**team** *vt* 1 to yoke or join in a team 2 to combine so as to form a harmonizing arrangement (<*the shoes with the dress*>) ~ *vi* 1 to come together (as if) in a team – often + *up* (<*let's ~ up with them for a night out*>) 2 to form a harmonizing combination

**team handball** *n* a game played indoors between 2 teams of 7 players each, whose aim is to put the ball into a goal by throwing, catching, and dribbling it with the hands

**team spirit** *n* willingness to subordinate personal aims to group objectives

**teamster** /'ti:nstə/ *n* 1 sby who drives a team of horses 2 *NAm* a lorry driver

**team teaching** *n* a system whereby a group of teachers with various qualifications work with a large group of pupils

**team,work** /-wʊrk/ *n* mutual cooperation in a group enterprise

**teapot** /'te:pot/ *n* a usu round pot with a lid, spout, and handle in which tea is brewed and from which it is served

**teapoy** /'te:poi/ *n* a 3-legged ornamental stand or table [Hindi *tipai*]

**tear** /tiə/ *n* 1 a drop of clear salty fluid secreted by the lachrymal gland that lubricates the eye and eyelids and is often shed as a result of grief or other emotion 2 a transparent drop of (hardened) fluid (e.g. resin) [ME, fr OE *teħher*, *tēar*; akin to OHG *zahar* tear, L *dacruma*, *lacrima*, Gk *dakryl*] – **tearless** *adj* – *in tears* crying, weeping

**tear** /tes/ *vb* **tore** /taw/; **torn** /tawn/ *vt* 1a to pull apart by force b to wound by tearing; lacerate 2 to cause division or distress to (<*a mind torn with doubts*>) 3 to remove by force (<*tore the child from him*>) 4 to make

or effect (as if) by tearing <~ a hole in the paper> ~ *vi* 1 to separate on being pulled <this cloth ~s easily> 2 to move or act with violence, haste, or force <went ~ing down the street> [ME *teren*, fr OE *teran*; akin to OHG *zeran* to destroy, Gk *derain* to skin] - *tearer* *n* - *tear* a strip off to rebuke angrily - *infrml* - *tear* at to cause distress or pain to <tore at my heartstrings to see her go> - *tear* into to attack physically or verbally without restraint or caution - *tear* one's hair to experience or express grief, rage, desperation, or anxiety

\***tear** /teə/ *n* 1 damage from being torn - chiefly in *wear and tear* 2 a hole or flaw made by tearing

**tearaway** /ˈteə,weɪ/ *n*, *Br* an unruly and reckless young person - *infrml*

**tear away** *vt* to remove (oneself or another) reluctantly <she could hardly tear herself away from the book>

**tear down** *vt* to pull down, esp violently; demolish

**teardrop** /ˈtiː,drɒp/ *n* 'TEAR 1

**tearful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 flowing with or accompanied by tears <~ entreaties> 2 causing tears 3 inclined or about to cry <was feeling a bit ~> - *tearfully* *adv*, *tearfulness* *n*

**tear gas** /ˈtiː,ɡæs/ *n* a solid, liquid, or gaseous substance that on dispersion in the atmosphere blinds the eyes with tears and is used chiefly in dispelling crowds

**tearing** /ˈteərɪŋ/ *adj* violent, precipitate <in a ~ hurry> - *infrml*

**tearjerker** /ˈtiː,jəʊkə/ *n* an excessively sentimental play, film, etc designed to provoke tears - *infrml* - *tear-jerking* *adj*

**tearoom** /ˈteə,ruːm/ *n* a restaurant where light refreshments are served

**tea rose** *n* any of numerous hybrid garden roses with abundant large usu tea-scented blossoms

**tear up** /teə/ *vt* 1 to tear into pieces 2 to cancel or annul, usu unilaterally <lore up the treaty>

\***tease** /tiːz/ *vt* 1 to disentangle and straighten by combing or carding <~ wool> 2a to (attempt to) disturb or annoy by persistently irritating or provoking b to persuade to coalesce, esp by persistent small efforts, coax; also to obtain by repeated coaxing <~d the money out of her father> ~ *vi* to tease sby or sthg [ME *tesen*, fr OE *tæsan*, akin to OHG *zeisan* to tease] - *teasingly* *adv*

\***tease** *n* sby or sthg that teases


\***teasel** /ˈtiːzəl/ *n* 1 a flower head of a tall Old World plant of the scabious family with flower heads that are covered with stiff hooked bracts and were formerly used, when dried to raise a nap on woollen cloth 2 a wire substitute for the teasel [ME *tesel*, fr OE *tæsel*; akin to OE *tæsan* to tease]

\***teasel** *vt* -ll- (NAm, -l-, -ll-), /ˈtiːzəl-ɪŋ/ to nap (cloth) with teasels

**teaser** /ˈtiːzə/ *n* 1 a frustratingly difficult problem 2 sby who derives malicious pleasure from teasing [ˈTEASE + ˈER]

**Teasmade** /ˈtiːzmaɪd/ *trademark* - used for an electrical appliance that can be set to make a pot of tea at a specified time and sounds an alarm when the tea is ready

**teaspoon** /ˈtiːspuːn/ *n* 1 a small spoon used esp for eating soft foods and stirring beverages 2 a teaspoonful

\***teaspoonful** /-f(ə)l/ *n*, *pl* *teaspoonfuls* also *teaspoonful* as much as a teaspoon will hold  UNIT

**teet** /teet/ *n* 1 NIPPLE 2 a small projection or a nib (e.g. on a mechanical part); *specif* a rubber mouthpiece with usu 2 or more holes in it, attached to the top of a baby's feeding bottle [ME *tete*, fr OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *tit* teat, MHG *zitze*] - *teated* *adj*

**teatime** /ˈtiːtiːm/ *n* the customary time for tea; late afternoon or early evening

**tea towel** *n* a cloth for drying the dishes


**tea tray** *n* a tray on which a tea service is carried

**tea trolley** *n*, chiefly *Br* a small trolley used in serving tea or light refreshments

**teazel**, **teazle** /ˈtiːzəl/ *n* a teasel

**tec** /tek/ *n* a detective - *infrml* [by shortening]

**tech** /tek/ *n*, *Br* a technical school or college - *infrml*

**technetium** /ˈtekˈneɪʃ(y)əm/ *n* an artificially produced metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Gk *technetos* artificial, fr *technasthai* to devise by art, fr *techné*]

**technical** /ˈteknɪkl/ *adj* 1a having special and usu practical knowledge, esp of a mechanical or scientific subject b marked by or characteristic of specialization 2 of a particular subject; esp of a practical subject organized on scientific principles 3 in the strict legal interpretation 4 of technique 5 of or produced by ordinary commercial processes without being subjected to special purification [Gk *technikos* of art, skilful, fr *techné* art,


craft, skill; akin to Gk *tektōn* builder, carpenter, L *texere* to weave, OHG *dahs* badger] - *technically* *adv*, *technicalness* *n*

**technical college** *n* any of a number of British regional institutions offering courses at a less advanced level than a polytechnic and with a bias towards the vocational

**technicality** /ˈteknɪkəlɪti/ *n* sthg technical, esp a detail meaningful only to a specialist <a legal ~>

**technical knockout** /ˈnok,əʊt/ *n* the termination of a boxing match when a boxer is declared by the referee to be unable (e.g. because of injuries) to continue the fight

**technical school** *n* a secondary school providing education with a technical or commercial bias for children from age 11 to 16 or 18

**technical sergeant** *n*  RANK

**technician** /ˈtekˈnɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 a specialist in the technical details of a subject or occupation <a medical ~> 2 sby who has acquired the technique of an area of specialization (e.g. an art) <a superb ~ and an artist of ingenuity>

**Technicolor** /ˈteknɪkʊlə/ *trademark* - used for a process of colour photography in the cinema in which the 3 primary colours are recorded on separate films and then combined in a single print

**technicolour** /ˈteknɪkʊlə/ *n* vivid and often garish colour - *technicoloured* *adj*

**technique** /ˈtekˈniːk/ *n* 1 the manner in which an artist, performer, or athlete displays or manages the formal aspect of his/her skill 2a a body of technical methods (e.g. in a craft or in scientific research) b a method of accomplishing a desired aim [F, fr *technique* technical, fr Gk *technikos*]

**techno-** *comb form* technical, technological <technocracy> [Gk, fr *techné*]

**technocracy** /ˈtekˈnɒkrəsi/ *n* (management of society by) a body of technical experts; also a society so managed - chiefly derog - *technocrat* /ˈteknəkrət/ *n*, *technocratic* /ˈteknəˈkratik/ *adj*

**technology** /ˈtekˈnɒlədʒi/ *n* 1 (the theory and practice of) applied science 2 the totality of the means and knowledge used to provide objects necessary for human sustenance and comfort [Gk *technologia* systematic treatment of an art, fr *techno-* + *-logia* -logy] - *technologist* *n*, *technological* /ˈteknəˈlɒdʒɪkl/ *adj*, *technologically* *adv*

**techy** /ˈtechi/ *adj* *teichy*

**tectonic** /ˈtekˈtɒnɪk/ *adj* of tectonics: e.g. a architectural b of the (forces involved in or structures resulting from) deformation of the earth's crust [LL *tectonicus*, fr Gk *tektōnikos* of a builder, fr *tektōn* builder - more at TECHNICAL] - *tectonically* *adv*

**tec'tonics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1 the science or art of construction (e.g. of a building) 2 (a branch of geology concerned with) structural features, esp those connected with folding and faulting

**ted** /ted/ *vt* -dd- to turn over and spread (e.g. new-mown grass) for drying [(assumed) ME *tedden*; akin to OHG *zetten* to spread, ON *teithja* to spread manure, Gk *daesthai* to divide, distribute - more at TIDE] - *tedder* *n*

**Ted** *n* TEDDY BOY - *infrml*

**teddy** /ˈtedi/ *n* TEDDY BEAR - used esp by or to children

**teddy bear** *n* a stuffed toy bear [Teddy, nickname of Theodore Roosevelt †1919 US president; fr a cartoon depicting the president sparing the life of a bear cub while hunting]

**teddy boy** *n* any of a cult of (British) youths, esp in the 1950s, adopting the dress of the early 20th c and often having a reputation for unruly behaviour [Teddy, nickname for Edward, i.e. King Edward VII †1910]

**Te Deum** /ˈtaɪ ˈdeɪəm, ˈteɪ ˈdee-/ *n*, *pl* *Te Deums* a liturgical Christian hymn of praise to God [ME, fr LL *te deum laudamus* thee, God, we praise; fr the opening words of the hymn]

**tedious** /ˈtiːdiəs/ *adj* tiresome because of length or dullness [ME, fr LL *taediosus*, fr L *taedium*] - *tediously* *adv*, *tediousness* *n*

**tedium** /ˈtiːdi-əm/ *n* tediousness; also boredom [L *taedium* disgust, irksomeness, fr *taedere* to disgust, weary]

\***tee** /tee/ *n* 1 sthg shaped like a capital T 2 a mark aimed at in various games (e.g. curling) [ME]

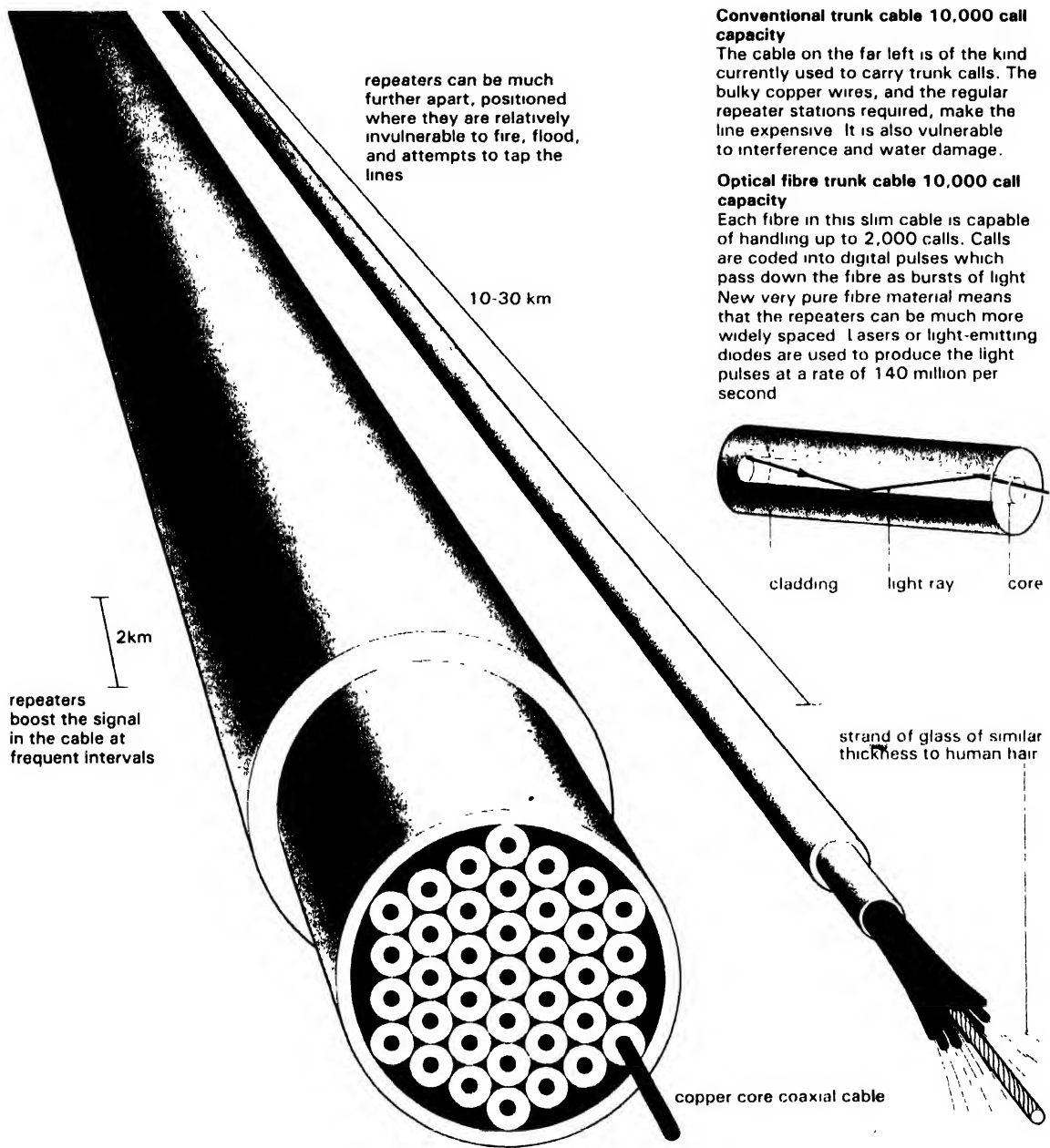
\***tee** *n* 1 a peg or a small mound used to raise a golf ball into position for striking at the beginning of play on a hole 2 the area from which a golf ball is struck at the beginning of play on a hole [back-formation fr obs *tear* (taken as pl); perh akin to Icel *tja* to show, mark]

\***tee** *vt* to place (a ball) on a tee - often + *up*

**tee-hee** /ˈtee ˈhee/ *interj* - used to express amusement or derision [ME *te he*, of imit origin]

\***teem** /teem/ *vi* 1 to abound <lakes that ~ with fish> 2 to be present in

- large quantities [ME *temen*, fr OE *timan*, *tæman*; akin to OE *team* offspring - more at TEAM]
- <sup>2</sup>**teem** *vi*, *Br* to rain hard [ME *temen* to empty, pour out, fr ON *tæma*, akin to OE *tom* empty]
- teen** /teen/ *adj* teenage ~ *infml*
- teenage** /'teenayj/, **teenaged** /'teenayjd/ *adj* of or being people in their teens - **teenager** *n*
- teens** /teenz/ *n pl* the numbers 13 to 19 inclusive, *specif* the years 13 to 19 in a lifetime [-teen (as in *thirteen*)]
- teensy** /'teenzi/, **teensy-weensy** /'teenzi 'weenzi/, **teensy** 'weensy/ *adj* tiny ~ *infml* [baby-talk alter of *teeny* (-weeny)]
- teeny** /'teeni/, **teeny-weeny** /'teeni 'weeni/ *adj* tiny ~ *infml* [teeny by alter (influenced by weeny)]
- teenybopper** /'teeni bopə/ *n* a young teenage girl who zealously follows the latest trends in clothes, pop music, etc [teen + -y + bopper]
- tee off** /tee/ *vi* to drive a golf ball from a tee
- teepee** /'tec,pec/ *n* a teepee
- 'tee shirt** *n* a T-shirt
- teeter** /'tieta/ *vi* to move unsteadily, wobble, waver [ME *titeren* to totter, reel, akin to OHG *zittaron* to shiver, Gk *dramein* to run, Skt *drati* he runs]
- teeth** /teeth/ *pl* of TOOTH
- teeth** /'teedh/ *vi* to cut one's teeth, grow teeth [back-formation fr *teething*] - **teething** *n*
- 'teething ring** /'teedhɪŋ/ *n* a usu plastic ring for a teething infant to bite on
- 'teething troubles** *n pl* temporary problems occurring with new machinery or during the initial stages of an activity
- teetotal** /'tee'tohtl/ *adj* practising complete abstinence from alcoholic drinks [total *teetotal* (abstinence)] - **teetotalism** *n*
- teetotaler** /'tee'tohtl ə/, *NAm chiefly* **teetotaler** *n* sby teetotal
- teetotum** /'tee'tohtəm/ *n* a small top, usu inscribed with letters and used in games of chance, *broadly* any small top spun with the fingers [tee + L *totum* all, fr neut of *totus* whole, fr the letter T inscribed on one side as an abbr of *totum* (take) all]
- teff** /tef/ *n* an African cereal grass grown for its grain which yields a white flour [Amharic *tef*]
- Teflon** /'teflon/ *trademark* - used for polytetrafluoroethylene
- teg** /teg/ *n*, *chiefly Br* a sheep in its second year [(assumed) ME *tegge* (in place-names), fr (assumed) OE *tegga*, akin to OSw *takka* ewe]
- tegument** /'tegyoomənt/ *n* an integument [ME, fr L *tegumentum*, fr *tegere* to cover] - **tegumental** /-mentl/ *adj*, **tegumentary** /-ment(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- tektite** /'tektiet/ *n* a rounded glassy body, prob of meteoritic origin [ISV, fr Gk *tektos* molten, fr *tekein* to melt - more at THAW] - **tektite** /-tɪtɪk/ *adj*
- tel-, telo-** *comb form* end <telophase> [ISV, fr Gk *telos* - more at WHEEL]
- teleaesthesia** /telə'sθeeziə/, -zh(y)ə/ *n* perception (e.g. of an object) at a distance without the use of the sense organs [NL, fr *tele-* + *aesthesia*]
- tele-, tel-** *comb form* 1 distant, at a distance, over a distance <telegram> <telepathy> 2a telegraph <teleprinter> b television <teletext> <telecamera> [NL, fr Gk *tele-*, *tel-*, fr *tele* far off - more at PAIAE-]
- telecast** /'telɪkəst/ *vb* to televise [*tele-* + broadcast] - **telecast** *n*, **telecaster** *n*
- telecine** /'telɪsɪnɪ/ *n*, *chiefly Br* the conversion of filmed material into signals suitable for television broadcasting [*tele-* + cinematograph]
- telecommunication** /'telɪkə,myoo'hni:kəʃh(ə)n/ *n* 1 communication at a distance (e.g. by telegraph) 2 a science that deals with telecommunication - usu pl with sing. meaning [ISV]
- teledu** /'telədoo/ *n* a flesh-eating mammal of Java and Sumatra that is related to the skunk, resembles the badger, and secretes an offensive-smelling liquid [Malay *tēdu*]
- telegram** /'telɪgrəm/ *n* a message sent by telegraph and delivered as a written or typed note
- 'telegraph** /'telɪgrəf/, -grəf/ *n* an apparatus or system for communicating at a distance, esp by making and breaking an electric circuit [F *télégraphe*, fr *télé-* (fr Gk *tele-*) + *-graphie* -graph]
- <sup>2</sup>**telegraph** *vt* 1 to send or communicate (as if) by telegraph 2 to make known by signs, esp unknowingly and in advance (<~ a punch>) - **telegrapher** /'tə'legrəfə/ *n*, **telegraphist** /'tə'legrəfɪst/ *n*
- telegraphese** /'telɪgrə'hɛz/, -grə-/ *n* the terse and abbreviated language characteristic of telegrams
- telegraphic** /'telɪ'græfɪk/ *adj* 1 of the telegraph 2 concise, terse - **telegraphically** *adv*
- telegraphic address** *n* a registered abbreviated direction for the delivery of telegrams
- telegraphy** /'tə'legrəfi/ *n* the use or operation of a telegraphic apparatus or system
- telekinesis** /'telɪkɪ'neɪsɪs/ *n* psychokinesis carried out at an appreciable distance [NL, fr Gk *tele-* + *kinesis* motion - more at -KINESIS] - **telekinetic** /-nɛtɪk/ *adj*
- telemark** /'telɪmɑːk/ *n*, *often cap* a turn in skiing in which the outside ski is advanced ahead of the other ski and then turned inwards at a steadily widening angle [Norw, fr *Telemark*, region in Norway]
- telemeter** /'telɪ,meɪtə/, 'tə'leɪmɪtə/ *n* an electrical apparatus for measuring a quantity (e.g. pressure or temperature) and transmitting the result to a distant point [ISV] - **telemeter** *n*, **telemetric** /'telɪ'metrɪk/ *adj*, **telemetry** /'tə'leɪmətri/ *n*
- telencephalon** /'telən'sefələn/ *n* the front subdivision of the brain comprising the cerebral hemispheres and associated structures [NL, fr *tel-* + *encephalon*] - **telencephalic** /'telɛnsɪ'fælk/ *adj*
- teleology** /'telɪ'ɒləʒi/, 'tee-/ *n* 1 a doctrine explaining phenomena by reference to goals or purposes 2 the character attributed to nature or natural processes of being directed towards an end or designed according to a purpose [NL *teleologia*, fr Gk *tele-*, *telos* end, purpose + *-logia* -logy - more at WHFEL] - **teleologist** *n*, **teleological** /'telɪ'ɒləjɪkl/, 'tee-/ *adj*
- teleost** /'telɪ,ɒst/, 'tee-/ *n* BONY FISH [deriv of Gk *teleios* complete, perfect (fr *telos* end) + *osteon* bone - more at OSSEOUS] - **teleostean** /'telɪ'ɒsti-ən/, 'tee-/ *adj* or *n*
- telepathy** /'tə'leɪpəθi/ *n* communication directly from one mind to another without use of the known senses - **telepathist** *n*, **telepathic** /'telɪ'pæθɪk/ *adj*
- 'telephone** /'telɪfohn/ *n* 1 a device for reproducing sounds at a distance; *specif* one for converting sounds into electrical impulses for transmission, usu by wire, to a particular receiver [TELECOMMUNICATION 2 the system of communications that uses telephones <get in touch by ~> [*tele-* + *-phone*] - **telephonic** /'telɪfə'nɪk/ *adj*, **telephony** /'tə'leɪfəni/ *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**telephone** *vi* to make a telephone call ~ *vi* 1 to send by telephone (<~ a message>) 2 to (attempt to) speak to by telephone - **telephoner** *n*
- 'telephone box** *n*, *Br* a booth containing a public telephone
- 'telephone directory** *n* a book giving the telephone numbers of subscribers
- telephonist** /'tə'leɪfənɪst/ *n*, *Br* a telephone switchboard operator
- telephoto** /'telɪ,fohtə/ *adj* 1 of telephotography 2 being a camera lens system designed to give a large image of a distant object [short for *telephotographic*]
- telephotography** /'telɪfə'tɒgrəfi/ *n* the photography of distant objects (e.g. by a camera provided with a telephoto lens) [ISV] - **telephotographic** /'telɪ,fohtə'græfɪk/ *adj*
- teleport** /'telɪpawt/ *vi* to transport oneself from one place to another using only the power of one's mind [*tele-* + *-port* (as in *transport*)] - **teleportation** *n*
- teleprinter** /'telɪ,prɪntə/ *n* a typewriter keyboard that transmits telegraphic signals, a typewriting device activated by telegraphic signals, or a machine that combines both these functions [TELECOMMUNICATION]
- TelePrompter** /'telɪ,pʁɒmptə/ *trademark* - used for a device for unrolling a magnified script in front of a speaker on television
- <sup>2</sup>**telescope** /'telɪskəʊp/ *n* 1 a usu tubular optical instrument for viewing distant objects by means of the refraction of light rays through a lens or the reflection of light rays by a concave mirror 2 RADIO TELESCOPE [NL *telescopium*, fr Gk *teleskopos* farseeing, fr *tele-* tele- + *skopos* watcher, akin to Gk *skopein* to look - more at SPY]
- <sup>2</sup>**telescope** *vi* 1 to slide one part within another like the cylindrical sections of a hand telescope 2 to become compressed under impact 3 to become condensed or shortened ~ *vi* 1 to cause to telescope 2 to condense, shorten
- telescopic** /'telɪ'skɒpɪk/ *adj* 1a of or performed with a telescope b suitable for seeing or magnifying distant objects 2 able to discern objects at a distance 3 having parts that telescope - **telescopically** *adv*
- 'teletex** /-tekst/ *n* an advanced form of telex in which documents are scanned and then reproduced by the receiver [TELECOMMUNICATION [prob blend of *telex* and *text*]]
- 'teletext** /-tekst/ *n* an information service provided by a television network broadcasting special pages of news, sports results, etc at the same time as ordinary programmes [TELEVISION [*tele-* + *text*]]
- Teletype** /'telɪ,ti:p/ *trademark* - used for a teleprinter

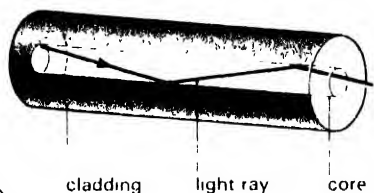


**Conventional trunk cable 10,000 call capacity**

The cable on the far left is of the kind currently used to carry trunk calls. The bulky copper wires, and the regular repeater stations required, make the line expensive. It is also vulnerable to interference and water damage.

**Optical fibre trunk cable 10,000 call capacity**

Each fibre in this slim cable is capable of handling up to 2,000 calls. Calls are coded into digital pulses which pass down the fibre as bursts of light. New very pure fibre material means that the repeaters can be much more widely spaced. Lasers or light-emitting diodes are used to produce the light pulses at a rate of 140 million per second.

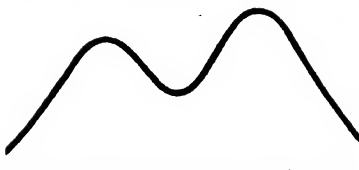


strand of glass of similar thickness to human hair

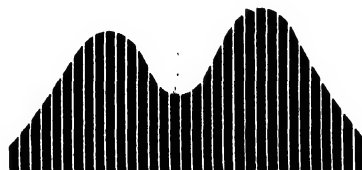
copper core coaxial cable

**Digital sound**

Sound takes the form of waves which travel through air, water and some solid objects. When sound is converted into an electrical signal by a microphone, it follows a waveform analogous to the sound. The electrical analogue waves are, by their nature, subject to distortion - for example when passing through the wires in a telephone system. This distortion can largely be avoided by digital transmission.



This representation of an analogue signal shows the varying height (amplitude) of the waveform.

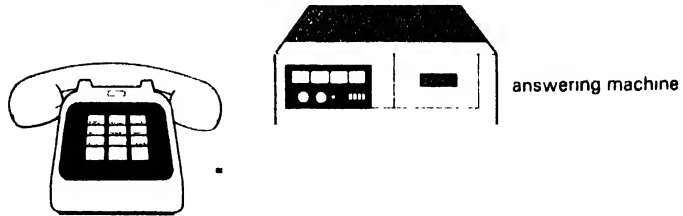


A digital encoder "samples" the amplitude and assigns a numerical value for each height.

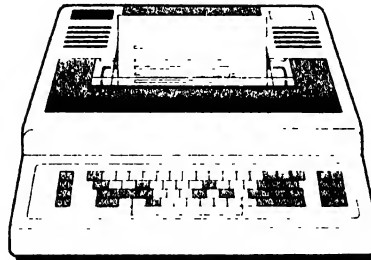
## customer's equipment

**Telephone/Viewphone**

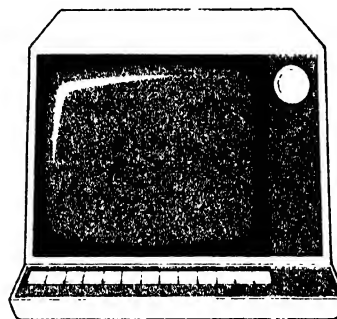
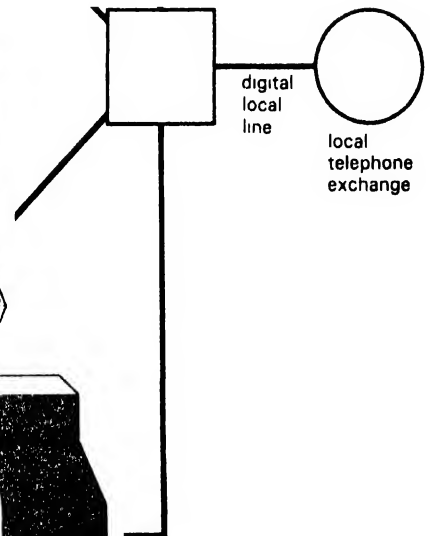
The telephone can be used not only for transmitting speech but also for communicating computer data and visual images. Computers can 'talk' to each other in this way. When optical fibres are introduced, the viewphone could also become practicable because of the wide signal bandwidth they offer.

**Teletex/Telex**

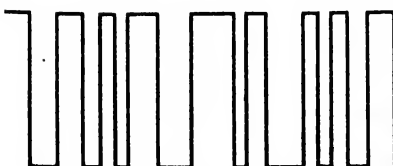
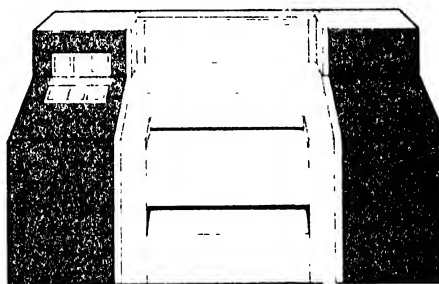
Telex is a teleprinter system in which messages typed on the keyboard by the sender are reproduced on the receiver's teleprinter. Teletex is an advanced form of Telex with wider typographic facility – it can also be used to link up word processors in different locations.

**Viewdata/data terminal**

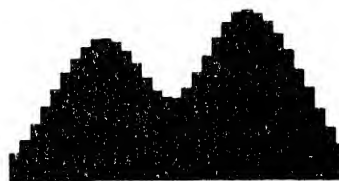
The Prestel service (British Telecom) enables subscribers to dial a computer and call up pages of information which are displayed on a special television set. Messages can also be written and transmitted.

connecting  
boxdigital  
local  
linelocal  
telephone  
exchange**Facsimile**

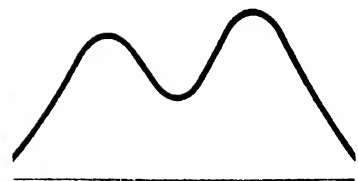
This piece of equipment scans original documents and transmits the information through to the receiver, where the documents are reproduced.



Each value is then put into code, rather like letters in Morse code, which can be transmitted in pulses.



A digital decoder reconstructs the analogue waveform from the coded message. Even if some values are lost, the original waveform is still retrievable.



The final recreated wave form is in theory identical to the original.

**teletypewriter** /ˈtɛlɪˈtɪpˌrɪtə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a teleprinter

**televise** /ˈtɛlvɪz/ *vt* to broadcast (an event or film) by television [back-formation fr *television*]

**television** /ˈtɛlvɪz(ə)n, -ʒ-/ *n* 1 an electronic system of transmitting changing images together with sound along a wire or through space by converting the images and sounds into electrical signals 2 a television receiving set 3a(1) the television broadcasting industry (2) a television broadcasting organization or station <Tyne-Tees Television> b the medium of television communication [F *television*, fr *télé-* tele- (fr Gk *tele-*) + *vision*]

**television** /ˈtɛlvɪz(ə)n/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* of or suitable for broadcast by television

**telex** /ˈtɛks/ *n* a communications service involving teleprinters connected by wire through automatic exchanges, also a message by telex → TELECOMMUNICATION [teleprinter + exchange] - *telex* *vb*

**tell** /tɛl/ *vb* told /toʊld/ *vt* 1 to count, enumerate <all told there were 27 present> 2a to relate in detail, narrate <~ me a story> b to give utterance to; express in words 3 to make known; divulge 4a to report to, inform b to assure emphatically <he did not do it, I ~ you> 5 to order <told her to wait> 6a to ascertain by observing <can never ~ whether he's lying or not> b to distinguish, discriminate <can't ~ Bach from the Beatles> ~ *vi* 1 to give an account 2 to make a positive assertion; decide definitely <you can never ~ for certain> 3 to act as an informer - often + *on* 4 to take effect <the worry began to ~ on her nerves> 5 to serve as evidence or indication <will ~ against you in court> [ME *tellen*, fr OE *tellan*; akin to OHG *zellan* to count, tell, OE *talu* tale]

**teller** /ˈtɛlə/ *n* 1 sby who relates or communicates <a ~ of stories> 2 sby who counts: e.g. a sby appointed to count votes b a member of a bank's staff concerned with the direct handling of money received or paid out **telling** /ˈtɛlɪŋ/ *adj* carrying great weight and producing a marked effect <the most ~ evidence against him> - *tellingly* *adv*

**telling-off** *n* a harsh or severe reprimand

**tell off** *vt* 1 to number and set apart; esp to assign to a special duty <told off a detail and put them to digging a trench> 2 to give a telling-off to

**telltale** /ˈtɛlˌtɑːl/ *n* 1 sby who spreads gossip or rumours; esp an informer 2 a device for indicating or recording sthg (e.g. the position of a vessel's rudder) - *telltale* *adj*

**tellur-**, **telluro-** *comb form* 1 earth <tellurian> 2 tellurium <telluride> [L *tellur-*, *tellus*, (2) NL *tellurum*]

**tellurian** /ˈtɛl(j)uəri-ən/ *n* or *adj* (an inhabitant) of the earth - *fml* , **telluric** /ˈtɛl(j)uəri-ək/ *adj* 1 of or containing (high valency) tellurium 2 of the earth

**telluride** /ˈtɛlyoʊrɪd/ *n* a binary compound of tellurium, usu with a more electropositive element or radical [ISV]

**tellurium** /ˈtɛl(j)uəri-əm/ *n* a semimetallic element chemically related to selenium and sulphur → PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *tellur-*, *tellus* earth]

**tellurous** /ˈtɛlyoʊrəs/ *adj* of or containing (low valency) tellurium [ISV]

**telly** /ˈtɛli/ *n*, chiefly *Br* (a) television - *infml* [by shortening & alter.] **tele-** - see **TEL-**

**telophase** /ˈtɛləˌfaɪz, -ˈtɛ-/ *n* the final stage of cell division in which the mitotic spindle disappears and 2 new nuclei appear, each with a set of chromosomes [ISV]

**telson** /ˈtɛlsən/ *n* the last segment of the body of an arthropod, esp a crustacean, or of a segmented worm [NL, fr Gk, end of a ploughed field; prob akin to Gk *telos* end]

**Telugu** /ˈtɛləɡuːh/ *n*, pl *Telugus*, esp collectively *Telugu* 1 a member of the predominant people of Andhra Pradesh in India 2 the language of the Telugu people → LANGUAGE

**temerity** /ˈtɛmərɪti/ *n* unreasonable disregard for danger or opposition; broadly cheek, nerve [ME *temeryte*, fr L *temeritas*, fr *temere* at random, rashly, lit., in the dark, akin to OHG *demar* darkness, L *tenebrae*, Skt *tamas*]

**temp** /tɛmp/ *n* sby (e.g. a typist or secretary) employed temporarily - *infml* [short for *temporary*]

**temp** *vi* to work as a temp - *infml*

**temper** /ˈtɛmpə/ *vt* 1 to moderate (sthg harsh) with the addition of sthg less severe <~ justice with mercy> 2 to bring to a suitable state, esp by mixing in or adding a liquid ingredient; esp to mix (clay) with water or a modifier and knead to a uniform texture 3 to bring (esp steel) to the right degree of hardness by reheating (and quenching) after cooling 4 to strengthen the character of through hardship <troops ~ ed in battle> 5 to adjust the pitch of (a note, chord, or instrument) to a temperament

[ME *temperen*, fr OE & OF; OE *temprian* & OF *temper*, fr L *temperare* to moderate, mix, temper; prob akin to L *tempor-*, *tempus* time - more at **TEMPORAL**] - **temperable** *adj*, **temperer** *n*

**temper** *n* 1 characteristic tone <the ~ of the times> 2 the state of a substance with respect to certain desired qualities (e.g. the degree of hardness or resilience given to steel by tempering) 3a a characteristic cast of mind or state of feeling b composure, equanimity c (prone to displays of) an uncontrolled and often disproportionate rage <he has/is in a terrible ~>

**tempera** /ˈtɛmpərə/ *n* (a work produced by) a method of painting using pigment ground and mixed with an emulsion (e.g. of egg yolk and water) [It, lit., temper, fr *temperare* to temper, fr L]

**temperament** /ˈtɛmpərəmənt/ *n* 1a a person's peculiar or distinguishing mental or physical character (which according to medieval physiology was determined by the relative proportions of the humours) b excessive sensitiveness or irritability 2 the modification of the musical intervals of the pure scale to produce a set of 12 fixed notes to the octave which enables a keyboard instrument to play in more than 1 key [ME, fr L *temperamentum*, fr *temperare* to mix, temper]

**temperamental** /ˈtɛmpərəˌmentl/ *adj* 1 of or arising from individual character or constitution <~ peculiarities> 2a easily upset or irritated, liable to sudden changes of mood b unpredictable in behaviour or performance - **temperamentally** *adv*

**temperance** /ˈtɛmpərəns/ *n* 1 moderation, self-restraint 2 habitual moderation in the indulgence of the appetites, specif moderation in or abstinence from the use of alcoholic drink [ME, fr L *temperantia*, fr *temperant-*, *temperans*, prp of *temperare* to moderate, be moderate]

**temperate** /ˈtɛmpərət/ *adj* 1 moderate e.g. a not extreme or excessive <a ~ climate> <a ~ speech> b moderate in indulgence of appetite or desire, esp abstemious in the consumption of alcohol 2a having a moderate climate b found in or associated with a temperate climate [ME *temperat*, fr L *temperatus*, fr pp of *temperare*] - **temperately** *adv*, **temperateness** *n*

**temperate zone** *n*, often *cap* *T&Z* either of the 2 regions between a polar circle and the nearest tropic

**temperature** /ˈtɛmpərətʃə/ *n* 1a degree of hotness or coldness as measured on an arbitrary scale (e.g. in degrees Celsius) - → PHYSICS b the degree of heat natural to the body of a living being 2 an abnormally high body heat [L *temperatura* mixture, moderation, fr *temperatus*, pp of *temperare*]

**tempered** /ˈtɛmpəd/ *adj* 1a having the elements mixed in satisfying proportions b qualified or diluted by the mixture or influence of an additional ingredient 2 having a specified temper - in combination <short-tempered>

**tempest** /ˈtɛmpɪst/ *n* 1 a violent storm 2 a tumult, uproar [ME, fr OF *tempeste*, fr (assumed) VL *tempesta*, alter. of L *tempestas* season, weather, storm, fr *tempus* time - more at **TEMPORAL**]

**tempestuous** /ˈtɛmpəsˌtʃuːəs/ *adj* turbulent, stormy <~ weather> <a ~ debate> [LL *tempestuosus*, fr OL *tempestus* season, weather, storm, fr *tempus*] - **tempestuously** *adv*, **tempestuousness** *n*

**Templar** /ˈtɛmplə/ *n* a knight of a religious military order founded in Jerusalem in the early 12th c for the protection of pilgrims and suppressed in the 14th c [ME *templer*, fr OF *templier*, fr ML *templarius*, fr L *templum* temple]

**template** /ˈtɛmpleɪt/, **templet** /ˈtɛmplit/ *n* 1 a short piece or block placed horizontally in a wall under a beam to distribute its weight or pressure (e.g. over a door) 2a a gauge, pattern, or mould used as a guide to the form of a piece being made b a molecule (e.g. of RNA) in a biological system that carries the genetic code for protein or other macromolecules c an overlay [template alter. (influenced by plate) of *templet*, prob fr F *templet*, dim. of *temple* temple of a loom]

**temple** /ˈtɛmpl/ *n* 1a a building dedicated to worship among any of various ancient civilizations (e.g. the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Romans) and present-day non-Christian religions (e.g. Hinduism and Buddhism) b often *cap* any of 3 successive national sanctuaries in ancient Jerusalem 2 a place devoted or dedicated to a specified purpose 3 chiefly *NAm* a Reform or Conservative synagogue [ME, fr OE & OF; OE *tempel* & OF *temple*, fr L *templum* space marked out for observation of auguries, temple- prob akin to L *tempus* time]

**temple** *n* the flattened space on either side of the forehead of some mammals (e.g. human beings) [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *tempula*, alter. of L *tempora* (pl) temples; prob akin to L *tempor-*, *tempus* time]

**temple** *n* a device in a loom for keeping the cloth stretched [ME *tempylle*, fr MF *temple*, prob fr L *templum* temple (sanctuary), small timber]



**tempo** /'tempoh/ *n*, *pl* **tempi** /-pi/, **tempos** 1 the speed of a musical piece or passage indicated by any of a series of directions and often by an exact metronome marking 2 rate of motion or activity [It, lit., time, fr L *tempus*]

**temporal** /'temp(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1a of time as opposed to eternity or space, esp transitory b of earthly life c of lay or secular concerns 2 of grammatical tense or of a distinction of time (when *is a ~ conjunction*) [ME, fr L *temporalis*, fr *tempor-*, *tempus* time, akin to Lith *tempti* to stretch, & prob to L *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **temporally** *adv*

**temporality** /'temp(ə)rəli/ *n* 1 civil or political power as distinguished from spiritual or ecclesiastical authority 2 an ecclesiastical property or revenue – often pl [TEMPORAL + -ITY]

**temporal lobe** *n* a large lobe at the side of each cerebral hemisphere that contains a sensory area associated with hearing and speech [temporal fr MF, fr LL *temporalis*, fr L *tempora* temples (of the head)]

**temporary** /'temp(ə)rəri, 'tempərəri/ *adj* lasting for a limited time [L *temporarius*, fr *tempor-*, *tempus* time] – **temporarily** /'tempərəli, 'tempərəli/ *adv*, **temporariness** /'temp(ə)rərɪnɪs, 'tempərənɪs/ *n*

**temporary** *n* a temp


**temporize**, -ise /'tempəreɪz/ *vi* 1 to comply temporarily with the demands of the time or occasion 2 to draw out negotiations so as to gain time [MF *temporiser*, fr ML *temporizare* to pass the time, fr L *tempor-*, *tempus*] – **temporizer** *n*, **temporization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**tempt** /tempt/ *vt* 1 to entice, esp to evil, by promise of pleasure or gain 2 to risk provoking the disfavour of (<shouldn't ~ fate> 3a to induce to do sthg b to cause to be strongly inclined (<he was ~ed to call it quits> c to appeal to, entice (<the idea ~s me>) [ME *tempten*, fr OF *temptier*, *tenter*, fr L *temptare*, *tentare* to feel, try, tempt, akin to L *tendere* to stretch – mor. at THIN] – **temptable** *adj*, **tempter**, **temptress** *n*

**temptation** /temp'taysh(ə)n/ *n* 1 tempting or being tempted, esp to evil 2 sthg tempting

**tempting** /temptɪŋ/ *adj* enticing – **temptingly** *adv*

**tempura** /tem'pooərə, 'tempərə/ *n* a Japanese dish of seafood or vegetables dipped in batter and fried [Jap *tempura*]

**ten** /ten/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 the tenth in a set or series (<the ~ of diamonds> 3 sthg having 10 parts or members or a denomination of 10 4 the number occupying the position 2 to the left of the decimal point in the Arabic notation, also, pl this position [ME, fr OE *tiene*, fr *tien*, *adj*, *ten*, akin to OHG *zehan* ten, L *decem*, Gk *deka*, Skt *daśa*] – **ten** *adj* or *pron*, **tenfold** /-foʊld/ *adj* or *adv*, **tenth** /tentθ/ *adj* or *n*

**tenable** /tenəbl/ *adj* capable of being held, maintained, or defended [F, fr OF, fr *tenir* to hold, fr L *tenēre* – more at THIN] – **tenableness** *n*, **tenably** *adv*, **tenability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**tenacious** /tə'neɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 tending to stick or cling, esp to another substance 2a persistent in maintaining or keeping to sthg valued as habitual b retentive (<a ~ memory>) [L *tenac-*, *tenax* tending to hold fast, fr *tenēre* to hold] – **tenaciously** *adv*, **tenaciousness** *n*, **tenacity** /tə'neɪsəti/ *n*

**tenaculum** /tə'nakju:ləm/ *n*, *pl* **tenacula** /-lə/, **tenaculums** a slender sharp-pointed hook used mainly in surgery for seizing and holding parts (e.g. arteries) [NL, fr LL, instrument for holding, fr L *tenere*]

**tenant** /'tenənt/ *n* 1a a holder of real estate by any kind of right b an occupant of lands or property of another; *specif* sby who rents or leases a house or flat from a landlord 2 an occupant, dweller [ME, fr MF, fr *prp* of *tenir* to hold] – **tenantless** *adj*, **tenancy** /-sɪ/ *n*

**tenant** *vt* to hold or inhabit as a tenant – **tenantable** *adj*

**tenant farmer** *n* a farmer who works land owned by another and pays rent

**tenantry** /'tenəntri/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* tenants collectively

**tench** /tenʃ/ *n*, *pl* **tenches**, **tenches** a Eurasian freshwater fish related to the dace and noted for its ability to survive outside water [ME, fr MF *tenche*, fr LL *tinca*]

**Ten Commandments** *n pl* the commandments given by God to Moses on Mt Sinai, recorded in Ex 20 1–17

**tend** /tend/ *vi* to have charge of; take care of [ME *tenden*, short for *attend* to attend]

**tend** *vi* 1 to move, direct, or develop one's course in a specified direction 2 to show an inclination or tendency – + *to*, *towards*, or *to* and an infinitive [ME *tenden*, fr MF *tendre* to stretch, fr L *tendere* – more at THIN]

**tendency** /'tendənsi/ *n* 1a a general trend or movement (<the growing ~ for prices to rise faster than wages> b an inclination or predisposition to some particular end, or towards a particular kind of thought or action (<his books show a ~ to drop into sentimentality> 2 the purposeful trend

of sthg written or said [ML *tendentia*, fr L *tendent-*, *tendens*, *prp* of *tendere*]

**tendentious** also **tendencious** /ten'denshəs/ *adj* marked by a tendency in favour of a particular point of view – chiefly derog – **tendentiously** *adv*, **tendentiousness** *n*

**tender** /'tenda/ *adj* 1a having a soft or yielding texture; easily broken, cut, or damaged b easily chewed 2a physically weak b immature, young (<children of ~ years> 3 fond, loving (<a ~ lover> 4a showing care (<~ regard> b highly susceptible to impressions or emotions (<a ~ conscience> 5a gentle, mild (<~ breeding> (<~ irony> b delicate or soft in quality or tone 6a sensitive to touch (<~ skin> b sensitive to injury or insult (<~ pride> c demanding careful and sensitive handling (<a ~ situation> [ME, fr OF *tendre*, fr L *tener*, prob akin to Gk *terēn* soft, *teru* weak, delicate, Skt *taruna* tender, young] – **tenderly** *adv*, **tenderness** *n*

**tender** *n* 1a a ship employed to attend other ships (e.g. to supply provisions) b a boat or small steamer for communication between shore and a larger ship 2 a vehicle attached to a locomotive for carrying a supply of fuel and water [TEND + -ER]


**tender** *vt* 1 to make a tender of 2 to present for acceptance (<~ed his resignation> ~ *vi* to make a bid (<the company ~s for and builds dams> [MF *tendre* to stretch, stretch out, offer – more at TEND] – **tenderer** *n*


**tender** *n* 1 an unconditional offer in satisfaction of a debt or obligation, made to avoid a penalty for nonpayment or nonperformance 2 an offer, proposal e.g. a formal esp written offer or bid for a contract b a public expression of willingness to buy not less than a specified number of shares at a fixed price from shareholders 3 sthg that may be offered in payment; *specif* money

**tenderfoot** /-/foot/ *n*, *pl* **tenderfeet** /-/feet/ also **tenderfoots** an inexperienced beginner [tender + foot, orig sense, shy not hardened to frontier or outdoor life]

**tenderhearted** /-'hahtɪd/ *adj* easily moved to love, pity, or sorrow – **tenderheartedly** *adv*

**tenderize**, -ise /'tendəreɪz/ *vi* to make (meat or meat products) tender by beating or adding an enzyme that breaks down fibrous tissue – **tenderizer** *n*, **tenderization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**tenderloin** /'tendəloɪn/ *n* a pork or beef fillet  MEAT

**tendon** /'tendən/ *n* a tough cord or band of dense white fibrous connective tissue that connects a muscle with a bone or other part and transmits the force exerted by the muscle  ANATOMY [ML *tendon-*, *tendo*, fr L *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **tendinous** /'tendənəs/ *adj*

**tendrill** /tendri/ *n* a slender spirally coiling sensitive organ that attaches a plant to its support [perh modif of MF *tendron*, alter of *tendon*, lit., tendon, fr ML *tendon-*, *tendo*] – **tendrilled**, **tendrilled** *adj*

**tene** /-teen/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such or so many) chromosomal filaments (<polytene>) [L *taenia* ribbon, band – more at TAENIA]

**tene** *comb form* (→ *n*) stage of meiotic prophase characterized by (such) chromosomal filaments (<diplotene>) (<pachytene>)

**tenement** /'tenəmənt/ *n* 1 land or other property held by one person from another 2 (a flat in) a large building, esp one meeting minimum standards and typically found in the poorer parts of a large city [ME, fr MF, fr ML *tenementum*, fr L *tenere* to hold – more at THIN]


**tenesmus** /tə'nezməs/ *n* an ineffectual urge to defecate or urinate [L, fr Gk *tenesmos*, fr *teinein* to stretch, strain – more at THIN]

**tenet** /'tenət/ *n* a principle, belief, or doctrine, esp one held in common by members of an organization or group [L, he holds, fr *tenēre* to hold]

**ten-gallon** 'hat *n* COWBOY HAT [fr its great size]

**ten minute** rule *n* a rule under which an MP may briefly introduce a private member's bill

**tenner** /'tenə/ *n*, *Br* a £10 note, also the sum of £10 – *informal*

**tennis** /'tenɪs/ *n* 1 REAI TENNIS 2 a singles or doubles game that is played with rackets and a light elastic ball on a flat court divided by a low net  SPORT [ME *tenetz*, *tenys*, prob fr AF *tenetz* take, receive, imper of *tenir* to hold, take (called by server to opponent)]

**tennis elbow** *n* inflammation and pain of the elbow, usu resulting from excessive twisting movements of the hand

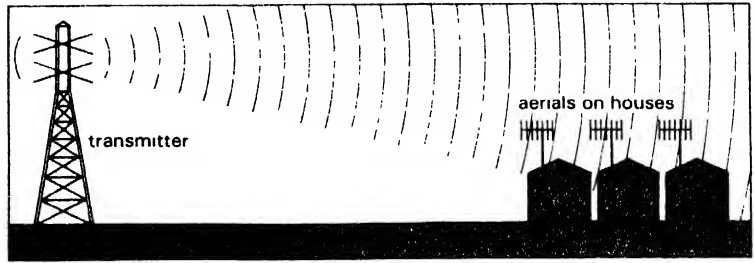
**tenon** /'tenən/ *n* a projecting part of a piece of material (e.g. wood) for insertion into a mortise [ME, fr OF, fr *tenir* to hold – more at TEN-ABLE]

**tenon** *vt* 1 to unite by a tenon 2 to cut or fit for insertion in a mortise

**tenon saw** *n* a woodworking saw that has a reinforced blade and is used for making fine cuts

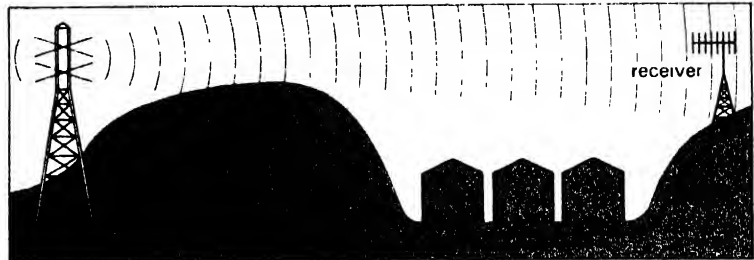
### Direct terrestrial transmission

Direct transmission is limited to line of sight — that is, the broadcast cannot pass through solid objects like hills or buildings or go around the curvature of the earth. Also, there is increasing pressure on the available airspace and frequencies for this kind of transmission are becoming limited



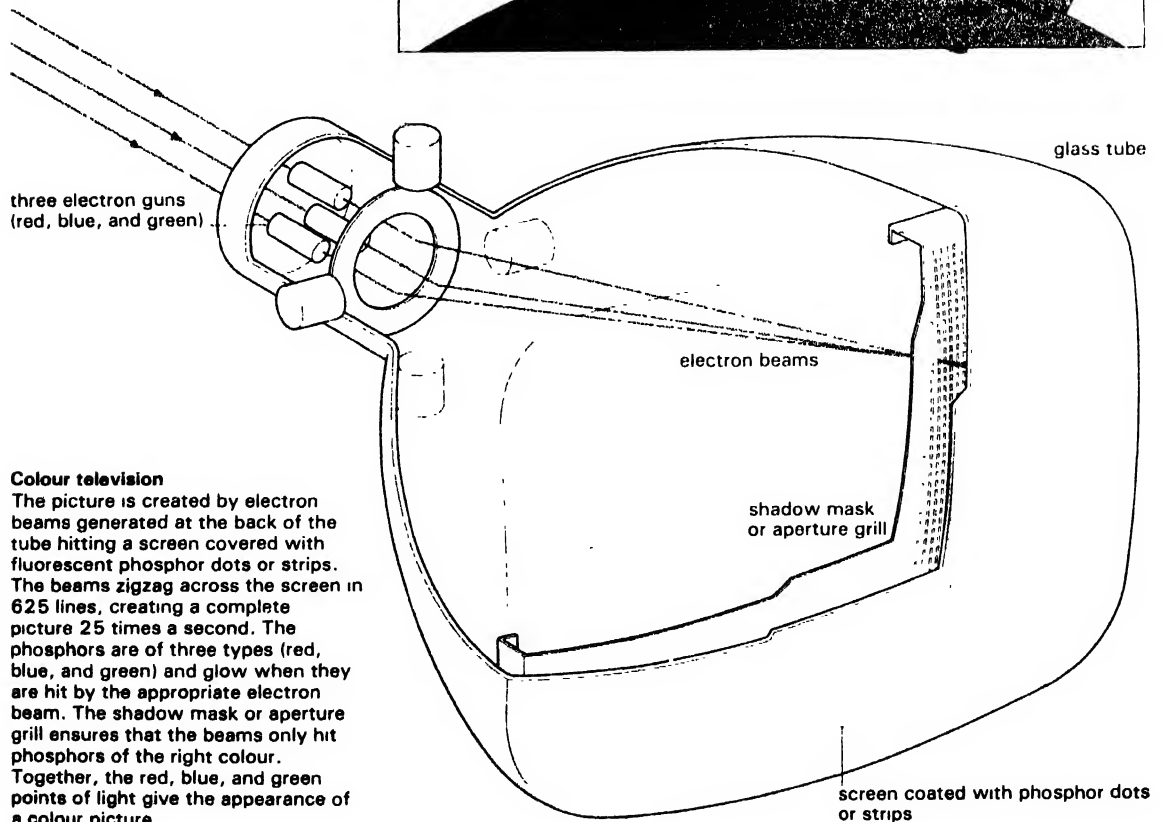
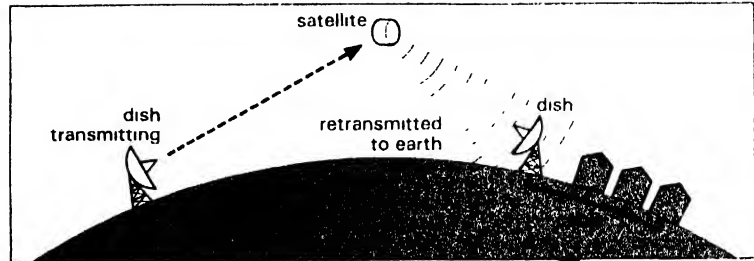
### Cable or communal aerial

Where direct transmission is impracticable because of intervening objects, waves from the main transmitter are picked up by a local receiver (perhaps on a hilltop, as here) and retransmitted by cable to viewers. Cable can also be used as a subscriber system, in which viewers pay for films or news services.



### Satellite

Satellite transmission enables programmes to be distributed over a very wide area. The programmes are sent on a tight beam directly up to the satellite, which then retransmits on a wider beam over a whole continent to receivers serving groups of houses or individual houses.



### Colour television

The picture is created by electron beams generated at the back of the tube hitting a screen covered with fluorescent phosphor dots or strips. The beams zigzag across the screen in 625 lines, creating a complete picture 25 times a second. The phosphors are of three types (red, blue, and green) and glow when they are hit by the appropriate electron beam. The shadow mask or aperture grill ensures that the beams only hit phosphors of the right colour. Together, the red, blue, and green points of light give the appearance of a colour picture.

**Teletext**

In Britain Ceefax (BBC) and Oracle (ITV) Special TV sets receive and display 'pages' of information transmitted at the same time as ordinary broadcasts. These services are free.

**Videodisc player**

Prerecorded films and programmes on disc are 'read' by the player and displayed on the TV screen. Picture quality of discs is high but it is not possible to record on them in the home. When linked with a home computer there is great potential for educational purposes.

**Videocassette recorder**

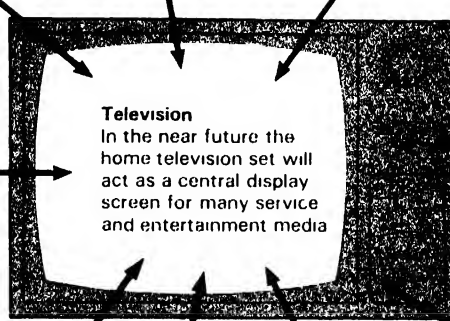
Television programmes can be recorded and replayed. Commercially recorded films, magazines, and educational programmes are available.

**Viewdata**

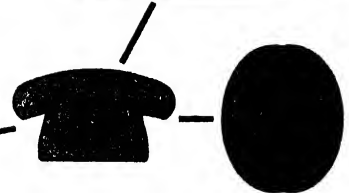
In Britain Prestel (British Telecom) This is a subscriber system available by telephone. 'Pages' of information can be dialled using a push-button control.



**Satellite, cable, and subscription or pay TV**  
These services will gradually become available. Cable TV enables viewers to participate in programmes, for example by voting in talent contests.



**Television**  
In the near future the home television set will act as a central display screen for many service and entertainment media.



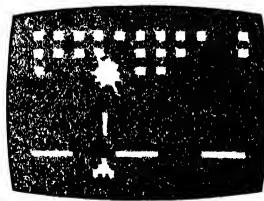
**Computer**  
Data from a distant computer can be called up and displayed through the telephone network.



**Camera**  
Home movies recorded with a camera connected to or incorporating a videocassette recorder can be shown on the television screen.




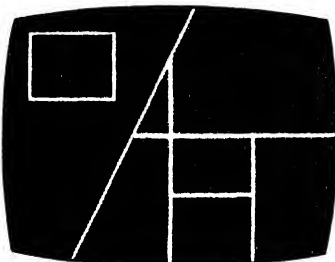
**Slides and films**  
Slide and film projectors can be linked to the television screen.



**Games**  
A wide range of TV games is available.



**Home computer**  
The television screen can be used as a visual display unit for a microprocessor. Some home computers can be used to create TV games, depending on their graphic capability.  COMPUTER

**Display screen/picture on picture**

Developments in TV technology may eventually result in much larger screens. A split screen display enables the viewer to monitor other channels.

**Remote control**  
A remote control set not only enables the user to change channels but is essential for dialling Teletext pages.



- tenor** /'tenə/ *n* 1 the course of thought of sthg spoken or written 2a the next to the lowest part in 4-part harmony *b* (sby with) the highest natural adult male singing voice *c* a member of a family of instruments having a range next lower than that of the alto 3 a continuance in a course or activity [ME, fr OF, fr L *tenor* uninterrupted course, fr *tenere* to hold, (2) fr the fact that the *tenor* (continuous part, melodic line) in medieval polyphony was assigned to this voice] – **tenor** *adj*
- tenor clef** *n* a C clef placed so as to designate the fourth line of the staff as middle C  *MUSIC*
- tenpin** /'ten,pin/ *n* a bottle-shaped pin used in tenpin bowling [back-formation fr *tenpins* (tenpin bowling), fr *ten pins*]
- tenpin bowling** *n* an indoor bowling game using 10 pins and a large ball in which each player is allowed to bowl 2 balls in each of 10 frames
- tenrec** /'ten,rek/ *n* any of numerous small often spiny insect-eating mammals of Madagascar [F, fr Malagasy *tandraka*]
- tense** /'tens/ *n* (a member of) a set of inflectional forms of a verb that express distinctions of time [ME *tens* time, tense, fr MF, fr L *tempus* – more at TEMPORAL]
- tense** *adj* 1 stretched tight, made taut 2a feeling or showing nervous tension *b* marked by strain or suspense 3 articulated with relatively tense muscles – used *e.g.* of the vowel /ee/ in contrast with the vowel /i/ [L *tensus*, fr pp of *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **tensely** *adv*, **tenseness** *n*
- tense** *vb* to make or become tense – often + *up*
- tensile** /'tensil/ *adj* 1 ductile 2 of or involving tension – **tensility** /'tensili'ti/ *n*
- tensile strength** *n* the greatest tension a substance can bear without breaking
- tensimeter** /'tensim'itə/ *n* an instrument for measuring differences of vapour pressure [*tension* + *-meter*]
- tension** /'tensən/ *n* 1a stretching or being stretched to stiffness *b* STRESS 1a 2a either of 2 balancing forces causing or tending to cause extension *b* the stress resulting from the elongation of an elastic body *c* gas pressure; esp PARTIAL PRESSURE 3a inner striving, unrest, or imbalance, often with physiological indication of emotion *b* latent hostility *c* a balance maintained in an artistic work between opposing forces or elements 4 electrical potential (<high ~>) [MF or L, MF, fr L *tension-*, *tensio*, fr *tensus*, pp] – **tensional** *adj*, **tensionless** *adj*
- tension** *vt* to tighten to a desired or appropriate degree – **tensioner** *n*
- tensor** /'tensə, -səw/ *n* 1 a muscle that stretches a body part 2 a mathematical quantity that represents a mapping between 2 vector spaces [NL, fr L *tensus*, pp]
- tent** /'tent/ *n* 1 a collapsible shelter (*e.g.* of canvas) stretched and supported by poles 2 a canopy or enclosure placed over the head and shoulders to retain vapours or oxygen during medical treatment [ME *tente*, fr OF, fr L *tenta*, fem of *tentus*, pp of *tendere* to stretch – more at THIN] – **tented** *adj*, **tentless** *adj*
- tent** *vi* to live in a tent ~ *vt* to cover (as if) with a tent
- tentacle** /'tentəkl/ *n* 1 any of various elongated flexible animal parts, chiefly on the head or about the mouth, used for feeling, grasping, etc 2a sthg like a tentacle (*e.g.* in grasping or feeling out) *b* a sensitive hair on a plant (*e.g.* the sundew) [NL *tentaculum*, fr L *tentare* to feel, touch, try – more at TEMPT] – **tentacled** *adj*, **tentacular** /'ten'takjuələ/ *adj*
- tentative** /'tentətiv/ *adj* 1 not fully worked out or developed 2 hesitant, uncertain (<a ~ smile>) [ML *tentativus*, fr L *tentatus*, pp of *tentare*] – **tentative** *n*, **tentatively** *adv*
- tenter** /'tentə/ *n* an apparatus used for drying and stretching cloth [ME *teyntur*, *tentowre*, prob modif (influenced by MF *teindre* to dye) of ML *tentura*, fr L *tentus*, pp]
- tenterhook** /-hook/ *n* a sharp hooked nail used esp for fastening cloth on a tenter – on **tenterhooks** in a state of uneasiness, strain, or suspense
- tenth-rate** /'tent/ *adj* of the lowest character or quality
- tent stitch** *n* a short diagonal stitch used in embroidery and canvas work to form a solid background of even lines of parallel stitches
- tenuous** /'tenyu:əs/ *adj* 1 not dense in consistency (<a ~ fluid>) 2 not thick (<a ~ rope>) 3 having little substance or strength (<a ~ hold on reality>) [L *tenuis* thin, slight, tenuous – more at THIN] – **tenuously** *adv*, **tenuousness** *n*, **tenuity** /'tənyu:əti/ *n*
- tenure** /'tenjə/ *n* 1a the holding of property, an office, etc *b* chiefly NAm freedom from summary dismissal, esp from a teaching post 2 grasp, hold – finl [ME, fr OF *tenure*, *tenure*, fr ML *tenitura*, fr (assumed) VL *tenitus*, pp of L *tenere* to hold – more at THIN] – **tenured** *adj*, **tenurial** /'tənyuəriəl/ *adj*
- tenuto** /'tenyoohtə/ *adv* or *adj* in a manner so as to hold a note or chord to its full value – used in music [It, fr pp of *tenere* to hold, fr L *tenēre*]
- teepee** /'tee,pee/ *n* a N American Indian conical tent, usu made of skins [Dakota *tipi*, fr *ti* to dwell + *pi* to use for]
- tephigram** /'tefigrəm/ *n* a chart showing vertical variations of atmospheric conditions [T, symbol for temperature + *phi*, name of former symbol for entropy + *-gram*]
- tepid** /'tepid/ *adj* 1 moderately warm (<a ~ bath>) 2 not enthusiastic (<a ~ interest>) [L *tepidus*, fr *tepere* to be moderately warm, akin to Skt *tapati* it gives out heat, OIr *tes* heat] – **tepidly** *adv*, **tepidness** *n*, **tepidity** /'tepidəti/ *n*
- tequila** /'təkeela/ *n* 1 a Mexican agave plant cultivated as a source of mescal 2 a Mexican spirit made by redistilling mescal [Sp, fr *Tequila*, district of Mexico]
- ter-** *comb* form 3 times, threefold, three <(tercentenary)> [L, fr *ter*, akin to Gk & Skt *tris* three times, L *tres* three – more at THREE]
- tera-** *comb* form billion (10<sup>12</sup>) <(teraton)> <(terahertz)>  PHYSICS [ISV, fr Gk *teras*, *teras* marvel, monster, akin to Lith *keras* enchantment]
- terat-** *comb* form monster, monstrosity <(teratology)> [Gk, fr *teras*, *teras*]
- teratogen** /'təratəʒən/ *n* sthg that causes developmental malformations in foetuses – **teratogenesis** /'təratəʒənəsɪs/ *n*, **teratogenic** /-ʒenik/ *adj*, **teratogenicity** /-ʒənɪsəti/ *n*
- teratology** /'təratəloʒi/ *n* the study of malformations in foetuses [Gk *teras*, *teras* + ISV *-logy*] – **teratologist** *n*, **teratological** /'təratə'ləjɪkl/ *adj*
- teratoma** /'təratəhmə/ *n* a tumour derived from embryonic tissues and made up of a mixture of several types of tissue [NL, fr Gk *teras*, *teras*] – **teratomatous** /-mətəs/ *adj*
- terbium** /'tərbɪəm/ *n* a usu trivalent metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr Ytterby, town in Sweden]
- terce** /'tu:z/ *n*, often *cap* the third of the canonical hours observed at 9 am [ME, third, *terce* – more at THREE]
- tercel** /'tu:sl/ *n* a male of any of various hawks (*e.g.* the peregrine falcon), esp when used in falconry [ME *tercel*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *tertiolus*, fr dim of L *tertius* third; perh fr the belief that the third egg of a clutch produced a male bird]
- tercentenary** /'tərbən'teenəri, -'tənəri/ *n* a 300th anniversary or its celebration – **tercentenary** *adj*
- tercentennial** /'tərbən'teniəl/ *n* a tercentenary – **tercentennial** *adj*
- tercet** /'tu:st/ *n* a unit or group of 3 lines of verse [It *terzetto*, fr dim of *terzo* third, fr L *tertius* – more at THIRD]
- terebene** /'təbeən/ *n* a mixture of terpenes from oil of turpentine [F *terébène*, fr *terebinte* the terebinth]
- terebinth** /'tərebɪnθ/ *n* a small European tree of the sumach family yielding turpentine [ME *terebynth*, fr MF *teirebinthe*, fr L *terebinthus* – more at TURPENTINE]
- terebinthine** /'tərebɪnθiən/ *adj* consisting of or resembling turpentine [L *terebinthinus* of the terebinth]
- teredo** /'təraɪdoh/ *n*, *pl* *teredos*, *teredines* /'təredineez/ a shipworm [L *teredin-*, *teredo*, fr Gk *teredon*, akin to Gk *tetrainein* to bore – more at THROW]
- terete** /'təreet/ *adj*, of a plant or animal part approximately cylindrical with a smooth surface [L *teret-*, *teres* well turned, rounded, akin to L *terere* to rub – more at THROW]
- tergiversate** /'tərgɪvəsəɪt, -gɪv-/ *vi* 1 to become a renegade 2 to act evasively or equivocally *USE* finl [L *tergiversatus*, pp of *tergiversari* to turn the back, shuffle, fr *tergum* back + *versare* to turn, fr *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at 'WORTH] – **tergiversator** *n*, **tergiversation** /-'səɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- tergum** /'tərgəm/ *n*, *pl* *terga* /-gə/ the plate forming the back surface of a segment of an arthropod [NL, fr L, back] – **tergal** *adj*
- term** /tu:m/ *n* 1a an end, termination; also a time assigned for sthg (*e.g.* payment) *b* the time at which a pregnancy of normal length ends (<had her baby at full ~>) 2a a limited or definite extent of time; esp the time for which sthg lasts <(medium-term credit)> *b* an estate or interest held for a term *c* any one of the periods of the year during which the courts are in session 3 any of the usu 3 periods of instruction into which an academic year is divided 4a a mathematical expression connected to another by a plus or minus sign *b* an expression that forms part of a fraction or proportion or of a series or sequence 5 a concept, word, or phrase appearing as subject or predicate in a logical proposition 6a a word or expression with a precise meaning; esp one peculiar to a restricted field <(legal ~s)> *b* *pl* diction of a specified kind <(spoke in flattery ~s)> 7

*pl* provisions relating to an agreement (< ~s of sale>, also agreement on such provisions) **8 pl** mutual relationship (on good ~s with him) [ME *terme* boundary, end, fr OF, fr L *terminus*, akin to Gk *termōn* boundary, end, Skt *tarati* he crosses over – more at THROUGH] – in terms expressly, explicitly – in terms of in relation to, concerning

**\*term** *vt* to apply a term to; call (< wouldn't ~ it difficult>)

**termagant** /'tuhminayt/ *n* 1 *cap* a violent character in English miracle plays representing an Islamic deity 2 an overbearing or nagging woman [ME]

**terminable** /'tuhminabl/ *adj* capable of being terminated [ME, fr *terminen* to terminate, fr OF *terminer*, fr L *terminare*] – terminable-ness *n*

**terminal** /'tuhmini/ *adj* 1a of or being an end, extremity, boundary, or terminus **b** growing at the end of a branch or stem (< a ~ bud> 2a of or occurring in a term or each term **b** occurring at or causing the end of life (< ~ cancer> 3 occurring at or being the end of a period or series [L *terminalis*, fr *terminus*] – terminally *adv*

**\*terminal** *n* 1 a device attached to the end of a wire or cable or to an electrical apparatus for convenience in making connections 2 the end of a carrier line (e.g. shipping line or airline) with its associated buildings and facilities (the West London air ~) 3 a device (e.g. a teleprinter) through which a user can communicate with a computer

**terminate** /'tuhminayt/ *vt* 1a to bring to an end **b** to form the conclusion of 2 to serve as an ending, limit, or boundary of ~ *vi* 1 to extend only to a limit (e.g. a point or line), esp. to reach a terminus (< this train ~s at Glasgow> 2 to come to an end in time – often + *in* or with (< the coalition ~d with the election> 3 to form an ending or outcome – often + *in* or with (< the match ~d with the champion winning> [L *terminatus*, pp of *terminare*, fr *terminus*] – termination /-naysh(a)n/ *n*

**terminator** /'tuhminaytə/ *n* the dividing line between the illuminated and the unilluminated part of the moon or other celestial body [TERMINATE + -OR]

**terminology** /'tuhminoləj/ *n* the technical terms used in a particular subject [ML *terminus* term, expression (fr L, boundary, limit) + E -o- + -logy] – terminological /-nə'ləjɪk/ *adj*, terminologically *adv*

**\*term insurance** *n* insurance for a specified period; *specif*, chiefly Br life insurance under which payment is made only if the insured dies within a specified period

**terminus** /'tuhminəs/ *n*, *pl* *terminal* /-ni-/ *terminuses* 1 a finishing point, an end 2 a post or stone marking a boundary 3 (the station, town, or city at) the end of a transport line or travel route 4 an extreme point or element [L, boundary, end – more at TERM]

**termitarium** /'tuhmitəriəm, -mie-/ *n*, *pl* *termitaria* /-ri-ə/ a termites' nest [NL]


**termite** /'tuhmiət/ *n* any of numerous often destructive pale-coloured soft-bodied insects that live in colonies and feed on wood [NL *Termit*, *Termes*, genus of termites, fr LL, a worm that eats wood, alter. of L *termit*, -*termes*, akin to Gk *termein* to bore – more at THROW]

**termless** /'tuhmlis/ *adj* 1 having no term or end, boundless, unending 2 unconditioned, unconditional

**terms of reference** *n pl* the precise delineation of competence (e.g. of a committee)

**tern** /tuhn/ *n* any of numerous water birds that are smaller than the related gulls and have a black cap, a white body, and often forked tails [of Scand origin; akin to Dan *terne* tern]

**ternary** /'tuhnəri/ *adj* 1a of or proceeding by threes **b** threefold **c** ternate 2 using 3 as the base (< a ~ logarithm> 3 third in order or rank [ME, fr L *ternarius*, fr *ternu* three each, akin to L *tres* three – more at THREE]

**ternate** /'tuhnayt/ *adj* 1 arranged in threes (< ~ leaves> 2 composed of 3 leaflets or subdivisions  PLANT [NL *ternatus*, fr ML, pp of *ternare* to treble, fr L *terni*] – ternately *adv*

**terne** /tuhn/ *n* terneplate

**\*terneplate** /-playt/ *n* sheet iron or steel plated with an inferior alloy of about 4 parts lead to 1 part tin [prob fr F *terne* dull (fr MF, fr *ferre* to tarnish) + E *plate*]

**terotechnology** /'terohet'ek'noləj/ *n* a branch of technology that deals with the efficient installation and operation of equipment [Gk *terein* to watch over + E -o- + *technology*]

**terpene** /'tuh,peen/ *n* any of various hydrocarbons present in essential oils (e.g. from conifers) and used esp as solvents and in organic synthesis [ISV *terp*- (fr G *terpentin* turpentine, fr ML *terbentina*) + -ene – more at TURPENTINE] – **terpene** /'tuh'peenik, -'pe-/ *adj*, **terpenoid** /'tuhpenoyd, tuh'peenoyd/ *adj* or *n*

**terpsichorean** /'tuhpsika'ree-ən, 'tuhpsikawri-ən/ *adj* of dancing

[*Terpsichore*, the muse of dancing and choral song, fr L, fr Gk *Terpsichore*]

**terra alba** /'terə 'albə/ *n* any of several earthy white mineral substances (e.g. gypsum or kaolin) [NL, lit., white earth]

**\*terrace** /'teris/ *n* 1 a relatively level paved or planted area adjoining a building 2 a raised embankment with a level top 3 a level usu narrow and steep-fronted area bordering a river, sea, etc 4a a row of houses or flats on raised ground or a sloping site **b** a row of similar houses joined into 1 building by common walls **c** a street [MF, pile of earth, platform, terrace, fr OProv *terrassa*, fr *terra* earth, fr L, earth, land, akin to L *torrere* to parch – more at THIRST]

**\*terrace** *vt* to make into a terrace

**\*terraced** *adj* being any of a continuous row of dwellings connected by common sidewalls and forming a continuous row (< ~ houses>)

**terracotta** /'terək'otə/ *n* 1 an unglazed brownish red fired clay used esp for statuettes and vases and as a building material 2 brownish orange [It *terra cotta*, lit., baked earth]

**terra firma** /'fuhmā/ *n* dry land, solid ground [NL, lit., solid land]

**terrain** /'tə'reyn/ *n* 1 (the physical features of) an area of land 2 an environment, milieu [F, land, ground, fr L *terrenum*, fr neut of *terrenus* of earth, fr *terra*]

**terra incognita** /'terə inkog'neetə, in'kognitə/ *n*, *pl* *terrae incognitae* /'terə inkog'neeti, in'kogniti/ an unexplored country or field of knowledge [L]

**terrapin** /'terəpin/ *n* any of several small edible freshwater reptiles of the same order as, and similar to, tortoises but adapted for swimming [of Algonquian origin, akin to Delaware *torope* turtle]

**terrarium** /'tə'reəri-əm/ *n*, *pl* *terraria* /-ri-ə/, **terrariums** a vivarium for land-dwelling animals [NL, fr L *terra* + -arium]

**terrazzo** /'te'rahtsoh/ *n* a mosaic flooring made by embedding and polishing small pieces of marble or granite in mortar [It, lit., terrace, perh fr OProv *terrassa*]

**terreplein** /'teə,playn/ *n* the level space behind a parapet of a rampart where guns are mounted [MF, fr OIt *terrapieno*, fr ML *terraplenum*, fr *terra plenus* filled with earth]

**terrestrial** /'tə'restriəl/ *adj* 1a of the earth or its inhabitants **b** mundane, prosaic 2a of land as distinct from air or water **b** of organisms living on or in land or soil 3 of a planet like the earth in density, composition, etc [ME, fr L *terrestris*, fr *terra* earth – more at TERRACE] – **terrestrial** *n*, **terrestrially** *adv*

**terrible** /'terəbl/ *adj* 1a exciting intense fear, terrifying **b** formidable in nature (< a ~ responsibility> **c** requiring great fortitude (< a ~ order>); also severe (< a ~ winter> 2 extreme, great (< a ~ amount of trouble arranging all this> 3 of very poor quality, awful (< a ~ performance>), also highly unpleasant *USE* (2&3) infml [ME, fr MF, fr L *terribilis*, fr *terrere* to frighten – more at TERROR] – **terribleness** *n*

**terribly** /'terəbli/ *adv* very (< ~ lucky>) – infml

**terricolous** /'te'nikləs, -s-/ *adj* living on or in the ground [L *terricola* earth-dweller, fr *terra* earth + *colere* to inhabit – more at WHEEL]

**terrier** /'teri-ə/ *n* 1 (a member of) any of various breeds of usu small dogs, orig used by hunters to drive out small furred game from underground 2 *usu cap*, Br a territorial [(1) F (*chien*) *terrier*, lit., earth dog, fr *terrier* of earth, fr ML *terrarius*, fr L *terra*, (2) by shortening & alter.]

**terrific** /'tə'rifik/ *adj* 1 exciting fear or awe 2 extraordinarily great or intense 3 unusually fine *USE* (2&3) infml [L *terrificus*, fr *terrere* to frighten] – **terrifically** *adv*

**terrify** /'terfie/ *vt* 1 to fill with terror or apprehension 2 to drive or impel by menacing; scare, deter [L *terrificare*, fr *terrificus*] – **terrifyingly** *adv*

**terrigenous** /'tə'riʒəns/ *adj* being or relating to sediment on the sea floor derived directly from erosion of the land surface [L *terrigena* earthborn, fr *terra* earth + *gignere* to beget – more at KIN]

**terrine** /'tə'reen/ *n* 1 an earthenware baking dish 2 a food, esp pâté, cooked in a terrine [F – more at TUREN]

**\*territorial** /'teri'tawri-əl/ *adj* 1a of territory or land **b** of private property (< ~ magnets> 2a of or restricted to a particular area or district **b** exhibiting territoriality (< ~ birds>) – **territorially** *adv*

**\*territorial** *n* a member of a territorial army, esp the Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve

**\*territorial army** *n* a voluntary force organized by a locality to provide a trained army reserve that can be mobilized in an emergency

**Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve** *n* the present-day British territorial army

**territoriality** /'teri'tawri'æləti/ *n* (the pattern of behaviour associated with) the defence of a territory [TERRITORIAL + -ITY]

- terri,torial** 'waters *n pl* the waters under the sovereign jurisdiction of a nation
- territory** /'terit(ə)ri/ *n* **1a** a geographical area under the jurisdiction of a government **b** an administrative subdivision of a country **c** a part of the USA not included within any state but with a separate legislature **2a** an indeterminate geographical area **b** a field of knowledge or interest **c** a geographical area having a specified characteristic (*in* *Rolls Royce* ~ *Annabel*) **3a** an assigned area; *esp* one in which an agent or distributor operates **b** an area, often including a nesting site or den, occupied and defended by an animal or group of animals [ME, fr L *territorium*, lit, land round a town, prob fr *terra* land + *-torum* (as in *praetorium*) ~ more at TERRACE]
- terror** /'tera/ *n* **1** a state of intense fear **2** sby or sthg that inspires fear **3** REIGN OF TERROR **4** revolutionary violence (e.g. the planting of bombs) **5** an appalling person or thing, *esp* a brat ~ *in* *mf* [ME, fr MF *terreur*, fr L *terror*, fr *terrere* to frighten, akin to Gk *trein* to be afraid, flee, *tremere* to tremble ~ more at TREMBLE]
- terrorism** /'terə,riz(ə)m/ *n* the systematic use of terror, *esp* as a means of coercion ~ **terrorist** *adj* or *n*, **terroristic** /-'nistik/ *adj*
- terror-ize**, -ise /'terə,rize/ *vt* **1** to fill with terror or anxiety **2** to coerce by threat or violence ~ **terrorization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- 'terror-stricken** *adj* overcome with an uncontrollable terror
- 'terror-struck** *adj* terror-stricken
- terry** /'teri/ *n* an absorbent fabric with uncut loops on both faces [perh modif of F *tiré*, pp of *tirer* to draw ~ more at TIRADE] ~ **terry** *adj*
- terse** /tuhs/ *adj* concise, also brusque, curt [L *tersus* clean, neat, fr pp of *tergere* to wipe off; akin to Gk *trogein* to gnaw, L *terere* to rub ~ more at THROW] ~ **tersely** *adv*, **terseness** *n*
- tertian** /'tuhs(ə)n/ *adj*, of malarial symptoms recurring at approximately 48-hour intervals [ME *tercian*, fr L *tertianus*, lit, of the third, fr *tertius* third ~ more at THIRD]
- 'tertiary** /'tuhsəri/ *n* **1** sby belonging to a monastic third order **2 cap** the Tertiary period or system of rocks
- \*tertiary** *adj* **1a** of third rank, importance, or value **b** of higher education **c** of or being a service industry ~ compare PRIMARY, SECONDARY **2 cap** of or being the first period of the Cretaceous era or the corresponding system of rocks → EVOLUTION **3** occurring in or being a third stage [L *tertianus* of or containing a third, fr *tertius* third]
- tertiary consumer** *n* a carnivore that eats another carnivore ~ compare PRIMARY CONSUMER, SECONDARY CONSUMER → FOOD
- tertiary syphilis** *n* the third stage of syphilis marked by ulcers and tumours of the skin and usu skeletal, cardiovascular, and nervous disorders (e.g. locomotor ataxia)
- tertium quid** /'tuhs(ə)-əm 'kwid, 'tuht(ə)-əm/ *n* a middle course or intermediate element [LL, lit., third something]
- tervalent** /tuh'veylənt/ *adj* trivalent
- Terylene** /'terəleen, -lin/ *trademark* ~ used for a synthetic polyester textile fibre
- terza rima** /'tuhtsə 'reemə/ *n* a verse form consisting of tercets, usu in iambic pentameter [It, lit., third rhyme]
- tesla** /'teslə/ *n* the SI unit of magnetic flux density → PHYSICS [Nikola Tesla †1943 US electrician & inventor]
- tessellate** /'tesəlayt/ *vt* to make into or decorate with mosaic [LL *tessellatus*, pp of *tessellare* to pave with tesserae, fr L *tessella*, dim. of *tessera*] ~ **tessellation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*
- tessellated** /'tesəlaytid/ *adj* chequered
- tessera** /'tesərə/ *n*, *pl* **tesserae** /-n/ a small piece of marble, glass, etc used in mosaic [L, prob deriv of Gk *tessares* four ~ more at FOUR; fr its having four corners]
- tessitura** /'tes(ə)'tyooərə/ *n* the part of the register in which most of the notes of a melody or voice part lie or in which a voice or instrument naturally sounds its best [It, lit., texture, fr L *textura* ~ more at TEXTURE]
- 'test** /test/ *n* **1a** a critical examination, observation, or evaluation **b** a basis for evaluation **2** a means or instance of testing: e.g. **a** a procedure used to identify a substance (*iodine ~ for the presence of starch*) **b** a series of questions or exercises for measuring the knowledge, intelligence, etc of an individual or group **c** TEST MATCH **3 chiefly Br** a cupel [ME, vessel in which metals were assayed, cupel, fr MF, fr L *testum* earthen vessel; akin to L *testa* earthen pot, shell, *texere* to weave ~ more at TECHNICAL]
- \*test** *vt* to put to the test; try (<~s my patience>) (<wet roads that ~ a car's tyres>) ~ *vi* to apply a test as a means of analysis or diagnosis ~ often + *for* ~ **testable** *adj*, **tester** *n*
- \*test** *n* an external hard or firm covering (e.g. a shell) of an invertebrate (e.g. a mollusc) [L *testa* shell]
- testa** /'teslə/ *n*, *pl* **testae** /'testi/ the hard external coat of a seed [NL, fr L, shell]
- testaceous** /'testayshəs/ *adj* **1a** having a shell **b** consisting of shell, chalk, or other calcium-rich material **2** light brown [L *testaceus*, fr *testa* shell, earthen pot, brick]
- testacy** /'testəsi/ *n* being testate
- testament** /'testəmənt/ *n* **1 cap** either of the 2 main divisions of the Bible **2** a tangible proof or tribute **3** a will **4 archaic** a covenant between God and man [ME, fr LL & L, LL *testamentum* covenant with God, holy scripture, fr L, last will, fr *testari* to be a witness, call to witness, make a will, fr *testis* witness, akin to L *tres* three & to L *stare* to stand, fr the witness's standing by as a third party in a litigation ~ more at THREE, STAND] ~ **testamentary** /-'ment(ə)n/ *adj*
- testate** /'testəyt/ *adj* having made a valid will [ME, fr L *testatus*, pp of *testari* to make a will]
- testator** /'testəytə/, *fem* **testatrix** /'testəytiks/ *n* sby who leaves a will [ME *testatour*, fr AF, fr LL *testator*, fr L *testatus*, pp]
- 'test-ban** *n* a self-imposed ban on the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons
- 'test-bed** *n* a piece of equipment for testing a component separately from its intended working environment
- 'test-card** *n* a geometric pattern or fixed picture broadcast by a television transmitting station to facilitate the testing or adjustment of receivers
- 'test-case** *n* a representative case whose outcome is likely to serve as a precedent
- testcross** /'test,kros/ *n* a genetic cross between a homozygous recessive individual and a corresponding suspected heterozygote to determine the genetic constitution of the latter ~ **testcross** /-/-/ *vt*
- 'test-drive** *vt* **test-drove**; **'test-driven** to drive (a motor vehicle) before buying in order to evaluate suitability
- tested** /'testid/ *adj* subjected to or qualified through testing ~ often in combination (<time-tested principles>)
- tester** /'teslə/ *n* the canopy over a bed, pulpit, or altar [ME, fr MF *testiere* headpiece, head covering, fr *teste* head, fr LL *testa* skull, fr L, shell ~ more at 'TEST]
- 'testicle** /'testikl/ *n* a testis, *esp* of a mammal and usu with its enclosing structures (e.g. the scrotum) → REPRODUCTION [ME *testicula*, fr L *testiculus*, dim. of *testis*] ~ **testicular** /'testikjoolə/ *adj*
- testify** /'testifi/ *vi* **1a** to make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief **b** to serve as evidence or proof **2** to make a solemn declaration under oath ~ *vt* **1a** to bear witness to **b** to serve as evidence of **2** to make known (a personal conviction) **3** to declare under oath [ME *testifien*, fr L *testificari*, fr *testis* witness] ~ **testifier** *n*
- 'testimonial** /'testi'mohnyəl, -niəl/ *adj* **1** of or constituting testimony **2** expressive of appreciation, gratitude, or esteem (<a ~ dinner>)
- \*testimonial** *n* **1** a letter of recommendation **2** an expression of appreciation or esteem (e.g. in the form of a gift)
- testimony** /'testiməni/ *n* **1a** firsthand authentication of a fact **b** an outward sign, evidence (<is ~ of his abilities>) **c** a sworn statement by a witness **2** a public declaration of religious experience [ME, fr LL & L, LL *testimonium* Decalogue, fr L, evidence, witness, fr *testis* witness ~ more at TESTAMENT]
- testis** /'testis/ *n*, *pl* **testes** /'testeez/ a male reproductive gland → REPRODUCTION [L, witness, testis, perh fr its being evidence of virility]
- 'test-match** *n* any of a series of international matches, *esp* cricket matches
- testosterone** /'testostərohn/ *n* a male steroid hormone, produced by the testes or made synthetically, that induces and maintains male secondary sex characters [tests + -o- + sterol + -one]
- 'test-pilot** *n* a pilot who specializes in putting new or experimental aircraft through manoeuvres designed to test them by producing strains in excess of normal
- 'test-tube** *adj*, of a baby conceived by artificial insemination, *esp* outside the mother's body
- 'test-tube** *n* a thin glass tube closed at 1 end and used in chemistry, biology, etc
- testudo** /'testyoohdoh/ *n*, *pl* **testudos** an overhead cover of overlapping shields or a movable roofed shelter used by the ancient Romans to protect an attacking force [L *testudin-*, *testudo*, lit., tortoise, tortoise shell; akin to L *testa* shell ~ more at 'TEST]
- testy** /'testi/ *adj* impatient, ill-humoured [ME *testif*, fr AF, headstrong, fr OF *teste* head ~ more at TESTER] ~ **testily** *adv*, **testiness** *n*



**tetanic** /te'tanik/ *adj* of, being, or tending to produce tetanus or tetany  
 ~ **tetanicly** *adv*

**tetanus** /tet(a)nəs/ *n* 1 (the bacterium, usu introduced through a wound, that causes) an infectious disease characterized by spasm of voluntary muscles, esp of the jaw 2 prolonged contraction of a muscle resulting from rapidly repeated motor impulses [ME, fr L, fr Gk *tētanos*, fr *tētanos* stretched, rigid; akin to Gk *teinēin* to stretch – more at **THIN**] – **tetanize** /-iez/ *vt*

**tetany** /tet(a)ni/ *n* muscle spasm usu associated with deficient secretion of parathyroid hormones [ISV, fr L *tētanus*]

**tetchy** /'tetchi/ *adj* irritably or peevishly sensitive [perh fr obs *tetch* (habit, bad habit), prob fr ME *teche*, *tache*, fr MF *teche*, *tache* stain, spot, fr OF] – **tetchily** *adv*, **tetchiness** *n*

**tête-à-tête** /'tɛt ah 'tɛt, tɛt ah atayt/ *adv* or *adj* (in) private [adv F, lit, head to head, *adj* fr *adv*]

**tête-à-tête** *n* 1 a private conversation between 2 people 2 a seat (e.g. a sofa) designed for 2 people to sit facing each other

**tête-bêche** /'besh/ *adj* or *adv* of a pair of stamps inverted in relation to one another [F, n, pair of inverted stamps, fr *tête* head + *-bêche*, alter of MF *bechevet* head against foot]

**tether** /'tɛdʒə/ *n* 1 a rope, chain, etc by which an animal is fastened so that it can move only within a set radius 2 the limit of one's strength or resources – chiefly in the *end of one's tether* [ME *tethur*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *tjōthr* tether, akin to OHG *zeotar* pole of a wagon]

**tether** *vt* to fasten or restrain (as if) by a tether

**tetra-**, **tetr-** *comb form* 1 four, having 4, having 4 parts <tetragonal> 2 containing 4 atoms, groups, or chemical equivalents in the molecular structure <tetroxide> [ME, fr L, fr Gk, akin to Gk *tettares* four – more at **FOUR**]

**tetrachord** /'tɛtrə'kɔ:d/ *n* a diatonic series of 4 notes with an interval of a perfect fourth between the first and last [Gk *tetrachordon*, fr neut of *tetrachordos* of four strings, fr *tetra-* + *chorde* string – more at **YARN**]

**tetracycline** /'tɛtrə'si:kleɪn/ *n* any of several broad-spectrum antibiotics obtained esp from a soil bacterium [ISV *tetracycline* + *-ine*]


**tetrad** /'tɛtrəd/ *n* a group or arrangement of 4 cells, atoms, etc [Gk *tetrad-*, *tetras*, fr *tetra-*] – **tetradic** /'tɛtrədɪk/ *adj*

**tetraethyl lead** /'tɛtrə'etʃəl 'led/ *n* a poisonous liquid used as a petrol additive to prevent knocking in internal-combustion engines

**tetragonal** /'tɛtrə'gɒnəl/ *adj* (characteristic) of the tetragonal system [LL *tetragonalis* having four angles and four sides, fr *tetragonum* quadrangle, fr Gk *tetragōnon*, fr neut of *tetragonos* tetragonal, fr *tetra-* + *gonia* angle – more at **-GON**] – **tetragonally** *adv*

**tetragonal system** *n* a crystal system characterized by 3 axes at right angles of which only 2 axes are equal

**tetragrammaton** /'tɛtrə'græmətən/ *n* the 4 Hebrew letters, usu transliterated YHWH or JHWH, used to refer to God in the Old Testament – compare יְהוָה [ME, fr Gk, fr neut of *tetragrammatos* having four letters, fr *tetra-* + *grammat-*, *gramma* letter – more at **GRAM**]

**tetrahedron** /'tɛtrə'hi:dʒən/ *n*, *pl* **tetrahedrons**, **tetrahedra** /-drə/ *a* polyhedron of 4 faces  MATHEMATICS [NL, fr LGk *tetraedron*, neut of *tetraedros* having four faces, fr Gk *tetra-* + *hedra* seat, face – more at **SIT**] – **tetrahedral** *adj*

**tetrahydrocannabinol** /'tɛtrə'hi:dʒrə'kæ'nəbɪnəl/ *n* a hallucinogenic drug that is the main active constituent of marijuana [*tetrahydro-* (combined with four atoms of hydrogen) + *cannabin* + *-ol*]

**tetralogy** /'tɛtrə'lɔ:gi/ *n* a series of 4 connected works (e.g. novels) [Gk *tetralogia*, fr *tetra-* + *-logia* -logy]

**tetramerous** /'tɛtrə'mɛrəs/ *adj* having or characterized by (sets or multiples of) 4 parts (~ *flowers*) [NL *tetramerus*, fr Gk *tetramēres*, fr *tetra-* + *meros* part – more at **MERIT**]

**tetrameter** /'tɛtrə'mɪtə/ *n* a line of verse consisting of 4 measures of 2 feet or of 4 metrical feet [Gk *tetramētron*, fr neut of *tetramētros* having four measures, fr *tetra-* + *metron* measure – more at **MEASURE**]

**tetraploid** /'tɛtrə'plɔɪd/ *adj* having or being a chromosome number 4 times the haploid number [ISV] – **tetraploid** *n*, **tetraploidy** *n*

**tetrapod** /'tɛtrə'pɒd/ *n* a vertebrate animal with 2 pairs of limbs [NL *tetrapodus*, fr Gk *tetrapod-*, *tetrapous* four-footed, fr *tetra-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot – more at **FOOT**]

**tetrarch** /'tɛtrərk/ *n* a subordinate prince [ME, fr L *tetrarcha*, fr Gk *tetrarchēs*, fr *tetra-* + *-archēs* -arch] – **tetrarchic** /'tɛtrərkɪk/ *adj*

**tetrameric** /'tɛtrə'mɪk/ *adj* having 4 (replaceable) atoms (in the molecular structure) [ISV]

**tetravalent** /'tɛtrə'vaɪlənt/ *adj* having a valency of 4 [ISV]

**tetter** /'tɛtə/ *n* any of various pustular skin diseases (e.g. eczema or

herpes) – not used technically [ME *teter*, fr OE, akin to OE *teran* to tear]

**Teuton** /'tʃoohtən/ *n* 1 a member of an ancient prob Germanic or Celtic people 2 a German [L *Teutoni*, pl] – **Teutonic** /'tʃoohtənɪk/ *adj*

**Teutonic** /'tʃoohtənɪk/ *n* Germanic

**tex** /'teks/ *n* a unit of weight that is a measure of the fineness of textile yarns – compare **DENIER** [F, fr *textile* textile]

**text** /'tekst/ *n* 1 (a work containing) the original written or printed words and form of a literary composition 2 the main body of printed or written matter, esp on a page or in a book 3a a passage of Scripture chosen esp for the subject of a sermon or in authoritative support of a doctrine b a passage from an authoritative source providing a theme (e.g. for a speech) 4 a textbook 5 a theme, topic [ME, fr MF *texte*, fr ML *textus*, fr L, texture, context, fr *textus*, pp of *texere* to weave – more at **TECHNI** CAL]

**textbook** /-book/ *n* a book used in the study of a subject; specif one containing a presentation of the principles of a subject and used by students

**textbook** *adj* conforming to the principles or descriptions in textbooks. e.g. a ideal <tried hard to be a ~ Mum> b typical

**textile** /'tekstiəl/ *n* 1 CLOTH 1, esp a woven or knitted cloth 2 a fibre, filament, or yarn used in making cloth [L, fr neut of *textilis* woven, fr *textus*, pp of *texere*]

**textual** /'tekstiʃəl, 'tekstʃuəl/ *adj* of or based on a text [ME, fr ML *textus* text] – **textually** *adv*

**textual criticism** *n* 1 the study of a literary work that aims to establish the original text 2 criticism of literature emphasizing a close reading and analysis of the text


**texture** /'tekʃə/ *n* 1 the structure formed by the threads of a fabric 2 identifying quality, character <the ~ of American culture> 3a the size or organization of the constituent particles of a body or substance <a soil that is coarse in ~> b the visual or tactile surface characteristics of sthg, esp fabric <the ~ of an oil painting> <the roughish ~ of tweed> 4a the distinctive or identifying part or quality <the rich ~ of his prose> b a pattern of musical sound created by notes or lines played or sung together [L *textura*, fr *textus*, pp of *texere* to weave – more at **TECHNICAL**] – **textural** *adj*, **textured** *adj*

**texture** *vt* to give a particular texture to  
**textured vegetable protein** *n* a vegetable substance made from high protein (soya) beans that is used as a meat substitute

**-th** /-θ/, **-eth** /-ɪθ/ *suffix* (→ *adj*) – used in forming ordinal numbers <hundredth> <fortieth> [ME *-the*, *-ie*, fr OE *-tha*, *-ta*, akin to OHG *-do* -th, L *-tus*, Gk *-tos*, Skt *-tha*]

**-th**, **-eth** *suffix* (→ *n*) – used in forming fractions <a fortieth> <two hundredths of an inch>

**-th** *suffix* (→ *n*) 1 act or process of <growth> <birth> 2 state or condition of <dearth> <fifth> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *-ida*, suffix forming abstract nouns, L *-ta*, Gk *-te*, Skt *-ta*]

**Thai** /'tʃeɪ/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of Thailand 2 the language of Thailand  LANGUAGE – **Thai** *adj*

**thalamus** /'θalaməs/ *n*, *pl* **thalami** /-mi/ the subdivision of the midbrain that forms a coordinating centre through which different nerve impulses are directed to appropriate parts of the brain (cortex [NL, fr Gk *thalamos* inner chamber] – **thalamic** /θə'lamɪk/ *adj*)


**thalassaemia** /θə'læsə'miə, -mi-/ *n* a hereditary anaemia common in Mediterranean regions and characterized esp by abnormally small red blood cells [NL, fr Gk *thalassa* sea + NL *-emia*]


**thalassic** /θə'læsɪk/ *adj* 1 of deep seas (~ *fishes*) 2 of inland seas (~ *civilizations*) [F *thalassique*, fr Gk *thalassa*]

**thaler** /'tʃalə/ *n* a taler

**thalidomide** /θə'lɪdə'mɪd/ *adj* or *n* (of or affected by) a sedative and hypnotic drug found to cause malformation of infants born to mothers using it during pregnancy [n *phthalic acid* + *-id-* (fr *imide*) + *-o-* + *umide*, *adj* fr n]

**thall-**, **thallo-** *comb form* thallium <thallc> [NL]

**thallium** /'θali-əm/ *n* a poisonous metallic element chemically resembling lead  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, deriv of Gk *thallos* green shoot, fr the bright green line in its spectrum] – **thallic** /θə'lik/ *adj*, **thallous** *adj*

**thallophyte** /θə'lə'fi:t/ *n* any of a primary group of living things with a plant body, typically a thallus, that includes the algae, fungi, and lichens  PLANT [deriv of Gk *thallos* + *phyton* plant – more at **PHYT-**] – **thallophytic** /-fɪtɪk/ *adj*

**thallus** /θə'ləs/ *n*, *pl* **thalli** /-li/, **-li-**, **thalluses** a plant body (e.g. of an alga) that lacks differentiation into distinct tissues or parts (e.g. stem or

- leaves) [NL, fr Gk *thallos*, fr *thallein* to sprout, akin to Alb *dal* I come forth] – **thalloid** /'thaloyd/ *adj*
- \*than** /dhan, strong dhan/ *conj* **1a** – used with comparatives to indicate the second member or the member taken as the point of departure in a comparison <older ~ I am> <easier said ~ done> **b** – used to indicate difference of kind, manner, or degree <would starve rather ~ beg> **2** rather than – usu only after *prefer*, *preferable* **3** other than, but <no alternative ~ to sack him> **4** chiefly NAm from – usu only after *different*, *differently* [ME *than*, then then, than – more at THEN]
- \*than prep** in comparison with <older ~ me> <less ~ £1000>
- Thanatos** /'thanatos/ *n* instinctual desire for death – compare EROS **1** [Gk, death; akin to Skt *adhvanit* it vanished, L *fumus* smoke]
- thane** also **thegn** /'thayn/ *n* **1** a free retainer of an Anglo-Saxon lord, esp one holding lands in exchange for military service **2** a Scottish feudal lord [ME *theyn*, fr OE *thegn*, akin to OHG *thegan* thane, Gk *tikein* to bear, beget] – **thaneship** *n*
- thank** /'thank/ *vt* **1** to express gratitude to – used in *thank you*, usu without a subject, to express gratitude politely <~ you for the loan>, used in such phrases as *thank God*, *thank heaven*, usu without a subject, to express the speaker's or writer's pleasure or satisfaction in sthg **2** to hold responsible <had only himself to ~ for his loss> [ME *thanken*, fr OE *thancian*; akin to OE *thanc* gratitude – more at THANKS] – **thanker** *n*
- thankful** /'thankf(ə)l/ *adj* **1** conscious of benefit received, grateful **2** feeling or expressing thanks **3** well pleased, glad <he was ~ that the room was dark> – **thankfulness** *n*
- thankfully** /'thankf(ə)li/ *adv* it is a matter for relief that <but ~ things have changed ~ Honey>
- thankless** /'thanklis/ *adj* **1** not expressing or feeling gratitude **2** not likely to obtain thanks, unappreciated, also unprofitable, futile (<it's a ~ job trying to grow tomatoes in England out of doors>) – **thanklessly** *adv*, **thanklessness** *n*
- thanks** *n pl* **1** kindly or grateful thoughts; gratitude **2** an expression of gratitude <received with ~ the sum of £50> – often in an utterance containing no verb and serving as a courteous and somewhat informal expression of gratitude <many ~> [pl of ME *thank*, fr OE *thanc* thought, gratitude; akin to OHG *dank* gratitude, L *tongere* to know] – **no thanks** to not as a result of any benefit conferred by <he feels better now, no thanks to you> – **thanks to** **1** with the help of <(thanks to modern medicine, man's life span is growing longer)> **2** owing to <(our arrival was delayed, thanks to the fog)>
- thanksgiving** /'thanksg'ivɪŋ, 't-/-/ *n* **1** an expression of gratefulness, esp to God **2** a prayer of gratitude
- Thanksgiving Day** *n* a day appointed for giving thanks for divine goodness. e.g. **a** the fourth Thursday in November observed as a public holiday in the USA **b** the second Monday in October observed as a public holiday in Canada
- \*thank-you** *n* a polite expression of one's gratitude [fr the phrase (*I*) *thank you*, used in expressing gratitude]
- thar** /'thah/, **tahr** /'tah/ *n* a Himalayan beardless wild goat [Nepali *thār*]
- \*that** /dhat/ *pron, pl* those /dho:z/ **1a** the thing or idea just mentioned <after ~ he went to bed> **b** a relatively distant person or thing introduced for observation or discussion <who is ~?> <those are chestnuts and these are elms> **c** the thing or state of affairs there <look at ~> – sometimes used disparagingly of a person **d** the kind or thing specified as follows <(the purest water is ~ produced by distillation)> **e** what is understood from the context <(take ~?> <how's ~?> **2** one of such a group; such <~'s life> **3** – used to indicate emphatic repetition of an idea previously presented <(is he capable? He is ~)> **4 pl** the people, such <(those who think the time has come)> – compare **ALL THAT**, **AND THAT**, **AT THAT**, **HOW'S THAT**, **LIKE THAT**, **THAT IS TO SAY** [ME, fr OE *thæt*, neut demonstrative pron & definite article, akin to OHG *daz*, neut demonstrative pron & definite article, Gk *to*, L *istud*, neut demonstrative pron] – **that's** **A** – **that's** **A** – **that's** **A** that that concludes the matter
- \*that adj, pl** those **1** being the person, thing, or idea specified, mentioned, or understood <~ cake we bought> **2** the farther away or less immediately under observation <(this chair or ~ one)>
- \*that /dhat, strong dhat/ conj** **1a** – used to introduce a noun clause (**1**) as subject, object, or complement of a verb <said ~ he was afraid>, (**2**) anticipated by *it* <(it is unlikely ~ he'll be in)>, or (**3**) as complement to a noun or adjective <(the fact ~ you're here)> **b** – used to introduce a clause modifying an adverb or adverbial expression <(will go anywhere ~ he's invited)> **c** – used to introduce an emotional exclamation <~ it should come to this> or express a wish <oh, ~ he would come!> **2** – used to introduce a subordinate clause expressing (**1**) purpose <(worked harder ~ he might win esteem)>, (**2**) reason <(glad ~ you are free of it)>, or (**3**) result <(walked so fast ~ we couldn't keep up)>
- \*that /dhat, strong dhat/ pron** **1** – used to introduce a usu restrictive relative clause in reference to a person, thing, or group as subject <(it was George ~ told me)> or as object of a verb or of a following preposition <(the house ~ Jack built)> **2a** at, in, on, by, with, for, or to which <(the reason ~ he came)> <(the way ~ he spoke)> **b** according to what, to the extent of what – used after a negative <(has never been here ~ I know of)>
- \*that /dhat/ adv** **1** to the extent indicated or understood <(a nail about ~ long)> **2** very, extremely – usu with the negative <(not really ~ expensive)> **3** dial Br to such an extreme degree <(I'm ~ hungry I could eat a horse)>
- thataway** /'dhatə, way/ *adv* in that direction or manner – infml [alter. of the phrase *that way*]
- \*thatch** /'thach/ *vt* to cover (as if) with thatch [ME *thecchen*, fr OE *theccan* to cover, akin to OHG *decchen* to cover, L *tegere*, Gk *stegenai* to cover, *stegos* roof, Skt *sthagati* he covers] – **thatcher** *n*
- \*thatch n** **1** plant material (e.g. straw) used as a roof covering  **BUILDING** **2** the hair of one's head – often humor, broadly anything resembling the thatch of a house
- thaumatourgy** /'thawmə, tu:hi/ *n* the performance of miracles, specif magic [Gk *thaumatourgia*, fr *thaumatourgos* working miracles, fr *thau-mat-*, *thauma* miracle + *ergon* work – more at **THIATRE**, 'WORK] – **thaumaturgist** *n*, **thaumaturgic** /-'tu:hi:k/ *adj*
- \*thaw** /'thaw/ *vt* to cause to thaw – often + *out* ~ *vt* **1a** to go from a frozen to a liquid state **b** to become free of the effect (e.g. stiffness, numbness, or hardness) of cold as a result of exposure to warmth – often + *out* **2** to be warm enough to melt ice and snow + *it*, used in reference to the weather **3** to become less hostile <(relations with E Germany have ~ed)> **4** to become less aloof, cold, or reserved [ME *thawen*, fr OE *thawian*, akin to OHG *douwen* to thaw, Gk *tekein* to melt, L *taber* wasting disease]
- \*thaw n** **1** the action, fact, or process of thawing <(the ~ in relations with Western Europe)> **2** a period of weather warm enough to thaw ice
- THC** *n* tetrahydrocannabinol [tetrahydrocannabinol]
- \*the /before consonants dhz, strong and before vowels dhe:/ definite article** **1a** – used before nouns when the referent has been previously specified by context or circumstance <(put ~ cat out)> <(ordered bread and cheese, but didn't eat ~ cheese)> **b** – indicating that a following noun is unique or universally recognized <~ Pope> <~ south> <~ future> **c** – used before a noun denoting time to indicate the present or the period under consideration <(book of ~ month)> **d** – used before certain proper names <~ Mayflower> <~ Rhine> <~ Alhambra> <~ Alps> **e** – used before the name of a familiar accessory of daily life to indicate a service at hand <(talked on ~ telephone)> <(turned off ~ gas)> **f** – used before the names of certain diseases or conditions <~ jitters> <~ mumps> **g** – used before the names of parts of the body or of the clothing instead of a possessive adjective <(inflammation of ~ bladder)> <(took him by ~ sleeve)> **h** – used before the name of a branch of human endeavour or proficiency <(play ~ piano)> <(study ~ arts)> **i** – indicating an occupation or pursuit symbolically associated with a following noun <~ pulpit> <~ bottle> **j** – designating 1 of a class as the best or most worth singling out <(this is ~ life)> <(you can't be ~ Elvis Presley)> **k** – used before the name of a Scottish clan to denote its chief <~ McTavish> **l** – used in prepositional phrases to indicate that the following noun serves as a basis for computation <(sold by ~ dozen)> **m** – used before the pl form of a number that is a multiple of 10 to denote a particular decade of a century or of a person's life <(life in ~ twenties)> **2a** which or who is – limiting the application of a modified noun to what is specified <~ right answer> <(Peter ~ Great)> **b** – used before a noun to limit its application to that specified by what follows <~ University of London> <~ man on my right> <(didn't have ~ time to write)> **3** – used before a singular noun to indicate generic use <~ dog is a mammal> <(a history of ~ novel)> **4a** that which is <(nothing but ~ best)> **b** those who are <~ élite> <~ British> **c** he or she who is <~ accused stands before you> **5** – used after *how*, *what*, *where*, *who*, and *why* to introduce various expletives <(who ~ devil are you?)> [ME, fr OE *the*, masc demonstrative pron & definite article, alter (influenced by oblique cases – e.g. *thæs*, gen – & neut, *thæt*) of sc, akin to Gk *ho*, masc demonstrative pron & definite article – more at **THAT**]
- \*the adv** **1** than before, than otherwise – with comparatives <(none ~ wiser for attending)> <(so much ~ worse)> **2a** to what extent <~ sooner the better> **b** to that extent <(the sooner ~ better)> **3** beyond all others – with superlatives <(likes this ~ best)> <(with ~ greatest difficulty)> [ME, fr OE *thy* by that, instrumental of *thæt* that]

**the** *prep* PER 2 [ˈthe]

**the**, **theo-** *comb form* god, God <theism> <theocentric> [ME *theo-*, fr L, fr Gk *the-*, *theo-*, fr *theos*]

**theatre**, *NAm chiefly theater* /ˈθiːətrə/ *n* **1a** an outdoor structure for dramatic performances or spectacles in ancient Greece and Rome **b** a building for dramatic performances, also a cinema **2** a room with rising tiers of seats (e.g. for lectures) **3** a place of enactment of significant events or action <the ~ of public life> <the ~ of war> **4a** dramatic literature or performance **b** dramatic effectiveness <the effect is pure ~> **5** the theatrical world **6** *Br OPERATING* *THIATRE* [ME *theatre*, fr MF, fr L *theatrum*, fr Gk *theatron*, fr *theasthai* to see, view, fr *thea* act of seeing, akin to Gk *thauma* miracle]

**theatre-in-the-round** *n* (a theatre arranged for) performance of a drama on a stage surrounded by an audience

**theatre of the absurd** *n* theatre that seeks to represent the absurdity of human beings' existence in a meaningless universe by bizarre or fantastic means

**theatrical** /ˈθiːətriəl/ *adj* **1** of the theatre or the presentation of plays <a ~ costume> **2** marked by artificiality (e.g. of emotion) **3** marked by exhibitionism, histrionic <a ~ gesture> - *theatrically* *adv*, *theatricalism* *n*, *theatricality* /ˈθiːətriːkələti/ *n*

**theatricals** *n pl* the performance of plays <amateur ~>

**thebe** /ˈteɪbə/ *n, pl thebe* ˈteɪbə *f* Botswana at NATIONALITY [of Bantu origin]

**theca** /ˈθeɪkə/ *n, pl thecae* /ˈθeɪː, see, -ˈkeɪ/ **1** an urn-shaped spore receptacle of a moss **2** an enveloping sheath or case of an animal (part) [NL, fr Gk *thekē* case - more at THICK] - *thecal*, *thecate* /-ˈkeɪt/ *adj*

**thee** /dhee/ *pron, archaic or dial* **1a** objective case of THOU **b** thou - used by Quakers, esp among themselves, in contexts where the subjective form would be expected <is ~ ready?> **2** thyself [ME, fr OF *the* (acc & dat of *thū*) - more at THOU]

**theft** /θeft/ *n* the act of stealing, specif dishonest appropriation of property with the intention of keeping it [ME *thiefthe*, fr OE *theftih*, akin to OE *theof* thief]

**thegn** /ˈθeɪn/ *n* THAN 1

**theine** /ˈθeɪn/ *n* caffeine [NL *theina*, fr *thea* tea, fr Chin (Amoy) *t'e*]

**their** /dheə, strong dhee/ *adj* **1** of them or themselves, esp as possessors <~ furniture>, agents <~ verses>, or objects of an action <~ being seen> **2** his or her, his, her, its <anyone in ~ senses - W H Auden> *USE* used attributively [ME, fr *their*, *pron*, fr ON *theirra*, gen pl demonstrative & personal *pron*, akin to OE *thæt* that]

**theirs** /dheəz/ *pron, pl theirs* **1** that which or the one who belongs to them - used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *their* **2** his or hers, his, hers <I will do my part if everybody else will do ~>

**theism** /ˈθeɪz(ə)m/ *n* belief in the existence of a creator god immanent in the universe but transcending it - *theist* *n* or *adj*, *theistic* /-ˈɪstɪk/, *theistical* *adj*

**theism** /-θiːz(ə)m/ *comb form* (· *n*) belief in (such) a god or (such or so many) gods <pantheism> <monotheism> [MF *-theisme*, fr Gk *theos* god] - *theist* *comb form* (· *n*)

**them** /dhem, strong dhem/ *pron, objective case* of THOU [ME, partly fr *tham*, fr OE *them*, *tham*, dat pl demonstrative *pron* & definite article, partly fr *thelm*, fr ON, dat pl demonstrative & personal *pron*, akin to OE *thet* - more at THAT]

**them** /dhem/ *adj* those <~ blokes> - nonstandard

**them-and-us** *adj* characterized by tension or resentment between those who exert authority and those over whom it is exerted

**thematic** /ˈθiːmætɪk/ *adj* **1a** of the stem of a word **b** of a vowel being the last part of a word stem before an inflectional ending *c* of a verb form containing a thematic vowel **2** of or constituting a theme [Gk *thematikos*, fr *themat*, *thema* theme] - *thematically* *adv*

**theme** /them/ *n* **1** a subject of artistic representation or a topic of discourse **2** STEM **4** **3** a melodic subject of a musical composition or movement **4** *NAm* a written exercise; a composition [ME *teme*, *theme*, fr OF & L, OF *teme*, fr L *thema*, fr Gk, lit, something laid down, fr *titheina* to place - more at DO]

**theme song** *n* **1** a recurring melody in a musical play or in a film that characterizes the production or one of its characters **2** a signature tune

**themselves** /dhemˈselvz/ *pron pl in constr* **1a** those identical people, creatures, or things that are they - used reflexively <nations that govern ~> or for emphasis <the team ~ were delighted> **b** himself or herself,

himself, herself <hoped nobody would hurt ~> **2** their normal selves <soon be ~ again>

**then** /dhen/ *adv* **1** at that time **2a** soon after that; next in order (of time) <walked to the door, ~ turned> **b** besides, IN ADDITION <~ there is the interest to be paid> **3a** in that case <take it, ~, if you want it so much> **b** as may be inferred <your mind is made up, ~?> *c* accordingly, so - indicating casual connection in speech or writing <our hero, ~, was greatly relieved> *d* as a necessary consequence <if the angles are equal, ~ the complements are equal> *e* - used after *but* to offset a preceding statement <he lost the race, but ~ he never expected to win> [ME *than*, then then, than, fr OE *thonne*, *thænne*, akin to OHG *denne* then, than, OE *thæt* that]

**then** *n* that time <since ~, he's been more cautious>

**then** *adj* existing or acting at that time <the ~ secretary of state>

**thénar** /ˈθeɪnəh, -nə/ *n* **1** the ball of the thumb **2** PALM, also SOLE *1a* [NL, fr Gk - more at DEN] - *thénar* *adj*

**thence** /dhen/ *adv* **1** from there <fly to London and ~ to Paris> **2** from that preceding fact or premise <it ~ transpired> - chiefly fml [ME *thannes*, fr *thanne* from that place, fr OE *thanon*, akin to OHG *thanan* from that place, OE *thænne* then - more at THEN]

**thenceforth** /-ˈfawth/ *adv* from that time or point on - chiefly fml

**thenceforward** /-ˈfaw wɔrd/ *adv* thenceforth

**theo-** - see THE-

**theobromine** /ˌθee-əˈbrohmee/ *n* an alkaloid that is closely related to caffeine, occurs esp in cacao beans and tea, and is used esp as a diuretic and heart stimulant [NL *Theobroma*, genus of trees, fr *the-* + Gk *broma* food, fr *bibroskein* to devour]

**theocracy** /ˈθiːəkrəsi/ *n* (a state having) government by immediate divine guidance or by officials regarded as divinely guided [Gk *theokratia*, fr *the-* + *-kratia* -cracy] - *theocrat* /ˈθee-əkrət/ *n*, *theocratic* /-ˈkratik/ also *theocratical* *adj*

**theodicy** /ˈθiːədi/ *n* a defence of the doctrines of God's goodness and omnipotence against arguments derived from the existence of evil [modif of F *theodicee*, fr *theo-* the- (fr L *theo-*) + Gk *dike* judgment, right - more at DICION]

**theodolite** /ˈθiːəd(ə)lɪt/ *n* a surveyor's instrument for measuring horizontal and usu also vertical angles [NL *theodolitus*] - *theodolitic* /-ˈtɪk/ *adj*

**theogony** /ˈθiːəɡəni/ *n* an account of the origin and genealogy of the gods [Gk *theogonia*, fr *the-* + *-gonia* -gony] - *theogonic* /ˌθee-əˈɡonɪk/ *adj*

**theologian** /ˌθee-əˈlɒjən/ *n* a specialist in theology

**theological college** /ˌθee-əˈlɒjɪkəl/ *n* a college for the training of candidates for the clergy

**theology** /ˈθiːələʒi/ *n* **1** the study of God, esp by analysis of the origins and teachings of an organized religion **2** a theological theory, system, or body of opinion <Catholic ~> [ME *theologie*, fr L *theologia*, fr Gk, fr *the-* + *-logia* -logy] - *theological* /ˌθee-əˈlɒjɪkəl/ *adj*

**theophylline** /ˈθiːəfilɪn/ *n* an alkaloid similar to theobromine used esp to treat some types of heart failure and respiratory disorders [ISV *theo-* (fr NL *thea* tea) + *phyll-* + *-ine* - more at THEINE]

**theorbo** /ˈθiːəwɒh/ *n, pl theorbos* a 17th-c musical instrument like a large lute but having an extra set of bass strings [modif of It *tiorba*, *teorba*]

**theorem** /ˈθiːərəm, ˈθee-ərəm/ *n* **1** a proposition in mathematics or logic deducible from other more basic propositions **2** an idea proposed as a demonstrable truth, often as a part of a general theory, a proposition [LL *theoremata*, fr Gk *theorema*, fr *theorein* to look at, fr *theoros* spectator, fr *thea* act of seeing - more at TH-ATRE] *theorematic* /-ˈmatɪk/ *adj*

**theoretical** /ˈθiːəretɪkəl, ˌθee-ə-/ also *theoretic* /ˈθiːəretɪk, ˌθee-ə-/ *adj* **1a** relating to or having the character of theory, abstract **b** confined to theory or speculation, speculative <~ mechanics> **2** existing only in theory, hypothetical [LL *theoreticus*, fr Gk *theoretikos*, fr *theorein*] - *theoretically* *adv*

**theoretician** /ˌθiːəˈrɪʃ(ə)n, ˌθee-ə-/ *n* sby who specializes in the theoretical aspects of a subject

**theorist** /ˈθiːərɪst, ˈθee-ə-/ *n* a theoretician

**theorize**, *-ise* /ˈθiːəraɪz, ˈθee-ə-/ *vi* to form a theory, speculate - *theorizer* *n*

**theory** /ˈθiːəri, ˈθee-ə-/ *n* **1a** a belief, policy, or procedure forming the basis for action <her method is based on the ~ that children want to learn> **b** an ideal or supposed set of facts, principles, or circumstances - often in *the theory* <in ~, we have always advocated freedom for all, but in practice...> **2** the general or abstract principles of a subject <music ~> **3** a scientifically acceptable body of principles offered to explain a

phenomenon <wave ~ of light> **4a** a hypothesis assumed for the sake of argument or investigation **b** an unproved assumption, a conjecture **c** a body of theorems presenting a concise systematic view of a subject <~ of equations> [LL *theoria*, fr Gk *theoria*, fr *theorein*]

**theory of 'games** *n* GAME THEORY

**theory of numbers** *n* NUMBER THEORY

**theosophy** /thi'osəfi/ *n* 1 teaching about God and the world stressing the validity of mystical insight **2** often *cap* the teachings of a modern movement originating in the USA in 1875 and following chiefly Buddhist and Brahmanic theories, esp of pantheistic evolution and reincarnation [ML *theosophia*, fr LGk, fr Gk *the-* + *sophia* wisdom – more at -*SOPHY*] – **theosophist** *n*, **theosophical** /,thi:ə'səfɪkəl/ *adj*

**therapeutic** /,therə'pyoʊtɪk/ *adj* of the treatment of disease or disorders by remedial agents or methods [Gk *therapeutikos*, fr *therapeuein* to attend, treat, fr *theraps* attendant] – **therapeutically** *adv*

**therapeutic index** *n* a measure of the effectiveness of a drug which indicates how good the drug is at producing the desired therapeutic effects without causing toxic side effects

**therapeutics** *n pl* *but sing or pl in constr* medicine dealing with the application of remedies to diseases

**therapist** /,therəpɪst/ *n* sby trained in methods of treatment and rehabilitation other than the use of drugs or surgery <a speech ~>

**therapy** /,therəpi/ *n* therapeutic treatment of bodily, mental, or social disorders [NL *therapia*, fr Gk *therapeia*, fr *therapeuein*]

**Theravada** /,therə'vaydə/ *n* a conservative and nontheistic branch of Buddhism comprising seats chiefly in Sri Lanka and Indochina and viewing the original Pali scriptures alone as canonical – compare MAHAYANA [Pali *theravada*, lit., doctrine of the elders]

**there** /dheə/ *adv* **1** in or at that place <stand over ~> – often used to draw attention or to replace a name <~ goes John> <hello ~> **2** thither <went ~ after church> **3a** now <~ goes the hooter> **b** at or in that point or particular <~ is where I disagree with you> **4** – used interjectionally to express satisfaction, approval, encouragement, or defiance <~, it's finished> <won't go, so ~> <~, ~, don't cry> [ME, fr OE *thær*; akin to OHG *dar* there, OE *thæt* that] – **there and back** for a round trip – **there** it is such is the unfortunate fact – **there's a** – used when urging a course of action <don't sulk, there's a dear!> – **there you are** **1** HERE YOU ARE! **2** I told you so

**there** *pron* – used to introduce a sentence or clause expressing the idea of existence <what is ~ to eat?> <~ shall come a time>

**there** *n* that place or point

**there** *adj* **1** – used for emphasis, esp after a demonstrative <those men ~ can tell you> **2** – used for emphasis between a demonstrative and the following noun <that ~ cow>; substandard

**thereabouts** /,dheəə'baʊts/, *NAm* also *therea'bout* *adv* **1** in that vicinity **2** near that time, number, degree, or quantity <a boy of 18 or ~>

**thereafter** /,dheə'raɦtə/ *adv* after that

**thereat** /,dheə'rat/ *adv* **1** at that place **2** at that occurrence *USE fml*

**thereby** /,dheə'bi:/ *adv* **1** by that means, resulting from which **2** in which connection <~ hangs a tale – Shak>

**there'd** /dheəd/ *there had*; *there would*

**therefor** /,dheə'faw/ *adv* (in return) for that <ordered a change and gave his reasons ~> – *fml*

**therefore** /'fɜː/; also /'fɜː/ *adv* **1** for that reason, to that end <We must go. I will ~ call a taxi> **2** by virtue of that; consequently <was tired and ~ irritable> **3** as this proves <I think, ~ I exist> *USE (2&3) ~* *SYMBOL*

**therein** /,dheə'rɪn/ *adv* in that; esp in that respect <~ lies the problem> – *fml*

**there'll** /dheəl/ *there will*; *there shall*

**thereof** /,dheə'rov/ *adv* **1** of that or it **2** from that or it *USE fml*

**thereon** /,dheə'ron/ *adv* on or onto that or it <a text with a commentary ~> – *fml*

**thereto** /,dheə'too/ *adv* to that matter or document <conditions attaching ~> – *fml*

**theretofore** /,dheə'tə'faw, -tooh-/ *adv* up to that time – *fml*

**thereunder** /,dheə'runda/ *adv* under that or it <the heading and the items listed ~> – *fml*

**thereupon** /,dheə'pən/ *adv* **1** on that matter <if all are agreed ~> **2** immediately after that *USE fml*

**therewith** /,dheə'wɪð/ *adv* **1** with that or it <a letter enclosed ~> – *fml* **2** *archaic* thereupon, forthwith

**therm** /tuɦm/ *n* a quantity of heat equal to 100,000Btu (about

105,506MJ) [Gk *therme* heat, akin to Gk *thermos* hot – more at WARM]

**therm-, thermo-** *comb form* heat (thermuon) (thermostat) [Gk, fr *therme*]

**-therm** /-tuɦm/ *comb form* (- *n*) animal having (such) a body temperature (ectotherm) [Gk *therme*]

**thermal** /'tuɦmɪl/ *adj* **1** **thermal**, **thermic** /'tuɦmɪk/ of or caused by heat <~ stress> <~ insulation> **2** designed (e.g. with insulating air spaces) to prevent the dissipation of body heat <~ underwear> [Gk *therme*] – **thermally** *adv*

**thermal** *n* a rising body of warm air

**Thermidor** /'tuɦmɪ,daw/ *n* the 11th month of the French Revolutionary calendar corresponding to 20 July–18 August [F, fr Gk *therme* + *doron* gift]

**thermion** /'tuɦmɪ:ən, -on/ *n* an electrically charged particle, specif an electron, emitted by an incandescent substance [ISV *therm-* + *ion*]

**thermionic** /,tuɦmɪ'ɒnɪk/ *adj* of or being (a device, esp a valve using) thermions

**thermistor** /'tuɦmɪstə/ *n* a semiconducting electrical resistor whose resistance varies significantly with temperature [thermal resistor]

**Thermit** /'tuɦmɪet, -mət/ *trademark* – used for thermite

**thermite** /'tuɦmɪet/ *n* a mixture of aluminium powder and iron oxide that produces a great deal of heat when ignited and is used in welding and in incendiary bombs [therm- + *-ite*]

**thermochemistry** /,tuɦmoh'kemɪstri/ *n* chemistry dealing with the effects of heat on chemical reactions or on physical change of state – **thermochemical** /-'kemɪkəl/ *adj*, **thermochemist** *n*

**thermocline** /'tuɦmɪ:kliən/ *n* a layer of water in a lake, sea, etc that separates an upper warmer zone from a lower colder zone, specif a stratum in which temperature declines at least 1°C with each metre increase in depth

**thermocouple** /'tuɦmɪ:kupl, -moh-/ *n* a combination of 2 conductors for producing a thermoelectric effect used in measuring temperature differences

**thermodynamics** /,tuɦmoh'dɪ'namɪks, -dɪ-/ *n pl* *but sing or pl in constr* (physics that deals with) the mechanical action of, or relations between, heat and other forms of energy **thermodynamic** *adj*, **thermodynamically** *adv*, **thermodynamicist** /-dɪ'namɪsɪst/ *n*

**thermoelectric** /-'lektɪk/ *adj* of or dependent on phenomena that involve relations between the temperature and the electrical properties of a metal or of 2 metals in contact – **thermoelectricity** *n*

**thermoform** /'tuɦmɪ:fawm/ *vt* to give a final shape to (e.g. a plastic) with the aid of heat and usu pressure – **thermoformable** /-fawməbl/ *adj*

**thermogram** /-'gram/ *n* the record made by a thermograph

**thermograph** /-'grɑɦf, -grɑf/ *n* a self-registering thermometer [ISV]

**thermography** /'tuɦ'mɒgrəfi/ *n* **1** a process of writing or printing involving heat **2** a technique for photographically recording variations in the heat emitted by various regions, esp of the body (e.g. for the detection of tumours) – **thermographic** /,tuɦmɪ'grɑfɪk/ *adj*

**thermolabile** /,tuɦmoh'laɪbiəl/ *adj* unstable, specif losing characteristic properties, when heated above a moderate temperature [ISV] – **thermolability** /-'ləɪbɪləti/ *n*

**thermoluminescence** /,tuɦmoh'looɦmɪn's(ə)ns/ *n* phosphorescence developed in a previously excited substance that is then gently heated [ISV] – **thermoluminescent** *adj*

**thermometer** /'thə'mɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for determining temperature, esp a glass bulb attached to a fine graduated tube of glass and containing a liquid (e.g. mercury) that rises and falls with changes of temperature [F *thermomètre*, fr Gk *therme* heat + F *-o-* + *-mètre* -meter – more at THERM] – **thermometry** /-'trɪ/ *n*, **thermometric** /,tuɦmɪ'metrɪk/ *adj*

**thermonuclear** /,tuɦmoh'nyooɦkli:ə/ *adj* of, using, or being (weapons using) transformations occurring in the nucleus of low atomic weight atoms (e.g. hydrogen) at very high temperatures <a ~ reaction> <~ bombs> [ISV]

**thermophile** /'tuɦmɪ:fiəl/ *n* a living organism thriving at relatively high temperatures – **thermophilic** /-'fɪlɪk/ *adj*

**thermopile** /'tuɦmɪ:piəl/ *n* a device that consists of a number of thermoelectric units combined so as to multiply the effect (e.g. for determining intensities of radiation) [*pile*]

**thermoplastic** /,tuɦmɪ'plæstɪk/ *adj* capable of softening or melting when heated and of hardening again when cooled <~ synthetic resins> – compare THERMOSETTING – **thermoplastic** *n*

**thermoregulation** /ˈθu:mohregyooˈlaysh(ə)n/ *n* the natural maintenance of the living body at a constant temperature [ISV] – **thermoregulate** /ˈregyooˈlayt/ *vi*, **thermoregulatory** /-lət(ə)ri/ *adj*

**thermos** /ˈθu:hmos, -məz/ *n* THERMOS FLASK

**Thermos** trademark – used for a Thermos flask

**thermosetting** /ˈθu:hmoʃetɪŋ/ *adj* capable of becoming permanently rigid when heated (< ~ plastic) – compare THERMOPLASTIC

**Thermos flask** *n*, often *not cap T* a cylindrical container with a vacuum between an inner and an outer wall used to keep material, esp liquids, either hot or cold for considerable periods

**thermosphere** /ˈθu:hməʃfiə/ *n* the part of the earth's atmosphere that begins at about 80km (50mi) above the earth's surface, extends to outer space, and is characterized by steadily increasing temperature with height [ISV]

**thermostable** /ˈθu:hmoʃstəbl/ *adj* stable, specif retaining characteristic properties, when heated above a moderate temperature – **thermostability** /-stəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**thermostat** /ˈθu:hməˈstat/ *n* an automatic device for regulating temperature – **thermostatic** /-ˈstætɪk/ *adj*

**thermotaxis** /ˈθu:hməˈtæksɪs/ *n* the regulation of body temperature [NL] – **thermotactic** /-ˈtæktɪk/ *adj*

**thermotropism** /ˈθu:hˈmotrəˌpɪz(ə)m/ *n* a tropism in which a temperature gradient is the orienting factor [ISV] – **thermotropic** /ˈθu:hməˈtrɒpɪk/ *adj*

**thermy** /ˈθu:hmi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) state of having (such) a body temperature <poikilothermy> [NL, -thermia, fr Gk *therme* heat – more at THERM]

**thesaurus** /ˈθɪsəwɔːs, ˈθesərəs/ *n*, *pl* **thesauri** /-rɪ-, -n/, **thesauruses** a book of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts, esp a book of words and their synonyms [NL, fr L, treasure, collection, fr Gk *thesauros*]

**these** /ðeɪz/ *pl* of THIS

**thesis** /ˈθeɪsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **theses** /-ˌseɪz/ **1a** a proposition that a person offers to maintain by argument **b** a proposition to be proved or one advanced without proof, a hypothesis **2** the first stage of a reasoned argument presenting the case **3** a dissertation embodying the results of original research, specif one submitted for a doctorate in Britain **4** the unstressed part of a metrical foot [L, fr Gk, lit, act of laying down, fr *tithenai* to put, lay down – more at DO]

**Thespian** /ˈθespi-ən/ *adj*, often *cap* relating to the drama [*Thespis* fl 534 bc Gk poet, reputed founder of Gk drama]

**Thespian** *n* an actor – chiefly fml or humor

**Thessalonians** /ˈθesəˈlɒniənz, -m-ən-z/ *n pl* but *sing* in *constr* either of 2 letters written by Paul to the Christians of Thessalonica and included as books in the New Testament

**theta** /ˈθi:etə, ˈθaytə/ *n* the 8th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *theta*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *tet*, 9th letter of the Heb alphabet]

**theurgy** /ˈθi:uɹgi/ *n* **1** the art or technique of evoking the aid of divine or kindly spirits **2** (the effects produced by) the intervention of a supernatural force in human affairs [LL *theurgia*, fr LGk *theourgia*, fr *theourgos* miracle worker, fr Gk *the-* + *ergon* work – more at WORK] – **theurgist** *n*, **theurgic** /-ˈuɹjɪk/, **theurgical** *adj*

**thow** /θyooʊ/ *n* **1** muscle, sinew – *usu pl* **2a** muscular power or development **b** strength, vitality <the naked ~ and sinew of the English language> – G M Hopkins] [ME, personal quality, virtue, fr OE *theaw*, akin to OHG *kathau* discipline]

**they** /ðeɪ/ *pron pl* in *constr* **1a** those people, creatures, or things <~ taste better with sugar>, also, chiefly Br that group <ask the committee whether ~ approve> **b** HE **2** <if anyone knows, ~ will tell you> **2a** PEOPLE **1** <~ say we'll have a hard winter> **b** the authorities <~ took my licence away> [ME, fr ON *ther*, masc pl demonstrative & personal pron, akin to OE *thæt* that]

**they'd** /ðeɪd/ they had; they would

**they'll** /ðeɪl/ they will; they shall

**they're** /ðeə/ they are

**they've** /ðeɪv/ they have

**thi-**, **thio-** *comb form* containing sulphur in the molecular structure <thiophosphate> <thiamine> [ISV, fr Gk *thē-*, *thēo-* sulphur, fr *thēon*]

**thiamine** also **thiamin** /ˈθi:ə-mɪn/ *n* a vitamin of the vitamin B complex that is essential to normal metabolism and nerve function and is widespread in plants and animals [*thiamine* alter. of *thiamin*, fr *thi-* + *-amin* (as in *vitamin*)]

**thiazide** /ˈθi:ə-zɪd/ *n* any of several synthetic drugs used as oral

diuretics, esp in the treatment of high blood pressure and oedema [*thi-* + diazine + dioxide]

**thick** /θɪk/ *adj* **1a** having or being of relatively great depth or extent between opposite surfaces <a ~ plank> **b** of comparatively large diameter in relation to length <a ~ rod> **2a** closely-packed, dense <the air was ~ with snow> <a ~ forest> **b** great in number *c* viscous in consistency <~ syrup> *d* foggy or misty <~ weather> *e* impenetrable to the eye <~ darkness> **3** measuring in thickness <12 centimetres ~> **4a** imperfectly articulated <~ speech> **b** plainly apparent, marked <a ~ French accent> **5a** sluggish, dull <my head feels ~ after too little sleep> **b** obtuse, stupid **6** on close terms, intimate <was quite ~ with his boss> **7** unreasonable, unfair <called it a bit ~ to be fired without warning> *USE* (Sb, 6, & 7) *infml* [ME *thikke*, fr OE *thice*; akin to OHG *dick* thick, OIr *tug*] – **thick adv**, **thicken** *vb*, **thickener** *n*, **thickish** *adj*, **thickly** *adv*

**thick** *n* **1** the most crowded or active part <in the ~ of the battle> **2** the part of greatest thickness <the ~ of the thumb>

**thick** and **thin** *n* every difficulty and obstacle – esp in *through thick and thin*

**thicket** /ˈθɪkɪt/ *n* **1** a dense growth of shrubbery or small trees **2** sthg like a thicket in density or impenetrability [(assumed) ME *thicket*, fr OE *thiccet*, fr *thice* thick]

**thickhead** /ˈθɪkˌhed/ *n* a stupid person – *infml* – **thick-headed** /-ˌhedɪd/ *adj*

**thickness** /ˈθɪknɪs/ *n* **1** the smallest of the 3 dimensions of a solid object **2** the thick part of sthg **3** a layer, ply <a single ~ of canvas> [ˈθɪk + -NESS]

**thickset** /θɪkˈset/ *adj* **1** closely placed, also growing thickly **2** heavily built, burly

**thick-skinned** *adj* callous, insensitive

**thick-witted** *adj* dull, stupid

**thief** /θi:f/ *n*, *pl* **thieves** /θi:vz/ *sby* who steals, esp secretly and without violence [ME *thief*, fr OE *theof*, akin to OHG *diob* thief, Lith *tupeti* to crouch] – **thievary** /-əri/ *n*, **thievish** *adj*, **thievishness** *n*

**thieve** /θi:v/ *vb* to steal, rob [fr *thief*, by analogy to *grief* : *grieve*]

**thigh** /θi:/ *n* the segment of the vertebrate hind limb nearest the body that extends from the hip to the knee and is supported by a single large bone [ME, fr OE *theoh*, akin to OHG *diuh* thigh, L *tumere* to swell – more at THUMB] – **thighed** /θi:əd/ *adj*

**thighbone** /θi:ˌboʊn/ *n* the femur ~ ANATOMY

**thimble** /ˈθɪmbəl/ *n* **1** a pitted metal or plastic cap or cover worn to protect the finger and to push the needle in sewing **2a** a thin metal grooved ring used to fit in a spliced loop in a rope as protection from chafing **b** a movable ring, tube, or lining in a hole [ME *thymbyl*, prob alter. of OE *thymel* thumbstall, fr *thūma* thumb]

**thimbleful** /-f(ə)l/ *n* as much as a thimble will hold; broadly a very small quantity

**thimble,rig** /-ˌrɪg/ *n* a swindling trick in which a small ball or pea is quickly shifted from under one to another of 3 small cups to fool the spectator guessing its location [*thimble* + *-rig* (to swindle)] – **thimblery** *vi*, **thimblery** *n*

**thin** /θɪn/ *adj* **nn-** **1a** having little depth between opposite surfaces <a ~ book> **b** measuring little in cross section <~ rope> **2** not dense or closely-packed <~ hair> **3** without much flesh, lean **4a** more rarefied than normal <~ air> **b** few in number *c* with few bids or offerings <a ~ market> **5** lacking substance or strength <~ broth> <a ~ plot> **6** flimsy, unconvincing <a ~ disguise> **7** somewhat feeble and lacking in resonance <a ~ voice> **8** lacking in intensity or brilliance <~ colour> **9** lacking sufficient photographic contrast **10** disappointingly poor or hard – *infml* <had a ~ time of it> [ME *thinne*, fr OE *thyne*, akin to OHG *dunni* thin, L *tenuis* thin, *tendere* to hold, *tendere* to stretch, Gk *teinein*] – **thin adv**, **thinly** *adv*, **thinness** *n*, **thinness** *adj* – **thin end of the wedge** sthg apparently insignificant that is the forerunner of a more important development

**thin** *vb* **nn-vt** **1** to reduce in thickness or depth; attenuate **2** to reduce in strength or density **3** to reduce in number or bulk ~ *vi* **1** to become thin or thinner **2** to diminish in strength, density, or number

**thine** /ðɪn/ *adj*, *archaic* thy – used esp before a vowel or *h* [ME *thin*, fr OE *thin*]

**thine** *pron*, *pl* **thine** *archaic* or *dial* that which belongs to thee – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *thy*; capitalized when addressing God; still surviving in the speech of Quakers, esp among themselves [ME *thin*, fr OE *thin*, fr *thin* thy – more at THY]

**thing** /θɪŋ/ *n* **1a** a matter, affair, concern <~s are not improving> **b** an event, circumstance <that shooting was a terrible ~> **2a** (1) a deed, act,

achievement <do great ~s> (2) an activity, action <abusive moralizing... is about the least productive ~ to do - Nation Review (Melbourne)>  
**b** a product of work or activity <likes to make ~s> **c** the aim of effort or activity <the ~ is to get well> **d** sthg necessary or desirable <I've got just the ~ for you> **3a** a separate and distinct object of thought (e.g. a quality, fact, idea, etc) **b** the concrete entity as distinguished from its appearances **c** an inanimate object as distinguished from a living being **d** *pl* imaginary objects or entities <see ~s> <hear ~s> **4a** *pl* possessions, effects <pack your ~s> **b** an item of property - used in law **c** an article of clothing <not a ~ to wear> **d** *pl* equipment or utensils, esp for a particular purpose <bring the tea ~s> **5** an object or entity not (capable of being) precisely designated <what's that ~ you're holding?> **6a** a detail, point <checks every little ~> **b** a material or substance of a specified kind <avoid starchy ~s> **7a** a spoken or written observation or point <there are some good ~s in his essay> **b** an idea, motion <says the first ~ he thinks of> <for one ~> **c** a piece of news or information <couldn't get a ~ out of him> **8** an individual, creature <poor ~> **9** the proper or fashionable way of behaving, talking, or dressing <it's the latest ~> **10a** a preoccupation (e.g. a mild obsession or phobia) of a specified type <has a ~ about driving> - compare COMPLEX **2b** **b** an intimate relationship; esp LOVE AFFAIR **1** <had a ~ going with her boss> **c** sthg (e.g. an activity) that offers special interest and satisfaction to the individual - infml <letting students do their own ~ - Newsweek> **USE** (10a, 10b, & 10c) infml [ME, fr OE, thing, assembly, akin to OHG *ding* thing, assembly, Goth *theihs* time] - of all things - used to show surprise <wants a xylophone of all things>  
**Thing** *n* a legislative or deliberative assembly in a Scandinavian country [ON & Icel, assembly, parliament, fr ON]  
**thingamabob** /'thing-ə-mə-bɒb/ *n* a thingamajig - infml [alter of earlier *thingum*, fr *thing* + arbitrary suffix]  
**thingamajig**, **thingumajig** /'thing-ə-mə-jɪɡ/ *n* sthg or sby that is hard to classify or whose name is unknown or forgotten - infml [alter of earlier *thingum*]  
**thingie** /'thing-i/ *n*, *Br* a thingamajig <those pyramid-shaped ~s - Punch> <old ~ who lives down the road> - infml  
**thingummy** /'thing-əm-i/ *n* a thingamajig - infml [alter of earlier *thingum*]  
**think** /'θɪŋk/ *vb* **thought** /'taʊt/ *vt* **1** to form or have in the mind **2** to have as an opinion, consider **3a** to reflect on - often + *over* <~ the matter over> **b** to determine by reflecting - often + *out* <~ it out for yourself> **4** to call to mind, remember <I didn't ~ to ask his name> **5** to devise by thinking - usu + *up* <thought up a plan to escape> **6** to have as an expectation <we didn't ~ we'd have any trouble> **7** to have one's mind full of <talks and ~s business> **8** to subject to the processes of logical thought - usu + *out* or *through* <~ things out> - *vi* **1a** to exercise the powers of judgment, conception, or inference **b** to have in mind or call to mind a thought or idea - usu + *of* **2** to have the mind engaged in reflection - usu + *of* or *about* **3** to hold a view or opinion - usu + *of* <~s of himself as a poet> **4** to have consideration - usu + *of* <a man must ~ first of his family> **5** to expect, suspect <better than he ~s possible> [ME *thenken*, fr OE *thencan*, akin to OHG *denken* to think, L *tongere* to know - more at THANKS] - **thinkable** *adj*, **thinker** *n* - **think better of** to decide on reflection to abandon (a plan) - **think much of** to have at all a high opinion of <didn't think much of the new car>  
**think** *n* an act of thinking <if he thinks he can fool me, he's got another ~ coming> - infml  
**thinking** /'θɪŋkɪŋ/ *n* **1** the action of using one's mind to produce thoughts **2** opinion that is characteristic (e.g. of a period, group, or individual) <the current ~ on immigration> - **put/have on one's thinking cap** to ponder or reflect on sthg  
**thinking** *adj* marked by use of the intellect  
**think over** *vt* to ponder the advantages or disadvantages of; consider <think it over>  
**think, tank** *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group of people formed as a consultative body to evolve new ideas and offer expert advice  
**thin-layer chromatography** *n* chromatography in which the absorbent medium is a thin layer (e.g. of kieselguhr) on a support (e.g. a glass plate) - **thin-layer chromatographic** *adj*  
**thinner** /'θɪnə/ *n* liquid (e.g. turpentine) used esp to thin paint ['THIN + -ER]  
**thin-skinned** *adj* unduly susceptible to criticism or insult  
**thio-** - see THI-  
**thiocarbamide** /,θiə-oh-'kəh-ba-niəd/ *n* thiourea [ISV]  
**thiol** /θiə-ol-, -ohl/ *n* (the group SH characteristic of) a mercaptan [ISV *thi-* + -ol] - **thiolic** /-'ohik-, -'ohlik/ *adj*

**thiopental** /,θiə-oh-'pental/ *n*, *NAm* thiopentone [thio- + pentobarbital]  
**thiopentone** /,θiə-oh-'pentohn/ *n* a barbiturate used esp intravenously as a general anaesthetic and in psychotherapy [thio- + pentobarbital + -one]  
**thiosulphate** /,θiə-oh-'sʌlfat/ *n* a salt or ester containing the group S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [ISV]  
**thiourea** /,θiə-oh-yoo(ə)'ree-ə-, -'yoo(ə)-ə/ *n* (a derivative of) a bitter compound used esp in photography and organic chemistry [NL, fr *thi-* + *urea*]  
**third** /'θɜːd/ *adj* **1a** next after the second in place or time <the ~ man in line> **b** ranking next to second in authority or precedence <~ mate> **c** being the forward gear or speed 1 higher than second in a motor vehicle **2a** being any of 3 equal parts into which sthg is divisible **b** being the last in each group of 3 in a series <take out every ~ card> [ME *thridde*, *thirde*, fr OE *thrida*, *thirdda*, akin to L *tertius* third, Gk *tritos*, *tres* three - more at THREE] - **thirdly** *adv*  
**third** *n* **1a** NUMBER **b** sthg or sby that is next after second in rank, position, authority, or precedence <the ~ in line> **c** **third, third class** often *cap* the third and usu lowest level of British honours degree **2** any of 3 equal parts of sthg **3a** (the combination of 2 notes at) a musical interval of 3 diatonic degrees **b** a median **4** the third forward gear or speed of a motor vehicle  
**third-class** *adj* of a class or grade next below the second - **third-class** *adv*  
**third class** *n* **1** the third group in a classification **2** the least expensive class of accommodation (e.g. on a ship)  
**third degree** *n* the subjection of a prisoner to torture to obtain information  
**third-degree** 'burn *n* a burn characterized by destruction of the skin and possibly the underlying tissues, loss of fluid, and sometimes shock compare FIRST-DEGREE BURN, SECOND-DEGREE BURN  
**third dimension** *n* (apparent) thickness or depth [fr its being the third dimension, in addition to length and breadth, of a solid body] - **third-dimensional** *adj*  
**third hand** /-'hænd/ *adj* **1** received from a second intermediary <~ information> **2** acquired after use by 2 previous owners **thirdhand** *adv*  
**third man** *n* a fielding position in cricket lying near the boundary on the off side behind the slips [SPORT]  
**third order** *n*, often *cap* T&O an organization of lay people under a religious rule, directed by a religious order but living in secular society [trans of ML *tertius ordo*, fr the partial resemblance to an order of monks or nuns]  
**third-party** *adj* of a third party, *specif* of insurance covering loss or damage sustained by sby other than the insured  
**third party** *n* **1** sby other than the principals <a ~ to a divorce proceeding> **2a** a major political party in addition to 2 others in a state normally characterized by a 2-party system **b** a political party whose electoral strength is so small that it can rarely gain control of a government  
**third person** *n* a set of linguistic forms (e.g. verb forms or pronouns) referring neither to the speaker or writer of the utterance in which they occur nor to the one to whom that utterance is addressed  
**third rail** *n* CONDUCTOR RAIL [fr its being third in addition to the 2 rails on which the wheels of a locomotive run]  
**third-rate** *adj* third in quality or value, *broadly* of extremely poor quality - **third-rater** *n*  
**third reading** *n* the final stage of the consideration of a legislative bill before a vote [LAW]  
**third world** *n*, often *cap* T&W, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* **1** a group of nations, esp in Africa and Asia, that are not aligned with either the communist or the capitalist blocs **2** the underdeveloped nations of the world  
**thirst** /'θɜːst/ *n* **1** (the sensation of dryness in the mouth and throat associated with) a desire or need to drink **2** an ardent desire, a craving [ME, fr OE *thurst*; akin to OHG *durst* thirst, L *torrere* to dry, parch, Gk *tersessthai* to become dry]  
**thirst** *vi* **1** to feel thirsty **2** to crave eagerly  
**thirsty** /'θɜːsti/ *adj* **1a** feeling thirsty **b** deficient in moisture, parched <~ land> **2** having a strong desire; avid - **thirstily** *adv*, **thirstiness** *n*  
**thirteen** /'θɜːtɪn/ *n* NUMBER [ME *thritene*, fr *thritene*, *adj*, fr OE *threotene*, akin to OE *tien* ten - more at TEN] - **thirteen** *adj* or *pron*, **thirteenth** /-'teenth/ *adj* or *n*  
**thirty** /'θɜːti/ *n* NUMBER **2** *pl* the numbers 30 to 39; *specif* a range of temperatures, ages, or dates in a century characterized by these



numbers [ME *thritty*, fr *thritty*, adj, fr OE *thritig*, fr *thritig* group of 30, fr *thrie* three + *-tig* group of ten more at EIGHTY] – **thirtieth** /-ti(θ)/ adj or *n*, **thirty** adj or *pron*, **thirtyfold** /-fo(h)ld/ adj or adv

**thirty-second note** *n*, *NAm* a demisemiquaver

**this** /ðɪs/ *pron*, *pl* *these* /ðeez/ **1a** the thing or idea that has just been mentioned <who told you ~?> **b** what is to be shown or stated <do it like ~> **c** this time or place <expected to return before ~> **2a** a nearby person or thing introduced for observation or discussion <~ is iron and that is tin> <hello! ~ is Anne Fry speaking> **b** the thing or state of affairs here <please carry ~> <what's all ~?> [ME, *pron* & *adj*, fr OE *thes* (masc), *this* (neut), akin to OHG *dese* this, akin to OE *thæt* that]

**this** *adj*, *pl* *these* **1a** being the person, thing, or idea that is present or near in time or thought <early ~ morning> <who's ~ Mrs Fogg anyway?> **b** the nearer at hand or more immediately under observation <~ country> <~ chair or that one> **c** constituting the immediate past or future period <have lived here these 10 years> **d** constituting what is to be shown or stated <have you heard ~ one?> **2** a certain <there was ~ Irishman...>

**this** *adv* **1** to this extent <known her since she was ~ high> **2** to this extreme degree - *usu* + the negative <didn't expect to wait ~ long>

**thistle** /'θɪsl/ *n* any of various prickly composite plants with (showy) heads of mostly tubular flowers [ME *thistel*, fr OE, akin to OHG *distill* thistle] – **thistly** /'θɪslɪ/ *adj*

**thistledown** /'θɪsl,daʊn/ *n* the fluffy hairs from the ripe flower head of a thistle

**thistle funnel** *n* a (glass) funnel with a globular top having a flaring mouth

**thither** /'dɪdhɪə/ *adv* to or towards that place – chiefly fml [ME, fr OE *thider*, akin to ON *tháthra* there, OE *thæt* that]


**thixotropy** /'θɪksə'trɒpi/ *n* the property of various gels of becoming fluid when disturbed (e.g. by shaking) [ISV *thixo-* (fr Gk *thixis* act of touching, fr *thinganein* to touch) + *-tropy*] – **thixotropic** /'θɪksə'trɒpɪk, -'trɒpɪk/ *adj*

**tho** /dhoʊ/ *adv* or *conj* though – chiefly infml or poetic


**thole** /'thoʊl/, **tholepin** /'thoʊl,pɪn/ *n* a peg, pin, esp either of a pair of wooden pegs serving as rowlocks on a boat [ME *tholle*, fr OE *thol*, akin to Gk *tylos* knob, callus, L *tumere* to swell – more at TUMBLE]

**Thomism** /'toʊ,mɪz(ə)m/ *n* the scholastic, philosophical, and theological system of St Thomas Aquinas [prob fr (assumed) NL *thomismus*, fr St Thomas Aquinas †1274 It theologian] – **Thomist** *n* or *adj*, **Thomistic** /-mɪstɪk/ *adj*

**thong** /'θɒŋ/ *n* a narrow strip, esp of leather [ME, fr OE *thwong*; akin to ON *thvengr* thong, Av *thwazjaiti* he is distressed] – **thonged** *adj*

**thorax** /'θɔːr,æks/ *n*, *pl* **thoraxes**, **thoraces** /'θɔːræ,seɪz/ (a division of the body of an insect, spider, etc corresponding to) the part of the mammalian body between the neck and the abdomen, also its cavity in which the heart and lungs lie  ANATOMY [ME, fr L *thorax*, *thorax* breastplate, thorax, fr Gk *thorak-*, *thorax*] – **thoracic** /'θɔːræks, θɔː-/ *adj*

**thoria** /'θɔːrɪə, -'toh-/ *n* a powdery white oxide of thorium used esp as a catalyst and in heat-resisting material and optical glass [NL, fr *thorium* + *-a*]

**thorium** /'θɔːrɪəm, -'toh-/ *n* a radioactive tetravalent metallic element  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr ON *Thorr* Thor, Norse god of thunder, weather, & crops]

**thorn** /'θɔːn/ *n* **1** a woody plant (of the rose family) bearing sharp prickles of thorns **2** a short hard sharp-pointed plant part, specif a leafless branch **3** sby or sthg that causes irritation <he's been a ~ in my flesh for years> **4** an orig runic letter þ used in Old and Middle English for either of the sounds /θ/ or /dh/ – compare LTH [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *dorn* thorn, Skt *trna* grass, blade of grass] – **thorned** *adj*, **thornless** *adj*

**thorn apple** *n* a tall very poisonous coarse annual plant of the nightshade family with spherical prickly fruits

**thornbush** /-boʊsh/ *n* any of various thorny shrubs or small trees

**thorny** /'θɔːni/ *adj* **1** full of or covered in thorns **2** full of difficulties or controversial points <a ~ problem> – **thorniness** *n*

**thoron** /'θɔːrɒn/ *n* a gaseous radioactive isotope of radon [NL, fr *thorium*]

**thorough** /'θʊrə/ *prep* or *adv*, *archaic* through [ME *thorow*, fr OE *thurh*, *thuruh*, *prep* & *adv*]

**thorough** *adj* **1** carried through to completion <a ~ search> **2a** marked by full detail <a ~ description> **b** painstaking <a ~ scholar> **c** complete in all respects <~ pleasure> **d** being fully and without qualification as specified <a ~ rogue> – **thoroughly** *adv*, **thoroughness** *n*

**thoroughbass** /-bəʊs/ *n* a continuo

**thoroughbred** /-bred/ *adj* **1** bred from the best blood through a long line, purebred **2a** cap of or being a Thoroughbred **b** having the characteristics associated with good breeding or pedigree

**thoroughbred** *n* **1** cap any of an English breed of horses kept chiefly for racing that originated from crosses between English mares of uncertain ancestry and Arabian stallions **2** a purebred or pedigree animal **3** sby or sthg with the characteristics associated with good breeding

**thoroughfare** /-feə/ *n* **1** a public way (e.g. a road, street, or path), esp a main road **2** passage, transit <no ~>

**thoroughgoing** /-goh-ɪŋ/ *adj* **1** extremely thorough or zealous **2** absolute, utter <a ~ villain>

**those** /dhoʊz/ *pl* of <sup>1</sup> THAT [ME, fr *those* these, fr OE *thas*, *pl* of *thes* this – more at THIS]

**thou** /dhoʊ/ *pron*, *archaic* or *dial* the one being addressed; you – capitalized when addressing God, sometimes used by Quakers as the universal form of address to 1 person [ME, fr OE *thu*, akin to OHG *dū* thou, L *tu*, Gk *sy*]

**thou** /thow/ *n*, *pl* **thou**, **thous** **1** a thousand (of sthg, esp money) **2** a unit of length equal to 1/1000 in (about 25.4 mm) [short for *thousand*]

**though** *also* **tho** /dhoʊ/ *adv* however, nevertheless <it's hard work I enjoy it ~> [ME, *adv* & *conj*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *tho* nevertheless, akin to OE *theah* nevertheless, OHG *doh*]


**though** *also* **tho** *conj* **1** in spite of the fact that, while <~ it's hard work, I enjoy it> **2** in spite of the possibility that, even if **3** and yet, but <it works, ~ not as well as we hoped>

**thought** /'θɔːt/ *past* of THINK

**thought** *n* **1a** thinking <lost in ~> **b** serious consideration <gave no ~ to the danger> **2** reasoning or conceptual power **3a** an idea, opinion, concept, or intention **b** the intellectual product or the organized views of a period, place, group, or individual **c** hope, expectation <gave up all ~ of winning> **4** a slight amount – in the adverbial phrase *a thought* <there's a ~ too much seasoning in the stew> [ME, fr OE *thoht*, akin to OE *thencan* to think – more at THINK]

**thoughtful** /-(fəl)/ *adj* **1a** having thoughts, absorbed in thought **b** showing careful reasoned thinking <a ~ analysis of the problem> **2** showing concern for others – **thoughtfully** *adv*, **thoughtfulness** *n*

**thoughtless** /-lis/ *adj* **1** lacking forethought, rash **2** lacking concern for others [THOUGHT + -LESS] – **thoughtlessly** *adv*, **thoughtlessness** *n*

**thousand** /'θaʊz(ə)nd/ *n*, *pl* **thousands**, **thousand** **1**  NUMBER **2** the number occupying the position 4 to the left of the decimal point in the Arabic notation, also, *pl* this position **3** an indefinitely large number <~s of ants> – often *pl* with sing. meaning [ME, fr OE *thused*, akin to OHG *dusunt* thousand, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose constituents are respectively akin to Russ *tyssyacha* thousand, Skt *tavas* strong, L *tumere* to swell, & to OE *hund* hundred] – **thousand** *adj*, **thousandth** *adj* or *n*

**Thracian** /'θræʃɪən/ *n* (the extinct language of) a native or inhabitant of Thrace [L *Thracius*, *adj*, fr Gk *Thraikios*, fr *Thraike* Thrace, region of SE Europe] – **Thracian** *adj*

**thrall** /'θrɔːl/ *n* **1a** a bondman **b** (sby in) a state of (moral) servitude **2** a state of complete absorption or enslavement <her beauty held him in ~> [ME *thral*, fr OE *thrael*, fr ON *thraell*] – **thrall** *adj*, **thralldom** /-d(ə)m/, *NAm* chiefly **thralldom** *n*

**thrash** /'θræʃ/ *v* **1** THRISH **1** **2a** to beat soundly (as if) with a stick or whip **b** to defeat heavily or decisively **3** to swing, beat, or strike wildly or violently <~ing his arms> ~ **v** **1** THRSH **1** **2** to deal repeated blows (as if) with a flail or whip **3** to move or stir about violently, toss about – *usu* + *around* or *about* <~ around in bed with a fever> [alter. of *thresh*] – **thrasher** *n*, **thrashing** *n*

**thrash** *n* **1** an act of thrashing, esp in swimming **2** a wild party – infml

**thrasher** /'θræʃə/ *n* any of numerous long-tailed American songbirds [prob alter. of *thrush*]

**thrash out** *v* to discuss (e.g. a problem) exhaustively with a view to finding a solution, also to arrive at (e.g. a decision) in this way

**thrown** /'θrɔːn/ *adj*, chiefly *Scot* lacking in pleasing or attractive qualities e.g. a perverse, recalcitrant **b** crooked, misshapen [ME (Sc) *thrawn*, fr pp of ME *throwen* to twist] – **throwly** *adv*

**thread** /'θred/ *n* **1** a filament, group of filaments twisted together, or continuous strand formed by spinning and (twisting together short textile fibres **2a** any of various natural filaments <the ~s of a spider's web> **b** sthg (e.g. a thin stream of liquid) like a thread in length and narrowness **c** a projecting spiral ridge (e.g. on a bolt or pipe) by which parts can be screwed together **3** sthg continuous or drawn out. e.g. a train of thought <I've lost the ~ of this argument> **b** a pervasive recurring element <a ~

*of melancholy marked all his writing* > 4 a precarious or weak support <to hang by a ~> [ME *thred*, fr OE *thræd*; akin to OHG *drat* wire, OE *thrawan* to cause to twist or turn – more at *THROW*] – *threadless* *adj*, *threadlike* *adj*, *thready* *adj*

**\*thread** *vt* 1a to pass a thread through the eye of (a needle) b to arrange a thread, yarn, or lead-in piece in working position for use in (a machine) 2a(1) to pass sth through the entire length of <~ a pipe with wire> (2) to pass (e.g. a tape or film) into or through sth <~ed elastic into the waistband> b to make one's way cautiously through or between <~ing narrow alleys> 3 to string together (as if) on a thread <~ beads> 4 to intermingle (as if) with threads <dark hair ~ed with silver> 5 to form a screw thread on or in ~ *vi* 1 to make one's way through 2 to form a thread when poured from a spoon – *threader* *n*


**threadbare** /'θredbeə/ *adj* 1 having the nap worn off so that the threads show; worn, shabby 2 hackneyed <~ phrases> – *threadbareness* *n*

**thread, mark** *n* a fine line of silk fibre put into a bank note to prevent counterfeiting

**threadworm** /-wuhm/ *n* any of various small usu parasitic nematode worms that infest the intestines, esp the caecum, of vertebrates

**threat** /θret/ *n* 1 an indication of sth, usu unpleasant, to come 2 an expression of intention to inflict punishment, injury, or damage 3 sth that is a source of imminent danger or harm, MENACE 2a [ME *thret* coercion, threat, fr OE *threat* coercion; akin to MHG *dröz* annoyance, L *trudere* to push, thrust]

**threaten** /θret(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to utter threats against <he ~ed his employees with the sack> 2a to give ominous signs of <the clouds ~ rain> b to be a source of harm or danger to 3 to announce as intended or possible <the workers ~ed a strike> ~ *vi* 1 to utter threats 2 to appear menacing <the sky ~ed> – *threatener* *n*, *threateningly* *adv*

**three** /θree/ *n* 1  NUMBER 2 the third in a set or series <the ~ of hearts> 3 sth having 3 parts or members or a denomination of 3 [ME, fr *three*, *adj*, fr OE *thrie* (masc), *threo* (fem & neut), akin to OHG *dri* three, L *tres*, Gk *treis*] – *three* *adj* or *pron*, *threefold* /-fohld/ *adj* or *adv*

**three-colour** *adj* being or relating to a printing or photographic process in which 3 primary colours are used to reproduce all the colours of the subject

**three-D, 3-D** *n* three-dimensional form [D, abbr of *dimensional*]

**three-day event** *n* an equestrian contest involving dressage, cross-country, and showjumping and continuing over 3 days

**three-decker** /'deks/ *n* sth with 3 tiers, layers, etc; esp a sandwich with 3 slices of bread and 2 fillings

**three-dimensional** *adj* 1 having 3 dimensions 2 giving the illusion of depth – used of an image or pictorial representation, esp when this illusion is enhanced by stereoscopic means 3 describing or being described in great depth; esp lifelike <a story with ~ characters> – *three-dimensionality* *n*

**three-handed** *adj* played by 3 players <~ bridge>

**three-legged race** *n* a race between pairs in which each contestant has 1 leg tied to 1 of his/her partner's legs

**three-line whip** *n* an instruction from a party to its Members of Parliament that they must attend a debate and vote in the specified way – compare *FREE VOTE*, *TWO-LINE WHIP* [fr the triple underlining of words in the written instruction]

**three of a kind** *n* 3 cards of the same rank in 1 hand

**three-phase** *adj* of or operating by means of a combination of 3 circuits energized by alternating electromotive forces that differ in phase by one, third of a cycle

**three-point landing** *n* an aircraft landing in which the main wheels of the undercarriage touch the ground simultaneously with the tail wheel, skid, or nose wheel

**three-point turn** *n* a method of turning a vehicle round in a narrow road by first turning obliquely forwards, then reversing, and finally turning forwards again

**three-quarter** *adj* 1 consisting of 3 fourths of the whole 2 esp of a view of a rectangular object including 1 side and 1 end <a ~ view of a vehicle>

**three-quarter back** *n* a player in rugby, positioned between the halfbacks and the fullback  *SPORT* – *three-quarter-back* *adj*

**three-ring circus** *n* 1 a circus with simultaneous performances in 3 rings 2 sth confusing, engrossing, or spectacular

**three R's** *n pl* the fundamentals taught in primary school; esp reading, writing, and arithmetic [fr the facetious phrase *reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic*]

**three'score** /-'skaw/ *n* or *adj* sixty

**threesome** /-s(ə)m/ *n* a group of 3 people or things

**three-spined stickleback** *n* a stickleback of fresh and brackish waters that typically has 3 spines on its back

**thremmatology** /'θremə'tɒləʒi/ *n* the science of breeding animals and plants in domestication [Gk *thremmat-*, *thremma* nursing + E *-o-* + *-logy*, akin to Gk *trephēin* to nourish – more at *ATROPHY*]

**threnode** /'θrenohd/, 'θree-/ *n* a threnody – *threnodist* *n*, *threnodic* /'θrɪ'nɒdɪk/ *adj*

**threnody** /'θrenədi/, 'θree-/ *n* a song of lamentation, esp for the dead [Gk *threnōidia*, fr *threnos* dirge (akin to Skt *dhranati* it sounds) + *aidein* to sing – more at *ODE*]

**threonine** /'θree-aneɪn/, -nɪn/ *n* an amino acid found in most proteins and essential to normal nutrition [prob fr *threonic acid*]

**thresh** /θresh/ *vt* 1 to separate the seeds from (a harvested plant) by (mechanical) beating 2 to strike repeatedly ~ *vi* 1 to thresh grain 2 *THRASH* 2, 3 [ME *thresshen*, fr OE *threscan*, akin to OHG *dreskan* to thresh, L *terere* to rub – more at *THROW*]

**thresher** /'θreshə/ *n* a large shark reputed to thresh the water to round up fish on which it feeds using the greatly elongated curved upper lobe of its tail [THRASH + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**threshold** /'θresh,həld/, 'θresh-əld/ *n* 1 the plank, stone, etc that lies under a door 2a the doorway or entrance to a building b the point of entering or beginning <on the ~ of a new career> 3 the point at which a physiological or psychological effect begins to be produced by a stimulus of increasing strength 4 a level, point, or value above which sth is true or will take place [ME *threshold*, fr OE *threscwald*, akin to ON *threskjoldr* threshold, OE *threscan* to thresh]

**throw** /θroʊh/ *past* of *THROW*

**thrice** /θnes/ *adv* 1 three times 2a in a threefold manner or degree b to a high degree – usu in combination <thrice-blessed> [ME *thrice*, *thries*, fr OE *thriga*, akin to OFns *thria* three times, OE *thre* three]

**thrift** /θrɪft/ *n* 1 careful management, esp of money, frugality 2 any of a genus of tufted herbaceous plants, esp a sea-pink [ME, fr ON, prosperity, fr *thrfask* to thrive] – *thriftless* *adj*, *thrifty* *adj*, *thriftily* *adv*, *thriftiness* /'θrɪftɪnəs/ *n*


**thrill** /θrɪl/ *vt* 1a to cause to experience a sudden feeling of excitement b to cause to have a shivering or tingling sensation 2 to cause to vibrate or tremble perceptibly ~ *vi* 1 to experience a sudden tremor of excitement or emotion 2 to tingle, throb [ME *thirlen*, *thrillen* to pierce, fr OE *thyrlian*, fr *thryel* hole, fr *thurh* through – more at *THROUGH*] – *thrill* *n*, *thrillingly* *adv*

**thriller** /'θrɪlə/ *n* a work of fiction or drama characterized by a high degree of intrigue or suspense [THRILL + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**thrips** /θrɪps/ *n, pl* thrips any of an order of small sucking insects, most of which feed on and damage plants [L, woodworm, fr Gk]

**thrive** /θrive/ *vi* thrived /θrohv/, thrived; thriven /'θrɪv(ə)n/ also thrived 1 to grow vigorously 2 to gain in wealth or possessions [ME *thriven*, fr ON *thrifask*, prob reflexive of *thrifa* to grasp] – *thriver* /'θriveə/ *n*

**thro** /θroʊh/ *prep* through – now chiefly infml or poetic

**throat** /throʊt/ *n* 1a the part of the neck in front of the spinal column b the passage through the neck to the stomach and lungs 2a sth throatlike, esp in being a constricted passageway b the opening of a tubular (plant) organ 3 the upper forward corner of a fore-and-aft 4-cornered sail  *SHIP* [ME *throte*, fr OE, akin to OHG *drozza* throat] – *throated* *adj*

**throaty** /'throʊti/ *adj* uttered or produced low in the throat; hoarse, guttural – *throatily* *adv*, *throatiness* *n*

**\*throb** /θroʊb/ *vi* -bb- 1 to pulsate with unusual force or rapidity 2 to (come in waves that seem to) beat or vibrate rhythmically <a ~bing pain> [ME *throbben*, prob of imit origin] – *throbb* *n*

**\*throb** *n* a beat, pulse

**throe** /θroʊh/ *n* 1 a pang or spasm – usu pl <death ~s> <~s of childbirth> 2 pl a hard or painful struggle <in the ~s of revolutionary change> [ME *thrawe*, *throwe*, *thrahe*, fr OE *thrag* time]

**thromb-**, **thrombo-** *comb form* blood clot; clotting of blood <(thrombosis)> [Gk *thrombos* clot]

**thrombin** /'θrombɪn/ *n* an enzyme formed from prothrombin that acts in the process of blood clotting by catalysing the conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin [ISV]

**thrombocyte** /'θrombəsiət/ *n* 1 a (nucleated) blood platelet 2 a cell of an invertebrate with the function of blood clotting similar to blood platelets [ISV] – *thrombocyte* /-'sɪtɪk/ *adj*

**thrombosis** /'θrom'bɒsɪs/ *n, pl* thromboses /-seɪz/ the formation or

presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel during life [NL, fr Gk *thrombosis* clotting, deriv of *thrombos* clot] - **thrombotic** /-bɒtɪk/ *adj*  
**thrombus** /ˈθrɒmbəs/ *n*, *pl thrombi* /-bi-/ a blood clot formed within a blood vessel and remaining attached to its place of origin - compare **embolus** [NL, fr Gk *thrombos*]

**throne** /ˈθroʊn/ *n* 1 the chair of state of a sovereign or bishop 2 sovereignty [ME *trone*, *throne*, fr OF *trone*, fr L *thronus*, fr Gk *thronos* - more at **thirm**]

**throng** /θrɒŋ/ *n* *sing or pl in constr* 1 a multitude of assembled people, esp when crowded together 2 a large number [ME *thrang*, *throng*, fr OE *thrang*, *gethrang*, akin to OE *thringan* to press, crowd, OHG *dringan*, Lith *trenkti* to jolt]

**throng** *vt* 1 to crowd upon (esp a person) 2 to crowd into <shoppers ~ing the streets> ~ *vi* to crowd together in great numbers

**thrustle** /ˈθrɒsl/ *n* SONG THRUSH [ME, fr OE - more at **THRUSH**]

**throttle** /ˈθrɒtl/ *vt* **throttling** /ˈθrɒtlɪŋ/, **throttling** /-lɪŋ/ 1a(1) to compress the throat of, choke (2) to kill by such action **b** to prevent or check expression or activity of, suppress 2a to control the flow of (e.g. steam or fuel to an engine) by means of a valve **b** to regulate, esp reduce the speed of (e.g. an engine), by such means - *usu* + *back* or *down* [ME *throtlen*, fr *throte* throat] - **throttler** *n*

**throttle** *n* 1a **THROAT** 1a **b** **TRACHEA** 1 2 (the lever or pedal controlling) a valve for regulating the supply of a fluid (e.g. fuel) to an engine [perh alter (influenced by *throttle*) of E dial *thropple* (throat), fr ME *throppill*]

**through** *also thro*, *NAm also thru* /θruː/ *prep* 1a(1) into at one side or point and out at the other <drove a nail ~ the board> <a path ~ the woods> (2) past <saw ~ the deception> **b** - used to indicate passage into and out of a treatment, handling, or process <flushed ~ my mind> <the matter has already passed ~ his hands> 2 used to indicate means, agency, or intermediacy e.g. **a** by means of, by the agency of **b** because of <failed ~ ignorance>, **c** by common descent from or relationship with <related ~ their grandfather> 3a over the whole surface or extent of <homes scattered ~ the valley> **b** - used to indicate movement within a large expanse <flew ~ the air> **c** among or between the parts or single members of <search ~ my papers> **d** - used to indicate exposure to a set of conditions <put her ~ hell> 4a during the entire period of <all ~ her life> **b** against and in spite of (a noise) <heard his voice ~ the howling of the storm> 5a - used to indicate completion, exhaustion, or accomplishment <got ~ the book> <went ~ a fortune in a year> **b** - used to indicate acceptance or approval, esp by an official body <got the bill ~ Parliament> 6 chiefly *NAm* up till and including <Monday ~ Friday> [ME *thurh*, *thruh*, *through*, fr OE *thurh*, akin to OHG *durh* through, L *trans* across, beyond, Skt *tarati* he crosses over]

**through**, *NAm also thru* *adv* 1 from one end or side to the other <squeezed ~> 2a all the way from beginning to end <read the letter ~> <train goes right ~ to London> **b** to a favourable or successful conclusion <see it ~> <I failed the exam, but he got ~> 3 to the core, completely <wet ~> 4 into the open, out <break ~> 5 chiefly *Br* in or into connection by telephone <put me ~ to him>

**through**, *NAm also thru* *adj* 1a extending from one surface to the other <a ~ beam> **b** direct <a ~ road> 2a allowing a continuous journey from point of origin to destination without change or further payment <a ~ train> <a ~ ticket> **b** starting at and destined for points outside a local zone <~ traffic> 3 arrived at completion, cessation, or dismissal, finished <you're ~ that was your last chance> <I'm ~ with women>

**through** and **through** *adv* thoroughly, completely

**through-composed** *adj*, of a song having new music provided for each stanza [trans of G *durchkomponiert*]

**throughout** /ˈθruː/ *adv* 1 in or to every part, everywhere <of I colour ~> 2 during the whole time or action, from beginning to end <remained loyal ~>

**throughout** *prep* 1 in or to every part of, **THROUGH** 3a <cities ~ Europe> 2 during the entire period of, **THROUGH** 4a <troubled him ~ his life>

**throughput** /-poot/ *n* the amount of material put through a process <the ~ of a computer>

**throve** /θroʊv/ *past* of **THRIVE**

**throw** /θroʊ/ *vb* **threw** /θruː/, **thrown** /θroʊn/ *vt* 1 to propel through the air in some manner, esp by a forward motion of the hand and arm 2a to cause to fall <threw his opponent> **b** **UNSEAT** 1 3a to fling (oneself) abruptly **b** to hurl violently <the ship was ~n against the rocks> 4a(1) to put in a specified position or condition, esp suddenly <the news threw him into confusion> (2) to put on or off hastily or carelessly **b** to exert; **BRING TO BEAR** <threw all his weight behind the proposal> **c** to build,

construct <threw a pontoon bridge over the river> 5 to shape by hand on a potter's wheel 6 to deliver (a punch) 7 to twist 2 or more filaments of (e.g. silk) into a thread or yarn 8 to make a cast of (dice or a specified number on dice) 9 to send forth, cast, direct <the setting sun threw long shadows> <he threw me a glance> 10 to commit (oneself) for help, support, or protection <threw himself on the mercy of the court> 11 to bring forth, produce <threw large litters> 12 to move (a lever or switch) so as to connect or disconnect parts of a mechanism 13 to project (the voice) 14 to give by way of entertainment <~ a party> 15 to disconcert, also **THROW OFF** 4 - *infinl* <the problem didn't ~ her> 16 chiefly *NAm* to lose intentionally - *infinl* <~ a game> ~ *vi* to cast, hurl [ME *throwen*, *throwen* to cause to twist, throw, fr OE *throwan* to cause to twist or turn, akin to OHG *draen* to turn, L *terere* to rub, Gk *tetramein* to bore, pierce] - **thrower** *n* - **throw one's weight about/around** to exercise influence or authority, esp to an excessive degree or in an objectionable manner *infinl* - **throw together** 1 **KNOCK TOGETHER** <threw together a delicious curry in no time> 2 to bring into casual association

**throw** *n* 1a an act of throwing **b** a method or instance of throwing an opponent in wrestling or judo 2 the distance sth may be thrown <lived within a stone's ~ from school> 3 the amount of vertical displacement produced by a geological fault 4 (the distance of) the extent of movement of a cam, crank, or other pivoted or reciprocating piece

**throwaway** /-ɔːweɪ/ *n* a line of dialogue (e.g. in a play) made to sound incidental by casual delivery

**throwaway** *adj* 1 designed to be discarded after use, disposable <~ containers> 2 written or spoken (e.g. in a play) with deliberate casualness <a ~ remark>

**throw away** *vt* 1 to get rid of as worthless or unnecessary 2a to use in a foolish or wasteful manner **b** to fail to take advantage of 3 to make (e.g. a line in a play) unemphatic by casual delivery

**throwback** /-bak/ *n* (an individual exhibiting) reversion to an earlier genetic type or phase

**throw back** *vt* 1 to delay the progress or advance of 2 to cause to rely, make dependent - + *on* or *upon*, *usu pass* <thrown back on his own resources> ~ *vi* to revert to an earlier genetic type or phase

**throw down** *vt* to demolish

**throw-in** *n* a throw made from the touchline in soccer to put the ball back in play after it has gone over the touchline

**throw in** *vt* 1 to add as a gratuity or supplement 2 to introduce or interject in the course of sth <threw in a casual remark> 3 to cause (e.g. gears) to mesh ~ *vi* to enter into association or partnership with <agrees to throw in with a crooked ex-cop - Newsweek> - **throw in the sponge/towel** to abandon a struggle or contest, acknowledge defeat

**throw off** *vt* 1a to cast off, often in an abrupt or vigorous manner <throw off the oppressors> <throw a cold off> **b** to divert, distract <dogs thrown off by a false scent> 2 to emit, GIVE OFF <stacks throwing off plumes of smoke> 3 to produce or execute in an offhand manner <a review thrown off in an odd half hour> 4 to cause to deviate or err ~ *vi* to begin hunting with a pack of hounds

**throw out** *vt* 1a to remove from a place or from employment, *usu in* a sudden or unexpected manner **b** **THROW AWAY** 1 2 to give expression to <threw out a remark that utterly foxed them> 3 to refuse to accept or consider <the assembly threw out the proposed legislation> 4 to give forth from within <in spring new shoots will be thrown out from the main stem> 5 to cause to extend from a main body <throw out a screen of cavalry> <rebuilt the house, throwing out a new wing to the west> 6 to confuse, disconcert <the question quite threw him out>

**throw over** *vt* to forsake or abandon (esp a lover)

**throwster** /ˈθroʊstə/ *n* sby who throws textile filaments





**throw up** *vt* 1 to raise quickly <threw up his hands in horror> 2 GIVE UP 3b <the urge to throw up> *all intellectual work* - Norman Mailer 3 to build hurriedly 4 to bring forth <science ~ will continue to throw up discoveries which threaten ~ society ~ TLS> 5 to mention repeatedly by way of reproach 6 to vomit - *infinl* ~ *vi* to vomit - *infinl* - **throw up the sponge** **THROW IN THE SPONGE/TOWEL**

**thru** /θruː/ *prep*, *adv*, or *adj*, *NAm* **through**

**thrum** /θrum/ *vb* -**mm-** *vi* 1 to play or pluck a stringed instrument idly 2 to drum or tap idly 3 to sound with a monotonous hum ~ *vi* to play (e.g. a stringed instrument) in an idle or relaxed manner [imit]

**thrush** /θruːʃ/ *n* any of numerous small or medium-sized mostly drab-coloured birds many of which are excellent singers e.g. a **SONG THRUSH** **b** **MISTLE THRUSH** [ME *thrusche*, fr OE *thrysc*, akin to OE *throstle* thrush, OHG *droscala*, L *turdus*]

**thrush** *n* 1 a whitish intensely irritating fungal growth occurring on mucous membranes, esp in the mouth or vagina 2 a suppurative disorder

- of the feet in various animals, esp horses [prob of Scand origin; akin to Dan & Norw *tráske* thrush]
- 'thrust** /θrust/ *vb* **thrust** *vt* 1 to push or drive with force 2 to push forth (< ~ out roots>) 3 to stab, pierce 4 to put (an unwilling person) into a course of action or position (<was ~ into power>) 5 to press, force, or impose the acceptance of on or upon sb ~ *vi* 1 to force an entrance or passage – often + *into* or *through* 2 to make a thrust, stab, or lunge (as if) with a pointed weapon [ME *thrusten*, *thristen*, fr ON *thrysta*] – **thru**ster, **thru**stor *n*
- \*thrust** *n* 1a a push or lunge with a pointed weapon b(1) a verbal attack (2) a concerted military attack 2a a strong continued pressure b the sideways force of one part of a structure against another c the force exerted by a propeller, jet engine, etc to give forward motion 3a a forward or upward push b a movement (e.g. by a group of people) in a specified direction
- thrust stage** *n* a stage that extends out into the auditorium [*thrust*, pp of *'thrust*]
- 'thud** /θud/ *vi* **-dd-** to move or strike with a thud [prob fr ME *thudden* to thrust, fr OE *thyddan*]
- \*thud** *n* 1 'BLOW 1 2 a dull thump
- thug** /θug/ *n* 1 often *cap* a member of a former religious sect in India given to robbery and murder 2 a violent criminal [Hindi *thag*, lit. thief, fr Skt *sthaga* rogue, fr *sthagati* he covers, conceals – more at **THATCH**] – **thuggish** *adj*, **thuggery** /'θugəri/ *n*
- thuggee** /θu'gee/ *n* murder and robbery as practised by the Thugs of India [Hindi *thagi* robbery, fr *thag*]
- thulium** /'thyooli-əm/ *n* a trivalent metallic element of the rare-earth group  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr L *Thule*, *Thyle* Thule, legendary land at the northernmost point of the world, fr Gk *Thoule*, *Thyle*]
- 'thumb** /θum/ *n* 1 the short thick digit of the human hand that is next to the forefinger and is opposable to the other fingers, also the corresponding digit in lower animals 2 the part of a glove or mitten that covers the thumb [ME *thoume*, *thoumbe*, fr OE *thūma*, akin to OHG *thumo* thumb, L *thumbē* to swell, Gk *sōs* safe, whole] – all **thumbs** extremely awkward or clumsy (<dropped everything he picked up and was all thumbs>) – **under someone's thumb** under sb's control, in a state of subservience to sb (<her father had her completely under his thumb>)
- \*thumb** *vt* 1a to leaf through (pages) with the thumb b to soil or wear (as if) by repeated thumbing 2 to request or obtain (a lift) in a passing vehicle ~ *vi* 1 to turn over pages 2 to travel by thumbing lifts, hitch-hike
- 'thumb index** *n* a series of notches cut in the unbound edge of a book for ease of reference – **thumb-index** /- 'i- / *vi*
- 'thumb.nail** /-nəyl/ *adj* brief, concise (<a ~ sketch>)
- 'thumb.print** /-prɪnt/ *n* an impression made by the thumb
- 'thumb.screw** /-skroʊ/ *n* an instrument of torture for squeezing the thumb
- thumbs-down** *n* rejection, disapproval, or condemnation – *infrml*
- 'thumb.stall** /-stɔ:l/ *n* a protective covering or sheath for the thumb
- thumbs-up** *n* approval, affirmation – *infrml*
- 'thumb.tack** /-tæk/ *n*, *NAM* DRAWING PIN
- 'thump** /θʌmp/ *vt* 1 to strike or knock with a thump 2 to thrash, BEAT 1a 3 to produce (music) mechanically or in a mechanical manner (<~ed out a tune on the piano>) ~ *vi* 1 to inflict a thump 2 to produce a thumping sound (<his heart ~ed>) [*imit*] – **thumper** *n*
- \*thump** *n* (a sound of) a blow or knock (as if) with sth blunt or heavy
- \*thump** *adv* with a thump
- thumping** /'θʌmpɪŋ/ *adv*, *Br* VERY 1 – chiefly in *thumping great* and *thumping good*; *infrml* [fr prp of *'thump*]
- 'thunder** /'θʌndə/ *n* 1 the low loud sound that follows a flash of lightning and is caused by sudden expansion of the air in the path of the electrical discharge 2 a loud reverberating noise (<the ~ of big guns>) [ME *thoner*, *thunder*, fr OE *thunor*; akin to OHG *thonar* thunder, L *tonare* to thunder] – **thunderous** /'θʌndə(r)s/ *adj*, **thunderously** *adv*
- \*thunder** *vi* 1a to give forth thunder – usu impersonally (<it ~ed>) b to make a sound like thunder (<horses ~ed down the road>) 2 to roar, shout ~ *vt* to utter in a loud threatening tone – **thunderer** *n*
- 'thunder.bolt** /-bohl/ *n* 1a a single discharge of lightning with the accompanying thunder b an imaginary bolt or missile cast to earth in a flash of lightning 2a sth like lightning in suddenness, effectiveness, or destructive power b a vehement threat or censure
- 'thunder.clap** /-klap/ *n* (sth) loud or sudden (like) a clap of thunder
- 'thunder.cloud** /-kloʊd/ *n* a cloud charged with electricity and producing lightning and thunder
- 'thunder.head** /-hed/ *n* a rounded mass of cumulus cloud often appearing before a thunderstorm
- thundering** /'θʌndə(r)ɪŋ/ *adv*, *Br* very, thumping (<a ~ great bore>) – *infrml* [fr prp of *'thunder*] – **thunderingly** *adv*
- 'thunder.storm** /-stɔ:m/ *n* a storm accompanied by lightning and thunder
- 'thunder.struck** /-strʌk/ *adj* dumbfounded, astonished
- thunder** /'θʌndə(r)/ *adj* producing or presaging thunder (<a ~ sky>)
- thurable** /'thyooərəbl/ *n* a censor [ME *turnble*, fr MF *thurible*, fr L *thuribulum*, fr *thur-*, *thus* incense, fr Gk *thyos* incense, sacrifice, fr *thyein* to sacrifice – more at **THYME**]
- Thuringian** /'thyoo'rɪŋjən/ *n* or *adj* (a member) of an ancient Germanic people whose kingdom was overthrown by the Franks in the 6th c AD [L *Thuringi*, an ancient Gmc people living in Germany]
- Thursday** /'θʌnzdeɪ/ *n* the day of the week following Wednesday  SYMBOL [ME, fr OE *thursdæg*, fr ON *thorsdagr*, akin to OE *thunresdæg* Thursday, OHG *Donares tag*; all fr a prehistoric NGmc-WGmc compound whose components are represented by OHG *Donar*, Gmc god of the sky (fr *thonar*, *donar* thunder) and by OHG *tag* day – more at **THUNDER**, **DAY**] – **Thursdays** *adv*
- thus** /dʌs/ *adv* 1 in the manner indicated, in this way 2 to this degree or extent, so (<~ far>) 3 because of this preceding fact or premise, consequently 4 as an example [ME, fr OE; akin to MD *dus* thus, OE *thæt*, neut demonstrative pron – more at **THAT**]
- thwack** /θwak/ *vb* or *n* (to) whack [*imit*]
- 'thwart** /θwɔ:t/ *vt* to defeat the hopes or aspirations of [ME *thwerten*, *thwarten*, fr *thwert*, *thwart* (adv) athwart, fr ON *thvert*, fr neut of *thverr* transverse, oblique, akin to OHG *dwerah* transverse, L *torquere* to twist – more at **TORTURE**] – **thwarter** *n*
- \*thwart** *n* a seat extending across a boat
- thy** /dhi:/ *adj*, *archaic* or *dial* of thee or thyself – capitalized when addressing God, sometimes used by Quakers, esp among themselves, used attributively [ME *thin*, *thy*, fr OE *thin*, gen of *thu* thou – more at **'THOU**]
- thylacine** /'thiələsi:n/ *n* TASMANIAN WOLF [NL *Thylacinus*, genus of marsupials, fr Gk *thylakos* sack, pouch]
- thyme** /tiem/ *n* any of a genus of plants of the mint family with small pungent aromatic leaves; esp a garden plant used in cooking as a seasoning and formerly in medicine [ME, fr MF *thym*, fr L *thymum*, fr Gk *thymon*, fr *thyein* to make a burnt offering, sacrifice, akin to L *fumus* smoke – more at **TUMBLE**]
- thymia** /-thiəmiə/, -mi-ə/ *comb form* (– *n*) state of mental health (<schizothymia>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *thymos* mind]
- thymidine** /'thiəmədi:n/ *n* a nucleoside containing thymine [*thymine* + *-idine*]
- thymine** /'thiəmi:n/ *n* a pyrimidine base that is 1 of the 4 bases whose order in the DNA chain codes genetic information – compare **ADENINE**, **CYTOSINE**, **GUANINE**, **URACIL** [G *thymine*, fr NL *thymus*]
- thymol** /'thiəməʊl/ *n* an antiseptic phenol made esp from thyme oil and used chiefly as a fungicide [ISV, fr L *thymum*]
- thymus** /'thiəməs/ *n* a gland in the lower neck region that functions in the development of the body's immune system and in humans tends to atrophy after sexual maturity  **DIGESTION** [NL, fr Gk *thymos* warty excrescence, thymus] – **thymic** *adj*
- thyr-**, **thyro-** *comb form* thyroid (<thyrotoxicous>) (<thyroxine>) [*thyroid*]
- thyristor** /'thiəri:stə/ *n* any of several semiconductor devices that act as switches or rectifiers [*thyristron* (a gas-filled electron tube; fr *Thyratron*, a trademark) + *transistor*]
- thyroglobulin** /'thiəro'gloʊbi:lin/ *n* an iodine-containing protein that is the form in which hormones of the thyroid gland are stored [ISV]
- 'thyroid** /'thiəroɪd/ also **thyroidal** /'thiəroɪdl/ *adj* of or being (an artery, nerve, etc associated with) a the thyroid gland b the chief cartilage of the larynx [NL *thyroides*, fr Gk *thyreoidēs* shield-shaped, thyroid, fr *thyros* shield shaped like a door, fr *thyrā* door – more at **DOOR**]
- \*thyroid** *n* 1 **thyroid**, **thyroid gland** a large endocrine gland that lies at the base of the neck and produces hormones (e.g. thyroxine) that increase the metabolic rate and influence growth and development  **DIGESTION** 2 a preparation of mammalian thyroid gland containing thyroid hormones used in treating conditions in which the thyroid gland produces insufficient quantities of hormones – **thyroidectomy** /'thiəroɪ'dektəmi/ *n*

**thyroid-stimulating hormone** *n* a hormone secreted by the front lobe of the pituitary gland that regulates the formation and secretion of thyroid hormones

**thyrotoxicosis** /ˌθiəroʊˈtɒksɪˈkəʊsɪs/ *n* hyperthyroidism [NL]

**thyrotrophin** /ˌθiəroʊˈtrɒfɪn/, **thyrotropin** /-ˈpiːn/ *n* THYROID-STIMULATING HORMONE [thyrotrophic, thyrotropic + -in] - **thyrotrophic** /-ˈtrɒfɪk/ *adj*

**thyroxine** /ˈθiəˈroʊksɪn, -ˈsɪn/, **thyroxin** /-ˈroʊksɪn/ *n* an iodine-containing amino acid that is the major hormone produced by the thyroid gland and is used to treat conditions in which the thyroid gland produces insufficient quantities of hormones [ISV]

**thyraus** /ˈθuhsəs/ *n*, *pl* **thyrsi** /-ˈsɪ-/ 1 a staff, usu surmounted by a pine cone, that was carried by Bacchus and his followers 2 a flower cluster (e.g. in the lilac and horse chestnut) with a long main axis bearing short branches which in turn bear the flowers 𐤆 PLANT [(1) L, fr Gk *thyrsos*; (2) NL, fr L]

**thysself** /ðheːself/ *pron*, *archaic* or *dial* that identical person that is thou, yourself - sometimes used by Quakers, esp among themselves

**ti** /tee/ *n* the 7th note of the diatonic scale in tonic sol-fa [alter of si]

**tia** /tiˈɑːrə/ *n* 1 the 3-tiered crown worn by the pope 2 a decorative usu jewelled band worn on the head by women on formal occasions [L, royal Persian headdress, fr Gk]

**Tibetan** /tɪˈbet(ə)n/ *n* (the language of) a member of the indigenous Mongoloid people of Tibet 𐤆 LANGUAGE [Tibet, country in central Asia] - **Tibetan** *adj*

**tibia** /ˈtɪbiːə/ *n*, *pl* **tibiae** /ˈtɪbiːe/ *also* **tibias** 1 the inner and usu larger of the 2 bones of the vertebrate hind limb between the knee and ankle, the shinbone - compare **FIBULA** 𐤆 ANATOMY 2 the 4th joint of the leg of an insect between the femur and tarsus 𐤆 ANATOMY [L] - **tibial** *adj*

**tic** /tɪk/ *n* 1 (a) local and habitual spasmodic motion of particular muscles, esp of the face, twitching 2 a persistent trait of character or behaviour ('you know' is a verbal ~ of many inexperienced speakers) [F]

**tical** /tɪˈkɑːl, -ˈtʃɪk/ *n*, *pl* **ticals**, **tical** a baht [Thai, fr Malay *tikal*, a monetary unit]

**tic douloureux** /tɪkˌduːləˈruːh (Fr tɪkˌduluʁ)/ *n* TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA [F, painful twitch]

**tick** /tɪk/ *n* 1 any of numerous related bloodsucking arachnids that feed on warm-blooded animals and often transmit infectious diseases 2 any of various usu wingless parasitic insects (e.g. the sheep ked) [ME *tyke*, *teke*, akin to MHG *zeche* tick, Arm *tiz*]

**tick** *n* 1 a light rhythmic audible tap or beat, *also* a series of such sounds 2 a small spot or mark, typically ✓, *esp* one used to mark sth as correct, to draw attention to sth, to check an item on a list, or to represent a point on a scale - compare **CROSS** 5 3 *Br* a moment, second - *infml* [ME *tek*, akin to MHG *zic* light push]

**tick** *vi* 1 to make the sound of a tick 2 to function or behave characteristically ('I'd like to know what makes him ~') - *vt* 1 to mark with a written tick 2 to mark or count (as if) by ticks (a meter ~ing off the cab fare)

**tick** *n* 1 a strong coarse fabric case of a mattress, pillow, or bolster 2 ticking [ME *tike*, prob fr MD, akin to OHG *ziha* tick, both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *theca* cover, fr Gk *thēke* case, akin to Gk *tithenai* to place - more at **DO**]

**tick** *n* credit, trust (<bought it on ~>) - *infml* [short for 'ticket']

**tickbird** /-ˈbuːd/ *n* any of several African birds that perch on large mammals and feed on ticks

**ticker** /ˈtɪkə/ *n* sth that produces a ticking sound e.g. a watch b **HEART** 1a - *infml*

**ticker tape** *n* a paper tape on which a certain type of telegraphic receiving instrument prints out its information

**ticket** /ˈtɪkt/ *n* 1a a document that serves as a certificate, licence, or permit, *esp* a mariner's or pilot's certificate b a tag, label 2 an official notification issued to sb who has violated a traffic regulation 3 a usu printed card or piece of paper entitling its holder to the use of certain services (e.g. a library), showing that a fare or admission has been paid, etc 4 *Br* a certificate of discharge from the armed forces 5 *chiefly* *NAM* a list of candidates for nomination or election; *also* **PLATFORM** 1 6 the correct, proper, or desirable thing - *infml* (*hot sweet tea is just the ~* - Len Deighton) [obs *F* *etiquet* (now *étiquette*) notice attached to sth, fr MF *estiquer*, fr *estiquer* to attach, fr MD *steken* to stick, akin to OHG *sticken* to prick - more at **STICK**]

**ticket agent** *n* 1 one who acts as an agent of a transport company to

sell tickets for travel by train, boat, aircraft, or bus 2 a seller of theatre tickets

**ticket-of-leave** *n*, *pl* **tickets-of-leave** a former permit by which a convict who had served part of his sentence was released on certain conditions

**tick fever** *n* any of various diseases transmitted by the bites of ticks **ticking** /ˈtɪkɪŋ/ *n* a strong linen or cotton fabric used esp for a case for a mattress or pillow ['tick]

**tickle** /ˈtɪkl/ *vb* **tickling** /ˈtɪklɪŋ, -ˈtɪklɪŋ/ *vi* to have or cause a tingling or prickling sensation ~ *vt* 1a to excite or stir up agreeably b to provoke to laughter 2 to touch (e.g. a body part) lightly and repeatedly so as to excite the surface nerves and cause uneasiness, laughter, or spasmodic movements [ME *tikelen* akin to OE *tincian* to tickle]

**tickles** *n* 1 a tickling sensation 2 the act of tickling

**ticklish** /ˈtɪklɪʃ/ *adj* 1 sensitive to tickling 2 easily upset 3 requiring delicate handling - **ticklishly** *adv*, **ticklishness** *n*

**tick off** *vi* to scold, rebuke (<his father ticked him off for his impudence>) ['tick]

**tick over** *vi* to operate at a normal or reduced rate of activity

**ticktacktoe** *also* **tic-tac-toe** /ˌtɪkˌtækˈtoʊ/ *n*, *NAM* **NOUGHTS AND CROSSES** [*tic-tac-toe* (former game in which players with eyes shut brought a pencil down on a slate marked with numbers and scored the number hit)]

**ticktock** /ˈtɪkˌtɒk, -ˈtɔː/ *n* the rhythmic ticking of a clock [imit]

**tic tac man** /ˈtɪkˌtækˈmæn/ *n*, *Br* a bookmaker's assistant who signals changing odds at a race meeting by means of secret hand signals [*ticktack*, *tictac* (ticking or tapping sound), of *imit* origin]

**tidal** /ˈtiːdl/ *adj* of, caused by, or having tides 𐤆 ENERGY - **tidally** *adv*

**tidal wave** *n* 1 an unusually high sea wave that sometimes follows an earthquake 2 an unexpected, intense, and often widespread reaction (e.g. a sweeping majority vote or an overwhelming impulse)

**tidbit** /ˈtɪdˌbɪt/ *n*, *chiefly* *NAM* a titbit

**tiddler** /ˈtɪdlə/ *n*, *Br* sb or sth small in comparison to others of the same kind, *esp* a nunnow, stickleback, or other small fish [prob fr *tiddly*]

**tiddly** /ˈtɪdlɪ/ *adj*, *Br* 1 very small (<a ~ bit of food>) 2 slightly drunk *USE* *infml* [alter of *little*]

**tiddlywinks** /ˈtɪdlɪˌwɪŋks/ *n* a game whose object is to flick small discs from a flat surface into a small container [prob fr *tiddly*]

**tide** /tiːd/ *n* 1a(1) (a current of water resulting from) the periodic rise and fall of the surface of a body of water, specif the sea, that occurs twice a day and is caused by the gravitational attraction of the sun and moon (2) a periodic movement in the earth's crust caused by the same forces that produce ocean tides (3) a tidal distortion on one celestial body caused by the gravitational attraction of another b the level or position of water on a shore with respect to the tide, *also* the water at its highest level 2 sth that fluctuates like the tides (<the ~ of public opinion>) 3 a flowing stream, a current [ME, time, fr OE *tīd*, akin to OHG *zit* time, Gk *daesthai* to divide] - **tideless** *adj*

**tide** *vi* to drift with the tide, *esp* in navigating a ship into or out of an anchorage, harbour, or river

**tide mark** /-ˈmɑːk/ *n* 1 a mark left by or indicating the (highest) position of the tide 2 a mark left on a bath that shows the level reached by the water, *also* a mark left on the body showing the limit of washing - *chiefly* *infml*

**tide over** *vi* to enable to surmount or withstand a difficulty ['tide]

**tide table** *n* a table of the height of the tide at various times of the day at 1 place

**tide waiter** /-ˈweɪtə/ *n* a customs inspector working on the docks or aboard ships

**tide water** /-ˈwɔːtə/ *n* 1a water overflowing land at flood tide b water affected by the ebb and flow of the tide 2 low-lying coastal land

**tide way** /-ˈweɪ/ *n* (a current in) a channel in which the tide runs


**tidying** /ˈtiːdɪŋ/ *n* a piece of news - *usu* pl with sing meaning (<good ~s>) [ME, fr OE *tidung*, fr *tīdan* to betide, akin to MD *tīden* to go, come, OE *tīd* time]

**tidy** /ˈtiːdi/ *adj* 1a neat and orderly in appearance or habits, well ordered and cared for b methodical, precise (<a ~ mind>) 2 large, substantial - *infml* (<a ~ profit>) [ME, timely, in good condition, fr *tide* time] - **tidily** *adv*, **tidiness** *n*


**tidy** *vb* to put (things) in order; make (things) neat or tidy - **tidier** *n*

**tidy** *n* 1 a receptacle for odds and ends (e.g. sewing materials) 2 *chiefly* *NAM* a usu decorative cover used to protect the back, arms, or headrest of a chair or sofa from wear or dirt - compare **ANTIMACASSAR**

**tie** /tiː/ *n* 1a a line, ribbon, or cord used for fastening or drawing sth

together **b** a structural element (e.g. a rod or angle iron) holding 2 pieces together **2** sthg that serves as a connecting link: e.g. **a** a moral or legal obligation to sb or sthg that restricts freedom of action **b** a bond of kinship or affection **3** a curved line that joins 2 musical notes of the same pitch to denote a single sustained note with the time value of the 2  **MUSIC** **4a** a match or game between 2 teams, players, etc. <*a cup* ~> **b** (a contest that ends in) a draw or dead heat **5** a narrow length of material designed to be worn round the neck and tied in a knot in the front **6** *NAm* a railway sleeper [*ME* *reg.* *tyc.*, fr *OE* *tēag*; akin to *ON* *taug* rope, *OE* *tēon* to pull – more at *'row*] – *tieless* *adj*

**\*tie** *vb* *tying*, *tieng* *vt* **1a** to fasten, attach, or close by knotting **b** to form a knot or bow in **c** to make by tying constituent elements <*~d a wreath*> <*~ a fishing fly*> **d** to make a bond or connection **2a** to unite in marriage **b** to unite (musical notes) by a tie **3** to restrain from independence or from freedom of action or choice; constrain (as if) by authority or obligation – often + *down* <*~d down by his responsibilities*> **4a** to even (the score) in a game or contest **b** to even the score of (a game) ~ *vi* to make a tie, *esp* to make an equal score <*they ~d for first place*>

**'tie-beam** *n* a beam joining the lower ends of opposite rafters   
ARCHITECTURE

**'tie-break**, **'tie-breaker** *n* a contest or game used to select a winner from among contestants with tied scores at the end of a previous (phase of a) contest

**'tie-clip** *n* a pin or clasp used to hold a tie in place

**tied cottage** /*tiəd/* *n*, *Br* a house owned by an employer (e.g. a farmer) and reserved for occupancy by an employee

**tied house** *n* a public house in Britain that is bound to sell only the products of the brewery that owns or rents it out – compare *FREE HOUSE*

**'tie-dye** *n* tie-dyeing

**'tie-dyeing** *n* a hand method of producing patterns in textiles by tying portions of the fabric or yarn so that they will not absorb the dye – *tie-dyed* *adj*

**'tie-in** *n* **1** sthg that ties in, relates, or connects **2** a book published to coincide with a film or television production to which it is related in some way; *also* the act of publishing such a book

**tie in** *vt* to bring into connection with sthg relevant; *esp* to coordinate so as to produce balance and unity <*the illustrations were cleverly tied in with the text*> ~ *vi* to be closely connected; *esp* to correspond <*that ties in with what I know already*>

**'tie-pin** /*-pin/* *n* a decorative pin used to hold a tie in place

**'tier** /*tiə/* *n* any of a series of levels (e.g. in an administration) <*the top ~ of local government*> [*MF* *ture* order, rank – more at *ATTIRE*]

**\*tier** *vb* to place, arrange, or rise in tiers

**terce** /*ti:s/* *n* a sequence of 3 playing cards of the same suit [*ME* *terce*, *terce* third part, fr *MF*, fr *fem* of *terz*, *adj.* third, fr *L* *tertius* – more at *THIRD*]

**tercel** /*'ti:sl/* *n* a tercel

**'tie-rod** *n* a rod (e.g. of steel) used as a connecting member or brace

**'tie-up** *n* a connection, association <*a political ~ with gangsters*>

**tie up** *vt* **1** to attach, fasten, or bind securely; *also* to wrap up and fasten **2** to connect closely; link **3** to place or invest in such a manner as to make unavailable for other purposes <*his money was tied up in stocks*> **4** to keep busy <*was tied up in conference all day*> **5** *NAm* to restrain from operation or progress <*traffic was tied up for miles*> ~ *vi* **1** to dock **2** to assume a definite relationship <*this ties up with what you were told before*>

**tiff** /*ti:f/* *vi* or *n* (to have) a petty quarrel [origin unknown]

**tiffany** /*'ti:fəni/* *n* a sheer silk gauze [prob fr obs *F* *tiphanie* Epiphany, fr *LL* *theophania*, fr *L* *Gk*, deriv of *Gk* *theos* god + *phainein* to show]  
**tiffin** /*'ti:fɪn/* *n* a meal or snack taken at midday or in the middle of the morning, *esp* by the British in India [prob alter. of *tiffing*, gerund of obs *tiff* (to eat or drink between meals)]

**tiger** /*'ti:ɡə/*, *fem* *tigress* /*'ti:ɡrɪs/* *n*, *pl* *tigers*, (*1*) *tigers*, *esp* collectively **tiger** **1** a very large Asiatic cat having a tawny coat transversely striped with black **2** a fierce and often bloodthirsty person [*ME* *tigre*, fr *OE* *tiger* & *OF* *tigre*, both fr *L* *tigris*, fr *Gk*, of Iranian origin; akin to *Av* *tighra*-pointed; akin to *Gk* *stízein* to tattoo] – *tigerish* *adj*, *tigerishly* *adv*, *tigerishness* *n*, *tigerlike* *adj*

**tiger beetle** *n* any of numerous active flesh-eating beetles having larvae that tunnel in the soil

**tiger cat** *n* a serval, ocelot, or other wildcat of moderate size and variegated coloration

**tiger lily** *n* an Asiatic lily commonly grown for its drooping orange-coloured flowers densely spotted with black

**tiger moth** *n* any of a family of stout-bodied moths, usu with broad striped or spotted wings

**'tiger's-eye** *also* **'tiger-eye** *n* a usu yellowish brown ornamental gemstone consisting mainly of silicates of sodium and iron

**\*tight** /*ti:t/* *adj* **1** so close or solid in structure as to prevent passage (e.g. of a liquid or gas) <*a ~ roof*> – often in combination <*an airtight compartment*> **2a** fixed very firmly in place **b** firmly stretched, drawn, or set **c** fitting (too) closely **3** set close together <*a ~ defensive formation in soccer*> **4** difficult to get through or out of <*in a ~ situation*> <*a ~ spot*> **5** firm in control, *also* characterized by such firmness <*ran a ~ ship*> **6** evenly contested <*a ~ match*> **7** packed, compressed or condensed to (near) the limit <*a ~ bale*> <*a ~ literary style*> <*~ schedule*> **8** scarce in proportion to demand <*~ money*> *also* characterized by such a scarcity <*a ~ labour market*> **9** playing in unison <*his three week old band was surprisingly ~ ~ The Age (Melbourne)*> **10** stingy, miserly **11** intoxicated, drunk *USE* (10&11) *infrml* [*ME*, alter. of *tight*, of *Scand* origin, akin to *ON* *thétr* tight, akin to *MHG* *dihte* thick, *Skt* *tanakti* it causes to coagulate] – *tightly* *adv*, *tightness* *n*

**\*tight** *adv* **1** fast, tightly <*the door was shut ~*> **2** in a sound manner <*sleep ~*>

**tighten** /*'ti:t(a)n/* *vb* to make or become tight or tighter or more firm or severe – often + *up* – *tightener* *n*

**tighten up** *vi* to enforce regulations more stringently – usu + *on* <*the government is tightening up on tax-dodgers*>

**'tightfisted** /*-'fistɪd/* *adj* reluctant to part with money

**'tight-tipped** *adj* **1** having the lips compressed (e.g. in determination) **2** reluctant to speak, taciturn


**'tight-rope** /*-.rəʊp/* *n* **1** a rope or wire stretched taut for acrobats to perform on **2** a dangerously precarious situation

**tights** /*'ti:ts/* *n* *pl* a skintight garment covering each leg (and foot) and reaching to the waist – *tight* *adj*

**tigon** /*'ti:ɡən/* *n* a hybrid produced by a mating between a tiger and a lioness [*tiger* + *lion*]

**tigress** /*'ti:ɡrɪs/* *n* a female tiger, *also* a tigress woman

**tike** /*'ti:ek/* *n* a tyke

**tilde** /*'tɪldə/* *n* **1** a mark ~ placed esp over the letter *n* (e.g. in Spanish *señor*) to denote the sound /ny/ or over vowels (e.g. in Portuguese *irmã*) to indicate nasality **2** a swung dash, *esp* as used in mathematics to indicate similarity or equivalence  *SYMBOL* [*Sp*, fr *ML* *titulus* title]

**'tile** /*ti:l/* *n* **1** a thin slab of fired clay, stone, or concrete shaped according to use: e.g. **a** a flat or curved slab for use on roofs **b** a flat and often ornamented slab for floors, walls, or surrounds **c** a tube-shaped or semicircular and open slab for constructing drains **2** a thin piece of resilient material (e.g. cork or linoleum) used *esp* for covering floors or walls [*ME*, fr *OE* *tigle*; akin to *ON* *tigl* tile; both fr a prehistoric *WGmc*-*NGmc* word borrowed fr *L* *tegula* tile, akin to *L* *tegere* to cover – more at *THATCH*] – on the tiles enjoying oneself socially, *esp* in an intemperate or wild manner <*looks terrible this morning after a night out on the tiles*>

**\*tile** *vt* to cover with tiles – *tiler* *n*, *tiling* *n*

**'till** /*ti:l/* *prep* **1** until **2** chiefly *Scot* to [*ME*, fr *OE* *till*; akin to *ON* *till* to, *till*, *OE* *till* good]

**\*till** *conj* until

**'till** /*ti:l/* *vt* to work (e.g. land) by ploughing, sowing, and raising crops [*ME* *tilen*, *tillen*, fr *OE* *tilian*; akin to *OE* *till* good, suitable, *OHG* *zill* goal] – *tillable* *adj*, *tillage* *n*, *tiller* *n*

**\*till** *n* **1a** a receptacle (e.g. a drawer or tray) in which money is kept in a shop or bank **b** *CASH REGISTER* **2** the money contained in a till [*AF* *tylle*]

**\*till** *n* glacial drift consisting of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders not deposited in distinct layers [origin unknown]

**'tiller** /*'ti:lə/* *n* a lever used to turn the rudder of a boat from side to side [*ME* *tiler* stock of a crossbow, fr *MF* *telier*, lit., beam of a loom, fr *ML* *telarium*, fr *L* *tela* web – more at *'trot*]


**\*tiller** *n* a sprout or stalk (from the base of a plant) [*fr* (assumed) *ME*, fr *OE* *telgor*, *telgra* twig, shoot; akin to *OHG* *zelga* twig, *Gk* *daidalos* ingeniously formed – more at *CONDOLE*]

**\*tiller** *vi*, of a plant to put forth tillers

**'tilt** /*ti:lt/* *vt* **1** to cause to slope <*don't ~ the boat*> **2** to point or thrust (as if) in a joust <*~ a lance*> ~ *vi* **1** to shift so as to lean or incline **2a** to engage in combat with lances **b** to make an impetuous attack <*~ at wrongs*> [*ME* *tulten*, *tilten*; akin to *Sw* *tulta* to waddle] – *tiltable* *adj*, *tilter* *n*



- \*tilt** *n* 1 a military exercise in which a mounted person charges at an opponent or mark 2 speed – in at full tilt 3 a written or verbal attack – + at 4a tilting or being tilted b a sloping surface
- \*tilt** *n* a canopy for a wagon, boat, lorry, or stall [ME *teld*, *telte* tent, canopy, fr OE *teld*, akin to OHG *zelt* tent]
- tilth** /tɪlθ, tɪld/ *n* the state of being tilled; also the condition of tilled land <land in good ~> [ME, fr OE, fr *tilian* to till]
- tiltyard** /tɪlˌjɑːd/ *n* a yard or place for tilting contests
- timbale** /tɪmbəˈleɪ/ *n* 1 a creamy mixture of meat, vegetables, etc baked in a cup-shaped mould 2 a small pastry shell filled with a cooked timbale mixture [F, lit, kettledrum, fr MF, alter of *tamballe*, modif of OSP *atabal*, fr Ar *at-ṭabl* the drum]
- \*timber** /tɪmbə/ *n* 1a growing trees or their wood b – used interjectionally to warn of a falling tree 2 wood suitable for carpentry or woodwork – BUILDING 3 material, stuff, esp personal character or quality 4 Br wood or logs, esp when dressed for use [ME, fr OE, building, wood; akin to OHG *zimbar* wood, room, L *domus* house, Gk *demein* to build] – **timber** *adj*, **timberman** /-mən/ *n*
- \*timber** *vt* to frame, cover, or support with timbers
- timbered** /tɪmbəd/ *adj* having walls framed by exposed timbers
- timber hitch** *n* a knot used to secure a line to a log or spar
- timbering** /tɪmb(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* a set or arrangement of timbers
- \*timberline** /-liːn/ *n* TREE LINE
- timber wolf** *n* a type of wolf formerly common over much of eastern N America
- timbre** /tɪmbə, tɪmbə, tɪhmə (Fr tɪːbr)/ also **timber** /tɪmbə/ *n* the quality given to a sound by its overtones e.g. a the resonance by which the ear recognizes a voiced speech sound b the quality of tone distinctive of a particular singing voice or musical instrument [F, fr MF, bell struck by a hammer, cf OF, drum, fr MGk *tymbanon* kettledrum, fr Gk *tympanon* – more at **TYMPANUM**]
- timbral** /tɪmb(ə)rəl/ *n* a small hand drum or tambourine [dim of obs *timbre* (tambourine), fr ME, fr OF, drum]
- \*time** /tiːm/ *n* 1a the measurable period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues – PHYSICS b a continuum in which events succeed one another <stand the test of ~> c leisure <~ for reading> 2a the point or period when sth occurs <at the ~ of writing> b the period required for an action <the winner's ~ was under 4 minutes> 3a a period set aside or suitable for an activity or event <now is the ~> <a ~ for celebration> b an appointed, fixed, or customary moment for sth to happen, begin, or end, esp. Br closing time in a public house as fixed by law <hurry up please, it's ~> – T S Eliot 4a a historical period – often pl with sing meaning <modern ~s> b conditions or circumstances prevalent during a period – usu pl with sing meaning <~s are hard> c the present time <issues of the ~> d the expected moment of giving birth or dying <her ~ is near> e the end or course of a future period <only ~ will tell> <will happen in ~> 5a a period of apprenticeship b a term of imprisonment – infml 6 a season <very hot for this ~ of year> 7a a tempo b the grouping of the beats of music; a rhythm, metre 8a a moment, hour, day, or year as measured or indicated by a clock or calendar b any of various systems (e.g. sidereal or solar) of reckoning time 9a any of a series of recurring instances or repeated actions <you've been told many ~s> b pl (1) multiplied instances <5 ~s greater> (2) equal fractional parts of which a specified number equal a comparatively greater quantity <7 ~s smaller> 10 a person's use specified experience, esp on a particular occasion <a good ~> 11a the hours or days occupied by one's work <make up ~> b an hourly rate of pay <on double ~> 12 the end of the playing time of (a section of a) game – often used as an interjection [ME, fr OE *tima*, akin to ON *timi* time, OE *tīd* – more at **TIDE**] – at times at intervals; occasionally – behind the times old-fashioned – for the time being for the present – from time to time at irregular intervals – in time 1 sufficiently early 2 eventually 3 in correct tempo <learn to play in time> – on time at the appointed time – time and (time) again frequently, repeatedly
- \*time** *vt* 1 to arrange or set the time of 2 to regulate the moment, speed, or duration of, esp to achieve the desired effect <an ill-timed remark> 3 to cause to keep time with sth 4 to determine or record the time, duration, or speed of <~ a journey> ~ *vi* to keep or beat time – **timer** *n*
- \*time** *adj* 1 of or recording time 2 (able to be) set to function at a specific moment <a ~ bomb> <a ~ switch>
- time and a half** *n* payment of a worker (e.g. for overtime) at 1½ times the regular wage rate
- time and motion** *adj* of or concerned with studying the efficiency of working methods, esp in industry
- \*time capsule** *n* a capsule that has contemporary articles sealed in it and is then buried (e.g. underneath a new building) with the intention that those who open it in future years may gain an impression of what life was like when it was buried
- time clock** *n* a clock that stamps an employee's starting and finishing times on a card
- \*time-consuming** *adj* using or taking up (too) much time <~ chores> <~ tactics>
- time exposure** *n* (a photograph taken by) exposure of a photographic film for a relatively long time, usu more than 0.5s
- \*time-honoured** *adj* sanctioned by custom or tradition
- time immemorial** /ɪmɪˈmɔːr-əl/ *n* time beyond living memory or historical record
- \*timekeeper** /-ˌkeɪpə/ *n* sby who records the time worked by employees, elapsed in a race, etc – **timekeeping** *n*
- \*time lag** *n* an interval of time between 2 related phenomena
- \*time-lapse** *adj* of or constituting a method of cinema photography in which a slow action (e.g. the opening of a flower bud) is filmed in successive stages so as to appear speeded up on the screen
- \*timeless** /-lɪs/ *adj* 1a unending, eternal b not restricted to a particular time or date 2 not affected by time, ageless – **timelessly** *adv*, **timelessness** *n*
- \*timely** /-li/ *adv* or *adj* at an appropriate time – **timeliness** *n*
- time-out** *n* a suspension of play in any of several sports (e.g. basketball); broadly, NAm a brief suspension of activity
- time out of mind** *n* TIME IMMEMORIAL
- timepiece** /-ˌpiːs/ *n* a clock, watch, etc that measures or shows progress of time, esp one that does not chime
- times** /tiːmz/ *prep* multiplied by <2 ~ 2 is 4>
- \*time-server** /-ˌsɜːvə/ *n* sby who fits behaviour and ideas to prevailing opinions or to his/her superiors' views
- \*time-sharing** *n* 1 simultaneous access to a computer by many users 2 a method of sharing holiday accommodation whereby each of a number of people buys a share of a lease on a property, entitling him/her to spend a proportionate amount of time there each year
- time signature** *n* a sign placed on a musical staff being usu a fraction whose denominator indicates the kind of note taken as the time unit for the beat (e.g. 4 for a crotchet or 8 for a quaver) and whose numerator indicates the number of beats per bar – MUSIC
- \*time-table** /-ˌtaɪbl/ *n* 1 a table of departure and arrival times of public transport 2 a schedule showing a planned order or sequence of events, esp of classes (e.g. in a school)
- \*timetable** *vt* to arrange or provide for in a timetable
- \*time-worn** /-ˌwɔːn/ *adj* 1 worn or impaired by time 2 ancient, age-old
- \*time zone** *n* a geographical region within which the same standard time is used
- timid** /tɪmɪd/ *adj* lacking in courage, boldness, or self-confidence [L *timidus*, fr *timere* to fear] – **timidly** *adv*, **timidness**, **timidity** /tɪˈmɪdəti/ *n*
- timing** /ˈtiːmɪŋ/ *n* selection for maximum effect of the precise moment for doing sth [ˈTIME + -ING]
- timocracy** /tɪˈmɒkrəsi/ *n* government in which a certain amount of property is necessary for office b love of honour is the ruling principle [MF *tymocracie*, fr ML *timocratia*, fr Gk *timokratia*, fr *timé* price, value, honour + *-kratia* -cracy – more at **PAIN**] – **timocratic** /ˌtiːmɒˈkratik/, **timocratical** *adj*
- timorous** /tɪˈm(ə)rəs/ *adj* timid [ME, fr MF *timoureux*, fr ML *timorosis*, fr L *timor* fear, fr *timere* to fear] – **timorously** *adv*, **timorousness** *n*
- timothy** /tɪˈmoʊθi/ *n* a European grass widely grown for hay [prob fr Timothy Hanson, 18th-c US farmer said to have introduced it from New England to the southern states of the USA]
- Timothy** *n* (either of 2 New Testament Pastoral Epistles addressed to) a disciple of the apostle Paul [L *Timotheus*, fr Gk *Timotheos*]
- timpani** /tɪmˈpəni/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr a set of 2 or 3 kettledrums played by 1 performer (e.g. in an orchestra) [It, pl of *timpano* kettledrum, fr L *tympānum* drum – more at **TYMPANUM**] – **timpanist** *n*
- \*tin** /tɪn/ *n* 1 a soft lustrous metallic element that is malleable and ductile at ordinary temperatures and is used as a protective coating, in tinfoil, and in soft solders and alloys – PERIODIC TABLE 2 a box, can, pan, vessel, or sheet made of tinplate: e.g. a a hermetically sealed tinplate container for preserving foods b any of various usu tinplate or aluminium containers of different shapes and sizes in which food is cooked, esp in an oven <roasting ~> <loaf ~> 3 a strip of resonant material below the board on

- the front wall of a squash court  SPORT [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *zin tin*] – *tinful* *n*
- \*tin** *vt* -an- 1 to cover or plate with tin or a tin alloy 2 chiefly Br *CAN* 1a
- tinctorial** /'tɪŋk'tɔːrɪəl/ *adj* of colours, dyeing, or staining [L *tinctorius*, fr *tinctus*, pp] – **tinctorially** *adv*
- tincture** /'tɪŋk(tʃ)ʃə/ *n* 1a a substance that colours or stains *b* a colour, hue 2 a slight addition; a trace 3 a heraldic metal, colour, or fur 4 a solution of a substance in alcohol for medicinal use (< ~ of iodine) [ME, fr L *tinctura* act of dyeing, fr *tinctus*, pp of *tingere* to tinge]
- \*tincture** *vt* to tint or stain with a colour
- tinder** /'tʌndə/ *n* any combustible substance suitable for use as kindling [ME, fr OE *tynder*; akin to OHG *zuntra* tinder, OE *tendan* to kindle] – **tindery** *adj*
- tinderbox** /-bɒks/ *n* 1a a metal box for holding tinder and usu a flint and steel for striking a spark *b* a highly inflammable object or place 2 a potentially unstable place, situation, or person
- tine** /'tiːn/ *n* 1 a prong (e.g. of a fork) 2 a pointed branch of an antler [ME *tind*, fr OE; akin to OHG *zint* point, *tine*] – **tined** *adj*
- tinæa** /'tɪnɪ-/ *n* a fungous disease of the skin, esp ringworm [ME, fr ML, fr L, worm, moth] – **tinæal** *adj*
- tin fish** *n* a torpedo – slang
- tin foil** /'tɪn'fɔɪl/ *n* a thin metal sheeting of tin, aluminium, or a tin alloy
- \*tinge** /'tɪŋj/ *vt* **tingeing**, **tinging** 1 to colour with a slight shade 2 to impart a slight smell, taste, or other quality to [ME *tingen*, fr L *tingere* to dip, moisten, tinge; akin to OHG *dunkon* to dip, Gk *tingein* to moisten]
- \*tinge** *n* 1 a slight staining or suffusing colour 2 a slight modifying quality; a trace
- tin glaze** *n* an opaque ceramic glaze containing tin oxide – **tin glaze** *vt*
- tingle** /'tɪŋɡl-/ *vi* or *n* **tingling** /'tɪŋɡlɪŋ/ (to feel or cause) a stinging, prickling, or thrilling sensation [vb ME *tinglen*, alter of *tinklen* to tinkle, tingle; *n* fr vb] – **tinglingly** *adv*, **tingly** *adj*
- tin god** *n* 1 a pompous and self-important person 2 sby unjustifiably esteemed or venerated *USE* infml
- tin hat** *n* a present-day military metal helmet – infml
- \*tinker** /'tɪŋkə/ *n* 1 a usu itinerant mender of household utensils 2 chiefly Scot & Irish a gipsy [ME *tinkere*]
- \*tinker** *vi* to repair, adjust, or work with sthg in an unskilled or experimental manner – usu + *at* or *with* – **tinkerer** *n*
- tinker's cuss** *n* DAMN 2 – chiefly in *not give a tinker's cuss* [prob fr the tinkers' reputation for swearing]
- tinker's dam**, **tinker's dam** *n*, *NAM* **TINKER'S CUSS**
- \*tinkle** /'tɪŋkl-/ *vb* **tinkling** /'tɪŋklɪŋ/, **tinkling** /'tɪŋklɪŋ-/ *vi* to make (a sound suggestive of) a tinkle ~ *vt* 1 to sound or make known (the time) by a tinkle 2 to cause to (make a) tinkle [ME *tinklen*, freq of *tunken* to tinkle, of imit origin] – **tinkly** *adj*
- \*tinkle** *n* 1 a series of short light ringing or clinking sounds 2 a jingling effect in verse or prose 3 Br a telephone call – infml 4 Br an act of urinating – euph
- tinman** /'tɪnmən/ *n* a tinsmith
- tinner** /'tɪnə/ *n* a tin miner or tinsmith
- tinnitis** /'tɪniəs/ *n* a subjective ringing or roaring sensation of noise [L, ringing, tinnitus, fr *tinnitus*, pp of *tinnire* to ring, of imit origin]
- tinny** /'tɪni/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or yielding tin 2a having the taste, smell, or appearance of tin *b* not solid or durable, shoddy (a ~ car) 3 having a thin metallic sound – **tinily** *adv*, **tininess** *n*
- Tin Pan Alley** *n* a district that is a centre for composers and publishers of popular music; also, *sung* or *pl* in *constr* the body of such composers and publishers
- tin plate** /-pleɪt/ *n* thin sheet iron or steel coated with tin – **tin-plate** *vt*
- \*tin-pot** *adj* paltry (a ~ little organization) – infml
- \*tinsel** /'tɪns(ə)/ *n* 1 a thread, strip, or sheet of metal, plastic, or paper used to produce a glittering and sparkling effect (e.g. in fabrics or decorations) 2 sthg superficial, showy, or glamorous (the ~ of stardom) [MF *estincelle*, *estancele*, *etincelle* spark, glitter, spangle – more at STENCIL] – **tisselled**, *NAM* **tinselled**, **tinselled** *adj*
- \*tinsel** *adj* cheaply gaudy; tawdry
- \*tin-smith** /-smɪθ/ *n* sby who works with sheet metal (e.g. tinplate)
- tin stone** /-stəʊn/ *n* cassiterite
- \*tint** /'tɪnt/ *n* 1a a usu slight or pale coloration; a hue *b* any of various lighter or darker shades of a colour; esp one produced by adding white
- 2 a shaded effect in engraving produced by fine parallel lines close together 3 a panel of light colour serving as background for printing on [alter. of earlier *tinct*, fr L *tinctus* act of dyeing, fr *tinctus*, pp of *tingere* to tinge]
- \*tint** *vt* to apply a tint to; colour – **tinter** *n*
- tintinnabulation** /'tɪntɪnə'beɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the ringing of bells 2 a sound as if of bells *USE* fml [L *tintinnabulum* bell, fr *tintinnare* to ring, jingle, of imit origin]
- tiny** /'tiːni/ *adj* very small or diminutive [alter of ME *tine*] – **tinily** *adv*, **tininess** *n*
- \*tip** /tɪp/ *n* 1 the usu pointed end of sthg 2 a small piece or part serving as an end, cap, or point (a *filler-tip cigarette*) [ME, akin to MHG *zipf* tip, OE *teppa* tap – more at 'TAP] – **tipped** *adj* – on the tip of one's tongue about to be uttered (it was on the tip of my tongue to tell him exactly what I thought)
- \*tip** *vt* -pp- 1a to supply with a tip *b* to cover or adorn the tip of 2 to attach (an insert) in a book – usu + *in*
- \*tip** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to overturn, upset – usu + *over* 2 to cant, tilt 3 Br to deposit or transfer by tilting ~ *vi* 1 to topple 2 to lean, slant [ME *tipen*] – **tip the scales** 1 to register weight (tips the scales at 8 stone 4 ounces) 2 to shift the balance of power or influence (his greater experience tipped the scales in his favour)
- \*tip** *n* a place for tipping sthg (e.g. rubbish or coal); a dump
- \*tip** *vt* -pp- to strike lightly [ME *tippe* (light blow, tap), akin to LG *tippen* to tap]
- \*tip** *vb* or *n* -pp- (to give or present with) a sum of money in appreciation of a service performed [prob fr 'tip]
- \*tip** *n* 1 a piece of useful or expert information 2 a piece of inside information which, acted upon, may bring financial gain (e.g. by betting or investment) [prob fr 'tip]
- \*tip** *vt* -pp- to mention as a prospective winner, success, or profitable investment
- \*tip-off** *n* a tip given usu as a warning
- tip off** *vt* to give a tip-off to (the police were tipped off about the raid)
- tipper** /'tɪpə/ *n* a lorry, trailer, etc whose body can be tipped on its chassis to empty the contents ['TIP + -ER]
- tipset** /'tɪptɪ/ *n* 1 a shoulder cape of fur or cloth often with hanging ends 2 a long black scarf worn over the surplice by Anglican clergymen during morning and evening prayer [ME *tiper*]
- \*tipple** /'tɪpl/ *vb* **tippling** /'tɪplɪŋ/, **tippling** /'tɪplɪŋ/ *vi* to drink (esp spirits), esp continuously in small amounts ~ *vi* DRINK 2 *USE* infml [back-formation fr obs *tippler* (seller of drink), fr ME *tipler*, *tipeler*] – **tippler** /'tɪplə/ *n*
- \*tipple** *n* DRINK 1b – infml
- tipstaff** /'tɪp,staɪf/ *n*, *pl* **tipstaves** /-stəvz/ an officer in certain law-courts [obs *tipstaff* (staff tipped with metal)]
- tipster** /'tɪpstə/ *n* one who gives or sells tips, esp for gambling or speculation
- tipsy** /'tɪpsɪ/ *adj* 1 unsteady, staggering, or foolish from the effects of alcoholic drink 2 askew (a ~ angle) ['tip + -sy (as in *tricksy*)] – **tipily** *adv*, **tipsiness** *n*
- \*tip-toe** /-toʊ/ *n* the tip of a toe; also the ends of the toes (walk on ~)
- \*tiptoe** *adv* (as if) on tiptoe
- \*tiptoe** *adj* 1 standing or walking (as if) on tiptoe 2 cautious, stealthy
- \*tiptoe** *vi* **tiptoeing** 1 to stand, walk, or raise oneself on tiptoe 2 to walk silently or stealthily as if on tiptoe
- \*tip-top** *adj* excellent, first-rate (in ~ condition) – infml – **tip-top** *adv*
- tirade** /'tɪəreɪd/ *n* a long vehement speech or denunciation [F, shot, tirade, fr MF, fr OIt *tirata*, fr *tirare* to draw, shoot; akin to Sp & Pg *tirar* to draw, shoot, OF *tirer*]
- \*tire** /'tɪə-/ *vi* to become tired ~ *vt* 1 to fatigue 2 to wear out the patience of [ME *tyren*, fr OE *teonan*, *tyrian*]
- \*tire** *n* a woman's headband or hair ornament [ME, short for *attire*]
- \*tire** *vi* to adorn (the hair) with an ornament
- \*tire** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a tyre
- tired** /'tɪəd/ *adj* 1 weary, fatigued 2 exasperated; FED UP (< ~ of listening to your complaints) 3a trite, hackneyed (the same old ~ themes) *b* lacking freshness (a ~ skin) (< ~, overcooked asparagus) – **tiredly** *adv*, **tiredness** *n*
- tireless** /'tɪə-lɪs/ *adj* indefatigable, untiring – **tirelessly** *adv*, **tirelessness** *n*
- tiresome** /'tɪə-səm/ *adj* wearsome, tedious – **tiresomely** *adv*, **tiresomeness** *n*

**tiro** /'tie,roh/ *n* a tyro

**tiase** /ti'zahn/ *n* an infusion (e.g. of dried herbs) used as a beverage or for medicinal effects [ME, fr MF, fr L *ptisana*, fr Gk *ptisanē*, lit., crushed barley]

**tissue** /'tʃʊsh/; also 'tʃi:ʊsh/ *n* **1a** a fine gauzy often sheer fabric **b** a mesh, web <a ~ of lies> **2** a paper handkerchief **3** a cluster of cells, usu. of a particular kind, together with their intercellular substance that form any of the structural materials of a plant or animal [ME *tissu*, a rich fabric, fr OF, fr pp of *tistre* to weave, fr L *texere* - more at **TECHNICAL**] - **tissuely** *adj*

**tissue paper** *n* a thin gauzy paper used esp. for protecting sth (e.g. by covering)

**tit** /tʃt/ *n* **1** a teat or nipple **2** a woman's breast - *infml* [ME, fr OE - more at **TEAT**]


**tit** *n* any of various small tree-dwelling insect-eating birds (e.g. a blue tit), broadly any of various small plump often long-tailed birds [short for *titmouse*]

**titan** /'ti:t(ə)n/, *fem* **titanness** /,ti:t(ə)n'es, -/ *n* shy or sth very large or strong, also *sby* notable for outstanding achievement [Gk, one of a family of mythical giants once ruling the earth]

**titan-, titano-** *comb. form* titanium <*titanate*> [NL *titanium*]

**titanic** /ti'tanik/ *adj* colossal, gigantic [Gk *titanikos* of the Titans] - **titanically** *adv*

**titanic** /ti'tanik, tie-/ *adj* of or containing titanium, esp. when tetravalent [NL *titanium*]

**titanium** /ti'taɪniəm, -ni-əm, tie-/ *n* a light strong metallic element used esp. in alloys and combined in refractory materials and in coatings  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr Gk *Titan*]

**titanium dioxide** *n* an oxide of titanium that is used esp. as a pigment

**titanous** /ti'tanəs, tie-/ *adj* of or containing titanium, esp. when trivalent [ISV]

**titbit** /'tit,bɪt/, chiefly *NAM* **tidbit** /'tid-/ *n* a choice or pleasing piece (e.g. of food or news) [perh. fr *tit-* (as in *titmouse*) + *bit*]

**titchy** /'tʃi:/ *adj*, *Br* small, scant - *infml* [*titch*, *titch* (small person or thing), fr *Little Tich*, stage-name of Harry Ralph †1928 dwarfish E. comedian]

**titer** /'ti:tə/, 'teetə/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a **titre**

**titter** /'titlə/ *n*, *Br* a hat - *infml* [rhyming slang *tit* for (*tat*)]

**tit for tat** /tət/ *n* an equivalent given in retaliation (e.g. for an injury) [alter. of earlier *tip* for *tap*, fr *tip* (blow) + *for* + *tap*]

**tithe** /'ti:ð/ *vi* to pay a tithe or tithes ~ *vt* to levy a tithe on [ME *tithen*, fr OE *teogothian*, fr *teogotha* tenth] - **tithable** *adj*, **tither** *n*

**tithe** *n* a tax or contribution of a 10th part of sth (e.g. income) for the support of a religious establishment, esp. such a tax formerly due in an English parish to support its church [ME, fr OE *teogotha* tenth, akin to MLG *tegede* tenth; both fr a prehistoric WGmc derivative of the word represented by OE *tien* ten - more at **TEN**]

**tithing** /'ti:ðɪŋ/ *n* a former small administrative division of England apparently orig. consisting of 10 men with their families [ME, fr OE *teothung*, fr *teogothian*, *teothian* to tithe, take one tenth]

**titi** /'ti:tee/ *n* any of various small S. American monkeys [Sp *titi*, fr Aymara *titi*, lit., little cat]

**titian** /'ti:ʃ(ə)n/ *adj*, often *cap.*, esp. of hair reddish brown [*Titian* (Tiziano Vecelli) †1576 It. painter]

**titillate** /'titl,layt/ *vi* to excite pleasurably; arouse by stimulation [L *titillare*, pp of *titillare*] - **titillating** *adj*, **titillatingly** *adv*, **titillation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*, **titillative** /-'laytv-/ *adj*

**titivate**, **tittivate** /'titvayt/ *vb* to smarten up (oneself or another) [perh. fr *tidy* + *-vate* (as in *renovate*)] - **titivation** /-'vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**title** /'ti:t(ə)l/ *n* **1** (a document giving proof of) legal ownership **2a** sth that justifies or substantiates a claim **b** an alleged or recognized right **3a** a descriptive or general heading (e.g. of a chapter in a book) **b** the heading of a legal document or statute **c** a title page and the printed matter on it **d** written material introduced into a film or television programme to represent credits, dialogue, or fragments of narrative - *usu* pl with sing. meaning **4** the distinguishing name of a work of art (e.g. a book, picture or musical composition) **5** a descriptive name **6** a division of a legal document; esp. one larger than a section or article **7** a literary work as distinguished from a particular copy (<published 25 ~s last year>) **8** designation as champion (<the world heavyweight ~>) **9** a hereditary or acquired appellation given to a person or family as a mark of rank, office, or attainment [ME, fr OF, fr L *titulus* inscription, title]

**title** *vt* **1** to provide a title for **2** to designate or call by a title

**titled** *adj* having a title, esp. of nobility

**title deed** *n* the deed constituting evidence of ownership

**title page** *n* a page of a book giving the title, author, publisher, and publication details

**title role** *n* the role in a production (e.g. a play) that has the same name as the title of the production

**titmouse** /'tit,məʊs/ *n*, pl **titmice** /-'mɪs/ <sup>3</sup>**TIT** [ME *titmouse*, fr (assumed) ME *tit* any small object or creature + ME *mose* titmouse, fr OE *mase*; akin to OHG *meisa* titmouse]

**Titoism** /'ti:təʊ,ɪz(ə)m/ *n* the policies associated with Tito, *specif.* nationalist policies followed by a communist state independently of and often in opposition to the USSR [*Tito* (Josip Broz) †1980, President of Yugoslavia] - **Titoist** *n* or *adj*

**titrate** /'ti:treyt/ *vb* to subject to or perform titration [*titre*] - **titratable** *adj*, **titrator** *n*

**titration** /'ti:treysh(ə)n/ *n* a method or the process of determining the strength of, or the concentration of a substance in, a solution by finding the amount of test liquid needed to bring about a complete reaction with a liquid of known concentration

**titre**, *NAM* chiefly **titer** /'ti:tə/, 'teetə/ *n* the strength of a solution or the concentration of a substance in solution as determined by titration [F *titre* title, proportion of gold or silver in a coin, fr OF *title* inscription, title]

**titter** /'tɪtə/ *vi* to giggle, snigger [imit.] - **titter** *n*

**tittivate** /'titvayt/ *vb* to titivate

**titlle** /'titl/ *n* **1** a point or small sign used as a diacritical mark in writing or printing **2** a very small part [ME *titel*, fr ML *titulus*, fr L, title]

**'tittle-tattle** /'tɪtl/ *vi* or *n* (to) gossip, prattle [n redupl. of *'tattle*; *vb* fr n]

**titty** /'tɪti/ *n* <sup>3</sup>**TIT** - *infml*

**titular** /'tɪtʃʊlə/ *adj* **1** in title only, nominal (<the ~ head of a political party>) **2** of or constituting a title (<the ~ hero of the play>) [L *titulus* title] - **titularly** *adv*

**tizzy** /'tɪzi/ *n* a highly excited and confused state of mind - *infml* [origin unknown]

**tnesis** /'tə'meɪs/ *n* separation of parts of a grammatical compound by another word or words (e.g. in *every-bloody-where*) [LL, fr Gk *tnēsis* act of cutting, fr *temnēin* to cut - more at **TOME**]

**TNT** *n* trinitrotoluene [trinitrotoluene]

**to** /'təʊ, unstressed preceding vowels too/ *unstressed preceding consonants* *prep* **1** - used to indicate a terminal point or destination e.g. *a* a place where a physical movement or an action or condition suggestive of movement ends (<drive ~ the city>) (<invited them ~ lunch>) *b* a direction (<the road ~ London>) (<turned his back ~ the door>) *c* a terminal point in measuring or reckoning or in a statement of extent or limits (<10 miles ~ the nearest town>) (<cost from £5 ~ £10>) (<wet ~ the skin>) (<not ~ my knowledge>) (<add salt ~ taste>) *d* a point in time before which a period is reckoned (<5 minutes ~ 5>) (<how long ~ dinner?>) *e* a point of contact or proximity (<pinched it ~ my coat>) (<applied polish ~ the table>) *f* a purpose, intention, tendency, result, or end (<a temple ~ Mars>) (<broken ~ pieces>) (<held them ~ ransom>) (<much ~ my surprise>) *g* the one to or for which sth exists or is done or directed (<kind ~ animals>) (<my letter ~ John>) **2** - used *a* to indicate addition, attachment, connection, belonging, or possession (<add 17 ~ 20>) (<the key ~ the door>) *b* to indicate accompaniment or response (<danced ~ live music>) (<rose ~ the occasion>) **3** - used to indicate relationship or conformity e.g. *a* relative position (<next door ~ me>) *b* proportion or composition (<400 ~ the box>) (<won by 17 points ~ 11>) *c* correspondence to a standard (<second ~ none>) (<compared him ~ a god>) (<true ~ type>) **4a** - used to indicate that the following verb is an infinitive (<wants ~ go>) (<got work ~ do>), now often used with an intervening adverb (<~ really understand>) in spite of the disapproval of many, often used by itself at the end of a clause in place of an infinitive suggested by the preceding context (<knows more than he seems ~>) *b* for the purpose of (<did it ~ annoy>) [ME, fr OE *to*, akin to OHG *zuo* to, L *donec* as long as, until]

**to** *adv* **1a** - used to indicate direction towards, chiefly in *to and fro* *b* close to the wind (<the ship hove ~>) **2** of a door or window into contact, esp. with the frame (<the door slammed ~>) **3** - used to indicate application or attention, compare **FALL TO**, **TURN TO** **4** back into consciousness or awareness (<brings her ~ with smelling salts>) **5** **AT HAND** (<saw her close ~>)

**toad** /'təʊd/ *n* **1** any of numerous tailless leaping amphibians that differ from the related frogs by living more on land and in having a shorter squatter body with a rough, dry, and warty skin **2** a loathsome and contemptible person or thing [ME *tode*, fr OE *tāde*, *tadige*]

- 'toad,flax** /-flaks/ *n* a common Eurasian perennial plant of the figwort family that has showy yellow and orange flowers
- 'toad-in-the-hole** *n* a dish of sausages baked in a thick Yorkshire-pudding batter
- 'toad,stoool** /-stoohl/ *n* a (poisonous or inedible) umbrella-shaped fungus [ME *todestool*, *tadestool*, fr *tode*, *tade* *toad* + *stoool*]
- toady** /'tɒdi/ *vi* or *n* (to behave as) a sycophant [n fr earlier *toadeater* (mountebank's assistant who pretended to eat poisonous toads to prove the value of his master's antidote, servile dependant, sycophant); vb fr n] – **toadyism** *n*
- 'to-and-'fro** *n* or *adj* (activity involving alternating movement) forwards and backwards
- to and fro** *adv* from one place to another; BACK AND FORTH
- 'toast** /'təʊst/ *vi* 1 to make (e.g. bread) crisp, hot, and brown by heat 2 to warm thoroughly (e.g. at a fire) ~ *vi* to become toasted, esp. to become thoroughly warm [ME *tosten*, fr MF *toster*, fr LL *tostare* to roast, fr L *tostus*, pp of *torrere* to dry, parch – more at THIRST]
- \*toast** *n* 1 sliced bread browned on both sides by heat 2a sth in honour of which people drink b a highly popular or admired person <she's the ~ of London> 3 an act of drinking in honour of sb or sth [ (2) fr the use of pieces of spiced toast to flavour drinks, (3) 'toast]
- \*toast** *vi* to drink to as a toast ['toast]
- toaster** /'təʊstə/ *n* an electrical appliance for toasting esp bread ['TOAST + \*-ER]
- 'toasting,fork** /'təʊstɪŋ/ *n* a long-handled fork on which bread is held for toasting in front of or over a fire
- 'toast,master** /-mɑːstə/, fem *'toast,mistress* *n* sby who presides at a banquet, proposes toasts, and introduces after-dinner speakers
- tobacco** /'təʊkəʊ/ *n*, pl *tobaccos* 1 any of a genus of chiefly American plants of the nightshade family, esp a tall erect annual S American herb cultivated for its leaves 2 the leaves of cultivated tobacco prepared for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff, also cigars, cigarettes, or other manufactured products of tobacco [Sp *tabaco*, prob fr Taino, roll of tobacco leaves smoked by the Indians of the Antilles at the time of Columbus]
- tobacco mosaic** *n* any of several mosaic virus diseases of plants of the nightshade family, esp tobacco
- tobacconist** /'təʊkənɪst/ *n* a seller of tobacco, esp in a shop [irreg fr *tobacco* + -ist]
- to-be** *adj* future – usu used after a noun; often in combination <a bride-to-be>
- toboggan** /'təʊbɒɡən/ *vi* or *n* (to ride on) a long light sledge, usu curved up at the front and used esp for gliding downhill over snow or ice [n Canf *tobogan*, of Algonquian origin, akin to Micmac *tobāgun* sledge made of skin; vb fr n] – **tobogganist** *n*
- toby** /'təʊbi/, *toby jug* *n* a small jug or mug generally used for beer and shaped somewhat like a stout man with a cocked hat for the brim [*Toby*, nickname for *Tobias*]
- toccata** /'təʊkɑːtə/ *n* a musical composition in a free style and characterized by rapid runs, usu for organ or harpsichord [It, fr fem of *toccato*, pp of *toccare* to touch, fr (assumed) VL – more at TOUCH]
- Toc H** /'tɒk aɪç/ *n* a society of Christians for fellowship and charitable work, founded in Ypres in 1915 by Rev P T B Clayton [*toc* (signallers' former code word for the letter *t*) + *h*, initials of Talbot House, name of club from which the society developed]
- Tocharian** /'təʊkəri-ən/ *n* 1 a member of a people of supposed European origin inhabiting central Asia during the 1st millennium AD 2 an extinct language of central Asia [L *Tochari* (pl), fr Gk *Tocharoi*]
- tocopherol** /'təʊkəfəˌrɒl/ *n* a compound of high vitamin E potency obtained from germ oils or by synthesis [ISV, deriv of Gk *tokos* childbirth, offspring + *pherein* to carry, bear – more at 'BEAR]
- tocsin** /'tɒksɪn/ *n* an alarm bell rung as a warning [MF *toquassen*, fr OProv *tocassenh*, fr *toçar* to touch, ring a bell (fr assumed VL *toccare*) + *senh* sign, bell, fr ML & L *signum*; ML, bell, fr LL, ringing of a bell, fr L, mark, sign – more at TOUCH, 'SIGN]
- 'tod** /'tɒd/ *n*, chiefly Scot & NEng a fox [ME]
- \*tod** *n*, Br [rhyming slang *Tod* (*Sloan*) own, alone, prob fr James Forman (*Tod*) *Sloan* †1933 US jockey] – on one's tod alone – slang
- today** /'teɪdɪ/ *adv* or *n* 1 (on) this day 2 (at) the present time or age [adv ME, fr OE *tōdæge*, *tōdæg*, fr *tō* to, at + *dæge*, dat of *dæg* day; n fr adv]
- toddle** /'tɒdl/ *vi* **toddling** /'tɒdlɪŋ/, **'toddl-ing** / 1 to walk haltingly in the manner of a young child 2a to take a stroll; saunter b Br to depart <'I'll just ~ off home> **USE** (2) infml [origin unknown] – **toddle** *n*
- toddler** /'tɒdlə/ *n* a young child [TODDLE + \*-ER]
- toddy** /'tɒdi/ *n* a usu hot drink consisting of spirits mixed with water, sugar, and spices [Hindi *tārī* juice of the palmyra palm, fr *tārī* palmyra palm, fr Skt *tālā*]
- to-do** *n*, pl *to-does* bustle, fuss – infml
- 'toe** /'təʊ/ *n* 1a(1) any of the digits at the end of a vertebrate's foot (2) the fore end of a foot or hoof b the front of sth worn on the foot 2a a part like a toe in position or form <the ~ of Italy> b the lowest part (e.g. of an embankment, dam, or cliff) [ME *to*, fr OE *tā*; akin to OHG *zēha* toe, L *digitus* finger, toe]
- \*toe** *vi* **toeing** 1 to provide with a toe; esp to renew the toe of <~ a shoe> 2 to touch, reach, or drive with the toe – **toe** the line to conform rigorously to a rule or standard
- toea** /'təʊ-ə/ *n* ~ Papua New Guinea at NATIONALITY [native name in Papua New Guinea]
- 'toe,cap** *n* a piece of material (e.g. steel or leather) attached to the toe of a shoe or boot to reinforce or decorate it
- toed** /'təʊd/ *adj* having a toe or toes, esp of a specified kind or number – usu in combination <5-toed> <round-toed shoes>
- 'toe,hold** /-həʊld/ *n* 1a a hold or place of support for the toes (e.g. in climbing) b a slight footing <the firm had a ~ in the export market> 2 a wrestling hold in which the aggressor bends or twists his opponent's foot
- 'toe-in** *n* adjustment of the front wheels of a motor vehicle so that they are closer together at the front than at the back
- toff** /'tɒf/ *n*, chiefly Br an upper-class usu well-dressed person – infml [prob alter. of *tuft* (front of undergraduate)]
- toffee**, **toffy** /'tɒfi/ *n* a sweet with a texture ranging from chewy to brittle, made by boiling sugar, water, and often butter [alter of *taffy*]
- 'toffee-apple** *n* a toffee-covered apple held on a stick
- 'toffee,nosed** *adj*, Br stuck-up – infml
- toft** /'tɒft/ *n*, Br an entire holding comprising a homestead and additional land [ME, fr OE, fr ON *topt*]
- tog** /'tɒɡ/ *vi* -**gg**-to dress, esp in fine clothing – usu + *up* or *out*, infml [togs]
- toga** /'təʊɡə/ *n* a loose outer garment worn in public by citizens of ancient Rome ~ GARMENT [L, akin to L *tegere* to cover – more at THATCH]
- **togaed** /'təʊɡəd/ *adj*
- together** /'təʊɡəd/ *adv* 1a in or into 1 place, mass, collection, or group <the men get ~ every Thursday for poker> b in joint agreement or cooperation, as a group <students and staff ~ presented the petition> 2a in or into contact (e.g. connection, collision, or union) <mix these ingredients ~> <tie the ends ~> b in or into association, relationship, or harmony <colours that go well ~> 3a at one time, simultaneously <everything happened ~> b in succession; without intermission <was depressed for days ~> 4 of a single unit in or into an integrated whole <pull yourself ~> 5a to or with each other <eyes too close ~> – used as an intensive after certain verbs <add ~> <confer ~> b considered as a unit; collectively <these arguments taken ~ make a convincing case> [ME *togedere*, fr OE *togædere*, fr *tō* to + *gædere* together, akin to MHG *gater* together, OE *gaderian* to gather] – **together** with with the addition of
- togetherness** /-nis/ *n* the feeling of belonging together
- 'toggle** /'tɒɡ(ə)/ *n* 1 a piece or device for holding or securing; esp a crosspiece attached to the end of or to a loop in a chain, rope, line, etc., usu to prevent slipping, to serve as a fastening, or as a grip for tightening 2 (a device having) a toggle joint [origin unknown]
- \*toggle** *vi* **toggleing** /'tɒɡlɪŋ/ to provide or fasten (as if) with a toggle
- toggle joint** *n* a device having 2 bars joined end to end so that when a force is exerted by a screw at the joint, a pressure is exerted along the 2 bars
- togs** /'tɒgz/ *n* pl clothes – infml [pl of slang *tog* (coat), short for obs *togeman*, *togman*]
- 'toil** /'tɔɪl/ *n* long strenuous fatiguing labour [ME *toile*, fr AF *toyl*, fr OF *toil* battle, confusion, fr *toeilier*] – **toilful** *adj*, **toilsome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj*
- \*toil** *vi* 1 to work hard and long 2 to proceed with laborious effort <~ing wearily up the hill> [ME *toilen* to argue, straggle, fr AF *toiller*, fr OF *toellier* to stir, disturb, dispute, fr L *tudiculare* to crush, grind, fr *tudicula* machine for crushing olives, dim. of *tudes* hammer; akin to L *tundere* to beat – more at 'STINT] – **toiler** *n*
- \*toll** *n* sth by or with which one is held fast or inextricably involved – usu pl with sing. meaning <caught in the ~s of the law> [MF *toile* cloth, net, fr L *tela* web, fr *texere* to weave, construct – more at TECHNICAL]
- toile** /'twahl/ *n* 1 any of many plain or simple twill weave fabrics; esp linen 2 a muslin model of a garment [F, cloth, linen]
- toilet** /'tɔɪliːt/ *n* 1 the act or process of dressing and grooming oneself

**2a** a fixture or arrangement for receiving and disposing of faeces and urine  
**b** a room or compartment containing a toilet and sometimes a washbasin  
**3** cleansing in preparation for or in association with a medical or surgical procedure  
**4** formal or fashionable (style of) dress – fml [MF *toilette* cloth put over the shoulders while dressing the hair or shaving, dim of *toile* cloth]

**'toilet, paper** *n* a thin usu absorbent paper for sanitary use after defecation or urination

**toiletory** /'toylitr/ *n* an article or preparation (e.g. cologne) used in washing, grooming, etc – usu pl

**toilette** /'toylet, twah'let (Fr twa'let)/ *n* TOILET 1, 4 [F, fr MF]

**'toilet, training** *n* the process of training a child to control bladder and bowel movements and to use the toilet – **toilet train** *vt*

**'toilet, water** *n* (a) liquid containing a high percentage of alcohol used esp as a light perfume

**to-ing and fro-ing** /'tooh-ɪŋ and 'fro-ɪŋ/ *n*, *pl* to-ings and fro-ings bustling unproductive activity [to and fro]

**Tokay** /'tohkaɪ, toh'keɪ/ *n* a usu sweet dark gold wine made near Tokaj in Hungary

**'token** /'toʊkən/ *n* 1 an outward sign or expression (e.g. of an emotion)

**2a** a characteristic mark or feature <a white flag is a ~ of surrender> **b** an instance of a linguistic expression **3a** a souvenir, keepsake **b** sthg given or shown as a guarantee (e.g. of authority, right, or identity) **4** a comlike piece issued **a** as money by anyone other than a government **b** for use in place of money (e.g. for a bus fare) **5** a certified statement redeemable for a usu specified form of merchandise to the amount stated thereon <a book ~ > [ME, fr OE *tacen*, *tacn* sign, token, akin to OHG *zeihhan* sign, Gk *deiknynai* to show – more at DICTION] – **by the same token** furthermore and for the same reason

**\*token** *adj* 1 done or given as a token, esp in partial fulfilment of an obligation or engagement <a ~ payment> 2 done or given merely for show <~ resistance>

**tokenism** /'toʊkənɪz(ə)m/ *n* the making of only a token effort

**token money** *n* 1 money of regular government issue having a greater face value than intrinsic value 2 a medium of exchange consisting of privately issued tokens

**tol-, tolu-** *comb form* *toluene* <toluē> [ISV, fr *tolu* balsam of Tolu (a balsam from a tropical Am tree), fr Sp *tolu*, fr Santiago de Tolu, town in Colombia]

**tolbooth** /'tol,booth, 'tohl-/ *n*, *Scot* 1 TOWN HALL 2 a jail [ME *tolbothe*, *tollbothe* tollbooth, town hall, jail]

**told** /toʊld/ *past* of TELL

**Toledo** /'toʊlədoʊ/ *n*, *pl* Toledos a finely tempered sword [Toledo, province & town in Spain]

**tolerable** /'tol(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being borne or endured <~ pain> 2 moderately good or agreeable <a ~ singing voice> – **tolerably** *adv*, **tolerability** /'tol(ə)rəbɪləti/ *n*

**tolerance** /'tolərəns/ *n* 1 the ability to endure or adapt physiologically to the effects of a drug, virus, radiation, etc **2a** indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from one's own **b** the act of allowing sthg, toleration **3** an allowable variation from a standard dimension

**tolerant** /'tolərənt/ *adj* inclined to tolerate, esp marked by forbearance or endurance – **tolerantly** *adv*

**tolerate** /'toləreɪt/ *vt* 1 to endure or resist the action of (e.g. a drug) without grave or lasting injury 2 to allow to be (done) without prohibition, hindrance, or contradiction [L *toleratus*, pp of *tolerare* to endure, put up with; akin to OE *tholian* to bear, L *tolle* to lift up, *latus* carried (suppletive pp of *ferre*), Gk *tlenai* to bear] – **tolerator** *n*, **tolerative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*

**toleration** /'tolə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* a government policy of permitting forms of religious belief and worship not officially established [TOLERATE + -ION]

**'toll** /tol, tohl/ *n* 1 a fee paid for some right or privilege (e.g. of passing over a highway or bridge) or for services rendered **2** a grievous or ruinous price, esp cost in life or health [ME, fr OE, akin to ON *tollr* toll, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc word borrowed fr (assumed) VL *tolonium*, alter of LL *telonium* customhouse, fr Gk *tolonion*, fr *telones* collector of tolls, fr *telos* tax, toll; akin to Gk *tlenai* to bear]

**\*toll** /tohl/ *vt* 1 to sound (a bell) by pulling the rope 2 to signal, announce, or summon (as if) by means of a tolled bell ~ *vi* to sound with slow measured strokes [ME *tollen*, perh fr *tollen* to attract, entice]

**\*toll** /tohl/ *n* the sound of a tolling bell

**tollbooth** /'tolbooth, 'tohl-/ *n* a booth (e.g. on a bridge) where tolls are paid [ME *tolbothe*, *tollbothe* tollbooth, town hall, jail, fr *tol*, *toll* toll + *bothe* booth]

**'toll, bridge** /tol, tohl/ *n* a bridge at which a toll is charged for crossing

**tollgate** /'tol,gaɪt, tohl-/ *n* a barrier across a road to prevent passage until a toll is paid

**tollhouse** /'tol-, tohl-/ *n* a house or booth where tolls are paid

**tollie** /'tohl/ *n*, *SAfr* a castrated calf [Afrik, fr Zulu *iThole* calf]

**tollroad** /'tol,roʊd, 'tohl-/ *n* a road maintained by collected tolls

**Toltec** /'toltek/ *n* a member of a Nahuatl people of central and S Mexico [Sp *tolteca*, of AmerInd origin] – **Toltecan** *adj*

**tolu-** – see TOL-

**toluene** /'tolju,een/ *n* a toxic inflammable hydrocarbon that is used esp as a solvent and in organic synthesis [ISV]

**tom** /tom/ *n* the male of various animals, esp a tomcat [Tom, nickname for Thomas]

**tomahawk** /'toma,hawk/ *n* a light axe used by N American Indians as a throwing or hand weapon [tomahack (in some Algonquian language of Virginia)]

**tomato** /'təmahto/ *n*, *pl* tomatoes 1 any of a genus of S American plants of the nightshade family, esp one widely cultivated for its edible fruits 2 the usu large and rounded red, yellow, or green pulpy fruit of a tomato [alter of earlier *tomate*, fr Sp, fr Nahuatl *tomatl*]

**tomb** /'toʊhm/ *n* 1a an excavation in which a corpse is buried **b** a chamber or vault for the dead, built either above or below ground and usu serving as a memorial **2** a tomblike structure; esp a large gloomy building [MF *tombe*, fr AF *tumbe*, fr LL *tumba* sepulchral mound, fr Gk *tymbos*, akin to L *tumere* to be swollen – more at THUMB] – **tombless** *adj*

**tombola** /'tom'boʊlə/ *n* a lottery in which people buy tickets which may entitle them to a prize [It, fr *tombolare* to tumble, fr *tombare* to fall, fr (assumed) VL *tumbare* to tumble, fall, of imit origin]

**tomboy** /'tom,boy/ *n* a girl who behaves in a manner conventionally thought of as typical of a boy – **tomboyish** *adj*, **tomboyishly** *adv*, **tomboyishness** *n*

**tombstone** /'toʊhm,stoʊn/ *n* a gravestone

**tomcat** /'tom,kat/ *n* a male cat

**Tom, Dick, and Harry** /'tom,dɪk and 'həri/ *n* people taken at random – often + *every* <not every ~ can join this club>

**tome** /'toʊhm/ *n* a (large scholarly) book [MF or L, MF, fr L *tomus*, fr Gk *tomos* section, roll of papyrus, tome, fr *temnein* to cut, akin to L *tondere* to shear, Gk *tendēn* to gnaw]

**-tome** /-'toʊhm/ *comb form* (→ *n*) cutting instrument [*microtome*] [Gk *tomos*]

**tomentum** /'təmentəm/ *n*, *pl* tomenta /-tə/ a covering of densely matted woolly hairs [NL, fr L, cushion stuffing; akin to L *tumere* to be swollen – more at THUMB] – **tomentose** /-toʊhs/ *adj*

**tomfool** /'tom'foʊl/ *n* an extremely foolish or stupid person

**tomfoolery** /'tom'foʊləri/ *n* foolish trifling, nonsense

**Tommy** /'tomi/, **Tommy Atkins** /'atkins/ *n* a British private soldier – infml [Thomas Atkins, name used as model in official army forms]

**'tommy, bar** /'tomi/ *n*, *Br* a bar used to turn a box spanner [Tommy, nickname for Thomas]

**tommyrot** /'tomi,rot/ *n* utter foolishness or nonsense – infml [E dial *tommy* (fool) + E rot]

**tomography** /'tə'mɒgrəfi/ *n* a diagnostic technique using X-ray photographs in which the shadows of structures in front of and behind the section under scrutiny do not show [Gk *tomos* section + ISV *-graphy* – more at TOME] – **tomogram** /'toma,gram/ *n*

**tomorrow** /'tə'moroh/ *adv* or *n* 1 (on) the day after today 2 (in) the future <the world of ~> [ME to *morgen*, fr OE to *morgen*, fr to + *morgen* morrow, morning – more at MORN]




**tompion** /'tɒmpi-ən/ *n* a tampon

**Tom Thumb** *n* a dwarf type, race, or individual [Tom Thumb, legendary E dwarf]

**tomtit** /'tom,tɪt/ *n* any of various small active birds; esp a blue tit [prob short for *tomtitmouse*, fr the name Tom + *titmouse*]

**'tom-tom** /tom/ *n* a usu long and narrow small-headed drum commonly beaten with the hands [Hindi *tamṭam*]

**-tomy** /-təmi/ *comb form* (→ *n*) incision; cutting <laparotomy> [NL *-tōmia*, fr Gk, fr *-tomos* that cuts, fr *temnein* to cut – more at TOME]

**'ton** /tun/ *n*, *pl* tons also **ton** 1a LONG TON  UNIT b SHORT TON  UNIT c a tonne  UNIT 2a REGISTER TON b a unit approximately equal to the volume of 1 long ton of seawater, used in reckoning the displacement of ships, and equal to 0.991 m<sup>3</sup> (35 ft<sup>3</sup>) 3a a great quantity – often pl with sing. meaning <~s of room on the back seat> b a great weight <this bag weighs a ~> 4 a group, score, or speed of 100 USE (3&4) infml [ME *tunne* unit of weight or capacity – more at TUN]

**\*ton** /tɒn/ (Fr *tōn*) *n* 1 the prevailing fashion 2 the quality or state of being fashionable [F, lit., tone, fr L *tonus*]

**tonal** /toʊn(ə)/ *adj* 1 of tone, tonality, or tonicity 2 having tonality – *tonally adv*

**tonality** /toʊnəli/ *n* 1 tonal quality 2a **KEY** 7 b the organization of all the notes and chords of a piece of music in relation to a tonic **tondo** /tɒndoh/ *n*, *pl* **tondi** /-dee/ a circular painting or relief [It, fr *tondo* round, short for *rotondo*, fr L *rotundus* – more at **ROUND**]

**\*tone** /toʊn/ *n* 1 a vocal or musical sound, esp one of a specified quality <*spoke in low ~s*> 2a a sound of a definite frequency with relatively weak overtones b **WHOLE TONE** 3 an accent or inflection of the voice expressive of a mood or emotion 4 (a change in) the pitch of a word often used to express differences of meaning 5 style or manner of verbal expression <*seemed wise to adopt a conciliatory ~*> 6a colour quality or value b the colour that appreciably modifies a hue or white or black 7 the general effect of light, shade, and colour in a picture 8a the state of (an organ or part of) a living body in which the functions are healthy and performed with due vigour b normal tension or responsiveness to stimuli 9a prevailing character, quality, or trend (e.g. of morals) <*lowered the ~ of the discussion*> b distinction, style; **\*TON** c **FRAME OF MIND** 10 chiefly NAm **NOTE** 1a(1) [ME, fr L *tonus* tension, tone, fr Gk *tonos*, lit. act of stretching; akin to Gk *teinein* to stretch – more at **THIN**]

**\*tone** *vt* 1 to impart tone to <*medicate to ~ up the system*> 2 to soften in colour, appearance, or sound ~ *vi* 1 to assume a pleasing colour quality or tint 2 to blend or harmonize in colour – **toner** *n*

**tone arm** *n* the movable arm of a record player or deck that carries the pickup and permits tracking

**toned** *adj* 1 having (a specified) tone; characterized or distinguished by a tone – often in combination <*shrill-toned*> 2 of *paper* having a slight tint

**tone-deaf** *adj* relatively insensitive to differences in musical pitch – *tone deafness* *n*

**tone down** *vt* to reduce in intensity, violence, or force <*he was told to tone down his views*>

**tone group** *n* a unit of speech consisting of a nucleus with or without other stressed and unstressed syllables

**tone language** *n* a language (e.g. Chinese) in which variations in tone distinguish words of different meaning

**toneless** /toʊnlis/ *adj* lacking in expression ['**\*TONE** + **-LESS**] – *tonelessly adv*, *tonelessness* *n*


**toneme** /toʊnēm/ *n* an intonation phoneme in a tone language – *tonemic* /toʊnēmik/ *adj*

**tone poem** *n* **SYMPHONIC POEM** – *tone poet* *n*


**\*tone-row** /toʊ/ *n* the 12 chromatic notes of the octave placed in a chosen fixed order that form the basis of the material of a twelve-tone musical composition

**tonetic** /toʊnɛtik/ *adj* relating to linguistic tones, to tone languages, or to intonation – *tonetically adv*

**tong** /tɒŋ/ *n* a Chinese secret society or fraternal organization formerly notorious for gang warfare [Chin (Cant) *t'ong* hall]

**Tongan** /tɒŋ-gən/ *adj* or *n* (of) an inhabitant, or the Polynesian language, of the Tonga islands  **LANGUAGE**

**tongs** /tɒŋz/ *n pl* any of various grasping devices consisting commonly of 2 pieces joined at 1 end by a pivot or hinged like scissors [ME *tonges*, *pl* of *tonge*, fr OE *tang*; akin to OHG *zanga* tongs, Gk *daknein* to bite]

**\*tongue** /tʌŋ/ *n* 1a a fleshy muscular movable organ of the floor of the mouth in most vertebrates that bears sensory end organs and small glands and functions esp in tasting and swallowing food and in human beings as a speech organ  **NERVE** b a part of various invertebrate animals that is analogous to the tongue of vertebrates 2 the tongue of an ox, sheep, etc used as food 3 the power of communication through speech 4a a (spoken) language b manner or quality of utterance <*a sharp ~*> c ecstatic usu unintelligent utterance, esp in Christian worship – *usu pl* with *meaning* <*The gift of ~s*> d the cry (as if) of a hound pursuing or in sight of game – esp in *give tongue* 5 a long narrow strip of land projecting into a body of water 6 sth like an animal's tongue (e.g. elongated and fastened at 1 end only): e.g. a movable pin in a buckle b a piece of metal suspended inside a bell so as to strike against the sides as the bell is swung c the pole of a (horse-drawn) vehicle d the flap under the lacing or buckles on the front of a shoe or boot 7 the rib on one edge of a board that fits into a corresponding groove in an edge of another board to make a flush joint 8 a tapering cone – in *tongue of flame/fire* [ME *tunge*, fr OE; akin to OHG *zunga* tongue, L *lingua*] – *tongue-like* *adj*

**\*tongue** *vt* 1 to touch or lick (as if) with the tongue 2 to articulate (notes) by tonguing ~ *vi* to articulate notes on a wind instrument by successively interrupting the stream of wind with the action of the tongue

**tongued** /tʌŋd/ *adj* having a tongue of a specified kind – often in combination <*sharp-tongued*>

**tongue-in-cheek** *adj* characterized by irony or whimsical exaggeration – *tongue in cheek* *adv*

**\*tongueless** /-lis/ *adj* lacking power of speech ['**\*TONGUE** + **-LESS**]

**\*tongue-tie** *n* limited mobility of the tongue due to shortness of its frenum

**\*tongue-tied** *adj* 1 affected with tongue-tie 2 unable to speak freely (e.g. because of shyness)

**\*tongue-twister** *n* a word or phrase difficult to articulate because of several similar consonantal sounds (e.g. 'she sells seashells on the sea-shore')

**\*tonic** /tɒnik/ *adj* 1 marked by prolonged muscular contraction <~ *convulsions*> 2 increasing or restoring physical or mental tone 3 of or based on the first note of a scale 4 of a syllable bearing a principal stress or accent [Gk *tonikos*, fr *tonos* tension, tone] – *tonically adv*

**\*tonic** *n* 1a sth (e.g. a drug) that increases body tone b sth that invigorates, refreshes, or stimulates <*a day in the country was a ~ for him*> <*a skin ~*> c **tonic**, **tonic water** a carbonated drink flavoured with a small amount of quinine, lemon, and lime 2 the first note of a diatonic scale 3 an instance of tonic accent

**tonic accent** *n* relative phonetic prominence of a spoken syllable

**tonicity** /toʊnɪsɪti/ *n* the property of possessing tone, esp healthy vigour of body or mind


**tonic sol-fa** *n* a system of solmization that replaces the normal notation with sol-fa syllables

**tonight** /tə'naɪt/ *adv* or *n* (on) this night or the night following today [adv ME *to night*, to *niht*, fr OE *to niht*, fr *to* to, at + *niht* night, *n* fr *adv*]

**\*tonka**, **bean** /tɒŋkə/ *n* (the coumarin-containing seed of) any of several leguminous trees [prob fr Tupi *tonka*]

**tonky** /tɒŋki/ *adj*, NZ socially pretentious – *infrm* [perh blend of *tony* and *swanky*]


**tonnage** /tʌnɪdʒ/ *n* 1 a duty formerly levied on every cask of wine imported into England 2a a duty or tax on vessels based on cargo capacity b a duty on goods per ton transported 3 ships considered in terms of the total number of tons registered or carried or of their carrying capacity 4 the carrying capacity of a merchant ship in units of 100ft<sup>3</sup> (about 2.83m<sup>3</sup>) 5 total weight in tons shipped, carried, or produced [(1) ME, fr OF *tonne* tun – more at **TUNNEL**]

**tonne** /tʌn/ *n* a metric unit of weight equal to 1000kg  **UNIT** [F, fr *tonne* tun, fr OF – more at **TUNNEL**]

**tonneau** /tɒnoh/ *n*, *pl* **tonneaus** the (rear) seating compartment of a motor car [F, lit., tun, fr OF *tonel* – more at **TUNNEL**]

**tonometer** /toʊnɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument (e.g. a tuning fork) for determining the exact pitch of tones [Gk *tonos* tone + *E-meter*] – *tonometry* *n*, *tonometric* /,tɒn'metrɪk/ *adj*

**tonoplast** /toʊnəpləst/, /to-/ *n* the membrane surrounding a vacuole in the cytoplasm of a plant cell [ISV *tono-* (fr Gk *tonos* tension) + *-plast* – more at **TONE**]

**tonsil** /tɒns(ə)l/ *n* 1 either of a pair of prominent oval masses of spongy lymphoid tissue that lie 1 on each side of the throat at the back of the mouth  **NERVE** 2 any of various masses of lymphoid tissue that are similar to tonsils [L *tonsillae*, *pl*, tonsils] – *tonsillar* *adj*

**tonsill-, tonsillo-** *comb form* tonsil <(tonsillectomy) <(tonsillotomy) > [L *tonsillae*]

**tonsillectomy** /tɒnsɪl'ektəmi/ *n* the surgical removal of the tonsils

**tonsillitis** /,tɒnsɪ'lɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the tonsils [NL]

**\*tonsorial** /tɒn'sɔːriəl/ *adj* of a barber or his work – *usu humor* [L *tonsorius*, fr *tonsus*, pp]

**\*tonsure** /tɒnʃə/ *n* 1 the Roman Catholic or Eastern rite of admission to the clerical state by the shaving of a portion of the head 2 the shaved patch on a monk's or other cleric's head [ME, fr ML *tonsura*, fr L, act of shearing, fr *tonsus*, pp of *tondere* to shear – more at **TOME**]

**\*tonsure** *vt* to shave the head of; esp to confer the tonsure on

**tontime** /,tɒnteɪn, -/-/ *n* a financial arrangement whereby a group of participants share various advantages on such terms that on the death or default of any member his/her advantages are distributed among the remaining members until 1 member remains or an agreed period has elapsed; also the share or right of each individual [F, fr Lorenzo Tonti †1695 It banker]

**\*ton-up** *adj*, Br of or being sby who has achieved a score, speed, etc of



100 <the local motorcycle ~ boys> <darts ~ boys are in record-breaking mood - The Sun> - infml

**tony** /'toʊni/ *adj* marked by an aristocratic or fashionable manner or style [*tone* + *-y*]

**too** /tuː/ *adv* 1 also, IN ADDITION <sell the house and furniture ~> 2a to a regrettable degree, excessively <~ large a house for us> b to a higher degree than meets a standard <~ pretty for words> 3 indeed, so - used to counter a negative charge <'I didn't do it' 'You did ~'> [ME, fr OE *to* to, too - more at *ro*]

**took** /tuːk/ *past of TAKE*

**'tool** /tuːl/ *n* 1a an implement that is used, esp by hand, to carry out work of a mechanical nature (e.g. cutting, levering, or digging) - not usu used with reference to kitchen utensils or cutlery b (the cutting or shaping part in) a machine tool 2 sth (e.g. an instrument or apparatus) used in performing an operation, or necessary for the practice of a vocation or profession <books are the ~s of a scholar's trade> 3 sb who is used or manipulated by another 4 a penis - vulg [ME, fr OE *tol*, akin to OE *tanian* to prepare for use - more at *'taw*]

**²tool vt** 1 to work, shape, or finish with a tool, esp to letter or ornament (e.g. leather) by means of hand tools 2 to equip (e.g. a plant or industry) with tools, machines, and instruments for production - often + *up* ~ *vt* 1 to get tooled up for production - usu + *up* 2 to drive, ride <~ed round the neighbourhood in a small car> - infml

**'tool,box** /-,bɒks/ *n* a box for tools

**'tool,holder** /-,həʊldə/ *n* a device for holding a tool in a machine (e.g. a lathe)


**'tool,maker** /-,maɪkə/ *n* a skilled worker who makes, repairs, maintains, and calibrates the tools and instruments of a machine shop - *tool-making n*

**'tool,room** /-,ruːm/, -room/ *n* a room where tools are kept, esp a room in a machine shop in which tools are made, stored, and issued for use by workmen

**'tool,shed** /-,shed/ *n* a shed for storing (garden) tools

**toon** /tuːn/ *n* (the fragrant dark red wood of) an E Indian and Australian tree of the mahogany family [Hindi *run*, fr Skt *tunna*]

**toot** /tuːt/ *vi* 1 to produce a short blast or similar sound <the horn ~ed> 2 to cause an instrument to toot ~ *vt* to cause to produce a short blast <~ a whistle> [prob imit] - *toot n*, *tooter n*

**'tooth** /tuːθ/ *n*, *pl teeth* /teeth/ 1a any of the hard bony structures that are borne esp on the jaws of vertebrates and serve esp for the seizing and chewing of food and as weapons  DIGESTION b any of various usu hard and sharp projecting parts about the mouth of an invertebrate 2 a taste, liking <a sweet ~> 3a a projection like the tooth of an animal (e.g. in shape, arrangement, or action) <a saw ~> b any of the regular projections on the rim of a cogwheel 4 *pl* effective means of enforcement [ME, fr OE *toth*, akin to OHG *zand* tooth, L *dent-*, *dens*, Gk *odont-*, *odous*] - *toothlike adj*, *toothless adj* - in the teeth of in direct opposition to <rule had...been imposed by conquest in the teeth of obstinate resistance - A J Toynbee>

**²tooth vt** to provide with teeth, esp by cutting notches <~ a saw> ~ *vi*, esp of cogwheels to interlock

**'tooth,ache** /-,aɪk/ *n* pain in or about a tooth

**'tooth and nail** *adv* with every available means

**'tooth,brush** /-,brʊʃ/ *n* a brush for cleaning the teeth

**'tooth,comb** /-,kəʊm/ *n*, *Br* a comb with fine teeth

**toothed** *adj* having teeth, esp of a specified kind or number - often in combination (<sharp-toothed>)

**toothed whale** *n* any of various whales with numerous simple conical teeth - compare WHALLBONE WHALE

**'tooth,paste** /-,paɪst/ *n* a paste for cleaning the teeth

**'tooth,pick** /-,pɪk/ *n* a pointed instrument for removing food particles lodged between the teeth

**'tooth,powder** *n* a powder for cleaning the teeth

**tooth shell** *n* (the tapering tubular shell of) any of a class of marine molluscs


**toothsome** /'tuːθs(ə)m/ *adj* 1 delicious <crisp ~ fried chicken> 2 (sexually) attractive - *toothsomely adv*, *toothsomeness n*

**'tooth,wort** /-,wɜːt/ *n* a parasitic European plant of the broomrape family with a rootstock covered with tooth-shaped scales

**toothy** /'tuːθi/ *adj* having or showing prominent teeth <a ~ grin> - *toothily adv*

**tootle** /'tuːtl/ *vi* *tootling* /'tuːtlɪŋ/ 1 to toot gently or continuously 2 to drive or move along in a leisurely manner - infml [freq of *toot*] - *tootle n*, *tootler n*

**tootsy** also *tootsie* /'tuːtsi/ *n* FOOT 1 - used chiefly to children [baby-talk alter of *foot*]

**'top** /tɒp/ *n* 1a(1) the highest point, level, or part of sth (2) the (top of the) head - esp in *top to toe* (3) the head of a plant, esp one with edible roots <beet ~s> (4) a garment worn on the upper body b(1) the highest or uppermost region or part (2) the upper end, edge, or surface 2 a fitted or attached part serving as an upper piece, lid, or covering 3 a platform surrounding the head of a lower mast serving to spread the topmast rigging, or to mount guns  SHIP 4 the highest degree or pitch conceivable or attained 5 the part nearest in space or time to the source or beginning 6 (sby or sth in) the highest position (e.g. in rank or achievement) <~ of the class> 7 *Br* the transmission gear of a motor vehicle giving the highest ratio of propeller-shaft to engine-shaft speed and hence the highest speed of travel [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *zopf* tip, tuft of hair] - *topped adj* - off the top of one's head in an impromptu manner <can't give the figures off the top of my head> - on top of 1a in control of <keep on top of my job> b informed about 2 in sudden and unexpected proximity to 3 in addition to <a bad idea to get chilled on top of getting wet> - Sylvia Townsend Warner) - on top of the world in high spirits, in a state of exhilaration and well-being

**²top vt -pp-** 1a to cut the top off b to shorten or remove the top of (a plant); also to remove the calyx of (e.g. a strawberry) - compare TAIL 2b 2a to cover with a top or on the top, provide, form, or serve as a top for b to supply with a decorative or protective finish or final touch c to complete the basic structure of (e.g. a high-rise building) by putting on a cap or uppermost section - usu + *out* or off 3a to be or become higher than, overtop <~s the previous record> b to be superior to <~s everything of its kind in print> c to gain ascendancy over 4a to rise to, reach, or be at the top of b to go over the top of, clear, surmount 5 to strike (a ball) above the centre, thereby imparting top spin

**³top adj** 1 of or at the top 2 foremost, leading <one of the world's ~ journalists> 3 of the highest quality, amount, or degree <~ form>

**'top n** a child's toy that has a tapering point on which it is made to spin [ME, fr OE]

**top-,topo-** *comb form* place, locality <topology> <toponymy> [ME, fr LL, fr Gk, fr *topos* - more at *topic*]

**topaz** /'toʊpəz/ *n* 1 a mineral that is predominantly a silicate of aluminium, usu occurs in variously coloured translucent or transparent crystals, and is used as a gem 2a a yellow sapphire b a yellow quartz (e.g. carnegorm or citrine) [ME *topace*, fr OF, fr L *topazus*, fr Gk *topazos*]

**top boot** *n* a high boot often with light-coloured leather bands round the upper part

**'top brass** *n* *sing* or *pl* in constr BRASS HATS

**'top,coat** /-,koʊt/ *n* 1 a (lightweight) overcoat 2 a final coat of paint

**'top dog** *n* a person in a position of authority, esp through victory in a hard-fought competition - infml

**'top drawer** *n* the highest level, esp of society - esp in *out of the top drawer* - *top-drawer adj*


**'top,dress** *vt* to scatter fertilizer over (land) without working it in [back-formation fr *topdressing*] - *topdressing n*


**'tope** /toʊp/ *vi* to drink alcoholic drink to excess [obs *tope* (interj used to wish good health before drinking)] - *tope n*

**²tope n** a small shark with a liver very rich in vitamin A [origin unknown]

**topee**, *topi* /'toʊpi/ *n* a lightweight helmet-shaped sunhat made of pith or cork [Hindi *topi*]

**'top-flight** *adj* of the highest grade or quality; best

**'topgallant** /,tɒp'gələnt/, tɒ'gələnt/ *adj* of or being a part next above the topmast <~ sails> <the ~ mast>  SHIP [*top* + *gallant*, *adj*]

**²topgallant n** a topgallant mast or sail  SHIP

**top gear** *n* a state of intense or maximum activity

**'top,hammer** *n* the gear and fittings (e.g. spars and rigging) above a ship's upper deck

**top hat** *n* a man's tall-crowned hat usu of beaver or silk

**'top-heavy** *adj* 1 having the top part too heavy for or disproportionate to the lower part 2 capitalized beyond what is prudent

**'top-hole** *adj*, chiefly *Br* excellent - infml; not now in vogue

**tophus** /'toʊfəs/ *n*, *pl tophi* /-fi-/ a hard chalky deposit in tissues (e.g. cartilage) characteristic of gout [L, *tufa*]

**topiary** /'toʊpiəri/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the practice or art of training, cutting, and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes; also (characterized by) such work [*adj* L *topiarius*, fr *topia* ornamental gardening, irreg fr Gk *topos* place; *n* fr *adj*]

**topic** /'tɒpɪk/ *n* 1a a heading in an outlined argument or exposition b

the subject of a (section of a) discourse 2 a subject for discussion or consideration [L *Topica* Topics (work by Aristotle), fr Gk *Topika*, fr *topika*, neut pl of *topikos* of a place, of a rhetorical theme, fr *topos* place, rhetorical theme, akin to OE *thafian* to agree]

**topical** /'topikl/ *adj* 1a of a place b designed for local application <a ~ remedy> 2a of or arranged by topics <set down in ~ form> b referring to the topics of the day; of current interest – **topically** *adv*, **topicality** /'topi'kaliti/ *n*

**topknot** /-not/ *n* 1 an ornament (e.g. of ribbons) worn as a headdress or as part of a hairstyle 2 an arrangement or growth of hair or feathers on top of the head

**topless** /'toplis/ *adj* 1 nude above the waist; esp having the breasts exposed 2 featuring topless waitresses or entertainers ['TOP + -LESS]

**top-level** *adj* very high in level of authority or importance <~ management>

**top-line** *adj* top-level

**topmast** /'top,mahst/ *n* a mast that is next above the lowest mast

**topminnow** /'top,minoh/ *n* any of a family of numerous small viviparous fishes that feed on or near the surface of a body of water ['top + minnow; fr its swimming on the surface of the water]

**topmost** /'topmohst/ *adj* highest of all

**top-notch** *adj* of the highest quality – *infml* – **topnotcher** *n*

**topo-** – see **TOP-**

**topographical** /'topa'grafikl/, **topographic** *adj* 1 of or concerned with topography 2 of or concerned with the artistic representation of a particular locality <a ~ poem> <~ painting> – **topographically** *adv*

**topography** /'topografi/ *n* 1 (the mapping or charting of) the configuration of a land surface, including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features 2 the physical or natural features of an object or entity and their structural relationships [ME *topographie*, fr LL *topographia*, fr Gk, fr *topographiein* to describe a place, fr *topos* place + *graphein* to write – more at **CARVE**] – **topographer** *n*

**topology** /'topolaj/ *n* 1 a branch of mathematics that deals with geometric properties which are unaltered by elastic deformation (e.g. stretching or twisting) 2 configuration <~ of a molecule> <~ of a magnetic field> [ISV] – **topological** /'topa'lojikal/ *adj*, **topologist** /'topolajist/ *n*

**toponym** /'topa,nim/, 'toh-/ *n* a place-name [ISV, back-formation fr *toponymy*]

**toponymic** /'topa'nimik/ *adj* of toponyms or toponymy – **toponymical** /-nimikl/ *adj*

**toponymy** /'topa,nami/, 'toh-/ *n* the study of place-names [ISV, fr *top-* + Gk *onyma*, *onoma* name – more at **NAME**]

**topper** /'topa/ *n* 1 TOP HAT 2 sth (e.g. a joke) that caps everything preceding – *infml* ['TOP + -ER]

**topping** /'toping/ *n* sth that forms a top; esp a garnish or edible decoration on top of a food

**topping** *adj*, chiefly *Br* excellent – not now in vogue

**topple** /'topl/ *vb* **toppling** /'topling/, 'top-ling/ *vi* 1 to fall (as if) from being top-heavy 2 to be or seem unsteady ~ *vt* 1 to cause to topple 2 to overthrow [freq of 'top]

**topsail** /'top,sayl/, 'topal/ also **topel** /'topsl/ *n* 1 the sail next above the lowest sail on a mast in a square-rigged ship ➡ **SHIP** 2 the sail set above and sometimes on the gaff in a fore-and-aft rigged ship

**top secret** *adj* 1 demanding the greatest secrecy 2 containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could result in exceptionally grave danger to the nation – compare **RESTRICTED**, **SECRET**

**topside** /'topsaied/ *n* 1 pl the sides of a ship above the waterline 2 a lean boneless cut of beef from the inner part of a round ➡ **MEAT**

**topside** *adv* or *adj* on deck

**topsoil** /'top,soyl/ *n* surface soil, usu including the organic layer in which plants form roots and which is turned over in ploughing

**top spin** *n* a rotary motion imparted to a ball that causes it to rotate forwards in the direction of its travel ['top]

**topsy-turvy** /'topsi 'tuhvi/ *adj* or *adv* 1 UPSIDE DOWN 2 in utter confusion or disorder [prob deriv of *tops* (pl of 'top) + obs *terve* (to turn upside down), fr ME *terven*] – **topsy-turvily** *adv*, **topsy-turvydom** *n*

**top up** *vt* 1 to make up to the full quantity, capacity, or amount 2 to increase (a money sum set aside for a specific purpose)

**toque** /'tohk/ *n* a woman's small soft brimless hat [MF, soft hat with a narrow brim worn esp in the 16th c, fr OSp *toca* headdress]

**tor** /'tau/ *n* a high rock or rocky mound [ME, fr OE *torr*]

**Torah** /'taura/ *n* 1 the Pentateuch; broadly Jewish Scripture and other sacred Jewish literature and oral tradition 2 a leather or parchment scroll of the Pentateuch used in a synagogue [Heb *tôrâh*]

**torch** /'tauch/ *n* 1 a burning stick of resinous wood or twist of tow used to give light 2 sth (e.g. wisdom or knowledge) that gives enlightenment or guidance 3 *Br* a small portable electric lamp powered by batteries [ME *torche*, fr OF, bundle of twisted straw or tow, torch, fr (assumed) VL *torca*; akin to L *torquere* to twist – more at **TORTURE**]

**torchbearer** /-beara/ *n* sby in the forefront of a campaign or movement

**tore** /'tau/ *past* of **TEAR**

**toreador** /'tori-ə,daw/ *n* a torero [Sp, fr *toreado*, pp of *torear* to fight bulls, fr *toro* bull, fr L *taurus* – more at **TAURINE**]

**torero** /'to'reəro/ *n*, *pl* **toreros** a matador, bullfighter [Sp, fr LL *taurarius*, fr L *taurus* bull]

**toreutics** /'to'roothiks/ *n pl* but *sing* in constr the art of working in metal, esp by embossing or chasing [toreutic, *adj*, fr Gk *toreutikos*, fr *toreuen* to bore through, chase, fr *toreus* boring tool, akin to Gk *tetrainein* to bore – more at **THROW**] – **toreutic** *adj*

**tori** /'tauric/ *pl* of **TORUS**

**torii** /'tauric/ *n*, *pl* **torii** a Japanese gateway of light construction, commonly built at the approach to a Shinto shrine [Jap]

**torment** /'taument/ *n* 1 extreme pain or anguish of body or mind 2 a source of vexation or pain [ME, fr OF, fr L *tormentum* torture, fr *torquere* to twist – more at **TORTURE**]

**torment** /'taument/ *vt* to cause severe usu persistent distress of body or mind to – **tormentor** also **tormenter** *n*

**tormentil** /'taumentil/ *n* a common yellow-flowered Eurasian plant of the rose family with a root used in tanning and dyeing [ME *turmentill*, fr ML *tormentilla*, prob fr L *tormentum*, prob fr its use in allaying pain]

**torn** /'taun/ *past part* of **TEAR**

**tornado** /'taunədo/ *n*, *pl* **tornados**, **tornados** a violent or destructive whirlwind, usu progressing in a narrow path over the land and accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud [modif of Sp *tronada* thunderstorm, fr *tronar* to thunder, fr L *tonare* – more at **THUNDER**] – **tornadoic** /'taunədik/, '-nadik/ *adj*

**toroid** /'tauroyd/ *n* (a body enclosed by) a surface generated by a plane closed curve (e.g. a circle) rotated about a line that lies in the same plane as the curve but does not intersect it [NL *torus*]

**toroidal** /'tauroydl/ *adj* of or shaped like a torus or toroid <a ~ resistance coil> – **toroidally** *adv*

**torpedo** /'taupēdo/ *n*, *pl* **torpedoes** 1 ELECTRIC RAY 2 a self-propelling cigar-shaped submarine explosive projectile used for attacking ships 3 *NAm* a charge of explosive in a container or case [L, lit, stiffness, numbness, fr *torpere* to be stiff or numb; fr the paralysing effect of the electric ray's sting]

**torpedo** *vt* **torpedoing**; **torpedoed** 1 to hit or destroy by torpedo 2 to destroy or nullify (e.g. a plan) – *infml*

**torpedo boat** *n* a small fast warship armed primarily with torpedoes

**torpedo bomber** *n* a military aeroplane designed to carry torpedoes

**torpid** /'taupid/ *adj* 1a having temporarily lost the power of movement or feeling (e.g. in hibernation) b sluggish in functioning or acting 2 lacking in energy or vigour [L *torpidus*, fr *torpere* to be stiff or numb, akin to L *stipris* trunk, stock, lineage, OE *starian* to stare – more at **STARE**] – **torpidly** *adv*, **torpidity** /'taupidi/ *n*

**torpor** /'taupa/ *n* 1a a state of mental and motor inactivity with partial or total insensibility b extreme sluggishness of action or function 2 apathy [L, fr *torpere*]

**torque** /'tauk/ *n* a twisted metal collar or neck chain worn by the ancient Gauls, Germans, and Britons [F, fr L *torques*, fr *torquere* to twist – more at **TORTURE**]

**torque** *n* 1 (a measure of the effectiveness of) a force that produces or tends to produce rotation or torsion <a car engine delivers ~ to the drive shaft> 2 a turning or twisting force [L *torquere* to twist]

**torque converter** *n* a device for transmitting and amplifying torque, esp by hydraulic means

**torr** /'tau/ *n*, *pl* **torr** a unit of pressure equal to 133.3Pa ➡ **UNIT** [Evangelista Torricelli †1647 It mathematician & physicist]

**torrent** /'torənt/ *n* 1 a violent stream of water, lava, etc 2 a raging tumultuous flow [F, fr L *torrent-*, *torrens*, fr *torrens*, *torrens* burning, seething, rushing, fr *prp* of *torrere* to parch, burn – more at **THIRST**]

**torrential** /'tə'rensh(ə)/ *adj* 1 resulting from the action of rapid streams 2 of, caused by, or resembling a torrent – **torrentially** *adv*

**torrid** /'torid/ *adj* 1a parched with heat, esp of the sun b giving off intense heat 2 ardent, passionate <~ love letters> [L *torridus*, fr *torrere*] – **torridly** *adv*, **torridness** *n*, **torridity** /'tə'riditi/ *n*

**torrid zone** *n* the belt of the earth between the tropics

**torsion** /ˈtawsh(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or process of twisting or turning sthg, esp by forces exerted on one end while the other is fixed or twisted in the opposite direction 2 the state of being twisted 3 the twisting of a bodily organ on its own axis [LL *torsus*, pp of L *torquere* to twist] – **torsional** *adj*

**torsk** /ˈtawsk/ *n* a large edible marine fish related to the cod [of Scand origin, akin to Norw, Sw, & Dan *torsk* codfish, ON *thorskr*]

**torso** /ˈtawsoh/ *n*, *pl* **torsoes**, **torci** /ˈtawsi/ 1 (a sculptured representation of) the human trunk 2 sthg (e.g. a piece of writing) that is mutilated or left unfinished [It, lit, stalk, fr L *thyrus* stalk, *thyrus*]

**tort** /ˈtawti/ *n* a wrongful act, other than breach of contract, for which a civil action for damages may be brought [ME, fr MF, fr ML *tortum*, fr L, neut of *tortus* twisted, fr pp of *torquere*]

**torte** /ˈtawta/ *n*, *pl* **torten** /ˈtawtən/, **tortes** /ˈtawtɜː/ a gâteau [G, prob fr It *torta*, fr L.L. round loaf of bread]

**tortfeasor** /ˈtawtiːfeɪzə/ *n* one who commits a tort [F *tortfaiseur*, fr MF, fr *tort* + *faiseur* doer, maker, fr *faire* to make, do, fr L *facere* – more at *do*]

**torticollis** /ˈtawtiːkəliːs/ *n* a permanent twisting of the neck resulting in an abnormal carriage of the head [NL, fr L *tortus* twisted + *-ia* + *collum* neck – more at *collar*]

**tortilla** /ˈtawtiːljə/ *n* a round thin cake of unleavened maize bread, usu eaten hot with a topping or filling of minced meat or cheese [AmerSp, dim of Sp *torta* cake, fr L.L. round loaf of bread]

**tortious** /ˈtawchəs/ *adj* implying or involving a tort – **tortiously** *adv*

**tortoise** /ˈtawtiːs, ˈtawtoɪs/ *n* 1 any of an order of land and freshwater (and marine) reptiles with a toothless horny beak and a bony shell which encloses the trunk and into which the head, limbs, and tail may be withdrawn, esp a *m.* 4 tortoise commonly kept as a pet 2 sby or sthg slow or laggard [ME *tortu*, *tortuce*, fr MF *tortue* – more at *turtle*]

**tortoiseshell** /ˈtawtiːʃel/ *n* 1 the mottled horny substance of the shell of some marine turtles used in inlaying and in making various ornamental articles 2 any of several butterflies with striking orange, yellow, brown, and black coloration

**tortoiseshell** *adj* mottled black, brown, and yellow (< *cat*)

**tortriciid** /ˈtawtriːsiːd/ *n* any of a family of small stout-bodied moths many of whose larvae live in nests formed by rolling up plant leaves [NL *Tortricidae*, group name, fr *Tortrix*, *Tortrix*] – **tortriciid** *adj*

**tortrix** /ˈtawtriːks/ *n* a tortricid moth [NL *Tortrix*, *Tortrix*, genus of moths, fr L *tortus*, pp of *torquere* to twist, fr its habit of twisting or rolling leaves to make a nest]

**tortuous** /ˈtawtiːʊəs/ *adj* 1 marked by repeated twists, bends, or turns 2a marked by devious or indirect tactics b circuitous, involved [MF, fr MF *tortueux*, fr L *tortuosus*, fr *tortus* twist, fr *tortus*, pp of *torquere*] – **tortuously** *adv*, **tortuousness** *n*, **tortuosity** /ˈtawtiːʊəsəti/ *n*

**torture** /ˈtawchə/ *n* 1 the infliction of intense physical or mental suffering as a means of punishment, coercion, or sadistic gratification 2 (sthg causing) anguish of body or mind [Fr, fr L.L. *tortura*, fr L *tortus*, pp of *torquere* to twist, akin to OHG *draht* turner, Gk *attractos* spindle]

**torture** *vt* 1 to subject to torture 2 to cause intense suffering to 3 to twist or wrench out of shape, also to pervert (e.g. the meaning of a word) – **torturer** *n*

**torula** /ˈtoryoola, ˈtawralə, ˈtawyala/ *n*, *pl* **torulae** /-i/ also **torulus** any of various fungi, esp yeasts, that lack sexual spores and do not produce alcoholic fermentations [NL, fr L *torus* protuberance]

**torus** /ˈtawrəs/ *n*, *pl* **tori** /-ri/ 1 a smooth rounded anatomical protuberance 2 RECFIACLL 2 3 a ring-shaped surface generated by a circle rotated about an axis in its plane that does not intersect the circle; broadly a toroid 4 a large convex semicircular moulding, esp on the base of a column, pedestal, etc. ARCHITECTURE [NL, fr L, protuberance, bulge]

**Tory** /ˈtawri/ *n* 1a a member of a major British political group of the 18th and early 19th c favouring at first the Stuarts and later royal authority and the established church and seeking to preserve the traditional political structure and defeat parliamentary reform – compare *WHIG* b CONSERVATIVE 1 2 an American upholding the cause of the crown during the American Revolution [IrGael *tóraidhe* pursuer, robber, fr Mlr *toir* pursuit; orig applied to dispossessed Irish Royalists in the 17th c] – **Tory** *adj*, **Toryism** *n*

**tosh** /ˈtosh/ *n* sheer nonsense – *infrm* [origin unknown]

**toss** /ˈtos/ *vt* 1a to fling or heave repeatedly about (< a ship ~ ed by waves) b BANDY 1 2a to throw with a quick, light, or careless motion (< a ball around) b to throw up in the air (< ed by a bull) c to flip (a coin) to decide an issue 3 to lift with a sudden jerking motion (< es her head angrily) ~ *vi* 1 to move restlessly or turbulently; esp to twist and turn

repeatedly (< ed sleeplessly all night) 2 to decide an issue by flipping a coin – often + *up* [prob of Scand origin, akin to Sw dial *fossa* to spread, scatter] – **tosser** *n*

**toss** *n* 1a being tossed b a fall, esp from a horse – chiefly in *take a toss* 2 an act or instance of tossing, e.g. a an abrupt tilting or upward fling b an act or instance of deciding by chance, esp by tossing a coin c a throw 3 *Br* DAMN 2 – chiefly in *not give a toss*

**toss off** *vt* 1 to perform or write quickly and easily 2 to consume quickly, esp to drink in a single draught ~ *vi*, *Br* to masturbate – *infrm*

**tossup** /ˈtos,pot/ *n* a drunkard, sot

**toss-up** *n* 1 toss 2b 2 an even chance or choice – *infrm*

**tot** /ˈtot/ *n* 1 a small child, a toddler 2 a small amount or allowance of alcoholic drink (< a ~ of rum) [origin unknown]

**total** /ˈtoʊtl/ *adj* 1 comprising or constituting a whole; entire 2 complete (< a ~ success) 3 concentrating all available personnel and resources on a single objective (< war) [ME, fr MF, fr ML *totalis*, fr L *totus* whole, entire] – **totally** *adv*

**total** *n* 1 a product of addition 2 an entire quantity

**total** *vt* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /ˈtoʊtl-ɪŋ/ 1 to add up 2 to amount to

**total eclipse** *n* an eclipse in which one celestial body is completely obscured by another

**total internal reflection** *n* total reflection of a light ray from the more highly refractive of 2 adjacent media at their interface when the optical angle is exceeded

**totalitarian** /ˈtoʊtəlɪˈteəriən/ *adj* 1 authoritarian, dictatorial 2 of or constituting a political regime based on subordination of the individual to the state and strict control over all aspects of the life and productive capacity of the nation [total + -itarian (as in *authoritarian*)] – **totalitarianism** *n*

**totality** /ˈtoʊtəlɪti/ *n* 1 an entire amount, a whole 2a wholeness b a period during which one body is completely obscured by another during an eclipse

**total-izator**, **-isator** /ˈtoʊtl ɪˌzəɪtə/ *n* a machine for registering bets and calculating winnings in pari-mutuel betting

**totalize**, **-ise** /ˈtoʊtlɪz/ *vt* 1 to add up 2 to express as a whole, summarize – **totalizer** *n*

**total utility** *n* the degree of utility of an economic good (e.g. an article or service) considered as a whole

**tote** /ˈtoʊt/ *vt* 1 to carry by hand or on the person 2 to transport, convey *USE* *infrm* [origin unknown]

**tote** *n* a totalizer

**tote bag**, **tote** *n* a large bag for carrying esp shopping or personal possessions

**totem** /ˈtoʊtəm/ *n* 1 a natural object serving as the emblem of a family or clan, also a carved or painted representation of this 2 sthg that serves as an emblem or revered symbol [Ojibwa *ototeman* his totem] – **totemic** /ˈtoʊtemɪk/ *adj*

**totemism** /ˈtoʊtɪzəm/ *n* belief in a mystical relationship between a group or individual and a totem – **totemist** *n*

**totem pole** *n* 1 a pole carved and painted with a series of totemic symbols erected before the houses of some N American Indian tribes 2 an order of rank, a hierarchy

**tother**, **rother** /ˈtuðə/ *pron* or *adj*, chiefly dial the other [ME *tother*, alter (by incorrect division of *the other* the other, fr *thet* the – fr OE *thæt* + *other* of other – more at *thar*]

**toter** /ˈtota/ *vi* 1a to tremble or rock as if about to fall b to become unstable, threaten: to collapse 2 to move unsteadily, stagger [ME *toieren*]

**toter** *n* an unsteady gait – **tottery** *adj*

**totting** /ˈtɒtɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* the occupation of scavenging refuse for salable goods, esp illicitly [for (bone, sthg salvaged from refuse), of unknown origin] – **totter** *n*

**totting-up** *n*, *Br* a legal procedure whereby a certain number of convictions for traffic offences disqualifies one from driving – *infrm*

**tot up** *vt* to add together [tot up the score] ~ *vi* to increase by additions (< the money soon tots up) [for (to add up), short for *'total*]

**Touareg** /ˈtwah,reg/ *n* a Tuareg

**toucan** /ˈtoʊkən/ *n* any of a family of fruit-eating birds of tropical America with brilliant colouring and a very large but light beak [F, fr Pg *tucano*, fr Tupi]

**touch** /ˈtʊtʃ/ *vt* 1 to bring a bodily part into contact with, esp so as to perceive through the sense of feeling; feel 2 to strike or push lightly, esp with the hand or foot or an implement 3 to lay hands on (sby afflicted with scrofula) with intent to heal 4a to take into the hands or mouth

<never ~ es alcohol> **b** to put hands on in any way or degree <don't ~ anything before the police come>; esp to commit violence against <swears he never ~ ed the child> **5** to concern oneself with **6** to cause to be briefly in contact with sthg <~ a match to the wick> **7a(1)** to meet without overlapping or penetrating **(2)** to get to, reach <the speedometer needle ~ ed 80> **b** to be tangent to **8** to affect the interest of; concern **9a** to leave a mark or impression on <few reagents will ~ gold> **b** to harm slightly (as if) by contact; blemish <fruit ~ ed by frost> **c** to give a delicate tint, line, or expression to <a smile ~ ed her lips> **10** to draw or delineate with light strokes **11** to move to esp sympathetic feeling <~ ed by the loyalty of her friends> **12** to speak or tell of, esp in passing **13** RIVAL **3** **14** to induce to give or lend <~ ed him for 10 quid> ~ **vi** **1a** to feel sthg with a body part (e.g. the hand or foot) **b** to lay hands on sb to cure disease (e.g. scrofula) **2** to be in contact **3** to come close <his actions ~ on treason> **4** to have a bearing - + on or upon **5a** to make a brief or incidental stop on shore during a trip by water <~ ed at several ports> **b** to treat a topic in a brief or casual manner - + on or upon **USE** (v1 12) fml, (vt 13&14) infml [ME *touchen*, fr OF *tuchier*, fr (assumed) VL *toccare* to knock, strike a bell, touch, of imit origin] - **touchable** *adj*, **toucher** *n* - **touch wood** **1** with a certain amount of luck <everything will be all right now, touch wood> **2** *Br* to touch a wooden surface as a gesture to bring luck

**touch** *n* **1** a light stroke, tap, or push **2** the act or fact of touching **3** the sense of feeling, esp as exercised deliberately with the hands, feet, or lips **4** mental or moral sensitivity, responsiveness, or tact <has a wonderful ~ with children> **5** a specified sensation conveyed through the sense of touch <the velvety ~ of a fabric> **6** the testing of gold or silver on a touchstone **7** sthg slight of its kind. e.g. **a** a light attack <a ~ of fever> **b** a small amount, a trace <a ~ of spring in the air> **c** a bit, little - in the adverbial phrase a touch <aimed a ~ too low and missed> **8a** a manner or method of touching or striking esp the keys of a keyboard instrument **b** the relative resistance to pressure of the keys of a keyboard (e.g. of a piano or typewriter) **9** an effective and appropriate detail, esp one used in an artistic composition **10** a distinctive or characteristic manner, trait, or quality <a woman's ~> **11** the state or fact of being in contact or communication <out of ~ with modern times> **12** the area outside the touchlines in soccer or outside and including the touchlines in rugby **13a** an act of soliciting or receiving a gift or loan of money **b** sb who can be easily induced to part with money - chiefly in a soft/easy touch **USE** (13) slang

**touch and 'go** *n* a highly uncertain or precarious situation

**'touch,down** /-down/ *n* **1** the act of touching down a football **2** (the moment of) touching down (e.g. of an aeroplane or spacecraft)

**touch down** *vi* to place (the ball in rugby) by hand on the ground either positioned on or over an opponent's goal line in scoring a try, or behind one's own goal line as a defensive measure ~ *vi* to reach the ground

**touché** /tooh'shay/ *interj* - used to acknowledge a hit in fencing or the success of an argument, accusation, or witty point [F, fr pp of *toucher* to touch, fr OF *tuchier*]


**touché** /tucht/ *adj* **1** emotionally moved (e.g. with gratitude) **2** slightly unbalanced mentally - infml

**'touch,hole** /-hohl/ *n* the hole in early cannon or firearms through which the charge was ignited

**'touching** /'tuching/ *prep* in reference to, concerning - fml

**\*touching** *adj* capable of arousing tenderness or compassion - touchingly *adv*

**touch judge** *n* a rugby linesman

**'touch,line** /-lien/ *n* either of the lines that bound the sides of the field of play in rugby and soccer  **SPORT**

**'touch,mark** /-mahk/ *n* an identifying maker's mark impressed on pewter

**touch off** *vi* **1** to cause to explode (as if) by touching with a naked flame **2** to release with sudden intensity

**'touch,paper** /-paypə/ *n* paper, impregnated with a substance (e.g. potassium nitrate), that burns slowly and is used esp for the ignition of fireworks

**'touch,stone** /-stohn/ *n* **1** a black flintlike siliceous stone that when rubbed by gold or silver showed a streak of colour and was formerly used to test the purity of these metals **2** a test or criterion for determining the genuineness of sthg

**'touch,type** *vi* to type without looking at the keyboard, using a system that assigns a particular finger to each key

**touch up** *vi* **1** to improve or perfect by small alterations; make good the minor defects of **2** to stimulate (as if) by a flick of a whip **3** to make often

unwelcome physical advances to, touch with a view to arousing sexually - slang

**'touch,wood** /-wood/ *n* wood so decayed as to be dry, crumbly, and useful for tinder

**touchy** /'tuchi/ *adj* **1** ready to take offence on slight provocation **2** calling for tact, care, or caution <sexism was a ~ subject with his wife> - touchily *adv*, touchiness *n*

**\*tough** /tuf/ *adj* **1a** strong and flexible, not brittle or liable to cut, break, or tear **b** not easily chewed **2** severe or uncompromisingly determined <a ~ and inflexible foreign policy - New Statesman> **3** capable of enduring great hardship or exertion **4** very hard to influence **5** extremely difficult or testing <a ~ question to answer> **6** aggressive or threatening in behaviour **7** without softness or sentimentality **8** unfortunate, unpleasant - infml <~ luck> [ME, fr OE *toht*, akin to OHG *zahh* tough] - toughly *adv*, toughness *n*

**\*tough** *n* a tough person, esp sb aggressively violent

**\*tough** *adv* in a tough manner <talk ~>

**toughen** /'tuf(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become tough

**,tough-minded** *adj* unsentimental or realistic in disposition or outlook - tough-mindedness *n*

**toupee** /'tooh,peɪ/ *n* a wig or hairpiece worn to cover a bald spot [F *toupet* forelock, fr OF, dim of *top*, *toup*, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *zopf* tuft of hair - more at *TOP*]

**\*tour** /'tuə/ *n* **1** a period during which an individual or unit is engaged on a specific duty, esp in 1 place <his regiment did a ~ in N Ireland> **2a** a journey (e.g. for business or pleasure) in which one returns to the starting point **b** a visit (e.g. to a historic site or factory) for pleasure or instruction <a guided ~ of the castle> **c** a series of professional engagements involving travel <a theatrical company on ~> [ME, fr MF, fr OF *tour*, *tour* lathe, circuit, turn - more at *TURN*]

**\*tour** *vi* to make a tour ~ *vt* **1** to make a tour of **2** to present (e.g. a theatrical production or concert) on a tour

**touraco** /'tuəərə,koh/ *n*, *pl* **touracos** any of a family of African birds that have a long tail, a short stout beak, and red wing feathers. [native name in W Africa]

**tour de force** /'tuə də 'fawz (Fr tu:r də fɔrs)/ *n*, *pl* **tour de force** /~/ a feat of strength, skill, or ingenuity [F]

**tourism** /'tuə,rɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1** the practice of travelling for recreation **2** the organizing of tours for commercial purposes **3a** the promotion or encouragement of touring, esp at governmental level **b** the provision of services (e.g. accommodation) for tourists


**tourist** /'tuərist/ *n* **1** sb who makes a tour for recreation or culture **2** a member of a sports team that is visiting another country to play usu international matches - tourist *adj*

**tourist class** *n* the lowest class of accommodation (e.g. on a ship)

**touristy** /'tuəristi/ *adj* frequented by or appealing to tourists - chiefly derog

**tourmaline** /'tuəmə,leen/ *n* a variously coloured mineral consisting of a complex silicate and used as a gem when transparent [Sinhalese *toramalli* carnelian]

**tournament** /'tuənmənt, 'taw-/ *n* **1** a contest between 2 parties of mounted knights armed with usu blunted lances or swords **2** a series of games or contests for a championship [ME *turnement*, fr OF *torneiment*, fr *torneier*]

**turnedos** /'tuəndə,doh/ *n*, *pl* **turnedos** /-doh(z)/ a small steak cut from the centre of a beef fillet and usu larded, tied, and held in shape with a skewer  **MEAT** [F, fr *tourner* to turn (fr OF) + *dos* back, fr L *dorsum* - more at *TURN*]

**\*tourney** /'tuəni, 'tawni/ *vi* to take part in a tournament, esp in the Middle Ages [ME *turneyen*, fr MF *torneier*, fr OF, fr *turn*, *tour* lathe, circuit]

**\*tourney** *n* a tournament, esp in the Middle Ages


**tourniquet** /'tuəni,kay, 'taw-/ *n* a bandage or other device for applying pressure to check bleeding or blood flow [F, turnstile, tourniquet, fr *tourner* to turn, fr OF - more at *TURN*]

**tousle** /'towzl/ *vt* to dishevel, rumple [ME *touselen*, freq of *-tousen*; akin to OHG *zirzusun* to pull to pieces]

**\*tout** /'towt/ *vi* to solicit for customers ~ *vt* **1a** to solicit or peddle importunately **b** *Br* to sell (tickets in great demand) at exploitative prices **2a** *Br* to spy out information about (e.g. a racing stable or horse) **b** *NAm* to give a tip or solicit bets on (a racehorse) [ME *tuten* to peer; akin to OE *totian* to stick out, Norw *tyte*]

**\*tout** *n* sb who touts: **e** *g* a sb who solicits custom, usu importunately **b** *Br* sb who offers tickets for a sold-out entertainment (e.g. a concert or football match) at vastly inflated prices



**trachea** /trə'keɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **tracheas** also **tracheas** 1 the main trunk of the system of tubes by which air passes to and from the lungs in vertebrates; the windpipe  DIGESTION 2 VESSEL 3b 3 any of the small tubes carrying air in most insects and many other arthropods [ME, fr ML, fr LL *trachia*, fr Gk *tracheia* (*artēria*) rough (artery), fr fem of *trachys* rough; akin to Gk *thrassein* to trouble – more at DARK; (2, 3) NL, fr ML] – **tracheal** *adj*, **tracheate** /trə'keɪ-ət, -əyt, 'tray-/ *adj*

**tracheotomy** /trə'keɪtəmi/ *n* the surgical operation of cutting into the trachea, esp through the skin, usu to relieve suffocation by inhaled matter


**trachoma** /trə'kɒmə/ *n* a chronic contagious eye disease that is caused by a rickettsia and commonly causes blindness if left untreated [NL, fr Gk *trachōma*, fr *trachys* rough] – **trachomatous** /trə'kɒmətəs, -'kɒh-/ *adj*

**trachyte** /trækɪt, 'tray-/ *n* a usu light-coloured volcanic rock consisting chiefly of potash feldspar [F, fr Gk *trachys* rough]

**trachytic** /trə'kɪtɪk/ *adj* of a texture of igneous rocks in which lath-shaped feldspar crystals are in almost parallel lines

**tracing** /'treɪsɪŋ/ *n* sthg traced: e.g. a a copy (e.g. of a design or map) made on a superimposed semitransparent sheet b (a map of) the ground plan of a military installation

**tracing paper** *n* a semitransparent paper for tracing drawings

**track** /træk/ *n* 1a detectable evidence (e.g. a line of footprints or a wheel rut) that sthg has passed b a path beaten (as if) by feet c a specially laid-out course, esp for racing d(1) the parallel rails of a railway (2) a rail or length of railing along which sthg, esp a curtain, moves or is pulled e(1) any of a series of parallel elongated regions on a magnetic tape on which a recording is made  VIDEO (2) a more or less independent sequence of recording (e.g. a single song) visible as a distinct band on a gramophone record 2 a recent or fossil footprint (*the huge ~ of a dinosaur*) 3a the course along which sthg moves b the projection on the earth's surface of the path along which sthg (e.g. a missile) has flown 4 the condition of being aware of a fact or development (*keep ~ of the costs*) 5a the width of a wheeled vehicle from wheel to wheel, usu from the outside of the rims b either of 2 endless usu metal belts on which a tracklaying vehicle travels [ME *trak*, fr MF *trac*, perh of Gmc origin, akin to MD *tracken*, *trecken* to pull, haul – more at TREK] – **trackless** *adj* – *In one's tracks* where one stands or is at the moment (*was stopped in his tracks*)

**track** *vt* 1 to follow the tracks or traces of 2 to observe or plot the course of (e.g. a spacecraft) instrumentally 3a to make tracks on b *NAm* to carry on the feet and deposit (*~ mud into the house*) ~ *vi* 1a of a gramophone needle to follow the groove of a record b of a rear wheel of a vehicle to follow accurately the corresponding fore wheel on a straight track 2 to move a film or television camera towards, beside, or away from a subject while shooting a scene 3 *NAm* to leave tracks (e.g. on a floor) – **tracker** *n*

**track chameleon** *n*, *Br* a worker employed to maintain a section of railway track

**track down** *vt* to search for until found (*track a criminal down*) (*track down their new telephone number*)

**track event** *n* an athletic event that is a race – compare FIELD EVENT

**tracklaying** /-,ləɪɪŋ/ *adj* of or being a vehicle that travels on 2 or more endless usu metal belts

**track record** *n* a record of past achievements, esp in public office

**track suit** *n* a warm loose-fitting suit worn by athletes when training

**tract** /trækt/ *n* a short practical treatise; esp a pamphlet of religious propaganda [ME, modif of L *tractatus* treatise, fr *tractatus*, pp of *tractare* to draw out, handle, treat – more at TREAT]

**tract** *n* 1 a region or area of land of indefinite extent 2 a system of body parts or organs that collectively serve some often specified purpose (*the digestive ~*) [L *tractus* action of drawing, extension, fr *tractus*, pp of *trahere* to pull, draw – more at DRAW]

**tractable** /træktəbəl/ *adj* 1 easily taught or controlled (*a ~ horse*) 2 easily handled or wrought [L *tractabilis*, fr *tractare*] – **tractableness** *n*, **tractably** *adv*, **tractability** /træktə'bɪləti/ *n*

**Tractarianism** /træk'teəri-ə'nɪz(ə)m/ *n* a system of High Church principles set forth in a series of tracts at Oxford (1833–41); the doctrines of the early Oxford Movement – **Tractarian** *adj*

**traction** /trækʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 pulling or being pulled; also the force exerted in pulling 2 the drawing of a vehicle by motive power; also the motive power employed 3a the adhesive friction of a body on a surface on which it moves (*the ~ of a wheel on a rail*) b a pulling force exerted on a skeletal structure (e.g. in treating a fracture) by means of a special device

[ML *traction-*, *tractio*, fr L *tractus*, pp] – **tractional** *adj*, **tractive** /'træktɪv/ *adj*

**traction engine** *n* a large steam- or diesel-powered vehicle used to draw other vehicles or equipment over roads or fields and sometimes to provide power (e.g. for sawing or ploughing)

**tractor** /træktə/ *n* 1 **TRACTION ENGINE** 2a a 4-wheeled or tracklaying vehicle used esp for pulling or using farm machinery b a truck with a short chassis and no body except a driver's cab, used to haul a large trailer or trailers [NL, fr L *tractus*, pp]

**tractor** *adj* pulling or pulled through the air with force exerted from the front (*a ~ monoplane is pulled by its propeller*)

**trad** /trəd/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* traditional – *informal*

**trad** *n* traditional jazz

**trade** /treɪd/ *n* 1a the business or work in which one engages regularly b an occupation requiring manual or mechanical skill, a craft c the people engaged in an occupation, business, or industry d (the social group deriving its income from) commerce as opposed to the professions or landed property 2a the business of buying and selling or bartering commodities b business, market (*when ~ was brisk*) (*novelties for the tourist ~*) 3 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the people or group of firms engaged in a particular business or industry 4 **TRADE WIND** – *usu* *pl* 5 chiefly *NAm* a transaction; also an exchange of property usu without use of money [ME, *course*, way, track, fr MLG, track, akin to OHG *trata* track, *course*, OE *tredan* to tread]

**trade** *vt* to give in exchange for another commodity, also to make an exchange of (*~d secrets*) ~ *vi* 1 to engage in the exchange, purchase, or sale of goods 2 to give one thing in exchange for another – **tradable** also **tradeable** *adj* – *trade on* to take often unscrupulous advantage of (*they traded on her good nature*)


**trade** *adj* 1 of or used in trade (*a ~ agreement*) 2 intended for or limited to people in a business or industry (*a ~ publication*) (*~ discount*)

**trade cycle** *n* the regularly recurrent fluctuation in the level of economic activity

**trade gap** *n* the value by which a country's imports exceed its exports

**trade-in** *n* an item of merchandise (e.g. a car or refrigerator) that is traded in

**trade in** *vt* to give as payment or part payment for a purchase or bill

**trade, mark** /-,mɑ:k/ *n* 1 a name or distinctive symbol or device attached to goods produced by a particular firm or individual and legally reserved to the exclusive use of the owner of the mark as maker or seller  **SYMBOL** 2 a distinguishing feature firmly associated with sb or sthg

**trade name** *n* 1a the name used for an article by the trade b a name given by a manufacturer or seller to an article or service to distinguish it as his/hers 2 the name under which a concern does business

**trade, off** *n* a giving up of one thing in return for another, esp as a compromise

**trader** /treɪdə/ *n* 1 a retail or wholesale dealer 2 a ship engaged in trade [**TRADE** + **-ER**]

**tradescantia** /trə'deɪskənʃi-ə/ *n* any of a genus of commonly grown houseplants with usu blue or violet flowers [NL, genus name, fr John Tradescant  $\dagger$ 1638 E traveller & gardener]

**tradesman** /treɪdzmən/ *n* 1a a shopkeeper b one who delivers goods to private houses 2 a workman in a skilled trade

**trade union** also **trades union** *n* an organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests – **trade unionism** *n*, **trade unionist** *n*

**trade wind**, **trade** *n* a wind blowing almost continually towards the equator from the NE in the belt between the N horse latitudes and the doldrums and from the SE in the belt between the S horse latitudes and the doldrums [obs *trade* (in a regular course or direction), fr *'trade* (course)]

**trading estate** /'treɪdɪŋ/ *n* **INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

**trading stamp** *n* a printed stamp of a certain value given by a retailer to a customer, to be accumulated and redeemed in merchandise or cash

**tradition** /trə'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another 2a an inherited practice or opinion b conventions associated with a group or period (*the title poem represents a complete break with 19th-c ~* – FR Leavis) 3 cultural continuity in attitudes and institutions [ME *tradicoun*, fr MF & L; MF *tradition*, fr L *traditio*-, *traditio* action of handing over, tradition – more at TREASON] – **traditionless** *adj*

**traditional** /trə'dɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adj* 1 of or handed down by tradition 2 of



or being a style of jazz orig played in New Orleans in the early 1900s – **traditionally** *adv*

**traditionalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* respect for tradition as opposed to modernism or liberalism – **traditionalist** *n* or *adj*, **traditionalistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*  
**traduce** /trə'djuːs/ *vt* to (attempt to) damage the reputation or standing of, esp by misrepresentation – *fml* [L. *traducere* to lead across, transfer, degrade, fr *tra-*, *trans-* + *ducere* to lead – more at 'trow] – **traducement** *n*, **traducer** *n*

**traffic** /trafɪk/ *n* **1a** import and export trade **b** the business of bartering or buying and selling *c* illegal or disreputable trade (*drug ~*) **2** exchange (*a lively ~ in ideas* – F L Allen) **3a** the movement (e.g. of vehicles or pedestrians) through an area or along a route **b** the vehicles, pedestrians, ships, or aircraft moving along a route *c* the information or signals transmitted over a communications system **4a** the passengers or cargo carried by a transport system **b** the business of transporting passengers or freight **5** dealings between individuals or groups – *fml* [MF *trafique*, fr OIt *traffico*, fr *trafficare* to trade]

**traffic** *vb* -ck- *vi* to carry on traffic ~ *vt* to trade, barter – **trafficker** *n*

**trafficator** /trafɪkə'tɔː/ *n*, *Br* INDICATOR **1c**, esp a hinged retractable illuminated arm on the side of an old motor car [blend of *traffic* and *indicator*]

**traffic circle** *n*, *NAm* a roundabout

**traffic cone** *n* a conical marker used on a road or highway (e.g. for indicating roadworks)

**traffic island** *n* a paved or planted island in a road designed to guide the flow of traffic and provide refuge for pedestrians

**traffic light** *n* an automatically operated signal of coloured lights for controlling traffic *ⓘ* *pl*

**traffic signal** *n* a signal (e.g. traffic lights) for controlling traffic

**tragacanth** /trə'gækənth/ *n* a gum obtained from various Asiatic or E. European leguminous plants, used in manufacturing (e.g. of books) and in pharmacy [MF *tragacanthē*, fr L *tragacantha*, fr Gk *tragakantha*, fr *tragos* goat + *akantha* thorn]

**tragedian** /træ'dʒiːən/ *n* **1** a writer of tragedies **2 fem** tragedienne an actor who plays tragic roles [tragedienne fr F *tragedienne*, fr MF, fr *tragedie*]

**tragedy** /træ'dʒi/ *n* **1** (a) serious drama in which destructive circumstances result in adversity for and the deaths of the main characters – compare (OMLDB) **1b** **2** a disastrous event, a calamity **3** tragic quality or element [ME *tragedie*, fr MF, fr L *tragodia*, fr Gk *tragodia*, prob fr *tragos* goat + *aoidēn* to sing – more at ODE]

**tragic** /træ'jɪk/ also **tragical** /-kl/ *adj* **1** (expressive) of tragedy (*the ~ significance of the atomic bomb* – H S Truman) **2** of, appropriate to, dealing with, or treated in tragedy **3a** deplorable, lamentable (*the ~ disparity between the actual and the ideal*) **b** marked by a sense of tragedy [L *tragicus*, fr Gk *tragikos*, irreg fr *tragodia*] – **tragically** *adv*

**tragicomedy** /træ'jɪkə'mɒdi/ *n* a literary work in which tragic and comic elements are mixed in a usu ironic way, also a situation or event of such a character [MF *tragicomedie*, fr OIt *tragicomedia*, fr OSP, fr L *tragicomoedia*, fr *tragicus* + *comoedia* comedy] – **tragicomic** /-kɒmɪk/ also **tragicomical** *adj*

**trail** /treɪl/ *vi* **1a** to hang down so as to sweep the ground **b** of a plant, branch, etc to grow to such length as to droop over towards the ground **2a** to walk or proceed draggily or wearily – *usu* + *along* **b** to lag behind, do poorly in relation to others **3** to move or extend slowly in thin streams (*smoke ~ ing from chimneys*) **4a** to extend in an erratic course or line **b** to dwindle (*voice ~ ing off*) **5** to follow a trail; track game ~ *vi* **1a** to drag loosely along a surface, allow to sweep the ground **b** to haul, tow **2a** to drag (e.g. a limb or the body) heavily or wearily **b** to carry or bring along as an addition *c* to draw along in one's wake (*~ ing clouds of glory do we come* – William Wordsworth) **3a** TRACK **1a** **b** to follow behind, esp in the footsteps of *c* to lag behind (e.g. a competitor) [ME *trailen*, fr MF *trailer* to tow, fr (assumed) VL *tragulare*, fr L *tragula* sledge, dragnet]

**trail** *n* **1** the part of a gun carriage that rests on the ground when the piece is unlimbered **2a** sthg that follows as if being drawn behind **b** the streak of light produced by a meteor **3a** a trace or mark left by sby or sthg that has passed or is being followed (*a ~ of blood*) **b(1)** a track made by passage, esp through a wilderness **(2)** a marked path through a forest or mountainous region – **trailless** *adj*

**trailblazer** /-bleɪzə/ *n* **1** a pathfinder **2** PIONEER **2** (*a ~ in astrophysics*) – **trailblazing** *adj*

**trailer** /treɪlə/ *n* **1** a trailing plant **2** a wheeled vehicle designed to be towed (e.g. by a lorry or car); *specif*, *NAm* CARAVAN **2** **3** a set of short

excerpts from a film shown in advance for publicity purposes ['TRAIN + 'FR]

**trailing edge** *n* the rearmost edge of an aerofoil *ⓘ* FLIGHT

**train** /treɪn/ *n* **1** a part of a gown that trails behind the wearer **2a** a retinue, suite **b** a moving file of people, vehicles, or animals **3** the vehicles, men, and sometimes animals that accompany an army with baggage, supplies, ammunition, or siege artillery **4** a connected series of ideas, actions, or events **5** a line of gunpowder laid to lead fire to a charge **6** a series of connected moving mechanical parts (e.g. gears) **7** a connected line of railway carriages or wagons with or without a locomotive [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *trainer* to draw, drag] – **trainful** *n*

**train** *vt* **1** to direct the growth of (a plant), usu by bending, pruning, etc **2a** to form by instruction, discipline, or drill **b** to teach so as to make fit or proficient **3** to prepare (e.g. by exercise) for a test of skill **4** to aim at an object or objective (*~ ed his rifle on the target*) ~ *vi* **1** to undergo training **2** to go by train [ME *trainen* to drag, allure, manipulate, fr MF *trainer*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *trahinare*; akin to L *trahere* to draw – more at DRAW] – **trainable** *adj*

**trainband** /treɪn,bænd/ *n* a 17th- or 18th-c militia company in England or America [alter of *trained band*]

**trainbearer** /-beərə/ *n* an attendant who holds the train of a robe or gown (e.g. on a ceremonial occasion)

**trainee** /treɪ'nee/ *n* one who is being trained for a job

**trainer** /treɪnə/ *n* an aircraft or piece of equipment for training the crew of an aircraft ['TRAIN + 'FR]

**training** /treɪnɪŋ/ *n* **1** the bringing of a person or animal to a desired degree of proficiency in some activity or skill **2** the condition of being trained, esp for a contest (*an athlete out of ~*)

**training college** *n*, *Br* a school offering specialized instruction (*a ~ for traffic wardens*)

**train oil** *n* oil from a whale or other marine animal [obs *train* (train oil), fr ME *trane*, fr MD *trane* or MLG *train*]

**traipse** /treɪps/ *vi* to walk or trudge about, often to little purpose [origin unknown] – **traipse** *n*

**trait** /treɪt/, *trayt* / *n* a distinguishing (personal) quality or characteristic [MF, lit, act of drawing, fr L *tractus* – more at 'TRACT]

**traitor** /treɪtə/, *fem* **traitress** /treɪtrɪs/ *n* **1** sby who betrays another's trust **2** sby who commits treason [ME *traître*, fr OF, fr L *traditor*, fr *traditus*, pp of *tradere* to hand over, deliver, betray, fr *trans-*, *tra-* + *dare* to give – more at 'DATE] – **traitorous** /treɪt(ə)rəs/ *adj*, **traitorously** *adv*

**trajectory** /trə'jektəri/ *n* **1** the curve that a planet, projectile, etc follows **2** a path, progression, or line of development like a physical trajectory [NL *tractoria*, fr *fem* of *tractorius* of passing, fr L *tractus*, pp of *trahere* to cause to cross, cross, fr *trans-*, *tra-* + *jacere* to throw – more at 'JET]

**tram** /trəm/ *n* any of various vehicles. *c* **a** a boxlike wagon running on rails (e.g. in a mine) **b** *chiefly* *Br* a passenger vehicle running on rails and typically operating on urban streets [E dial, shaft of a wheelbarrow, prob fr I.G. *traam*, lit., beam]

**tramcar** /-kɑh/ *n* **1** TRAM **2** *chiefly* *Br* TRAM *b*

**tramline** /-liən/ *n*, *Br* **1** a track on which trams run **2** *pl* (the area between) either of the 2 pairs of sidelines on a tennis court that mark off the area used in doubles play *ⓘ* SPORT

**trammel** /træml/ *n* **1** a net for catching birds or fish, esp one having 3 layers with the middle one finer-meshed and slack so that fish passing through carry some of the centre net through the coarser opposite net and are trapped **2** sthg that impedes freedom of action – *usu* pl with sing. meaning (*the ~s of convention*) **3a** an instrument for drawing ellipses **b** a compass for drawing large circles that consists of a beam with 2 sliding parts – *usu* pl with sing. meaning [ME *tramayle*, a kind of net, fr MF *tremail*, fr LL *tremaculum*, fr L *tres* three + *macula* mesh, spot – more at THREE]

**trammel** *vi* -ll- (*NAm* -l-, -ll-), /træml-ɪŋ/ **1** to enmesh **2** to impede the free play of

**tramontane** /trə'montəɪn/ *adj* **1** transalpine **2** lying on or coming from the other side of a mountain range [It *tramontano*, fr L *transmontanus*, fr *trans-* + *mont-*, *mons* mountain – more at 'MOUNT]

**tramp** /træmp/ *vi* **1** to walk or tread, esp heavily **2a** to travel about on foot **b** to journey as a tramp ~ *vt* **1** to trample **2** to travel or wander through on foot [ME *trampen*; akin to MLG *trampen* to stamp, OE *treppan* to tread – more at 'TRAP] – **tramper** *n*

**tramp** *n* **1** a wandering vagrant who survives by taking the occasional job or by begging or stealing money and food **2** a usu long and tiring walk **3** the heavy rhythmic tread of feet **4** an iron plate to protect the sole of

a shoe 5 a merchant vessel that does not work a regular route but carries general cargo to any port as required 6 chiefly *NAM* a promiscuous woman

**trample** /tramp/ *vb* **trampling** /trampling/ *vi* 1 to tread heavily so as to bruise, crush, or injure 2 to treat destructively with ruthlessness or contempt – usu + *on, over, or upon* (trampling on the rights of others) ~ *vt* to press down, crush, or injure (as if) by treading [ME *trampelen*, freq of *trampen* to tramp] – **trample** *n*, **trampler** *n*

**trampoline** /trampəˈleɪn/ *n* a resilient sheet or web supported by springs in a frame and used as a springboard in tumbling [Sp *trampolín*, fr It *trampolino*, of Gmc origin, akin to MLG *trampen* to stamp] – **trampoliner** /-ˈleɪnə/ *n*, **trampolining** *n*

**tramroad** /trɑːmˈroʊd/ *n* a track for hauling trams in a mine

**tramway** /-ˈweɪ/ *n*, *Br* a system of tracks (e.g. laid in the surface of urban streets) for trams

**trance** /traɪns/ *n* 1 a state of semiconsciousness or unconsciousness with reduced or absent sensitivity to external stimulation 2 a usu self-induced state of altered consciousness or ecstasy in which religious or mystical visions may be experienced 3 a state of profound abstraction or absorption [ME, fr MF *trance*, fr *transire* to pass away, swoon, fr L *transire* to pass, pass away – more at TRANSIRE] – **trancelike** *adj*

**tranche** /traɪnʃ/ (*Fr* trɑ̃ʃ) *n* a block of shares usu supplementary to an already existing issue [F, lit, slice, fr OF, fr *trenchier*, *trancher* to cut]

**tranny** /ˈtrɑːni/ *n*, chiefly *Br* TRANSISTOR RADIO – infml [transistor + *y*]

**tranquil** /ˈtræŋkwɪl/ *adj* free from mental agitation or from disturbance or commotion [L *tranquillus*] – **tranquilly** *adv*, **tranquillity** /ˈtræŋkwɪləti/ *n*

**tranquillize**, -ise, *NAM* chiefly **tranquillize** /ˈtræŋkwɪlɪz/ *vt* to make tranquil or calm; esp to relieve of mental tension and anxiety by drugs ~ *vi* to become tranquil

**tranquillizer**, -iser, *NAM* chiefly **tranquillizer** /ˈtræŋkwɪlɪzə/ *n* a drug (e.g. diazepam) used to tranquillize [TRANQUILLIZE + *-ER*]

**trans** /trænz/ *adj* characterized by having identical atoms or groups on opposite sides of the molecule – usu *ital*, often in combination (trans-dichloroethylene), compare *cis* [trans-]

**trans-** /tranz, trahnz/ *prefix* 1 on or to the other side of, across, beyond (transatlantic) (transcontinental) 2 beyond (a specified chemical element) in the periodic table (transuronic) 3 through (transcutaneous) (trans-sonic) 4 so or such as to change or transfer (transliterate) (translocation) (transship) [L *trans-*, *tra-* across, beyond, through, so as to change, fr *trans* across, beyond – more at THROUGH] – **transact** /tranzˈzɑːkt/ *vt* to perform, CARRY OUT 1, esp to conduct (business to be ~ed by experts) [L *transactus*, pp of *transigere* to drive through, complete, transact, fr *trans-* + *agere* to drive, do – more at AGENT] – **transactor** *n*

**transaction** /tranzˈzækʃ(ə)n, trahn-/ *n* 1 transacting 2a sthg transacted, esp a business deal *b pl* the (published) record of the meeting of a society or association – **transactional** *adj*

**transalpine** /tranzˈzɑːpiːn, trahn-/ *adj* north of the Alps [L *transalpinus*, fr *trans-* + *Alpes* the Alps]

**transatlantic** /tranzəˈtɒləntɪk, trahn-/ *adj* 1 crossing or extending across the Atlantic ocean (a ~ cable) 2 situated beyond the Atlantic ocean 3 (characteristic) of people or places situated beyond the Atlantic ocean; specif, chiefly *Br* American (a ~ accent)

**transceiver** /tranzˈsiːvə, trahn-/ *n* a combined radio transmitter and receiver [transmitter + receiver]

**transcend** /tranzˈsend, trahn-/ *vt* 1a to go beyond the limits of *b* to be or extend beyond and above (the universe or material existence) 2 to surpass, excel ~ *vi* to rise above or extend notably beyond ordinary limits [L *transcendere* to climb across, transcend, fr *trans-* + *scandere* to climb – more at SCAN]

**transcendent** /tranzˈsend(ə)nt, also trahn-/ *adj* 1a exceeding usual limits; surpassing *b* beyond the limits of ordinary experience *c* beyond the limits of possible experience and knowledge – used in Kantianism 2 transcending the universe or material existence – compare IMMANENT [L *transcendent-*, *transcendens*, prp of *transcendere*] – **transcendence**, **transcendency** *n*, **transcendently** *adv*

**transcendental** /tranzˈsend(ə)ntəl, also trahn-/ *adj* 1 of or employing the basic categories (e.g. space and time) presupposed by knowledge and experience (a ~ proof) 2 **TRANSCENDENTAL** 1a 3a of or being a transcendental number *b* being, involving, or representing a function (e.g.  $\sin x$ ,  $\log x$ ,  $e^x$ ) that cannot be expressed by a finite number of algebraic

operations (~ curves) 4a **TRANSCENDENT** 1b *b* supernatural *c* abstruse, abstract *d* of transcendentalism – **transcendentially** *adv*

**transcendentalism** /-ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a philosophy that emphasizes the basic categories of knowledge and experience, or asserts fundamental reality to be transcendent 2 a philosophy that asserts the primacy of the spiritual over the material – **transcendentalist** *adj* or *n*

**transcendental number** *n* a number (e.g.  $e$  or  $\pi$ ) that cannot be the root of an algebraic equation with rational coefficients – compare ALGEBRAIC 2 – NUMBER

**transcontinental** /tranzˈkɒntɪˈnɛntl, trahnz-/ *adj* crossing or extending across a continent

**transcribe** /tranzˈskriːb, also trahn-/ *vt* 1a to make a written copy or version of (e.g. sthg written or printed) *b* to write in a different medium, transliterate (~ a word in phonetics) (~ shorthand) *c* to write down, record 2 to transfer (data) from one recording form to another 3 to make a musical transcription of [L *transcribere*, fr *trans-* + *scribere* to write – more at SCRIBE] – **transcriber** *n*

**transcript** /ˈtrænskɪpt, 'trahn-/ *n* 1 a written, printed, or typed copy, esp of dictated or recorded material 2 an official written copy (a court reporter's ~) [ME, fr ML *transcriptum*, fr L, neut of *transcriptus*, pp of *transcribere*]

**transcription** /tranzˈskrɪpʃ(ə)n, trahn-/ *n* 1 transcribing 2 a copy, transcript: e.g. *a* an often free arrangement of a musical composition for some instrument or voice other than the original *b* a sound recording suitable for broadcasting and thus usu of high quality 3 the naturally occurring process of constructing a molecule of nucleic acid (e.g. messenger RNA) using a DNA molecule as a template, with resulting transfer of genetic information to the newly formed molecule – compare TRANSCRIPTION 2 – **transcriptional** *adj*

**transducer** /tranzˈdyʊʊsə, trahnz-/ *n* a device that transfers energy from one system to another, esp one that converts nonelectrical energy into electrical energy or vice versa [L *transducere* to lead across, fr *trans-* + *ducere* to lead – more at LEAD]

**transsect** /tranzˈsekt/ *vt* to cut transversely [trans- + -sect] – **transsection** /-ˈseks(ə)n/ *n*

**transept** /trænsɛpt/ *n* (either of the projecting arms of) the part of a cross-shaped church that crosses the E end of the nave at right angles [NL *transeptum*, fr L *trans-* + *septum*, *saepium* enclosure, wall – more at SEPTUM] – **transeptal** /-ˈseptl/ *adj*

**transfer** /tranzˈfɜː, trahnz-/ *vb* -rr- *vt* 1a to convey or cause to pass from one person, place, or situation to another *b* to move or send to another location (~ red her business to the capital), specif to move (a professional soccer player) to another football club 2 to make over the possession or control of 3 to copy (e.g. a design) from one surface to another by contact ~ *vi* 1 to move to a different place, region, or situation 2 to change from one vehicle or transport system to another [ME *transferren*, fr L *trans-ferre*, fr *trans-* + *ferre* to carry – more at BEAR] – **transferable**, **transferable** /-ˈfɜːrəbl/ *adj*, **transferral** /-ˈfɜːrəl/ *n*, **transferor**, **transferer** *n*, **transferee** /tranzˈfɜːrɪ, trahnz-/ *n*

**transfer** /tranzˈfɜː, trahnz-/ *n* 1 conveyance of right, title, or interest in property 2a transferring *b* transference 3 sthg or sb that transfers or is transferred; esp a design or picture transferred by contact from one surface (e.g. specially prepared paper) to another 4 *NAM* a ticket entitling a passenger on a public conveyance to continue a journey on another route

**transferable vote** /tranzˈfɜːrəbl/ *n* a vote which in balloting by proportional representation may be transferred to a candidate other than the first choice

**transferase** /tranzˈfɛrɪz, -rays, 'trahnz-/ *n* an enzyme that promotes transfer of a chemical group from one molecule to another

**transference** /tranzˈfɛərəns, tranzˈfɜːrəns, trahnz-/ *n* the redirection of feelings and desires, esp those unconsciously retained from childhood, towards a new object (e.g. towards a psychoanalyst conducting therapy) [TRANSFER + -FENCE] – **transferential** /tranzˈfɛrɪn(ə)l, trahnz-/ *adj*

**transfer paper** /tranzˈfɜː, trahnzˈfɜː/ *n* a paper with a special coating for transferring a design

**transfer RNA** *n* a relatively small RNA that transfers a particular amino acid to a growing polypeptide chain at the ribosome site for protein synthesis – compare MESSENGER RNA

**transfiguration** /tranzˈfɪɡ(ə)rɪʃ(ə)n, trahnz-/ *n* 1a a change in form or appearance, a metamorphosis *b* an exalting, glorifying, or spiritual change 2 *cap* August 6 observed as a Christian festival in commemoration of the transfiguration of Christ as described in Mt 17:2 and Mk 9:2-3

**transfigure** /tranzˈfɪɡə, trahnz-/ *vt* to give a new appearance to; trans-

form outwardly and usu for the better [ME *transfigurare*, fr L *transfigurare*, fr *trans-* + *figurare* to shape, fashion, fr *figura* figure]

**transfinite** /trans'fɪniət, trahns-/ *adj* 1 going beyond or surpassing any finite number, group, or magnitude 2 of or being a number that can be shown to be greater than the number of positive integers <the number of real numbers is a ~ quantity> [G *transfinit*, fr *trans-* (fr L) + *finit* finite, fr L *finitus*]

**transfix** /trans'fiks, trahns-/ *vt* 1 to pierce through (as if) with a pointed weapon 2 to hold motionless (as if) by piercing <~ed by horror> [L *transfixus*, pp of *transfigere*, fr *trans-* + *figere* to fasten, pierce – more at DYKE] – **transfixion** /-fiks(ə)n/ *n*

**transform** /trans'fawm, trahns-/ *vt* 1 to change radically (e.g. in structure, appearance, or character) 2 to subject to mathematical transformation 3 to change (a current) in potential (e.g. from high voltage to low) or in type (e.g. from alternating to direct) 4 to cause (a cell) to undergo transformation ~ *vi* to become transformed [ME *transformen*, fr L *transformare*, fr *trans-* + *formare* to form, fr *forma* form]

**transformable** *adj*, **transformative** /-mətiv/ *adj*

**transform** /trans'fawm, trahns-/ *n* a mathematical element or linguistic structure producible by (a) transformation

**transformation** /trans'fawm'maysh(ə)n, trahns-/ *n* 1 the operation of changing one configuration or expression into another in accordance with a mathematical rule 2 any of a set of rules for transforming the supposed underlying structures of (a) language into actual sentences 3 modification of plant or animal cell culture (e.g. by a cancer-producing virus) resulting in unlimited cell growth and division ['TRANSFORM + -ATION] – **transformational** *adj*

**transformational grammar** /-nl/ *n* a grammar that attempts to find a set of transformations → for generating an infinite number of possible sentences

**transformer** /trans'fawma, trahns-/ *n* an electrical device making use of the principle of mutual induction to convert variations of current in a primary circuit into variations of voltage and current in a secondary circuit ['TRANSFORM + -ER]

**transfuse** /trans'fyuəhʒ, trahns-/ *vt* 1 to diffuse into or through, broadly to spread across 2 to transfer (e.g. blood) into a vein [ME *transfusen*, fr L *transfusio*, pp of *transfundere*, fr *trans-* + *fundere* to pour – more at FOUND] – **transfusible**, **transfusable** *adj*, **transfusion** /-fyuəhʒ(ə)n/ *n*

**transgress** /trans'gres, trahns-/ *vi* 1 to go beyond limits set or prescribed by <~ the divine law> 2 to pass beyond or go over (a boundary) ~ *vi* to violate a command or law [F *transgresser*, fr L *transgressus*, pp of *transgredi* to step beyond or across, fr *trans-* + *gradi* to step – more at GRADE] – **transgressive** *adj*, **transgressor** *n*

**transgression** /trans'gresh(ə)n, trahns-/ *n* infringement or violation of a law, command, or duty [TRANSRESS + -ION]

**tranship** /tranz'ship, trahnz-/ *vb* to transship

**transhumance** /trans'hyuəməns, trahns-/ *n* seasonal movement of livestock, esp sheep, between mountain and lowland pastures [F, fr *transhumere* to practise transhumance, fr Sp *trashumar*, fr *tras-* *trans-* (fr L *trans-*) + L *humus* earth – more at HUMBLE]

**transient** /tranz'i-ənt/ *adj* 1 passing quickly away, transitory 2 making only a brief stay <a ~ summer migrant> [L *transcunt-*, *transiens*, prp of *transire* to go across, pass, fr *trans-* + *ire* to go] – **transience**, **transiency** *n*, **transiently** *adv*

**transient** *n* 1 a transient guest or worker 2a a temporary oscillation that occurs in a circuit because of a sudden change of voltage or load b a transient current or voltage

**transilluminate** /tranz'il(yuə)minayt, trahnz-/ *vt* to cause light to pass through, esp to pass light through (a body part) for medical examination – **transilluminator** *n*, **transillumination** /-naysh(ə)n/ *n*

**transistor** /tran'zistə, trahn-/ *n* 1 any of several semiconductor devices that have usu 3 electrodes and make use of a small current to control a larger one 2 TRANSISTOR RADIO [transfer + resistor; fr its transferring an electrical signal across a resistor]

**transistorize**, **-ise** /-neɪz-/ *vt* to construct (a device) using transistors – **transistorization** /-neɪzə'sh(ə)n/ *n*

**transistor radio** *n* a radio using transistorized circuitry

**transit** /trans'it, -zɪt/ *n* 1a passing or conveying through or over b a change, transition 2 passage of a smaller celestial body a across the disc of a larger one b over a meridian or through the field of a telescope 3 NAM conveyance of people or things from one place to another [L *transitus*, fr *transitus*, pp of *transire* to go across, pass] – **in transit** in passage <goods lost in transit>

**transit** *vi* to make a transit ~ *vi* to traverse

**transit instrument** *n* a telescope for observing the time of transit of a celestial body over a meridian

**transition** /tran'zɪʃ(ə)n, trahn-/ *n* 1a passage from one state or stage to another b a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another <a ~... from the inorganic to the organic – W R Inge> 2a a musical modulation b a musical passage leading from one section of a piece to another 3 an abrupt change in energy state or level (e.g. of an atomic nucleus or a molecule), usu accompanied by loss or gain of a single quantum of energy [L *transitio-*, *transitio*, fr *transitus*, pp of *transire*] – **transitional** *adj*, **transitionally** *adv*

**transition metal** *n* any of various metallic elements (e.g. chromium, iron, or platinum) that have valency electrons in 2 shells instead of only 1

**transitive** /transitiv, trahn-, -zitiv/ *adj* 1 having or containing a direct object <a ~ verb> <a ~ construction> 2 of or being a relation such that if the relation holds between a first element and a second and between the second element and a third, it holds between the first and third elements 3 of or characterized by transition [LL *transitivus*, fr L *transitus*, pp of *transire*] – **transitive** *n*, **transitively** *adv*, **transitiveness**, **transitivity** /trans'tivəti, trahn-, -zə-/ *n*

**transitory** /trans'it(ə)rɪ, trahn-, -zɪ-/ *adj* 1 tending to pass away 2 of brief duration [ME *transitorie*, fr MF *transitoire*, fr LL *transitorius*, fr L, of or allowing passage, *transitus*, pp] – **transitorily** /trans'it(ə)rəli, trahn-, -zɪ-, -'tɔrəli/ *adv*, **transitoriness** *n*

**translate** /trans'layt, trahns-/ *vt* 1a to bear, remove, or change from one place, state, form, or appearance to another <a country boy ~d to the city> <~ ideas into action> b to convey to heaven or to a nontemporal condition without death c to transfer (a bishop) from one see to another 2a to turn into another language b to turn from one set of symbols into another c to express in different or more comprehensible terms 3 to subject (genetic information, esp messenger RNA) to translation ~ *vi* 1 to practise or make (a) translation 2 to undergo (a) translation [L *translatio* (pp of *transfere* to transfer, translate), fr *trans-* + *latius*, pp of *ferre* to carry – more at TOLERATE, BEAR] – **translatable** *adj*, **translator** *n*

**translation** /trans'laysh(ə)n, trahns-/ *n* 1a (a version produced by) a rendering from one language into another b a change to a different substance or form c uniform motion of a body in a straight line 2 the process of forming a protein molecule at a ribosome site of protein synthesis from information contained usu in messenger RNA – compare TRANSCRIPTION 3 [TRANSLATE + -ION] – **translational** *adj*

**transliterate** /tranz'litərayt, trahnz-, trahns-/ *vi* to represent or spell in the characters of another alphabet [trans- + L *littera* letter] – **transliteration** /-traysh(ə)n/ *n*

**translocation** /tranzloh'kaysh(ə)n, trahnz-/ *n* a change of location, esp the conduction of soluble material from one part of a plant to another – **translocate** /-loh'kayt/ *vb*

**translucent** /tranz'looəh(ə)nt, trahnz-/ *adj* 1 permitting the passage of light e.g. a transparent b transmitting and diffusing light so that objects beyond cannot be seen clearly <a ~ window of frosted glass> <~ porcelain> [L *translucens*, *translucens*, prp of *translucere* to shine through, fr *trans-* + *lucere* to shine – more at 'LIGHT] – **translucence**, **translucency** *n*, **translucently** *adv*

**transmarine** /tranzmə'reen/ *adj* (coming from or extending) across the sea [L *transmarinus*, fr *trans-* + *mare* sea – more at MARINE]

**transmigrate** /tranzmɪ'grayt, trahnz-/ *vi* 1 of a soul to pass at death from one body or being to another 2 to migrate [L *transmigratus*, pp of *transmigrare* to migrate to another place, fr *trans-* + *migrare* to migrate] – **transmigrator** *n*, **transmigration** /-mɪ'graysh(ə)n/ *n*, **transmigratory** /-mɪgrət(ə)n/ *adj*

**transmission** /trans'mɪʃ(ə)n, trahns-, tranz-, trahnz-/ *n* 1 transmitting <~ of a nerve impulse across a synapse>, esp transmitting by radio waves or over a wire 2 the assembly by which the power is transmitted from a motor vehicle engine to the axle 3 CAR 3 sthg transmitted [L *transmissio-*, *transmissio*, fr *transmissus*, pp of *transmittere* to transmit] – **transmissive** /-mɪsɪv/ *adj*


**transmit** /trans'mɪt, trahns-, tranz-, trahnz-/ *vb* -tt- *vt* 1a to send or transfer from one person or place to another b(1) to convey (as if) by inheritance or heredity (2) to convey (infection) abroad or to another 2a(1) to cause (e.g. light or force) to pass or be conveyed through a medium (2) to allow the passage of <glass ~s light> b to send out (a signal) either by radio waves or over a wire ~ *vi* to send out a signal by radio waves or over a wire [ME *transmittēn*, fr L *transmittere*, fr *trans-* + *mittere* to send] – **transmissible** /-mɪsəbl/ *adj*, **transmittable** *adj*, **transmittal** *n*

**transmitter** /-tɔ-/ *n* 1 the portion of a telegraphic or telephonic

- instrument that sends the signals 2 a radio or television transmitting station or set  TELEVISION 3 a neurotransmitter [TRANSMIT + <sup>1</sup>-ER]
- transmogrify** /tranz'mognrɪf/ *vt* to transform, often with grotesque or humorous effect [perh alter of *transmigrate*] – **transmogrification** /-mognrɪ'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- transmutation** /tranz'myoo'h'taysh(ə)n, 'trahnz-/ *n* 1 the conversion of base metals into gold or silver 2 the natural or artificial conversion of one element or nuclide into another [TRANSMUTE + <sup>1</sup>-ATION] – **transmutative** /-'myoohtatɪv/ *adj*
- transmute** /tranz'myooht, 'trahnz-/ *vt* 1 to change in form, substance, or characteristics 2 to subject (e.g. an element) to transmutation ~ *vi* to undergo transmutation [ME *transmuten*, fr L *transmutare*, fr *trans-* + *mutare* to change – more at 'MISS] – **transmutable** *adj*
- transnational** /tranz'nash(ə)nɪ, 'trahnz-/ *adj* extending beyond national boundaries
- transom** /tranzəm/ *n* a transverse piece in a structure: e.g. a lintel b a horizontal crossbar in a window, over a door, or between a door and a window or fanlight above it  ARCHITECTURE c any of several transverse timbers or beams secured to the sternpost of a boat [ME *traunsom*, prob fr L *transum*, fr *trans* across – more at THROUGH]
- transonic** /tran'sonɪk/ also **trans-sonic** /tranz'sonɪk/ *adj* 1 of or being a speed near the speed of sound in air 2 (capable of) moving, or using air currents moving, at a transonic speed [trans- + *-sonic* (as in *supersonic*)]
- transparency** /tran'sparənsɪ, 'trahn-/ *n* 1 being transparent 2a a picture or design on glass, film, etc. viewed by a light shining through it from behind; esp SLIDE 5b b a framework covered with thin cloth or paper bearing a device for public display (e.g. for advertisement) and lit from within
- transparent** /tran'sparənt, 'trahn-/ *adj* 1a(1) transmitting light without appreciable scattering so that bodies lying beyond are entirely visible – compare TRANSLUCENT 1b (2) penetrable by a specified form of radiation (e.g. X rays or ultraviolet) b fine or sheer enough to be seen through 2a free from pretence or deceit (< ~ sincerity >) b easily detected or seen through (< a ~ lie >) c readily understood (< the meaning of this word is ~ >) [ME, fr ML *transparent-*, *transparens*, *prp* of *transparere* to show through, fr L *trans-* + *parere* to show oneself – more at APPEAR] – **transparence** *n*, **transparently** *adv*, **transparentness** *n*
- transpire** /tran'spɪə, 'trahn-/ *vt* to pass off or give passage to (a gas or liquid) through pores or interstices, esp to excrete (e.g. water vapour) through a skin or other living membrane ~ *vi* 1 to give off a vapour; specif. to give off or exude water vapour, esp from the surfaces of leaves 2 to pass in the form of a vapour, esp from a living body 3 to become known; come to light 4 to occur; TAKE PLACE – disapproved of by some speakers [MF *transpirer*, fr L *trans-* + *spirare* to breathe – more at SPIRIT]
- transplant** /tranz'plənt, 'trahns-/ *vt* 1 to lift and reset (a plant) in another soil or place 2 to remove from one place and settle or introduce elsewhere 3 to transfer (an organ or tissue) from one part or individual to another [ME *transplanten*, fr LL *transplantare*, fr L *trans-* + *plantare* to plant] – **transplantable** /-pləntəbl/ *adj*, **transplanter** *n*, **transplantation** /-pləntə'taysh(ə)n, -plən-/ *n*
- transplant** /tranz'plənt, 'trahns-/ *n* 1 transplanting 2 sth transplanted
- transpontine** /tranz'pɒntɪn, 'trahnz-/ *adj* situated on the farther side of a bridge; specif. Br situated on the south side of the Thames [trans- + L *pont-*, *pōns* bridge – more at FIND]
- transport** /tran'spawt, 'trahn-/ *vt* 1 to transfer or convey from one place to another (< mechanisms of ~ing ions across a living membrane >) 2 to carry away with strong and often pleasurable emotion 3 to send to a penal colony overseas [ME *transporten*, fr MF or L; MF *transporter*, fr L *transportare*, fr *trans-* + *portare* to carry – more at 'FARE] – **transportable** *adj*
- transport** /tran'spawt, 'trahn-/ *n* 1 the conveying of goods or people from one place to another 2 strong and often pleasurable emotion – often pl with sing. meaning (< ~s of joy >) 3a a ship or aircraft for carrying soldiers or military equipment b a lorry, aeroplane, etc. used to transport people or goods 4 a mechanism for moving a tape, esp a magnetic tape, or disk past a sensing or recording head
- transportation** /tranz'paw'taysh(ə)n, 'trahn-/ *n* 1 the act of transporting 2 banishment to a penal colony 3 NAm means of conveyance or travel from one place to another [TRANSPORT + <sup>1</sup>-ATION]
- transport café** *n*, Br an inexpensive roadside cafeteria catering mainly for long-distance lorry drivers
- transporter** /tran'spawtə, 'trahn-/ *n* a vehicle for transporting large or heavy loads (< a tank ~ >) (< a car ~ >) ['TRANSPORT + <sup>1</sup>-ER]
- transport manager** *n* a supervisor of the transport of a commercial or industrial organization
- transpose** /tran'spohz, 'trahn-/ *vt* 1 to transfer from one place or period to another 2 to change the relative position of, alter the sequence of (< ~ letters to change the spelling >) 3 to write or perform (music) in a different key 4 to bring (a term) from one side of an algebraic equation to the other with change of sign ~ *vi* to transmute music [ME *transposen*, fr MF *transposer*, fr L *transponere* (perfr. indic. *transposui*) to change the position of, fr *trans-* + *ponere* to put, place – more at POSITION] – **transposable** *adj*
- transpose** /tran'spohz, 'trahn-/ *n* a matrix formed by interchanging the rows of a given matrix with its corresponding columns
- transposition** /tranz'pə'zɪsh(ə)n, 'trahnz-/ *n* 1 transposing or being transposed 2a the transfer of a term of an equation from one side to the other with a change of sign b a mathematical permutation that is the interchange of 2 elements [ML *transpositio-*, *transpositio*, fr L *transpositus*, *pp* of *transponere*] – **transpositional** *adj*
- transsexual** /tranz'seksyoʊ(ə)l, -sh(ə)l, 'trahnz-/ *n* sby physically of one sex with an urge to belong to or resemble the opposite sex – **transsexual** *adj*, **transsexualism** *n*
- transship** /tranz'shɪp, 'trahnz-/ *vb* to transfer from one ship or conveyance to another for further transportation – **transshipment** *n*
- transubstantiate** /tranz-səb'stənsheyət, 'trahnz-, -stəh-/ *vb* to change into another substance [ML *transubstantiatus*, *pp* of *transubstantiare*, fr L *trans-* + *substantia* substance]
- transubstantiation** /-sh'aysh(ə)n/ *n* the miraculous change by which, according to Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox dogma, bread and wine used at communion become the body and blood of Christ when they are consecrated, although their appearance remains unchanged [TRANSUBSTANTIATE + <sup>1</sup>-ION]
- transude** /tran'syoohd, 'trahn-/ *vi* to pass through a membrane or permeable substance ~ *vt* to permit passage of [NL *transudare*, fr L *trans-* + *sudare* to sweat – more at SWEAT] – **transudation** /-'daysh(ə)n/ *n*
- transuranic** /tranz'yoo'tranɪk/ *n* or *adj* (an element) having an atomic number greater than that of uranium
- transversal** /tranz'vuhsɪl, 'trahnz-/ *adj* transverse (< ~ lines >)
- transversal** *n* a line that intersects a system of lines
- transverse** /tranz'vuhs, 'trahnz-, '--/ *adj* lying or being across, set or made crosswise  CAR [L *transversus*, fr *pp* of *transvertere* to turn across, fr *trans-* + *vertere* to turn – more at 'WORTH] – **transversely** *adv*
- transverse wave** *n* a wave (e.g. a wave on a string or an electromagnetic wave in free space) in which the displacements of the medium or the vectors (e.g. of the electric and magnetic fields) describing the wave are perpendicular to the direction of propagation of the wave – compare LONGITUDINAL WAVE
- transvestism** /tranz'vestɪz(ə)m, 'trahnz-/ *n* the adoption of the dress and often the behaviour of the opposite sex [G *transvestismus*, fr L *trans-* + *vestire* to clothe – more at 'VEST] – **transvestite** /-'vestɪt/ *adj* or *n*
- trap** /trap/ *n* 1 a device for taking animals; esp one that holds by springing shut suddenly 2a sth designed to catch sby unawares; also PITFALL 1 b a situation from which it is impossible to escape (< caught in a poverty ~ >); also a plan to trick a person into such a situation (< police laid a ~ for the criminal >) 3a a trapdoor b a device from which a greyhound is released at the start of a race 4a a device for hurling clay pigeons into the air b BUNKER 2b 5 a light usu 1-horse carriage with springs 6 any of various devices for preventing passage of sth often while allowing other matter to proceed; esp a device for drains or sewers consisting of a bend or partitioned chamber in which the liquid forms a seal to prevent the passage of sewer gas 7 pl a group of percussion instruments used esp in a dance or jazz band 8 the mouth – slang [ME, fr OE *træppe* & OF *trape* (of Gmc origin); akin to MD *trappe* trap, stair, OE *treppan* to tread, Skt *dravati* he runs]
- trap** *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to catch or take (as if) in a trap 2 to provide or set (a place) with traps 3 to stop, retain (< these mountains ~ the rain >) 4 to stop and control (the ball) with the foot in soccer ~ *vi* to engage in trapping animals – **trapper** *n*
- trap, traprock** *n* any of various dark-coloured fine-grained igneous rocks (e.g. basalt) used esp in road making [Sw *trapp*, fr *trappa* stair, fr MLG *trappe*; akin to MD *trappe* stair]
- trapdoor** /-'daw/ *n* a lifting or sliding door covering an opening in a floor, ceiling, etc

**trap-door spider** *n* any of various often large burrowing spiders that construct a nest topped with a hinged lid

**trapeze** /trə'pez/ *n* a gymnastic or acrobatic apparatus consisting of a short horizontal bar suspended by 2 parallel ropes [F *trapèze*, fr NL *trapezium*]

**trapezium** /trə'pez-i-əm/ *n*, *pl* *trapeziums*, *trapezia* /-zi-ə/ *Br* a quadrilateral having only 2 sides parallel  **MATHEMATICS** [NL, fr Gk *trapezion*, lit. 'small table, dim of *trapeza* table, fr *tra-* four (akin to *tetras* four) + *peza* foot, akin to Gk *pod-*, *pous* foot - more at **FOUR FOOT**]

**trapezoid** /trə'pɒzɪd, trə'pezɒzɪd/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a trapezium [NL *trapezoides*, fr Gk *trapezoeides* trapezium-shaped, fr *trapeza*] - **trapezoidal** /-zɒɪd/ *adj*

**trappings** /trə'pɪŋz/ *n pl* outward decoration or dress, also outward signs and accessories *<all the ~ of power with none of the substance>* [ME, fr gerund of *trappen* to clothe, adorn, fr *trappe* cloth, trap]

**Trappist** /trə'pɪst/ *n* a member of a reformed branch of the Roman Catholic Cistercian Order established in 1664 at the monastery of La Trappe in Normandy and noted for its vow of silence [F *trappiste*, fr La Trappe] - **Trappist** *adj*

**trapshooting** /trə'pʃuːtɪŋ/ *n* shooting at clay pigeons sprung into the air from a trap so as to simulate the angles of flight of birds - **trapshooter** *n*

**trash** /træʃ/ *n* 1 sth of little or no value e.g. *a* junk, rubbish *b*(1) empty talk (2) inferior literary or artistic work 2 sth in a crumbled or broken condition or mass 3 a worthless person, also, *sing or pl in constr* such people as a group *infrm* [of Scand origin, akin to Norw *trask* trash, akin to OE *teran* to tear]

**'trash can** *n*, *NAm* *trashbin*

**trashy** /træʃi/ *adj* of inferior quality or worth *<a ~ novel>* [TRASH + -y] - **trashiness** *n*

**trass** /træs/ *n* a light-coloured tuff rock sometimes ground for use in a hydraulic cement [D, fr F *terrasse* pile of earth, terrace, fr MF - more at **TERRACE**]

**trattoria** /trə'teəriə/ *n*, *pl* *trattorias*, *trattorie* /-ree-ay/ an Italian restaurant [It, fr *trattore* innkeeper, restaurateur, fr F *traiteur*, fr *traiter* to treat, fr OF *traitier* - more at **TRAIT**]

**trauma** /'traʊmə/ *n*, *pl* *traumata* /-mətə/, *traumas* 1a an injury (e.g. a wound) to living tissue caused by an outside agent *b* a disordered mental or behavioural state resulting from mental or emotional stress or shock 2 an agent, force, or mechanism that causes trauma [Gk *traumat-*, *trauma* wound] - **traumatic** /-'mætk/ *adj*

**traumatism** /'traʊmə'tɪz(ə)m/ *n* (the development or occurrence of) trauma

**'travail** /trə'vayl, trə'vayl/ *n* 1 physical or mental exertion, esp. of a painful or laborious nature 2 *archaic* labour pains [ME, fr OF, fr *travaillier* to torture, travail, fr (assumed) VL *tripaliare* to torture, fr *tripalium* instrument of torture, fr L *tripalis* having three stakes, fr *tri-* + *palus* stake - more at **'POT**]

**²travail** *vi* 1 to labour hard - *fm* 2 *archaic* to suffer labour pains [ME *travaillen*, fr OF *travaillier*]

**'travel** /trə'vɛl/ *vb* -ll- (*NAm* -l-, -ll-), /trə'vɛlɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to go (as if) on a tour *b* to go as if by travelling *<my mind ~ led back to our last meeting>* 2a to go from place to place as a sales representative *<~s in cosmetics>* *b* to move or be transmitted from one place to another *<wine ~s badly>* *b esp of machinery* to move along a specified direction or path *<(the stylus ~s in a groove)>* *c* to move at high speed - *infrm* *<a car that can really ~>* - *vt* 1a to journey through or over *<~ the world>* *b* to follow (a course or path) as if by travelling 2 to traverse (a specified distance) 3 to cover (a place or region) as a sales representative [ME *travaillen* to travail, journey, fr OF *travaillier* to travail] - **travel** light to travel with a minimum of equipment or baggage

**²travel** *n* 1 a journey, esp. to a distant or unfamiliar place - often *pl* *<set off on her ~s>* 2a movement, progression *<(the ~ of satellites round the earth)>* *b* the motion of a piece of machinery

**'travel agent** *n* shy engaged in selling and arranging personal transport, tours, or trips for travellers - **travel agency** *n*

**'travelled**, *NAm* chiefly **traveled** *adj* 1 experienced in travel *<a widely ~ journalist>* 2 used by travellers *<a well-travelled route>*

**traveller**, *NAm* chiefly **traveler** /trə'vɛlə, trə'vɛl-ə/ *n* 1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE 2 any of various devices for handling sth that is being moved laterally 3 *dial Br* a gypsy [TRAVEL + -ER]

**'traveller's cheque**, *NAm* **traveler's check** *n* a cheque that is purchased from a bank or express company and that may be exchanged abroad for foreign currency

**traveller's joy** *n* a wild clematis of Europe and N Africa

**travelling**, *NAm* chiefly **traveling** /trə'vɪlɪŋ/ *adj* carried, used by, or accompanying a traveller *<a ~ alarm clock>* *<a ~ companion>* [fr gerund of 'travel]

**'travelling bag** *n* a small bag carried by hand and designed to hold a traveller's clothing and personal articles

**travelling fellowship** *n* a fellowship enabling the holder to travel for study or research

**travelling salesman** *n* SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**travelogue**, *NAm* also **travelog** /trə'vɒlɒg/ *n* 1 a film or illustrated talk or lecture on some usu exotic or remote place 2 a narrated documentary film about travel [travel + -logue]

**¹traverse** /trə'vʌʊs, trə'vʌʊs/ *vt* 1 sth that crosses or lies across 2 a transverse gallery in a large building (e.g. a church) 3 a route or way across or over e.g. *a* a curving or zigzag way up a steep slope *b* the course followed in traversing 4 (a) traversing 5a a lateral movement (e.g. of the saddle of a lathe carriage) *b* the lateral movement of a gun to change direction of fire 6 a survey consisting of a series of measured lines whose bearings are known [ME *travers*, fr MF *traverse*, fr *traverser* to cross, fr LL *transversare*, fr L *transversus*, pp of *transvertere* - more at **TRANSVERSE**]

**²traverse** /trə'vʌʊs, trə'vʌʊs/ *vi* 1 to pass or travel across, over, or through *<~ a terrain>* *<light rays traversing a crystal>* 2 to lie or extend across *<(the bridge ~s a brook)>* 3a to move to and fro over or along *b* to ascend, descend, or cross (a slope or gap) at an angle *c* to move (a gun) to right or left ~ *vi* 1 to move back and forth or from side to side 2 to climb or ski across rather than straight up or down a hill - **traversable** /-'vʌʊsəbl/ *adj*, **traversal** *n*, **traverser** *n*

**³traverse** /trə'vʌʊs, trə'vʌʊs/ *adj* lying across

**travertine** /trə'vɛrtɪn/ *n* a mineral consisting of a calcium carbonate [F *travertin*, deriv of L *Tiburtinus* of Tibur, fr *Tibur*, region of ancient Italy]

**'travesty** /trə'væstɪ/ *n* 1 a crude or grotesque literary or artistic parody 2 a debased, distorted, or grossly inferior imitation *<a ~ of justice>* [obs *travesty* (disguised, parodied), fr F *travesti*, pp of *travestir* to disguise, fr It *travestire*, fr *tra-* across (fr L *trans-*) + *vestire* to dress, fr L - more at **'VEST**]

**²travesty** *vt* to make a travesty of

**travois** /trə'vɔɪ/ *n*, *pl* *travois* /-'vɔɪz/ also *travoises* a vehicle used by N American Plains Indians consisting of 2 trailing poles serving as shafts for a dog or horse and bearing a platform or net for the load [CanF *travois*, alter of F *travail*, deriv of (assumed) VL *tripalium* instrument of torture - more at **'TRAVAIL**]

**'trawl** /trɔ:wl/ *vb* to fish (for or in) with a trawl [prob fr obs D *trāgelen*]

**²trawl** *n* 1 a large conical net dragged along the sea bottom to catch fish 2 *NAm* a setline

**trawler** /trɔ:wlə/ *n* a boat used in trawling [TRAWL + -ER]

**trawlerman** /trɔ:wləmən/ *n* a fisherman who uses a trawl or man or a trawler

**tray** /treɪ/ *n* an open receptacle with a flat bottom and a low rim for holding, carrying, or exhibiting articles [ME, fr OE *trig*, *træg*, akin to OE *treow* tree - more at **TRFL**] - **trayful** *n*

**treacherous** /'trech(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 characterized by treachery, perfidious 2a of uncertain reliability *b* providing insecure footing or support *<a ~ surface of black ice>* *c* marked by hidden dangers or hazards *<(the ~ waters round the coast)>* - **treacherously** *adv*, **treacherousness** *n*

**treachery** /'trech(ə)rɪ/ *n* (an act of) violation of allegiance, (a) betrayal of trust [ME *trecherie*, fr OF, fr *trecher* to deceive]

**treacle** /'tri:kl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* 1 any of the edible grades of molasses that are obtained in the early stages of sugar refining 2 GOLDEN SYRUP [ME *treacle* medicinal compound used as antidote to poison, fr MF, fr L *thenaca*, fr Gk *thénake* antidote against a poisonous bite, fr fem of *thénakos* of a wild animal, fr *théron* wild animal, dim of *ther* wild animal - more at **FIENCE**]


**'tread** /tred/ *vb* *trod* /trɒd/ also *treaded*; *trod*den /trɒd(ə)n/, *trod* *vi* 1a to step or walk on or over *b* to walk along 2a to beat or press with the feet *b* to subdue or repress as if by trampling 3 of a male bird to copulate with 4a to form by treading *<~ a path>* *b* to execute by stepping or dancing *<~ a measure>* ~ *vi* 1 to move on foot 2a to set foot *b* to put one's foot (trod on a stone) [ME *treden*, fr OE *trēdan*, akin to OHG *trētan* to tread] - **treader** *n* - **tread on someone's toes/corns** to give offence or hurt sb's feelings, esp by encroaching on his/her rights - **tread water** to keep the body nearly upright in the water and the head above water by a treading motion of the feet, usu aided by the hands

**²tread** *n* 1 an imprint made (as if) by treading 2a the action or an act of



- treading **b** the sound or manner of treading (<the heavy ~ of feet> **3a** the part of a wheel or tyre that makes contact with a road or rail **b** the pattern of ridges or grooves made or cut in the face of a tyre  **CAR 4** (the width of) the upper horizontal part of a step  **ARCHITECTURE** – **treadless** *adj*
- 1** **treadle** /'tredl/ *n* a lever pressed by the foot to drive a machine (e.g. a sewing machine) [ME *tredel* step of a stair, fr OE, fr *tredan*]
- 2** **treadle** *vi* to operate a treadle
- treadmill** /'tred,mil/ *n* **1a** a mill used formerly in prison punishment that was worked by people treading on steps inside a wide wheel with a horizontal axis **b** a mill worked by an animal treading an endless belt **2** a wearisome or monotonous routine
- treason** /'trez(ə)n/ *n* **1** the betrayal of a trust **2** the offence of violating the duty of allegiance owed to one's crown or government [ME *tresoun*, fr OF *trason*, fr ML *tradition-*, *traditio*, fr L, act of handing over, fr *traditus*, pp of *tradere* to hand over, betray – more at **TRAITOR**] – **treasonous** *adj*
- treasonable** /'trez(ə)nəbl/ *adj* of or being treason – **treasonably** *adv*
- 1** **treasure** /'trezhə/ *n* **1** wealth, esp in a form which can be accumulated or hoarded (<buried ~> **2** sthg of great worth or value, also sby highly valued or prized [ME *tresor*, fr OF, fr L *thesaurus*, fr Gk *thēsaurus*]
- 2** **treasure** *vt* to hold or preserve as precious (<~d those memories>)
- 1** **treasure hunt** *n* a game in which each player or team tries to be first to find whatever has been hidden
- treasurer** /'trezh(ə)rə/ *n* the financial officer of an organization (e.g. a society) – **treasurership** *n*
- 1** **treasure, trove** /trohv/ *n* treasure that anyone finds, specif gold or silver money, plate, or bullion which is found hidden and whose ownership is not known [AF *tresor* *trove*, lit, found treasure]
- treasury** /'trezh(ə)n/ *n* **1a** a place in which stores of wealth are kept **b** the place where esp public funds that have been collected are deposited and disbursed **2** often *cap* (the building which houses) a government department in charge of finances, esp the collection, management, and expenditure of public revenues **3** a source or collection of treasures (<a ~ of poems>)
- 1** **treasury bill** *n* a bill issued by the treasury in return for money lent to the government
- 1** **treat** /'treet/ *vi* **1** to discuss terms of accommodation or settlement **2** to deal with a matter, esp in writing – usu + *of*, fml (<a book ~ing of conservation>) ~ *vt* **1** to deal with (<food is plentiful and ~ed with imagination> – Cecil Beaton) **2a** to behave oneself towards (<~ a horse cruelly>) **b** to regard and deal with in a specified manner – usu + *as* (<~ed it as a serious matter>) **3a** to provide with free food, drink, or entertainment – usu + *to* **b** to provide with enjoyment – usu + *to* **4** to care for or deal with medically or surgically (<~ a disease>) **5** to act on with some agent, esp so as to improve or alter (<~ to deal with in speech or writing> – fml [ME *treten*, fr OF *traitier*, fr L *tractare* to handle, deal with, fr *tractus*, pp of *trahere* to draw – more at **DRAW**] – **treatable** *adj*, **traiter** *n*
- 1** **treat** *n* **1** an entertainment given free of charge to those invited **2a** a source of pleasure or amusement, esp an unexpected one (<the cold beer on a hot day was a ~>) – **a treat** very well or successfully (<the speech went down a treat>) – infml
- treatise** /'treetz/ *n* a formal written exposition on a subject (<a ~ on higher education>) [ME *tretris*, fr AF *tretris*, fr OF *traitier* to treat]
- treatment** /'treətmənt/ *n* **1a** treating sby or sthg **b** the actions, customarily applied in a particular situation (<the author got the standard ~ of cocktail parties and interviews>) **2** a substance or technique used in treating
- treaty** /'treeti/ *n* **1** the action of treating, esp of negotiating – chiefly in *in treaty* (a document setting down) an agreement or contract made by negotiation (e.g. between states) [ME *tretee*, fr MF *traité*, fr ML *tractatus*, fr L, handling, treatment, fr *tractatus*, pp of *tractare* to treat]
- treaty port** *n* any of numerous ports and inland cities in China, Japan, and Korea formerly open by treaty to foreign commerce
- 1** **treble** /'trebl/ *n* **1a** the highest voice part in harmonic music; also sby, esp a boy, who performs this part **b** a member of a family of instruments having the highest range **c** a high-pitched voice or sound **d** the upper half of the whole vocal or instrumental tonal range **e** the higher part of the audio frequency range considered esp in relation to its electronic reproduction **2** sthg treble in construction, use, amount, number, or value: e.g. **a** a type of bet in which the winnings and stake from a previous race are – bet on the next of 3 races **b** (a throw landing on) the middle narrow ring on a dart board counting treble the stated score [ME, perh fr MF, *trio*, fr *treble*, *adj*]
- 2** **treble** *adj* **1a** having 3 parts or uses **b** **TRIPLE** **2** **2a** relating to or having the range or part of a treble **b** high-pitched, shrill [ME, fr MF, fr L *tripulus* – more at **TRIPLE**] – **trebly** /'trebli/ *adv*
- 1** **treble** *vb* to increase to 3 times the size, amount, or number
- treble chance** *n* a method of competing in football pools in which the chances of winning are based on the numbers of home wins, away wins, and draws
- treble clef** *n* a clef that places the note G above middle C on the second line of the staff  **MUSIC** [fr its use for the notation of treble parts]
- trebuchet** /'trebyoʊʃet/ *n* a medieval military engine for hurling missiles with great force [ME *trebuchet*, fr MF *trebuchet*]
- trecento** /'tray'çentoʊ/ *n, pl* **trecentos** the 14th century, esp in Italian art [It, lit, three hundred, fr L *tres* three + *centum* hundred – more at **THREE, HUNDRED**]
- 1** **tree** /'tri:/ *n* **1a** a tall woody perennial plant having a single usu long and erect main stem, generally with few or no branches on its lower part **b** a shrub or herbaceous plant having the form of a tree (<rose ~s>) (<a banana ~>) **2** a device for inserting in a boot or shoe to preserve its shape when not being worn **3a** a diagram or graph that branches, usu from a single stem (<genealogical ~>) **b** a much-branched system of channels, esp in an animal or plant body (<the vascular ~>) **4** *archaic* **a** the cross on which Jesus was crucified **b** the gallows [ME, fr OE *treow*, akin to ON *tre* tree, Gk *drys*, Skt *daru* wood] – **treeless** *adj*, **treelike** *adj*
- 1** **tree** *vi* to drive to or up a tree (<~d by a bullf>)
- 1** **tree, creeper** /-kriepə/ *n* any of several small birds that have slender curved beaks and are usu seen climbing up tree trunks
- tree fern** *n* a tree-like fern with a woody stem
- tree frog** *n* any of numerous tailless amphibians that frequent trees
- tree line** *n* the upper limit of tree growth in mountains or high latitudes
- treenail** also **trenail** /'tree,nayl, 'trenl/ *n* a hard wooden peg that swells in its hole when moistened
- tree of heaven** *n* a tropical Asian tree that is widely grown for shade and ornament
- tree shrew** *n* any of a family of tree-dwelling insect-eating mammals sometimes classified as true insectivores and sometimes as primitive ancestors of the primates
- tree sparrow** *n* a Eurasian sparrow that has a black spot behind the eye
- tree surgeon** *n* a specialist in treating diseased trees, esp for control of decay – **tree surgery** *n*
- tree toad** *n* **TREE TOG**
- 1** **tree, top** /-tɒp/ *n* **1** the topmost part of a tree **2** *pl* the height or line marked by the tops of a group of trees
- 1** **trefoil** /'trefoyl, 'tree-/ *n* **1a** (a) clover, broadly any of several leguminous plants having leaves of 3 leaflets **b** a leaf consisting of 3 leaflets **2** a stylized figure or ornament in the form of a 3-lobed leaf or flower  **ARCHITECTURE** [ME, fr MF *trefoeil*, fr L *trifolium*, fr *tri-* + *folium* leaf]
- 1** **tréhala** /tri'hahla/ *n* a sweet edible substance constituting the cocoon of an Asiatic beetle [prob fr F *tréhala*, fr Turk *tigala*, fr Per *tighal*]
- 1** **trék** /trek/ *vi* or *n* -kk- (to make) **1** a journey, esp an arduous one **2** chiefly *SAfr* a journey by ox wagon [n *Afrk*, fr MD *treck* pull, haul, fr *trecken* to pull, haul, migrate, akin to OHG *trechan* to pull, vb fr *n*]
- 1** **trellis** /'trellis/ *n* a frame of latticework used as a screen or as a support for climbing plants [ME *trellis*, fr MF *treliz* fabric of coarse weave, trellis, fr (assumed) VL *trilicis* woven with triple thread, fr L *tri-* + *licium* thread] – **trellised** *adj*
- 1** **trellis** *vi* to provide with a trellis; esp to train (e.g. a vine) on a trellis
- 1** **trellis, work** /-wuhk/ *n* latticework
- 1** **trematode** /'tremə,təhd, 'tree-/ *n* any of a class of parasitic flatworms including the flukes [deriv of Gk *trematodes* pierced with holes, fr *tremat-*, *trema* hole, fr *tetrainein* to bore – more at **THROW**] – **trematode** *adj*
- 1** **tremble** /'trembl/ *vi* **trembling** /'tremblɪng/ **1** to shake involuntarily (e.g. with fear or cold) **2** to be affected (as if) by a quivering motion (<the building ~d from the blast>) (<his voice ~d with emotion>) **3** to be affected with fear or apprehension [ME *tremblen*, fr MF *trembler*, fr ML *tremulare*, fr L *tremulus* trembling, fr *tremere* to tremble; akin to Gk *tremrein* to tremble] – **trembler** *n*
- 1** **tremble** *n* **1a** a fit or spell of involuntary shaking or quivering **b** a tremor or series of tremors **2** *pl* but *sing* in *constr* a severe disorder of livestock,



- esp cattle, characterized by muscular tremors, weakness, and constipation – **trembly** *adj*
- tremendous** /tra'mendəs/ *adj* 1 such as to arouse awe or fear 2 of extraordinary size, degree, or excellence [L. *tremendus*, fr gerundive of *tremere*] – **tremendously** *adv*, **tremendousness** *n*
- tremolite** /'tremə,lit/ *n* a white or grey mineral consisting of a calcium magnesium silicate in the form of long slender crystals [F. *tremolite*, fr *Tremola*, valley in Switzerland] – **tremolitic** /-'lɪtɪk/ *adj*
- tremolo** /'treməloʊ/ *n*, *pl* **tremolos** 1a the rapid reiteration of a musical note or of alternating notes to produce a tremulous effect b a perceptible rapid variation of pitch in the (singing) voice, vibrato 2 a mechanical device in an organ for causing a tremulous effect [It, fr *tremolo* tremulous, fr L. *tremulus*]
- tremor** /'tremə/ *n* 1 a trembling or shaking, usu from physical weakness, emotional stress, or disease 2a (slight) quivering or vibratory motion, esp of the earth 3 a thrill, quiver (experienced a sudden ~ of fear) [ME. *tremour*, fr MF, fr L. *tremor*, fr *tremere*]
- tremulant** /'tremjələnt/ *n* a device to impart a vibration giving a sound a tremulous effect [G, fr It *tremolante*, fr *tremolante* tremulous, fr ML. *tremulans*, *tremulans*, pp of *tremulare* to tremble]
- tremulous** /'tremjələs/ *adj* 1 characterized by or affected with trembling or tremors 2 uncertain, wavering [L. *tremulus*] – **tremulously** *adv*, **tremulousness** *n*
- trenail** /'tree,nayl/ *n* a treenail
- trench** /'trench/ *n* 1 a deep narrow excavation (e.g. for the laying of underground pipes), esp one used for military defence 2 a long narrow usu steep-sided depression in the ocean floor [ME. *trenche* track cut through a wood, fr MF, act of cutting, fr *trenchier* to cut]
- trench** *vb* to dig a trench (in) – **trencher** *n*
- trenchant** /'trenchənt/ *adj* 1 keen, sharp 2 vigorously effective and articulate 3a incisive, penetrating b clear-cut, distinct [ME, fr MF, pp of *trenchier*] – **trenchancy** *n*, **trenchantly** *adv*
- trench coat** *n* 1 a waterproof overcoat with a removable lining, designed for wear in trenches 2 a double-breasted raincoat with deep pockets, a belt, and epaulettes
- trencher** /'trenchə/ *n* a wooden platter for serving food [ME, fr MF *trencheor*, fr *trenchier* to cut]
- trencherman** /'trenchəmən/ *n* a hearty eater
- trench fever** *n* a disease marked by fever and pain in muscles, bones, and joints and transmitted by the body louse [fr its prevalence among soldiers serving in the trenches during WW I]
- trench warfare** *n* warfare conducted from a relatively permanent system of trenches
- trend** /'trend/ *vi* 1 to show a general tendency to move or extend in a specified direction 2 to deviate, shift (opinions ~ing towards conservatism) [ME. *trenden* to turn, revolve, fr OE. *trendan*, akin to MHG. *trendel* disc, spinning top, OE. *teran* to tear – more at *trial*]
- trend** *n* 1 a line of general direction 2a a prevailing tendency or inclination b a general movement, esp in taste or fashion
- trendsetter** /-'setə/ *n* sb who starts new trends, esp in fashion
- trendsetting** *n* or *adj*
- trendy** /'trendi/ *adj*, chiefly Br very fashionable, also characterized by uncritical adherence to the latest fashions or progressive ideas – *infml*
- trendy** *n*, chiefly Br sb who trendy – chiefly derog (educational trends)
- trepan** /'tri'pən/ *n* 1 a primitive trephine 2 a heavy tool used in boring mine shafts [ME. *trepane*, fr ML. *trepanum*, fr Gk. *trypanon* auger, fr *trypan* to bore, fr *trypa* hole, akin to Gk. *tetramein* to pierce – more at *throw*]
- trepan** *vt* -*na-* to use a trephine on (the skull)
- trepan** /'tri'pən/ *n* any of several large sea cucumbers that are used, esp in Chinese cookery, for making soup [Malay *tèrpang*]
- trephine** /'tri'feen/ *vi* or *n* (to operate on with, or extract by means of) a surgical instrument for cutting out circular sections, esp of bone or the cornea of the eye [n F. *tréphine*, fr obs E. *tréfine*, *tráfine*, fr L. *tres* lines three ends, fr *tres* three + *finis*, pl of *finis* end, vb fr n]
- trepidation** /'trepi'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* nervous agitation or apprehension [L. *trepidatio*-, *trepidatio*, fr *trepidatus*, pp of *trepidare* to tremble, fr *trepidus* agitated; akin to OE. *thraffian* to urge, push, Gk. *trapem* to press grapes]
- treponema** /'tre'pne'mə/ *n*, *pl* **treponemata** /-'mə'tə/, **treponemas** any of a genus of spirochaetal bacteria that grow in human beings or other warm-blooded animals and include organisms causing syphilis and yaws [NL. *Treponemat*-, *Treponema*, genus name, deriv of Gk. *trepein* to turn
- *nema* thread, fr *nen* to spin – more at *trope*, *needle*] – **treponemal**, **treponematus** *adj*
- trespass** /'tres'pas/ *n* 1a a violation of moral or social ethics, esp a sin b an unwarranted infringement 2 any unlawful act that causes harm to the person, property, or rights of another, esp wrongful entry on another's land [ME. *trespas*, fr OF. *trespass*, fr *trespasser* to go across]
- trespass** *vi* 1a to err, sin b to make an unwarranted or uninvited intrusion on 2 to commit a trespass, esp to enter sb's property unlawfully [ME. *trespassen*, fr MF. *trespasser*, fr OF. *tres*, to go across, fr *tres* across (fr L. *trans*) + *passer* to pass – more at *through*, *pass*] – **trespasser** *n*
- trесс** /'tres/ *n* 1 a plait of hair 2 a long lock of hair – usu *pl* [ME. *trессe*, fr OF. *trece*]
- tressed** /'trest/ *adj* having tresses – usu in combination (golden-tressed)
- tréste** /'tres/ *n* 1 a (braced) frame serving as a support (e.g. for a table top) 2 a braced framework of timbers, piles, or girders for carrying a road or railway over a depression [ME. *tréste*, fr MF, modif of (assumed) VL. *transstellum*, fr L. *transstillum*, dim. of *transstrum* transverse beam, transom – more at *transom*]
- tréste table** *n* a table consisting of a board or boards supported on trésteles
- tréste, tree** /-'tree/ *n* either of a pair of timber crosspieces fixed fore and aft on the masthead to support the crossrees and topmast – *ship*
- trevally** /'trə'vəli/ *n* any of several marine spiny-finned Australian food fishes [origin unknown]
- trews** /'troohz/ *n* *pl* in constr, *pl* **trews** trousers, specif tartan trousers [ScGael. *triubhas*]
- tréy** /'tray/ *n* 1 the side of a dice or domino that has 3 spots 2 a playing card numbered 3 [ME. *treys*, *treis*, fr MF. *treie*, *treis*, fr L. *tres* three]
- tri-** /'tri-/ *comb* form 1 three (tripartite), having 3 elements or parts (trigraph) 2 into 3 (trisection) 3a thrice (triweekly) b every third (trimonthly) [ME, fr L. (fr *tri-*, *tres*) & Gk. (fr *tri-*, *treis*) – more at *three*]
- triable** /'triə'bl/ *adj* liable or subject to trial
- tried** /'triəd/ *n* 1 a union or group of 3 (closely) related or associated persons, beings, or things 2 a chord of 3 notes consisting of a root with its third and fifth and constituting the harmonic basis of tonal music 3 often *cap* any of various Chinese secret societies, esp engaging in drug trafficking [L. *triad-*, *trias*, fr Gk. *fr treis* three] – **triadic** /-'adɪk/ *adj*
- triage** /'tri'eɪʒ/ *n* the sorting and treatment of patients or victims according to urgency [F, sorting, sifting, fr *trier* to sort, fr OF. – more at *try*]
- trial** /'tri:əl/ *n* 1a trying or testing b a preliminary contest or match (e.g. to evaluate players' skills) 2 the formal examination and determination by a competent tribunal of the matter at issue in a civil or criminal cause – *law* 3 a test of faith, patience, or stamina by suffering or temptation, broadly a source of vexation or annoyance 4 an experiment to test quality, value, or usefulness 5 an attempt, effort 6a a competition of vehicle-handling skills, usu over rough ground b a competition in which a working animal's skills are tested (a sheepdog ~) [AF, fr *trier* to try]
- trial** *adj* 1 of a trial 2 made or done as, or used or tried out in, a test or experiment
- trial and error** *n* a process of trying out many methods and discarding the least successful
- trial court** *n* the court before which issues of fact and law are first determined, as distinguished from a court of appeal
- trialist** /'tri:ə-lɪst/ *n* one who takes part in a sports trial (e.g. in motorcycle racing or cricket)
- trial run** *n* an exercise to test the performance of sth (e.g. a vehicle or vessel), also *EXPERIMENT* 1
- triangle** /'tri:ang-gl/ *n* 1 a polygon of 3 sides and 3 angles  2 a percussion instrument consisting of a steel rod bent into the form of a triangle open at 1 angle and sounded by striking with a small metal rod 3 TRIAD 1 – compare *EXTERNAL TRIANGLE* 4 *NAm* SET SQUARE [ME, fr L. *triangulum*, fr neut. of *triangulus* triangular, fr *tri-* + *angulus* angle]
- triangular** /'tri:ang-gyoolə/ *adj* 1a (having the form) of a triangle (a ~ plot of land) b having a triangular base or principal surface (a ~ table) (a ~ pyramid) 2 between or involving 3 elements, things, or people (a ~ love affair) [LL. *triangulus*, fr L. *triangulum*] – **triangularly** *adv*, **triangularity** /-'ang-gyoolə'rɪ'ti/ *n*
- triangulate** /'tri:ang-gyoolə't/ *vi* 1a to divide into triangles b to give triangular form to 2 to survey, map, or determine by triangulation

**triangulation** /ˌtri.æŋ.ɡiˈoʊ.ləʃən/ *n* the measurement of the angles and 1 side of a triangle to find an unknown position, distance, etc; esp the determination of the network of triangles into which any part of the earth's surface is divided in surveying, using this operation

**Triassic** /ˈtri.æʃ.ɪk/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) the earliest period of the Mesozoic era ➔ **EVOLUTION** [*adj* ISV, fr L *trias* triad; fr the three subdivisions of the European Triassic, *n* fr *adj*]

**triatomic** /ˌtri.əˈtɒm.ɪk/ *adj* 1 having 3 atoms in the molecule (<ozone is ~ oxygen>) 2 having 3 replaceable atoms or radicals [ISV]

**triaxial** /ˌtri.æks.ɪ.əl/ *adj* having or involving 3 axes [ISV] – **triaxiality** /-ˈæks.ɪ.əl.əti/ *n*

**tribal** /ˈtriːbəl/ *adj* (characteristic) of a tribe – **tribally** *adv*

**tribalism** /ˈtriːb.əl.ɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 tribal consciousness and loyalty 2 strong loyalty or attachment to a group

**tribasic** /ˈtriːb.ə.sɪk/ *adj* 1 of an acid having 3 replaceable hydrogen atoms 2 containing 3 atoms of a univalent metal 3 of a (salt that is a) chemical base having 3 hydroxyl groups in the molecular structure

**tribe** /triːb/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* 1a a social group comprising numerous families, clans, or generations together with slaves, dependants, or adopted strangers b any of orig 3 political divisions of the ancient Roman people 2 a group of people having a common character or interest 3 a category in the classification of living things ranking above a genus and below a family; also a natural group irrespective of taxonomic rank (<the cat ~> [ME, fr L *tribus*, a division of the Roman people, tribe])

**tribesman** /ˈtriːbz.mən/, *fem* **tribeswoman** /-ˌwʊ.mən/ *n* a member of a tribe

**tribo-** *comb form* friction (<triboluminescence>) [F, fr Gk *tribein* to rub, akin to L *terere* to rub – more at **THROW**]

**triboelectricity** /ˌtriːb.i.əˈlek.trɪ.sə.ti, -ˌeːlek-/ *n* a charge of electricity generated by friction (e.g. by rubbing glass with silk) – **triboelectric** /-ˌiːlek.trɪk/ *adj*

**tribology** /ˌtriːb.əˈlɒ.ʒi/ *n*, *Br* a science that deals with the design, friction, wear, and lubrication of interacting surfaces in relative motion (e.g. in bearings or gears) – **tribologist** *n*, *Br*, **tribological** /-bəˈlɒj.ɪk/ *adj*, *Br*

**triboluminescence** /ˌtriːb.əˈlʊ.mɪ.nəs(ə)ns/ *n* luminescence due to friction [ISV] – **triboluminescent** *adj*

**tribulation** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈlæʃ(ə)n/ *n* distress or suffering resulting from oppression [ME *tribulacion*, fr OF, fr L *tribulatio*-, *tribulatio*, fr *tribulatus*, pp of *tribulare* to press, oppress, fr *tribulum* sledge used in threshing, fr *terere* to rub – more at **THROW**]

**tribunal** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈnɒl/ *n* 1 a court of justice; specif a board appointed to decide disputes of a specified kind (<rent ~>) 2 sth that arbitrates or determines (<the ~ of public opinion>) [L, platform for magistrates, fr *tribunus* tribune]

**tribune** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈnɒl/ *n* 1 an official of ancient Rome with the function of protecting the plebeian citizens from arbitrary action by the patrician magistrates 2 an unofficial defender of the rights of the individual [ME, fr L *tribunus*, fr *tribus* tribe] – **tribuneship** *n*, **tribunate** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈnɒ.ti/ *n*

**tributary** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈtɒ.ri/ *adj* 1 paying tribute to another; subject 2 paid or owed as tribute 3 providing with material or supplies

**tributary** *n* 1 a tributary ruler or state 2 a stream feeding a larger stream or a lake ➔ **GEOGRAPHY**

**tribute** /ˌtriːb.jʊ.əˈtɒ.ri/ *n* 1 a payment by one ruler or nation to another in acknowledgment of submission or as the price of protection 2a sth (e.g. a gift or formal declaration) given or spoken as a testimonial of respect, gratitude, or affection b evidence of the worth or effectiveness of sth specified – chiefly in a tribute to (<the vote was a ~ to their good sense>) [ME *tribut*, fr L *tributum*, fr neut of *tributus*, pp of *tribuere* to allot, bestow, grant, pay, fr *tribus* tribe]

**tricarboxylic** /ˌtriːk.əˈbɒk.sɪˈlɪk/ *adj* containing 3 carboxyl groups in the molecule

**trice** /ˈtriːs/ *vt* to haul up or in and lash or secure – usu + up [ME *trisen*, *tricen* to pull, *trice*, fr MD *trisen* to hoist]

**trice** *n* a brief space of time – chiefly in *a trice* [ME *trise*, lit., pull, fr *trāsen*]

**Tricel** /ˈtriːsəl/ *trademark* – used for a silky crease-resistant man-made fibre

**triceps** /ˈtriːsɛps/ *n*, *pl* **tricipes** /-ˌsɛz/ also **triceps** a muscle with 3 points of attachment; specif the large muscle along the back of the upper arm that acts to straighten the arm at the elbow [NL *tricipit*-, *triceps*, fr L, three-headed, fr *tri*- + *capit*-, *caput* head – more at **HEAD**]

**triceratops** /ˌtriːsɛr.əˈtɒps/ *n* a large plant-eating Cretaceous dinosaur with 3 horns, a bony crest, and hooved toes [NL, genus name, fr *tri*- + *cerat*- + Gk *ops* face – more at **EYE**]

**-trices** /-ˌtriːsɛz/ *pl* of **-TRIX**

**trich-**, **tricho-** *comb form* hair, filament (<trichiasis>) [NL, fr Gk, fr *tach-*, *trix* hair; akin to Mkr *garbdnuch* bristle]

**trichiasis** /ˈtriːk.i.əˈsɪs/ *n* a growing inwards of the hair, esp the eyelashes [LL, fr Gk, fr *trich* + *-iasis*]

**trichina** /ˈtriːki.ə/ *n*, *pl* **trichinae** /-ni/ also **trichinae** a small slender nematode worm that in the larval state is parasitic in the muscles of flesh-eating mammals (e.g. human beings and pigs) [NL, fr Gk *trichinos* made of hair, fr *trich-*, *trix* – **trichinal** *adj*]

**trichinized**, **-ised** /ˈtriːk.ɪˈnɪzəd/ *adj*, esp of meat **TRICHINOUS** 1

**trichinosis** /ˌtriːk.iˈnɒsɪs/ *n* infestation with or disease caused by trichinae and marked esp by muscular pain, fever, and oedema [NL]

**trichinous** /ˈtriːkɪnəs, ˈtriːki.ənəs/ *adj* 1 infested with trichinae (< meat>) 2 of or involving trichinae or trichinosis (< infection>) [ISV]

**trichloride** /ˌtriːkˈlɔːrɪd/ *n* a compound of an element or radical with 3 atoms of chlorine [ISV]

**trichocyst** /ˌtriːkəˈsɪst/ *n* any of the minute hairlike stinging or lassoing organs of some protozoans

**trichology** /ˌtriːkəˈlɒ.ʒi/ *n* the study and treatment of disorders of hair growth, specif baldness [ISV] – **trichologist** *n*

**trichome** /ˈtriːkəˌm, ˈtri-/ *n* a filamentous outgrowth, esp an epidermal hair structure on a plant [G *trichom*, fr Gk *trichoma* growth of hair, fr *trichoun* to cover with hair, fr *trich-*, *trix* hair – more at **TRICH-**] – **trichomic** /-ˈkɒhmɪk/ *adj*

**trichomonad** /ˌtriːkəˈmɒnəd/ *n* any of a genus of protozoans parasitic chiefly in the reproductive and urinary tracts of many animals including human beings [NL *Trichomonad*-, *Trichomonas*, genus name, fr *trich*- + LL *monad*-, *monas* monad] – **trichomonad**, **trichomonadal** /-ˈmɒnədəl/, **trichomonal** *adj*

**trichomoniasis** /ˌtriːkəˈmɒˈniː.əˈsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **trichomoniasis** /-ˌsɛz/ infection with or disease caused by trichomonads (e.g. a human vaginitis or urethritis or a bovine venereal disease) [NL, fr *Trichomonas* + *-iasis*]

**trichopteran** /ˌtriːkˈɒptərən/ *n* any of an order of insects consisting of the caddis flies [deriv of Gk *trich*-, *trix* hair + *pteron* wing – more at **FEATHER**] – **trichopteran** *adj*

**trichotomy** /ˌtriːkəˈtɒ.mi/ *n* division into 3 parts, elements, or classes [prob fr (assumed) NL *trichotomia*, fr LGk *trichotomein* to trisect, fr Gk *tricha* threefold + *temnein* to cut] – **trichotomous** /-ˈmɒs/ *adj*

**trichromatic** /ˌtriːkəˈrɒˌmætɪk/ *adj* 1 (consisting) of 3 colours 2a of or being the theory that human colour vision involves 3 types of retinal sensory receptors b characterized by trichromatism (< vision>)

**trichromatism** /ˌtriːkəˈrɒm.əˈtɪz(ə)m/ *n* vision in which all the fundamental colours are perceived, though not necessarily with equal facility

**\*trick** /trɪk/ *n* 1a a crafty practice or stratagem meant to deceive or defraud b a mischievous act (<played a harmless ~ on me>) c a deceptive, dexterous, or ingenious feat designed to puzzle or amuse (<a conjurer's ~s>) 2a a habitual peculiarity of behaviour or manner (<had a ~ of stammering slightly>) b a deceptive appearance, esp when caused by art or sleight of hand (<a mere ~ of the light>) 3a a quick or effective way of getting a result b a technical device or contrivance (e.g. of an art or craft) (<~s of the trade>) 4 the cards played in 1 round of a card game, often used as a scoring unit 5 a turn of duty at the helm [ME *trik*, fr ONF *trique*, fr *trikier* to deceive, cheat]

**\*trick** *adj* 1 of or involving tricks or trickery (<a ~ question>) 2 skilled in or used for tricks (<a ~ horse>)

**\*trick** *vt* 1 to deceive by cunning or artifice – often + *into*, *out* of 2 to dress or embellish showily – usu + *out* or *up* (<ed out in a gaudy uniform>)

**trickery** /ˈtrɪkəri/ *n* the use of crafty underhand ingenuity to deceive

**\*trickle** /ˈtrɪkl/ *vi* **trickling** /ˈtrɪklɪŋ/ 1 to flow in drops or a thin slow stream 2a to move or go gradually or one by one (<the audience ~d out of the hall>) b to dissipate slowly (<time ~s away>) [ME *triklen*]

**\*trickle** *n* a thin slow stream or movement

**trickster** /ˈtrɪkstə/ *n* one who tricks: e.g. a person who defrauds others by trickery b a person (e.g. a stage magician) skilled in the performance of tricks

**tricksey** /ˈtrɪksɪ/ *adj* 1 full of tricks 2 difficult to follow or make out; also excessively elaborate **USE** infml – **trickseiness** *n*

**tricky** /ˈtrɪki/ *adj* 1 inclined to or marked by trickery 2 containing concealed difficulties or hazards (<a ~ path through the swamp>) 3 requiring skill, adroitness, or caution (e.g. in doing or handling) (<gadgets>) – **trickily** *adv*, **trickiness** *n*

**triclinic** /trɪˈkɪnɪk/ *adj.* esp of a crystal having 3 unequal axes intersecting at oblique angles [ISV]

**triclinium** /trɪˈkɪlɪniəm/ *n*, *pl* **triclinia** /-ni-ə/ (a room furnished with a couch used by ancient Romans for reclining at meals, extending round 3 sides of a table, and usu divided into 3 parts [L, fr Gk *triklinion*, fr *tri-* + *klīnēin* to lean, recline – more at **LEAN**])

**tricolor**, *NAM* **tricolor** /trɪˈkʊlə/ *n* a flag of 3 colours [F *tricolore*, fr *tricolore* three-coloured, fr LL *tricolor*, fr L *tri-* + *color* colour]

**tricolour**, **tricoloured**, *NAM* **tricolor**, **tricolored** *adj* having or using 3 colours

**tricorn** /trɪˈkɔːn/ *adj* having 3 horns or corners [L *tricornis*]

**tricorn**, **tricorn** /trɪˈkɔːn/ *n* COCKED HAT [F *tricorn*, fr *tricorn* three-cornered, fr L *tricornis*, fr *tri-* + *cornu* horn – more at **HORN**]

**tricot** /trɪˈkɒt/ (Fr *triko*) *n* a plain inelastic knitted fabric used esp in clothing (e.g. underwear) [F, fr *tricot* to knit]

**tricuspid** /trɪˈkʊspɪd/ *n* or *adj* (a tooth) having 3 cusps [adj L *tricuspid-*, *tricuspis*, fr *tri-* + *cuspid-*, *cuspid* point, *n* fr *adj*]

**tricuspid valve** *n* the heart valve of 3 flaps that stops blood flowing back from the right ventricle to the right atrium

**tricycle** /trɪˈsaɪkl/ *vi* or *n* (to ride or drive) a 3-wheeled pedal-driven vehicle [n F, fr *tri-* + Gk *kyklos* wheel – more at **WHEEL**, vb fr *n*] – **tricyclist** /-kɪst/ *n*

**trident** /trɪˈdɛnt/ *n* a 3-pronged (fish) spear a serving as the attribute of a sea god b used by ancient Roman gladiators [L *trident-*, *tridens*, fr *trident-*, *tridens* having three teeth, fr *tri-* + *dent-*, *dens* tooth – more at **TOOTH**]

**trident** *adj* having 3 prongs or points [L *trident-*, *tridens*]

**Tridentine** /trɪˈdɛntɪn/ *adj* of a Roman Catholic council held in Trento from 1545 to 1563 esp promulgated by or based on the deliberations of this council <the ~ mass> [NL *Tridentinus*, fr L *Tridentum* Trento (Trent), town in NE Italy]

**tried** /trɪˈd/ *adj* 1 found to be good or trustworthy through experience or testing <a ~ recipe> 2 subjected to trials or severe provocation – often in combination <a sorely-tried father> [ME, fr pp of *trien* to try, test]

**triennial** /trɪˈɛniəl, -ni-əl/ *adj* 1 consisting of or lasting for 3 years 2 occurring every 3 years – **triennial** *n*, **triennially** *adv*

**triennium** /trɪˈɛniəm, -ni-əm/ *n*, *pl* **trienniums**, **triennia** /-ni-ə, -ni-ə/ a period of 3 years [L, fr *tri-* + *annus* year – more at **ANNUAL**]

**trier** /tri-ə/ *n* 1 sby who makes an effort or perseveres 2 an implement (e.g. a tapered hollow tube) used in obtaining samples of bulk material, esp foodstuffs, for examination and testing [TRY + -ER]

**trifid** /trɪˈfɪd/ *adj* deeply and narrowly cleft into 3 teeth, parts, or points [L *trifidus* split into three, fr *tri-* + *findere* to split – more at **SPLIT**]


**trifle** /trɪˈfl/ *n* 1 sth of little value or importance, esp an insignificant amount (e.g. of money) 2 chiefly Br a dessert typically consisting of sponge cake soaked in wine (e.g. sherry), spread with jam or jelly, and topped with custard and whipped cream [ME *trufle*, *trifle*, fr OF *trufe*, *truffle* mockery] – a **trifle** to some small degree <a trifle annoyed at the delay>

**trifle** *vb* **trifling** /trɪˈflɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to act heedlessly or frivolously – often + *with* <not a woman to be ~d with> 2 to handle sth idly ~ *vi* to spend or waste in trifling or on trifles <trifling his time away> [ME *trufflen*, *triflen*, fr OF *trufier*, *truffer* to mock, trick] – **trifler** *n*

**trifling** /trɪˈflɪŋ/ *adj* lacking in significance or solid worth e.g. a frivolous b trivial, insignificant

**trifocal** /trɪˈfəʊkəl/ *adj* having 3 focal lengths

**trifocal** *n* a trifocal glass or lens

**trifoliate** /trɪˈfəʊli-ət, -aɪt/ *adj* having (leaves with) 3 leaflets <a ~ leaf>  PLANT

**triforium** /trɪˈfɔːrɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **triforia** /-rɪ-ə/ a gallery forming an upper storey to the aisle of a church and typically an arcaded storey between the nave arches and clerestory [ML]

**triform** /trɪˈfɔːm/ *adj* having a triple form or nature [L *triformis*, fr *tri-* + *forma* form]

**trifurcate** /trɪˈfʊrkeɪt, -kəɪt/ *adj* having 3 branches or forks [L *trifurcus*, fr *tri-* + *furca* fork] – **trifurcate** /-kəɪt/ *vi*, **trifurcation** /-kəɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**trig** /trɪg/ *n* trigonometry – **infrm**

**trigeminal** /trɪˈdʒemɪnəl/ *adj* or *n* (of) the trigeminal nerve [n NL *trigeminus*, fr L, threefold, fr *tri-* + *geminus* twin; *adj* fr *n*]

**trigeminal nerve** *n* either of a pair of cranial nerves that supply motor and sensory fibres mostly to the face

**trigeminal neuralgia** *n* an intense neuralgia involving 1 or more branches of the trigeminal nerve and characterized by intense pain in the face


**trigger** /trɪɡə/ *n* 1 a device (e.g. a lever) connected with a catch as a means of release, esp the tongue of metal in a firearm which when pressed allows the gun to fire 2 a stimulus that initiates a reaction or signal in an electronic apparatus [alter. of earlier *trecker*, fr D *trekker*, fr MD *trecker* sth that pulls, fr *trecken* to pull – more at **TREK**] – **trigger** *adj*, **triggered** *adj*

**trigger** *vi* 1a to release, activate, or fire by means of a trigger b to cause the explosion of <~ a missile with a proximity fuse> 2 to initiate or set off as if by pulling a trigger <an indiscreet remark that ~ed a fight> – often + *off* ~ *vi* to release a mechanical trigger

**trigger-happy** *adj* 1 irresponsible in the use of firearms 2a aggressively belligerent b too prompt in one's response


**trigonal** /trɪˈɡɒnəl/ *adj* of or being the division of the hexagonal crystal system characterized by a vertical axis of threefold symmetry [L *trigonalis* triangular, fr *trigonum* triangle, fr Gk *trigonon*, fr neut. of *trigonos* triangular, fr *tri-* + *gonia* angle – more at **-GON**] – **trigonally** *adv*

**trigonometric function** /trɪˈɡɒnəˈmetrɪk/ *n* 1 a function (specify the sine, cosine, tangent, cotangent, secant, or cosecant) of an arc or angle most simply expressed in terms of the ratios of pairs of sides of a right-angled triangle 2 the inverse (e.g. the arc sine) of a trigonometric function

**trigonometry** /trɪˈɡɒnəˈmetrɪ/ *n* the study of the properties of triangles and trigonometric functions and of their applications  MATHEMATICS [NL *trigonometria*, fr Gk *trigonon* + *-metria* -metry] – **trigonometric** /trɪˈɡɒnəˈmetrɪk/ *also* **trigonometrical** *adj*

**trigraph** /trɪˈɡraʃ, -grɑːf/ *n* three letters spelling a single speech sound (e.g. *eau* in *beau*) – **trigraphic** /-ˈɡrɑːfɪk/ *adj*


**trilateral** /trɪˈleɪt(ə)rəl/ *adj* having 3 sides <a triangle is ~> [L *trilateralis*, fr *tri-* + *later-*, *latus* side] – **trilaterally** *adv*

**trilby** /trɪlbi/ *n*, chiefly Br a soft felt hat with an indented crown  GARMENT [fr such a hat having been worn in the London stage version of *Trilby*, novel by George Du Maurier 1896 E artist & writer]


**trilinear** /trɪˈliːni-əl/ *adj* of or involving 3 lines


**trilingual** /trɪˈlɪŋɡwəl/ *adj* 1 of, containing, or expressed in 3 languages 2 using or able to use 3 languages, esp with the fluency of a native – **trilingually** *adv*

**trilateral** /trɪˈlɪt(ə)rəl/ *n* or *adj* (a word or root) consisting of 3 letters, esp of 3 consonants [fr- + 1 *litera* letter] – **trilateralism** *n*

**trill** /trɪl/ *n* 1 the alternation of 2 musical notes 2 semitones apart  MUSIC 2 a sound resembling a musical trill 3 (a speech sound made by) the rapid vibration of the tip of the tongue against the ridge of flesh behind the front teeth, or of the uvula against the back of the tongue [It *trillo*, fr *trillare* to trill, prob fr D *trillen* to vibrate, akin to MD *trappe* step, trap]

**trill** *vi* to utter as or with a trill <~ the r> ~ *vi* to play or sing with a trill – **triller** *n*

**trillion** /trɪˈljən/ *n* 1a Br a million million millions (10<sup>12</sup>) b chiefly *NAM* a million millions (10<sup>12</sup>) 2 an indefinitely large number, a zillion – often pl with sing meaning **USE** (1)  NUMER [F, fr *tri-* + *-illion* (as in *million*)] – **trillion** *adj*, **trillionth** /trɪˈljənθ/ *adj* or *n*

**trilobite** /trɪˈləʊbaɪt/ *n* any of numerous extinct Palaeozoic marine arthropods that had a 3-lobed body  EVOLUTION [deriv of Gk *trilobos* three-lobed, fr *tri-* + *lobos* lobe]

**trilogy** /trɪˈlɒʒ/ *n* a group of 3 closely related works (e.g. novels) [Gk *trilogia*, fr *tri-* + *-logia* -logy]

**trim** /trɪm/ *vb* -mm- *vi* 1 to decorate (e.g. clothes) with ribbons, lace, or ornaments, adorn 2 to make trim and neat, esp by cutting or clipping 3 to remove (as if) by cutting <~med thousands from the running costs of the department> 4a to cause (e.g. a ship, aircraft, or submarine) to assume a desired position by arrangement of ballast, cargo, passengers, etc b to adjust (e.g. a sail) to a desired position ~ *vi* to maintain a neutral attitude towards opposing parties or favour each equally (assumed) ME **trimmen** to prepare, put in order, fr OE *trymman*, *trymman* to strengthen, arrange, fr *trum* strong, firm, akin to Skt *dāru* wood – more at **TRIFF**]

**trim** *adj* -mm- appearing neat or in good order, compact or clean-cut in outline or structure <~ houses> <a ~ figure> – **trimly** *adv*, **trimness** *n*

**trim** *n* 1 the readiness or fitness of a person or thing for action or use, esp physical fitness 2a one's clothing or appearance b material used for decoration or trimming c the decorative accessories of a motor vehicle 3a the position of a ship or boat, esp with reference to the horizontal b the inclination of an aircraft or spacecraft in flight with reference to a fixed point (e.g. the horizon), esp with the controls in some neutral position 4 (sth removed by) trimming

- trimaran** /ˈtri:mə,rən/ *n* a sailing vessel used for cruising or racing that has 3 hulls side by side [*tri-* + *-maran* (as in *catamaran*)].
- trimer** /ˈtri:mə/ *n* a polymer formed from 3 molecules of a monomer [*ISV tri-* + *-mer* (as in *polymer*)] – **trimeric** /-ˈmerɪk/ *adj*
- trimester** /ˈtri:mestə/ *n* a period of (approximately) 3 months [*F trimestre*, fr *L trimestris* of 3 months, fr *tri-* + *mensis* month – more at *MOON*] – **trimestral** /-ˈstrəl/ *also* **trimestrial** /-ˈstri:l/ *adj*
- trimeter** /ˈtri:mɪtə/ *n* a line of verse consisting either of 3 measures of 2 feet or of 3 metrical feet [*L trimetrus*, fr *Gk trimetros* having 3 measures, fr *tri-* + *metron* measure – more at *MEASURE*]
- trimmer** /ˈtri:mə/ *n* 1 a short beam or rafter fitted at 1 side of an opening to support the free ends of floor joists, studs, or rafters 2 a person who modifies his/her policy, position, or opinions out of expediency [*TRIM* + *-ER*]
- trimming** /ˈtrɪmɪŋ/ *n* 1 *pl* pieces cut off in trimming sthg; scraps 2a a decorative accessory or additional item (e.g. on the border of a garment) that serves to finish or complete b an additional garnish or accompaniment to a main item (*turkey and all the ~s*) – *usu pl*
- trimorphic** /ˈtri:mɔ:fɪk/, **trimorphous** /-ˈfəs/ *adj* occurring in or having 3 distinct (crystalline) forms [*Gk trimorphos* having 3 forms, fr *tri-* + *-morphos* -morphous] – **trimorphism** *n*
- trinary** /ˈtri:nəri/ *adj* ternary [*LL trinarius*, fr *L trini* three each]
- trine** /ˈtri:n/ *adj* 1 triple 2 of or being an astrological trine [*ME*, fr *MF trīn*, fr *L trinus*, back-formation fr *trini* three each, akin to *L tres* three – more at *THREE*]
- trine** *n* 1 a triad 2 the astrological aspect of 2 celestial bodies 120 degrees apart  *SYMBOL* – **trinal** *adj*
- Trinitarian** /ˈtrɪniˈteəriən/ *n* an adherent of the doctrine of the Trinity – **Trinitarian** *adj*, **Trinitarianism** *n*
- trinitrotoluene** /ˈtri:nɪˈtrɒlɔːiːn/ *n* an inflammable derivative of toluene used as a high explosive and in chemical synthesis [*ISV*]
- Trinity** /ˈtrɪni/ *n* 1 the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as 3 persons in 1 Godhead according to Christian theology 2 *not cap* TRIAD 1 3 the Sunday after Whitsunday observed as a festival in honour of the Trinity [*ME trinite*, fr *OF trinité*, fr *LL trinitat-, trinitas* state of being threefold, fr *L trinus* true]
- Trinity House** *n* a British organization that licenses maritime pilots and maintains navigational markers (e.g. buoys and lighthouses) [*Trinity House*, 16th-c guild orig based at Deptford in Kent]
- Trinity term** *n* the university term beginning after Easter
- trinket** /ˈtrɪŋkɪt/ *n* a small (trifling) article, esp an ornament or piece of (cheap) jewellery [*perh fr ME trenket* small knife, fr *ONF trenquet*] – **trinketry** *n*
- trinomial** /ˈtri:nəʊmɪəl/, -mɪəl/ *adj* or *n* (being) a polynomial of 3 terms [*tri-* + *-nomial* (as in *binomial*)]
- trineucleotide** /ˈtri:njuːkliːˈtiːd/ *n* a nucleotide consisting of 3 mononucleotides in combination; a codon
- trio** /ˈtriːoʊ/ *n*, *pl* **trios** 1a (a musical composition for) 3 instruments, voices, or performers b the secondary or episodic division of a minuet, scherzo, etc 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a group or set of 3 [*F*, fr *It*, fr *tri-* (fr *L*)]
- triode** /ˈtriːoʊd/ *n* a thermionic valve with 3 electrodes used esp in amplification circuits
- triolet** /ˈtriːəliːt/, -ˈtriː- / *n* an 8-line poem or stanza in which the first and second lines are repeated [*F*, prob dim of *It tino*]
- trip** /ˈtrɪp/ *vb* -**pp**- *vi* 1a to dance, skip, or walk with light quick steps b to proceed smoothly, lightly, and easily; flow (*words that ~ off the tongue*) 2 to catch the foot against sthg so as to stumble 3 to make a mistake or false step (e.g. in morality or accuracy) 4 to stumble in articulation when speaking 5 to make a journey 6 to become operative or activated (*the circuit breaker ~s when the voltage gets too high*) 7 to get high on a psychedelic drug (e.g. LSD); *TURN ON* 2a – *slang* ~ *vi* 1a to cause to stumble b to cause to fail 2 to detect in a fault or blunder; *CATCH OUT* – *usu* + *up* 3 to raise (an anchor) from the bottom so as to hang free 4 to release or operate (a device or mechanism), esp by releasing a catch or producing an electrical signal 5 to perform (e.g. a dance) lightly or nimbly – *archaic* except in *trip the light fantastic* *USE* (*vi* 2, 3, & 4; *vt* 1) often + *up* [*ME trippen*, fr *MF triper*, of *Gmc* origin; akin to *OE treppan* to tread – more at *TRAP*]
- trip** *n* 1a a voyage, journey, or excursion b a single round or tour (e.g. on a business errand) 2 an error, mistake 3 a quick light step 4 a faltering step caused by stumbling 5 a device (e.g. a catch) for tripping a mechanism 6a an intense, often visionary experience undergone by sb who has taken a psychedelic drug (e.g. LSD) b a highly charged emotional experience (*his divorce was a really bad ~*) 7 a self-indulgent or absorbing course of action, way of behaving, or frame of mind (*on a nostalgia ~*) *<gave up the whole super-star ~>* *USE* (6&7) *infrml*
- tripartite** /ˈtriːpɑːtɪt/ *adj* 1 divided into or composed of 3 (corresponding) parts 2 made between or involving 3 parties (*a ~ treaty*) [*ME*, fr *L tripartitus*, fr *tri-* + *partitus* partite] – **tripartitely** *adv*, **tripartition** /-ˈtɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- tripe** /ˈtriːp/ *n* 1 the stomach tissue of an ox, cow, etc for use as food 2 sthg inferior, worthless, or offensive – *infrml* [*ME*, fr *OF*]
- trip-hammer** *n* a large hammer raised by machinery and then tripped to drop on work below
- triphibious** /ˈtriːfɪbiəs/ *adj* employing or involving land, naval, and air forces [*tri-* + *-phibious* (as in *amphibious*)]
- triphosphate** /ˈtriːfɒsfaɪt/ *n* a compound that contains 3 phosphate groups
- triphthong** /ˈtrɪfθɒŋ/, -ˈtrɪp-/ *n* 1 a vowel sound (e.g. /iɛə/ in *fire*) composed of 3 elements 2 a trigraph [*tri-* + *-phthong* (as in *diphthong*)] – **triphthongal** /-ˈθɒŋ(ə)l/ *adj*
- triplane** /ˈtriːplæn/ *n* an aeroplane with 3 main pairs of wings arranged one above the other
- triple** /ˈtrɪpl/ *vb* **tripling** /ˈtrɪplɪŋ/ to make or become 3 times as great or as many [*ME triplen*, fr *LL triplare*, fr *L triplus*, *adj*]
- triple** *n* 1 a triple sum, quantity, or number 2 a combination, group, or series of 3 [*ME*, fr *L triplus*, *adj*]
- triple** *adj* 1 having 3 units or members 2 being 3 times as great or as many 3 marked by 3 beats per bar of music (*~ metre*) 4 having units of 3 components [*MF* or *L*, *MF*, fr *L triplus*, fr *tri-* + *-plus* multiplied by – more at *DOUBLE*] – **triplly** *adv*
- triple jump** *n* an athletic field event consisting of a jump for distance combining a hop, a step, and a jump in succession
- triple point** *n* the condition of temperature and pressure under which the gaseous, liquid, and solid phases of a substance can exist in equilibrium
- triplet** /ˈtrɪplɪt/ *n* 1 a unit of 3 lines of verse 2 a combination, set, or group of 3 3 any of 3 children or animals born at 1 birth 4 a group of 3 musical notes performed in the time of 2 of the same value [*triple* + *-et* (as in *doublet*)]
- triple-tongue** *vi* to use tongue movements to produce a very fast succession of detached notes on a wind instrument
- triplex** /ˈtrɪpleks/, -ˈtriː-/ *adj* threefold, triple [*L*, fr *tri-* + *-plex* -fold – more at *SIMPLE*]
- triplicate** /ˈtrɪplɪkət/ *adj* 1 consisting of or existing in 3 corresponding or identical parts or examples (*~ invoices*) 2 being the third of 3 things exactly alike (*file the ~ copy*) [*ME*, fr *L triplicatus*, pp of *triplicare* to triple, fr *triplic-, triplex* threefold]
- triplicate** /ˈtrɪplɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1 to make triple 2 to prepare in triplicate
- triplication** /-ˈkæɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- triplicate** /ˈtrɪplɪkət/ *n* 1 any of 3 things exactly alike, *specif* any of 3 identical copies 2 three copies all alike – *in* (*typed in ~*)
- triplicity** /ˈtrɪplɪsɪti/, -ˈtriː-/ *n* 1 any of the 4 groups of 3 symmetrically placed signs into which the signs of the zodiac are divided 2 the quality or state of being triple [*ME triplicite*, fr *LL triplicitas* condition of being threefold, fr *L triplic-, triplex*]
- tripod** /ˈtriːpɒd/ *n* 1 a stool, table, or vessel (e.g. a cauldron) with 3 legs 2 a 3-legged stand (e.g. for a camera) [*L tripod-, tripus*, fr *Gk tripod-, tripous*, fr *tripod-, tripous* three-footed, fr *tri-* + *pod-, pous* foot – more at *FOOT*] – **tripodal** /ˈtrɪpɒdəl/ *adj*
- tripos** /ˈtriːpɒs/ *n* either part of the honours examination for the Cambridge BA degree [*modif* of *L tripus*, fr the three-legged stool formerly occupied by a participant in a disputation at the degree ceremonies]
- tripper** /ˈtrɪpə/ *n*, chiefly *Br* one who goes on a outing or pleasure trip, esp one lasting only 1 day – often used disparagingly (*in the summer the village pub is usually full of ~s, so we stay at home*) [*TRIP* + *-ER*]
- trippingly** /ˈtrɪpɪŋli/ *adv* nimbly, also fluently
- triptych** /ˈtrɪptɪk/ *n* a picture or carving on 3 panels side by side; esp an altarpiece consisting of a central panel hinged to 2 flanking panels that fold over it [*Gk triptychos* having 3 folds, fr *tri-* + *ptyche* fold]
- trip-wire** *n* a concealed wire placed near the ground that is used to trip up an intruder or to actuate an explosive or warning device when pulled
- trireme** /ˈtriːreɪm/ *n* a galley with 3 banks of oars [*L triremis*, fr *tri-* + *remus* oar – more at *ROW*]
- tris-** *prefix* thrice; tripled – esp in complex chemical expressions [*Gk tris* – more at *TER*]

**trisection** /'tri:sekt/, -/-/ *vt* to divide into 3 (equal) parts – **trisection** /'tri:seks(ə)n/, -/-/ *n*, **trisection** /'tri:seks(ə)n/, -/-/ *n*  
**trishaw** /'tri:shaw/ *n* a passenger vehicle consisting of a tricycle with a rickshaw body over the rear wheels [tricycle + rickshaw]  
**triskelion** /'tri:skelɪn, tri-, -on/ also **triskele** /'tri:skel, tri-/ *n* a figure or symbol in the shape of 3 curved or bent branches radiating from a centre (<the ~ of the Isle of Man> [triskelion fr NL, fr Gk *triskeles* three-legged, fr *tri-* + *skelos* leg, *triskele* fr Gk *triskeles*])  
**trismus** /'tri:zməs/ *n* spasm of the muscles involved in chewing, lockjaw [NL, fr Gk *trismos* gnashing (of teeth), fr *trizein* to squeak, gnash, akin to L *stridere* to creak – more at **STRIDENT**]  
**trisyllable** /'tri:sɪləbl/ *n* a word of 3 syllables – **trisyllabic** /-sɪləbɪk/ *adj*, **trisyllabically** *adv*  
**trite** /'tri:t/ *adj* hackneyed from much use [L *tritus*, fr pp of *terere* to rub, wear away – more at **THROW**] – **tritely** *adv*, **triteness** *n*  
**tritiated** /'tri:ʃaɪəɪd/, 'tri:t-/ *adj*, of a molecule containing tritium in place of hydrogen, esp as a radioactive label  
**triticale** /'tri:tɪ'kaɪl/ *n* a cereal grass that is a hybrid between wheat and rye and has a high yield and rich protein content [NL, blend of *Triticum*, genus of wheat + *Secale*, genus of rye]  
**tritium** /'tri:ʃi-əm, 'tri:t-əm/ *n* a radioactive isotope of hydrogen with atoms of 3 times the mass of ordinary hydrogen atoms [NL, fr Gk *tritos* third – more at **THIRD**]  
**triton** /'tri:t(ə)n/ *n* (any of various large marine gastropod molluscs with) a heavy elongated conical shell [NL, genus name, fr L *Triton*, mythical marine demigod, fr Gk *Triton*]  
**triturate** /'tri:tʃuəreɪt/ *vt* 1 to crush, grind 2 to reduce to a fine powder by rubbing or grinding [LL *tritaturus*, pp of *triturare* to thresh, fr L *tritura* act of rubbing, crushing, fr *tritus*, pp] – **triturator** *n*, **triturable** /-rəbl/ *adj*, **trituration** /-reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*  
**triumph** /'tri:əm(p)f/ *n* 1 a ceremony attending the entering of ancient Rome by a general who had won a decisive victory over a foreign enemy – compare **OVATION** 2 the joy or exultation of victory or success 3 (a) notable success, victory, or achievement [ME *trumphe*, fr MF, fr L *triumphus*] – **triumphal** /-əm(p)l/ *adj*  
**triumph** *vi* 1 to celebrate victory or success boastfully or exultantly 2 to obtain victory – often + **over**  
**triumphant** /'tri:əm(p)fənt/ *adj* 1 victorious, conquering 2 rejoicing in or celebrating victory – **triumphantly** *adv*  
**triumvir** /'tri:əmva-, -vɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **triumvirs** also **triumviri** /-vɪəri-/ *a* member of a commission or ruling body of 3 [L, back-formation fr *triumviri*, *pl*, commission of 3 men, fr *trium virum* of 3 men] – **triumviral** /-vɪərəl/ *adj*  
**triumvirate** /'tri:əmvaɪt/ *n* 1 the office of triumvirs 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* *a* a body of triumvirs *b* a group of 3  
**triune** /'tri:juən/ *adj*, often *cap* three in one – used of the Trinity [*tri-* + L *unus* one – more at **ONE**]  
**trivalent** /'tri:vələnt, 'tri:vələnt/ *adj* having a valency of 3 [ISV]  
**trivet** /'tri:vɪt/ *n* 1 a three-legged (iron) stand for holding cooking vessels over or by a fire; also a bracket that hooks onto a grate for this purpose 2 a (metal) stand with 3 feet for holding a hot dish at table [ME *trever*, fr OE *trefet*, prob modif of LL *triped-*, *tripes*, fr L, three-footed, fr *tri-* + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at **FOOT**]  
**trivia** /'tri:vɪ-ə/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* unimportant matters or details [NL, fr *pl* of L *trivium* crossroads, influenced in meaning by E *trivial*]  
**trivial** /'tri:vɪ-əl/ *adj* 1 commonplace, ordinary 2a of little worth or importance, insignificant *b* of or being the mathematically simplest case (<a ~ solution to an equation> [L *trivialis* found everywhere, commonplace, trivial, fr *trivium* crossroads, fr *tri-* + *via* way – more at **VIA**] – **trivialness** *n*, **trivially** *adv*, **trivialize** *vt*, **trivialization** /-zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*, **triviality** /'tri:vɪ-əlɪt/ *n*  
**trivial name** *n* 1 the second part of a 2 word Latin name of an animal, plant, etc, that follows the genus name and denotes the species 2 a common or vernacular name of an organism or chemical  
**trivium** /'tri:vɪ-əm/ *n*, *pl* **trivia** /'tri:vɪ-ə/ grammar, rhetoric, and logic, forming the lower division of the 7 liberal arts in medieval universities – compare **QUADRIVIVUM** [ML, fr L, meeting of 3 ways, crossroads]  
**triweekly** /'tri:wekli/ *adj* or *adv* 1 (occurring or appearing) 3 times a week 2 (occurring or appearing) every 3 weeks  
**-trix** /-tri:k/ *suffix* (~ *n*), *pl* **-trices** /-tri:seɪz, -tri:seɪz/, **-trices** 1 female (<aviatrix> [executrix]) 2 geometric line, point, or surface (<directrix>) [ME, fr L, fem of *-tor*, suffix denoting an agent, fr *-tus*, pp ending + *-or* – more at **-ED**]  
**tRNA** /'te:ə hr en 'ay/ *n* **TRANSFER RNA**  
**trocar** also **trochar** /'tro:hkəh/ *n* a sharp-pointed instrument used esp to

insert a fine tube into a body cavity as a drainage outlet [F *trocart*, fr *trois* three (fr L *tres*) + *carre* side of a sword blade, fr *carrer* to make square, fr L *quadrare* – more at **THREE, QUADRATE**]  
**trochal** /'tro:hkl/ *adj* resembling a wheel [Gk *trochos* wheel]  
**trochanter** /'tro:kəntə/ *n* 1 a rough prominence at the upper part of the femur of many vertebrates 2 the second segment of an insect's leg counting from the body [Gk *trochanter*, akin to Gk *trechein* to turn] – **trochanteric** /'tro:kən'tenɪk/ *adj*  
**troche** /'tro:hsh/ *n* a usu circular soothing medicinal tablet or lozenge held in the mouth until dissolved, esp for the relief of a sore throat [alter. of earlier *trochisk*, fr LL *trochiscus*, fr Gk *trochiskos*, fr *dim* of *trochos* wheel]  
**trochee** /'tro:h,kee/ *n* a metrical foot consisting of 1 long or stressed syllable followed by 1 short or unstressed syllable (e.g. in *apple*) [F *trochée*, fr L *trochaeus*, fr Gk *trochaos*, fr *trochaos* running, fr *troché* run, course, fr *trechein* to run, akin to Gk *trochos* wheel, OIr *droch*] – **trochaic** /'tro:h'kaɪk/ *adj* or *n*  
**trochlea** /'tro:kli-ə/ *n*, *pl* **trochleas**, **trochleae** /-li:ee/ *n* an anatomical structure resembling a pulley, esp a surface of a bone over which a tendon passes [NL, fr L, block of pulleys, fr Gk *trochileia*, akin to Gk *trechein* to run] – **trochlear** *adj*  
**trochophore** /'tro:kə'faw/ *n* a free-swimming cilia-bearing larva, esp of marine annelid worms [deriv of Gk *trochos* wheel + *pherein* to carry – more at **BEAR**]  
**trod** /'tro:d/ *past* of **TREAD**  
**trodden** /'tro:d(ə)n/ *past part* of **TREAD**  
**troglydite** /'tro:glədi:t/ *n* 1 CAVE DWELLER 2 a person resembling a troglodyte, esp in being solitary or unsocial or in having primitive or outmoded ideas 3 *ape* 1 [L *troglydytae*, *pl*, fr Gk *troglydyta*, fr *troglye* hole, cave + *dyein* to enter; akin to Gk *trogein* to gnaw] – **troglydite** /-di:tɪk/ *adj*  
**trogon** /'tro:hɡon/ *n* any of a family of tropical birds with brilliant lustrous plumage [NL, genus name, fr Gk *trogon*, *prp* of *trogein* to gnaw]  
**troika** /'troɪkə/ *n* 1 (a Russian vehicle drawn by) a team of 3 horses abreast 2 **TRIAD** 1, esp an administrative or ruling body of 3 people [Russ *troika*, fr *troie* three, akin to OE *thrie* three]  
**Trojan** /'troɪj(ə)n/ *n* 1 a native of Troy 2 one who shows qualities (e.g. pluck or endurance) attributed to the defenders of ancient Troy – chiefly in work like *a Trojan* [ME, fr L *trojanus* of Troy, fr *Troia*, *Troja* Troy, ancient city in Asia Minor, fr Gk *Troia*] – **Trojan** *adj*  
**Trojan horse** *n* sby or sth intended to undermine or subvert from within [fr the legend of a large hollow wooden horse filled with Greek soldiers and brought within the walls of Troy by a trick during the Trojan War]  
**troll** /'tro:hl, tro:/ *vt* 1 to sing loudly 2 to fish for or in with a hook and line drawn through the water behind a moving boat ~ *vi* 1 to sing or play an instrument in a jovial manner 2 to fish, esp by drawing a hook through the water 3 to move about; stroll, saunter (<travel writers...ing around from free hotel to free hotel – *The Bookseller*> [ME *trollen* to move about, roll] – **troller** *n*  
**troll** *n* (a line with) a lure used in trolling  
**troll** *n* a dwarf or giant of Germanic folklore inhabiting caves or hills [Norw *troll* & Dan *trold*, fr ON *troll* giant, demon, akin to MHG *trolle* monster, OE *treppan* to tread – more at **TRAP**]  
**trolley** also **trolly** /'tro:li/ *n* 1 a device (e.g. a grooved wheel or skid) attached to a pole that collects current from an overhead electric wire for powering an electric vehicle 2 chiefly *Br* a a shelved stand mounted on castors used for conveying sth (e.g. food or books) *b* a basket on wheels that is pushed or pulled by hand and used for carrying goods (e.g. purchases in a supermarket) 3 *Br* a small 4-wheeled wagon that runs on rails 4 *NAM* **TRAM** *b* [E dial *trolley*, *troll* (cart, truck), prob fr 'troll]  
**trolleybus** /-bus/ *n* an electrically propelled bus running on a road and drawing power from 2 overhead wires via a trolley  
**trolley car** *n*, *NAM* **TRAM** *b*  
**trollop** /'tro:lɒp/ *n* a slovenly or immoral woman [prob irreg fr G dial *trolle*, fr MHG *trulle* prostitute – more at **TRULL**] – **trollopy** *adj*  
**trombone** /'tro:m'bəʊn/ *n* a brass instrument consisting of a long cylindrical metal tube with a movable slide for varying the pitch and a usual range 1 octave lower than that of the trumpet [It, aug of *tromba* trumpet, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *trumba*, *trump* trumpet] – **trombonist** *n*  
**trommel** /'tro:məl/ *n* a usu cylindrical revolving sieve, esp for screening or sizing ore [G, *drum*, fr MHG *trummel*, *dim.* of *trumme* drum – more at **DRUM**]

- trompe l'oeil** /trɒmp 'luː- (Fr trɒp lœʒ)/ *n* (the effect produced by) a style of painting or decorating in which objects are depicted with three-dimensional reality [F *trompe-l'oeil*, lit., deceive the eye]
- tron** /-trɒn/ *suffix* (→ *n*) device for the manipulation of subatomic particles (<cyclotron>) [Gk, suffix denoting an instrument, akin to OE *-thor*, suffix denoting an instrument, L *-trum*]
- \*troop** /troʊp/ *n* 1 *sing or pl in constr* a military subunit (e.g. of cavalry) corresponding to an infantry platoon 2 a collection of people or things 3 a unit of scouts under a leader 2 *pl* the armed forces [MF *trope*, *troupe* company, herd, of Gmc origin, akin to OE *thorp*, *thorp* village]
- \*troop** *vi* to move in a group, esp in a way that suggests regimentation <everyone ~ed into the meeting>
- trooper** /troʊpə/ *n* 1a a cavalry soldier, esp a private soldier in a cavalry or armoured regiment 2 the horse of a cavalry soldier 2 chiefly NAm & Austr a mounted policeman
- trop-, tropho-** *comb form* 1 turn, turning, change (<troposphere>) 2 tropism (<tropic>) [ISV, fr Gk *tropos*]
- trope** /trohp/ *n* a figurative use of a word or expression [L *tropus*, fr Gk *tropos* turn, way, manner, style, trope, fr *trepein* to turn, akin to L *trepit* he turns]
- troph-, tropho-** *comb form* nutritive (<trophoplasm>) [F, fr Gk, fr *trophe* nourishment]
- trophic** /trofik, 'trofik/ *adj* 1 of nutrition or growth (<~ disorders of muscle>) (<~ level>) 2 *FOOD* 2 of a hormone influencing the activity of a gland [F *trophique*, fr Gk *trophikos*, fr *trophe* nourishment, fr *trepein* to nourish – more at *ATROPHY*] – **trophically** *adv*
- trophic** /-trofik, -trofik/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) 1 of or characterized by (a specified mode of feeding) (<zootrophic>) 2 attracted to, acting upon, or esp stimulating (sthg specified) (<corticotrophic>) [NL *-trophia* nutrition, fr Gk, fr *-trophos* nourishing, fr *trepein*] – **trophism**, **-trophy** *comb form* (→ *n*)
- trophoblast** /trofə,blast, 'troh-/ *n* a layer of ectoderm on the outside of the blastula of many placental mammals that nourishes the embryo [ISV] – **trophoblastic** /-blastik/ *adj*
- trophy** /trofi/ *n* 1a a memorial of an ancient Greek or Roman victory raised on or near the field of battle 2 a representation of such a memorial (e.g. on a medal), also an architectural ornament representing a group of military weapons 2 sthg gained or awarded in victory or conquest, esp when preserved as a memorial [MF *trophee*, fr L *tropaeum*, *trophaeum*, fr Gk *tropaion*, fr neut of *tropaos* of a turning, of a rout, fr *trope* turn, rout, fr *trepein* to turn – more at *TROPE*]
- \*tropic** /tro'pik/ *n* 1 either of the 2 small circles of the celestial sphere on each side of and parallel to the equator at a distance of 23½ degrees, which the sun reaches at its greatest declination N or S 2a(1) TROPIC OF CANCER (2) TROPIC OF CAPRICORN *b pl*, often *cap* the region between the 2 terrestrial tropics [ME *tropik*, fr L *tropicus* of the solstice, fr Gk *tropikos*, fr *trope* turn]
- \*tropic** /tro'pik/ *adj* 1 of, being, or characteristic of (a) tropism 2 TROPIC 2 [*trop-*]
- tropic** /-tro'pik/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) 1 turning, changing, or tending to turn or change in (a specified manner) or in response to (a specified stimulus) (<geotropic>) 2 -TROPIC 2 [F *-trophique*, fr Gk *-tropos* -tropicous] – **-tropism**, **-trophy** *comb form* (→ *n*)
- tropical** /tro'pikl/ *adj* 1 also **tropic** of, occurring in, or characteristic of the tropics 2 of a sign of the zodiac beginning at either of the tropics – **tropically** *adv*
- \*tropic bird** /tro'pik/ *n* any of several web-footed birds related to the gannets
- tropic of Cancer** /tro'pik əv 'kænsə/ *n* the parallel of latitude that is 23½ degrees N of the equator [fr the sign of the zodiac which its celestial projection intersects]
- tropic of Capricorn** /tro'pik əv 'kæpri,kəwn/ *n* the parallel of latitude that is 23½ degrees S of the equator [fr the sign of the zodiac which its celestial projection intersects]
- tropism** /tro'piz(ə)m/ *n* (an) involuntary orientation by (a part of) an organism, esp a plant, that involves turning or curving in response to a source of stimulation (e.g. light) – compare *TAXIS* 2 [ISV *-tropism*, fr *trop-*]
- tropo-** – see *TROP-*
- tropology** /tro'pɒləʒi/ *n* the figurative use of words [LL *tropologia*, fr LGk, fr Gk *tropos* trope + *-logia* -logy] – **tropological** /tro'pɒləjɪkl/ also **tropologic** *adj*
- tropopause** /tro'pɒwz/ *n* the region at the top of the troposphere [ISV *troposphere* + *pause*]
- troposphere** /tro'pɒsfiə/ *n* the part of the atmosphere below the stratosphere, in which temperature decreases rapidly with altitude and clouds form [ISV] – **tropospheric** /-sferɪk/ *adj*
- tropical** /-tro'pɪkəl/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) 1 TROPIC 1 (<anatropical>) [Gk *-tropos*, fr *trepein* to turn – more at *TROPE*]
- troppo** /tro'pɒ/ *adj*, Austr mentally deranged by the heat of the tropics – infml ['tropic + -o]
- \*trot** /tro't/ *n* 1 a moderately fast gait of a horse or other quadruped in which the legs move in diagonal pairs 2 an instance or the pace of trotting or proceeding briskly 3 *pl but sing or pl in constr* diarrhoea – usu + *the*, humor [ME, fr MF, fr *troter* to trot, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *trotton* to tread, OE *tredan*] – on the trot in succession – infml
- \*trot** *vb* -tt- *vi* 1 to ride, drive, or proceed at a trot 2 to proceed briskly ~ *vt* 1 to cause to go at a trot 2 to traverse at a trot
- Trot** *n* a Trotskyite, broadly any adherent of the extreme left – chiefly derog
- troth** /tro'θ/ *n*, archaic one's pledged word, also betrothal – chiefly in *plight one's troth* [ME *trouth*, fr OE *treowth* – more at *TRUTH*]
- trot out** *vt* 1 to produce or bring forward (as if) for display or scrutiny 2 to produce or utter in a trite or predictable manner (<trotted out all the old clichés>)
- Trotskyism** /trotski,z(ə)m/ *n* the political, economic, and social principles advocated by Trotsky, esp adherence to the concept of permanent worldwide revolution [Leon Trotsky †1940 Russ Communist leader] – **Trotskyist**, **Trotskyite** /-tjet/ *n* or *adj*
- trotter** /tro'tə/ *n* 1 a horse trained for trotting races 2 the foot of an animal, esp a pig, used as food ['trot + -ER]
- trotting** /tro'tɪŋ/ *n* the sport of racing horses moving at a fast trot and pulling light 2-wheeled vehicles carrying a driver
- troubadour** /troʊbə'dɔːr, -dooə/ *n* any of a class of lyric poets and poet-musicians, chiefly in France in the 11th to 13th c, whose major theme was courtly love [F, fr OPProv *troubador*, fr *trobar* to compose, prob fr (assumed) VL *tropare*, fr L *tropus* trope]
- \*trouble** /trʊbl/ *vb* **troubling** /trʊblɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to agitate mentally or spiritually, worry 2 to produce physical disorder or discomfort in (<~ d with deafness>) 3 to put to exertion or inconvenience (<could I ~ you to close the door?>) 2 to make (e.g. the surface of water) turbulent ~ *vi* 1 to become mentally agitated (<refused to ~ over trifles>) 2 to make an effort, be at pains (<don't ~ to come>) [ME *troubelen*, fr OF *tourbler*, *troubler*, fr (assumed) VL *turbulare*, alter of L *turbidare*, fr *turbidus* turbid, troubled]
- \*trouble** *n* 1a being troubled 2 an instance of distress, annoyance, or disturbance 2 a cause of disturbance, annoyance, or distress e.g. a public unrest or demonstrations of dissatisfaction – often *pl* with *sing* meaning 3 effort made, exertion 4(1) a disease, ailment, or condition of physical distress (<heart ~>) (2) a malfunction (<engine ~>) 3 d pregnancy out of wedlock – chiefly in *in/into trouble* 3 a problem, snag (<that's the ~ with these newfangled ideas>) – **troublesome** /trʊblsəm/ *adj*, archaic or poetic
- \*troublemaker** /-mæjkə/ *n* one who causes trouble
- \*trouble shooter** /-ʃu:ʃə/ *n* 1 a skilled workman employed to locate faults and make repairs in machinery and technical equipment 2 one who specializes or is expert in resolving disputes – **troubleshooting** *n*
- \*troublesome** /-(ə)m/ *adj* giving trouble or anxiety; annoying or burdensome (<a ~ cough>) (<a ~ neighbour>) – **troublesomely** *adv*, **troublesomeness** *n*
- trough** /trof/ *n* 1a a long shallow receptacle for the drinking water or feed of farm animals 2 a long narrow container used for domestic or industrial purposes 2a a conduit, drain, or channel for water 2b a long narrow or shallow trench between waves, ridges, etc 3a the (region round the) lowest point of a regularly recurring cycle of a varying quantity (e.g. a sine wave) 2b an elongated area of low atmospheric pressure 3 a low point (in a trade cycle) [ME, fr OE *trog*; akin to OE *treow* tree, wood – more at *TREE*]
- trounce** /traʊns/ *vt* 1 to thrash or punish severely 2 to defeat decisively [origin unknown]
- troupe** /troʊp/ *n* a company or troop (of theatrical performers) [F, fr MF – more at *TROOP*]
- trouper** /troʊpə/ *n* 1 a member of a troupe 2 a loyal or dependable person
- trousers** /traʊzəz/ *n pl, pl* trousers a 2-legged outer garment extending from the waist to the ankle or sometimes only to the knee 3 GARMENT [alter. of earlier *trouse*, fr ScGael *trubhas*] – **trouser** *adj*
- \*trouser** *suit* *n* a woman's suit consisting of a jacket and trousers
- trousseau** /troʊsoʊ/ *n, pl* trousseaux, trousseaus /-soʊz/ the personal



- outfit of a bride including clothes, accessories, etc [F, fr OF, dim. of *trousse* bundle, fr *trousser* to truss]
- trout** /traʊt/ *n*, *pl* **trouts**, (*l*) **trout**, *esp* for different types **trouts** 1 any of various food and sport fishes of the salmon family restricted to cool clear fresh waters, *esp* any of various Old World or New World fishes some of which ascend rivers from the sea to breed – compare **RAINBOW TROUT** 2 an ugly unpleasant old woman – slang [ME, fr OE *trūht*, fr LL *trocta*, *tracta*, a fish with sharp teeth, fr Gk *trōktes*, lit., gnawer, fr *trogein* to gnaw – more at **TERSE**]
- trouville** /troʊ'vi/ (Fr *truva:j*)/ *n* a chance or unexpected find, also an interesting or original idea [F, fr OF *trover*, *trouver* to compose, find]
- trouvère** /troʊ've/ (Fr *truvɛ:r*)/ *n* any of a class of late medieval French narrative poets [F, fr OF *troveor*, *troverre*, fr *trover* to compose, find, fr (assumed) VL *tropare* – more at **TROUBADOUR**]
- trove** /troʊv/ *n* TREASURE
- trover** /'troʊv/ *n* a common law action to recover the value of goods wrongfully taken or kept by another [MF *trover* to find]
- trow** /troʊ/ *vb*, *archaic* to think, believe [ME *trowen*, fr OE *trēowan*, akin to OE *treowe* faithful, true – more at **TRUE**]
- trowel** /'troʊəl/ *n* any of various smooth-bladed hand tools used to apply, spread, shape, or smooth loose or soft material, also a scoop-shaped or flat-bladed garden tool for taking up and setting small plants  BUILDING [ME *truel*, fr MF *truelle*, fr LL *trulla*, fr L *trulla*, dim of *trua* ladle, akin to L *turbare* to disturb – more at **TURBID**]
- trowel** *vi* -ll- (NAM -ll-, -ll-), /'troʊəlɪŋ/ to smooth, mix, or apply (as if) with a trowel
- troy** /troi/ *adj* expressed in troy weight [ME *troie*, fr *Troyes*, city in France]
- troy weight** *n* the series of units of weight based on the pound of 12oz and the ounce of 20 pennyweights or 480 grains
- truant** /'troʊ-ənt/ *n* one who shirks duty; *esp* one who stays away from school without permission [ME, *vagabond*, *idler*, fr OF, *vagrant*, of Celt origin, akin to ScGael *truaghan* wretch] – **truant** *adj*, **truanting** *n*, **truancy** *n*
- truce** /troʊks/ *n* a (temporary) suspension of fighting by agreement of opposing forces [ME *trewes*, pl of *trewe* agreement, fr OE *treow* fidelity, akin to OE *trēowe* faithful – more at **TRUE**]
- truck** /trʌk/ *vi* to give in exchange, barter ~ *vi* 1 to trade, barter 2 to negotiate or traffic, *esp* in an underhand way [ME *trukken*, fr OF *troquer*]
- truck** *n* 1 (commodities suitable for) barter or small trade 2 close association, dealings – chiefly in *have no truck with* 3 payment of wages in goods instead of cash 4 miscellaneous small articles; also rubbish – *infml*
- truck** *n* 1 a small strong wheel 2 a small wooden cap at the top of a flagstaff or masthead, usu having holes for flag or signal halyards 3a a usu 4- or 6-wheeled vehicle for moving heavy loads; a lorry b a usu 2- or 4-wheeled cart for carrying heavy articles (e.g. luggage at railway stations) 4 *Br* an open railway goods wagon [prob fr L *trochus* iron hoop, fr Gk *trochos* wheel – more at **TROCHLEA**]
- truck** *vt* to load or transport on a truck ~ *vi*, *NAM* to be employed as a lorry driver – **truckage** *n*
- trucker** /'trʌk/ *n*, *NAM* 1 one whose business is transporting goods by lorry 2 a lorry driver
- truckle** /'trʌk/ *vi* **truckling** /'trʌklɪŋ/ to act in a subservient or obsequious manner – usu + *to* [fr the lower position of the truckle bed] – **truckler** *n*
- truckle bed** *n* a low bed, usu on castors, that can be slid under a higher bed [ME *trookel*, *trocle* pulley, small wheel, fr L *trochlea* block of pulleys – more at **TROCHLEA**]
- truculent** /'trʌkyʊlənt/ *adj* aggressively self-assertive, belligerent [L *truculentus*, fr *truc-*, *trux* fierce] – **truculence**, **truculency** *n*, **truculently** *adv*
- trudge** /'trʌdʒ/ *vb* to walk steadily and laboriously (along or over) [origin unknown] – **trudger** *n*
- trudge** *n* a long tiring walk
- true** /troʊ/ *adj* 1 steadfast, loyal (< *a ~ friend*) 2a in accordance with fact or reality (< *a ~ story*) b essential (< *the ~ nature of socialist economics*) c being that which is the case rather than what is claimed or assumed (< *the ~ dimensions of the problem*) d consistent, conforming (< *~ to expectations*) (< *~ to type*) 3a(1) properly so called (< *the ~ faith*) (2) genuine, real (< *~ love*) b(1) possessing the basic characters of and belonging to the same natural group as (< *a whale is a ~ but not a typical mammal*) (2) typical (< *the ~ cats*) 4a accurately fitted, adjusted, balanced, or formed b exact, accurate (< *a ~ voice*) (< *a ~ copy*, 5 determined with reference to the earth's axis rather than the magnetic poles (< *~ north*) [ME *trewe*, fr OE *treowe* faithful, akin to OHG *gitrūwi* faithful, Skt *daruna* hard, *daru* wood – more at **TRIF**]
- true** *n* the state of being accurate (e.g. in alignment or adjustment) – chiefly in *in/out of true*
- true** *vt* to bring or restore to a desired mechanical accuracy or form – **truer** *n*
- true** *adv* 1 **TRULY** 1 2a without deviation, straight b without variation from type (< *breed ~*) [ME *trewe*, fr *trewe*, *adj*]
- true bill** *n* a bill of indictment in the USA endorsed by a grand jury as warranting prosecution
- true-blue** *adj* staunchly loyal, *specif*, *Br* being a staunch supporter of the Conservative party [fr a traditional association of blue with fidelity & its adoption as a party colour by various Br conservative groups since the 17th c] – **true-blue** *n*
- true love** /-lʊv/ *n* a sweetheart – poetic
- true lover's knot**, **true love knot** *n* a complicated ornamental knot not readily untied and symbolic of mutual love
- truffle** /'trʌfl/ *n* 1 (any of several European fungi with) a usu dark and wrinkled edible fruiting body that grows under the ground and is eaten as a delicacy 2 a rich soft creamy sweet made with chocolate [modif of MF *truffe*, fr OProv *trufa*, fr (assumed) VL *tufera*, alter of L *tuber* – more at **TUBER**] – **truffled** *adj*
- trug** /'trʌg/ *n*, *Br* a shallow rectangular wooden basket for carrying garden produce [origin unknown]
- truism** /'troʊɪz(ə)m/ *n* an undoubted or self-evident truth – **truistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- trull** /'trʌl/ *n*, *archaic* a prostitute, strumpet [obs G *trulle*, fr MHG, akin to ON *troll* giant, demon – more at **TROLL**]
- truly** /'troʊli/ *adv* 1 in accordance with fact or reality, truthfully 2 accurately, exactly 3a indeed b genuinely, sincerely (< *he was ~ sorry*) 4 properly, duly (< *well and ~ beaten*)
- trump** /'trʌmp/ *n* a trumpet (call) – chiefly poetic [ME *trompe*, fr OF]
- trump** *n* 1a a card of a suit any of whose cards will win over a card that is not of this suit b *pl* the suit whose cards are trumps for a particular hand 2 a worthy and dependable person – *infml* [alter of 'trumph] – *come/turn up trumps* to prove unexpectedly helpful or generous
- trump** *vb* to play a trump on (a card or trick) when another suit was led
- trump card** *n* 1 **TRUMP** 1a 2 a telling or decisive factor, a clincher – *esp* in *play ~ ne's trump card*
- trumpet** /'trʌmpɪt/ *adj* 1 worthless, useless 2 cheap, tawdry [ME *trompete* deceit, fr MF, fr *tromper* to deceive] – **trumpetery** *n*
- trumpet** /'trʌmpɪt/ *n* 1 a wind instrument consisting of a usu metal tube, a cup-shaped mouthpiece, and a flared bell, *specif* a valved brass instrument having a cylindrical tube and a usual range from F sharp below middle C upwards for 2½ octaves 2 sthg that resembles (the flared bell or loud penetrating sound of) a trumpet: e.g. a megaphone b the loud cry of an elephant [ME *trompette*, fr MF, fr OF *trompe* trumpet] – **trumpetlike** *adj*
- trumpet** *vi* 1 to blow a trumpet 2 to make a sound as of a trumpet ~ *vi* to sound or proclaim loudly (as if) on a trumpet
- trumpet creeper** *n* a N American woody climbing plant with large red trumpet-shaped flowers
- trumpeter** /'trʌmpɪtə/ *n* 1 a trumpet player, *specif* one who gives (military) signals with a trumpet 2a any of several long-legged long-necked S American birds related to the cranes b **TRUMPETER SWAN** c any of an Asiatic type of domestic pigeon with a rounded crest and heavily feathered feet
- trumpeter swan** *n* a rare white N American wild swan noted for its sonorous voice
- trumpet flower** *n* (any of various plants with) a trumpet-shaped flower
- trumpet shell** *n* a triton
- trump up** *vt* to concoct, fabricate (< *charges trumped up by the police*)
- truncate** /'trʌŋkəɪt, -/ *vt* to shorten (as if) by cutting off a part [L *truncatus*, pp of *truncare*, fr *truncus* trunk] – **truncation** /-'kæʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- truncate** *adj* having the end square or even (< *the ~ leaves of the tulip tree*)  PLANT
- truncated** /'trʌŋkəɪtɪd, -/ *adj* having the apex replaced by a plane section, *esp* one parallel to the base (< *~ cone*)

- truncheon** /ˈtrʌŋtʃən/ *n* 1 a staff of office or authority 2 a short club carried esp by policemen [ME *tronchoun* broken spear, fr MF *tronchon*, fr (assumed) VL *truncion-*, *truncio*, fr L *truncus* trunk]
- trundle** /ˈtrʌndl/ *n* a small wheel or roller [alter of earlier *trendle*, fr ME, circle, ring, wheel, fr OE *trendel*; akin to OE *trendan* to revolve – more at TREND]
- \*trundle** *vb* **trundling** /ˈtrʌndlɪŋ/ to move heavily or pull along (as if) on wheels
- \*trundle, bed** *n* TRUCKLE BED
- trunk** /trʌŋk/ *n* 1a the main stem of a tree as distinguished from branches and roots b the human or animal body apart from the head and limbs c the main or central part of sthg (e.g. an artery, nerve, or column) 2 a large rigid box used usu for transporting clothing and personal articles 3 a proboscis; esp the long muscular proboscis of the elephant 4 *pl* men's usu close-fitting shorts worn chiefly for swimming or sports 5 a chute, shaft, or similar (major) supply channel 6 TRUNK LINE 7 NAM 'BOOT 4 [ME *tronke* box, trunk, fr MF *tronc*, fr L *truncus* trunk, torso]
- \*trunk, call** *n* a telephone call made on a trunk line ㄟ TEI COMMUNICATION
- \*trunk, line** *n* a major route of communication e.g. a main line of a railway system b a telephone line between towns
- \*trunk, road** *n* a road of primary importance, esp for long distance travel
- trunnion** /ˈtrʌnjən/ *n* a pin or pivot on which sthg can be rotated or tilted; esp either of 2 opposite projections on which a gun barrel can be tilted vertically [F *tronçon* core, stump]
- \*truss** /trʌs/ *vt* 1a to secure tightly, bind – often + *up* b to bind the wings or legs of (a fowl) closely in preparation for cooking 2 to support or stiffen (e.g. a bridge) with a truss [ME *trussen*, fr OF *trousser*]
- \*truss** *n* 1a a corbel; BRACKET 1 b a usu triangular assemblage of members (e.g. beams) forming a rigid framework (e.g. in a roof or bridge) 2 a device worn to reduce a hernia by pressure 3 a compact flower or fruit cluster (e.g. of tomatoes) – **trussing** *n*
- \*trust** /trʌst/ *n* 1 confident belief in or reliance on (the ability, character, honesty, etc.) of sb or sthg <take it on ~> 2 financial credit 3a a property interest held by one person for the benefit of another b a combination of companies formed by a legal agreement 4a a charge or duty imposed in faith or as a condition of some relationship b responsible charge or office <in a position of ~> c care, custody <child committed to his ~> [ME, prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *traust* trust, akin to OE *treowe* faithful – more at TRUE] – **trustful** *adj*, **trustfully** *adv* – in trust in the care or possession of a trustee
- \*trust** *vi* 1 to place confidence, depend <~ in God> 2 to be confident, hope <we'll see you soon, I ~> ~ *vt* 1a to place in sb's care or keeping b to permit to do or be without fear or misgiving <won't ~ it out of his sight> 2a to place confidence in, rely on – also used ironically <~ him to arrive late!> b to expect or hope, esp confidently <I ~ you are well!> 3 to extend credit to – **trustable** *adj*, **trusting** *adj*, **trustingly** *adv*
- \*trust, company** *n* a company that functions as a corporate and personal trustee and usu also engages in the normal activities of a commercial bank
- trustee** /ˈtruːsti/ *n* 1 a country charged with the supervision of a trust territory 2a a natural or legal person appointed to administer property in trust for a beneficiary b any of a body of people administering the affairs of a company or institution and occupying a position of trust – **trusteeship** *n*
- \*trust, territory** *n* a non-self-governing territory placed under an administrative authority by the United Nations
- \*trust, worthy** /-,wʊdhi/ *adj* dependable, reliable – **trustworthily** *adv*, **trustworthiness** *n*
- \*trusty** /ˈtruːsti/ *adj* trustworthy – **trustily** *adv*, **trustiness** *n*
- \*trusty** *n* a trusted person; *specif* a convict considered trustworthy and allowed special privileges
- truth** /truːθ/ *n*, *pl* **truths** /truːθhɪz, truːθs/ 1 sincerity, honesty 2a(1) the state or quality of being true or factual <there's ~ in what she says> (2) reality, actuality <~ is stranger than fiction> (3) often *cap* a transcendent (e.g. spiritual) reality b a judgment, proposition, idea, or body of statements that is (accepted as) true <scientific ~s> 3 conformity to an original or to a standard [ME *trouthe*, fr OE *treowth* fidelity; akin to OE *treowe* faithful – more at TRUE] – **truthful** *adj*, **truthfully** *adv*, **truthfulness** *n*
- \*truth, table** *n* a table that shows whether a compound statement is true or false in formal logic for each combination of truth-values of its component statements
- \*truth, value** *n* the truth or falsity of a (logical) statement
- \*try** /tɹi/ *vt* 1a to investigate judicially b to conduct the trial of 2a(1) to test by experiment or trial – often + *out* (2) to investigate the state, capabilities, or potential of, esp for a particular purpose <~ the shop next door> b to subject to sthg that tests the patience or endurance 3 to melt down and obtain in a pure state – *usu* + *out* <~ out whale oil from blubber> 4 to make an attempt at ~ *vi* to make an attempt [ME *trien*, fr AF *trier*, fr OF, to pick out, sift, prob fr LL *tritare* to rub to pieces, fr *tritus*, pp of *terere* to rub – more at THROW] – **try** *for* *size* to test for appropriateness or fittingness – **try one's hand** to make an attempt for the first time
- \*try** *n* 1 an experimental trial, an attempt 2 a score in rugby that is made by touching down the ball behind the opponent's goal line and that entitles the scoring side to attempt a kick at the goal for additional points
- trying** /ˈtɹiːɪŋ/ *adj* irritating, annoying, or demanding – **tryingly** *adv*
- try on** *vt* 1 to put on (a garment) in order to examine the fit or appearance 2 *Br* to attempt to impose on sb <don't go trying anything on with me, mate> – *infrm* – **try-on** /-ˈɹiː-ɪŋ/ *n*
- tryout** /ˈtɹiːəʊt/ *n* an experimental performance or demonstration, *specif* a test of the ability of sb (e.g. an actor or athlete) or sthg to meet requirements
- trypanosome** /ˈtɹɪpənəˌsoʊm, ˈtɹɪpənəˌsohm, tɹi-/ *n* any of a genus of parasitic protozoans that infest the blood of various vertebrates including human beings and some types of which cause sleeping sickness [NL *Trypanosoma*, genus name, fr Gk *trypanon* auger + NL *-soma* -some – more at TREPAN]
- trypanosomiasis** /ˈtɹɪpənəˌsɪəˌsɪs, tɹɪˌpənə-, tɹi-/ *n* infection with or disease caused by trypanosomes [NL]
- trypsin** /ˈtɹɪpsɪn/ *n* (any of several enzymes similar to) an enzyme from pancreatic juice that breaks down protein in an alkaline medium [Gk *tryein* to wear down + ISV *-psin* (as in *pepsin*), akin to L *terere* to rub – more at THROW] – **tryptic** /-tɪk/ *adj*
- tryptamine** /ˈtɹɪptəˌmiːn/ *n* (any of various hallucinogenic substances derived from) a derivative of tryptophan [tryptophan + *amine*]
- tryptophan** /ˈtɹɪptəˌfæn/, ˈtɹɪptəˌfæn/ *n* an amino acid that is widely distributed in proteins and is essential to animal life [ISV *tryphn* + *-o* + *-phane*]
- trysail** /ˈtɹiːsəl/, ˈtɹiːsəl/ *n* a small fore-and-aft sail used esp as a storm sail [obs at *try* (lying to)]
- \*try, square** /tɹi-/ *n* an L-shaped instrument used for marking out right angles and testing whether work (e.g. brickwork or carpentry) is square
- \*tryst** /tɹɪst, tɹiːst/ *n* 1 an agreement, esp by lovers, to meet 2 an appointed meeting or meeting place *USE* poetic [ME, fr OF *triste* watch post, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *traust* trust]
- \*tryst** *vi*, chiefly *Scot* to make a tryst – poetic
- tsar, czar, tsar** /zɑː/ *n* 1 a male ruler of Russia before 1917 2 one having great power or authority [Russ *tsar*, fr Goth *kaisar*, fr Gk or L, Gk, fr L *Caesar* – more at CAESAR] – **tsarism** *n*, **tsarist** *n* or *adj*
- tsarevitch, tsarevich** /ˈzɑːrɪvɪtʃ/ *n* the (eldest) son of the Russian tsar [Russ *tsarevich*, fr *tsar* + *-evich*, patronymic suffix]
- tsarina** /ˈzɑːrɪnə/ *n* the wife of a tsar [prob modif of G *zarin*, fr *zar* tsar, fr Russ *tsar*]
- tsaritsa** /ˈzɑːrɪtsə/ *n* a tsarina [Russ *tsaritsa*, fem of *tsar*]
- tsetse** /ˈtɛtsɪ, ˈtɛtsi/, ˈtɛtsɛ/ *fly n*, *pl* **tsetses**, **tsetses** any of several two-winged flies that occur in Africa south of the Sahara desert and transmit diseases, esp sleeping sickness, by bites [Afrik, fr Tswana *tsētse*]
- \*T-shirt** /ˈtee/ *n* a collarless upper garment of light stretchy fabric for casual wear ㄟ GARMENT [fr its being shaped like a T]
- \*T, square** *n* a ruler with a crosspiece or head at 1 end used in making parallel lines
- tsunami** /ˈtsʊˌnɑːmi/ *n* a great sea wave produced by underwater earth movement or volcanic eruption [Jap] – **tsunami** *adj*
- Tswana** /ˈtʃwɑːnə, ˈswɑːnə, ˈtʃwɑːnə/ *n*, *pl* **Tswanas**, *esp* collectively Tswana a member, or the Bantu language, of a group of peoples dwelling between the Orange and Zambezi rivers
- Tuareg** /ˈtwɑːrɛɡ/ *n*, *pl* **Tuaregs**, *esp* collectively Tuareg a member of a nomadic people chiefly inhabiting the central and W Sahara [Ar *Tawānɔq*]
- tuatara** /ˈtuːəˌtɑːrə/ *n* a large spiny reptile living on islands off the coast of New Zealand [Maori *tuatāra*]
- \*tub** /tʌb/ *n* 1a any of various wide low often round vessels typically made of wood, metal, or plastic, and used industrially or domestically (e.g. for washing clothes or holding soil for shrubs) b a small round (plastic)

- container in which cream, ice cream, etc may be bought 2 BATH 2b 3 an old or slow boat – infml [ME *tubbe*, fr MD; akin to MLG *tubbe* tub] **tubful** *n*
- tub** *vb* -bb- to wash or bath in a tub
- tuba** /'tyoohba/ *n* a large brass instrument having valves, a conical tube, a cup-shaped mouthpiece, and a usual range an octave lower than that of the euphonium [It, fr L, trumpet]
- tubal** /'tyoohbl/ *adj* of or involving a (fallopian) tube
- tubby** /'tubi/ *adj* podgy, fat [tub + -y] – **tubbiness** *n*
- tube** /'tyoohb/ *n* 1a a hollow elongated cylinder, esp one to convey fluids b a slender channel within a plant or animal body 2 any of various usu cylindrical structures or devices: e.g. a a small cylindrical container of soft metal or plastic sealed at one end, and fitted with a cap at the other, from which a paste is dispensed by squeezing b TEST TUBE c the basically cylindrical section between the mouthpiece and bell of a wind instrument 3 ELECTRON TUBE, *specif*, chiefly NAm a thermionic valve 4 Br (a train running in) an underground railway running through deep bored tunnels 5 chiefly Austr a can of beer – infml [F, fr L *tubus*, akin to L *tuba* trumpet] – **tubelike** *adj*
- tube foot** *n* any of the small flexible tubular parts of starfish and some other echinoderms that are used esp in locomotion and grasping
- tubeless** /-lis/ *adj* being a pneumatic tyre that does not depend on an inner tube to be airtight [TUBE + -less]
- tuber** /'tyoohba/ *n* (a root resembling) a short fleshy usu underground stem (e.g. a potato) that is potentially able to produce a new plant – compare **BULB**, **CORM** [L, lump, tuber, truffle, akin to L *tumere* to swell – more at **THUMB**] – **tuberous** *adj*
- tubercle** /'tyoohb-əkl/ *n* 1 a small knobby prominence, esp on a plant or animal 2 a small abnormal lump in an organ or in the skin; esp one characteristic of tuberculosis [L *tuberculum*, dim of *tuber*] – **tubercled** *adj*, **tuberculate** /'tyooh'buhkyoolat-, -layt/ also **tuberculated** /-, -laytid/ *adj*
- tubercle bacillus** *n* the bacterium that causes tuberculosis
- tubercular** /'tyooh'buhkyoolat/ *adj* 1 of, resembling, or being a tubercle 2 tuberculosis – **tubercularly** *adv*
- tuberculin** /'tyooh'buhkyoolin/ *n* a sterile liquid extracted from the tubercle bacillus and used in the diagnosis of tuberculosis, esp in humans and cattle [ISV]
- tuberculin test** *n* a test for hypersensitivity to tuberculin as an indication of past or present tubercular infection
- tuberculosis** /'tyooh'buhkyoolohsis, -tə-/ *n* a serious infectious disease of human beings and other vertebrates caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by fever and the formation of abnormal lumps in the body [NL] – **tuberculoïd** /-loyd/ *adj*
- tuberculous** /'tyooh'buhkyoolas, -tə-/ *adj* 1 of, being, or affected with tuberculosis: <a ~ process> 2 caused by or resulting from the presence or products of the tubercle bacillus <~ peritonitis> – **tuberculously** *adv*
- tuberosa** /'tyoohbərohs/ *n* a bulbous Mexican plant of the daffodil family cultivated for its spike of fragrant white single or double flowers [NL *tuberosa*, specific epithet, fr L, fem of *tuberosus* tuberosus, fr TULIP]
- tubicolous** /'tyooh'bikələs/ *adj*, of an annelid worm living in a self-constructed tube-shaped case or cover [L *tubus* tube + E *-colous*]
- tubifex** /'tyoohbifeks/ *n*, *pl* **tubifex**, **tubifexes** any of a genus of slender reddish worms that live in self-constructed tube-shaped cases in fresh or brackish water and are widely used as food for aquarium fish [NL *Tubifex*, *Tubifex*, genus name, fr L *tubus* tube + *facere* to make – more at **TWO**]
- tubing** /'tyoohbing/ *n* 1 (a length of) material in the form of a tube 2 a series or system of tubes
- tubocurarine** /'tyoohbohkyoo'rahnn-, -reen/ *n* an alkaloid that is obtained chiefly from the bark and stems of a S American climbing plant and constitutes the chief active constituent of curare [ISV *tubo-* (fr L *tubus* tube) + *curare* + -ine; fr its being shipped in sections of hollow bamboo]
- tub-thumper** /'tub,thump/ *n* an impassioned or ranting public speaker – **tub-thumping** *n* or *adj*
- tubular** /'tyoohbyoolat/ also **tubulous** /-ləs/ *adj* 1 having the form of or consisting of a tube (<a ~ calyx> 2 made of or fitted with tubes or tube-shaped pieces – **tubularly** *adv*, **tubularity** /-'larity/ *n*
- tubule** /'tyoohbyoohl/ *n* a small tube; esp a slender tubular anatomical structure [L *tubulus*, dim. of *tubus*]
- tuck** /tʌk/ *vt* 1a to draw into a fold or folded position b to make a tuck or series of tucks in 2 to place in a snug often concealed or isolated spot
- <cottage ~ ed away in the hills> 3a to push in the loose end or ends of so as to make secure or tidy b to cover snugly by tucking in bedclothes <~ ed up in bed> 4 to eat – usu + away ~ vi to eat heartily – usu + in or into **USE** (vt 4, vi) infml [ME *tuken* to pull up sharply, scold, fr OE *tucian* to ill-treat, akin to OE *togian* to pull – more at **TOW**]
- tuck** *n* 1a (narrow) fold stitched into cloth to shorten, decorate, or reduce fullness 2 the part of a vessel where the ends of the lower planks meet under the stern 3 (an act of) tucking 4 a body position (e.g. in diving) in which the knees are bent, the thighs drawn tightly to the chest, and the hands clasped round the shins 5 Br food, esp chocolate, pastries, etc, as eaten by schoolchildren (<a ~ shop> – infml
- tucker** /'tʌkə/ *n*, Austr & NZ food <a ~ bag> – infml ['TUCK + -ER]
- tucker** *vt*, chiefly NAm to exhaust – often + out [obs *tuck* (to scold) + -er (as in 'batter)]
- tucket** /'tʌkɪt/ *n*, *archaic* a fanfare on a trumpet [prob fr obs *tuk* (to beat the drum, sound the trumpet), fr ME *tukken*, fr ONF *toquer* to touch, strike, fr (assumed) VL *toccare* – more at **TOUCH**]
- tuck-in** *n*, chiefly Br a hearty meal – infml
- tude** /'tyoohd-, -choohd/ *suffix* (<- n> -ness) <plennude> <altitude> [MF or L, MF, fr L *-tudin-*, *-tudo*]
- Tudor** /'tyoohdə/ *adj* 1 of the English royal house that ruled from 1485 to 1603 (characteristic) of the Tudor period [Henry Tudor (Henry VII of England) †1509] – **Tudor** *n*
- Tuesday** /'tyoohzday-, -di/ *n* the day of the week following Monday  **SYMBOL** [ME *twesday*, fr OE *twesdæg*; akin to OHG *zīstag* Tuesday, both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose components are represented by OE *Tiū*, god of war & by OE *dæg* day – more at **DEITY**] – **Tuesdays** *adv*
- tufa** /'tyoohfa/ *n* a porous rock formed as a deposit by springs [It *tufo*, fr L *tophus*] – **tufaceous** /'tyooh'fayshəs/ *adj*
- tuft** /tʌf/ *n* a rock composed of volcanic ash (fused by heat) [MF *tuf*, fr Olt *tufo* tufa] – **tuffaceous** /tʌ'fayshəs/ *adj*
- tufted** /'tuftɪd/ *n* 1 **TUFT** 1a 2 a low seat [alter of 'tuft]
- tuft** /tuft/ *n* 1a a small cluster of long flexible hairs, feathers, grasses, etc attached or close together at the base b a bunch of soft fluffy threads cut off short and used for ornament 2 a clump, cluster [ME, modif of MF *tufe*] – **tufted** *adj*, **tufty** *adj*
- tuft** *vt* 1 to adorn with a tuft or tufts 2 to make (e.g. a mattress) firm by stitching at intervals and sewing on tufts
- tug** /tʌg/ *vb* -gg- to pull hard (at) [ME *tuggen*, akin to OE *togian* to pull – more at **TOW**]
- tug** *n* 1a a hard pull or jerk b a strong pulling force <felt the ~ of the past> 2 a struggle between 2 people or opposite forces 3a tug, tugboat a strongly built powerful boat used for towing or pushing large ships (e.g. in and out of dock) b an aircraft that tows a glider
- tug-of-war** *n*, *pl* **tugs-of-war** 1 a struggle for supremacy 2 a contest in which teams pulling at opposite ends of a rope attempt to pull each other across a line marked between them
- tugrik**, **tugric** /'toohgrɪk/ *n*  Mongolia at NATIONALITY [Mongolian *dughunk*, lit., round thing, wheel]
- tuition** /'tyooh'ish(ə)n/ *n* teaching, instruction [ME *tuicion* protection, fr OF *tuicion*, fr L *tuitio*-, *tutio*, fr *tuitus*, pp of *tueri* to look at, look after] – **tutorial** *adj*
- tularaemia**, *NAm* **tularemia** /'toohlə'reemyə-, -mi-/ *n* an infectious disease of rodents, human beings, and some domestic animals that is caused by a bacterium and is transmitted esp by the bites of insects [NL, fr *Tulare* County, district of California, USA, where it was first discovered] – **tularaemic** /-reemik/ *adj*
- tulip** /'tyoohlip/ *n* (the flower of) any of a genus of Eurasian bulbous plants of the lily family widely grown for their showy flowers [NL *tulipa*, fr Turk *tulband* turban, fr Per *dulband*]
- tulip tree** *n* a tall N American tree of the magnolia family with large tulip-shaped flowers and soft white wood used esp for cabinetwork and wooden utensils, broadly any of various trees with tulip-shaped flowers
- tulip wood** /-wood/ *n* the wood of the N American tulip tree; white-wood
- tulle** /'t(y)oohl/ *n* a sheer, often silk, net used chiefly for veils and dresses [F, fr *Tulle*, city in France]
- tum** /tʌm/ *n* STOMACH 1b – infml [short for *tummy*]
- tumble** /'tʌmbəl/ *vb* **tumbling** /'tʌmbəlɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to perform gymnastic feats in tumbling b to turn end over end in falling or flight 2a to fall suddenly and helplessly b to suffer a sudden overthrow or defeat c to decline suddenly and sharply <the stock market ~ d> 3 to roll over

- and over, to and fro, or around 4 to move hurriedly and confusedly <~d into his clothes> 5 to realize suddenly – often + to; infml ~ vt 1 to cause to tumble (e.g. by pushing) 2 to rumple, disorder 3 to whirl in a tumbler (e.g. in drying clothes) [ME *tumbelen*, freq. of *tumben* to dance, fr OE *tumbian*; akin to OHG *tūmon* to reel, ON *tumba* to tumble]
- tumble** *n* 1 a confused heap 2 an act of tumbling, specif. a fall <took a nasty ~>
- tumble, down** /-down/ *adj* dilapidated, ramshackle
- tumble-drier** /'dri:ə/, **tumbler-drier** /'tʌmblə/ *n* a machine consisting of a rotating heated drum in which wet laundry is dried – **tumble-dry** *vb*
- tumbler** /'tʌmblə/ *n* 1a an acrobat b any of various domestic pigeons that tumble or somersault backwards in flight or on the ground 2 a relatively large drinking glass without a foot, stem, or handle 3a a movable obstruction (e.g. a lever, wheel, or pin) in a lock that must be adjusted to a particular position (e.g. by a key) before the bolt can be moved b a lever that when released by the trigger forces the hammer of a firearm forwards 4a a tumble-drier b a revolving drum, often lined with abrasive material, in which gemstones, castings, etc. are polished by friction [<sup>1</sup>TUMBLE + <sup>2</sup>-ER] – **tumblerful** *n*
- tumbleweed** /'tʌmbli,weəd/ *n* a plant that breaks away from its roots in the autumn and is blown about by the wind
- tumbling** /'tʌmbliŋ/ *n* the skill, practice, or sport of executing gymnastic feats without the use of apparatus
- tumbrel**, **tumbrel** /'tʌmbərə/ *n* 1 a farm cart that can be tipped to empty the contents 2 a vehicle used to carry condemned people to a place of execution during the French Revolution [ME *tombrel*, fr OF *tumberel* *tupart*, fr *tomber* to tumble, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *tūmon* to reel – more at TUMBLE]
- tumefaction** /'tʃu:hmɪ'fækʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 swelling or becoming tumorous 2 SWELLING 1 [MF, fr L *tumefactus*, pp of *tumefacere* to cause to swell, fr *tumēre* to swell + *facere* to make, do – more at THUMB, 'DO]
- tumescence** /'tʃu:hmɪ's(ə)nt/ *adj* somewhat swollen, esp. of the penis or clitoris engorged with blood in response to sexual stimulation [L *tumescens* tumescens, prp of *tumescere* to swell up, fr *tumere*] – **tumescence** *n*
- tumid** /'tʃu:hmɪd/ *adj* 1 esp. of body parts swollen, protuberant, or distended 2 bombastic, turgid [L *tumidus*, fr *tumere*] – **tumidly** *adv*, **tumidity** /-'mɪdɪti/ *n*
- tummy** /'tʌmi/ *n* STOMACH 1b – infml [baby-talk]
- tumour**, *NAm chiefly tumor* /'tʃu:hmɑ:/ *n* an abnormal mass of tissue that arises without obvious cause from cells of existing tissue and possesses no physiological function [L *tumor*, fr *tumere*] – **tumorous** *adj*
- tumult** /'tʃu:hmʌlt/ *n* 1a commotion, uproar (e.g. of a crowd) b a turbulent uprising; a riot 2 violent mental or emotional agitation [ME *tumulte*, fr MF, fr L *tumultus*, akin to Skt *tumula* noisy, L *tumere* to swell]
- tumultuous** /'tʃu:hmʌltʃu:əs, -'tʃu:əs/ *adj* 1 marked by commotion, riotous 2 marked by violent turbulence or upheaval <~ passions> – **tumultuously** *adv*, **tumultuousness** *n*
- tumulus** /'tʃu:hmɪ'ju:ləs/ *n*, *pl tumuli* /-li/ an ancient grave; a barrow [L; akin to L *tumēre* to swell – more at THUMB]
- tun** /tʌn/ *n* 1 a large cask, esp. for wine 2 any of various units of liquid capacity of about 900l [ME *tunne*, fr OE]
- tuna** /'tʃu:hnə/ *n* (the edible fruit of) any of various prickly pears [Sp, fr Taino]
- tuna** *n*, *pl tunas*, esp. for different types **tunas** 1 any of numerous large vigorous food and sport fishes related to the mackerels 2 **tuna**, 'tuna fish the flesh of a tuna, often canned for use as food [AmerSp, alter. of Sp *atún*, modif. of Ar *tún*, fr L *thunnus*, fr Gk *thynnos*]
- tundra** /'tʌndrə/ *n* a level or undulating treeless plain with a permanently frozen subsoil that is characteristic of arctic and subarctic regions – PLANT [Russ, of Finno-Ugric origin; akin to Lapp *tundar* hill]
- tune** /'tʃu:hn/ *n* 1a a pleasing succession of musical notes; a melody b the dominant tune in a musical composition 2 correct musical pitch (with another instrument, voice, etc) 3a accord, harmony <in ~ with the times> b general attitude; approach <soon changed his ~> 4 amount, extent – chiefly in *to the tune of* USE (2&3a) chiefly in *in/out of tune* [ME, alter. of *tone*]
- tune** *vi* 1 to bring a musical instrument or instruments into tune, esp. with a standard pitch – usu + *up* 2 to become attuned 3 to adjust a receiver for the reception of a particular broadcast or station – + *in* or to <~ in again next week> ~ vt 1 to adjust the musical pitch of; esp. to cause to be in tune 2a to bring into harmony; attune b to adjust for optimum performance – often + *up* <~d up the engine> 3 to adjust (a radio or television receiver) to respond to signals of a particular frequency – often + *in* – **tunable**, **tuneable** *adj*, **tuner** *n*
- tuned-in** *adj* informed about and responsive to current trends, opinions, etc – infml
- tuneful** /'tʃu:hnf(ə)l/ *adj* melodious, musical – **tunefully** *adv*, **tunefulness** *n*
- tuneless** /-lis/ *adj* without an intended or recognizable melody; not tuneful – **tunelessly** *adv*, **tunelessness** *n*
- tune out** *vt* to adjust a receiving set to avoid the reception of <tuned out the heterodyne whistle>
- tung** /tʌŋ/, **tung tree** *n* a Chinese tree of the spurge family whose seeds yield an oil used in paints and varnishes [Chin (Pek) *t'ung'*]
- tungst-** also **tungsto-** *comb form* tungsten <tungstate> <tungstic> [ISV, fr *tungsten*]
- tungsten** /'tʌŋstən/ *n* a hard polyvalent metallic element with a high melting point that is used esp. for electrical purposes and in hard alloys (e.g. steel) – PERIODIC TABLE [Sw, fr *tung* heavy + *sten* stone]
- Tungus** /'tu:ŋgʊz/, 'tʌn-/ *n*, *pl Tunguses*, esp. collectively **Tungus** a member, or the Tungusic languages, of a Mongoloid people of E Siberia – LANGUAGE [Russ]
- Tungusic** /'tu:ŋgʊzɪk/, 'tʌn-/ *adj* or *n* (of) a subfamily of Altaic languages of Manchuria and E Siberia
- tunic** /'tʃu:hnɪk/ *n* 1 a simple (hip- or knee-length) slip-on garment usually belted or gathered at the waist 2 an enclosing or covering membrane or tissue <the ~ of a seed> 3 a close-fitting jacket with a high collar worn esp. as part of a uniform <a soldier's ~> [L *tunica*, of Sem origin, akin to Heb *kuttoneth* coat]
- tunicate** /'tʃu:hnɪkət-, -kayt/ *adj* 1a having or covered with an enclosing or lining membrane b having, arranged in, or made up of concentric layers <a ~ bulb> 2 of the tunicates [L *tunicatus*, fr *tunica*]
- tunicate** *n* any of a major group of marine chordate animals with a simple nervous system and a thick covering layer, sqa squirt [NL *Tunicata*, group name, fr neut. pl of L *tunicatus* tunicate]
- tunicle** /'tʃu:hnɪkl/ *n* a short vestment worn by a subdeacon over the alb during mass – GARMENT [ME, fr L *tunicula*, dim of *tunica*]
- tuning fork** /'tʃu:hnɪŋ/ *n* a 2-pronged metal implement that gives a fixed tone when struck and is useful for tuning musical instruments and setting pitches for singing
- tunnel** /'tʌnl/ *n* 1 a hollow conduit or recess (e.g. for a propeller shaft) 2a a man-made horizontal passageway through or under an obstruction b a subterranean passage (e.g. in a mine) [ME *tonel* tube-shaped net, fr MF, tun, fr OF, fr *tonne* tun, fr ML *tunna*, of Celt origin, akin to MLr *tonn* skin, hide, akin to L *tondere* to shear – more at TOME]
- tunnel** *vb* -ll (*NAm* -l, -ll-), /'tʌnl-ɪŋ/ *vt* 1 to make a passage through or under 2 to make (e.g. one's way) by excavating a tunnel ~ *vi* 1 to make or pass through a tunnel 2 to pass through an electric potential barrier <electrons ~ling through an insulator between semiconductors>
- tunnel vision** *n* a condition in which the edges of the visual field are lost, leaving good vision only straight ahead
- tunny** /'tʌni/ *n*, *pl tunnies*, esp. collectively **tunny** <sup>1</sup>TUNA [modif. of MF *thon* or Olt *tonno*, both fr OProv *ton*, fr L *thunnus*, fr Gk *thynnos*]
- tup** /tʌp/ *n* 1 the heavy metal head of a steam hammer, pile driver, etc 2 chiefly Br RAM 1 [ME *tupe* ram]
- tup** *vt* -pp- chiefly Br, of a ram to copulate with (a ewe)
- tupelo** /'tʃu:hpələh/ *n*, *pl tupelos* (the pale soft wood of) any of a genus of mostly N American trees of the dogwood family [Creek *ito opilwa* swamp tree]
- Tupi** /'tu:hpɛ-/ *n*, *pl Tupis*, esp. collectively **Tupi** (the language of) a member of a group of peoples inhabiting esp. the Amazon valley – LANGUAGE
- Tupian** /'tu:hpɛ-ən, -'-/ *adj* 1 of or being the Tupi 2 Tupi-Guaranian
- Tupi-Guaranian** /'tu:hpɛ-ə'gwɑ:ra'neɪ-ən, 'tu:hpɛ-/ *adj* or *n* (of) a language stock of tropical S America
- tuppence** /'tʌp(ə)ns/ *n* (a) twopenny – **tuppeany** /'tʌp(ə)nɪ/ *adj*
- Turanian** /'tu:ə'reɪnɪən, -'nɪ-ən/ *n* or *adj* (a member of any) of the peoples of Ural-Altaic stock [Per *Tūran* Turkestan, the region north of the Amu Darya (Oxus) River]
- turban** /'tʌbən/ *n* (a headdress, esp. for a lady, resembling) a headdress worn esp. by Muslims and Sikhs and made of a long cloth wound round a cap or directly round the head – GARMENT [MF *turbant*, fr It *turbante*, fr Turk *tülbend*, fr Per *dulband*] – **turbaned**, **turbaned** *adj*
- turbellarian** /'tʌbɪ'lɛəri-ən/ *adj* or *n* (of or being) any of a class of mostly aquatic and free-living flatworms [deriv. of L *turbellae* (pl) bustle,

stir, dim. of *turba* confusion, crowd; fr the tiny eddies created in water by the cilia]

**turbid** /'turbid/ *adj* 1a opaque (as if) with disturbed sediment; cloudy b thick with smoke or mist 2 (mentally or emotionally) confused [L *turbidus* confused, turbid, fr *turba* confusion, crowd, akin to OHG *dweran* to stir, L *turbare* to throw into disorder, disturb, Gk *tyrbē* confusion] – *turbidly adv*, *turbidness, turbidity* /-'bitəti/ *n*

**turbinate** /'turbinat, -nayt/ *adj* 1 shaped like a top or an inverted cone <a ~ seed capsule> 2 of or being any of several thin bony or cartilaginous plates on the walls of the nasal passages [L *turbinatus*, fr *turbin-*, *turbo*]

**turbine** /'turbien/ *n* a rotary engine whose central driving shaft is fitted with vanes whirled round by the pressure of water, steam, exhaust gases, etc ➡ CAR, ENERGY, FLIGHT [F, fr L *turbin-*, *turbo* top, whirlwind, whirl, akin to L *turbare* to disturb]

**turbo-** /'turbəh-/ *comb form* consisting of, incorporating, or driven by a turbine <turbojet engine> <turbocharger> [*turbine*]

**turbocharger** /'turbəh,chaɪdʒə/ *n* a supercharger, esp for a car engine, driven by exhaust gas turbines ➡ CAR – *turbocharge vt*

**turbobfan** /'turbəh,fæn/ *n* (a jet engine with) an extra large fan in front of the main compressor ➡ FLIGHT

**turbojet** /-jet/ *n* (an aircraft powered by) a turbojet engine

**turbojet engine** *n* a jet engine in which a compressor driven by power from a turbine supplies compressed air to the combustion chamber and in which thrust is derived from the rearward explosion of hot gases ➡ FLIGHT

**turbo,prop** /-prop/ *n* (an aircraft powered by) an engine that has a turbine-driven propeller for providing the main thrust

**turbot** /'turbət/ *n*, iːˈtɪ *turbot*, *esp* for different types turbots a large European flatfish that is a highly valued food fish [ME, fr OF *tourbot*]

**turbulence** /'turbjuːləns/ *n* 1 wild commotion or agitation 2 irregular atmospheric motion, esp when characterized by strong currents of rising and falling air 3 the formation of disturbances that interfere with the smooth flow of a liquid or gas ➡ FLIGHT

**turbulent** /'turbjuːlənt/ *adj* 1 causing unrest, violence, or disturbance <a ~ crowd> 2 agitated, stormy, or tempestuous <~ water> <a ~ childhood> 3 exhibiting physical turbulence [L *turbulentus*, fr *turba* confusion, crowd] – *turbulently adv*

**turbulent flow** *n* a fluid flow in which the velocity at a given point varies erratically in magnitude and direction – compare *LAMINAR FLOW*

**Turco-, Turko-** /'tuhkəh-/ *comb form* 1 Turkic; Turk <Turcophile> 2 Turkish and <Turco-Greek> [*Turco-* fr ML *Turcus* Turk, *Turko-* fr Turk]

**turd** /tuɜd/ *n* 1 a piece of excrement 2 a despicable person *USE* vulg [ME *tord*, *turd*, fr OE *tord*; akin to MD *tort* dung, OE *teran* to tear – more at *TEAR*]

**tureen** /tyoo'reen, tɔ-/ *n* a deep (covered) dish from which a food, esp soup, is served at table [F *terrine*, fr MF, fr fem of *terrin* of earth, fr (assumed) VL *terrēns*, fr L *terra* earth – more at *TERRACE*]

**turf** /tuɜf/ *n*, pl *turfs*, *turves* /tuɜvz/ 1 (a piece of or an artificial substitute for) the upper layer of soil bound by grass and plant roots into a thick mat 2 (a piece of dried) peat 3 the sport or business of horse racing or the course on which horse races are run [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *zurba* turf, Skt *darbha* tuft of grass] – *turfy adj*

**turf vt** to cover with turf

**turf accountant** *n*, *Br* a bookmaker

**turfman** /-mən/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a devotee of horse racing; esp one who owns and races horses

**turf out** *vi*, chiefly *Br* to dismiss or throw out forcibly – *infrml*

**turgid** /'tuhjɪd/ *adj* 1 distended, swollen, esp exhibiting excessive turgor 2 in a pompous inflated style; laboured [L *turgidus*, fr *turgere* to be swollen] – *turgidly adv*, *turgidness n*, *turgescence* /'tuhjɪs(ə)ns/ *n*, *turgescence adj*, *turgidity* /'tuhjɪdɪti/ *n*

**turgor** /'tuhgə/ *n* the normal state of firmness and tension in living (plant) cells [LL, *turgidity*, swelling, fr L *turgere*]

**Turk** /'tuhk/ *n* 1 a member of any of a group of central Asian peoples speaking Turkic languages 2 a native or inhabitant of Turkey 3 archaic a Muslim [ME, fr MF or Turk; MF *Turc*, fr ML or Turk; ML *Turcus*, fr Turk Turk]

**turkey** /'tuhki/ *n* pl *turkeys*, esp collectively *turkey* (the flesh of) a large org American bird that is farmed for its meat in most parts of the world [Turkey, country in W Asia and SE Europe; fr confusion with the guinea fowl, supposed to be imported from Turkish territory]

**turkey, buzzard** *n* a N American vulture

**Turkey red** *n* alizann [Turkey]

**Turki** /'tuhki/ *adj* 1 TURKIC 2 2 of any central Asian Turkic language [Per *turki*, fr Turk Turk, fr Turk Turk] – *Turki n*

**Turkic** /'tuhkɪk/ *adj* 1 of a branch of the Altaic language family including Turkish 2 of the peoples who speak Turkic languages – *Turkic n*

**Turkish** /'tuhkɪʃ/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Turkey or the Turks 2 TURKIC 1

**Turkish** *n* 1 the Turkic language of the Republic of Turkey ➡ LANGUAGE 2 *Turkish*, *Turkish tobacco* an aromatic tobacco grown chiefly in Turkey and Greece

**Turkish bath** *n* a steam bath followed by a rubdown, massage, and cold shower – compare *SAUNA*

**Turkish coffee** *n* a strong usu sweetened coffee made from very finely ground beans

**Turkish delight** *n* a jellylike confection, usu cut in cubes and dusted with sugar

**Turkmen** /'tuhk,mən/ *n* a Turkic language of the area E of the Caspian Sea ➡ LANGUAGE [Per *Turkmen*, *Turkman* Turkoman]

**Turkoman** /'tuhkə'mən/ *n*, pl *Turkomans* 1 a member of any of a group of peoples chiefly inhabiting central Asia 2 Turkmen [ML *Turcomanus*, fr Per *Turkman*, fr *turkman* resembling a Turk, fr Turk]


**Turk's head** *n* an ornamental turban-shaped knot

**turmeric** /'tuhmərɪk/ *n* 1 an E Indian plant of the ginger family 2 the cleaned, boiled, dried, and usu powdered underground stem of the turmeric plant used as a colouring agent or condiment [modif of MF *terre merite* saffron, fr ML *terra merita*, lit, deserving or deserved earth]

**turmoil** /'tuhmɔɪl/ *n* an extremely confused or agitated state [origin unknown]

**turn** /tuɜn/ *vt* 1a to make rotate or revolve <~ a wheel> b(1) to cause to move through an arc of a circle <~ a key> (2) to alter the functioning of (as if) by turning a knob <~ the oven to a higher temperature> c to perform by rotating or revolving <~ cartwheels> 2a to reverse the sides, or surfaces of so as to expose another side <~ the page> e g (1) to dig or plough so as to bring the lower soil to the surface (2) to renew (e g a garment) by reversing the material and resewing <~ a collar> b to throw into disorder or confusion (everything ~ed topsy-turvy) c to disturb the mental balance of, unsettle <~ a mind ~ed by grief> – compare *TURN SOMEONE'S HEAD* d to cause to change or reverse direction <~ed his car in the street> <~ed his steps towards home> 3a to bend or change the course or outcome of <~ the tide of history> b to go round or about <~ed the corner at full speed> c to reach or go beyond (e g an age or time) <he's just ~ed 21> 4a to direct, present, or point (e g the face) in a specified direction b to aim, train (cannon were ~ed on the troops) c to direct, induce, or influence in a specified direction, esp towards or away from sb or sth <~ed his thoughts inwards> <~ed the boy against his parents> d to apply, devote <~ed his hand to plumbing> e(1) to drive, send <~ing hunters off his land> <~ed them out of their home> (2) to direct into or out of a receptacle (as if) by inverting <~ the meat into a pot> <~ed the contents of her handbag out> 5a to make acid or sour b to cause to become by change, transform, convert <illness ~ed his hair white> <~ pounds into drachmas> 6a to give a rounded form to <~ the heel of a sock> <~ing wood on a lathe> b to fashion elegantly or neatly <well ~ed ankles> <a knack for ~ing a phrase> 7 to fold, bend <~ his collar up> 8 to gain in the course of business – esp in *turn an honest penny* ~ *vi* 1a to (appear to) move round (as if) on an axis or through an arc of a circle <I tossed and ~ed all night> b(1) to become giddy or dizzy (2) of the stomach to feel nauseated c to centre or hinge on sth <the argument ~s on this point> 2a to direct one's course <didn't know which way to ~> b(1) to change or reverse direction <the main road ~s sharply to the right> <his luck ~ed> (2) to become reversed or inverted 3a to change position so as to face another way <they ~ed to stare at him> <he ~ed away and refused to look> b to change one's attitude to one of hostility <the worm will ~> <~ed against his parents> c to make a sudden violent physical or verbal assault – usu + on or upon <she ~ed on him with ferocity> 4a to direct one's attention, efforts, or interests to or away from sb or sth <~ed to studying law> <~ to chapter 4> b to have recourse; resort <~ed to a friend for help> 5a to become changed, altered, or transformed, e g (1) to change colour <the leaves have ~ed> (2) to become acid or sour <the milk had ~ed> b to become by change <water had ~ed to ice> <~ traitor> 6 to become folded or bent [ME *turnen*; partly fr OE *tyrnan*, *turnian* to turn, fr ML *turnare*, fr L, to turn on a lathe, fr *tornus* lathe, fr Gk *tornos*; partly fr OF *turner*, *tourner* to turn, fr ML *turnare*; akin to L *terere* to rub – more at *THROW*] – *turnable*

*adj* – **turn a blind eye** to refuse to see; be oblivious – **turn a deaf ear** to refuse to listen – **turn a hair** to show any reaction (e.g. of surprise or alarm) <did not turn a hair when told of the savage murder – TLS> – **turn back the clock** to revert to an earlier or past state or condition – **turn colour** to change colour; esp to grow pale or red – **turn in one's grave** to be disturbed at goings-on that would have shocked one when alive – said of a dead person <Malthus would turn in his grave at your opinions> – **turn King's/Queen's evidence** *Br*, of an accomplice to testify for the prosecution in court – **turn one's back on** to reject, deny <turned his back on the past> – **turn one's hand** to apply oneself; SET TO WORK – **turn someone's head** to cause sby to become infatuated or to harbour extravagant notions of conceit <success had not turned his head> – **turn someone's stomach** 1 to disgust sby completely <that sort of conduct turns my stomach> 2 to sicken, nauseate <the foul smell turned his stomach> – **turn tail** to run away, flee – **turn the other cheek** to respond to injury or unkindness with patience, forgo retaliation – **turn the scale/scales** 1 to register a usu specified weight 2 to prove decisive <air support might just turn the scale> – **turn the tables** to bring about a reversal of the relative conditions or fortunes of 2 contending parties – **turn turtle** to capsize, overturn

**\*turn n** 1a a turning about a centre or axis, (a) rotation b any of various rotating or pivoting movements (in dancing) 2a a change or reversal of direction, stance, position, or course <illegal left ~s> <an about ~> b a deflection, deviation <the twists and ~s of the story> c the place of a change in direction; a turning 3 a short trip out and back or round about <took a ~ through the park> 4 an act or deed of a specified kind <one good ~ deserves another> 5a a place, time, or opportunity granted in succession or rotation <waiting his ~ in the queue> b a period of duty, action, or activity c (the performer who gives) a short act or performance (e.g. in a variety show) 6 a musical ornament played on the principal note and the notes next above and below  MUSIC 7a an alteration, change <an unusual ~ of events> <a ~ for the better> b a point of change in time <the ~ of the century> 8 a style of expression <an odd ~ of phrase> 9a the state or manner of being coiled or twisted b a single coil (e.g. of rope wound round an object) 10 a bent, inclination <an optimistic ~ of mind> 11a a spell or attack of illness, faintness, etc b a nervous start or shock <gave me quite a ~> [ME, partly fr OF *tourm*, *tour* lathe, circuit, turn (partly fr L *tornus* lathe, partly fr OF *torner*, *tourner* to turn), partly fr ME *turnen* to turn] – at every turn on every occasion, constantly, continually – by turns one after another in regular succession – in turn in due order of succession, alternately – on the turn at the point of turning <tide is on the turn> <milk is on the turn> – out of turn 1 not in due order of succession <play out of turn> 2 at a wrong time or place <spoke out of turn> – to a turn to perfection <roasted to a turn> – **turn and turn about** BY TURNS

**turnabout** /'tu:nbəʊt/ *n* a change or reversal of direction, trend, etc

**turn away** *vt* to refuse admittance or acceptance to

**'turn,buckle** /-bʊkl/ *n* a device that connects and pulls together the ends of a wire, stay, etc to make it taut

**'turn,coat** /-ko:lt/ *n* one who switches to an opposing side or party, a traitor

**'turn,down** /-daʊn/ *adj* worn turned down <~ collar>

**turn down** *vt* 1 to reduce the intensity, volume, etc of (as if) by turning a control <turn the radio down> 2 to decline to accept; reject

**turner** /'tu:nə/ *n* one who forms articles on a lathe [TURN + -ER] – **turnery** *n*

**Turner's syndrome** /'tu:nəz/ *n* a genetically determined condition in women that is associated with the presence of only 1 X chromosome and no Y chromosome and that is characterized by a stocky physique with incomplete and infertile sex glands [Henry Hubert Turner b 1892 US physician]

**turn in** *vt* 1 to deliver, hand over, esp to deliver up to an authority 2 to give, execute <turned in a good performance> ~ *vi* to go to bed – *infirm*

**turning** /'tu:nɪŋ/ *n* 1 a place of turning, turning off, or turning back, esp on a road <take the third ~ on the right> 2a a forming or being formed by use of a lathe b *pl* waste produced in turning sth on a lathe 3 the width of cloth that is folded under for a seam or hem

**'turning,point** *n* a point at which a significant change occurs

**turnip** /'tu:nɪp/ *n* (a plant of the mustard family with) a thick white-fleshed root eaten as a vegetable or fed to stock [prob fr 'turn + neep; fr the well-rounded root]

**turnkey** /'tu:n,keɪ/ *n* a prison warden

**'turn,off** /-ɔ:f/ *n* 1 a turning off 2 a place where one turns off, esp a motorway junction

**turn off** *vt* 1 to stop the flow or operation of (as if) by turning a control <turn the radio off> 2 to cause to lose (sexual) interest – *infirm* ~ *vi* to deviate from a straight course or from a main road <turned off into a side road>

**turn on** *vt* 1 to cause to flow or operate (as if) by turning a control <turn the water on full> <turned on the charm> 2a to cause to undergo an intense often visionary experience by taking a drug, broadly to cause to get high b to excite or interest pleasurably and esp sexually ~ *vi* to become turned on *USE* (vt 2) *infirm* **turn-on** /-ɔ:n/ *n*

**'turn,out** /-aʊt/ *n* 1 a turning out 2 people in attendance (e.g. at a meeting) <a good ~ tonight> 3 manner of dress, getup 4 quantity of produce yielded

**turn out** *vt* 1 to put (e.g. a horse) to pasture 2a to turn inside out b to empty the contents of, esp for cleaning 3 to produce often rapidly or regularly (as if) by machine 4 to equip or dress in a specified way <he was nicely turned out> 5 to put out (esp a light) by turning a switch 6 to call (e.g. a guard) out from rest or shelter and into formation ~ *vi* 1 to leave one's home for a meeting, public event, etc <voters turned out in droves> 2 to prove to be ultimately <the play turned out to be a flop> 3 to get out of bed – *infirm*

**'turn,over** /-əʊvə/ *n* 1 a small semicircular filled pastry made by folding half of the crust over the other half 2a the total sales revenue of a business b the ratio of sales to average stock for a stated period 3 (the rate of) movement (e.g. of goods or people) into, through, and out of a place

**turn over** *vt* 1 to cause (an internal-combustion engine) to revolve and usu to fire 2 to think over, meditate on 3 to deliver, surrender 4a to receive and dispose of (a stock of merchandise) b to do business to the amount of <turning over £1000 a week> ~ *vi* 1 of an internal combustion engine to revolve at low speed 2 of merchandise to be stocked and disposed of – **turn over a new leaf** to make a change for the better, esp in one's way of living

**'turn,pike** /-pɪk/ *n* 1 chiefly NAm a road on which a toll is payable 2 archaic a tollgate [ME *turnpike* revolving frame bearing spikes and serving as a barrier, fr *turnen* to turn + *pike*]

**'turn,round** /-raʊnd/ *n* (the time taken for) the arrival, unloading and loading, servicing, and departure of a ship, aircraft, etc

**turn round** *vt* to complete the processing of or work on <can turn round a batch of 50 inside 2 hours>

**turnsole** /-səʊl/ *n* any of several plants whose flowers or stems are supposed to turn with the sun, esp a heliotrope [ME *turnesole*, fr MF *tourmesol*, fr Olt *tornasole*, fr *tornare* to turn (fr ML) + *sole* sun, fr L *sol* – more at SOLAR]

**'turn,spit** /-spɪt/ *n* a small dog formerly used in a treadmill to turn a spit

**'turn,stile** /-sti:l/ *n* a gate with arms pivoted on the top that turns to admit 1 person at a time

**'turn,stone** /-stəʊn/ *n* any of various migratory wading birds resembling and the related to plovers and sandpipers [fr a habit of turning over stones to find food]

**'turn,table** /-təʊbl/ *n* 1 a circular platform for turning wheeled vehicles, esp railway engines 2 the platform on which a gramophone record is rotated while being played

**turn to** *vi* to apply oneself to work

**'turn-up** *n* 1 chiefly Br a turned-up hem, esp on a pair of trousers 2 an unexpected or surprising event – esp in *turn-up for the book*, *infirm*

**turn up** *vt* 1 to find, discover 2 to increase the intensity, volume, etc of (as if) by turning a control <turn the sound up> ~ *vi* 1 to come to light unexpectedly 2 to appear, arrive 3 to happen or occur unexpectedly 4 of a sailing vessel TACK 1b – **turn up one's nose** to show scorn or disdain

**'turpentine** /'tu:pen,tɪn/ *n* 1a a yellow to brown semifluid oleoresin exuded from the terebinth tree b an oleoresin obtained from various conifers 2a an essential oil obtained from turpentine by distillation and used esp as a solvent and paint thinner b WHITE SPIRIT [ME *terbentyne*, *turpentyne*, fr MF & ML; MF *terbentine*, *tourbentine*, fr ML *terbentina*, fr L *terebinthina*, fem of *terebinthinus* of terebinth, fr *terebinthus* terebinth, fr Gk *terebinthos*]

**\*turpentine** *vt* to apply turpentine to

**'turpentine,tree** *n* a terebinth or other tree that yields turpentine

**turpitude** /'tu:ptɪtu:dh/ *n* baseness, depravity <moral ~> [MF, fr L *turpitudō*, fr *turpis* vile, base]

**tu:ps** /tu:ps/ *n pl* but sing in constr turpentine [by shortening & alter.]



**turquoise** /'tuhkwɔys, -kwɔy/ *n* 1 a sky blue to greenish mineral consisting of a hydrated copper aluminum phosphate and used as a gem 2 light greenish blue [ME *turkeis*, *turcas*, fr MF *turquoise*, fr fem of *turquoys* Turkish, fr OF, fr *Turc* Turk]

**turret** /'tʊrɪt/ *n* 1 a little tower, often at the corner of a larger building 2 CHURCH 2 a rotatable holder (e.g. for a tool or die) in a lathe, milling machine, etc 3 a usu revolving armoured structure on warships, forts, tanks, aircraft, etc in which guns are mounted [ME *touret*, fr MF *toirete*, *toirete*, fr OF, dim. of *tor*, *tur* tower - more at **TOWER**] - **turreted** *adj*

**turtle** /'tu:tl/ *n* any of several manne reptiles of the same order as and similar to tortoises but adapted for swimming, broadly, *NAM* any of the land, freshwater, and sea reptiles of this order [prob modif of *F tortue*, prob fr (assumed) VL *tartaruca*, fr LL *tartarucha*, fem of *tartaruchus* of Tartarus (the underworld), fr Gk *tartarouchos*, fr *Tartaros* Tartarus, fr an ancient notion that the turtle was an infernal creature]

**turtle dove** /-dʊv/ *n* any of several small wild pigeons noted for plaintive cooing [ME *turtle*, *turtill*, fr OE *turtla*, fr L *turtur*, of imit origin]

**turtle neck** /-nek/ *n* a high close-fitting neckline, esp of a sweater 2 GARMENT

**turves** /'tu:rvz/ *pl* of **TURF**

**Tuscan** /'tʊskən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of the Italian language of Tuscany 2 the standard literary dialect of Italian [ME, fr L *tuscanus*, *adj*, Etruscan, fr *Tusci* Etruscans]

**Tuscan** *adj* 1 (characteristic) of Tuscany 2 of or being a Roman order of architecture that is a modification of the Greek Doric and is plain in style 3 ARCHITECTURE

**tush** /'tu:ʃ/ *int.*, used to express disdain or reproach [ME *tussch*]

**tusk** /'tu:sk/ *vt* or *n* (to dig up or gash with) a long greatly enlarged tooth of an elephant, boar, walrus, etc, that projects when the mouth is closed and serves for digging food or as a weapon [n ME, alter of *tux*, fr OE *tux*, akin to OE *tusc* long pointed tooth, vb fr n] - **tusked** *adj*, **tusklike** *adj*

**tusker** /'tʊska/ *n* an animal with tusks, esp a male elephant with 2 large tusks

**tussah** /'tʊsa/, **tussore** /'tʊsaw/ *n* (silk or silk fabric made from a brownish silk filament produced by) any of several oriental silkworms that are larvae of saturniid moths [Hindi *tasar*]

**tussive** /'tʊsɪv/ *adj* of or involved in coughing - used technically [L *tussis* cough]

**tussle** /'tu:sl/ *vi* **tussling** /'tʊslɪŋ/ to struggle roughly, scuffle [ME *tussillen*, freq of MF *-tusen*, *-tousen* to touse - more at **TOUTSE**]

**tussle** *n* (a physical) contest or struggle

**tussock** /'tʊsək/ *n* a compact tuft of grass, sedge, etc [origin unknown] - **tussocky** *adj*

**tussock grass** *n* any of various grasses or sedges that typically grow in tussocks

**tussock moth** *n* any of numerous dull-coloured or white moths whose larvae have long tufts or brushes of hair

**tut** /'tʊt/, or *clicked* t [t]/, **tut-tut** *interj* - used to express disapproval or impatience [origin unknown]

**tut**, **tut-tut** *vi* -**tt-** to express disapproval or impatience by uttering 'tut' or 'tut-tut'

**tutelage** /'tʊohtɪli/ *n* 1 guardianship 2 the state or period of being under a guardian or tutor 3 instruction, esp of an individual [L *tutela* protection, guardian, fr *tutus*, pp of *tueri* to look at, guard]

**tutelar** /'tʊohtɪlari/ also **tutelar** /-lə/ *adj* 1 having the guardianship of sb or sth <a ~ *duty*> 2 of a guardian

**tutor** /'tʊohtə/ *n* 1 a private teacher 2 a British university teacher who gives instruction to students, esp individually b is in charge of the social and moral welfare of a group of students 3 *Br* an instruction book [ME, fr MF & L; MF *tuteur*, fr L *tutor*, fr *tutus*, pp of *tueri*] - **tutorship** *n*

**tutor** *vt* to teach or guide usu individually, coach ~ *vi* to do the work of a tutor

**tutorial** /'tʊoht'awriəl/ *adj* of or involving (individual tuition by) a tutor - **tutorially** *adv*

**tutorial** *n* a class conducted by a tutor for 1 student or a small number of students

**tutti** /'to:hti/ *n*, *adj*, or *adv* (a passage or section to be) performed by all the performers [It, masc pl of *tutto* all, fr (assumed) VL *tottus*, fr L *totus*]

**tutti-frutti** /'to:hti 'fro:hti/ *n* (a confection, esp an ice cream, containing) a mixture of chopped, dried, or candied fruits [It *tutti frutti*, lit., all fruits]

**tutu** /'to:hu, to:hu/ *n* a very short projecting stiff skirt worn by a ballerina [F, fr (baby talk) *cucu*, *tutu* backside, alter of *cul*, fr L *culus*]

**tu-whit tu-whoo** /tə 'wɪt tə 'wʊh/ *n* the cry of a (tawny) owl [imit]

**tuxedo** /'tʊk'seedoh/ *n*, *pl* **tuxedos**, **tuxedoes** *NAM* DINNER JACKET [Tuxedo Park, resort in New York]

**tuyere**, **tuyere** /'tweeyə (Fr tyje:r)/ *n* a nozzle through which a blast of air is delivered to a forge or furnace [F *tuyere*, fr MF, fr *tuyau* pipe]

**TV** /,tee 'vee/ *n* television [television]

**two** /'twah/, **twae** /'twaw/ *n*, *adj*, or *pron*, *Scot* two

**twaddle** /'twɒdl/ *vi* or *n* **twaddling** /'twɒdl-ɪŋ, 'twɒdl-ɪŋ/ (to speak or write) rubbish or drivel [prob alter. of E dial. *twattle* (idle talk), perh alter of *tattle*] - **twaddler** *n*

**twain** /'twayn/ *n*, *adj*, or *pron*, *archaic* two [ME, fr OE *twegen* - more at **two**]

**twang** /'twɑŋ/ *n* 1 a harsh quick ringing sound like that of a plucked bowstring 2 nasal speech or resonance [imit] - **twangy** /'twɑŋ-ɪ/ *adj*

**twang** *vi* to speak or sound with a twang ~ *vt* 1 to utter or cause to sound with a twang 2 to pluck the string of

**twat** /'twɒt/ *n* 1 the female genitals 2 *Br* an unpleasant or despicable person *USE* vulg [origin unknown]

**twayblade** /'tway,blayd/ *n* any of several orchids having a single pair of opposite leaves on the stems [E dial. *tway* (two)]

**tweak** /'tweek/ *vb* to pinch and pull with a sudden jerk and twist [ME *twikken*, fr OE *twiccan* to pluck - more at **twitch**] - **tweak** *n*

**twee** /'twee/ *adj* excessively sentimental, pretty, or coy [prob baby-talk alter. of *sweet*] - **tweeness** *n*

**tweed** /'tweed/ *n* 1 a rough woollen fabric made usu in twill weaves and used esp for suits and coats 2 *pl* tweed clothing, specif a tweed suit [alter of *Sc* *twel* twill, fr ME *twyil*]

**Tweedledum and Tweedledee** /'tweedl,dʌm ən 'tweedl'dee/ *n* 2 individuals or groups that are practically indistinguishable [Tweedle (to chirp) + *dum* (imit of a low musical note) & *dee* (imit of a high musical note)]

**twedy** /'tweedi/ *adj* 1 of or resembling tweed 2a given to or associated with wearing tweeds b suggesting the outdoors in taste or habits, esp brisk and healthy in manner - **tweediness** *n*

**twen** /'tween/ *prep* between - chiefly poetic [ME *twene*, short for *betwene*]

**tweet** /'tweɪt/ *vi* or *n* (to) chirp [imit]

**tweter** /'tweɪtə/ *n* a small loudspeaker that responds mainly to the higher frequencies - compare **WOFLR**

**tweezers** /'tweɪzəz/ *n* *pl*, *pl* **tweezers** a small metal instrument that is used held between thumb and forefinger, is used for plucking, holding, or manipulating, and consists of 2 prongs joined at 1 end [obs *tweeze*, *n* (etui), short for obs *etweeze*, fr *pl* of obs *etwee*, fr F *étui*]

**twelfth** /'twelf(θ)th/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 often *cap*, *Br* the twelfth of August on which the grouse-shooting season begins [ME *twelfte*, *twelf-the*, *adj* & *n*, fr OE *twelfta*, fr *twelf* (twelve + *-ta* -*th*) - **twelfth** *adj* or *adv*, **twelfthly** *adj*

**twelfth man** *n* the reserve member of a cricket team

**Twelfth Night** *n* the eve or evening of Epiphany [fr Epiphany being the 12th day after Christmas]

**twelve** /'twelv/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 the twelfth in a set or series 3 sth having 12 parts or members or a denomination of 12 [ME, fr *twelve*, *adj*, fr OE *twelf*; akin to OHG *zwelf* twelve, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose first element is represented by OE *twa* two, & whose second by OE *-leofan* (in *endleofan* eleven) - more at **TWO ELEVEN**] - **twelve** *adj* or *pron*, **twelffold** /-fo:ld/ *adj* or *adv*

**twelve month** /-mʌnθ/ *n* a year - *archaic* or poetic

**twelve-note** *adj* twelve-tone

**twelve-tone** *adj* of or being serial music based on a twelve-row

**twenty** /'twenti/ *n* 1 NUMBER 2 *pl* the numbers 20 to 29; specif a range of temperature, ages, or dates in a century characterized by those numbers 3 sth (e.g. a bank note) having a denomination of 20 [ME, fr *twenty*, *adj*, fr OE *twēntig*, *n*, group of 20, fr *twēn-* (akin to OE *twa* two) + *-tig* group of 10 - more at **TWO EIGHTY**] - **twentieth** /-i:θ/ *adj* or *n*, **twenty** *adj* or *pron*, **twentyfold** /-fo:ld/ *adj* or *adv*

**twenty-one** *n* 1 NUMBER 2 pontoon [(2) trans of F *vingt-et-un*] - **twenty-one** *adj* or *pron*

**20/20** /'twenti 'twenti/ *adj*, of a person's vision normal [fr the assessment of normal vision as the ability to read characters at a distance of 20ft]

**twenty-two** *n* 1 NUMBER 2 either of 2 lines across a rugby pitch

22m from each goal; *also* the area between such a line and a goal line – **twenty-two** *adj* or *pron*

**twerp** *also* **twirp** /tʊəp/ *n* a silly, insignificant, or contemptible person – *infrm* [origin unknown]

**Twí** /ch'wee, twee, chee/ *n* a dialect of Akan, *also* a literary language based on this

**twi-** /twe-/ *prefix, archaic* two, double; doubly: twice <twi-headed> (<twibill> [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *zwi-* twi-, L *bi-*, Gk *di-*, OE *twā* two])

**twice** /twis/ *adv* 1 on 2 occasions (<~ a week> 2 two times, in doubled quantity or degree (< 2 is 4> (<~ as much> [ME *twiges*, *twies*, fr OE *twiga*; akin to OE *twi-*])

**twice-laid** *adj*, of a rope made from strands of used rope

**twice-told** *adj* familiar, well-known – chiefly in a *twice-told tale*

**twiddle** /'twɪdl/ *vb* **twiddling** /'twɪdlɪŋ/ *vi* to play negligently with sthg ~ *vt* to rotate lightly or idly (<~d the knob on the radio> [prob *imit*])

**twiddle** *n* a turn, twist

**twig** /twɪg/ *n* a small woody shoot or branch, usu without its leaves [ME *twigge*, fr OE, akin to OHG *zwig* twig, OE *twā* two] – **twigged** *adj*, **twiggy** *adj*

**twig** *vb* -*gg-* to catch on (to); understand – *infrm* [perh fr ScGael *twig* I understand]

**twilight** /'twɪləjɪt/ *n* 1a the light from the sky between full night and sunrise or esp between sunset and full night b the period between sunset and full night 2a a shadowy indeterminate state b a period or state of decline (<elderly ladies in their ~ years> [ME, fr *twi-* + *light*])

**twilight sleep** *n* a drug-induced state in which awareness and memory of pain is dulled or removed

**twilight zone** *n* a decaying urban area

**twilit** /'twɪləɪt/ *adj* 1 lighted (as if) by twilight 2 shadowy, obscure (<twilight + *lit*)

**twill** /twɪl/ *n* (a fabric with) a textile weave in which the weft threads pass over 1 and under 2 or more warp threads to give an appearance of diagonal lines – compare **DOUBLE TWILL** [ME *twyll*, fr OE *twilic* having a double thread, modif of L *bilic-*, *bilix*, fr *bi-* + *licum* thread] – **twilled** *adj*

**twin** /twin/ *adj* 1 born with one other or as a pair at 1 birth (<~ brother> (<~ girls> 2a having or made up of 2 similar, related, or identical units or parts b being one of a pair, esp of officially associated towns [ME, fr OE *twinn* twofold, two by two; akin to ON *tvinnr* two by two, OE *twā* two])

**twin** *n* 1 either of 2 offspring produced at 1 birth 2 either of 2 people or things closely related to or resembling each other 3 **twin**, **twin crystal** a compound crystal composed of 2 or more (parts of) related crystals grown together in an oriented manner – **twins** *n*

**twin** *vb* -*nn-* *vt* 1 to bring together in close association 2 to form into a twin crystal ~ *vi* 1 to become paired or closely associated 2 to give birth to twins 3 to grow as a twin crystal

**twin bed** *n* either of 2 matching single beds

**twine** /twiən/ *n* 1 a strong string of 2 or more strands twisted together 2 a coil, twist 3 an act of twining or interlacing [ME *twin*, fr OE *twin*; akin to MD *twijn* twine, OE *twā* two]

**twine** *vt* 1a to twist together b to form by twisting, weave 2 to twist or coil round sthg ~ *vi* to coil round a support – **twiner** *n*

**twin flower** /-ˈfləʊə/ *n*, *NAm* a low-growing shrub of the honeysuckle family with opposite leaves and pairs of fragrant usu pink flowers

**twinge** /twɪŋ/ *vi* or *n* **twinging**, **twingeing** (to feel) 1 a sudden sharp stab of pain 2 an emotional pang (<a ~ of conscience> [vb ME *twengen* to tweak, squeeze, fr OE *twengan*; *n* fr vb])

**twinkle** /'twɪŋkl/ *vb* **twinkling** /'twɪŋklɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to shine with a flickering or sparkling light 2 to appear bright with gaiety or amusement (<his eyes ~d> ~ *vt* to cause to shine (as if) with a flickering light [ME *twinklen*, fr OE *twincian*; akin to MHG *zwinken* to blink] – **twinkler** *n*

**twinkle** *n* 1 an instant, twinkling 2 an (intermittent) sparkle or gleam – **twinkly** /'twɪŋkli/ *adj*

**twinkling** /'twɪŋklɪŋ/ *n* a very short time; a moment

**twin set** *n* a jumper and cardigan designed to be worn together, usu by a woman

**twirl** /tʊərl/ *vi* to revolve rapidly ~ *vt* 1 to cause to rotate rapidly; spin 2 **TWINE** 2 [perh of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *tvirla* to twirl; akin to OHG *dweran* to stir – more at **TURBID**]

**twirl** *n* 1 an act of twirling 2 a coil, whorl – **twirly** *adj*

**twirp** /tʊəp/ *n* a **twerp**

**twist** /twɪst/ *vt* 1a to join together by winding, *also* to mingle by interlacing b to make by twisting strands together 2 to wind or coil round sthg 3a to wring or wrench so as to dislocate or distort (<~ed my ankle>) b to distort the meaning of, pervert c to contort (<~ed his face into a grin>) d to pull off, turn, or break by a turning force e to cause to move with a rotating motion f to form into a spiral g **WARP** 1b (<a ~ed mind>) ~ *vi* 1 to follow a winding course, snake 2a to turn or change shape by a turning force b to take on a spiral shape c to dance the twist 3 of a ball to rotate while following a curving path 4 **TURN** 3a (<~ed round to see behind him> [ME *twisten*, fr OE *-twist* rope, akin to MD *twist* quarrel, twine, OE *twā* two] – **twist someone's arm** to bring strong pressure to bear on sb (<he decided to come with us, but we had to twist his arm a bit first>)

**twist** *n* 1 sthg formed by twisting e.g. a a thread, yarn, or cord formed by twisting 2 or more strands together b tobacco twisted into a thick roll c a screw of paper used as a container d a curled strip of citrus peel used to flavour a drink (<gin, ice, bitters and a ~ of lemon>) 2a a twisting or being twisted b a dance popular esp in the 1960s and performed with gyrations, esp of the hips c a spiral turn or curve 3a torsional strain b the angle through or amount by which a thing is twisted 4a a turning off a straight course, a bend b a (personal) eccentricity or idiosyncrasy c a distortion of meaning or sense 5 an unexpected turn or development (<a strange ~ of fate>) 6 a dive in which the diver twists the body sideways for 1 or more half or full turns before entering the water **twisty** *adj*

**twist drill** *n* a drill bit having deep spiral grooves extending from the cutting edges to the smooth portion of the shank

**twister** /'twɪstə/ *n* 1 *NAm* a tornado, waterspout, etc in which the rotatory ascending movement of a column of air is very apparent 2 a dishonest person, a swindler – *infrm* ['twɪstə + *-ER*]

**twit** /twɪt/ *vt* -*tt-* to tease, taunt [ME *atwiten* to reproach, fr OE *ætwtitan*, fr *æt* at + *wtitan* to reproach, akin to OHG *wizan* to punish, OF *witan* to know]

**twit** *n*, *Br* an absurd or silly person [prob alter. of *twat*]

**twitch** /twɪtʃ/ *vt* to move or pull with a sudden motion ~ *vi* 1 to pull, pluck (<~ed at my sleeve>) 2 to move jerkily or involuntarily [ME *twicchen*, akin to OE *twiccan* to pluck, OHG *gizwecan* to pinch] **twitcher** *n*

**twitch** *n* 1 a short sudden pull or jerk 2 a physical or mental pang 3 a loop of rope or a strap that is tightened over a horse's upper lip as a restraining device 4 (the recurrence of) a short spasmodic contraction or jerk, a tic – **twitchily** *adv*, **twitchy** *adj*

**twitch** *n* **COUCH GRASS** [alter of *quitch*]

**twite** /twɪet/ *n* a finch of N Europe that resembles the linnet [imit]

**twitter** /'twɪtə/ *vi* 1 to utter twitters 2 to talk in a nervous chattering fashion 3 to tremble with agitation, flutter ~ *vt* to utter (as if) in twitters [ME *twiteren*, akin to OHG *zwizzron* to twitter]

**twitter** *n* 1 a nervous agitation – esp in *all of a twitter* 2 a small tremulous intermittent sound characteristic of birds – **twittery** *adj*

**twixt** /twɪkst/ *prep* between – chiefly poetic [ME *twix*, short for *betwix*, *betwixt*]

**two** /tuː/ *pron*, *pl* in *constr* 1 two unspecified countable individuals (<only ~ were found>) 2 a small approximate number of indicated things (<only a shot or ~ were fired> [ME *twa* (adj) two, fr OE *twa* (fem & neut), akin to OE *twegen* two (masc), *tu* (neut), OHG *zwene*, L *duo*, Gk *dyo*])

**two** *n*, *pl* **twos** 1 ~ NUMBER 2 the second in a set or series (<the ~ of spades>) 3 sthg having 2 parts or members or a denomination of 2 – **two** *adj*, **twofold** *adj* or *adv*

**two-bit** *adj*, *NAm* petty, small-time ['bit 1b(2)]

**two-dimensional** *adj* 1 having 2 dimensions 2 lacking depth of characterization

**two-edged** *adj* double-edged

**two-faced** *adj* double-dealing, hypocritical – **two-facedness** /ˈfaɪstnɪs/ *n*

**2,4,5-T** *n* a compound used as a defoliant, esp in brush and weed control, that is thought to cause genetic defects [2,4,5 (fr the substitution of chlorine atoms in positions 2,4,5 in phenoxyacetic acid) trichlorophenoxyacetic acid]

**two-handed** *adj* 1 used with both hands (<a ~ sword>) 2 requiring 2 people (<a ~ saw>) 3 ambidextrous

**two-line whip** *n* an instruction from a party to its Members of Parliament that they should attend a debate and vote in the specified way – compare **FREE VOTE**, **THREE-LINE WHIP** [fr the double underlining of some words in the written instruction]

**two-party** *adj* characterized by 2 major political parties of comparable strength

**twopence** *also tuppence* /tʊp(ə)ns/ *n* (a coin worth) 2 pence

**twopenny** *also tuppenny* /tʊp(ə)ni/ *adj* costing or worth twopence

**twopenny-halfpenny** /tʊp(ə)ni ˈhaɪpni/ *adj*, chiefly *Br* of little value or importance

**two-piece** *n or adj* (a suit of clothes, swimming costume, etc) consisting of 2 matching pieces

**two-ply** /ˌtuːˈpli/ *adj* consisting of 2 strands, layers, or thicknesses (< wool)

**two-some** /ˈtuːs(ə)m/ *n* 1 a group of 2 people or things 2 a golf single

**two-step** *n* (a piece of music for) a ballroom dance in either 2 or 4 time

**two-stroke** *adj or n* (of, being, or powered by) an internal-combustion engine with a cycle of 2 strokes comprising 1 up-and-down movement of a piston

**two-time** *vb* to be unfaithful to (a spouse or lover) by having a secret relationship with another – **two-timer** *n*

**two-tone** *adj* 1 *also* two-toned having 2 colours or shades 2 of or being popular music played by groups consisting of black, esp W Indian, and white musicians and including elements of reggae and new wave – **two-tone** *n*

**.22** /ˌtuːh ˈtuːh, *also* .pɔɪnt ˌtuːh ˈtuːh/ *n* a small-bore rifle with a calibre of 0.22 in (5.6 mm)

**two-up** *n* a game in which players bet on the fall of tossed coins

**two-way** *adj* 1 moving or allowing movement or use in 2 (opposite) directions (< a ~ road> < ~ traffic>) 2a of a radio, telephone, etc designed for both sending and receiving messages b involving mutual responsibility or a reciprocal relationship 3 involving 2 participants 4 usable in either of 2 ways

**two-way mirror** *n* a piece of glass that reflects an image from one side and can be seen through from the other

**two-way switch** *n* either of 2 electrical switches (e.g. at the top and bottom of a stairway) controlling a single device, esp a light

**two-winged fly** *n* any of a large order of insects including the housefly, mosquito, and gnat with functional front wings and greatly reduced rear wings used to control balance

**ty** /-ti/ *suffix* (→ *n*) – used in forming numbers of (so many) times 10 <twenty> <fifty> [ME, fr OE *-tig* group of 10, akin to OE *ten* ten]

**ty** *suffix* (→ *n*) quality or condition of <puberty> <cruehy> [ME *-ie*, fr OF *-ie*, fr L *-tas*, – more at *-ity*]

**tycoon** /tiˈkooʊn/ *n* a businessman of exceptional wealth and power [Jap *taikun* shogun, fr Chin (Pek) *ta* ‘great’ + *chun* ‘ruler’] – **tycoonery** /-nəri/ *n*

**tying** /tiˈɪŋ/ *pres part* of **TIE**


**tyke, tike** /tiˈek/ *n* 1 a (mongrel) dog 2 chiefly *Br* a boorish churlish person 3 a small child 4 a native of Yorkshire **USE** (3&4) *infrm* [ME *tyke* dog, cur, churl, fr ON *tík* bitch]

**tymbal** /ˈtɪmbəl/ *n* the vibrating membrane in the shrilling organ of a cicada [alter of *timbal* (kettledrum), fr F *timbale* – more at **TIMBALE**]

**tympanic bone** /tiˈmpanɪk/ *n* a bone enclosing part of the middle ear and supporting the tympanic membrane

**tympanic membrane** *n* a thin membrane separating the outer ear from the middle ear that functions in the mechanical reception of sound waves and in their transmission to the site of sensory reception, the eardrum

**tympanites** /tiˈmpaniːtɪz/ *n* a distension of the abdomen caused by accumulation of gas in the intestinal tract or peritoneal cavity [ME, fr LL, fr Gk *tympanites*, fr *tympanon*] – **tympanitic** /-nɪtɪk/ *adj*

**tympanum** /ˈtɪmpənəm/ *n*, *pl* **tympana** /-nə/, **tympanums** 1a(1) **TYMPANIC MEMBRANE**  **NERVE** (2) **MIDDLE EAR** b a thin tense membrane covering the hearing-organ of an insect 2a the recessed triangular face of a pediment b the space within an arch and above a lintel (e.g. in a medieval doorway) [ML & L; ML, eardrum, fr L, drum, architectural panel, fr Gk *tympanon* drum, kettledrum; akin to Gk *typten* to beat] – **tympanic** /tiˈmpanɪk/ *adj*

**Tynwald** /ˈtɪnwɒld, ˈtɪn-/ *n* the Manx Parliament [ON *thingvǫllr* location of parliamentary meetings, fr *thing* assembly, parliament + *vǫllr* field]

**type** /tiˈep/ *n* 1a a person or thing (e.g. in the Old Testament) regarded as foreshadowing another (e.g. in the New Testament) b a model, exemplar, or characteristic specimen (possessing the distinguishable or essential qualities of a class) c a lower taxonomic category selected as reference for a higher category (< a ~ genus>) 2a (any of) a collection of

usu rectangular blocks or characters bearing a relief from which an inked print can be made b a typeface <italic ~> c printed letters 3a a set of qualities common to a number of individuals that distinguish them as an identifiable class (e.g. the form common to all instances of a linguistic expression b(1) a member of a specified class or variety of people <sporting ~>) (2) a person of a specified nature <he's a peculiar ~> c a particular kind, class, or group with distinct characteristics d sth distinguishable as a variety; a sort [LL *typus*, fr L & Gk, L *typus* image, fr Gk *typos* blow, impression, model, fr *typten* to strike, beat, akin to L *stuprum* defilement] – **typal** *adj*

**type** *vt* 1 to represent beforehand as a type, prefigure 2 to represent in terms of typical characteristics, typify 3 to write with a typewriter, *also* to keyboard 4a to identify as belonging to a type b to determine the natural type of (e.g. a blood sample) ~ *vi* to use a typewriter

**-type** *comb form* (*n* → *adj*) of (such) a type; resembling <Cheddar-type cheese>

**typecast** /-ˌkaʃt/ *vt* **typecast** to cast (an actor) repeatedly in the same type of role, *broadly* to stereotype

**typeface** /-ˌfaɪs/ *n* (the appearance of) a single design of printing type

**typefounder** /-ˌfoʊndə/ *n* one engaged in the design and production of metal printing type for hand composition – **typefounding** *n*, **typefoundry** *n*

**type metal** *n* an alloy of lead, antimony, and tin, used in making printing type

**typescript** /-ˌskript/ *n* a typewritten manuscript (e.g. for use as printer's copy) [*type* + manuscript]

**typeset** /-ˌset/ *vt* -*tt*; **typeset** to set in type, compose – **typesetter** *n*, **typesetting** *n*

**typewrite** /-ˌnɛt/ *vb* **typewrote** /-ˌroʊt/, **typewritten** /-ˌnɪn/ to write with a typewriter [back-formation fr *typewriter*]

**typewriter** /-ˌnɛtə/ *n* a machine with a keyboard for writing in characters resembling type

**typhoid** /ˈtiːfɔɪd/ *adj* 1 (suggestive) of typhus 2 of or being typhoid [NL *typhus*, (2) *typhoid*]

**typhoid, typhoid fever** *n* a serious communicable human disease caused by a bacterium and marked esp by fever, diarrhoea, headache, and intestinal inflammation

**typhoon** /tiˈfoʊhən/ *n* a tropical cyclone occurring in the Philippines or the China sea [alter (influenced by Chin (Cant) *taai fung* typhoon, fr *taai* great + *fung* wind) of earlier *touffon*, fr Ar *tufan* hurricane, fr Gk *typhon* whirlwind, akin to Gk *typhain* to smoke]

**typhus** /ˈtiːfəs/ *n* a serious human disease marked by high fever, stupor alternating with delirium, intense headache, and a dark red rash, caused by a rickettsia, and transmitted esp by body lice [NL, fr Gk *typhos* fever, akin to Gk *typhain* to smoke – more at **DEAF**]

**typical** /ˈtɪpɪkl/ *adj* 1 *also* **typic** being or having the nature of a type, symbolic, representative 2a having or showing the essential characteristics of a type (< ~ suburban houses>) b showing or according with the usual or expected (unfavourable) traits (just ~ of him to get so annoyed) – **typically** *adv*, **typicalness**, **typicality** /-ˌkaɪlti/ *n*

**typify** /ˈtɪpɪfi/ *vt* 1a to represent in symbolic fashion (e.g. by an image or model) b to constitute a typical instance of 2 to embody the essential characteristics of – **typification** /-fɪˈkaɪʃən/ *n*

**typist** /ˈtɪpɪst/ *n* one who uses a typewriter, esp as an occupation

**typo** /ˈtiːpoh/ *n*, *pl* **typos** a printing error – *infrm* [short for *typographical* (error)]

**typographer** /tiˈpɒɡrəfi/ *n* 1 a compositor 2 a specialist in the design, choice, and arrangement of typographical matter

**typography** /tiˈpɒɡrəfi/ *n* the style, arrangement, or appearance of typeset matter [ML *typographia*, fr Gk *typos* impression, cast + *-graphia* -graphy – more at **TYPE**] – **typographic** /-pəˈɡrafɪk/, **typographical** *adj*, **typographically** *adv*

**typology** /tiˈpɒləʒi/ *n* the doctrine, study, or analysis and classification of (theological) types – **typologist** *n*, **typological** /-pəˈlɒjɪkl/ *adj*

**tyramine** /ˈtiːrəmin, ˈti-/ *n* an amine derived from tyrosine that has an action on the sympathetic nervous system similar to that of adrenalin [ISV tyrosine + *amine*]

**tyrannical** /ˈtɪrənɪkl/ *also* **tyrannic** *adj* characteristic of a tyrant or tyranny, oppressive, despotic [L *tyrannicus*, fr Gk *tyrannikos*, fr *tyrannos* tyrant] – **tyrannically** *adv*

**tyrannicide** /tɪˈrənɪsɪd/ *n* the killing or killer of a tyrant [F, fr L *tyrannicida* & *tyrannicidium*, fr *tyrannus* + *-i-* + *-cida* & *-cidium* – more at **-CIDE**]


**tyrann-ize, -ise** /ˈtɪrənɪz/ *vb* to exercise power (over) with unjust and oppressive cruelty

**tyrannosaur** /ˈtɪrənəˈsɔːr/, **tyrannosaurus** /ˈtɪrənəˈsɔːrəs/ *n* a very large flesh-eating dinosaur of the Cretaceous period having small forelegs and walking on its hind legs [NL *Tyrannosaurus*, genus name, deriv of Gk *tyrannos* tyrant + *sauros* lizard – more at SAURIAN]

**tyranny** /ˈtɪrəni/ *n* 1 a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler 2 oppressive power (exerted by a tyrant) 3 sthg severe, oppressive, or inexorable in effect [ME *tyrannie*, fr MF, fr ML *tyrannia*, fr L *tyrannus* tyrant] – **tyrannous** *adj*

**tyrant** /ˈtɪe(ə)rənt/ *n* 1 a ruler who exercises absolute power, esp oppressively or brutally 2 one who exercises authority harshly or unjustly [ME *tyrant*, fr OF *tyran*, *tyrant*, fr L *tyrannus*, fr Gk *tyrannos*]

**tyrant flycatcher** *n* any of various large American flycatchers

**tyre**, *NAM* chiefly **tire** /ˈtɪe-/ *n* a continuous solid or inflated hollow rubber cushion set round a wheel to absorb shock  CAR [ME *tire* metal hoop forming the tread of a wheel, prob fr 'tire]

**Tyrian purple** /ˈtɪriən/ *n* a crimson or purple dye related to indigo, obtained by the ancient Greeks and Romans from gastropod molluscs, and now made synthetically [Tyre, maritime city in ancient Phoenicia]

**tyro, tiro** /ˈtɪe-əroʊ/ *n, pl tyros, tiros* a beginner, novice [ML, fr L *tiro* young soldier, novice]

**Tyrolean** /ˈtɪrəliən, ˈtɪrəˈlee-ən/ *adj* of the Tyrol [Tyrol, Tirol, region of Europe in the Alps]

**tyrosine** /ˈtɪərəseɪn, ˈtɪ-, -sɪn/ *n* an amino acid that occurs in most proteins and is the parent compound from which adrenalin and melanin are formed [ISV, irreg fr Gk *tyros* cheese]

**tzaddik** /ˈtsædɪk/ *n, pl tzaddikim* /-kɪm/ a zaddik

**tzar** /zɑː/ *n* a tsar

**tzigane** /ˈ(t)ʒɪˈgɑːn/ *n* a (Hungarian) gypsy [F, fr Hung *cigány*]

## U

**u** /yoʊh/ *n, pl u's, us* often *cap* (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 21st letter of the English alphabet

**U** *adj, chiefly Br* upper-class [upper-class]

**U** *n or adj* (a film that is) certified in Britain as suitable for all age groups [universal]

**ubiquity** /yoʊhˈbɪe-əti/ *n* the state of being in a definite place [L *ubi* where + *-e-ty* (as in society)]

**ubiquitous** /yoʊhˈbɪkwɪtəs/ *adj* existing or being everywhere at the same time, omnipresent [*ubiquity* fr L *ubique* everywhere, fr *ubi* where + *-que*, enclitic generalizing particle, akin to L *quis* who – more at who] – **ubiquitously** *adv*, **ubiquitousness**, **ubiquity** *n*

**U-boat** *n* a German submarine [trans of G *U-boot*, short for *unterseeboot*, fr *unter* under + *see* sea + *boot* boat]

**udder** /ˈʊdə/ *n* a large pendulous organ consisting of 2 or more mammary glands enclosed in a common envelope and each having a single nipple [ME, fr OE *ūder*; akin to OHG *utar* udder, L *uber*, Gk *outhar*, Skt *udhar*]

**UFO** /ˈyoʊhfoʊ, ˈyoʊh ef ˈoh/ *n, pl UFO's, UFOs* an unidentified flying object; *esp* FLYING SAUCER [unidentified flying object]

**ugh** /oʊkh, uh/ *interj* – used to express disgust or horror

**ugli** /ˈʊgli/, **ugli fruit** *n* a large citrus fruit that is a cross between a grapefruit and a tangerine [prob alter. of *ugly*; fr its unattractive wrinkled skin]

**ugly** /ˈʊgli/ *adj* 1 frightful, horrible (an ~ wound) 2 offensive or displeasing to any of the senses, esp to the sight 3 morally offensive or objectionable 4a ominous, threatening (an ~ customer) (< ~ weather) b surly, quarrelsome (an ~ disposition) [ME, fr ON *uggligr*, fr *ugg* fear; akin to ON *ugga* to fear] – **uglily** *adv*, **ugliness** *n*, **uglyly** /-fi-/ *vt*

**ugly duckling** *n* sby who or sthg that appears unpromising but turns out successful [The Ugly Duckling, story by Hans Christian Andersen †1875 Dan writer, in which an ugly 'duckling' grows into a beautiful swan]

**Ugrian** /ˈyoʊhɡri-ən, ˈooʊh-/ *n or adj* (a member) of the E division of the Finno-Ugric peoples [ORuss *Ugre* Hungarians]

**Ugrie** /ˈyoʊhɡrik, ˈooʊh-/ *adj* of the languages of the Ugrians


**uh-huh** /u ˈhu/ *interj* – used to indicate affirmation or agreement

**uhlan** /ˈooʊləhn, ˈyoʊləhn/ *n* any of a body of Prussian light cavalry orig

modelled on Tartar lancers [G, fr Pol *ulan*, fr Turk *oĝlan* boy, servant]

**Uitlander** /ˈaɪtˌlɑːndə, oʊt-/ *n, SAfr* a foreigner, esp a British resident in the former republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State [Afrk]

**ukase** /yoʊhˈkayz/ *n* 1 a proclamation by a Russian emperor or government having the force of law 2 an edict [F & Russ, F, fr Russ *ukaz*, fr *ukazatʹ* to show, order, akin to OSlav *u-* away, L *au-*, Skt *ava-* & to OSlav *kazati* to show]

**Ukrainian** /yoʊhˈkrayniən, -ni-ən/ *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of the Ukraine 2 the Slavonic language of the Ukrainians  LANGUAGE

[Ukraine, region of E Europe, now part of the USSR] – **Ukrainian** *adj*

**ukulele** /yoʊhkeˈlayli/ *n* a small usu 4-stringed guitar of Portuguese origin [Hawaiian 'ukulele, fr 'uku small person, flea + 'ele jumping]

**ulamas** /ˈooʊləmahz/ *n pl* the body of theologians and scholars who form the highest religious authority in Islam [Ar, Turk, & Per, Turk & Per 'ulema, fr Ar 'ulama]

**-ular** /-yoolə/ *suffix* (- *adj*) of, relating to, or resembling (angular) [L -ularis, fr -ulus, -ula, -ulum -ule + -aris -ar]


**ulcer** /ulsa/ *n* 1 a persistent open sore in skin or mucous membrane that often discharges pus 2 sthg that festers and corrupts [MF, fr L *ulcer*, *ulcus*, akin to Gk *helkos* wound] – **ulcerous** *adj*

**ulcerate** /ulsaˈreɪt/ *vb* to (cause to) become affected (as if) with an ulcer – **ulcerative** *adj*, **ulceration** /-reɪʃən/ *n*

**-ule** /-yooʊl, -yool/ *suffix* (- *n*) a small kind of (granule) [F & L, F, fr L -ulus, -ula, -ulum, masc, fem, & neut dim suffixes]

**-ulent** /-yoolənt/ *suffix* (- *adj*) full of (a specified thing) (succulent) (corpulent) [L -ulentus]

**ulage** /ˈulɪ/ *n* the amount by which a container (e.g. a tank or bottle) is less than full [ME *ulage*, fr MF *oullage* act of filling a cask, fr *oullier* to fill a cask, fr OF *ouil* eye, bunghole, fr L *oculus* eye]

**ulna** /ˈulnə/ *n* the bone of the human forearm on the little-finger side, also a corresponding part of the forelimb of vertebrates above fishes  ANATOMY [NL, fr L, elbow] – **ulnar** *adj*

**ulotrichous** /yoʊhˈlotrɪkəs/ *adj* having woolly or crisp hair [deriv of Gk *oulotrich-*, *oulotrich-*, fr *oulos* curly (akin to Gk *elyein* to roll) + *trich-*, *thrix* hair – more at VOUTURE, TRICH-] – **ulotrichy** *n*

**ulster** /ˈulstə/ *n* a long loose overcoat made of heavy material [Ulster, ancient kingdom & former province of Ireland (name now used also for its 2 divisions. a Northern Ireland b a province of Eire)]

**Ulsterman** /-mən/, *fem* **Ulsterwoman** *n* a native or inhabitant of Ulster

**ulterior** /ulˈtɪəri-ə/ *adj* going beyond what is openly said or shown, intentionally concealed (< ~ motives) [L, farther, further, compar of (assumed) L *ulter* situated beyond, fr *ul* beyond, akin to L *ollus*, *ille* that one, OIr *indoll* beyond] – **ulteriorly** *adv*

**ultima** /ultɪmə/ *n* the last syllable of a word [L, fem of *ultimus* last]

**ultimate** /ultɪmət/ *adj* 1a last in a progression or series (their ~ destination was Paris) b eventual 2a fundamental, basic (< ~ reality) b incapable of further analysis, division, or separation 3 maximum, greatest (the ~ sacrifice) [ML *ultimatus* last, final, fr LL, pp of *ultimare* to come to an end, be last, fr L *ultimus* farthest, last, final, superl of (assumed) L *ulter* situated beyond] – **ultimateness** *n*

**ultimate** *n* sthg ultimate; the highest point (the ~ in stupidity)

**ultimately** /-li/ *adv* finally; AT LAST

**ultimatum** /ulˈtɪmətəm/ *n, pl ultimatums, ultimata* /-tə/ a final proposition or demand, esp one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to direct action [NL, fr ML, neut of *ultimatus* final]

**ultimo** /ˈultɪmoʊ/ *adj* of or occurring in the previous month – compare PROXIMO [L *ultimo mense* in the last month]

**ultra** /ˈultrə/ *adj* going beyond others or beyond due limit [ultra-]




**ultra-** /ultrə-/ *prefix* 1 beyond in space, on the other side of; trans- (ultramontane) (ultraplanetary) 2 beyond the range or limits of, super- (ultramicroscopic) (ultrasound) 3 excessively; extremely (ultra-modern) (ultraconservative) [L, fr *ultra* beyond, adv & prep, fr (assumed) L *ulter* situated beyond]

**ultracentrifuge** /ultrəˈsentriˌfoʊhɪ, -foʊhɪz/ *n* a high-speed centrifuge able to sediment colloidal or other small particles – **ultracentrifugal** /-sentriˌfoʊhɪ(ə)l, -sentriˌfoʊhɪ(ə)l/ *adj*

**ultrahigh frequency** /ultrəˈhiː/ *n* a radio frequency in the range between 300 megahertz and 3000 megahertz

**ultraism** /ˈultrəˌɪz(ə)m/ *n* the advocacy of extreme measures – **ultraist** *adj or n*, **ultraistic** /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*

**ultramarine** /ultrəˈmæriːn/ *n* 1 a deep blue pigment 2 vivid deep blue [ML *ultramarinus* coming from beyond the sea]

- <sup>1</sup>ultramarine** *adj* situated across the sea [ML *ultramarinus*, fr L *ultra-* + *mare* sea – more at MARINE]
- <sup>1</sup>ultramicroscope** /-ˈmɪkrəˌskəʊp/ *n* an apparatus for making visible by scattered light particles too small to be perceived by the ordinary microscope [back-formation fr *ultramicroscopic*]
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, micro, scopi** /-ˈmɪkrəˌskəʊpɪk/ *adj* 1 too small to be seen with an ordinary microscope 2 of an ultramicroscope [ISV] – **ultramicroscopically** *adv*
- <sup>1</sup>ultramontane** /-ˈmɒntəɪn/ *adj* 1 of countries or peoples beyond the Alps or other mountains 2 favouring greater or absolute supremacy of papal over national or diocesan authority in the Roman Catholic church [ML *ultramontanus*, fr L *ultra-* + *mont-*, *mons* mountain – more at MOUNT] – **ultramontane** *n*, often *cap*, **ultramontanism** /-ˈmɒntənɪz(ə)m/ *n*
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, sonic** /-ˈsɒnɪk/ *adj* supersonic **a** of waves and vibrations having a frequency above about 20,000Hz **b** using, produced by, or relating to ultrasonic waves or vibrations <*an ~ dog whistle*> – **ultrasonically** *adv*
- <sup>2</sup>ultrasonic** *n* an ultrasonic wave or frequency
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, sound** /-ˈsəʊnd/ *n* ultrasonic sound vibrations
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, structure** /-ˈstrʊktʃə/ *n* **LINE STRUCTURE**
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, violet** /-ˈvɪəˌlaɪt/ *n* electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength between the violet end of the visible spectrum and X rays  **PHYSICS**
- <sup>2</sup>ultraviolet** *adj* relating to, producing, or employing ultraviolet <*an ~ lamp*>
- <sup>1</sup>ultra, vires** /-ˈvɪə(ə)reez/ *adv* or *adj* beyond legal power or authority [NL, lit., beyond power]
- <sup>1</sup>ululate** /ˈyʊʊləʊt/ *v* to howl, wail [L *ululatus*, pp of *ululare*, of imit origin] – **ululant** *adj*, **ululation** /-ˈləʊləʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- <sup>1</sup>umbel** /ˈʊmb(ə)l/ *n* an inflorescence typical of plants of the carrot family in which the axis is very much contracted so that the flower stalks spring from the same point to form a flat or rounded flower cluster  **PLANT** [NL, *umbella*, fr L, dim. of *umbra*] – **umbelled** *adj*, **umbellate** /ˈʊmbələɪt, ˈʊmbələt/ *adj*
- <sup>1</sup>umbellifer** /ˈʊmbəlɪfə/ *n* a plant of the carrot family [NL, *Umbelliferae*, group name, fr fem pl of *umbellifer* bearing umbels] – **umbelliferous** /ˈʊmbəlɪfərəs/ *adj*
- <sup>1</sup>umber** /ˈʊmbə/ *n* 1 a brown earth used as a pigment – compare BURNT UMBER, RAW UMBER 2 dark or yellowish brown [prob fr obs *umber* (shade, colour), fr ME *umbre* shade, shadow, fr MF, fr L *umbra* – more at UMBRAGE]
- <sup>1</sup>umber** *adj* of the colour of umber
- <sup>1</sup>umber** *vt* to darken (as if) with umber
- <sup>1</sup>umbilical** /ˈʊmbɪkəl, ˈʊmbɪleɪkəl/ *adj* of or near the navel [NL *umbilicalis*, fr L *umbilicus*]
- <sup>1</sup>umbilical cord** *n* 1 a cord arising from the navel that connects the foetus with the placenta  **REPRODUCTION** 2 a cable conveying power to a rocket or spacecraft before takeoff; also a tethering or supply line (e.g. for an astronaut outside a spacecraft or a diver underwater)
- <sup>1</sup>umbilicate** /ˈʊmbɪkət, -ˈkayl/, **umbilicated** /-ˈkaytɪd/ *adj* 1 depressed like a navel 2 having an umbilicus – **umbilication** /-ˈkayʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- <sup>1</sup>umbilicus** /ˈʊmbɪkəs, ˈʊmbɪleɪkəs/ *n*, pl **umbilici** /-ˈkɪe, -ˈsɪe/, **umbilicuses** 1 a small depression in the embryonic abdominal wall at the point of attachment of the umbilical cord 2 any of several anatomical depressions comparable to an umbilicus, esp HILUM 1a [L – more at NAVEL]
- <sup>1</sup>umbles** /ˈʊmb(ə)lz/ *n* pl the entrails of an animal, esp a deer, formerly used as food [ME, alter. of *nombles*, fr MF, pl of *nomble* fillet of beef, pork loin, modif of L *lumbulus*, dim. of *lumbus* loin – more at LUMEN]
- <sup>1</sup>umbo** /ˈʊmbə/ *n*, pl **umbones** /ˈʊmbəneɪz/, **umbos** 1 the boss of a shield 2 a rounded anatomical elevation [L, akin to L *umbilicus*] – **umbonal** /ˈʊmbənl, ˈʊmbənəl/ *adj*, **umbonate** /ˈʊmbəneɪt, ˈʊmbəneɪt/ *adj*
- <sup>1</sup>umbra** /ˈʊmbə/ *n*, pl **umbras**, **umbræ** /ˈʊmbri/ 1 a region of total shadow, esp in an eclipse 2 the central dark region of a sunspot [L] – **umbral** *adj*
- <sup>1</sup>umbrage** /ˈʊmbri/ *n* 1 a feeling of pique or resentment <*took ~ at the chairman's comment*> 2 archaic shady branches; foliage [ME, shade, shadow, fr MF, fr L *umbraticum*, neut. of *umbraticus* of shade, fr *umbratus*, pp of *umbrare* to shade, fr *umbra* shade, shadow, akin to Lith *unksna* shadow]
- <sup>1</sup>umbrageous** /ˈʊmbreɪʃəs/ *adj*, archaic shadowy, shady – **umbrageously** *adv*, **umbrageousness** *n*
- <sup>1</sup>umbrella** /ˈʊmbrelə/ *n* 1 a collapsible shade for protection against

weather, consisting of fabric stretched over hinged ribs radiating from a central pole 2 the bell-shaped or saucer-shaped largely gelatinous structure that forms the chief part of the body of most jellyfishes 3 sth which provides protection <*the American nuclear ~*> 4 sth that embraces a broad range of elements or factors <*the Electricity Council ~ of the area electricity boards*> – *The Economist* [It *ombrella*, modif of L *umbella*, dim. of *umbra*]

**<sup>1</sup>umbrella, tree** *n* an American magnolia having large leaves clustered at the ends of the branches

**<sup>1</sup>Umbrian** /ˈʊmbri-ən/ *n* 1a a member of a people of ancient Umbria **b** a native or inhabitant of the Italian province of Umbria 2 the Italic language of ancient Umbria [*Umbria*, ancient province of Italy] – **Umbrian** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>Umbundu** /ʊʊmˈboʊndoo/ *n* a Congo language of Angola

**<sup>1</sup>umiak** /ˈʊʊmi-ək/ *n* an open Eskimo boat made of a wooden frame covered with hide [Esk]

**<sup>1</sup>umlaut** /ˈʊmləʊt, ˈʊʊmləʊt/ *n* (a mark placed over a letter in some Germanic languages to indicate) the change of a vowel caused by the influence of a following vowel or semivowel [G, fr *um-* round, transformation + *laut* sound]

**<sup>1</sup>umpire** /ˈʊmpɪə/ *n* 1 one having authority to settle a controversy or question between parties 2 a referee in any of several sports (e.g. cricket, table tennis, badminton, and hockey) [ME *oumpere*, alter. (by incorrect division of a *noumpere*) of *noumpere*, fr MF *nomper* not equal, not paired, fr *non-* + *per* equal, fr L *par*]

**<sup>2</sup>umpire** *vb* to act as or supervise (e.g. a match) as umpire

**<sup>1</sup>umpteenth** /ˈʊmpˈteɪn/ *adj* very many, indefinitely numerous – **in**fm [blend of *empty* (such and such) + *-teen* (as in *thirteen*)] – **umpteenth** *n*, **umpteenth** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>un** /ən/ *pron*, *dial* one [by alter.]

**<sup>1</sup>un-** /-n-/ *prefix* 1 not, in-, non- <[un]skilled> <[un]dressed> <[un]belief> 2 opposite of, contrary to <[un]grateful> <[un]thinking> <[un]rest> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *un-*, *un-*, L *in-*, Gk *a-*, *an-*, OE *ne* not – more at NO]

**<sup>2</sup>un-** *prefix* 1 do the opposite of, reverse (a specified action), *de-* 1a, *dis-* 1a <[un]bend> <[un]dress> <[un]fold> 2a deprive of, remove (sth specified) from, remove <[un]rock> <[un]sex> <[un]nerve> **b** release from, free from <[un]hand> <[un]tie> **c**1 remove from, extract from, take out of <[un]earth> <[un]sheathe> (2) dislodge from <[un]horse> <[un]seat> **d** cause to cease to be <[un]man> 3 completely <[un]loose> [ME, fr OE *un-*, *on-*, alter. of *and-* against – more at ANTE-]

**<sup>1</sup>unabashed** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unabated** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unable** /ˈʊnˈeɪb(ə)l/ *adj* not able, incapable **a** unqualified, incompetent **b** impotent, helpless

**<sup>1</sup>unabridged** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unaccented** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unacceptable** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unaccompanied** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unaccountable** /ˌʊnˈkaʊntəbəl/ *adj* 1 inexplicable, strange 2 not to be called to account, not responsible [UN + ACCOUNTABLE] – **unaccountably** *adv*, **unaccountability** /-ɪˈbɪləti/ *n*

**<sup>1</sup>unaccounted** /ˌʊnˈkaʊntɪd/ *adj* not explained – often + *for* [UN + ACCOUNTED]

**<sup>1</sup>unaccustomed** /ˌʊnˈkʊstəmd/ *adj* 1 not customary, not usual or common 2 not used to – **unaccustomedly** *adv*

**<sup>1</sup>una corda** /ˌʊʊhənə ˈkəʊdə/ *adv* or *adj* with the soft pedal depressed – used in piano music [It, lit., one string, fr the fact that the soft pedal on a grand piano shifts the hammers so that they strike only 1 string for each note]

**<sup>1</sup>unadvised** /ˌʊnˈdɒptɪd/ *adj*, *Br* not looked after by local authority <*an ~ road*> [UN + ADOPTED]

**<sup>1</sup>unadorned** /ˌʊnˈdɔːnd/ *adj* not decorated, plain, simple

**<sup>1</sup>unadulterated** /ˌʊnˈdʊltərəɪtɪd/ *adj* unmixed, esp with anything inferior, pure – **unadulterately** *adv*

**<sup>1</sup>unadventurous** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unadvised** /ˌʊnˈdʌvɪzɪd/ *adj* not prudent; indiscreet, rash – compare ILL-ADVISED – **unadvisedly** /-zɪdli/ *adv*

**<sup>1</sup>unaffected** /ˌʊnˈfektɪd/ *adj* 1 not influenced or changed mentally, physically, or chemically 2 free from affectation; genuine – **unaffectedly** *adv*, **unaffectedness** *n*

**<sup>1</sup>unaging, unageing** /ˌʊnˈeɪjɪŋ/ *adj* ageless

**<sup>1</sup>unaided** *adj*

**<sup>1</sup>unalienable** /ˌʊnˈeɪlɪ-ənəbəl, -ˈeɪlɪənəbəl/ *adj* inalienable

**<sup>1</sup>unaligned** /ˌʊnˈeɪlɪnd/ *adj* nonaligned

**<sup>1</sup>unalterable** *adj*

**unaltered** *adj*

**unambiguous** *adj*

**un-American** *adj* not consistent with US customs, principles, or traditions ['UN- + AMERICAN]

**unanimous** /yoʊˈnænɪməs/ *adj* 1 being of one mind, agreeing 2 characterized by the agreement and consent of all (<a ~ decision>) [L. *unanimus*, fr *unus* one + *animus* mind – more at ONE, ANIMATE] – **unanimously** *adv*, **unanimity** /yoʊˈnænɪməti/ *n*

**unannounced** *adj*

**unanswerable** /unˈɑːnsə(r)əbl/ *adj* not answerable, esp irrefutable – **unanswerably** *adv*, **unanswerability** /-rəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**unanswered** *adj*

**unanticipated** *adj*

**unappealing** *adj*

**unappetizing**, -izing /unˈəpetɪzɪŋ/ *adj* not appetizing; insipid – **unappetizingly** *adv*

**unapproachable** /unəˈprɒtʃəbl/ *adj* 1 physically inaccessible 2 reserved, unfriendly ['UN- + APPROACHABLE] – **unapproachably** *adv*, **unapproachability** /-tʃəˈbɪləti/ *n*

**unapt** /unˈæpt/ *adj* 1 unsuitable, inappropriate 2 not accustomed and not likely (<a man ~ to tolerate carelessness>) 3 dull, backward – **unaptnly** *adv*, **unaptness** *n*

**unarmed** /unˈɑːmɪd/ *adj* 1 not armed or armoured 2 having no spines, spurs, claws, etc

**unashamed** /unəˈʃaɪmd/ *adj* without guilt, self-consciousness, or doubt ['UN- + ASHAMED] – **unashamedly** /-mɪdli/ *adv*

**unasked** /unˈɑːskt/ *adj* 1 not asked or invited 2 not sought or asked for (<~ advice>)

**unassailable** /unəˈsaɪəbl/ *adj* not liable to doubt, attack, or question ['UN- + ASSAILABLE] – **unassailably** *adv*, **unassailability** /-ləˈbɪləti/ *n*

**unassisted** *adj*

**unassuming** /unəˈsɪʊmɪŋ/ *adj* not arrogant or presuming, modest ['UN- + ASSUMING] – **unassumingness** *n*

**unattached** /unəˈtʃɑːtɪd/ *adj* 1 not assigned or committed; esp not married or engaged 2 not joined or united (<~ polyps> (<~ buildings>)

**unattainable** *adj*

**unattractive** *adj*

**unauthorized** *adj*

**unavailable** *adj*

**unavailing** /unəˈvaɪɪŋ/ *adj* futile, useless ['UN- + AVAILING] – **unavailingly** *adv*, **unavailingness** *n*

**unavoidable** /unəˈvɔɪdəbl/ *adj* not avoidable; inevitable – **unavoidably** *adv*

**unaware** /unəˈweə/ *adj* ignorant or unconscious of what is happening around one, unperceptive ['UN- + AWARE] – **unawareness** *n*

**unawares** /unəˈweɪz/ *adv* 1 without noticing or intending 2 suddenly, unexpectedly [un- + aware + -s, *adv* suffix, fr ME, fr -s, gen sing ending of nouns – more at -s]

**unbacked** /unˈbækt/ *adj* lacking support or aid ['UN- + BACKED]

**unbalance** /unˈbæləns/ *vt* to put out of balance; esp to derange mentally

**unbalanced** *adj* not balanced. e.g. a not in equilibrium b mentally disordered or deranged c not adjusted so as to make credits equal to debts (<a ~ account>)

**unbar** /unˈbɑː/ *vt* -rr- to remove a bar from; unlock, open

**unbearable** /unˈbeərəbl/ *adj* not endurable, intolerable – **unbearably** *adv*

**unbeatable** /unˈbiːtəbl/ *adj* 1 not able to be defeated 2 outstandingly good of its kind – **unbeatably** *adv*

**unbeaten** /unˈbiːt(ə)n/ *adj* not defeated (<a ~ record>) ['UN- + BEATEN]

**unbecoming** /unbiˈkʊmɪŋ/ *adj* not attractive or showing to advantage, esp improper, unseemly (<~ conduct>) ['UN- + BECOMING] – **unbecomingly** *adv*, **unbecomingness** *n*

**unbeknown** /unbiˈnəʊn/ *adj* happening without one's knowledge – *usu* + *to* ['UN- + obs *beknown* (known)]

**unbeknownst** /unbiˈnəʊnst/ *adj* unbeknown [irreg fr *unbeknown*] **unbelief** /unbiˈliːf/ *n* incredulity or scepticism, esp in matters of religious faith

**unbelievable** /unbiˈliːvəbl/ *adj* too improbable for belief; incredible – **unbelievably** *adv*

**unbeliever** /unbiˈliːvə/ *n* one who does not believe, esp in a particular religion

**unbelieving** /unbiˈliːvɪŋ/ *adj* marked by unbelief; sceptical – **unbelievingly** *adv*

**unbend** /unˈbend/ *vb* **unbent** /unˈbent/ *vt* 1 to put into or allow to return to a straight position 2a to unfasten (e.g. a sail) from a spar or stay b to cast loose or untie (e.g. a rope) ~ *vi* 1 to become more relaxed, informal, or outgoing in manner 2 to become straight

**unbending** /unˈbendɪŋ/ *adj* 1 unyielding, inflexible (<a ~ will>) 2 aloof or unsociable in manner ['UN- + BENDING]

**unbiased** /unˈbiːəst/ *adj* free from all prejudice and partiality ['UN- + BIASED] – **unbiasedness** *n*

**unbidden** /unˈbɪdn/ *adj* unasked, uninvited

**unbind** /unˈbiːnd/ *vt* **unbound** /unˈbaʊnd/ *vt* 1 to untie, unfasten 2 to set free; release

**unblemished** *adj*

**unblinking** /unˈblɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* showing no signs of emotion ['UN- + BLINKING] – **unblinkingly** *adv*

**unblushing** /unˈblʊʃɪŋ/ *adj* shameless, unabashed ['UN- + BLUSHING] – **unblushingly** *adv*

**unbolt** /unˈboʊlt/ *vt* to open or unfasten by withdrawing a bolt

**unborn** /unˈbɔːn/ *adj* 1 not yet born 2 still to appear, future (<~ ages>)

**unbosom** /unˈboʊzəm/ *vt* to disclose the thoughts or feelings of (oneself) ['un- + bosom]

**unbound** /unˈbaʊnd/ *adj* not fastened or confined ['UN- + 'BOUND]

**unbounded** /unˈbaʊndɪd/ *adj* having no limits or constraints – **unboundedness** *n*

**unbowed** /unˈbaʊd/ *adj* not bowed down, esp not subdued

**unbrace** /unˈbreɪs/ *vt* to free or relax (as if) by untying or removing a brace or bond

**unbreakable** *adj*

**unbridle** /unˈbriːdl/ *vt* to set free or loose (from a bridle)

**unbridled** *adj* 1 not confined by a bridle 2 unrestrained, ungoverned

**unbroken** /unˈbrəʊkən/ *adj* 1 whole, intact 2 not beaten or improved on (<a ~ record>) 3 not subdued or tamed, esp not trained for service or use (<~ colts>) 4 uninterrupted (<miles of ~ forest>) 5 not disorganized or in disarray (<advanced in ~ ranks>) ['UN- + BROKEN]

**unbuckle** /unˈbʊkl/ *vt* to loose the buckle of, unfasten

**unburden** /unˈbʊdn(ə)n/ *vt* to free or relieve from anxiety, cares, etc ['UN- + 'BURDEN]

**unbusinesslike** *adj*

**unbutton** /unˈbʊt(ə)n/ *vt* 1 to undo the buttons of 2 to free from constraint, tension, etc – **unbuttoned** *adj*

**uncage** /unˈkeɪj/ *vt* to free from restraint ['UN- + 'CAGE]

**uncalled-for** /unˈkɔːld fɔː/ *adj* 1 unnecessary 2 offered without provocation or justification, gratuitous (<a ~ display of temper>)

**uncanny** /unˈkæni/ *adj* 1 eerie, mysterious 2 beyond what is normal or expected (<a ~ sense of direction>) – **uncannily** *adv*, **uncanniness** *n*

**uncaring** *adj*

**unceasing** *adj*

**unceremonious** /unseərəˈmɒniəs, -niəs/ *adj* 1 not ceremonious, informal 2 abrupt, rude (<a ~ dismissal>) – **unceremoniously** *adv*, **unceremoniousness** *n*

**uncertain** /unˈsɪtɪn/ *adj* 1 not reliable or trustworthy 2a not definitely known, undecided, unpredictable (<the outcome is ~>) b not confident or sure, doubtful (<~ of the truth>) 3 variable, changeable (<~ weather>) ['UN- + 'CERTAIN] – **uncertainly** *adv*, **uncertainty** *n*

**uncertainty** /unˈsɪtɪ(ə)n/ *n* the state of being uncertain, doubt

**uncertainty principle** *n* a principle in quantum mechanics: it is impossible to determine both the momentum and position of a tiny particle (e.g. a photon)

**unchain** /unˈtʃeɪn/ *vt* to free (as if) by removing a chain, set loose

**unchallenged** *adj*

**unchangeable** *adj*

**unchanged** *adj*

**unchanging** *adj*

**uncharacteristic** *adj*

**uncharitable** /unˈtʃɑːtəbl/ *adj* severe in judging others; harsh ['UN- + CHARITABLE] – **uncharitableness** *n*, **uncharitably** *adv*

**unchecked** *adj*

**unchivalrous** *adj*

**unchristian** /unˈkrɪʃtɪən/ *adj* 1 contrary to the Christian spirit or character 2 barbarous, uncivilized ['UN- + 'CHRISTIAN]

**uncial** /unˈʃiəl/ *adj* written in the style or size of uncials [L. *uncialis* inch-high, fr *uncia* twelfth part, ounce, inch] – **uncially** *adv*

**uncial** *n* (a letter in) a style of handwriting formed of somewhat large rounded *usu* separated letters and used esp in early medieval Greek and Latin manuscripts



**unciform** /ˈʊnsɪfawm/ *adj* hook-shaped [NL *unciformis*, fr L *uncus* hook + *-formis* -form – more at **'ANGLE**]

**uncinate** /ˈʊnsɪnaɪt/ *adj*, of a plant or animal part having a hook-shaped tip [L *uncinatus*, fr *uncinus* hook]

**uncircumcised** /ˌʊnˈsɪrkəmˌsiːzd/ *adj* 1 not circumcised 2 spiritually impure, heathen – **uncircumcision** /-ˌsɪrkəmˈsiːzh(ə)n/ *n*

**uncivil** /ˈʊnˈsɪvəl/ *adj* ill-mannered, impolite [ˈUN- + CIVIL] – **uncivilly** *adv*

**uncivilized** /ˌʊnˈsɪvɪlɪzd/ *adj* 1 not civilized, barbarous 2 remote from settled areas; wild

**unclaimed** *adj*

**uncleap** /ˌʊnˈklaɪp/ *vt* 1 to open the clasp of 2 to open or cause (e.g. a clenched hand) to be opened

**unclassified** /ˌʊnˈklaɪfɪd/ *adj* 1 not divided into classes or placed in a class 2 not subject to a security classification

**uncle** /ˈʊŋkl/ *n* 1a the brother of one's father or mother b the husband of one's aunt 2 a man who is a very close friend of a young child or its parents [ME, fr OF, fr L *avunculus* mother's brother, akin to OE *eam* uncle, OIr *auc* grandson, L *avus* grandfather]

**unclean** /ˌʊnˈkleɪn/ *adj* 1 morally or spiritually impure 2a ritually prohibited as food b ceremonially unfit or defiled 3 dirty, filthy – **uncleanness** *n*

**unclear** *adj*

**Uncle Sam** /ˈsʌm/ *n* the American nation, people, or government [prob jocular expansion of *US*, abbr of *United States*]

**Uncle Tom** /ˈtɒm/ *n* a black American eager to win the approval of white people and willing to cooperate with them – chiefly derog [Uncle Tom, faithful black slave in the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe †1896 US author]

**unclothe** /ˌʊnˈkləʊð/ *vt* to strip of clothes

**unco** /ˈʊŋkəʊ/ *adj*, chiefly Scot 1 strange, unknown 2 extraordinary, remarkable [ME (Sc) *unkow*, alter of ME *uncouth*]

**unco** *adv*, chiefly Scot extremely, remarkably

**uncoil** /ˌʊnˈkɔɪl/ *vb* to (cause to) unwind

**uncoined** /ˌʊnˈkɔɪnd/ *adj* not minted (<~ metal)

**uncomfortable** /ˌʊnˈkʌmfɪtəbl/ *adj* 1 causing discomfort 2 feeling discomfort, ill at ease – **uncomfortably** *adv*

**uncommercial** /ˌʊnˈkɜːmɪʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 not engaged in or related to commerce 2 not based on commercial principles 3 not commercially viable

**uncommitted** /ˌʊnˈkɒmɪtɪd/ *adj* not pledged to a particular belief, allegiance, or course of action [ˈUN- + COMMITTED]

**uncommon** /ˌʊnˈkɒmən/ *adj* 1 not normally encountered, unusual 2 remarkable, exceptional – **uncommonly** *adv*, **uncommonness** *n*

**uncommunicative** /ˌʊnˈkɒmjuːnɪkətɪv/ *adj* not forthcoming, reserved

**uncomplicated** /ˌʊnˈkɒmplɪkəɪtɪd/ *adj* not complex, straightforward [ˈUN- + COMPLICATED]

**uncomprehending** *adj*

**uncompromising** /ˌʊnˈkɒmpromɪzɪŋ/ *adj* not making or accepting a compromise; unyielding – **uncompromisingly** *adv*

**unconcealed** *adj*

**unconcern** /ˌʊnˈkɒnsəh/ *n* 1 lack of interest, indifference 2 freedom from anxiety

**unconcerned** /ˌʊnˈkɒnsəhnd/ *adj* 1 not involved or interested 2 not anxious or worried – **unconcernedly** /-nɪdli/ *adv*, **unconcernedness** /-kənˈsəhndnɪs, -nɪdnɪs/ *n*

**unconditional** /ˌʊnˈkɒndɪʃ(ə)nl/ *adj* absolute, unqualified – **unconditionally** *adv*

**unconditioned** /ˌʊnˈkɒndɪʃ(ə)nd/ *adj* not dependent on conditioning or learning [ˈUN- + CONDITIONED]

**unconfined** *adj*

**unconformable** /ˌʊnˈkɒnfəməbl/ *adj* not conforming – **unconformably** *adv*

**unconformity** /ˌʊnˈkɒnfəməti/ *n* (the junction between rocks corresponding to) discontinuity in the sequence of deposited rock strata, caused by a period of erosion or no deposition [ˈUN- + CONFORMITY]

**uncongenial** /ˌʊnˈkɒŋjənɪəl, -niəl/ *adj* 1 not sympathetic or compatible (<~ roommates) 2 disagreeable, unpleasant (<an ~ task) – **uncongeniality** /-kənˈjɛniːələti/ *n*

**unconquerable** /ˌʊnˈkɒŋk(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 indomitable, unyielding 2 incapable of being surmounted – **unconquerably** *adv*

**unconquered** *adj*

**unconscionable** /ˌʊnˈkɒnʃ(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1 unscrupulous, unprincipled 2 excessive, unreasonable – **unconscionably** *adv*

**'unconscious** /ˌʊnˈkɒnʃəs/ *adj* 1 not knowing or perceiving 2a not possessing mind or having lost consciousness (<~ matter> (<~ for 3 days> b not marked by or resulting from conscious thought, sensation, or feeling (<~ motivation> 3 not intentional or deliberate (<~ bias) – **unconsciously** *adv*, **unconsciousness** *n*

**unconscious** *n* the part of the mind that does not ordinarily enter a person's awareness but nevertheless influences behaviour and may be manifested in dreams or slips of the tongue

**unconsidered** /ˌʊnˈkɒnsɪdəd/ *adj* 1 disregarded, unnoticed 2 not carefully thought out (<~ opinions>)

**unconstitutional** /ˌʊnˈkɒnstɪˈtjuʊʃ(ə)nl/ *adj* not consistent with the political constitution – **unconstitutionally** *adv*, **unconstitutionality** /-ˈləti/ *n*

**uncontrollable** *adj*

**uncontroversial** *adj*

**unconventional** /ˌʊnˈkɒnvənʃ(ə)nl/ *adj* not bound by convention; out of the ordinary – **unconventionally** *adv*, **unconventionality** /-ˈləti/ *n*

**unconvincing** *adj*

**uncooperative** *adj*

**uncork** /ˌʊnˈkɔːk/ *vt* 1 to draw a cork from 2 to release from a pent-up state, unleash

**uncounted** /ˌʊnˈkəʊntɪd/ *adj* 1 not counted 2 innumerable

**uncouple** /ˌʊnˈkʊpl/ *vt* 1 to release (dogs) from a couple 2 to detach, disconnect – **uncoupler** *n*

**uncouth** /ˌʊnˈkʊʊθ/ *adj* awkward and uncultivated in speech or manner; boorish [ME, fr OE *uncuth*, fr *un-* + *cūth* familiar, known; akin to OHG *kund* known, OE *can* know – more at **'CAN**] – **uncouthly** *adv*, **uncouthness** *n*

**uncover** /ˌʊnˈkʊvə/ *vt* 1 to disclose, reveal 2a to remove the cover from b to remove the hat from (one's head)

**uncovered** *adj* 1 not supplied with a covering 2 not covered by insurance or social security [ˈUN- + COVERED]

**uncritical** /ˌʊnˈkrɪtɪkl/ *adj* lacking in discrimination or critical analysis – **uncritically** *adv*

**uncrowned** /ˌʊnˈkroʊnd/ *adj* 1 not having yet been crowned 2 having a specified status in fact but not in name (<the ~ champion>)

**unction** /ˌʊŋkʃ(ə)n/ *n* the act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing [ME *unctioun*, fr L *unction-*, *unctio*, fr *unctus*, pp of *ungere* to anoint – more at **'OINTMENT**]

**unctuous** /ˌʊŋktɪʊəs/ *adj* 1 fatty, oily, or greasy in texture or appearance 2 marked by ingratiating smoothness and false sincerity [ME, fr MF or ML; MF *unctueus*, fr ML *unctuosus*, irreg fr L *unctum* ointment, fr neut of *unctus*, pp] – **unctuously** *adv*, **unctuousness** *n*

**uncultivated** *adj*

**uncurl** /ˌʊnˈkʊl/ *vb* to (cause to) become straightened out from a curled or coiled position

**uncut** /ˌʊnˈkʊt/ *adj* 1 not cut down or into 2 not shaped by cutting (<an ~ diamond> 3 of a book not having the folds of the leaves trimmed off 4 not abridged or curtailed

**undamaged** *adj*

**undated** *adj*

**undaunted** /ˌʊnˈdaʊntɪd/ *adj* not discouraged by danger or difficulty – **undauntedly** *adv*

**undec-** *comb form* eleven (<undecillion> [L *undecim*, fr *unus* one + *decem* ten – more at **'ONE, TEN**]

**undecieve** /ˌʊndɪˈsiːv/ *vt* to free from deception, illusion, or error

**undecided** /ˌʊndɪˈsiːdɪd/ *adj* 1 in doubt 2 without a result (<the match was left ~> [ˈUN- + DECIDED] – **undecidedly** *adv*, **undecidedness** *n*

**undemanding** *adj*

**undemocratic** *adj*

**undemonstrative** /ˌʊndɪˈmɒstrətɪv/ *adj* not showing one's feelings; reserved – **undemonstratively** *adv*, **undemonstrativeness** *n*

**undeniable** /ˌʊndɪˈniːəbl/ *adj* 1 plainly true; incontestable (<~ evidence> 2 unquestionably excellent or genuine – **undeniably** *adv*

**'under** /ˌʊndə/ *adv* 1 in or to a position below or beneath sth 2a in or to a lower rank or number (£10 or ~) b to a subnormal degree; deficiently – often in combination (<under-staffed> 3 in or into a condition of subjection, subordination, or unconsciousness 4 so as to be covered, buried, or sheltered 5 BELOW 3 [ME, *adv* & prep, fr OE; akin to OHG *untar* under, L *inferus* situated beneath, lower, *infra* below, Skt *adha*]

**under** *prep* 1a below or beneath so as to be overhung, surmounted, covered, protected, or hidden (<~ cover of darkness> b using as a pseudonym or alias (<wrote ~ the name 'George Eliot'> 2a(1) subject to the authority, control, guidance, or instruction of (<~ served ~ the general> (2) during the rule or control of (<India ~ the Raj> b receiving or

- undergoing the action or effect of (< pressure) <courage ~ fire> (< ~ ether) < ~ discussion> (< ~ sail> 3 within the group or designation of (< ~ this heading> 4 less than or inferior to (< ~ an hour>); esp falling short of (a standard or required degree)
- under** *adj* 1a lying or placed below, beneath, or on the lower side b facing or pointing downwards 2 lower in rank or authority; subordinate 3 lower than usual, proper, or desired in amount or degree *USE* often in combination
- underachiever** /ˌʊndəˈtʃiːvə/ *n* one who fails to achieve his/her scholastic potential
- under** *adj* 1 to perform (a dramatic part) without adequate force or skill 2 to perform with restraint for greater dramatic impact or personal force ~ *vi* to perform feebly or with restraint
- underage** /-ˈeɪ/ *adj* below the legal age
- underarm** /-ˈɑːm/ *adj* 1 under or on the underside of the arm (< ~ seams> 2 made with the hand brought forwards and up from below shoulder level
- underarm** *vt* or *adv* (to throw) with an underarm motion (< bowl ~>)
- underarm** *n* the part of a garment that covers the underside of the arm
- underbelly** /-ˈbɛli/ *n* 1 the underside of an animal, object, etc 2 a vulnerable area (< the soft ~ of capitalism>)
- underbid** /-ˈbɪd/ *vb* -dd-; **underbid** *vt* 1 to bid less than (a competing bidder) 2 to bid (a hand of cards) at less than the strength of the hand warrants ~ *vi* to bid too low - **underbidder** /-ˈbɪdər/ *n*
- underbody** /-ˈbɒdi/ *n* 1 the lower part of an animal's body 2 the under surface of the body of a vehicle
- underbred** /-ˈbrɛd/ *adj* of inferior or mixed breed (< an ~ dog>)
- underbrush** /-ˈbrʊʃ/ *n*, *NAM* undergrowth in a wood or forest
- undercapitalized**, -ised /-ˈkæpɪtəl-ɪzɪd/ *adj* having too little capital for efficient operation
- undercarriage** /-ˈkærɪ/ *n* 1 a supporting framework (e.g. of a motor vehicle) 2 the part of an aircraft's structure that supports its weight, when in contact with the land or water  *FLIGHT*
- undercharge** /-ˈtʃɑːʒ/ *vb* to charge (e.g. a person) too little - **undercharge** /-ˈtʃɑːʒ/ *n*
- underclothes** /-ˈkləʊðz/ *n pl* underwear
- underclothing** /-ˈkləʊðɪŋ/ *n* underwear
- undercoat** /-ˈkəʊt/ *n* 1 a growth of short hair or fur partly concealed by a longer growth (< a dog's ~> 2 a coat (e.g. of paint) applied as a base for another coat
- undercover** /-ˈkʌvə/ *adj* acting or done in secret; *specif* engaged in spying
- undercroft** /-ˈkrɒft/ *n* a crypt [ME, fr *under* + *crofte* crypt, fr MD, fr ML *crypta*, fr L *crypta*]
- undercurrent** /-ˈkʌrənt/ *n* 1 a current below the upper currents or surface 2 a hidden opinion, feeling, or tendency
- undercut** /-ˈkʌt/ *vt* -tt-; **undercut** 1 to cut away the underpart of (< ~ a vein of ore> 2 to cut away material from the underside of so as to leave a portion overhanging 3 to offer sthg at lower prices than or work for lower wages than (a competitor)
- undercut** *n* 1 the action or result of undercutting 2 *Br* the underside of sirloin, a beef tenderloin 3 *NAM* a notch cut in a tree to determine the direction of falling during felling
- underdeveloped** /-ˈdɪvələpt/ *adj* 1 not normally or adequately developed (< ~ muscles> (< an ~ film> 2 failing to realize a potential economic level - **underdevelopment** *n*
- underdog** /-ˈdɒɡ/ *n* 1 an (expected) loser in a contest 2 a victim of injustice or persecution
- underdone** /-ˈdʌn/ *adj* not thoroughly cooked
- underdress** /-ˈdres/ *vi* to dress less formally than is appropriate - **underdressed** *adj*
- underemployment** /-ɪmˈplɔɪmənt/ *n* 1 less than full employment of the work force in an economy 2 employment at less than full time; partial or inadequate employment - **underemployed** *adj*
- underestimate** /-ˈestɪmənt/ *vt* 1 to estimate as being less than the actual size, quantity, etc 2 to place too low a value on; underrate - **underestimate** /ˌʊndərˈestɪmət/ *n*, **underestimation** /ˌʊndərˈestɪˈmeɪʃən/ *n*
- underexpose** /-ɪkˈspəʊz/ *vt* to expose insufficiently - **underexposure** /-ɪkˈspəʊzə/ *n*
- underfeed** /-ˈfiːd/ *vt* **underfed** /-ˈfed/ to feed with too little food
- underfelt** /-ˈfelt/ *n* a thick felt underlay placed under a carpet
- underfoot** /-ˈfʊt/ *adv* 1 *under the foot*, esp against the ground (< trampled ~> 2 in the way (< children always getting ~>)
- undergarment** /-ˈgɑːmənt/ *n* a garment to be worn under another
- undergo** /-ˈɡoʊ/ *vt* **underwent** /-ˈwent/, **undergone** /-ˈɡɒn/ to be subjected to, experience
- undergrad** /-ˈɡrɑːd/ *n* an undergraduate - **infirm**
- undergraduate** /-ˈɡrædjʊoʊ-ət/ *n* a college or university student who has not taken a first degree
- underground** /-ˈɡraʊnd/ *adv* 1 beneath the surface of the earth 2 in or into hiding or secret operation
- underground** *adj* 1 growing, operating, or situated below the surface of the ground 2a conducted in hiding or in secret b existing or operated outside the establishment, esp by the avant-garde
- underground** *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a a secret movement or group esp in an occupied country, for concerted resistive action b a conspiratorial organization set up for disruption of a civil order c a usu avant-garde group or movement that functions outside the establishment 2 *Br* a usu electric underground urban railway, also a train running in an underground
- undergrowth** /-ˈɡroʊθ/ *n* shrub, bushes, saplings, etc growing under larger trees in a wood or forest
- underhand** /ˌʊndəˈhænd, sense 2 ˈ-/-/ *adv* 1 in an underhand manner, secretly 2 underarm
- underhand** *adj* 1 not honest and aboveboard, sly 2 **UNDERARM** 2
- underhung** /-ˈhʌŋ/ *adj* 1 of a lower jaw projecting beyond the upper jaw - compare *PROGNATHOUS* 2 having an underhung jaw
- underinsured** /-ɪnˈʃʊəd, -ɪnˈʃaʊd/ *adj* not sufficiently insured
- underlaid** /-ˈleɪd/ *adj* 1 placed underneath 2 having sthg laid or lying underneath
- underlay** /-ˈleɪ/ *vt*, **underlaid** /-ˈleɪd/ 1 to cover or line the bottom of, give support to on the underside or below 2 to raise by sthg laid under
- underlay** *n* sthg that is (designed to be) laid under sthg else (< a carpet with foam ~>)
- underlie** /-ˈliː/ *vt* **underlying** /-ˈliːɪŋ/; **underlay** /-ˈleɪ/, **underlain** /-ˈleɪn/ 1 to lie or be situated under 2 to form the basis or foundation of 3 to be concealed beneath the exterior of (< underlying hostility>)
- underline** /-ˈliːn/ *vt* 1 to mark (a word or passage) with a line underneath 2 to emphasize, stress - **underline** /-ˈliːn/ *n*
- underling** /-ˈlɪŋ/ *n* a subordinate or inferior
- underlip** /-ˈlɪp/ *n* the lower lip
- undermanned** /-ˈmænd/ *adj* inadequately staffed
- undermentioned** /-ˌʊndərˈmentʃənd/ *adj*, *Br* referred to at a later point in a text
- undermine** /-ˈmiːn/ *vt* 1 to form a mine under, sap 2 to weaken or destroy gradually or insidiously
- underneath** /ˌʊndəˈneeth/ *prep* directly below, close under [ME *underneche*, *prep* & *adv*, fr OE *underneothan*, fr *under* + *neothan* below - more at *BENEATH*]
- underneath** *adv* 1 under or below an object or a surface, beneath 2 on the lower side
- underneath** *n* the bottom part or surface (< the ~ of the bowl>)
- undernourished** /-ˈnʊnɪʃt/ *adj* supplied with less than the minimum amount of the foods essential for sound health and growth - **undernourishment** *n*
- underpaid** /-ˈpeɪd/ *adj* receiving less than adequate or normal pay
- underpants** /-ˈpænts/ *n pl* men's pants
- underpart** /-ˈpɑːt/ *n* a part lying on the lower side, esp of a bird or mammal
- underpass** /-ˈpɑːs/ *n* a tunnel or passage taking a road and pavement under another road or a railway
- underpin** /-ˈpɪn/ *vt* -nn- to form part of, strengthen, or replace the foundation of (< ~ a sagging building>)
- underpinning** /-ˈpɪnɪŋ/ *n* 1 the material and construction (e.g. a foundation) used for support of a structure 2 a basis, support - often pl with *sing.* meaning
- underplay** /-ˈpleɪ/ *vt* 1 to underact (a role) 2 to play down the importance of
- underplot** /-ˈplɒt/ *n* a subplot
- underprice** /-ˈpriːs/ *vt* to price too low
- underprivileged** /-ˈprɪv(ɪ)lɪd/ *adj* deprived of some of the fundamental social or economic rights of a civilized society (< ~ children>)
- underproduction** /-ˌprɒˈdʌkʃən/ *n* the production of less than enough or of less than the usual supply - **underproductive** /-ˌdʌktɪv/ *adj*
- underproof** /-ˈpruːf/ *adj* containing less alcohol than proof spirit
- underquote** /-ˈkwəʊt/ *vt* 1 to quote a lower price than (another

- person) 2 to quote a price for (e.g. goods or services) that is lower than another's offer or the market price  
**under-rate** /-'rayt/ *vt* to rate too low; undervalue  
**under-score** /-'skaw/ *vt* to underline – **underscore** /-'-/ *n*  
**under-sea** /-'see/ *adj* 1 being or carried on under the sea or under the surface of the sea (< oil deposits > ~ warfare) 2 designed for use under the surface of the sea  
**under-sea, under-seas** *adv* beneath (the surface of) the sea  
**under-seal** /-'seel/ *n* a protective corrosion-proof substance (e.g. bitumen) used esp to coat vehicle undersurfaces – **underseal** /-'-/ *vt*  
**under-secretary** /-'sekrətri, -teri/ *n* a secretary immediately subordinate to a principal secretary  
**under-sell** /-'sel/ *vt* **undersold** /-'sohld/ 1 to be sold cheaper than < imported cars that ~ domestic ones > 2 to make little of the merits of < he undersold himself >, esp to promote or publicize in a (deliberately) low-key manner  
**under-sexed** /-'seksd/ *adj* deficient in sexual drive or interest  
**under-shoot** /-'shooht/ *vt* **undershot** /-'shot/ 1 to shoot short of or below (a target) 2 of an aircraft to land short of (a runway)  
**under-shot** /-'shot/ *adj* 1 underhung 2 moved by water passing beneath < an ~ wheel >  
**under-shrub** /-'shrub/ *n* a small low-growing shrub  
**under-side** /-'sied/ *n* the side or surface lying underneath  
**under-signed** /-'siend/ *n, pl* **undersigned** the one who signs his/her name at the end of a document  
**under-sized** /-'sized/ *also* **under-size** *adj* of less than average size  
**under-slung** /-'slung/ *adj*, of a vehicle frame suspended below the axles  
**under-spin** /-'spin/ *n* backspin  
**under-staffed** /-'stahft/ *adj* undermanned  
**understand** /-'undə'stand/ *vb* **understood** /-'stood/ *vt* 1a to grasp the meaning of; comprehend b to have a thorough knowledge of or expertise in (< finance >) 2 to assume, suppose < we ~ that he is abroad > 3 to interpret in one of a number of possible ways < as I ~ it > 4 to supply mentally (sthg implied though not expressed) ~ *vi* 1 to have a grasp or understanding of sthg 2 to believe or infer sthg to be the case 3 to show a sympathetic or tolerant attitude < if he loves her he'll ~ > [ME *understanden*, fr OE *understandan*, fr *under* + *standan* to stand] – **understandable** *adj*, **understandably** *adv*, **understandability** /-'dɒ-biliti/ *n*  
**understanding** /-'standing/ *n* 1 a mental grasp, comprehension 2 the power of comprehending, intelligence, esp the power to make experience intelligible by applying concepts 3a a friendly or harmonious relationship b an informal mutual agreement  
**understanding** *adj* tolerant, sympathetic – **understandingly** *adv*  
**under-state** /-'steyt/ *vt* 1 to state as being less than is the case 2 to present with restraint, esp for greater effect – **understatement** /-'-/ *n*  
**under-steer** /-'stiə/ *n* the tendency of a motor vehicle to turn less sharply than the driver intends – **understeer** /-'-/ *vi*  
**under-strength** /-'streng(k)th/ *adj* deficient in strength, esp lacking the sufficient or prescribed number of staff < a firm 500 ~ >  
**understudy** /-'undə'studi, -/-/ *vi* to study another actor's part in order to take it over in an emergency ~ *vi* to prepare (e.g. a part) as understudy, *also* to prepare a part as understudy to  
**under-study** *n* one who is prepared to act another's part or take over another's duties  
**under-surface** /-'suhfs/ *n* the underside  
**under-take** /-'tayk/ *vi* **undertook** /-'took/; **under-taken** /-'taykən/ 1 to take upon oneself as a task 2 to put oneself under obligation to do, contract 3 to guarantee, promise  
**under-taker** /-'tayka/ *n* sby whose business is preparing the dead for burial and arranging and managing funerals [UNDERTAKE + -ER]  
**under-taking** /-'tayking/ *n* 1 the business of an undertaker 2 an enterprise 3 a pledge, guarantee  
**under-tenant** /-'tenənt/ *n* a subtenant  
**under-the-counter** *adj* surreptitious and usu illicit – infml [fr the hiding of illicit wares under the counter of shops where they are sold]  
**under-things** /-'θɪŋz/ *n pl* underwear – infml  
**under-tone** /-'tohn/ *n* 1 a subdued utterance 2 an underlying quality (e.g. of emotion) 3 a subdued colour; *specif* one seen through and modifying another colour  
**under-tow** /-'toh/ *n* 1 an undercurrent that flows in a different direction from the surface current, esp out to sea 2 a hidden tendency often contrary to the one that is publicly apparent  
**under-value** /-'valyoo/ *vt* 1 to value, rate, or estimate below the real worth (< ~ stock >) 2 to assign an insufficient value to < was ~d as a poet > – **undervaluation** /-'valyoo'aysh(ə)n/ *n*  
**under-water** /-'wawtə/ *adj* 1 situated, used, or designed to operate below the surface of the water 2 being below the waterline of a ship – **underwater** *adv*  
**under-way** *adv* 1 in or into motion 2 in progress, afoot [prob fr D *underwegen*, fr MD *underwegen*, lit., under or among the ways]  
**under-wear** /-'weə/ *n* clothing worn next to the skin and under other clothing  *GARMENT*  
**underweight** /-'undə'wayt, noun /-'-/ *adj* or *n* (of a) weight below average or normal  
**under-wing** /-'wɪŋ/ *n* any of various moths that have the hind wings banded with contrasting colours  
**under-wing** *adj* placed or growing underneath the wing < a bird's ~ covert >  
**under-world** /-'wuhld/ *n* 1 the place of departed souls, Hades 2 the world of organized crime  
**under-write** /-'rɪt/ *vb* **underwrote** /-'roht/, **underwritten** /-'rɪtn/ *vt* 1 to write under or at the end of sthg else 2 to set one's signature to (an insurance policy) thereby assuming liability in case of specified loss or damage; *also* to assume (a sum or risk) by way of insurance 3 to subscribe to, agree to 4a to agree to purchase (a security issue) usu on a fixed date at a fixed price with a view to public distribution b to guarantee financial support of ~ *vi* to carry on the business of an underwriter  
**under-writer** /-'rɪtə/ *n* 1 one who underwrites sthg, esp an insurance policy 2 one who selects risks to be solicited or rates the acceptability of risks solicited  
**undescended** /-'undɪ'sendɪd/ *adj*, of a testis retained within the abdomen rather than descending into the scrotum at the normal age [UN + DESCENDED]  
**undeserved** *adj* – **undeservedly** *adv*  
**undeserving** *adj*  
**undesirable** /-'undɪ'zɪə-rəbl/ *n* or *adj* (sby or sthg) unwanted or objectionable (< elements in society >) – **undesirably** *adv*, **undesirability** /-'rəbiliti/ *n*  
**undetectable** *adj*  
**undetected** *adj*  
**undeterred** *adj*  
**undevolved** *adj*  
**undies** /-'undɪz/ *n pl* underwear, esp women's underwear – infml [by shortening & alter]  
**undignified** *adj*  
**undiminished** *adj*  
**undisclosed** *adj*  
**undisguised** *adj*  
**undistinguished** *adj*  
**undisturbed** *adj*  
**undivided** *adj*  
**undo** /'undoo/ *vb* **undid** /'undɪd/, **undone** /'undʊn/ *vt* 1 to open or loosen by releasing a fastening 2 to reverse or cancel out the effects of 3 to destroy the standing, reputation, hopes, etc of ~ *vi* to come open or apart – **undoer** *n*  
**undock** /'undɒk/ *vi* 1 to move away from a dock (e.g. at sailing time) 2 to become undocked ~ *vi* to separate (e.g. 2 spacecraft) mechanically while in space  
**undoing** /'undooɪŋ/ *n* (a cause of) ruin or downfall  
**undone** /'undʊn/ *past part* of UNDO  
**undone** *adj* not performed or finished [UN- + DONE]  
**undoubted** /'undə'wɒtɪd/ *adj* not disputed; genuine [UN- + DOUBTED] – **undoubtedly** *adv*  
**undreamed** /'undremd, undremt/ *also* **undreamt** /'undremt/ *adj* not conceived of; unimagined – usu + of [UN- + DREAMED]  
**undress** /'undres/ *vt* to remove the clothes or covering of ~ *vi* to take off one's clothes  
**undress** *n* 1 ordinary dress – compare FULL DRESS 2 a state of having little or no clothing on  
**undressed** *adj* 1 partially or completely unclothed 2 not fully processed or finished (< ~ hides >) 3 not cared for or tended < an ~ wound > [UN- + DRESSED]  
**undrinkable** *adj*  
**undue** /'undyoo/ *adj* 1 not yet due 2 excessive, immoderate  
**undulant fever** /'undyoolant/ *n* a persistent human brucellosis  
**undulate** /'undyoʊlət/, **undulated** /-'ləytɪd/ *adj* having a wavy surface, edge, or markings (< the ~ margin of a leaf >)  PLANT [L *undulatus*, fr (assumed) L *undula*, dim. of L *unda* wave – more at WATER]

**undulate** *vi* 1 to rise and fall in waves; fluctuate 2 to have a wavy form or appearance [LL *undula* small wave, fr (assumed) L]  
**undulation** /ˌʊndjuːləʃən/ *n* 1a a gentle rising and falling (as if) in waves b a wavelike motion; also a single wave or gentle rise 2 a wavy appearance, outline, or form  
**undulatory** /ˌʊndjuːlət(ə)r/ *adj* undulating, wavy  
**unduly** /ˌʊndjuːli/ *adv* excessively  
**undying** /ˌʊndiːŋ/ *adj* eternal, perpetual  
**unearned** /ˌʊnhnd, ˌʊnhnt/ *adj* not gained by work, service, or skill (< ~ income)  
**unearned increment** *n* an increase in the value of property (e.g. land) due to increased demand rather than the owner's labour or investment  
**unearth** /ˌʊnhth/ *vt* 1 to dig up out of the ground 2 to make known or public  
**unearthly** /ˌʊnhthli/ *adj* 1 not terrestrial (< ~ radio sources) 2 exceeding what is normal or natural; supernatural (< an ~ light) 3 weird, eerie 4 unreasonable, preposterous (< getting up at an ~ hour) – compare UNODDLY 2 – **unearthliness** *n*  
**unease** /ˌʊneɪz/ *n* a feeling of disquiet or awkwardness  
**uneasy** /ˌʊneɪzi/ *adj* 1 marked by lack of physical or mental ease, uncomfortable, awkward 2 apprehensive, worried 3 precarious, unstable (< an ~ truce) ['UN- + EASY] – **uneasily** *adv*, **uneasiness** *n*  
**uneatable** *adj* inedible  
**uneconomic** /ˌʊnekəˈnɒmɪk, -eɪkə/ also **uneconomical** /-kl/ *adj* not economically practicable  
**unedifying** *adj*  
**uneducated** *adj*  
**unemployable** /ˌʊnɪmˈplɔɪəbl/ *adj* not acceptable for employment  
**unemployed** /ˌʊnɪmˈplɔɪd/ *adj* 1 not engaged in a job 2 not invested ['UN- + EMPLOYED] – **unemployed** *n pl in constr*  
**unemployment** /ˌʊnɪmˈplɔɪmənt/ *n* the state of being unemployed; lack of available employment  
**unemployment benefit** *n* a sum of money paid (e.g. by the state) at regular intervals to an unemployed worker  
**unending** *adj*  
**unendurable** *adj*  
**unenforceable** *adj*  
**unenterprising** *adj*  
**unenthusiastic** *adj*  
**unenviable** *adj*  
**unequal** /ˌʊnekwəl/ *adj* 1a not of the same measurement, quantity, or number as another b not like in quality, nature, or status c not the same for every member of a group, class, or society (< ~ rights) 2 badly balanced or matched 3 not uniform 4 incapable of meeting the requirements of sthg – + *to* – **unequally** *adv*  
**unequaled** *adj* not equalled, unparalleled  
**unequivocal** /ˌʊniˈkwɪvəl/ *adj* clear, unambiguous – **unequivocally** *adv*  
**unerring** /ˌʊnhɪŋŋ/ *adj* faultless, unfailing (< ~ judgment) – **unerringly** *adv*  
**unethical** *adj*  
**uneven** /ˌʊnev(ə)n/ *adj* 1a not level, smooth, or uniform b varying from the straight or parallel c irregular, inconsistent d varying in quality (< an ~ performance) 2 UNEQUAL 2 (< an ~ content) – **unevenly** *adv*, **unevenness** *n*  
**uneventful** /ˌʊnɪˈventf(ə)l/ *adj* without any noteworthy or untoward incidents – **uneventfully** *adv*  
**unexceptionable** /ˌʊnɪkˈsepəh(ə)nəbl/ *adj* beyond reproach or criticism; unimpeachable [un- + obs *exception* (to take exception, object)] – **unexceptionableness** *n*, **unexceptionably** *adv*  
**unexceptional** /ˌʊnɪkˈsepsh(ə)nəl/ *adj* commonplace, ordinary  
**unexpected** /ˌʊnɪkˈspektɪd/ *adj* not expected or foreseen – **unexpectedly** *adv*, **unexpectedness** *n*  
**unexplained** *adj*  
**unexploded** *adj*  
**unexplored** *adj*  
**unexpurgated** *adj*  
**unfailing** /ˌʊnfaylɪŋ/ *adj* that can be relied on; constant (< a subject of ~ interest) ['UN- + FAILING] – **unfailingly** *adv*, **unfailingness** *n*  
**unfair** /ˌʊnfɛə/ *adj* 1 unjust, dishonest 2 not equitable, esp in business dealings (< ~ competition) – **unfairly** *adv*, **unfairness** *n*  
**unfaithful** /ˌʊnfaythf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 disloyal, faithless 2 not faithful to a marriage partner, lover, etc, esp in having sexual relations with another person ['UN- + FAITHFUL] – **unfaithfully** *adv*, **unfaithfulness** *n*

**unfaltering** /ˌʊnfawltərɪŋ/ *adj* not wavering or hesitating; firm – **unfalteringly** *adv*  
**unfamiliar** /ˌʊnfəˈmɪliə, -jə/ *adj* 1 not well-known; strange (< an ~ place) 2 not well acquainted (< ~ with the subject) ['UN- + FAMILIAR] – **unfamilarly** *adv*, **unfamiliarity** /ˌʊnfəˈmɪlɪərəti/ *n*  
**unfasten** /ˌʊnfəʃən/ *vt* 1 to loosen, undo 2 to untie, detach  
**unfavourable** /ˌʊnfayv(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 expressing disapproval; negative 2 disadvantageous, adverse (< an ~ economic climate) – **unfavourably** *adv*  
**unfeeling** /ˌʊnˈfiːlɪŋ/ *adj* not kind or sympathetic, hardhearted ['UN- + FEELING] – **unfeelingly** *adv*, **unfeelingness** *n*  
**unfetter** /ˌʊnfetə/ *vt* 1 to release from fetters (< ~ a prisoner) 2 to free from restraint; liberate  
**unfilled** *adj*  
**unfinished** /ˌʊnfɪnɪʃt/ *adj* 1 not brought to the desired final state, incomplete 2 subjected to no other processes after coming from the loom ['UN- + FINISHED]  
**unfit** /ˌʊnˈfɪt/ *adj* 1 unsuitable, inappropriate 2 incapable, incompetent (< ~ for duty) 3 physically or mentally unsound ['UN- + 'FIT] – **unfitness** *n*  
**unfit** *vt -tt-* to make unfit, disqualify (< ~ ted by temperament for the scholastic life)  
**unflagging** /ˌʊnˈflæɡɪŋ/ *adj* never flagging, tireless – **unflaggingly** *adv*  
**unflappable** /ˌʊnˈflapəbl/ *adj* remaining calm and composed, imperturbable ['un- + flap (state of excitement) + -able] – **unflappability** /-pəˈbɪləti/ *n*  
**unflattering** /ˌʊnˈflætərɪŋ/ *adj* not flattering, esp unfavourable (< ~ comments) – **unflatteringly** *adv*  
**unfledged** /ˌʊnfledʒd/ *adj* 1 not feathered, not ready for flight 2 not fully developed, immature  
**unflinching** /ˌʊnˈflɪnʃɪŋ/ *adj* not flinching or shrinking, steadfast – **unflinchingly** *adv*  
**unfold** /ˌʊnfəʊld/ *vt* 1 to open the folds of, spread or straighten out 2 to disclose gradually ~ *vi* 1 to open from a folded state 2 to open out gradually to the mind or eye  
**unforeseeable** *adj*  
**unforeseen** *adj*  
**unforgettable** /ˌʊnfəˈɡetəbl/ *adj* incapable of being forgotten, memorable – **unforgettably** *adv*  
**unforgivable** *adj*  
**unformed** /ˌʊnfəʊmd/ *adj* not shaped; esp immature, undeveloped  
**unfortunate** /ˌʊnfəwɪtʃ(ə)nət/ *adj* 1a unsuccessful, unlucky b accompanied by or resulting in misfortune (< an ~ decision) 2 unsuitable, inappropriate (< an ~ choice of words)  
**unfortunate** *n* an unfortunate person  
**unfortunately** /-li/ *adv* 1 in an unfortunate manner 2 as is unfortunate (< ~ the matter is not so simple)  
**unfounded** /ˌʊnfəʊndɪd/ *adj* lacking a sound basis, groundless  
**unfreeze** /ˌʊnˈfriːz/ *vb* unfroze /-ˈfroz/, unfrozen /-ˈfroz(ə)n/ to (cause to) thaw  
**unfrequented** /ˌʊnfriˈkwentɪd, -ˈfreekwəntɪd/ *adj* not often visited or travelled over  
**unfriendly** *adj*  
**unfrock** /ˌʊnfrok/ *vt* to deprive (esp a priest) of the right to exercise the functions of office  
**unfulfilled** *adj*  
**unfurl** /ˌʊnfʊrl/ *vb* to (cause to) open out from a furled state, unroll  
**unfurnished** *adj*  
**ungainly** /ˌʊnˈɡeɪnli/ *adj* lacking in grace or dexterity; clumsy ['un- + gainly (suitable, graceful), fr *gain* (direct, handy), fr ME *gayn*, fr OE *gēn*, fr ON *gagn*] – **ungainliness** *n*  
**ungenerous** /ˌʊnˈdʒen(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 petty, uncharitable 2 stingy, mean ['UN- + GENEROUS] – **ungenerously** *adv*  
**ungentlemanly** *adj*  
**ungodly** /ˌʊnˈɡɒdli/ *adj* 1a denying God or disobedient to him; heathen b sinful, wicked 2 indecent, outrageous (< gets up at an ~ hour) – compare UNEARTHLY 4 – **ungodliness** *n*  
**ungovernable** /ˌʊnˈɡʊv(ə)nəbl/ *adj* not capable of being controlled or restrained  
**ungraceful** *adj*  
**ungracious** /ˌʊnˈɡreɪʃəs/ *adj* rude, impolite ['UN- + GRACIOUS] – **ungraciously** *adv*, **ungraciousness** *n*  
**ungrateful** /ˌʊnˈɡreɪtɪf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 showing no gratitude 2 disagreeable, unpleasant – **ungratefully** *adv*, **ungratefulness** *n*

**ungrudging** /un'gru:dʒɪŋ/ *adj* generous, wholehearted (< ~ *praise*) – **ungrudgingly** *adv*

**unguarded** /un'gɑ:hdɪd/ *adj* 1 vulnerable to attack 2 showing lack of forethought or calculation, imprudent – **unguardedly** *adv*, **unguardedness** *n*

**unguent** /'ung-gwənt/ *n* a soothing or healing salve, ointment [ME, fr L *unguentum* – more at OINTMENT]

**unguis** /'ung-gwis/ *n*, *pl* **ungues** /-gweez/ 1 a nail, claw, or hoof, esp on a digit of a vertebrate 2 a narrow pointed base of a petal [L]

**'ungulate** /'ungyoolət, -ləjt/ *adj* 1 having hoofs 2 of or belonging to the ungulates [LL *ungulatus*, fr L *ungula* hoof, fr *unguis* nail, hoof]

**²ungulate** *n* any of the group consisting of the hoofed mammals [NL *Ungulata*, group name, fr neut pl of LL *ungulatus*]

**unhampered** *adj*

**unhand** /un'hand/ *vt* to remove the hands from, let go

**unhappily** /un'həpɪli/ *adv* 1 in an unhappy manner 2 UNFORTUNATELY 2

**unhappy** /un'həpi/ *adj* 1 not fortunate, unlucky 2 sad, miserable 3 unsuitable, inappropriate (<an ~ *remark*) – **unhappiness** *n*

**unharmed** *adj*

**unhealthy** /un'helθi/ *adj* 1 not in or conducive to good health 2 unnatural, esp morbid (<an ~ *interest in death*) – **unhealthily** *adv*, **unhealthiness** *n*

**unheard** /un'hud/ *adj* 1 not perceived by the ear 2 not given a hearing

**unheard-of** *adj* previously unknown, unprecedented

**unheeded** *adj*

**unhelpful** *adj*

**unheralded** *adj*

**unhinge** /un'hɪŋj/ . 1 to remove (e.g. a door) from hinges 2 to make unstable, unsettle (<her *mind* was ~ d by *grief*)

**unholy** /un'hohli/ *adj* 1 wicked, reprehensible (<an ~ *alliance*) 2 terrible, awful – *infrm* (<making an ~ *racker*) – **unholiness** *n*

**unhook** /un'hook/ *vt* 1 to remove from a hook 2 to unfasten the hooks of

**unhorse** /un'haws/ *vt* to dislodge (as if) from a horse

**unhurried** /un'hund/ *adj* not hurried, leisurely – **unhurriedly** *adv*

**unhurt** *adj*

**unhygienic** *adj*

**uni-** /yoohni-/ *prefix* one, single (<unicellular> [ME, fr MF, fr L, fr *unus* – more at ONE])

**uniaxial** /yoohni'aksɪəl/ *adj* of or having only 1 axis – **uniaxially** *adv*

**unicameral** /-'kæməɾəl/ *adj* of or having a single legislative chamber [uni- + *cameral* (as in *bicameral*)] – **unicamerally** *adv*

**unicellular** /-'selyoolə/ *adj* having or consisting of a single cell – **unicellularity** /-'selyoolə'larəti/ *n*

**unicorn** /'yoohni,kawn/ *n* a mythical animal usu depicted as a white horse with a single horn in the middle of the forehead [ME *unicorne*, fr OF, fr LL *unicornis*, fr L, having one horn, fr uni- + *cornu* horn – more at HORN]

**'uni,cycle** /-'sɪkl/ *n* any of various vehicles that have a single wheel and are propelled usu by pedals [uni- + *-cycle* (as in *tricycle*)] – **unicyclist** /-'sɪklɪst/ *n*

**unidentified** *adj*

**,unidirectional** /-di'reksh(ə)nəl, -di-ə/ *adj* involving, functioning in, or moving in a single direction – **unidirectionally** *adv*

**Unification church** *n* the church of the Moonies

**'uniform** /yoohni,fawm/ *adj* 1 not varying in character, appearance, quantity, etc (<a ~ *speed*) 2 conforming to a rule, pattern, or practice, consonant [MF *uniforme*, fr L *uniformis*, fr uni- + *-formis* -forin] – **uniformly** *adv*, **uniformness** *n*

**²uniform** *vt* to clothe in a uniform (<a ~ ed *officer*)

**³uniform** *n* dress of a distinctive design or fashion worn by members of a particular group and serving as a means of identification

**Uniform** – a communications code word for the letter *u*

**uniformitarian** /yoohni,fawm'tiəri-ən/ *n* or *adj* (an adherent) of uniformitarianism

**uniformitarianism** /yoohni,fawm'tiəri-ə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* the theory that all geological changes can be accounted for by processes (e.g. faulting) existing and acting as at present

**uniformity** /yoohni'fawməti/ *n* 1a lack of variation or diversity, esp sameness, monotony b an instance of uniformity 2 consistency in conduct or opinion, esp in religion [UNIFORM + -ITY]

**unify** /yoohni,fie/ *vt* to make into a unit or a coherent whole; unite [LL

*unificare*, fr L uni- + *-ficare* -fy] – **unifier** *n*, **unifiable** *adj*, **unification** /-'fi'kaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**,unilateral** /-'lat(ə)rəl/ *adj* 1a done or undertaken by 1 person or party (<~ *disarmament*) b of or affecting 1 side 2 produced or arranged on or directed towards 1 side (<a *stem bearing* ~ *flowers*) 3 having only 1 side – **unilaterally** *adv*

**,unilocular** /-'lɒkyoolə/ *adj* containing a single cavity (<~ *anthers*)

**unimaginative** *adj*

**unimpaired** *adj*

**unimpeachable** /,unim'peeçəbl/ *adj* 1 not to be doubted; beyond question 2 irreproachable, blameless [UN + IMPEACHABLE] – **unimpeachably** *adv*

**unimportant** *adj*

**unimpressed** *adj*

**unimproved** /,unim'pruuhvd/ *adj* 1 not improved for use (e.g. by being cultivated) (<~ *land*) 2 not used or employed advantageously

**uninhabited** *adj*

**uninhibited** /,unin'hɪtɪd/ *adj* acting spontaneously without constraint or regard for what others might think [UN- + INHIBITED] – **uninhibitedly** *adv*, **uninhibitedness** *n*

**uninitiated** *adj*

**uninspiring** *adj*

**unintelligible** *adj*

**unintentional** *adj*


**uninterested** *adj*

**uninteresting** *adj*

**uninterrupted** *adj*

**uninucleate** /,yoohni'nyoohkliət, -ət/ *adj* having a single nucleus

**uninvited** *adj*

**'union** /'yoohnyən/ *n* 1a(1) the formation of a single political unit from 2 or more separate and independent units (2) a uniting in marriage, also SEXUAL INTERCOURSE b combination, junction 2a(1) an association of independent individuals (e.g. nations) for some common purpose (2) a political unit made up from previously independent units b TRADE UNION 3 the set of all elements belonging to 1 or more of a given collection of 2 or more sets  SYMBOL 4 a coupling for pipes (and fittings) [ME, fr MF, fr LL *union-*, *unio* oneness, union, fr L *unus* one – more at ONE]

**²union** *adj* of, dealing with, or constituting a union

**'union ,card** *n* a card certifying personal membership of a trade union

**union cloth** *n* any of various cloths having warp and weft threads of different fibres

**Union Flag** *n* UNION JACK

**unionism** /'yoohnyə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 adherence to the principles of trade unions 2 *cap* adherence to the policy of union between the states of the USA, esp during the Civil War 3 *cap* the principles and policies of the Unionist party

**unionist** /'yoohnyənɪst/ *n* an advocate or supporter of union or unionism

**Unionist** *adj* of or constituting a political party of N Ireland that supports the union with Britain and draws support generally from the Protestant community

**union-ize** /-ɪz/ /'yoohnyə,nɪz/ *vt* to cause to become a member of or subject to the rules of a trade union, form into a trade union – **unionization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/

**,Union 'Jack** /jak/ *n* the national flag of the UK combining crosses representing England, Scotland, and N Ireland [*'jack* (small national flag flown by a ship)]

**'union ,suit** *n*, *NAM* COMBINATIONS 3

**uniparous** /'yoohni'pɒrəs/ *adj* producing only 1 egg or offspring at a time; also having produced 1 offspring

**unipolar** /'yoohni'pohlə/ *adj* having, produced by, or acting by a single magnetic or electrical pole – **unipolarity** /-'pə'larəti/ *n*

**unique** /yooh'neek, yoo-/ *adj* 1a sole, only (<his ~ *concern*) b producing only 1 result (<the ~ *factorization* of a number into prime factors) 2 without a like or equal, unequalled 3 very rare or unusual – disapproved of by some speakers [F, fr L *unicus*, fr *unus* one – more at ONE] – **uniquely** *adv*, **uniqueness** *n*

**unisex** /'yoohni,seks/ *adj* 1 able to be worn by both sexes (<a ~ *hair style*) 2 dealing in unisex products or styles (<a ~ *barber's*)

**,uni,sexual** /-'seksyool, -seks(ə)l/ *adj* of or restricted to 1 sex: a male or female but not both b dioecious (<a ~ *flower*) – **unisexually** *adv*, **unisexuality** /-'seksyooləti, -shooləti/ *n*

**unison** /'yoohnis(ə)n, -z(ə)n/ *n* 1a (the state of) identity in musical pitch;

the interval between 2 notes of the same pitch **b** the writing, playing, or singing of parts in a musical passage at the same pitch or in octaves **2** harmonious agreement or union [MF, fr ML *unisonus* having the same sound, fr L *uni-* + *sonus* sound – more at 'sound'] – *unison adj*

**unit** /'yoʊhni/ *n* **1a**(1) the first and lowest natural number; one **(2)** a single quantity regarded as a whole in calculation **b** the number occupying the position immediately to the left of the decimal point in the Arabic notation, *also*, *pl* this position **2a** a determinate quantity (e.g. of length, time, heat, value, or housing) adopted as a standard of measurement **3a** a single thing, person, or group that is a constituent of a whole **b** a part of a military establishment that has a prescribed organization (e.g. of personnel and supplies) **c** a piece of apparatus serving to perform 1 particular function [back-formation fr *unity*] – *unit adj*, *unitive adj*, *unitize vt*

**unitarian** /'yoʊhni'teəriən/ *n* **1** *often cap* a person who rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and believes in one god who is a single being **2 cap** a member of a Christian denomination that stresses individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason in religion, a united world community, and liberal social action [NL *unitarius*, fr L *unitas* unity] – *unitarian adj*, *often cap*, *unitarianism n*, *often cap*

**unitary** /'yoʊhni(ə)rɪ/ *adj* **1a** of or relating to a unit **b** based on or characterized by unity or units **2** undivided, whole – *unitarily* /'yoʊhni(ə)rəli/, *yoʊhni'terəli/ adv*

**unit character** *n* a natural character inherited either as a whole or not at all; *esp* one dependent on the presence or absence of a single gene

**unite** /'yoʊniət, 'yoʊh-/ *vt* **1** to join together to form a single unit **2** to link by a legal or moral bond (< *d by marriage*) ~ *vi* **1** to become (as if) **1** unit **2** to act in concert [ME *uniten*, fr LL *unitus*, pp of *unire*, fr L *unus* one – more at ONE] – *uniter n*

**united** *adj* **1** combined, joined **2** relating to or produced by joint action (< *a ~ effort*) **3** in agreement; harmonious – *unitedly adv*

**United Reformed** *adj* of the United Reformed Church formed in 1972 by the union of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales

**unit membrane** *n* a 3-layered semipermeable membrane structure consisting of a lipid layer **2** molecules thick that contains protein molecules [fr its being the basic structural unit of the cell]

**unit trust** *n* an investment company that minimizes the risk to investors by collective purchase of shares in many different enterprises – compare INVESTMENT TRUST

**unity** /'yoʊhni/ *n* **1a** the state of being 1 or united (< *strength lies in ~*) **b**(1) a definite amount taken as 1 or for which 1 is made to stand in calculation (< *in a table of natural sines the radius of the circle is regarded as ~*) (2) a number by which any element of an arithmetical or mathematical system can be multiplied without change in the resultant value **2a** concord, harmony **b** continuity and agreement in aims and interests (< *of purpose*) **3** singleness of effect or symmetry in a literary or artistic work **4** a whole made up of related parts [ME *unite*, fr OF *unité*, fr L *unitat*-, *unitas*, fr *unus* one]

**univalent** /'yoʊhni'veɪlənt/ *adj* **1** having a valency of 1 **2** of a chromosome not pairing with another chromosome at meiotic cell division [ISV]

**univalent** *n* a univalent chromosome


**univalve** /-,vəlv/ *adj* having or consisting of 1 valve

**universal** /'yoʊhni'vʊəls(ə)l/ *adj* **1** including or covering all or a whole without limit or exception **2** present or occurring everywhere or under all conditions **3** including a major part or the greatest portion (e.g. of mankind) (< *practices*) **4** affirming or denying sthg of, or denoting, every member of a class (< *no man knows everything*) is a ~ *negative*], [ME, fr MF, fr L *universalis*, fr *universum* universe] – *universalize vt*, *universally adv*, *universals n*, *universality /-səli/ n*

**universal** *n* **1** a universal proposition in logic **2** a general concept or term

**universal coupling** *n* UNIVERSAL JOINT

**universalism** /-,ɪz(ə)m/ *n* **1** *often cap* a theological doctrine that everyone will eventually be saved **2** universality – *universalist* /'yoʊhni'vʊəls(ə)l-ɪst/ *n* or *adj*, *often cap*

**universal joint** *n* a shaft coupling capable of transmitting rotation from one shaft to another at an angle  CAR

**universe** /'yoʊhni,vʊəls/ *n* **1a**(1) all things that exist; the cosmos **(2)** a galaxy **b** the whole world; everyone **2** POPULATION **5** [L *universum*, fr neut of *universus* entire, whole, fr *uni-* + *versus* turned towards, fr pp of *vertere* to turn – more at 'worth]

**university** /'yoʊhni'vʊəlsɪti/ *n* (the premises of) an institution of higher learning that provides facilities for full-time teaching and research, is

authorized to grant academic degrees, and in Britain receives a Treasury grant (< *she's at ~*) [ME *universite*, fr OF *université*, fr ML *universitat*-, *universitas*, fr L *universus*]

**universality extension** *n* a system by which a university provides public lectures and courses

**univocal** /'yoʊh'nɪvəkl/ *adj* having 1 meaning only [LL *univocus*, fr L *uni-* + *voc-*, *vox* voice – more at VOICE] – *univocally adv*

**unjust** /'ʊn'juːst/ *adj* characterized by injustice; unfair – *unjustly adv*, *unjustness n*

**unjustifiable** *adj*

**unjustified** *adj*

**unkempt** /'ʊn'kempt/ *adj* **1** not combed; dishevelled (< *~ hair*) **2** not neat or tidy ['*un-* + *kempt* (combed, neat), fr ME, pp of *kemben* to comb, fr OE *cemban*]

**unkind** /'ʊn'kiend/ *adj* **1** not pleasing or mild (< *an ~ climate*) **2** lacking in kindness or sympathy, harsh – *unkindly adv*, *unkindness n*

**unknowable** /'ʊn'nəʊ-əbl/ *adj* not knowable, *esp* lying beyond the limits of human experience or understanding

**unknowing** /'ʊn'nəʊ-ɪŋ/ *adj* not knowing – *unknowingly adv*

**unknown** /'ʊn'nəʊn/ *adj* not known, *also* having an unknown value (< *an ~ quantity*)

**unknown** *n* **1** a person who is little known (e.g. to the public) **2** a symbol in a mathematical equation representing an unknown quantity

**Unknown Soldier** *n* an unidentified soldier whose body is entombed in a national memorial as a representative of all of the same nation who died in a war, *esp* either of the world wars

**unlace** /'ʊn'leɪs/ *vt* to undo the lacing of

**unlatch** /'ʊn'lætʃ/ *vt* to open or loose by lifting a latch ~ *vi* to become unlatched

**unlawful** /'ʊn'ləʊf(ə)l/ *adj* **1** illegal **2** not morally right or conventional – *unlawfully adv*, *unlawfulness n*

**unlay** /'ʊn'leɪ/ *vt* *unlaid* /-'leɪd/ to untwist the strands of (e.g. a rope)

**unlearn** /'ʊn'lɜːn/ *vt* to put out of one's knowledge or memory

**unlearned** /'ʊn'lɜːnd, -'lɜːnt/ *adj* **1** not educated **2** ignorant **3** not gained by study or training

**unleash** /'ʊn'liːʃ/ *vt* to free (as if) from a leash, loose from restraint or control

**unleavened** *adj*

**unless** /'ʊn'les/ *conj* **1** except on the condition that (< *won't work ~ you put in some money*) **2** without the necessary accompaniment that, except when (< *we swim ~ it's very cold*) [ME *unlesse*, alter of *onlesse*, fr *on* + *lesse* less]

**unlettered** /'ʊn'letəd/ *adj* illiterate ['*UN-* + LETTERED]

**unlicensed** *adj*

**unlike** /'ʊn'liːk/ *prep* **1** different from **2** not characteristic of (< *him to be late*) **3** in a different manner from ['*UN-* + LIKE]

**unlike** *adj* **1** marked by dissimilarity, different **2** unequal – *unlikeness n*

**unlikely** /-'li/ *adj* **1** having a low probability of being or occurring (< *an ~ possibility*) **2** not believable, improbable (< *an ~ story*) **3** likely to fail, unpromising **4** not foreseen (< *the ~ result*) – *unlikelyhood n*, *unlikelihood n*

**unlimber** /'ʊn'limbə/ *vt* to detach (a gun) from the limber and so make ready

**unlimited** /'ʊn'limited/ *adj* **1** lacking any controls or restrictions **2** boundless, infinite – *unlimitedly adv*

**unlisted** /'ʊn'listɪd/ *adj* **1** not appearing on a list **2** chiefly NAM ex-directory

**unload** /'ʊn'ləʊd/ *vt* **1a**(1) to take off or out **(2)** to take the cargo from b to give vent to, pour forth **2** to relieve of sthg burdensome **3** to draw the charge from **4** DUMP **2** ~ *vi* to perform the act of unloading – *unloader n*

**unlock** /'ʊn'lɒk/ *vt* **1** to unfasten the lock of **2** to open, release **3** to provide a key to; disclose (< *the secrets of nature*) ~ *vi* to become unlocked

**unlooked-for** /'ʊn'lʊkt fəʊ/ *adj* not foreseen or expected

**unloose** /'ʊn'lʊʊs/ *vt* **1** to relax the strain of (< *a grip*) **2** to release (as if) from restraints; set free **3** to loosen the ties of

**unloosen** /'ʊn'lʊʊs(ə)n/ *vt* to unloose

**unlovely** /'ʊn'lʊvli/ *adj* disagreeable, unpleasant – *unloveliness n*

**unlucky** /'ʊn'lʊki/ *adj* **1** marked by adversity or failure (< *an ~ year*) **2** likely to bring misfortune (< *an ~ omen*) **3** having or meeting with bad luck (< *people*) – *unluckily adv*, *unluckiness n*

**unmade** /'ʊn'meɪd/ *adj*, of a bed not put in order ready for sleeping

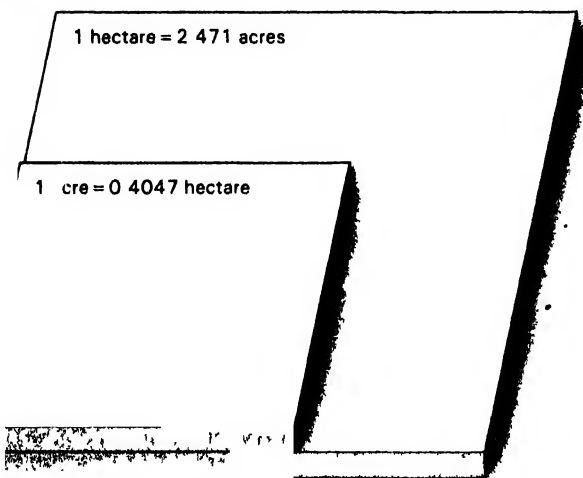


- unmake** /un'mayk/ *vt* **unmade** /-'mayd/ 1 to undo, destroy 2 to deprive of rank or office; depose 3 to change the nature of
- unman** /un'man/ *vt* **-nn-** 1 to deprive of manly vigour, fortitude, etc 2 to castrate, emasculate
- unmanageable** *adj*
- unmanly** /un'manli/ *adj* 1 lacking in manly virtues, weak, cowardly 2 effeminate – **unmanliness** *n*
- unmanned** /un'mand/ *adj* not manned (*an ~ spaceflight*)
- unmannerly** /un'manəli/ *adj* discourteous, rude – **unmannerliness** *n*
- unmarried** *adj*
- unmask** /un'mahsk/ *vt* 1 to remove a mask from 2 to reveal the true nature of; expose
- unmentionable** /un'menʃ(ə)nəbl/ *adj* not fit to be mentioned, unspeakable
- unmentionables** *n pl* underwear – euph or humor
- unmerited** *adj*
- unmindful** /un'miendf(ə)l/ *adj* not taking into account, forgetful of
- unmistakable** /unmi'staykəbl/ *adj* clear, obvious ['UN- + MISTAKABLE] – **unmistakably** *adv*
- unmitigated** /un'mitigətid/ *adj* 1 not diminished in severity, intensity, etc 2 out-and-out, downright (*the evening was an ~ disaster*) (*an ~ evil*) – **unmitigatedly** *adv*
- unmixed** *adj*
- unnamed** *adj*
- unnatural** /un'nachəərəl/ *adj* 1 not in accordance with nature or a normal course of events 2a not in accordance with normal feelings or behaviour; perverse b artificial or contrived in manner – **unnaturally** *adv*, **unnaturalness** *n*
- unnecessary** /un'nեսəs(ə)nri, -səri/ *adj* not necessary – **unnecessarily** *adv*
- unnerve** /un'nhuv/ *vt* to deprive of nerve, courage, or the power to act – **unnervingly** *adv*
- unnumbered** /un'numbəd/ *adj* 1 innumerable 2 without an identifying number (< ~ pages)
- unobserved** *adj*
- unobstructed** *adj*
- unobtainable** *adj*
- unobtrusive** /unəb'truʊsiv, -ziv/ *adj* not too easily seen or noticed, inconspicuous – **unobtrusively** *adv*, **unobtrusiveness** *n*
- unoccupied** /un'okyoopid/ *adj* not occupied, esp not lived in, empty
- unofficial** *adj*
- unopposed** *adj*
- unoriginal** *adj*
- unorthodox** /un'awθədoks/ *adj* not conventional in behaviour, beliefs, doctrine, etc – **unorthodoxly** *adv*, **unorthodoxy** *n*
- unpack** /un'pak/ *vt* 1 to remove the contents of 2 to remove or undo from packing or a container ~ *vi* to set about unpacking sthg – **unpacker** *n*
- unpaid** *adj*
- unpaired** /un'peəd/ *adj* not paired, esp not matched or mated
- unpalatable** /un'palətəbl/ *adj* 1 not pleasing to the taste 2 unpleasant, disagreeable – **unpalatability** /-tə'biliti/ *n*
- unparalleled** /un'parəleld/ *adj* having no equal or match, unique ['UN- + PARALLELED]
- unpardonable** *adj*
- unparliamentary** /un'pahlə'mentəri, also -li-/ *adj* not in accordance with parliamentary practice
- unpatriotic** *adj*
- unperson** /un'puhs(ə)n/ *n, pl* **unpersons** a person who, usu for political or ideological reasons, is officially unrecognized
- unperturbed** *adj*
- unpick** /un'pik/ *vt* to undo (e.g. sewing) by taking out stitches
- unpin** /un'pin/ *vt* **-nn-** 1 to remove a pin from 2 to loosen or unfasten by removing a pin
- unplaced** /un'pleyst/ *adj*, chiefly Br having failed to finish in a leading place in a competition, esp a horse race ['UN- + PLACED]
- unplanned** *adj*
- unplayable** *adj*
- unpleasant** /un'plez(ə)nt/ *adj* not pleasant or agreeable, displeasing – **unpleasantly** *adv*
- unpleasantness** /-nis/ *n* 1 the state of being unpleasant 2 an unpleasant situation, experience, etc
- unplug** /un'plug/ *vt* **-gg-** 1a to take a plug out of b to remove an obstruction from 2 to disconnect from an electric circuit by removing a plug (< ~ the refrigerator)
- unplumbed** /un'plumd/ *adj* not thoroughly explored ['UN- + PLUMBED]
- unpolitical** /un'pəlitikl/ *adj* not interested or engaged in politics
- unpopular** *adj* – **unpopularity** *n*
- unprecedented** /un'presidentid/ *adj* having no precedent; novel – **unprecedentedly** *adv*
- unpredictable** *adj*
- unprejudiced** /un'prejoodist, -jə-/ *adj* impartial, fair
- unpremeditated** *adj*
- unprepared** *adj*
- unprepossessing** *adj*
- unpretentious** /un'pri'tenʃəs/ *adj* not seeking to impress others by means of wealth, standing, etc; not affected or ostentatious – **unpretentiously** *adv*, **unpretentiousness** *n*
- unprincipled** /un'prinsip(ə)ld/ *adj* without moral principles; unscrupulous – **unprincipledness** *n*
- unprintable** /un'printəbl/ *adj* unfit to be printed
- unprofitable** *adj*
- unpromising** *adj*
- unpronounceable** *adj*
- unprotected** *adj*
- unprovoked** *adj*
- unputdownable** /un'poot'dəwnəbl/ *adj*, chiefly Br compulsively readable – *informal*
- unqualified** /un'kwɒlɪfɪd/ *adj* 1 not having the necessary qualifications 2 not modified or restricted by reservations (< ~ approval) – **unqualifiedly** /-fiədli, -fi:ədli/ *adv*
- unquestionable** /un'kwesch(ə)nəbl/ *adj* not able to be called in question, indisputable (< ~ evidence) – **unquestionably** *adv*
- unquestioned** *adj*
- unquestioning** /un'kwesch(ə)ning/ *adj* not expressing doubt or hesitation (< ~ obedience) – **unquestioningly** *adv*
- unquiet** /un'kwie:t/ *adj* 1 agitated, turbulent 2 physically or mentally restless, uneasy – **unquietly** *adv*, **unquietness** *n*
- unquote** /un'kwəʊt/ *n* – used orally to indicate the end of a direct quotation
- unravel** /un'ravl/ *vb* **-ll-** (*NAm* **-l-, -ll-**), /un'ravling, -'ravl-ig/ *vt* 1 to disentangle 2 to clear up or solve (sthg intricate or obscure) ~ *vi* to become unravelling
- unread** /un'red/ *adj* 1 not read 2 not familiar with or versed in a specified field
- unreal** *adj*
- unrealistic** *adj*
- unreasonable** /un'reez(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1 not governed by or acting according to reason (< ~ people) 2 excessive, immoderate (< ~ demands) – **unreasonableness** *n*, **unreasonably** *adv*
- unreasoning** /un'reezəning/ *adj* not moderated or controlled by reason (< ~ fear) – **unreasoningly** *adv*
- unreel** /un'reel/ *vt* to unwind from a reel ~ *vi* to become unreeling
- unrelated** *adj*
- unrelenting** /unri'lentɪŋ/ *adj* 1 not weakening in determination; stern 2 not letting up in vigour, pace, etc – **unrelentingly** *adv*
- unreliable** *adj*
- unrelieved** *adj*
- unremitting** /unri'mitɪŋ/ *adj* constant, incessant – **unremittingly** *adv*
- unremunerative** *adj*
- unrepeatable** *adj*
- unrepresentative** *adj*
- unrequited** *adj*
- unreserved** /unri'zuhvd/ *adj* 1 entire, unqualified (< ~ enthusiasm) 2 frank and open in manner ['UN- + RESERVED] – **unreservedly** /-vidli/ *adv*, **unreservedness** /-zuhvdnis, -vidnis/ *n*
- unresponsive** *adj*
- unrest** /un'rest/ *n* agitation, turmoil
- unrestrained** /unri'streɪnd/ *adj* not held in check; uncontrolled ['UN- + RESTRAINED] – **unrestrainedly** /-midli/ *adv*, **unrestrainedness** /-nidnis/ *n*
- unrestricted** *adj*
- unrewarding** *adj*
- unripe** *adj*
- unrivalled**, *NAm* chiefly **unrivaled** /un'neɪvd/ *adj* unequalled, unparalleled ['UN- + RIVALLED]

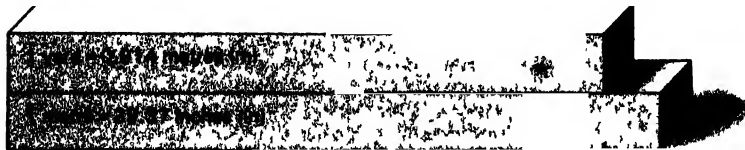
## Measures and weights

The measures and weights shown on these pages are provided as a quick guide to common conversion factors. For comprehensive details see the following pages.

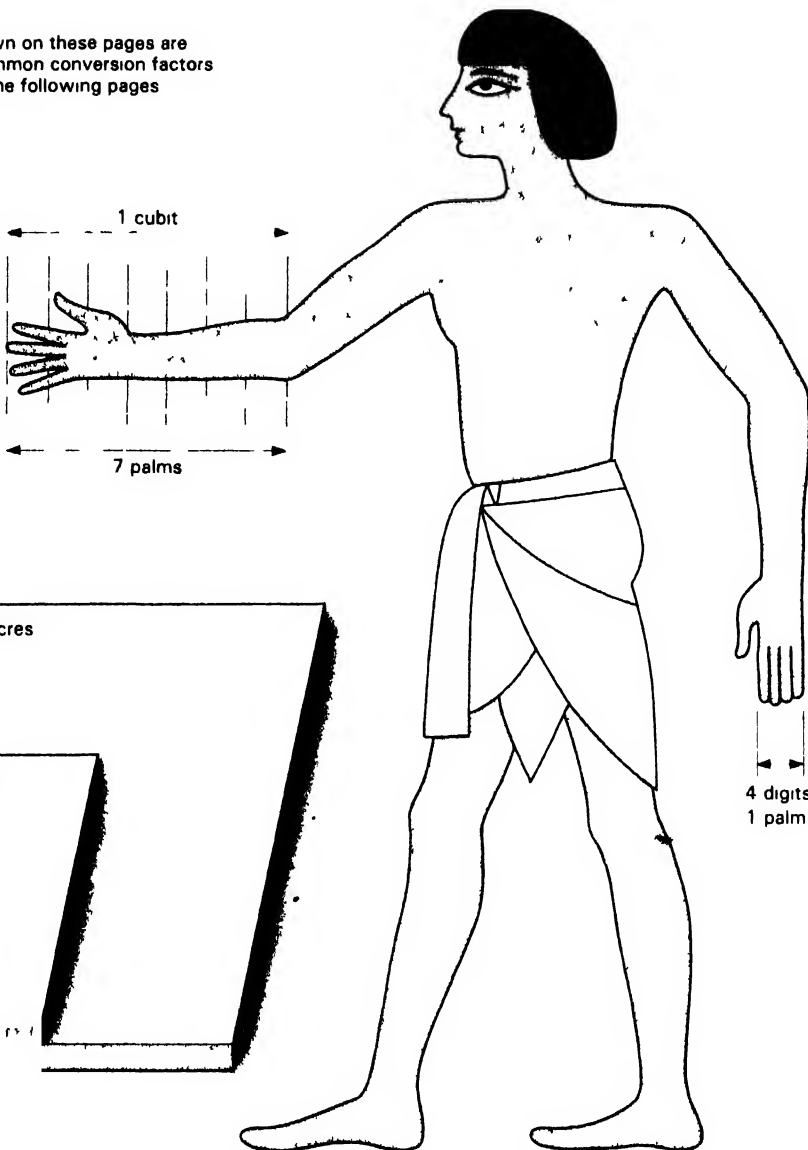
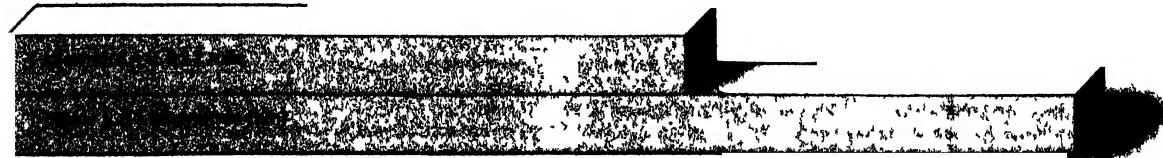
### Area



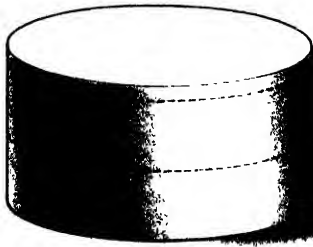
### Length: small



### Length: large (to a different scale)



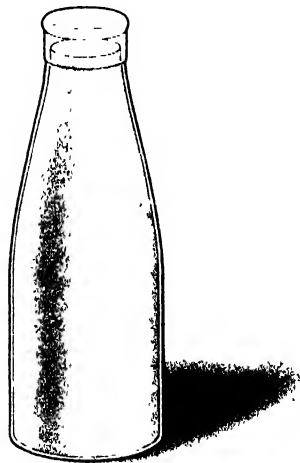
Many ancient units of measurement were based on the dimensions of the human body. A relic of this system is still used in the measurement of horses height in terms of hands (a hand is approximately 4 in).

**Weight**

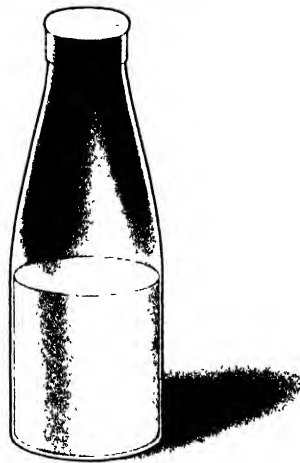
1 kilogram = 2.205 pounds (lb)



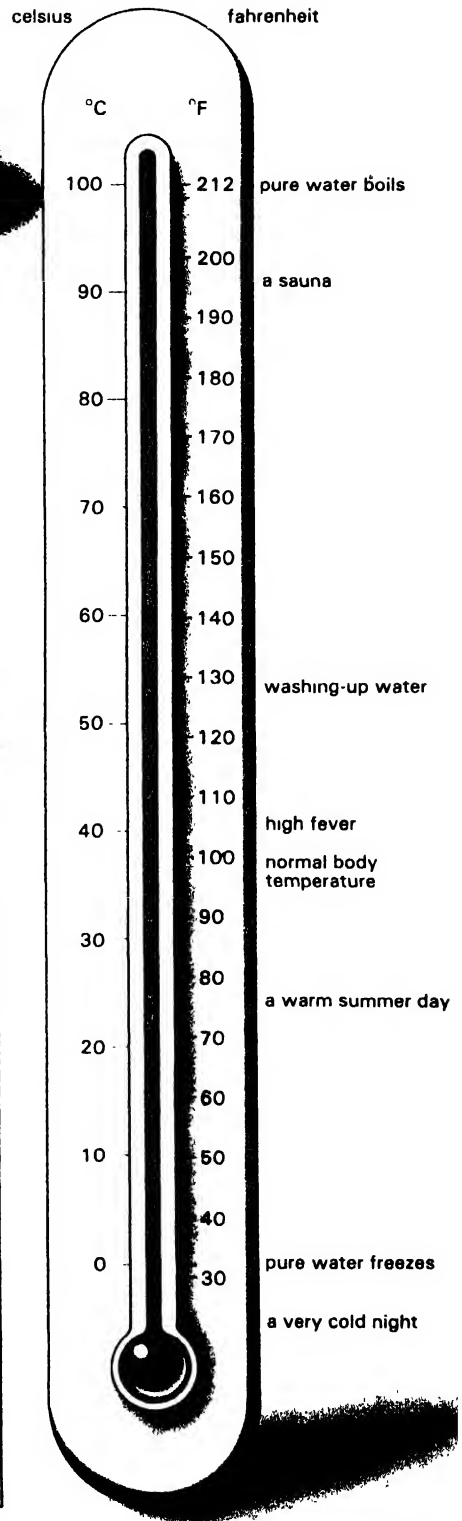
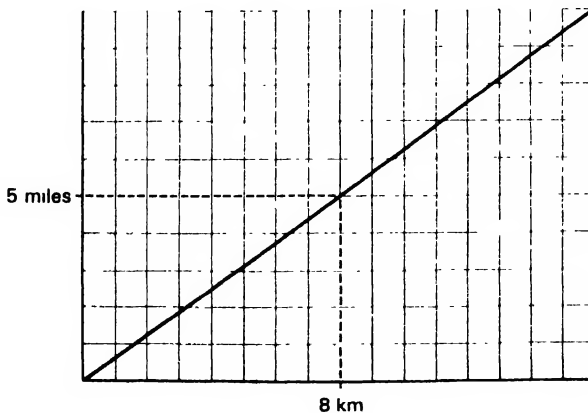
1 pound = 0.4536 kilogram (kg)

**Liquid capacity**

1 litre = 1.76 pints



1 pint = 0.568 litre (l)

**Temperature****Conversions**

Conversion graphs can be made for any pair of units. Joining the origin of the graph to a known point where the units are equal will enable you to obtain the conversion immediately

## Length

		cm		ft	yd		
1 metre	1	100	39.3701	3.28084	1.09361	1 digit	= 1 9 cm $\frac{3}{8}$ in
1 centimetre	0.01	1	0.393701	0.0328084	0.0109361	1 hand	= 10 cm 4 in
1 inch	0.0254	2.54	1	0.0833333	0.0277778	1 palm (length)	= approx 20 cm 8 in
1 foot	0.3048	30.48	12	1	0.3333333	(breadth)	= or 10 cm 4 in
1 yard	0.9144	91.44	36	3	1	1 span	= approx 23 cm 9 in
1 kilometre = 100m						1 cubit	= approx 46 cm 18 in
1 mile = 1760yd						1 pace	= approx 75 cm 30 in
						1 link	20.1 cm 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in
						1 ell	1.14 m 45 in
						1 fathom	1.83 m 6 ft
						1 rod, pole, or perch	5.03 m 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yd
						1 chain	20.1 m 22 yd
						1 furlong	201 m 220 yd
						1 league (variable)	5 km 3 mi

1 light year =  $9.46070 \times 10^{15}$  metres =  $5.87848 \times 10^{12}$  miles  
 1 Astronomical Unit =  $1.495 \times 10^{11}$  metres  
 1 parsec =  $3.0857 \times 10^{16}$  metres = 3.2616 light years

## Area

1 are	= 100 m <sup>2</sup>	119.6 yd <sup>2</sup>
1 hectare	= 100 are	2.471 acres
1 km <sup>2</sup>	= 100 hectares	0.387 mi <sup>2</sup>
1 acre	= 0.4047 hectare	4840 yd <sup>2</sup>
1 rood	= 1011.7 m <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre
1 mi <sup>2</sup>	= 2.59 km <sup>2</sup>	640 acres

## Cubic measure

	1 cubic inch	16.4 cm <sup>3</sup>
1728 cu in	= 1 cubic foot	0.0283 m <sup>3</sup>
27 cu ft	= 1 cubic yard	0.765 m <sup>3</sup>
	1 cu centimetre	0.061 in <sup>3</sup>
1000 cu cm	= 1 cu decimetre	0.035 ft <sup>3</sup>
1000 cu dm	= 1 cu metre	= 1.308 yd <sup>3</sup>

## Capacity measure

	1 fluid ounce	= 28.4 ml
5 fl oz	1 gill	= 0.142 l
4 gill	1 pint	= 0.568 l
2 pt	1 quart	= 1.136 l
4 qt	1 gallon	= 4.546 l
	1 millilitre	= 0.002 pt
10 ml	1 centilitre	= 0.018 pt
10 cl	1 decilitre	= 0.176 pt
10 dl	1 litre	= 1.76 pt

## Velocity

	m/sec	km/hr	mi/hr	ft/sec
1 metre per second	1	3.6	2 23694	3.28084
1 kilometre per hour	0.277778	1	0.621371	0.911346
1 mile per hour	0.44704	1.609344	1	1.46667
1 foot per second	0.3048	1.09728	0.681817	1

1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour = 0.514444 metre per second

## Pressure

	N/m <sup>2</sup> (Pa)	kg/cm <sup>2</sup>	lb/in <sup>2</sup>	atmos
1 newton per square metre (pascal)	1	$1.01972 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.45038 \times 10^{-4}$	9.86923 $\times 10^{-5}$
1 kilogram per square centimetre	980.665 $\times 10^2$	1	14.2234	0.967841
1 pound per square inch	6.89476 $\times 10^3$	0.0703068	1	0.068046
1 atmosphere	1.01325 $\times 10^5$	1.03323	14.6959	1

1 pascal = 1 newton per square metre = 10 dynes per square centimetre  
 1 bar =  $10^5$  newtons per square metre = 0.986923 atmosphere  
 1 torr = 133.322 newtons per square metre = 1/760 atmosphere  
 1 atmosphere = 760 mm Hg = 29.92 in Hg = 33.90 ft water (all at 0°C.)

## Weight

	1 grain	= 64.8 mg
	1 dram	= 1 772 g
16 drams	= 1 ounce	= 28.35 g
16 oz	= 1 pound	= 0.4536 kg
14 pounds	= 1 stone	= 6.35 kg
2 stones	= 1 quarter	= 12.7 kg
4 quarters	= 1 hundredweight	= 50.8 kg
20 cwt	= 1 (long) ton	= 1 016 tonnes
	1 milligram	= 0 015 grain
10 mg	= 1 centigram	= 0 154 grain
10 cg	= 1 decigram	= 1 543 grain
10 dg	= 1 gram	= 15 43 grain
		= 0 035 oz
1000 g	= 1 kilogram	= 2.205 lb
1000 kg	= 1 tonne (metric ton)	= 0 984 (long) ton
1 slug	= 14.5939 kg	= 32 174 lb

## Troy weight

	1 grain	= 0.0648 g
24 grains	= 1 pennyweight (dwt)	= 1.555 g
20 dwt (480 grains)	= 1 ounce	= 31 1035 g
12 oz (5760 grains)	= 1 pound	= 373 27 g

## Temperature

°Fahrenheit =  $(\frac{9}{5} \times \chi^{\circ}\text{C}) + 32$

°Centigrade =  $\frac{5}{9} \times (\chi^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$

where  $\chi$  is the temperature needing converting

**Work and energy**

		cal	kWhr	btu
1 joule	1	0.238846	$2.77778 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.47813 \times 10^{-4}$
1 calorie	4.1868	1	$1.16300 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.96831 \times 10^{-3}$
1 kilowatt hour	$3.6 \times 10^6$	$8.59845 \times 10^5$	1	3412.14
1 British Thermal Unit	1055.06	251.997	$2.93071 \times 10^{-4}$	1

1 joule = 1 newton metre = 1 watt second =  $10^7$  ergs = 0.737561 ft lb  
 1 electron volt =  $1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  joule

**Force**

	N	kg	dyne	poundal	lb
1 newton	1	0.101972	$10^5$	7.23300	0.224809
1 kilogram force	9.80665	1	9.80665 $\times 10^5$	70.9316	2.20462
1 dyne	$10^{-5}$	$1.01972 \times 10^{-5}$	1	$7.23300 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.24809 \times 10^{-5}$
1 poundal	0.138255	$1.40981 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.38255 \times 10^5$	1	0.031081
1 pound force	4.44822	0.453592	$4.44823 \times 10^5$	32.174	1

**Apothecaries weight**

	1 grain =	0.0648 g
20 grains	= 1 scruple =	1.296 g
3 scruples (60 grains)	= 1 drachm =	3.888 g
8 drachms (480 grains)	= 1 ounce =	31.1035 g

**Apothecaries capacity measure**

	1 minim =	0.059 ml
60 minims	= 1 fluid drachm =	3.55 ml
8 fl drachm	= 1 fluid ounce =	28.4 ml
20 fl oz	= 1 pint =	0.568 l
8 pt	= 1 gallon =	4.546 l

**UK cookery measures**

1 teaspoonful	= 6 ml
1 dessertspoonful	= 12 ml
1 tablespoonful	= 18 ml
1 cupful	= 284 ml

**US cookery measures**

1 teaspoonful	= 5 ml
1 tablespoonful	= 15 ml
1 cupful	= 237 ml

**US measures****Capacity measure**

	1 minim	0.059 ml
60 minims	= 1 fluid dram	3.6966 ml
8 fl drams	= 1 fluid ounce	0.296 dl
16 fl oz	= 1 pint	0.473 l
2 pt	= 1 quart	0.946 l
4 qt	= 1 gallon	3.785 l

**Dry measure**

	1 pint	0.551 l
2 pt	= 1 quart	1.101 l
8 qt	= 1 peck	8.809 l
4 pecks	= 1 bushel	35.238 l

**Weight**

25 lb	= 1 US quarter	= 12.7 kg
4 quarters (100 lb)	= 1 US hundredweight (cwt)	= 45.36 kg
20 cwt (2000 lb)	= 1 US (short) ton	= 907.19 kg

**Clothing****Women's clothes**

British and American sizes with average cm/in equivalents

British	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
bust	76 cm	81 cm	86 cm	91 cm	97 cm	102 cm	107 cm
hips	81 cm	86 cm	91 cm	97 cm	102 cm	107 cm	112 cm
waist	58 cm	58 cm	61 cm	66 cm	71 cm	76 cm	81 cm

American	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
bust	30 in	32 in	34 in	36 in	38 in	40 in	42 in
hips	32 in	34 in	36 in	38 in	40 in	42 in	44 in
waist	23 in	23 in	24 in	26 in	28 in	30 in	32 in

**Women's shoes**

British	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½
American	4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9
Continental	35½	36	36½	37	37½	38	38½	39	39½	40

**Men's shirts**

British	14	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17
American	14	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17
Continental	36	37	38	39	41	42	43

**Men's shoes**

British	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½
American	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12	12½	13
Continental	40	40½	41	41½	42	42½	43	43½	44	44½

- unroll** /un'rohl/ *vt* to open out, uncoil ~ *vi* to be unrolled; unwind
- unround** /un'taund/ *vt* SPREAD 1c
- unruffled** /un'rufld/ *adj* 1 poised, serene 2 smooth, calm (< ~ *water*) ['UN- + RUFFLED]
- unruly** /un'roohli/ *adj* difficult to discipline or manage [ME *unreuly*, fr *un-* + *reuly* disciplined, fr *reule* rule] – **unruliness** *n*
- unsaddle** /un'sadl/ *vt* 1 to take the saddle from 2 to throw from the saddle ~ *vi* to remove the saddle from a horse
- unsafe** *adj*
- unsaid** /un'sed/ *adj* not said or spoken
- unsatisfactory** *adj*
- unsatisfying** *adj*
- unsaturated** /un'sachooraytd/ *adj* not saturated e.g. a capable of absorbing or dissolving more of sthg (< *an* ~ *solution*) b able to form products by chemical addition, esp containing double or triple bonds between carbon atoms
- unsavoury** /un'sayvəri/ *adj* disagreeable, distasteful; esp morally offensive
- unscathed** /un'skaydh/ *adj* entirely unharmed or uninjured
- unschooled** /un'skoolhd/ *adj* untaught, untrained ['UN- + SCHOOLED]
- unscientific** /un'se-an'tufik/ *adj* 1 not in accordance with the principles and methods of science 2 without scientific knowledge – **unscientifically** *adv*
- unscramble** /un'skrabl/ *vt* 1 to separate into original components 2 to restore (scrambled communication) to intelligible form – **unscrambler** *n*
- unscrew** /un'skrooh/ *vt* 1 to remove the screws from 2 to loosen or withdraw by turning ~ *vi* to become unscrewed
- unscrupulous** /un'skroohpyoolos/ *adj* without moral scruples, unprincipled – **unscrupulously** *adv*, **unscrupulousness** *n*
- unseasonable** /un'seet(ə)nəbl/ *adj* 1 untimely, inopportune 2 not normal for the season of the year (< ~ *weather*) – **unseasonableness** *n*, **unseasonably** *adv*
- unseat** /un'seet/ *vt* 1 to dislodge from one's seat, esp on horseback 2 to remove from a (political) position
- unseeing** *adj*
- unseemly** /un'seemli/ *adj* not conforming to established standards of good behaviour or taste ['UN- + SEEMLY]
- unseen** /un'seen/ *adj* done without previous preparation (< *an* ~ *translation*) ['UN- + SEEN]
- unseen** *n*, chiefly *Br* a passage of unprepared translation (< *doing Latin* ~ *s*)
- unselfish** /un'selfish/ *adj* not selfish, generous – **unselfishly** *adv*, **unselfishness** *n*
- unsentimental** *adj*
- unserviceable** *adj*
- unsettle** /un'setl/ *vt* 1 to move from a settled state or condition 2 to perturb or agitate ~ *vi* to become unsettled – **unsettlingly** *adv*
- unsettled** /un'setld/ *adj* 1a not calm or tranquil, disturbed b variable, changeable (< ~ *weather*) 2 not resolved or worked out, undecided 3 not inhabited or populated (< ~ *land*) 4 not paid or discharged (< ~ *debts*) ['UN- + SETTLED] – **unsettledness** *n*
- unsex** /un'seks/ *vt* to deprive of sexual power or the typical qualities of one's sex
- unshackle** /un'shakl/ *vt* to free from shackles
- unshakable, unshakeable** *adj*
- unshaven** *adj*
- unsheathe** /un'sheedh/ *vt* to draw (as if) from a sheath or scabbard
- unship** /un'ship/ *vb* -pp- *vt* 1 to take out of a ship 2 to remove (e.g. an oar or tiller) from position ~ *vi* to become or be suitable for being detached or removed
- unsight** /un'siet/ *vt* to prevent from seeing (< *the goalkeeper was* ~ *ed and missed the ball*)
- unsightly** /un'sietli/ *adj* not pleasing to the eye, ugly
- unsigned** *adj*
- unskinkable** *adj*
- unskilled** /un'skild/ *adj* 1 of, being, or requiring workers who are not skilled in any particular branch of work 2 showing a lack of skill
- unslung** /un'slung/ *vt* unslung /-slung/ 1 to remove from being slung 2 to release from slings
- unsociable** /un'sohsh(i)əbl/ *adj* not liking social activity; reserved, solitary – **unsociableness** *n*, **unsociably** *adv*, **unsociability** /-sh(i)ə'biliti/ *n*
- unsocial** /un'sohsh(ə)/ *adj* 1 marked by or showing a dislike for social interaction 2 *Br* worked at a time that falls outside the normal working day and precludes participation in normal social activities (< ~ *hours*) – **unsocially** *adv*
- unsold** *adj*
- unsolicited** *adj*
- unsophisticated** /un'sə'fisti,kaytd/ *adj* 1 pure, unadulterated 2 not socially or culturally sophisticated 3 simple, straightforward – **unsophistication** /-kaysh(ə)n/ *n*
- unsound** /un'sound/ *adj* 1 not healthy or whole 2 mentally abnormal (< *of* ~ *mind*) 3 not firmly made, placed, or fixed 4 not valid or true, specious (< *an* ~ *premise*) ['UN- + 'SOUND] – **unsoundly** *adv*, **unsoundness** *n*
- unsparing** /un'speəriŋ/ *adj* 1 not merciful; hard, ruthless 2 liberal, generous – **unsparingly** *adv*
- unspeakable** /un'speakəbl/ *adj* 1 incapable of being expressed in words 2 too terrible or shocking to be expressed ['UN- + SPEAKABLE] – **unspeakably** *adv*
- unspecified** *adj*
- unspoiled** *adj*
- unspoilt** *adj*
- unspoken** *adj*
- unsportmanlike** *adj*
- unspotted** /un'spotid/ *adj* morally blameless ['UN- + SPOTTED]
- unstable** /un'staybl/ *adj* not stable, not firm or fixed, not constant e.g. a apt to move, sway, or fall, unsteady (< *an* ~ *tower*) b characterized by inability to control the emotions – **unstableness** *n*, **unstably** *adv*
- unsteady** /un'stedi/ *vt* to make unsteady
- unsteady** *adj* 1 not firm or stable, also walking in an erratic or staggering manner 2 changeable, fluctuating 3 not uniform or even, irregular ['UN- + 'STEADY] – **unsteadily** *adv*, **unsteadiness** *n*
- unstinting** *adj*
- unstop** /un'stop/ *vt* -pp- 1 to free from an obstruction 2 to remove a stopper from
- unstoppable** /un'stopəbl/ *adj* determined, forceful ['UN- + STOPPABLE] – **unstoppably** *adv*
- unstreamed** /un'streemd/ *adj* not divided into educational streams
- unstressed** /un'strest/ *adj* 1 not bearing a stress or accent (< ~ *syllables*) 2 not subjected to stress (< ~ *wires*)
- unstring** /un'string/ *vt* unstrung /-strung/ 1 to loosen or remove the strings of 2 to make mentally disordered or unstable (< *was unstrung by the news*)
- unstuck** /un'stuk/ *adj* ['UN- + STUCK] – come unstuck to go wrong, be unsuccessful
- unstudied** /un'studid/ *adj* 1 not acquired by study 2 not done or planned for effect ['UN- + STUDIED]
- unsubstantiated** *adj*
- unsuccessful** *adj*
- unsuitable** /un's(y)oohtəbl/ *adj* not suitable or fitting, inappropriate – **unsuitably** *adv*, **unsuitability** /-tə'biliti/ *n*
- unsuited** *adj*
- unsung** /un'sung/ *adj* not celebrated or praised (e.g. in song or verse) ['UN- + SUNG]
- unsupported** *adj*
- unsure** *adj*
- unsurpassable** *adj*
- unsuspecting** *adj*
- unswerving** /un'swuhvɪŋ/ *adj* not deviating, constant (< ~ *loyalty*)
- unsympathetic** *adj*
- unsystematic** *adj*
- untangle** /un'tang-gl/ *vt* to loose from tangles or entanglement, unravel
- untapped** /un'tapt/ *adj* 1 not yet tapped (< *an* ~ *keg*) 2 not drawn on or exploited (< *as yet* ~ *markets*)
- untarnished** *adj*
- untaught** /un'tawt/ *adj* 1 not educated, ignorant 2 not acquired by teaching; natural (< ~ *kindness*)
- untenable** /un'tenəbl/ *adj* not able to be defended (< *an* ~ *opinion*) – **untenability** /-nə'biliti/ *n*
- unthinkable** /un'thɪŋkəbl/ *adj* contrary to what is acceptable or probable; out of the question – **unthinkably** *adv*, **unthinkability** /-kə'biliti/ *n*
- unthinking** /vn'thɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* not taking thought, heedless, unmindful – **unthinkingly** *adv*
- unthought** /un'thawt/ *adj* not anticipated; unexpected – often + *of* or *on*



**untidy** /un'ti:di/ *adj* not neat, slovenly, disorderly – **untidily** *adv*, **untidiness** *n*  
**untie** /un'ti:/ *vt* 1 to free from sthg that fastens or restrains 2a to separate out the knotted parts of **b** to disentangle, resolve ~ *vi* to become untied  
**'until** /un'til, ən-/ *prep* 1 up to as late as <not available ~ tomorrow> 2 up to as far as <stay on the train ~ Birmingham> [ME, fr *un-* unto, until (akin to OE *oth* to, until, OHG *unt* unto, until, OE *ende* end) + *til*, *till* till]  
**until** *conj* up to the time that; until such time as  
**untimely** /un'ti:ml/ *adj* 1 occurring before the natural or proper time, premature <~ death> 2 inopportune, unseasonable <an ~ joke> <~ frost> – **untimeliness** *n*  
**untitled** /un'ti:tl/ *adj* 1 not named <an ~ novel> 2 not called by a title <~ nobility>  
**unto** /un'too, -tə/ *prep*, *archaic* TO 1, 2, 3 [ME, fr *un-* unto, until + *to*]  
**untold** /un'to:ld/ *adj* 1 incalculable, vast 2 not told or related  
**'untouchable** /un'tu:tʃəbl/ *adj* 1 that may not be touched 2 lying beyond reach <~ mineral resources buried deep within the earth> – **untouchability** /-tʃə'bɪləti/ *n*  
**'untouchable** *n* sby or sthg untouchable; *specif*, often *cap* a member of a large formerly segregated hereditary group in India who in traditional Hindu belief can defile a member of a higher caste by contact or proximity  
**untouched** *adj*  
**untoward** /un'tə:wərd/ *adj* not favourable; adverse, unfortunate – **untowardly** *adv*, **untowardness** *n*  
**untraceable** *adj*  
**untried** /un'tri:d/ *adj* not tested or proved by experience  
**untrod** /un'trɒd/, **untrodden** /-d(ə)n/ *adj* not trod, unexplored  
**untroubled** *adj*  
**untrue** /un'tru:ə/ *adj* 1 not faithful, disloyal 2 not level or exact <~ doors and windows> 3 inaccurate, false – **untruly** *adv*  
**untrustworthy** *adj*  
**untruth** /un'tru:θ/ *n* 1 lack of truthfulness 2 sthg untrue, a falsehood  
**untruthful** /un'tru:θf(ə)l/ *adj* not telling the truth, false, lying – **untruthfully** *adv*, **untruthfulness** *n*  
**untutored** /un'tyoo:təd/ *adj* 1 having no formal learning or education 2 not produced by instruction, native <his ~ shrewdness>  
**unusable** *adj*  
**unused** /un'yoo:st, senses 2a and 2b 'yoo:zd/ *adj* 1 unaccustomed – usu + *to* 2a fresh, new **b** not used up <~ sick leave> ['UN- + USED]  
**unusual** /un'yoo:zho:əl, -zəl/ *adj* 1 uncommon, rare 2 different, unique <an ~ painting> ['UN- + USUAL] – **unusually** *adv*, **unusualness** *n*  
**unutterable** /un'ut(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 beyond the powers of description, inexpressible 2 out-and-out, downright <an ~ fool> – **unutterably** *adv*  
**unvarnished** /un'vahn:st/ *adj* not adorned or glossed, plain <told the ~ truth>  
**unvarying** *adj*  
**unveil** /un'veɪl/ *vt* 1 to remove a veil or covering from 2 to make public; divulge ~ *vi* to remove a veil or protective cloak  
**unvoiced** /un'voɪst/ *adj* 1 not expressed in words 2 voiceless  
**unwanted** *adj*  
**unwarranted** /un'wɒrəntɪd/ *adj* not justified, (done) without good reason  
**unwary** *adj*  
**unwashed** /un'wɒʃt/ *adj* not cleaned (as if) with soap and water  
**unwavering** /un'weɪv(ə)rɪŋ/ *adj* fixed, steadfast ['UN- + WAVERING] – **unwaveringly** *adv*  
**unwelcome** *adj*  
**unwell** /un'wel/ *adj* in poor health  
**unwieldy** /un'wi:ldi/ *adj* difficult to move or handle; cumbersome ['UN- + *wieldy* (capable of wielding, active) fr *wield* + 'y] – **unwieldily** *adv*, **unwieldiness** *n*  
**unwilling** /un'wɪlɪŋ/ *adj* loath, reluctant <was ~ to learn> ['UN- + 'WILLING] – **unwillingly** *adv*, **unwillingness** *n*  
**unwind** /un'wi:nd/ *vb* **unwound** /-wəʊnd/ *vt* to cause to uncoil; **unroll** ~ *vi* 1 to become unwound 2 to become less tense; relax  
**unwise** /un'wɪz/ *adj* foolish, imprudent – **unwisely** *adv*, **unwisdom** /-wɪzd(ə)m/ *n*  
**unwitting** /un'wɪtɪŋ/ *adj* 1 not intended; inadvertent <an ~ mistake>

2 ignorant, unaware <an ~ accomplice> ['UN- + *witting*, *prp* of arch *wit* (to know), fr ME *witen*, fr OE *witan* – more at *wit*] – **unwittingly** *adv*  
**unwonted** /un'wɒntɪd, -wɒn-/ *adj* out of the ordinary; unusual – **unwontedly** *adv*, **unwontedness** *n*  
**unworkable** *adj*  
**unworldly** /un'wɜ:ldli/ *adj* 1 naive, unsophisticated 2 not swayed by material considerations (e.g. of wealth or personal gain) ['UN- + *WORLDLY*] – **unworldliness** *n*  
**unworn** /un'wɒ:n/ *adj* 1 not impaired by use, not worn away 2 never worn, new  
**unworthy** /un'wɜ:dhɪ/ *adj* 1a lacking in excellence or quality; poor **b** base, dishonourable 2 not befitting one's position or condition of life <behaviour ~ of an ambassador> 3 not deserving <~ of attention> – **unworthily** *adv*, **unworthiness** *n*  
**unwrap** /un'rəp/ *vt* -pp- to remove the wrapping from <~ a package>  
**unwritten** /un'ri:tɪn/ *adj* 1 not (formally) written down 2 containing no writing, blank  
**unwritten constitution** *n* a constitution not embodied in a single document but based chiefly on custom and precedent  
**unyielding** /un'ji:ldɪŋ/ *adj* 1 lacking in softness or flexibility 2 firm, obdurate – **unyieldingly** *adv*  
**unyoke** /un'yohk/ *vt* to free from a yoke or harness  
**unzip** /un'zip/ *vb* -pp- to open (as if) by means of a zip  
**'up** /ʊp/ *adv* 1a at or towards a relatively high level <live ~ in the mountains> **b** from beneath the ground or water to the surface **c** above the horizon **d** upstream **e** in or to a raised or upright position <hands ~>, *specif* out of bed <soon be ~ and about> **f** off or out of the ground or a surface <pull ~ a daisy> **g** UPWARDS 1b **h** to the top; *esp* so as to be full <top ~ the radiator> 2a into a state of, or with, greater intensity or activity <speak ~> **b** into a faster pace or higher gear 3a in or into a relatively high condition or status <family went ~ in the world> – sometimes used interjectionally as an expression of approval <~ BBC 2! – The Listener> **b** above a normal or former level <sales are ~> **e** **(1)** UPWARDS 2b **(2)** higher in price **c** ahead of an opponent <we're 3 points ~> 4a **(1)** in or into existence, evidence, prominence, or prevalence <new houses haven't been ~ long> **(2)** in or into operation or full power <get ~ steam> **b** under consideration or attention, *esp* before a court <~ for robbery> 5 so as to be together <add ~ the figures> 6a entirely, completely <eat ~ your spinach> **b** so as to be firmly closed, joined, or fastened **c** so as to be fully inflated 7 in or into storage 8 in a direction conventionally the opposite of down **a** **(1)** to windward **(2)** with rudder to leeward – used with reference to a ship's helm **b** in or towards the north **c** so as to arrive or approach <walked ~ to her> – compare TURN **up** **d** to or at the rear of a theatrical stage **e** chiefly **Br** to or in the capital of a country or a university city <~ in London> 9 in or into parts <chop ~> 10 to a stop – usu + *draw*, *bring*, *fetch*, or *pull* [partly fr ME *up* upwards, fr OE *up*, partly fr ME *uppe* on high, fr OE, both akin to OHG *uf* up, L *sub* under, Gk *hypo* under, *hyper* over – more at 'OVER]  
**'up** *adj* 1 moving, inclining, bound, or directed upwards or up 2 ready, prepared <dinner's ~> 3 going on, taking place; *esp* being the matter <what's ~?> 4 at an end <time's ~>; *esp* hopeless <it's all ~ with him now> 5a well informed **b** AHEAD 2 <~ on her homework> 6 of a road being repaired; having a broken surface 7 ahead of an opponent <2 strokes ~ after 9 holes> 8 of a ball in court games having bounced only once on the ground or floor after being hit by one's opponent and therefore playable <not ~> 9 *Br*, of a train travelling towards a large town, *specif* travelling towards London – compare DOWN 5 – **up against** faced with, confronting – **up against** it in great difficulties  
**'up** *vb* -pp- *vi* – used with *and* and another verb to indicate that the action of the following verb is either surprisingly or abruptly initiated <he ~ ped and married> ~ *vt* 1 to increase <they ~ ped the price of milk> 2 RAISE 8c  
**'up** *prep* 1a up along, round, through, towards, in, into, or on <walk ~ the hill> <water ~ my nose> **b** at the top of <the office is ~ those stairs> 2 *Br* (up) to <going ~ the West End> – nonstandard  
**'up** *n* 1 (sth) in a high position or an upward incline 2 a period or state of prosperity or success <has had some ~s and downs> 3 the part of a ball's trajectory in which it is still rising after having bounced <hit the ball on the ~>  
**up-and-coming** *adj* likely to advance or succeed  
**up-and-down** *adj* 1 marked by alternate upward and downward movement 2 perpendicular 3 hilly  
**up and down** *adv* TO AND FRO

**up-and-up** *n*, chiefly *Br* a potentially or increasingly successful course – chiefly in on the up-and-up

**Upnishad** /oo'hpanishad, oo'hpannshahd/ *n* a collection of Vedic philosophical treatises forming the main body of Hindu scriptures [Skt *upanishad*] – **Upnishadic** /-'shadik, -'shahdik/ *adj*

**upas** /yoohpas/ *n* **1a** a tall Asiatic and E Indian tree of the fig family with a milky juice that contains poisonous glucosides used as an arrow poison **b** a shrub or tree of the same region yielding an arrow poison like strychnine **2** a poisonous concentrate of the juice or latex of a upas [Malay *pohon upas* poison tree]

**upbeat** /up,beet/ *n* an unaccented (e.g. the last) beat in a musical bar

**upbeat** *adj*, chiefly *NAM* optimistic, cheerful – *infml*

**up-bow** /up,boh/ *n* a stroke in playing a bowed instrument (e.g. a violin) in which the bow is moved across the strings from the tip to the heel  
**upbraid** /up,braid/ *vt* to scold or reproach severely [ME *upbreyden*, fr OE *upbredan*] – **upbraider** *n*

**upbringing** /up,briŋ-ɪŋ/ *n* a particular way of bringing up a child <had a strict Calvinist ~>

**upcoming** /up,kumɪŋ/ *adj*, *NAM* about to happen, forthcoming

**up-country** *adj* **1** (characteristic) of an inland, upland, or outlying region **2** not socially or culturally sophisticated – **up-country** /-,-/ *n*, **up-country** /-,-/ *adv*

**update** /up,dæt/ *vt* to bring up to date

**update** *n* an act of updating (a computer file ~)

**updraught** /up,draɪt/ *n* an upward movement of air or other gas

**upend** /up,ɛnd/ *vt* **1** to cause to stand on end **2** to knock down  
**upfield** /up,fi:ld/ *adv* or *adj* downfield

**upgrade** /up,graɪd/ *vt* to raise or improve the grade of, esp to advance to a job requiring a higher level of skill, esp as part of a training programme

**upgrowth** /up,groʊth/ *n* the process or result of growing upwards, development

**upheaval** /up,hi:v/ *n* **1** an upheaving, esp of part of the earth's crust **2** (an instance of) extreme agitation or radical change

**upheave** /up,hi:v/ *vt* to heave up, lift – **upheaver** *n*

**uphill** /up,hɪl/ *n* rising ground

**uphill** *adv* upwards on a hill or incline


**uphill** *adj* **1** situated on elevated ground **2** going up; ascending **3** difficult, laborious <an ~ struggle>

**uphold** /up,həʊld/ *vt* **upheld** /-'held/ **1** to give support to, maintain **2** to support against an opponent or challenge <~ the ruling of the lower court> – **upholder** *n*

**upholster** /up,həʊlɪstə, -'hol-/ *vt* to provide with upholstery [back-formation fr *upholstery*] – **upholsterer** *n*

**upholstery** /-rɪ/ *n* materials (e.g. fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering, esp for a seat [ME *upholdester* dealer in small articles, upholsterer, fr *upholden* to uphold, fr *up* + *holden* to hold]

**upkeep** /up,ki:p/ *n* (the cost of) maintaining or being maintained in good condition

**upland** /up,lənd/ *n* (an area of) high (inland) land – often pl with sing. meaning  **GEOGRAPHY** – **upland** *adj*, **uplander** *n*

**uplift** /up,lɪft/ *vt* **1** to raise, elevate **2** to improve the spiritual, social, or intellectual condition of – **uplifter** *n*

**uplift** *n* **1** a moral or social improvement **2** influences intended to uplift

**up-market** *adj* being, producing, dealing in, or using goods designed to appeal to the more prosperous or higher-status section of a market – **up-market** *adv*


**upon** /ə'pɒn/ *prep* on – chiefly *fml*

**upper** /'ʊpə/ *adj* **1a** higher in physical position, rank, or order **b** farther inland (<the ~ Thames>) **2** being the branch of a legislature consisting of **2** houses that is usu more restricted in membership, is in many cases less powerful, and possesses greater traditional prestige than the lower house **3** *cap* being a later division of the specified geological period or series <Upper Carboniferous> [ME, fr *uppe* up + *-er* – more at *up*]

**upper** *n* the parts of a shoe or boot above the sole – on one's uppers at the end of one's means

**upper** *n* a stimulant drug; esp amphetamine – *infml* [*up* + *-er*]

**upper-case** *adj* CAPITAL **2** [fr the compositor's practice of keeping capital letters in the upper of a pair of type cases]

**upper case** *n* **1** a type case containing capitals and usu small capitals, fractions, symbols, and accents **2** capital letters  **ALPHABET**

**upper 'class** *n* the class occupying the highest position in a society; esp the wealthy or the aristocracy – **upper-class** *adj*

**upper 'crust** *n* sing or pl in constr the highest social class – *infml*

**uppercut** /'ʊpə,kʊt/ *n* a swinging blow directed upwards with a bent arm – **uppercut** *vb*

**upper 'hand** *n* mastery, advantage – + *the*

**uppermost** /'ʊpə,məʊst/ *adv* in or into the highest or most prominent position – **uppermost** *adj*

**upper partial** *n* OVERTONE **1a**

**uppih** /'ʊpɪʃ/ *adj* **1** hit up and travelling far in the air **2** uppity – *infml* – **uppihly** *adv*, **uppihness** *n*

**uppity** /'ʊpɪti/ *adj* putting on airs of superiority, supercilious – *infml* [prob fr *up* + *-ity* (arbitrary suffix)] – **uppityness** *n*

**uprate** /'ʊpraɪt/ *vt* to raise in rank, status, size, or power

**upright** /'ʊpraɪt/ *adj* **1a** perpendicular, vertical **b** erect in carriage or posture **c** having the main part perpendicular <an ~ freezer> **2** marked by strong moral rectitude – **uprightly** *adv*, **uprightness** *n*

**upright** *adv* in an upright or vertical position

**upright** *n* **1** sth that stands upright **2** upright, upright piano a piano with vertical frame and strings

**uprising** /'ʊpraɪzɪŋ/ *n* a usu localized rebellion

**upriver** /'ʊprɪvə/ *adv* or *adj* towards or at a point nearer the source of a river

**uproar** /'ʊpraʊ/ *n* a state of commotion or violent disturbance [by folk etymology fr *D* *oproer*, fr MD, fr *op* up + *roer* motion, akin to OE *up* up, & *hreran* to stir]

**uproarious** /'ʊpraʊriəs/ *adj* **1** marked by noise and disorder **2** extremely funny <an ~ comedy> – **uproariously** *adv*, **uproariousness** *n*

**uproot** /'ʊpru:t/ *vt* **1** to remove by pulling up by the roots **2** to displace from a country or traditional habitat or environment – **uprooter** *n*

**uprush** /'ʊprʊʃ/ *n* an upward rush (e.g. of gas or liquid)

**upsadaisy** /'ʊpsə,daɪzi/ *interj* upsydaisy

**ups and 'downs** *n* pl alternating rises and falls, esp in fortune

**upset** /'ʊpset/ *vb* -tt-; **upset** *vt* **1** to thicken and shorten (e.g. a heated iron bar) by hammering on the end **2** to overturn, knock over **3a** to trouble mentally or emotionally **b** to throw into disorder **4** to make somewhat ill ~ *vi* to become overturned – **upsetter** *n*

**upset** *n* **1** a minor physical disorder (<a stomach ~>) **2** an emotional disturbance **3** an unexpected defeat (e.g. in politics)

**upset price** *n* the minimum price fixed for property offered at auction or public sale

**upshot** /'ʊpʃɒt/ *n* the final result; the outcome – *infml* ['*up* + '*shot*, orig sense, the final shot in an archery contest]

**'upside 'down** /'ʊpsaɪd/ *adv* **1** with the upper and the lower parts reversed **2** in or into great disorder or confusion [alter of ME *up so down*, fr *up* + *so* + *down down*] – **upside-down** *adj*

**'upside** *adv*, *Br* so as to be even or equal – usu + *of* or *with*, *infml*

**upsilon** /'ʊpsɪlən, -'sɪ-/ *n* the 20th letter of the Greek alphabet [MGk *ypsilon*, lit, 'simple y', fr the desire to distinguish it from *oi*, which was pronounced the same in later Greek]

**'upstage** /'ʊpstəɪdʒ/ *adv* at the rear of a theatrical stage, also away from the audience or film or television camera

**'upstage** *adj* **1** of or at the rear of a stage **2** haughty, aloof [(2) '*upstage*]

**'upstage** *n* the part of a stage that is farthest from the audience or camera

**'upstage** *vt* **1** to force (an actor) to face away from the audience by holding a dialogue with him/her from an upstage position **2** to steal attention from

**'upstairs** /'ʊpstɛəz/ *adv* **1** up the stairs; to or on a higher floor **2** to or at a higher position – compare KICK UPSTAIRS

**'upstairs** *adj* situated above the stairs, esp on an upper floor

**'upstairs** /-,-,-/ *n* pl but sing or pl in constr the part of a building above the ground floor

**upstanding** /'ʊpstændɪŋ/ *adj* **1** erect, upright **2** marked by integrity, honest – **upstandingness** *n*

**upstart** /'ʊpstɑ:t/ *n* one who has risen suddenly (e.g. from a low position to wealth or power); esp one who claims more personal importance than he/she warrants [*upstart* (to rise suddenly), fr '*up* + '*start*] – **upstart** *adj*

**upstate** /'ʊpstəɪt/ *n* the chiefly northerly sections of a state of the USA – **upstate** *adv* or *adj*

**upstream** /'ʊpstri:m/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction opposite to the flow of a stream

**upstroke** /'ʊpstroʊk/ *n* an upward stroke

**upsurge** /'ʊpsɜ:ʒ/ *n* a rapid or sudden rise

**upswept** /'ʊpswept/ *adj* swept or brushed upwards

**upswing** /'up,swɪŋ/ *n* 1 an upward swing 2 a marked increase or rise

**upside** /'ʊpsaɪd/ *interj* – used to express comfort and reassurance (e.g. to a small child after a fall) [irreg fr 'up]

**uptake** /'ʊptak/ *n* 1 an absorbing and incorporating, esp into a living organism 2 understanding, comprehension (<quick on the ~> – infml [Sc uptake to understand])

**up-tempo** /'tempo/ *adj* or *n* (played at) a fast-moving tempo (e.g. in jazz)

**upthrow** /'ʊpθrəʊ/ *n* an upward displacement (e.g. of a rock stratum)

**upthrust** /'ʊpθrʌst/ *n* an upward thrust, esp a geological upheaval – **upthrust** *vb*

**uptight** /'ʊptɪt/ *adj* 1 tense, nervous, or uneasy 2 angry, indignant **USE** infml – **uptightness** *n*

**'up to prep** 1 – used to indicate an upward limit or boundary (<sank ~ his knees in mud> <~ 50,000 copies a month>) 2 as far as; until 3a equal to (<didn't feel ~ par>) b good enough for (<my German isn't ~ reading Schiller>) 4 engaged in (a suspect activity) (<what's he ~?>) 5 being the responsibility of (<it's ~ me>)

**up-to-date** *adj* 1 including the latest information 2 abreast of the times, modern – **up-to-dateness** *n*

**up-to-the-minute** *adj* 1 including the very latest information 2 completely up-to-date

**up'town** *adv, adj, or n*, chiefly *NAm* (to, towards, or in) the upper part or residential district of a town or city

**'upturn** /'ʊptɜːn/ *vt* 1 to turn up or over 2 to direct upwards ~ *vi* to turn upwards

**²up,turn** *n* an upward turn, esp towards better conditions or higher prices

**upward** /'ʊpwoʊd/ *adj* moving or extending upwards, ascending (<an ~ movement>) – **upwardly** *adv*

**upwards** *adv* 1a from a lower to a higher place, condition, or level, in the opposite direction from down b so as to expose a particular surface (<held out his hand, palm ~>) 2a to an indefinitely greater amount, price, figure, age, or rank (<from £5 ~>) b towards a higher number, degree, rate (<attendance figures have risen ~>)

**'upwards** *adv* more than, in EXCESS OF (<they cost ~ £25>)

**upwind** /'ʊpwɪnd/ *adv* or *adj* in the direction from which the wind is blowing

**up 'yours** *interj*, *Br* – used to express contemptuous defiance and dismissal, slang, [short for *up your arse*]

**ur** /uh/ *interj* *er*

**ur-, uro-** *comb form* 1 urine (<uric>) 2 urinary tract (<urology>) 3 urinary and (<urogenital>) [NL, fr Gk *our-, ourō-, fr ouron* urine – more at URINE]

**Ur-** *prefix* original, primitive (<Ur-form>) [G, fr OHG *ir-, ur-* thoroughly (perfective prefix)]

**uracil** /'yoʊərəsɪl/ *n* a base that is one of the 4 bases whose order in the polynucleotide chain of RNA codes genetic information – compare ADENINE, CYTOSINE, GUANINE, THYMINE [ISV *ur-* + acetic + -il (substance relating to)]

**uraemia** /'yoʊ'reemɪə, -mi-/ *n* accumulation in the blood of toxic constituents normally eliminated by the kidneys [NL, fr *ur-* + -aemia]

**Ural-Altaic** /'yoʊərəl al'taɪk/ *n* a postulated group comprising the Uralic and Altaic languages – **Ural-Altaic** *adj*

**Uralic** /'yoʊ(ə)'raɪk, -'raɪ-/ *n* a language family comprising the Finno-Ugric and Samoyed languages [Ural mountains, NW Asia] – **Uralic** *adj*, **Uralian** /-'raɪljən/ *adj*

**'uran-, urano-** *comb form* sky; heaven (<uranometry>) [L, fr Gk *ouran-, ourano-, fr ouranos*]

**²uran-, urano-** *comb form* uranium (<uranyl>) [F, fr NL *uranium*]

**uranic** /'yoʊ(ə)'raɪk/ *adj* of or containing uranium, esp with a relatively high valency [ISV]

**'uranium** /'yoʊ(ə)'raɪnjəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a heavy radioactive polyvalent metallic element found in pitchblende ⚡ ENERGY, PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *Uranus*]

**uranium 235** *n* a light isotope of uranium of mass number 235 that when bombarded with slow neutrons undergoes rapid fission into smaller atoms with the release of neutrons and atomic energy ⚡ ENERGY

**uranium 238** *n* an isotope of uranium of mass number 238 that absorbs fast neutrons to form a uranium isotope of mass number 239 which then decays through neptunium to form plutonium of mass number 239 ⚡ ENERGY

**uranography** /'yoʊərə'nɒɡrəfi/ *n* the description and mapping of the

heavens and celestial bodies [Gk *ouranographia* description of the heavens, fr *ouran-* *uran-* + *-graphia* -graphy] – **uranographic** /-nɒh'ɡrəfɪk, -nə-/ *adj*

**uranometry** /'yoʊərə'nɒmətri/ *n* (the making of) a map or catalogue of celestial bodies, esp stars [NL *uranometria*, fr *uran-* + *-metria* -metry]

**uranous** /'yoʊərənəs/ *adj* of or containing uranium, esp with a relatively low valency

**Uranus** /'yoʊ(ə)'raɪnəs, 'yoʊərənəs/ *n* the planet 7th in order from the sun ⚡ ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [LL, fr Gk *Ouranos*, the sky personified as a god in Gk mythology, fr *ouranos* sky, heaven]

**urate** /'yoʊə'reɪt/ *n* a salt of uric acid [F, fr *urique* uric, fr E *uric*] – **uratic** /-'raɪtɪk/ *adj*

**urban** /'ʊhbn/ *adj* (characteristic) of or constituting a city or town [L *urbanus*, fr *urbs* city]

**urbane** /'ʊhbeɪn/ *adj* notably polite or smooth in manner, suave [L *urbanus* urban, urbane] – **urbanely** *adv*, **urbanity** /'ʊh'bənəti/ *n*

**urban guerrilla** *n* a terrorist who operates in towns

**urbanist** /'ʊhbnɪst/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* a specialist in town planning

**urbanite** /'ʊhbnɪt/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* one living in a city

**urban-ize, -ise** /'ʊhbnɪz/ *vt* 1 to cause to take on urban characteristics 2 to impart an urban way of life to – **urbanization** /-'zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**urban renewal** *n* the planned replacement or rehabilitation of substandard urban buildings

**urceolate** /'ʊhɪ-slət, -ləɪt/ *adj* shaped like an urn [NL *urceolatus*, fr L *urceolus*, dim of *urceus* pitcher]

**urchin** /'ʊhɪn/ *n* 1 a hedgehog 2 a mischievous and impudent young boy, esp one who is scruffy 3 SEA URCHIN [ME, fr MF *herchon*, fr L *ericius*, fr *er*; akin to Gk *chēr* hedgehog, L *horre* to bristle, tremble – more at HORROR]

**Urdu** /'ʊdoʊh, 'ʊhdoʊh/ *n* an Indic language that is an official language of Pakistan, is written *urdu* in Persian script, and is widely used in India, esp by Muslims ⚡ LANGUAGE [Hindi *urdu-zaban*, lit, camp language]

**-ure suffix** (*vb* → *n*) 1 act or process of (<exposure> <closure>) 2 body performing (a specified function) (<legislature>) [ME, fr OF, fr L -*ura*]

**urea** /'yoʊ(ə)'reɪ-, 'yoʊəri-/ *n* a nitrogen-containing compound that is present in urine and is a final product of protein decomposition [NL, fr F *urée*, fr *urine*]

**ureter** /'yoʊ(ə)'reɪtə/ *n* a duct that carries away the urine from a kidney to the bladder or cloaca ⚡ DIGESTION [NL, fr Gk *oureter*, fr *ouron* to urinate – more at URINE] – **ureteral, ureteric** /'yoʊəri'tenɪk/ *adj*

**urethane** /'voʊərə'theɪn, 'ureθən /-θən/ *n* 1a a compound that is the ethyl ester of carbamic acid and is used esp as a solvent b an ester of carbamic acid other than the ethyl ester 2 polyurethane [F *uréthane*, fr *ur-* + *éth-* *eth-* + -*ane*]

**urethr-, urethro-** *comb form* urethra (<urethritis>) (<urethroscope>) [NL, fr LL *urethra*]

**urethra** /'yoʊ(ə)'reθrə/ *n*, *pl urethras, urethrae* /-θrɪ/ the canal that in most mammals carries off the urine from the bladder and in the male serves also as a spermatic duct ⚡ DIGESTION [LL, fr Gk *ourethra*, fr *ouron* to urinate] – **urethral** *adj*

**urethritis** /'yoʊəri'thriɪtəs/ *n* inflammation of the urethra [NL]

**'urge** /ʊh/ *vi* 1 to advocate or demand earnestly or pressingly 2 to undertake the accomplishment of with energy or enthusiasm 3a to try to persuade b to serve as a motive or reason for 4 to force or impel in a specified direction or to greater speed ~ *vi* to urge an argument, claim, etc [L *urgere* – more at WREAK] – **urger** *n*

**²urge** *n* a force or impulse that urges

**urgent** /'ʊhɪjənt/ *adj* 1 calling for immediate attention; pressing (<~ appeals>) 2 conveying a sense of urgency [ME, fr MF, fr L *urgens*, *urgens*, *prp* of *urgere*] – **urgency** /-'sɪ/ *n*, **urgently** *adv*

**-urgy** /-ʊhɪj/ *comb form* (~ *n*) technology; art; technique (<metalurgy> <dentistry>) [NL -*urgia*, fr Gk -*urgia*, fr -*urgos* working, fr -*o-* + *ergon* work – more at WORK]

**-uria** /-'yoʊəri-/ *comb form* (~ *n*) 1 usu pathological presence or excess of (a specified substance) in urine (<albuminuria> <pyuria>) 2 condition of producing (a specified amount of) urine (<polyuria>) [NL, fr Gk -*ouria*, fr *ouron* urine – more at URINE]

**uric** /'yoʊənɪk/ *adj* of or found in urine

**uric acid** *n* a compound that is present in small quantities in mammalian urine and is the chief excretory product of birds and most reptiles

**urin-, urina-** *comb form* ur- (<urinogenital>) (<urinary>) [ME, fr OF, fr L, fr *urina* urine]

**urinal** /'yoʊ(ə)'riəl/ *n* a fixture used for urinating into, esp by men; also

- a room, building, etc containing a urnal [ME, fr OF, fr LL, fr L *urina*]
- urinalysis** /yoʊəriˈnəˌlɪsɪs/ *n* (diagnostic) chemical analysis of urine [NL, irreg fr *urin-* + *analysis*]
- urinary** /yoʊəri(ə)n/ *adj* 1 relating to (or occurring in or constituting the organs concerned with the formation and discharge of) urine 2 excreted as or in urine
- urinate** /yoʊəriˈneɪt/ *vi* to discharge urine – **urination** /ˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- urine** /yoʊəri(n)/ *n* waste material that is secreted by the kidney in vertebrates and forms a clear amber and usu slightly acid fluid in mammals but is semisolid in birds and reptiles [ME, fr MF, fr L *urina*; akin to Gk *ouron* urine, *ourain* to urinate, OE *wæter* water] – **urinous** /-ˈneɪs/ *adj*
- urinogenital** /yoʊəriˈnɒʒ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj* genitourinary
- urn** /uɜn/ *n* 1 an ornamental vase on a pedestal used esp for preserving the ashes of the dead after cremation 2 a large closed container, usu with a tap at its base, in which large quantities of tea, coffee, etc may be heated or served [ME *urne*, fr L *urna*]
- uro-** – see **UR-**
- urochord** /yoʊəˈrɒkəʊd/ *n* the notochord of a tunicate [deriv of Gk *oura* tail + NL *chorda* notochord, fr L, cord] – **urochordal** /-ˈkɑːld/ *adj*
- urodele** /yoʊəˈdeɪl/ *n* any of an order of amphibians (e.g. newts) that have a tail throughout life [F *urodèle*, deriv of Gk *oura* tail + *dēlos* evident, showing – more at **SQUIRREL**] – **urodele** *adj*
- urogenital** /yoʊəˈrɒʒ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adj* genitourinary [ISV]
- urology** /yoʊ(ə)ˈrɒləʒi/ *n* a branch of medicine dealing with the genitourinary tract – **urologist** *n*, **urologic** /yoʊəˈrɒləʒ(ə)k/, **urological** *adj*
- uronic** /-yoʊ(ə)ˈrɒn(ə)k/ *suffix* (~ *adj*) connected with urine – in names of certain organic acids derived from sugars or compounds of such acids [*hyaluronic*] [Gk *ouron* urine]
- urophygial gland** /yoʊəˈrɒʃ(ə)ˈpiːʒ(ə)l/ *n* a large gland that opens at the base of the tail feathers in most birds and usu secretes an oily fluid which the bird uses in preening its feathers
- urophygium** /-ˈpiːʒ(ə)m/ *n* the prominence at the rear end of a bird's body that supports the tail feathers [NL, fr Gk *ouropygion*, fr *oura* tail + *pygē* rump – more at **STEATOPYGIA**] – **urophygal** *adj*
- urostyle** /yoʊəˈstɪl/ *n* a bony rod of fused vertebrae that forms the end part of the vertebral column of frogs and toads [ISV, deriv of Gk *oura* tail + *stylos* pillar – more at **STEER**]
- Ursa Major** /ˈuɜːsə/ *n* the most conspicuous of the N constellations that is situated near the N pole of the heavens and contains 7 stars pictured as a plough, 2 of which are in a line indicating the direction of the Pole Star [L, lit., greater bear]
- Ursa Minor** *n* a constellation that includes the N pole of the heavens and 7 stars which resemble Ursa Major with the Pole Star at the tip of the handle [L, lit., lesser bear]
- ursine** /ˈuɜːsɪn, -sɪn/ *adj* of or resembling a bear or the bear family [L *ursinus*, fr *ursus* bear]
- Ursprache** /ˈoʊəʃpɹɑːkə/ *n* a parent language; esp one reconstructed from the evidence of later languages [G, fr *Ur-* *U-* + *sprache* language]
- urticaria** /uɜːt(ə)ˈkeəri-ə/ *n* an allergic disorder marked by raised itching patches of skin and caused by contact with a specific factor (e.g. a food or drug) [NL, fr L *urtica* nettle] – **urticarial** *adj*
- urticate** /uɜːt(ə)ˈkeɪt/ *vi* to produce weals or itching, esp to induce urticaria [ML *urticatus*, pp of *urticare* to sting, fr L *urtica*] – **urtication** /-ˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- urus** /yoʊəˈrɜːs/ *n* an aurochs [L, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ūro* urus – more at **AUROCHS**]
- us** /əs, strɒŋ us/ *pron* 1 objective case of **WE** (*please let ~ go*) 2 chiefly Br *me* (*give ~ a kiss*) – nonstandard [ME, fr OE *ūs*; akin to OHG *uns* us, L *nos*]
- usable** also **useable** /yoʊhˈzəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being used 2 convenient for use – **usableness** *n*, **usably** *adv*, **usability** /-zəˈbɪləti/ *n*
- usage** /yoʊhˈsɪʒ, -zɪʒ/ *n* 1a (an instance of) established and generally accepted practice or procedure **b** (an instance of) the way in which words and phrases are actually used in a language 2 the action, amount, or manner of using
- usage** /yoʊhˈz(ə)n(ə)s/ *n* the time allowed by custom for payment of a bill of exchange in foreign commerce [**USE** + **-ANCE**]
- use** /yoʊh(ə)s/ *n* 1a using or being used (*in daily ~*) (*made good ~ of his time*) **b** a way of using sthg (*a machine with many different ~s*) 2a habitual or customary usage **b** a liturgical form or observance; esp a liturgy having modifications peculiar to a local church or religious order 3a the right or benefit of using sthg (*gave him the ~ of her car*) **b the ability or power to use sthg (e.g. a limb) **c** the legal enjoyment of property 4a a purpose or end (*put learning to practical ~*) **b** practical worth or application (*saving things that might be of ~*) 5 a favourable attitude; a liking (*had no ~ for modern art*) [ME *us*, fr OF, fr L *usus*, fr *usus*, pp of *uti* to use]**
- use** /yoʊh(ə)z/ *vb* **used** /vʊt/ **yoohzd**; *vi* **yoohst** /vʊt/ 1 to put into action or service 2 to consume or take (e.g. drugs) regularly 3 to carry out sthg by means of (~ *tact*) 4 to expend or consume 5 to treat in a specified manner (~ *d the prisoners cruelly*) ~ *vi* – used in the past with *to* to indicate a former fact or state (~ *d to dislike fish*) (*didn't ~ d to be so pernicky*) – **user** /yoʊhˈzə/ *n*
- used** /senses 1 and 2/ **yoohzd**, *sense* 3 **yoohst** /*adj* 1 employed in accomplishing sthg 2 that has endured use, *specif* secondhand 3 accustomed (*I'm not ~ to drinking* – **SEU S**)
- useful** /yoʊh(ə)ʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 having utility, esp practical worth or applicability; also helpful 2 of highly satisfactory quality – **usefully** *adv*, **usefulness** *n*
- useless** /yoʊh(ə)ʃ(ə)l/ *adj* 1 having or being of no use 2 inept – *infrm* – **uselessly** *adv*, **uselessness** *n*
- use up** /yoʊh(ə)z/ *vt* 1 to consume completely 2 to deprive wholly of strength or useful properties; exhaust
- usher** /ˈuʃə/ *n* 1 an officer or servant who acts as a doorkeeper (e.g. in a court of law) 2 an officer who walks before a person of rank 3 *fem* *usherette* /-ˈret/ one who shows people to their seats (e.g. in a theatre) [ME *ussher*, fr MF *usser*, fr (assumed) VL *ustarius* doorkeeper, fr L *ostium*, *ustium* door, mouth of a river; akin to L *or-*, *os* mouth – more at **ORAL**]
- usher** *vt* 1 to conduct to a place 2 to precede as an usher 3 to inaugurate, introduce (~ *in a new era*)
- usquebaugh** /ˈuːskwɪˌbaʊ/ *n*, *Irish & Scot* whisky [IrGael *uisce beatha*]
- usual** /yoʊhˈzʊʊl, -zhəl/ *adj* 1 in accordance with usage, custom, or habit; normal 2 commonly or ordinarily used (*followed his ~ route*) [LL *usualis*, fr L *usus* use] – **usually** *adv*, **usualness** *n* – as **usual** in the accustomed or habitual way (*as usual he was late*)
- usufruct** /yoʊhˈz(y)oʊˌfrʊkt, -s(y)oʊ- / *n* the legal right of using and enjoying sthg belonging to another [L *usufructus*, fr *usus* et *fructus* use and enjoyment]
- usurer** /yoʊhˈzʰərə/ *n* one who lends money, esp at an exorbitant rate [ME, fr AF, fr ML *usurarius*, fr L *usura*]
- usurp** /yoʊhˈsʊp, -zʊhp/ *vt* to seize and possess by force or without right (~ *a throne*) ~ *vi* to seize possession wrongfully [ME *usurpen*, fr MF *usurper*, fr L *usurpare*, *lit*, to take possession of by use, fr *usu* (abl of *usus* use) + *rapere* to seize – more at **RAPID**] – **usurper** *n*, **usurpation** /-ˈpeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- usury** /yoʊhˈzʰəri, -zhəri/ *n* 1 the lending of money at (exorbitant) interest 2 an exorbitant or illegal rate or amount of interest [ME, fr ML *usura*, alter. of L *usura*, fr *usus*, pp of *uti* to use] – **usurious** /-ˈzyʊəri-əs, -ˈzʰoo- / *adj*, **usuriously** *adv*
- ut** /ut, ooht/ *n* 'do [ME, fr ML – more at **GAMUT**]
- utensil** /yoʊhˈtens(ə)l/ *n* 1 an implement, vessel, or device used in the household, esp the kitchen 2 a useful tool or implement [ME, vessels for domestic use, fr MF *utensile*, fr L *utensili*, fr neut pl of *utensilis* useful, fr *uti* to use]
- uterine** /yoʊhˈtɛrɪn, -nɛn/ *adj* 1a born of the same mother but by a different father **b** matrilineal 2 of or affecting the uterus [ME, fr LL *uterinus*, fr L *uterus*]
- uterus** /yoʊhˈtɛrəs/, *pl* *uteri* /-ˈri-, -ri/ also *uteruses* 1 an organ of the female mammal for containing and usu for nourishing the young during development before birth **REPRODUCTION** 2 a structure in some lower animals analogous to the uterus in which eggs or young develop [L]
- utilitarian** /yoʊhˈtɪliˈteɪən-ən/ *n* an advocate of utilitarianism
- utilitarian** *adj* 1 marked by utilitarian views or practices 2a of or aiming at utility **b** made for or aiming at practical use rather than beautiful appearance
- utilitarianism** /-nɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a doctrine that the criterion for correct conduct should be the usefulness of its consequences; *specif* a theory that the aim of action should be the greatest happiness of the greatest number 2 utilitarian character, spirit, or quality
- utility** /yoʊhˈtɪləti/ *n* 1 fitness for some purpose; usefulness 2 sthg useful or designed for use 3 a business organization performing a public service

[ME *uhtite*, fr MF *utilité*, fr L *utilitas*, *utilitas*, fr *utilis* useful, fr *uti* to use]

**utility** *adj* 1 capable of serving as a substitute in various roles or positions < *a ~ player* > 2 serving primarily for utility rather than beauty, utilitarian < *~ furniture* > 3 designed or adapted for general use

**util-ize**, **-ize** /yoohitiliz/ *vt* to make use of; turn to practical use or account [F *utiliser*, fr *utile* useful, fr L *utilis*] – **utilizable** *adj*, **utilizer** *n*, **utilization** /-'zaysh(ə)n/ *n*


**utmost** /'ut,mohst/ *adj* 1 situated at the farthest or most distant point, extreme 2 of the greatest or highest degree < *a matter of ~ concern* > [ME, alter. of *utmost*, fr OE *utmost*, superl *adj*, fr *ut* out, *adv* – more at OUT]

**utmost** *n* 1 the highest point or degree 2 the best of one's abilities, powers, etc < *did his ~ to help* >

**utopia** /yooh'tohpi-ə/ *n* 1 often *cap* a place or state of ideal (political and social) perfection 2 an impractical scheme for social or political improvement [Utopia, imaginary ideal country in Utopia by Sir Thomas More †1535 E statesman & writer, fr Gk *ou* not, no + *topos* place]

**utopian** /yooh'tohpi-ən/ *adj*, often *cap* 1 impossibly ideal, esp in social and political organization 2 proposing impractically ideal social and political schemes – **utopianism** *n*

**utopian** *n* 1 a believer in human perfectibility 2 an advocate of utopian schemes

**utricle** /yooh'trikl/ *n* a small pouched part of an animal or plant body, esp the larger chamber of the membranous labyrinth of the ear into which the semicircular canals open  **NERVE** [L *utriculus*, dim of *uter* leather bag] – **utricular** /-'trinkyoala/ *adj*

**utter** /'uta/ *adj* absolute, total < *~ desolation* > [ME, remote, fr OE *utera* outer, compar *adj* fr *ut* out, *adv* – more at OUT] – **utterly** *adv*


**utter** *vt* 1a to *utter* as a sound 1b to give (verbal) expression to 2 to put (e.g. currency) into circulation, *specif* to circulate (e.g. a counterfeit note) as if legal or genuine – used technically [ME *utten*, fr *utter* outside, *adv*, fr OE *utor*, compar of *ut* out] – **utterer** *n*, **utterable** /'ut(ə)rəbl/ *adj*

**utterance** /'ut(ə)rəns/ *n* 1 an oral or written statement 2 vocal expression, speech – esp in *give utterance* to [UTTER + -ANCE]

**uttermost** /'uta,mohst/ *adj* extreme, utmost [ME, alter of *uttermest* fr *'utter* + *-mest* (as in *utmost*)]

**utu** /'ooht,too/ *n*, NZ retribution [Maori]


**'U-turn** /yooh/ *n* 1 a turn executed by a motor vehicle without reversing that takes it back along the direction from which it has come 2 a total reversal of policy < *a ~ on wage controls* – *The Economist* >

**uvula** /yoohvyoola/ *n*, pl **uvulas**, **uvulae** /-li/ the fleshy lobe hanging in the middle of the back of the soft palate  **NERVE** [ML, dim. of L *uva* grape, *uvula*, akin to OE *iw* yew]


**uvular** /yoohvyoola/ *adj* 1 of the uvula < *~ glands* > 2 produced with the aid of the uvula < *a French ~ /r/* > – **uvularly** *adv*

**uxorious** /'uk'sawri-əs, ug'zaw-/ *adj* (excessively) fond of or submissive to one's wife – fml [L *uxorius*, fr *uxor* wife] – **uxoriously** *adv*, **uxoriousness** *n*

**Uzbek** /'oozbeg, 'uzbek/ *n* (an) Uzbek

**Uzbek** /'oozbek, 'uzbek/ *n* 1 a member of a Turkic people inhabiting central Asia 2 the Turkic language of the Uzbek people  **LAN** GUAGE

## V

**v** /vee/ *n*, pl **v's** or **vs** often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 22nd letter of the English alphabet 2 five  **NUMBER**

**V-1** /vee 'wun/ *n* a flying bomb used by the Germans in WW II, esp against targets in England [G *vergeltungswaffe*, fr *vergeltung* reprisal + *waffe* weapon]

**V-2** /vee 'tooh/ *n* a long-range rocket used by the Germans in WW II, esp against targets in England  **SPACE**

**vac** /vak/ *n*, Br a vacation, esp from college or university – **infrm**

**vacancy** /'vaykənsi/ *n* 1 physical or mental inactivity; idleness 2 a vacant office, post, or room 3 an empty space 4 the state of being vacant

**vacant** /'vaykənt/ *adj* 1 not occupied by an incumbent or officer < *a ~ office* > 2 without an occupant < *a ~ room* > 3 free from activity or work < *~ hours* > 4a stupid, foolish < *a ~ mind* > b expressionless < *a ~ look* >

5 not lived in < *~ houses* > [ME, fr OF, fr L *vacant*-, *vacans*, prp of *vacare* to be empty, be free] – **vacantly** *adv*, **vacantness** *n*

**vacant possession** *n* availability (e.g. of a house) for immediate occupation

**vacate** /'vay'kayt/ *vt* 1 to annul legally 2 to give up the possession or occupancy of 3 to make vacant; leave empty < *with instructions to ~ the cinema* > [L *vacatus*, pp of *vacare*]

**'vacation** /'vay'kash(ə)n, və-/ *n* 1 a scheduled period during which activity (e.g. of a university) is suspended 2 an act of vacating 3 chiefly NAM a holiday < *had a restful ~ at the beach* > [ME *vacacioun*, fr MF *vacation*, fr L *vacatio*-, *vacatio* freedom, exemption, fr *vacatus*]

**vacation** *vi*, chiefly NAM to take or spend a holiday – **vacationer** *n*

**vaccinate** /'vaksinayt/ *vt* 1 to inoculate with cowpox virus in order to produce immunity to smallpox 2 to administer a vaccine to, usu by injection ~ *vi* to perform or practise the administration of vaccine – **vaccinator** *n*, **vaccination** /-'vaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**'vaccine** /'vak,seen, -sin/ *adj* of cowpox or vaccination < *a ~ pustule* > [L *vaccinus* of or from cows, fr *vacca* cow, akin to Skt *vaśa* cow]

**vacine** *n* material (e.g. a preparation of killed or modified virus or bacteria) used in vaccinating – **vaccinal** /'vaksin(ə)l/ *adj*

**vaccinia** /'vak'sini-ə/ *n* cowpox [NL, fr *vaccinus*] – **vaccinial** *adj*

**vacillate** /'vasə,layt/ *vi* 1a to sway through imperfect balance 1b to fluctuate, oscillate 2 to hesitate or waver in choosing between opinions or courses of action [L *vacillatus*, pp of *vacillare* to sway, waver – more at PREVARICATE] – **vacillatingly** *adv*, **vacillator** *n*, **vacillation** /-'laysh(ə)n/ *n*

**vacuity** /'vəkyooth-əti/ *n* 1 an empty space 2 vacuousness, meaninglessness 3 sth (e.g. an idea) that is stupid or inane [L *vacuitas*, fr *vacuus* empty]

**vacuolate** /'vakyoo(ə),layt, -lat/, **vacuolated** /-'laytid/ *adj* containing 1 or more vacuoles

**vacuolation** /'vakyooə'laysh(ə)n/ *n* the development or formation of vacuoles

**vacuole** /'vakyoo,ohl/ *n* a small cavity or space containing air or fluid in the tissues of an organism or in the protoplasm of an individual cell [F, lit, small vacuum, fr L *vacuum*] – **vacuolar** /'vakyooələ, -ohlə/ *adj*

**vacuous** /'vakyoo-əs/ *adj* 1 empty 2 stupid, inane < *a ~ expression* > 3 idle, aimless [L *vacuus*] – **vacuously** *adv*, **vacuousness** *n*

**'vacuum** /'vakyoohm, 'vakyooam, 'vakyoom/ *n*, pl **vacuums**, **vacua** /'vakyooə-/ 1a a space absolutely devoid of matter 1b a space from which as much air or other substance as possible has been removed (e.g. by an air pump) c an air pressure below atmospheric pressure 2a a vacant space, a void 2b a state of isolation from outside influences 3 **VACUUM CLEANER** 'L fr neut of *vacuus* empty, akin to L *vacare* to be empty]

**vacuum** *adj* of, containing, producing, or using a partial vacuum

**vacuum** /'vakyoohm, 'vakyoom/ *vb* to clean using a vacuum cleaner

**'vacuum brake** *n* a continuous brake system worked by vacuum and used esp on trains

**'vacuum cleaner** *n* an (electrical) appliance for removing dust and dirt (e.g. from carpets or upholstery) by suction – **vacuum-clean** *vb*

**'vacuum flask** *n*, chiefly Br a cylindrical container with a vacuum between an inner and an outer wall used to keep material, esp liquids, either hot or cold for considerable periods

**'vacuum-packed** *adj* packed in a wrapping from which most of the air has been removed < *~ bacon* >

**'vacuum pump** *n* a pump for producing a vacuum

**vade mecum** /,vaydi 'meekəm, ,vaydah 'maykəm/ *n*, pl **vade mecum** 1 a book for ready reference 2 sth regularly carried about by a person [L, go with me]


**vag-, vago-** *comb form* vagus nerve < *vagal* > < *vagotomy* > [ISV, fr NL *vagus*]

**'vagabond** /'vaga,bond/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a wanderer 2 leading an unsettled, irresponsible, or disreputable life [ME, fr MF, fr L *vagabundus*, fr *vagari* to wander] – **vagabondish** *adj*

**vacabond** *n* a wanderer; esp a tramp – **vagabondage** *n*, **vagabondism** *n*

**vegel** /'vaygəl/ *adj* of, affected or controlled by, or being the vagus nerve [ISV] – **vagally** *adv*

**vagary** /'vaygəri/ *n* an erratic, unpredictable, or extravagant motion, action, etc [prob fr L *vagari* to wander; akin to L *vagus* wandering – more at PREVARICATE] – **vagarious** /'vaygəri-əs/ *adj*

**vagina** /'və'jienə/ *n*, pl **vaginae** /-ni/, **vaginas** 1 a canal in a female mammal that leads from the uterus to the external orifice of the genital canal  **REPRODUCTION** 2 a sheath; esp a leaf base that forms a

- sheath, usu round the main stem [L, lit., sheath] – **vaginal** /və'jienl, 'vajinl/ *adj*
- vaginismus** /və'jɪnɪzms/ *n* a painful spasmodic contraction of the vagina [NL, fr L *vagina*]
- vaginitis** /və'jɪnɪtəs/ *n* inflammation of the vagina or of a covering structure (e.g. a tendon sheath) [NL]
- vago** – see **VAG**
- vagrant** /vægɾənt/ *n* 1 one who has no established residence or lawful means of support 2 a wanderer, vagabond [ME *vagraunt*, prob modif of MF *waucrant*, *wacrant* wandering, fr OF, fr prp of *waucrer*, *wacrer* to roll, wander, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *wealcan* to roll – more at **WALK**]
- vagrant** *adj* 1 wandering about from place to place, usu with no means of support 2 having no fixed course; random – **vagrancy** /-sɪ/ *n*, **vagrantly** *adv*
- vague** /væg/ *adj* 1a not clearly defined, expressed, or understood, indistinct (< a ~ idea>) b not clearly felt or sensed (< a ~ longing>) 2 not thinking or expressing one's thoughts clearly (< ~ about dates and places>) [MF, fr L *vagus*, lit., wandering] – **vaguely** *adv*, **vagueness** *n*
- vagus** /vægəs/ *n*, pl *vagi* /-jɪ/ either of a pair of cranial nerves that supply chiefly the heart and viscera [NL *vagus nervus*, lit., wandering nerve]
- vain** /vaɪn/ *adj* 1 idle, worthless 2 unsuccessful, ineffectual 3 having or showing excessive pride in one's appearance, ability, etc; conceited [ME, fr OF, fr L *vanus* empty, vain – more at **WANE**] – **vainly** *adv*, **vainness** *n* – *in vain* to no end, without success or result
- vainglorious** /vaɪn'glɔːriəs/ *adj* boastful – **vaingloriously** *adv*, **vaingloriousness** *n*
- vainglory** /vaɪn'glɔːrɪ/ *n* 1 excessive or ostentatious pride 2 vanity
- Valishnav** /vɪʃɪ'nəhvə/ *n* a member of a major Hindu sect devoted to the cult of Vishnu [Skt *vaiṣṇava* of Vishnu, fr *Viṣṇu* Vishnu, second of the 3 chief Hindu gods]
- valance** /væləns, 'və-/ *n* 1 a piece of drapery hung as a border, esp along the edge of a bed, canopy, or shelf 2 a pelmet [ME *vallance*, perh fr *Valence*, commune in France]
- vale** /vay:/ *n* **VALLEY** 1a – poetic or in place-names [ME, fr OF *val*, fr L *valles*, *vallis*; akin to L *volvere* to roll – more at **VOUABLE**]
- valediction** /və'lɛdɪkʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 an act of bidding farewell 2 an address or statement of farewell or leave-taking **USE** fml [L *valedictus*, pp of *valedicere* to say farewell, fr *vale* farewell + *dicere* to say – more at **DICTION**]
- valedictory** /və'lɛdɪkt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* expressing or containing a farewell – fml [L *valedictus*]
- valedictory** *n* **VALEDICTION** 2 – fml
- valency** /vælənsɪ, 'NAm chiefly valence/ *n* 1 the degree of combining power of an element or radical as shown by the number of atomic weights of a univalent element (e.g. hydrogen) with which the atomic weight of the element will combine or for which it can be substituted or with which it can be compared 2 a unit of valency (< the 4 valencies of carbon>) [LL *valentia* power, capacity, fr L *valent-*, *valens*, prp of *valere* to be strong]
- valent** /-vaylənt/ *comb form* (~ *adj*) 1 having (such) a valency (< bivalent>) (< multivalent>) 2 having (so many) chromosomal strands or homologous chromosomes (< univalent>) [ISV, fr L *valent-*, *valens*]
- valentine** /vələntɪn/ *n* 1 a sweetheart chosen on St Valentine's Day 2 a gift or greeting card sent or given, esp to a sweetheart, on St Valentine's Day
- valerate** /və'brayt/ *n* a salt or ester of valeric acid
- valerian** /və'liəri-ən/ *n* any of several usu perennial plants, many of which possess medicinal properties [ME, fr MF or ML, MF *valeriane*, fr ML *valeriana*, prob fr fem of *valerianus* of Valeria, fr *Valeria*, Roman province in SE Europe]
- valeric** /və'liəri- / *acid* /və'liəri- / *n* a liquid acid of disagreeable smell obtained from valerian or made synthetically and used esp in organic synthesis [valerian; fr its occurrence in the root of valerian]
- valet** /və'leɪ/ *n* a gentleman's male servant who performs personal services (e.g. taking care of clothing); also an employee (e.g. of a hotel) who performs similar services for patrons [MF *vaslet*, *varlet*, *valet* young nobleman, page, domestic servant, fr (assumed) ML *vassellitus*, dim of ML *vassus* servant – more at **VASSAL**]
- valeta** /və'leɪtə/ *n* a valeta
- valetudinarian** /və'li:tjuːdɪnəri-ən/ *n* a person of a weak or sickly constitution; esp a hypochondriac – fml [L *valetudinarius* sickly, infirm, fr *valetudin-*, *valetudo* state of health, sickness, fr *valere* to be strong, be well] – **valetudinarian** *adj*, **valetudinarianism** *n*
- valetudinary** /və'li:tjuːdɪn(ə)rɪ/ *n* or *adj* (a) valetudinarian – fml [L *valetudinarius*]
- valgus** /vælɡəs/ *n* the position of a bone or part that is turned outwards to an abnormal degree at its joint (< the toe is in ~>) – compare **VARUS** [NL, fr L, bowlegged – more at **WALK**]
- valiant** /və'li-ənt/ *adj* characterized by or showing valour; courageous [ME *valiaunt*, fr MF *valliant*, fr OF, fr prp of *valoir* to be of worth, fr L *valere* to be strong – more at **WIELD**] – **valiance** *n*, **valiant** *n*, **valiantly** *adv*, **valiantness** *n*
- valid** /və'lɪd/ *adj* 1 having legal efficacy; esp executed according to the proper formalities (< a ~ contract>) 2a well-grounded or justifiable; relevant and meaningful b logically sound [MF or ML; MF *valide*, fr ML *validus*, fr L, strong, fr *valere*] – **validly** *adv*, **validness** *n*, **validity** /və'lɪdɪtɪ/ *n*
- validate** /və'lɪdaɪt/ *vt* 1 to make legally valid 2 to corroborate, authenticate (< experiments to ~ his hypothesis>) – **validation** /-dɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- valine** /və'liːn, 'və-/ *n* an essential amino acid that occurs in most proteins [ISV, fr *valeric* (acid)]
- Valium** /və'li-əm/ *trademark* – used for diazepam
- valley** /və'li/ *n* 1a an elongated depression of the earth's surface, usu between hills or mountains **GEOGRAPHY** b an area drained by a river and its tributaries 2a a hollow, depression b the internal angle formed at the meeting of 2 roof surfaces [ME *valey*, fr OF *valce*, fr *val* valley – more at **VALE**]
- Valois** /və'loɪwə (Fr valwa)/ *adj* of the French royal house that ruled from 1328 to 1589 [Philippe de Valois (Philip VI of France) †1350]
- valonia** /və'loʊni-ə, -ni-ə/ *n* dried acorn cups, esp from a Eurasian evergreen oak, used in tanning or dressing leather [It *vallonia*, fr MGk *balanidia*, pl of *balanidion*, dim of Gk *balanos* acorn – more at **'GLAND**]
- valorize** /-ɪz/ *vt* (to try to) enhance the price, value, or status of by organized gov. action [Pg *valorizare*, fr *valor* value, price, fr ML] – **valorization** /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- valorous** /və'lɔːrəs/ *adj* valiant – **valourously** *adv*
- valour** /və'lɔːr/ *n* chiefly *valor* /və'lɔː/ *n* strength of mind or spirit that enables sb to encounter danger with firmness, personal bravery [ME, fr MF, fr ML *valor* value, valor, fr L *valere* to be strong]
- valse** /vɔːls/ *n* a (concert) waltz [F, fr G *walzer*]
- valuable** /və'lyuə(ə)bl/ *adj* 1 having (high) money value 2 of great use or worth (< ~ advice>) – **valuableness** *n*, **valuably** *adv*
- valuable** *n* a usu personal possession of relatively great money value – usu pl
- valuation** /və'lyuə(ə)ɪz(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act of valuing sth, esp property 2 the estimated or determined value, esp market value, of a thing 3 judgment or appraisal of worth or character – **valuational** *adj*, **valuationally** *adv*
- valuator** /və'lyuə(ə)ɪt/ *n* sb who judges the (money) value of sth
- value** /və'lyu/ *n* 1 a fair return or equivalent for sth exchanged 2 the worth in money or commodities of sth 3 relative worth, utility, or importance (< had nothing of ~ to say>) 4a a numerical quantity assigned or computed b the magnitude of a physical quantity 5 the relative duration of a musical note 6a relative lightness or darkness of a colour b the relation of one part in a picture to another with respect to lightness and darkness 7 sth (e.g. a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable 8 **DENOMINATION** 3 [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *valuta*, fr fem of *valutus*, pp of L *valere* to be worth, be strong]
- value** *vt* 1a to estimate the worth of in terms of money (< ~ a necklace>) b to rate in terms of usefulness, importance, etc 2 to consider or rate highly; esteem (< ~ a ~d helper>) – **valuer** *n*
- value-added** *tax* *n*, often *cap V*, *A*, & *T* a tax levied at each stage of the production and distribution of a commodity and passed on to the consumer as a form of purchase tax
- value judgment** *n* a judgment attributing a value (e.g. good, evil, or desirable) to a particular action or thing, usu as contrasted with a tolerant, factual, or objective assessment
- valueless** /-lɪs/ *adj* worthless – **valuelessness** *n*
- valuta** /və'li(y)uːtə/ *n* the agreed or exchange value of a currency [It, value, fr (assumed) VL *valuta*]
- valve** /vɔːlv/ *n* 1 a structure, esp in the heart or a vein, that closes temporarily to obstruct passage of material or permits movement of fluid in 1 direction only 2a any of numerous mechanical devices by which the flow of liquid, gas, or loose material in bulk may be controlled, usu to allow movement in 1 direction only **CAR** b a device in a brass musical instrument for quickly varying the tube length in order to change



- the fundamental tone by a definite interval 3 any of the separate joined pieces that make up the shell of an (invertebrate) animal, *specif* either of the 2 halves of the shell of a bivalve mollusc 4 any of the segments or pieces into which a ripe seed capsule or pod separates 5 *chiefly Br* a vacuum- or gas-filled device for the regulation of electric current by the control of free electrons or ions [NL *valva*, fr L, a leaf of a folding door, akin to L *volvere* to roll – more at **VOLUBLE**] – **valved** *adj*, **valveless** *adj*
- valvular** /ˈvɒlvjuːlə/ *adj* 1 resembling or functioning as a valve, *also* opening by valves 2 of a valve, esp of the heart
- vamoose** /vəˈmoʊs/ *vi*, *chiefly NAM* to depart quickly – slang [Sp *vamos* let us go, suppletive 1st person pl imper (fr L *vadere* to go) of *ir* to go, fr L *ire* – more at **WADE**, **ISSUE**]
- vamp** /væmp/ *n* 1 the part of a shoe or boot covering the front of the foot 2 a simple improvised musical accompaniment [ME *vampe* sock, fr OF *avantpie*, fr *avant*-fore- + *pie* foot, fr L *ped-*, *pes* – more at **VANGUARD**, **FOOT**, (2) **vamp**]
- vamp** *vt* 1 to provide (a shoe) with a new vamp 2 to patch (sthg old) with a new part (< ~ up old sermons) ~ *vi* to play a musical vamp – **vamper** *n*
- vamp** *n* a woman who uses her charm to seduce and exploit men [short for *vampire*]
- vampire** /ˈvæmpɪə/ *n* 1 a dead person believed to come from the grave at night and suck the blood of sleeping people 2 any of various S American bats that feed on blood and are dangerous to human beings and domestic animals, esp as transmitters of disease (e.g. rabies), *also* any of several other bats that do not feed on blood but are sometimes reputed to do so [F, fr G *vampir*, of Slav origin, akin to Serb *vampir* vampire]
- vampirism** /ˈvæmpɪrɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 belief in vampires 2 the actions of a vampire
- van** /væn/ *n*, *dial Eng* a winnowing device (e.g. a fan) [ME, fr MF, fr L *vannus* – more at **WINNOWER**]
- van** *n* the vanguard [by shortening]
- van** *n* 1 an enclosed motor vehicle used for transport of goods, animals, furniture, etc 2 *chiefly Br* an enclosed railway goods wagon [short for *caravan*]
- vanadic** /vəˈnaɪdɪk/ *adj* of or containing vanadium, esp with a relatively high valency – **vanadate** /ˈvænəˌdaɪt/ *n*
- vanadium** /vəˈnaɪdɪəm/ *n* a malleable polyvalent metallic element found combined in minerals and used esp to form alloys  **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr ON *Vanadis* Freya, Norse goddess of love & beauty]
- vanadium pentoxide** /ˌpɛntˈɒksɪd/ *n* a compound used esp in making glass and as a catalyst
- vanadous** /ˈvænədəs/ *adj* of or containing vanadium, esp with a relatively low valency
- Van Allen belt** /væn ˈælən/ *n* a belt of intense ionizing radiation in the earth's outer atmosphere [James A. Van Allen b 1914 US physicist]
- vandal** /ˈvændl/ *n* *cap* a member of a Germanic people who overran Gaul, Spain, and N Africa in the 4th and 5th c AD and in 455 sacked Rome 2 one who wilfully or ignorantly destroys or defaces (public) property [L *Vandalii* (pl), of Gmc origin] – **vandal** *adj*, *often cap*, **Vandalic** /-ˈdælɪk/ *adj*
- vandalism** /-ˌɪz(ə)m/ *n* wilful destruction or defacement of property – **vandalize** *vt*, **vandalistic** /-ˈɪstɪk/ *adj*
- Van de Graaff generator** /væn də ˈɡraɪf/ *n* an electrostatic generator [Robert J. Van de Graaff †1967 US physicist]
- van der Waals forces** /væn də ˈwɑːlz/ *n pl* the relatively weak attractive forces that are operative between neutral atoms and molecules and that arise because of differences in electric potential [Johann D. van der Waals †1923 D physicist]
- Vandyke** /ˈvændɪk/ *n* 1a a wide collar with a deeply indented edge b (any of) a series of V-shaped points forming a decorative edging 2 a trim pointed beard [Sir Anthony Vandyke (originally Van Dyck) †1641 Flem painter]
- Vandyke brown** *n* a dark brown pigment [fr its use by the painter Vandyke]
- vane** /vaɪn/ *n* 1 **WEATHER VANE** 2 a thin flat or curved object that is rotated about an axis by wind or water (<the ~s of a windmill>; *also* a device revolving in a similar manner and moving in water or air (<the ~s of a propeller>) 3 the flat expanded part of a feather  **ANATOMY** 4a the target of a levelling staff b any of the sights of a compass or quadrant [ME (southern), fr OE *fana* banner, akin to OHG *fano* cloth, L *pannus* cloth, rag] – **vaned** *adj*
- vanguard** /ˈvæŋɡərd/ *n* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the troops moving at the head of an army 2 the forefront of an action or movement [ME *vanigard*, fr MF *avant-garde*, fr OF, fr *avant*-fore- (fr *avant* before, fr L *abante*) + *garde* guard – more at **ADVANCE**]
- vanilla** /ˈvænɪlə/ *n* 1 any of a genus of tropical American climbing orchids whose long capsular fruits yield an important flavouring, *also* VANILLA POD 2 a commercially important extract of the vanilla pod that is used esp as a flavouring [NL, genus name, fr Sp *vainilla* vanilla (plant and fruit), dim. of *vaina* sheath, fr L *vagina* sheath, vagina]
- vanilla pod** *n* the fruit of a vanilla
- vanillin** /ˈvænɪlɪn/ *n* the chief fragrant component of vanilla
- vanish** /ˈvænɪʃ/ *vi* 1a to pass quickly from sight, disappear b to cease to exist 2 to assume the value zero ~ *vt* to cause to disappear [ME *vanissen*, fr MF *evaniss-*, stem of *evanir*, fr (assumed) VL *exvanire*, alter. of L *evanescere* to dissipate like vapour, vanish, fr *e-* + *vanescere* to vanish, fr *vanus* empty] – **vanisher** *n*
- vanishing cream** /ˈvænɪʃɪŋ/ *n* a light cosmetic cream used chiefly as a foundation for face powder
- vanishing point** *n* 1 a point at which receding parallel lines seem to meet when represented in linear perspective 2 a point at which sthg disappears or ceases to exist
- vanity** /ˈvænəti/ *n* 1 sthg vain, empty, or worthless 2 the quality of being vain or futile, worthlessness 3 excessive pride in oneself; conceit [ME *vanite*, fr OF *vanité*, fr L *vanitas*, *vanitas* quality of being empty or vain, fr *vanus* empty, vain – more at **WANE**]
- vanity case** *n* a small bag used by women for carrying toilet articles and cosmetics
- vanquish** /ˈvæŋkwɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to overcome, conquer (<the ~ed foe>) 2 to gain mastery over (an emotion, passion, etc) [ME *venquissen*, fr MF *venquis*, pretense of *vincere* to conquer, fr L *vincere* – more at **VICTOR**] – **vanquishable** *adj*, **vanquisher** *n*
- vantage** /ˈvæntɪdʒ/ *n* 1 a position giving a strategic advantage or commanding perspective 2 *Br* ADVANTAGE 3 [ME, fr AF, fr MF *avantage* – more at **ADVANTAGE**]
- vanward** /ˈvænwɜːd/ *adj* located in the vanguard; forward
- vapid** /ˈvæpɪd/ *adj* lacking liveliness, interest, or force, insipid [L *apidus* flat tasting; akin to L *vappa* vapid wine, & prob to L *vapor* steam] – **vapidly** *adv*, **vapidness** *n*, **vapidity** /vəˈpɪdɪti/ *n*
- vaporize**, *-ise* /ˈvæpəraɪz/ *vt* 1 to convert (e.g. by the application of heat) into vapour 2 to destroy by conversion into vapour ~ *vi* to become vaporized – **vaporizable** *adj*, **vaporizer** *n*, **vaporization** /-ˌzeɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- vaporous** /ˈvæp(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1 resembling, consisting of, or characteristic of vapour 2 producing vapours, volatile 3 containing or obscured by vapours misty – **vaporously** *adv*, **vaporousness** *n*
- vapour**, *Am chiefly vapor* /ˈvæpoʊ/ *n* 1 smoke, fog, etc suspended floating in the air and impairing its transparency 2 a substance in the gaseous state, esp such a substance that is liquid under normal conditions 3 *pl*, *archaic* a depressed or hysterical condition [ME *vapour*, fr MF *vapeur*, fr L *vapor* steam, vapour]
- vapour**, *NAM chiefly vapor* *vi* 1 to rise or pass off in vapour 2 to emit vapour
- vapourer moth** /ˈvæpoʊərə/ *n* a tussock moth the female of which has vestigial wings and cannot fly
- vapouring** /ˈvæp(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* an idle, extravagant, or high-flown expression or speech – *usu pl* [fr gerund of *vapour* (to say foolish or boastful things)]
- vapour pressure** *n* the pressure exerted by a vapour that is in equilibrium with its solid or liquid form
- vapour trail** *n* a contrail
- vari**, **vario** *comb form* varied; diverse (<var/vrm>) [L *varius* – more at **VARIOUS**]
- variable** /ˈveəriəbl/ *adj* 1 subject to variation or changes (<~ winds>) 2 having the characteristics of a variable (a ~ number) 3 of a biological group or character not true to type; aberrant – **variableness** *n*, **variably** *adv*, **variability** /-əˈbɪləti/ *n*
- variable** *n* 1 sthg (e.g. a variable star) that is variable 2 (a symbol representing) a quantity that may assume any of a set of values – compare **RANDOM VARIABLE**
- variable star** *n* a star with a usu regularly varying brightness
- variance** /ˈveəriəns/ *n* 1 a discrepancy 2 dissension, dispute – esp in at *variance* 3 the square of the standard deviation [VARY + -ANCE] – at *variance* not in harmony or agreement
- variant** /ˈveəriənt/ *adj* varying (slightly) from the standard form (<~ readings>)
- variant** *n* any of 2 or more people or things displaying usu slight differences: e.g. a sthg that shows variation from a type or norm b any

of 2 or more different spellings, pronunciations, or forms of the same word

**variation** /ˌveəriˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1a varying or being varied b an instance of varying c the extent to which or the range in which a thing varies 2 DECLINATION 3 3a change in the mean motion or orbit of a celestial body 4 the repetition of a musical theme with modifications in rhythm, tune, harmony, or key 5a divergence in characteristics of an organism or genotype from those typical or usual of its group b an individual or group exhibiting variation 6 a solo dance in ballet – *variational adj*, *variationally adv*

**varicella** /ˌvəriˈsɛlə/ *n* CHICKEN POX [NL, irreg dim. of *variola*]

**varicocoele** /ˌvəriˈkoʊˌseɪl/ *n* a varicose enlargement of the veins of the spermatic cord [NL, fr L *varic*, *varix* + *-o-* + *-cele*]

**varicoloured** /ˌvəriˈkʊləd/ *adj* having various colours

**varicose** /ˌvəriˈkoʊˌs/ *adj* abnormally swollen or dilated (< ~ *veins*) [L *varicosus* full of dilated veins, fr *varic*, *varix* dilated vein] – *varicosity* /ˌˈkɒsəti/ *n*

**varied** /ˌveəriəd/ *adj* 1 having numerous forms or types; diverse 2 variegated – *variedly* /ˌveəriˈɪdli, -ɪd-/ *adv*

**variegated** /ˌveəriˈeɪɡət, -ɪɡət/ *vt* to diversify in appearance, esp with patches of different colours; dapple [L *variegatus*, pp of *variare*, fr *varius* various + *-egare* (akin to L *agere* to drive) – more at AGENT] – *variegator n*, *variegation* /ˌˈɡeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**variety** /ˌvəriˈeɪti/ *n* 1 the state of having different forms or types; diversity 2 an assortment of different things, esp of a particular class 3a sthg differing from others of the same general kind; a sort b any of various groups of plants or animals ranking below a species 4 theatrical entertainment consisting of separate performances (e.g. of songs, skits, acrobatics, etc) [MF or L; MF *varieté*, fr L *varietas*, *varietas*, fr *varius* various]

**variety meat** *n*, chiefly NAm edible offal of a slaughtered animal

**variform** /ˌvəriˈfɔːm/ *adj* varied in form

**variola** /ˌvəriˈɔːlə/ *n* smallpox, cowpox, or any of various other virus diseases marked by a rash of pustular spots [NL, fr ML, pustule, pox, fr LL, pustule] – *variola* *adj*

**variorum** /ˌvəriˈɔːrəm, -və-/ *n* an edition or text with notes by different people [L *variorum* of various persons (gen pl masc of *varius*), in the phrase *cum notis variorum* with the notes of various persons]

**various** /ˌvəriˈəs/ *adj* 1a of differing kinds; diverse (< ~ *remedies*) b dissimilar in nature or form; unlike 2 having a number of different aspects or characteristics (< ~ *genus*) 3 more than one; several (< ~ *towns*) [L *varius*; prob akin to L *varus* bent, crooked – more at PREVARICATE] – *variousness n*

**variously** /-li/ *adv* in various ways, at various times

**varix** /ˌvəriˈks/ *n*, pl *varices* /ˌvəriˈseɪz/ 1 an abnormally dilated and lengthened vein, artery, or lymph vessel, esp a varicose vein 2 any of the prominent ridges across each whorl of a gastropod shell [L *varic*, *varix*]

**varlet** /ˌvahrɪt/ *n* a base unprincipled person [ME, fr MF *vaslet*, *varlet* young nobleman, page – more at VALET]

**vermin** /ˌvahrɪm/ *n*, dial or NAm 1 an animal or bird considered a pest 2 a rascal [alter. of *vermin*]

**varnish** /ˌvahrɪʃ/ *n* 1 a liquid preparation that forms a hard shiny transparent coating on drying 2 outside show, veneer 3 [ME *vernisch*, fr MF *vernis*, fr Olt or ML; Olt *vernice*, fr ML *veronic*, *veronix* sandarac (resin)] – *varnished adj*

**varnish vt** 1 to apply varnish to 2 to cover (sthg unpleasant) with a fair appearance; gloss over – *varnisher n*

**varnish, tree** *n* any of various trees from which varnish or lacquer can be prepared

**varriety** /ˌvahrɪti/ *n*, Br university – now chiefly humor [by shortening & alter.]

**varus** /ˌvayrəs/ *n* the position of a bone or part that is turned inwards at its joint to an abnormal degree (< the toe is in ~) – compare VALGUS [NL, fr L, bent, knock-kneed]

**varve** /ˌvahr/ *n* a band of sediment composed of 2 distinct layers of silt or clay believed to comprise an annual cycle of deposition in a body of still water [Sw *varv* turn, layer; akin to OE *hweorfan* to turn – more at WHARF] – *varved adj*

**vary** /ˌveəri/ *vt* 1 to make a (partial) change in 2 to ensure variety in, diversify ~ *vi* 1 to exhibit or undergo change 2 to deviate 3 to take on values (< *y varies inversely with x*) 4 to exhibit biological variation [ME *varien*, fr MF or L; MF *varier*, fr L *variare*, fr *varius* various] – *variously adv*

**vase**, **vaseo** *comb form* vessel (e.g. blood vessel) (< *vasodilator*) [NL, fr L *vas* vessel]

**vascular** /ˌvaskyool/ *adj* of or being a channel or system of channels conducting blood, sap, etc in a plant or animal; also supplied with or made up of such channels, esp blood vessels (< a ~ *tumour*) [NL *vascularis*, fr L *vasculum* small vessel, dim. of *vas*] – *vascularity* /-ləˈrɪti/ *n*

**vascular bundle** *n* a single strand of the vascular system of a plant consisting usu of xylem and phloem together with parenchyma cells and fibres

**vascularize**, **-ise** /ˌvaskyooləˌneɪz/ *vb* to make or become vascular – *vascularization* /-ˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**vascular plant** *n* a plant having a specialized liquid conducting system that includes xylem and phloem

**vascular ray** *n* any of several wedges of parenchymatous tissue formed from cambium that connect xylem and phloem in a vascular plant

**vasculum** /ˌvaskyooləm/ *n*, pl *vascula* /-lə/ a usu metal and commonly cylindrical box used in collecting plants [NL, fr L, small vessel]

**vas deferens** /ˌvazˈdefərənz, vas/ *n*, pl *vasa deferentia* /ˌvaysəˈdefərəntiˈʃiːə, -ʃiːə, -ʃiːə, -ʃiːə/ a duct, esp of a higher vertebrate animal, that carries sperm from the testis towards the penis [NL, lit., deferent vessel]

**vase** /vaz/ *n* an ornamental vessel usu of greater depth than width, used esp for holding flowers [F, fr L *vas* vessel, akin to Umbrian *vasor* vessels] – *vaselike* /-ˌ-/ *adj*

**vasectomy** /ˌvəˈsektəmi, va-/ *n* surgical cutting out of a section of the vas deferens, usu to induce permanent sterility [ISV] – *vasectomize vt*

**Vaseline** /ˌvas(ə)ˈleɪn/ *trademark* – used for petroleum jelly

**vasiform** /ˌvasiˈfɔːm/ *adj* having the form of a hollow tube [NL *vasiformis*, fr L *vas* + *-iformis* -iform]

**vaseo** – see VASE

**vasoactive** /ˌvasəhˈaktɪv, -vayzəh-/ *adj* affecting, esp in relaxing or contracting, the blood vessels – *vasoactivity* /-ˌaktɪvəti/ *n*

**vasoconstriction** *n* narrowing of the diameter of blood vessels [ISV] – *vasoconstrictive* /-ˌkɒnˈstrɪktɪv/ *adj*

**vasoconstrictor** /ˌkɒnˈstrɪktə/ *n* a sympathetic nerve fibre, drug, etc that induces or initiates vasoconstriction

**vasodilation** /ˌdiːləɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* widening of the blood vessels, esp as a result of nerve action [ISV]

**vasodilator** /-diːləɪtə/ *n* a parasympathetic nerve fibre, drug, etc that induces or initiates vasodilation

**vasomotor** /ˌvəˈmɒtə/ *adj* of or being nerves or centres controlling the size of blood vessels [ISV]

**vasopressin** /ˌˈpresɪn/ *n* a polypeptide pituitary hormone that increases blood pressure and decreases urine flow [fr *Vasopressin*, a trademark]

**vasopressor** /ˌˈpresə/ *adj* causing a rise in blood pressure by constricting the blood vessels – *vasopressor n*

**vassal** /ˌvas(ə)l/ *n* 1 sby under the protection of another who is his/her feudal lord 2 sby in a subservient or subordinate position [ME, fr MF, fr ML *vassallus*, fr *vassus* servant, vassal, of Celt origin, akin to W *gwas* boy, servant] – *vassal adj*

**vast** /vahrst/ *adj* very great in amount, degree, intensity, or esp in extent or range [L *vastus*, akin to OIr *fot* length] – *vastly adv*, *vastness n*

**vāt** /vat/ *n* 1 a tub, barrel, or other large vessel, esp for holding liquids undergoing chemical change or preparations for dyeing or tanning 2 a liquid containing a dye in a soluble form, that, on textile material being steeped in the liquor and then exposed to the air, is converted to the original insoluble dye by oxidation and is precipitated in the fibre [ME *fat*, *vat*, fr OE *fæt*, akin to OHG *vaz* vessel, Lith *puodas* pot]

**vāt vt** -tt- to put into or treat in a vat

**vāt n**, often cap, Br VALUE-ADDED TAX

**vāt dye** *n* a water-insoluble generally fast dye used in the form of a vat liquor

**Vatican** /ˌvætɪkən/ *n* the official residence of the Pope and the administrative centre of Roman Catholicism [L *Vaticanus* Vatican Hill (in Rome)] – *Vatican adj*


**vaticinate** /ˌvəˈtɪsɪˌneɪt, va-/ *vb* to prophesy, predict – fml [L *vaticinatus*, pp of *vaticinari*, fr *vates* prophet + *-cinari* (akin to L *canere* to sing) – more at CHANT] – *vaticinator n*, *vaticination* /-ˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**vaudeville** /ˌvawdəˌvil/ *n* 1 a light often comic theatrical piece frequently combining pantomime, dialogue, dancing, and song 2 NAm VARIETY 4 [F, fr MF, popular satirical song, alter. of *vaudeville*, fr *vau-de-Vire* valley of Vire, fr *vau*, *val* valley + *de* from, of (fr L) + *Vire*, town in NW France where such songs were composed – more at VALE, DE-]

**vault** /vawlt, volt/ *n* 1a an arched structure of masonry, usu forming a ceiling or roof b CHURCH b sthg (e.g. the sky) resembling a vault 2a

- an underground passage, room, or storage compartment **b** a room or compartment for the safekeeping of valuables **3a** a burial chamber, esp beneath a church or in a cemetery **b** a prefabricated container, usu of metal or concrete, into which a coffin is placed at burial [ME *voute*, fr MF, fr (assumed) VL *volvita* turn, vault, prob fr *volvitare*] **vaulted** *adj*, **vaulty** *adj*
- vault** *vt* to form or cover (as if) with a vault
- vault** *vb* to bound vigorously (over); *esp* to execute a leap (over) using the hands or a pole [MF *volter*, fr Olt *voltare*, fr (assumed) VL *volvitare* to turn, leap, freq of L *volvere* to roll – more at *volatile*] – **vaulter** *n*
- vault** *n* an act of vaulting
- vaulting** /ˈvaʊtɪŋ, ˈvɒltɪŋ/ *n* vaulted construction
- vaulting** *adj* 1 reaching for the heights (< ~ *ambition*) 2 designed for use in vaulting
- vaulting horse** *n* an apparatus like a pommel horse without pommels that is used for vaulting in gymnastics
- vault** /ˈvaʊnt/ *vt* to call attention to, proudly and often boastfully [ME *vaunten*, fr MF *vanter*, fr LL *vanitare*, fr L *vanitas* vanity] – **vauter** *n*, **vautingly** *adv*
- vavassour** /ˈvavə,soʊə/ *n* a feudal tenant ranking directly below a baron [ME, fr OF *vavassor*, prob fr ML *vassus vassorum* vassal of vassals]
- VD** /ˈvee ˈdee/ *n* VENEREAL DISEASE
- VDU** /ˈvee ˈdee ˈyoʊh/ *n* a device for the visual display of information (e.g. from a computer) typically in the form of text presented on a cathode-ray tube [visual display unit]
- ve** /v/ *vb* have (<we've been there>) [by contr]
- veal** /veɪl/ *n* the flesh of a young calf used as food  MFAT [ME *veel*, fr MF, fr L *vitellus* small calf, dim. of *vitulus* calf – more at *wether*] – **veally** *adj*
- vector** /ˈvektə/ *n* **1a** a quantity (e.g. velocity or force) that has magnitude and direction and that is commonly represented by a directed line segment whose length represents the magnitude and whose orientation in space represents the direction **b** a course or compass direction, esp. of an aircraft **2** an organism (e.g. an insect) that transmits a disease-causing agent [NL, fr L, carner, fr *vectus*, pp of *vehere* to carry – more at *way*] – **vectorial** /ˈvɛktəriəl/ *adj*
- vector** *vt* to change the direction of (the thrust of a jet engine) for steering
- vector product** *n* a vector *c* whose length is the product of the lengths of 2 vectors *a* and *b* and the sine of their included angle, whose direction is perpendicular to their plane, and whose sense for the vector product *ab* is that of a right-handed screw with axis *c* when *a* is rotated into *b*
- vector space** *n* a set whose elements are generalized vectors and which is a commutative group under addition that is also closed under an operation of multiplication by elements of a given field
- vector sum** *n* the sum of vectors that for 2 vectors is geometrically represented by the diagonal of a parallelogram whose sides represent the 2 vectors being added
- Veda** /ˈvedə/ *n* any of 4 canonical collections of hymns, prayers, and liturgical formulas that comprise the earliest Hindu sacred writings [Skt, lit., knowledge, akin to Gk *eidenai* to know – more at *wit*]
- Vedānta** /ˈvɛdəntə, ˈdʌn-/ *n* an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul [Skt *Vedānta*, lit., end of the Veda, fr *Veda* + *anta* end, akin to OE *ende* end] – **Vedantism** *n*, **Vedantist** *n*
- Vedantic** /ˈvɛdəntɪk/ *adj* 1 of the Vedānta philosophy 2 Vedic
- Vedda**, **Veddah** /ˈveddə/ *n* a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter]
- vedette** /ˈviːdɛt/ *n* a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets [F, fr It *vedetta*, alter. of *veletta*, prob fr Sp *vela* watch, fr *velar* to keep – *ch*, fr L *vigilare* to wake, watch, fr *vigil* awake]
- Vedic** /ˈvedɪk, ˈvay-/ *adj* of the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 1500 bc and 500 bc
- veer** /viə/ *vt* to let or pay out (e.g. a rope) [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin, akin to MD *viere* to slacken, MLG *viren*]
- veer** /viə/ *vi* 1 to change direction, position, or inclination 2 of the wind to shift in a clockwise direction – compare *BACK* 2 3 to wear ship ~ *vt* to direct to a different course; *specific* WEAR 7 [MF *vire*, prob of Celt origin; akin to OIr *fiar* oblique; akin to OE *wir* wire] – **veeringly** *adv*
- veer** *n* a change in direction, position, or inclination
- veg** /veɪ/ *n*, *pl* **veg** *Br* a vegetable (<meat and two ~>) – *informal*
- vegan** /ˈveɪɡən, ˈvayɡən/ *n* a strict vegetarian who avoids food or other products derived from animals [by contr fr *vegetarian*] – **vegan** *adj*, **veganism** *n*
- vegetable** /ˈveɪ(ɪ)təbl/ *adj* **1a** of, constituting, or growing like plants **b** consisting of plants **2** made or obtained from plants or plant products [ME, fr ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr *vegetare* to grow, fr L, to animate, fr *vegetus* lively, fr *vegere* to rouse, excite – more at *'wake*] – **vegetably** *adv*
- vegetable** *n* 1 PLANT **1b** 2 a usu herbaceous plant (e.g. the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part which is usu eaten with the principal course of a meal, *also* this part of the plant **3a** a person with a dull undemanding existence **b** a person whose physical and esp mental capacities are severely impaired by illness or injury
- vegetable ivory** *n* the hard white opaque endosperm of the seed of a S American palm that is used as a substitute for ivory
- vegetable marrow** *n* (any of various large smooth-skinned elongated fruits, used as a vegetable, of) a cultivated variety of a climbing plant of the cucumber family
- vegetable oil** *n* an oil of plant origin
- vegetal** /ˈveɪtəl/ *adj* 1 vegetable 2 vegetative [ML *vegetare* to grow]
- vegetarian** /ˈveɪtəriən/ *n* one who practises vegetarianism [*'veg-etable* + *-arian*]
- vegetarian** *adj* 1 of vegetarians or vegetarianism 2 consisting wholly of vegetables (< ~ *diet*)
- vegetarianism** /ˈnɪz(ə)m/ *n* the often ethically based theory or practice of living on a diet that excludes the flesh of animals and often other animal products and that is made up of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and nuts – compare *LACTO-VEGETARIANISM*
- vegetate** /ˈveɪtəɪt/ *vi* **1a** to grow in the manner of a plant **b** to produce vegetation **2** to lead a passive monotonous existence [ML *vegetatus*, pp of *vegetare* to grow]
- vegetation** /ˈveɪtəɪtʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 plant life or total plant cover (e.g. of an area) 2 an abnormal outgrowth on a body part (e.g. a heart valve) [*VEGETATE* + *-ion*] – **vegetational** *adj*, **vegetationally** *adv*
- vegetative** /ˈveɪtətɪv/ *adj* **1a** of or functioning in nutrition and growth as contrasted with reproductive functions (< ~ *nucleus*) **b** of or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods **2** relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation (< ~ *cover*) **3** affecting, arising from, or relating to involuntary bodily functions – **vegetatively** *adv*, **vegetativeness** *n*
- vehement** /ˈveɪmənt/ *adj* 1 intensely felt, impassioned 2 forcibly expressed [MF, fr L *vehement-*, *vehemens*; akin to L *vehere* to carry] – **vehemently** *adv*, **vehemence** *n*
- vehicle** /ˈveɪk(ə)l/ *n* 1 any of various usu liquid media acting esp as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients (e.g. drugs) or pigments **2a** mean., of transmission, a carrier **3a** a medium through which sth is expressed or communicated **4** MOTOR VEHICLE **5a** a work created to display the talents of a particular performer [F *véhicule*, fr L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr *vehere* to carry – more at *way*]
- vehicular** /ˈveɪkɪjool/ *adj* of or designed for vehicles, esp motor vehicles
- veil** /veɪl/ *n* **1a** a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often, esp in eastern countries, the face, *specific* the outer covering of a nun's headdress **b** a piece of sheer fabric attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress **c** any of various liturgical cloths, *esp* one used to cover the chalice **2** the cloistered life of a nun **3a** a concealing curtain or cover of cloth **4a** sth that hides or obscures like a veil **b** a disguise, pretext (<under the ~ of national defence preparations for war began>) **5a** a velum [ME *veile*, fr ONF, fr L *vela*, pl of *velum* veil]
- veil** *vt* to cover, provide, or conceal (as if) with a veil ~ *vi* to put on or wear a veil
- veiled** /ˈveɪld/ *adj* 1 indistinct, muffled 2 disguised (< ~ *threats*)
- veiling** /ˈveɪlɪŋ/ *n* 1 a veil 2 any of various light sheer fabrics
- vein** /veɪn/ *n* 1 a deposit of ore, coal, etc, esp in a rock fissure **2a** BLOOD VESSEL – not used technically **b** any of the tubular converging vessels that carry blood from the capillaries towards the heart – compare *ARTERY*  **ANATOMY** **3a** any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf **b** any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect **4** a streak or marking suggesting a vein (e.g. in marble) **5a** a distinctive element or quality, a strain **6** a frame of mind; a mood [ME *veine*, fr OF, fr L *vena*] – **veinal** *adj*, **veinlet** /ˈliːt/ *n*, **veiny** *adj*
- vein** *vt* to pattern (as if) with veins
- veining** /ˈveɪnɪŋ/ *n* a pattern of veins
- velar** /ˈveələ/ *adj* 1 of or forming a velum, esp the soft palate **2** formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (<the ~ /k/ of cool>) [NL *velaris*, fr *velum*] – **velar** *n*, **velarize** *vt*
- Velcro** /ˈvelkroʊ/ *trademark* – used for a fastening device consisting of

2 pieces, esp strips, of fabric that stick to each other by means of very small hooks that cling to loops

**veld, veldt** /veɪt, felt/ *n* a (shrubby or thinly forested) grassland, esp in southern Africa  **PLANT** [Afrk *veld*, fr MD, field; akin to OE *feld* field]

**veleta, valeta** /və'leɪtə/ *n* a ballroom dance of English origin in waltz time [Sp *veleta* weather vane, fr *vela* cloth, veil, fr L *vela*, pl of *velum* veil]

**velleity** /və'leɪ-ə-ti/ *n* a slight wish or inclination – fml [NL *velletas*, fr L *velle* to wish, will – more at *will* 1]

**vellum** /'veləm/ *n* 1 a fine-grained skin (e.g. calf) prepared esp for writing on or binding books 2 a strong cream-coloured paper [ME *velim*, fr MF *veelin*, fr *veelin*, adj, of a calf, fr *veel* calf – more at *veal*]

**velocipede** /və'lɒsɪpɛd/ *n* 1 an early type of bicycle propelled by the rider's feet in contact with the ground 2 *NAm* a child's tricycle [F *velocipède*, fr L *veloc-*, *velox* + *ped-*, *pes* foot – more at *foot*]

**velocity** /və'lɒsə-ti/ *n* 1 speed, esp of inanimate things 2 speed in a given direction [MF *velocité*, fr L *velocitat-*, *velocitas*, fr *veloc-*, *velox* quick, akin to L *vehere* to carry – more at *way*]

**velour, velours** /və'lɒrə/ *n*, *pl velours* /-z/ 1 any of various fabrics with a pile or napped surface resembling velvet 2 a fur felt finished with a long velvety nap, used esp for hats [F *velours* velvet, *velour*, fr MF *velours*, *velour*, fr OF *velous*, fr L *villosus* shaggy, fr *villus* shaggy hair]

**velouté** /və'lʊʊhtay/ *n* a basic white sauce made with a roux and chicken, veal, or fish stock – compare *BÉCHAMEL* [F, lit., velvety, fr MF, fr *velours* velvet]

**velskoen** /vɛlskooɦn, 'fel-/ *n*, *SAfr* a strong heavy shoe, esp of rawhide [Afrk, fr *vel* skin + *skoēn* shoe]

**velum** /'veləm/ *n*, *pl vela* /-lə/ a curtainlike membrane or anatomical partition, esp SOFT PALATE [NL, fr L, curtain, veil]


**velutinous** /və'lʊʊtɪnəs/ *adj* covered with fine silky hairs [NL *velutinus*, fr ML *velutum* velvet, prob fr OIt *velluto* shaggy, fr (assumed) VL *villutus*]

**velvet** /'velvɪt/ *n* 1 a fabric (e.g. of silk, rayon, or cotton) characterized by a short soft dense pile 2 sth suggesting velvet in softness, smoothness, etc 3 the soft skin that envelops and nourishes the developing antlers of deer [ME *veluet*, *velvet*, fr MF *velu* shaggy, fr (assumed) VL *villutus*, fr L *villus* shaggy hair; akin to L *vellus* fleece – more at *wool*]

**velveteen** /'velvɪteɪn/ *n* a fabric made with a short close weft pile in imitation of velvet

**velvet 'glove** *n* outward affability concealing ruthless inflexibility

**velvety** /'velvɪti/ *adj* soft and smooth like velvet

**vena-, veni-, veno-** *comb form* vein <venation> <venipuncture> [L *vena*] **vena cava** /'vɛnə 'kayvə/ *n*, *pl venae cavae* /'vɛni 'kayvi/ either of the 2 large veins by which, in air-breathing vertebrates, the blood is returned to the right atrium of the heart  **ANATOMY** [NL, lit., hollow vein] – *vena caval adj*

**venal** /'venl/ *adj* open to corrupt influence, esp bribery [L *venalis*, fr *venum* (acc) sale; akin to Gk *ōnēsthai* to buy, Skt *vasna* price] – *venally adv*, *venality* /'venələ-ti/ *n*

**venation** /'vɛnə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* an arrangement or system of veins in a leaf, insect wing, etc [L *vena* vein] – *venational adj*

**vend** /vend/ *vi* to sell – *vt* 1 to sell, esp in a small way 2 to sell by means of a vending machine [L *vendere* to sell, *vi*, contr of *venum dare* to give for sale] – *vendable* /'vendəbl/ *adj*, *vendee* /'vendɛe/ *n*, *vendible* /'vendəbl/ *adj*

**Venda** /'vɛndə/ *n* a Bantu language of the N Transvaal

**vendace** /'vendəs/ *n*, *pl vendace* also *vendaces* a whitefish of various European lakes [NL *vandesius*, fr MF *vandoise*]

**vendetta** /'vɛndɛtə/ *n* 1 a blood feud arising from the murder or injury of a member of one family by a member of another 2 a prolonged bitter feud [It, lit., revenge, fr L *vindicta* – more at *VINDICTIVE*]

**vending machine** /'vendɪŋ/ *n* a coin-operated machine for selling merchandise – compare *SLOT MACHINE*

**vendor, vender** /'vɛndə/ *n* 1 a seller; *specif*, *Br* the seller of a house 2 *VENDING MACHINE* [VEND + <sup>1</sup>-OR, <sup>2</sup>-ER]

**veneer** /və'niə/ *n* 1 a thin layer of wood of superior appearance or hardness used esp to give a decorative finish (e.g. to joinery) 2 a protective or ornamental facing (e.g. of brick or stone) 3 a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance [G *furnier*, fr *furnieren* to veneer, fr F *fournir* to complete, equip – more at *FURNISH*]

**veneer** *vt* 1 to overlay (e.g. a common wood) with veneer; *broadly* to face with a material giving a superior surface 2 to conceal under a superficial and deceptive attractiveness – *veneerer n*

**veneering** /və'niəriŋ/ *n* 1 material used as veneer 2 a veneered surface

**venepuncture** also *venipuncture* /'veni,pʌŋkʃə/ *n* surgical puncture of a vein, esp for the withdrawal of blood or for intravenous medication

**venerable** /'ven(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 – used as a title for an Anglican archdeacon, or for a Roman Catholic who has been accorded the lowest of 3 degrees of recognition for sanctity 2 made sacred, esp by religious or historical association 3a commanding respect through age, character, and attainments b impressive by reason of age <under ~ pines> [VENERATE + -ABLE] – *venerableness n*, *venerably adv*, *venerability* /-rə'bɪlə-ti/ *n*

**venerate** /'venərəɪt/ *vi* to regard with reverence or admiring deference [L *veneratus*, pp of *venerari*, fr *vener-*, *venus* love, charm – more at *win*] – *venerator n*

**veneration** /'venə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 reverential respect, deference, or honour 2 the state of being venerated [VENERATE + -ION]

**venereal** /və'niəriəl/ *adj* 1 of sexual desire or sexual intercourse 2a resulting from or contracted during sexual intercourse (< ~ infections>) b of or affected with venereal disease <a high ~ rate> [ME *venerealle*, fr L *venereus*, fr *vener-*, *venus* love, sexual desire]

**venereal disease** *n* a contagious disease (e.g. gonorrhoea or syphilis) that is typically acquired during sexual intercourse

**venereology** /və'niəri'ɒlə-ji/ *n* medicine dealing with venereal diseases [ISV *venereal* + -O- + -LOGY] – *venereologist n*, *venereological* /-rɪ-ə'lɒjɪkl/ *adj*

**venery** /'venəri/ *n* the art, act, or practice of hunting [ME *venerie*, fr MF, fr *vener* to hunt, fr L *venari* – more at *VENISON*]

**venery** *n* the pursuit of sexual pleasure [ME *venerie*, fr ML *veneria*, fr L *vener-*, *venus* sexual desire]

**venesection** also *venisection* /'veni,sekʃ(ə)n/ *n* the operation of opening a vein for letting blood [NL *venae section-*, *venae sectio*, lit., cutting of a vein]

**venetian 'blind** /və'ni:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* a blind (e.g. for a window) made of horizontal slats that may be adjusted so as to vary the amount of light admitted [Venetian of Venice, city in Italy]

**Venetian 'glass** *n* coloured and elaborately decorated glassware made at Murano near Venice

**Venetian 'red** *n* an earthy haematite used as a pigment, also a synthetic iron oxide pigment

**vengeance** /'venj(ə)ns/ *n* punishment inflicted in retaliation for injury or offence [ME, fr OF, fr *vengier* to avenge, fr L *vindicare* to lay claim to, avenge – more at *VINDICATE*] – *with a vengeance* 1 with great force or vehemence 2 to an extreme or excessive degree

**vengeful** /'venj(ə)l/ *adj* revengeful, vindictive [obs *venge* (revenge)] – *vengefully adv*, *vengefulness n*

**venial** /'vi:niəl, -ni:əl/ *adj* forgivable, pardonable [ME, fr OF, fr LL *venialis*, fr L *venia* favour, indulgence, pardon, akin to L *venus* love, charm – more at *win*] – *venially adv*, *venialness n*

**venial 'sin** *n* a sin that does not deprive the soul of divine grace – compare *MORTAL SIN*

**venin** /'vɛni:n/ *n* any of various toxic substances in snake venom [venom + -IN]

**venipuncture** /'veni,pʌŋkʃə/ *n* venepuncture

**venire facias** /'vɛniəri 'faɪʃɪəs/ *n* a writ directing a US sheriff to summon jurors [ME, fr ML, you should cause to come]

**venisection** /'veni,sekʃ(ə)n/ *n* venesection

**venison** /'vɛni:ʃ(ə)n/ *n* the flesh of a deer as food [ME, flesh of a wild animal taken by hunting, fr OF *venerson* hunting, game, fr L *venation-*, *venatio*, fr *venatus*, pp of *venari* to hunt, pursue; akin to OE *winnan* to struggle – more at *win*]

**Venite** /'vi:ni:ti/ *n* a liturgical chant composed of parts of Psalms 95 and 96 [L, O come, fr *venire* to come; fr the opening word of Ps 95.1]

**Venn diagram** /'ven/ *n* a graph that uses plane shapes (e.g. circles) to represent logical relations between and operations on sets and the terms of propositions by the inclusion, exclusion, or intersection of the shapes [John Venn †1923 E logician]

**venom** /'venəm/ *n* 1 poisonous matter normally secreted by snakes, scorpions, bees, etc and transmitted chiefly by biting or stinging 2 ill will, malevolence [ME *venim*, *venom*, fr OF *venim*, fr (assumed) VL *venimen*, alter. of L *venenum* magic charm, drug, poison; akin to L *venus* love, charm]

**venomous** /'venəməs/ *adj* 1a poisonous b spiteful, malevolent (< ~ criticism>) 2 able to inflict a poisoned wound [VENOM + -OUS] – *venomously adv*, *venomousness n*

**venous** /'veɪnəs/ *adj* 1 having or consisting of veins <a ~ system> 2 of

- blood containing carbon dioxide rather than oxygen [L *venosus*, fr *vena* vein] – **venously** *adv*, **venosity** /vi'nɒsəti/ *n*
- vent** /vent/ *vt* 1 to provide with a vent 2 to give (vigorous) expression to [ME *venten*, prob fr MF *esventer* to expose to the air, fr *es-ex-* (fr L *ex-*) + *vent* wind, fr L *ventus* – more at **WIND**]
- vent** *n* 1 a means of escape or release, an outlet – chiefly in *give vent to* 2a the anus, esp of the cloaca of a bird or reptile b an outlet of a volcano, a fumarole  GEOGRAPHY c a hole at the breech of a gun through which the powder is ignited – **ventless** *adj*
- vent** *n* a slit in a garment; *specif* an opening in the lower part of a seam (e.g. of a jacket or skirt) [ME *vente*, alter. of *fente*, fr MF, slit, fissure, fr *fendre* to split, fr L *findere* – more at **BITE**]
- ventage** /ventij/ *n* a small hole (e.g. a flute stop)
- ventail** /ventajl/ *n* the lower movable front of a medieval helmet [ME, fr MF *ventaille*, fr *vent* wind]
- ventifact** /ventifakt/ *n* a stone shaped or polished by wind-blown sand [L *ventus* wind + *E-/-* + *-fact* (as in *artifact*)]
- ventilate** /ventilayt/ *vt* 1 to examine freely and openly; expose publicly 2 to expose to (a current of fresh) air, oxygenate 3a of a current of air to pass or circulate through so as to freshen b to cause fresh air to circulate through [LL *ventilatus*, pp of *ventilare*, fr L, to fan, winnow, fr *ventulus*, dim of *ventus* wind – more at **WIND**] – **ventilative** /-,ləjvɪv/ *adj*
- ventilation** /ventɪləʃən/ *n* 1 the act or process of ventilating 2 a system or means of providing fresh air
- ventilator** /ventɪlətə/ *n* an apparatus or aperture for introducing fresh air or expelling stagnant air [VENTILATE + **-OR**]
- ventr-**, **ventro-** *comb form* ventral and (ventrolateral) [L *ventr-*, *venter* belly, akin to *ὄνχις* *onachis* paunch, L *vesica* bladder]
- ventral** /ventrəl/ *adj* 1a abdominal b relating to or situated near or on the front or lower surface of an animal or aircraft opposite the back – compare **DORSAL** 2 being or located on the lower or inner surface of a plant structure [F, fr L *ventralis*, fr *ventr-*, *venter* – **ventrally** *adv*]
- ventricle** /ventrɪkl/ *n* a cavity of a bodily part or organ e.g. a chamber of the heart which receives blood from a corresponding atrium and from which blood is pumped into the arteries  ANATOMY b any of the system of communicating cavities in the brain that are continuous with the central canal of the spinal cord [ME, fr L *ventriculus*, fr dim of *ventr-*, *venter*] – **ventricular** /ventrɪkjuːlə/ *adj*
- ventriloquism** /ven'trɪləkwɪz(ə)m/ *n* the production of the voice in such a manner that the sound appears to come from a source other than the vocal organs of the speaker and esp from a dummy manipulated by the producer of the sound [LL *ventriloquus* ventriloquist, fr L *ventr-*, *venter* + *loqui* to speak, fr the belief that the voice is produced from the ventriloquist's stomach] – **ventriloquist** *n*, **ventriloquial** /ventrɪ'lɒkwɪəl/ *adj*
- venture** /venʃə/ *vt* 1 to expose to hazard, risk, gamble 2 to face the risks and dangers of, brave 3 to offer at the risk of opposition or censure (< ~ *an opinion*) ~ *vi* to proceed despite danger, dare to go or do [ME *venteren*, by shortening & alter. fr *aventure*, fr *aventure* adventure]
- venture** *n* 1 an undertaking involving chance, risk, or danger, esp in business 2 sthg (e.g. money or property) at risk in a speculative venture
- venture capital** *n* capital (available to be) invested in a new or fresh enterprise
- venture scout** *n* a senior member of the British Scout movement aged from 16 to 20
- venturesome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* 1 ready to take risks, daring 2 involving risk; hazardous – **venturesomely** *adv*, **venturesomeness** *n*
- venturi** /ventɪ'yoʊəri/ *n* a short tube that is inserted in a wider pipeline and is used for measuring flow rate of a fluid or for providing suction [G B *Venturi* †1822 It physicist]
- venturous** /venʃərəs/ *adj* venturesome – **venturously** *adv*, **venturousness** *n*
- venue** /venyoo/ *n* 1 the place in which a legal case is to be tried and from which the jury is drawn 2 the place where a gathering takes place [ME *venywe* action of coming, fr MF *venue*, fr *venir* to come, fr L *venire* – more at **COME**]
- venule** /venyooəl/ *n* a small vein (connecting the capillary network with the larger systemic veins)  ANATOMY [L *venula*, dim of *vena* vein]
- Venus** /veənəs/ *n* the planet second in order from the sun  ASTRONOMY, SYMBOL [ME, fr L *Vener-*, *Venus*, Roman goddess of love & beauty, fr *vener-*, *venus* sexual desire]
- Venus** flytrap, **Venus's-flytrap** *n* an insect-eating plant of the sundew family
- Venusian** /vi'nyoozh(ə)n/ *adj* of or coming from the planet Venus – **Venusian** *n*
- veracious** /və'reɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 reliable in testimony, truthful 2 true, accurate [L *verac-*, *verax* – more at **VERY**] – **veraciously** *adv*, **veraciousness** *n*, **veracity** /və'reɪsəti/ *n*
- veranda**, **verandah** /və'randa/ *n* a usu roofed open gallery or portico attached to the outside of a building [Hindi *varāṇḍā*]
- veratrine** /və'reɪtriːn/ *n* a poisonous mixture of alkaloids obtained from *sabadilla* seed and used esp to reduce inflammation and as an insecticide [NL *veratrina*, fr *Veratrum*, genus of herbs]
- verb** /vuhb/ *n* any of a class of words that characteristically are the grammatical centre of a predicate and express an act, occurrence, or mode of being [ME *verbe*, fr MF, fr L *verbum* word, verb – more at **WORD**]
- verbal** /vuhbl/ *adj* 1 of, involving, or expressed in words 2 of or formed from a verb 3 spoken rather than written, oral (< a ~ *contract*) 4 verbatim, word-for-word [MF or LL; MF, fr LL *verbalis*, fr L *verbum*] – **verbally** *adv*
- verbal** *n* 1 a word that combines characteristics of a verb with those of a noun or adjective 2 *Br* a spoken statement, esp one made to the police admitting or implying guilt and used in evidence
- verbalism** /vuhblɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a verbal expression 2 an excessive emphasis on words as opposed to the ideas or realities they represent
- verbalize**, **-ize** /vuhblɪz/ *vi* 1 to speak or write verbosely 2 to express sthg in words ~ *vt* 1 to convert into a verb 2 to name or describe in words – **verbalizer** *n*, **verbalization** /-zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- verbal noun** *n* a noun derived from, and having some of the constructions of, a verb, esp a gerund
- verbatim** /vuh'baytɪm/ *adv* or *adj* in the exact words [ME, fr ML, fr L *verbum* word]
- verbena** /vuh'beənə/ *n* vervain, esp a cultivated one grown for its showy spikes of flowers [NL, genus of herbs or subshrubs, fr L, sing. of *verbenae* sacred boughs, certain medicinal plants – more at **VERVAIN**]
- verbiage** /vuhbiːj/ *n* wordiness, verbosity [F, fr MF *verbier* to chatter, fr *verbe* speech, fr L *verbum* word]
- verbose** /vuh'boɪs/ *adj* 1 containing more words than necessary 2 given to wordiness – **verbosely** *adv*, **verboseness** *n*, **verbosity** /-bɒsəti/ *n*
- verboten** /fə'boʊtən/ *adj* prohibited, esp by authority – chiefly humor [G, fr pp of *verbieten* to forbid]
- verdant** /vuhd(ə)nt/ *adj* 1a green in tint or colour (< ~ *grass*) b green with growing plants (< ~ *fields*) 2 immature, unsophisticated [modif of MF *ver-herant*, fr prp of *verdoyer* to be green, fr OF *verdoier*, fr *verd*, *vert* green, fr L *viridis*, fr *virere* to be green] – **verdancy** /-sɪ/ *n*, **verdantly** *adv*
- verd antique**, **verde antique** /vuhd an'teek/ *n* 1 a decorative green mottled or veined serpentine 2 a dark green porphyry [It *verde antico*, lit., ancient green]
- verderer**, **verderor** /vuhdərə/ *n* a former English judicial officer of the royal forests [AF, fr OF *verdirer*, fr *verd* green]
- verdict** /vuhdɪkt/ *n* 1 the decision of a jury on the matter submitted to them 2 an opinion, judgment [alter. of ME *verdit*, fr AF, fr OF *ver* true (fr L *verus*) + *dit* saying, dictum, fr L *dictum* – more at **VERY**]
- verdigris** /vuhdɪgrɪs; also -gree/ *n* 1a a green or greenish blue poisonous pigment resulting from the action of acetic acid on copper b normal copper acetate 2 a green or bluish deposit formed on copper, brass, or bronze surfaces [ME *vertegrez*, fr OF *vert de Grèce*, lit., green of Greece]
- verdure** /vuhdvə-, -jə/ *n* 1 (the greenness of) growing vegetation 2 a condition of health, freshness, and vigour [ME, fr MF, fr *verd* green] – **verdureless** *adj*, **verdurous** *adj*, **verdurousness** *n*
- verge** /vuhj/ *n* 1 a rod or staff carried as an emblem of authority or symbol of office 2 sthg that borders, limits, or bounds: e.g. a an outer margin of an object or structural part b the edge of a roof projecting over the gable 3 the brink, threshold 4 *Br* a surfaced or planted strip of land at the side of a road [ME, penis, rod, fr MF, fr L *virga* rod, stripe – more at **WHISK**; (2-4) fr the obs phrase *within the verge* within the area subject to the authority of a verge-bearer]
- verge** *vi* – **verge on** to be near to; border on
- verge** *vi* 1 of the sun to incline towards the horizon; sink 2 to move or extend towards a specified condition [L *vergere* to bend, incline – more at **WRENCH**]
- verger** /vuhjə/ *n* 1 a church official who keeps order during services or serves as an usher or sacristan 2 chiefly *Br* an attendant who carries a verge (e.g. before a bishop or justice)



**veridical** /vi'ndikl/ *adj* 1 truthful, veracious 2 not illusory; genuine [L *veridicus*, fr *verus* true + *dicere* to say – more at **VERY**, **DICTION**] – **veridically** *adv*, **veridicality** /-ˈkaləti/ *n*

**verification** /ˌveriˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* verifying or being verified

**verify** /ˈverɪfɪk/ *vt* 1 to substantiate in law, esp formally or on oath 2 to ascertain the truth, accuracy, or reality of 3 to bear out, fulfil (*my fears were verified*) [ME *verifier*, fr MF *verifier*, fr ML *verificare*, fr L *verus* true – more at **VERY**] – **verifier** *n*, **verifiable** /-ˈfəbəl/ *adj*

**verily** /ˈverəli/ *adv*, *archaic* 1 indeed, certainly 2 truly, confidently [ME *verailly*, fr *verray* very]

**verisimilitude** /ˌveriˈsɪmɪlɪtuːd/ *n* 1 the quality or state of appearing to be true 2 a statement that has the appearance of truth *USE* fml [L *verisimilitudo*, fr *verisimilis* appearing to be true, fr *veri* similar like the truth] – **verisimilitudinous** /-ˈtɪoʊhɪnəs/ *adj*

**veritable** /ˈverɪəbl/ *adj* being in fact the thing named and not false or imaginary – often used to stress the aptness of a metaphor (*a ~ mountain of references*) – **veritableness** *n*, **veritably** *adv*

**verity** /ˈverɪti/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being true or real 2 sthg (e.g. a statement) that is true; esp a permanently true value or principle [ME *verite*, fr MF *verité*, fr L *veritat*-, *veritas*, fr *verus* true]

**verjuice** /ˈvɜːdʒuːs/ *n* the sour juice of crab apples or unripe fruit formerly used in cooking [ME *verjus*, fr MF, fr *vert jus*, lit., green juice]

**verkamp** /fiəˈkrʌmp/ *adj*, *SAfr* (characteristic) of a *verkramp* [prob modif of Afrik *bekrompe* narrow-minded, fr D *bekrampen* to shrink, restrict]

**verkramp** /fiəˈkrʌmp/ *n*, *SAfr* a person holding ultraconservative or bigoted views, esp on social, political, or religious matters – compare **KRAGDADIGE**, **VERLIGTE** [Afrik, fr *verkramp* + *-te*, noun suffix]

**verlig** /fiəˈliːk/ *adj*, *SAfr* **LIBERAL** 4 [Afrik, enlightened, fr D *verlichten* to light, enlighten]

**ˈverligte** /fiəˈliːkhtə/ *adj*, *SAfr* **LIBERAL** 4 <significant ~ moves in the race relations field – *The Star* (Johannesburg)> [Afrik, fr *verlig* + *-te*, noun suffix]

**ˈverligte** *n*, *SAfr* an advocate of liberal policies – compare **KRAGDADIGE**, **VERKRAMPTE**

**vermeil** /ˈvɜːməɪl/ *n* gilded silver, bronze, or copper [MF, fr *vermeil*, *adj* – more at **VERMILION**] – **vermeil** *adj*

**vermi-** *comb form* worm <vermiform> [NL, fr LL, fr L *vermis* – more at **WORM**]

**vermian** /ˈvɜːmiən, -mi-ən/ *adj* of or resembling worms [ISV]


**vermicelli** /ˌvɜːmiˈtʃeli/ *n* 1 pasta in the form of long thin solid threads smaller in diameter than spaghetti 2 small thin sugar strands that are used as a decoration (e.g. on iced cakes) [It, fr pl of *vermicello*, dim. of *verme* worm, fr L *vermis*]

**vermicular** /ˌvɜːmɪˈkjuːlə/ *adj* 1a resembling a worm in form or motion **b** vermiculate 2 of or caused by worms [NL *vermicularis*, fr L *vermiculus*, dim. of *vermis*]

**vermiculate** /ˌvɜːmɪˈkjuːlət/ *adj*, *vermiculated* /-ˈleɪtɪd/ *adj* 1 marked with irregular or wavy lines (*a ~ nut*) 2 full of worms, worm-eaten 3 tortuous, intricate – fml [L *vermiculatus*, fr *vermiculus*] – **vermiculation** /-ˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**vermiculite** /ˌvɜːmɪˈkjuːliet/ *n* any of various minerals of hydrous silicates derived from mica that expand on heating to form a lightweight highly water-absorbent material [L *vermiculus* little worm]

**vermiform** /ˌvɜːmiˈfɔːm/ *adj* resembling a worm in shape [NL *vermiformis*, fr *vermi-* + *-formis* -form]

**vermiform appendix** *n* a narrow short blind tube that extends from the caecum in the lower right-hand part of the abdomen  **DIGESTION**

**vermillion**, **vermillion** /vəˈmɪljən/ *adj* or *n* (of the brilliant red colour of) mercuric sulphide used as a pigment [ME *vermilion*, fr OF *vermeillon*, fr *vermeil*, *adj*, bright red, *vermillion*, fr LL *vermiculus* kermes, fr L, little worm; *adj* fr *n*]

**vermin** /ˈvɜːmɪn/ *n*, *pl* **vermin** 1 *pl* a lice, rats, or other common harmful or objectionable animals **b** birds and mammals that prey on game 2 an offensive person [ME, fr MF, fr (assumed) L *vermin*-, *vermen* worm, akin to L *vermis* worm – more at **WORM**] – **verminous** *adj*, **verminously** *adv*

**vermouth** /ˈvɜːməʊθ/ *n* a dry or sweet alcoholic drink that has a white wine base and is flavoured with aromatic herbs [F *vermout*, fr G *wermut* wormwood, fr OHG *wermuota* – more at **WORMWOOD**]

**ˈvernacular** /vəˈnakyuːlə/ *adj* 1a expressed or written in a language or dialect native to a region or country rather than a literary, learned, or foreign language **b** of or being the normal spoken form of a language 2

of or being the common building style of a period or place [L *vernaculus* native, fr *verna* slave born in his master's house, native] – **vernacularly** *adv*

**ˈvernacular** *n* 1 the local vernacular language 2 the mode of expression of a group or class – **vernacularism** *n*

**vernal** /ˈvɜːnl/ *adj* 1 of or occurring in the spring (< ~ *equinox*) 2 fresh, youthful [L *vernalis*, alter of *vernus*, fr *ver* spring; akin to Gk *ear* spring] – **vernally** *adv*

**vernalize**, **-ise** /ˈvɜːnlɪz/ *vt* to hasten the flowering and fruiting of (plants), esp by chilling seeds, bulbs, or seedlings – **vernalization** /-ˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**vernation** /ˌvɜːnəˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* the arrangement of foliage leaves within the bud – compare **AESTIVATION** [NL *vernation*-, *vernatio*, fr L *vernatus*, pp of *vernare* to behave as in spring, fr *vernus* vernal]

**ˈvernier** /ˈvɜːniə, -ni-ə/ *n* 1 a short specially graduated scale that slides along another graduated scale allowing fine measurements of parts of graduations to be made 2a a small auxiliary device used with a main device to obtain fine adjustment **b** any of 2 or more small supplementary rocket engines or gas nozzles on a rocket vehicle for making fine adjustments in the velocity or attitude [Pierre Vernier †1637 F mathematician]

**ˈvernier** *adj* having or comprising a vernier

**Veronal** /vəˈrɒnl/ *trademark* – used for barbitone

**veronica** /vəˈrɒnɪkə/ *n* speedwell [NL, genus of herbs]


**verruca** /vəˈruːkə/ *n*, *pl* **verrucae** also **verrucae** /-ki/ 1 a wart or warty skin growth 2 a warty prominence on a plant or animal [L – more at **WART**] – **verrucose** /ˈveruːkəʊs/ *adj*

**versant** /ˈvɜːsənt/ *n* 1 the slope of a mountain (chain) 2 the general slope of land [F, fr MF, fr prp of *verser* to turn, pour, fr L *versare* to turn, fr its shedding of water]

**versatile** /ˈvɜːsətiəl/ *adj* 1 embracing a variety of subjects, fields, or skills, also turning with ease from one thing to another 2 capable of moving easily forwards or backwards, or esp up and down (< ~ *antennae*) (< ~ *anther*) 3 having many uses or applications (< ~ *building material*) [F or L, F, fr L *versatilis* turning easily, fr *versatus*, pp of *versare* to turn, fr *vertere*, pp of *vertere*] – **versatilely** *adv*, **versatileness** *n*, **versatility** /-ˈtɪləti/ *n*

**verse** /vɜːs/ *n* 1 a line of metrical writing 2a (an example of) metrical language or writing, distinguished from poetry esp by its lower level of intensity **b** **POETRY** 2 c a body of metrical writing (e.g. of a period or country) (< *Elizabethan ~*) 3 a stanza 4 any of the short divisions into which a chapter of the Bible is traditionally divided [ME *vers*, fr OF, fr L *versus*, lit., turning, fr *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn – more at **WORTH**]

**versed** *adj* possessing a thorough knowledge (of) or skill in – chiefly in *well versed in* [L *versatus*, pp of *versari* to be active, be occupied (in), passive of *versare* to turn, fr *versus*, pp]

**versicle** /ˈvɜːsɪkl/ *n* a short verse or sentence (e.g. from a psalm) said or sung by a leader in public worship and followed by a response from the congregation  **SYMBOL** [ME, fr L *versiculus*, dim of *versus* verse]

**versicolour** /ˌvɜːsɪˈkʊlə/, **ˈversicoloured** *adj* 1 having various colours, variegated 2 changeable in colour, indescend (< ~ *silk*) [L *versicolor*, fr *versus*, pp of *vertere* to turn, change + *color* colour]

**versify** /ˈvɜːsɪfaɪ/ *vt* to compose verses ~ *vt* to turn into verse – **versifier** *n*, **versification** /-fɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**version** /ˈvɜːʃ(ə)n, -z(ə)n/ *n* 1 a translation from another language; esp, often *cap* a translation of (part of) the Bible 2a an account or description from a particular point of view, esp as contrasted with another account **b** an adaptation of a work of art into another medium (< *the film ~ of the novel*) **c** an arrangement of a musical composition 3 a form or variant of a type or original (< *an experimental ~ of the plane*) 4 manual turning of a foetus in the uterus to aid delivery [MF, fr ML *versio*-, *versio* act of turning, fr L *versus*, pp of *vertere*] – **versional** *adj*

**vers libre** /ˌvɜːˈleɪbrə/ *n*, *pl* **vers libres** /-~/ **FREE VERSE** [F] – **vers-librist** *n*

**verso** /ˈvɜːsə/ *n*, *pl* **versos** a left-hand page – contrasted with **recto** [NL *verso* (*folie*) the page being turned]

**versus** /ˈvɜːsəs/ *prep* 1 against 2 in contrast to or as the alternative of (< *free trade ~ protection*) [ML, towards, against, fr L, *adv*, so as to face, fr pp of *vertere* to turn]

**vert** /vɜːt/ *n* 1 green forest vegetation 2 green – used in heraldry [ME *verte*, fr MF *vert*, fr *vert* green – more at **VERDANT**]

**vertebra** /ˈvɜːtɪbrə/ *n*, *pl* **vertebrae** /-bri/, **vertebras** any of the bony or



- cartilaginous segments composing the spinal column  ANATOMY [L. joint, vertebra, fr *vertere* to turn – more at *'worth*] – **vertebral** *adj*
- 'vertebrate** /'vɜːtɪbrət/, -brayt/ *adj* 1 having a spinal column 2 of the vertebrates [NL *vertebratus*, fr L. jointed, fr *vertebra*]
- \*vertebrate** *n* any of a large group of animals (e.g. mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes) with a segmented backbone, together with a few primitive forms in which the backbone is represented by a notochord [deriv of NL *vertebratus*]
- vertex** /'vɜːteks/ *n*, *pl* **vertices** /'vɜːtɪseɪz/ *also* **vertexes** 1a(1) the point opposite to and farthest from the base in a figure (2) the termination or intersection of lines or curves <the ~ of an angle> (3) a point where an axis of an ellipse, parabola, or hyperbola intersects the curve **b** ZENITH 1 2 the top of the head 3 the highest point; the summit *USE* (1a)  MATHEMATICS [L. *vertic-*, *vertex*, *vortic-*, *vortex* whirl, whirlpool, top of the head, summit, fr *vertere* to turn]
- vertical** /'vɜːtɪkl/ *adj* 1 situated at the highest point; directly overhead or in the zenith 2 perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis 3 of, involving, or integrating discrete elements (e.g. from lowest to highest) <a ~ business organization> <the ~ arrangement of society> 4 of or concerning the relationships between people of different rank in a hierarchy – compare HORIZONTAL 2 [MF or LL; MF, fr LL *verticalis*, fr L. *vertic-*, *vertex*] – **vertical** *n*, **vertically** *adv*, **verticalness** *n*, **verticality** /-'kælətɪ/ *n*
- verticil** /'vɜːtɪsɪl/ *n* WHORL 1 [NL *verticillus*, dim. of L. *vertex* whirl]
- verticillate** /'vɜːtɪsɪlət/, -ləyt/, 'vɜːtɪsɪləyt/ *adj* whorled, esp arranged in a transverse whorl like the spokes of a wheel <a ~ shell>
- vertiginous** /'vɜːtɪjɪnəs/ *adj* 1 characterized by or suffering from vertigo 2 inclined to frequent and often pointless change, inconstant 3 causing or tending to cause dizziness <the ~ heights> 4 marked by turning; rotary [L. *vertiginosus*, fr *vertigin-*, *vertigo*] – **vertiginously** *adv*
- vertigo** /'vɜːtɪgoh/ *n* a disordered state in which the individual loses balance and the surroundings seem to whirl dizzily [L. *vertigin-*, *vertigo*, fr *vertere* to turn]
- vervain** /'vɜːvəɪn/ *n* any of a genus of plants that bear often showy flowers in heads or spikes, esp one with spikes of small lilac flowers [ME *verveine*, fr MF, fr L. *verbena*, sing. of *verbenae* sacred boughs, certain medicinal plants; akin to L. *verber* rod, Gk *rhados*]
- verve** /'vɜːv/ *n* 1 the spirit and enthusiasm animating artistic work 2 energy, vitality [F, fantasy, caprice, animation, fr L. *verba*, pl. of *verbum* word – more at *word*]
- 'vervet monkey** /'vɜːvɪt/ *n* a S and E African tree-dwelling monkey [F *vervet*]
- 'very** /'veri/ *adj* 1 properly so called; actual, genuine <the ~ man you met> 2 absolute <the ~ thing for the purpose> <the venest fool alive – John Milton> 3 being no more than, mere <the ~ thought terrified me> *USE* used attributively [ME *verray*, *very*, fr OF *verai*, fr (assumed) VL *veracius*, alter. of L. *verac-*, *verax* truthful, fr *verus* true, akin to OE *wær* true, OHG *wara* trust, care, Gk *era* (acc) favour]
- \*very** *adv* 1 to a high degree, exceedingly 2 – used as an intensive to emphasize *same*, *own*, or the superlative degree <the ~ best shop in town>
- ,very high frequency** *n* a radio frequency in the range between 30MHz and 300MHz
- Very light** /'viːni/, 'veri/ *n* a white or coloured ball of fire that is projected from a Very pistol and that is used as a signal flare [Edward W. Very 1910 US naval officer]
- Very pistol** *n* a pistol for firing Very lights
- ,very well** /'veri/ *adv* 1 – used to express often reluctant consent or agreement <~, we'll go tomorrow> 2 with certainty, unquestionably <you know ~ what you should do>
- vesica** /'vesɪkə/ *n*, *pl* **vesicae** /-sɛ-/ an internal sac or tube of an insect phallus [NL, fr L. bladder – more at *ventr-*]
- vesical** /'vesɪkl/ *adj* of a bladder, esp the urinary bladder [L. *vesica* bladder]
- vesicant** /'vesɪkənt/ *n* a drug, war gas, etc. that induces blistering [L. *vesica* bladder, blister] – **vesicant** *adj*
- vesicate** /'vesɪkəɪt/ *vb* to blister [L. *vesica* blister] – **vesication** /-'kæʃən/ *n*
- vesicle** /'vesɪkl/ *n* 1a a membranous usu fluid-filled pouch (e.g. a cyst, vacuole, or cell) in a plant or animal **b** a blister **c** a pocket of embryonic tissue that is the beginning of an organ 2 a small cavity in a mineral or rock [MF *vesicule*, fr L. *vesicula* small bladder, blister, fr dim. of *vesica*] – **vesicular** /'vesɪkjuːlə/ *adj*, **vesiculate** /-'lət/, -ləyt/ *adj*, **vesicularity** /'vesɪkjuːlərəti/ *n*
- 'vesper** /'vespə/ *n* 1 *cap* EVLNING STAR 2 *archaic* evening, eventide [ME, fr L. evening, evening star – more at *west*]
- \*vesper** *adj* of vespers or the evening
- vespers** /'vespəz/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, often *cap* 1 the sixth of the canonical hours that is said or sung in the late afternoon 2 a service of evening worship [F *vespres*, fr ML *vesperae*, fr L. pl. of *vespera* evening; akin to L. *vesper* evening star]
- vespertilian** /'vespə'tɪliən/ *adj* of bats [L. *vespertilio* bat, fr *vesper*]
- vespertine** /'vespə'tiːn/ *adj* 1 active or flourishing in the evening, e.g. **a** of an animal feeding or flying in early evening **b** of a flower opening in the evening 2 of or occurring in the evening <~ shadows> – *fml* [L. *vespertinus*, fr *vesper*]
- vespiary** /'vespɪəri/ *n* a nest of a social wasp [L. *vespa* + *E -iary* (as in *apiary*)]
- vespine** /'vespiːn/ *adj* of or resembling wasps, esp wasps that live in colonies [L. *vespa* wasp]
- vessel** /'vesl/ *n* 1a a hollow utensil (e.g. a jug, cup, or bowl) for holding esp liquid **b** sby into whom some quality (e.g. grace) is infused 2 a large hollow structure designed to float on and move through water carrying a crew, passengers, or cargo 3a a tube or canal (e.g. an artery) in which a body fluid is contained and conveyed or circulated **b** a conducting tube in a plant [ME, fr OF *vaisseil*, fr LL *vascellum*, dim. of L. *vas* vase, vessel – more at *vase*]
- 'vest** /vest/ *vt* 1a to give (e.g. property or power) into the possession or discretion of another **b** to clothe with a particular authority, right, or property 2 to clothe (as if) with a garment, esp to robe in ecclesiastical vestments ~ *vi* to become legally vested [ME *vesten*, fr MF *vestir* to clothe, invest, fr L. *vestire* to clothe, fr *vestis* clothing, garment – more at *WEAR*]
- \*vest** *n* 1 chiefly *Br* a usu sleeveless undergarment for the upper body 2 chiefly *NAM* a waistcoat [F *veste*, fr It, fr L. *vestis* garment] – **vested** *adj*, **vestlike** *adj*
- 'vestal** /'vestl/ *adj* 1 of a vestal virgin 2 chaste, esp virgin [ME *vestalle*, fr L. *vestalis*, fr *Vesta*, Roman goddess of the hearth & household] – **vestally** *adv*
- \*vestal**, **'vestal virgin** *n* a priestess of the Roman goddess Vesta, responsible for tending the sacred fire perpetually kept burning on her altar
- vested interest** /'vestɪd/ *n* 1a an interest carrying a legal right **b** an interest (e.g. in an existing political or social arrangement) in which the holder has a strong personal commitment 2 sby or sth having a vested interest in sth; *specif* a group enjoying benefits from an existing privilege
- vestiary** /'vestiəri/, 'vestyəri/ *n* a room where clothing is kept; a vestry [ME *vestiariu*, fr OF, *vestry* – more at *VESTRY*]
- vestibule** /'vestɪbjuːl/ *n* 1 a lobby or chamber between the outer door and the interior of a building 2 any of various bodily cavities, esp when serving as or resembling an entrance to some other cavity or space: e.g. **a** the central cavity of the bony labyrinth of the ear **b** the part of the mouth cavity outside the teeth and gums [L. *vestibulum*] – **vestibuled** *adj*, **vestibular** /'vestɪbjuːlə/ *adj*
- vestige** /'vestɪʒ/ *n* 1a a trace or visible sign left by sth vanished or lost **b** a minute remaining amount 2 a small or imperfectly formed body part or organ that remains from one more fully developed in an earlier stage of the individual, in a past generation, or in closely related forms [F, fr L. *vestigium* footstep, footprint, track] – **vestigial** /'vestɪʒ(ɪ)əl/ *adj*, **vestigially** *adv*
- vestment** /'vestmənt/ *n* 1 an outer garment, esp a robe of ceremony or office 2 any of the ceremonial garments and insignia worn by ecclesiastical officials and assistants as appropriate to their rank and to the rite being celebrated [ME *vestement*, fr OF, fr L. *vestimentum*, fr *vestire* to clothe] – **vestmental** /-'mentl/ *adj*
- ,vest-pocket** *adj*, *NAM* adapted to fit into the waistcoat pocket <a ~ edition of a book>; broadly very small
- vestry** /'vestri/ *n* 1a a sacristy **b** a room used for church meetings and classes 2a the business meeting of an English parish **b** an elective administrative body in an Episcopal parish in the USA [ME *vestre*, prob. modif. of MF *vestiane*, fr ML *vestiarium*, fr L. *vestire*; fr its use as a robing room for the clergy]
- vesture** /'vesʃə/ *n* clothing, apparel – *fml* [ME, fr MF, fr *vestir* to clothe – more at *vest*]
- Vesuvian** /'viːʃ(ə)juːviən/ *adj* of or resembling the volcano Vesuvius [Vesuvius, volcano near Naples in Italy]
- 'vet** /vet/ *n* sby qualified and authorized to treat diseases and injuries of animals [short for *veterinary* (surgeon)]
- \*vet** *vt* -tt- 1 to subject (a person or animal) to a physical examination or

- checkup 2 chiefly *Br* to subject to careful and thorough appraisal (< your application)
- vetch** /vech/ *n* any of a genus of climbing or twining leguminous plants including valuable fodder and soil-improving plants [ME *vecche*, fr ONF *vecche*, fr L *vicia*; akin to OE *wiega* insect, L *vincire* to bind, OE *wir* wire]
- vetchling** /vechling/ *n* any of various small leguminous plants
- veteran** /vet(ə)rən/ *n* 1 sby who has had long experience of an occupation, skill, or (military) service 2 **veteran**, **veteran car** *Br* an old motor car; *specif* one built before 1916 3 *NAm* a former serviceman [L *veteranus*, fr *veteranus* old, of long experience, fr *veter-*, *vetus* old – more at **WETHER**] – **veteran adj**
- Veterans Day** *n* a day set aside in the USA and Canada in commemoration of the end of hostilities in 1918 and 1945, esp November 11 observed as a public holiday in Canada and some states of the USA – compare **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
- veterinarian** /vet(ə)n'iəriən-ən/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* 'vet
- veterinary** /vet(ə)rɪnəri/ *adj* of or being the medical care of animals, esp domestic animals [L *veterinarius* of beasts of burden, fr *veterinae* beasts of burden, fr fem pl of *veterinus* of beasts of burden, akin to L *veter-*, *vetus* old]
- veterinary**, *Br* chiefly 'veterinary surgeon *n* 'vet
- veto** /veetoh/ *n*, *pl* **vetoes** 1 an authoritative prohibition 2 a right to declare inoperative decisions made by others; esp a power vested in a chief executive to prevent permanently or temporarily the enactment of measures passed by a legislature [L, I forbid, fr *vetare* to forbid]
- veto** *vt* **vetoing**; **vetoed** to subject to a veto – **vetoer** *n*
- vex** /veks/ *vt* **vexed** also **vext** 1a to bring distress, discomfort, or agitation to b to irritate or annoy by petty provocations; harass 2 to puzzle, baffle [ME *vexen*, fr MF *vexer*, fr L *vexare* to agitate, trouble]
- vexation** /vek'saysh(ə)n/ *n* a cause of trouble, an affliction [VEX + -ATION]
- vexatious** /vek'sayshəs/ *adj* 1 causing vexation; distressing 2 intended to harass – **vexatiously** *adv*, **vexatiousness** *n*
- vexed question** /vekst/ *n* a question that has been discussed at length, usu without a satisfactory solution being reached
- vexillum** /vek'sɪləm/ *n*, *pl* **vexilla** /-lə/ a square flag of the ancient Roman cavalry [L] – **vexillary** /-ləri/ *adj*
- vía** /vie-ə/ *prep* 1 passing through or calling at (a place) on the way 2 through the medium of; also by means of [L, abl of *via* way, akin to Gk *hísthai* to hurry – more at **VIM**]
- viable** /vie-əbl/ *adj* 1 (born alive and developed enough to be) capable of living 2 capable of growing or developing (< seeds) (< eggs) 3 capable of working; practicable (< alternatives) [F, fr MF, fr *vie* life, fr L *vita* – more at **VITAL**] – **viably** *adv*, **viability** /-ə'bɪləti/ *n*
- viaduct** /vie-ə'dʌkt/ *n* a usu long bridge, esp on a series of arches, that carries a road, railway, canal, etc over a deep valley [L *via* way, road + *E-duct* (as in *aqueduct*)]
- vial** /vie-əl, viel/ *n* a phial [ME *firole*, *virole*, fr MF *firole*, fr OProv *fiola*, fr L *phiala* – more at **PHIAL**]
- vía media** /vie-ə 'meɪdi-ə/ *n* a middle way; a compromise [L]
- vian** /vie-ənd/ *n* 1 a (choice or tasty) item of food 2 *pl* provisions, food *USE* fml [ME, fr MF *viande*, fr ML *vivanda* food, alter. of L *vivenda*, neut pl of *vivendus*, gerundive of *vivere* to live – more at **QUICK**]
- viaticum** /vie-ə'tɪkəm/ *n*, *pl* **viaticums**, **viaticas** /-kə/ 1 an allowance (e.g. of food or travelling expenses) for a journey 2 the Christian Eucharist given to a person in danger of death [L – more at **VOYAGE**]
- vibes** /viebz/ *n* *pl* 1 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a vibraphone 2 **VIBRATIONS** 3 *USE* infml [by shortening & alter.] – **vibist** *n*
- vibrant** /viebrənt/ *adj* 1a oscillating or pulsating rapidly b pulsating with life, vigour, or activity (< ~ personality) 2 sounding as a result of vibration; resonant (< ~ voice) – **vibrantly** *adv*
- vibraphone** /viebrə'fohn/ *n* a percussion instrument resembling the xylophone but having metal bars and motor-driven resonators for sustaining its sound and producing a vibrato [L *vibrare* + *ISV -phone*] – **vibraphonist** /-fohnɪst/ *n*
- vibrate** /viebrayt/ *vt* 1 to cause to swing or move to and fro; cause to oscillate 2 to emit (e.g. sound) (as if) with a vibratory motion 3 to mark or measure by oscillation (< a pendulum vibrating seconds) 4 to set in vibration ~ *vi* 1 to move to and fro; oscillate 2 to have an effect as of vibration; throb < music vibrating in the memory > 3 to be in a state of vibration; quiver [L *vibratus*, pp of *vibrare* to shake, vibrate – more at **WIPE**] – **vibrative** /vie'bratɪv/ *adj*, **vibratory** /-t(ə)rɪ/ *adj*
- vibratile** /viebrətɪl/ *adj* 1 characterized by vibration 2 used in vibratory motion (< the ~ organs of insects) – **vibratility** /-tɪləti/ *n*
- vibration** /viebraysh(ə)n/ *n* 1a a periodic motion of the particles of an elastic body or medium in alternately opposite directions from a position of equilibrium b an oscillation or quivering 2 an instance of vibrating 3a a characteristic aura or spirit felt to emanate from sby or sthg and instinctively sensed or experienced b a distinctive usu emotional atmosphere capable of being sensed – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning – **vibrational** *adj*, **vibrationless** *adj*
- vibrato** /vɪbra'toh/ *n*, *pl* **vibratos** a slightly tremulous effect imparted to musical tone to add expressiveness, by slight and rapid variations in pitch [It, fr pp of *vibrare* to vibrate, fr L]
- vibrator** /viebraytə/ *n* a vibrating electrical apparatus used in massage, esp to provide sexual stimulation [VIBRATE + -OR]
- vibrissae** /vie'brɪsə/ *n*, *pl* **vibrissae** /-sɪ/ any of the stiff hairs on a mammal's face (e.g. round the nostrils) that are often organs of touch [L, akin to L *vibrare*]
- viburnum** /vie'bʊhnəm, vi-/ *n* a guelder rose or related shrub or tree of the honeysuckle family with white or pink flowers [NL, genus name, fr L, wayfaring tree]
- vicar** /vɪkə/ *n* 1 a Church of England incumbent receiving a stipend but formerly not the tithes of a parish 2 a clergyman exercising a broad pastoral responsibility as the representative of a prelate [ME, fr L *vicarius* substitute, deputy, fr *vicarius* vicarious] – **vicarship** *n*
- vicarage** /vɪkəri/ *n* the benefice or house of a vicar
- vicar apostolic** /vɪkəri 'əpə'stɒlɪk/ *n*, *pl* **vicars apostolic** a Roman Catholic titular bishop who governs a territory not organized as a diocese
- vicar-general** *n*, *pl* **vicars-general** an administrative deputy of a Roman Catholic or Anglican bishop or of the head of a religious order
- vicarial** /vie'keəriəl, vi-/ *adj* 1 VICARIOUS 1 2 of a vicar [L *vicarius*]
- vicariate** /vie'keəri-ət, vi-/ *n* the office, jurisdiction, or tenure of a vicar [ML *vicariatus*, fr L *vicarius* vicar]
- vicarious** /vie'keəri-əs, vi-/ *adj* 1a serving instead of another b delegated (< authority) 2 performed or suffered by one person as a substitute for, or to the benefit of, another (< a ~ sacrifice) 3 experienced through imaginative participation in the experience of another (< ~ pleasure) [L *vicarius*, fr *vicis* change, alternation, stead – more at **WEEK**] – **vicariously** *adv*, **vicariousness** *n*
- Vicar of Christ** *n* the Roman Catholic pope
- vice** /vɪs/ *n* 1a moral depravity or corruption, wickedness b a grave moral fault c a habitual and usu minor fault or shortcoming 2 habitual abnormal behaviour in a domestic animal detrimental to its health or usefulness 3 sexual immorality, esp prostitution [ME, fr OF, fr L *vitium* fault, vice]
- vice**, *NAm* chiefly **vise** /vɪs/ *n* any of various tools, usu attached to a workbench, that have 2 jaws that close for holding work by operation of a screw, lever, or cam [ME *vis*, *vise* screw, fr MF *vis*, *viz* something winding, fr L *vitis* vine – more at **WITHY**] – **vicelike** /-lɪk/ *adj*
- vice**, *NAm* chiefly **vise** *vt* to hold, force, or squeeze (as if) with a vice
- vice** *prep* in the place of, succeeding [L, abl of *vicis* change, alternation, stead – more at **WEEK**]
- vices** /vɪs-/ *prefix* 1 person next in rank below or qualified to act in place of, deputy (< vice-president) (< viceroy) 2 office next in rank below (< vice-admiral) [ME *vis-*, *vice-*, fr MF, fr LL *vice-*, fr L *vice*, abl of *vicis*]
- vice admiral** *n*  *RANK* [MF *visamiral*, fr *vis-* *vice-* + *amiral* admiral]
- vice-chancellor** *n* an officer ranking next below a chancellor, esp the administrative head of a British university [ME *vichauncellor*, fr MF *vischancellor*, fr *vis-* + *chancellor* chancellor]
- vicennial** /vɪ'senɪəl, -ni-əl/ *adj* occurring once every 20 years [LL] – **vicennium** *n* period of 20 years, fr L *vicies* 20 times + *annus* year; akin to L *viginti* twenty – more at **VIGESIMAL ANNUAL**]
- viceregal** /vɪs'regəl/ *adj* of a viceroy – **viceregally** *adv*
- vicereine** /vɪs'reɪn/ *n* 1 the wife of a viceroy 2 a woman viceroy [F, fr *vice-* + *reine* queen, fr L *regina*, fem of *reg-*, *rex* king – more at **ROYAL**]
- viceroy** /vɪs'reɪ/ *n* the governor of a country or province who rules as the representative of his sovereign [MF *vice-roi*, fr *vice-* + *roi* king, fr L *reg-*, *rex*] → **viceroyalty** /vɪs'reɪəlti/, **viceroyship** /vɪs'reɪəʃɪp/ *n*
- vices** *squad* *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a police department enforcing laws concerning gambling, pornography, and prostitution
- vices versa** /vɪsɪ 'vʊhsə, vɪsɪə, vɪs-/ *adv* with the order changed and relations reversed; conversely < Ann had Jane and ~ > [L]
- vichyssoise** /vɪʃi'swəʒ/ *n* a thick soup made of puréed leeks and

potatoes, cream, and chicken stock and usu served cold [F, fr fem of *vichyssois* of Vichy, fr Vichy, town in France]

**Vichy water** /'veʃi/ *n* a natural sparkling mineral water from Vichy in France

**vicinage** /'visini/ *n* vicinity [ME *vesinage*, fr MF, fr *vesin* neighbouring, fr L *vicinus*]

**vicinal** /'visinl/ *adj* 1 of a limited district, local 2 adjacent, neighbouring **USE** fml [L *vicinalis*, fr *vicinus* neighbour, fr *vicinus* neighbouring]

**vicinity** /'visinɪ/ *n* 1 a surrounding area or district 2 **NEIGHBOURHOOD** 3b 3 being near; proximity – fml [MF *vicinité*, fr L *vicinitas*, *vicinitas*, fr *vicinus* neighbouring, fr *vicus* row of houses, village, akin to Goth *wehs* village, Gk *oikos*, *oikia* house]

**vicious** /'viʃəs/ *adj* 1 having the nature or quality of vice, depraved < ~ *habits*> 2 esp of language or reasoning defective, faulty 3a dangerous, refractory < a ~ horse> b unpleasantly fierce, malignant, or severe < a ~ form of flu> 4 malicious, spiteful < ~ gossip> 5 worsened by internal causes that reciprocally augment each other < a ~ wage-price spiral> [ME, fr MF *vicius*, fr L *vitiosus* full of faults, corrupt, fr *vitium* blemish, vice] – **viciously** *adv*, **viciousness** *n*

**vicious 'circle** *n* 1 a chain of events in which the apparent solution of 1 difficulty creates a new problem that makes the original difficulty worse 2 the logical fallacy of using 1 argument or definition to prove or define a second on which the first depends

**vicissitude** /'vɪsɪsɪtuːd/ *n* 1 a change or alteration (e.g. in nature or human affairs) 2 an accident of fortune – usu pl < the ~s of daily life> 3 the quality of being changeable; mutability – fml [MF, fr L *vicissitudo*, fr *vicissim* in turn, fr *vicis* change, alternation – more at **WEEK**] – **vicissitudinous** /'vɪsɪtʊdɪnəs/ *adj*

**victim** /'vɪktɪm/ *n* 1 a living animal offered as a sacrifice in a religious rite 2 sb or sth that is adversely affected by a force or agent e.g. a one who or that which is injured, destroyed, or subjected to oppression or mistreatment < a ~ of cancer> < a ~ of the car crash> < a ~ of frequent political attacks> b a dupe, prey [L *victima*, akin to OHG *wih* holy, Skt *vinakti* he sets apart]

**victimize**, -ise /'vɪktɪmɪz/ *vt* 1 to make a victim of 2 to punish selectively (e.g. by unfair dismissal) – **victimizer** *n*, **victimization** /'vɪzɪtɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**victor** /'vɪktə/ *n* a person, country, etc that defeats an enemy or opponent, a winner [ME, fr L, fr *victus*, pp of *vincere* to conquer, win, akin to OE *wigan* to fight, OSlav *věku* strength] – **victor** *adj*

**Victor** – a communications code word for the letter *v*

**victoria** /'vɪktəɪə/ *n* 1 a low 4-wheeled carriage for 2 with a folding hood 2 any of a genus of S American water lilies with large spreading leaves and immense bright white flowers 3 a large red sweet type of plum [Victoria †1901 Queen of England]

**Victoria 'Cross** *n* a bronze Maltese cross that is the highest British military decoration [Queen Victoria]

**'Victorian** /'vɪktəɪən/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of the reign of Queen Victoria or the art, letters, or taste of her time 2 typical of the moral standards or conduct of the age of Queen Victoria, esp in being prudish or hypocritical 3 of a place called Victoria (e.g. the State in Australia or the capital of British Columbia)

**²Victorian** *n* sb living during Queen Victoria's reign

**Victoriana** /'vɪktəɪənə/ *n* articles, esp ornaments, from the Victorian period [NL, neut pl of *Victorianus* Victorian]

**victorious** /'vɪktəɪəs/ *adj* 1a having won a victory b (characteristic) of victory 2 successful, triumphant – **victoriously** *adv*, **victoriousness** *n*

**victory** /'vɪkt(ə)n/ *n* 1 the overcoming of an enemy or antagonist < ~ was ours> 2 achievement of mastery or success in a struggle or contest < a ~ in the battle of the Marston> [ME, fr MF *victorie*, fr L *victoria*, fr fem of (assumed) L *victorius* of winning or conquest, fr L *victus*, pp of *vincere*]

**'victual** /'vɪtl/ *n* 1 food usable by human beings 2 pl supplies of food, provisions [alter. of ME *vitaile*, fr MF, fr LL *victualia*, pl, provisions, victuals, fr neut pl of *victualis* of nourishment, fr L *victus* nourishment, fr *victus*, pp of *vivere* to live – more at **QUICK**]

**²victual** *vb* -ll- (NAM -l-, -ll-), /'vɪtlɪŋ/ *vb* to supply with or lay in food


**victualler**, **NAM also victualer** /'vɪtlə/ *n* 1 **PUBLICAN** 2 2 sb who or sth that provisions an army, a navy, or a ship with food 3 a provisioning ship


**vicuña**, **vicuna** /'vɪkyooɪnə/ *n* 1 (the wool from the fine undercoat of) a wild ruminant mammal of the Andes related to the domesticated llama and alpaca 2 a fabric made of vicuña wool; also a sheep's wool imitation of this [Sp *vicuña*, fr Quechua *wikúña*]

**vide** /'vi:di/ *vb* **imper** see – used to direct a reader to another item [L, fr *videre* to see – more at **WIT**]

**videlicet** /'vɪdɪlɪt/ *adv* that is to say; namely – used to introduce 1 or more examples [ME, fr L, fr *videre* to see + *licet* it is permitted, fr *licere* to be permitted – more at **LICENCE**]

**'video** /'vɪdɪə/ *adj* 1 of television, *specif* of reproduction of a television image or used in its transmission or reception < a ~ signal> – compare **AUDIO** 2 of a form of magnetic recording for reproduction on a television screen [L *videre* to see + E -o (as in **audio**)]


**²video** *n* 1 **video**, **'videorecorder**, **videocassette recorder** a machine for videotaping  **TELEVISION** 2 chiefly **NAM** television

**'videodisc** /-dɪsk/ *n* a disc, similar to a gramophone record, on which information is stored in digital form and is used to play back prerecorded video material on a television screen, as a computer memory unit, etc  **TELEVISION**, **VIDEO**

**videotape** /'vɪdɪə,tæp/ *vt* to make a recording of (e.g. sth that is televised) on magnetic tape  **VIDEO** [*video* tape] – **videotape** *n*

**vie** /'vi:/ *vi* **vying**; **vied** to strive for superiority, contend < ~d with each other for the prize> [modif of MF *envier* to invite, challenge, wager, fr L *invitare* to invite] – **vier** *n*


**Vietcong** /'veɪ-tɪ'kɒŋ/ *n*, *pl* **Vietcong** an adherent of the Vietnamese communist movement supported by N Vietnam and engaged in warfare against the S Vietnamese regime during the Vietnam War [Vietnamese *Việt Nam công-san* Vietnam communists]

**Vietnamese** /'veɪ-ɪtnə'meez/ *n*, *pl* **Vietnamese** (the official Austroasiatic language of) a native or inhabitant of Vietnam  **LANGUAGE** [*Vietnam*, country in SE Asia] – **Vietnamese** *adj*


**vieux jeu** /'vju:/ *adj* out-of-date, **OLD HAT** [F, lit., old game]

**'view** /'vju:/ *n* 1 the act of seeing or examining; inspection, also a survey < a ~ of English literature> 2 a way of regarding sth, an opinion < in my ~ the conference has no chance of success> 3 a scene, prospect < the lovely ~ from the balcony>, also an aspect < the rear ~ of the house> 4 extent or range of vision, sight < tried to keep the ship in ~> 5 an intention, object < bought a gun with a ~ to murdering his mother> 6 the foreseeable future < no hope in ~> 7 a pictorial representation [ME *veue*, fr MF *veue*, *vue*, fr OF, fr *veoir*, *voir* to see, fr L *videre* – more at **WIT**] – in **view** of 1 taking the specified feature into consideration < in view of his age, the police have decided not to prosecute> 2 able to be seen by or from < in full view of interested spectators> – on **view** open to public inspection

**²view** *vt* 1a to see, watch b to look on in a specified way; regard < doesn't ~ himself as a rebel> 2 to look at attentively, inspect < ~ed the house but decided not to buy it> 3 to survey or examine mentally; consider < ~ all sides ~ a question> 4 to see (a hunted animal) break cover ~ *vi* to watch *tv* **vision** – **viewable** *adj*


**viewdata** /'vju:daɪtə, -daɪtə/ *n* information held in a computer and accessible to users via a television set  **TELECOMMUNICATION**, **TELEVISION**

**viewer** /'vju:ə/ *n* 1 an optical device used in viewing 2 sb who watches television [**VIEW** + -ER]

**viewfinder** /'vju:fɪndə/ *n* a device on a camera for showing what will be included in the picture  **CAMERA**

**'view halloo** /'ha:lloo/ *n*, *pl* **view halloos** a shout given by a hunter on seeing a fox break cover

**'viewless** /-lis/ *adj* 1 affording no view 2 holding no opinions – **viewlessly** *adv*

**'view phone** /-fohn/ *n* a telephone allowing its user to see the person with whom he/she is in contact on a small screen  **TELECOMMUNICATION**

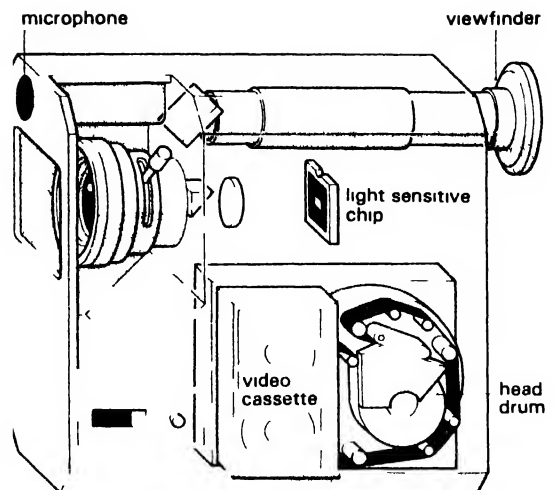
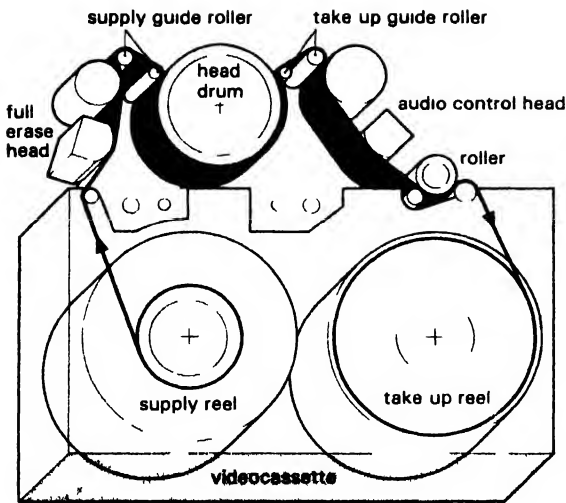
**'viewpoint** /-pɔɪnt/ *n* a standpoint; **POINT OF VIEW**

**vigesimal** /'vɪdʒɪsməl/ *adj* based on the number 20 [L *vicesimus*, *vigesimus* twentieth; akin to L *viginti* twenty, Gk *eikosi*]

**vigil** /'vɪjəl/ *n* 1a a devotional watch formerly kept on the night before a religious festival b the day before a religious festival, observed as a day of spiritual preparation 2 the act of keeping awake at times when sleep is customary; also a period of wakefulness 3 an act or period of watching or surveillance; a watch [ME *vigile*, fr OF, fr LL & L; LL *vigilia* watch on the eve of a feast, fr L, wakefulness, watch, fr *vigil* awake, watchful; akin to L *vigere* to be vigorous, *vegere* to be active, rouse – more at **WAKE**]

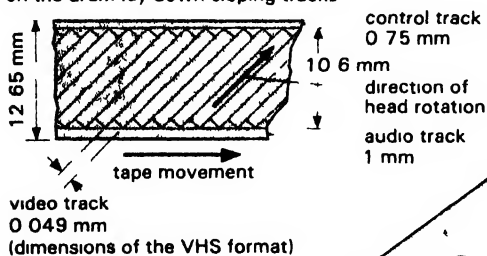
**'vigilance committee** /'vɪjələns/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr*, **NAM** an unauthorized self-appointed committee of citizens organized to suppress and punish crime or immorality without recourse to the established legal processes (e.g. when the processes of law appear inadequate)

**vigilant** /'vɪjələnt/ *adj* alert and watchful, esp to avoid danger [ME, fr



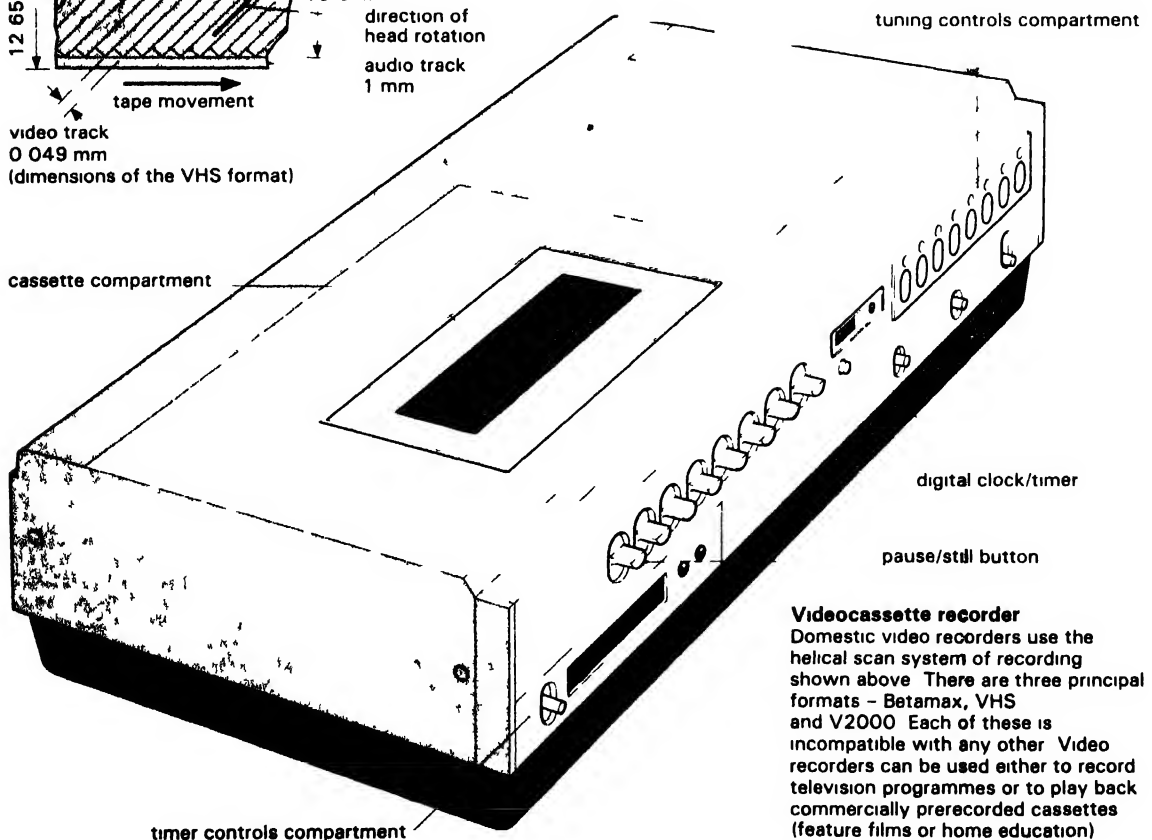
### Videotape

In a domestic videocassette recorder the helical scanning system is used to lay down video tracks on the tape. Tape is passed around the rapidly rotating head drum and video heads on the drum lay down sloping tracks.



### Video movie camera

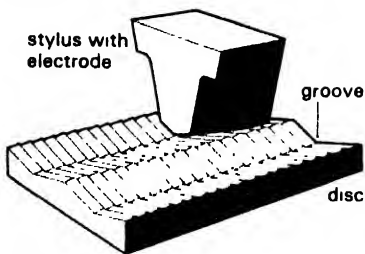
At present it is possible to record your own videocassettes using a video camera and a portable battery powered recorder. Soon there will be a miniature videocassette recorder and camera combined in one unit as shown above. The light sensitive chip replaces a TV pick up tube.



### Videocassette recorder

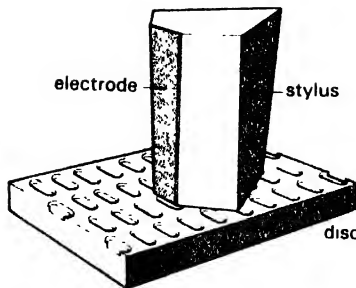
Domestic video recorders use the helical scan system of recording shown above. There are three principal formats - Betamax, VHS and V2000. Each of these is incompatible with any other. Video recorders can be used either to record television programmes or to play back commercially prerecorded cassettes (feature films or home education).

### Signal detection systems



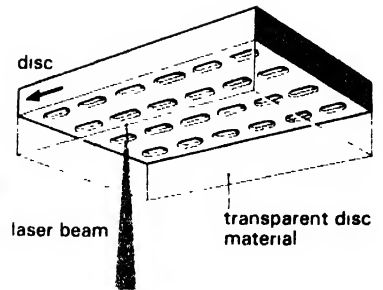
#### Grooved capacitance

In this videodisc system the stylus/electrode moves along grooves in a disc of electrically conductive material, picking up the picture and sound information stored there as pits. The disc must be protected by a special sleeve when it is not being played.



#### Grooveless capacitance

A stylus/electrode moves over the surface of the conductive disc picking up information encoded in the pits of one track and guided by tracking signals between the lines of pits. The disc must be protected by a special sleeve.

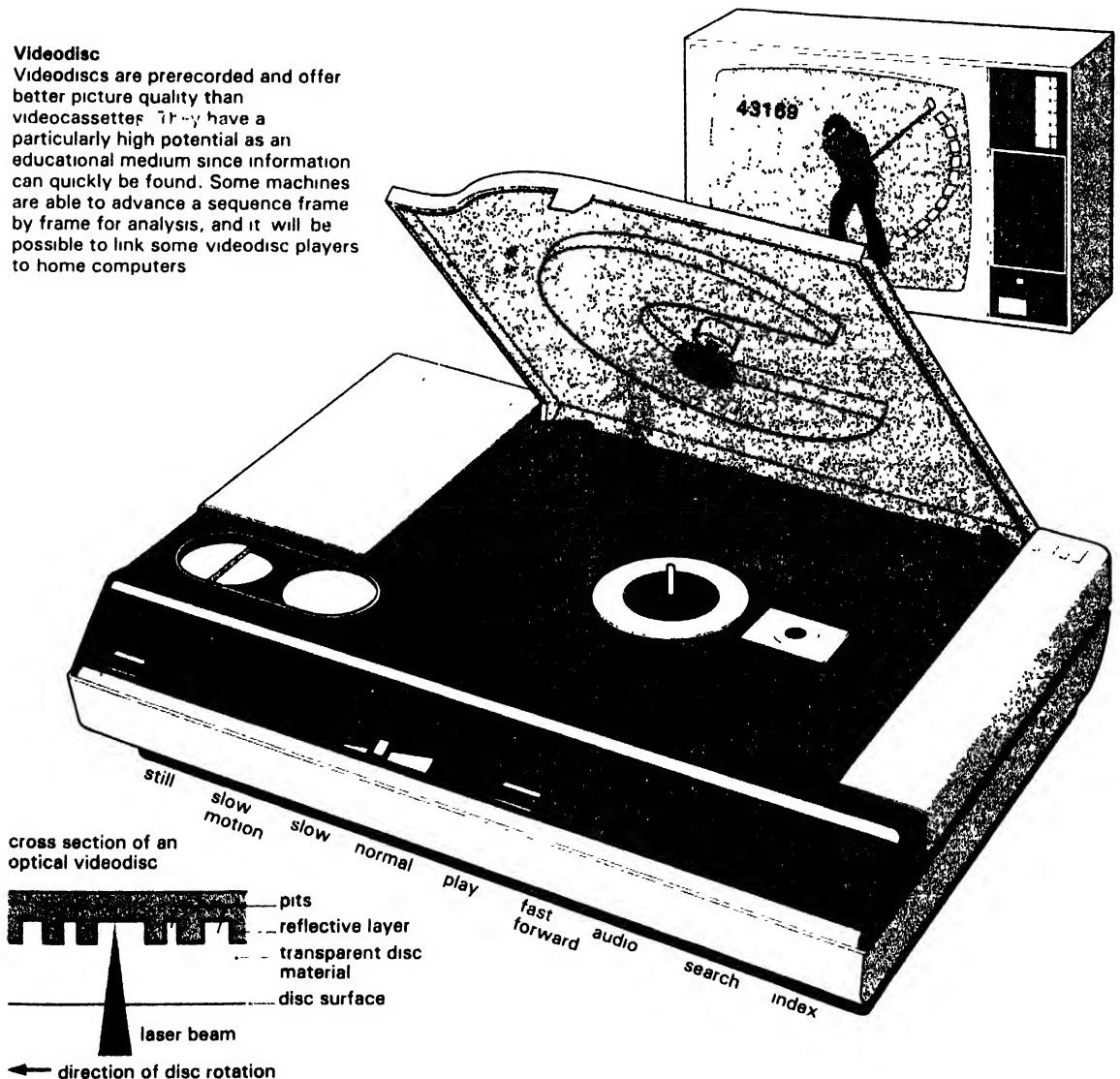


#### Optical

A laser beam is focussed onto pits in the underside of a rapidly spinning disc. The pits are lined by a reflective layer and covered by a plastic coating. Dust and dirt on the disc surface are thus out of focus and have little effect.

### Videodisc

Videodiscs are prerecorded and offer better picture quality than videocassettes. They have a particularly high potential as an educational medium since information can quickly be found. Some machines are able to advance a sequence frame by frame for analysis, and it will be possible to link some videodisc players to home computers.



MF, fr L *vigilant*-, *vigilans*, fr prp of *vigilare* to keep watch, stay awake, fr *vigil* awake] – **vigilance** /-lɔns/ *n*, **vigilantly** *adv*

**vigilante** /ˌviːjələnti/ *n*, *NAM* a member of a vigilance committee [Sp, watchman, guard, fr *vigilante* vigilant, fr L *vigilant*-, *vigilans*]

**vigil** /ˈlaɪt/ *n* a candle lighted devotionally (e.g. in a Roman Catholic church) before a shrine or image

**vignette** /ˈviːnyet, vee-/ *n* 1 a decorative design (e.g. of vine leaves, tendrils, and grapes) on a title page or at the beginning or end of a chapter 2 a picture (e.g. an engraving or photograph) that shades off gradually into the surrounding background 3 a short descriptive literary sketch b a brief incident or scene (e.g. in a play or film) [F, fr MF *vignete*, fr dim. of *vigne* vine – more at *VINE*] – **vignettist** *n*

**vigorous** /ˈvɪɡərəs/ *adj* 1 possessing or showing vigour; full of active strength 2 done with vigour, carried out forcefully and energetically (< *exercises*) [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *vigor*] – **vigorously** *adv*, **vigorousness** *n*

**vigour**, *NAM* **vigor** /ˈvɪɡə/ *n* 1 active physical or mental strength or force 2 active healthy well-balanced growth, esp. of plants 3 intensity of action or effect; force [ME, fr MF *vigor*, fr L, fr *vigore* to flourish]

**Viking** /ˈviːkɪŋ/ *n* 1 a Norse trader and warrior of the 8th to 10th c 2 a Scandinavian [ON *víkingr*]

**vile** /viəl/ *adj* 1a morally despicable or abhorrent b physically repulsive, foul 2 tending to degrade (< *employments*) 3 disgustingly or utterly bad; contemptible (< *a ~ temper*) [ME, base, common, worthless, fr OF *vil*, fr L *vilis* of small worth] – **vilely** *adv*, **vileness** *n*

**villify** /ˈvɪlɪfaɪ/ *vt* to utter slanderous and abusive statements against, defame [ME *villifien* to make less valuable, fr LL *vilificare*, fr L *vilis* + *facere* to make, do] – **villifier** *n*

**villa** /ˈvɪlə/ *n* 1 a country mansion 2 an ancient Roman mansion and the surrounding agricultural estate 3 Br a detached or semidetached suburban house, usu. having a garden and built before WW I [It, fr L, akin to L *vicus* row of houses – more at *VICINITY*]

**village** /ˈvɪljɪ/ *n* 1 a group of dwellings in the country, larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town 2 *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the residents of a village 3 sthg (e.g. a group of burrows or nests) suggesting a village [ME, fr MF, fr OF, fr *villie* farm, village, fr L *villa* country estate]

**villager** /ˈvɪljə/ *n* 1 an inhabitant of a village 2 a rustic

**villain** /ˈvɪlən/ *n* 1 a scoundrel, rascal; also a criminal 2 a character in a story or play whose evil actions affect the plot [ME *villain*, *vilein*, fr MF, peasant, churl, fr ML *villanus*, fr L *villa* country estate]

**villainous** /ˈvɪləniəs/ *adj* 1 being, befitting, or characteristic of a villain, evil (< *a ~ attack*) 2 highly objectionable (< *weather*) – **villainously** *adv*, **villainousness** *n*

**villainy** /ˈvɪləni/ *n* 1 villainous conduct; also a villainous act 2 depravity

**villanelle** /ˈvɪləˈnel/ *n* (a poem in) a chiefly French verse form consisting of 5 tercets and a quatrain using 2 rhymes [F, fr It *villanella*, fr *villano* peasant, fr ML *villanus*]

**-ville** /-vɪl/ *suffix* (*adj*, *n* → *n*) place or thing of (such) a nature (< *Dullsville*) – *infrm* [-ville, suffix occurring in names of towns, fr F, fr OF, fr *villie* village]

**villain** /ˈvɪlən/ *n* 1 a free village peasant 2 an unfree peasant standing as the slave of his feudal lord [ME *villain*, *vilein* – more at *VILLAIN*]

**villainage**, **villageage** /ˈvɪləniʃ/ *n* the tenure or status of a villain [ME *villanage*, fr MF, fr OF, fr *vilein*, *villain*]

**villous** /ˈvɪləs/ *adj* having villi or soft long hairs (< *leaves*) – **villously** *adv*

**villus** /ˈvɪləs/ *n*, *pl* **villi** /ˈvɪli/ a small slender part: e.g. a any of the many minute projections from the membrane of the small intestine that provide a large area for the absorption of digested food b any of the branching parts on the surface of the chorion of the developing embryo of most mammals that help to form the placenta [NL, fr L, tuft of shaggy hair – more at *VELVET*]

**vim** /vɪm/ *n* robust energy and enthusiasm – *infrm* [L, accus of *vis* strength; akin to Gk *is* strength, *hēsthai* to hurry, OE *wāth* pursuit]

**vinaceous** /ˈviːnəʃəs/ *adj* of the colour wine [L *vinaceus* of wine, fr *vinum* wine – more at *WINE*]

**vinagrette** /ˈvɪnəˈɡret/ *n* 1 a small ornamental box or bottle with a perforated top used for holding an aromatic preparation (e.g. smelling salts) 2 (a dish made with) a sharp sauce of oil and vinegar flavoured with salt, pepper, mustard, herbs, etc. and used esp. on green salads [F, fr *vinaigre* vinegar]

**vincible** /ˈvɪnsəbl/ *adj* capable of being overcome or subdued [L *vincibilis*, fr *vincere* to conquer – more at *VICTOR*] – **vincibility** *n*, **vincibility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**vinculum** /ˈvɪŋkyooləm/ *n* *pl* **vinculums**, **vincula** /-lə/ a straight horizontal mark placed over 2 or more members of a compound mathematical expression and equivalent to brackets round them (e.g. in  $a-b-c=a-[(b-c)]$ ) [L, bond, fr *vincire* to bind – more at *ETCH*]

**vindaloo** /ˈvɪndəˈloo/ *n* a hot curry, specif. containing vinegar [origin unknown]

**vindicable** /ˈvɪndɪkəbl/ *adj* capable of being vindicated – **vindicability** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**vindicate** /ˈvɪndɪkəɪt/ *vt* 1a to exonerate, absolve b to provide justification for, justify 2 to maintain the existence of, uphold (< *his honour*) [L *vindicatus*, pp of *vindicare* to lay claim to, avenge, fr *vindic*-, *vindex* claimant, avenger] – **vindicator** *n*

**vindication** /ˈvɪndɪˈkəɪʃən/ *n* justification against denial or censure, defence [VINDICATE + -ION]

**vindictory** /ˈvɪndɪˈkəɪtəri, -kət(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 providing vindication, justificatory 2 punitive, retributive

**vindictive** /ˈvɪndɪktɪv/ *adj* 1a disposed to seek revenge, vengeful b intended as revenge (< *punishments*) 2 intended to cause anguish, spiteful [L *vindicta* revenge, vindication, fr *vindicare*] – **vindictively** *adv*, **vindictiveness** *n*

**vine** /viən/ *n* 1 the climbing plant that bears grapes 2 (a plant with) a stem that requires support and that climbs by tendrils or twining [ME, fr OF *vigne*, fr L *vinca* vine, vineyard, fr fem of *vineus* of wine, fr *vinum* wine – more at *WINE*] – **viny** *adj*

**vine-dresser** /-dresə/ *n* sby who cultivates and prunes grapevines, esp. as an occupation

**vinegar** /ˈvɪnɡə/ *n* a sour liquid obtained esp. by acetic fermentation of wine, cider, etc. and used as a condiment or preservative [ME *vinegre*, fr OF *vinaigre*, fr *vin* wine (fr L *vinum*) + *aigre* keen, sour – more at *EAGER*]

**vinegarish** /ˈvɪnɡərɪʃ/ *adj* VINEGARY 2

**vinegary** /ˈvɪnɡ(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 containing or resembling vinegar, sour 2 bitter or irascible in character or manner

**vinery** /ˈvɪnəri/ *n* an area or building in which vines are grown

**vineyard** /ˈvɪnərd, -yəd/ *n* a plantation of grapevines

**vingt-et-un** /ˌvɑŋt ay ˈuːn (Fr vɛt e œ)/ *n* pontoon [F, lit, twenty-one]

**viticulture** /ˈvɪniˌkʌlʃə/ *n* viticulture [I *vinum* + ISV -i- + *culture*]

**vinification** /ˈvɪnɪfɪˈkəɪʃən/ *n* the conversion of a sugar-containing solution (e.g. a fruit juice) into wine by fermentation [F, fr *vin* wine + -i- + -fication]

**vino** /ˈveənə/ *n* wine – *infrm* [It & Sp, fr L *vinum*]

**vin ordinaire** /ˈvɑŋ ɔˈdɪnə/ *n* table wine that is undistinguished and sufficiently inexpensive for everyday drinking [F, ordinary wine]

**vinous** /ˈvɪnəs/ *adj* 1 of or made with wine (< *medications*) 2 (showing the effects of being) addicted to wine [L *vinosus*, fr *vinum* wine] – **vinously** *adv*, **vinosity** /ˈvɪnəsəti/ *n*

**vintage** /ˈvɪntɪʃ/ *n* 1a(1) a season's yield of grapes or wine from a vineyard (2) wine, specif. one of a particular type, region, and year and usu. of superior quality that is dated and allowed to mature b *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a collection of contemporaneous and similar people or things, a crop 2 the act or time of harvesting grapes or making wine 3 a period of origin or manufacture (< *a piano of 1845* ~) [ME, alter. of *vendage*, fr MF *vendenge*, fr L *vindemia*, fr *vinum* wine, grapes + *demere* to take off, fr *de*- + *emere* to take – more at *WINE*, *REDEEM*]

**vintage** *adj* 1 of a vintage, esp. being a product of 1 particular year rather than a blend of wines from different years 2 of enduring interest or quality; classic 3 of the best and most characteristic – with a proper noun (< *Shaw: a wise and winning comedy* – *Time*) 4 Br, of a motor vehicle built between 1917 and 1930 (< *a ~ Rolls*)

**vintager** /ˈvɪntɪʃə/ *n* sby concerned with the production of grapes and wine

**vintner** /ˈvɪntnə/ *n* WINE MERCHANT [ME *vineter*, fr OF *vinetier*, fr ML *vinetarius*, fr L *vinetum* vineyard, fr *vinum* wine]

**vinyl** /ˈviːnl/ *n* (a plastic that is a polymer of a derivative of) a univalent radical CH<sub>2</sub>=CH derived from ethylene by removal of 1 hydrogen atom [ISV, fr L *vinum* wine] – **vinyllic** /-ˈmɪlɪk/ *adj*

**viol** /ˈviə-/ *n* any of a family of bowed stringed instruments chiefly of the 16th and 17th c with usu. 6 strings and a fretted fingerboard, played resting on or between the player's knees [MF *viola* viol, viola, fr OProv *viola* viol]

**viola** /ˈviə-/ *n* a musical instrument of the violin family that is intermediate in size and range between the violin and cello and is tuned a 5th below the violin [It & Sp, viol, viola, fr OProv, viol] – **violinist** *n*



**\*viola** /'vie-ələ, vie'ohlə/ *n* **VIOLET** 1; *esp* any of various cultivated violets with (variegated) flowers resembling but smaller than those of pansies [L]

**violaceous** /vie-'layshəs/ *adj* of the colour violet [L *violaceus*, fr *viola* violet] – **violaceously** *adv*

**viola da braccio** /vi'ohlə də 'brachioh/ *n*, *pl* **viola da braccio** /vi'ohlay/ a member of the early violin family, *esp* a viola [It, arm viol]

**viola da gamba** /'gamba/ *n*, *pl* **viola da gamba** a bass member of the viol family having a range like that of the cello [It, leg viol]

**viola d'amore** /da'mawri/ *n*, *pl* **viola d'amore** a bowed stringed instrument which is related to the viol family but has no frets and is played under the chin [It, viol of love]

**violate** /vie-'ləyt/ *vi* 1 to fail to comply with, infringe (< the law > 2 to do harm to; *specif* to rape 3 to fail to respect, desecrate (< a shrine > 4 to interrupt, disturb (< your privacy > [ME *violaten*, fr L *violatus*, pp of *violare*, akin to L *vis* strength – more at *VIM*] – **violator** *n*, **violable** /vie-'ləbl/ *adj*, **violative** /-tɪv/ *adj*, **violation** /-ləyʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**violence** /vie-'ləns/ *n* 1 (an instance of) exertion of physical force so as to injure or abuse 2 unjust or unwarranted distortion, outrage (< did ~ to her feelings > 3a intense or turbulent action or force (< the ~ of the storm > b (an instance of) vehement feeling or expression, fervour 4 distortion or misinterpretation of meaning (< editor did ~ to the text >)

**violent** /vie-'lənt/ *adj* 1 marked by extreme force or sudden intense activity (< a ~ attack > 2a notably furious or vehement (< a ~ denunciation >), also excited or mentally disordered to the point of loss of self-control (< the patient became ~ and had to be restrained > b extreme, intense (< ~ pain > 3 caused by force, not natural (< a ~ death > [ME, fr MF, fr L *violentus*, akin to L *violare* to violate] – **violently** *adv*

**violet** /vie-'lət/ *n* 1 any of a genus of plants with often sweet-scented flowers, usu of all 1 colour, *esp* as distinguished from the usu larger-flowered violas and pansies 2 bluish purple [ME, fr MF *violette*, dim of *viole* violet, fr L *viola*]

**violin** /vie-'lɪn/ *n* a bowed stringed instrument having a fingerboard with no frets, 4 strings, and a usual range from G below middle C upwards for more than 4½ octaves [It *violino*, dim of *viola*] – **violinist** *n*

**violoncello** /vie-'ləntʃeloh/ *n* a cello [It, dim of *violone*, aug of *iola*] – **violoncellist** *n*

**VIP** *n*, *pl* **VIPs** a person of great influence or prestige (< a ~ lounge > [very important person]

**viper** /viepə/ *n* 1a (any of various Old World snakes related to) the adder b PIT **VIPLER** 2 a malignant or treacherous person [MF *vipere*, fr L *vipera*]

**viperish** /viepə'ɪʃ/ *adj* spitefully abusive, venomous

**viperous** /viep(ə)'rəs/ *adj* 1 **viperous**, viperine of or like a viper, venomous 2 **viperish** – **viperously** *adv*

**viper's bugloss** *n* a coarse bristly Old World plant of the borage family with showy blue tubular flowers

**virago** /vɪ'rahgoh/ *n*, *pl* **viragoes**, **viragos** 1 a loud overbearing woman, a termagant 2 *archaic* a woman of great stature, strength, and courage [L *viragin-*, *virago*, fr *vir* man – more at *VIRILE*] – **viraginous** /vɪ'raɪnjəs/ *adj*

**virole** /vɪ'roh/ *n*, *pl* **virole**s any of various small insect-eating American birds [L, a small bird, fr *virere* to be green]

**virescence** /vɪ'res(ə)ns/ *n* the state of becoming green, *esp* of plant organs (e.g. petals) that are not normally green [*virescent* fr L *virescent-*, *virescens*, pp of *virescere* to become green, incho of *virere*] – **virescent** *adj*

**virgin** /'vɜːjɪn/ *n* 1 an unmarried girl or woman 2 *often cap* (a statue or picture of) the Virgin Mary 3 a person, *esp* a girl, who has not had sexual intercourse 4 a female animal that has never copulated [L *virgin-*, fr *vir* man – more at *VIRILE*] – **virginity** /vɜː'jɪnəti/ *n*

**virgin** *adj* 1 free of impurity or stain, unsullied 2 being a virgin 3 characteristic of or befitting a virgin; modest 4 untouched, unexploited, *specif* not altered by human activity (< a ~ forest > 5 of metal produced directly from ore; not scrap

**virginal** /'vɜːjɪnəl/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of a virgin or virginity; *esp* pure, chaste 2 fresh, untouched, uncorrupted – **virginally** *adv*

**virginal** *n* a small rectangular harpsichord popular in the 16th and 17th c – *often pl* with sing. meaning [prob fr L *virginalis* of a virgin, fr *virgin-*, *virgo*]

**virgin birth** *n* 1 birth from a virgin 2 *often cap* **V&B** the doctrine that Jesus was born of a virgin mother

**Virginia** /vɜː'jɪnjə, -ni-ə/ *n* a usu mild-flavoured flue-cured tobacco

grown orig in N America and used *esp* in cigarettes [Virginia, state of the USA]


**Virginia creeper** *n* a climbing plant of the grape family with reddish leaves composed of 5 leaflets and bluish black berries

**Virginia reel** *n* an American country dance

**Virginia stock** *n* an annual plant of the mustard family with small pink, white, red, or lilac flowers

**Virgin Mary** /'meəri/ *n* the mother of Jesus

**virgin wool** *n* new wool not yet processed

**Virgo** /'vɜːgoh/ *n* (sby born under) the 6th sign of the zodiac in astrology, which is pictured as a woman holding an ear of corn  **SYMBOL** [L, lit, virgin] – **Virgoan** /-vɜː-/ *adj* or *n*

**virgo intacta** /'vɜːgoh ɪn'taktə/ *n* a virgin human female with an unbroken hymen [L, untouched virgin]

**viridescent** /vɪ'rɪdes(ə)nt/ *adj* slightly green [L *viridis* green – more at *VERDANT*]

**viridian** /vɪ'dɪn-ən/ *n* (a chrome oxide pigment having) a strong bluish green colour [L *viridis*]

**virile** /'vɪrɪl/ *adj* 1 having the nature, properties, or qualities (often thought of as typical) of a man, *specif* capable of functioning as a male in copulation 2 vigorous, forceful 3 characteristic of or associated with adult males, masculine [MF or L; MF *viril*, fr L *virilis*, fr *vir* man, male; akin to OE & OHG *wer* man, Skt *vīra*]

**virilism** /vɪ'rɪlɪz(ə)m/ *n* the abnormal appearance of male secondary sex characters a precociously in the male b in the female

**virility** /vɜː'ɪlɪti/ *n* 1 power to procreate 2 manly vigour, masculinity [*VIRILE* + *-ITY*]

**virology** /vie-'rɒləʒi/ *n* a branch of science that deals with viruses [NL *virus* + ISV *-logy*] – **virologic** /-rɒlə'ɒjɪk/, **virological** *adj*, **virologically** *adv*, **virologist** /-rɒlə'ɒjɪst/ *n*

**virtual** /'vɜːtʃʊəl/ *adj* 1 that is such in essence or effect though not formally recognized or admitted (< a ~ dictator > 2 formed by the apparent convergence of light rays (< a ~ image > – compare **REAL** 2d [ME, possessed of certain physical virtues, fr ML *virtualis*, fr L *virtus* strength, virtue]

**virtually** /'vɜːtʃʊəli, -choʊli/ *adv* almost entirely, for all practical purposes

**virtue** /'vɜːtyʊəh, -choʊh/ *n* 1a conformity to a standard of right, morality b a particular moral excellence (< truthfulness is a ~ > 2 a beneficial or commendable quality (< has the ~ of being easily assembled > 3 a capacity to act, potency 4 chastity, *esp* in a woman [ME *virtu*, fr OF, fr L *virtut-*, *virtus* strength, manliness, virtue, fr *vir* man – more at *VIRILE*] – **virtueless** *adj* – by virtue of 1 through the force of, having as a right 2 as a result of, because of

**virtuosity** /'vɜːtyʊəh'ɒsəti/ *n* great technical skill, *esp* in the practice of a fine art

**virtuoso** /'vɜːtyʊəh'ɒshoh, -zoh/ *n*, *pl* **virtuosos**, **virtuosi** /-si, -zi/ 1 one skilled in or having a taste for the fine arts 2 one who excels in the technique of an art, *esp* in musical performance [It, fr *virtuoso*, *adj*, virtuous, skilled, fr LI *virtuosus* virtuous, fr L *virtus*] – **virtuosic** /-hɒzɪk, -hɒsɪk/ *adj*

**virtuoso** *adj* (characteristic) of a virtuoso, having the manner or style of a virtuoso

**virtuous** /'vɜːtʃʊə-s/ *adj* 1 having or exhibiting virtue, *esp* morally excellent; righteous 2 chaste – **virtuously** *adv*, **virtuousness** *n*

**virulence** /'vɪrɪjʊləns, -rə-/ *n*, **virulency** /-si/ *n* 1 extreme bitterness or malignancy of temper; rancour 2 malignancy, venomousness 3 the relative capacity of a pathogen to overcome body defences

**virulent** /'vɪrɪjʊ-lənt, -rə-/ *adj* 1a of a disease severe and developing rapidly b able to overcome bodily defensive mechanisms (< a ~ strain of bacterium > 2 extremely poisonous or venomous 3 full of malice; malignant 4 objectionably harsh or strong (< a ~ purple > [ME, fr L *virulentus*, fr *virus* poison] – **virulently** *adv*

**virus** /vie-'rʊs/ *n* 1a the causative agent of any infectious disease – not now used technically b (a disease caused by) any of a large group of submicroscopic often disease-causing agents that typically consist of a protein coat surrounding an RNA or DNA core and that multiply only in living cells 2 sth that poisons the mind or soul (< the ~ of racism > [NL, fr L, slimy liquid, poison, stench; akin to OE *wæc* marsh, Gk *ios* poison, Skt *vīṣa*] – **viral** *adj*, **viricide** /vie-'rɪsɪd/ *n*, **viricidal** /-wɪdɪl/ *adj*, **viricidally** *adv*

**visa** /'veɪzə/ *n* an endorsement made on a passport by the proper authorities (e.g. of a country at entrance or exit) denoting that the bearer may proceed [F, fr L, neut pl of *visus*, pp]

**visa** *vr* **visaing**; **visaed** to provide (a passport) with a visa

- visage** /'vɪʒi/ *n* 1 a face, countenance 2 an aspect, appearance (*grimy ~ of a mining town*) *USE* fml or poetic [ME, fr OF, fr *vis* face, fr L *visus* sight, fr *visus*, pp of *videre* to see – more at *wt*] – **visaged** *adj*
- vis-à-vis** /'veɪ zə 'veɪ/ *prep* 1 face to face with, opposite 2 in relation to [F, lit., face to face]
- viscacha** /'vis'kacha/, **vizacha** /'vɪz-/ *n* any of several S American burrowing rodents related to the chinchilla [Sp *vizacha*, fr Quechua *wiskácha*]
- viscera** /'vɪsərə/ *n pl* the internal body organs collectively
- visceral** /'vɪsərəl/ *adj* 1 deeply or intensely felt (< ~ sensation) 2 of or located on or among the viscera 3 instinctive, unreasoning (< a ~ conviction) – fml – **viscerally** *adv*
- viscid** /'vɪsɪd/ *adj* 1a adhesive, sticky b glutinous, viscous 2 covered with a sticky layer (< ~ leaves) [LL *viscidus*, fr L *viscum* birdlime – more at viscous] – **viscidly** *adv*, **viscidly** /'vɪsɪdli/ *n*
- viscometer** /'vɪs'kɒmɪtə/ *n* an instrument for measuring viscosity [*viscosity* + *-meter*] – **viscometry** /-tri/ *n*, **viscometric** /'vɪskə'metrɪk/ *adj*
- viscose** /'vɪskəʊs, -kəʊz/ *n* 1 a viscous solution made by treating cellulose with caustic alkali solution and carbon disulphide and used in making rayon and cellulose films 2 viscose rayon [obs *viscose*, *adj* (viscous)] – **viscose** *adj*
- viscosimeter** /'vɪskəʊ'sɪmɪtə/ *n* a viscometer [ISV *viscosity* + *-meter*] – **viscosimetric** /'vɪs,kəʊ'metrɪk/ *adj*
- viscosity** /'vɪs'kɒsɪti/ *n* 1 being viscous 2 (a measure of the force needed to overcome) the property of a liquid, gas, or semifluid that enables it to offer resistance to flow
- viscount** /'vɪkəʊnt/ *n* a member of the peerage in Britain ranking below an earl and above a baron [ME *viscounte*, fr MF *viscomite*, fr ML *vicecomes*, *vicecomes*, fr LL *vice-* + *comes*, *comes* count – more at *'COUNT*] – **viscountcy** /-si/ *n*, **viscounty** /-ti/ *n*
- viscountess** /'vɪkəʊntɪs, 'vɪkəʊntɪs/ *n* 1 the wife or widow of a viscount 2 a woman having the rank of a viscount
- viscous** /'vɪskəs/ *adj* 1 viscid 2 having or characterized by (high) viscosity (< ~ flow) [ME *viscouse*, fr LL *viscosus* full of birdlime, viscous, fr L *viscum* mistletoe, birdlime, akin to OHG *wihsla* cherry, Gk *ixos* mistl-*toe*] – **viscously** *adv*, **viscousness** *n*
- viscus** /'vɪskəs/ *n, pl viscera /'vɪsərə/ the heart, liver, intestines, or other internal body organ located esp in the great cavity of the trunk [L (*pl viscera*)]*
- vice** /vɪs/ *vt or n*, chiefly *NAm* (to hold with) a mechanical vice
- Vishnu** /'vɪʃnuːh/ *n* the preserver god of the Hindu sacred triad – compare *BRAHMA*, *SIVA* [Skt *Vishnu*]
- visibility** /'vɪzə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 being visible 2 the clearness of the atmosphere as revealed by the greatest distance at which prominent objects can be identified visually with the naked eye
- visible** /'vɪzəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being seen (< stars ~ to the naked eye) (< ~ light) 2a exposed to view (< the ~ horizon) b in the public eye, prominent (< a panel of highly ~ people) 3 capable of being perceived, noticeable (< her ~ impatience) 4 tangibly or implicitly present 5 of or being trade in goods rather than services (< ~ exports) – compare *INVISIBLE* [ME, fr MF or L; MF, fr L *visibilis*, fr *visus*, pp] – **visibleness** *n*, **visibly** *adv*
- visible horizon** *n* *HORIZON* 1a
- Visigoth** /'vɪzɪgoθ/ *n* a member of the western division of the Goths [LL *Visigothi*, *pl*] – **Visigothic** /-'goθɪk/ *adj*
- vision** /'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *n* 1a sth (revelatory) seen in a dream, trance, or ecstasy b a mental image of sth immaterial (< had ~s of missing the train) 2a the power of imagination; also the manner of perceiving mental images (< an artist's ~) b discernment, foresight (< a man of ~) c a supernatural apparition 3a the act or power of seeing, *SIGHT* 3a b the sense by which the qualities of an object (e.g. colour, luminosity, shape, and size) constituting its appearance are perceived and which acts through the eye 4a sth seen b a lovely or charming sight [ME, fr OF, fr L *visio*-, *visio*, fr *visus*, pp of *videre* to see – more at *wt*] – **visional** *adj*, **visionally** *adv*, **visionless** *adj*
- visionary** /'vɪʒ(ə)nri, -əri/ *adj* 1a able or likely to see visions b disposed to daydreaming or imagining; dreamy 2a of the nature of a vision; illusory b impracticable, utopian (< a ~ scheme) 3 of or characterized by visions or the power of vision – **visionariness** *n*
- visionary** *n* 1 one who sees visions; a seer 2 one whose ideas or projects are impractical; a dreamer
- visit** /'vɪzɪt/ *vt* 1a *archaic*, of God to comfort (< ~ us with Thy salvation – Charles Wesley) b to afflict (< a city frequently ~ed by the plague) c to inflict punishment for (< ~ed the sins of the fathers upon the children) 2a to pay a call on for reasons of kindness, friendship, ceremony, or business (< ~ing the sick) b to reside with temporarily as a guest c to go or come to look at or stay at (e.g. for business or sightseeing) d to go or come officially to inspect or oversee (< a bishop ~ing the parish) ~ *vi* to make a visit or visits [ME *visiten*, fr OF *visiter*, fr L *visitare*, freq of *visere* to go to see, fr *videre* to see] – **visitable** *adj*
- visit** *n* 1a an act of visiting; a call b a temporary residence as a guest c an extended but temporary stay (< his annual ~s abroad) 2 an official or professional call; a visitation
- visitant** /'vɪzɪt(ə)nt/ *n* 1a (supernatural) visitor 2 *VISITOR* 2 – **visitant** *adj*
- visitation** /'vɪzɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 the act or an instance of visiting, *esp* an official visit (e.g. for inspection) 2a a special dispensation of divine favour or wrath b a severe trial, an affliction 3 *cap* the visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth recounted in Luke 1:39–56 and celebrated on July 2 by a Christian festival – **visitation** *adj*
- visitatorial** /'vɪzɪ'tɔːriəl/ *adj* of visitation or an official visitor
- visiting card** /'vɪzɪtɪŋ/ *n* a small card of introduction bearing the name and sometimes the address and profession of the owner
- visiting professor** *n* a professor invited to join an academic staff for a limited time
- visitor** /'vɪzɪtə/ *n* 1 sby who or sth that makes (formal) visits 2 a migratory bird that visits a locality for a short time at regular intervals
- 'visitors' book** *n* a book in which visitors (e.g. to a place of interest or hotel) write their names and addresses and sometimes comments
- visor**, **vizor** /'vɪzə/ *n* 1 the (movable) part of a helmet that covers the face 2 a usu movable flat sunshade attached at the top of a vehicle windshield 3 chiefly *NAm* a peak on a cap [ME *viser*, fr AF, fr OF *visiere*, fr *vis* face – more at *visage*] – **visored** *adj*, **visorless** *adj*
- vista** /'vɪstə/ *n* 1 a distant view *esp* through or along an avenue or opening, a prospect 2 an extensive mental view (e.g. over a stretch of time or a series of events) [It, sight, fr *visto*, pp of *vedere* to see, fr L *videre* – more at *wt*] – **vistaless** *adj*
- visual** /'vɪz(h)juəl/ *adj* 1 of, used in, or produced by vision (< ~ organs) (< ~ impressions) 2 visible (< a ~ equivalent for his feelings) 3 producing mental images, vivid 4 done or executed by sight only (< ~ navigation) [ME, fr LL *visualis*, fr L *visus* sight, fr *visus*, pp of *videre* to see] – **visually** *adv*
- visual aid** *n* an instructional device (e.g. a chart or film) that appeals chiefly to vision
- visual display unit** *n* a device that has a cathode ray tube on which information (held in a computer) may be displayed or updated, a *VDU*  *COMPUTER, TELEVISION*
- visual field** *n* the entire expanse of space visible at a given instant without moving the eyes
- visualize**, **-ise** /'vɪz(h)uəlaɪz/ *vt* 1 to make visible 2 to see or form a mental image of – **visualization** /-'zəʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- visual purple** *n* a light-sensitive red or purple pigment in the retinal rods of various vertebrates; *specif* rhodopsin
- vital** /'vɪəl/ *adj* 1 concerned with or necessary to the maintenance of life (< ~ organs) 2 full of life and vigour; animated 3 concerned with, affecting, or being a manifestation of life or living beings 4a tending to renew or refresh the living, invigorating b of the utmost importance; essential to continued worth or well-being [ME, fr MF, fr L *vitalis* of life, fr *vita* life; akin to L *vivere* to live – more at *quick*] – **vitally** *adv*
- vital capacity** *n* the breathing capacity of the lungs expressed as the maximum volume of air that can be forcibly exhaled
- vitalism** /'vɪəlɪz(ə)m/ *n* a doctrine that the functions of a living organism are due to a vital principle and are not wholly explicable by the laws of physics and chemistry – **vitalist** *n or adj*, **vitalistic** /-'ɪstɪk/ *adj*
- vitality** /'vɪələtəti/ *n* 1a the quality which distinguishes the living from the dead or inanimate b capacity to live and develop; also physical or mental liveliness 2 power of enduring (< the ~ of an idiom)
- vitalize**, **-ise** /'vɪəlɪz/ *vt* to endow with vitality; animate – **vitalization** /-'zəʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*
- vitals** /'vɪəlɪz/ *n pl* 1 the vital organs (e.g. the heart, liver, or brain) 2 essential parts
- vital statistics** *n pl* 1 statistics relating to births, deaths, health, etc 2 facts considered to be interesting or important; *specif* a woman's bust, waist, and hip measurements
- vitamin** /'vɪtəmin, 'vi-/ *n* any of various organic compounds that are essential in minute quantities to the nutrition of most animals and act *esp* as (precursors of) coenzymes in the regulation of metabolic processes [L *vita* life + ISV *amine*]

**vitamin 'A** *n* any of several fat-soluble vitamins found in egg yolk, milk, cod-liver oil, etc that are converted into retinal in the animal body and whose lack results in night blindness

**vitamin 'B** *n* 1 VITAMIN B COMPLEX 2 VITAMIN B<sub>1</sub> 3 VITAMIN B<sub>2</sub> 4 VITAMIN B<sub>6</sub> 5 VITAMIN B<sub>12</sub>

**vitamin B<sub>1</sub>** /,bee 'wun/ *n* thiamine

**vitamin B<sub>2</sub>** /,bee 'tooh/ *n* riboflavin

**vitamin B<sub>6</sub>** /,bee 'siks/ *n* (a vitamin B chemically related to) pyridoxine

**vitamin B<sub>12</sub>** /,bee 'twelv/ *n* a cobalt-containing water-soluble vitamin B that occurs esp in liver, is essential for normal blood formation and nerve function, and whose lack or malabsorption results in pernicious anaemia

**vitamin 'B complex** *n* a group of water-soluble vitamins that are found in most foods and include biotin, choline, folic acid, nicotinic acid, and pantothenic acid

**vitamin 'C** *n* a water-soluble vitamin found in (citrus) fruits, spinach, cabbage, or other plant parts that is used as an antioxidant for preserving foods and whose lack results in scurvy

**vitamin 'D** *n* any of several fat-soluble vitamins chemically related to the steroids and found esp in animal products (e.g. fish liver oils, or milk) that are essential for normal bone and tooth structure: e.g. a VITAMIN D<sub>2</sub> b VITAMIN D<sub>3</sub>

**vitamin D<sub>2</sub>** /,dee 'tooh/ *n* a synthetic vitamin D used to treat rickets and as a rat poison

**vitamin D<sub>3</sub>** /,dee 'three/ *n* the main naturally occurring vitamin D, found in most fish liver oils and formed in the skin of human being on exposure to sunlight

**vitamin 'E** *n* any of several fat-soluble compounds found esp in leaves and oils made from seeds whose lack leads to infertility and the degeneration of muscle in many vertebrates animals, esp tocopherol

**vitaminize, -ise** /vɪtəmaɪz/, 'vie-/ *vt* to provide or supplement with vitamins - **vitaminization** /-zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**vitamin 'K** *n* any of several chemically related naturally occurring or synthetic fat-soluble vitamins essential for the clotting of blood [Dan koagulation coagulation]

**vitellin** /vɪ'telɪn/ *n* a phosphorus-containing protein in egg yolk [vɪt-ɪ-lus]

**vitelline membrane** /vɪ'telɪn-, -liən/ *n* the membrane that encloses the developing embryo in an egg and that in many invertebrates acts to prevent other spermatozoa from entering

**vitellus** /vɪ'teləs/ *n* YOUNG 2 [L. lit. 'small calf - more at VIAT] **vitelline** /-lɪn-, -liən/ *adj*

**vitalize** /vɪ'ʃaɪz/ *vt* 1 to make faulty or defective, debase (a spirit ~d by luxury) 2 to invalidate [L. *vitatus*, pp of *vittare*, fr *vitum* fault, vice] - **vitiator** *n*

**viticulture** /vɪ'tɪkʌlʃə/ *n* (the science of) the cultivation of grapevines [L. *vitis* vine + E *culture* - more at WITHY] - **viticultural** /-kʌlʃərəl/ *adj*, **viticulturist** /-kʌlʃərɪst/ *n*

**vitreous** /vɪ'triəs/ *adj* 1a resembling glass in colour, composition, brittleness, etc (~ rocks) b characterized by low porosity and usu translucence (~ china) 2 of or being the vitreous humour [L. *vitreus*, fr *vitrum* glass - more at WOARD] - **vitreously** *adv*, **vitreousness** *n*

**vitreous 'humour** *n* the colourless transparent jelly that fills the eyeball behind the lens - NERVE

**vitrify** /vɪ'trɪfi/ *vb* to convert into or become glass or a glassy substance (by heat and fusion) [F *vitrifier*, fr MF, fr L. *vitrum* glass] - **vitrifiable** /-fə-, -rə-/ *adj* **vitrification** /-fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**vitriol** /vɪ'trɪəl/ *n* 1a a (hydrated) sulphate of iron, copper, zinc, etc b concentrated sulphuric acid 2 virulent speech, expression, feeling, etc [ME, fr MF, fr ML *vitrolum*, alter of LL *vitroolum*, neut of *vitroolus* glassy, fr L. *vitreus* vitreous] - **vitriolic** /-ɒlɪk/ *adj*

**vitta** /vɪ'tə/ *n*, pl **vittae** /vɪ'tɪ/ a stripe, streak [NL, fr L. fillet; akin to L. *viere* to plait - more at WIRE]

**vittles** /vɪ'tlɪz/ *n* pl food [alter. of *vituals*]

**vituperate** /vɪ'tyooʃəreɪt/ *vt* to subject to severe or abusive censure, berate ~ *vi* to use harsh condemnatory language [L. *vituperatus*, pp of *vituperare*, fr *vitium* fault + *parare* to make, prepare - more at PARE] - **vituperator** *n*, **vituperative** /-rətɪv/ *adj*, **vituperation** /-rə'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**viva** /'vɪvə/, 'veevə/ *n* chiefly Br **VIVA VOCE**

**vivacious** /vɪ'vaɪʃəs/ *adj* lively in temper or conduct; sprightly [L. *vivax*, *vivax*, lit., long-lived, fr *vivere* to live - more at QUICK] - **vivaciously** *adv*, **vivaciousness** *n*, **vivacity** /vɪ'vəsɪti/ *n*

**vivandière** /vɪ,vɒn'dɪə/ (Fr *vivandière*) *n* a woman who in former times

accompanied European, esp French, regiments to sell food and drink [F, fem of MF *vivandier*, fr ML *vivanda* food - more at VIAND]

**vivarium** /vɪ'veərɪəm/ *n*, pl **vivaria** /-rɪ-ə/, **vivariums** an enclosure for keeping and observing plants or esp terrestrial animals indoors [L. park, preserve, fr *vivus* alive - more at QUICK]

**viva voce** /'vɪvə 'vohsɪ, 'veevə, 'vohchi/ *n*, *adj*, or *adv* (an examination conducted) by word of mouth [adv L, with the living voice, *adj* & *n* fr *adv*]

**viverrid** /vɪ'verɪd/ *n* a civet, genet, mongoose, or related slender weasel-like flesh-eating mammal with usu retractable claws [NL *Viverridae*, group name, fr *Viverra*, type genus, fr L. *Viverra ferret*] - **viverrid** *adj*

**vivid** /vɪvɪd/ *adj* 1 full of vigorous life or freshness, lively (~ personality) 2 of a colour very intense 3 producing a strong or clear impression on the senses, specif producing distinct mental images (a ~ description) [L. *vividus*, fr *vivere* to live - more at QUICK] - **vividly** *adv*, **vividness** *n*

**vivify** /vɪ'vɪfi/ *vt* 1 to give (renewed) life to; animate 2 to impart vitality or vividness to [MF *vivifier*, fr LL *vivificare*, fr L. *vivificus* enlivening, fr *vivus* alive] - **vivifier** *n*, **vivification** /-fɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *n*

**viviparous** /vɪ'vɪpərəs/ *adj* 1 producing living young, instead of eggs, from within the body in the manner of nearly all mammals, many reptiles, and a few fishes - LIFE CYCLE 2 germinating while still attached to the parent plant (the ~ seed of the mangrove) [L. *viviparus*, fr *vivus* + *-parus* -parous] - **viviparously** *adv*, **viviparousness** *n*, **viviparity** /vɪ'vɪpərɪti/ *n*

**vissect** /vɪ'veɪsekt, -sɪ-/ *vb* to perform vivisection (on) [back-formation fr *vivisection*] - **vissector** /-sɪ-/ *n*

**vissection** /vɪ'vɪseks(ə)n/ *n* operation or (distressful) experimentation on a living animal, usu in the course of medical or physiological research [L. *vivus* + E *section*] - **vissectional** *adj*, **vissectionally** *adv*, **vissectionist** *n*

**vixen** /vɪks(ə)n/ *n* 1 a female fox 2 a scolding ill-tempered woman [(assumed) ME (southern) *vixen*, alter of ME *fixen*, fr OE *fyxe*, fem of *fox*] - **vixenish** *adj*, **vixenishly** *adv*

**vizard** /'vɪzəd/ *n* a mask for disguise or protection [alter of ME *viser* mask, visor]

**vizcacha** /vɪz'kacha/ *n* a viscacha

**vizier** /vɪ'zɪə/ *n* a high executive officer of various Muslim countries, esp of the former Ottoman Empire [Turk *vezir*, fr Ar *wazir*] - **vizierate** /-rət-, -rəti/ *n*, **vizierial** /-rɪ-əl/ *adj*, **viziership** *n*

**vizor** /'vɪzə/ *n* a visor

**vlei** /vleɪ/ *n*, SAfr a marshy depression [Afrk *vlei* meadow, valley, fr MD *valey* valley, field, fr OF *valee* - more at VALLEY]

**V neck** /vee/ *n* (a garment with) a V-shaped neck - GARMENT

**vocal** /'vohkəl/ *n* a word considered as a combination of sounds or letters without regard to its meaning [MF, word, name, fr L. *vocābulum*, fr *vocare* to call - more at VOICE]

**vocabulary** /voh'kabyooləri, və-/ *n* 1 a list of words, and sometimes phrases, usu arranged alphabetically and defined or translated (a ~ at the back of the book) 2a the words employed by a language, group, or individual or in a field of work or knowledge (her limited ~) b a list or collection of terms or codes available for use (e.g. in an indexing system) 3 a supply of expressive techniques or devices (e.g. of an art form) [MF *vocabulaire*, prob fr ML *vocabularium*, fr neut of *vocabularius* verbal, fr L. *vocabulum*]

**vocal** /'vohkl/ *adj* 1 uttered by the voice, oral 2 of, composed or arranged for, or sung by the human voice 3a having or exercising the power of producing voice, speech, or sound b given to strident or insistent expression, outspoken [ME, fr L. *vocalis*, fr *voc-*, *vox* voice - more at VOICE] - **vocally** *adv*, **vocality** /-kələti/ *n*

**vocal** *n* 1 a vocal sound 2 a usu accompanied musical composition or passage for the voice

**vocal cords** *n* pl either of 2 pairs of mucous membrane folds in the cavity of the larynx whose free edges vibrate to produce sound

**vocalic** /voh'kalɪk/ *adj* containing, consisting of, being, functioning as, or associated with a vowel or voiced speech segment [L. *vocalis* vowel, fr *vocalis* vocal] - **vocalically** *adv*

**vocalism** /'vohklɪz(ə)m/ *n* vocal art or technique in singing

**vocalist** /'vohklɪst/ *n* a singer

**vocalize, -ise** /'vohklɪz/ *vt* to give voice to, utter, specif to sing ~ *vi* 1 to utter vocal sounds 2 to sing (without words) - **vocalizer** *n*, **vocalization** /-zaɪz(ə)n/ *n*

**vocation** /voh'keɪʃ(ə)n, və-/ *n* 1a a summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action, esp a divine call to the religious life b an entry into the priesthood or a religious order 2 the work in which

a person is regularly employed, a career 3 the special function of an individual or group [ME *vocacioun*, fr L *vocation*-, *vocatio* summons, fr *vocatus*, pp of *vocare* to call – more at VOICE]

**vocational** /voh'kaysh(ə)n/, və-/ *adj* of or being training in a skill or trade to be pursued as a career (< ~ courses>) [VOCATION + 'AI] – **vocationally** *adv*

**vocative** /voh'vətɪv/ *n* (a form in) a grammatical case expressing the one addressed [ME *vocatif*, *adj*, fr MF, fr L *vocativus*, fr *vocatus*] – **vocative** *adj*, **vocatively** *adv*

**vociferate** /voh'sɪfəreɪt/, və-/ *vb* to cry out or utter loudly; clamour, shout [L *vociferatus*, pp of *vociferari*, fr *voc*-, *vox* voice + *ferre* to bear – more at VOICE, 'BEAR] – **vociferant** *n*, **vociferator** *n*, **vociferation** /-rɪʃən/ *n*

**vociferous** /voh'sɪf(ə)rəs, və-/ *adj* marked by or given to vehement insistent outcry – **vociferously** *adv*, **vociferousness** *n*

**vocoder** /voh'kəʊdər/ *n* an electronic mechanism that reduces speech signals to low-frequency signals which can be transmitted over a communications system of limited bandwidth [voice coder]

**vodka** /'vɒdkə/ *n* a colourless and unaged neutral spirit distilled from a mash (e.g. of rye or wheat) [Russ, fr *vodka* water, akin to OE *wæter* water]

**voe** /voh/ *n* an inlet or narrow bay of the Orkney or Shetland islands [of Scand origin; akin to Norw *vaag* bay, inlet, ON *vagr* creek, bay]

**vogue** /vohg/ *n* 1 the prevailing, esp temporary, fashion (<long skirts were in ~> 2 popular acceptance or favour; popularity (<book enjoyed a great ~ about 1960>) [MF, action of rowing, course, fashion, fr OIt *voga*, fr *vogare* to row; akin to OSp *bogar* to row] – **vogue** *adj*

**voice** /voys/ *n* 1a sound produced by humans, birds, etc by forcing air from the lungs through the larynx in mammals or syrinx in birds b(1) (the use, esp in singing or acting, of) musical sound produced by the vocal cords and resonated by the cavities of the head, throat, lungs, etc (2) the power or ability to sing (3) any of the melodic parts in a vocal or instrumental composition (4) condition of the vocal organs with respect to singing (<be in good ~> c expiration of air with the vocal cords drawn close so as to vibrate audibly (e.g. in uttering vowels or consonant sounds such as /v/ or /z/) d the faculty of utterance, speech 2 a sound suggesting vocal utterance (<the ~ of a foghorn> 3 an instrument or medium of expression (<the party became the ~ of the workers> 4a the expressed wish or opinion (<claimed to follow the ~ of the people> b right of expression, say (<I have no ~ in this matter> c expression – chiefly in *give voice* to 5 distinction of form or a particular system of inflections of a verb to indicate whether it is the subject of the verb that acts (<the passive ~>) [ME, fr OF *vois*, fr L *voc*-, *vox*; akin to OHG *giwahanen* to mention, L *vocare* to call, Gk *epos* word, speech]

**voice** *vt* 1 to express (a feeling or opinion) in words, utter 2 to adjust (e.g. an organ pipe) in manufacture, for producing the proper musical sounds 3 to pronounce with voice

**voice box** *n* the larynx

**voiced** *adj* 1 having a usu specified type of voice (<soft-voiced> 2 uttered with vocal cord vibration (e.g. in /b/) – **voicedness** *n*

**voiceless** /-lɪs/ *adj* not voiced (e.g. in /p/) ['VOICE + -LESS] – **voicelessly** *adv*, **voicelessness** *n*

**voice-over** *n* the voice of an unseen narrator in a film or television programme, also the voice of a visible character indicating his thoughts

**voice print** /-prɪnt/ *n* a pattern of sound frequencies and amplitudes in the voice that is hypothetically distinctive for each person [voice + -print (as in *fingerprint*)]

**void** /voyd/ *adj* 1 containing nothing; unoccupied 2a devoid (<a nature ~ of all malice> b having no members or examples; *specif*, of a suit having no cards represented in a particular hand 3 vain, useless 4 of no legal effect 5 having no holder or occupant; vacant (<a ~ bishopric>) – *fml* [ME *voide*, fr OF, fr (assumed) VL *voitus*, deriv of L *vacuus* – more at VACUUM] – **voidness** *n*

**void** *n* 1a empty space, vacuum b an opening, gap 2 a feeling of lack, want, or emptiness

**void** *vt* 1 to make empty or vacant; clear 2 to discharge or emit (< ~ excrement> 3 to nullify, annul (< ~ a contract>) [ME *voiden*, fr MF *vuidier*, fr (assumed) VL *vocitare*, fr *vocitus*] – **voidable** *adj*, **voider** *n*

**voile** /voyl/ *n* a fine soft sheer fabric used esp for women's summer clothing or curtains [F, veil, fr L *vela*, neut pl of *velum*]

**volant** /'vɒlənt/ *adj* (capable of) flying [MF, fr L *volant*-, *volans*, prp of *volare* to fly]

**volar** /'vɒlə/ *adj* of the palm of the hand or the sole of the foot [L *vola* palm of the hand, sole of the foot]

**volatile** /'vɒlətiəl/ *n* a volatile substance [ME *volatil* winged creature, fr OF, fr *volatilis* group of birds, fr ML *volatilis*, fr L, neut pl of *volatilis* winged, volatile]

**volatile** *adj* 1 capable of being readily vaporized at a relatively low temperature (<alcohol is a ~ liquid> 2a lighthearted, lively b dangerously unstable, explosive (<a ~ social situation> 3a frivolously changeable, fickle b characterized by rapid change 4 evanescent, transitory [F, fr L *volatilis* winged, flying, fr *volatus*, pp of *volare* to fly] – **volatility** /-tɪləti/ *n*


**volatilize**, -ise /və'tɪlətiəz/, vɪ-/ *vb* to (cause to) evaporate as vapour – **volatilizable** *adj*, **volatilization** /-tɪləzi(ə)n/ *n*

**vol-au-vent** /vɒl əv 'vɒnh, 'vɒ- / *n* a round case of puff pastry filled with a mixture of meat, poultry, or fish in a thick sauce [F, lit, flight in the wind]

**volcanic** /vɒl'kənɪk/ *adj* 1a of or produced by a volcano b characterized by volcanoes 2 explosively violent, volatile (< ~ emotions> – **volcanically** *adv*

**volcanic glass** *n* natural glass produced by the rapid cooling of molten lava

**volcanicity** /vɒl'kənɪsɪti/, **volcanism** /'vɒlkə,nɪz(ə)m/ *n* volcanic power or action

**volcano** /vɒl'kaynoh/ *n*, pl **volcanoes**, **volcanos** 1 (a hill or mountain surrounding) an outlet in a planet's crust from which molten or hot rock and steam issue  GEOGRAPHY 2 a dynamic or violently creative person, also a situation liable to become violent [It *vulcano*, fr L *Vulcanus*, *Vulcanus* Vulcan, Roman god of fire & metalworking] – **volcanology** /vɒlkə'nɒlədʒi/ *n*, **volcanologist** *n*

**vole** /vohl/ *n* any of various small plant eating rodents usu with a stout body, blunt nose, and short ears [earlier *vole-mouse*, fr *vole*- (of Scand origin, akin to ON *vollr* field) + *mouse*]


**volition** /və'liʃ(ə)n/ *n* 1 (an act of making) a free choice or decision 2 the power of choosing or determining, will [F, fr ML *volition*-, *volitio*, fr L *vol*- (stem of *velle* to will, wish) + -*ition*-, -*itio* (as in L *positio*-, *positio* position) – more at WILL] – **volitional** *adj*

**volitive** /'vɒlətɪv/ *adj* of the will – *fml*

**volley** /'vɒli/ *n* 1a a flight of arrows, bullets, or other missiles b simultaneous discharge of a number of missile weapons c(1) (the course of) the flight of the ball, shuttle, etc before striking the ground, also a return or succession of returns made by hitting the ball, shuttle, etc before it touches the ground (2) a kick of the ball in soccer before it touches the ground 2a burst or emission of many things at once or in rapid succession (<a ~ of oaths> [MF *vole* flight, fr *voler* to fly, fr L *volare*]

**volley** *vb* **volleying**; **volleyed** *vt* 1 to discharge (as if) in a volley 2 to propel (an object that has not yet hit the ground), esp with an implement or the hand or foot ~ *vi* 1 to be discharged (as if) in a volley 2 to make a volley – **volleyer** *n*

**volleyball** /-bɔ:l/ *n* a game between 2 teams of usu 6 players who volley a ball over a high net in the centre of a court

**volt** /vohlt, volt/ *n* the derived SI unit of electrical potential difference and electromotive force equal to the difference of potential between 2 points in a conducting wire carrying a constant current of 1 ampere when the power dissipated between these 2 points is equal to 1 watt  PHYSICS [Alessandro Volta †1827 It physicist]

**voltage** /'vɒltiʃ, 'vɒltʃi/ *n* an electric potential difference, electromotive force

**voltaic** /vɒl'tayɪk/ *adj* galvanic [Alessandro Volta]

**voltmeter** /vohl'tamɪtə, vol-/ *n* an apparatus for measuring the quantity of electricity passed through a conductor by the amount of electrolysis produced [ISV *voltaic* + -meter] – **voltmetric** /vɒl'tə'metɪk/ *adj*

**volte-face** /vɒlt 'fæhs, fæ-/ *n* a sudden reversal of attitude or policy, an about-face [F, fr It *voltafaccia*, fr *voltare* to turn (fr (assumed) VL *volvitare*, freq of L *volvere* to roll) + *faciē* face, fr (assumed) VL -*facia*]

**voltmeter** /vɒlt'mi:tə, 'vɒlt-/ *n* an instrument for measuring in volts the differences of potential between different points of an electrical circuit [ISV]

**voluble** /'vɒlyuəbl/ *adj* characterized by ready or rapid speech, talkative [MF or L, MF, variable, rotating, fr L *volubilis*, fr *volvere* to roll, akin to OE *wearlian* to roll, Gk *eilyein* to roll, wrap] – **volubleness** *n*, **volubly** *adv*, **volubility** /-bɪləti/ *n*

**volume** /'vɒlyuəm, 'vɒlyuəm/ *n* 1a a series of printed sheets bound typically in book form; a book b a series of issues of a periodical 2 space occupied as measured in cubic units (e.g. litres); cubic capacity 3a an amount; also a bulk, mass b the amount of a substance occupying a particular volume c (the representation of) mass in art or architecture d

a considerable quantity, a great deal – often pl with sing meaning, esp in *speak volumes* for 4 the degree of loudness or the intensity of a sound [ME, fr MF, fr L *volumen* roll, scroll, fr *volvere* to roll] – **volumed** *adj*

**volumetric** /ˌvɒlyoo'metrik/ *adj* 1 of or involving the measurement of volume 2 of or for (or being chemical analysis using known volumes of) solutions of chemical compounds of standard concentration – **volumetrically** *adv*

**volume unit** *n* the difference in decibels between the power level in an audio circuit and a power level of 1mW in a 500ohm circuit

**voluminous** /və'lyoo'minəs/ *adj* 1 having or containing a large volume, *specif.* of a garment very full 2a consisting of or (capable of) filling a large volume or several volumes (< a ~ correspondence) b writing much or at great length [LL *voluminosus*, fr L *volumin-*, *volumen*] – **voluminously** *adv*, **voluminousness** *n*, **voluminosity** /və'lyoo'mi'nɒsəti/ *n*

**voluntarism** /ˌvɒlɑntɪz(ə)m/ *n* the principle of relying on voluntary action rather than compulsion **voluntarist** *n*, **voluntaristic** /ˌvɒlntɪstɪk/ *adj*

**voluntary** /ˌvɒlɑnt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 proceeding from free choice or consent 2 acting without compulsion and without payment (< ~ workers) 3 intentional (< ~ manslaughter) 4 of, subject to, or regulated by the will (< ~ behaviour) 5 having power of free choice (< man is a ~ agent) 6 provided or supported by voluntary action (< a ~ hospital) [ME, fr L *voluntarius*, fr *voluntas* will, fr *velle* to will, wish – more at WILL] **voluntarily** /ˌvɒlɑnt(ə)rəli/ *adv*, **voluntariness** *n*

**voluntary** *n* an organ piece played before or after a religious service

**voluntaryism** /ˌvɒl(ə)n(ə)rɪz(ə)m/ *n* voluntarism – **voluntaryist** *n*

**voluntary muscle** *n* muscle (e.g. most striated muscle) under voluntary control

**voluntary school** *n* a school built by an independent usu religious body but maintained by a British local education authority

**voluntary** /vɒlɑntɪə/ *n* one who undertakes a service of his/her own free will, esp sb who enters into military service voluntarily [obs F *volontaire* (now *volontaire*), fr *volontaire*, *adj*, voluntary, fr L *voluntarius*]

**volunteer** *adj* being, consisting of, or engaged in by volunteers (< a ~ army)

**volunteer** *vt* 1 to offer or bestow voluntarily (< ~ one's services) 2 to communicate voluntarily, say ~ vt to offer oneself as a volunteer

**voluptuary** /vɒlʉptɪwɒ(ə)rɪ/ *n* one whose chief interest is luxury and sensual pleasure – **voluptuary** *adj*

**voluptuous** /vɒlʉptɪwɒs/ *adj* 1 causing delight or pleasure to the senses, conducive to, occupied with, or arising from sensual gratification (< a ~ dance) 2 suggestive of sensual pleasure (< a ~ mouth), broadly sexually attractive, esp owing to shapeliness [ME, fr L *voluptuosus*, fr *voluptas* pleasure, akin to Gk *elpos* hope, L *velle* to wish – more at WILL] – **voluptuously** *adv*, **voluptuousness** *n*

**volute** /vɒlʉoʊt/ *n* 1 a form that is shaped like a spiral or curled over on itself like a scroll 2 an ornament characteristic of classical architecture that is shaped like a roll of material or a scroll – **ARCHITECTURE** 3 (the short-spined thick shell of) any of numerous marine gastropod molluscs [L *voluta*, fr fem of *volutus*, pp of *volvere* to roll] – **volute**, **volute** *adj*

**volution** /vɒlʉoʊsh(ə)n, -'looʃ-/ *n* 1 a rolling or revolving motion 2 a spiral turn, a twist – **ARCHITECTURE** [L *volutus*, pp]

**volva** /vɒlvə/ *n* a thin membrane round the base of the stem supporting the cap of a fungus [NL, fr L *volva*, *vulva* integument – more at VULVA]

**volvox** /vɒlvɒks/ *n* any of a genus of green single-celled microorganisms that exist combined together in spherical colonies [NL, genus name, fr L *volvere* to roll – more at VOLUBILE]

**volvulus** /vɒlvʉlʉs/ *n* twisting of the intestine upon itself, causing obstruction and pain [NL, fr L *volvere*]

**vomer** /vɒhmə/ *n* a bone of the skull of most vertebrate animals that in human beings forms part of the division between the nostrils [NL, fr L, ploughshare] – **vomerine** /-rɪen, -rɪn/ *adj*

**vomit** /vɒmɪt/ *n* 1 a vomiting, also the vomited matter 2 an emetic [ME, fr MF, fr L *vomitus*, fr *vomitus*, pp of *vomere* to vomit; akin to ON *vama* nausea, Gk *emein* to vomit]

**vomit** *vb* 1 to disgorge (the contents of the stomach) through the mouth 2 to eject (sthg) violently or abundantly, spew – **vomiter** *n*

**vomitory** /vɒmɪt(ə)rɪ/ *n* an entrance piercing the banks of seats of a theatre, amphitheatre, or stadium [LL *vomitrium*, fr L *vomitus*, pp; fr its disgorging the spectators]

**voodoo** /vʉoʊdoʊ/ *n*, *pl voodooes* 1 a set of magical beliefs and practices, mainly of W African origin, practised chiefly in Haiti and characterized

by communication by trance with deities 2a one skilled in (voodoo) spells and necromancy b a voodoo spell [LaF *voudou*, of African origin, akin to Ewe *vo' du'* tutelary deity, demon] – **voodoo** *adj*, **voodooism** *n*

**voodoo** *vt* to bewitch (as if) by means of voodoo

**Voortrekker** /ˌfaw'treks, -'foʊ-/ *n* a S African pioneer of Dutch descent who moved north from the Cape of Good Hope in 1838 to evade British rule [Afrik, fr *voor* before, in front + *trekker* emigrant, fr *trek* to pull, move, emigrate]

**voracious** /və'reɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 having a huge appetite, ravenous 2 excessively eager, insatiable (< a ~ reader) [L *vorac-*, *vorax*, fr *vorare* to devour, akin to OHG *querdar* bait, L *gurgus* whirlpool] – **voraciously** *adv*, **voraciousness** *n*, **voracity** /və'rəsəti/ *n*

**-vorous** /-(v)əs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) eating, feeding on (< herbivorous) [L -*vorus*, fr *vorare* to devour]

**vortex** /ˌvaw'teks/ *n*, *pl vortices* /ˌvaw'tisez/ also **vortexes** 1a a mass of whirling water, air, etc that tends to form a cavity or vacuum in the centre of the circle into which material is drawn, esp a whirlpool or whirlwind b a region within a body of fluid in which the fluid is rotating 2 sthg that resembles a whirlpool in violent activity or in engulfing or overwhelming [NL *vortic-*, *vortex*, fr L *vertex*, *vortex* whirlpool – more at VERTEX] – **vortical** *adj*, **vorticity** /vaw'tisəti/ *n*

**vorticella** /vaw'tselə/ *n*, *pl vorticellae* /-li/, **vorticellae** any of a genus of bell-shaped cilia-bearing protozoans [NL, genus name, fr L *vortic-*, *vortex*]

**vorticism** /ˌvaw'tɪsɪz(ə)m/ *n* an English art movement active from about 1912 and related to cubism and futurism [L *vortic-*, *vortex*] – **vorticist** *n* or *adj*

**vorticose** /ˌvaw'tɪkɒs, -kɒz/ *adj* vortical

**votary** /ˌvɒtəri/, **votariat** /-rɪst/ *n* a staunch admirer, worshipper, or advocate, a devotee [L *votum* vow]

**vote** /voʊt/ *n* 1a a (formal) expression of opinion or will in response to a proposed decision b BALLOT 1 2 the collective verdict of a body of people expressed by voting 3 the franchise 4 a definable group of voters (< getting the Labour ~ to the polls) 5 a sum of money voted for a special use [ME (Sc), fr L *votum* vow, wish – more at VOW]

**vote** *vi* 1 to cast one's vote, esp to exercise a political franchise 2 to express an opinion ~ vt 1 to choose, decide, or authorize by vote 2a to judge by general agreement, declare (< concert was ~d a flop) b to offer as a suggestion, propose (< I ~ we all go home) – *infrm* – **voter** *n*

**voteless** /-lis/ *adj* denied the political franchise [VOTE + -LESS]

**voting machine** /ˌvɒtɪŋ/ *n* a mechanical device for recording votes

**votive** /ˌvɒtɪv/ *adj* 1 offered or performed in fulfilment of a vow and often in gratitude or devotion 2 consisting of or expressing a religious vow, wish, or desire [L *votivus*, fr *votum* vow] – **votively** *adv*, **votive-ness** *n*

**vouch** /vowch/ *vi* 1 to give or act as a guarantee for 2 to supply supporting evidence or personal assurance for [ME *vochen*, *vouchen* to assert, call to witness, fr MF *vocher*, fr L *vocare* to call, summon, fr *vox*, *vox* voice – more at VOICE]

**voucher** /ˌvowchə/ *n* 1a a documentary record of a business transaction b a written certificate or authorization 2 Br a ticket that can be exchanged for specific goods or services [MF *vocher*, *voucher* to vouch]

**vouchsafe** /ˌvowch'sayf/ *vt* 1 to grant as a special privilege or in a gracious or condescending manner 2 to condescend, deign to do sthg – **vouchsafement** *n*

**vousoir** /vʉoʊ'swaɪ/ *n* any of the wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch or vault – **ARCHITECTURE** [F, fr (assumed) VL *vorsorium*, fr *volsus*, pp of L *volvere* to roll – more at VOLUBILE]

**vow** /vow/ *n* a solemn and often religiously binding promise or assertion, *specif* one by which a person binds him-/herself to an act, service, or condition [ME *vowe*, fr OF *vou*, fr L *votum*, fr neut of *votus*, pp of *vovere* to vow, akin to Gk *euchesthai* to pray, vow]

**vow** *vt* 1 to promise solemnly, swear 2 to dedicate or consecrate by a vow 3 to resolve to bring about (< ~ revenge) ~ vt to make a vow – **vower** *n*

**vow** *vt* to avow, declare [ME *vowen*, short for *avowen*]

**vowel** /vowl/ *n* (a letter, in English usu a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y, representing) any of a class of speech sounds (e.g. /ee/ or /i/) characterized by lack of closure in the breath channel or lack of audible friction – **ALPHABET** [ME, fr MF *vowel*, fr L *vocalis* – more at VOCALIC]

**vox populi** /ˌvɒks 'pɒpyʉʉli, -li/ *n* the opinion of the general public [L, voice of the people]

**voyage** /ˌvɒɪɪ/ *n* a considerable course or period of travelling by other than land routes, broadly a journey [ME, fr OF *voiage*, fr LL *viaticum*,

fr L, travelling money, fr neut of *viaticus* of a journey, fr *via* way – more at *VIA*]

**voyage** *vb* to make a voyage (across) – *voyager* *n*

**voyeur** /və'ju:/ *n* 1 one who obtains sexual gratification by visual means, specif by looking at sexual organs and sexual acts 2 a prying observer who is usu seeking the sordid or the scandalous [F, lit, one who sees, fr MF, fr *voir* to see, fr L *vidēre* – more at *WIT*] – *voyeurism* *n*, *voyeuristic* /-ɪstɪk/ *adj*, *voyeuristically* *adv*

**vroom** /vroom, vroohm/ *n* a noise of an engine revving up or of a high-speed vehicle [imit]

**V-sign** /vee/ *n* a gesture made by raising the index and middle fingers in a V with the palm outwards signifying victory b with the palm inwards signifying insult or contempt

**vug, vugg, vugh** /vug/ *n* a small (crystal-lined) cavity in an ore seam or in rock [Corn dial vooga underground chamber, fr L *fovea* small pit] – *vuggy* *adj*

**vulcanization, -isation** /vulkə'neɪz(ə)n/ *n* the process of chemically treating rubber or similar material to give it elasticity, strength, stability, etc [L *Vulcanus* Vulcan – more at *VOICANO*] – **vulcanize** *vb*

**vulcanology** /vulkə'nɒləʒi/ *n* volcanology [ISV] – **vulcanologist** *n*

**vulgar** /vulga/ *adj* 1 generally used, applied, or accepted 2a of or being the common people, plebeian b generally current, public (< ~ *opinion*) 3a lacking in cultivation, breeding, or taste, coarse b ostentatious or excessive in expenditure or display, pretentious 4 lewdly or profanely indecent, obscene [ME, fr L *vulgāris* of the mob, vulgar, fr *vulgus*, *vulgus* mob, common people, akin to Skt *varga* group] – *vulgarily* *adv*, *vulgarity* /vul'gərɪti/ *n*

**vulgar** **'fraction** *n* a fraction in which both the denominator and numerator are explicitly present and are separated by a horizontal or slanted line

**vulgarian** /vul'geɪən-/ *n* a vulgar and esp rich person

**vulgarism** /vulga,rɪz(ə)m/ *n* 1 a word or expression originated or used chiefly by illiterate people 2 vulgarity

**vulgarize, -ise** /vulga'reɪz/ *vt* 1 to diffuse generally, popularize 2 to make vulgar; coarsen – *vulgarizer* *n*, *vulgarization* /-ˈzaysh(ə)n/ *n*

**Vulgar** **'Latin** *n* the informal Latin of ancient Rome, established as the chief source of the Romance languages

**vulgate** /vulgayt, -gət/ *n* 1 *cap* the Latin version of the Bible authorized and used by the Roman Catholic church 2 a commonly accepted text or reading [ML *vulgata*, fr LL *vulgata editio* edition in general circulation]

**vulnerable** /vuln(ə)rəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being physically or mentally wounded 2 open to attack or damage, assailable [LL *vulnerabilis*, fr L *vulnerare* to wound, fr *vulner*, *vulnus* wound, akin to Goth *wilwan* to rob, L *vellere* to pluck, Gk *oulē* wound] – *vulnerableness* *n*, *vulnerably* *adv*, *vulnerability* /-rə'bɪləti/ *n*

**vulnery** /vulnərəri/ *n* or *adj* (a remedy) used for or useful in healing wounds [adj L *vulnerarius*, fr *vulner*, *vulnus*; *n* fr *adj*]

**vulpine** /vulpien/ *adj* 1 of or resembling a fox 2 foxy, crafty [L *vulpinus*, fr *vulpes* fox; akin to Gk *alopēx* fox]

**vulture** /vulchə/ *n* 1 any of various large usu bald-headed birds of prey that are related to the hawks, eagles, and falcons and feed on carrion – **FOOD** 2 a rapacious or predatory person [ME, fr L *vultur*] – *vulturous* *adj*, *vulturine* /-riən/ *adj*

**ulva** /vulva/ *n*, *pl* *ulvas*, *ulvae* /-vi/ the (opening between the projecting) external parts of the female genital organs [NL, fr L *ulva*, *ulva* integument, womb; akin to Skt *ulva* womb, L *volvere* to roll – more at *VOLUBLE*] – *ulval*, *ulvar* *adj*

**vying** /vie-ing/ *pres part* of *vie*

# W

**w** /'dubl,yooh/ *n*, *pl* *w's*, *ws* often *cap* (a graphic representation of, or device for reproducing,) the 23rd letter of the English alphabet

**Waac** /wak/ *n* a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in WW I [Women's Army Auxiliary Corps]

**Waaf** /waf/ *n* a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in and immediately after WW II [Women's Auxiliary Air Force]

**Wac** /wak/ *n* a member of the Women's Army Corps established in the USA during WW II [Women's Army Corps]

**wack** /wak/ *n*, *N Eng* – used as a familiar form of address [short for *wacker*, perh fr *whacker* (heavy blow, anything large), fr *whack*]

**wacky** /waki/ *adj*, chiefly *NAM* absurdly or amusingly eccentric or irrational; crazy – *infrm* [perh fr E dial *whacky* (fool)] – *wackily* *adv*, *wackiness* *n*

**wad** /wod/ *n* 1a a soft mass, esp of a loose fibrous material, variously used (e.g. to stop an aperture or pad a garment) b(1) a soft plug used to retain a powder charge, esp in a muzzle-loading cannon or gun (2) a felt or paper disc that separates the components of a shotgun cartridge 2 a roll of paper money 3 chiefly *NAM* a considerable amount – *infrm*, often *pl* with *sing* meaning (< *getting ~s of publicity*) [origin unknown]

**wad** *vi* -dd- 1 to form into a wad or wadding 2a to insert a wad into (< ~ a gun) b to hold in by a wad (< ~ a bullet in a gun) 3 to stuff, pad, or line with some soft substance 4 chiefly *NAM* to roll or crush tightly (< ~ his shirt up into a ball) – *wadder* *n*

**wadding** /woding/ *n* stuffing or padding in the form of a soft mass or sheet of short loose fibres

**waddle** /wodi/ *vi* **waddling** /'wadi-ɪŋ/, 'woding/ 1 to walk with short steps swinging the forepart of the body from side to side 2 to move clumsily in a manner suggesting a waddle (< car ~d out of the drift – Len Deighton) [freq of *wade*] – *waddler* *n*

**waddle** *n* an awkward clumsy swaying gait

**waddy** /wodi/ *n*, *Austr* CLUB 1a [native name in Australia]

**waddy** *vt*, *Austr* to attack or beat with a club

**wade** /wayd/ *vi* 1 to walk through a medium (e.g. water) offering more resistance than air 2 to proceed with difficulty or effort (< ~ through a dull book) 3 to attack with determination or vigour – *in* or *into* (< ~ into a task) ~ *vt* to cross by wading [ME *waden*, fr OE *wadan*, akin to OHG *watan* to go, *wade*, L *vadere* to go] – *wadable* *adj*

**wade** *n* an act of wading (< ~ in the brook)

**wader** /waydə/ *n* 1 *pl* high waterproof boots used for wading 2 any of many long-legged birds (e.g. sandpipers and snipes) that wade in water in search of food ['WADE + -ER]

**wadge** /woj/ *n*, *Br* a thick bundle, a wad – *infrm* [alter of *wedge*]

**wadi** /wodi/ *n* the bed of a stream in regions of SW Asia and N Africa that is dry except during the rainy season [Ar *wady*]

**wading** *bird* /'waydɪŋ/ *n* **WADFR** 2

**Waf** /waf/ *n* a member of the women's component of the US Air Force formed after WW II [Women in the Air Force]

**wafer** /wayfə/ *n* 1a a thin crisp biscuit, also a biscuit consisting of layers of wafer sometimes sandwiched with a filling b a round piece of thin unleavened bread used in the celebration of the Eucharist 2 an adhesive disc of dried paste used, esp formerly, as a seal [ME, fr ONF *wauffre*, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *wafel*, *waver* waffle]

**waff** /wof, waf/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* 1 a waving motion 2 a puff, gust [E dial *waff* (to wave), fr ME (northern) *waffen*, alter of ME *waven*]

**waffle** /wofi/ *n* a cake of batter that is baked in a waffle iron and has a crisp dimpled surface [D *wafel*, fr MD *wafel*, *wafel*; akin to OE *wefan* to weave]

**waffle** *vi* **waffling** /'wofi-ɪŋ/, 'wofling/ chiefly *Br* to talk or write foolishly, inconsequentially, and usu at length, blather – *infrm* [freq of obs *woff* (to yelp), of imit origin] – *waffler* *n*

**waffle** *n*, chiefly *Br* empty or pretentious words – *infrm* – *waffly* *adj*

**waffle iron** *n* a cooking utensil with 2 hinged metal parts that shut on each other and impress surface projections on the waffle being cooked

**waft** /woft/ *vb* to convey or be conveyed lightly (as if) by the impulse of wind or waves [(assumed) ME *waughten* to guard, convoy, fr MD or MLG *wachten* to watch, guard, akin to OE *wæccan* to watch – more at *WAKE*] – *wafter* *n*

**waft** *n* 1 sth (e.g. a smell) that is wafted, a whiff 2 a slight breeze, a puff

**wag** /wag/ *vb* -gg- *vi* 1 to move to and fro, esp with quick jerky motions 2 to move in chatter or gossip (< *tongues ~ged*) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to swing to and fro, esp with quick jerky motions, esp to nod (the head) or shake (a finger) in assent or mild reproof – often + *at* 2 to move (e.g. the tongue) animatedly in conversation [ME *waggen*; akin to MHG *wacken* to totter, OE *wegan* to move – more at *WAY*] – *wagger* *n*

**wag** *n* an act of wagging; a shake

**wag** *n* a wit, joker [prob short for obs *waghalter* (gallows bird), fr 'wag + *halter*]

**wage** /wayj/ *vt* to engage in or carry on (a war, conflict, etc) [ME *wagen* to pledge, give as security, fr ONF *wager*, fr *wage*]

**wage** *n* 1a a payment for services, esp of a manual kind, usu according to contract and on an hourly, daily, weekly, or piecework basis – *usu pl* with *sing* meaning; compare *SALARY* b *pl* the share of the national



- product attributable to labour as a factor in production 2 a recompense, reward – usu pl with sing meaning but sing. or pl in constr <the ~s of sin is death – Rom 6:23 (RSV)> [ME, pledge, wage, fr ONF, of Gmc origin; akin to Goth *wadi* pledge – more at WED] – **wageless** *adj*
- wager** /ˈweɪdʒə/ *n* 1 sth (e.g. a sum of money) risked on an uncertain event 2 sth on which bets are laid <do a stunt as a ~> [ME, pledge, bet, fr AF *wageure*, fr ONF *wager* to pledge]
- wager** *vb* to lay as or make a bet – **wagerer** *n*
- wage slave** *n* a person dependent on wages or a salary for his/her livelihood
- waggery** /ˈwæɡəri/ *n* 1 mischievous merriment 2 a jest, esp PRACTICAL JOKE
- waggish** /ˈwæɡɪʃ/ *adj* befitting or characteristic of a wag, humorous <a ~ disposition> – **waggishly** *adv*, **waggishness** *n*
- waggle** /ˈwæɡl/ *vb* **wagging** /ˈwæɡɪŋ/, **wag-ling**/ to (cause to) sway or move repeatedly from side to side, wag [freq of 'wag] – **waggle** *n*, **waggly** *adj*
- Wagnerian** /ˈvæɡnəriːən/ *adj* (suggestive) of the music of Wagner, esp in grandiose scale or dramatic intensity [Richard Wagner †1883 G composer]
- wagon**, chiefly Br **waggon** /ˈwæɡən/ *n* 1 a usu 4-wheeled vehicle for transporting bulky or heavy loads, often having a removable canopy, and drawn org by animals 2 TROFFY 2a, esp one used in a dining room or for serving light refreshments (e.g. afternoon tea) 3 Br a railway goods vehicle [D *wagen*, fr MD – more at WAIN] – on/off the wagon abstaining/no longer abstaining from alcoholic drinks – *infrml*
- wagoner** /ˈwæɡənə/ *n* the driver of a wagon
- wagonette** /ˈwæɡənɪt/ *n* a light horse-drawn wagon with 2 inward-facing seats along the sides behind a forward-facing front seat
- wagon-lit** /ˈwæɡən ˈleɪ/ *n*, pl **wagons-lits**, **wagon-lits** /ˈleɪ(z)/ a sleeping car on a continental train [F, fr *wagon* railway car + *lit* bed]
- wagtail** /ˈwæɡˌteɪl/ *n* any of numerous chiefly Old World birds with trim slender bodies and very long tails that they habitually jerk up and down
- Wahhabi**, **Wahabi** /ˈwɑːhˌhɑːbi/, **wə-/** *n* a member of a strict Muslim sect founded in Arabia in the 18th c by Muhammad ibn-Abdul Wahhab and revived by ibn-Saud in the 20th c [Ar *wahhabī*, fr Muhammad b 'Abd al-Wahhab (Abdul-Wahhab) †1787 Arab religious reformer] – **Wahhabism** *n*, **Wahhabite** /-ˌbiːt/ *adj* or *n*
- wahine** /ˈwɑːhˌeɪni/, **-nay/** *n* a Polynesian woman [Maori & Hawaiian]
- wah-wah pedal** /ˈwɑːh ˈwɑːh/ *n* WA-WA PEDAL
- waif** /weɪf/ *n* 1 a piece of property found but unclaimed 2 a stray helpless person or animal, esp a homeless child [ME, fr ONF, *adj*, lost, unclaimed, prob of Scand origin]
- wail** /weɪl/ *vi* 1 to express sorrow by uttering mournful cries, lament 2 to make a sound suggestive of a mournful cry 3 to express dissatisfaction plaintively, complain [ME *wailen*, of Scand origin, akin to ON *væla*, *vala* to wail, akin to ON *vei* woe – more at WOL] – **wailer** *n*
- wail** *n* 1 a usu loud prolonged high-pitched cry expressing grief or pain 2 a sound suggestive of wailing <the ~ of an air-raid siren>
- wailful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* sorrowful, mournful – usu poetic – **wailfully** *adv*
- wain** /weɪn/ *n* 1 a usu large and heavy wagon for farm use 2 cap URSA MAJOR [ME, wagon, chariot, fr OE *wægn*, akin to MD *wagen* wagon, OE *wegan* to move – more at WAY]
- wainscot** /ˈweɪnskɒt/ *n* 1a a usu panelled wooden lining of an interior wall b the lower part of an interior wall when finished differently from the remainder of the wall 2 Br a fine grade of oak imported for woodwork [ME, fr MD *wagenschor*]
- wainscot** *vt* -t-, -tt- to line (as if) with boards or panelling
- wainscoting**, **wainscotting** /ˈweɪnskɒtɪŋ/, *ˈweɪnzˌkɒtɪŋ/* *n* (material used for) a wainscot
- wainwright** /ˈweɪnzˌraɪt/ *n* sby who makes and repairs wagons
- waist** /weɪst/ *n* 1a the (narrow) part of the body between the chest and hips b the greatly constricted part of the abdomen of a wasp, fly, etc 2 the part of sth corresponding to or resembling the human waist: e.g. a(1) the part of a ship's deck between the poop and forecabin (2) the middle part of a sailing ship between foremast and mainmast (3) the middle part of a fuselage of an aircraft 3 the part of a garment covering the body at the waist or waistline [ME *waist*; akin to OE *weaxan* to grow – more at WAX]
- waistband** /-ˌbænd/ *n* a band (e.g. on trousers or a skirt) fitting round the waist
- waistcoat** /-ˌkɒt/ *n*, chiefly Br a sleeveless upper garment that fastens down the centre front and usu has a V-neck; esp such a garment worn under a jacket as part of a man's suit – **waistcoated** *adj*
- waist-deep** *adj* or *adv* waist-high
- waisted** /ˈweɪstɪd/ *adj* having a waist, esp of a specified kind – often in combination <high-waisted>
- waist-high** *adj* or *adv* up to the waist
- waistline** /-ˌliːn/ *n* 1 an imaginary line encircling the narrowest part of the waist; also the part of a garment corresponding to this line or to the place where fashion dictates this should be 2 body circumference at the waist
- wait** /weɪt/ *vt* 1a to stay in place in expectation of, await <~ your turn> b to delay in hope of a favourable change in <~ out a storm> 2 to delay serving (a meal), esp in expectation of further arrivals – *infrml* ~ *vi* 1a to remain stationary in readiness or expectation <~ for a train> b to pause for another to catch up 2a to look forward expectantly <just ~ing to see his rival lose> b to hold back expectantly <have to ~ till Thursday> 3 to serve at meals – usu in wait at table or NAM wait on table 4 to be ready and available <slippers ~ing by the bed> [ME *waiten*, fr ONF *waiter* to watch, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wahta* watch, OE *wæccan* to watch – more at WAKE] – **wait on/upon** 1 to act as an attendant to, serve 2 to await 3 *archaic* to make a formal call on
- wait** *n* 1 any of a group who serenade for gratuities, esp at the Christmas season 2 an act or period of waiting <a long ~ for the bus> [ME *waite* watchman, public musician, wait, fr ONF, watchman, watch, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *wahta* watch]
- waiter** /ˈweɪtə/ *n* 1 *fem* waitress one who waits at table (e.g. in a restaurant), esp as a regular job 2 a salver, tray ['WAIT + -ER]
- waiting game** /ˈweɪtɪŋ/ *n* a postponement of action in the hope of a more favourable opportunity later
- waiting list** *n* a list of those waiting (e.g. for a vacancy or for sth to become available), arranged usu in order of application
- waiting room** *n* a room for the use of people who are waiting (e.g. for a train or to see a doctor)
- waive** /weɪv/ *vi* 1 to refrain from demanding or enforcing; relinquish, forgo 2 to put off from immediate consideration, postpone [ME *weiven*, fr ONF *weyver*, fr *waif* lost, unclaimed]
- waiver** /ˈweɪvə/ *n* (a document giving proof of) the relinquishing of a right [AF *weyver*, fr ONF *weyver* to abandon, waive]
- wake** /weɪk/ *vb* **waked**, **woke** /wɒk/, **waked**, **woke** /wɒkən/, **woke** *vi* 1 to be or remain awake <her waking hours> 2 to awake – often + *up* ~ *vt* 1 to rouse (as if) from sleep, awake – often + *up* 2 to arouse, evoke <~ memories> 3 to arouse conscious interest in, alert – usu + *to* <~ him to the fact of her existence> [partly fr ME *waken* (past *wook*, pp *wacn*) fr OE *wacan* to awake (past *woc*, pp *wacen*), and partly fr ME *waken*, *waken* (past & pp *waked*), fr OE *wacian* to be awake (past *wacode*, pp *wacod*), akin to OE *wæccan* to watch, L *vegere* to rouse, excite] – **waker** *n*
- wake** *n* 1a an annual English parish festival formerly held in commemoration of the church's patron saint b *vigil* 1a 2 a watch held over the body of a dead person prior to burial and sometimes accompanied by festivity, broadly any festive leavetaking 3 Br an annual holiday in northern England – usu pl but sing. or pl in constr <we all go off to Blackpool during ~s week>
- wake** *n* the track left by a moving body (e.g. a ship) in a fluid (e.g. water) [of Scand origin, akin to ON *vok* hole in ice; akin to ON *vokr* damp – more at HUMOUR]
- wakeful** /-f(ə)/ *adj* 1 not sleeping or able to sleep 2 spent without sleep <a ~ night> – **wakefully** *adv*, **wakefulness** *n*
- waken** /ˈweɪkən/ *vi* to awake – often + *up* ~ *vt* to rouse out of sleep; wake [ME *waknen*, fr OE *wæcnian*; akin to ON *wakna* to awaken, OE *wæccan* to watch] – **wakener** *n*
- wake-robin** *n*, Br any of various arums; esp a cuckoo-pint
- Waldenses** /ˈwɒlˌdɛnsɪz/ *n* pl a Christian reforming sect arising in S France in the 12th c, adopting Calvinist doctrines in the 16th c, and later living chiefly in Piedmont [ME *Waldensis*, fr ML *Waldenses*, *Valdenses*, fr Peter Waldo (or Valdo), 12th-c F heretic] – **Waldensian** /-ˌsɪːn/ *adj* or *n*
- wale** /weɪl/ *n* 1 a ridge or lump raised on the body by a heavy blow or slash (e.g. with a whip) 2 any of a number of extra thick and strong planks in the sides of a wooden ship 3 any of a series of even ribs in a fabric (e.g. corduroy) [ME, fr OE *walu*; akin to ON *valr* round, L *volvare* to roll – more at VOLUBLE]
- wale** *n*, dial Br 1 an act of choosing, a choice 2 the best part; the pick [ME (Sc & northern) *wal*, fr ON *val*; akin to OHG *wala* choice, OE *wyllan* to wish – more at WILL]

**waler** /'weɪlə/ *n* often cap a horse (formerly exported to India for use in the British Indian army) from New South Wales [New South Wales state of Australia]

**walk** /wɔːk/ *vi* 1 *a spirit* to move about in visible form appear 2a to move along on foot advance by steps in such a way that at least 1 foot is always in contact with the ground b to go on foot for exercise or pleasure c to go at a walk 3 *of an inanimate object* to move in a manner suggestive of walking 4 *archaic* to pursue a course of action or way of life conduct oneself <~ in darkness> Jn 8 12 (AV) ~ *vt* 1 to pass on foot through along over or on <~ the streets> <~ a tightrope> 2a to cause (an animal) to go at a walk <~ a horse> b to take (an animal) for a walk <~ing a dog> c to cause (an inanimate object) to move in a manner suggestive of walking 3 to accompany on foot walk with <~ed her home> 4 to bring to a specified condition by walking <~ed us off our feet> 5 to follow on foot for the purposes of examining measuring etc <~ed the horse before the jump-off> [partly fr ME *walken* (past *welk* pp *walken*) fr OE *wealcian* to roll toss (past *wealc* pp *wealcen*) and partly fr ME *walkien* (past *walked* pp *walked*) fr OE *wealcian* to roll up muffle up akin to MD *walken* to knead press full L *valgus* bowlegged] - **walk off** with 1a to steal and take away b to take away unintentionally 2 to win or gain esp by outdoing one's competitors without difficulty <walked off with first prize> - **walk over** to treat contemptuously **walk tall** to bear oneself proudly **walk the plank** to be forced to walk esp blindfold along a board laid over the side of a ship until one falls into the sea

**walk** *n* 1a an act or instance of going on foot esp for exercise or pleasure <go for a ~> b SPACE WALK 2 a route for walking <many delightful ~s in the neighbourhood> 3 a place designed for walking e.g. a path specially arranged or surfaced for walking a footpath b a railed or colonnaded platform c a promenade 4 a place where animals (e.g. sheep) are kept with minimal restraint 5 distance to be walked <a quarter of a mile ~ from here> 6a the gait of a 2 legged animal in which the feet are lifted alternately with 1 foot always (partially) on the ground b the slow 4 beat gait of a quadruped specif a horse in which there are always at least 2 feet on the ground c a low rate of speed <the shortage of raw materials slowed production to a ~> 7 a route regularly traversed by a person (e.g. a postman or policeman) in the performance of a particular activity 8 a manner of walking <his ~ is just like his father's> 9 an occupation calling - chiefly in *walk of life* 10 a journey undertaken on foot along a usu agreed route to earn money promised by sponsors for charity - esp in *sponsored walk* *charity walk*

**walkabout** /'wɔːkəbaʊt/ *n* 1 a short period of wandering bush life engaged in occasionally by an Australian aborigine for ceremonial reasons 2 an informal walk among the crowds by a public figure <the Queen on her Jubilee ~>

**walker** /'wɔːkə/ *n* sth used in walking specif a framework designed to support a baby learning to walk or a cripple who cannot walk unaided [WALK + 'ER]

**walkies** /'wɔːkiz/ *n pl* a walk used esp to children or animals

**walkie-talkie** /'wɔːki tɔːki/ *n* a compact battery-operated transceiver

**walk in** *adj* large enough for a person to enter and move around in <a ~ safe>

**walking** /'wɔːkɪŋ/ *n* the condition of a surface as it will affect sb going on foot <the ~ is slippery> [WALK + ING]

**walking** *adj* 1a animate esp human <a ~ encyclopedia> b able to walk ambulatory c that moves in a manner suggestive of walking <a ~ toy> d guided or operated by a walker <a ~ plough> 2a used for or in walking <~ shoes> b characterized by or consisting of walking <a ~ tour> [(1) fr prp of *walk* (2) fr gerund of *walk*]

**walking papers** *n pl* chiefly NAM MARCHING ORDERS *infml*

**walk-on** *n* (sby who has) a small usu nonspeaking part in a dramatic production

**walk-out** /'oʊt/ *n* 1 STRIKE 3 2 the action of leaving a meeting or organization as an expression of protest

**walk out** *vi* 1 to go on strike 2 to depart suddenly often as an expression of protest 3 chiefly Br COURT 1 - often + *with* no longer in vogue **walk out on** to leave in the lurch abandon

**walk over** /'oʊvə/ *n* an easily won contest also an advance from one round of a competition to the next without contest due to the withdrawal or absence of other entrants

**walk-through** *n* a perfunctory performance of a play or acting part (e.g. in an early stage of rehearsal)

**walkway** /'weɪ/ *n* a passage or platform for walking

**wall** /wɔːl/ *n* 1 a usu upright and solid structure, esp of masonry or

concrete having considerable height and length in relation to width and serving esp to divide enclose retain or support e.g. a a structure bounding a garden park or estate b any of the upright enclosing structures of a room or house c RETAINING WALL d the surface of a wall <the ~ is painted cream> 2 a material layer enclosing space <the ~ of a container> 3 sth resembling a wall e.g. a an almost vertical rock surface b sth that acts as a barrier or defence <ranft ~> [ME fr OE *weall* akin to MHG *wall* both fr a prehistoric WGmc word borrowed fr L *vallum* rampart fr *vallus* stake palisade akin to ON *volr* round stick I *volvere* to roll more at VOLUBILITY] **walled** *adj* **wall less** *adj* **wall like** *adj* to the wall into a hopeless position <small businesses being driven to the wall by government policy> **up the wall** Br into a state of exasperation *infml*

**wall** *vt* 1a to protect or surround (as if) with a wall <a lake ~ed in by mountains> b to separate or shut out (as if) by a wall <~ed off half the house> 2a to immure b to close (an opening) (as if) with a wall **USE** (?) *usu up* **waller** *n* *walling* *n*

**wallaby** /'wɔləbi/ *n pl* wallabies also esp collectively wallaby any of various small or medium sized and usu less dull coloured kangaroos [wɔləbi native name in New South Wales Australia]

**Wallace's line** /'wɔləsɪz/ *n* a hypothetical boundary separating the characteristic Asiatic flora and fauna from that of Australasia [Alfred Russel Wallace †1913 Br naturalist]

**wallah** /'wɔlə/ *n* a person who does a specified type of work or performs a specified duty *usu in combination* *infml* the book ~ was an itinerant peddler George Orwell [Hindi *wali* man one in charge fr Skt *pala* protector akin to Skt *pita* he protects more at FUR]

**wallaroo** /'wɔləruː/ *n pl* wallaroos a euro [wɔləru native name in New South Wales Australia]

**wallboard** /'wɔːlbɔːd/ *n* a structural boarding (cf any of various materials (e.g. wood pulp gypsum or plastic) used esp for sheathing interior walls and ceilings

**wallet** /'wɔːlɪt/ *n* 1 a holder for paper money *usu* with compartments for other items (e.g. credit cards and stamps) 2 a flat case or folder a ~ of maps [MF *wallet* travelling bag]

**walleye** /'wɔːli/ *n* 1 an eye with a whitish iris or opaque white (area in the) cornea 2 (a squint marked by) an eye that turns outwards [back formation fr *walleyed* by folk etymology fr MF *wail* *eyed* part trans of ON *vagle eygr* fr *vagl* beam *eygr* eyed] **walleyed** *adj*

**wall fern** *n* a polypody

**wall flower** /'flaʊə/ *n* 1 any of several Old World perennial plants of the mustard family esp a hardy erect plant with showy fragrant flowers 2 sby who from shyness or unpopularity remains on the sidelines of a social activity esp a woman who fails to get partners at a dance *infml*

**Walloon** /'wɔləʊn/ *n* 1 a member of a chiefly Celtic French speaking people of S Belgium and adjacent parts of France 2 the French dialect of the Walloons [MF *Wallon* *adj* & *n* of Gmc origin prob akin to OHG *Walah* Celt Rom in OE *Wealh* Celt Welshman more at WRISH] **Walloon** *adj*

**wallop** /'wɔləp/ *n* 1 a powerful body blow *FUNCH* 2 sometimes used interjectionally *infml* 2 emotional or psychological force impact *infml* 3 Br beer slang [MF *gallop* fr ONF *walop* fr *waloper* to gallop]

**wallop** *vt* 1 to hit with force thrash 2 to beat by a wide margin trounce **USE** *infml* **waloper** *n* **walloping** *n*

**walloping** /'wɔləpɪŋ/ *adj* large whopping *infml*

**wallow** /'wɔləʊ/ *vi* 1 to roll or lie around lazily or luxuriously < pigs ~ing in mud> 2 to indulge oneself immoderately revel in <~ing in sentiment> 3 of a ship to struggle laboriously in or through rough water broadly to pitch <ship ~ed down the coast> [ME *walwen* fr OE *wealwian* to roll more at VOLUBILITY] **wallow** *n*

**wallow** *n* 1 an act or instance of wallowing 2a a muddy or dusty area used by animals for wallowing b a depression formed (as if) by the wallowing of animals

**wall painting** *n* (a) representational or decorative painting directly on (some surface in immediate contact with) a wall (e.g. in encaustic fresco or tempera)

**wall paper** /'peɪpə/ *n* decorative paper for the walls of a room

**wallpaper** *vb* to apply wallpaper to (the walls of a room)

**wall rock** *n* rock through which a fault or vein runs

**wall rue** *n* a small delicate spleenwort found esp on walls or cliffs

**Wall Street** *n* the influential financial interests of the US economy [Wall Street in New York City site of the New York Stock Exchange]

**wall-to-wall** *adj.* of carpeting covering the whole floor of a room

**walnut** /'wɒl,nʌt/ *n* (an edible nut or the wood of) any of a genus of trees with richly grained wood used for cabinetmaking and veneers [ME *walnut*, fr OE *wealhnnut*, lit. foreign nut, fr *Wealh* Welshman, foreigner + *hnutu* nut – more at *WELSH*, *NUT*]

**Walpurgis Night** /'vɒl'pooɡɪs/ *n* the eve of May Day on which, according to Germanic legend, witches gather in an annual ceremony [part trans of G *walpurɡisnacht*, fr *Walpurgis* St Walburga †777 E saint whose feast day falls on May Day + G *nacht* night]

**walrus** /'wɒlɪrəs/ *n*, *pl walruses*, *esp collectively walrus* either of 2 large sea mammals of northern seas, related to the seals, and hunted for their tough heavy hide, ivory tusks, and the oil yielded by the blubber [D, of Scand origin; akin to Dan & Norw *hvalros* walrus, ON *rosmhvalr*]

**walrus moustache** *n* a thick moustache that droops down at each side

**waltz** /'wɒlts/ *n* (music for or in the tempo of) a ballroom dance in 3 time with strong accent on the first beat [G *walzer* fr *walzen* to roll, dance, fr OHG *walzan* to turn, roll – more at *WILLER*]

**waltz** *vi* 1 to dance a waltz 2 to move along in a lively or confident manner 3 to proceed easily or boldly, breezily (< ~ ed through his final >) ~ *vt* 1 to dance a waltz with (< ~ ed her round the room >) 2 to grab and lead (e.g. a person) unceremoniously, march usu + *off* *USE* (vi 2&3, vt 2) *infrml* – *waltzer* *n*

**wampum** /'wɒmpəm/ *n* beads of polished shells strung together and used by N American Indians as money and ornaments [short for *wampumpeag*, fr Nariaganset *wampompeag*, fr *wampan* white + *api* string + *-ag*, pl suffix]

**wan** /wɒn/ *adj* *nn-* 1a suggestive of poor health, pallid b lacking vitality, feeble 2 of light dim, faint [ME, fr OE, dark, livid] – *wanly* *adv*, *wanness* *n*

**wand** /wɒnd/ *n* a slender rod a carried as a sign of office b used by conjurers and magicians [ME, slender stick, fr ON *wandr*; akin to OE *windan* to wind, twist – more at *WIND*]

**wander** /'wɒndə/ *vi* 1 to go or travel idly or aimlessly (< ~ across the room >) 2 to follow or extend along a winding course, meander (< road ~ s across the plain >) 3a to deviate (as if) from a course, stray (< eyes ~ ed from the page >) b to lose concentration, stray in thought (< as the lecturer droned on, the student's mind began to ~ >) c to think or speak incoherently or illogically (< as the fever worsened, the patient began to ~ >) ~ *vt* to roam over (< ~ ed the hillside in search of shelter >) [ME *wandren*, fr OE *wandrian*, akin to MHG *wandern* to wander, OE *windan* to wind, twist] – *wander* *n*, *wanderer* *n*

**wandering** /'wɒndərɪŋ/ *n* 1 a going about from place to place 2 movement away from the proper or usual course or place *USE* often pl with *sing* meaning

**wandering** *adj* 1 winding, meandering (< a ~ course >) 2 not keeping a rational or sensible course (< ~ thoughts >) 3 nomadic (< ~ tribes >)

**Wandering Jew** *n* 1 a Jew of medieval legend condemned by Christ to wander over the earth till Christ's second coming 2 *not cap W* either of 2 trailing or creeping plants with showy often white-striped foliage

**wanderlust** /'wɒndə,lʌst/ *n* eager longing for or impulse towards travelling [G, fr *wandern* to wander + *lust* desire, pleasure]

**wanderoo** /'wɒndə'roʊ/ *n*, *pl wanderoos* 1 a purple-faced langur of Sri Lanka 2 a macaque of the Indian subcontinent [Sinhalese *vanduru*, pl of *vandura*, fr Skt *vanara* monkey, fr *vanar-*, *vana* forest, akin to Av *vana* forest]

**wane** /weɪn/ *vi* 1 to decrease in size or extent, dwindle e.g. a of the moon, satellites, etc to diminish in phase or intensity b of light or colour to become less brilliant, dim 2 to fall gradually from power, prosperity, or influence; decline [ME *wanen*, fr OE *wanian*, akin to OHG *wanon* to wane, OE *wan* wanting, deficient, L *vanus* empty, vain]

**wane** *n* 1a the act or process of waning b a time of waning, specify the period from full phase of the moon to the new moon 2 a defect in prepared timber characterized by bark or lack of wood at a corner or edge – *waney*, *wany* *adj* – on the wane in a state of decline, waning

**wangle** /'wɒŋɡl/ *vi* *wangling* /'wɒŋɡlɪŋ/ 1 to adjust or manipulate for personal or fraudulent ends 2 to bring about or get by devious means (< ~ an invitation >) *USE* *infrml* [perh alter of *waggle*] – *wangler* *n*

**wank** /wɒŋk/ *vi*, *Br* to masturbate – *vulg* [origin unknown] – *wank* *n*

**Wankel engine** /'wɒŋkl/ *n* a rotary internal-combustion engine that has an eccentrically mounted rounded triangular rotor functioning as a piston and rotating in a space in the engine, and that has only 2 major moving parts [Felix Wankel b 1902 G engineer]

**wanker** /'wɒŋkə/ *n* 1 one who masturbates – *vulg* 2 a foolish or superficial fellow – *slang*

**want** /wɒnt/ *vi* 1 to fail to possess, esp in customary or required amount, lack (< his answer ~ s courtesy >) 2a to have a desire for (< he ~ s to go >) b to have an inclination to, like (< say what you ~, he is efficient >) 3a to have need of, require (< the room ~ s decorating >) b to suffer from the lack of, need (< thousands still ~ food and shelter >) 4 to wish or demand the presence of (< the boss ~ s you >) 5 ought – to and infinitive (< you ~ to see a doctor about that cold >) ~ *vt* 1 to be deficient or short by a specified amount (< it ~ s 3 minutes to 12 >) 2 to be needy or destitute 3 to have need, be lacking in the specified respect (< never ~ s for friends >) 4 chiefly *NAM* to desire to come or go (< ~ s out of the syndicate >) [ME *wanten*, fr ON *vanta*, akin to OE *wan* deficient]

**want** *n* 1a the quality or state of lacking sthg required or usual (< he suffers from a ~ of good sense >) b extreme poverty 2 sthg wanted, a need (< supply your ~ s >)

**wanting** /'wɒntɪŋ/ *adj* 1 not present or in evidence, absent 2a not up to the required standard or expectation (< a candidate tested and found ~ >) b lacking in the specified ability or capacity, deficient (< ~ in gratitude >)

**wanton** /wɒnt(ə)n/ *adj* 1 mischievous 2 sexually unbridled, promiscuous 3 having no just foundation or provocation, malicious (< ~ indifference to the needs of others >) 4 uncontrolled, unbridled (< ~ inflation >) 5 luxuriant, lavish – now chiefly poetic [ME, fr *wan*-deficient, wrong, mis- (fr OE, fr *wan* deficient) + *towen*, pp of *teon* to draw, train, discipline, fr OE *teon* – more at *TEW*] – *wantonly* *adv*, *wantonness* *n*

**wanton** *n* a wanton person, esp a lewd or lascivious woman

**wapentake** /'wɒpəntaɪk, 'wɒpən-/ *n* a former subdivision of some English shires corresponding to a hundred [ME, fr OE *wæpentæc*, fr ON *vapnatak* act of grasping weapons, fr *vápn* weapon + *tak* act of grasping, fr *taka* to take, prob fr the brandishing of weapons as an expression of approval when the chief of the wapentake entered upon his office – more at *WEAPON*, *TAKE*]

**wapiti** /'wɒpɪti/ *n*, *pl wapitis*, *esp collectively wapiti* an American deer similar to the European red deer but larger [of Algonquian origin, akin to Cree *wapitew* white, whitish, fr its white rump and tail]

**war** /wɒ/ *n* 1 a state or period of usu open and declared armed hostile conflict between states or nations 2 a struggle between opposing forces or for a particular end (< a ~ against disease >) [ME *werre*, fr ONF, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *werra* strife, akin to OHG *werran* to confuse, L *verrere* to sweep]

**war** *vi* *-rr-* 1 to engage in warfare 2a to be in active or vigorous conflict b to be opposed or inconsistent (< ~ ring principles >)

**warble** /'wɒbl/ *vb* *warbling* /'wɒblɪŋ/ *vi* to sing or sound in a trilling manner or with many turns and variations ~ *vt* to render musically, esp in an ornamented or trilling manner [ONF *werbler*, fr *werble* tune, modulation, of Gmc origin, akin to MHG *wirbel* whirl, turning peg, OHG *wirbel* whirlwind – more at *WHIRL*] – *warble* *n*

**warble** *n* (a swelling under the hide of cattle, horses, etc caused by) the maggot of a warble fly [perh of Scand origin, akin to obs Sw *varbulde* boil, fr *var* pus + *bulde* swelling] – *warbled* *adj*

**warble fly** *n* any of various 2-winged flies whose larvae live under the skin of various mammals and cause swellings

**warbler** /'wɒblə/ *n* any of numerous small Old World birds (e.g. a whitethroat) which are related to the thrushes and many of which are noted songsters ['WARBLE + *-ER*]

**war bride** *n* a woman who marries a (foreign) serviceman met during a time of war

**war chest** *n* a fund accumulated to finance a war

**war crime** *n* a crime (e.g. genocide or maltreatment of prisoners) committed during or in connection with war – *war criminal* *n*

**war cry** *n* 1 a cry used during charging or rallying by a body of fighters in war 2 a slogan used esp to rally people to a cause

**ward** /wɒrd/ *n* 1 the inner court of a castle or fortress 2 a division of a prison or hospital 3 a division of a city or town for electoral or administrative purposes 4 a projecting ridge of metal in a lock casing or keyhole allowing only a key with a corresponding notch to operate, also a corresponding notch on a key 5 a person under guard, protection, or surveillance; esp one under the care or control of a legal guardian (< ~ of court >) [ME, fr OE *weard* act of watching or guarding; akin to OHG *warta* act of watching, OE *warian* to beware of, guard – more at *WARE*] – *warded* *adj*

**ward** /-wɒd/ also *-wards* /-wɒdz/ *suffix* (– *adj*) 1 facing or tending in (such) a direction (< homeward >) (< northward >) 2 occurring or situated in (such) a direction (< leftward >) [*-ward* fr ME, fr OE *-weard*; akin to

- OHG *-wart, -wert* ward, L *vertere* to turn, *-wards* fr *-wards*, adv suffix – more at WORTH]
- <sup>1</sup>**ward suffix** (– *adv*), chiefly NAm *-wards* [ME, fr OE *-weard*, fr *-weard*, adj suffix]
- war, dance** *n* a dance performed esp by primitive peoples as preparation for battle or in celebration of victory
- warden** /'wɑ:d(ə)n/ *n* 1 one having care or charge of sthg, a guardian 2 the governor of a town, district, or fortress 3 an official charged with special supervisory duties or with the enforcement of specified laws or regulations (<game ~> <air-raid ~> <traffic ~>) 4 any of various British college officials 5 NAm a prison governor [ME *warden*, fr ONF, fr *warder* to guard, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *warten* to watch] – *wardenship* *n*
- warder** /'wɑ:də/, fem *wardress* /'wɑ:drɪs/ *n* 1 Br a prison guard 2 archaic a watchman, guard [ME, one who guards a gate, fr AF *wardere*, fr *warde* act of guarding, of Gmc origin, akin to OHG *warta* act of watching] – *wardership* *n*
- warder** *n* a staff formerly used by a king or commander in chief to signal orders [ME, perh fr *warden* to guard]
- ward off** *vt* to deflect, avert [*ward* (to guard), fr ME *warden*, fr OE *weardian*, akin to OHG *warten* to watch, ON *vartha* to guard, OE *weard* ward]
- wardrobe** /'wɑ:drəʊb/ *n* 1 a room or (movable) cupboard, esp fitted with shelves and a rail or pegs, where clothes are kept 2a a collection of clothes (e.g. belonging to 1 person) b a collection of stage costumes and accessories 3 the department of a royal or noble household entrusted with the care of clothes, jewels, and personal articles [ME *wardrobe*, fr ONF, fr *warder* to guard + *robe* robe]
- wardroom** /'wɑ:drəʊm, room/ *n* the space in a warship allotted to the commissioned officers excepting the captain
- wards** /-wɔ:dz/ suffix (– *adv*) 1 in (such) a spatial or temporal direction (<upwards> <afterwards>) 2 towards (such) a point, position or place (<earthwards>) [ME, fr OE *weardes*, gen sing neut of *-weard*, adj suffix – more at <sup>1</sup>WARD]
- wardship** /'wɑ:ʃɪp/ *n* 1 care and protection of a ward, tutelage 2 being under a guardian
- ware** /wɛə/ *vt* to beware of – used chiefly as a command to hunting animals [ME *waren*, fr OE *warian* akin to OHG *biwaron* to protect, OE *wær* aware]
- ware** *n* 1a manufactured articles or products of art or craft, goods – often in combination (<tinware>) b pl goods for sale 2 articles of fired clay esp a specified make of pottery or china (<Parian ~>) [ME, fr OE *waru*, akin to MHG *ware* ware, & prob to OE *wær* aware]
- warehouse** /'wea.həʊs/ *vt* or *n* (to deposit, store, or stock in) a structure or room for the storage of merchandise or commodities – *warehouser* /-zə/ *n*
- ware, houseman** /mən/ *n* one who controls or works in a warehouse
- warfare** /'wɔ:fɛə/ *n* 1 hostilities, war 2 struggle, conflict [ME, fr *werre*, *warre* war + *fare* journey, passage – more at <sup>1</sup>FARE]
- warfarin** /'wɔ:fəɪn/ *n* a synthetic compound that is used in medicine to prevent the blood clotting (e.g. in the treatment of thrombosis) and is also used as a rodent poison [Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (its patentee) + coumarin]
- war, game** *n* 1 an exercise or simulated battle to test military ability 2 an enactment of a conflict in miniature using counters or models to represent the combatants – *wargaming* *n*
- warhead** /'wɔ:hed/ *n* the section of a missile containing the explosive, chemical, or incendiary charge
- war, horse** *n* 1 a powerful horse used in war 2 a veteran soldier or public figure 3 a work of art (e.g. a musical composition) that has become hackneyed from repetition in the standard repertoire
- war, like** /-lek/ *adj* 1 fond of war 2 of or useful in war 3 hostile
- warlock** /'wɔ:lɒk/ *n* a man practising black magic, a sorcerer [ME *warloghe*, fr OE *wærlōga* one who breaks faith, the Devil, fr *wær* faith, troth + *-loga* (fr *leogan* to lie), akin to OE *wær* true – more at VERY, <sup>1</sup>IE]
- warlord** /'wɔ:lɔ:d/ *n* a supreme military leader
- warm** /wɔ:wm/ *adj* 1a having or giving out heat to a moderate or adequate degree (<a ~ bath>), also experiencing heat to this degree (<are you ~ enough?>) b serving to maintain or preserve heat, esp to a satisfactory degree (<a ~ sweater>) c feeling or causing sensations of heat brought about by strenuous exertion (<a ~ climb>) 2a marked by enthusiasm, cordial (<a ~ welcome>) b marked by excitement, disagreement, or anger (<a ~ debate>) 3 affectionate and outgoing in temperament (<a ~
- personality*>) 4 dangerous, hostile 5 of a trail, scent, etc newly made fresh 6 of a colour producing an impression of being warm, specif in the range yellow to red 7 near to a goal, object, or solution sought – chiefly in children's games [MF, fr OE *wearm* akin to OHG *warm* warm, L *formus*, Gk *thermos* warm hot] – *warmish* *adj*, *warmness* *n*, *warmly* *adv*
- warm** *vt* 1 to make warm 2 to infuse with a feeling of love, friendship, well being, or pleasure 3 to reheat (cooked food) for eating – often + *up* in Br or *over* in NAm ~ *vi* 1 to become warm 2 to become filled with interest, enthusiasm, or affection – + *to* or *towards* (<did not ~ to the newcomer>) (<~ing to his theme>) warm the cockles of one's heart to make one happy cheer, encourage
- warm** *n* 1 an act of getting or making warm (<come to the fire for a ~>) 2 Br a warm place or state (<sit here in the ~>)
- warm-blooded** *adj* 1 having a relatively high and constant body temperature more or less independent of the environment – compare COLD-BLOODED 2 fervent or ardent in spirit warm-bloodedness *n*
- warm front** *n* an advancing edge of a warm air mass
- warmhearted** /'hɑ:htɪd/ *adj* marked by ready affection cordiality generosity, or sympathy warmheartedly *adv*, warmheartedness *n*
- warming pan** /'wɔ:mɪŋ/ *n* a usu long handled flat covered pan (e.g. of brass) filled with hot coals formerly used to warm a bed
- warmonger** /'wɔ:mɪŋgə/ *n* one who attempts to stir up war
- warmongering** *n*
- warmth** /'wɔ:wmθ/ *n* the quality or state of being warm a in temperature b in feeling (<a child needing human ~>)
- warm-up** *n* the act or an instance of warming up also a procedure (e.g. a set of exercises) used in warming up
- warm up** *vi* 1 to engage in exercise or practice esp before entering a game or contest broadly to get ready 2 HOT UP ~ *vi* HOT UP esp to put (an audience) into a receptive mood (e.g. before a show) esp by telling jokes, singing, etc
- warn** /wɔ:n/ *vt* 1a to give notice to beforehand esp of danger or evil (<~ them of the floods>) b to give admonishing advice to counsel (<~ them not to open the door>) c to notify inform (<~ them of my intentions>) 2 to order to go or stay away – often + *off* or *away* ~ *vi* to give a warning [ME *warnen*, fr OE *warnian* akin to OHG *warnon* to take heed OE *wær* careful, aware – more at WARY] – *warner* *n*
- warning** /'wɔ:nɪŋ/ *n* sthg that warns also NOTICE 1b [WARN + <sup>1</sup>ING] warning *adj*, warningly *adv*
- warning coloration** *n* an animal's conspicuous colouring that warns off potential enemies
- war of attrition** *n* a war of little movement in which the side with the largest reserves (e.g. of men and supplies) gains the victory
- War Office** *n* the former British Government department in charge of the army – now part of the Ministry of Defence
- war of nerves** *n* (a conflict characterized by) the use of psychological tactics (e.g. bluff, threats, or intimidation) designed to destroy the enemy's morale
- warp** /wɔ:p/ *n* 1a a series of yarns extended lengthways in a loom and crossed by the weft b the cords forming the carcass of a pneumatic tyre 2 a rope for warping a ship or boat 3 sediment deposited by (standing) water 4a a twist or curve that has developed in sthg formerly flat or straight (<a ~ in a door panel>) b a mental twist or aberration [ME, fr OE *wearp*, akin to OHG *warf* warp, ON *verpa* to throw (4) 'warp] – *warpage* *n*
- warp** *vi* 1a to turn or twist (e.g. planks) out of shape, esp out of a plane b to cause to think or act wrongly pervert 2 to arrange (yarns) so as to form a warp 3 to manoeuvre (e.g. a ship) by hauling on a line attached to a fixed object ~ *vi* 1 to become warped 2 to move a ship by warping [ME *warpen*, fr OE *weorpan* to throw, akin to ON *verpa* to throw, Gk *rhēmbain* to whirl, (vt) 2) ME *warpen*, fr 'warp, (vt) 3) 'warp] – *warper* *n*
- war paint** *n* 1 paint put on the body by N American Indians as a sign of going to war 2 ceremonial dress regalia 3 cosmetics USE (2&3) infml
- war party** *n* a group of N American Indians going on a warlike expedition
- warpath** /'wɔ:pəθ/ *n* the route taken by a war party of N American Indians – on the warpath pursuing an angry or hostile course, taking or starting to take action in a struggle or conflict
- warp, beam** *n* a roller on which the warp is wound for a loom
- warp-knitted** *adj* produced in machine knitting with the yarns running in a lengthways direction
- warplane** /'wɔ:plæn/ *n* an (armed) military aircraft


**'warrant** /'wɒrənt/ *n* **1a** a sanction, authorization; *also* evidence for or token of authorization **b** a guarantee, security **c** a ground, justification, *also* proof (*this assertion was totally without ~*) **2** a commission or document giving authority *e.g.* **a** a document authorizing sb to receive money or other consideration (*travel ~*) **b** a document authorizing an officer to make an arrest, a search, etc **c** an official certificate of appointment issued to a noncommissioned officer **d(1)** a short-term obligation of a governmental body (*e.g.* a municipality) issued in anticipation of revenue **(2)** a document issued by a company giving to the holder the right to purchase the capital stock of the company at a stated price either prior to a stipulated date or at any future time [ME, protector, warrant, fr ONF *warrant*, modif of a Gmc noun represented by OHG *werento* guarantor, fr prp of *weren* to warrant, akin to OHG *wara* trust, care – more at **VERY**] – **warrantless** *adj*

**'warrant** *vt* **1** to declare or maintain with certainty (*I'll ~ he'll be here by noon*) **2** to guarantee to be as represented **3** to give sanction to (*the law ~s this procedure*) **4a** to prove or declare the authenticity or truth of **b** to give assurance of the nature of or for the undertaking of; guarantee **5** to serve as or give adequate ground or reason for (*the situation ~s dramatic action*) [ME *warranten*, fr ONF *warrantir*, fr *warranti*] – **warrantable** *adj*, **warrantor** /-taw/, -tə/, **warranter** *n*

**warrantee** /,wɒrən'tee/ *n* sb to whom a warranty is made

**'warrant officer** *n*  **RANK**

**warrant officer first class** *n*  **RANK**

**warrant officer second class** *n*  **RANK**

**warranty** /'wɒrənti/ *n* **1** a collateral undertaking that a fact regarding the subject of a contract is or will be as declared **2** sthg that authorizes, supports, or justifies, a warrant **3** a usu written guarantee of the soundness of a product and of the maker's responsibility for repair or replacement [ME *warrantie*, fr ONF, fr *warrantir* to warrant]

**'warren** /'wɒrən/ *n* **1** an area of ground (or a structure) where rabbits breed **2a** a crowded tenement or district **b** a maze of narrow passageways or cubbies, *broadly* anything intricate or confused [ME *warenne* land reserved for breeding game (*esp* rabbits), fr ONF]

**'warrior** /'wɒriə/ *n* a man engaged or experienced in warfare [ME *werrour*, fr ONF *werreieur*, fr *werreier* to make war, fr *werre* war]

**'warship** /'wɒʃɪp/ *n* an (armed) ship for use in warfare

**'wart** /wɔ:t/ *n* **1** a horny projection on the skin, usu of the hands or feet, caused by a virus, *also* a protuberance, *esp* on a plant, resembling this **2** an ugly or objectionable man or boy – chiefly Br schoolboy slang **3** a blemish – often in *warts and all* [ME, fr OE *wearte*; akin to OHG *warza* wart, L *verruca*] – **warty** *adj*


**'warthog** /'wɔ:t,hɒg/ *n* any of a genus of African wild pigs with 2 pairs of rough warty lumps on the face and large protruding tusks

**'wartime** /'wɔ:t,tiəm/ *n* a period during which a war is in progress

**'war-weary** /'wɔ:-, 'wɔ:-/ *adj* exhausted and dejected by prolonged war


**'wary** /'weəri/ *adj* marked by caution and watchful prudence in detecting and escaping danger [*arch* *ware* (conscious, cautious), fr ME *war*, *ware*, fr OE *wær* careful, aware, wary, akin to OHG *giwar* aware, attentive, L *vereri* to fear, Gk *horan* to see] – **warily** *adv*, **wariness** *n*

**'was** /wɔ:, strong wɒz/ *past 1 & 3 sing of be* [ME, fr OE, 1 & 3 sing past indic of *wesan* to be, akin to ON *vera* to be, *var* was, Skt *vasati* he lives, dwells]

**'wash** /wɒʃ/ *vt* **1a** to cleanse (as if) by the action of liquid (*e.g.* water) **b** to remove (*e.g.* dirt) by applying liquid **2 of an animal** to cleanse (fur or a furry part) by licking or by rubbing with a paw moistened with saliva **3a** to flush or moisten (a body part or injury) with liquid **b** to suffuse with light **c** to pass water over or through, *esp* so as to carry off material from the surface or interior **4** to flow along, over, or against (*waves ~ing the shore*) **5** to move, carry, or deposit (as if) by the force of water in motion (*houses ~ed away by the flood*) **6a** to agitate (*e.g.* crushed ore) in water to separate valuable material; *also* to separate (particles) thus **b** to pass (*e.g.* a gas) through or over a liquid to carry off impurities or soluble components **7** to cover or daub lightly with a thin coating (*e.g.* of paint or varnish) **8** to cause to swirl (*~ing coffee round in his cup*) ~ *vi* **1a** to wash oneself or a part of one's body **b** to wash articles; do the washing  **SYMBOL** **2** to bear washing without damage (*does this dress ~?*) **3** to drift along on water **4** to pour or flow in a stream or current **5** to gain acceptance; inspire belief (*his story didn't ~ with me*) (*an interesting theory, but it just won't ~*) – *infinl* [ME *washen*, fr OE *waskan*; akin to OHG *waskan* to wash, OE *wæter* water] – **wash** one's hands of to disclaim interest in, responsibility for, or further connection with

**'wash** *n* **1a** (an instance of) washing or being washed **b** articles for washing *e.g.* an area or structure equipped with facilities for washing a vehicle (*a car ~*) **2** the surging action of waves **3a** a piece of ground

washed by the sea or river **b** a shallow body of water **4a** worthless *esp* liquid waste; *also* swill **b** vapid writing or speech **5a** a thin coat of paint (*e.g.* watercolour) **b** a thin liquid used for coating a surface (*e.g.* a wall) **6** a lotion **7** loose or eroded surface soil, rock debris, etc transported and deposited by running water **8a** **BACKWASH** **1** **b** a disturbance in the air produced by the passage of an aircraft

**'washable** /'wɒʃəbl/ *adj* capable of being washed without damage 

**SYMBOL** – **washability** /-'bɪləti/ *n*

**'wash, basin** /-,bays(ə)n/ *n* a basin or sink usu connected to a water supply for washing the hands and face

**'wash, board** /-,bawd/ *n* a corrugated board for scrubbing clothes on when washing

**'wash, bowl** /-,bohl/ *n* a washbasin

**'wash, cloth** /-,kloth/ *n*, *NAM* **FIANNEL** **3**

**wash down** *vt* **1** to send downwards by action of a liquid, *esp* to facilitate the swallowing of (food) by taking gulps of liquid **2** to wash the whole surface of (*washed down and scrubbed the front step*)

**'wash, drawing** *n* (a) watercolour painting done (mainly) in washes, *esp* in black, white, and grey tones only

**'washed-out** *adj* **1** faded in colour **2** listless, exhausted – *infinl*

**'washed-up** *adj* no longer successful or useful, finished – *infinl* (*all ~ as a footballer at the age of 28*)

**'washer** /'wɒʃə/ *n* **1** **WASHING MACHINE** **2** a thin flat ring (*e.g.* of metal or leather) used to ensure tightness or prevent friction in joints and assemblies [*'WASH* + *'-FR*]

**'washer-up** *n*, chiefly Br a person employed to wash up, a dishwasher – *infinl*

**'washerwoman** /-wʊmən/, *masc* **'washerman** /-mən/ *n* a woman who takes in washing

**Washeteria** /,wɒʃə'tiəriə/ *trademark* – used for a launderette

**'wash-hand basin** *n*, Br a washbasin

**'wash, house** /-,həʊs/ *n* a building used or equipped for washing clothes

**'washing** /'wɒʃɪŋ/ *n* articles, *esp* clothes, that have been or are to be washed [*'WASH* + *'-ING*]

**'washing machine** *n* a machine for washing *esp* clothes and household linen

**'washing, soda** *n* a transparent crystalline hydrated sodium carbonate

**'washing-up** *n*, chiefly Br the act or process of washing dishes and kitchen utensils, *also* the dishes and utensils to be washed

**'wash, leather** *n* a soft leather similar to chamois

**wash off** *vb* to (cause to) disappear as the result of washing

**'wash, out** /-,əʊt/ *n* **1** the washing out or away of a road, railway line, etc by a 'arge amount of water; *also* a place where this has occurred **2** a failure, fiasco

**'wash out** *vt* **1a** to wash free of a usu unwanted substance (*e.g.* dirt) (*washed the milk bottles out before putting them on the doorstep*) **b** to remove (*e.g.* a stain) by washing (*washed the tea stain out of the tablecloth*) **2a** to cause to fade by laundering **b** to deplete the strength or vitality of (*feeling very washed out*) ~ *vi* to become depleted of colour or vitality, fade

**'washroom** /-,roʊhm, -room/ *n*, *NAM* **TOILET** **2b** – *euph*

**'wash, stand** /-,stænd/ *n* a piece of furniture used, *esp* formerly, to hold a basin, jug, etc needed for washing one's face and hands


**'wash, tub** /-,tʌb/ *n* a tub in which clothes are washed or soaked

**wash up** *vi* **1** Br to wash used dishes and kitchen utensils, *esp* after a meal **2** *NAM* to wash one's face and hands ~ *vt* **1** to bring into the shore (*a dead whale was washed up on the sand*) **2** Br to wash (the dishes and utensils) after a meal

**'wash, woman** /-,wʊmən/ *n*, *NAM* a washerwoman

**'washy** /'wɒʃi/ *adj* **1** weak, watery (*~ tea*) **2** deficient in colour; pallid **3** lacking in vigour, individuality, or definite form – **washiness** *n*

**wasn't** /wɒznt/ *was not*

**'wasp** /wɒsp/ *n* any of numerous largely flesh-eating slender narrow-waisted insects many of which have an extremely painful sting, *esp* a very common social wasp with black and yellow stripes  **DEFENCE** [ME *waspe*, fr OE *wæps*, *wæsp*; akin to OHG *wafsa* wasp, L *vespa* wasp, OE *wefan* to weave – more at **WEAVE**] – **wasplike** *adj*

**'WASP, Wasp** /wɒsp/ *n* an American of N European, *esp* British, stock and of Protestant background; *esp* one in North America considered to be a member of the dominant and most privileged class [white Anglo-Saxon Protestant] – **Wasplish** *adj*, **Waspy** *adj*

**'wasplish** /'wɒʃɪʃ/ *adj* resembling a wasp in behaviour; *esp* snappish – **wasplishly** *adv*, **wasplishness** *n*



**wasp waist** *n* a very slender waist – **wasp-waisted** *adj*

**'wassail** /'wɒsəl/ *n* 1 a toast to sb's health made in England in former times 2 **wassail**, **wassail bowl**, **wassail cup** a liquor made of spiced ale or wine and often baked apples, and served in a large bowl. esp formerly, at Christmas and other festive occasions 3 *archaic* revelry, carousing [ME *wæs heil*, fr ON *ves heill* be well, fr *ves* (imper sing. of *vera* to be) + *heil* healthy – more at **WAS**, **WHOLE**]

**'wassail** *vi* 1 to carouse 2 *dial Eng* to sing carols from house to house at Christmas – **wassailer** *n*

**'Wassermann test** /'wəsmən, 'wəsmən/ *n* a test for the presence of a specific antibody in blood serum used in the detection of syphilis [August von Wassermann †1925 G bacteriologist]

**wast** /wɒst, wɒst/ *archaic* past 2 *sing* of **BE**

**wastage** /'waɪstɪ/ *n* 1a loss, decrease, or destruction of sth (e.g. by use, decay, or leakage); esp wasteful or avoidable loss of sth valuable b waste, refuse 2 reduction or loss in numbers (e.g. of employees or students), usu caused by individuals leaving or retiring voluntarily – esp in *natural wastage*

**'waste** /waɪst/ *n* 1a a sparsely settled, barren, or devastated region, a desert b uncultivated land c a broad and empty expanse (e.g. of water) 2 wasting or being wasted 3 gradual loss or decrease by use, wear, or decay 4 damaged, defective, or superfluous material produced by a manufacturing process e.g. a material rejected during a textile manufacturing process and used for wiping away dirt and oil b fluid (e.g. steam) allowed to escape without being used 5 human or animal refuse [ME *waste*, *wast*; (1) fr ONF *wast*, fr *wast*, *adj*, desolate, waste, fr L *vastus*, akin to OHG *wuosti* desolate, waste, L *vanus* empty; (2–5) fr ME *wasten* to waste]

**'waste** *vt* 1 to lay waste, devastate 2 to cause to be reduced in physical bulk or strength, enfeeble 3 to wear away gradually; consume 4 to spend or use carelessly or inefficiently; squander ~ *vi* 1 to lose weight, strength, or vitality – often + *away* 2 to become consumed gradually and esp wastefully [ME *wasten*, fr ONF *waster*, fr L *vastare*, fr *vastus* desolate, waste] – **waste one's breath** to accomplish nothing by speaking

**'waste** *adj* 1a uninhabited, desolate b not cultivated or used, not productive (< ~ *energy*) (< ~ *land*) 2 ruined, devastated 3 discarded as refuse (< ~ *material*) 4 serving to conduct or hold refuse material, specif. carrying off superfluous fluid (< ~ *pipe*) [ME *waste*, *wast*, fr ONF *wast*]

**'waste basket** /-'bæʃkɪt/ *n* WASTEPAPER BASKET

**'waste bin** *n*, *Br* a container for refuse, esp from a kitchen, also WASTEPAPER BASKET

**wasted** /'waɪstɪd/ *adj* 1 laid waste, ravaged 2 impaired in strength or health; emaciated 3 unprofitably used, made, or expended (< ~ *effort*)

**'wasteful** /-'fʌl/ *adj* given to or marked by waste; prodigal – **wastefully** *adv*, **wastefulness** *n*

**'wasteland** /-'lænd, -land/ *n* 1 (an area of) barren or uncultivated land (< a *desert* ~) 2 a desolate or barely inhabitable place or area 3 sth (e.g. a way of life) that is spiritually and emotionally dry or unsatisfying

**'wastepaper** /-'peɪpə/ *n* paper discarded as used or unwanted

**'wastepaper basket** *n* a receptacle for refuse, esp wastepaper

**'waste product** *n* 1 debris resulting from a process (e.g. of manufacture) that is of no further use to the system producing it 2 material (e.g. faeces) discharged from, or stored in an inert form in, a living body as a by-product of metabolic processes

**'waster** /'waɪstə/ *n* 1 one who spends or consumes extravagantly without thought for the future 2 a good-for-nothing, idler ['WASTE + -ER]

**'wasting** /'waɪstɪŋ/ *adj* undergoing or causing decay or loss of strength (< ~ *diseases such as tuberculosis*) – **wastingly** *adv*

**'wastrel** /'waɪstrəl/ *n* 1 a vagabond, waif 2 a waster [irreg. fr **'waste**]

**'watch** /wɒtʃ/ *vi* 1 to remain awake during the night, esp in order to keep vigil (< ~ *by his bedside*) 2a to be attentive or vigilant; wait for (< ~ *ed for a chance to get her revenge*) b to keep guard (< ~ *over their flocks*) 3 to be closely observant of an event or action ~ *vt* 1 to keep under protective guard 2a to observe closely, esp in order to check on action or change (< ~ *being ~ed by the police*) b to look at (an event or moving scene) (< ~ *television*) (< ~ *ed the train till it went out of sight*) 3a to take care of; tend (< ~ *the baby*) b to be careful of (< ~ *es his diet*) c to take care that (< ~ *you don't spill it*) 4 to be on the alert for; bide (< ~ *ed his opportunity*) [ME *wacchen*, fr OE *wæccan* – more at **WAKE**] – **watcher** *n* – **watch it** to be careful; **LOOK OUT** – **watch one's step** to proceed with extreme care; act or talk warily – **watch over** to have charge of, superintend

**'watch** *n* 1a the act of keeping awake or alert to guard, protect, or attend (< ~ *kept ~ by the patient's bedside*) (< ~ *kept a close ~ on his movements*) b a state of alert and continuous attention, lookout 2 a wakeful interval during the night – usu pl (< ~ *the silent ~es of the night*) 3 a watchman, also, *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a body of watchmen, specif. those formerly assigned to patrol the streets of a town at night 4a a period of keeping guard b(1) a period of time during which a part of a ship's company is on duty while another part rests (2) *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the part of a ship's company on duty during a particular watch 5 a small portable timepiece powered esp by a spring or battery and usu worn on a wrist – **on the watch** on the alert

**'watch case** *n* the outside metal case covering the mechanism of a watch

**'watch committee** *n* a British local government committee that formerly supervised police discipline and public order

**'watch dog** /-'dɒg/ *n* 1 a dog kept to guard property 2 a person or group (e.g. a committee) that guards against inefficiency, undesirable practices, etc

**'watchful** /-'fʊl/ *adj* carefully observant or attentive, ON THE WATCH (< ~ *kept a ~ eye on the proceedings*) – **watchfully** *adv*, **watchfulness** *n*

**'watch glass** /-'glɑːs/ *n* a transparent cover protecting the face of a watch

**'watching brief** /'wɒtʃɪŋ/ *n* instructions to a barrister to follow a case on behalf of sb not directly involved, *broadly* observation of proceedings on behalf of another

**'watch making** /-'meɪkɪŋ/ *n* the making or repairing of watches or clocks – **watchmaker** *n*

**'watchman** /-'mæn/ *n*, *pl* **watchmen** sb who keeps watch, a guard (< a *night ~*)

**'watch night**, **'watch night service** *n* a devotional service lasting until after midnight, esp on New Year's Eve

**'watch out** *vi* 1 to be on the lookout for 2 to be careful, take care – often *imper*

**'watch tower** /-'taʊə/ *n* a tower from which a lookout can keep watch

**'watch word** /-'wʊd/ *n* 1 a word or phrase used as a sign of recognition among members of the same group – compare **PASSWORD** 2 a motto that embodies a guiding principle

**'water** /'wɔːtə/ *n* 1a the colourless odourless liquid that descends from the clouds as rain, forms streams, lakes, and seas, is a major constituent of all living matter, and is an oxide of hydrogen which freezes at 0°C and boils at 100°C b a natural mineral water – usu *pl* with *sing* meaning (< ~ *went to Bath to take the ~s*) 2a(1) *pl* the water occupying or flowing in a particular bed (< ~ *the ~s of the Nile*) (2) chiefly *Br* a body of water (e.g. a river or lake) (< ~ *Derwent ~*) b(1) *pl* a stretch of sea surrounding and controlled by a country (< ~ *territorial ~s*) (2) the sea of a specified part of the earth – often *pl* with *sing* meaning (< ~ *in tropical ~s*) c a water supply (< ~ *threatened to turn off the ~*) 3 travel or transport by water (< ~ *we went by ~*) 4a the level of water at a specified state of the tide – compare **HIGH WATER**, **LOW WATER** b the surface of the water (< ~ *swam under ~*) 5 liquid containing or resembling water e.g. a a pharmaceutical or cosmetic preparation (e.g. a toilet water) made with water b a watery solution of a gaseous or readily volatile substance (< ~ *ammonia ~*) c a watery fluid (e.g. tears, urine, or sap) formed or circulating in a living body 6 degree of excellence (< ~ *a scholar of the first ~*) 7 a wavy lustrous pattern (e.g. of a textile) [ME, fr OH *wæter*; akin to OHG *wazzar* water, Gk *hydōr*, L *unda* wave] – **waterless** *adj* – **water under the bridge** past events which it is futile to attempt to alter

**'water** *vt* 1 to moisten, sprinkle, or soak with water (< ~ *the garden*) 2a to supply with water for drink (< ~ *the horses*) b to supply water to (< ~ *a ship*) 3 to be a source of water for (< ~ *land ~ed by the Thames*) 4 to impart a lustrous appearance and wavy pattern to (cloth) by calendaring (< ~ *ed silk*) 5a to dilute (as if) by the addition of water (< ~ *the programme to suit the Radicals – The Times*) – often + **down** b to add to the total par value of (securities) without a corresponding addition to the assets represented by the securities ~ *vi* 1 to form or secrete water or watery matter (e.g. tears or saliva) 2a to take on a supply of water b of an animal to drink water – **waterer** *n*

**'water bailiff** *n*, *Br* an official employed to enforce bylaws relating to (waters used for) angling

**'water bed** *n* a bed with a water-filled plastic or rubber mattress

**'water biscuit** *n* an unsweetened biscuit made with flour and water

**'water blister** *n* a blister with a clear watery content that does not contain pus or blood



- 'water bloom** *n* an accumulation of (blue-green) algae at or near the surface of a body of water
- 'water boatman** *n* any of various aquatic bugs that swim on their backs
- 'waterborne** /-bawn/ *adj* supported or carried by water (< ~ commerce) (< ~ infection)
- 'waterbuck** /-buk/ *n, pl* waterbucks, *esp* collectively waterbuck any of various Old World antelopes that commonly frequent streams or wet areas
- 'water buffalo** *n* an often domesticated Asiatic buffalo
- 'water cannon** *n* a device for shooting out a jet of water with great force (e.g. to disperse a crowd)
- 'water cart** *n* a cart or truck equipped with a tank or barrels for hauling or sprinkling water
- 'water chestnut** *n* 1 (any of a genus of aquatic plants with) an edible nutlike 4-pronged fruit 2 (the edible tuber of) any of several Asian sedges
- 'water clock** *n* an instrument designed to measure time by the fall or flow of water
- 'water closet** *n* (a room or structure containing) a toilet with a bowl that can be flushed with water
- 'watercolour** /-kula/ *n* 1 a paint made from pigment mixed with water rather than oil 2 (a work produced by) the art of painting with water-colours
- 'water-cool** *vt* to cool by means of esp circulating water (< a ~ed engine)
- 'watercourse** /-kaws/ *n* (a natural or man-made channel for) a stream of water
- 'watercraft** /-krahft/ *n, pl* watercraft 1 skill in handling boats, sailing, etc 2 a vessel for water transport
- 'watercress** /-kres/ *n* any of several cresses of wet places widely grown for use in salads
- 'water-diviner** *n*, chiefly Br one who searches for water using a divining rod, a dowser
- 'watered-down** *adj* modified or reduced in force or effectiveness (< a ~ version of the original)
- 'waterfall** /-fawl/ *n* a vertical or steep descent of the water of a river or stream  GEOGRAPHY
- 'waterfinder** *n*, chiefly NAm a water-diviner, dowser
- 'water flea** *n* any of various small active dark or brightly coloured aquatic crustaceans
- 'waterfowl** /-fowl/ *n, pl* waterfowl, *esp* collectively waterfowl 1 a bird, esp a duck, that frequents water 2 *pl* swimming game birds (e.g. duck) as distinguished from upland game birds (e.g. grouse)
- 'waterfront** /-frunt/ *n* land or a section of a town fronting or bordering on a body of water
- 'water gas** *n* a poisonous inflammable gaseous mixture that consists chiefly of carbon monoxide and hydrogen, is used by blowing air and then steam over red-hot coke or coal, and is used esp as a fuel
- 'water gate** *n* 1 a gate giving access to a body of water 2 a flood-gate
- 'water gauge** *n* an instrument that indicates the height of water, esp in a steam boiler, also pressure expressed in terms of the depth of water
- 'water glass** *n* 1 an open box or tube with a glass bottom used for examining objects under water 2 a solution of sodium or potassium silicate used esp as a cement, as a protective coating and fireproofing agent, and in preserving eggs
- 'water hammer** *n* (a sound of) concussion of moving water against the sides of a containing pipe or vessel
- 'water hazard** *n* an open watercourse (e.g. a pond or ditch) on a golf course
- 'water hemlock** *n* cowbane
- 'water hen** *n* any of various birds (e.g. a coot or moorhen) related to the rails
- 'water hole** *n* a natural hollow in which water collects, used esp by animals as a drinking place
- 'water hyacinth** *n* a showy S American floating aquatic plant that often clogs waterways in warm regions
- 'water ice** *n* a frozen dessert of water, sugar, and flavouring
- 'watering can** /-wawt(ə)ring/ *n* a vessel having a handle and a long spout often fitted with a rose, used for watering plants
- 'watering place** *n* 1 a place where water may be obtained; esp one where animals, esp livestock, come to drink 2 a health or recreational resort featuring mineral springs or bathing; esp a spa
- 'water jacket** *n* an outer casing which holds water or through which water circulates, esp for cooling
- 'water jump** *n* an obstacle (e.g. in a steeplechase) consisting of a pool or ditch of water
- 'water level** *n* 1 the level reached by the surface of a body of water 2 WATER TABLE
- 'water lily** *n* any of a family of aquatic plants with floating leaves and usu showy colourful flowers
- 'waterline** /-lien/ *n* the level on the hull of a vessel to which the surface of the water comes when it is afloat, also any of several lines marked on the hull to correspond with this level
- 'waterlogged** /-lod/ *adj* filled or soaked with water (< ~ soil); specif, of a vessel so filled with water as to be (almost) unable to float ['water + log (to cause to become like a log)] – waterlog *vt*
- 'waterloo** /-wawtə'loo/ *n, pl* waterloos often cap a decisive defeat [Waterloo, village in Belgium, scene of Napoleon's defeat by British & Prussian armies in 1815]
- 'water main** *n* a major pipe for conveying water
- 'waterman** /-mən/ *n* a man who works on or near water or who engages in water recreations; esp a boatman whose boat and services are available for hire
- 'watermark** /-mahk/ *n* 1 a mark indicating the height to which water has risen 2 (the design or the metal pattern producing) a marking in paper visible when the paper is held up to the light
- 'watermark** *vt* to mark (paper) with a watermark
- 'water meadow** *n* a meadow kept fertile by a regular influx of water (e.g. from the flooding of a bordering river)
- 'watermelon** /-melən/ *n* (an African climbing plant of the cucumber family that bears) a large oblong or roundish fruit with a hard green often striped or variegated rind, a sweet watery pink pulp, and many seeds
- 'water mill** *n* a mill whose machinery is moved by water  ENRGY
- 'water of crystallization** *n* water of hydration present in many crystallized substances that is essential for maintenance of a particular crystal structure
- 'water of hydration** *n* water that is chemically combined with a substance to form a hydrate and can be expelled (e.g. by heating) without essentially altering the composition of the substance
- 'water ouzel** *n* DIPPER 2
- 'water parting** *n*, chiefly NAm WATERSHED 1
- 'water pepper** *n* an annual plant of wet places with extremely acrid peppery juice
- 'water pipe** *n* 1 a pipe for conveying water 2 a large chiefly oriental smoking apparatus consisting of a bowl containing tobacco or other smoking material mounted on a vessel of water through which smoke is drawn and cooled before reaching the mouth
- 'water pistol** *n* a toy pistol designed to shoot a jet of liquid
- 'water plantain** *n* any of a genus of marsh or aquatic plants with acrid juice
- 'water polo** *n* a game played in water by teams of 7 swimmers using a ball that is thrown or dribbled with the object of putting it into a goal
- 'water power** /-powa/ *n* the power derived from movement of a body of water, also a fall of water suitable for such use
- 'waterproof** /-prooh/ *adj* impervious to water; esp covered or treated with a material to prevent passage of water – waterproofness *n*
- 'waterproof** *n* (a garment made of) waterproof fabric
- 'waterproof** *vt* to make waterproof – waterproofer *n*, waterproofing *n*
- 'water rail** *n* a Eurasian rail with olive brown upper parts, conspicuous black and white bars on the flanks, and a long red bill
- 'water rat** *n* WATER VOLE
- 'water rate** *n* the charge made to a British householder for the use of the public water supply
- 'water-repellent** *adj* treated with a finish that is resistant but not impervious to penetration by water
- 'water-resistant** *adj* water-repellent
- 'water scorpion** *n* any of numerous aquatic bugs with the abdomen extended into a long breathing tube
- 'watershed** /-shed/ *n* 1 a dividing ridge between 2 drainage areas  GEOGRAPHY 2 a crucial turning point
- 'water side** /-sied/ *n* the margin of a body of water
- 'water sider** /-siedə/ *n*, Austr & NZ a docker
- 'water ski** *n* a board used singly or in pairs for standing on and planing over water while being towed at speed – water-ski *vi*, water-skier *n*
- 'water-skiing** *n* the sport of planing and jumping on water skis

- water, softener** *n* a substance or device for softening hard water
- water, spaniel** *n* a rather large spaniel with a heavy curly coat, used esp for retrieving waterfowl
- water, spout** /-spout/ *n* a funnel-shaped column of rotating wind usu extending from the underside of a cumulus or cumulonimbus cloud down to a cloud of spray torn up from the surface of a sea, lake, etc
- water supply** *n* the source, means, or process of supplying water (e.g. to a town or house), usu including reservoirs, tunnels, and pipelines
- water, system** *n* a river with its tributaries
- water, table** *n* the level below which the ground is wholly saturated with water
- water, tight** /-ti:t/ *adj* 1 of such tight construction or fit as to be impermeable to water 2 esp of an argument impossible to disprove, without loopholes 3 isolated from other ideas, influences, etc; discrete (*experiences cannot be divided into ~ compartments*) – **watertightness** *n*
- water, tower** *n* 1 a tower supporting a raised water tank to provide the necessary steady pressure to distribute water 2 a fire fighting apparatus that can supply water at various heights and at great pressure
- water, vapour** *n* water in a vaporous form, esp when below boiling temperature and diffused (e.g. in the atmosphere)
- water, vole** *n* a common large vole of W Europe that inhabits river banks and often digs extensive tunnels
- water, wagon** *n*, chiefly NAm **WATER CART**
- water, way** /-way/ *n* 1 a navigable route or body of water 2 a groove at the edge of a ship's deck for draining the deck
- water, weed** /-weed/ *n* any of various aquatic plants (e.g. a pondweed) with inconspicuous flowers
- water, wheel** /-weel/ *n* 1 a wheel made to rotate by direct action of water, and used esp to drive machinery 2 a wheel for raising water
- water, wings** *n pl* a pair of usu air-filled floats worn to give support to the body of sb learning to swim
- water, witch** *n*, NAm a dowser – **water witching** *n*
- water, works** /-wuhks/ *n, pl* **waterworks** 1 the reservoirs, mains, building, and pumping and purifying equipment by which a water supply is obtained and distributed (e.g. to a city) – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning 2 chiefly Br the urinary system – euph or humor 3 (the shedding of) tears – *infrml* (*turns on the ~ whenever she wants her own way*)
- water, worn** /-wawn/ *adj* worn or smoothed by the action of water
- watery** /'wa:t(ə)r/ *adj* 1a consisting of or filled with water b containing, sodden with, or yielding water or a thin liquid (*a ~ solution*) (*~ vesicles*) c containing too much water (*~ soup*) d secreting water, esp tears (*~ eyes*) 2a pale, faint (*~ sun*) (*a ~ smile*) b vapid, wishy-washy (*a ~ writing style*) – **waterily** *adv*, **wateriness** *n*
- Watson-Crick** /'wɒts(ə)n/ *krɪk/ adj* of the double-helix structure of DNA (*guanine involved in a ~ base pair – Nature*) [J D Watson b 1928 US biologist and F H C Crick b 1916 E biologist]
- watt** /wɒt/ *n* the SI unit of power equal to the power that in 1 s gives rise to an energy of 1 J **PHYSICS** [James Watt †1819 Sc engineer]
- wattage** /'wɒtɪ/ *n* amount of power expressed in watts
- wattle** /'wɒtl/ *n* 1 (material for) a framework of poles interwoven with slender branches or reeds and used, esp formerly, in building **BUILDING** 2a a fleshy protuberance usu near or on the head or neck, esp of a bird b **BARBEL** 3 *Austr* **ACACIA** 1 [ME *wattel*, fr OE *watel*; akin to OHG *wadal* bandage] – **wattled** *adj*
- wattle** *vt* **wattling** /'wɒtlɪŋ/ 1 to form or build of or with wattle 2a to interlace to form wattle b to unite or make solid by interweaving light flexible material
- wattle and daub** /'daʊb/ *n* a framework of wattle covered and plastered with clay and used in building construction **BUILDING**
- wave** /weɪv/ *vi* 1 to flutter or sway to and fro (*flags waving in the breeze*) (*corn ~d to and fro in the wind*) 2 to give a signal or salute by moving (sth held in) the hand (*~d cheerily to them*) 3 to be flourished to and fro (*his sword ~d and flashed*) 4 to follow a curving line or form; undulate *~ vt* 1 to cause to swing to and fro 2 to direct by waving; signal (*~ the car to a halt*) 3a to move (the hand or an object) to and fro in greeting, farewell, or homage b to convey by waving (*~d farewell*) 4 to brandish, flourish (*~d a pistol menacingly*) 5 to give a curving or undulating shape to (*~d her hair*) [ME *waven*, fr OE *wafian* to wave with the hands; akin to OE *wæfre* restless – more at **WAVER**] – **waver** *n* – *wave aside* to dismiss or put out of mind, disregard
- wave** *n* 1a a moving ridge or swell on the surface of a liquid (e.g. the sea) **ENERGY** b open water – usu *pl* with *sing.* meaning; chiefly poetic 2a a shape or outline having successive curves b a waviness of the hair c an undulating line or streak 3 sth that swells and dies away: e.g. a a surge of sensation or emotion (*a ~ of anger swept over her*) b a movement involving large numbers of people in a common activity (*~s of protest*) c a sudden increase or wide occurrence of a specified activity (*a ~ of house-buying*) 4 a sweep of the hand or arm or of some object held in the hand, used as a signal or greeting 5 a rolling or undulatory movement or any of a series of such movements passing along a surface or through the air 6 a movement like that of an ocean wave e.g. a a surging movement; an influx (*a sudden ~ of new arrivals*) b *sing* or *pl in constr* a line of attacking or advancing troops, aircraft, etc 7 (a complete cycle of) a periodic variation of pressure, electrical or magnetic intensity, electric potential, etc by which energy is transferred progressively from point to point without a corresponding transfer of a medium (*light ~*) (*radio ~*) (*sound ~*) 8 an undulating or jagged line constituting a graphic representation of an action (*a sine ~*) 9 a marked change in temperature, a period of hot or cold weather – compare **HEAT WAVE**, **COLD WAVE** – **wavelet** /-lɪt/ *n*, **wavelike** *adj*
- wave, band** *n* a band of radio frequency waves
- wave equation** *n* a partial differential equation of the second order whose solutions describe wave phenomena
- wave, form** /-fawm/ *n* (the graphic representation of) the variation of a quantity (e.g. voltage) with respect to some other factor (e.g. time or distance)
- wave, front** *n* a surface composed at any instant of all the points just reached by a wave in its propagation through a medium
- wave, function** *n* a quantum mechanical function representing the probability of finding a specified elementary particle within a specified volume of space
- wave, guide** /-gɪd/ *n* a metal tube of such dimensions that it will propagate electromagnetic waves, esp microwaves
- wave, length** /-leng(θ)/ *n* the distance in the line of advance of a wave from any 1 point to the next point of corresponding phase (e.g. from 1 peak to the next) **PHYSICS** – *be on somebody's/the same wave-length* to have the same outlook, views, etc as sb else
- wave mechanics** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl in constr* a theory of matter that gives a mathematical interpretation of the structure of matter based on the concept that elementary particles (e.g. electrons, protons, or neutrons) possess wave properties
- wave, number** *n* the number of waves per unit distance of radiant energy, the reciprocal of the wavelength
- waver** /'weɪvə/ *vi* 1 to vacillate between choices, fluctuate 2a to sway unsteadily to and fro, reel b to quiver, flicker (*~ ing flames*) c to hesitate as if about to give way; falter 3 to make a tremulous sound; quaver [ME *wavren*, akin to OE *wæfre* restless, *wefan* to weave – more at **WEAVE**] – **waverer** *n*, **waveringly** *adv*
- wave, theory** *n* the theory that light and other electromagnetic radiation consists of waves
- wave, train** *n* a succession of similar waves at equal intervals
- wavy** /'weɪvɪ/ *adj* 1 having waves (*~ hair*) 2 having a wavelike form or outline (*~ line*) – **wavily** *adv*, **waviness** *n*
- wa-wa, pedal, wah-wah** *pedal* /'wəh, 'wəh/ *n* an electronic device, connected to an amplifier and operated by a foot pedal, that is used (e.g. with an electric guitar) to produce a fluctuating muted effect [*imit*]
- wax** /wæks/ *n* 1 beeswax 2a any of numerous plant or animal substances that are harder, more brittle, and less greasy than fats b a solid substance (e.g. ozocerite or paraffin wax) of mineral origin consisting usu of higher hydrocarbons c a pliable or liquid composition used esp for sealing, taking impressions, or polishing d a resinous preparation used by shoemakers for rubbing thread 3 a waxy secretion, esp cerumen [ME, fr OE *wæax*; akin to OHG *wahs* wax, Lith *vaškas*] – **waxlike** *adj*
- wax** *vt* to treat or rub with wax
- wax** *vi* 1 to increase in size and strength; esp, of the moon, satellites, etc to increase in phase or intensity 2 *archaic* to assume a specified quality or state; become (*~ ed lyrical*) [ME *waxen*, fr OE *wæxan*; akin to OHG *wahsan* to increase, Gk *auxanein*, L *augere*]
- wax** *n* a fit of temper – *infrml* [*perh* fr **WAX**]
- wax, bill** /-bɪl/ *n* any of numerous Old World birds with white, pink, or reddish bills of a waxy appearance
- waxed paper, wax paper** *n* paper coated or impregnated with wax to make it resistant to water and grease, used esp as a wrapping for food
- waxen** /'wæks(ə)n/ *adj* 1 made of or covered with wax 2 resembling wax, esp in being pliable, smooth, or pallid
- wax, insect** *n* a scale insect that secretes a wax from its body
- wax, palm** *n* an Andean palm whose stem yields a resinous wax used in candles

**waxwing** /-,wɪŋ/ *n* a Eurasian bird with a pinkish-chestnut crest, crimson-tipped wings, and a short yellow-tipped tail

**waxwork** /-,wʊk/ *n* 1 an effigy in wax, usu of a person 2 *pl but sing or pl in constr* an exhibition of wax effigies

**waxy** /waks/ *adj* 1 made of, full of, or covered with wax 2 resembling wax, esp in smooth whiteness or pliability – **waxiness** *n*

**way** /weɪ/ *n* 1a a thoroughfare for travel or transport from place to place <lives across the ~> <the Pennine Way> b an opening for passage <this door is the only ~ out> c space or room, esp for forward movement <move that chair, please, it's in my ~> <get out of the ~> 2 the course to be travelled from one place to another, a route <ask one's ~ to the station> <lost her ~> 3a a course leading in a direction or towards an objective <took the easy ~ out> b the course of one's life <puts opportunities in her ~> c what one desires, or wants to do <always manages to get her own ~> 4a the manner in which sth is done or happens <the British ~ of life> <don't like the ~ he's breathing> b a method of doing or accomplishing, a means <the best ~ to make coffee> c a characteristic, regular, or habitual manner or mode of being, behaving, or happening <knows nothing of the ~s of the world> <endearing little ~s> d a feature, respect <useful in more ~s than one> 5 a category, kind <porridge is all right in its ~> 6 the distance to be travelled in order to reach a place or point <a long ~ from home> <Christmas is still a long ~ off> 7 an advance accompanied by or achieved through a specific action <working her ~ through college> <hacked his ~ through the jungle> 8a a direction – often in combination <come this ~> <split it 4 ~s> <a one-way street> b (the direction of) the area in which one lives <do drop in if you're ever down our ~> 9 a state of affairs, a condition <that's the ~ things are> <my finances are in a bad ~> 10 *pl but sometimes sing in constr* an inclined structure on which a ship is built or supported in 'sailing 11 motion or speed of a ship or boat through the water [ME, fr OE *weg*; akin to OHG *weg* way, OE *wegan* to move, L *vehere* to carry] – **by the way** incidentally – usu used to introduce or to comment on the introduction of a new subject – **by way of** 1 to be considered as, as a sort of <by way of light relief> 2 by the route through, via 3 in the form of <money recovered by way of grants> – **in a way** from one point of view, to some extent – **in the way** of in the form of <what have we in the way of food?> – **no way** under no circumstances – *infrml* on one's way ON THE WAY 1 – **on the way** 1 while moving along a course, in the course of travelling 2 coming, approaching; *specific* conceived but not yet born – **on the way out** about to disappear or die <many of these old customs are on the way out> – **out of the way** 1 unusual, remarkable <didn't know he'd said anything out of the way> <the house wasn't anything out of the way> 2 in or to a secluded or remote place 3 done, completed <got his homework out of the way> – **under way** in progress, started

**way** *adv* 1 AWAY 7 <is ~ ahead of the class> 2 chiefly NAM all the way <pull the switch ~ back> – **way back** long ago <friends from way back>

**waybill** /-,bɪl/ *n* a document showing the number of passengers or parcels carried and the fares charged

**wayfarer** /-,feərə/ *n* a traveller, esp on foot [ME *weyfarere*, fr *wey*, way way + *-fare* traveller, fr *fare* to go – more at *FARE*]

**waylay** /way'leɪ/ *vt* waylaid /way'leɪd/ 1 to attack from ambush 2 to accost <waylaid me after the lesson and asked where I'd been the week before>

**wayleave** /-,leɪv/ *n* a right-of-way over private property (e.g. as granted to an electricity company laying cables)

**way-out** *adj* far-out – *infrml* [way out (adverbial phrase), fr 'way + out]

**ways** /weɪz/ *n pl but sing in constr*, NAM way 6 <a long ~ from home> [ME *ways*, fr gen of 'way]

**-ways** /-,weɪz/ *suffix* (→ *adv*) in (such) a way, direction, or manner <sideways> <lengthways> [ME, fr *ways*, *ways*, gen of 'way]

**ways and means** *n pl* 1 methods and resources for accomplishing sth, esp for paying expenses 2 *often cap* W&M methods and resources for raising revenue for the use of government

**wayside** /-,sɪd/ *n* the side of or land adjacent to a road – **wayside** *adj*

**way station** *n*, NAM an intermediate stopping place

**wayward** /-,wɔːd/ *adj* 1 following one's own capricious or wanton inclinations; ungovernable 2 following no clear principle or law, unpredictable [ME, short for *awayward* turned away, fr *away*, *adv* + *-ward*] – **waywardly** *adv*, **waywardness** *n*

**we** /wi/; *strong wee* /pron *pl in constr* 1 I and the rest of a group; you and I; you and I and another or others; I and another or others not

including you <may ~ go, sir?> – compare OUR, OURS, US, 1 2 1 – used, esp formerly, by sovereigns, used by writers to maintain an impersonal character 3 YOU 1 – used esp to children and the sick <how are ~ feeling today, Mr Jones?> [ME, fr OE *we*; akin to OHG *wir* we, Skt *vyam*]

**weak** /week/ *adj* 1a deficient in physical vigour; feeble b not able to sustain or exert much weight, pressure, or strain c not able to resist external force or withstand attack 2a lacking determination or decisiveness; ineffectual b unable to withstand temptation or persuasion 3 not factually grounded or logically presented <a ~ argument> 4a unable to function properly <~ eyes> b lacking skill or proficiency c wanting in vigour or strength 5a deficient in a specified quality or ingredient <~ in trumps> b lacking normal intensity or potency <~ strain of virus> c mentally or intellectually deficient d deficient in strength or flavour; dilute <~ coffee> 6 not having or exerting authority or political power <~ government> 7 of or constituting a verb (conjugation) that in English forms inflections by adding the suffix *-ed* or *-d* or *-t* – compare STRONG 14 8 UNSTRESSED 1 9 characterized by falling prices <a ~ market> 10 ionizing only slightly in solution <~ acids and bases> [ME *weike*, fr ON *veikr*; akin to OE *wican* to yield, L *vici* change – more at WEEK] – **weaken** *vb*, **weakish** *adj*, **weakly** *adv*

**weak interaction** *n* an interaction between elementary particles that is responsible for some particle decay processes, for nuclear beta decay, and for emission and absorption of neutrinos – compare STRONG INTERACTION

**weak-kneed** *adj* lacking in resolution; easily intimidated

**weakling** /weeklɪŋ/ *n* a person or animal weak in body, character, or mind

**weakly** /weekli/ *adj* feeble, poorly – **weakliness** *n*

**weak-minded** *adj* 1 lacking willpower or resolution 2 feeble-minded – **weak-mindedness** *n*

**weakness** /weeknis/ *n* 1 a fault, defect 2 (an object of) a special desire or fondness <have a ~ for ice cream> [WEAK + -NESS]

**weak sister** *n*, chiefly NAM a member of a group who is weak and needs aid

**weal**, **wheel** /weɪl/ *n* WEL 3, <sup>1</sup>SCAR 1 [alter of 'wale]

**Weald** /weɪld/ *n* the area of open grassland, once wooded, covering parts of Sussex, Kent, and Surrey [alter of ME *Weald*, fr OE *weald* forest]

**wealth** /welθ/ *n* 1 the state of being rich 2 abundance of money and valuable material possessions 3 abundant supply; a profusion <a ~ of detail> [ME *welthe*, fr *wel* well-being, prosperity, fr OE *wela*; akin to OE *wel* well] – **wealthy** *adj*, **wealthily** *adv*, **wealthiness** *n*

**wean** /ween/ *vt* 1 to accustom (a child or other young mammal) to take food other than mother's milk 2 to cause to abandon a state of usu unwholesome dependence or preoccupation <to ~ your minds from hankering after false standards> – A T Quiller-Couch 3 to cause to become acquainted with an idea, writer, etc at an early age; bring up on [ME *wenan*, fr OE *wenian* to accustom, *wean*, akin to OE *wunian* to be used to – more at WONT]

**weaner** /'weenə/ *n* a young animal recently weaned [WEAN + <sup>1</sup>-ER]

**weanling** /'weenlɪŋ/ *n* a child or animal newly weaned

**weapon** /'weɪpən/ *n* 1 an instrument of offensive or defensive combat 2 a means used to further one's cause in conflict <his caustic wit was his best ~> [ME *wepen*, fr OE *wæpen*, akin to ON *vápn* weapon]

**weaponry** /-,n/ *n* (the science of designing and making) weapons

**wear** /weə/ *vb* wore /waw/, worn /wawən/ *vt* 1a to have or carry on the body as clothing or adornment <wore a coat> b to dress in (a particular manner, colour, or garment), esp habitually <~ green> c to have (hair) in a specified style 2 to hold the rank, dignity, or position signified by (an ornament) <~ the royal crown> 3a to have or show on the face <wore a happy smile> b to show or fly (a flag or colours) on a ship 4 to impair, damage, or diminish by use or friction <letters on the stone worn away by weathering> 5 to produce gradually by friction or attrition <~ a hole in the rug> 6 to exhaust or lessen the strength of, weary 7 to cause (a ship, esp a square-rigged vessel) to go about with the stern presented to the wind 8 chiefly Br to find (a claim, proposal etc) acceptable; STAND FOR – *infrml* <just won't ~ that feeble excuse> – *vi* 1a to endure use, esp to a specified degree, last <this material ~s well> b to retain vitality or young appearance to a specified degree <you've worn well> 2a to diminish or decay through use b to go by slowly or tediously <the day ~s on> c to grow or become by attrition, use, or the passage of time <hair ~ing thin> 3 of a ship, esp a square-rigged vessel to change to an opposite tack by turning the stern to the wind – compare TACK, GYBE [ME *weren*, fr OE *werian*; akin to ON *verja* to clothe, invest, spend, L *vestis* clothing, garment, Gk *hennynai* to clothe] – **wearable** *adj*, **wearer** *n* – **wear** the

trousers to have the controlling authority in a household – **wear thin** 1 to become weak or ready to give way (*his patience was wearing thin*) 2 to become trite, unconvincing, or out-of-date (*that argument's wearing a bit thin*)

**wear** *n* 1 wearing or being worn (*clothes for everyday* ~) 2 clothing, usu of a specified kind (*men's* ~), esp clothing worn for a specified occasion – often in combination (*swimwear*) 3 capacity to withstand use, durability (*plenty of ~ left in it*) 4 minor damage or deterioration through use

**wear and tear** *n* the normal deterioration or depreciation which sthg suffers in the course of use

**wear down** *vt* to weary and overcome by persistent resistance or pressure

**wearing** /'weərɪŋ/ *adj* causing fatigue, tiring – **wearingly** *adv*

**wearisome** /'wiəri(ə)m/ *adj* causing weariness, tiresome – **wearisomely** *adv*, **wearisomeness** *n*

**wear off** *vi* to decrease gradually and finally end (*the effect of the drug wore off*)

**wear out** *vt* 1 to make useless by long or excessive wear or use 2 to tire, exhaust ~ *vi* to become useless from long or excessive wear or use

**weary** /'weəri/ *adj* 1 exhausted, tired 2 expressing or characteristic of weariness (*a ~ smile*) 3 having one's patience, tolerance, or pleasure exhausted – + of 4 wearisome [ME *wery*, fr OE *weng*; akin to OHG *wuorag* intoxicated, Gk *horakian* to faint] – **wearily** *adv*, **weariness** *n*

**weary** *vb* to make or become weary

**weasel** /'weɪzl/ *n*, *pl* **weasels**, esp collectively **weasel** any of various small slender flesh-eating mammals with reddish brown fur which, in northern forms, turns white in winter [ME *wesele*, fr OE *wesol*; akin to OHG *wisula* weasel, L *visus* slimy liquid, stench – more at **virus**]

**weather** /'weðə/ *n* the prevailing (bad) atmospheric conditions, esp with regard to heat or cold, wetness or dryness, calm or storm, and clearness or cloudiness ☉ [ME *weder*, fr OE; akin to OHG *wetar* weather, OSlav *vetri* wind] – **under the weather** mildly ill or depressed, not fully well – **infirm**

**weather** *adj* windward

**weather** *vt* 1 to expose or subject to atmospheric conditions 2 to sail or pass to the windward of 3 to bear up against and come safely through (*~ a storm*) ~ *vi* to undergo or be resistant to change by weathering (*wood ~s better if creosoted*)

**weather-beaten** *adj* 1 worn or damaged by exposure to weather 2 toughened or tanned by the weather

**weatherboard** /-'bawd/ *n* 1 a board fixed horizontally and usu overlapping the board below to form a protective outdoor wall covering that will throw off water 2 a sloping board fixed to the bottom of a door for excluding rain, snow, etc

**weatherboarding** /-'bawdɪŋ/ *n* (a method of constructing the wall of a building using) weatherboards ☞ **BUILDING**

**weather-bound** *adj* unable to proceed or take place because of bad weather

**weathercock** /-'kɒk/ *n* **WEATHER VANE**, esp one in the figure of a cockerel

**weathered** /'wedhəd/ *adj* 1 seasoned by exposure to the weather 2 altered in form by weathering; also altered by artificial means, esp staining, to produce a similar effect (*~ oak*)

**weather eye** *n* 1 an eye quick to observe coming changes in the weather 2 a constant and shrewd alertness

**weatherglass** /-'glahs/ *n* a barometer

**weathering** /'wedhərɪŋ/ *n* 1 (the changes in colour, composition, form, etc resulting from) the action of the elements on exposed objects, esp rocks 2 a slope given to a surface so that it will shed water

**weatherly** /'wedhəli/ *adj*, of a vessel able to sail close to the wind with little leeway

**weatherman** /-'man/ *n* sby, esp a meteorologist, who reports and forecasts the weather, usu on the radio or television

**weather map** *n* a map or chart showing meteorological conditions at a given time and over an extended region

**weatherproof** /-'pru:pf/ *adj* able to withstand exposure to weather without damage or loss of function – **weatherproof** *vt*, **weatherproofness** *n*

**weather satellite** *n* a satellite put into orbit round the earth to relay back meteorological observations

**weather ship** *n* a ship that makes observations on weather conditions for use by meteorologists

**weather station** *n* a station for taking, recording, and reporting meteorological observations

**weather strip** *n* a strip of material used to exclude rain, snow, and cold air from the joints of a door or window ☞ **ARCHITECTURE** – **weather-strip** *vt*

**weather vane** *n* a movable device attached to an elevated structure (e.g. a spire) in order to show the direction of the wind

**weather-wise** *adj* 1 skilful in forecasting the weather 2 skilful in forecasting changes in opinion or feeling (*a ~ politician*)

**weatherworn** /-'wawn/ *adj* **WEATHER-BEATEN** 1

**weave** /weev/ *vb* **wove** /wove/, **weaved**; **woven** /'wɒv(ə)n/, **weaved** *vt* 1a to form (cloth) by interlacing strands (e.g. of yarn), esp on a loom 1b to interlace (e.g. threads) into a fabric, design, etc c to make (e.g. a basket) by intertwining 2 of spiders and insects **SPIN** 2 3a to produce by elaborately combining elements into a coherent whole 1b to introduce, work in – usu + *in* or *into* ~ *vi* to work at weaving, make cloth [ME *weven*, fr OE *wefan*, akin to OHG *weban* to weave, Gk *hyphos* web]

**weave** *n* a pattern or method for interlacing the threads of woven fabrics

**weave** *vb* **weaved** *vt* to direct (e.g. the body or one's way) in a winding or zigzag course, esp to avoid obstacles ~ *vi* to move by weaving [ME *wewen* to move to and fro, wave, akin to ON *veifa* to wave, Skt *vepate* he trembles]

**weaver** /'weeva/ *n* 1 sby who weaves, esp as an occupation 2 **weaver**, **weaverbird** any of numerous Old World birds that resemble finches and usu construct elaborate nests of interlaced vegetation

**web** /web/ *n* 1 a woven fabric, esp a length of fabric still on the loom 2 **SPIDER'S WEB**, also a similar network spun by various insects 3 a tissue or membrane, esp that uniting fingers or toes either at their bases (e.g. in human beings) or for most of their length (e.g. in many water birds) 4 a thin metal sheet, plate, or strip (e.g. joining the upper and lower flanges of a girder or rail) 5 an intricate structure suggestive of sthg woven, a network 6 a continuous sheet of paper for use in a printing press [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *vefr* web, OE *wefan* to weave] – **webbed** *adj*, **webby** *adj*, **weblike** *adj*

**web** *vb* -**bb-** *vt* 1 to cover with a web or network 2 to entangle, ensnare ~ *vi* to construct or form a web

**webbing** /'webɪŋ/ *n* a strong narrow closely woven tape used esp for straps, upholstery, or harnesses

**weber** /'vayba, 'weeba/ *n* the SI unit of magnetic flux ☞ **PHYSICS** [Wilhelm Weber †1891 G physicist]

**webfoot** /-'fʊt/ *n* a foot with webbed toes – **web-footed** /-'fʊt-/ *adj*

**web offset** *n* offset printing by web press

**web press** *n* a press that prints a continuous roll of paper

**wed** /wed/ *vb* -**dd-**; **wedded** also **wed** *vt* 1 to marry 2 to unite as if by marriage ~ *vi* to enter into matrimony [ME *wedden*, fr OE *weddian*, akin to MHG *wetten* to pledge, OE *wedd* pledge, OHG *wetti*, Goth *wadi*, L *vad-*, *vas* bail, security]

**we'd** /wid, 'strɒŋ/ *we'd*, *we* had, *we* would; *we* should

**wedded** /'wedɪd/ *adj* 1 joined in marriage 2 conjugal, connubial (*~ bliss*) 3 strongly emotionally attached, committed to

**wedding** /'wedɪŋ/ *n* 1 a marriage ceremony, usu with its accompanying festivities, nuptials 2 a joining in close association 3 a wedding anniversary or its celebration – usu in combination (*golden* ~)

**wedding breakfast** *n* a celebratory meal that follows a marriage ceremony

**wedding ring** *n* a ring usu of plain metal (e.g. gold) given by 1 marriage partner to the other during the wedding ceremony and worn thereafter to signify marital status

**wedge** /weɪ/ *n* 1 a piece of wood, metal, etc tapered to a thin edge and used esp for splitting wood or raising heavy objects 2a sthg wedge-shaped (*a ~ of pie*) b (a shoe with) a wedge-shaped sole raised at the heel and tapering towards the toe c an iron golf club with a broad face angled for maximum loft 3 sthg causing a breach or separation [ME *wegge*, fr OE *wecg*, akin to OHG *wecgi* wedge, Lith *vagis*]

**wedge** *vt* 1 to fasten or tighten by driving in a wedge 2 to force or press into a narrow space, cram – usu + *in* or *into* 3 to split or force apart (as if) with a wedge

**wedged** /weɪd/ *adj* shaped like a wedge

**Wedgwood** /'weɪdʒwud/ *trademark* – used for a type of fine ceramic ware made orig by Josiah Wedgwood and typically decorated with a classical cameo-like design in white relief

**Wedgwood blue** *adj* or *n* (of) a light greyish blue colour typically used in Wedgwood ware [Josiah Wedgwood †1795 E potter]

**wedlock** /'wedlɒk/ *n* the state of being married; marriage [ME *wedlok*, fr OE *wedlac* marriage bond, fr *wedd* pledge + *-lac*, suffix denoting

activity] – **out of wedlock** with the natural parents not legally married to each other (*born out of wedlock*)

**Wednesday** /ˈwenzdɪ-/ -di, ˈwednz-/ *n* the day of the week following Tuesday [ME, fr OE *wodnesdæg*; akin to ON *othinsdagr* Wednesday; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose components are represented by OE *Woden* Odin, the chief god in Gmc mythology, & by OE *dæg* day] - **Wednesdays** *adv*

**wee** /we-/ *adj* very small, diminutive - often used to or by children or to convey an impression of Scottishness [ME *we*, fr *we*, *n*, little bit, fr OE *wæge* weight; akin to OE *wegan* to move, weigh - more at **way**]

**wee** *n* (an act of passing) urine - used esp by or to children [short for *wcc-wee*] - **wee** *vi*

**weed** /weed/ *n* 1 an unwanted wild plant which often overgrows or chokes out more desirable plants 2a an obnoxious growth or thing b an animal, esp a horse, unfit to breed from 3 *Br* a weedy person - *infrm* 4a **TOBACCO** 2 - chiefly humor, usu + *the* b **MARIJUANA** 2 - slang, usu + *the* [ME, fr OE *weod*, akin to OS *wiod* weed] - **weedless** *adj*

**weed** *vi* to remove weeds or sth harmful ~ *vt* 1 to clear of weeds (< ~ a garden) 2 to remove the undesirable parts of (< ~ the files) - **weeder** *n*

**weed out** *vt* to get rid of (sby or sth harmful or unwanted), remove **weeds** /weedz/ *n pl* **MOURNING** 2A [MF. *wede* garment, fr OE *wæd*, *gewæde*; akin to ON *vath* cloth, clothing, Lith *austi* to weave]

**weedy** /ˈweɪdi/ *adj* 1 covered with or consisting of weeds (< ~ pastures) 2 noticeably weak, thin, and ineffectual - *infrm* - **weediness** *n*

**week** /week/ *n* 1a any of several 7-day cycles used in various calendars b a week beginning with a specified day or containing a specified event (< Easter ~) 2a a period of 7 consecutive days b the working days during each 7-day period (< ~s in London during the ~) c a weekly period of work (< works a 40-hour ~) 3 a time 7 days before or after a specified day (< next Sunday ~) [ME *weke*, fr OE *wicu*, *wucu*, akin to OHG *wehha* week, L *vici* change, alternation, OE *wir* wire - more at **wiki**] - **week** *in*, **week out** for an indefinite or seemingly endless number of weeks

**weekday** /-day/ *n* any day of the week except (Saturday and) Sunday

**weekend** /ˈweekend/, ˈ-/ *n* the end of the week, *specif* the period from Friday night to Sunday night

**weekend** *vi* to spend the weekend (e.g. at a place) - **weekender** *n*

**weekly** /ˈweɪkli/ *adv* every week, once a week, by the week

**weekly** *adj* 1 occurring, appearing, or done weekly 2 calculated by the week

**weekly** *n* a weekly newspaper or periodical

**weeknight** /-ni:t/ *n* a night of any day of the week except Saturday and Sunday

**weeny** /ˈweeni/ also **weeny** /ˈweenzi/ *adj* exceptionally small; tiny - *infrm* [wee + tiny]

**weenybopper** /ˈweeniˌbɒpə/ *n* an esp female preadolescent who pursues pop idols and follows the latest fashions [weeny + -bopper (as in *teenybopper*)]

**weep** /weep/ *vb* **WEPT** /wept/ *vt* 1 to express deep sorrow for, usu by shedding tears, bewail 2 to pour forth (tears) from the eyes 3 to exude (a fluid) slowly, ooze 4 to bring to a specified condition by shedding tears (< wept herself to sleep ~) ~ *vi* 1a to express passion (e.g. grief) by shedding tears b to mourn for sby or sth 2 to give off or leak fluid slowly, ooze [ME *wepen*, fr OE *wepan*, akin to OHG *wuoflan* to weep, OSlav *vabiti* to call to]

**weep** *n* a fit of weeping

**weeper** /ˈweepə/ *n* 1 a professional mourner 2 a small statue of a mourning figure on a funeral monument 3 sth (e.g. a black veil or hatband) worn as a sign of mourning, esp in the 18th and 19th c - usu *pl* with sing. meaning [ˈweep + 2-ER]

**weeple** /ˈweɪpl/ *n* a sad or sentimental film or play - *infrm*

**weeping** /ˈweɪpɪŋ/ *adj*, of a tree (being a variety) having slender drooping branches (< ~ willow)

**weepy** /ˈweɪpi/ *adj* inclined to weep, tearful

**weever** /ˈweɪvə/ *n* any of several edible marine fishes with a broad spiny head and venomous spines on the dorsal fin [ONF *wivre* viper, modif of L *vipera*]

**weevil** /ˈweɪvl/ *n* any of numerous usu small beetles with a long snout bearing jaws at the tip, many of which are injurious, esp as larvae, to grain, fruit, etc [ME *wevel*, fr OE *wifel*; akin to OHG *wibil* beetle, OE *wefan* to weave] - **weevily**, **weevilly** *adj*

**wee-wee** /ˈweːˌweː/ *vi* or *n* (to) wee [baby talk]

**weft** /weft/ *n* the thread or yarn that interlaces the warp in a fabric; the

crosswise yarn in weaving [ME, fr OE; akin to ON *veptr* weft, OE *wefan* to weave - more at **weave**]

**weft-knitted** *adj* produced in machine knitting with the yarns running crosswise or in a circle

**Wehrmacht** /ˈveamakt/ *n* the German armed forces just before and during WW II [G, fr *wehr* defence + *macht* force, might]

**weigh** /way/ *vt* 1 to ascertain the weight of (as if) on a scale 2 to consider carefully, evaluate - often + *up* (< ~ the pros and cons), 3 to measure (a definite quantity) (as if) on a scale - often + *out* ~ *vi* 1a to have weight or a specified weight b to register a weight (e.g. on a scale) ~ *in* or *out*; compare **WEIGH IN** 1, **WEIGH OUT** 2 to merit consideration as important, count (< evidence will ~ heavily against him) 3 to be a burden or cause of anxiety to - often + *on* or *upon* (< her responsibilities ~ed upon her) [ME *weyen*, fr OE *wegan* to move, carry, weigh - more at **way**] - **weighable** *adj*, **weigher** *n* - **weigh anchor** to pull up an anchor preparatory to sailing

**weigh, bridge** /-brɪdʒ/ *n* a large scale used for weighing vehicles which usu consists of a plate level with the surface of a road onto which the vehicles are driven

**weigh down** *vt* 1 to make heavy, weight 2 to oppress, burden

**weigh in** *vi* 1 to have oneself or one's possessions (e.g. luggage) weighed, esp to be weighed after a horse race or before a boxing or wrestling match 2 to make a contribution, join in (< a bystander weighed in to stop the fight) - **weigh-in** /-ɪn/ *n*

**weigh out** *vi* to be weighed after a boxing or wrestling match

**weight** /weɪt/ *n* 1a the amount that a quantity or body weighs, esp as measured on a particular scale b(1) any of the classes into which contestants in certain sports (e.g. boxing and wrestling) are divided according to body weight (2) a horse carrying a usu specified weight in a handicap race (< the top ~ won the race) (3) poundage required to be carried by a horse in a handicap race 2a a quantity weighing a certain amount (< equal ~s of flour and sugar) b a heavy object thrown or lifted as an athletic exercise or contest 3a a system of units of weight (< troy ~) b any of the units of weight used in such a system c a piece of material (e.g. metal) of known weight for use in weighing articles 4a sth heavy, a load b a heavy object to hold or press sth down or to counterbalance (< the ~s of the clock) 5a a burden, pressure (< took a ~ off my mind) b corpulence 6a relative heaviness (< ~ is a quality of material substances) b the force with which a body is attracted towards a celestial body (e.g. the earth) by gravitation and which is equal to the product of the mass of the body and the local gravitational acceleration 7a relative importance, authority, or influence (< his views don't carry much ~) b the main force or strength (< the ~ of the argument) 8 a numerical value assigned to an item to express its relative importance in a frequency distribution **USE** (1a & 3a, b) ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> UNIT [ME *wight*, *weght*, fr OE *wiht*, akin to ON *vætt* weight, OE *wegan* to weigh]

**weight** *vt* 1 to load or make heavy (as if) with a weight 2 to oppress with a burden (< ~ed down with cares) 3 to assign a statistical weight to 4 to arrange in such a way as to create a bias (< a wage structure ~ed heavily in favour of employees with long service)

**weighting** /ˈweɪtɪŋ/ *n*, *Br* an additional sum paid on top of wages, esp one paid to offset the higher cost of living in a particular area (< a London ~ of £500)

**weightless** /-lis/ *adj* having little weight, lacking apparent gravitational pull - **weightlessly** *adv*, **weightlessness** *n*

**weight-lifter** *n* one who lifts heavy weights, esp barbells, in competition or as an exercise - **weight-lifting** *n*

**weight, training** *n* physical training involving the lifting of usu heavy weights, esp barbells

**weight, watcher** *n* one who is dieting to lose weight - **weightwatching** *n*

**weighty** /ˈweɪti/ *adj* 1 of much importance, influence, or consequence, momentous 2 heavy, esp in proportion to bulk (< ~ metal) 3 burdensome, onerous (< the ~ cares of state) - **weightily** *adv*, **weightiness** *n*

**weir** /wɪə/ *n* 1 a fence or enclosure set in a waterway for trapping fish 2 a dam in a stream to raise the water level or control its flow [ME *were*, fr OE *wer*, akin to ON *ver* fishing place, OHG *weren*, *werren* to defend, L *aperire* to open, *operire* to close, cover]

**weird** /wɪəd/ *adj* 1 of or caused by witchcraft or the supernatural 2 of a strange or extraordinary character, odd - *infrm* [ME (Sc) *werd* fateful, fr *werd* fate, destiny, fr OE *wyrd*; akin to ON *urthr* fate, OE *weorðan* to become - more at **WORTH**] - **weirdly** *adv*, **weirdness** *n*

**weirdie**, **weirdy** /ˈwɪədi/ *n* sby who is very strange or eccentric - *infrm*

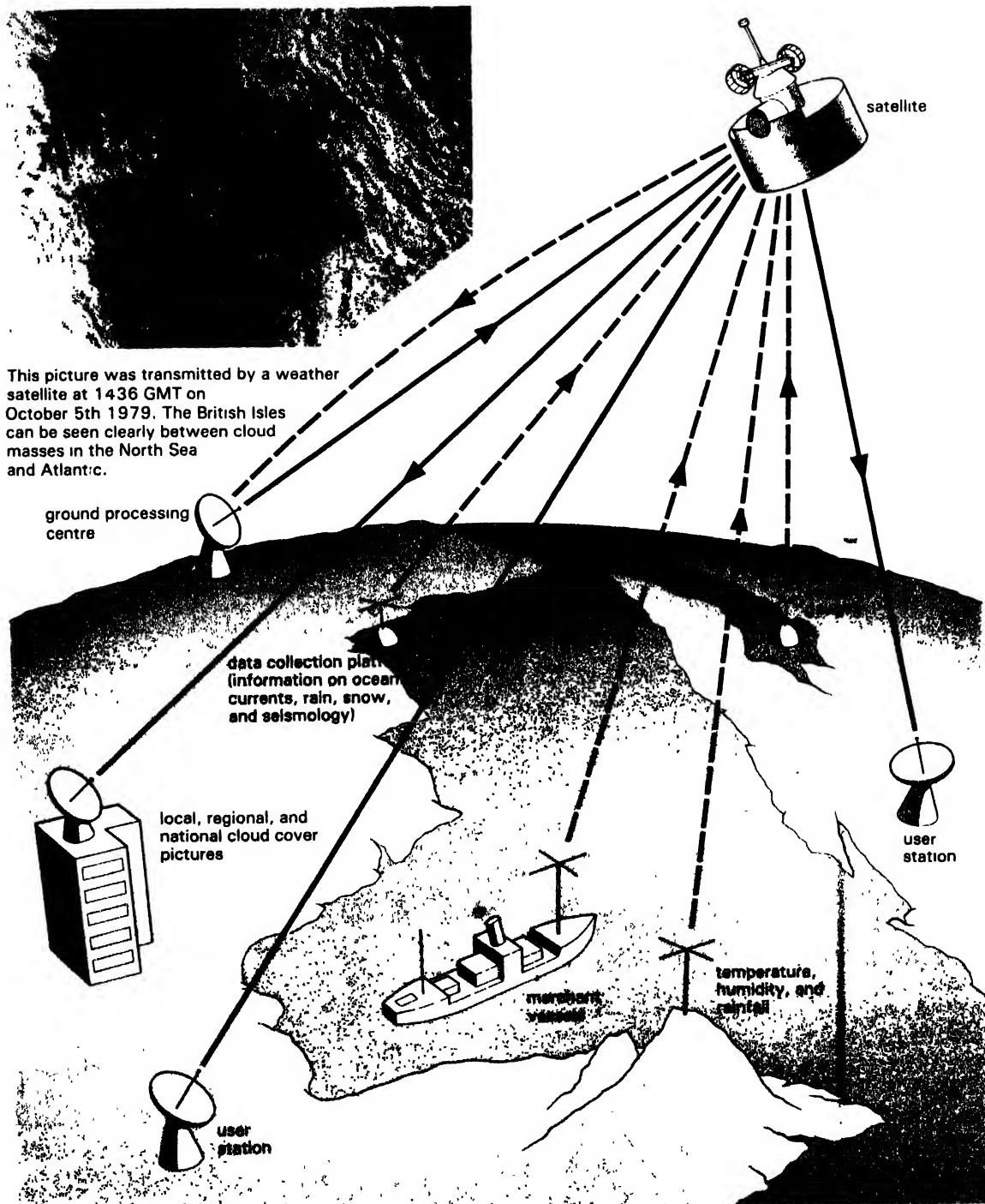
**weirdo** /ˈwɪədoh/ *n, pl weirdos* a weirdie - *infrm*

# Weather monitoring and forecasting by satellite

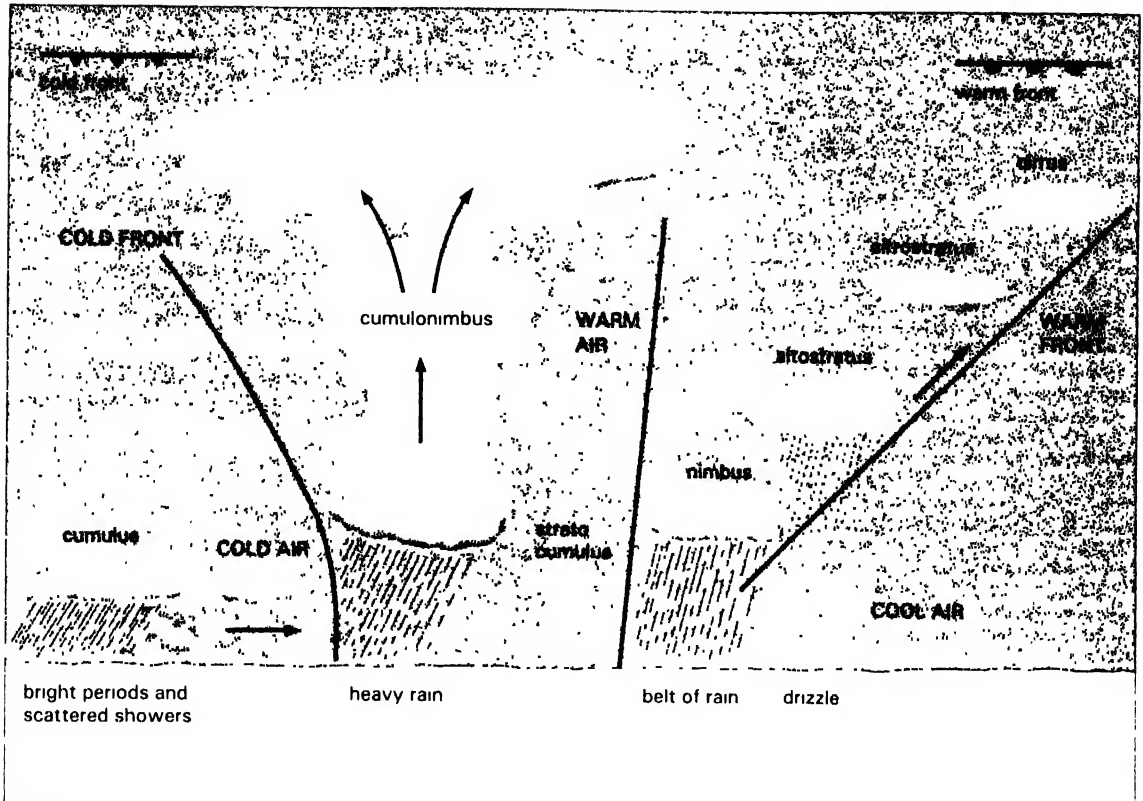
A geostationary meteorological satellite orbits the earth at a height of 36,000 kilometres over the equator and remains more or less fixed in location relative to the earth. This enables it to relay data constantly over the same part of the world.

High energy particles from the sun may affect communications. The satellite monitors solar emissions and passes the data back to earth.

high resolution picture data  
raw environmental data



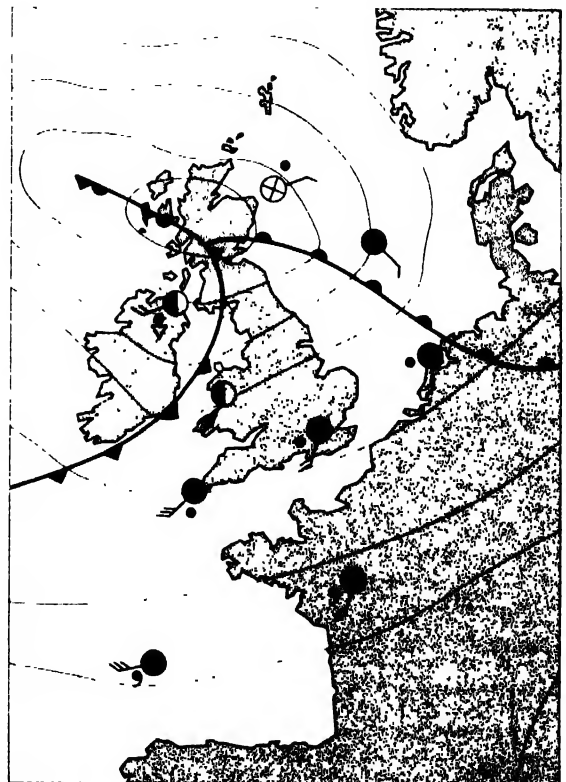




A depression, also known as a cyclone, is an area of low atmospheric pressure. Clouds form to give rainfall as warm tropical air meets and rises over cold polar air. In the northern hemisphere winds in a cyclone circulate in an anticlockwise direction — in the southern hemisphere they go clockwise.

cloud amount	wind	weather
☉	☉ calm	☁ mist
☾	○ 1-2 knots	☁ fog
☽	○ 3-7 knots	☼ drizzle
☾		✱ snow
☽		△ hail
☾		▽ rain shower
☽		▲ cold front
☾		▼ warm front
☼ sky obscured	add 5 knots for each half feather	

A weather map shows temperature, speed and direction of winds, atmospheric pressure (the curving lines, called isobars, link areas of equal pressure), fronts (areas where warm and cold air meet, usually producing rain), and local conditions.



**Weird Sisters** *n pl* the Fates

**welch** /welch/ *vi* to welsh – **welcher** *n*

**Welch** /welsh/ *adj* Welsh – now only in names <the Royal ~ Fusiliers>

**welcome** /welkam/ *interj* – used to express a greeting to a guest or newcomer on his/her arrival [ME, alter of *wilcume* fr OE, fr *wilcuma* desirable guest, akin to OHG *wilcuma* desirable guest, prob both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *willa*, *will* desire & by OE *cuma* guest, akin to OF *cuman* to come – more at <sup>1</sup>WILL, COME]

**welcome** *vt* 1 to greet hospitably and with courtesy 2 to greet or receive in the specified, esp unpleasant, way <they ~d the intruder with a hail of bullets> 3 to receive or accept with pleasure <~s danger> <~d the appearance of his new book> – **welcomer** *n* – **welcome** with open arms to greet or accept with great cordiality or pleasure

**welcome** *adj* 1 received gladly into one's presence or companionship <was always ~ in their home> 2 giving pleasure received with gladness, esp because fulfilling a need <a ~ relief> 3 willingly permitted or given the right <you're ~ to read it> 4 – used in the phrase 'You're welcome' as a reply to an expression of thanks – **welcomely** *adv*, **welcomeness** *n*

**welcome** *n* 1 a greeting or reception on arrival or first appearance 2 the hospitable treatment that a guest may expect <outstayed their ~>

**weld** /weld/ *vi* to become or be capable of being welded – *vt* 1a to fuse (metallic parts) together by heating and allowing the metals to flow together or by hammering or compressing with or without previous heating b to unite (plastics) in a similar manner by heating or by using a chemical solvent c to repair, produce, or create (as if) by such a process 2 to unite closely or inseparably [alter of obs *well* (to weld), fr ME *wellen* to boil, well, weld] – **weldable** *adj*, **welder** *n*, **weldability** /-biliti/ *n*

**weld** *n* a welded joint

**welfare** /'welfea/ *n* 1 well-being <concerned for her child's ~> 2 WELFARE WORK 3 aid in the form of money or necessities for those not well able to provide for themselves (e.g. through poverty, age, or handicap) [ME, fr the phrase *wel faren* to fare well]

**welfare state** *n* (a country operating) a social system based on the assumption by the state of responsibility for the individual and social welfare of its citizens

**welfare work** *n* organized efforts to improve the living conditions of the poor, elderly, etc. – **welfare worker** *n*

**welkin** /'welkin/ *n* 1a the sky, firmament b heaven 2 the upper atmosphere *USE* poetic [ME, lit., cloud, fr OE *wolcen*, akin to OHG *wolkan* cloud, OSlav *vloga* moisture]

**well** /wel/ *n* 1 (a pool fed by) a spring of water 2 a pit or hole sunk into the earth to reach a supply of water 3 an enclosure round the pumps of a ship 4 a shaft or hole sunk in the earth to reach a natural deposit (e.g. oil or gas) 5 an open space extending vertically through floors of a structure <a stair ~> 6 a vessel, space, or hole having a construction or shape suggesting a well for water ➞ *CAR* 7 a source from which sth springs, a fountainhead 8 *Br* the open space in front of the judge in a law court [ME *welle*, fr OE (northern & Midland) *welle*, akin to OHG *wella* wave, OE *weallan* to bubble, boil]

**well** *vi* 1 to rise to the surface and usu flow forth <tears ~ed from her eyes> 2 to rise to the surface like a flood of liquid <longing ~ed up in his breast> [ME *wellen*, fr OE (northern & Midland) *wellan* to cause to well, akin to MHG *wellen* to cause to well, OE *weallan* to bubble, boil, L *volvere* to roll – more at VOLUBLE]

**well** *adv* better /'beɪə/, best /best/ 1 in a good or proper manner, rightly 2 in a way appropriate to the circumstances e.g. a satisfactorily, advantageously b with good appearance or effect <carried himself ~> c with skill or aptitude <~ caught!> d with prudence, sensibly <would do ~ to ask> <we may ~ wonder> 3 in a kind or friendly manner, favourably <spoke ~ of your idea> 4 in a prosperous manner <he lives ~> 5a to an extent approaching completeness, thoroughly <after being ~ dried with a towel> b on a close personal level, intimately <knew her ~> 6a easily, fully <~ worth the price> b much, considerably <~ over a million> c in all likelihood, indeed <may ~ be true> [ME *wel*, fr OE, akin to OHG *wela* well, OE *wyllan* to wish – more at WILL] – as well 1 also, IN ADDITION <there were other features as well> <she's pretty as well> 2 to the same extent or degree <open as well to the poor as to the rich> 3 with equivalent or preferable effect <might just as well have stayed at home> <you may as well tell him> 4 <sup>1</sup>WELL 2, 4 – as well as <sup>1</sup>BESIDES 2 <skilful as well as strong> – well and truly totally, completely – well away 1 making good progress 2 (almost) DRUNK 1 – infml – well out of lucky to be free from

**well** *interj* 1 – used to express surprise, indignation, or resignation 2 – used to indicate a pause in talking or to introduce a remark

**well** *adj* 1 satisfactory, pleasing <all's ~ that ends ~> 2 advisable, desirable <it's ~ to ask> 3 prosperous, well-off 4 HEALTHY 1 5 being a cause for thankfulness, fortunate <it is ~ that this has happened> – **wellness** *n*

**we'll** /weəl/ *we will* *we shall*

**well-advised** *adj* 1 acting with wisdom, prudent 2 resulting from or showing wisdom <~ plan>

**well-appointed** *adj* having good and complete facilities, furniture, etc. <a ~ house>

**well-behaved** *adj* showing proper manners or conduct

**well-being** *n* the state of being happy, healthy, or prosperous

**well-born** /-bawn/ *adj* born of a respected and esp noble family

**well-bred** *adj* 1 having or indicating good breeding, refined 2 of good pedigree

**well-built** *adj* broad and sturdy in physique

**well-connected** *adj* having useful social or family contacts

**well-disposed** *adj* having a favourable or sympathetic disposition <was ~ towards his workmates>

**well-done** *adj* cooked thoroughly

**well-favoured** *adj* good-looking, handsome not now in vogue

**well-found** *adj* properly equipped <a ~ ship>

**well-founded** *adj* based on good grounds or reasoning <a ~ argument>

**well-groomed** *adj* well dressed and scrupulously neat

**well-grounded** *adj* 1 having a good basic knowledge <~ in Latin and Greek> 2 well-founded

**well-head** /hed/ *n* 1 the source of a spring or stream 2 *WELL* 7 3 the top of or a structure built over a well

**well-heeled** *adj* having a great deal of money wealthy – infml

**well-hung** *adj* 1 having large breasts 2 having a large penis *USE* vulg

**wellics** /'weliz/ *n pl* WELLINGTON BOOTS infml [by shortening & alter]

**well-informed** *adj* 1 having a good knowledge of a wide variety of subjects 2 having reliable information on a usu specified topic event, etc

**wellington boot**, **wellington** /'welɪŋ(ə)n/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a waterproof rubber boot that usu reaches the knee [Arthur Wellesley 1st Duke of Wellington †1852 *Br* general & statesman]

**wellingtonia** /'welɪŋ'tohniə, niə/ *n* BIG TREE [NL, fr 1st Duke of Wellington]

**well-intentioned** *adj* well meaning

**well-knit** *adj* well constructed esp having a compact usu muscular physique <a ~ athlete>

**well-known** *adj* fully or widely known *specif* famous

**well-lined** *adj* full of money – infml <~ pockets>

**well-meaning** *adj* having or based on good intentions though often failing <~ but misguided idealists>

**well-meant** *adj* based on good intentions

**well-nigh** *adv* almost, nearly

**well-off** *adj* 1 well-to-do, rich 2 in a favourable or fortunate situation <you don't know when you're ~> 3 well provided <not very ~ for sheets>

**well-oiled** *adj*, chiefly *Br* DRUNK 1 – infml

**well-preserved** *adj* retaining a youthful appearance

**well-read** /red/ *adj* well-informed through much and varied reading

**well-rounded** *adj* 1 having a pleasantly curved or rounded shape <a ~ figure> 2 having or consisting of a background of broad experience or education <a ~ person> 3 agreeably complete and well-constructed

**Wellsian** /'welziən/ *adj* (characteristic) of the writings of H G Wells, esp in describing or foretelling a possible future [H G Wells †1946 *E* writer]

**well-spoken** *adj* 1 speaking clearly, courteously, and usu with a refined accent 2 spoken in a pleasing or fitting manner <~ words>

**well-spring** /-spring/ *n* 1 a source of continual supply 2 FOUNTAIN HEAD 1

**well-stacked** *adj* having large breasts – slang

**well-thought-of** *adj* of good repute

**well-timed** *adj* said or done at an opportune moment, timely

**well-to-do** *adj* moderately rich, prosperous

**well-tried** *adj* thoroughly tested and found reliable

**well-turned** *adj* 1 pleasingly formed, shapely <a ~ ankle> 2 concisely and appropriately expressed <a ~ compliment>

- well-upholstered** *adj.* of a person plump - humor
- well-versed** *adj.* having a sound knowledge of a subject, conversant with sthg - + *in*
- well-wisher** *n* one who feels goodwill towards a person, cause, etc -
- well-wishing** *adj.* or *n*
- well-worn** *adj.* 1 having been much used or worn (< ~ shoes) 2 made trite by overuse, hackneyed
- wels** /welz/ *n* a large freshwater catfish of central and E Europe [G, fr MHG]
- welsh** /welsh/ *vi* 1 to evade an obligation, esp payment of a debt 2 to break one's word *USE* usu + *on* [prob fr *Welsh*, *adj.*] - **welsher** *n*
- Welsh** *n* 1 *pl in constr* the people of Wales 2 the Celtic language of the Welsh - *Welsh* LANGUAGE [ME *Walsche*, *Welsse*, fr *walsch*, *welsch*, *adj.*, *Welsh*, fr OE (northern & Midland) *wælsce*, *welisc* Celtic, *Welsh*, foreign, fr OE *Wealh* Celt, Welshman, foreigner, of Celtic origin; akin to the source of L *Volcae*, a Celtic people of SE Gaul] - **Welsh** *adj.*, *Welshman* *n*
- Welsh dresser** *n* 'DRESSER 1, specif one having open shelves above a flat surface with drawers and small cupboards below
- Welsh poppy** *n* a widely cultivated European poppy with large yellow flowers
- Welsh rabbit** *n* WELSH RAREBIT
- Welsh rarebit** /'reabit/ *n* a snack of melted cheese (and ale) on toast [alter of *Welsh rabbit*]
- welt** /welt/ *n* 1 a strip, usu of leather, between a shoe sole and upper through which they are fastened together 2 a doubled edge, strip, insert, or seam (e.g. on a garment) for ornament or reinforcement 3 (a ridge or lump raised on the body usu by) a heavy blow [ME *welte*]
- welt** *vi* 1 to provide with a welt 2a to raise a welt on the body of b to hit hard
- weltanschauung** /'veltahn,showwng/ *n, pl weltanschauungs, weltanschauungen* /-əŋgən/ *often cap* a particular conception of the nature and purpose of the world, a philosophy of life [G, fr *welt* world + *anschauung* view]
- welter** /'welta/ *vi* 1 to writhe, toss, also to wallow 2 to become soaked, sunk, or involved in sthg [ME *welteren*, akin to MD *welteren* to roll, OHG *walzan*, L *volvere* - more at *VOLUBLE*]
- welter** *n* 1 a state of wild disorder, a turmoil 2 a chaotic mass or jumble (< a bewildering ~ of data)
- welterweight** /-wayt/ *n* a boxer who weighs not more than 10st 7lb (66 7kg) if professional or above 63 5kg (about 10st) but not more than 67kg (about 10st 8lb) if amateur [prob fr *welt*]
- weltschmerz** /'velt,shmeɪts/ *n, often cap* mental depression caused by contemplating the state of the world, esp sentimental pessimism [G, fr *welt* world + *schmerz* pain]
- wen** /wen/ *n* 1 a cyst formed by obstruction of a sebaceous gland and filled with fatty material 2 an abnormally large overcrowded city, esp London [ME *wenn*, fr OE, akin to MLG *wene* wen]
- wench** /wench/ *n* 1 a female servant or rustic working girl 2 a young woman; a girl - now chiefly humor or dial [ME *wenche*, short for *wenche* child, fr OE *wencel*, akin to OHG *winchan* to stagger - more at *WINK*]
- wench** *vi*, of a man to have sexual relations habitually with women, esp prostitutes - **wencher** *n*
- wend** /wend/ *vt* to proceed on (one's way) [ME *wenden*, fr OE *wendan*, akin to OHG *wenten* to turn, OE *windan* to twist - more at *'WIND*]
- Wend** *n* a member of a Slavonic people of eastern Germany [G *Wende*, fr OHG *Winda*, akin to OE *Winedas*, pl, *Wends*] - **Wendish** *adj*
- wendy house** /'wendɪ/ *n, often cap W, chiefly Br* a small toy house for children to play in [Wendy, character in *Peter Pan*, children's book by J M Barrie 1937 Sc writer]
- Wensleydale** /'wenzli,daɪl/ *n* a crumbly mild-flavoured English cheese [Wensleydale, district in Yorkshire]
- went** /went/ *past of GO* [ME, past & pp of *wenden*]
- wentletrap** /'wentl,trap/ *n* (the usu white shell of) any of a family of marine snails [D *wenteltrap* winding stair, fr MD *wendeltrappe*, fr *wendel* turning + *trappe* stairs]
- were** /wə, strong wuh/ *past 2 sing, past pl, substandard past 1 & 3 sing, or past subjunctive of BE* [ME *were* (suppletive sing past subj & 2 sing, past indic of *been* to be), *weren* (suppletive past pl of *been*), fr OE *wære* (sing past subj & 2 sing, past indic of *wesan* to be), *wæron* (past pl indic of *wesan*), *weren* (past pl subj of *wesan*) - more at *WAS*]
- we're** /wiə/ *we are*
- weren't** /wuhnt/ *were not*
- werewolf** /'we:woolf, 'wiə/ *n, pl werewolves* /-woolvz/ a person transformed into a wolf or capable of assuming a wolf's form [ME, fr OE *werwulf*, akin to OHG *werwolf* werewolf, both fr a prehistoric WGmc compound whose constituents are represented by OE *wer* man & by OE *wulf* wolf - more at *VIRILE, WOLF*]
- wert** /wuht/ *archaic past 2 sing of BE*
- Wesleyanism** /'weʒli-zənɪz(ə)m/ *n* Methodism [John Wesley †1791 E preacher] - **Wesleyan** *adj* *only*
- 'west** /west/ *adj* or *adv* towards, at, belonging to, or coming from the west [adv ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *westar* to the west, & prob to L *vesper* evening, Gk *hesperos*, *adj* fr *adv*]
- 'west** *n* 1 (the compass point corresponding to) the direction 90° to the left of north that is the general direction of sunset 2 *often cap* regions or countries lying to the west of a specified or implied point of orientation e.g. a the part of the USA to the west of the Mississippi b the non-Communist countries of Europe and America 3 European civilization in contrast with that of the Orient - **westward** /-wood/ *adv, adj, or n, westwards* /-woodz/ *adv*
- 'West Country** *n* the West of England
- 'West End** *n* the western part of central London where the main shopping centres, theatres, etc are located - **West-End** *adj*
- wester** /'westə/ *vi* to turn or decline westwards (< the half moon ~s low - A E Housman) [ME *westren*, fr *'west*]
- 'westerly** /'westəli/ *adj* or *adv* west [obs *wester* (western)]
- 'westerly** *n* a wind from the west
- 'western** /'westən/ *adj* 1 *often cap* (characteristic of) a region conventionally designated West e.g. a of or stemming from European traditions in contrast with those of the Orient b of the non-Communist countries of Europe and America c of the American West 2 *west 3 cap* of the Roman Catholic or Protestant segment of Christianity [ME *westernne*, fr OE, akin to OHG *westron* western, OE *west*] - **westernmost** /-moʊst/ *adj*
- 'western** *n, often cap* a novel, film, etc dealing with cowboys, frontier life, etc in the W USA, esp during the latter half of the 19th c
- Westerner** /'westənə/ *n, chiefly NAM* a native or inhabitant of the West, esp the W USA
- western hemisphere** *n* the half of the earth comprising N and S America and surrounding waters
- westernize, -ise** /'westənɪz/ *vb* to imbue or be imbued with qualities associated with the West - **westernization** /-'zəɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- western saddle** *n, often cap W* STOCK SADDLE
- West Germanic** *n* a group of the Germanic languages including English, Frisian, Dutch, and German
- 'West Indian** *n* 1 a native or inhabitant of the W Indies 2 a descendant of W Indians [West Indies (formerly West India), group of islands round the Caribbean Sea] - **West Indian** *adj*
- westing** /'westɪŋ/ *n* 1 distance due west in longitude from the preceding point of measurement 2 westerly progress
- Westminster** /'west,mɪnstə, '--/ *n* the British Parliament [Westminster, district of London in which the Houses of Parliament are situated]
- west-northwest** *n* a compass point midway between west and north-west
- west-southwest** *n* a compass point midway between west and south-west
- 'wet** /wet/ *adj* -*tt-* 1 consisting of, containing, or covered or soaked with liquid (e.g. water) 2 rainy 3 still moist enough to smudge or smear (< ~ paint) 4 involving the use or presence of liquid (< ~ processes) 5 of an aircraft wing containing fuel tanks 6 chiefly Br feebly ineffectual or dull - *infrml* 7 chiefly NAM permitting the sale or consumption of alcoholic drink (< a ~ State) - compare DRY 4 [ME, partly fr pp of *weten* to wet & partly fr OE *wet* wet, akin to ON *vatr* wet, OE *wæter* water] - **wetly** *adv*, **wetness** *n*, **wettish** *adj* - **wet behind the ears** immature, inexperienced - *infrml*
- 'wet** *n* 1 moisture, wetness 2 rainy weather; rain 3 chiefly Br a wet person, a drip - *infrml*
- 'wet** *vt* -*tt-* (2) **wet** 1 to make wet 2 to urinate in or on [ME *weten*, fr OE *wætan*, fr *wæt*, *adj*] - **wettable** *adj*, **wettability** *n* - **wet one's whistle** to take an esp alcoholic drink - *infrml*
- weta** /'weɪtə/ *n* any of various large wingless long-horned New Zealand insects that resemble grasshoppers [Maori]
- wet** and **'dry** *n* emery paper that can be used either moistened or dry
- 'wetback** /-bak/ *n, NAM* a Mexican who enters the USA illegally ['wet + 'back; fr a person having to swim or wade across the Rio Grande in order to cross from Mexico into Texas]

- wet** *'blanket* *n* one who quenches or dampens enthusiasm or pleasure
- wet** *'dream* *n* an erotic dream culminating in orgasm
- wet** *'fish* *n*, *Br* fresh uncooked fish (< a ~ merchant)
- wether** */wedhə/ n* a male sheep castrated before sexual maturity [ME, *ram*, fr OE; akin to OHG *widar* ram, L *vitulus* calf, *vetus* old, Gk *etos* year]
- wetland** */wetlənd, -lənd/ n* land or areas (e.g. tidal flats or swamps) containing much soil moisture – usu pl with sing. meaning
- wet-look** *adj.* of a material, esp plastic or leather, or sth made from it having a shiny rather wrinkled finish (< ~ shoes) – *wet look* *n*
- wet-nurse** */ˌwɛtˌnɜːs/ vt* 1 to act as wet nurse to 2 to give constant and often excessive care to
- wet nurse** *n* a woman who cares for and suckles another's children
- wet rot** *n* (decay in timber caused by) any of various fungi that attack wood that has a high moisture content
- wet suit** *n* a close-fitting suit made of material, usu rubber, that admits water but retains body heat so as to insulate its wearer (e.g. a skin diver), esp in cold water
- wetter** */wɛtə/ n* 1 a worker who wets material in any of several manufacturing processes 2 WETTING AGENT [*'wɛt* + *ˌɪər*]
- wetting agent** */wɛtɪŋ/ n* a substance that prevents a surface from being repellent to a wetting liquid
- we've** */wiv/ strong weev/ we have*
- whack** */wæk/ vt* 1 to strike with a smart or resounding blow 2 chiefly *Br* to get the better of; defeat *USE* *infmt* [prob *imit*] – *whacker* *n*
- whack** *n* 1 (the sound of) a smart resounding blow 2 a portion, share 3 an attempt, go (< have a ~ at it) *USE* *infmt*
- whacked** */wækt/ adj.* chiefly *Br* completely exhausted, DONE IN – *infmt*
- whacking** */wækɪŋ/ adj.* extremely big; whopping – *infmt*
- whacking** *adv* very, extremely – *infmt* (< a ~ great oil tanker)
- whacko** */wæk'oh/ interj., Br* – used to express delight, *infmt*
- whacky** */wæki/ adj.* wacky
- whale** */weɪl/ n, pl whales*, esp collectively *whale* any of an order of often enorm. aquatic mammals that superficially resemble large fish, have tails modified as paddles, and are frequently hunted for oil, flesh, or whalebone [ME, fr OE *hwæl*, akin to OHG *hwal* whale] – *whale of a time* an exceptionally enjoyable time
- whale** *vi* to engage in whale fishing and processing
- whale** *vt*, *NAm* to hit or defeat soundly – *infmt* [origin unknown]
- whaleback** */ˌbæk/ n* sth shaped like the back of a whale
- whaleboat** */ˌboɦt/ n* a long narrow rowing boat with pointed ends, formerly used for hunting whales
- whalebone** */ˌboɦn/ n* a horny substance found in 2 rows of plates up to 4m (about 12ft) long attached along the upper jaw of whalebone whales and used for stiffening things
- whalebone**, *whale* *n* any of various usu large whales that have whalebone instead of teeth, which they use to filter krill from large volumes of sea water – compare TOOTHED WHALF
- whale oil** *n* TRAIN OIL
- whaler** */weɪlə/ n* a person or ship engaged in whaling
- whaling** */weɪlɪŋ/ n* the occupation of catching and processing whales for oil, food, etc
- wham** */wam/ n* (the sound made by) a forceful blow – *infmt* [*imit*]
- wham** *interj.* – used to express the noise of a forceful blow or impact; *infmt*
- wham** *vb* *-mm-* *vt* to throw or strike with a loud impact ~ *vi* to crash or explode with a loud impact *USE* *infmt*
- whang** */wɑŋ/ vt* to throw, strike, or work at with force – *infmt* [*whang* (thong, lash), alter. of ME *thong*, *thwang*]
- whang** *n* a loud sharp vibrant sound – *infmt* [*imit*]
- whangee** */wɑŋˈeɪ/ n* 1 any of several Chinese bamboos 2 a walking stick or riding crop of whangee [prob fr Chin (Pek) *huang*ˈ liː, fr *huang*ˈ yellow + *li*ˈ bamboo cane]
- whare** */wɔːr/ n* 1 a Maori house of traditional design 2 NZ a hut or shack [Maori]
- wharf** */wɔːf/ n, pl wharves /wɔːvz/ also wharfs* a structure built along or out from the shore of navigable water so that ships may load and unload [ME, fr OE *hwearf* embankment, wharf; akin to OE *hwearfan* to turn, OHG *hwerban*, Gk *karpōs* wrist]
- wharfage** */wɔːfɪdʒ/ n* 1 (the charge for) the use of a wharf 2 a system of wharves
- wharfinger** */wɔːfɪŋɜː/ n* the owner or manager of a commercial wharf [irreg fr *wharfage*]
- what** */wɒt/ pron, pl what* 1a(1) – used as an interrogative expressing inquiry about the identity, nature, purpose, or value of sth or the character, nature, occupation, position, or role of sb (< *is this?*) (2) – used to ask for repetition of sth not properly heard or understood (< *he bought ~?*) *b* – used as an exclamation expressing surprise or excitement and frequently introducing a question (< *no breakfast?*) *c* – used to direct attention to a statement that the speaker is about to make (< *guess ~?*) (< *you know ~?*) *d* chiefly *Br* – used in demanding assent (< *a clever play, ~?*), not now in vogue 2 THAT 1, WHICH 3, WHO 2 (< *gilded rat-holes ~ pass for public hostels*) – *Punch* – substandard 3 that which, the one that (< *no income but ~ he gets from his writing*) 4a *WHATEVER* 1a (< *say ~ you will*) *b* how much – used in exclamations (< *it must cost!*) [ME, fr OE *hwæt*, neut of *hwa* who – more at WHO] – or *what* – used at the end of a question to express inquiry about additional possibilities (< *is it raining, or snowing, or what?*) – *what about* 1 what news or plans have you concerning 2 also *what do you say to, what's wrong with let's*; *How about* – *what for* 1 for what purpose or reason, why – usu used with the other words of a question between *what* and *for* (< *what did you do that for?*) except when used alone 2 punishment, esp by blows or by a sharp reprimand (< *gave him what for in violent Spanish* – *New Yorker*) – *what have you* any of various other things that might also be mentioned (< *paper clips, pins, and what have you*) – *what if* 1 what will or would be the result if 2 what does it matter if – *what* it takes the qualities or resources needed for success or for attainment of a usu specified goal (< *she's really got what it takes to get to the top*) – *what not* *WHAT HAVE YOU* – *what of* 1 what is the situation with respect to 2 what importance can be assigned to – *what of it* what does it matter – *what's what* the true state of things (< *knows what's what when it comes to fashion*)
- what** *adv* in what respect?, how much? (< *does he care?*) [ME, fr OE *hwæt*, fr *hwæt*, *pron*]
- what** *adj* 1a – used with a following noun as an adjective equivalent in meaning to the interrogative pronoun *what* (< *minerals do we export?*) *b* WHICH 1 (< *size do you take?*) *c* how remarkable or striking – used esp in exclamatory utterances and dependent clauses (< *a suggestion!*) 2 the that, as much or as many as (< *told him ~ little I knew*) [*what*]
- whatever** */wɒtˈevə/ pron* 1a anything or everything that (< *take ~ you want*) *b* no matter what 2 what in the world? – *infmt* (< *do you mean?*) – or *whatever* or anything else at all – *infmt* (< *buffalo or rhinoceros or whatever* – Alan Moorehead)
- whatever** *adj* 1a any that, all that (< *buy peace on ~ terms could be obtained* – C S Forester) *b* no matter what 2 of any kind at all – used after a noun with *any* or with a negative (< *of any shape ~*) (< *no food ~*)
- whatnot** */wɒtˌnɒt/ n* 1 a lightweight open set of shelves for bric-a-brac 2 other usu related goods, objects, etc (< *carrying all his bags and ~*) 3 a whatsit *USE* (2&3) *infmt* [*what not?*]
- what's his name**, *fem* *what's her name* *n* sb whose name is not known or has been forgotten – *infmt*
- whatsit** */wɒtsɪt/ n* sb or sth that is of unspecified, nondescript, or unknown character, or whose name has been forgotten – *infmt* [*what's it?*]
- whatsoever** */wɒtsəvˈevə/ pron or adj* whatever
- what with** *prep* having as a contributory circumstance or circumstances (< *very busy what with all these guests to feed*)
- whaup** */wɔːp/ n, pl whaup* also *whaups* chiefly *Scot* a curlew [*imit*]
- wheat** */weɪl/ n* a weal
- wheat** */weɪt/ n* (any of various grasses cultivated in most temperate areas for) a cereal grain that yields a fine white flour and is used for making bread and pasta, and in animal feeds [ME *whete*, fr OE *hwæte*, akin to OHG *weiz* wheat, *hwiz*, *wiz* white – more at WHITE]
- wheat** *ˌtɛər* */ˌtɛər/ n* any of several small usu white-rumped Old World Eurasian birds related to the thrushes [back-formation fr earlier *wheat-tears*, prob by folk etymology or euphemism fr *white* + *arise*]
- wheat** */weɪt(ə)n/ adj* made of (the grain, meal, or flour of) wheat
- wheat germ** *n* the embryo of the wheat kernel separated in milling and used esp as a source of vitamins
- whee** */weɪ/ interj.* – used to express delight or exuberance
- whedle** */weɪdl/ vb* *whedling* */weɪdlɪŋ/ vt* 1 to influence or entice by soft words or flattery 2 to cause to part with sth by whedling – + *out of* (< *her out of her last £5*) ~ *vi* to use soft words of flattery [origin unknown]
- wheel** */weɪl/ n* 1 a circular frame of hard material that may be (partly) solid or spoked and that is capable of turning on an axle 2 a contrivance or apparatus having as its principal part a wheel: e.g. a chiefly medieval

instrument of torture to which the victim was tied while his/her limbs were broken by a metal bar **b** any of various revolving discs or drums that produce an arbitrary value on which to gamble, usu by stopping at a particular number <roulette ~> **3** sthg resembling a wheel in shape or motion, esp CATHERINE WHEEL **4a** a curving or circular movement **b** a rotation or turn, usu about an axis or centre, *specif* a turning movement of troops or ships in line in which the units preserve alignment and relative positions **5a** *pl* the workings or controlling forces of sthg <the ~s of government> **b** chiefly *NAM* a person of importance, esp in an organization <a big ~> **6** *pl* a motor vehicle, esp a motor car *USE* (5b&6) *infrm* [ME, fr OE *hweogol*, *hweol*, akin to ON *hvel* wheel, Gk *kyklos* circle, wheel, Skt *cakra*, L *colere* to cultivate, inhabit, Gk *telos* end] – wheelless *adj*

**wheel** *vi* **1** to turn (as if) on an axis; revolve **2** to change direction as if revolving on a pivot <~ed round and walked away> **3** to move or extend in a circle or curve <birds in ~ing flight> **4** to alter or reverse one's opinion – often + *about* or *round* ~ **vt** **1** to cause to turn (as if) on an axis, rotate **2** to convey or move (as if) on wheels, esp to push (a wheeled vehicle or its occupant) <~ the baby into the shade> **3** to cause to change direction as if revolving on a pivot **4** to make or perform in a circle or curve – **wheel and deal** to pursue one's own usu commercial interests, esp in a shrewd or unscrupulous manner

**wheel and axle** *n* a simple machine consisting of a grooved wheel turned by a cord or chain with a rigidly attached axle (e.g. for winding up a weight) together with the supporting standards

**wheel, animal** *n* a rotifer

**wheelbarrow** /-ˈbærɒ/ *n* a load-carrying device that consists of a shallow box supported at 1 end by usu 1 wheel and at the other by a stand when at rest or by handles when being pushed

**wheelbase** /-ˈbeɪs/ *n* the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle

**wheelchair** /-ˈtʃeə/ *n* an invalid's chair mounted on wheels

**wheeled** /weeld/ *adj* equipped with or moving on wheels <~ vehicles> – often in combination <2-wheeled>

**wheeler** /ˈweələ/ *n* **1** a maker of wheels **2** a draught animal (e.g. a horse) pulling in the position nearest the front wheels of a wagon **3** sthg (e.g. a vehicle or ship) that has wheels – esp in combination <side-wheeler> [*WHEEL* + -ER]

**wheeler-dealer** *n*, chiefly *NAM* a shrewd operator, esp in business or politics [fr the vb phrase *wheel and deal*] – **wheeler-dealing** *n*

**wheelhorse** /-ˈhɔws/ *n* *WHEELER* **2**

**wheelhouse** /-ˈhəʊs/ *n* a deckhouse for a vessel's helmsman

**wheelie** /ˈweeli/ *n* a manoeuvre in which a motorcycle, motor car, etc is momentarily balanced on its rear wheel or wheels

**wheel lock** *n* (a gun having) a gunlock in which sparks are struck from a flint or a piece of iron pyrites by a revolving wheel

**wheelman** /ˈweelman/ *n*, *NAM* a helmsman

**wheelwright** /-ˈrɪt/ *n* sby who makes or repairs wheels, esp wooden ones for carts

**when** /weɪn/ *adj*, *Scot* & *NEng* *FEW* **2** [ME (Sc) *quhene*, fr OE *hwæne*, *hwene*, *adv*, somewhat, fr *hwon* little, few]

**when** *n*, *Scot* & *NEng* a considerable number or amount

**who** /weɪ/ *vi* **1** to breathe with difficulty, usu with a whistling sound **2** to make a sound like that of wheezing ~ *vt* to utter wheezily [E *whesen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *hvaesa* to hiss, akin to OE *hwæst* action of blowing, L *queri* to complain]

**who** *n* **1** a sound of wheezing **2** a cunning trick or expedient – *infrm* – *whoozy* *adj*, *whoozily* *adv*, *whooziness* *n*

**whelk** /welk/ *n* any of numerous large marine snails, esp one much used as food in Europe [ME *welke*, fr OE *weoloc*; akin to L *volvere* to turn – more at *VOI TUBE*]

**whelk** *n* a pustule, pimple [ME *whelke*, fr OE *hwylca*, fr *hwelian* to suppurate]

**whelp** /welp/ *n* **1** any of the young of various flesh-eating mammals, esp a dog **2** a disagreeable or impudent child or youth [ME, fr OE *hwelp*; akin to OHG *hwelf* whelp]

**whelp** *vt* to give birth to (esp a puppy) ~ *vi*, esp of a bitch to bring forth young

**when** /wen/ *adv* **1** at what time? **2a** at or during which time <the day ~ we met> **b** and then; *WHEREUPON* **1** [ME, fr OE *hwanne*, *hwenne*; akin to OHG *hwanne* when, OE *hwa* who – more at *WHO*]

**when** *conj* **1a** at or during the time that <went fishing ~ he was a boy> **b** as soon as <will look nice ~ finished> **c** whenever <~ he listens to music, he falls asleep> **2** in the event that; if **3a** considering that <why smoke ~ you know it's bad for you?> **b** in spite of the fact that; although

<gave up politics ~ he might have done well> [ME, fr OE *hwanne*, *hwenne*, fr *hwanne*, *hwenne*, *adv*]

**when** *pron* what or which time <since ~ have you known that?>

**when** *n* a date, time <worried about the whens and ~s>

**whence** /wens/ *adv* or *conj* **1a** from where?; from which place, source, or cause? **b** from which place, source, or cause **2** to the place from which <returned ~ they came> *USE* chiefly *fml* [adv ME *whennes*, fr *whenne* whence (fr OE *hwanon*) + -s, *adv* suffix, akin to OHG *hwanan* whence, OE *hwa* who]

**whencesoever** /wens-soh'eva/ *conj*, *archaic* from whatever place or source

**whenever** /wen'eva/ *conj* **1** at every or whatever time <roof leaks ~ it rains> <can go ~ he likes> **2** in any circumstance <~ possible, he tries to help> – or **whenever** or at any similar time – *infrm* <in 1922 or whenever>

**whenever** *adv* when in the world? – *infrm* <~ did you find the time?>

**whenssoever** /wensoh'eva/ *conj* whenever

**whenssoever** *adv*, *obs* at any time whatever

**where** /weə/ *adv* **1a** at, in, or to what place? <~ is the house?> **b** at, in, or to what situation, direction, circumstances, or respect? <~ does this plan lead?> **2** at, in, or to which (place) <has reached the size ~ traffic is a problem> <the town ~ she lives> [ME, fr OE *hwær*; akin to OHG *hwar* where, OE *hwa* who – more at *WHO*]

**where** *conj* **1a** at, in, or to the place at which <stay ~ you are> **b** *WHEREVER* <goes ~ he likes> **c** in a case, situation, or respect in which <outstanding ~ endurance is called for> **2** whereas, while <he wants a house, ~ I would prefer a flat> – **where it's at** the real scene of the action – *slang*

**where** *n* **1** what place or point? <~ are you from?> **2** a place, point <bought from any old ~> – *infrm*

**whereabouts** /ˈweəˌbaʊts/ *also* **whereabout** *adv* or *conj* in what vicinity <do you know ~ he lives?> [ME *wherabouts* (fr *wher* aboute + -s, *adv* suffix) & *wher* aboute, fr *where*, *wher* where + *about*, *about* about]

**whereabouts** /ˈweəˌbaʊts/ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the place or general locality where a person or thing is <his present ~ are a secret>

**whereas** /weəˈraz/ *conj* **1** in view of the fact that; since – used, esp formally, to introduce a preamble **2** while on the contrary; although [ME *where as*, fr *where* + *as*]

**whereat** /weəˈræt/ *conj*, *archaic* **1** at or towards which **2** in consequence of which, whereupon

**whereby** /weəˈbi/ *conj* **1** in accordance with which <a law ~ children receive cheap milk> **2** by which means – chiefly *fml*

**where'er** /weəˈreə/ *adv* or *conj* wherever – poetic

**wherefore** /ˈweəfɔː/ *adv* **1** for what reason, why **2** for that reason, therefore *USE* chiefly *fml* [ME *wherfor*, *wherefore*, fr *where*, *wher* + *for*, *fore* for]

**wherefore** *n* a reason, cause – chiefly in the *whys* and *wherefores* <wants to know all the whys and ~s>

**wherefrom** /weəˈfrɒm/ *conj* from which – chiefly *fml*

**wherein** /weəˈrɪn/ *adv* in what, how <showed him ~ he was wrong> – chiefly *fml*

**wherein** *conj* in which, where <the city ~ he lived> – chiefly *fml*

**whereinto** /weəˈrɪntuː/ *conj*, *archaic* into which

**whereof** /weəˈrɒv/ *conj*, *pron*, or *adv*, *archaic* of what, which, or whom

**whereon** /weəˈrɒn/ *adv* or *conj*, *archaic* on which or what <the base ~ it rests>

**wherethrough** /weəˈθruː/ *conj*, *archaic* through which

**whereto** /weəˈtuː/ *adv* or *conj* to which or what, whither <~ tends all this – Shak> – chiefly *fml*

**whereunto** /weəˈrɪntuː/ *adv* or *conj*, *archaic* whereto

**whereupon** /weəˈpɒn/ *adv* or *conj* **1** closely following and in consequence of which <he saw me coming, ~ he offered me his seat> **2** on which; whereon – chiefly *fml*

**wherever** /weəˈreva/ *adv* where in the world? – chiefly *infrm* <~ have you been?> – or **wherever** or anywhere else at all – chiefly *infrm* <go to China or wherever>

**wherever** *conj* at, in, or to every or whatever place <he can sleep ~ he likes>

**wherewith** /weəˈwɪð/ *conj* with or by means of which – chiefly *fml*

**wherewithal** /ˈweɪwɪdhaʊl/ *n* means, resources, specif money <didn't have the ~ for an expensive dinner>

**wherry** /ˈwɛrɪ/ *n* 1 a long light rowing boat used to transport passengers on rivers and about harbours 2 a large light barge, lighter, or fishing boat used in Britain [ME *wherry*]

**whet** /wɛt/ *vt* -tt- 1 to sharpen by rubbing on or with sth (e.g. a stone) 2 to make keen or more acute; stimulate <~ the appetite> [ME *whetten*, fr OE *hwetan*; akin to OHG *wezzen* to whet, *waz* sharp] - *whetter* *n*

**whet** *n* 1 a goad, incitement 2 an appetizer

**whether** /ˈwɛðə/ *conj* - used usu with correlative *or* or with *or whether* to indicate an indirect question involving alternatives <decide ~ he should agree or protest> or a choice between 2 alternatives <I wonder ~ he heard> *b* indifference between alternatives <seated him next to her ~ by accident or design> [ME, fr OE *hwæther*, *hwether*, fr *hwæther*, *hwether*, pron, which of two; akin to OHG *hwedar* which of two, L *uter*, Gk *poteros*, OE *hwa* who]

**whetstone** /ˈwɛt.stoʊn/ *n* 1 a stone for sharpening an edge (e.g. of a chisel) 2 sth that stimulates or makes keen

**whew** /fyoʊh/ *n* a half-formed whistle uttered as an exclamation expressing amazement, discomfort, or relief [imit]

**whew** /way/ *n* the watery part of milk separated from the curd, esp in cheese-making, and rich in lactose, minerals, and vitamins [ME, fr OE *hwæg*; akin to MD *wey* whey] - *weyey* *adj*

**whew-faced** *adj* having a pale face (e.g. from fear)

**which** /wɪç/ *adj* 1 being what one or ones out of a known or limited group? <~ tie should I wear?> 2 whichever <it will not fit, turn it ~ way you like> 3 - used to introduce a nonrestrictive relative clause by modifying the noun which refers either to a preceding word or phrase or to a whole previous clause <he may come, in ~ case I'll ask him> [ME, of what kind, which, fr OE *hwilc*, akin to OHG *wilih* of what kind, which, both fr a prehistoric Gmc compound whose first constituent is akin to OE *hwā* who & whose second is represented by OE *-lic* -ly - more at *WHO*, -LY]

**which** *pron, pl which* 1 what one out of a known or specified group? <~ of those houses do you live in?> 2 whichever <take ~ you like> 3 - used to introduce a relative or esp a nonrestrictive relative clause; used in any grammatical relation except that of a possessive, used esp in reference to an animal, thing, or idea <the office in ~ I work> <a large dog, ~ bit me>, or to a human group, esp when a singular verb follows <this tribe, ~ has aroused much interest among anthropologists>; often used in reference to a whole previous clause or even to a preceding sentence <can sing, ~ is an advantage> <can be overcome by basing these programs on need not race. Which is fine - Nation Review (Melbourne)>

**whichever** /wɪtʃevə/ *pron, pl whichever* 1 whatever one out of a group <take 2 of the 4 optional papers, ~ you prefer> 2 no matter which 3 which in the world? - chiefly infml <~ did you choose?>

**whichever** *adj* being whatever one or ones out of a group, no matter which <its soothing effect will be the same ~ way you take it - Punch>

**whichever** /wɪtʃsoʊvə/ *pron or adj, archaic* whichever

**whidah** /ˈwɪdə/ *n* a whydah

**whiff** /wɪf/ *n* 1 a quick puff, slight gust, or inhalation, esp of air, a smell, smoke, or gas 2 a slight trace <a ~ of scandal> [imit]

**whiff** *vi* 1 to emit whiffs, puff 2 to inhale an odour, sniff 3 to smell unpleasant

**whiffle** /wɪfl/ *vi* **whiffing** /ˈwɪflɪŋ/ 1 to blow with or emit a light whistling sound <the wind ~ d in the leaves> 2 to be undecided, vacillate <do stop whiffing> [prob freq of *whiff*] - *whiffier* *n*

**whiffle, tree** /-ˈtri:/ *n, NAm* a swingletree [alter. of *whippletree*]

**Whig** /wɪɡ/ *n or adj* 1 (a member) of a major British political group of the 18th and early 19th c seeking to limit royal authority and increase parliamentary power - compare *TORY* 1 2 *NAm* (a member) of an American political party formed about 1834 and succeeded about 1854 by the Republican party [n short for *Whiggamore* (member of a Scottish group that marched to Edinburgh in 1648 to oppose the court party); *adj* fr n] - *Whiggery*, *Whiggism* *n*, *Whiggish* *adj*

**while** /wɪəl/ *n* 1 a period of time, esp when short and marked by the occurrence of an action or condition; a time <stay here for a ~> 2 the time and effort used; trouble <it's worth your ~> [ME, fr OE *hwil*; akin to OHG *hwila* time, L *quies* rest, quiet]

**while** *conj* 1a during the time that *b* providing that; as long as <~ there's life there's hope> 2a when on the other hand; whereas *b* in spite of the fact that; although <~ respected, he is not liked>

**while** *prep, archaic or dial* until

**while away** *vt* to pass (time) in a leisurely, often pleasant, manner <while away the afternoon>

**whiles** /wɪelz/ *adv, chiefly Scot* sometimes [ME (Sc) *quhils* sometimes, formerly, fr ME (Sc) *quhile*, ME *while*, fr OE *hwile* formerly]

**whilst** /wɪəlst/ *conj, chiefly Br* while [ME *whilst*, alter. of *whiles*, fr *while* + *-s*, *adv* suffix]

**whim** /wɪm/ *n* 1 a sudden, capricious, or eccentric idea or impulse; a fancy 2 a large capstan formerly used in mines for raising ore or water [short for *whim-wham* (trifle, trinket), of unknown origin]

**whimbrel** /ˈwɪmbɹəl/ *n* a small Eurasian curlew [perh imit]

**whimper** /ˈwɪmpə/ *vi or n* 1 (to make) a low plaintive whining sound 2 (to make) a petulant complaint or protest [imit]

**whimsical** /ˈwɪmzɪkəl/ *adj* 1 full of whims; capricious 2 resulting from or suggesting whimsy, esp quizzical, playful <a ~ smile> [whimsy] - *whimsically* *adv*, *whimsicalness*, *whimsicality* /-ˈkæləti/ *n*

**whimsey** /ˈwɪmzi/ *n* 1 a whim, caprice 2 an affected or fanciful device, creation, or style, esp in writing or art [irreg fr *whim-wham*]

**whin** /wɪn/ *n* furze [ME *whynne*, of Scand origin; akin to Norw *kvein* bent grass]

**whinchat** /ˈwɪnʃat/ *n* a small brown and buff Old World bird [whin + *-chat*]

**whine** /wɪən/ *vi* to utter or make a whine ~ *vt* to utter or express (as if) with a whine [ME *whinen*, fr OE *hwīnan* to whiz, akin to ON *hwina* to whiz] - *whiner* *n*, *whiningly* *adv*

**whine** *n* 1 (a sound like) a prolonged high-pitched cry, usu expressive of distress or pain 2 a querulous or peevish complaint - *whiny*, *whiney* *adj*

**whinge**, *winge* /wɪŋ/ *vi, chiefly Austr & dial Br* to complain, moan [(assumed) ME *whingen*, fr OE *hwīnsian*] - *whinger* *n*

**whinny** /ˈwɪni/ *vb or n* (to make or utter with or as if with) a low gentle neigh or similar sound [prob imit]

**whinstone** /ˈwɪn.stoʊn/ *n* any of various dark fine-grained igneous rocks (e.g. basalt) [whin (very hard rock), fr ME (northern) *quin*]

**whip** /wɪp/ *vb -pp-* *vi* 1 to take, pull, jerk, or move very quickly <~ ped out a gun> 2a to strike with a whip or similar slender flexible implement, esp as a punishment, also to spank *b* to drive or urge on (as if) by using a whip *c* to strike as a whip does <rain ~ ping the pavement> 3a to bind or wrap (e.g. a rope or rod) with cord for protection and strength *b* to wind or wrap (e.g. cord) round sth 4 to oversee (an edge, hem, or seam) using a whipsitch, also to hem or join (e.g. ribbon or lace) by whipping 5 to beat (e.g. eggs or cream) into a froth with a whisk, fork, etc 6 to overcome decisively, defeat - *infml* 7 to snatch suddenly, esp *STFAI* 1 - *slang* ~ *vi* to move, go, or come quickly or violently <~ ped out of the turning at top speed> [ME *wippen*, *whippen*, akin to MD *wippen* to move up and down, sway, OE *wipian* to wipe] - *whipper* *n* - *whip into shape* to bring (sb or sth) into a desired state, esp by hard work or practice

**whip** *n* 1 an instrument consisting usu of a lash attached to a handle, used for driving and controlling animals and for punishment 2 a dessert made by whipping some of the ingredients <prune ~> 3 a light hoisting apparatus consisting of a single pulley, a block, and a rope 4 one who handles a whip e.g. a driver of horses, a coachman *b* a whipper-in 5a a member of Parliament or other legislative body appointed by a political party to enforce discipline and to secure the attendance and votes of party members *b* often *cap* an instruction (e.g. a three-line whip or a two-line whip) to each member of a political party in Parliament to be in attendance for voting *c* (the privileges and duties of) membership of the official parliamentary representation of a political party <was deprived of the Labour ~> 6 a whipping or thrashing motion 7 the quality of resembling a whip, esp in being flexible - *whiplike* *adj*

**whipcord** /-ˈkɔːd/ *n* 1 a thin tough cord made of tightly braided or twisted hemp or catgut 2 a usu cotton or worsted cloth with fine diagonal cords or ribs [fr its use in making whips]

**whip hand** *n* a controlling position, the advantage

**whip** *in vt* to keep (hounds in a pack) from scattering by use of a whip

**whiplash** /-ˈlæʃ/ *n* 1 the lash of a whip 2 *whiplash*, *whiplash* injury injury to the neck resulting from a sudden sharp whipping movement of the neck and head (e.g. in a car collision)

**whipper-in** /ˈwɪpə/ *n, pl whippers-in* a huntsman's assistant who whips in the hounds

**whippersnapper** /ˈwɪpə.snəpə/ *n* an insignificant but impudent person, esp a child [prob alter. of earlier *snippersnapper*, prob fr *snip* + *snapp*]

**whippet** /ˈwɪpɪt/ *n* (any of) a breed of small swift slender dogs related to greyhounds [prob fr *whip*]



**whipping** /wɪpɪŋ/ *n* 1 a severe beating or chastisement 2a stitching with or stitches made using whipstitch **b** material used to whip or bind [**WHIP** + **-ING**]

**'whipping boy** *n* 1 a boy formerly educated with a prince and punished in his stead 2 a scapegoat

**whippetree** /wɪpɪ'tree/ *n* a swingletree [perh irreg fr **whip** + **tree**]

**whippoorwill** /wɪpə,wɪl/ *n* a N American nightjar [imit]

**whippy** /wɪpɪ/ *adj* unusually resilient, springy (<a ~ *fishing rod*) [**WHIP** + **-Y**]

**'whip-round** *n*, chiefly *Br* a collection of money made usu for a benevolent purpose - *infrml* <had a ~ to buy him a leaving present>

**whipsaw** /wɪp,saw/ *n* any of various types of saw with a long flexible blade [**WHIP**]

**whisp scorpion** *n* any of an order of arachnids with a long slender tail but no sting

**whipstitch** /wɪp,stɪtʃ/ *n* a very small overcasting stitch

**whipstock** /wɪp,stɒk/ *n* the handle of a whip

**whip up** *vt* 1 to stir up, stimulate <whipped up the emotions of the crowd> 2 to produce in a hurry <I'll whip a meal up in no time>

**'whirl** /wɜːl/ *vi* 1 to move along a curving or circling course, esp with force or speed <planets ~ing in their orbits> 2 to turn abruptly or rapidly round (and round) on an axis, rotate, wheel <he ~ed round to face me> 3 to pass, move, or go quickly <she ~ed down the hallway> 4 to become giddy or dizzy, reel <my head's ~ing> ~ *vt* 1 to convey rapidly, whisk <the ambulance ~ed him away> 2 to cause to turn usu rapidly round (and round) on an axis, rotate [ME *whirlen*, prob of Scand origin, akin to ON *hvirfla* to whirl, akin to OHG *wirbel* whirlwind, OE *hworfan* to turn - more at **WHIRL**] - **whirler** *n*, **whirly** *adj*

**'whirl** *n* 1 (sth) undergoing or having a form suggestive of a rapid rotating or circling movement 2a a confused tumult; a bustle <the social ~> **b** a confused or disturbed mental state, a turmoil <my mind is in a ~ all the time - Arnold Bennett> 3 an experimental or brief attempt, a try - *infrml* <I'll give it a ~>

**whirligig** /wɜːlɪ,gɪg/ *n* 1 a child's toy (e.g. a top) that whirls 2a sth that continuously whirls, moves, or changes **b** a whirling or circling course (e.g. of events) [ME *whirlegge*, fr *whirlen* to whirl + *gigg* top - more at **WIG**]

**'whirligig beetle** *n* any of numerous beetles that live mostly on the surface of water where they move swiftly about in curves

**whirlpool** /wɜːl,puːl/ *n* 1 (sth) resembling, esp in attracting or engulfing power) a circular eddy of rapidly moving water with a central depression into which floating objects may be drawn 2 **WHIRL** 2a

**'whirlwind** /-wɪnd/ *n* 1 a small rapidly rotating windstorm of limited extent marked by an inward and upward spiral motion of the lower air round a core of low pressure 2 a confused rush, a whirl

**whirlybird** /wɜːl,bɜːd/ *n* a helicopter - *infrml*, not now in vogue

**whirr**, **whir** /wɜːr/ *vi* or *n* - *rr-* (to make or revolve or move with) a continuous buzzing or vibrating sound made by sth in rapid motion [**vb** ME (Sc) *quarren*, prob of Scand origin, akin to Dan *hvirre* to whirl, whurr, akin to OE *hworfan* to turn, *n* fr **vb**]

**whish** /wɪʃ/ *vi* or *n* (to) swish [imit]

**whisht** /wɪst, wɪʃt/ *vi*, *dial Br* 'whist [imit]

**'whisk** /wɪsk/ *n* 1 a quick light brushing or whipping motion 2a any of various small usu hand-held kitchen utensils used for whisking food **b** a small bunch of flexible strands (e.g. twigs, feathers, or straw) attached to a handle for use as a brush [ME *wisk*, prob of Scand origin; akin to ON *wisk* wisp; akin to OE *wiscian* to plait, *L. virga* branch, rod]

**'whisk** *vi* to move lightly and swiftly ~ *vt* 1 to convey briskly <~ed the children off to bed> 2 to mix or fluff up (as if) by beating with a whisk 3 to brush or wipe off (e.g. crumbs) lightly 4 to brandish lightly; flick <~ed its tail>

**whisker** /wɪskə/ *n* 1a a hair of the beard or sideboards **b** a hairs breadth <lost the race by a ~> 2 any of the long projecting hairs or bristles growing near the mouth of an animal (e.g. a cat) 3 a thin hairlike crystal (e.g. of sapphire or a metal) of exceptional mechanical strength [back-formation fr *whiskers* (moustache), fr *'whisk* + *-er* + *-s*] - **whiskered** *adj*, **whiskery** *adj*, **whiskerness** *n*

**whiskey** /wɪski/ *n* whiskey produced in Ireland or the USA

**Whiskey** - used as a communications code word for the letter **w**

**whisky** /wɪski/ *n* a spirit distilled from fermented mash of rye, corn, wheat, or esp barley [IrGael *uisge beathadh* & ScGael *uisge beatha*, lit., water of life]

**'whisper** /wɪspə/ *vi* 1 to speak softly with little or no vibration of the vocal cords 2 to make a hissing or rustling sound like whispered speech ~ *vt* 1 to address or order in a whisper 2 to utter in a whisper 3 to report

or suggest confidentially <it is ~ed that he will soon resign> [ME *whisperen*, fr OE *hwisprian*, akin to OHG *hwispalon* to whisper, ON *hvisla* - more at **WHISTLE**] - **whisperer** *n*

**'whisper** *n* 1a whispering; esp speech without vibration of the vocal cords **b** a hissing or rustling sound like whispered speech 2 sth communicated (as if) by whispering e.g. a rumour <~s of scandal> **b** a hint, trace

**'whist** /wɪst/ *vi*, *dial Br* to be silent; hush - often used as an interjection to call for silence [imit]

**'whist** *n* (any of various card games similar to) a card game for 4 players in 2 partnerships in which each trick made in excess of 6 tricks scores 1 point [alter of earlier *whisk*, prob fr *'whisk*, fr whisking up the tricks]

**'whist drive** *n*, *Br* an evening of whist playing with a periodic change of partners, usu with prizes at the finish

**'whistle** /wɪsl/ *n* 1 a device (e.g. a small wind instrument) in which the forcible passage of air, steam, the breath, etc through a slit or against a thin edge in a short tube produces a loud sound <a police ~> <a factory ~> 2 (a sound like) a shrill clear sound produced by whistling or by a whistle <the ~ of the wind> [ME, fr OE *hwistle*; akin to ON *hvisla* to whisper, *hvinna* to whiz - more at **WHINE**]

**'whistle** *vb* **whistling** /wɪslɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to utter (a sound like a) whistle (by blowing or drawing air through the puckered lips) 2 to make a whistle by rapid movement, also to move rapidly (as if) with such a sound <the train ~d by> 3 to blow or sound a whistle ~ *vt* 1 to send, bring, call, or signal to (as if) by whistling 2 to produce, utter, or express by whistling <~ a tune> - **whistleable** *adj*, **whistler** *n* - **whistle for** to demand or request in vain <did a sloppy job so he can whistle for his money>

**'whistle-stop** *n* 1 *NAM* a small station at which trains stop only on signal **b** a small community 2 chiefly *NAM* a brief personal appearance (to give an election speech) by a politician during a tour - **whistle-stop** *adj*

**whit** /wɪt/ *n* the smallest part imaginable, a bit <not a ~ abashed> [alter of ME *wiht*, *wight* creature, thing, bit, fr OE *wiht*, akin to OHG *wiht* creature, thing, ON *vætr* creature]

**Whit** *n* Whitsuntide

**'white** /wɪet/ *adj* 1a free from colour **b** of the colour white **c** light or pallid in colour <lips ~ with fear> **d** of wine light yellow or amber in colour **e** *Br*, of coffee served with milk or cream 2a of a group or race characterized by reduced pigmentation **b** of or for white people <~ schools> 3 free from spot or blemish e.g. a(1) free from moral impurity, innocent (2) of a wedding in which the woman wears white clothes as a symbol of purity **b** not intended to cause harm <a ~ lie> 4a dressed in white **b** accompanied by snow <a ~ Christmas> 5 notably ardent; passionate <in a ~ rage> 6 reactionary, counterrevolutionary - compare *RED* 5a 7 of light, sound, electromagnetic radiation, etc consisting of a wide range of frequencies simultaneously <~ noise> [ME, fr OE *hwit*; akin to OHG *hwiz* white, Skt *sveta*] - **whitely** *adv*, **whitish** *adj*, **whiteness** *n*


**'white** *n* 1 the achromatic and lightest colour that belongs to objects that reflect diffusely nearly all incident light 2 a white or light-coloured part of sth e.g. a the mass of albumin-containing material surrounding the yolk of an egg **b** the white part of the ball of the eye **c** (the player playing) the light-coloured pieces in a two-handed board game 3 sby or sth that is or approaches the colour white e.g. a *pl* white (sports) clothing <tennis ~s> **b** a white animal (e.g. a butterfly or pig) 4 *pl* leucorrhoea 5 sby belonging to a light-skinned race

**'white ant** *n* a termite

**'whitebait** /wɪet,bayt/ *n* (any of various small food fishes similar to) the young of any of several European herrings (e.g. the common herring or the sprat) eaten whole [*'white* + *'bait*]

**'white,beam** /-bi:em/ *n* a European tree of the rose family with leaves covered in fine white hairs on the undersurface, white flowers, and scarlet berries

**'white beard** /-bi:d/ *n* an old man; a greybeard

**white blood cell**, **white cell** *n* any of the white or colourless blood cells that have nuclei, do not contain haemoglobin, and are primarily concerned with body defence mechanisms and repair - compare **RED BLOOD CELL**  **ANATOMY**

**white blood corpuscle**, **white corpuscle** *n* **WHITE BLOOD CELL**

**'white campion** /'kæmpɪ-ən/ *n* a white-flowered Eurasian plant of the pink family

**'white cap** /-kæp/ *n* a wave crest breaking into white foam far from land

**'white clover** *n* a Eurasian clover with round heads of white flowers that is widely used in grass-seed mixtures for lawns and pasture

**white-collar** *adj* of or being the class of nonmanual employees whose duties do not call for the wearing of work clothes or protective clothing – compare **BLUE-COLLAR**

**whited** /wɪtɪd/ *adj* made white, esp with whitewash or bleach, whitened

**whited sepulchre** *n* a hypocrite [fr the simile applied by Jesus to the scribes & Pharisees, Mt 23 27]

**white dwarf** *n* a small whitish star of high surface temperature, low brightness, and high density

**white elephant** *n* 1 a property requiring much care and expense and yielding little profit 2 sthg that is no longer of value (to its owner)

**white feather** *n* a mark or symbol of cowardice [fr the superstition that a white feather in the plumage of a gamecock is a mark of a poor fighter]

**white fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n, pl* **whitefish** 1 *Br* any of various freshwater food fishes related to the salmon and trout 2 *Br* any of various market fishes (e.g. cod) with white flesh that is not oily

**white flag** *n* 1 a flag of plain white used as a flag of truce or as a token of surrender 2 a token of weakness or yielding

**white fly** /-flaɪ/ *n, pl* **whiteflies**, *esp* collectively **whitefly** (an infestation of) any of numerous small insects that are injurious plant pests related to the scale insects

**white friar** *n*, *often cap* **W&F** a Carmelite friar [fr his white habit]

**white gold** *n* a pale silvery alloy of gold, esp with nickel or palladium, resembling platinum in appearance

**Whitehall** /ˈwɪt.hɔːl/, -/ *n* the British government [Whitehall, thoroughfare of London in which are located the chief offices of British government]

**white head** /-hed/ *n* a small whitish lump in the skin due to blockage of an oil gland duct

**white heat** *n* 1 a temperature higher than red heat, at which a body emits white light 2 a state of intense mental or physical activity or strain

**white hole** *n* a hypothetical celestial body that emits radiation of all wavelengths and is thought to be the converse of a black hole

**white hope** *n* a person expected to bring fame and glory to his/her group, country, etc

**white horse** *n* 1 a usu prehistoric figure of a horse made by cutting away the turf from a chalk hillside 2 a wave with a crest breaking into white foam – usu *pl*

**white-hot** *adj* 1 at or radiating white heat 2 ardently zealous, fervid

**White House** *n* the executive branch of the US government [the White House, mansion in Washington, DC, assigned to the president of the USA]

**white lead** /led/ *n* any of several white lead-containing pigments, esp a heavy poisonous carbonate of lead used formerly in exterior paints

**white line** *n* a white line painted along a road to separate traffic lanes

**white-livered** *adj* lily-livered [fr a former belief that vigour & courage depend on the body's producing large quantities of yellow bile]

**white magic** *n* magic used for good purposes (e.g. to cure disease)

**white man's burden** *n* the supposed duty of the white peoples to manage the affairs of less developed peoples until they are sufficiently educated for independence [‘The White Man's Burden’, poem by Rudyard Kipling †1936 E writer]

**white matter** *n* whitish nerve tissue that consists largely of myelinated nerve fibres and underlies the grey matter of the brain and spinal cord or is gathered into nerves

**white meat** *n* light-coloured meat (e.g. poultry breast or veal) – compare **RED MEAT**

**white metal** *n* any of several alloys based on tin or sometimes lead used esp for bearings, type metal, and domestic utensils

**whiten** /wɪt(ə)n/ *vb* to make or become white or whiter, bleach – **whitener** *n*, **whitening** *n*

**whiteout** /ˈwɪt.əʊt/ *n* a weather condition in a snowy area in which the horizon cannot be seen and only dark objects are discernible [white + -out (as in **blackout**)]

**white paper** *n*, *often cap* **W&P** a (British) government report usu less extensive than a blue book

**white pepper** *n* a condiment prepared from the husked dried berries of an E Indian plant used either whole or ground – compare **BLACK PEPPER**

**white pudding** *n* a sausage made from minced pork meat and fat – compare **BLACK PUDDING**

**White Russian** *n* 1 a Byelorussian 2 a Tsarist Russian, esp one living in exile

**white sauce** *n* a sauce made with milk, cream, or a chicken, veal, or fish stock – compare **BROWN SAUCE**

**white slave** *n* a woman or girl held unwillingly, esp abroad, and forced to be a prostitute – **white slavery** *n*

**white slaver** /ˈslayvə/ *n* sby engaged in the white-slave trade

**white smith** /-smɪθ/ *n* 1 a tinsmith 2 sby who finishes or polishes newly made metal goods

**white spirit** *n* an inflammable liquid distilled from petroleum and used esp as a solvent and thinner for paints

**white supremacy** *n* the doctrine of the inherent superiority of the white race over others **white supremacist** *n*

**white throat** /-θroʊt/ *n* an Old World warbler with a white throat, reddish brown wings, and buff underparts tinged with pink

**white-tie** *adj* characterized by or requiring the wearing of formal evening dress by men (< a ~ dinner)

**white wash** /-wɒʃ/ *vt* 1 to apply whitewash to 2a to gloss over or cover up (e.g. vices or crimes) b to exonerate by concealment or through biased presentation of data 3 to defeat overwhelmingly in a contest or game – *infrml* – **whitewasher** *n*

**whitewash** *n* 1 a liquid mixture (e.g. of lime and water or whiting, size, and water) for whitening outside walls or similar surfaces 2 a whitewashing

**white water** *n* frothy water (e.g. in breakers or rapids)

**white way** *n*, *NAM* a brilliantly lighted street or avenue, esp in a city's business or theatre district [the *Great White Way* nickname for the theatrical section of Broadway, New York City]

**white whale** *n* **BEALUGA** 2

**white wine** *n* a wine produced from usu light coloured grapes and ranging in colour from yellow to amber

**white wood** /-wʊd/ *n* (the pale or white wood of) any of various trees (e.g. the lime)

**whitey** /ˈwɪtɪ/ *n*, *often cap* a white man *also* white society chiefly derog

**whitely** *adj* whitely

**whither** /ˈwɪðə/ *adv* or *conj* 1 to or towards what place? – also used in rhetorical questions without a verb (< ~ democracy? 2 to the place at, in, or to which (< go ~ you wish) 3 to which place *USF* chiefly *infrml* [adv *ME*, fr *OE* *hwider* akin to *L quis* who & to *OE* *hider* hither – more at *WHO*, *HITHER*, *conj* fr *adv*]

**whithersoever** /ˌwɪðəˈsoʊəvə/ *conj* to whatever place (< will go ~ you lead) – *infrml*

**whiting** /ˈwɪtɪŋ/ *n* any of various marine food fishes, esp one related to the cod [*ME*, fr *MD* *wtine*, fr *wt* white, akin to *OE* *hwit* white]

**whiting** *n* washed and ground chalk used esp as a pigment and in paper coating [*ME*, fr *gerund* of *whiten* to make white]

**whitlow** /ˈwɪtləʊ/ *n* a deep usu pus producing inflammation of the finger or toe, esp round the nail [*ME* *whitflawe*, *whitflowe*, *whitlowe*, prob fr *whit* white + *flawe* break, fissure]

**Whitmonday** /ˈwɪt.mʌndaɪ/, -dɪ/ *n* the day after Whitsunday, formerly observed as a public holiday in England, Wales, and N Ireland [White (as in *Whitsunday*) + *Monday*]

**Whitsun** /ˈwɪts(ə)n/ *adj* or *n* (of, being, or observed on or at) Whitsunday or Whitsuntide [*ME* *Whitson*, fr *Whitsunday*]

**Whitsunday** /ˈwɪt.sʌndaɪ/, -dɪ/ *n* a Christian feast on the 7th Sunday after Easter commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost [*ME* *Whitsunday*, fr *OE* *hwita sunnandæg*, *ht*, white Sunday, prob fr the custom of wearing white robes by the newly baptized, who were numerous at this season]

**Whitsuntide** /ˈwɪts(ə)n.tɪd/ *n* Whitsunday and Whitmonday and/or the days of public holiday celebrated together with or in place of these days

**whittle** /ˈwɪtl/ *n*, *archaic* or *dial* a large knife [*ME* *whittel*, alter of *thwitel*, fr *thwiten* to whittle, fr *OE* *thwitan*; akin to *ON* *thveita* to hew]

**whittle** *vb* **whittling** /ˈwɪtlɪŋ/, -ɪŋ/ *vt* 1a to pare or cut off chips from the surface of (wood) with a knife b to shape or form by so paring or cutting 2 to reduce, remove, or destroy gradually as if by cutting off bits with a knife, pare – usu + *down* or *away* (< ~ down expenses) ~ *vi* to cut or shape sthg, esp wood, (as if) by paring it with a knife – **whittler** *n*

**whity, whitey** /ˈwɪtɪ/ *adj* somewhat white, whitish – usu in combination (< ~ grey)

**whizz, whizz** /wɪz/ *vi* -zz- 1 to (move with a) buzz, whirr, or hiss like an

- arrow or ball passing through air 2 to move swiftly – infml [imit] – **whiz** *n*, **whizzer** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**whiz** *n* WIZARD 2 – infml [prob by shortening & alter]
- whizz-bang**, **whizz-bang** *n* 1 a high-explosive shell whose explosion is heard directly after the noise of its flight 2 sby or sthg conspicuously fast, noisy, or startling – infml or joun
- whizz kid**, **whizz kid** *n* sby who is unusually intelligent, clever, or successful, esp at an early age [<sup>1</sup>whiz]
- who** /hoo, strong hoooh/ *pron*, *pl* **who** 1 what or which person or people? 2 – used to introduce a restrictive or nonrestrictive relative clause in reference to a person or animal (<my father, ~ was a lawyer>), or to a human group, esp when a pl verb follows (<an orchestra ~ play the wartime hits – The Observer>) 3 archaic the person or people that, whoever *USE* often used as object of a verb or of a following preposition though still disapproved of by some (<a character ~ we are meant to pity – TLS> [ME, fr OE *hwā*, akin to OHG *hwer*, interrog pron, who, L *quis*, Gk *tis*, I. *qui*, relative pron, who] – **who is/was who** the identity of or the noteworthy facts about each of a number of people
- whoa** /woh ɔ, woh/ *interj* – used as a command (e.g. to a draught animal) to stand still [ME *whoo*, *who*]
- whodunit** also **whodunnit** /hoo'h'dunit/ *n* a play, film, or story dealing with the detection of crime or criminals [substandard or facetious *who done it?* who did it?]
- whoever** /hoo'h'eva/ *pron* 1 whatever person 2 no matter who 3 who in the world? – chiefly infml (<can it be?> *USE* (1&2) used in any grammatical relation except that of a possessive
- whole** /hohl/ *adj* 1a free of wound, injury, defect, or impairment, intact, unhurt, or healthy b restored 2 having all its proper constituents, unmodified (<~ milk>) 3 each or all of, entire (<made the ~ class stay in>) 4a constituting an undivided unit, unbroken (<the snake swallowed the rabbit ~>) b directed to (the accomplishment of) 1 end or aim (<we have concentrated our ~ efforts on it>) 5 very great – in a whole lot (<feels a ~ lot better now>) 6 having the same parents as another (<a ~ brother>) [ME *hool* healthy, unhurt, entire, fr OE *hal*, akin to OHG *heil* healthy, unhurt, ON *heilr*, OSla *cēliu*] – **wholeness** *n*
- <sup>2</sup>**whole** *n* 1 a complete amount or sum, sthg lacking no part, member or element (<the ~ of society>) 2 sthg constituting a complex unity, a coherent system or organization of parts – as a whole considered all together as a body rather than as individuals – on the whole 1 in view of all the circumstances 2 in most instances, typically
- whole food** /foohd/ *n* food (e.g. pulses and grains) in a simple and natural form that has undergone minimal processing and refining – compare *HEALTHY FOOD*, *JUNK FOOD*
- whole gale** *n* wind having a speed of 89 to 102 km/h (55 to 63 mph)
- wholehearted** /-hahtid/ *adj* earnestly committed or devoted, free from all reserve or hesitation – **wholeheartedly** *adv*
- whole hog** *n* the whole way or farthest limit – infml, chiefly in *go the whole hog*
- whole length** *adj* full-length
- whole meal** /-meel/ *adj* made with (flour from) ground entire wheat kernels
- whole note** *n*, *NAm* a semibreve
- whole number** *n* an integer
- whole sale** /-sayl/ *n* the sale of commodities in large quantities usu for resale (by a retailer) – compare *RETAIL*
- wholesale** *adj* or *adv* 1 (sold or selling) at wholesale 2 (performed) on a large scale, esp without discrimination (<~ slaughter>)
- whole saler** /-sayla/ *n* one who sells chiefly to retailers, merchants, or industrial, institutional, and commercial users mainly for resale or business use – **wholesale** *vb*
- wholesome** /-s(ə)m/ *adj* 1 promoting health or well-being of mind or spirit (<things that aren't ~ for the young>) 2 promoting health of body (<a light ~ diet>), also healthy (<~looking children>) 3 based on well-grounded fear, prudent (<a ~ respect for the law>) [ME *holsom*, *hoolsom*, fr *hol*, *hool* healthy, whole + *-som* -some] – **wholesomely** *adv*, **wholesomeness** *n*
- whole time** *adj* full-time
- whole tone** *n* a musical interval (e.g. C-D or G-A) comprising 2 semitones
- wholly** /hohl-li/ *adv* 1 to the full or entire extent, completely (<~ incompetent>) 2 to the exclusion of other things; solely (<a book dealing ~ with herbs>) [ME *hoolly*, fr *hool* whole]
- whom** /hoohm/ *pron*, *objective case* of **who** – used as an interrogative or relative; used as object of a preceding preposition (<to know for ~ the bell tolls – John Donne>); or less frequently as object of a verb or of a following preposition (<the man ~ you wrote to>) though now often considered stilted, esp as an interrogative and esp in oral use; occas used in the environment of a verb of which it might mistakenly be considered the subject (<taking no bets on ~ The Sex Symbol . is supposed to be – The Sun>) [ME, fr OE *hwam*, dat of *hwa* who]
- whomever** /hoohm'eva/ *pron*, *objective case* of **whoever**
- whomso** /hoohmsoh/ *pron*, *objective case* of **whoso**
- whomsoever** /hoohmsoh'eva/ *pron*, *objective case* of **whosoever**
- whoop** /woohp/ *vi* to utter or make a whoop ~ *vt* 1 to utter or express with a whoop 2 to urge or cheer on with a whoop [ME *whopen*, fr MF *houpper*, of imit origin] – **whoop it up** to celebrate notoriously, carouse – infml
- <sup>2</sup>**whoop** *n* 1 a loud yell expressive of eagerness, exuberance, or jubilation 2 the hoot of an owl, crane, etc 3 the crowing intake of breath following a paroxysm in whooping cough
- whoopee** /woo'pee/ *interj* – used to express exuberance [irreg fr <sup>1</sup>whoop]
- <sup>2</sup>**whoopee** /woopi/ *n* boisterous convivial fun – in *make whoopee*; infml
- whoopee cushion** *n* an inflatable trick cushion which produces a vulgar noise when sat on
- whooper swan** /hoo'hpə/ *n* a large white yellow-billed Old World swan with a loud ringing call
- whooping cough** /hoo'ping/ *n* an infectious bacterial disease, esp of children, marked by a convulsive spasmodic cough sometimes followed by a crowing intake of breath
- whooping crane** /hoo'ping/ *n* a large white nearly extinct N American crane noted for its loud mournful ringing call
- whoops** /woops, woohps/ *interj* oops
- whoosh** /woosh, woohsh/ *vi* or *n* (to move quickly with) a swift or explosive rushing sound (<cars ~ing along the motorway>) [imit]
- whop** /wop/ *vt* -pp- 1 to beat, strike 2 to defeat totally *USE* infml [ME *whappen*, alter of *wappen* to throw violently]
- whopper** /wopa/ *n* 1 sthg unusually large or otherwise extreme of its kind 2 an extravagant or monstrous lie *USE* infml [*whop* + -er]
- whopping** /'woping/ *adj* extremely big – infml (<won by a ~ majority>)
- <sup>2</sup>**whopping** *adv* very, extremely – infml (<a ~ great oil tanker>)
- whore** /haw/ *n* a prostitute [ME *hore*, fr OE *hore*; akin to ON *hōra* whore, *horr* adulterer, L *carus* dear – more at *CHARITY*]
- <sup>2</sup>**whore** *vi* 1 to have sexual intercourse outside marriage, esp with a prostitute 2 to pursue an unworthy or idolatrous desire (<growth was a false god which had been ~ d after for too long – The Guardian>)
- whoredom** /'hawd(ə)m/ *n* the practice of prostitution [ME *hordom* sexual immorality, idolatrous practices, fr ON *hōrdóm* adultery, fr *horr*]
- whore house** /-hows/ *n* a brothel
- whore master** /-mahstə/ *n*, *archaic* a man who consorts with prostitutes or is given to lechery
- whore monger** /-mʌŋg-gə/ *n* a whoremaster
- whorl** /wuhl, wawl/ *n* 1 an arrangement of similar anatomical parts (e.g. leaves) in a circle round a point on an axis (e.g. a stem)  PLANT 2 sthg spiral in form or movement, a swirl (<~s of smoke>) 3 a single turn of a spiral (shape) 4 a fingerprint in which the central ridges turn through at least 1 complete circle [ME *wharle*, *whorle* small pulley in a spinning machine, prob alter. of *whirl*, fr *whirlen* to whirl] – **whorled** *adj*
- whortleberry** /'wuhl(b)əri, -beri/ *n* a bilberry [alter. of earlier *hurtleberry*, fr ME *hurtleberye*, irreg fr OE *horte* whortleberry + ME *berye* berry]
- whose** /hoozh/ *adj* of whom or which, esp as possessor or possessors (<~ hat is this?>), agent or agents (<the courts, ~ decisions I uphold>), or object or objects of an action (<the factory in ~ construction they were involved>) [ME *whos*, gen of *who*, *what*]
- <sup>2</sup>**whose** *pron*, *pl* **whose** that which belongs to whom – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *whose* (<tell me ~ it was – Shak>)
- whosoever** /hoozh-soh'eva/ *adj*, *archaic* of **whomsoever**
- whoso** /hoozhsoh/ *pron*, *archaic* whoever
- whosoever** /hoozhsoh'eva/ *pron*, *archaic* whoever
- why** /wie/ *adv* for what cause, reason, or purpose? [ME, fr OE *hwȳ*, instrumental case of *hwæt* what – more at *WHAT*] – **why not** – used in making a suggestion (<why not boil them?>)
- <sup>2</sup>**why** *conj* 1 the cause, reason, or purpose for which (<that's ~ I'm so tired>) 2 on which grounds (<the reason ~ I left>)

**why** *n, pl whys* a reason, cause – chiefly in the *whys and wherefores* (<wants to know the ~s and wherefores>)

**why** *interj* – used to express mild surprise, hesitation, approval, disapproval, or impatience (<~, here's what I was looking for>) [*why*]

**whydah**, **whidah** /'wɪdə/ *n* any of various mostly black and white African weaver birds [alter (influenced by *Whydah*, town in Dahomey) of *widow* (bird); fr its dark plumage suggesting a widow's dress]


**wick** /wɪk/ *n* a cord, strip, or cylinder of loosely woven material through which a liquid (e.g. paraffin, oil, or melted wax) is drawn by capillary action to the top in a candle, lamp, oil stove, etc for burning [ME *weke*, *wicke*, fr OE *weoce*; akin to OHG *wiohha* wick, OIr *figim* I weave]

**wicked** /'wɪkɪd/ *adj* 1 morally bad, evil 2 disposed to mischief roguish (<a ~ grin> 3 very unpleasant, vicious, or dangerous (<a ~ waste>) – *informal* [ME, alter of *wicke* wicked, perh fr OE *wicca* wizard] – **wickedly** *adv*, **wickedness** *n*

**wicker** /'wɪkə/ *adj* or *n* (made of) interlaced osiers, twigs, canes, or rods (<a ~ basket> [n ME *wiker*, of Scandinavian origin, akin to Sw dial *wikter* willow, ON *veikr* weak – more at *weak*, *adj* fr n])

**wickerwork** /-wɪkə/ *n* (work consisting of) wicker

**wicket** /'wɪkɪt/ *n* 1 a small gate or door, esp one forming part of or placed near a larger one 2 an opening like a window, esp a grilled or grated window through which business is transacted (e.g. at a bank) 3 a small gate for emptying the chamber of a canal lock or regulating the amount of water passing through a channel 4a either of the 2 sets of stumps set 22yd (20.12m) apart, at which the ball is bowled and which the batsman defends in cricket b the area 12ft (3.66m) wide bounded by these wickets c a terminated innings of a batsman, also a partnership between 2 batsmen who are in at the same time (<the 4th ~ put on 57 runs>) d an innings of a batsman that is not completed or never begun (<won by 5 ~s>) 5 situation or set of circumstances – in on a good/bad wicket, on a sticky wicket, *informal* [ME *wiket*, fr ONF, of Gmc origin, akin to MD *wicket* wicket, OE *wican* to yield – more at *weak*]

**wicketkeeper** /-kiːpə/ *n* the fieldsmen in cricket who is stationed behind the batsman's wicket and whose object is to catch balls missed or hit with the edge of the bat by the batsman and to stump him if possible  *SHORT* – **wicketkeeping** *n*

**wickiup** /'wɪki,ʊp/ *n* a N American Indian hut made of reeds, grass, or brushwood [Fox *wikwip* dwelling]

**widdershins** /'wɪdəʃɪnz/ *adv* in a left-handed, wrong, or contrary direction, *specifically* anticlockwise [MLG *weddersinnes*, fr MHG *wider sinnes*, fr *widersinnen* to go back, fr *wider* back, against, again + *sinnen* to go]

**widdle** /'wɪdl/ *vi* **widdling** /'wɪdlɪŋ/ to urinate – *informal* [prob fr *wee-wee* + *piddle*]

**widdle** *n* (an act of passing) urine – *informal*

**wide** /waɪd/ *adj* 1a having great horizontal extent, vast (<a ~ area> b embracing much, *COMPREHENSIVE* 1 (<reaches a ~ public>) 2a having a specified width (3ft ~) b having much extent between the sides broad (<a ~ doorway>) c fully opened (<wide-eyed>) 3a extending or fluctuating over a considerable range (<a ~ variation>) b distant or deviating from sth specified (<his remark was ~ of the truth>) 4 of, occupying, passing through, or being a fielding position in cricket near a line perpendicular to and equidistant from each wicket (<~ mid-off>) 5 Br shrewd, astute slang (<the ~ boys>) [ME, fr OE *wide*, akin to OHG *wit* wide] – **widely** *adv*, **widen** *vb*, **wideness** *n*, **widish** *adj*

**wide** *adv* 1 over a great distance or extent, widely (<searched far and ~>) 2a so as to leave much space or distance between (<legs ~ apart>) b so as to miss or clear a point by a considerable distance (<the bullet went ~>) 3 to the fullest extent, completely – often as an intensive + *open*

**wide** *n* a ball bowled in cricket that is out of reach of the batsman in his normal position and counts as 1 run to his side

**wide** *comb form* (*n* – *adj*) over (a specified distance, area, or extent), throughout (a specified area or scope) (<a nationwide business>) (<expanded the business country-wide>)

**wide-angle** *adj* (having or using a camera with a lens) that has an angle of view wider than the ordinary

**wide-awake** *adj* 1 fully awake 2 alertly watchful, esp for advantages or opportunities

**wide-eyed** *adj* 1 amazed, astonished 2 marked by uncritical acceptance or admiration, naive (<~ innocence>)

**wide-screen** *adj* of or being a projected picture that is substantially wider than it is high

**wide-spread** /-spred/ *adj* 1 widely extended or spread out 2 widely diffused or prevalent (<~ public interest>)

**widgeon** also **wigeon** /'wɪdʒən/ *n, pl* **widgeons**, esp collectively **widgeon** (a

duck related to) an Old World freshwater dabbling duck the male of which has a chestnut head [origin unknown]

**widow** /'wɪdə/ *n* 1a a woman whose husband has died (and who has not remarried) b a woman whose husband spends much time away from her pursuing a specified (sporting) activity (<a golf ~>) 2 an extra (part of a) hand of cards dealt face down and usu placed at the disposal of the highest bidder 3 a single usu short last line (e.g. of a paragraph) at the top of a printed page or column [ME *widewe*, fr OE *wuduwe*; akin to OHG *witwa* widow, L *vidua* widow, *videre* to separate, Gk *eitheos* unmarried youth]

**widow** *vt* 1 to cause to become a widow 2 to deprive of sth greatly valued or needed

**widower** /'wɪdəʊə/ *n* a man whose wife has died (and who has not remarried) [ME *widewer*, alter of *wedow* widow, widower, fr OE *wuduwa* widower, akin to OE *wuduwe* widow]

**widowhood** /-hʊd/ *n* (the period during which a woman remains in) the state of being a widow

**widow's cruse** *n* an unfailing source of supply [fr the widow whose cruse of oil was made unfailing (1 Kings 17 14–16)]

**widow's mite** *n* a small gift, esp of money ungrudgingly given by one who can little afford it [fr the widow who cast 2 mites (a farthing) into the Temple treasury (Mark 12 42)]

**widow's peak** *n* a point formed by the downward growth of the hairline in the middle of the forehead

**width** /wɪθ/ *n* 1 the measurement taken at right angles to the length 2 largeness of extent or scope 3 a measured and cut piece of material (<a ~ of calico>) [*wide* + *th*]

**widthways** /weɪz/ *adv* in the direction of the width crosswise

**widthwise** /weɪz/ *adv* widthways

**wield** /weɪld/ *vi* 1 to handle (e.g. a tool) effectively (<~ a broom>) 2 to exert, exercise (<~ influence>) [ME *welden* to control fr OE *wieldan* akin to OHG *waltan* to rule, I *valere* to be strong, be worth] **wielder** *n*

**wiener** /'wiːnə/ *n*, *NAM* a frankfurter [short for *wienerswurst* fr G *fr wiener* of Vienna + *wurst* sausage]

**Wiener schnitzel** /'wiːnə ʃnɪtsəl/ *n* a thin breadcrumbed fried veal escalope [G, fr *wiener* + *schnitzel* cutlet]

**wife** /waɪf/ *n, pl* **wives** /wɪvz/ 1 a woman acting in a specified capacity – in combination (<fishwife>) 2 a married woman, esp in relation to her husband (<John's ~>) 3 dial a woman [ME *wif*, fr OF *wif* akin to OHG *wib* wife] **wifehood** *n*, **wifeless** *adj*

**wifelike** /'liːk/ *adj* wifely

**wifely** /li/ *adj* of or befitting a good wife **wifeliness** *n*

**wife-swapping** *n* the temporary exchange of sexual partners by 2 or more married couples

**wig** /wɪɡ/ *n* a manufactured covering of natural or synthetic hair for the (bald part of a) head [short for *perwig*] **wigged** *adj*, **wigless** *adj*

**wigeon** /'wɪdʒən/ *n, pl* **wigeons**, esp collectively **wigeon** a widgeon

**wiggling** /'wɪɡɪŋ/ *n* a severe scolding *informal* [*wig* (rebuke), perh fr *wigwig*]

**wiggle** /'wɪɡl/ *vb* **wiggling** /'wɪɡlɪŋ/ to (cause to) move with quick jerky or turning motions or smoothly from side to side (<his toes ~d>) [ME *wiglen*, fr or akin to MD or MLG *wiggelen* to totter, akin to OE *wegan* to move – more at *way*] – **wiggler** *n*

**wiggle** *n* 1 a wiggling movement 2 a wavy line a squiggle – **wiggly** *adj*

**wigwag** /'wɪɡwag/ *vb* -gg- *vi* to send a signal (as if) by waving a flag or light according to a code ~ *vt* 1 to signal by wigwagging 2 to cause to wigwag [E dial *wig* to move + E *wag*] – **wigwag** *n*

**wigwam** /'wɪɡwəm/ *n* a N American Indian hut having a framework of poles covered with bark, rush mats, or hides [Abnaki & Massachusetts *wikwam*]


**wilco** /'wɪlkə/ *interj* – used esp in radio and signalling to indicate that a message received will be complied with [*will comply*]

**wild** /waɪld/ *adj* 1a (of organisms) living in a natural state and not (ordinarily) tame, domesticated, or cultivated b(1) growing or produced without the aid and care of humans (<~ honey>) (2) related to or resembling a corresponding cultivated or domesticated organism (<~ strawberries>) 2 not (amenable to being) inhabited or cultivated 3a(1) free from restraint or regulation, uncontrolled (2) emotionally overcome (<~ with grief, also passionately eager or enthusiastic <was ~ about jazz>) (3) very angry, infuriated (<drove me ~ with his whining>) b marked by great agitation (<~ frenzy>), also stormy (<a ~ night>) c going beyond reasonable or conventional bounds, fantastic (<beyond my ~est dreams>) d indicative of strong passion or emotion (<a ~ gleam in his eyes>) 4 uncivilized, barbaric 5a deviating from the intended or regular course

- <the throw was ~> **b** having no logical basis, random <a ~ guess> **6** of a playing card able to represent any card designated by the holder [ME: wilde, fr OE, akin to OHG *wildi* wild, Wg *wyllt*] – **wildish** *adj.*, **wildly** *adv.*, **wildness** *n*
- 2** **wild** *n* 1 **WILDERNESS** 1a **2** a wild, free, or natural state or existence <living in the ~>
- 3** **wild** *adv.* in a wild manner e.g. a without regulation or control <rhododendrons growing ~> **b** off an intended or expected course
- wild** and **woolly** *adj.* 1 lacking refinement; uncivilized <a ~ town> **2** impractical, visionary <a ~ idealist>
- wild** **boar** *n* an Old World wild pig from which most domestic pigs have derived
- 1** **wildcat** /-kæt/ *n.* **pl** **wildcats**, (**1b**) **wildcats**, *esp* collectively **wildcat** **1a** either of 2 cats that resemble but are heavier in build than the domestic cat and are usu held to be among its ancestors. **b** any of various small or medium-sized cats (e.g. the lynx or ocelot) **2** a savage quick-tempered person **3** a wildcat oil or gas well
- 2** **wildcat** *adj.* 1 operating, produced, or carried on outside the bounds of standard or legitimate business practices <a ~ insurance scheme> **2** of or being an oil or gas well drilled in territory not known to be productive **3** initiated by a group of workers without formal union approval or in violation of a contract <a ~ strike>
- 3** **wildcat** *vi* -tt- to prospect and drill an experimental oil or gas well – **wildcatter** *n*
- wildebeest** /'wɪldəbeɪst, 'vɪl-/ *n.* **pl** **wildebeests**, *esp* collectively **wildebeest** a gnu [Afr *wildebees* (pl *wildebeeste*), fr *wilde* wild + *bees* ox, beast]
- wilderness** /'wɪldənɪs/ *n.* **1a** a (barren) region or area that is (essentially) uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings **b** an empty or pathless area or region <the ~s of space> **c** a part of a garden or nature reserve devoted to wild growth **2** a confusing multitude or mass **3** the state of exclusion from office or power [ME, fr *wildern* wild, fr OE *wildeorn* of wild beasts]
- wild-eyed** *adj.* 1 glaring wildly **2** excessively idealistic, impracticable <~ schemes>
- wildfire** /-fiə/ *n.* **1** sth that spreads very rapidly – usu in *like wildfire* **2** a phosphorescent glow (e.g. will-o'-the-wisp)
- wildfowl** /-fəʊl/ *n.* a wild duck, goose, or other game bird, esp a waterfowl – **wildfowler** *n.*, **wildfowling** *n.*
- wild-goose chase** *n.* a hopeless pursuit after sth unattainable
- wild** **horse** *n.* a horse of the Russian Steppes that is the sole surviving wild ancestor of the domestic horse
- wild hyacinth** *n.* a common European spring-flowering woodland plant of the lily family with spikes of blue drooping flowers, a bluebell
- wilding** /'wɪldɪŋ/ *n.* (the fruit of) a plant, esp a wild apple or crab apple, growing uncultivated [wɪld + -ing one belonging to or descended from such a kind, fr ME, fr OE]
- wildlife** /-laɪf/ *n* wild animals
- wild** **man** *n.* **1** a savage **2** a radical extremist
- wild** **oat** *n.* **1** a wild grass common as a weed in meadows – **PLANT** **2** *pl* offences and indiscretions of youth, esp premarital promiscuity – usu in *sow one's wild oats*
- wild** **silk** *n.* silk, produced by wild silkworms, that is coarser and stronger than cultivated silk
- wild** **thyme** *n.* a low-growing thyme with clusters of pink flowers
- wild** **type** *n.* the typical form of an organism as ordinarily encountered in contrast to atypical mutant individuals – **SYMBOL** – **wild-type** *adj.*
- wild** **West** *n.* the W USA in its frontier period
- wile** /wɪəl/ *n.* a deceitful or beguiling trick or stratagem – usu *pl* [ME *wil*, fr (assumed) ONF, prob of Gmc origin, akin to OE *wigle* divination more at *witch*]
- 3** **wile** *vi* **1** to lure, entice **2** to while [(2) by alter]
- wilful**, **NAM** chiefly **wilful** /'wɪlf(ə)l/ *adj.* **1** obstinately and often perversely self-willed **2** done deliberately, intentional – **wilfully** *adv.*, **wilfulness** *n*
- 1** **will** /wɪl/ *vb.* *pres sing & pl* **will**; *pres neg* **won't** /woʊnt/; *past* **would** /wʊd, strong wood/ *va* **1** – used to express choice, willingness, or consent or in negative constructions refusal <can find no one who ~ take the job> <if we ~ all do our best>, used in the question form with the force of a request <~ you please stop talking> or of an offer or suggestion <~ you have some tea?> **2** – used to express custom or inevitable tendency <accidents ~ happen>; used with emphatic stress to express exasperation <he ~ call the record player the 'gramophone' – John Fowles> **3** – used to express futurity <tomorrow morning I ~ wake up in this first-class hotel suite – Tennessee Williams> **4** can <the back seat ~ hold 3 passengers> **5** – used to express logical probability <that ~ be the milkman> **6** – used to express determination or to command or urge <I have made up my mind to go, and go I ~> <you ~ do as I say, at once> ~ *vi* **1** to wish, desire <whether we ~ or no> **2** archaic to be about to go <thither ~ I then – Sir Walter Scott> [ME (1 & 3 *sing.* *pres indic.*), fr OE *wille* (infinitive *wyllan*), akin to OHG *wili* (3 *sing.* *pres indic.*) *wills*, L *velle* to wish, will]
- 2** **will** *n.* **1** a desire, wish e.g. **a** a resolute intention <where there's a ~ there's a way> **b** an inclination <I did it against my ~> **c** a choice, wish <the ~ of the people> **2** what is wished or ordained by the specified agent <God's ~ be done> **3a** a mental power by which one (apparently) controls one's wishes, intentions, etc <has a ~ of her own> **b** an inclination to act according to principles or ends <the ~ to believe> **c** a specified attitude towards others <bear him no ill ~> **4** willpower, self-control <a man of iron ~> **5** a (written) legal declaration of the manner in which sby would have his/her property disposed of after his/her death [ME, fr OF *willa* will, desire, akin to OE *wille*] – **will-less** *adj.* – **at will** as one wishes, as or when it pleases or suits oneself
- will** *vt* **1** to bequeath **2a** to determine deliberately, purpose **b** to decree, ordain <Providence ~s it> **c** to (attempt to) cause by exercise of the will <~ed her to go away> ~ *vi* to exercise the will – **willer** *n*
- willie** /'wɪli/ *n.* **Br** a penis – euph [Willie, nickname for William]
- willies** /'wɪliːz/ *n.* **pl** nervousness, jitters – + *the*, *infrm* [origin unknown]
- willing** /'wɪlɪŋ/ *adj.* **1** inclined or favourably disposed in mind, ready <~ to work> **2** prompt to act or respond <a ~ horse> **3** done, borne, or given without reluctance <~ help> – **willingly** *adv.*, **willingness** *n*
- 2** **willing** *n* cheerful alacrity – in *show willing*
- will-o'-the-wisp** /'wɪl ə dʰə 'wɪsp/ *n.* **1** a phosphorescent light sometimes seen over marshy ground and often caused by the combustion of gas from decomposed organic matter **2** an enticing but elusive goal **3** an unreliable or elusive person [Will (nickname for William) + *of + the + wisp*]
- willow** /'wɪləʊ/ *n.* **1** any of a genus of trees and shrubs bearing catkins of petal-less flowers **2** an object made of willow wood, esp a cricket bat – *infrm* [ME *wilge*, *wilowe*, fr OE *welig*, akin to MHG *wilge* willow, Gk *helike*] – **willowlike** *adj.*
- willow, herb** /-hʌb/ *n.* any of a genus of plants of the evening-primrose family, esp *ROSEMARY WILLOWHERB*
- willow, pattern** *n.* china tableware decorated with a usu blue-and-white story-telling design of oriental style [fr the large willow tree in the design]
- willow, warbler** *n.* a small greenish Old World warbler
- willogy** /'wɪləʊ/ *adj.* **1** full of willows **2a** supple, pliant **b** gracefully tall and slender
- will, power** /-pəʊə/ *n* self-control, resoluteness
- willy-nilly** /'wɪli 'nɪli/ *adv* or *adj.* **1** by compulsion, without choice **2** (carried out or occurring) in a haphazard or random manner <distributed the gifts ~ among the crowd> [alter of *will I nill I* or *will ye nill ye* or *will he nill he*, arch *nill* (to be unwilling) fr ME *nilen*, fr OE *nyllan*, fr *ne* not + *wyllan* to wish]
- willy-willy** /'wɪli 'wɪli/ *n.* **Austr** a whirlwind [prob fr native name in Australia]
- Wilson's disease** /'wɪls(ə)nz/ *n.* a congenital disease, caused by an inability of the body to deal with copper in the diet, in which the liver degenerates and there is often severe mental disorder [Samuel Wilson †1937 E neurologist]
- wilt** /wɪlt/ *archaic pres 2 sing* of **WILL**
- 2** **wilt** *vi* **1** of a plant to lose freshness and become flaccid, droop **2** to grow weak or faint, languish ~ *vt* to cause to wilt [alter. of earlier *welk*, fr ME *welken*, prob fr MD, akin to OHG *erwelken* to wilt]
- 3** **wilt** *n* a disease of plants marked by wilting
- Wilton** /'wɪlt(ə)n/ *n.* (a carpet woven in) a weave in which the threads of the cut or uncut pile form an integral part of the carpet structure – compare *AXMINSTER* [Wilton, town in Wiltshire, England]
- wily** /'wɪli/ *adj.* full of wiles; crafty – **wilily** *adv.*, **willness** *n*
- wimple** /'wɪmpl/ *vt* or *n* **wimpling** /'wɪmpl-ɪŋ/ (to cover with or as if with) a cloth covering worn over the head and round the neck and chin, esp by women in the late medieval period and by some nuns [n ME *wimpel*, fr OE, akin to OE *wipian* to wipe; *vb* fr *n*]
- Wimpy** /'wɪmpi/ *trademark* – used for a fried hamburger served in a plain bread bun
- 1** **win** /wɪn/ *vb* -na-; **won** /wʊn/ *vi* **1a** to gain the victory in a contest, succeed <always ~s at chess> **b** to be right in an argument, dispute, etc,

- also to have one's way (OK, you ~, we'll go to the theatre) 2 to succeed in arriving at a place or a state – esp in to win free ~ vt 1a to get possession of by qualities or fortune (< ~ their approval) (won £10) b to obtain by effort; earn (< striving to ~ a living from the soil) 2a to gain (as if) in battle or contest (< ~ the victory) b to be the victor in (won the war) 3a to solicit and gain the favour of; also to persuade – usu + over or round b to induce (a woman) to accept oneself in marriage 4 to obtain (e.g. ore, coal, or clay) by mining 5 to reach by expenditure of effort (< ~ the summit) [ME *winnen*, fr OE *winnan* to struggle, akin to OHG *winnan* to struggle, L *venus* love, charm] – **winnable** *adj*
- \*win** *n* 1 a victory or success, esp in a game or sporting contest 2 first place at the finish, esp of a horse race
- wince** /wɪnz/ *vi* to shrink back involuntarily (e.g. from pain), flinch [ME *wenchen* to be impatient, dart about, fr (assumed) ONF *wencher*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *wankon* to totter, OE *wincian* to wink] – **wince** *n*
- wincey** /wɪnsi/ *n* a plain or twilled fabric, usu with a cotton or linen warp and wool weft, used esp for shirts and nightclothes [alter. of *linsey* (linsey-woolsey)]
- wincyyette** /wɪnsi'et/ *n* a lightweight usu cotton fabric napped on 1 or both sides
- \*winch** /wɪnʃ/ *n* 1 any of various machines or instruments for hoisting or pulling; a winlass 2 a crank or handle for giving motion to a machine (e.g. a grindstone) [ME *wincche* roller, reel, fr OE *wince*, akin to OE *wincian* to wink]
- \*winch** *vi* to hoist (as if) with a winch – often + *up* – **winner** *n*
- \*wind** /wɪnd/ *n* 1 a (natural) movement of air, esp horizontally  ENERGY 2 a force or agency that carries along or influences; a trend (< the ~s of change) 3a BREATH 4 (< the fall knocked the ~ out of him) b BREATH 2a (< soon recovered his ~) c the pit of the stomach 4 gas generated in the stomach or the intestines 5 mere talk, idle words 6 air carrying a scent (e.g. of a hunter or game) 7a musical wind instruments collectively, esp as distinguished from stringed and percussion instruments b *sing or pl in constr* the group of players of such instruments 8 (a compass point corresponding to) a direction from which the wind may blow [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *wint* wind, L *ventus*, Gk *aenai* to blow, Skt *vaiti* it blows] – **windless** *adj*, **windlessly** *adv*, **windiness** *n* – before the wind in the same direction as the main force of the wind – close to the wind 1 as nearly as possible against the main force of the wind 2 close to a point of danger, near the permissible limit – have the wind up to be scared or frightened – in the wind about to happen, astir, afoot – off the wind away from the direction from which the wind is blowing – on the wind towards the direction from which the wind is blowing – put the wind up to scare, frighten – under the wind 1 to leeward 2 in a place protected from the wind; under the lee
- \*wind** /wɪnd/ *vt* 1 to detect or follow by scent 2 to make short of breath 3 to rest (e.g. a horse) in order to allow the breath to be recovered
- \*wind** /wɪnd/ *vt* **winded**, **wound** /wəʊnd/ to sound (e.g. a call or note) on a horn ['wind]
- \*wind** /wɪnd/ *vb* **wound** /wəʊnd/ also **winded** *vi* 1 to bend or warp 2 to have a curving course, extend or proceed in curves (< path ~s down the hill) 3 to coil, twine 4 to turn when lying at anchor 5 to undergo winding (< car window won't ~) ~ vt 1a to surround or wrap with sth pliable (< ~ the baby in a shawl) b to turn completely or repeatedly, esp about an object; coil (< ~ wool into a ball) c(1) to hoist or haul by means of a rope or chain and a windlass (2) to move (a ship) by hauling on a capstan d(1) to tighten the spring of (< ~ the clock) (2) to put into the specified state or position by winding (< ~ the speedometer back) e to raise to a high level (e.g. of excitement or tension) – usu + *up* (< wound himself up into a frenzy) 2 to make (one's way or course) (as if) by a curving route [ME *winden*, fr OE *windan* to twist, move with speed or force, brandish; akin to OHG *wintan* to wind, Umbrian *ohavendu* let him turn aside] – **winder** /'wɪndə/ *n*
- \*wind** /wɪnd/ *n* a coil, turn
- windage** /'wɪndɪdʒ/ *n* 1 the difference between the diameter of the bore of a gun and that of the projectile cylinder 2 the amount of sight deflection necessary to compensate for wind displacement in aiming a gun ['wind]
- windbag** /'wɪnd,bæg/ *n* an excessively talkative person – **infrm**
- windblown** /'wɪnd,bloʊn/ *adj* blown by the wind; esp shaped or deformed by the prevailing winds (< ~ trees)
- windbreak** /'wɪnd,breɪk/ *n* sth (e.g. a growth of trees or a fence) that breaks the force of the wind
- \*wind-broken** /'wɪnd-/ *adj*, of a horse broken-winded
- \*wind, burn** /-bu:n/ *n* irritation caused by wind on the skin – **wind-burned**, **windburnt** *adj*
- \*wind, cheater** /-cheɪtə/ *n*, chiefly Br a weatherproof or windproof coat or jacket; an anorak
- \*wind, chill** /-chɪl/ *n* the still-air temperature with the same cooling effect on exposed human flesh as a given combination of temperature and wind speed
- \*wind, cone** /wɪnd/ *n* a wind-sock
- wind down** /wɪnd/ *vi* to become gradually more relaxed, unwind ~ *vt* to bring to an end gradually, cause to cease (< are winding down their operations in France)
- windfall** /'wɪnd,fɔ:l/ *n* 1 sth, esp a fruit, blown down by the wind 2 an unexpected gain or advantage, esp a legacy
- \*wind, flower** /-fləʊz/ *n* ANEMONE 1, esp WOOD ANEMONE
- \*wind, gall** /-gawl/ *n* a soft tumour or swelling on a horse's leg in the region of the fetlock joint – **windgalled** *adj*
- \*wind, hover** /-həʊvə/ *n*, Br a kestrel
- winding** /'wɪndɪŋ/ *n* 1 material (e.g. wire) wound or coiled about an object (e.g. an armature), also a single turn of the wound material 2 the manner of winding sth 3 a curved course, line, or progress (< the ~s of the path) ['WIND + -ING] – **windingly** *adv*
- \*winding-sheet** /'wɪndɪŋ-/ *n* a sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial
- \*wind, instrument** /wɪnd/ *n* a musical instrument (e.g. a trumpet, clarinet, or organ) sounded by wind, esp a musical instrument sounded by the player's breath
- windjammer** /'wɪnd,dʒamə/ *n* 1 a large fast square-rigged sailing vessel 2 Br a windcheater
- \*windlass** /'wɪnd,læs/ *n* any of various machines for hoisting or hauling e.g. a horizontal drum supported on vertical posts and turned by a crank so that the hoisting rope is wound round the drum b a steam, electric, etc winch with a horizontal or vertical shaft and 2 drums, used to raise a ship's anchor [ME *wyndlas*, alter. of *wyndas*, fr ON *vindass*, fr *vinda* to wind + *áss* pole, akin to OHG *wintan* to wind]
- \*windlass** *vi* to hoist or haul with a windlass
- windlestraw** /'wɪndl,straʊ/ *n*, Scot & N Eng a dry thin stalk of grass [(assumed) ME, fr OE *windelstreaw*, fr *windel* basket (fr *windan* to wind) + *streaw* straw]
- \*windmill** /'wɪnd,mɪl/ *n* 1 a mill operated by vanes that are turned by the wind  ENERGY 2 a toy consisting of lightweight vanes that revolve at the end of a stick
- \*windmill** *vb* to (cause to) move like a windmill
- wind off** /wɪnd/ *vt* to remove by unwinding
- window** /'wɪndəʊ/ *n* 1 an opening, esp in the wall of a building, for admission of light and air that is usu fitted with a frame containing glass and capable of being opened and shut  ARCHITECTURE 2 a pane (e.g. of glass) in a window 3 sth (e.g. a shutter, opening, or valve) suggestive of or functioning like a window 4 a transparent panel in an envelope, through which the address on the enclosure is visible 5 a range of wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum that can pass through a planet's atmosphere 6 an interval of time within which a rocket or spacecraft must be launched to accomplish a particular mission 7 an area at the limits of the earth's atmosphere through which a spacecraft must pass for successful reentry [ME *windowe*, fr ON *vindauga*, fr *vindr* wind + *auga* eye, akin to OE *wind* & to OE *eage* eye – more at EYE] – **windowless** *adj*
- \*window, box** *n* a box for growing plants on the (outside) sill of a window
- \*window, dress** *vt* to make appear more attractive or favourable by distortion or skilful presentation [back-formation fr *window dressing*]
- \*window, dressing** *n* 1 the display of merchandise in a shop window 2 the means by which sth is made superficially more attractive or favourable – **window dresser** *n*
- \*window, shop** *vi* to look at the displays in shop windows for amusement or to assess goods, prices, etc – **window-shopper** *n*
- windpipe** /'wɪnd,pɪp/ *n* the trachea – not used technically  DIGESTION
- \*wind, rose** /wɪnd/ *n* a diagram showing for a given place the relative frequency and usu strength of winds from different directions [G *windrose* compass card]
- windrow** /'wɪndrəʊ/ *n* a row of hay, grain, etc raked up to dry
- windscreen** /'wɪnd,skrɪn/ *n*, Br a transparent screen, esp of glass, at the front of a (motor) vehicle
- windshield** /'wɪnd,ʃi:ld/ *n*, NAm a windscreen
- \*wind, sleeve** /wɪnd/ *n* a wind-sock



- 'wind-sock** /wind/ *n* a truncated cloth cone that is open at both ends and mounted on a pole and is used to indicate the direction of the wind, esp at airfields
- 'Windsor chair** /winzə, 'windzə/ *n* a wooden chair with a spindle back, legs that slant outwards, and usu a slightly concave seat [*Windsor*, town in England]
- 'wind-surfing** /wind/ *n* the sport of sailing with sailboards
- windswept** /'wind.swept/ *adj* 1 swept by wind (< *a ~ beach*) 2 dishevelled (as if) from being exposed to the wind (< *a ~ appearance*)
- 'wind tunnel** /wind/ *n* a tunnel-like apparatus through which air is blown at a known velocity to determine the effects of wind pressure on an object placed in the apparatus
- wind up** /wiend/ *vt* 1 to bring to a conclusion, *specif* to bring (a business) to an end by liquidation 2 to put in order settle 3 **WIND** 1d(1) 4 *Br* to deceive playfully, pull (someone's) leg – *slang* ~ *vi* 1a to come to a conclusion b to arrive in a place, situation, or condition at the end of or because of a course of action (< wound up a millionaire) 2 to give a preliminary swing to the arms (e.g. before bowling)
- windward** /'windwood/ *adj, adv, or n* (in or facing) the direction from which the wind is blowing – compare **ILLWARD**
- windy** /'windi/ *adj* 1a windswept b marked by strong or stormy wind 2 **ILLUSTRATION** 1 3 verbose, bombastic 4 *chiefly Br* frightened, nervous *infrml* – **windily** *adv*, **windiness** *n*
- 'wine** /wi:n/ *n* 1 fermented grape juice containing varying percentages of alcohol together with ethers and esters that give it bouquet and flavour 2 the usu fermented juice of a plant or fruit used as a drink (< *rice ~*) 3 sthg that invigorates or intoxicates 4 the colour of red wine [*ME* *win*, *fr* *OE* *win* akin to *OHG* *win* wine both *fr* a prehistoric *Gmc* word borrowed *fr* *L* *vinum* wine, of non *IE* origin, akin to the source of *Gk* *oinos* wine]
- 'wine** *vb* to entertain with or drink wine – *usu* in *wine and dine*
- wine bar** *n, Br* an establishment providing wine and usu food for consumption on the premises
- wine cellar** *n* a room for storing wines, also a stock of wines
- wine gallon** *n* a US unit of liquid capacity equal to 8 US pt (about 3.785l)
- wine glass** /-gləz/ *n* any of several variously shaped and sized drinking glasses for wine, that usu have a rounded bowl and are mounted on a stem and foot
- wine grower** /-grəʊə/ *n* a person who cultivates a vineyard and makes wine **wine growing** *n*
- wine merchant** *n, Br* a wholesale dealer in alcoholic drinks, esp wine
- winery** /'wi:nəri/ *n, chiefly NAM* a wine-making establishment
- wine taster** *n* a person who evaluates wine by tasting
- wine tasting** *n* a promotional occasion at which sellers of wine offer (potential) customers a chance to sample their products prior to purchase
- winery** /'wi:nəri/ *adj* winy
- 'wing** /wiŋ/ *n* 1a (a part of a nonflying bird or insect corresponding to) any of the movable feathered or membranous paired appendages by means of which a bird, bat, or insect flies  **ANATOMY** b any of various body parts (e.g. of a flying fish or flying lemur) providing means of limited flight 2 an appendage or part resembling a wing in shape, appearance, or position e.g. a any of various projecting anatomical parts b a sidepiece at the top of a high-backed armchair c a membranous, leaflike, or woody expansion of a plant, esp along a stem or on a seed pod d any of the aerofolios that develop a major part of the lift which supports a heavier-than-air aircraft e *Br* a mudguard, esp when forming an integral part of the body of a motor vehicle 3 a means of flight – *usu* pl with *wing* meaning (< *far lent me ~*) 4 a part of a building projecting from the main or central part 5a any of the pieces of scenery at the side of a stage b pl the area at the side of the stage out of sight of the audience 6a a left or right flank of an army or fleet b(1) any of the attacking positions or players on either side of a centre position in certain team sports (2) the left or right section of a playing field that is near the sidelines 7 *sing or pl in constr* a group or faction holding distinct opinions or policies within an organized body (e.g. a political party) – compare **LEFT WING**, **RIGHT WING** 8 *pl* a pilot's badge, esp in the British armed forces 9 an operational and administrative unit of an air force, *specif* a unit of the Royal Air Force higher than a squadron and lower than a group [*ME* *winge*, of *Scand* origin, akin to *Dan & Sw* *vinge* wing, akin to *Skt* *vat* it blows – more at **'WIND**] – **wingless** *adj*, **winglike** *adj*, **winglet** *n* – in the wings in the background, in readiness to act – on the wing in flight, flying – under one's wing under one's protection, in one's care
- 'wing** *vt* 1a to fit with wings b to enable to fly or move swiftly 2a to wound in the wing b to wound (e.g. with a bullet) without killing (< *ed by a sniper*) 3a to traverse (as if) with wings b to make (one's way) by flying ~ *vi* to go (as if) with wings, fly
- 'wing case** *n* an elytron
- wing chair** *n* an upholstered armchair with a high solid back and sidepieces that provide a rest for the head and protection from draughts
- wing commander** *n*  **RANK**
- wingding** /'wiŋ.dɪŋ/ *n, chiefly NAM* 1 a wild, lively, or lavish party 2 a pretended fit or illness *USE* *infrml* [origin unknown]
- winge** /wiŋ/ *vi* to whinge
- winged** /wiŋd/ *adj* 1 having or using wings – often in combination (< *~ seeds*) (< *strong-winged*) 2 swift, rapid
- winger** /'wiŋə/ *n, chiefly Br* a player (e.g. in soccer) in a wing position
- wing-footed** *adj* swift poetic (< *a ~ messenger*)
- 'wing nut** *n* a nut that has projecting wings or flanges so that it may be turned by finger and thumb
- 'wing span** /-span/ *n* the distance from the tip of one of a pair of wings to that of the other
- 'wink** /wiŋk/ *vi* 1 to shut 1 eye briefly as a signal or in teasing, also, of an eye to shut briefly 2 to avoid seeing or noting sthg – *usu* + *at* (< *at his absence*) 3 to gleam or flash intermittently, twinkle ~ *vt* to cause (one's eye) to wink [*ME* *winken*, *fr* *OE* *wincian*, akin to *OHG* *winchan* to stagger, wink, *L* *vacillare* to sway – more at **PREVARICATE**]
- 'wink** *n* 1 a brief period of sleep, a nap (< *didn't get a ~ all night*) 2 an act of winking 3 the time of a wink an instant (< *quick as a ~*) 4 a hint or sign given by winking – *infrml* (< *the bloke tipped him the ~* – Richard Llewellyn)
- winkle** /'wiŋkl/ *n* **PERIWINKLE**
- winkle out** *vt* **winkling** /'wiŋkliŋ/, **winkling** /'wiŋkliŋ/ *chiefly Br* to displace or extract from a position also to discover or identify with difficulty (< *winkling out the facts about the country's stocks of coal* – *The Observer*) [*winkle* *fr* the process of extracting a wrinkle from its shell]
- 'winkle-picker** *n, chiefly Br* a (man's) shoe with a pointed toe  **CHARMANT**
- winner** /'wi:nə/ *n* sthg (expected to be) successful (< *this new scheme is a real ~*) – *infrml* [**'WIN** + **ER**]
- 'winning** /'wi:nɪŋ/ *n* 1a the act of sby or sthg that wins, victory b acquisition, gaining 2 *pl* money won by success in a game or competition
- 'winning** *adj* tending to please or delight (< *a ~ smile*) – **winningly** *adv*
- winnow** /'wi:nəʊ/ *vt* 1a to get rid of (sthg undesirable or unwanted), remove – often + *out* b to separate, sift (< *a mass of evidence*) 2 to remove waste matter from (e.g. grain) by exposure to a current of air 3 to blow on, fan (< *the wind ~ing his thin white hair* – *Time*) ~ *vi* 1 to separate chaff from grain by exposure to a current of air 2 to separate desirable and undesirable elements [*ME* *winewen*, *fr* *OE* *windwian* to fan, winnow, akin to *OHG* *winton* to fan, *L* *vannus* winnowing fan, *ventus* wind – more at **'WIND**] – **winnowing** *n*
- winno** /'wi:nəʊ/ *n, pl winos* *chiefly NAM* an alcoholic, esp one addicted to wine – *infrml*
- win out** *vi* **WIN THROUGH**
- winsome** /'wi:ns(ə)m/ *adj* pleasing and engaging, often because of a childlike charm and innocence [*ME* *winsum*, *fr* *OE* *wynsum*, *fr* *wynn* joy, akin to *OHG* *wunna* joy, *L* *venus* love – more at **win**] – **winsomely** *adv*, **winsomeness** *n*
- 'winter** /'wi:ntə/ *n* 1 the season between autumn and spring comprising in the N hemisphere the months December, January, and February 2 the colder part of the year 3 a year – *usu* pl (< *happened many ~s ago*) 4 a period of inactivity or decay [*ME*, *fr* *OE*, akin to *OHG* *wintar* winter] – **winterless** *adj*, **winterlike** *adj*
- 'winter** *adj* 1 of, during, or suitable for winter (< *a ~ holiday*) 2 sown in autumn and harvested the following spring or summer (< *wheat*) – compare **SUMMER**
- 'winter** *vi* to pass or survive the winter ~ *vt* to keep or feed (e.g. livestock) during the winter
- winter aconite** *n* a small Old World plant of the buttercup family with bright yellow flowers that often bloom through snow
- winter garden** *n* a garden, either outside or in a conservatory, containing plants that flourish in winter
- 'winter, green** /-grɛn/ *n* 1 any of several perennial evergreen plants

- related to the heaths 2 (the flavour of) an essential oil from a winter-green
- winter-ize**, *-ize* /wɪntəraɪz/ *vt* to make ready for or proof against winter weather – *winterization* /-ˈzaɪz(ə)n/ *n*
- winter quarters** *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a winter residence or station of a military unit, circus, etc
- winter 'sport** *n* a usu open-air sport on snow or ice (e.g. skiing or tobogganing)
- win through** *vi* to reach a desired or satisfactory end, esp after overcoming difficulties
- wintry, wintry** /wɪnt(ə)rɪ/ *adj* 1 characteristic of winter; cold, stormy 2a weathered (as if) by winter, aged, hoary b chilling, cheerless (a bitter ~ smile) – *wintrily* *adv*, *wintriness* *n*
- winy, winy** /wiːni/ *adj* having the taste or qualities of wine
- 'wipe** /wɪp/ *vt* 1a to clean or dry by rubbing, esp with or on sthg soft (< ~ the dishes) b to draw or pass for rubbing or cleaning (< ~d a cloth over the table) c to put into the specified state by rubbing (< ~ your hands dry) 2a to remove (as if) by rubbing (< ~ that smile off your face) b to erase completely; obliterate (< ~ the scene from his memory) 3 to spread (as if) by wiping (< ~ grease on my skates) [ME *wipen*, fr OE *wipian*, akin to OHG *wifan* to wind round, L *vibrare* to vibrate] – *wipe the floor* with to defeat decisively
- 'wipe** *n* 1 an act or instance of wiping 2 power or capacity to wipe
- 'wipe-clean** *adj* that can be cleaned merely with a wipe
- 'wipe-out** /-oʊt/ *n* a fall from a surfboard caused usu by loss of control
- wipe out** *vt* 1 to clean the inside of (sthg hollow) by wiping 2 to destroy completely; annihilate 3 to obliterate, cancel
- wiper** /ˈwɪpə/ *n* 1a sthg (e.g. a towel or sponge) used for wiping b a mechanically operated rubber strip for cleaning windscreens 2a cam, also a tappet [ˈWIPE + ˌER]
- 'wire** /waɪə/ *n* 1 metal in the form of a usu very flexible thread or slender rod 2a a line of wire for conducting electrical current b a telephone or telegraph wire or system c a telegram, cablegram 3 a barrier or fence of usu barbed wire 4 *pl*, chiefly NAm strings (that woman behind the president pulling the ~s) [ME, fr OE *wir*; akin to OHG *wiara* fine gold, L *viere* to plait, Gk *irris* rainbow] – *wirelike* *adj*
- 'wire** *vt* 1 to provide or connect with wire or wiring 2 to send or send word to by telegraph ~ *vi* to send a telegraphic message – *wirable* *adj*, *wirer* *n*
- wired** /waɪəd/ *adj* 1 reinforced or bound with wire 2 provided with wires (e.g. for electric connections) 3 fenced with wire 4 chiefly NAm addicted (to a drug) (< ~ on heroin) – *slang*
- 'wire, draw** /-draʊ/ *vt* *wiredrew* /-druːh/, *wiredrawn* /-draʊn/ to spin out to excessive subtlety; attenuate (< ~n comparisons)
- 'wire, gauge** *n* a gauge for measuring the diameter of wire
- 'wire, gauze** *n* a thin fabric of fine wire mesh
- 'wire-haired** /-hed/ *adj*, esp of a dog having a stiff wiry coat of hair
- 'wireless** /ˈwaɪə-lɪs/ *adj*, chiefly Br of radiotelegraphy, radiotelephony, or radio [ˈWIRE + -LESS]
- 'wireless** *n* 1 WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY 2 chiefly Br RADIO 1, 2, 3d
- 'wireless** *vt*, chiefly Br to radio
- 'wireless telegraphy** *n* the wireless transmission and reception of signals, usu voice communications, by means of electromagnetic waves
- 'wireman** /-mən/ *n*, *pl wiremen* /-mɛn/ a maker of or worker with wire, esp one who wires electric or electronic circuitry
- 'wire 'netting** *n* a network of coarse woven wire
- 'wire 'rope** *n* a rope formed wholly or chiefly of wires
- 'wire, tap** /-tæp/ *n* an electrical connection for wiretapping
- 'wire, tapping** /-tæpɪŋ/ *n* the act or an instance of tapping a telephone or telegraph wire
- 'wire 'wool** *n* an abrasive material consisting of fine wire strands woven into a mass and used for scouring esp kitchen utensils (e.g. pans)
- 'wire, worm** /-wɜːm/ *n* the slender hard-coated larva of various click beetles, destructive esp to plant roots
- wiring** /ˈwaɪərɪŋ/ *n* a system of wires, esp an arrangement of wires that carries electric currents
- wirra** /ˈwɪrə/ *interj*, Irish – used to express lament, grief, or concern [oh *wirra*, fr IrGael *a Muire*, lit., O Mary]
- wirly** /ˈwɪə-ri/ *adj* 1 resembling wire, esp in form and flexibility 2 lean and vigorous; sinewy – *wirly* *adv*, *wiriness* *n*
- wisdom** /ˈwɪzd(ə)m/ *n* 1a accumulated learning; knowledge b the thoughtful application of learning; insight c good sense; judgment (< had the ~ to refuse> 2 the teachings of the ancient wise men [ME, fr OE *wisdōm*, fr *wis* wise]
- 'Wisdom of Solomon** /ˈsɒləmən/ *n* a didactic book included in the Protestant Apocrypha
- 'wisdom, tooth** *n* any of the 4 molar teeth in humans which are the last to erupt on each side at the back of each jaw [fr its being cut usu at an age when one may have acquired some wisdom]
- 'wise** /wɪz/ *n* manner, way (<in any ~> [ME, fr OE *wise*, akin to OHG *wisa* manner, Gk *eidōs* form, *idein* to see – more at *WIT*]
- 'wise** *adj* 1a characterized by or showing wisdom; marked by understanding, discernment, and a capacity for sound judgment b judicious, prudent (<not ~ to eat oysters> 2 well-informed (<I'm none the ~> 3 possessing inside knowledge, shrewdly cognizant – often + to (<was ~ to what was happening> 4 archaic skilled in magic or divination [ME *wis*, fr OE *wis*; akin to OHG *wis* wise, OE *witan* to know – more at *WIT*] – *wisely* *adv*, *wiseness* *n*
- wise** /-wɪz/ *comb form* (*n* → *adv*) 1a in the manner of (<entered the room crabwise> b in the position or direction of (<a clockwise movement> <laid it out lengthwise> 2 with regard to, in respect of (<careerwise it's a good idea> [ME, fr OE *-wisan*, fr *wise* manner]
- wiseacre** /ˈwɪzəkeɪ/ *n* one who pretends to be clever or knowledgeable, SMART ALEC [MD *wyssegger* soothsayer, modif of OHG *wizzago*, akin to OE *witega* soothsayer, *witan* to know]
- wisecrack** /ˈwɪzəkɹæk/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a sophisticated or knowing witicism – *infrm* – *wisecracker* *n*
- 'wise, guy** *n* a conceited and self-assertive person, esp a know-it-all – *infrm* (<OK ~, you try and fix it>)
- wisent** /ˈveɪzənt/ *n* the European bison [G, fr OHG *wisant*, *wisunt* – more at *BISON*]
- wise up** *vb* to (cause to) become informed or aware – *infrm*
- 'wish** /wɪʃ/ *vt* 1 to express the hope that sby will have or attain (sthg) (<I ~ them success>, esp to bid (< ~ him good night> 2a to give form to (a wish) b to feel or express a wish for, want (<I ~ to be alone> c to request in the form of a wish, order (<he ~s us to leave> ~ *vi* 1 to have a desire – usu + *for* 2 to make a wish (< ~ on a star> [ME *wissen*, fr OE *wyscan*, akin to OHG *wunsken* to wish, L *venus* love, charm – more at *WIN*] – *wisher* *n* – *wish on/upon* 1 to hope or will that (sby else) should have to suffer (a difficult person or situation) 2 to confer or foist (sthg unwanted) on (sby)
- 'wish** *n* 1a an act or instance of wishing or desire, a want (<his ~ to become a doctor> b an object of desire, a goal (<you got your ~> 2a an expressed will or desire (<obeyed their ~es> b an expressed greeting – usu *pl* (<send my best ~es> 3 a ritual act of wishing (<made a ~>)
- 'wish, bone** /-boʊn/ *n* a forked bone in front of the breastbone of a bird consisting chiefly of the 2 clavicles fused at their lower ends [fr the superstition that when 2 people pull it apart the one getting the longer piece will have a wish granted]
- 'wishful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1a expressive of a wish b having a wish, desirous 2 according with wishes rather than reality (< ~ thinking> – *wishfully* *adv*, *wishfulness* *n*
- wishy-washy** /ˈwɪʃi, ˈwɒʃi/ *adj* 1 lacking in strength or flavour 2 lacking in character or determination, ineffectual *USE* *infrm* [redupl of *washy*]
- wisp** /wɪsp/ *n* 1 a small handful, esp, chiefly Br a pad of hay or straw for grooming an animal 2a a thin separate streak or piece (<a ~ of smoke> b sthg frail, slight, or fleeting (<a ~ of a girl> 3 a flock of birds (e.g. snipe) [ME] – *wispish* *adj*, *wisply* *adv*, *wisplike* *adj*, *wispy* *adj*
- wisteria** /ˈwɪstɪəriə-, ˈsteɪ-, ˈwɪstəriə/ *n* any of a genus of chiefly Asiatic climbing plants with showy blue, white, purple, or rose flowers like those of the pea [NL, genus name, fr Caspar *Wistar* †1818 US physician]
- wistful** /ˈwɪstf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 full of unfulfilled desire; yearning 2 musingly sad, pensive [blend of *wishful* and obs *wistly* (intently), prob fr *'whist* + -ly] – *wistfully* *adv*, *wistfulness* *n*
- wit** /wɪt/ *n* 1 reasoning power; intelligence (<past the ~ of man to understand> <slow ~s> 2a mental soundness; sanity (<frightened her out of her ~s> b mental resourcefulness, ingenuity (<was at my ~s end> 3a the ability to relate seemingly disparate things so as to illuminate or amuse (b1) a talent for banter or raillery (2) repartee, satire 4 a witty individual 5 archaic a person of superior intellect, a thinker 6 archaic SENSE 2 – usu *pl* (<alone and warming his five ~s, the white owl in the belfry sits> – Alfred Tennyson) *USE* (1&2) often *pl* with *sing.* meaning [ME, fr OE; akin to OHG *wizzi* knowledge, OE *witan* to know, L *videre* to see, Gk *eidenai* to know, *idein* to see]
- witch** /wɪtʃ/ *n* 1 one who is credited with supernatural powers; esp a

woman practising witchcraft 2 an ugly old woman, a hag 3 a charming or alluring woman – no longer in vogue [ME *wicche*, fr OE *wicca*, masc, wizard & *wicce*, fem, witch, akin to MHG *wicken* to bewitch, OE *wigle* divination, OHG *wih* holy – more at VICIIM] – **witchlike** *adj*, **witchy** *adj*

**'witchcraft** /-ˈkraɪf/ *n* (the use of) sorcery or magic

**'witch doctor** *n* a professional sorcerer, esp in a primitive tribal society

**witchery** /ˈwɪtʃəri/ *n* witchcraft

**'witches'-broom** *n* an abnormal tufted growth of small branches on a tree or shrub caused esp by fungi or viruses

**witchetty**, **witchetty grub**, **witchety** /ˈwɪtʃəti/ *n* any of various large white grubs regarded by Australian Aborigines as a delicacy [native name in Australia]

**'witch hazel** *n* (a soothing mildly astringent lotion made from the bark of) any of a genus of shrubs with slender-petalled yellow flowers borne in late autumn or early spring [*witch*, *wych* (a tree with plant branches), fr ME *wyche*, fr OE *wice*, *wic*]

**'witch-hunt** *n* the searching out and harassment of those with unpopular views – **witch-hunter** *n*, **witch-hunting** *n* or *adj*

**witching** /ˈwɪtʃɪŋ/ *adj* of or suitable for witchcraft (<the very ~ time of night - Shak>)

**witenagemot**, **witenagemote** /ˈwɪtənəˈɡemot, -ˈmɔː-/ *n* an Anglo-Saxon council convened from time to time to advise the king [OE *witena gemot*, fr *witena* (gen pl of *wita* sage, adviser) + *gemot* assembly, fr *ge-* (perfective prefix) + *mot* assembly]

**with** /wɪð/ *prep* 1a in opposition to, against (<had a fight ~ his brother> b so as to be separated or detached from (<I disagree ~ you> 2a in relation to (<the Italian frontier ~ Yugoslavia> b – used to indicate the object of attention, behaviour or feeling (<in love ~ her> c in respect to, so far as concerns (<the trouble ~ this machine> – sometimes used redundantly (<get it finished ~> d – used to indicate the object of an adverbial expression of imperative force (<off ~ his head> 3a – used to indicate accompaniment or association (<live ~ the gypsies> b – used to indicate one to whom a usu reciprocal communication is made (<talking ~ a friend> c – used to express agreement or sympathy (<must conclude, ~ him, that the painting is a forgery> d able to follow the reasoning of (<are you ~ me?> 4a on the side of, for (<vote ~ the government> b employed by (<he's a salesman ~ ICT> 5a – used to indicate the object of a statement of comparison, equality, or harmony (<level ~ the street> (<dress doesn't go ~ her shoes> b as well as (<can ride ~ the best of them> c in addition to – used to indicate combination (<his money, ~ his wife's, comes to a million> d inclusive of (<costs £5 ~ tax> 6a by means of, using b through the effect of (<pale ~ anger> 7a – used to indicate manner of action (<ran ~ effort> b – used to indicate an attendant or contributory circumstance (<stood there ~ his hat on> c in possession of, having, bearing (<came ~ good news> d in the possession or care of (<the decision rests ~ you> e so as to have or receive (<got off ~ a light sentence> 8a – used to indicate a close association in time (<~ the outbreak of war they went home> b in proportion to (<the pressure varies ~ the depth> 9a notwithstanding, IN SPITE OF (<love her ~ all her faults> b EXCEPT FOR 2 (<very similar, ~ 1 important difference> 10 in the direction of (<~ the wind> [ME, against, from, with, fr OE, akin to OE *wither* against, OHG *widar* against, back, Skt *vi* apart]

**withal** /wɪðəwəl/ *adv* 1 together with this, besides 2 on the other hand, nevertheless [ME, fr *with* + *all*, *al* all]

**withdraw** /wɪðˈdraʊ/ *vb* **withdrew** /-ˈdruːh/, **withdrawn** /-ˈdraʊn/ *vt* 1a to draw back, away, or aside, remove (<~ one's hand> b to remove (money) from a place of deposit 2 to take back, retract (<~ my offer> ~ *vi* 1a to go back or away; retire from participation b to retreat 2 to become socially or emotionally detached (<had ~ n into himself> 3 to retract a statement [ME, fr *with* from + *drawen* to draw] – **withdrawable** *adj*

**withdrawal** /wɪðˈdraʊəl/ *n* 1a the act or an instance of withdrawing b(1) social or emotional detachment (2) a pathological retreat from objective reality (e.g. in some schizophrenic states) 2a removal of money or other assets from a place of deposit or investment b the discontinuance of use of a drug, often accompanied by unpleasant side effects

**withdrawing room** /wɪðˈdraʊɪŋ/ *n*, **archaic** DRAWING ROOM

**withdrawn** /wɪðˈdraʊn/ *adj* 1 secluded, isolated 2 socially detached and unresponsive, also shy – **withdrawnness** *n*

**with** /wɪθ/ *n* a slender flexible branch or twig used esp for binding things together [ME, fr OE *withthe*, akin to OE *withig* withy]

**wither** /ˈwɪðə/ *vi* 1 to become dry and shrivel (<~ from loss of bodily moisture 2 to lose vitality, force, or freshness ~ *vt* 1 to cause to wither 2 to make speechless or incapable of action; stun (<ed him with a look

– Dorothy Sayers> [ME *widren*, prob akin to ME *weder* weather] – **withering** *adj*, **witheringly** *adv*

**withers** /ˈwɪðəz/ *n* pl the ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse or other quadruped – ANATOMY [prob fr obs *wither-* (against), fr ME, fr OE, fr *wither* against, fr the withers being the parts which resist the pull in drawing a load]

**withershins** /ˈwɪðəˌʃɪnz/ *adv* widdershins [by alter]

**withhold** /wɪðˈhoʊld/ *vt* **withheld** /-ˈheld/ 1 to hold back from action, check 2 to refrain from granting or giving (<~ permission> [ME *witholden*, fr *with* from + *holden* to hold – more at WITH] – **withholder** *n*

**'within** /wɪðɪn/ *adv* 1 in or into the interior, inside (<enquire ~> 2 in one's inner thought, mood, or character [ME *withinne*, fr OE *withinnan*, fr *with* + *innan* inwardly, within, fr *in*]

**'within** *prep* 1 inside – used to indicate enclosure or containment, esp in sth large (<~ the castle walls> 2 – used to indicate situation or circumstance in the limits or compass of e.g. a(1) before the end of (<gone ~ a week>) (2) since the beginning of (<been there ~ the last week>) b(1) not beyond the quantity, degree, or limitations of (<lives ~ his income>) (2) in or into the scope or sphere of (<~ his rights>) (3) in or into the range of (<~ reach>) (4) – used to indicate a specific difference or margin (<~ a mile of the town>) 3 to the inside of; into

**'within** *n* an inner place or area (<revolt from ~>)

**'with-it** *adj* up-to-date, fashionable – infml; no longer in vogue

**'without** /wɪðəwɪt/ *prep* 1 – used to indicate the absence or lack of or freedom from sthg (<go ~ sleep> (<did it ~ difficulty> 2 outside – now chiefly poetic [ME *withoute*, fr OE *withutan*, fr *with* + *utan* outside, fr *ut* out]

**'without** *adv* 1 with sthg lacking or absent (<has learned to do ~> 2 on or to the exterior, outside – now chiefly poetic

**'without** *conj*, chiefly dial unless (<~ you have a stunt, what is there? – Punch>)

**'without** *n* an outer place or area (<seen from ~>)

**withstand** /wɪðˈstænd/ *vt* **withstood** /-ˈstʊd/ 1 to resist with determination, esp to stand up against successfully 2 to be proof against (<boots won't ~ the wet> [ME *withstanden*, fr OE *withstandan*, fr *with* against + *standan* to stand – more at WITH]

**withy** /ˈwɪði/ *n* 1 OSIER 1 2 a vine of osier [ME, fr OE *withig*; akin to OHG *wida* willow, L *vitis* vine, *viere* to plait – more at WIRE]

**witless** /ˈwɪtlɪs/ *adj* 1 lacking wit or understanding, foolish 2 CRAZY 1

**witling** /ˈwɪtlɪŋ/ *n* a would-be wit

**'witness** /ˈwɪtnɪs/ *n* 1 testimony 2 sby who gives evidence, specif before a tribunal 3 sby asked to be present at a transaction so as to be able to testify to its having taken place 4 sby who personally sees or hears an event take place 5a sthg serving as evidence, a sign (<these low marks are ~ to their lack of application> b public affirmation by word or example of usu religious faith or conviction 6 cap a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses [ME *witnesse*, fr OE *witnes* knowledge, testimony, witness, fr *wit*]

**'witness** *vt* 1 to testify to 2 to act as legal witness of (e.g. by signing one's name) 3 to give proof of, betoken (<his appearance ~es what he has suffered> – often in the subjunctive (<has suffered badly, as ~ his appearance>) 4 to observe personally or directly; see for oneself (<~ed the historic event>) 5 to be the scene or time of (<structures which this striking Dorset hilltop once ~ed - TLS> ~ *vi* 1 to bear witness 2 to bear witness to one's religious convictions (<opportunity to ~ for Christ - Billy Graham>)

**'witness-box** *n*, chiefly Br an enclosure in which a witness testifies in court

**'witness stand** *n*, NAm a witness-box

**-witted** /-ˈwɪtɪd/ *comb form* (*adj* → *adj*) having wit or understanding of the specified kind (<dull-witted>)

**witticism** /ˈwɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n* a witty and often ironic remark [witty + -ism (as in criticism)]

**witty** /ˈwɪti/ *adj* 1 amusingly or ingeniously clever in conception or execution (<a ~ musical theme> 2 having or showing wit (<a ~ speaker> 3 quick to see or express illuminating or amusing relationships or insights – **wittily** *adv*, **wittiness** *n*

**wives** /ˈwɪvz/ *pl* of WIFE

**wiz** /wɪz/ *n* WIZARD 2 – infml

**'wizard** /ˈwɪzəd/ *n* 1 a man skilled in magic 2 one who is very clever or skilful, esp in a specified field (<a ~ at maths> – infml [ME *wysard* wise man, fr *wis*, *wys* wise]

**'wizard** *adj*, chiefly Br great, excellent – infml

**wizardry** /ˈwɪzədri/ *n* the art or practices of a wizard; sorcery

**wizen** /ˈwɪz(ə)n/ *vb* to (cause to) become dry, shrunken, and wrinkled, often as a result of aging – usu in past [ME *wisenen*, fr OE *wisnian*; akin to OHG *wesanan* to wither, L *viere* to twist together, plait – more at WIRE]

**wo** /woh/ *interj* whoa

**woad** /wohd/ *n* (a European plant of the mustard family formerly grown for) the blue dyestuff yielded by its leaves [ME *wod*, fr OE *wād*, akin to OHG *weit* woad, L *vitrum* woad, glass]

**wobble** /ˈwɒbl/ *vb* **wobbling** /ˈwɒbl-ɪŋ, ˈwɒbl-ɪŋ/ *vi* 1a to proceed with an irregular swerving or staggering motion (< d down the road on his bicycle) b to rock unsteadily from side to side c to tremble, quaver 2 to waver, vacillate ~ *vt* to cause to wobble [prob fr LG *wabbeln*, akin to OE *wæfre* restless – more at WAYER] – **wobbler** *n*, **wobbliness** *n*, **wobbly** *adj*

**wobble** *n* 1 an unequal rocking motion 2 an act or instance of vacillating or fluctuating

**Wodehouseian** /ˈwɒd.həʊs.i.ən, -i.ən, -i.ən/ *adj* of or suggesting the writings of P G Wodehouse, esp in depicting upper-class foolishness [P G Wodehouse †1979 E comic novelist]

**wodge** /wɒj/ *n*, *Br* a usu bulky mass or chunk – *infrml* < a ~ of papers > [prob alter of wedge]

**woe** /woh/ *interj* – used to express grief, regret, or distress [ME *wa*, *wo*, fr OE *wag*; akin to ON *ver*, *interj*, *woe*, L *vae*]

**woe** *n* 1 great sorrow or suffering caused by misfortune, grief, etc 2 a calamity, affliction – usu pl < economic ~s > [ME *wo*, fr *wo*, *interj*]

**wobegone** /ˈwɒb.ɡən/ *adj* expressive of great sorrow or misery (a ~ look) [ME *wo begon*, fr *wo*, *n* + *begon*, pp of *begin* to go about, beset, fr OE *began*, fr *be- + gan* to go – more at GO]

**woeful** also **woful** /ˈwɒf(ə)l/ *adj* 1 feeling or expressing woe (< prophecies) 2 inspiring woe; grievous (< it was ~ to see him spoiling it – Henry James) – **woefully** *adv*, **woefulness** *n*

**wog** /wɒɡ/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a nonwhite person, broadly any dark-skinned foreigner – *derog* [prob short for *goliwog*]

**woggle** /ˈwɒɡl/ *n*, chiefly *Br* a usu leather band used to secure a scout's neckerchief at the throat [origin unknown]

**wok** /wɒk, wɒk/ *n* a bowl-shaped cooking utensil used esp for stir-frying Chinese food [Chin (Cant) *wók*]

**woke** /woh/ *past* of WAKE

**woken** /ˈwɒkən/ *past part* of WAKE

**wold** /wohd/ *n* 1 an upland area of open country 2 *pl*, *cap* a hilly or rolling region – in names of various English geographical areas (< the Yorkshire Wolds) [ME *wald*, *wold*, fr OE *weald*, *wald* forest; akin to OHG *wald* forest]

**wolf** /woolf/ *n*, *pl* **wolves** /ˈwʊlvz/, (I) **wolves**, esp collectively **wolf** 1 (the fur of) any of various large predatory flesh-eating mammals that resemble the related dogs, prey on livestock, and usu hunt in packs – compare COYOTE, JACKAL 2 a fiercely rapacious person 3a dissonance in some chords produced on instruments with fixed notes tuned by unequal temperament (e.g. organs and pianos) b a harshness due to faulty vibration in various notes in a bowed instrument 4 a man who pursues women in an aggressive way – *infrml* [ME, fr OE *wulf*; akin to OHG *wolf*, L *lupus*, Gk *lykos*; (3) G, fr the howling sound] – **wolflike** *adj* – **keep the wolf from the door** to avoid or prevent starvation or want – **wolf in sheep's clothing** one who cloaks a hostile intention with a friendly manner

**wolf** *vt* to eat greedily; devour – often + *down*

**wolf, cub** *n*, *Br* *cub* SCOUT – no longer used technically

**wolf, dog** *n* 1 any of various large dogs formerly kept for hunting wolves 2 the offspring of a wolf and a domestic dog

**wolf, fish** /-fɪʃ/ *n* any of several large ferocious sea blennies with strong teeth

**wolf, hound** /-ˈhoʊnd/ *n* any of several large dogs used, esp formerly, in hunting large animals (e.g. wolves)

**wolfish** /ˈwʊlfɪʃ/ *adj* befitting or suggestive of a wolf (e.g. in savage appearance, fierceness, or greed) – **wolfishly** *adv*, **wolfishness** *n*


**wolf, ram** /ˈwʊlfɪʃ/ *n* 1 tungsten 2 wolframite [G]

**wolframite** /ˈwʊlfɪʃ.mɪt/ *n* a brownish-black mineral containing tungsten, iron, and manganese [G *wolframit*, fr *wolfram*]

**wolfbane** /ˈwʊlf.bɛɪn/ *n* a (yellow-flowered Eurasian) aconite

**wolf, spider** *n* any of various active wandering ground spiders

**wolf, whistle** *n* a distinctive whistle sounded by a man to express sexual admiration for a woman – **wolf-whistle** *vi*

**Wolof** /ˈwʊlof/ *n* a Niger-Congo language of Senegambia  LAN GUAGE

**wolverine** /ˈwʊlvərɪn/ *n*, *pl* **wolverines**, esp collectively **wolverine** (the

blackish fur of) a strong ferocious flesh-eating mammal of northern forests and tundra [prob irreg fr *wolv-* (as in *wolves*)]

**woman** /ˈwʊmən/ *n*, *pl* **women** /ˈwɪmɪn/ 1a an adult female human as distinguished from a man or child b a woman belonging to a particular category (e.g. by birth, residence, membership, or occupation) – usu in combination < councilwoman > 2 womankind 3 distinctively feminine nature; womanliness (< there's something of the ~ in him >) 4a a charwoman (< the daily ~ >) b a personal maid, esp in former times 5a a female sexual partner, esp a mistress b GIRLFRIEND 1 – chiefly *derog* [ME, fr OE *wifman*, fr *wif* woman, wife + *man* human being, man] – **womanless** *adj*

**womanhood** /-ˈhʊd/ *n* 1a the condition of being an adult female as distinguished from a child or male b the distinguishing character or qualities of a woman or of womankind 2 women, womankind

**womanish** /ˈwʊmənɪʃ/ *adj* unsuitable to a man or to a strong character of either sex; effeminate (< ~ fears >) [WOMAN + -ISH] – **womanishly** *adv*, **womanishness** *n*


**womanize, -ise** /ˈwʊmənɪz/ *vi* to associate with many women habitually, esp for sexual relations – **womanizer** *n*

**woman, kind** /-ˈki:nd/ *n* sing or *pl* in *constr* female human beings, women as a whole, esp as distinguished from men

**womanlike** /-ˈli:k/ *adj* womanly

**womanlike** *adv* in the manner of a woman

**womanly** /-li/ *adj* having or exhibiting the good qualities befitting a woman – **womanliness** *n*

**womb** /woʊm/ *n* 1 the uterus  REPRODUCTION 2a a hollow enveloping cavity or space b a place where sth is generated [ME *wamb*, *womb*, fr OE, akin to OHG *wamba* belly] – **wombed** /woʊmd/ *adj*

**wombat** /ˈwɒmbət/ *n* any of several stocky Australian marsupial mammals resembling small bears [native name in New South Wales, Australia]

**womble** /ˈwɒmbəl/ *n* any of a group of public-spirited furry fictional creatures that live on Wimbledon Common where they collect litter [the *Wombles*, creatures in children's books by Elisabeth Beresford †1970 E writer]

**womenfolk** /ˈwɪmɪn.fɒk/ also **womenfolks** *n pl* 1 women in general 2 the women of a family or community

**women, kind** /-ˈki:nd/ *n* womankind

**Women's Institute** *n* a British organization of women who meet regularly and engage in various social and cultural activities

**women's lib** /lɪb/ *n*, often *cap* W&L WOMEN'S LIBERATION

**Women's Liberation** *n* a modern feminist movement stressing the social and psychological emancipation of women as well as the improvement of their civil and legal status

**women's rights** *n pl* legal, political, and social rights for women equal to those of men

**won** /wʊn/ *past* of WIN

**won** /wʊn/ *n*, *pl* **won** -ɪŋ Korea (North), & Korea (South) at NATIONALITY [Korean *wān*]

**wonder** /ˈwʊndə/ 1a a cause of astonishment or admiration, a marvel (< it's a ~ he wasn't killed >) b a miracle 2 rapt attention or astonishment at sth unexpected, strange, new to one's experience, etc (< gazed in ~ at the snow >) [ME, fr OE *wundor*; akin to OHG *wuntar* wonder]

**wonder** *adj* noted for outstanding success or achievement (< ~ drugs >)

**wonder** *vi* 1a to be in a state of wonder, marvel at b to feel surprise (< I shouldn't ~ if he's late >) 2 to feel curiosity or doubt, speculate (< ~ about his motives >) – *vi* to be curious or in doubt about – with a clause (< ~ who she is >) – **wonderer** *n*

**wonderful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 exciting wonder; astonishing (< a sight ~ to behold >) 2 unusually good; admirable – **wonderfully** *adv*, **wonderfulness** *n*

**wonder, land** /-ˈlænd/ *n* 1 a fairylike imaginary place 2 a place that excites admiration or wonder

**wonderment** /-ˈmɛnt/ *n* 1 astonishment, marvelling 2 a cause of or occasion for wonder 3 curiosity


**wonder, struck** /-ˈstrʊk/ *adj* overcome with wonder; astonished

**wonder, worker** *n* a performer of wonders – **wonder-working** *adj*

**wondrous** /ˈwʊndrəs/ *adj* wonderful – poetic [alter. of ME *wonders*, fr gen of *wonder*] – **wondrously** *adv*, *archaic*, **wondrously** *adv*, **wondrousness** *n*

**wonky** /ˈwɒŋki/ *adj*, *Br* *awry*, crooked; also shaky, unsteady (< he's still a bit ~ after the flu >) – *infrml* [alter. of E dial. *wankle*, fr ME *wankel*, fr OE *wancol*]

**wont** /wohnt/ *adj* 1 accustomed, used (< places where people are ~ to meet >) 2 inclined, apt (< her letters are ~ to be tedious >) **USE** + to and


- infin; fml [ME *woned*, *wont*, fr pp of *wonen* to dwell, be used to, fr OE *wunian*; akin to OHG *wonen* to dwell, be used to, L *venus* love, charm – more at WIN]
- wont** *n* customary practice – fml <according to my ~>
- won't** /woʊnt/ will not
- wonted** /'wɒntɪd/ *adj* customary, habitual – used attributively; fml <spoke with his ~ slowness> – **wontedly** *adv*, **wontedness** *n*
- woo** /woʊ/ *vt* 1 to try to win the affection of and a commitment of marriage from (a woman); court 2 to solicit or entreat, esp with importunity ~ *vi* to court a woman [ME *wowen*, fr OE *wōgian*] – **wooer** *n*
- wood** /wʊd/ *n* 1 a dense growth of trees, usu greater in extent than a copse and smaller than a forest – often pl with sing. meaning 2a a hard fibrous plant tissue that is basically xylem and makes up the greater part of the stems and branches of trees or shrubs beneath the bark b wood suitable or prepared for some use (e.g. burning or building)  ENERGY 3 sthg typically made of wood. (e.g. a golf club with a wooden head b a wooden cask <wine from the ~> c 'bowl 1 [ME *wode*, fr OE *widu*, *wudu*, akin to OHG *witu* wood, OIr *fid* tree] – not see the wood for the trees to be unable to see broad outlines because of a mass of detail – out of the wood *Br* escaped from peril or difficulty
- wood** *adj* 1 WOODEN 1 2 suitable for cutting, stoning, or carrying wood <a ~ saw>
- wood alcohol** *n* methanol
- wood anemone** *n* a common Eurasian anemone that grows esp in woodland and has white or pinkish flowers
- woodbine** /'wʊd,bɪn/ *n* 1 honeysuckle 2 VIRGINIA CREEPER [ME *wodebinde*, fr OE *wudubinde*, fr *wudu* wood + *bindan* to tie, bind, fr its winding round trees]
- woodblock** /'wʊd,blok/ *n* a woodcut – **wood-block** *adj*
- woodblock** *adj*, of a floor made of parquet
- woodchuck** /-tʃʊk/ *n* a thickset N American marmot [by folk etymology fr Ojibwa *otichig* fisher, marten, or Cree *otcheck*]
- wood coal** *n* lignite
- woodcock** /-kɒk/ *n*, pl **woodcocks**, esp collectively **woodcock** an Old World long-billed wading bird of wooded regions that is related to the sandpipers and shot at game
- woodcraft** /-kraʊt/ *n* 1 skill and practice in anything relating to woods or forests, esp in surviving, travelling, and hunting 2 skill in shaping or making things from wood
- woodcut** /-kʊt/ *n* (a print taken from) a relief-printing surface consisting of a wooden block with a design cut esp in the direction of the grain – compare WOOD ENGRAVING
- woodcutter** /-kʊtə/ *n* one who chops down trees
- woodcutting** /-kʊtɪŋ/ *n* the action or occupation of cutting wood or timber
- wooded** /'wʊdɪd/ *adj* covered with growing trees
- wooden** /'wʊd(ə)n/ *adj* 1 made or consisting of or derived from wood 2 lacking ease or flexibility, awkwardly stiff – **woodenly** *adv*, **woodenness** *n*
- wood engraving** *n* (a print taken from) a relief-printing surface consisting of a wooden block with a design cut esp against the grain – compare WOODCUT
- woodenhead** /-hed/ *n* a blockhead
- woodenheaded** /-hedɪd/ *adj* dense, stupid
- wooden spoon** *n* a consolation or booby prize
- wood hyacinth** *n*, *NAm* WILD HYACINTH
- wood ibis** *n* a large American wading bird that frequents wooded swamps
- woodland** /-lænd/ *n* land covered with trees, scrub, etc – often pl with sing. meaning – **woodland** *adj*, **woodlander** *n*
- woodlark** /-lɑ:k/ *n* a small European lark with a melodious song usu delivered during flight
- woodlouse** /-ləʊz/ *n*, pl **woodlice** /-lɪs/ a small ground-living crustacean with a flattened elliptical body often capable of rolling into a ball – in defence
- woodman** /-mæn/ *n* a woodsman; specif a forester or woodcutter
- woodpecker** /-pe:kə/ *n* any of numerous usu multicoloured birds with very hard bills used to drill holes in the bark or wood of trees to find insect food or to dig out nesting cavities
- woodpigeon** /-pɪjɪn/ *n* a large European wild pigeon
- woodpile** /-pi:l/ *n* a pile of wood (e.g. firewood) – in the woodpile doing or responsible for secret mischief <the No 1 villain in the woodpile – Howard Whitman>
- wood pulp** *n* pulp from wood used in making cellulose derivatives (e.g. paper or rayon)
- woodruff** /'wʊd,rʌf/ *n* any of several plants of the madder family; esp a small European sweet-scented plant used in perfumery and for flavouring wine [ME *woderove*, fr OE *wudurofe*, fr *wudu* wood + *-rofe* (perh. akin to OHG *raba* turnip) – more at 'RAPE]
- wood screw** *n* a pointed screw that has an external screw thread and a slotted head to receive the blade of a screwdriver
- woodshed** /-shed/ *n* a shed for storing wood, esp firewood
- woodsman** /'wʊdzmæn/ *n* one who lives in, frequents, or works in the woods
- wood sorrel** *n* any of a genus of plants with acid sap, esp a stemless plant of shady places with leaves made up of 3 leaflets that is sometimes held to be the original shamrock
- wood spirit** *n* methanol
- wood wasp** *n* any of various wasplike insects with larvae that burrow in woody plants
- woodwind** /-,wɪnd/ *n* 1 any of a group of wind instruments (e.g. a clarinet, flute, or saxophone) that is characterized by a cylindrical or conical tube of wood or metal, usu with finger holes or keys, that produces notes by the vibration of a single or double reed or by the passing of air over a mouth hole 2 sing or pl in constr the woodwind section of a band or orchestra – often pl with sing. meaning
- woodwork** /-,wʊh/ *n* 1 work made of wood, esp wooden interior fittings (e.g. mouldings or stairways) 2 the craft of constructing things from wood – **woodworker** *n*, **woodworking** *adj*
- woodworm** /-,wʊhm/ *n* an insect larva, esp that of the furniture beetle, that bores in dead wood, also an infestation of woodworm
- woody** /'wʊdi/ *adj* 1 overgrown with or having many woods 2a of or containing (much) wood, wood fibres, or xylem <~ plants> b of a plant stem tough and fibrous 3 characteristic of or suggestive of wood <wine with a ~ flavour> – **woodiness** *n*
- woody nightshade** *n* bittersweet
- woof** /wʊf/ *n* 1 the weft 2 a basic or essential element or material [alter of ME *oof*, fr OE *owef*, fr *ō-* (fr *on*) + *wefan* to weave – more at WEAWE]
- woof** /wʊf/ *vi* or *n* (to make) the low gruff sound characteristic of a dog [imit]
- woofer** /'wʊfə/ *n* a loudspeaker that responds mainly to low frequencies – compare TWEETER
- wool** /wʊl/ *n* 1 the soft wavy coat of various hairy mammals, esp the sheep, that is made up of keratin fibres covered with minute scales 2 sthg, esp a garment or fabric, made of wool <I always wear ~ in the winter> 3a a dense felted hairy covering, esp on a plant b a wiry or fibrous mass (e.g. of steel or glass) – usu in combination [ME *wolle*, fr OE *wull*; akin to OHG *wella* wool, L *vellus* fleece, *lana* wool, *lanugo* down] – **woolled**, **wooled** *adj*
- wool gathering** /-gæð(ə)rɪŋ/ *n* indulging in idle daydreaming – **woolgather** *vi*, **woolgatherer** *n*
- woollen**, *NAm* chiefly **woolen** /'wʊlən/ *adj* 1 made of wool 2 of or for the manufacture or sale of woollen products <~ mills> <the ~ industry>
- woollen**, *NAm* chiefly **woolen** *n* 1 a fabric made of wool 2 pl garments of woollen fabric
- woolly**, *NAm* also **wooly** /'wʊli/ *adj* 1 (made) of or resembling wool; also bearing (sthg like) wool 2a lacking in clearness or sharpness of outline <a ~ TV picture> b marked by mental vagueness or confusion <~ thinking> 3 boisterously rough – chiefly in *wild and woolly* – **woollily** *adv*, **woolliness** *n*
- woolly**, **woolie**, *NAm* also **wooly** *n*, chiefly *Br* a woollen jumper or cardigan
- woolly bear** *n* any of various rather large very hairy caterpillars of (tiger) moths
- woolpack** /'wʊl,pæk/ *n* 1 a bale of wool 2 a rounded cumulus cloud rising from a horizontal base
- wool sack** /-sæk/ *n* the official seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords
- wool sorter's disease** /'wʊl,sawtəz/ *n* lung anthrax resulting esp from inhalation of bacterial spores from contaminated wool or hair
- wool stapler** *n* sby who grades raw wool before selling it to a manufacturer
- woomera** /'wʊməɹə/ *n* a wooden rod that has a hooked end and is used by Australian aborigines for throwing a spear [native name in Australia]
- woosh** /wʊʊʃ/ *vi* or *n* (to make) a swishing sound [imit]
- woozy** /'wʊʊzi/ *adj* 1 mentally unclear or hazy 2 dizzy or slightly

nauseous *USE* infml [perh fr woolly + dizzy] – *woozily adv*, *wooziness n*

**wop** /wop/ *n*, often *cap* an Italian – chiefly derog [It dial *guappo* blusterer, swaggerer, bully]

**Worcester 'sauce** /'woostə/ *n* a pungent sauce containing soy sauce, vinegar, and spices [Worcester, Worcestershire, former county of England (now Hereford and Worcester) where it was orig made]

**Worcestershire 'sauce** /'woostəʃaɪə, -ʃə/ *n* WORCESTER SAUCE

**'word** /wʊhd/ *n* 1a sth that is said *b pl* (1) talk, discourse (<putting one's feelings into ~s> (2) the text of a vocal musical composition *c* a short remark, statement, or conversation (<would like to have a ~ with you> 2a a meaningful unit of spoken language that can stand alone as an utterance and is not divisible into similar units; also a written or printed representation of a spoken word that is usu set off by spaces on either side (<the number of ~s to a line>)  ALPHABET *b* a string of adjacent binary digits that is typically longer than a byte and is processed by a computer as a unit (<a 16-bit ~> 3 an order, command (<don't move till I give the ~> 4 often *cap* a the divine wisdom manifest in the creation and redemption of the world, and identified in Christian thought with the second person of the Trinity *b* GOSPEL *c* the expressed or manifested mind and will of God 5a news, information (<sent ~ that he would be late> *b* rumour (<~ has it that they're leaving> 6 the act of speaking or of making verbal communication (<in ~ and deed> 7 a promise (<kept her ~> 8 *pl* a quarrelsome utterance or conversation (<been having ~s with my wife> 9 a verbal signal; a password 10 the most appropriate description (<'hot' wasn't the ~ for it> [ME, fr OE, akin to OHG *wort* word, L *verbum*, Gk *eirein* to say, speak] – *wordless adj* – from the word go from the beginning – *in a word* *IN SHORT* – *in a word* *in so many words* in exactly those terms (<implied that such actions were criminal but did not say so in so many words> – *my word* – used to express surprise or astonishment – of one's word that can be relied on to keep a promise – used only after *man* or *woman* (<a man of his word>)

**'word** *vt* to express in words; phrase

**'word-blindness** *n* 1 alexia 2 dyslexia

**'word-for-'word** *adj*, of a report or translation in or following the exact words; *verbatim* – *word for word* *adv*

**'wording** /'wʊdɪŋ/ *n* the act or manner of expressing in words (<the exact ~ of the will>)

**'word-mouth** *n* oral communication

**'word-perfect** *adj* having memorized sthg perfectly

**'word picture** *n* a graphic verbal description


**'wordplay** /-ˌpleɪ/ *n* verbal wit

**word processor** *n* a machine for producing typewritten text that uses a microprocessor and data storage device to carry out certain typing tasks automatically – *word processing* *n*

**'word square** *n* a series of words of equal length arranged in a square pattern to read the same horizontally and vertically

**'wordy** /wʊdi/ *adj* using or containing (too) many words – *wordily adv*, *wordiness n*

**'wore** /waw/ *past* of WEAR

**'work** /wʊhk/ *n* 1 activity in which one exerts strength or faculties to do or produce sthg: a sustained physical or mental effort to achieve a result *b* the activities that afford one's accustomed means of livelihood *c* a specific task, duty, function, or assignment 2a the (result of) expenditure of energy by natural phenomena *b* the transference of energy that is produced by the motion of the point of application of a force and is measured by the product of the force and the distance moved along the line of action  PHYSICS 3a (the result of) a specified method of working (<the ~ of many hands>) – often in combination (<can't do needlework> <clever camera ~> *b* sthg made from a specified material – often in combination (<ironwork> (<porcelain ~> 4a a fortified structure (e.g. a fort, earthen barricade, or trench) *b pl* structures in engineering (e.g. docks, bridges, or embankments) or mining (e.g. shafts or tunnels) 5 *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* a place where industrial activity is carried out; a factory – often in combination (<a waterworks> (<a tileworks> 6 *pl* the working or moving parts of a mechanism (<the ~s of a clock>) 7 an artistic production or creation 8 *pl* performance of moral or religious acts (<salvation by ~s>) 9a effective operation; an effect, result (<wait for time to do its healing ~> *b* activity, behaviour, or experience of the specified kind (<dancing reels is thirsty ~>) 10 a workpiece 11 *pl* a everything possessed, available, or belonging – infml; + *the* *b* subjection to all possible abuse – infml; usu + *get* (<get the ~s>) or *give* (<gave him the ~s>) [ME *werk*, *work*, fr OE *werc*, *weorc*; akin to OHG *werc*, Gk *ergon*] – *workless adj* – at work 1 permitted in working; busy; esp engaged in one's regular occupation 2 at one's place of work – *in the works* in process

of preparation, development, or completion – one's work cut out as much as one can do – out of work without regular employment; unemployed

**'work** *adj* 1 suitable for wear while working (<~ clothes> 2 used for work (<~ elephant>)

**'work** *vb* worked, wrought /rawt/ *vt* 1 to bring to pass, effect (<~ miracles>) 2a to fashion or create sthg by expending labour on; forge, shape (<~ flint into tools> *b* to make or decorate with needlework; embroider (<~ a sampler>) 3 to prepare or form into a desired state for use by kneading, hammering, etc 4 to operate (<a pump ~ed by hand> (<switches are ~ed from a central tower>) 5 to solve (a problem) by reasoning or calculation – usu + *out* 6 to cause to labour (<~ed his horses nearly to death> 7 to carry on an operation in (a place or area) (<the salesman ~ed both sides of the street>) 8 to finance by working (<~ed his way through college>) 9a to manoeuvre (oneself or an object) gradually or with difficulty into or out of a specified condition or position (<the screw ~ed itself loose>) *b* to contrive, arrange (<we can ~ it so that you can take your holiday early>) 10 to excite, provoke (<~ed himself into a rage>) ~ *vi* 1a to exert oneself, esp in sustained, purposeful, or necessary effort (<~ed all day over a hot stove>) (<~ing for the cause>) *b* to perform work or fulfil duties regularly for wages or a salary 2 to operate, function (<the lifts don't ~ at night>) 3 to exert an influence or have a tendency (<events have ~ed in our favour>) 4 to produce a desired effect, succeed (<hope your plan will ~>) 5a to make one's way slowly and with difficulty, move or progress laboriously (<just ~ing through her own teenage rebellion thing – Annabel>) *b* to sail to windward 6 to produce artefacts by shaping or fashioning a specified material (<she ~s in copper>) 7a to be in agitation or restless motion (<her mouth ~ed nervously>) *b* FERMENT 1 *c* to move slightly in relation to another part *d* to get into a specified condition by slow or imperceptible movements (<the knot ~ed loose>) [ME *werken*, *worken*, fr OE *wyrkan*, akin to OE *weorc*] – *work on* to strive to influence or persuade, affect – *work to rule* to obey the rules of one's work precisely and so reduce efficiency, esp as a form of industrial action

**'workable** /'wʊkəbl/ *adj* 1 capable of being worked (<~ vein of coal>)

2 practicable, feasible – *workableness n*, *workability* /-kə'bɪləti/ *n*

**'workaday** /'wʊhkədeɪ/ *adj* 1 of or suited for working days 2 prosaic, ordinary [alter of earlier *workyday*, fr obs *workyday*, *n* (workday)]

**'workbag** /'wʊhk,bæg/ *n* a bag for implements or materials for work, esp needlework

**'workbasket** /-ˌbæskɪt/ *n* a basket for needlework implements and materials

**'workbench** /-ˌbentʃ/ *n* a bench on which work, esp of mechanics or carpenters, is performed

**'workbook** /-ˌbʊk/ *n* an exercise book of problems to be solved directly on the pages

**'workbox** /-ˌbɒks/ *n* a box for work instruments and materials

**'worked** /wʊhkt/ *adj* that has been subjected to work, esp embroidered

**'worked 'up** *adj* emotionally aroused; excited

**'worker** /'wʊkə/ *n* 1a one who works, esp at manual or industrial work or with a particular material – often in combination *b* a member of the working class 2 any of the sexually underdeveloped usu sterile members of a colony of ants, bees, etc that perform most of the labour and protective duties of the colony

**'worker-priest** *n* a Roman Catholic priest who for missionary purposes spends part of each weekday as a worker in a secular job

**'workforce** /'wʊhk,fɔːs/ *n* *sing* or *pl* in *constr* the workers engaged in a specific activity or potentially available (<the factory's ~>)

**'work-harden** *vt* to harden and strengthen (metal) by hammering, rolling, etc

**'workhouse** /-ˌhaʊs/ *n* 1 *Br* an institution formerly maintained at public expense to house paupers 2 *NAm* a house of correction for minor offenders

**'work-in** *n* a continuous occupation of a place of employment by employees continuing to work normally as a protest, usu against the threat of factory closure

**'work in** *vt* 1 to cause to penetrate by persistent effort (<work the ointment thoroughly in>) 2 to insinuate unobtrusively (<worked in a few topical jokes>); also to find room for

**'working** /'wʊkɪŋ/ *adj* 1a that functions or performs labour (<a ~ model>) *b* of a domestic animal trained or bred for useful work (<a ~ dog>) 2 adequate to permit effective work to be done (<a ~ majority>) 3 serving as a basis for further work (<~ draft>) 4 during which one works (<~



## Words with J, Q, X and Z

## J

basenji  
bijou(x)  
djinn  
donjon  
hadj  
hadji  
\*haji  
\*hajji  
hejira  
jabot  
jacinth  
jadeite  
jaeger  
jalap  
jamb  
jargon  
jarl  
jean  
\*jeune  
\*jejunum  
jess  
jetsam  
jewfish  
jihad  
jinn  
jinni  
\*jinx  
joinder  
joule  
\*juju  
junta  
jural  
juror  
jussive  
moujik  
raj  
raja(h)  
sapajou  
sjambok  
swaraj

## Q

aliquot  
aqueous  
barque  
bisque  
cirque  
claque  
clique  
cliqu(e)y  
coquina  
cumquat  
kumquat  
maquis  
quadrat  
quadic  
quag  
quagga  
quaich  
quaigh  
quanta  
quantum  
quartan  
quean  
quern  
\*\*quetzal  
quietus  
quinone

quinsy  
quint  
quintal  
quirt  
quoin  
quondam  
roquet  
rorqual  
sequela  
sequent  
siliqua  
silique  
squab  
squama(e)  
squill  
squilla  
squinch  
torque

## X

ataxia  
ataxic  
axial  
axil  
axilla(e)  
axolotl  
axon  
bauxite  
beaux  
calyx  
calx(es)  
codex  
coccyx  
cru(x)es  
dexter  
dextral  
dioxide  
duplex  
efflux  
flax(en)  
flexion  
flexor  
flexure  
foxtail  
hallux  
hexad  
hexane  
hexose  
hexyl  
hyrax  
ibex  
ilex  
infix  
lexical  
lux  
luxate  
maxilla  
maximal  
maxwell  
meninx  
moxie  
muræx  
nix  
nixie  
onyx  
oxbow  
oxeye  
oxlip  
oxymora  
oxyntic

pax  
phalanx  
phlox  
plexus  
pollex  
praxis  
prolix  
pyrexia  
pyrexia  
pyx  
pyxis  
radix(es)  
reflux  
salpinx  
sax  
saxhorn  
scolex  
sexism  
sext  
simplex  
spadix  
storax  
syrinx  
toxin  
triplex  
tuxedo  
varix  
xanthic  
xebec  
xenon  
\*xerox  
xiphoid  
xylem  
xylene

## Z

adz(e)  
azimuth  
azo  
azoic  
azurite  
azygous  
bazaar  
bazooka  
benzine  
benzoic  
benzoin  
benzol  
bezant  
bezel  
beziqwe  
bonze  
borzoi  
braze  
colza  
coryza  
cozy  
crozier  
diaz  
dozen(th)  
elegize  
evzone  
faze  
fez  
\*frizz  
fuze  
fuzee  
gazebo  
izard  
kazoo

lazar  
lazaret  
mazer  
mestiza  
\*mezuzah  
\*mezzo  
mitzvah  
\*mizzen  
\*mizzle  
\*muezzin  
muzhik  
ouzel  
oyez  
panzer  
podzol  
pretzel  
raze  
rhizome  
seizure  
sizar  
syzygy  
teazel  
tzigane  
vizard  
vizier  
wizen  
zaddik  
zaffre  
zany  
zareba  
zebu  
zein  
zenana  
zener  
zeolite  
zeta  
zeugma  
zibet  
zincate  
zincd  
zincic  
zincked  
zincous  
zing(y)  
zinnia  
zircon  
\*zizz  
zloty  
zombi(e)  
zonate  
zonked  
zoo(d)al  
zoril  
zorilla  
zygoma  
zygote  
zymase  
zymo(en)  
zymotic  
zymurgy

\*double  
JQX or Z

\*combination  
of  
J, Q, X, Z

## Words for word games

Scrabble<sup>®</sup>, and many nonproprietary paper games, depend on making the best use of a set of jumbled letters. Here are some useful shorter words containing 'difficult' letters or letter combinations. They are all defined at their own places in the dictionary.

## 2-letter words

ad	he	on
ae	hi	or
ah	ho	ow
ai	id	ox
am	if	oy
an	in	pa
as	is	pi
at	it	po
ax	jo	re
ay	ka	sh
be	ky	si
bo	la	so
by	lo	ta
da	ma	ti
do	me	to
ee	mi	un
eh	mo	up
el	mu	ur
em	my	us
en	na	ut
er	no	we
ex	nu	wo
fa	od	xi
go	of	xu
ha	oh	ye

## Words with no vowels

crypt  
cwm  
cyst  
glyph  
gym  
gyp  
gypsy  
hymn  
lymph  
lynch  
lynx  
myrrh  
myth  
nymph  
pygmy  
pyx  
rhythm  
shyly  
spry  
sylph  
sync(h)  
syzygy  
tryst  
wynd  
wynn

## Words with many vowels

adieu  
aerie  
audio  
cooe  
eerie  
queue

## Words with repeated letters

bobby  
coccyx  
daddy  
lolly  
mummy  
ninny  
fluff  
poppy  
potto  
sissy  
tatty  
titty  
zizz

## Common anagrams

abets - baste - bates - beast - beats  
acres - c a r e s - races - scare  
amen - m e a n e - mean - name  
aster - rates - stare - tares - tears  
capers - crapes - pacers - recaps - scrape - spacer  
capes - paces - scape - space  
caret - cater - crate - trace  
coins - icons - scion - sonic  
dale - deal - lade - lead  
danger - gander - garden - ranged  
drapes - parsed - spared - spread  
east - e a t s - sate - seat - seta  
emit - item - mite - time  
emits - items - mites - smite - times  
glare - lager - large - regal  
hares - hears - share - shear  
inert - inter - nitre - trine  
inks - kins - sink - skin  
laves - salve - slave - vales  
leap - pale - peal - plea  
least - slate - stale - steal - tales  
limes - miles - slime - smile  
mate - meat - tame - team  
notes - onset - stone - tones  
pares - pears - rapes - reaps - spare  
pastel - plates - pleats - staple  
parts - sprat - strap - traps  
paste - pates - spate - tapes  
pores - poser - prose - ropes - spore  
priest - ripest - sprite - stripe - tripe  
serve - sever - veers - verse  
skate - stake - steak - takes - teaks

*hours*); also during which one discusses business or policy (<a ~ lunch> [(1) fr prp of 'work; (2-4) fr gerund of 'work])

**'working** *n* 1 (a part of) a mine, quarry, or similar excavation 2 the fact or manner of functioning or operating – usu pl with sing. meaning (<the ~s of his mind>)

**working capital** *n* capital actively turned over in or available for use in the course of business activity

**'working class** *n* sing or pl in constr the class of people who work (manually) for wages – often pl with sing. meaning; compare PROLETARIAT – **working-class** *adj*

**'working day** *n* 1 a day on which work is done as distinguished from Sunday or a holiday 2 the period of time in a day during which work is performed

**'working drawing** *n* a scale drawing of an object to be made or a structure to be built that is used as a guide by the workman

**'working man** /-mən/ *n* one who works for wages, esp in a manual job

**'working party** *n*, chiefly Br a committee set up (e.g. by a government) to investigate and report on a particular problem

**'work load** *n* the amount of work or of working time expected from or assigned to an employee

**'workman** /-mən/, fem 'work, woman *n* an artisan

**'workmanlike** /-li:k/ also **workmanly** /-li/ *adj* worthy of a good workman: a skilful b efficient in appearance

**'workmanship** /-shup/ *n* the relative art or skill of a workman, craftsmanship; also the quality or finish exhibited by a thing (<a vase of exquisite ~>)

**'workmate** /-mayt/ *n*, chiefly Br a companion at work

**'work of art** *n* 1 a product of any of the fine arts, esp when of high artistic quality 2 a human creation that gives high aesthetic satisfaction (<the wedding cake was a ~>)

**'work off** *vt* to dispose of or get rid of by work or activity (<work off a debt> (<work off one's anger>)

**'workout** /-owt/ *n* a practice or exercise to test or improve fitness, ability, or performance, esp for sporting competition

**work out** *vt* 1a to find out by calculation (<couldn't work out how the prices sta, ed so low – Cosmopolitan>) b to devise by resolving difficulties (<work out an agreement>) c to elaborate in detail (<work out a scheme>) 2 to discharge (e.g. a debt) by labour 3 to exhaust (e.g. a mine) by working ~ *vi* 1a to prove effective, practicable, or suitable (<their marriage didn't work out>) b to amount to a total or calculated figure – often + at or to (<works out at £17.50> (<gas heating might work out expensive>) c of a sum to yield a result 2 to engage in a workout

**work over** *vt* 1 to subject to thorough examination, study, or treatment 2 to beat up thoroughly; manhandle – *infrml*

**'work people** /-peopl/ *n* pl, chiefly Br workers, employees

**'work piece** /-pees/ *n* sthg being worked on

**'workroom** /-roohm, -room/ *n* a room used for esp manual work

**works** /wuhks/ *adj* of a place of industrial labour (<~ council> (<~ doctor>)

**'workshop** /-shop/ *n* 1 a room or place (e.g. in a factory) in which manufacture or repair work is carried out 2 a brief intensive educational programme for a relatively small group of people in a given field that emphasizes participation

**'workshy** /-shie/ *adj* disliking work; lazy

**'worktable** /-taybl/ *n* a table often with drawers for holding working materials and implements; esp one used for sewing

**'worktop** /-top/ *n* a flat surface (e.g. of Formica) on a piece of esp kitchen furniture (e.g. a cupboard or dresser) suitable for working on

**'work-to-rule** *n* an instance of industrial action designed to reduce output by deliberately keeping very rigidly to rules and regulations – compare WORK TO RULE

**work up** *vt* 1 to stir up; rouse (<can't work up much interest>) 2 to produce by mental or physical work (<worked up a comedy act> (<worked up a sweat in the gymnasium>) 3 to improve, esp by mental work (<work up your French>) ~ *vi* to rise gradually in intensity or emotional tone (<work up to a climax>)

**'world** /wuhld/ *n* 1 the earth with its inhabitants and all things on it (<travel round the ~>) 2 the course of human affairs (<knowledge of the ~>) 3 the human race 4 the concerns of earthly existence or secular affairs as distinguished from heaven and the life to come or religious and ecclesiastical matters 5 the system of created things; the universe 6a a division, section, or generation of the inhabitants of the earth distinguished by living together at the same place or at the same time (<the medieval ~>) b a distinctive class of people or their sphere of interest (<the

academic ~> (<woman's ~>) 7a human society as a whole (<all the ~ knows> (<withdraw from the ~>), also the public (<announced his discovery to the ~>) b fashionable or respectable people, public opinion 8 a part or section of the earth that is a separate independent unit (<the third ~>) 9a one's personal environment in the sphere of one's life or work (<the external ~> (<the ~ of Van Gogh>) b a particular aspect of one's life (<the ~ of dreams>) 10 an indefinite multitude or a great quantity or amount (<makes a ~ of difference>) 11 KINGDOM 4 (<the animal ~>) 12 a planet; esp one that is inhabited USE (except 10 & 12) + the [ME, fr OE *woruld* human existence, this world, age, akin to OHG *weralt* age, world; both fr a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose first constituent is represented by OE *wer* man & whose second is akin to OE *eald* old – more at VIRILE, OLD] – best of both worlds the benefit of the advantages of 2 alternatives, esp without their disadvantages – for all the world in every way, exactly (<copies which look for all the world like the original>) – for the world in any circumstances; for anything (<wouldn't hurt her feelings for the world>) – in the world among innumerable possibilities, ever (<what in the world is it?>) – out of this world of extraordinary excellence, superb

**'world** *adj* 1 of the whole world (<a ~ championship>) 2 extending or found throughout the world, worldwide (<a ~ state> (<brought about ~ peace>)

**'world-class** *adj* of the highest quality in the world, esp in playing a sport or game (<a ~ polo player>)

**'world fair** *n* an international exhibition featuring exhibits and participants from all over the world

**'worldling** /'wuhldlɪŋ/ *n* a worldly person, one who is not interested in spiritual affairs

**'worldly** /'wuhldli/ *adj* of qf devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to religion or spiritual affairs (<my ~ goods>) – **worldliness** *n*

**'worldly-minded** *adj* devoted to or engrossed in worldly interests – **worldly-mindedness** *n*

**'worldly-wise** *adj* possessing a practical and often shrewd and maternalistic understanding of human affairs, sophisticated

**'world series** *n* a series of baseball games played each year between the winners of the major US leagues to decide the championship of the USA

**'world-shaking** *adj* earthshaking

**'world view** *n* a weltanschauung

**'world war** *n* a war engaged in by (most of) the principal nations of the world, esp, cap both Ws either of 2 such wars of the first half of the 20th c

**'world-weary** *adj* bored with the life of the world and its material pleasures – **world-weariness** *n*

**'worldwide** /-'wied/ *adj* extended throughout or involving the entire world – **worldwide** *adv*

**'worm** /wuhm/ *n* 1a an annelid worm, esp an earthworm b any of numerous relatively small elongated soft-bodied invertebrate animals: c 1 (a) a (destructive) caterpillar, maggot, or other insect larva (2) a shipworm (3) a blindworm 2 a human being who is an object of contempt, loathing, or pity, a wretch 3 infestation with or disease caused by parasitic worms – usu pl with sing. meaning but sing. or pl in constr 4a the thread of a screw b a short revolving screw whose threads engage with a worm wheel or a rack c a spiral condensing tube used in distilling [ME, fr OE *wyrm* serpent, worm, akin to OHG *wurm* serpent, worm, L *vermis* worm] – **wormlike** *adj*

**'worm** *vi* to proceed windingly or insidiously ~ *vt* 1 to free (e.g. a dog) from worms 2a to cause to move or proceed (as if) in the manner of a worm b to insinuate or introduce (oneself) by devious or subtle means c to make (one's way) insidiously or deviously (<tried to ~ her way out of the situation>) 3 to obtain or extract by artful or insidious questioning or by pleading, asking, or persuading – usu + out of (<~ed the secret out of her>) – **wormer** *n*

**'wormcast** /-kahst/ *n* a small heap of earth excreted by an earthworm on the soil surface

**'worm-eaten** *adj* 1 eaten or burrowed into (as if) by worms (<~ timber>) 2 worn-out, antiquated (<~ regulations>)

**'worm gear** *n* 1 WORM WHEEL 2 a gear consisting of a worm and a worm wheel working together

**'wormhole** /-hohl/ *n* a hole or passage burrowed by a worm

**'worm's-eye view** *n* a view from a humble position – usu humor

**'worm wheel** *n* a toothed wheel gearing with the thread of a worm

**'wormwood** /-wood/ *n* 1 a European composite plant yielding a bitter slightly aromatic dark green oil used in absinthe 2 sthg bitter or

- mortifying, bitterness [ME *wormwode*, alter. of *wermode*, fr OE *wermod*; akin to OHG *wermuota* wormwood]
- wormy** /'wuhmi/ *adj* containing, infested with, having, or damaged by (many) worms
- worn** /'wawn/ *past part* of WEAR
- worn-out** *adj* exhausted or used up (as if) by wear
- woriment** /'wurnimnt/ *n* worrying, also trouble, anxiety – *infrml*
- worrisome** /'wurns(ə)m/ *adj* 1 causing distress or worry 2 inclined to worry or fret – *worrisomely adv*, *worrisomeness n*
- worry** /'wuri/ *vt* 1a to harass by tearing, biting, etc, esp at the throat (< a dog ~ing sheep>) b to shake or pull at with the teeth (< a terrier ~ing a rat>) c to touch or disturb repeatedly 2 to subject to persistent or nagging attention or effort 3 to afflict with mental distress or agitation, make anxious ~ *vi* 1 to work at sthg difficult (< he worried away at the problem till he found a solution>) 2 to feel or experience concern or anxiety, fret [ME *worren* to seize by the throat, choke, fr OE *wyrgan* to strangle, akin to OHG *wurgen* to strangle, Lith *veržti* to constrict] – *worriedly adv*, **worrier** *n* – *not* to worry *Br* do not worry, do not feel anxious, dispirited, or troubled – *infrml*
- worry** *n* 1 mental distress or agitation resulting from concern, usu for sthg impending or anticipated, anxiety 2 a cause of worry, a trouble, difficulty
- worry beads** *n pl* a string of beads fingered so as to calm oneself and keep one's hands occupied
- worse** /'wuhs/ *adj*, comparative of BAD or ILL 1 of lower quality 2 in poorer health [ME *werse*, *worse*, fr OE *wiersa*, *wyrsa*, akin to OHG *wirsiro* worse] – *worsen* /'wuhs(ə)n/ *vb* – the worse for harmed by (< none the worse for his fall>)
- worse** *n*, *pl* worse sthg worse
- worse** *adv*, *imparative* of BAD, BADLY, or ILL in a worse manner, to a worse extent or degree (< raining ~ than ever>)
- worse-off** *adj* in poorer economic circumstances
- worship** /'wuhʃp/ *n* 1 (an act of) reverence offered to a divine being or supernatural power 2 a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual 3 extravagant admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem (< ~ of the dollar>) 4 chiefly *Br* a person of importance – used as a title for various officials (e.g. magistrates and some mayors) [ME *worshippe* worthiness, repute, respect, reverence paid to a divine being, fr OE *weorthscape* worthiness, repute, respect, fr *weorth* worthy, worth + *-scape* -ship]
- worship** *vb* -pp- (NAM -p-, -pp-) *vi* 1 to honour or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power 2 to regard with great, even extravagant respect, honour, or devotion ~ *vi* to perform or take part in (an act of) worship – *worshipper n*
- worshipful** /-(ə)l/ *adj* 1 rendering worship or veneration 2 chiefly *Br* – used as a title for various people or groups of rank or distinction – *worshipfully adv*, *worshipfulness n*
- worst** /'wuhst/ *adj*, superlative of BAD or ILL 1 most productive of evil (< the ~ thing you could have done>) 2 most wanting in quality (< the ~ student>) [ME *werste*, *worstie*, fr OE *wierresta*, *wyrsta*, superl of the root of OE *wiersa* worse]
- worst** *n*, *pl* worst 1 the worst state or part (< always at my ~ before breakfast>) 2 sby or sthg that is worst 3 the utmost harm of which one is capable (< do your ~>) – *at worst*, *at the worst* under the worst circumstances; seen in the worst light – *if the worst comes to the worst* if the very worst thing happens
- worst** *adv*, superlative of BAD, BADLY, or ILL in the worst manner, to the worst extent or degree (< the worst-dressed woman>)
- worst** *vi* to get the better of; defeat
- worsted** /'woostid/ *n* 1 a smooth compact yarn from long w. fibres used esp for firm napless fabrics, carpeting, or knitting 2 a fabric made from worsted yarns [ME, fr *Worsted* (now *Worstead*), village in Norfolk, England] – *worsted adj*
- wort** /'wuht/ *n* a (herbaceous) plant – now used only in combination (< stinkwort>) [ME, fr OE *wyrt* root, herb, plant – more at 'ROOT]
- wort** *n* a dilute solution containing sugars obtained typically from malt by infusion and fermented to form beer [ME, fr OE *wyrt*; akin to MHG *würze* brewer's wort, OE *wyrt* root, herb]
- worth** /'wuhth/ *vi*, *archaic* [ME *worthen* to become, fr OE *weorthan*, akin to OHG *werdan* to become, L *vertere* to turn] – *woe worth* cursed be
- worth** *prep* 1a equal in value to b having property equal to (< he's ~ £1,000,000>) 2 deserving of (< well ~ the effort>) [ME, fr OE *weorth* (adj) worthy, of (a specified) value; akin to OHG *werd* worthy, worth] – *worth it* worthwhile
- worth** *n* 1a (money) value b the equivalent of a specified amount or figure (< 3 quidsworth of petrol>) 2 moral or personal merit, esp high merit (< proved his ~>)
- worthless** /-'lis/ *adj* 1a lacking worth; valueless (< ~ currency>) b useless (< ~ to continue searching>) 2 contemptible, despicable – *worthlessly adv*, *worthlessness n*
- worthwhile** /-'wiəl/ *adj* worth the time or effort spent
- worthy** /'wuhdhi/ *adj* 1a having moral worth or value (< a ~ cause>) b honourable, meritorious (< they were all honoured and ~ men>) 2 important enough; deserving (< a deed ~ to be remembered>) (< a ~ opponent>) – *worthily adv*, *worthiness n*
- worthy** *n* a worthy or prominent person – often humor ' -worthy /-'wuhdhi/ *comb form* (*n* ~ *adj*) 1 fit or safe for (< a seaworthy vessel>) 2 deserving of (< praiseworthy>) (< noteworthy>)
- wosname** /'wos,naym/ *n*, *Br* – used to replace a momentarily forgotten noun, slang (< look a gift horse in the ~ – Punch>) [alter. of *what's its name*]
- wotcher** /'wochə/ *interj*, *Br* – used as a greeting, slang [alter. of *what cheer*]
- would** /wəd/ *strong wood/ past of WILL* 1a to desire, wish (< as ye ~ that men should do to you – Lk 6 31 (AV)>) b – used in auxiliary function with *rather* or *soon*, *sooner* to express preference (< ~ sooner die than face them>) 2a – used in auxiliary function to express wish, desire, or intent (< those who ~ forbid gambling>) or, in negative constructions, reluctance (< ~ not hurt a fly>), used in the question form with the force of a polite request (< ~ you please help me?>) or of an offer or suggestion (< ~ you like some tea?>) b – used in auxiliary function in reported speech or writing to represent *shall* or *will* (< said he ~ come>) (< knew I ~ enjoy the trip>) 3a used to (< we ~ meet often for lunch>) – used with emphatic stress to express exasperation (< she ~ keep complaining>) b – used in auxiliary function with emphatic stress as a comment on the annoyingly typical (< you ~ say that>) 4 – used in auxiliary function to introduce a contingent fact, possibility, or presumption (I) in the main clause of a conditional sentence (< it ~ break if you dropped it>) (< he ~ have won if he hadn't tripped>) (2) after a verb expressing desire, request, or advice (< wish he ~ go>) 5 could (< door wouldn't open>) 6 – used in auxiliary function to soften direct statement (< ~ be glad to know>) (< that ~ be the milkman>) [ME *wolde*, fr OE, akin to OHG *wolta* wished, desired]
- would-be** *adj* desiring or intended to be (< a ~ rapist – Daily Mirror>)
- wouldn't** /'wudnt/ *would not*
- wouldst** /'wudst/, *woudest* /'wudist/ *archaic past 2 sing of WILL*
- wound** /'wund/ *n* 1 an injury to the body or to a plant (e.g. from violence or accident) that involves tearing or breaking of a membrane (e.g. the skin) and usu damage to underlying tissues 2 a mental or emotional hurt or hi-w [ME, fr OE *wund*; akin to OHG *wunda* wound]
- wound** *vi*, to cause a wound to or in ~ *vi* to inflict a wound
- wound** /'wund/ *past of WIND*
- wounded** /'wundid/ *adj* injured, hurt by, or suffering from a wound (< a ~ soldier>) (< ~ pride>)
- woundwort** /'wund,wuht/ *n* any of various plants, esp of the mint family, with soft downy leaves (formerly) used in dressing wounds
- wove** /'wolv/ *past of WEAVE*
- wove** *n* paper made in such a way that no fine lines run across the grain – *compare LAID*
- woven** /'wolv(ə)n/ *past part of WEAVE*
- wow** /'wov/ *interj* – used to express strong feeling (e.g. pleasure or surprise), slang
- wow** *n* a striking success; a hit – slang ['wov]
- wow** *vi* to excite to enthusiastic admiration or approval – slang
- wow** *n* a distortion in reproduced sound that is heard as a slow rise and fall in the pitch of the sound and is caused by variations in the speed of the reproducing system – *compare FLUTTER* 3 [imit]
- wowzer** /'wɒzə/ *n*, *Austr & NZ* an oppressively puritanical person; a killjoy – slang [origin unknown]
- WPB** *n* WASTE PAPER BASKET – *infrml* [wastepaper basket]
- wrack** /'rak/ *n* 1 destruction (< ~ and ruin>) 2 (a remnant of) sthg destroyed [ME, fr OE *wrac* misery, punishment, sthg driven by the sea; akin to OE *wrecan* to drive, punish – more at WREAK]
- wrack** *n* (dried) marine vegetation; esp kelp [ME *wrak* wreck, wreckage, fr MD or MLG; akin to OE *wrac* sthg driven by the sea]
- wrack** *vi* 'RACK
- wrack** *n* 'RACK
- wraith** /'rayth/ *n*, *pl* wraiths /'rayths; also raydhz/ an apparition of a living person in his/her exact likeness seen before or after death [perh alter. of obs Sc *warth* (guardian angel), fr ON *vorthr* guardian]

- \*wrangle** /rang-gl/ *vb* **wrangling** /rang-ling/ *vi* to dispute angrily or peevishly, bicker ~ *vt*. *NAM* to herd and care for (livestock, esp horses) on the range [ME *wrangler*, akin to OHG *ringan* to struggle – more at WRING]
- \*wrangle** *n* an angry, noisy, or prolonged dispute or quarrel  
**wrangler** /rang-ɡlə/ *n* 1 a bickering disputant 2 the holder of a Cambridge first in mathematics – **wranglership** *n*
- \*wrap** /rap/ *vb* **pp** *vt* 1a to envelope, pack, or enfold in sth flexible **b** to fold round sth specified (< ~ a blanket round her) 2a to obscure or surround with the specified covering (< ~ ped in mist) (< the affair was ~ ped in scandal) **b** to involve completely, engross – usu + *up* (< ~ ped up in his daughter) ~ *vi* to curl round sth, be a wraparound (< skirt that ~ s over) [ME *wrappen*]
- \*wrap** *n* 1 a wrapping, specif a waterproof wrapping placed round food to be frozen, esp in a domestic freezer 2 an article of clothing that may be wrapped round a person, esp an outer garment (e.g. a shawl) – **under wraps** *secret*
- \*wraparound** /rapə,raʊnd/ *adj* 1 made to be wrapped round the body (< a ~ skirt) 2 shaped to follow a contour, esp made to curve from the front round to the side (< a ~ windscreen)
- \*wraparound** *n* an object or garment that encircles or esp curves and laps over
- wrapper** /rapə/ *n* that in which sth is wrapped e.g. a fine quality tobacco leaf used for the covering of a cigar **b** DUST JACKET [ˈwɹap + ˌɪ-ɹ]
- wrapping** /ˈræpɪŋ/ *n* material used to wrap an object
- wrap up** *vt* to bring to a usu successful conclusion, end – *infrml* ~ *vi* 1 to protect oneself with outer garments (< wrap up warm) 2 *Br* to stop talking; SHUT UP – *slang*
- wrasse** /ras/ *n* any of numerous usu brilliantly coloured marine spiny-finned (food) fishes [Corn *gwragh*, *wragh*]
- wrath** /roθ/ *n* 1 strong vengeful anger or indignation 2 retributive, esp divine, chastisement [ME, fr OE *wræththu*, fr *wrath* *wroth* – more at WROTH] – **wrathful** *adj*
- wreak** /reɪk/ *vt* 1 to give free play to (malevolent feeling); inflict (< ~ ed his wrath on her) (< ~ ed her revenge) 2 to cause or create (havoc or destruction) [ME *wreken*, fr OE *wrecan* to drive, punish, avenge; akin to OHG *rehhan* to avenge, *L* *urgere* to drive on, urge]
- wreath** /reɪθ/ *n*, *pl* **wreaths** /reɪðz/ 1 sth intertwined into a circular shape, esp a garland (< lay a ~ on the coffin) 2 a representation of a wreath (e.g. in heraldry) 3 a drifting and coiling whorl (< ~ s of smoke) [ME *wrethe*, fr OE *wrihta*; akin to OE *wrihtan* to twist – more at WRITHE]
- wreath** /reɪð/ *vt* 1 to cause (the face) to take on a happy joyful expression – usu pass (< ~ d in smiles) 2a to shape (e.g. flowers) into a wreath **b** to coil about sth 3 to encircle (as if) with a wreath (< ~ d with laurel) ~ *vi* to twist or move in coils, writhe (< smoke ~ d from the chimney) [wreath]
- \*wreck** /rek/ *n* 1 sth cast up on the land by the sea, esp after a shipwreck 2a (a) shipwreck **b** wrecking or being wrecked; destruction (< after the ~ of our hopes) 3a the broken remains of sth (e.g. a building or vehicle) wrecked or ruined **b** a person or animal of broken constitution, health, or spirits (< a mere ~ of his former self) [ME *wrek*, fr AF, of Scand origin, akin to ON *rek* wreck; akin to OE *wrecan* to drive]
- \*wreck** *vt* 1 to cast ashore 2a to reduce to a ruinous state by violence (< ~ a train) **b** to cause (a vessel) to be shipwrecked *c* to involve in disaster or ruin (< ~ one's marriage) ~ *vi* to become wrecked
- wreckage** /ˈreɪkɪ/ *n* 1 wrecking or being wrecked 2 broken and disordered parts or material from a wrecked structure
- wrecker** /ˈreɪkə/ *n* 1a sby who wrecks ships (e.g. by false lights) **b** plunder **b** sby whose work is the demolition of buildings 2a sby who searches for or works on the wrecks of ships (e.g. for rescue or plunder) **b** *NAM* a breakdown lorry *c* *NAM* a dealer in scrap, esp scrapped motor vehicles [ˈwɹɛk + ˌɪ-ɹ]
- wren** /ren/ *n* a very small European bird that has a short erect tail and is noted for its loud song [ME *wrenne*, fr OE *wrenna*; akin to OHG *rentilo* wren]
- Wren** *n* a woman serving in the Women's Royal Naval Service [Women's Royal Naval Service]
- \*wrench** /renʃ/ *vt* to pull or strain at sth with violent twisting (< he ~ ed at the handle) ~ *vt* 1 to pull or twist violently (< ~ the door open) 2 to injure or disable by a violent twisting or straining 3 to distort, pervert (< ~ language) 4 to snatch forcibly; wrest (< ~ the knife from her hand) [ME *wrenchen*, fr OE *wrencan*; akin to OHG *renken* to wrench, *L* *vergere* to bend, incline]
- \*wrench** *a* 1a a violent twisting or a sideways pull **b** (a sharp twist or sudden jerk causing) a strain to a muscle, ligament, etc (e.g. of a joint) *c* (sth causing) acute emotional distress or violent mental change 2a a spanner with jaws adjustable for holding nuts of different sizes **b** *NAM* a spanner
- wrest** /rest/ *vt* 1 to obtain or take away by violent wringing or twisting 2 to obtain with difficulty by force or determined labour (< ~ a living from the stony soil) 3 **WRENCH** 3 [ME *wrasten*, *wresten*, fr OE *wræstan*; akin to OE *wrihtan* to twist – more at WRITHE]
- \*wrestle** /resl/ *vb* **wrestling** /ˈreslɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to contend with an opponent in wrestling 2 to engage in a violent or determined struggle, grapple (< wrestling with cumbersome luggage) (< ~ with a problem) ~ *vt* 1 to wrestle with 2 to push, pull, or manhandle by force [ME *wrastlen*, *wrestlen*, fr OE *wræsthan*, freq of *wræstan*] – **wrestler** /ˈreslə/ *n*
- \*wrestle** *n* the action or an instance of wrestling, esp a wrestling bout
- wrestling** /ˈreslɪŋ/ *n* a sport or contest in which 2 unarmed individuals struggle hand to hand with each attempting to subdue or unbalance his opponent
- wretch** /reʃ/ *n* 1 a profoundly unhappy or unfortunate person 2 a base, despicable, or vile person or animal [ME *wrecche*, fr OE *wrecca* outcast, exile, akin to OE *wrecan* to drive, drive out – more at WRECK]
- wretched** /ˈreʃɪd/ *adj* 1 deeply afflicted, dejected, or unfortunate 2 deplorably bad (< was in ~ health) (< ~ workmanship) 3 (appearing) mean, squalid, or contemptible (< dressed in ~ old clothes) 4 causing annoyance, damned – used as a general expression of annoyance (< lost my ~ socks) [irreg fr *wretch*] – **wretchedly** *adv*, **wretchedness** *n*
- wrick** /rɪk/ *vi*, chiefly *Br* 'RICK
- \*wriggle** /rɪŋɡl/ *vb* **wriggling** /ˈrɪŋɡlɪŋ/ *vi* 1 to move the body or a bodily part to and fro with short writhing motions, squirm 2 to move or advance by twisting and turning 3 to extricate or insinuate oneself by manoeuvring, equivocation, evasion, or ingratiating (< managed to ~ out of a difficult question) ~ *vt* 1 to cause to move in short quick contortions (< she ~ d her hips) 2 to manoeuvre into a state or place by wriggling 3 to make (one's way) by wriggling [ME *wrigglen*, fr or akin to MLG *wriggeln* to wriggle, akin to OE *wrigian* to turn – more at WRAY] – **wriggler** *n*, **wriggly** *adj*
- \*wriggle** *n* a short or quick writhing motion or contortion
- wright** /raɪt/ *n* a craftsman – usu in combination (< shipwright) (< playwright) [ME, fr OE *wyrhta*, *wryhta*, worker, maker, akin to OE *wecor* work]
- wring** /rɪŋɡ/ *vt* **wrung** /rʊŋɡ/ 1 to twist or compress, esp so as to extract liquid (< ~ the towel dry) 2a to expel or obtain (as if) by twisting and compressing (< ~ the water from the towel) **b** to exact or extort by coercion or with difficulty (< ~ a confession from the suspect) 3a to twist so as to strain, sprain, or break (< ~ a chicken's neck) **b** to twist together (one's clasped hands) as a sign of anguish 4 to distress, torment (< a tragedy that ~ s the heart) 5 to shake (sby's hand) vigorously in greeting [ME *wringen*, fr OE *wringan*, akin to OHG *ringan* to struggle, OE *wyrgan* to strangle – more at WORRY] – **wring** *n*
- wringer** /ˈrɪŋɡə/ *n* a mangle [WRING + ˌɪ-ɹ]
- wrinkle** /ˈrɪŋɡl/ *n* 1 a small ridge, crease, or furrow formed esp in the skin due to aging or stress or on a previously smooth surface (e.g. by shrinkage or contraction) 2 a valuable trick or dodge for effecting a result – *infrml* [ME, back-formation fr *wrinkled* twisted, winding, prob fr OE *gewrincled*, pp of *gewrincian* to wind, fr *ge-*, perfective prefix + *-wincian* (akin to *wrencan* to wrench)] – **wrinkly** *adj*
- \*winkle** *vb* **winkling** /ˈrɪŋɡlɪŋ/ *vi* to become marked with or contracted into wrinkles ~ *vt* to contract into wrinkles
- wrist** /rɪst/ *n* 1 (a part of a lower animal corresponding to) the (region of the) joint between the human hand and the arm 2 the part of a garment or glove covering the wrist [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *wræstan* to twist, *wrest* – more at WREST]
- \*wristband** /ˈrɪstˌbænd/ *n* a band (e.g. on the sleeve of a garment) encircling the wrist
- \*wrist pin** *n* a stud or pin that forms a bearing for a connecting rod
- \*wristwatch** /ˈrɪstˌwɒtʃ/ *n* a small watch attached to a bracelet or strap and worn round the wrist
- wristy** /ˈrɪsti/ *adj* characterized by or tending to use a lot of wrist movement (e.g. in hitting a ball with a bat or club) – **wristily** *adv*
- writ** /rɪt/ *n* 1a an order in writing issued under seal in the name of the sovereign or of a court or judicial officer commanding or forbidding an act specified in it (< ~ of habeas corpus) **b** a written order constituting a symbol of the power and authority of the issuer (< over the border where the king's ~ did not run) 2 *archaic* sth written; writing – esp in *holy writ*, *sacred writ* [ME, fr OE; akin to OE *writan* to write]

**write** /ret/ *vb* wrote /roht/; **written** /'ritn/ *also* writ /rit/ *vt* **1a** to form (legible characters, symbols, or words) on a surface, esp with an instrument (< ~ an inscription > (< 'I love you' >) **b** to spell in writing <words written alike but pronounced differently> **c** to cover, fill, or fill in by writing <wrote ten pages> (< ~ a cheque >) **2** to set down in writing, e.g. **a** to be the author of; compose (< ~ poems and essays> (< ~ a string quartet >) **b** to use (a specific script or language) in writing (< ~ a clear hand> (< ~ shorthand> (< ~ Braille> (< ~ French> **3** to express, record, or reveal (as if) in writing <it is written> <written on my heart> **4** to make (a quality or condition) evident – usu pass <guilt was written all over his face> **5** to introduce or remove by writing (< ~ a clause into a contract> (< ~ a character out of a serial> **6** to introduce or transfer (information) into or from a computer memory **7** chiefly *NAM* to communicate with in writing <wrote them on his arrival> ~ *vi* **1** to make significant written characters, inscriptions, words, or sentences <learning to ~> (< ~ in ink>, *also* to be adapted to writing <pen ~s badly> **2** to compose, communicate by, or send a letter (< ~ back> (< ~ for information> **3** to produce or compose a written work, esp professionally, for publication or performance (< ~ for 'The Times') (< ~ for woodwind> <his wife ~s> [*ME* *writen*, fr *OE* *writan* to scratch, draw, inscribe, akin to *OHG* *rizan* to tear, *Gk* *rhine* file, rasp] – **writable** /'rietabl/ *adj*

**'write-down** *n* a deliberate reduction in the book value of an asset (e.g. to reflect the effect of obsolescence or deflation)

**write down** *vt* **1** to record in written form **2** to disparage, injure, or minimize by writing ~ *vi* to write so as to appeal to a lower level of taste, comprehension, or intelligence – usu + *to*

**'write-off** *n* sthg written off as a total loss <he survived, but the car was a ~>

**write off** *vt* **1** to cancel <write off a bad debt> **2** to concede to be irreparably lost, useless, or dead <this two square miles isn't being written off as a ghetto – Colin MacInnes> ~ *vi* to write and send a letter

**write out** *vt* to put in writing, esp to put into a full and complete written form

**writer** /'rieta/ *n* **1** one who writes as an occupation, an author **2** *Scott* *WRITER* to the SIGNET [*WRITE* + *-'FR*] •

**'writer's cramp** *n* a painful spasmodic cramp of the hand or finger muscles brought on by excessive writing

**'Writer to the Signet** *n* a Scottish solicitor

**'write-up** *n* a written, esp flattering, account

**write up** *vt* **1a** to write an account of, describe <wrote up the fire> **b** to put into finished written form <write up my notes> **2** to bring up to date the writing of (e.g. a diary) **3** to praise or maximize in writing

**writhe** /'redh/ *vi* to twist (the body or a bodily part) in pain ~ *vi* **1** to proceed with twists and turns **2** to twist (as if) from pain or struggling **3** to suffer keenly (< ~ under an insult> [*ME* *writen*, fr *OE* *writan* to twist; akin to *ON* *ritha* to twist, *OE* *wrigian* to turn – more at *wry*] – **writhe** *n*

**writing** /'rieting/ *n* **1** the act, practice, or occupation of literary composition **2a** written letters or words, esp handwriting <put it in ~> <I can't read your ~> *ALPHABET* **b** a written composition <the ~s of Marx> **c** a written or printed letter, notice, document, or inscription [*WRITE* + *-'ING*] – **writing on the wall** an omen of one's unpleasant fate

**'writing desk** *n* a desk often with a sloping top for writing on

**'writing paper** *n* a sized paper that can be written on with ink, esp notepaper

**'wrong** /'rong/ *n* **1** an injurious, unfair, or unjust act, action or conduct inflicting harm without due provocation or just cause <suffer ~ at their hands> <did him a great ~> **2** what is wrong, immoral, or unethical <the difference between right and ~> <to do no ~> **3a** the state of being mistaken or incorrect <my guess was hopelessly in the ~> **b** the state of being or appearing to be the offender <put me in the ~> [*ME*, fr *OE* *wrang*, fr (assumed) *wrang*, *adj*, *wrong*]

**'wrong adj** **1** against moral standards, evil <thought that war was ~> **2** not right or proper according to a code, standard, or convention, improper <it was ~ not to thank your host> **3** not according to truth or facts, incorrect <gave a ~ date>; *also* in error, mistaken <you're quite ~> **4** not satisfactory (e.g. in condition, results, health, or temper) <sthg ~ with my toe> **5** not in accordance with one's needs, intent, or expectations <took the ~ bus> **6** of or being the side of sthg not meant to be used or exposed or thought the less desirable <put it on ~ side out> <on the ~ side of 40> [*ME*, fr (assumed) *OE* *wrang*, of Scand origin, akin to *ON* *rangr* awry, wrong; akin to *OE* *wringan* to wring] – **wrongly** *adv*, **wrongness** *n*

**'wrong adv** **1** without accuracy; incorrectly <guessed ~> **2** without

regard for what is proper <acted ~> **3** on a mistaken course, astray <steered ~> **4** out of proper working order <washing machine went ~>

**'wrong vt** **1** to do wrong to, injure, harm **2** to mistakenly impute a base motive to, misrepresent – **wronger** /'rong-a/ *n*

**wrongdoer** /'rongdoo-a, '--/ *n* one who transgresses (moral) laws – **wrongdoing** *n*

**wrong-foot** *vt* to make (an opponent) move in the wrong direction by deception (e.g. in tennis or football)

**'wrongful** /-f(a)/ *adj* **1** wrong, unjust **2** unlawful – **wrongfully** *adv*, **wrongfulness** *n*

**wrongheaded** /-'hedid/ *adj* stubborn in adherence to wrong opinion or principles, perverse – **wrongheadedly** *adv*, **wrongheadedness** *n*

**'wrong 'un** /'an/ *n* a googly [contr of *wrong one*]

**wrote** /roht/ *past of* WRITE

**wroth** /roht/ *adj* wrathful – poetic or humor [*ME*, fr *OE* *wrath*, akin to *OHG* *reid* twisted, *OE* *writan* to writhe]

**wrought** /rawt/ *adj* **1** worked into shape by artistry or effort <carefully ~ essays> **2** processed for use, manufactured (< ~ silk> **3** of metals beaten into shape by tools – compare *WROUGHT IRON* **4** deeply stirred, excited – usu + *up* <gets easily ~ up over nothing> [*ME*, fr *pp* of *worken* to work]

**wrought 'iron** *n* a tough malleable iron containing very little carbon and 1 or 2 per cent slag

**wrung** /'rung/ *past of* WRING

**wry** /rie/ *adj* **1** bent or twisted, esp to one side <a ~ smile> **2** ironically or grimly humorous (< ~ wit> [*ME* *wrien* to twist, writhe, fr *OE* *wrigian* to turn, akin to *MLG* *wrich* twisted, *Gk* *rhoikos* crooked] – **wryly** *adv*, **wryness** *n*

**wryneck** /'rie,nek/ *n* **1** a grey-brown bird related to the woodpeckers and able to twist its head sideways over its shoulder **2** torticollis

**wunderkind** /'voonda,kint/ *n*, *pl* **wunderkinder** /-kinda/ *a* child prodigy, *also* one who succeeds in a competitive field at an early age [*G*, fr *wunder* wonder + *kind* child]

**wurzel** /'wuhzl/ *n* a mangel-wurzel

**wynd** /'wiend/ *n*, chiefly *Scot* a very narrow street [*ME* (*Sc*) *wynde*, prob fr *wynden* to wind, proceed, go, fr *OE* *windan* to twist – more at *'wind*]

**wynn** /win/ *n* an orig runic letter *ƿ* used in Old English with the value of Modern English *w* [*OF* *wen*, *wyn*]

**X**

**x** /ek./ *n*, *pl* **x's**, *xs* *often cap* **1** (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 24th letter of the English alphabet **2** ten NUMBER **3** one designated *x*, esp as the 24th in order or class or the 1st in a series that includes *x*, *y*, and sometimes *z* **4** sb or sthg whose identity is unknown or withheld

**X** *n* or *adj*, (a film that is) certified in Britain as suitable only for people over 18

**xanth-, xantho-** *comb form* yellow <*xanthophyll*> [*NL*, fr *Gk*, fr *xanthos*]

**xanthic** /'zanthik/ *adj* **1** of or tending towards a yellow colour **2** of or being any of various unstable oily acids [*F* *xanthique*, fr *Gk* *xanthos*]

**xanthine** /'zanthien, -theen/ *n* (any of various derivatives of) a yellow compound that occurs esp in animal or plant tissue [*ISV*]

**xanthophyll** /'zanthoh,fil, -tha-/ *n* any of several yellow to orange pigments that are derivatives of carotenes [*F* *xanthophylle*, fr *xanth-* + *-phyll* -phyll] – **xanthophyllic** /-filik/ *adj*, **xanthophyllous** /-filas/ *adj*

**'x-axis** /eks/ *n* **1** the horizontal axis in a plane Cartesian coordinate system **2** that 1 of the 3 axes in a 3-dimensional rectangular coordinate system that is not the *y*- or *z*-axis

**'X chromosome** *n* a sex chromosome that in humans occurs paired in each female cell and single in each male cell – compare *Y CHROMOSOME*

**xebec** /'zebek/ *n* a usu 3-masted Mediterranean sailing ship with mixed lateen and square rig [prob modif of *F* *chebec*, fr *Ar* *shabbak*]

**xen-, xeno-** *comb form* **1** guest; foreigner <*xenophobia*> **2** strange; foreign <*xenolith*> [*LL*, fr *Gk*, fr *xenos* stranger, guest, host]

**xenograft** /'zenagraft, 'zee-/ *n* a tissue graft carried out between members of different species

**xenolith** /ˈzɛnəlɪθ, ˈzɛ-/ *n* a fragment of rock embedded in a rock of a different type – **xenolithic** /ˈlɪθɪk/ *adj*  
**xenon** /ˈzɛnɒn, ˈzɛnɒn/ *n* a heavy noble gaseous element used esp in specialized flashtubes → PERIODIC TABLE [Gk, neut of *xenos* strange]  
**xenophobia** /ˈzɛnəfəʊbɪ-/ *n* one who hates or fears foreigners [ISV] – **xenophobic** /ˈfəʊbɪk/ *adj*  
**xer-**, **xero-** *comb form* dry <xerophyte> <xerography> [LL, fr Gk *xēr-, xēro-*, fr *xēros* – more at SERENE]  
**xerography** /ˈzɛrəɡrəfi, ˈzɪ-/ *n* a process for copying graphic matter by the action of light on an electrically charged photoconductive surface in which the latent image is developed with a resinous powder [ISV] – **xerographic** /-rəˈɡrəfɪk/ *adj*  
**xerophilous** /ˈzɛrəfɪləs, ˈzɪ-/ *adj* thriving in or characteristic of a dry environment – **xerophily** *n*, **xerophile** /ˈzɛrəˌfɪl, ˈzɪ-/ *n* or *adj*  
**xerophyte** /ˈzɪərəˌfɪt/ *n* a plant (e.g. a cactus) structurally adapted for life and growth with a limited water supply → PLANT – **xerophytism** /-ˌfɪtɪz(ə)m/ *n*, **xerophytic** /-ˌfɪtɪk/ *adj*  
**xerox** /ˈzɛrɒks, ˈzɪrɒks/ *vt*, often *cap* to copy on a Xerox machine  
**Xerox trademark** – used for a xerographic copier  
**Xhosa** /ˈkhwɑːsə/ *n*, *pl* **Xhosas**, esp collectively **Xhosa** 1 a member of a people of Cape Province related to the Zulus 2 the Bantu language of the Xhosa → LANGUAGE  
**xi** /sɪ, zɪ/ *n* the 14th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *xei*]  
**xiphisternum** /ˈzɪfɪstɜːnəm, ˈzɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **xiphisterna** /-nə/ the lowest segment of the sternum [NL, fr Gk *xiphos* sword + NL *sternum*]  
**xiphoid** /ˈzɪfɔɪd, ˈzɪ-/ *adj* 1 sword-shaped 2 of or being the xiphisternum [NL *xiphoides*, fr Gk *xiphoides*, fr *xiphos*]  
**xiphoid process** *n* the xiphisternum  
**Xmas** /ˈɛksməz/ *n* Christmas [X (symbol for *Christ*, fr the Gk letter *chi* (X), initial of *Christos* Christ) + *-mas* (in *Christmas*)]  
**x-radiation** *n*, often *cap* (exposure to) X rays  
**Xray** /ˈɛksreɪ/ – a communications code word for the letter x  
**x-ray** /ˈɛksreɪ/ *vt*, often *cap* to examine, treat, or photograph with X rays  
**X ray** /ˈɛks reɪ/ *n* 1 an electromagnetic radiation of extremely short wavelength that has the properties of ionizing a gas when passing through it and of penetrating various thicknesses of all solids → PHYSICS 2 an examination or photograph made by means of X rays  
**X-ray diffraction** *n* (the determination of a crystal structure by) the scattering of an X-ray beam by the atoms of a crystal to produce a characteristic pattern  
**'X-ray tube** *n* an evacuated tube in which a concentrated stream of electrons strikes a metal target and produces X rays  
**xtal** /ˈkrɪstl/ *n* or *adj* (a) crystal  
**xu** /soʊh/ *n*, *pl* **xu** → Vietnam at NATIONALITY [Vietnamese, fr F *sou sou*]  
**X-word** /ˈkros, wʊhd/ *n* a crossword  
**xyl-, xyl-** *comb form* 1 wood <xylophone> 2 xylene <xylol> [L, fr Gk, fr *xylon*]  
**xylem** /ˈzɪləm, ˈzɪləm/ *n* a complex vascular tissue of higher plants that functions chiefly in the conduction of water, gives support, and forms the woody part of many plants – compare PHLOEM [G, fr Gk *xylon*]  
**xylene** /ˈzɪlən/ *n* a toxic inflammable oily hydrocarbon obtained from wood tar, coal tar, etc [ISV]  
**xylography** /ˈzɪləˌɡrəfi/ *n* the making of wood engravings [F *xylographie*, fr *xyl-* + *-graphie* – *graphy*] – **xylographer** *n*, **xylograph** /ˈzɪləˌɡrəf, -ɡrəf/ *n*, **xylographic** /-ˌɡrəfɪk/ *adj*, **xylographical** *adj*  
**xylophone** /ˈzɪləˌfəʊn/ *n* a percussion instrument that has a series of wooden bars graduated in length and sounded by striking with 2 small wooden hammers – **xylophonist** /-ˌfəʊnɪst, ˈzɪləˌfəʊnɪst/ *n*

# Y

**y** /wɪ/ *n*, *pl* **y's**, **ys** often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 25th letter of the English alphabet 2 one designated y, esp as the 2nd in a series that includes x, y, and sometimes z  
**'y** also **-ey** /-i/ *suffix* (*n*, *vb* → *adj*) 1a covered with; full of <blossomy> <dirty> <hairsty> b having the quality of <waxy> <weary> <mercy> c addicted to; enthusiastic about <horsy> d like; like that of <wintry> – often derog <staggy> 2 tending or inclined to

<sleepy> <sticky> <curly> 3 slightly, rather; -ish <chilly> [ME, fr OE *-ig*; akin to OHG *-ig*, *-y*, L *-icus*, Gk *-ikos*, Skt *-ika*]  
**'y suffix** (→ *n*) 1 state, condition, or quality of <beggary> <courtesy> 2 whole body or group sharing (a specified class or state) <soldiery> <company> [ME *-ie*, fr OF, fr L *-ia*, fr Gk *-ia*, *-eia*]  
**'y suffix** (*vb* → *n*) instance of (a specified action) <treachery> <inquiry> [ME *-ie*, fr AF, fr L *-ium*]  
**'y suffix** (→ *n*) little, dear <doggy> <granny> – used esp in pet names by or to children [ME]  
**yabby, yabbie** /ˈyabi/ *n* a small Australian freshwater crayfish, often used as bait [native name in Australia]  
**'yacht** /ˈyot/ *n* any of various relatively small sailing or powered vessels that characteristically have a sharp prow and graceful lines and are used for pleasure cruising or racing [obs D *yaght*, fr MLG *yacht*, short for *jachtschiff*, lit., hunting ship]  
**'yacht** *vi* to race or cruise in a yacht – **yachting** *n*  
**'yacht club** *n* a club organized to promote and regulate yachting and boating  
**yachtsman** /ˈyotsmən/ *n* sby who owns or sails a yacht  
**yack** /yak/ *n* or *vi* → YAK – slang  
**yackety-yack** /ˈyakɪtɪ ˈyak/ *n* or *vi* → YAK – slang [redupl of *yak*]  
**YAG** *n* synthetic yttrium aluminium garnet used esp as a gemstone and in lasers [yttrium aluminium garnet]  
**yah** /yah/ *interj* – used to express disgust, defiance, or derision [prob imit of the sound of retching]  
**yahoo** /ˈyah hoʊ, ˈyah-/ *n*, *pl* **yahoos** an uncouth, rowdy, or degraded person [Yahoo, one of a race of human brutes in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift †1745 Ir satirist]  
**Yahweh** /ˈyahweɪ/, **Yahveh** /ˈyahveɪ/ *n* the God of the Hebrews – compare TETRAGRAMMATON [Heb *Yahweh*]  
**Yahwism** /ˈyahwɪz(ə)m, -vɪz(ə)m/ *n* the worship of Yahweh among the ancient Hebrews  
**Yahwistic** /ˈyahwɪstɪk, ˈvɪs-/ *adj* 1 characterized by the use of *Yahweh* as the name of God 2 of Yahwism  
**'yak** /yak/ *n*, *pl* **yaks**, esp collectively **yak** a large long-haired wild or domesticated ox of Tibet and nearby mountainous regions [Tibetan *-yak*]  
**'yak, yack** /yak/ *n* persistent or voluble talk – slang [prob imit]  
**'yak, yack** *vi* -kk- to talk persistently, chatter – slang  
**Yale** /ˈyæl/ *trademark* – used for a type of lock that has a revolving barrel which is prevented from turning by a set of pins until the correct key is inserted  
**yam** /yam/ *n* 1 (any of various related plants with) an edible starchy tuberous root used as a staple food in tropical areas 2 *NAM* a moist-fleshed usu orange sweet potato [earlier *iname*, fr Pg *inham* & Sp *ñame*]  
**yammer** /ˈyama/ *vi* 1 to wail, whimper 2 to complain, grumble (<ing at the umpire>) 3 to talk volubly, clamour ~ *vi* to say in voluble complaint *USE* infml [alter of ME *yomen* to murmur, be sad, fr OE *geomran*, akin to OHG *jamaron* to be sad] – **yammer** *n*  
**yang** /yang/ *n* the masculine active principle in nature that in Chinese thought eternally interacts with its opposite and complementary principle, yin [Chin (Pek) *yang*]  
**yank** /yangk/ *vb* to pull or extract (sth) with a quick vigorous movement (< a tooth out) – infml [origin unknown] – **yank** *n*  
**'Yankee** /ˈyæŋki/ *n* a native or inhabitant of a chiefly Br the USA b chiefly *NAM* the N USA c *NAM* New England [origin unknown] – **Yankee** *adj*  
**'Yankee** – a communications code word for the letter y  
**'yap** /yap/ *vi* -pp- 1 to bark snappishly; yelp 2 to talk in a shrill insistent querulous way; scold – infml [imit] – **yapper** *n*  
**'yap** *n* 1 a quick sharp bark; a yelp 2 (foolish) chatter – infml  
**yapock, yapok** /ˈyɒpɒk/ *n* a grey and white S American aquatic opossum with webbed hind feet [Oyapock, Oyapok, river in S America]  
**'yapp binding** /yap/ *n*, *Br* bookbinding (e.g. for Bibles) having rounded outer corners and limp overhanging leather covers [Yapp †1860 E bookseller]  
**Yarborough** /ˈyɑːb(ə)rə/ *n* a hand in bridge or whist containing no card higher than a 9 [Charles Anderson Worsley, 2nd Earl of Yarborough †1897 E nobleman who allegedly bet 1000 to 1 against the dealing of such a hand]  
**'yard** /yahd/ *n* 1a a unit of length equal to 3ft (about 0.914m) → UNIT b a unit of volume equal to 1yd<sup>3</sup> (about 0.765m<sup>3</sup>) 2 a long spar tapered towards the ends to support and spread a sail → SHIP [ME *yarde* twig,



- stick, rod, unit of length, fr OE *gierd*, akin to OHG *gart* stick, L *hasta* spear]
- yard** *n* **1a** a small usu walled and often paved area open to the sky and adjacent to a building, a courtyard **b** the grounds of a specified building or group of buildings – in combination <a farmyard> <a churchyard> **2a** an area with its buildings and facilities set aside for a specified business or activity – often in combination <a brickyard> **b** a system of tracks for the storage and maintenance of railway carriages and wagons and the making up of trains **3** *cap*, Br SCOTLAND YARD – + the **4** *NAM* a garden of a house [ME, fr OE *geard* enclosure, yard, akin to OHG *gart* enclosure, L *hortus* garden]
- yard** *vt* to drive into or confine in a restricted area, herd, pen
- yardage** /'yahdi/ *n* (the charge for) the use of a livestock enclosure at a railway station ['yard]
- yardage** *n* the length, extent, or volume of sthg as measured in yards ['yard]
- yardarm** /'yahd,ahm/ *n* either end of the yard of a square-rigged ship SHIP
- yardman** /'yahdmən, -man/ *n* sby who works **a** in a timber yard **b** in a railway yard
- yardmaster** /-mahstə/ *n* the man in charge of operations in a railway yard
- yard of ale** *n* (the amount contained in) a slender horn-shaped glass, about 1m (3ft) tall that holds 1 or 2l (2 or 3pt)
- yardstick** /-,stɪk/ *n* **1** a graduated measuring stick 1yd long **2** a standard basis of calculation or judgment, a criterion
- yarmulke, yarmelke, yarmulka** /'yahmulkə/ *n* a skullcap worn by esp Orthodox and Conservative Jewish males, in the synagogue and the home 𐤱𐤇𐤊𐤍𐤊𐤍 [Yiddish, fr Ukrainian & Pol *jarmułka* skullcap]
- yarn** /'yah/ *n* **1a** THREAD **1**, esp a spun thread (e.g. of wood, cotton, or hemp) as prepared and used for weaving, knitting, and rope-making **b** a similar strand of metal, glass, asbestos, paper, or plastic **2a** a narrative of adventures, esp a tall tale **b** a conversation, chat *USE* (2) *infrml* [ME, fr OE *gearn*, akin to OHG *garn* yarn, Gk *chorde* string, L *hernia* rupture]
- yarn** *vi* to tell a yarn, also to chat garrulously *infrml*
- yarn-dye** *vi* to dye before weaving or knitting
- yarrow** /'yaroh/ *n* a strong-scented Eurasian composite plant with dense heads of small usu white flowers – 𐌶𐌵 PLANT [ME *yarrowe*, fr OE *gearwe*, akin to OHG *garwa* yarrow]
- yashmak** /'yashmak/ also *yasmak* /-, /'yas-/ *n* a veil worn over the face by Muslim women, so that only the eyes remain exposed [Turk *yashmak*]
- yataghan** /'yataɡan, 'yatəɡən/ *n* a sword without a guard used formerly by Muslims and typically having a long blade with a double curved edge [Turk *yatağan*]
- yatter** /'yata-/ *vi* to chatter, prattle – *infrml* [perh blend of *yap* and *chatter*]
- yaw** /'yaw/ *n* the action of yawing, esp a side-to-side movement [origin unknown]
- yaw** *vi* **1** to deviate erratically from a course **2** of an aircraft, spacecraft, or projectile to deviate from a straight course by esp side-to-side movement
- yawl** /'yaw/ *n* **1** a small boat carried on a ship **2** a fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel with sails set from a mainmast and a mizzenmast that is situated aft of the rudder [LG *jolle*]
- yawn** /'yawn/ *vi* **1** to open wide, gape <a ~ing chasm> **2** to open the mouth wide and inhale, usu in reaction to fatigue or boredom ~ *vt* to utter with a yawn [ME *yenēn*, *yanēn*, fr OE *gīnan*, akin to OHG *gīnen* to yawn, L *hiare*, Gk *chaimēnēn*] – *yawner* *n*, *yawningly* *adv*
- yawn** *n* **1** a deep usu involuntary intake of breath through the wide open mouth **2** a boring thing or person – slang <thought the cathedral a big ~ – Kenneth Tynan>
- yawp, yaup** /'yawp/ *vi*, chiefly *NAM* **1** to make a raucous noise, squawk **2** to clamour, complain *USE* *infrml* [ME *yolpen*] – *yawp* *n*, *yawper* *n*
- yaws** /'yawz/ *n* *pl* *but sing* or *pl* *in constr* an infectious tropical disease caused by a spirochaetal bacterium and marked by ulcerating sores [of Cariban origin, akin to Calinago *yáya* yaws]
- y-axis** /wɪ-/ *n* **1** the axis that intersects the x-axis in a plane Cartesian coordinate system **2** that 1 of the 3 axes in a 3-dimensional rectangular coordinate system that is not the x- or z-axis
- Y-chromosome** *n* a sex chromosome that in humans occurs paired with an X chromosome in each male cell and does not occur in female cells
- 'ye** /yee/ *pron*, archaic or dial the ones being addressed; you – used ong only as a nominative *pl* pron [ME, fr OE *ge*; akin to OHG *ir* you – more at you]
- 'ye** /dhee, yee/ *definite article*, archaic the <'Ye Olde Gifte Shoppe> [alter. of OE *þe* the, fr the use by early printers of the letter *y* to represent *þ* (th) of manuscripts]
- 'yea** /'yay/ *adv* **1** more than this, indeed <boys, ~ and girls too> **2** archaic yes [ME *ye*, *ya*, fr OE *gea*; akin to OHG *ja* yes]
- 'yea** *n* **1** affirmation, assent **2** chiefly *NAM* (a person casting) an affirmative vote
- yeah** /'yeh/ *adv* yes – used in writing to represent a casual pronunciation [by alter.]
- year** /'yɪə/ *n* **1a** the period of about 365¼ solar days required for 1 revolution of the earth round the sun **b** the time required for the apparent sun to return to an arbitrary fixed or moving reference point in the sky **2a** a cycle in the Gregorian calendar of 365 or 366 days divided into 12 months beginning with January and ending with December **b** a period of time equal to 1 year of the Gregorian calendar but beginning at a different time **3** a calendar year specified usu by a number **4** *pl* age <a man in ~s but a child in understanding>, also old age <beginning to show his ~s> **5** a period of time (e.g. that in which a school is in session) other than a calendar year **6** *sing* or *pl* *in constr* the body of students who enter a school, university, etc in 1 academic year [ME *yece*, fr OE *gear*, akin to OHG *jār* year, Gk *horos* year, *hora* season, hour, L *ire* to go – more at *issue*] – *year* *in*, *year* *out* for an indefinite or seemingly endless number of successive years
- 'year,book** /-,book/ *n* a book published yearly as a report or summary of statistics or facts
- 'year** 'dot *n* – from/since the year dot for a very long time
- 'year** 'end *n* the end of the (fiscal) year – *year-end* *adj*
- yearling** /'yɪəlɪŋ/ *n* sby or sthg 1 year old e.g. a an animal 1 year old or in its second year **b** a racehorse between January 1st of the year following its birth and the next January 1st – *yearling* *adj*
- yearly** /'yɪəli/ *adj* **1** reckoned by the year **2** done or occurring once every year, annual – *yearly* *adv*
- 'Yearly Meeting** *n* an organization uniting several Quarterly Meetings of the Quakers
- yearn** /'yɜ:n/ *vi* **1** to long persistently, wistfully, or sadly <~ for home> <~ to travel> **2** to feel tenderness or compassion <her heart ~ed towards the child> [ME *yernen*, fr OE *giernan*, akin to OHG *geron* to desire, L *hortari* to urge, encourage, Gk *chairein* to rejoice] – *yearner* *n*, *yearningly* *adv*
- 'year** of 'grace *n* a year of the Christian era <the ~ 1982>
- 'year** 'round *adj* effective, employed, or operating for the full year, not seasonal 'i ~ resort)
- yeast** /'yeɪst/ *n* **1** a (commercial preparation of) yellowish surface froth or sediment that consists largely of fungal cells, occurs esp in sweet liquids in wh ch it promotes alcoholic fermentation, and is used esp in making alcoholic drinks and as a leaven in baking **2** a minute fungus that is present and functionally active in yeast, usu has little or no mycelium, and reproduces by budding [ME *ȝest*, fr OE *ȝist*, akin to MHG *ȝest* foam, Gk *zein* to boil]
- yeasty** /'yeɪsti/ *adj* **1** of or resembling yeast **2a** churning with growth and charge; turbulent **b** trivial, frivolous – *yeastily* *adv*, *yeastiness* *n*
- yegg** /'yeg, 'yayg/ *n*, chiefly *NAM* a safecracker, burglar – slang [origin unknown]
- 'yell** /'yel/ *vi* to utter a sharp loud cry, scream, or shout <~ for help> <~ with laughter> ~ *vt* to utter or declare (as if) with a scream, shout <~ curses> [ME *yelcn*, fr OE *giellan*, akin to OHG *gellan* to yell, OE *galan* to sing] – *yeller* *n*
- 'yell** *n* a scream, shout
- 'yellow** /'yeloh/ *adj* **1a** of the colour yellow **b** yellowish through age, disease, or discoloration, sallow **c** having a yellow or light brown complexion or skin **2a** featuring sensational or scandalous items or ordinary news sensationally distorted <~ journalism> **b** dishonourable, cowardly – *infrml* <too ~ to fight> [ME *yelwe*, *yellow*, fr OE *geolu*, akin to OHG *gelo* yellow, L *helvus* light bay, Gk *chloros* greenish yellow, Skt *hari* yellowish] – *yellowish* *adj*, *yellowy* *adj*
- 'yellow** *vb* to make or become yellow
- 'yellow** *n* **1** a colour whose hue resembles that of ripe lemons or dandelions and lies between green and orange in the spectrum **2** sthg yellow e.g. a sby with yellow or light brown skin **b** the yolk of an egg **c** a yellow ball (e.g. in snooker) **3** *pl* *but sing* *in constr* any of several plant diseases caused esp by viruses and marked by yellowing of the foliage and stunting

- yellow 'bile** *n* the one of the 4 humours in medieval physiology believed to be secreted by the liver and to cause irascibility
- yellow 'fever** *n* an often fatal infectious disease of warm regions caused by a mosquito-transmitted virus and marked by fever, jaundice, and often bleeding
- yellow 'flag** *n* a yellow Eurasian iris that grows in damp places
- yellow,hammer** /-hama/ *n* a common Eurasian bunting, the male of which is largely yellow with a reddish-brown back [alter of earlier *yclambre*, fr (assumed) ME *yclwambre*, fr ME *yclwe* yellow + (assumed) ME *ambre* yellowhammer, fr OE *amore*; akin to OHG *amaro* yellowhammer, *amari* emmer]
- yellow jack** *n* 1 YELLOW FEVER 2 a flag raised on ships in quarantine
- yellow 'ochre** *adj* or *n* (of) an orange-yellow colour
- Yellow 'Pages** *n pl* a telephone directory that lists organizations and services alphabetically within sections classified according to the nature of their business
- yellow 'peril** *n*, often *cap* *Y&P* a danger to Western civilization held to arise from expansion of the power and influence of Oriental peoples
- yellow 'pimpernel** *n* a common European pimpernel with nearly prostrate stems and bright yellow flowers
- yelp** /yelp/ *vi* or *n* (to utter) a sharp quick shrill cry (<dogs ~>) [vb ME *yelpen* to boast, cry out, fr OE *gicpan* to boast, exult, akin to OHG *gelph* outcry, Lith *gulbinti* to praise; *n* fr vb] – *yelper* *n*
- 'yen** /yen/ *n*, *pl yen* ㄢ Japan at NATIONALITY [Jap *en*]
- 'yen** *n* a strong desire or propensity, a longing – *infrml* [obs E slang *yen-yen* (craving for opium), fr Chin (Cant) *in-yán*, fr *in* opium + *yan* craving]
- 'yeen** *vi* – *na-* to yearn
- yeoman** /'yohman/ *n*, *pl yeomen* 1 a petty officer who carries out visual signalling in the British navy 2 carries out clerical duties in the US navy 2 a small farmer who cultivates his own land [ME *yoman* attendant in a noble household, freeholder, prob contr of *yong man* young man]
- 'yeomanly** /-li/ *adj* becoming or suitable to a yeoman, sturdy, loyal – *yeomanly* *adv*
- yeoman of the 'guard** *n* a member of a military corps attached to the British Royal Household who serve as ceremonial attendants of the sovereign and as warders of the Tower of London
- 'yeomanry** /-ri/ *n sing* or *pl in constr* 1 the body of small landed proprietors 2 a British volunteer cavalry force created from yeomen in 1761 as a home defence force and reorganized in 1907 as part of the territorial force
- yep** /yep/ *adv* yes – used in writing to represent a casual or American pronunciation [by alter]
- yer** /ya/ *your* – used in writing to represent a nonstandard pronunciation [by alter.]
- yer** – see <sup>1</sup>-ER
- yerba maté** /yuhbə 'mahtay, yeəbə/ *n* maté [AmerSp *yerba mate*, fr yerba herb + *mate* maté]
- 'yes** /yes/ *adv* 1 – used in answers expressing affirmation, agreement, or willingness, contrasted with *no* (<are you ready? Yes, I am>) 2 – used in answers correcting or contradicting a negative assertion or direction (<don't say that! Yes, I will>) 3 YEA 1 4 – indicating uncertainty or polite interest or attentiveness (<Yes? What do you want?>) [ME, fr OE *gese*]
- 'yes** *n* an affirmative reply or vote; an aye
- yeshiva, yeshivah** /yo'sheeva/ *n*, *pl yeshivas, yeshivah* /-voht, -vohth/ 1 a school for Talmudic study 2 an orthodox Jewish rabbinic seminary 3 a Jewish day school providing secular and religious instruction [LHéb *yeshibhah*]
- 'yes,man** *n* one who endorses or supports everything said to him, esp by a superior; a sycophant – *infrml*
- 'yesterday** /'yesdəy, -di/ *adv* on the day before today (<saw him ~>) [ME *yisterday*, fr OE *giestran dæg*, fr *giestran* yesterday + *dæg* day; akin to OHG *gestaran* yesterday, L *heri*, Gk *chthes*]
- 'yesterday** *n* 1 the day before today 2 recent time; time not long past
- yeosteryear** /'yesəyia/ *n* 1 last year 2 the recent past *USE* poetic [*yesterday* + *year*] – *yeosteryear* *adv*
- 'yet** /yet/ *adv* 1a again; IN ADDITION (<gives ~ another reason>) b EVEN 2b (<a ~ higher speed>) 2a up to this or that time; so far – not in affirmative statements (<hasn't had breakfast ~>) b STILL 1, 2 (<have ~ to learn the truth>) c at some future time and despite present appearances (<we may win ~>) 3 nevertheless (<strange and ~ true>) [ME, fr OE *giet*; akin to OFris *iet* yet] – *yet* again still 1 more time
- 'yet** *conj* but nevertheless
- yeti** /'yeti/ *n* ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN [Tibetan]
- yew** /yooh/ *n* (the wood of) any of a genus of evergreen coniferous trees and shrubs with stiff straight leaves and red fruits [ME *ew*, fr OE *iw*; akin to OHG *iwa* yew, OIr *eo*]
- 'Y-fronts** /'wie/ *n pl in constr*, *pl Y-fronts* men's closely fitting underpants in which the front seams take the form of an inverted Y
- YHWH** *n* Yahweh – compare TETRAGRAMMATON
- yid** /yid/ *n*, often *cap* a Jew – chiefly derog [Yiddish, fr MHG *Jude*, *Jude*, fr OHG *Judo*, *Judeo*, fr L *Judaeus* – more at JEW]
- Yiddish** /'yidish/ *n* a High German language containing elements of Hebrew and Slavonic that is usu written in Hebrew characters and is spoken by Jews chiefly in or from E Europe [Yiddish *yidish*, short for *yidish daytsh*, lit., Jewish German] – **Yiddish** *adj*
- Yiddisher** /'yidisha/ *adj* 1 Yiddish 2 Jewish [Yiddish *Yidisher*]
- 'yield** /yeeld/ *vi* 1 to give or render as fitting, rightfully owed, or required (<~ ed allegiance to his master>) 2 to give up possession of on claim or demand: e g a to surrender or submit (oneself) to another b to give (oneself) up to an inclination, temptation, or habit c to relinquish (e g a position of advantage or point of superiority) (<~ precedence>) 3a to bear or bring forth as a natural product (<the tree ~s good fruit>) b to give as a return or in result of expended effort (<properly handled this soil should ~ good crops>) c to produce as revenue (<the tax is expected to ~ millions>) (<a bond that ~s 12 per cent>) ~ *vi* 1 to be fruitful or productive 2 to give up and cease resistance or contention, submit, succumb 3 to give way to pressure or influence, submit to urging, persuasion, or entreaty 4 to give way under physical force (e g bending, stretching, or breaking) 5 to give place or precedence, acknowledge the superiority of another [ME *yielden*, fr OE *gieldan*, akin to OHG *geltan* to pay] – *yielder* *n*
- 'yield** *n* 1 (the amount of) sthg yielded or produced (<~ of wheat per acre>) 2 the capacity of yielding produce (<high ~ strain of wheat>)
- yielding** /'yeelding/ *adj* lacking rigidity or stiffness, flexible
- yin** /yin/ *n* the feminine passive principle in nature that in Chinese thought eternally interacts with its opposite and complementary principle, yang [Chin (Pek) *yin*]
- yip** /yip/ *vi* or *n* – *pp* *chiffly* *NAM* (to utter) a short sharp cry [imit]
- yippee** /'yippee/ *interj* – used to express exuberant delight or triumph
- yl** *comb form* (→ *n*) chemical radical (<ethyl>) (<carbonyl>) (<phenyl>) [Gk *hyle* matter, material, lit., wood]
- ylang-ylang**, *ilang-ilang* /'eelang 'eelang/ *n* (a perfume distilled from the fragrant yellow flowers of) a Malayan tree of the custard-apple family [Tag]
- yob** /yob/ *n*, *Br* a loutish youth, esp a hooligan – slang [back slang for boy]
- yobbo** /'yoboh/ *n*, *Br* a yob – slang
- yodel** /'yohdl/ *vb* -ll- (*NAM* -l-, -ll-), /'yohdliŋ, 'yohdl-ing/ to sing, shout, or call (a tune) by suddenly changing from a normal voice to a falsetto and back [G *jodeln*] – *yodeller* *n*
- 'yodel** *n* a yodelled song, shout, or cry
- yoga** /'yohga/ *n* 1 *cap* a Hindu philosophy teaching the suppression of all activity of body, mind, and will so that the self may attain liberation from them 2 a system of exercises for attaining bodily or mental control and well-being [Skt, lit., yoking, fr *yunakti* he yokes; akin to L *jugere* to join – more at YOKE] – *yogic* *adj*, often *cap*
- yogh** /yohk, yohg, yohkh/ *n* a letter *z* which in Old and Middle English represented a velar or palatal fricative and of which traces remain in the modern spelling *gh* [ME *yogh*, *zogh*]
- yoghourt, yoghurt, yogurt** /'yogət/ *n* a slightly acid semisolid food made of milk fermented by bacteria [Turk *yogurt*]
- yogi** /'yohgi/ *n* 1 sby who practises or is a master of yoga 2 *cap* an adherent of Yoga philosophy [Skt *yogin*, fr *yoga*]
- yolcks** /'yoyks/ *interj*, *archaic* – used as a cry of encouragement to foxhounds
- 'yoke** /yohk/ *n* 1a a bar or frame by which 2 draught animals (e g oxen) are joined at the heads or necks for working together b an arched device formerly laid on the neck of a defeated person c a frame fitted to sby's shoulders to carry a load in 2 equal portions d a crosspiece on a rudder to which steering lines are attached 2 *sing* or *pl in constr* 2 animals yoked or worked together 3a an oppressive agency b a tie, link; esp marriage 4 a fitted or shaped piece at the top of a garment from which the rest hangs [ME *yok*, fr OE *geoc*; akin to OHG *joh* yoke, L *jugum*, Gk *zygon*, L *jugere* to join]
- 'yoke** *vi* 1 to attach (a draught animal) to (sthg) 2 to join (as if) by a yoke
- yokel** /'yohkl/ *n* a naive or gullible rustic; a country bumpkin [perh fr E dial. *yokel* (green woodpecker), of imit origin]

**yolk** *also yoke* /yohk/ *n* 1 the usu yellow spheroidal mass of stored food that forms the inner portion of the egg of a bird or reptile and is surrounded by the white 2 a mass of protein, lecithin, cholesterol, etc that is stored in an ovum as food for the developing embryo [ME *yolke*, fr OE *geoloca*, fr *geolu* yellow – more at **YELLOW**] – **yolked** *adj*, **yolky** *adj*  
**'yolk sac** *n* a membranous sac, nearly vestigial in placental mammals, attached to an embryo and containing the yolk → **LIFE CYCLE**

**Yom Kippur** /yom ki'pooa, 'kipa/ *n* a Jewish holiday observed with fasting and prayer on the 10th day of the Jewish year [Heb *yom kippur*, fr *yom* day + *kippur* atonement]

**yon** /yon/ *adj* or *adv*, *archaic* or *dial* **yonder** [adj ME, fr OE *geon*, akin to OHG *icner*, *adj*, that, Gk *ene* day after tomorrow, *adv* fr adj]

**yonder** /'yonda/ *adj* or *adv* over there [adv ME, fr *yond* (fr OE *geond*) + *-er* (as in *hither*), *adj* fr *adv*]

**yoni** /'yohni/ *n* a stylized representation of the female genitals used in Hindu temples to symbolize the feminine cosmic principle – compare **LINGA** [Skt, vulva]

**yonks** /'yongks/ *n*, *Br* a long time, ages – *infml* [origin unknown]

**yoo-hoo** /'yooh ,hoo/ *interj* – used to attract attention or as a call to people – **yoo-hoo** /:-/ *vi*

**yore** /yaw/ *n* time (long) past – *usu* in *of yore* [ME, fr *yore*, *adv*, long ago, fr OE *geara*, fr *gear* year]

**york** /yawk/ *vt* to bowl (a batsman) out with a yorker [back-formation fr *yorker*]

**yorker** /'yawka/ *n* a ball bowled in cricket that is aimed to bounce on the popping crease and so pass under the bat [prob fr *Yorkshire*, where it was allegedly introduced]

**Yorkist** /'yawkist/ *adj* of the English royal house of York that ruled from 1461 to 1485 [Edward, Duke of York (Edward IV of England) †1483] – **Yorkist** *n*

**Yorkshire 'fog** /'yawkshia, -sha/ *n* a perennial grass with a velvety stem [Yorkshire, county in N England]

**Yorkshireman** /'yorkshiaman, -sha-/, *fem* **Yorkshirewoman** *n* a native of Yorkshire

**Yorkshire 'pudding** *n* a savoury baked pudding made from a batter and *usu* eaten before or with roast beef

**Yorkshire 'terrier** *n* a compact toy terrier with long straight silky hair mostly bluish grey but tan on the head and chest

**Yoruba** /'yorooba/ *n*, *pl* **Yorubas**, *esp* collectively **Yoruba** 1 a member of a Negro people of the coast of W Africa, esp SW Nigeria 2 the Kwa language of the Yoruba → **LANGUAGE**

**you** /yoo, strong yoo/ *pron*, *pl* **you** 1 the one being addressed – used as subject or object [*can I pour ~ a cup of tea?*], sometimes used as an exclamation with vocatives (< ~ *angel*) (< ~ *scoundrels*) 2 a person, one (< *funny, when ~ come to think of it*) [ME, fr OE *cow*, dat & accus of *gē* you (pl), akin to OHG *iu*, dat of *ir* you, Skt *yuyam* you] – **you** get there is or are (< *within the Chinese language you get quite different sounds* – **SEU S**)

**you'all** *pron*, chiefly S US **you** – *usu* used in addressing 2 or more people or sometimes 1 person as representing also another or others

**you'd** /yoohd/ *you* had, *you* would

**you-know-where** *n* a place understood but unspecified

**you-know-who** *n* sby understood but unspecified

**you'll** /yoohl/ *you* will, *you* shall

**'young** /yung/ *adj* **younger** /'yung-gə/, **youngest** /'yung gist/ 1a in the first or an early stage of life, growth, or development b **JUNIOR** 1 c of an early or tender age for eating or drinking (< *fresh ~ lamb*) 2 recently come into being; new (< *a ~ industry*) (< *the night is ~*) 3 of or having the characteristics (e.g. vigour or gaiety) of young people (< *a ~ style of dress*) 4 tending towards the size of (< *the chapel was a ~ cathedral*) [← **YONG**, fr OE *geong*; akin to OHG *jung* young, L *juvenis*] – **youngish** /'yung-gish/ *adj*, **youngness** *n*

**\*young** *n pl* 1 young people, youth 2 immature offspring, esp of an animal – with **young** of a female animal pregnant

**younger** /'yung-gə/ *adj* inferior in age; junior – used before or after sby's name to distinguish him/her from his/her father or mother (< *William Pitt the Younger*)

**youngling** /'yungling/ *n* a young person or animal – **youngling** *adj*

**young 'person** *n* sby between the ages of 14 and 17 – used in English law; compare **CHILD** 2c (2)

**youngster** /'yungsta/ *n* 1 a young person or creature 2 a child, baby

**'Young 'Turk** /tuhk/ *n* a radical member of a political party [*Young Turks*, a 20th-c revolutionary party in Turkey]

**your** /yə, strong yaw/ *adj* 1 of you or yourself or yourselves, esp as

possessor or possessors (< ~ *bodies*), agent or agents (< ~ *contributions*), or object or objects of an action (< ~ *injury*) – used with certain titles in the vocative (< ~ *Eminence*) 2 of one or oneself (< *when you face north, east is on ~ right*) 3 – used for indicating sthg well-known and characteristic, *infml* (< *typical commuter*) **USE** used attributively [ME, fr OE *cower*, gen of *gē* you (pl)]

**you're** /yaw, yooə/ *you* are

**yours** /yawz/ *pron*, *pl* **yours** that which or the one who belongs to you – used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *your*; often used in the complimentary close of a letter (< ~ *truly*) [ME, fr *your* + *-s* -s] – **yours** truly 1 I, me, myself (< *I can take care of yours truly*) 2 your letter (< *yours truly of the 19th*)

**yourself** /yə'self, yaw'self/ *pron*, *pl* **yourselves** /-'selvz/ 1a that identical person or creature that is you – used reflexively (< *enjoy yourselves, everyone*), for emphasis (< *carry it ~*), or in absolute constructions b *your* normal self (< *soon be ~ again*) 2 oneself

**youth** /'yoohth/ *n*, *pl* **youths** /'yoohdhz/ 1 the time of life when one is young, esp adolescence (< *lived there in his ~*) 2a a young male adolescent b young people – often *pl* in constr (< *modern ~*) 3 the quality of being youthful (< *preserved her ~*) [ME *youthie*, fr OE *geoguth*, akin to OE *geong* young – more at **YOUNG**]

**'youthful** /-f(ə)l/ *adj* 1 (characteristic) of youth (< ~ *complexion*) (< ~ *optimism*) 2 not yet mature or old, young (< ~ *dancers*) – **youthfully** *adv*, **youthfulness** *n*

**'youth, hostel** *n* a lodging typically providing inexpensive bed and breakfast accommodation for members of the YHA, esp young travellers or hikers – **youth-hosteller** *n*, **youth-hostelling** *n*

**you've** /yoohv/ *you* have

**yow** /yow/ *n* a yell of pain – often used interjectionally [imit]

**yowl** /yowl/ *vi* or *n* (to utter) the loud long wail of a cat or dog in pain or distress [vb ME *yowlen*, prob of imit origin; n fr vb]

**yo-yo** /'yoh ,yoh/ *n*, *pl* **yo-yos** a toy that consists of 2 discs separated by a deep groove in which a string is attached and wound and that is made to fall and rise when held by the string [native name in Philippines]

**ytterbium** /'tuhbi-əm/ *n* a bivalent or trivalent metallic element of the rare-earth group that resembles and occurs with yttrium → **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr *Ytterby*, town in Sweden]

**yttrium** /'itri-əm/ *n* a trivalent metallic rare-earth element → **PERIODIC TABLE** [NL, fr *yttria* (yttrium oxide), irreg fr *Ytterby*]

**yuan** /'yooh-an, yoo'hahn/ *n*, *pl* **yuan** – **China** at **NATIONALITY** [Chin (Pek) *yuan*]

**yuca** /'yuka/ *n* any of a genus of sometimes tree-like plants of the lily family with long often rigid leaves and a large cluster of white flowers [NL, genus name, fr Sp *yuca*]

**yule** /yu:hl/ *n*, often *cap*, *archaic* Christmas [ME *yol*, fr OE *geol*; akin to ON *jol* winter feast, Christmas]

**'Yule log** *n* a large log formerly put on the hearth on Christmas Eve as the foundation of the fire

**yummy** /'yumi/ *adj* highly attractive or pleasing, esp to the palate, delicious – *infml* [*yum-yum*]

**yum-yum** /'yum 'yum/ *interj* – used to express pleasurable satisfaction, esp in the taste of food [imit of the sound of smacking the lips]

**Yurak** /'yoo'rak, 'yoosarak/ *n* a Uralic language of N Russia and Siberia

**yurt** /'yooot/ *n* a collapsible domed tent of skins or felt used by Mongol nomads of Central Asia [Russ *yurta*, of Turkic origin, akin to Turk *yurt* dwelling]

## Z

**z** /zed/ *n*, *pl* **z's**, **zs** often *cap* 1 (a graphic representation of or device for reproducing) the 26th letter of the English alphabet 2 one designated z, esp as the 3rd in a series that includes x, y, and z

**zabaglione** /zaba'lyohni/ *n* a thick creamy dessert made by whipping eggs, sugar, and (Marsala) wine over hot water [It]

**zaddik**, **tzaddik** /'tsahdik/ *n*, *pl* **zaddikim** /'tsah'dikim/ an exceptionally righteous and saintly person by Jewish religious standards, often credited with supernatural powers [Heb *saddiq* just, righteous]

**zaffre** /'zafə/ *n* an impure oxide of cobalt used esp as a blue ceramic colouring [It *zaffera*]

**zaire** /zah'ə/ *n*, *pl* **zaire** ㄗㄞˊ *Zaire* at NATIONALITY [F *zaire*, fr *Zaire* (Congo), river in central Africa]

**'zany** /'zəni/ *n* one who acts the buffoon to amuse others [It *zanni*, a traditional masked clown, fr It (dial.) *Zanni*, nickname for *Giovanni* John]

**'zany** *adj* fantastically or absurdly ludicrous – **zantly** *adv*, **zaniness** *n*

**'zap** /zəp/ *interj* – used to indicate a sudden or instantaneous occurrence; *infmt* [imit]

**'zap** *vb* – **pp** – *vt* 1 to overwhelm, overcome 2 to propel vigorously 3 *chiefly* *NAM* to destroy, kill ~ *vi* to move with speed or force *USE* slang **zapateado** /,zahpə'tay'əhdoh/ *n* a Latin American dance marked by rhythmic stamping or tapping of the feet [Sp, fr *zapatear* to strike or tap with the shoe, fr *zapato* shoe]

**zappy** /'zəpi/ *adj* 1 energetic, dynamic (the ~ presentation of a TV commercial) 2 fast-moving (a ~ little car) *USE* *infmt*

**zareba**, **zariba** /zə'reebə/ *n* an improvised stockade constructed, esp of thorny bushes, in parts of Africa [Ar *zaribah* enclosure]

**zarzuela** /zah'zwəylə/ *n* a traditional Spanish comic opera [Sp]

**'z-axis** /zəd/ *n* that 1 of the 3 axes in a 3-dimensional rectangular coordinate system that is not the *x*- or *y*-axis

**zeal** /zel/ *n* eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of sthg; keenness [ME *zele*, fr LL *zelus*, fr Gk *zelos*]

**zealot** /'zelɒt/ *n* a zealous person, esp a fanatical partisan [LL *zelotes*, fr Gk *zelōtēs*, fr *zelos*] – **zealot** *adj*, **zealotry** /-tri/ *n*

**zealous** /'zeləs/ *adj* filled with or characterized by zeal (~ missionaries) – **zealously** *adv*, **zealousness** *n*

**zebra** /'zebrə/, 'zebrə/ *n*, *pl* **zebras**, esp collectively *zebra* any of several black and white striped fast-running African mammals related to the horse ㄗㄝˊ DEFENCE, FOOD [It, fr Sp *cebra*] – **zebrine** /-bri:n/ *adj*, **zebroid** /-broyd/ *adj*

**zebra crossing** *n* a crossing in Britain marked by a series of broad white stripes to indicate that pedestrians have the right of way across a road

**'zebra finch** *n* a small largely grey and white Australian weaver bird

**zebu** /'zeb(y)oo/ *n* an ox of any of several breeds of domesticated Asiatic oxen with a large fleshy hump over the shoulders [F *zébu*]

**Zechariah** /,zekə'ri:ə/ *n* (a prophetic book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 6th c BC [Heb *Zekharyāh*]

**zed** /zed/ *n*, *chiefly* *Br* the letter *z* [ME, fr MF *zede*, fr LL *zeta* *zeta*, fr Gk *zēta*]

**zee** /ze:/ *n*, *NAM* *zed*

**zein** /'ze:in/ *n* a protein in maize used esp in making textile fibres, printing inks, coatings, etc [NL *Zea*, genus of grasses including Indian corn, fr Gk, wheat; akin to Skt *yava* barley]

**zeitgeist** /'tsiet:ge:st/ *n* the general intellectual and moral character or cultural climate of an era [G, fr *zeit* time + *geist* spirit]

**Zen** /zen/ *n* a Japanese sect of Mahayana Buddhism that aims at enlightenment by direct intuition through meditation (e.g. on paradoxes) [Jap, religious meditation, fr Chin (Pek) *ch'an*\*, fr Pali *jhana*, fr Skt *dhyāna*, fr *dhyāyati* he thinks – more at SEMANTIC]

**zenana** /'ze'nə:nə/ *n* the women's quarters in an eastern, esp Muslim, house [Hindi *zanāna*, fr Per, fr *zan* woman]

**Zend-Avesta** /,zend ə'vestə/ *n* the Avesta [F, fr MPer *Avastāk va Zand* Avesta and commentary]

**zener diode** /'ze:nə/ *n*, often cap *Z* a silicon semiconductor device that is used to provide a stable voltage for reference or voltage regulation [origin unknown]

**zenith** /'zenɪθ/ *n* 1 the point of the celestial sphere that is directly opposite the nadir and vertically above the observer 2 the highest point reached in the heavens by a celestial body 3 the culminating point or stage (at the ~ of his powers – John Buchan) [ME *senith*, fr MF *cenith*, fr ML, fr OSp *zenit*, modif of Ar *saṃt* (ar-ra's) path (above the head)]

**zenithal** /'zenɪθəl/ *adj* 1 of or located at or near the zenith 2 showing correct directions from the centre (a ~ map)

**zeolite** /'zeə-əli:t/ *n* (a synthetic silicate resembling) any of various minerals that are hydrous aluminium silicates analogous in composition to the feldspars and can act as ion-exchangers (e.g. in water softening) [Sw *zeolit*, fr Gk *zein* to boil + -o- + Sw -lit -lite, fr F -lite – more at YEAST] – **zeolitic** /-li:tik/ *adj*

**Zephaniah** /,zefə'ni:ə/ *n* (an apocalyptic book of the Old Testament attributed to) a Hebrew prophet of the 7th c BC [Heb *Səphanyāh*]

**zephyr** /'zefə/ *n* 1 a gentle breeze, esp from the west 2 any of various lightweight fabrics or articles of clothing [ME *Zephyrus*, west wind (personified), fr L *Zephyrus*, *zephyrus* (god of the) west wind, *zephyr*, fr Gk *Zephyros*, *zephyros*]

**zeppelin** /'zep(ə)lin/ *n*, often cap a large rigid cigar-shaped airship of a type built in Germany in the early 20th c, broadly an airship [Count Ferdinand von *Zeppelin* †1917 G general & aeronaut]

**'zero** /'ziəro/ *n*, *pl* **zeros** also **zeroes** 1 the arithmetical symbol 0 or 0 denoting the absence of all magnitude or quantity 2 ㄗㄝˊ NUMBER 3 the point of departure in reckoning, specif the point from which the graduation of a scale begins 4a nothing (slow down to ~ in the traffic) b the lowest point (his spirits fell to ~) [F or It, F *zéro*, fr It *zero*, fr ML *zephurum*, fr Ar *sifr*]

**'zero** *adj* 1 having no magnitude or quantity (~ growth) 2a of a cloud ceiling limiting vision to 15m (about 50ft) or less b of horizontal visibility limited to 50m (about 165ft) or less

**'zero** *vt* to adjust the sights of (e.g. a rifle) ~ *vi* 1 to concentrate firepower on a specified target 2 to move near to or focus attention as if on a target, close (reporters ~ed in on Miss World) *USE* (vi) usu + *in* on **'zero**, **hour** *n* the time at which an event is scheduled to take place [fr its being marked by the count of zero in a countdown]

**zest** /zest/ *n* 1 the outer peel of a citrus fruit used as flavouring 2 piquancy, spice (danger added ~ to the proceedings) 3 keen enjoyment, gusto (her ~ for living) [obs F (now *zeste*)] – **zestful** *adj*, **zesty** *adj*

**zeta** /'zeta/ *n* the 6th letter of the Greek alphabet [Gk *zēta*]

**zeugma** /'zyoohgma/ *n* the use of a word to modify or govern 2 or more words, usu in such a manner that it applies to each in a different sense (e.g. in 'opened the door and her heart to the homeless boy') [L, fr Gk, lit., joining, fr *zeugnynai* to join; akin to L *jungere* to join – more at VOKE]

**zibet** /'zibit/ *n* a common Asian civet [It *zibetto* & ML *zibethum*, fr Ar *zabād* civet perfume]

**ziggurat** /'zɪɡərət/ *n* a temple tower of ancient Mesopotamia in the form of a stepped pyramid [Akkadian *zīqurrātu* pinnacle]

**'zigzag** /'zɪɡ.zəɡ/ *n* a line, course, or pattern consisting of a series of sharp alternate turns or angles (a blue shirt with red ~s) [F]

**'zigzag** *adj* forming or going in a zigzag, consisting of zigzags (a ~ path up the hill) – **zigzag** *adv*

**'zigzag** *vb* – **gg** – *vt* to form into a zigzag ~ *vi* to proceed along or consist of a zigzag course

**zilch** /zɪlch/ *adj* or *n*, *chiefly* *NAM* zero – slang [by alter]

**zillion** /'zɪljən/ *n* an indefinitely large number – often pl with sing meaning; *infmt* (~s of mosquitoes) [x + -illion (as in million)]

**'zinc** /zɪŋk/ *n* a bluish white bivalent metallic element that occurs abundantly in minerals and is used esp as a protective coating for iron and steel ㄗɪŋ PERIODIC TABLE [G *zink*] – **zincic** *adj*, **zincous** *adj*

**'zinc** *vt* – **c**-, **-ck** – to treat or coat with zinc

**zincate** /'zɪŋkəɪt/ *n* a compound formed by reaction of zinc oxide or zinc with alkaline solutions

**zinc oxide** *n* a white solid used esp as a pigment and in medicinal and cosmetic preparations

**zinc white** *n* zinc oxide used as a pigment

**'zing** /zɪŋ/ *n* energy, vim – *infmt* [*zing* (a shrill humming noise), of imit origin]

**'zing** *vi* to move briskly or with a humming sound – *infmt*

**zingy** /'zɪŋ-ɪ/ *adj* strikingly exciting or attractive (a ~ musical) (a ~ new outfit) – *infmt* ['zɪŋg]

**zinnia** /'zɪniə/, 'zɪni:ə/ *n* any of a small genus of tropical American composite plants with showy flower heads and long-lasting ray flowers [NL, genus name, fr Johann *Zinn* †1759 G botanist]

**Zion** /'zi:ən, 'zi:ən/ *n* 1a the Jewish people b the Jewish homeland 2 heaven [Zion, citadel in Palestine which was the nucleus of Jerusalem, fr ME *Sion*, fr OE, fr LL, fr Heb *Siyōn*]

**Zionism** /'zi:ə-nɪz(ə)m/ *n* a movement for setting up a Jewish homeland in Palestine – **Zionist** *adj* or *n*

**'zip** /zip/ *vb* – **pp** – *vi* 1 to move with speed and vigour (waitresses ~ped by) 2 to become open, closed, or attached by means of a zip 3 to travel with a sharp hissing or humming sound ~ *vt* 1a to close or open (as if) with a zip b to enclose by means of a zip (~ him into his wet suit) c to cause (a zip) to open or shut 2 to add zest or life to – often + *up* [imit of the sound of a speeding object; (vi 2, vt 1) 'zip 3]

**'zip** *n* 1 a light sharp hissing sound 2 energy, liveliness 3 *chiefly* *Br* a fastener that joins 2 edges of fabric by means of 2 flexible spirals or rows of teeth brought together by a sliding clip – **zippy** *adj*, **zippily** *adv*

**'zip** *adj* zip-up (a ~ jacket)

**'zip code** *n*, often cap *Z&I&P* a 5-digit number that is used in the postal address of a place in the USA to assist sorting – compare **POSTCODE** [zone improvement plan]


**zip fastener** /'fəh(s)ə'nə/ *n*, *chiefly* *Br* *zip 3*

**zipped** /zɪpt/ *adj* zip-up

**zipper** /ˈzɪpə/ *n*, chiefly *NAm* zipper 3


**'zip-up** *adj* fastened by means of a zip

**zircon** /ˈzɪrkən/ *n* a variously coloured mineral consisting of a zirconium silicate and used as a gem when transparent [G, modif of *F jargon* jargon, zircon, fr *It giargone*]

**zirconium** /ˈzɪrkəniəm, -ni-əm/ *n* a steel-grey ductile chiefly tetra-valent metallic element that occurs widely in combined form (e.g. in zircon) and is used esp in alloys and in heat-resisting ceramic materials  PERIODIC TABLE [NL, fr *ISV zircon*]


**zither** /ˈzɪðə/ *n* a stringed instrument having usu 30 to 40 strings over a shallow horizontal soundboard and played with plectrum and fingers [G, fr *L cithara* lyre, fr *Gk kithara*] – **zitherist** *n*

**zizz** /zɪz/ *vi* or *n*, *Br* (to) nap, doze – *infrm* [imit of the sound of a sleeper's breathing]

**zloty** /ˈzlɒti/ *n*, *pl* **zlotys** /ˈzlɒteɪz/ also **zloty**  Poland at NATIONALITY [Pol *z* ty]

**zo-, zoo-** *comb form* animal, animal kingdom <zoo(d)> <zology> [Gk *zōi-, zōio-,* fr *zōion*, akin to Gk *zoe* life – more at *quick*]

**-zoa** /-ˈzoh-ə/ *comb form* (→ *n pl*) animals – in taxa <Metazoa> [NL, fr *Gk zōia*, *pl* of *zōion*]

**zodiac** /ˈzəʊdiæk/ *n* an imaginary belt in the heavens that encompasses the apparent paths of all the principal planets except Pluto, has the ecliptic as its central line, and is divided into 12 constellations or signs each taken for astrological purposes to extend 30 degrees of longitude  SYMBOL [ME, fr *MF zodiaque*, fr *L zodiacus*, fr *Gk zōidiakos*, fr *zōidiakos*, *adj*, of carved figures, of the zodiac, fr *zōidion* carved figure, sign of the zodiac, fr *dim* of *zōion* living being, figure, akin to Gk *zoe* life – more at *quick*] – **zodiacal** /ˈzəʊdiækəl, -zə-/ *adj*

**zodiacal light** /ˈzəʊdiækəl, -zə-/ *n* a diffuse glow seen in the west after twilight and in the east before dawn

**'zoic** /-ˈzoh-ɪk/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) being an animal that has (such) a mode of existence <holozoic> <saprozoic> [Gk *zoikos* of animals, fr *zōion* animal – more at *zo-*]

**zoic** *comb form* (→ *adj*) of or being (such) a geological era <Archaeozoic> <Mesozoic> [Gk *zoe* life]

**zombie**, *NAm* also **zombi** /ˈzɒmbi/ *n* 1 a human in the W Indies capable only of automatic movement who is held, esp in Haitian voodooism, to have died and been reanimated 2 a person resembling the walking dead, esp a shambling automaton [of Niger-Congo origin, akin to Kongo *nzambi* god] – **zombielike** *adj*

**'zone** /zəʊn/ *n* 1a any of 5 great divisions of the earth's surface with respect to latitude and temperature b a portion of the surface of a sphere included between 2 parallel planes 2a a subdivision of a biogeographic region that supports a similar fauna and flora throughout its extent b a distinctive layer of rock or other earth materials 3 an area distinct from adjoining parts (an *erogenous* ~) 4 any of the sections into which an area is divided for a particular purpose (a *smokeless* ~) [L *zona* belt, zone, fr *Gk zōne*, akin to *Lith juosti* to gird] – **zonal** *adj*, **zonate**, **zonated** *adj*

**zone** *vt* 1 to arrange in, mark off, or partition into zones 2 to assign to a zone (<neighbourhood has been ~ed as residential>) – **zoner** *n*

**'zone melting** *n* the purification of a crystalline material, esp a metal, by passing a molten part of itself through it to pick up impurities

**zone refine** *vt* to produce or refine by zone melting

**zonked** /zɒŋkt/ *adj* 1 highly intoxicated by alcohol, LSD, etc – often + *out* 2 completely exhausted *USF* slang [origin unknown]

**zoo** /zəʊ/ *n*, *pl* **zoos** a zoological garden or collection of living animals usu open to the public [short for *zoological garden*]

**zoo-** see *zo-*

**zoogeography** /ˌzəʊ-əˈɡrɑːfi/ *n* zoology dealing with the geographical distribution of animals [ISV] – **zoogeographer** *n*, **zoogeographic** /ˌzəʊ-əˈɡrɑːfɪk/ also **zoogeographical** *adj*

**zooid** /ˈzəʊ-ɔɪd/ *n* an entity that resembles but is not wholly the same as a separate individual organism; esp a more or less independent animal produced by fission, proliferation, or other methods that do not directly involve sex – **zooidal** /ˈzəʊ-ɔɪdl/ *adj*

**zoological garden** /ˌzəʊ-əˈlɒjɪkl, -zəʊ-ə/ *n* a garden or park where wild animals are kept for exhibition – often *pl* with *sing.* meaning

**zoology** /ˈzəʊ-ɒləʒi, -zəʊ-/ *n* (biology) that deals with animals and animal life, usu excluding human beings [NL *zoologia*, fr *zo-* + *-logia* -logy] – **zoologist** *n*, **zoological** /-əˈlɒjɪkl/ also **zoologic** *adj*, **zoologically** *adv*

**'zoom** /zəʊm/ *vi* 1 to move with a loud low hum or buzz 2 to rise sharply (<retail sales ~ed>) – *vt* to operate the zoom lens of (e.g. a camera) [imit]

**'zoom** *n* 1 an act or process of zooming 2 **ZOOM LENS**

**zoom lens** *n* a lens (e.g. in a camera) in which the image size can be varied continuously so that the image remains in focus at all times

**zooomorph** /ˌzəʊ-əˈmɔːfɪk/ *adj* resembling the form of (part of) an animal (<a ~ orchid> (<a ~ deity>) [ISV]

**-zoon** /-ˈzoh-ən/ *comb form* (→ *n*), *pl* **-zoa** animal; **zooid** (<haematozoon> <spermatozoon>) [NL, fr *Gk zōion*]

**zoonosis** /ˌzəʊˈnəʊsɪs, -zəʊ-əˈnəʊsɪs/ *n*, *pl* **zoonoses** /-ˈseɪz/ any disease (e.g. rabies or anthrax) communicable from lower animals to human beings [NL, fr *zo-* + *Gk nosos* disease] – **zoonotic** /ˌzəʊ-əˈnɒtɪk/ *adj*

**zophilous** /ˌzəʊˈfɪləs/ *adj* having an attraction to or preference for animals e.g. a adapted for pollination by animals other than insects – compare *ENTOMOPHILOUS* b of a blood-sucking insect preferring lower animals to human beings as a source of food

**zoophyte** /ˌzəʊ-əˈfi:t/ *n* a coral, sponge, or other (branching or treelike) invertebrate animal resembling a plant [Gk *zōophyton*, fr *zōi-, zō-* + *phyton* plant – more at *PHYT-*] – **zoophytic** /-ˈfɪtɪk/ *adj*

**zooplankton** /ˌzəʊ-ˈplæŋktən, -tən/ *n* planktonic animal life – compare *PHYTOPLANKTON* – **zooplanktonic** /-ˈplæŋktənɪk/ *adj*

**zoospore** /ˌzəʊ-əˈspɔːr/ *n* a spore capable of independent movement [ISV]

**'zoot suit** /ˈzəʊt/ *n* a flamboyant suit typically consisting of a thigh-length jacket with wide padded shoulders and trousers tapering to narrow cuffs [zoot prob arbitrary rhyme on *suit*]

**zoril** /ˈzɒrɪl/ *n* a zorilla

**zorilla** /ˈzɒrɪlə/ *n* a S African animal that resembles the weasel [F *Zorille*, fr *Sp zorilla*, *zorillo*, *dim* of *zorra*, *zorro* fox]

**Zoroastrianism** /ˌzəʊ-əˈstri-ənɪz(ə)m/ *n* a Persian dualistic religion founded in the 6th c BC by the prophet Zoroaster, promulgated in the Avesta, and characterized by worship of a supreme god Ahura Mazda who is engaged in a constant cosmic struggle against the evil spirit Anhrman – **Zoroastrian** *adj* or *n*

**Zouave** /ˈzəʊ-əv, -zəv/ *n* a member of a French infantry unit, orig composed of Algerians, wearing a brilliant uniform [F, fr *Berber Zwāwa*, an Algerian tribe]

**zucchetto** /ˌtsəʊkˈetəʊ, -soʊ-, -zəʊ-/ *n*, *pl* **zucchetos** a skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, coloured according to the rank of the wearer [It, fr *zucca* gourd, head, fr *LL cucutia* gourd]

**zucchini** /ˈzəʊkˈeɪni, -soʊ-/ *n*, *pl* **zucchini**, **zucchini** chiefly *NAm* a courgette [It, *pl* of *zucchini*, *dim* of *zucca* gourd]

**'Zulu** /ˈzəʊloʊh/ *n* 1 a member of a Bantu-speaking people of Natal 2 a Bantu language of the Zulus – **Zulu** *adj*

**'Zulu** a communications code word for the letter *z*

**Zuni**, **Zuni** /ˈzəʊni(jeɪ-/ *n*, *pl* **Zunis**, **Zūnis**, esp collectively **Zuni**, **Zūni** a member, or the language, of an American Indian people of NE Arizona [Amer Sp] – **Zunian**, **Zūnian** *adj*

**zwieback** /ˈswiːbæk, -zwe-/ *n* a usu sweetened rich bread that is baked and then sliced and toasted until dry and crisp [G, lit, twice baked, fr *zwie-* twice (fr *OHG zwi-*) + *backen* to bake, fr *OHG bahhan* – more at *TWI-, BAKE*]

**Zwinglian** /ˈzwɪŋ-ɡli-ən, -tsɪŋ-/ *adj* of (the teachings of) Ulrich Zwingli, esp the doctrine that Christ's presence in the Eucharist is symbolic [Ulrich Zwingli †1531 Swiss theologian] – **Zwinglian** *n*

**zwitterion** /ˈtsɪvɪtɪ-ən/ *n* an ion with both a positive and a negative charge [G, fr *zwitter* hybrid + *ion*] – **zwitterionic** /-ni-ənɪk/ *adj*

**zyg** *zygo-* *comb form* pair <zygodactyl> [NL, fr *Gk*, fr *zygon* yoke – more at *YOKE*]

**zygodactyl** /ˌziːɡəˈdaktɪl/ *adj*, of a bird having 2 toes pointing forwards and 2 backwards [ISV *zyg-* + *Gk daktylos* toe] – **zygodactyl** *n*, **zygodactylous** *adj*

**zygoma** /ˌziːɡəˈmɑː, -zi-/ *n*, *pl* **zygomata** /-ˈmɑː/ also **zygomata** *zygomat* *ARCH* [NL *zygomat-*, *zygoma*, fr *Gk zygomā*, fr *zygoun* to join together, fr *zygon*] – **zygomat** /-ˈmatɪk/ *adj*

**zygomat** *arch* /ˌziːɡəˈmatɪk, -zi-/ *n* the arch of bone that extends along the front or side of the skull beneath the eye socket

**zygomorphic** /ˌziːɡəˈmɔːfɪk, -zi-, -gə-/ *adj* symmetrical about only 1 longitudinal plane (<the ~ flowers of the toadflax>) – **zygomorphism**, **zygomorphy** /-ˈfɔːr-/ *n*

**zygospore** /ˌziːɡəˈspɔːr, -zi-, -gə-/ *n* a plant spore (e.g. in some algae), formed by union of 2 similar sexual cells, that grows to produce the phase of the plant that produces asexual spores – compare *OOSPORE* [ISV]

**zygote** /ˌziːɡəʊt, -ziːɡəʊt/ *n* (the developing individual produced from) a cell formed by the union of 2 gametes [Gk *zygōtos* yoked, fr *zygoun*] – **zygotic** /-ˈɡotɪk/ *adj*

**zygotene** /ziegə,teen/ *n* the stage in meiotic cell division in which homologous chromosomes pair intimately [ISV]

**-zygous** /-zigəs/ *comb form* (→ *adj*) having (such) a zygotic constitution <heterozygous> [Gk -zygos yoked, fr zygon]

**zym-, zymo-** *comb form* 1 fermentation <zymurgy> 2 enzyme <zymogen> [NL, fr Gk, leaven, fr zymē]

**zymase** /zieməyz, -mays/ *n* an enzyme or complex of enzymes that promotes the breakdown of glucose [ISV]

**zymogen** /zieməjen, -jən/ *n* an inactive protein secreted by living cells and activated by catalysis to form an enzyme [ISV]

**zymogenic** /ziemə'jenik/ *adj* 1 producing fermentation 2 of a zymogen

**zymology** /zie'moləʒi/ *n* the science of fermentation [NL *zymologia*, fr *zym-* + *-logia -logy*]

**zymotic** /zie'motik/ *adj* 1 of, causing, or caused by fermentation 2 relating to, being, or causing an infectious or contagious disease



# Foreign Phrases

## Pronunciation of Foreign Phrases

All foreign phrases are given an anglicized pronunciation which the English speaker will easily be able to say. In addition, the International Phonetic Alphabet symbols are given where appropriate to help those people who are interested in the way the word or phrase is pronounced in its own language.

Pronunciation of Latin phrases is very variable. We have tried as far as possible to use the modern system of Latin pronunciation, with the exception that for reasons of economy all written *vs* are shown only as */v/*, although the pronunciation */w/* is equally acceptable.

## A

- absit omen** /əb'sit 'ohmen/ perish the thought! [L, lit, let the omen be absent]
- ab urbe condita** /əb 'ooəbay 'konditə/ from the founding of the city (Rome, founded 753 bc)—used by the Romans in reckoning dates [L]
- à coup sûr** /əh 'koooh sooh (Fr a ku syr)/ surely, definitely [F, lit, with sure stroke]
- ad arbitrium** /əd əh'bitri əm/ at will, arbitrarily [L]
- ad/in utrumque paratus** /əd 'oohtromkway pə'rahtəs, in/ prepared for either (event) [L]
- ad majorem Dei gloriam** /əd mə'jəwrem 'dayce 'glawnəm/ to the greater glory of God—motto of the Society of Jesus [L]
- ad patres** /əd 'pəhtrayz/ deceased [L, lit, to the fathers]
- à droite** /əh 'drwaht (Fr a drwat)/ to or on the right [F]
- ad vivum** /əd 'veevəm/ to the life [L]
- aequo animo** /'ekwoh 'animoh/ calmly [L, lit, with even or equal mind]
- à gauche** /əh 'gohsh (Fr a go:ʃ)/ to or on the left [F]
- age quod agis** /əgay kwod 'agis/ to the business in hand [L, lit, do what you are doing]
- à huis clos** /əh 'wee 'kloh (Fr a qi klo)/ in private [F, lit, with closed doors]
- aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera** /əd 'twah lə 'syel tɛdə'rah (Fr ɛd twa lə sʁɛl tɛdara)/ heaven helps those who help themselves [F, lit, help yourself, heaven will help you]
- à la belle étoile** /əh lah bel əy'twəhl (Fr a la bɛ:l ɛtwal)/ under the stars, in the open air at night [F, lit, at or by the light of the beautiful star]
- à la française** /əh lah frən'sez (Fr a la frɑ̃sɛ:z)/ in the French style [F]
- à l'anglaise** /əh long'glez (Fr a lɑ̃glɛ:z)/ in the English style [F]
- alea jacta est/jacta alea est** /əlayə 'yaktə est/ the die is cast [L, attributed to Julius Caesar on crossing the Rubicon]
- alter idem** /'altə(r) 'idɛm, 'altə/ a second self [L]
- amor patriae** /ə'maw 'patrijə/ love of one's country [L]
- amor vincit omnia** /ə'maw 'vinkit 'omni ə/ love conquers all things [L]
- anno aetatis suae** /ənoh ɛt'æhtis 'sooh ɛ/ in the (specified) year of his/her age [L]
- anno mundi** /ənoh 'moondɪ/ in the year of the world—used in reckoning dates from the supposed time of the creation of the world [L]
- anno urbis conditae** /ənoh 'ooəbis 'konditə/ in the year of the founding of the city (Rome, founded 753 bc) [L]
- à peu près** /əh 'puh 'prey (Fr a pø pre)/ nearly, approximately [F]
- à pied** /əh 'pyay (Fr a pjɛ)/ on foot [F]
- après moi le déluge** /əprey 'mwah lə day'looohz (Fr apre mwa lə dɛly:ʒ)/ after me the deluge [F, alter, of *après nous le déluge* after us the deluge, attributed to Mme de Pompadour, but orig a French proverb]
- arrivederci** /ə'rivə'deəchi/ goodbye [It]
- ars est celare artem** /əh'zɛst kɛ'ləh'ray 'ahtem/ true art is to conceal art [L]
- ars longa, vita brevis** /əh'z 'long-gə 'vɛctə 'brevis/ art is long, life is short [L, Seneca, *De Brevitate Vitae*]
- au contraire** /əh kon'trɛə (Fr o kɔ̃trɛ:r)/ on the contrary [F]

- audentes fortuna juvat** /ow'dɛntayz 'fawtoona 'yoohvat, faw'toohnə/ fortune favours the bold [L, Vergil, *Aeneid*]
- au pays des aveugles, les borgnes sont rois** /oh pay dayz ə 'vuhglə lay bawnyə sonh 'rwah (Fr o pei dez əvəglɛ lɛ bɔʁn sɔ̃ rwɑ)/ in the country of the blind the one-eyed are kings [F]
- aurea mediocritas** /owrayə medi'okritas/ the golden mean, the happy medium [L]
- au reste** /oh 'rɛst (Fr o rɛst)/ for the rest, besides [F]
- auspicium melioris aevi** /ow'spiki əm meli awnis 'levi/ an omen of a better age—motto of the Order of St Michael and St George [L]
- aussitôt dit, aussitôt fait** /ositoɪh 'deɛ ositoɪh 'fay (Fr osito di osito fr)/ no sooner said than done [F]
- aut Caesar aut nihil/nullus** /owt 'kiesəh owt 'nihil, 'seezə, 'nooləs/ all or nothing [L, lit, either Caesar or nothing/no one]
- autres temps, autres mœurs** /ohtrə 'tom ohtrə 'muh (Fr o.trə tɑ̃ o.trə mœ:r)/ other times other customs [F]
- aux armes!** /ohz 'ahm (Fr oz arm)/ to arms! [F]
- aut vincere, aut mori** /owt 'vinkəray owt 'mori/ to conquer or die (L)
- ave atque vale** /əhvay atkway 'vahlay/ hail and farewell [L]
- à votre santé** /əh vo'tra son'tay (Fr a vo:tr sɑ̃te)/ to your health—used when drinking a toast [F]

## B

- bien entendu** /byan ɔntən'doo (Fr bjɛ̃ ɑ̃tɔdy)/ of course, naturally [F, lit, well understood]
- bonjour** /bonh'zhooə (Fr bɔ̃ʒu:r)/ good morning, good afternoon [F]
- bonsoir** /bonh'swah (Fr bɔ̃swa:r)/ good evening, good night [F]

## C

- cadit quaestio** /kadit 'kwiestioh/ the argument collapses [L, lit, the question drops]
- ça ne fait rien** /sə nə 'fay ree'anh (Fr sa nə fɛ rjɛ̃)/ it doesn't matter [F]
- carpe diem** /kəhpəy 'deɛ em/ enjoy the present [L, Horace, *Odes*]
- cave canem** /kəvay 'kancem/ beware of the dog [It]
- cedant arma togae** /kəydant 'ahmɑ 'tohgɛ/ let military power give way to civil power [L, lit, let arms yield to the toga—Cicero, *De Officiis*]
- cela va sans dire** /sə lah vah sonh 'diə (Fr sɑlə vɑ sɑ̃ dɪ:r)/ that goes without saying [F]
- ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte** /sə nəy kə lə 'prəmyay pah keɛ 'kooht (Fr sɛ nə kə lə prɑ̃mjɛ pa ki kɔt)/ it is only the first step that counts [F]
- c'est-à-dire** /sɛt əh 'diə (Fr sɛtadɪ:r)/ that is to say, namely [F]
- c'est autre chose** /sɛt 'ohtrə 'shohz (Fr sɛt o.trə ʃo:z)/ that's another matter [F]
- c'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre** /sə 'manɪf'feɛk məy sə nəy pah lah 'geə (Fr sɛ mɑ̃ʁɪk mə sɔ̃ nɛ pa la gr:r)/ it's magnificent, but it isn't war [F, attributed to a French general watching the charge of the Light Brigade at the battle of Balaklava]
- c'est plus qu'un crime, c'est une faute** /səy 'plooh kən 'kreem sɛt 'oohn 'foht (Fr sɛ ply kɛ krim sɛt yɛn fo:t)/ it's worse than a crime, it's a blunder [F]
- cetera desunt** /kɛtəɾə 'daysoont/ the rest is missing [L]
- chacun à son goût** /ʃəkuhn əh sonh 'gooh (Fr ʃakɛ a sɔ̃ gu)/ everyone to his/her own taste [F]
- cherchez la femme** /ʃɛʃəshay lah 'fəm (Fr ʃɛʁʃɛ la fam)/ there's a woman at the bottom of it [F, lit, look for the woman—attributed to Dumas père]
- che sarà sarà** /kay sə rah sə'rah/ what will be, will be [It]
- civis Romanus sum** /kivis roh'mahnəs soom/ I am a Roman citizen [L, Cicero, *In Verrem*]
- cogito, ergo sum** /kogitoh əgoh 'soom, 'kɔjitoh, uhgoh/ I think therefore I exist [L, Descartes, *Discours de la méthode*]

**compte rendu** /komt rɒn'dooh (Fr kɔ̃t ʁɑ̃dy)/ a report, account (e.g. of proceedings in an investigation) [F]  
**corruptio optimi pessima** /ko,rooptioh ,optimi 'pesima/ the corruption of the best is the worst of all [L]  
**coup de foudre** /kuoh dɑ 'foohdrə (Fr ku dɑ fudr)/ love at first sight [F, lit., thunderbolt]  
**coup de maître** /kuoh dɑ 'metrə (Fr ku dɑ mɛ:tr)/ a masterstroke [F]  
**coup d'essai** /kuoh dɛ'say (Fr ku dɛsɛ)/ an experiment, trial [F]  
**coûte que coûte** /kuoh kɑ 'kooh (Fr kut kɑ kut)/ whatever the cost [F]  
**credo quia absurdum** /kɾaydoh ,kwɛɔ əb'suhdɒm/ I believe it because it is absurd [L]  
**custos morum** /'koostohs 'mawrəm/ a guardian of morals, a censor [L]

## D

**d'accord** /dɑ'kaw (Fr dakɔ:r)/ in agreement [F]  
**de bonne grâce** /dɑ ,bon 'grahs (Fr dɑ bɔn grɛ:s)/ with a good grace; willingly [F]  
**de gustibus non est disputandum** /day ,goostibəs nohn est ,dis-poohtandəm/ there is no disputing about tastes [L]  
**Dei gratia** /dayɛ 'grahtiə/ by the grace of God [L]  
**de integro** /day in'tegroh/ anew, afresh [L]  
**delenda est Carthago** /day,ləndə est kah'tahgoh/ Carthage must be destroyed [L, attributed to Cato the Elder]  
**delineavit** /day,lini'ahvit/ he/she drew this [L]  
**de mal en pis** /dɑ ,mal ɒm 'pɛɔ (Fr dɑ mal ɔ pi)/ from bad to worse [F]  
**de minimis non curat lex** /day ,minimeəs nohn ,koorat 'leks/ the law does not concern itself with trifles [L, Bacon *Letters*]  
**de mortuis nil nisi bonum** /day ,mawtooh-ɛs nil nisi 'bonəm/ (speak) nothing but good of the dead [L]  
**Deo favente** /dayoh fa'ventay/ with God's favour [L]  
**Deo gratias** /dayoh 'grahtiəhs/ thanks be to God [L]  
**de profundis** /day prɒ'foondɛs/ out of the depths [L, *Psalms* 130]  
**Deus vult** /dayəs 'voolt/ God wills it—the rallying cry of the First Crusade [L]  
**dies faustus** /dɛɔ ayz 'fowstəs/ lucky day [L]  
**dies infaustus** /dɛɔ ayz in'fowstəs/ unlucky day [L]  
**dies irae** /dɛɔ-ayz 'iəri/ the day of wrath—used of the Judgment Day [L]  
**Dieu avec nous** /dyuh avek 'nooh (Fr djø avek nu)/ God (be) with us [F]  
**Dieu et mon droit** /dyuh ay monh 'drwah (Fr djø e mɔ drwa)/ God and my right—the motto on the royal arms of Britain [F]  
**Dieu vous garde** /dyuh vooh 'gahd (Fr djø vu gard)/ God keep you [F]  
**dis aliter visum** /dɛɔs ,aliteɔ 'vɛɛsəm/ the gods decreed otherwise [L, Vergil, *Aeneid*]  
**divide et impera** /di,vɛɛday et 'impera/ divide and rule [L, attributed to Machiavelli]  
**Domine, dirige nos** /dominay di'rigay ,nohs/ Lord, direct us—motto of the City of London [L]  
**dominus vobiscum** /dominəs voh biskəm/ the Lord be with you [L]  
**dulce et decorum est pro patria mori** /doolkay et dɛ,kawrəm 'ɛst prɒh ,patɾiəh 'mɔri/ it is a sweet and glorious thing to die for one's country [L, Horace, *Odes*]  
**dum spiro, spero** /doom ,spiəroh 'speroh/ where there's life, there's hope [L, lit., while I breathe, I hope]

## E

**ecce signum** /ɛkay 'signəm/ look at the proof [L, lit., behold the sign]  
**embarras de richesses** /ombah,rah dɑ ree'shes (Fr ɔ̃bara dɑ ʁiʃɛs)/ confusing abundance [F, lit., embarrassment of riches]  
**embarras du choix** /ombah,rah dooh 'shwah (Fr ɔ̃bara dy ʃwa)/ too many things to choose from [F, lit., embarrassment of choice]  
**en ami** /ɒn a'mɛɔ (Fr ɔ̃n ami)/ as a friend [F]  
**en effet** /ɒn ay'fay (Fr ɔ̃n efe)/ in fact, indeed [F]  
**en famille** /ɒn fa'mɛɔ (Fr ɔ̃ faɱi:j)/ among the family, at home, informally [F]  
**enfant gâté** /ɒnfɒnh 'gahtay (Fr ɔ̃fɑ̃ gate)/ a spoilt child [F]  
**enfin** /ɒn'fanh (Fr ɔ̃fɛ̃)/ in conclusion; in a word; finally [F]  
**en pantoufles** /ɒm pɒn'toohflɛɔ (Fr ɔ̃ pɑ̃tuflɛɔ)/ free and easy; informal [F, lit., in slippers]  
**en plein air** /ɒm ,plen 'eə (Fr ɔ̃ dɛ plen ɛ:r)/ in the open air [F]  
**en plein jour** /ɒm ,planh 'zhooə (Fr ɔ̃ plɛ̃ ʒu:r)/ in broad daylight [F]  
**en règle** /ɒnh 'reglɛɔ (Fr ɔ̃ reglɛɔ)/ in order [F]  
**épater les bourgeois** /aypa ,tay lay booə'zhwah (Fr epate le buʁʒwa)/ to shock the middle classes [F]  
**e pluribus unum** /ay ,ploɔɔɾibəs 'uohnəm/ one out of the many—former motto of the USA [L]  
**esprit de l'escalier/d'escalier** /ɛ,spree dɑ le'skɑliyay, dɛ'skɑliyay (Fr ɛspɾi dɑ lɛskɑljɛ, dɛskɑljɛ)/ a witty retort that occurs to one too late [F, lit., staircase wit]  
**esse quam videri** /ɛsay kwam vi'dɛəri/ to be rather than to seem [L]  
**est modus in rebus** /ɛst ,modəs in 'reybəs/ there is a proper measure in all things, always observe the golden mean [L, Horace, *Saturnalia*]

**et in Arcadia ego** /et in ah,kahdɛə 'ɛgoh/ I, too, lived in Arcadia [L]  
**et tu, Brute** /et 'tooh ,broohtay/ you too, Brutus [L, attributed to Caesar on seeing his friend, Brutus, among his assassins]  
**ex animo** /ɛks 'animoh/ from the heart, sincerely [L]  
**exceptis excipiendis** /ɛk,skepteɛs ɛk,skipi'ɛndɛɛs/ with the proper or necessary exceptions [L]  
**exceptio probat regulam de rebus non exceptis** /ɛk,skeptioh probhat 'regoolam day ,raybas nohn ɛk'skepteɛs/ the exception proves the rule [L]  
**ex libris** /ɛks 'librees/ from the books of—used on bookplates [L]  
**ex nihilo nihil fit** /ɛks ,nihuloh ,nihl 'fit/ nothing is created from nothing [L]

## F

**facile princeps** /fakilay 'prinkeps/ (one who is) easily first, the acknowledged leader [I]  
**femme de chambre** /fam dɑ 'shombɾə (Fr fam dɑ ʃɑ̃br)/ a chambermaid, lady's maid [F]  
**festina lente** /fe,steɛnə 'lentay/ make haste slowly, more haste less speed [L]  
**fiat justitia, ruat caelum** /fee at 'yoohstɪtɪ ə ,ruoh at 'kiɛləm/ let justice be done, though the heavens should fall [L]  
**fiat lux** /fee at 'looks/ let there be light [L]  
**Fidel Defensor** /fi,dəy-ɪ dɪ'fɛnsav/ Defender of the Faith—used as a title of the sovereigns of Britain [L]  
**fidus Achates** /fidəs ə'kahtayz, ə'kahtɛɛz/ a faithful friend [L, lit., faithful Achates—Vergil, *Aeneid*]  
**filie de joie** /fee dɑ zhwah (Fr fi:j dɑ ʒwa)/ a prostitute [F, lit., girl of joy]  
**filii** /feɛs (Fr fis)/ son, junior—used after French surnames to distinguish a son from his father [F]  
**fluctuat nec mergitur** /flooktoot nek 'meəɡitooə/ it is tossed by the waves but does not sink—the motto of Paris [L]  
**fortes fortuna adjuvat** /fawtəvz faw'toohnə ad'yoohvat/ fortune favours the brave [L, Terence, *Phormio*]  
**fuit illium** /fooh it 'ilt əm/ Troy is no more [L, Vergil, *Aeneid*]  
**furor loquendi** /fooraw lo'kwɛndɪ/ a mania for speaking [L]  
**furor poeticus** /fooraw po'hɛtikəs/ a poetic frenzy [I]  
**furor scribendi** /fooraw skɾi'bɛndɪ/ a mania for writing [L]

## G

**gaudeamus igitur** /gowday,ahmus 'igitooə/ let us then rejoice [L]  
**gnothi sesauton** /,gnɒhtɪ say'owton/ know thyself [Gk]  
**grand monde** /grɒm 'mond (Fr grɑ̃ mɔ̃ dɔ̃)/ high society [F]  
**guerre à outrance** /geər ah ooh'tronhs (Fr gɛ:r a utɾa sɔ̃)/ war to the bitter end [F]

## H

**hic et ubique** /hik et 'uobikway/ here and everywhere [L]  
**hic jacet** /hik 'yakɛt/ here lies—used on tombstones [I]  
**hoc age** /hɒk əgay/ apply yourself to the task in hand [L, lit., do this]  
**homme d'affaires** /ɒm dɑ'fɛə (Fr ɔ̃m dɑfɛ:r)/ a businessman [F]  
**homo sum: humani nil a me alienum puto** /homoh 'soom hooh,mahni nil ah may ,ali'aynəm ,poohtoh/ I am a man, I regard nothing that concerns man as foreign to my interests [I, Terence, *Heauton Timorumenos*]  
**honi soit qui mal y pense** /ɒni soɪt kɛɛ ,mal ɛɛ 'pɒnhs (Fr ɔ̃ni swɑ ki mal i pɑ̃s)/ shame on the one who thinks ill of it—motto of the Order of the Garter [F]  
**humanum est errare/errare humanum est** /hooh,mahnəm ɛst ɛ'rahray/ to err is human [L]

## I

**Ich dien** /ik'h'dɛɛn (Ger ɪç di:n)/ I serve—motto of the Prince of Wales [G]  
**Id, on parle français** /ɛɛ,seɛ ɒm ,pahl 'frɒnsay (Fr isi ɔ̃ parl frɑ̃sɛ̃)/ French is spoken here [F]  
**Id est** /id 'ɛst/ that is [L]  
**ignorantia iuris neminem excusat** /ignaw,ranti ə ,yoɔɔɾɪs ,nemineɛm ɛks'koohzat/ ignorance of the law excuses no one [L]  
**il faut cultiver notre jardin** /ɛɛl ,foh ,kooltivay notɾə zhɑ'danh (Fr il fo: kulture notɾ ʒardɛ̃)/ we must mind our own affairs [F, lit., we must tend our garden—Voltaire, *Candide*]  
**In aeternum** /in ɛ'e'thɛnəm/ forever [L]  
**In futuro** /in fɛ'oh'tooəroh/ in the future [L]  
**In limine** /in 'lɛɛminay/ on the threshold, at the beginning [L]  
**In saecula saeculorum** /in ,sɛɛkoolə ,sɛɛkoolawrəm/ for ever and ever [L]  
**In statu pupillari** /in ,statoooh ,poohpɪ'lahri/ in a state of wardship; as a pupil or ward [L]

**Inter nos** /ˌɪntə ˈnoʊs/ between ourselves [L]  
**Intra muros** /ˌɪntɹə ˈmoʊəroʊs/ within the walls [L]  
**invenit** /ɪnˈvenɪt/ he/she devised this [L]  
**In vino veritas** /ɪn ˈveɪnoʊ ˈverɪtas/ there is truth in wine [L]

## J

**j'adoube** /ʒəˈdoʊb/ (Fr ʒaduh)/ I adjust—used in chess when touching a piece without intending to move it [F]  
**Jeu de mots** /ʒuh də ˈmoʊ (Fr ʒə də mo)/ a pun [F, lit., game of words]  
**ius divinum** /yoʊs diˈveɪnoʊ/ divine law [L]  
**j'y suis, j'y reste** /ʒeɪ ˈsweɪ ʒeɪ ˈrest (Fr ʒi sɥi ʒi rɛst)/ here I am, here I stay [F, attributed to Marshal MacMahon during the attack on the Malakoff in the Crimea]

## K

**ktēma es aei** /kˌtəɪmə ɛs əˈhəɪ/ possession forever—applied to a work of art or literature of enduring significance [Gk]

## L

**laborare est orare** /labəwˌraɪrə ɛst oˈraɪrə/ to work is to pray [L]  
**lacrimae rerum** /ˌlækɪrɪˈmeɪ ˈreərəm/ 1 pity for misfortune 2 the tragedy of life [L, lit., (1) tears for things (2) tears in things, Vergil, *Aeneid*]  
**laissez-aller/laissez aller** /ˌleɪsəz ˈaləɪ (Fr leɛz əle)/ a lack of restraint, letting go [F]  
**lapsus calami** /ˌlæpsəs ˈkæləmi/ a slip of the pen [L]  
**lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch'entrate** /læʃaɪte ˈɒnyeɪ spɛˌrænzə vɔɪ kɛnˈtɹət/ abandon all hope, you who enter [It, Dante, *Inferno*]  
**le cœur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît point** /lə ˈkuːr ə sɛz ˈreɪzənz kə lə ˈreɪzən nə kɔnɛ ˈpɔɪnt/ the heart has reasons of its own of which reason knows nothing [F, Pascal, *Pensées*]  
**le style, c'est l'homme** /lə ˈstiːl ɛs ˈlɒm (Fr lə stil ɛs lɔm)/ the style is the man himself [F, Buffon]  
**le roi est mort, vive le roi** /lə ˈrɔɪ ɛst ˈmɔrt ˈvɪv ˈlə ˈrɔɪ (Fr lə rwa ɛ mɔ r ˈvɪv ˈlə rwa)/ the king is dead, long live the king [F]  
**l'état, c'est moi** /ˌlɛtə ˈɛs ˈmɔɪ (Fr lɛtə ɛs mwa)/ I am the state [F, attributed to Louis XIV]  
**loco citato** /ˌləkəʊ kɪˈtaɪtoʊ/ in the passage already quoted [L]  
**lusus naturae** /ˌluːshəs nəˈtʊəriː/ a freak [L, lit., a sport of nature]

## M

**ma foi!** /mah ˈfɔɪ (Fr ma fwa)/ indeed! [F, lit., my faith]  
**man spricht Deutsch** /ˌman ˈʃpɪkht ˈdɔɪtʃ (Ger man ʃpɪçt dɔɪtʃ)/ German spoken [G]  
**mariage de convenance** /ˌmarɪˈaʒ də ˌkɒnvəˈnɒns (Fr marʒaːʒ də kɔ̃vənɔːs)/ a marriage of convenience [F]  
**mauvais quart d'heure** /ˌmɔvɛ ˈkaʁ ˈdʁ ˈdœʁ (Fr mɔvɛ kaːr dœʁ)/ a brief but unpleasant experience [F, lit., bad quarter of an hour]  
**meden agan** /ˌmɛɪdɛn ˈaɡən/ nothing in excess, moderation in all things [Gk]  
**me iudice** /ˌmɛɪ ˈjoʊdɪkəɪ/ in my opinion [L, lit., I being judge]  
**mens sana in corpore sano** /ˌmɛnz ˈsɑːnə ɪn ˌkɔːpɔːrɛ ˈsɑːnoʊ/ a sound mind in a sound body [L, Juvenal, *Satires*]  
**meum et tuum** /ˌmɛɪm ɛt ˈtoʊh əm/ mine and yours —used to express rights of private property [L]  
**mirabile dictu** /ˌmɪˈrəbɪləɪ ˈdɪktəʊ/ astonishing to relate [L]  
**mirabile visu** /ˌmɪˈrəbɪləɪ ˈviːsəʊ/ wonderful to behold [L]  
**morituri te salutamus** /ˌmɔːrɪtoʊəri ˈtɛ ˌsæləʊtəˈhæməs/ we, who are about to die, salute you—a greeting spoken by gladiators to their Emperor before a combat [L]  
**multum in parvo** /ˌmʊltəm ɪn ˈpɑːvə/ a great deal in a small space [L, lit., much in little]  
**mutatis mutandis** /ˌmʊtəɪs ˌtæteɪs ˌmʊh ˈtændɛs/ when all the necessary changes have been made [L]

## N

**natura non facit saltum** /ˌnætʊəˈrə ˌnoʊn ˌfakɪt ˈsɑːltəm/ nature does not make a leap [L]  
**nemo me impune lacessit** /ˌnɛɪmɔh ˌmɛɪ ɪmˌpʊəˈneɪ ˌləˈkɛsɪt/ no one attacks me with impunity—motto of Scotland and of the Order of the Thistle [L]  
**ne quid nimis** /ˌnɛɪ kwɪd ˈnɪmɪs/ nothing in excess [L]  
**n'est-ce pas?** /ˈnɛs ˈpɑː (Fr nɛs pa)/ isn't that so? [F]  
**nicht wahr?** /ˌnɪkt ˈvɑː (Ger nɪçt vaːr)/ isn't that so? [G]  
**nil desperandum** /ˌnɪl dɛspəˈrændəm/ never give up hope [L]  
**nilens volens** /ˌnɪlənz ˈvɒlənz/ willy-nilly [L]  
**nosce te ipsum** /ˌnɒskəɪ ˈtɛ ˈɪpsəm/ know thyself—compare GNOITH SEAUTON [L]  
**nostalgie de la boue** /ˌnɒstəlʒeɪ də ˈləʊ ˈboʊh (Fr nɒstəlʒi də la bu)/

hankering for a life of physical degradation and squalor [F, lit., nostalgia for the mud]  
**nuît blanche** /ˌnweɪt ˈblɒnʃʃ (Fr nui blɑ̃)/ a sleepless night [F, lit., white night]

## O

**omne ignotum pro magnifico** /ˌɒmˌnəɪ ɪɡˌnoɪtəm prɒh ˌmæɡˌnɪfɪkəʊ/ the unknown tends to be exaggerated in importance or difficulty [L, lit., everything unknown (is taken) as grand—Tacitus, *Agricola*]  
**omnia mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis** /ˌɒmni ə ˌmʊh ˌtʌntoʊə ˌnoʊs ɛt ˌmʊh ˌtʌmoʊə(r) ɪn ˌɪlɪs/ all things are changing, and we are changing with them [L]  
**onus probandi** /ˌɒ(h)nəs prɒˈbændɪ/ the burden of proof [L]  
**opere citato** /ˌɒpəɪ kɪˈtaɪtoʊ/ in the work already quoted [L]  
**ora pro nobis** /ˌɔːrə prɒh ˈnɒbɪs/ pray for us [L]  
**o temporal o mores!** /oh ˌtɛmpərə ɒh ˌmɔːrəz/ oh the times! oh the customs! [L, Cicero, *In Catilinam*]  
**où sont les neiges d'antan?** /uː sɒn ˌleɪ ˌnɛʒ dɒnˈtɒn (Fr u sɔ̃ lɛ nɛ ʒ dɑ̃tɑ̃)/ where are the snows of yesteryear? [F, Villon]

## P

**panem et circenses** /ˌpɑ(h)nɛm ɛt ˌkɪəˈkɛnsəɪz/ bread and circuses [L, Juvenal, *Satires*]  
**par avion** /ˌpɑɪ ˈəvɪɔn (Fr par avjɔ̃)/ by aeroplane—used on airmail [F]  
**par exemple** /ˌpɑr ɛɡ ʒɔmpl (Fr par ɛɡzɔːpl)/ for example [F]  
**parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus** /ˌpɑːtoʊəri ˌɑnt ˈmɔntəɪz ˌnɑːkɛɪtoʊə ˌrɪdɪkʊləs ˌmoʊs/ the mountains are in labour and a ridiculous mouse will be brought forth [L, Horace, *Arx Poetica*]  
**pater patriae** /ˌpɑːtɛə ˈpɑːtri ɛə/ a father of his country [L]  
**pax vobiscum** /ˌpɑːks vɒhˈbɪskəm/ peace be with you [L]  
**peccavi** /ˌpɛ ˌkɑːvɪ/ I have sinned [L]  
**peine forte et dure** /ˌpɛn ˌfɔːt ɛt ˈdʊə (Fr pɛn fɔʁt ɛ dyːr)/ torture [F, lit., severe and hard punishment]  
**per ardua ad astra** /ˌpɛə(r) ˌɑːdʊə ˌad ˌɑːstrə/ through danger to the stars—motto of the Royal Air Force [L]  
**père** /ˈpɛə (Fr pɛʁ)/ father, senior—used after French surnames to distinguish a father from his son [F]  
**perfidie Albion** /ˌpɛə ˌfɪd ˌalbɪɔn (Fr pɛʁdɪ ɛlbjɔ̃)/ perfidious Albion, England [F]  
**pinxit** /ˈpɪŋksɪt/ he/she painted this [L]  
**pleno jure** /ˌplɛnoʊ ˈjoʊəɪrə/ with full right or authority [L]  
**plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose** /ˌplʊʃs ˌsɑː ˈʃɒnʒ ˌplʊʃs ˌsɑː lə ˌmɛm ˌʃɒhɪz (Fr plys ʒə ʒɔʒ plys ɛ lə mɛm ʃɔʒ)/ the essential nature of a thing does not change [F, lit., the more something changes, the more it is the same thing]  
**plus royaliste que le roi** /ˌplʊʃ royəlɛst kə ˈlə ˈrɔɪ (Fr ply rwajəlɛst kə lə rwa)/ more royalist than the king [F]  
**poeta nascitur, non fit** /ˌpɔɪtə ˌnɑːʃkɪtʊə ˌnɔhn ˈfɪt/ a poet is born, not made [L]  
**post obitum** /ˌpɔɪst ˌɒbɪtəm/ after death [L]  
**pour encourager les autres** /ˌpʊər ˌɒŋkəʊəɪrə ˌʒay ˌlɔːtʁə ˈɔːtrə (Fr pʊr ɔkuraʒ ɛz ɔːtrə)/ in order to encourage the others [F, Voltaire, *Candide*]  
**pro aris et focis** /ˌprɒ ˌɑːrɪɛs ɛt ˈfɒkɛs/ for faith and home [L, lit., for altars and firesides]  
**pro bono publico** /ˌprɒ ˌbɒ(h)nəʊ ˌpʊbɪlɪkəʊ/ for the public good [L]  
**pro patria** /ˌprɒn ˌpɑːtriə/ alter one's country [L]

## Q

**quand même** /kɒm ˈmɛm (Fr kɑ̃ mɛm)/ all the same [F]  
**quantum sufficit** /ˌkwɑntəm ˈsoʊfɪkɪt/ a sufficient quantity—formerly used in medical prescriptions [L]  
**quis custodiet ipsos custodes?** /kwɪs kooˌstɔdi ɛt ˌɪpsɒs ˈkooˌstɔdeɪz/ who will guard the guards themselves? [L, Juvenal, *Satires*]  
**qui s'excuse s'accuse** /kɛ ˌsɛkskooɪz səˈkooɪz (Fr ki sɛkskɪz sakyz)/ whoever excuses him-/herself accuses him-/herself [F]  
**qui va là?** /kɛ ˌvɑː lə (Fr ki va la)/ who goes there? [F]  
**quo vadis?** /ˌkwəʊ ˈvɑːdɪs/ where are you going? [L]  
**quoad hoc** /ˌkwəʊ ˌad ˈhɒk/ to this extent [L, lit., as far as this]  
**quod erat demonstrandum** /ˌkwɒd ɛˌrɑt dɛmɒnˈstrændəm/ which was to be proved [L]  
**quod erat faciendum** /ˌkwɒd ɛˌrɑt fəkiˈɛndəm/ which was to be done [L]  
**quod vide** /ˌkwɒd ˈvɛɪdɪ/ see this—used to draw a reader's attention to a cross-reference [L]  
**quos deus vult perdere prius dementat** /kwəʊs ˌdeɪəs ˌvʊlt ˌpɛədəɪrə ˌpɹɪəs dɛmɛntəɪt/ those whom a god wishes to destroy he first drives insane [L]  
**quot homines, tot sententiae** /kwɒt ˌhɒmɪnəɪz ˌtɒt sɛnˈtɛntɪ ɛə/ there are as many opinions as there are men [L, Terence, *Phormio*]

## R

**raison d'état** /re.zonh day'tah (Fr rezɔ̃ deta)/ for the good of the country as a whole [F, lit., reason of state]  
**répondez s'il vous plaît** /ray.ponday sil vooh 'play (Fr repɔ̃de sil vu ple/) please reply [F]  
**requiescat in pace** /rekwi.ɛskat in 'pahkay/ (may he/she) rest in peace—used on tombstones [L]  
**respicie finem** /re.spikay 'feenem/ consider the outcome [L, lit., look to the end]  
**resurgam** /re'sooəgam/ I shall rise again [L]  
**revenons à nos moutons** /rəvə.nonh ah noh mooh'tonh (Fr rəvɔ̃n s a no mutɔ̃)/ let's get back to the subject [F, lit., let us return to our sheep]  
**rus in urbe** /ruos in ooəbay/ the country in the city [L, Martial, *Epigrammata*]

## S

**sal Atticum** /sal 'atikəm/ Attic salt; wit [L]  
**salus populi suprema lex esto** /saləs 'popooli soo.praymə 'leks ɛsto/ let the welfare of the people be the supreme law [L, Cicero, *De Legibus*]  
**sans gêne** /sonh 'zhen (Fr sɑ̃ ʒen)/ without embarrassment or constraint [F]  
**sans peur et sans reproche** /sonh 'puhr ay .sonh rə'prosh (Fr sɑ̃ pœ:r e sɑ̃ raprɔ̃)/ without fear and without reproach [F]  
**sans souci** /sonh sooh'see (Fr sɑ̃ susi)/ carefree [F, lit., without worry]  
**saute qui peut** /sohv kee 'puh (Fr sov ki pø)/ every man for himself [F, lit., let whoever can save him-/herself]  
**scripsit** /skripsit/ he/she wrote this [L]  
**sculpit** /skoolpsit/ he/she carved this [L]  
**se defendendo** /say dayfen'dendoh/ in self-defence [L]  
**semper eadem** /sempeə(r) ay'ahdem/ always the same (fem)—motto of Queen Elizabeth I [L]  
**semper fidelis** /sempeə fi'daylis/ always faithful [L]  
**semper idem** /sempeə(r) 'idem/ always the same (masc) [L]  
**semper paratus** /sempeə pə'rahtəs/ always prepared [L]  
**se habla español** /se .abla espa'nyol/ Spanish spoken [Sp]  
**Senatus Populusque Romanus** /se.nahtəs popooloooskway roh'mahnəs/ the senate and people of Rome [L]  
**se non è vero è ben trovato** /say .non ay 'veroh ay ben tro'vahtoh/ even if it is not true, it is well conceived [It]  
**sic transit gloria mundi** /sik .transit .glawn-ə 'moond/ thus earthly glory passes away [L, Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*]  
**si jeunesse savait, si vieillesse pouvait** /sec ʒuh'nes 'savay see vyay.es 'poohvay (Fr si ʒønəs save si vjeʃes puvə)/ if youth only knew, if old age only could! [F]  
**s'il vous plaît** /sil vooh 'play (Fr sil vu ple/) please [F]  
**si monumentum requiris, circumspice** /see monoo.mentəm re'kwiris .kɹəkəm'spikay/ if you seek his monument, look around you—epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral, of which he was architect [L]  
**si parla italiano** /see .pahlah ita'lyahnoh/ Italian spoken [It]  
**siste viator** /sistay vi'ahhaw/ stop, traveller—used on Roman roadside tombs [L]  
**si vis pacem, para bellum** /see vis .pahkem parə 'beləm/ if you want peace, prepare for war [L]  
**status in quo** /sta(h)təs in 'kwoh/ the existing state of affairs [L, lit., the state in which]  
**sub verbo/sub voce** /soob 'veəboh, 'vokay—used to introduce a cross-reference in a dictionary or index [L, lit., under the word]  
**suo iure** /sooh-oh 'yoohay/ in his/her own right [L]  
**suo loco** /sooh-oh 'lokh/ in its proper place [L]  
**suum cuique** /sooh-əm 'kooh-ikway/ to each his/her own [L]

## T

**tant mieux!** /tom 'myuh (Fr tɑ̃ mjø)/ so much the better! [F]  
**tant pis!** /tom 'pee (Fr tɑ̃ pi)/ too bad! [F, lit., so much the worse]  
**tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis** /tempawrə mooh'tantooə .nohs et mooh'tahmoos in 'ilees/ the times are changing, and we are changing with them [L]  
**tempus edax rerum** /tempəs .edaks 'reərəm/ time, that devours all things [L, Ovid, *Metamorphoses*]  
**tempus fugit** /tempəs 'foo(h)git/ time flies [L]  
**timeo Danaos, et dona ferentes** /timayoh .danah-ohs et .dona fe'rentay/ I fear the Greeks, even when they bring gifts [L, Vergil, *Aeneid*]  
**tout à fait** /tooth ah 'fay (Fr tut a fe)/ altogether, absolutely [F]  
**tout comprendre c'est tout pardonner** /tooth kom prondrə say .tooh pahdo'nay (Fr tu kɔ̃prɑ̃dr se tu pardɔ̃ne)/ to understand all is to forgive all [F]  
**tout court** /tooth 'kooə (Fr tu kur)/ simply [F]  
**tout de même** /tooth də mem (Fr tu də mem)/ all the same, nevertheless [F]  
**tout de suite** /tooth 'sweet (Fr tu də sɥit)/ at once, immediately [F]  
**tout ensemble** /tooth on'sombl (Fr tut əsɑ̃bl)/ all together [F]  
**tout est perdu fors l'honneur** /tooth ay peə.doooh faw lo'nuh (Fr tut e perdy for lɔ̃nɛ:r)/ all is lost save honour [F, attributed to François I after the battle of Pavia]  
**tout le monde** /toohl 'mond (Fr tu lə mɔ̃d)/ everybody [F, lit., all the world]  
**trahison des clercs** /trah ee.zonh day 'kleə (Fr trauzɔ̃ de klɛ:r)/ betrayal of standards by the intellectuals [F]  
**tranche de vie** /trɔ̃nhsh də 'vee (Fr trɑ̃ʃ də vi)/ a slice of life [F]  
**tria juncta in uno** /tree-ə .yoongktə in 'oohnoh/ three joined in one—motto of the Order of the Bath [L]

## U

**Übermensch** /'oohbəmənsch (Ger y:bərmən)/ superman [G]  
**und so weiter** /oont zoh 'viətə (Ger unt zo: vaitər)/ and so on, et cetera [G]  
**uno animo** /'oohnoh 'animo/ unanimously [L, lit., with one mind]  
**urbi et orbi** /ooəbi et 'awbi/ to the city (Rome) and to the world [L]  
**ut infra** /oot 'infra/ as below [L]  
**ut supra** /oot 'soohpra/ as above [L]

## V

**vade retro me, Satana** /vahday 'retroh may sa'tahnə/ get thee behind me, Satan [L, *Vulgate*, Mt 16 23, Mk 8 33, Luke 4 8]  
**vario lectio** /vahri 'lektioh/ a variant reading [L]  
**vedi Napoli e poi mori** /vaydi 'napoli ay .poy 'mori/ see Naples and die [It]  
**veni, vidi, vici** /vayni .vidi 'veeki/ I came, I saw, I conquered [L, attributed to Julius Caesar after his victory over Pharnaces]  
**vebatim ac litteratim** /veə.bahtim ak lite'rahtim/ word for word and letter for letter [L]  
**verbum sapienti sat est** /veəbəm sɑpi.enti 'sat est/ a word to the wise is enough [L]  
**vive le roi!** /veev lə 'rwah (Fr viv lə rwa)/ long live the king! [F]  
**vogue la galère** /vohg lah ga'leə (Fr vɔg la ga'lɛ:r)/ keep going, whatever happens [F, lit., let the galley keep rowing]  
**voilà tout** /vwahlah 'tooh (Fr vwa'la tu)/ that's all [F]  
**vox populi, vox Dei** /voks .popooli vɔks 'dayee/ the voice of the people is the voice of God [L, Alcuin, *Epistles*]

# Abbreviations

## A

**a** 1 acceleration 2 acre 3 answer 4 are—a metric unit of area 5 area 6 atto-  
**A** 1 ampere 2 Associate  
**AA** 1 Alcoholics Anonymous 2 antiaircraft 3 Automobile Association  
**AAA** 1 Amateur Athletic Association 2 American Automobile Association  
**AAM** air-to-air missile  
**A and M** ancient and modern—used of hymns  
**AB** 1 able seaman, able-bodied seaman 2 *NAm* bachelor of arts [*NL*: a *baccalaureus*]  
**ABA** Amateur Boxing Association  
**ABC** 1 American Broadcasting Company 2 Australian Broadcasting Commission  
**abl** ablative  
**ABM** antiballistic missile  
**Abp** archbishop  
**abr** abridged, abridgment  
**ABRO** Animal Breeding Research Organization  
**abs** absolute  
**ABS** Association of Broadcasting Staff  
**ABTA** /'abts, 'ay bee tee 'ay/ Association of British Travel Agents  
**AC** 1 attenuating current 2 appellation contrôlée 3 athletic club  
**a/c** account  
**ACA** Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants  
**acad** academic academy  
**ACAS** /'aykas, 'ay see 'ay 'es/ Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service  
**acc** 1 according to 2 account 3 accusative  
**ACCA** Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants  
**acct** account, accountant  
**ACCT** Association of Cinematograph and Television Technicians  
**accus** accusative  
**ACGB** Arts Council of Great Britain  
**ACIS** Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries  
**ack** acknowledge, acknowledgment  
**ACP** African, Caribbean, and Pacific  
**acct** acceptance  
**act** active  
**ACT** Australian Capital Territory  
**actg** acting  
**ACTU** Australian Council of Trade Unions  
**ACV** air-cushion vehicle  
**ACW** aircraftwoman  
**AD** anno domini  
**ADAS** /'aydas/ Agricultural Development and Advisory Service  
**ADC** 1 aide-de-camp 2 amateur dramatic club  
**addn** addition  
**ADH** antidiuretic hormone  
**ad inf** ad infinitum  
**adj** 1 adjective 2 adjustment—used in banking 3 adjutant  
**Adm** admiral  
**adv** 1 adverb; adverbial 2 against [*L adversus*]

**ad val** ad valorem  
**advt** advertisement  
**AEA** Atomic Energy Authority  
**AEB** Associated Examining Board  
**AEC** Atomic Energy Commission—a US organization  
**AEI** Associated Electrical Industries  
**AERE** Atomic Energy Research Establishment  
**aet, aetat** of the specified age, aged [*L aetatis*]  
**AEU** Amalgamated Engineering Union—now *AUEW*  
**AEW** airborne early warning  
**AF** 1 Anglo-French 2 audio frequency  
**AFA** Amateur Football Association  
**AFAM** Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
**AFC** 1 Air Force Cross 2 Association Football Club 3 automatic frequency control  
**AFL-CIO** American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations  
**AFM** Air Force Medal  
**Afr** Africa, African  
**AFV** armoured fighting vehicle  
**AG** 1 adjutant general 2 attorney general 3 joint-stock company [*G Aktiengesellschaft*]  
**AGC** automatic gain control  
**agcy** agency  
**AGM** chiefly *Br* annual general meeting  
**AGR** advanced gas-cooled reactor  
**agric** agricultural, agriculture  
**agt** agent  
**AH** anno hegirae  
**AHA** Area Health Authority  
**AI** artificial insemination  
**AIA** Associate of the Institute of Actuaries  
**AIB** Associate of the Institute of Bankers  
**AID** 1 Agency for International Development—a US agency 2 artificial insemination by donor  
**AIH** artificial insemination by husband  
**AJC** Australian Jockey Club  
**AK** Alaska  
**AKA** also known as  
**Ala** Alabama  
**ALA** Associate of the Library Association  
**ald** alderman  
**alg** algebra  
**ALS** autograph letter signed  
**alt** 1 alternate 2 altitude 3 alto  
**Alta** Alberta  
**am** ante meridiem  
**Am** 1 America, American 2 Amos—used for the book of the Bible  
**AM** 1 Albert Medal 2 amplitude modulation 3 associate member 4 *NAm* master of arts [*NL artium magister*]  
**AMA** 1 American Medical Association 2 Australian Medical Association  
**AMDEA** Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances  
**AMDG** to the greater glory of God [*L ad maiorem Dei gloriam*]  
**amdt** amendment  
**Amor** American, American  
**amt** amount

**AMU** atomic mass unit  
**an** in the year [*L. anno*]  
**anal** 1 analogous, analogy 2 analysis, analytic  
**anat** anatomical, anatomy  
**Angl** Anglican  
**ann** 1 annals 2 annual 3 annuity  
**anon** anonymous  
**ant** antonym  
**Antr** Antrim  
**anthrop** anthropological, anthropology  
**A/O** account of  
**aob** any other business  
**AOC** Air Officer Commanding  
**AP** Associated Press  
**APB** chiefly *NAm* all points bulletin  
**APEX** /'aypek, 'ay pee ee 'eks/ Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical, and Computer Staff  
**APO** army post office  
**Apoc** 1 Apocalypse 2 Apocrypha, apocryphal  
**Apocr** Apocrypha  
**app** 1 apparent, apparently 2 appendix 3 appointed  
**appl** applied  
**appro** /'aprh/ approval  
**approx** /'z proks/ approximate, approximately  
**Apr** April  
**apt** apartment  
**APT** Advanced Passenger Train  
**ar** 1 arrival, arrive 2 in the year of the reign [*L. anno regni*]  
**AR** 1 annual return 2 Arkansas 3 autonomous republic  
**ARA** Associate of the Royal Academy  
**ARAM** Associate of the Royal Academy of Music  
**ARC** Agricultural Research Council  
**ARCA** Associate of the Royal College of Art  
**arch** 1 archaic 2 architect, architectural, architecture  
**Arch** archbishop  
**archaeol** archaeological, archaeology  
**ARCM** Associate of the Royal College of Music  
**ARCS** Associate of the Royal College of Science  
**ARIBA** Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects  
**arith** arithmetic, arithmetical  
**Ariz** Arizona  
**Ark** Arkansas  
**Arm** Armagh  
**ARP** air-raid precautions  
**arr** 1 arranged by—used in music 2 arrival, arrives  
**art** 1 article 2 artificial 3 artillery  
**arty** artillery  
**AS** 1 airspeed 2 Anglo-Saxon 3 antisubmarine  
**ASA** 1 Advertising Standards Authority 2 American Standards Association 3 Amateur Swimming Association  
**asap** as soon as possible  
**ASE** Amalgamated Society of Engineers  
**ASEAN** /'asian/ Association of South-East Asian Nations

# Abbreviations

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**ASH** /ash/ Action on Smoking and Health  
**ASLEF** /'azlef/ Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen  
**ASSET** /'aset/ Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians  
**assoc** association  
**ASSR** Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic  
**asst** assistant  
**assd** assorted  
**ASTMS** /'aztemz/, 'ay es, 'tee em 'es/ Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs  
**astr** astronomer; astronomy  
**astrol** astrologer, astrology  
**astron** astronomer, astronomy  
**at** atomic  
**ATC** 1 air traffic control 2 Air Training Corps  
**atm** atmosphere, atmospheric  
**at no** atomic number  
**att** attorney  
**attn** for the attention of  
**attrib** /'tnb/ attributive, attributively  
**atty** attorney  
**ATV** Associated Television  
**at wt** atomic weight  
**AU** 1 angstrom unit 2 astronomical unit  
**AUEW** Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers  
**aug** augmentative—used in grammar  
**Aug** August  
**AUT** Association of University Teachers  
**auth** authorized  
**auto** /'awtoh/ automatic  
**aux** auxiliary  
**av** 1 average 2 avoidupous  
**Av** avenue  
**AV** 1 ad valorem 2 audiovisual 3 Authorized Version (of the Bible)  
**avdp** avoidupous  
**Ave** avenue  
**AVM** Air Vice Marshal  
**avn** aviation  
**az** azimuth

## B

**b** 1 born 2 bowled by—used in cricket  
 3 breadth 4 bye—used in cricket  
**B** 1 bachelor 2 bel 3 bishop—used in chess  
 4 black—used esp on lead pencils 5 British  
**BA** 1 Bachelor of Arts 2 British Academy  
 3 British Airways 4 British Association  
**BAA** British Airports Authority  
**BAC** /'bee ay 'see; also bak/ 1 British Agricultural Council 2 British Aircraft Corporation  
**BAFTA** /'hafta/ British Academy of Film and Television Arts  
**bal** balance—used in book-keeping  
**BALPA** /'balpa/ British Airline Pilots' Association  
**b and b**, *often cap B & B*, *Br* bed and breakfast  
**b and w** black and white  
**BAOR** British Army of the Rhine  
**Bap** Baptist  
**bap** baptize; baptized  
**BAPS** /'bee ay pee 'es, baps/ British Association of Plastic Surgeons  
**Bapt** Baptist  
**bar** barometer; barometric  
**Bar** 1 barrister 2 Baruch—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**BArch** Bachelor of Architecture  
**Bart** baronet  
**BB** 1 Boys' Brigade 2 double black—used on lead pencils  
**BBBC** British Boxing Board of Control  
**BBC** /'bee bee 'see; *humor* beeb/ British Broadcasting Corporation  
**BBFC** British Board of Film Censors  
**BC** 1 before Christ 2 British Columbia 3 British Council  
**BCD** binary-coded decimal

**BCh** Bachelor of Surgery [ML *baccalaureus chirurgiae*]  
**BCom** Bachelor of Commerce  
**BCS** British Computer Society  
**bd** 1 bond 2 bound  
**BD** 1 Bachelor of Divinity 2 bank draft  
 3 barrels per day 4 brought down  
**BDA** British Dental Association  
**bdc** bottom dead centre  
**BDS** Bachelor of Dental Surgery  
**BE** bill of exchange  
**BEA** British European Airways—now BA  
**BEd** Bachelor of Education  
**Beds** Bedfordshire  
**BEF** British Expeditionary Force  
**BEM** British Empire Medal  
**BEng** Bachelor of Engineering  
**Berks** /'bahks, buhks/ Berkshire  
**bet** between  
**BeV** billion electron volts  
**bf** bloody fool  
**b/f** brought forward  
**BFPO** British Forces Post Office  
**BG** brigadier general  
**BGC** British Gas Council  
**BH** Brinnell hardness  
**B'ham** /*often* brum/ Birmingham  
**bhp** brake horsepower  
**BHS** British Home Stores  
**Bib** Bible, biblical  
**biblog** bibliographical; bibliography  
**BIM** British Institute of Management  
**biog** biographical, biography  
**biol** biological; biology  
**BIR** Board of Inland Revenue  
**BIS** Bank for International Settlements  
**bk** book  
**bkg** banking  
**BL** 1 Bachelor of Law 2 bill of lading 3 British Legion 4 British Leyland 5 British Library  
**blgd** building  
**BLitt** Bachelor of Letters [ML *baccalaureus litterarum*]  
**blvd** boulevard  
**BM** 1 Bachelor of Medicine 2 bench mark  
 3 British Medal 4 British Museum  
**BMA** British Medical Association  
**BMC** British Medical Council  
**BMJ** British Medical Journal  
**BMR** basal metabolic rate  
**BMTA** British Motor Trade Association  
**BMus** Bachelor of Music  
**bn** billion  
**BNOC** British National Oil Corporation  
**BO** body odour—euph  
**BOAC** British Overseas Airways Corporation—now BA  
**BOC** British Oxygen Company  
**BOD** biochemical oxygen demand, biological oxygen demand  
**bor** borough  
**BOSS** /'bos/ Bureau of State Security—a SAfr organization  
**bot** 1 botanical, botany, botanist 2 bottle  
**BOT** Board of Trade  
**BOTB** British Overseas Trade Board  
**Bp** bishop  
**BP** 1 boiling point 2 British Petroleum 3 British Pharmacopoeia  
**B/P** bill payable  
**BPAS** British Pregnancy Advisory Service  
**BPC** British Pharmaceutical Codex  
**BPD** barrels per day  
**BPharm** Bachelor of Pharmacy  
**BPhil** /'bee 'fil/ Bachelor of Philosophy  
**bpi** bits per inch; bytes per inch  
**Bq** becquerel  
**br** branch  
**Br** 1 British 2 brother  
**BR** British Rail  
**B/R** bill receivable  
**BRCS** British Red Cross Society  
**Brig** brigade, brigadier  
**Brig-Gen** brigadier-general  
**Brit** /'brit/ Britain; British

**bro** /broh/ brother  
**bro**s, *Bro*s brothers  
**BRS** British Road Services  
**BS** 1 Bachelor of Surgery 2 balance sheet 3 bill of sale 4 British Standard 5 *NAm* Bachelor of Science  
**BSA** Building Societies Association  
**BSc** /'bee es 'see/ Bachelor of Science  
**BSC** 1 British Steel Corporation 2 British Sugar Corporation  
**BSI** 1 British Standards Institution 2 Building Societies Institute  
**BSJA** British Show Jumping Association  
**BSocSc**, *BSSc* Bachelor of Social Science  
**BST** British Standard Time, British Summer Time  
**Bt** Baronet  
**BT** British Tourist Authority  
**BTh** Bachelor of Theology  
**Btu** British thermal unit  
**Bucks** /'buks/ Buckinghamshire  
**bull** bulletin  
**BUPA** /'byoo'pə, 'boohpə/ British United Provident Association  
**bus** business  
**BV** Blessed Virgin  
**BVM** Blessed Virgin Mary  
**BVMS**, *BVM & S* Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery  
**bvt** brevet  
**BW** bacteriological warfare, biological warfare  
**BYOB** bring your own booze, bring your own bottle

## C

**c** 1 canine—used in dentistry 2 carat 3 caught by-- used in cricket 4 centi- 5 century  
 6 chapter 7 circa 8 cloudy 9 cold 10 college  
 11 colt 12 copyright 13 cubic  
**C** 1 caloric 2 castle—used in chess 3 Catholic  
 4 Celsius 5 centigrade 6 *Br* Conservative  
 7 corps 8 coulomb  
**ca** circa  
**CA** 1 California 2 chartered accountant 3 chief accountant 4 Consumers' Association  
 5 current account  
**CAA** Civil Aviation Authority  
**CAB** Citizens' Advice Bureau  
**cal** 1 calibre 2 (small) calorie  
**Cal** 1 California 2 (large) calorie  
**Calif** California  
**Cambs** Cambridgeshire  
**CAMRA** /'kamrə/ Campaign for Real Ale  
**can** canto  
**Can** Canada, Canadian  
**c and b** caught and bowled by—used in cricket  
**C and G** City and Guilds  
**C and W** country and western  
**Cant** Canticles—used for the book of the Bible  
**Cantab** /'kantab/ of Cambridge—used with academic awards <MA ~> [*L Cantabrigiensis*]  
**Cantuar** of Canterbury—used chiefly in the signature of the Archbishop of Canterbury [*L Cantuariensis*]  
**cap** 1 capital 2 capitalize; capitalized  
**CAP** Common Agricultural Policy  
**caps** /('1) *sometimes* kəps/ 1 capital letters  
 2 capsule  
**Capt** captain  
**Car** Carlow  
**Card** cardinal  
**CARD** /'kərd/, see ay ah 'dee/ Campaign Against Racial Discrimination  
**CAT** 1 College of Advanced Technology  
 2 computerized axial tomography  
**cath** 1 cathedral 2 catholic  
**cav** cavalry  
**CB** 1 Citizens' Band 2 Companion of the (Order of the) Bath  
**CBC** Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
**CBD** Cash before delivery



**CBE** Commander of the (Order of the) British Empire  
**CBI** Confederation of British Industry  
**CBS** Columbia Broadcasting System  
**cc** 1 carbon copy 2 chapters 3 cubic centimetre  
**CC** 1 Chamber of Commerce 2 County Council  
**CC** Cricket Club  
**CCF** Combined Cadet Force  
**cd** candle  
**c/d** carried down  
**CD** 1 civil defence 2 diplomatic corps [*F corps diplomatique*]  
**Cdr** Commander  
**Cdre** Commodore  
**CE** 1 Church of England 2 civil engineer  
**CE** 3 Council of Europe  
**CEGB** Central Electricity Generating Board  
**cem** cemetery  
**CEng** Chartered Engineer  
**CENTO** /sentoh/ Central Treaty Organization  
**CERN** /suhnl/ European Organization for Nuclear Research [*F Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire*]  
**cert** certificate, certified, certify  
**CET** Central European Time  
**cf** compare [*L confer* imper of *conferre* to compare—more at **CONFER**]  
**CF** Chaplain to the Forces  
**c/f** earned forward  
**CFE** College of Further Education  
**cfi** cost, freight, and insurance  
**CG** 1 centre of gravity 2 coast guard 3 consul general  
**CGM** Conspicuous Gallantry Medal  
**cg** centimetre-gram-second (system)  
**CGS** Chief of General Staff  
**CGT** General Confederation of Labour [*F Confédération Générale du Travail*]  
**ch** 1 chain—a unit of length 2 central heating  
**ch** 3 chapter 4 check—used in chess 5 child, children 6 church  
**CH** 1 clubhouse 2 Companion of Honour  
**chap** 1 chaplain 2 chapter  
**ChB** Bachelor of Surgery [*ML Bacalaureus Chirurgiae*]  
**CHE** Campaign for Homosexual Equality  
**chem** chemical, chemist, chemistry  
**Ches** Cheshire  
**chk** check—used in chess  
**chm** 1 chairman 2 checkmate—used in chess  
**ChM** Master of Surgery [*ML Chirurgiae Magister*]  
**chron, chronol** chronological, chronology  
**Chron** Chronicles—used for the books of the Bible  
**Cicure**  
**CI** Channel Islands  
**CIA** Central Intelligence Agency  
**cia** company [*Sp compañía*]  
**CID** Criminal Investigation Department  
**cic** company [*F compagnie*]  
**CIE** 1 Companion of the (Order of the) Indian Empire 2 Transport Organization of Ireland [*IrGael Coras Iompair Éireann*]  
**cif** cost, insurance, and freight  
**CIGS** Chief of the Imperial General Staff  
**CII** Chartered Insurance Institute  
**C in C** Commander in Chief  
**clrc** 1 circa 2 *often cap* circus  
**CIS** Chartered Institute of Secretaries  
**cit** citation, cited  
**civ** civil; civilian  
**CJ** chief justice  
**cl** 1 centilitre 2 clerk  
**clin** clinical  
**CLit** Companion of Literature  
**Cllr** *Br* councillor  
**Clo** close—used in street names  
**cm** centimetre  
**cmd** command  
**cmdg** commanding  
**Cmdr** Commander  
**Cmdre** Commodore  
**CMG** Companion of (the Order of) St Michael and St George

**cmf** commercial  
**CMS** Church Missionary Society  
**CNA** Council for National Academic Awards  
**CND** Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament  
**CNS** central nervous system  
**co** /i/ *often pronounced koh in the phrase shy* and *co* eg Jones and Co/ 1 company 2 county  
**CO** 1 commanding officer 2 Commonwealth Office 3 conscientious objector  
**c/o** 1 care of 2 carried over  
**COD** 1 cash on delivery 2 Concise Oxford Dictionary  
**C of C** Chamber of Commerce  
**C of E** 1 Church of England 2 Council of Europe  
**C of S** Church of Scotland  
**cog** cognate  
**COHSE** /kohzi/ Confederation of Health Service Employees  
**COI** Central Office of Information  
**col** 1 colour, coloured 2 column  
**Col** 1 Colonel 2 Colorado 3 Colossians—used for the book of the Bible  
**coll** 1 college 2 colloquial  
**colloq** colloquial, colloquially  
**Colo** Colorado  
**com, comm** 1 commerce, commercial  
**2** commission 3 committee  
**Com, Comm** 1 Commander 2 Commodore  
**3** Commonwealth 4 Communist  
**comb** combination, combined combining  
**comdg** commanding  
**Comdr** Commander  
**Comdt** Commandant  
**comp** 1 comparative, compare 2 compiled, compiler 3 composition 4 comprehensive  
**compar** comparative, comparison  
**con** 1 consolidated 2 consul  
**Con, Cons** Conservative  
**conc** concentrate, concentrated, concentration  
**conf** conference  
**conj** 1 conjugation 2 conjunction, conjunctive  
**Conn** Connecticut  
**cons** 1 consecrated 2 consigned, consignment  
**3** consolidated 4 consonant 5 consulting  
**const** constant  
**constr** construction  
**cont** 1 containing 2 contents 3 continent  
**continental** 4 continued  
**contd** continued  
**contr** contralto  
**contrib** contribution, contributor  
**Copt** Coptic  
**Cor** 1 Corinthians—used for the books of the Bible 2 coroner  
**CORE** /kaw/ Congress of Racial Equality —a US organization  
**Corp** 1 Corporal 2 corporation  
**cos** /koz/ cosine  
**COS** chief of staff  
**cosec** cosecant  
**cosech** hyperbolic cosecant  
**cosh** hyperbolic cosine  
**cot** cotangent  
**coth** hyperbolic cotangent  
**Coun** councillor  
**coy** company—used esp for a military company  
**cp** 1 candlepower 2 compare  
**CP** 1 Communist Party 2 Country Party—Australian political party  
**CPAG** Child Poverty Action Group  
**cpd** compound  
**Cpl** Corporal  
**CPO** 1 Chief Petty Officer 2 *Br* compulsory purchase order  
**CPR** Canadian Pacific Railway  
**CPRE** Council for the Preservation of Rural England  
**cps** 1 characters per second 2 cycles per second  
**CPSA** Civil and Public Services Association  
**CPSU** Communist Party of the Soviet Union  
**CPU** central processing unit  
**cr** credit; creditor

**Cr** councillor  
**CR** conditioned reflex, conditioned response  
**CRAC** Careers Research and Advisory Centre  
**CRC** Cancer Research Campaign  
**creac, cres** 1 crescendo 2 *often cap* crescent—used esp in street names  
**crit** critical, criticism  
**CRO** 1 cathode ray oscilloscope 2 Criminal Records Office  
**CRT** cathode-ray tube  
**cs** case, cases  
**CS** 1 chartered surveyor 2 Civil Service  
**3** Court of Session—the supreme civil court of Scotland  
**CSC** 1 Civil Service Commission  
**2** Conspicuous Service Cross  
**CSD** Civil Service Department  
**CSE** Certificate of Secondary Education  
**CSI** Companion of the (Order of the) Star of India  
**CSIRO** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization—an Australian organization  
**CSM** Company Sergeant Major  
**CSO** 1 Central Statistical Office 2 Community Service Order  
**ct** 1 carat 2 *often cap* court  
**CT** Connecticut  
**CTC** Cyclists' Touring Club  
**ctr** centre  
**cu** cubic  
**Cumb** Cumbria  
**CV** curriculum vitae  
**CVO** Commander of the (Royal) Victorian Order  
**CW** chemical warfare  
**Cwth** Commonwealth  
**CWS** Cooperative Wholesale Society  
**cwt** hundredweight

## D

**d** 1 date 2 daughter 3 day 4 deca 5 deci-  
**6** delete 7 penny, pence—used before introduction of decimal currency [*1 denarius, denarii*] 8 density 9 departs 10 diameter  
**11** died 12 dose 13 drizzle  
**D** 1 dimensional 2 Duke  
**da** deca-  
**DA** 1 deposit account 2 *NAm* district attorney  
**Dak** Dakota  
**Dan** Daniel—used for the book of the Bible  
**D & C** dilatation and curettage  
**dat** dative  
**db** /dee bee/ decibel  
**DBE** Dame Commander of the (Order of the) British Empire  
**dbl** double  
**DC** 1 from the beginning [*It da capo*] 2 Detective Constable 3 direct current  
**4** District of Columbia 5 District Commissioner  
**DCB** Dame Commander of the (Order of the) Bath  
**DCh** Doctor of Surgery [*ML Chirurgiae Doctor*]  
**DCL** 1 Distillers Company Limited 2 Doctor of Civil Law  
**DCM** Distinguished Conduct Medal  
**DCMG** Dame Commander of (the Order of) St Michael and St George  
**DCVO** Dame Commander of the (Royal) Victorian Order  
**DD** 1 direct debit 2 Doctor of Divinity  
**DDS** Doctor of Dental Surgery  
**DE** 1 Delaware 2 Department of Employment  
**deb** debenture  
**dec** 1 deceased 2 declared—used esp in cricket  
**3** declension 4 declination 5 decrease  
**6** decrescendo  
**Dec** December  
**def** 1 defendant 2 defence 3 deferred—used esp for deferred shares 4 definite 5 definition  
**deg** degree  
**del** delegate, delegation

**Del** Delaware  
**Dem** Democrat, Democratic  
**DEng** /dec 'enj/ Doctor of Engineering  
**dent** dental; dentist, dentistry  
**dep** 1 departs; departure 2 deposited 3 deposit  
 4 depot 5 deputy  
**dept** department  
**der, deriv** derivation, derivative; derived  
**DES** Department of Education and Science  
**det** detached; detachment  
**Det** Detective  
**Deut** Deuteronomy—used for the book of the Bible  
**DF** Defender of the Faith [ML *defensor fidei*]  
**DFC** Distinguished Flying Cross  
**DFM** Distinguished Flying Medal  
**DG** 1 by the grace of God [LL *Dei gratia*]  
 2 director general  
**DHSS** Department of Health and Social Security  
**DI** Detective Inspector  
**diag** diagram  
**dial** dialect  
**diam** diameter  
**diet** 1 dictator 2 dictionary  
**diff** difference; different  
**dim** 1 dimension 2 diminuendo 3 diminutive  
**DIN** /din/ German Industrial Standards [G *Deutsche Industrie-Norm*]  
**Dip** Diploma  
**Dip AD** Diploma in Art and Design  
**Dip Ed** /dip 'ed/ Diploma in Education  
**Dip HE** Diploma in Higher Education  
**dir** director  
**dis** disused  
**diet** 1 distance 2 distilled 3 district  
**div** 1 divergence 2 divide, divided 3 dividend  
 4 division 5 divorced  
**DIY** do-it-yourself  
**dk** dark  
**di** deciliter  
**DLitt** /dee 'lit/ Doctor of Letters [L *doctor litterarum*]  
**DLT** Development Land Tax  
**dm** decimetre  
**DM** Doctor of Medicine  
**DMus** Doctor of Music  
**do** ditto  
**DOA** dead on arrival—used chiefly in hospitals  
**dob** date of birth  
**doc** document  
**DOC** Denominazione d'Origine Controllata  
**DD** Department of Defense—a US government department  
**DOE** Department of the Environment  
**dom** domestic  
**DOM** to God, the best and greatest [ML *Deo optimo maximo*]  
**Don** Donegal  
**DoT** Department of Trade  
**doz** /sometimes duz/ dozen  
**DP** 1 data processing 2 displaced person  
**dpc** damp proof course  
**DPH** Diploma in Public Health  
**DPHil** /dee 'fil/ Doctor of Philosophy  
**DPM** Diploma in Psychological Medicine  
**DPP** Director of Public Prosecutions  
**dpt** department  
**dr** 1 debtor 2 drachm 3 dram 4 drawer  
**Dr** 1 doctor 2 drive—used in street names  
**Dr** drive  
**D8** 1 from the sign [It *dal segno*] 2 Detective Sergeant  
**DSc** doctor of science  
**DSC** Distinguished Service Cross  
**DSM** Distinguished Service Medal  
**DSO** Distinguished Service Order  
**dso** 1 died without issue [L *decessu sine prole*]  
 2 dessertspoon; dessertspoonful  
**DST** daylight saving time  
**Dt** Deuteronomy  
**DT, DTHeol** doctor of theology  
**dup** duplicate  
**DV** God willing [L *Deo volente*]  
**DVLC** Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre  
**dz** dozen

## E

**E** 1 Earl 2 earth—used esp on electrical plugs  
 3 East; Easterly, Eastern 4 energy 5 English  
 6 ex-  
**ea** each  
**E and OE** errors and omissions excepted  
**EAW** Electrical Association for Women  
**EBU** European Broadcasting Union  
**EC** East Central—a London postal district  
**eccl** ecclesiastic, ecclesiastical  
**Eccles, Ec** Ecclesiastes—used for the book of the Bible  
**Ecclesi** Ecclesiasticus—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**ECG** electrocardiogram, electrocardiograph  
**ecol** ecological, ecology  
**econ** economics, economist, economy  
**ECS** European Communications Satellite  
**ECSC** European Coal and Steel Community  
**ECT** electroconvulsive therapy  
**ECU** European Currency Unit  
**ed, edit** edited, edition, editor  
**Ed** 1 editor 2 education  
**EDP** electronic data processing  
**educ** education, educational  
**EE** Early English  
**EEC** European Economic Community  
**EEG** electroencephalogram, electroencephalograph  
**EFTA** /efta/ European Free Trade Association  
**EFL** English as a foreign language  
**eg** for example [L *exempli gratia*]  
**EHF** extremely high frequency  
**EHT** extremely high tension  
**elec, elect** electric, electrical, electricity  
**ELF** extremely low frequency  
**Eliz** Elizabethan  
**ELT** English language teaching  
**em** electromagnetic  
**EMA** European Monetary Agreement  
**embryol** embryology  
**emer** emeritus  
**emf** electromotive force  
**EMI** Electrical and Musical Industries  
**Emp** Emperor, Empress  
**emu** electromagnetic unit  
**enc, encl** enclosed; enclosure  
**ency, encyc, encyl** encyclopedia  
**ENE** east-northeast  
**ENEA** European Nuclear Energy Agency  
**eng** 1 engine; engineer, engineering  
 2 engraved, engraver, engraving  
**Eng** England, English  
**ENO** English National Opera  
**ENON** English National Opera North  
**Ens** tensign  
**ENSA** /ensa/ Entertainments National Service Association  
**ENT** ear, nose, and throat  
**entom** entomological, entomology  
**env** envelope  
**EO** Executive Officer  
**EOC** Equal Opportunities Commission  
**ep en** passant  
**Ep** epistle  
**EP** electroplate  
**EPA** Environmental Protection Agency  
**Eph, Ephes** Ephesians—used for the book of the Bible  
**Episc** Episcopal; Episcopalian  
**EPNS** electroplated nickel silver  
**eq** equal  
**equiv** equivalent  
**ER** 1 Eastern Region 2 King Edward [NL *Edwardus Rex*] 3 Queen Elizabeth [NL *Elizabetha Regina*]  
**ESA** European Space Agency  
**Esd** Esdras—used for the books of the Apocrypha  
**ESSE** east-southeast  
**ESL** English as a second language  
**ESN** educationally subnormal  
**esp /esp/** especially  
**Esq also Esqr** esquire

**est** 1 established 2 estate 3 estimate; estimated  
**EST** 1 Eastern Standard Time 2 electro-shock treatment  
**Eth** Esther—used for the book of the Bible  
**esu** electrostatic unit  
**ETA** estimated time of arrival  
**ETD** estimated time of departure  
**ethnol** ethnologist, ethnology  
**et seq** 1 and the following one [L *et sequens*] 2 and the following ones [L *et sequentes* (masculine & feminine plural), or *et sequentia* (neuter plural)]  
**ETU** Electrical Trades Union  
**ety, etym, etymol** etymological, etymologist, etymology  
**EUA** European Unit of Account  
**euph** euphemistic  
**eV** electron volt  
**EVA** extravehicular activity  
**evap** evaporate, evaporated  
**ex** 1 examined 2 example 3 except 4 exchange  
**Ex, Exod** Exodus—used for the book of the Bible  
**exc** except  
**Exc** excellency  
**ex div** without dividend  
**exec** executive  
**ex lib** from the books (of)—used on bookplates [L *ex libris*]  
**exor** executor  
**exp** 1 experimental, experimental 2 export, exported 3 exponential 4 express  
**expt** experiment  
**exptl** experimental  
**exrx** executrix  
**ext** 1 extension 2 exterior 3 external, externally 4 extinct  
**Ez, Ezr** Ezra—used for the book of the Bible  
**Ezek** Ezekiel—used for the book of the Bible

## F

**f** 1 fathom 2 female 3 femto- 4 force 5 forte  
 6 frequency 7 focal length 8 folio 9 following (eg page) 10 foot  
**F** 1 Fahrenheit 2 false 3 farad 4 Fellow 5 filial generation 6 fine—used esp on lead pencils  
 7 forward 8 French  
**FA** Football Association  
**FAA** 1 Fleet Air Arm 2 Federal Aviation Agency—a US government agency  
**fac** facsimile  
**Fahr** Fahrenheit  
**FAI** International Aeronautical Federation [F *Fédération aéronautique internationale*]  
**F and F** fixtures and fittings  
**FANY** /fani, 'ef ay en 'wic/ First Aid Nursing Yeomanry  
**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)  
**fas** free alongside ship  
**fath** fathom  
**FBA** Fellow of the British Academy  
**FBI** Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**FBR** fast breeder reactor  
**FC** 1 Football Club 2 Forestry Commission  
**FCA** Fellow of the (Institute of) Chartered Accountants  
**FCC** Federal Communications Commission—a US government organization  
**FCII** Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute  
**FCIS** Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries  
**FCO** Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
**fcp** foolscap  
**FCS** Fellow of the Chemical Society  
**FD** Defender of the Faith [L *Fidei Defensor*]  
**FDA** Food and Drug Administration—a US government organization  
**Feb** February  
**fec** he/she made it [L *fecit*]  
**fed** federal; federation  
**fem** 1 female 2 feminine—used in grammar  
**Ferm** Fermi  
**FET** field-effect transistor

**ff** 1 folios 2 following (e.g. pages) 3 fortissimo  
**FH** fire hydrant  
**FIDE** World Chess Federation [*Fédération Internationale des Échecs*]  
**FIFA** /*feɪfə*/ International Football Federation [*Fédération Internationale de Football Association*]  
**fig** 1 figurative, figuratively 2 figure  
**fin** 1 finance, financial 2 finish  
**fl** 1 floor 2 flourished—used to indicate a period of renown of sb/whose dates of birth and death are unknown [*L. floruit*] 3 fluid  
**FL** 1 Florida 2 focal length  
**Fla** Florida  
**fl oz** fluid ounce  
**Flt Lt** Flight Lieutenant  
**Flt Off** Flight Officer  
**Flt Sgt** Flight Sergeant  
**fth** fathom  
**FM** Field Marshal  
**fml** formal  
**fo, fol** folio  
**FO** 1 Field Officer 2 Flying Officer 3 Foreign Office  
**fob** free on board  
**foc** free of charge  
**FOC** Father of the Chapel (in a Trade Union)  
**FOE** Friends of the Earth  
**for** 1 free on rail 2 foreign 3 forest, forestry  
**fp** 1 forte-piano 2 freezing point  
**FPA** 1 Family Planning Association 2 Foreign Press Association  
**fpm** feet per minute  
**fps** 1 feet per second 2 foot-pound-second  
**fr** from  
**Fr** 1 Father 2 French 3 Friar  
**FRCM** Fellow of the Royal College of Music  
**FRCOG** Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
**FRCP** Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians  
**FRCS** Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons  
**FRCVS** Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
**freq** frequency, frequent, frequentative, frequently  
**Fri** Friday  
**FRIBA** Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects  
**FRIC** Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry  
**FRICS** Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
**front** frontispiece  
**FRPS** Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society  
**FRS** Fellow of the Royal Society  
**frt** freight  
**FSA** Fellow of the Society of Actuaries  
**FSH** follicle-stimulating hormone  
**ft** 1 feet, foot 2 foot  
**FT** Financial Times  
**ftd** fitted  
**fth, fthm** fathom  
**ft lb** foot-pound  
**fur** furlong  
**fwd** 1 foreword 2 forward, forwards  
**FWD** 1 four-wheel drive 2 front-wheel drive

## G

**g** 1 gauge 2 giga 3 good 4 gram  
**G** 1 gauss 2 German 3 giga-gauss 4 acceleration due to gravity 5 gulf  
**Ga** 1 gate 2 Georgia (USA)  
**GA** 1 General Assembly 2 Gamblers Anonymous  
**gal, gall** /*sometmes gal*/ gallon  
**Gal** Galatians—used for the book of the Bible  
**galv** galvanised  
**gar** garage  
**GATT** /*gat*/ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade  
**gaz** gazette, gazetteer

**GB** Great Britain  
**GBE** Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the (Order of the) British Empire  
**GBH** *Br* grievous bodily harm  
**GC** George Cross  
**GCB** Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the (Order of the) Bath  
**GCE** General Certificate of Education  
**GCHQ** Government Communications Headquarters  
**GCMG** Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the (Order of) St Michael and St George  
**GCVO** Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the (Royal) Victorian Order  
**gd** good  
**Gdms** Gardens—used esp in street names  
**GDP** gross domestic product  
**GDR** German Democratic Republic  
**GEC** General Electric Company  
**gen** 1 genitive 2 genus  
**Gen** Genesis—used for the book of the Bible  
**geog** geographic, geographical, geography  
**geol** geological, geological, geology  
**geom** geometric, geometrical, geometry  
**ger** gerund  
**GHQ** general headquarters  
**gi** gill  
**GI** gastrointestinal  
**Gib** Gibraltar  
**Gk** Greek  
**Glam** Glamorgan  
**GLC** 1 Greater London Council 2 gas-liquid chromatography  
**Glos** Gloucestershire  
**GLS** General Lighting Service  
**gm** gram  
**GM** 1 general manager 2 George Medal 3 guided missile  
**GMC** 1 General Medical Council 2 general management committee  
**GMT** Greenwich Mean Time  
**GMWU** General and Municipal Workers Union  
**GNB** Good News Bible  
**GNP** gross national product  
**GOC** General Officer Commanding  
**gov** 1 government 2 governor  
**govt** government  
**GP** 1 general practitioner 2 Grand Prix  
**Gp Capt** Group Captain  
**GPDS** Girls' Public Day School Trust  
**GPI** general paralysis of the insane  
**GPO** general post office  
**GQ** general quarters  
**gr** 1 grade 2 grain 3 gram 4 gravity 5 gross  
**Gr** Greek  
**GR** King George [*L. Georgius Rex*]  
**grad** graduate, graduated  
**gram** grammar, grammatical  
**gro** gross  
**Gro** Grove—used in street names  
**gr wt** gross weight  
**Ga** gauss  
**GS** General Staff  
**GSO** general staff officer  
**gt** great  
**GT** grand tourer  
**gtd** guaranteed  
**GTT** glucose tolerance test  
**gyn, gynaecol** gynaecology

## H

**h** 1 hect-, hecto 2 height 3 high 4 hot 5 hour 6 husband  
**H** 1 harbour 2 hard—used esp on lead pencils 3 hardness 4 henry—used in physics 5 hospital  
**ha** hectare  
**Hab** Habakkuk—used for the book of the Bible  
**Hag** Haggai—used for the book of the Bible  
**h and c** hot and cold (water)  
**Hants** /*hants*/ Hampshire [OE *Hantescire*, var of *Hamunscri*]

**HB** hard black—used on lead pencils  
**HBM** His/Her Britannic Majesty  
**HC** 1 Holy Communion 2 House of Commons  
**HCF** highest common factor  
**hdbk** handbook  
**HDip** higher diploma  
**hdqrs** headquarters  
**HE** 1 high explosive 2 His Eminence 3 His/Her Excellency  
**Heb** Hebrews—used for the book of the Bible  
**HEC** Health Education Council  
**HEO** Higher Executive Officer  
**her** heraldry  
**Here, Heref** Herefordshire  
**Herts** Hertfordshire  
**HEW** Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—a US government department  
**hf** half  
**HF** high frequency  
**hg** 1 hectogram 2 haemoglobin  
**HG** 1 His/Her Grace 2 Home Guard  
**HGV** *Br* heavy goods vehicle  
**HH** 1 double hard—used on lead pencils 2 His/Her Highness 3 His Holiness  
**HI** Hawaii  
**HH** His/Her Imperial Highness  
**HIM** His/Her Imperial Majesty  
**hist** historian, historical, history  
**hl** hectolitre  
**HL** House of Lords  
**hm** hectometre  
**HM** 1 headmaster 2 headmistress 3 His/Her Majesty  
**HMAS** His/Her Majesty's Australian Ship  
**HMCS** His/Her Majesty's Canadian Ship  
**HMf** His/Her Majesty's Forces  
**HMG** His/Her Majesty's Government  
**HMI** His/Her Majesty's Inspector (of Schools)  
**HMNZS** His/Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship  
**HMS** His/Her Majesty's Ship  
**HMSO** His/Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
**HMV** His Master's Voice  
**HNC** Higher National Certificate  
**HND** Higher National Diploma  
**ho** house  
**HO** Home Office  
**hon** honour, honourable, honorary  
**Hon** (the) Honourable  
**Hons** *Br* honours  
**Hon Sec** *Br* Honorary Secretary  
**hort, hortc** horticultural, horticulture  
**Hos** Hosea—used for the book of the Bible  
**hos, hosp** hospital  
**HP** 1 high pressure 2 hire purchase 3 horsepower 4 Houses of Parliament  
**HPF** highest possible frequency  
**HPLC** high performance liquid chromatography  
**HQ** headquarters  
**hr** hour  
**HR** 1 holiday route 2 House of Representatives  
**HRH** His/Her Royal Highness  
**hrt** hormone replacement therapy  
**HRW** heated rear window  
**HSB** His/Her Serene Highness  
**HSO** Higher Scientific Officer  
**HST** high speed train  
**ht** height  
**HT** 1 high-tension 2 under this title [*L. hoc titulo*]  
**HTR** high-temperature reactor  
**HUD** head-up display  
**humor** humorous, humorously  
**Hung** Hungarian, Hungary  
**HV** 1 high velocity 2 high-voltage  
**HW** 1 high water 2 hot water  
**HWM** high-water mark  
**hwy** highway  
**hy** henry—used in physics  
**Hz** hertz

I intransitive

I 1 inductance 2 island; isle

# Abbreviations

1150

**la, IA** Iowa  
**IA** Institute of Actuaries  
**IAA** indoleacetic acid  
**IAAF** International Amateur Athletic Federation  
**IASBA** International Amateur Boxing Association  
**IAEA** International Atomic Energy Agency  
**IALC** instrument approach and landing chart  
**IAM** Institute of Advanced Motorists  
**IARU** International Amateur Radio Union  
**IAS** indicated airspeed  
**IATA** /ie' aht/ International Air Transport Association  
**ib** *ibidem*  
**IB** Institute of Bankers  
**IBA** Independent Broadcasting Authority  
**ibid** *ibidem*  
**IBM** International Business Machines  
**IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
**ie** in charge  
**IC** integrated circuit  
**ICA** Institute of Contemporary Arts  
**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization  
**ICBM** intercontinental ballistic missile  
**ICC** International Cricket Conference  
**ICE** 1 Institution of Civil Engineers 2 internal-combustion engine  
**ICFC** Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation  
**ICTU** International Confederation of Free Trade Unions  
**ICHEME** Institute of Chemical Engineers  
**ICI** Imperial Chemical Industries  
**ICJ** International Court of Justice  
**ICL** International Computers Limited  
**ICRF** Imperial Cancer Research Fund  
**ICS** Indian Civil Service  
**id** *idem*  
**ID** 1 Idaho 2 (proof of) identification 3 inner diameter 4 intelligence department  
**IDA** International Development Association  
**IDB** chiefly *Safr* illicit diamond buying  
**ie** that is [*L id est*]  
**IEE** Institution of Electrical Engineers  
**IF** intermediate frequency  
**IFC** International Finance Corporation  
**IG** inspector general  
**IHS** Jesus [taken as abbr of *L Iesus hominum salvator*, orig. part transliteration of Gk ΙΗΣ., short for ΙΗΣΟΥΣ *Iēsous* Jesus]  
**IL** Illinois  
**ILEA** /ie' el ee' ay, 'ili-ə/ Inner London Education Authority  
**il, illus, illust** illustrated, illustration  
**Ill** Illinois  
**ILO** 1 International Labour Organization 2 International Labour Office  
**ILP** Independent Labour Party  
**ILS** instrument landing system  
**IM** intramuscular  
**IMECHE** Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
**IMF** International Monetary Fund  
**imit** imitative, imitation  
**imp** 1 Emperor, Empress [*L Imperator, Imperatrix*] 2 imperative 3 imperfect 4 imperial  
**imper** imperative  
**in** inch  
**IN** Indiana  
**inc** /(/2) often *ingkl*/ 1 increase 2 chiefly *NAm* incorporated  
**incl** included; including; inclusive  
**ind** 1 independent 2 indicative 3 industrial; industry  
**Ind** Indiana  
**indic** indicative  
**inf** 1 below [*L infra*] 2 infantry 3 infinitive  
**infin** infinitive  
**inform** informal  
**in loc cit** in the place cited [*L in loco citato*]  
**INP** International News Photo  
**INRI** Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews [*L Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*]

**Ins** insurance  
**INS** 1 inertial navigation system 2 International News Service  
**insp** inspector  
**inst** 1 instant 2 institute, institution  
**int** 1 integral 2 interior 3 intermediate 4 internal 5 international 6 interpreter 7 intransitive  
**inter** intermediate  
**interj** interjection  
**interrog** interrogation, interrogative, interrogatively  
**intl** international  
**in trans** in transit [*L in transitu*]  
**intro** introduction  
**I/O** input/output  
**IOC** International Olympic Committee  
**IOF** Independent Order of Foresters  
**IoM** Isle of Man  
**IOOF** Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
**IOW** Isle of Wight  
**IPA** International Phonetic Alphabet  
**IPC** International Publishing Corporation  
**IPM** 1 inches per minute 2 Institute of Personnel Management  
**IPPF** International Planned Parenthood Federation  
**IPS** inches per second  
**IQS** Institute of Quantity Surveyors  
**Ir** Irish  
**IR** 1 information retrieval 2 infrared 3 Inland Revenue  
**IRA** Irish Republican Army  
**IRBM** intermediate range ballistic missile  
**IRN** Independent Radio News  
**IRO** 1 Inland Revenue Office 2 International Refugee Organization  
**is** island, isle  
**IS** International Socialist  
**Isa, Is** Isaiah—used for the book of the Bible  
**ISBN** International Standard Book Number  
**ISD** international subscriber dialling  
**Isl** island  
**ISO** 1 Imperial Service Order 2 International Standardization Organization  
**ISTC** Iron and Steel Trades Confederation  
**ISTRUC** Institution of Structural Engineers  
**ISV** International Scientific Vocabulary  
**IT** Intermediate Technology  
**ita** initial teaching alphabet  
**ITA** Independent Television Authority—now *ITV*  
**ital** italic, italicized  
**Ital, It** Italian  
**ITB** Industry Training Board  
**ITN** Independent Television News  
**ITO** International Trade Organization  
**ITT** International Telephone and Telegraph (Corporation)  
**ITU** International Telecommunications Union  
**ITV** Independent Television  
**IU** international unit  
**IUD** intrauterine device  
**IV** intravenous, intravenously  
**IVR** International Vehicle Registration  
**IW** 1 inside width 2 isotopic weight  
**IWC** International Whaling Commission  
**IWW** Industrial Workers of the World  
**IYHF** International Youth Hostels Federation

## J

**J** 1 joule 2 Judge 3 Justice  
**JA** Judge Advocate  
**JA, J/A** joint account  
**JAG** judge advocate general  
**Jan** January  
**Jas** James—used for the book of the Bible  
**JC** 1 Jesus Christ 2 Julius Caesar  
**JCD** 1 Doctor of Canon Law [*NL juris canonici doctor*] 2 Doctor of Civil Law [*NL juris civilis doctor*]  
**JCL** Job Control Language  
**JCR** Junior Common Room  
**jct** junction

**Jer** Jeremiah—used for the book of the Bible  
**JJ** Justices  
**jnr** junior  
**Jo** Joel—used for the book of the Bible  
**Jon** Jonah—used for the book of the Bible  
**Josh** Joshua—used for the book of the Bible  
**journ** journalistic  
**JP** Justice of the Peace  
**Jr** junior  
**jt, jnt** joint  
**Jud** Judith—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**JUD** Doctor of both Civil and Canon Law [*L juris utriusque doctor*]  
**Judg** Judges—used for the books of the Bible  
**Jul** July  
**Jun** June

## K

**k** 1 carat 2 kilo- 3 kitchen 4 knot 5 kosher  
**k** 1 kelvin 2 king—used in chess 3 knit  
**KANU** /kahnooh/ Kenya African National Union  
**KB** 1 King's Bench 2 Knight Bachelor  
**KBE** Knight (Commander of the Order of the) British Empire  
**kc** kilocycle  
**KC** 1 Kennel Club 2 King's Counsel  
**kcal** /kay, kal/ kilocalorie  
**KCB** Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Bath  
**KCIE** Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Indian Empire  
**KCMG** Knight Commander of (the Order of) St Michael and St George  
**KCSI** Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Star of India  
**ke/s** kilocycles per second  
**KCVO** Knight Commander of the (Royal) Victorian Order  
**KD** knocked down  
**KE** kinetic energy  
**Ker** Kerry  
**keV** kilo-electron volt  
**kg** 1 keg 2 kilogram  
**KG** Knight of the (Order of the) Garter  
**KGB** (Soviet) State Security Committee [*Russ Komitet Gosudarstvennoye Bezopasnosti*]  
**Kgs** Kings—used for the books of the Bible  
**kH** kilohertz  
**Kild** Kildare  
**Kilk** Kilkenny  
**klt** kitchen  
**kJ** kilajoule  
**KKK** Ku Klux Klan  
**kl** kilolitre  
**km** kilometre  
**kn** knot  
**KP** Knight of (the Order of) St Patrick  
**kph** kilometres per hour  
**KS** Kansas  
**KStJ** Knight of (the Order of) St John  
**kt** karat  
**KT** 1 knight—used in chess 2 Knight Templar 3 Knight of the (Order of the) Thistle  
**kV** kilovolt  
**kW** kilowatt  
**kWh, kWh** kilowatt-hour  
**KWIC** keyword in context  
**KWOC** keyword out of context  
**Ky, KY** Kentucky

## L

**L** 1 Lady 2 lake 3 large 4 left 5 length 6 Liberal 7 pound [*L libra*] 8 lightning 9 line 10 litre 11 little 12 long 13 last 14 lower 15 lumen  
**L** 1 Latin 2 live—used esp on electrical plugs 3 *Br* learner (driver)  
**La** 1 lane—used esp in street names 2 Louisiana  
**LA** 1 law agent 2 Library Association 3 *Br* local authority 4 Los Angeles 5 Louisiana

**Lab** /(*l*) lab in the phrase Lib/Lab pact/  
1 Labour 2 Labrador  
**LAC** Leading Aircraftman  
**LACW** Leading Aircraftwoman  
**Lam** Lamentations—used for the book of the Bible  
**Lancs** /langks/ Lancashire  
**lang** language  
**lat** latitude  
**Lat** 1 Latin 2 Latvia  
**lb** 1 pound [*L. libra*] 2 leg bye  
**LBC** London Broadcasting Company  
**lbf** pound-force  
**lbw** leg before wicket  
**lc** 1 letter of credit 2 in the place cited [*L. loco citato*] 3 lowercase  
**LC** 1 left centre 2 Library of Congress 3 Lord Chamberlain 4 Lord Chancellor  
**LCC** London County Council  
**lcd** 1 liquid crystal display 2 lowest (*or* least) common denominator  
**LCJ** Lord Chief Justice  
**LCM** lowest (*or* least) common multiple  
**LCpl** lance corporal  
**ld** load  
**Ld** Lord  
**LD** lethal dose—often used with a numerical subscript to indicate the percent of a test group of organisms killed by the dose <LD<sub>50</sub>>  
**LDg** Leading—used chiefly in titles  
**LDS** Licentiate in Dental Surgery  
**LEA** Local Education Authority  
**led** light emitting diode  
**leg** legato  
**Leics** Leicestershire  
**Leit** Leitrim  
**LEM** lunar excursion module  
**Lev, Levit** Leviticus  
**lf** 1 light face 2 low frequency  
**lf** low frequency  
**lge** lounge  
**lh** left hand  
**LH** luteinizing hormone  
**LHA** Local Health Authority  
**LHD** Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Humanities [*L. litterarum humaniorum doctor*]  
**LI** 1 Light Infantry 2 librarian, library  
**Lib** /lib in the phrase Lib/Lab pact/ Liberal  
**Lieut** Lieutenant  
**LIFO** last in, first out  
**Lim** Limerick  
**Lincs** /lɪŋks/ Lincolnshire  
**ling** linguistics  
**Linn** Linnaean, Linnaeus  
**lit** 1 litre 2 literature  
**Litt D** doctor of letters, doctor of literature [*ML. litterarum doctor*]  
**LJ** Lord Justice  
**Lk** Luke—used for the book of the Bible  
**ll** lines  
**LL** Lord Lieutenant  
**LLB** Bachelor of Laws [*NL. legum baccalaureus*]  
**LLD** Doctor of Laws [*NL. legum doctor*]  
**LLM** Master of Laws [*NL. legum magister*]  
**lm** lumen  
**LMG** light machine gun  
**LNG** liquefied natural gas  
**LOB** Location of Offices Bureau  
**loc cit** in the place cited [*L. loco citato*]  
**Lond** Londonderry  
**long** longitude  
**Long** Longford  
**loq** he/she speaks [*L. loquitur*]  
**Lou** Louth  
**LP** low pressure  
**LPG** liquefied petroleum gas  
**LPO** London Philharmonic Orchestra  
**LPS** Lord Privy Seal  
**LRAM** Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music  
**LS** 1 left side 2 Linnæan Society  
**LSE** London School of Economics  
**LSI** large-scale integration

**LSO** London Symphony Orchestra  
**lt** light  
**Lt** 1 lieutenant 2 low-tension  
**LTA** Lawn Tennis Association  
**Lt Cdr** Lieutenant Commander  
**Lt Col** Lieutenant Colonel  
**Ltd** limited  
**Lt Gen** Lieutenant General  
**LV** 1 low velocity 2 low voltage 3 *Br* luncheon voucher  
**LVT** 1 landing vehicle, tracked 2 landing vehicle (tank)  
**LW** 1 long wave 2 low water  
**LWB** long wheelbase  
**LWM** low-water mark  
**LWR** light water reactor  
**LWT** London Weekend Television  
**lx** lux

## M

**m** 1 maiden (over)—used in cricket 2 male 3 married 4 masculine 5 mass 6 metre 7 middle 8 mile 9 thousand [*L. mille*] 10 milli- 11 million 12 minute—used for the unit of time 13 molar 14 month  
**M** 1 Mach 2 Master 3 mega- 4 Member 5 Monsieur 6 motorway  
**mA** milliampere  
**MA** 1 Massachusetts 2 Master of Arts [*ML. magister artium*] 3 Middle Ages 4 Military Academy  
**MAA** Motor Agents' Association  
**Mac, Macc** Maccabees—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**mach** machine, machinery, machinist  
**MAFF** Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food  
**mag** 1 magnesium 2 magnetic, magnetism 3 magnitude  
**Maj** Major  
**Maj Gen** Major General  
**Mal** Malachi—used for the book of the Bible  
**man** manual  
**Man** Manitoba  
**M & S** Marks and Spencer  
**manuf** manufacture, manufacturing  
**mar** maritime  
**Mar** March  
**MArch** Master of Architecture  
**Marq** Marquess, Marquis  
**masc** masculine—used in grammar  
**MASH** /mash/ *NAm* mobile army surgical hospital  
**Mass** Massachusetts  
**Matt** Matthew—used for the book of the Bible  
**max** /maks/ maximum  
**mb** millibar  
**MB** Bachelor of Medicine [*NL. medicinae baccalaureus*]  
**MBA** Master of Business Administration  
**MBE** Member of the (Order of the) British Empire  
**MBS** Master of Business Science  
**mc** 1 megacycle 2 millicurie  
**MC** 1 Master of Ceremonies 2 Member of Congress 3 Military Cross  
**MCA** Monetary : compensatory Amount  
**MCC** Marylebone Cricket Club  
**mcg** microgram  
**MCh, MChir** Master of Surgery [*NL. magister chirurgiae*]  
**MCom** Master of Commerce  
**Mc/s** megacycles per second  
**MD** Maryland  
**MD** 1 Managing Director 2 Doctor of Medicine [*NL. medicinae doctor*] 3 right hand—used in music [*It mano destra*]  
**MDS** Master of Dental Surgery  
**Me** Maine  
**ME** Middle English  
**Mea** Meath  
**meas** measure  
**mech** mechanic, mechanical, mechanics

**MEcon** Master of Economics  
**med** /(*l*) med/ 1 medical; medicine 2 medieval 3 medium  
**Med** /em 'ed/ Master of Education  
**meg** megohm  
**MEng** Master of Engineering  
**mer** meridian  
**MEP** Member of the European Parliament  
**met** /(*l*) met in the phrase met office/ 1 meteorological, meteorology 2 metropolitan  
**metal, metall** metallurgical, metallurgy  
**meteor, meteorol** meteorological; meteorology  
**MeV** mega-electron-volts  
**mf** 1 medium frequency 2 mezzo forte 3 millifarad  
**mfd** manufactured  
**mfg** manufacturing  
**MFH** Master of Foxhounds  
**MFI** Manufacture of Furniture Institute  
**mg** milligram  
**MG** machine gun  
**Mgr** 1 Monseigneur 2 Monsignor  
**mh** millihenry  
**MHD** magnetohydrodynamics  
**MHR** Member of the House of Representatives  
**MHz** megahertz  
**mi** mile, mileage  
**MI** 1 Michigan 2 military intelligence  
**Mic** Micah—used for the book of the Bible  
**Mich** Michigan  
**MICR** magnetic ink character recognition  
**mid** middle  
**Middx** Middlesex  
**mil, milit** military  
**min** 1 minimum 2 minor 3 minute—used for the unit of time  
**Min** Minister, Ministry  
**Minn** Minnesota  
**MIO** minimum identifiable odour  
**misc** miscellaneous, miscellany  
**Miss** Mississippi  
**MIT** Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**mixt** mixture  
**Mk** Mark  
**MKS** metre-kilogram-second  
**ml** /(*2*) sometimes ml/ 1 nile 2 millilitre  
**mL** millilambert  
**MLA** Member of the Legislative Assembly  
**MLC** 1 Member of the Legislative Council 2 Meat and Livestock Commission  
**MLD** minimum lethal dose  
**MLitt** /em 'lit/ Master of Letters [*L. magister litterarum*]  
**Mlle** mademoiselle [F]  
**MLR** minimum lending rate  
**MLS** microwave landing system  
**mm** millimetre  
**MM** 1 Maelzel's metronome 2 messieurs [F] 3 Military Medal  
**MMB** Milk Marketing Board  
**Mme** madame [F]  
**Mmes** mesdames [F]  
**mmf** magnetomotive force  
**MN** 1 Merchant Navy 2 Minnesota  
**mo** *NAm* month  
**MO** 1 Medical Officer 2 Missouri 3 modulus operandi 4 money order  
**MoC** Mother of the Chapel (in a Trade Union)  
**mod** 1 moderate 2 moderato 3 modern 4 modulus  
**MoD** /em oh 'dee, mod/ Ministry of Defence  
**MOH** Medical Officer of Health  
**mol** 1 molecular; molecule 2 mole  
**mol wt** molecular weight  
**mon** monetary  
**Mon** 1 Monaghan 2 Monday  
**Mont** Montana  
**morph** morphological, morphology  
**mp** mezzo piano  
**MP** 1 Member of Parliament 2 Metropolitan Police 3 Military Police, Military Policeman  
**mpg** miles per gallon

**mph** miles per hour  
**MPhil** /em'fil/ Master of Philosophy  
**mpm** metres per minute  
**mps** metres per second  
**mr** milliroentgen  
*Mr see entry in main text*  
**MR** 1 map reference 2 Master of the Rolls  
**MRA** Moral Re-Armament  
**MRC** Medical Research Council  
**MRCA** multi-roll combat aircraft  
**MRCOG** Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
**MRCP** Member of the Royal College of Physicians  
**MRCS** Member of the Royal College of Surgeons  
**MRCVS** Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
**mRNA** /em'ahr'en-'ay/ messenger RNA  
*Mrs see entry in main text*  
**ms** millisecond  
*Ms see entry in main text*  
**MS** 1 left hand—used in music [*It mano sinistra*] 2 manuscript 3 Mississippi 4 multiple sclerosis  
**MSC** 1 Manpower Services Commission 2 Metropolitan Special Constabulary  
**MSc** /em'es-'see/ Master of Science  
**msec** millisecond  
**MSG** monosodium glutamate  
*Mgr chiefly NAm* Monseigneur; Monsignor  
**MSI** medium-scale integration  
**msl** mean sea level  
**MSS** manuscripts  
**Mt** 1 Matthew 2 Mount  
**MT** Montana  
**MTB** motor torpedo-boat  
**MTech** /em'tek/ Master of Technology  
**mt** month  
**mun** municipal  
**mus** 1 museum 2 music; musical; musician  
**mv** millivolt  
**MV** 1 mezza voce 2 motor vessel  
**MVO** Member of the (Royal) Victorian Order  
**MW** 1 medium wave 2 megawatt  
**mW** milliwatt  
**Mx** maxwell  
**myth, mythol** mythological, mythology

## N

**n** 1 name 2 nano- 3 born [*L natus*] 4 net 5 new 6 neuter 7 nominative 8 noon 9 noun 10 numerical aperture  
**N** 1 knight—used in chess 2 newton 3 North; Northerly; Northern 4 neutral—used esp on electric plugs  
*n/a* no account—used in banking  
**NA** 1 North America 2 not applicable  
**NAAF** /nafi/ Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes  
**NAD** 1 no appreciable disease 2 nothing abnormal detected  
**Nah** Nahum—used for the book of the Bible  
**NALGO** /nalgo/ National and Local Government Officers Association  
**NAM** North America; North American  
**NASA** /nasa/ National Aeronautics and Space Administration—a US government organization  
**nat** national, nationalist  
**natl** national  
**NATO** /nayto/ North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
**NATSOPA** /nat'sohpa/ National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel  
**neut** nautical  
**nav** navigable; navigation  
**nb** no ball—used in cricket  
**NB** 1 Nebraska 2 New Brunswick 3 note well [*L nota bene*]  
**NBC** National Broadcasting Company—a US company  
**nbg** *Br* no bloody good—infml  
**NC** 1 no charge 2 North Carolina  
**NCB** National Coal Board  
**NCC** Nature Conservancy Council  
**NCCL** National Council for Civil Liberties  
**NCH** National Children's Home  
**NCO** non-commissioned officer  
**NCP** National Car Parks  
**NCR** National Cash Register (Company)  
**NCT** National Childbirth Trust  
**nev** no commercial value  
**nd** no date  
**ND, NDak** North Dakota  
**NE** 1 modern English [*New English*] 2 New England 3 Northeast, Northeastern  
**NEB** 1 National Enterprise Board 2 New English Bible  
**Nebr, Neb** Nebraska  
**NEC** National Executive Committee  
**NEDC** National Economic Development Council  
**neg** negative  
**Neh** Nehemiah—used for the book of the Bible  
**NEI** not elsewhere included  
**NERC** Natural Environment Research Council  
**neut** neuter  
**NeV** Nevada  
**NF** 1 National Front 2 Newfoundland 3 no funds  
**Nfld** Newfoundland  
**NFS** not for sale  
**NFU** National Farmers' Union  
**NFWI** National Federation of Women's Institutes  
**ng** no good  
**NGA** National Graphical Association  
**NH** New Hampshire  
**NHS** National Health Service  
**NI** 1 National Insurance 2 Northern Ireland  
**NJ** New Jersey  
**NL** 1 New Latin 2 it is not permitted [*L non licet*]  
**NLC** National Liberal Club  
**NLF** National Liberation Front  
**nm** 1 nanometre 2 nautical mile  
**NM, N Mex** New Mexico  
**NMR** nuclear magnetic resonance  
**NNE** north-northeast  
**NNW** north-northwest  
**no** 1 not out—used in cricket 2 number [*L numero*, abl of *numerus*] 3 *NAm* north  
**nom** nominative  
**NOP** National Opinion Poll  
**Nor, Norm** Norman  
**Norl** Norfolk  
**norm** normal  
**Northants** /naw'thants, nawth'hants/ Northamptonshire  
**Northumb** Northumberland  
**nos** numbers  
**Notts** /nots/ Nottinghamshire  
**Nov** November  
**np** new paragraph  
**NP** Notary Public  
**NPL** National Physical Laboratory  
**NPN** negative-positive-negative  
**nr** near  
**NR** Northern Region  
**NRA** National Rifle Association  
**NS** 1 not specified 2 Nova Scotia 3 *NAm* nuclear ship  
**NSB** National Savings Bank  
**nscc** *also ns* nanosecond  
**NSF** not sufficient funds  
**NSPCC** National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
**NSU** nonspecific urethritis  
**NSW** New South Wales  
**NT** 1 National Trust 2 New Testament 3 no trumps  
**NTp** normal temperature and pressure  
**NTS** National Trust for Scotland  
**nt wt** net weight  
**NUBE** /nyooohv/ National Union of Bank Employees

**NUGMW** National Union of General and Municipal Workers  
**NUJ** National Union of Journalists  
**num** numeral  
**Num, Numb** Numbers—used for the book of the Bible  
**NUM** National Union of Mineworkers  
**NUPE** /nyooohp/ National Union of Public Employees  
**NUR** National Union of Railwaymen  
**NUS** 1 National Union of Seamen 2 National Union of Students  
**NUT** National Union of Teachers  
**NUTGW** National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers  
**NV** Nevada  
**NW** Northwest, Northwestern  
**NWT** Northwest Territories (of Canada)  
**NY** New York  
**NYC** New York City  
**NYO** National Youth Orchestra  
**NZ** New Zealand

## O

**o** 1 ohm 2 old  
**O** Ohio  
**o-** ortho-  
**O & M** organization and methods  
**OAP** *Br* old-age pensioner  
**OAS** 1 Organization of American States 2 Organisation de l'Armée Secrète—used for an organization dedicated to retaining French rule in Algeria  
**OAU** Organization of African Unity  
**ob** he/she died [*L obui*]  
**Ob, Obad** Obadiah—used for the book of the Bible  
**OB** 1 outside broadcast 2 *Br* old boy  
**QBE** Officer of the (Order of the) British Empire  
**obj** object, objective—used esp in grammar  
**obs** 1 obsolete 2 obstetrical, obstetrics  
**o/c** overcharge  
**OC** *Br* Officer Commanding  
**occs** occasionally  
**OCR** optical character reader, optical character recognition  
**oct** octavo  
**Oct** October  
**OCTU** Officer Cadets Training Unit  
**OD, (2, 5, & 6) O/D** 1 officer of the day 2 on demand 3 ordnance datum 4 outer diameter 5 overdraft 6 overdrawn  
**OE** Old English  
**oe** oersted  
**OECD** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
**OED** Oxford English Dictionary  
**off** office, officer; official  
**OFM** Order of Friars Minor  
**OFS** Orange Free State  
**OFT** Office of Fair Trading  
**OG** *Br* old girl  
**OH** Ohio  
**ohc** overhead camshaft  
**OHMS** On His/Her Majesty's Service  
**ohv** overhead valve  
**OK, Okla** Oklahoma  
**OM** Order of Merit  
**ONC** Ordinary National Certificate  
**OND** Ordinary National Diploma  
**ono** or near offer—used with prices of goods for sale  
**Ont** Ontario  
**op** opus  
**OP** 1 observation post 2 opposite prompt—used to designate part of the theatrical stage 3 out of print  
**op cit** in the work cited [*L opere citato*]  
**OPEC** /ohpek/ Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries  
**opp** opposite  
**ops** operations  
**opt** 1 optative—used in grammar 2 optical; optician; optics 3 optional



**OR** 1 operational research 2 Oregon 3 other ranks 4 owner's risk  
**orch** 1 orchestra, orchestral 2 orchestrated by  
**ord** 1 order 2 ordinary 3 ordnance  
**Oreg, Ore** Oregon  
**org** 1 organic 2 organization, organized  
**orig** original, originally, originator  
**Ork** Orkney  
**ornith** ornithology  
**OS** 1 ordinary seaman 2 Ordnance Survey 3 out of stock 4 outsize  
**O/S** outstanding  
**OSA** Order of St Augustine  
**OSB** Order of St Benedict  
**OSF** Order of St Francis  
**OT** 1 occupational therapy, Occupational Therapist 2 Old Testament 3 overtime  
**OTC** Officers' Training Corps  
**OU** Open University  
**OUDS** Oxford University Dramatic Society  
**OXFAM** /'oksfa:m/ Oxford Committee for Famine Relief  
**Oxon** /'oksn/ 1 Oxfordshire [L *Oxonia*] 2 of Oxford—used chiefly with academic awards <MA ~> [L *Oxonensis*]  
**oz** ounce, ounces [It *onzu*]

## P

**p** 1 page 2 participle 3 past 4 pence, penny 5 per 6 piano—used as an instruction in music 7 pico- 8 pint 9 power 10 premolar 11 pressure  
**P** 1 parental generation 2 parking 3 pawn—used in chess 4 *para posse* 5 poise 6 Prince 7 purl  
**pa** per annum  
**Pa** 1 Pennsylvania 2 pascal  
**PA** 1 Pennsylvania 2 personal assistant 3 press agent 4 public address (system) 5 purchasing agent  
**PABX** *Br* private automatic branch (telephone) exchange  
**Pac** Pacific  
**PAL** /'pee av 'el, pa/ phase alternation line—a system of transmitting colour television programmes  
**palacont** palaeontology  
**P & L** profit and loss  
**P & O** Peninsular and Oriental (Steamship Company)  
**p & p** *Br* postage and packing  
**par** 1 paragraph 2 parallel 3 parish  
**part** participial, participle  
**PAS** 1 para-aminosalicylic acid 2 Pregnancy Advisory Service  
**pass** passive  
**pat** patent, patented  
**path, pathol** pathological, pathology  
**PAX** /'paks/ *Br* private automatic (telephone) exchange  
**PAYE** pay as you earn  
**PBAB** please bring a bottle  
**PBX** private branch (telephone) exchange  
**pc** 1 per cent 2 postcard  
**PC** 1 police constable 2 Privy Councillor  
**pcm** pulse code modulation  
**pcd** chiefly *NAm* per cent  
**pd** paid  
**PD** 1 per diem 2 potential difference 3 *NAm* police department  
**Pds** parade—used in street names  
**pdl** poundal  
**PDSA** Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals  
**PDT** Pacific daylight time  
**PE** physical education  
**ped** pedal  
**PEI** Prince Edward Island  
**pen** peninsula  
**Penn, Penna** Pennsylvania  
**PEP** *Br* Political and Economic Planning  
**PER** Professional Employment Register  
**perf** 1 perforated 2 performance  
**perh** perhaps  
**perm** permanent  
**perp** often *cap* perpendicular  
**per pro** /'puh 'proh/ by the agency (of) [L *per procuracionem*]  
**pers** person, personal  
**PERT** /'puht/ programme evaluation and review technique  
**Pet** Peter—used for the book of the Bible  
**pF** picofarad  
**PF** Procurator Fiscal  
**PFA** Professional Footballers' Association  
**PFLP** Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine  
**PG** 1 paying guest 2 postgraduate  
**PGA** Professional Golfers' Association  
**PH** public health  
**phar, pharm** pharmaceutical, pharmacist, pharmacy  
**PhB** /'pee aych 'bec/ Bachelor of Philosophy [L *philosophiae baccalaureus*]  
**PhD** /'pee aych 'dee/ Doctor of Philosophy [L *philosophiae doctor*]  
**phil** philosophy  
**Phil** 1 Philippians—used for the book of the Bible 2 Philharmonic  
**Philem** Philemon—used for the book of the Bible  
**phon** phonetics  
**phr** phrase  
**phys** 1 physical 2 physics  
**physiol** physiology  
**PI** petrol injection  
**pizz** pizzicato  
**pk** 1 often *cap* park—used esp in street names 2 peck  
**pkg** package  
**pkt** packet  
**pl** 1 often *cap* place—used esp in street names 2 platoon 3 plural  
**PL** Poet Laureate  
**PLA** Port of London Authority  
**plc** public limited company  
**PLO** Palestine Liberation Organization  
**PLP** Parliamentary Labour Party  
**PLR** Public Lending Right  
**plup** pluperfect  
**pm** 1 post meridiem 2 premium  
**PM** 1 postmortem 2 Prime Minister 3 Provost Marshal  
**PMB** Potato Marketing Board  
**PMG** 1 Paymaster General 2 Postmaster General  
**PMH** production per man-hour  
**PMS** pre-menstrual syndrome  
**PMT** pre-menstrual tension  
**pn** 1 promissory note 2 pronoun  
**PndB** perceived noise decibel  
**PNP** positive-negative-positive  
**PO** 1 Petty Officer 2 Pilot Officer 3 postal order 4 Post Office  
**POB** Post Office box  
**POD** pay on delivery  
**POE** 1 port of embarkation 2 port of entry  
**pol, polit** political, politics  
**pop** population  
**POP** *Br* Post Office Preferred  
**por** 1 pay on receipt 2 pay on return  
**pos** positive  
**poss** 1 possessive—used in grammar 2 possible  
**pot** 1 potenti- 2 potentiometer  
**POUNC** Post Office Users' National Council  
**POW** prisoner of war  
**pp** 1 pages 2 past participle 3 by proxy [L *per procuracionem*] 4 pianissimo  
**PP** 1 parcel post 2 parish priest  
**ppd, PP** 1 postpaid 2 prepaid  
**PPE** Philosophy, Politics, and Economics  
**ppm** parts per million  
**PPS** 1 Parliamentary Private Secretary 2 further postscript [L *post-postscriptum*]  
**ppt** precipitate  
**pptn** precipitation  
**PQ** Province of Quebec  
**pr** 1 pair 2 present 3 price 4 pronoun  
**Pr** 1 Priest 2 Prince  
**PR** 1 proportional representation 2 public relations 3 Puerto Rico

**PRAM** /'pram/ programmable random access memory  
**PRB** Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood  
**Preb** Prebendary  
**prec** preceding  
**pred** predicate  
**pref** 1 preface 2 preferred 3 prefix  
**prelim** preliminary  
**prem** premium  
**prep** 1 preparation, preparatory 2 preposition  
**pres** present  
**Pres** President  
**Presb** Presbyterian  
**prev** previous, previously  
**Prin** Principal  
**PRO** 1 Public Records Office 2 public relations officer  
**prob** probable, probably  
**proc** proceedings  
**prod** production  
**Prof** Professor  
**prom** promontory  
**PROM** /'prom/ programmable read-only memory  
**pron** 1 pronoun 2 pronounced, pronunciation  
**prop** 1 proposition 2 proprietor  
**PROP** /'prop/ Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners  
**pros** prosody  
**Prot** 1 Protectorate 2 Protestant  
**prov** 1 province, provincial 2 provisional  
**Prov** 1 Proverbs—used for the book of the Bible 2 Provost  
**prox** proximo  
**PRT** petroleum revenue tax  
**Ps** Psalms—used for the book of the Bible  
**PS** 1 Police Sergeant 2 postscript [L *postscriptum*] 3 Private Secretary 4 prompt side—used to designate part of the theatrical stage  
**PSA** Property Services Agency  
**PSBR** Public Sector Borrowing Requirement  
**pseud** pseudonym, pseudonymous  
**psf** pounds per square foot  
**psi** pounds per square inch  
**PST** Pacific Standard Time  
**PSV** *Br* public service vehicle  
**psychol, psych** psychology  
**pt** 1 part 2 pint 3 point 4 port  
**PT** 1 Pacific time 2 physical training  
**PTA** Parent-Teacher Association  
**Pto** Private  
**PTE** Passenger Transport Executive  
**PTFE** polytetrafluoroethylene  
**ptg** printing  
**PTO** please turn over  
**Pty** chiefly *Austr, NZ, & SAfr* Proprietary  
**pu** per unit  
**pub, publ** 1 public 2 published, publisher, publishing  
**PVA** polyvinyl acetate  
**PVC** polyvinyl chloride  
**Pvt** chiefly *NAm* Private  
**pw** per week  
**PW** *Br* policewoman  
**pwr** power  
**PWR** pressurized water reactor  
**pwt** pennyweight  
**PX** post exchange

## Q

**q** 1 quarto 2 quintal 3 quire  
**Q** queen—used in chess  
**QB** Queen's Bench  
**QC** Queen's Counsel  
**QED** which was to be demonstrated [L *quod erat demonstrandum*]  
**QEH** Queen Elizabeth Hall (London)  
**QF** quick-firing  
**QM** quartermaster  
**QMG** Quartermaster General  
**QMS** Quartermaster Sergeant  
**QPM** Queen's Police Medal  
**QPR** Queen's Park Rangers

**qq** which (pl) see [L. *quae vide*]  
**qr** 1 quarter 2 quire  
**QS** quarter sessions  
**QSO** quasi-stellar object  
**qt** quart  
**qto** quarto  
**qty** quantity  
**qu, ques** question  
**Que** Quebec  
**quot** quotation  
**qv** which see [L. *quod vide*]

## R

**r** 1 radius 2 railway 3 recto 4 resistance 5 right  
**6** runs—used in cricket  
**R** 1 rabbi 2 radical—used in chemistry 3 rain  
**4** Réaumur 5 rector 6 queen [L. *regina*]  
**7** registered (as a trademark) 8 king [L. *rex*]  
**9** ring road **10** river **11** röntgen **12** rook—used  
in chess **13** Royal  
**RA** 1 Rear Admiral 2 Royal Academician;  
Royal Academy 3 Royal Artillery  
**RAA** Royal Academy of Arts  
**RAAF** Royal Australian Air Force  
**RAC** 1 Royal Armoured Corps 2 Royal  
Automobile Club  
**rad** 1 radian 2 radius  
**Rabb** Rabbinic  
**RADA** /'rahdə/ Royal Academy of Dramatic  
Art  
**RAF** /'ahr ay 'ef, raf/ Royal Air Force  
**RAFVR** Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve  
**RAH** Royal Albert Hall (London)  
**rall** rallentando  
**RAM** /'I/ ram, 'ahr ay 'em/ 1 random access  
memory 2 Royal Academy of Music  
**RAMC** Royal Army Medical Corps  
**RAN** Royal Australian Navy  
**R and A** Royal and Ancient—used as the title  
of St Andrews Golf Club  
**R & B** rhythm and blues  
**R and D** research and development  
**RAOC** Royal Army Ordnance Corps  
**RAS** Royal Astronomical Society  
**RB** Rifle Brigade  
**RBA** Royal (Society of) British Artists  
**RBC** red blood cells, red blood count  
**RBS** Royal (Society of) British Sculptors  
**RC** 1 Red Cross 2 reinforced concrete  
3 Roman Catholic  
**RCA** Royal College of Art  
**RCAF** Royal Canadian Air Force  
**RCM** Royal College of Music  
**RCMP** Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
**RCN** 1 Royal Canadian Navy 2 Royal College  
of Nursing  
**RCO** Royal College of Organists  
**RCOG** Royal College of Obstetricians and  
Gynaecologists  
**RCP** Royal College of Physicians  
**RCS** 1 Royal College of Science 2 Royal  
College of Surgeons 3 Royal Corps of Signals  
**RCT** Royal Corps of Transport  
**RCVS** Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
**rd** often *cap R* road  
**RDC** Rural District Council  
**RE** 1 religious education 2 Royal Engineers  
**rec** 1 receipt 2 recommended 3 recreation  
**recd** received  
**ref** 1 reference 2 referred  
**refl** reflex; reflexive  
**reg** 1 regiment 2 register, registered  
3 registrar; registry 4 regulation 5 regulo  
**regd** registered  
**Reg Prof** Regius Professor  
**regt** regiment  
**rel** relating; relation; relative  
**REM** /rem/ röntgen equivalent man  
**REME** /'reemi/ Royal Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers  
**Rep** 1 republic 2 Republican  
**repr** reprint; reprinted  
**req** 1 require; required 2 requisition  
**reqd** required

**res** 1 reserve 2 residence, resides  
**resp** respective; respectively  
**ret** 1 retired 2 return, returned  
**ret'd** 1 retired 2 returned  
**rev** 1 revenue 2 reverse 3 review, reviewed  
4 revised, revision  
**Rev** /'I/ rev/ 1 Revelation—used for the book  
of the Bible 2 Reverend  
**REV** reentry vehicle  
**Revd** Reverend  
**RF** 1 radio frequency 2 Rugby Football  
**RFC** 1 Royal Flying Corps 2 Rugby Football Club  
**RFH** Royal Festival Hall (London)  
**RFU** Rugby Football Union  
**RGS** Royal Geographical Society  
**rh** 1 relative humidity 2 right hand  
**RH** Royal Highness  
**RHA** 1 Road Haulage Association 2 Royal  
Horse Artillery  
**rhet** rhetoric  
**RHG** Royal Horse Guards  
**rhs** right hand side  
**RHS** 1 Royal Historical Society 2 Royal  
Horticultural Society 3 Royal Humane  
Society  
**RI** 1 refractive index 2 religious instruction  
3 Rhode Island  
**RIBA** Royal Institute of British Architects  
**RIC** Royal Institute of Chemistry  
**RICS** Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
**RIP** 1 may he rest in peace [L. *requiescat in*  
*pace*] 2 may they rest in peace [L. *requiescant*  
*in pace*]  
**rit** /rit/ ritardando  
**RK** religious knowledge  
**RL** Rugby League  
**rm** 1 room 2 room  
**RM** 1 Royal Mail 2 Royal Marines  
**RMA** Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst)  
**rms** root-mean-square  
**RN** Royal Navy  
**RNAS** Royal Naval Air Service  
**RNIB** Royal National Institute for the Blind  
**RNLJ** Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
**RNR** Royal Naval Reserve  
**RNVR** Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve  
**RNZAF** Royal New Zealand Air Force  
**RNZN** Royal New Zealand Navy  
**ROC** Royal Observer Corps  
**rom** roman (type)  
**Rom** Romans—used for the book of the Bible  
**ROM** read only memory  
**Ros, Rosc** Roscommon  
**RoSPA** /'rospa/ Royal Society for the  
Prevention of Accidents  
**RP** 1 Received Pronunciation 2 Regus  
Professor  
**RPC** Royal Pioneer Corps  
**RPI** *Br* retail price index  
**rpm** 1 *Br*, often *cap* retail price maintenance  
2 revolutions per minute  
**RPO** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
**rps** revolutions per second  
**RPS** Royal Photographic Society  
**rpt** 1 repeat 2 report  
**RQ** respiratory quotient  
**RRB** Race Relations Board  
**RS** 1 right side 2 Royal Society  
**RSA** 1 Royal Scottish Academician, Royal  
Scottish Academy 2 Royal Society of Arts  
**RSC** Royal Shakespeare Company  
**RSE** Royal Society of Edinburgh  
**RSFSR** Russian Soviet Federated Socialist  
Republic [Russ *Rossiiskaya Sovetskaya*  
*Federativnaya Sotsialisticheskaya Respublika*]  
**RSG** rate support grant  
**RL** Royal Society of Literature  
**RSM** 1 Regimental Sergeant Major 2 Royal  
Society of Medicine  
**RSPB** Royal Society for the Protection of  
Birds  
**RSPCA** Royal Society for the Prevention of  
Cruelty to Animals  
**RSPCC** Royal Scottish Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

**RSV** Revised Standard Version (of the Bible)  
**RSVP** please answer [F. *répondez s'il vous*  
*plait*]  
**rt** right  
**RT** 1 radiotelephone, radiotelephony 2 room  
temperature  
**RTE** Irish Radio and Television [Ir. *Gael Radio*  
*Telefís Éireann*]  
**Rt Hon** Right Honourable  
**Rt Rev, Rt Revd** Right Reverend  
**RU** Rugby Union  
**RUC** Royal Ulster Constabulary  
**RV** Revised Version (of the Bible)  
**RW** 1 Right Worshipful 2 Right Worthy  
**ry, rwy** railway  
**RYA** Royal Yachting Association

## S

**s** 1 school 2 scruple 3 second 4 shilling  
5 singular 6 sire 7 small 8 snow 9 son  
10 succeeded  
**S** 1 saint 2 sea 3 siemens 4 Signor 5 society  
6 South, Southerly, Southern 7 sun  
**SA** 1 Salvation Army 2 sex appeal 3 small arms  
4 limited liability company, Ltd [F. *société*  
*anonyme*] 5 Society of Actuaries 6 South  
Africa 7 South America  
**SABC** South African Broadcasting  
Corporation  
**sae** stamped addressed envelope  
**SALT** /sawlt/ Strategic Arms Limitation Talks  
**Sam, Saml** Samuel—used for the books of the  
Bible  
**SAM** /sam/ surface-to-air missile  
**SANROC** /'sanrok/ South African Non-Racial  
Olympics Committee  
**SAS** Special Air Service  
**Sask** Saskatchewan  
**Sat** Saturday  
**SATB** soprano, alto, tenor, bass  
**SAYE** save-as you-earn  
**sb** substantive  
**SBN** Standard Book Number  
**sc** 1 scene 2 schicet 3 small capitals  
*s/c* self-contained  
**Sc** Scots  
**SC** 1 South Carolina 2 special constable  
**ScD** /'es see 'dee/ Doctor of Science [ML  
*Scientiae Doctor*]  
**SCE** Scottish Certificate of Education  
**SCF** Save the Children Fund  
**sch** school  
*sci* science, scientific  
**SCM** 1 State Certified Midwife 2 Student  
Christian Movement  
**Scot** Scotland, Scottish  
**SCR** 1 senior common room 2 script 3 scripture  
**SCS** Society of Civil Servants  
**SD** 1 sine die 2 Social Democrat 3 South  
Dakota 4 standard deviation  
**SDA** 1 Scottish Development Agency 2 Sex  
Discrimination Act  
**S Dak** South Dakota  
**SDLP** Social Democratic and Labour Party  
**SDP** Social Democratic Party  
**SE** southeast, southeastern  
**SEATO** /'setoh/ Southeast Asia Treaty  
Organization  
**sec** 1 second, secondary 2 secretary 3 section  
4 according to [L. *secundum*] 5 secant  
**SECAM** /'seekam/ sequence by colour-  
memory—a system of transmitting colour  
television programmes [F. *séquentiel couleur à*  
*mémoire*]  
**sect** section, sectional  
**secy** secretary  
**sem** seminary  
**Sem** Semitic  
**SEM** scanning electron microscope  
**sen** 1 Senate; Senator 2 Senior  
**SEN** State Enrolled Nurse  
**Sep, Sept** September  
**seq** the following [L. *sequens, sequentes,*  
*sequentia*]

**seqq** the following [L *sequentes, sequentia*]  
**Serg, Sergt** Sergeant  
**SET** Selective Employment Tax  
**sf** sforzando  
**SF** science fiction  
**SFA** Scottish Football Association  
**SG 1** Solicitor General 2 *often not cap* specific gravity  
**sgd** signed  
**SGHWR** steam-generating heavy water reactor  
**Sgt** Sergeant  
**Sgt Maj** Sergeant Major  
**Shak** Shakespeare  
**SHAPE** /shayp/ Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe  
**SHO** senior house officer  
**SI** International System of Units [F *Système International d'Unités*]  
**sig** signature  
**Sig** Signor  
**sin** sine  
**sing** singular  
**SIS** Secret Intelligence Service  
**sit** situated, situation  
**SJ** Society of Jesus  
**SLADE** /slayd/ Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Etchers  
**Sio** Sligo  
**SLP** Scottish Labour Party  
**SLR** single lens reflex  
**sm** small  
**SM** Sergeant Major  
**SNCF** the French National Railways [F *Société nationale des chemins de fer français*]  
**SNP** Scottish National Party  
**snr** senior  
**so** south  
**SO 1** Scientific Officer 2 Stationery Office  
**soc** /sometimes sok/ society  
**social** sociological, sociologist, sociology  
**SOGAT** /sohgat/ Society of Graphical and Allied Trades  
**sol 1** solicitor 2 soluble 3 solution  
**Som** Somerset  
**sop** soprano  
**sp 1** species 2 specific 3 spelling 4 spell out  
**SP 1** without issue [L *sine prole*] 2 starting price  
**SPCK** Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge  
**SPD 1** supplementary petroleum duty 2 the W German Social Democratic Party [G *Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands*]  
**specif** specific, specifically  
**SPG** Special Patrol Group  
**sp gr** specific gravity  
**SPL** sound pressure level  
**spp** species (pl)  
**SPQR** the Senate and the people of Rome [L *senatus populusque Romanus*]  
**SPR** Society for Psychical Research  
**SPRC** Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer  
**SPUC** Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child  
**sq** square  
**Sqn Ldr** Squadron Leader  
**sr** steradian  
**Sr 1** senior 2 Senor 3 Sir 4 Sister  
**SR 1** Senior Registrar 2 Southern Region  
**SRC** Science Research Council  
**SRN** State Registered Nurse  
**SRO 1** standing room only 2 Statutory Rules and Orders  
**SRV** space rescue vehicle  
**SS 1** saints 2 steamship 3 Sunday school  
**SSC** Solicitor in the Supreme Court—a Scottish legal officer  
**SSE** south-southeast  
**SSgt** staff sergeant  
**SSM** surface-to-surface missile  
**SSR** Soviet Socialist Republic  
**SSRC** Social Science Research Council  
**SST** supersonic transport

**SSW** south-southwest  
**st 1** stanza 2 stitch 3 stone 4 stumped by  
**St 1** Saint 2 street  
**sta** station, stationary  
**Staffs** /stafs/ Staffordshire  
**stbd** starboard  
**std** standard  
**STD 1** doctor of sacred theology [L *sacrae theologiae doctor*] 2 subscriber trunk dialling  
**Ste** saint (female) [F *sainte*]  
**stg** sterling  
**sth** south  
**STOL** /stol/ short takeoff and landing  
**STP** standard temperature and pressure  
**str 1** strait 2 stroke—used in rowing  
**STUC** Scottish Trades Union Congress  
**STV** Scottish Television  
**subj 1** subject 2 subjunctive  
**suff** suffix  
**Sun** Sunday  
**sup 1** superior 2 superlative 3 supplement, supplementary 4 *supra*  
**superl** superlative  
**supp, suppl** supplement, supplementary  
**supt** superintendent  
**surg** surgeon, surgery, surgical  
**surv** survey, surveying, surveyor  
**Sus** Susanna—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**SW 1** shortwave 2 southwest, southwestern  
**SWALK** /swalk/ sealed with a loving kiss  
**SWAPO** /swahpoh/ South-West Africa People's Organization  
**SWG** standard wire gauge  
**Sx** Sussex  
**SYHA** Scottish Youth Hostels Association  
**syl, syll** syllable  
**sym** symmetrical  
**syn** synonym, synonymous, synonymy  
**syst** system

## T

**t 1** time 2 ton, tonne 3 transitive  
**T 1** temperature 2 *tera-* 3 tesla 4 true  
**TA** Territorial Army  
**TAB** /tab, tee ay 'bee/ typhoid-paratyphoid A and B (vaccine)  
**TAM** television audience measurement  
**T & AVR** Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve  
**tan** /tan/ tangent  
**TASS** /tas/ the official news agency of the Soviet Union [Russ *Telegrafnoye agentstvo Sovetskovo Soyuzu*]  
**TB** tubercle bacillus  
**tbs, tbsps** tablespoon, tablespoonful  
**TC** technical college  
**TCCB** Test and County Cricket Board  
**Tee Br** terrace—used esp in street names  
**tech 1** technical, technically, technician 2 technological, technology  
**technol** technological, technology  
**TEFL** /tee ee ef 'el, 'tefl/ teaching English as a foreign language  
**tel 1** telegram 2 telegraph, telegraphic 3 telephone  
**temp 1** temperature 2 temporary 3 in the time of [L *tempore*]  
**ten** tenuto  
**Tenn** Tennessee  
**Ter, Terr 1** terrace—used esp in street names 2 territory  
**TES** Times Educational Supplement  
**TESL** /tee ee ef 'el, 'tesl/ teaching English as a second language  
**Test** Testament  
**Tex** Texas  
**TG** transformational grammar  
**TGIF** thank God it's Friday  
**TGWU** Transport and General Workers' Union  
**Th** Thursday  
**TH** town hall  
**ThB** /tee aych 'bee/ bachelor of theology [NL *theologiae baccalaureus*]

**ThD** /tee aych 'dee/ doctor of theology [NL *theologiae doctor*]  
**theol** theologian, theological, theology  
**THES** /tee aych ee 'es, thes/ Times Higher Educational Supplement  
**Thess** Thessalonians—used for the books of the Bible  
**ThM** /tee aych 'em/ master of theology [NL *theologiae magister*]  
**Tho, Thos** /sometimes thos/ Thomas  
**Thur, Thurs** Thursday  
**Tim** Timothy—used for the books of the Bible  
**tinct** uncture  
**Tip** Tipperary  
**TIR** International Road Transport [F *Transport International Routiers*]  
**Tit 1** Titus—used for the book of the Bible  
**TKO** technical knock-out  
**TLS** Times Literary Supplement  
**TM 1** trademark 2 transcendental meditation  
**TN** Tennessee  
**TO** telegraph office  
**Tob 1** Tobit—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**topog** topography  
**TOPS** /tops/ Training Opportunities Scheme  
**tot** total  
**TPI** Town Planning Institute  
**Tpr** Trooper  
**tr 1** transitive 2 translated, translation, translator 3 transpose 4 trill 5 trustee  
**trans 1** transitive 2 translated, translation, translator  
**transf** transfer, transferred  
**transl** translated, translation  
**treas** treasurer, treasury  
**trib** tributary  
**trop** tropic, tropical  
**trs** transpose  
**TSB** Trustee Savings Bank  
**TSH** thyroid-stimulating hormone  
**tsp** teaspoon, teaspoonful  
**TT 1** teetotal, teetotaler 2 Tourist Trophy 3 tuberculin tested  
**TTL** transistor transistor logic  
**Tue, Tues** Tuesday  
**TU** trade union  
**TUC** Trades Union Congress  
**TV** television  
**TVP** textured vegetable protein  
**TWA** Trans-World Airlines  
**TX** Texas  
**typ, typog** typographer, typography  
**Tyr** Tyronce

## U

**u 1** unit 2 upper  
**U 1** uncle 2 Unionist 3 university  
**UAE** United Arab Emirates  
**UAR** United Arab Republic  
**UAU** Universities Athletic Union  
**uc** upper case  
**UC** University College  
**UCATT** Union of Construction, Allied Trades, and Technicians  
**UCCA** /uka/ Universities Central Council on Admissions  
**UCL** University College, London  
**UDA** Ulster Defence Association  
**UDI** unilateral declaration of independence  
**UDR** Ulster Defence Regiment  
**UEFA** /yoofta, yooft ayfa/ Union of European Football Associations  
**UGC** University Grants Committee  
**UHF** ultrahigh frequency  
**UHT** ultrahigh temperature  
**UJ** universal joint  
**UK** United Kingdom  
**UKAEA** United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority  
**ult 1** ultimate 2 ultimo  
**UMIST** /yoohmist/ University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology  
**UN** United Nations

**UNA** United Nations Association  
**unan** unanimous  
**UNCTAD** /'ungktað/ United Nations Commission for Trade and Development  
**UNESCO** /yooh'neskoh/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization  
**UNICEF** /yoohnisef/ United Nations Children's Fund [*United Nations Children's Emergency Fund*, its former name]  
**Unk** Unitarian  
**univ** 1 universal 2 university  
**UNO** /yoohnoh/ United Nations Organization  
**UNRWA** /'unra/ United Nations Relief and Works Agency  
**UP** Uttar Pradesh  
**UPI** United Press International  
**UPOW** Union of Post Office Workers  
**UPU** Universal Postal Union  
**URC** United Reformed Church  
**US** United States  
**USA** 1 United States Army 2 United States of America  
**USAF** United States Air Force  
**USDAW** /'uzdaw/ Union of Shop, Distributive, and Allied Workers  
**USN** United States Navy  
**USS** United States ship  
**USSR** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
**usu** usual; usually  
**UT** 1 Universal time 2 Utah  
**UU** Ulster Unionist  
**UV** ultraviolet  
**UVF** Ulster Volunteer Force

## V

**v** 1 vector 2 verb 3 verse 4 versus 5 very 6 verso 7 vice 8 vide 9 von—used in German personal names  
**V** 1 velocity 2 volt, voltage 3 volume  
**va** verbal auxiliary  
**Va** Virginia  
**VA** 1 Veterans Administration—a US organization 2 Vicar Apostolic 3 Vice-Admiral 4 (Order of) Victoria and Albert 5 Virginia 6 volt-ampere  
**vac** vacant  
**V & A** Victoria and Albert Museum  
**var** 1 variable 2 variant 3 variation 4 variety 5 various  
**Vat** Vatican  
**VAT** /vat/, -vee ay 'tee/ value-added tax  
**vb** verb, verbal  
**VC** 1 Vice Chairman 2 Vice Chancellor 3 Vice Consul 4 Victoria Cross  
**VCR** video cassette recorder  
**VD** venereal disease  
**VDQS** vin délimité de qualité supérieure  
**VDU** visual display unit  
**VE** Victory in Europe  
**VED** Vehicle Excise Duty  
**vel** velocity  
**Ven** Venerable  
**ver** verse  
**vert** vertical  
**Vet MB** Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine  
**VG** 1 very good 2 Vicar General  
**VHF** very high frequency  
**vi** 1 verb intransitive 2 see below [*L. vide infra*]  
**VI** Virgin Islands  
**Vic** 1 vicar 2 Victoria  
**Vis, Visc** Viscount; Viscountess  
**viz** videlicet  
**VLf** very low frequency  
**voc** vocative  
**vocab** /sometimes 'vohkabi/ vocabulary  
**vol** 1 volume 2 volunteer  
**VP** Vice-President  
**VR** 1 Queen Victoria [*NL Victoria Regina*] 2 Volunteer Reserve  
**VS** 1 verse 2 veterinary surgeon  
**VSO** Voluntary Service Overseas  
**VSOP** Very Special Old Pale—a type of brandy

**vt** verb transitive  
**Vt** Vermont  
**VTOL** /'vetohl/ vertical takeoff and landing  
**VTR** video tape recorder  
**vulg** vulgar, vulgarly  
**Vulg** Vulgate  
**vv** 1 verses 2 vice versa 3 volumes  
**W**  
**w** 1 week 2 weight 3 white 4 wicket 5 wide 6 width 7 wife 8 with  
**W** 1 Watt 2 West; Westerly, Western  
**WAAC** /wak/, -dubl yooh, ay ay 'see/ 1 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps—the women's component of the British army from 1914 to 1918 2 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps—the women's component of the US army from 1942 to 1948  
**WAAF** /waf/, -dubl yooh, ay ay 'ef/ Women's Auxiliary Air Force—the women's component of the RAF  
**WAC** /wak/, -dubl yooh ay 'see/ Women's Army Corps—the women's component of the US army  
**WAF** /waf/, -dubl yooh ay 'ef/ Women in the Air Force—the women's component of the USAF  
**War, Warw** Warwickshire  
**WAR** Women Against Rape  
**Wash** Washington  
**Wat** Waterford  
**Wb** weber  
**WBA** World Boxing Association  
**WBC** 1 white blood cells, white blood count 2 World Boxing Council  
**WC** 1 water closet 2 West Central—a London postal district  
**WCC** World Council of Churches  
**WCdr** Wing Commander  
**WCT** World Championship Tennis  
**WD** 1 War Department 2 Works Department  
**WEA** Workers' Education Association  
**Wed, Weds** Wednesday  
**wef** with effect from  
**Westm** Westminster  
**WEU** Western European Union  
**Wex** Wexford  
**wf** wrong fount  
**WFTU** World Federation of Trade Unions  
**Wg Cdr** Wing Commander  
**wh** watt-hour  
**WHO** World Health Organization  
**WI** 1 West Indies 2 Wisconsin 3 Women's Institute  
**Wick** Wicklow  
**Wilts** /wiltz/ Wiltshire  
**WIPO** World Intellectual Property Organization—a branch of the United Nations  
**Wis, Wisc** Wisconsin  
**Wisd, Wis** Wisdom—used for the book of the Apocrypha  
**wk** 1 week 2 work  
**wkly** weekly  
**wkt** wicket  
**Wik** walk—used in street names  
**Wm** William  
**WMO** World Meteorological Organization  
**WNP** Welsh National Party  
**WNW** west-northwest  
**w/o** without  
**WO** Warrant Officer  
**Worce** Worcestershire  
**WOW** War on Want  
**wpb** wastepaper basket  
**WPC** Woman Police Constable  
**wpm** words per minute  
**WPS** Woman Police Sergeant  
**WR** Western Region  
**WRAC** /rak/, -dubl yooh, ahr ay 'see/ Women's Royal Army Corps  
**WRAF** Women's Royal Air Force  
**WRNS** /renz/, -dubl yooh, ahr en 'es/ Women's Royal Naval Service

**WRP** Workers' Revolutionary Party  
**WRVS** Women's Royal Voluntary Service  
**WS** Writer to the Signet—a Scottish solicitor  
**WSW** West-southwest  
**wt** weight  
**W Va, WY** West Virginia  
**WW** World War  
**WWF** World Wildlife Fund  
**Wyo, Wy** Wyoming

## X

**x** 1 ex 2 extra  
**X** Christ [Gk *X* (chi), initial letter of *Christos* Christ]  
**XL** extra large  
**XT** Christ [Gk *X* (chi), initial letter of *Christos* Christ]

## Y

**y** year  
**yd** yard  
**yoo** yeomanry  
**YHA** Youth Hostels Association  
**YMCA** Young Men's Christian Association  
**YMHA** Young Men's Hebrew Association  
**Yorks** /yawks/ Yorkshire  
**yr** 1 year 2 younger 3 your  
**YWCA** Young Women's Christian Association  
**YWHA** Young Women's Hebrew Association

## Z

**Zach** Zachariah—used for the book of the Bible  
**ZANU** /'zahnooh/ Zimbabwe African National Union  
**ZAPU** /'zahpooh/ Zimbabwe African People's Union  
**Zech** Zachariah—used for the book of the Bible  
**Zeph** Zephaniah—used for the book of the Bible  
**zoo, zool** zoological, zoology  
**ZPG** zero population growth